

WEST LOS ANGELES BUDDHIST TEMPLE BULLETIN

2003 Corinth Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90025
(310) 477-7274
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Vol. 48, No. 7 & 8

July & August 2005

2005 WLA OBON EVENTS

CEMETERY SERVICES

Saturday, July 9

Woodlawn – 9:30 a.m.

Inglewood – 11:15 a.m.

HATSUBON / OBON SERVICE

Sunday July 10, 9:30 a.m.

Speaker: Rev. Fumiaki Usuki

Toban: BWA

OBON FESTIVAL

Saturday, July 30, 5 to 10 p.m.

Sunday, July 31, 3 to 9 p.m.

Bon Odori (Sat. & Sun.) 6:30 p.m.

Taiko Performances:

Kinnara Taiko 5:00 p.m. (Sun. only)

WLA Taiko 5:30 p.m. (Sat. & Sun.)

Tent Setup: Saturday, July 23, 7:00 p.m.

Booth Construction: Sunday, July 24, 8:00 a.m.

Garden Clean-up: Sunday, July 24, 8:00 a.m.

General Take-down: Monday, August 1, 7:00 p.m.

Cleanup: Tuesday, August 2, 7:00 p.m.



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WEST LOS ANGELES BUDDHIST TEMPLE
2003 Corinth Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90025

REV. USUKI'S PAGE

Pilgrimage of Life

I am very happy to share with you an article that was printed in the July and August 1982 issues of WLA's *Bulletin* (pages XXX). If you have read and still remember this story, it must be because it was an interesting, amazing and excellent account of Alice Ikeda's journey back to the land of Sakyamuni Buddha in the company of her son Andy. We are reprinting this article so that you may also take a journey back to the time of Buddha with the Ikeda's and somehow get a glimpse of India, where our wonderful teachings began.

When we think of Sakyamuni Buddha, many practices and teachings characterizing a Buddhist way of life come to mind, such as meditation, Four Noble Truths, Eightfold Noble Path, causes and conditions, karma, enlightenment, etc. These are what we normally understand Buddhism to be. Many schools of Buddhism place great emphasis on accumulation of merit through practice as the main focus, and many teachers and students of Buddhism have main-

tained that practice is the central method to gaining enlightenment.

Shinran Shonin's teachings also did not move away from these fundamental truths. Shinran, however, through much traditional study and practice, focused on the inner attitude and purpose of such practice. Shinran translated these efforts as not simply believing in given information but truly entrusting one's spiritual attitude and conviction that Amida Buddha embraces all beings without discrimination. Shinran's entrusting in Amida Buddha meant complete and true embracing of life and living constantly with the Buddha. He teaches that with this entrusting there is a transformation within us that cause us to abandon dependence on our own self-created efforts and understand that our spiritual liberation comes from Amida's wisdom and compassion. Saying the Name—*Namo Amida Butsu*—is the embracing of this spiritual liberation.

In Gassho, Rev. Fumiaki Usuki



SHINSHU CORNER

I Am Thankful

*For the teenager who is not doing the dishes but is watching TV,
Because it means that he/she is at home and not on the streets.*

*For the mess to clean up after the party,
Because it means that I have been surrounded by friends.*

*For my shadow that watches me work,
Because it means that I am out in the sunshine.*

*For a lawn that needs mowing, windows that need cleaning and gutters
that need fixing,
Because it means that I have a home.*

*For the lady or gentleman behind me in the temple that sings off-key,
Because it means that I can hear.*

*For the alarm that goes off in the early morning hours,
Because it means that I am alive...*

- Author unknown

(REV. USUKI'S PAGE Continued on next page)



GIFT FROM MR. FRED WATARIDA

The Temple acknowledges with deep gratitude a gift of \$50,000 received from Mr. Fred ("King") Choshiki Watarida of Fresno in memory of Mamoru and Kinuko Takemoto, parents of Betty Takahashi. The gift will be placed in an Endowment fund that will help deepen understanding of Buddhist Teachings within the WLA Sangha.

Buddhist Service Etiquette – Chanting of Sutra

“Sutra” is a Sanskrit term that means “words of Sakyamuni Buddha”, who founded Buddhism over 2,500 years ago in India. In essence, the intent of his numerous sermons and discourses was to teach that universal compassion of Amida Buddha embraces and sustains all beings with infinite light and immeasurable life and leads them to enlightenment.

The sutras which are contained in Jodo Shinshu Service Books are all meant to lead us to awaken to these virtues of Amida Buddha. Sutra chanting is a distinct practice in Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, in which the words of the Buddha are to be read aloud with one’s innermost heart in praising the virtues of Amida Buddha. The harmonious sound of chanting lead many followers to awaken to the wisdom and compassion of Amida Buddha and to listen to the teachings. Their gratitude to Amida Buddha was expressed through chanting.

All of the services in our Hongwanji tradition begin with the chanting of sutra. In chanting

sutra, we must bear in mind the following points:

1. Before the chanting begins, the Nembutsu is recited a number of times together with the minister and the congregation.
2. The sutra book is raised to the forehead before it is opened in order to pay respect to the words of the Buddha.
3. The ministers and the congregation chant in harmony. Each individual should listen to the voices of others so that he/she can be in tune with them.
4. The chanting must be done with a grateful heart to the Buddha. The chanting brings about a harmonious and religious atmosphere.
5. When the chanting is finished, the service book is closed and placed again to the forehead as a gesture of reverence.



MEANING OF EITAIKYO SERVICE AND DONATION

The Eitaikyo service is observed by most of the BCA temples in the state. It is usually held in November. Eitaikyo is an abbreviation of “Eitai Dokyo” which literally means the perpetual recitation of the sutras. It is a kind of memorial service to pay tribute to those who departed before us. Memorial services for the immediate family are held from time to time; however, after the 50th memorial anniversary or if the bereaved family is not of the Buddhist faith, memorial services are often not observed at all.

