



# THE GEPPPO



*A publication of the Ogden Buddhist Temple*

155 North Street Ogden, UT 84404

P.O. Box 3248 Ogden, UT 84409

Supervising Reverend: Rev. Jerry Hirano

Rev. Hirano contact info: Office – 801-363-4742

Home – 801-299-8727

Emergency – 801-819-2648

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Temple President: Annette K. & Michael K.

Minister's Assistant: Geoffrey R.

Minister's Assistant: James A.

Junior Minister's Assistant: Charles A.

Web Site: [ogdenbuddhistchurch.org](http://ogdenbuddhistchurch.org)

Temple E-mail: [ogdenbuddhisttemple@gmail.com](mailto:ogdenbuddhisttemple@gmail.com)

## ★ 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.**



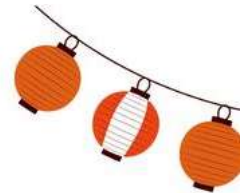
# Obon in the age of Pandemic and Social Protest

By Reverend Jerry K. Hirano



*Remember me  
 Though I have to say goodbye  
 Remember me  
 Don't let it make you cry  
 For ever if I'm far away  
 I hold you in my heart  
 I sing a secret song to you  
 Each night we are apart  
 Remember me  
 Though I have to travel far  
 Remember me  
 Each time you hear a sad guitar  
 Know that I'm with you  
 The only way that I can be  
 Until you're in my arms again  
 Remember me  
 ~Robert Lopez and Kristen Anderson-Lopez (Coco)*

Obon is a generic term for the Buddhist service and dancing called Bon Odori. This Obon service and dance have been going on for some 500 years. I personally really like the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji Ha (Nishi Hongwanji's) the BCA term for this service "Kangi-E" this literally means Gathering of Joy. During this age of corona virus isolation and the black lives matter movement, we are facing an unprecedented time of suffering, isolation and death. However, it is also a time for our society to re-think the nature of our relationships with our fellow human beings. Although death and loss are happening on a daily basis, all around us, when we personally experience the death of a loved one. Our world is transformed; it is one of the most difficult of life's difficulties. In Buddhism it is called Aibetsu riku (Separation from loved ones).



When we lose a loved one, it feels as though a part of us has died with them. We are all interconnected, so when a loved one dies, a piece of us goes with them. It is more painful than I can describe. It is something that can only be experienced. Those who do not know what I am talking about are either ignorant or the luckiest people on earth. With the logic, a piece of me dies when my loved one dies, a piece of that loved one remains alive, as I live. Obon is a time to recognize our relationships with one another.



There are many legends, folktales, ghost stories connected to this Obon season. However, I believe the essence of Obon is about our relationships. The relationships between a Mother and son (as in Shakyamuni Buddha's disciple Mokuren and his mother) the origin story of Obon and maybe more importantly the relationships of family members, friends, Sangha. So many people in Japan and even here in the United States often return to their hometowns for Obon dance and festival as a type of reunion.

It is a time to reflect upon our relationships between the living and the dead. In fact, the Disney movie Coco's academy award winning song, "Remember me" may be my favorite song to remind me of the importance of Obon, but I have not seen a dance to this song, hopefully in the future someone may create one. I began this article with the lyrics from this song.

After some people may want to bring closure to the unpleasant experiences of life. I personally don't like this idea of bringing closure to unpleasant aspects of my life. I also don't believe Buddhism and psychology or psychotherapy are the same. The key difference is that Buddhism embraces those who don't fit into the norm, just as much as we embrace those that do, whereas Psychology and psychotherapy try to place us in the norm.

Sorry for the side note, for there is an important function to psychology and therapy, it's just not the same as Buddhism. Anyway, I don't want to close off the past. I don't want to put an end to the experience of the death of my friends and loved ones, I want to feel them in my life. I don't want to forget them and I don't think I will ever get over the pain of losing them. However, as I live with that knowledge, through time, I will learn from the pain and if I remain open, my awareness will allow me to see how they remain a part of my life. This is Obon!

