Reflecting of Peace
by Rimban Katsuya Kusunoki

On August 6, 1945 and on August 9, 1945 the atomic bombs were dropped by the USA army on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Tens of thousands of people were killed. My father who was born in Nagasaki, Japan in 1938 had personally experienced WWII and he was exposed to radiation when the atomic bomb was dropped onto Nagasaki city. I want to share with you a story, which my father wrote from his recollection of the summer of 1944.

[My father’s recollection] I am now living in peace. Because of living in peace, I am forgetting how valuable “peace” is. I made my resolution to make an effort to create a world without war because I experienced the hell of war and the atomic bomb. But, now, it seems that I am forgetting about my resolution. I really feel that I need to remember my experience and resolution, again.

I want to introduce to you a passage from “NIDOTONAI JINSEI DAKARA (Because my life is unrepeatable)” written by a poet, Mr. Shinmin Sakamura.

“Because my life is unrepeatable, I want to devote my effort to create this world without war and write many poems to convey how valuable “peace” is. I want to write my poems to the younger generations to whom I bequeath this wish after I die.” This poem touched a chord deep within me. Therefore, I started writing my unforgettable memories, which were deeply branded on my mind.

It was a hot summer in 1944. I was living at my family temple “KÖGENJI” which is located in Nagasaki city. Many soldiers were staying at my family temple because my family temple was temporary housing for the Japanese army. I was not sure how long they stayed. It might have been for one week or ten days. However, I felt sad whenever I remembered these days. During a lunch break, the soldiers were having a pleasant talk in the Hondo (the main hall) and I was playing and running around there. At that time, one soldier called me and said,

“Hey boy, come here and give me your hands.”

He put some candies in my hands. Candies were costly sweets in those days. I was so happy to get these.

One day, my parents woke me up at midnight and told me.

“The soldiers are leaving, now.”

The soldiers formed up in the temple yard, and silently left my family temple. I was waving a Japanese flag to send them off silently. That was the last time for me to see them. No one came back from the war. All of them would be killed somewhere in the Pacific Ocean.

After several years passed, by chance, I remembered those candies, which one soldier gave me. At that time, I had some kind of emotional feeling and I really understood the real taste and meaning of the candies. I thought that the soldier might have left his kids at home when he joined the Japanese military. When he saw me running around in the Hondo, he might have been remembering his kids who he would not be able to see again.

 Continued on p. 4...
## Seattle Betsuin Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations June - July 2017

### Funeral / Memorial / Nokotsudo:

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<td>Janet Baba; Sue Fujino; Tetsuden &amp; Kanako Kashima; Masako Kawamoto; Dano &amp; Jody Lewis; Stephanie Mano; Craig &amp; Joan Nakano; Ben &amp; Etsu Shimbo; Kiyoko Takashima; Rev. Yoshiaki &amp; Naomi Takemura; Keiko Watanabe</td>
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<td>Ernest &amp; Sunny Nagai; Kiyoko Takashima</td>
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<td>Judith Ann Hanada-Kohl</td>
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<td>Mae Deguchi; Harry Yoshimura</td>
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<td>Donald &amp; Karen Akira; John &amp; E. Lisa Duff; Suyeko Fujikado; Sue Fujino; Toshiko Fukeda; Ellen Hale Frances Hamanishi; Peggy Hanada; Ritsuko Kawahara; Takako Kogita; June Kosai; George &amp; Irene Mano; Craig &amp; Joan Nakano; Curtis &amp; Charlene Nakayama; Akiko Narusawa; Mabel Nishizaki; Nobuko Otsuji; Pauline Sakuma; Robert Seko; Teruko (Terrie) Shigaya; Frances Shintaku; Kiyoko Takashima; Kenny &amp; Susan Toyoji; Sam &amp; Masako Uchida; Arlene Yamada; Ted Yasuda; James &amp; Eileen Yoshida</td>
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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.

