



Hello, everyone! I'm Rev. Kojo Kakihara. As some of you may know, I was assigned to be an acting Rimban of Seattle Betsuin on January 1. I have been a Kaikyoshi, an overseas minister for 9 years, and am serving at Tacoma Buddhist Temple at present. Basically, I will have a chance to see you at Seattle Betsuin only once a month. But as long as I am an acting Rimban, Seattle Betsuin is my temple, and I am your Sensei. I am looking forward to working together with you, sharing fun time, and being more appreciative to Buddha Dharma together with you. On this issue, let me introduce myself a little.

I am from a temple family in a city called Onomichi in Hiroshima prefecture, Japan. Onomichi city is a port town and known for many Buddhist temples and slopes. My home temple is called Eisho-ji. At present, my father is the 15th generation of the resident minister. I received Tokudo ordination and became a minister when I was 19 years old. I think that my parents brought me up very well since I felt it natural to become a minister. In my university time, I went to England for 8 months, where I studied English and drinking at Pub every night. After graduation from the university, I worked at a trading company in Tokyo for 3 years. Then I studied at Chuo Bukkyo Gakuin, or Hongwanji Buddhist Academy in Kyoto for 2 years before coming to the US.

I am 38 years old now. I am married to my wife Masayo for 5 years. We have two children, a daughter, Satone, 4 years, and a son, Shujo, 2 years. My favorite food is Tonkatsu (deep fried pork cutlet). I like golf and billiards. I also like knitting and sewing (!). If you want to know more about me, please come to temple and see me.

Once again, I thank you for this precious opportunity and meeting. I am looking forward to meeting you and spending fun time together.

これから一緒に、仏法を聴き、お念仏を喜べるのを楽しみにしています。

Gassho with palms together,



What's Inside
Messages from
Rimban Kakihara
Rev. Sekiya
Chairman Hoshino

Book Study
Donations
Membership
Salmon Dinner Update
Dharma Exchange
N Y's Party Photos
SBBWA
YAC Reunion
BCA Events

Seattle Betsuin Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations Received December 2016 - January 2017

Funeral / Memorial / Nokotsudo:

Given by:

| | | |
|--|-------------|-------------------------|
| Yoshiye Iwamura – Funeral Service | \$ 1,000.00 | Karen & Don Akira |
| Yoshie Mikami – Graveside Service | \$ 600.00 | Estate of Yoshie Mikami |
| Nokotsudo for James & Ayako Demise | \$ 250.00 | Douglas & Joyce Handa |
| Nokotsudo | \$ 200.00 | Frances Shintaku |
| Nokotsudo | \$ 100.00 | Kinue Kuwahara |
| Nokotsudo for Grace & Gladys Hamano | \$ 50.00 | Ritsuko Kawahara |
| Nokotsudo for Sayako Oba | \$ 50.00 | Ritsuko Kawahara |
| Fukutaro Norikane – 50 th Year Memorial for Grandfather | \$ 50.00 | Hiroko Janet Kosai |

In Memory of:

Given by:

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Yoshiye Iwamura | Aya (Jean) Deguchi; Mae Deguchi; John & Lisa Duff; Sue Fujino; Ellen Hale; Frances Hamanishi; Peggy Hanada; Norigiku Horikawa; Ritsuko Kawahara; Frances Kobayashi; Hiroko Janet Kosai; June Kosai; Daisy Kuramoto; Kinue Kuwahara; T. Jack Matsui; Julie Mayeda; Yoshio & Judith Nakamura; Curtis & Charlene Nakayama; Pauline Sakuma; Shirley Shimada; Ben & Etsu Shimbo; Roy & Kazumi Shimizu; Frances Shintaku; Nori Suguro; Peggy Tanemura; Fumiye Taniguchi; Katsumi & Terrie Tanino; Miyoko Tazuma; Joe & Hideko Terada; Brian & Sachiko Yenokida |
| June Mano | Calvin & Yvette Terada |
| Rose Masuda | Michele Anciaux-Aoki; Maynard & Shhriley Nomura |
| Mineko Sakamoto | John & Polly Shigaki; Victor & Lilly Takemoto; Margaret Teramoto |
| Paul Sakaguchi | Mae Deguchi; George & Irene Mano; Mabel Nishizaki |
| Florence Tsuchida | John & Polly Shigaki |

Joya-E and New Year Day Service: Karen Garland; Larry & June Iwafuchi; Hiroko Janet Kosai; Paul & Teresa Mori; Charlotte Ramsey; Hidemi & Keiko Tsuboi; Betty Vogeley

General Donations:

For:

