



# THE GEPPPO



*A publication of the Ogden Buddhist Temple*

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801/392-7132

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## ★ SPECIAL COVID-19 GEPPPO ★

We MISS our Temple Members  
We MISS our Temple Gatherings  
We MISS our Temple Dharma Talks  
SOON, things will return to a NEW normal  
And we will be able to gather again.  
Until then, be SAFE, be HEALTHY,  
And BE HAPPY ... at home!

Due to the COVID-19 situation and the uncertainty surrounding it, we do not know when we will be able to gather again, therefore this is a special shortened version of the GEPPPO.

All calendar items are on hold until further notice.

We will keep our website updated with all the necessary information as well as our Facebook page.

**If you DO NOT have access to our website or Facebook page,  
please call any board member and we will be happy to keep you updated.**



## Why Christmas is Important to Me

~By Reverend JK Hirano

*When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways.*

*For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.*

*So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*

1 Corinthians 1:13

**T**he reason I love the holiday season is because it is about happiness and family. It is about love for all of humanity. However, I know that this year has been a difficult year for many people. It may be one that you wish never happened. Yes, this Thanksgiving was very different than most other Thanksgivings you have probably ever experienced. On the same vein, it's the very same year that my eyes were opened to how much I have to be grateful for. This year, my family had a zoom get-together and one of the cousins said, "I've never been to a Thanksgiving that the Hirano's did not host! I mean that literally. For my entire life, Thanksgiving has been at their house."

This brought back so many images and memories for me. The reason I have always had Thanksgiving at my house is because my Mom and Dad always had Thanksgiving at their house. So it only felt natural to host Thanksgiving at our house. Christmas was at Uncle Mas and Auntie Maxine's house and New Year was at Bachan and Jichan's (Grandma and Grandpa's). The house I grew up in was a very small house. Thinking about it now, all of our houses were small, yet none of the cousins now live in a house that isn't at least four maybe five times bigger than any of the houses my generation grew up in. How does a small house become a large spacious home? It just takes a little magic. That magic is love: when the hearts that live in a house are filled with love, that small house magically grows into a large and spacious home.

The house I grew up in had two small bedrooms and one small bathroom. There was a kitchen that barely fit a kitchen table and appliances. I remember we had to kind of squeeze into the chairs around the kitchen table. The living room wasn't much bigger than the size of a door in a house. The reason I know this, is because on Thanksgiving, the table we six cousins sat around was actually a door that my Dad screwed four short table legs onto. We cousins -- Sandy, Glen, Mike, Scott, Joni and myself would sit on the floor around it. It may have been a rather tight squeeze because there was also a sofa and a T.V. in the room. I remember because we would watch the Wizard of Oz on Thanksgiving evening, squeezed around the table, eating our amazing Thanksgiving dinner. I can still see the door in my mind's eye -- it was painted a baby blue. I realize now that the room was pretty small, but to a child, it was a banquet hall fit for a king.

On Christmas we would go to the Furubayashi's. At their house, we would sit on fold up tables and the adults would sit in the kitchen. On New Year's we would go to Bachan's. It always amazed me how we all somehow fit into her house, with so much food, in a house smaller than the Furubayashi's or ours. Bachan was an amazing cook and people would ask her to help make their Japanese New Year's foods. She had a heart bursting with love for others, which she spread all around with her generous dishes. We would usually eat in three shifts. First shift was before lunch, when we would have our ozoni and first taste of the New Year feast. Bachan would have the food all set out. It was an amazing spread of American and Japanese foods. That's where I learned to make my turkey dressing using tamales. There were all kinds of Japanese delicacies, from a big Tai (fish) to lobsters, tempura, sushi, kuro mame (black beans) etc., maybe a roast pork in addition to the ham and turkey, for guests not familiar with our Japanese foods. Then the family would leave to take a nap.

