

THE GEPPO



A publication of the Buddhist Church of Ogden

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May / June 2023 Issue

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Why Shinran? J.K. Hirano

(This article was originally written in May 2022)

"Faith, then, is a quality of human living. At its best it has taken the form of serenity and courage and loyalty and service: a quiet confidence and joy which enable one to feel at home in the universe, and to find meaning in the world and in one's own life, and meaning that is profound and ultimate, and is stable no matter what may happen to oneself at the level of immediate event. Men and women of this kind of faith face catastrophe and confusion, affluence and sorrow, unperturbed; face opportunity with conviction and drive, and face others with cheerful charity."

The meaning and end of religion Wilfred Cantwell Smith

armela found this quote by Wilfred Cantwell Smith, who was the director of Harvard's Center for the study of World Religions. She used it in one of her talks. When I read this expression of what he believed "faith" to be, I felt it was very compatible with what I believed as a Jodo Shinshu Buddhist. Wilfred Cantwell Smith was not Buddhist. He was an Islamic scholar and a Presbyterian minister. Cantwell Smith did not like the word "religion" and preferred faith. He explained he did not like the word "religion" as a thing, a noun. But preferred it as an adjective, expressing something we do, how we live. He had explained that the word "Religion" was a relatively new western idea.

I had also learned this from my teachers in Japan. They said although the Japanese word "Shukyo" was used for the Japanese word for religion. This word was created to compare Japanese beliefs to those of the western world's word religion. It was so that there could be a discussion of beliefs between Christianity and Japanese religious beliefs, but it really wasn't a perfect word for this type of discussion. The word "Religion" comes from the Latin "Religare" which means: "binding or connecting to God. Shukyo had the characters for "Essential and Teaching," not really the same. I don't want this article to be a discussion about what religion is. I think we all have a basic understanding when we talk about religion. However, for some reason this quote brought back memories concerning how I chose Jodo Shinshu as my religion, my faith. I believe it is because of the honesty I have found in Shinran Shonin.

First of all, I remember the moment I discovered that my religion and the world I lived in were intimately related. This revelation brought me from a childhood idea of religion as Sunday and temple activities with friends, to something that could directly tie to my living in this world. I'm not sure of the exact date, but this memory must have been about 1967 or 68.

My father never bought new cars and I remember our family car at the time was a light blue 1963 Buick Special station wagon. It was the car I learned to drive in. Therefore the time frame had to be between 1965 to 1974 when I turned 16. I'm thinking I was about 11 or 12. I remember my dad waiting outside the temple for my sister Joni and I to come out from Sunday School. I couldn't wait to tell him what I learned that Sunday. Because I had learned the answer to every question in the world! As I jumped into the front seat of the car, before he could say anything I said, "Dad, ask me any question! Anything, because I know the answer!" "Okay, Jerry. Why do you seem so excited?"

From that moment, I began to realize that religion was interesting, and my religion was important in finding the answers to why I was alive. As I entered high school, I would see my neighborhood friends start to get ready to go on their missions for church. Their church was the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS) also known as the Mormon Church. At the time, all members of good standing, at the age of 18 would go on a church mission. You have probably seen them, dressed in their white shirts and tie, with a name tag that says "Brother ______." All of them going on missions, really made me wonder about religion and why it was so important to put off college and life for two years and go wherever the authorities of the Mormon Church told you to go. And your family paid for it all! I really think this experience of all of my friends suddenly "Finding Religion" made me wonder of my own belief.

I remember when my Dad gave me a copy of the red seiten that Tri State Buddhist Temples had published. It was one of the first books in English on Jodo Shinshu that I had every read. I started off with trying to read the sutras. I was so disappointed. The sutras had all of these fantastical stories, not really that different from when I tried to read the Bible or Book of Mormon. I then came upon Tannisho (A Record in Lament of Differences). For those that do not know, Tannisho was a very short 18 chapters written in the late 13th century, thought to have been written by Yuien, a student of Shinran Shonin. Within this book I found a number of passages where Shinran spoke about his true feelings, which was so different than what I found in other religions. Shinran also refers to himself as "foolish" and honestly states that he doesn't have all the answers. In chapter two he states, "Such in the end, is how this foolish person entrusts himself to the Vow. Beyond this, whether you take up and accept the nembutsu or whether you abandon it is for each of you to determine." This honestly made me want to find out more.

The basic teachings of Buddhism, such as the eightfold path or four noble truths are pretty self-evident in what they are expressing. However, many of the details of Shakyamuni Buddha's life and the historical development of Jodo Shinshu are clouded in myth. In the Kalama Sutra, Shakyamuni Buddha emphasizes how we should question the teachings and not just accept what a teacher or elder has told us. The more I studied, the more I found that the great Buddhist teachers especially in our Jodo Shinshu teaching, emphasized our questioning. Shinran Shonin was the greatest example of this.

