

THE GEPPO



A publication of the Ogden Buddhist Temple

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Adventures in Wonderland

By Reverend J.K. Hirano

Kimyo Muryo Ju Nyorai I take refuge in the Buddha of Unlimited Life. Namo Fukashigi Ko I take refuge in the Wondrous light.

It seems surreal that it has been 34 years since I first went to Japan. I have probably been to Japan 10 or 15 times, maybe more? However, it never gets easy, the jetlag, the humidity, the language, the crowds of people. Every time I go, I think it will get easier, every time I come back, I'm so grateful I live in America and my grandfather made the choice to leave Japan over one hundred years ago. Strangely I always love going to Japan and upon returning to America, look forward to when I will return. It feels as though I am Alice falling through the rabbit hole into Wonderland, in this case, Japanland. The purpose of this trip was to accompany Bishop Umezu to the annual Bishop's meeting. This meeting is held once a year, last year it was held in Antwerp, along with the European Shin Buddhist Conference. This year it was held in conjunction with the last of the Dento Hokoku Hoyo (Accession ceremonies for the 25th Gomonshu Sennyo Shonin).

Last year in Europe, Carmela and I added a week of travel though Europe. This year, it was two days of meetings, the accession ceremony, one more day of meetings, one day for shopping and seeing friends and then back. Just as my body seemed to adjust to the time change, I had to return to the U.S. The first three days, I was waking up at about 3:30 a.m., I would try to stay in bed as long as possible, but would get up around 4:15. I would make a cup of coffee, take a shower and leave for the morning service at Honganji, which begins at 6:00 am. Thursday, I had caught a cold and felt pretty run down, with the jet lag and hours and hours of meetings, plus the unusually hot and humid days. Finally, on Friday morning, I slept until 7:00 am. It could have been the various drugs I took for my cold that allowed me to sleep. However, I was grateful with the full 7 hours of sleep.

In addition, to this normal travel adjustment, before leaving for Japan on May 20, I had four days of meetings at the Jodo Shinshu Center. As a result, I had to bring a lot of medications that I'm not used to traveling with. I always keep my insulin pens with me, but because of the length of this trip, I had put the extra insulin pens in the refrigerator in my room at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley. Rev. Kuwahara and I were on the plane to go to Japan, but electrical problems had delayed the flight three hours. We were sitting in the plane waiting, when I realized I had forgotten my insulin. I had enough insulin for two more days, but would run out by Tuesday and I wouldn't be back to the U.S. until Saturday. I urgently texted Rev. Harada to see if he could contact Judy Kono to try to send my pens to Japan via overnight. We texted back and forth, but the soonest Fed Ex could get the insulin to me would be Wednesday. Rev. Kuwahara assured me that Japan would have the medications I needed. However, it was still an anxious few days to see if Japan had the insulin I needed, luckily they did.

Through all this confusion, the thought of Namo Amida Butsu calmed me. Every time I would get out of sorts, I would pause and feel the Nembutsu. When I was younger, I felt the Nembutsu was a thing to understand. It was an object to study. As I have gotten older, the Nembutsu has little by little worked on me to soften the hard, stupid, ignorance of my natural self and showed me that within this powerful essence, everything is okay and as it should be.

This really hit me during the ceremony for the New Gomonshu's accession. During the main ritual we chanted Shoshinge. As many of you know, Shoshinge is Shinran Shonin's understanding of Jodo Shinshu in a nutshell. As we take refuge in the Inconceivable working of the Vow of Amida, this is the Nembutsu moving to embrace us. It is the desire of Life itself moving though us, to wake up, to our life in the realm of gratitude. As we chant the Shoshinge we travel from the Universal realm of Namo Amida Butsu, the life of the Bodhisattvha Dharmakara becoming Amida Buddha becoming Shakyamuni Buddha's enlightenment itself. The power of the vow passes to the seven patriarchs on to Shinran and to myself. Namo Amida Butsu is all around me but as I chant it, I feel the movement as it envelops and embraces me. The chanting of the Nembutsu during this new ritual for the Gomonshu was extremely melodic and I felt that all the various ups and downs I have experienced in life, was just right for me and where I was spiritually. Without my Grandfather's desire to leave Japan over one hundred years ago, I would not find myself in Japan chanting the Shoshinge at Honganji in celebration of the accession of our new Gomonshu.

