Bodhi Tree? - Christmas Tree?
By Rev. Dr. Kenji Akahoshi, Resident Minister

As a Buddhist child in Christian America, I always felt awkward and uncomfortable in December. As a father, it became a challenge to explain the rationale of a Christmas Tree and gift exchange in a Buddhist family. How can we be part of an American tradition when we are not part of that belief system? It has become apparent to me, that there is a basic difference in how we view the world. The prevailing sentiment in the Judeo-Christian West, is the notion of an absolute truth. For those who adhere to this system, it is paramount that one views it in the vision of their prophet. Those who differ from that perspective, are deemed outside of that system. The limitations of this system, is that different prophets have prescribed different views. Thus we see conflict among the divergent ideologies of the Abrahamic traditions (Christians, Jews, Muslims).

On the other hand, Buddhists recognize and honor the diversity of perspectives regarding Truth. We have the example of the blind men voicing various parts of an elephant as the truth of the whole elephant. This perspective allows the short-sighted opinions of one human to be as valid as another. Thus there appears to be little conflict among Buddhists sects and indeed toward other religions.

For a Buddhist, a Christmas tree may be seen as a Bodhi tree. It is this tolerance and acceptance of the “other” that marks one strength of Buddhism. It is only a weakness or failure in the eyes of the “one-view-of-truth” system. This profound view of truth has guided many countries of the East. I feel that there is a thirst for this view in America.

The recent election process demonstrated the problem of the “one-view-of-truth” system. Trump and his supporters focused on what he saw as not working well. I have been suggesting that a focus on what we don’t have can engender a sense of discontent (duhkha). In contrast, by focusing on the elements and conditions that support us, we begin to appreciate the interconnected nature of all things that have made our lives possible. This awakening to our interdependence might inspire us to acknowledge this interdependence by supporting others. In contrast, the election demonstrated the insatiable needs of the ego.

Shin Buddhism has much to offer in this dilemma of the individual ego within society. On the surface, it is easy to identify candidate Trump with the dangers of his attachment to his ego. He selectively rejects some parts of our society and embraces other parts. His pejorative speech, conduct, and attitude made this clear. His binary assessments and shallow perception of complex issues also runs counter to the Buddhist view of a deep and broad reality that cannot be comprehended by a single individual. This opens up another dimension of Buddhist thought. We might realize that if we are disappointed with the election result, it is a reflection of our own ego attached, shallow views.

The Buddha taught the middle path and Shinran emphasized our inability to diminish our ego-centric biases. It seems that many supporters of Trump see themselves as victims of a changing global stage where they feel at the mercy of forces beyond their control. As their expectations of the status quo are unfulfilled, anger was projected toward outside forces. It may be difficult to admit that other segments of American society have endured these conditions for generations. What is missing is wisdom and compassion.

Wisdom would inform us that life continually changes, with little regard to individual welfare. The Buddha’s wisdom is to teach that it is our how we respond to these changes that determine our discontent or satisfaction. The results of this election may be viewed as a human caused tsunami, that has damaged some of our most cherished principles of democracy. And if we feel that way, it must be addressed with the same determined effort of recovery from a natural disaster.

Compassion teaches us to feel what the other is feeling. Future decisions of this president, administration, and party will determine many factors that may only be seen by our children or grandchildren. Enjoying the good life now, may be viewed that it is at the cost of a long range view of sustainability. Trump must heal his divisive rhetoric of the campaign by demonstrating a humane inclusiveness in presidential and congressional legislation and not only by words. The meaning of his words seem to change with each news cycle.

