

BUSSEI SCRIPT

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Two Aspects of Deep Mind

By Rev. Dr. Kenji Akahoshi,

Last month, I referenced “happiness” and “bliss” as a convenient means to describe two levels of awakening. “Happiness” can refer to a state of common experience of everyday life. “Bliss” may be used to refer to a higher spiritual state. I intend to use these words to explain a basic idea in Shin. The 18th or Primal Vow presents the truth of the “two aspect of deep mind.” The first aspect is that a person is completely incapable of reaching any level of spiritual insight. The second aspect states that a spiritual truth is completely assured. Although these two actions seem contradictory, the two aspects are working together. Let’s see if we can clarify this fundamental idea and why it is important.

At the time of the Buddha and even now, it is easy to see that people who renounced ordinary life to become monks and nuns were choosing “Bliss” over the mundane level of “happiness.” Since they had no material possessions, family, nor social status, the higher level of spiritual “bliss” was the obvious goal. So, what is the objective of a Shin Buddhist life?

Shinran’s integrity and intuition is validated by modern psychology that it is almost impossible to release our attachment to our ego. Shinran points out that we are using our ego to diminish our ego desires. This contradiction can be compared to a person lifting himself up by his own bootstraps. The result would be to fall over. As Shin Buddhists, we admit that our ego remains in all of our actions and thoughts. This is especially true for ordinary people who have not discarded their material and social needs. This point substantiates the first aspect of being incapable of achieving any level of spiritual awakening.

There may be thousands of lay Buddhists who use Buddhist practice to achieve “happiness.” And many may claim to be close to “bliss.” But can the ego-self reach a point of no-self? This is where the second aspect of deep mind asserts its truth. Spiritual truth is always present and therefore, we are assured of its presence.

The Sanskrit words *Amitabha* and *Amitayus* are combined in the Japanese word *Amida*, which means Light and Life. Let us use two other elements to represent this idea. Let us use light and air to represent Light and Life, respectively. We know and accept that light and air are always present, although not seen. They are vital to our lives. We do not have to achieve any practice to benefit

from these elements. We are constantly receiving their benefits. A shortage of either one can cause us suffering and problems.

Amida represents the spiritual level of Light and Life, Wisdom and Compassion. Like light and air, they are vital to our life and are constantly present. There is nothing that we need to do to benefit from light and air. We need only to receive their benefits. Acknowledging their vital gifts not only brings happiness, it provides “bliss.” Realizing that our lives are supported spiritually, without any effort on our part, is a spiritual awakening. Reciting *Namo Amida Butsu* is our expression of gratitude when we awaken to this great gift of Light and Life, Amida’s Compassion.

Many other sects of Buddhism have American followers who follow the monastic path of monks, but retain the lifestyle of ordinary people. They hope to loosen the attachment to self by self-effort. Shinran points this out in the first aspect as he admits that he is completely incapable of reaching any level of spiritual status. This mundane level may reach ordinary happiness, but not spiritual bliss.

However, the second aspect assures us that we are assured of awakening to this reality without our attempt to achieve it. Like the natural light and air, we receive it constantly. *Namo Amida Butsu* is our constant reminder and expression of gratitude for receiving these gifts. We receive these gifts even with our ego and personal possessions. It is precisely this idea of receiving that relieves us of the unattainable struggle to achieve this lofty goal. We ordinary people may awake to the same truth that a monastic monk may attain. We realize this awakening as a gift rather than an achievement. This state of “bliss” is provided by *Namo Amida Butsu*, Oneness with Wisdom and Compassion.

Since we still retain our mundane attachments, we may realize that our conventional possessions and lifestyle are actually on a spiritual plane. Last month I offered a connection: our cells-organs-bodies-communities-ecosystems-planets-solar systems-galaxies-universe-Tathagata. So, our everyday environment and interactions are part of a spiritual reality. It is our minds that determine which level that we feel we are in. *Namo Amida Butsu* can lead us to “happiness” on a mundane level and to the full level of spiritual “bliss.”

Gassho, Kenji Sensei

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February 2020



Sunday

Monday

Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NOTES:				
2 DS Staff Mtg., 9 am, CR DS/Family/Shotsuki Service, 10 am BWA Mtg., 11:45 am, CR Taiko, 12 Noon, AH Kenji Sensei: at Senshin	3 Office Closed	4 Knife & Natto Demonstration Reservations Required)	5 Crafts, 10 am, DR Minyo, Noon, SH Taiko, 6:30 pm, AH Buddhism 1-2-3, 7 pm	6 Tai Chi, 10 am, AH
9 DS/Family Service, 10 am DS Bowling/KM Bowl, 1:00 pm Taiko, 12 Noon, AH	10 Office Closed Ways & Means Mtg.	11 Minister's Mtg. L.A. Betsuin	12 Minyo, Noon, SH Taiko, 6:30 pm, AH Buddhism 1-2-3, 7 pm	13 Tai Chi, 10 am, AH BOD Mtg., 7 pm
16 Nirvana Day & BWA Memorial Service, 10 am, Guest minister, Rev. Diana Thompson	17 President's Day Office Closed Articles Due	18 President's Day Office Closed Articles Due	19 Crafts, 10 am, DR Minyo, Noon, SH Taiko, 6:30 pm, AH Buddhism 1-2-3, 7 pm BCA Ministers Mtg. at Seattle	20 Tai Chi, 10 am, AH BCA Ministers Mtg. BCA/IBS Symposium At Seattle
23 Intro to Buddhism, 9 am, SH DS/Family Service, 10 am Okinawa Kenjin Kai NY Party Noon - 4 p.m. BCA NCM at Seattle	24 Office Closed	25 Office Closed	26 Minyo, Noon, SH Taiko, 6:30 pm, AH Buddhism 1-2-3, 7 pm Mail Kaiho	27 Tai Chi, 10 am, AH Activities Mtg., 7 p
			28 Tai Chi, 10 am, AH	29 SD Jr. YBL Religious Retreat at Oxnard
			14 Valentines Day SD Council Mtg. At L.A. Betsuin, 7 pm	15 BEC Lecture with Rev. Thompson, 7 pm
				22 BCA NCM at Seattle
				1 Kenji Sensei at Senshin Retreat



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By LuAnn Lee, Board President

The New Year is here and January is almost over. This is the time of year when I have to really concentrate on writing or keying in 2020, not 2019!

