Presidents’ Message

I was fortunate to have recently attended a Leadership workshop at the Jodo Shinshu Center and one question I had difficulty answering was “Why?”. Why am I Buddhist and why am I a member of the Pasadena Buddhist Temple?

After reflecting on my response I was able to write that “I am a Shin Buddhist because I truly believe that my religion encourages me to be a better human being by trying to be more compassionate, more grateful and to cherish what I do have because all things are impermanent.”

And why am I at Pasadena? Because Rev. Unno’s dharma talks were ‘easy’ to listen to, helped Buddhism make sense to me, and made me think of how it could affect my life. I still enjoy hearing Rev Unno and Rev Gibbs’ dharma talks. But the dharma talks are not the only reason I am here at Pasadena. I’m here because members of this sangha were very welcoming and inclusive.

So the question is “Why are you a Buddhist and why are YOU a member of the Pasadena Buddhist Temple”? Your answer to this is very important to the future of our sangha. The Board needs to be able to resonate with each of the sangha member’s “why”. If we do, membership and participation will increase. I hope you can share with me your “why” and share any suggestions to help make our temple thrive.

Rev. Gibbs has been very pro-active in scheduling weekly Buddhism classes. If you have time, please come for a study session. Rev. Gibbs has brought many new faces to our temple via his efforts in conducting classes in Tai Chi and Buddhist Studies.

Our Pasadena Temple needs to grow, and growth will come from “new” members, people who did not attend this temple as children, but who live in our community and are looking for a religion that is welcoming and embracing to all that come. So if you see someone “new” attending service, please greet them warmly.

Thank you all for being a part of our Pasadena Temple family, and please continue to support our Sangha. We have many ways you can help! Just ask.

Gassho,
Jeannie Toshima

Where Are We Now

Rev. Jundo Gregory Gibbs

We have all been surprised by the amount of rain this winter. Where are we? Can this really be California? Folks in the Northwest giggle when they hear about our struggles with a few inches of rain. But Portland Oregon basically shuts down when there is an inch of snow. People in Chicago guffaw when they hear about that. We are only prepared to deal with that which we may reasonably expect.

Life throws us various challenges. The important thing is to know where we are. If it is going to rain two inches today and you live in Portland, … well, … so what? If you live in LA you will absolutely minimize your driving and avoid the freeways as much as possible.

Where are we spiritually? If we were on some ideal planet, with nearly ideal sentient beings, where the Dharma has been effectively taught for millennia, we would just express the truth every time we opened our mouths. We would look like great dancers in a film every time we walked across the room.

Spiritually, where we are is a place where there are real limitations on resources. A planet where humans and other living beings have capacities to be kind and cooperative, but also have greedy and hate-filled urges. We live in this rich, multi-dimensional reality, and have some choice as to which urges we act on and reinforce. Recalling the Buddhist teaching, saying the nembutsu, can help.

Where are we now? So much hate and fear being expressed in conversations and in social media. We have the capacity to say to ourselves, “No, that is a mean thought. I will not express it.” We have the capacity to think thoughts like “This person seems a little sad today. Perhaps there is something I can sincerely say to her that would be kind and encouraging.” We didn’t get to choose which planet to be born on, but we can decide where we are living spiritually and emotionally. I hope we can choose to live and act from a place of kindness and acceptance. Where are we now?

Wish Funds

We are starting our Wish Fund project again. We will post items that the Temple is in need of, and if you have something you could donate or make a donation towards some of these items, they will be gratefully accepted.

❤ Incense
❤ Desk chairs for the Temple office
❤ Donations towards a First Aid Kit and AED
❤ Coffee
❤ Maintenance and Landscaping fund

Let sensei know if you can make a donation or send in a check made out to PBT with “Wish Fund” as a note.

Monthly Opportunity Raffle Winners

January:
Ken Kasamatsu
February:
Dennis Roy Sugita

If you still haven’t purchased your opportunity drawing ticket, there are just a few left. Each ticket is $100 and every month you have a very good chance to win $500. The last and final drawing in December will give TWO lucky winners $1,000 each.
Shotsuki Service (Monthly Memorial Service) is held for those who passed away during a particular month. Family members and friends offer incense in honor of their loved one. This service provides the opportunity to acknowledge the influence this person made on your own life. Names of the deceased are read at this service. If you would like your loved one to be added to a monthly list, please contact Reverend Gibbs.

