

# Southern District Newsletter

May 2007

## Message from SD Chairman

Ralph Honda

Greetings!

My name is Ralph Honda and I am humbly honored to serve as this year's chairman for the Southern District Council of the BCA.

Since the time I was approached two years ago, it was difficult for me to grasp why I was asked to fulfill the position of district chairman. Having participated in district council meetings as a representative from San Diego, and observing how the council operates, I gained so much knowledge, appreciation and understanding of all of the individuals who dedicate their time and efforts for the success of the council and its activities.

For me the Southern District is a well-oiled machine. There are many moving parts to the council and all are handled with such efficiency and care. I thank all of the volunteers who make the



Honda Family at a recent family outing

### Inside This Issue

Continued on page 5

- 1 Message from the President
- 1 Kyogakubu Report
- 2 Southern District Sr. YBA event
- 3 Participants for Kyoto Meeting Announced
- 3 Southern District Family Conference
- 4 Southern District BEC
- 5 Southern District Dharma School Teacher's League
- 9 Southern District Obon Schedule
- 11 Japanese Howa

## Kyogakubu Report

The Southern District Minister's Association held its Kyogakubu study session on February 13, 2007 at the Los Angeles Betsuin. For this study session, Professor George Tanabe who recently retired from the University of Hawaii gave a presentation on the current situation of Buddhism especially as it exists in the State of Hawaii.

Professor Tanabe began by saying that his view of the current situation of Buddhism in Hawaii was informed by his interactions with the students attending his classes. It was not infrequent, for example, to hear his students, many who grew up attending their local temples, to say, "I never knew this about Buddhism before," or if they had to say, "I never understood this before." From this, Professor Tanabe was able to conclude that the major issue that exists at the temple is the lack of understanding of Buddhism especially by its younger members. Dr. Tanabe gave one reason he feels this understanding is lacking is because of the disconnect he finds between the youth and the language used at the temples. He gave chanting as a concrete example of what he meant. The youth need to know how something relates to their lives. If they cannot find this relationship there is nothing of their temple experience to sustain them. On the other hand, he

Continued on page 8

## Southern District Sr. YBA event

Melissa Nishimura

In an effort to redevelop the Southern District SRYBA, an event is being hosted on May 25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> 2007 at the San Diego Buddhist Temple. This event is for any college aged Jodo Shinshu Buddhist who is interested in meeting other college aged Jodo Shinshu Buddhists, or is interested in helping to redevelop SRYBA. Please feel free to email me at [melissa.nishimura@gmail.com](mailto:melissa.nishimura@gmail.com).

SRYBA in Southern District was once so huge. Today it is almost non existent. We are hoping that beginning with this event we can bring back this organization, and through this to help bring back college youth to the temples and inspire the generations after to follow.

Interest and hope in accomplishing this was facilitated by a recent Youth Advocacy Committee (YAC) hosted winter retreat that was held in March at the Orange County Buddhist Church. The retreat was organized by a group of college students, all previously Jr. YBA members. It was the first retreat held by Southern District youth and it was quite a success! The retreat confirmed the interest of college youth to reconnect themselves with the Buddhist temples. Currently, a couple of Southern District kids have decided to reorganize SRYBA in Southern District, an organization that has barely survived.

SRYBA once served as a college youth organization for students to turn to once they left JRYBA. For me, I missed JRYBA once I left high school. I missed being more involved with my temple. I missed going to events. And I missed meeting new friends and seeing old friends from Oxnard to San Diego, to as far as Arizona. During my first year in college, I started participating in YAC events and met many kids like myself from all over central and northern California, as well as Washington. I enjoyed having these connections with fellow college kids and it made me sad that they all had SRYBA's to turn to and I didn't. I felt strongly about having a SRYBA and I know there would have to be others in Southern District that would feel the same way.

At our March retreat, it was the first time in a long time for many of the attendees to attend a temple and do Buddhist activities since they left for college. After the retreat was over, I was so happy that so many of them said thank you for reconnecting them with the temple. They all told me how much fun they had and how excited they were for the next "SRYBA" event.

