



Temple Reflections

A TSDBT Monthly Publication

VOLUME XXVIII

March 2009

ISSUE TWO

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TS/DBT Report From the Co-Presidents

by Randy Sasaki and Dennis Hardman

From the co-president's perspective, this time of the year marks a couple of notable milestones. The Annual TSDBT General Meeting, which happened in February, and the Denver Buddhist Temple's Hanamatsuri service in early April, which includes the co-president's address to the Sangha. At these two events, the co-presidents traditionally present and report on how things are going at the TSDBT level. It is natural to look back over the last year and evaluate where we have been, recognize where we are now, and look forward to the coming year.

(cont. on page 8)

Dento-Kosho

DENTO KOSHO Tradition/Personal Interpretation

As I write this article, I am also preparing for the Tri-State Buddhist Temples' General Meeting which will be held at the end of February. I am also preparing to attend the BCA Ministers Association Meeting and the BCA National Council Meeting which will be held in Irvine, CA at the end of February. Yes, February is always a busy month.

I don't mind being busy during the winter, but when spring and summer come, I don't want to be busy. I want time to go golf. It takes time to golf. If you play 18 holes of golf, it will take about four to five hours. Then you eat lunch or dinner and then drive home. It takes a good six to seven hours to enjoy 18 holes of golf.

Judy has always encouraged me to golf with our son, Aki. I know why. For six to seven hours, Judy has time to do what she wants to do. I don't know what Judy does when Aki and I go golf. But each one of us must have time to do what we want to do. Not what we have to do. But sometimes what we want to do and have to do are not the same. Or, it can be the same.

When our children were young and still at home, we always tried to have dinner together. Our daughter, Lisa, sat at the end of the dinner table close to the rice cooker. When Aki or I wanted more gohan, we would ask Lisa to get us some. Lisa said one time that she is always serving gohan to us. Judy told Lisa that you serve gohan, not because you have to, but because you want to. Now when Aki comes home from school, he sits at the end of the dinner table. Aki is asked to serve gohan. Because he heard what Judy told Lisa, he understands that what we have to do and what we want to do is sometimes the same. For me, this is the life of Naturalness that Shinran Shonin has taught us. It is normal to do things you want, but at the same time, it is normal to do things you have to do. When these two contradictory actions become One, that is the life of Naturalness, not the life of being normal. As we are busy with our life, let us try to be natural.

Namandabu,
kanya



This Month's
Buddhist
Holiday. . .

Ohigan
Spring Equinox

A Word From the Temple Office

by Donna Inouye

National Public Radio (NPR) runs an audio series entitled, "This I Believe" or maybe it's "This Much I Know Is True" - either way, it's a series based upon written essays submitted by NPR listeners; if their piece is selected, they are invited to read their essay aloud for one of the weekly(?) shows. I've only heard a couple of these shows because I am only a radio listener while I'm driving and usually I prefer to hear music . . . all of this information is simply a long reason and introduction to this month's column. This is my temple version of "This I Believe":

I believe "please", "thank you" and "hello" should be among the first words every human learns.

I believe the dietary value of a mochi lunch is very under rated.

I believe the phrase, "living the good life" was always intended to guide us to treat one another with humanity and not meant to guide us to a life of material & monetary accumulation.

I believe that wanting to believe in magic, even as an adult, is perfectly fine.

I believe that helping someone to smile is as kind as handing them a \$100 bill.

I believe everyone needs to experience the following at least once in a lifetime:

- * a chocolate milkshake
- * a fancy pair of shoes
- * a book of your own
- * a chance to play the piano
- * a hug from someone who isn't related

I believe the telling of a heartfelt story is a lesson in honesty.

I believe in moderation (more or less). J

I believe true love is possible for anyone at anytime.

I believe there is positive value in good omens, good friends, good food and good hair days.

I believe all individuals should work to achieve a balance between the acts of offering and accepting (especially when it comes to giving/receiving gratitude and compassion).

I believe Saturdays were made for staying home.

Listing your beliefs is a way to (re)discover what is good in your life; this I believe.

Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temples' membership offers condolences to the family and friends of:

Jimmie Koji Motoyama

October 3, 1919 - January 19, 2009

Kuni Sakurai

September 29, 1926 - January 21, 2009

Toshio Hora

February 15, 1926 - January 25, 2009

Byron Kawata

February 27, 1922 - February 5, 2009

Tom Yamashita

August 30, 1923 - February 15, 2009

Arigato Gozaimasu!!