It is an incredibly humbling experience to look at my life and realize what a wonder it is. Within this life, I have experienced incredible joy and incredible sadness. There are times when I wonder if I can even endure the pain and live through it. This up and down is the essence of life itself, it is the meaning of impermanence. To not experience both, is to not truly live. However, the link, the connection of it all, is Namo Amida Butsu. I believe the late Rev. Jitsuen Kakehashi expressed it best.

Many things occur in human lives.

But, whatever difficulties or sadness that we may have experienced,

if we can look upon our lives as being rare and wondrous events, then we will truly have lived.

If we are able to realize this realm of gratitude,

in which we are able to live-and die-in gassho,

then what else could we need?

Rev. Jitsuen Kakehashi, Bearer of the Light,

May each of you truly take refuge in the light, Namo Amida Butsu.

In Memory

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

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

Namo Amída Butsu

George Yonemura - May 27, 2017

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings everyone, we hope that everyone is doing well.

On May 19-20, our Dharma School youths attended a Leadership workshop with emphasis on their Japanese heritage presented by Kizuna-Los Angeles Group at Salt Lake Buddhist Temple. Twenty-eight youths ages 14-24 attended Friday night and eighteen youths ages 7-13 attended Saturday with an activity of pounding Mochitsuki and making mochi with and without An. It was a great experience for our youths and we will be planning another workshop next year.

Plans are in motion for our Obon Odori Festival on July 15th. Food sales will be held from 4:00 through 6:30 pm. Taiko's first performance begins at 7:30 pm and again at intermission. Obon dancing begins at 8:00 pm. Please note Obon Dance practice in calendar beginning June 26th.

Obon, Hatsubon and July Shotsuki Hoyo service will be held at the Church Sunday, July 16 at 1:30 pm. Before service, gravesite visits will precede at the Syracuse cemetery at 10:30 am, followed by Washington Heights at 11:15 am, and concluding at the Ogden cemetery at 11:45 am. The BWA will serve lunch after the graveside visits at 12:30 and prior to service.

The Obon weekend requires a lot of effort so any assistance you can provide would be greatly appreciated. We'll have outside church clean-up Sunday, July 9 at 8:00 am and Obon food preparation days will be July 13 and 14 beginning at 6:00 pm.

Thank you for all your support with Obon and making it fun and successful. If you have any questions regarding how you can help, please contact Annette K., Ruth S., Suzan Y. or Shauna R.



June 10 was a busy day with the rummage sale and the Dharma School project. The rummage sale was a great success due to the generosity of our members and friends who donated furniture, household items, clothing, children's items and more. A special thank you to those who helped with the preparations, it was an enormous undertaking. LaVerne K., did a great job coordinating the efforts of the Dharma School parents and students to sand and repaint the 27 small wooden tables that were repaired earlier this year. This was a great way to close out the Dharma School year.

In Gassho,
Shauna R. and Suzan Y.



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- Visit SmithsCommunityRewards.com
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BUDDHIST WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION NEWS



By Brenda K.

The year is just flying by with Obon upcoming this month...July already! Seems we just finished the sushi sale.

Thank you to all who supported the BWA Sushi Sale on May 14. It was very successful due to all the ladies who came to help and all the members who placed orders and purchased the sushi. Your participation was very much appreciated.

June 10 was the temple rummage sale. Again appreciation is extended to all who assisted with the sorting and pricing of all the items. The sale went well; however, there was still merchandise left after the sale. Many of the BWA were there to help with not only the sale, but the clean-up and disposal of the remaining merchandise. Thank you to all who spent long hours for the preparation, sale and clean-up.

Who were the big winners for the BWA bus trip to Wendover on June 25? Thank you to Ellen K. for making the arrangements and organizing the bus and sign-up. The bus was packed and a great time was had by all.



Upcoming this weekend is the manju making in preparation for the Obon Festival on July 15. All available BWA members are requested to help with the manju on Saturday and Sunday, July 1 & 2 from 8:00 a.m. at the temple.

