



WEST LOS ANGELES BUDDHIST TEMPLE BULLETIN

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REV. USUKI'S PAGE

True Offering

Neither is it a True Offering if after the act there are feelings of regret or of self-praise; a True Offering is one that is given with pleasure, forgetting oneself as the giver, the one who receives it, and the gift itself.

The Teaching of Buddha (351st rev. ed., 2011, pp. 169-170)



Happy Holiday Season to everyone. I sincerely hope you are enjoying some time off and making an effort to reflect on your life and this wonderful season.

Temple life brings some of the most intriguing and enjoyable experiences. There is no shortage of surprises and unusual events. One recent morning I found a statue of a sitting Buddha by the front door (see photo below). It looked like it had been plucked out of a garden because there were traces of dirt on the bottom. I'm sure someone who no longer needed the statue brought it over to our temple for safekeeping. We have received several requests to take away some statues from homes. One looked like it was pretty heavy so we declined. We really don't have much room or appropriate space for certain donated items, but we do try to accommodate the giver as much as possible. Obutsudan (family altars), books, photos, and such items are also brought to the temple. I'm sure it is a relief to family and friends to give or return such religious items to the temple.

Our front garden has also received many visitors over the past few years. It is one of best places for people to reflect, exercise, or simply visit. They have offered flowers and left a few unique items as offerings. Since the temple is quite visible and accessible to the public, some passers-by make a special effort to stop and look. It is not uncommon to see a tour bus stop by, and some professionals have even taken

photos with models and wedding parties. Artists have taken the time to sit and paint the temple. It is also a great stopping place for neighborhood dogs and their owners for reasons you can imagine.

One unexpected development has been the discovery of coins inside the stone lanterns. We have several lanterns scattered throughout the garden. I rarely used to look inside but there seem to be more coins placed there than ever before. It has gotten to the point where I have to collect them as Osaisen (monetary offerings) to make room for further donations. As you can see below in the sitting Buddha photo, he conveniently holds a bowl for coins. I am glad to know that our temple is a sanctuary and place of offering for visitors and friends. This is a recent phenomenon, but knowing that our garden provides comfort and an opportunity for such gestures is a tremendous joy.

The Buddhist offering has a long history in our tradition as well as in all Buddhist traditions around the world. Whether it is monetary offerings, flowers, food, physical gestures, or mindfulness, there are many ways to demonstrate the sincere heart and mind of gratitude. The Jodo Shinshu offering is not based on a petitionary prayer or wishes. It is generally given for services rendered, or as a donation or a simple, sincere gift.

Orei (offering) is one of those words so full of meanings as to be bewildering. Of Chinese origin, it has come to mean: propriety,

[cont'd on page 2]

etiquette, proper social action; worship, sacrifice; to thank or acknowledge; to bow, revere; an honorarium or gratuity; etc.

Traditions of Jodoshinshu Hongwanji-Ha,
Masao Kodani and Russell Hamada (p. 72,
1995)

Whether Mahayana or Theravada, the offering is universal. Jodo Shinshu Buddhism has its own special tradition as stated above and it has been followed for centuries. It is also intriguing to

visit other non-Jodo Shinshu Buddhist temples and observe their practices, and I encourage everyone to do so, whether here in the USA or in other countries.

The holiday season is a time of offering, giving, and enjoying the company of friends and families. During such a wonderful time, mindfulness and reflection will help us to nurture a sincere hope of peace and safety for everyone around the world.



Newest addition



Stone lanterns



Shinshu Corner
General Buddhist Offerings
Wikipedia,
the free encyclopedia

In Buddhism, symbolic **offerings** are made to the Triple Gem (Three Treasures), giving rise to contemplative gratitude and inspiration. Typical material offerings involve simple objects such as a lit candle or oil lamp, burning incense, flowers, food, fruit, water or drinks.

Theravada practices

Material offerings nurture generosity (Pali: *dāna*) and virtue (Pali: *sīla*). The act further honors the Triple Gem (the Buddha, Dhamma, and Sangha), deepening one's commitment to the Buddha's path. For instance, traditional chants (in English and Pali) when offering lit candles (*padīpa pūjā*) and incense (*sugandha pūjā*) to an image of the Buddha are:

With lights brightly shining
Abolishing this gloom
I adore the Enlightened One,
The Light of the three worlds.

