

BUSSEI SCRIPT

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VOLUME CXXVIII NO. 2

FEBRUARY 2016

ORDINARY HUMAN BEINGS

By Rev. Dr. Kenji Akahoshi, Resident Minister



We honor the life of Shakyamuni Buddha with our Nehan-E or Nirvana Day Service in February. This marks the memorial day of his death. Having been born a human, he would die, like all humans. After his Enlightenment, he was asked who he was, because of his aura. He said he was not a god, but a human being who was awake. This is significant for all of us, because we too are human beings. We all have the

potential to be awake and to alleviate discontent and enjoy the harmony of life.

Many Americans are relating the precepts and practices of Buddhist monks, as a means of resolving life's problems. These practices, such as meditation and mindfulness, are useful, practical methods of improving our lives. But they may fall short of resolving the bigger issues of old age, sickness, and death. The Buddha spoke to many different people, who had varying degrees of skill and intellect, and offered a variety of means of resolving deep questions. Shinran's honesty in his self-reflection, led him to abandon the way of monks. The path of the Nembutsu is the path for ordinary people, with families and jobs, who cannot follow a monk's path. We've used the words "achieving," in contrast to "receiving," to differentiate the monk's strict path of discipline and precepts from the path of Nembutsu. Shinran's message to us is that when we are awake to all that has been received from others, we appreciate life with gratitude and joy.

As Shin Buddhist, we have Shinran's perspective on an awakened life. He has shown us through his teachings and examples, that ordinary beings, without the intellect, discipline, and talents of monks and scholars can enjoy the truths of the Buddha's Teachings. It might be said that "being ordinary" is a basis of being a Shin Buddhist. In contrast, much of our lives are focused on being special. The present culture of our young people emphasizes the glamor of celebrity. It is deemed important to be a winner, to be #1, to have many friends, and to be famous. Yet most of us mature adults have realized that there are many other worthwhile values to consider. We find ourselves as ordinary people.

So how do I reconcile my being average, with the basic instinct of being better than average? Like everyone else, I'd like to be special, do great things, and do well in everything that I do. In my younger years, this helped me achieve a career of which I am proud. But in school, athletics, and career, I found that there were always those of my peers who were at the top of their field. I would never have the innate talent to be among them. My new

career, as a Shin minister, opened me up to the realization offered by Shinran. In the field of religion or spirituality, there was no possible way of being at the top. Even those at the top of various professions, cannot be dominant in other fields. Steven Jobs, Michael Jordan, Einstein, and Oprah Winfrey cannot excel in other fields. So Shinran's message to himself and to us, is that we have limits as humans. Even our intellect, physical skills, and religious empathy have limits.

In the comic called "Pickles," grandmother Pearl tells her grandson, "Nelson, everyone is the **same**. We are all **unique**." This contradiction is quite true. We all have the **same** quality of being **different** from each other. All 7 billion of us on earth, have the same quality of being uniquely ourselves. It is this quality of being complete and accepted, just as I am, that is so appealing to all humans. It is a fundamental need of humans to be accepted as part of a family or community. This is why our young people feel a need to be important and recognized. We are all seeking to be accepted, just as we are; which is the basic message of Shinran's description of Amida's Compassion.

If we can experience this acceptance, we would not have to make such an effort to achieve and be recognized. Then we might spend more energy being helpful to others. We might accept the fact that we are ordinary, just like all other humans. A Chinese poem speaks of "bits of rubble turn into gold," which is the subtitle of Dr. Taitetsu Unno's book, *Shin Buddhism*. Its meaning is that each of us, as bits of rubble, can turn into gold with the realization of that our awakening is a gift from others. Another way of saying this is that, as ordinary people (bits of rubble), our perspective is turned around (turn into gold), as we see ourselves as necessary and essential parts of the world.

To illustrate this, recall the large mural at the exit of Terminal 1 at the airport. You may have seen similar artwork of a scene or portrait, when seen from a distance. However, when viewed up close, we find that the larger mural is made up of individual photos of people, with each tile of a different shade or color. Much like the post-impressionist dot paintings of Seurat and Pissarro, the individual tiles collectively form a larger picture. Each of us, as individual tiles (bits of rubble) are part of a beautiful larger mosaic (gold). If one or more of the tiles is missing, the larger image would be incomplete. I think this is what the poem and Shinran are trying to tell us. Our illusion may have us feel insignificant and ordinary, but Namo Amida Butsu reminds us that we are the gold of a beautiful whole. The whole is Amida Buddha, Light and Life, Wisdom and Compassion.

