

BUSSEI SCRIPT

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CONVENTIONAL – ESSENTIAL

By Rev. Dr. Kenji Akahoshi, Resident Minister



Happy New Year.

What has really changed from New Years eve to New Years day? Like most days, we awoke to a new day. But we consider this a new and different year. Is this really a change of one year to the next? Or is this just a change of one ordinary day to the next? The different ways that we view this change, can be an example of the 2 truths cited in Buddhism. The **conventional truth** is seen as a new year. This has been decided by society as a convenience or necessity to conduct business and life among people. Another convenient change is “Daylight Savings”. We have the ability to determine what hour it is from one part of the year to another. But the **essential truth** is that New Years Day is like every other day. How we see this day and other aspects of life, is accommodated by the Buddha’s various methods of describing how life might work for us. Keeping the idea of 2 truths in mind, can help us understand and experience true & real-life. It can also reduce our confusion with some of the teachings.

The Buddha knew that some aspects of life are so deep and profound that many would not be able to understand. But he also knew that his Teachings needed to be grounded in the real phenomenon and philosophy of true and real-life. Some who became monks and nuns, who studied his Teachings their entire life, would benefit from the latter version. But most common, ordinary people would need a simpler version to guide their journey through life. Therefore, he used the method of *upaya* or *hoben*, or “skillful means of teaching,” to relate to the various levels of people. Shinran often speaks of these two aspects as the **conventional** and the **essential**.

The importance of being aware of these aspects of the Buddha’s Teachings, keeps us from taking things too literally. Nagarjuna’s famous description warns us not to confuse the pointing finger (literal or conventional truth) to the truth of the moon (essential truth).

Like most things in Buddhism, we are aware that the middle path or a balance of these two aspects prevails. We hold both these truths as real at the same time. The

United States landed a spaceship on the moon using the essential truths of a moon orbiting the earth which was orbiting the sun. Yet the conventional truth of a full moon raising in the east, moves our hearts with poetic song. Our ordinary, conventional truth of the moon may be more real to us than the essential truth of orbiting planets.

Shakyamuni Buddha provided us with the truth of Amida Buddha. He tells us that all Buddhas are the same. Amida Buddha is the same as Tathagata, suchness, thusness, Buddha-Nature. But some of these words are difficult and may be beyond our ability to understand and experience. So Shinran uses other descriptions in his writings to convey the **essential truth** of Amida Buddha, in **conventional terms**. Light, life, wisdom and compassion are accessible to us to experience. All of these may be considered fingers pointing to the truth of Amida Buddha.

As Buddhists, we are fortunate to realize the depth of spiritual experience in a multiple of ways. For those who suggest that Buddhism is just a philosophy or a “way of life,” have yet to develop a sense of the sacred. The Buddha, Shinran and others have provided us the means to affirm our spiritual experience in a very human way. We have the deep philosophical thought that penetrates all levels of intellectual process. And yet, we are assured that the message of the Buddha is received by the means that is most likely to be responsive. Our thoughts and experience of Amida Buddha are perceived in our most human capacity. Amida is felt in our hearts, more than our minds, just as our tongues give us the experience of haupia pie, not our brains.

Shinran’s emphasis has been to bring the essence of the Buddha’s intent to ordinary people. The Japanese use the term, *Oyasama*, honored parent, for common people to relate to Amida Buddha. Heart, mind, and spirit are fused into one. In our significant human moments of the joy of success, or deep sadness of loss and rejection, we seek the comfort of loved ones. Amida Buddha provides that intimacy which has always been available. For those whose recitation of “Na Man Da Bu,” is a familiar practice, a sense of affirmation and security is always assured. Its meaning does not have to travel the filters of the mind. The Nembutsu’s warm hug of Oneness is enough. Every new year, day, moment is shared with others with Namo Amida Butsu.

