Minds of Ministers

“Raising my children in U.S. Japanese Buddhist parents’ view”

The following is a translation of the Seattle Betsuin Sunday Service, Japanese video program, that aired on December 27, 2020.

Submitted by Rimban Katsuya Kusunoki

Katsu: Last time we discussed “Differences between Buddhist temples in Japan and in U.S.” Today I would like to focus on “Raising our children in U.S.” Our backgrounds have somethings in common; we are each a Japanese parent, a schoolteacher, and a Jodo Shinshu minister. You both have a lot of experience as mothers and schoolteachers. Could you tell us about your difficult experiences, as well as, your good experiences, on parenting in U.S.?

Chiemi: I have three children, 16, 13, and 11 years old. The hardest thing for me about raising kids in the U.S. is that I can’t help much with their homework. I wasn’t raised here, and English is still very difficult for me.

One of the good things about raising children in the U.S., compared to Japan, is that we have more choices. For example, during the current Covid-19 pandemic, we can decide if we want our kids to do all distance learning, or if we would prefer to have them do hybrid learning (partly in class, partly remote).

There are other things good about raising children in the States; they nurture their individuality. Most schools in this country allow for individual differences. Children who want to challenge themselves with more advanced courses and higher levels of a subject are allowed to do so.

If they need to catch up on something, they are offered extra classes for catching up. For example, my children grew up speaking Japanese in the home, so when they started elementary school, they were a bit behind in English. The school had a program specifically for kids coming from primarily non-English home environments.

In Japan, one class will have a lot of children. The only division is between ages; so, students who are the same age all study the same material. Each teacher has responsibility for a

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Rimban’s Message continued from p. 1
very large number of students; so, individually tailoring learning to a student is not feasible.

Katsu: In Japan, people have a shared common sense and sense of values. School education is standardized. Students can take standardized education wherever they are. In U.S., however, people may have different values and backgrounds, but still live together as neighbors. At the same time, each school has its unique curriculum and school system.

Hitomi: Regarding the differences in raising children between Japan and the United States, I came up with three points.

The first is that parental responsibility is significant. In the United States I think things are weighted in favor of the family rather than the community where they live. Families will move to an area where there is a good school, rather than choose a school that is close. Parents decide what kind of education they want their children to receive without being confused by the opinions of others. For example, it’s not because the child next door is attending a Japanese language school, but the reason we want our children to learn Japanese.

The second is that in the U.S. there is a culture that respects individuality. Even in Japan, parents are comparing their homes while saying, "Yoso wa yoso, Uchi wa uchi," meaning, “aside from other’s homes, we have our home”. In the United States, there are people with completely different religions, cultures, and languages; so, I think there are many opportunities to recognize the differences. In the United States, people often ask me, "What do you think?", without imposing, their ideas, so I think they respect individuality.

Third is the difference between Japan and the United States in the way of expressing intentions. When I gave birth to my first child, a Japanese public health nurse visited me at home. She asked, "Will this child will be raised in the United States or in Japan? The method of raising him will depend on which education he will receive." If you want him to be educated in Japan, he has to be able to listen to teachers and adults; in the United States he has to be able to clearly convey his intentions and assertions. So, if you're growing up in America, you always have to be given two choices so you can choose. This is what I was taught.

Katsu: Thank you. Whether good or bad, people do things according to their own responsibilities in U.S. A good part is that people respect other's decisions. On the hard side, people own a lot of responsibilities.

I would like to go into the second question. In Japan Buddhism and the Jodo Shinshu sect are highly respected as major religions. On the other hand, Buddhism and The Jodo Shinshu sect are still minor religions in U.S. People in U.S. are predominantly Christian. Even non-Christian people have some knowledge of Christianity. Due to having a different religion, are there any difficulties or concerns in raising children in U.S.?

Chimi: One day when my oldest son was in first grade, he came home from school and asked, “Mom, am I going to Hell when I die? Because one of my classmates said I was because I don’t go to church on Sunday.”

We live in a suburb. There are many Christian churches in our neighborhood; many of the kids in our school attend church and Sunday school. The kids ask each other which church their family goes to. When my son answered that question with, “I don’t go to church,” he was told he would go to Hell.

I imagine the child’s parents told her that unless she goes to church every week, she will end up in Hell, and she passed that message on. My son wasn’t ready to say that he attended a Buddhist temple. I hadn’t taught him about religion: I thought he wasn’t old enough. But in this country, a first grader is old enough to know about religious traditions.

Katsu: How was the relationship between your son and his friend after that?

Chimi: My son follows his own path, so that didn’t bother him at all. For my daughter, it was a different story; many of her close friends were members of a Girl Scout troop tied to the same church. Sometimes her friends would play a game at school that they all knew from church, which made my daughter feel left out. She got over that quickly, though.

Katsu: Your daughter must be at a sensitive stage. Thank you, Chimi-san. How about Hitomi-san?