Recently, I heard a warning about abbreviating 2020 to just 20. A Maine police department is advising people to write out the entire year on checks and legal documents to avoid potential fraud. They say the date can be easily changed and could be used against you. I looked it up to see what I could find and found one website named Truth or Fiction said it was not True as they couldn't find any real danger (yet), but for me, I will try to remember to write out the entire year.

On Saturday, January 11th, the temple held their first solo run of Bingo. The VFW guys (Bob, Gene, Buzzard) were there supporting the group and even had a chance to play along with their friends and families. There were a few new faces and this is very encouraging for the future of Bingo night at the temple. Thank you to co-chairs Qamar Bradford and Ralph Honda. Appreciation to the bingo crew Norman Kiyono, Arturo Rubio, Reverend Maribeth Smith (Smitty), Kris and Ron Tokunaga. Gratitude to Kikue Graeber, Ruby Hara, Irene Tomoi and Betty Torio for making the delicious hot dogs, chili and taking care of the drinks. Thanks to Smitty for making her famous chicken soup, it was tasty. We hope more of you can join the group on February 8th.

During the weekend of January 18 and 19, we observed Ho Onko (memorial service for Shinran) and welcomed Rev. Noriaki Ito, Rinbam of the Higashi Honganji in Los Angeles. His daughter Kisa was on the Southern District cabinet when I was Southern District Junior YBL advisor. The last time I saw sensei and Kisa was in 2007 when my daughter Jenna was studying abroad in Yokohama, Japan. My son Kevin contacted Kisa and we were able to say hello to them at the Higashi Mother Temple in Kyoto.

At his BEC Dharma talk, I was inspired by his efforts to have regular dialogue with groups of different faiths especially with the Catholic Priests. With his involvement with this interfaith group, they took him to meet Pope Francis at the Vatican. I visited the Vatican in 2015 but only saw pictures of the Pope.

Reverend Ito also talked about a tool that will take spiders out of the house without killing them at his adult Dharma message. I missed part of this message to prep some New Year party items, but my mom told me about it. So, I wanted to see what he was talking about and I found a Sonic Technology Bugbuster, Battery Operated No Harm Spider and Insect Vacuum on Amazon for under \$20. Does anyone remember if that was the item?

After the service, we had our annual New Year party (the year of the rat). 150 people filled the Annex Hall and a good time was had by all. Thank you to Glenn Torio and Laura Yoshida for chairing the event and to Kikue Graeber for taking care of the bentos. Appreciation to all that helped set up, served tea, ordered, cut and passed out cake and sake, made centerpieces, provided corsages and boutonnieres, made program and place cards, checked on supplies and cleaned up after. The Dharma School, BWA and friends, our Taiko group and Mr. Morikawa provided

great entertainment. Thank you to Ruth Voorhies, who gave a simple but meaningful kanpai toast and Congratulations on 60 years of marriage to Mildred and Trace Kawasaki and Kengo and Mae Yamamoto. We are grateful for our new members and our 88 and great members. Thank you and everyone for making our temple a special place. Like the song goes "This is a home to gentle thoughts when sitting quietly, for kindness lives within this place, It lives inside of me"

In Gassho, LuAnn Lee

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The Board of Directors met on January 9th -

1. At the Temple New Year Party, Oseibo was presented to the designated recipients. We thank them for their service and dedication in 2019.
2. An appreciation acknowledgment will be presented to the 2019 high donors.
3. Registration, lodging and transportation costs were approved for Rev. Akahoshi and two delegates to represent the temple at the 2020 BCA National Council Meeting in Seattle. Rev. Akahoshi will also be attending the BCA Ministers meetings which will precede the NCM.
4. Two Eien Hunter-Ishikawa workshops, one on knife-sharpening and another on natto-making will be held on February 4th, co-sponsored by the temple.
5. The Board approved a congratulatory gift to Rev. Fumi Usuki on his retirement.
6. The Dana Club will lead a donation effort for Australian Wildfire Relief.
7. The temple was selected as a polling site for the March primary election.
8. It is anticipated that the temple will be hosting many visitors observing the Lunar New Year.
9. The temple received many generous donations at year end. A positive balance is anticipated for the fiscal year-end. A complete report was presented at the Temple General Meeting, January 26th.

BWA NEWS

We started the New Year with inspiring messages from Rev. Akahoshi about our spirituality, and the Buddha's message of the middle path, impermanence and interdependency which will uplift us into this spiritual realm.

Our first service this year was Shinran Shonin's Memorial which is called Ho Onko. The installation of our new cabinet was announced by Mani Ryan (newly elected co-president) and Reverend Akahoshi presided over the installation.

The Temple's New Year's Party, which followed this service, was very enjoyable with a delicious lunch, a BWA group sing-along conducted by Sue Moribe, and a presentation by the Dharma School. Everyone enjoyed the festivities as we celebrated the beginning of a new year. One of our members celebrated her 99th birthday this month.

Cont. next page

Tomiyo Ota turned 99 on Thursday, Jan. 2. In Japanese years, this would have been her 100th birthday!

Tomiyo Ota is the aunt of one of our active BWA members, Laurine, who is our Welfare Chair. We are so fortunate to have both lovely ladies as part of our organization.

