



The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

BULLETIN

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Volume 69, Number 9  June 2013 (2557 B.E.)

June Calendar of Events

Call 773-334-4661

Also visit www.budtempchi.org

Regular Sunday Services

Religious Service (English) – Sundays, 11am

Dharma Sunday School – Sunday, June 9, 11am

Shotsuki Hoyo, Monthly Memorial Service – Sunday, June 2, 11am (English), 1pm (Japanese)

❁ Special Services & Events ❁

Rosen-ki – Memorial service for Manshi Kiyozawa, Sunday, June 2, 11am

Natsu Matsuri, Sunday, June 23, 11am

Education & Meditation

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

Buddhism Study Class – Open to all, Wednesdays, 7pm

Meditation Sessions – Thurs evenings 7:30pm, Sun mornings 9am

Sutra Study Class – Open to all, 3rd Sundays (call temple to verify), 12:30 to 2

Meetings & Socials

Asoka Society – 3rd Saturdays, 1pm

BTC Board – Sun, June 30th, 12:30pm

☀ Culture ☀

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

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

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

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

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

Japanese Swordsmanship – Iaido, Mondays 7 to 9pm

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

See More Important Dates on page 3.

Experiencing the Worldwide Sangha

By Rev. Patti Nakai

The World Dobo Convention was held in Kyoto, Japan on May 8 through 10, and nine delegates from our temple attended. Why did we go all that way to such a gathering – was it worth all the time and money it takes to travel to Japan?

第11回 世界同朋大会

The 11th World Dobo Convention
11ª Convencão Budista Mundial Dobo

On the morning before the convention started, I attended the 7:00 am service at the Higashi Honganji temple. The minister giving the Dharma talk paraphrased chapter two of Tannisho where Shinran tells the group from eastern Japan who came to see him in Kyoto, “Why did you go through so much trouble to come see me, even risking your lives over treacherous mountain paths?” The speaker went on to say that Shinran said, “If you’re looking for the surefire way to be reborn in paradise, you’ve come to the wrong place.” The speaker said it’s really all of us who come to religion looking to get some special prize for ourselves, but Shinran points out to us how shallow that wish is. Shinran wants us to look to the teachings of Buddha that guide us in transcending our selfish desires – the teachings which are free and public, not requiring you go to any particular place or person. If anything, Jodo Shinshu is about increasing the access to the Dharma, taking away the barriers that other Buddhist traditions build up (requirements to be morally pure, physically agile, very knowledgeable, able to devote hours on end to practice, etc. etc.).

If the nembutsu can be heard anywhere and we can access the teachings at our nearby temple, or in books or on the Internet, what’s the purpose of us gathering together someplace not very easy to get to? Was there something special going on at Higashi Honganji’s Goei-do (“Founder’s Hall”) that we can’t encounter anywhere else?

(Continued on page 7)

Our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of:

