



THE GEPPPO



A publication of the Ogden Buddhist Temple

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May/June 2020 Issue

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.**



Pandemics, Earthquakes and Don't forget to wash your hands!

By Reverend Jerry K. Hirano

Recently, people have been dying in great numbers, reportedly from an epidemic. It is not that they die primarily because of the epidemic. It is (because of) determinate karma that has been settled from the first moment of our birth. We should not be so deeply surprised by this. And yet when people die at this time, everyone thinks it strange. It is really quite reasonable.

Amida Tathagata has declared that he will unflinchingly save those sentient beings who single-heartedly rely on him -- ordinary beings in the last age and people like ourselves, burdened with evil karma, however deep the evil may be. At such a time as this, we should entrust ourselves to Amida Buddha all the more deeply and, realizing that we will be born in the land of utmost bliss, relinquish every bit of doubt, steadfastly and single-heartedly acknowledging how gracious Amida is. Once we have understood this, our saying "Namo amida butsu, Namo amida butsu" -- sleeping or waking -- is an expression of gratitude conveying our joy and thankfulness (that Amida) readily saves us in this way. This, in other words, is the nenbutsu of gratitude for Buddha's benevolence.

Respectfully,

Entoku 4 (1492)

Rennyō: The second founder of Shin Buddhism

Minor L. Rogers and Ann T. Rogers

I know that we are all feeling confused, fearful, anxious, angry, grieving, etc. during this time of the Covid-19 pandemic. If you are like me, there are days when I wake up feeling pretty good thinking, "What will I do today? Wonder what the weather is like? I don't have to really do anything, it's a free day!" Then I decide not to turn on the radio, and just brush my teeth, wash my face, and get ready to go outside and enjoy the spring morning. Once outside, I see it's a beautiful morning, the birds are singing arias; I take a deep breath and smell the air, so clean and fresh. I watch Koge and Musubi chase one another around the yard. And then my eyes begin to itch a little. My nose starts to run, which causes me to begin to forget about the beauty of the spring moment. My mind begins to race, "Could I be coming down with Covid?" I touch my head, "Do I have a fever?" I take a few deep breaths. "Hmm...I think I sense a little wheeziness?" My mind races to the conclusion, "I don't want to die!" I begin to tear up a little, about how sad the girls will be when I die. I hope Carmela will be alright when I'm dead. During this requiem for my premature death I realize, "Jerry, you are a really good husband, worrying about Carmela when you are dying from Covid. My mind continues, "When I'm dead from Covid, Carmela will be even more upset with Trump!" Then I start to think of Trump and I start to think about all the things I hate about our President. "I'm not going to die before he does!" From there I go on to the people who support his ignorance. How can seemingly normal people support so much ill-willed, selfish, morally repugnant behavior. All this hatred has made me begin to feel a little hungry. I do wish there were restaurants open. Then my thinking takes another leap, "What did eat this morning? I'm feeling a little hungry. Maybe I should go inside and see what I can find to eat?"

This is a typical morning in my mind. The actual thoughts or order of the thoughts might vary, but my mind playing these games with me is quite common. I believe this is the natural reaction to facing the reality of the unknown. As Rennyō says in this letter I began with, "*It is really quite reasonable.*" The question is, "Is my life of waking, sleeping, eating, thinking, etc., really that different now than it was before the Covid-19 pandemic? I did get to see more people and travel around, but what about my getting up in the morning, seeing the wonder of nature, enjoying my dogs, complaining, getting hungry? The only thing that is really different is my imaginings that I may have Covid. Other than that, I've always worried about dying; I am a hypochondriac. Somewhere in my mind, I know that logically I don't have Covid. I haven't really been out of the house for four weeks and the three times I have, I was masked and had taken the safety precautions.

However, my mind, my ego, my ignorance doesn't care about logic; it prefers to worry about things. It is the nature of being a human being. I really doubt that Koge, Musubi or Miso worry about dying from Covid. They've started to like watching TV, but they really don't care about CNN or the news. No matter how much I try to make my dogs think as I do, they aren't human. Just as they are not human, I cannot think like a dog and ignore this corona virus threat. Although I do wander around the house wondering what to eat. I may be more like them than I think. However, my human DNA is designed to be full of greed, anger and ignorance (bonno). Therefore, yes, it is quite reasonable to be afraid and worried.

Now, should that fear and worry take over my life? This letter of Rennyo (1415-1499), the eighth head of our Jodo Shinshu sect of Buddhism teaches me that pandemics are nothing new. As an aside, I found it interesting that this letter was written in 1492, the same year Christopher Columbus set out to discover America, as stated in this old children's poem, "In 1492, Columbus sailed the ocean blue." Isn't that amazing? Over 500 years ago, Rennyo was describing a situation that we in 2020 still find ourselves in. It's kind of like the earthquakes we have been recently experiencing in Utah. Nothing new; they have been happening for as long as there has been an Earth to quake.

