



The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

BULLETIN



Volume 68, Number 11  August 2012 (2556 B.E.)

August Calendar of Events

Call 773-334-4661 or visit www.budtempchi.org

Regular Sunday Services

Dharma Sunday School – On break until September, classes on 2nd and 4th Sundays, 11am

Religious Service (in English) – Sundays, 11am

Shotsuki Hoyo Monthly Memorial Service – Sunday, Aug 5, 11am (English), 1pm (Japanese)

Special Services & Events

Bon Odori – August 11, 7:30pm, see Culture section below for practice schedule

Obon Service & Hatsu-Bon – Sunday, August 12, 11am (joint English/Japanese), see article on p.3

Koso-ki Service (Rev. Haya Akegarasu Memorial) – Sunday, August 26, 11am, see article this page

Education & Meditation

Introduction to Buddhism – Call 773-334-4661 or visit www.budtempchi.org for schedule

Buddhism Study Class – On break until September, open to all, Wednesdays, 7pm

Meditation Sessions – On break until September

Sutra Study Class – Open to all, 3rd Sundays, 12:30 to 2pm

Meetings

Asoka Society – On break until September, 3rd Saturdays, 1pm

BTC Board – Sunday, August 26th, 12:30pm

The Middle Way – 1st Sundays, noon

Culture

Bon Odori (for Obon) – Japanese dance, see p.3, practices on Mon July 30, Wed August 1, Fri August 3, Mon August 6, & Wed August 8

Calligraphy – Brush writing, 1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 7pm

Chinese Movement – Quigong, starting Sept 18, Tuesdays, 11am to noon, call Dennis Chan 773-465-6422 for information & to register

Crafts Class – 1st & 3rd Saturdays, 10am to noon

Japanese Fencing – Intro to Kendo, Dojo sessions, Tuesdays, 8pm to 10pm at Bethany United Church, call Bob Kumaki, 847-853-1187 for information

Japanese Language (children or adults) – On break until Sept, Saturdays, 10am, call temple to register

Japanese Swordsmanship – Iaido, Mondays 7 to 9pm

Taiko Drums – BTC Kokyo Taiko Drum Troupe, Fridays, 7pm to 9pm

Revisiting Akegarasu's Poem "Who Am I?"

By Rev. Patti Nakai

On Sunday, August 26, we will be observing Koso-ki, the memorial service for Rev. Haya Akegarasu (1877-1954). He was the direct teacher to our temple's ministers, Rev. Gyomay Kubose and Rev. Gyoko Saito, both of whom published translations of Akegarasu's work to commemorate his 100th birthday in 1977. Rev. Kubose's book is *The Fundamental Spirit of Buddhism*, translated with the help of Nancy DeRoin. Rev. Saito's book is *Shout of Buddha*, translated primarily with the assistance of Joan Sweany but also with help from the American Buddhist Association's study group and Dr. Nobuo Haneda.

The Fundamental Spirit of Buddhism is the translation of one long article with some biographical material (interesting more for learning about Rev. Kubose than Akegarasu), while *Shout of Buddha* is a collection of several short essays and poems. Rev. Saito felt that the poem "Who Am I?" in particular should be brought to people's attention because it was an introduction not only to Akegarasu but to the whole Buddha-Dharma and the essence of nembutsu. It was included in the temple's service book (the 1969 edition in the small 3-ring notebooks). Since then, we have distributed copies of the poem at our information counter from time to time, and we usually read it at the Koso-ki service. The English translation of the poem is as follows:

Who Am I?

My thought is thought,
it is never myself.
I had thought that my thought is myself,
but now I'm aware
I made a terrible mistake.

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Our deepest sympathy to the family & friends of:

Mrs. Mary Kimura

Ms. Jeri Tsurusaki

Mr. Kuniyoshi Wada

Please see Temple News for details

THE BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF CHICAGO

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Feedback & Submissions

Comments, corrections, questions, and suggestions are encouraged. Submitted material will be reviewed for suitability and space availability. Anonymous submissions will not be published, but author's names may be withheld from publication upon request. E-mail Ann Yi at btcbuledtr@hotmail.com for deadlines and more information.

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The Buddhist Temple of Chicago Bulletin, except where otherwise noted.

More Important Dates

- ☸ Aug 1: Deadline to register for the EBL Conference in Minneapolis, see p. 6.
- ☸ Aug 31–Sept 2 (Labor Day weekend): EBL Conference in Minneapolis, see p. 6.

