



Jodo Shinshu and Marriage

by Rimban Katsuya Kusunoki

The 1st Seattle Youth Minister's Assistant Retreat was held in January. In a workshop, I took them to the Seattle Koyasan Temple (Shingon Sect) located on the other side of Wisteria Park. We learned about the basic teaching of Shingon sect and experienced the Shingon style of meditation. It was a great opportunity for us to learn another Buddhist sect's teaching and practice. Through this experience we were also able to make our understanding of Jodo Shinshu teaching deeper. In a discussion Rev. Taijo, who is the head priest of Seattle Koyasan temple, asked one question. "What is the decisive difference between Jodo Shinshu sect and other Buddhist sects?" Youth Ministers Assistants tried their best to answer the questions. "Jodo Shinshu is the religion of gratitude." "Jodo Shinshu accepts all beings as they are." These are good answers but, they were not the decisive difference, because the other schools also have similar teachings. I also wondered what the decisive difference is. Rev. Taijo says, "Jodo Shinshu's founder Shinran Shonin (1173-1262) married and had a family. There was no other Buddhist school's founder who married. In Buddhism, there is a precept that doesn't allow ordained Buddhist monks/priests/ministers to get married. Shinran Shonin got married even though he understood the Buddhist precepts. From my point of view, he is a great revolutionary of Buddhism."

When I see Buddhism in Japan today, many Buddhist ministers, regardless of the sect they are belong, get married and have their families. But beside Jodo Shinshu ministers, Buddhist monks/priest/ministers in Japan started marrying after the Japanese Constitution was set in the Meiji Era (1868-1912). In the US I have had opportunities to meet Sri Lankan Buddhist monks, Vietnamese Buddhist monks, Buddhist monks from other countries and other sects. Of course, they are not married because they hold their precepts. They left their families and concentrate on their Buddhist practice. On the other hand, I was born and raised in a Jodo Shinshu temple family in Japan. I haven't had any questions or curiosities about Buddhist monk/priest/minister getting married. But when I contemplate deeply about it more, it is really a big issue.

There are no detailed records to tell us about Shinran Shonin's marriage. He had his ordination at

the age of nine. He entered Mt. Hiei and practiced there for twenty years. However, he could not find a path to attain enlightenment. Having many questions and worries, he visited the Rokkakudo temple in downtown Kyoto. One of his concerns might have been about getting married and having a family. There, he received a message from Bodhisattva Avalokiteshvara in his dream.

"If you, practitioner, are obligated to have sexual contact with a woman through some past karma, I will transform myself into a beautiful woman and become your partner. I will adorn you with virtues throughout your life and, at your death, I will guide you to the Land of Utmost Bliss."

This message became one of the causes for him to leave Mt. Hiei. After that, he visited Master Honen and studied Buddhism there. Honen Shonin's teaching was that people listen to the Amida Buddha's guidance and recite nembutsu "Namo Amida Butsu". Then, they were born into Amida Buddha's Pure Land and attained Enlightenment there. Regardless, man or woman, young or old, lay person or ordained person, anybody who followed Amida Buddha's guidance and recited Nembutsu were able to be born into the Pure Land. Let me introduce one of his words.

"Reciting Buddha's name 'Namo Amida Butsu' 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."

Master Honen teaches us that it is not an issue of whether we are ordained or not. It does not matter what kind of life-style we are living. Nembutsu must be the center of our life. It is the path to be born into the Pure Land and attain Enlightenment.

Although we don't know the exact date and place, Shinran Shonin got married with his wife, Eshinni-ko. They lived their life with their children. Their life was always filled with Nembutsu. At the time, the Buddhist path was mainly for ordained people. For most lay people, they must have thought that Buddhism was completely unconnected with their life and there was no Buddhist path for them to follow. Then, using his entire life, Shinran Shonin showed

continued on p. 2...

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

them that there is the Buddhist path to follow for lay people and for people who have their spouse and family. We can learn from Shinran Shonin and Eshinni-ko's life-style and that it is the path for us to aim at. If he did not get married, no Buddhist path might be opened for lay people today. With this understanding, a marriage in Jodo Shinshu path is a celebration of setting out on the journey for a couple to live their nembutsu life together.

This year is our tenth anniversary of marriage. We have been so fortunate to have had our son two and a half years ago. My wife listens to all my dharma talks. We talk a lot about temple and my ministerial activities. I am sometimes irritated to hear her comments and critiques. But it is true, because of her comments, I am able to develop as a Buddhist minister. For ten years we have been grumbling to each

other and I have enjoyed my life as a Buddhist minister here. Married life is giving me the better nembutsu life. Thus, I feel. Thank you.

