



LGBTQ & Same sex marriage~

by Rimban Katsuya Kusunoki

“Life is suffering.” This is the fundamental teaching of Shakyamuni Buddha. The causes of sufferings are the three poisons, which we all have. The three poisons are Greed, Anger, and Ignorance. In our human history, a lot of people have been suffering from all kinds of discriminations. Why do people discriminate against others? What is the cause of the suffering of discrimination? I think one of the causes is our ignorant mind. We judge people using our preconceived ideas and biased views. Then, we put a label on a person who we don’t know. Seattle Betsuin is going to host the LGBTQ and Shin Buddhism seminar on Saturday, November 18. LGBTQ stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer. The rights and inclusion of LGBTQ people is an important issue in our society. But, I don’t think I have enough knowledge and understanding of LGBTQ people. What worries and sufferings do they have? How can we support them and live together? I am an ignorant person. I need to know more about LGBTQ. We need to awaken to our ignorance, and the other poisons, and try to get rid of them. It is the path for all of us to live in peace and tranquility. I hope a lot of people attend the LGBTQ seminar with me. On this opportunity, I would like to introduce my article on same-sex marriage which I wrote in 2013.

Buddhism is a teaching for all sentient beings. There is not any discrimination at all in Buddhism. I belong to the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA). Our school does not support any sexual discrimina-

tion. In 2004, the BCA minister’s association made a resolution to support same-sex marriage. Regarding the sexual orientation issue in Scouting, in February 2013, “the BCA minister’s association in support of its long-term association with the Scouting Program of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) and in accord with the religious principles of Buddhism encourages BSA to remove all limitations of participation due to sexual orientation.” (quoted from the

Wheel of Dharma newspaper, April 2013 page 6) And more, our BCA Center for Buddhist Education holds a seminar titled “Over the Rainbow” where we are learning about the issues of being lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender.



Buddhism is a teaching to attain enlightenment. It is important for Buddhists to aim for enlightenment. Attaining enlightenment means to eliminate our attachments. We all are living with attachments. No one can live alone. We meet somebody and live together, and then love blooms and reaches to marriage. Love makes our life happy and pleasurable; on the other hand, Love also becomes the cause of our jealousy and

hatred. Love is one of our attachments. I cannot make any judgment about whether love is good or bad but it is certain that love is one of my causes of suffering.

Whether it is same sex marriage or another sex-marriage, marriage involves love. Getting married means that people acquire an attachment. People who marry have to know and accept this fact.

My school is Jodo Shin Buddhism. It teaches us that it is important for Jodo Shin Buddhists to recite Buddha’s name (Namoamidabutsu) and reflect upon ourselves as we are. Our founder, Shinran’s master, Honen said,

Continued on p. 2...

The Seattle Betsuin Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations September - October 2017

Funeral / Memorial / Nokotsudo:

Given by:

Michiko Morikubo – In Memory of	\$ 1,000.00	Yukio & Karen Morikubo
George Shinbo – Graveside Service	\$ 300.00	Michael Takano

In Memory of:

Given by:

Marion Dumont	Elsie Christiansen; Emiko Mihara; Vanessa Nicholson; Ann Ramsay; Masao & Frances Tamekuni
Minoru Fujii	Travis Suzaka
Yoshie Hiroo	Fumiye Taniguchi
Joe Matsuzaki	Richard & Marcia Mahaffey; Kathy Matsuura; Edward & Linda Shimizu
Gayle Sordetto	Yukio & Karen Morikubo

General Donations:

Given By:

General Donation	Wilma Kawasaka
General Donation	Ruth Shigeko Morimoto
General Donation	Diane Kitano
Appreciation for Use of Facilities	Pickle Ball Players (Tuesday & Thursday)
Appreciation for Use of Facilities	UW Nikkei Alumni Association
Appreciation for Use of Facilities	Seattle Hiroshima Club

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... Rinban's Message continued from p. 1

"Reciting Buddha's name must be the core of your life. You should stay in a monastery if it is easier for you to recite Buddha's name. And, you should get married and live with your spouse and family if it is easier for you to recite Buddha's name."

It is the most important thing for the Jodo Shin Buddhist follower to reflect upon our lives as they are and recite Buddha's Name. It is OK to be married to another sex person or same sex person. It is also OK not to get married. The most important issue for us is to live while reciting Buddha's name and accept things as they are.