The donation to the Perpetual Eitaikyo Fund is to preserve the memory of the loved one forever at the temple. By donating to the Eitaikyo Fund, the deceased is remembered each year at the

Eitaikyo service. But the ultimate purpose of the Eitaikyo service is to listen to the wonderful Buddhadharma and pass it on to coming generations so that as long as human beings exist in this world, they can hear this Great Buddhadharma.

The Eitaikyo Fund is rigidly controlled and used for the preservation of the temple, especially for the Onaijin (altar area), and even then only in extreme emergencies, and if used must be returned. It is not to be used for general temple maintenance. Your donation is greatly appreciated and the suggested amount of donation at WLA Buddhist Temple is \$200 or more per person.

永代経

無常なるが故に

永代経とは永代読経の略で、お経を読み先亡者追悼の意思を末代まで伝えていこうとすることにあります。永代経の勤めかたには二通りあって、一つは特定の先亡者一人に対するものと、もう一つには先亡者数人を総括して常む総永代経があります。浄土真宗の文献には今から三百三十四年前、第十四門主寂如上人(1662年)に執行された歴史があります。

永代経法要は寺院の財政的援助に貢献している行事の一つでもありますが、真宗ではこの永代経法要お通し、お念仏のみ教えを伝える時と場のご縁として、又聴聞をさせていただく機会を与えられたのであります。

十一月には各寺院で「永代経法要」が勤修されますが、永代経懇志として懇念を運ばされた各施主の方々には、それぞれの想いがかけられているに違ひありません。無常が故に、いついつまでも仏縁が結びつづけられる様にとの念願、無常なるが故に、何とかして長くこの正法を護持せなくてはとの懇念。。。こうした施主の願を頂きます時、勤修される「永代経法要」が本当にありがたい勝縁と想われてなりません。

(Editor's Note: See REV. USUKI'S PAGE, page 2, for the introduction to the following article.)

A PILGRIMAGE TO INDIA

INDIA. One conjures visions of the Taj Mahal, exotic sari-clad ladies, gracefully lumbering elephants led by turbaned Indians, but more likely, one thinks of the thousands of poor, hungry people, dusty roads with rickety vehicles, and relatively poor living conditions for the majority. India, a country rich in history especially for Buddhists, is generally thought of as a poor country. So, when temple member Mrs. Alice Ikeda began to talk of spending three months there with her son Andy, one had to wonder what had possessed Alice to decide on such a difficult trip.

Andy, Alice and Stanley Ikeda's youngest son, back-packed and traveled throughout India after being discharged from the Marines in Tokyo. He returned home and got a job, but before long he was talking of going back to India. He seemed to have had some sense of inner-peace while in India and wanted to go back. Alice had looked at the many travel brochures of India but there was no tour that covered all the points of interest to a follower of the Buddha. So as her son began to talk and make plans to go back to India, Alice began to think she might be able to go along with him. Since this was to be Andy's third trip, he could help her walk the path that Buddha took. This was her chance! Once the decision was made, talk of the difficulties and hardships could not dissuade her. Alice got her 120 day travel visa and began work on her itinerary.

It is said that there are four places all devout Buddhists should visit: Lumbini where Buddha was born, Bodhgaya where he attained enlightenment, Sarnath where he delivered his first sermon in the Deer Park and set the Wheel of Dharma into motion, and Kusinagar (formerly Kusinara) where Buddha passed into Parinirvana. These four places, the caves of Ajanta and Ellora, and the *stupas* of Sanchi became the focal points of the trip.

Andy left Los Angeles April 8, 1981 for India, with the understanding to meet Alice in New Delhi in November.

On October 19, 1981 Alice and husband Stanley boarded a plane at LAX for a 20 day tour of China. There were 31 people in the group and they were given a grand tour. On November 8, Alice bid Stanley a fond farewell as he left Hong Kong to come home and she flew on to New Delhi. She wondered at the time if she would ever see Stanley again—who knew what could happen in the vast, strange country. After a four hour flight, the plane landed in New Delhi and much to Alice's delight, Andy was there.

Most of the traveling was done on buses (not tour) or trains. It can be an ordeal because the seats can have holes in them and the ride becomes quite rough as the bus bounces along winding roads full of potholes. On several occasions Alice enjoyed the luxury of flying when Andy thought the overland trip would be too difficult.

A total of 45 cities was visited and each probably has a story of its own, but the following is Alice's story of the major points of interest.

I first went north to Dharamsala where I missed seeing the refugee Dalai Lama from Tibet by a day. Then I went to Srinagar in the northern part of India for a week, staying on a houseboat. The snow-capped, majestic Himalayas on the distant horizon added to the sense of serenity of the area.

I flew to Varanasi and spent five days there walking along the Ganges, amazed at the incongruous sight. The Ganges at Varanasi is special to the Hindus—at daybreak one is supposed to bathe, watch the sun rise, and pray. During this procedure, a mouthful of water is used to rinse out the mouth and a bit of water is swallowed. Now the water here is certainly not pure—often green scum has to be pushed away to get a handful of water. We are told no one gets sick swallowing this water so the Gods are certainly looking after the Hindus. Next to bathing people are ladies doing their weekly washing—pounding and rinsing and spreading the clothes out on the ground to dry. Further along the bank are Burning Ghats. These are open crematoria.

Sarnath. In the peace and tranquility of the Deer Park I was filled with awe and gratitude with the thought that THIS was where Buddhism was set into motion.

Kusinagar. One sees the reclining Buddha's picture many times, but when it is all there, actually in front of you, you can't help but go down on your knees in *gassho* bidding Amida Buddha *sayonara* and reciting the *Nembutsu*. I placed the lighted incense down and spent the whole day there transfixed by the smiling face.

Lumbini was a surprise. We visualize Lumbini Garden as the flowered forest where Prince Siddhartha was born over 2500 years ago beneath one of the Sal trees. The land is barren now, and a temple and pillar are erected on the site of the Buddha's birth. There is a large Bodhi tree beside the temple now in place of the Sal tree. To one side of the temple is a pool which is where the baby prince was given his first bath. Since this is the place of birth, I started to feel happy as I lighted a whole box of candles, reciting the *Nembutsu*. So full of joy, I almost sang "Happy Birthday."

