Board Chair's Report 2009
To The 2010 AGM

Our sangha must have experienced a deep, collective sense of satisfaction and gratitude with the dedication of our new BTSA building in April, 2009, truly a testament to the Jodo Shinshu vitality in the region. Gratefully, we took possession of our new building in January, held our first Ho-onko service a week later, and glimpsed the future of a unified temple. Thanks to all who committed themselves so single-mindedly and energetically to this task for so long, who tirelessly served in administrative capacities and oversaw the construction process, and who supported wholeheartedly the amalgamation effort with encouragement, resources and their presence.

The first year in the temple posed numerous challenges as we gained familiarity with managing a young organization in a new facility, especially as we came to the task from different *otera* which developed a variety of operating styles over many decades. The sangha's patience and understanding—third of the Six Paramitas—helped boost the learning curve as BTSA blended its own stamp on how to run things. We rely on that same goodwill as we continue to further temple development and cohesion.

Inevitably, there were "firsts"—the first funeral, the first wedding, the first Hanamatsuri and so on. We noted in *The Hikari* the deaths of 23 members and friends, many of whom whose funerals and memorials were scheduled in the temple's inaugural year. Among the deceased were stalwart members who never wavered in promoting the wellbeing of the BTSA. We are indebted to their dedication and legacy. While mourning their passing, we also were delighted to see the first wedding held in August. I refrain from enumerating the many other events we experienced since they are noted in other reports presented to this AGM.

At this time, I thank the BTSA board for entrusting me with the chairmanship during the past six months. In the coming year, board and membership support will inspire confidence to meet the demands of the position as those before me have done so ably. I earnestly request your continuing involvement, commitment and backing to insure that the BTSA presence makes a significant contribution to our lives and to our community.

Respectfully submitted,
In Gassho,
Akira Ichikawa