I dance with the dead. They are not ephemeral spirits and globs of ectoplasm swirling about as I dance. My dead family and friends are with me every day, the Pure Land touches my life each and every day. I interact with the Pure Land and my dead loved ones through Namo Amida Butsu and they do not haunt me, they comfort me. As I interact with the world of the living, the dead interact along with me and I interact with them on a regular basis, Obon is just an opportunity for me once a year, to openly acknowledge, their place in my life.

In Salt Lake City, my Auntie Maxine Furubayashi was the Obon dance instructor for over 60 years. She taught our Obon dance until her death at the age of 95, three years ago. She began teaching the Bon odori when she returned from Japan after graduating from Kyoto Women's College in Kyoto (This is our Nishi Hongwanji women's college). She went there after graduating from High School in L.A. She was student when World War II broke out. She also survived the fire-bombing of Osaka, which some consider worse than the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The stories she told were horrific. She had learned classical dance in L.A. and it is interesting that the dance instructor at my Ogden Buddhist Temple was a fellow dance student in Los Angeles, Mrs. Aiko Hamada, who was still teaching dance until last year.

As I have said, Obon is a time to reflect on our relationships to one another. Aiko and Auntie Maxine had known each other for close to 90 years. Now our Bon Odori in Salt Lake is taught by Sandy Iwasaki, Emily Iwasaki and Tracy Akimoto-Roberson. Sandy and Emily are my Auntie Maxine's daughter and granddaughter, thus second and third generation Obon instructors. Tracy is the grand-daughter Rev. Shintatsu Sanada, the Kaikyoshi who built our current temple and was the minister when I was growing up here in Salt Lake. Rev. Sanada is also the Father of Mrs. Michiko Yukawa, wife of Rev. Kosho Yukawa. Our temples are all about the relationships we have with one another. Our temple's and Sangha's are all about relationships old and new. As Shakyamuni Buddha explained to his disciple Ananda, Buddhism is about the Sangha and relationships. This is Obon.

Our Obon is a wonderful community event. However, it is even more important that we understand the significance for Obon. It is not about dressing up Japanese or playing up to our Japanese Buddhist heritage. It is not just for the young. It is not just for women. The old should have more dead to dance with than the young. Men have just as many dead friends as women. Do only Japanese die? No Obon is a time for all of us to dance with the dead. What a wonderful time to celebrate their continuing existence in our lives. As I dance, I can see my Auntie Maxine, my Mom, my Bachan, my dear friends, all continuing to embrace and support me, within the wondrous compassion of Namo Amida Butsu. Although because of the pandemic, we will not be holding our Obon Dance or Hatsubon services. We will be holding a virtual BCA Obon on August 15. You will find the links on the Buddhist Churches of America website. Before the virtual Obon, we will be posting videos to YouTube "virtual bon dance" under "American Bon Consortium". These videos will consist of a Dharma talk and videos of various dances that will be danced at the BCA Obon. Please don't hold back, join us, not the hundreds but the thousands, millions myriad of dancers, alive and dead. These lives all make us who we are.



Let's just Dance! Namo Amida Butsu.



## ***BLACK LIVES MATTER***

A statement in support of Black Lives Matter and in Opposition to Racism  
from the BCA Minister's Association



Today we find ourselves in a time of deep unrest and pain. There is no justification for the killing of George Floyd, of Ahmaud Arbery, of Breonna Taylor. These and other countless racially motivated misuses of force against Black people are a travesty that must not continue. The pain and anguish of the Black community is resounding throughout the United States and the world, and is touching the hearts of many more people, including our own ministers and members.

Amida Buddha is said to have the “Wisdom of Non-Discrimination.” This is manifested in the Great Compassion that embraces ALL beings. Amida Buddha does not reject anyone based on age, gender, class, race, or any other basis. Although it is difficult for us as unenlightened beings to manifest this Wisdom of Non-Discrimination, this radical equality is an ideal in our tradition. Although it is difficult for us as foolish beings to manifest the all-embracing Great Compassion, this kindness and caring is our model to strive for. However, this equality will never be reached until Black Lives Matter.

Buddhists are not immune from racism. The insidious influence of racism is learned from many sources, usually unconsciously. It is important for us as Jodo Shinshu Buddhists to engage in self-reflection, and to be open to finding this racism within ourselves, as well as within our temples.