Also see the *August Calendar of Events* on page 1.

Temple News June 2012

- ☸ 06/02 BTC co-hosted the International Buddhism Festival of the Buddhist Council of the Midwest. Rev. Nakai was one of the keynote speakers and Rev. Ashikaga demonstrated Japanese calligraphy.
- ☸ 06/03 Rosenki (Rev. Manshi Kiyozawa's Memorial Service) in conjunction with Shotsuki Hoyo (Monthly Memorial Service) observed. Rev. Ashikaga delivered Dharma message.
- ☸ 06/04 Cremation Service for the Late Kunihsa Wada conducted at the Meadow Funeral Home in Rolling Meadows, Illinois.
- ☸ 06/09 Funeral/Memorial Service for the late Jeri Tsurusaki conducted at the Temple. Jeri Fumiyo Tsurusaki, 89, passed away on June 21, 2012. She is survived by brother Koji Tsurusaki, sister-in-law Yoneko Tsurusaki, and many nieces and nephews.
- ☸ 06/10 Dharma School Special Service conducted by Dharma School Students. Dharma message delivered by Rev. Patti Nakai. * * * BTC hosted the interfaith panel entitled "Faith: Alive in Action" presented by "Treasures of Uptown." Nearly 30 people of various faiths participated in the discussions, including several members of the BTC study group and The Middle Way.
- ☸ 06/12 Funeral/Memorial Service for the late Kunihsa Wada conducted at the Temple. Mr. Wada, 91, passed away on June 1, 2012. He is survived by wife Toshiko, son Hiroshi, and daughter Teruko Wada.
- ☸ 06/16 Asoka Society met and did clean-up preparations for Natsu-Matsuri.
- ☸ 06/17 Joint Father's Day and Graduation Service observed. Three high school graduates were awarded the 2012 BTC Scholarships. Lay speaker was Tom Lane. * * * Temple Board of Directors met.
- ☸ 06/22 July issue of the BTC Bulletin mailed.
- ☸ 06/23 Natsuri Matsuri held at the Temple.
- ☸ 06/26 After Natsu Matsuri, clean-up was done.
- ☸ 06/27 Funeral/Memorial Service for the late Mary Kimura was conducted at the Temple. Mrs. Kimura, 91, passed away on June 18, 2012. She is survived by daughter Karen Kimura Ryan.

**THANK YOU,
THANK YOU,
THANK YOU!**
Understanding the
nembutsu through
recognizing the paramitas
in others. Send in your
recognitions!

- ☸ Sunday Service
Participants: Atkins Family;
Bill Bohlman; Glenn Fujiura;
Anna Idol; Kiyo Omachi;
Elaine Siegel; Justin
Woodward; Dharma School
children: Maya, Ava, Bea,
Wen Qing, Yulian, Ian,
Anna, and Alyssa; and Mrs.
Hisayo Ashikaga, our pianist
- ☸ Sunday Service
Refreshments: Rodel de
Ocampo, Noreen Enkoji,
Haru Ito, Ruby Izui, Karen
Kanemoto, Jane Morishige,
Betty Segal, Peggy Waters,
and many others who helped
- ☸ Temple Bulletin Mailing:
Rev. Ashikaga, Haru Ito,
Chuck Izui, Amy and Morris
Kawamoto, Joe Korner,
Michele Mulcahy, Rev. Patti
Nakai, Masa Nakata, Tommi
and Tak Tomiyama
- ☸ Taking care of the
Temple inside and out:
Tomio Tadamoto
- ☸ Cleaning the entire
Temple every week: Justin
Woodward
- ☸ Manning the Temple
office every Thursday: Tak
Tomiyama
- ☸ Maintaining and updating
the temple website and
computer: Shawn Lyte
- ☸ Emptying the trash bins,
filling them with new bags
and putting them out for
disposal: Adam Kellman,
April Kellman, Rev. Patti
Nakai

Soon, It's BTC's Turn

A while back I wrote about BTC as “no island unto itself.” It often comes up that BTC is an “independent” temple. Such a declaration can be interpreted by different people in different ways. The claim “we are independent” sometimes takes on other connotations than is the actual case, and it becomes more confusing when the one who happens to be doing the proclaiming may be misinformed as to what that claim means. Consequently, I've heard talk of our independence wrongly interpreted on occasion.