Thank you to the following people for the folding, stuffing and sealing of last month's temple newsletter: Monica Nagai, Carole Eshima, Junko Kagiya-Manley, Joyce Nakata-Kim, Elsa Burchinow-Douglas, Ann Shimamoto, Dickie Chikuma, Cindy Okada, Pat Sato and Kelly Yamasaki. Many hands made completion possible in record time.

Thank you all who purchased Bodhi Seals despite the late distribution date. NOTE: TSDBT did not send out Bodhi Seals in a general, all-inclusive mailing due to the late arrival date from BCA. Bodhi Seals are available year round; please contact the office if you would like a set mailed out to you - 2 sheets/\$8.00

SHIN MEDITATION: LISTENING TO HEART-RAIN

by Rev. Carol GanSho O'Dowd

Shinran asks us to listen with heart-mind. Such practice is simple and a most difficult one because when we use our heart – it truly transforms us just as the rain that falls transforms all that it touches. While spending time in a village in Bali, Indonesia with my son and his family I listened to a lot of rain. Rain that demanded to be heard as it pounded furiously on the tin and mixed with the wind rattling the windows and pouring water through any small opening.

Our lives give us moments like that where events demand us to wake up, to listen to the fact that we are not in control. At other times, rain arrives as a mist that ever so lightly provides life giving moisture that brightens the flowers and grasses. Indonesians in Bali have words for the many different types of rain. The words made me listen to the rain more carefully so I used the right word. It also made me realize that listening to the rain requires a heart and it takes a heart to listen to life. Maybe there needs to be a word for rain from the heart. The rain then would include tears of joy that water the heart making it more tender and making it grow. For me, such heart-rain happened when hearing the call of 'Gramma' followed by Indonesian words for 'pick me up' or 'play with me'.

Heart-rain made the already moist air sparkle as I joined with five generations standing for family photos. Our extended Indonesian family welcomed my mother-in-law as she organized, with some translation assistance, a photo of all the women in the family including her great grand daughter. Great-grandma on the Balinese side of the family speaks no English and only a little Indonesian. After much confusion, she too let go trying to understand who was who and joined the group laughing at us make such a fuss.

It was not long ago that it was I who was so ignorant and who lacked any awareness of indigenous Balinese people, much less Indonesia. Now I am considered a part of the Kwanji Banjar of Sempidi, Bali, Indonesia. Through translation followed by days of discussion among community leaders, my husband's parents, my husband and I made a donation to village and family Temples serving the village of our son and the Balinese family into which he married.

In honor of this gift, a special ceremony was quickly arranged. Walking down the village street the width of alley, I listened to Sri, my son's mother-in-law. What I listened to was her intertwining her arm with mine. Walking arm-in-arm to the ceremony, we now walked as sisters. Dressed in ceremonial sarongs, Sri balanced the offerings tray on her head and I

carried the donations. With neither of us having a decent command of the other's language, we merely laughed and waved together still arm-in-arm at villagers who came out to watch. Words were not needed for us to share our common joy – walking with our children and our grandchildren.

As we arrived at the open-air Temple, the head priest welcomed us. After receiving the donation, he blessed us all. Wisdom-compassion was in action. It was the Balinese hand from the administrator for the Temples and four American hands that raised the dish of donations in the air. As the dish came down, there was only heart-rain pouring out in words of gratitude in English, Indonesian and Balinese as well as in the form of smiles and laughter.

How wondrous to listen heart-rain that mixes with the winds of generosity. When listening with the heart giving and receiving are experienced simultaneously as one. While sitting seize on a simple woven grass mat on a stone platform behind the priest, it didn't feel like we were giving the village a donation. Instead it felt like it was we who were receiving such a precious gift, being welcomed as a part of the family and the village.

How precious a gift the rain that makes the heart so tender. Listening to gratitude in any language and in any rain has made my heart more tender. It is with gratitude that I appreciate those among our Temples, our families, our friends and, yes, those who make life difficult. How grateful I am for the soft rains and thunderstorms . . . for all the experiences that wake me up.

Words cannot express the heartfelt appreciation I have for the efforts of all who have made possible the TSDBT and Kwanji Banjar Temples, past, present and future. It is with reverence that I appreciate the efforts of thousands who have gone before building Temples and some stone by stone. In appreciation for the efforts of so many who have make TSDBT Temples what they are today, I will try to listen more carefully to the heart-rain that falls so often at our Temples.