Gassho,
Kenji Sensei

JANUARY 2017

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
1 10 am – NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE (Shusho-E) @ Hondo	2 Temple Closed	3	4 10 am – Craft Day, @ DR 12 pm – Minyo Group @ SH 1 pm – Shigin @ AH 6:30 pm – Taiko @ AH 7 pm – Buddhism 1-2-3@ SH	5	6
8 9 am -- DS Staff Mtg. 9:15 am— Chanting class, Hondo 10 am – DS/FAMILY SERVICE January Shotsuki Memorial 11:45 am -- Jr. YBA Meeting, CR 12 noon, Taiko	9 Temple Closed 7 pm -- Ways & Means	10 10 am -- SD Ministers Mtg. @ L.A. Betsuin	11 12 pm – Minyo Group @ SH 1 pm – Shigin @ CR 6:30 pm – Taiko @ AH 7 pm – Buddhism 1-2-3 @ SH	12 6:45 pm -- Board Mtg.	13
15 10 am – HO ONKO (Guest Minister: Rev. Koyama) ----- 12 pm – New Year Party @ AH	16 Temple Closed February Kaiho Deadline	17	18 10 am Craft Day 12 pm – Minyo Group @ SH 1 pm – Shigin @ CR 6:30 pm – Taiko @ AH 7 pm – Buddhism 1-2-3 @ SH	19	20
22 9 am – INTRO. TO BUDDHISM @SH 9 am – SDDSTL Conf. Planning Mtg @ CR 10 am – DS/FAMILY SERVICE 12 noon, Taiko 1:30 pm Jr. YBA Conf Mtg, CR	23 Temple Closed	24	25 12 pm – Minyo Group @ SH 1 pm – Shigin @ AH 6:30 pm – Taiko Practice @AH 7 pm -- Activities Meeting, CR 7 pm – Buddhism 1-2-3 @SH KAIHO MAILING	26	27
29 10 am – DS/FAMILY SERVICE 11:30 am – GENERAL MEETING & Sangha Potluck Luncheon @AH	30 Temple Closed	31			
					7 SD Jr. YBL Leadership at Gardena ----- 6-9 pm -- BTSDVFW Bingo
					14 10 am – Koto Class @ SH 7 pm -- BEC Lecture (Rev. Dean Koyama)
					21 10 am – Koto Class @ SH
					28

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

You know it's getting close to the end of the year when Mochitsuki has come and gone. Onward to 2017! As always, we will have to get used to writing 2017 and start making our New Year resolutions.

I want to thank all of you that helped out at the Mochitsuki this year. It takes a lot of people to do the tasks of processing 900 pounds of sweet rice. It was nice to see old friends and new faces. It is a time when everyone works together and enjoys the final outcome. It was interesting to hear how people eat their mochi. Some people like their mochi plain or with an (sweet beans), some with shoyu and sugar, some with kinako, most like it in soup or ozoni. Whatever your way is, enjoy!

I wanted to also give you an update on our 90th Anniversary Fundraising Project. As of December 8th, it was reported at our board meeting that we were very close to our goal of \$50,000. We are very confident that we will reach that by 2017. We appreciate all of you for donating and pledging monies towards improving our safety to the Sangha. There will be more details on the program at the general meeting at the end of January.

Please save the date of January 29 for our annual general meeting starting at 11:45 a.m. A potluck lunch will precede the meeting so please bring your favorite dish to share. A quorum of 25 temple members is required for voting purposes. The non-voting Sangha is invited to attend.

I wish to thank you for your participation for making 2016 a successful year. The temple may end up a little short on our operating budget but I want you to know how much your time and efforts are and were appreciated.

I hope to see you at the Temple's New Year Party on January 15. See the invitation and order form in this issue.

I look forward to 2017 and want to wish you and your families a very Happy New Year!

In Gassho,
LuAnn Lee

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

The Board of Directors met on December 8, 2016

1. Condolences to the family of Mrs. Ruth Kiyono who passed away Nov. 24.
2. The Board approved the Ways & Means Committee recommendation to use 90th Anniversary funds to replace the main entry door, repair the hardware on the Hondo's east exit door and replace the Hondo pre-function carpet.
3. The Board gratefully acknowledges the receipt of a generous donation from the trust of the late Betty Yano.
4. The Board approved the Sangha Teens participation in the Walk to Feed the Hungry event, February 4th.
5. The Board approved the EcoSangha committee's participation in the City of San Diego Earth Day event, April 23.
6. The 2017 Calendar of events was distributed for review.

BWA NEWS

Thank you so much to our super craft group members who have been working so hard in the past months preparing for the SDSU craft sale on Dec 1. It was a great success! Special thanks go to Karen and Roy Okuhara, Ruby Hara, Karen Akahoshi, Evelyn Alroy, Margo Spears, Janice Cooper, Kiku Graeber, Janice Shigehara, and Jane Hong for doing all the hard work on that day! Please join the group gatherings on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 10 am – 2 pm for fun, crafts and potluck lunch too!

Our 2016 Bonenkai at the Gordon Biersch Brewery Restaurant was another rousing success. Everyone enjoyed the food and camaraderie of the day. Please check out the event photos on our BWA website at BTSD.net.