Gassho,
Rev. Katsu

2019 New Year's Resolution

(E-excellent, G-good, S-so so, B-bad)

Complete the Hosshikikihan English translation project	S
Make more visitations	B
Organize more educational program	E
Do exercise once a week	B
Stroll in Seattle	S

JOIN THE SEATTLE BETSUIN IN THE SPIRIT OF OPENNESS AND INCLUSION



Come and be a part of the Seattle Pride Parade with the Seattle Betsuin for the third straight year! Our group will be marching in the parade once again this year and

everyone is welcome to participate in the march on **June 30, 2019**. Register via www.SeattleBetsuin.com. There is no cost to participate, but donations or purchases of Pride and temple merchandise are welcome to help offset the cost of registering



our group! Posted to SeattleBetsuin.com on May 20, 2019.

PUGET SOUND SHIN BUDDHISM STUDY SERIES



Wednesday, June 12, 2019 7:00 - 9:00PM at Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple—Chant, learn, understand the *Ojoraisan*, what it means to be born in the Pure Land, and “Who is Master Shan Tao?”

Northwest ministers: Rinban Kusunoki, Rev. Warrick, Rev. Miyaji and Rev. Sugahara, will facilitate

No registration or payments are required for this session, but donations are welcome! All proceeds will go to the Shin Buddhist Scholarship Grant.

Don't miss out on this awesome event!

Posted to SeattleBetsuin.com on May 6, 2019

Pack 252 Cub Scouts

Calling all parents of kids aged K thru 5th grade (for school year 2019-20) - we are looking for kids interested in joining our Pack in September! This upcoming school year will mark the debut of our Kindergarten-aged Lions Den. However, children of all ages (thru 5th grade) are welcome to join our Pack, it's never too late to enter the world of Scouting.

Speaking of which, we have done/accomplished many great things this past year, including the following:

- Very successful popcorn fundraiser
- Visit to the East Precinct Seattle Police Station
- Winter Camp overnigher at Camp Sheppard
- Day hike with the Boy Scouts (Troop 252) in Issaquah
- Church gym sleepover, including movie night, marshmallow roasting and breakfast, also with the Boy Scouts
- Food collection at Mercer Island QFC for the Rainier Valley Food Bank
- Model rocket launch at 60 Acres Park in Redmond
- Other fun events such as Pinewood Derby, summer camp and Sounders Game

From September thru early June, we typically meet every other Sunday at 12:00PM which makes it convenient for those who attend Dharma School. If you are interested, please contact Cubmaster Rick Kawaguchi (r_kawaguchi@yahoo.com) or better yet, please meet up with us for an info session on Sunday, June 9, at 12:00PM. We will either be at the Temple gymnasium or downstairs in our Cub Scouts meeting room (right below the gymnasium). We look forward to meeting you and joining in on the fun!

Submitted by Rick Kawaguchi

Camp Fire News

submitted by Grace Tazuma

On May 19, 2019, we held our annual Council Fire to celebrate the many accomplishments across each of our groups, from K through 12. In addition to recognizing our graduating seniors, we also honored our past & present Co-Chairs and Leaders. It was heartwarming to see so many Camp Fire Alumni (as far back as the 70s) attend the event. We'd like to thank all who attended for making this annual spring event so memorable.



Camp Fire News From the Dolphins

submitted by Grace Tazuma

Have you ever seen the shelf tags that read "Purchase a Miracle"? You may have seen them in your favorite grocery store or Seattle's favorite pharmacy retail store. When you purchase products with these stickers, you are helping to support cancer research at Seattle Children's. The Dolphins were one of many groups who volunteered to place these tags in participating stores. This has become an annual community service project the Dolphins enjoy participating in.





