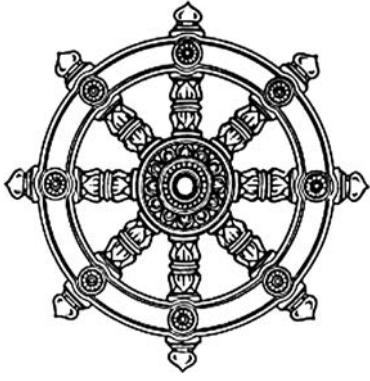


**Rev. Yuki's  
Tweet**  
Rev. Yuki Sugahara



**'New Beginning'**

This year marks the 850th anniversary of our founder Shinran Shonin's birth and next year is also considered the 850th anniversary of the establishment of Jodo Shinshu so there was a joint celebration at Nishi Hongwanji this year. So, this is the new beginning of the next 50 years of Jodo Shinshu.

Establishment of Jodo Shinshu is considered as 1224 because Shinran Shonin said in the Chapter on Transformed Buddhas and Lands of KyoGyoShinSho as follows: "...From that year of water/monkey to the first year of our Gennin era (the year wood/monkey) it is 2,173 years." (CWS, p.244.) In here, Shinran Shonin is explaining how many years passed since the passing of Shakyamuni Buddha and how we are already in the last dharma age. Shinran Shonin said "the first year of our Gennin era" in his master work KyoGyoShinSho: it is considered the first year of Gennin (1224), the year Shinran Shonin finished writing the first draft of KyoGyoShinSho. Thus, 1224 is considered the year of the establishment of Jodo Shinshu. I don't think Shinran Shonin really finished writing the first draft in 1224, but there is a reason 1224 is an important year.

According to Reverend Jitsuen Kakehashi, Enryakuji temple in Mount Hiei requested the court to ban the nembutsu in 1224. They were saying that "the practitioners of nembutsu are saying 'we are already in the last dharma age,' but it is not true." So Shinran Shonin needed to counterargue and prove that we are already in the last dharma age in 1224.

(Continued on page 2)

**Buddhist Church of Sacramento**  
2401 Riverside Blvd.  
Sacramento, CA 95818

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# SANGHA

**Sacramento Buddhist Church**  
**Volume 60 Number 7 - July 2023**

**Sacramento  
Betsuin**  
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## Rev. Yuki's Tweet (Continued)



Reverend Yuki Sugahara  
(916) 834-7350  
yukisugahara10012022@  
buddhistchurch.org



Reverend Matt Hamasaki  
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Sakura Gakuen Masako  
Thomas  
Bon Odori  
Tutorials Sandy  
Kataoka-Fong

The year 1224 was also the 13th year memorial of Honen Shonin. Just like Enryakuji temple, there were some movements that the nembutsu should be banned in Japan around that time. So Shinran Shonin probably wanted to prove how his teacher Honen Shonin's teaching of nembutsu was true by writing KyoGyoShinSho. So, these things are the reasons 1224 is considered the year of establishment of Jodo Shinshu.

Anyway, Shinran Shonin was born and passed away in Kyoto, but he spent his life in different places in Japan, such as Echigo (Niigata), and Kanto region. When he was in Echigo, he heard the news of his teacher Honen Shonin's passing, and then he decided to go to the Kanto region instead of going back to Kyoto.

It is said that Honen Shonin once told his disciples to spread the teaching of nembutsu wherever they go. I am sure Shinran Shonin kept these words of Honen Shonin, and he decided to live in different parts of Japan to spread the teaching of nembutsu. At that time, Shinran Shonin was married to Eshinni-sama and he had little children. I am sure that he discussed with Eshinni-sama what to do regarding the move. I wondered what kind of conversation they had.... But Eshinni-sama supported Shinran Shonin's decision after all. It was 13th century Japan and I am sure they did not have furniture like we do now to move, but I am sure that it was a big decision of Shinran Shonin's family to move to the Kanto region.

I cannot compare myself or my family to Shinran Shonin's, but this episode of Shinran Shonin makes me feel closer to him. Moving is always a headache, but Shinran Shonin went through this many times too. He might have complained how many things he needed to pack up and carry, he might have argued with Eshinni-sama regarding the move... but, what was in his heart was probably the words of Honen Shonin I have shared earlier: "Spread the teaching of nembutsu wherever you go."

I am writing this on June 13. The Sugaharas are now in the middle of packing and getting ready to move back to Sacramento. We spent six years in Portland, Oregon, and we loved the people and culture there. It is hard to leave a place we love, but Sacramento is like our second home as my wife, Namiko, and I started the family there. This is a new beginning for our family and the Sacramento sangha. Just like Shinran Shonin, I would like to keep the words of Honen Shonin — "spread the teaching of nembutsu wherever you go" — and enjoy the teaching of nembutsu with all of you.

There are two big events happening in the month of July. July 1 marks the effective date of Reverend Yuki Sugahara's appointment as Rinban of the Buddhist Church of Sacramento. Welcome to our Betsuin family, Rinban Sugahara, Namiko, Aoi, and Hikaru. We hope that your transition from Portland and the Oregon Buddhist Temple to Sacramento and the Betsuin is a smooth one.

Another big event for the month of July is our Obon services and festivities on the weekend of July 8 and 9. Be sure to refer to the Obon article in this newsletter for a schedule of events, including Obon practices, the Saturday morning cemetery and Nokotsudo services, Bon Odori on Saturday night, and the Obon/Hatsubon service on Sunday morning. Food concessions and the sale of new and gently used yukatas, happi coats, getta, and Obon dance gear will be offered at all Obon practices and on Obon night. A new item we will be selling during the Bon Odori on Saturday night is Onibi Beer!

I wish to express my sincere congratulations to Sensei Grace Hatano, who was honored and celebrated with a special presentation during the Gotan-E service on May 21. Sensei Grace was recognized for serving as a Dharma School teacher for 50 years! Many of you probably had Grace as your Dharma School kindergarten teacher! Thank you, Sensei Grace, for half a century of dedicated service to our Dharma School program. Thank you, also, for your years of service as a minister assistant. We are so lucky to have you on Team Betsuin! For more information on the celebration of Grace's service, please refer to the Dharma School section of this newsletter.

Our first Opportunity Drawing has wrapped up. The final Opportunity Drawing was held on Sunday, May 28, 2023. Congratulations to Sue I. of Sacramento for winning the grand prize of \$1,000. Please see the article on the Opportunity Drawing included in this newsletter for a list of all winners.