Bodhgaya. I had waited so long for this pilgrimage to Bodhgaya, I had to prepare myself; I felt as if I was to meet Buddha here. As I entered the grounds to the throne of enlightenment under the Bodhi tree, I was filled with such gratitude that all I could do was bow my head and *gassho*—the *Nembutsu* came from the bottom of my heart. I was drawn back again the next day—such joy and excitement filled me as I walked the grounds that my Lord Buddha walked. I was at peace in the embrace of the Buddha.

While in the northern part of India I decided to head toward Katmandu. I stayed in the peaceful city of Pokhara where the majestic, snow-capped Himalayas change color three times a day. Early in the morning it is silver, pure white during the day, and a gorgeous pink at sunset. This was a restful and rejuvenating stay. Patan and Katmandu were very interesting with many ancient palaces, Buddhist monuments, and Hindu temples.

Just before Christmas, I arrived in Calcutta. To my surprise the stores were decorated with

(Continued on next page)

(A Pilgrimage continued from previous page)

ornaments and trees and one could hear the familiar “Silent Night,” “Jingle Bells,” etc. There were many Chinese restaurants so I enjoyed some good dinners for a change. In the Indian Museum one can see the urn which holds the Buddha’s relic.

Next stop was Puri, a fishing village with fine Hindu temples. We bargained with the fishermen to get some lobsters as the men brought in their catch of the day. We enjoyed steamed lobster with melted butter with three young Japanese tourists we met. It made a nice Christmas dinner with fruitcake bought in Calcutta and green tea bought in Los Angeles.

New Year’s Day 1982 in Madras is one I will never forget. I carried *omochi* bought in WLA to eat *ozoni* made with instant *miso* soup, *daikon*, and carrots. I also had some *mochi* with *kinako* which I had mixed with sugar and salt. After this feast Andy and I went to the city to make my plane reservation to Sri Lanka. As we got off the bus, something caught my eye. At first I thought it was a frog, but upon closer examination, it was a baby lying just off the curb. It was a premature baby girl with the umbilical cord and placenta still attached. She was about eight inches long and her hands were the size of a large cherry blossom. We stood there in utter shock—how cheap life was! We named her Baby Kamala and gently placed her in a box, covered it, and placed her in a shaded area. Our *Nembutsu*’s were the funeral service for her, and every New Year’s Day I will have a memorial service for her as I adopted her in my heart.

Then on to the southernmost tip of India, Kanya Kumari, where three oceans meet. The Bay of Bengal, Indian Ocean, and Arabian Sea meet and provide the setting for the most beautiful sunrises and sunsets. All this southern area, Trivandrum and Kovalam, is a resort area with beautiful beaches.

I flew to Colombo, capital of Sri Lanka. With the help of a hired car and driver, I was able to see this tropical island. In Kandy there is the temple Dalada Maligawa (Temple of Tooth) where Buddha’s tooth is enshrined. The Tooth Relic is said to have been brought here early in the 4th century hidden in the hair of an Indian princess. In Dambulla there are rock caves containing many statues and carvings, including a colossal recumbent Buddha cut out of solid rock and over 47 feet in length. Again in Polonnaruwa there are many ruins of temples and Buddhist carvings. In the heart of Annuradhapura stands the Bodhi tree grown from a sapling of the original tree under which Buddha attained enlightenment. There is also a giant *stupa* in which is enshrined Buddha’s collar bone. So a week flew by and I bid farewell to my driver who had been so nice—he treated me like his mother.

I flew to Bombay, met Andy, and went to see the caves of Ellora and Ajanta. These caves, 37 at Ellora and 28 at Ajanta, are carved out of solid rock hillsides, and the Buddhist caves date back to the 4th century. There are also Brahman, Jain, and Hindu caves. The paintings in the Ajanta caves are fairly well preserved because they have never seen the light of day and the air is so dry. Each cave is differ-

ent from the next—each great and magnificent yet delicately sculptured.

Sanchi was the next city visited. It has the finest examples of Buddhist art and sculpture in India. The *stupas* here date back as early as the 3rd century BCE.

The exotic, erotic carved temples of Khajuraho are an unbelievable work of art. Hundreds and thousands of erotic scenes carved out of stone form the outside surface from top to bottom.

My last stop in India was to see one of the seven wonders of the world—the Taj Mahal. This monument of love for his beautiful queen was completed in 1653 and built by the great Mughal ruler, Shah Jahan. It took 21 years to build. The huge white marble structure with hundreds of gemstone inlay is a wonder to behold in any setting, but especially in this land of so much poverty and hunger.

With mixed feelings I left India for a two week stay in Thailand. At the time I was looking forward to the luxury of sleeping in the comforts of my own bed, eating Japanese food again, not living out of my suitcase, and just being home. Now, crazy as it may sound, I would like to go back. There is still much to see in India.

RECOMMENDED READING

An End to Suffering

by Pankaj Mishra

Farrar, Strauss, & Giroux: 422 pp.

The January 9, 2005, issue of the Los Angeles Times Book Review Section featured a one-page review of this book. Parts of this article are taken from that review.

Mishra is a young Indian writer. To quote from the review,

“Westerners often have a hard time with Buddhism because it is an alien religion. For Mishra growing up in India, Buddhism seemed, on the contrary, strictly a Western import. He had no curiosity about it until he saw American and Europeans coming to India specifically to study it. Mishra’s interest deepened when he visited America and observed Buddhist practitioners devoting themselves to socially conscious endeavors. Still he wondered, what was he to Buddhism or Buddhism to him.”

This book then is about Mishra’s experience of gradually learning what Buddhism was to him. By the end of the book, he suggests “Buddhism might offer an antidote for the world’s malaise.”

Even for those of us who have some background in Buddhism, Mishra offers fresh insights. He writes about the life of Sakyamuni Buddha as he visits the places that were significant in his life, but in doing so he often adds interesting bits that we have not heard before. And rather than gaining his understanding through traditional methods like studying sutras or studying under Buddhist gurus, he takes a unique approach of studying the works of selected Western thinkers – Emerson, Thoreau, Nietzsche, etc. – who point him toward understanding what Buddhism could offer to individuals and to America.