A big "Thank You!" to all who came to help out at the Mochitsuki, whether it was at 6 am, later, or all day, and also to our sellers and customers of the Almond Brittle and Crafts Sale on Dec 11. It's a lot of work but fun too.

Thanks also go to all who helped with the general temple/hondo cleanup and Butsugu no Omigaki (cleaning of shrine items), on December 18.

December 31, this year falls on Saturday. Please join us at temple for our annual Joya E Service and soba, and later, at the bell ringing, Joya No Kane, at 11:30 pm on Shelter Island. It's always a great beginning to attend the first service of the New Year, Shusho E, on January 1 at the temple beginning at 10 a.m.

Be sure to attend the BEC sponsored lecture on Saturday January 14 at 7pm. The guest presenter will be Rev. Dean Koyama of the Palo Alto Buddhist Temple. Rev. Dean Koyama will be the Ho Onko speaker on January 15. We will also be installing our new BWA cabinet at the service. Cabinet members are: President Kiku Graeber, VP Aki Tomiyama, Recording Secretary, Evelyn Alroy, Corresponding Secretary Mani Ryan, Treasurer Susan Yonekura, Welfare Chair Laurine Ota, Religious Chair Junko Kajita, Group Chairs Betty Torio, Kiku Graeber, Aki Tomiyama, and Kim Hagio, Ex Officio Susan Moribe, Advisors Rev. Kenji and Mrs. Karen Akahoshi, Fumie Ohara, and Mary Suyenaga.

Don't forget to order your bento or chicken for the temple New Year party following the Ho-Onko service, on Jan. 15, when we will be doing a BWA song to the tune of Ue O Muite. Also, two weekends later, on Sunday, January 29, don't miss the annual BTSD General Meeting and potluck luncheon.

Thank you to Group C for the tasty treats at our December meeting. PLEASE NOTE: There will be NO BWA General Membership Meeting in January. Our next meeting will be held on February 5th, at 11:45, hosted by Group D. Hope to see you then!

Gassho,
Susan Moribe, BWA President

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

Happy New Year to all!

Last month Dharma School introduced three new students to the program during the Bodhi Day Service. Molly Iwashita, Zenden Hutchins and Andrea Covarrubias each received a nenju and congratulations from Kenji Sensei. Dharma School will welcome Paulina Covarrubias at our January Service.

Many students worked hard at Mochitsuki on Sunday, December 11. They helped with the grinding, pounding, cooling and packaging mochi, and delivered the bags to the sales table. Mr. Ralph said it was nice to see all of the students help out, have a good time and learn the Japanese Cultural tradition or making mochi.

Panning for the Southern District Dharma School Teachers Conference that San Diego will host on Saturday, September 2 has begun. The first meeting was held on Dec. 18. The next meeting will be on January 22.

The next teacher-staff meeting will be on Sunday, January 8 at 8:45 a.m.

Gassho, Avis Honda, Superintendent

JR. YBA NEWS

Happy New Year!

The San Diego Jr. YBA extends best wishes to the Sangha in 2017, the year of the Rooster!

We wish to say thank you to all those who supported our chow mein luncheon fundraiser that was held on December 4. We prepared around 320 servings of chow mein and nearly sold out! Special thanks goes out to the volunteers who helped with chopping meats and vegetables on the Friday before the luncheon, and to the members and parents for boiling noodles and setting up tables and chairs on Saturday, and for everyone's hard work on Sunday. Thank you to Trevor Muraoka who co-chaired the event with me,

We had our holiday party on Dec. 10. Thank you to Hailey Sasaki and her family for hosting the evening.

Our first recycling day was held on Dec. 18. Thank you to those who brought their CRV recyclables of aluminum cans, water and glass bottles. Thank you to Davis Ong for helping separate all the recyclables. A recycling day is scheduled in February with a date to be announced. In the meantime, you may bring your recyclables and put them to room 4.

On December 18, we had a conference planning meeting at Vista. The group finalized the theme, "Finding the Path out of Chaos". Our next meeting is scheduled for Jan. 22 at the temple starting at 1:30 p.m. The two chapters have eight months to prepare for the Southern District Jr. YBL Conference, Sept. 2-3

Three members will attend Southern District Leadership on January 7-8 at Gardena. Attendees will learn more about leadership skills.

Members look forward to attending the Ho Onko service on Jan. 15, followed by the New Year's party.

In Gassho,
Breven Honda, Co-President

Buddhist Education In January

We are grateful for many opportunities to hear and share the Dharma this month.