As Buddhists, we can offer that a diverse view of reality is in harmony with all faiths at all times. We can compromise our own needs for the welfare of others, especially our children. The Buddhist path forward is to demonstrate that our “many-views-of-truth” insure that all voices are heard and respected. May Wisdom and Compassion prevail.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>DAY</th>
<th>EVENTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Garden Villas Senior Lunch, BTSD hosts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>12 noon — Gar-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>den Villas Senior Lunch, BTSD hosts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>10 am — Koto Class, Sangha Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>10-30 am — So.,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Minster’s District Minister’s Mtg., LA, Betsuin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>12 noon — DS/Staff Mtg., la, Betsuin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>10 am — Craft Day, DR, Minyo Group, S.C.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>6:45 pm — Board of Directors Mtg., CR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>11 am — Mochigome Washing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>11:30 am — BWA Bonnekai</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>11 am — Mochituki Prep, Jr. BWA Installation dinner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>10 am — Koto Class, Sangha Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>SATURDAY</td>
<td>Temple Closed</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thanksgiving has come and gone. Now, its December!

Yes! One good thing is since it came a few days earlier this year, we will have a few more days to get ready for the holiday season.

I want to wish everyone a restful and enjoyable Thanksgivings day and weekend with family and friends.

Fall is my favorite time of year. It’s a time when it’s not too cold and usually not too hot (except our 90 to 95 degree weather last week) and is the calm before the hustle and bustle at the end of the year.

As November came so did the elections. We have all heard so many negative comments from people all over the U.S. and have seen riots on TV. It’s a scary time as the nation is split. Change can cause anxiety, anger and fear.

A couple of things that helped me feel some comfort was talking to others and knowing they feel the same way. We encouraged each other to do what we have control over and that is to be kind to one another. Reverend Wondra emphasized this in her Dharma School message about the Golden Chain at the Eitaikyo service. Also on our way to the Southern District Meeting in Gardena, I was able to talk with Rev. Kenji and he had some insight on understanding others and their behavior. We are lucky to have Dr. Reverend Kenji Akahoshi as our Resident Minister. He has a Masters in Psychology as well as all his other accomplishments. He is a great resource and I hope you get a chance to talk with him in the near future.

I look forward to December and our Mochitsuki on Sunday the 11th. We hope all of you can come out and participate in this long time tradition of pounding rice and enjoying the company of our wonderful sangha.

In Gassho,
LuAnn Lee

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

The Board of Directors met on November 13th :

1. The refurbished Onaijin tables, damaged during shipping, will be returned to Japan for repair and are due back in April.
2. Condolences to the family of Umeko Kawamoto who passed away November 6, 2016.
3. Condolences to the family of Kimiye Tachiki who passed away October 27, 2016.
5. A negative Profit and Loss is projected at the end of the fiscal year.
6. Funding was approved for two of our Minister’s Assistants to attend a December 10th seminar at the Jodo ShinShu Center.
7. The temple donated items for the JSSDT Gala Silent Auction.
8. BTS will host the 2017 Southern District Dharma School Teachers League conference on Sept. 2, 2017.

BWA NEWS

We all enjoyed hearing the wonderful message by Rev. Mutsumi Wondra, from the Orange County Buddhist Church, who was our guest speaker for the Eitaikyo/Lady Eshinni Memorial Services on Sunday, November 13. Her afternoon lecture was also enjoyed by many of our members.

The service was followed by our annual Chirashizushi Fundraiser Sale. A big “Thank You!” to everyone who came out to help on Friday, Saturday and Sunday to prepare the chirashi. Some of us are in the process of learning from our seasoned pros who have been doing the job all of these years. It’s fun to learn and practice the art of chirashi making. Thank you also to Groups A & C who organized the chirashi making, and prepared the meals for our guests on Sunday. That was such a busy day! Thank you to Group C, who also hosted hospitality on that same day!

The craft group has been meeting every Wednesday in November to prepare for the sale at San Diego State University on Thursday, Dec. 1. We are still looking for helpers for that day. If you can help set up and/or take down, please contact Margo Spears. Beginning in December, we will be returning to our regular craft group schedule of the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 10 am – 2 pm. Please join us to learn some new crafts, socialize with friends, and share in a delicious potluck lunch too!

