



Life's baton passing

by Rev. Katsuya Kusunoki



Have you ever read the book "Coffin Man"? The Japanese title is "NOKANFU NIKKI". You may know the movie "OKURIBITO" or "Departures" which was based upon "NOKANFUNIKKI" or "Coffin Man". The author is Shinmon Aoki.

This story of "NOKANFUNIKKI" or "Coffin Man" was based on the author Shinmon Aoki's experience. Shinmon Aoki had worked as a coffin man for about ten years. He used to clean deceased person's bodies, put a cloth on them, and place them into coffins. In Japan, there is a respectful ritual for each process. Therefore, he encountered a thousand deaths. He said that there is a moment of exchanging their honest feeling and their life between the person who is dying and the person who remains. He uses an expression, "Life's Baton Passing," to describe the moment of exchanging their honest feeling and their life. Let me introduce his comment to you.

"A human being must die someday. Therefore, there is the 'Life's baton passing' between a person who dies and a person who remains. The person who is dying says, 'Thank you'. The person who remains replies, 'Thank you'. There is such a "baton passing" between them. People who look away from death may overlook it. But, there is the 'Life's baton passing' in a moment of exchanging feelings with their eyes."

This is his comment. In our Jodo Shinshu Buddhist tradition, there is a service called "Makuragyo". Literally, it means "pillow service".

Nowadays I often conduct Makuragyo pillow service right after we lose someone we love. However, people used to conduct Makuragyo "Pillow service" just before a person passed away. The family and friends

gather at their loved one's bedside. And then they chant a sutra and listen to the Buddha Dharma together. The Makuragyo pillow service is the last Buddhist service for them to conduct together in this world.

In our Buddhist tradition we cherish the end of our life and the moment of death. In a pillow service, we reflect upon our life and our loved one's life and how our lives are related to our loved one.

The author Shinmon Aoki said that there is '**Life's baton passing**', a moment of exchanging their honest feeling and their life between the person who is dying and the person who remains.

Several years ago, I conducted a woman's Makuragyo service at her bedside before she passed away. Her family and I chanted Juseige and then talked about her life. She was sleeping at that time. We couldn't talk to her. However, I felt that everyone could have '**Life's baton passing**' a moment of exchanging our feelings. We could reflect upon our lives and her life at the service. It was really a meaningful Makuragyo service.

We cannot see the form of people we love and have lost. We cannot talk with them anymore. We cannot hear their voice, but people we love and have lost are always watching us and teaching us Buddhism, telling us to recite NAMOAMIDABUTSU. We still have ties with our loved one. To conclude my article, I would like to introduce two hymns from the Hymns of the Pure Land which our founder, Shinran Shonin wrote:

*Those who reach the Pure Land of happiness
Return to this evil world of the five defilements,
Where, like the Buddha Sakyamuni,
They benefit sentient beings without limit,
When we say "Namu-amida-butsu,"
The countless Buddhas throughout the ten quarters,
Surrounding us a hundredfold, a thousand-fold,
Rejoice in and protect us.*

Namoamidabutsu. Namooamidabutsu.

Sr YBA Re-activates

On November 18, 2018 Sr. YBA, (Senior Young Buddhist Association), held their first meeting. During this meeting we discussed convention plans, future activities and elected officers. In the past, Sr. YBA has remained inactive, but with hard work and support from the Board of Directors and Religious Department, we are working to bring it back. We are fortunate to have many members from different states including Hawaii and California, who are apart of other BCA temples and neighboring Kyodans and are attending college locally in Seattle. We are working on fundraising activities to support our members who plan on attending the 2019 NW District Buddhist Convention as well as planning other social and religious events. Keep an eye out for future events and fundraisers, and feel free to follow our social networking and messaging sites @SeattleSeniorYBA for updates and photos.

- submitted by Alex Sakamoto

Rev. Katsu & Ayano lead a tour group to Japan

On Monday, November 19, with sensei as their guide, the Betsuin's 2018 Japan tour group departed SeaTac airport bound for Tokyo's Narita Airport where they kicked off a 13 day tour highlighted by stops at our mother temple, the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha, in Kyoto as well as visits to Rev. Kusunoki's family temple in Nagasaki and Rev. Kojo Kakiyama's (former Tacoma BT resident minister) temple outside of Hiroshima. Ayano and Yuiya were waiting to join the tour in Nagasaki having been in



Japan vacationing for the previous month. A couple other group members travelled separately and joined the group when it arrived in Tokyo. More news and pictures in next month's newsletter.