On Memorial Day, Monday, May 29, our temple hosted the annual Interfaith Memorial Day Service honoring our Issei pioneers. Members from several local churches, kenjin-kai organizations, and local nonprofit organizations participated in this inter-religious service, which was organized by the Sacramento JAACL and Reverend Matt. Troop 50B boy scouts provided the opening and closing flag ceremony for this special service.

On Saturday, June 3, our Rummage Sale returned after a five-year hiatus. The fundraiser was a huge success, thanks to the leadership of Jennifer Nitta and Laura SooHoo and the dedication of the department chairs and hundreds of volunteers. I understand that over the three days (drop-off/set-up days and the actual rummage sale), we had more than 400 volunteers helping run the event. There were so many donated items that even after the successful event ended, there were tons of items left. The unsold items were donated to local nonprofit organizations. I was amazed at how quickly all the leftover

## President's Message

(Continued)

items were boxed up and the kaikan, classrooms, and courtyard were transformed back into their original condition, thanks to so many volunteers staying to help clean up!

Our annual Families and Friends Picnic was held at Marriott Park on Sunday, June 11. Over 120 sangha members and friends attended this fun event. Reverend Yuki and Reverend Matt led a short service in the park, followed by races for the kids. A delicious lunch consisting of hamburgers, hot dogs, various salads and fruits, cookies, and chips followed. The picnic closed with a free raffle drawing where all attendees went home with a prize. Most of the raffle prizes were donated by Oto's Marketplace. Thank you, Russell Oto, for your generous donation!

I'd like to express my appreciation to Gordon Nitta and Marty Sakata, who led a team of volunteers who hauled all the equipment and supplies to the park from the church, and also barbecued the hamburgers and hot dogs. Thank you to the members of the SBWA and ABA for making the fruit salad and the green salad. Also, thank you to Sharon Yoshimura for making potato/macaroni salad, Misa Oshiro for baking a variety of cookies, Barbara Sasaki for making the chili, Diane Shimosaka for her marinated vegetables, and Cathy Lemelin for donating cherries. And thank you to the members of the Board of Trustees and sangha members for helping set up and clean up. The weather was perfect and it was a fun-filled day for all!

Don't forget our 77th Annual Food and Cultural Bazaar will be held on ONE DAY ONLY this year, on Saturday, August 12, 2023. We have many volunteer opportunities for all our temple organization members, as well as our sangha members and friends. If you are interested in volunteering before, during, or after the bazaar, please sign up on our website: [www.buddhistchurch.org](http://www.buddhistchurch.org).

Stay out of the summer heat, and I'll see you at Obon (I'll be running the "Obon Store") and the Bazaar!

## Sacramento Buddhist Women's Association

Shirley Kato  
Executive Council

**W**elcome back to our SBWA members Teruko Matsumura, Loleen Nakano, and Fusako Takahashi, who traveled to Kyoto, Japan to attend the World Buddhist Women's Convention and the Joint Celebration for Shinran Shonin's 850th birthday and the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Tradition.

Teruko wrote that her most memorable experience was the panelists' presentations, especially the inspiring talk by Karen Noboku Akahoshi. She was also impressed with each country's presentation as she could feel their passion and faith. Loleen and

Fusako joined the Northern California Buddhist Women's Association (NCBWA) Japan tour that followed the convention and are grateful to Peggy Okabayashi (Florin Buddhist Women's Association) and Reverend Candice Shibata (Stockton Buddhist Church) for their hard work planning and coordinating the trip.

Fusako found the tour to be an educational and eye-opening experience and was grateful for the generosity, helpfulness, and kindness of everyone in the group.

Loleen's most memorable experience was their visit to the Otani Mausoleum in Kyoto, the final resting place of Shinran Shonin and many of his disciples. The Nokotsudo contains a niche for each temple (Sacramento Buddhist Church has three), which houses all the names of those who have passed before us. The group chanted Juseige, led by Reverend Candice. For Loleen, it was a very moving experience to hear the chanting and to spend a quiet moment.

On June 15, SBWA members attended the Music Circus performance of "Beautiful," a musical about the early life and career of Carole King. After the show, the group enjoyed dinner together at Ming Dynasty Restaurant. Thank you to Virginia Uchida for organizing this wonderful outing! On July 6, SBWA members will make another trip to a casino — this time to the Hard Rock Casino in Wheatland. Thank you to Stacy Matsunami for coordinating this fun day trip for our members.

We greatly appreciate the help and donations we received from SBWA members for our June community service projects: For the Betsuin

Family and Friends Picnic, volunteers cut up fruits and vegetables for the salads and helped serve on picnic day. Used eyeglasses were collected and will be donated to the Lions Club, who refurbish and distribute the glasses to those who are unable to afford them. SBWA made donations to the Sacramento Buddhist Church Golf Tournament (as a Silver Sponsor), and to the Watsonville Buddhist Church for temple repairs that are needed due to flood damage from January's storms.

Thank you to SBWA member Heidi Sakazaki for her very generous donation for courtyard refreshments. After-service treats for May 28 were purchased with her donation.

Our next Board meeting will be held on August 2. All SBWA members are invited to attend. Please email [SBWA2020@gmail.com](mailto:SBWA2020@gmail.com) to receive the Zoom link.





## Adult Buddhist Association

Jean Kashiwada  
ABA President

## 2023 ABA Community Service Award Recipients



(From left) Andrew Itagaki, Makena Tsuye, Duncan Nakamoto, and Jordan Shimosaka.

### NOTE NEW E-MAIL!

Submissions for the SANGHA are **due on the 15th of each month**. Late articles will be published in the following month's issue.

When submitting, please send email to: [SBCsangha@gmail.com](mailto:SBCsangha@gmail.com) with a cc to: [betsuinoffice@gmail.com](mailto:betsuinoffice@gmail.com) and inform the church office at (916) 446-0121. Please include the author's name. Artwork, including photographs, needs to be sent as separate files from the text. Thank you.

**A**BA had a busy month helping with the Educational Award judging, attending 1st & 3rd Wednesday Senior Services, taking shifts at the Rummage Sale, and helping set up for the Dharma School Picnic and serving food to the attendees.

ABA would like to thank Minh La and Michael Watanabe for their generous monetary donations to the Wednesday Senior Services (which will be used toward the transportation expenses and refreshments), Elaine Yoshikawa and Virginia Uchida for providing refreshments (homemade cookies and donut holes), and to our ABA Board members for setting up the tables, greeting and escorting the seniors to the services, and serving tea and refreshments. The seniors look forward to hearing the dharma messages from Reverend Hamasaki and Rinban Sugahara at our temple and getting together to visit with each other afterwards. A special thank you goes to Myra Okasaki, who plays the piano during the gatha portion of the service.

