



Fellow Travelers

The monthly newsletter of the Longmont Buddhist Temple

Longmont Buddhist Temple Northwest corner – Pike Road and Main Street
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Message from Sensei John Minister's Assistant

Happy New Year to All! May each of us have a healthy and prosperous year in 2019. Each of us has the opportunity to make this a good year just as we have the opportunity to make it a bad year.

What does it take to make a "good" year? The main thing is a positive attitude. When I choose to accept what is before me as what it should be and put my effort into making the most positive result possible, then I have a "good" experience. When I adopt an attitude of gratitude, then I have a "good" experience.

We are living in challenging times. There is much in our country and world to complain and feel bad about; but I always have the choice. Do I make the best out of what is before me? Or do I muddle around and make it worse? My choice.

I don't have the power to change things in Washington or around the world, but I have the power to change things for those with whom I interact. One of the most crucial things I can change is how I treat others. Do I remember that we are all interdependent? Do I remember to treat everyone with respect? Do I remember to do no harm? Not always. However, I am setting my intention for the new year to be mindful that all of us are interrelated. I recently read a post that exemplifies this important way of treating others. So I borrowed it,

Deb Cruden shared this on Facebook:

"There was a farmer who grew excellent quality corn. Every year he won the award for the best grown corn. One year a newspaper reporter interviewed him and learned something interesting about how he grew it. The reporter discovered that the farmer shared his seed corn with his neighbors. "How can you afford to share your best seed corn with your neighbors when they are entering corn in competition with yours each year?" the reporter asked.

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"Why sir," said the farmer, "Didn't you know? The wind picks up pollen from the ripening corn and swirls it from field to field. If my neighbors grow inferior corn, cross-pollination will steadily degrade the quality of my corn. If I am to grow good corn, I must help my neighbors grow good corn."

So is with our lives... Those who want to live meaningfully and well must help enrich the lives of others, for the value of a life is measured by the lives it touches. And those who choose to be happy must help others find happiness, for the welfare of each is bound up with the welfare of all...

-Call it power of collectivity...

-Call it a principle of success...

-Call it a law of life.

The fact is, none of us truly wins, until we all win!!"

Namo Amida Butsu, Sensei John

Temple Updates

by Jackie Tono, Temple Board President

Happy New Year everyone!! I hope everyone had an enjoyable, safe holiday with family and friends. It's hard to believe that 2018 went by so fast and now we are into 2019. Let's all hope for a more peaceful, non-violent 2019!! I hope many of you attended the year end service with Minister's Assistant John and stayed to enjoy the wonderful desserts, I heard that there might have been a delicious rum cake there.

Jimmy Venditti is in charge of the calendar for toban hosting. Since it's 2019 we will be contacting everyone to see if they want to continue hosting at their same date or would like to change. We are also needing a few more people to help with toban hosting. If you are interested in helping with a toban date please contact Jimmy.

With the new year we have many events planned; currently mark your calendars for the following bigger events for the first half of the year:

January 24-26, 2019 Minister's Assistant John will be attending a training session at the Jodo Shinshu Center.

February 15 -19, 2019 LBT will be hosting an Aikido workshop for a local Aikido group that practices in town. We will need volunteers to pop into the Temple to check on our facilities during the day. More details to come. Sunday service will be adjusted to accommodate the workshop. More details to come later.

March 17th our Temple will hold its annual board meeting and elections of officers. If you are interested in a board position please contact a board member. This will be a shorten service with a pot luck lunch followed by the meeting.

April 7th we will celebrate Hanamatsuri (the birth of Shakyamuni Buddha) followed by a potluck lunch.

May 26th will be a short memorial service followed by a visit to the local cemetery for another short service.

June 30th we are trying something different this year for our annual clean-up of the Temple. We will try cleaning the Temple on 5th Sunday so we can get an earlier start before the heat of the day. Hopefully everyone will still come out to help.

May 2019 be a happy, wonderful, safe new year for everyone.

In gassho,
Jackie

Wheel of Dharma

December 2018

A Plea to the Women of BCA

By Rick Stambul, BCA President



Editor's Note: This is Part I of two parts and is edited from an address presented by Stambul at the FBWA Conference in Visalia, California, on Sept. 15.

This is an existential moment for the future of Shin Buddhism in America. Interest in Buddhism has grown exponentially in the West for more than 60 years -- but it is not Shin Buddhism that has grown. It is clear that we face an existential crisis in the preservation of our Shin teachings.

If we are to spread the joy and beauty of the Dharma, we must overcome our old ways of thinking. Specifically, our view of the role of women in BCA must change.

It is true that over the past 100 years women have risen to positions of leadership in many countries around the globe. Women have been prime ministers and major governmental leaders in each of the following nations: Germany, Great Britain, Israel, India, China, Argentina, Norway, New Zealand, France, and dozens of others. The United States is an exception to this phenomenon. Yet just two years ago a woman won the popular vote for president of the United States by 3 million votes. And a woman has been speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

It is difficult to get a solid grip on history's lessons because we're living it in this present split second of time, but we must never forget our history as it serves as a guide to our future.

