



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 2021 Issue

801/392-7132

Temple President: James A.

Minister's Assistant: Geoffrey R.

Minister's Assistant: James A.

Junior Minister's Assistant: Charles A.

Web Site: ogdenbuddhistchurch.org

Temple E-mail: ogdenbuddhisttemple@gmail.com

★ SPECIAL COVID-19 GEPPPO ★

We MISS our Temple Members
We MISS our Temple Gatherings
We MISS our Temple Dharma Talks
SOON, things will return to a NEW normal
And we will be able to gather again.
Until then, be SAFE, be HEALTHY,
And BE HAPPY ... at home!

Due to the COVID-19 situation and the uncertainty surrounding it, we do not know when we will be able to gather again, therefore this is a special shortened version of the GEPPPO.

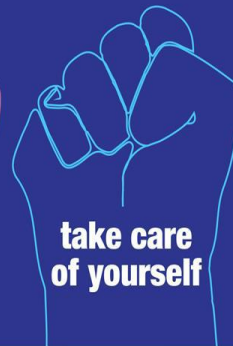
All calendar items are on hold until further notice.

We will keep our website updated with all the necessary information as well as our Facebook page.

**If you DO NOT have access to our website or Facebook page,
please call any board member and we will be happy to keep you updated.**

IT'S
CORONA
VIRUS

TO WIN THE FIGHT AGAINST COVID19



Recipe for Happiness?

~By Reverend JK Hirano

Boundless and free is the sky of Samadhi!

Bright the full moon of wisdom!

Truly is anything missing now?

Nirvana is right here, before our eyes,

This very place is the Lotus Land.

This very body, the Buddha.

Hakuin's Song of Zazen,

translated by Norman Waddell

The week of January 6 was an interesting week. Once again there are talks of impeachment for Ex-president Trump, that has a nice ring to it, ex-president. I'm sure our new President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris were hoping that their administration would start under far less controversial terms. Who would have ever thought that there would be an insurrection in our United States Capital. Or that there would be 20,000 American military troops assigned to protect our United States Capital from United States citizens?

Do you remember how just a few weeks ago, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day we were saying, "I'm so glad the year 2020 is over. It was such a terrible year!" What does that say about 2021? The corona virus pandemic is supposedly only getting worse. Our government is under attack by its own citizens. My advice to everyone is to just don't get excited. 2020 was just a number for a year, so is 2021 and tomorrow is just another day.

Our problems come when we expect things to go a certain way. When we make goals that we feel we must accomplish. I know that there are many people who believe you have to make goals or plan everything out. Contrary to this way of thinking I believe this is what causes the suffering and the feeling that something is the worst ever or "it sucks." I just finished a book called The Antidote: Happiness for people who can't stand positive thinking by Oliver Burkeman. The book is about success through failure, calm through embracing anxiety. It was recommended to me by Rev. Jon Turner. I personally agree with the author's premise that goal-oriented thinking and these positive thinking gurus and motivation speakers are actually setting you up for disappointment.

It's a lot like people who think Buddhism is going to move you one step closer to your God given right to the pursuit of happiness. Do I look like a dancing on air, an overly optimistic person? Most people would describe me as a somewhat scary, grumpy looking old man. However, I can tell you from the bottom of my heart, even though my face doesn't show it. I am happy. I was happy last year and I am happy this year. No expectations and too much goal setting only sets us up for disappointment.

Besides reading books like this and listening to Carmela, my Dharma friends and teachers like Rev. Turner. I learn a lot from my children. I really don't know how this happened but both of my daughters turned into very caring and insightful adults. Just last week, my daughter Kacie called me and told me she has Covid. As she told me, she started crying, not because she was sick, but because she felt so bad that she thought she may have infected Carmela and I. Just so you all know, neither Carmela nor I have Covid. We had quarantined after seeing

our girls just before the New Year. Taylor has also contracted Covid. She got it from visiting Kacie, but she didn't have any serious side effects. In fact, I just talked to her on her birthday, January 15. Even though she was self-isolated for her birthday, she was quite upbeat. She told me how this isolation has given her a chance to finally watch Game of Thrones. Kacie explained that since all her roommates also have Covid, they learned to play a game called "Catan". I'm so amazed how my daughters have so far, turned into really great people. Sorry for the bragging, but I'm very proud of both of them and I have learned a lot from them.

