

The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

BULLETIN

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Volume 67 Number 4 January 2011 (2554 B.E.)

Scheduled Events

(call 773-334-4661 or see www.budtempchi.org)

Dharma Sunday School - Sunday 11:AM - 12:00PM the 9th and 23rd

Religious Services

Sunday at 11:00AM - 12:00PM in English, Sunday at 1:00PM - 2:00PM in Japanese (only on day of Monthly Memorial)

Monthly Memorial Service - Shotsuki Hoyo, 1st Sunday of each month, except where noted.

Buddhist Studies/Practices

Discussion Group - Open to All, Sangha Q & A, 2nd Sundays, 12:30PM - 2:00PM

Introduction to Buddhism - call temple to confirm dates and time

Meditation Classes - Sundays 9:00AM - 10:15AM Please use parking lot entrance.

Sutra Study Class - 3rd Sundays, Open to All, 12:30PM - 2:00PM

Weekly Study Class - Wednesdays, 7:00PM - 8:30PM

Special Observances/Events

New Year's Day, Saturday the 1st, Welcome in the new year with service and traditional refreshments.

Eitaikyo Service - 30th Sunday, special tribute to Eitaikyo Fund donors, with luncheon to follow (see bulletin article within).

General Membership Meeting - 30th Sunday, after luncheon (see bulletin article within).

Activities

Asoka Society - 3rd Saturdays, 1:00PM

Calligraphy - Japanese brush writing class 2nd & 3rd Tuesdays 7:00PM

Crafts Class - 1st & 3rd Saturdays, 10:00AM - 12:00PM, Open to All (call temple for confirmation)

Fencing - Introduction to Kendo, Dojo sessions, Tuesdays, 8:00PM - 10:00PM at Bethany United Church (Bob Kumaki, 847-853-1187)

Japanese Language Instruction - Saturdays, 10:00AM - 12:00PM, children and adult classes, call 773-334-4661 to register.

Japanese Swordsmanship - Iaido, Mondays 7:00PM - 9:00PM

Taiko Drumming - BTC Kokyo Taiko Drum Troupe, Fridays, 7:00PM - 9:00PM

Taiko Drumming - Isshin Daiko Group, Saturdays 7:00PM - 9:00PM, call for appointment.

NEW YEAR GREETINGS

by Rev. Yukei Ashikaga

Happy New Year!

Welcoming the New Year 2011, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to you for supporting and participating in our Temple activities throughout the past year. I am thankful to you who are deeply committed to our life of o-nembutsu. It is my deepest wish that your participation nourished and sustained your life spiritually and enriched your daily life as well.

In May of this year, some Temple members and I are planning to attend the 11th World Dobo Convention which will be held in Osaka, Japan in conjunction with Shinran Shonin's 750th Memorial Service in Kyoto. Under the theme of "Now, Life is living you", we will have lectures, discussions and get acquainted with Dharma friends from all over the world, but in particular, from the U.S., Brazil, and Japan.

About 800 years ago, Shinran's disciples from Kanto (Tokyo area today) visited their master in Kyoto on foot. It took many days and nights of hardship and even at the risk of their lives to walk such a long distance. Today, we are able to fly there so easily. I am happy to be able to attend this great event which happens once in fifty years.

In Tannisho we find the following words of Shinran Shonin: As for myself, Shinran, I simply receive the words of my dear teacher, Honen, "Just say the nembutsu and be saved by Amida," and entrust myself to the Primal Vow. Besides this, there is nothing else.

It is my deepest wish to experience these same words by being in the Founder's Hall of Higashi Honganji in Kyoto on May 17th through the 19th.

Have a healthy and wonderful New Year. Namu Amidabutsu

Our deepest sympathy to the family and friends
of:

Mr. Michael Perry

(Please see Temple News for details)

Temple News November 2010

11/06 The 7th year Memorial Service of the Late Sayoko Kato was conducted at the Temple.

11/07 Shotsuki Hoyo (Monthly Memorial Service) was observed. Rev. Ashikaga delivered Dharma message in English at the morning service, and in Japanese at the afternoon service.

11/10 The 17th year Memorial Service of the late Kiyoshi Okuhara was conducted at the Temple.

