

BUSSEI SCRIPT

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APRIL 2010

I Do Not Have a Single Disciple

By Rev. Yushi Mukojima, Resident Minister

On the February 28th, Shinran Shonin's 750th Anniversary memorial observance was held in San Jose in conjunction with the BCA National Council Meeting. So many of our Dharma friends from every corner of the U.S. who adore Shinran were at the Fairmont Hotel where the ceremony was held, to show their respect for and appreciation of his wonderful virtues and great achievements.

On that day, the ballroom was so full of participants that the sutra chanting was overwhelming and the sound of the Nembutsu echoed throughout the hall. I was very honored to attend this historical observance as a minister of the BCA, and at the same time, I felt so grateful for the innumerable causes and conditions which allowed me to encounter the teaching of Jodo Shinshu.

When I think about the scale of this ceremony and that of Shinran's observance to be held at the Honzan (Mother Temple) in Japan next year, I believe that there are few like Shinran who have fascinated so many, and who have continued to be reflected in people's minds. Shinran, the founder of Jodo Shinshu, is respected and adored by many people all over the world, one reason is that he was gifted with a great personality. His rare humility, born of deep self reflection, attracted a great deal of confidence and reverence because many people felt sympathetic to his way of living.

There is a famous saying by Shinran Shonin: "As for myself, Shinran, I do not have a single disciple."

Although he had founded a revolutionary new way of thinking about and practicing Buddhism, he could truthfully claim, "I don't have a single disciple." The truth of the words he uttered becomes clear when one sees the confusion the Nembutsu leaders under him had created.

In those days, the Nembutsu leaders in the Kanto area would senselessly divide the people being converted to the Nembutsu teaching into "my disciples" or "someone else's disciples." They were busily engaged in a power struggle to gain even one disciple for their own self interest. As their attachment to the disciples deepened, eventually they distorted the original meaning of the Nembutsu by claiming, "If one goes against his own teacher and says the Nembutsu under another, that person cannot attain birth in the Pure Land." This situation confused many Nembutsu followers.

When Shinran went back to Kyoto and learned of such terrible trouble caused by the leaders, he lamented their way of thinking which was born of egotism. Especially in Buddhism, one should be careful about being obsessed with selfishness and pride. Shinran's view on the situation is expressed in Chapter 6 in the Tannisho as follows:

I don't have a single disciple. If I could make others say the Nembutsu through my own devices, they would be my disciples. But how arrogant it is to claim as disciples those who live the Nembutsu through the sole working of Amida Buddha's compassion. If the karmic condition is to come together, we shall be together; if the karmic condition is to be separated, we shall be separated. How absurd that some people assert that if one goes against his own teacher and says the Nembutsu under another, they cannot attain birth in the Pure Land. Are they saying that they will take back the true entrusting heart and mind which is a gift from Amida Buddha as if it belonged to them? It is impossible for such a thing should happen.

Shinran severely admonished the Nembutsu leaders for their shameful attachment to claiming disciples. He made it clear that because a person encounters the Nembutsu teaching and recites the Nembutsu due to Amida Buddha's guidance; therefore, all who embrace and rejoice in the Nembutsu teaching are Amida Buddha's disciples, not of any other person.

During his life, Shinran was revered by many enlightened Nembutsu followers as their spiritual teacher. Shinran's statement, "I do not have a single disciple," relates to his humble attitude which chides even himself for his arrogant, selfish mind. So he never regarded himself as a master who had disciples. He acknowledged himself to be a Buddha's disciple, and accepted that the ones who can be called a master are Shakyamuni Buddha and Amida Buddha. His genuine and humble personality—acknowledging that in a world of equality, all people are Amida Buddha's disciples regardless of age, sex, and race—naturally attracted many people. As a result of his great personality, there were many Nembutsu followers who revered him as their lifelong teacher.

There is an interesting story about Shinran Shonin's claim that he didn't have a single disciple in the book *Kudensho*, written by Shinran's great-grandson, Kakunyo Shonin, Third Head Abbott of the Hongwanji.

"I Do Not Have a Single Disciple" continued on page 3

When Shinran was in Hitachi province, there was a Nembutsu follower named Shingyo-bo. He often objected to Shinran's interpretation of the sutras and criticized him, and finally because of this, he left him. At that time, another follower, Reni-bo, pleaded with Shinran saying, "My teacher, please get back the Nembutsu scroll and the sutra books that you gave to Shingyo-bo because he went against you." However, Shinran objected to this request, saying, "It is impossible to consider getting the Nembutsu scroll and the sutra books back because I don't have a single disciple. How can I call him my disciple? All of us are Dharma friends because we are all just Buddha's disciples."

