

Betsuin Jiho

No. 378

November-December, 2006

www.nishihongwanji-la.org

Phone (213) 680-9130 • FAX (213) 680-2210



INURNMENT SERVICE

Betsuin ministers toss *keha* (paper bodhi leaves) during the Inurnment Service where attendees transferred the ashes of loved ones to the Muryokoku-do, the new *nokotsu-do*.

BETSUIN WELCOMES REV. YASUNORI TERUOKA

Rev. Teruoka [aka: "Teru Sensei"] comes to the Betsuin from the Tri-State Denver Buddhist Temple in Colorado.

Q: When did you come to the U.S. and at what temple(s) were you at?

A: I arrived in the U.S. on November 26, 2002. I was assigned to the Tri-State Denver Buddhist Temple of Colorado at Jan 1, 2003.

Q: Where in Japan are you from?

A: I was born in 1976 in Kagoshima-ken.

Q: Do you come from a temple family?

A: Yes, my father and grandfather are also Buddhist priests.

Q: Does your mother come from a temple family?

A: Yes, she does. She came from Hiroshima temple family.

Q: Do you have any siblings? What do they do?

A: Yes, I have. I have two older brothers and one younger sister. Oldest

see TERUOKA/ page 3



LA BETSUIN BWA MEMBERS ATTEND 13TH WORLD CONVENTION

by Ernest Hida

ALOHA!

With this Hawaiian spirit, Rimban George, Mrs Kay Matsubayashi and BWA President Mrs Tsuruko Iwohara led a delegation of 70 members to the 13th World Buddhist Women's Convention in Honolulu, Hawaii. (see photos on page 2)

The members (BWA members, spouses and friends) of the delegation were from the LA Betsuin, Venice, West LA, Gardena, Fowler, Watsonville Buddhist Temples, and the Seattle Betsuin. Also included in this delegation were current and retired ministers: Rev. & Mrs John Iwohara, Rev. & Mrs Sensho Inouye, Rev. & Mrs Seikan Fukuma, Rev. & Mrs Harold Oda and Rev. & Mrs Tetsunen Hirota.

The 13th World BWA Convention was hosted by the BWA of the Hawaii Kyodan at the expansive Honolulu Convention Center with approximately 4,000 in attendance.

During the Opening Service, Lady Noriko Ohtani, the Honorary President of the BWA, gave the opening remarks and welcomed all the delegates to this Convention. (See photo and interview of

see HAWAII/ page 2

INTEGRATION OF TEMPLE STRUCTURE, GARDEN, AND PARKING LOT...

*Completion of Construction to be
Celebrated As Part of Our Eitaikyo Service*

by George T. Matsubayashi, Rimban



Until now, our Los Angeles Betsuin Buddhist Temple structure, our garden, and our parking lots had been divided because of Banning Street (the dead-end alley between our Multi-Purpose Hall and the parking lots). That is, our temple compound used to be divided into three parts: a central area on which our temple stands, a northern site, and a western site.

Since purchase of the northern site during 1976, and purchase of the western site during 1999, we have petitioned the Los Angeles City Council to evacuate the unused Banning Street alley and transfer its title to us so our temple compound would be one unified whole. From about four years ago, while planning for our Centennial Celebration, we intensified our efforts in this direction. During October of last year, the council finally approved our request, and the rights to the Banning Street alley area were formally transferred to us.

Since then, we have requested and received permits to install drain pipes, remodel the catch basin, grade and prepare the land, etc. Work to remove Banning Street began on August 15th of this year. As I am writing this article, the preliminary work has almost been completed and all that remains is preparing the soil and constructing a foundation for the fence gates. When that is done, the adjoining sites that had previously been three separate parts will be one united whole.

Temple main structure was completed during 1969, and our Kaikan Multi-Purpose Hall was completed during 1976. We purchase the northern site for use a parking lot during that time, but it proved to be inadequate to accommo-

date all the cars during our busiest times. Then, during 1993, we were most fortunate and honored to receive a donation from the late former Monshu, the Honorable Monshu-Emeritus Ohtani Kosho, and his wife, Lady Ohtani Yoshiko, the late former Urakata, that enabled us to purchase the additional land on the northern site. This was two years before we celebrated our 95th year of existence.

