



THE GEPPPO



A publication of the Ogden Buddhist Temple

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The following is an article written by Rev. Hirano for the October, 2010 Buddhist Thoughts.

How Not to Become a Buddha in 5 Weeks

~J.K. Hirano

“The highest form of spiritual practice is the cultivation of the altruistic intention to attain enlightenment for the benefit of all sentient beings, known as bodhicitta. This is the most precious state of mind, the supreme source of benefit and goodness, that which fulfills both our immediate and ultimate aspirations and the basis of altruistic activity.”

14th Dalai Lama

Last month I wrote about the transient nature of human life. The inspiration for that article was my experience of coming very close to death. After having experienced almost dying, I felt very grateful for almost everything in my life. The world seemed to be reborn or at least my perspective on the world around me. When I returned home from the hospital in Reno, I sat down with my family, Carmela, Kacie and Taylor to let them each know how important they were to me and how much I loved them. This all happened about five weeks ago and I haven't had a recent near death experience.

Last night I got into arguments with Taylor and then Kacie and then Carmela. I ended up going to bed upset with all three of them plus my dog Peanut. I'm really not sure how my dog Ponzu or cat Baby were spared from my wrath. I first got into arguments with Taylor; Kacie then said something I took to be siding with Taylor over my point of view. I grounded them both. Carmela was sitting in the other room, out of the fray. When I saw her just sitting there, I thought, “Why isn't she upset like me?!” So I yelled at her for something off the wall to add her to my list of victims. When I get upset, I clean or rather, throw things away that get in my way. As I was venting with a mop in my hand, I became mad at my dog peanut for tracking mud all over the kitchen. Five weeks have passed since my near death experience. What happened to the blissful, grateful, “happy just to be alive” feeling I had after almost dying. I think the problem was that I am still alive.

Last week I was going through the clearance shelves and bargain books at Barnes & Noble. One of the books caught my eye; it was called How to Become a Buddha in 5 weeks. It was written by an Italian psychotherapist Giulio Cesare Giacobbe. I began laughing when I saw the cover and when I read the author's name, I thought, “It would take me five weeks just to pronounce his name correctly, let alone become Buddha.”

According to the cover, this book was a best seller in Italy and the author was a famous psychotherapist. The title alone should have made me walk away, while at the same time, I was drawn to the book because of the cover. I had to buy it. After going through the book, I can tell you it isn't very good. It was a book about some basic concepts in Buddhism, such as all human beings have Buddha nature (Bodhicitta). Each week you learn something new such as the Four Noble Truths or the Eightfold Path and you meditate on it, and by the fifth week you tell yourself, “I am Buddha” and now you are Buddha. It's the same theory of my giving Carmela a large piece of coal for our anniversary and telling her to mount it on a beautiful setting and just to say, “What a beautiful diamond.” It just doesn't work that way.

Rev. Hirano's message continued on next page.

I am now beginning my 23rd year as a minister with the Buddhist Churches of America. I have now been the minister in Salt Lake City for seventeen years. I remember when Reverends Watanabe and Yakumo had been in Salt Lake for almost 14 years each, and wondering, "How could they stay in Salt Lake City for so long!" Last week, we were in Denver for Rev. Kanya Okamoto's retirement dinner. He served the Tri State Buddhist temple for thirty five years. It doesn't seem that long ago, I was in YBA and we were greeting the new Sansei (third generation Japanese American) minister to the Mt. States District.

After the Mt. States Conference, it was wonderful hearing some of our YBA members talk about what a great time they had in visiting the Denver YBA. Listening to them brought back many fond memories of my own trips to Denver when I was younger. In fact, my first night in Denver for the Mt. States District conference, I stayed at Gail and Robert Ida's home. I first met Gail almost forty years ago, when I was a Salt Lake YBA member visiting Denver and she was in the Denver YBA. I have so many wonderful memories of the various experiences I have had with the Sangha of our temple and throughout the world. This is where I have found what it means to be a Buddhist and it doesn't just happen in five weeks.

I can understand that in five weeks it is possible to become a Buddhist, but it took the Buddha over thirty years to become the Buddha, and he was the Buddha! Being a Buddhist is not about how long it will take to be Buddha. One day, we will all be Buddha. In Jodo Shinshu we are all assured birth in the Pure Land and the opportunity to become Buddhas ourselves. However, this is after our death. While we are alive, our egos keep us from being Buddhas in this life. I have met many Buddhist priests and Buddhist friends over my years involved with BCA, such as those I had mentioned in this article, only Rev. Yakumo, who passed away before I arrived in Salt Lake City, may have become a Buddha.

