Bodhisattvas and the Ainu Beliefs

In the far right side of the display cabinet in the temple office, there are several dolls that came from Hokkaido. Hokkaido is Japan’s most northern island where there are Japan’s indigenous people called Ainu. The people have similar beliefs and life styles as the Native Americans. They have their own language and have their pantheistic religion that urges them to respect nature.

Bears are thought to be an embodiment of their god(s), and salmon are also respected as gifts from the gods. They call salmon “Kamuichepu” which means gods’ fish.
The wooden dolls in the office are called Nipopo. Nipopo means a doll, or a small branch. When an Ainu family had a newborn baby, they would place a small branch on the baby, as a wish for good health. It was like a good luck charm for them. Later they started carving the branches into human figures and eventually they became Nipopo dolls.

I have been thinking how Nipopo dolls can be connected to Buddhism. However, I am not able to find the connection because Jodo Shinshu Buddhism does not rely on good luck charms. But I did find one meaningful belief of the Ainu people that has a similarity with the Nembutsu teaching. In Jodo Shinshu, some times death is expressed as returning to the Pure Land. In the Ainu belief, they return to the world of gods after death. So, they respect their elder people very much since they are getting closer to the gods. When the elders got symptoms of dementia, they thought the elders were getting closer to the gods and they would say, “He started using the words of gods.” Their strange words and actions were thought to have some sort of divine message and, therefore, people needed to pay attention to the elders. Due to this belief, they treated their elders nicely with respect.

In a Jodo Shinshu devoted area in Japan, they express family members death as “returning to the Pure Land.” Behind this expression, there is a thought that the deceased person came from the Pure Land to this world and will return to the Pure Land after his death. Jodo Shinshu followers see themselves as foolish beings, but from the Pure Land to this world and from the Pure Land to this world and death. So, they return to the Pure Land after death.

Jodo Shinshu followers see themselves as foolish beings, but see others as bodhisattvas who guide them to the direction of the Pure Land. When grandchildren see their grandmother gashto and bow in front of the obutsudan, they learn bowing to the Buddha. This grandmother would never think she is a bodhisattva, but from the grandchildren’s point of view, their grandmother can be a bodhisattva who came from the Pure Land.

Also, those who make us angry can be bodhisattvas. Anger comes from our ignorance and self-centeredness. Getting us angry, he shows us the strong workings of our ego and encourages us to reflect on it.

“Others are bodhisattvas, returning to/from the Pure Land.” If we think like this, we can see others differently. We can see others as our teachers, can be tolerant to our spouses, and can be considerate to elder people who have dementia issues.

Namoamidabutsu
REv. RYUTA FURUMOTO

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Nipopo is a dolls. Nipopo dolls are used in Ainu culture. They are called Nipopo in Ainu language, which means a doll, or a small branch. When an Ainu family had a newborn baby, they would place a small branch on the baby, as a wish for good health. It was like a good luck charm for them. Later they started carving the branches into human figures and eventually they became Nipopo dolls.

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REv. RYUTA FURUMOTO
The Senshinji Bodhi Tree

The Bodhi Tree growing between the Social Hall and Classroom Building is a fifth generation descendant of the original Bodhi Tree or “Tree of Awakening” under which Siddhartha Gautama became the Buddha, the “Awakened One.” A cutting from the original tree was taken to Sri Lanka. The present tree at Bodhgaya is from a cutting from this second generation tree in Anuradhapura.

According to the Mahayana tradition, we observe Bodhi Day on December 8th. About 2,500 years ago, under a pipal tree in a forest in India, Gautama Siddhartha awakened to the truth of the universe and became the Buddha. The tree was later called “Bodhi tree” and the town where Siddhartha attained enlightenment is called Bodhgaya. “Bodhi” and “Bodh” both mean awakening or enlightenment.