- submitted by Alan Hoshino

Dharma School

On November 11, 2018 Dharma School students dressed as celestial beings for the Betsuin Anniversary and Etaikyo/Muen Hoyo service Ochigo procession. Thank you to the well-behaved participants, their parents for bringing the eager children, and the activity coordinators. They did a great job!

Dharma School invites all of the Sangha to attend the Bodhi Day Potluck

**December 2, 2018 at 11:45AM.
We hope to see everyone there.
Please bring
your favorite dish to share.**

Classroom Reports

Pre-K/K The students learned about how it's important to be kind and gentle to every living thing by making a door hanger decorated with spiders and a label to remind them to be kind and gentle to every living thing – even spiders.

After discussing the importance of keeping our temple clean, the Pre-K/K students participated in the temple-wide cleanup by cleaning the tables, chairs, windowsills and doors in their classroom. The class talked about how food gets to the table and the practice of saying "itadakimasu" and "gochiso-sama" at meal and snack time. The students colored pictures illustrating this practice and glued them onto napkin holders.

On the following Sunday the children learned about the Golden Chain and how to be kind and gentle to every living thing. They made their own Golden Chain by gluing together paper strips and taping this to a picture of the world.

First/Second Grades We have been discussing the Golden Chain, too! The kids filled out "All about me" posters where they listed favorite things and facts about themselves. We will be posting these in the hallway for our Kid of the Month. We discussed keeping our link bright and strong by eating healthy and learning. Then we read the book "Be Nice to Spiders" and made a spider out of a large pompom, this was to remind us to be kind and gentle to every living thing. The students very much enjoyed the Halloween party put on by the Middle School class. To show their gratitude they wrote thank you notes and put together treat bags for them.

- submitted by Joyce Tsuji

The Seattle Betsuin Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations October - November 2018

Funeral / Memorial / Nokotsudo:

Given by:

Marion Dumont – In Memory of	\$ 500.00	Patricia Davis
Mary S. Shigaya – 1 st Year Memorial	\$ 300.00	Kenneth Shigaya
	Confidential Gift	Teruko Shigaya Family
	\$ 100.00	David & Tamijo Nomura-Dent
Shigeko Sudo – 49 th Day Memorial	\$ 400.00	Michael & Mary Fujii
Terrie Natsuhara – In Memory of	\$ 300.00	Todd Natsuhara
James Doi – In Memory of	\$ 250.00	Alice Doi
Mary Doi - In Memory of	\$ 250.00	Alice Doi
Kevin Kramer – In Memory of	\$ 100.00	Robert & Janet Kramer

In Memory of:

Given by:

Fumiyo Habu	Gordon Habu & Mae Yamasaki-Habu; John & Pauline Shigaki
Tsugio Jack Matsui	Shinji & Carolee Yao
Ai Nishimura	Peggy Hanada; Ritsuko Kawahara
Hiroiyuki Nishimura	Anna Kurata
Shigeko Sudo	Mae Deguchi
Takako Watanabe	Takiko Miyauchi

Endowment:

Patricia Davis (for HM Kaneko Music Fund)
 Carolyn Kunihiro
 Joe & Carolyn Schwab
 Teruko Shigaya & Family

General Donations:

Donor:

For:

Tyler & Thy Pham Moriguchi	In Honor of Hien Moriguchi's Birthday
Rev. & Mrs. Katsuya Kusunoko	In Honor of Yuiya Kusunoki's 2 nd Birthday
Tokuzo & Mari Okumura	General Donation
Betty Yoshida	General Donation
Tami Arinobu (4 gifts)	General Donation – Costco Employees United Way Campaign
Yaeko Nakano	General Donation
Yaeko Ito	General Donation
NW Ministers Association	Appreciation for Printing Materials for Ministers Fuken
Garrett Suzaka	Appreciation for use of facilities
David & Janet Hata	Appreciation for use of Dining Room
Jeff & Tina Zumoto-Ko	Appreciation for Scholarship for Emily Ko
Susan Taketa	General Donation
BCA Donor Program (50% Sharing by Gail Kaminishi)	General Donation

continued on p. 4....