In this connection of marriage, I got married to my wife four years ago. I sometimes feel that she is fussy and picky. However, her comments and attitude make me deeply think about my life and correct my life as a Jodo Shin Buddhist. I can live my life while reciting Buddha's name because of her. The attachment of marriage becomes the cause of listening to Buddha's teaching for me. The same can be true for all marriages.

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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.

John Alwin, Kenny & Yoshie Dodobara, JoAnn Kosai-Eng, Irene Goto, Nelson Harano, Larry Imamura, Elyse Kadokura, Isako Kajimura, George & Kayoko Kakiuchi, Sharyl Kamihara, Art & Sally Kawaguchi, Rick & Karina Kawaguchi, Masako Kawamoto, Marc & Jan Keltner, Paul & Janet Knutzen, Haruko Kobuki, David & Dianne Lee, Howard Luke & Marie Kosai Luke, Tak Matsui, Lynn Miyauchi, Lisa Morishige, Corey & Claire Murata, Yoshiye Nakagawa, Teruko Nakamichi, Kiyoko Nakanishi, Hiro & Dorothy Nishimura, Iso & Ai Nishimura, Nobuko Otsuji, Charlene Mano Shen, Kiyomi Taketa-Ozanich, Jay Taylor, Victoria Terao, Paul & Mabel Tomita, Susanne Umeda, Mark Yuasa

We'd like to 'welcome' Elyse Kadokura and Jay Taylor as new members of our Sangha.

(compiled by HL, PS, JN, & SO)



BCA Ministers' Association and National Council Meeting

Together in Gassho

DoubleTree Inn by Hilton - Sacramento, CA

February 21-25, 2018

Registration Materials were sent to temples in October

New:

**Wednesday
Morning Service
10:00AM-10:30AM**

Service includes
sutra chanting and
readings from the

Gobunsho on
most Wednesdays
in the hondo. •

Please check the
Betsuin newsletter
or website at
SeattleBesuin.com
or call the office at
(206) 329-0800 to

confirm the
morning service
dates.

- JN

Musical Notes

submitted by Kemi Nakabayashi



The theme for the 8th annual autumn music service on Sunday, November 19 will be coordinated with the Saturday seminar Rainbow of Infinite Light. In addition to Rev. Dr. Jeff Wilson who will provide the Dharma Talk, youth and adult temple musicians will provide a variety of music that should be familiar to our Betsuin sangha. Please consider inviting your extended family and other friends to attend this special service with you!

Thank you to Mas Tamekuni and the Seattle Betsuin Ukulele Band and the youth musicians who helped cover the hondo and children's services in October.

Book Study Group

We will continue our discussion of the Larger Sutra on **Saturday, November 4, 2017** and be working from the translation by Hisao Inagaki. The meeting will take place in Memorial Hall Chapel from 9:30-11:30am. There will be a brown bag lunch afterwards. There is no cost to attend. Questions: contact Leonora Clarke



Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Women's Association

submitted by Machiko Wada

SBBWA members, hope you are enjoying fall season.

SBBWA general meeting and Tea: scheduled for November 19. After Sunday service at 11:45 for the meeting in Hondo, then we will have Irokai Tea thanking everyone for your support. Members will receive an invitation and prospective members are welcome to join us. Please return the portion of the letter or email to let us know if you like to attend the tea by November 15.

SBBWA Memorial service: October 29, 1 PM. Total of 778 members were honored including 9 members from last year. Thank you for attending the service, committee members and Joan for the work to organize and prepare the service.

The excursion to Bainbridge Island: was an eventful day trip for 15 members. We took a ferry to the Island where our first stop was the Bainbridge Memorial Wall and then onto The Bainbridge Island Museum. The weather cooperated and we enjoyed our lunch in the park. Our last visit was to the Bloedel Reserve where we



saw the many signs of fall and the beautiful grounds of this reserve. The consensus was that this was a day of learning, friendship and new experiences for many of us. It was a great day for all that attended.