Proposal: Bodhi Tree Project

Many know there is a great story regarding our Bodhi… the details get fuzzy, some never hear the story. We all walk by it and take it for granted. That tree witnessed many changes at the temple and the people who have walked by it through the years. It’s a favorite area for kids to play. It would be great to have a plaque to explain its history and maybe a bench so our members could sit and talk after service… maybe a study session, potluck dinner and a movie. Please join us.

The Senshinji Bodhi Tree

If you are interested in sharing some ideas and working to make it happen, please contact Bob Miyamoto at bmiyamoto@mac.com.
Listed are donations handled by the Regular Treasurer:  

**Special**: donation received with no specific reason given  

**Orei**: donation for use of temple facilities, equipment, etc.  

**Nokotsudo**: donation by families who have family cremains in the Nokotsudo (columbarium)  

The Regular Treasurer is required to send receipts for donations of $250.00 and over. Receipts for all other donations will not be sent unless requested by the donor.

### 2017 Donations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name(s)</th>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/2/2017</td>
<td>Tetsuko Fukawa</td>
<td>Dana</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/2/2017</td>
<td>Asa &amp; Bernice Wakinaka</td>
<td>Dana</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/9/2017</td>
<td>James &amp; Karen Harada</td>
<td>Nokotsudo</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/16/2017</td>
<td>The Tanaka Family</td>
<td>Dana</td>
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<td>Special Dana</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/22/2017</td>
<td>Frank &amp; Susie Usui</td>
<td>Recovery from Surgery</td>
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<td>9/2/2017</td>
<td>Virginia Minero</td>
<td>Dana</td>
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<td>9/29/2017</td>
<td>Kenneth Hatai</td>
<td>Dana</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/30/2017</td>
<td>Janis Ishitani</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shotseki HoYo: September 2017</td>
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</tr>
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</table>

**Senshin Vehicle Donation**

This is a reminder that Senshin will take any vehicle (car, pickup, truck, motorcycle, and even boat) as a donation to the temple. The funds realized from these donations are earmarked for the Senshin-ji Building Fund. Donors can report the full amount of funds received from the vehicle donation as a deduction on their tax returns.

We work with Harold’s Car Donation Service (HCDS) to have the vehicles picked up, processed and refurbished as necessary to bring in the highest sale amount for the donated vehicle. Even if the vehicle is not operational, it can still have salvageable value, sometimes for more than we could expect.

Once the proceeds from the vehicle donation are received by Senshin, a letter is sent to the donor to acknowledge the vehicle donation. The letter includes details of the donated vehicle and the amount for which the vehicle was sold or salvaged. All donors will be acknowledged in the Prajna.

If you have any questions about the program, or wish to donate a vehicle, please contact either Jean Minami (323) 938-0048, or Wilbur Takashima (310) 398-9558.
REMINDER: TEMPLE ANNUAL MEETING
November 5 at 12noon

Just a friendly reminder that the General Membership Annual Meeting will take place on November 5, 2017, at noon in the Study Classroom in the Education Building. The agenda of the meeting generally includes the annual budget, reports from the various temple organizations, the temple calendar, as well as any temple member’s concerns or ideas.

Any interested temple member is welcome and certainly encouraged to join the meeting to learn more about the temple’s affairs.

Hope to see you there!
Sincerely,
SENSHIN BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Religious Committee
SAVE THE DATE!
Save the Date!
2018 Nembutsu Retreat
February 10 & 11, 2018
(see sign-up sheet insert)

BWA

BWA gratefully acknowledges the following donations:
Terry & Roy Nakawatase, appreciation for omimai
John & Deb Hiramoto, on Sumiko Hiramoto’s recovery
Johnny & Wendy Mori, in memory of Tatsuya Mori
Ted Akahori, in memory of Tomi Akahori
Betty Yamashita, recovery from surgery
Kiyoo Yoneda, in memory of Kazuo Yoneda

BWA meetings are held on the first Sunday of each month at 8:30 am.
We welcome new faces young and old.

ABA

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We welcome new faces young and old.