I don't know where it comes from, but Taylor has an extremely deep side to her nature. She has been like this ever since she was a little girl. Often, when we were driving someplace and just talking, out of the blue, she would say something amazing. For example, when she was around ten or eleven, we were talking about her teacher for the new school year. She said that ever since Kindergarten, she has never gotten the teacher that Kacie had told her would be the best teacher for that particular grade. They are three grades apart. However, every teacher she has had, had been wonderful and she feels very lucky to have been in his or her class. I asked her how she thinks this happens. She explained that it had to do with her attitude towards the teachers. She admitted that she always kind of hope that she gets the teacher Kacie had said was the best teacher. However, she has learned to not plan or expect it. In fact, not only doesn't she get the teacher Kacie tells her is the best teacher. She usually gets the teacher that Kacie tells her is the worst teacher in that grade. I asked her, "If that's the case, why do you think they turn out to be so good?"

She explained, "Once I find out who my teacher is, whether or not it is the teacher Kacie told me was the best teacher, I never think of the teacher as either good or bad. She said, "At least I have a teacher and a good school to go to. There are many kids who don't have either." Gratitude does have a lot of positive effects. She said, "If I think of the teacher as good or bad, I could be disappointed either way. So, I remain neutral and life works out." She explained that it never fails, if she thinks in this way, things usually turn out good. She told me that she has always been happy about how her school year turns out. I was just amazed listening to her rationale and realized how true her explanation was. And maybe this is just how I needed to look at my Life, especially in our current political climate.

One of the most famous of all Japanese Zen masters was a man named Hakuin Ekaku, also known as **Hakuin Zenji** (Zenji means Zen Master). His birthday is January 19, 1686 almost 340 years ago and he died January 18, 1769. He is considered the father of the modern Japanese Rinzai Zen tradition. There is a famous story about how on one occasion, a young woman in the village his temple was located in gave birth to a child out of wedlock. She told her parents that Hakuin was the father of her baby. This girl's parents were furious and came to him with the baby. They called him all kinds of names and said that he was responsible for the baby and would have to raise it. Hakuin only said, "Is that so?" I read this story in English and this is the way it was translated, but I can imagine him rubbing his chin, nodding his head and saying, "Ahh... soo desu ka?" which can be translated as "Is that so?" These people left the baby with Hakuin and he gently and lovingly took care of the child, never complaining. After a few months, the young woman finally confessed that it was not Hakuin, but a young man in the village who was the real father. The girl's parents immediately went to Hakuin, apologized and asked for the baby. Hakuin did not get upset, he just rubbed his chin and said, "Ahh, soo desu ka?" He gave the baby back to the couple and went on with his life.

As we can see from this story, Hakuin had the ability to just see life as life. Allowing our life to flow just as it is and not judge it as good or bad. Taylor's theory about teachers and Hakuin Zenji's story; are how we open ourselves to a life of happiness, not dancing on air, giddy happy, but happiness of a real life of tranquility and equanimity.

I began this article with one of Hakuin Zenji's famous poems called "Song of Zazen" sometimes called "In praise of Zen". He writes, *Boundless and free is the sky of Samadhi! Bright the full moon of wisdom! Truly is anything missing now? Nirvana is right here, before our eyes, this very place is the Lotus Land. This very body the Buddha.*

From the mouth of my child, I have heard the insight of the great Zen master Hakuin. Maybe I should have called her Taylor Zenji. Last year was a good year, this year will be a good year, how can it not be so, with Namu Amida Butsu. Although I opened this article with a Zen Buddhist poem, I would like to close by one of our Jodo Shinshu teachers, Rev. Jitsuen Kakehashi. One of our modern masters of Jodo Shinshu, another path to happiness: true gratitude.