...General Donations continued from p. 3

Susan Wagner	Appreciation for Beverly Hori & Art Uyeda
Gail Suzaka	General Donation – Bank of America Employee Giving Program
Brian Kaku	General Donation – Boeing Employee Giving Program
Cyrus Honmyo & May Chin-Honmyo	General Donation – Boeing Employee Giving Program
Donna Zumoto	General Donation – Boeing Employee Giving Program
Kelly Kuwahara	General Donation – Boeing Employee Giving Program
Robert Hamatani	General Donation – Boeing Employee Giving Program
David Lee & Dianne Kosai	Appreciation for Eagle Court of Honor for son Jacob Lee
Dorothy Nishimura	General Donation
Charlotte Miya Ramsey	General Donation (2 gifts)
Marion Dumont	Appreciation for Onenju repair
The Surge Dance Center, LLC	Appreciation for Use of Copier for Programs
NW Heritage Assoc. of WA	Appreciation for use of facilities (2 donations)

Donations made directly from an IRA saves taxes

By Michael Teramoto

Most retirees today have at least some money saved in an IRA. Each year, IRA owners over the age of 70 ½ must take a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), and generally, the full amount of the RMD is reportable as taxable income. But, if a charitable donation is made directly from the IRA to the Seattle Buddhist Temple, BCA, or any other qualifying charity, that amount is not taxable income to the IRA owner, but does count towards meeting the IRA owner's RMD requirement for the year.

As a result of the new higher standard deduction of \$12,000 for singles, and \$24,000 for married filing jointly, very few people are able to take advantage of deducting their charitable contributions for income tax purposes. By taking advantage of the Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), it allows retirees to still support charities, while also saving 12 to 22% or more on income taxes. The IRA owner must be 70 ½ or older, and the contribution must be made directly from the IRA to qualify as a QCD.

Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) Example:	IRA Owner – without QCD	IRA Owner with QCD
Assumed Income tax rate	22%	22%
Required Minimum Distribution from IRA	\$10,000	\$10,000
QCD – Charity Donation Direct from IRA to charity	\$0	\$1,000
Taxable Income from IRA	\$10,000	\$9,000
Income taxes due on IRA distribution	\$2,200	\$1,980
Charity Contribution from checking account	\$1,000	\$0
Amount Remaining after Charity contribution and income taxes paid	\$6,800	\$7,020
Net Savings to IRA Owner		\$220

In the example above, the IRA owner was required to take a distribution of \$10,000 from the IRA, and the charity received \$1,000. But, by taking advantage of the rules allowing for a QCD, it resulted in overall savings of \$220 to the IRA owner. If you, or your parent over the age of 70 ½ has an IRA and is not taking advantage of QCDs, money is being wasted on income taxes. Please consult with your tax advisor or your IRA custodian for more information and restrictions.

SBBWA Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Women's Association

submitted by Nina Tomita Kato
Thank you for all those that supported us at the Oct. 14, 2018 Fundraiser. It takes a village to run an event and we'd like to thank all the behind the scene organizers and volunteers.

We continue to have several crafts that we are still in need of assistance. Please let one of us if interested in helping out. Projects are ready to go home with you to work on.

Please consider attending the World Buddhist Women's Convention in San Francisco in August and September of 2019. Preliminary sign-ups are on the BWA bulletin board.

We will be having a Asian and Hawaiian Rumage Sale on March 30, 2019. We are asking for gently used and new items. We will be needing your assistance for this big event. Proceeds will go toward

If you have items to donate for community outreach and BWA subsidies, please let us know and we can store them for you.

Orion - SBBWA and Friends

Fran, Rev. Kusunoki, Peggy, Dennis, Dean, Tina



Coupon Book Fundraiser Success!

A huge thank you to all that supported this year's coupon book fundraiser. Together, we sold over 100 coupon books and app only subscriptions resulting in over \$1,300 in net profit that will help to support the general needs of our Dharma School program. Don't let those coupon books collect dust....Be sure to load the app to your phones and support the merchants that allow us this fundraising opportunity. - Michael Teramoto

December Book Study

We have a slight shift in our Book Study Group schedule due to book availability, and a great opportunity to hear about Wayne's trip.

- Saturday, December 8, 2018 9:30AM - Wayne Suyenaga will be presenting his slides and talking about his Kumano pilgrimage in Japan. This will be a potluck.
- Saturday, January 12, 2019 9:30AM - Awaken to Your True Self - by Hideo Yonezawa
- February - Searching for Mary Foster - We can do a special order from the New York Buddhist Temple. These will be \$15.00 per book (10% discount if we order 10 or more). If you are interested, let me know by the Dec. 8 meeting.