Many of our members turned up for Temple clean up on Dec. 29 to prepare the Temple for the New Year. It's a part of the Asian culture, to clean out the old dirt before the beginning of the New Year. The Temple was looking sparkling clean after a morning of scrubbing, vacuuming, and polishing.

As a sad notice, the funeral of Chiyeko Yagi, a longtime member of the BWA, was held on December 28. She was a well-respected Temple member and was known to be, in her understated and quiet manner, very cheerful and friendly. Many remembered receiving phone calls from Chiyeko welcoming them to the Temple. She will be missed by the Sangha.

The next BWA meeting will be held on Feb. 2 at 11:45 am in the conference room. Group B will provide lunch. Please visit the Temple's website for more information about the activities of our organization.

Mani Ryan, Corresponding Secretary



DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

Dharma School students had fun singing, 'A Special Place' with the Sangha during the New Years Party! A huge thank you to Kimberly Kruse for organizing and leading the students, and Robert Yamamoto for accompanying them on his guitar.

Our annual Dharma School bowling event will be held at Kearny Mesa Bowl from 1:00 to 3:00 pm on Sunday, February 9. Dharma School will treat all registered Dharma School students. Parents, non-registered Dharma School students and Sangha members are welcome to join us. The cost to bowl is \$13.00, which includes two hours of bowling and shoes. There is a sign-up sheet on the DS bulletin board or email us at info@btsd.net by February 8 if you would like to participate. Please feel free to join us for an informal lunch at the food court at Zion Market located next door to Kearny Mesa Bowl at 11:30am. Hope to see all DS students at our annual bowling event on February 9!

Natto Demonstration (Lecture, Tasting, Q & A)

February 4, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. in the BTSD Annex Hall
The demo will include samples of fresh natto and offer ideas for traditional and non-traditional preparations. In Japan, natto is highly regarded as a "superfood" with many health benefits including cardiovascular health, brain function, bone and teeth strength, and improved digestive system. Because all natto imported into the United States is frozen, this is a very rare opportunity to taste fresh, organic natto, whether you consider yourself a fan or not yet. Space is limited. Registration is required at: chelseyn@gmail.com

EcoSangha Message



Thank you to the attendees of the New Year's Party for separating the recyclable bento trays and other items. We all need to do our part in getting rid of all the plastic bags and straws, for a start. Please invest in reusable straws and bags.

We know to take a reusable bag to the grocery store, but what about when you're getting take out? You can dump the green recycling in your green bin and leave out the bag. If you have tips on things we can all do to save our earth, please send them to the temple and we'll try share them.

Recycling is something we can practice at home every day.

Take specialized recyclables: Best Buy Stores: old cell phone & batteries; USD Campus: Electronic (E) waste; Good Will for computers (they have a deal with a computer manufacturer to wipe the memory clean and rehabilitate for low-income folks, and Auto Zone: for motor oil waste.

<http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/PublicEd/default.htm>

JR YBA

We were excited to start off the new year by attending Southern District Jr. YBL's Seminar 1 at the San Fernando Valley Temple in January. Three of our members (Jenna Sasaki, Ava Yamamoto, and I) attended, and it was really fun to meet up with our friends from other temples! There were several fun activities and workshops where we learned more about the three poisons and the six paramitas. After the workshops, we went bowling with the people who attended, and overall it was a great experience! As for other Southern District events, we're looking forward to the religious retreat in February.

We'll be co-hosting Seminar 2 with the Vista Jr. YBA on March 7, and we have many fun activities planned! Our theme is "Impermanent vs. I'm Permanent" and we hope to make our peers aware of how fast time passes, and to enjoy the present moment while we can. We're excited to have Mr. Koichi Mizushima, the BCA Youth Coordinator, as our guest speaker! We'll be running two workshops, and one that Mr. Mizushima will run. Throughout this whole month, we'll be working on making Seminar 2 a fun and insightful experience for the Southern District!

We are also hosting our annual chicken karaage fundraiser on Sunday, March 15 after service. Hopefully everyone will be able to attend and eat some delicious chicken!

Once again, we'd like to thank everyone for your continued support moving into the new year. Jr. YBA wouldn't be the same without the Sangha!

In gassho, Zoe Yamamoto



SCRIP NEWS

As we start the new year, we look forward to selling lots and lots of gift cards. We keep the most frequently requested gift cards in stock. All others can be ordered and are usually here by the following Sunday.

What kind of gift cards can be purchased? You can get anything from fast food to fine dining. Target to Nordstrom's. Big 5 to Dick's Sporting Goods. Regal to AMC theaters. Just check out the retail list found at the temple or log on to the Great Lakes Scrip sight.

Remember to buy gift cards from the temple and help support it without really taking money out of your pocket.



FEBRUARY SHOTSUKI LIST

This month's Shotsuki Hoyo (MEMORIAL SERVICE) will be held Sunday, Feb. 2, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. Families and friends of anyone who passed away during the month of February are urged to attend and offer in cense. If there are any errors in the list, please notify the temple at 619-239-0896 or e-mail: info@btsd.net.

