



Explaining Amida Buddha Part III

By Rinban Don Castro

This is the final of three articles on understanding the meaning of Amida Buddha. The first two articles examined Amida Buddha from a mythological and philosophical perspective. This last article will use psychological language. All three articles offer just a most brief explanation but, hopefully, will shed some light on our central object of reverence.

Before talking about Amida Buddha, it is good to keep in mind the starting point of Buddhism. It is not belief but experience; the experience of dukkha (Sanskrit) which is most frequently translated into English as "suffering." While dukkha also means suffering, that is only one extreme form of dukkha. In the full spectrum of dukkha, experiences range from suffering to unpleasant. Dukkha refers to all dissatisfactory states of mind that result from selfish craving. In the Pali Buddhist text Itivuttaka, the Buddha is recorded as saying, "I do not see, monks, any other fetter being bound by which the beings rush through, hurry through the long night (of incessant rebirths), than...the fetter of craving."

In modern psychology, Leon Festinger (1957) proposed a theory called cognitive dissonance. We hold many cognitions about the world and ourselves. When they clash, a discrepancy arises resulting in a state of tension known as cognitive dissonance. I think you could say the experience of dukkha, the starting point of Buddhism, is spiritual dissonance. Since this world of dukkha (usually referred to as samsara) is painful, we all desire a world beyond pain, a world of consonance which we call the Pure Land or Pure Realm. We experience Amida Buddha as the call of consonance from a realm of conflict resolution where all dualities disappear. This dynamic is graphically depicted in pictures of the River of Fire and the River of Water where the path from the world of dissonance to the farther shore of consonance is the path of the

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Nembutsu. Amida Buddha stands on the farther shore call us to come and Shakyamuni Buddha stands on this shore of samsara urging us to go and pointing out the dangers of this world of birth-and-death.

Amida Buddha as the calling power of the Truth reminds me, in some ways, of Mahatma Gandhi's "Satyagraha" movement which is usually translated as "The Truth Power Movement."* As we saw in Gandhi's social, political and spiritual movement, Truth is not an abstract idea but refers to a powerfully experienced motivator, one so powerful that people risked, and often lost, their lives in realizing it. My teacher Rev. P.K. Eidmann has written that we imperil our spiritual life if we ignore the call of Amida Buddha. On the other hand, we could say heeding Amida's call leads to mental/spiritual well-being and a life leading to consonance which is the Pure Realm.

*About Satyagraha or Truth Force, Gandhi wrote that Truth (satya) implies love, and firmness (graha) engenders and therefore serves as a synonym for force, the force which is born of truth and love.

Dharma School

would like to invite all students, their families and the Sangha to our last day event on June 12. We will be honoring graduating seniors both high school and college, and recognizing students with attendance awards. Afterwards there will be a potluck lunch in the gym and activities for the kids.

The DS conducted a Gotan-e service at the Keiro Nursing home on May 15. The service was led by the high school class which included sutra chanting, a gatha and a performance by our own Bodhi Ensemble.

Classroom Reports

Pre-K/K The Pre-K/K class observed Earth Day by listening to a story about how we can be kind to the earth. They participated in an activity on sorting trash, recycling and composting. The students made "dirt cups" for snack then took home their containers to reuse and recycle.

The class listened to a story about visiting a nursing home and talked about what to expect when visiting one. They decorated colorful foam butterflies to give to the residents after participating in the annual Dharma School service at Seattle Keiro.

To celebrate and recognize our mothers, the children gave their mom a tea cup filled with different teas so that they could relax and enjoy themselves on Mother's Day. They also made them a Mother's Day card explaining why they deserved this special day.

High School Class Two of our HS students' poems were selected as NW District winners for the FDSTL Poetry contest. The printed poems were displayed at the recent FDSTL conference, held in Sacramento (attended by 8 of our own DS teachers). Here are the poems:

GRATITUDE By Maya (9th grade)

Gratitude isn't just about saying "thank you."
Gratitude is appreciating, caring, being mindful.
Grateful for everything, down to the little things.
People don't always realize how lucky they are.

People often take things for granted.
You really have to think about all that you have
Realizing that you are lucky in so many ways

Is when you
Truly
Feel
Gratitude

GRATITUDE By Alex (11th grade)

As I walk through the park,
Cherry blossoms bloom.
The Bonsho rings loudly,
How fortunate am I.

