



# THE GEPPPO



*A publication of the Ogden Buddhist Temple*

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## *English Gravity and American Buddhism*

*~By J.K. Hirano*

*As the Buddha said, Just as the dawn is the forerunner and the first indication of the rising sun, so is right view the forerunner and the first indication of wholesome states. Our view of who we are, what we are capable of, what matters in the world, molds our intentions, which in turn mold our actions. How we look at our lives becomes the basis for how we act and how we live and whether our choices are shaped by love and kindness. Transforming our understanding transforms our whole life: our happiness our degree of connectedness, our freedom. None of these are fixed in the particular externals of who we are, they are held in the universal potential of what we might become.*

*~Sharon Salzberg*

*The Kindness Handbook (a practical companion)*

The other day I was working out on the elliptical machine at the gym and watching the Price is Right game show. This show was one of my Grandma Kawaguchi's favorite shows. Even when she was extremely weak from the cancer that ravaged her body, she would love to watch Bob Barker on the Price is Right. My mother also loved that show. Now my sister and daughters love to watch the Price is Right. My daughter Kacie is waiting to turn 18 so she can go on the Price is Right wearing a T shirt that says "Fourth generation Price is Right Fan." Even though Bob Barker is no longer the host of the show and some may not consider it the real Price is Right, the basic format is still the same. However, your name gets called out and you run down the aisle to be a contestant. A prize is revealed and the contestants try to guess the price closest to the retail price. If your guess is the closest, you win! I saw a version of the show in Las Vegas, but my name wasn't called. On the show I was watching at the gym, the showcase prize, which is the big prize and the final game on the Price is Right, was a trip to England. I have always wanted to visit England.

Our American culture is so connected to England. The language we speak in the United States is a derivative form of the English language. America was first established as a colony of the British Empire. We Americans have always been fascinated with the concept of British royalty and lifestyle. Look at all the English-influenced media we Americans love, such as Masterpiece Theatre, Agatha Christie mysteries, Shakespeare and even American Idol. How many covers of People magazine have had the feature story about Princess Diana or her relatives? However, more than anything, I have always wanted to experience English gravity.

All my life I have lived with gravity. It is a basic part of who and what I am. I have experienced gravity in America and even Canada, which is connected to England but probably more American than English. I have experienced gravity in Japan, Mexico and even the Philippines. However, since I have never been to Europe, I assume, I have never experienced real English gravity. I'm sure that some of you are wondering, "What the hell is English gravity?" Well I don't really know since I have yet to experience it. However, I assume that English gravity is the real gravity. I learned in elementary school that Sir Isaac Newton was the one who discovered

*(Rev. Hirano message continued on next page)*

gravity. When observing an English apple fall from an English apple tree onto English soil, he came up with the theory of gravity. Since Sir Isaac Newton was English and everything involved in his discovery was in England, doesn't that make English gravity the real gravity?

If you believe that my theory of English gravity is a bunch of baloney and that gravity is not cultural or racial but a natural law that affects everybody and thing without discrimination, you would be correct. In the same manner, what we call Buddhism or more correctly Dharma is just a theory of how life works. It is a description of the natural laws that affect our life. The Dharma is not Indian, although Siddhartha Gautama, who only said he rediscovered the Dharma was born in present day India. It is not Japanese, although Shinran Shonin, the founder of Jodo Shinshu was Japanese. It is not Tibetan, although the Dalai Lama is Tibetan.

There are many people who speak of Dharma as though it has a cultural bias. Certain countries have had longer histories of talking about Dharma. However, that does not make their explanation any more truthful because of their length of history. Gravity does not get any more real the closer we get to England. It is not necessary to go to India, Japan, Tibet or some other Asian country to discover the real Buddhism. The Dharma becomes real by looking deeper into oneself. By seeing that you are a human being with the same humanity as those in India or anyplace else in the world, you begin to understand the Dharma. To close the gap, the separation of self and other, you begin to understand the universal truth of the Dharma.

This past month our temple took part in Nihon Matsuri. I would like to thank all those who worked so hard for this community event. There were so many individuals who helped -- Reiko Matsuura, our food chairman, Sherrie Koga, Dot Richeda, Jane Sakashita and Paul Terashima on the planning committee. Our various organizations worked so hard -- the BWA as always in the kitchen preparing the food we sell and our YBA and Jr. YBA running around and through the tremendous crowds. Our temple can feel gratified that we have such an active gracious Sangha.

However, the participation by our temple has been questioned by some. If the Dharma isn't Japanese, why does our temple participate in a Japanese festival? We should not be responsible for the Japanese American community. I would like to share with the Sangha my personal feeling about this issue. Our temple is in the heart of what was once Japan town. Even more important is that our temple was considered by many to be the spiritual center or heart of Japan town and the community it created. To close our temple and not participate, because of the burden it places upon the physical structure and manpower of our temple is to lose focus of our temple's history as one of the pillars of the Japanese American community and of where we came from.