During that time, Bachan and Jichan's friends would come over. Some of the rich white people Bachan worked for as a house keeper would also come to her house at this time. At around 4 or 5, the family would get back together and the whole spread of food would be set again. Yes, Bachan would usually make at least two of everything, including the turkeys and hams. I remember my Dad telling me that in the week before New Year's Day, Bachan really didn't sleep, because she needed to cook for about five other families besides our own. She used up about five gallons of soy sauce, fifty pounds of rice and twenty pounds of sugar. It was an amazing assortment of food.

This is one of the reasons I still love the holiday season. I wanted my children to experience some of the wonder and joy I felt during this time of year. It's cliché, but yes, even though we didn't have a lot of money, I don't think any of us kids thought we were poor. The reason is because there was love that permeated all our homes. I remember on Christmas, my Dad would tell me, "You better not bring your toy to the Furubayashi's house. It will probably get broken by the boys." I know my Dad was just worried that my feelings would be hurt, and as I explained in other talks, I was a crybaby. However, concerning these toys, I knew even back then, I would rather play with the toy with my cousins than play alone by myself. If it broke, at least I had fun playing with Glenny, Mikey and Scotty. Even though their names didn't really have "Ys" on the ends, that's how we called them. Even as a child, somehow, I knew that the most important thing wasn't a material object, it was love. It is something we all long for. The COVID can be physically harmful, even fatal, but it should not kill love. Even if the body disappears, the love remains. Even if my toys were broken, love remained.

There are some people that still ask me if a Buddhist celebrates Christmas. I always have to explain, "This Buddhist does. When I was a child, if my Dad had said, "Buddhists don't celebrate Christmas," I would have had to tell him, "Well I guess I'm not Buddhist." And you know, the older I get, the more I believe it. As I said at the start of this article, I realize this year is not the year that many of us wanted. We didn't want the pandemic, we didn't want the partisan fighting of the election. We didn't want our friends and family to die from coronavirus or from any illness. However, I can say that this year has given me a lot of time to think about how much I miss my family and friends. It has given me a great deal of time to think about the meaning of my life and what it is about. I understand better what love means to me. This Christmas may also be a time when I don't get to see my friends and family, but there will still be love.

The quote I began this month's article with is one of the most famous passages in the Bible. I have used it during other talks. As I mentioned before, in some ways, this section "Corinthians" reminds me of our Jodo Shinshu classic Tannisho. In Tannisho, which some people translate as "A Record in Lament of Differences," Yuien-bo, a disciple of Shinran Shonin, writes this work to correct some mistaken ideas people have about Shinran's teachings. In Corinthians, Paul, who is a disciple of Jesus, writes to a group of people from Corinth about mistaken notions they might have of Jesus' teaching.

One of the things that identify true wisdom for me is not the sectarian jargon we assign words and writings. It is in how the words ring true in my heart. I don't care if this passage is from the Bible. These words ring true for me. Let me explain a part of this passage. Paul is saying that no matter how amazing or how rich or how great you are, if you do not have love, you have nothing. You can be the greatest Christian, Buddhist, Muslim, etc. but if you do not know or understand love, you are nothing. Faith and Hope are essential and important aspects of what it means to be human, but they are nothing without Love. When I was a child, I didn't understand everything it took into making my world magical. Just like when I say, "this is a bad year," I don't understand what it is to be human. Paul is saying to give up these childish ways of thinking; that this is bad or that is good. In a Buddhist sense, we have been given life, we have been given great compassion (Buddha), we have been given wonderful teachings (Dharma) and friends and family (Sangha). We have to ask ourselves, if with all of this, we still do not know love, then what do we have? Whether or not December 25 is the birthday of Jesus Christ really doesn't matter to me. Anyone who can inspire others to share these truths is someone I want to celebrate. So if Christians celebrate December 25 as Christmas, then I say, "Ho, Ho, Ho! Merry Christmas everyone!"

As always, the end of the year gives me the opportunity on behalf of Carmela, Kacie, Taylor, Koge, Musubi and Miso and myself, to thank all of you for giving me the support that allows me to better understand my life. My wish is to thank you and hope that you and your loved ones have a wonderful and safe holiday season, and above all else, Love.