As we walk the path of the Nembutsu, we learn about ourselves. As we learn about ourselves, we begin to understand true and real life. In learning and living true and real life, we will become Buddhist. When our time to leave this earthly life arrives, we will become Buddha. I hope that none of you become Buddha in five weeks or less. If you do, there is nothing to worry about. Until then, just live and become Namu Amida Butsu! Thank you for allowing me to walk the Nembutsu path along with you.

~Namo Amida Butsu

President's Message

Hello and Happy Holidays!



The Temple continues as a vibrant setting with several special services and gatherings occurring over the next couple of months. Hopefully you'll be able to attend some of these events (please refer to the GEPP0 Calendar for date and times).

In order for the Church to flourish, it must be more than a place to hold "normal Sunday services". As was discussed during November's General meeting, the Church Board is working hard to increase the Temple's visibility with the general public and presence within the community. If you were unable to attend the General meeting, please let me know if you'd like a copy of what was presented.

With the conclusion of my term as Temple President, this marks my final President's message. I know our new President, Kirk Yamashita, will do an excellent job and his GEPP0 messages will be more interesting than mine. Please continue to provide the same generous level of support to Kirk, as you all provided me during my Presidency.

It was a privilege to be associated with so many dedicated Temple members and an honor to represent the Church.

In Gassho,
Steven K.



BWA NEWS

By Ruth K.S.



Thanks to Alice H. for chairing the Bodhi Day luncheon and to the members of the toban group:
Chizuko F., Fumi K., Kyoko M., Masako R., and Tami H..

Thank you Lorraine for bringing your homemade candies and pretzels to share with all of us.

I have much to be grateful for but I am especially grateful for the all women of the Ogden BWA. They are dependable, hard working and dedicated to our temple. I would personally like to thank each one of them for their years of support to the temple, the BWA and to me. Thank you to all the members of the board and those members who attend our meetings for your ongoing dedication and commitment. I feel privileged to have served as president and all that I have learned and experienced.



I am very pleased to announce our new board for 2011.
Tami Hirai will be our new president and I know she will do a wonderful job.

2011 Ogden BWA Board

President	Tami H.
1 st VP	Lorraine S.
2 nd VP	Ruth S.
3 rd VP	Alice H.
Recording Secretary	Linda E-R.
Corresponding Secretary	Fran H.
Treasurer	Ellen K.
Auditor	Julia F., Suzan Y.

Next Meeting: Sunday, January 30 at 1:00, No monthly meeting in February.



BWA Membership Party - Sunday, February 13 at 11:30 a.m. We would love to have new members! Call Ellen K. for your reservation.

Gassho,
Ruth S.

2011 Ogden Buddhist Church Board

Our new board was elected at the General Board meeting in December. Please continue to support them in their roles as our temple continues to thrive! If you have any suggestions, please talk to any of them, they are all happy to bring your concerns to our monthly board meetings.

President	Kirk Y.	<i>President Elect</i>	<i>*Currently Open*</i>
1st VP	Stan H.	2nd VP	Kris Y.
3rd VP	Toby Y.	4th VP	Mike K.
Treasurer	Betty Y.	Assistant Treasurer	Tami H.
Recording Secretary	Ruth S.	Corresponding Secretary	Ellen K.
Historian	Suzan Y.	Auditor	Steve K.

Board of Directors:

Mas E., Tom F., Julia F., Fran H., Todd H., Marie H., Annette K., Mike M., Kunie O., Jeannie P., Roland S., Janice S., Harry S., Steve Y., Blaine Y., Linda E-R., Geoff R., Greg O., James A..

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

Happy Holidays Everyone!!

This year the Dharma School participated in the Salt Lake Temple's Christmas Boutique. I want to thank the Dharma School parents, friends and family for helping with the preparations and planning-getting volunteers to help set up and take down the booth. It took 3 week of preparation to get ready for the event. I have to say we have some very talented and creative members. The Manju was a hit and we sold these darling Christmas ornaments, picture holders, picture frames, and other items. Thanks again for making this a successful event.

I will place the MY OFFERING ENVELOPES in the Hondo for those who wish to donate to the BCA Federation of Dharma School Teachers' League (FDSTL). Even though the BCA Department has been closed, the BCA Federation is still collecting funds to help pay for pamphlets and booklets relevant to Jodo Shinshu teachings. We have some of the pamphlets for members and visitors in the hallway if you would like to preview them. If you would like to donate, please make your donation to FDSTL with MY OFFERINGS on the memo line.