Thank you for supporting ABA's e-waste event on April 8. We were just informed that we collected 4,500 pounds of e-waste and will be receiving about \$135 for our efforts. It was a great event. We hope to have our shredding event again next year after tax time.

ABA member Irene Takeda has been working on possible hikes and bike rides for this summer. We will notify all ABA members via email. The first hike will be a short hike, probably only a couple of miles, since many of us haven't done many hikes for a while.

We look forward to seeing you at Obon Odori on Saturday, July 8, and the Obon/Hatsubon Service on Sunday, July 9. Come out to the dance practices and support our church organizations, which will be selling food and drinks. Be sure to check out the Betsuin Board's table, where you may purchase Obon items.

Thank you again for supporting ABA.

### What is ABA's Community Service Award?

**M**ost scholarships are awarded for academic achievements, scholastic performances, skills and abilities. While the ABA Community Service Awards rating does consider these elements, it also considers and gives equal or greater weight to community service. Community service serves as the foundation for a healthy and productive life. Consideration of others, giving and supporting others, and the welfare of others are qualities that ABA and our Jodo Shinshu tradition want to encourage in our youth. These are the qualities of "selflessness" found in the Buddha Dharma.

ABA has graciously awarded each of these students a \$1,000 check from the ABA Scholarship Education Fund Account.

Here is a short bio on each scholarship recipient. It is noteworthy for the sangha to learn a little bit about our recipients, as they exemplify what our future Generation Z'ers will become — leaders in our church and in our communities!

#### Andrew Itagaki

The son of Steve and Stacy Itagaki. Andrew is a graduate of Inderkum High School and plans on attending the University of California (UC), San Diego as a chemical engineering major. He excels in his academics and extracurricular activities, particularly in his community service as an Inderkum student athlete volunteering at the Runnin' for Rhet 2022 MaraFunRun, and as a scout and church member volunteering and leading various projects and fundraisers. He planned, organized and conducted an Eagle Service Project for the Temple, repairing and painting the entire wall bordering the east side of the church parking lot. This project was a wonderful display of leadership and community service.

#### Duncan Nakamoto

The son of Calvin and Phylitia Nakamoto. Duncan is a graduate of Laguna Creek High School and plans on attending UC Davis to study biological sciences with a possible future in medicine. Duncan is an outstanding student and was a Dharma School teacher's assistant for several years and an active member of the National Honor Society, performing community service volunteer work at the local library and participating in various donation drives. Duncan was also a member of the Health Occupation Students of America, which conducted a Be-the-Match Drive to encourage people to donate blood and join a bone marrow registry. He was also a member of the Link Crew, which conducted freshmen orientation at his high school. He hopes that his career in the medical field will enable him to help others.

#### Jordan Shimosaka

The son of Dennis and Diane Shimosaka. Jordan is a graduate of Folsom High School and plans on attending Folsom Lake College. Jordan is an excellent student and considering a future in technology, manufacturing, design, and automation. He is currently working part-time and volunteering at church and in the community. At church, he attends, supports and works virtually all the church fundraisers and special events. Two letters of reference are from Board Presidents, who laud his dedication and

## 2023 ABA Community Service Award Recipients (Continued)

hard work, which includes doing set-up, working the event, clean-up and take-down of all events at the church. His community service includes volunteering for the California Scholarship Federation and for the Interact Club of Folsom High School. Among several service projects, one involved assembling water purification indicators for use internationally in poorer countries needing clean, safe water. Jordan said that helping others brings him happiness.

### Makena Tsuye

The daughter of Julie and Kyle Tsuye. Makena is a graduate of John F. Kennedy High School and plans on attending Pacific University Oregon to study psychology and biology. Makena excels in both academics and athletics. She was the No. 1 golfer on the Kennedy High School Girls Golf Team with All Metro League Honors, including Most Valuable Player in 2022. Makena is a member of various clubs and organizations and has participated and volunteered actively in community service. Makena served as a teacher's aide and volunteer for Jan Ken Po Gakko and has served as the principal instructor for the Betsuin's new golf program for middle school children beginning golf. She says that this experience has given her an opportunity to be innovative and determine how best to introduce golf to new players. Makena expresses the importance of giving back to the community that helped her and her family as she was growing up. Congratulations! And much success in college and all future endeavors!

## Calendar of Events

### Sangha Helpers

Joanne Chew  
Libby Iwamura  
Shirley Kato  
Eva Kawada  
Janet Kawamura  
Peggy Mori  
Carla Nishimura  
Marlene Ohara  
Helen Sakaishi  
Jeanne Sato  
Lynn Sunahara  
Irene Takeda  
Virginia Uchida  
Donna Wong  
Sueko Yamashita  
Elaine Yoshikawa

### Sunday Sangha Services, 9:30 a.m.

- 7/2/2023: Rev. Yuki Sugahara  
10:30 a.m. – Shotsuki Hoyo Memorial Service
- 7/9/2023 – Hatsubon Service – Rev. Yuki
- 7/16/2023 – Rev. Matt Hamasaki
- 7/23/2023 – Sensei Keith Kato
- 7/30/2023 – Tristan Brown, Betsuin Board Member / Minister Assistant-in-Training

### Special Services, Classes

- Monday, 7/3/2023, 10–11 a.m. – Monthly Chanting Service (Refreshments afterward) – Rev. Yuki
- Wednesday, 7/5/2023, 9:30–10:30 a.m. – Special Japanese Dharma Service (Refreshments afterward) – Rev. Yuki  
For Seniors and anyone else who would like to join us!
- Wednesday, 7/12/2023, 10 a.m.–12 noon – Japanese Dharma no Kai (Classroom 1) – Dharma Session in Japanese with Rev. Yuki
- Wednesday, 7/19/2023, 9:30–10:30 a.m. – Special Japanese Dharma Service (Refreshments afterward) – Rev. Matt  
For Seniors and anyone else who would like to join us!

### Tanoshimi Kai - Fridays, 10 a.m.

Check-in time for Tanoshimi Kai's weekly return! Lunch at 11 a.m.