So here we are now. Currently in a redeveloping phase of Southern District SRYBA with the goals of bringing together Buddhist college youth in the Southern District area, staying connected to our temples and our religion and fostering a social network that will be there for each and every one of the members. We don't want to see the college youth lose their connection to their temple, taking a break during college and never coming back, which is so often seen these days.

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*Southern District Sr. YBA is currently trying to reorganize by hosting an event on May 25-26 at the San Diego Buddhist Temple. Details*

## Participants for Kyoto Meeting Announced

Ralph Honda

It has been announced that three lay members of the Southern District will represent the BCA at the Lay and Minister's Representatives meeting in Kyoto, Nov. 6 through 8.

Congratulations to Ralph Honda (San Diego), Alan Kita (Gardena) and Mick Kubota (Vista) who were selected by BCA president Gordon Bermant to attend the meetings that will be held at Honzan.

Thank you to the temples and lay members of the Southern District who submitted the names of these individuals as candidates. The opportunity of participating in this wonderful program is quite an honor.

Other participants include Leo Balambao (San Francisco), Dr. William Clark (Marin) and Ron Murakami (White River).

BCA ministers attending the meeting will be announced by the Socho's office



*Refurbished Goeido (Founder's Hall),  
Hongwanji, Kyoto Japan*

## Southern District Family Conference

Rev. Yushi Mukojima BTSD (Buddhist Temple of San Diego) and Rev. Lee Rosenthal VBT (Vista Buddhist Temple), along with the BTSD and VBT Sanghas cordially invites everyone to participate in this year's Southern District BCA Family Conference. The event will be held on Saturday, September 29, at the San Diego Sheraton Hotel and Marina.

Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto of the Berkeley Buddhist Temple will deliver the keynote address in English, focusing on the conference theme, "A Mindful Mind." Socho Koshin Ogui of the BCA will deliver the Japanese message.

This year's conference focuses on Jodo Shinshu Buddhists of all ages.

In addition to adult activities for both the English and Japanese speaking Sangha, there will be activities for Dharma School children in the following for groups: Ages 3 through 5, 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grades; Sangha Teens (grades 6-8) and Jr. YBA.

Special guest ministers for the Dharma School groups will be Rev. Marvin Harada of the Orange County Buddhist Church and Rev. Naomi Nakano of the Gardena Buddhist Church.

The Southern District Buddhist Women's League and Southern District Dharma School Teacher's League will hold their annual conferences in conjunction with the Family Conference. The San Diego Jr. YBA is planning activities for the Southern District. Jr. YBL.

All of the registration materials were distributed to the temples at the May Southern District Council meeting.

There are four registration fees for the following groups: Adults \$65, Jr. YBA and Sangha Teens \$40; 1<sup>st</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade \$25, and Kindergarten and preschool ages 3 to 5 is \$10.

All registration forms and fees must be postmarked by Wednesday, **August 15**.

Late registration will be accepted but at a higher cost. Adults will be charged \$85 while Jr. YBA, Sangha Teens and Dharma School will be assessed an extra \$10. Kindergarten and Pre-schoolers will be charged an extra \$5. Late registration fees will be accepted no later than Monday, **September 24**.

An added feature to this year's conference will be a raffle drawing. From now until the day of the conference, temples from throughout the district will be selling raffle tickets. Donation is \$10 per ticket. First prize is \$2,000. Proceeds from the drawing will help keep the conference registration fees affordable and will help underwrite some conference expenses.

Continued on page 4



## Southern District Family Conference

Continued from page 3

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*Southern District Family  
Conference Website:*

*[www.sdbca.com](http://www.sdbca.com)*

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The conference committee realizes that San Diego is a weekend getaway destination. All conference registration packets include information on recommended hotel accommodations and sightseeing opportunities.

A post-conference activity is being offered for adults to visit a local Indian casino Saturday evening. BTSD is coordinating the event.

Childcare will be provided by the BTSD Dharma School at the Buddhist Temple of San Diego.

