

BUSSEI SCRIPT

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VOLUME 77 NO. 2

FEBRUARY 2017

TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES



By Rev. Dr. Kenji Akahoshi,
Resident Minister

Our theme for 2017 is “Live a Shin Buddhist Life.” The intent of this theme is to suggest how the Shin Dharma of Shinran (13th century Japan) might guide our life in 21st century America. It has been a difficult task to translate the words of Shinran, to have a meaningful impact on us today. Even the lives of 20th century Issei and Nisei pioneers seem to be relegated to an antiquity of a pre-digital age. Our social and cultural lives have been reset by the ubiquitous nature of the internet, TV, social media, and instant, international communications. The outlook and attitudes of millennials and generation z, seem to be based on new, unsubstantiated factors of image, celebrity, and convenience. Additionally, the political and therefore, the social climate has been polluted by the smog of “fake news.” Now, the Truths of the Buddha are needed more than ever.

My young grandson was born more than a century after his great-grandparents were born. What a different world it is for him. At 1 ½ years, his life is surrounded by videos, batteries, and digital gadgetry. He will soon be able to teach me how to access my smartphone apps, that have challenged my analogue mentality. How can I return his kindness? I would pass on the most valuable gift that was handed down through generations of my ancestors. I would share the Shin Dharma with him, a trusted guide to life.

As his great-grand parents immigrated to a new and hostile world, they faced both hardships and a bright potential. They were anchored by a spiritual Truth that was relevant in a material world. It was not based on supernatural beliefs or unfulfilled promises. It was based on the natural functions of the natural, human, and spiritual worlds. The natural world of light and life has been evolving for 14 billion years. The Truths of impermanence and interdependence prevail as causes and conditions have shaped our present moment. Human life is also dictated by these forces. However, the human mind has choices. The human mind is capable of aligning itself with these natural forces. But the mind is also distracted by illusions that satisfy the ego-self. The Buddha’s Teachings are aimed at aligning the mind with the natural forces of Truth instead of illusion. Illusions that the ego has created to satisfy itself.

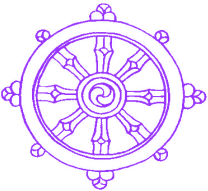
Shakyamuni Buddha’s final advice to his disciples was to test out anyone’s teachings, even his own, against their personal experience. We might heed that advice in our present climate of ambiguous truths. What is “truth” today? We would get two diametrically opposed descriptions of truth, if we tuned into two different cable channels, each emphasizing their own point of view. Shinran faced a similar dissonance. The illiterate, common peasant was considered to be unqualified to comprehend the value of the Budhadharma. Our pioneering forefathers and mothers faced a similar situation. A predominant view of the early 20th century, was the inferior nature of women, immigrants, and people of color. Some of that sentiment still exists today, but in covert and subtle ways. Shinran and the Shin followers in the early 20th century had an experience of truth that was different from the prejudice and limitations of the general society. Yet they were guided by the Teachings of a Truth that supported their place in a hostile environment.

Our young people have been raised in a commercial environment that values material possessions and social status. Attacks on the news journals and access to media outlets have created a condition whereby “fake news” exists. Candidates for high office make false statements and promises without hesitation. It becomes difficult to know what to believe and how to act. We need only to return to the 4 Noble Truths of the Buddha to set our standards. Discontent and hardship is caused by an attachment to ego. Obvious signs of this attachment are greed, hatred, and ignorance. I think that it is incumbent on us experienced adults to model for our youth, the high values and standards that have carried our religion and society.

As Buddhists, we share the responsibility to demonstrate the difference between illusion and reality. The **illusion of success** is represented by material wealth, at the expense of other people or the environment. However, **true success is happiness** experienced by many. It does not depend on external or material possessions. Success may be experienced as the feeling of good will in the company of many. Now is the time for us to stress the intangible values of community and friendship. Let us be diligent in our efforts to move forward sharing the Buddha’s truth of loving kindness. The Truth of Namu Amida Butsu is Wisdom in the form of Compassion.