ABA
class will be held on Saturdays.
Look forward to seeing you in one of our classes.

BOB MIYAMOTO
bmiyamoto@mac.com
Please visit WasabiKai on Facebook...

Kinnara Gagaku and Bugaku

Classes are held at Senshin on Wednesdays at 7:30pm. Beginners or experienced are welcomed.
GAGAKU (the music) meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays.
BUGAKU (the dance) meets on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays. Call (323) 731-4617 for more information.

Children class. Senior class focuses on balance training and good blood circulation. Children class focuses on self discipline and strengthen the energy and body coordination. Instructor is Rev. Furumoto. If you are interested, please ask Rev. Furumoto for more information..

Exercise Class / TBMM

Thinking Body, Moving Mind (TBMM) is a movement technique/exercise class, held on every Tuesday-day and Thursday morning 9:30am to 10:30am. The purpose of the class is to highlight the importance of the body-mind connection in achieving and maintaining essential vitality in our daily life:
1. To build and maintain a strong core.
2. To make the body more flexible and limber, thus to increase the range of motion.
3. To impart knowledge to move smartly and swiftly to prevent injuries from bad habits and falls.
The class is designed for senior adults, but all are welcomed. The class is led by Young Ae Park, a former Assistant Professor of Dance at Arizona State University.
### Schedule

**SUNDAY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9:30a</td>
<td>Exercise Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:30a-2p</td>
<td>WasabiKai Open Studio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:30p</td>
<td>Kinnara Gagaku</td>
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**MONDAY**

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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>7:30p</td>
<td>Kinnara Gagaku</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>9:30a</td>
<td>Exercise Class</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10:30a-2p</td>
<td>WasabiKai Open Studio</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7:30p</td>
<td>Temple Bd Mtg</td>
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<tr>
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<td>8p</td>
<td>Kinnara Taiko</td>
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**TUESDAY**

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<td>Exercise Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>10:30a-2p</td>
<td>WasabiKai Open Studio</td>
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**WEDNESDAY**

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<td>7:30p</td>
<td>Kinnara Bugaku</td>
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**THURSDAY**

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<td>9:30a</td>
<td>Exercise Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>10:30a-2p</td>
<td>WasabiKai Open Studio</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>7:30p</td>
<td>Kinnara Gagaku</td>
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<td>10</td>
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**FRIDAY**

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<td>10:30a-2p</td>
<td>WasabiKai Open Studio</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8p</td>
<td>Kinnara Taiko</td>
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**SATURDAY**

<table>
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<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>9:30a</td>
<td>Japanese Study Class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10a</td>
<td>Family Service: Rev. Masao Kodani</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11a</td>
<td>Study Class / Dharma School</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**NOVEMBER TOBAN:**

- **Sunday Service**
  - Temple
- **Hondo Toban**
  - Kinnara Taiko

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**Onaijin Flower Arrangement:**

- Nov 4: JoAnn Komai, Kate Meigneux
- Nov 11: Paige Morikawa, Denise Takehara
- Nov 18: Jean Minami, Jean Nakashima
- Nov 25: Robert Hori, Richard Kok

---

**Upcoming in DECEMBER**

- Dec 2: Bodhi Day Program and Potluck
- Dec 3: Bodhi Day Service and Shotsuki
- Dec 16: Mochitsuki
- Dec 17: Osoji
- Dec 31: Joya-e, End of Year Service

---

*All classes subject to change without notice. Please call a group member to confirm meeting/rehearsal.*
Please join us in one of our annual get-together/work-together activities and in continuing a Senshin tradition. Remember, the Mochitsuki is a Temple activity and is one of the few activities that brings together all age groups. It is the closeness that Mochitsuki and other temple activities foster that has kept our temple so strong and centered. So come out and spend the day with friends making our own “certified pounded” mochi. As always, lunch will be served.

If you are able to help with washing rice, we will be washing on Wednesday, December 13, 2017 at 7:00pm. Please park in the 1341 W. 37th St. lot.

