

Twin Cities Buddhist Association

Newsletter

March, 2017

Please join us for our Ohigan service led by our Minister's Assistants

Sunday March 5th, 2017

10:00am – 12:00pm
at

Midtown YWCA Building
2121 E. Lake Street
Minneapolis, MN

*Please invite your friends.
They are always welcome.*

Please follow us on facebook (Twin Cities Buddhist Association) and tell your friends!

We will also have a brief board presentation of the annual meeting for your information and to answer any questions you may have about the organization.

Monthly Memorial for March Service:

February: Mrs. Phyllis Kimitch
Mr. Shigeto Tsurusaki
Mrs. Shitsuyo Tsurusaki
Mr. Yaokichi Kosobayashi
Mary Lou Schoch

March: Mr. Frank Yanari
Mrs. Tsuruyo Nishimura
Mr. George Ono
Mrs. Tao Oye

January Service:

The January service was rescheduled from our snow-day in December. It was our Bodhi Day/Joya-e/70th Anniversary/Monthly Memorial service. Quite a bit to commemorate but we got it all in! Gail gave her Dharma message of the historical events and significance of the enlightenment of Sakyamuni Buddha. She also explained the significance of the Joya-e service as a time of reflection and the meaning behind ringing the bell 108 times to symbolically rid ourselves of blind passions. Thank you to Sasha Bly for making sure we all had a chance to ring the bell. Our bell also has historical significance for our Sangha. It belongs to Kogen Taiko and was found and purchased by Phyllis Kimitch, a long time Sangha and Kogen member who passed away. Of course, no Joya-e service would be complete without our annual Buddhist Bingo! In spite of some shenanigans by some unnamed former clergy, everyone won a great prize! Thank you for your donated prizes and to Brian, our perpetual caller.

Service Schedule For 2017

April 30 – Rev. Miyamura

May 14 – Minister Assistants

July 16 – Rev. Miyamura

August 6 – Minister Assistants

October 8 – Rev. Miyamura

November 12 – Minister Assistants

December 3 – Minister Assistants

Thank you for your donations in January:

Micah/Chiemi Bly, Clarice Chikazawa, Joyce Ehmke, Noriko Freeman, Sumi Kosobayashi, Noriaki/Yoko Metoki, Scot/Stacy Moore, Janice Nishimura, Tak/Hisa Osada, Holly Stone, Wayne/Jean Takeshita, Cindy Tamaki, Brian/Cheral Tsuchiya, Frank Tsuchiya, Todd/Connie Tsuchiya, Dave/Laurie Wesley

Memorials:

Ben/Gail Wong, Toyo Lang - In memory of Kimi Yanari

Save the Date:

The 2017 Eastern Buddhist League Conference is being held this year in Chicago hosted by the Midwest Buddhist Temple. Activities will be held at the temple over Labor Day Weekend, September 1-3. The keynote speaker is Rev. Kurt Rye, resident minister of the Placer Buddhist Church and formerly of Ekoji Buddhist Temple in the Eastern District. Please reserve the date and consider attending.

Buddhist Flag:

Thank you to Fathers Matthew and Jim for donating a Buddhist flag to our Sangha. It was hanging on the wall in the front of the YWCA community room at the last service. Wikipedia explains the flag as follows:

“The Buddhist flag, first hoisted in 1885 in Sri Lanka, is a symbol of faith and peace used throughout the world to represent the Buddhist faith. The six colours of the flag represent the colours of the aura that emanated from the body of the Buddha when He attained Enlightenment under the Bodhi Tree. The horizontal stripes represent the races of the world living in harmony and the vertical stripes represent eternal world peace. The colours symbolise the perfection of Buddhahood and the Dharma.

The Blue light that radiated from the Buddha's hair symbolises the spirit of Universal Compassion for all beings.

The Yellow light that radiated from the Buddha's epidermis symbolises the Middle Way which avoids all extremes and brings balance and liberation.

The Red light that radiated from the Buddha's flesh symbolises the blessings that the practice of the Buddha's Teaching brings.

The White light that radiated from the Buddha's bones and teeth symbolises the purity of the Buddha's Teaching and the liberation it brings.