March Shotsuki Service - March 5th

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April Shotsuki Service - April 2nd

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May Shotsuki Service - May 7th

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Spring Ohigan - March 19th

Ohigan, meaning Other Shore, is a service conducted during the spring equinox. At this time, the weather is neither too warm nor too cold; the days and nights are of equal length. Harmony pervades throughout the universe. Therefore, we gather before the sacred shrine of Amida Buddha and meditate on the harmony of nature and devote ourselves to the realization of this harmony in our inner lives.

Rev. Gibbs will speak in English, Rev. Unno will speak in both English and Japanese

We hope you will make time to attend this special service.

Japanese Conversation Class

Mitsuko Hays, a member of our Pasadena Sangha, will conduct another course for those that want to learn conversational Japanese and culture. She has extensive experience teaching Japanese and is very flexible on the ability level of all attendees. She welcomes everyone at all levels of knowledge.

Dates have not been determined yet, but the plan is for this to begin in late April. The Pasadena website will be updated with the most current information.

For more information contact Mitsuko Hays, mitsukohays@gmail.com or 626-836-8325

ELECTRONIC WASTE

The collection bins are located in the parking lot behind gym. If it was plugged in, it can be recycled (please no refrigerators or air conditioners). Call the temple to arrange for pick-up if you need help moving the item.

Temple Calendar

March, 2017
Mar 1...... PBT Board Meeting @ 7:30 pm
Mar 5...... Monthly Memorial Service
Mar 12..... Family Service Rev Unno
Mar 19..... Spring Ohigan Service
Mar 25..... Beef Teriyaki Dinner Fundraiser
Mar 26..... Family Service
Mar 27 - April 7 Reverend Gibbs Vacation

April, 2017
April 2...... Monthly Memorial Service
April 5...... PBT Board Meeting @ 7:30 pm
April 9...... Hanamatsuri Service
April 16.... Family Service
April 23.... Family Service
April 29.... So. District Jr. YBA Seminar 2 - PBT
April 30.... Family Service

May, 2017
May 3 ...... PBT Board Meeting @ 7:30 pm
May 7 ...... Monthly Memorial Service
May 13 .... Chicken Take-Out (proposed)
May 14 .... Parent's Day Service
May 21 .... Gotane Service
May 28 .... Memorial Day Cemetery Service (Mt. View)

NO Service at Temple

Buddha Day (Hanamatsuri) – April 9th

This service is held to commemorate the birth of Gautama in Lumbini Garden. During the service, a flower shrine known as a hanamido is set up in front of the main shrine as a symbol of Lumbini Garden. This hanamido is decorated by the youth groups at our temple. The white elephant has been restored by the Dharma School children and parents.

A statuette of the infant Buddha is placed in this shrine and the Sangha (congregation) offer flowers and pour sweet tea over the image. According to the ancient legend, the universe was filled with joyful music, flowers bloomed in full glory and sweet rain fell from the heavens to make this a joyful event.

Otoki will be served by the BWA. This is a wonderful service to bring the entire family.

Training for Ministers Assistants

Nineteen years ago Rev. Russell Hamada oversaw the founding of the Buddhist Churches of America’s Ministers Assistant Program. It has developed over the years, particularly with the work of Rev. Don Castro, Rev. Marvin Harada and Rev. Will Masuda.

I will begin training members who are interested in becoming Ministerial Aides, Ministers Assistants (properly so called), and persons wishing to become volunteer or eventually professional Jodo Shinshu Ministers.

Training for the first stage, being renamed “Ministerial Aide” begins as soon as you wish. To be a Ministers Assistant who will be officially certified as such a correspondence course on Buddhist doctrine and history is necessary, some seminars at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley will be required.

I am happy to help members progress as far as they wish. We can use people here trained to give talks and lead services on those few occasions when I am on vacation or supervising another temple and Rev. Unno is also otherwise committed. This help they give to the temple will be greatly appreciated.

This can be good for the temple and the individual. I will use the Tuesday (7:30 pm) and Thursday (10:30 am) Study Classes for both training Ministerial Aides and Assistants and orienting new attendees to the temple. Also, I will keep more than half my Saturdays open for those interested in the studies. If a temple member is interested in these studies and cannot make it on Tuesday evening, Thursday mornings or Saturdays, we will find another time slot.

Please let me know if you are interested in taking such classes. If you are not really interested in becoming a Ministers Assistant but would like to take the classes anyway, that is also possible.