Namo Amida Butsu

Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temples

1947 Lawrence Street
Denver CO. 80202

(303)295-1844

FAX (303)295-1952

Email: dinouye@tsdbt.org

For newsletter contributions, submit your article by the 10th of each month for publication in the next month's issue. For additional information, or to read the newsletter online, go to our website at www.tsdbt.org



Dharma School Pages

Valuable Information and News
from Your Dharma School Co-Superintendents

Merrily Stewart (303)755-3874
Deb Omoto-Berve (303) 450-9742

Dharma School News

by Merrily Stewart

"When everything is clean-clear in your own mind, nobody can create obstacles for you."

—Lama Thubten Yeshe, The Bliss of Inner Fire

Hanamatsuri is a big celebration in our Temple. The birth of Siddhartha Gautama is just around the corner. The classes are busy preparing and practicing to make sure they are all ready for the Performance Afternoon part of our Temple's celebration on Sunday, April 5th. Please help the teachers by enabling your student's regular attendance. If your child will be missing class, please communicate with the appropriate teacher.

Bowling was a BLAST! The Dharma School loves this fund raiser. We always have such a good time. And, WOW, are there some great bowlers in our group!! Thank you Sud Mollard & family for putting this all together.

The Dharma School is still accepting empty inkjet & laser toner cartridges, used cell phones and PDA cell phones, laptops and iPods for recycling. Please leave items on the designated table in the temple auditorium.

GIFT CARDS for various merchants are still available for purchase each Sunday during Bake Sale.

Dharma School is hosting the 2nd Annual Dharma School Carnival on May 3, 2009. It will take place immediately following Dharma School services and classes. We will have games and prizes for the students and offer basket prizes for auction. Instead of holding Bake Sale, the YBA will be selling lunch items. Please mark your calendar. All proceeds will go to the Centennial Project Fund.

ELITCH GARDEN'S Spring Spin
Special Event for Non-Profit Organizations
Tickets on Sale Now at Bake Sale
DATE: Sunday, April 19, 2009
TIME: 10 am to 6 pm
COST: \$19.99 per person (3yrs & under, 70 yrs & over – FREE)
Invite ALL your Friends and Family to Come!

A brief service will be held at Temple at 9 am. We encourage carpooling to Elitch Gardens as parking there is \$10 per car.

With the purchase of a ticket you receive admission to the park on April 19th. Also, you receive a ticket to revisit the park FREE one time between the dates of September 1st to November 1st 2009.

You may turn your ticket into a season pass for an additional \$34.99 on April 19th at the Elitch Garden Ticket Office.

This is a "rain or shine" event meaning some rides might be closed if the weather does not permit safe operating. If the park closes due to extreme weather conditions the tickets will be honored any day during the 2009 season.

YAC Reunion Retreat

by KC Stewart

This past Martin Luther King Jr. Weekend, I attended the Youth Advocacy Committee (YAC) reunion retreat in Berkeley, CA.

It was so great to see all my friends, again, and to continue learning about the Minister's Assistant Program.

Even though the retreat was only four days, our agenda was packed full. We had at least three services each day, with classes about many different things including Meditation, Jodo Shinshu Buddhism and Etiquette in the Hondo. It was very tiring but worth it, in the long run.

On Sunday, we went to San Mateo Buddhist Temple. We had to lead service with their new minister in front of the whole Sangha. It was very nerve wracking because we had to perform the sutra, Shoshinge. Shoshinge is 11 pages long! When we were chanting, it felt like it never ended. There are six solo lines that we each had to chant with a partner.

At first my partner and I had a hard time learning the pitches. Before the service we practiced our lines with the Reverend. After my partner and I chanted our solo lines, the Reverend asked us if we had made up our own lines because it sounded nothing like it was supposed to sound. By the time we started service we were very prepared and ended up nailing the solo.

I couldn't wait to see my friends again and it was hard to leave them after such a short retreat. We still talk everyday. We are counting down the days until the next retreat, hopefully taking place in Hawaii! We are keeping our fingers crossed.