- 7/7/2023
- 7/14/2023
- 7/21/2023
- 7/28/2023
- 8/4/2023
- 8/11/2023 – No Tanoshimi Kai (Bazaar Prep)

### Obon Cemetery Visitations - Saturday, 7/8/2023

- 9 a.m. – Odd Fellows (Riverside Blvd.)
- 10 a.m. – Sacramento Memorial Lawn (Stockton Blvd.)
- 11 a.m. – East Lawn (Folsom Blvd)
- 12 noon – Main Hondo; Nokotsudo will be open for visiting

### BON ODORI! - 7:30-9:15 p.m. (Concessions begin at 5 p.m.)

- If you need assistance with dressing, dancers can start coming at 5:30 p.m. to the classrooms. Bring your yukata, obi, ties, etc.!
- PARKING IS VERY LIMITED AROUND THE BETSUIN. Please consider carpooling or even using Lyft or Uber!

### BETSUIN CLOSED on Tuesday, 7/4/2023

Have a Happy and Safe Independence Day!

## Sakura Gakuen Masako Thomas Adult Class Dean



We finished the school year with more than 70 students. There is one summer short Kanji class in July. Please check our website.

The fall semester registration starts on August 1. Sacramento Buddhist Church members' tuition is \$150 per semester class.

Have a nice summer!

Contact Mrs. Thomas for adult classes: [thomas@sakuragakuen.org](mailto:thomas@sakuragakuen.org).

**13th Annual  
SBC Golf  
Tournament**  
Richard Kai

**G**reetings! The Sacramento Buddhist Church Golf Committee extends its appreciation for the overwhelming response to the 13th annual golf tournament that will be played at Teal Bend Golf Course on July 13.

The number of players at 155 far exceeded the committee’s goal of 144 golfers.

We look forward to another fun tournament and the delicious bento box luncheon served by the host of cooks and volunteers at the Kaikan.

The committee is grateful to the number of players who have set aside a part of their day to support the temple; they, along with the sponsors and donors, contribute tremendously to the success of this event.



# Sponsorship and Donation Form

## SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

**\$1,000 – Gold Sponsorship:**

Includes Tee Box Sign recognition, four complimentary tournament entry fees, golf cart, lunch, refreshments, and tee prizes.

**\$500 – Silver Sponsorship:**

Includes Tee Box Sign recognition, two complimentary tournament entry fees, golf cart, lunch, refreshments, and tee prizes.

**\$250 – Bronze Sponsorship:**

Includes Tee Box Sign recognition, one complimentary tournament entry fee, golf cart, lunch, refreshments, and tee prizes.

**\$125 – In Memory Of, Individual and/or Group Sponsorship** includes Tee Box Sign recognition.

## SUGGESTED MONETARY AND/OR IN-KIND DONATIONS

**Check-In Tee Prizes**

Donation of golf tees, balls, ball markers, divot repair, etc. to give to each golfer.

**Snack/Dinner Items**

Miscellaneous refreshments, snacks or food items.

**Tournament Raffle Prizes**

Unused golf clubs, head covers, golf apparel, dry goods, food items, restaurant gift certificates, etc.

**Cash**

Used to offset the cost of check-in tee prizes, opportunity drawing prizes, or other related expenses.

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_      **Deadline:** June 15, 2023      **Fed Tax ID:** 94-1243674

**Sponsorship:** I/We would like to be a sponsor in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Please indicate:     Gold Sponsor       Silver Sponsor       Bronze Sponsor

In Memory Of, Individual and/or Group: Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

**Opportunity Drawing Prize/Donation:** I/We would like to make a donation of \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsor/Donor Name(s):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Name:** \_\_\_\_\_      **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_      **City:** \_\_\_\_\_      **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Return to:** SBC Golf Tournament, 899 Shore Breeze Drive, Sacramento, CA 95831  
Church Phone: 916-446-0121



**13th Annual SBC Golf Tournament**  
(Continued)



A preliminary count of the number of sponsors and donors is as follows:

- **Grand Prizes:** Three- and two-night stays at the Lake Tahoe Vacation Resort from Robbie Midzuno;
- **Hole-In-One Prizes (HIO):** Cash and merchandise prizes for an HIO on each of the four Par 3 holes donated by J. Morey Insurance Company and Carol Takasugi; and
- Corporate, business and individual sponsorship and raffle prize donations amounting to:
  - Gold Sponsors: 10
  - Silver Sponsors: 5
  - Bronze Sponsors: 8
  - Hole Sponsors: 4
  - In Memory Of: 16
  - Raffle Prizes/Cash: 25

The list of sponsors may grow as the tournament reaches closer to the start date of July 13. The Golf Committee will post the sponsor and donor signage to acknowledge these donations along the teeing grounds at the course. A full list of sponsors and donor levels along with their names will be published in the August SANGHA newsletter.

There is still time for nonplaying sangha members and friends of the Betsuin to participate in this event as a hole sponsor or In Memory Of donation. The donation form is attached to this monthly article and available on the Betsuin's website at [www.buddhistchurch.org](http://www.buddhistchurch.org).

Questions and/or comments about the fundraising event can be sent via email to the golf committee at [betsuingolf@gmail.com](mailto:betsuingolf@gmail.com). The temple office staff can provide general information about the event.

**Riverside Tanoshimi Kai Is Back!**  
Helen Sakaishi

**A**ttention, Seniors 60 years and over! Riverside Tanoshimi Kai (RTK) is back every Friday starting July 7 at the Buddhist Church of Sacramento. RTK, in conjunction with the Asian Community Center (ACC) Meals on Wheels program, is excited to offer seniors an opportunity to socialize and foster friendship over lunch and fun activities.

Check-in time is from 10 a.m. and lunch will be served at 11 a.m. Lunch is followed by bingo or entertainment.

**Tanoshimi-kai is Back on Fridays**

**Weekly Senior Lunches begin July 7**

**LUNCH + FUN!**

Donations are gratefully accepted (but not required) to help defray costs for the Meals on Wheels program.

Transportation is available through ACC Rides to and from the Buddhist Church of Sacramento for residents of ACC Maple Tree Village and Greenhaven Terrace. If you need a ride, please notify ACC.

You may contact Barbara Nakatomi if you have any questions via text or voice at (916) 813-5440. RTK is also looking for volunteers to serve the meals at the Buddhist Church of Sacramento once a month on a Friday. If you would like to help, please contact Barbara.

Hope to see you at Riverside Tanoshimi Kai on Fridays!

