

BUSSHIN

FEBRUARY 2010

Volume 53 Number 2

Nirvana Day

By Reverend Harry Gyokyo Bridge

Several of our Buddhist "holidays" center on important events in the life of Shakyamuni Buddha. Hanamatsuri celebrates his birth, and Bodhi Day his awakening. In a way, Nirvana Day is his memorial service, as it focuses on his "entering final nirvana." Circumstances – in this case, eating spoiled food – resulted in his worldly life ending. (Traditionally, it is thought that he ate tainted pork, but I have also heard a theory that it might have been a kind of mushroom associated with pigs – like truffles – hence the confusion.)

It is said that when the Buddha was dying, various followers, including monks and laypeople, gathered. Paintings of the event show them weeping and wailing, saddened, if not terrified, that their teacher would no longer be with them. But these paintings also depict bodhisattvas, enlightened beings, who are not crying but instead have calm, serene faces. It is said that they understood that all things are impermanent and empty, and therefore were not attached to form or earthly existence.

Where do we find ourselves in this picture? Although we aspire to be like the bodhisattvas, Jodo Shinshu recognizes that this is very difficult to

achieve in reality. Instead, we are probably more like the "ordinary people" in the painting. We listen to the teachings of the Buddha, but it is very difficult to truly penetrate the teachings of the Buddha, for example, impermanence. Most of the time, we remain unaware of the way things really are, and instead get stuck in the three poisons of anger, attachment, and ignorance.

And yet - the teachings of the Buddha remain. We have been able to hear them, and so we at least have some awareness that there is more to life. Losing a loved one is probably one of the most difficult things we can go through, and yet it is also another opportunity to listen to the teachings of the Buddha. This is one of the important things about memorial services - in fact, this is one of the amazing treasures that the Buddhist Church and community have to offer. I hope that when the time is right, each one of us will be open to the truth of the Buddha Dharma, and allow it to illuminate and change our lives.

In gassho,

Rev. Harry Gyokyo Bridge *

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BUSSHIN FEBRUARY 2010

TEMPLE TID-BITS

BCO 200+ Club

YOU might be a winner of the BCO 200+ Club! 2010 tickets are on sale NOW! There are approximately 10 drawings for 3 winners: \$300/\$200/\$100 each AND a final drawing at the end of the year for 3 BIG winners: \$3,000/\$2,000/ and \$1,000. Only one ticket is necessary to enter all the drawings.

There are a total of 299 tickets on sale to raise money for the Buddhist Church of Oakland's Roof Repair Fund. The office has tickets so stop by and BUY!

Thank You

A BIG THANK YOU goes to Keiju Terada and Mark Shimamoto for spending most of Sunday, December 27, cleaning out the furnace room of the Issei Kaikan and clearing a fire escape path through to the street entry on the first floor. They worked their holiday dinners off!

President's Musings

By Steve Terusaki

Twenty-Ten or Two Thousand and Ten – despite whichever is your preferred version for the current year, it does mean that we have embarked on a new decade in the 21st Century. In Buddhism, each day is a new beginning, so despite the "newness" of Twenty Ten, it is only a moment in the continuum of our karmic existence. As I was reminded in various New Year's dharma talks, every day we have the opportunity to have a new beginning; we do not have

to wait for a new year, or a new decade to make positive changes in our lives. So, let's look at each day as a new opportunity!

The past year has gone by with such speed that there has been little time to sit and reflect on how much has been accomplished. The past year has definitely been a year of change - the mantra that has been popularized with President Barack Obama. I only hope that the changes at BCO will lead to long-term benefits for the temple and the sangha. One of the biggest changes for our sangha has been getting to know our new minister, Rev. Harry; and for Rev. Harry to get to know the Oakland Sangha and the rhythms and cycles of BCO temple life. With our observance of Ho-Onko, it will have been one full year with Rev. Harry as our resident minister. No longer can he say he is the "new kid on the block." It will also have been a year since our newest employee has been working in the office. Tomita Shimamoto has done a tremendous job in filling the very large shoes left by Sam Yoneyama.