Kohaku Uta Gassen

(continued from page 14)

temple facilities. DVDs and VHS tapes of the 2009 Kohaku Uta Gassen are still available by contacting one of the following:

Susumu Yoshikawa at (303) 973-1759

John Kanegaye at (719) 266-1634

Seiji Tanaka at (303) 427-7906

LONGMONT TEMPLE WELCOMES FAMILY AND SONG

by Jackie Tono

Longmont Temple Dharma School hosted a special family service in February. Special thanks to Lynn and Marissa Lum for coordinating events. Shieko Uno, Minister's Assistant and accomplished musician, is guiding the formation of the LBT Choir. Musical additions being planned for services include songs and instrumentals. For more information or to sing along, contact Shieko Uno at shieko_uno@yahoo.com.

Join Longmont members at their services on March 1 and 15. Meditation service and Dharma School is at 10:00 a.m. Regular service starts at 10:30 a.m.

Activities for adults in March include the Shin Buddhist Book Club that meets the first and fourth Mondays. The discussions in March will use the book **Shin Buddhism: Bits of Rubble Turned to Gold** by Taitesu Unno. Drop in and join the dialogue.

For more information contact: Harriet Bissell at harriettlucinda@yahoo.com

ManjuSchedule

Please come out and help make manju (Japanese confectionary) in preparation for the upcoming Cherry Blossom Festival. The more, the merrier!

Everyone is welcome. Even though this schedule lists Dharma class grade levels, each session is open to ALL; consider this schedule as an indication of your fellow volunteer's age range and possible crowd size for each work session. Come join in!

Saturday, March 14th – Kindergarten & 1st Grade
Sunday, March 15th – 2nd Grade (after Bake Sale)

Saturday, April 4th – 4th/5th Grade
Saturday, April 18th – YBA
Sunday, April 19th – Jr. YBA (after Bake Sale)

Saturday, May 2nd – 3rd Grade
Saturday, May 16th – ALL Temple affiliated organizations

All Saturday Manju sessions will begin at 9 am. Please bring a potluck item to share for lunch.

Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temples gratefully acknowledges donations and offerings received

New Year's Day Service

Frank Miyazawa
Ed Nakagawa
Chiyo Nakayama
Hugh & Alice Nishimoto
June & Kenneth Tagawa

Osaisen

3rd Grade Dharma Class
6th Grade Dharma Class
Ruby Kadota
SK Mura
Offering Box

In memory of Fairy Kuritani – 1st yr

Andrew & Jill Barwig
Clara Bajio
Lisa Campbell & family
Lillian & Phillip Miyazawa
Eric & Naomi Miyazawa
Holly Miyazawa
Ruby Miyazawa
Paul & JoDell Miyazawa
John, Sherri, Tyler & Crystal Nitta
Ted & Elaine Tsumura
Kurt, Kanae & family Tsumura

In memory of Jim Motoyama

Sally Sakamoto
Edward & Yuriko Shimoda
Hiroshi Takeda

Bodhi Day Service

Charles & Teri Ozaki
Steve & Judy Yasuzawa
Chiyo Yoshida

Dharma Study Class

Brandan Burns
Sally Harr
Frank Miyazawa
Cindy Okada
Nicole Steele

Donation

Fred & Toki Gow
Henry & Melanie Kusumi

Facilities Usage

Wed Nite Bball (younger guys)
DBT Craft Class
Pick up Bball game

Visitation

Asian Pacific American Librarians Association
Christina Fakhrazadch Keshavarz; Kent School

HoOnko Service

Don Akiyama
Sumi & Yosh Akiyama
Sadao & Shizue Asano
Mary Chikuma
Michiko Chikuma
Masaye Doi
Ft. Lupton Buddhist Temple
Warren & Margaret Fukuhara
Linda Fukuhara
Frances Furukawa
Gayle Goto
Mary Hamano
Frank Higa
Ryoko Hirakawa
Frank & Gladys Hiraoka
Sawaye Hirokawa
Etsu & Sachi Hisamoto
Ken & Amy Inouye
Dorothy & Herbert Inouye
Chiko Inouye
Ruth Kamibayashi
Scott & Lisa Kanayama
Harue Kelly
Jack & AC Kimura
Haruko Kimura
Ayako Kimura
Manabu & Junko Kimura
Dale & Diane Kiyota
Grace Kiyotake
Tom Koshio
Randy & Faye Koto
La Jara/Alamosa Sangha
Tatsuo Matsuda
Jack & Margaret Miyasaki
Lillian & Phillip Miyazawa
Frank Miyazawa
Dick & Yoshiko Miyoshi
Yoko Mooney
Kim Morehouse
Edward Nakagawa
Henry & Ann Nakata
Joyce Nakata Kim
Chiyo Nakayama
Eddie & Jeanne Nozawa
Kiyoko & George Omoto
Stacey & Dave Ospina
Charles & Teri Ozaki
Gregory & Janice Ramos
Sally Sakamoto
Yoshiko Sasaki
Jo Anne Sato
Patricia Sato
Hank & Irene Shibao
Rose Shibao
James Shimada
Edward & Yuriko Shimoda