Hitomi: Our children attended a Japanese Christian preschool. On weekdays, my son prayed to God and spent his childhood at Dharma School on Sundays. I wanted to give my children a chance to come into contact with different religions. In the first place, my husband also came to Berkeley to study abroad to study the Christian Lutheran school. The children seemed to understand that their home was Buddhist and that they listened to Jesus at school. After he entered elementary school, when he was looking at family history and culture in class, he was always looking at Buddhism and gagaku.

continued on p. 3...
The other day, when he researched religion in a high school class, he wrote about BLM from the perspective of Buddhism as a representative of Buddhism. When he finished writing, he asked his father who is a Jodo Shinshu minister to check that there were no mistakes in Buddhist writing and thinking. He said, "Some students are new to Buddhism, so I was nervous because I couldn't tell them what was wrong." I remember being surprised at how serious it is to talk about religion in the United States.

In this way, I think that the attitude of choosing a religion by themselves has sprung up because there are various religions around them since they were little.

Chiemi: The most important thing to me is that teenagers have an interest in, or questions about, religion when they are 15-16, and are still developing their personalities.

In Japan, it's not easy to have a discussion with someone about religion. One of the important things that happens when you are 15 or 16 is that you start working out how you feel about various issues. My 16-year-old shares his thoughts with me about Black Lives Matter, LGBTQ rights, various societal issues. That's not easy, but it is very valuable.

Katsu: As Hitomi mentioned, children learn to have their own opinion on various situations. After they are grown up, they also have their own, clear opinion on religion and social issues. Japanese people have vague images and do not clearly state their opinions. People guess and try to understand how other people are thinking.

Here is the last question. Please tell us what is good about having Jodo Shinshu teaching as your guide in raising children.

Chiemi: In general, Buddhist thought in Japan has heavily influenced everything from civics and Japanese language, art, textbooks, to children's picture books. The stories bring out the concept, not just of saying "thank you" but, of truly appreciating all the things that have gone into having life, all the things we should feel grateful for. I think that is a very good thing for our daily lives.

Thinking about Jodo Shinshu specifically, the teaching that Amida Buddha's compassion is boundless and the same for all has, I think, a good influence on us as parents. Kids all develop differently. Some are good at one thing, bad at others; some develop quickly, some more slowly. The problem is that in our information-rich society, parents can become inundated with conflicting information on child-rearing. Jodo Shinshu can help parents understand that each child is different, and all that we need to do is to accept them as they are. I am thankful that Jodo Shinshu has helped me come to that realization. This is the core of my child-rearing philosophy. In my case, all three of my children are very relaxed. And I find myself thinking they are really too relaxed about their futures! It might not be a bad thing for them to focus a bit more.

I'm also a teacher at a Japanese school. In teaching high school students, I've met many students and parents who are worrying about getting into college and about all the other things we worry about for teenagers. All parents want to help their kids succeed. But that kind of thinking is not always good for the kids. It can actually be a source of stress for children. It can cause them to worry that they are not meeting their parent's expectations. Jodo Shinshu teaches us that everyone is different, and everyone is good. As parents, we need to remember that that's true of our kids as well.

Katsu: I agree. I feel that it is easier to preach than to practice. I know it but still I expect a lot of my son. It is great if I can say "You are doing fine. Do as you like. Be as you are." I don't have enough confidence to say so always.

Hitomi: I am thinking about the same thing as Chiemi-san. I feel that Jodo Shinshu is a religion that accepts others. In front of Amida Buddha, I feel that I can accept the people around me because I accept Amida's compassion. If you feel that you are being denied, you will want to deny others as well. I hope that they will become children who walk while making mistakes and think together with others in the peace of mind that they are being saved.

Katsu: Sometimes, visitors ask me what Buddhism is. There are many ways to answer this question. One of my answers is that Buddhism is the teaching to open our view. There is something wrong if your view becomes narrow while you're listening to the Buddha Dharma. Having a wide and open view means to have wide and flexible minds and heart. As a parent, a schoolteacher, and a Buddhist minister, I would like to live with always having a wide and open view. And also, I would like to share this great teaching with as many people as I can. Gassho,
Sangha Exchange usually take place on the first and third Sundays at 11:00AM via Zoom. The next one, on February 7, will be interrupted with Sangha and Metta Awards program. Please find the Zoom links in the Weekly E-News or email newsletter@seattlebetsuin.com to get on the email list.

Dharma School Parents Dharma Exchange will take place on February 14 and 28. Please inquire with marketing@seattlebetsuin.com to be placed on the Weekly E-news where the link is posted.

Meditation meets each Sunday mornings at 9:00AM—9:45AM. We open with SanBujo, Sit in Gratitude Meditation for 20 minutes, chant Nembutsu and close with discussion. Please join us on Zoom! email newsletter@ seattlebetsuin.com and specify SBC Meditation to receive the link.