The Orange light that radiated from the Buddha's palms, heels and lips symbolises the unshakable Wisdom of the Buddha's Teaching.

The Combination Colour symbolises the universality of the Truth of the Buddha's Teaching.

Therefore, the overall flag represents that regardless of race, nationality, division or colour, all sentient beings possess the potential of Buddhahood.”



Temple Leadership Workshop:

Cheral attended a temple leadership workshop at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley, California in January. Although we are not temple members of the Buddhist Churches of America, we were graciously included in this educational opportunity to enhance our Sangha's growth. Thank you to Cheral for attending and please refer to her attached report for details. Cheral and the TCBA board will take the recommendations from this workshop to continue to improve our Sangha.

Annual Board Meeting:

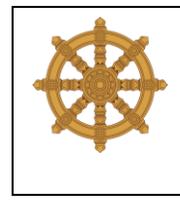
The TCBA meets at least annually to review the year and to plan for the upcoming year. There are financial discussions as well as planning to provide opportunities for our Sangha to hear the Dharma. Please take the time to read the minutes to appreciate what your board does for you. Also, there are opportunities and requests for input on many topics.

Thank you from the Tsuchiya family:

A heartfelt thank you from the Tsuchiya family for your support with the passing of Helen. Helen was an important part of the Sangha from its beginning and was a welcoming committee to all who attended any TCBA events. We want to express our gratitude to all of you for keeping her in your thoughts, your cards and visits after her move into memory care and now after she has become the Buddha, Chi Toku (Knowledge Gain).

January 29, 2017

TO: TCBA Board
FROM: Cheral Tsuchiya
RE: Temple Leadership Workshop

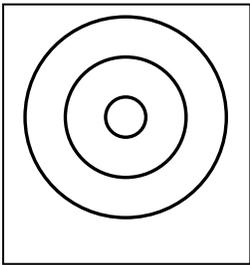


I was privileged to attend a temple leadership workshop at the BCA headquarters January 20-22. It was an honor to participate and to share ideas with many of our BCA ministers/scholars and other temple representatives. I returned energized about our Sangha and have some ideas to contribute.

1. Dharma Centered Leadership

This discussion was led by Bishop Umezū, Rev. Marvin Harada and Rev. Jerry Hirano, and was main thrust of the conference. This will be the key to growing and sustaining ALL temples, churches and Sanghas within the BCA.

We watched a short Ted Talk (https://www.ted.com/talks/simon_sinek_how_great_leaders_inspire_action) that formed the basis of our conversation. The basic idea from this vide is as follows:



Think of a bulls-eye, where the outer ring is the "what" you do. For example, we hold regular services. The center circle is the "how", we bring our obutsudan and set up and chant etc. The center circle is the "WHY" and that is the most important element. Without having a strong "why" - ie. the Dharma - the rest will be of no value. It is the Dharma that will bring people and keep them coming. "People don't buy what you do, they buy WHY you do it."

We spent a great deal of time talking about this concept and how we can each make the Dharma more significant in our home temples. Why Buddhism? Why Jodo Shinshu? Rev. Harada answered this question: "It is the most accessible path".

This would be a good conversation for our board at a separate meeting.

2. Diversity

This was a short presentation by Ken Tanimoto, the BCA president who visited us last summer. Diversity in the Dharma is imperative, but diversity is useless without inclusivity. Furthermore diversity and inclusivity is useless without the Dharma. Some temples have diversity statements. Although I don't it is imperative, we could add a short, well crafted, statement to our website.

3. Technology

I was glad we have a Facebook page and a website! Rev. Harry Bridge led this conversation. Although I'd like our website to be more beautiful and professional, I think it gets the job done. I would appreciate some board guidance on content. Our Facebook presence seems to be well received.

In summary my time was well spent in the fellowship of other temple representatives and leaders of the BCA. We are highly respected for what we do and how we continue to do it. It is good that we continue to participate in events such as this keep our Sangha fresh and to keep us visible to others outside the Eastern District.

Thank you for affording me the opportunity to participate.

In Gassho.