May Shuto
George Tagawa
June & Kenneth Tagawa
Isao Jon & Sayoko Takata
Hiroshi Takeda
Sumi Tanaka
Michio & Hisae Taniwaki
Rose Tanouye
Zachary & Shannon Umetani
Unmarked envelope
Youko Yamasaki
Betty Yamashita
Harlan & Emi Yoshida
Susan Yoshimura
Joya E Service
Wayne & Debra Omoto Berve
Deborah Holmes
Tepper & Emiko Koga
Frank Miyazawa
Henry & Ann Nakata
Everett Watada
Susan Yoshimura

In memory of John Miyasaki – 17th yr

Tammy Golden
Gwendy Lykke
Mabel Miyasaki
Glenn Miyasaki
Meri Pollock

In memory of Mary Miyauchi

Kazuko Dishong
Nobuko Ninomiya

In memory of Mary Miyazawa – 1st yr

Clara Bajio
Lisa Campbell & family
Lillian & Phillip Miyazawa
Eric & Naomi Miyazawa
Holly Miyazawa
Ruby Miyazawa
Paul & JoDell Mizoue
John, Sherri, Tyler & Crystal Nitta
Ted & Elaine Tsumura
Kurt, Kane & family Tsumura

In memory of Ryoichi Omoto – 33rd yr

George Omoto Family
Masaru Omoto Family

In memory of Sam Doida – 17th yr

William & Jean Cuseo
M. Doida
Stan & Eileen Doida
Dennis & Sharon Ioka

from January 1, 2009 - January 31, 2009:

In memory of Toshiko Okamoto – 1st yr

Peter Inokoji-Kim & Aileen Okimoto
Kanya Okamoto Family

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| DBTBWA | donation – Janitorial service |
| Robert & Shelley Tanaka | donation – matching funds (LibertyGives Foundation) |
| Helen Fujishima | Eitaikyo and Nokotsudo |
| Daryl Tawara | funeral; Sallie Tawara |
| Karen Perry | funeral: June Suzuki |
| Kent & Sheri Yamamoto | funeral; Kikuye Yamamoto |
| Katherine Sakurai | funeral; Kunio Sakurai |
| Audrey Matsumonji | funeral; Pauline Matsumonji |
| T. Jack Matsui | in appreciation of Rev. Inokoji-Kim |
| Nikki & John Raschbacher | in memory of Carl Saito – 1 st yr |
| Andrew & Jill Barwig | in memory of Carl Saito & Yori Teshima |
| Karen & John Umemoto | in memory of Hatsumi Umemoto |
| Yoshiko Yokota | in memory of Kiku Yamamoto |
| Florence Newlin | in memory of Kimiye Miyake – 49 th day |
| Don Tadehara | in memory of Mary Tadehara – 1 st yr |
| Janet Yoshikawa & Randy Henn | in memory of Masaru Yoshikawa |
| Hiroko Hung | in memory of Ming Hung |
| Muneko Furuiye | in memory of Nobori Albert Furuiye – 3 rd yr |
| Sato Family | in memory of Sada Sato – 13 th yr |
| Shirley Tsuchimoto | in memory of Scotty Kim |
| Matsumoto & Hirokawa Families | in memory of Susumu Matsumoto & Jerrie Tsututa |
| Knobby Kawano | in memory of Tomihachi Kawano – 50 th yr |
| Alice & Hugh Nishimoto | in memory of Yori Teshima – 49 th day |
| Sam & Hitomi Sasamoto | in memory of Yukino Yamaguchi |

BWA NEWS

The BWA's largest fund raiser for the year was held on January 24, 2009. We are grateful to the Kohaku Uta Gassen and Mr. Mario Torito, who donated the chickens, for making our Obento Project possible. The sale of the obento (boxed lunch) made a nice addition to our treasury.

Thank you to all of you who supported and bought our obento. Hope that you all enjoyed the delicious foods.

