



# O n e n e s s

Quarterly Newsletter of BRIGHT DAWN CENTER of Oneness Buddhism

Vol. 19 No. 2 Summer 2015

## SIERRA SANCTUARY DEDICATION March 28, 2015

On March 28, 2015 family and friends from near and far gathered to celebrate the opening of the new Sierra Sanctuary. Festivities began with Rev. Koyo and Adrienne's son Tate ringing the large metal wind chimes hanging from an oak tree. This called everyone to a large rock in front of the Sanctuary where Rev. Koyo and Adrienne placed a cast-bronze plaque worded, "Sierra Sanctuary." Then, everyone went to



the Sierra Sanctuary where Kristine Kubose cut a blue ribbon that was stretched across the front entrance.



Kristine is the daughter of Don and Joyce Kubose and is the oldest

grandchild of Rev. Gyomay and Minnie Kubose.

Before entering the Sanctuary, shoes were removed and everyone was given an okesa neck stole to wear for the occasion. This was the start of a custom of wearing these honorary okesa by all who enter the Sanctuary. This custom is similar to how in Jewish synagogues, all guests are given a yarmulke (yamaka) to wear as a way of respecting the sacred space.

Rev. Koyo chaired the program and began by addressing the young children who were sitting in the front row. They were told the Sanctuary was built for them, and that the Sanctuary was not just for the present generation but also for the many generations to come. Special guests were introduced, including Rev. Marvin Harada, architect Sady



Hayashida, Rev. Roy Mayhew, several past BDC lay ministers, and a participant in the LM8 class. Rev. Marvin gave a congratulatory

message. A guest from Hawaii, Robert Abe, also spoke. Following a group photo, everyone was invited to have refreshments generously provided by many of the attendees. The Bright Dawn Center would like to thank all who were able to join in the celebration and also to all who have supported the Center through the years with their encouragement and donations.



Rev. Gyomay & Minnie Kubose joined us in spirit. Also seen in the above picture is a drawing of a wood/glass sculpture that will be the center piece on a wall in the Sanctuary.



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## 2015 BRIGHT DAWN LAY MINISTERS

On May 17th Bright Dawn Center's Induction ceremony was conducted for the 7th class of lay ministers. Before the ceremony, the inductees went to the Altar Rock for a short outdoor meditation period. Then, with calm and settled minds, they went into the SPOT (Special Place of Tranquility) where Rev Koyo described the background stories of the displayed religious artifacts given to or collected by Revs Gyomay and Koyo Kubose. Animal hand puppets sitting on the rafters were introduced, all of whom, by the way, have given Dharma talks to children. As Rev. Koyo explains, these puppets usually were stored in a box in a closet but after the move to a new home, they insisted on a different venue!

There is a large Kansho (calling bell) on the front porch of the SPOT. This was rung in the traditional

7-5-3 pattern to call everyone to the start of the Induction ceremony, which took place in the new Sierra Sanctuary. As part of the ceremony, each inductee offered incense using Rev. Gyomay Kubose's (1905-2000) ojuzu beads while wearing an okesa that belonged to Rev. Kubose's teacher, Rev. Haya Akegarasu (1877-1954). This ritual impresses upon each inductee the historical roots of the Bright Dawn Center's lineage. The ceremony concluded with each inductee receiving a lay minister induction certificate and lay minister okesa. A pot-luck luncheon was provided for all by the BDC Board of Directors.

Please welcome our 2015 Lay Ministers!

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### Marge Shakayo Elwell



I was born in Chicago but my parents moved when I was young to Fremont, California. I went to Catholic schools, and my mother tried to head me towards becoming a nun, but I decided that was not for me. In college I studied anthropology, archaeology,

business and a little psychology but worked in various electronic companies in the Silicon Valley before moving to Stanford University. There I eventually specialized in materials analysis, especially using an electron microscope. I met my husband in Stanford and moved with him to Southern California where I had an analytical lab at Hughes Aircraft. As they downsized I took early retirement and enjoyed working as a volunteer at Mission San Juan Capistrano where I organized an archaeology tour, a concert program and a Native American Art show, and was curator of the museum collection. I took classes in communications and had my own jazz program on a College radio station KSBR. I moved to Hawaii in 2001 as my second retirement and have been heavily involved in community activities until recently.

