



## What is the Eitaikyo service (Perpetual Sutra Memorial Service)?

by Rev. Katsuya Kusunoki



At the Betsuin, we have several annual major services. The Hoonko service in January is our Founder Shinran Shonin's memorial service. The Hanamatsuri service in April is the service to celebrate Shakyamuni Buddha's Birthday. The Gotan-e service in May is the service to celebrate

Shinran Shoinin's Birthday. The Obon service in July originated from the Ullambana Sutra which tells us about the story of Maudgalyayana, a disciple of Shakyamuni Buddha and his mother. The Ohigan service in March and September is held to practice and listen to Buddha's teaching during the comfortable season and it is also related to the Bodhisattva's practice, Six Paramita. Each major service has its reason and origin to be observed. At the Seattle Betsuin, the Eitaikyo service is observed in November. What is the Eitaikyo service for?

Eitaikyo service is often translated as Perpetual Sutra memorial service. I am sometimes asked, "Sensei, I would like to ask you to conduct an Eitaikyo service for my ancestor." In this case, the Eitaikyo service is a kind of memorial service to be observed for their ancestors. I also hear "Eitaikuyo" sometimes. Eitaikuyo literally means perpetual offering. People use "Eitaikuyo" as conducting all future memorial services for their ancestors in advance. In this case, the Eitaikuyo service is observed to conclude all the future Buddhist memorial services. If the Eitaikyo service is just a memorial service for our ancestors, there is no big difference with the Obon service or the other Buddhist memorial services. In Seattle, we also have the All Sangha memorial service in June. The

Eitaikyo service must have some other reasons to be observed.

One book explains the meaning of the Jodo Shinshu's Eitaikyo service as follows:

**"The Eitaikyo service is for people to practice and listen to the Jodo Shinshu teaching everlastingly. Therefore, the Eitaikyo donations contain the people's wish to everlastingly spread the teaching and maintain a Buddhist temple where people listen to the Buddha's teaching."**

The Jodo Shinshu temple and members conduct the Eitaikyo service for Buddha Dharma to be transmitted from generation to generation. It is necessary to have a temple for people to enjoy the Buddha Dharma. The temple building cannot last forever. It is necessary to have a renovation every so many years. It costs a lot to have a major renovation. Instead of one generation bearing all the cost, each generation donates and saves some money for the time when the temple needs to do renovation and purchase some Naijin altar fittings. At the same time, we have to realize that we are able to listen to the Buddha Dharma and use the temple building because fifty and one hundred years ago, the former members made huge effort and donations to build and maintain the temple.

Seattle Betsuin's yearbook, published in 1955 when Rev. Ichikawa was Rinban of the Seattle Betsuin says,

"It is for this reason, from this year, that we have scheduled the Eitaikyo Service to be in conjunction with Seattle Betsuin's anniversary celebration in November." Gagaku music will be performed and the Chigo procession will take place during the service. It is the precious opportunity for us to express our appreciation and respect to all the former members. We also wish that the Seattle Betsuin thrives and more and more people enjoy listening to the Buddha Dharma. Gassho

# College/Sr YBA Welcome Dinner—Well-Received



Over 25 young adults came and enjoyed the 2nd Welcome Dinner for College YBA and Sr YBA on Saturday, October 13. They enjoyed Service and Dharma message with Rev Kusunoki, ate heaps of home-cooked food by Chef Ron and crew and got to meet others from Hawaii, China, Japan, California and Seattle. Dinner included a huge *udon* bar, *teriyaki* chicken, fruit platters, *natto*, fresh made apple cider, donuts and spam *musubi*. Past Betsuin scholarship families made home-baked cookies, donated goodies to bring home and helped with this well-received event. Repurposed Shinran Obon shirts transformed into bags to carry home their goodies.

All were welcome, some were visiting for the first time, some were not Buddhist and all met new friends by the end of the evening. Plans are to have other activities throughout the year—think about joining-in the next time! Possible road trip down the west coast or up north. Keep watching this energetic group! Thank you to the Religious Department for supporting this event. And to Harrison, Connor, and Evan, Ron, Steph, Marie, Howard, Susie, Andrea, Dana, Jeff, Tina for the manpower. Submitted by Tina Ko

## Archives & SBBWA Clothing & Item Giveaway

Submitted by Dana Nakashima

On Sunday, September 30, after Dharma Exchange, the Archives Committee and Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Women's Association co-sponsored a "Clothing and Item Giveaway" in the Temple Gym. All items on display were free for Sangha members to take home.