PUGET SOUND SHIN BUDDHIST STUDY SERIES

THE NEXT INTERTEMPLE BUDDHIST STUDY
SERIES WILL BE HELD AT THE SEATTLE BETSUIN

DATE: JUNE 12TH, 2019 7:00-9:00 PM

NO REGISTRATION OR PAYMENT REQUIRED. DONATIONS ARE WELCOME!
PROCEEDS WILL GO TOWARDS THE SHIN BUDDHIST SCHOLARSHIP GRANT



A: "WHO IS MASTER SHAN TAO?"
- REV. TAKASHI MIYAJI



B: "WHAT IS THE TEACHING OF
OJORAISAN?" - REV. YUKI
SUGAHARA



C: "CHANTING - THE BEAUTIFUL
MELODY OF OJORAISAN" -
REV. KATSUYA KUSUNOKI



D: DISCUSSION - "WHAT DOES IT
MEAN TO BE BORN INTO THE
PURE LAND" - REV. JIM WARRICK

SCHEDULE

7:00 - 7:30: CHANTING AND READING OF OJORAISAN

7:30 - 7:40: BREAK

7:40 - 8:30: WORKSHOPS A, B, C AND D

8:30 - 9:00: DHARMA GATHERING AND REFRESHMENTS

1427 S MAIN ST
SEATTLE, WA 98144
(206) 329 - 0800

SEATTLE PRIDE PARADE

DATE: JUNE 30TH, 2019

TIME: 11:00AM - 3:00PM

WHERE: 4TH AND UNION TO
THE SEATTLE CENTER

WHO: SEATTLE BETSUIN AND
NW BCA SANGHAS



JOIN THE SEATTLE BETSUIN
BUDDHIST TEMPLE IN THE SPIRIT
OF OPENNESS AND INCLUSION
TO SHARE THE BUDDHA
DHARMA WITH EVERYONE!

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JUNE 15TH, 2019
FOR MORE INFORMATION AND THE REGISTRATION
LINK GO TO

SEATTLEBETSUIN.ORG/PRIDE

OR USE THE SIGN UP FORMS AVAILABLE OUTSIDE OF
THE DINING ROOM

Children's Playgroup!

LET'S PLAY AT TEMPLE!

1427 S MAIN ST, SEATTLE WA 98144



THE SEATTLE BETSUIN WILL BE HOSTING A CHILDREN'S
PLAYGROUP FOR AGES 0 - 4 YEARS OLD

THE KIDS WILL BE GIVEN THE CHANCE TO LEARN SOME
INTRODUCTORY JAPANESE, PLAY GAMES, PARTICIPATE IN
ACTIVITIES AND MAKE NEW FRIENDS!



5/30/2019 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
6/11/2019 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
6/28/2019 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

IN JUNE, THE KIDS WILL BE LEARNING OBON
DANCES IN PREPARATION FOR OUR SUMMER
FESTIVAL! IF YOU HAVE ONE, PLEASE WEAR
YOUR HAPPI COAT OR KIMONO



PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH ON
PLAYGROUP DAYS AND REMEMBER THAT THIS IS
NOT A DAYCARE. BRING YOUR CHILDREN OR
GRANDCHILDREN AND STICK AROUND TO GET
TO KNOW OUR AWESOME MEMBERS!



PARKING IS AVAILABLE IN THE BACK ALLEY OF THE
TEMPLE, ON THE STREET OR IN THE WISTERIA VIEW
PARK LOT

87th Seattle Bon Odori - Two Nights!

Food, cultural displays,
dancing, beer garden,
and live music:

Saturday, July 20 - 4:00-10:00pm

Sunday, July 21 - 3:00-8:00pm

In the Beer Garden Two Story Zori perform
both nights!

Dance practice July 8, 9, 11, 15, and 16
from 7:30 - 9:00pm
Come and learn all the dances for this year!

Location Seattle Buddhist Temple, 1427 S
Main St, Seattle, WA 98144

Can't make practice? Check out "Seattle Bon
Odori" or "SeattleBonOdori" on your favorite
online video provider for footage.

See more BonOdori on p. 5

Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Women's Association

submitted by Nina Tomita-Kato

- Thank you to all those that were able to attend our SBBWA Membership Service and Luncheon. We are happy to announce new members: Ann Ishimaru, Michele Kammerer, Angela Sanchez, Meya Stout, Julianne Tosaya, Yoko Yanari, and Susie Taketa. We look forward to our years ahead with all of you. Thank you to all those involved in making this a special day for all of us.
- Walk for Rice, Team SBBWA is ready to Walk. Donations can be made online. June 22, 2019 is the date. If interested in walking and carpooling, please contact Shizue Yahata.
- Thank you for attending and assisting in our Fundraiser Breakfast held on June 2.
(A day of tasty morsels.)
- Here are some clips from our wonderful luncheon.



Kuniko Takamura - L
Kinue Kuwahara - R



L – R: Marian Asaba, Fran Shintaku,
Peggy Hanada



Kiyoko Takashima - L
Takako Kogita - R

Seattle Bon Odori is a Seafair sanctioned event.

Bon Odori is a traditional summer festival in which we honor our ancestors who have passed on, remember and appreciate all they have done for us, and celebrate their ongoing presence in the lives we enjoy today.