The Conference co-chairs are Susan Moribe, Glenn Negoro and Bill Teague of San Diego and Mick Kubota and Ford Omori of Vista. Check the conference website [sdbca.com](http://sdbca.com) for the latest Family Conference information.

If you have any questions regarding the conference, please contact the conference co-chairs or your local temple. The San Diego and Vista temples welcome all of you to a "Mindful Mind" in beautiful San Diego.

## Southern District BEC

Koichi Sayano

I would like to thank all the Southern District temples for your continued support of the Buddhist Education Committee's programs. The year got off to a busy start with three events in March: The first mini-seminar, for the Central Area at Senshin Buddhist Temple on March 11; the Southern District Dharma School Teachers' League Mini-Workshop at Gardena Buddhist Church on March 24; and a special lecture by Greg Krech on Naikan Therapy and Buddhism at West Los Angeles Buddhist Church on March 21.

Most of the other mini-seminars for the year have also been confirmed. For the North Area, San Fernando Hongwanji Buddhist Temple will be host and the seminar will be on Sept. 16. For the West Area, Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple will be holding their seminar on Oct. 21, on the the Tannisho. Orange County Buddhist Church will be hosting the seminar for the South Area, with the date to be determined.

In addition, this newsletter is published periodically as another means of communication to the Southern District temples about programs and religious events. In the past, it was sent to each temple, but this year, I am also having its distribution expanded in electronic form to the local temple BEC chairmen, board religious program chairmen, or equivalent.

I would like to encourage everyone to take part in these and other religious programs available in Southern District. Again, thank you for your support.

## Southern District Dharma School Teacher's League

Nancy Tamehiro

The 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Federation of Dharma School Teachers League Conference was hosted by the Northern Dharma School Teachers League, April 27-29, at the Sacramento Doubletree Hotel. The theme was "Dharma for Dummies II: Discover, Go Deeper and Make It Real". Keynote speaker, Dr. Satsuka Ina, professor, therapist, and member of Sacramento Betsuin, set the tone for the conference with an excellent presentation entitled, "To Know Me is to Love Me: Taking the Buddhist Path of Self-Awareness". Emphasizing awareness of self, workshop activities included "Bring Out the Animal in You!", "Guess Who You Are", "True Colors", etc.,

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*56<sup>th</sup> DSTL  
Conference held  
at Sacramento  
Betsuin.*

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Continued on page 7

## Message from SD Chairman

Continued from page 1

Southern District run so smoothly.

Here are the representatives of this year's cabinet:

Chairman: Ralph Honda (San Diego)

Chairman-elect: Jerry Sakamoto (San Luis Obispo)

Vice chairman: Richard Kunisaki (San Fernando)

Treasurer: Mick Kubota (Vista)

Recording Secretary: Billy Saeki (Venice)

Corresponding Secretary: Avis Honda (San Diego)

Lay Advisor: Ryo Munekata (Los Angeles)

Lay Advisor: Jim Usui (Senshin)

Ministerial Advisor: Rev. Katsumi Ueda (Oxnard)

Ex-Officio: Tom Fukuman (Gardena)

*Southern District Cabinet  
Announced*

Congratulations to all and thank you for dedicating your time and energy to this year's Southern District Council.

I wish to extend a speedy recover to Richard Kunisaki who is convalescing after heart bypass surgery in March. The district looks forward to seeing you back on your feet with your smiling face and enthusiasm in the very near future. Take care.

I wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to Tom Fukuman (Gardena) who served as the 2006 council chairman. "Tom, you did a wonderful job for the district." Also, many thanks to the Gardena Buddhist Church for hosting last year's meetings.

I wish to thank Reverends Miyaji, Harada, Doami, President Steve Ishii and the Orange County Buddhist Church for hosting this year's quarterly meetings. Everyone appreciates OCBC hosting the meetings and its wonderful hospitality.

The first meeting was held Feb. 9. The next meeting is scheduled for May 11. Subsequent meetings are scheduled for Sept. 14 and Nov. 9. All of the gatherings begin at 7 p.m. with a short service, followed

Continued on page 6

## Message from SD Chairman

Continued from page 5

by the meeting at 7:30 p.m. The meetings are open to all Southern District temples.