And furthermore Shinran said, "As the scroll of the Nembutsu and the sutra are the key for all living beings to be saved, even if he leaves me and says the Nembutsu under another, we will never be allowed to get them back, for they are not our possessions. Even if he throws them away on the mountain, countless beings which live there may be saved by them." In this way, Shinran admonished Reni-bo for his concern over "a wayward disciple," Shingyo-bo. Shinran was one who would defend Shingyo-bo though he had disagreed and even revolted against Shinran's way of sharing the Nembutsu.

Although Shinran was revered and adored by many followers as their lifelong teacher, he was always aware of his own arrogant mind. He treasured the spirit of "Ondobo-Ondogyo" which can be interpreted as "Dharma friends...along the same Dharma path because the Nembutsu is presented to all people regardless of their status."

Although this month we have examined the words of Shinran, "I don't have a single disciple," I don't mean that I deny having a teacher. In life, it is very important for us to have a teacher who observes what we are doing when we are learning something. It is important for us to have teachers who guide us to the path we should take.

Although Shinran said that he didn't have any disciples, he himself revered Honen Shonin as his trusted teacher throughout his life. Shinran said, "I have nothing to regret, even if I were deceived by my teacher and, saying the Nembutsu, fall into hell." As we hear his words, we truly understand how much he loved and respected his teacher.

I believe that the true way of Nembutsu followers is to have the spirit of "Ondobo-Ondogyo"—of walking the Dharma path with Dharma friends who respect one another—while at the same time, revering our teacher.

I am really grateful for this opportunity to have been present at Shinran's 750th Anniversary observance here in America. At the same time, I would like to try to reflect deeply on his great achievement by showing respect to and helping all those who gather at the Buddhist Temple as Buddha's children—irrespective of minister, member or non-member—as we rejoice in our inheritance of Shinran's great spirit.

In Gassho,

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

By Michael Kinoshita

On April 11, we celebrate Hanamatsuri which commemorates Siddhartha Gautama's birth at Lumbini Garden. During the service, the hanamido (flower shrine) is in front of the altar signifying Lumbini Garden. The Sangha offers flowers and pours sweet tea over the statue, "bathing the body of the Buddha" prior to the main service. Reverend Kodo Umezu of the Center for Buddhist Education at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley will be our guest speaker. I hope that everyone can attend the service to celebrate this event.

At the end of February, Reverend Mukojima, Ralph Honda and I represented BTSD at the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) National Conference in San Jose. We had meetings all day on Friday and half-day on Saturday to discuss budgets, business items, etc. The thought of having the usual two days of meetings reduced to one-and-a-half days seemed like an impossible task with an open floor for anyone attending to make comments. But I was pleasantly surprised that the meetings took to heart the theme of Shinran Shonin 750th Memorial Service, "May Peace And Tranquility Prevail Throughout The World." The meeting went smoothly and moved with such efficiency and purpose.

After the meetings were adjourned, the remainder of Saturday and Sunday morning were dedicated to commemorate Shinran Shonin's 750th Memorial. It was a grand event to experience. I have written a report on the BCA National Convention and 750th Memorial Service for Shinran Shonin which appears in this newsletter.

People ask me what was my impression of the BCA National Conference and the Shinran Shonin 750th Memorial and I have to say the message I took was we have to be open to change no matter how hard it may be.

As this relates to our temple, we have to look how we operate and embrace all of the traditions and practices that have been passed down from our past members. Of the many traditions and practices that we do, there may be some that can be updated to make them even better. I do not have any specific example but all I ask is if there is something that we have been doing for many years, if someone has another viewpoint or a suggestion to improve it, please be open to the idea. It may be that, after reviewing all the pros and cons, we continue to do it the way we have been doing it, but I want to stress the concept of being open to an idea and being open to change.

On March 9, I attended a luncheon in San Diego hosted by the Consul General of Japan. The Consul General's office, along with the U.S. Navy, are coordinating an event in San Diego to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Treaty signed for joint military exercises. From June 25–28, two Japanese Navy ships will be docked at the B Street Pier for this celebration. The purpose of the luncheon, attended by local Japanese community groups, was to plan a proposed Japanese Community Day on Saturday, June 26, from 12 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on the waterfront. I feel this would be a great opportunity for our temple to show Bon Odori dancing to the community. There will be additional information coming on this celebration. There is a website dedicated to this celebration which is at <http://navycompass.com/usatreaty/>.