**Courtyard Refreshments**

**W**e appreciate the following groups/members for providing refreshments, monetary donations, or assistance for our Sunday morning courtyard refreshments:

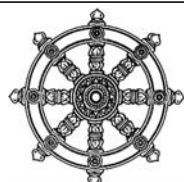
**May 28, 2023**

- SBWA Members:
- Heidi Sakazaki (donated the refreshments)
  - Shirley Kato
  - Jean Kashiwada
  - Amy Wong (donation)

**June 4, 2023**

- Cheryl Inouye
- Stacey Okino
- Kim Sakata
- Bobby Tanaka
- Amy Wong (donation)
- Grace Hatano (donation)

**New Members**



*Welcome New Members*  
*Michelle & Natalie Fujikawa*



**2023 Obon Festivities**



**2023**  
**Obon**

*Sacramento Betsuin*  
**IN HONOR & REMEMBRANCE**

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BON ODORI: SATURDAY, JULY 8, 2023 | 7:30PM, IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL  
FOOD CONCESSIONS: BEGINNING AT 5:00PM

OBON/HATSUBON SERVICE: SUNDAY, JULY 9, 2023 | 9:30AM, IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL

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BUDDHIST CHURCH OF SACRAMENTO | 916-446-0121 | BUDDHISTCHURCH.ORG



Join us on the weekend of Saturday July 8 and Sunday July 9 for our Bon Odori, Obon/Hatsubon Service, and cemetery services.

Below are the events scheduled for Obon weekend:

**Obon Cemetery Services - Saturday, July 8, 2023**

- Odd Fellows Cemetery – 9 a.m.
- Sacramento Memorial Lawn – 10 a.m.
- East Lawn – 11 a.m.
- Nokotsudo Service (service held in the Hondo, with Nokotsudo visitation following) – 12 noon

**Obon Odori - Saturday, July 8, 2023**

- Location: Church parking lot and courtyard
- Also livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube
- Food Concessions (including teriyaki beef sandwiches and a variety of other food) and the sale of new/gently used Obon apparel and dance gear, and Onibi Beer beginning at 5 p.m.
- Obon Odori from 7:30 p.m. to 9:15 p.m.

**Additional information:**

- Odori practices will be Wednesday and Thursday, July 5-6 (7–8 p.m. on July 5 and 7–8:15 p.m. on July 6) with food concessions and the sale of new/gently used Obon apparel and dance gear starting at 6 p.m. Come for dinner before practice starts!
- Folding chairs can be brought into the parking lot on Friday, July 7 from 6–8 p.m.

**Obon/Hatsubon Service - Sunday, July 9, 2023, 9:30 a.m.**

- Hatsubon is the first Obon Service after a loved one has passed. A combined Obon/Hatsubon service will be held in the Main Hondo at 9:30 a.m.
- The Obon/Hatsubon Service will also be livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube.



## New Bon Odori Tutorials Available

Sandy Kataoka-Fong

Looking for tips on dressing for Bon Odori or a refresher on a few of our Bon Odori dances? Check out the Obon playlist on our Buddhist Church of Sacramento YouTube channel.

Just in time for our upcoming Obon weekend, new tutorial videos have been created and posted on: Basic Essentials for Dressing in a Yukata, How to Tie Yukata, How to Tie Obi Bow and How to Tie a Kai No Kuchi Obi.

While you are viewing our new tutorials, check out the rest of our Obon playlist for dance steps of a few of our Bon Odori favorites!



## Rummage Sale Thanks

Jennifer Nitta and  
Laura SooHoo  
Co-Chairs

On behalf of the 2023 Rummage Sale Committee, we wanted to give a BIG THANK YOU shout out to all of you who pitched in and made this year's Rummage Sale a huge success. It truly took a village to make it happen.

A special thank you to Aileen Nishio and Ruth Seo, longtime Rummage Sale Masters, for sharing their expertise before and during the sale. Also thank you to all of the department leads for coming back and running your areas like pros. Your knowledge of how to run your areas was appreciated and made everything run smoothly. You'll be back next sale, right?

The sale ran like a well-oiled machine and the customers were thrilled with all we had to offer. Many people took advantage of this year's Early Entry Opportunity! They were excited to have that extra hour to shop. And thank you to Cindy Kitade for all of those beautiful, colorful signs located everywhere around the sale! The pricing, department and directional signs were instrumental in helping our customers find great deals.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who shared snacks with everyone during the Thursday and Friday receiving days. It was nice to be able to grab a snack when needed. And especially to Barb Sasaki, who kept everyone fed during the two days of prep and on the sale day!

We hope to see everyone in a couple of years when we do this all over again.

## Opportunity Drawing



The first-ever Opportunity Drawing for the Buddhist Church of Sacramento has concluded. Congratulations to the following winners, whose winning tickets were entered into each of the five monthly drawings, along with the 299 other tickets:

- January Winner: Monica A. from Reno, NV: Ticket #99: \$500
- February Winner: Jerry T. from Folsom, CA: Ticket #179: \$500
- March Winner: Debbie M. from Elk Grove, CA: Ticket #131: \$500
- April Winner: Kelly G. from Citrus Heights, CA: Ticket #10: \$500
- May Winner: Sue I. from Sacramento, CA: Ticket #219: \$1,000

Thank you to all who participated in this fun and successful fundraiser for the church. Your continued support of the Betsuin and its activities is greatly appreciated! Please look for another Opportunity Drawing to be held in the future.

## Yoga with Bob Matsueda

Interested in learning something new? The Yoga for Health class is designed for any age and physical condition.

Join us for weekly yoga classes with Bob Matsueda via Zoom.

Every Wednesday evening, 7 p.m.–8:15 p.m.

New students, please contact [betsuinprograms@buddhistchurch.org](mailto:betsuinprograms@buddhistchurch.org) for more information and Zoom link.



**Thursday Night  
Health &  
Wellness**



**J**oin us for these friendly, informative sessions. Ask questions and learn about steps you can take to ensure a healthy and happy life for yourself and those around you!

Please sign up at [BetsuinPrograms@buddhistchurch.org](mailto:BetsuinPrograms@buddhistchurch.org)  
Buddhist Church of Sacramento, 2401 Riverside Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95818-2233

**Community-Life Balance and  
Gratitude Through the  
Lenses of Queens**

**Thursday, July 13, 2023 - 6:30 p.m.**



**Kristine Yada, 2022 Nisei Week Queen**  
**KC Mukai, 2023 Northern California  
Cherry Blossom Festival Queen**

**Dharma School  
Audrey Seo**

**D**harma School wrapped up our first year back in person with our end-of-term awards presentations on Sunday, June 4, 2023. Congratulations to the following students who achieved perfect attendance: Isla Atajar and Luna Mua (1 year), Jacie Shimosaka (13 years) and Jordan Shimosaka (16 years). Your dedication is commendable and thank you to the parents for bringing your students regularly.