With the pace of our fast-moving lifestyles consisting of work, family, temple and other activities to juggle, my deepest appreciation to all of the temple presidents for assuming the responsibility of leadership. I truly understand what type of dedication is involved with leading a temple. Your energy is deeply appreciated and very much inspires the activities of your temple and the Southern District.

It is nearly mid-year. The weather is warming which means temples planning many outdoor activities including picnics and the Bon Odori season. Good luck with your summer activities.

The highlight of the Southern District's year will be the 2007 Family Conference which the San Diego and Vista temples will host on Saturday, Sept. 29 in San Diego. Being a part of the conference committee, I know that the San Diego and Vista members are working hard to put on a wonderful program.

"A Mindful Mind" is the conference theme that will be the focus for keynote speaker, Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto of the Berkeley Buddhist Temple and Socho Koshin Ogui who will address the Japanese speaking Sangha.

This year's conference is for everyone. There will be activities for the young Dharma School students, Sangha Teens, YBA and the young-at-heart adults.

The last time San Diego hosted the district conference was in 1992. I think it is time for everyone to make a return visit to America's Finest City. I look forward to greeting all of the conference delegates.

During the district meetings, there is much to report including the importance of the BCA 21<sup>st</sup> Century Campaign, update on the financing of the Jodo Shinshu Center, summaries of national meetings, district affiliated organization reports, the Southern District Ministers and BEC.

All temples have the opportunity to briefly summarize and announce its own temple activities. It is wonderful to hear how active and creative temples are in conducting programs both spiritually and socially for their entire Sangha. It shows the energy and true Dharma spirit of all of the temples. Keep up to good work.

The Southern District Council stretches as far north as San Luis Obispo, and as far east as Phoenix. Southern is the largest of the eight districts that make up the Buddhist Churches of America. Fifteen temples, consisting of 4,539 paid members or one-quarter of the BCA population, make up the Southern District Council.

In closing I wish to thank my wife Avis and son Breven for allowing me to take on my new responsibility. They are so understanding and supportive. Also, thank you to everyone in the Southern District family for your efforts, especially towards your local temple. Whether making a heartfelt donation, helping Bar BQ Chicken Teriyaki or reciting the words Namu Amida Butsu, all of us help expand our Jodo Shinshu spirit.

Gassho,

Ralph Honda

## SDDSTL Report

Continued from page 5

with three types of meditation and also discussion periods.

During the Closing Service, the following Southern District Dharma School Teachers were recognized and received certificates for their years of service:

### Bishop's Ten Year Award

Lauren Shinohara (Los Angeles Betsuin)

### 25 Year Service Award

Betty Hatakeyama (Los Angeles Betsuin)  
 Susan Mukai (Gardena Buddhist Temple)  
 Charlene Nation (Gardena Buddhist Temple)  
 Yasuko Takemoto (Gardena Buddhist Temple)

NDSTL did an excellent job in putting together this conference and in 2008 we'll all meet at the San Mateo Marriott Hotel for the 57<sup>th</sup> FDSTL Conference. On Saturday, June 9<sup>th</sup>, Los Angeles Betsuin Dharma School Teachers will be hosting the SDDSTL Mini-Workshop #2, for 2007, "Pure Land: The Land of Utmost Bliss", with speaker, Rev. William Briones.

Come visit the SDDSTL Hongwanji Place Bookstore for gifts for any occasion. There are books for adults and children, nenjus, candles and incense, tee shirts of all sizes, cards for various occasions, many other gift items and even ojuzu repair. Visit the Hongwanji Place Bookstore at 311 East First Street, Los Angeles 90012, (213) 680-0364. Hours are: Thursday (10 a.m.-3 p.m.), Friday (10 a.m.-4 p.m.), and Saturday (10 a.m.-5 p.m.).

The Venice Hongwanji Dharma School Teachers and Rev. John Iwohara hosted the SDDSTL Mini-Workshop #1, for 2006, on Saturday, April 1<sup>st</sup>. The theme "The Animated Temple: Who are you? What's your name?" was supported by viewing the animated film "Spirited Away" and working in grade-level groups to produce lesson plans.