Ruth Babbin

Alice Fukuyama

Harue Miyata

Mitsuko Tokimoto

Please see Temple News for details

Temple News April 2013

- ☸ 4/03 The students of Archbishop Hoban High School from Akron, Ohio visited the Temple. Rev. Ashikaga welcomed them and shared the basic teachings of Buddhism.
- ☸ 4/05 Rev. Nakai welcomed the social work class of Huntington University and shared a talk on Buddhist values related to social work topics.
- ☸ 4/07 Shotsuki Hoyo (Monthly Memorial Service) was observed. Rev. Ashikaga delivered Dharma messages for the morning English service and afternoon Japanese service.
- ☸ 4/09 Revs. Ashikaga and Nakai attended Chicago (Japanese) Buddhist Federation meeting at Furama Restaurant.
- ☸ 4/11 Rev. Nakai attended inaugural dinner for Japanese Americans Citizens League.
- ☸ 4/12 Omigaki (polishing altar ornaments) and temple clean up for Hanamatsuri.
- ☸ 4/13 Hanamido (flower altar) was decorated with flowers donated by Walls Flower Shop that were picked up by Rev. Ashikaga and Michio Iwao. * * * The Funeral/Memorial Service for the late Alice Fukuyama was conducted at Lakeview Funeral Home. Mrs. Fukuyama is survived by her daughter Jean (Kei) Narimatsu, and sons Dennis (JoAnne) and Kenneth. * * * The family of the late Mr. Shigeta Kuwada visited the Temple to plan the funeral arrangements. * * * Spring quarter of the Japanese Language School began. .
- ☸ 4/14 Hana Matsuri special service was observed. Jane Watanabe, Gwen Kato, and Alice Murata dressed Dharma school students in Ochigo costumes. Rev. Ashikaga gave the Dharma School message and Japanese message, and Rev. Nakai delivered the main Dharma talk.
- ☸ 4/16 Bon Odori teaching crew met for practice and planning this year's program.
- ☸ 4/19-20 Rev. Nakai and Gary Nakai attended the Eastern District Council meeting in Cleveland to present the 2013 Eastern Buddhist League Conference details. Weekend included public lecture by Salt Lake City minister Rev. Jerry Hirano and leadership workshop conducted by Orange County minister Rev. Marvin Harada.
- ☸ 4/20 Asoka Society met.
- ☸ 4/21 Regular Sunday Service was observed. The lay speaker was Rodel De Ocampo.
- ☸ 4/24 Rev. and Mrs. Ashikaga left for Japan.
- ☸ 4/26 May bulletin was mailed.
- ☸ 4/28 Regular Sunday Service was observed. Rev. Nakai gave the Dharma talk.
- ☸ During the month of April we learned of the passing of three long-time members:
 - Mrs. Mitsuko Tokimoto on April 5, survived by daughter Peggy (Bill) Smith and grandsons Mark (Sarah) and Alec Sasamoto. Family had a private gathering.
 - Mrs. Harue Miyata on April 12, survived by daughters Shirley, Naomi and Joyce and granddaughter Nichole. A private interment will be planned for a later date.
 - Mrs. Ruth Babbin on April 18, survived by son Mark, stepchildren Helen and Jon. A Jewish service was held April 27 at a private home.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

**Understanding the Nembutsu
through recognizing the
Paramitas in others.**

Send in your recognitions!

- ☸ Sunday service participants: Sue Balsam, Bill Bohlman, Rodel De Ocampo, Glenn T. Fujiura, Anna Idol, Joe Korner, Elaine Siegel, Leroy Wiley, & Mrs. Hisayo Ashikaga, our pianist.
- ☸ Sunday service refreshments: Bill Bohlman, Noreen Enkoji, Mary Hirata, Haru Ito, Joe Korner Janet Lipner, Alice Murata, Arlene Nozawa, Kay Schroeter, Mary Shimomura, Harky Tadamoto, and Board Members.
- ☸ Temple Bulletin mailing: Rev. Ashikaga, Dennis Chan, Antoinette d'Vencets, Noreen Enkoji, Haru Ito, Chuck Izui, Rev. Patti Nakai, Masa Nakata, Mary Shimomura, Tak and Tommi Tomiyama.
- ☸ Omigaki (altar ornament cleaning for Hana Matsuri): Karen Baier, Sue Balsam, Mia Blixt-Shehan, Cynthia Mee, Michele Mulcahy, Masa Nakata, Anthony Stagg, and Patsy McEnroe, who also dusted the altar roof.
- ☸ Decorating the flower shrine (Hanamido), Karen Kanemoto, Gwen Kato, Lynn Maruyama, and the Crafts Group.
- ☸ For dressing Ochigo children for Hana Matsuri procession: Jane Watanabe, Gwen Kato, Alice Murata.
- ☸ Taking care of the Temple inside and out: Tomio Tadamoto.
- ☸ Cleaning the Temple: Mia Blixt-Shehan, Michele Mulcahy.
- ☸ Manning the Temple office every Thursday: Tak Tomiyama.
- ☸ Maintaining and updating the Temple website: Shawn Lyte.
- ☸ Emptying the trash bins, filling them with new bags and putting them out for disposal: Sue Balsam, Adam Kellman, Michele Mulcahy, Rev. Patti Nakai.
- ☸ Manning the sound reinforcement system for Sunday service: Jacob Fawcett.