Special Dharma Talk: Rev. Dean Koyama on "Ho-Onko and the Return of Gratitude". Many thanks to visiting speaker Rev. Dean Koyama of the Palo Alto Buddhist Temple for our observances of Ho-Onko the weekend of Jan. 14 and 15.

In addition to presenting Dharma talks at our Sunday observance, Rev. Koyama will be presenting a special Dharma Talk Saturday, Jan. 14, at 7 p.m. in our Sangha Hall.

To underscore the component of gratitude in our Ho-Onko observances, Rev. Koyama hopes to deepen our appreciation of this major observance in our Jodo Shinshu tradition.

The presentation will be informal and will allow interactive discussion. The event is free and open to all.

Buddhism 1-2-3 -- Starting January 4 we resume the open Buddhism 1-2-3 class we hold from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Each Wednesday learn a little more about chanting, meditation, and the Buddhist teachings. Kenji Sensei is our Dharma leader Jan. 4 and 11, with others on the Buddhist Education Committee pitching in the rest of the month.

Fourth Sunday January 22 -- In the Fourth Sunday introduction to Buddhism, Kaytee Sumida provides a brief overview of the history of Buddhism and our Temple and its tradition. The gathering starts at 9 a.m. in the Sangha Hall and runs an hour. At the end of the class, attendees are invited to join in our service in the Main Building, starting at 10 a.m. Perfect for members and Dharma friends looking for a refreshing of their understanding and to college students visiting for their Religions class, the informal presentation provides time for you to ask questions and improve your understanding.

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MEMBERSHIP

Thanks to all of you who renewed your membership dues in 2016! Your financial support keeps our Temple strong at the Core.

Great and Early Start to 2017-- Thanks to those of you who already renewed for 2017 in the final weeks of 2016! (Thanks also to Treasurer Committee member Nancy Martinez for making sure I counted the renewals to avoid the mistakes of last year.)

First New Members. Many of you already know Julie Watson and Greg Bull from their active attendance of services in 2016 but it's a pleasure to announce them as our first new members of 2017! Please thank them next time you see them.

Most Folks Renewed – Catch up Now -- I'm holding off on an exact count for you but ordinarily we have a handful of people catch up at the very end of the year. An exact account will be shared in the February issue and at our General Meeting this month.



2017 BCA Calendars...

Ready for Pick-up!

The 2017 BCA calendars have arrived, and are available to all dues paying members. In order to help the temple defray mailing costs, we are asking all members to pick-up your calendars on your next visit. Calendars may be picked up in the office. *Thank you!*

2017 MAJOR SERVICES AND GUEST SPEAKERS

Each year, BTSD is very fortunate to have dynamic speakers share the Dharma for its major services. For 2017, the lineup of special guests will include BCA ministers and lay speakers. The following is the list of major services with date of service, guest speaker and temple each minister represents:

- **Ho Onko** (Shinran Shonin's memorial) – January 15: **Rev. Dean Koyama**, Palo Alto Buddhist Temple.
- **Nirvana Day** (Sakyamuni Buddha's memorial)/**BWA Memorial** – Feb. 12: **Rev. Kazuaki Nakata**, Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple.
- **Higan** (Spring Equinox observance) – March 19: **Rev. Ron Kobata**, San Francisco Buddhist Temple.
- **Hanamatsuri** (Birth of the Buddha celebration) – April 9: **Rev. Jon Turner**, Orange County Buddhist Church.
- **Gotan-E** (Shinran Shonin's birth commemoration) – May 21: **Rev. Fumiaki Usuki**, West Los Angeles Buddhist Temple.
- **O Bon** (Memorial Remembrance) – July 30: **Rev. Bob Oshita**, BCA Minister Emeritus.
- **Higan** (Fall Equinox observance) – September 24: **Mr. Darryl Yagi**.
- **Eitaikyo** (Perpetual Memorial observance) – November 12: **Rev. Masanori Watanabe**, Oxnard Buddhist Temple.

Many of the guest ministers will provide a Japanese message during the special service and will conduct Dharma lectures sponsored by the Buddhist Education Committee (BEC).

Kenji Sensei encourages the entire Sangha to take advantage of the opportunity to attend the major services and to listen to the Dharma from guest speakers. Also, to attend regular Sunday gatherings.

The temple looks forward to your participation.

In Gassho

THANK YOU FOR A SUCCESSFUL MOCHITSUKI

Another successful mochitsuki has come and gone, and with it many long-lasting memories.

Over the weekend of Dec. 9-11, many sangha members and community friends gathered for the annual tradition of producing mochi (sweet rice cakes) for the New Year.