In conjunction with the Obon will be the general preparation of the food items. Members are asked to assist with the preparation on Friday and Saturday. Friday's preparation will start at 6:00 p.m. and Saturday will be 9:00 a.m. Please come and help.

The next BWA meeting will be August 6, 2017 at 10:00 a.m. in the north classrooms. Following the meeting those who are able will be preparing the quilt to sell at the bazaar in October. Please attend either or both if you are available.

BWA DONATIONS



Omitted for Online Version

2017 Membership

Shauna R.

and helped out!

for

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

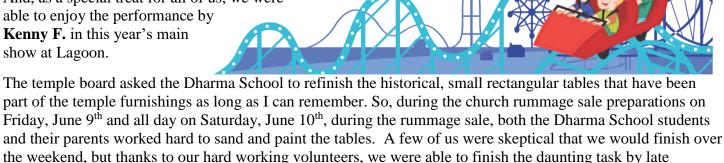
Superintendent Message

The Ogden Dharma School hosted the Salt Lake Temple Dharma School for our annual Lagoon Day on June 4th. We appreciate everyone who attended and provided musubi, salads and side dishes. Our thanks to **Kris** and Steve Y. and Betty and Kirk Y. for making all the food arrangements, bringing all the

equipment and drinks for this great annual event. And, thanks to Betty Y. handling the finances for the tickets sales. We had a good crowd

from both temples, and everyone enjoyed the rides.

And, as a special treat for all of us, we were



Saturday. The 21 brown stained and varnished tables are now a glossy black. A big thank you to all who came

On Sunday, June 11th, we were able to honor our seven--yes, seven high school and college graduates! For our high school graduates, we are able to give a shout out to Catherine A. and Andrew K. Catherine graduated from Ogden High School. She will be moving to

Denver to dance with the Colorado Ballet organization. Andrew graduated from Northridge High School. He will be attending Weber State University this fall. Congratulations to both of our high school graduates!

Our college graduates this year are Trenton Y., KayLene Y., Mackenzie H., Samantha C. and Aimee K.

Trenton Y. graduated with his M.S. degree in Accounting from the University of Utah, David Eccles School of Business. Trenton did an internship with Grant Thornton' Denver office over a year ago, and his performance was so impressive, they offered him a position to join their firm. He will start his fulltime career with the firm in the fall, and we look forward to watching Trenton continue his great accomplishment in his professional career!

KayLene Y. graduated from the University of Utah with a double major, a B.S. in Biology and a B.S. in Business Administration. Wow! KayLene is already working at the University of Utah in the Biology Laboratories. She is planning to attend graduate school to pursue further education in Biology.

Mackenzie H. graduated from the University of Utah with a B.S. in Sociology. Mackenzie is preparing for the graduate entrance exams so she can attend law school. We look forward to watching Mackenzie's future career path.

Samantha C. graduated from the University of Utah with a B.S. in Speech and Hearing Sciences. Samantha has accepted an offer from Texas Tech University's master's program, and she will starting their graduate program in the fall.

Aimee K. graduated from California State University East Bay with a B.S. in Chemistry. Aimee was accepted and has already started the University of Utah's School of Architecture 3+ master's program, already designing 3D models and working several other projects.

Congratulations to all our impressive graduates! I think we will be seeing great accomplishments from our Class of 2017!



In addition to the graduates, we honored our Dharma School students with attendance awards. Congratulations to **Madison Y.** and **Marlene H.** for achieving perfect attendance this year. Also, congratulations to **Andrew K.** for achieving an attendance award, just missing one day during the 2016-17 year of Dharma School.

Another Dharma School year has come to a close. Personally, I want to thank **Annette K.**, our Dharma School religious chair, for all she does to ensure our Dharma School services happen, week after week, doing all the behind the scenes coordination and organization so we can conduct service each week. Also, a special thanks to **Kris Y.** for being our technology expert and

performing all the administrative aspects of our Dharma School. And, my gratitude to **Betty Y.** for making sure we stay in the black and working the accounting for all our messy transactions!