This fund raiser cannot be possible without the commitment from the group of ladies who volunteer their time, donate the ingredients and lend their cooking expertise (we even had two men who helped us). When you looked into the obento box, you not only saw delicious foods, but also, a labor of love. Thank you to all the volunteers. Each one of you make this project worthwhile.

ESHINNI/KUKUSHINNI SERVICE AND SEMINAR

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Date: | Sunday, March 22, 2009 |
| Guest Speaker: | Dr. Gimi Ishinatsu, PhD |
| Topic: | to be announced |
| Schedule: | 9:30 am Dharma Family Service 10:15 am Adult Service 11:30 am Pot Luck Lunch 12:15 pm Seminar by Dr. Ishinatsu |

Proceeds from your donations benefit the temple's youth program.

A Look Backward & Forward by co-Presidents

(continued from page 1)

From the perspective of the TSDBT Co-Presidents, the past year witnessed the following:

A new roof on the Denver Buddhist Temple

Inspection of the DBT facility was conducted by City Wide Maintenance and its third-party sub-contractors, with the results suggesting that the repair and/or total replacement of the roof of the Denver Temple was necessary. Wayne Berve, Noreen Okubo, Randy Sasaki, and other sangha members deserve a round of thanks for their efforts in this regard. In addition, this project was funded primarily by those who have contributed to the Centennial Endowment and Renovation Project, to whom we all owe a deep debt of gratitude.

Improvements to TSDBT Processes

TSDBT by-laws have been up-dated to accommodate discussion, vote, and approval processes by the Board and committees via e-mail, and other operational and administrative processes or activities such as the use of professional cleaning services, new bookkeeping procedures, database collection, and broad communications to the sangha have been implemented to create efficiencies.

Women in American Buddhism Conference

This year, due to the tireless effort of Reverend Carol O'Dowd, and support from the BWA and members of the Denver, Longmont, and Ft. Lupton temples, we saw the first-of-its-kind "Women in American Buddhism Conference" at the Denver Buddhist Temple.

Formal Announcement of Our Head Minister's Retirement in 2010

After over 30 years of service, Reverend Okamoto formally announced his plans to retire in late 2010.

Committees Re-energized and Evolved to Better Manage the Organization

Two existing but relatively quiet committees were put to greater use this year to better address the various challenges we face. These committees are the Membership Committee and the Executive Committee. We very much thank those Board and sangha members who serve on these committees.

Record Breaking Year for the Cherry Blossom Festival

The annual Cherry Blossom Festival this year, again, was a rousing success, providing access to the Japanese culture for thousands of Colorado residents, and bringing in record revenue to the TSDBT's bottom line. It would be impossible to thank the CBF committee and temple volunteers enough for their massive effort and dedication. But please try.

Continuation of the Centennial Endowment and Renovation Project

The Centennial Endowment and Renovation Project has and will continue to be a primary focus of our coming year's activities. The goal of the Centennial Project is to secure donations to be used to enhance the principal amount of the TSDBT's investments, thereby increasing the amount of annual appreciation and/or interest return on those investments.

Reactions and Adjustments to Recent Economic Conditions

The annual operating losses of TSDBT have, and based on current economic circumstances, will continue to be the primary challenge of the Co-Presidents. A plan was developed to cut expenses to a level which exceeded the historic interest and/or income generated annually from our investments. And renewed urgent efforts are underway with regard to membership and fund raising. Please read on.

Looking Ahead

It is clear that the TSDBT has a number exciting opportunities and significant challenges before us:

Continue to Ensure the Organization's Financial Security

A primary and extremely important goal of the coming year is to preserve the assets of the TSDBT, while creating updated operating efficiencies and economic savings. Ultimately, we would like to see a balanced TSDBT budget due to the combined results of focused fund raising, membership increases, and careful management of costs.

We have high hopes for both the Centennial

(conclusion of previous page)

Project and the Membership Committees and will seek increased involvement from the sangha, Board of Directors, and ministers in these endeavors.

Continue to Seek Administrative Improvements

From an internal governance and operations standpoint, the TSDBT Board must continue to improve how we do things, including taking a deeper look at the by-laws with regard to committee structures and current operating models, and continued improved communication with the sangha, Board, and affiliated temples.

Work Towards Setting the Stage for Reverend Okamoto's Replacement

The Co-Presidents have been and will continue preparing for Reverend Okamoto's up-coming retirement and his replacement. Recognizing that his shoes will be very difficult to fill, we are working with the BCA and will engage the efforts of the the Ministerial Affairs Committee.