11/13 Asoka Society met. * * * The Funeral/Memorial Service for the Late Michael Perry was conducted at Drechsler, Brown and Williams Funeral Home in Oak Lawn. The Late Mr. Perry, 52, passed away on November 8, 2010. He is survived by wife Michiko Ohnaka, and son Dillon Kuniyoshi Perry. * * * Isshin Daiko Group cleaned the Temple.

11/14 Regular Sunday Service was observed. Rev. Patti Nakai delivered the Dharma message. * * * Special Hatsumairi for Ayame Louise Cooper was also conducted at the service.

11/17 Rev. Ashikaga attended Japanese American Council Meeting.

11/19 December issue of the Temple Bulletin was mailed. * * * The Welcome Dinner for Dr. and Mrs. Nobuo Haneda was held at Katsu Restaurant.

11/20 Ho-On-Ko Special Seminar was conducted by Dr. Nobuo Haneda at the Temple from 10:00AM til 4:30PM. After that a welcome dinner by seminar attendees was held at Tokyo Marina Restaurant.

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The Buddhist Temple of Chicago Bulletin

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Rev. Patti Nakai, Associate Minister

Gary T. Nakai, President

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Editor's Note: Comments, corrections, questions, suggestions are encouraged. Submitted material will be reviewed for suitability and availability of space.

Anonymous submissions will not be published, but authors names may be withheld from publication upon request.

Deadline: first Friday of the month.

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New Year's Greetings

Rev. Patti Nakai, Associate Minister

The year 2011 marks the 750th memorial of Shinran Shonin, a special occasion called "Go-enki" that is commemorated every 50 years. For those of you with the means, I hope you join us for the pilgrimage to Kyoto to participate in the Go-enki ceremony during the World Dobo Gathering in May. It will be a memorable experience to come together with Shin Buddhists from all over the world to honor Shinran at the head temple, Shinshu Honbyo, but also to visit many places in Kyoto and the surrounding area which were significant in the life of Shinran and the development of Buddhism in Japan.

Even for those of you unable to make the trip to Japan, this year can be a figurative pilgrimage – to encounter anew the teachings of Nembutsu through Shinran's life and words. Our temple's calendar features not only Shinran's writings but passages by our past ministers, Rev. Gyomay Kubose and Rev. Gyoko Saito, and their teachers, Shuichi Maida, Haya Akegarasu and Manshi Kiyozawa – their testimonies of the powerful influence Shinran had in their lives.

It is my wish for the new year that together we deepen our appreciation of Shinran Shonin for giving us greater access to hearing the Buddha-Dharma and guiding us towards gradually, bit by bit, awakening to the ever-unfolding Oneness of life.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU

Understanding the Nembutsu through recognizing the Paramitas in others – send in your recognitions!

Sunday Service Participants: Bill Bohlman, Glenn Fujiura, Anna Idol, Lynn Maruyama, Alice Murata, Elaine Siegel, Justin Woodward, and pianist Mrs. Hisayo Ashikaga.

Sunday Refreshments: Noreen Enkoji, Merry Hirata, Haru and Tom Ito, Kiyo Omachi, Jane Watanabe.

For Ho-On-Ko Refreshments: Iaido Group – Ric & Linda Frantz, Dr. Yasuo Ito, Joseph Kim, Jerry Morishige; Japanese School – Keith & Terri Nitahara; Rodel De Ocampo, Martin Felshman, Sadie Kasamoto, Wendy Lua, Jovana Nieves, Dennie Okuhara, Peggy Sasamoto, Nana Woodfork.

Temple Bulletin Mailing: Rev. Ashikaga, Antoinette D'Vencets, Noreen Enkoji, Evelyn Inamine, Haru and Tom Ito, Chuck Izui, Mary Shimomura and Tak Tomiyama.

Temple cleanup and O-Migaki: Harky Tademoto

Temple maintenance: Tomio Tademoto

General Membership Meeting

Please mark your calendars for the annual general membership meeting, Sunday, January 30th. This meeting date coincides with the Eitaikyo Service (described in this bulletin) will begin immediately following the Eitaikyo luncheon. This annual meeting is not only a time where members are brought up to speed on the latest temple business, but members can bring up matters and act on motions as presented either from the agenda or from the floor. Agenda items should be sent to Board Secretary, Peggy Waters at btcbdrdscry@hotmail.com or mailed to the temple marked for her attention. As always, a good turn out is hoped for, and necessary to conduct meaningful business. This annual meeting is also the biennial election of temple officers who will serve for the next two years. Please attend to cast your important vote.

