WGBWA HOLDS SPECIAL MEMORIAL SERVICE

The Walnut Grove Buddhist Women’s Association is very pleased with the attendance of many members and friends at its annual Lady Otani, Eshinni-Ko, Kakushinni-Ko Memorial Service held on May 16. Officiating minister, our Reverend Katsuya Kusunoki, not only distributed literature, but also explained the significant roles played by these distinguished women in the history of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, and the origin of Fujinkai, currently referred to as BWA. The attraction of the day’s program was its guest speaker, Mrs. Ayano Kusunoki, the wife of our minister. Mrs. Kusunoki, who attends Delta College in Stockton, spoke of the school publishing of her essay based on her own, very personal and moving encounter with Coffin Man, and then read it. Mrs. Kusunoki delivered her Dharma talk in both English and Japanese. Following the close of the service program, everyone gathered in the adjoining room for tea and socializing. Sandwiches and drinks furnished by the local BWA were served with various entrees provided by members and friends. The WGBWA thanks the following contributors: Mary Oda, Yuri Yokoi, Nellie Kawamura, Janet Sakata, Hiroko Takemoto, Christy Ishizuka, Gladys Katsuki, Shizue Nagoshi and Toshiko Hamada.

BEREAVEMENT

We are saddened by the recent and sudden passing of our dear friend Ralph Shuji Nakaoka. Our heartfelt condolences are extended to his wife Janice, and to other family members. Ralph was a member of the Sacramento Betsuin, and a long-time and very active member of our Walnut Grove Buddhist Church. A very willing volunteer, Ralph would be seen helping at various temples and organizations in and outside of Sacramento County. He will be missed by all.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP DUES

The 2015 membership dues are $25 for those under age 80. If you have not yet paid your 2015 due, please attend to it as soon as possible to: Walnut Grove Buddhist Church

Attn: Membership Dues Chairman
P. O. Box 336
Walnut Grove, Ca 95690
BUDDHIST CHURCH SPONSORS PICNIC POTLUCK

Not too hot nor too cold, the weather for the Church Picnic Potluck was ideal. Formerly called “Generations Day”, the church sponsored picnic was a day of fun and relaxation. Following Gassho led by Reverend Roy E. Mayhugh, over thirty participants began the picnic with a leisurely lunch consisting of hot dogs and s’mores cooked over open fire and the varied and plentiful pot luck food. After lunch, picnickers remained to continue visiting, or participating in crafts, or tossing horse shoes. Chairpersons Holly Pauls and Christy Ishizuka are to be commended for the well-organized event. And, in turn they express their appreciation to all participants, and to those who furnished potluck dishes and materials for the picnic. They include Rev. Roy Mayhugh, Mary Oda, Yuri Yokoi, Christy Ishizuka, Christy Ishizuka, Nellie & Sandi Kawamura, Holly Pauls, Shizue Nagoshi, Lillian Matsuoka and daughters, Sue Hori, Toshiko Hamada, Kuniko Nishi and family, and Jean Yokotobi.
六月祥月法要
June Shotsuki

Deceased

Misao Sakogawa 追川 みさお
Sam Sakata 坂田 サム
Asa Hirotsu 弘津 あさ
Shusaku Hamada 浜田 周作
Azuma Kunioka 国岡 あずま
Mizutani ancestors 水谷家 先祖
Natsu Kusaba 草場 ナツ
Harry Okada 岡田 ヘリー
Sadako Okada 岡田 貞子
Yoshimatsu Koga 古閑 吉松
Saburo Shoji 小路 三郎
Tadao Hori 堀 忠雄
Jinkichi Yoshimi 吉見 甚吉
Shina Oda 小田 しな
Yuri Ogawa 小川 ゆり
Masayoshi Ito 伊藤 正義
George Hamatani 中原 のり
Toshio Sakai 中野 明
Asako Nakahara 中原 朝子

Moshu (Chief Mourner)

Margaret Shigio シギオ マーガレット
Toshiko Sakata 坂田 敏子
Gary Hirotsu 浜田 敏子
Clifford Oto 浜田 オト
Edwin Mizutani 水谷 エドウィン
Okada Family 岡田家
Okada Family 岡田家
Okada Family 岡田家
Dorothy Koga 古閑 ドロシー
Nobuko Shoji 小路 信子
Kikue Hori 堀 きくえ
Mary Yoshimi 吉見 メリー
Ted Oda 小川 滋子
Shigeko Ogawa 小川 滋子
David Ito
Gale Hamatani 中原 ネイシー
Gene Sakai 中原 ネイシー
Nancy Nakahara 中原 ナンシー
Rev. Kusunoki’s Korner

[The 70th Anniversary of A-Bomb]
The first A-bomb was dropped on Hiroshima city at 8:15 AM, on August 6th, 1945, and the second one was dropped on Nagasaki city at 11:02 AM, on August 9th, 1945. About one-third of each city’s population was instantly killed; about one hundred and forty thousand people in Hiroshima and seventy thousand people in Nagasaki. Seventy years have passed since then. My father, Rev. Tatsuya Kusunoki, who is a survivor of the Nagasaki’s A-bomb, was 6 years old at that time. Before his retirement he had been the resident minister of his family temple, Kōgenji temple, in Nagasaki for over fifty years. His unceasing desire is to share his experience and his wish for peace with others even after he retired from his position. I would like to introduce the local newspaper articles of my father’s reminiscence of the A-bomb written in 2013.

