My Father’s Reminiscence of the A-bomb…. continued from September issue by Rev. Katsuya Kusunoki

(The first A-bomb was dropped on Hiroshima city on 8:15 AM, August 6th, 1945, and the second one was dropped on Nagasaki city on 11:02 AM, August 9, 1945. About one-third of each city’s population were instantly killed; about one hundred and forty thousand people in Hiroshima and seventy thousand people in Nagasaki.

My father, the late Rev. Tatsuya Kusunoki, who was a survivor of the Nagasaki’s A-bomb, was 6 years old at that time. He was unceasing desire to share his experience and his wish for peace with others. I would like to introduce the local newsletter articles of my father’s reminiscence of the A-bomb written in 2013.

Handing down wish for peace to Dharma School kids

There is a baby Buddha’s statue halfway up the mountain where is near the Kameyama Shachu museum which is connected with Mr. Ryoma Sakamoto. Rev. Tatsuya Kusunoki erected the baby Buddha’s statue in commemoration of the birthplace of Kougenji’s Dharma School “Hikari Kodomokai”.

“Hikari Kodomokai” is the oldest Dharma School in Nagasaki. His father, Rev. Monshin Ecchu launched the Dharma School and his older brother, Rev. Tetsuya Ecchu succeeded him taking care of it. After the WW2, Rev. Tetsuya Ecchu gathered children who were poor and had lost their parents and taught them how to read, calculate, and climb a mountain. Rev. Tatsuya Kusunoki took over from his brother in 1957. He said,

“I learned from my brother that a Buddhist Temple is not only the place for funerals and memorial services but also for accepting people and sharing people’s feelings.”

Every Saturday night, students from Kindergartens to high school of all different age groups come to the Dharma School. More than one hundred children used to come and now ten to fifteen children still attend. When it became closer to August 9 every year, Rev. Tatsuya Kusunoki talked about his memory of the A-bomb. He wanted to tell students that the A-bomb is a weapon that could cause all human beings to vanish from this world. His wish is to hand down the stories of the A-bomb from generation to generation just like tales of old Japan.

Shakyamuni Buddha’s ashes enshrined in the peace park

The former prime minister of India, Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru presented Shakyamuni Buddha’s ashes to Hiroshima, Nagasaki and some other cities in Japan in 1954 to console victims of the A-bomb and express his wish for peace. After Shakyamuni Buddha’s passing, Buddhists shared his ashes and built mausoleum to enshrine them. Buddhists cherish the mausoleums and have a service there. The Hiroshima city enshrined the ashes in 1966. The shrine has been managed by the Hiroshima city since then. Nagasaki city also had a plan to enshrine the ashes but it was canceled because of the idea of the separation of religion and politics. Therefore, Nagasaki city gave the ashes continued on p. 2 .....
to the Nagasaki Buddhist Association. Since then, the ashes have been handed down through the successive presidents of the Nagasaki Buddhist Association and kept in an inconspicuous place.

A few years ago, one local newspaper company found that the ashes had been kept in an inconspicuous place and wrote an article about it. Just after that, Nagasaki city officials visited Rev. Tatsuya Kusunoki who is the president of the Nagasaki Buddhist Association to discuss how to enshrine and manage these important ashes. Nagasaki city eventually decide a location for enshrining the Shakyamu Buddha’s ashes in the peace park. The ashes of the A-bomb victims who cannot be identified are also enshrined in the same building. Nagasaki city decided to tighten security and put up a new sign for it. The ashes were finally settled in the place where everybody can visit. Nagasaki city said, “The former prime minister of India, Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru presented this treasure and express his wish for peace and consolation for the victims. Unfortunately, the city has never discussed this issue until the article came to public notice. The city made the decision that it is not against the idea of the separation of religion and politics”. The president of the Nagasaki Buddhist Association, Rev. Tatsuya Kusunoki said, “Thinking upon the Mr. Nehru’s wish, the Peace Park is the best place to enshrine the Shakyamuni Buddha’s Ashes”. (to be continued)

Gassho,
**Fundamentals of Shin**  
**September 28 (Fri), 7:00 PM**

At the Tacoma Buddhist Temple  
1717 S Fawcett Ave  
Tacoma, WA 98402

**Presented by the Pacific Northwest Dharma Exchange**

Ever wondered why it’s so hard to give straightforward answers to people who ask you about your religion? Not to worry! We will go over the basics and FAQs of Shin Buddhism so that you can impress your friends and family with simple and to-the-point answers. We encourage all to come!