In conclusion, if you have any questions or comments, please see me or write me a note. I would like to hear from you.

Gassho,

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

On March 11, 2010, the Board of Directors met and the following items were discussed:

1. Rev. Jeannette Shin provided the March 7 message to the Dharma School. Rev. Mukojima thanked the Sangha for the gift and after-service refreshments in wishing Rev. Shin well in her seven-month deployment.
2. Five families purchased Obutsudan made available as part of Membership Month.
3. President Michael Kinoshita would like to make membership a priority for this year. He requested suggestions from the Sangha on how to outreach, mentor and make new members welcome. He hopes to have guidelines and a plan in place by year's end.
4. A potluck is planned following the April 11 Hanamatsuri Service.
5. The Board approved the expense of replacing the Annex rain gutters.
6. A committee will discuss BTSD's participation in the June 26 50th Anniversary Japan-U.S. Navy Treaty Community Day.
7. The Board asks the Scholarship Committee to approve the use of scholarship funds for the May Ministers Assistant Program (MAP) seminar expense for our two candidates.
8. The BWA is working on translating its by-laws into English. BWA will be providing otoki (refreshments) after the Gotan-E Service.
9. April 18 was selected as the date for the next Munch & a Movie fundraiser.
10. Southern District BCA Conference "Will I really meet OBachan in the Pure Land?" is scheduled for June 12. Registration deadline is May 2.
11. Michael Kinoshita provided a report on the 2010 BCA National Conference/Shinran 750th Memorial held in San Jose in February.

ABA NEWS

Not much going on in March. We thank those that helped the YABA with the Chow Mein luncheon both March 13 and 14. YABA took over the annual fundraiser that we had for over 30 years, and we hope they will continue the event.

On April 3 at 9:00 a.m., we will have our breakfast meeting at the Island Style Cafe in Tierrasanta. Please let Motoo know if would like to attend.

BWA REPORT

Fumiko Ohara thanked members for attending the March 7 meeting. She also thanked Katsumi Kida for chairing the February 14 obento luncheon for Rev. Akio Miyaji.

Sensei's announcements:

1. March 13: Rev. William Briones from Los Angeles Nishi Betsuin to give a BEC lecture, Sangha Hall, 7 pm.
2. March 14, Spring Ohigan: Rev. William Briones, guest speaker.

Business:

1. February 19. A special meeting was called to update and review the San Diego BWA by-laws attended by Rev. Mukojima, Fumiko Ohara, Miyoko Yamanishi and Betty Torio. Mary Suyenaga provided a Japanese-to-English translation of the by-laws for the group to work with. The latest version with the updates and corrections was printed by Rev. Mukojima and is being proofread by Betty Torio. The group

will give a report on their progress at the April 4 meeting. Fumiko thanked Rev. Mukojima for his guidance and help.

2. Akie Tomiyama received permission from the Board for the BWA to hold a bake sale on Hanamatsuri, April 11, 2010.
3. Fumiko Ohara and Miyoko Yamanishi attended the first 2010 Bazaar meeting on March 3. The Bazaar committee is currently working on creating a theme for the Bazaar. Miyoko Yamanishi will chair the sushi making with Katsumi Kida as her assistant.
4. May 16, Gotan-e Service. BWA will provide otoki of chirashi for service attendees. Miyoko Yamanishi will chair the chirashi preparation.
5. We are planning a candy sale in November or December. Fumiko Ohara will contact Naomi Himaka to chair event.
6. We are also planning a sushi sale in November after the Eitaikyo Service.

Thank you to Group A for the delicious refreshments. The next meeting will be on April 4, 2010, hosted by the B group.

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

Ms. Sharon Sasaki attended the BCA 750th Shinran Shonin Commemoration, Feb. 27 and 28 in San Jose. Dharma School students who participated in the art poster contest all received beautiful certificates of appreciation from the BCA signed by Socho Ogui and BCA president Billy Saeki.

Unfortunately, due to rain, the Star Pal Fishing Derby on February 27 was canceled.

Several of our Obon dance teachers, Dharma School students and their parents, and temple members participated in the Cherry Blossom Festival at the Japanese Friendship Garden in Balboa Park on March 13. The group taught three dances, including Sakura (Cherry Blossom) Ondo.