Our famous Almond Brittle and Brittle Corn is now on sale! Please get them while they last, as they make terrific gifts for family and friends, near and far. It’s also great as end of the year or thank you gifts for teachers, postmen, etc.…. It’s not too late to sign up for our annual Bonenkai, which is scheduled for Saturday, December 10, from 11:30 am, at the Gordon Biersch Brewery Restaurant, located in Mission Valley. Please let your Group leader know if you would like to attend. We will have a delicious lunch ($10 per member/$0 for members over 90 yrs old), do a $10 gift exchange, and share some warm memories.

Mochitsuki this year will be on Sunday, December 11th, the day after our Bonenkai. Workers will be needed from 6 a.m. until the work is completed, maybe about 2 or 3 p.m. Please come when you are able and stay as long as you can. The more helpers we have, the faster the job will get done. It is a lot of work, but one of the most enjoyable events at the temple too!

On December 18, following the Dharma School/Family service, a general temple cleanup and Butsugu no Omigaki (cleaning of shrine items) will begin at 11 a.m.

There are two ways to get to the BWA website: southerdistrictbwa.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 meeting in December will be on the 4th, with Group C providing dessert or side dishes. We will be supporting the Jr. YBA fundraiser by purchasing their $7 chow mein for our lunches that day. Hope to see you then!
DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

At our November meeting, the staff voted to host the 2017 Southern District Dharma School Teachers League Conference on Saturday, September 2. Our first planning meeting will be on Sunday, Dec. 18 at 9 a.m. Please come out if you wish to help us plan this activity.

On Nov. 5, Richard Matsumoto attended the Southern District Dharma School Teachers Mini-Workshop, hosted by the Nishi Dharma School. The theme was *Origination of Pure Land Teachings* and was led by Rev. Kaz Nakata. Richard mentioned that it was good and very interesting. The next mini-workshop will be at the Orange County Buddhist Church on Saturday, February 12, 2017.

We wish to thank Rev. Mutsumi Wondra from the Orange County Buddhist Church who delivered a message to the Dharma School students at the temple’s Eitaikyo Service on Nov. 13.

The annual bowling day was Sunday, November 27 at Kearny Mesa Bowl. Dharma School students bowled for free, and were joined by the adult members. Everyone had a great day of rolling strikes! There were no gutter balls since the rails were set up for the kids. Thank you to Leslie Seymour for making all the arrangements for this activity.

All students and families are encouraged to participate in the Bodhi Day Service on Sunday, Dec. 4. Bodhi Day commemorates Prince Siddhartha’s enlightenment, becoming Sakyamuni Buddha.

Our students are getting ready for Mochitsuki that will take place on Saturday, Dec. 10. Thank you to Hailey Sasaki and Trevor Muraoka for co-hosting the dinner at their home. The packages were given to UPAC (United Pan Asian Communities) who presented the food to Asian families in need. This social service project expresses our Dana (giving) and is a very worthwhile. Thank you to Trina Muraoka for overseeing the project. And, to Trina, Hailey Sasaki and Breven Honda for doing the grocery shopping.

Please support our annual *Chow Mein Luncheon fundraiser* that will take place on Sunday, Dec. 4 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. after the Bodhi Day Service. Donation is $7 for a plate of delicious pork chow mein and noodles! Tickets may be purchased from any Jr. YBA member. Preparations for the luncheon will take place on Saturday, Dec. 3 starting at 4 p.m. Thank you to Breven Honda and Trevor Muraoka for co-chairing the luncheon.

The annual *installation dinner* for the new cabinet will take place on Saturday, Dec. 10. Thank you to Hailey Sasaki and her family for hosting the dinner at their home.

Members are looking forward to participating in the temple’s Mochitsuki on Dec. 11. The Jr. YBA will donate towards the purchase of mochitsuki supplies.

On Sunday, Dec. 18, the Jr. YBA will have a *Recycling Day* as we spread awareness of EcoSangha. Please save your CRV (California Redemption Value) plastic water bottles, aluminum cans and glass bottle and bring it to temple on your next visit. You may place your donations in the blue bins marked Jr. YBA Recycling located in Room 4. Proceeds will benefit Jr. YBA activities. The group is planning several more Recycling Days for 2017 so stay tuned!