Gwen Florence, Sue Furuta, Jennifer Habu, Ellen Hale, Setsuko Harada, Noboru & Hatsuye Kawada, June Kosai, Art & Lori Kozai, Yoshiko Kozai, Lisa Kumasaka, Carolyn Kunihiro, Fumiyo Masunaga, Ruby Nakamura, Masako Sako, Susan Shinoda, Victor Yagi, Jason Yokoyama, Charlene Yoritsune

We’d like to ‘welcome’ Victor Yagi and Jason Yokoyama as new members of our Sangha.

*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)

“Thank You”, All Seattle Pride Parade Participants! Thank you to the 100 Sangha members from Seattle, White River and the Tacoma Buddhist temples who participated together in the 43rd annual Seattle Pride Parade, on Sunday, June 25, 2017.

Seattle Sangha members Anna Tamura and Lynne Goodrich took the initiative to gather interest and registered the temple in the Seattle Pride Parade for the very first time. With support from temple leadership and the Board of Directors, this historic event was a terrific success!

As the Pride Parade encourages entries to be festive, the Sangha decided to share the festivities they knew best, Obon Odori. In preparation, they decorated uchiwa (fans) with pride colors and messages of inclusiveness, and cut rainbow fabric to make tenugui (scarves). Members and friends played Shiawase Samba and Tanko Bushi on brass and wind, while Seattle Matsuri Taiko kept the beat. About a third of the marchers danced their way along the route behind those carrying a temple banner, pride flags and the Buddhist flags. Other marchers carried signs showing support for the LGBT community and passed out necklaces, and the children passed out candy. The contingent was made up of elders, children, straight and LGBT members, who wore purple Seattle Buddhist Temple t-shirts and yukata.

Participation in the parade was a momentous task: Thank you to Temple President, Alan Hoshino, the Board of Directors and Sensei Kusunoki who supported this. A special thank you to our leader Anna Tamura and other committee members: Lynne Goodrich, Matt and Rosalie May, Mayumi Terada, Josie Watanabe, Tara Tamari-buchi, Joe Gotchy, Donna Zumoto and Dean O’Shields. Also thank you to Wynn Kiyama of Oregon Buddhist Temple for the sheet music.

A big thank you to Tara Tamaribuchi and David Gibbs for the use of their vehicle that was used in the parade! Thanks to Rosalie May for driving it. Thanks to Matsuri Taiko and the Edmonds High School jazz band. Thank you Josie Watanabe for handling t-shirts, and Lynne Goodrich for the candy! Thank you to all who danced, passed out candy, and carried flags/banners! (Please forgive me if I missed anyone specifically.)

This was a happy and positive opportunity for us to share our faith in Amida Buddha’s compassion and wisdom with others who may have felt alone and unaccepted.

The Seattle Buddhist Temple will continue open dialogue and inclusion with a LGBT & Buddhism seminar this fall. More detailed information will be available at a later date!

Submitted by Dean O’Shields
Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Women’s Association submitted by Machiko Wada

We hope you are enjoying this summer, gardening, picnicking or just relaxing. We enjoyed Obon Odori on July 15, 16. Thank you to those who were able to come out and help in preparation for the Yakisoba booth on Friday and craft table, and in the booths Saturday and Sunday, as well as the Craft table Saturday and Sunday. A thank you for the donated items for the craft booth. The Yakisoba sold out early on Sunday evening and we want to thank our dedicated cooks; Dale, Dennis, James, Dean and Jeff.

Dinner with Mrs. Kusunoki: We had so much fun with Mrs. Kusunoki at Joyale restaurant on June 28. Ayano san is a very special lady who is friendly and easy to talk with; if you have not met her please say hello to her at church on Sundays and meet her baby son Yui-ya chan.

Walk for Rice was a total success, our SBWA team collected a record amount of $1,830.00 for ACRS food bank.

Donations: appreciation for your generosity.
Daisy T Kuramoto Family, in memory of Daisy T. Kuramoto
Leanne Nishi-Wong, general donation
Karen Morikubo, general donation

Passages: condolences to the family and friends of:
Mrs. Daisy Kuramoto, longtime member of BWA and active member of various committees in BWA.
Gayle Sordetto, a supporter of BWA, always willing to donate her time when she was able.

