

MAY 2017

Busshin

VOL 60 NUM 5

Unlimited Potential Amidst Insurmountable Obstacles BY REV. HARRY GYOKYO BRIDGE

IN MAY WE OBSERVE SHINRAN Shonin's birthday. I'm not sure how important birthdays were back then (he was born in 1273!), but in modern times in the United States, birthdays are viewed as very positive. So in commemoration of Shinran's birth, part of me wants to think of something positive to say. One expression that popped into my mind recently is this: "You have unlimited potential!" I want to say this

to our young temple members, to everyone really, temple member or not, young or not - don't let your preconceptions limit you, with a positive attitude so much more becomes possible!

But is this a Buddhist sentiment? It doesn't have to be - anyone can want their family and friends to live up to their potential as much as possible. But I think it can be understood from a Buddhist point of view as well - for

instance, the Buddha wants us to be liberated from the karmic bondage of greed, anger and ignorance. And the teaching of "mind-only" says that the way we see things changes the world around us - with a negative mindset, like self-fulfilling prophecy, our low expectations come true, whereas if we view the world in a positive way, maybe compassion and wisdom will manifest!

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President's Message

BY JON TAKAGAKI

AT THE OPENING SERVICE ON the second day of the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) National Council meeting in early March, **Rev. Ron Miyamura**, from the Midwest Buddhist Temple in Chicago, delivered the Dharma message. His talk was insightful and captivating and I asked him if he would share a copy of his

talk with me and allow us to publish it in the Busshin; he graciously agreed.

You will see in Rev. Miyamura's talk that he observes that we are moving from Buddhism in America to American Buddhism. To facilitate this transition, he further comments that we have to "Open Our Doors" and be a welcoming temple. I think we do really well at

"opening our door" at BCO but there are opportunities to be even better.

The role of our Sunday morning greeters, through our HOST groups, is so important and vital to creating a welcoming and comfortable setting, especially for first time visitors. Think how powerful it would be if all our

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OUR MARCH 16TH MEET TURNED out to be quite an eventful day. **Rev. Bridge** was unable to conduct the morning service due to another commitment so the program started out with **Patti Hirota** leading us in the usual Yoga exercises.

Patti had informed us earlier that she had planned to enplane for Washington, D.C. to join in the Women's March and wanted to give a talk of her experiences on her return. She ended up going solo and did enjoy being able to participate in the great historical march with so many

hundreds and thousands of women from all walks of life, as she observed and met strangers whom she found to be very friendly. Patti had photos and a whole album of videos of women marching in so many, many major cities. This experience is something which becomes imbedded in ones mind forever having been an actual participant. What a wonderful experience Patti and our thanks for a great presentation.

How the people were able to knit those pink pussy-cat hats with the ears in such a short time was in itself

quite amazing. She had heard the knit shops had all ran out of pink yarn. Listening to Patti and seeing the videos of the ladies marching, we who were listening and watching the videos got caught up in the excitement of the event.

Thanks to **Fuzy Yoshida** for chairing the Dim Sum luncheon which was most enjoyable. There were about 20 members in attendance. Thanks also goes to **Digger and Agnes Sasaki** who were in charge of the dessert, **Gloria Fujimoto** for the salad and to everyone in attendance who put their culinary skills to work. The lunch was great.

Next, Agnes Sasaki was at the keyboard with our Rev. Bridge at the mike and we all sang the old standby songs which was also great. Then we went into playing cash Bingo. Several ladies won twice each. Then it was clean up time. We all spent a wonderful day and thanks to **Jean Nakazono** for her efforts in planning the whole event. Thanks Jean. ■

Host: Buddhist Church of Oakland 510-832-5988
When: Monday, August 28 at 10:00 AM

Where: Mira Vista Golf & Country Club
7901 Cutting Boulevard El Cerrito, CA 94530

30TH ANNUAL 2017 BCO GOLF TOURNAMENT AND DINNER

NEW TOURNAMENT DATE • AUGUST 28TH, 2017

ON FEBRUARY 19, 2017, MEMBERS of OBWA gathered in observance of Lady Takeko Kujo and Member's Memorial Service. This is an annual event to honor Lady Takeko Kujo, one of the founders of the Buddhist Women's Association (Fujinkai) and also to reflect with gratitude the many members who have passed and their participation in OBWA. We would like to express our sincerest appreciation to **Rev. Harry Bridge**, officiant, **Rev. Michael Endo**, co-officiant, **Steven Terusaki**, organist, and **Linda Minamoto**, service chairperson.

The OBWA would like to thank the following for their generous do-

nations to the Member's Memorial Fund:

- **Kathleen Terusaki**
- **Gayle Inada**
- **Gloria Fujimoto**
- **Mariko Yoneyama**
- **Alice Shibata**
- **Mary Hiromoto**
- **Lynn Chung**
- **Linda Minamoto**
- **Ruby Kuritsubo**
- **Tomi Isono**
- **Judy Kano**
- **Michael Endo** in memory of *Chieko Endo*

Thank you also to the following for their generous donations:

- **Terrie Isono** in memory of *Yoshio Isono 33rd year service*
 - **Edythe Vassal** - special donation
- OBWA is having their *annual Spring and New Members Luncheon on Sunday, April 23, 2017* at the *Mira Vista Golf and Country Club, 7901 Cutting Blvd, El Cerrito from 12:00 - 3:00 PM*. We invite you to join us for a delicious buffet lunch, meet new friends, and take time out for fun and laughter.