- End

2005 WLA OBON FESTIVAL AND ODORI

July 30-31, 2005

COMMITTEES (* = chairperson)

GENERAL CHAIRPERSONS	Tosh Ishioka*, Glenn Bungo, Victor Naramura
Booth Construction	All organizations
Booth Construction Lunch	Chiyo Nishina*, BWA
Cleaning Crew	All organizations
Electrical	Ichiro Ouchi*, Hidemi Ohkawahira
Exhibits	Mas Sasaki
Odori Dressers	Kay Kafka, Sumiko Kimura, Sayoko Yamanaka
Odori Drummers	Eddie Nakamura, Bob Ishikawa, Tsuyoshi Yahata
Odori Instructors	Grace Mizushima*, Dharma School Staff
Odori M. C.	Dr. Jack Fujimoto
Odori Monitors	John Ikkanda*, Tom Endo, Sei Shohara
Odori Practice Refreshments	Chiyo Nitta*, All organizations
P. A. System	Vance Nishimoto
Parking (Trident Center)	Sei Shohara
Permits: City, Fire, Health	Tosh Ishioka
Publicity: Newspaper	Beverly Yahata
Publicity: Posters	Dorothy Ikkanda
Raffle	Roy Higa*, Itsy Higa, Nob & Lily Kamibayashi, Hajime & Yukiko Nonoguchi, Joe & Miki Uyeda
Raffle Tickets: Printing	Dorothy Ikkanda
Raffle Tickets: Mailing	Alice Umeda, Tussy Umeda
Security	Tom Ikkanda
Signs: Booth	Jim Shimomaye*, YBA
Signs: Direction	Sei Shohara
Signs: Obon and Parking	Ted Takahashi
Tea	Dorothy Ikkanda
Tickets (Comp) Printing	Sei Shohara
Toilets (Portable)	Tom Ikkanda
Trash Bags (Purchase)	Akira Nishimoto, Hidemi Ohkawahira
Trash Dumpster	Tom Ikkanda
Treasurers	Kei Okamoto *, Mike Hara, Dennis Mori, Tak Morimoto, Ted Takahashi
Yagura Construction	Akira Nishimoto*, Hidemi Ohkawahira
Yagura Decoration	Jim Shimomaye*, YABA

BOOTHS

Booth	Organization	Chairpersons
BEEF TERIYAKI	Jr. YBA	Jim Shimomaye
BEER	Buddhist Men	Sho Matsumi, Milton Iwamoto
BINGO	Temple	Bob Fujimoto
CHICKEN TERIYAKI	YBA	Jim Shimomaye
DOUGH BALL	YBA	Jim Shimomaye
FISH BOWL	Temple (L. A. Betsuin Hui Aikane)	Mas Sasaki
GAME 1		Connie Yahata
GAME 2		Okita, Judy
HOT DOG	Buddhist Men	Stanley Ikeda
ICE SHAVE	Taiko	Connie Yahata, Hidemi Ohkawahira
RING TOSS	PTC	Tracy Ohkawahira
SUSHI	BWA	Kazuko Seike
SOFT DRINKS	Dharma School	Betty Takahashi*, Hidemi Ohkawahira
UDON	Buddhist Men	Sam Hada
WONTON/ CHICKEN WING	Asoka Fujinkai	Noriko Matsumoto



SOUTHERN DISTRICT OBON ODORI SCHEDULES

(Note: Arizona is missing from this list because its odori was held before this issue was mailed.)

Gardena	Aug 6, 7; 6:00 pm	San Luis Obispo	Aug 6; 6:30 pm
Guadalupe	Jul 24; 3:00 pm	Senshin	Jul 2; 7:00 pm
Los Angeles	Jul 9, 10; 6:30 pm	Venice	Jul 16, 17; 6:30 pm
Orange County	Jul 16, 17; 7:00 pm	Vista	Jul 23, 24; 6:30 pm
Oxnard	Jul 9; 6:00 and 8:00 pm	West Los Angeles	Jul 30, 31; 6:30 pm
Pasadena	Jul 16, 17; 7:00 pm	Los Angeles (Higashi)	Jul 23, 24; 6:30 pm
San Diego	Jul 30; 5:30 pm	West Covina (Higashi)	Jul 2, 7:00 pm
San Fernando Valley	Jul 23, 24; 7:00 pm	Las Vegas Sangha	Aug 13



OBON2005 T-Shirt Drive Order Form

A fund-raiser of the Southern District Junior Young Buddhist League
sdjrybl.org

Dear friends and family,

Thank you for your support of the Southern District Jr. Young Buddhist League's annual fund-raiser. Your contributions to the T-shirt drive will help support and enhance the league's religious programs, seminars, conferences, and overall operations of the organization. The Obon T-Shirts will be available in time for this summer's Obon festivals in Southern California. Please use this form to order your T-shirts and thanks again for your support!

In gassho,

Melissa Nishimura, 2004-5 SD Jr. YBL President
Sen Sugano, Fund-raiser Chairman
Jim Shimomaye, 2004-5 SD Jr. YBL Head Advisor



Questions? Comments?
Contact Sen Sugano at 562.622.5585
sensugano@gmail.com
or Jim Shimomaye at 310.210.2407
jimshim@mac.com

Please make check payable to:
"SDJrYBL"
Send check and form to
2005 OBON T-Shirt Drive
c/o Sen Sugano
9210 Stoakes Avenue
Downey, CA 90240

See actual design in color at sdjrybl.org
100% Cotton Hanes Beefy-T
Please order by July 15, 2005
Southern District Obon dates on shirt
Free shipping included!

(please print clearly and cut along dotted line.)

