



# 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*

*March/April, 2012 Issue*

*801/392-7132*

*Temple President: Kirk Y.*

*Minister's Assistant: Annette K.*

*Minister's Assistant: Mike M.*

*Junior Minister Assistant: Charles A.*

*Web Site: [www.slbuddhist.org/ogden](http://www.slbuddhist.org/ogden)*

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

## *The Reason I was born was to take out the Garbage*

*~ By J.K. Hirano*

*The Reason for Life*

*Lyrics and music by Sada Masashi*

*Translated by Rev. David Matsumoto*

*The reason that I was born... was to meet my father and mother.*

*The reason that I was born... was to meet my brothers and sisters.*

*The reason that I was born... was to meet all of my friends.*

*The reason that I was born... was to meet you, my love.*

*Just as flowers bloom naturally with the coming of the spring...*

*Just as leaves fall naturally with the coming of the autumn...*

*Everyone has been born in order to be happy!*

*Just as the fruit of joy is borne from the flowers of grief...*

*The reason that I was born... was to hurt someone somewhere.*

*The reason that I was born... was to be hurt by someone somewhere.*

*The reason that I was born... was to be saved by someone somewhere.*

*The reason that I was born... was to save someone somewhere.*

*Just as darkness pervades naturally with the coming of the night...*

*Just as brightness shines naturally with the coming of the morn' ...*

*Everyone is alive in order to be happy!*

*Just as joy rises up from beyond the seas of sadness...*

*The reason that I was born... was to meet you, my love.*

*The reason that I was born... was to care for you, my love.*

On January 26, 27 and 28th, Carmela and I attended classes in Southern California at the Orange County Buddhist Church and the Los Angeles Betsuin. These classes were taught by my good friend Rev. David Matsumoto. The classes were on "Shinjin", a subject that is at the core of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. There are many different translations for the Japanese word *shinjin*. This word consists of two Chinese characters; the first character is usually translated as "belief" or "faith," and the second is usually rendered "heart and mind." Therefore, it can be translated as faith, the entrusting heart, the mind and heart that believes etc. etc. As Rev. Matsumoto explained in his lectures, it is just a word. It is what is behind and in front of the word, which shape our meaning and understanding for the concept that the word *shinjin* describes.

*\*Rev. Hirano's article continues on next page.\**

Shinran Shonin used the word shinjin in many places and ways within his magnum opus Ken Jodo Shinjitsu Kyogyosho Monrui, often abbreviated as Kyogyoshinsho. I don't want to get into an explanation or discussion of Shinjin. Rev. Matsumoto's classes only touched on a small portion of the meaning and he spoke for over 20 hours of lectures. However, during the class we had some discussion on how we felt about Shinjin. One of the questions was, "Is shinjin necessary for life?" I realized that shinjin was not necessary for life itself, but it was necessary for me to truly live life. It made me think of eating; life without shinjin would be like eating without the ability to taste, see or smell what I was eating. On further thinking about this question, I began to realize that shinjin is the reason I was born. It is my spiritual life.

There are some people who think of shinjin as something you get or receive. I don't think shinjin can be defined or understood as a noun. It is the meeting of two great life forces, the Primal Vow of Amida Buddha and my realization of my limitations as a human being. In a non-terminological way of explaining this, Amida Buddha's vow is the deep wish of the life force or compassion and love of the Universe, wanting to become life. The realization of my limitations is to understand how much I have been given to live this life. The meeting of these two result a deep appreciation for life itself. This process and result is shinjin.

The song I began with was a song written and sung by a Japanese folk singer named Sada Masashi. Rev. Matsumoto had told me months before what a great song this was. It was written in commemoration of Honen Shonin, Shinran Shonin's teacher's 800th memorial service. I didn't really listen to the whole song until Rev. Matsumoto's class and it blew me away. For at least three days after the class this song echoed through my head. It echoed as I ate my dinner, as I watched T.V. as I argued with my kids or Carmela, while taking a shower, sitting on the toilet, during every mundane task that make up my life. Through this experience I realized that the reason that I was born was not only to do and have these wonderful miraculous experiences described in this song, but the reason I was born was to take out the garbage on Tuesday nights, to cook dinners and wash dishes for my family, to be honked at in traffic for something I didn't do. The reason I was born was to live and appreciate all that I have, the good and the bad. To all of this I can only bow deeply, put my hands together and say, "Namo Amida Butsu".