Our Sangha is still at least 80 percent of Japanese ancestry. Nihon Matsuri is held to celebrate and thank the larger Salt Lake community for their support of the Japanese American community. Nihon Matsuri is not separate from our temple; it is not Nihon Matsuri versus the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple. The Salt Lake Buddhist Temple IS a part of Nihon Matsuri. Our temple is supported by our entire Japanese American community, Buddhist and non Buddhist and we thank and support them in return. They are not outside of our temple; we are a part of them.

The second point I would like to express is in the concept of Sangha. We take refuge in the Buddha, Dharma and Sangha. Although the Buddha and Dharma may not be culturally or racially biased, our Sangha is. In recognizing our past, we cannot refute the influence of the Japanese and Japanese Americans who established this physical place where we may listen to the non culturally or racially biased Dharma. One of the basic tenets of this non biased Dharma is gratitude and selfless giving. When we recognize how and why we have a temple and Sangha, how can we not give back to the community that helped us become who we are? It is my deepest wish as an American Buddhist that in some small way, I can somehow give back a portion of what I have received. The first step in my own understanding of whom and what I am is to try to develop Right View, the first of the Eightfold noble path. I hope that the Sangha in which I take refuge will also work to help me in seeing it.

Namo Amida Butsu

## *President's Message*

**Summer time is here!! – A break from school and time for vacations with family and friends.**

First of all I'd like to thank everyone for their support during our Church Rummage sale held in June. Thanks to your donations and help, \$1015.46 was collected for the Church!



When one talks about the month of July, what does one think of? Obon, right? Well maybe not at first, but our Obon Festival is July 17<sup>th</sup>. On Sunday the 18th, Obon service will be held at the Church about 10:45 am, preceded by the gravesite visits. As a reminder, these services will begin at the Syracuse cemetery at 9:00am, followed by the Washington Heights service at 9:30am, and concluding at the Ogden cemetery at 10:00 am.

The Obon weekend does involve a lot of effort so any assistance you can provide would be greatly appreciated. Outside Church clean-up will occur the previous Sunday (10 July) at 8:00 am and the Obon food preparation days will be the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of July beginning at 6:00 pm. If you have any questions regarding how you can help, contact either Annette Koga or myself.

On a side note, I have tickets for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Grand Raffle that will be held February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011 during the National Council Meeting. Money raised by this drawing will go to the Jodo Shinshu Center. Cost is \$20 per ticket, with five winners and a first prize of \$12,000. If you like to purchase tickets or have further questions, please contact me.

Everyone please have a safe and enjoyable summer and see you at Obon.

In Gassho,  
Steven K.



### ***BWA NEWS***

By Ruth (K.) S.



The Eshinniko and BWA Memorial service was held on Sunday, June 13. The service was well attended and we heard a wonderful and informative Dharma talk from our guest speaker, Rev. Patti Nakai. I would like to thank the Toban group for fixing a delicious lunch and for bringing such yummy salads. Thank you Annette Koga for chairing and the following ladies for their time and efforts: Karen D., Aiko H., Tami H., Betty S., Kathy S., Alice S. and our ever present non-member helper - Betty Y.

Thanks also to Max & Georgia Y. for donating sandwiches and sorbet for the luncheon and Aiko H. for making mochi for the altar and extra for lunch.

Thanks also to Yoshiko Y., Julia F., Linda R., Lorraine S., Annette K., Suzan Y. and Tami H. for helping get the quilt assembled and on the frame. We will set up a schedule for quilting soon.

The BWA will be making mochi and manju to sell at our Obon Festival:  
**Saturday, June 26 at 8:00 a.m** - Fukashi and Yaki manju.  
 (those who volunteered to make An - please bring it to this session.)  
**Sunday, July 11 at 9:00 a.m.** - Mochi manju

The BWA will be preparing the luncheon following the Obon and Hatsubon service. Preparation for the lunch will be on **Saturday, July 17 at 9:00 a.m. and Sunday, July 18 at 8:00 a.m.** Even if this is not your toban, if you are able to come and help, either day, your help would be welcome.

**Next Meeting: Sunday, August 1 at 10:00 a.m.**

Gassho,  
 Ruth (K.) S.

**BWA DONATIONS**

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**Sushi Fund Raiser Donations**

Ruth S.	50 lbs. rice, shitake, 6 dozen eggs
Yoshiko Y.	Age
Aiko H.	Kampyo
Yuko A.	7 cans of shrimp
Lorraine S.	10 lbs. sugar, crossants
Jeannie P.	10 lbs. sugar
Date S.	Cabbage Tsukemono

**2010 Membership**

Dhyana E., Alice S., Jeannie P.