Gassho,
Reverend Gibbs

Junior YBA Report

The Pasadena Jr YBA will be co-hosting the Southern District conference on April 29th. They are looking for support from our Sangha to help provide monetary support and materials for their dinner. If you would like to make a donation towards their conference and dinner supplies, please contact Miki Meza (mmeza317@gmail.com).
BWA President’s Message

I am honored to be your elected BWA President for 2017. Thank you for entrusting me to lead this important temple organization. I am grateful to be surrounded by very capable and dedicated women to work alongside. Your 2017 BWA Cabinet will be:

- President: Lynne Ozawa
- Co-Vice Presidents – Religious: Dona Mitoma and Cathy Mikuni
- Co-Vice Presidents – Social & Welfare: Kathy Kumagai and Yukie Okazaki
- Secretary: Jane Utsumi
- Treasurer: Janice Shue
- Chair, Dine-outs: Heather Owen

I hope to lead the Pasadena BWA on a sound financial footing – keeping annual expenditures in line with annual income, thereby maintaining our savings to support the Temple in times of emergency. I will endeavor to maintain tradition to the greatest extent possible, given the shrinking number of active members and financial limitations. Please be patient and understanding if we cannot do things the exact way it has been done in the past.

I am also grateful for the generous financial donations in support of our organization. Beginning with this edition of the Hikari, we will reinstate a previous practice to publish the names of donors, donation amount and the purpose for the donation, if specified, unless such donations are made anonymously. Please note that donations may not appear for several months, due to reporting and publishing schedules.

Donations reported in January 2017 are as follows, and are gratefully accepted:

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<td>Masae Matsuba</td>
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<td>Funeral O Rei</td>
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<td>Panda Express Dine-Out</td>
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I cannot overstate the gratitude I feel for the efforts of past, and current members of the Pasadena Fujinkai and Buddhist Women’s Association, for all that you accomplished, sharing your lessons and teaching us skills and traditions to pass along to the next generation. You have gifted the current BWA with an organization which continues to be an integral part of the Pasadena Buddhist Temple. If you have questions or suggestions for the future for the BWA to consider please contact me at 818-790-7049 or LynneOzawa@gmail.com.

Gassho,
Lynne Ozawa, BWA President

January-February activities

Our BWA Leadership team comprised of Toban leaders and Cabinet held its first meeting of the year to start organizing the year of events that we will be leading. Toban 1 led the New Year’s Temple General Meeting gathering with delicious miso soup in tandem with the installation of our leadership team. Several BWA members and guests enjoyed a delicious buffet at Panda Inn, at our annual luncheon event. Lots of planning and effort by many members and friends helped us successfully make and sell Pasadena BWA’s famous chirashi rice to enjoy on SuperBowl Sunday. The last Sunday in February will be celebrated with a special Lady Kujo service, to honor the founder of the original women’s service group, Fujinkai. Kyoko Gibbs will lead the service that all BWA members are encouraged to attend. Light refreshments will be served following the service.

Upcoming Events

- March 4: Canoe House Dineout
- March 19: Ohigan Otoki
- March 25: Beef Teriyaki dinner take out
- April 9: Hanamatsuri Otoki
- May 13: Pasadena Nikkei Seniors Luncheon
- May 20: Chicken Teriyaki take out

We need you, please come out and help us with these events and more in 2017.

Contact Jane Utsumi at 415.271.4151 or janeudj@gmail.com for more information.

A special thank you to our generous donors in January to BWA and our Altar Flower and Osanae fund:

June Chin, Maye Fukumoto, Kyoko Gibbs, Mary Hatate, Jane Inouye, Hatsumi Kitani, Tanya Lee, Yukie Okazaki, Kiyoe Suzuki, Yoshiko Takahashi, and Jeannie Toshima

Pasadena Buddhist Temple BWA
Dine Out at

Canoe House

805 Fair Oaks Avenue
South Pasadena CA 91030

Tuesday, March 14, 2017 • 3 pm - 9pm
Dine-In or Take-Out
Give this brochure to your server and our group will receive 20% of your purchase!

Thank you for dining at Canoe House Restaurant!
Donations Received December and January

The following donations received in the month of December 2016 and January 2017 are gratefully acknowledged.

DECEMBER DONATIONS

EITAIKO - SHOTSUKI HOYO 12/4/16

.. Jane Yamanaka
.. Julie Toyama
.. Sachiyohamada
.. Lynne Ozawa In memory of Tak Kiriyama
.. Jun Yamasaki for Masuo & Soyo Yamasaki and
  Fukaichi Okuno
.. George Yamane
.. BWA
.. For Ghenki Yamane
.. Alan Hatakeyama
.. Yukie Okazaki
.. Martha Fujimoto In memory of parents Yasuo & Nami
  Fujimoto; brothers Tosh, Bill, Paul, and Frank

