



ONENESS



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF BRIGHT DAWN CENTER OF ONENESS BUDDHISM

VOL. 23 NO. 2 SUMMER 2019

LAY MINISTER INDUCTION 2019

By Sayo Shempän



This year the Bright Dawn Center of Oneness Buddhism had the great pleasure of welcoming eleven new Lay Ministers who were part of the LM11 Class. This was the very first class that had two separate groups! Groups in the past usually consisted of four to six participants. So it was an auspicious occasion welcoming the two groups that formed the LM Class A and LM Class B. This was also the first time they all came together and able to meet in person. I personally oversaw the coordination of LM Class B, so it was a very nice to be able to finally meet them in person!

The activities kicked off Friday, May 16th with a pizza dinner. We made fresh pizzas and had a great time getting to know each other. Adrienne Kubose's sister Eimi joined us for the weekend and was a tremendous help with getting many of our meals ready.

On Saturday, we had a wonderful gathering for breakfast and then it was off with our annual Lay Minister Training Workshop hosted by Rev. Koyo and myself. This is a special time where Koyo Sensei shares his wisdom on how to officiate various services as Lay Ministers and I jump in to add details on how to set things up as a Lay Minister. We also had the pleasure of offering a Ti Sarana for those participants that have not received a Bright Dawn "YO" Dharma name, which every new Lay Minister receives at Induction. It's also a great way for the students to get an idea on how to officiate a Ti Sarana Ceremony.

After a wonderful lunch, Koyo Sensei took everyone on his tour of the Bright Dawn Center property which features his beloved garden and Alter Rock. Alter Rock is still a very special place for me

since it was where I had received my Induction back in 2010. But after the completion and dedication of the Sierra Sanctuary on March 28th, 2016, all the Inductions have now taken place there. Alter Rock also has affixed to one side the Dharma Is My Rock plaque, a poem by Koyo Sensei.

After the tour everyone did a fun Dharma activity of painting Dharma Rocks. Each participant had the opportunity to express their artistic nature by painting smooth rocks. After they dried, we placed

Lay Minister Induction 2019 continues on page 6

INSIDE

CONGRATULATIONS!	p. 2
Gophers in the Pureland	p. 5
Seasonings	p. 5
Komical Karma	p. 5
Remembering Sensei	p. 6
Acknowledgements with Gratitude	p. 6

Congratulations!

2019 LAY MINISTER INDUCTEES

William Hoyo



William Joe was born and raised in the Bible Belt in a small town in West Virginia. After High School he joined the United States Marine Corps and served honorably for 10-years. During this time he met his wife Claudia and they started a family. They have one daughter, Kaleigh, who is about to go off to college, and 3 dogs. William graduated summa cum laude from the New York Institute of Technology with a B.S. in Interdisciplinary Studies. During school he concentrated in philosophy, history, social/political science, psychology, and literature. His graduate work is in Forensic Psychology. He has lived in San Diego with his family for over 16 years and still enjoys philosophy and history. Starting mindful meditation to deal with grief led him to Buddhism and Bright Dawn's vision and approach ensures he is here to stay.

Jennifer Renyo



I am a child of the universe, joyful by nature, a Buddhist, and a passionate, foolish human being. I firmly believe that there is room for everyone beneath the Bodhi tree and am committed to sharing the Bright Dawn message of every day Buddhism and inclusivity and ministering and advocating for underrepresented populations, many of whom lack access to a supportive spiritual network, especially during times of sickness, mental illness and during the dying process. I am profoundly grateful for this experience and for the mentors and friends I have made along the way.

Gordon Tenyo



After leaving the Mormon Church I've been anti-organized-religion of any kind mainly due to the Dogma, Dualism, and Exclusion. It wasn't until a couple years ago that I was open and curious enough to investigate. After attending a Dharma workshop and listening to Noah Ma-Yo Rasheta, Sensei Secular Buddhism podcasts I decided to learn more. I am so grateful for the Bright Dawn LM Program and would recommend it to anyone. I'm grateful for the Buddha, that he is a mortal being and not a deity to be worshiped. At the same time, I'm so grateful for his diligence and discipline to understand the truth behind our suffering and show us how our suffering can be extinguished. I am in awe of his generosity and patience in sharing what he learned with others for 40 years. I will be forever grateful to the Buddha for his Dharma. I am grateful to our LM11A Sanga. I have gotten to know each member and have grown to love and appreciate their insights and wisdom they share each week. Now upon graduation, I will get to practice the Buddha's teaching on non-attachment as I must let them go.

