



UPAYA

Newsletter of the Buddhist Temple of Alameda

2325 Pacific Avenue, Alameda CA 94501 (510) 522-5243 btoa.org

Volume XXXV, No. 7

July 2022

Message from Rev. D.

Obon and Hatsubon

Hopes and rumors of Bon Odori at our temples are emerging into reality. How enticing after our long wait! The Obon festivities are usually held at all the BCA temples throughout the nation. Most are held through July and August ... a parade of dancers, music, dragonflies and lanterns illuminating the landscape. Generations here bow to generations past. We thank them for our opportunity at life that they have left for us to explore and savor. The Nembutsu allows us to touch and thank them all.

When our Obon Festival party is over and everything is put away, we then turn to the heart of the matter. We are able to focus on the meaning of the Obon season beyond favorite foods and happy dancing. We visit cemeteries in our area, meeting families along the way, or offer incense at the family altar at home. The chanting voices resonate in perpetuity and connect us to generations beyond what the memory can hold.

The Obon Service at the temple is intended for each of us in general to reflect upon those we have lost during our lifetime. The Hatsubon Service is more specific, as we consider the delicate first year of a loss. It is our tradition to honor the family members we have lost during the time from last year's Obon Service to this year's Obon Service. The families of the deceased are invited to attend this Hatsubon Service. The Hatsubon names are read, and we are able to reflect on all they have meant to us in our lives. The family members in attendance are invited to Oshoko, offer incense, as a gesture of honor and appreciation. As we elevate those we have lost, we elevate ourselves in shared dignity, respect, and humility. As we honor them, we honor our own lives and remind ourselves to persevere and to make the most of our time.

The wonderful story from the Buddha, where the mother of a dead child is told to get mustard seeds from some house where death has never entered is a poignant way to remind us that we are each touched by death. This is the commonality of our human condition. The festivities and the services are not for the deceased, but for us. We are the ones who struggle to find meaning and direction, and we help each other along this path. What a beautiful way to live.

During our Shin Buddhist funerals, we read the letter "On the White Ashes" from the Gobunsho Letters of Rennyō Shōnin. From this letter, we hear the words, **"Those who leave before us are as countless and as fragile as the drops of dew. Though in the morning we may have radiant health, in the evening we may be white ashes."** The words ring clearer when the loss is closer to us. We each face the eventuality that those words are for me.

The depth of moment comes as life is lived as a treasure. The focus on now and the appreciation of each moment becomes possible only when death is placed in the equation. Through words of Dharma, reflections of truth, and experience of loss, we prepare for our own death. Where do we go to prepare for the lessons of life and death? We come to the temple. Schools don't touch it. It is at the temple that we find guidance to maneuver through



Cont. Rev. Dennis' Message

the maze of life and death. Gently, we keep each other on track.

There is beauty and graceful dignity in providing assistance to those facing their journey through life and death, and then to receive this same assistance when our turn comes. There is no other place that is more deserving of our effort, time, or money than the temple. This is what moves me. The Obon/Hatsubon Service will be July 17 this year. 10:00AM in Alameda, and 2:00 PM at Enmanji. We will see you at the temple. Gassho,

Rev. Dennis Fujimoto
revdjoshin@gmail.com
(916) 416-0919

Members Welcome to Attend Services "In Person"

We will continue to live stream on our YouTube Channel.

July

- 3 10:00 Shotsuki Hoyo Service
- 10 No Service
- 17 10:00 Hatsubon/Obon Service
- 24 9:30 Dharma School
10:00 Family Service
- 31 No Service – 5th Sunday

August

- 7 10:00 Shotsuki Hoyo Service
- 14 10:00 Socho Ki (Bishop's Service)
- 21 No Service - Vacation
- 28 No Service - Vacation

While we are not asking for proof of vaccination, we kindly request that visitors to the service be vaccinated.

Masks and social distancing are required and temperatures will be checked upon entering the hondo.

Thank you for your understanding.