For Spring Ohigan on March 14, Rev. William Briones of the Los Angeles Betsuin spoke to the Dharma School. Everyone enjoyed the YABA/ABA Chow Mein Luncheon fundraiser after the service.

Rev. Mukojima visited the Preschool and K-2nd grade classes on March 21. They look forward to spending time with Sensei, and we'll follow up next month to let you know how the visits went!

Hanamatsuri Activities

Dharma School is accepting floral and monetary donations for Hanamatsuri on April 11. Hanamido prep will be April 10 starting at 9 a.m. If you plan to donate flowers, please bring your flowers on Saturday. All Dharma School students, as well as the Sangha, are invited to help decorate the Hanamido as we prepare to observe the birthday of Sakyamuni Buddha.

After the Hanamatsuri Service and during our regular craft time, Ms. Kristin Rush, Campaign Manager for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society of San Diego, will give a short child-friendly presentation to the Dharma School Students on Leukemia and Lymphoma. Then the students can draw pictures or make cards for Austin Gatus, a 12-year-old leukemia patient who has been chosen as the Child of the Year. Our Dharma School has been wanting to do a community service project for a while, and it seemed like a good time since our temple just had a bone marrow drive for Natalie Nakatani, the granddaughter of members Fred and Nancy Nakatani.

Ann Ong is serving on a fundraising committee for a friend, Gellie Go-Meyer, for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. We will

send a fundraising letter to our Dharma School parents, but we would like any donations to come from the students. Even if each student donated \$1, that would be \$50 towards funding research for the cure of blood cancer! The cards and pictures students draw for Austin will definitely brighten his day.

Hearing the wonderful news that a bone marrow donor match was found for Natalie definitely brought us feelings of "Peace and Tranquility," our Dharma School theme this year.

Dharma School families are encouraged to share a main dish for the traditional potluck luncheon that will be held after Hanamatsuri Service.

Upcoming Events

There will be Dharma School service and classes on April 4, 18 and 25.

The annual Federation Dharma School Teachers League Conference will be held April 23-25 at the Renaissance LAX Hotel. The San Diego and Vista chapters will be leading the evening craft class and plan to make kamaboko board Dharma (Jacob's) ladders and Den-Den Daikos (toy drums).

Dharma School will host the annual Hatsumairi, or child presentation in front of the Amida Buddha, on Sunday, May 16 at 9 a.m., prior to the Gotan-e service. If your child or grandchild has not been part of the Hatsumairi ceremony, please consider the upcoming event. A registration form can be found in this month's *Bussei Script*. Registration deadline is Sunday, May 9.

In Gassho,

Ann Ong, Assistant Superintendent

YABA NEWS

Thank you very much to everyone who supported the first YABA Spring Chow Mein Luncheon fundraiser. Over 500 lunches were served at the event held on March 14 after the Ohigan Service.

A huge thank you goes to the YABA, ABA members and Sangha friends who volunteered with the Saturday preparations and Chow Mein Sunday. Everyone's help was truly appreciated.

After 30 years of chopping vegetables and meat, boiling and frying noodles, and cooking that savory sauce, the ABA group called it a career for hosting the annual fundraiser. YABA, along with the temple, is indebted to the ABA group for their dedication to preparing the spring Chow Mein luncheon, a delicious tradition that everyone truly enjoys.

A wrap up meeting was held on Sunday, March 21.

HAITI RELIEF OFFERING

The temple answered the call from the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) and has donated \$1,142.50 to the BCA Haiti Relief Fund.

Through the month of February, donations to the fund were received from the weekly offerings at the Dharma School/Family Services and by mail. Proceeds were sent to the BCA to be included with donations received from other temples.

We thank everyone who participated for their donations.

ANOTHER MISSION FOR REV. SHIN

On Sunday March 7, Rev. Mukojima invited Rev. Jeanette Shin to present a message to the Dharma School. Afterwards, hospitality and a reception for Rev. Shin were held in the Annex Hall to

wish her a bon voyage prior to her challenging seven-month mission in Afghanistan.

Rev. Shin, who represents the Buddhist denomination and serves as a Navy Chaplain, is part of a contingent of military units from Camp Pendleton deployed to Afghanistan on March 13.

The Sangha enjoyed conversation with Shin Sensei at the reception. Temple President Michael Kinoshita presented her with *osembetsu* (gift) on behalf of the temple.