Please contact **Patti Hisaoka, June Masuyama, Carol Thunen** for additional information and if you would like to attend. ■

Unlimited Potential Amidst Insurmountable Obstacles

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But wait a second - this is Shinran's birthday so we should think about how Shinran would think about this phrase, "You have unlimited potential." In a way, I think he would disagree - his writings express a deep awareness of his own limitations, whether in his personal reflections on arrogance and desire, or in the Tannisho where he is reported as saying: "It is extremely difficult... to

accomplish the saving of others just as one wishes." However, he also saw that the compassion of Amida Buddha spontaneously draws us close - despite our limitations (or perhaps even because of them) we are able to be born in the Pure Land and attain Buddhahood. In Buddhism, this is the ultimate potential, unlimited, transcending duality and resulting in "the mind of great love and

compassion, freely benefiting sentient beings as one wishes" (from the same section of the Tannisho).

Come commemorate Shinran Shonin's birthday with us on *Sunday, May 21 at 10:00 AM* - our guest speaker is **Rev. Ron Miyamura** - see the flyer elsewhere in this issue for details - may all beings encounter and live up to the unlimited potential of the Buddha's Wisdom & Compassion! ■

President's Message

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Sangha members are "greeters." Please don't underestimate how meaningful a "Good Morning" or "Welcome to BCO" can be in "Opening Our Door" even wider to create the welcoming environment any of us would appreciate if we visited someplace new for the first time.

I hope you enjoy Rev. Miyamura's talk. Reading his talk is in no way the same experience as listening to Rev. Miyamura and we are fortunate to have Rev. Miyamura as our guest speaker at *BCO's Gotane/Fujimatsuri service on May 21*. We look forward to seeing you all there to welcome Rev. Miyamura to Oakland and to listen to the Dharma. ■

IN MEMORIAM:

The Buddhist Church of Oakland extends its deepest condolences to the family of:

Osami Sam Maruyama
March 22, 2017

May the family members find comfort and solace in the Nembutsu, Namu amida butsu.



(L & C) Dharma School Bucket Lesson (R) Sensei Brian Nagata and Mr. Beaver.

THANK YOU TO THE HIGH SCHOOL class, led by **Glenn Kamita** and **Takeo Taga**. They presented a lesson "Have you filled a bucket today?" The lesson was based on a book that describes how everyone carries an invisible bucket which each person fills with kindness by doing a kindness for others. When you do something kind (give a smile, say thank you, pick up something that has fallen, are just examples), you fill that other person's invisible bucket, enabling them to give kindness to others. It is a very concrete way to illustrate how kindness multiplies. The students then engaged in an activity of making their own buckets, and filling it with good wishes for others. Great Job, **Glenn** and

Takeo and their High School helpers, **Martha Castro, Mia Li, Keiko Masamori, Grant Kamita!!**

We hope you all enjoyed our Ice Cream Sundae Sunday. Thank you to the High School class who pitched in to help serve! Vanilla ice cream was the bit hit - with chocolate and caramel topping! Our church collected over 450 pounds of food. I did some research and give or take, that provides about 80 days of food for one person. We still have the Alameda County Food Bank barrel in the hall, and we can definitely keep filling it with nonperishable food for folks in need. Thank you for your generosity!!

It was very nice meeting **Mr. Beaver!** Thank you, **Sensei Brian**

Nagata, for bringing him to church and telling us his story.

The Dharma School students are working on our Hanamatsuri skit. And we will let you know how the excursion to the Marine Mammal Center goes. Thank you to **Steve Terusaki** for helping us to arrange this!

The Dharma School thanks **Karla and Roger Lee** for their generous donation to the Dharma School. Arigato!

Happy Birthday

A very happy birthday to our students born in April: **Grant Kamita, Conor Kim, Rya Kwong, Mayumi Nomura** and **Madison Suko**. We wish you all the best!! ■



Dharma School High School Class and March Birthday.



(R) Rev Bridge receiving the Ohtani Tournament from the D Boys Gold team. (C) Youth Club President Kelly Lim, Steve Terusaki, and Rev Bridge holding the Ohtani Trophies. (R) Team players, parents and their families enjoying the Appreciation event.

THE YOUTH CLUB CELEBRATED another great basketball season by getting together for an *appreciation event on March 24* in the social hall. After a pizza dinner each team went up to be recognized. Each player in-

troducted themselves and shared a special memory and sportsmanship awards were given. Trophies from the Ohtani Tournament were also presented to the church.

Sportsmanship awards went to:

Nikhil Prasad and **James On** (Boys D Gold), **Justin Yamamoto** and **Jake Lim** (Boys E Gold), **Marlowe Kuroki** and **Lila Mathus** (Girls D Bronze) and **Asher Kanzaki** and **Eight Kuwahara** (E Bronze).■

HŌ-ON Service Teams - HOST

THE HO-ON SERVICE TEAMS ARE LISTED BELOW. IF YOU HAVEN'T BEEN CONTACTED AND and you would like to help on a team, please call the office (510) 832-5988 or email officebco@gmail.com. We welcome all members and friends of the BCO to be part of a Host Group, so feel free to invite your children and extended family to help out on the teams. Please note that these service teams do not affect our BCO Bazaar & Food Festival shifts or our Obon Festival shifts. Your help at these two major fundraisers is still vital to the life of our church. *In Gassho, The BCO Board of Directors* ■