*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,*

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

General MacArthur once coined the term "the Corp, the Corp, the Corp" in his speech at West Point military academy while speaking to the Corp of Cadets. Similarly, I believe for our temple it is all about "the Sangha, the Sangha, the Sangha." Without the Sangha the temple could not have survived this past year. I wanted to recognize and thank Reverend Jerry Hirano and our co-presidents Annette and Mike K. for their outstanding leadership during this most difficult time. Many hard decisions had to be made and their experience kept us all safe and the temple strong. I also wanted to thank Geoff for his leadership, Toby for keeping us informed in the digital world, Kris for the awesome job on the GEPPPO, Betty for keeping the books straight, and finally Steve, Ernie, and Kirk for keeping the building maintained.

Over the next couple weeks, Geoff R. and I will be attending the National Council Meetings via Zoom and we will have information from the mother ship (BCA) as to when we can start having in person services and get back to our new normal.

I want to thank all of you again and I am looking forward to a wonderful year together with everyone as "the Sangha, the Sangha, the Sangha."

*In Gassho,
James*

DONATE TO HELP LOWER YOUR TAXES!



The temple appreciates your dana this past year but just a note --- even if you do not itemize deductions for 2020, you can deduct up to \$300 in CASH contributions to the temple or other qualified charities. For 2021, a married couple can deduct \$600 without itemizing – WHAT A DEAL! For those of you over 70 years of age and retired, be sure to look into donating to the temple directly through your IRA or retirement account as part of your taking an RMD (required minimum distribution). Even to pay your membership dues, this could save you many tax dollars. If you have any questions regarding this information, feel free to contact me.

Maya C.
~Finance Committee Chair

BUDDHIST WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION NEWS

By Brenda K.

During this pandemic, there have been very limited opportunities for any activities occurring at the temple; however, there have been a multitude of opportunities happening online. Hopefully, you have taken advantage of the events taking place through the BCA website...the learning options have been occurring at least weekly and the choices have been varied. Check it out if you haven't already. In a way the pandemic situation has opened new doors for us all, and it is so simple to connect with individuals not only across the US, but also in Great Britain, Brazil, Australia, Hawaii, etc.

Just a reminder to anyone interested in supporting the interests of the Buddhist Women's Association, 2021 dues are to be submitted to Ellen K.. Dues are \$20 and can be mailed to Ellen at the temple address: P.O. Box 3248; Ogden, UT 84409. Your timely payment is appreciated.

Now...to give you some food for thought. Since we can't cook and eat at the temple, chew on this...a few puns to make you think. (Hopefully this isn't the most thinking you'll do today.)

Atheism is a non-prophet organization.

Two hats were hanging on a hat rack in the hallway. One hat said to the other: "You stay here; I'll go on a head,"

A sign on the lawn at a drug rehab center said: "Keep off the Grass."

When cannibals ate a missionary, they got a taste of religion.

A vulture boards an airplane, carrying two dead raccoons, the flight attendant looks at him and says, "I'm sorry, sir, only one carrion allowed per passenger."

Two fish swim into a concrete wall. One turns to the other and says, "Dam!"

Two hydrogen atoms meet. One says, "I've lost my electron." The other says "Are you sure?" The first replies, "Yes, I'm positive."

There was the person who sent ten puns to friends, with the hope that at least one of the puns would make them laugh. No pun in ten did.



BWA DONATIONS

Omitted for online version

Thank you

2021 Membership

Courtney B.
 Maya C.
 Susan C.
 Karen D.
 Linda E.-R.
 Christy F.
 Julia F.
 Ellen K.
 Bobbie K.-U.
 Brenda K.

Debbie K.
 Sharon K.
 Naomi N.-M.
 Ruth S.
 Fumiko S.
 Pam S.
 KayLe Y.
 Kris Y.
 Betty Y.