Items available included old Japanese clothing, old Temple yearbooks, t-shirts from past Bon Odoris, fabric, yarn, and crafting items, jars and glassware, and much more. We were encouraged to see so many members stop by, take a look, and bring items home.

A big "thank you" to Sangha members for donating items, bringing home items, and for supporting the Archives Committee and SBBWA! The Archives Committee and SBBWA also wish to thank Craig N., Todd N., Gary S. and Henry W. for helping with Giveaway set-up and takedown. We couldn't have done it without your help!



Photo by Kasumi Yamashita

# The Seattle Betsuin Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations September - October 2018

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*continued on p. 5...*



# ***Tools for Spiritual Wellness,*** **6<sup>th</sup> Women in Buddhism** **Conference, “the best one yet!”**

“You created a varied, comprehensive series of workshops and the Program was well-organized -- a great workshop -- interesting, creative, fun -- and the *Bento* & snacks were *Oishi!*” These are sentiments expressed by attendees of the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Women in Buddhism Conference at Seattle Betsuin Temple on Saturday, September 22, 2018. The daylong conference is sponsored by Seattle Betsuin’s Religious Department and the Buddhist Women’s Association.

This year three different Buddhist traditions were celebrated – Soto Zen, Tibetan, and Jodo Shinshu. One of the Conference planners said, “I think it shows that the Betsuin in a very open, positive light for newcomers. I heard a few attendees already planning to return to the temple. One, at least, was because of her [Dr. Javellana’s] talk. I liked the combination of sitting and moving, listening and acting... there were a lot of smiles on people’s faces, including Rimban’s son’s face, during *taiko*.”

The theme this year was “Tools for Spiritual Wellness.” Keynote speaker, Rev. Dr. Carmela Jevallana, Minister’s Assistant at BCA’s Salt Lake Buddhist Temple, talked about “The Wounded Heart.” Jevallana explained that suffering is part our humanity (*dukkha*), that it takes courage and understanding to acknowledge this, and in turn, we can allow the “heart of Amida” (*eshin*) to heal us. One illustration she gave of this healing was the art of *kintsugi*, the Japanese art of repairing broken pottery with powdered gold; the repair becomes part of the history of an object and appreciated, rather than something to deny. She is a psychiatrist in clinical practice who integrates Neuroscience and Buddhist principles. She has been Minister’s Assistant since 2005, received Tokudo ordination in 2014, and is pursuing the Ministry as Kyoshi while working full-time seeing patients.

Donna Zumoto, leader of Seattle Matsuri Taiko based at Seattle Betsuin, led the whole group of 75 attendees in a rousing half-hour of drumming, rotating them from cardboard boxes mounted on *zabuton* to real taiko drums. One of the drummers said, “Glad you included direct-experiencing with Taiko... it was so engaging, and I really liked Donna’s spirit!”

Kimberly Abbey led Tara Mandala Dance, a praise in English verse and movement to the Mother Tara of Tibetan Buddhism. An attendee said, “Tara

Dancing was also a fun, light-hearted, experiential workshop; I felt comfortable, since I was somewhat familiar with the ‘Buddhist Goddess of Compassion’, *Kan’on* (Japanese) *Kwan Yin* (Chinese) and had partaken of Tibetan Buddhist services at the Sakya Monastery.” Kimberly Abbey is a practitioner,



member and supporter of Sakya Monastery of Tibetan Buddhism in Seattle.

Dr. Elizabeth Sikes, PhD, LMHC, presented a session, including a short sitting meditation, entitled, “Tara’s Response: Deep Listening and Right Speech in our Relationships.” She cautioned us to be aware of being a “narcissistic listener,” one who turns what the other says into something only about oneself in-



stead of truly hearing what the other is telling us. She cites, as a resource, *The Hidden Lamp: Stories from Twenty-Five Centuries of Awakened Women*, ed. by Florence Caplow and Susan Moon (Boston: Wisdom Publications, 2013). Dr Sikes received *jukai* from Rev. Kosho Itagaki in 2008. She has a psychotherapy practice in Seattle which focuses on healing psychological wounds through relationship and is guided and inspired by her background in philosophy and Zen meditation practice. She has been co-leader of Seattle University’s EcoSangha for the past 12 years.