With perfumed incense
And fragrant smoke
I worship the Exalted One,
Who is great and worthy of worship.

*Ghanasārappadittena
Dīpena tama-dhamṣinā
Tiloka-dīpaṃ sambuddhaṃ
Pūjayāmi tamo-nudaṃ*

*Ghandha-sambhāra-yuttana
Dhūpenāhaṃ sugandhinā
Pūjaye pūjaneyyaṃ taṃ
Pūjābhajanamuttamaṃ*

Similarly, a traditional Pali incense-lighting verse speaks of the Buddha's "fragrant body and fragrant face, fragrant with infinite virtues."

By contemplating on an offering, one tangibly sees life's impermanence (Pali: *anicca*), one of the three characteristics of all things upon which the Buddha encouraged his disciplines to recollect. For instance, the end of a traditional chant (in English and Pali) when offering flowers (*puppha pūjā*) to an image of the Buddha is:

I worship the Buddha with these flowers;
May this virtue be helpful for my emancipation;
Just as these flowers fade,
Our body will undergo decay.

*Pujemi Buddham kusumenanena
Puññenametena ca hotu mokkham
Puppham milāyāti yathā idam me
Kāyo tathā yāti vināsa-bhavam*

Mahayana practices



Burning of incense before the Potala, 1939

Mahayana material offerings might be imbued with the following symbology:

- the lighting of a candle or an oil lamp represents the light of wisdom illuminating the darkness of ignorance.
- the burning of incense represents the fragrant scent of morality.
- flowers represent the aspiration to achieve the body of the Buddha with the thirty-two marks of the Buddha as well as the teaching of impermanence. Alternately, a Zen verse expresses the desire for the mind's "flowers" to "bloom in the springtime of enlightenment."
- food, fruit, water, drinks represent the nectar of Dharma and the wish to achieve it.

In Northern Buddhism, sacred images have set before them:

- water (representing hospitality, to wash the face and feet)
- scarves (Tib. *kha-btags*, offering friendship)
- flowers, incense, lamps, perfume, and food (representing one's devoting all their senses to their spiritual practice).

Non-material offerings

In some traditions, two different types of offerings are identified:

- material or hospitality offerings (Pali: *amisa-puja* or *sakkara-puja*)
- practice offerings (Pali: *patipatti-puja*)

In this context, material offerings are considered *external* offerings of "words and deeds."

Practice offerings may be manifested by practicing:

- giving (Pali: *dāna*)
- moral conduct (*sīla*)
- meditation (*samādhi*)
- wisdom (*pañña*)

In the Pali Canon, the Buddha declared practice offerings as "the best way of honoring the Buddha" and as the "supreme" offering. This is primarily an *internal* offering for mental development (Pali: *citta, bhāvanā* and *samādhi*).

WLABT Mochitsuki

Saturday, December 12, 2015

The West LA Jr. YBA will be having its annual Mochi Tsuki on Saturday, December 12.

The cost of komochi will be \$3.00 per pound. Each one pound package contains 8-10 pieces.
The okasane will be \$1.50 for small, \$3.00 for medium, and \$5.25 for large.

To accommodate all orders, please order your mochi and/or okasane by **December 6**.
Please make checks payable to "WLA Jr. YBA."

Please pay for your order in advance. Your order will be available for pick up between 12:00pm and 3:00pm on **December 12**. Any order not picked up that day will be kept in the freezer until arrangements can be made for pickup.

We appreciate your support and look forward to filling your mochi/okasane orders this year. We would also appreciate any help from the temple members or anyone who wants to experience this annual Japanese cultural event.

For more information, please call Vance Nishimoto at 818.831.4922 or Jim Shimomaye at 310.210.2407.

Please mail order forms and check by December 6 to:

**Mochi Tsuki c/o
West LA Jr. YBA
2003 Corinth Avenue
West Los Angeles, CA 90025**

Please fill out the order form below and detach along the dotted line.