We also celebrated the graduating senior class of 2023: Andrew DeCamp (Cosumnes Oaks High School), Nyack Emery (School of Engineering and Science), Mattias Matsubayashi (Rocklin High School), Duncan Nakamoto (Laguna Creek High School), Evan Shimane (Cosumnes Oaks High School) and Jordan Shimosaka (Folsom High School). We wish you all the best and hope you'll come back and visit us soon!

Dharma School also recognized a special anniversary for a very special person. Sensei Grace Hatano celebrated her 50th anniversary as a Dharma School teacher!



At the Dharma School teachers conference in April, Reverend Matt Hamasaki accepted a congratulatory certificate from the Bishop on her behalf which was presented to her at the Gotan-e family service in May. Former Dharma School Superintendent Valerie Fong coordinated this surprise presentation, which included a video message from Reverends Bob and Patti Oshita and a fabulous popcorn bouquet (did you know Sensei Grace loves popcorn?). Even more special, all members of her family attended (also a surprise) so they could all commemorate this milestone anniversary with her. Thank you Sensei Grace for 50 years of dedicated service! On behalf of all the students who have passed through your classroom, "We love you, Sensei Grace!"

Registration for the 2023-24 school year will begin in August; please keep an eye on the church website. Enjoy your summer!



**2023  
Education  
Award**  
Kelly Gartman  
Chair, Religious &  
Education Committee

**Sports  
Committee**  
Marty Matsuda



On Sunday, June 4, the Religious and Education Committee presented the annual Buddhist Church of Sacramento Education Awards. This award recognizes membership and commitment to the church and Dharma School. Every year we receive applications from highly qualified and dedicated high school seniors. This year was no exception.

We would like to congratulate the following award recipients:

- Nyack Emery \$1,000
- Jordan Shimosaka \$1,000

On behalf of the Buddhist Church of Sacramento, we want to thank these students for their time, hard work, and dedication in supporting the church and its activities.

We would also like to thank the members of the Adult Buddhist Association (ABA), Sacramento Buddhist Women’s Association (SBWA), and the Sports Committee for their generous donations. Without them, this award would not be possible.

At the June 4 Dharma School awards service, Cosumnes Oaks High School graduate Evan Shimane was awarded the Akira “Aki” Fukushima Memorial Award for the most valuable player of the Sunday school basketball team in recognition of outstanding athletic achievement and overall contribution and value to the team, church and Dharma School program.

The following is Coach Gus Maseba’s nomination for Evan to receive this award:

*We coaches want to nominate Evan Shimane for the Akira Fukushima memorial award.*

*He is a player that makes a difference both on and off the court. Returning every season, he came to practice and games with a positive and strong mental attitude.*

*Always one to give his 100%, he motivated his teammates to do the same. If a player was having a bad game, you could count on Evan to share a kind word or pat on the back.*

*It’s this kind of player that makes the biggest difference on a team. We can all learn from Evan — not only as a teammate but as a good Buddhist.*

*We’re all happy he played this year and happy to see that he had his best season as a basketball player.*

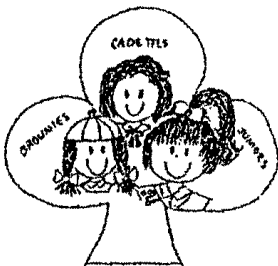
*Regards,  
B2 Coaches Gus Maseba, Jon Izumi and Kevin Wong*

Congratulations to Evan and his parents, Stephen and Kathy, for receiving this season’s award.

Evan will be attending Cal State Monterey Bay this fall and is majoring in marine biology. He aspires to work at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, caring for any of the animals there.

Hey Evan, my goldfish likes to swim upside down....

**Girl Scout  
Troop 569**



## Girl Scout Troop 569 Orientation



Parents and girls. Come and see what girl scouting is all about.

If your daughter will be entering kindergarten in the fall, she is the perfect age to be a Daisy!

If your daughter is older, please sign up and we will see if we can include her in one of our troops

Sign up at [BetsuinPrograms@buddhistchurch.org](mailto:BetsuinPrograms@buddhistchurch.org).





**71st Annual Japanese Food & Cultural Bazaar**

your favorite summer tradition returns!



**ONE DAY ONLY!**

SATURDAY AUGUST 12, 2023 FROM 12 TO 8 PM

2401 RIVERSIDE BLVD. SACRAMENTO, CA 95818







BUDDHIST CHURCH OF SACRAMENTO  
77<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL JAPANESE FOOD + CULTURAL

# BAZAAR

WWW.BUDDHISTCHURCH.ORG

**2023 Family Memorial Service Schedule**

Traditionally, family memorial services are held for loved ones on designated anniversaries. These are precious occasions to honor the treasured memories of our beloved ones and to realize how fortunate we are to be embraced by Amida Buddha's light of wisdom and life of compassion.

Year of Death	2023 Memorial	Year of Death	2023 Memorial
2022	1 year	1999	25 year
2021	3 year	1991	33 year
2017	7 year	1974	50 year
2011	13 year	1924	100 year
2007	17 year		



*Condolences to the Family of*



*Susan Kawamura.....May 21, 1958-April 24, 2023*

Buddhist Church of Sacramento  
**Wall of Appreciation Donor Form**

The members of the Legacy Endowment Board had a vision to create a project that could express our appreciation for the Sacramento Betsuin. They contracted with a designer to create The Wall of Appreciation. This project is not only a symbol of gratitude for the Betsuin, but also for the generations of Sangha members who built and sustained this temple for so many years. It is only through the efforts of so many others that we are able to exist today. With deepest gratitude, thank you for your continued support of the Sacramento Betsuin.