When I started UCLA, women were largely absent from positions of leadership in almost every level of society. When I started law school in 1968 at Loyola University, there were six women students in a student body of about 750 and no female law professors. Today, women count as more than 50 percent of Loyola Law School's student body and professors.

In 1900, women gained the right, for the first time, to keep their own earnings and to hold property.

In 1915, women were recruited into jobs that were vacated by men who had gone away to fight in World War I. As part of the war effort, new jobs were created that saw

large numbers of women migrating into the workforce. For example, in 1918 the munitions factories had become the largest single employer of women.

In 1920, women gained the right to vote. During the Great Depression of the 1930s, women moved into areas of employment previously denied to them, and became a force to be recognized.

In 1963, women received the right to equal pay for equal work.

In 1964, the federal Civil Rights Act outlawed discrimination based on gender, race, or religion.

In 1972, Title IX was enacted as law giving women equal rights to educational opportunities.

In 1974, housing and credit discrimination against women was outlawed.

In 1978, it became illegal to discriminate because a woman was pregnant.

In 1994, the Violence Against Women Act became law and was re-energized by the U.S. Senate in 2016, creating services to support victims of rape and abuse.

In 2016, the military ended its exclusion of women from combat jobs.

We've come a long way in 100 years, but there is still a long way to go. In this, and in the next issue of this publication, I am advocating for women's empowerment in the leadership of the Buddhist Churches of America, and I appeal to the women reading this to take action.

Why, When Did the Wheel of Dharma Begin to Turn?

By Rev. Ronald Kobata, Buddhist Church of San Francisco



*Gan I Shi Ku Doku / Byo Do Se Is Sai / Do
Hotsu Bo Dai Shin / O Jo An Rak Koku*

“May this meritorious Truth / Be shared equally with all / Together raising the mind of Enlightenment / and awakening to the Realm of Serenity and Joy.”

I was recently invited to address a group of young professionals who were involved in a 10-week seminar that met each week to discuss three questions: What does it mean for a life to go well? What do we need to do in order to lead a life worth living? What does it mean for life to feel good?

The seminar was co-sponsored by the Yale and Princeton University Divinity schools.

The facilitator of the seminar invited representatives from

various faith traditions and non-religious organizations to share their perspectives on the subject. I was joined by Bong Lau, a young man from the East Bay Meditation Center in Oakland, to offer our views and practices from the Buddhist tradition. Additionally, we were asked to speak about how compassion shapes our life, and how Buddhism envisions a good life.

I began my talk by asking if the participants were aware of why Buddhism began. Surprisingly, even those who identified as having a personal involvement or interest in Buddhism did not readily respond.

I proceeded to cite the legend about Siddhartha Gautama's "Travelling Beyond the Four Gates." The story describes how he arranged to take a tour of the kingdom that he was heir to as the prince of the Sakya clan. This fateful excursion from the east, south, west and north gates of the castle compound, one after another, led him to question his existence as a result of encountering an aged person, someone suffering from illness and a lifeless corpse.

To which he asked his driver whether he too would age, become ill and eventually die. However, his fourth encounter was with "A mendicant who seeks the path" who inspired Siddhartha by encouraging: "Observing the transiency of this world, old age, illness, and death, I seek to liberate myself ... Guided by the true Dharma, ... and with great compassion, I protectively guard all people without being stained by the defilements of this world; these are the benefits of the mendicant."

So as has been summarized, Buddhism teaches about "suffering and the relief of suffering."

But the essential spirit of the Mahayana path of Buddhism emphasizes that our liberation from suffering is contingent on the alleviation of suffering of all beings.

This is based upon the essential truth of our interdependency or Oneness of Being, which is the heart of compassion.

On this basis, I consider the beginning of the Buddhist religion in history to have occurred, according to legend, 49 days after Sakyamuni Buddha's enlightenment on December 8, which would be January 26.

This is when, after seven weeks of reflection on what he had been awakened to (Dharma), he made his determination to share his spiritual freedom by the elucidating of the Four Noble Truths. His first Dharma talk was given to five companions with whom he began his spiritual quest with, but separated from when he determined that the ascetic path was too extreme,

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and found a Middle Path of meditation that would be suitable for the benefit of all beings, inspired by the life and light of Boundless Compassion. Namo Amida Butsu.

January Calendar

January 6	Regular Service	
	Newcomers Welcome	9:30 am - 10:00 am
	Meditation Service	10:00 am - 10:30 am
	Service and Dharma Talk	10:30 am
	Toban (Coffee/Tea Hour) in Community Room	11:30 am - 12:30 pm
January 13	Mindfulness Class with Sensei John Hughes	10:00 am - 11:00 am
January 20	Hoonko Service	
	Newcomers Welcome	9:30 am - 10:00 am
	Meditation Service	10:00 am - 10:30 am
	Service and Dharma Talk	10:30 am
	Toban in (Coffee/Tea Hour) in Community Room	11:30 am - 12:30 pm
January 27	Mindfulness Class with Sensei John Hughes	10:00 am - 11:00 am
	Upcoming Events	
February 15-17	Aikido Workshop	
March 17	Potluck Lunch and Annual Meeting	
April 7	Hanamatsuri	
May 26	Memorial Service	
June 30	Clean Up Sunday	

Contact Information		
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