FBWA 2017 Representatives' Meeting: Machiko Wada, Nina Tomita Kato, Janie Okawa and Leanne Nishi Wong attended the FBWA 2017 Representatives' Meeting in Fresno, California. Highlights of the meeting: 1. discussion of the need to create a committee to look into how best to invest the custodial amounts of the FBWA funds. 2. RE: World Convention - 2019 design/future sale of BWA montoshikisho fund raiser - donor list created to assist with the expenditures to put on this convention - estimated registration will be approximately \$350. per person. 3. BCA reports donations made to relief funds for the hurricane victims. Online donations are accepted to the social welfare fund of the BCA to help with the damage from the California fires.



BWA fiscal year: it will be changed from Nov.- Oct. to January - December from 2018 to conform to Betsuin. Next general meeting will be in January 2019. Your membership for the 2018 will cover until end of 2018. Membership drive will be in January, we will have a table set up for you on Sundays.

General donation: Thank you.

Family of Haruko Shimizu in memory of Mrs. Shimizu
Kats and Terrie Tanino in memory of Yoshie Hiroo

Passing: Mary Shigaya, long time member of BWA.

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Rainbow of Infinite Light: LGBTQ in Shin Buddhism Seminar in Seattle

Date: Saturday, November 18, 2017

Time: 10 am – 4 pm (check in begins at 9:15 am)

Location: Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple, 1427 S. Main
St. Seattle, WA 98144

Ticket Price: \$40 (Students \$20) which includes a box lunch (vegetarian option available) Please register by November 8, 2017. Go to www.SeattleBetsuin.com for on-line registration link.

The Seattle Buddhist Temple and Buddhist Churches of America -- Center for Buddhist Education will present **"Rainbow of Infinite Light," a seminar on LGBTQ and Shin Buddhism, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday November 18, 2017, at the Seattle Buddhist Temple, 1427 S. Main St, Seattle, WA 98144.** Participants will explore Shin Buddhism's historical and modern relationship with sexuality, gender and acceptance.

For more than 40 years, Shin Buddhist ministers have officiated same-sex marriages in the U.S. This legacy stems from Shin Buddhism's core principles of equality and acceptance of all.

The purpose of the LGBTQ and Shin Buddhism seminar is to show inclusivity within the Seattle Betsuin and BCA Churches. The committee would like to extend an invitation especially to those who have been raised in the Jodo Shinshu tradition and are LGBTQ to participate in this event.

Registration deadline: November 8, 2017

Ticket includes lunch, coffee, tea, and snacks
\$40 general, \$20 student

For more information:

www.seattlebetsuin.com/index.php/rainbow

Registration: online link
at www.seattlebetsuin.com

**New Time/Place for Meditation at Seattle Betsuin:
Before Sunday Morning Service - 9:00am - 9:40am In Memorial Hall Chapel**

Scout Troop 252 News

Mr. Gary Kato is now our new Scoutmaster for Troop 252.

Big thank you to Mr. Yuasa for guiding us over six years. On October 1 we held the court of honor. One Eagle gold palm, 45 merit badges, two 50 camping nights, and ten 25 camping nights are awarded at the ceremony. On October 7, our troop and families conducted cleaning up North Bend camp ground. Troop camped out afterwards. As Eagle project, Brent N is collecting jackets and coats to benefit Tree House which support foster children. The collection bins are found at the dining hall, the memorial hall, and in the front by Hondo. He is collecting them through Sunday, November 12. We would appreciate if you can donate and support the community. Gassho. Daniel

Dharma School hosted a Hatsumairi or “first visit to temple” ceremony on October 15, 2017.



A big welcome goes out to the participant and her family. Thanks to the volunteers who helped with the festivities, including picture taking, service program, certificates, and refreshments.

Calling All Children Interested In The **Upcoming Ochigo Procession Sunday, November 12!** If you have a child who is interested in participating in this memorable event coinciding with the Ho-onko service, please pick up a participation form in the foyer and return it to Ann Ishimaru or the Betsuin office by Sunday, November 5. You may also contact the Betsuin office for more information at [\(206\) 329-0800](tel:2063290800).

Classroom Reports

Infant/Toddler The infant/toddler class is off to a great start! The class as you know is made up of the smallest, youngest sangha and they make noise in the hondo. The special services are longer and difficult for them. Please be patient with them.

In class, when we have longer special services the kids will likely just play during Dharma school. We will have occasional crafts for the kids that want to make crafts.

3/4/5 Grade At the beginning of class each time, we take a few minutes to find out what everyone has been doing. Even if kids have to miss a class for some reason, we want them to feel like they belong, and that we missed them when they were gone!

