The Nembutsu Journey: Entering the Stream of Light and Life

By Rev. Dr. Kenji Akahoshi, Resident Minister

The metaphor of a journey is quite appropriate for a Buddhist life. For us Buddhists, it is the present moment that is most important. This means that each step in our journey is significant, not the final destination. Many religions base their validity on the supernatural, on miracles, or on the eternal afterlife. Many Americans have reduced the role that religion plays in their life because these systems of belief no longer feel relevant. The advances of scientific discovery, psychological insight, and the sophistication and history of our philosophical thought, have rendered many religions as unreliable. Fortunately, Shin Buddhism does not rely on literal translations to validate deep spiritual truths. The Buddha’s Teachings are based on observations of the natural world, deep insight of the human condition, and an intuitive connection with all that is beyond thought.

Before his death, the Buddha’s words to his followers were “to be a light onto yourselves.” He advised that his followers test out teachings, even his own, in order to perceive it to be real for them. The Buddha’s intention was not to establish a new religion of beliefs. He was providing a guide to the concerns of the human conditions of sickness, old age, and death. He said that he taught the truth of suffering and the resolution of suffering.

The magnitude of the Buddha’s insight and teachings is overwhelming. Many masters have studied, contemplated, and elaborated on segments of his teachings. Scholars can attest to the complexity and depth of the insights of the Buddha. We are fortunate that Shinran was able to condense the teachings of Honen and the other 6 patriarchs in a manner that is accessible to us, the ordinary, common person. Although it is important to understand some of the basic principles of the Buddha’s view of life, we are not attempting to replicate the Buddha’s Enlightenment. We are simply following a guide that is in harmony with the natural flow of the world and the human condition within it.

The difficulty for American Shin Buddhists is that we have been raised in a culture that is based on the Abrahamic religious traditions of an exterior God, whose judgment decides our eternal after-life. With this prevailing religious background, it is easy to be confused with our own basic understanding of Shin. Consider the difficulty of explaining American football to a European who knows “football” as soccer. Although they may share the same name, the differences of equipment, rules, and strategies would determine that they have different goals and are two different games.

Jodo Shinshu is even a little different from other schools of Buddhism, at least in the eyes of many Western Buddhists. Many converts seem to be attracted to Buddhist practice as a means of achieving some status of enlightenment. The Buddhist’s practices of meditation and mindfulness have become incorporated as basic parts of medical therapy. This is a wonderful expansion of our contribution to the betterment of health. But we are reminded of T’An-luan’s success as a Taoist master, in achieving optimum health. In his meeting with the Indian monk, Bodhiruci, T’An-luan is challenged with the question of death. Since even those with the best of health will succumb to the effects of old age and death, T’An-luan accepts the Buddhist sutras and turns to the Pure Land path. Shinran notes Nagarjuna’s description of the Nembutsu path as an easy journey on the flow of water, compared to a difficult overland path. I have been describing the difference of the path of monks of “achieving,” from the Nembutsu path of “receiving.” The point of this distinction is that the Nembutsu practice is not to gain any merit nor achieve any status. It is to become aware of the Compassion of Amida Buddha, which is received.

It would take many sessions and even a demonstration to explain the intricacies of American football to a European soccer fan. Similarly, it takes some explanations, with discussions, questions, and demonstrations to clarify Shin Buddhism to those who are unfamiliar with it. And here at BTSD we have several opportunities to do this. On Buddhism 1-2-3, our first two Wednesdays of each month will be devoted to explaining the basics of Shin Buddhism. On the 3rd Thursday of the month, the traditional meaning of Shoshinge is explored with a discussion on its relevance in our current life. When Shinran’s 13th century teachings are updated to a 21st century interpretation, we can experience the power of its spiritual depth. Unlike the limits of T’An-luan’s Taoist practices, the Nembutsu path or journey, has practical benefits that extend to the spiritual realm. These evening sessions will encourage discussions and questions to help personalize the teachings to your own understanding and testing.

For our 90th Anniversary celebration in October, Bishop Kodo Umezu will be our honored guest. He will be conducting a Kieshiki ceremony. This is a personal declaration of taking refuge in the Three Treasures of the Dharma. It is formalized by receiving a Buddhist name. More information on this process will be coming shortly. Metaphorically, it is entering the stream of Light and Life and actively being on the Nembutsu Journey. This is the easy path of many awakenings. Each “thank you” is an awakening to Namo Amida Butsu. This path leads to many practical joys, which elevates our life journey to the spiritual level of the Nembutsu.