Gassho,
Kenji Sensei

FEBRUARY 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 10 am – Craft Day , DR Noon – Minyo Group @SH 1 pm – Shigin @ CR 6:30 pm – Taiko Practice @ AH 7 pm – Buddhism 1-2-3 @ SH	2 	3 Senior Lunch program at Villa Gardens, Chula Vista	4 10 am – Koto Class @ SH SD Jr. YBL Volleyball @ OCBC
5 9 am -- DS Staff Mtg. @ CR 10 am – DS/FS and Shotsuki Noon – BWA Meeting Noon – Taiko Practice @ AH Noon -- Jr. YBA Conference meeting @ Vista	6 Office Closed 7 pm - W&M Mtg.	7	8 Noon – Minyo Group @ S.H. 1 pm – Shigin @ Annex 1-2 6:30 pm – Taiko Practice @A.H. 7 pm – Buddhism 1-2-3 @S.H.	9 6:45 pm – BOD Mtg. @ CR	10 7:30 pm – SD Council Mtg. @ Venice	11 Benefit Dinner , 4:30-6 6-9 pm – BTSD/VFW BINGO @ Annex Hall 7 pm -- BEC Lecture by Rev. Kazuaki Nakata
12 9 am – BWA MEMORIAL 10 am – NIRVANA DAY SERVICE Guest speaker: Rev. Kazuaki Nakata 11:30 am -- Jr. YBA Mtg. @ CR	13 Office Closed *March Bussei Script articles due	14 10 am -- SD Ministers Mtg. @ L.A. Betsuin	15 Nirvana Day 10 am – Craft Day , PR Noon – Minyo Group @ SH 1 pm – Shigin @ Annex 1-2 6:30 pm – Taiko Practice @ AH 7 pm – Buddhism 1-2-3 @ SH	16	17 PM Annex Reserved	18 10 am – Koto Class @SH Private Party 3-12M @AH
19 9 am – BTSD Teachers Conference meeting, 9 a.m. 10 am – DS/FAMILY SERVICE Noon – Okinawa Kenjikai New Year Party, AH	20 Office Closed	21	22 Noon– Minyo Group @ SH 1 pm – Shigin @ CR 6:30 pm – Taiko Practice @A.H. 7 pm – Buddhism 1-2-3 @ S.H. 7 pm – Activities Mtg. Bussei Script mailing	23	24	25 SD Jr. YBL Seminar I @ Oxnard
26 9 am – Intro. to Buddhism @ SH 10 am – DS/FAMILY SERVICE Noon – Taiko Practice @ AH	27 Office Closed	28	Looking Ahead to March: 1-5—BCA Ministers @ National Council meetings at San Jose 5—Shotsuki (Monthly Memorial) service, 10 a.m. 11-12 — Cherry Blossom Festival at Japanese Friendship Garden, Balboa Park 19 -- O Higan service, 10 a.m.			

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By LuAnn Lee, Board President

The New Year is upon us and already moving along quickly.

On January 14 and 15, I attended the Dharma talk at the temple to listen to Guest Speaker Rev. Dean Koyama from the Palo Alto Buddhist Temple. He talked on the Shoshin Nembutsu Ge and he went into detail about what it means in English and an insight on Shinran Shonin thoughts. I have looked at the Gatha book many times as I chanted and may have even read parts of it but looking at it line by line really was interesting and maybe a bit over my head. It was however a very fitting subject for Ho-Onko.

Following was the New Years' Party and it was filled with over 180 people enjoying the food and entertainment. Our 88 and Great guests, Senior Members, New Members, Youth and all in between really made the get together a fun and memorable event. Thank you to all the volunteers that helped out and to Laura Yoshida and Ralph Honda for heading up the lunch. Appreciations go out to BTSD Taiko, BWA Singers and Mr. Koryu Morikawa for their performances. Also, thank you to temple friend Steve Sato for preparing the delicious poke. Here's to the year of the rooster and 2017!

As the year goes on, we will be seeking volunteers to help with our many fundraisers and religious events. We always appreciate any donations you can give. Thank you in advance for your support to the temple.

I look forward to seeing you around the temple and please feel free to give ideas or concerns to me, Sensei or any of the board members.