	Quantity								@ \$15 each =
	Size	X-SM	SM	MED	LG	X-LG	XX-LG	Total Qty.	Total \$
First Name		Last Name							
Mailing Address (No P.O. Boxes please)									
City			State			Zip Code			
Phone Number					Email Address				

WEST LA TAIKO NEWS Rev. Fumiaki Usuki

Well, it has been five months since starting our new and exciting taiko class and things are going better than expected. Everyone is having lots of fun and getting great exercise. Our teachers, **Audrey Nakasone**, **Elaine Fukumoto** and **Joyce Layne** have provided wonderful and stimulating lessons. Many temple organizations and members have also come forward with donations and we are extremely grateful. One surprise came from **Chico** and **Isabelle Jimenez** who are not only sharing their expertise on taiko-making with us, but have also donated their prized and just completed Odaiko (large taiko) to West LA Taiko (see photo).



Work on our new taiko drums is coming along. So far, we have completed five barrels and are ready to put on the skins. Five more barrels have been ordered. **Rev. Usuki, Ichiro Uchi and Mas Sasaki** are putting in long hours in the garage making them.



We hope to have ten taikos ready by Obon so the students can perform. This is so exciting and the teachers are getting the students ready for fun with invigorating numbers. The Saturday and Sunday performances will begin at 5:30 pm so make sure you find a good seat.

West LA Taiko will also run game and shaved ice booths at the Obon festival so please come

and support us. If anyone would like to help in these booths please contact the office. We can always use volunteers for other booths as well.

Any organization or individual who wishes to sponsor a taiko drum can do so for a donation of \$1,000 for full sponsorship, and the donor's name will be appropriately and permanently inscribed on one taiko. Shared sponsorships of \$500 and \$250 are also available. We hope to use this money for more taiko, practice room improvement and other equipment, and to make our taiko class available to everyone in the community whether three years old or? You can come to the class anytime – there is no prerequisite. Classes are held each Wednesday at 7:30 pm. Just bring a smiling face and be ready to sweat!

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

Rev. Usuki has asked if the *Bulletin* can go back on a monthly schedule.

At one time, we were on a monthly schedule. The WLA Board decided to go on a bimonthly schedule when no one would fill in for key people who were scheduled to go overseas for three weeks during the period the *Bulletin* would have to be put together.

In order to start moving toward the goal of a monthly *Bulletin*, we will proceed in steps necessary to go back to a monthly schedule. These first steps include:

1. Expansion of the *Bulletin* staff so that the absence of key people for short periods doesn't prevent an issue from being published.
2. News "correspondents" get their articles in regularly ON TIME without being reminded.

To start an experimental period where these first steps can be "tested",

1. Meetings will take place to see if an expanded staff can be put together.
2. Hereafter, the standing DEADLINE for inputs from all correspondents and other article contributors will be the **15TH OF THE BIMONTHLY PUBLICATION MONTH** with no grace period. There are very good reasons behind the choice of this deadline but we do not have the space here to explain them.

Bingo

July: During both days of Obon

August: 19th, 7:30 pm

Have fun while supporting the Temple.

JULY SHOTSUKI HOYO

Deceased:	Remembered By:
Iyo Ono	Catherine Marshall
Miyuki Yukawa	" "
Ben Izuhara	Masayo Izuhara
Kikuo Nishi	Dorothy Rutkin
Ayame Watarida	Betty Takahashi
Sankichi Mayeda	Rev. Ben Mayeda
Shinkichi Tanabe	" " "
Kimiyo Mayeda	" " "
Saichi Hada	Isamu Hada
Sato Tanaka	Nobu Misono
Misu Kuramoto	Yoshiye Kuramoto
Tominosuke Ozamoto	George Ozamoto
Satoye Kikuma	Matsuo Shimomaye
Shio Nakagawa	Reiko Nakamura
James Nakamura	" "
Haruo Ishihara	Haruko Ishihara
Masamitsu Iwasaki	Chitoko Iwasaki
Shimano Harada	Masayoshi Harada
Shimo Kajiwara	Shinobu Narahara
Fusajiro Toya	Yukiko Sakurai
Fusajiro Toya	Grace Fujimoto
Natsuko Takemoto	Toshiko Shimano
Robert Maruyama	Masaye Maruyama
Shigecko Takemoto	" "
Ryuhachi Tochioka	Noriko Tochioka
Shigecko Fujihiro	Eddie Fujihiro
Taizo Deguchi	Masako Nekoda
Kotsuyu Arimoto	Hideko Yamaji
Eddie Nagao	Denise Louie
Mary Nagao	" "
Minosuke Ikeda	Mifu Sakamoto
Fuye Ikeda	" "
James Tashima	Harry Tashima
Kuniye Yahata	Neal Yahata
Kuniye Yahata	June Fujioka
Kito Nishimoto	Tatsuo Kamitsubo
Ayako Kamitsubo	" "
Kito Nishimoto	Shinkichi Koyama
Ayako Kamitsubo	" "
Tomoo Otani	Shigeyoshi Miyoshi
Chiyo Matsumoto	Robert Matsumoto
Asako Kishi	Hiroko Endo
Ikutaro Hayashi	Shizuko Hayashi
Shigecko Kato	Takao Iwamoto
Ben Fujisawa	Yoshitaka Fujisawa
Terry Osumi	William Osumi
Ume Fujimoto	Robert Fujimoto
Fred Kaizuka	Allan Kaizuka
Masayuki Uto	Ritsuko Uto
Yoshio Nishikawa	Fumiko Nishikawa
Masaki Tanaka	Margie Nakamura
Katsumi Nishikawa	Linda Johnston
Kanenori Suzuki	Sumiye Suzuki
Sumiko Oshinomi	Craig Oshinomi
Henry Nunokawa	Emiko Nunokawa
Zenichi Teruya	Dorothy Teruya
Yuriko Morioka	Hisako Masuda
Frank Inabu	Kimi Inabu
Toshio Nakamura	Joseph Bodnar
Toshio Nakamura	Robin Bodnar
Kenso Kiyohiro	Shizue Kiyohiro
Matsuki Matsui	Toshiko Matsui
Grace Tonai	Richard Tonai
Evelyn Sumida	Harry Sumida
Takashi Shitamoto	Yoshie Shitamoto
Kazuma Kurosaki	Fusaye Kurosaki
Kosue Niida	Bob Niida
Larry Takahashi	Miyoye Takahashi