The activity brought together people of all ages ranging from the youngest Dharma School student to the young at heart. There was a lot of strong energy from the mochitsuki veterans to the newbies who were trying their hand at a Japanese cultural tradition for the first time. Lively friendly conversations, smiling faces and hard work by everyone made the day of producing the tasty sweet rice morsels a rewarding experience.

Students representing local high schools, including Torrey Pines, Madison, Rancho Bernardo, Point Loma and Eastlake volunteered their time. In addition, friends from the Japan Society and Japanese Friendship Garden joined the festivities. Other visitors saw the announcement through social media via Facebook while other passing by the temple.

There were jobs for everyone from rice washing to equipment set up crew. Cookers, grinders and pounders worked away getting the mochi into its fine paste-like texture. Cutters, molders, coolers and packers put the finishing touches to the delectable product.

Thank you to the crew who prepared lunch for the hungry workers and to those who shared their favorite dish for the luncheon. Thank you to all for your dedicated participation.

As a treat, some of the volunteers prepared AN (sweet bean) mochi for the workers.

Nine hundred pounds of dry mochigome (sweet rice) was washed and cooked. The production produced over 1,300 pounds of mochi.

Other sales included Kaytee Sumida's White Elephant, Kris Tokunaga's Tupperware and the BWA's almond brittle, popcorn and crafts.

If you wish to purchase more mochi, there is ko mochi and a limited number of two-piece kasane mochi for sale. Please call the temple for more information.

BTSD is very fortunate to have such dedicated members and friends who continue to support the final big event of the year every December. Please give yourselves a pat on the back for a job well done.

Mochitsuki 2017 is set for Sunday, December 10.

Thank you very much to everyone who helped with such a rewarding activity.

Gassho,

Ralph Honda and Glenn Negoro, Mochitsuki Co-chairmen



BTSD/VFW BINGO SESSIONS SET FOR 2017

Looking for an entertaining activity to compliment your Saturday evenings in 2017?

Don't be shy. Give BINGO a try!

It is an enjoyable activity for the veteran players and newbies with a chance to win cash and door prizes. Players 18-years-old and up are eligible to play.

BTSD and Asian Pacific VFW Post 4851 will conduct 12 BINGO sessions starting at 6 p.m. in the Annex Hall.

Each session requires a \$10 buy-in for up to 2 1/2 hours of BINGO. Extra cards are \$.50 each. Purchasing pull-tabs offer another winning opportunity.

The temple will conduct several benefit dinners that will be held prior to Bingo beginning at 4:30 p.m.

Most of this year's sessions are scheduled for the second Saturday of the month. There are several exceptions.

Here are the 2017 dates (benefit dinners in parentheses): January 7, February 11 (Benefit dinner), March 11, April 8, May 13, June 10, July 8 (Benefit dinner), August 12, September 9 (Benefit dinner), October 7, November 11 and December 16.

The VFW will sell their famous hot dogs and chili dogs at the non-benefit dinner BINGO nights. Stayed tuned on the type of dinner BTSD will offer.

Bring out family and friends for an enjoyable evening and have a chance to yell BINGO!

WOW!!! We had a great December. Thank you to everyone who bought gift cards and supported the scrip program this year. In December, we sold more gift cards than we usually sell in 6 months so it definitely was a profitable month and a challenge to get the order correct.

Thanks also to everyone who were so patient while we printed more retailer lists. In the coming year, we hope that we are more on top of when the supply is low.

The scrip program runs throughout the year. A supply of gift cards is readily on hand for the ones that members frequently buy. If they are not on hand, then they will be ordered on Sunday afternoon and they usually arrive before the next Sunday.

BE SAFE AND BUY SCRIP! Keep it handy and don't forget to use it!

Wishing you a Happy New Year!
Miyo Hill, Scrip Chairperson

CLEAN UP DAY THANK YOU

The temple extends a heartfelt thank you to volunteers who help with sprucing up the hondo and Omigaki (altar cleaning) on December 18.

The altar area is nice and shiny and the hondo looks very refreshed for the New Year!



BTSD Special Service Credit Card Donations 2017

ENVELOPE FREE DONATION: BTSD is offering the opportunity to conveniently plan your special service donation(s) by using your credit card. Please indicate the amount you wish to donate for each service and the treasurers' committee will take care of your transaction(s).