*If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing.*

*Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

*Love never ends. As for prophecies, they will pass away; as for tongues, they will cease; as for knowledge, it will pass away.*

*For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I spoke like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I gave up childish ways.*

*For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.*

*So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love.*

*1 Corinthians 1:13*

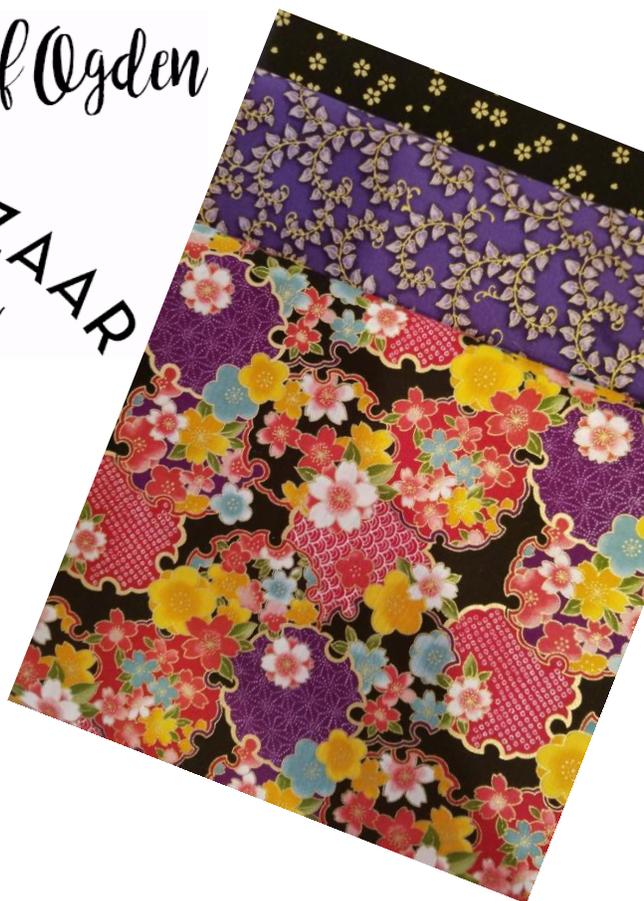
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**Buddhist Church of Ogden**  
The  
**BIZARRE BAZAAR**  
**Raffle**



**Big Thank You to our Business Donors  
for the Bizarre Bazaar Raffle**

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Macy's Food and Drug Store  
Margie S.  
Minky Couture  
Wasatch Peak Credit Union



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS!



I know it is not needed to say but holy cow what a year 2020 has been. It really puts things in a new perspective, never take things for granted! You never know when you will see those close to you again. Some have found new ways to work from home, bringing families closer than modern days have ever seen. Sadly, some have jobs that are no longer able to do with the restrictions and fear, yet another is now considered essential and must go to work every day. It's just crazy, strange and constantly changing.

One of the teachings of Buddhism is the Four Noble Truths, Life is a bumpy road, it is interdependent, impermanent, but basically life is good. Understanding everything is changing and with a vaccine now available, this too will change. We will come out of this with new understandings we never could have had; not for the COVID-19. Some have had to use friends and family to get by, and some have been lucky enough to be able to help those who need it. We have a better understanding of Dana, selfless giving because we did things just to get by, for ourselves, our family members, and our neighbors.

Our nation has learned about racism in a way that we will never forget. Our Mountain States Conference had a workshop on "What is white supremacy?" by Elizabeth "Betita" Martinez that was, for myself, very informative. I was awakened to a new, and I will say uncomfortable feeling to know I'm part of the problem. I accept things as they are, and fear conflict to make change. We heard some very personal stories of conflict with racism and had discussions of dealing with conflict.