Gassho
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<td>6</td>
<td>9 a.m.– Dharma School Staff Mtg. @ CR 10 a.m.– DS/FAMILY SERVICE 日曜礼拝 March Shotoku Memorial 三月祥月法要 11:45 a.m. – BWA Meeting @ CR Noon – Taiko Practice @Annex Hall BCA Ministers Assoc. Mtg. @ Visalia, CA JFG Cherry Blossom @ Balboa Park</td>
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<td>DINNER/DANCE, 5 to 10 p.m. @ Annex Hall (Kenji Sensei guest speaker at Gardena Buddhist Church)</td>
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<td>Daylight Savings (turn your clock forward one hour) 10 a.m.– DS/FAMILY SERVICE 日曜礼拝 11:30 a.m.- Jr. YBA Mtg. Noon - Taiko Practice @Annex Hall</td>
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<td>Vernal Equinox 10 a.m. – SPRING OHIGAN 春季彼岸会 (Rev. Gregg Gibbs) 11:45 a.m. — Spring Lunch fundraiser @ AH</td>
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<td>9 a.m.— Intro to Buddhism @ Sangha Hall 10 a.m. – DS/FAMILY SERVICE 日曜礼拝 Noon — Taiko Practice @ Annex Hall</td>
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PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

By Glenn Torio, Board President

We have been enjoying beautiful summer like weather as of late, let’s hope the El Nino will continue to bring much needed rain to us between these nice San Diego days. Even with the most recent storms, we are still in a drought situation. This is a concern of the Temple Eco Sangha Committee. This is a new up and coming committee that deals with all aspects of ecology, such as using “green” food containers at Temple events like bazaar and recycling. Please look for and use the temples recycle containers. As you know, Buddhist are ecologist and we are doing what we can to help our earth by recycling and thinking “green”. The committee will be hosting an Earth Day Event April 17th after service in the Annex, hope to see you all there!

Though unable to attend, my thanks go out to all who attended the Temple General Meeting on January 24. The Slate of candidates for the new Temple Board of Directors was approved at that time. The February Board of Directors meeting is when the slate of candidates is discussed, any other candidates are added to the slate and new executive Board is voted in. I am happy to announce the new Temple President is Lu Ann Lee, 1st VP (Ways and Means) Michael Kinoshita, 2nd VP (Activities) Glenn Torio, 3rd VP (Membership) Bill Teague, Treasurer: Akie Tomiyama, Recording Secretary: Nancy Martinez and Corresponding Secretary: Karen Okuhara. In addition to the Executive Board, there are 13 other Board members including three new members. The new Board was installed at the Nirvana Day service, February 14th. Please join me in congratulating the new Temple Board Members and continue to give your tremendous support. I would like to take this time to thank the Temple Board of Directors for keeping us heading forward onto bigger and better things! Lastly I thank you the Sangha for continuous support and best wishes for the future of Our Temple.

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

1. The Board welcomed new Board member Carol Baker (new members Mark Madeira and Laura Henschen were unable to attend.
2. Congratulations to Board member Kimberly Kruse on the birth of Jeff and Kimberly’s baby boy Jaden.
3. The Board ratified the cost of cleaning carpets in the main building and two rooms in the annex.
4. The Executive Board for 2016 was approved - President - LuAnn Lee
   1st Vice President (Ways & Means) - Michael Kinoshita
   2nd Vice President (Activities) - Glenn Torio
   3rd Vice President (Membership) - Bill Teague
   Recording Secretary - Nancy Martinez
   Corresponding Secretary - Karen Tom
5. The Young Adult Buddhist Association (YABA) will be on temporary inactive status.
6. The Taiko group will be participating at the Cherry Blossom Festival (3/5) and the Asian Cultural Fair (5/7)
7. The Board approved co-sponsoring an on-site meeting of the Franciscan Peace Connection on March 13th
8. The Board was updated on the planning for the Dinner Dance, the Cherry Blossom Festival, the Southern District Conference, and the 90th Anniversary observance.
9. Issues with the temple’s website were discussed and a corrective plan is proposed.