<u>DECEASED</u>	<u>FAMILY MEMBER</u>
Kisouyemon Sato (2-21-1906)	Wilbur Takashima
Bunshiro Takashima (2-6-1927).....	Wilbur Takashima
Naminosuke Tachiki (2-13-1932).....	Tachiki Family
Rino Yanagihara (2-21-1948).....	Yanagihara Family
Same Odawara (2-27-1949).....	Higuchi Family
Michi Hanano (2-3-1956)	Jerry Hanano
Eikichi Ishisaki (2-12-1956).....	Florence Koga
Toyo Furusho (2-24-1958)	Saito Family
Naminosuke Date (2-8-1959).....	Date Family
Yukino Kodama (2-14-1959)	Vivianne Jones
Ichigoro Imai (2-9-1960).....	Fumiko Ohara
Kotaro Shimizu (2-4-1960).....	Dorothy Kimura
Mine Iwataki (2-6-1961)	Iwataki Family
Hatsue Kimura (2-16-1961).....	Ochi Family
Sada Takasugi (2-22-1966)	Wayne Takasugi
Sada Tsuneyoshi (2-1-1967).....	Motoo Tsuneyoshi
Don Sadao Takeshita (2-6-1968).....	Takeshita Family
Yujiro Nakano (2-21-1970).....	Minako Nakano
Yaeno Amano (2-2-1971).....	Amano Family
Natsue Shinohara (2-13-1972).....	Shinohara Family
Tome Morimoto (2-14-1974)	Morimoto Family
Tome Yamashita (2-17-1976)	Mildred Kawasaki
Suma Shimada (2-3-1978).....	Sharon Shimada
Masanori Koba (2-21-1979)	Duane Koba
Fred Yamaguchi (2-2-1981)	Yamaguchi Family
Fumiko Yoshihara (2-1-1982).....	Hiroko Kubota
Megumi Torimaru (2-2-1983)	Torimaru Family
Masano Hirata (2-8-1984)	Hirata Family
Yuki Masumoto (2-26-1986).....	Chiyoko Masumoto
Shima Fudo (2-13-1988).....	Miyoko Yamanishi
Miki Moriyama (2-17-1988)	Madeline Clogston

<u>DECEASED</u>	<u>FAMILY MEMBER</u>
Sada Sameshima (2-1-1989)	Ricardo Y. Sameshima
Eda Asamen (2-24-1989)	Masako Uyeji
Misao Sugiyama (2-5-1992)	Sugiyama Family
George Hoshizaki (2-9-1993)	Carolyn Jackson
James Nicolas Link (2-27-1993).....	Kathryn Moriyama Liss
Mary Sugimoto (2-15-1994).....	Florence Koga
Yajuro Nemoto (2-25-1994).....	Nemoto Family
Koyoshi Nakamura (2-19-1995)	Nakamura Family
Otomatsu Yoshihara (2-23-1995)	Hiroko Kubota
Iwao Yagura (2-2-1998).....	Yagura Family
Fumiko Momita (2-18-2001)	Gary Asao Momita
Mary Hoshizaki (2-27-2001)	Hoshizaki Family
Satoshi Jack Takagi (2-2-2002).....	Takagi Family
Shie Hagio (2-13-2002)	Hagio Family
Carol Inouye (2-3-2004)	Craig Inouye
Masami Honda (2-8-2005).....	Amy Honda
Fred Hashiguchi (2-17-2006).....	Miyoko Hashiguchi
Shigeru Joseph Shiraishi (2-22-2006)	Shiraishi Family
Bette Torio (2-16-2007)	Wesley Torio
Patsy Harue Yanagihara (2-1-2008).....	Yanagihara Family
Suzu Shizuko Yamada (2-25-2008).....	Bert Masumoto
Doris Miyashiro (2-7-2009)	Amy Sato
Tsuneo Niwa (2-9-2014).....	Niwa Family
Toshiharu Glenn Yonekura (2-21-2011).....	Kikuko Takashima
Ronald Nishinaga (2-27-2012)	Mani Ryan
Yoshinobu Wakabayashi (2-6-2013)	Yoshiko White
Rose Watamura (2-1-2014).....	Elizabeth Takasaki
Fumie Yamashita (2-13-2014).....	Friends
Mary Matsumoto (2-24-2014).....	Kay DeFord
Mariko Tanizaki (2-25-2014).....	Gary Tanizaki
Hideko Okada Smith (2-17-2016).....	James E. Smith
George Yamamoto (2-11-19).....	Ann Yamamoto

M E M O R I A L S E R V I C E S

MEMORIAL SERVICES allow us to pay homage to loved ones who have passed away. In our Jodo Shinshu tradition, family members hold a service at certain intervals following a relative's death to express gratitude for and acknowledge their continuing influence in our lives. If you wish to schedule a memorial service for a loved one, please call during weekly office hours.

2020 is the memorial year for those who passed away in:

1st Year Memorial	2019	13th Year Memorial	2008	27th Year Memorial	1994
3rd Year Memorial	2018	17th Year Memorial	2004	33rd Year Memorial	1988
7th Year Memorial	2014	25th Year Memorial	1996	50th Year Memorial	1971

DONATIONS

The Buddhist Temple of San Diego is grateful to the following individuals and organizations for their donations to the Temple and its affiliated organizations. "IMO" means "In memory of." For a corrections or questions, please contact the temple at 619-239-0896 or info@btsd.net.

Please Note: Donations to Services not held in the past or next month will be listed in the month of that service. (i.e., A donation for Hanamatsuri will be listed in the April Kaiho).