In Gassho,

LuAnn Lee

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

1. The Board approved Oseibo for the Resident Minister, assisting Retired Minister, **Reverend Mukojima**, the temple secretary and the gardener. Thank you to the Sangha for their generous donations. Oseibo was presented at the New Year's Party.
2. The Board approved funds for two delegates and the Resident Minister to attend the BCA National Council meeting March 1-5, San Jose.
3. Updates on technology issues with the website and e-mail system were provided. The temple is seeking to resolve issues in a timely manner.

4. The Board approved two representatives to attend the retirement party for Rev. Nobuo Miyaji, Gardena.

5. The Board approved that Scholarship funds be used to cover the 2017 costs for our three Ministers Assistants to attend required seminars needed to maintain their certification. A subcommittee will meet to consider and propose a funding mechanism for the Ministers Assistants Program.

BWA NEWS

Rev. Dean Koyama, from Palo Alto Buddhist Temple, gave very interesting talks at the Ho-Onko Service and lecture the night before. Hope you were able to catch them.

The service was followed by our annual BTSD New Year party. Thank you to all the members who helped and everyone who participated in our BWA version of Ue O Muite. We sounded great!

We still have a few \$5 bags of our famous Almond Brittle on sale. They're perfect for a little "Thank You" or treat for yourself or a loved one for Valentine's Day.

The annual Lady Takeko Kujo and BWA Memorial Service will be held on February 12 at 9am, followed by the Nirvana Day service at 10 am. Guest speaker for the day will be Rev. Kazuaki Nakata, from the Los Angeles Bet-suin. Information on the BEC lecture is on Page 5. Also that night will be a benefit dinner and Bingo. Hope you can attend.

The craft group welcomes all levels of crafters on the first and third Wednesdays from 10 am – 2 pm. It's a fun group that combines creativity with good eats. Please join us!

There are two ways to get to the BWA website: southerndistrictbwa.weebly.com or through the direct link from the website for the temple at btsd.net. Please take a peek to see what we've been doing.

Our new president, Kiku Graeber will be preside over her first meeting on February 5, with Group D hosting. Hope to see you then!



DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

With the end of 2016 and the start of 2017, students who attended the Temple's Year End and New Year's Day services will receive extra credit towards their attendance. Ms. Avis will let your teacher know if you attended a service on one or both dates.

It was nice to see so many students attend the first Dharma School service of the new year on January 8, and Ho Onko on January 15. Rev. Dean Koyama of the Palo Alto Buddhist Temple provided the message to the students at Ho Onko. He spoke about names, popular today and in past years, and the various names Shinran used. It was very interesting.

Thank you to the Sangha Teens for helping the Jr. YBA pass out sparkling cider and serving tea at the New Year's Party. The group accompanied the Jr. YBA with toasting 2017 at the party.

The Walk To Feed the Hungry activity, sponsored by the Sangha Teens, and originally scheduled for February 17, has been postponed. Stay tuned for a new date.

Several teachers will attend the Southern District Dharma School Teachers League (SDDSTL) Mini-workshop on February 18 at Orange County Buddhist Church. The theme is "How to Cope with Fear as Jodo Shinshu Buddhist". The speaker will be David Pating, MD, Psychiatrist, Ministers' Assistant from the San Francisco Buddhist Church.

A planning meeting for this year's SDDSTL conference was held on January 22. San Diego will host the conference on September 2. The next meeting is on Feb. 19.

Happy Birthday wishes for January and February to the following students: Finn Seymour, Cain Gless, Trevor Muraoka, and Ellie Yanagihara in January. This month Tyler Masuda, Yoshie Sannwald, and Mark Iwashita will be celebrating their big day!

The next teacher-staff meeting will be Feb. 5, at 9 a.m.

Gassho,
Avis Honda, Superintendent

JR. YBA NEWS

January was a busy and eventful month for our group.

Jill Yamanishi and I attended the Southern District Leadership Workshop on Jan. 7 at the Gardena Buddhist Church. We learned a lot and will apply our new leadership skills with our chapter and community.

Our chapter meeting was held on Jan. 8 following the Sunday service. We discussed upcoming activities including the conference in September and our Udon Luncheon Fundraiser that will take place following the O Higan service on March 19.

We rang in 2017 at the temple New Year's Party on Jan. 15. Members, along with the Sangha Teens helped pour and serve sparkling cider for the traditional New Year toast and tea during the luncheon. We had a great time as we gave the toast and wished everyone a prosperous year!