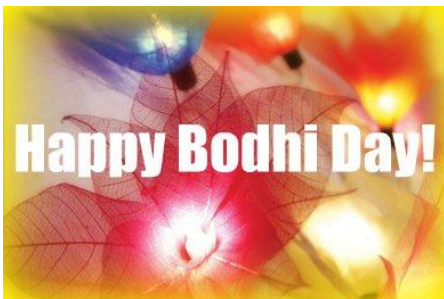
With the holidays upon us, I thought I would share this story with you. A group of us at my work were sitting around after a holiday social when a colleague told us why he had missed our Thanksgiving luncheon in November. As it turns out he did arrive at the restaurant and while getting out of his car he came across this middle aged man, nicely dressed, but very distraught. He asked them man if he was ok and he proceeded to tell him how he was down and out and wanted to know if our friend had \$3.00 to help him get his bus ticket. He proceeded to tell his story of how he had lost his wallet and belongings and that the police station would provide part of his bus fare if he could come up with a portion of the fare. You are probably thinking to yourself what would I have done? Well, our friend has been approached by panhandlers before, but he felt this man was really sincere, and believed him. So he gave him some money for his bus fare, and extra for something to eat, and he drove him to the police station. Our friend said his heart went out to this man, given the economy and hard times individuals are experiencing. When we kidded him it was probably a scam, he said if this man was telling him a story, oh well, but he felt good about what he had done and hoped if he were in this man's position someone would do the same for him.

I know many of you reach out to others throughout the year, but it is a nice to hear from others who display acts of Dana.

Wishing you all a safe and happy holiday,
Suzan Y., Superintendent

Dharma School Bodhi Day Party

By KayLe Y.



Oh What FUN! This year we held our Bodhi Day party on December 12th. We all had a great time playing games, eating yummy food, and exchanging gifts!

Thanks to all the parents that helped make this party a great success! The games were fun – especially when everything gets so crazy and we are running around! It is fun to see everybody getting along so well! I think we are lucky that we are all such great friends, just like a family!

I hope that everybody has a wonderful Holiday Season and that you pass along the Dana that Buddha teaches us to share. Even the smallest thing can make a huge difference in someone else's day!

TOBAN CLEANING

Keeping our temple clean and well maintenance is VERY important to the overall health of our building. Please review the toban cleaning schedule, **as it has changed**, and make note of your month. A monthly reminder will still be placed in the GEPP0 for your convenience. Since Dharma School does the toban cleaning on the 4th Sunday of the month, it is best if you can complete your cleaning during the 2nd week of the month. Your leader will contact you to schedule a specific date.

Please remember the basic items that should be completed during toban cleaning are: clean-sweep-mop-toilets in all restrooms, clean-sweep-mop the kitchen, dust mop multipurpose room, vacuum chapel-library-office-classrooms-hallway, clean entrance doors-windows, empty all trash cans, take the garbage out to the roadside-if necessary and dust, where needed.



January

Blain & Suzan Y.**
Daley Y.
Kunie O.
Debbie Y.
Karen D.
Jeanie P.

February

Craig & Geniel S.**
Landon S.
Pam S.
Courtney & Kevin S.

March

Roland & Janice S.**
Todd & Stacie H.
Fran H.

April

Kirk & Betty Y.**
Trenton Y.
Steve & Kris Y.
KayLe Y.

May

Harry & Alice S.**
Marie S.
Geoff & Linda-E.R.
Lorraine S.

June

Mike & Annette K.**
Scott K.
Sheldon & Kathy S.
Julia F.

July

Obon Cleaning Committee

August

Tom & Marcie F.**
Robyn & Kent F.
Steve & Ellen K.
Valerie Ka.

September

James & Marisa A.**
Charles A.
Max & Georgia Y.
Toby Y. & Mui T.

October

Bazaar Clean-up

November

Ruth K.**
Bart & Robyn H.
Kevin & Justine H.
Marie H.

December

Stan & Tami H.**
Mackenzie & Alex Hirai
Alice H.



** = Toban Cleaning Leader



**2011 Ogden Dharma School Winter Party
9 January 2011
Ice fishing at Pineview Reservoir,
north side of Cemetery Point**



When

1. On the ice at 7:30am. If you want to carpool, meet at the Church by 7:00am.
2. We'll fish until about 1:00pm and plan on lunch at 2:00pm.
3. If you can't make it fishing, please feel free to come to the Church for the fish-fry lunch!!!!