HO-ON SERVICE TEAM 7:

(Responsible for May 2017)

Maya Lawrence (Leader)
 Laura Hiura
 Eric & Delia Ikeda
 Judy Kano
 Henri Kim & Cindy Sakai-Kim
 May Kleven
 Roy Kuga & Kathy Rueger
 Craig Lang & Pam Kato
 Gary & Maya Lawrence

Roger & Karla Lee
 Elaine Miyamori
 Ben & Sally Morimoto
 Stephanie Morimoto
 Doris Okano
 Susan Okano
 Raymond Pendro
 Yukiko Sakakura
 Dorothy Yanagi

HO-ON SERVICE TEAM 8:

(Responsible for June 2017)

Joyce Yokomizo (Leader)
 Yoshi Akiyoshi
 JoAnne Hayashida
 Richard & Gail Isono
 Steven & Elizabeth Isono
 Albert & Miharu Kanzaki
 Dennis Katayama
 Robert & Teri Kido
 Rosalie Kido
 Jean Kido

Christeen Oniki
 Mark & Tomita Shimamoto
 Craig & Ayano Tanisawa
 Ted & Susan Tanisawa
 Denise Yokomizo
 Joyce Yokomizo
 Clifford & Donna Yokomizo
 Tom Yokomizo
 Toshi & Alice Yokomizo

Buddhist Church Of Oakland Youth Basketball Registration Open for 2017-2018

Registration is open for basketball. New and returning players are encouraged to sign up. Boys/girls and all levels welcome. Please contact bcoyc.ad@gmail.com for more information. Practices begin in October and games begin in December. Registration deadline is June 30th for new players.

Boys B, C, D & E (boys & girls)

<http://bit.ly/2nO6qa0>

Girls B, C & D

<http://bit.ly/2nJbQT4>



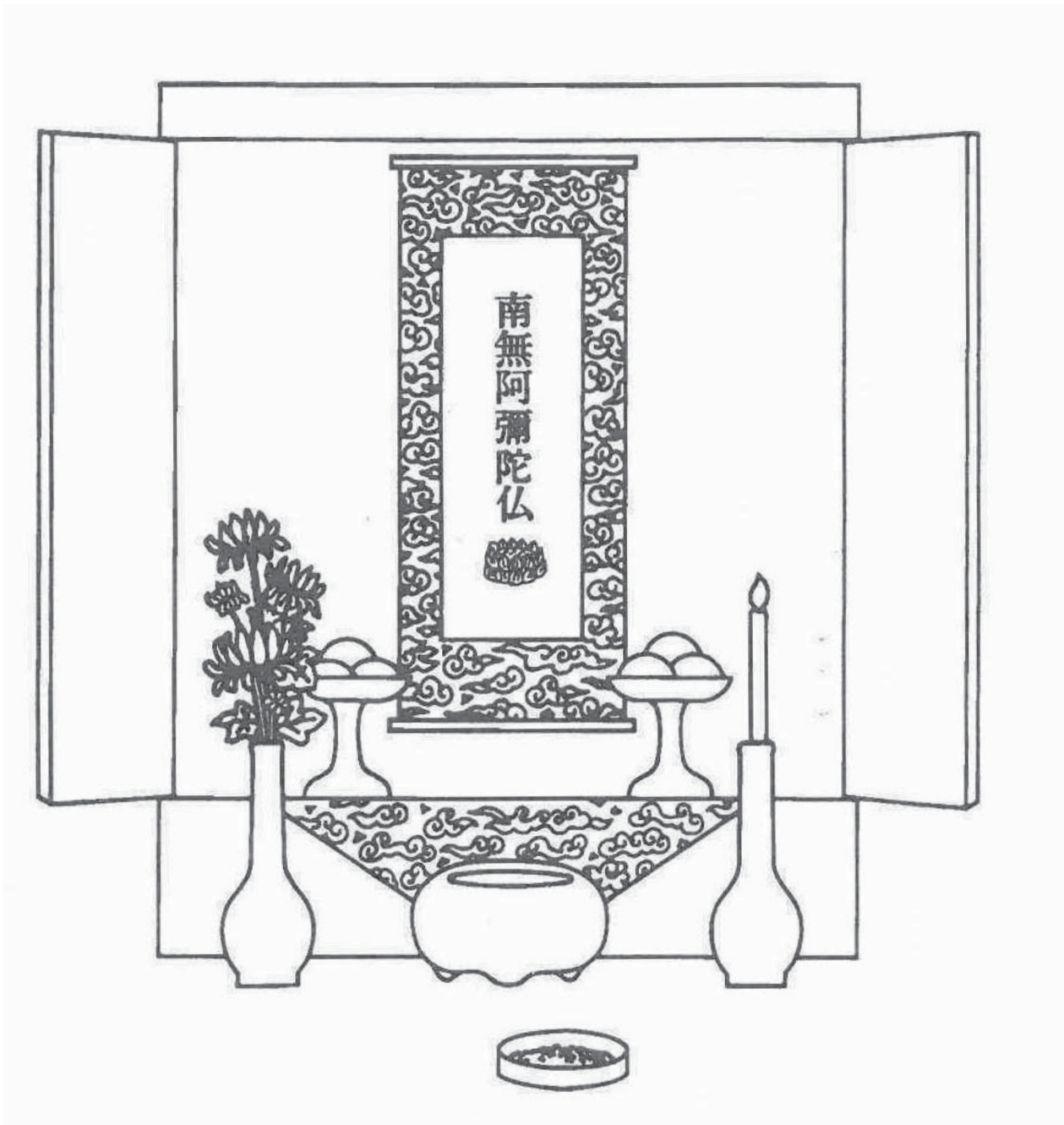
2017 May Shotsuki Memorial Service

Service: Sunday, May 7, 2017 at approximately 10:45 A.M. (following Dharma Family Service)