Gretchen Saiyo



For about the last 35 years I have been a serious student of world religions, mythology and symbolism. I have had the privilege of participation and growth in several religions besides the one I was born into. I remain a practitioner and learner. This spiritual journey brought me into the sphere of Buddhism about 20 years ago. From that point to only a little over 3 years ago, I maintained a householder practice. I had become acquainted with the several schools of Buddhism available to me in Salt Lake City, but I had not found one that felt like "home." Then I found the Salt Lake Buddhist Fellowship led by Christopher Kakuyo Sensei. This was where I discovered a Buddhism of welcome, of healing and an expression for the Pure Land inclinations I possessed. Through Christopher Sensei I learned about the Bright Dawn Center of Oneness Buddhism. I checked out the website, signed up for the newsletters and discovered the Lay Ministry Program. I was taking classes through the Salt Lake Buddhist Fellowship, but I knew it would be good to have a more comprehensive Buddhist education. Through this lay ministry, I hope to better serve my home Sangha as I continue my personal journey to Oneness. I am very grateful for all the work done to prepare this program, the support of my fellow Lay Ministry classmates, Christopher Sensei, and especially my partner John Hinckley who is here with me today.

Lay Minister Inductees continues on page 3

Neil Hakuyo



When I began the Bright Dawn Lay Minister Program I was driven by the political, social, and environmental injustices running rampant across our planet. The Dharma, like most of my reasoning in life, was firmly rooted in my head. Even meditation was a cerebral activity practiced so that when I was thinking I could be more efficient. I initially approached this spiritual endeavor similar to a graduate program, meticulously citing all of my references and getting lost in the nuances of what was intended to be conceptual. My heart started to soften with Everyday Suchness and The Center Within. Yet it was Naikan that led to my epiphany. I was studying and not practicing.

This program has provided me with a profound spiritual practice that resides at the center of my being. If we genuinely accept the Four Noble Truths (Life has Suffering, Suffering is Attachment, Suffering has an End, & The 8-Fold Path is the End), then it becomes almost organic to lead a Dharmic existence. Sometimes I get lost in the injustices, so I practice. Sometimes I get lost in the self-loathing, so I practice. Sometimes I get lost in the day, so I practice. If you're not practicing your practice, you're practicing something else.

Lacey Tanyo



I started studying Buddhism about 10 years ago and I loved everything I read so much that I helped found a Sangha in Hot Springs, Ar. During that time a member told me about a podcast called "Secular Buddhism" and I enjoyed it so much that I arranged to go to one of Sensei Noah Rasheta's talks in Dallas, Tx. That's when I started learning about the Bright Dawn program and, coincidentally, met one of my future Bright Dawn Sangha members! Since then I have moved and am currently working on establishing another Sangha in my new community. I have learned so much from this program and feel so grateful! I hope to build on this

awesome, sturdy foundation the Bright Dawn program has given to me by studying Soto Zen and hopefully being ordained someday.

Evan Taiyo



I grew up in Boise, Idaho with a fascination for all things surrounding spiritual fulfillment. I grew up in a Mormon family and was very active in that faith until I was 21. I had a drastic change of religion and became an Atheist for about a year and a half. During this time I still felt a draw towards spiritual traditions and learned about as many as I could. Buddhism was one that stuck out to me because of it's ability to provide tangible benefits in life. I decided to take the Bright Dawn ministry course to commit to learning more about Buddhism and it has been such a gift for me in my life. I have learned to wield Buddhism as a tool to help me craft

a more fulfilling spiritual life. Now that I have learned how to help myself, I hope that I can help others do the same in their own way.

Brandon Shoyo



A few years ago I began my Buddhist journey by reading a pile of books. After time passed I realized I needed a sangha. The search for a sangha resulted in me finding Volusia Buddhist Fellowship. I quickly learned about Bright Dawn from Sensei Morris. I give Sensei Morris a ton of credit for leading me on the path that led to Bright Dawn. I must also give credit to friends and family who encouraged me to pursue the Buddhist path early when I was just dipping my toes in the dharma stream. I will always be thankful for the opportunity to practice deeply with my Bright Dawn Buddhaful Buddies!

Ray Hikariyo



Ray possesses the natural ability to perceive the hidden things of nature and the universe. His passion for seeking truth, light, and love from all sources compels him on an endless journey of discovery, enlightenment and a genuine quest to understand the source of the energy contained within all things.