DATE SUBMITTED: \_\_\_\_\_

DONOR NAME(S): \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

NAMEPLATE WORDING:  
(29 characters per line max including spaces & punctuation)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

DONATION AMOUNT: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

DIRECTED TO:  
 GENERAL FUND  
 LEGACY ENDOWMENT FUND

SIGNATURE:  
 \_\_\_\_\_

The Buddhist Church of Sacramento is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) entity. (tax ID# 94-1243674)

**Levels of Giving**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
|     | <b>Kiku</b> (Chrysanthemum)<br>\$1,000,000 + |
|      | <b>Fuji</b> (Wisteria)<br>\$500,000 +        |
|      | <b>Hasu</b> (Lotus)<br>\$100,000 +           |
|      | <b>Ume</b> (Plum)<br>\$25,000 +              |
|    | <b>Ayame</b> (Iris)<br>\$5,000 +             |
|    | <b>Ichijuku</b> (Bodhi Tree)<br>\$250,000 +  |
|    | <b>Momiji</b> (Maple)<br>\$50,000 +          |
|    | <b>Icho</b> (Ginko)<br>\$10,000 +            |
|  | <b>Sakura</b> (Cherry)<br>\$2,500 +          |

**Examples of Wording**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
|  | Ted, Naomi & Mie Tanaka  |
|  | In memory of<br>Jiro & Sumie Tanaka<br>& Mark Tanaka                   |
|  | The Tanaka Family  |
|  | In celebration of<br>Jiro & Sumie Tanaka's 60th<br>Wedding anniversary |

**たのしみ会 (RTK) 再開!**

60才以上のシニアの皆様へ、リバーサイド・たのしみ会 (RTK) は7月7日より毎週金曜日にサクラメント別院にて再開されます! リバーサイド・たのしみ会 (RTK) はACCとMeals on Wheelsと共催でシニアのために昼食を共にしながら親睦と交流を深めるために毎週金曜日に行われます。

\*チェックイン・タイムは午前10時、昼食は11時、昼食の後はビンゴ又は余興のプログラムを予定しています。

\*ご寄付は義務ではありませんが、Meals on Wheelsへの経費節約のため有難くお受けいたします。

\*ACC Ridesによる送迎サービス (ACC Maple Tree/Greenhaven TerraceとSacramento別院間) は無料で、ACCにお申込み下さい。

尚、たのしみ会ではひと月に一度(金曜日)のボランティアを募集しています。応募されたい方、また、たのしみ会に関するお問い合わせは中富バーバラさん(916)813-5440まで。

7/7, 7/14, 7/21, 7/28, 8/4, 8/11 (No Tanoshimikai-Bazaar prep)

どことなく宗祖に近い存在にしてくださる気がします。引越は本当に考える事が多くて、頭が痛くなります。もしかすると宗祖も同じようなお気持ちだったのでしょうか。宗祖も「持っていくもの多すぎるわ!」と文句を言われたかもしれないし、恵信尼様と引越しに関するストレスから口論されたかもしれない。ただ、最終的にはやはり元祖の「どこに行ってもお念仏のみ教えを広めなさい」という言葉が胸にあったのだと思います。

さて、私がこの記事を書いているのは6月13日、菅原家は今 sacrament へと引越する為の準備の真只中です。菅原家はオレゴン州ポートランドで6年間過ごしました。若者向けの文化が多くある街、フレンドリーな人々などポートランドはとても魅力的な場所で、離れるのは正直嫌です。しかし、sacrament は妻の南海子と私が二人の子供を授かった場所でもあり、第二の故郷とも言える場所でもあります。これもまた「新しい始まり」であり、皆さんとこの新しい始まりを楽しめることを願っています。また、宗祖のように元祖の「どこに行ってもお念仏のみ教えを広めなさい」というお言葉を胸に、皆さまとお聴聞させていただければと思います。これからもよろしくお願いたします。合掌

## 婦人会ニュース

## 加藤シャーリー

SBWA の代表として親鸞聖人ご誕生/開宗慶讃法要記念並びに世界仏婦大会に参加した松村輝子、中野ロリーン、高橋房子（以下敬称略）の感想をお伝えします。松村輝子：一番感動を受けたのは各国代表のパネリストによる体験発表でした。中でも米国仏教団代表の赤星カレン・ノブコさんのお話しに心を打たれました。赤星さんは日系人収容所で生まれ、戦後も色々な苦労を経験し、開教使夫人としてサンノゼ別院、サンデイエゴ仏教会などで常にお念仏と共に人生を過ごされました。又、南米仏教婦人会連盟代表の梶原道子さんはブラジルで最初に建てられたお寺で生まれ、父が39才で亡くなられたあと、母が得度され、その母を助けられ、その後、開教使と結婚されてお寺を大きくされました。お二人とも今は80代の高齢ですがとてもお元気で私は本当に鼓舞されました。残念だったことはCOVID 予防のため他の地域の方と交流の機会がなかったことでした。高橋房子：フローリン WBA の岡林ペギー引率の観光旅行に参加した。ツアーは驚くことも多く非常に勉強になった。ツアーグループの皆さんからとても親切にして頂き感謝に絶えません。中野ロリーン：京都の大谷本廟で親鸞聖人とそのお弟子さん達のお墓にお参りし、納骨堂では sacrament 別院の Niche の前で柴田開教使とグループと共に重誓偈を唱えたことに一番感動しました。

6月15日ミュージック・サーカス「Beautiful」観劇のあとミッド・ダイナスティにて夕食。

7月6日ウイトランドにあるハードロック・カシノへ行く予定。松波ステイが世話役。

別院主催ピクニックのために果物や野菜を刻むお手伝いをして下さったボランティアの皆様と要らなくなった眼鏡の寄付(ライオンスクラブ)をして下さった方々へお礼を申し上げます。又、当婦

人会は別院ゴルフトーナメント、そしてワトソンビル仏教会へ修理費(1月の嵐で建物の一部浸水)のため寄付を贈りました。

感謝状：坂崎ハイデイさんよりコートヤードでの茶菓サービス宛てに多額の寄付を頂きました。

## 理事長のメッセージ

## 足立カレン

7月1日より菅原祐樹先生が正式に sacrament 別院の輪番として就任されます。菅原先生、南海子夫人、長女葵ちゃん、長男輝君! sacrament 別院へようこそ! ポートランドから sacrament への移動がスムーズに済むように願っています。

7月のもう一つの大きなイベントは7月8日、9日に行われるお盆の行事です。盆踊りの練習、土曜日に行われるお墓参りと夜に行われる盆踊り、そして日曜日のお盆/初盆サービスなどのスケジュールはサンガに掲載されますので、お見逃しのないように。盆踊りの練習日と盆踊り当日には種々のフードセールと浴衣やハッピーコート他盆踊りに必要な部品が売りに出されます。「鬼火ビール」は盆踊りの当日に売り出されます。

去る5月21日の降誕会サービスにて秦野グレース先生がダーマスクールの先生として50年務められたことに対して表彰されました。心からお祝いを申し上げます。グレース先生はミニスターアシスタントとしても長年別院のために貢献されていることは私達にとって幸いなことです。

メモリアルデーには sacrament JAFL と sacrament 別院の共催で、日系人先亡者合同慰霊祭が当別院にて、 sacrament の各県人会を始め諸日系人団体の代表者が集まり開催されました。当日はボーイスカウト50隊による国旗掲揚式が行われました。