On Saturday, June 24<sup>th</sup>, the Vista Dharma School Teachers and Rev. Lee Rosenthal hosted SDDSTL Mini-Workshop #2 for 2006. The theme was "I am a Dharma School Teacher - What's in it for me?" and addressed the issue of Buddhism for the teacher personally.

Oxnard Buddhist Temple and San Luis Obispo Buddhist Church hosted the SDDSTL Conference on Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup>, at Oxnard. The theme was "Living Together in a World of Oneness" with guest speaker Rev. Tetsuo Unno. Over 50 teachers in attendance enjoyed the dynamic wit, humor and wisdom of Rev. Unno. After an excellent lunch and delegates meeting, we broke up into groups for hands-on workshops. It was an excellent conference!

- SDDSTL Mini-Workshop #2 at LA Betsuin, Saturday, June 9
- 2008 FDSTL Conference at San Mateo
- SDDSTL's Hongwanji Place

Continued on page 8

## SDDSTL Report

Continued from page 7

During the delegates meeting, the following were elected to the 2006-07 cabinet:

### SDDSTL 2006-2007 Cabinet

President	Nancy Tamehiro (Gardena)
Vice President	Koichi Sayano (Los Angeles)
Recording Secretary	Emily Kariya (Venice)
Corresponding Secretary	Tami Okazaki (Gardena)
Treasurer	June Kondo (Los Angeles)
Religious Chair	Sandy Hiroshima (Orange County)
Music Chair	Mitzi Shimizu (Gardena)

On Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, West Los Angeles Dharma School Teachers and Rev. Fumiaki Usuki hosted the SDDSTL Mini-Workshop #3, for 2006, "Myth in Buddhism".

Gardena Dharma School Teachers hosted the SDDSTL Mini-Workshop #1, for 2007, on Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. The theme was "Cultural Enlightenment . . . A Presentation on Okinawan Culture". The main objective was to promote understanding and respect for others through cultural awareness.

## Kyogakubu Report

Continued from page 1

noted, many of the youth who have taken his classes are interested in their past, and what their experiences at the temple meant.

Dr. Tanabe continued by mentioning that some of the challenges found in Hawaii, and probably in the mainland as well, includes declining and aging memberships, shortage of ministers and closing temples. He felt that one of the contributing causes for this situation is the insular aspect of the temple or its inability to change especially with respect to authority. In looking back at how Buddhism flourished prior to coming to North America, Dr. Tanabe stated that Buddhism had always made accommodations to the new landscape it found itself in as it was transported from country to country. During this period of growth, he states, ordinations were conducting within the newly adopted countries. Because of this, he concludes, Hawaii (or more broadly North America) has to train and ordain its own ministers. There is no need, in his opinion, for people to continue to go to Japan for training or ordination any more.

Taking this idea to its next logical step, Dr. Tanabe asked, "Why do we need to keep translating Shinran?" The Kyogyoshinsho, for example, is a boring text for the typical 17 year old and is not something they are going to read. Instead, the focus should be on developing new interpretations. One religious text that the younger people do have access to, he stated, was the Bible.

Those youth who read the Bible have an easier time understanding the contents because they have an idea of what a savior is and are able to relate to it through a personal relationship. Buddhist youth, on the other hand, have almost no understanding of the tradition or what you are supposed to do as a Buddhist. One of the many things that people search for in religion is moral guidance. Many people define where they stand on certain moral issues in terms of their religious beliefs. Because of this religion becomes or needs to be a resource that helps people to make decisions.

The presentation ended with final comments on the limits of remaining an ethnic religious institution. This is especially true when the very definition of Japanese-American ethnicity is constantly being re-defined and the community becoming multi-cultural. This topic was introduced, in part, to ask the following questions to the Southern District Minister's Association. Is Jodo Shinshu an ethnic religion or is it Universal? Is the tradition locked by language, culture, and customs or can it break free from these things?