Rev. Shin welcomes Dharma School students and the Sangha to correspond with her while she is away. Rev. Shin's address:

LT Jeanette Shin
CLR 15 FWD MAINT. CO
UNIT 42284
FPO AP 96427-2286

Her "away" e-mail had not yet been assigned as of this date, but if you are a Facebook member, you can find her at:

<http://www.facebook.com/people/Jeanette-Shin/100000428355653>.

She also maintains a Buddhist blog mainly for military personnel at: <http://buddhistmilitarysangha.blogspot.com/2009/07/hello-to-all.html>.

"Care" packages would also be nice to send. Next month, we will include a wish list of items Rev. Shin may receive while away.

BEC LECTURE: ANNON PEACE AND TRANQUILITY IS APRIL 10

Thanks to longer days and an earlier start time, the BEC Lecture on April 10 will be accessible to as many people as possible.

At 5 p.m. on Saturday, April 10, the Buddhist Education Committee presents a public lecture on "ANNON: Peace and Tranquility" by special guest speaker, Rev. Kodo Umezu. Rev. Umezu will be discussing ANNON from the Pure Land perspective. Rev. Umezu is the esteemed Director of the Center for Buddhist Education of the Buddhist Churches of America. In that position, Umezu Sensei creates and directs national educational programs and initiatives, working from the International Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley, Calif.

The lecture will be over by 6:30 p.m., leaving another 45 minutes of daylight until sundown about 7:15 p.m.

"Our late afternoon start is meant to make sure the community and Sangha members who avoid night driving can still attend the lecture and be back home before sundown," says Bill Teague, BEC chair. "We would like as many people as possible to be able to hear this message."

The event, to be held in the one-story Sangha Hall on the south side of the Temple parking lot, is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

JCC KEIRO KAI

The Japanese Coordinating Council (JCC) will host its annual Keiro Kai (Pioneer Club) luncheon on Sunday, April 25, from 1-3 p.m. in the Annex Hall. Nikkei from throughout the community, 80-years-young and older, will be recognized.

Letters of invitations have been sent to all honorees. If you have not received an invitation and feel that you should have been included with the mailing, please contact the temple for more information

MUNCH & A MOVIE: APRIL 18

Zenbu is screening another free, "must-see" movie after the service on Sunday, April 18 in the Annex Hall: HACHIKO: A DOG'S STORY. The movie is rated "G" and all ages are welcome. Lunch will be offered preceding the movie for a \$6 donation and will be served at 12 Noon.

Based on the 1987 Japanese film, "Hachiko Monogatari," HACHIKO: A DOG'S STORY stars Richard Gere as a college professor who finds an abandoned dog and takes the poor lost animal in. The man and the animal form a strong bond, teaching us love, compassion and unyielding devotion and loyalty.

The film is based on a true story which captured the hearts of Japanese audiences when HACHIKO debuted last year. It is in English with Japanese subtitles. Even if you've already seen this wonderful film, invite your friends and family and enjoy an afternoon together while enjoying a great lunch!

Please let us know how many people will be participating. Call the Temple at (619) 239-0896 or sign up at the temple. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to assure that we have enough lunches for everyone!

BCA NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING REPORT

By Michael Kinoshita

On February 25-28, the BCA held its annual National Council Meeting in San Jose at the Fairmont Hotel. The accommodations were great and the location central to downtown San Jose.

Reverend Mukojima, Ralph Honda and I were delegates representing the Buddhist Temple of San Diego. This year the meetings were compressed to 1-1/2 days versus the normal two days, with the very hard work and preparation by the BCA planning group, the information and meetings went very smoothly.

The meeting opened with introductions and review of last year's meeting minutes, then proceeded with various BCA reports. The two major voting items were a request from Longmont Buddhist Temple in Colorado to become an independent BCA temple not affiliated with the Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple; and the 2010 - 11 BCA budget.

There was some discussion regarding Longmont being able to support a full-time minister, etc. The BCA budget for 2010 is \$2,400,071.71. That is an increase of \$181,190.00 from last year's budget. Based on lost income from various sources from last year, the budgetary committee did a great job of minimizing the total increase. What it means to our Temple is our BCA dues (assessment) per member will range from \$85.36 to \$87.70 once the BCA finalizes this year's membership count. Assessment per member for 2009 was \$85.64. All of the motions passed.

Members of the 2010-11 Executive Committee were installed. Dr. Billy Saeki (Venice) completed his term as president and Mr. Everett Watada (Tri-State, Colorado) will serve as BCA president for the next two years.

Next year's BCA Ministers and National Council Meeting will be in Visalia, Calif.

place your order by calling the temple.