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Anonymous | General Donation |
| Steve Harada | General Donation |
| Kawabe Memorial Fund | General Donation (Annual Distribution) |
| Daisuke Nakashima | General Donation |
| Susumu & Hideko Tsutsumi | General Donation |
| Mariko Mano | General Donation |
| Alice Takeuchi | General Donation |
| Shinya & Jayne Ichikawa | General Donation |
| Charlotte Ramsey | General Donations (4 gifts) |
| Miyoko Kaneta | General Donation |
| Keiro Northwest | Appreciation for Use of Facilities |
| Keiro Northwest, Kokoro Kai | |
| Volunteers Fund | Appreciation for Use of Facilities |
| Kazuko Yakumo | Appreciation for Wheel of the Sangha Newsletter |
| Karen & Don Akira | Appreciation for Funeral Reception Set-up |
| Greg & Joan Seko | Appreciation for Book "Mukashi, Mukashi" |

STATEMENT ON THE EXECUTIVE ORDER BY BISHOP KODO UMEZU

The Executive Order signed by President Donald Trump on January 27, 2017 has been causing serious concerns and suffering for many people, especially Muslims and immigrants. It has brought back memories of the unlawful mass incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II.

Even if the intent of the Executive Order is to protect our citizens from terrorist attacks, we strongly oppose any actions that lead to discrimination against certain groups just because of their ethnicity or faith. We should remind ourselves that all people deserve to be respected and treated equally under the law. Each faith group should encourage and promote peace and harmony based on its beliefs and principles, and help create a better nation that we can be proud of.

Gassho,
Reverend Kodo Umezu
Bishop, Buddhist Churches of America

- AH

Salmon Dinner Fundraiser News Update:

There will be more news to come but, this is just a preliminary notification of the Seattle Betsuin's Salmon Dinner Fundraiser that will be held on March 18, 2017. Tickets will be mailed out to individuals/families on the Temple's Ijikai/Sustaining Membership list that have paid their dues as of September 30, 2016 or recently for the 2017 fiscal year. For those that do not receive the mailing, tickets will be available for purchase from the Temple office as well as from Temple organizations.

We need the Sangha to sell tickets to friends and family members to make this a financial success and purchase additional tickets their own use. As long as we know tickets have been sold, we will order sufficient quantities of salmon and pork to meet demand. Pre-sales will help to determine the amount of salmon and pork to order so it is very important to return payment by the specified date as will be identified in the letter. Tickets will be mailed out around mid-February. If ticket payment or returned tickets are not made by the specified date, sufficient quantities to match ticket sales may not be ordered. This event is not like prior Temple events over the years where advance ticket/script sales were not as important. It is critical to follow the requested instructions for payment or ticket returns for this event.

Additionally:

We are soliciting voluntary **donations of baked goods** to sell at the event. We will have some desserts similar to last year but are in need of donations that can be dropped off before the event starts.

As food is prepared and served at this event, we are asking those who will be involved to get their **food handlers permit issued by the King County Department of Health** if they don't already have one. The permit is good for an initial period of 2 years and with Obon coming up later this year, another opportunity to know safe food handling procedures. You can take the **examination on-line** and pay a small \$10.00 fee. The exam can be accessed at <http://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/health/environmental-health/food-safety/food-worker-card.aspx> Once you get your permit, please make a copy and provide to the Temple office.



Sign-up sheets for help in putting on this event will be posted in the hallways and also being contacted by Temple organizations you may be affiliated with. Please consider helping out where you can at this event which is one of two major fundraisers for the Temple. - HL

Seattle Betsuin Gojikai – 2016

Front, L-R: Mrs. Eidmann (guest), Rev. Don Castro, Mariko Mano, Ruby Yasui
Back L-R: Pauline Sakuma, Jack Matsui, Fusako Kusumi, Shogo Kusumi, Masaru Tahara, Anna Tahara
Not Pictured: Rev. Sala Sekiya, Norigiku Hori-kawa, Fumiko Groves, Carol Aoki-Kramer.

Our group assembles at noon on the first Friday of Feb, Mar, Apr, May, June, Sept, Oct, Nov and Dec. Typically, the minister(s) conduct a short service which is followed by a short business meeting, then a delicious bento lunch. We would like to extend a cordial invitation to everyone who would be interested in joining our organization. - PS



Religious Education Events

The February Book Study Group will meet on Saturday, February 4, from 9:30 - Noon in the Memorial Hall Chapel. We have deferred reading *A Two-Headed Bird, One Life* because it is out of print. Instead, everyone is encouraged to stay for brown bag lunch afterward. There is no cost to attend and you are welcome to attend regardless of whether you've done the reading or not to participate. - Rev. Castro, Leonora Clarke & Irene Goto