## Southern District Members Serving BCA

Billy Saeki (Venice)	BCA President Elect,
Mick Kubota (Vista)	Director at Large
Seiko Tamura (Oxnard)	Director at Large
Ed Tanaka (OCBC)	Director at Large
Ralph Honda (SD)	Southern District Chairman representative
Ryo Munekata (Betsuin)	Ex-Officio
Sei Shohara (WLA)	Ex-Officio
Milnes Kurashige (Venice)	Ex-Officio
Jim Usui (Senshin)	Ex-Officio

## Southern District Obon Schedule

Here are the dates for the various Southern District Obon events (events are listed chronologically):

<b>Arizona Buddhist Temple</b>	June 16
<b>Senshin Buddhist Temple</b>	June 30
<b>San Fernando Valley Hongwanji Buddhist Temple</b>	June 30-July 1
West Covina Buddhist Temple*	June 30
<b>Los Angeles Hongwanji Buddhist Temple</b>	July 7-8
<b>Oxnard Buddhist Temple</b>	July 14
<b>Orange County Buddhist Temple</b>	July 14-15
<b>Pasadena Buddhist Church</b>	July 14-15
<b>Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple</b>	July 21-22
<b>Guadalupe Buddhist Church</b>	July 22
<b>Vista Buddhist Temple</b>	July 28-29
<b>West Los Angeles Buddhist Temple</b>	July 28-29
Higashi Hongwanji*	July 28-29
<b>San Diego Buddhist Temple</b>	August 4
<b>Gardena Buddhist Church</b>	August 4-5
<b>San Luis Obispo Buddhist Temple</b>	August 11

\*not a Southern District Council member temple

JUNE 2007						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
JULY 2007						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
AUGUST 2007						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

## メモリアルデイを迎えて

Continued from page 11

て、この母なる地球をも破滅の危機に迫りやっています。  
大変恐ろしいことです。

先日、私はある本を読んで大変驚きました。その学者が言うには、「地球を一つの生き物に例えると、人間は地球にとって癌細胞である」と。大変厳しい言葉であると思いますが、事実、人は私利私欲の為に他の生命を奪うだけでなく、地球そのものを破滅に迫りやっています。地球にとって、また全ての生物にとって、私達人類は癌細胞であると言われたら、皆さんはどう感じられますか？ 私は大変悲しく思うと同時に恥ずかしさが募ってまいります。

仏教には恩に報いるという教えがあります。大自然の恵みの中で、幸いにして人として生を頂き、生かされてきました。また、多くの生命の犠牲の上に私の生命は成り立っています。この尊いご恩に私達人類は人生をかけて報いなければなりません。恩に報いる生き方とは、互いの存在を認め、敬い、支え合って生きることではないでしょうか。

人には他の動物にはない優しさや相手を労わる特別な心があります。相手の立場になって考える素晴らしい力があります。また、共に泣き、共に笑い、共に喜ぶといった美しい心を持っています。そして何よりも人間は反省するという尊い心を持っています。

私達人類は遠い過去から様々な過ちを繰り返してきました。しかし、その犯した過ちをどう受け止め、どう修正し、どう償っていくかがとても大切なことなのです。それには大変な勇気と根気が必要になってきます。人間一人の力は大変弱いものですが、その弱さを支え合い、補い助け合って生きることが本当の人間の素晴らしさだと私は信じています。

世界平和、そして地球を守ることは、全ての生物に対して私達人類に全責任があります。他を滅ぼす道は己を滅ぼす道であって、他を生かす道こそが己の生かされる道であります。

人類と一口に言っても、私達人間は性格を始め、価値観、文化、物事の受け取り方は一人一人違います。性別もあれば、国籍、肌の色、年齢、すべてが異なります。私達の「生命」は多くの

向嶋裕史 法名：諦史

1972年9月5日大阪生まれ  
寺坊：蓮興寺 福井県小浜市  
龍谷大学文学部史学科仏教史専攻  
1996年卒  
得度 1994年  
教師 1997年  
開教使 1998年  
南米開教区開教使としてブラジ  
ル・サンパウロ別院勤務 19  
99年—2001年  
北米仏教団開教使として2002  
年にアメリカに着任  
シーブルック仏教会 2002年  
バイセリア仏教会 2003年  
サンディエゴ仏教会 2005年  
—現在