We are all looking forward to a busy February.

The month starts off with members participating in the Southern District Volleyball Tournament on Feb. 4 at OCBC. I hope everyone plays hard and has a good time. Our next conference planning meeting will be on Sunday, Feb. 5 at Vista. The meeting begins at 12:30 p.m. Six members plan to attend Seminar I on Saturday, Feb. 25 at Oxnard. The theme is "Bank Buddhism." We look forward to seeing our friends and hearing the Dharma through the theme.

During February and March, we will continue our recycling program. We are accepting recyclables with the CRV (California Redemption Value) label on plastic water bottles, aluminum cans and glass bottles. Recycling proceeds benefit the group's activities. Please bring your recyclables to the temple and place your donation in the blue bins on your next visit!

In Gassho,
Breven Honda, Co-President

BTSD VEHICLE DONATION PROGRAM

THINKING ABOUT GETTING RID OF
YOUR OLD CAR?

LOOKING FOR A TAX DEDUCTION?



CONSIDER DONATING YOUR
VEHICLE TODAY!
CONTACT THE TEMPLE FOR
MORE INFORMATION
(619) 239-0896
Email: info@btsd.net



EcoSangha is starting off the year running. We will be participating in the 2017 Earth Day Event in Balboa Park April 23. Our booth will have items for sale, temple information and possibly an “eco toss” game. Our committee has agreed to chair the summer rummage sale coming up in August. The format will change in a way to have each Temple affiliated

group take charge of a portion of the event, more detailed information will be forthcoming. Thank you all for continuing to help support our **Mission Statement:** “As Buddhist, the EcoSangha of the Buddhist Temple of San Diego recognizes that we are interdependent with all life forms. From this position of Oneness, we ask what we can do for our environment. Our goals are to promote: understanding of the inherent ecological nature of Buddhism; ecologically friendly behavior through the established guidelines; recognition of the profound implications of our behavior on future generations.”

ACTIVITIES

The Activities group plans on having more of a “normal” year as there are no “Big” events scheduled this year. We are working closely with the Temple Ways and Means Committee to reevaluate current fundraisers and to search for new income sources. A goal of ours is to ease the amount of work everyone puts in all year. The committee is always entertaining new or old ideas to help fundraising efforts. The next event will be the Cherry Blossom Festival, March 11-12. Keep your eyes open for more information coming your way!

BINGO UPDATE

BTSD BENEFIT DINNER FOLLOWED MONTHLY BINGO
 February 11 will be our Beef Stew Benefit Dinner fundraiser. Tickets may be purchased for \$8 in the office or from any temple board member. Following the dinner, enjoy an evening of BINGO hosted by the Asian Pacific VFW Post 4851. Buy-in is \$10. Support the temple and VFW, and have a fun Saturday night.

BUDDHIST EDUCATION

Have Dinner in Annex, Join us for “Mysteries on Jodo noh Shinshu.”

The Buddhist Education Committee happily announces that our guest speaker for Nirvana Day, the Rev. Kazuaki Nakata of the Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, will be able to provide a special lecture on Saturday, February 11.

Rev. Nakata will be contrasting Shinran’s teaching methods in his day with how we maintain his tradition in the 21st Century, and the discussion should illuminate both our understanding of Shinran and our own spiritual tradition today. Aspects of Shinran’s teachings in his lifetime are not well known, hence the title, “Mysteries on Jodo noh Shinshu.”

The lecture begins at 7 p.m. in the Sangha Hall. The parking lot may fill up with people attending the Bingo Dinner and Bingo session. We apologize for the conflict – some of you may be torn about which to attend. Many of us will support the Temple by attending the Bingo Dinner and then attend the lecture. Or if someone in your household wants to play Bingo, take him or her to Bingo and join us.

The session is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

Rev. Nakata has a distinguished career already both within the Buddhist Churches of America and in other capacities. Prior to serving the Los Angeles temple as Associate Minister, he served as Kaikyoshi minister at Sacramento and Ekoji Buddhist Temples. Born in Japan, he shares the Dharma in both English and Japanese to youth and adults, and is experienced in Chaplaincy, having served as Campus Chaplain at George Mason University and interim Hospital Chaplain at Inova Hospital. In scholarship, he is completing his PhD at the University of the West, researching the Pure Land sutras in Sanskrit, Tibetan, and Uyghar (aka Uyghur). Uyghur is a Turkic language spoken by populations in Western China.