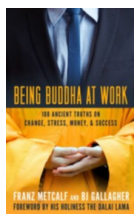


BCA Center for Buddhist Education Symposium, THURS., MARCH 2, 2017, 1 - 5 PM
San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin, 640 North 5th Street, San Jose, CA

BUDDHA AT WORK

Being Buddha at Work

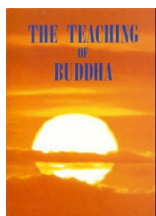
108 Ancient Truths on Change, Stress, Money & Success



**Franz Metcalf
& BJ Gallagher**

Buddhist Philanthropist:

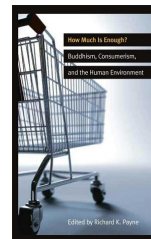
The Story of
Rev. Dr. Yehan Numata



Brian Nagata
BDK America

How Much is Enough?

Buddhism, Consumerism, and the Human Environment



Dr. Richard Payne
Yehan Numata Professor
of Japanese Buddhist Studies,
Institute of Buddhist Studies

Moderator: Rev. Marvin Harada Co-Director, BCA Center for Buddhist Education **FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC** Presented in conjunction with the Buddhist Churches of America Ministers Association & National Council Meetings **Theme: Buddhism & Technology—Unleashing the Power of Amida's Vow** **Contact: cbe@bcahq.org**
Phone: (510) 809-1460 **www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org**

The Betsuin gratefully acknowledges the donations received for the following special services. If your name is not listed, the donation may have been received after the deadline for this newsletter and will be listed in the next edition. Please accept our apologies for any inadvertent misspelling of names:

Bodhi Day:

Anonymous, ; Asaba, Lauren; Asaba, Marian; Baba, Janet; Beard, Clara; Bobrow, Patricia; Chinn, Connie Ozeki -; Chisholm, Steve & Lori; Deguchi, Mae; Dodobara, Kenny & Yoshie; Driscoll, Irene Goto -; Fujii, Minoru & Aiko; Fujino, Suteko (Sue); Fujita, Florence; Fukeda, Toshiko; Goshio, Kazumi (Janice); Habu, Gordon & Mae Yamasaki -; Hamakami, John & Lynda; Hamakawa, Ron; Hamatani, Jane; Hanada, Miyuki; Hanada, Peggy; Harada, Setsuko; Hinds, Cynthia; Hirata, Michiko; Ichikawa, Satoru & Grace; Isomura, Toshiko; Kaku, Dale & Shizue; Kaminishi, Gail; Kaminishi, Gail; Kaneta, Miyoko; Kashima, Tetsuden & Cecilia Kanako; Kashiwa, Ann T.; Katayama, Mary K.; Kawahara, Ritsuko; Keltner, Marc & Janice; Kido, Momoko; Knutzen, Paul & Janet; Ko, Jeffrey & Tina Zumoto -; Koba, Masao; Kobayashi, Frances; Kogita, Takako; Kojima, Esther; Kunihiro, M. Carolyn; Kuramoto, Daisy Toyoko; Kusachi, Sachiko; Mano, George & Irene; Mano, Mariko; Matsui, Tsugio Jack; Mizumori, Sheri; Morikubo, Yukio & Karen; Naemura, Joseph & Janie Okawa; Nagai, Ernest & Sanaye (Sunnie); Nakabayashi, Kemi; Nakamura, Yoshio & Judith; Nakanishi, Kiyoko; Nakano, Craig & Joan; Nakano, Junko; Nishimura, Hiro & Dorothy; Nishizaki, Mabel; Ohtani, Michiye; Okada, Barry & Marlene; Okada, Emiko; Oxrieder, Gregory & Catherine Ann; Oye, Sunako (Sunkie); Ozanich, Kiyomi Taketa -; Parke, Troy & Mayumi Terada -; Quintua, Gerald; Ramsey, Charlotte; Saito, Irene; Sako, Masako; Sakuma, Pauline; Sato, Joyce; Scattergood, Dave & Joyce Tsuji -; Shibata, Dennis M.; Shigaya, Kenneth; Shigaya, Mary S.; Shigaya, Teruko (Terrie); Shimada, Shirley; Shimbo, Ben & Etsu; Shimizu, Roy & Kazumi; Shimizu, Sato & Darlene; Shinoda, Franklin; Sumida, Leslie; Tahara, Masaru & Anna; Takamura, Kuniko; Takano, Yasuko Jean; Takashima, Kiyoko; Taketa, Haruso & Sonoe; Tamekuni, Masao & Frances; Tanaka, Rikuko; Tanemura, Kevin; Taniguchi, Fumiye; Taniguchi, Theodore & Akiko; Tanino, Katsumi & Terrie; Tazuma, Miyoko; Terada, Allan & Kayoko; Terada, Calvin J. & Yvette; Terada, Ronald & Suzuko; Teramoto, Margaret; Teramoto, Stuart; Tokunaga, Toshio & Dolly; Tomita, Paul & Mabel; Toyoshima, Michiko; Uchida, Sam & Masako; Uyenishi, Tazuko; Vaart, Michiko Jean; Wada, Machiko; Watanabe, Henry & Christy; Wong, Leanne Nishi -; Yamashita, Dennis & Elaine Aoki -; Yanagimoto, Michiko; Yokota, Sumie; Yokoyama, Kevin & Kari Ann; Yoshida, Fuyo; Yoshimi, Crystal; Yutani, Nobuo;