Gassho,
Kenji Sensei

FEBRUARY 2016

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 Office Closed	2	3 9:30 a.m. — Tai Chi Chuan @A.H. 10 a.m. — Craft Day, PR Noon — Minyo Group 民謡 @SH 1 p.m. — Shigin 詩吟 @Annex 1-2 6:30 p.m. — Taiko Practice @AH 7 p.m. — Buddhism 1-2-3 @S.H.	4	5	6 10 a.m. — Tai Chi @ AH 10 a.m. — Koto Class @ SH SD Jr. YBL Volleyball @ OCBC
7 9 a.m. — DS Staff Mtg. @ Conf. Rm. 9 a.m. — Dance Comm. Mtg. @ DR 10 a.m. — DS/FAMILY Service and Shotsuki (Monthly memorial) 日曜礼拝 11:40 a.m. — BWA Meeting 11:45 a.m. — J r. YBA Mtg. Noon — Taiko Practice @Annex Hall	8 Office Closed 7 p.m. - Ways & Means *March Bussei Script articles due	9 10 a.m. -- SD Ministers Mtg. @L.A. Betsuin	10 9:30 — Tai Chi Chuan @ A.H. Noon — Minyo Group 民謡 @S.H. 1 p.m. — Shigin 詩吟 @Annex 1-2 6:30 p.m. — Taiko Practice @A.H. 7 p.m. — Buddhism 1-2-3 @S.H.	11 6:45 pm — Board of Directors Mtg. @Conf. Room	12 7:30 p.m. — SD Council Mtg. @Gardena	13 12 Noon — SD BWA Mtg. @Vista B.T.
14 9 a.m. — BWA MEMORIAL 婦人会員追悼法要 10 a.m. — NIRVANA DAY SERVICE 涅槃会 (Guest speaker: Rev. Yushi Mukojima) 11:45 a.m. — Potluck luncheon @ Annex Hall	15 Office Closed	16	17 9:30 — Tai Chi Chuan @ A.H. 10 a.m. — Craft Day, PR Noon — Minyo Group 民謡 @S.H. 1 p.m. — Shigin 詩吟 @Annex 1-2 6:30 p.m. — Taiko Practice @A.H. 7 p.m. — Buddhism 1-2-3 @S.H.	18 7 p.m. — Sho Shin Ge class @ SH	19	20 10 a.m. — Tai Chi @ AH 1-9 p.m. — SD Jr. YBL Seminar II @ West L.A.
21 10 a.m. — DS/FAMILY SERVICE 日曜礼拝 Noon — Okinawa Kenjinkai New Year Party, AH 1 p.m. — So. Dist. Conference Planning Mtg. @ Conf Room	22 Office Closed	23	24 9:30 — Tai Chi Chuan @ A.H. Noon — Minyo Group 民謡 @S.H. 1 p.m. — Shigin 詩吟 @Annex 1-2 6:30 p.m. — Taiko Practice @A.H. 7 p.m. — Buddhism 1-2-3 @S.H. 7 p.m. — Activities Mtg.	25	26	27 Sangha Teen Activity @Oxnard 10 a.m. — Tai Chi @ S.H. 10 a.m. — Koto Class 琴教室 @Sangha Hall 6-9 p.m. — BTSD/MFW BINGO @Annex Hall
28 9 a.m. — Intro. to Buddhism @ S.H. 10 a.m. — DS/FAMILY SERVICE 日曜礼拝 12Noon — Taiko Practice @Annex Hall	29 Office Closed					

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Glenn Torio, Board President

I wish to thank Sangha members and friends who attended the BEC lecture night on January 16, featuring Rev. Harry Bridge of the Oakland Buddhist Church. I encourage everyone to attend lectures sponsored by our Buddhist Education Committee (BEC). The topics are unique to each guest speaker and a very good opportunity to hear from others in an intimate group setting. Keep an eye on the Kaiho for other classes, lectures and gatherings to experience the Dharma. Currently, Buddhism 1-2-3 occurs each Wednesday from 7-8:30 p.m. Also, Kenji Sensei's Sho Shin Ge class meets on the third Thursday of the month.