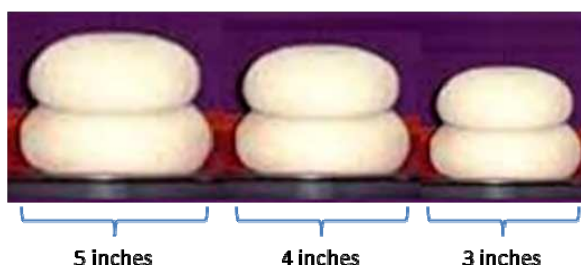
Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____



Komochi



Okasane Sizes

Komochi:	Number of Pounds =		x \$3.00/pound =	
Okasane:	Number of Small 3" =		x \$1.50 each =	
	Number of Medium 4" =		x \$3.00 each =	
	Number of Large 5" =		x \$5.25 each =	
			Total:	

UPCOMING SERVICES AND EVENTS

November 14-15 (Saturday-Sunday)
TEMPLE CLOSED

November 16 (Monday): 80 Plus lunch

November 21 (Saturday): Buddhist Men
Longevity Party

November 22 (Sunday): Thanksgiving service
Last day to bring items for dana project.
Donation information on pages 11-12.

Happy Thanksgiving

November 25-29 (Wednesday-Sunday)
TEMPLE CLOSED

December 5 (Saturday): Shotsuki hoyo

December 6 (Sunday): Bodhi Day service and
Oseibo Taikai

December 12 (Saturday): Mochitsuki
(order form on page 4)



Dec. 13 (Sunday):
Temple and garden
clean-up
(no service)



December 20 (Sunday): Family service

Happy Holidays

December 22-26 (Tuesday-Saturday)
TEMPLE CLOSED

December 27 (Sunday): No service

December 28 (Monday): No 80 Plus lunch

December 31 (Thursday): Joya-e service

新年あけましておめでとうございます

Happy 2016

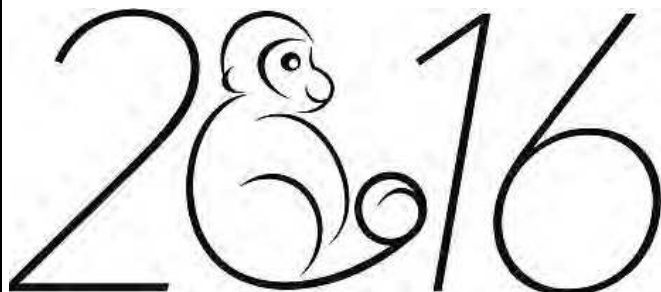
January 1 (Friday): New Year's service

January 2 (Friday): TEMPLE CLOSED

January 2-3 (Saturday-Sunday)
TEMPLE CLOSED

January 9 (second Saturday): Shotsuki hoyo

THANK YOU to the many donors
of 80 Plus Yard Sale items!
Starting January 2016,
we will begin accepting donations
for the next Yard Sale.



Year of the monkey 猴

Save the date!

New Year Luncheon

Sunday, January 10, 2016
following

11:00 am service and cabinet installation

cost: \$20/bento

free: Dharma School students and
members of Sangha Teens and Jr. YBA

>> **Reserve your obento lunch NOW** <<
deadline: Monday, December 28, 2015

Sign up through your organization
or the temple office

DECEMBER SHOTSUKI HOYO, 10:00 a.m. Saturday, December 5, 2015

Abbott, Glenn	Kishi, Shoko	Muramatsu, Mae	Oshinomi, Shizuko
Asai, Taijiro	Kiyama, Mary	Murayama, Yasuhiro	Sakaguchi, Isao
Bodnar, Florence	Kiyohiro, Ayame	Nakamura, Chikano	Sakai, Thomas
Cook, Helen	Kofuku, Ato	Nakamura, Hideko	Seike, Toyoichi
Dowdy, Joseph	Kofuku, Yoshiyuki	Nakamura, Kanichi	Shinto, Bunsuke
Fuchiwaki, Satsuo	Kosaka, Tomiko	Nakamura, Kiyoko	Shiosaki, Kenji
Fujikawa, Masami	Kotake, Eric	Nakashima, Akira	Sugimura, Tsune
Hamada, Sadahisa	Kubota, Masako	Nakazaki, Tobei	Suzuki, Kenny
Hashimoto, Shizu	Maruko, Kazuo	Narahara, Shinobu	Takayama, Kameyoshi
Hatanaka, Betty	Masuda, Eiko	Nekoda, Masako	Tamura, Ben
Hayashi, Sachiko	Masuda, Kenichi	Niida, Tom	Toguchida, Kei
Hayashida, Yukino	Masuda, Shoichi	Nimori, Masatoshi	Toya, James
Ikkanda, Shunichi	Matsumoto, Toshimitsu	Nishida, Goichiro	Tsuboi, Joe
Ikkanda, Tazu	Minazumi, Takashi	Nishikawa, Hatsuko	Uchida, Juhachi
Kamibayashi, Suga	Miyada, Masu	Nishimoto, Burt	Yamauchi, Masao
Kimura, Yukiko	Miyada, Reigyu	Noda, Ayano	Yasuda, Margaret
Kiriyama, Sugi	Miyata, Ren	Ohkawahira, Hite	