The Business Committee, led by Keiju Terada has taken on numerous facilities projects including the new tile flooring in the kitchen; a new telephone system; an ongoing litany of apartment repairs and upgrades including a complete rebuild of the rear emergency staircase; forensic evaluation of the church's roof and seismic issues for the apartment building and the Issei Kaikan; and replacement of the furnace for the Issei Kaikan. Many other smaller repairs around the church have been handled by our expert Maintenance group of Al Kanzaki, Tom Yokomizo, John Minamoto, Clifford Yokomizo, Digger Sasaki. Kaneshige, Don

Morimoto, Doug Izuno and Dennis Katayama.

Two other initiatives have been active in the last year. The first is making the official submittal for Landmark status for the Church with the City of Oakland. Mark Shimamoto, nephew of George Gentoku Shimamoto, the original architect for the church, has been leading the effort to obtain the official approvals with the Landmark Commission and the Planning Board. Also on the City-front, I have been active in various studies and community design charettes for the redevelopment of the three blocks in front of the Church related to the Lake Merritt BART station and the demolition of the BART Headquarters building. The City planning process is slowly moving forward with most of the effort to happen in 2010. Both efforts will have long-term positive benefits to the Church.

February marks the mid-point in my tenure as president of the Board. I thank each and every one of you for your wonderful support, for without your support and guidance I would not be able to keep up with the myriad of tasks, events and responsibilities that come with the position. I am supported by a wonderful Board whose members are each dedicated to making our temple a place where we will always be able to listen to the Nembutsu teachings. As we look forward to the new Board of Directors for 2010, it is with my deepest gratitude that I acknowledge the contributions of our retiring 2009 Directors: Dick Sasaki, Sabrina Shepard, Dennis Katayama and Gloria Fujimoto. Each has been untiring in their dedication and support of the temple. I will miss their input and advice at future Board meetings and particularly Sabrina

Shepard's expert board minutes. I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude to our immediate past president, June Masuyama, and to our future president, President-elect, Jon Takagaki, each standing behind me providing their guidance. Moreover, I would also like to express my gratitude to all the other past presidents who have come forward to offer their advice and support. And of course, communicating all of this to the Oakland Sangha wouldn't be possible without the dedicated efforts of our Busshin volunteers – Joyce Yokomizo, Deni Yokomizo, Mrs. Furuta, and Tomita Shimamoto, organizational leads and all the organizations who come out to collate the Busshin every month. And finally, a special note of thanks to Rev. Harry for his thoughtful guidance as we experiment with new ways of deepening an understanding of the Nembutsu teachings for our current members; and working to spread the teachings to a broader audience beyond our current sangha.

As we look forward to 2010, one of the significant upcoming events on the calendar is the BCA National Council Meeting and BCA 750th Shinran Memorial observance February 27-28, 2010 in San Jose. Registration forms for Saturday's Shinran Symposium and Banquet were distributed in last month's Busshin and should have been turned in by January 17.

Another major initiative for 2010 is the Roof Renovation Campaign. We expect to begin repairs after Obon in August. The campaign goals and contribution targets are currently being finalized for the report to be given at the Annual General Meeting on February 7, 2010. We have been receiving early donations and expect to kick-off the Campaign officially

after the Annual General Meeting.

Also, in 2010 we will be finalizing the plans for the May 2011 Tours to Japan for the Shinran 750th Memorial Observance for international divisions at Nishi Hongwanji which coincides with the World Fujinkai Conference. A preliminary itinerary is available for a 12-day tour before the Kyoto events, so please e-mail me, or call the office if you are interested in joining the group.

Finally, a wonderful article about the Church was recently posted in an online journal: Oakland-North. The author, Ms. Jun Stinson, was very thorough in her research and documentation and we thank her for all of her efforts in writing a wonderful narrative about BCO's past, present and future. The article can be accessed at: http://oaklandnorth.net/2009/12/14/, click on the link to the article, "Amid century of change, Oakland's Buddhist Church serves as point of continuity for Japanese-Americans." I hope you find it as inspiring as I did.

Ask Rev. Harry

Question for Rev. Harry – Is it "JUZU" or "NENJU"?