I walk up to church,
Amida looks at me.
I smile back at him.
How fortunate am I.

Incense purifies my mind.
Sensei enlightens me,
As Shinran guides me,
How fortunate am I.

As I recite Amida's name,
Namo Amida Butsu represents me.
Listening to the Kansho ring,
How fortunate am I.

Dharma School report submitted by Joyce Tsuji

Board of Directors & Betsuin Cabinet

The Betsuin elected the following Board of Directors this year: Alan Hoshino, Ken Kubota, Howard Luke, Andrea Mano, Dennis Shibata, Susie Taketa, Grace Tazuma, Michael Teramoto, Sam Umeda, and Donna Zumoto.

2016-2017 Betsuin Cabinet Chairperson, Alan Hoshino; Corresponding Secretary, Steph Ojima; 1st Vice Chair, Calvin Terada; Treasurer, Howard Luke; 2nd Vice Chair, Tyler Moriguchi; Auditor 1, Michael Teramoto; 3rd Vice Chair, Ken Kubota; Auditor 2, Julianne Tosaya; Recording Secretary, Craig Nakashima; Auditor 3, Susie Taketa.

SBBWA News by Nina Tomita-Kato

April was a busy month for SBBWA, the toban months of January, February, March, and April spent a morning cleaning up the pantry until it looked spotless. Cupboards were cleaned, shelves were wiped down, and items were tossed. Thank you members for the giving of your time and muscles.

We also held our annual Introduction of new members service and luncheon. It was a great time for all and we welcome fondly; Margaret Gotchy, Cynthia Hinds, Lisa Kumasaka, and Jenny Kwak. It takes a village to run SBBWA and many were involved in making this successful event happen. Thank you to the committee and other members for your selfless help.

The Federation Buddhist Women Association Conference hosted by the Northwest District Chapters is now ready to accept registrations for the event. We registering as SBBWA, so please contact Janie Okawa and Kanako Kashima for your registration. The cost is \$195.00 per person which includes: Friday night Bollywood activity, Saturday workshops, Saturday lunch, Saturday dinner banquet. A Friday excursion is also being offered for an additional \$60; which includes the Chihuly Glass Museum, lunch and craft fair at Nagomi Tea House, and a visit to Pike Place Market. Keynote speakers will be Reverend Wondra (Japanese), Orange County Buddhist Temple who has recently completed 3 year doctoral course for her PhD and Dr. Sharon Suh (English), Chair and associate professor in Theology and Religious Studies at Seattle University. There are several guest speakers that will be featured at the workshops that sound intriguing and inspiring. We will be holding registration table at the temple on Sundays for the members. Non BWA members are very welcome to attend.

Spring 2017 Japan Trip planning is underway. This is a temple trip and we hope to have the plans finalized soon. Please contact Machiko Wada or Nina Tomita Kato if interested.

May 15 Udon fundraiser was a huge success, thanks to Leanne for organizing and all the members who helped, donated baked goodies and purchasing. Udon was delicious thanks to Ritsuko Kawahara, leading the cooking.

We are planning a summer outing and will be announcing it soon!

Obon is coming up very soon, hope everyone can participate with working, dancing, eating and enjoy! Sign-up sheets will be at the downstairs wall.

We are participating in "Walk for rice" for ACRS on June 25; if you would like to walk with Betsuin members, please let the office know. It's about 2.5 miles at Seward Park. If you would like to donate, our team name is "Stepping with the Sangha"; go to acrs.walkforrice.org or see Shizue Yahata.

ALL SANGHA MEMORIAL SERVICE

SENBOKAI-IN TSUITO HOYO, Sunday, June 5, 2016 - Service at 10:00 AM

The deadline for submission of photos and names is Sunday, May 29. We cannot guarantee that photos/ names received after the deadline will be included. Please see the May issue p. 3 or call for more information.

In Gassho, *Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple, 1427 S. Main Street, Seattle, WA 98144, (206) 329-0800*

ON BEHALF OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE...

We would like to “thank” the following regular members, for contributing their annual Ijikai dues (the basic dues toward the Temple maintenance/operations). This is the list of those paid members for the fiscal year of 2016.

Sandra Cross; Jack & Fumi Habu; Yoko Hamanaka; Roy & Deanna Ikegami; Ann Kashiwa; Hisashi & Sadako Nishimura; Joe & Carolyn Schwab; Dennis Yasukochi & Lynn Goodrich; Kevin & Kari Ann Yokoyama.