The middle school class stayed to listen to Rev. Kodani, who talked about death and the fact that we are all "hopeless egocentric wrecks."

Tara led a class on naikan, <http://www.todoinstitute.org/naikan.html> where we asked ourselves three questions:

What have I received from _____ ?

What have I given to _____ ?

What troubles and difficulties have I caused _____ ?

Claire led a class on gratitude for our relationships with others, and we talked about what we thought it meant to say, "I am only unique because of my relationships and interactions with others." We started an origami box to make presents for someone, but the box didn't work out so well. It was an exercise in growth mindset....

This Sunday Debbie Akiyama is going to visit our workshop to work on reviving the Halloween party for the younger kids. The kids were so sad last year when we decided to give it a miss. They really want to revive it!

We love your kids, and we love hearing what they have to say. If you have a chance, check in with them about whether they are enjoying class, and whether they have any suggestions! We want them to love

Hatsumairi or “First Visit” is a Jodo Shinshu tradition that acknowledges the child’s first visit to the temple. Parents present their children before Amida Buddha and members of the Sangha as an expression of their gratitude and desire to expose them to the teachings of the Buddha.



BCA E-News

October 2017

Buddhist Churches of America

Center for Buddhist Education

BCA Social Welfare Fund

The BCA Social Welfare Fund was established to aid those suffering from deprivations of basic human needs. Since 1981 the Thanksgiving Offering for the Social Welfare Fund has made grants totalling over \$2 million for critical projects throughout the world. These grants were possible due to the collective generosity and dana, selfless giving, of many individuals.

Today, as community members near and far struggle to survive unrelenting natural disasters, many of us are moved to provide assistance and support in various ways. The BCA Social Welfare Fund has responded to the recent hurricanes, Harvey, Irma, Maria, and earthquakes in Mexico, with donations totalling \$30,000 for relief efforts. The Fund continues to monitor other steps to alleviate human suffering.

The annual Thanksgiving solicitation letter will be mailed out to all BCA members in early November. You may also [donate now](#) to the BCA Social Welfare Fund. If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact the BCA at donate@bcahq.org or calling 415-776-5600.

Please remember that the BCA Social Welfare Funds are solely the result of the compassionate dana of BCA members and friends; BCA membership dues are not used for the Social Welfare Fund. Your gift of any amount is appreciated. Together we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of many.

In gassho/With palms together, Buddhist Churches of America

Save the Date! Thursday, February 22, 2018; 1 - 5 pm
DoubleTree by Hilton, 2001 West Point Way, Sacramento, CA

Free and Open to the Public

A Symposium on Church & State, Religion & Race in American Society

Presented by the Institute of Buddhist Studies & BCA Center for Buddhist Education

Presenters will discuss the separation of church and state, America's civil religion, and the role that churches have played in the protection of civil rights. Special focus on the World War II internment camp experience and societal consciousness among some Japanese Americans that arose out of it, the insights that Buddhists might gain from the U.S. civil rights movement and the importance of the African American churches in it, and finally, the contribution that Shin Buddhists might make to today's civil discourse. Presented in conjunction with the Buddhist Churches of America Ministers Association & National Council Meeting Contact: (510) 809-1460 cbe@bcahq.org www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org

Presenters:

REV. DR. DAVID MATSUMOTO IBS Provost & Director of Contemporary Shin Buddhist Studies