Ho'Onko: Habu, Gordon & Mae Yamasaki -; Kumasaka, Lisa; Mayeda, Julie; Morikubo, Yukio & Karen; Okada, Barry & Marlene; Sakamoto, Kengo; Tomita, Paul & Mabel; Vaart, Michiko Jean; Yokota, Sumie; **Gotan-Ye:** Takano, Yasuko Jean **New Year's Eve/**

Seattle Buddhist Church's Newest Board of Directors elected:

Karen Akira, Joe Gotchy, John Hamakami, Ron Hamakawa, Craig Nakashima, Steph Ojima, Anna Tamura, Julianne Tosaya, Julianne Tosaya, Mae Yamasaki, Kevin Yokoyama

Cabinet:

President - Alan Hoshino

1st VP - Calvin Terada

2nd VP - Tyler Moriguchi

Recording Sec - Craig Nakashima

Corresponding Sec - Stephanie Ojima

Treasurer - Howard Luke

Auditor 1 - Michael Teramoto

Auditor 2 - Julianne Tosaya

Auditor 3 - Susie Taketa

- SO

ON BEHALF OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE...

We would like to **"thank"** the following **regular members**, for contributing their minimum annual Sustaining Membership dues (the basic dues toward the Temple maintenance/operations). These are the most recent paid members for the fiscal year of 2017.

Rev. Don Castro; Fumiko Groves; Sat & Grace Ichikawa; Scott Kurashige; Mariko Mano; Kevin Nagai; Sunnie Nagai; Gary & Debbie Shibata; Roy & Kazumi Shimizu; Frances Shintaku; Peggy Tanemura; Michiko Toyoshima; Sam Umeda; Arlene Yamada; Dennis Yamashita & Elaine Aoki; Nobuo Yutani

***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, 2017, 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)

SBBWA News During the coldest months, hope you are well and taking care of yourself.

At the Betsuin New Year Party, picture shows Rev. Castro starting the party with a toast. It feels funny to see him in regular clothes, instead of black robe.

Our VP, Janie Okawa won the raffle prize! We don't understand what her prize was but something like a super camera.

Mrs. Toyoshima continues to knit hats and scarves for people in need. We have taken them to Orion Center and other places, if you know any other organizations that would benefit from them, let us know. They are very well made.

Betsuin fundraiser Salmon dinner, is March 18, 2017. Members will be receiving tickets in the mail soon. It's very important that you ask your family and friends to purchase the tickets, our support is important. Our salmon is cooked to perfection; juicy, tender and with delectable seasoning. All your friends and family members will enjoy this special meal. Please support this big event.

Hope to see you at the NW convention on February 18 and 19. If you did not register, you can still attend Sunday service at the Doubletree Suites,



Southcenter.

We send our deepest sympathy to the family of the late Yoshie Mikami.

Donation Nov. & Dec. 2016, appreciation for your continued support:

Fumiko Groves

Doyle Family

Setsuko Harada

Anonymous

Martha Murakami —

in memory of mother Sugiyo Fukuma

Nina Tomita-Kato, Machiko Wada, Co-Chairs



SCHOLARSHIPS for High School Seniors and College Students

HIGH SCHOOL: The Seattle Betsuin Tsujihara Family Memorial Scholarship Grant and Seattle Betsuin Continuing Education Grant are offering scholarships to high school seniors graduating in 2016.

COLLEGE: If you are a student currently enrolled and completed one year of college, the Masaru & Mitsuma Shimokon Scholarship Grant is offering scholarships for careers as nurse practitioner, medical doctor, registered nurse, engineer, or computer science. Other fields in the technical, math and science programs may also be considered. This is a one-time only grant.

All high school and college applicants or their parent(s) must be a member of good standing of the Seattle Buddhist Church.