On the following day, Sunday, Feb. 12, Rev. Nakata will be the guest speaker for the temple’s Nirvana Day and BWA Memorial services.

Bill Teague, BEC Committee Chairman

TEMPLE RINGS IN YEAR OF THE ROOSTER WITH ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION

On Sunday, January 15, nearly 180 Sangha members of all ages and friends packed the Annex Hall to celebrate the temple's annual New Year's Party.

There was a lot to celebrate as the temple acknowledged individuals and accomplishments in 2016 and anxiously look forward to 2017, the year of the Rooster.

Traditional Shigin (singing of Japanese poetry), presented by Mr. Koryu Morikawa of the San Diego Shigin Kai, opened the festivities.

Kampai or New Year's toast was given by our temple youth, the Jr. YBA and Sangha Teens.

The party recognized 14 new members who joined the temple since last year's New Year's party. Members of the 88-years-young and up "Keiro Kai" group were recognized for their outstanding dedication and years of longevity. Two 50th wedding anniversaries for this year were acknowledged: Mr. and Mrs. Roy and Susan Yonekura and Mr. and Mrs. Hisashi and Jane Yamamoto. Mr. Roy Muraoka and his family were recognized for the naming of Saburo Muraoka Elementary School in Chula Vista. The groundbreaking of the school was held last spring. Its opening will be later this summer.

President LuAnn Lee presented Oseibo appreciation envelopes to Kenji Sensei (resident minister), Rev. Aoyama (retired minister emeritus) and Linda Redenbaugh (temple secretary). Oseibo were later presented to Rev. Yushi Mukojima, for providing the Japanese message in the monthly Bussei Script and Masanobu Kinjo (gardener).

In addition to the traditional Japanese bento (box) lunch or KFC chicken attendees dined on, everyone was treated to O zoni (mochi with soup broth), poke (raw tuna pieces) and cake for dessert.

Entertainment included the The BWA sang their English rendition of "Ue O Muite" (I look up as we're Walking). The lyrics are from the 1960s hit song Sukiya-ki, sung by the late Japanese artist Kyu Sakamoto. The energetic sounds of BTSD taiko resonated throughout the social hall walls with three dynamic pieces.

The temple extends a heartfelt thank you to Ichiban Hillcrest (Yoshiro Minezaki and Satomi Paris) for providing the delicious bento lunches; Keidan Floral Designs (Naomi Himaka) for the flowers and Poke provided by Steve Sato. Colorful paper mache Japanese dolls were given to the 88-and-great group, and others. The handmade dolls were donated by Mrs. Fumie Iwamura of Lodi.

Thank you to the temple volunteers who helped make this year's party a success. From the manpower of

setting up and putting away tables and chairs, to the food distribution and cake servers; also, to the kitchen crew, supply checkers, lunch reservations, sound system, slide presentation and background music. And, finally to everyone who made the event memorable.

The temple looks forward to an eventful and successful 2017. Happy New Year!

Gassho,
Ralph Honda and Laura Yoshida
New Year's Party Co-chairs

FRIDAY SENIOR LUNCH PROGRAM AT GARDEN VILLAS

On February 3, the temple will host the Friday Senior Lunch program and Garden Villas in Chula Vista. For a nominal fee, you can receive a nutritious and hot meal. The lunch runs from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

Join other temple seniors and community friends at the Friday luncheon. Garden Villas (formerly Kiku Gardens) senior independent living facility is located at 1260 3rd Avenue in Chula Vista.

BTSD will host luncheons on April 7 and June 2.



SCRIP NEWS

The economy is boosting the temple's Scrip program.

Due to great December sales, the Scrip Program will be writing a check for \$1800 to the temple for the general fund. This is \$100 more than we were able to contribute last year.

I thank everyone who buys scrip throughout the year and for purchasing gift cards in December. Remember, the scrip program runs throughout the year and if we don't carry the gift card that you need, we usually can order it and have it the following Sunday.