Because of this unexpected and most gracious gift from the former Gomonshu-sama and Ourakata-sama for which we are most unworthy, we were able to purchase six lots next to the northern site on September 1st of that year, almost doubling the amount of space for our parking lot. This large increase in land fostered the possibility of constructing a *Nokotsu-do* in the near future, an addition greatly desired by our temple members.

During 1999, we were fortunate to acquire the western site, further raising hopes of constructing a *Nokotsu-do*. Six years later, during 2005, that hope was actualized as the *Memorial Chapel of Immeasurable Light and Life*, part of our Centennial Celebration. The dedication of that structure on August 28th of last year is a source of joy and happiness that will last for our lifetime.

And now, a year later, work on Banning Street so our temple compound will be one unified whole, is about to be completed. I cannot fully express the great joy that I feel about this, but it will be celebrated as part of our Annual Eitaikyo Service on November 19th (Sunday), starting at 10:00 AM.

As I am sure you are aware, Eitaikyo Services are conducted every year at all Jodo-Shinshu Buddhist temples. The term Eitaikyo is abbreviation for "Eitai Dokyo", which means, "chanting sutras in perpetuity." That, in turn, is short for "conducting memorial services in per-



Banning Street, cleared and soon will connect the three sections of the L.A. Betsuin property.

BETSUIN SCHEDULE

EITAIKYO SERVICES

PERPETUAL MEMORIAL FOR THE DECEASED

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18th
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19th

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

NOVEMBER 19th

OSEIBO KANSHA

DECEMBER 17th

JOYA-E, YEAR-END SERVICE

DECEMBER 31st

SHUSHO-E, NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE

JANUARY 1st

KOHAKU UTAGASSEN

JANUARY 7th





13TH WORLD BUDDHIST WOMEN'S CONVENTION HONOLULU, HAWAII

LADY NORIKO OHTANI INTERVIEWED

The following is an excerpt from the September 1, 2006 issue of the Honolulu Advertiser.

Buddhists seek younger members

by Mary Kaye Ritz-- Religion & Ethics Writer

Lady Noriko Ohtani, during a rare English-translated interview with The Advertiser at the Honpa Hongwanji yesterday, says she sees more women coming into Buddhist leadership.

As thousands of Buddhist women gathered in Honolulu for the World Buddhist Women's Convention this week, the Lady Noriko Ohtani, president of the sponsoring organization, said Buddhists worldwide need to reach out to younger members.

Ohtani, president of the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha World Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations, gently held her purple *nenju*, occasionally patting the silken tassel as she fielded questions. As wife of the *Monshu* Koshin Ohtani, head of the Jodo Shinshu Nishi Hongwanji sect, she's married to a direct descendant of Shinran Shonin (1173-1272), the founder of the *Jodo Shinshu* denomination, which includes Hawai'i's largest Buddhist organization, the Honpa Hongwanji.

The number of women involved in Buddhist women's organizations has dropped almost in half in the past 25 years, yet the numbers of women ministers is on the rise, to nearly one in four, Ohtani noted. She motioned to a robed priest for the latest data: 24 percent of the priesthood is female, though only 2.8 percent of these women hold top positions in the religious leadership.

"However, I foresee more women coming into leadership," Ohtani said in a rare English-translated interview.

The sect is not experiencing the same decline in numbers of Buddhists in Japan as Hawai'i is, Ohtani said; however, the population in general is getting older.

"The average age of women members may be rising," she said. "So generally speaking, (the) traditional Buddhist order seems to be experiencing the same thing (as Hawai'i is).

"Up to this point, it was relatively simple for younger women to take over the organization. Now it requires more effort on our part to reach out to them."