The deadline to submit applications is Monday, April 3, 2017 before or by 2:30pm to the temple office. For applications and/or questions, please contact Shizue Kaku via the temple office 206-329-0800 or email: office@seattlebetsuin.com

Shizu Kaku

The graduating class of the 2016 Youth Advocacy Committee Retreat held a reunion in Seattle, WA

over MLK weekend, January 13 - 16, led by Rev. Bob and Rev. Patti Oshita, Buddhist Church of Sacramento Betsuin. Participants from all along the west coast, as well as Ekoji temple, attended. Over the weekend we each gave a *howa* (dharma message), toured the city, conducted services, ate, practiced Shoshinge and Wasans, and most importantly got to catch up with each other after 6 months. The YAC retreat in July was one of the most meaningful events I took part in and having a reunion made us even closer. Thank you to Char Grinolds, Susan Bottari, Keith Sawada, Valerie Yamanaka, and David Chin for cooking for us the entire weekend.

2016 YAC Attendees: Cody, Skye, Marissa W, Sydney, Allison, Toshi S, PJ, Noel, Jeni, Cailyn, Dylan, Mark, Kiana, Brandon, Amanda, Alex, Marissa, Josh, Erin, Hannah, Maddie. – submitted by Alex S



Youth and Adult Musicians, Singers Wanted

Betsuin welcomes youth musicians to support music for children's and special services. Debbie Shibata has agreed to support her daughter Allison to coordinate future youth musician involvement in service music this year. Any interested musicians (youth or adults) are welcome to contact Debbie and Allison or Kemi Nakabayashi as we plan special music programming for 2017. More Sangha Singers are also needed. Singers meet on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. They need not feel they must be at the temple every Sunday in order to participate. Ukelele Band also meets at the temple after service about noon. –KN/IG

Notes on Dharma Exchange, an after-service discussion

Jan. 8, 2017 - Irene Goto Sensei quoted from the Contemplation Sutra. A Participant asked how to give true charity. When you want the whole thing but will give it to another. Participant: When you have nothing you can still give something. Irene Sensei suggested giving a smile. Rev. Jim Warrick said true dana = no give, no receive, no gift. It is difficult to give that way. . . Shinran realized we are all bonbu and is grateful to Ajatasatru who showed evil in himself. . . The story was told that King Bimbisara was killed by his son, Ajatasatru, in order to gain power, and that it was Sakyamuni Buddha's cousin, Devadatta, who prompted this travesty. Shinran realized we are all bonbu and is grateful to Devadatta who showed evil in himself [Ed. note: There are numerous variations of this story.] Participant: Killing one's father is a different form of evil from killing another person. Jim Sensei thinks it is we who are evil for having negative thoughts about someone who kills when we say he is not crazy, he is evil. A participant had gratitude for Rev. Sala's comment, "It's the Buddha who is giving whatever; all we have is through the Buddha." A participant suggested we get rid of our own evil and not judge others. Castro Sensei said there are so many layers of evil. We are so self-absorbed and self-attached, both deeply. A participant indicated our way is not necessarily the right way.

Jan 15 - Rev. Bob Oshita of the Sacramento Betsuin visited our temple for the third time with the YAC [Youth Advocacy Committee] group. Both he and his wife retired in August 2016 and will continue on with the YAC. He said he enjoys kids who are 8 - 10 years old as they teach him. Rev. Bob said Buddhism is not meant to be difficult; he thinks we should change the name Buddhism to "Life." What do you understand about life? All things are one. He hates that we refer to life as suffering. The kids made him a better teacher. He believes life is tough because we want everything. The first of the Eight-fold path is the most important. We are not separate from our environment -- we are one. He said to ask questions if we don't get it, and being awake is important. Rev. Bob described a meeting of ministers from 15 different disciplines, and each was to speak. The meeting had been going on for two hours, when finally at the end, Rev. Bob was asked to explain Buddhism. First, he said he was not going to speak for a long time; then he proposed getting rid of all religions and starting over and "just be nice to each other." That ended his talk. Several people asked him where his temple was located. He was asked by the council to host a 2002 meeting for one week and close the temple to everything else. He told them it could not be done. Later, when he told his wife she said, "We have to do this." And it was done. Rev. Bob said that now that he is retired he would do it all over again. He recommended retiring when people still want you.

Jan 22 - Irene Sensei related highlights of the Women's March, in which she participated, on Jan 21, 2017. A participant thought at first that "WomXn" was a misspelling, but later thought it meant all-inclusive. Another participant said it was the official title of the march. Several signs were noted: "I am not Ovary Active," "Power to the People," and "Gays are for Women's Right." Irene Sensei noted little trash on the streets. She felt it would have been more meaningful had there been a program at the end at Seattle Center, but speakers came earlier. She felt it was all positive with people smiling and seeming to care, and there was no violence. In all, 170K people attended and it was the largest march in Seattle's history. The City of Seattle prepared for only 50K, so porta-potties were scarce with long lines. A participant cautiously reminded us of a man in Europe who screamed as he spoke and people listened and followed him and millions died, 1930-1945. . . There is a story in the current North American Post (1-19-17) about George Takei's movie, "Allegiance" to be shown 2-19 at 12:55pm, at selected theaters nationally. George Takei lived at Heart Mountain and Tule Lake from ages 5-9. Note that this is the same date as the Day of Remembrance commemorating the 75th anniversary of Executive Order 9066 that set in motion internment for Japanese Americans. . . A participant visited with Hiro Nishimura at Nikkei Manor and he is doing well. . . Kemi asked that we all learn Donna Sasaki's song "Wake Up" for the NW Buddhist Convention. Kemi also needs more singers and indicated they need not feel they must be at the temple every Sunday in order to participate.