Q: When I was growing up, I always heard ministers say "ojuzu," but recently I have heard that the proper term is "nenju." My question is: Is the entire BCA changing the name to nenju? Or all of Nishi? Why?

Thank you.

A: Although I would hesitate to say that ojuzu is "wrong," it appears that nenju is now considered the more proper term. I do not know when this changed, but I would guess over the past twenty years or so.

It might help if we break the terms down. "Ojuzu" is made up of three kanji: the "o" is honorific, "ju" means "bead," and "zu" is to count. So juzu means "counting beads." In some kinds of Buddhism, it is very important to recite a mantra or a Buddha's name a certain number of times, and the juzu is used to keep track.

However, in Jodo Shinshu, we do not have to say the nembutsu a certain number of times. One Namo Amida Butsu recited in entrusting is perfect – saying it again and again in gratitude is wonderful. So we don't need to count, and yet we still have the beads. Therefore, instead of calling them counting beads, they are referred to as "mindfulness beads" - "nen" means "mindfulness" and "ju" again is bead. I think that this is why the term "nenju" is preferred now. If you go to the stores in Kyoto around Nishi Hongwanji and buy one, the bag or box will say "onenju" on it (we can use the honorific "o" here as well). And in the various manuals describing proper attire and behavior for ministers, nenju is always used. So, it looks like a Nishi thing after all, not only BCA.

Perhaps we could ask another question: does it matter? Again, I don't think that "ojuzu" is wrong, but it is also important to deepen our understanding of the nembutsu, so knowing that we recite the nembutsu in mindfulness of and gratitude to the Buddha can only be a good thing!

Remember, questions can be emailed directly to me at revharry3@gmail.com

In gassho, Rev. Harry *



Newsroom OBWA

By Gayle Noguchi

The OBWA would like to thank the 2009 Cabinet for your time and dedication. The 2010 Cabinet will be:

President – **Patti Hisaoka**Vice President – **Carol Thunen**Recording Secretary – **Gayle**Noguchi

Corresponding Secretary (English) – Karen Hashimoto

Corresponding Secretary (Japanese)

Setsuko Furuta

Treasurer – Linda Minamoto

The OBWA would also like to thank the following for their generous donations: Emiko Katsumoto, Brian Nagata for the Bonenkai invitation, Grace Hara for the birth of her grandson, the Negi family in memory of father, Yoshio, the Umezu family in memory of Rev. Umezu's mother.

Thank you also to the following for your assistance:

December Busshin collation: Jean Nakazono, Kathy Terusaki, Chieko Endo, Daisy Tsujimoto, Ruby Kuritsubo, Namie Naito, and Louise Utsurogi.

Eitaikyo otoki: thank you to Toban "A"

Salad prep for Bay District/East Bay Shinran Memorial at BBT: Kathy Terusaki, Daisy Tsujimoto, Ruby Kuritsubo, Chieko Endo, Namie Naito, Louise Utsurogi, and Maya Lawrence.

For the Hondo cleaning: Ruby Kuritsubo, Namie Naito, Carol Thunen, June Masuyama, Karen Hashimoto, and Linda Minamoto.

OBWA Members, if you have updates or additions for the 2010 OBWA Directory, please e-mail them

to **Carol** at c.thunen@comcast.net or put them into the OBWA mailslot in the church office. Thank you.

Our next OBWA meeting: January 10, 2010.

OBWA Members' Memorial Service:

Date Change

The OBWA Members Memorial Service has been changed to Sunday, February 21st, in conjunction with The Lady Takeko Kujo Memorial Service. We felt that since Lady Kujo was the founder of the Buddhist Women's Association, it would be an appropriate time to remember our past members.

We realize the last service was held two months ago, but from 2011, it will have come full circle. We apologize for the short notice and any inconvenience this change makes.

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS...

BY JANET UMEZU

Happy New Year! Hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday break. By the time you receive this Busshin, we will have already resumed our regular Dharma School classes and looking forward to the observance of Shinran Shonin's 750th Memorial in February. Dharma School will be responsible for collating the Busshin on February 14 after service. Anyone who can help, please meet in the social hall to volunteer.