Fundraiser: Oyako donburi, September 10th. Tickets will be sold each Sunday at temple. $6.

Women in Buddhism Seminar: Please attend 5th annual Women in Buddhism seminar on September 23. Adult $45, student $30, lunch included. BWA have always supported this seminar. Great opportunity to hear the Dharma focus on women.

Eshinni-ko and Kakushinni-ko Service will be held on September 24. SBBWA is also sponsoring a drive for the collection of feminine products and undergarments in conjunction with this service. There will be a collection box in the lobby.

“At that moment, I ran to a store and bought some candies. When I put a candy into my mouth, tears naturally came up and it has never stopped.

This is my father’s recollection. At the end of my August message, I want to introduce to you a passage, which an atomic bomb victim left for us. His name is Mr. Katsuji Yoshida who was a member of my family temple, Kougenji. He was an atom-bomb victim when he was in high school. He had serious burns on his face and body. He suffered a lot from the burns and from the discrimination against atomic bomb victims. He had spoken of his experiences in Chicago and at the United Nations in New York. Mr. Yoshida and I sometimes chanted Shoshinge together at his house. His voice was much bigger than mine. He was an energetic person, but he passed away a few years ago. This was the passage that he left for us.

“The basis for peace is for people to understand the pain of others.”

NAMOAMIDABUTSU

Gassho,
General Donations

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<td>Pauline Ogasawara</td>
<td>In Honor of Yuri Baba’s 95th Birthday celebration</td>
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<td>Charlotte Ramsey</td>
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<td>Appreciation for use of Wisteria View Park for UNDOKAI</td>
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<td>Center of WA)</td>
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Dharma School News

Thank you everyone for all of your help during Obon! So many of you worked numerous shifts, spanning over the four days. Special thank you to Obon chairperson extraordinaire, Ron, for leading the way, Nikudon chair Gary and Kori booth chairs Lynne and Connie all of you are greatly appreciated! 2017 Seattle Obon is in the books!

We hope everyone enjoyed the last day of Dharma school activities. It looked like the kids were having fun outside in the nice weather. We are now looking forward to next year. Save the date—the first day of Dharma school will be Sunday, September 10th. Have an awesome rest of your summer!!

submitted by Joyce Tsuji

August 2017 Buddhist Book Study Group

The next meeting of the Buddhist Study Group will take place on August. We will discuss *Nukumori* - Warmth by Takayuki Ashikaga. There may be one or two copies at the Buddhist Churches of American bookstore. The meetings take place in the Memorial Hall chapel from 9:30-11:30am. There will be a brown bag lunch afterwards. There is no cost to attend. - Leonora Clarke
Everybody dances, eats, and watches at Bon Odori ….

Photos courtesy of Ryan Nakata

Many work…

But EVERYbody dances! Thank YOU, EVERYBODY!
SBC vs TBT On Sunday, August 20, don’t miss the opportunity to listen to Rev. Kakihara’s last Dharma talk at the Seattle Betsuin. Following the service, get your softball caps and gloves out and join us at Aubrey Davis Field in Mercer Island to watch rivalry go down between Rev. Katsu vs. Rev. Kojo in a slow pitch softball game. There will be two games at the West Field, closest to the parking lot and restrooms 1:00pm for children and 2:30 for adults. The Seattle adult roster is full, but children sign-ups are still open. Spectators are welcome! Bring your own lunch, beverages and lawn chairs. Let’s play ball!

Directions to Aubrey Davis Field (Area B, West Field):

From I-90 westbound take Island Crest Way (Exit #7). Continue straight through the stop light on North Mercer Way. Turn left onto 76th Avenue SE. Turn right onto SE 24th Street. Continue up the hill and turn right onto West Mercer Way. The parking lot will be on the left just past the I-90 entrance.

From I-90 eastbound take West Mercer Way (Exit #6). Turn left onto West Mercer Way. The parking lot is on your left just past the I-90 entrance.