Book Study meets in the Memorial Hall Chapel from 9:30-11:30am. There is no cost to attend. Everyone is welcome!

- submitted by Leonora Clarke



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.

Michele Anciaux-Aoki, Kayoko Kakiuchi, Gail Kaminishi, Mas Koba, Taka Kogita, Janet Kubota, Patricia Kubota, David Lee & Dianne Kosai, Lynn Miyauchi, Corey & Claire Murata, Paul Suguro, Rikuko Tanaka, Mark & Erin Taylor, Robert Umeda, Josie Ann Watanabe, Dennis Yasukochi & Lynne Goodrich

- submitted by Steph Ojima

Musical Notes

submitted by Kemi Nakabayashi

Thank you to all participants and attendees of the 10th annual Autumn Family Music Service on November 18, 2018. We highlighted in the service program the founding Bodhi Ensemble members Emily Yamashita, Rose Yasukochi, Aaron Ramos, Kayla Butler, Mikio Habu and Kristy Carpenter along with Lani Carpenter, the parent coordinator for many years. The next core group of youth musicians led by Allison, Hieu, Alina and Emi have carried on and welcomed the newest young talents including Kaya on sax for this service with the active support of parents, especially Claire Murata and Mark Taylor. Thank you, Claire, for supporting the youth on cello for the string arrangement of *Nembutsu* by Chizu Iwanaga. We were also delighted to welcome our Hawaii Betsuin Dharma friend Debbie Kubota's son Colin, in attendance to hear his mother's gatha composition *Living Gratefully*, led by the Seattle Betsuin Ukulele Band. Bodhi Day service on December 2 will feature an expanded Bodhi Ensemble group.

In 2012, Seattle Betsuin sponsored a spring seminar *Moments in Buddhist Music* with guest minister Rev. Harry Bridge. He and dii Lewis traveled here from the Bay Area and also led a youth activity which led to more arrangements since then featuring horn players, including the NW district convention theme song *Everyday Rhythm of the Nembutsu* written as the theme song for the convention Seattle Betsuin hosted in 2015 with Rev. Bridge as the keynote speaker and guest ukulele bass guitar performer. The 6th annual Autumn Family Music Service in 2014 was the premiere of that composition and featured Emily Ko on trombone and Emi Nakashima on keyboards. A spring music service was added initially for Gotan-E service but in recent years held as our Earth Day Music Service each April. In addition to the many temple and community performances of Matsuri Taiko, led by Donna Zumoto, other youth musicians have also participated in Scout Sunday, Camp Fire Sunday and other special musical events over the years including a tremendous fund-raising concert organized by Shanti to promote awareness and raise funds to benefit hurricane relief efforts for Puerto Rico.

We have also kept up the tradition of singing the music service sutras on these occasions. After many years consistently including Music Service *Ju Sei Ge*, we attempted to master Music Service *San Butsu Ge*

for the music service this time, so kudos also go to the Seattle Betsuin sangha for this accomplishment with the guidance from Dr. Toshikazu Arai who visited us again earlier this fall and originally introduced the music service sutras to us many years ago. Last but not least, Rinban Kusunoki's effort to form and nurture the Seattle Betsuin Gagaku Group has been a great recent addition to temple music. Thank you to Souma, Mika, Alina and Dennis for providing the live gagaku music for the recent Eitaikyo Muen Hoyo service last month. Some Bodhi Ensemble founding members will return to support the New Year's Eve service again this year, and we look forward to more



Seattle Betsuin Ukulele Band with Jim Norton, clarinet, at 10th annual Autumn Family Music Service



Kemi Nakabayashi, Mas Tamekuni, and Steph Ojima welcome Colin Kubota

Message from Chair Alan Hoshino

With the celebration of Bodhi Day the end of 2018 is rapidly approaching and I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you very much for your support of the temple in 2018 and to share with you where we are with a few of the major projects we have underway.