With the Buddha Dharma as our guide, let us help with the work to dismantle systemic and institutionalized racism, both within ourselves and our organization and in the community around us.

Harry Gyokyo Bridge  
On behalf of the Buddhist Churches of America Ministers Association



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope everyone is safe and healthy in this strange time we are facing. COVID-19 has and will be the topic of most all communications, with that statement; at our June board meeting we talked about the ability to return to Sunday Services and our fundraisers.

Sunday Services we hope to reopen in September, however, we still need to consider these issues:

- Establish guidelines for chanting, singing, & group recitations
  1. Allow sutra chanting in gejin (seating area in the Hondo) with masks
  2. Restrict chanting to only ministers
  3. 6 feet spacing in naijin with MAs and ministers
  4. Consider discontinuing singing, group recitation
- Incense
  1. Consider not using incense
  2. Allow people to come up to front to bow in one line only and 6-feet spacing
- Cleaning of seats between services
  1. All pews have been cleaned as well as all hand touched surfaces and mics in the Hondo
  2. Bathrooms, class rooms, multipurpose room have been cleaned
  3. Door handles, sinks as well have been cleaned
  4. We will need to wipe down all surfaces going forward between all services
- Books
  1. Discourage the use of our service books, we can use the TV monitors for any readings we may do, but no group recitation



It will depend a lot on when Rev. Hirano feels he is safe and able to start regular service, but we want everyone to know we have been working to prepare for the day we return.

### ANNUAL FUNDRAISERS

Obon has been cancelled; Weber County Health Dept. at this time is not giving Day Permits for the public sale of food. Our kitchen is not set up for 6 feet spacing between people, and we just don't have the ability to insure social distancing for our guests, dancers, and servers.

Hatsubon Service is also cancelled, the board reached out to the five families for options and it was decided to hold the 2020 Hatsubon names and include them in our 2021 Hatsubon Service next year.

Obon Cemetery Services are also cancelled due to the social distancing; it would be possible at Syracuse but to keep things consistent and fair all three will be cancelled. We feel bad for this decision but in keeping our members in mind it was the safest decision we have.

Bazaar is not looking good as well, all the same issues. I hope everyone understands it takes time to organize an event and when we can't count on the permits to hold a Bazaar; it is hard to consider reaching out to our suppliers for pricing and purchase of the chicken, pork and beef used at the Bazaar.

### OBON MEMORIAL LANTERNS

We are asking that we remember those we have lost in the past with the continued support of the Obon Memorial Lanterns, for so many of the members we have the same Lanterns from year to year; I know we will not be able to see our Lanterns hanging up this year! But we will celebrate with a VIRTUAL LANTERN FESTIVAL online. An example of our virtual lantern is here. Please consider the continued support the Lanterns bring to the Temple. The order form will be included with this GEPP0 and on our Web Site. Also remember to check out our web site for updates and needed information as we move through this strange time.



On a happier thought, Rev. Hirano is working on establishing an Intermountain Buddhist Temples (YouTube channel) this will include the Sunday services and the study class/discussions. Currently they are on the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple Facebook page. A number of other activities that our members can take part in are the CBE seminars that are held about every other week. It is free and open to the public. You just go to the BCA website and at the bottom of the first page you will see the CBE flyer, which has a link to register. It is through this link that you get sent the information to the Zoom link. Rev. Hirano, as Director of CBE has been working this and other programs forth coming.

With the lighter news above I will close this message and hope everyone continues being safe and healthy this summer.

In Gassho,  
A nnette & Mike Koga

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## ***BUDDHIST WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION DONATIONS***

*Thank you*

Thank you for your donations:

Omitted for Online Version

**2020 Membership**

Karen D.



*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
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.



### Church Clean-up and Maintenance Update

The Co-4<sup>th</sup> Vice Presidents would like to thank everyone who was able to support our June 14<sup>th</sup> “impromptu” yard clean-up. An “official” outdoor clean-up was not held due to cancellation of Hanamatsuri, and many maintenance tasks have been slowed due to not having regular Church services.

