



# Fellow Travelers

The monthly newsletter of the Longmont Buddhist Temple

Longmont Buddhist Temple Northwest corner – Pike Road and Main Street  
606 Pike Road, Longmont, Colorado 80501, P.O. Box 2083, Longmont, Colorado 80502

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## Message from Sensei John Minister's Assistant

We are halfway through the “uarys” The days are starting to get longer and soon we will arrive at the time when life renews each year. As the wheel turns, we are constantly reminded that all conditioned objects are impermanent. Every- thing changes.

I’ve been thinking about how fortunate we are to have our Temple building as a place to meet and share the Dharma. I have deep gratitude to those who came before and make it possible for us to gather through their effort and donations. Our special spiritual home would not exist without their gifts.

Have any of you noticed that 2018 is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of LBT being in the converted school house on the corner of Pike and Main! I think we should celebrate this milestone! I would like to see us designate one service as a day celebrating our half century in this building. We should remember those who are no longer with us whose efforts made it possible. I wouldn’t even try to give an exhaustive list, but we should come up with the names, photos, etc.

It would be honorable to invite those who have made it possible for the Temple to continue over the years. Rev. Okamoto, Rev. O’Dowd, Joe DeNicholas, the Kanemotos, Mayedas, Miyasakis, Nishidas, Tanakas, and other families of our founders, Gail McArthur, Mary Mulry, Christie Guttridge, Meredith Hutmacher, Mike Shibata, Rose Takamoto, members from Tri-State/Denver, especially those whose family members helped start and maintain our sangha, members from the other outlying Temples – Brighton, Fort Lupton, Greeley, all those who I have forgotten due to my lack of attention, and of course everyone who is a current member or visitor. What do you think? Is this something we should do? I think 50 years is a big deal.

To put this in perspective, the Longmont Kyudokai was founded in January, 1925. The first meeting was held in the home of Kikutaro Mayeda east of Erie. In May of 1929 the members erected Showa Hall three miles north of Lafayette

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on Isabelle Road. Our altar and the Obutsudan were ordered from Japan in 1955.

The founders were farmers. Most of the river valleys along the Platte River had communities of Japanese farmers from the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Over the intervening 110 plus years most of the descendants have moved into other occupations than farming, but the agricultural foundation of the sanghas in Colorado continues to be a common thread for Shin Buddhism in the state.

We are no longer exclusively a sangha composed of ethnic Japanese. As we continue into the twenty-first century, we should honor our roots and continue to become more diverse and always welcoming to all seekers.

A final note: **IT IS ONLY SEVEN YEARS UNTIL OUR 100 YEAR CELEBRATION!!!!** It may be time to start planning.

Namo Amida Butsu,  
John Sensei.

## **Temple Updates**

**by Jackie Tono, Temple Board President**

I hope everyone is staying warm this winter; we've had a mild winter but these once every couple of weeks winter storms do come and remind us that this really is winter. It's hard not to complain about the cold or snow when the storms do come but it's only human nature. Instead we should be thankful for all the snow that will put moisture in the ground & much needed water for our lakes & ponds. Because of the snowstorm we decided to cancel our Hoonko Service. I hope everyone received our alerts either by email blast or visited our website or saw our Facebook post to see the closure. Hopefully you didn't make an unnecessary trip to the temple. Please make sure you are on our email list or know where to find our website to be in the loop for temple closures. We meet on annually but if that's not possible please talk to Gail. We will not turn anyone away because our dues are a financial burden.

If you have some time please drive to Greeley to the University of Northern Colorado to the James A. Michener Library to see a traveling Smithsonian exhibit, "I Want the Wide American Earth". UNC is the only organization in the State of Colorado to show this exhibit. This exhibition celebrates the Asian Pacific American history across a multitude of diverse cultures and explores how Asian Pacific Americans have shaped and been shaped by the course of our nation's history. This exhibit will start January 29, 2018 until the first week in April.

February is a busy month for us. The first Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>, will be a combination Hoonko & Nirvana Day service with Rev. Okamoto. After our community hour, near 12:00 noon, there will be a board meeting. February 18<sup>th</sup> is a regular service but during community hour we will conduct our annual Temple meeting. This is a great way for our new members to

hear and participate in the future of our Temple. Because of the meeting we are asking everyone to bring a dish to share for a potluck lunch. At the end of February I'll be heading to Sacramento for the annual meeting of all the Jodo Shinshu Temples that are members of the Buddhist Churches of America. As you can see by the other article in our newsletter from the President of BCA, we will have a lot of topics to discuss and vote on.

Stay warm drive safely.  
Jackie Tono

## **Wheel of Dharma**

**January 2018**

### **New Year's Greeting from Gomonshu Kojun Ohtani**



At beginning the of this New Year, I would like to extend my warmest greetings to you.

From October 1, 2016 until this past May 31, the Commemoration on the Accession of the Jodo Shinshu Tradition was conducted at Hongwanji in Kyoto, Japan with attendance of about one hundred fifty thousand people from throughout Japan and our overseas sanghas. Since the days of our founder Shinran Shonin, for nearly 800 years, the Jodo Shinshu teaching has been cherished and carefully handed down to us today by our predecessors. Reflecting on this, I am truly grateful to have been able to recite the Nembutsu together with many of you who took part in the services whether it be in person or through the internet.