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## *President's Message*

It's been a busy start to the New Year. Ho'onko service was very entertaining this year with Reverend Sugahara playing his guitar for us. Perch at the Church had to be rescheduled to the end of January due to the warm temperatures this winter. The fishing was a little slower than in past years, but it was still a good time. The Super Bowl party was also a big hit, with tons of food and fun.

Please note the changes in the March calendar. The family services have been changed from the normal first and third Sunday to the second and forth Sunday. Ohigan/Shotsuki Hoyo will be March 25<sup>th</sup>.

Hanamatsuri will be April 15<sup>th</sup>. The Dharma School kids are working hard, preparing for this year's program, so please come out and support our kids.

Just a reminder, September 15, 2012 we will be celebrating 100 Years of Buddhism in Utah. A celebration will be held at the Salt Palace Convention Center in Salt Lake City. Former Utah Supreme Court Justice and Zen Sensei Michael Zimmerman will be the keynote speaker. Please see the included flyer for more information.

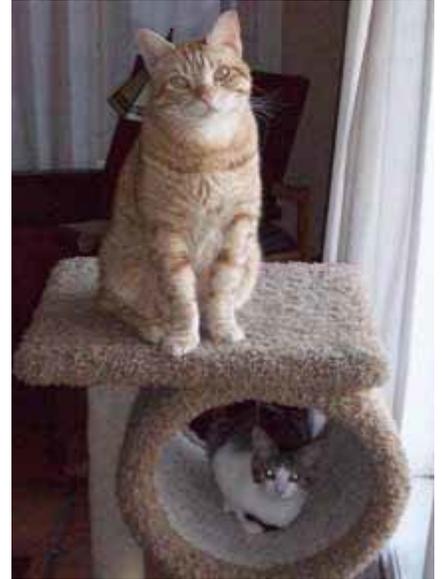
If you have not done so, please consider donating to the Jodo Shinshu Center (JSC) Debt Reduction Effort. The BCA is requesting a donation of \$199.00 per member to eliminate the debt held by the California Bank and Trust. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

Gassho,  
Kirk Y.

## ***G.A.T.O.'S CORNER***



Things are chaotic around the Rye household. We live in a nice house full of old charm. It was built in 1938 and has been well maintained. However, the same cannot be said about the yard. The house had been rented out for over ten years before I moved in. I was told the person who lived in the house before only mowed the lawn with a weed whacker twice a summer! The whole yard needed an overhaul so I contracted a landscaper. Now all the grass and bushes are gone. It is like a large dust bowl, and when the wind blows it's a mess. Gato is not happy about this situation.



**Gato:** What a mess outside. When I look out our big front room window all I see is mud and dust. It looks like the moon on a bad day!

**Saffie:** No mud on moon

**Gato:** Yea, whatever. You get my point. We had the coolest house on the block. Now we look like Tabaco road! I'm embarrassed to be seen in the window. All the neighborhood cats must think we're riff raff. They probably think the lawn was repossessed by the bank! Oh, the embarrassment of it all. I could just die. I'll just hide behind the couch until the yard is put back in.

**Rev. Kurt:** Gato, are you serious?

**Gato:** You bet I am. I have a reputation to keep you know. All the neighborhood cats think it's cool that I'm "Gato the Humble Buddhist Cat". They are impressed that I have my own monthly column, which is world renown.

**Rev. Kurt:** You mean the Temple Newsletter?

**Gato:** Yea, but it's OK, they can't read anyway. The point is if they think we're poor and can't even have grass in our yard my image will tank. Maybe we could have someone spray paint the dirt green, then people might think we have grass again and my image will be saved!

**Rev. Kurt:** Gato, enough already! It really bothers me that you're so concerned over what others might think of you. The idea that you might not have lots of money is not important in the larger picture of life.

**Gato:** It's not?

**Rev. Kurt:** The Buddha spoke of the "fools" whose only concern was fame and profit. Here I read out of the Dhammapada what the Buddha said.