**Fujin Kai Memorial and Eshinni Sama Donations**

Omitted for Online Version

**Fujin-Kai Memorial Lunch**

Georgia and Max Y.  
Aiko H.

Turkey Wraps and Sorbet  
Mochi

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***DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS***

Superintendent: Suzan Y.

Hello Everyone

Dharma School concluded the 2010 year with a good old fashion Barbeque by the dads with fun and games. We also recognized our Dharma School student's accomplishments. Congratulations to Alex H., MacKenzie H., Kayle Y., Trenton Y. for perfect attendance, and Madison Y. for only missing two days. Daley Y. graduated from Davis High School and plans on attending the University of Utah. Ryan Y. completed his Masters of Business Administration from Weber State University and is employed at Hill AFB.



Thanks you Stan H. for making the arrangements for Boondocks Fund Center. Would you believe some families were there for 6 hours!

I am very grateful to everyone for their support throughout the year. I realize most of our parents have dual roles serving as board members for Dharma School, teaching, chairing various monthly activities while holding positions in other church organization. Your enthusiasm and innovative ideas are what makes our Dharma School a rich and fulfilling Sangha. I look forward to next year.

~ ❁ ~ ❁ ~ ❁ ~ ❁ ~ ❁ ~ ❁ ~ ❁ ~ ❁ ~



## DHARMA SCHOOL DONATIONS

Omitted for Online Version

## ***H.ATSUMAIRI CELEBRATION***

CONGRATULATIONS to our new baby Sangha members!  
Thank you to all our members who helped with our Hatsumairi celebration!  
We are so excited that we have so many new babies in our Dharma School Family!



From left to right: Tracee and Brad W. with baby Bronx, Teri and Makenna B. with baby Taegen, Derrick and Ann Marie Y. with baby Frank, Toni K. with baby Jackson L., Kolten and Kathleen with Kloie J., Jamie and Tim E. with baby Miya.

## ***Member Spotlight***



We would like to welcome CORWIN RICHARD P. to our Sangha.  
 CONGRATULATIONS to the new parents, Brett & Michelle P.  
 Corwin was born on May30, 2010 at 5:28pm, 7lbs 12oz, 20 inches long.  
 His VERY PROUD Grandmother is Jeannie P. and  
 his Great-Grandfather is Toddy S.

# WELCOME CORWIN!

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## **Ninamatsuri** **Celebrating Girls Days**

By Alice H.

Mr. & Mrs. George A. has set up the beautiful antique Japanese dolls on staircases covering most of their living room. It is breathtaking. Mrs. Aoki explained that she received these as a little girl while she was in Japan and I am sure she would welcome anyone to visit them to appreciate this display. We are so lucky to have such rich culture in our church and that it is being shared with us!

Thank you Mr. & Mrs. A. for being so generous sharing and teaching us the richness of our Japanese culture.



## ***For Your Information...***

### IMPORTANT POINTS TO REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR DRIVER'S LICENSE

As of May 14, 2010, please note that:

1. You cannot renew your driver's license by mail anymore
2. Before you go to your nearest Driver License Division you must have the following items to take with you to renew:
  - a. Certified birth certificate or your passport
  - b. Your original social security card. Cannot be a copy of your card or laminated.
  - c. If your address is not the same as on your driver's license you must have two mailed documents that have your name and your new address on them.
3. This applies to everyone, not only the senior population.

If you have any question contact the Utah Driver License Division at (801)-965-4437 or toll free (888)-353-4224 or visit the website: [www.driverlicense.utah.gov](http://www.driverlicense.utah.gov)

Thank you Alice H. for sharing this information with us! She gave us this message to help us so that we don't arrive at the Driver License Division unprepared.



## ***OBON DANCE PRACTICE SCHEDULE***

Yes, it's Obon time! Come and learn the dances - Everyone is welcome!

Practice begins at 7:00 p.m. at the temple.

Friday, July 2

Monday, Wednesday & Friday - July 5, 7, 9

Monday & Wednesday - July 12 & 14

## ***OBON PREPARATIONS***



We will be doing food prep and getting the church set up for Obon on Thursday, July 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. and on Friday, July 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

We will also begin preparation on

Saturday morning, July 17<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am.

Volunteers are needed both nights and especially on Saturday.

Please come and lend a hand when you can.

THANKS!



## ***2010 OBON DONATION LIST***

The board is asking our members to help by donating non-perishable items needed to prepare for Obon, which will be held on Saturday, July 17.