Provide Fertile Ground for a Dynamic Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Community

As Co-Presidents, our jobs are fundamentally administrative in nature. We are not religious leaders. However, in the coming year, the initiatives that we have in mind can create an environment in which the religious, social, and cultural aspects of this organization can live and grow.

We realize that the finances and processes we struggle to improve are only part of the bare structure on which a strong and vibrant Jodo Shinshu community is built. But the structure is not the community. The community is the sangha, and the ministers that serve them. The community is the collection of Dharma School teachers and other volunteers who work tirelessly to keep the organization functioning. The community is the collection of individuals who come and partake of the Dharma. If we, with the help of the TSDBT Board, affiliated temple leadership, and sangha volunteers, can keep the structure in place and sound, we are confident that the community will continue to survive and thrive.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

CHOW MEIN AND SHRIMP DINNER



Adams County
Regional Park

Sunday, March 29
Dinner starts at 11:00am
All Tickets \$9.00

EVERYONE WELCOME
TAKE-OUT ORDERS AVAILABLE

SPONSORED BY
BRIGHTON JAPANESE
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION

The Centennial Endowment and Renovation Committee and the TS/DBT Board of Directors would like to acknowledge and humbly thank the following donors who have contributed to the Centennial Endowment and Renovation Campaign.

NOTE: listing of donor's names will be cumulative, month by month. This month's new donor names are printed in a different and bolded font, at the end of the list.

Gold Level \$5000 - \$9999

Anonymous
Miyuki Mabel Googins
in memory of Tom Googins
Herbert & Dorothy Inouye
Cal, Sharon (Brookes), DJ (Ida),
Linda, Bob & Dave Kato
In gratitude to Sam & Kimi Kato
Tepper & Emiko Koga
Family and Friends of
Karen Eiko Matsushima
Charles & Teri Ozaki
Patricia Sato

Diamond Level \$10,000 and above

Brighton Buddhist Sangha
Robert & Gail Ida
*in memory of Henry Yamashita and
Kazuo & Tsurue Kimura*
Edward T. Nakagawa
Noreen Okubo;
in memory of Riyo Okubo & Aiko Nishimura
Tagawa Greenhouse Families

Bronze Level \$1 - \$999

Preschool Dharma School Class
Kindergarten Dharma School Class
2nd Grade Dharma School Class
3rd/4th Grade Dharma School Class
5th Grade Dharma School Class
Ronald & Lisa Abo
Noel & Kimberly Allen
Djab Burchinow
Elsa Djab Burchinow
DBAC Volleyball
DBT Choir
DBT Craft Class
DBT Dance Girls
DBT Dharma School 2007/2008 Staff
DBT Japanese Language School
DBT Minyo Club
Alice Hara
Frank Higa
Tommie & Kinuko Hiraoka
Sawaye Hirokawa
Chris Horiuchi
Ming & Hiroko Hung
Cindy Iida
Peter Inokoji-Kim & Aileen Okimoto
Linda Kato
Charles Kagiyama
Ruth Kamibayashi
Jack & Alice Kimura
Minoru & Michiko Kishiyama
Grace Kiyotake
Kelli Koga
Brian & Marjorie Levitt
Mary & Steve Marx
In memory of Kimiye Miyake
Carl & MaryLee Mitcham
Mitchell & Susan Mollard
Dan & Terry Moskowitz
Lee T. Murata
Chiyo Nakayama
Dat & Naomi Nguyen
in memory of Harry "Doc" Matsushima
Carol Gansho O'Dowd
Miyako Otsuki
Daniel Podell & Linda Reiter
Rose Shibao
Edward & Yuriko Shimoda
The Steinebrey Family
Thomas Taggart
Suzanne Tanaka
Thom Sakata & Jennifer Trompeter
Youko Yamasaki
Art & Sachiko Yoshimura