BTSD

Fujii, Paul and Joan
IMO Kirk Akahoshi
Araki-Kawaguchi,
Corrine & Michael
IMO Kirk Akahoshi
IMO Rev. Tesshi Aoyama
Honda, Mikiye - Memorial
Service, 25th Year
IMO Ben Honda
Memorial Service, 33rd Year
IMO Shigeo Amano
IMO Sumiye Nakashima -
Sara Kashima
Memorial Service, 50th Year
IMO Osamu Amano
Omori, Terri & Ford -
IMO Ben Honda -
25th Year Service
IMO Shigeo Amano -
33rd Year Memorial
IMO Osamu Amano -
50th Memorial
Honda, Ralph & Avis
IMO Ben Honda - 25th Year
IMO Shigeo Amano, 33rd year
IMO Osamu Amano -
50th Year
Nakagawa, Mami
IMO Sumiye Nakashima
Uyeji, Masako - Calendar
Sato, Steve
Yamamoto, Ann Miyuki
Hidinger, Holly & Ron
Hara, Ruby - Service
Godfrey, Sharon Y -
Godfrey Yasuda Family
Araki-Kawaguchi,
Corrine & Michael
Griffin, Antwan
Kajita, Timothy & Junko -Year
End
Akahoshi, Glenn & Karen
IMO Kirk Akahoshi
McCarvel, Roger
Kinoshita, Michael -
Treasurer's Printer & Ink
Takeshita and Heyamoto
Families - Donation for
Pat Takeshita Heyamoto
Driscoll, Christine
Murakami, Ron and Karen -
January 12 Visitation
Driscoll, Christine & Yagi Family
- Thank you for Kindness
IMO Chiyeko Yagi

Asamen, Timothy K.
IMO Kirk Akahoshi
Ryan, Mani and
Yamaguchi, Laura
Masuda, Todd --
Peter, Amy Masuda & Family
Schraeder, Susan & Steve -
General Fund

BODHI DAY SERVICE

Yamamoto, Jane
Koga, Florence
Benson, Agnes
Moncrief, Mayko
Ryan, Mani and
Yamaguchi, Laura

DHARMA SCHOOL

Benson, Agnes
Sugiyama, Chiyeko
Moriyama, Chieko
Tsukamoto, Wayne
Hara, Ruby
Sumida, Floyd & Kaytee
Estes, Toshiye
Tokunaga, Ron T. & Kris
Yanagihara, Tom & Coleen

EITAIKYO FUND

Benson, Agnes
IMO John E. Benson,
Spouse
Copeland, Karen Matsumoto
IMO Dorothy Suyeno
Matsumoto, Mother
IMO Harry Tokio
Matsumoto, Father
IMO Elaine Tatsuko Barrett
Sister

EITAIKYO SERVICE

Benson, Agnes

END OF YEAR (Joya-E)

Uyeji, Masako
Graeber, Kiku
Ryan, Mani and
Yamaguchi, Laura
Masumoto, Chiyoko
Sasaki, Brian & Lorin

FLORAL FUND

Ryan, Mani and
Yamaguchi, Laura
Oyama, Rodney & Candice
Benson, Agnes
Sugiyama, Chiyeko
Moriyama, Chieko
Tsukamoto, Wayne
Hara, Ruby
Graeber, Kiku
Sumida, Floyd & Kaytee
Estes, Toshiye
Tokunaga, Ron T. & Kris
Yanagihara, Tom & Coleen

GENERAL MAINTENANCE

Ryan, Mani and
Yamaguchi, Laura
Oyama, Rodney & Candice
Benson, Agnes
Sugiyama, Chiyeko
Moriyama, Chieko
Tsukamoto, Wayne
Hara, Ruby
Graeber, Kiku
Sumida, Floyd & Kaytee
Estes, Toshiye
Tokunaga, Ron T. & Kris
Yanagihara, Tom & Coleen

HO ONKO SERVICE

Ryan, Mani and
Yamaguchi, Laura
Hamada, Gary
Moriyama, Chieko
Kuwada, Howard Kanji
Nogata, Yuriko
Otsuji, Dennis & Elaine
Benson, Agnes
Tsuji, Masako
Yamamoto, Koichi & Joyce
Tanaka, Kelvin & Lara
Yamamoto, Jane
Shigehara, Wilbur
Suyenaga, Irene
Monji, Yoshiko
Masumoto, Chiyoko

IMPROVEMENTS

Yonekura, Roy & Susan

JOYA-E (End of Year)

Ochi-Fontanott, Janet
Kawasaki, Kiyoshi & Itsuko
Sumida, Floyd & Kaytee

MAP

Ryan, Mani and
Yamaguchi, Laura
Honda, Mikiye
Benson, Agnes
Sugiyama, Chiyeko
Moriyama, Chieko
Tsukamoto, Wayne
Hara, Ruby
Graeber, Kiku
Sumida, Floyd & Kaytee
Estes, Toshiye
Alroy, Evelyn
Tokunaga, Ron T. & Kris
Yanagihara, Tom Masaru
Tanaka, Kelvin

MEMBERSHIP DUES

--2018
Tanaka, Dr. Terry & Naomi
--2019
Tanaka, Dr. Terry & Naomi
Oyama, Rodney & Candice

Kajita, Timothy & Junko
Yamada, Laurence
--2020
Ryan, Mani and
Yamaguchi, Laura
Umekubo, Lisa
Hirae-Reese, Lorna
Nishikida, Laurie
Benson, Agnes
Tomiyama, Steve
Araki-Kawaguchi, Corinne
Sugiyama, Chiyeko
Moriyama, Chieko
Tsukamoto, Wayne
Honda, Tom
Omori, Shirley
Williams, Yukari
Hara, Ruby
Graeber, Kiku
Sumida, Floyd & Kaytee
Alroy, Evelyn
Tokunaga, Ron T. & Kris
Bradford, Qamar A.
Yanagihara, Tom & Coleen
Tanaka, Kelvin & Lara
Yamamoto, Peggy and Steve
--Other
Tanaka, Dr. Terry & Naomi
Kajita, Timothy & Junko
Benson, Agnes

MOCHI GOME

Isakari, Henry & Marcia
Tanaka, Terry & Naomi

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Shusho-E
Benson, Agnes
Graeber, Kiku
Ryan, Mani and
Yamaguchi, Laura
Kawasaki, Kiyoshi & Itsuko
Sumida, Floyd & Kaytee
Ochi-Fontanott, Janet
Benson, Agnes
Ochi-Watson, Shirley
Rev. Sasaki, Laverne &
Mrs. Helen
Kiuchi, Motoko, Binger Family
Matsumoto, Richard