I went to Catholic Church for many years and also Presbyterian for a while. I became a Buddhist

partly because I liked the absence of a judgmental emphasis, and related strongly to the ideas of oneness and mindfulness. I took a two year course from the Academy in Berkeley CA that gave me a strong background in the academic side of Buddhism but liked the practical aspect of the Bright Dawn Center. I liked the fact that the Oneness of Bright Dawn includes acceptance of all religions but with an emphasis on Zen. I thoroughly enjoy our collective discussions and in particular the Practicum exercises. They give me a chance to share my experiences with others and to learn some other viewpoints. The camaraderie is enjoyable and I greatly admire the efforts of Sensei Kubose and his wife Adrienne that make the whole enterprise work. I am blessed to have had this opportunity.

As to my intentions, I have greatly enjoyed giving lectures in various Hongwanji in Hawaii and thought at one time that I might be invited at this point to be a part-time assistant to one of the ministers. With my present health problems, this now seems unlikely, but I may be asked more often to give Dharma lessons now that the scope of my knowledge of Buddhism is wider. My other vision was to hold Dharma classes in my house, I could see my altar being the center focus around which a group collects and I share my view of American Buddhism in regular meetings of a small group.

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## Kenneth Kenyo Haile



I have been interested in Eastern Philosophy, especially Buddhism, ever since watching the TV series Kung Fu. Growing up on the Western plains of Grand Junction, Colorado didn't provide much of an opportunity for me to pursue this interest until college. I was initiated into the Tibetan Drigung Kagyu lineage as Konchog Yonten Zangpo and now recently in Bright Dawn as a lay minister. I am interested in topics of Buddhism which encourage opportunities for direct personal growth, the fundamental teachings of Lord Buddha, the study of consciousness, and relating Buddhist philosophy to the discoveries in Quantum Mechanics. I have worked as a lay minister to those experiencing divorce. My "day job" revolves around technology and teaching. I also have a degree in Transformational Psychology. I have lived for several years in South America, acquired the Spanish language, and taught English as a Second language. I enjoy all types of music including computer generated ambient music and am interested in learning how to create my own ambient music mixed with chanting and meditative themes.

Bright Dawn has been the oasis in the desert that I have sought for most of my life. From the beginnings of fascination with quotes of Eastern Philosophy that sounded so truthful yet counter to my own culture to the Buddha statues I would see in Chinese restaurants, I wanted to know more. But, I did not have the cultural opportunities to authentically learn more about Buddhism and its

culture until many years later. During this time the Internet did not exist and there were very few books available to learn about Buddhism.

As the Internet became available I started researching topics of Buddhism. Several years later I found Bright Dawn. What a wonderful find that was! I applied for, and was accepted in the lay ministry course. Initially I thought that this would be a survey of Buddhism similar to my college courses. The experience turned out to be much better than that. Academically it is an excellent survey of Buddhism. I would say that its rigor matches Master's level courses, or higher. This survey helped me to find specific expressions of Buddhism that complemented my own interests. I found my fellow Sangha members motivated, willing to learn, and fascinating, thoughtful individuals capable of sharing meaningful insights on how to put Buddhist principles into practice. Personally, the lessons, and comments from my group, challenged me to move from Buddhist theory into daily practice. I now feel that I am finally making real progress in both understanding and applying Buddhist principles in my life!