How to Get There

1. Travel up Ogden Canyon and pass the dam as if you were going to Snowbasin ski resort (do not turn and cross-over the dam as if you were going to Powder Mountain ski resort).
2. Continue east past the reservoir. The road will curve to the north and you'll pass the Chevron gas station.
3. Turn left at the intersection to "HUNTSVILLE" and "BEACH MARINA"
4. Follow road to end (about 2 miles) and park in parking lot. **DO NOT PARK ALONG THE MAIN ROAD – YOU WILL GET A TICKET.** Signs are posted by the parking lot requiring a \$9 parking fee and a \$2 per person "walk-in" fee – these fees **DO NOT** apply in the winter!!!
5. Walk across the road and down to the lake. Veer to your left. Look for the black, fishing tent with the red University of Utah banner.

What to Bring

1. Fishing License – If you are 12 years old or older you need a license to fish. You can buy one at any license agent (egs: Sportsman's Warehouse, K-Mart, Sports Authority, etc.) or on-line at <http://wildlife.utah.gov>.
 - a. 365-day youth (12 to 13 years of age) - \$5
 - b. 1-day, resident (14 years of age or older) - \$8
 - c. 7-day, resident (14 years of age or older) - \$16
 - d. 365-day, resident (14 years of age or older) - \$26
2. Warm Clothes (dress in layers) – gloves, hat, snow pants and especially insulated (preferably waterproof) boots.
3. Optional –
 - a. Something to sit on – small, collapsible camp chairs work well.
 - b. Sleds or Tubes – The south side of Cemetery Point has areas suitable for sledding.
 - c. Drinks and snacks.
 - d. Change of clothes (just in case).



What to be Careful of

1. The Cemetery Point access road and parking lot are generally not plowed and can be slippery. Four-wheel drive vehicles are preferable.
2. There is a path in the snow down to the ice – it may be slippery.
3. Be very careful when walking on the ice - it can be very slippery. Also be aware of drilled ice holes – some can be as large as 10 inches in diameter and you don't want to step in them.
4. Don't worry if you hear the ice crack...that means the ice is safe (really!!!)



**Ho-onko Service
January Shotsuki Hoyo
Installation of Officers
Sunday, January 16, 2011 - 1:00 p.m.
Otoki Lunch - 11:30 a.m.**

Guest Speaker: Rev. Kodo Umezu,
Director of the Center for Buddhist Education, Jodo Shinshu Center.

Rev. Umezu has served at the Fresno, Los Angeles, and Oakland temples, he has served as the supervising minister at the Concord and Berkeley temples, he was the Executive Assistant to the Bishop, and is currently the Director of the Center for Buddhist Education, Jodo Shinshu Center.

***Goshoki Hoonko** (Observance of Anniversary of Death and Repay Debt of Gratitude)
Shinran Shonin's Memorial Service - Within the Nishi Hongwanji tradition this is the most important observance of the year. It is held to acknowledge our debt of gratitude to Shinran Shonin for opening the Nembutsu teachings for us.
Shotsuki Hoyo - Monthly Memorial Service*



**Nihan-E Service
February Shotsuki Hoyo
Pet Memorial Service**

Sunday, February 20, 2011 - 1:00 p.m.

When Shakyamuni Buddha attained Enlightenment, he achieved the state of Nirvana. However, in retaining his physical body, he did not achieve complete Nirvana. This observance is to commemorate Shakyamuni Buddha's death and entrance into complete Nirvana.

January and February Shotsuki Hoyo

January Shotsuki Hoyo

January 16, 2011, 1:00 p.m.

Jan 15	2009	Lily S. Endow
Jan 7	1965	Yeijiro Hirai
Jan 7	1977	Yoshio Horiuchi
Jan 21	1980	Peter J. Hunt
Jan 4	1972	Chong Sun Johnson
Jan 10	1992	Wataru Kamigaki
Jan 17	1954	Toshio Kato
Jan 29	1973	Ura U. Kawaguchi
Jan 16	1977	Eikichi Kawaguchi
Jan 28	2003	Jake Hideo Koga
Jan 9	1983	Fujiko Kojima
Jan 5	1998	Soichi Kojima
Jan 23	1980	Toshita Mayeda
Jan 4	1978	Yasuzo Minaga
Jan 17	1999	Sam Sadao Miya
Jan 28	1984	Masaji Miyagishima
Jan 31	1998	Tono Miyagishima
Jan 5	2001	Masano Morimoto
Jan 14	1964	Yeitaro Nishihara
Jan 12	1988	Ichimatsu Nisogi
Jan 30	1968	Takao Okubo
Jan 7	2007	Amy Sameshima
Jan 24	1964	Kenzo Seino
Jan 22	1992	Yoneko Mary Takabayashi
Jan 31	1978	George Y. Tanaka
Jan 3	1974	Aki Toimoto
Jan 10	1977	Yuriko C. Yamada
Jan 17	2010	William Yamane
Jan 16	1997	Namiye Yamamoto
Jan 2	1960	Matsujiro Yamashita
Jan 23	1956	Morikiyo Yei