Name _____ E-mail _____
 Address _____ Unit. Number _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip code _____
 Phone () _____ Work Phone () _____

Credit card: <input type="checkbox"/> Visa <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Amex (credit cards will be charged during the month of each special service.) Acct#: _____ Expires (MM/YY): _____/_____ Authorized signature (if charging): _____ Billing address (if different from above): _____

SPECIAL SERVICES 2017

New Year's Day (Shusho-e) – January 1

This is a day of dedication. With renewed resolution, we dedicate ourselves to the way of the Nembutsu.

Ho-Onko (Shinran Shonin Memorial Day) – January 15

Commemorating the memory of Shinran Shonin (May 21, 1173 – January 16, 1262), the Founder of Jodo Shinshu (True Pure Land sect). Shinran Shonin was the first to teach absolute faith in Amida Buddha.

Nirvana Day (Nehan-e) – February 12

On this day we solemnly observe the passing of Sakyamuni Buddha into Pari-nirvana.

Spring Higan (Higan-e) – March 19

Higan ("Other Shore") is observed on or around the Spring equinox. During this time, harmony rules throughout the universe. Therefore, we gather before the shrine of Amida Buddha to devote ourselves to the realization of this harmony in our inner lives.

Hanamatsuri (Buddha Day) – April 9

Celebrating the birth of Gautama (the historical Buddha) in Lumbini Garden. A flower shrine ("Hanamido") is set up in front of the main altar representing Lumbini Garden. The sangha offers flowers and pours sweet tea over a statue of the infant Buddha.

Gotan-e / Fujimatsuri (Shinran Shonin Day) – May 21

Shinran Shonin was born near Kyoto, Japan on May 21, 1173. On this day we observe his birth as the founder of the Jodo Shinshu sect.

O Bon (Bon) – July 30

Bon is a Buddhist Memorial Day. It is an occasion for rejoicing in the enlightenment offered by the Buddha. It is often referred to as the "Gathering of Joy."

Fall Higan (Higan-e) – September 24

The sangha gathers once again, on or around the Fall equinox to recall the practice of the Six Paramitas.

Eitaikyo (Perpetual Memorial) – November 12

On this day, all dedicated members and Dharma friends who devoted themselves to the spiritual welfare of the temple, whether known or unknown, are honored so that we may continue to practice the Buddha's teachings.

Bodhi Day (Jodo-e) – December 3

Gautama meditated under the Bodhi Tree (Tree of Enlightenment) and became a Buddha; perfect in Wisdom and Compassion.

Joya-e (Year-end Service) – December 31

On New Year's Eve we meditate on the countless blessings we have received throughout the year and express our gratitude to our parents, our nation, all beings and Amida Buddha.

Please mail this form to: **Buddhist Temple of San Diego c/o Treasurers**
2929 Market Street
San Diego, CA 92102

For any questions about Special Service credit card donations, please call the Temple at 619-239-0896, or send inquiries to the Treasurer at info@btsd.net.

BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SAN DIEGO

2017 NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

Happy New Year!



The Buddhist Temple of San Diego is having a party!

All temple members and friends are encouraged to make plans to attend the annual New Year's Party that will take place following the Ho Onko Service on Sunday, January 15. The festivities will be from 12 noon to 2 p.m. in the Annex Hall.

Attendees will have a choice of ordering a traditional Japanese-style bento (box) regular or vegetarian lunch for \$15. An alternative KFC Chicken lunch may be purchased for \$9.

As a token of its appreciation, the temple will like to offer complimentary meals to members of the exclusive 88-years-young and above Keiro Kai (pioneer club) group and to new members who have joined the temple since the 2016 New Year's Party.

In order to ensure your reservation, please fill out the order form with your meal selection. Please include your reservation form, along with payment and mail it to the temple. You may also call the temple at (619) 239-0896 or send email to info@btsd.net with your reservation. The reservation deadline is **Sunday, Jan. 8.**

Entertainment, special recognitions and a lot of celebrating will be part of the program.

We sincerely hope that you will able to join us as BTSD kicks off 2017 with a grand celebration!

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

2017 NEW YEAR PARTY LUNCHEON RESERVATION

NAME(S) _____ PHONE _____

E-MAIL _____

*PLEASE RESERVE:	Regular Bento	_____	x \$15	= \$ _____
	Vegetarian Bento	_____	x \$15	= \$ _____
	KFC Chicken	_____	x \$9	= \$ _____
	TOTALS:	_____		\$ _____

_____ I am "88 & Great!" and will attend, so please reserve a complimentary bento for me (Please check-off your meal selection. Payment not required)

_____ I/we became new members in 2016 and will attend the party. Please reserve a complimentary bento(s) indicated above.