For Our Sangha This New Year

It never ceases to amaze me how swiftly each year passes and 2010 was no exception. I recall hearing a Dharma Talk by Rev. Marvin Harada of the Orange County Buddhist Church where he drew upon the analogy of your typical toilet paper roll, and how fast it seems to diminish as you get to the end of the roll. Maybe that's how we all feel as we get older, that the months and days go by swiftly.

Last year, BTC had resolved to proceed in earnest with the search for its next resident minister. Through the combined efforts of dedicated temple members, plans were developed and were put into action. And the actions did not limit themselves to search preparations.

As the Buddha Dharma teaches us that the interconnectedness of all things is not just a pleasant sound bite, we begin to see this truth when having to balance an annual operating budget. This, the board of directors did in taking a comprehensive look at the affordability question of taking on a new resident minister, and the complementary administrative and operational changes it would require. One measure decided was to enact an increase in our annual operating budget, the beginning of a series of moves to better secure our future.

With the above actions and more yet to come, BTC resolves in this year to responsibly yet boldly forge ahead to the benefit of its members and friends. In so doing, BTC sincerely wishes to all who have come to depend on it, health and prosperity in the new year.

And to that, may I add my personal greetings of Happy New Year to you as well!

Gassho,

Gary T. Nakai
President

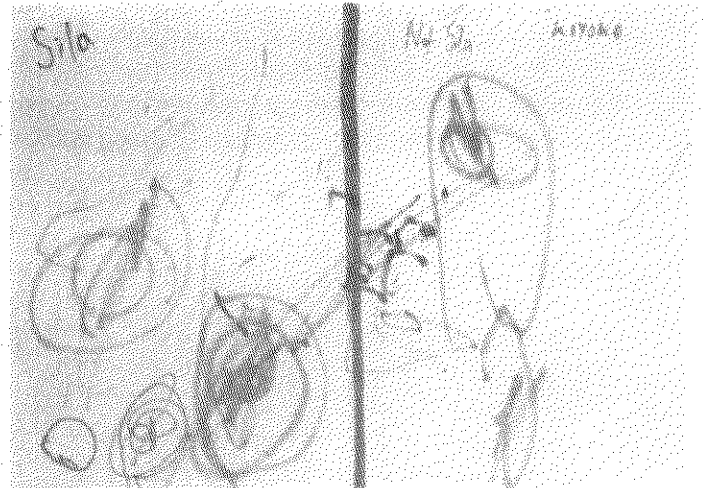
ZEN: The Art of Being Seminar

- will be held at The Buddhist Temple of Chicago in three (3) sessions. Thursdays January 6th, 13th, and 20th, 7:00 PM to 9:00PM.

All temple members, friends, students, and interested parties are welcome!

Does ZEN/Meditation Practice/Awareness have a place in our everyday life?

Richard (Zenyo) Brandon, a long time student of Rev. Gyomay Kubose, Thich Nhat Hanh and others will be the seminar leader and address that question!



Here are two artworks from Children's Dharma School class (11-28-2010). We are studying the six paramitas, and this class was on Sila (not harming). The children drew on half the page a picture showing "not sila" and the other half a picture showing "sila." The above artwork is by student Kiyoko (age 2), and the artwork below is by Sapphire (age 4). – Dave Leshuk



THE HAIKU CORNER

By Elaine Siegel

薦を着て 誰人います 花の春

A NEW YEAR, ON THE ROAD

It is early spring, 1690, New Year's Day under the old Lunar Calendar. Bashō is celebrating the festivities with friends near Kyoto in the town of Zeze, on the shore of Lake Biwa. The trees are in early flower. Amid the blossoms, Bashō spies a homeless man:

Welcoming the New Year near the Capital

Man wrapped in straw mat –

What sage might he be?

The blossoming spring¹

Ragged, destitute, the beggar is jarringly incongruous with the ethereal beauty of his surroundings. Such incongruity is a hallmark of the haikai poetry of this era.

