



# THE GEPPPO



A publication of the Buddhist Church of Ogden

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Buddhist Church of Ogden

## OBON FESTIVAL

**Saturday, July 16, 2022**

**Salt Lake Taiko - 7:30 pm**

**Bon Odori 8:00 pm**

**Ogden Buddhist Taiko Group - Intermission**

**NO FOOD SALES**

**Only snacks & drinks sold**

**Masks Recommended**

## **Gathering of Joy (Kangi E)**

**J.K. Hirano**

*Obon, Obon it's festival day!  
We will gather friends all along the way  
and bring fruits and vegetables for the shrine.  
Like Mogallana many, many years ago.  
Obon, Obon it's festival day!  
All our humble thanks we will here convey,  
to our dearly loved ones who lived in the past.  
With nembutsu, nembutsu 'pon our lips.  
Obon, Obon it's festival day!  
O' the streets are lined with our lanterns gay,  
and the wind bells twinkling a top the trees.  
Sway to and fro, to and fro in the breeze.  
Obon, Obon it's festival day!*

Words and music by Yumiko Hojo

Some of you may remember this song from our old temple service books. However, we have not held an in-person Obon dance for the past two years. For myself, it feels as though without our annual Obon festival, the dance and the service, a large part of the temple's life and culture have been missing. We have celebrated the Hatsubon service, which is the first Obon after someone dies and I believe this is a somewhat sad occasion. However, this sadness is balanced with the joy of the Obon dance, which we have missed for two years.

For those of us who grew up at the temple, although we are taught that the most important holiday at the temple is Hoonko or Gotan E, I bet that eighty or ninety percent of you reading this aren't sure what either of these holidays are about and I'm not going to tell you. If you want to know, you will have to look it up. But, if I were to mention Obon and Hanamatsuri, you would probably be able to give me some sort of explanation. However, would you know what Kangi E was? Hint, hint, look at the title of this article.

This song I began this article with is the only Obon song I know in English. I knew Mrs. Yumiko Hojo when I was a minister at the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin. She is still alive and over 100 years old. Her husband was Rev. Eijitsu Hojo, the first Rinban of the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin. He was one of the ministers that I deeply respected. He helped and guided me a great deal when I was a beginning minister. Mrs. Hojo would invite me to their home for dinners. When I would thank her, she would always tell me it was Rev. Hojo's excuse to buy some good alcohol to drink. These are wonderful memories. Although when I arrived in San Jose, they were retired, they were what we now call a "power couple." Mrs. Hojo was a classically trained pianist, having graduated from the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. After they married in 1941, she helped Rev. Hojo with his ministry at the Stockton Buddhist Temple and the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin. She also worked to develop music for the Buddhist Churches of America. As a side note, Rev. Hojo was also a minister for a short time in Salt Lake, in the late 1930s. It's interesting how so many of our lives are connected to one another. Mrs. Hojo was also a good friend of our temple member Mr. Kay Terashima and his brother Ben. They both worked on Mrs. Hojo's family farm in Suisun, California. I believe these connections to one another are the essence of our Obon Festival and the name that our sect of Buddhism Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji Ha calls Kangi E (gathering of joy).

*Rev. Hirano's article continued on next page*

Many of you know the origin of Obon comes from the Ullambana Sutra and the story of Shakyamuni Buddha's disciple Moggallana, also known as Maudgalyayana or Mokuren Sonja in Japanese. This is a sutra that emphasizes filial piety. It is the story of Moggallana using his psychic powers to find his mother after her death, finding her in the world of the "Hungry ghosts." Not knowing what to do, he asks the Buddha for guidance. The Buddha instructs him to feed the other disciples as a form of Dana (selfless giving). Having done as he was told, Moggallana once again looked for his mother and found that she had been freed from being a hungry ghost and he began to dance in Joy. Thus begins the tradition of dancing at Obon.

However, I believe that the idea of dancing and joy and Bon dancing is much more than just a Buddhist or Japanese story. Within each of our lives, we find joy and sadness. This life we live is a balance of both. During Obon we hold the memorial service for the members of our temple who have passed away over the previous year. It is a time when we remember those who have done many things so that we may live. To begin to understand our lives we must look at this legacy and how so many people, places and things have had to be just right, so we could be live. It is an intricate balance that is almost impossible to realize. For us as Jodo Shinshu Buddhists, the fulcrum of this balance of life, death, good, evil, joy and sadness is what we call the Nembutsu (Namo Amida Butsu). I believe that this need for balance is necessary for all of us as human beings.