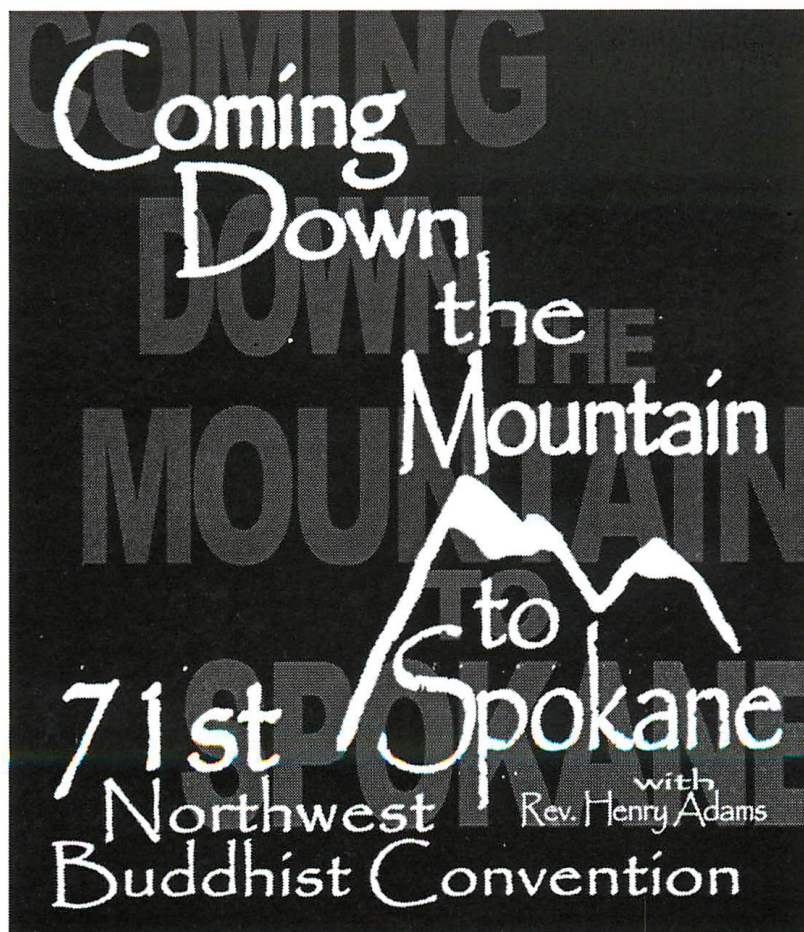
DR. SCOTT MITCHELL IBS Dean of Students; Author, *Buddhism in America: Global Religion, Local Contexts*

RICK STAMBUL BCA Natl Board, President-elect; Civil Rights Activist, March on Washington, Freedom Summer 1964



Keynote Speaker: DR. TETSUDEN KASHIMA

Professor Emeritus, Sociology, University of Washington; Author, *Buddhism in America: The Social Organization of an Ethnic Religious Institution* (1977); and *Judgment Without Trial: Japanese American Imprisonment during World War II* (2003, 2004)



February 16-18, 2018
www.SpokaneBuddhistTemple.org

Sponsored by the Spokane Buddhist Temple



Above is Rev. Henry Adams who will be keynote speaker at NW Convention.

SanMateoBuddhistTemple.org

Dharma Exchange Notes - an after-service discussion

Sep. 24 - Matt May MA showed a video of Rev. Henry Adams teaching a class in which he touched upon Dharma-kara who became Amida Buddha, and indicted the San Butsugei was meant to praise all the Buddhas. There are some good aspects and some not so good according to the evaluation of the Buddha lands. Adams Sensei chose some of the 48 vows and discussed them, and many are not emphasized by Honen and Shinran. Part of this was in preparation for Tokudo ordination and part was Rev. Adams' interpretation. We are admonished to not judge people based on the color of skin and hair. Everyone is OK just as they are, and all should be treated equally. Oct 1 - Rinban Kusunoke presided over the DX. A participant was asked, Why did you come to the Minidoka pilgrimage? Ans: I came to find out who I am. We have many different practices, and one question we should ask is, Who am I? We label and put value on everything and at times we discriminate, and don't realize it.

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.....Dharma Exchange continued from p. 8

Sensei said the wisdom of Amida Buddha equals unhindered light with no labels or barriers. . . A participant asked, What am I grateful for? For Sensei, just as I am equals the wisdom of Amida Buddha. I must accept the barriers and I can change my view. Each day is a practice. He said Karma equals action and Enji equals Karmic conditions. He explained Sho Ho Muga equals everything is inter-dependent and everything has causes and conditions, and not just one. Each year students ask the same question, Who created the Universe? Buddhists do not care, and the answer is causes and conditions. Sensei said, my life comes from all of our ancestors, and he feels he is here now because the bomb dropped on northern Nagasaki was supposed to be dropped on the industrial area to the south. . . A participant is grateful to Amida Buddha for all the causes and conditions in her life and in that of others. Sensei added that when bad things happen our view is narrowed, and we try to discover why and point at certain persons. Sensei said we all live different lives so we need to self-reflect. With the Buddha Dharma we live a life of gratitude.