---

**Essentials of Pure Land Buddhism:**

**Nembutsu, Shinjin and Birth in the Pure Land**

Speaker: Toshikazu Arai, PhD, Professor Emeritus Soai University - **October 3, 4, 5, 6, 2018** - See times below:

**English language seminar**

Friday, October 5, 2018, 7 pm – 9 pm  
Saturday, October 6, 1 pm to 4:30 pm

Dr. Arai will also deliver the 10 am Sunday service Dharma Talk on October 7 and, afterwards, be the guest speaker for the 10:50 am Dharma Exchange with coffee and donuts in the dining room.

**Japanese language seminar**

Wednesday, October 3, 2018, 10 am – 3 pm  
Thursday, October 4, 10 am – 3 pm  
Friday, October 5, 10 am – 12:30 pm

In the seminar, Professor Arai will cover an English translation of the Saihō Shinan-shō (A Guide to the Pure Land in the West) (tr. Arai), which Shinran compiled. Only recently have more researchers of Shinran’s thought paid attention to this voluminous work. Essential topics of Shin understanding such as nembutsu, shinjin (faith/trusting) and attaining birth in the Pure Land will be discussed.

Please join us to encounter the gem-like words of Hōnen and Shinran.
SBBWA  Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Women’s Association submitted by Nina Tomita Kato

A huge thank you for all those that assisted in the special service for Eshinniko and Kakushinni-ko Service. A thank you to Miyoko Yamazaki for making the ohagi for the Ohigan Service.

10 Members of the Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Women’s Association were able to attend the conference in Fresno, California. It’s always a wonderful experience to meet old and new friends that belong to such an important organization created by Buddhist women and continues to be a part of the temples all over the U.S.

- A reminder that our annual SBBWA Memorial Service will be held on October 28.

- Our next Orion House meal will be served on November 16, please consider helping us out at this event.

- Please look at the SBBW Bulletin board for opportunities to “Be Creative” and help make items to be sold to help subsidize costs for the World Buddhist Convention to be held in San Francisco in 2019.

- We will be hosting a fundraiser Barazushi plate sale on October 14. Volunteers and donations of sides would be appreciated. Please contact Leanne Nishi Wong for ideas or or questions.

Betsuin gives Africa and Middle East visitors their first experience of a Buddhist temple. The Betsuin had a visitor group under the US State Department program on September 11. They are from Africa, and Mid East countries. They are all of different religions. Most of them had never visited a Buddhist temple. Some of them had never seen a Buddhist. Submitted by Rev. Katsuya Kusunoki

Received from World Affairs Council of Seattle:
Greetings from the World Affairs Council of Seattle. I’m currently working on a U.S. State Department program for a group of 12 delegates from around the world focusing on Interfaith Dialogue and Religious Freedom.

One of the themes we are hoping to address in the Seattle program centers on mediation and conflict resolution for interfaith understanding. Based on this theme, we would like to invite you and/or members of your team to meet with this delegation for 60-90 minutes to give the group the opportunity to visit a Buddhist Temple in Seattle as well as learn more about the Dharma School at the Seattle Buddhist Church.

Ryan Foster and Taylor Timinsky
Join us for **General Buddhism Classes: “From India to Japan”**

at Seattle Betsuin

5 Wednesday Evening Classes 7:00 – 8:30PM
September 12, 19, 26, October 10, 24
(no class on October 3 and 17)
by Rimban Katsuya Kusunoki

Seattle Buddhist Temple’s head minister, Rev. Katsu Kusunoki, will present a five week course on Buddhism beginning with the life of the historical Buddha (Siddhartha Gautama). Classes follow the migration of Buddhist teachings from India into China and the eventual arrival in Japan. The classes are free and open to the public.