The juxtaposition of powerful, competing images is more than a poetic device. According to Bashō himself, this haiku is a tribute to the twelfth-century poet Saigyō: “Sadly remembering Saigyō, I wrote this hokku.”²

Born Satō Norikiyo, in 1118, to a noble family, at 22 Saigyō dropped out to become a Buddhist monk. He took up Buddhist practice in a little hut on the edge of the capital. His Buddhist name, Saigyō, means “Western Journey,” alluding to Amida Buddha and the Pure Land in the West. It also figures Saigyō's nomadic lifestyle. Saigyō was given to long journeys on foot, poetry pilgrimages to temples, shrines, and sites of literary significance or scenic beauty. He lived his later years as a solitary in a mountain hermitage, a “ramshackle grass hut,” as he describes it, until his death in a monastery in 1190.³

The great poet Bashō (1644-94) drew inspiration from Saigyō's life and poetry. Like Saigyō, Bashō eschewed polite society for the solitude of a hut, or long travels on rugged wilderness roads. Bashō wrote the New Year haiku in the course of the epic journey recorded in his haikai travel journal, *Narrow Road to the Deep North*, which recounts two and a half years of journeying. On the road since the spring of 1689, by the New Year, Bashō was ill and exhausted.

Implicit in Bashō's New Year haiku is critical social comment on the aestheticized hedonism of the elite. In the midst of the New Year's gaiety, with its elegant drinking and blossom-viewing parties, emerges the stark figure of the man wrapped in straw. The image bespeaks austerity in the midst of abundance, and in the midst of ritualized pretention, the direct, unmediated apprehension of natural beauty. The implications were not lost on aristocratic Kyoto.

Writes Bashō of his haiku, “With my uninitiated eyes, I am not able to distinguish a sage from a beggar. ... I hear, however, people in Kyoto are saying what an abominable poet I am to refer to a beggar in a verse celebrating the New Year. How silly of them!”⁴ Bashō thus twits the Kyoto elite for their self-conscious aestheticism, and their class-consciousness. Unlike them, Bashō is “not able to distinguish a sage from a beggar.” He expresses a compassionate vision of the Oneness of all people, so that the beggar is fundamentally akin to the sage.

EITAIKYO SERVICE, SUNDAY, JANUARY 30th

The Eitaikyo Fund was established at BTC to ensure that Dharma education programs will always have dedicated financial resources. Traditionally, these funds are also intended to be used to maintain the O-Naijin (altar) area.

The Eitaikyo Service is a special annual service in memoriam to those individuals in whose name contributions to the Eitaikyo Fund were made. These names will be read as part of the Eitaikyo Service. The service will include a talk highlighting past and/or future expenditures of the fund and the importance of such disbursements to BTC's purpose. The memorial for each individual, in whose name Eitaikyo donations were received, will be forever observed at this annual service. Please join us for the Eitaikyo Service and luncheon afterwards.

BUDDHAS IN PARIS

By Bill Bohlman

Temple member, Dennis Chan, had the opportunity to vacation in Paris, France. In January and February he will be our lay speaker. He will share with us relics from centuries ago, masterpieces of art and the influence of Asian culture in Paris. Your hearts and minds will be transformed by this beautiful city.



Prince Siddhartha Gautama,
Musée Guimet, Paris

- Haiku . . . from page 4 -

Saigyō appearing in the guise of the beggar, Bashō's haiku recalls Saigyō's famous poem,

Let me die in spring
under the blossoming trees,
let it be around
that full moon
of Kisaragi month.³

At the end of his long journey, in mid-spring, Saigyō would find his ultimate enlightenment – symbolized by the full moon – in the flowers. It is there, not in artificial social convention, that the sage finds true wisdom.

In the straw-wrapped beggar of his New Year haiku, Bashō is seeing Saigyō. Bashō is seeing himself.

¹ Komo wo kite tarebito imasu hana no haru

薦を着て 誰人います 花の春

こもをきて たれびといます はなのはる

Trans. Adapted from Makoto Ueda, *Bashō and His Interpreters: Selected Hokku with Commentary* (Stanford, CA: Stanford Univ. Press, 1992), p. 184, and from Thomas McAuley.