The best part was to learn from Sensei Kubose and Adrienne San as they embodied the teachings of Lord Buddha in their lessons and examples of serving. Sensei Kubose has a vision for Buddhism in America that is hard to appreciate until you have been through the course. The various cultural expressions of Buddhism are overwhelming. Sensei Kubose bridges two cultures, one with a rich cultural background in Buddhism and the other in the American culture. The paths to enlightenment are many but, without an experienced and knowledgeable guide it is difficult to understand many Buddhist texts because they are based on specific cultural expressions of Lord Buddha's message. Having a background in languages I know that translation is simply not

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### Oneness Newsletter Summer 2015

Editors: Adrienne Kubose, Rev. Koyo S. Kubose

Phone: (559) 642-4285

Email: [brightdawn@kubose.com](mailto:brightdawn@kubose.com)

Website: [www.brightdawn.org](http://www.brightdawn.org)

Dial-the-Dharma: (847) 386-8836

Live Dharma Sunday (347) 945-7953

[brightdawnsangha.ning.com](http://brightdawnsangha.ning.com)

Send Poems, Reader Replies To:

28372 Margaret Road

Coarsegold, CA 93614

The purpose of the Bright Dawn Center is to offer a non-sectarian, non-dualistic approach, the Way of Oneness, to deepen individual spirituality in everyday life for people of all backgrounds

converting words from one language to another but also knowing how to convert one cultural way of expressing concepts to another.

Sensei Kubose and Adrienne San are contributing to Buddhism in America like few others have done. The influence of most Buddhist teachers have only a small local area or they are only accessible through their books and writings. The Kuboses have created a virtual Sangha that spans all of America and could easily go world-wide. Their use of technology such as the BlogTalkRadio Live Dharma Sunday, dial-in teleconferences, along with various special interest groups in Buddhist topics are something that I never dreamed would be possible when I first thought about learning Buddhism. This virtual Sangha can reach you no matter where you are as long as you have connection to the Internet. There are some pretty creative Buddhists out there bringing you the teachings of Buddhism. But, I don't believe that many can match Bright Dawn Sangha's outreach in bringing the practice of Buddhism to America. Gassho is not enough to thank them for the difference they have made in my life!

### D. Ernest Choyo Wachter



Gassho! I am an interspiritual minister with the Community of the Mystic Heart and live in central Pennsylvania. My Bright Dawn name is Choyo. As for my previous formal education, I have received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology, a Master of Science in Library Science degree and a Master of Pastoral Studies degree with a focus area in eco-spirituality. I have also received many certifications, initiations and ordinations in various spiritual traditions. I have passions for studying the world's mystical traditions and special interests in deity names and forms, sacred chant, and magic squares.

My spiritual formation in the Bright Dawn Sangha LM7 group has been enriching beyond words as the adult learning model used, having the same group of students over the course of studies and the wonderful study curriculum, facilitates deep transformation and provides ongoing inspiration.

I am grateful beyond words for the support and encouragement I have received from all the senseis

who have donated their time and energy to this lay ministry program and to all my fellow students. Whatever troubles I have caused them I humbly ask their forgiveness and whatever merits I have acquired I freely share those with them. If I can be of service to any of our sangha members, please feel free to connect me at <http://brightdawnsangha.ning.com/profile/DavidErnestWachter>, at [dewnada@verizon.net](mailto:dewnada@verizon.net) or to find me on facebook. HRIH Namó Amitabha Buddhaya!

### Kyle Kaiyo Williamson



Salutations from the Desert Southwest! I have worked in Higher Education for 15 years and hope to never stop learning. The idea of continual growth is what attracted me to Buddhism and through my study I have found that all paths lead to

Oneness

At the start of this program I held tightly to my academic understanding of Buddhism. At the end of my program I am able to go beyond the comfort of academic understanding into experiential knowledge. This program gives students the opportunity to challenge their beliefs and move beyond strict academic pursuits. Students can experience Buddhism and find their own Buddhist path. Students are given the opportunity to challenge their own assumptions and expectations surrounding Buddhism by incorporating it into their daily lives. Thus allowing Buddhism to become more than just a label but life itself.

This program helped me find my own Buddhism. I sum up my limited understanding of Buddhism as continuously unfolding compassion and wisdom. Going into this program I held the Bodhisattva ideals of Compassion and Wisdom as the ultimate goal. Leaving the program, I still hold those virtues as ideal but, I no longer think of them as a goal to obtain. Instead, I think of these ideals as continuously unfolding via the reality around me. I can either ignore the vast teachers that surround me or I can accept the gift of their teachings. Sometimes, the teachings are painful, frustrating or downright annoying, but all moments are an opportunity to learn and grow from. The moment I consider myself compassionate or wise is the moment I stop moving along the Bodhisattva path.