Also known as Obon, the festival is an official Seafair event held at the Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple. The main event is traditional music and dancing in the street in a giant oval. Many festival goers dress in Japanese kimono, yukata or happi coats. The event also features Japanese food



Photo by
Jameson
Florence

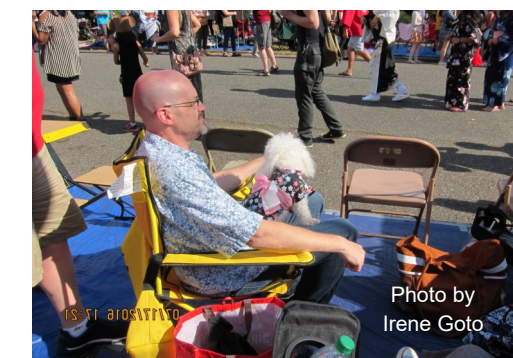


Photo by
Irene Goto

booths and refreshment, taiko and martial arts performances, and craft exhibits and demonstrations.

NOTE: For those who like to come early to save a spot on the grassy area next to the street, please wait until Friday mid-night to do this for the safety of the volunteers who are working in that area late that night. If you come earlier, whatever you are using to mark your spot will be removed.

Seattle Betsuin Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations April - May 2019

Funeral / Memorial / Nokotsudo:

Given by:

Haruso Taketa – Memorial Service	\$ 1,500.00	Sonoe Taketa
Ayako Ruby Yasui – Memorial Service	\$ 1,000.00	Ayako Ruby Yasui Estate
Fumiyo Habu – 1 st Year Memorial	\$ 800.00	Arthur & Joan Horike-Habu
Michiko Yanagimoto – Graveside Service	\$ 500.00	Michiko Yanagimoto Estate
Akio Kuwahara – In Memory of	\$ 500.00	Raymond Kuwahara
In Memory of: Ted Kunihiro; Karry Sakamoto; Miyoko Sakamoto & Saburo Sakamoto	\$ 400.00	Carolyn Kunihiro
Minoru Fujii – 3 rd Year Memorial	\$ 350.00	Aiko Fujii
Shige Fujii – 20 th Year Memorial	\$ 350.00	Aiko Fujii
Nokotsudo for Haruso Taketa	\$ 300.00	Sonoe Taketa
Nokotsudo for Ricky Hara	\$ 300.00	Reiko Hara
Stanley Onami – In Memory of	\$ 100.00	Janice Onami

In Memory of:

Given by:

Jeff Higashi	Gary Higashi
Shigeko Ikegami	Donald & Karen Akira
Haruko Kobuki	Sue Fujino; Betty Hirano; Pauline Sakuma; James & Tomiko Zumoto
Ted Kunihiro	Russ & Susan Beard; Takako Hirai; Mabel Nishizaki;
Kunihiro & Sakamoto Families	Karen & John Weidert
Marion Matsui	Sam & Masako Uchida; Elaine & Pauline Yoshida
Stanley Onami	Gayle Uchida
M. Karry Sakamoto	Geri Gilbert & Shane Wall; Takako Hirai; Mabel Nishizaki
Miyoko Sakamoto	Takako Hirai; Sanaye Kawamura; Mabel Nishizaki
Saburo Sakamoto	Takako Hirai; Mabel Nishizaki; Nancy Nitta
Haruso Taketa	Connie Ozeki-Chinn; Mae Deguchi; Irene Goto-Driscoll; John & E. Lisa Duff; Aiko Fujii; Alfred & Jane Fujimoto; Sue Fujino; Peggy Hanada; Norigiku Hori-kawa; Patricia Iboshi; Satoru & Grace Ichikawa; Roy & Deanna Ikegami; Dale & Shizue Kaku; Tetsuden & Cecilia Kanako Kashima; Jeffrey & Tina Zumoto-Ko; Takako Kogita; Hiroko Janet Kosai; June Kosai; Masako Kubo; Kinue Kuwahara; George & Irene Mano; Tetsuo & Linda Miyata; Yoshio & Judith Nakamura; Craig & Joan Nakano; Harry & Frances Nishimoto; Mabel Nishizaki; Masaru & Anna Tahara; Kiyomi Ozanich Taketa; Terrie Shigaya; Shirley Shimada; Roy & Kazumi Shimizu; Fumie Taniguchi; Theodore & Akico Taniguchi; Katsumi & Terrie Tanino; Ronald & Suzuko Terada; Sam & Masako Uchida; Sumie Yokota; Elaine & Pauline Yoshida; Harry & Elaine Yoshihara
Michiko Yanagimoto	Nobuko Lemay
Ayako Ruby Yasui	Mary Hikida; Mutual Fish Company, Inc.; Paul L. Newman Foundation

Temple Supervision:

Yakima Buddhist Church \$ 100.00

General Donations:

Donor:

For:

Tyler Moriguchi & Thy Pham	Appreciation for Use of Facilities
Margaret Teramoto	Donation for Temple Retro-fit