Sermon: Rev. Harry Gyokyo Bridge

Family and friends are invited to attend this monthly memorial service for those listed above. If any errors appear in the above listing, please direct them to the church office at (510) 832-5988 at your earliest convenience. For next month's Shotsuki Service, please see the Busshin Calendar.

Mrs. Eki Akahoshi	Mrs. Iyo Ide	Mrs. Yoshi Morimoto	Mr. Masao Takeda
Mrs. Tsune Akatani	Mr. Masami Isono	Mrs. Minako Morita	Mr. Kumeo Tamori
Mr. Hideo Ajari	Mrs. Yasu Isono	Mr. Takeshi Nakagawa	Mr. Robert Tanaka
Mrs. Fumiko Arimoto	Mrs. Hatsue Iwata	Mrs. Rubie Ruriko Nakano	Mrs. Yukino Tanaka
Mrs. Ada Baba	Mrs. Yasu Kanagaki	Miss Mary Nakashima	Mrs. Nao Tani - <i>50th year</i>
Mrs. Hiroko Baba - <i>1st year</i>	Mr. Frank Mikio Kaneko - <i>17th year</i>	Mrs. Yoi Nakashima	Miss Kazue Tanizawa
Mr. Douglas Berute Davis	Mrs. Setsuko Kaneko	Mrs. Miyoko Nakatani	Mr. Jinsuke Toji - <i>25th year</i>
Mr. Gish Endo - <i>3rd year</i>	Mr. Aisaku Kasai	Mrs. Tatsuno Nakaya	Mrs. Kumi Toriyama
Mr. Kikuzo Endo	Mr. Nobue Kawabata	Baby Narasaki	Mrs. Suma Tsuchida
Mr. Roy Endo	Mr. Marvin Kawamoto	Mrs. Kimino Narasaki - <i>25th year</i>	Mr. Eimatsu Tsuchida
Dr. Wesley Endo	Mr. Zenroku Keiunji	Mr. Hideso Neishi	Mr. Darryl Tsujimoto
Mr. Heisaku Fujii	Mrs. Matsuye Kimura	Mrs. Yone Neishi	Mr. Kusuo Tsujimoto
Mr. Ikutaro Fujii	Mrs. Sei Kimura	Mrs. Ayako Nishiyori	Mr. Chikao Tsukimura
Mrs. Kimino Fujii	Mrs. Tsuna Kinoshita	Mrs. Tai Ochikubo	Mrs. Eiko Tsukimura
Mrs. Toshie Fujii	Mr. Iwao Kishi	Infant Tatsuko Oka	Mr. Tokusuke Tsukimura
Mrs. Tsue Fujii	Mr. Kichinosuke Kobata	Mr. Tetsuo Okai	Mr. James Uchiyama
Mrs. Yuki Fujii	Mr. George Koizumi	Mr. Chieko Okano	Mrs. Tei Ugai
Mr. Kenzo Fujimori	Mrs. Teruko Komure	Mr. Hide Okano	Mrs. Hisano Umemoto
Mrs. Dorothy Fujimori	Mr. Tamejiro Kono	Mr. Kikujiro Okano	Mrs. Sugae Umemoto
Mrs. Dorothy Fujino	Mrs. Tsutae Makita	Mr. Hikotaro Okano	Mrs. Sachie Uratsu
Mr. Frank Fujino	Mr. Yosh Maruyama	Mr. Tsunetaro Okawachi	Mr. Moshichi Urushibata
Ms. Elnora Sonoe Fukuya	Mrs. Sachiko Matsui - <i>3rd year</i>	Mrs. Kazue Ota	Mrs. Moto Urushibata
Mrs. Nui Furuta	Mrs. Koito Matsumoto	Mr. Masako Ota	Mrs. Sato Urushibata
Mr. Soemon Furuta	Mrs. Kosuzu Matsumoto	Mr. Yasuo Ohtani	Mrs. Helen Ushijima - <i>13th year</i>
Mr. William R. Galeota, Jr.	Mrs. Matsuno Matsumoto	Miss Donna Oto	Mr. Jack Wong
Mr. Masumi Hamamoto - <i>1st year</i>	Mr. Takinojo Matsumoto	Mrs. Asano Otsuka	Mr. Yoshio Yamabe
Mrs. Rose Tomeko Hamasaki	Mr. Gitaro Matsutani	Mrs. Rui Otsuka	Mr. Michisuke Yamamoto
Mr. Rokutaro Hanamoto	Mr. Jun Matsutani	Mr. Toyoshichi Otsuka	Mrs. Naono Yamamoto
Mr. Kenji Harada - <i>17th year</i>	Mrs. Misao Matsutani	Mrs. Taeko Robinson	Mr. Yutaka Jim Yamamoto
Mrs. Kuno Hatakeyama	Mrs. Ito Misaki	Mr. Otojuro Sakai	Mr. Shotaro Yasuda
Mrs. Yasu Hayashida	Mr. Yeichi Mitani	Mr. James Sakamoto	Mrs. Hatsumi Yokomizo
Mr. Daikichi Hazama	Mrs. Marian Miyamoto	Mrs. Kishi Sasajima	Mrs. Ise Yokomizo
Mr. Tamotsu Henmi	Mrs. Emiko Miyamura	Mrs. Natsuyo Sasaki - <i>17th year</i>	Mr. Motohachi Yokomizo
Mr. Kihachi Hirabayashi	Mrs. Komume Mizusaki	Mr. Yoichi Sato	Mr. George Yokoyama
Mrs. Florence Nitta Hiramoto	Mrs. Iso Mori	Mr. Shosuke Shintaku	Mr. Yoemon Yoshida
Mrs. Terry Hiramoto	Mr. Jotaro Mori	Mr. Umeji Shintaku	Mrs. Yoshiko Yoshida
Mrs. Nasuko Hirasawa	Mrs. Kinue Mori	Mr. Tadao Sumimoto	Mrs. June Yoshioka
Mr. Kyushiro Hori	Mr. Hiroshi Morimoto	Mrs. Mitsuko Tachiki - <i>17th year</i>	Mr. Sato Yoshioka
Mr. Minoru Horiuchi		Mr. Shizuo Takata	Mr. Ross Yoshisato