This month's Japanese Howa is  
by Yushi Taishi Mukojima who is  
currently serving at the  
Buddhist Temple of San Diego

## メモリアルデイを迎えて

むこうじま ゆうし  
向嶋 裕史

さくら はな さ こころおど ころ みな すこ す おも  
桜の花も咲きそらい、心踊る頃となりました。皆さん、お健やかにお過ごしのことと幸いです。

さて、一年は実に早いもので、来月、メモリアルデイを迎えます。サンディエゴ仏教会では、  
まいとし けいむつ ほか まい さき せんそう な にくしん ゆうじん しの こじん とお  
毎年、計六つのお墓にお参りをし、先の戦争で亡くなられた肉親、友人を偲びながら、故人を通  
して阿弥陀仏のみ教えに遇わせて頂いております。

あらた ふ かえ わたしたち す にんげんしゃかい へいわ ねが いっぽう あらそ た ひ いちにち  
改めて振り返ってみますと、私達の住む人間社会は平和を願う一方、争いの絶える日は一日  
としてなかったのではないのでしょうか。これまでの戦争で、幾千万の人々が尊い生命を失い、親  
を亡くし、子を奪われ悲嘆にくれた人は数え切れません。

また、仏教徒に限らず、「殺すなかれ」という戒めを破って、武器を取って、聖戦の名の下に  
せんち おもむ かなければならなかつた 方々 の 悲痛な 心は私達にはとても 想像 できません。

こんにち わたしたち かにてき く さき たいせん な おお かがた いのち ぎせい うえ  
今日の私達の快適な暮らしは、先の大戦で亡くなった多くの方々の生命の犠牲の上にもたらさ  
れているということを今一度思い起して、真の平和の実現に努めていかなければなりません。

じじつ せんそう ほんとう こわ し せだい はい いのち けいし もんだい ふ  
事実、戦争の本当の怖さを知らない世代に入り、生命を軽視する問題も増えてまいりました。  
せんそう ほかな な かがた ため のこ わたしたち ちから かが せんそう ひさん うった  
戦争で儂く亡くなっていった方々の為にも、残された私達が力の限り戦争の悲惨さを訴えてい  
かなければならないと決意を新たにしています。

さくねん じんるい ひょうご かか むか さいわ  
昨年、サンディエゴでは「人類」という標語を掲げて、メモリアルデイを迎えましたが、幸い  
わたしたち ひと せい う よ う これほど ありがた  
に私達は、人として生を受けこの世に生まれてきました。これほど有難いことはないのではない  
でしょうか。なぜなら、仏教ではこの世に人として生まれてくることは大変難しいことであると  
説かれているからです。有名なお話ですが、その昔、仏教の開祖である釈尊がインドのガンジ  
ス川の畔で、一面に広がる砂浜からわずかな砂を 掌 で掬って弟子にこう言われました。「ここ  
には数えきれないほどの砂が延々と続いているが、その中で人として生まれてくることの出来る  
ものは私の 掌 にあるこの砂ほどだけだ」と。

う 生まれ難くして、今、人としての生命を私達は生かされているのです。この真実に気付いたと  
き わたしたち いのち まつと い たが せんざい みと あい さき あ  
私達はこの生命を全うして生きなければなりません。互いの存在を認め、愛し、支え合っ  
ていくことこそが人としての真の生き方なのです。この地球上で互いの人生を分かち合っていく 尊  
さに気付くことが何よりも大切なのです。

しかし、私達人類は一体何をしているのでしょうか。先ほど申したように、人類は長年に渡り  
きつりく く かえ ゆえ じんるい れきし せんそう れんぞく い かがん  
殺戮を繰り返してきました。それ故に、人類の歴史は戦争の連続だと言っても過言ではありませ  
ん。戦争の原因は人間のさまざま欲望や恐怖心から生まれてきます。人類は互いに自己を正義化  
し、他を排除し、生命を奪う戦争を続けてきました。ましてや、人類の作り出した核兵器によっ