The temple receives a percentage for gift cards that you purchase.

Just want everyone to know that Nancy Martinez will be taking over the scrip program for a short while. I will be having surgery on a knee and will be mending at home. Nancy fills in while I am away on vacations so I leave you in capable hands

Wishing everyone "A Happy New Year" and hoping that you continue to purchase scrip and use it!

Gassho,
Miyo Hill, Scrip Chairperson



JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE SAN DIEGO CHAPTER Scholarships 2017 Scholarship Applications are Now Available

The San Diego Chapter is awarding a limited number of scholarships ranging up to \$1000 to local high school seniors planning to enter college in 2017. The JACL Scholarship application is now available at the National website www.jacl.org.

Open to all students, community involvement as well as scholastic achievement is considered. Applicants must be JACL members to be eligible to apply. Membership application (\$25) may be submitted along with the scholarship application. Top local scholarship awardees will be forwarded on for consideration for National JACL Freshmen Scholarships as well.

The local chapter also offers the Dr. Roy K. Tanaka Continuing Education Scholarship to those already in college. Applicants should use the General form.

Many other scholarships, e.g. for careers in law or medicine, are also available at the National website.

Applications must be postmarked by March 1, 2017 and mailed to:

SDJACL Scholarship Committee

6917 Town View Lane

San Diego, CA 92120

All local area scholarship awardees will be determined by March 31, 2017. For questions, contact the SDJACL Scholarship at ckawamoto@jacl.org

Craft Days

1st & 3rd Wednesdays, from

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

BTSD Dining Room

Join us for some fun crafts, great memories and a pot-luck lunch

BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SAN DIEGO Membership Pledge for 2017

Renewal **List Name Only**
 New Member*
 Sponsorship*
 Change of Address

Mr. Mrs. Ms. NAME: _____ BIRTHDATE: _____

Mr. Mrs. SPOUSE NAME: _____ BIRTHDATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: (____) _____ CELL PHONE: (____) _____ WORK PHONE: (____) _____

E-MAIL: _____ OCCUPATION: _____

Membership Pledge: The temple has an annual campaign to raise funds that go towards the Operating Budget. This budget pays for ministerial salary, part-time staff, programs, utilities, maintenance and the day-to-day expenses of running the temple. This tiered membership offers members the opportunity to choose their level of donation.

Sponsorship Pledge: Individuals are invited to sponsor a new or existing member under the current membership program.

	Sustaining Member	Dana Member	Wisteria Member	Bodhi Member
Individual / Senior / Youth (All Ages).....	\$300	\$375	\$500	\$
Couple / Family.....	\$500	\$600	\$1000	\$
<u>Optional:</u> Senior Reduced Cost (75 years and older).....	\$150			
<u>Optional:</u> Youth Reduced Cost..... (30 years and younger)	\$175			

MEMBERSHIP AMOUNT..... \$

Recommended Annual Donations (Optional):

FLORAL OFFERING FUND (Suggested annual donation of \$40)..... \$

This fund helps defray cost of regular fresh flowers for the Onajin (Central Altar).

GENERAL MAINTENANCE FUND (Suggested annual donation of \$40) \$

The fund helps provide upkeep of the Temple properties.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND (Suggested annual donation of \$20)..... \$

The fund rewards members' deserving high school graduates and college students.

DHARMA SCHOOL (Suggested annual donation of \$20) \$

Dharma School does not conduct fundraisers. Your annual donation helps sustain its activities.

TOTAL AMOUNT

AMOUNT ENCLOSED

***PLEASE INDICATE PAYMENT SCHEDULE:**

_____ Annually _____ Semi-annually _____ Quarterly _____ Monthly

To use a credit card:

____ Visa ____ MasterCard Acct# _____ Expires (MM/YY) ____ / ____

Authorized signature (if charging): _____

Billing address (if different from above): _____ Zip _____

Please make checks payable to the BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SAN DIEGO. A percentage of your dues support the Buddhist Churches of America and is remitted annually to the BCA via the Temple. Benefits include a year's subscription to the BCA publication, "Wheel of Dharma" and a printed copy of our monthly newsletter, the "Bussei Script." **THANK YOU!**

