

THE GEPPO



A publication of the Ogden Buddhist Temple

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801/392-7132

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* SPECIAL COVID-19 GEPPO *

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 GEPPO.

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.



At A Maryland Toll Booth!

~By Reverend JK Hirano

"Each of you has come to see me, crossing the borders of more than ten provinces at the risk of your life, solely with the intent of asking about the path to birth in the land of bliss. But if you imagine in me some special knowledge of a path to birth other than the nembutsu or of scriptural writings that teach it, you are greatly mistaken. If that is the case, since there are many eminent scholars in the southern capital of Nara or on Mount Hiei to the north, you would do better to meet with them and inquire fully about the essentials for birth. As for me, I simply accept and entrust myself to what my revered teacher told me, "Just say the nembutsu and be saved by Amida"; nothing else is involved.

I have no idea whether the nembutsu is truly the seed for my being born in the Pure Land or whether it is the karmic act for which I must fall into hell. Should I have been deceived by Master Honen and, saying the nembutsu, were to fall into hell, even then I would have no regrets.

The reason is, if I could attain Buddhahood by endeavoring in other practices, but said the nembutsu and so fell into hell, then I would feel regret at having been deceived. But I am incapable of any other practice, so hell is decidedly my abode whatever I do."

Tannisho Chapter two

The past week has been very interesting on my search for the Big E. Although it was a relatively short travel week, I was pretty relaxed after spending a few days with Carmela at Disney World.

Disney World is a model for how we will have to reopen after this pandemic allows us to. Everyone is masked both indoors and outdoors, social distancing is everywhere, the lines are marked for everything from drinking fountains to restaurant waiting rooms. The boats and buses were divided up into plastic-protected booths for small groups of 2 or 3 people. It was a nice break after having been on the road for a while. I lose track of time.

During the previous two weeks we had traveled through the heart of Dixie, an area of the United States I know very little about, yet have read and seen so much of second hand, from movies like "Gone with the Wind" and "To Kill a Mockingbird" (Atticus Finch, we could use you now) to William Faulkner novels and even the Andy Griffith Show.

Learning about the Civil War and the Civil Rights movement, and now actually visiting some of these locales, it was wonderful to see the actual places that these events happened, such as crossing the bridge in Selma and driving through to Montgomery Alabama and seeing the civil rights monument, created by a young Chinese American student. We stopped and stayed overnight in Rohwer, Arkansas where Japanese Americans had been imprisoned. Seeing the endless cotton fields, the trees with Spanish Moss hanging from them, I tried to imagine what it would have been like for Thurgood Marshall to drive on these backroads to come upon fellow African Americans, lynched and hanging from those trees. As I drove, as is my way, I listened to the book "The Good Lord Bird" by James McBride, which won the National Book Award for fiction. It is a story about a young teenage boy named Henry Shackleford, who was the only living survivor of John Brown's raid at Harper's Ferry in 1859.

Driving for hours and hours gives me lots of time to think. This week I realized I could never live in the South, not because of the systemic racism; in fact, the people I met there were much kinder than I imagined they would be. I could never live there because of the heat and humidity. It's close to November and it is still hot and humid.

The stereotypes of Southerners as either very slow and easy going like Sheriff Andy Taylor or Uncle Jed Clampett from the Beverly Hillbillies, to the other extreme of running around half crazed like Barney Fife or Granny, I believe is the result of the weather. This kind of heat and humidity makes you either very slow or agitated and upset. I think I would probably lose my mind in this heat and humidity.

However, yesterday I learned a lot.

I had been anticipating for quite some time about going to Harper's Ferry. Unfortunately, some directional miscalculations caused us to get there late. It should have been only about a thirty-minute drive from where we were camped, but it ended up taking us a few hours of driving through John Denver's "Country Roads" of West Virginia. Although not unpleasant, it was a bit challenging in a 26-foot RV. When we got close to Harper's Ferry, we discovered how it was so crowded, with traffic backed up over a mile just to get to the site and the shuttle buses from the parking lots to the Harper's Ferry monument area were jammed full. So, we passed, going instead to the Visitors Center, stopped along one of the country roads, did a service for John Brown's sacrifice and to all the people who have died in the name of equality and human rights.