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Buddhist Churches of America Northwest District

KIKYOSHIKI CONFIRMATION CEREMONY OFFICIATED BY GOMONSHU KOJUN OHTANI

Special Confirmation Ceremony will be conducted by Gomonsu Kojun Ohtani on **Monday, September 2, 2019 at 3:15PM at the Oregon Buddhist Temple and on Tuesday, September 3, 2019 at 5:30PM at the Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple.**

Confirmation Ceremony or “Kikyoshiki” is a solemn ceremony performed before Amida Buddha to officially confirm your entry into the Path of the Nembutsu. Participants will affirm their reverence toward the Three Treasures of the Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha. “Buddha” is not simply in reference to Shakyamuni Buddha, but refers more importantly to Amida Buddha, the Buddha of Infinite Wisdom and Compassion. “Dharma” is the teaching of Amida Buddha’s Great Compassionate Working to embrace all beings without any discrimination. “Sangha” refers to the community of people who have entrusted themselves to Amida Buddha and its Nembutsu teaching.

By participating in the Confirmation Ceremony, participants will receive a Buddhist Name (Homyo). These names are in the form of “Shaku” and two kanji characters that follow. The word “Shaku” means “disciple of Shakyamuni” and this signifies that the person has joined the followers of the Nembutsu Teaching which was expounded by Shakyamuni Buddha and one now commits to live according to the teaching.

The Confirmation Ceremony is open to all members. There is no minimum or maximum age limit. However, the individual must be able to participate in the ceremony at the temple on the day. We sincerely hope that your temple members will take this wonderful opportunity to participate in the Confirmation Ceremony. Please contact Rev. Yuki Sugahara (Oregon) at ysobtport1and060117@gmail.com or (916)834-7350, Rev. Katsuya Kusunoki (Seattle) at rev.kusunoki@seattlebetsuin.com or (206)329-0800 for any questions.

2019年9月2日及び3日、大谷光淳 御門主様 の西北部教区ご巡回が行われます。このご勝縁をお迎えするにあたり、オレゴン仏教会及びシアトル別院を会所とし、帰敬式を執り行う運びとなりました。まだ、法名をいただかれておられない方、法名は死んでからいただく名前ではありません。ぜひともご門主様から直接に帰敬式をお受けになり、念仏者としての喜びとこころざしを新たに作る機縁としていただきますよう、ここに謹んでご案内申し上げます。 合掌

Confirmation Application Fee: \$50.00

Please submit or mail application form and registration fee to the temple which you attend **by Sunday, June 23, 2019 (NON-REFUNDABLE after June 23, 2019).** Please write a check payable to “Northwest District Ministers Association”.

Oregon Buddhist Temple
Attention: Confirmation Ceremony
3720 South East 34th Avenue, Portland OR 97202

Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple
Attention: Confirmation Ceremony
1427 S. Main Street, Seattle WA 98144

Please note that your Buddhist Name will be conferred by Honzan. If you wish to make a personal request for a Buddhist Name, please consult with your temple minister. You will be asked to submit a separate registration form with an additional \$100.00 fee. Please contact Rev. Sugahara or Rev. Kusunoki for this request.

All participants are requested to check-in by



one hour before the ceremony starts.

Buddhist Churches of America Northwest District

**KIKYOSHIKI CONFIRMATION CEREMONY
OFFICIATED BY GOMONSHU KOJUN OHTANI**

APPLICATION FORM

**Please circle one which you attend.*

*Oregon Buddhist Temple
Monday, Sept. 2nd, 3:15pm*

or

*Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple
Tuesday, Sept. 3rd, 5:30pm*

**Please print*

Temple:			
Name	Last,	First	Middle
Home Address:			
Date of Birth:			Age:
Gender:	<input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female		
Phone Number:			
Email Address:			
Signature:			Date:
Name of parent or guardian (age 19 or younger)			Office Use:
Signature of parent or guardian			

Oregon Buddhist Temple
Attention: Confirmation Ceremony
3720 South East 34th Avenue, Portland OR 97202

Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple
Attention: Confirmation Ceremony
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Please contact Rev. Yuki Sugahara (Oregon) at ysobtport1and060117@gmail.com or (916)834-7350,

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... *General Donations continued from p. 6*

Gail Suzaka (Bank of America Employee Giving Campaign)	General Donation
Gail Kaminishi	50% of BCA Giving Program Donation
Elaine Monzon	General Donation in lieu of dues for AFL-CIO, CLC)
Ron Hamakawa	General Donation

Musical Notes and Photos

submitted by Kemi Nakabayashi

Seattle Betsuin Sangha Singers performed at Nikkei Manor for the April birthday party. The Kokorokai participants on April 29 were treated to songs accompanied by Mas Tamekuni and Greg Oxrieder. Yoko Yanari enlivened the performance by leading the singing of *Happy Birthday* and *Take Me Out to the Ballgame* on accordion. Dharma School students made their annual trip to Keiro Rehabilitation and Care Center on May 19 with the Bodhi Ensemble providing service music—a bittersweet gathering this year in light of the recently announced closing of the skilled nursing facility. We appreciate the community outreach provided by our Sangha members.