**Class topics will include:**
- Life of the historical Buddha
- The abiding Three Treasures
- After parinirvana of the Buddha, distinct traditions form
- Buddhism encounters Indian and Chinese civilizations
- Buddhism arrives and flourishes in Japan

Rev. Kusunoki is a graduate of Miyazaki University where he majored in primary education. His advanced training includes the Hongwanji-ha Rituals course for leaders (Gonshiki). He is certified in Special Rituals within the Buddhist Churches of America. As a hobby he enjoys watching and playing baseball and softball.

**Ninth Inning Tie in Tacoma**

The Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple and Tacoma Buddhist Temple played their second annual game on August 25, 2018, at Brown’s Point Elementary School in NE Tacoma, Washington. This year, the Tacoma and Seattle softball teams played an exciting 9-inning contest that ended, by mutual agreement, in a 2-2 tie.

In 2017, Reverend Katsuya Kusunoki and Reverend Kojo Kakihara encouraged their respective Sanghas to play each other in a friendly, but spirited softball game. The game renewed a rivalry that started in Japan as the two men were training to become ordained Jodo Shinshu ministers. With Reverend Kakihara returning to Japan to lead his family’s temple, his replacement, Reverend Takashi Miyaji, inherited Tacoma’s team which defeated Seattle in the inaugural game.

The number of Sangha members from the two temples who were on hand to play, picnic and cheer for both sides was just shy of 100 people by the end of the day. The crowd broke into organized cheers and “the wave” which were orchestrated by Seattle’s Donna Zumoto whose rhythmic drumming on a farm fresh, cardboard strawberry flat could be heard throughout the softball complex. Tacoma was a first-class host as they provided a canopy, cooler, food, trophy and recycling for those in attendance. Captains Kusunoki and Miyaji have every reason to be proud of their teams and respective Sanghas.

Watching this spectacle brought to mind taking refuge in the Buddha, Dharma and Sangha. Together, our two Sanghas became united as an even Greater Assembly as we were freed (if even temporarily) from the bondage of our day-to-day existence. The event was joyous, without pretense, and continued to build on the relationships established since the founding of our two temples by our ancestors and friends. The Dharma message for the day was that healthy competition married to good sportsmanship is good for the heart and the head.

Submitted by Irene Goto and Friend
Staff of Hongwanji Advanced Research & Education (SHARE) A New Program

Purpose: This program has been created to train staff members of the Hongwanji with the aim of fulfilling their principal duty to propagate Amida Buddha’s great compassion by developing their international awareness and observing how the Jodo Shinshu teaching is practically propagated overseas.

http://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/center-for-buddhist-education-share-program/
The Center for Buddhist Education is located at the Jodo Shinshu Center which opened in 2006 to serve as a focal point for BCA educational programs, leadership training, cultural exchange and public discussion on Buddhism in the U.S. and global community.

This historic building is also home to the Institute of Buddhist Studies, Ryukoku University Berkeley Center (RUBeC), and the BCA Bookstore.

As an educational arm of the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA), CBE offers programs to support the continuing education of BCA ministers, training of ministers’ assistants, temple leaders, dharma school teachers, youth groups, affiliated organizations and others interested in exploring Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in America.

Programs are developed in partnership with many entities within and beyond the BCA organization, including the Office of the Bishop, local BCA temples and BCA Districts and the Institute of Buddhist Studies.


While CBE is based at the JSC, a significant number of programs are now conducted in the various BCA districts:

- **Winter and Spring Pacific Seminars** – For the past three years, CBE and IBS have co-sponsored these sessions in Southern California at the Nishi Hongwanji Betsuin and Gardena Buddhist Church.

- **The Eastern Tour and the new Northwest Tour** – CBE has revived this tradition which dispatches a guest minister on a speaking tour of a region’s temples.

- **Central California District Buddhist Education Program** – CBE has been helping to facilitate monthly classes and lectures at the many temples in this district.

- **Minister’s Assistant Program (MAP)** – Sessions have been conducted in the Eastern District (Ekoji, VA and the NY Buddhist Church).

- **The LGBTQ Community & Shin Buddhism Seminar** – CBE was presented at the New York Buddhist Church in 2015
Dharma Exchange Notes
by Pat Bobrow

**Wheel of the Sangha**

Seattle Betsuin Newsletter  Volume 37  Issue 10  October 2018  p. 8

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. 