To conclude the day small, facilitated Talk Groups and a Naikan group facilitated by Dr. Javellana gave attendees the opportunity to reflect on and



... General Donations continued from p. 3:

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... Tools for Spiritual Wellness continued from p. 4



question their thoughts and behaviors. Next year's Conference is tentatively set for Saturday, September 28, 2019.

Thank you, SBBWA members for providing refreshments and donations, Rosalie May for ready-to-serve brewed coffee and registration, Karen Akira for potted flowers and registration, facilitators Kanako Kashima, Lynne Goodrich, Leonora Clarke, and Leanne Nishi-Wong, Akiko Taniguchi for snapshots, Matt May and Joe Gotchy for set-

up, Etsu and Ben Shimbo for bento orders, Joan Nakano and Howard Luke for online registration, Alan Hoshino for advise, sound setup, and checks, 2018 WiB Committee members Karen Akira, Gail Kaminishi, Rev. Kusunoki, Rosalie May, Janie Okawa, Ann Oxrieder, and especially, "thank you," to all of you who attended.

Gassho  
Irene Goto, Chair  
2018 WiB Conference



## Musical Notes

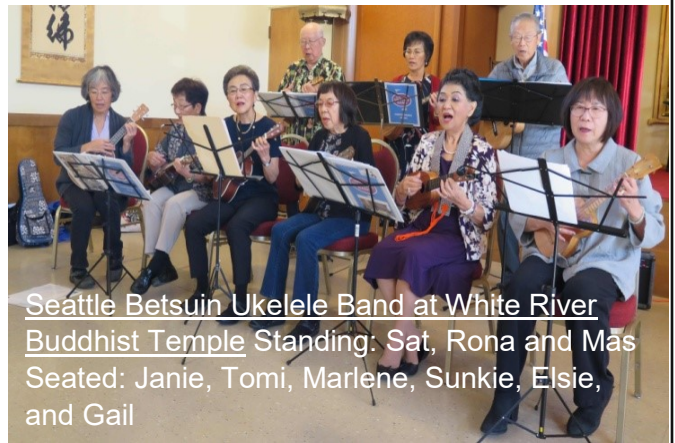
Submitted by Kemi Nakabayashi

Thank you to the Seattle Betsuin Ukulele Band for providing service music on September 30 while I attended the Hawaii Choralfest 2018 in Honolulu.

SBUB also performed at White River Buddhist Temple on October 14. In addition to leading the WRBT sangha in singing *Namu Amida Butsu* and *Seiya*, the band introduced *This Land is Your Land* after service as a sing-along. Mas Tamekuni reports that the day was very enjoyable, including a delicious lunch hosted by WRBT.

Photographs of the Choralfest 2018 hosted by Hawaii Betsuin on September 29-30 are now posted on the Hawaii Betsuin website: <https://hawaiibetsuin.org/gallery/>.

Allison organized the service music for children's service on October 7 assisted by Claire Murata while I covered the hondo service with guest Dr. Toshikazu Arai providing the Dharma message. We were all thinking ahead to the 10<sup>th</sup> annual music service on November 18. Dr. Arai was the one who originally introduced our Seattle sangha to the music service sutras. This fall we are trying to master music service *Sanbutsuge* since we have been routinely including music service *Juseige* for many years in our music services. Please mark November 18 on your calendar and also consider encouraging distant friends or family to tune in at 10 am PST that morning via online live streaming.



Seattle Betsuin Ukelele Band at White River Buddhist Temple Standing: Sat, Rona and Mas Seated: Janie, Tomi, Marlene, Sunkie, Elsie, and Gail

On Sept 23 Rev Dr Carmela Jevallana-Hirano delivered a memorable Sunday dharma talk to celebrate Eshinni and Kakushinni, wife and daughter, respectively, of Shinran Shonin. Her leading scriptural passage was of dharma equality quoting from Rennyo Shonin's fascicle V-20 [Rogers/Rogers] in which Rennyo interprets Amida's thinking, "If I do not save women, which of the other buddhas will save them?" referring to the 35th Vow.