Following the Ho Onko on January 17, the temple held its annual New Year's Party. We had quite a crowd (about 160) for some good food, conversation and entertainment by several of our talented Sangha Members and some not so talented (if you were in attendance, you know what I am talking about). It had to do with the BWA's performance and Special Guest Star! It was nice to many temple members and friends celebrate the start of the New Year, which was very gratifying.

We at the BTSD are doing our best to grow our Temple and continue to have a vibrant and energetic Sangha! One example of this was displayed during the Ho onko service when the BWA presented our Sangha Teens and Jr. YBA monetary donations to help support their efforts. As it was said, they are the future of our Temple. To prove this point, most all of the current Board of Directors were once members of Sangha Teens or Jr. YBA or both, not to mention the generations before us! I cannot give enough thanks to all of you who continue to support BTSD.

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

On Thursday, January 14, the Board of Directors met and the following items were acted on or discussed.

1. Condolences to the families and friends of Mrs. Kuriko Darini, Mrs. Kathy Olsen, Mrs. Nobuko Uchino, Mrs. Yukiko Negoro, Mrs. Pauline Nakamura, and Mr. Masami Iwataki.
2. The 2015 Fiscal Year ended in the positive thanks to very generous donations, the Balboa Park Obon Odori and Asian Food and Craft Fair receiving more income than projected.
3. The Board approved allocating not more than \$4000 from the Obon Odori income to cover the remaining balance of the Kitchen Compliance project costs. The Board thanks the Sangha for their generosity and effort for project completion.
4. The Board approved funds for at least two additional Food Handler Safety Managers - funds cover required training and certification.
5. The Board approved a change to the way that donations are acknowledged in the Bussei Script. All donors but not individual donation amounts will be published for each type of donation and Special Service. All donors receive a end-of-year donation summary itemizing all donations made through out the year.
6. The Board approved registration, travel and lodging costs for Rev. Dr. Akahoshi and two members to attend the 2016 BCA Na-

tional Council meeting, March 4-6 in Visalia, CA.

7. The Board endorsed supporting member Ken Muraoka's campaign to name a new Chula Vista School District school (construction 2017-2018) after his grandfather, Saburo Muraoka. Mr. Muraoka was a founding member of the Buddhist Temple and an important figure in the Chula Vista community. A letter of support will be drafted for presentation to the School Board.

8. There were no objections to sending eVites as a means of publicizing and inviting members to the upcoming Dinner Dance.

9. The Board approved Oseibo amounts for presentation at the New Year's Party.

10. A committee will be meeting to discuss bulletin/white boards and other needs in the main building.

BWA NEWS

Thank you so much to members and friends who helped out at the general temple cleanup on Sunday, December 27, and/or the cleaning of the shrine items, Butsugu no Omigaki, on Wednesday, Dec. 30. Work was done quickly and in good spirits, working together.

Groups A and B did a terrific job hosting the temple Hospitality on January 10. THANK YOU!

Please join us on Wednesday February 3 and 17 from 10 am – 2 pm in the dining room for our craft sessions.

Mark Madeira, our Tai Chi instructor had a great start to his sessions January 20 and 23. Sessions are free and for all age groups. Please check with the office for confirmation of dates and times.

Everyone enjoyed the lecture on Saturday, Jan. 16 and Hoonko Service message on Sunday, January 17 by Rev. Harry Bridge of the Oakland Buddhist Church. At the service, our BTSD BWA cabinet was installed. They are: President Susan Moribe, 1st VP Akie Tomiyama, 2nd VP (vacant), Recording Secretary, Junko Kajita, Corresponding Secretary Mani Yamaguchi, Treasurer Susan Yonekura, Auditors (vacant), Welfare Chair Laurine Ota, Religious Chair Alice Matsumoto, Group Chairs Betty Torio, Kiku Graeber, Aki Tomiyama, Kim Hagio, Ex Officio Fumiko Ohara, and Advisors Rev. Kenji and Mrs. Karen Akahoshi. We presented special monetary gift presentations to the two youth groups — the Jr. YBA and the Sangha Teens from funds collected during the Eshinni Memorial Service last November.