Buddhist Book Study Our next event will take place at 9:30-11:00am on Saturday, February 20, 2021. We will be watching and discussing part 3 of Rev. David Matsumoto’s course, Taking Amida’s Vows as Our Own. Please contact Wayne Suyenaga or webmaster@seattlebetsuin.com for a link to obtain the online course and for the zoom link to the meeting. Gassho, Wayne

Camp Fire News submitted by Ann Wong

Camp Fire Candy Sales submitted by Debbie Shibata & Farrell Lusher

Camp Fire candy was delivered earlier than expected so the girls were able to offer candy for sale at Temple during the Mask and Toiletries Drive. Due to COVID precautions, we do expect sales to be more challenging and to look a lot different this year. We anticipate offering additional opportunities to purchase candy from our girls either through "pop-up" sale(s) at temple and/or some form of on-line purchase with delivery. As details become available, they will be announced. The girls will be selling Chocolate Mints, Almond Roca, Caramel Almond Clusters, and Pnuttles (toffee peanuts) each for $5.00. Thank you for everyone’s ongoing support of our temple’s Camp Fire Group - 87 years and going strong!!!

Turtles submitted by Akiko Yabuki

The Turtles are busy preparing for the upcoming candy sales, which will be virtual and “socially distance” this year. We look forward to connecting with each other soon. Please see the link below for our New Year’s greeting:

https://photos.app.goo.gl/ieNwzvwNF3y1wQmk8

Thank You, Kiana, Jason, and Harrison for getting us together, albeit virtually. It was good to SEE everyone at the First-Ever, Virtual Seattle Betsuin New Year’s Party! Sunday, January 10, 2021
Betsuin Tea Talk
with Leanne Nishi-Wong

The second month of 2021 is already here! Where did January go? On February 12th, the Lunar calendar begins and welcomes the Year of the Ox. This holiday is traditionally a time of reuniting with family and friends and celebrates health, happiness, and prosperity.

As with any family/friend gathering, it is the food that takes center stage. Since the “stay at home, stay healthy” directive was initiated, it is the meals and traditions that are missed the most. The variety of foods, lovingly made by an array of family and friends, is remembered fondly. Homemade dim sum, sushi and a combination of other dishes would be consumed. While the food and camaraderie have been replaced by Zoom celebrations, the familiarity of loved ones feels different. However, the sense of comfort and belonging, within our newfound practice of virtual gatherings, embraces us and captures a glimpse of what once transpired.

The potlucks and gatherings that are usually held a few times a year by the Betsuin Sangha is missed too. I am looking forward to the day when we can all safely gather again.

Happy Year of the Ox!

ON BEHALF OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE...

We would like to “thank” the following for contributing their 2020 sustaining membership dues - the basic dues towards Temple maintenance/operations and programs. The minimum for individual membership is $400 (for under 70 years of age), and $350 (for 70 years of age and over). This completes our 2020 membership count.


We’d like to ‘Welcome’ Chiyoko Aoki-Kramer as a new member to our Sangha

(Compiled by Howard, Joan, Pauline & Steph)

We would like to “thank” the following for contributing their 2021 sustaining membership dues - the basic dues towards Temple maintenance/operations and programs. The minimum for individual membership is $400 (for under 70 years of age), and $350 (for 70 years of age and over).

Mark Fordham, Suzanne Fujinari, Toshiko Fukuda, Joe & Margaret Gotchy, Jennifer Habu, Gary & Sandee Hamatani, Cynthia Hinds, Dale & Shizue Kaku, Rose Kishi, Taka Kogita, Tomio Moriguchi, Yoshio & Judith Nakamura, Quinn Nakano, Craig & Dana Nakashima, Jim Norton & Kemi Nakabayashi, Dean O'Shields, Tish Oye, Marie Quasius, Seon (Angela) Sanchez, Shirley Shimada, Roy & Kazumi Shimizu, Mas & Anna Tahara, Dolly Tokunaga, Sam & Masako Uchida, Arlene Yamada, Ken Yocom & Anna Tamura

We’d like to ‘Welcome’ QUINN NAkANO, MARIE QUASius as new members, and MARK FORDHAM as a returning member our Sangha

*Also, Rose Kishi was acknowledged as a new member for 2020; however, she is a new member beginning 2021.

(Compiled by Howard, Joan, Pauline & Steph)

SAVE THE DATE:
February 28, 2021
“BCA - Past, Present, and Future”

Live-streamed
Pre-K/K class To celebrate Bodhi Day, the Pre-K/K students read about the story of enlightenment. They made spiral Bodhi Day ornaments to hang on their trees. The class rang in the New Year by watching a video about the significance of the animals in the Chinese zodiac and making Year of the Ox headbands. The children also learned about Dana and giving from their heart and not expecting anything in return. They listened to the story Sneezy the Snowman about how the children offered the snowman many offerings without asking for anything in return and how in the end everyone was happy. They made a snowman to remind them of Dana. To celebrate Hoonko, they learned about the story when Shinran and his disciples were spreading the teachings of the Dharma and were left in the cold for hours since a homeowner would not initially let them into his home. They created a picture of this famous story with Shinran and his disciples reciting the nembutsu in the snow.

