



MANY AUGUST ACTIVITIES

By Rinban Don Castro

Who said things slow down after Bon Odori? Not so, especially this year. Just check the temple calendar. I would like to mention two events in particular. On August 6, I along with a number of our members will be

participating in **From Hiroshima to Hope 2015** at Green Lake. This is a public and free "toro nagashi" where people can pick a lantern and get it calligraphed by volunteers like Aiko Fujii and her group and hear koto music by Marcia Takamura plus the Kokon Taiko.

This August 16 will be our first annual Rennyō Shōnin Memorial Service. The observance of Rennyō Shōnin's memorial stems from a resolution passed by the BCA National Buddhist Women's Association. Rennyō Shōnin (1414-1499), the eighth patriarch of our branch of Jōdo Shinshū, is considered a second Shinran Shōnin and his shrine in our naijin ("altar" area), which is on the left of Amida Buddha as you face the naijin, is equal with Shinran's shrine. It was Rennyō who established the Hongwanji lineage of Jōdo Shinshū as a major religious force and institution in Japan. He established the modern liturgy as well as the Betsuin system. One of his many letters (Gobunshō) is read in a very stylized manner each morning at the service held at the Nishi Hongwanji in Kyoto. We have a special lacquer box which contains the Gobunshō and they are read at the Japanese services. One letter, or epistle, in particular is well known and is read at all of our funeral services, "The Epistle on the White Ashes."

It is good that we are learning more about Rennyō considering he is such a vital part of our spiritual legacy. I have heard him criticized as being more "other worldly" as contrasted with Shinran Shōnin's listing of the benefits in this life that come from awakening but I have not found this to be true.

continued on page 2...

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Wow, it was hot! This year, our annual Bon Odori coincided with a couple of very hot days. Our tireless members and friends still worked hard to deliver a great time, and this may go down as one of our most successful Bon Dances ever.

Thank you to Ron Hamakawa and the full Obon committee, to Rinban Castro and our entire ministerial staff, to our dance instructors lead by Gwen Florence, to our set up crew including Cyrus Homyo and Michael Garnett, to our Boy Scout, Campfire, YBA (Jr. and Sr.) and Matsuri Taiko members and families, Dharma School students and their families, and to our temple members, friends and families at large. Your hard work helped once again to make Bon Odori a great community-building event for our Sangha, our families and friends, and our community. *Gokuroosama*.

Please know that our Seattle Betsuin board and I don't take your commitment for granted. We know that we have a membership filled with talented, dedicated fellow travelers. Year-in, year-out we come together in an all-out effort to show off our temple and invite the community into our space. And we earn some much-needed funds along the way.

As you take time in August to relax and to regain your strength for the Fall and Winter ahead of us, please take some time to appreciate what you have at the Seattle Betsuin. You have a community, a Sangha, of which to be a part; you have a support system if you need it; and you have a place to learn more about life and about yourself so you can live a richer and more fulfilling life.

Thank you again, to all of you who helped at this year's Bon Odori a success. Arigatoo gozaimasu!