Ordination studies for *Jodo Shinshu* take place on the Mainland and in Japan. English correspondence courses are being improved, she said, and in Berkeley, California, a Center for Buddhist Studies has begun operating as a center of *Jodo Shinshu* study for the United States.

The group is encouraging temples to reach out to younger women by offering dharma messages that are relevant to them — "not necessarily stiff, doctrinal messages or lectures," Ohtani said.

A mother of four, Ohtani said, through translator the Rev. Thomas R. Okano, that she tried to bring up

see OHTANI/ page 4



Lady Noriko Ohtani (wife of Gomonshu Koshin Ohtani) gives the opening message at the Opening Service of the 13th World Buddhist Women's Convention at the Hawaii Convention Center in Honolulu, Hawaii



L.A. Betsuin BWA members attend the Opening Service.



A luau in Kona, Hawaii



Kilauea Volcano, on the island of Hawaii



Maui's Famous Tasaka Guri Guri Ice Cream



Helen Takata gets a tattoo.



Rimban George Matsubayashi dons a grass skirt and does the hula.

ALO-HA!

CONVENTION

(continued from page 1)
Lady Ohtani on page 2)

Hawaii *Kyodan* Bishop, Chikai Yose-mori and the President of the Hawaii BWA also welcomed all delegates to their beautiful state of Hawaii. After the Opening Service, the convention program included a panel of speakers, representing *kyodans* from Japan, South America, Canada, United States (BCA) and Hawaii. The BCA representative was Rev. Patti Usuki of the San Fernando Buddhist Temple. All of the speakers gave inspiring messages.

After the *obento* lunch, all of the delegates were assigned to attend various workshops, including learning the hula, learning children's songs, learning Hawaiian songs, *sutra* chanting, making *kukui* nut wristlets, the history of the pineapple in Hawaii, and many more. All of the workshops were entertaining, educational, and informative.

The evening dinner banquet/program consisted of a steak dinner and Hawaiian cultural entertainment of *hula* and singing.

The second day of the convention consisted of a general meeting

with a presentation of the conclusions of the delegates meeting, the Closing Service, and an Aloha luncheon program.

During the Closing Service, the leaders of the Hawaii BWA presented the BWA flag to the leaders of the Japan BWA as the next host of the Convention in 2011 in Kyoto.

During the final program, it has been a tradition to have entertainment from members from each of the *kyodans*. Members from Japan danced traditional Japanese folk dances. The Canadian members sang folk songs. The Brazilian members danced the *Samba*. The BCA members did traditional Kagoshima folk dances. Finally, the Hawaii members, naturally, danced and sang Hawaiian songs.

Members from the various *kyodans* were assigned to each table and everyone had the opportunity to socialize, make new friends, and enjoy the traditional gift exchange. The finale of the program had everyone standing and singing the traditional Hawaiian fare-well song, *Aloha Oe*. Many of the

Hawaii members then lined up outside of the convention hall and said farewell to all departing attendees. Everyone agreed that this was a very well organized and smoothly-operated convention.

During the delegates' stay in Honolulu, many enjoyed the visit to the Honolulu *Betsuin* with greetings from *Rimban* Makino. There was also a city tour and a circle island tour.

After the convention, 50 members of the delegation stayed on for a tour of Maui and stayed at the Kaanapali Beach Resort for two nights. They visited Mt. Haleakala, Kula District, the lush Iao Valley, the ancient whaling port of Lahaina, and rode the historic Kaanapali Sugar Train from Kaanapali to Lahaina.