We had a great turn-out which enabled us to accomplish many tasks. Trimming of trees and shrubs around the Church; filling low spots with dirt in the field and near the Church; repair of lawn sprinklers; string trimming along Church boundaries; application of weed killer in cleaned areas; and cleaning the southern ditch of garbage and overgrowth were just some of the things completed. The turn-out was so good that cleaning inside the Church was also done, followed by a great, socially distanced lunch.

“Thanks” is also extended to all those who have helped with our weekly scheduled lawn mowing, as well as folks like Blaine Y. and Craig S. (and probably others that we’re unaware of) that have come by the Church to do cleaning on their spare time. With the moving away of the person who normally mowed the Church field, we’re attempting to mow the fields by ourselves. This must be done at least every 2 weeks or it becomes extremely difficult. Bart H. and Kevin H. even brought their own riding mowers to the Church during their turn so they had four mowers operating at once. We’re trying to have a third riding mower available at the Church for more effective mowing. If anyone needs help during your scheduled mow time, let one of us know.

A big “thank you” to Suzan Y. who coordinated getting the Church property surveyed and boundary lines established. This had been neglected for many years and with the building of the 7-Eleven convenience store across the street, is necessary if the Church desires to erect permanent security fencing around our property.

Now for some not so great news that will impact Church finances.

- 1) The survey revealed that the large trees on our northwest corner are the Church’s responsibility and should be removed.
- 2) If additional security fencing is desired (see above), a large cost will be involved.
- 3) It has been determined that over the past 50 years, much of the underground water lines used to water the Church lawn have become very brittle and susceptible to breakage and water leaks. We will continue to repair leaks as they occur, but total replacement may be soon be required.

Thank again to everyone for your help and support.

Steve K., Kirk Y. and Ernie K. – Co-4<sup>th</sup> Vice Presidents

## BCA Summer High School Youth Retreat Online

# Buddhist Churches of America

Center For Buddhist Education Presents:

## BYR: VIRTUAL RETREAT

### JULY 6TH - JULY 10TH, 2020



Experience the BCA Summer High School Youth Retreat online

Attend educational sessions with BCA Ministers and Teachers

Make new friends and connect with kids from around the nation

Mon to Fri 7pm - 11pm

Register early, space is limited

Only \$40 for the entire week



**REGISTRATION LINK:**

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1poeTC0kKhPMa55R16gPXafWUUC2UhXmTFdsVh-t8cG4/edit?usp=sharing>

**QUESTIONS: [bkmizushima@bcahq.org](mailto:bkmizushima@bcahq.org)**



## 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. \*)



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## VOCABULARY LESSON?

When you read Annette & Mike's article, did you know what

**GEJIN**

meant or did you think it was a typo or have to look at the meaning?

Jodo Shinshu Buddhism has several vocabulary words that we should learn!

So, here is your next word ....

**KORO**

Do you know what it means? When we are able to meet together again, the first person to tell Kris Y. what The GEPPPO's vocabulary word means, gets the prize! Your definition must include three key words!



## ***July Shotsuki Hoyo & Hatsubon***

### **July Shotsuki Hoyo**

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 & Hatsubon Memorial Service Cancelled due to COVID-19**

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

Hatsubon observance will be held for the following members at the 2021 Hatsubon Service:

**Nina Yonetani  
Fumie Nagao Koga  
Raymond Spry  
Marlane Natsuye Hirai  
Danzo "Date" Shiramizu**

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's contact information:  
Office 801-363-4742, Home 801-299-8727,  
Emergency 801-819-2648.

**AUGUST Shotsuki Hoyo will be posted in the September GEPPPO.**

#### **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



# OBON VIRTUAL Memorial Lanterns



The Ogden Buddhist Church is selling “Virtual Memorial Lanterns”. 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 placed on our Virtual Lantern page on our website!

**\* If you would like to just make a donation to continue the memory of your previous year’s lanterns, please just note that no virtual lantern is necessary. THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION. \***

You can purchase a lantern to honor a friend or family member that has passed away. The lantern will be personalized and placed on our website. You can view and print them.

**\* If you would like to just make a donation to continue the memory of your previous year’s lanterns, please just note that no virtual lantern is necessary. THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION. \***

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

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

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

**Lanterns are \$5.00 per name**

You can VENMO your payment with the names of lanterns to @BuddhistChurchofOgden

You can also mail this form with your payment to:

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