Enjoy a nice Saturday evening with a Chicken Katsu dinner, followed by BINGO.

A copy of the meeting agenda and draft minutes is located in a notebook at the Temple for your review if you would like additional details.

750th Memorial for Shinran Shonen

The Shinran Shonin 750th Memorial Symposium and Service started on Saturday afternoon. The program opened with a service with each temple offering incense. Reverend Dr. Ken Kenshin Tanaka, the author of *Ocean*, was the keynote speaker.

On Sunday, the ballroom was an overflow full house with people standing at the doorways and walkways. The event organizers stated they had 1,200 chairs for the service, so based on that, there must have been 1,5400 people at the service. It was quite an impressive sight. The first portion of the service had sutra chantings led by the ministers; the second portion of the service was a musical service with new gathas by various BCA temples.

The BCA National Conference and Shinran Shonin 750th Memorial were enjoyable experiences. I feel fortunate that I was able to attend this special event representing the temple.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT CONFERENCE

"Will I Really Meet Obachan in the Pure Land?" is the theme for the 2010 BCA Southern District Conference.

The conference will be held on Saturday, June 12, at the Senshin Buddhist Temple. Keynote speaker will be Rev. Tetsuo Unno. The SDBWL General Meeting and SDDSTL Delegates Meeting will be held in conjunction with the conference.

BTSD is currently accepting registration from Sangha members who would like to attend the one-day conference. If you belong to an affiliated temple organization, please contact your representative for more information. You may also see Ralph Honda to register. The registration fee is \$50 per person. Deadline is May 2.

The temple will provide bus transportation to the conference. The bus fee has yet to be determined, but will be announced by the Hanamatsuri Service.

KIKU GARDEN SR. LUNCH PROGRAM

The temple will host the Kiku Garden Senior Day luncheon on Friday, April 23 at Kiku Gardens, 1260 Third Avenue, Chula Vista. The luncheon is from 12 noon to 1 p.m. Donation is \$3.

Contact the temple for more information.

BENEFIT DINNER

Attend the first benefit dinner of the spring when the temple hosts a Chicken Katsu dinner on Saturday, April 26 from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Donation is \$8.

The dinner will be held prior to the BTSD-VFW Bingo. Bingo runs from 6-9 p.m. Buy-in is \$10.

Purchase your tickets today! Or,



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APRIL 11: HANAMATSURI or FLOWER FESTIVAL

The Buddhist Temple of San Diego cordially invites members and friends to the **Hanamatsuri Service** on **Sunday, April 11, 10:00 a.m.** (The **April Shotsuki Hoyo**—memorial service for loved ones lost during the month of April—will be observed on **April 4** during the Family Service.)

Hanamatsuri—literally, Flower Festival—is our colorful celebration of the historical Buddha's birthday. Born in India in 566 B.C., **Sakyamuni Buddha's** profound and compassionate teachings are now practiced by one-third of the world's population.

You are invited to participate in the **Kanbutsu (Sweet Tea Pouring Ceremony) from 9:00–10:00 a.m. before the service begins.** The ritual is simple: Approach the *hanamido* (flower altar), ladle the sweet tea over the bronze statue of the Baby Buddha and *gassho*. The little altar is adorned with flowers to represent Lumbini Garden where Sakyamuni was born. The tea suggests the sweet rain falling at his birth.

Our guest speaker will be **Rev. Kodo Umezu** of the Center for Buddhist Education in Berkeley. A craft and video for young children will be provided during the adult Dharma message. Then at noon, join us in the Annex Hall for the annual **Hanamatsuri potluck**. Please bring a dish to share. Suggested assignments are:

- Dharma School, ABA: MAIN DISH
- BWA, Sangha and Dharma Friends: SALAD, SIDE or MAIN DISH
- YABA: DESSERTS · Jr. YBA: DRINKS

ABA and YABA will be responsible for set-up and clean-up. Please support the **BWA's Annual Bake Sale** during the luncheon.

The morning before, **Saturday, April 10**, you are invited to help create the Hanamido (flower altar) for the Hanamatsuri Service in the Main Building kitchen beginning at 9:00 a.m. Then that afternoon at 5:00 p.m., **Rev. Kodo Umezu** will present a **BEC Lecture** titled, "ANNON: Peace and Tranquility" in the Sangha Hall. The lecture is free and open to the public.

An envelope is included with this mailing for those who wish to make a Hanamatsuri offering. Your generosity and support are always deeply appreciated.