AUGUST SHOTSUKI HOYO

Deceased:	Remembered By:
Yomi Uyekubo	Ichiro Uyekubo
Kuichi Uyekubo	" "
Hiroshi Kamibayashi	Lily Nagatoshi
Mamoru Kamibayashi	" "
Hanbei Kamibayashi	" "
Kazuye Kamibayashi	" "
Yuriko Nishikawa	Dorothy Nakayu
Yoshiko Hada	Toshiko Sakamoto
Kiyoko Hada	" "
Hikoichi Hada	" "
Chizuko Hara	Mike Hara
Mitsuye Mukai	Itsuo Mukai
Mitsuye Mukai	Hajime Mukai
Fuyutaro Takayama	Alyce Shinmoto
Satsu Marumoto	Tsutomu Marumoto
Sankuma Kakimoto	Miyo Ohara
Mineshi Ohara	" "
Kiyo Onami	Stanley Onami
Tadashi Onami	" "
Hisataro Kiriyaama	Taketo Kiriyaama
Hatsuse Yoshida	Makoto Yoshida
Koura Satake	Ted Tanaka
Motochika Miyata	Tatsuye Miyata
Momoye Sakata	Kaoru Sakata
Yoshihiko Totani	Tomio Totani
Hisao Nunokawa	Tetsuo Nunokawa
Hisao Nunokawa	Yasuko Nunokawa
Masao Nishina	Fumio Nishina
Kichiemon Ouchi	Ichiro Ouchi
Takumi Kuramoto	Fumie Kuramoto
Yoshino Yamamoto	Ikuko Yamamoto
Jim Nakamura	Jeanne Yamaguchi
Seiji Maruyama	Masaye Maruyama
Masaru Sasaki	Hisaye Sasaki
Chizuko Ishihara	George Ishihara
Miyoko Shimomaye	Shinobu Shimomaye
Kinuko Ifuku	George Ozamoto
Ryoichi Narahara	Shinobu Narahara
Pier Murakami	Katsumi Murakami
Ichiro Sasaki	Shigeto Sasaki
Ichiro Sasaki	Masao Sasaki
Ichiro Sasaki	Sayo Sasaki
Hisano Ohashi	Shizue Naramura
Hisano Ohashi	Kaye Okitsu
Tsuru Yamauchi	Sakiko Broeske
Sanami Yukawa	Catherine Marshall
Tetsu Tanaka	Leo Tanaka
Frank Kushida	Keiko Kushida
Sensuke Baba	Matsumi Baba
Nobu Baba	" "
Aiko Deguchi	Masako Nekoda
Hideo Ishii	Shigemitsu Ishii
Kajuro Tsuruzawa	Yoshiko Iwashita
Teru Yanokawa	Mary Yanokawa
Kikuye Mayetani	Raymond Mayetani
Kiku Hanazono	Sam Nishida
Michiko Kawamura	Takeshi Kawahara
Rikio Tanaka	Yaeko Tanaka
Sasami Maeda	Arnold Maeda
Masuko Takimoto	Martha Suyetsugu
Paul Umeda	Junko Umeda
Sylvia Stambul	Richard Stambul
Yukio Ozaki	Michiyo Ozaki
Matuko Shirasawa	Ayako Masada
Koharu Nakamura	Lucille Johnson
Haruko Yoshiwara	Ben Yamanaka
Morisada Muramatsu	Jimmy Muramatsu
Yaye Kondo	Ray Kondo
Masaru Sunada	Alice Umeda
Kisayo Nakamura	Joseph Bodnar
Kisayo Nakamura	Robin Bodnar
Harold Yoshikawa	Marcia Yoshikawa
Jack Nakashima	George Nakashima

BITS & PIECES

Our energetic **Rev. Usuki** was recently seen putting up several 'bulletin boards' in the social hall. Temple and organization news and pictures can soon be posted. Members will be aware of the activities and will be able to participate instead of finding out after the event.

Following the June Gourmet Academy a group was crowded around a book case. The 'book case' happened to be filled with video tapes! The story goes: **Tom Ikkanda** had heard that very nice and usable furniture was being do-

nated from the Sunada house. Creative **Tom** got a bookcase and fixed it to fit video tapes. He finished it off nicely and filled the shelves with a hundred or so tapes. **Alice Umeda** is the source of many tapes as was the late **Mr. Masaru Sunada**.

Tom is seen riding about WLA on his red scooter. He may not be able to walk around WLA but he certainly can manage to stand for hours doing wood work in his garage.

Thanks to one and all!



Southern District Newsletter

Spring

Published by the Southern District Buddhist Education Council

2005

S.D. Council Chairman Report

Next month marks the halfway point of 2005. All temples in the Southern District continue to work hard in making the year a successful one. I deeply appreciate your efforts and support.

We welcome Rev. Yushi Mukojima and his wife as newly assigned minister to the Buddhist Temple of San Diego. All of us look forward to working with you.

Congratulations. The Venice Dharma School will be observing its 50th Anniversary on May 22, 2005. May you have many more anniversaries to come.

The BCA Ministers' Fuken will be held in Southern District, August 15-18, 2005.

The last week of August begins the Los Angeles Betsuin's Centennial Celebration. It will include the Gomonshu and Sosai-sama's visit, Kikyoshiki, Centennial Services and many other activities. All Southern District temples are historically and broadly connected to the Los Angeles Betsuin. Congratulations on this most auspicious milestone.

The one day National Board Meeting will be in San Francisco on June 4, 2005. SD Representatives and others will be attending.

Something to think about: "Buddha always appears before all those capable of realizing the Truth."

Gassho,
Seiko Tamura

Dharma School

For the past year, the SDDSTL (Southern District Dharma School Teachers League), planned and prepared for the 54th FDSTL (Federation of Dharma School Teachers League) Conference, that was held at the Renaissance Los Angeles Airport Hotel, April 29th – May 1st, 2005. Our theme was, "The question is not whether it is true or not, but what does it mean?" Socho and Mrs. Koshin Ogui attended, as well as 185 teachers and ministers, including delegates from Hawaii and Canada. The Dharmathon icebreaker that followed the opening omaini was a spectacular hit. The district captains (presidents) and teams really got into the swing of things, including the delegates in the audience. The afternoon workshop leaders and assigned ministers helped make the discussion sessions a success. The evening hands-on workshops were varied and fun and definitely helped round out the total conference for all the delegates. A big thank you to everyone who worked tirelessly for many long hours getting it all together.