The Buddhist Temple of Chicago as a Jodo Shinshu temple in North America is not officially affiliated with either Higashi Honganji North America nor the Buddhist Churches of America (Nishi Honganji). However, our minister lineage is of the Higashi sect, from our founding minister Rev. Gyomay M. Kubose on down through the years to Rev. Gyoko Saito to our present ministers, Revs. Ashikaga and Nakai. Rev. Kubose's teacher Rev. Haya Akegarasu, and his teacher, Rev. Manshi Kiyozawa, stressed what Shinran Shonin had clarified as to the universality of what Shakyamuni taught, and in that context is BTC's approach to the Dharma.

BTC has welcomed ministerial and lay speakers from a multitude of fields of study. Likewise, the contributions made by our ministers to the larger Shin Buddhist community have enhanced BTC's cooperative reputation. This reciprocity only serves to

(Continued on page 6)

Interfaith Banners



Left: Banners created by the “Treasures of Uptown” interfaith coalition in January for the “Fabric of Our Faith” event were displayed at BTC on June 10. More info at: www.treasuresofuptown.org

Below: Rev. Patti Nakai contributed this flower panel.

Photos by Ann Yi



Obon & Hatsubon Service 2012

Sunday, August 12, 2012

Joint Service Begins 11 a.m.

2012 Hatsubon List

The following is a list for the 2011-2012 Hatsubon service (the first Obon memorial service for those deceased from August 1, 2011 to July 10, 2012). BTC invites everyone to join us for this special service.

Martin Takashi Hoover	9/13/11
Osamu Tanabe	10/7/11
Tom Tomio Horita	10/31/11
Robert Masao Tanaka	11/24/11
Thomas Tadao Ito	12/2/11
Fred Babbins	12/9/11
Masato Masao Tanaka	12/18/11
Fusako Fuzzie Nitahara	01/02/12
Kunihisa Wada	06/01/12
Fumiyo Jeri Tsurusaki	06/02/12
Mary Shigetome Kimura	06/18/12
Yutaka Bob Oshita	07/03/12

Obon – Joyous Remembrance of Loved Ones

In the Japanese Buddhist tradition, there is an occasion called Obon. (“O” is the honorific prefix and “bon” is an abbreviation of the Ullambana Sutra.) At our temple we observe Obon with Bon Odori and a special Sunday service. Bon Odori is the festival of dancing in joyous remembrance of our loved ones. This year's Bon Odori is Saturday August 11, 7:30 p.m. with five practice sessions starting Monday, July 30 at 7:30 p.m. and continuing on August 1, 3, 6, and 8.

Along with centuries-old folk dances are some modern circle dances for Obon, such as “Beautiful Sunday,” a Japanese version of the 1972 hit song by British singer “Daniel Boone” (aka Peter Green) on this year's program. Anyone can join the dancing at Bon Odori whether they've seen the dances before or not. We hope you come to the practice sessions for fun and exercise.

The joint English and Japanese Obon service is on Sunday, August 12, starting at 11:00 a.m. There will be a separate chanting and incense offering for families observing Hatsu-Bon, the first Obon since their loved ones' passing. The story of the Ullambana Sutra is usually recounted to remind us of why we honor our loved ones with joyful dancing.

Natsu Matsuri 2012: A Beautiful Day

We often speak of the idea of sangha; it is at Natsu Matsuri that we find its true expression. Dedicated volunteers pull together to provide our members and friends with a day of food, fun, and enjoyment. Again, this year, our sangha outdid itself.

During the months leading up to Natsu Matsuri, the individuals in charge of each aspect arrange for needed people and supplies. The action goes into high gear on Saturday as the final preparations begin. The chickens are delivered, and “Team Teriyaki” begins its work. The chicken is trimmed and then bagged to marinate in our secret BTC teriyaki blend. In the kitchen, the crew is busy chopping, slicing and dicing the ingredients needed for chirashi, inari, coleslaw, and this year, soba. The craft group busies itself with setting up their wares and the donated items for the silent auction. A setup crew works on preparing signage and getting all the chairs, tables and display cases ready for Sunday. Outside, the chicken grilling pit is skillfully constructed. With preparations complete, we all hope for good weather.

On Sunday, our weather wishes were answered. Throughout the day, we enjoyed clear skies and comfortable temperatures. Unlike many other years, we had an abundance of chicken and chirashi so that everyone who wished to make a purchase was able to do so. The cooking crew of “Team Teriyaki” once again proved that they are the best chicken cookers in Chicago. Inside, starting at 7 a.m., a coordinated effort created an abundance of chirashi and inari. Then, the kitchen staff shifted gears and throughout the day served over 900 chicken dinners and many dozens of servings of soba. Elsewhere at the festival, volunteers worked to staff the food counters, sell food and raffle tickets, and generally keep things running.