A few years ago, 2017 to be exact, Disney released an animated movie called "Coco." I love Disney but I don't especially like animated movies; I have a tendency to fall asleep in them. However, a good friend of mine Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto told me I should watch "Coco." I have expressed many times, Rev. Matsumoto is one of the smartest people I have ever met. I believe he is also the finest Jodo Shinshu scholar in the Western world. I'm lucky because he is one of my best friends and he knows me well. In one of our conversations he said, "Jerry, you should check out the new movie 'Coco.' It will make you cry." Although I secretly cry at movies, it's something I was surprised David would know. And I watched this movie, which is about a young Mexican boy and his experience of the Mexican holiday Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), I cried. In this movie Miguel the young boy, travels across a bridge into the land of the dead, to find his great, great grandfather. Within this movie, there were so many ideas and images that reminded me of our own Obon traditions. It is about love, family, the land of the living and the land of the dead, our connections to one another that although we may not be consciously aware of; make us who and what we are.

I may be in the minority, but I have always believed that if concepts and ideas in our Western culture, which is usually very Judeo-Christian, our culture should also reflect concepts and ideas from our Jodo Shinshu culture. Otherwise, Jodo Shinshu culture would just be another way of saying Japanese. And although I am ethnically Japanese, I am Japanese American, with emphasis on American. Well, to make a long story short, I told a friend of mine, Reiko Iwanaga whose professional dance name is Hanayagi Reimichi, how much I liked the movie and it would be great if someone would choreograph an Obon dance to the song "Remember Me" from this movie. To my surprise, she called me a few months ago and told me she had created a dance for this song. So this year at Salt Lake and Ogden's Obon Festival, we will be introducing this new dance. I hope you will be able to join us, hopefully before we are holding your Hatsubon!

*There is a land of the living and a land of the dead and the bridge is love, the only survival, the only meaning.*  
- Thornton Wilder



## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Hope everyone is doing well. I wanted to begin by thanking everyone for their continued support of the Ogden Buddhist Temple throughout this year so far. I also wanted to thank the board members and volunteers for their tireless efforts in keeping the temple operating as well. As you all might have noticed, we are taking our annual summer break from our regularly scheduled services, which means that Obon is just around the corner. This is a special time for us Jodo Shinshu Buddhists as we take this opportunity to reflect on our ancestors and the sacrifices that they made, in order for us to be here today. It’s during this moment of reflection, that we embrace our past and join together in sharing the dharma while participating in the traditional Obon festivities and service. This year, due to Covid, we are having our Obon Festival on Saturday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, which will be open to our sangha members and not to the general public. On Sunday, July 17<sup>th</sup>, we will be gathering at the three cemeteries consisting of Syracuse, Washington Heights, and Ogden followed by our Obon Service at the temple. We are looking forward to seeing everyone there, in the meantime however, please enjoy your summer.

In Gassho,  
James



## OBON DONATION LIST

In order for the church to plan ahead, we are asking our members and friends if there is anything they can donate to help us offset some of the costs

2 - 1 gallon soy sauce	4 - 12 pack Coke
1 - large bottle Yoshida sauce	4 - 12 pack Diet Coke
1 - 10-12 oz. bottle toasted sesame oil	4 - 12 pack Lemonade
1 - large box plastic forks	4 - 12 pack Sprite
	13 - 24 packs of 8 oz water bottles

If you can help us, please let Ruth S. know what you can donate **NO LATER THAN JULY 10** and when you-can bring it to the church. Ruth can be reached at \*omitted for online version\*.



## OBON MEMORIAL LANTERNS

Our memorial lanterns will return for this year’s Obon. This is a special way to remember those we have lost.  
Please see the order form at the end of the GEPP0 for information

## In Memory

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

*May the family members find solace and comfort in the Nembutsu.  
Namo Amida Butsu*

**Aiko Inouye Hamada ~ May 15, 2022**

## OBON DANCE PRACTICE

All practices begin at 7:00 p.m.

**Masks will be required.**



Friday, July 1  
Wednesday, July 6  
Friday, July 8  
Monday, July 11  
Wednesday, July 13

**4 new dances this year! Come and join the fun!**

One of our new dances this year will be to music from the Disney movie “Coco.” Here is Rev Hirano’s explanation of how this dance came about:

One of my favorite quotes in English which expresses my feelings for Obon is written by Thornton Wilder

*“There is a land of the living and the land of the dead and the bridge is love, the only survival, the only meaning.”*

When I saw the Disney movie “Coco” I felt it expressed this same idea. And the song from Coco was “Remember Me.” I told my good friend Reiko Iwanaga, the lead instructor for the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin, how much I liked that movie and song and would really like it to be made into a Obon dance. She not only choreographed this dance, but made the extra effort to have the song recorded by the San Jose Chidori band and had it sung in English, Spanish and Japanese. I hope that this dance can reflect how Obon is a time for remembering our loved ones and that our dancing can also be a bridge between the land of the living and dead, across cultures.