In Gassho, Pat Bobrow

The Hongwanji school is a community of people joined together revering the teaching of Shinran Shonin and saying the Nembutsu. We seek to share with others the wisdom and compassion of Amida Tathagata. By doing so, we shall work toward the realization of a society in which everyone is able to live a life of spiritual fulfillment.

- The Essentials of Jodo Shinshu — My Path



Dear Members of the Seattle Betsuin,

When I visited Chicago for the second time in September 2016, one of the participants of our seminars from NY said, “No matter where you go, in America or in the world, you have friends all over as long as you are in the Jodo Shinshu (Hongwanji school) community.” I met her a few years ago in NY and hadn’t seen her since, but we sat comfortably together along with others who felt similarly and we all nodded. That is exactly how I feel over the years in the Jodo Shinshu community. Those that have departed from my everyday life would come back just like normal, and we would always realize we share important things in common despite the time or the physical distance—the teaching of Nembutsu.

As I announced at the Eitaikyo Service, I will be transferred to the Gardena Buddhist Church at the end of this month. I am sad to have only a few more chances to see you in person soon. When I look back, it feels like a very short time but it’s already 18 months that I have been here, learning the new environment. I am so thankful for all the support you gave me, how you welcomed me into the temple community and how you made me feel at home. One of the most fond memories is definitely learning bits and bits more of you over time. I cannot thank you enough for all the support you have given me. Although I would often say “we should not judge good and bad”, it actually meant so much when I heard your encouragements. Your smiles and kind words made me motivated and kept me running to share the Buddhist teachings. This is where I started my ministry in America, and I am very grateful that I was given such a wonderful place that I can call home to learn from.

In order for a community to be a Buddhist Sangha, I would say it needs to be a group of those individuals who are willing to learn Buddhism at all times. In our terms, it is the listening to the Nembutsu teaching. It is this spirit of accepting others as the child of Buddha on the path that will keep our Sangha and eventually our society peaceful. I appreciate that we will always be together on this path of Nembutsu, though we may be physically apart. Thank you all, my dear friends, so much!



Rev. Sekiya, Rev. Patti Nakai, Linda Anderson-Krech speakers at Women in Buddhism Conference on October 3, 2015



Chairperson's Message

"It is not impermanence that makes us suffer. What makes us suffer is wanting things to be permanent when they are not."
— Thich Nhat Hanh

The winds of change picked up this past month, especially with respect to our ministerial staff. Rev. Castro began his retirement at the beginning of January followed a couple weeks later by Bishop Umezu announcing the appointment of Rev. Kakiyama, resident minister of the Tacoma Buddhist Temple, as our acting Rinban effective January 1st. Then, at the end of January Bishop announced the transfer of Rev. Sekiya to the Gardena Buddhist Church effective March 1st. Naturally everyone is wondering what's going on and asking "will we get a new Rinban?" The answer is yes. Bishop Umezu has been working with us along with leaders of the other temples which form the Buddhist Churches of America to assign ministers to fill the voids caused by retirements, passings and the domino effect of transfers to fill voids.

In a perfect world Rev. Sekiya's transfer would be coordinated with the arrival of a new Rinban in Seattle. Unfortunately that isn't to be. Rev. Sekiya is moving to Gardena to fill the void left by Rev. Nobuo Miyaji's retirement. Like most new ministers from Japan, Rev. Sekiya's first assignment in America was to a larger temple, in this case the Seattle Betsuin, where she could acclimate herself and her ministry to the USA and the operations of the Buddhist Churches of America. After the acclimation period ministers are assigned to areas of need within the BCA and this is what's happening with Rev. Sekiya.