Gassho, Yukio



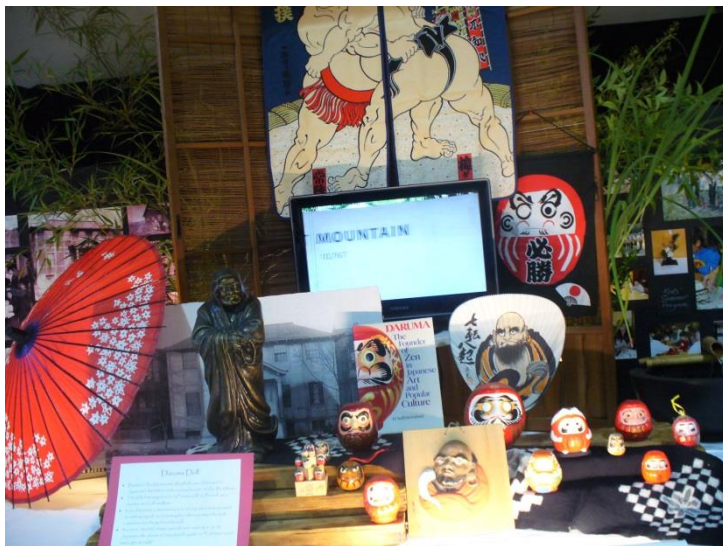
...Rimban's Message continued

Rennyō urges us to live a life assured of birth in the Pure Realm at the very moment of death. In one of his epistles he writes, "This is known as 'entering the ranks of the Truly Assured at the very moment of Shinjin.' Thereafter, all utterances of the Nembutsu should be understood only as expressions of gratitude for Amida's assurance of our spiritual rebirth."

For this year's service, we are very fortunate to have a myogo (scroll with the characters Namo Amida Butsu) written by Rennyō Shonin over 500 years ago. We are grateful to Sat Ichikawa for letting us use this treasure procured by his father when he was Rinban here in Seattle.



Bon Odori 2015 July 18, 19 - Photos by Julie Mayeda



Bon Odori: SBBWA participated in our annual Bon Odori Festival, a SeaFair event. We sold yakisoba, crafts - bracelets, cards, mizuhiki hair clips,



Ritsuko Kawahara, Janie Okawa, Suzanne Fujinari -yakitori prep

and kokeshi-faced charms made in classes held during the year. We also collected and sold yukata, kimono, and obi.



Fran Shintaku, Nina Tomita-Kato , Steve Aisaka, & Lauren Asaba - Yakisoba Team



Michi Vaart, Junko Nakano, Dennis Shibata, Miyoko Yamazaki, & Ritsuko Kawahara prepping yakitori for yakisoba booth.

Summer Outing: We filled a coach bus that took us to the Bellevue Botanical Garden, a Japanese restaurant, a casino, and outlet stores, on July 29. This was our annual field trip organized by our Activity Committee.

Rennyō Shonin Service: Our Betsuin temple will hold our first Rennyō Shonin Memorial Service on August 16. Our ministers, Religious Department, and SBBWA decided together to honor Rennyō Shonin with a service in accordance with an FBWA resolution. Two Youth Exchange young women from Japan will be guests.

Youth Exchange: All our members, NW District youths and NWD BWA Representatives are invited to welcome two youths of the Federation BWA Youth Exchange at a potluck reception following Dharma Exchange at Seattle Temple on Sunday, August 16 (following our Rennyō Shonin Memorial Service). The two youths will stay with a host family in Seattle, visit and tour White River and Tacoma temples. Last summer, our NW District exchange youths, Rosie Yasukochi, of Seattle, and Kristi Fukunaga, of Oregon visited Japan, stayed with host families.

Save the Date-Women's Conference: Our 4th Annual Buddhist Women's Conference will be held this fall, on October 3 at the Seattle Betsuin. This all-day seminar will feature three speakers, Rev. Patti Nakai, Resident Minister, Buddhist Church of Chicago; Linda Anderson-Krech, of Todo Institute; and Rev. Miho Sekiya, Resident Minister, Seattle Betsuin.

SBBWA Participates in KSP: The temple's annual Kids Summer Program was enrolled at full capacity. Our members took part in flower arranging, taiko, cooking, manju making, odori, calligraphy, and Japanese clothing. This year's theme was: Clothing of Japan and featured kimono, yukata, and children's wear, as well as Cosplay, taken from manga and anime costume styling. Program chairs were our members, Gayle Teramoto & Yvette Terada, and Gary Shibata, temple member. Our members, Judith Nakamura, Nina Tomita-Kato, Erin Taylor, Shizue Yahata, and Janet Baba were among the teachers. We thank all who committed their time and expertise for the KSP Program. The program would not have been possible without the dedication

and contributions of our organization members.