Then my personal epiphany came as we were driving to our RV park in Delaware and stopped at a toll booth in Maryland. As I was driving, and listening to the Good Lord Bird about John Brown, a true religious fanatic, I thought about Shinran and the followers that walked ten provinces just to ask him about his faith and practice, as expressed in Chapter two of Tannisho, which I began this morning's talk with. I think walking ten provinces, hundreds of miles, in medieval Japan, risking bandits and wild animals is a lot harder than driving a Mercedes RV across America.

As I was thinking about how I sure didn't like the South very much, and I was in Maryland en route to Delaware, to me it meant leaving the South, going into our 23^{rd} State, almost half way through the 48 contiguous states. At this toll booth, in front of me was a car from South Carolina. I wasn't too crazy about South Carolina, since it had so many Trump Signs and it felt oppressive. On the license plate of this car were the words, "In God We Trust." I thought to myself, if it is in God they trust, what is it with this racism. As I was thinking these negative thoughts about this unknown person and state, I pulled up to the toll booth.

The attendant said, "Your toll has been paid."

I said, "excuse me." He had a mask on, so I thought I misunderstood, he explained, "That lady in front of you paid your toll. No charge."

At that moment, I realized, it is me that has all the bias and prejudice. It is me that is in hell. I am the one who creates this systemic racism. I have the problem of thinking so badly of unknown and unseen people. As Shinran said, "If I could attain Buddhahood by endeavoring in other practices, but said the nembutsu and so fell into hell, then I would feel regret at having been deceived. But I am incapable of any other practice, so hell is decidedly my abode whatever I do."

This is where I am, who I am. But because of Amida Buddha, there is no charge, there is no need for anything but "Namo Amida Butsu." To that lady, I say, "Thank you whoever you may be. Thank you for the lesson and the toll."

Maybe the Big E is not so far and as I have been physically experiencing, by riding along in my RV, which has the license plate "Karuna," Sanskrit for "compassion." Yes, I am being carried along on the back of Compassion. This foolish, prejudiced, ignorant being is carried along by enlightenment and the search for the big E has been completed by Amida Buddha. I am carried by others, in spite of my ignorant self, to the other shore of the Big E.

I hope you have a good week, stay safe and be kind to one another. Wash your hands.

I would like to close in honor of the lady from South Carolina, with her state's motto: "Dum Spiro Spero" which is translated from the Latin as, "While I Breathe, I hope." Namo Amida Butsu.

Yes, I can breathe to say Namo Amida Butsu. Maybe our life is to work so others may breathe also.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As we get close to the end of the year and we look over what challenges 2020 has presented it has been rough. At our monthly board meetings, we feel helpless as we move to skip important items that often take hours to discuss. We have long time members, friends, sisters, and parents pass during these difficult restrictions that prevented our traditional funerals, memorial services, and the grieving process as a Buddhist Family we normally do. It was so hard thinking of all the food Mrs. Aoki delivered for so many of our Buddhist Families, yet when she passed this COVID-19 prevented all of us from paying the Aoki Family back.

As I mentioned, in our monthly board meetings, we have been meeting via Zoom in the comfort of our own homes. This was strange at first but with the magic of the internet we have had the largest gatherings for our meetings ever. With the larger numbers we have new faces that have given the meetings a little new life. Our financials have been looked at closely with all our fundraisers being cancelled, and with the amazing generosity of our Dharma Family things are not as bad as it really could be. At our September meeting we had a question about one of our line items under "Building Maintenance Fundraiser". It was asked what actions are taken to provide funds for the building maintenance. The line item was added as



our building is getting older and things are breaking down, but I don't remember what we had in mind to generate \$20,000.00 budget for this item. It seems at one time we had a thought about setting aside one fundraiser by the Temple that all proceeds went to Building Maintenance Fund. The other idea was to reach out to our members and ask.