More Important Dates

- ☸ Now through summer 2013: The spring issue of *Tricycle* featuring BTC's Rev. Patti Nakai is available in BTC's resource center.
- ☸ June 1-7: BTC Scholarship winners notified.
- ☸ June 9: Dharma School students lead Sunday service.
- ☸ June 15: Luncheon honoring Rev. Ashikaga's years of service to BTC. See flyer for details and to RSVP.
- ☸ June 16: Rev. Yukei Ashikaga retires * * * Natsu Matsuri food orders deadline. See flyer. * * * BTC graduation service and scholarship presentation.
- ☸ June 23: Natsu Matsuri (summer festival). See flyer.
- ☸ July 21: Temple member Dennis Chan will give the lay talk on his visit to Japan during Sunday service.
- ☸ July 26-28: Dharma School Families Weekend trip. See this page.
- ☸ Aug. 31-Sept. 2: BTC hosts the 2013 Eastern Buddhist League Conference. See page 6.
- ☸ Sept. 28: BTC Rummage Sale. See page 5.

Also see the *June Calendar of Events*, page 1.

Reminder: Annual Natsu Matsuri

On June 23 the Temple will celebrate the 67th annual Natsu Matsuri (summer festival). As always, there will be great food including our world famous teriyaki chicken, chirashi, inari, udon, ohagi, and other treats. Get your food pre-order in now! Orders are due June 16 (see flyer insert). Don't forget to submit your main raffle order for fabulous prizes and also the annual quilt (see page 4).

Dharma School Families Weekend Trip!

The families of BTC Children's Dharma School plan to gather for a weekend getaway at the Bright Dawn Home Spread near Plymouth, Wisconsin the weekend of July 26-28. Activities will include hiking and other outdoor activities, meditation, games, and lots more fun.

Families with children interested in joining or learning more about the trip can contact Dave Leshuk at dleshuk@solartwister.com 847-656-5071 or Diana Schoendorff at 773-540-1505 billandi@sbcglobal.net 773-540-1505.

Reminder: BTC Looking for Diamonds

That is, "diamonds" as in used auto dealer slang for a low mileage car that looks just like new and runs smooth and trouble-free. Our old Ford Taurus has served the Temple and Reverend Ashikaga honorably and well for many years but is at that point of being put out of its misery.

We need a replacement vehicle for use by the ministers for Temple travel. Before we commit BTC resources to the purchase of a minister's vehicle, are there members out there who would like to donate a "diamond" to the Temple? If so, please contact Glenn T. Fujiura at 312-752-7773 or by e-mail at gfujiura@uic.edu.

IN THIS ISSUE

Articles

- Experiencing the Worldwide Sangha . . . 1
- President's Message for June:
- GPS & the BTC, by Glenn T. Fujiura . . . 5

News & Items

- Dharma School Families Weekend Trip . . . 3
- Reminder: Natsu Matsuri . . . 3
- Reminder: BTC Looking for Diamonds . . . 3
- Natsu Matsuri Quilt Raffle . . . 4
- Rev. Ashikaga Special Recognition . . . 4
- Reminder: Rummage Sale . . . 5
- EBL 2013 Conference Update . . . 6
- Reminder: BTC Online Guide . . . 6

Regular Features

- June Calendar of Events . . . 1
- Temple News (English) . . . 2
- Thank you! Thank you! Thank You! . . . 2
- More Important Dates . . . 3
- NEW Sangha News . . . 6
- Temple News (Japanese) . . . 8

THE BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF CHICAGO

1151 West Leland Avenue
Chicago, IL 60640-5043

Tel: 773-334-4661

Fax: 773-334-4726

budtempchi.org
[facebook.com/budtempchi](https://www.facebook.com/budtempchi)

Head Minister

Rev. Yukei Ashikaga

Resident Minister

Rev. Patti Nakai

President

Glenn T. Fujiura

BTC BULLETIN

Team

Michele Mulcahy, Rev. Patti Nakai, Gary T. Nakai, Ruby Tsuji, Ann Yi (Editor)

Feedback & Submissions

Comments, corrections, questions, & suggestions welcome. Submissions of articles, essays, book reviews, photos, poetry, news items, announcements, drawings, etc., strongly encouraged. Submissions 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.

Contact

E-mail BTCbuledtr@hotmail.com or speak with anyone on the BTC Team

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Natsu Matsui Quilt Raffle

By Alice Murata

The BTC Craft Group is hard at work on the 2013 annual Natsu Matsuri quilt. Please purchase raffle tickets to support The Buddhist Temple of Chicago and for a chance to win this beautiful and completely handmade quilt. Raffle tickets will be in the mail soon, if not already. This year's quilt is stitched on a beautiful blue and gray background and is fashioned with authentic Japanese fabrics.