JANUARY SHOTSUKI HOYO, 10:00 a.m. Saturday, January 9, 2016 (second Saturday)

Abe, Ichiro	Kawasaki, Yukio	Nomura, Toshihiro	Takeuchi, Norie
Akutagawa, Kazue	Kimura, Kazuyoshi	Nunokawa, Yuriko	Takimoto, Kumaichi
Ando, Florence	Kosaka, Ichitaro	Ohara, Kiku	Tanaka, Takako
Baba, Hiroshi	Kuramoto, Hiroshi	Oka, Noboru	Tochioka, Tadao
Barbeiro, David	Masuda, Minoru	Okumoto, Kanzaburo	Toma, Yoneko
Doi, Shunji	Matsumoto, Ruby	Oshinomi, Michiko	Totani, Tokumatsu
Fujimoto, Ken	Mayeda, Hisa	Ozamoto, Keijiro	Toya, Craig
Hanamoto, Michiye	Mayetani, Toki	Ozamoto, Sadako	Uyeda, Ine
Hashimoto, Gizo	Middo, Masunaga	Sakahara, Gosaku	Uyeda, Mitsutaro
Hirano, Alan	Middo, Sakae	Sakahara, Rose	Uyekubo, Ichiro
Ichihio, Kameichi	Middo, Wasaku	Sakamoto, Marie	Watarida, Itaro
Ii, Fukuso	Minazumi, Yoshiko	Sasaki, Fumiko	Yahata, Nobu
Ikeda, Takeo	Misono, Sukenari	Sasaki, Kameji	Yahata, Tsuneko
Ishiwata, Hiroshi	Nakagawa, Chita	Shirai, George	Yamanaka, Koyomi
Iwashita, Takamori	Nakagawa, Gisuke	Sunada, Teruko	Yamane, Nobuko
Kaba, Tadashi	Nakagawa, Ichino	Suzuki, Yoshifuru	Yamatoku, Kazuo
Kageyama, Kiyoko	Nakamura, Kiyoko	Takami, Sakutaro	Yoshida, Miyo
Kajiwar, Rinzaburo	Nakamura, Natsue	Takami, Suze	Yoshida, Nancy
Kakehashi, Rokuzo	Nakamura, Yutaro	Takamura, Kazue	Yoshimi, Isamu
Kawai, Kiyoshi	Naramura, Marveene	Takata, Tsuruo	
Kawasaki, Toshio	Nomura, Sekizo	Takazumi, Teruo	

**CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILY OF:****Ayako Shindo**

June 16, 1929 - October 20, 2015

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Connie Yahata

On October 3, 2015, Neal and I attended the 9th Annual Baby Boomer's Seminar held at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley. It was our first time attending.

Three years ago, the planning committee decided to discuss the three Pillars of Buddhism. In 2013, Rev. Mas Kodani addressed *impermanence* and in 2014, Rev. Patricia Usuki addressed *interdependence*. The theme this year was "Suffering ... What's the Problem," featuring Rev. Earl Ikeda from the New York Buddhist Church as the guest speaker.



The seminar committee planned a full day of activities. We listened to Rev. Ikeda, followed by a Q&A session. We also toured the JSC facility, had a manju-making session led by Rev. Ikeda, attended two workshops and ended the day with Happy Hour and dinner (see photo at right). All of our meals were prepared by members of Techno Buddha. All in all, it was a fun-filled day.

Please see the next page for a brief message by Rev. Ikeda.