The highlight of the Maui tour was the visit to the Lahaina Hongwanji where the delegates dined on a *chicken hekka* dinner served by Rev & Mrs Kosho Yagi, temple president Mrs Aileen Kawaguchi-Cockett, and the BWA members and their spouses. Lahaina Hongwanji was served by see HAWAII/ page 4

BETSUIN CALENDAR

NOVEMBER

EITAIKYO SERVICES

- GUEST SPEAKER: REV. TETSUO UNNO,
 18 ENGLISH/JAPANESE 1:30 PM
 19 ENGLISH 10 AM
 JAPANESE 1:30 PM
 19 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 3:30 PM
 23 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY (BETSUIN CLOSED)

DECEMBER

- 3 TEMPLE CLEAN-UP
 10 BODHI DAY SERVICE (*Jodo-e*)
 17 OSEIBO KANSHA APPRECIATION SERVICE & PROGRAM 10:00 AM
 25 CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY (BETSUIN CLOSED)
 31 JOYA-E (NEW YEAR'S EVE SERVICE) 6:30 PM

JANUARY

- 1 SHUSHO-E (NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE) 10:00 AM.
 2 BETSUIN CLOSED
 7 35th KOHAKU UTAGASSEN 1:00 P.M.

NORITOSHI KANAI*Nisei Week Grand Marshal*NORITOSHI
KANAI

Noritoshi Kanai recently served as the Grand Marshal at the 2006 Nisei Week Festival Grand Parade. He is a Los Angeles *Betsuin Komon* (advisor) and has been a generous supporter of the *Betsuin*.

Mr. Kanai is the president of Mutual Trading Co. and has been hailed for bringing Japanese culinary culture to the United States.

Mr. Kanai, often called the "*Culinary Ambassador of Japan to the U.S.*," has made it possible for everyone in America to experience authentic Japanese culinary culture: *edamame, sushi, soba, udon, premium jizake*, and many other fine Japanese foods. Mr. Kanai introduced the Japanese culinary arts and the concept of a naturally healthy diet to the American marketplace. His innovations include the first *sushi* bar in America, the first *edamame*, and the first premium import *jizake*.

A strong proponent of the arts, music, and sports, over the years, Mr. Kanai has supported countless committees, events, and organizations. For his lifetime contributions serving the Japanese American commu-

see KANAI page 4

TERUOKA

(continued from page 1)

brother is going to inherit the family temple. And the second one is a stockbroker. My sister is working at an employment agency.

Q: Are you single or married?

A: I am single.

Q: Where did you train to be a minister?

A: I studied at Ryukoku University in Kyoto. From there, I attended Central Buddhist Academy (*Chuo Bukkyo Gakuin*) for two years. I then studied at Gonshiki Shido Sho, a vocational school that teaches how to chant sutras. After arriving in the U.S. I went through BCA orientation at the San Jose Buddhist Temple from November 26th through December 25th, 2002.

Q: How do you like Los Angeles so far?

A: It is difficult to answer this question, because I just started my assignment at the Betsuin from August 30th and I have not yet had time to enjoy L.A. Maybe after several months I will be able to answer this question. I would like recommendations as to what is "good" in L.A.

Q: What are your hobbies ...interests?

A: My hobby is playing billiards. When I play billiards, I am very serious. I am looking for a good place to play billiards in L.A. I also enjoy playing *mah-jong*, but I know that people here in the U.S. don't play *mah-jong*. I also like going to the movies.

Q: What kind of movies do you like?

A: I love fantasy movies.

Q: Have you done anything else besides working in a temple?

A: Not really. Until 2002 I was a student under the umbrella of Nishi-Hongwanji, Kyoto. I have also, at times, helped out at my home temple.

Q: What are your goals, now that you are here at the Los Angeles Betsuin?

A: My first goal is to get a permanent visa and I am working hard at learning all about the L.A. Betsuin.



photos by Koichi Sayano

Rev. Kenn Kozumi (left) and Rev. Ron Kobata (BCA Headquarters) serve as *Ohigan* Seminar speakers.



Jodo Shinshu Center in final stages of construction in Berkeley.

DID YOU KNOW?...

by Eiko Masuyama



A maintenance crew made up of Vance Ikkanda, Hisa Hamanaka, Kenji Hatakeyama, Ken Kawasaki, Seibi Okita, Ron Nakamura, Rick Taketomo, Roy Tanaka, Ray Fukumoto, Les Toguchi and others have been repairing and maintaining temple furniture and equipment over the years. A few years ago, when the temple purchased new, lighter tables, many of the older tables in need of repair were made usable by the "crew". Invisible while working, their resulting products are very visible and appreciated. Thank you all very much.