Members and fellow Buddhist women had fun joining in singing a BWA version of ROAR by Katy Perry, to entertain guests at the temple New Year party following the Hoonko service. Special thanks to our honorary BWA member, Glenn Torio, for playing "Katy" and Laura Henschen, the purrfect tiger!!

Several members participated in the annual BTSD General Meeting and potluck luncheon on Sunday, January 24.

On Sunday, February 14, the annual BWA and Lady Takeko Kudo Memorial Service will be held starting at 9 a.m. Former resident minister, Rev. Yoshi Mukojima, now of the Mountain View Buddhist Temple, will be the guest speaker. Following the Nirvana Day service, everyone is invited to the after-service potluck luncheon to enjoy Rev. Mukojima and his family, who will be visiting.

Don't forget to check the BWA website: southerndistrictbwa.weebly.com/ for a peek at the Roar performance, and the latest on our BWA, as well as BWAs at other southern district temples.

Our next meeting will be on February 7, at 11:45 am. Group C will be hosting. Hope to see you then!

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

On January 31, we will be hosting the Vista Buddhist Temple Dharma School and their Sangha. VBT students will join in our Dharma School classes. Following the service, everyone in attendance is invited to attend a luncheon sponsored by BTSD Dharma School. Our Dharma School families will be providing side dishes, salads and desserts. Please join us as we welcome our North County neighbors.

Dharma School wishes to thank individuals and families who donated generously to our program throughout the past year.

During February, the 9th through 12th grade class will be in charge of the fruit and floral offering before each service. Thank you high schoolers!

The next teacher/staff meeting will be on Sunday, February 7 at 9 a.m.

Gassho,

Avis Honda, Superintendent

JR. YBA NEWS

On January 9 and 10, Davis Ong, Trina Muraoka and I attended the Southern District Leadership Workshop at Orange County Buddhist Church. Breven Honda also attended on behalf of the Southern District cabinet.

One week later, at the Temple's New Year's Party, we served tea to the Sangha and had a great time. Prior to the party, members attended the Ho Onko service, commemorating the life of Shinran Shonin.

On January 23, seven members attended Seminar I at Orange County Buddhist Church. The theme was "Buddhism in the Bathroom." More details in the March Bussei Script. Stay tuned!

On Saturday February 6, we will attend So. Dist. Jr YBL Volleyball at OCBC. Members are signed up to attend Seminar II on February 20 at West LA Buddhist Church. The theme is "In the Eyes of the Beholder." On the following day, Feb. 21, join in the after-service hospitality hosted by Jr. YBA.

This month's meeting is scheduled for Feb. 7 following the service.

In Gassho,

Kenji Niwa, President



The next BINGO night will take place on February 27 starting at 6 p.m. Buy-in is \$10 for the session. Extra cards and pull tabs will be available for purchase. For you hungry players, VFW serve their delicious Hot dogs and Chili dogs from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. There will be opportunities to win raffle prizes, too!

Spend an enjoyable evening with family and friends and support the BTSD/VFW Bingo Night., and get ready to yell BINGO!

JR. YBA REUNION: LOOKING FOR FORMER MEMBERS

On Saturday, October 15, the Jr. YBA will host its 65th year reunion and we need your help.

The current members are collecting email and home addresses of Jr. YBA alumni so that a formal announcement can be sent in February. If you can help us out by providing such addresses, it will be very much appreciated in the group's quest to contact former members.

You may email information to Ralph Honda, Jr. YBA advisor, at rkayh@aol.com or the temple at info@btsd.net. You may also phone information to the temple at (619) 239-0896.

The Jr. YBA hopes that many former members will save the date for the reunion!

Gassho

Membership Upate

Good News!

As of January 23, many of you have already renewed your 2016 membership. And even though January is not yet over as this is written, we already have six new members joining us.

(See names in boldface.)