Submitted by Sela Chinn

Dharma Exchange Notes - an after-service discussion

June 25 - A participant asked Rinban Kusunoki to explain the uses for the different colored robes. Sensei said the dark green robe he was wearing is formal and for services. The Betsuin owns four or five different robes of color. White is for weddings and red is for Hanamatsuri, New Year, and other happy celebrations. A participant asked about the flower other than wisteria used by the Hongwanji. Sensei said he would have to research that further... The number 84K is used to describe the sutras used in Buddhism. We use three Pure Land sutras, the larger sutra, vols 1 & 2, and the Contemplation Sutra. He demonstrated the length of some of the sutras by laying out several scrolls.

A participant asked if the ministers are required to memorize the sutras. He answered the Shoshinge... A participant asked about Enlightenment. Sensei said the Pure Land is a place to practice to achieve Enlightenment where no greed, anger or desire exist. Further, when we go to the Pure Land we attain Enlightenment and become a Buddha. We attain the wisdom to see things as they are and the compassion to support others. Sensei recommended we chant the Juseige at our home obutsudans. In the process of attaining Enlightenment we also come to know our-

Continued on p. 10...

Obon Service at Sunset Memorial Cemetery

was conducted by Rinban Kusunoki on Sunday, July 9, 2017, Bellevue, WA Photos by Sat Ichikawa
Bon Odori Chair Ron Hamakawa escorts Seattle Mayor Ed Murray to the Yagura.

Perfect weather, huge attendance...

Dance Instructor Gwen Florence leads all who “come as they are”.

Rev. Don Castro, Rimban Katsuya Kusunoki and Rev. Jim Warrick greet visitors to the hondo (main hall).

Announcers Alex Sakamoto and Jason Yokoyama fire-up the Shamisen “sliders”.

It wouldn’t be bon odori without Matsuri Taiko!
Fifth Annual Women in Buddhism Conference

After a year’s hiatus, the Seattle Betsuin’s almost-annual Women in Buddhism conference is returning September 23, 2017. Three outstanding guest presenters will share their knowledge and experiences to help us understand the place of Buddhism in our everyday lives. They will focus on Buddhist Paths: Women’s Choices as channeled from a Buddhist nun of Heian Japan and directly from two modern Jodo Shinshu ministers of today.

This year’s format will differ slightly from other year’s. We will all together hear each of the speakers one at a time in the hondo (main hall); we will have the usual coffee and lunch breaks for socializing and the Q/A panel at the end. “Come as you are,” join Seattle Betsuin sangha and others from the Northwest, men and women, for “deep listening” of the dharma and enjoy bento lunch together and a bit of qigong to keep our minds "awake"! Go to SeattleBetsuin.org to register online, or use this form to register by mail.

Buddhist Paths: Women’s Choices
presented by and at the Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple
Saturday, September 23, 2017 - 9:30 3:30

Rev. Carol Himaka
The 35th Vow of Dharmakara/Amida Buddha and its meaning to women today

Kyoko Tokuno, Ph.D.
Salvation by Proxy: Buddhist Nun’s Sūtra
Burial at Mt. Kōya in Heian Japan

Rev. Candice Shibata
Transformation through Love, Loss, and the Buddha-Dharma

Register online at SeattleBetsuin.org by credit card or by mail with check payable to Seattle Buddhist Church along with completed form below; mail to Seattle Buddhist Church by Sept 16.

Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple 1427 S. Main St. Seattle, WA 98144
Office: 206-329-0800, Registration inquiries: Leonora.clarke3@gmail.com

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...Notes from Dharma Exchange continued from p. 7

selves, which Sensei feels is very important. Sensei explained his father died last year, and Sensei feels he still receives his teaching, and regards his father as a Bodhisattva.