3/4/5 grade During our first 3/4/5 class of 2021, we joined our DS friends for the "All DS Zoom Craft Activity," making Kagami Mochi. A few of our students shared their wonderful talents in the Seattle Betsuin New Year's Zoom party entertainment, as well as in the BCA JAMS (Jodo Shinshu Artists & Musicians Showcase). After Hoonko service, we learned more about Shinran Shonin through listening to Donna Sasaki’s gatha “Life of Shinran” from our Sing Namo Amida Butsu gatha book. While reviewing the importance of Hoonoko, we made Shinran Shonin bookmarks to use while we enjoy reading throughout the school year. Happy New Year! - Joyce Tsuji

Musical Notes by Kemi Nakabayashi

I hope you were able to join the Seattle Betsuin Zoom New Year’s Party event on January 10, 2021, to enjoy the many temple musicians featured. How wonderful to see Zoe, Jared, Kira, Hieu, and Minh perform along with the Betsuin brass band ensemble back this year performing My Girl, organized and produced by Emily and Evan with Paul Mori and Mark Taylor! If you didn’t get a chance to view the Jodo Shinshu Artists and Musicians Showcase (JAMS) that same afternoon, the archived video can be found on the BCA Center for Buddhist Education channel: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q99KnVZ8m8U

Seattle Betsuin service music in January and February features gathas composed by Hiro Imamura David. The BCA Music History subcommittee has been fortunate to work with Hiro to document and share the history of her grandmother Shinobu Matsuura and mother Jane Imamura. We anticipate the first of a series of articles in the BCA Wheel of Dharma in March, paying tribute to the pioneer women of the Buddhist Churches of America who supported music for temple services. In 1989, the original BCA Ad Hoc Music Committee undertook the effort to revise the BCA Adult Service and Gatha book to include new songs and also make available recorded versions of the gathas, choral music, and special service music. Our late Seattle Betsuin sangha member Jim Komura was the BCA Chairperson at the time and encouraged the work of this Committee. The Shin Buddhist Service Book was ultimately published in 1994. Hiro’s mother Jane and sister Rae were principle participants on this Gatha Book Committee. Two of the new gathas for that publication were Hiro’s compositions of Compassionate Vow and Metta, using lyrics suggested by her mother to set to music. In recent years, we have utilized Compassionate Vow for Hoonko service since the lyrics are from a wasan (Japanese Buddhist hymn) of Shinran Shonin. Hiro recalls her grandmother teaching her these lyrics in Japanese when Hiro was a child. We plan to debut a new recording of Metta this month for the Nirvana Day/Pet Memorial Service on February 21, 2021.

Left: Rimban Katsuya Kusunoki, Yuiya Kusunoki, and Ayano Kusunoki welcoming 2021 at New Year’s Day Service with a toast and confetti.
Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Women’s Association

Submitted by Janie Okawa

SBBWA’s Mission is to cultivate religious awareness as Jodo Shinshu Buddhist women and promote fellowship among its members; to serve and support the Seattle Betsuin, and contribute services to the welfare of the community.

Big thank you to the nigome, zenzai, and sekihan team, Karen & Yukio M, Nina T-K, Aiko F, Machiko W, Ritsuko K, and Kinue K. See the nigome recipe used for the Hoonko Service following this article and enjoy!

SBBWA congratulates the Jr. YBA in their service project, collecting unused toiletries and face masks for YouthCare Orion Center. Thank you to SBBWA members for participating and honoring our founders, Lady Takeko Kujo and Lady Kazuko Ohtani, whose humanitarian work included organizing care packages for soldiers, and helping the needy in the community.

Upcoming Event: February 7 - SBBWA General Meeting for all members, 12pm via zoom

Jr. YBA collections for YouthCare Orion Center

Nigome Recipe にごめ の レシピ

Prepare the ingredients individually. Combine ingredients with the dashi. Simmer until vegetables are tender, about 5 minutes. Skim surface as necessary.

This recipe will make 4 ½ cups of nigome, about 10 servings. We hope you enjoy this dish.

Nigome Ingredients にごめ材料

½ lb Daikon (Japanese turnip) 大根
6 inch Carrot 人参
6 inch Gobo (Burdock root) ごぼう
½ block Konnyaku こんにゃく
2 potatoes Satoimo (Japanese taro) 里芋
3 mushrooms Dried shitake 椎茸
1 piece Aburaage (Japanese fried tofu pouch) あげ

As desired [Optional] Cooked or canned (unseasoned) azuki beans 煮いた小豆

Preparation of Ingredients 材料の準備

Cut the ingredients listed above into 1cm cubes.

Soak the gobo in water after cutting. Drain before adding to dashi. Before cutting satoimo, rub it with salt to remove the naturally occurring sliminess, rinse and drain.

Soak shiitake in bowl of water, add a pinch of sugar, and cook in the microwave for 2 minutes. Cool and drain. Place konnyaku in a bowl of water, and cook in the microwave for 5–6 minutes. Cool and drain.