JSC garden



Partial remains of
Rennyō Shōnin and Kennyō Shōnin
donated by Rev. Kujo



Neal, Rev. Earl Ikeda, Connie



Manju session led by Rev. Ikeda



Manju-maker trainee



Finished product

[President's Message cont'd from previous page]

The following is a short message from Rev. Ikeda:

How quickly the days past and soon it will be the end of an old and the start of a new year. As we end each precious day, let us take time to reflect upon how it was spent. Most of us will probably not even remember what we ate or for that matter who we met or what we did. All things come about through countless causes and conditions and each has an impact on the outcome of who we are at this very moment in time. Yet, how many of us take a moment to express gratitude for all that we experienced? Truly grateful am I for this opportunity to share a moment in time with all of you wondering what causes and conditions brought about today's event with all of you being here to participate? As I reflected upon my presentation today, I realized something very significant; I am the world's greatest "bambu-nin," a mere person sharing my thoughts on what is suffering. How idiotic! One does not truly understand the causes of suffering, but suffers and inflicts suffering upon others because of personal self-centeredness.

Thank you very much for allowing me to share my thoughts, but I also challenge you to think for yourself. Please agree or challenge me by asking yourself what is true to you as well. I do not and will not say that what I express is true, but hopefully you can see faults in my thoughts and make it true for yourself and others.



**FROM THE DESK OF:
DR. JACK FUJIMOTO**
Publicity Chairman

BUDDHIST MEN

MOCHI TSUKI AT THE TEMPLE

The annual mochi tsuki is scheduled for 8 am, Saturday, December 12. Buddhist Men have been asked to provide early morning support for rice preparation and cooking, along with other areas where help is needed. This is one of the Temple's fun activities and so, your support would be greatly appreciated.

OPINION

At the October Memorial Service, Hidemi Ohkawahira, membership chairman, provided a list of the 78 deceased Buddhist Men members, whose names were read by Richard Stambul and Jack Fujimoto. It occurred to me wonder,

"What if the Buddhist Men sponsored a way of memorializing each of them? What would be a way of doing that?"

My initial response is to create a roster with a photograph of each of the deceased and put it in some prominent place where it could be viewed by members of the Sangha—maybe in Sangha Hall. Then, it occurred to me that a short vignette or description accompanying each person might be something that present members might wish to write.

In any event, I thought that it would add to the Temple's legacy to honor and express our appreciation for all that each did as a member of the Buddhist Men.

BWA NEWS by Connie Yahata



On October 10, 2015, the annual FBWA delegates meeting was held at the DoubleTree Suites in Seattle. Both Beverly Yahata and I attended. The usual agenda items (ground rules, approval of the October 10, 2014 minutes, treasurer's report) were reviewed. One of the issues that required a vote was the resolution submitted by Southern District BWA. The resolution presented various amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the BCA Federation of Buddhist Women's Association and passed easily. If you are interested and would like to read the resolution, please contact our BWA President, Haru Matsumune.

On October 7,8,9, 2016, the FBWA Conference will take place at the Westin in Bellevue, WA. The next delegates meeting is scheduled on

October 14, 2017 in Fresno, followed by the 2018 FBWA Conference at the Fresno Betsuin Dharma Center on October 12-13, 2018. Finally, the 16th World BWA Convention will be hosted by the Bay District in 2019.

BWA News: Many thanks to Silvia Diaz-Perez for taking care of lunch during the Tri-Temple Seminar. She made delicious sandwiches for the attendees. Also, thanks to Mary Hahn and Beverly Yahata for organizing the lunch for the Buddhist Men/BWA memorial service. As always, we all enjoyed the food catered by Rutt's Café.

We will be having our end-of-year meeting at 11:00 a.m. and lunch at 12:00 p.m., followed by Bingo on December 13th. WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE ALL BWA MEMBERS ATTEND.