Finally, I would like to thank the Sangha for their support and helping out with another successful school year for our kids. All of our parents and adult temple members are so great, stepping in to help out with both planned and unplanned events. I am grateful to all of you for helping out for the benefit of our Dharma School students, the future of our temple.

We look forward to seeing you all to help with Obon. The next Dharma School planning meeting will be held on Sunday, August 27th at 11 a.m.

In Gassho, LaVerne K.



Dharma School Donations

Omitted for Online Version



DHARMA SCHOOL ACTIVITES!

Dharma School Service Project & Rummage Sale























MORE DHARMA SCHOOL ACTIVITES!

Last Day Of Dharma School & GRADUATION!



Meditation & Discussion Group Schedule

Geoff Russell will be conducting Summer Mediation and Discussion Group!

July 9, 2017	9:00 am Meditation	9:30 am Discussion Group
July 16, 2017	*** No Meeting. Please join	us for Hatsubon Service **
July 23, 2017	9:00 am Meditation	9:30 am Discussion Group
July 30, 2017	9:00 am Meditation	9:30 am Discussion Group
August 6, 2017	9:00 am Meditation	9:30 am Discussion Group
August 13, 2017	9:00 am Meditation	9:30 am Discussion Group
August 20, 2017	9:00 am Meditation	9:30 am Discussion Group
August 27, 2017	9:00 am Meditation	9:30 am Discussion Group

Summer Lawn Mowing Schedule

Thank you to everybody who pitches in every summer to help keep our temple grounds looking fantastic!

Date	Scheduled Group	
July 2, 2017	Kirk Y., Tom F., Steve Y.	
July 9, 2017	Obon Outdoor Clean-up	
July 16, 2017	Obon Service – mow lawn after Service	
July 23, 2017	James A., Charles A., Geoff R.	
July 30, 2017	Mike K., Todd H., Roland S.	
August 6, 2017	Kirk Y., Tom F., Steve Y.	
August 13, 2017	Steve K., Bart H., Blaine Y.	
August 20, 2017	Mike K., Ernie K., Andrew K.	
August 27, 2017	James A., Charles A., Geoff R.	
September 3, 2017	Kirk Y., Tom F., Steve Y.	
September 10, 2017	Steve K., Bart H., Blaine Y.	
September 17, 2017	Dharma School Begins – mow lawn after Service	1
	MAN O DO	

Did Someone Say LAS VEGAS????

There is a bus heading to Las Vegas for the Las Vegas Obon Festival!

When: August 4 - 7, 2017

Cost: \$190.00

Includes: 3 nights hotel at The California Hotel, Bus to and from Las Vegas and to the Obon Festival!

The Las Vegas Obon is one of the largest Obon celebrations and is worth going! The bus only holds 50 people so make your reservation today!

The Wasatch Front North JACL is selling bento box lunches for the bus ride on Friday for \$15.00

COME

Please call/text Marion at 801-628-8729 to make your reservation today!

OBON DONATION LIST

OBON is coming fast ... please save the date of July 15th & July 16th!!

In order for the church to plan ahead, we are asking our members and friends if there is anything they can donate to help us offset some of the costs.

- 2 5 gallon buckets soy sauce
- 3 large bottles Mirin
- 1 gallon bottle Seasoned Rice Vinegar (green label)
- 1-56-oz Toasted Sesame Oil

- 12 Double-pack Somen Noodles
- 2 boxes Small sized gloves
- 2 boxes Medium sized gloves
- 2 large bags Ajinomoto
- 5 50 count Sushi Nori



If you can help us, please let Ruth S. know what you can donate and when you can bring it to the church.

OBON Dance Practice

All practices begin at 7:00 pm



July 5 July 10 July 7 July 12

All dance practices are open to the public and held at the Ogden Buddhist Church.





SATURDAY JULY 15, 2017

JAPANESE FOOD 4:00 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.

Teriyaki Chicken & Tonkatsu Bowls, Spam Musubi, Somen, Gyoza, Tofu Salad, Manju, and much more!

OGDEN BUDDHIST TAIKO GROUP 7:30 P.M. & INTERMISSION

BON ODORI (BON DANCING) 8:00 P.M.