July 2 - Rev. Jim Warrick and Rosalie May MA conducted the Dharma Exchange. A participant liked Seiya, the song we sang this morning. Sensei quite agreed. Sensei’s friend, who is Korean Zen, is trying to translate the Shoshinge into English. Rosalie expressed her thanks to all who participated in the Pride March. The group handed out 2000 pieces of candy and 200K participated in the parade, while 400K attended last year. It is thought the heat kept people away. A participant thanked the dharma School parents for their involvement in the parade and allowing their children to pass out candy. The Wheel of Dharma will publish what the parade meant to me and the temple. A participant commented on John’s sign which he made and which was colorful and elicited positive responses. . . (See social media pages for pictures of parade.) We marched in this parade to let it be known that all are welcome to come to the Betsuin without regard to gender identity, race, age, etc. In Shinran’s writing there is no mention of whom to love or whom to marry. In 1976 the first Jodo Shinshu same sex marriage was performed by Ogui Sensei before he became bishop. A participant thought of Enlightenment and Shinto which is interested in the world around us, and that Jodo Shinshu teaches us to negate this world. Sensei claims that is not true. A participant offered that Wisdom and Compassion are important in Jodo shinshu. Kusunoki Sensei said this is our only world and to make the best of it now. A participant urged us to embrace a deeper, richer life daily. Castro Sensei recalled "Sono Mama" -- Just as you are. And to live every day and accept it. Joe believes we are all emerging Buddhas. Sensei said to live here and now and not in the past or future.

We suffer because we don’t get what we want, and that is hard to do. Sensei thinks all the answers today were correct and meaningful. Tetsu said when we get to the Pure Land no one will be there because they are all out helping others.

July 9 - Irene Sensei conducted an Obon service on Mt. Pleasant on Queen Anne Hill. Only one person comes every year. Many workers [from Japan] died in a railroad accident and are buried there. Sensei feels it is nice to re-member those who came before us. . .The 5th Annual Women in Buddhism Conference, Sept. 23, will feature three accomplished women as follows: REV. CAROL HIMA KE who is the resident minister at the Alameda County Buddhist Church. She feels that failure helps us to succeed, a positive thing. The 35th Vow is Himaka Sensei’s topic. CANDICE SHIBATA is a new minister. and PROF KYOKO TOKUNO is from the University of Washington, Comparative Religions. . . Mas has problems trying to re-member what he is supposed to do. He wants to be unique, and is asking for advice. A participant read an article about failure and noted that we don’t go forward unless we fail, then strive again. A participant got lost looking for a job. Finally, she gave up and went into a nearby building and was hired immediately.

July 23, 2017 - Rinban Katsuya Kusunoki commented on the a-typical service of today. Alex Sakamoto of the Junior Ministers Assistants program requested that the group chant the Shoshinge to the music of the Juseige. Katsu Sensei played the Shō along with taiko drums on a recording from the Honganwanji-ha. A participant suggested more outreach to kids in the community, and another participant thought the techno Buddha presentation would appeal to the 20-30s group. Sensei suggested our Sangha visit the other Buddhist temples in the neighborhood and share our Dharma Exchange with them. A participant who has studied Buddhism and lived 9 years in Japan has a strong interest in the 18th Vow, which is what brought him to the Betsuin. He feels assured he will go to the Pure Land and reminded us that Honen Shonen emphasized that doubt is corrosive. He asked, do we come back from the Pure Land, or do we come back as a Bodhisattva? Sensei said the Pure Land is a very large and encompassing group. Shinran said we go to the Pure Land and become a Buddha and return to this world to guide people until everyone attains Enlightenment. . . Sensei’s father died March 2016, and it was the first time for him to lose a close relative resulting in a large shock. His father fell, hit his head and died instantly at age 77. Sensei feels his father’s guidance as a Bodhisattva, and he still feels lonely. A participant is not fearful of death and told his children it is a cause to celebrate because he will become a Bodhisattva. Sensei likes the translation, “I am one with Amida Buddha,” for Namo Amida Butsu. According to Sensei we make a territory of our friends and family, but Jodo Shinshu teaches that we are all connected.