***AS A REMINDER:** The **minimum** for basic dues towards the Temple maintenance/operations, is \$250 for those over 70 years of age and \$300 for those under 70 years old. **Payments are due by September 30, 2016, for this fiscal year.** If you have any questions about your membership status, contact the Betsuin office: 206-329-0800 or office@seattlebetsuin.com. (compiled by HL, PS, JN, & SO)

Troop 252 has 6 new boy scouts. The cub scouts successfully crossed over. There has been a couple meeting since they crossed over, and everything is going well. The venture crew helped us make the monkey bridge at the crossover. There are many campouts to come in the future. - Drew

General CF News This year at Council Fire we recognized 3 recipients who earned their Wohelo Award: Amanda H., Meghan H. and Emi N. The WoHeLo Award is highest achievement youth award within Camp Fire and “is earned by completing an intensive and highly individualized project” and “offers opportunities for personal development, leadership, and advocacy on important issues”. Congratulations Amanda, Meghan and Emi!! submitted by Gayle Teramoto

Musical Notes submitted by Kemi Nakabayashi After Gotan-E service, the Bodhi Ensemble supported the Dharma School service at Keiro. Thank you to Kayla and Alina on flute, Emily on violin, and Kristy on piano. With much appreciation, I also thank Lani Carpenter for organizing the Bodhi Ensemble practices and performances for the past 7 years as well as coordinating music for children’s services.

Even if you are not a BWA member, please do check out the conference program information and consider registering for the national FBWA conference at the Westin Bellevue October 7-9. Quite a few of the workshops include music related themes. In addition to the gatha workshop that Donna Sasaki and I are presenting, taiko drummer Michelle Fujii will share her personal journey as a taiko artist. Rev. Sekiya will lead a workshop to practice chanting the wasans of Shoshinge. Ethnomusicologist Wynn Kiyama’s workshop titled *Bon Odori in the Pacific Northwest: Memories, Mountains and Mochi* will surely be interesting. Professor Kiyama also has a photo exhibit on the life of Rev. Yoshio Iwanaga and his role in introducing bon odori to North America available for view on the Portland State University website as a digital exhibit. Check out the website: <https://exhibits.library.pdx.edu/exhibits/show/obondancing/overview>



Join Junior YBA’s Shinran Steppers on

June 4, 2016 and Support American Cancer Society by going to relay.acsevents.org or donate \$10 toward a luminaria at the temple. IG

Receive Weekly All Sangha News via email - contact

[Tyler Moriguchi](#) or [Joan Nakano](#) at Office@SeattleBetsuin.com

Religious Education Events

Seattle Betsuin's Buddhist Study Group will host Joe Marino for a discussion on *Gandharan Buddhist Texts: What the Oldest Extant Buddhist Manuscripts Tell Us About Early Buddhism*.

Joe Marino is a PhD Candidate at the University of Washington and a member of the Early Buddhist Manuscripts Project ebmp.org

Saturday, June 4 at 9:30am Memorial Hall Chapel

Suggested Donation: \$10



Buddhist Art and Book Fair 10th Anniversary Commemoration Series for

Jodo Shinshu Center at 2140 Durant Avenue, Berkeley, CA Buddhist Churches of America

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC June 24, 25 & 26, 2016

Gallery Hours Fri. 6/24: 3 pm - 8:30 pm Sat. 6/25: 10 am - 4 pm Sun. 6/26: 10 am - 2 pm

Art & Book Lectures: for details visit <http://buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/jodo-shinshu-center-events>

Friday, June 24 6:30 – 8:00pm Caroline Brazier, Author *The Other Buddhism: Amida Comes West & Other Works*, A book discussion with author/teacher, Caroline Brazier.

Saturday, June 25 11:00am Dr. Paula Arai, Lecturer, Seeing the Wisdom of Compassion: *The Art & Science of the Heart Sutra*—devotional paintings by the late Tsuneo Iwasaki (1917 – 2002) and lecture by Dr. Paula Arai.

Browse the BCA Bookstore: special discounts Wed. - Sat. 11am - 7pm & gallery hours www.BuddhistChurchesofAmerica.org

The Institute of Buddhist Studies & BCA Center for Buddhist Education present

SUMMER PACIFIC SEMINAR - 21ST CENTURY

Jodo Shinshu Buddhism Beyond Borders

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

August 19-21, 2016

Jodo Shinshu Center
2140 Durant Avenue - Berkeley, CA 94704

What would it mean for Jodo Shinshu Buddhism to be recognized as a worldwide religion?