Beverly and Connie with Dianne Belli, Venice BWA, 2013-2014 FBWA President (seated at right), and other FBWA friends



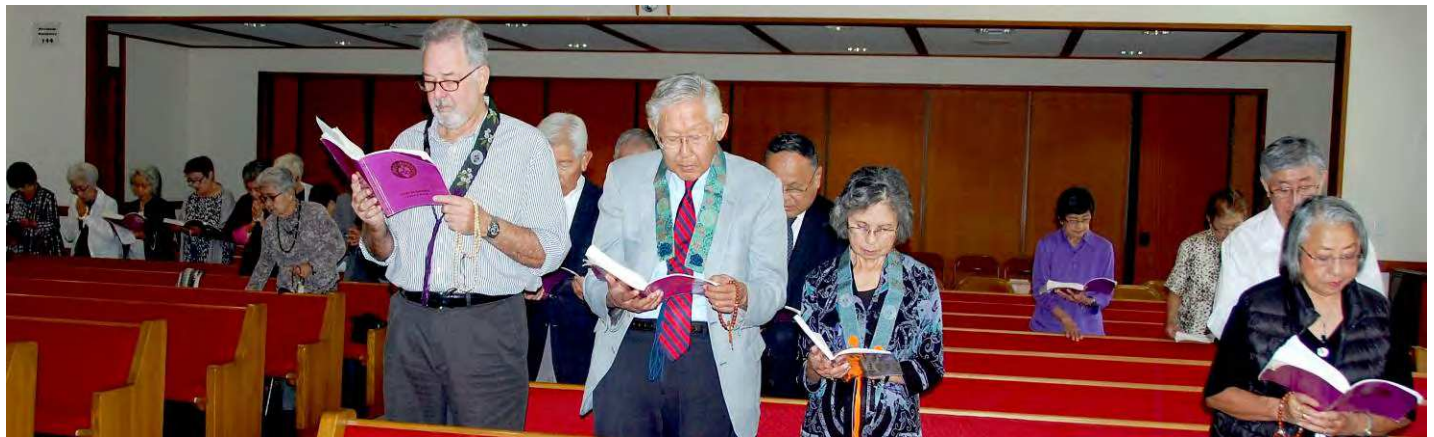
Rev. Kojo Kakihara, Tacoma Buddhist Temple



Mrs. Janet Umezu, FBWA Honorary Advisor; Michelle Sadamori; and Shizue Yahata (Beverly's sister), FBWA President

BUDDHIST MEN - BWA MEMORIAL SERVICE - Saturday, October 24

photos by Masao Sasaki



2015 HOLIDAY Gift Drive

Sponsored by
WLA BWA



Once again, WLA BWA will be collecting new, unwrapped holiday gifts to be donated to the VISTA DEL MAR CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES.

Many of you participated last year and donated one or more gifts. Vista Del Mar was overwhelmed by our generosity.

Please take a moment to review the “General Wish List” on the back.

Your participation will be most appreciated not only by BWA, but also by all of the children whose hearts you will touch when they receive a gift this holiday season.

A collection box will be available in the Sangha Hall.

The last day of collection will be **NOVEMBER 22, 2015**.

Thanking you all in advance for your support!

With gassho,

Connie Yahata
President, WLABT BWA
2003 Corinth Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90025

GENERAL WISH LIST

NEW, UNWRAPPED HOLIDAY GIFTS

Arts and Crafts / Supplies
Athletic Equipment (NBA basketballs,
NFL footballs, volleyballs, soccer balls)
Baby Clothes – newborns through toddlers
Baby Toys – ages 0 to 3
Back Packs*
Beauty Supplies
Bedding*
Big Wheels, Tricycles, Bikes, etc.
Clothes for girls and boys, newborn – age 12
Comforter sets (twin size)*
Computer/Console/Portable Gaming System
sports games – hockey, basketball,
football, tennis, baseball, etc.
Digital Cameras*
Disneyland Tickets
Disposable cameras*
Dolls: Barbie, Bratz, Baby Dolls, etc. –
White, African American and Latina
Dollhouses
DS Entertainment Kit
Shelf Top Stereo Systems*
Educational Toys for toddlers
Electronic Games for DS Lites (non-violent)
Electronic Games for GameBoy (non-violent)
Electronic Games for PlayStation (non-violent)
Electronic Games for Xbox 360 (non-violent)