<Surprising! Offering “ONIGIRI” (rice ball) to a household Buddha’s Altar (OBustudan)>
Rev. Tatstuya Kusunoki’s father, Rev. Monshin Ecchu passed away when Rev. T. Kusunoki was 20 years old. He took his father’s place and became the 16th resident minister of Kogenji temple and changed his last name from “Ecchu” to his mother’s maiden name “Kusunoki”. In those days, he just chanted a sutra with all his strength without thinking about the meaning and was not so interested in antiwar, antinuclear or peace. When he was past forty years of age, he met an old woman who was a member of Kogenji temple. This encounter changed his life.

He visited her house to conduct a memorial service. She had put “Onigiri” (rice ball) on a regular plate and offered it to the household Buddha’s altar (OBustudan). It wasn’t the proper way to offer rice to the Buddha. The proper way is that the rice’s shape must be like a lotus flower’s bud. There is also a specific tray to offer rice to the Buddha. He thought that she didn’t know these things. To correct her impropriety, he asked the reason why she offered “ONIGIRI” (rice ball) using a regular plate. Tears formed in her eyes and she said that she had lost her four children because of the A-bomb. They were still under ten years old. On the very day the Atomic bomb was dropped, she had told her kids, “I made some ‘ONIGIRI’ (rice balls) for your lunch. Be nice and share them.” She left this message and went to the neighbor city, Isahaya-city, to buy some food. She came home after the A-bomb was dropped. Her house was crushed and she found her children’s bodies surrounding the dining table where she had put the “ONIGIRI” (rice ball). She told Rev. T. Kusunoki, “I am the only person who can make ‘ONIGIRI’ (rice ball) for them.”

When he heard her earnest thought, he felt ashamed of his ignorance and self-conceit. It was his first experience to deeply understand and feel the pain of the surviving families who had lost their loved ones because of the war and the A-bomb.

<A memory of the late Katsuji Yoshida>
The late Mr. Katsuji Yoshida was an A-bomb victim who spoke about his experience. Mr. Yoshida said, “Regardless of one’s principal and ideology, we spontaneously do whatever we can do for peace. It is the peace activity.”

Rev. Tatsuya Kusunoki has never ever forgotten these words, which Mr. Yoshida left. He first met M. Yoshida in the days of his high school. He visited Mr. Yoshida’s house to conduct a memorial service. He sat at the household Buddha’s altar (OBustudan) and chanted a sutra. After that, he turned around and faced Mr. Yoshida. Next moment, he looked away from Mr. Yoshida’s face, which looked like a monster. Mr. Yoshida got burnt on his face because of the (cont. next page)
A-bombs. He was scared to see Mr. Yoshida so he had avoided seeing Mr. Yoshida since then. Thirty years later, He visited Mr. Yoshida again to conduct a memorial service. After the service, Mr. Yoshida told him about his horrible experience of the A-bomb. He first listened to Mr. Yoshida’s experience and wish for peace. He regretted his attitude because he judged Mr. Yoshida by his appearance only until then. They became good friends and often drank together since then. In 2007, Mr. Yoshida gave us a talk on his experience using drawing picture cards at the Kogenji temple. Mr. Yoshida passed away in 2010. Rev. T. Kusunoki presented his Buddhist name “ANNON-IN SHAKU KATSUJI”. “ANNON” means peace and tranquil. “IN” is a posthumous honorary title. “SHAKU” came from Shakyamuni Buddha. And, “KATSUJI” is his first name. Rev. T. Kusunoki always talks about Mr. Yoshida when he gives a talk on A-Bomb and peace and says, “Mr. Yoshida’s words are related to the Buddha’s teaching. He was just like a Bodhisattva who sincerely practiced the peace activity.” (To be continued)

<A Word of Wise Teaching>
“We meet only to part.”

2015 Memorial Service Schedule
2015 is the memorial year for those who passed away in:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>1 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>3 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>7 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>13 year</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Years</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>17 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>25 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>33 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1966</td>
<td>50 year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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In Gassho,
Rev. Katsu: reverend@lodibuddhist.net