The Seattle Betsuin Gagaku Group was featured again for Gotan-E service on May 19. Rinban Kusunoki provided some history of the gagaku groups in the BCA as part of his Dharma message. Seattle Betsuin is one of only three temples in the BCA to have an active gagaku group, in addition to Senshin Buddhist Temple in Los Angeles and Berkeley Buddhist Temple. We also learned that years ago there was an active Seattle-Vancouver Gagaku Group which performed for special events in the Northwest District.

Please note that temples and individuals interested in additional information about the newly published Seattle Tacoma gatha book ***Sing Namō Amida Butsu*** are directed to the Seattle Betsuin website. We are grateful that the Federation of Dharma School Teachers League has awarded Seattle Betsuin with a Bishop's Project grant to help subsidize a second printing to allow more temples outside of the Northwest District to purchase the books for temple service use.



Rinban Kusunoki giving his Gotan-E Dharma message



Seattle Betsuin Sangha Singers at Nikkei Manor with Mas Tamekuni and Greg Oxrieder, ukulele, and Yoko Yanari, accordion



Seattle Betsuin Sangha Singers, joined by Rev. Jim and Rona Warrick



Seattle Betsuin Gagaku Group
Gotan-E service May 19, 2019



Ministerial procession for Gotan-E service
May 19, 2019

Notes on EcoSangha Conference of April 20

Four distinguished Buddhists -- Rev. Dr. Duncan Ryken Williams, co-editor of Buddhism and Ecology: The interconnection of Dharma and Deeds and American Sutra: A Story of Faith and Freedom in the Second World War; Dr. Jason Wirth, professor of philosophy at Seattle University and a priest in the Soto Zen tradition; George Draffan, practitioner of Buddhist meditation and Taoist qigong, co-author of Railroads and Clearcuts and Strangely Like War, a long-time volunteer for Northwest Dharma Association; and Rev. Don Castro -- participated in Seattle Betsuin's EcoSangha Conference on Saturday, April 20, 2019. The following are notes taken by Pat Bobrow at that conference.

- ihg

Rev. Williams stated that America is a country of change, and his hope is that Buddhists can contribute to environmental concerns. . . The human world is not separate from the natural world. Shinto is the way of the gods, and the natural world is divine, i.e. the forest is sacred land and the land of the gods. There is a limit to approaching the purity of land. . . Buddhism is not just about humans -- humans, trees, grasses, etc. are all one.

Dogen believed the important person in the monastery is the cook. What is involved in a monastery kitchen? The first lesson is to examine what are we? In Dogen's book we find Instructions to the Cook: "There should be no waste. Understand what is in the kitchen. Give things for the benefit of the Sangha."

The cook may not have great ingredients, but will make a great meal from what is available. He stated, offer what we have in self. Offer compassion to the world. He asked, how can we become accountable? He felt we need an economy for all sentient beings. He noted Bhutan is doing a good job in Buddhism and the economy. True happiness can't exist while others are suffering. What holds us back? Carbon retains heat which will threaten the Earth. All things are possible because of the land, which is a Buddhist land. Earth is what we want it to be. Let's enhance and promote the gift we take for granted.

Dr. Jason Wirth indicated he has practiced tea for a long time with Castro Sensei. and said his practice taught him a lot. He worked on the Jodo Shinshu book. . . He noted that when Dr. Suzuki was close to

death, he was moving toward a Zen-Jodo Shinshu way. . . Dr. Wirth stated the Dharma equals Reality. Hence, we should use reality to be awake. . . He noted we live our lives and the majority suffer for it without contributing. Dr. Wirth noted that climate change is happening. We have to try to help solve the problem of global warming on Earth because of our present, un-scientific government.

He noted that if Earth's temperature reaches 2.0 degrees centigrade the results will be catastrophic with water depletion and contamination, inability to raise crops because of pollution, and extinction of animals. . . The cattle ranches in Texas cause 51% of U.S. pollution that ultimately goes into the ocean.