My lasting impression from Reverend Miyaji’s Dharma Exchange was how he picked up from where his Dharma Message left off with the energy and enthusiasm he brought to his messages. I found it encouraging to see a new young Reverend becoming a part of the Puget Sound Region’s Jodo Shinshu community.

Reverend Miyaji spoke of being from a temple family reaching back many generations including on his father’s side as far back as the origins of Jodo Shinshu in Japan. Later that day, Reverend Tanaka mentioned that Reverend Miyaji’s father was a mentor of his in California. 

Also during Dharma Exchange Reverend Miyaji spoke of a timely observation regarding the extremes that can occur in times when people are looking at immigrants and those who do not look like them as “outsiders” who are not welcome.

Gassho, Jay

**Sep 2** - Matt May MA showed the video “Buddhism on Air” by Rev. Dr. Ken Tanaka. Matt went on to say that the true Buddha is Enlightenment itself. All images of the Buddha are available to everyone including symbols and the wheel symbolizing the Buddha. The so-called “Laughing Buddha” is actually a depiction of Hotei whose image is often found near the cash register in Chinese restaurants. Tanaka Sensei showed some images of the Buddha. Monica Dix from University of British Columbia said the many variations of Buddhist images help with the teaching of the Buddha. When the Buddha was born he immediately said he was the world honored one. As an adult he went through harsh practices to become Enlightened. When Mara came with temptations the Buddha touched the Earth as his witness. The “Touching the Earth” gesture is depicted in a statue. His first Dharma talk was the “Turning the Wheel of Dharma.” Blue in the sky in scrolls is used to represent harmony and perfection said Tanaka Sensei; and Amida Buddha is shown standing and leaning forward to welcome all. A participant noted that different sects have different ways of portraying Enlightenment. Matt indicated Shakyamuni Buddha taught until the end of his life, Nirvana, and told his weeping monks, "Make the Dharma your light." Many people and animals came to pay respect. 

**Sunday, Sept 9** - Rinban Kusunoki conducted the service. During the service two of the Naijin screens were slowly closed mysteriously. Suddenly, Yui-Chan appeared. Apparently, he watches his father daily and learned that when the service ended the folding screens were closed by Sensei. Yui-Chan thought it was over and closed the screens.

Rinban just returned from Lodi, where a new minister came to Lodi. Sensei helped him conduct a service as well as a funeral service. He could understand it was all new and strange for the new Sensei just as it was for our Sensei when he first came to the U.S. Sensei commented that almost everyone in the Lodi temple is related. Sensei related the story about Shakyamuni was confined to the palace and had never been outside. One day he went out through four different gates and found old people, sick ones and some dying. He was horrified and wondered if he would be subject to the same fate. He left the palace to seek happiness and studied with several holy men, and underwent austerities until he almost died. Later, he meditated for six years under a Bodhi tree and became Enlightened and went about teaching people in various towns and villages how to live their lives. One hundred years after Shakyamuni Buddha died the monks felt the need to discuss the Dharma in its many forms. The teaching went from China and other Asian countries to Korea and Japan after 500 years. Another 100 years passed it came to the US, which resulted in many different sects. Japan has 10 major sects, and they all follow Jodo Shinshu’s guidance. 

Dr. Arai from Japan will give lectures at the Betsuin on Fri. and Sat, Oct 5 and 6. Rinban is planning a series on General Buddhism at the temple on Wed. Sep 19, 26, Oct 10 and 24. Donations will be received. The first step to becoming a Jodo Shinshu minister is to take a correspondence course and to study Jodo Shinshu in English.

In Gassho,
Pat Bobrow
Musical Notes submitted by Kemi Nakabayashi

We welcomed Dharma School students, teachers and parents back last month with the introduction of Donna Sasaki’s gatha Time for Dharma School. The Fall O-Higan and Eshinniko and Kakushinni-ko Memorial Service gave us the opportunity to sing Kent Matsuda’s gatha Shinran’s Family again. Thank you to Mas Tamekuni and the Seattle Betsuin Ukulele Band for agreeing to provide the service music on September 30 in my absence. I plan to share my experience attending the Hawaii Betsuin Choirfest with you upon my return.

The Seattle Betsuin gagaku group has been practicing over the summer. We were glad to work again with Rev. Hatanaka at the gagaku workshop on September 14. Rev. Hashiramoto and Rev. Negoro, here for the Tomoshie presentations, also practiced with us.