BWA NEWS

Mukojima Sensei gave terrific messages at our annual BWA and Lady Takeko Kujo Memorial Service, and the Nirvana Service which followed, on Sunday, February 7th. Everyone seemed to appreciate and enjoy the okumotsu, or manju and goldfish cracker treats from the BWA to the Sangha. It was wonderful to visit with the whole Mukojima family at the potluck luncheon, and to see how Kurumi-chan and Oji-kun had grown.

We have an opportunity to sell some of our craft items at the upcoming Southern District and Southern District BWA conference to be held on Saturday, June 18th. If you haven’t yet come to any craft sessions, this is a great time to begin. You can learn and make items for yourself, and make a few extra to sell if you’d like. Please join us from 10 am – 2 pm in the dining room for our twice a month craft sessions — on the first and third Wednesdays, March 2nd and 16th.

Whether you have practiced tai chi or not, I think that you will enjoy the sessions lead by our instructor, Mark Madeira. The free sessions are for all age groups, and are held every Saturday at 10 am, and Wednesdays at 9:30 am.

The first quarterly Southern District BWA (SDBWA) meeting was held at Vista on Saturday, February 13th. In attendance were representatives from many southern district temples, and the Vista and San Diego cabinet members. One of the main topics of discussion was the 2016 Youth Exchange Program, where 2 women (18-24 yrs) from southern district temples will be selected to visit Japan from July 18th-29th. A passport which will be valid until at least 6 months beyond July 29th will be necessary. Applications are available at the BTSD office.

Looking ahead, there are several activities to enjoy. The BTSD odori and taiko groups will be performing at the Japanese Friendship Garden’s Cherry Blossom festival on Saturday, March 5th, and the BTSD Dinner/Dance/Casino “All Night Long” event on Saturday, March 12, should be a lot of fun.

One more activity to participate in is the factory tour of Taylor Guitars, in El Cajon, April 15th, at 1 pm. Its fine guitars are used by many famous artists such as Taylor Swift. The tour is free, but you must sign up to be included. Please contact your Group leader or Sue (858-565-6594) to sign up. Finally, thank you in advance to Groups C and D for hosting hospitality on April 17th, with food and drink provided by the temple.

Check out the BWA website: southerndistrictbwa.weebly.com, or through the direct link from the website for the temple at btsd.net. Please take a peek to see what we’ve been doing.

Our next meeting will be held on March 6th, at 11:45 am, when Group D will be hosting. Hope to see you then!

SPRING LUNCH FUNDRAISER AFTER HIGAN SERVICE

Enjoy the first day of spring by purchasing a ticket for a delicious Chinese lunch fundraiser that will take place on Sunday, March 20 following the O Higan Service. Donation is $6 for a plate of special pork chow mein, broccoli beef, steamed rice and salad. The luncheon will be from 11:45 to 1 p.m. in the Annex Hall.

Call the office today to reserve your lunch ticket!
DANA PROGRAM BENEFITS BCA, BTSD
TEMPLE SHARE DONATIONS

Last October members and supporters of the temple received a letter and brochure from the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) introducing the Dana Program.

The Dana Program is a fundraising effort to create a simple, easy, and transparent way for members and supporters the opportunity to give to the BCA. The program encourages recurring gifts from donors, and the monies can go to any program and activity of the BCA year after year.

Through recurring or a one-time payment of your choice, you can support the BCA’s temples, ministers, educational programs, Center for Buddhist Education (CBE), Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS), the Bishop’s Office, as well as outreach events and programs. Also, you can opt to direct 50% of your donation to a local temple/church of your choice through the temple share option.

Less than three months old, BTSD received the first Dana Program allotment of the Temple Share donations, in the amount of $745, from donors who selected the Temple Share option for BTSD (The list of donors can be found on the donations page).

Potential donors have several options of donating. Monetary gifts may be done online at https://bca.kindful.com/

If you prefer to donate by check, direct bank transfer or wish to request more information, please contact the BCA by email at donate@bcahq.org or phone (415) 776-6000 ext. 311.

Thank you for considering your support to BCA with its Dana Program. This month’s meeting will be on March 13 following the Dharma School service.

JR. YBA NEWS

On January 23, seven members attended Seminar I at the Orange County Buddhist Church. The theme was “Buddhism in the Bathroom.” Although the theme sounds rather strange, each member learned how grateful they are for all of the things that they have in life, including modern technology, like our cellphones. We all had a great time!