WHEN YOU FACE OUR TEMPLE altar, you will see a main table in front of each of the three main altars. The tables are called MAEJOKU. On each table is a floral arrangement and candlestand. Have you ever wondered why the flower arrangement is on the

left and the candle is on the right?

The candle on the right represents the world of Truth and Enlightenment. The flowers on the left represent the world of suffering or delusion. While the flowers may be beautiful, as they wither and die, they remind us of the

changing and fragile nature of all things, including our own human life. The candlelight represents wisdom which illuminates our world of darkness and ignorance, thus awakening us to the true world of Amida's infinite wisdom and compassion. ■

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT HAS ALREADY been two months since **Steve Terusaki** and I were installed as co-Presidents. As the saying goes, "time flies when you are having fun" and, sincerely, we are having a blast. I'm very lucky to be partnering with Steve and the transition as co-Presidents has gone smoothly. We agreed early on that instead of dividing roles and responsibilities, we would address each commitment as it came up and ensure that at least one of us would be available and, ideally, both of us. So far, so good.

In last month's Busshin, we reported that the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) annual National Council meeting would be held in early March in San Jose. Reverend Bridge, Steve, and I attended and represented BCO at the meeting. The National Council meeting is a one and one-half day meeting of ministerial and lay representatives from each of the 60 BCA temples. The first day of this year's meeting was held at the San Jose Betsuin and the second day was held at the Marriott Hotel in downtown San Jose. The National Council meeting includes reports by the BCA leadership and all national organizations, discussion and voting of BCA business items requiring National Council approval, and Dharma sessions.

As we outlined in last month's Busshin, there were two significant National Council voting items that have direct impact on our temple and we would like to report back on the meeting outcomes on those two items.

The first item is the overall BCA annual budget and the annual temple "dues assessment" portion of the

BCA budget. The budget proposal included a significantly larger portion from temple dues assessment than in past years, reflecting a focus on long-term needs and investments in BCA's future, as outlined below:

- Monies to reinstate the position of Executive Assistant to the Bishop to provide leadership and guidance to the kaikyoshi ministers and to the Minister's Assistance Program (MAP), and to provide on-going support and assistance to the Bishop.
- Monies to support the Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS) to assist in an on-going effort for accreditation by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) and to ensure stable funding for program/curriculum development and access and capability to handle more students.
- Monies to support the Center for Buddhist Education (CBE) and its mission to provide educational programs for lay and ministerial leaders.
- Monies to address a variety of long-term deferred facility maintenance items at the Jodo Shinsu Center (JSC) in Berkeley, BCA Headquarters building in San Francisco, and Bishop's residence in Belmont.

After much discussion and compromise, the overall BCA budget and increase in the dues assessment were approved by the National Council. The impact of the increased BCA budget is that the dues obligation of BCO will increase about 17% in 2017 (to around \$133 per BCO member). This increase means that approximately 44-89% of the family and individual Gojihi payments will go to the BCA. This will

not have an impact on BCO's current year's financial picture; however, going forward, the Board will be reviewing the Gojihi amounts as they relate to the BCA dues assessment.

The second voting item was the transition of the BCA Pension Plan to an individual contribution plan for the ministers, supported by contributions from BCA and the temples. The National Council voted to "freeze" the Pension Plan at the end of September 2017 and transition the current 403(b) plans on October 1, 2017. This does not affect current retired ministers receiving pension payments but rather ensures that the current "unfunded liability" of the BCA pension Plan will not be a future obligation of the temples. Further, this change will ensure that ministers will have vital retirement support in the future.

If you have questions about the National Council meeting or any other topic, please contact Steve or me by phone, e-mail, or grab us at church. ■

**DEADLINE FOR
JUNE 2017
BUSSHIN ARTICLES:
APRIL 28TH**

Articles submitted after this date may not be printed.

SEND ARTICLES TO:

Joyce Yokomizo
email: joyce@yokomizo.com or
fax: (415) 970-0810.

You can also send articles to the church office.