Being enabled to hear the working of Amida Buddha's voice calling to us, we become aware of our true self, in which we have the difficulty of accepting things just as they are, and being caught up in our own selfish mindset. That is why it becomes all the more important that we continue to listen to the teaching of Amida. As we appreciate the Buddha's great wisdom and compassion, we are naturally guided to care for and aspire to live together with one another. In this New Year, let us continue to listen to the teaching while following the Nembutsu path together with everyone.

January 1, 2018  
OHTANI Kojun  
Monshu  
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

**Wheel of Dharma  
January 2018**

**President's Message: BCA National Board and You  
By Ken Tanimoto, BCA President**



On December 1-2, 2017, Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) lay and ministerial representatives from the eight national districts gathered at the Jodo Shinshu Center for the National Board (NB) meeting. The meeting covered many important issues that connect you, your temple, and your minister to our Jodo Shinshu Teachings.

The NB meets twice a year in June and December. It is comprised of 49 voting delegates, including BCA District Representatives, Directors at Large, BCA Affiliated Organizations, and the BCA Executive Committee. Also, reports are given by eight non-voting BCA Committee members.

The most important job of the NB is to determine whether or not an issue will be brought to the National Council Meeting, which will be hosted by Northern California District this coming February.

Major issues that were voted on at this meeting were the 2018-19 fiscal budget; changes to the BCA Bylaws; a recommendation to move the BCA archives from the Japanese American National Museum (JANM) to the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA); and a request for the BCA to create a special ad hoc committee for the BCA Restructure of Assets Project.

The NB approved the new fiscal 2018- 19 budget with some reservations. How can BCA sustain itself financially with increased operating costs and decreased membership? There is more pressure on the Budget and Finance Committee to decrease program services and leverage any increased assessment with depleting financial reserves. Using BCA reserve funds helps the BCA member assessment with a modest increase of 3.4% over last year's amount.

*(Translation provided by the Hongwanji International Department)*

The NB also approved the recommendation that audits be done as needed. The current bylaws state that audits must be done every year. This change will lower the BCA budget.

BCA Archives recommended starting the process of moving the BCA Archives Collection from the Japanese American National Museum to the UCLA Archives. This will eventually save BCA over \$35,000 per year.

The last NB approved motion came from the BCA Restructure of Assets Project Ad Hoc Committee. The motion reads "to request that the BCA President create a special, ad hoc committee to explore the possible options to determine the highest, best use of the real estate assets of the BCA, which may among other things, recommend the sale and purchase of the BCA Headquarters and the Bishop's Residence.

The objective of the Committee will be to have a set of recommendations and action steps for approval at the National Council Meeting in 2018."

If the National Council approves these recommendations, it may have a lasting positive effect on BCA's financial future, thus increasing funding for Buddhist Education, for minister's benefits and continuing education, and for developing youth involvement.

I hope that you take an interest in the BCA National Board, because the decisions that come out of that meeting will affect you regarding the costs involved in preserving and continuing our Buddhist organization.

**Wheel of Dharma  
January 2018**

***To End and Begin with Gratitude*  
By Rev. Candice Shibata, Buddhist Church of Florin**



For many of us, January 1 is the start of new beginnings. We are given the opportunity to reflect upon the past year's events at the New Year's Eve service called *Joya-e*. In addition, *Shusho-e* or New Year's Day service, allows us to begin each new year with deep gratitude. Along with this deep sense of appreciation, many of us look forward to a new beginning and to clarify our intentions for the year ahead.

In January, we also conduct the *Hoonko* service in memory of our founder, Shinran Shonin. The

definition of Hoonko comes from the Japanese characters *Ho-On*, which means “return of gratitude” and *Ko*, which means “to clarify the meaning of.”<sup>1</sup> This service allows us to not only gather together to show our gratitude for Shinran Shonin’s teachings and Amida Buddha’s boundless Wisdom and Compassion that always embraces us, but also encourages us to identify and understand their meaning in our everyday lives.

As I approach this new year, it is an opportunity to reflect upon how the *Nembutsu* teachings guide my life and my career as a minister in the Buddhist Churches of America. The opportunities to learn from the teachings present themselves every day, especially in times of change and transition. In light of my new assignment at the Buddhist Church of Florin, there is an excitement that I feel for this new chapter in my life. This transition has also given me an opportunity to reflect upon the gratitude that I have for my beginnings at the Berkeley Buddhist Temple and for all of the countless conditions of my life that have allowed me to encounter Jodo Shinshu Buddhism.

Just as Hoonko is an opportunity to express our gratitude for the Jodo Shinshu teachings, each new year is an opportunity for us to live our lives in the *Nembutsu*. My daily life and the transitions within it allow me to realize the workings of interdependence and impermanence, which can result in tears of joy and tears of sadness, too. However, as these tears dry away, they leave a deep impression on my heart and mind that will continue to guide my *Nembutsu* life.