Obon is a time of stories and myths. It could be misunderstood as a very superstitious time. There is a movie that I love called "Coco." It is a movie about the Mexican tradition of Dia del los Muertos (Day of the Dead). It is an animated movie about the land of the living and the dead. I think it is so close to the myth of our Obon. I had a discussion with a friend of mine Reiko I., who is the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin's Obon dance instructor, about how I love the movie and the song "Remember me" and how I wish someone would choreograph and Obon dance about this. To my surprise, she did. And we added this dance to our Obon in Salt Lake and Ogden.

[&]quot;Cause and effect!"

[&]quot;What do you mean cause and effect?" said Dad.

[&]quot;Today I learned that everything in the world is the result of cause and effect. This is a Buddhist term called "Karma!" I said, bursting with pride at my discovery. "Ask me any question and the answer is Karma!"

Obon and Dia del los Muertos are both religious holidays about how we respond to the death of a loved one. This is not about truth or non-truth. These stories are about methods and teachings that cannot be quantifiable by machines or science. They are stories about how we deal with very real issues in our life, such as birth, sickness, old age and death. In some cases, it seems contradictory to accept these stories and search for truth. I believe, this is where I have had to trust my teacher. Shinran has never disappointed me.

As Shinran states, "whether you abandon it is for each of you to determine." It is my hope in trying to teach, that you will find the Truth in the Jodo Shinshu teachings in your life and will join us for Obon. In closing I would like to use a quote from the postscript to Tannisho which is attributed to Shinran.

"When I consider deeply the Vow of Amida, which arose from five kalpas of profound thought, I realize that it was entirely fir the sake of myself alone! Then how I am filled with gratitude for the Primal Vow, in which Amida resolved to save me, though I am burdened with such heavy karma"

Namo Amida Butsu



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello, I hope that everyone is well.

Mike K. and I attended the National Council Meeting. An item that was passed: for Fiscal Year 2024 (April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024) the temple dues contribution to the BCA budget is \$1,948,200.00. A census of BCA temple membership numbers conducted in January 2023 resulted in the number of BCA members for assessment purposes to be 10,994, a 4% decrease from last year's number. The per-member temple dues assessment is \$177.21 per member, a 6.2% per-member dues increase.

Ogden City has started widening the North Street Road. The city is adding a third lane, shoulder parking with curb and gutters. The city is in the process of purchasing church property for this project. The contractor has started work on irrigation and sewer piping. In May the contractor is planning to work on storm drain, hydrants, and culinary services. The city is planning to increase the church water meter to 1-1/2-inch size. This will improve church water pressure. Rocky Mountain Power is planning to install an underground church power service and install new pad transformer. In June the contractor is planning to install curb and gutters. The project should be completed at the end of August. If you have any questions, you can contact the Ogden Church Design Review Team (LaVerne K., Ernie K., Steven K., Mike K., and Thomas F.).

In Gassho, Thomas F.



NORTH STREET EXPANSION UPDATE

Construction has begun on North Street. Currently the best way to enter North Street is to enter from the east-off Harrisville Road. Our fence has been removed and the entrance to the parking lot is a little rough but accessible. Please drive slowly and carefully.



BWA NEWS By Brenda K.



"Thankfulness is the quickest path to joy." -- Jefferson Bethke

As the year progresses the Buddhist Women's Association members continue to move ahead with all their activities and projects. March 5th was our annual membership party at the Greenery Restaurant followed by fun games of Bingo back at the temple. Congratulations to Jeannie P. for winning the big drawing for \$50. Thank you to Shauna R.'s toban group plus others for organizing the events. BIG thanks to Kris Y. for her beautiful table decorations! Andrew K. was our excellent Bingo caller, and we are glad to announce that he has decided to join the BWA. We are excited to have Andrew as an official member since he has assisted us with some of our endeavors for several years now.







Upcoming on April 29, 2023 will be the Nihon Matsuri street festival in Salt Lake City, and our temple will be participating in this event. The BWA has made over 700 pieces of fukashi manju to sell in our temple's booth along with mochi bites. Thank you to all those who helped with the manju making and those who have volunteered to make mochi bites. Please support this fund raising event if possible and hope for a successful festival.

Upcoming on May 21st in conjunction with the Gotan-E service, the BWA will hold their annual sushi fundraiser. We are asking all members available to come help with the preparations on **Saturday**, **May 20th at 9:00 a.m.** and **Sunday May 21st at 8:00 a.m.** If you have further questions, please contact Tami Hirai or any BWA member.