If you have not already contacted Allison, Debbie Shibata or me to express your interest in helping with children’s services or the 10th annual Autumn Family Music service on November 18, please let us know! Also if you wish to arrive early on Sunday to join our informal singing, we normally start by 9:15 am, and we often review right before service starts the gathas planned for the morning service.

College Welcome Dinner
Saturday October 13, 2018 5:30-8:30 pm
Open for all students ages 18 - 26.
Service with Rinban Kusunoki
Home-cooked meal by Ron & Moms
Come meet Seattle college YBA & new friends!
Have good food! Bring home some goodies!
Please RSVP to office@seattlebetsuin.com
Let us know if you need a ride!

Submitted by Tina Ko
1945年8月6日ヒロシマ、8月9日ナガサキに原爆が投下されました。広島では約14万人、長崎では約7万人の方々の命が一瞬にして奪われました。私の父、達也は、6歳の時に長崎で被爆しました。今回は、今から5年ほど前に父へのインタビューをもとに書かれた新聞記事を紹介し、皆さんと共に、戦争と平和について考えたいと思います。

坂本龍馬ゆかりの長崎市亀山社中記念館を訪れると、市内を見下ろす広場に釈迦誕生仏の像がある。1909（明治42）年から続く光源寺の「ひかり子ども会」発祥の地として、楠達也さんが建てた記念碑だ。

ひかり子ども会は、市内で一番古いとされる日曜学校。父聞信さんがはじめ、戦後は兄の越中哲也さんが戦争で親を亡くした子や家が貧しい子を寺に集め、読み書きそろばんから登山までなんでも教えた。1957年からは、楠さんが引き継いだ。「お寺は法事や葬式をするところじゃなく、人を受け入れ、喜怒哀楽を共にする場所だと父や兄から教わった。」

毎週土曜日の夜、寺には幼稚園児から高校生まで幅広い年代の子どもが集まる。就任したころは100人近くいたが、現在は10〜15人ほどだ。原爆の日が近づくと、楠さんは毎年同じように原爆の話をする。世界中の人がいなくなってしまう爆弾だとたとえるために。「日本昔話みたいに、原爆のことも語り継いでは

安置場所として提供する記念堂は、引き取り手のない遺骨を奉納する市の施設で、仏舎利は屋外のガラスケースに展示する。市民の目に触れやすく、説明板の新設やセキュリティー強化も検討している。

市は「ネール首相の寄贈の趣旨は原爆犠牲者の慰霊や平和の祈念。ただ遺骨を市が管理しても政教分離の原則に反しないとの結論に達した」と話す。楠達也仏教連合会会長は「平和公園内に安置するのが寄贈の趣旨からして一番良い。」と話している。（おしまい）
Hatsumairi or “First Visit” is a Jodo Shinshu tradition that acknowledges the child’s first visit to the temple. Parents present their children before the image of Amida Buddha and members of the Sangha as an expression of their gratitude and desire to expose them to the teachings of the Buddha.

Children of all ages are welcome to participate in the Hatsumairi ceremony to be held during the 10:00 am Sunday Service on October 14, 2018. If you would like to present your child(ren) at this joyous occasion, please complete the registration form below and return it to the Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple, 1427 S Main St, Seattle, WA 98144 or contact the temple office by October 7, 2018. A Dharma School representative will contact you with details. If you have any questions, please direct them to the temple office at (206) 329-0800 between the hours of 9:00 am and 4:00 pm.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2018 Hatsumairi Registration</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child’s Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Parent’s Name(s)________________________

Mailing Address________________________

City_ State_ Zip Code________________________

Phone_________________________ E-mail________________________
“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

Wheel of the Sangha Editors
Irene Goto, English: newsletter@seattlebetsuin.com
Machiko Wada, Japanese: newsletter-jpn@seattlebetsuin.com
Deadline is the third Monday each month at 8PM

Contact Us
Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple
1427 S Main Street
Seattle, WA 98144
Phone: 206.329.0800
Fax: (206) 329-3703
Email: office@SeattleBetsuin.com
Visit us on the web at www.SeattleBetsuin.com
Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am—4pm
Emergencies: Call the temple office for updated recorded message.