Dash (Soup stock)/だし汁

5 cups Water 水
3 x 3 inch Dashi konbu (Kelp for soup stock) だし昆布
2 teaspoon Salt 塩
1 teaspoon Mirin みりん
1 teaspoon Light shoyu 薄口しょうゆ
1 teaspoon Sake 酒
1 teaspoon Sugar 砂糖
2 pieces Iriko (dried sardine) いりこ

special ‘thank you’ to Yukio M. and Aiko F. for the translation
On February 3rd, Rev. Dr. Mutsumi Wondra will be presenting on The Contemplation Sutra to the Seattle Betsuin.

Registration is available below. After registering, you will receive an email with details about joining the lecture.

ZoomLecture Registration: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcrc-ivqjrE9M6_D_PeFU3cJMmNOWScOHx%C2%A0

Class Description:

The Contemplation Sutra, called Kanmuryojukyo in Japanese, is one of the Three Pure Land Sutras that Shinran Shonin treasured. The sutra starts with the so-called Tragedy of Rajagriha that is the story of the royal family of Magadha kingdom at the time of Sakyamuni. Sakyamuni Buddha expounded this sutra solely for Queen Vaidehi who grieved and mourned because she had a wicked son Ajatasatru and she wished to be reborn in a place that is free of sorrows and afflictions.

Buddha showed her various methods of meditation to be reborn in the Amida Buddha’s Pure Land. The Contemplation Sutra is closely related with the Nirvana Sutra, and Shinran Shonin introduced the Tragedy of Rajagriha in his writing Kyogyoshinsho. In this class, I will explain the Contemplation Sutra and Nirvana Sutra from perspective of Queen Vaidehi, an example of a suffering being, and Shinran’s understanding of the Contemplation Sutra, and intention to introduce us to this tragic story.  Submitted by Irene Goto
Seattle Betsuin Gratefully Acknowledges
The Following Donations
December 2020–January 2021

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**Hanamatsuri**: Miya Ramsey (Charotte)

**Hatsubon / Obon**: Leslie Sumida

**Ho‘Onko**: Koko Doami

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Received on January 13, 2021:

*My mom, Julie Mayeda, sends her best. She is good and healthy.*

*Eddy Mayeda*

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**WANTED:**

Newsletters of Seattle Buddhist Temple

- **2000**: January - May
- **2001**: Feb - Nov
- **2002**: January - May

If you have any of these issues, please contact Irene Goto at newsletter@seattlebetsuin.com. Thank you! - IG
**Buddhism Resources for Inspiration and Education**  
Submitted by Ann Oxrieder

**SEATTLE BETSUIN BUDDHIST TEMPLE**  
Practicing in the Jodo Shinshu Tradition

- **Wednesday chanting, sutra study, and dialogue led by Rimban Kusunoki.** See “Full Calendar” on [https://seattlebetsuin.com](https://seattlebetsuin.com) and email [webmaster@seattlebetsuin.com](mailto:webmaster@seattlebetsuin.com) for meeting link.

- **Seattle Betsuin Book Study** meets Saturday morning once per month. Email [webmaster@seattlebetsuin.com](mailto:webmaster@seattlebetsuin.com) for meeting link.

- **Sitting in Gratitude Meditation** meets Sunday mornings at 9:00AM. Email [webmaster@seattlebetsuin.com](mailto:webmaster@seattlebetsuin.com) for meeting link.

- **Seattle Betsuin YouTube Channel** for live-streamed and recorded Sunday and weekday morning services: [https://www.youtube.com/seattlebuddhisttemple](https://www.youtube.com/seattlebuddhisttemple) and see Play Lists.

Free video lectures offered by the Center for Buddhist Education  
For upcoming programs: [https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/center-for-buddhist-education/](https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/center-for-buddhist-education/)  
For previous programs and play lists:[https://www.youtube.com/c/BCACenterforBuddhistEducation/videos](https://www.youtube.com/c/BCACenterforBuddhistEducation/videos)

**EVERYDAY BUDDHIST**  
offers courses appealing to newcomers and experienced students. When you subscribe for $95 per year (or $10 per month) you get unlimited access to 12 NEW Courses and support our mission to share contemporary Shin Buddhist practices for everyday life. [https://www.everydaybuddhist.org](https://www.everydaybuddhist.org)

**Young Buddhist Editorial** is dedicated to providing a platform for the expression of young Buddhists and a safe space where such young Buddhists can foster growth, community and interconnectedness while creating a dialogue between young Buddhists and other generations of Buddhists. Articles, artwork, and workshops: [https://www.youngbuddhisteditorial.com/](https://www.youngbuddhisteditorial.com/)

**Podcast by**  
Rev. Takashi Miyaji [https://rdtakam.podbean.com/](https://rdtakam.podbean.com/) or  

**Podcast on Oakland Buddha statue**  

**PACIFIC WORLD Journal of the Institute of Buddhist Studies:** [https://pwj.shin-ibs.edu/](https://pwj.shin-ibs.edu/)  
Issues of the Pacific World Journal from 1980’s to current. All the articles can be downloaded in pdf. Recent issues are more specialized but some in the 1980s were directed to general audience but still of interest.