SPECIAL DONATIONS

...Jean Toshima for Joya-e service
...Naomi Yonesawa for Nov. Shotsuki for Sokiichi Yonesawa
...Naomi Yonesawa for Nov. Shotsuki for Yukuyo Yonesawa
...Frank Kawana for Okoden for Fuzzy Fujimoto
...Douglas Doi for Kathryn Doi Memorial Service
...BWA for Rev Unno Services
...Marvin Inouye for Tedd Inouye Services
...Robert Yoneda for General Fund
...John Ozawa for Legacy
...John Ozawa for Tues Basketball Oct-Dec
...Mary Uchimiya
...Nathan & Christine Sugimoto

JANUARY DONATIONS

SHOTSUKI HOYO 1/8/17

.. Mrs. Sakahara
.. Shinobu Kiriyama for Mary Ito
.. Jennifer Relth for Toshiko Ito
.. Alice Kikkawa
.. Barbara Okada in memory of Kyle Naydo
.. Mitsuko Hays for Shizue Yano
.. Jane Yamanaka in memory of Noboru Yamanaka
.. Tomomi Yamasaki
.. Carol Oyama for Fuikeda Shigeyoshi
.. Mitsue Oyama
.. Dennis Ito in memory of Toshiko Ito
.. Yaeko Sakahara in memory of husband, Isamu Sakahara
.. Catherine Mikuni in memory of Hanae Higashioka
.. Gerald Ito in memory of Toshiko Ito
.. Dennis Sugita in memory of Tak Kiriyama
.. Misa Kawano
.. Michiko Obi Shotsuki for father
.. George Sugimoto for Masa Sugimoto & Ruri Sugimoto
  (February)

HOONKO 1/15/17

.. Ben and Joe, Reiko Shibasaki, Tony Stonehill
.. William Fujimoto, Sachiyohamada, Ayako Hirano, Alice
  Kikkawa, Robert Kikkawa, Lynne Masumoto, Melissa
  Meza, Clifford Nakatani, Yaeko Sakahara, Janice Shue,
.. Minoru Okida, Carol Oyama, Mitsue Oyama, Jean
  Toshima, Akiko Tsukida, Tomomi Yamasaki
.. Kathleen Kumagai, Heather Owen, Roy Sunada
.. BWA, Robert Fukumoto, Gerald Ito, Yukiko Kataoka,
  Albert Nakata, Michiko Obi, Yukie Okazaki, Lynne Ozawa,
  Rumiko Shiroma, Reiko Shishido, Joseph Watari, George
  Yamane
.. Maye Fukumoto, Irene Takemori

Pasadena Buddhist Temple would like to thank all of you
that attended our Hoonko Service and made donations
 towards the Obento lunch.

SPECIAL DONATIONS:

...Alice Kikkawa
...Ron Toshima Orei for facility use
...Yuki Matsuba Orei for facility use
...Pasadena Nikkei Seniors Orei for facility use

Mar. & April Classes at the Pasadena Temple

Reverend Gibbs is providing the following classes to the members of the
Sangha and public. They are free with suggested per class donations of $5
for non-members.

Tai Chi Classes

Tai Chi as Exercise Class:
Rev Gibbs will conduct 30-minute class with limbering
and Tai Chi exercises, no experience necessary, no special
 clothing needed. Classes meet Wednesday 1:00 pm
(note exceptions) and Thursdays at 1:00 pm.

Buddhist Study Classes

Rev. Gibbs will lead classes on Topics in Buddhism, open to all, no prior
knowledge of Buddhism is necessary. Each class will consist of a short
directed reading that will then be discussed by Rev. Gibbs and the class.
Class length is 1 hour and offered on Tuesday at 7:30 pm and Thursdays at
10:30 am.

Forms of Meditation

Rev. Gibbs will instruct and lead participants through several different
forms of meditation: mindfulness of breath, visualization, Attentiveness,
Walking Meditation as Ki Cultivation. Forms will vary depending on
participants interest. Classes meet on Tuesday at 6:30 pm and Thursdays at
9:30 am.

Please check calendar as funerals, hospital visitations and such can pre-

Membership

Please do what you can to encourage family members, relatives
and friends to join. Membership dues are an important pillar of the
financial foundation necessary to provide religious services to our
Sangha and maintain our Temple’s property. Individual membership
is $250 and Family membership is $400 (for couples and minor, un-
employed children).

We also have “Friend of the Temple” and “Family Friend of the
Temple” memberships available. Membership applications can be
found in the Temple Office, or on the Temple website. Membership
payments can be made in a lump sum or in quarterly payments.

Membership is your affirmation that our temple is important to you
and your family.
Legacy Giving Tree

Next time you are at the temple, take a look inside the classroom to view the **The Giving Tree**. The names of those who have donated have been placed on the tree branches, and there is still plenty of room to add your family name!