Renewed or joined for 2016 are Mr. Masato Asakawa; Mr. & Mrs. Michael & Carol Baker; **Mrs. Evelyn Bareño**; Mrs. Agnes Benson; Mr. Roger Coppock; Mrs. Jeanette Dutton; **Mrs. Laverne Imori**; Mr. & Mrs. Yukio Iwashita; **Mrs. Sara Jenner**; Mr. David Kawamoto; Mr. & Mrs. Yukio & Mits Kawamoto; Mrs. Umeko Kawamoto; **Mr. & Mrs. Kiyoshi & Itsuko Kawasaki**; Mrs. Chiyoko Masumoto; Mr. Roy Muraoka; Ms. Yuko Niwa; Mrs. Janet Ochi-Fontanott; Mrs. Fumiko Ohara; **Mr. Eric ORiley**; Mr. & Mrs. Ken & Laurine Ota; Mr. & Mrs. Bill & Suzanne Sannwald; Ms. Leslie Seymour; Ms Tsuruko Sueishi Stark; Mr. & Mrs. Floyd & Kaytee Sumida; Mrs. Mary Suyenaga; Mr. & Mrs. Kelvin & Lara Tanaka; Mr & Mrs. Motoo & Angelina Tsuneyoshi; Mrs. Mani Yamaguchi & Ms. Laura Yamaguchi; Mr. Sachio Yamamoto; Mr. Gregg Yonekura; Mr. & Mrs. Roy & Susan Yonekura; and Mr. & Mrs. Roy Yonekura.

Evelyn Bareño is an administrator at SDSU; Sara Jenner is a local graphics designer; Laverne Imori is retired and a long-time BCA member, active first with the Seattle Betsuin, more recently at Ekoji outside Washington, D.C., and now back on the West Coast in San Diego; the Kawasakis, retired, have moved from Hollister where they have ties to the Watsonville Buddhist Temple; and Eric ORiley has lived in San Diego for many years, where he has worked in IT at one point and now water treatment. Welcome all!

Bill Teague,
Membership Chairperson



BTSD and VBT TO CO-HOST SOUTHERN DISTRICT BUDDHIST CONFERENCE

Planning for the annual Southern District Buddhist Conference is in full swing.

Up to 250 delegates, representing the Southern District temples, are anticipated to gather in San Diego on Saturday, June 18 for a day of listening to the Dharma.

The conference theme is "American Shin Buddhism: New Voices." Guest speaker will be Rev. Kodo Umezu, Bishop of the Buddhist Churches of America.

The event will run from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Mission Valley. BTSD and the Vista Buddhist Temple will serve as co-hosts.

Presentations by speakers both in English and Japanese will comprise the morning Dharmathon session. After lunch, there will be panel discussions. The English and Japanese panels will include the newest ministers to the district, and lay speakers.

Conference registration and more information will be presented later in February.

Save the date of June 18 and attend the conference.

In Gassho,
Ralph Honda, General Chairperson

BCA MINISTERS AND NCM MARCH 2-6 IN VISALIA

The BCA Ministers and National Council Meetings will take place March 2-6 in Visalia, California. Kenji Sensei, along with LuAnn Lee and Ralph Honda will serve as delegates for the meetings. A summary of the meetings will appear in the April Bussei Script.

GENERAL MEETING SUMMARY

The temple Board of Directors wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to the members who attended the annual tgeneral membership meeting on Sunday, January 24.

Thirty five members participated in the session of listening to summaries including financial, operational, activities and organizational reports. Also reported was an update of 2016 activities. The body approved this year's Board of Directors slate, along with the financial budget.

Everyone enjoyed a delicious potluck luncheon provided by the attendees.

The Board of Directors welcomes feedback from attendees, and Sangha with questions and suggestions..

Copies for the general meeting packet are available upon request.

Happy New Year to All!

I hope your holidays were enjoyed with family and friends. With 2016 upon us and moving right along, it's time to start the fundraising efforts. Our first Activities meeting was held on January 27.

I wish to thank all of you for supporting the temple in 2015 and look forward to your participation this year. Thank you for your time and donations towards our many events. Without you, we could not have been as successful.

Save the date on March 5 and 6 for the Annual Cherry Blossom Festival at the Friendship Garden in Balboa Park. We will be looking for volunteers.

Please join us for the next fundraising meeting on February 24.

In Gassho,
LuAnn Lee, 2015 Activities Chair



Do you remember how much fun it was to attend those high school dances back in the day? Come and relive some of that fun and excitement at our third benefit dinner-dance and casino night. The event, for adults 18-years-and up, will take place in the Temple Annex on Saturday, March 12 from 5 to 10 p.m.