The group extends a most appreciative *THANK YOU* to everyone for your generous donations and support throughout the year. Have a wonderful and safe holiday season. Arigato Gozaimashita!

Gassho, Breven Honda, Co-president

---

JR. YBA NEWS

We started November by hosting hospitality after the Dharma School/Family Service on Nov. 6. Thank you to the members who set up, hosted snacks and cleaned up after the gathering.

Our monthly general meeting was held on Nov. 13 following the temple’s Eitaikyo Service. The group talked about past and upcoming activities. Later in the afternoon, we got together with the Vista Jr. YBA to begin planning for the 2017 Southern District Jr. YBL Conference. The conference will take place Sept. 2-3 at our temple. Davis Ong will serve as co-chairman along with Alex Kasai from Vista. The committee is currently putting together a “Save the Date” handout that will be distributed at the Southern District’s Jam Session on Dec. 3. Our next meeting will be Dec. 18 at Vista starting at 4 p.m.

Thank you to everyone who donated towards the annual *Thanksgiving Basket Food Drive*. Enough food was collected to give to four families in need so that they can enjoy the Thanksgiving holidays. In addition to non-perishable food items and monetary donations collected, we shopped for turkeys, fresh vegetables, pies and other goodies. Members separated the food on Sunday, Nov. 20.

The packages were given to UPAC (United Pan Asian Communities) who presented the food to Asian families in need. This social service project expresses our Dana (giving) and is a very worthwhile. Thank you to Trina Muraoka for overseeing the project. And, to Trina, Hailey Sasaki and Breven Honda for doing the grocery shopping.

Please support our annual *Chow Mein Luncheon fundraiser* that will take place on Sunday, Dec. 4 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. after the Bodhi Day Service. Donation is $7 for a plate of delicious pork chow mein and noodles! Tickets may be purchased from any Jr. YBA member. Preparations for the luncheon will take place on Saturday, Dec. 3 starting at 4 p.m. Thank you to Breven Honda and Trevor Muraoka for co-chairing the luncheon.

The annual *installation dinner* for the new cabinet will take place on Saturday, Dec. 10. Thank you to Hailey Sasaki and her family for hosting the dinner at their home.

Members are looking forward to participating in the temple’s Mochitsuki on Dec. 11. The Jr. YBA will donate towards the purchase of mochitsuki supplies.

On Sunday, Dec. 18, the Jr. YBA will have a *Recycling Day* as we spread awareness of EcoSangha. Please save your CRV (California Redemption Value) plastic water bottles, aluminum cans and glass bottle and bring it to temple on your next visit. You may place your donations in the blue bins marked Jr. YBA Recycling located in Room 4. Proceeds will benefit Jr. YBA activities. The group is planning several more Recycling Days for 2017 so stay tuned!

The group extends a most appreciative *THANK YOU* to everyone for your generous donations and support throughout the year. Have a wonderful and safe holiday season. Arigato Gozaimashita!

Gassho, Breven Honda, Co-president

---

**TEMMPLE TO HOST GARDEN VILLAS SENIOR LUNCH**

- BTSD will host the Garden Villa Senior Lunch Day on Friday, Dec. 2 from noon to 1 p.m. The cost is $3 per person for a nice hot meal.

- Thank you to Ken Muraoka and the temple volunteers for preparing the lunch.

- Garden Villas is located at 1260 Third Avenue in Chula Vista.

Gassho, Avis Honda, Superintendent
It's holiday gift giving time. Consider a donation in your loved one's name to a charitable group like Heifer International, a charity organization working to end hunger and poverty around the world by providing livestock and training to struggling communities or local groups that help the impoverished or homeless children. It has less impact on the environment but has a huge impact on those struggling in this world.

Now is a good time to start making a list for the holiday season. Gift cards are a great gift for everyone on your holiday list. For the men in your life, you can get Home Depot, Lowes, Golfsmith, Big 5, or Bass Pro Shop gift cards. For women, we have Macy’s, Nordstrom’s, Bath & Body Works, Old Navy, JC Penny’s, Sears, and many more shops. For children, Toys R Us gift cards are available. Target, WalMart, Barnes & Noble, Staples, Office Depot, iTunes, Amazon.Com are great gifts for anyone on your holiday list.