Nancy Tamehiro
President

Jr. YBA News

Since January, the S.D. Jr. YBA has been very active. Some of the activities and events they have been involved in are:

WYBL Leadership Workshop at the San Jose Betsuin, Jan. 15.

S.D. Leadership Retreat at the West LA Temple, Jan. 22-23.

Seminar I – Hosted by Gardena, on Feb. 5.

Volleyball Tournament – Held at Orange County on Feb. 19.

Rock-n-bowl, hosted by Venice, on March 5.

Co-ed Basketball Tournament – Held at Orange County on March 19.

WYBL Conference held at Sacramento, March 25-27.

Seminar II – Hosted by Senshin and Higashi at the Higashi Betsuin, April 23.

Upcoming Events are:

Seminar III (Retreat) at Camp Morningstar, hosted by Nishi, June 24-25.

Conference – Hosted by OCBC, on Sept. 2-4 at the Anaheim Hilton in conjunction with the S.D. Family Conference.

Dharma Message by Rev. Koken

Torimi, L.A. Betsuin

Today I would like to reflect on the theme of the Buddhist Federation's Hanamatsuri for this year, "War, Peace, and the Buddha's Wish."

My home town, the village of Ishido, in Nara, Japan, has one small cemetery. At that cemetery, there are many tombstones for individual families. Also at that cemetery, there are about 15 really tall gravestones. When I was small, I didn't know their significance. But when I became older, in Junior High School, I came to understand that those large gravestones were for the young soldiers who had died during World War II.

Most of those soldiers were very young, in their early twenties or some even teenagers. I was shocked to see their ages, because they were very close to my own age. They went to the war from my small village, and most of them died on islands in the Pacific. Others died in China or other places in Southeast Asia.

Now, when I visit that cemetery, I think deeply about the meaning of their young lives and deaths. Whenever I travel, I have visited cemeteries like the Base Presidio in San Francisco, and Arlington Cemetery and the 442 Monument in Washington, D.C. When I visited the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and also President Kennedy's gravesite, they seemed to be telling me something. I think they are all Buddha. They are all basking in the sun together and enjoying chatting under the ground. There are no borders and no wars under the gravesites. We must realize that human beings should not fight with selfish attachment to nationality, ideology, religion, or money.

My grandfather on my mother's side was also drafted by the Japanese Army after my mother was born. During the war, he couldn't come home for five years. Most of the time, he was in Southeast Asia. Once he almost died because of malaria. He said later, however, that if he had not gotten malaria at that time, he probably would've died in the battlefield. There were also a great amount of deaths while aboard the transport ships.

My wife's mother was born in 1940, in Beijing, China, because her father had business there. When the war ended, my wife's mother was just four years old. Her older sister died just one week before the war ended because of a high fever. At that time, because of the chaos and difficulty in Beijing, and because her mother was pregnant, the family could not even have a funeral service, despite their deep grief. (cont. on page 2.)

My wife's mother's family, Father, pregnant mother, and four year old daughter, miraculously were able to leave Beijing. The father, because he had lost his left arm in an accident, was treated as a handicapped person, so they were able to take a train from Beijing to a sea port. On the way to the sea port, soldiers of the Soviet Union stopped the train and tried to find soldiers of the Japanese Army or to take valuable treasures. My mother-in-law, although she was only four years old, said that she will never forget the scene of Soviet soldiers putting their rifles right into the train compartments or through the windows, pointing them at people inside.

No doubt they could have easily been killed, as they saw many pools of blood at the train station. Or, very easily, my mother-in-law could have been orphaned there, in China. There were many Japanese orphans left in China after the war. If my mother-in-law had died in China or had become orphaned there, my wife would never have been born and we would not have been married and my own daughter would not have been born. If there were not wars in this world, perhaps there would be the lives of many more people now.

War makes people crazy. In general, to murder is a crime. But during war, people call soldiers who kill many people heroes. Even in one day, many lives can be lost by bombing.

For example, on March 10, 1945, in Tokyo, the U.S. Air Force made an air attack. Do you know how many people died in one day? More than 100,000 people were killed. Hiroshima's atomic bomb killed 150,000 people, and the Nagasaki atomic bomb killed 75,000 people. Many of the victims were children, too. In the summer of 1945, the transport ship, Tsushima-Maru was attacked by a U.S. submarine and sunk. On that ship, 755 children who had escaped from Okinawa to Kyushu were killed. Actually, in Okinawa, more than 150,000 citizens were killed. That is the reality of war.

War is ridiculous. The Japanese army did very bad things in Asia too. Even Japanese Buddhist monks and ministers were drafted and went to the battlefields with rifles to kill someone. Only a few of those objected to the war, but they were caught and put into jail.

I don't have any personal experience of war. But when I have visited my home temple's member's homes for memorial services, I have heard so many stories about the war by many elderly Ojiichans and Obaachans. So many people lost their family members during the war. Some were killed as soldiers while others died by air attacks or by the atomic bomb.

I have chanted sutras together with these Ojiichans and Obaachans with pictures of their deceased loved ones uncountable times. When I think about these Ojiichans and Obaachans, I realize that many of them who have told me these stories have also now passed away within the last five years. They always used to tell me, "War is bad. No more war." It is a very simple message, but I feel them very deeply because I have heard it from their sincere voices directly. I think that to speak about "Peace" is my duty as a Buddhist minister. I believe that it is also the wish of these many Ojiichans and Obaachans as well.

Peace is wonderful. But the politicians who create wars are not good leaders. War is often a money making business or for other dirty and nasty reasons.

This year for the Buddhist Federation Hanamatsuri, I brought up the idea to have essays along with art contests for children. 19 children wrote essays based on the theme, "War, Peace, and the Buddha's Wish." They were 11 and 12 year old boys and girls.