What does Rennyo say to do about it?

"At such a time as this, we should entrust ourselves to Amida Buddha all the more deeply and, realizing that we will be born in the land of utmost bliss, relinquish every bit of doubt, steadfastly and single-heartedly acknowledging how gracious Amida is. Once we have understood this, our saying "Namo amida butsu, Namo amida butsu"- sleeping or waking-is an expression of gratitude conveying our joy and thankfulness (that Amida) readily saves us in this way. This, in other words, is the nenbutsu of gratitude for Buddha's benevolence."

At a recent CBE seminar, I attended on Zoom, someone commented on Rennyo's letters as being rather harsh. I don't think he was harsh, just realistic. Almost like in the movies, when someone goes hysterical and their friend slaps them in the face saying, "Snap out of it!" Rennyo is saying that he understands how during this time of crisis, such as the pandemic 500 years ago or today, because of our human nature, it is quite natural to worry. Then again, because of all this worry and fear, we have been made to see our humanity much more clearly. We should just as clearly realize all that we have to be grateful for. Amida Buddha has specifically vowed to save those of us who are afraid or worried, that we are constantly, anytime and place, always embraced in Amida Buddha's compassionate embrace. Then we can say, "Namo Amida Butsu.... Itadakimasu, I better wash my hands, before I find something to eat?" This is the way of being human. I hope you are well and safe, I look forward to the time we can be together again at the temple, until then, "Namo Amida Butsu... Wash your hands."



In Memory

The Ogden Buddhist Temple Sangha extends its deepest sympathies to the family of the following member who recently passed away.

May the family members find solace and comfort in the Nenbutsu.

Namo Amida Butsu

Danzo "Date" Shiramizu – March 17, 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Members of the Buddhist Church of Ogden,

We are living in a very unfamiliar time; our lives have been turned upside down with the constant reminder of the COVID-19. Some have been given the wonderful challenge of becoming teachers for our children, and grandchildren. We have learned that toilet paper can become a fantastic bartering item, and who would have ever thought you would stand in a long line just to get inside Costco's.

Some have been able to work from home, and have found that a lot of internet providers are having a hard time keeping lap tops, iPads, and smart phones all working in the same household. Not to mention the fun of having all family member in the same household day in and day out, the same faces, same walls, same voices. Others have had the good fortune of keeping the same schedule as before COVID-19. We also know a few have jobs that because of COVID-19 regulations are closed until further notice. These are strange and difficult times, some businesses we've visited for years may not make it through this.

Now to the reason for my letter, as a Temple we also felt the difficult times this virus has presented. We had our BWA sponsored spaghetti dinner that was the first fundraiser to be cancelled. Then in April the Hanamatsuri / Shotsuki Hoyo Service that brings donations from families that don't normally attend our regular service was cancelled. Then the cancellation of Nihon Matsuri in Salt Lake, a great fundraiser that reaches outside of our smaller circle and into the community for donations.

We don't think things will change anytime soon, so May's Sushi Sale, Gotan-E – Shotsuki Hoyo Service and Cemetery Visits on Memorial Day are cancelled for now. As you can see donations are taking a big hit. I challenge those who can to maybe think of what you would have spent at any one of the events that have been cancelled in the past two months. Had you attended the Spaghetti with a family of four that would have been about \$26.00. Nihon Matsuri again is money from the community, but had you attended the Tonkatu plate was \$10.00. Shotsuki Hoyo for March, April, and more than likely May is another donation that we will miss. Oh, and don't forget our BWA Sushi Sale, we sell out every year.

We have set up Venmo and it is easy, even I can do it. The account is: Buddhist Church of Ogden @BuddhistChurchofOgden – If you wish to send a check our address is: Buddhist Church of Ogden PO Box 3248, Ogden, UT 84409-1248.

We are going to make it through this, we are stronger together and the day will come when we can meet together again. In the meantime, Rev. Hirano and Carmela have been hosting discussion/study class on Wednesday night at 7:00. Rev. Hirano is trying to have Sunday services online, Hanamatsuri was held 04/12/2020 and is recorded on Facebook both for Salt Lake and on Ogden's page.

BCA has "Dial The Dharma Phone Messages" It is our hope that all of you continue to adjust to living your daily lives amidst the COVID-19 crisis. This includes not being able to see our family and friends regularly and not being able to gather at our temples regularly for services and other activities. We thank all of the ministers and leaders of our temples who have taken creative steps to share the nembutsu dharma with their member during these trying times such as through live-streaming YouTube, or Zoom gatherings. For members who might not use the computer to access the internet for video Dharma talks or Zoom gathering, the BCA Office of the Bishop has created a "Dial the Dharma" phone messaging service. The phone number is a designated BCA line, and the number is 415-528-7220.