Sunday, December 17th
Orders may be picked up from 8:30am to 11:00am and join us for Osoji (Temple clean-up) from 8:00am to 12:00pm.
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2017 SENSIN MOCHITSUKI ORDER FORM

ABSOLUTE DEADLINE FOR ALL ORDERS IS DECEMBER 4TH

Mochi orders will be limited to 600 pounds on a first ordered first served basis. **Please order as early as possible.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I would like to order</th>
<th>pounds of Komochi @ $5.00 per pound</th>
<th>$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(There are approximately 10 mochi pieces per pound) <strong>Limit of 20#</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I would like to order</th>
<th>set(s) of Okasane @ $6.00 per set</th>
<th>$</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

| Total | $ |

Name

Address        Zip

Cell or home phone (circle one) (    ) Email:

Please make check payable to: SENSIN JR. YBA

Phone: (323) 731-4617

Mail to: Mochitsuki
1311 W. 37th St. Los Angeles, Calif. 90007
Senshin Nembutsu Retreat
Saturday February 10 ~ Sunday February 11, 2018
Speaker: Rev. Mark Unno

We’re pleased to announce that Rev. Mark Unno will be speaking at our 2018 Senshin Nembutsu Retreat. Please come and join us. Rev. Unno will lead a discussion about our Buddhist lives.

Venue: Palm Garden Hotel
495 Ventu Park Road, Thousand Oaks, CA 91320
Phone: (805) 716-4335

Schedule: Registration starts at 9 am, Saturday morning.
Retreat ends at 3 pm, Sunday.

Rooms: King size bed with Sleeper sofa, or two queen size beds
(Friday night stay is available for those who wish to avoid the Saturday morning drive).

Rate: $110 per night (tax included) per room

Meals: Saturday morning breakfast - complimentary for Friday night guests.
Sunday morning breakfast - complimentary for Saturday night guests.
Saturday dinner, $30 in banquet room.
Sunday lunch, $25 in banquet room.

Carpool: Carpools can be organized for those requiring transportation.
Please indicate on registration form, of need for or offer of transportation.

Registration: Registration fee: $30
Please complete the attached .pdf form, which can be printed and completed by hand.
Return the completed form with check payable to “Senshin Buddhist Temple”.
Mark envelope “Retreat Registration” and place in temple office mailbox, or mail to Senshin Buddhist Temple, 1311 W 37 St, L.A., CA 90007.
Additional forms can be found on web site at Senshintemple.org/registrationform2018pdf

Deadline: Registration forms must be received by January 15, 2018
Questions Call Senshin at (323) 731-4617, or Neil Komai (626) 252-1714
Cancellation: Refund, if canceled on or before Feb 1, 2018
Emergency Cell Phone: Neil Komai (626) 252-1714

Senshin Nembutsu Retreat – Registration Form 2018
Name _________________________________________________
Address   __________________________________________________________________________
Cell Phone __________________________  E-Mail _______________________________________
Emergency Contact __________________________________  Phone ______________________
Special accommodations, dietary restrictions, medication or food allergies, etc.

Registration Fee                                        $30 per person $ ________
Hotel Accommodations:  Fri Night King Bed:     ($110) $ __________
                       Fri Night 2-Queen Beds ($110) $ __________
                       Sat Night King Bed ($110) $ __________
                       Sat Night 2-Queen Beds ($110) $ __________
Meals: Saturday Dinner   (Santa Maria Style Buffet)
       @  $30    each         Qty _____ $ ________
Sunday Lunch   (Deli Sandwich Bufet)
       @  $25    each         Qty _____ $ ________
Total $ ________
Transportation:     Need Transportation        Yes,  I can leave at _______ o’clock
                                 No
I can take passengers     Yes, I have room for ________ passengers
                                 No
Senshin Buddhist Temple 1311 W 37 St, Los Angeles, CA 90007