David Jiyo



L. David Gardner II was born to goodly parents, Lawrence and Lana Gardner in the incredibly hot summer of 1971, born and raised in Sacramento, California in the Mormon/LDS Church. He served a Mormon proselytizing mission for the LDS Church from 1990-1992 in Germany. He remained an active, believing Mormon until 2010 when he began “losing” his religion. By 2012 his religion was mostly lost and that compounded this life transition with the losing of his 17 year marriage.

This caused incredible suffering which ultimately “cracked him open” and through a number of “spiritual” experiences, led him on the path of Eastern Philosophy and specifically Buddhism.

Through Mormon Stories Podcast and the interview with Noah Rasheta, Dave learned about the Bright Dawn Center of Oneness and enrolled in the Lay Ministry program.

Dave is a loving and proud father of five children. Hannah, Luke, Sophia, Maya and Mila, father-in-law to Cayden and a brother to Tisha, Leslie, Lee and Lanae.

Dave is a people person and from a young age has always been concerned for others feelings and welfare. Because Buddhism has served him to become more mindful, to be more present, live in peace and suffer less, he’s interested in helping others suffer less as well.

Dan Kaiyo



My life’s spiritual journey has been a long and winding road. In 2013 I formally left the religion of my upbringing and started a new journey. I became an atheist and followed that path, but after a few years I found that it wasn’t fulfilling my need for a path and guidance. I found solace in Stoicism, and soon after the secular approach to Buddhism through Stephen Batchelor’s book “Confession of a Buddhist Atheist.” That book opened my eyes to how the Dharma could be followed from a secular perspective and I was hooked. I took a teaching course provided by fellow Bright Dawn Minister Noah Rasheta, and after the conclusion of that class wanted to learn more and

signed up for the Bright Dawn course.

I am grateful for the Path of Oneness that I’ve learned through Bright Dawn. My goal is to help to continue to spread the practical applications of the Dharma to all around me. I’m so pleased to be a part of this wonderful community.





GOPHERS IN THE PURELAND?

by Dharma Dan

Our Bright Dawn Center is located on six acres in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountain range. The moss-covered boulders property has many pine and oak trees. It is like a Pure Land park. We have a small orchard with plum, peach, fig, and cherry trees. The previous owners built a corral for their horses. Instead of horses, we started a vegetable garden inside the fenced corral area.

For our vegetable garden, we built eleven 4' X 20' raised beds using redwood planks. Before filling the beds with garden soil, we laid a sheet of metal fencing material called hardware cloth that covered the entire bottom of the bed. The idea was to prevent gophers from digging up into the planted raised bed.

You know what? It was only a matter of time that gophers got into the beds. Don't ask how, because it's a mystery to us. Wild critters have a way of getting around in nature which is where they live. The gophers live underground and dig tunnels. They push the excess soil out of a tunnel that opens to the surface; so if you see a pile of dug-up soil, you know you have gophers.

Gophers like to eat root crops like carrots, onions, garlic, and potatoes. Once I saw an onion stalk shaking and then be pulled underground! We plant plenty

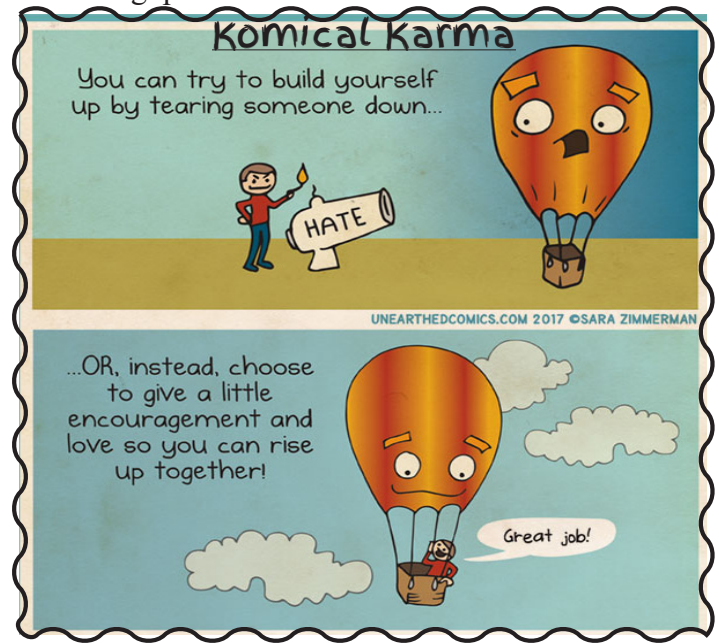
of vegetables and are willing to share with the gophers, as long as they leave at least half the crop. We just have to accept the fact that there are gophers in our Pure Land. Our vegetable garden is the gopher's Pure Land!