In Gassho, Janet

Calendar:

SBBWA Board Meeting	Aug. 2
Rennyō Shonin Service	Aug. 16
FBWA Youth Exchange	Aug. 16
Cabinet Meeting	Aug. 23



Kiyoko Nakanishi - cooking



Donna Zumoto - Taiko



Seattle Buddhist Church's 83rd Bon Odori 2015 July 18, 19 - Photos by Julie Mayeda



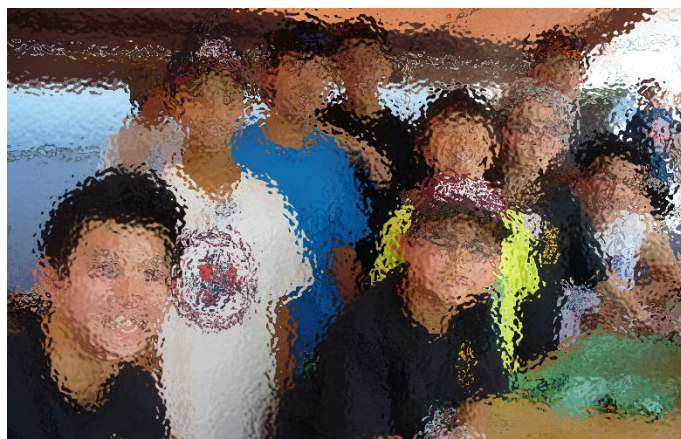
ALL SANGHA ALERT! FOR YOUR PROTECTION AND TEMPLE SAFETY!

- Do not leave anything visible in your car while parked.
- Do not leave the temple exit doors propped open and unattended.
- Do not leave your belongings unattended

DHARMA SCHOOL submitted by Joyce Tsuji
Hi everybody! On behalf of Dharma School, thank you so much for all of your help during Obon. Although the festival was on Saturday and Sunday, many of our members worked many hours beforehand. Another big thank you to our DS niku don and kori chairs, Gary, Connie, Lynne, Leonora, Zack, and Calvin.

So many of our members helped up with set up, take down, and even worked extra shifts in our and other booths! We hope that you enjoyed your 2015 Seattle Obon experience, working, eating, dancing, and catching up with old and new friends. Please pass on our gratitude to friends and family who helped out.....and came! It takes the whole community to support the endeavors of a successful Obon. Please try to support our other local Sangha at White River's Obon Festival on Saturday, July,

MUSICAL NOTES Thank you to Donna Zumoto for providing taiko for the Seattle Betsuin introduction of the gatha *Season of Obon* by Misaye Abiko this year. Mrs. Abiko, wife of Rev. Hiroshi Abiko, currently directs the San Francisco Betsuin choir and kindly provided guidance for us to use her music this year and authorize use of this gatha for the new service book project. Donna has been very dedicated in sustaining enthusiasm for taiko at our temple for decades, including teaching the youth, performing at bon odori, and also organizing other community performances. Starting on Sunday morning August 9, we will resume informal gatha singing at 9 am before Sunday hondo service for anyone wishing to participate. Submitted by Kemi Nakabayashi



25 (4:00-9:00pm) and Tacoma's on Saturday, August 1 (5:00-9:00pm)!

Domo Arigato!!!

In Gassho, Yvette

HIGH SCHOOL 2015 SCHOLARSHIP

RECIPIENTS - Shizu Kaku The 2015 Seattle Betsuin Tsujihara Family Memorial Scholarship Grant (High School) recipients are Samantha who will be taking classes at Bellevue College in accounting; Taylan is headed to Seattle Pacific University majoring in art graphics and Kyle has selected the UW with business as his major. CONGRATULATIONS to our outstanding students and their parents. The awards were presented on Sunday, May 24, 2015 at the 10am service.

Thank you to the selection committee for their commitment in selecting & honoring our outstanding recipients. Also, a big thank you to Tish Oye of Glassworks who again generously donated the glass awards and Mae Yamasaki for making ribbon leis in the student's high school colors. Another thank you to Sat Ichikawa who took group pictures in the hondo and printed 8X10 copies for all the recipients the next day!

We thank the high school class with Steph Ojima, and we really appreciated their help with the reception. Everything went very smoothly!