In late November Densho, our tenant leasing the temple's former day-care building, notified us that they had received a \$60K City grant to renovate the main floor of the building and they are likely

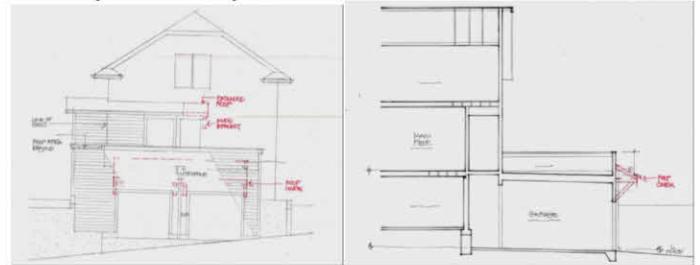


Phase 1 of the complete renovation of the 3,860 square foot Rinban's parsonage is nearing completion. We are hoping to be able to move Rinban and his family into the house either at year end or during the first half of January. The entire house was stripped



back to the studs, framing was repaired and rough in is almost complete. New drywall is next after which paint and interior finishing will be completed. Phase 2, the demolition of the existing detached garage and the building of a new attached two car garage, has finally gotten past permitting and is now being scheduled. Due to the complicated excavation and Seattle's rainy season beginning we are at the mercy of the weather and a completion date is difficult to forecast. Building an attached garage has turned out to be much more expensive than anticipated due to complications related to ensuring we do not undermine the foundation of the parsonage since the garage floor level is well below the parsonage foundation's footing. The cost of Phases 1 and 2 combined is estimated at \$625K. Comparable homes are \$900K+.

A potentially multi-million dollar renovation primarily for a seismic retrofit of the main temple (the brick building housing the Hondo and the auditorium/gym) is underway. We undertook this project partially in response to the City of Seattle's announced plans for an Unreinforced Masonry (URM) building ordinance though our primary motivation is to stabilize the building and make it less vulnerable to collapse during an earthquake ensuring the safety of the Sangha. The temple is categorized as "High Risk" in the City's URM study of brick buildings in the city. Earlier this year we engaged a structural engineering firm to conduct an evaluation and to design a seismic retrofit of the building. That task was completed this fall and a construction estimator is working up an estimate for the retrofit. At the November meeting of the Betsuin Board of Directors a \$250K budget amendment was passed to move forward with project design and permitting, a phase expected to last a year, which will put us in position to begin the actual retrofit work in 2020.



to receive a similar grant from the County. The temple's board of directors authorized disbursing a matching amount from the building's reserve fund which holds the rental proceeds we receive from Densho. A \$240K renovation project on the building is expected to begin in 2019. As part of the plan for the building, Densho and the temple have agreed upon a lease extension with the temple continuing to provide Densho with office space at a below market rent rate as our part in supporting the important work Densho is doing.

In late October the Wisteria View Housing board met and approved moving forward with an expected \$10MM+ refinancing of the Wisteria View Manor project as well as an amendment of Wisteria View Housing's articles of incorporation to expand the purposes of the corporation beyond providing affordable housing for the elderly and disabled to providing support to the Betsuin. Wisteria View Housing is a community social services project of the Betsuin and is organized as a separate 501(c)(3) from the temple. Due to the wise planning and investment by temple leaders in the 1970's Wisteria View Housing has built up several million dollars of equity in its property while at the same time developed an operation with earnings which can service debt. The refi will free up a portion of the equity that will be used to pay off the original mortgage, fund \$2MM to \$3MM of renovations to Wisteria View Manor, establish a fund for a potential future housing project and last, but not least, provide for support of the Betsuin.

While fund raising will continue to be needed, the support from Wisteria View Housing will stabilize temple finances while we address the aging facilities and allows us to expand programming and services designed to attract new members and revitalize the

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Dharma Exchange Notes

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.

Oct. 21, '18 MA Rev. Rosalie May presented an explanation of the Larger Sutra explaining the story of Dharmakara and how he became Amida Buddha. Several participants expressed their gratitude for her explaining the difference between Amida and Shakyamuni Buddha. — IG

Oct. 28, '18 Reverend Kusunoki's dharma talk at Sunday Service included a theme on Halloween. He showed the progression of how the wagesa and okesa came to be in today's forms. The former was developed from the robes of Shakyamuni Buddha's days, made from pieces that were available and dyed together; the pieces were eventually folded, for easier transporting Reverend speculates, made smaller into what the ministers wear as their more formal attire. The latter was formed from the formal wear of the Samurai, streamlined into today's montō shikishō. — IG