This will be my last message as President of the Ogden Buddhist Church, and it is with mixed feelings I say YEA! Grateful it's over, yet grateful for the amazing members of our Board that is always standing beside me, sending reminders when I forget, giving me pep talks when things look bad, and just being with me supporting my decisions. Thank you all!

I would like to encourage any member that has a little extra time, maybe just became retired and has, for the first time ever, time on their hands to please think about become a part of our board of directors. We love to see new faces walk in and bring some ideas that could maybe bring new life into our church. It would be great to see younger members share ideas as well. We have our "Hatsu Mairi" (Infant Presentation) service every year and seem to have a lot of beautiful children with amazing parents at the service, but never see them again. What can we do to try to get them to come back? This is the big question that all BCA is facing – how do we grow our membership.

As it is Zoom, Facebook, and virtual services are the only thing going on right now, but having said that have you looked what BCA has to offer? Just go to the homepage and all down the right side are ads for upcoming events. If you have not looked, please do. With everything online, we all have a chance to attend without leaving our homes.

we'll  
meet  
again

We will meet together again inside our beautiful Church, see each other in groups over 10, and I hope chant together. We just need to let things come to a safe end.

In Gassho,  
Annette & Mike K.



# DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

Happy New Year to All!

The Dharma School would like to extend their appreciation to all the temple members who contributed to our annual Angel Tree project. Our students were able to shop for six deserving children through the Salvation Army Angel Tree program this year. This activity gives our Dharma School students the opportunity to express gratitude for their own living conditions when shopping for these children in need. Additionally, with the remaining donations, we were able to purchase 240 of the Smith's meals for families in need. We appreciate the Sangha's generous support to help teach the concept of Dana to our students while helping in our community.



In Gassho,  
LaVerne K.



## DHARMA SCHOOL DONATIONS

### Angel Tree Donors

James & Marisa A., Maya C., Julia F.,  
Bart & Robyn H., Stan & Tami H.,  
Kevin & Justine H., Steven & Ellen K.,  
Brenda K., Mike & Annette K., Sharon K.,  
Ernie & LaVerne K., Mike & Darlene M., Kunie O.,  
Ruth S., Roland & Janice S., Craig & Geniel S.,  
Caryn Y., Steven & Kris Y., Kirk & Betty Y.,  
Blaine & Suzan Y., Candace & Cy F. Z.



((( Omitted for online version )))

# ***BUDDHIST WOMEN’S ASSOCIATION DONATIONS***

*Time is like a river.  
You cannot touch the same water twice, because the flow that has passed will never pass again.  
Enjoy every moment in life.*

It has been a while since I included an article in the GEPP0 due to the strange situation with the pandemic. However, the Buddhist Women’s Association did hold their annual general meeting on December 6, 2020. Of course, it was a virtual event on zoom, but good to see everyone during this time of deprivation.

Congratulations to the officers for BWA for 2021:

President	Tami H.
1st Vice President	Lorraine S.
2ns Vice President	Ruth S.
3rd Vice President	Annette K.
Recording Secretary	Suzan Y.
Corresponding Secretary	Christy F.
Treasurer	Ellen K.
Auditors	Julia F. Linda E.-R.

**Membership dues** for 2021 are **\$20**. Please **pay Ellen K.** at your earliest convenience. Membership is open to anyone interested in supporting the efforts of the organization, not exclusively limited to women only. Thank you for being a member.

The BWA would like to send a **huge thank you** to all who supported the raffle of the quilt. The virtual raffle was very successful due to the efforts of **Darlene M.** who made the quilt and **Lorraine S.** who made the pillow cases and table runner with the help of the BWA members. Our appreciation to **Ruth S.** who arranged the event and **Tami and Stan H.** for conducting the raffle. Also, **Kris Y.** for arranging the technological operations and creating the flyer and **Betty Y.** for financial assistance. Special thanks to all the members of the temple for donating prizes and selling tickets.

Take care and Stay safe. The vaccine is at our doorstep!



In Gassho,  
Tami H.