Seattle Buddhist Church's 83rd Bon Odori 2015 July 18, 19 - Photos by Julie Mayeda



THE SEATTLE BETSUIN GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE FOLLOWING DONATIONS

June – July 2015

Funeral / Memorial / Nokotsudo:

Masato Ohara - Funeral Service	\$ 600.00	Linda & Gary Uyeji
John Yamada - Burial Service	\$ 500.00	Arlene Yamada
Seiichi Deguchi - 25 th Year Memorial Service	\$ 400.00	Mae Deguchi
Akio Nishizaki - 49 th Day Memorial Service	\$ 400.00	Mabel Nishizaki
Yukiko Fujii - 17 th Year Memorial	\$ 200.00	Yukiko Fujii Family

Given by:

In Memory of:

Seiichi Deguchi	Aya (Jean) Deguchi; Toshiko Suguro; Yoshiyama Family Trust, c/o Mrs. Sueko Yoshiyama
Alan Groves	Louise Sakuma
Masayoshi "Mike" Kubo	Louise Sakuma
Akio Nishizaki	Janet Baba; Mae Deguchi; Roger Fujita; Steve & Florence Fujita; Kazumi (Janice) Goshō; Jack & Fumi Habu; Dale & Shizue Kaku; Fusako Kamihara; Noboru & Hatsuye Kawada; Bill Komoto; Carolyn Kunihiro; Kinue Kuwahara; T. Jack Matsui; Tetsuo & Linda Miyata; Dean Miyauchi; Keith Miyauchi; Lynn Miyauchi; Yoshiko Miyauchi; Yoshio & Judith Nakamura; Kenneth Shigaya; Frances Shintaku; Masao & Frances Tamekuni; Katsumi & Terrie Tanino; Miyoko Tazuma; Toshio & Dolly Tokunaga; Sam & Masako Uchida
Judy Suto	Irene Akada
Kimie Toyoji	Edward Toyoji; Kenny & Susan Toyoji; Franklin & Nancy Yap
Toshio Toyoji	Edward Toyoji; Kenny & Susan Toyoji; Franklin & Nancy Yap
John Yamada	Mae Deguchi; Reiko Hara; Hiroko Janet Kosai; June Kosai; Howard & Marie Kosai-Luke; Mabel Nishizaki; Louise Sakuma; Roy & Kazumi Shimizu; Frances Shintaku
Rev. Kiyoshi Yamashita	Patti Shimomura

General Donations:

Hanako Konishi
 Hanako Konishi
 Elsie Taniguchi
 Isoko Yoshihara
 Nikkei Concerns/Ayame-Kai
 Todd Natsuhara
 Grace Tazuma &
 Starbucks Coffee (Matching Funds)

For:

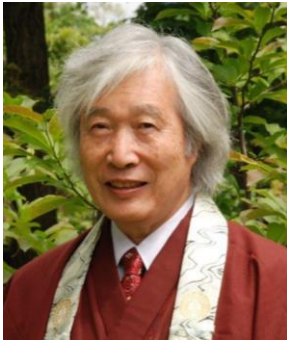
General Donation
 In Honor of Terrie Natsuhara's 85th Birthday
 General Donation
 General Donation
 Appreciation for use of facilities
 Appreciation for use of facilities
 Appreciation for use of facilities



Seattle Buddhist Church's 83rd Bon Odori 2015 July 18, 19 - Photos by Julie Mayeda



Please join us for A Series of Talks on Shin Buddhism at Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Church
“the Words of My Dear Teacher”*



by Rev. Toshikazu Arai, Ph.D

Professor Emeritus, Soai University, Osaka, Japan

In Japanese

Monday, August 3

9:30am – 11:30am Lecture I

12:30 - 2:30pm Lecture II

Tuesday, August 4

9:30 – 12:30pm Lecture III

In English from 7:00 - 9:00pm

Monday, August 3 Lecture I

“Shinran’s Encounter with Honen”

Tuesday, August 4 Lecture II

“Honen’s Teachings”

Wednesday, August 5 Lecture III

“Shinran as the True Successor to Honen’s Teachings”