Nov. 4, '18 Temple Cleanup Day. No after-service activities were held. Rimban's message during Sunday Service included the story of the monk who could not memorize sutras. So the Buddha told him to sweep the temple grounds and recite, "Sweep away the dust, sweep away the dirt," while sweeping the temple clean. It became a practice of living in the moment for the monk. EDITOR'S NOTE: *The Buddhist story of The Sweeper, Chunda, can be found online.*

Nov. 11, '18 — Reverend Tatsuya Aoki was guest at this Dharma Exchange. He serves the Fraser Valley Buddhist Temple and is current Bishop of Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada. He conducts a Saturday service at this temple and goes to Vancouver for the Sunday service. He is fond of the song about "Rowing our boat gently down the stream," and compares that to our life, which he thinks is "but a dream." . . . In Burnaby there is a Nikkei Home where a woman who celebrated her 105th birthday resides. She seemed to be happy and enjoying the event. But when she was asked, "How do you feel?" Immediately, her face changed and she replied, "All my friends and family are gone." It was suggested, "We try to row other's boat when we

complain." A gentleman, George Yoneda, who lived at the Nikkei Home had difficulty getting around so lived at the Nikkei Home. He told the same story many times and said, "I'm still alive." We take waking up in the morning for granted. . . Participant: when do people know when it is time to become involved? Sensei spoke of a phone call from a woman who was the sister of Amy. She said her sister had terminal cancer. Sensei asked if Amy would like a visitor. The answer was positive, so he went to see Amy. He was greeted with, "Hey Rev." They went for a drive in the new car and she asked, "Hey Rev, any temple gossip?" She asked if he could chant. He chanted the Sanbutsu Ge and she began to cry. Her friend asked, "Is your life-journey ending as it is about to begin?" Amy said she appreciated being with you (the Sensei).

Nov. 18, '18 Irene Sensei showed slides depicting seven nenju from various Buddhist temples. Rennyō said we wear the onenju when praying to show respect to Amida. . . It is said the Jodo Shinshu sect began using the nenju beginning with the Kamakura period. However, Shinran predated that era, and he is shown with an Onenju appearing to count the nenju beads. The nenju is composed of 108 beads, or 54 beads, or 27 beads or less depending on the size of the beads or nenju. The Nichiren sect uses an nenju with two little soft tassels. Tibetan Buddhists call nenju "Mala". It is shown being used around the neck or wrist. It should be worn with reverence and not to "show off." Participant: What is the difference between a nenju and the juzu? The former is for thinking about the Buddha and the latter is for counting. Zen did not originally have the nenju. The word, "rosary" was a corrupted version of a Sanskrit name. It came to Japan before it was used in a Christian church. Participant asked, "Which exotic beads are used in a nenju?" There are many including precious gems, coral, crystal, amber, bone, ivory and Bodhi seeds, etc. . . Kemi talked about the Nov. 19 Betsuin trip to Japan. Irene Sensei mentioned that she has cuttings from the Bodhi tree, and because they do not grow well in Seattle, participants suggested giving them to an organization with a green house and a horticulturist.

In Gassho, Pat Bobrow



Happy Bodhi Day!

...Chairman continued from p. 7

Sangha. An example of these new programs and services includes the new series of classes Rev. Kusunoki began in October. Be on the lookout for his soon to be released schedule of new classes in January, March and May. Another example is the live streaming of our Sunday services on the internet and the updating of our website. To support our ministers who are tasked with developing and teaching these new materials and to support our volunteers who handle the planning and logistics of our expanded programs and services offerings we have hired Connor McKinney as a Marketing Specialist. One of Connor's assignments is to "fill the seats" by increasing our marketing and promotional efforts and by adding new marketing tactics to our mix. Connor's longer term assignment is to work with the board and officers to facilitate the development of an overarching temple strategic plan into which his marketing plan and tactics will plug into.

To make room within the temple to accommodate the renovation of facilities and support the new programs our Archives Committee headed up by Andrea Mano and Dana Nakashima assisted by members of our Maintenance Committee have been extremely busy. A contract with Densho to engage their archive professionals has been underway the last half of this year that is yielding a wonderful index of the temple's archive. The next steps will include determining what to preserve, how to preserve it and implementing the preservation plan. As an added bonus we'll also gain some training and recommendations on records management which we'll put to good use reviewing the temple's records and establishing a records management policy.