The nearly completed raffle quilt, 100% hand-stitched.



Closeup of the lovely Japanese fabrics used.

In addition, the crafts group is happy to announce that new members have joined the group. Mandy (Amandia) Kapsalis, Anna Nagata, and Ruby Tsuji are adding their talents to ours.

We are still on the lookout for new members, so consider joining our Craft Group. It is a wonderful opportunity to obtain help to complete projects you have been working on for a while and to learn new quilt techniques from our talented master quilter, Jane Watanabe. We meet on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of every month from 10 am to noon.

Reverend Ashikaga Receives Special Recognition in Kyoto

On May 8, at the administrative offices of Higashi Honganji in Kyoto, Japan, the nine delegates of The Buddhist Temple of Chicago gathered to witness our head minister Rev. Yukei Ashikaga receive a certificate of recognition for his long years of service as a Buddhist minister in the United States (he was at the Hilo, Hawaii temple before his 53 years at BTC). The certificate was presented by the Chief Administrator, Bishop Koi Sato'o and cabinet member Bishop Kenryu Iwasaka along with the International Department head Rev. Tetsushi Kimura. The ceremony was also attended by North American District Bishop Noriaki Ito, who had helped make the scheduling arrangements. The special recognition was announced the next day at the banquet for the World Dobo Convention. Rev. Ashikaga and his wife were applauded by the more than 300 attendees.

Rev. Ashikaga will retire from BTC on June 16, 2013. On June 15, from 11 am to 3 pm, the Temple will honor Rev. Ashikaga at Monastero's Ristorante & Banquets located at 3935 W. Devon, Chicago for his many years of service. The cost is \$20 per adult and \$17 per child. See the enclosed flyer for more information and to RSVP.



Rev. Ashikaga (left) formally receives the certificate of recognition from Bishop Sato'o (right). Photo by Ann Yi.



From left to right: Bishop Kenryu Iwasaka, Alice Murata, Rev. Patti Nakai, Mrs. Ashikaga, Ann Yi, Rev. Ashikaga, Dennis Chan, Lynda Yanez, Bishop Koi Sato'o, Bishop Noriaki Ito, Rev. Tetsushi Kimura. Photo by Gary Nakai.

President's Message for June: GPS & the BTC

Do you use a Global Positioning System (GPS) when you drive? For the old-timers out there who drive old cars (like me), GPS is a satellite-based navigation system that provides location information to anyone anywhere on earth. Combined with software that combines detailed street maps and voice commands, it serves as your personal navigator. I am "old school" and mostly still use maps and my sense of direction (and very often get lost). It may be a generational thing. One of my daughters has difficulty backing out of the driveway without one. But the whole process is amazing, and on occasion I enjoy playing with it using my smart phone.

A pleasant woman's voice will say, "turn left" or "exit approaching on the right." If I miss the turn, the voice will (pleasantly) say, "recalculating route." My wife has always been my navigator. She has uncanny sense of direction. When I first got a smart phone with GPS on it I started using it just because I love gadgets. I think my wife was jealous. "Why do you need THAT woman?" she would ask, "I could have told you to turn."

"But she (GPS) doesn't get irritated with me when I miss the turn." This was just a private thought. I know better.

I was regular listener of a National Public Radio show called "On Being," which was hosted by Krista Tippett. Rev. Patti Nakai often references the show during her Minister's Messages on Sunday. The interviews were intimate conversations with men and women of various faiths, philosophers, scientists, etc. who asked the big questions about life's meanings. A couple of years ago, about the time that I was first playing with the GPS on my smart phone, I was listening to an interview with Sylvia Boorstein. Ms. Boorstein is an author, psychotherapist, and self-described "observant Jew" who is a committed Buddhist. During the interview, Boorstein made an off-handed comment about how her car's GPS was a good Buddhist teacher. If you made a mistake, the GPS simply instructs you to "recalculate the route." There are daily challenges in our lives, she noted, and we have many choices in the roads we take. We can be angry or indignant. But like the GPS message when we miss the turn, rather than perseverating on the wrong choice, we should simply "recalculate."