Items must be brought to the church by July 9

### HOW TO DONATE

Please CALL: (omitted) or EMAIL: [rakawashima@hotmail.com](mailto:rakawashima@hotmail.com) BEFORE you purchase these items - so items will not be duplicated.

Be sure to give your receipts to Betty Y. so she can record your non-cash donation.

Items still needed:

- 5 Large bottles Yoshida Sauce
- 3 60-oz bottles Mirin
- 8 50-count nori sheets
- 30 cans spam
- 8 - double-size packages Somen
- 1 Costco-size package of regular paper towels







## **OBON SERVICE**

Sunday, July 18, 2010

Cemetery Service Schedule:

9:00 a.m. Syracuse

9:30 a.m. Washington Terrace

10:00 a.m. Ogden

11:00 a.m. Obon / Hatsubon Service

July Shotsuki Hoyo

Otoki Lunch to follow

*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.



## **SALT LAKE BWA LAS VEGAS OBON TRIP**

August 13 – 16, 2010

Bus and California Hotel package:

\$156 double occupancy for 3 nights stay. \$220 single occupancy.

Reservations needed by May 15. Payment due July 1.

If enough people from Ogden & Honeyville reserve,  
the bus will pick-up passengers in Ogden

Make Reservations by calling Jane S. at 801-582-0560

## ***July and August Shotsuki Hoyo***

### **July Shotsuki Hoyo**

July 18, 2010, 11:00 a.m.

July 7 1990 Bessie Toki Hokoda  
 July 22 1995 Mito Imaizumi  
 July 10 1977 Kinshiro Itakura  
 July 5 1984 Yuki Kawashima  
 July 3 1982 Reiko Koga  
 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 14 1991 Tome Sakiyama  
 July 25 2004 Emma Yayoi Stewart  
 July 7 1971 Heibei Sugimoto  
 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 18, 2010, 11:00 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:

**Tokiko Yoshida  
 William Yamane  
 Fred W. Taniguchi**

### **AUGUST Shotsuki Hoyo will be observed in September**

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 members 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: 363-4742, Home: 299-8727, Emergency: 718-5755

#### **2010 Memorial Service Schedule for those who passed away in:**

2009 - 1 year	1998 - 13 year	1978 - 33 year
2008 - 3 year	1994 - 17 year	1961 - 50 year
2004 - 7 year	1986 - 25 year	1911 - 100 year



# July, 2010



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
					7 pm Obon Dance Practice	
4 Independence Day! 	5 7 pm Obon Dance Practice	6 7 pm Obon Dance Practice	7 7 pm Obon Dance Practice	8 7 pm Obon Dance Practice	9 7 pm Obon Dance Practice	10 Salt Lake Obon Festival
11 8 am – Yard clean-up 9 am – Mochi making	12 7 pm Obon Dance Practice	13 7:30 pm Board Meeting	14 7 pm Obon Dance Practice	15 6 pm Obon Food Prep	16 6 pm Obon Food Prep	17 <b>OGDEN OBON</b> Prep begins at 9 am
18 <b>Obon Service</b> 9 am – Syracuse Cemetery 9:30 am – Washington Hts. Cemetery 10 am – Ogden Cemetery 11 am – Service @ OBC *Lunch to follow*	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

**Toban Cleaning:**

Obon Cleanup Committee

**Lawn Care:**

- July 4 – Stan H., Alex H., Kirk Y., Trenton Y.
- July 11 – Obon yard clean-up
- July 18 – Mow after Obon service
- July 25 – James A., Charles A., Steve Y., Toby Y.





# August, 2010



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10 am – BWA Meeting	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10 7:30 pm Board Meeting	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 GEPP0 articles due	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
Please check the online calendar for future Dharma School dates						
29	30	31				

**Toban Cleaning:**

Tom & Marcie F. (Toban Cleaning Leader)  
 Robyn & Kent F.  
 Steve & Ellen K.  
 Valerie K.

**Lawn Care:**

Aug 1 – Mike K., Todd H., Tom F.  
 Aug 8 – Kirk Y., Trenton Y., Geoff R.  
 Aug 15 – Steve K., Tom F., Todd H.  
 Aug 22 – James A., Charles A., Steve Y.  
 Aug 29 – Mike K., Blaine Y., Steve K.



# Obon Memorial Lanterns

The Ogden Buddhist Church is selling "Memorial Lanterns" for Obon. You can purchase a lantern in the memory 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.



## OBON MEMORIAL LANTERN ORDER FORM

You can purchase a lantern to honor a 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 name)

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

**Lanterns are \$5.00 per name.**

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

You can also mail this form with payment to Ogden Buddhist Church  
P.O. Box 3248 Ogden, UT 84409