Simply call this number, and a voice will say, "Please wait," and then a short 5-minute message by our new BCA Bishop, Rev. Marvin Harada will follow. The message will be changed periodically.

As a board we held our monthly meeting Tuesday 04/14/2020 on a Zoom Gathering hosted by Geoff Russell, it was so good to see so many of our members. It was also the best attendance we have had for years. All doing well and are healthy, but we are concerned for members that may need help. With our social distancing and the fact that our members are all over the area we may not be aware of the needs of our own members. We must depend on each other to reach out and check on loved ones and members that may not have family in the area. Please if someone needs help, let any board member know. Together we can find a way to help them, but not if we don't know.

We are all looking forward to the time we can gather again, our hope is Obon but we can only take things day by day. Be safe and stay home, wash your hands and keep each other healthy.

In Gassho,
Mike & Annette K.

BUDDHIST WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION DONATIONS

The following donations were accidently omitted from the last GEPP0! Sorry for the late acknowledgment.

Omitted for online version

Current donations:

Omitted for online version

2020 Membership

Ruth S., Bobbie K.-U., Betty S., Debbie K.

Thank you to Kris Y. for donating the favors for our membership party!




Dial the Dharma

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

415-528-7220

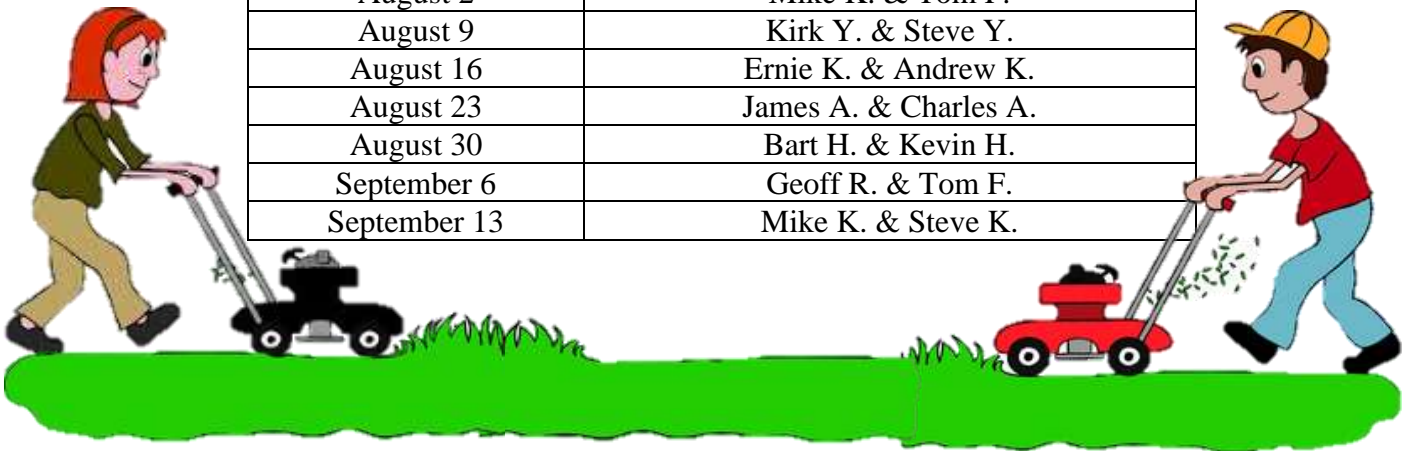
Please dial the number above.
You will be connected to a short Dharma Message from Bishop Harada.
This message will change periodically.

Summer Lawn Mowing Schedule

Thank you to everybody who pitches in every summer to help keep our temple grounds looking fantastic!

Depending on the COVID-19 situation, please follow the CDC Guidelines for social distancing, if necessary.

For the Week Of	Scheduled Group
May 3	Steve K. & Blaine Y.
May 10	Mike K. & Tom F.
May 17	Kirk Y. & Steve Y.
May 24	Ernie K. & Andrew K.
May 31	James A. & Charles A.
June 7	Bart H. & Kevin H.
June 14	Steve K. & Blaine Y.
June 21	Geoff R. & Tom F.
June 28	Kirk Y. & Steve Y.
July 5	Ernie K. & Andrew K.
July 12	James A. & Charles A.
July 19	Bart H. & Kevin H.
July 26	Steve K. & Blaine Y.
August 2	Mike K. & Tom F.
August 9	Kirk Y. & Steve Y.
August 16	Ernie K. & Andrew K.
August 23	James A. & Charles A.
August 30	Bart H. & Kevin H.
September 6	Geoff R. & Tom F.
September 13	Mike K. & Steve K.



CONGRATULATIONS



BISHOP UMEZU
on your Retirement!
Thank you for your
service to BCA.



BISHOP HARADA
on being appointed
BISHOP of the BCA.