2018 has been a busy year at the temple. Thank you for your support, volunteer hours and financial contributions without which the temple would not survive. As you can tell, 2019 is shaping up to be an equally busy year of new programs and facilities renovations. I trust the temple can continue to rely upon your support and wish you and yours a wonderful holiday season!



From Buddhist Churches of America

as of November 20, 2018 ig

Comment Regarding the Humanitarian

Crisis at the U.S. Border Americans have always taken great pride in considering our country a humanitarian nation. Laura Bush, former first lady of the United States, commenting on the state of affairs at our nation's borders, reminds all of us that "these images are eerily reminiscent of the internment camps for U.S. citizens and non-citizens of Japanese descent during World War II, now considered to have been one of the most shameful episodes in U.S. history." I agree.

This is a humanitarian crisis that cannot be watched in silence. It is unacceptable to witness the utter lack of compassion, and the inhumanity of separating children from their parents. Horrific events occur when people lose their sense of humanity.

The Buddhist Churches of America is the oldest and largest Buddhist organization in the west. When people seeking refuge in the United States are automatically criminalized and their innocent children are traumatized, there is a humanitarian imperative to speak out as Shin Buddhists, and as human beings.

Richard A. Stambul

President, Buddhist Churches of America

California Wildfires As you may well be aware, a number of major fires have broken out in California, particularly in Northern California and the towns of Paradise and Chico, as well as covering a wide area in Southern California in and around Ventura and Los Angeles Counties. Hundreds of thousands of people have had to evacuate, including members of the Oxnard Buddhist Temple, West Los Angeles Buddhist Temple, and San Fernando Valley Hongwanji Buddhist Temples. The temples themselves are not in the fire zone. As of the this writing, we have not heard of any members experiencing difficulties beyond the need to evacuate. With strong winds and severe drought conditions, the red flag danger is expected to continue through Wednesday morning, Nov. 14th. We will keep you updated as further information becomes available.

The BCA conveys its deepest concerns to all of the families and friends who have been affected by this disaster.

Gassho,

Buddhist Churches of America

<http://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/>

2018年12月 シアトル別院 いのちのバトンタッチ

日本に青木新門さんという作家がおられます。彼は、『納棺夫日記』という本の筆者です。『Coffin Man』というタイトルで英訳されたものも出版されています。この本は、有名な映画『おくりびと』

(Departures) のもととなりました。青木新門さんは、亡くなられた方の体をきれいにしてお棺の中に納める湯灌、納棺の仕事を約10年間されていたそうです。ですので、青木新門さんは多くの死に立ち会われました。我々が生きているいのちとはなんなのか、そのようなことも多く考えられたようです。それら経験をもとに書かれた本が、「納棺夫日記」です。その青木新門さんが書かれた詩を紹介します。

『いのちのバトンタッチ』

人は必ず死ぬのだから いのちのバトンタッチ
があるのです

死に臨んで先に行く人が「ありがとう」と云え
ば 残る人が「ありがとう」と応える

そんなバトンタッチがあるのです

死から目をそむけている人は 見そこなうかも
しれませんが

目と目でかわす一瞬の いのちのバトンタッチ
があるのです

浄土真宗のお参りの一つに「臨終勤行」というのがあります。この勤行はよく「枕経」とも呼ばれます。現在ではこの「臨終勤行」は、誰かが亡くなった後にお勤めされることが多いようです。しかし、本来、「臨終勤行」とはその名の通り、いのちの終わりに臨むにあたって、死に行く方がこの世で最後にするお参りのことを言います。いのちを終えつつある本人がお勤めで

できればいいのですが、なかなかそうはいきません。ですので、その方に代わって、僧侶が調声となり、家族や親戚の方々とともにお経をあげるのです。

浄土真宗は、人のいのちの終わりもととても大切にします。私たちは、人のいのちのおわりにあたって、「臨終勤行」をお勤めし、仏法を聞かせていただいて、死に行く方のいのち、そして私のいのちを考える時間を持ちます。青木新門さんがおっしゃるように、そこには、いのちといのちのバトンタッチがあるように思います。

数年前、ホスピスケアを受けていたあるおばあちゃんの病室を訪ねました。彼女はベッドに寝ておられました。彼女の家族とともに彼女を囲み、重誓偈をあげ、臨終勤行をお勤めさせていただきました。お参りの後、誰が促すでもなくみんなそのおばあちゃんの思い出話を語り始めました。話をしているうちにみんな自然と笑顔になり、なんとも温かな雰囲気でした。その数日後、そのおばあちゃんはお亡くなりになりました。