*... A fool wants recognition,  
A place before other people  
A place over other people.*

*"Let them know my work,  
Let everyone look to me for direction."  
Such are his desires,  
Such is his swelling pride,*

*One way leads to wealth and fame,  
The other to the end of the way. (enlightenment)*

*Look not for recognition  
But follow the awakened'  
And set yourself free.*

**Gato:** Wow, those were the words of Sakyamuni Buddha, right?

**Rev. Kurt:** Yes.

**Gato:** I don't know if I like being referred to as a fool, but I understand the message. When he spoke of the way did he mean the Dharma?

**Rev. Kurt:** Yes. The Buddha was talking about what is important in life. If we only think of ourselves how can we think about anything else? The Buddha would want us to try relate to the world from the perspective of the Buddhist Dharma; sharing Wisdom and compassion equally to everyone.

**Gato:** Wow it sounds like a lot of work, but I can try. Just a little bit at a time adds up to a lot after a while, right Saffie?

**Saffie:** Gato the Humble "foolish" Buddhist Cat

**Gato:** I hope this new name doesn't stick!



# BWA NEWS

By Tami H.



Greetings from BWA.....

It seems like we just started the New Year but it is already moving fast!!!! We started the year with Ho'onko and the ladies made a wonderful lunch with an authentic Japanese food menu which is always such a nice treat for everyone. Thanks to the toban group, which included Susan Y., Ellen K., Kris Y., Betty Y., Annette K., Ruth S., Masako R., Fumi K. and Kyoko M. The ladies came on Saturday morning and Sunday morning to prepare for this. Also I would like to thank Valeria K. and KayLe Y. for their help, young BWA women in training!!!!

Thanks to everyone for their support behind the scenes!!!!

The BWA ladies are going to be having some fundraising events again this year:

Spaghetti Dinner will be Saturday, April 21st from 5:00 to 7:00,

and

Sushi Sale will be Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>.

I hope we can make both of these events a success so we can raise some funds for the Temple.

As always thank you for your support.

In Gassho, Tami H.

Upcoming BWA meetings:

March 18<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m.

April 29<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m.



## BWA DONATIONS



Omitted for Online Version



## MEMBERSHIP REMINDER!

Just a reminder that MEMBERSHIP is now past due!

Don't forget that membership is \$150 per adult member and \$10 per member, 20 and under.

We are required to report all membership and have to pay for each of you, please help us by paying your membership promptly so that our temple can remain in good standing.

# Ogden BWA Spaghetti Dinner



Saturday, April 21, 2012  
5:00 - 7:00 PM

Ogden Buddhist Church - 155 North Street  
\$8 Adults  
\$4 Children

All proceeds to benefit the  
Ogden Buddhist Church

## Buddha's Bookshelf

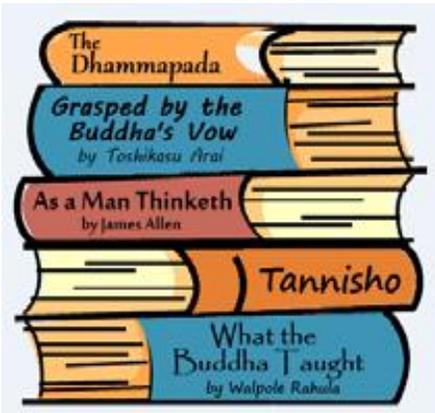
\*Each GEPP0 we will be spotlighting a book on Buddhism. The article will contain the book information and a short summary written by a study group or temple member.

We hope you enjoy our "bookshelf".\*

This edition's review is written by Tim S.

This review is of **A New Earth: Awakening to Your Life's Purpose** by Eckhart Tolle.

Published by Plume



Eckhart Tolle, author of the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of the *Power of Now* provides the reader of *A New Earth* a transformative text for our turbulent times. The author offers a path towards release from our ego bringing us closer to awakened consciousness for the benefit of our entire society. Eckhart's latest work is imbued with Buddhist sutras and Biblical passages that reinforce the awareness of the grip that our ego has upon us and the suffering it causes the human species.