- I. Goto

## Eshinni and Kakushinni Honored



## Essentials of Pure Land Buddhism: *Nembutsu, Shinjin and Birth in the Pure Land*



Photo by Sat Ichikawa

Rev Toshikazu Arai, PhD, Professor Emeritus Soai University, presented lectures October 3 - 7, 2018 in Japanese and English and delivered a dharma talk at Sunday's Service. His emphasis was on saying the *nembutsu* with *shinjin*. He has translated a work of Shinran Shonin called *Saihō Shinan-shō (A Guide to the Pure Land in the West)* (tr. Arai), compiled by Shinran. Only recently have more researchers of Shinran's thought paid attention to this voluminous work and, until Rev. Arai, no one has attempted to translate it. Although essential topics of Shin understanding such as *nembutsu*, *shinjin* (faith/trusting) and attaining birth in the Pure Land were discussed, he also told stories of basic Buddhism such as that of Dharmakara who became Amida Buddha and one describing the length of time of a *kalpa*.

- I. Goto

## SBBWA Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Women's Association

submitted by Nina Tomita Kato



- Those that attended the Federation Conference in Visalia, were treated like Queens. The warm hospitality began from the minute we were picked up until dropped off at the airport. It was a memorable weekend for us and we were even entertained by "Elvis".
- A new World BWA Creed has been proposed and we hope that our board will approve the proposed creed. It will be posted on the SBBWA bulletin board.
- Please continue to check your email for the monthly "flashes." A copy will be posted on the bulletin board as well.
- Please consider attending the World BWA convention in San Francisco, CA during the week-

end of Aug. 30 - Sept. 1, 2019. The registration will be \$350; rooms will run \$214 per room. More information is coming. The convention is open to all and not only BWA members. It's wonderful to be with fellow Jodo Shinshu Buddhist from all around the world.

- We had our fundraising Barazushi Sale October 14, 2018.
- Please join us at St. Mary's Interdenominational food bank every 4th Friday of the month.
- Looking for volunteers for the Nov. 16 dinner at Orion House.
- Services are held at Nikkei Manor, Keiro and Merrill Gardens each month; check the master calendar for times and dates.
- Please encourage family and friends to join our SBBWA...a wonderful group of creative, thoughtful and generous individuals.

## 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 recently paid members for the fiscal year of **2018**.

*Steven Aisaka, Masatoshi Aoyama, Eric & Carol Ashihara, Diane Deaver, Kenny & Yoshie Dodobara, Patrick & JoAnn Kosai Eng, Florence Fujita, John & Lynda Hamakami, Robert Hamatani, Nelson Harano, Mark & Haru Hirota, Cyrus Honmyo & May Chin, Alan & Lori Hoshino, Arthur & Sally Kawaguchi, Richard & Karina Kawaguchi, Masako Kawamoto, Shizue Kikuchi, Paul & Jane Knutzen, Tom Kodama, Stan Kondo & Bonnie Duran, June Kosai, Kris & Keiko Kosugi, Scott Mar, Fumiye Masunaga, Takashi Matsui, Matthew & Rosalie May, Paul & Teresa Mori, Tomio Moriguchi, Yukio & Karen Morikubo, Yoshie Nakagawa, Fumio Nakamura, Ted Nakamura, Kiyoko Nakanishi, Junko Nakano, Marianne Osaki, Nobuko Otsuji, Patricia Oye, Sunkie Oye, Charlene Mano-Shen, Aiko Suganuma, Gail Suzaka, Jean Takano, Jay Taylor, Hideko Terada, Florence Terami, Paul & Mabel Tomita, Susanne Umeda, Robert Weinsheimer & Kari Palmer, Jeff & Susie Yamane, Mark Yuasa*

*We would like to welcome  
**Scott Mar and Aiko Suganuma**  
as new members of our Sangha!*

- SO

## November 2018 Book Study Group Announcement

**The next meeting of the Buddhist Study Group will take place on Saturday, November 3.**

We will discuss The Book of Tea—by Kakuzo Okakura. This book is widely available at libraries and bookstores. All are welcome, and reading the book is not necessary.

submitted by Leonora Clarke

# Dharma Exchange Notes

by Pat Bobrow *Dharma Exchange is a mix of discussion and educational programming that takes place in the dining room downstairs. Join us — we enjoy coffee and donuts almost every Sunday after service.*

**Sept 16, 2018** Rev Castro shared some thoughts after he had recently spent time babysitting his grandson. The two-year old was mesmerized watching programs like Curious George, which Rev Castro described as “vacuous (though with good art).” His grandson initially wanted to look at dinosaurs but was hypnotized in front of the TV. While Rev Castro’s son and daughter-in-law are careful about putting a time limit on their child’s TV viewing (2 hours max per day) their child is still glued to the TV and cell phones.