HOSTED BY:

Center for Buddhist Education (CBE), Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS), Jodo Shinshu International Office (JSIO)

Summer Pacific Seminar "Reflections On The Pureland" August 5 - 6, 2022

Speakers: Dr. Melissa Curley & Dr. Aaron Proffitt

Moderator: Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji

Dr. Proffitt's research focuses on 12th-13th century Japanese Buddhism in the context of broader East Asian and Mahayana theories of ritual speech (mantra, spells, etc.), the afterlife, and debates the relationship between Buddhist practice and the attainment of enlightenment. He is also interested in how Buddhist modernism and contemporary sectarian discourse influences how we understand premodern Buddhist thought and practice.

Dr. Curley will discuss how Pureland thinkers in Japan made room for the Western Paradise in the modern world. What elements of Pureland tradition did they hope to hang onto, and what did they think should be left behind? What kind of world did they think was possible, and how did the world reacts to their ideas? This talk will explore some of the adventurous and understudied thinkers who emerged in the world of twentieth century Jōdo Shinshū and reflect on what they might tell us about our own present moment.

Sign Up @ <https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/buddhist-education>

ABWA NEWS

FBWA Virtual Conference & Representatives' Meeting: Oct. 14-16, 2022

The Northern California District is hosting the Federation of Buddhist Women's Association Zoom conference and representatives' meeting. Registration and workshop information have been emailed to ABWA members.

Registration fee is \$30. If you would like to attend, please send a check payable to: ABWA c/o Jackie Ito-Woo, 1140 Holly Street, Alameda, CA 94502. The deadline is August 1. Since I will need to send the registration form for all attendees and one check to FBWA by Aug. 1, please let me know by **July 25** if you would like to attend.

The Representatives' Meeting will also take place at that time. It will be held on Friday, Oct. 14 at 4PM. We will be voting on the modified resolution that our ABWA has voted in support of. Each chapter has two votes. So, besides me, we will need another voting representative, as well as 1-2 alternates. Joyce Maniwa will be voting as the Bay District BWL representative.

Bay District World Buddhist Women's Convention Japan Trip Tour: May 2023

The World Buddhist Women's Convention and the Joint Celebration of Shinran Shonin's 850th birthday and the 800th anniversary of Jodo Shinshu will be held next May. The Bay District has two tour plans: a 12-night and a 7-night plan.

For more information, please refer to the flyer in this issue of the Upaya. There is still time to register, which you can do through this link:

<https://cvent.me/e21r17w>

If you have any questions, please contact:

Rev. Miyaji: Gishin.tmiyaji@gmail.com

OR

Naomi Takehara (Kintetsu representative):

408-544-2451 or naomi.takehara@kintetsu.com

Next Meeting:

Because the first Monday is the 4th of July, our next meeting will be via Zoom on Monday, July 11 at 7PM. The Zoom link with the agenda and reports will be emailed closer to the meeting date.

Note: Since we traditionally take a break in August, the meeting after the July meeting will be via Zoom on **Monday, Sept. 12** at 7PM. (The first Monday of September is Labor Day.)

Gassho,

Lenni Terao-Doerr, ABWA President

Bay District WBWC Japan Trip Tour May 6–19, 2023



May 6: Leave SFO to Haneda Airport

May 7–10: Stay in Tokyo; Visit Tsukiji Hongwanji, see Tsukiji Outer Market, visit other areas like Tokyo Sky Tree.



May 10–14: Stay in Kyoto; Participate in Joint Celebration at Hongwanji, Attend WBWC Conference, Go to Mt. Hiei



May 14–15: Stay in Fukuoka; visit the many sites then stay at the famous Hakuuikan *onsen*. Go on a river cruise and visit a *katsuobushi* (bonito) factory.



May 17–18: Go to Kagoshima; Tour of the “Kakure” Nembutsu where we visit the various sites where Jodo Shinshu followers worshipped in secret hiding areas in order to evade persecution. Visit Chiran Peace Museum that has an exhibit on *kamikaze* pilots. We will stay at another hotel known for its *onsen* hot baths. We will go to a *shochu* distillery and eat, eat, EAT!