Oct 8 - Rev. Jim Warrick showed a film by Rev. Dr. Kenshin Tanaka called "Mutually Sustaining Life," sponsored by Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK) Society, founded by Rev. Dr. Yehan Numata, who wished to propagate Buddhism all over the world. There are over one million books in schools and hotel nightstands. The two aims of the film are (1) to offer basic knowledge of Buddhism for newcomers, and (2) add spiritual concerns of all ages. There are 52 separate programs of 15 minutes each to interest newcomers to Buddhism, and will be shown the first of the month at DX. This film is also available on the Internet. Sensei asked, which city in the US has the most different schools of Buddhism? Los Angeles. There are approximately 3 million "home grown" or "night stand" Buddhists in the US with no temple affiliation. In this grouping Sensei includes new age in American Buddhism; there is the "old line" group before WWII including Japanese and Chinese; there are converts to Buddhism -- Zen, Vipassana, etc. and there is another convert group to Buddhism including Soka Gakkai. . . Castro Sensei said the big sellers in book stores are Thich Nat Hanh and the Dalai Lama. Jim Sensei said he met a Soka Gakkai person who left the group because he was allowed to read

only what Soka Gakkai offered. Further, Sensei said Nichiren taught that Jodo Shinshu followers will go to hell. However, that stance has been softened through the years. . . Jim Sensei asked the group, What makes a Buddhist? Ans: The goal of Buddhism is Enlightenment; Shakyamuni the teacher; and the Precepts. All Buddhists have these characteristics in common. . . A participant felt it is important to interest young people in Buddhist teaching. We can all select a path that's right for us in Buddhism. . . Next Sunday will feature Dharmathon with short talks by ministers and MAs.

Oct 15 - Rinban Kasunoki noted that Emi N. is the first Youth Minister Assistant to present at the Dharmathon. She described what happens when a Jodo Shinshu member is dying, and not to obsess over death. She said we become upset when things go wrong and cautioned that we have little time and to make good use of it. It is important to remember that nothing lasts forever. . .

She recalled losing new tennis shoes she had stored in the garage that was looted. Emi felt it was her fault for storing them there.

Katsu Sensei asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of those lost in the California fires. He said a Sonoma temple invited three families who lost their homes to live at the temple. Sensei will let us know how we can help the fire victims after he talks to the BCA. A participant noted that the Social Welfare Department of the BCA will donate to fire victims. . . Sensei said we are always receiving Wisdom and Compassion from Amida, and the basic Jodo Shinshu teaching is to accept all just as they are. . . He showed pictures of his niece and son at the same age and joked that his niece had more hair than his son. . . He read a poem in Japanese that is a favorite of his mother and himself. It tells us there is nothing to feel good or bad about. You are just right as you are. Sensei remembers this poem when he has difficulties. . . A participant asked him about teaching a class in chanting. Yes, and also there will be such an event following an upcoming meeting that we can attend. . . Next Sunday Doug McLean will offer his Buddhism 101 class during Dharma Exchange.



In Gassho,
Pat Bobrow

Guest Speakers in November

submitted by Irene Goto

In November we will have 2 guest speakers for our Sunday services of November 12 and November 19.



On November 12 Reverend Ryuta Furumoto from Senshin Buddhist Temple, will speak at our Hoonko Service with Ochigo Procession. Reverend Furumoto was one of my teachers when I took the Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course in 2011 and 2012. I am looking forward to hear him speak and I am sure we will enjoy his sharing of the Buddha-dharma. He will give dharma messages for us in both English and Japanese.

On Saturday, November 18, Rev. Dr. Jeff Wilson of Renison University College, Canada, will present "A Queer History of Buddhism" at the LGBTQ Seminar, "Rainbow of Infinite Light," sponsored by BCA's Center for Buddhist Education and Seattle Betsuin. This event is open to the public and everyone is encouraged to register and attend. Please see details on p. 5 and at <http://seattlebetsuin.org/index.php/rainbow>.

On Sunday, November 19, Rev. Wilson will deliver a dharma talk at Seattle Betsuin's 10:00am Service and join us for combined Dharma Exchange in the hondo until 11:30.

Rev. Dr. Jeff Wilson is Professor, Religious Studies and East Asian Studies at Renison University College, Ontario, Canada, author of *Buddhism of the Heart* and contributing writer to *Tricycle Magazine* which published "[A Big Gay History of Same-sex Marriage in the Sangha](#)" where he states "The first known Buddhist same-sex marriages took place in the early 1970s at the Buddhist Church of San Francisco."