## **BWA DONATIONS**

((( Omitted for online version )))

Please remember to send in your BWA membership for 2021 since we won’t be having a party. It is still \$20 a year. Thank you.



**Dial the Dharma**

**BCA is offering a way for you to hear the Dharma!**

**415-528-7220**

Please dial the number above.  
You will be connected to a short Dharma Message from Bishop Harada.  
\*This message will change periodically.\*

## OGDEN TAIKO GROUP DONATIONS

((( Omitted for online version )))



## Ways You Can Donate

There are several ways that you can still donate to our church! With all services and activities being cancelled, we still need your support. THANK YOU!



@BuddhistChurchofOgden



Buddhist Church of Ogden  
P.O. Box 3248  
Ogden, UT 84409-1248

## Other Ways to Support



You can NOW update your Amazon APP on your phone to donate a portion of your purchases to the Ogden Buddhist Church.

1. Open your APP
2. Main Menu → Settings
3. Tap AMAZON SMILES → Complete the process



If you have NOT done this previously, please select the **Buddhist Church of Ogden (#YS414)** as your non-profit organization to support on your Smith's Rewards Card.

(\* You only have to do this once. \*)



## Ogden Buddhist Church Officers 2021

### OFFICE

President	James A.
President-Elect	TBD
1st VP	Geoff R.
2nd VP	Kris Y.
3rd VP	Toby Y.
4th VP	Kirk Y., Steve K., Ernie K.
Treasurer	Betty Y.
Assistant Treasurer	Tami H.
Recording Secretary	Ruth S.
Corresponding Secretary	Ellen K.
Historian	Maya C. & LaVerne K.
Auditor	Janice S.

### 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Christy F.	Tom F.	Julia F.	Fran H.	Todd H.
Marie H.	Stan H.	Tami H.	Brenda K.	Tena M.
Greg O.	Kunie O.	Shauna R.	Geoff R.	Linda E.-R.
Lorraine S.	Roland S.	Harry S.	Steve Y.	Kirk Y.
Blaine Y.	Suzan Y.	LaVerne K.	Kristin Y. A.	

### OGDEN BWA OFFICERS 2021:

President	Tami H.
1st VP	Lorraine S.
2nd VP	Ruth S.
3rd VP	Annette K.
Recording Secretary	Suzan Y.
Corresponding Secretary	Christy F.
Treasurer	Ellen K.
Auditor	Linda E.-R., Julia F.

### OGDEN YBA OFFICERS 2021:

President	Kobe H.
Vice-President	Colton H.
Secretary	Andrew K.
Treasurer	Mackenzie H.
Historian	Madison Y.



## **November & December Shotsuki Hoyo**

### **January Shotsuki Hoyo**

Jan 15 2009 Lily S. Endow  
 Jan 7 1965 Yeijiro Hirai  
 Jan 7 1977 Yoshio Horiuchi  
 Jan 21 1980 Peter J. Hunt  
 Jan 4 1972 Chong Sun Johnson  
 Jan 10 1992 Wataru Kamigaki  
 Jan 17 1954 Toshio Kato  
 Jan 29 1973 Ura U. Kawaguchi  
 Jan 16 1977 Eikichi Kawaguchi  
 Jan 28 2003 Jake Hideo Koga  
 Jan 27 2015 Steven Koga  
 Jan 9 1983 Fujiko Kojima  
 Jan 5 1998 Soichi Kojima  
 Jan 23 1980 Toshita Mayeda  
 Jan 4 1978 Yasuzo Minaga  
 Jan 17 1999 Sam Sadao Miya  
 Jan 28 1984 Masaji Miyagishima  
 Jan 31 1998 Tono Miyagishima  
 Jan 5 2001 Masano Morimoto  
 Jan 14 1964 Yeitaro Nishihara  
 Jan 12 1988 Ichimatsu Nisogi  
 Jan 30 1968 Takao Okubo  
 Jan 7 2007 Amy Sameshima  
 Jan 13 2014 Hisaye Shiki  
 Jan 24 1964 Kenzo Seino  
 Jan 30 2020 Raymond Spry  
 Jan 22 1992 Yoneko Mary Takabayashi  
 Jan 31 1978 George Y. Tanaka  
 Jan 3 1974 Aki Toimoto  
 Jan 10 1977 Yuriko C. Yamada  
 Jan 17 2010 William Yamane  
 Jan 16 1997 Namiye Yamamoto  
 Jan 2 1960 Matsujiro Yamashita  
 Jan 23 1956 Morikiyo Yei  
 Jan 4 2019 Yoshie Yoshimura