Live-Streaming & Recorded Temple Services

There are several temples across the United States that are recording their services and posting them online ~ some on their website, on their Facebook Page, YouTube or Twitter.

Here is a list of temples.

You will need to find the temple method of sharing and then locate the recording.

- Berkeley Buddhist Temple
- Ekoji Buddhist Temple
- Fresno Buddhist Temple (Twitter)
- Midwest Buddhist Temple
- Monterey Peninsula Buddhist Temple
- Mountain View Buddhist Temple
- New York Buddhist Church (YouTube Channel)
- Oakland Buddhist Temple (YouTube Channel)
- Orange County Buddhist Church (Online School: Everyday Buddhist)
- Orange County Buddhist Church (Homepage)
- Orange County Buddhist Church (YouTube Channel)
- Orange County Buddhist Church (Podcast)
- Oregon Buddhist Temple (YouTube Channel)
- Buddhist Church of Sacramento (YouTube Channel)
- Salt Lake Buddhist Temple (Facebook page)
- Buddhist Temple of San Diego (YouTube Channel)
- Buddhist Church of San Francisco (YouTube Channel)
- San Mateo Buddhist Temple
- Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple (YouTube Channel)
- Tacoma Buddhist Temple (YouTube Channel)
- Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple
- Watsonville

You can also go to our webpage: ogdenbuddhistchurch.org and on our home page, there is a hyperlinked list. This will take you directly to the area of the recordings.

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



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

May & June Shotsuki Hoyo

May Shotsuki Hoyo

May 14 1972 Mistuko Hamada Enomoto
 May 16 2006 Etsuko Fujimoto
 May 17 1963 Zentaro Higashiyama
 May 1 1973 Tomene Higashiyama
 May 10 2009 Leo Sumio Iseki
 May 24 1969 Tsunayoshi Iseki
 May 26 1965 Shujiro Kakushi
 May 31 2011 Fumi Ota Kamigaki
 May 20 2014 Dale Kano
 May 29 1969 Buichi Kataoka
 May 10 1960 Tome Kawaguchi
 May 10 2013 Kim Kawashima
 May 1 1968 Keitaro Kikuraku
 May 25 1995 Sumiko Koga
 May 28 2002 Shigeko Koga
 May 4 1954 Kaihei Kosaiku
 May 1 1926 Ruby Kosaiku
 May 24 1991 Tsugi Miyagishima
 May 8 1979 Sakujiro Moriyama
 May 24 1974 Shinayo Nakano
 May 17 1986 Hana Nishihara
 May 31 1961 Tsurukichi Omori
 May 16 1973 Suga Omori
 May 19 2009 Henry E. Riley
 May 19 1969 Ginichi Shigei
 May 4 2013 Kerry Mamoru Shimada
 May 3 1972 Tomeyo Shimada
 May 16 1970 Mike Maseo Shimizu
 May 1 1987 Naka Shiramizu
 May 29 1996 Hisako Teramoto
 May 6 1999 Harry Hisao Teramoto
 May 22 2001 Kiyoshi Kay Watari
 May 16 1993 Yoshiye Yamaguchi
 May 16 1991 Kamesaburo Yamasaki
 May 20 1970 Shigenori Yano
 May 6 1972 Toriko Yei
 May 10 2016 Yoshiko Yokota
 May 27 2017 George Goro Yonemura
 May 26 2012 James Yonemura
 May 30 2006 Daiiche Yoshimura
 May 20 2005 Sumiye M. Yoshimura
 May 27 2001 Masaji Roy Yoshinaga
 May 1 2008 Helen Fujiko Yoshinaga

June Shotsuki Hoyo

June 28 2005 Haruye K. Endo
 June 12 1998 Yoshiyuki George Hirabayashi
 June 16 1998 Shizue Kano
 June 16 1969 Shegejiro Kawaguchi
 June 7 1977 Kanichi Kawaguchi
 June 28 1985 Kiku Kudo
 June 23 1965 Uji Miya
 June 30 1965 James Jusuburo Murakami
 June 24 2001 Hichiro Jim Nakano
 June 23 1994 Mine Ogata
 June 25 1965 Kakutaro Okawa
 June 24 1998 Masao Okuda
 June 6 2000 Kimiko Tsukamoto
 June 27 2016 Arthur Asa Toimoto
 June 29 2016 Masayo Y. Sato
 June 3 2014 Misuko June Shimada
 June 6 2002 Joe Yamashita
 June 26 1976 Suga Yano
 June 11 1993 Tome Yoshimura

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.

2020 Memorial Service Schedule for those who passed away in:

2019 – 1 year	2008 – 13 year	1986 – 33 year
2018 – 3 year	2004 – 17 year	1971 – 50 year
2014 – 7 year	1996 – 25 year	1921 – 100 year

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