

# **BUDDHIST CHURCH OF OAKLAND (BCO)**

*presents*



## ***Hanamatsuri***

Sunday, April 7, 2019

9:30am: Kieshiki Sarana Affirmation Ceremony (Pre-Registration req'd)

10:30am: Hanamatsuri Service

11:45am: Luncheon

Hanamatsuri (Flower Festival) is a day of great joy and significance. Come see the baby Buddha in Lumbini's Garden (hanamido) and pour sweet tea over him, like the gentle rain that fell 2,500 years ago. Join us for this special service on April 7<sup>th</sup>.

## **Guest Speaker**

Rev. Kodo Umezu

Bishop

Buddhist Churches of America



Born in Fukuoka, Rev. Umezu graduated from Ryukoku University in 1973 and immediately made his voyage to the U.S. to become a BCA minister. He was first assigned to the Fresno Betsuin and continued his studies at the Institute of Buddhist Studies, where he received his master's degree in 1976.

After serving in the U.S. Navy for four years, he returned to the BCA ministry and was assigned to Los Angeles Betsuin in 1980. In 1987, he was assigned to Buddhist Church of Oakland, and in 1996, he was appointed as executive assistant to Bishop Hakubun Watanabe. He was appointed director of the Center for Buddhist Education in Berkeley by BCA Socho Koshin Ogui in 2006 and served in that position until becoming bishop on April 1, 2012.

*This event is free and open to the public - Limited free parking is available  
Coffee, juice and breakfast treats available from 9:15am*

**Buddhist Church of Oakland**  
825 Jackson Street (at 9<sup>th</sup>) - Oakland CA 94607 – 510-832-5988  
*buddhistchurchofoakland.org*

For March 2019 Busshin

HEADLINE: Bishop Umezu to Bestow Buddhist Names Through Kieshiki Ceremony at BCO

On Sunday, April 7, 2019 we will be observing our annual Hanamatsuri Service, commemorating the birth of the historical Buddha Shakyamuni. The guest speaker for the service will be Rev. Kodo Umezu, Bishop of the Buddhist Churches of America (and former resident minister of the Buddhist Church of Oakland).

In conjunction with our Hanamtsuri Service, we will also be conducting the Kieshiki Affirmation Ceremony.

In our Jodo Shinshu Buddhist tradition, the Kieshiki Affirmation Ceremony is performed before the altar of Amida Buddha and Shinran Shonin by the Bishop of the BCA. It is an important step in affirming one's reverence for the Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha, and their determination to live a life guided by the Buddha's teachings.

By participating in the Affirmation Ceremony, one receives a Buddhist name (*homyo*). These names are in the form of *Shaku* and two Buddhist terms which follow. The word "*Shaku*" means "disciple of Sakyamuni" and signifies that the person has joined the followers of the teachings of Sakyamuni Buddha, a community that transcends race or nationality.

The Affirmation Ceremony shares a common and special meaning with the precept of the three refuges administered in the time of Sakyamuni Buddha. In the Affirmation Ceremony, the Buddha of the three refuges is not simply Sakyamuni, but refers especially to Amida Buddha, who is the heart of Sakyamuni's teachings. Sakyamuni came into the world to teach the Vow of Amida Buddha, and our salvation brought about by Amida. Thus, "Dharma" is the teaching of Amida's compassionate working to save all beings, and "Sangha" refers to people who have entrusted themselves to Amida.

If you wish to receive your Buddhist name (*homyo*) through the Kieshiki Affirmation Ceremony, please complete the application form (found in this Busshin) and return it to the BCO office by March 15 along with your application fee of \$35 (check made payable to the Buddhist Church of Oakland).

If you have any questions, please contact the office at (510) 832-5988 or at [officebco@gmail.com](mailto:officebco@gmail.com).

**APPLICATION FOR KIESHIKI  
SARANA AFFIRMATION CEREMONY**

(please return this form to the BCO Office by March 15, 2019 with application fee of \$35 –  
check made payable to Buddhist Church of Oakland)

Temple affiliation: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name First Name Middle Name

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Male / Female Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
(circle)

Name of parent or guardian \_\_\_\_\_ (if under 12)

Favorite word/phrase/kanji chosen by member for Homyo: \_\_\_\_\_

\* \* \* \* \*

*(For Office use only)*

***Homyo Selection: To be completed/selected by Resident Minister following discussions with applicant.***

Homyo (Kanji): \_\_\_\_\_ Reading: \_\_\_\_\_ Meaning: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of applicant