<NC Temples’ Obon & Bazaar>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Bazaar</th>
<th>Bon Odori</th>
<th>Obon Service</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Florin</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>July 18, 7:30 PM</td>
<td>July 18, 3PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lodi</td>
<td>June 27, 12pm-8pm, June 28, 12pm-7pm</td>
<td>June 28, 7pm</td>
<td>July 19, 10am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marysville</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>July 18, 7:30pm</td>
<td>July 18, 4pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Placer</td>
<td>Sept. 26, 11am-5pm, Sept. 27, 11am-4pm</td>
<td>Aug. 1, 7pm</td>
<td>Aug 1, 11am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sacramento</td>
<td>Aug. 8, 11am-8pm, Aug. 9, 11am-8pm</td>
<td>July 11, 7pm</td>
<td>July 12, 9:30am (EN) July 12, 1pm (JP)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stockton</td>
<td>Aug. 1, 11am-9pm, Aug. 2, 11am-6pm</td>
<td>Aug. 1, 7pm</td>
<td>July 26, 10am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walnut Grove</td>
<td>July 4, 12pm-6pm, July 5, 12pm-6pm</td>
<td>July 18, 7pm</td>
<td>July 19, 1:30pm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
【ヒロシマ・ナガサキ】お茶のみ法座 5月26日（火）午後3時〜しゅんゆう会の前まで
1945年8月6日8時15分ヒロシマ、8月9日11時2分ナガサキに原爆が投下されました。広島では約14万人、長崎では約7万人の命が一瞬にして奪われました。それから、今年で70年になります。当時、6歳であった私の父、楠雄也も、現在、その経験を多くの人に伝えようと励んでいます。この1年は、父が伝えてくれた話や父について書かれた新聞記事を紹介し、みなさんに、戦争と平和について考えたいと思います。

※ 仏壇のおにぎりに衝撃

父が信さんが亡くなり、楠 雄也さんは20歳で光源寺の住職を辞い、姓を「越中」から母方の「楠」に変えた。当時は意味も深く考えずに力をいっぱいお経を読んだ。反戦、反核にも関心は薄かった。転機は40歳を過ぎた頃、家族のおばあさんとの出会いだった。

おばあさんはいつも仏壇におにぎりをお供えしていた。「作法を知らないのか」。そう言って理由を尋ねると、泣き出した。おばあさんは原爆で10歳に満たない4人の子を失ったという。「とっておきのご飯を炊いて、おにぎりをこさえたから、お昼になったら食べなさい」。あの日、子どもたちにそう言い聞かせ、食料の買う出しに課長へ向かった。原爆投下後、潰れた家に戻ると、おにぎりを置いたお膳を崩すように4人の遺体が見つかった。「あの子たちにおにぎりを作ってあげられるのは、世界中で私だけですから」楠さんは自分の思い上がりを恥じた。戦争や原爆に家族を奪われた痛みが、初めて現実なものとして感じられた。

※ 吉田勝二さんの思い出

「主義主張は関係ない。人間として、せずにおられないならするのが平和活動だ」

被爆の部の故・吉田勝二さんがいつも語っていた言葉を、楠雄也さんは今も忘れない。

吉田さんとの出会いは長崎東高校1年生の夏、お盆の檀家参りだった。仏壇の前に座り、振り返って吉田さんの顔を見た瞬間、目をそらした。原爆に焼き付けられた「お化け」のような顔が恐ろしくて、会うのを避けた。

30年後、語り部を始めたばかりの吉田さんを檀家参りで訪れ、初めて話を開いた。吉田さんの表面しか見えなかったと悔やんだ。それから親しくなり、酒を酌み交わす仲に。2007年には、吉田さんの被爆体験を描いた紙芝居が光源寺で披露された。吉田さんは、2010年に死去。安積院 勝二の法名を付けた。

講演会では、吉田さんのことを語らずにはいられない。「勝二さんのお言葉は仏教の経典に通じる。本物の平和活動をした、まさに菩萨様のような人だった」（つづく）

○今月のことば

「会者定離」
PLANNING COMMITTEE NEWS

CHAIRPERSON, AKI ITO, reports that plans are being made to paint the iron fence that surrounds the church grounds. It will be an Eagle Scout Project for Boy Scout Troop 50. He will meet with leader Chris on May 30.

The tent cables will be adjusted on May 30, before the tent raising, starting at 8:00 AM.

Add New Construction will begin repairing the columns, church building wall and replacing the sidewalk on the south walkway on/or about May 26, with completion before the bazaar.

BUDDHIST MEN’S ASSOCIATION NEWS

WGBC Men's Organization (Sonenkai) will be hosting its annual golf fund raising tournament October 10, 2015 to help with costs for maintaining the church.

BUDDHIST WOMEN’S ASSOCIATION NEWS

It’s that time! The June meeting is one of our most important meetings of the year. We will be discussing all things Bazaar and Obon. We have an amazing group of volunteers, so thanks in advance for all the upcoming hard work. The meeting is Sunday, June 7th at 11:00 AM. Toban for June are Gladys Katsuki, June Matsubara, Kuniko Nishi, Carol Tang and Jean Yokotobi.

A special donation was made this past month by Rev. Roy Mayhugh of $1000. His support of the BWA is unparalleled. We so appreciate this gift of money, and the thoughtfulness from which it comes.

A donation of $30 was received from Hiroko Sugimoto for the special memorial service.

DHARMA SCHOOL/ADULT STUDY NEWS

We did not meet this month due to the Church Potluck Picnic being on our usual 3rd Sunday date. Please see Nellie’s article regarding this special event.

We will be meeting in June, on the 21, the beginning of the Summer Solstice! Meditation will be at 10:00, Service at 10:30, and group break outs after service.
Did you hear about the Buddhist who went to the dentist and refused to take Novocain? He wanted to transcend dental medication.