² Ueda, *id.*, p. 184.

³ On Saigyō's life, see Burton Watson, *Saigyō: Poems of a Mountain Home* (New York, NY: Columbia University Press, 1991), pp. 1-13).

⁴ Ueda, *op. cit.*, p. 184-85.

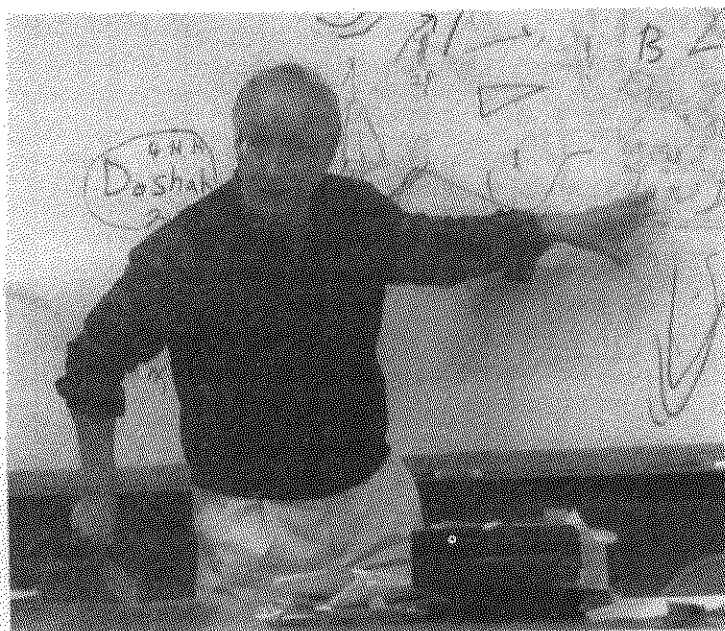
⁵ *negawaku wa, hana no moto(shita)nite haru shinamu, sono kisaragi no mochizuki no koro.* Trans. Burton Watson, *op. cit.*, p. 40. "Kisaragi is the Japanese name for the second month of the lunar year. Shakyamuni Buddha is said to have died on the fifteenth day of the second month. Saigyō fulfilled the wish expressed in his poem in a striking manner by dying on the sixteenth day of the second month of 1190, a feat that greatly impressed the people of his time, who were familiar with this poem." *Id.*

Ho-on-ko 2010

by Rev. Patti Nakai

For our three-day commemoration of Ho-on-ko, Shinran Shonin's memorial, this past November, we were once again fortunate to have Dr. Nobuo Haneda as our speaker. Although Dr. Haneda has been teaching in Berkeley, California since 1984 and directing his own study center, the Maida Center, for over thirteen years, it is always a homecoming when he comes to our temple which was his base for many years before moving to California.

On Saturday November 20, we held an all-day seminar attended by well over thirty people, almost all of them regular temple members except for a couple people from the Midwest Buddhist Temple and two representing Zen groups. The topic "Shakyamuni and Shinran: Buddhism as a Teaching of Self-Examination" provided a good grounding in the basic Buddhist teachings and how Shinran's teachings relate directly to what Shakyamuni taught.



The next day, Sunday the 21st, we had an enthusiastic crowd attending the joint English and Japanese service. Dr. Haneda delivered a detailed Dharma School talk and gave a thought-provoking talk in English with a summary in Japanese.

Since many of the people who attended last year's Monday discussion could not make it this year, we were expecting a small turnout, but eighteen people came for the Monday morning presentation by Dr. Haneda on the topic of compassion. It was a wonderful opportunity for some of our newer temple members to relate to Dr. Haneda in a small group setting.

Next month I will write in more detail about the content of Dr. Haneda's talks.

THANKS TO A SPECIAL COUPLE:**YASUO AND ETSUKO MIZUUCHI**

By Ruby Izui

It's not often that a professional chef is willing to share his talent and expertise with friends and fellow organization members - willingly, cheerfully and pro-bono. We're speaking about Yasuo Mizuuchi, of course, who has been cooking for the Asoka and for BTC on special occasions throughout the years. "Call Yasuo" or "Ask Yasuo" are familiar phrases heard whenever exceptional and tasty meals are needed during the events that come up time and time again.