*Please fill out the order form, include payment and use the enclosed envelope for mailing.
Make check payable to BTSD. Ordering by phone: (619) 239-0896. Email order: info@btsd.net
Reservation deadline is **Sunday, January 8.***

マウンテンビュー「仏教会」回向」 二〇一七年一月法話

おんしんびようどう こんごう

一 怨親平等の心 一

駐在開教使 向嶋謙史

新年、明けましておめでとございませう。

昨年十一月、世界中が注目したアメリカ大統領選挙がようやく終わりました。選挙結果に歓喜する人達もいれば、不満を持って失望している人達もいます。ですが、自国の発展と国民の幸せを願う心はみんな同じです。アメリカに住む全ての人達が自国よりよい社会、調和のとれた社会を目指しています。

しかし、この度の選挙戦が始まって以来、アメリカ各地で一般市民による悲しい行動が見られるようになりました。その一つに、差別問題があります。今、残念なことに、特定の人種や宗教に対する差別をはじめ、障害者や同性愛者などに否定的な立場をとる人々が公の場で彼らを誹謗中傷するような悲しい場面がユースデーにつきまします。

人間の心の中には、誰もが差別意識は少なからずあるもので、二五〇〇年前のお釈迦さまの時代でさえもカースト制度という身分差別が確立されていたほど差別意識は人間の歴史に深くかかわっています。お釈迦さまは、差別という概念は相手の存在価値を否定する最も卑劣な行為の一つであるとカースト制度を真っ向から否定しておられます。

では、お釈迦さまは、あらゆる生命の存在をどのように見つめ、生命について私達に何を教えて下さっているのでしょうか。

親鸞聖人は、浄土和讃の中で、「仏さまは平等の心

でもって全ての衆生を分けへたてなく、かけがえない一人子を愛するように見つめておられること明らかにされています。このお言葉の中にお釈迦さまのお心が凝縮されているように思います。

お釈迦さまのお心である平等心とは何かといいますと、それは、「怨親平等の心」といいます。

「怨」とは「うらみ」や「にくしみ」という意味ですが、「親」とは「親愛」、つまり愛することです。ですから、怨親とは愛と憎しみを表す言葉で、「怨親平等の心」とは、愛憎を超えた心をいいます。

これはとても大変なことで、私達凡夫には到底想像も尽かない世界ではありますが、実はこれこそが、仏さまのお悟りの領域なのです。仏さまとは一体どういうお方なのかといいますが、この怨親平等の心を開いた尊いお方を仏といふのです。

差別を認めない私達仏教徒は、当たり前のように「みんな平等だ」と言います。これは大変尊い思想です。ですが、果たして私達はその意味を本当に理解しているのでしょうか？つまり、愛するものと憎むものを全て平等に見ていくという生き方が日常生活の中で実践されているのでしょうか？

私達は、どれだけ差別根絶の社会を目指して行動しようとも、一旦、自分の嫌いな人や憎んでいる人に出会うと、たちまち偏見の目で見てしまいます。これは非常に自分勝手に大いに矛盾しています。この相手を受け入れられない感情が差別根絶とつながっていくのです。

悟りの境地、怨親平等の心とは、その自己中心的なもの、考え方を完全に打ち破ることであり、自分の嫌いな人は単に自分がつくり出した心の迷いにすぎないと目覚めることなのです。目の前に憎い人がいるのではありません。その人を憎んでいる私がおにいます。憎い愛しい心の迷いに

すぎないということを悟ったとき、全ての人がかけがえのない尊い存在なんだという平等の世界が開けてきます。

私達は愛と憎しみの心を死ぬまで捨てきれない煩惱具足の凡夫です。しかし、日々の聴聞によって、大恩のお心にふれた時、あらゆる衆生が阿彌陀仏に願われて生まれてきた尊い生命だということに気づかされます。私達が帰依する阿彌陀仏は、あらゆる生命を例外なく平等に我が一人子として必ず悟りの世界へと至らしめると誓われておられます。それを気づかせて下さるおはたらきが「南無阿彌陀仏」のお念仏なのです。

親鸞聖人は生命の真の価値を見出せない人生は空しいものだとおっしゃっています。だからこそ、阿彌陀仏は常に智慧の光で照らしながら私達の歩むべき道を示して下さいなのです。