At our last meeting on April 23 it was decided to support the minister assistants, Geoff R. and James A., with their formal tokudo attire that is required by the Buddhist Churches of America and the Hongwangi in Japan. The members voted to provide each participant \$1500 toward the purchase of the necessary garments and accessories to complete their formal items of dress.

In preparation for the temple's upcoming Obon festival, the BWA will be making manju to sell at this event on July 15. The members will be gathering on **June 24 at 9:00 a.m.** to make fukashi manju and **July 13 at 9:00 a.m.** to make the mochi manju. Please put these dates in your calendar and be at the temple at these times if you would like to assist with this project. We thank you in advance for your willingness to help.

Our next meeting will be a **ZOOM meeting** on **June 1 at 7:00 p.m.** We would appreciate your attendance to discuss further issues and activities.

BWA DONATIONS

OMITTED FOR ONLINE VERSION



BWA MEMBERSHIP

OMITTED FOR ONLINE VERSION

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS





Our annual Keirokai lunch was held in conjunction with the spring Ohigan service, on March 19th. The Dharma School prepared and served a delicious chowmein meal. Special thanks to **Marie S.** for sharing her talents to make the amazing chowmein! Thank you to everyone who came to help with the preparations of the meal.



On April 9th, our wonderful and talented Dharma School students participated in the church Hanamatsuri program. The students all did a great job entertaining us. Our appreciation to **Maya C.** for practicing and coordinating with the elementary students on there rendition of "Buddha Loves You." And a big thank you to **Cy Z.** on his creative origami storytelling, reminding us all about the important Buddhist concept of Impermanence. Cy did a great job!!! Also, thank you to **Robyn H.** and **Justine H.** for coordinating the Dharma School dessert sale during the Hanamatsuri lunch to help fund the Lagoon Day lunch.

Speaking of which, the Dharma School Lagoon Day is scheduled for Sunday, June 11th. Discount tickets are available for \$69.95 + tax (yes, this price is lower than any other discount found!) Due to a change in Lagoon's park policy, the Dharma School will be furnishing all-you-can-eat burgers, hotdogs, drinks and sides from 1-2 pm only. Please note these changes from our past arrangements and let me know if anyone has any questions.

Jumping back to May, our annual Hatsumairi, infant presentation, will be held in conjunction with our Gotan-E service on Sunday, May 21st. If you have a baby or maybe a grand baby you would like to present to our Sangha, please contact Kris Y. or myself. (See form at the end of the Geppo)

Finally, we will be honoring our graduates during a special service on Sunday, June 18th. We will be honoring:

• Bryson H.

Bryson will be graduating from Westminster College with a bachelor's degree in Finance. While attending college, Bryson has excelled academically and has been on the college's golf team.

• Kyra H.

Kyra will be graduating with a bachelor's degree in Accounting and Gender Studies from the University of Utah. She has been an honor student and is entering the master's degree program in accounting at the University of Washington.

Our congratulations to our graduates! Please join us on June 18th to honor both Bryson and Kyra.

In Gassho, LaVerne K.



Great job



Dharma School Class performing Buddha Loves You





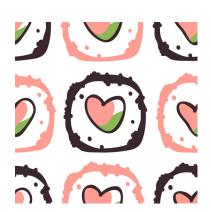
Cy Z. performing his original story *The Journey*

DHARMA SCHOOL DONATIONS

OMITTED FOR ONLINE VERSION

Taiko Group Donations

OMITTED FOR ONLINE VERSION



ANNUAL BWA SUSHI SALE May 21, 2023



The annual BWA Sushi Sale will be on May 21, 2023 following Gotan-E Service.

All information and a <u>pre-order form</u> is available at the end of the GEPPO.

<u>ALL proceeds will go to the Ogden Buddhist Church!</u>



LAWN SCHEDULE

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

Week of	Scheduled People
4/30/2023	Steve K., Blaine Y., Bruce F.
5/07/2023	Mike K., Tom F., Craig S.K.
5/14/2023	Kirk Y., Betty Y., Steve Y.
5/21/2023	Ernie K., Geoff R., Andrew K.
5/28/2023	James A., Charles A., Chris H.
6/04/2023	Bart H., Kevin H.
6/11/2023	Blaine Y., Billy Z., Bruce F.
6/18/2023	Mike K., Tom F., Craig S.
6/25/2023	Kirk Y., Betty Y., Steve Y.
7/02/2023	Ernie K., Andrew K., Steve K.
7/09/2023	James A., Charles A., Chris H.
7/16/2023	Bart H., Kevin H.
7/23/2023	Steve K., Blaine Y., Billy Z.
7/30/2023	Ernie K., Geoff R., Andrew K.
8/06/2023	Mike K., Tom F., Craig S.
8/13/2023	Kirk Y., Betty Y., Steve Y.
8/20/2023	James A., Charles A., Chris H.
8/27/2023	Bart H., Kevin H.
9/03/2023	Steve K., Blaine Y., Bruce F.
9/10/2023	Mike K., Kirk Y., Geoff R.