However, Natsu Matsuri is more than great food. This year, we had performances by both BTC taiko groups along with talented musicians who performed on the festival mini-soundstage. Rev. Patti gave her annual informative “Taste of Chicago Buddhism” presentations. A display of Japanese ceramic dolls, along with a collection of Japanese stamps of various eras, provided a cultural aspect. For the kids and kids at heart, there was origami and woodcarving. The crafts, silent auction, and bookmarks with your name in Japanese provided opportunities to take home a memento of the day.

As chairman of Natsu Matsuri, I especially want to thank those individuals who acted as the leaders of each of the various aspects. Your dedication and your willingness to tolerate me shows the true depth of your dedication. To all those who volunteered before, during, and after the festival, I thank you for your efforts. It is through your efforts that the Buddha-Dharma comes to life in the sangha of The Buddhist Temple of Chicago.

In oneness, with Gassho,
Bill Bohlman
Natsu Matsuri Chairman

Photograph by William Shehan

New Qigong Class Relax & Energize

By Dennis Chan

Starting on September 18, there will be a weekly Qigong class at the temple on Tuesday mornings from 11:00 a.m. to noon. The class is open to all ages, but it is especially geared to beginners and seniors.

The practice of Qigong is said to have started 4,000 years ago by Chinese spiritual teachers to promote good health and longevity. Qigong is viewed as a practice to cultivate and balance our life energy, called *qi* or *chi* in Chinese (*ki* in Japanese).

Together we will learn different movements to empty and calm our minds. In total relaxation, we will focus on moving our *qi* through our bodies. Over time, we will improve our balance, breathing, circulation, posture, and enjoy other health benefits.

Please wear comfortable clothes and shoes and join me on Tuesday mornings. (In the future if there is enough interest, I would like to offer an evening class during the week.) Please call me at (773) 465-6422 and leave your name and phone number if you have any questions or to sign up for the class.



Yasuo Ito demonstrates Kyudo
at Natsu Matsuri, 2012



Taiko drummers inside the temple

Natsu Matsuri 2012 Domo Arigato from the Craft Group

Thank you, thank you, and thank you. The Craft group is very grateful to everyone who helped us make Natsu Matsuri 2012 successful.

Thanks to everyone who purchased quilt raffle tickets. We are deeply grateful to Vernon Shabunia, who won the Natsu Matsuri quilt for the second year in a row and, as last year, donated the quilt back to our temple so that another name could be drawn. Domo arigato Vernon, and we hope you win a monetary award next year.

The raffle winners were as follows:

- Grand Prize - Kirk Johnson
- 1st Prize - May Nakao
- 2nd Prize - Giichi & Yvonne Moriwa
- 3rd Prize - M. Hirata
- Quilt raffle - Andrea Bartasik

The donations of Japanese goods, handmade items, origami, and many more treasures are gratefully acknowledged. Thanks to the purchasers and bidders of our crafts, gifts, and silent auction items. Donors of treasures, time, and/or effort are the following: Shizuko Akitomo, Fujiko Asa, Hisayo Ashikaga, the estate of Fred Babbins, Bill Bohlman, Dennis Chan, Doris Endo, Philip Goff, Marion Ishii, Michio Iwao, Gwen Kato, Amy Kawamoto, Hisako Kometani, Annika Lemme, Ikue Masuda, Junko Mizuta, Stuart Mizuta, Michele Mulcahy, Ty Momii, Jane and Jerry Morishige, Laura Muraoka, Alice Murata, Anna Nagata, Shizue Nakanishi, Arlene Nozawa, Dennie Okuhara, Lynn Osato, Amy Sakoda, Harky Tadamoto, Fumi Takada, Ruby Tsuji, Jane Watanabe, and Miye Yada. This list may not be complete. We apologize if we omitted your name.

The Craft Group members include Fumiko Kuwada, Alice Murata, Shizue Nakanishi, Arlene Nozawa, Dennie Okuhara, Harky Tadamoto, and Jane Watanabe (co-ordinator of the yearly quilts we make). Shizuko Akitomo and Fumiko Takata are ex-officio members who produce a lot and attend when they can.

We are always looking for additional members, so please contact us if you are interested in joining us.