Prof. Ugo Dessi, Prof. Elisabetta Porcu, and other speakers will explain that Jodo Shinshu has become known throughout the world and, as a result, is both the agent and object of change within a global exchange between religions, cultures, nations, and values. In other words, what does it really mean to say that Jodo Shinshu has become a worldwide religion?

Both Dr. Dessi and Dr. Porcu were born in Sardinia, Italy, studied Buddhism in India and Japan, and taught at the University of Leipzig in Germany. Each has a Ph.D. in religious studies. This husband and wife team lived in Japan for six years, and in 2013 were Scholars in Residence at the Buddhist Study Center in Hawaii.

Registration: \$140 Deadline: August 6, 2016
BCA Member Rate \$125 until July 23

Make checks payable to "BCA" with "Summer Pacific Seminar" written on the memo line.
Mail form and check to CBE at 2140 Durant Ave. Berkeley, CA 94704

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT CBE Email: cbe@bcahq.org Ph: (510) 809-1460

Visit: www.BuddhistChurchesofAmerica.org Click on CBE

The Buddhist Church of Santa Barbara & BCA Center for Buddhist Education present

RESOLVING LIFE'S PROBLEMS Through Buddhism

Conversations on Shin Buddhism in Your Daily Life

Guest Speaker:
Rev. Marvin Harada

Rev. Harada has been the resident minister at the Orange County Buddhist Church (OCBC) for the past 28 years. He also serves as a co-director of the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) Center for Buddhist Education (CBE); and executive assistant to Rev. Kodo Umezu, bishop of the Buddhist Churches of America.

He is a graduate of the University of Oregon, the Institute of Buddhist Studies, and Ryukoku University and author of *Discovering Buddhism in Everyday Life*, a collection of essays his based on his first 25 years of ministry.

SUNDAY EVENINGS
7 pm - 8:30 pm

May 15, 2016:
Matters of Life & Death

June 12, 2016:
Relationship Issues

July 24, 2016:
Buddhism at Work

August 14, 2016:
Self-Esteem

For information, please contact:
Rev. Masanori Watanabe
Email: minister@oxnardsbuddhisttemple.org
(805) 483-5948

Rev. Marvin Harada
Email: mrharada@aol.com
(714) 323-6843

Buddhist Church of Santa Barbara:
(805) 962-3633

BUDDHIST CHURCH OF SANTA BARBARA
1015 E. Montecito Street
Santa Barbara, CA 93103
Cross street: N. Alisos St.
Near S. Milpas & Eastside Branch Library

www.BuddhistChurchofSantaBarbara.org

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Donations are welcome!

Seattle Betsuin Gratefully Acknowledges Donations Received April - May 2016

Funeral / Memorial / Nokotsudo:

Toshio Harada – 10 Year Memorial

\$ 200.00

Given by:

May Harada

In Memory of:

Masayoshi Kubo

Given by:

Fujiye Yamasaki

General Donations:

Alice & Shuzo Takeuchi

Buddhist Association of Olympia,
Lien Hoa Temple

For:

General Donation

General Donation

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Dear Sangha,

The sustaining membership renewal letters were sent out to Sangha members a few weeks ago. Sustaining members, formerly called “*ijikai* members,” help support the daily operation, programming and services of the Betsuin, including Dharma school, education and seminars, funerary and memorial services, hospital and in-home visits as well as sponsoring our other youth programs.

At the March Betsuin Board of Directors meeting, the board approved the ambitious goal of increasing Betsuin’s membership by 50 members a year. With a current membership of just over 400 members, the Board feels this goal is a necessary step to reverse the trend of a shrinking membership, and to maintain a strong and vibrant Sangha.

Over the coming months the Membership Committee would like to engage in a conversation with the Sangha on how we can work together to adapt the Betsuin to the changing demographic of the community and grow the Sangha to reflect the diversity and changes expected.

As a reminder, membership dues are requested no later than September 30, 2016, but will be gladly accepted earlier. Membership dues can now be submitted online using the link located at the bottom of the Betsuin homepage.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions, comments or suggestions for the Membership Committee at communications@seattlebetsuin.com.