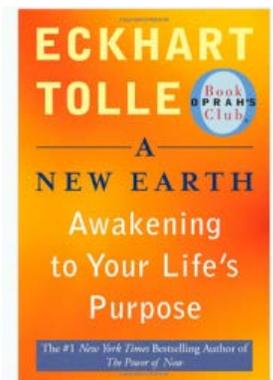
Eckhart, a Cambridge trained scholar, left a "promising" career to seek a way to free himself and others from the shackles of the ego, which is now his life's purpose. He skillfully connects the human and societal condition of suffering to the ego and how it creates an [unconscious-conscious] state in both the individual and society as a whole that has led to war, mistreatment of others, preoccupation with object materialism; leading to the failure of an ego-driven society to advance itself. However, he offers us hope that there is another way.

The core of his method is the focus on the present and identifies for us why it is so difficult to be focused on the present, which leads us to feed our past/future driven ego that keeps us in the spin cycle of an unawakened state, driving us further away from realization of our life purpose - to be here now.

"The decision to make the present moment into your friend is the end of ego. The ego can never be in alignment with the present moment, which is to say, aligned with life, since its very nature compels it to ignore, resist, or devalue the Now."p.201

Many of Eckhart Tolle's insightful and practical instructions for how to become more aware of our ego driven behavior were strikingly similar to those I have read in many Buddhist texts and reminiscent of the Four Noble Truths and Eight Fold Path. Even though his approaches are similar to what the Dharma propose

s, his ability to tie them to the ego driving human behavior and world events was remarkably digestible. Additionally, his effective use of the teachings of Buddha and Jesus in the same context as well as other Zen lessons and stories provides the reader a multi-faceted view of how our ego thwarts the attainment of enlightenment, awakened consciousness. Moreover, he uses the awakened to reveal to us strategies we can use every day to move ourselves closer to those who have achieved this state—in one lifetime! There was only one section that I had difficulty following, which was the pain-body section in the center of the text. The discussion of our nature to store emotions in the physical body seemed circuitous in nature for my western trained science mind. However, once through this section, Eckhart



# DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS



Our Dharma School has been so lucky recently! We have had two wonderful speakers each with a unique and hidden talent! The first was our own Charles A. Who knew that he had such a great ability to speak about the Dharma! Charles' first Dharma School talk included visuals that helped us understand his story.

Our second treat was Rev. Sugihara! He actually brought his electric guitar with him and played a few tunes for us!

Both were exceptional speakers and we are very lucky to have such great talent grace our temple.



## DHARMA SCHOOL DONATIONS

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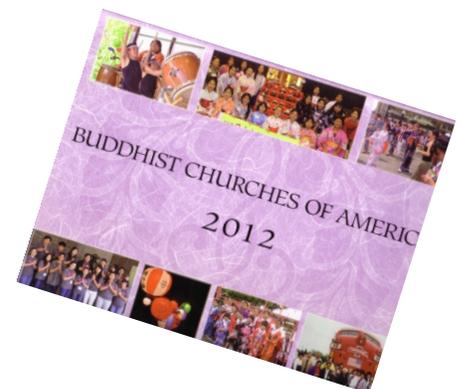


## *Call for Volunteers*

Catholic Community Services, the organization that runs the local food bank, is looking for volunteers to help with food storage and food distribution. They are located at 2504 F Avenue in West Ogden. They need volunteers Monday thru Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Other times can be arranged by calling Karina Martin at 801.428.1296. If you have any questions, they should be referred to Karina as well.

## *Need Any Extra?*

We still have some 2012 Buddhist Churches of America Calendars and Bodhi Seals. If you would like any more, please contact Betty Y. or any board member.



# 2012 Perch at the Church

By Stan Hirai



On January 22, 2012 the Dharma School held its annual “Perch at the Church” ice fishing activity. For most folks fishing started at 7:30 am and everyone met just off of Cemetery Point on Pineview. It was a glorious day on the lake that day with warm temperatures and the ice was thick. Fishing was a little sparse but there was good company and fellowship, and all had a great time. (By the way Stan did finally catch a fish!) There were approximately 30 people who showed up with 5-6 shelters set up for people to use and warm up in. The group fished until 2:00 PM and then went to the Ogden Temple for lunch. Toshi O. provided soup for Udon. Other food stuff was provided by Dharma School members as pot luck. Steve and Ellen K. need to be thanked for organizing this event. They both do so much to make sure this is a fun outing for all involved. Steve is very generous and provides his equipment and expertise to everyone who comes to the lake. Also, Toshi O. needs to be thanked for



the delicious udon.

the delicious udon.