Restaurants are also great gifts. Great Lakes carries not only fast food such as Arby’s, Carl’s, Burger King, El Pollo Loco, Jack in the Box, Subway, Smash Burger, Wendy’s and Taco Bell, but also Chili’s, Applebee’s, Olive Garden, Red Lobster, Claim Jumper, Mimi’s Café, Black Angus, Cheesecake Factory, and Outback Steakhouse. Gift cards are also available for fine dining at Ruth Chris, Flemings, and Morton Steakhouses.

Place your orders as soon as possible. Mail can get delayed the closer it gets to the end of December.

Buddhist Education Committee

Buddhism 1-2-3. Our Wednesday night informal sessions continue through the first half of the month, on Dec. 7 and Dec. 14. We start at 7 p.m. and usually run 90 minutes, with time for meditation, chanting, and Dharma discussion. We meet in the one-story Sangha Hall.

Kenji Sensei is personally leading both these sessions, so please join us for a break from the hectic holidays.

Following our holiday break, Buddhism 1-2-3 resumes on Wednesday, January, 4, 2017.

No Fourth Sunday; Join Us in January. In December we will not be holding a 9 a.m. session on the fourth Sunday. Our next opportunity for this one-hour introductory class, covering the history of Buddhism and our Temple, will be on Sunday, January 22, at 9 a.m. We will meet in the Sangha Hall.

Save the Date: BEC Lecture Saturday Evening, January 14. Rev. Dean Koyama, of Palo Alto Buddhist Temple, is our guest speaker for the Ho Onko service in January 15, and will be presenting a special lecture on Saturday, Jan. 14, at 7 p.m. in the Sangha Hall. Stay tuned for more information about his talk.

2016 Membership: The Last Ten Percent

As of early November, we only have ten percent of our membership who have yet to renew for 2016. We’ll do a special round of letters and phone calls to make sure we close the gap before the end of the year!

A special apology to those of you who had renewed 2016 early; several of you were incorrectly reported as not renewing in our last listing. This won’t happen again, I promise!

Bill Teague, Membership Chair

Craft Days

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

YEAR-END/NEW YEAR ACTIVITIES

Please join us for the final service of 2016, the annual Joya-E (year-end) gathering on Saturday, Dec. 31 at 7 p.m. The service includes sutra chanting, meditation, a Dharma message from Kenji Sensei and ringing of the kansho (bell).

Later that evening, the temple will host the annual Joya No Kane (bell-ringing ceremony), at the San Diego Yokohama Sister City Friendship Bell on Shelter Island. The event begins at 11:30 p.m. with a short service, followed by the ringing of the large bell (bonsho), in which everyone will have the opportunity to ring. Plan a little extra time, as parking near the bell is limited, and dress warmly.

Welcome the New Year with Shusho-E, the first service of 2017, on Sunday, Jan. 1 at 10 a.m.

Kenji Sensei and the Temple look forward to your participation with the Year-End and New Year activities. Please call the temple for more information.
MOCHITSUKI DAY IS SUNDAY DECEMBER 11

Each December temple members and friends of all ages, from the youngest Dharma School student to the young at heart, gather for a day of participating in the Japanese cultural tradition or making mochi (small circular rice cakes) for the New Year.

The annual Mochitsuki will take place on Sunday, December 11 from 6 a.m. to 3 p.m. Everyone is encouraged to participate.

The temple is planning to wash and steam 900 pounds of mochigome (sweet rice), which will produce approximately 1,300 pounds of mochi.

For you mochi-making veterans and those new to the temple, mochitsuki requires a lot of people power. The day will be busy with jobs for everyone. First-timers, don’t be shy to jump in and lend a hand. The veterans will assist you.