Gift Cards/Certificates* (Barnes and Nobles,
Best Buy*, Blockbuster Video, Borders
Books and Music, Sporting goods store,
Target*
Hair Products
Head Phones
Hot Wheels Play Sets, Matchbox Cars, Racing
Car Sets, Remote Control Cars
Karaoke Machines
Large Lego Sets, Lincoln Logs, Building
Blocks*
Musical Instruments for Kids
NBA, NFL, NHL and MLB replica jerseys*
Portable MP3 players, iPod Shuffles*
Shoes/Sneakers
Socks*
Sports Pictures and Posters
Sports Accessories* (Nike football gloves, swim
goggles)
Stuffed Animals
Sweatshirts – without hoods
Tonka Trucks, Fire Engines, Plastic Trucks and
Cars*
DVDs – No items with parental advisory
messages or that are rated R or NC-17.
Toys appropriate for children ages 2-4*

FAMILY FUN NIGHT - Saturday, October 24

photos by Masao Sasaki





みほとけとともに

弱さがひろく世界


 いけのぶ しゅうけん
 池信 秀見
 山口県・燈臺寺住職

私の町で以前、ある有名ジャーナリストの講演があり、その要旨が新聞に掲載されました。

「これから日本は大変なことになる。景気は悪い。TPPの問題もある。北朝鮮もいるし、韓国、中国とは仲が悪い。アメリカは当てにならない。これから日本はもつと強くならなくてはならない。一人ひとりが、自立して強さを求めていかななくてはならない」

私はそれを読みながら、何か違うのではないかと思つたのです。なぜなら、人間がどんなに強くなったとしても、

大自然の前ではちつぽけな存在でしかなかったということ、私たちはあの東日本大震災で思い知らされたのではなかったでしょうか。人間は弱い。ちつぽけだ。だからこそ、助け合わなくてはならない。支え合わねばならない。その事実を突き付けられたからこそ、震災直後に「絆^{きずな}」という言葉が叫ばれたのでしよう。そこにこそ「有り難う」「お互いさま」といった、人と人、そして国と国との出遇いを開く、心豊かな言葉も生まれてくるのではないのでしょうか。

何より、強さや自立を追い求めて、どんな世の中になったのでしよう。先日、こんな話を聞きました。あるおばあちゃんが、都会に住んでいる息子さんのお連れ合いから「ばあちゃん、私たちは子どもの世話になるつもりはありませんから……、あなたのお世話もいたしません!」と言われたというのです。正直、ゾッとしました。「私は人に

みほとけとともに

迷惑をかけていない。だから、誰からも迷惑をかけられたくない」と言い放ち、親を切り捨てる。怖ろしいと思いませんか。これは自立ではありません。孤立です。ところが現代社会では、こんな感覚が当たり前のように広がっているようです。でも、迷惑をかけずに生きられる人間って本当にいるのですか。みんな知らず知らずに迷惑をかけ、心配をかけ、許されて、ここまで育てられてきたはずです。確かに今は便利になって、お金さえ出せばいろんなサービスを受けられるようになりました。では、そのシステムを作ったのは誰ですか。一人でこの世の中を作っているわけではないのです。自立といっても、支えて下さる大地がなかったら、立つことなどできないのです。

「少年ジャンプ」で連載中の漫画『ワンピース』の主人公、ルフィに、こんな名言があります。

「おれは〇〇ができねエ。△△もできねエ。おれは助けてもらわねエと、生きていけねエ自信がある！」

これは、わがままな言葉ではありません。感謝の言葉です。

「私には、できないことがある。あなたのお陰^{かげ}で私は生かされている。あなたがいてくれて、うれしい。ありがとう」

こんな言葉をかけられたら、どうですか。シビれますよ。私は必要とされている。私は求められている。私はここにいていいんだと思える。逆に「アンタがいなくても、オレは生きていける。アンタがいてもいなくても関係ない」と言われたらどうですか。ガツクリきます。存在を否定されたようにも感じられます。そう考えると、「有り難う」という言葉は人を生かす言葉なのですね。そしてそれは、自らの弱さを受け容れなくては言えない言葉でもあるのです。弱さを知るからこそ、心から感謝できる。「お互いさま」と

人を思いやり、優しくなれる。だからこそ、
私たちはつながりを実感できるのです。

弱さを受け容れられない人ほど、強がります。自分を大きく見せようとする。素直に「めんなさい」が言えないし、人に責任を押し付ける。「自虐的」という言葉も、そんな生き方から生まれてきたのかもしれない。