In Gassho, Tyler Moriguchi, Chair

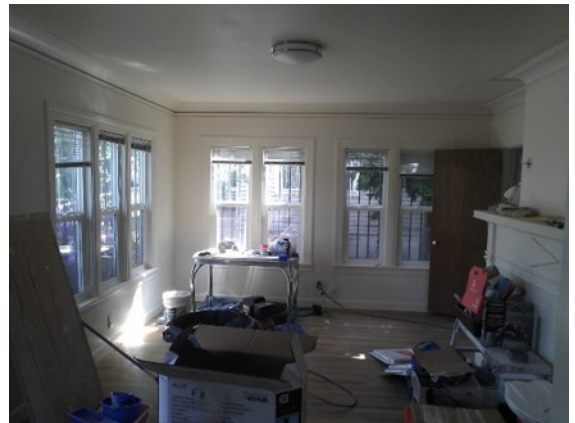
***Communications and Membership Committee
Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple***

Chairperson's Message by Alan Hoshino

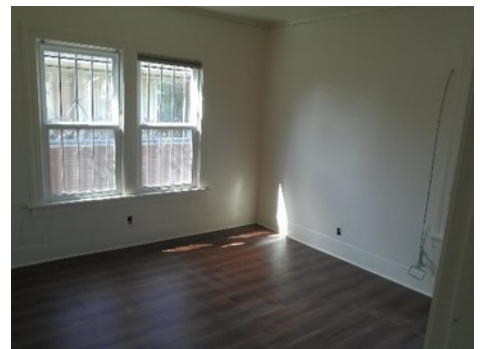
It's hard to believe summer is upon us. Congratulations to all of our graduates who are completing their classes and moving on to exciting new phases of their lives! As the spring of 2016 comes to a close the temple too is moving on to new and exciting phases of our many ongoing projects. Facilities wise the construction mess in the basement will be giving way to newly remodeled activity and meeting spaces which we're going to immediately put to use this summer. We'll have air conditioning in those new spaces which will feel great this summer when we're working those long Bon Odori shifts. Thank you Grace Tazuma and Ron Hamakawa for leading this project and getting it done on schedule!



While the temple's basement project has been very visible a similarly large project has been quietly underway in the temple's small parsonage house where Andrea Mano, Craig Nakashima, Corey Murata, Cyrus Honmyo, Gary Shibata, Ken Yocom and Paul Knutzen have been working like mad renovating the long



neglected former parsonage into a guest house where we can host long term guest speakers. The project included a new roof, rewiring the electrical circuits, new interior walls and ceiling plaster, discovering a wonderful hardwood floor that was refinished, remodeling the bathroom and kitchen, new flooring in the hallway and bath, new plumbing, painting and more. The first guest will be Dr. Toshikazu Arai who is arriving in July and will be delivering a week of wonderful lectures and workshops at the Betsuin. Not only will the new guest house be in use, we'll also be using the new temple basement activity, dining and meeting spaces!



Save the date! If you haven't already heard, Rev. Castro is retiring at the end of this year. We're planning a retirement party and luncheon for him on Sunday, November 20 so please hold that date in your calendar. Sensei was assigned to our temple in 1986 and has shared both the happy and sad times in our lives for the past 30 years. To help celebrate his retirement we're

putting together a collection of photos, a digital scrapbook, so please dig through your old photos and e-mail them to: RevCastroRetirement@seattlebetsuin.com. We're looking for photos of him conducting your wedding, candid photos, events, activities, festivals, etc. If you have video please burn a disk and drop it off at the temple office. If you're interested in helping with this project send a note to the e-mail address and we'll get you involved!



Last month a group of temple leaders and I travelled to the Yakima Buddhist Temple located in Wapato to attend meetings of the Northwest District of the Buddhist Churches of America where we met with representatives of the other six temples (Idaho/Oregon (Ontario), Portland, Spokane, Tacoma, White River & Yakima) that form the BCA's NW District.

Chairperson's Message continued on p. 8...

....Chairperson's Message continued

The big news of the meeting was the promotion of Ontario's Rev. Dennis Fujimoto, effective August 1, to the position of Rinban of the Sacramento Betsuin where he will take over for Rinban Bob Oshita and his wife Rev. Patti Oshita who are retiring at the end of July. Obviously the remaining ministers in our district will be scrambling to cover this change while we await Bishop Umezu's assignment of someone new to the district.