Dharma School would like to extend a very happy birthday to our

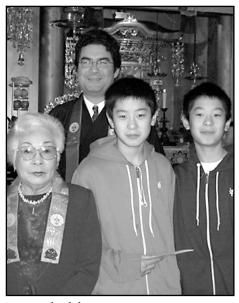
February babies. They are:



Henry Abrahamson, Mia Orans, and Lynne Takagaki. Birthday Sunday will be February 7. Hope to see you there.

Most importantly, the Dharma School

gratefully acknowledges the following donations:



January birthdays

M/M David Hirota - Kelsey's & Rachel's birthdays

Ray Pendro - Donations for Haunted House expenses.

Mrs. I. Uota - Granddaughter Rina Horii's birthday

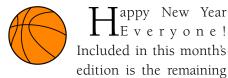
OBWA - Year End Gift

Due to the kindness of many, the Dharma School is able to continue to carry out its mission of teaching the dharma to our students.

Reminders: Bring Canned Goods for the Alameda Food Bank at the beginning of each month. Have any spare change? Contribute to the Dharma School Spare Change Dana Project. All proceeds go to the Center for Buddhist Education.

Youth Club News

BY DAVE HIROTA



schedule for our three girl's teams. The schedule for our six boy's teams was printed in last month's Busshin. Come on out and enjoy the fun and entertainment.

On behalf of the church I would like to thank the Youth club families for volunteering at last month's mochitsuki. We had approximately 150 parents and kids helping out.

The season has begun and we have nine teams currently competing in league games. The schedule runs through the end of February and then the tournament season begins. This year we have formed mergers with various other organizations in order to keep our kids playing. This is the way business is conducted these days. Nevertheless we have kept true to our

promise that all church members are guaranteed roster spots on our teams.

In closing I want to thank Youth Club board members Phil Li, Yinpo Wong, Hollis Chin, Linda Nakamura, Julie Yamashita, Valerie Otsuka and Andy Cho for their hard work in making this season happen for our kids. Thanks to our coaches and managers too.

Play Ball! *

Girls 2010 Basketball Schedule

WK	DATE	DAY	GYM	COURT	TIME	HOME	SCORE	VISITOR	SCORE
4	1/9/10	Sat	Alameda Pt	2	8:00pm	BCO-D2		EBFM	
4	1/9/10	Sat	Alameda Pt	4	7:00pm	BCO D1		OHTANI C2	
4	1/9/10	Sat	Alameda Pt	4	8:00pm	BVUMC C2		ENCHANTEE	
4	1/10/10	Sun	Bancroft	1	1:00pm	BCO D2		DIABLO D1	
5	1/16/10	Sat	Bancroft	1	6:00pm	DIABLO C2		BVUMC C2	
5	1/17/10	Sun	Bancroft	1	1:00pm	BCO D1		DIABLO C2	
5	1/17/10	Sun	Bancroft	1	4:00pm	ENCHANTEE		BCO D2	
6	1/23/10	Sat	Alameda Pt	2	8:00pm	BCO D2		ARDENETTE	
6	1/23/10	Sat	Alameda Pt	4	6:00pm	BCO D1		DIABLO D1	
6	1/23/10	Sat	Alameda Pt	4	9:00pm	BMU		BVUMC C2	
6	1/24/08	Sun	Bancroft	1	3:00pm	OHTANI D1	BCO D2		
7	1/30/10	Sat	Alameda Pt	2	6:00pm	BCO D2		BVUMC D	
7	1/30/10	Sat	Alameda Pt	2	7:00pm	BCO D1	ENCHANTEE		
8	2/6/10	Sat	Alameda Pt	2	8:00pm	BCO D1		ARDENETTE	
8	2/6/10	Sat	Alameda Pt	4	8:00pm	ARDENETTE		BVUMC C2	
8	2/7/10	Sun	Bancroft	1	1:00pm	BCO D2	SANGHA		
8	2/7/10	Sun	Bancroft	1	4:00pm	BVUMC C2		ENCHANTEE	
	2//2//2							7007/	
9	2/13/10	Sat	Bancroft	1	6:00pm	BCO D2		BCO D1	
BCO D2	L 2 (Nakamura. N	l Iomura, R I	Hirota, Bang, Lopez	l -Ichikawa. ⁻	<u>l</u> Γakata. Miv	l amori. K Hirota)		
	•	•	y, Thiel, Chung, Dei	•			,		

BCO C Playing under BVUMC-C2 (McGuire, Shimamoto, Louie, Shojinaga)

February Shotsuki Memorial Service

Service: Sunday, February 14, 2010 at approximately 10:45 a.m.