Rev Castro’s great, grandparents, he said, played instruments to entertain themselves and others. During his own childhood it was “storytelling,” which was an art. When his sons were growing up, he read stories to them, with one on each side, for about 45 min. There were TV programs like “Mr. Rogers,” about a Presbyterian Minister who did everything very slowly. (Rev Castro does not own a TV because he “doesn’t like commercials.” He says he enjoys watching the same DVDs over and over.)

Good Morning Work, by Nathan Zimmerman (who wrote children’s books after retiring from his business) was a favorite children’s book of Rev Castro. He read it to his sons when they were young and wanted to read it to his grandson. Long out of print, Rev Castro tracked it down on the internet. Before reading the book to us, he said, “I want you to think of when you were 7 years old and imagine that your grandparent is reading you this story.” He added, “This is a good starting point for the Jodo Shinshu story...” and told us to “look for the ‘impulse’ in the child.”

The story began, “Mitsuyo Yamada leaned on his hoe and sighed deeply...” The story was about a little boy whose impulse for humanity saved the life of the slug (rat?). The little boy found a banana slug which was going to be killed because it was a nuisance, but he saved it, saying how beautiful it was. ...” Rev Castro saw the Buddhist teaching in this: that children have the innate impulse to protect life, which is beautiful.

**Sept 23** Rev Jerry Hirano, resident minister at Salt Lake Buddhist Temple and Co-Assistant to the Bishop, answered questions about his attendance at the 19th European Shin Buddhist Conference in August. Unfortunately no one took notes at this exchange.

**Sept 30 Dharmathon** Dharma Talks by Youth Ministers’ Assistants, Emily Ko, Emi Nakashima, and Minister’s Assistant Jason Yokoyama.

Emily related her experience of taiko drumming with the interconnection and harmony between her body and mind. Her new experience of being with other students at UW in the college of engineering, collaborating and living with them is also work in harmonizing. One challenge she will be working on is how to build an electric light-rail system that works with the I-90 floating bridge, over water. All have the goal of harmony.



Emi related her experience of learning how to conduct an orchestra to the Eightfold Path: Right View – have an idea of what you want the sound to be; Right Thought – a path of how to get to the idea, a specific interpretation; Right Speech – communicate with players as to the style (light or heavy); Right Conduct – convey tempo, tone, style by using breath, cues, facial expression, mouth, eyes; Right Livelihood – enjoy the work, make others happy, do no harm to others; Right Effort – have a positive attitude, persevere, try different approaches; too much effort is also possible.



Jason talked about how Interdependence together with Impermanence equals a Life of Gratitude; Greed, Anger, and Stupidity equals Unhappiness and following the Eightfold Noble Path equals relief of our suffering. He showed a graphic illustration of changing the *kanji* character of *watashi*, self, into *butsu*, Buddha, taught to him by Rev Sugahara; out of this transformation of *kanji* Jason transformed his “equations” into a crossword puzzle that forms the *katakana* of “*yu*”, a homonym for “you”.



Margaret Teramoto invited those who wished to sign a thank you card to Tom Sakamoto for his generous donation of ground coffee giving Dharma Exchange brewed coffee for Dharma Exchange over the years.

- I. Goto

**Oct 7** Rev. Dr. Arai led the Dharma session. A participant asked him, “Why the trip to India; was it to study Hinduism?” Sensei answered, “No, a Japanese company sent me.” Another asked, “How do you maintain interest?”

Sensei said, “There is no joy in perseverance -- it won’t last. Rev. Don Castro said, many different sects say Namo Amida Butsu differently. Do you think it might change to a more Americanized Namo Amida Buddha?” Dr. Arai responded, “It may work, but there is no need to change it.” Shinran spoke of prayer and that prayer for self-benefit →



# Dharma School Report

submitted by Joyce Tsuji

**Calling All Children Interested in the Upcoming Ochigo Procession Sunday, November 11! 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 the Betsuin office by Sunday, November 4. You may also contact the Betsuin office for more information at [\(206\) 329-0800](tel:2063290800).**

## Classroom Reports

Infant/Toddler We would like to welcome back Yuiya, Mika and Hudson! We would also like to welcome newcomers Sala, Sora, Kaori, Tyden, Kylen and Emiko! We of course appreciate their parents support as well. It can be busy in our playroom!