Mailing address to send your pledges: **Buddhist Temple of San Diego**
2929 Market Street
San Diego, California 92102

For any questions about membership, please call the Temple at 619-239-0896 or send inquires to the Membership Chair at info@btsd.net. ***For NEW MEMBERS and SPONSORSHIPS, proration is available.**

マウンテンビュー「仏教会」回向 二〇一七年二月法話

おおあ

—— 大当たり！ ——

駐在開教使 向嶋謙史

当仏教会では、毎週木曜日の午前中にシアグループの会合があります。常に三〇人ほどの方々が朝早くからお寺に来て、ライندگانやクラフトをしたり、トランプや花札で遊んだり、または、皆で日本の歌を唄ったりとそれぞれが楽しいひと時を過ごしています。

私も赴任以来、ライندگانに参加しているのですが、皆と曲に合わせてステップを踏むのが何とも楽しく、また、運動不足も解消できてありがたく思っています。

お寺に来られるシアの皆さんは驚くほど活発で、笑顔いっぱいにおしゃべりして人生を楽しんでおられます。そんなシアの皆さんがとても楽しみにしているもの一つにカジノ旅行があります。年に一回ほど、リノ泊りで行くことがあるのですが、毎回大型バスを貸し切って、多くの方が参加しています。一度、帰りを無理なことがありますが、買った負けに関係なく、本当に楽しい時間を過ごしたと言っておられました。そんな中、「お念仏を称しても全く勝てなかつた」と冗談を言っておられた方がおられました。お念仏は決して呪文ではありませんので、皆さんはくれぐれもそのような真似をなさらないようお願いいたします。そして、次回のリノ旅行では、どなたか大当たりを仕留めて、ぜひ仏教会に寛大な寄付していただけることを切に願っています。

ところで、アメリカは、ラスベガスを始め、リノ、アトラティックシティといったカジノ三都市を持つ世界屈指のカジノ大国です。特にラスベガスは世界各国からカジノ好きが集まって年中大いに賑わっています。

一方、日本では競馬、競艇、オートレース、パチンコが国によって特別認められていますが、それ以外のカードゲームやルーレットなどといった賭博行為は違法となっています。しかし、日本では夏と年末等にジャンボ宝くじが開催されるのですが、昨年の年末ジャンボ宝くじは、二等七億円というところで、多くの方が一攫千金の夢を見てたくさん宝くじを購入されたことと思います。

世界で宝くじの最も熱い国といえは、これもまたアメリカです。国民の年間宝くじ購入金額は実に四兆円といわれ、勿論世界一です。今、アメリカでは、パワーボールやメガミリオンズといった宝くじが人気なんだそうですが、その当選確率は一億分の一と言われていて、そして、現在までの最高賞金額は、昨年一月に記録を塗り替えた、一五〇〇億円になります。三人の当選者がいましたが、三分して税金を引いても個人の獲得金額は三〇〇億円にもなります。正にアメリカンドリーム！ 欲を言えば、私もいつかは実現させてみたいものです。

皆さんはこれまでの人生で一度でもカジノや宝くじで大当たりしたことがあるでしょうか。カジノや宝くじに当たるということは確率的に大変難しいだけに大当たりすれば何とも有難いことです。しかし、いつも忘れがちなのですが、よくよく考えてみますと、この私達の生命が今ここで存在しているという事は、何ものにも変え難いことなのです。

ある天文学者が、「地球のように生物の生きる条件を持った星は、一兆の星の中で一つあればいいほうだ」と言っています。私達の地球が属する広大な銀河系宇宙でも、星の数は二千億と言われており、一兆に一つという有難さはとても想像できません。更に、この地球上に生物が誕生したのは三十五億年前のことです。海に生まれた生命は、次第に進化

しつつ、人間への生命へと流れてきたのです。

今ここに存在する私達の生命は、この三十五億年というとても長い長い時間を、あらゆる困難を乗り越えて一度も断たれることなく連続と私達に引き継がれてきた奇跡とも言える尊い生命なのです。両親は二人しかいませんが、一〇代さかのぼると三千万人の祖先がいて、二〇代で二百万人、三〇代で一千万人、更に四〇代さかのぼると四兆人以上の祖先が、今の私達の生命をここに生み出してくれたことになるのです。もし、この中で一人でも欠けてしまつたら今の私達は存在しないわけですね。これはパワーボールの当選確率をゆうに凌ぐ天文学的な数字です。この私達の生命自体が大当たりであり、これに比べられるほどの有難いものが他にありません。