NIRVANA DAY

Ryan, Mani and
Yamaguchi, Laura
Benson, Agnes

OSEIBO

Isakari, Henry & Marcia
Kawasaki, Mildred & Trace
Voorhies, Ruth
Sugiyama, Yukiko
Omori, Shirley
Honda, Ralph & Avis

Continued on pg. 7

Kuwada, Howard Kanji
 Takashima, Helen K
 Ryan, Mani
 Wiederkehr, Jeff & Laura
 Yanagihara, Sumiko
 Moriyama, Chieko
 Tsuji, Masako
 Kodama, Jay
 Masumoto, Chiyoko
 Amemiya, Mary O
 Benson, Agnes
 Morinaka, Asako
 Sugiyama, Chiyeko
 Nakatani, Nancy & Fred
 Tanaka, Kelvin
 Shigehara, Wilbur
 Estes, Toshiye - Wishing the
 Temple great success in
 2020
 Amano, Takeko
 Yamamoto, Koichi & Joyce -
 Thank you all for what you do
 Jones, Mikako
 Hara, Ruby
 Aloy, Evelyn
 Graeber, Kiku
 Honda, Mikiye
 Ochi-Fontanott, Janet
 Amano, Nobuko
 Nakamura, Jake k. & Patty
 Kawasaki, Kiyoshi & Aileen
 Ochi, K Kay
 Ohara, Ann
 Morikawa, Kazuhiko
 Koga, Robert & Chelsey
 Tomiyama, Steve & Aki
 Tanaka, Terry & Naomi
 Ohara, Fumiko
 Tomiyama, Sayoko
 Sakai, Jeffery & Kathy
 Nishiguchi, Richard
 Hamada, Gary
 Kaneko, Richard
 Tsuneyoshi, Motoo & Angie
 D'Orsi, Linda
 Hosaka, June
 Kawamoto, Yukio and Mitsuo
 Yamamoto, June
 Hill, Miyo
 Gladsjo, Julie
 Hotta, JoAnn Katsuda
 Moribe, Susan
 Spears, Margo
 Otsuji, Dennis & Elaine
 Oyama, Rodney & Candice
 Koga, Florence
 Yamamoto, Jane
 Araki-Kawaguchi, Corinne
 Negoro, Glenn
 Kida, Katsumi
 Yamanishi, Miyoko
 Baker, Carol & Mike
 Moncrief, Mayko
 Himaka, Norman
 Nakamura, Shari

Torio, Betty
 Koga, Bobby & Chelsey

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Ryan, Mani and
 Yamaguchi, Laura
 Hirae-Reese, Lorna
 Benson, Agnes
 Moriyama, Chieko
 Tsukamoto, Wayne
 Hara, Ruby
 Sumida, Floyd & Kaytee
 Estes, Toshiye
 Tokunaga, Ron T. & Kris
 Yanagihara, Tom & Coleen

SHOTSUKI HOYO

Benson, Agnes -
 August - December 2019
 Moriyama, Chieko and
 Clogston, Michael and
 Clogston, Madelene
 IMO Harry T. Matsumoto
 IMO Dorothy S. Matsumoto
 IMO Elaine Matsumoto Barrett
 Ohara, Fumiko
 IMO Takenori Ohara
 Hamada, Gary
 IMO George Hamada
 IMO Leora Hamada
 IMO Pat Heyamoto
 IMO Satoru Hata
 IMO Tatsu Hata
 IMO Sen Watanabe
 Tsukamoto, Wayne
 IMO B. Tsukamoto
 Ishizaki, Sheryl
 IMO Priscilla Ishizaki
 Takashima, Ronald T.
 IMO Hashio Yonekura
 IMO Ryu Yonekura
 Tomiyama, Steve & Aki
 IMO Kiyoko Santohigashi
 Santohigashi, Shunichi
 Honda, Mikiye
 Graeber, Kiku
 IMO Kiyoko Santohigashi
 Himaka, Michio & Naomi
 IMO Osao Himaka
 IMO Shizuko Shimizu
 Kashima, Jeanie
 Hill Miyo
 IMO Jon Konishi
 Nakamura, Jake K. & Patty
 IMO Jon Konishi
 Voorhies, Ruth
 IMO Kotake Kondo,
 Grandmother
 Kashima, Sara
 IMO Ben Honda
 IMO Tets Kashima
 Oto, June
 IMO Jeffery Akira Oto
 Benson, Agnes - January
 February
 March

Honda, Ralph & Avis
 Takashima, Wilbur
 IMO Hisaichi Taniguchi

Copeland, Karen Matsumoto
 IMO Dorothy Suyeno Matsumoto
 IMO Harry Tokio Matsumoto
 IMO Elaine Tatsuko Barrett

BTSD's FIRST COMMUNITY BINGO VERY SUCCESSFUL

The temple's first solo venture of conducting the monthly community event was a huge success. There were 65 players, veteran players, numerous new faces and many winners who attended the session on January 11.

As the annex hall was filling up with players, many greeted one-another with big smiles, Happy New Year hugs and handshakes. The session began with a celebratory toast of sparkling cider signaling good luck to all players.

Then, the fun began when the BINGO balls began swirling around in the air-controlled hopper, and caller, Sensei Smitty, blurted out the first number of the night. As the evening progressed, there was much excitement as players were closing in on winning a BINGO. Even Kenji Sensei was showing signs of excitement as he came close on several occasions.

Many thanks to the dedicated donors who continued to support BINGO with food items and drawing prizes, making the evening very enjoyable. Thank you to "Friends of BINGO" volunteers Kiku, Ruby, Betty and Irene for taking care of the concession stand. It was truly a big help! Thanks to temple president LuAnn Lee helping with kitchen clean up.