PreK/K In the first week of Dharma School, the children learned about Frog Minds and Monkey Minds and how they should act at the temple. Frog Minds are quiet, wait their turn and share, while Monkey Minds are noisy and disruptive. The children learned about our FROG Classroom/Pond Rules so they will know how to act at church. They made stick puppets with frogs and monkeys to remind them of their behavior.

The students learned about the significance of the onenju and selected their own beads for a new onenju for the year. They made frog cases to store their onenjus and to remind them to have a Frog Mind at the temple.

The students heard a story about a little boy who did not bring his onenju to temple every week because he could not find it. The children learned that if they had one special place that they kept their onenju they would be able to find it and bring their onenju to temple. They made an onenju holder that they could put their onenju on and were told to put this holder in a special place in their room.

We read the book Spoon and learned how we should all be happy with ourselves rather than trying to change and be someone else. In the book, Spoon wanted to be like a Knife, Fork or Chopsticks and felt they had a better life. However, Knife, Fork and Chopsticks were all jealous of Spoon and wished they could be like him. The children decorated their own wooden spoons so they can remember they are fine just the way they are.

3/4/5 Grade Ask any of our students about the 6 Paramitas and they can tell you about Dana-generosity, Sila-proper conduct, Khashanti- patience, Dhayana-meditation, Virya-perseverance and Prajna- wisdom. Our lively group went on a tour of the lesser known areas of the temple seeing the kansho, rice room, pantry, Shinran and Kakushinni-ko, and Wisteria plaza dedication plaque. We continue to learn with our Dharma buddies and teachers.

6/7/8 Grade The Middle school class made a strong start with two new students joining this year! On the first day, we built community through name memorization games and discussing curriculum. We joined the whole Dharma school on the second Sunday for a Tomoshie craft with the young ministers from Japan.

← is correct. Prayer for peace in your country is acceptable. He said the Primal Vow is a grand prayer. Kemi indicated that Rev. Arai introduced the Sanbutsu Ge for voice 10 years ago. A participant asked if Western notation is used in music in Japan, or is traditional Japanese notation used. Rev. Arai responded that Western style notation is used except for very old compositions.

**Oct 14** Another installment of Rev. Dr. Ken Tanaka's "Buddhism on Air" was shown dealing with the images of Buddhism. Bodhisattvas are awakened beings who choose not to become Buddhas, but rather to assist others in their search for Enlightenment. . . Years after Shakyamuni died, the thinking was that there were other Buddhas, i.e. Maitreya who is awaiting Buddhahood. . . In contemporary Buddhism, Amitabha is the larger form of Buddhism,

and is central to Pure Land Buddhism. People who wish to be born in the Pure Land pray to him. Buddhism often speaks of Wisdom and Compassion as "two wings of a bird." In China, Kannon (Avalokitesvara) is portrayed as female with a child. . . In Buddhist imagery Shakyamuni Buddha is almost always portrayed sitting on a lotus. Bodhisattvas are standing as is Amida Buddha. Kannon is expressed by different genders in different forms. . . Shinran had a vivid dream, and Kannon told Shinran he could take a wife. Shakyamuni Buddha said we live in a degraded age, and Maitreya will come later. The Bodhisattva Jizo is described as saving those who are impossible to save. Imagery is important and the goal is to learn those different things represented. . . A participant asked why Kannon is depicted with 30 arms. It depicts bringing someone in, and each arm carries a different symbolism. Gassho, Pat Bobrow

## 2018年11月 シアトル別院

### 日本語記事 永代経法要ってなに？

お寺では、一年を通していろいろな法要が勤められます。親鸞聖人のご命日の報恩講法要、お釈迦様のお誕生日の花祭り法要、親鸞聖人のお誕生日の降誕会法要、盂蘭盆経にある目連尊者の故事を起源とし、亡き人を偲ぶお盆法要、また、菩薩の行である六波羅蜜と関連し、季節の良い時期に仏道修行や聞法をする春秋のお彼岸法要など各法要にはそれぞれに意味があり、起源があります。シアトル別院では11月に永代経法要という特別な法要が勤められますが、永代経法要を勤める意義とは为什么呢。