Here is a schedule of activities for mochitsuki weekend. Volunteering your help for any or all of the days listed will be greatly appreciated:

- **Friday, Dec. 9** – Mochigome rice washing from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- **Sat., Dec 10** – Equipment check and setup from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- **Sunday, Dec. 11** – Mochitsuki Day (6 a.m. to 3 p.m.)

The following information will give you a brief perspective of the mochitsuki production:

- Steaming mochigome (sweet rice)
- Grinding and pounding the steamed rice into mochi. A little bit of muscle is required (For you early risers, we can use some manpower between 6 and 8 a.m., and throughout the day)
- Cutting and shaping mochi (Lots of work done by the adult ladies and men)
- Cooling station (fanning and turning the mochi until cool – a simple task for kids and newcomers)
- Packaging station (weighing and packaging into one pound bags)
- Runners (Deliver the packaged mochi to the pickup/sales area. The kids are fast with deliveries).
- Clean up

Most importantly, many smiles, rekindling friendships, appreciating a cultural tradition and having a lot of fun!

Do you see a one or several work stations, where you can volunteer your time for a few hours?

**Mochi Order Presales:** The deadline for pre-orders is Sunday, Dec. 4. Donation is $4.50 for a one pound bag (approximately seven pieces). The two-piece kasane for your home O Buttsudan is $7.00. Please fill out the order form that can be found in this month’s Bussei Script or the BTSD website. Orders received after the deadline will be placed in standby.

- **Mochi pick up:** Orders must be picked up between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.
- **Donations:** Are being accepted for the purchase of supplies. The suggested donation is $75.
- **Other sales:** During mochitsuki holiday gifts may be purchased. Browse and buy at the O Bon Again Shop, Kaytee’s White Elephant and Kris’ Tupperware. The BWA will be selling their Almond Brittle and popcorn.

**Potluck lunch:** Bring your favorite food to share for the potluck luncheon that will be served to all of the volunteers.

**Contact the temple:** To place your order, volunteer your time or for more information at (619) 239-0896 or info@btsd.net

BTSD’s mochitsuki is enjoyable and rewarding experience. The temple looks forward to seeing you during mochitsuki weekend!

In Gassho,

Ralph Honda and Glenn Negoro, Co-chairs
The Buddhist Temple of San Diego
would like to say...
Thank you to the Past ABA group!
Johnny and Tsune Hashiguchi
Umeko Kawamoto
Yuki and Mits Kawamoto
Miki Honda
Motoo and Angie Tsuneyoshi
Tom and Sumi Yanagihara

for funding the air conditioning and heating system in the Hondo.
It was their last gift to the temple.
It is now so comfortable for the Sangha to share the Dharma for years to come.
Also, Thank you to Michael Kinoshita and Ken Muraoka for overseeing the project and making sure it was completed.

The Buddhist Temple of San Diego
would like to say...
Thank you to the Past ABA group!
Johnny and Tsune Hashiguchi
Umeko Kawamoto
Yuki and Mits Kawamoto
Miki Honda
Motoo and Angie Tsuneyoshi
Tom and Sumi Yanagihara

for funding the air conditioning and heating system in the Hondo.
It was their last gift to the temple.
It is now so comfortable for the Sangha to share the Dharma for years to come.
Also, Thank you to Michael Kinoshita and Ken Muraoka for overseeing the project and making sure it was completed.

MOCHITSUKI ORDER FORM
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2016

NAME: ______________________________________________ PHONE: ____________________
EMAIL ADDRESS: ________________________________________________________________

💰 KO-MOCHI PACKAGE: ___________ x $4.50 = COST $_______________
(Ko-Mochi is sold by the package, not by weight. Each package is approximately 1 pound)
💰 KASANEMOCHI PACKAGE: ___________ x $7.00 = COST $_______________

TOTAL COST = $_______________

Send order form with check to: Buddhist Temple of San Diego, Attn: Mochi
2929 Market Street, San Diego, CA 92102.

OR Send an e-mail order to: info@btsd.net

Deadline to order is SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2016.

Orders received AFTER the deadline will be placed on STAND-BY. All orders must be picked up at the Temple
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13, between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.
Orders not picked up by 3 p.m. will be subject to resale.