A heartfelt thank you is extended to the VFW veterans from Asian Pacific Post 4851 who shadowed the BINGO Buddies committee last month, providing helpful guidance. After many years of coordinating the monthly event, the number one comment from Bob Buzzard, Gene Davies and Bob Poston was, "We can now relax and play BINGO!"

The next session will take place on Saturday, Feb. 8. Doors open at 4:30 p.m. with the first game starting at 6:00. Food concession sales will include hot dogs, chili dogs, chili and rice, donuts, and coffee, hot tea and water.

Bingo buy-in is \$10 for the 12-game session. Cash prizes are awarded to BINGO and consolation winners per game. A warm-up game precedes the first game.

Future BINGO dates include: March 14, June 13, September 12 and December 5. The committee anticipates announcing more dates in the coming months. Stay tuned. Please contact the temple for more information.

Bring out family members and friends for a fun and enjoyable evening and have a chance to yell BINGO!

SANGHA HALL IS POLLING SITE FOR MARCH PRIMARY ELECTION

The County Registrar of Voters has selected the Buddhist Temple of San Diego as a polling site for the 2020 Presidential Primary election on Tuesday, March 3.

County's poll workers will arrive at 5:45 a.m. and will work until 9:30 p.m. Voters in the neighborhood's precinct will be able to cast their ballots in the Sangha Hall from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Please contact the temple with any questions or comments regarding the Sangha Hall's use for the primary election.

The temple is very privileged to be working with the Registrar of Voters and the voters in the neighborhood for providing this valuable service to the community.

マウンテンビュー仏教会「回向」 二〇二〇年二月法話

—— 全ておまかせ ——

駐在開教使 向嶋裕史

親鸞聖人がお開きになられた浄土真宗は、信心を根本とする「信心正因・称名報恩」(意識・信心一つが浄土へ生まれて仏になる正しい因であり、南無阿彌陀仏を称えることは報恩感謝を表すお念仏である)の教えであります。

私達はよく「信心をいただきますよ」と聞かされていますが、「どういう心の状態を信心をいただいたというのだろうか?」と、皆さんの多くがこの疑問を抱きつつお念仏を称えておられることと思います。そこで、今月は、浄土真宗のみ教えの要となる信心について皆さんと共に少し味わってまいりたいと思います。

まず、親鸞聖人は信心について無疑心という言葉方をされています。疑心というのは私達の「はからい」を表しているのですが、この「はからい」を別の言葉で親鸞聖人は「信罪福心」とおっしゃっています。信罪福心というのは、自らの罪を恐れ、自らの功德をあてにする心をいいます。このような心を持つ人は、善い事をすれば必ず善い結果が生まれ、悪い事をすれば必ず悪い報いを受けるという「善因善果・悪因悪果」、つまり、仏教の因果の道理を熟知されておられる方です。

親鸞聖人も因果の法則を無視した宗教は偽物ではないと厳しく批判されています。ですが、浄土真宗では、信罪福心のような、悪を犯したものは浄土に往生できないと考えたり、善を積んだから浄土に往生できるであろうという教えは否定されています。なぜなら、浄土真宗は、阿彌陀仏の智慧と慈悲の

結晶であるお名号(南無阿彌陀仏)が私達に至り届いた信心という因によって、私達は往生成佛の果を得ることができるといふ因果の法則に従った教えだからです。そして、往生の因である信心とは、自分の力が浄土往生について何の役にも立たないのだと認識することであり、浄土往生はひとえに阿彌陀仏の本願力にあると信知することです。すなわち、信心とは、自らはからいを捨てたり、阿彌陀仏の本願力に全ておまかせするということなのです。これを「種深信」というのですが、自力のほからいを持つ信罪福心とは大きく異なります。

皆さんの中にも、悪いことをすると地獄に墮ちると思つて、自分の日常生活を省みては、本当にお浄土に行けるのだろうかと思配されている方がおられると思います。また、仏教会にお参りしてお念仏を称えることがお浄土参りをもたらすのだと考えて、お念仏に励んでおられる方もいるはずですが、しかし、このような心を自力のほからいというのです。

お念仏しているから、お浄土に生まれることは間違いないと思つこともはからい。感謝のお念仏はしているけれども、腹を立てたり、人を妬む心を捨てられないでいる自分は、ひよつとするとお浄土に行けないのではないかと思つ心もはからい。このような心の状態であつたら、信心をいただいたとは言わないのです。皆さんの中で、「私はお念仏しているから大丈夫」と思っている人はいませんか?これは信心をいただいた人の言葉ではありませんよ。

信心をいただきたいということは、信罪福心がなく、つまり、自力のほからいのない世界をいいます。阿彌陀仏のほからいでお浄土に参つて、仏にならせていただくのですから、自らはからいは必要ありません。

しかし、私達人間は生まれてきてから死ぬまでず

つと、自らはからいばかりの生活です。つねに理屈をならべ、自分の限られた物差しだけで物事を見ています。ですから、私達は自らはからいを否定するのを嫌がります。しかし、善いことをする者が助かって幸せになり、悪いことをする者が悪い報いを受けると考えるのであれば、正直言つて私達は誰一人としてお浄土には行けないのではないのでしょうか。なぜなら、たとえ善いことをしたとしても、その心の奥底には自己中心の根つこがあつて、自分の算盤勘定をもとに、善い報いを得たいという心で善いことをしているのにすぎないからです。痛いところをついています、真の智慧をそなえた仏さまから見れば、私達のはからいは非常に不純で不完全なものなのです。