May Shotsuki Hoyo

May 21, 2023 at 10:00 AM

M	14 1072	Mid 1 II 1 E
May	14 1972	
May	16 2006	3
May	15 2022	2
May	17 1963	• •
May	1 1973	ē ;
May	10 2009	
May	24 1969	•
May	26 1965	3
May	31 2011	Fumi Ota Kamigaki
May	20 2014	
May	29 1969	
May	10 1960	<u> </u>
May	10 2013	
May	1 1968	
May	25 1995	e e
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	15 2019	Max Ryujin
May	19 1969	Ginichi Shigei
May	4 2013	Kerry Mamoru Shimada
May	3 1972	•
May	16 1970	Mike Maseo Shimizu
May	1 1987	Naka Shiramizu
May	29 1996	
May	6 1999	Harry Hisao Teramoto
May	22 2001	Kiyoshi Kay Watari
May	16 1993	Yoshiye Yamaguchi
May	16 1991	Kamesaburo Yamasaki
May	21 2011	Mitsuru "Sootie" Yamasaki
May	20 1970	Shigenori Yano
May	6 1972	•
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
iviay	1 2000	Tieren Fujiko Fosiiniaga

June Shotsuki Hoyo

June 11, 2023 at 10:00 AM

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June 28 2005 Haruye K. Endo
June 12 1998 Yoshiyuki George Hirabayashi
June 16 1998 Shizue Kano
June 16 1969 Shigejiro 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 20 2020 Kiyoshi Nakayu
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
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For those years not having a specific memorial service such as 2nd, 4th, 5th, etc. the temple is holding these monthly Shotsuki Hoyo. During these services, the temple will list the names of those member who have died during the month in the preceding years. The families then attend that monthly service in memory of their loved one. These services are <u>not</u> meant to replace the specific memorial services. Please contact Rev. Hirano to make arrangements for those services. Rev. Hirano contact information - Office: 801-363-4742, Emergency: 801-819-2648

June 11 1993 Tome Yoshimura

2023 Memorial Service Schedule for those who passed away in:

2022 - 1 year	2011 - 13 year
1989 - 33 year	2021 - 3 year
2007 - 17 year	1974 - 50 year
2017 - 7 year	1999 - 25 year
1924 - 100 year	



GOTAN-E May Shotsuki Hoyo Hatsumairi Sunday, May 21, 2023 Service at 10:00 a.m.

This service is to celebrate the birth of Shinran Shonin (1173-1262), the founder of our sect. It is also called Fujimatsuri in reference to the Wisteria flower which represents our sect. Unlike other flowers which seem to stand up straight and tall when in full blossom, the wisteria hangs down, when in full bloom, as if in humility. This teaches us that a true and real human being does not stand up in arrogance at their accomplishments, but rather realizes that they have so much for which to be grateful.

In connection with this very special observance, we hold Shosanshiki also know as Hatsumairi (First visit ceremony) or Infant Presentation service. This service is held for all children born into our Sangha over the past year. It is a day to present the child to Buddha and to the Sangha, and to celebrate their first step upon following the Dharma.



MEMORIAL DAY CEMETERY SERVICE SCHEDULE Monday, May 29, 2023

Memorial Day Cemetery Services will be as follows: 10:00 a.m. at Syracuse Cemetery 10:45 a.m. at Washington Heights Cemetery 11:15 a.m. at Ogden City Cemetery



JUNE SHOTSUKI HOYO Sunday, June 11, 2023 Service at 10:00 a.m.

Hat's Off To You!!!