## DHARMA DAN'S COLUMN



I found out that the Scrub Jays in our area are Japanese! I did not find this out from Sibley's, the authoritative bird book, but by direct observation.

We had some left-over rice that we put out on some boulders near the bird feeder in our backyard. The rice was put in front of a Jizo statue that a friend had given us after learning that coyotes had gotten two of our cats. Jizo statues are considered friends of



travelers, animals, and children. In old Japan, Jizo statues were commonly found along many country roads. Our Jizo is located in a place where he is right in the middle of a lot of bird action due to our feeder. Back to the rice; the Scrub Jays love rice! In fact, other birds do too; as well as squirrels and chipmunks... it's like Nippon Machi (Japan Town)!

Sometimes we put out old bread crumbs for the birds and now we can also put out rice. It's neat that the birds enjoy both Western and Eastern cuisine, very adaptable! I am reminded of story a mama cat told me. She was out walking her kittens when a large dog came barking at them. She didn't know what to do so she shouted, "Bow wow!" This scared the dog away. She turned to her kittens and said, "It comes in handy to be bi-lingual."

Back to the rice. I know some Zen temples in Japan

## MEMORIAL TRIBUTE

By Rev. Koyo Kubose



On March 23, 2015 I lost my best friend, my older brother Don. He fought lung cancer for the past year and died at the age of 78. Don was a staunch benefactor or patron of the Bright Dawn Center. He backed me 100% in all my efforts and I relied on his wise advice on many matters. He

was an indispensable member of the BDC Board. He was a crucial factor in making our move possible from Illinois to California in 2008. He was instrumental in initiating the iconic design of the new Sierra Sanctuary.

Don was very intelligent and was knowledgeable on many subjects. He earned a PhD in physical chemistry from Notre Dame University. He also had a very creative, pragmatic mind. In his twenty-year career at a U. S. Navy research lab in Maryland, he registered many patents. After moving to California, he worked for an organic filter manufacturing company in Fresno where he built up their research lab and when he retired after fifteen years, they named their library after him. He was a hands-on guy who could build or repair almost anything. His well-equipped workshop had every conceivable tool, and he knew where everything was! Whenever relatives and friends had a repair problem, he would take care of it.

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE continues on page 6

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regularly put some rice out for the birds to eat whenever rice is cooked. I think this is a good custom to start at our Bright Dawn Center too. Rice offering (Obuppan) is a very traditional ritual at Obutsudan home altars and also in Japanese Buddhist temples when preparing the altar before a service. Such offerings are a form of Dana, one of the Six Paramitas (Buddhist virtues). Dana is an expression of sharing and of generosity. Dana includes not just material things but the giving of one's time and energy. Essentially, Dana is the practice of developing the attitude of thinking of others with Metta, loving kindness. This is not just for the birds! Until next time, this is Dharma Dan signing off.

Every Wednesday morning I would visit him at his home in Fowler. His wife Joyce leads a tai chi class that meets at the Fresno Temple every Wednesday morning. I would drop off my wife Adrienne at the class and then go to Don's. Then after tai chi, Adrienne would get a ride with Joyce and they returned to Fowler. Cousin Susan Taniguchi usually joined us and we would all have lunch together.

Don and I had a late morning ritual of drinking hot or cold sake before the ladies came home. During the winter we drank hot sake. After the sake was heated in the microwave, it was kept hot by a special sterno contraption. During the summer we enjoyed cold sake poured from a container that had a built-in compartment

for ice. When the seasons changed in spring and autumn, we asked each other with a smile, "Is it time to switch?" That is, from hot to cold or cold to hot. While drinking, we munched on dried squid or some other dried seafood delicacy ordered from Hawaii.