Yasuo was born in Osaka and came to the U.S. as a chef who was interested mainly in French cuisine, but also, he had another interest - ice-carving, which is an art form that is known throughout the world. When George was chairing one of BTC's summer festival cultural shows, he requested Yasuo to demonstrate ice-carving, which subsequently became a showcase event for many years. These days, we appreciate Yasuo more for his chef's ability whenever food has to be prepared and served attractively and tastily. We, of Asoka, know this because we have been the lucky recipients, many times, of his culinary skill, be it American, Japanese or French. We must mention too, that Etsuko Mizuuchi - Nagasaki-born wife, mother and grandmother is also very knowledgeable about Japanese cuisine, and as such is a perfect partner to Yasuo.

So, we salute this amazing couple for their exemplary sense of volunteerism. We thank them for the past and future support toward the gustatory progress of our temple. Everyone agrees I'm sure, that good food never goes out of fashion, and may the Mizuuchis be with us for a long, long time.

- News ... from page 2 -

11/21 Ho-On-Ko Special service was observed. Guest speaker was Dr. Nobuo Haneda of the Maida Center for Buddhism, Berkeley, CA. Refreshments were prepared and served by Japanese School parents and Iaido representatives.

11/22 Ho-On-Ko Seminar Wrap-Up Session with Dr. Haneda was held by popular demand.

11/28 Regular Sunday Service was observed. Rev. Patti Nakai gave the message for Dharma School and Rev. Ashikaga delivered the message for general congregation. * * * Board of Directors met.

願慧

二〇一一年一月一日
第九四二号
発行人 足利祐敬
シカゴ仏教会

新年のご挨拶

足利祐敬

明けましておめでとう
ございます。旧年中は仏
教会の諸行事にご協力と
ご援助を頂き有難く厚く
御礼申し上げます。皆様は
とてもお念仏の生活により
皆様の人生に深さと暖かみ
とを与えられたことと信じて
居ります。

既にご承知の通りいよいよ
今年も親鸞聖人の七五回
御遠忌が京都の東本願寺
に於て法修されます。それに
伴って十一回世界同朋大会
が大阪で五月十七日から十九日

まで行われますが当仏教会
から私共参加させて頂くこ
とになって居ります。世界の
国々、殊に米国でラシルから
の念仏者や地元の日本の同
朋の皆様と共に相い集い
「いま、いのちがあなたを生き
ている」という御遠忌テーマの
とで御講師の講話や討論
会そして意見交換など豊
富なプログラムが予定されてい
ます。

凡そ八十年の昔、関東の教
団から「十余か国の境をこ
えて、身命をかえりみずして
京都に居る聖人のもとに
集った」弟子のことと思うとき
シカゴより京都まで五極安
易に飛んで行ける今日この
ごろ、五十年に一度のこのご
縁に会えることを本心に尊
せに思います。

歎異抄、二章の中で
親鸞聖人の仰言る次の
言葉が心に沁みます。

「親鸞におきてはた念仏
して弥陀に助けられまい
すべし」とよき人のおおせ
こうむりて、信ずるほかに
別の子細なきなり。」

私にとって、今度の同朋大会と
御遠忌参詣はひとえに「影
堂にまします聖人の尊像
に對面して聖人のお声を
いかに拝聴することか何よ
りの願ひであります。

年頭に当り皆様の「ご健
祥」とご多幸を心から念じ
上げますと共に本年も何卒
よろしく「鞭撻」の程を願ひ
上げます。



晚島敏先生のことば

人間はその居る場所によて
鬼ともなれば仏ともなる。なか
ら居るべき場所を選ばねばな
らない。

○
自分の意見に反対している
ような書物はつとめてよむかい。
自分の嫌いな人の言葉もつ
とめて聞くかい。自分の好きな
書物はかりよみ、自分の好きな
人をかり話している人、人間が
硬化してしまふおそれがある。

○
いろんな面倒なことが身近
におこると人生がいやになる。
一歩進んで考えてみると、うかう
いこの終てか自分の好きでこ
しうえておることをみる。

○
或る老人に愚痴と悲哀
とが残る。感謝と歡喜の
影が消えたという事を聞いた。
(「世と共に世を越えんより」)