The **Legacy Fund** was established as a way to build our operating revenue through donations from our members. We know you already give so much to the Temple, not just your monetary donations and support of our fundraisers, but your time and hard work. As we look beyond the next few years, it’s important to plan for future needs and build a firm foundation so that the Temple exists for generations to come.

We would like to ask that you consider joining many other thoughtful and generous members by making a gift to the Pasadena Buddhist Temple **Legacy Fund**.

Private Family Memorial Service Schedule

Please schedule a family memorial service if your loved one(s) passed away in the following year(s):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Annual</th>
<th>Family Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>Issuki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>Sankaiki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>7th</td>
<td>Shichikaiki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>13th</td>
<td>Jusankaiki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>17th</td>
<td>Jushichikaiki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>25th</td>
<td>Nijugokaiki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>33rd</td>
<td>Sanjsankaiki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1968</td>
<td>50th</td>
<td>Gojiakaiki</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1918</td>
<td>100th</td>
<td>Hyakkaiki</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you are an Amazon shopper, please select the **Pasadena Buddhist Church** as your charity to support. A portion of your purchase price will be donated to our temple. It does not cost you anything extra, Amazon has initiated this as a way to give back to eligible charities. Shop at [http://smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and select us as your charity and every time you log in to shop, it will remember this preference.

Donate Your Car

**“Cars for the PBT Cause”**

It’s so easy and convenient to donate that old car you need to get rid of. Just let us know and all the arrangements will be made for you. You’ll get the tax write-off, feel great about donating to the Temple, and make room in your driveway for something new! Let’s spread the word and help rid the world of clunkers. Contact Scott Shinmoto if you have questions. SShinmoto@outlook.com or call 310-991-0585.

If you shop at Ralphs, you can help raise funds by registering online. Go to [www.Ralphs.com](http://www.Ralphs.com), click on Community, click on Community Contributions and click on ‘Enroll Now’. If you do not have access to a computer, contact Jeannie Toshima, 562-305-6018.

Hanamatsuri Flowers Needed

If you have wisteria in bloom, we can use those on the hanamido. Donations of flowers or cash donations are welcome. We always have a beautiful hanamido on display thanks to everyone’s generosity.

SAVE the DATE!

2017 Southern District Buddhist and BWA Conference

**Jodo Shinshu for the Average Joe**

hosted by: San Fernando Valley Honganji Buddhist Temple

**Saturday, June 10, 2017 • Odyssey Restaurant**

Keynote speakers are Rev Koyo S Kubose (English) and Rev Kazuniki Nakata (Japanese).

Also featuring Rev Kodo Umezu, Bishop

Registration is free for the Pasadena BWA members.

All others cost is $65.00.

Pasadena will send in one registration form, please let Rev Gibbs know if you are interested by May 5th. Car pools will be arranged.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

AKABEKO PROJECT presents

**STRENGTH**

SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2017 | 1:00PM - 4:00PM | PASADENA, CA

This is a wonderful project for all ages! Register at www.akabekoproject.org It will be held at the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute from 1:00-4:00 PM.

The Kizuna Summer Program is for children 7-13. It will be held at the Pasadena Japanese Cultural Institute from July 10-14. Registration is open now. Visit their website to see more information. [http://camp.kizuna-la.org](http://camp.kizuna-la.org)

Temple Contact Info:

**Phone number**: 626-798-4781

**FAX**: 626-345-9095

**WEBSITE**: www.PasadenaBuddhistTemple.org
Beef Teriyaki Take-Out Dinner
Saturday - March 25, 2017

PRE-SALE ONLY
Limited Number of Dinners will be Prepared

Cost $15.00 per Dinner
Pick-up from 3:00 - 6:00

All orders will be packed “To-Go” but tables for dining in will be available.
All dinners must be picked up by 6:00
Any dinners not picked-up by 6:00 will be sold to walk-in customers.

For more information call Kathy Kumagai (818-790-0979)

All pre-orders are due by March 13th

Submit an order online at http://www.PasadenaBuddhistTemple.org
or Mail this form and check to: 1993 Glen Avenue Pasadena, CA 91103 or
FAX your order to 626-345-9095

Make check payable to: Pasadena Buddhist Temple (PBT)
Please write “Dinner Order” on the outside of the envelope

Please reserve _______Dinners at $15.00 each Amount enclosed $__________

[ ] - I cannot attend, but please accept a donation of _____________.

Name: __________________________________________________________

Phone number at which you can be reached on Saturday March 25th:
(______)_________________
(We need this information in case we need to reach you)