親鸞聖人という方は、人間が本来持っている弱さ、愚かさ、悲しさ、切なさや深く向き合い、人生を歩まれました。そこから、この私を丸ごと支えてくださる阿弥陀如来の大地と出遇われたのです。

浄土和讃に「法身の光輪きわもなく」とあります。阿弥陀さまの光は世界中至り届かないところはないという意味ですが、聖人が実際に世界中を飛び回って確認されたわけ

ではありませんし、できるはずもありません。では、なぜそう言えるのか。それは、光から一番遠く深い、愚かさや罪の場に自らの身を置き、それでもなお阿弥陀さまの光は至り届いていると実感されたからこそその言葉なのでしょう。「我こそ光の真ん中にあり！」と自分を誇り、人を蔑む者にはこの感動はわからないと、ある先生に教えられ、ドキリと冷や汗をかいたことが今でも忘れられません。

聖人は生涯を通して、人間の奥底にまでも寄り添い、支えてくださる世界と出遇われました。それは、この私をも同じく等しく願われる世界です。だからこそ、間違いだらけで、迷惑かけ通しの人生であつても、それを受け容れ、素直に謝り、お礼が言える。そんな人生を歩むことができるのではないのでしょうか。そこにこそ、心豊かな生き方が開かれていくのだと教えられるのです。

December 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Office hours: 10 am - 4 pm phone: 310-477-7274 e-mail: wlabtooffice2003@gmail.com website: http://westlosangelesbuddhisttemple.org/		1 [1-3 pm Shigin] Rev. Usuki off	2 7 pm service and board meeting	3 1 pm Study Class (E) 7:30 pm Taiko	4	5 10 am Shotsuki hoyo
6 9:30 am Bodhi Day service, BWA installation, Oseibo Taikai, lunch	7 Rev. Usuki off	8 10:30 am SDMA Bonenkai, LA Betsuin [1-3 pm Shigin]	9 7 pm B-Men meeting [7 pm WLAYC]	10 1 pm Study Class (E)	11	12 8 am Mochitsuki
13 NO service 8 am Temple and garden clean-up 11 am BWA meeting, lunch	14 Rev. Usuki off	15 [1-3 pm Shigin] Rev. Usuki off	16	17 10 am Omimai 1 pm Study Class (E) 6:30 pm Taiko party	18 NO Bingo	19
20 9:30 am Family service	21 Rev. Usuki off	22	23	24 TEMPLE CLOSED	25	26
<----- 12/22-26 (Tue-Sat): ----->						
27 NO service	28 NO 80+ lunch Rev. Usuki off	29 [1-3 pm Shigin] 6 pm Kubota Nikkei memorial svc/dinner	30	31 6 pm Joya-e service	[January 1, 2016] 8 am door open 10 am New Year service	Bulletin folding toban: Temple

2015年12月

日曜日	月曜日	火曜日	水曜日	木曜日	金曜日	土曜日
オフィス時間： 午前十時 - 午後四時 電話：310-477-7274		1 [午後 1 詩吟] 宇宿先生休み	2 午後 7 サービス 幹部ミーテング	3	4	5 午前 10 祥月法要
6 午前 9:30 成道会 サ ービス おせいぼ大会 ランチ	7 宇宿先生休み	8 午後 10:30 開教師会 西別院 [午後 1:00 詩吟]	9 午後 7 プデスト・ メン・ミーテング [7 pm WLAYC]	10	11	12 午前 8 餅つき
13 午前 9:30 成道会 サ ービス おせいぼ大会 ランチ	14 宇宿先生休み	15 [午後 1 詩吟] 宇宿先生休み	16	17 午前 10 おみまい 午後 1:00 スタデークラス (英) 午後 6:30 タイコ パーティー	18 ビンゴー休み	19
20 午前 9:30 サービス	21 宇宿先生休み	22 <-----	23 12 月 22-26 日 (火-土):	24 お寺休み	25	26 ----->
27 お寺休み	28 80+中ランチ休み 宇宿先生休み	29 [午後 1 詩吟] 6 pm Kubota Nikkei memorial svc/dinner	30	31 午後 6:30 除夜会	[2016 年 1 月 1 日] 午前 8:00 ドア・オープン 午前 10:00 新年サービス	会報作り 当番: 仏教会