残された私たちには残念ながら先に逝かれた方のお姿を見ることはできませんし、声を聞くこともできません。しかし、先に逝かれた方は、仏となり私たちを常に見守ってくださいます。私たちが仏法を聞いたり、南無阿弥陀仏とお念仏を称えたりするご縁となってくださいます。故人とのご縁は、亡くなられた後も途切れることはありません。先に逝かれた方々のご縁をいつまでも大切にしたいものですね。最後に親鸞聖人が書かれた浄土和讃を二首紹介させていただいて、今月のお話を締めくくらせていただきます。

安楽浄土にいたるひと 五濁悪世にかへりては 釈迦牟尼仏のごとくにて 利益衆生はきはもなし
南無阿弥陀仏をとふれば 十方無量の諸仏は 百重千重圍繞して よろこびまもりたまふなり 合掌

DECEMBER 2018 SEATTLE BETSUIN SCHEDULE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 <i>Rinban in Japan</i>
2 9:00 am Meditation (Rev Castro / MA Leonora Clarke) 10 am BODHI DAY SERVICE (Rev Fred Pelger, Tacoma) 10:50 am DX (Rev Fred Pelger) DSDX (MA Rev Rosalie May) Japanese Program (Video/MA Leonora Clarke) 11:45 am Bodhi Day potluck 11:45 am SBBWA Board Meeting	3 Rinban's day off	4 10:30 AM Keiro Bodhi Day Service with Koyasan & Nichiren	5 10 am Morning Service	6 1:30 pm Nikkei Manor Service	7 12 noon Gojikai Hoonko svc/lunch mtng	8 9:30 Book Study and potluck 10 am - noon Gagaku practice
9 <i>Rinban at Spokane Temple for Bodhi Day Service</i> 9:00 am Meditation (Rev Castro & Asst Leonora Clarke) 10 am SUNDAY SERVICE (MA Rev Irene Goto) CHILDREN'S SERVICE (MA Jason Yokoyama) 10:50 am DX "Buddhism on Air" (MA Rev Matt May) DSDX (MA Rev Irene Goto) Japanese Program (Video - MA Rev Rosalie May)	10 Rinban's day off	11 11:30 am - 2pm Japanese play group	12 10 am Morning Service	13 10 am Japanese svc @ White River Temple	14	15
16 9:00 am Meditation (Rev Castro & Asst Leonora Clarke) 10:00 am Sunday Service (Rinban Kusunoki) 10:50 am DX (MA Leonora Clarke) DSDX (MA Rev Rosalie M) Japanese Program (Rinban Kusunoki) 11:45 am Religious Dept meeting 11:45 am SBBWA Cabinet meeting	17 Rinban's day off 8 pm Newsletter deadline	18 11:30 am - 2pm Japanese play group	19 10 am Morning Service	20 1:30 pm Nikkei Manor Service	21	22
23 9:00 am Meditation (Rev Castro & Asst Leonora Clarke) 10:00 am Sunday Service (Rinban Kusunoki) 10:50 am DX (Rinban Kusunoki) DSDX (MA Leonora Clarke) Japanese Program (Video - MA Rev Matt May)	24 Rinban's day off	25 <i>Christmas</i> <i>Office closed</i> 10:30 am Keiro Service	26 10 am Morning Service	27 11 am Merrill Gardens Renton visit 3 pm NW Ministers mtng.	28	29
30 <i>No Dharma School</i> 9:00 am Meditation (Rev Castro / MA Leonora Clarke) 10:00 am SUNDAY SERVICE (Rinban Kusunoki) 10:50 am DX & Japanese Program combined in Hondo "Chanting & Gatha" (Rinban Kusunoki and Kemi Nakabayashi)	31 7 pm New Year's Eve service			January 2019: Major Events January 1 New Year's Day service January 6 Betsuin New Year's Party January 9, 11-16 Hoonko morning services January 20 Lady Takeko Kujo/Lady Ohtani service		

Seattle Buddhist Church
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Seattle, WA 98144

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“Peace and Harmony” when we encounter the Dharma

Sundays... Please confirm at 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 programming;
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

Contact Us

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**Visit us on the web at
www.**

SeattleBetsuin.com

Office Hours:

Mon-Fri 9am–4pm

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

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Deadline is the third Monday each month at 8PM