**MURYOKO 'Infinite Light'**  
This is from the Australian Jodo Shin group.

**Jodo Shinshu: A Guide** is available as a [PDF on the BCA website](https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/jodo-shinshu-a-guide/). BCA stands for Buddhist Churches of America. This abridged edition provides an overview of Buddhism, Shinran Shonin, and the Jodo Shinshu teaching.  
[https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/jodo-shinshu-a-guide/](https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/jodo-shinshu-a-guide/)

###
Buddhist Churches of America's
Director of CBE & Northwest District Advising Minister
Rev. Jerry Hirano
and his story of
Horace the HooOnKo Hippo
embraced by the river just as he is
NW District Joint HooOnKo Service
January 17, 2021
BCA NWD Joint Hoonko Service - YouTube

Bishop Marvin Harada’s Message

**Becoming Settled in Unsettling Times**

Updated: Jan 14, 2021

I don’t know how any Americans could say that they weren’t terribly disturbed by the events of Jan. 6, when the U.S. Capitol was overcome by insurgents who overwhelmed security and police to not only enter the hallowed building, but to break into the chambers and offices of our government leaders, vandalizing and causing chaos and disruption.

...It leaves us with such an unsettled feeling to see such chaos, to see such a disturbance, and what we consider to be “law and order” broken beyond recognition.

...Are we that different than those who lived during the Kamakura Period of the 1200s? We don’t appear to be. Just as the Nembutsu came to arise and meet the spiritual needs of the people of the Kamakura Period in Japan, may the Dharma, may the Nembutsu begin to rise up in this country, and may many find a sense of peace, a sense of grounding, a sense of stability, a sense of joy, in the truth of Namuamidabutsu.

Please read Bishop’s article in its entirety at [Becoming Settled in Unsettling Times](https://buddhistchurchesofamerica.org)

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**EVERYDAY BUDDHIST**

EverydayBuddhist.teachable.com

When you subscribe for $95 per year (or $10 per month) you get unlimited access to 12 NEW Courses and support our mission to share contemporary Shin Buddhist practices for everyday life. You will no longer have to pay for courses individually and you will still have access to all courses you previously enrolled in or paid for. And that is just the beginning as we will continually be adding more courses and features to the EVERYDAY BUDDHIST experience: [https://www.everydaybuddhist.org/](https://www.everydaybuddhist.org/) or [https://everydaybuddhist.teachable.com/](https://everydaybuddhist.teachable.com/) - IG

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**DIAL THE DHARMA**

Call the toll free number - 800-817-7918 to hear Bishop Harada’s message

Push “1” for English and “2” for Japanese

*Please share this phone number with friends, family, and those Sangha members who may not use computers or the internet, to be able to listen to a short Dharma message during this time of sheltering at home.*
Everyday Buddhist.teachable.com

CBE SEMINARS ONLINE FOR ALL
FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - REGISTER FOR ZOOM LINK
*Pacific Time - Check local time zone

Saturday, January 30, 2021  5 PM - 6:30 PM

Relevant American Buddhists
Who and what were the R&B? Stories from BCA’s 1970s program for young adults

SPEAKER:
Rev. Dr. Kenneth Tanaka

Rev. Tanaka is a Mushroom University professor emeritus, having retired in 2018 after 20 years as a professor of Buddhist Studies. He graduated from Stanford University (BA), Institute for Buddhist Studies (MA), Tokyo University (MA), and University of California at Berkeley (PhD). He received job offers from the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) president for 3 years. Among his many publications, he has focused on youth/young adults. In an interview, he said: “It’s a good time to be a Buddhist.” An introduction to Buddhist Buddhism in America and Jewels: An Introduction to American Buddhism for Youth, Soto Zen’s Young at Heart.

During the 1970’s, Rev. Tanaka served as a national coordinator for the Relevant American Buddhists (RAB) Enterprise, and worked within a network of RAB “District RABs” -- many of whom are active in the BCA today as ministers and leaders. According to a 1971 report, RAB’s purpose was to “render Buddhism more relevant for young people, especially those between high school years to age 25.”

REGISTRATION - Free
Click to Register:
https://forms.gle/KmPQy5sUid7f4x5x

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https://bcaweb.org/campaigns/1520

visit: buddhistchurchesofamerica.org  email: bca@bcha.org  tel: 510.869.1660

Honen as a Religious Revolutionary?

The person who identified the Core Components of Japanese Buddhism

GUEST SPEAKER:
Dr. Mark Blum
University of California at Berkeley

Mark Blum, Professor and Ship’s Distinguished Chair in Japanese Studies, received his M.A. in Japanese Literature from UCLA and his Ph.D. in Buddhist Studies in 1995 from the University of California, Berkeley. He is the author of The Origins and Development of Pure Land Buddhism (2002), and co-editor of Nenju and the Roots of Modern Japanese Buddhism (2005), and Cultivating Enlightenment: Buddhist Meditation and Spirituality in Modern Japan (2016).

“What was Honen so influential among Buddhist thinkers who were Pure Land Buddhists and those who were not Pure Land Buddhists?”

Shinran insisted that he had nothing new to say because everything he knew he got from Honen. Honen made the same statement, but his source of knowledge was Shandao. What do these statements tell us about what each man saw as new, and the political context of the time, both among their in-groups and in the context of society as a whole?”