I'm writing tonight with that in mind, we always have needs and with a building that is over 50 years old the needs are catching up with us. I started this off with the fact that this has been a rough year, and yet I'm asking for donations of whatever you can afford, even as small as a few dollars that are designated for our beautiful building. For the future weddings, the comfort of the gathering of close friends and family at our funerals, the family services with the scent of the incense burning, all the things that we have missed so much in 2020. I was just telling James how much I miss the smell of burning incense; it is funny what you miss. Please understand all of you, our members, I miss more than the smell of incense, but it is a smell I miss.

It will take time to fully fund the budgeted amount of \$20,000.00, but as I've been told; if you don't ask it won't happen, so I'm asking.

In Gassho, Annette & Mike K.

THANK YOU STEVE K .!

We would like to THANK STEVE K.

for painting all the trim and posts on the outside of our temple!





BCA Calendar

* PLEASE NOTE * BCA will not publish a calendar for 2021.

BUDDHIST WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION DONATIONS

Thank you for your donations:

OMITTED FOR ONLINE VERSION

In Memory

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

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

Namo Amida Butsu

Kiyoshi Nakayu, June 20, 2020 Tomoaki Tom Nagao, August 3, 2020 Yuko Yoshitaka Aoki, September 3, 2020 Ruth Sugimoto, September 15, 2020 Lola Kimiko (Hirabayashi) Yamamoto, September 23, 2020 Yoshiro "George" Aoki, October 17, 2020 Chizuko "Chiz" Fukuda, October 25, 2020



DHARMA SCHOOL DONATIONS

OMITTED FOR ONLINE VERSION

OGDEN TAIKO GROUP DONATIONS

OMITTED FOR ONLINE VERSION



Special COVID November/December 2020 Issue



You're Invited!

EVERYBODY IS INVITED TO OUR ANNUAL GENERAL BOARD MEETING!

This is where you can have a say in what happens to our Temple! We would LOVE to hear what you would like to see happen this coming year! Our General Board Meeting is OPEN to all! Due to the COVID-19 situation, our General Board Meeting will be held virtually on Tuesday, November 10, 2020 at 6:30 pm.

> Please call Annette K. at (OMITTED FOR ONLINE VERSION) or email annettekoga17@gmail.com to receive the Zoom Meeting link.

SCRIPS: TO HELP THE DHARMA SCHOOL

Things certainly have changed for us due to the covid-19 outbreak. We have had to isolate ourselves from the general population, and readapt our work, school, sports and social circles. In speaking with others, I've learned individuals are more comfortable with on-line orders. It has taken me a while to realize a great way to help you and support businesses during these times is through the Dharma School (DS) scrip program. Ordering your gift cards through DS, we receive anywhere from 2-14% back based on the face value of the gift card. Think about this, if you place an order through Amazon using DS gift card, we receive 2.5%, if your purchasing soaps and hand sanitizers from Bath & Body Works, we receive 12%. Grabbing a quick bite Arby's, Burger King, Olive Garden we receive 8%. As you can see it's a win-win for everyone! Submit your order by the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month and I'll have the scrip by the following Thursday. Below is the monthly schedule.

Weekly orders begin Nov 4 th	Delivery Date
Nov 4, 2020 (Wed)	Nov 12, 2020 (Thurs)
Nov 11, 2020 (Wed)	Nov 19, 2020 (Thurs)
Nov 18, 2020 (Wed)	Nov 26, 2020 (Thurs)
Nov 25, 2020 (Wed)	Dec 3, 2020 (Thurs)
Dec 2, 2020 (Wed)	Dec 10, 2020 (Thurs)
Dec 9, 2020 (Wed)	Dec 17, 2020 (Thurs) Last order for 2020

Dharma School accepts checks, or you can pay using the church's Venmo account, just be sure to note DS scrip! You will also find the order form on the church's website. Please give me a call at (OMITTED FOR ONLINE VERSION) or email: yoshimurab@aolcom if you have any questions or want to place an order.

> In Gassho, Suzan Y.