時々、「私の先祖のために永代経法要を勤めたいのですが、、、」と聞かれることがあります。この場合の永代経法要は、自分のご先祖様のためにするお勤めということになります。よく永代供養という言葉も聞きます。それは、様々な事情により今後、先祖のための法事をする事ができないから、永代供養をすることでこれから先の法事を済ませてしまうということでしょう。この場合は、永代供養が年忌、法事の一つの大きな区切りとなっています。亡き人をご縁とし、偲ぶ法要であれば、お盆法要やお彼岸法要も亡き人をご縁とする法要です。シアトル別院では、**ALL Sangha Memorial Service**というのも毎年、6月にあります。永代経法要にはなにか他にその意義があるように思えてなりません。

ある本に、浄土真宗の永代経法要の意義が、このように書かれていました。

“永代経法要とは、末永く代々にわたってお勤めするという意味です。ですので、永代経の懇志には、「お寺を護持し、いつまでもお念仏の道場としてみ教えが伝わっていくように」との願いが込められています。”

つまり、永代経法要とは、この先もずっとこのみ教えが伝わっていくようにとの願いが込められた法要です。み教え

が伝わっていくには、聞法道場であるお寺が必要です。お寺は大きな建物ですので、約50年ごとに大きな修理が必要となります。その他にもいろいろな仏具や経本などを揃えておく必要があります。大きな修理が必要となった時には、多大な費用がかかります。それをその時のメンバー、世代にすべて背負わせるのではなく、長い年月かけて少しずつ費用を貯めて、その時に備えようというのが永代経懇志の意味でしょう。また、同時に今私たちがこのシアトル別院で聞法し、さまざまな寺院活動ができるのは、50年前、100年前に多くの方々が寄付をし、様々な活動を通して、お寺を守ってきてくださったおかげです。

1955年の市川輪番の時に出版された、シアトル別院のアルバムにはこのように書かれています。

“本派本願寺においては今から約50有余年、前法主明如上人時代にアメリカ合衆国における開教を計画しサンフランシスコに北米開教の第一歩を印した。シアトルにおいては、1901年（明治34年）11月15日「仏教青年会」という名称で波多野昇道氏を中心に藤井長次郎、岩村次郎の諸氏7氏が發起人となり、メーン街624番の二階建て家屋を借入れ、サンフランシスコから西島覚了氏の出張を仰いで発会式をあげた。この日が創立記念日で、毎年「無縁法要」が勤修される所以である。”

こういう理由で、今年から、永代経無縁法要並びにシアトル別院創立記念法要として11月にお勤めさせていただくことにしました。この法要では、雅楽の演奏や稚児行列なども行われます。この機会にこれまでお寺を維持してきてくださった有名無名すべての方々に感謝の意を示すとともに、これから先、シアトル別院が聞法道場として繁栄し、一人でも多くの人が仏法に出遭っていただくことを願いながらこの法要を皆さんと一緒に勤めさせていただきたいと思います。





Seattle Buddhist Church  
1427 S Main Street  
Seattle, WA 98144

November 2018  
*Wheel of the Sangha*  
A Monthly Newsletter of  
Seattle Buddhist Church

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IS  
A COVER PAGE  
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FOR NEWSLETTER

***“Peace and Harmony” when we encounter the Dharma***

**Sundays...** Please confirm at [www.SeattleBetsuin.org](http://www.SeattleBetsuin.org) “coming events” or  
call the temple office 206.329.0800

**9:00 am - 9:40 MEDITATION** in Memorial Hall Chapel east wing

**10:00 am - 10:35 SERVICE** - in *hondo* (main hall)

**10:35 am - 10:45 SANGHA GATHERING** - offer incense, “meet and greet”

**10:50 am - 11:30**

**CHILDREN’S DHARMA SCHOOL** classes during the public school year  
**JAPANESE PROGRAM** in hondo (main hall) with a message in Japanese  
**DHARMA EXCHANGE** – a mix of discussion and educational programing;  
downstairs dining room

**PARENTS’ DHARMA EXCHANGE** in Memorial Hall Chapel - discussion  
among young adults and parents while children are in class.

**TEMPLE TOUR**

**11:30 - 12:00 REFRESHMENTS and Social** in dining room downstairs

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Mon-Fri 9am—4pm*

*Emergencies: Call  
the temple office  
for updated record-  
ed message.*

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