February Shotsuki Hoyo

February 20, 2011, 1:00 p.m.

Feb 21	1995	Harue Enomoto
Feb 17	1968	Otojiro Fukuda
Feb 10	1965	Hitoshi Hoshiko
Feb 24	1964	Takematsu Inouye
Feb 28	1986	Matsue Kano
Feb 17	1969	Shozo Kariya
Feb 19	1998	Yukie Kawa (Ozawa)
Feb 2	2000	Izumi Kishimoto
Feb 19	1966	Wakamatsu Kiyotsugu
Feb 9	1967	Sahei Kosai
Feb 23	1975	Gensaku J. Miyagishima
Feb 2	1973	Kazue Nishikawa
Feb 28	1989	Shigeso Frank Nishimoto
Feb 21	1978	Jerrod Nisogi
Feb 25	1993	Mitsuye Oda
Feb 18	1994	Yukiye Omori
Feb 1	2008	Kiyoshi "Kay" Shimada
Feb 18	1965	Hiroshi Shioji
Feb 16	1986	Teruo Ted Suekawa
Feb 12	1994	Kazuye (Kathy)Taniguchi (Yagi)
Feb 29	2005	Jane Tomiko Tsushima
Feb 19	1992	Niroku Uyematsu
Feb 29	1968	Michiye Watanabe
Feb 12	1996	Frank Toichi Yoshida
Feb 20	1961	Thomas T. Yoshitaka

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 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

2011 Memorial Service Schedule for those who passed away in:

2010 – 1 year	1999 – 13 year	1977 – 33 year
2009 – 3 year	1995 – 17 year	1962 – 50 year
2005 – 7 year	1987 – 25 year	1912 – 100 year



January, 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:00 am – Discussion Group 1:00 pm – Family Service	3	4	5 10:00 am – Dharma Study Group	6	7	8
9 7:30 am – Perch at the Church 9:00 am – Discussion Group 1:00 pm – “Perch” Lunch	10	11 7:30 pm – OBC Board Meeting	12 10:00 am – Dharma Study Group	13	14	15
16 9:00 am – Discussion Group 11:30 am – Otoki Lunch 1:00 pm – Ho’onko Service & January Shotsuki Hoyo	17	18	19 10:00 am – Dharma Study Group	20	21	22
23 9:00 am – Discussion Group 10:00 am - Omigaki Cleaning – No Dharma School	24	25	26 10:00 am – Dharma Study Group	27	28	29
30 9:00 am – Discussion Group 10:00 am – Dharma School 1:00 pm – BWA Meeting	31					

Toban Cleaning:

- Blain & Suzan Y. (Toban Cleaning Leader)
- Daley Y.
- Kunie O.
- Debbie Y.
- Karen D.
- Jeanie P.





February, 2011



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 10:00 am – Dharma Study Group	3	4	5 ← U of U Taiko Performance →
6 9:00 am – Discussion Group 1:00 pm – Family Service Super Bowl Sunday PARTY!	7	8	9 10:00 am – Dharma Study Group	10	11	12
13 9:00 am – Discussion Group 10:00 am – Dharma School 11:30 am – BWA Membership Party @ The Greenery	14	15	16 10:00 am – Dharma Study Group	17	18	19
20 9:00 am – Discussion Group 1:00 pm – Nehan E Service & February Shotsuki Hoyo 6:00 pm – Interfaith Concert (Taiko will be playing)	21	22	23 10:00 am – Dharma Study Group	24	25	26 ← National Council Meeting →
27 9:00 am – Discussion Group 10:00 am – Dharma School	28					

Toban Cleaning:

- Craig & Geniel S. (Toban Cleaning Leader)
- Landon S.
- Pam S.
- Courtney & Kevin S.

FEBRUARY