For those with ties to the Yakima Buddhist Temple or who would like to help the extremely small Sangha in Yakima, please consider making a donation to help them cover the \$23K+ cost of replacing the roof on their Bussei Kaikan (multi-function hall). You can send your tax deductible donations to the Yakima Buddhist Temple, 212 W. 2nd Street, Wapato, WA 98951

Immediately following the initial earthquake in Kumamoto our mother temple, the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha, in Kyoto, Japan, initiated relief efforts, started a relief fund, dispatched relief assistance to the affected areas and



established a disaster management office at the Hongwanji's Kumamoto district office. The Buddhist Churches of America is raising funds throughout the month of June to give to the Hongwanji Earthquake Relief fund and humbly requests your assistance. Please make out your checks to the Seattle Buddhist Church and write "Kumamoto Earthquake Relief" on the memo line. Our temple will remit 100% of the funds donated to the BCA which in turn will forward the funds to the Hongwanji Earthquake Relief Fund. Please make your donations by June 30.



If there's still some money left please consider making a special donation to our own temple's building fund. The renovation work has only just begun. By the time you read this the water damaged ceilings and walls in the temple office and hallways around the hondo will be under repair and rumor has it that the City of Seattle will soon be requiring unreinforced masonry (URM) buildings such as ours to be retrofitted to meet new codes to make it less vulnerable to collapse during earthquakes. Our facilities committee is working up plans to address these requirements and is looking forward to the support of the entire temple community for this project which will likely run close to \$1M. Thank you for your past and future generous support.

In gassho,
Alan

Dharma School would like to invite all students, their families and the Sangha to our last day event on June 12. We will be honoring graduating seniors, both high school and college, and recognizing students with attendance awards. Afterwards there will be a potluck lunch in the gym and activities for the kids.

Notes on Dharma Exchange - an after-service discussion group

April 24 - Rev. Jim Warrick mentioned Rev. Sala Sekiya's Dharma talk in which she gave an overview about the significance of the Naijin and its relationship to chanting and other aspects of Buddhism. He went on to say there is much to learn about the many historical aspects of the Naijin in our practice. . . He told of his fascination with two Sanskrit words; e.g. Himsa meaning to cause harm or hurt and Ahimsa meaning no harm, no hurt. By following the Five Precepts we will practice Ahimsa. Those precepts are: avoid killing, lying, stealing, drugs/alcohol, and sexual misconduct. Sensei said Ghandi was a firm believer in Ahimsa as evidenced by his practice. . . Leonora MA brought a book cart into the Hondo and described the workings of the unfinished library. We will have access to the book cart, which will include translations, essays, dharma talks, the Tannisho, and the Collected Works of Shinran, Vols. 1 and 2. . Jim Sensei indicated a documentary film will be shown at the Northwest Film Forum on 12th Ave. It is called "Project Fukushima!" on May 2 (free) and 3 and will feature Japanese musician Yoshihide Omoto and others. . . Sensei related a story about a monk who encountered a scorpion which had fallen into a pond. He was stung by the scorpion when he picked him up several times. When asked why he continued to pick up the scorpion which was causing him pain, he replied it is the nature of the scorpion to sting and it is my nature to save him.

May 1 - Rinban Castro introduced guest speaker Re. Dr. Nobuo Haneda who was born and raised in Nagano, and came to the U.S. to study Buddhism. Rev. Haneda's father was not interested in religion. Sensei found Tolstoy interesting and studied Russian to become a translator. In reading about Shuichi Maida, who was the most important Buddhist thinker in modern Japan, he became interested in his ideas, and subsequently learned about Buddhism through Maida. Sensei's father became upset. Bishop Yamaoka offered sensei a position in 1984. He later wrote "Dharma Breeze." He understood Shinran's saying that the meaning of Nembutsu was important, not the practice of repeating it. Haneda Sensei is the founder of the Maida Center of Buddhism in Berkeley.

May 8 - Rinban Castro felt the idea of "It's all about me" is prevalent in American society; whereas, in Japanese culture, consideration for others is important. . . Sensei recalled how considerate Rev. Harada was in setting meetings in San Jose to accommodate Sensei's visits to see his mother. Sensei read a poem about Mrs. Furota who died in a nursing facility and how her children were so saddened. On the other hand, her death made a bed available for another elderly person, and her family was very happy.

