

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.

**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