May 19: Return Home Kagoshima to Haneda to SFO



Tour Price & Plans	Original Plan (12 nights)	Tokyo & Kyoto Plan (7 nights)
30~80 participants	\$ 6,900.00 per person	\$ 4,700.00 per person
Additional Costs	Fuel Surcharge & Tax by JAL Airlines (\$ 485.00 as of 2/28/22) WBWC Participation fee (\$227.50) , Donation ¥2,000 Group photo (\$ 10.00) & Lunch box (\$13.00) on the Joint Cerebration on 5/10.	
Single Supplement (additional)	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 700.00

THERE IS STILL TIME TO REGISTER!!

Registration can be done through this link:

<https://cvent.me/e2r17w>

Having Problems? Have Questions? Please contact

Rev. Miyaji

Gishin.tmiyaji@gmail.com

Or you can contact our liaison at Kintetsu International America Company

Naomi Takehara

T:408-544-2451

E:naomi.takehara@kintetsu.com

SHOTSUKI – HOYO /MONTHLY MEMORIAL SERVICE
Sunday, August 7, 2022
In Person & Living Streaming on YouTube Channel

Family members and friends are invited to the August Memorial Service for those listed below. If 2022 is a special service year as indicated, please contact Rev. Joshin Dennis

Fujimoto to arrange a special memorial service for your family.

Special Service	Year of Death	Special Service	Year of Death
1 year	2021	17 year	2006
3 year	2020	25 year	1998
7 year	2016	33 year	1990
13 year	2010	50 year	1973

Abe, Ms. Masako 1997
 Ando, Mr. Yoshio 1930
 DiStefano, Mrs. Ethel Norell 1996
 Furuzawa, Infant Masatomi 1925
 Hashimoto, Mrs. Hiroko 1962
 Hashimoto, Mr. Jimmy 1999
 Hashimoto, Mr. Yasuhiko 1988
 Hattori, Mrs. Kazuye I. 2004
 Hedani, Mrs. Kiyoko 2008
Hidalgo, Janice 2021
 Higashi, Mrs. Kazuko 2009
 Hirotsuka, Infant 1930
 Honda, Mr. Tatsuo 1993
 Hsu, Brian Wei 2018
 Ikegaki, Mr. Yoshio 1955
 Imazumi, Mrs. Nobue 2015
 Inouye, Mr. Tomio 2008
 Ishii, Infant Isamu 1916
 Iwahashi, Mr. Paul K. 2003
 Kanzaki, Mr. Kiyoshi 1940
 Kataoka, Mr. Masao 1984
 Kawauchi, Infant Izumi 1916
 Kitashima, Mr. Roy 1996
 Konishi, Mr. Pat T. 1999
 Kuge, Mr. Naoyoshi 1983
 Marubayashi, Infant Shinogu 1941
 Matsubara, Mr. Taichi 1924
 Matsumoto, Infant Chiyoko 1930
 Michisaki, Mr. Wakataro 1929
 Mitani, Mrs. Kiyoko 2014
 Miyawaki, Mr. Takao 1989
 Mori, Mr. Kazuo 2002
 Mune, Mr. Hisataro 1924
 Nakamura, Mrs. Hideko 1924

Nagasugi, Mr. Kunio 1949
 Nishida, Mr. Ichiro 1995
 Oba, Mr. Toji 1927
 Oishi, Mrs. Tsugi 1997
 Okamoto, Mrs. Virginia T. 2011
 Saito, Mrs. Yoshi 1989
 Sakamoto, Mr. Tsuneji 1997
 Shibata, Master Yoshio 1920
 Shimada, Mr. Kazuo 1997
 Shirai, Infant Akira 1919
 Shiraishi, Mr. Ushitaro 1959
 Sugino, Mrs. Maki 1935
 Sugiyama, Mrs. Kimiko 2013
 Takahashi, Mr. Takashi 2005
 Takao, Mrs. Mitsuye 1989
 Takara, Infant Isamu 1925
 Takeda, Mrs. Mildred 1995
 Takeda, Mrs. Shizu 1971
 Tamura, Miss Mana 1945
 Terao, Mrs. Ura 1945
 Tsuchiya, Mrs. Miyano 1971
Tsurumoto, Mr. Matsutarō 1990
 Uchiyama, Mrs. Fui 1948
 Uo, Mr. Shoichi 1917
 Ushijima, Mr. James K. 2009
 Wada, Mrs. Mitsue 1951
 Yamasaki, Infant Tomiye 1922
 Yamashita, Mrs. Furu 1965
 Yamashita, Mrs. Haruno 2013
 Yamashita, Mr. Masao 2011
 Yamashita, Mr. Shoichi 1953
 Yamashita, Mr. Toshio 1959
 Yanagi, Mr. Kazutomo 1967
 Yoriji, Mr. Ichi 1927