We will discuss the true meaning of “shinjin” and “nembutsu” based on Shinran’s writings, especially one on *A Guide to the Westerly World*. This work, rarely referred to, consists mostly of records of Honen’s words and deeds. It informs us of Shinran’s enthusiasm to compile this work at the age of 85. These talks will be conducted in a relaxed manner, welcoming questions and discussions at any time during the session. The tentative schedule will be:

* - Shinran Shonin in the Tannisho, Chapter2: “As for myself Shinran, there is nothing other than entrusting myself to the words of my dear teacher, ‘Just say the nembutsu, and be saved by Amida.’”

Seattle Buddhist Church 1427 S Main St, Seattle, WA 98199 (206) 329-0800

BUDDHIST BOOK STUDY Our August Book Study group will be cancelled in lieu of the lectures by Dr. Toshikazu Arai on August 3-5, 2015.

Next meeting: September 5. We will read “*Proof of Heaven*” by Eben Alexander. Dr. Eben Alexander is a neurosurgeon who had a unique near death experience. He talks about the nature of consciousness and what he experienced when his brain was essentially non-functional. It relates very well to the Dalai Lama’s book “The Universe in a Single Atom.” Dr. Alexander was a hard core scientist who believed when the brain dies, consciousness ceases to exist. While raised Christian, what he experienced was a non-Christian

afterlife that sounds more like Shinran’s experiences of light. His experiences mirror in a personal way the statements of the Dalai Lama, “But assuming mind is reducible to matter leaves a huge explanatory gap. How do we explain the emergence of consciousness? What marks the transition from non-sentient to sentient beings?”

This book was on the New York Times best seller list and is very easily found in paperback and very reasonable.

The meeting will take place in the Memorial Hall from 9:30-11:30am. There will be a brown bag lunch afterwards. There is no cost to attend.

Submitted by Leonora Clarke

Everyone can receive Weekly Sangha email!

If you would like to have additional members of your family to receive weekly messages, please contact Calvin Terada at calterada@comcast.net or Joan Nakano at office@seattlebetsuin.com

Seattle Buddhist Church's 83rd Bon Odori 2015 July 18, 19 - Photos by Julie Mayeda



The Fourth Annual Women in Buddhism Conference

understanding the connection between Buddhism and our everyday lives

Presented by Seattle Buddhist Church and Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Women's Association

"Everyday Bodhisattvas"

Saturday, October 3, 2015 9:30 am - 3:30 pm

at

Seattle Buddhist Church



Linda Anderson Krech, Program Director
Tōdō Institute

Softening the Family Heart

with the help of the Japanese practice known as Naikan and awareness



Reverend Patti Nakai, Resident Minister
Buddhist Temple of Chicago

Care-Receiving

Allow ourselves to receive help from others.



Reverend Miho Sekiya, Associate Minister
Seattle Buddhist Church

Rhythm and Echoes of Buddhism

We will practice Buddhist melodies that can sooth our hearts.

Seattle Buddhist Church (Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple) 1427 S Main St, Seattle www.SeattleBetsuin.com 206 329-0800

Registration coming soon!

Betsuin Events for August 2015

MOST SUNDAYS – confirm Sundays listed below. All are invited:

10:00 am SERVICE - in Hondo (main sanctuary) includes Sutra Chanting, singing, and Dharma Talk
 10:55 am DHARMA EXCHANGE – in dining room, Q/A, dialogue with minister and ministers assistants
 MEDITATION* - meet in foyer waiting room, adjourns at 11:30; 15-20 minute meditation.