One week before Don died, he felt good enough to go shopping. He drove his new red Mazda Miata to R-N, an Asian grocery store in Fresno where he bought a bottle of sake. Right to the end we enjoyed our weekly sake sessions. Our many good discussions over sake demonstrated that sake does deserve the label of being called Prajna (wisdom) water.

Don, here's to you... Kampai!

*Acknowledgements with Gratitude*      **Supporters from Sales and Donations**

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# BOOK LIST

## Book by Rev. Koyo Kubose

**BRIGHT DAWN: Discovering Your Everyday Spirituality.**  
Describes the author's daily morning ritual and how ordinary things and activities can deepen one's spirituality. 152 pages.

## Books by Rev. Gyomay Kubose

**EVERYDAY SUCHNESS.** A classic collection of short articles first published in 1967, hailed as one of the most significant books in Buddhism because of its simple explanations and reference to everyday life. 142 pages.

**THE CENTER WITHIN.** Continues the approach of "Everyday Suchness." Collection of 58 essays of down-to-earth teachings for a richer, more meaningful life. 134 pages.

**AMERICAN BUDDHISM.** Covers a brief history of Buddhism in America, problems in terminology and misunderstandings common to Westerners. 29 pages.

**ZEN KOANS.** Commentary on over 200 classical and modern koans. Insights and life teachings applicable to all Buddhists. 274 pages.

## Translations by Rev. Gyomay Kubose

**THE FUNDAMENTAL SPIRIT OF BUDDHISM** by Haya Akegarasu (Rev. Gyomay Kubose's teacher). Translated by Rev. Kubose. 99 pages.

**TAN BUTSU GE.** (Translation and commentary). This sutra tells the story of Dharmakara who became Amitabha, the Buddha of Infinite Life and Light. 56 pages.

**HEART OF THE GREAT WISDOM SUTRA.** (Translation and commentary). This sutra deals with the teachings of non-self and nothingness. 35 pages.

## Other Recommended Books

**BUDDHIST SYMBOLS.** Handy brochure explaining common Buddhist symbols. Quad-fold.

**BUDDHISM: Path of Enlightenment.** Simple, concise introduction to basic Buddhism. Teachings are superimposed on beautiful full-color photographs of nature scenes such as water ponds, rock gardens, a bamboo grove, etc. 20 pages.

**COFFINMAN** by Shinmon Aoki. This diary of a mortician invites the reader into the fascinating world of Buddhist spirituality which sees the extraordinary in things ordinary, mundane, and even repugnant. 142 pages.

**DISCOVERING BUDDHISM IN EVERYDAY LIFE** by Marvin Harada 2011. In commemoration of his 25 years of ministry at the Orange County Buddhist Church, over 40 essays by Rev. Harada were selected from past monthly newsletters. 128 pages.

**RIVER OF FIRE, RIVER OF WATER** by Taitetsu Unno. Introduces the Pure Land tradition of Shin Buddhism using personal anecdotes, stories, and poetry. With spiritual insight and unparalleled scholarship, this book is an important step forward for Buddhism in America. 244 pages.

**THE ART OF TAKING ACTION** by Gregg Krech. Draws on Eastern philosophy, Buddhism, Japanese psychology, Zen, and martial arts to offer an approach to ACTION that goes beyond productivity and time management. 216 pages.

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Change Service Requested



**YES YES Your Everyday Spirituality YES YES**

<b>JUN</b>	<p>Theme: New Beginnings          Purpose: To receive with hopeful enthusiasm what is opening up in front of you.          Method: Opening-Door Gassho: Whenever going from inside to the outside, say to yourself an affirmative “Yes” as you open the door.</p>
<b>JUL</b>	<p>Theme: Transitions          Purpose: To increase awareness of the dynamic interplay of continuous change.          Method: Going-Through Gassho: As you step over the door’s threshold, think thoughts like, “Going through; coming through; flow/change; do it!”</p>
<b>AUG</b>	<p>Theme: Let go and grow          Purpose: Completely end one moment or situation to better engage in the next moment or situation.          Method: Closing-Door Gassho: As you close the door, gratefully leave behind the previous, knowing you can devote your full attention to what is next.</p>

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