Alice Murata
Crafts Group



Barefoot taiko drummers near the south entrance of temple



Volunteers prepare food at the minister's residence



Volunteers cook the greatest chicken teriyaki in Chicago, if not the world



Michio Iwao's wooden fish and a cookie shaped like a hamburger were among the crafts and food items available

Natsu Matsuri photographs by William Shehan

... Soon, It's BTC's Turn

(Continued from page 3)

broaden the view for all to the Teachings and gives exposure to the particular area of study in Jodo Shinshu of any one minister. But back to the notion of independence.

BTC is administratively independent of the established sects of Higashi and Nishi. It is not, however, taking liberties with the teachings of Shinran Shonin under the guise of this independence. To foster the understandings of life's truths we are challenged to understand the ego self, thereby avoiding the comfort traps emphasized by the popular touchy-feely Buddhism of "love and compassion." In this respect, BTC is quite immersed in the Shin Buddhist scene in North America. And in the end, BTC does participate in both the Hoshidan Dobo Kaikan trips to Kyoto, Japan with our Dharma friends of Higashi Honganji North America District and in the Eastern Buddhist League conferences with our Dharma friends of the Buddhist Churches of America. BTC is fortunate and privileged to have had a long-standing association in these events. Within the Eastern District of the Buddhist Churches of America, BTC participates in and takes its turn as host of the EBL conventions/conferences over the Labor Day weekend each year. As a matter of fact, 2013 happens to be BTC's turn to host the conference!

I can't think of a better warm-up for the task of hosting an event as important as an EBL conference than to attend this year's EBL Conference being hosted by the Twin Cities Buddhist Association. What an opportunity to benefit from their achievements so that we can bolster our team's subsequent conference planning effort. And ample planning it takes, so getting a jump-start on the task is key.

This year, our friends at the Midwest Buddhist Temple are hiring a bus to make the trip to and fro, for sightseeing about the Twin Cities area, and possibly sightseeing on the way back. They have graciously invited BTC to share the ride. Naturally, we need to fill up this bus to make the logistics practical. So get your bus reservations in to me without delay (see the article to the right). For conference info, see the information packets in the temple or visit the website: www.tcbuddhist.org.

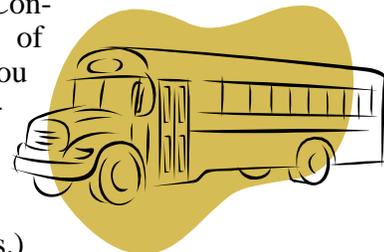
Regarding preparations for next year, the board of directors will be soon be forming the EBL 2013 organizing team, so we ask that interested temple members identify themselves to the board ASAP. I intend to propose that our EBL organizing team attend the conference this year. An EBL experience is like none other: nice friendly, sincere people from many East Coast and Midwestern temples in a casual setting, willing to share the dynamic experiences in their lives, encountering the Dharma. What a path, what a group!

Gassho,
Gary T. Nakai
President

2012 Eastern Buddhist League Conference & Bus Trip

By now we hope that you are submitting your registration for the conference, signing up for the chartered bus for the trip (or making your own transportation plans), and securing your hotel room. As many of you know, this gathering is a great time of fellowship with Buddhists from throughout the Midwest, east coast, and Canada. The Twin Cities Buddhist Association has put together an informative and fun program under the theme "Many Paths, One Path." Details and registration forms are available at www.tcbuddhist.org, and we also have forms available at the temple bookstore on the glass bookcase. The registration deadline is August 1.

The conference will be held over Labor Day weekend, August 31 through September 2 at the Hilton Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport Mall of America in Bloomington, just outside the Twin Cities). A block of rooms has been reserved at the rate of \$105 per night for the Eastern Buddhist Conference. (Tip: As of this writing, if you are willing to pre-pay for a non-cancellable room, the hotel's site offers cheaper rates.)



Our sister temple, the Midwest Buddhist Temple, is chartering a bus for both transportation to and from the conference and for bonus sightseeing. The cost per person is \$100. We will depart MBT (435 W. Menomonee) on Friday, August 31 at 8 a.m. Please arrive by 7:30 a.m. You may park in the MBT lot. On Monday morning, the bus will leave the Hilton at 8 a.m. for the drive back to Chicago, with sightseeing on the way. The bus should arrive back at MBT at around 4:30 p.m.