The comparison was just an aside in an extended discussion, but I never forgot it. Hardly a day passes that I do not have a little voice in my head that says, "recalculate the route, Glenn." A perceived slight, a blow to my inflated ego, not receiving the accolades I think I deserved – I take a deep breath and recalculate the route. This is such a wonderful example of the mindfulness in everyday life emphasized by Rev. Kubose in his book, *Everyday Suchness*.

Boorstein's metaphor is especially appropriate for BTC as we move into our new era. As you know, Rev. Yukei Ashikaga will be retiring this month and transitioning into his new role as Minister Emeritus. As I noted in the original announcement of his retirement, the history of BTC is deeply intertwined with Reverend Ashikaga. A minister here since 1960, he has 53 years of service to the Temple. But change is inevitable with new leadership. While no one knows where BTC's path will take us, we do know that it will be a different place than today. That the journey will not unfold in a predictable, straightforward manner. So let us honor the past but not cling to it, be planful as we look to the future, and most importantly, be flexible as we travel this road to the future. Recalculating the route.

Reminder: Rummage Sale

The date of the rummage sale is Saturday, September 28, 2013, rain or shine. Please start going through all of those closets and boxes in the basement to see what you don't need or want anymore.

Items accepted:

- Clean, gently used clothing and accessories
- Small appliances in good working condition

Items not accepted:

- TV's, mattresses, furniture, humidifiers, electronics
- Items that are stained, torn or broken



In addition to the general sale, there are a limited number of tables for those temple members who wish to do their own selling. The donation is \$30/table.

Drop off dates for rummage items will be forthcoming. Please contact Lynn Maruyama @ Lmaruyama114@earthlink.net if you would like to help out or if you wish to purchase an individual vendor table.

Eastern Buddhist League 2013 Conference Update

By Gary T. Nakai, EBL 2013 Chairman

Preparations for the conference are moving along swiftly, and by the time you read this you will be able to go to our website to register early for the conference. Every consideration has been given to make this a memorable conference with emphases placed on practicality and affordability. A dynamic weekend is planned, all amongst the nicest people in the world, to my way of thinking.

Please register as early as possible and before July 31st to avoid late fees, but more importantly, early returns give us the means to fine tune the program, logistics, and tours. Everything costs something, and knowing the group size helps us take advantage of certain pricing schemes. Together we can achieve a greater bang for our buck, as the saying goes.

So look over the registration materials, read up on the fantastic program planned, learn the details of the fascinating tour destinations via the referenced websites, and make your reservations directly with the hotel. You'll be pleased with the super low rates for accommodations.

Updates will be posted on BTC's website at www.budtempchi.org to keep everyone informed (click the Events tab or go to <http://tinyurl.com/2013ebl>). Biographies of the presenters are forthcoming soon. Special deals with tours and shopping will be announced to prod your decision-making. Car pools for conference stay and commuters alike will be posted too. Look at all aspects of this Labor Day weekend event and I'm confident you'll agree: You don't want to miss this gathering of the greater EBL Sangha!

BTC Online Guide

Website: <http://www.budtempchi.org>

Contains updated information on temple events and general information on Buddhism. There is also an archive of downloadable issues of the bulletin. Click "Bulletins" to view past issues.

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/budtempchi>

Visit the page to stay current on temple news and to view photographs of recent events. Click the "Like" button to see the Temple's updates on your news feed.

Taste of Chicago Buddhism blog:
www.tasteofchicagobuddhism.blogspot.com

"Blog" is an abbreviation of "web log" – a journal kept on the Internet instead of in a bound volume. In Rev. Patti's blog, she discusses her activities, classes, and issues related to Buddhism and the Temple.

Wikipedia:
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddhist_Temple_of_Chicago

In 2011, Rev. Patti Nakai helped add a new Wikipedia entry on BTC. To expand the Wikipedia entry for The Buddhist Temple of Chicago, please let Rev. Patti know of any published materials mentioning events in our temple's history.

NEW Sangha News Your News Here

- ❁ Congratulations to Jane Doe for her graduation from Maddup High School. She will begin studies at De Paul University in Chicago this fall. We wish Jane all the best.
- ❁ John Perfect and Mary Perfect would like to announce their Perfect engagement. They plan to be married at a Perfect wedding in spring of 2014. Congratulations to both.
- ❁ We are sad to report that Larry Partimuch broke his back in a tragic limbo accident at a luau. Please visit Larry at Rush Hospital where he will be staying for several months to recover. Flowers and drinks served in hollowed-out pineapples are welcome.