To start off the evening, Café Catering will provide a delicious dinner, followed by casino action provided by the professional dealers from Absolute Casino. There will be black jack, poker, roulette and craps as well as a drawing for casino prizes. In addition, an Opportunity Drawing will take place during the evening for additional prizes. Our DJ, Bracken from Elegant Sounds, will provide us with dance music from a variety of genres and decades, and will take music requests before and during the event.

Net proceeds will benefit the temple's 90th anniversary and ongoing improvements.

Experience an entertaining evening and join us for a night of dining, dancing, wagering and socializing. Please see the enclosed flyer for more details and how to purchase tickets.

Gassho,
Mani Yamaguchi
Dance Committee Chairperson

DINNER-DANCE DONATIONS

The BTSD Benefit Dinner/Dance Committee is seeking donations for our casino prizes and raffle baskets. If you would like to donate gift cards, vouchers, sports items, bottles of wine, or any desirable items for our raffle baskets, then please contact the temple office at (619) 239-0896 or email LuAnn Lee at lulee7@cox.net. You may also drop off your donation at the temple office, labeled "Dinner/Dance Donation. Thank you for your donation in support of this year's 90th Year Anniversary and additional temple improvements.



Craft Days

WEDNESDAYS from

10 A.M. TO 2 P.M.

BTSD Dining Room

Join us for some
crafty fun, and great memories
on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays
of each month.

Tai Chi Chuan/Qigong Workshop

with Mark Madeira,

Tai Chi/Qigong practitioner

February Schedule:

***Date:** Wednesday, Feb. 3,
10, 17, 24

***Time:** 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

***Date:** Saturday, Feb. 6, 13,
20, 27

***Time:** 10:00 -- 11:00 a.m.

***Place:** Buddhist Temple of
San Diego Annex Hall

***Cultivating Health & Vitality
through Gentle Movement &
Free-Form Meditation**

BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SAN DIEGO Membership Pledge for 2016

☐ Renewal ☐ New Member* ☐ Sponsorship* ☐ Change of Address

☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. ☐ Ms. NAME: _____ BIRTHDATE: _____

☐ Mr. ☐ Mrs. SPOUSE NAME: _____ BIRTHDATE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: (____) _____ CELL PHONE: (____) _____ WORK PHONE: (____) _____

E-MAIL: _____ OCCUPATION: _____

Membership Pledge: The temple has an annual campaign to raise funds that go towards the Operating Budget. This budget pays for ministerial salary, part-time staff, programs, utilities, maintenance and the day-to-day expenses of running the temple. This tiered membership offers members the opportunity to choose their level of donation.

Sponsorship Pledge: Individuals are invited to sponsor a new or existing member under the current membership program.

	Sustaining Member	Dana Member	Wisteria Member	Bodhi Member
Individual / Senior / Youth (All Ages)	\$300	\$375	\$500	\$
Couple / Family	\$500	\$650	\$1000	\$
<u>Optional:</u> Senior Reduced Cost (75 years and older)	\$150			
<u>Optional:</u> Youth Reduced Cost (30 years and younger)	\$175			\$
				(Membership Amount)

Recommended Annual Donations (Optional):

FLORAL OFFERING FUND (Suggested annual donation of \$40)..... \$

This fund helps defray cost of regular fresh flowers for the Onajin (Central Altar).

GENERAL MAINTENANCE FUND (Suggested annual donation of \$40)..... \$

The fund helps provide upkeep of the Temple properties.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND (Suggested annual donation of \$20)..... \$

The fund rewards members' deserving high school graduates and college students.

DHARMA SCHOOL (Suggested annual donation of \$20)..... \$

Dharma School does not conduct fundraisers. Your annual donation helps sustain its activities.