To reserve your seat on the bus (note that this does not reserve a spot at the conference), send your name, address, phone number (this information is required by the bus company), and a check for \$100 made out to Midwest Buddhist Temple to:

The Buddhist Temple of Chicago
ATTN: EBL BUS
1151 W Leland Ave
Chicago IL 60640-5043

... Revisiting Akegarasu's Poem

(Continued from page 1)

My experience is experience.

It is never myself.

I had thought that experience is myself,
but now I'm aware

I made a terrible mistake.

My feelings are feelings,
they are never myself.

I had thought that my feelings are myself,
but now I'm aware

I made a terrible mistake.

My will is will.

It is never myself.

I had thought that my will is myself,
but now I'm aware

I made a terrible mistake.

My wishes are wishes,
they are never myself.

I had thought that my wishes are myself,
but now I'm aware

I made a terrible mistake.

My deeds are deeds,
they are never myself.

I had thought that my deeds are myself,
but now I'm aware

I made a terrible mistake.

But then who am I?

Yes, it is true, that through thought,
experience, feeling,
will, wish, and deed

I manifest myself,
but also I manifest myself

when I break out of all of these.

I am not such a limited self,
conceptualized self,
as to exist apart from others!

I alone am the most noble:
I embrace the cosmos.

What an indescribable,
subtle existence I am!--I cannot in
speaking or writing
put down who I am!

I always touch this indescribable self,
always follow this indescribable self.
Truth is here.

(Continued in next column)

When Joan Sweany died in 2001, her family gave me a book that she told them I should have. It was the volume from Akegarasu's collected works that included most of the material translated for *Shout of Buddha*. When I started comparing the original Japanese texts to the English versions Joan had done with Rev. Saito, I was struck by how much that was, as the cliché says, "lost in translation." Joan and Saito-sensei and all their helpers did a tremendous job of putting Akegarasu's rather flowery prose into accessible English but I could see that they chose to gloss over or leave out certain passages (perhaps because of the times – when Buddhism was still considered an exotic religion and very few non-Japanese people had heard of Jodo Shinshu). One example of what the translation left out is Akegarasu's constant echoing of the Larger (Sukhavativyuha) Sutra to emphasize the important role it played in his spiritual rebirth.

When I came upon the text for "Who Am I?" it was the Japanese title that grabbed me: "*Jiko to wa nan-zo ya*" which literally means "The self is what?" I recognized it as the same wording used by Akegarasu's teacher, Manshi Kiyozawa (1863-1903) in his "December Fan Diary" (*Rosenki*). In the entry for October 24, 1898, Kiyozawa quotes Socrates' "Know thyself" (written in both Greek and English lettering) and then poses the question, "What is the self?" ("*Jiko to wa nan-zo ya*"). Kiyozawa answers his question with, "The self is no other than this: my settling down into this environment, letting naturalness carry me, riding the unbounded working of myriad phenomena." That line became the opening of the reading "The Great Path of Absolute Other-Power" compiled by Kiyozawa's students after his passing. (See page 25 of *December Fan* (Higashi Honganji, 1984) for Dr. Haneda's translation.) To see "*Jiko to wa nan-zo ya*" made me realize Akegarasu's poem was a response to his teacher, his confession to Kiyozawa. "I had thought that *my* thought is my self, but now I'm aware I made a terrible mistake."

The Saito-Sweany translation of the poem is very faithful to the original except at the end. I wouldn't argue with their use of "indescribable" for *fukashigi* (not-possible-think-consider), a term heavily used by Shinran. The usual translation of "inconceivable" may be closer but it's still not exact. But I believe the last line of the poem should be revised.

The last sentence in Akegarasu's poem reads literally, "I always contact/touch and entrust/follow this – it is my going forth in doing the life-activity of truth/actuality." That latter phrase is very dynamic ("*shinjitsu no seikatsu o shite yuku no de arimasu*") while "truth is here" sounds a bit static. Readers, maybe you have some ideas? For now I would go with, "I go forth, living the ever-active truth."

In Buddhism there is no static "truth" that we can pin down to a "here." Truth is constantly moving and changing, and the Buddha taught us so that we could be in the flow of the continually revealing truth instead of fighting to keep it fixed the way we think it should be. That is the flow that Akegarasu awakened to when his cherished ideas (especially the proud image of himself) were smashed and he tasted freedom from the ego-self. "Who Am I?" is the call of the nembutsu—"Namu" is to realize our terrible mistake of self-centeredness and break out into "Amida Butsu," the flow of indescribable dynamic life.