We welcomed the Vista Jr. YBA on January 31 when the annual BTSD-Vista Buddhist Temple exchange was hosted at our temple. Everyone enjoyed the company, including lunch. Breven Honda gave a presentation encouraging members from both chapters to consider running for positions on the Southern District Jr. YBL Cabinet.

Breven, along with Trina Muraoka, Davis Ong, Sean Tokunaga and Jill Yamanshi participated in the Southern District Volleyball Tournament on Feb. 6 at OCBC. Breven, who is the district’s second vice president, played on the cabinet team that won the tournament. Jill’s team placed second.

Everyone had a great time!

Last month’s meeting was held on February 7. We assigned members the responsibilities to chair upcoming fundraisers and activities.

At the Nirvana Day Service on Feb. 14, we recognized Mrs. LuAnn Lee and Mr. Glenn Torio for their years of service as head advisors to the local chapter. Thank you very much for your guidance!

“In The I’s Of The Beholder” was the theme for Seminar II that was co-hosted by the West L.A. and Venice Jr. YBAs and held at the West Los Angeles Buddhist Temple on Feb. 20. Seven members attended the seminar.

Members hosted hospitality following the service on February 21.

On March 26, senior portraits, 2016-17 cabinet applications and suggestions for the district’s endowment project are due to the Southern District.

In Gassho,
Kenji Niwa
Jr. YBA President

Dharma School News

On January 31, we hosted the annual exchange with the Vista Buddhist Temple Dharma School and Sangha. Vista students joined our Dharma School classes. Following the service, everyone who attended the service enjoyed a luncheon hosted by the BTSD Dharma School. As always, it was a nice gathering for both temples to catch up with each other’s friendships. Thank you to our Dharma School families and Sangha members who provided side dishes, salads and desserts. There was quite a variety a food to share.

Congratulations to Jeff and Kimberly Kruse on the birth of their son Jaden. Baby Jaden was born on February 3. Now, big sister, Juliana has the task of taking care of her little brother.

Thank you to Rev. Mukojima for sharing his message for Nirvana Day, and for bringing Putra and telling us about the 6 birds on the Onaijin. It was nice to see Mika-san and their growing children Kurumi and Oji. Both Kurumi and Oji participated in the Dharma School classes.

Thank you to the 10th through 12th grade class for leading chanting of the gatha Ju Sei Ge during the Nirvana Day service. Rev. Mukojima was very impressed to see and hear how much the five participants had matured in leading the chanting. When Mukojima Sensei was in San Diego he began involving the kids with chanting when they were in the 6th and 7th grades.

During March, the Pre-School through grade 1 class will be responsible for the fruit and floral offering before each service. Thank you Dharma School students.

The next teacher and staff meeting will be on Sunday, March 6 at 9 a.m.

Dharma School is requesting monetary donations towards the purchase of flowers for Hanamatsuri. Sangha members may also donate flowers that will decorate the Hanamido. Teachers, students and friends will decorate the Hanamido on Saturday, April 9 at 1 p.m. The Hanamatsuri service is on April 10 starting at 10 a.m.

On Sunday, April 16, our DS Class craft or lesson plans will focus around Earth Day.

Gassho,
Avis Honda, Superintendent

2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Congratulations to members of this year’s BTSD Board who were installed on February 14 during the Nirvana Day service:

Executive Board Members
Roy Okuhara, Endowment
Steve Marx, Technology
Kaytee Sumida, IRC
Joyce Teague, Scholarship
Gregg Yonekura, Solicitation
Kimberly Kruse, Social Media
Carol Baker, Al-large
Laura Henchsen, Al-large

Board Members
Mark Madeira, Al-large
Rev. Dr. Kenji Akahoshi, Ministerial Advisor

2016 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Gregg Yonekura, Solicitation
Kimberly Kruse, Social Media
Carol Baker, Al-large
Laura Henchsen, Al-large

Board Members
Mark Madeira, Al-large
Rev. Dr. Kenji Akahoshi, Ministerial Advisor
**SCRIP NEWS**

Great news for those of you who shop at Nordstrom’s. Great Lakes Script Center now has Nordstrom gift cards in $25 and $100 denominations. So if you’re a Nordstrom shopper, stock up on your gift cards and order them so that you will have them when you need them.