Hatsubon Names for 2022

Avery Natsuko Yoshiwara	07/04/21
Chris Shinya Tomine	07/10/21
William Isamu Mizono	07/24/21
Janice Kazuye Hidalgo	08/14/21
Dennis Osamu Sugiyama	01/02/22
Parry Jerome Poon	01/05/22
Danlun Lim	01/12/22
Joyce Mitsuko Terao	04/05/22

Hatsubon Service – Sunday, July 17th @ 10:00 AM

OBON DORI

We will be having a small temple member's only Obon Dori on **Saturday, July 16th**. *Note: no food or drink will be sold at this event.*

This will be a special event since no one will have to prepare or sell food. Giving everyone an opportunity to dance. Our first intimate Obon Dori after three (3) trying years. Come and enjoy the beautiful lanterns lit honoring our departed friends and family members during these past few years.

DORI PRACTICE

Hanayagi Sensei will be conducting two practice sessions for us.

Tuesday, July 12th and Thursday, July 14th
Both starting at 7:45 PM

Our Deepest Sympathies to the Ikeda Family

Satomi Ikeda, willow of Minoru Ikeda and mother to Kenny Ikeda passed away earlier this year. Mr. & Mrs. Ikeda had a flower show near the Japanese Cemetery in Colma.

Although their shop was busy on Sundays, one of them always drove Kenny to Dharma School each week.

Condolences can be sent to:
Ken Ikeda
12330 Knightsbridge Drive
Woodbridge VA. 22192-5151



Ikebana and Shigin Classes Resume Inside at BTOA

Masks, Temperature Check, and Social Distancing Required.

Ikebana Class - 生け花, 活け花, "arranging flowers" or "making flowers alive" is the Japanese art of flower arrangement.

10:00 AM class on the third Wednesday of the month at BTOA has a few spots open for new students. *Note: 1:00pm and 6:30pm classes are full.*

New 1:00 PM class on the third Thursday of the month at BDK America, Moraga to start in August.

If you would like to join the class, please contact Jane *Suiei* Naito at ikebana_now@icloud.com or 415.378.1100 for more information.

Photo: Arrangement created by a Student in the Alameda

Shigin Class - reciting a Japanese poem or a Chinese poem read in Japanese, each poem (詩 *shi*) usually chanted (吟 *gin*) by an individual or in a group.

10:00 AM class every Thursday. For more information, please contact Rev. Taniguchi at 510.326.8911.

Our Metta Fund

The Metta (loving-kindness) Fund of the Buddhist Temple of Alameda was established in 2014 by Revs. Zuikei and Shoyo Taniguchi, John McCue, Amy Tomine, and Eddie Matsuoka to support Temple members past and present who were in need of emergency financial support. It was created in response to a former member of our Sangha who found refuge in our Temple.

The initial \$5000 fund was generously donated by Dennis Eimoto of Berkeley who wanted the money to be used for purposes other than Temple restoration. Since then, additional funds were donated by the estate of Temple member, Mariko Marlin. Revs. Zuikei and Shoyo donated an additional \$5000 when they celebrated their 40th anniversary.

During this unprecedented COVID-19 and variants crisis we would like to remind Temple members that this Metta Fund exists if you or anyone associated with our Temple needs emergency support.