Sermon by Reverend Harry Gyokyo Bridge

Family and friends are invited to attend this monthly memorial service for those listed below. If any errors appear in the list below, please notify the church office at (510) 832-5988 at your earliest convenience. Next month's Shotsuki Service will be held on Sunday, March 7, 2010 at 10:30 a.m.

Mr. Arata Akahoshi Ms. Tsuruko Takahashi Mrs. Toku Matsutani Mr. Nobuta Akahoshi Mr. Jisaku Minamoto Mrs. Yana Tanaka Mrs. Fusa Doi Mrs. Tokio Minamoto Tani Family Mrs. Yukiko Mitsueda – 3rd Year Mrs. Kiku Fujii Mr. Jitsuo Tani Mrs. Kuni Fujimoto Mrs. Hatsu Miyamoto Mr. Itsuzo Taniguchi Mr. Mitsugi Taniguchi Mrs. Junko June Fujita Mr. Fujitaro Miyauchi Mr. Fudekichi Fukuda Ms. Shigeko Mizuki Mr. Edward Tanita Mr. Itaro Harada Mr. Sam Mizusaki Mrs. Tora Toji Mrs. Seki Harada Mrs. Sakae Mori Mr. Sakitaro Toyofuku Mr. Toshiyuki Jack Harada Mr. Yukio Mori Mrs. Same Toyofuku Mr. Masatoshi Hashimoto Mrs. Hisa Murakawa Mrs. Shizu Tsuboi Mrs. Yoshiko Hashimoto Mr. James Murashima – 3rd Year Mr. Tamotsu Tsuchida – 17th Year Mrs. Akino Henmi Mr. Teruki Tsuchida Mr. Tran Ngoc My

Mrs. Akino Henmi Mr. Tran Ngoc My
Mr. Sataro Hirai Mrs. Kei Nakamura
Mrs. Koyoshi Idehara Mr. Masayoshi Nakamura
Mrs. Hatsu Igaki Mr. Shozo Nakamura
Dr. Charles Ishizu Mrs. Toki Nakamura
Mr. Suejiro Kanada Mrs. Tei Nakao
Mr. George Kanagaki Mr. Harry Nakaya

Mr. Naoichi Kaneshige Mrs. Tase Nakayama – 50th Year Mr. Keijiro Kataoka Mrs. Judy Narasaki Mrs. Masuko Kataoka Mrs. Hisa Natsuhara Mrs. Sakae Kataoka Mr. Jinpachi Nishimura Mr. Wes Kawabata Mr. Shosuke Nobori Mr. Shuzo Kawaoka Mrs. Yae Nobori Mrs. Hisae Noda

Mr. Sagao Kido Mr. James Susumu Nomura
Mr. Jinpachi Kitagaki Mr. Mitsuo Okashima
Mrs. Mieko Kitagaki Ms. Fumiko Okawachi
Miss Kimi Michelle Kleven Mr. Kazuichi Oseto
Mr. Thomas Koizumi Mr. Nihachiro Sakaki

Mr. Kotaro Komoda

Mrs. Taka Kono Mrs. Mitsu Shigaya
Mr. Kashichi Matsui Mrs. Hatsumi Shohara
Mrs. Nobuko Matsui Mr. George Soga – 7th Year
Mr. Saburo Matsui Mr. Frank Takahashi – 25th Year

Mr. Shigeru Matsumoto Mrs. Hina Takahashi

Mr. Hikotaro Tsuda
Mrs. Ei Tsujimoto
Miss Fumiya Umemoto
Mr. Marc Umetani
Mr. Kenji Urushibata
Mrs. Ura Urushibata
Mr. Kazuhiko Uyeno
Mrs. Hana Wada
Mr. Joe Wakayama
Mr. Harold Wong
Mrs. Kajiko Yamasaki
Mr. Kaheiji Yokomizo