Please let us know if there are gift cards that you would like us to keep on hand. We try to keep the most frequently bought gift cards readily available for sale. Just a reminder that orders, if needed, are sent in on Sunday afternoons after temple. Gift cards usually arrive by Friday afternoon in the temple office.

Thanks again for everyone who is supporting the script program. The program is only as successful as those of you who support it. Also thanks to those of you who shop at Ralph’s and Food 4 Less. Don’t forget to show your Ralph’s and Food 4 Less cards when checking out.

Buy script for a safer way to shop!

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**Buddhist Education Opportunities in March**

**Bill Teague, BEC**

**Saturday, March 19: Choosing Meaning in Our Buddhist Living**

To allow us to make the most of our Ohigan observance, guest speaker Rev. Gregory Gibbs of the Pasadena Buddhist Temple will be presenting a special lecture on Saturday, March 19, at 7 p.m. in the Sangha Hall. (And of course, Gibbs Sensei will be presenting Dharma Talks for the Ohigan observance the morning of Sunday, March 20.)

In the evening presentation, titled “Choosing Meaning in Our Buddhist Living,” Rev. Gibbs will examine Buddhism as an existential quest to find meaning in our lives—as illuminated by our Nembutsu tradition.

“Twenty-four centuries or so before Nietzsche and Sartre,” Rev. Gibbs explains, “Sakyamuni Buddha showed a way of finding meaning in our lives with few pre-suppositions and no reliance on authority. Out of that context of an existential religious quest came grand schemes of practice, thought and vision. Still, the individual Buddhist, in the end, must choose what meaning to give to his or her life. We will discuss these matters and consider whether we can embrace the vows of the Bodhisattvas as we are ourselves embraced and taken along by Amida Buddha’s Promise of Universal Liberation.”

**Third Thursday, March 17, Examining Shoshin Ge**

Please join Kenji Sensei for a look at five stanzas in this important gatha by Shinran, as we study them to understand what Shinran is telling us about Buddhist awareness in terms that we all understand. The monthly class meets in the Sangha Hall, at 7 p.m. This is the fifth of six sessions.

**Fourth Sunday, March 27, at 9 a.m.**

For a basic overview of Buddhism and our Nembutsu tradition, please join Kaytee Sumida at 9 a.m. in the Sangha Hall. The informal overview allows time for questions and lasts one hour; participants are invited to the following service. Many of our members have attended and appreciated learning about the historical context for our Nembutsu tradition. The class is also popular with college students on assignment to learn more about Buddhism today.

**Buddhism 1-2-3 Each Wednesday**

Our informal 7 p.m. get-together continues each Wednesday, in which we can all participate in the Buddhist activities of chanting, meditation, and discussing the Dharma. In March, Kenji Sensei is looking at the traditional practices and doctrines in Jodo Shinshu so we can see how they apply to us in our everyday lives. Kenji Sensei plans on leading two of the sessions in March, with other sessions led by members of our Sangha.

The sessions take place in the Sangha Hall and last about 90 minutes.
“AMERICAN SHIN BUDDHISM: NEW VOICES” IS THEME FOR SOUTHERN DISTRICT CONFERENCE IN SAN DIEGO, JUNE 18

Over 200 delegates are expected to meet in San Diego this summer for the annual Southern District and BWA Conference.

American Shin Buddhism: New Voices is the theme and will take place on Saturday, June 18 from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Mission Valley. Throughout the conference the emphasis of Listening, Hearing and Being... will apply.

Registration fee is $65 which includes lunch, the opportunity to listen to the Dharma from speakers and panelists, and meeting and reuniting with Sangha friends from other temples throughout the district.

Keynote speaker will be Rev. Kodo Umezu, Bishop of the Buddhist Churches of America. Umezu-senrei, will deliver the Dharma in both English and Japanese, and will be followed by a series of presenters during the morning Dharmanth session.

Presenters for the English Dharmanth will be Kenji Sensei, Rev. Kory Quon (Venice Buddhist Temple), Rosalyn Dong (Vista Buddhist Temple) and Maribeth “Smity” Smith (BTSD). Japanese-speaking presenters will be Rev. Mutsumi Wondra (Orange County Buddhist Church), Rev. Yoshiko Miyaji (Gardena Buddhist Church), Rev. Kazuaki Nakata (Los Angeles Betsuin) and Noriko Kawai (BTSD).

During lunch, the Southern District BWA will hold its quarterly meeting.