It seems like it was just the other day when Rev. Sekiya arrived, yet at the end of this month she'll have completed 18 months of service to our temple and we're all better for it. We have benefited from sensei's specialized training in chanting and ritual and the special gift of her voice which brought new life to the sutras and comfort to many. Sensei's loving care for and praising of Amida Buddha and the Pureland which the naijin (main altar area of our temple) represents, resulted in many upgrades to our naijin and improvements in how we use it and conduct services. Sensei, you had to be firm with some of us, almost like a boot camp drill instructor, to get through to us and to open our minds to other ways or methods. I realize that this was hard on you and sometimes made you feel bad. Thank you for loving us enough to take that bullet for us sensei. We wish we could have you with us longer and yet we know you're needed elsewhere. On behalf of the Betsuin, thank you sensei for the gifts you've given us. We wish you all the best in your new assignment and hope you'll return to visit us in the future!

After Rev. Sekiya's departure later this month and until a new minister is assigned to us, Rev. Kakiyama will be providing ministerial services and coordinating our staff of minister's assistants. We originally planned to call Rev. Castro back from retirement to assist Rev. Kakiyama but just recently Rev. Castro found out that a health condition he and his doctor have been watching for the past few years has worsened and he'll be undergoing surgery next month. He won't be available to perform services for several months and asks for everyone's understanding. If you need to speak with a minister please continue to contact the Betsuin office. After office hours our phone system will be programmed to assist you in contacting the minister on duty. We expect this to be a temporary work around and we will have a new minister in the not too distant future.

Remembrance
Reverend Sala,
Reverend Castro and
Reverend Warrick with
SBBWA members at
Northwest Buddhist
Convention

Ontario, Oregon
February 14, 2016



New Year 2017 Party Photos



Master of Ceremonies
Paul Mori



Hula by Alicorns Camp Fire Group accompanied by Seattle Ukelele Band to "Little Mynah Bird" and "Lovely Hula Hands", instructor Kayla Butler.—IHG



Installation of Officers by
Rev. Sala Sekiya



Rona Warrick
and Rev Jim
Warrick



Seattle
Matsuri Taiko

Photos by Julie Mayeda



Door Prizes:
Ron
Hamakawa

Kiana Luke
Alex Sakamoto



Photo by Sat Ichikawa

Institute of Buddhist Studies and Buddhist Churches of America Present



Greetings from the Bishop

I truly believe that teaching is one of the most sacred professions. I also believe that being a schoolteacher is the most difficult position to fill. Schoolteachers need support and respect from parents and communities. Therefore, I would like to support teachers by providing them with dharma workshops that will benefit them to serve as great community leaders of today and tomorrow.

Let us together help create better communities for everyone by learning ancient wisdom from a Buddhist understanding of people and the world.

Respectfully Yours,

Reverend Kodo Umezu, Bishop
Buddhist Churches of America



Speakers

Rev. Dr. David Ryo Matsumoto and Venerable Madawala Seelawimala

[https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?
oeidk=a07edr1khkuaf0a9413&oseq=&c=&ch=](https://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/eventReg?oeidk=a07edr1khkuaf0a9413&oseq=&c=&ch=)



Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course

This is a 2-year computer-based correspondence course, allowing students to gain basic knowledge of Jodo Shinshu and Buddhism in general. Students will download text materials, submit assignments and receive feedback from instructors. Students will deepen their understanding through correspondence with instructors as well as benefit from reference materials such as video lectures, Dharma Talks and sutra chanting. Students can also enjoy free discussion with other participants through the course chat room and message board. In addition, we will offer an optional workshop every summer so that students may have the opportunity to communicate in person as well as through the internet.

On the first of every month, text material for the course, approximately 30 – 40 pages worth of reading, will be available to download. An assignment, requiring a 500 – 800 word essay, will be included in the downloaded material and due at the end of each month. In summary, each student will have one month to download, read, write and submit the assignment. Some of the course reading will be based on the text used at Chuo Bukkyo Gakuin, a well-known Jodo Shinshu Institute in Japan. Other text reading will be supplied by our own course instructors. All program materials will be in English.

This course is non-accredited and is offered as a new and developing program without academic regulations. A certificate will be issued upon completion of all subjects.

Enrollment is limited to the first 20 students.

Visit the [Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course Website](http://jscc.cbe-bca.org/)  <http://jscc.cbe-bca.org/>

Almost 800 years have passed since Shinran revealed the teaching of Jodo Shinshu (Shin Buddhism) in Japan, following the path of Sakyamuni and other masters in India, China and Japan. The teaching, with deep reflection on human existence and the realization of dynamic Dharma, has fascinated many people around the world.

Thus, the practice of Jodo Shinshu does not remain solely in Japan, but has expanded to Hawaii, North America, South America, Asia, Europe, Australia and Africa.

More people are learning about Jodo Shinshu through ministers' activities, publications and the internet. As one response to their growing interest, we have established a correspondence course providing them, especially those who do not have access to temples nearby, with basic knowledge of Jodo Shinshu.