お念仏は、生きとし生けるものに向けられた阿彌陀仏の呼び声です。慈恵の温もりと智慧の光が「南無阿彌陀仏」の呼び声となつて全ての生命を優しく包んで下さっています。その真実の呼び声に目覚めることができた時、私の生命も他の生命もかけがえのない大切な生命、平等の生命であつたと互いに拝み合える、愛憎を超えた究極の世界が開かれてくるのだと思えます。そこは、誰にも犯すことのできない尊い生命が共に平等に輝き合う悟りの境地です。

他人を見下し否定することで、優位に立つとする醜い自己愛が差別意識を生み出します。この悲しく醜い自己愛を滅することは至難の業ですが、常にお念仏を申すなかで、どこまでも自己中心的な生き方を省みて、仏性としての存在を互いに認め合いながら、差別根絶のために内なる差別としつかり向き合い、念存者としてあるべき生き方を真剣に考え、行動していきたいものです。

MAJOR ACTIVITIES RING IN NEW YEAR

SHUSHO-E/New Year's Day Service (Jan. 1, 10 a.m.)

SHOTSUKI HOYO Monthly Memorial (Jan. 8, 10 a.m.)

HO ONKO Shinran's Memorial (Jan. 15, 10 a.m.)

GENERAL MEETING (Jan. 29, 11:45 a.m.)

SHUSHO-E is the first gathering of the year. Kenji Sensei invites the Sangha to attend the New Year's Day service starting at 10 a.m.

SHOTSUKI HOYO Monthly Memorial will be held in conjunction with the Dharma School/Family Service on Sunday, Jan. 8 starting at 10 a.m. The January memorial list of loved ones can be found on Page 6.

HO ONKO, commemorating the memory of the founder of Jodo Shinshu, Shinran Shonin, will take place on Sunday, January 15 starting at 10 a.m. Shinran passed away on January 16, 1262. Followers of Shinran gather each January to express deep appreciation and gratitude for the Wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha that he has shared with us. **Rev. Dean Koyama**, resident minister of the Palo Alto Buddhist Temple, will be the guest speaker. Rev. Koyama will also present a Special Dharma Lecture on Saturday, January 14 at 7 p.m. in the Sangha Hall.

The annual **NEW YEAR'S PARTY** will be held immediately following the Ho Onko Service. Reservation deadline is January 8. Please fill out the Information and reservation form that can be found on page 11.

The annual **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING** will take place on Sunday, January 29 from 11:45 a.m. to 2 p.m. Details included in article below.

More activities are listed inside this edition.

Envelopes for your Ho Onko offering and New Year's party reservation are provided with this month's issue. Thank you for your continued support of BTSD's spiritual services and programs. *In Gassho.*

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING JANUARY 29

The temple's annual General Membership meeting will be on Sunday, January 29, beginning at 12 noon in the Annex Hall.

This once-a-year business meeting gives the Sangha the opportunity to join Kenji Sensei, President LuAnn Lee, the Board of Directors, committees and affiliated organizations as they recap 2016 and provide what is planned for 2017. Members will be asked to approve the fiscal year budget and Board of Directors slate. Special reports will include the 90th Anniversary commemoration and more.

All dues paying members and interested Sangha members are invited to attend the meeting.

Temple bylaws states that notification will be delivered to all dues paying members at least 10 days prior to the meeting date. A quorum of 25 members is required to qualify as official.

Everyone is encouraged to share their favorite dish for the potluck luncheon.

Rev. Akahoshi, President Lee and the Board of Directors look forward to seeing many temple members at the annual meeting. *In Gassho*



WINTER PACIFIC SEMINAR 21ST CENTURY EAST MEETS WEST

Dharmathon with Higashi and Nishi Ministers

SATURDAY, January 28, 2017

9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m..

Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple
815 East First Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

**DHARMATHON: A SERIES OF DHARMA
MESSAGES FEATURING MINISTERS FROM
BOTH TRADITIONS**

English presenters include:

Rev. Kodo Umezu, Bishop,
Buddhist Churches of America

Rev. Noriaki Ito, Bishop,
Higashi Honganji North American District

And more...

Japanese presenters include:

Rev. Nobuo Miyaji, Gardena Buddhist Church
Rev. Mutsumi Wondra, OCBC

And more...

Our own Rev. Dr. Kenji Akahoshi will be among many featured ministers who will share the dharma. Registration deadline for BTSD attendees will be January 15. Please sign up with the temple office to ensure your reservation. At this time, carpooling to the event is planned.

REGISTRATION: \$40 (Includes lunch)

Make your check out to BTSD

Presented by the Institute of Buddhist Studies,
Buddhist Churches of America
Center for Buddhist Education &
Shinshu Center of America

Hosted by:

BCA Southern District Ministers Association