Saturday, February 13, 2021 11:00AM - 1:00PM

Honen as a Religious Revolutionary | BCA
(buddhistchurchesofamerica.org)

“Discovering Buddhism in Everyday Life”

Listen to the stories behind this collection of heartwarming essays

By Rev. Marvin Harada
Bishop, Buddhist Churches of America

February 6, 2021
10:00 am to 11:30 am (PST) Zoom

Registration is Free
Click to register: https://forms.gle/kayenxpx3NpurQaY

Donations gratefully accepted
Click to Donate https://bca.kindful.com/ (scroll campaigns to select CBE.

Visit buddhistchurchesofamerica.org email: bca@bcha.org or phone: 510.809.1660

Books can be ordered at Honnonwanilace.com/online-store
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>January 9</strong>&lt;br&gt;11 am - 1 pm</td>
<td><strong>SHIN BUDDHISM AND SCIENCE FICTION</strong>&lt;br&gt;Speakers: Rev. Harry Bridge (Buddhist Church of Oakland)&lt;br&gt;Rev. Jon Turner (Orange County Buddhist Church)&lt;br&gt;Rev. Landon Yamaoka (Palo Alto Buddhist Temple)&lt;br&gt;Venture into dharma explorations inspired by science fiction films.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sunday</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>January 10</strong>&lt;br&gt;1 pm</td>
<td><strong>BCA Youth Concert!</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>JODO SHINSHU ARTISTS &amp; MUSICIANS SHOWCASE (JAMS)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Enjoy a variety of performances by BCA youth.</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>January 30</strong>&lt;br&gt;5 pm - 6:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>RELEVANT AMERICAN BUDDHISTS (RAB)</strong>&lt;br&gt;Speaker: Rev. Dr. Ken Tanaka (Musashino University)&lt;br&gt;Who and what were the RAB? Stories from BCA’s 1970s program for young adults.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>February 6</strong>&lt;br&gt;10 am - 11:30 am</td>
<td><strong>EVERY DAY BUDDHISM BOOK TALK</strong>&lt;br&gt;&quot;DISCOVERING BUDDHISM IN EVERYDAY LIFE&quot;&lt;br&gt;Speaker/author: Rev. Marvin Harada (BCA Bishop)&lt;br&gt;Listen to the stories behind this collection of heartwarming essays.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>February 13</strong>&lt;br&gt;11 am - 1 pm</td>
<td>&quot;HONEN AS RELIGIOUS REVOLUTIONARY: THE PERSON WHO DEFINED THE BUDDHISM WE IDENTIFY AS JAPANESE TODAY.&quot;&lt;br&gt;Speaker: Dr. Mark Blum (University of California at Berkeley)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Saturday</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>March 6</strong>&lt;br&gt;11 am - 1 pm</td>
<td><strong>ZEN &amp; SHIN BUDDHISM - PART 1</strong>&lt;br&gt;&quot;LETTING GO: A ZEN &amp; SHIN APPROACH TO LIBERATION&quot;&lt;br&gt;Rev. Dr. Duncan Ryuken Williams (Author, AMERICAN SUTRA)</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>March 13</strong>&lt;br&gt;11 am - 1 pm</td>
<td><strong>ZEN &amp; SHIN BUDDHISM -- PART 2</strong> (Please note change of date)&lt;br&gt;&quot;ZEN PRACTICE&quot;&lt;br&gt;Speaker: Rev. Anton Tenkei Coppens Roshi (Zen River Temple, Netherlands)</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>April 10</strong>&lt;br&gt;5 pm - 6:30 pm</td>
<td><strong>SOCIALLY ENGAGED BUDDHISM</strong>&lt;br&gt;Speakers: Prof. Mitsuya Dake (Ryukoku University)&lt;br&gt;Rev. Kiyo Kuwahara (Berkeley Buddhist Temple)</td>
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<td><strong>Saturday</strong>&lt;br&gt;<strong>April 17</strong>&lt;br&gt;11 am - 1 pm</td>
<td>3 BISHOPS: &quot;WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF BUDDHISM IN THE WEST?&quot;&lt;br&gt;Rev. Marvin Harada (Bishop, Buddhist Churches of America)&lt;br&gt;Rev. Eric Matsumoto (Bishop, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii)&lt;br&gt;Rev. Tatsuya Aoki (Bishop, Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada) (v8)</td>
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Watch Services Online | BCA (buddhistchurchesofamerica.org)

Watch local services or explore the dharma being shared at temples throughout the United States. By visiting a temple’s livestream video page at the scheduled time, you are able to join service, chant and sing along, and listen to dharma messages from your home. Check temple websites to confirm weekly livestream schedules, as services may not be streamed every Sunday.

Temples may also offer recordings of recent services or dharma talks, with many posting new content on a weekly basis.