Namo Amida Butsu



## BWA NEWS

By Brenda K'



*Dream as if you'll live forever. Live as if you'll die today. –James Dean*

The Buddhist Women's Association ladies are charging full force ahead. On May 22, 2022 they had their sushi sale which once again was a huge success, selling out quickly with the proceeds donated to the temple's general fund for operating expenses. Thank you so much to all the ladies who donated much of the ingredients and dedicated their time to make the orders. We finished in record time and were able to rest a bit before attending the Gotan-E service.

At the last meeting of June 12 discussion centered on the Obon luncheon which will consist of a bento box prepared by Ellen K's toban group. Also, discussed was the upcoming bazaar or fund raising event at that time. The BWA will once again make a quilt to raffle off, and a schedule was established for the quilting.

Big Thank You to Darlene M. for prepping the quilt material. Here is a sneak peek at this year's material.



**August 21, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.** will be the initial session to set up the quilt and mark it, **August 28 at 10:00** will be a **BWA meeting** followed by the **second quilting session**. Darlene M. will then finish the quilt off and Lorraine S. will sew matching pillow cases. There will be no meeting in July, then a **meeting August 28 at 10:00 a.m.** and another meeting is scheduled for **September 11 at 11:00 a.m.**, following service.

Our deepest appreciation is extended to the ladies of the BWA who work endlessly to keep the temple afloat. It is through much of your efforts that the temple is able to continue.

## BWA DONATIONS

Omitted for online version

## BWA MEMBERSHIP

Kyoko M,  
Naomi N. M.

Tena M.  
Debbie K.

## DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

The Dharma School conducted our first Dharma School class since the pandemic shut down services in 2020. On June 12th, we had a short, outdoor class since the weather was so nice.

We want to recognize and honor our high school graduates for this year as follows:

### **Kelsie H.**

Kelsie graduated from Bonneville High School. Kelsie was not only a stand-out academically, but she also played on the high school volleyball and softball teams. Kelsie will be attending Weber State University this fall.

### **Colton H.**

Colton graduated from Clearfield High School. In addition to doing well in the classroom, Colton was a member of the golf team and was manager of the baseball team. Colton will be attending the University of Utah this fall.

Our congratulations to our graduates!  
In Gassho.  
LaVerne K.



## HATSUMAIRI

In conjunction with our Gotan-E service on May 22nd, we were able to welcome our newest Dharma School students during our annual infant presentation of “Hatsumairi”, after a two year absence. The following children were recognized during our presentation:



**Victoria E,  
Royce E,**  
Parent: Caprice C,

**Theo Annette K.**  
Parents: Scott & Brittany K,

**Kai Talon F,**  
Parents: Jesse & Michelle F,

**Keilani Val G,**  
Parents: Tyrell & Morgan G,

## DHARMA SCHOOL DONATIONS

Omitted for online version

## TAIKO GROUP DONATION

Omitted for online version



## SUMMER LAWN MOWING SCHEDULE



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



Week of	Scheduled People
7/3/2022	Ernie K., Andrew K., Steve K.
7/10/2022	James A., Charles A., Chris H..
7/17/2022	Bart H., Kevin H.
7/24/2022	Steve K., Blaine Y., Billy Z.
7/31/2022	Ernie K., Geoff R., Andrew K.
8/7/2022	Mike K., Tom F., Craig S.
8/14/2022	Kirk Y., Betty Y., Steve Y.
8/21/2022	James A., Charles A., Chris H.
8/28/2022	Bart H., Kevin H.
9/4/2022	Steve K., Blaine Y., Bruce F.
9/11/2022	Mike K., Kirk Y., Geoff R.



**OBON**  
**Sunday, July 17, 2022**

**Cemetery Service Schedule:**

**9:30 a.m. Syracuse**

**10:15 a.m. Washington Terrace**

**10:45 a.m. Ogden**

**Obon / Hatsubon Service**

**July Shotsuki Hoyo**

**11:15 a.m.**

Otoki Lunch following service

*This special service is held on the Sunday following the Obon Festival. This memorial service is held in dedication and gratitude for all the members of our Sangha who have died over the previous year. Its basis is the same as our Obon Festival. Kangi-E is the name used traditionally in our Jodo Shinshu Tradition. This name represents the joy we feel for Amida Buddha's vow to save all sentient beings and the joy in knowing our deceased Sangha members are likewise embraced in that compassion.*

"Hatsubon" literally means the first obon. Hatsubon is a Buddhist ceremony commemorating the first anniversary of a loved one's passing.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**For in-person services, COVID-19 protocols will be in place:**