What is the common idea of a Pure Land, of a Heaven, or a paradise? It might be assumed that it's a place where nothing "bad" happens. Our wooded property is like living in a park; it's just that we hadn't realized that gophers and other critters also live here. This made us deeply reflect on exactly what is a Pure Land; who lives there, and what is it like to live in a Pure Land?

It turns out that any paradise is not a completely "good" place, and thank the Buddha for that! If everything always went like we wished, that would be a terrible way to live... no challenges, no motivation, no appreciation, etc. In other words, the Pure Land turns out to be exactly the everyday life we live. The Pure Land is not some far-off mythical paradise; it is very real and is right here, now. Yes, thank the Buddha that there are gophers in the Pure Land!

 **Seasonings**
SAYINGS TO ADD A LITTLE FLAVOR TO LIFE

**Broken Crayons
Still Color**



ONENESS NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2019

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**Live Dharma Sunday:
Listen LIVE 8AM
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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

Lay Minister Induction 2019 continued from P1 them next to the Avalokiteshvara Sand Mandala I had created a few days back in celebration of Induction weekend. This is the second Buddhist sand mandala that has been created at the Bright Dawn Center, with perhaps more to come in the future. We all once again gathered for dinner and more conversations before the big day.

On Sunday, the students and family members gathered for the Induction Ceremony. Each year, before the ceremony, Koyo Sensei gathers all the inductees for a brief chat in the SPOT.

Once it was time to begin the procession from the main house down to the Sanctuary, I rang the

large wind chime on the property signaling the beginning of the Induction.

Inside, Rev. Koyo began with some opening words and the ceremony had begun. Something new that was done this year is that instead of Koyo Sensei reading out loud each participants biography, we had a family member or friend read their bio while they made their incense and water offerings before the Bright Dawn center shrine.

At the end it was time to dismantle the mandala, as a teaching of impermanence. Each participant had the opportunity to run their finger across to the center of the mandala. The sand is then taken

home as a memento of the event and the rest of the sand is taken to the near by creek and released into the water as a way of sharing the merit with all beings.

This has been my ninth year attending and assisting with the Induction weekend and each year I am so excited to welcome new members to the Bright Dawn family. It's always a joyous occasion and special time of year for myself, the Kubose family, and our community as a whole.

Welcome to all the eleven members of LM11!

The journey has just begun!



Acknowledgements with Gratitude

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MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Not only is making a memorial donation a way to remember and honor a loved one, it is a karmic action that fosters awareness of the two main teachings of interdependency and impermanence. Acknowledging one's "roots" also nurtures a feeling of gratitude, which is the foundation of a spiritual life. A memorial donation does all this and at the same time helps support the mission of a worthy organization of one's choice.

When submitting donations, please list your name exactly as you wish it to appear in the Oneness newsletter. Acknowledgments are current as of May 14, 2019. Donations received after this date will be listed in the next issue. If we have missed an acknowledgment, please let us know by email at: brightdawn@kubose.com.

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.

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.

GLIMPSES OF DHARMA by Sayo Shenpän. Collection of Dharma Talks and teachings from everyday life by the author. Sharing Dharma in a manner everyone can relate to, awakening the reader to a life filled with everyday spiritual teachings. 97 pages.

5-MINUTE MINDFULNESS JOURNAL by Noah Rasheta. A few minutes is all it takes to transform your day. The 5-Minute Mindfulness Journal helps you live mindfully with quick, thought-provoking practices and writing prompts to bring peace, calm, and happiness to your day. 136 pages.

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Change Service Requested



YES YES YOUR EVERYDAY SPIRITUALITY YES Yes

JUNE	<p>Theme: Water Purpose: Water = Life Method: Life-Giving Water Gassho: Realize that life on earth requires water, that your body needs water. Do not take for granted the water you drink every day.</p>
JULY	<p>Theme: Water Purpose: The many uses of water Method: Pause to reflect on how water is used in so many ways; e.g. washing dishes, watering the garden, powering a dam to produce electricity, on and on... the list is endless. All we can do is have respect and deep appreciation.</p>
AUGUST	<p>Theme: Water Purpose: Flushing the toilet Method: This is a special personal example of how we use water in a flush toilet. We engage in doing this every single day. It's more than a modern convenience but more like a necessity! The sound of water flushing the toilet is the sound of the Dharma! Bow your head in gratitude!</p>

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