* * *

Rev. Y. Iwanaga, in 1932, conducted *Buyo* (Japanese classical dance) and *Bon Odori* instruction for members of Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. He went up and down California teaching at various Buddhist temples and was later assigned to Stockton Buddhist Temple (1936). A recital was held on February 27, 1932 at the Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple on Central Avenue.

The classes for 8 to 15+ year olds, included Lily Inouye Aratani and her peers, elders, and younger set. With Lily were the Fujita sisters, Haruko and Tatsuye; the Tamari girls, Reiko, Michiko, and Mitsuko, and Masaye Masuyama Shigemura. In the older group was Michi Konishi Takeuchi. In the younger group was Kimi Terama Ishii. Eizo Masuyama was also visible at the *Bon odori* sessions. (*The above were memories of Lily Inouye Aratani, niece of Rev. Y. Iwanaga, of Orange County*)

Masaye Masuyama Shigemura recalled Rev. M. Washioka teaching the dances for *Obon*. Rev. Washioka arrived in Los Angeles in 1934 and remained until the internment in December, 1941.

Shiz Ogimachi Sera remembered Rev. K. Maebara taking her and her friends (including Helen Kow Nishimura, Sumi Nakashima Hayamizu, Kimi Terama Ishii, and Alice Kimoto Ibaraki) to practice *Obon* dances. They went to Bangle, Compton, Banning, Talbot, San Pedro, Dominguez Hills, and Hawthorne branch temples to help teach and dance the *Obon* dances in preparation for the Nishi *Obon*. They would stop on the way home for sandwiches at Karl's... *Sensei's* treat! Rev. Maebara arrived in Los Angeles in 1940.

Kimi Terama Ishii was in the younger group of girls with Miyeko "Mickey" Azeka Kubota and Naruye "Pee Wee" Hasegawa. She remembers Michi Konishi Takeuchi in the older group.

Nishi *Bon Odori* dance leaders after the World War II were: Tamiko Kosakura Sakimoto, followed by Nancy Naito Shibata, and much later by Bessie Tanaka, Elaine Hatakeyama Fukumoto, and presently by Betty Okada Hatakeyama.

* * *

Mrs. Shiz Sera donated to Nishi archives: 1) registration badge for California YBL Conference, Los Angeles, March 27-30, 1941; 2) pre-war *Hanamatsuri* pin, made of plastic and paper; 3) one inch in diameter, felt patch sewn on Jr. YBA Choir robe (Rimban Yukawa had group singing at special funerals and services); 4) triangular YWBA patch, white background with symbol of life (swastika) in center. Thank you, Mrs. Sera.

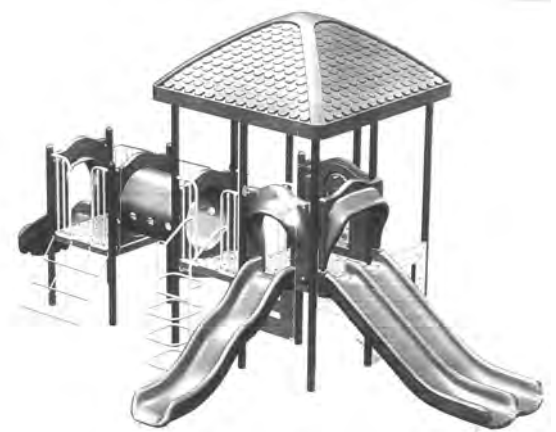
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Dennis Kimura donated an *Adobe Acrobat* computer program, enabling the saving of scanned copies of JIHO in pdf files, later to be transferred onto DVDs for the archives. Bruce Hatakeyama spent many hours setting up the scanner and procedures for scanning and saving JIHO onto DVDs. Thank you, Dennis and Bruce.