The afternoon session will focus on panel presentations with a diverse group representing ministers, individuals from various Southern District temples, Jr. YBA and Youth Ministers Assistants.

Participants for English panel 1 includes: Tina Donisi (Vista), Emily Kariya (Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple) and Judy Nakatomi (Vista). English panel 2 includes: Morgan Gee (Southern District Jr. YBL president), Kurtis Omori (Youth Ministers Assistant) and Bobby Koga (BTSD). Panelists for the Japanese session includes: Rev. Ryuta Furumoto (Senshin Buddha Temple), Rev. Nobuo Miyaji (Gardena Buddhist Church) and Rev. Umezu.

Ministerial advisors are Kenji Sensei and Rev. Marvin Harada, supervising minister at Vista. BTSD and Vista Buddhist Temple are serving as co-hosts and have been meeting monthly going over various aspects of the day’s program. The committee last met on Feb. 21.

BTSD is accepting registration and seeking temple volunteers to help with various aspects of the conference. Please contact the temple office for more information.

Gassho,
Ralph Honda, Chairman

Calling All Volunteers for the Cherry Blossom Festival!

We will need to get ready for the festival, here at BTSD, on
Friday, March 4, 3:00 p.m.—9:00 p.m.
At the Japanese Friendship Garden on
Saturday, March 5, 10 a.m. —4 p.m.
Clean Up, 4 p.m. —6 p.m.
Sunday, March 6, 10 a.m. — 4 p.m.
Clean Up, 3 p.m. —5 p.m.
Please sign up at the temple, or call the office to put your name down. Thank YOU
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.

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<th>Wisteria Member</th>
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Recommended Annual Donations (Optional):

FLORAL OFFERING FUND (Suggested annual donation of $40) .................................................. $  
This fund helps defray cost of regular fresh flowers for the Onaijin (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.

KITCHEN COMPLIANCE PROJECT ......................................................................................... $  

TOTAL AMOUNT  $  

AMOUNT ENCLOSED $  

*PLEASE INDICATE PAYMENT SCHEDULE:  
_______ Annually  ____ Semi-annually  ______ Quarterly  _____ Monthly  

To use credit card:  
_____ Visa  _____ MasterCard  Acct# ______________________________________________________ Expires (MM/YY) _____ / _____

Authorized signature (if charging): __________________________________________________________
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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.
ENVELOPE FREE DONATION: Conveniently plan your special service donation(s) by using your credit card. Please indicate the amount you wish to donate for each service and the treasurers’ committee will take care of your transaction.

Name ____________________________ E-mail ____________________________
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City ____________________________ State ______ Zip code _______________
Phone (_______) __________________________ Work Phone (_______) ____________

Credit card: □ Visa □ Mastercard (credit cards will be charged during the month of each special service.)
Credit Card #: ______________________________ Expires (MM/YY): ________/_______
Authorized signature (if charging): ____________________________ ____________________________
Billing address (if different from above): __________________________________________________

SPECIAL SERVICES 2016

$ New Year’s Day (Shusho-e) – January 1
This is a day of dedication. With renewed resolution, we dedicate ourselves to the way of the Nembutsu.

$ Ho-Onko (Shinran Shonin Memorial Day) – January 17
Commemorating the memory of Shinran Shonin (May 21, 1173 – January 16, 1262), the Founder of Jodo Shinshu (True Pure Land sect). Shinran Shonin was the first to teach absolute faith in Amida Buddha.

$ Nirvana Day (Nehan-e) – February 14
On this day we solemnly observe the passing of Sakyamuni Buddha into Parinirvana.

$ Spring Higan (Higan-e) – March 20
Higan (“Other Shore”) is observed on or around the Spring equinox. During this time, harmony rules throughout the universe. Therefore, we gather before the shrine of Amida Buddha to devote ourselves to the realization of this harmony in our inner lives.

$ Hanamatsuri (Buddha Day) – April 10
Celebrating the birth of Gautama (the historical Buddha) in Lumbini Garden. A flower shrine (“Hanamido”) is set up in front of the main altar representing Lumbini Garden. The sangha offers flowers and pours sweet tea over a statue of the infant Buddha.

$ Gotan-e / Fujimatsuri (Shinran Shonin Day) – May 15
Shinran Shonin was born near Kyoto, Japan on May 21, 1173. On this day we observe his birth as the founder of the Jodo Shinshu sect.