2020 Scrip Order Form

(VENMO OBC or Make checks payable to Ogden Dharma School)

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Golf Galaxy	8%	\$25	
Great Harvest	6%	\$10	
H&M	7%	\$25	
Hallmark	4%	\$25	
Home Depot	4%	\$25/\$100/\$500	
HomeGoods	7%	\$25/\$100	
Honey Baked Ham (Holiday time)	12%	\$25	
Icing (Claire's)	9%	\$10	
IHOP	8%	\$10/\$25	
J. Crew	13%	\$25	
JC Penney	5%	\$25/\$100	
Jiffy Lube	10%	\$30	
Jo Ann Fabrics	6%	\$25	
Joe's Crab Shack	9%	\$25/\$100	
Journeys	10%	\$25	
Kohl's Dept Store	4%	\$25/\$100	
Krispy Kreme	8%	\$10	
Lane Bryant	9.75%	\$25	
Little Caesar's Pizza	9.75%	\$20	
Loews Cineplex Ent	8%	\$10/\$25	
LongHorn Steakhouse	8%	\$10/\$25/\$100	
Lowe's Home Improve	4%	\$20/\$25/\$100/\$500	
Macy's	10%	\$25/\$100	
Marshalls	7%	\$25/\$100	
Men's Wearhouse	8%	\$25	
Michaels	4%	\$25	
Nike	12%	\$25	
Noodles & Company	8%	\$10	
Nordstrom/ Nordstrom Rack	6%	\$25/\$100	
Office Depot/Office Max	5%	\$25/\$100	
Old Navy (BONUS)	14%/17%	\$25/\$100 \$25/\$100	
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Olive Garden (no longer affiliated with Red Lobster) Outback Steakhouse Panda Express (NEW) Panera Bread Papa Johns (reload) Papa Murphy's PF Chang's PetSmart Pizza Hut Pottery Barn &Kids/Wm Sonoma Red Lobster Red Robin REI Rite Aid Ross Dress for Less Ruby Tuesday's (DISCONTINUED) Sally's Beauty (New) Scheels See's Candies Sephora Shell Gas Station Shutterfly Sinclair Oil Sprouts Famers Market Starbucks	8% 10% 8% 8% 8% 8% 8% 8% 8% 8% 8% 12% 8% 11% 5% 1.5% 5% 7%	\$25/\$100 \$25/\$50 \$25 \$10/\$25 \$10 \$10 \$25/\$100 \$25 \$10 \$25/\$100 \$25 \$25 \$25 \$25 \$25 \$25 \$25 \$25	

TGI Friday's (BONUS)	9%/ 14%	\$25
Taco Bell	5%	\$10
Target \$10 Cards Limited Time	2.5%	\$25/\$50/\$100
Texas Roadhouse	8%	\$25
ULTA	4%	\$25
Under Armour	11%	\$25
VISA (NEW) No activation	1.25%	\$50
Walgreens	5%	\$25
Wal-Mart / Sam's Club	2.5%	\$25/\$100/\$250
Wayfair	6%	\$100
Wendy's	4%	\$10
West Elm	8%	\$25/\$100
Zaxby's NEW	8%	\$25

See www.shopwithscrip.com for a complete list of retailers

(R) Reload

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. *)