Buddhist Temple of Alameda (YouTube)
Arizona Buddhist Temple
Berkeley Buddhist Temple  Livestream: Sundays 9:30am Pacific
Buddhist Churches of America (YouTube)
Ekoji Buddhist Temple
Enmanji Buddhist Temple
Fresno Buddhist Temple (Twitter)  Livestream: Sundays 10am Pacific
Gardena Buddhist Temple
Midwest Buddhist Temple
Monterey Peninsula Buddhist Temple
Mountain View Buddhist Temple
New York Buddhist Church (YouTube)  Livestream: Sundays 11:30am Eastern
Nishi Hongwanji Los Angeles Betsuin (Homepage)
Buddhist Church of Oakland (YouTube)
Orange County Buddhist Church (Online School: Everyday Buddhist)
Orange County Buddhist Church (YouTube)
Orange County Buddhist Church (Podcast)
Oregon Buddhist Temple (YouTube)  Livestream: Sundays 10am Pacific
Palo Alto Buddhist Temple
Pasadena Buddhist Temple (YouTube)
Buddhist Church of Sacramento (YouTube)  Livestream: Sundays 9:30am Pacific
Salt Lake Buddhist Temple (Facebook)  Livestream: Sundays 10am Mountain
Buddhist Temple of San Diego (YouTube)
Buddhist Church of San Francisco (YouTube)
San Jose Betsuin Buddhist Church (YouTube)  Livestream: Sundays 10am Pacific
San Mateo Buddhist Temple
Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple (YouTube)  Livestream: Sundays 10am Pacific
Senshin Buddhist Temple Livestream: Sundays 10am Pacific
Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church
Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church (YouTube)
Tacoma Buddhist Temple
Tacoma Buddhist Temple (Rev. Miyaji’s Podcast Page)
Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple (YouTube)
Twin Cities Buddhist Sangha (YouTube)
Venice Buddhist Temple Livestream: Sunday 9:30am Pacific
Vista Buddhist Temple (YouTube)
Watsonville
Watsonville (YouTube)
# FEBRUARY 2021 BETSUIIN SCHEDULE

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<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
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<td>To view all services, please visit <a href="http://www.youtube.com/seattlebuddhisttemple">http://www.youtube.com/seattlebuddhisttemple</a></td>
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<td>10 am livestream Morning Service</td>
<td>Rinban's day off</td>
<td>10 am livestream Morning Service</td>
<td>10 am Japanese Play Group on Zoom</td>
<td>Rinban's day off</td>
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<td>11 am Seattle Japanese Dharma Gathering - Zoom</td>
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<td>11 am lecture Rev Wonda, OCBC</td>
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<td>Joint Memorial Service</td>
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<td>Meditation on Zoom</td>
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<td>11 am Gojikai Service on Zoom</td>
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<td>SCOUT SUNDAY SERVICE streamed English Dharma Talk (MA Jason Yokoyama) Japanese Dharma Talk (Rinban) Sangha Exchange on Zoom SBBWA General Meeting on Zoom</td>
<td>Meditation on Zoom</td>
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<td>LADY KUJO/LADY OHTANI MEMORIAL by SBBWA &amp; NW Ministers - streamed English Dharma Talk (Rev Irene Goto and Rev Kathy Chatterton, IOBT) Japanese Dharma Talk (Guest speaker, Rev Mutsumi Wonda, OCBC) DS Parents Dharma Exchange on Zoom</td>
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<td>9 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nirvana Day/Pet Memorial streamed English Dharma Talk (Rinban) Japanese Dharma Talk (Guest speaker, Rev Joshin Kamuro, Hilo Betsuin) Sangha Exchange on Zoom 1:30 pm Newsletter deadline</td>
<td>Meditation on Zoom</td>
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<td>Meditation on Zoom</td>
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## March 2021 Major Events

- **March 7**: Religious Department meeting
- **March 7**: Camp Fire Sunday Service
- **March 15**: Japanese Shin Buddhist Study Lecture on Zoom: Rev Kiyonobu Kuwashara, Berkeley
- **March 17**: English Shin Buddhist Study Lecture on Zoom: Rev Kiyonobu Kuwashara, Berkeley
- **March 21**: Spring Ohigan Service by Seattle Betsuin & NW Ministers Association
2021 FAMILY MEMORIAL SERVICE SCHEDULE

In the Jodo Shinshu tradition, family memorial services are held on designated anniversaries to express gratitude and recall cherished memories of our loved ones while listening to the Buddha Dharma. While the Temple is closed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, Rinban Kusunoki will read your loved one’s name during the Joint Memorial Service livestreamed on most Saturdays at 10 am or will conduct a virtual service for your family and friends. If you have a family member who passed away in the following years, you are encouraged to hold a memorial service in 2021:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year of Death</th>
<th>Service</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>1st year memorial</td>
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<td>2019</td>
<td>3rd year memorial</td>
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<td>2015</td>
<td>7th year memorial</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>13th year memorial</td>
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<td>17th year memorial</td>
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<td>1997</td>
<td>25th year memorial</td>
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<td>1989</td>
<td>33rd year memorial</td>
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<td>1972</td>
<td>50th year memorial</td>
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Please call the Temple office at (206) 329-0800 to schedule a service. - JN