Questions? Please call the temple (619) 239-0896 or send e-mail to: info@btsd.net
仏婦2016年12月会報
皆様お元気ですか。11月13日（日）の永代経/恵信尼・慰霊祭（Eitaikyo/Lady Eshinni Memorial Services）での、ワンドラ睦先生（Rev. Mutsumi Wondra）のメッセージは多くの方々に大変素晴らしい話でしたと喜ばれるでしょう。永代経/恵信尼・慰霊祭の直後は、ちらし寿司販売をしました。金/土/日曜日に寿司の準備をお手伝いしてくださった皆様、有難うございました。このたびは、寿司作りの経験の少ない会員が皆、長年の専門会員から丁寧に寿司の作り方を教えて頂きました。

この日曜日（13日）には、グループ（A）とグループ（C）の皆様、お忙しいところ寿司作りに、それと来客への懇親の面倒も有難うございました。それと共に同日、ホスピタリテี้サービス（hospitality after service）にホストしてくださいましたグループ（C）皆様有難うございました。特別なアーモンドの割れ易く出来たキャンデーは、今、発売中です。収穫感謝祭日（n. Thanksgiving Day）の内祝いや学校の先生たちなどに捧げる贈り物に大変、適当でしよう。

今年2016年の忘年会は午前11時30分（午前11時半）に始まります。場所はミッション・バリア（Mission Valley）にあるゴルドン・ビルシ・料亭（Gordon Biersch Brewery Restaurant）です。ご出席に御希望でしたらグループリーダー（Group leader）にお知らせ下さい。まだ遅くはありません。ぜひ、$10のギフト交換品を忘れないようにお願い致します。12月4日（日） 婦人会合会議 ー グループ（C）の皆様12月の当番をお願い致します。この日には、青少年YBA（Jr.YBA）グループが、$7のチヤメンを販売します。皆様、どうぞお求めください。12月7日（水） クラフト民芸作品会 ー 場所は仏教会です。時間は朝10時から午後2時までです。12月11日（日）今年、2016年の餅つき忘年会の翌日です。もしも出来たらご参加ください。朝は6時から始まり午後2時30分に終了の予定です。仕事は大変ですけど、人数が多いほど楽しくて早く済むでしょう。
Buddhist Temple of San Diego
Celebrating 90 Years 2016

Cherry Blossom Festival

Pride Parade

Obon Odori, Balboa Park

2016 Golf Tournament

90th Anniversary O Chigo Parade
DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

- DEC. 2: GARDN VILLAS SENIOR LUNCH, noon to 1 p.m.
- DEC. 4: BODHI DAY SERVICE and SHOTSUKI HOYO (monthly memorial), 10 a.m.
- DEC. 4: JR. YBA CHOW MEIN LUNCHEON FUNDRAISER, 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Donation: $7
- DEC. 7: BUDDHISM 1-2-3, 7 to 8:30 p.m.
- DEC. 9: MOCHIGOME RICE WASHING, 11 a.m.
- DEC. 10: MOCHITSUKI setup, 11 a.m.
- DEC. 11: MOCHITSUKI DAY, 6 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- DEC. 14: BUDDHISM 1-2-3, 7 to 8:30 p.m.
- DEC. 18: DHARMA SCHOOL/FAMILY SERVICE, 10 a.m.
- DEC. 18: TEMPLE CLEAN UP and OMIGAKI, 11 a.m.
- DEC. 31: JOYA-E (year-end service), 7 p.m.
- DEC. 31: JOYA NO KANE (bell ringing ceremony) at Shelter Island Friendship Bell, 11:30 p.m.

LOOKING AHEAD...

- JAN. 1: SHUSHO E (New Year’s Day Service), 10 a.m.
- JAN. 8: DHARMA SCHOOL/FAMILY SERVICE RESUMES
- JAN. 15: HO ONKO SERVICE, 10 a.m.

( Details for listed events can be found in this months issue. More December calendar dates appear on Page 2).