$ O Bon (Bon) – July 31
Bon is a Buddhist Memorial Day. It is an occasion for rejoicing in the enlightenment offered by the Buddha. It is often referred to as the “Gathering of Joy.”

$ Fall Higan (Higan-e) – September 18
The sangha gathers once again, on or around the Fall equinox to recall the practice of the Six Paramitas.

$ Eitaikyo (Perpetual Memorial) – November 13
On this day, all dedicated members and Dharma friends who devoted themselves to the spiritual welfare of the temple, whether known or unknown, are honored so that we may continue to practice the Buddha’s teachings.

$ Bodhi Day (Jodo-e) – December 4
Gautama meditated under the Bodhi Tree (Tree of Enlightenment) and became a Buddha; perfect in Wisdom and Compassion.

$ Joya-e (Year-end Service) – December 31
On New Year’s Eve we meditate on the countless blessings we have received throughout the year and express our gratitude to our parents, our nation, all beings and Amida Buddha.

Please mail this form to: Buddhist Temple of San Diego c/o Treasurers
2929 Market Street
San Diego, CA 92102

For any questions about Special Service credit card donations, please call the Temple at (619) 239-0896, or send inquiries to the Treasurer at info@btsd.net.
仏婦2016年3月会報

1) 2月14日（日）午前9時より、九条武子夫人追悼法要ならびに当仏婦会員先亡者追悼法要が行はれた。午前10時から涅槃会法要が行はれた。特別講師は、前任開教使向嶋裕史師。参拝者全員に婦人会から、お供物の饅頭が配布され、参拝者一同が感謝されていた。

2) 向嶋夫妻ならびに子息も参加され、楽しい法要であった。

3) 6月16日（土）南加教区仏婦大会が行はれます。当日、当仏婦の手芸品が販売されます。手芸教室は、第1、第3水曜日、午前10時から午後2時まで。

4) タイチ教室：毎週水曜日、午前9時半。講師：マデイラ・マーク氏。

5) 2月13日（土）ビスタ仏教会において、南加仏婦連盟会議が行はれた。議題には、南加教区仏青代表2名（18才から24才の女性）が、交換代表として7月18日から29日まで訪日する。訪日希望者は、各仏婦会まで申し出て下さい。

6) 3月5日（土）桜まつりに、太鼓団演奏

7) 3月12日（土）デナー、ダンス、カシノナイト

8) 4月15日（金）テーラギター

9) 4月17日（日）ハスピタリティ当番

10) 3月定例会議 3月6日（日）午前11時45分 当番D
MARCH SHOTSUKI HOYO (March 6),
CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL (March 5-6)
DINNER & DANCING (March 12)
SPRING OHIGAN (March 20),

The March Memorial Service (Shotsuki Hoyo), will be observed March 6 in conjunction with the Family Service beginning at 10 a.m. Shotsuki is an opportunity to remember family members and friends who passed away during the month of March.

During the weekend of March 5 and 6, the temple will participate in the annual Cherry Blossom Festival sponsored by the Japanese Friendship Garden in Balboa Park. The temple will offer a food booth sale and demonstrate Bon Odori.

Tickets are still available for the 2016 Dinner Dance. This will be a Wonderful Evening, complete with a Catered Dinner, Dancing, Casino Games & Drawings! The dance will be held on March 12th from 5-10 p.m. and tickets are $60. Invite your friends and come out for a fun evening.

The Temple cordially invites you to the Spring Ohigan Service on Sunday, March 20, at 10 a.m. The word “higan” literally means “the other shore,” a Buddhist metaphor for Nirvana. In contrast, the world in which we live in is called “this shore” or Samsara, the transient world of suffering and pain. The observance of Spring Ohigan allows the Sangha to express gratitude toward Amida Buddha for his infinite Wisdom and Compassion. Our guest speaker will be Rev. Gregory Gibbs, Pasadena Buddhist Temple.

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

Spring O Higan
Sunday, March 20, 2016
10:00 a.m.

With Guest Speaker, Rev. Gregory Gibbs

from the Pasadena Buddhist Temple

On Saturday, March 19, Rev. Gibbs will be giving a Special Dharma Lecture at 7:00 p.m. in the Sangha Hall.
The title will be “Choosing Meaning in Our Buddhist Living.”
This special Buddha Dharma opportunity by the Buddhist Education Committee is free and the public is welcome.