Please join us on Saturday, November 18, for the LGBTQ Seminar and Sundays, November 12 and November 19 to listen to our guest speakers: Rev. Ryuta Furumoto and Rev. Jeff Wilson.

Orei and Dana

submitted by Irene Goto

Reverend Ryuta Furumoto introduces the following message written by Reverend Masao Kodani, retired, from Senshin Buddhist Temple. I find his message particularly relevant because donation amount is always questioned when we are consulting for funeral and memorial services. I hope this article by Reverend Mas helps inform you on your *dana* giving or donation *kokoromochi* or "what your heart dictates".

This month's message is written by Rev. Mas about paying attention to the idea of Orei and Dana. Orei is not a fee, charge, payment, wages, rent, etc. He often says, "Nothing is free in the temple." The use of the Hondo, Social Hall and other temple facilities are supported by Orei, which is based on your kokoromochi (whatever your heart dictates). This is the important thought to keep in order to maintain Senshin Buddhist Temple.

- Reverend Ryuta Furumoto, PRAJNA SENSHIN-JI OCTOBER 2017 VOL XLXXIII #10

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Betsuin Events for November 2017

MOST SUNDAYS – confirm at www.SeattleBetsuin.org. “coming events” listing, or call the temple office

9:00 am - 9:40 Meditation *New Time/Location*- Memorial Hall Chapel

10:00 am - 10:35 SERVICE - in *hondo* (main hall) includes Sutra Chanting, singing, and Dharma Talk

10:35 am - 10:45 Sangha Gathering - offer incense, “meet and greet” after service in *hondo*, Main Hall

10:50 am - 11:30 Children’s Dharma School; school year starts Sept. 10 for all grades

DHARMA EXCHANGE – in dining room; a mix of discussions and educational programming; topics will be posted in newsletters in advance

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

TEMPLE TOURS - to welcome newcomers, to ask questions!

SUNDAYS 9:00 am Meditation *New Time*

November 5

9:00 am Meditation/Rev. Castro & Leonora Clarke

10:00 am FAMILY SERVICE

10:50 am Temple Cleanup (no after service programs)

11:45 am SBBWA Board Meeting

1:00 pm Metta class #4

1:30 pm Sangha class #4

November 12

9:00 am Meditation/Rev. Castro & Leonora Clarke

10:00 am HOONKO SERVICE w/Ochigo & guest speaker, Rev. Ryuta Furumoto, Senshin Buddhist Temple

Youth/Adult: Rev. Ryuta Furumoto

Japanese: Rev. Ryuta Furumoto

DX: “Buddhism on Air” by Rev. Warrick

DSDX: Rev. Rosalie May

Temple tour: Rev. Irene Goto

November 19 Rinban Kusunoki at Moses Lake for Eitaikyo Service

9:00 am Meditation/Rev. Castro & Leonora Clarke

10:00 am AUTUMN FAMILY MUSIC SERVICE

guest speaker: Rev. Dr. Jeff Wilson, Toronto

Youth/Adult: Rev. Dr. Jeff Wilson

Japanese, DX, DSDX: All Combined in hondo

Temple Tour: TBD

11:45 am SBBWA Annual General Meeting followed by tea for members

1:00 pm Metta class #5

1:30pm Sangha Award class #5

November 26

9:00 am Meditation/Rev. Castro & Leonora Clarke

10:00 am FAMILY SERVICE

Youth/Adult: Rev. Kusunoki

Japanese: Rev. Kusunoki

DX: “Buddhism 101, 102, 103” Doug McLean

DSDX: Rev. Rosalie May

Temple Tour: Rev. Warrick, Rev. Goto

11:45 am SBBWA Cabinet Meeting

MONDAYS Rinban’s Days Off

November 6, 13, 20, 27

TUESDAYS

November 28

10:30 am Keiro Service (Rinban Kusunoki)

WEDNESDAYS 10:00 am Morning Service

THURSDAYS

November 2

1:30 pm Nikkei Manor Service (Rinban Kusunoki)

November 16

10:00 am Shinran Shonin Monthly Memorial Service (Rinban Kusunoki)