In Gassho, Pat Bobrow
Betsuin Events for August 2017


10:00 am - 10:45 SERVICE - in Hondo (main hall) includes Sutra Chanting, singing, and Dharma Talk
10:45 - 10:55 “Sangha Gathering” - offer incense, “meet and greet” after service in the Main Hall (hondo)
10:55 am - 11:30 Children’s Dharma School from 10:45 - 11:30; on Seattle Public Schools’ schedule*

DHARMA EXCHANGE – in dining room, Q/A, dialogue with minister and minister’s assistants;

PARENTS’ DHARMA EXCHANGE in Memorial Hall Chapel - discussion among parents of Dharma School children while children are in class; a minister or minister’s assistant attends*

SITTING IN GRATITUDE MEDITATION - meets in foyer, ends at 1441 S. Main St; 20-minute sit.**

SUNDAYS 10:55am Meditation**

August 6
10:00 am ATOMIC BOMB VICTIMS’ MEMORIAL SERVICE
   Adult: Rev. Kusunoki
   Japanese: Rev. Kusunoki
   DX: Rev. Warrick
   Meditation: MA Irene Goto

August 13
10:00 am FAMILY SERVICE
   Adult: Rev. Kusunoki
   Japanese: Video Message
   DX: Rev. Kusunoki
   Meditation: MA Leonora Clarke

August 20
10:00 am FAMILY SERVICE with guest speaker, Rev. Kojo Kakihara (Tacoma Buddhist Temple)
   Adult: Rev. Kakihara
   Japanese: Rev. Kusunoki
   DX: Rev. Kakihara
   Meditation: MA Leonora Clarke

12:00 – 5:00 pm Softball challenge between Seattle Betsuin and Tacoma Buddhist Temple at Aubrey Davis Park (Mercer Island)

August 27
10:00 am FAMILY SERVICE
   Adult: Rinban Kusunoki
   Japanese: Video Message
   DX: Rev. Kusunoki
   Meditation: MA Irene Goto

August 1
10:00 am FAMILY SERVICE
   Adult: Rev. Kusunoki
   Japanese: Video Message
   DX: Rev. Kusunoki
   Meditation: MA Leonora Clarke

MONDAYS
August 7, 14, 21, 28, Rinban Kusunoki days off

TUESDAYS
August 1, 8 Rinban Kusunoki days off
August 15 – 17 Rinban Kusunoki at BCA Ministers’ Retreat in Reno, NV
August 22
10:30 am Keiro Service (MA Irene Goto)
August 29 Rinban Kusunoki day off

WEDNESDAYS

August 16
10:00 am Shinran Shonin Monthly Memorial Service

THURSDAYS
August 3
1:30 pm Nikkei Manor Service (Rinban Kusunoki)
August 17
1:30 pm Nikkei Manor Service (MA Irene Goto)

FRIDAYS

SATURDAYS
August 5
9:30 am – 12:00 pm Book Study Group: Nukumori - Warmth by Takayuki Ashikaga

September 2017: Major Events

September 10, Sunday, First Day of Dharma School
September 17, Sunday, Fall Ohigan Service with guest speaker, Rev. Mas Kodani, BCA Minister Emeritus
September 23, Saturday, Women in Buddhism Conference see p. 10 to register
September 24, Sunday, Eshinni-ko & Kakushinni-ko Service

September Newsletter Deadline: 3rd Monday, August 21, 2017 8:00pm

Rev. Kojo Kakihara, resident minister at Tacoma Buddhist Temple, will deliver his last dharma talk at Seattle Betsuin on August 20, 2017 at Sunday 10am Service. He will also be available for Dharma Exchange directly after Service. Then, in the afternoon he will join his Tacoma Team to play softball against Rev. Kusunoki and his Seattle Team. Please join us! See page 7 for details.
August Major Events of Interest

August 6  Sunday
• 10:00am Atomic Bomb Victims’ Memorial Service at Seattle Betsuin.
• “From Hiroshima to Hope” event at Greenlake

August 20  Sunday
• Baseball Game: Seattle Betsuin vs Tacoma Buddhist Temple events start at 1:00pm; at Aubrey Davis Field (Area B, West Field), Mercer Island, WA see p. 7; bring your own picnic lunches, beverages and lawn chairs!