* * *

The family of the late Dr. M. Itatani kindly donated many Buddhist books, booklets, periodicals and other materials to the archives. "Duke" Itatani was very active before World War II in the leadership of the YBA in the Bay area. He was also instrumental in the establishment of Nishi's Boy Scout Troop 738 (1969). Thank you for everything.

If you have any interesting, human interest articles about our temple or temple members, please submit your information to the JIHO or drop a note to Eiko Masuyama.



NISHI CENTER FUNDRAISER
 by Elaine Fukumoto


The Nishi Center family of children, parents, staff, and alumni are working towards accumulating enough funds to purchase a new playground structure. The new structure will be installed in the new upper play yard that was created as part of the construction of the Centennial Project.

The present wooden structure being used is located in the lower play area. It is now well over 20 years old and is in constant need of repair.

For nearly two years, Nishi Center has held a number of activities to help raise funds. Individuals have also made personal donations to the school. Though thousands of dollars have been collected, thousands more are needed to purchase a play structure that will be sturdy and durable enough to last for many years to come.

If you have any questions about Nishi Center or wish to make a tax deductible donation, you may contact the school by:

Tel: 213-687-4585

E-mail: nishi.center@yahoo.com

Mail: Nishi Center

815 E. 1st. St.

Los Angeles, CA 90012

RIMBAN

(continued from page 1)

petuity by chanting sutras." Its purpose is to express gratitude towards those who have preceded us in leaving this world by praising their virtue, and providing a venue where the *Dharma* can be heard.

An "*Eitai-kyo Record*" was created for the first time at our Los Angeles *Betsuin* Buddhist Temple (although it was not *Betsuin* at the time) about the year 1908. This was just a few years after our temple was established. Almost a hundred years have passed since then, and the number of persons whose *dharma* names are listed in our *Betsuin "Eitai-kyo Record Book"* now exceeds over 5,000. Individual families have made *Eitai-kyo* contributions in the names of their departed loved ones, and each of their loved one's *Dharma* Name (*Homyo*), name as a lay person (*Zokumyo*), and the date of their passing are recorded in the "*Eitai-kyo Record*."

There are three classes of *Eitai-kyo* Services. They are the "*Individual Eitai-kyo Services*" (*Besshu Eitai-kyo*), "*General Eitai-kyo Services*" (*So Eitai-kyo*), and "*Eitai-kyo Services for Those without Family Ties*" (*Muen Eitai-kyo*).

The "*Individual Eitai-kyo Services*" are services conducted every year on the date that the individual passed on to the Pure Land. The "*General Eitai-kyo Service*" is held in common once a year for all those whose names are recorded in our *Eitai-kyo Record Book*. At our temple, this is conducted every year during the month of November. And, "*Eitai-kyo Services for Those without Family Ties*" are conducted every year for those who do not have a family, children or grandchildren, but those names are recorded in our "death registry" (*Kakocho*). You may be interested to know that the oldest *Dharma* name in our registry is of a person who passed away 131 years ago, during 1875! As of today, we have recorded over fifteen thousand *Dharma* Names in that register. At our temple, a combined *Muen Eitai-kyo* Service is conducted for all these persons during July of every year with our *Obon* Services.

These *Eitai-kyo* Services have been conducted gener- see RIMBAN page 4

IN MEMORIAM

The *Nishi Betsuin* extends its deepest condolences to the families of the following members who have recently passed away. May the family members find solace and comfort in the *Nembutsu*.

--*Namo Amida Butsu*

August, 2006		September, 2006	
1	Masayoshi Itatani	7	Kenji Tokushige
10	Frank Susumu Iwamoto	9	George Satoru Takatani
11	Yoshiko Matsushita	13	Atsushi Matsuda
14	Fumiye Konishi	14	Kiyoko-Shimada Matsuoka
15	Yasunaga Ito	17	Tom Tomoo Nagashima
15	Masaru Nakada	20	Michiharu Sakata
17	Misao Inouye	20	James Kenji Kunisaki
17	Masumi Hayashi	24	Sawayo Kurokawa
17	Chieko Aoki	24	Kenji Nishimoto
18	May Haruko Tasaka	27	Toshio Minato
18	George Masato Tokunaga	28	Aiko Masumiya
19	Raymond Yukitaka Iriye		
22	Dr. Kathie Sanaye Ikeda		
24	Henry Masami Uyeda		
26	Miyuki Betty Kondo		
27	Kiyoko June Shimamoto		
29	Frank Minoru Iwasaki		