TOTAL AMOUNT \$

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$

*PLEASE INDICATE PAYMENT SCHEDULE:

_____ Annually _____ Semi-annually _____ Quarterly _____ Monthly

TO USE CREDIT CARD:

____ Visa ____ MasterCard ____ AMEX Acct# _____ Expires (MM/YY) ____/____

Authorized signature (if charging): _____

Billing address (if different from above): _____ Zip _____

Please make checks payable to the BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF SAN DIEGO. A percentage of your dues support the Buddhist Churches of America and is remitted annually to the BCA via the Temple. Benefits include a year's subscription to the BCA publication, "Wheel of Dharma" and a printed copy of our monthly newsletter, the "Bussei Script." **THANK YOU!**

Mailing address to send your pledges: Buddhist Temple of San Diego
2929 Market Street
San Diego, California 92102

For any questions about membership, please call the Temple at 619-239-0896 or send inquires to the Membership Chair at info@btsd.net.

*For NEW MEMBERS and SPONSORSHIPS, proration is available.

おさんく なに — 老いの三得って何? —

駐在開教使 向嶋諦史

昨年暮れに、父方の祖母が亡くなりました。一〇四歳という長寿を全うしての往生でした。晩年は認知症を患って会話もままならない状態でしたが、そうした中でも時折「ぼれるお仏に、父は「蓮如上人の、後生の一大事を心にかけて、阿弥陀仏と深めたのみ」として念仏もうすべきものなり」との白書章のお言葉がひととき心にしみと申しておりました。祖母の思い出と共に授かった数々の恩に答えるべく、仏として浄土の再会を期しながら、お念仏のみ教えに導かれて精一杯生きてまいりたいと思います。

さて、一世紀以上も生きて祖母ですが、晩年は、一人で起きたり歩くこともできないほど相当衰えていました。私も祖母にあやかって長生きをしたいと願うのですが、老いという現実を目の当たりにしますと、生きることの厳しさを改めて痛感いたしました。正直なところ、最近、子供達と遊んだ後に、肩や腰に痛みを覚えることが多々あります。数年前であれば、何の問題もなかったのですが、この私にも着々と老化が進んでいるのだと思うと何とも悲しくなってきます。先生はまだ若いとおっしゃって下さる方もおられますが、これから老化の二途を辿るしかない身と思うと恐怖のしかかります。お釈迦さまの説かれた「老害」とは本当に深刻な問題ですね。

皆さんもご存知のように、老いるということは、皆さんが生まれた瞬間から始まります。赤ん坊、幼児、青年と言われている間は成長期なので、老人とはいませんがよくよく考えますと、成長の延長線上に老化があるので、どの年齢においても老化に向かっているのです。そして、生きている限り、誰もが壮年となり、熟年となり、そして老人となつて必然的に死を迎えます。

日本では、年を取ると二つのものを失うと言われています。一つは健康を失うということです。若い時の体はたくましく、元気であつたものが、年を取ると、体のいたるところが痛出し、動きも鈍くなつてしまします。そして、脳の健康も失われ、記憶力の低下、物忘れなどが多くなります。

二つ目には、仕事を失うということです。自分は若い者は負けないし、働く意欲は十分持っているつもりでも、定年を迎えたと職場から、その役目を奪われてしまします。役職に就いて仕事をどれほど完璧にこなしていた人でも、定年が来れば、その席を次の世代に譲らなくてはなりません。

三つ目には、仲間を失うということです。長い間連れ添った伴侶を失うということもあります。どれほど愛し、支え合ってきた仲の夫婦であっても、いつかは死が相手を取ります。そして、親しい友人達もまた私達の前から去っていくのです。

これを日本では、「老いの三失」と呼んで、悲観的に考えています。

しかし、半生時代のある先生が「老いの三失に對して興味深いことを言っておられました。それは、お念仏のみ教えを聞く人は「三失の代わりに、大切なものを三つ得ることが出来るのだ」というのです。

年取つてこそ得られるものとは何か? それは、まず初めに、年を取ると心が柔軟になるということだそうです。若い時は、ちよとしたことでも腹を立てて、文句ばかり言っていた人でも、年を取ると腹を立てて、かな心を持つようになるそうです。確かに、私が幼い頃の父親は非常に厳しく、いつも「酷く叱られて、今でも、今の父を見ても、孫をあやしている時の眼差しは非常に穏やかで、孫を大いに甘やかしています。往時の面影がはいっています。