BUSSHIN COLLATION:

Sunday, May 14th, 2017
by HOST 7

GOOD MORNING,

Please bear with me, I was selected to speak this morning because the Kyokucho were asked to rotate as speakers and I must have drawn the short straw. I am not one of the eloquent and dynamic speakers, but I can only assure you that I will be short.

This seems very strange to me, it was in 1974, here in San Jose that I attended my first BCA National Council Meeting. I was a new minister, who just graduated from Ryukoku University and was assigned as the Associate Minister at the Midwest Buddhist Temple in Chicago with the guidance of the late Rev. Gyodo Kono.

Now, this year, I am an old man, 70 years old.

I am a Rip Van-Winkle, I was a minister for 8 years, starting out as a young 26 year old in 1973, and then in 1981, I resigned as an active BCA Minister. After retiring from United Airlines, I then returned to be a full-time minister again, at the beginning of 2011...I was away for 29 years.

Being in the Eastern District, we face different challenges; the distances are great. Our Temples are in New York; Seabrook, NJ; Ekoji, Washington, DC; Cleveland, Ohio; Midwest in Chicago; and the Twin Cities Buddhist Association, a Sangha or Fellowship in Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minnesota. Consider the distances...Chicago to Ekoji in Washington, DC is about the same distance as San Jose to Salt Lake City (just under 600 miles).

Being spread out, we have great opportunities because the number of legacy members is small. Legacy members are the Japanese-American members. But this allows us, and forces us, to reach out beyond our comfort zone, and reach out to our

non-traditional members. By non-traditional, I mean people who did not grow up in the Temple.

We are moving from Buddhism in America to American Buddhism, and we are quite a way along this path. But, we have a long way to go. Let me share some of my observations as we move forward.

First, our Temples have to quit "hiding in plain sight." By this I mean, we are not hiding, but we are not very welcoming. In short, we need to "Open our Doors" and Open the Doors wide to let people know that everyone is really welcome.

Most of all, we need to change our terminology. I have come to realize that I was trained in "translation." I was educated in Japanese and we use Japanese texts and books; we have lots of words and technical terms from Sanskrit, Chinese and Japanese.

So, we are still using the Japanese culture and language underneath how we explain and teach Shin Buddhism. Now is the time to go beyond traditional Buddhist languages and culture.

A side note, I try not to use the term Jodo Shinshu, when describing our school of Buddhism. I would like to use "Shin Buddhism" as our name. Using Jodo-Shinshu is the Japanese name and sort of marks us as "oh, that is the Japanese temple" and it makes people assume that one has to be Japanese to attend. Another form of NOT opening our doors.

In recent years, I have come to seek out descriptions and words in English that convey our message. Here are 3 examples that I would like to share; words and terms that resonate with me in a new way.

First, it is the idea of "Come as

You Are." This has become a theme for me and I repeat it all the time. "Come as You Are" is not original to me, and I don't know where it came from, but I picked it up from the Buddhist Study Center in Hawaii. "Come as You Are" means to come to the Amida Buddha with all of your limitations, AND, in turn, the Amida Buddha has no expectations of you... just come as you are.

Second, and I have to give credit to Rev. Kenji Akahoshi who explains Shin Buddhism as the religion of Thank You. Most religions are religions of Please, as in asking or praying for something. But, Shin Buddhism is a religion of gratitude and Thank You.

Third, and most recent, was from the retired minister, Rev. Bob Oshita, who recently became the Co-Chaplain of the California State Assembly. In his opening meditation recently, he closed his beautiful talk with a pause, then said "Namu Amida Butsu"... and then another pause...and said, "with gratitude and kindness beyond words". This was masterful. Think about this in your head..."with gratitude and kindness beyond words."

These are just some things to ponder as we go about our business today. We have a gift, the Nembutsu Teaching, which ensures everyone, not a select few, everyone, to realize Awakening. The Wisdom and Compassion that is Amida Buddha does not discriminate. That is why it is called the Universal Vow...without limits.

What I hope you take away from this short talk is that we all have a responsibility to share Shin Buddhism. And to do this, we have to be able to "Pay it Forward." "Pay it Forward" is a

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Cemetery Visitation Schedule

OVER THE MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND, THE CHURCH WILL BE MAKING ITS ANNUAL CEMETERY visitations on **Friday, May 26, Saturday, May 27, and Sunday, May 28.** In remembrance of your families, please set aside these days to clean out your families' resting places, place flowers, and gassho to express your gratitude. The schedule for these three days - PLEASE NOTE THAT THERE HAVE BEEN SOME CHANGES (marked in italics):

Friday, May 26,

10:30am: Colma Cemetery

Saturday, May 27:

10:15 am: Vallejo Cemetery

11:00 am: Mt. View Cemetery (SEE NOTE BELOW*)

11:30 am: Piedmont Chapel of the Chimes (SEE NOTE BELOW*)

1:30 pm: Mt. Eden Cemetery

2:30 pm: Hayward Chapel of the Chimes

4:00 pm: Joint Memorial Service

Sunday, May 28:

9:30 am: Oakmont Cemetery

10:15 am: Martinez Cemetery

10:45 am: Pacheco Cemetery

11:30 am: Concord Memorial Garden

2:00 pm: Sunset View Cemetery (hillside near mausoleum)

3:00 pm: Sunset View Cemetery (meadow area at creek)

4:00 pm: Memorial Day Service at church

*Due to the new schedule, if possible please RSVP with the Church Office (510-832-5988 or officebco@gmail.com) for Mt. View Cemetery or Piedmont Chapel of the Chimes. Even if no one RSVPs we will still perform services at these locations.