**OHIGAN SERVICE**  
**March Shotsuki Hoyo**  
**KEIRO-KAI**  
**Sunday, March 25, 2012, 1:00 PM**  
**Lunch at 11:30 a.m.**

*The word Higan comes from the Sanskrit word Paramita - "Other Shore." The words "other shore" refer to the "world of Nirvana." As the name Higan denotes, this is the time to remind within each and every one of us the Bodhisattva practice of the Six Paramitas of charity, morality, patience, effort, meditation, and wisdom. It is the means by which one crosses over the illusory ocean of birth and death to the other shore of Nirvana.*

*Shotsuki Hoyo - Monthly Memorial Service*



**HANAMATSURI SERVICE**  
*(Service will begin with traditional Ochigo Parade)*  
**April Shotsuki Hoyo**  
**Sunday, April 15, 2012, 10:00 AM**

*Hanamatsuri or "Flower Festival" is held to commemorate the birth of Siddhartha Gautama in Lumbini Garden. According to the ancient legend, the universe was filled with joyful music, flowers bloomed in full glory and sweet rain fell from the heavens to make this a joyful event. During the service a flower shrine known as the Hanamido is set up in front of the main altar as a symbol of Lumbini Garden. In this shrine is placed a statuette of the infant Buddha and the Congregation offers flowers and pours sweet tea over the image.*

**Lunch & Program to Follow Service**

# **BWA SUSHI FUND RAISER**



**Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>**  
**\$10 per plate**

Available for pick-up following Gotan-E Service  
All proceeds will go to the Buddhist Church of Ogden



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## **BWA SUSHI FUNDRAISER**

**Thank you for your support!**

Sushi plates will be ready for pick up on Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup> following Gotan-E Service

YOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_

# of plates ordered \_\_\_\_\_ X \$10 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ total due

Please make checks payable to:  
*Ogden Buddhist Church*

Order forms need to be filled out and given to any BWA member by April 22, 2012.

## *March and April Shotsuki Hoyo*

### March Shotsuki Hoyo

March 25, 2012, 1:00 p.m.

Mar 10	1967	Kanekichi Hamada
Mar 18	1971	Francis Hirabayashi
Mar 18	1971	Ricky Hirabayashi
Mar 11	1987	Yukiyo Iseki
Mar 29	1997	Keizo Kano
Mar 12	1999	Toyse Toshiharu Kato
Mar 15	2005	Maxie Kimiko Kato
Mar 14	1960	Tasaku Kumooka
Mar 23	1988	Yoshimatsu Miyagishima
Mar 23	1996	Hideo Miyawaki
Mar 29	1998	Matsuyo Miyawaki
Mar 22	1988	Mary M. Morinaka
Mar 5	1979	Shuichi Murakami
Mar 14	1994	Masako Nakagawa Burrell
Mar 16	1966	Bunkichi Oki
Mar 18	1975	Itsu Ota
Mar 31	1973	Taiji Shimada
Mar 14	1970	Yasu Shiotani
Mar 3	1970	Utaru Sugihara
Mar 11	1979	Masu Sugihara
Mar 11	2000	George Joji Sugimoto
Mar 16	1990	Mine Takabayashi
Mar 17	2008	Judy Naoko Takara
Mar 16	1983	Noble Edward Tsushima
Mar 30	1988	Takashi Uemori
Mar 27	2003	Saburo Butch Uyeno
Mar 27	1964	Shinichi Yamada
Mar 3	1996	Toshimi Yamada (Tsukaoto)
Mar 7	1979	Mii Yamaguchi
Mar 10	2007	Takeo Yamasaki
Mar 16	1996	Ruby Toshiko Yamasaki
Mar 28	1992	Kiyoshi Yei
Mar 11	1976	Saburoji Yoshimura

### April Shotsuki Hoyo

April 15, 2012, 10:00 a.m.