Europeans are less extravagant compared to the US. The economy and ecology are together. The question was posed, how much is enough? Who can tell us? No economist can tell us. We have enough. On the Yukutan Peninsula 99.9% of life has been destroyed. He noted that greed begets war, and the rich share the least [with others.] Wisdom is knowing when to stop, and to find it inside oneself. Dogen: *The Buddhist way is to study the self. To study the self is to forget the self. To forget the self is to actualize the self of the ten thousand things in one's life.* When you see self-actualization, you see everything.

Castro Sensei told a story about the early years of the Sangha regarding robes. The story goes that the monks were in rags and a sympathetic person offered 500 garments. A long example of recycling ensued starting with "What will you do with the old robes? We will turn them in to bed-clothes. What will you do with the old bed-clothes? We will turn them into pillow covers." And so it goes. . . . In the time of Rennyo a paper scrap had value. Before tossing something ask the self, where did it come from and where is it going? In the present day Thich Nhat Hanh offered an illustration: Without clouds it won't rain; without rain plants can't grow; without plants there will be no paper. We all co-exist within all things. Everything has value. . . We live at the expense of other forms of life, and we are consumer- driven. We must remember "Mottai-naï"... Rev. Williams went on to say that when one becomes a Buddhist priest there are no holidays. Why? because every day is a holiday. . . A panel discussion, led by Northwest Dharma Association's George Draffan, took place with Conference participants dividing into small groups to commit to a way each person could make a positive ecological impact. In Gassho, Pat Bobrow



6月日本語法話 浄土真宗と結婚

今年の1月、**Youth Ministers' Assistants**を連れて、別院の向かいにある真言宗シアトル高野山を訪ねました。座禅に参加させてもらったり、真言宗のことを教えていただいたりと、貴重な体験をさせていただきました。彼らにとっても私にとっても、違う宗派に触れることで、より浄土真宗の理解が深まりました。シアトル高野山の太定先生が、次のような質問をしました。「浄土真宗と他の宗派との決定的な違いは何ですか？」**Youth MA**のみんなも「浄土真宗は、**Gratitude**を大切にする。」「浄土真宗は、そのままありのままの受け止めてくれる教えだ。」と一生懸命答えていました。ただそれらの答えは他宗派の教えにも含まれているところがあり、決定的な違いではありません。私も、なにがあるかなと考えていたのですが、太定先生の答えは次のようなものでした。「浄土真宗は、宗祖親鸞聖人が結婚し、家庭を持たれた。そのような宗派は他にはありません。本来、仏教では、僧侶が結婚したり、家族を持ったりすることは戒律で禁止されています。親鸞聖人は、それを承知の上で結婚された。私から見たら、仏教界の大革命者です。」

現在の日本の仏教の現状を見てみると、どの宗派に関わらず、多くの僧侶が結婚し、家庭を持っています。しかし、浄土真宗以外の宗派の僧侶が結婚するようになったのは、明治になって、日本国の憲法ができてからだそうです。アメリカでは、スリランカやベトナムなどいろいろな国のお坊さんに会うことがあります。その方々は、戒律を守っておられるので、結婚していません。家庭を離れ、仏道修行に励んでおられます。日本の、浄土真宗のお寺に生まれ育った私には、僧侶が結婚することに特に疑問や

関心はありませんでしたが、よくよく考えるとこれは大変なことかもしれませんね。

親鸞聖人のご結婚に関する詳しい記録は残っていません。**9歳**でお得度をされ、比叡山に入られた親鸞聖人は、**20年間**そこでご修行をなさいます。**20年**のご修行中でも仏教徒にとってのゴールである悟りへの道が見えてきません。様々な悩み苦しみを抱えながら、親鸞聖人は京都市中の六角堂を訪ねます。その悩みの中の一つには、結婚や家庭を持つということもあったのかもしれません。六角堂では、救世観音菩薩から夢のお告げを受けます。

「仏道修行をするものは女犯は堅く禁ぜられているが、前からのいろいろな縁によって妻帯をするようなことになった場合は。私（救世観音）が玉のような女の姿になって、つれそってあげよう。そして、一生の間よくおごそかに飾ってあげて、臨終になったら極楽へつれて行ってあげよう。」（御伝鈔上巻第三段）

この夢のお告げが一つのきっかけとなり、比叡山を離れ、法然聖人の元へ行き、今度はそこで仏法を学び始めます。法然聖人の教えは、老若男女、出家在家を問わず、阿弥陀仏の教えを聞き、南無阿弥陀仏のお念仏を称えて、お浄土に生まれさせていただき、そこで、悟りを開くという教えです。その法然聖人のお言葉を一つご紹介します。