二つ目は、お念仏のみ教えを通して、世の中の酸いも甘いも心得た、豊かな人生経験を持つことだそうです。若い頃には気づかなかつた諸行無常の教えを悟り、一日一日を大切に生きる。そして、今日やれることは全力で、つぎの日までに延ばすことのない充実した生き方ができるのだといひます。

三つ目は、先の二つを土台として、一日一日のさまざまな経験を深く味わいながら、お念仏に導かれた感謝の日暮をさせていた、という生き方が備わることだそうです。

その先生は、「老いの三失の代わりに、お念仏から授かる尊い贈り物として「老いの三得」を教えてくださいました。

確かに年を取ると失うものは多いのですが、その一方、老いと共に計り知れない深みのある尊い生き方が得られるのです。かつての日本の作家、歌人であり、仏教研究家でもあつた、岡本かの子さんも次のように歌っています。「年々にわが悲しみは深く、いよよ華やうのちなりけり」。

お念仏のお働きによつて、年を老いた生命がますます輝きを増す尊い贈り物、老いの三得を喜ばせていただきます。

仏婦2016年2月会報記事

- 1) 昨年末、12月27日、30日行なはれた仏教会大掃除並びに仏具磨きにご協力ありがとうございました。
- 2) 1月10日(日) 仏教会ホスピタリティー接待は、当番A&B。
- 3) 手芸教室は、2月3日(水) 2月17日(水) 午前10時から午後2時まで新築食堂にて行います。
- 4) 1月16日(土) 午前10時タイチの講習があります。水曜日にも講習があります。くわしくは、事務局で検索下さい。講師は、マデイラ マーク氏です。受講料：無料
- 5) 報恩講：1月16日(土) 午後7時、講習会。17日(日) 午前10時仏教会本堂で行はれました。講師は、オーランド仏教会ブリッジ先生。
- 6) 婦人会役員就任
会長：森部スーザン 副会長：富山アキ 副会長2：欠員
書記：梶田順子 通信書記：山口マニ 会計：米倉スーザン
会計監査：欠員 ウェルフェア：太田ローレン
宗教：松本アキ 組長：鳥尾ベティ、グレーバ キク、富山アキ、萩尾キム、前会長：大原文子、相談役：赤星開教使夫妻、末永メリー、浜田リオラ

- 7) 特別ギフトをジュニア仏青、サンガティーンズに授与した。
- 8) 新年宴会では、仏婦会員が歌の合唱を行った。仏教会会長グレン鳥尾さんも参加した。
- 9) 1月24日(日) 仏教会総会
- 10) 2月7日(日) 午前9時、仏婦会主催の九条武子夫人の追悼法要が行はれる。講師：向島開教使。昼食は、持ち寄り昼食会。向島家一同が参加されます。
- 11) 2月7日(日) 午前11時45分 定例会議
当番：C組
- 12) 仏婦ホームページ：southerndistrictbwa.weebly.com/

NIRVANA (NEHAN-E) DAY SERVICE



(Commemorating the life of Sakyamuni Buddha)

Sunday, February 14, 2016 10:00 a.m.

Guest Speaker: Rev. Yushi Mukojima

(Mountain View Buddhist Temple)



The BWA and Lady Takeko Kujo memorial services will be held at 9 a.m.

(Everyone is invited to share their favorite dish — main, side dishes, salad and desserts— for a potluck

luncheon to be held in the Annex Hall following the Nirvana Day service)

SHOTSUKI HOYO (Monthly Memorial) is FEB. 7

The **February Shotsuki Hoyo** (monthly memorial service) will be observed on **Sunday, February 7** in conjunction with the Dharma School and Family Service at 10 a.m. Shotsuki Hoyo is an opportunity to remember family members and friends who passed away during the month of February.

Also in February: **Nirvana Day (Nehan-E)** commemorates the death of Shakyamuni Buddha, the historical Buddha at age 80. **The BWA and Lady Takeko Kujo** memorial services will be held in conjunction with Nirvana Day (see service details in information box above). Lady Kujo is the founder of the Buddhist Women's Association (Fujinkai) in Japan. The 2016 BTSD Board of Directors will be installed during the Nirvana Day service.

An envelope is enclosed if you would like to make a Nirvana Day offering. For those who subscribe to the Bussei Script online, we invite your Nirvana Day donation. As always, the Temple looks forward to your participation and is very grateful for your support.