ですから、親鸞聖人は、不完全な自力のほからいを捨てて、阿彌陀仏のほからいの中に身を委ねて真の安らぎを得なさいと教えて下さっているのです。

信心をいただくということは、私があればこれ心配するのではなく、阿彌陀仏のほからいがあるからと安心しきつて全てをおまかせすることなのです。むしろ、自分のはからいが、阿彌陀仏の本願の邪魔にしかならないのだと自らの愚かさ反省する世界をいいます。必ず浄土へ導くという阿彌陀仏の本願は私達の信じる心や疑いの心によって決して影響されるものではありません。当てにならない私の心で阿彌陀仏を信じるのではなく、私の信じる心も、疑う心も打ち捨てて、真の安らぎの中で阿彌陀仏のおほからいに全ておまかせすることです。このお心をいただく事を「絶対他力の信心」といいます。

「まかせよ、そのまま救う」と誓われた本願に全てを委ね、報恩謝徳のお念仏を称えながら皆さんと共に心安らかな一年を過ごしてまいりたいと切に願っております。

Buddhist Education

Great Buddhist Education Opportunities in February

Not only do our usual programs continue (see below) but we are able to supplement the visit of our Guest Speaker, **Rev. Diana Thompson**, who will be providing the Dharma messages for the Nirvana Day and BWA Memorial Services on Sunday, February 16. That is, Thompson Sensei will be providing a special BCA Lecture on Saturday, February 15, at 7 p.m., in the Sangha Hall. Rev. Thompson is resident minister of the Tri-State Buddhist Temple in Denver.

Ongoing Programs: *Buddhism 1-2-3* in February will be held **Wednesdays (February 5, 12, 19, and 26)** at 7 p.m. in the Sangha Hall. We meet in an informal setting to chant, meditate, and explore the Dharma. *Introduction to Buddhism* occurs this month on **Sunday, February 23** at 9 a.m. in the Conference Room with BEC lay speaker, **Kaytee Sumida**. The one-hour course is a one-time opportunity to learn about Buddhism in general and our Jodo Shinshu tradition. The setting is informal, and questions are welcome. Attendees are encouraged to attend the following service in our main building at 10 a.m.

Membership News

Bill Teague, Membership Chair

Wow, our members are the best. We already have a high percentage of members (22% as of mid-January) who have filled out forms for renewals and paid for 2020. Some of you even renewed in November and December of the last year, in some cases before 2020 forms were ready.

Importance of Early Payment

Our Temple keeps its doors open because of three main sources of funding: *dues, donations, and fundraisers*. To operate on our proposed budget, we count heavily on dues at the start of the year – or for those of you now making monthly payments – to make that budget. While proceeds from *fundraisers* and *donations* are also major sources of revenue, from year to year they can vary based on many factors. (We recently added a fourth source of revenue with an investment property, which provides a minor but steady source of revenue.)

Catch-up in February

Please accept our apologies that most of you have not yet received outreach showing our prepared format for you to review and approve for 2020. Your membership chair is catching up in February and that outreach is ongoing. Or if you prefer, go to our website to download the membership form from the **new Member** menu item. Membership forms are also available in the vertical file on the office counter along with the Special Services Donation form.

March Will Be Membership Month

Stay tuned for member-specific events in March to celebrate you, our essential members. Your membership keeps our Temple strong at the core.

2019 Tax Statements on Their Way

As the newsletter goes to press, the Treasurer's Committee is preparing tax statements now identifying monetary donations (cash, check, and credit card) over the last year, for your use in preparing 2019 income taxes. The committee expects to post the statements no later than January 31 for arrival in the first week of February. If the statement does not arrive by Monday, Feb. 10, please contact the Temple.

INTRODUCING REV. DIANA THOMPSON, NIRVANA DAY AND BWA MEMORIAL SERVICE SPEAKER

In February, the Buddhist Temple of San Diego will be privileged to have Rev. Diana Thompson serve as guest speaker for a BEC-sponsored presentation on Feb. 15 and the Nirvana (Nehan-E) Day and BWA memorial service on Feb. 16.

Rev. Thompson is the resident minister of the Tri-State Buddhist Temple in Denver, Colorado.

Diana Sensei is a Colorado native, who grew up attending the Denver temple where she has benefited from receiving and embracing the Jodo Shinshu teachings.

Prior to becoming a minister, Rev. Thompson studied at the Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS) with an eye towards becoming a kaikyoshi minister with the BCA. She, along with Kenji-Sensei were classmates during their studies at IBS. Rev. Thompson graduated from IBS in 2012. Rev. Thompson, Kenji-Sensei and several other ministers received Tokudo and Kyoshi minister ordination together. Rev. Thompson would later receive her Kaikyoshi status as a full-fledged minister.

Following graduation from IBS, Rev. Thompson, and her daughter Serenity, now 15, moved back to Denver in August 2012 to rejoin the Denver Sangha.

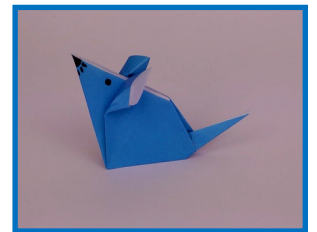
In 2015, Rev. Thompson participated in the minister's Dharmathon session at the BCA National Council Meetings held in San Diego.

Having very strong ties with the Denver YBA, which she was a member of during her youth, Rev. Thompson accompanied the group on its Sunshine Tour, in 2017, to temples throughout California, which included a visit to BTSD.

Rev. Thompson will serve as one of six featured guest ministers who will speak at the 73rd Annual Northwest District Buddhist Convention, Feb. 21-23 in Seattle.

Please welcome Rev. Diana Thompson to our city and temple as she shares the Dharma. *Gassho*.

**Join Us for Crafts
And a Pot-Luck
Feb. 5 & 19
at 10 am**



Save the Date
**The JFG Annual
Cherry Blossom
Festival
March 20-22**