6月3日に5年振りで再開されたラメージセラーは、新田ジェニファーとローラ・スーファの指揮のもとで、各部署のリーダー、何百人というボランティアの皆さんのお陰で大成功を収めました。

恒例のピクニックは6月11日マリオット公園で約120名の参加者で賑わいました。菅原先生とマット先生によるサービスの後、子供達のゲームが始まりました。ランチはハンバーガー、ホットドッグ、種々のサラダや果物そしてクッキーとチップス。最後にラッフル抽選があり、多くの賞品は Oto's から寄付されました。

別院から公園まで種々の器具の運送を受け持った坂田マーティと新田ゴードン他有志の皆様、心から感謝いたします。又、以下の皆様にも感謝いたします：SBWA と ABA の有志の皆様(フルーツと野菜のサラダ)、大城ミサ(クッキー)、佐々木バーバラ(チリ)、吉村シャロン(マカロニサラダ)、下坂ダイアン(野菜マリネ)、キャシー・レムリン(チェリー)。

8月12日のバザーをお忘れなく。ボランティアを募集中です。 [www.buddhistchurch.org](http://www.buddhistchurch.org)

## 日本語ダルマ法話会

日時： 7月12日(水)午前10時

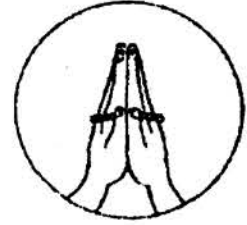
講師： 菅原祐樹開教使

連絡先： (916) 296-5619 廣田





# サンガ



## ～7月の予定～

7月	2日	10時半	祥月法要
7月	5日	9時半	シニアサービス
7月	8日	7時半	盆踊り
7月	9日	10時半	初盆法要
7月	12日	10時	日本語法話会
7月	19日	9時半	シニアサービス

## 「新しい始まり」 菅原祐樹輪番

今年、西本願寺において御開山聖人御生誕 850 年、立教開宗 800 年の合同法要が勤修されました。これからは新しい 50 年の始まりといえます。

御開山親鸞聖人（以下宗祖）の御生誕年に関しましては様々な史料などから確認出来るのですが、立教開宗が 1224 年だというのはどういった理由があるのでしょうか？実は宗祖は主著『教行証文類』の化身土巻で正・像・末法の三時を説明される中で「その壬申よりわが元仁元年〔元仁とは後堀河院、諱茂仁の聖代なり〕甲申に至るまで、二千一百七十三歳なり。」（『註釈版聖典』417 頁）と「今」が元仁元年（1224 年）であるような書き方をされています。この事から宗祖が『教行証文類』の草稿を書き終えられたのが元仁元年なのではないか、とされ、この年をもって立教開宗としています。しかし、宗祖ご自身が元仁元年に『教行証文類』を書き終えたとは言われていませんし、東本願寺蔵の通称「坂東本」と言われる宗祖御自筆の『教行証文類』には晩年まで加筆の跡があります。この事から元仁元年をもって立教開宗とするのはどうか、という意見もあるようです。しかし、宗祖がどうしても元仁元年という年について言及せねばならなかった理由があるようです。

昔は現代のように天皇陛下が変わると元号が変わるといような形ではなく、元号はコロコロと変わっておりました。元仁元年も 11 月頃までは貞応 3 年でありましたが、改元により元仁となったようです。さて、梯實圓和上によりますと、比叡山延暦寺が朝廷に念仏停止（ねんぶつちょうじと読みます）を求めた『延暦寺奏状』が提出されたのが貞応三年だそうです。私は現物を読んだ事ありませんが、延暦寺はこの中で「念仏だけを修める者達は『現在はまだ既に末法の世である』と吹聴しているが、今はまだ末法ではない」ということを主張していたそうです。しかし、宗祖は今ではもう既に末法であるということを示し、このお言葉のすぐ後に日本天台宗の開祖である伝教大師最澄の『末法灯明記』

をほぼ全文引用され、今はもう末法であることを証明されていかれるのでした。

また、貞応 3 年（元仁元年）は宗祖の師、法然聖人（以下元祖）の 13 回忌にあたる年であり、『延暦寺奏状』のように念仏に対する風当たりが強まっている時期でもありました。事実、この 3 年後には嘉禄の法難と言って、延暦寺の僧兵達が元祖のお墓を破壊し、遺骸を鴨川に流そうとするという暴挙も起こっています。幸い、この動きは事前に察知され、元祖のご遺骸は門弟達によって先に救出され、後に茶毘に付せられましたが、延暦寺側は、延暦寺大講堂の前で元祖の主著である『選択本願念仏集』の版木を焼き捨てるなどしました。最終的に法然門下の弟子数名が流罪になり、念仏に対する圧力が非常に強まっていたのが、元仁元年の頃からこの嘉禄の法難の頃でありました。このような背景から、宗祖はいかに元祖の念仏のみ教えが正しいものであるのかを『教行証文類』を著す事で証明されようとされました。ですから、元仁元年というのは非常に大切な年であり、だからこそ立教開宗の年であるとされるのでしょ。

さて、宗祖は京都でお生まれになり、ご往生を遂げられたのも京都であります。京都にずっとおられたわけではなく、越後や関東などの地域で生涯を過ごされました。宗祖は流罪により越後におられましたが、きっと京都に戻り元祖のもとで学びたい、もっとお話を聞きたい、という思いがあったことと思います。しかし流罪が赦免され、越後の雪解けを待っていた建暦 2 年（1212 年）、元祖がご往生されました。それからは京都に戻るのではなく関東へと旅立たれることを決意されたようです。元祖は門弟達に「どこに行こうともお念仏のみ教えを広めなさい」と伝えられたといひます。宗祖もきっとこの元祖のお言葉を胸に、新しい地域に足を踏み出す決意をされたことと思います。

この時、宗祖は恵信尼様とご結婚され、子供達もおられました。現在の関東は東京を中心に都会のイメージも強くなりましたが、当時の関東は鎌倉に幕府が置かれたものの、都である京都からは遠い田舎でありました。宗祖はきっと恵信尼様と関東に引っ越すことについて色々とお話されたことと思います。一体どのような会話をされたのか興味がありますが、恵信尼様は宗祖の決断を支持され関東へと共に旅立っていかれました。13 世紀の日本の話ですから、現在のように多くの家具を抱えての引越しというわけではなかったと想像しますが、関東へと引っ越すというのは宗祖の御一家にとって大きな決断であったことでしょう。

私自身を宗祖と比べるなどおこがましいことは出来ませんが、宗祖もそのご生涯の中で引越しを何度か経験されねばならなかったという事実は、