OGDEN BUDDHIST CHRUCH
155 NORTH STREET



OBON SERVICE

Sunday, July 16, 2017

Cemetery Service Schedule:

10:30 a.m. Syracuse

11:15 a.m. Washington Terrace

11:45 a.m. Ogden

12:30 Otoki Lunch

1:30 p.m. Obon / Hatsubon Service July Shotsuki Hoyo

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.

July Shotsuki Hoyo & Obon Hatsubon

July Shotsuki Hoyo

July 16, 2017, 1:30 p.m.

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 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 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

July 16, 2017, 1:30 p.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:

George Goro Yonemura

Tokiye Miya

Alice Setsuko Hirai

Jimmy Kusuda

Roy Ryujin

Masao Endo

Manabu Fujimoto

Kaye Kazue Kuroiwa

Ferry Hiroko Taniguchi

Tok Yoshimura

Toshiuki (Tosh) Aoki

George Kaoru Yoshinaga

Mamiyo Iseki

Yoneko Imaizumi Kiyomura

AUGUST Shotsuki Hoyo will be observed in September

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 attends that monthly service in memory of their loved one. These services are <u>not</u> 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

2017 Memorial Service Schedule for those who passed away in:

2016 - 1 year	2005 - 13 year	1983 - 33 year
2015 - 3 year	2001 - 17 year	1968 - 50 year
2011 - 7 year	1993 - 25 year	1918 - 100 year

For corrections, please call Ruth Schriock at (801) 259-6908.



July 2017



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						8:00 am BWA Manju making
8:00 am – BWA Manju making 9:00 am – Meditation 9:30 am – Discussion Group	3	4th of July	5 10:00 am Buddha's Roundtable 7:00 pm Obon Dance Practice	6	7 7:00 pm Obon Dance Practice	SLBT OBON
8:00 am – Obon Yard Clean-up 9:00 am – Meditation 9:30 am – Discussion Group	7:00 pm Obon Dance Practice	7:30 pm OBC Board Meeting	10:00 am Buddha's Roundtable 7:00 pm Obon Dance Practice	13 6:00 pm Obon Prep	14 6:00 pm Obon Prep	Ogden OBON 9:00 am Prep
10:30 am – Syracuse Cemetery 11:15 am – Washington Terrace Cemetery 11:45 am – Ogden Cemetery 12:30 pm – Otoki Lunch 1:30 pm Obon / Hatsubon Service July Shotsuki Hoyo	17	18	19 10:00 am Buddha's Roundtable	20	21	22
9:00 am – Meditation 9:30 am – Discussion Group	Pioneer Day	25	No Buddha's Roundtable	27	28	29
9:00 am – Meditation 9:30 am – Discussion Group	31					

Toban Cleaning Group:

Obon Cleaning Committee



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	10:00 am Buddha's Roundtable	3	4	5
9:00 am – Meditation 9:30 am – Discussion Group 10:00 am – BWA Meeting & Quilting	7	7:30 OBC Board Meeting	9 10:00 am Buddha's Roundtable	10	11	12
9:00 am – Meditation 9:30 am – Discussion Group	14	15	16 10:00 am Buddha's Roundtable	17	18	19
9:00 am – Meditation 9:30 am – Discussion Group	21	22	NO Buddha's Roundtable	24	25	26
9:00 am – Meditation 9:30 am – Discussion Group 11:00 am – Dharma School Meeting	28	29	10:00 am Buddha's Roundtable	31		

Toban Cleaning Group:

Tom & Marcie F. (Toban Cleaning Leader)

Christy K.-F.

Steve & Ellen K.





The Ogden Buddhist Church is selling "Memorial Lanterns" for our OBON Festival. 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 hung on the Yagura during the OBON Festival.

This is a GREAT way to pay tribute to your ancestors and to watch them "DANCE" right alongside of you!

Obon Memorial Lanterns Order Form

You can purchase a lantern to honor a friend or 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 a	and last names below)
	Lanterns are \$5.00 per name
	Please fill out this form and return it to Ellen K. or any board member.
	You can also mail this form with your payment to:
	Ogden Buddhist Church P.O. Box 3248 Ogden, UT 84409