Silver Level \$1000 - \$4999

Sadao & Shizue Asano
Wayne & Deb Omoto Berve
DBT BWA
DBT Dharma School Carnival 2008 fundraiser
DBT Judo Dojo
Denver Taiko
Mae Doida
in memory of Sam Doida
Miyuki Mabel Googins
in memory of Yoshi Nishimura
Dennis & Becky Hardman
Iwao & Takako Hatanaka
Fumiko Hattori
Helene Ioka
in memory of Tom Ioka
Al Kawakami
Kenzo & Irene Kawanabe
Ayako Kimura
HJ & Alice Kimura
Manabu & Junko Kimura
Charlie & Mary Matsubara
in honor of Charlie Matsubara's 88th birthday
Sam & Terry Mayeda
Frank Miyazawa
Phillip & Lillian Miyazawa
in memory of Shigeo Miyazawa
Kim & Sarah Morehouse
in memory of Kay Tamaki
George & Yoko Nagai
Henry & Ann Nakata
George & Kiyoko Omoto
Janice & Greg Ramos
Helene H. Saeda
in memory of Moriichi & Hisayo Saeda
David & Joni Sakaguchi
Steven & Stacey Shigaya
Ken Tagawa
Carolyn & Mickey Takeshita
Sumiji Tamaki
Robert & Shelly Tanaka
Michio & Hisae Taniwaki
Ted & Elaine Tsumura with Fairy Kuritani;
*in memory of Henry Kuritani, Amy Tsumura
and Nobuzane Tsumura*
Kent & Kelly Yamasaki
Gary & Debbie Yamashita
Tom & Fumiko Yamashita
Kevin & Keiko Yoshida

Bill & Wendy Thompson

Religious Services

SUN Mar 1 9:30 am DBT (G)
10 am Longmont (S)

TUES Mar 3 6 pm Sedgwick

SUN Mar 8 9:30 am DBT
11 am Ft. Lupton w/ Brighton Sangha

SAT Mar 14 4:30 pm Hoji - offsite

SUN Mar 15 9:30 am DBT Ohigan
10 am Longmont (G)

SAT Mar 21 1 pm Greeley

SUN Mar 22 9:30 am DBT
BWA Eshinni Memorial Service

SUN Mar 29 9:30 am DBT (G)
11 am Alamosa Hanamatsuri (O)

Dharma School Events

March 2009 1st grade decorates bulletin board

SUN Mar 22 Birthday Sunday

Special Events

DBT BlackHawk Casino Bus
Saturday, March 7th
bus leaves DBT at 9 am

YBA Annual Kei Ro Kai
Saturday, March 21st
8 am YBA prep
11 am lunch and entertainment

DBT Business Lunch Meditation Sessions
Thursdays, 12 noon - 12:45 pm
March 12th
March 19th
March 26th

Aikido Tournament
Saturday, March 28th
7:30 am - 5:30 pm

For Sale

2 Burial Plots in the Garden of Roses at Highland Cemetery
New burial plots currently sell for \$2,795 each
We will sell for \$1,995 each, plus transfer fee

Tim & Sherri Rodden
303.503.1797
303.929.3689

Meetings

SUN Mar 1 8:30 am Mem/Educ Mtg
11:30 Sakura Matsuri Mtg

WED Mar 11 7 pm JACPG mtg

SUN Mar 22 11:30 am TSDBT Board Mtg;
Board Officer elections

Gym Schedule

SUNDAY

MONDAY 5-7 pm Aikido
6:30 - 8 pm Judo

TUESDAY 7 pm Volleyball

WEDNESDAY 7:30 pm Basketball

THURSDAY 5-7 pm Aikido
6:30 - 8 pm Judo

FRIDAY 6:30 pm-7:30 pm Family Aikido

SATURDAY

Another Successful Kohaku Uta Gassen

The 34th Denver Kohaku Uta Gassen (Red vs White Singing Competition) was held on January 24, 2009 at the Temple auditorium. It was co-sponsored by the Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple (TSDBT), the Japanese Association of Colorado (JAC) and the Uta Gassen Executive Committee.

The weather was nice and approximately 300 people attended the event which was won by the White Team with 1,207 points compared to the Red Team's score of 1,1191. The Championship Trophy was presented to the White Team captain, Satoru Takase, by the Consul General of Japan, Mr. Kazuaki Kubo.

Rev. Kanya Okamoto gave the welcoming speech. Each team was represented by 14 singers who performed for 10 judges. In addition, there were many in-between-acts performed by Mirai Odaiko, Colorado Japanese School Children's Chorus, Okinawan dance, Japanese dance and guest singer, Mr. Kubo.

Boxed lunches created by the Buddhist Women's Association (BWA) were sold to audience members and provided to performers. Young Buddhist's Association (YBA) members helped with the set up and clean up of

(continued on page 5)