After I read their essays, I was very impressed. They wrote essays with all their might very sincerely. I cannot share all the essays at this time, but let me summarize their essays by saying that the children wrote that before they had never thought about war and peace. Now, after writing the essay they think more deeply about war and peace.

The children expressed how they hope that there would be no wars between countries, or strife within families, within cities, because of drugs, etc.

I was also impressed with the children's concerns for environmental issues. They have great eyes to watch the world. They worry about what happens between people, mother nature, and our earth.

Since today is Mother's Day, may I conclude with the following:

"All mothers wish that their children live in peace and safety.

No mother wants to send their children to battlefields.

Our parenting Buddha, Amida Buddha, also wishes that all people and the world to be safe.

This Buddha's mind transcends any differences.

It is beyond man or woman.

It is beyond young or old, mature or immature.

It is beyond time and place.

This Buddha's peaceful wish is all contained, in the Nembutsu, Namo Amida Butsu.

May the Nembutsu be spread to the whole world.

Namo Amida Butsu

Rev. Koken Torimi

Southern District Family Conf. 2005

"Namamidabutsu, For All People of All Ages."

Please reserve the dates, Sept 2-4, 2005, Labor Day Weekend, to attend the Southern District Family Conference 2005. This family conference will include the annual S.D. Jr. YBL conference, the S.D. BWA conference, the S.D. Adult conference, and the S.D. Dharma School Teachers conference, all combined into an all ages conference that should be an event for the whole family.

The weekend will be highlighted by Dharma talks given by Socho Koshin Ogui, Bishop of our Buddhist Churches of America, Dr. Taitetsu Unno, author of "River of Fire, River of Water" and "Bits of Rubble Turn to Gold", Rev. Ryoso Toshima of the Honolulu Betsuin, Rev. Bob Oshita of the Sacramento Betsuin, along with many of our own Southern District ministers.

On Saturday evening, after the banquet there will be a variety of entertaining activities, including a dance with a live band, Music Company, with featured singer, "Mariko", and Japanese karaoke entertainment by a wonderful unknown talent, Michael Endo of the BCA.

The conference will be held at the Anaheim Hilton, located just blocks from Disneyland. Conference rate for hotel rooms are a reasonable \$89 per night.

Registration packets have been distributed to all Southern District temples. Please pick up a registration packet at your local temple and make plans for your entire family to attend. Jr. YBA chapters and BWA chapters only will be registering as groups.

There will be activities and workshops for Sangha Teens and for Dharma School children, in addition to the adult ages lectures and workshops.

The opening service will feature a special video presentation, and the closing service will feature an "all music" format.

For additional information, contact the Orange County Buddhist Church office, 714-827-9590.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
No Bulletin <h1 style="text-align: center;">JULY 2005</h1> Office hours: 10 am – 4 pm Phone: 310-477-7274 E-mail: westlabt@verizon.net		Practice Refreshment Toban Schedule June 28 BWA 30 PTC July 5 Asoka 7 Temple		July 12 Bud Men 14 BWA 19 Temple 21 Temple		1 7:30 pm Shotsuki Hoyo	2 7:30 pm Rev. Usuki at Vista Obon Service
3 9:30 am Sunday Service/Dharma School/ Study Class (E)	4 OFFICE CLOSED	5 7:30 – 9 pm Bon Odori Practice Rev. Usuki to BCA Youth Retreat at SAC	6 7:30 pm Taiko	7 1 pm Study Class-(E) 7:30 – 9 pm Bon Odori Practice	8	9 Obon Cemetery Service: 9:30 am Woodlawn 11:15 am Inglewood	
10 9:30 am. HATSUBON/OBON SERVICE/DHARMA SCHOOL Toban: BWA	11 7:30 pm Temple Board Meeting	12 10 am SD Ministers Mtg at LA Betsuin 7:30 – 9 pm Bon Odori Practice	13 7:30 pm Taiko	14 1 pm Study Class-(E) 6 pm WLA BEC Mtg 7:30 – 9 pm Bon Odori Practice 7:30 pm Bud Men Mtg	15	16	
17 9:30 am Sunday Service/Dharma School/ Study Class (E) 12 Noon BWA Service and Mtg (brown bag it)	18	19 7:30 – 9 pm Bon Odori Practice	20 7:30 pm Taiko	21 1 pm Study Class-(E) 7:30 – 9 pm Bon Odori Practice	22	23 7 pm Obon Tent Set-up	
Rev. Usuki at Gardena Obon Service 8 am Garden Clean-Up & Booth Construction Lunch <hr/> 3 – 9 pm OBON FESTIVAL 5 pm Kinnara Taiko, 5:30 pm WLA Taiko 6:30 pm BON ODORI	24 25	26	27 7:30 pm Taiko 7:30 pm Asoka Fujinkai Mtg	28 1 pm Study Class-(E)	29	30 5 – 10 pm OBON FESTIVAL 5:30 pm WLA TAIKO 6:30 pm BON ODORI	
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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
NO SUNDAY SERVICES NO TAIKO NO STUDY CLASS	1 7 pm General Take-Down	2 7 pm Clean up	3	4	5 7:30 pm Shotsuki Hoyo	6 6 pm Bud Men Appreciation Dinner
7	8 7:30 pm Board Meeting	9	10	11 7:30 pm Bud Men Mtg	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19 7:30 pm BINGO	20
		August 15-18 BCA Ministers Summer Fuken at Los Angeles Betsuin			Aug 19-25 Rev. Usuki Vacation	
21 1 pm BWA Mtg	22	23	24 7:30 pm Asoka Fujinkai Mtg	25	26	27
Aug 19 - 25 Rev. Usuki Vacation				LA Betsuin Centennial		
28	29 80 Plus Lunch 12 Noon	30	31	AUGUST 2005 Office hours: 10 am – 4 pm Phone 310-477-7274 E-mail: westlabt@verizon.net Bulletin Folding Toban: Buddhist Men		
Los Angeles Betsuin Centennial						