**masks, social distancing and vaccinations.**

**There will be no chanting or singing by the Sangha.**

**July Shotsuki Hoyo**  
**July 17, 2022 at 11:15 a.m.**

July 16	2016	Minoru Aoki
July 16	2016	Manabu Fujimoto
July 21	2012	Ryuji Dick Hirasuna
July 7	1990	Bessie Toki Hokoda
July 22	1995	Mito Imaizumi
July 17	1961	Kantaro Inouye
July 10	1977	Kinshiro Itakura
July 5	1984	Yuki Kawashima
July 3	1982	Reiko Koga
July 24	2016	Kay Kazue Kuroiwa
July 3	1982	Shigeru Sam Matsumura
July 28	1986	Taki Mayeda
July 12	1977	Manji Miya
July 6	1977	Kichiro Morimoto
July 20	1965	Monkichi Murakami
July 1	1995	Sam Sunao Nagata
July 1	1977	Bukatsu Nakahara
July 30	2010	Jack Nisogi
July 14	1991	Tome Sakiyama
July 25	2015	Roy Hideo Shiki
July 25	2004	Emma Yayoi Stewart
July 7	1971	Heibei Sugimoto
July 24	2013	James R. Summers
July 3	1984	John N. Takabayashi
July 8	1982	Tome Taura
July 30	1999	Minoru Watanabe
July 23	2005	Lily Watari
July 10	2007	Tomio Yamada
July 22	1986	Hiroshi Yamasaki
July 17	2004	Seiichi Yei

**Obon and Hatsubon Memorial Service**  
**July 17, 2022 at 11:15 a.m.**

*This memorial service is held in dedication and gratitude for all the members of our Sangha who have died over the previous year.*

Hatsubon observance will be held for the following members:

**Masako Fujinami Ryujin**  
**Bessie Yonetani Oakes**  
**Aiko Inouye Hamada**

**2022 Memorial Service Schedule for those who passed away in:**

2021 - 1 year	2010 - 13 year	1988 - 33 year
2020 - 3 year	2006 - 17 year	1973 - 50 year
2016 - 7 year	1998 - 25 year	1923 - 100 year

**AUGUST Shotsuki Hoyo will be posted in the September Geppo**

For those years not having a specific memorial service such as 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 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 not 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.

# 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](mailto:yamiek@netscape.net).**

**Thank You, Betty Yamashita**

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat		
<h1>July 2022</h1>					1	2		
			3	4	5	6 Obon Dance Practice 7:00 pm	7	8 Obon Dance Practice 7:00 pm
10	11 Obon Dance Practice 7:00 pm	12 Board Meeting 7:00 pm	13 Obon Dance Practice 7:00	14	15	16 <b>Obon Prep 8:00 am Ogden OBON 7:00 pm</b>		
17 <b>OBON SERVICES</b> 9:30 - Syracuse Cemetery 10:15 - Washington Heights 10:45 - Ogden City Cemetery 11:15 - Hatsubon Service	18	19	20	21	22	23		
24			25	26	27	28	29	30
31								

**July Toban Cleaning Group:  
Obon Clean-up**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>August 2022</h1> 						
	1	2	3 National Watermelon Day 	4 National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day 	5	6
7	8	9 <b>Board Meeting</b> 7:00 pm	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 World Honeybee Day 
21 <b>BWA Quilting</b> 10:00 am	22	23	24 National Waffle Day 	25	26	27
28 <b>BWA Meeting</b> 10:00 am <b>Quilting</b> 11:00 am	29	30 National Toasted Marshmallow Day 	31			

**Toban Cleaning Group:**  
 Tom & Marcie F.  
 (Toban Cleaning Leader)  
 Steve & Ellen K.  
 Christy F.





# OBON MEMORIAL LANTERNS

The Ogden Buddhist Church is selling “Memorial Lanterns” for our OBON Festival. You can purchase a lantern in the name of family or friends that are no longer with us. Your lantern will be personalized with their name and hung on the Yagura during the OBON Festival.

This is a GREAT way to pay tribute to your ancestors and to watch them “DANCE” right alongside of you!

## Obon Memorial Lanterns order Form

You can purchase a lantern to honor a friend or family member that has passed away. The lantern will be personalized and hung from the Yagura during the OBON Festival. You will be given the lantern at the completion of OBON.

YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount Due: \$\_\_\_\_\_

In MEMORY of: (Please PRINT first and last names below)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Lanterns are \$5.00  
per name**

Please fill out this form and return it to Ellen K. or any board member.

You can also mail this form with your payment to:

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

Or you can pay with  
Venmo  
@BuddhistChurchofOgden  
Note lantern and names