Betsuin Events for February 2017

SUNDAYS 10:55am Meditation*

February 5

10:00 am SCOUT SUNDAY SERVICE

Youth/Adult: Scout

Japanese: Rev. Sekiya

DX: MA

Meditation: MA

11:45 am SBBWA Board Meeting

February 12

10:00 am NIRVANA DAY / PET MEMORIAL SERVICE

Youth/Adult: Rev. Kakiyama

Japanese: Rev. Kakiyama

DX: Rev. Sekiya

Meditation: MA

11:45 am Vegetarian potluck luncheon hosted by Dharma School

February 17 – 19 NW District Buddhist Convention at DoubleTree SouthCenter

February 19 (Sunday) No Sunday Service at the Betsuin; please attend at SouthCenter DoubleTree

February 26 (Sunday)

10:00 am FAMILY SERVICE

Youth/Adult: Rev. Sekiya

Japanese: Rev. Sekiya

DX: MA

Meditation: MA

11:45 am SBBWA Cabinet Meeting

1:30 pm Sangha Award Class, Rev. Castro

MONDAYS

February 20 Presidents' Day Holiday – Office closed

TUESDAYS

February 28

10:30 am Keiro Service, MA

February 28 – March 5 2017 BCA Ministers' Association and National Council Meeting in San Jose

WEDNESDAYS

THURSDAYS

February 2

1:30 pm Nikkei Manor Service, Rev. Sekiya

February 16

10:00 am Shinran Shonin Monthly Memorial Service, Rev. Sekiya

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

FRIDAYS

February 3 12:00 pm Gojikai Service/ Luncheon Meeting, Rev. Sekiya

February 17 – 19 NW District Buddhist Convention at Doubletree Southcenter

SATURDAYS

February 4 9:30 am - noon Book Study Group—Selected essays by Todd Lewis and Melvin McLeod; contact Leonora Clarke for details. *A Two Headed Bird: One Life* by Mitsuko Ando has been deferred.

March 2017: Major Events of Interest

March 5 Camp Fire Sunday Service

March 11 Book Study Group: *Memoirs of a Buddhist Woman Missionary in Hawaii* by Shigeo Kikuchi

March 18 Salmon Dinner Fundraiser

March 19 Spring Ohigan Service

March Newsletter Deadline: 4th Monday, February 27, 2017 8pm

2017 FAMILY MEMORIAL SERVICE SCHEDULE

Traditionally, family memorial services are held for the deceased on designated anniversaries. These are significant occasions to honor the memories of our loved ones while listening to the Buddha Dharma. If you have a family member who has passed away in the following years, you are encouraged to conduct a family memorial service.

Year of Death: ... years from date of death:

2016.....1st annual memorial.....1 year

2015.....3rd anniversary memorial....2 full years

2011.....7th anniversary memorial....6 full years

2005.....13th anniversary memorial..12 full years

2001.....17th anniversary memorial..16 full years

1993.....25th anniversary memorial...24 full years

1985.....33rd anniversary memorial...32 full years

1968.....50th anniversary memorial...49 full years

Please call the temple office at (206) 329-0800 to schedule a service. - JN

Seattle Buddhist Church
1427 S Main Street
Seattle, WA 98144

February 2017
Wheel of the Sangha
**A Monthly Newsletter of
Seattle Buddhist Church**

**THIS
IS
A COVER PAGE
PLEASE SCROLL UP ↑
FOR NEWSLETTER**

Major Events of Interest at Seattle Betsuin

February 12 Sunday **10:00am Nirvana Day** / Pet Memorial Service with Rinban Kakihara and Rev. Sekiya; **11:00am Vegetarian Potluck** and **Farewell to Rev. Sekiya** with bake sale hosted by Dharma School. Dharma School takes place, but Dharma Exchanges and Meditation cancelled this day.

February 17 – 19 Friday – Sunday **NorthWest District Buddhist Convention** at the DoubleTree SouthCenter; **Sunday, February 19 Service at Seattle Betsuin is cancelled. Please attend service at DoubleTree SouthCenter at 10:00am.**

February 26 Sunday 10:00am Reverend Sekiya's last Sunday as minister at Seattle Betsuin.

Contact Us

Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple

1427 S Main Street
Seattle, WA 98144
Phone: 206. 329.0800

Fax: (206) 329-3703

Email: office
@SeattleBetsuin.com

*Visit us on the web at
www.*

SeattleBetsuin.com

*Office Hours:
Mon-Fri 9am–4pm*

*Minister 24 hours:
(206) 822-9469
Rev. Sala Sekiya*

Wheel of the Sangha Editors
Irene Goto, English: newsletter@seattlebetsuin.com
Machiko Wada, Japanese: newsletter-jpn@seattlebetsuin.com
Deadline is the third Monday each month at 8PM