Last month, the BTC Bulletin launched a new section called *Sangha News* to cover important events in the lives of Temple members, friends, and regular visitors. This

section will rely primarily on reader submissions. While we would prefer to publish real news items as opposed to the fake ones such as the ones above, we need your help to do so.

Please submit news regarding engagements, weddings, major promotions, graduations, moves, illnesses, deaths, pregnancies, births, important milestones, notable birthdays, and other significant news items to anyone on the BTC Team (see page 3) or e-mail them to BTCbuledtr@hotmail.com. Items will be reviewed for suitability. Include all pertinent information such as names, dates, and background information. Feel free to send photographs and be sure to include the names of the people photographed and who took the photo.



... Experiencing the Worldwide Sangha

(Continued from page 1)

In the coming issues of the Bulletin and in the lay talks the delegates will be giving in the near future, you will hear different perspectives on the World Dobo Convention. But for me, the one thing I take from the experience is the awesomeness of the Sangha. While we appreciate meeting with other North American temple members at gatherings such as the annual Eastern Buddhist League convention, it is very impressive to be in a sea of folks all chanting, singing, and listening to Dharma talks together but having distinctive differences – in language (English, Japanese, and Portuguese) and in appearance (the Japanese look and dress different from Japanese Americans and many non-ethnic Japanese came from North and South America, though still much in the minority).



BTC delegation members Alice Murata, Miriam Solon, Lynda Yanez, Dennis Chan, and Rev. Patti Nakai chat at the Founder's Hall at Higashi Hongangi in Kyoto.
Photo by Ann Yi.

At this convention, they gave us opportunities to mix with the other delegates. After the opening ceremony at the Goei-do and a lecture by Rev. Yutai Ikeda, there was an informal buffet dinner and the “one-coin market.” The buffet and flea market gave everyone a chance to be up moving around the room, seeing old friends and meeting new ones. In my case, I got to meet two of my Facebook friends in person, the husband and wife minister team of Rev. Wagner Hakushin Bronzeri and Rev. Sayuri Sakane of the temple in Apucarana, Brazil. I was impressed that Brazil is moving fast in getting more non-ethnic Japanese ministers ordained, and I’ll be following some of them on Facebook in the future.

On the second day with three options of tours, the North American and Hawaii groups were kept together

on the bus for the ease of having an English interpreter translating the tour guide’s speeches, but at the different stops, we could get acquainted with the Japanese delegates from the other buses. Then at the banquet, different colored napkins indicated where the Japanese delegates could sit (eight to a table) and where the overseas delegates would sit. At our table a father and son from Brazil joined us. We were fortunate that the son spoke fluent English because of his job at an international company and we could learn more about the Brazil group (most of the older delegates were Japanese-speaking with Portuguese as their second language).



On historic Mt. Hiei, Dennis Chan, Lynda Yanez, Alice Murata, & Gary Nakai listen to explanations of Shinran Shonin's monastic training.
Photo by Rev. Patti Nakai.

The convention ended on the third day with a closing ceremony, and afterwards some of the delegates passed out little souvenirs to us. I’ve met most of the California and Hawaii delegates on my visits there, but after talking with the Brazilian group (fortunately, a few of them know English) I’m resolved to see that part of the world someday.

I don’t think it was so important for us to be in Kyoto in particular. It’s true that you can get a sense of history there, but it’s the liveliness of the variety of delegates that made me feel hopeful about the present and future of Jodo Shinshu. I think there is a mutual inspiration in the Japanese and Brazilians meeting us and us Americans meeting them – a sense of interconnection despite our cultural differences and the distances between us. Of course, Japan, the U.S. and Brazil are just a part of a larger world that includes Europe, Africa, and other Asian countries, but the interaction between our three groups generated an energetic international spirit.

The convention of course wasn’t all socializing. Along with the other delegates, I’ll be reviewing my notes from Rev. Ikeda’s lecture and sharing his insights with you in future talks and articles. There definitely was an appreciation of the Buddha and the Dharma at the World Dobo Convention, but for me, it was an experience of Sangha as “Dobo,” fellow seekers walking the path of nembutsu together despite coming from far-flung locations.