MOST WEDNESDAYS **10:30 am **DHARMA SUPPORT GROUP** with Meditation – **call office to confirm**

SUNDAYS 10:55am Meditation*

August 2

10:00 am **Atomic Bomb Victims Memorial Service**

Adult: Rev. Dr. Toshikazu Arai, Professor
 Emeritus of Soai University, Osaka, Japan
 Japanese Service: Rev. Dr. Arai
 DX: Rinban Castro

*Meditation: Irene Goto Sensei

11:45 am SBBWA Board Meeting

August 9

10:00 pm **FAMILY SERVICE**

Adult: Rev. Yugo Fujita and MA Rosalie May
 Japanese Program
 DX: MA Rosalie May

*Meditation: Irene Goto Sensei

August 16

10:00 am **Renryo Shonin Memorial Service & Shinran Shonin Monthly Memorial Service**

Adult: Rinban Castro
 Japanese Program
 DX: Rinban Castro
 *Meditation: MA Leonora Clarke

August 23

10:00 am **FAMILY SERVICE**

Adult: MA Matt May
 Japanese Program
 DX: MA Matt May
 *Meditation: Irene Goto Sensei

11:45 am SBBWA Cabinet Meeting

August 30

10:00 am **FAMILY SERVICE**

Adult: Doug McLean, MA in training
 Japanese Program
 DX: Doug McLean, MA in training
 *Meditation: MA Leonora Clarke

MONDAYS

August 3 Lectures by Rev. Dr. Arai

9:30 am – 11:30 am Japanese Lecture I

12:30 - 2:30 pm Japanese Lecture II

7:00 – 9:00 pm English Lecture – “Shinran’s Encounter with Honen”

August 17, 31 Rinban Castro (Days Off)

TUESDAYS

August 4 Lectures by Rev. Dr. Arai

9:30 – 12:30 pm Japanese Lecture III

7:00 – 9:00 pm English Lecture – “Honen’s Teachings”

August 10-12 BCA Ministers Meeting/Seminar, San Jose

August 18 Rinban Castro (Study Day Off)

August 25 10:30 am Keiro Service (Rinban Castro)

WEDNESDAYS ** 10:30am - call office to confirm

August 5

10:30 am Dharma Support Group

7:00 – 9:00 pm English Lecture by Rev. Dr. Arai –
 “Shinran as the True Successor to Honen’s Teachings”

August 10 – 12 BCA Ministers Summer Meeting and Seminar in San Jose

August 19 Rinban Castro (Vacation)

10:30 am Dharma Support Group

August 26 Dharma Support Group Cancelled

THURSDAYS

August 6 1:30 pm Nikkei Manor Service (Rinban Castro)

August 20

1:30 pm Nikkei Manor Service (Irene Goto Sensei)

7:30 pm Betsuin Cabinet Meeting

August 27 7:30 pm Betsuin BoD Meeting

FRIDAYS August 7, 28 Rinban Castro (Days Off)

SATURDAY August 8 Rinban Castro (Study Day Off)

September 2015: Major Events of Interest

September 5 Book Study Group –

“Proof of Heaven” by Eben Alexander

September 13 First day of Dharma School

September 20 Fall Ohigan Service

2015 September Newsletter

Deadline:

Monday, August 17, 2015 8:00 pm



- *Gokuroosama. Arigatoo gozaimasu! Gassho, Yukio*

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Wheel of the Sangha
**A Monthly Newsletter of
Seattle Buddhist Church**

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Seattle Betsuin Vision Embrace true and real
life in Nembutsu



Seattle Betsuin Mission Promote, protect, and
share the Buddha, Dharma and Sangha

2015 August Events at Seattle Betsuin

August 2 (Sunday) Atomic Bomb
Victims' Memorial Service: Guest Speaker,
Rev.Dr. Toshikazu Arai
August 3 – 5 M-W Lectures by Dr.
Toshikazu Arai

August 10 – 12 BCA Ministers
Summer Meeting & Seminar
August 16 (Sunday) BWA Reception for
Youth Exchange students

Ministers: Rimban Don Castro 24 hours: (206) 779 -2214 and Reverend Jim Warrick
Wheel of the Sangha NEWSLETTER Editors: English - Irene Goto Newsletter@SeattleBetsuin.com
Japanese - Machiko Wada Newsletter-Jpn@SeattleBetsuin.com

The deadline to submit articles is the third Monday of each month at 8:00 PM
Deadline for September Issue: August 17, 2015 at 8:00 PM