「現世をすぐべき様は、念仏の申されんようにすぐべし。念仏のさまたげになりぬべくは、なになりともよろづをすてて、これをとどむべし。いはく。ひじりで申されずば、妻をもうけて申すべし。妻をもうけてもうされずば、ひじりにて申すべし。」法然聖人は、念仏を生活の軸としましょう。戒律を守った生活をした方が念仏しやすいのであれば、そうすればいいし、妻や家庭を持った方が念仏をしや

←

すいのであれば、そうしたらいいとおしゃっています。出家か在家かというところが問題になってくるのではなく、どのような生活スタイルであっても、南無阿弥陀仏のお念仏を中心とした生活を送ることが、阿弥陀仏の浄土への道であり、悟りへの道であることを教えてくださっています。

Dr. Haneda lectured on May 4, 5, 6, 2019 at SBC



Attendees of Japanese Lecture: Top row: Ikuko Dodobara, Jim Dodobara, Junko Nakano, Yoshie Dodobara, Dennis Yamashita, Aiko Fujii, Kiyoko Nakanishi, Kimiko Kodagoda, Keiko Watanabe, Ritsuko Terada, Naomi Takemura. Seated: Etsuko Shinbo, Michiko Toyoshima, Rimban Kusunoki, Dr. Haneda, Tomoko Haneda, Julie Mayeda, Kinue Kuwahara.



Forty-eight attended Dr. Haneda's lecture in English, "The Truth of Impermanence, the Core of Buddhism" on Sunday, May 5, 2019 from Noon to 2:00PM.



At left, Rev. Dr. Nobuo Haneda, Rimban Katsuya Kusunoki, and Mrs. Tomoko Haneda.

JUNE 2019 SEATTLE BETSUIN SCHEDULE

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	July 2019: Major Events						
July 14	Obon/Hatsubon Service						1 9:30 am Book Study Leaves of My Heart
July 20-21	BON ODORI						
July 26-28	NW YBL Retreat						
2		3 Rinban's day off	4	5 10 am Morning Service	6 1:30pm Nikkei Manor service	7 12:00 noon Gojikai Service	8 10:30 AM Gagaku practice
8:00 am	SBBWA Breakfast Fundraiser						
9:00 am	Meditation (MA Leonora Clarke)						
10:00 am	All Sangha Memorial Service						
10:50 am	Japanese Program (Video - MA Leonora Clarke)						
	Temple Tour (MA Matt May), DX (Rev. Castro)						
	Parents DX (Rinban & MA Rosalie May)						
11:45 am	SBBWA BoD Meeting, DS Teachers Meeting						
1:30 pm	Sangha Award class (Rinban & MA J Yokoyama)						
9		10 Rinban's day off	11 11 am-2 pm English & Japanese playgroup	12 10 am Morning Service 7:00 - 9:00 pm Shin Buddhist Study Series w/ NW ministers	13 10 am Japanese service at WRBT	14	15 YMA Retreat
9:00 am	Meditation (MA Leonora Clarke)						
10:00 am	Award Recognition & Last day Dharma School						
10:50 am	DX (MA Rev Rosalie May)						
	DSDX (MA Rev Matt May)						
	Japanese (Rinban Kusunoki)						
	Temple Tour (MA Irene Goto)						
16		17 8 pm Newsletter deadline	18	19 10 am Morning	20 1:30 Service at Nikkei Manor	21	22 ACRS Walk for Rice
9:00 am	Meditation (MA Irene Goto), Gagaku Practice						
10:00 am	Bishop & Rinban Service, Shinran Memorial						
10:00 am	Guest Speaker (Reverend K. Takata)						
10:50 am	Dharmathon (YMA's), Japanese (Rev. Takata)						
	Temple Tour (MA Matt May)						
23		24 Rinban's day off	25 10:30 am Keiro Service	26 10 am Morning Service	27 11:00 am Merrill Garden Renton	28 11:00 - 2:00pm English & Japanese playgroup	29 Sr. YBA Event
9:00 am	Meditation (TBD)						
10:00 am	Regular Service (Rinban Kusunoki)						
10:50 am	DX (Rinban Kusunoki), Japanese (Video-Matt May)						
11:45 am	RD Meeting						
30							
9:00 am	Meditation (MA Leonora Clarke)						
10:00 am	Regular Service (MA Irene Goto)						
10:50 am	Combined DX Gatha & Chanting (Kemi & Rinban)						
11:00	Pride Parade March						

Seattle Buddhist Church
1427 S Main Street
Seattle, WA 98144



June 2019
Wheel of the Sangha
**A Monthly Newsletter of
Seattle Buddhist Church**

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A COVER PAGE
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FOR NEWSLETTER**

“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 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

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.***

Wheel of the Sangha Editors
Irene Goto, English: newsletter@seattlebetsuin.com

Deadline is the third Monday each month at 8PM