<sup>1</sup> Accessed from the Los Angeles Hampa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple website, [www.nishihongwanji-la.org/teachings/dharma-services/hoonko-memorial-of-founder-shinran-shonin](http://www.nishihongwanji-la.org/teachings/dharma-services/hoonko-memorial-of-founder-shinran-shonin).

### ***Inner Vision***

**by Christina Hildebrandt, Temple Music Director**

I'd like everyone to know about my newest singing bowl cd, *Inner Vision*. I recorded my singing bowls in Rangely, CO in a 65' tall, 40' wide empty water tank, that has become a recording mecca for sound artists. It's named, uniquely, The TANK! The experience was unique and wonderful: because sound is amplified and resonates throughout the structure, the already cosmic sounds of the crystal singing bowls are magnified, bathing the listener in an ocean of vibration! My intention in making this album is to use the power of sound vibration to help the listener create the shifts they need in their life. I hope you have an opportunity to tune in to the clips on CD Baby.com (go to <https://store.cdbaby.com/cd/christinahildebrandt2>) or to listen to the first track- Inner Landscape- for free on

SoundCloud: <https://soundcloud.com/christina-hildebrandt-cmt>. I will have real cds soon, and will bring some to sell as a fundraiser for the Temple!

Vibrationally yours,  
Christina

### ***Grocery Store Fundraising News*** **by Gail Kanemoto Hogsett, Temple Board Treasurer**

Thank you to all of our King Soopers and Safeway grocery shoppers. Because of you, LBT received \$122.70 from Safeway and \$1887.82 from King Soopers in 2017 – a combined total over \$2000! Please keep buying those groceries, gas and pharmacy needs with your reloadable cards!

Here's some information about other local grocers. Vitamin Cottage and Lucky's Market do not have reloadable cards for fundraising, but they will sell us gift cards at reduced prices. Lucky's Market gives a 7% discount, so a \$100 gift card would cost LBT \$93, making a profit of \$7. There is no minimum number to buying these gift cards at a discount. Vitamin Cottage gives a 5% discount and offers gift cards in \$25, \$50 and \$100 increments. However, they require a combined minimum of \$500 in gift cards to purchase them. If you would like a card from either of these grocers, please email me your name and desired card denomination to [gkhogsett@gmail.com](mailto:gkhogsett@gmail.com).

Sprouts Grocers do not have a gift card program, but they do have a monthly donation allotment allowed to non-profits. I've submitted Longmont Buddhist Temple for consideration.

King Soopers is definitely a great fundraiser for us. When our reloads reach \$5000 or more, we receive a rebate check for 5% of all the reloads. That's such a win-win for our sangha and our temple!



SAKURA  
FOUNDATION

# LIVING IN HOPE: A MOTHER AND HER TRANSGENDER SON'S JOURNEY

With Marsha and Aiden Aizumi



**Sunday, February 11, 2018**

**1-3 pm**

**Quebec Place at Fairmount**

**430 South Quebec St. Denver 80247**

*Sakura Foundation is please to welcome Marsha Aizumi and her son, Aiden, to share their journey of unconditional love and acceptance and the ongoing challenges for the transgender community. Bringing a perspective filled with honesty, gratitude and warmth, they will take about fears they have oversome, as they continue to focus on hope for their family and the LGBTQ community. The discussion will conclude with a book signing, "Two Spirits, One Heart" will be available for purchase.*

RSVP required to this FREE public event at [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com)- search "SAKURA FOUNDATION"

Presenting partners:



CANCELLED



Think about how you can HELP contribute to the success of our musical recital:

- Provide baked goods
- Donate silent auction items
- Share your musical talents with the community
  - Attend the performance
- Sell ads and tickets for the performance
  - Solicit donors for contributions
  - Work with the backstage crew
  - Discover additional ways to assist

Let's work together for a wonderful presentation, fun evening,  
and successful activity.

## February Calendar

February 4	Rescheduled Ho-Onko Service and Nirvana Day Celebration	
	Newcomers Welcome	9:30 am - 10:00 am
	Meditation Service	10:00 am - 10:30 am
	Service and Dharma Talk with Rev Kanya Okamoto	10:30 am - 11:30 am
	Toban (Coffee/Tea Hour) in Community Room	11:30 am - 12:30 pm
	Temple Board Meeting	12:00
February 11	Mindfulness Class with Sensei John Hughes	10:00 am - 11:00 am
February 18	Regular Service with Sensei John Hughes	
	Newcomers Welcome	9:30 am - 10:00 am
	Meditation Service	10:00 am - 10:30 am
	Service and Dharma Talk	10:30 am - 11:30 am
	Temple Annual Meeting - Potluck	11:30 am - 1:30 pm
February 25	Mindfulness Class with Sensei John Hughes	10:00 am - 11:00 am
	Upcoming Events	
March 10	WeAreAll One: Diversity through Performance Stewart Auditorium, Longmont Museum (see page 6 for more information)	7:00 pm

### Contact Information

Temple Website:		<a href="http://longmontbuddhism.org">longmontbuddhism.org</a>
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