RIMBAN

(continued from page 3)

ation after generation for a hundred years now, and will continue as long as our Los Angeles *Betsuin* Buddhist Temple exists. Observance of these services are made possible because of an *Eitaikyo* Endowment Fund that was created from donations by the chief mourners in the name of each person recorded in the *Eitaikyo* Record. Only the interest from the fund is used to defray the *Eitaikyo* Services

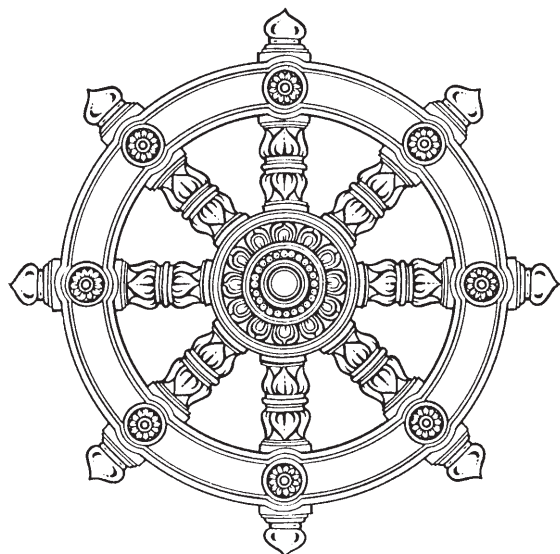
However, proceeds from the *Eitaikyo* Endowment Fund are also used for other purposes. These include maintaining our structures and purchasing equipment for our Main Worship Area as well as audio-visual equipment and other means of spreading the *Dharma*. All this equipment is necessary for us to continue as a *Dojo* place to practice the *Nembutsu* Way.

It goes without saying that the sole reason we have been so successful in constructing our *Hondo* Main Worship Area, Multi-Purpose Hall, Memorial Chapel of Immeasurable Light and Life, Wisteria Chapel, and now in integrating all the separate areas of our properties into one unified whole, is because of the great support that you members of the temple have given to all of our temple efforts. Nor must we ever forget that the enormous sums required for all these enterprises are also due to the existence of the *Eitaikyo* Endowment Fund. Whenever we needed financial assistance, our *Eitaikyo* Endowment Fund always provided the fund to meet our goals. Because of this, we were able to realize all of the above-mentioned huge projects.

We have been able to continue as a *Nembutsu Dojo* in the United States with a history of a hundred years only because of the leadership and support of those who preceded us. That is the joy and gratitude that sustains us as we make preparations for the next hundred years of our existence

With the above thought in mind, our Los Angeles *Betsuin* Buddhist Temple will conduct our annual *Eitaikyo* Service this coming November 18th (Saturday) and 19th (Sunday). A Service to commemorate the integration of our temple garden and parking lots will be conducted on the 19th (Sunday), starting at 10:00 AM. Our guest speaker for those services will be **Rev. Tetsuo Unno**, one of the most inspiring speakers in our BCA. This is an ideal time to deepen our understanding of the *Dharma* and to express our gratitude towards those who have preceded us. I hope to personally greet all of you then.

Namo Amida Butsu...



HAWAII

(continued from page 2)

Rev. Sensho Hida from 1956 to 1965 [Editor's note: Father of Ernest Hida], when he then transferred to the LA *Betsuin*. Also, Lahaina Hongwanji was where *Rimban* George Matsubayashi presented his first *dharma* message as a guest speaker after arriving from Japan in the early 60's.

From Maui, the delegates traveled to the Big Island of Hawaii to Kona and Hilo. There, they visited the many historic sites in the Kona District; a coffee plantation, sampling real Kona coffee, the Volcano National Park and the famous "Big Island Candy" factory in Hilo. They also enjoyed a Hawaiian Luau & Show near the beach in Kona.