The guidelines are as follows:

1. Funds are used specifically for survival level needs.
2. Funds are available for former and current members, and anyone associated with the Temple.
3. Funds are considered "micro-loans" which can be repaid in the future when funds are available.
4. Members may write a referral to the Metta Fund Committee.
5. Board will review the request. Applicant's name WILL NOT BE SHARED with the board.
6. No board approval is necessary for amounts under \$500.
7. Committee will also refer the person in need to various agencies for help.
8. Committee shall be made up of the current resident minister, current Board treasurer, and 3-4 lay members.
9. Temple members will be made aware of the Metta Fund in the Upaya and can earmark donations to it.

Current Metta Fund Committee: Rev. Dennis Fujimoto, Tom Hashimoto, Amy Tomine, Eddie Matsuoka, and Dorothy Okamoto.

We welcome anyone who would like to join the Metta Fund Committee.
Donations can be made to BToA (earmarked Metta Fund).
Contact person: Amy Tomine, 510 524 5725 home or 510 520 0705 cell

Thank you to everyone who purchased an Obento and/or attended our Mini Bazaar!

THANK YOU

Thank you to our sponsors for their donations: Koda Farms (Rice), Howard Shintani (Pepperidge Farm Cookies), Tokyo Fish (Takuan), Safeway – Vallejo (gift card), Costco - Vallejo (gift card), Irene Preston (Preston Candies) and Satoko Furuichi (kuri manju).

Thank you to our Volunteers: Colleen Tajiri, Colleen Okamoto, Amy Tomine, Wayne Nakano, Susan Hiraki, Julie Takano, Leslie Shintani, Andrea Shintani, Winston Lee, Mary Narahara, Dan Narahara, Nancy Kawabata-Poon, Karen Fong, Andy Shiozaki, Ron Nakano, Joan DiStefano, Lani Takano, Jim Kotcher, Kimi Omi, Tamiko Yuen, Akemi Maniwa, Grant Tsuji, Eri Tsuji, Eric Chung, Rudy Louie, Marc Ishida, Yumiko Ishida, Jane Naito, Francie Farinet, Pam Honda, Allison Nagahisa, Josephine Taira, Andrew Taira, Darren Taira, Allison Ishida, Dorothy Hashimoto, Morgan Hashimoto, Mark Morimune, Kent Yoshiwara, Judy Oda, Marilyn Ishida-Lew, Barney Lew, Kimberly Kato-Chambliss, Fletcher Chambliss, Noah Dunham, Chris Dunham, Ellis Braxton, Ayumi Tsuji, Kento Tsuji, Jason Matsuoka, Dianne Matsuoka, Eddie Matsuoka, Dwight Meitzenheimer, Mas Takano, Carl Woo, Ken Narahara, Susan Shimamoto, Allen Sakamoto, Esther Sakamoto, Joe Klein, Jacqui Yamaoka, Sean Peters, Don Gardener, Lou Panzella, Logan Yost, Hiko Shimamoto, Vickie Miyashiro, Asuka Hideki Maniwa, Janet Kwan, Gary Taketa, Michele Matsuoka, Leah Chung, Gayle Okada, Debbie Matsuura, Lawrence Cen, Sharmon Fujimoto, Rev. Dennis, Wing, Steve, Corey & Tyler.

If we missed someone, our apologies.



Mini Bazaar Committee:
Tom Hashimoto, Joyce Maniwa, Dorothy Okamoto, Howard Shintani, Yumi Yasuda, and Kent Yoshiwara.



Buddhist Temple of Alameda
2325 Pacific Avenue
Alameda, CA 94501

Time Sensitive Materials

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED **JOIN the GARDEN CREW**

If you would like to help us maintain our beautiful garden,
please contact Mas Takano.

Some members work in the garden on Wednesdays and Fridays.
You can join them, or you can arrange to work in the garden on
your own on any day that fits into your schedule, just coordinate it
with Mas at 510-205-5033 or mtakano615@gmail.com.

*Weed * Mow * Prune * Water * Fertilize * Plant * Pond*
We're willing to train.... Come out and enjoy the outdoors with us.