三福依文にある「人身受け難し、今日に受く、佛法聞き難し、今日に聞く」というお言葉の意味をよくよく味わって頂けるとお思います。人としてこの世に生を受けた私が、更にお念仏のみ教えまで遇わせていただくという何とも不思議な縁をいただいているのです。

しかし、常に煩惱に振り回されている私達は、この真実を心から喜ぶこともできず、思い通りにならないとすぐ愚痴をこぼし、人と意見が合わない腹を立てて生きています。しかし、お念仏を称える中で、自分の愚かさが浮き彫りになると同時に、今ある生命を日々、精一杯燃やし尽くして生き抜いていくことの大切さに気付かされます。

カジノや宝くじに一攫千金の夢を抱くことは何も悪いことではありません。もし、大当たりすることがあれば大いに喜んで仏教会に寛大な寄付をして下さることを願っています。ただ、それ以上に、今ある生命とお念仏のみ教えに縁を結ばせていただきたい有難さを大いに喜ばせていただきます。

FEBRUARY HIGHLIGHTS

- **February Shotsuki Hoyo** (monthly memorial service) will be observed on **Sunday, February 5** in conjunction with the Dharma School and Family Service at 10 a.m.
- **BTSD Benefit Dinner**, February 11 from 4:30-6
- **VFW/BTSD Bingo**, February 11 from 6 - 9
- **BEC Lecture**, February 11 at 7 pm with Rev. Kazuaki Nakata
- **Nirvana Day (Nehan-E) February 12, with guest speaker Rev. Kazuaki Nakata**, commemorates the death of Shakyamuni Buddha, the historical Buddha at age 80. **The BWA and Lady Takeko Kujo** memorial services will be held in conjunction with Nirvana Day (see service details in adjacent box). Lady Kujo is the founder of the Buddhist Women's Association (Fujinkai) in Japan.
- **2017 BTSD Board of Directors Installation February 12**, during the Nirvana Day service.

An envelope is enclosed if you would like to make a Nirvana Day offering. For those who subscribe to the Bussei Script online, we invite your Nirvana Day donation. As always, the Temple looks forward to your participation and is



NIRVANA DAY (NEHAN-E)



*Commemorating
the life of
Sakyamuni Buddha*
**Sunday, February 12, 2016,
10:00 a.m.**

Guest Speaker: Rev. Kazuaki Nakata

(Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple)

**The BWA Lady Takeko Kujo
Memorial Services
will be held at 9 a.m.**

(A BEC-sponsored lecture, featuring Rev. Nakata will take place on Saturday, Feb. 11 starting at 7 p.m. In the Sangha Hall. The event is free and open to the public. Details on Rev. Nakata's presentation is on Page 5)

LATE BREAKING REMINDER:

General Meeting is Sunday, January 29

Temple president LuAnn Lee and the Board of Directors invite the Sangha to attend the annual General Membership meeting on Sunday, January 29, starting at 11:45 a.m. in the Annex Hall.

A quorum of 25 dues paying members is required for voting purposes. Therefore it is encouraged for members to attend this once-a-year business meeting.

The meeting will recap the activities from 2016 and report on events for 2017. Presentations will be given from committees including the temple's finances, operational, religious and activities, and affiliated organizational.

Approval of the 2017 Board of Directors slate, along with the fiscal year's financial budget will be required.

All attendees are encouraged to share their favorite dish for the potluck luncheon.

2017 BCA CALENDARS

The 2017 Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) calendar is now available for all dues paying members. Please pick up your calendar on your next visit.

A limited number of calendars are available for purchase. Donation is \$5.00.

BTSD OFFICE HOURS

The temple's weekday business hours are Tuesday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Linda Redenbaugh, the office secretary, will be happy to assist you. We are closed on Monday.

On most Saturdays, the office is open from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Before visiting, please call the temple to make sure someone will be in the office.

Sundays are dedicated to our weekly service starting at 10 a.m. The office hours on Sunday is from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Thank you.