Mr. Eiichi Yoshida

Mr. Kamehisa Yoshida

Mrs. Kino Yoshida – 25th Year Mr. Hikoichi Yoshioka – 17th Year

Mr. Kiichi Yoshioka Mr. Kisaku Yoshioka Mrs. Nao Yoshioka Mr. Don Yoshisato Mrs. Kimiye Yoshiura Mr. Craig Matthew Young Mr. Chosaburo Yuto

Mr. Toyohiko Sata

February 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1:00 p.m. Line Dance 7:30 p.m. Karaoke Busshin Articles Due!	2	3	10:00 a.m Momiji Kai 6:30 p.m. Adult Gakuen	5	9:00 a.m Nippongo Gakuen
9:00 a.m. OBWA Mtg 10:00 a.m. Family Dharma Service, Annual General Meeting, New Years' Party	10:00 a.m. Wanto Shodo Kai 1:00 p.m. Line Dance 7:30 p.m. Karaoke	7:30 p.m EBYAL Meeting	7:00 p.m Board Meeting	6:30 p.m. Adult Gakuen 7:30 p.m Concord Howakai	12	No Nippongo Gakuen 2:00 p.m. Ikebana
14 10:00 a.m. Family Dharma & Shotsuki Service, Jr YBA Udon Lunch Collate Busshin: Dharma School	Presidents' Day Office Closed 7:30 p.m. Karaoke	7:00 p.m Fukuoka Sister City Ass'n	17	18 10:00 a.m Momiji Kai 6:30 p.m. Adult Gakuen	19	9:00 a.m Nippongo Gakuen
2 1 10:00 a.m. Nirvana Day Family Dharma & Lady Takeko Kujo Memorial Service 6:00 p.m. Ashland Howakai	22 10:00 a.m. Wanto Shodo Kai 1:00 p.m. Line Dance 7:30 p.m. Karaoke	7:30 p.m. Youth Club meeting	24	25 6:30 p.m. Adult Gakuen	26 National Council	9:00 a.m Nippongo Gakuen BCA Shinran Shonin 750 th Memorial Symposium, San Jose Meeting, San Jose
28 BCA Shinran Shonin 750 th Memorial Service, San Jose. No Service at BCO						

March 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1:00 p.m. Line Dance 7:30 p.m. Karaoke Busshin Articles Due!	2	7:00 p.m Board Meeting	10:00 a.m Momiji Kai 6:30 p.m. Adult Gakuen	5	9:00 a.m Nippongo Gakuen 12:30 p.m. Appreciation Luncheon
9:00 a.m. 7 OBWA Mtg 10:00 a.m. Family Dharma & Shotsuki Service	10:00 a.m. Wanto Shodo Kai 1:00 p.m. Line Dance 7:30 p.m. Karaoke	9 7:30 p.m EBYAL meeting	10	6:30 p.m. Adult Gakuen 7:30 p.m Concord Howakai	12	9:00 a.m Nippongo Gakuen 2:00 p.m. Ikebana
10:00 a.m. Spring Ohigan Service	1:00 p.m. Line Dance 7:30 p.m. Karaoke	7:00 p.m Fukuoka Sister City Ass'n	17 10:00 a.m OBWA Home/Hospital Visitation	10:00 a.m Momiji Kai 6:30 p.m. Adult Gakuen	19	9:00 a.m Nippongo Gakuen 6:30 p.m. Family Dharma Night Service, Dinner & Activities Collate Busshin: OBWA
21 No Service 6:00 p.m. Ashland Howakai	22 10:00 a.m. Wanto Shodo Kai 1:00 p.m. Line Dance 7:30 p.m. Karaoke	7:30 p.m. Youth Club meeting	24 10:00 a.m OBWA Home/Hospital Visitation 7:00 p.m Bazaar Coordinating Committee Meeting	25 6:30 p.m. Adult Gakuen	6:30 p.m Youth Club Appreciation Dinner	9:00 a.m Nippongo Gakuen
28 10:00 a.m. Family Dharma Service, Adult Study	1:00 p.m. Line Dance 7:30 p.m. Karaoke	30	31			