The church office will be open Saturday, May 28 from 11:00am to 1:00pm, and on Sunday, May 29 from 3:00pm to 5:00pm to let people into the Nokotsudo while the Church group is making rounds of the cemeteries. ■

Silent Auction - Donations Needed

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR WHEN we start thinking about our Bazaar and Food Festival. And, again, we are asking for your help to make the Silent Auction a success. Below are a few ideas for you to consider, but these are merely suggestions.

- **Gift Certificates**
- **Tickets and Passes to**
- **Events/Entertainment**
- **Travel: Frequent flyer miles for airfare/hotels or time at a timeshare or vacation home**

- **Works of Art**
- **Japanese Items**
- **Crafts**
- **Sports Memorabilia**
- **Services (Tutoring, Catering, baked goods, workshops):**
- **Gift Baskets**

Your donation items can be brought to the church office during regular office hours. Please bring them before **June 12**. Questions? Contact Carol Thunen at 510-594-1800, or at c.thunen@comcast.net.

Infant Presentation Ceremony

IF YOU WOULD LIKE YOUR infant, one year old or younger, to participate in the Infant Presentation Ceremony, please contact the BCO Office (510-832-5988 or [e-mail officebco@gmail.com](mailto:officebco@gmail.com)) **before Thu May 4** so that certificates may be prepared in advance.

Rev. Miyamura CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

term that means that I do something that would make it easier for those who follow.

My favorite example is from one of our members. He is an older Nisei who is very, very frugal. Yet, when he

goes to a restaurant, he would always leave a large tip for the server and, he would say, so that the next Japanese American who came to this restaurant would be seen in a good way and get good service..."Pay it Forward."

In the same way, we have to do what is necessary to grow our Sanghas and to make it easier for those who will follow. "PAY IT FORWARD"... doing things to make it easier for those who follow. ■

Meet the Board



**PAUL
LABERGE**

Occupation:
Daylighting
Consultant

What do you enjoy about your job/status? Daylight is an abundant natural resource with a 1000 benefits. I enjoy harnessing its benign characteristics for human enjoyment.

City you live in: Emeryville

Family: Michiyo, my spouse

Children: none

Related to other church members? No

Favorites:

Food: Natto

Hobby: Sailing

Vacation destination: A sandy beach

Book: Blessed Unrest by Paul Hawken

What's on your bucket list?

Leave the planet better than I found it

What is the one thing most people don't know about you? I used to be a master wooden boat builder.

What do you hope the Board can accomplish while you are a member? To set BCO on a path of rejuvenation

How should you/we tell the Jodo-Shinshu story? As a philosophy that reaches deep into the human psyche and human experience

Additional notes: After being a wooden boat shipwright for seven years I decided to complete the university education I'd interrupted years before. In choosing an area of study, I decided architecture would be an extension of my boat building experience, moving from its continuously curved surfaces intersecting at raked and changing angles and requiring the need for boats to move easily through wave and wind, to architectures potential of planes and curves meeting to enclose a different set of

requirements and activities.

I moved from Seattle to Berkeley to study architecture at the College of Environmental Design. During undergraduate studies I met Richard Peters and Charles Benton, principle influences on choosing to focus my studies on architectural daylighting. From them I learned to appreciate both the art and analytics of daylighting.

After completing the undergraduate degree I continued study in the Master's program at CED. Near this same time Pacific Gas & Electric was developing the concept and details of what would become the Pacific Energy Center in San Francisco. I had the opportunity to participate and became principal designer of a heli-odon, now in its 25th year of use by architects visiting the PEC.

After completing the masters degree I worked at Lawrence Berkeley National Lab in the Windows and Daylighting Group, working there five years participating in research on windows and their performance. ■



**NORMAN
YOSHIDA**

Occupation:
Small
Business
Owner

What do you enjoy about your job/status? Independence and flexible hours

City you live in: Alameda

Family: Kathy, wife

Children: Sean 13, Ryan 10

Related to other church members?

Fusae Yoshida (Mother), Renie Grohl (Sister), Donna Castro (Cousin), Martha Castro, Kurt Miyamura (cousin), Sab Yoshida (Uncle), Setsu & Kay Endo (Aunt & Uncle)

Favorites:

Food: Japanese bento plates

Hobbies: Photography, computers, model railroading, collecting things

Vacation destination: Japan

Movie: You Only Live Twice,

Book: Red Storm Rising

What's on your bucket list?

Eat at a different restaurant in Japan everyday for a year.

What is the one thing most people don't know about you?

I love French dark chocolate truffles

What do you hope the Board can accomplish while you are a member?

Help develop a viable plan to revitalize and grow the Church through increased membership, new programs, and better facilities.