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

7:00 pm Betsuin Cabinet Meeting

November 23 Thanksgiving: Temple office closed

November 30

11:00 am Merrill Gardens (Renton) service (Rev. Castro & MA Irene Goto)

FRIDAYS

November 3

12:00 pm Gojikai Service & Luncheon Meeting (Rinban Kusunoki)

November 10 Temple office closed for Veteran’s Day

November 24 Temple office closed for Thanksgiving

SATURDAYS

November 4

9:30 – 11:30 am Book Study Group

November 18

10:00 am – 4:00 pm “Rainbow of Infinite Life: LGBTQ in Shin Buddhism Seminar

December Newsletter Deadline

Monday, November 20, 2017

8:00PM

November 2017: Major Events

December 3 Bodhi Day service 10am

December 31 New Year’s Eve service 7pm

The term Orei has the following meanings: Salutation, propriety, ceremony, worship, good manners, politeness, courtesy, respect, reverence, thanks, appreciation, remuneration, return present, etc. There are additional meanings depending on what religious tradition is using the term, Buddhist, Confucian or daoist. In Japanese “O” is an honorific prefix making the following word more polite or formal.

The term Orei has the following meanings: Salutation, propriety, ceremony, worship, good manners, politeness, courtesy, respect, reverence, thanks, appreciation, remuneration, return present, etc. There are additional meanings depending on what religious tradition is using the term, Buddhist, Confucian or daoist. In Japanese “O” is an honorific prefix making the following word more polite or formal. Jodoshinshu Buddhist temples in the U.S. were originally supported entirely on an orei system. As the Nisei generation came of age, they introduced a system of membership dues, which they added to the orei system. This system of requiring a set annual fee to become a member of a temple began in the 1960’s and is unusual, even by American religious standards for whom voluntary donations are the norm. What then is the difference from orei and Membership dues? Bluntly put—attitude. The paying of money for membership is a businessman’s way of thinking. If someone pays membership dues for membership in anything, the first thought that occurs is, “What do I get for this?” When you find out what you will get, you then judge whether it is worth it to you or not. In the more Buddhist orei system, you are asked to donate to the temple and minister for services rendered for you or your family, like funerals, memorial services, personal use of facilities, etc. When you ask “about how much,” the usual answer is “kokoromochi,” or whatever your heart dictates. This answer was as difficult for the Issei and Nisei as it now is for Sansei and yonsei. One has to pursue further and inquire what an average might be. Senshin Temple continues with the vague and challenging orei system. Why, because it places the responsibility on the giver to think of why he wants to give and how much. Life at a temple is not a business where you know what the product is and how much it is worth. When you go to a Buddhist temple for the first time, do you know what it’s all about, and can therefore put a value judgement on it?

And what is the real value of chanting, burning incense and bowing, other than the exotic meanings you put into it, or how you define Amida Buddha and the Pure Land and summarily dismiss it as superstition? For authentic religion, one doesn’t go shopping for a religion that agrees with you, but for one that changes you. The Buddha emphasizes dana as a primary practice to understand Bodhi. This means giving to others, money, things, service, and yourself, without expectation of reward or praise. It is the most important and difficult of acts—this dana—this giving one’s self away. Its value or worth cannot be set and, depending on one’s kokoromochi, \$10 may be more than another’s \$100. Dana therefore can never be a set price—it moves as the heart moves. It does not calculate in ounces and pounds. as the heart moves, so the temple rots or flourishes. This special kind of well-defined giving called Dana is the Sanskrit word whose sister language, English, uses the term donation.



Gassho,

Rev. Masao Kodani

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Seattle Buddhist Church
1427 S Main Street
Seattle, WA 98144

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

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FOR
NEWSLETTER

November Major Events of Interest

November 5 (Sunday)

10:00am Service followed by Temple cleanup

November 12 (Sunday)

10:00am Hoonko Service with Ochigo and guest speaker,
Rev. Ryuta Furumoto from Senshin Buddhist Temple

November 18 (Saturday)

10:00am - 4:00pm "Rainbow of Infinite Light" LGBTQ in Shin Buddhism
Seminar; Register by Nov. 8; see p. 5

November 19 (Sunday)

10:00am Family Music Service with guest speaker, Rev. Dr. Jeff Wilson
11:45am SBBWA General Meeting

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ed message.*

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