A highlight while in the Big Island was a visit to the Kamuela Hongwanji where they had a Hawaiian dinner hosted by Rev & Mrs Itaru Nozaki, Hawaii *Kyodan* president Roy Nonaka, and the BWA members. There was also entertainment provided by their talented members.

Another highlight on the Big Island was a visit to the Puna Hongwanji in Keeau/Olaa where Rimban George and Mrs. Kay Matsubayashi's fathers each served as resident ministers, at different periods of time. The Matsubayashis spent time reuniting with their long-time member friends. All were treated to refreshments hosted by Rev. & Mrs. Ikeda and the BWA members and their spouses.

The third highlight on the island of Hawaii was the visit to the Hilo *Betsuin* where, again, refreshments were graciously provided the BWA members. For some of the LA *Betsuin* members, this was a reunion with friends and relatives who are members of the Hilo *Betsuin*.

After a Sayonara Dinner in Hilo, the delegation returned to Los Angeles filled with fond memories of their experiences at the 13th World BWA Convention in Honolulu and the tour of Hawaii. The *Betsuin* BWA members are already looking forward to the 14th World BWA Convention in 2011 which will be in conjunction with the 750th Memorial Anniversary of Shinran Shonin in Kyoto.

Editor's note: The trip to the Honolulu Convention and the tour to the islands were arranged by Ernest and Carol Hida of American Holiday Travel.

KANAI

(continued from page 3)

nity, Kanai was awarded the *Order of the Rising Sun Kunsho* from the Japanese government in 1994. He is past president and current director of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Southern California, director of the Japanese American Cultural & Community Center, president of the Pan American Nikkei Association, and charter member and president of the Japanese Overseas Voting Association.

OHTANI

(continued from page 2)

her children — two girls, two boys — equally, though her oldest son, now 28, is destined to become the next abbot of the denomination. She's passed on the beliefs of the tradition through a *Jodo Shinshu*-school education, though Shinmon Kojun Ohtani went to a Tokyo university that was more secular.

Ohtani, who is on her first trip here in two years, said she expects her son will serve as an ambassador of *Jodo Shinshu* to the greater world.

HM-M-M....

If one walks looking far ahead and pays no attention to the ground beneath his eyes, he will stumble. If one gazes critically upon others and forgets to look into himself, he will bring tragedy upon himself.

--Renny Shonin

SUPPORT THE L.A. BETSUIN
2007 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE
 YOUR YEAR 2007 TEMPLE MEMBERSHIP CAN BE SUBMITTED TO THE BETSUIN OFFICE.
Your membership will be valid from January 1 through December 31, 2007
\$200 PER HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD
\$100 FOR ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBERS
 (SAME ADDRESS OVER 21 YEARS OLD)
 CHECKS ARE PAYABLE TO:
L.A. HONPA HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE
 Payment may be made in full or by installments throughout the year of 2007

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INFORMATION

ADDRESS: 815 East First Street
 Los Angeles, CA 90012
 TEL: 213-680-9130
 FAX: 213-680-2210
 WEBSITE: www.nishihongwanji-la.org
 E-MAIL: BetsuinLA@aol.com



BON ODORI & EXERCISE CLASS
 Sponsored by the
 Betsuin Buddhist Women's Association (*Fujinkai*)

WHEN: 2nd and 4th Tuesdays 6:30 - 8:00 PM
 1st and 3rd Sundays 8:30 - 9:45 AM

WHERE: Betsuin Lotus Room (downstairs)

BRING: uchiwa (round fan), kachi kachi, & tenugui (towel)

Questions: Call the Betsuin (213-680-9130) and leave a message for Mitsuyo Tanaka

Betsuin Jiho
 Editor-in-Chief: Rimban Matsubayashi
 English: Elaine Fukumoto Japanese: Tomoko Ama
 Webmaster: Dennis Kimura