Featured in the Spring 2023 edition of the Wildcat WSU Alumni magazine is **Andrew K.** who was interviewed for a featured article on the internment camps and the incarceration of West Coast Japanese residents (and others) during World War II. Andrew's grandmother was interned at the Topaz War Relocation Center near Delta, Utah. This particular edition of the Wildcat magazine focuses on the Japanese American experience during World War II. Also included in this article is Kunie O.'s family story, which mentions her aunt, Mildred M., both emeritus professors at Weber State University. You may read the full article here:

https://www.weber.edu/wsumagazine/japanese-american-incarceration.html





SCRIP ORDERS

It's difficult to think of spring with all the snow showers we are experiencing, but before you know it, Mother's Day, Father's Day and graduations will be upon us. Think about scrips if you're going out for dinner, or want to purchase a special gift. Below are the scrip order dates:

Submit Order	Scrip Received
May 1, 2023 (Monday)	May 7, 2023 Mother's Day May 14 & Graduations
June 4, 2023 (Sunday)	June 11, 2023 Father's Day June 18
July 2, 2023 (Sunday)	July 9, 2023
August 6, 2023 (Sunday)	August 13, 2023

If you have any questions or want to place your order, please contact me <omitted>.com or call me at <omitted>.

In Gassho, Suzan Y.



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 donations made, please feel free to contact me at <omitted> or my email address is <omitted> Thank you, Betty Y.

PAGES 12 - 14 OMITTED FOR ONLINE VERSION

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
May 2023						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 9:00 am - Meditation 10:00 am - Dharma Service 11:00 am - Adult Discussion	8	9 7:00 pm - Board Meeting	10	11	12	13
14 9:00 am - Meditation 10:00 am - Dharma Service* 11:00 am - Dharma School 11:00 am - Adult Discussion	15	16	17	18	19	20 9:00 am BWA Sushi Prep
21 9:00 am - Meditation 10:00 am - Gotan-E / May Shotsuki Hoyo, Hatsumairi* 11:00 am - Dharma School - Adult Discussion - BWA Sushi Sale	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 No Services	29 Memorial Day Cemetery Services: 10:00 am 10:45 am 11:15 am	30	31			

TOBAN CLEANING GROUP:

Geoff & Linda R. (Toban Cleaning Leader) Ruth S.



^{*}Service with Rev. Hirano

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
June 20		UN	D Francis			
				1 7:00 pm - BWA Meeting (ZOOM)	2	3
4 NO SERVICES	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 9:00 am - Meditation 10:00 am - Dharma Service* 11:00 am - Adult Discussion Dharma School Lagoon Day	12	13 7:00 pm - Board Meeting	14	15	16	17
18 9:00 am - Meditation 10:00 am - Dharma Service / June Shotsuki Hoyo / Graduation* 11:00 am - Adult Discussion	19	20	21	22	23	24 9:00 am - BWA Manju Making
25 NO SERVICES	26 7:00 pm - Dance Practice	27	28 7:00 pm - Dance Practice	29	30 7:00 pm - Dance Practice	

TOBAN CLEANING GROUP:

Mike & Annette K. (Toban Cleaning Leader) Maya C. Julia F.





BIG THANKS to all those who came out to clean up our temple grounds! There was a lot to do and it had been a long winter. We're now ready for summer. THANK YOU for your hard work!





OBON DANCE PRACTICE

All practices begin at 7:00 p.m.



Monday, June 26 Wednesday, June 28 Friday, June 30 Monday, July 3 Wednesday, July 5 Friday, July 7 Monday, July 10 Wednesday, July 12

New dances this year! Come and join the fun!

OBON FESTIVAL Saturday, July 15, 2023

OBON/HATSUBON SERVICE Sunday, July 16, 2023





HATSUMAIRI INFANT PRESENTATION

Our Hatsumairi (infant presentation) will be held in conjunction with the Gotan-E service on May 21st. Please let us know if you have a baby in your family or if you know of a baby born in the last year.

We are excited to recognize all our new Dharma School babies during this annual presentation.

*Please complete the form below and email to Kris Y. at <omitted>

Infant Full Name:	
N. A. A. N.	
Mother's Name:	
Father's Name:	
Poby's Pirth Data	
Daby 8 Diffil Date.	
Full Address:	
Phone Number:	
Fac	th infant will receive a special certificate and ojuzu for coming.
Lac	in initialit with receive a special certificate and ofuzu for coming.

BWA SUSHI FUND RAISER





\$12.00 per plate

Available for pick-up between 11:00 am and 12 noon following Gotan-E Service on Sunday, May 21st.

All proceeds to benefit the Ogden Buddhist Church



BWA SUSHI FUND RAISER

Sushi plates will be ready for pick-up between 11:00 am and 12 noon following Gotan-E Service - Sunday, May 21, 2023.

Your name:		
# of plates ordered x \$12.00 e	each = \$ total due	<u>.</u>

Give to any BWA member or mail in with your check to:
P.O. Box 3248 Ogden, UT 84409
Please make checks payable to: The Ogden Buddhist Church
OR
You can VENMO @BuddhistChurchofOgden

You can VENMO @BuaanistChurchotOgaer Please note: SUSHI, your name, # of plates

ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY Friday, May 12, 2023

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!