### **February Shotsuki Hoyo**

Feb 21 1995 Harue Enomoto  
 Feb 17 1968 Otojiro Fukuda  
 Feb 13 2020 Marlane Natsuye Hirai  
 Feb 10 1965 Hitoshi Hoshiko  
 Feb 24 1964 Takematsu Inouye  
 Feb 28 1986 Matsue Kano  
 Feb 15 2018 Sachie Shiki Kano  
 Feb 17 1969 Shozo Kariya  
 Feb 19 1998 Yukie Kawa (Ozawa)  
 Feb 23 2019 Yukiko Kawaguchi  
 Feb 2 2000 Izumi Kishimoto  
 Feb 19 1966 Wakamatsu Kiyotsugu  
 Feb 9 1967 Sahei Kosai  
 Feb 8 2018 Jane Shizuye Kunugi  
 Feb 23 1975 Gensaku J. Miyagishima  
 Feb 2 1973 Kazue Nishikawa  
 Feb 10 2017 Tokiye Miya  
 Feb 28 1989 Shigeso Frank Nishimoto  
 Feb 21 1978 Jerrod Nisogi  
 Feb 25 1993 Mitsuye Oda  
 Feb 18 1994 Yukiye Omori  
 Feb 1 2008 Kiyoshi "Kay" Shimada  
 Feb 18 1965 Hiroshi Shioji  
 Feb 16 1986 Teruo Ted Suekawa  
 Feb 8 2015 Roy Gosaku Taketa  
 Feb 12 1994 Kazuye (Kathy)Taniguchi (Yagi)  
 Feb 29 2005 Jane Tomiko Tsushima  
 Feb 19 1992 Niroku Uyematsu  
 Feb 29 1968 Michiye Watanabe  
 Feb 12 1996 Frank Toichi Yoshida  
 Feb 26 2019 Taeko Matsuda Yoshida  
 Feb 20 1961 Thomas T. Yoshitaka

For those years not having a specific memorial service such as 2nd, 4th, 5th, etc. the temple is holding these monthly Shotsuki Hoyo.

**Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, Reverend Hirano is reading the Shotsuki Hoyo names during his online services!  
Please join him in honoring your family members.**

These services are not meant to replace the specific memorial services. Please contact Rev. Hirano to make arrangements for those services.  
Rev. Hirano contact information - Office: 363-4742, Home: 299-8727, Emergency: 819-2648

#### **2021 Memorial Service Schedule for those who passed away in:**

2020 - 1 year	2009 - 13 year	1989 - 33 year
2019 - 3 year	2005 - 17 year	1972 - 50 year
2015 - 7 year	1997 - 25 year	1922 - 100 year

Corrections/Additions to the Shotsuki Hoyo list, please contact Ruth Schriock, 801-292-6042

## Buddhist Church of Ogden Donations

(((( Omitted for online version )))

### Thank You!! Thank You!!

On behalf of the Board, I would like to Thank everyone for their generous donations. It is only through your donations, that our Temple can meet its financial obligations. If you have any questions or concerns about any donations made, please feel free to contact me at 725-6096 or my email address is yamiek@netscape.net.

Thank You, Betty Yamashita



### Church Membership Reminder

Please pay your 2021 annual membership dues at your earliest convenience.

**Annual dues are \$175 per adult member,**  
\$10 for members 20 and under  
Members 80 years old and above are exempt