MAY 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1 Line Dancing, 1:00 pm Social Hall Karaoke, Social Hall, 7:30-9:30 pm	2	3 Board Of Directors Meeting, Small Chapel, 7:00 pm	4 Momijikai, Small Chapel 10:00 am-2:00 pm Gakuen - Adult Advanced Class Issei Kaikan, 6:30-8:30	5	6 Gakuen Issei Kaikan, 9:00-12:00 pm
7 Dharma Family Service 10:00-10:45 am Shotsuki Memorial & Adult Dharma Service 10:45-11:30 am DS Teachers Meeting 11:45 am	8 Wanto Shodo Kai Issei Kaikan, 10 am-12 Noon Karaoke, Social Hall, 7:30-9:30 pm	9	10 Evening Dharma Service & Discussion, 7:00-8:30 pm	11 Gakuen - Adult Advanced Class Issei Kaikan, 6:30-8:30 Concord Howakai 7:00-8:30 pm	12	13 Gakuen Issei Kaikan, 9:00-12:00 pm Jr. YBA Breakfast Prep 9:00-11:00 am Ikebana Issei Kaikan 2:00-4:00 pm
14 Sangha Day Breakfast Jr. YBA, 9:00-10:00 am Dharma Family Service 10-10:45 am Busshin Collation Hondo Cleaning	15 Line Dancing, 1:00 pm Social Hall Karaoke, Social Hall, 7:30-9:30 pm	16 Oakland Fukuoka Sister City Association General Meeting Issei Kaikan, 7:00-9:00 pm	17 Obon Shift Schedules Due Business Committee Meeting-7:00-8:30 pm	18 Momijikai, Small Chapel 10:00 am-2:00 pm Gakuen - Adult Advanced Class Issei Kaikan, 6:30-8:30	19 Youth Club Set-up for Gotane/Fujimatsuri Luncheon	20 Gakuen Issei Kaikan, 9:00-12:00 pm Study Class 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
21 Gotane / Fujimatsuri - Hatsumairi Infant Presentation Service 10-11:30 am Luncheon Ashland Howakai 5:00 pm	22 Wanto Shodo Kai Issei Kaikan, 10 am-12 Noon Karaoke, Social Hall, 7:30-9:30 pm	23	24 BCO Bazaar & Food Festival Coordinating Committee / Obon Planning Meeting, Social Hall, 7:00-8:30 pm	25 No Gakuen	26 Memorial Day Weekend Cemetery Visitations	27 No Gakuen Memorial Day Weekend Cemetery Visitations BCO Office Hours: 11:00 am-1:00 pm Bay District Jr. YBA Volleyball Tournament – Alameda Point/Social Hall
28 Memorial Day Cemetery Visitations BCO Office Hours: 3:00-5:00pm Memorial Day Service, 4:00 pm Bay District Jr. YBA Volleyball Tournament – Alameda Point	29 Memorial Day (Office Closed)	30	31	Host Team 7 Leader: Maya Lawrence Coverage for May support tasks including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sunday services coffee & breakfast refreshments; ▪ Sunday services greeters; ▪ Straighten hondo the week before Gotane, Fujimatsuri (May 14); ▪ Gotane/Fujimatsuri Otoki Luncheon ▪ Weekend garden clean-up; ▪ Busshin collation; ▪ Wed evening Dharma service greeters and refreshments; ▪ Sat Study Class greeters and refreshments. 		

JUNE 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
				1 Momijikai, Small Chapel 10:00 am-2:00 pm Gakuen - Adult Advanced Class Issei Kaikan 6:30 pm -8:30 pm	2	3 Gakuen Issei Kaikan, 9:00-12:00 pm
4 Dharma Family & Graduation Service 10:00-11:15 am Shotsuki Memorial & Adult Dharma Service 11:15 am-12:00 pm Graduation Luncheon 12:00-1:00 pm	5 Line Dancing, 1:00 pm Social Hall	6	7 Board of Directors Meeting, Small Chapel 7:00 pm	8 Concord Howakai 7:00-8:30 pm Gakuen - Adult Advanced Class Issei Kaikan 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm	9	10 Kuri Manju Prep, Main Kitchen, 9:00 am-12:00 pm Gakuen End of Year Presentation & Luncheon Social Hall 9:00 am – 1:00 pm Ikebana Issei Kaikan 2-4 pm
11 No Dharma Family Service Bazaar & Food Festival Construction 8:30 am-1:00 pm Kuri Manju Baking 8:30 am- 1:00 pm Busshin Collation	12 No Wanto Shodo Kai Parking Lot Closed	13 Parking Lot Closed	14 Parking Lot Closed No Evening Dharma Service & Discussion	15 No Momijikai Parking Lot Closed	16 Bazaar & Food Festival Prep. 7:00 am	17 Bazaar & Food Festival 3:00-8:00 pm
18 Bazaar & Food Festival 12:00-7:00 pm	19 Deconstruction and Clean-up, 9:00 am Parking Lot Closed	20 Kitchen Clean-up 9:30 am Parking Lot Closed Deconstruction and Clean-up 7:00 pm	21 Business Committee Meeting-7:00-8:30 pm	22	23 Busshin Articles Due	24 Ikebana Issei Kaikan 2:00-4:00 pm
25 No Service	26 Wanto Shodo Kai Issei Kaikan, 10 am-12 Noon	27 Oakland Fukuoka Sister City Association General Meeting Issei Kaikan, 7:00-9:00 pm	28 Asian Health Services Monthly Meeting Social Hall, 9:00 am- 12:00 pm	29	30	
			Host Team 8 Leader: Joyce Yokomizo Coverage for June support tasks including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sunday service coffee & breakfast refreshments; ▪ Graduation Luncheon Otoki; ▪ Sunday service greeters; ▪ Weekend garden clean-up; ▪ Busshin collation; Hondo cleaning 			