

750th Shinran Shonin Memorial planning update; Rev. Tanaka accepts keynote speaker invitation

By Ralph Honda, 750th Publicity Committee

Excitement is building for the BCA-sponsored Shinran Shonin 750th Memorial Observance.

BCA members and friends are encouraged to participate in the commemoration Feb. 27 and 28, 2010, at the Fairmont Hotel in San Jose. The event will be held in conjunction with the BCA Ministers and National Council meetings.

Keynote speaker will be "Ocean" book author Rev. Dr. Kenneth Tanaka of Musashino University in Tokyo. Rev. Tanaka, a product of the BCA, was born in Japan but grew up in Mountain View, Calif. He chose the ministerial path to become a kaikyoshi minister and was a professor of Buddhist Studies at IBS prior to serving as the resident minister at Southern Alameda Buddhist Church. Tanaka-sensei was the featured speaker at the World FBWA Convention in Hawaii in 2006.

On Sunday, Feb. 28, BCA members and their families are invited to participate in a unique memorial service observance.

The 750th committee, led by co-chairs Judy Kono and Rev. Ron Kobata, are busy planning all aspects of the event which includes securing symposium and banquet speakers.

The Hongwanji in Kyoto has selected "Yononaka Annon nare" or "May Peace and Tranquility Prevail Throughout the World" as its theme. However, the BCA chose "Peace and Tranquility" as the theme for our Shinran Shonin 750th Memorial Observance.

Silent Auction

The commemoration's first activity will be a Silent Auction fundraiser that will be held next month at the Hyatt Regency in Irvine, Ca. The auction will be held on Saturday, Feb. 28, in conjunction with the BCA National Council meeting.

Last month, all district and temple presidents received a flyer announcing the Silent Auction, and to spread the word. The committee encourages temples to participate by submitting a donation. The goal is to raise \$30,000. Proceeds from the auction will help underwrite costs for the 2010 commemoration.

Beginning February 1 auction items can be previewed on the BCA website www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org. Click on the 750th Memorial link.

The BCA is very excited about the commemoration and hopes that enthusiasm will be widespread. Updates will be published regularly in the Wheel of Dharma.

For more information regarding the Silent Auction and next year's commemoration, contact: Judy Kono (510) 841-8119 or email jakono@aol.com; Charlene Grinolds (253) 630-2279 or email lcgrinolds@q.com