November & December Shotsuki Hoyo

November Shotsuki Hoyo

December Shotsuki Hoyo

N1	_	0040	Managa Forda	Dec	5	2012	Jaydon Endo
Nov	-		Masao Endo	Dec			Jayden Endo Kristen Taeko Fukawa
Nov			Shizu Fukuda	Dec			Kasumi Hamada
Nov			Masaru Hamada	Dec	29 1		Yorito Hamada
Nov	17		Shigeru Hamada		-		
Nov	_		Norma Hatsuye Inouye		11 6		Dick Setsuji Hirabayashi
Nov		1961	Kunimatsu Inouye		-		Yasu Hirabayashi
Nov			Kyuta Ishibashi	Dec			Alice Setsuko Hirai
Nov		1981	Kikujiro Ishii	Dec			Tome Inouye
Nov			Masami Itakura	Dec	11		Masayasu Ito
Nov			Chiyoji Kamita	Dec		1991	J
Nov		1993	Toshio George Kano	Dec			Shigeru Henry Kawaguchi
Nov	18		Yoshito (Yosh) Kato		22		Ray Isao Kano
Nov		1963	Kiyoyasu Kawashima	Dec	19		Hideo Kawaguchi
Nov	_	1989	Jimmie Noboru Kunimoto	Dec			Shigeru Kiyomura
Nov			Todd T. Kuroiwa	Dec			Fumie Nagao Koga
Nov	_		Masaichiro Marumoto	Dec			Jimmy Kusuda
Nov	13	2014	June Teruko Nagao	Dec			Shizu Nakano Miya
Nov	6	1961	Yagoro Nakamoto		30		James Sunao Morinaka
Nov	24	2013	Miyuki T. Nakano	Dec		1991	, ,
Nov	17	1981	Shigako Nimori	Dec		1961	Yae Murakami
Nov	26	1991	Kimi Nishikawa	Dec			Suyeo Frank Nakano
Nov	23	2016	Roy Kiyoharu Ryujin	Dec	19		Isekichi Nishiki
Nov	22	2013	Toddy Sameshima		30	1981	Masashi Nozaki
Nov	27	1959	Jisaku Sakurada	Dec	11	1995	Staci Sachiko Oda
Nov	26	1964	Kamesaburo Suekawa	Dec	21	1994	Wataru Jack Oda
Nov	23	1979	Motoharu Sumida	Dec	29	1968	Mitsugu Oda
Nov	5	1970	Sanji Tawatari	Dec	21	1993	Tokiichi George Sato
Nov	11		Dan Tsukamoto	Dec	19	2012	Elsie Shiramizu
Nov	7	1988	Kiyonobu Watanabe	Dec	20	1969	Yonekichi Shiramizu
Nov	25		Tomesaku Watanabe	Dec	31	1978	Hajime Tokifuji
Nov	24	1979	Suzumi Yamada	Dec	3	1990	Asao Tsukamoto
Nov	15	1989	Sidney Yukiyoshi Yamasaki	Dec	2	1984	Tatsuji Watanabe
Nov			Shunjiro Yamasaki	Dec	6	1989	Takako Watanabe (Onishi)
Nov			George Yamashita	Dec	22		Torahei Yamamoto
Nov	1		Nina Yonetani	Dec	19	2014	Yukimi Yonetani
Nov	-		Munagi Yoshitaka				
			ssg. 1 command				

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

2020 Memorial Service Schedule for those who passed away in:

		··· Property
2019 - 1 year	2008 - 13 year	1986 - 33 year
2018 - 3 year	2005 - 17 year	1971 - 50 year
2014 - 7 year	1996 - 25 year	1921 - 100 year

Buddhist Church of Ogden

RRE BAZAS Raffle As

Many more prizes will be listed on our website

Drawing to be held November 15 @ 4:00 pm via Facebook Live *see order form

\$5.00 per ticket



ORDER FORM

The Ogden BWA is sponsoring a virtual **Bizarre Bazaar Raffle** to support the **BUDDHIST CHURCH OF OGDEN**

The GRAND prize is a handmade quilt created by the Ogden BWA. There will be several other items to raffle away and will be listed on our website.

THE VIRTUAL BIZARRE BAZAAR RAFFLE WILL TAKE PLACE ON NOVEMBER 15, 2020 AT 4:00 PM VIA FACEBOOK LIVE

Ticket Price: \$5.00 per ticket

You can print this form and mail in your check to: P.O. Box 3248 Ogden, UT 84409
OR you can VENMO @BuddhistChurchofOgden.
Please note: RAFFLE, number of tickets purchasing, and your phone number on your VENMO payment.



Thank you for your support! TICKETS ARE \$5.00 EACH

Your name:		
# of tickets ordered	x \$5.00 each = \$	total due
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Phone Number:		_

Please make checks payable to: The Buddhist Church of Ogden