May 15 - Rinban Castro asked the DX group if they had any questions about Gotan-e, Shinran Shonin's birthday. A participant asked if anything special was done in Japan. Yes, replied Sensei, and explained it includes a big celebration with tours of the Hongwan-ji and luncheon. Another participant queried whether or not Dharmakaya was a manifestation Amida Buddha. He was, as well as the historical Buddha. . . Sensei explained that Theravada Buddhism embraces the Pali Canon, and Mahayana Buddhism embraces the Sanskrit Canon. There are likely many canons yet to be discovered. Sensei said Amida Buddha is considered to be Universal Enlightenment, and that he himself favors the idea of "Dynamic Dharma". He gave an example of Amida Buddha calling us -- life is painful, and a birdcall is beautiful. He indicated the concept of Pure Land existed at the time of Nagarjuna, one of the Seven Masters. There are two masters from India, three from China and two from Japan. . . During a time of upheaval in Japan, Rennyo Shonin (1415-1499) revitalized Buddhism employing the Gobunsho, consisting of over 80 letters to his followers. At that time Shinran's teaching almost collapsed in Japan; and in 1461, over 80K people died in Kyoto from starvation. Later, Rennyo established the Hongwanji and composed the liturgy. Currently in Japan, a reading of Rennyo's work is recited after each dharma message.

In gassho,
Pat Bobrow



Buddhist Study Group at Seattle Betsuin

has been meeting monthly for several years, usually, on the first Saturday of the month from 9:30 to 11:30 am. The next session will be on June 4 with guest speaker, Joseph Marino, PhD candidate at UW and a member of the Early Buddhist Manuscripts Project, EBMP.org. All are invited to attend and there is no fee. The following is a review of one of the sessions by a participant. – IHG

Book Study Group April 16, 2016

BUDDHISM ON AIR: Televised Kaleidoscope of a Growing Religion, Kenneth Kenshin Tanaka, Buddhist Education Center, Anaheim, CA, 2015.

The Betsuin Book Study Group viewed Ken Tanaka's video, BUDDHISM ON AIR, and focused on the qualities of an awakened or enlightened person. In the video, he interviews Jidong Chen of Peking University, a professor at the time of the Tiananmen Square Massacre in 1985.

Jidong Chen talks about his teacher, Jingui Chen, who had achieved a high level of wisdom and compassion and was also active in the world. Jingui Chen's own demeanor calmed the young activists as he listened carefully to and advised them during the democratic reform movement, at the risk of his own life. Jingui maintained a "Big Mind" in that he stayed open to all possibilities, not unlike a Go master.

Jingui Chen even bent the rules in order to encourage and sustain Professor Jidong in his support of the movement. "A truly awakened person . . . (is) eager to relate to people in today's world. They are "truly human" in that they can even be mischievous". p. 177

A brief aside was made about some Buddhist groups practicing outside the usual Sangha norms.

Ken Tanaka opens and closes this chapter in his book with this reflection (on an awakened or enlightened person): "Hard Rock is not shaken by wind; likewise the wise are not disturbed by praise or blame." (Dhammapada 90, Buddha-Dharma, p.433) Gassho, KA

2016 Seattle Bon Odori will be July 16, 17

Dance practices will take place July 5-7 and July 11-12 from 7:30 to 9 pm in the temple gym.

Memorial Day Service at Lakeview Cemetery, Seattle 10:00AM to honor Nissei Veterans, Monday May 30

Cemetery Visits in Sumner, Puyallup, Auburn, Kent, and Sea-Tac on Memorial Day

Please join us for Annual Cemetery Visits this Memorial Day, Monday May 30, 2016. This is usually done during Obon Season but we follow a tradition that our Temple has done in previous years. If you have loved ones interred in the following cemeteries, we will conduct Buddhist Services for them:

8:30AM	9:30AM	10:15AM	11:00AM	12:00Noon
Sumner	Mt. View	Pioneer	Hillcrest	Washington Memorial

Namo Amida Butsu, - Den - **White River Buddhist Temple** <http://website.wrbt-temple.org/>

Betsuin Events for June 2016

SUNDAYS 10:55am Meditation (convenes in foyer)

June 5 Rev. Sekiya in California

10:00 am ALL SANGHA MEMORIAL SERVICE

Youth/Adult: Rinban Castro

Japanese Program

DX: Rinban Castro

Meditation: MA

11:45 am SBBWA Board Meeting

1:30 pm Sangha Award Class

June 12

10:00 am AWARDS AND RECOGNITION
SERVICE (Last day of Dharma School)