DHARMA SCHOOL DONATIONS

Omitted for online version



OGDEN YBA DONATIONS

Omitted for online version



TAIKO GROUP DONATIONS

Omitted for online version

In Loving 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 Amida Butsu*

Hiroshi Yamashita – January 3, 2021

INTRO TO BUDDHISM STUDY CLASS “SIDDARTHA’S LEGACY”

Rev Hirano will begin an Introduction to Buddhism Study Class “Siddartha’s Legacy”

This will be a virtual class via Zoom. The meeting information is below:

Jerry Hirano is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Siddartha's Legacy Zoom Meeting

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime - ***TIME OF COURSE WILL ANNOUNCED SOON***

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81602631448?pwd=MytBUVlqeUdJNlFjM2K1hraDZuUT09>

Meeting ID: 816 0263 1448

Passcode: 383551

It will be a recurring zoom meeting the dates are:

March 10 April 21

March 24 May 5

April 7 May 19



March & April Shotsuki Hoyo

March Shotsuki Hoyo

Mar 22 2017 Toshiyuki Aoki
 Mar 18 2013 Akio Dick Hamada
 Mar 10 1967 Kanekichi Hamada
 Mar 29 2014 Hisano Higashiyama
 Mar 18 1971 Francis Hirabayashi
 Mar 18 1971 Ricky Hirabayashi
 Mar 11 1987 Yukiyo Iseki
 Mar 2 2015 Aileen Shizuko Kano
 Mar 29 1997 Kayzo Kano
 Mar 12 1999 Toyse Toshiharu Kato
 Mar 15 2005 Maxie Kimiko Kato
 Mar 31 2019 Kuneko Kuni Kawashima
 Mar 14 1960 Tasaku Kumooka
 Mar 23 1988 Yoshimatsu Miyagishima
 Mar 23 1996 Hideo Miyawaki
 Mar 29 1998 Matsuyo Miyawaki
 Mar 4 2011 Rokuro George Nakano
 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 Utaro 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 28 2014 Ted Teruo Yamada
 Mar 3 1996 Toshimi Yamada (Tsukamoto)
 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

Apr 8 1982 Helen Haruye Estrada
 Apr 23 1974 Chohachi Fujita
 Apr 5 1979 Utaka Harada
 Apr 3 2018 Jaxon Jones Masaaki Hattori
 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 1 2012 Fujie O. Kunimoto
 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 Harugo 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 15 2020 Danzo "Date" Shiramizu
 Apr 6 1990 Takino Sugimoto (Nakano)
 Apr 29 2015 LaVerne Vera Summers
 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
 Apr 7 2014 Debbie Yoshimura

For those years not having a specific memorial service such as 2nd, 4th, 5th, etc. the temple is holding these monthly Shotsuki Hoyo.

**Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, Reverend Hirano is reading the Shotsuki Hoyo names during his online services!
Please join him in honoring your family members.**

These services are not meant to replace the specific memorial services. Please contact Rev. Hirano to make arrangements for those services.
Rev. Hirano contact information - Office: 363-4742, Home: 299-8727, Emergency: 819-2648

2021 Memorial Service Schedule for those who passed away in:

2020 - 1 year	2009 - 13 year	1989 - 33 year
2019 - 3 year	2005 - 17 year	1972 - 50 year
2015 - 7 year	1997 - 25 year	1922 - 100 year

Buddhist Church of Ogden Donations Membership

C., Maya, Keith, & Samantha
 C., Susan
 E., Linda
 F., Christy
 F., Julia
 H., Frances
 K., Steven & Ellen
 K., Robert
 K., Wesley & Debbie

M., Naomi N.
 M., Mae
 O., Greg
 O., Kunie
 R., Geoff & Linda E.
 S., Lorraine
 S., Ruth
 S., Roland & Janice
 S., Patsy

S., Tomoko
 S., Marie
 S., Pam
 S., Craig & Geniel
 Y., Steve, Kris, & KayLe
 Y., Max & Georgia
 Y., Suzan
 Y., Kristin

All other donation information is omitted for the online version.

Thank You!! Thank You!!

On behalf of the Board, I would like to Thank everyone for their generous donations. It is only through your donations, that our Temple can meet its financial obligations. If you have any questions or concerns about any donations made, please feel free to contact me at *(omitted)* or my email address is *(omitted)*.

Thank You, Betty Y.



Church Membership Reminder

Please pay your 2021 annual membership dues at your earliest convenience.

Annual dues are \$175 per adult member,
 \$10 for members 20 and under
 Members 80 years old and above are exempt