Apr 8	1982	Helen Haruye Estrada
Apr 23	1974	Chohachi Fujita
Apr 5	1979	Utaka Harada
Apr 25	1970	Toraki Hattori
Apr 2	1980	Joe Hideo Imaizumi
Apr 2	1995	Miyoe Inouye (Miyamoto)
Apr 16	1983	Ise K. Kato
Apr 5	1979	Bunshiro Kikuchi
Apr 4	2000	Mitsuru Koga
Apr 21	1963	Katsugoro Miya
Apr 22	1967	Eimatsu Miyagishima
Apr 4	1962	Kenjiro Mukai
Apr 11	1993	Yukimi Nakashige (Naito)
Apr 13	1962	Kosaku Nakata
Apr 11	1975	Gentaro Nakashige
Apr 30	2009	Kikue "Kixie" Oda
Apr 13	1987	Chiyoichi Ogata
Apr 24	1979	Haruge Okuda
Apr 11	1987	Kumaye Okuda
Apr 13	1980	Kirk Sakae Omori
Apr 17	1984	George Sakae Omori
Apr 4	1961	Kotaro Ono
Apr 3	1991	Randall Petersen
Apr 11	1979	George T. Ryujin
Apr 21	1999	Tomotsu Tom Ryujin
Apr 2	2004	Etsuko Ryujin
Apr 4	1999	Mary Sase
Apr 9	2009	Shige Shimada
Apr 6	1990	Takino Sugimoto (Nakano)
Apr 4	2010	Fred W. Taniguchi
Apr 26	1995	Yoshiko Tawatai (Yamasaki)
Apr 29	1993	Shizuyo (Shitsuyo) Uyematsu
Apr 22	1971	Kiyoshi Yamamoto
Apr 17	1995	Miyeko Yamane (Nakagawa)
Apr 28	1967	Suzuko Yamashita
Apr 24	2006	George Seiichi Yoshida

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.

#### 2012 Memorial Service Schedule for those who passed away in:

2011 - 1 year	2000 - 13 year	1980 - 33 year
2010 - 3 year	1996 - 17 year	1963 - 50 year
2006 - 7 year	1988 - 25 year	1913 - 100 year



# March, 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 10:45 am – Discussion Group Dharma School Ski Day @ Brighton	5	6	7 10am – Study Class  7:00pm – Buddhism 101 Class	8	9	10
11 10:45 am – Discussion Group 1:00 pm – Dharma School Service	12	13 7:30 pm – Board Meeting	14 10am – Study Class  7:00pm – Buddhism 101 Class	15	16	17  St. Patrick's Day
18 10:00 am – Dharma School Service 10:45 am – Discussion Group 1:00 pm – BWA Meeting	19	20	21 10am – Study Class  7:00pm – Buddhism 101 Class	22	23	24
25 10:45 am – Discussion Group 11:30 am – Lunch 1:00 pm – Ohigan Service	26	27	28 10am – Study Class  7:00pm – Buddhism 101 Class	29	30	31

**Toban Cleaning Group:**

Roland & Janice S. (Leader)  
Todd & Stacie H.  
Fran H.





# April, 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00 am – Dharma School Service 10:45 am – Discussion Group	2	3	4 10am – Study Class  7:00pm – Buddhism 101 Class	5	6	7
8 8:00 am – Outdoor Clean-up No Discussion Group No Dharma School in Ogden  Everybody attends SL Dharma School Hanamatsuri Service @ 10:00 am   Easter Sunday	9	10 7:30 pm – Board Meeting	11 10am – Study Class  7:00pm – Buddhism 101 Class	12	13	14
15 NO Discussion Group  10:00 am – Hanamatsuri Service Lunch and program to follow	16	17	18 10am – Study Class  7:00pm – Buddhism 101 Class	19	20 GEPP0 Articles Due	21 BWA Spaghetti Dinner
22 10:00 am – Dharma School Service 10:45 am – Discussion Group	23	24	25 10am – Study Class  7:00pm – Buddhism 101 Class	26	27	28
29 10:00 am – Dharma School Service 10:45 am – Discussion Group 1:00 pm – BWA Meeting	30					

**Toban Cleaning Group:**

- Kirk & Betty Y. (Leader)
- Trenton Y.
- Steve & Kris Y.
- KayLene Y.