Youth/Adult: Rinban Castro

Japanese: Rev. Sekiya

DX: Rinban Castro

Meditation: MA

11:30 am Dharma School Party and
Potluck Luncheon

June 19

10:00 am FAMILY SERVICE

Adult: Rinban Castro

Japanese: Rev. Sekiya

DX: (Rinban Castro)

Meditation: MA

June 20 – July 6 Rinban Castro (Vacation)

June 26

10:00 am BISHOPS' AND RINBANS'
MEMORIAL SERVICE

Adult: Rev. Sekiya

Japanese: Rev. Sekiya

DX: Rev. Warrick

Meditation: MA

11:45 am SBBWA Cabinet Meeting

MONDAYS

June 6 Rinban Castro and Rev. Sekiya (day off)

June 13 Rinban Castro (day off)

June 20 – July 6 Rinban Castro (Vacation)

June 27 – July 1 9:30 am – 3:00 pm KSP

(Kids Summer Program) All temple in use

TUESDAYS

June 7 Rinban Castro (day off)

June 14 Rinban Castro (day off)

June 20 – July 6 Rinban Castro (Vacation)

June 28 10:30 am Keiro Service & KSP

WEDNESDAYS

June 1 Rinban Castro (day off – on call)

Rev. Sekiya in California

June 8 Rev. Sekiya (day off)

10:30 am Dharma Support Group (Rinban Castro)

June 15 10:30 am Dharma Support Group
(Rinban Castro)

June 22, 29 Rev. Sekiya (days off)

June 29 KSP

THURSDAYS

June 2 Rev. Sekiya in California

1:30 pm Nikkei Manor Service (Rinban Castro)

June 16

10:00 am Shinran Shonin Monthly Memorial
Service (Rinban Castro & Rev. Sekiya)

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

June 20 – July 6 Rinban Castro (Vacation)

June 23 Rev. Sekiya (day off)

June 30 KSP

FRIDAYS

June 3 Rev. Sekiya in California

12:00 pm Gojikai Service and Luncheon Meeting
(Rinban Castro)

June 17 Rev. Sekiya (day off)

June 20 – July 6 Rinban Castro (Vacation)

July 1 KSP

SATURDAYS

June 4 Rev. Sekiya in California

9:30 am - Noon Book Study Group with Joseph
Marino, "Gandharan Buddhist Texts"

1:00 pm Sangha Award Class museum visit
(Rinban Castro)

June 11 Rev. Sekiya (day off)

June 18 Rev. Sekiya (day off)

9:30 am – 4:00 pm "Compassionate Care Seminar"
by NW Dharma Association – held at the Betsuin

June 20 – July 6 Rinban Castro (Vacation)

June 25 9:00 am – 4:00 pm KSP Set-up/All temple

JULY 2016 Major Events of Interest

July 5, 6, 7, 11, & 12 Bon Odori dance practices
from 7:30 – 9:00 pm

July 9 Obon Cemetery Services (Mt. Pleasant @
12pm, WA Memorial @ 1 pm, Lake View @
3pm)

July 10 Obon/Hatsubon Service at the Betsuin
@ 10 am; Obon Cemetery Services (Washelli @
1 pm, Sunset Hills @ 3 pm)

July 13 – 15

**Bon Odori Set-up—
volunteers needed**

July 16 – 17

Seattle Bon Odori

July 22 – 24

NWYBL Retreat

2016 July Newsletter Deadline:

Monday, June 21, 2016

8:00 pm

Seattle Buddhist Church
1427 S Main Street
Seattle, WA 98144

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



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June 2016 Major Events of Interest

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| June 4 Sat. | 9:30am Gandharan Buddhist Art Lecture by Joe Marino, UW PhD candidate |
| June 5 Sun. | 10am All Sangha Memorial Service |
| June 12 Sun. | 10am Dharma School Awards & Recognition Service; last day of Dharma School |
| June 16 Thurs. | 10am Shinran Shonin Memorial Service |
| June 18 Sat. | 9:30am - 4pm Compassionate Care Seminar presented by NW Dharma Association at the Betsuin. To register email george@northwestdharma.org |
| June 26 Sun. | 10am Bishops'/Rinbans' Memorial Service |
| June 27 – July 1 M-F | KSP (Kids' Summer Program) all Temple in use |

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Deadline is the third Monday each month at 8PM