



U P A Y A

Newsletter of the Buddhist Temple of Alameda

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

Volume XXXVI, No. 7

July 2023

Message from Rev. D.

Obon and Hatsubon

The Obon festivities at all our temples are just around the corner. We can feel the anticipation as our temple dancers and leaders shake off the rust, move their bodies and begin their preparations. Most Bon Odori 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.



We are able to reflect upon the image in this Haiku poem by Masaoka Shiki (1867-1902).

夏の月	提灯多き	-	ちまた哉
Natsu no tsuki	Chochin ooki	-	Chimata kana
The summer moon	There are a lot of paper lanterns		On the street.

The colorful Obon lanterns swaying gently above the dancers play in the summer breeze.

When our Obon Festival party is over, 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, reverence, 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 life of 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. It is at the temple that we find guidance to maneuver through the maze of life and death.

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 at 1:00pm be July 16 this year. We will see you at the temple.

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

Bon Odori Dance Practice 7:30 PM

**Monday, July 3rd
Wednesday, July 5th
Tuesday, July 11th
Thursday, July 13th**

Bon Odori Saturday, July 15th 7:30 PM

We are not advertising this event, but friends and family are welcome to come participate in our Bon Odori this year.

Note: no food will be sold at this event.

Obon/Hatsubon Service Sunday, July 16th, 2023 1:00 PM

Service Time Change

We decided to let our volunteers and dancers sleep in by changing our service time to 1:00pm on Sunday, July 16th.

ABWA News

Obon/Hatsubon – Sunday, July 16

This year because we will be having our service at **1PM**, we will be serving light refreshments only, after the service. There will be no otoki luncheon. Thank you to Toban Group #1 for preparing the refreshments!

Candy-Making Workshop – Saturday, September 16

Save the date! There will be a candy-making workshop presented by Irene Preston on September 16 at the Temple. She will introduce us to the basics of at-home candy-making using tools and ingredients that we already have in our own kitchens. Attendance for this hands-on workshop will be limited to 15 people. Look for more details and registration information in next month's Upaya.

Next meeting

Our next meeting will be on Monday, **July 10** at 7PM. Please note the date change due to

Obon dance practice which will take place on the first Monday of the month, July 3 at 7:30 PM. The Zoom link with the agenda and reports will be emailed closer to the meeting date.

Gassho,
Lenni Terao-Doerr, ABWA President



Logan Yost, grandson to Satoko and Jim Furuichi graduated from El Cerrito High School, Class is 2023.

In August, he will be attending the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. His Major is Hospitality.

It appears, those couple of years helping in the game booths at our bazaar got him used to customer service :)

Congratulations Logan!

Graduations/Weddings

If your child or grandchild has a graduation or wedding recently or coming up, please send in the details and a photo to janenaito@me.com for the Upaya.

Dharma School News

Summer is here! We had a nice last day of Dharma School and celebrated with a trip to Subpar for some miniature golf.



Had even more fun at the Vacationland Bazaar! So nice to have the games back after a 3-year hiatus. And thank you to Hardy Chambliss for building some great games!



We're always looking for new students! So let us know if you have kids that may be able to join us in the next Dharma School year. See you in September!

Metta,
yumiyasuda50@gmail.com

THANK YOU to all of our volunteers and to those who came to enjoy the bazaar.

It was nice to see everyone at our temple.

More bazaar pics in August issue of Upaya.



BTOA BAZAAR RAFFLE WINNERS

Grand Prize \$3,000
Ray Yamasaki

1st Prize \$1,000
Misako Akiyama

2nd Prize. \$ 500
M. Sato Brown

CONGRATULATIONS!

Thank you to **Sergeant Kevin Horikoshi** and **Michaelia Parker**, Crime Prevention Technician for coming to BTOA to conduct a workshop on Situation Awareness.

The workshop was full of great advance on measures that we can take so that we are not seen as an easy target, what to do if you are a victim or see a crime happening, important information and observations when reporting a crime, what numbers to call to report a crime.

If you missed the workshop, you can view it on our YouTube Channel: Buddhist Temple of Alameda on June 11th.

*NO Zoom
COFFEE HOUR
In JULY*



SHOTSUKI HOYO
MONTHLY MEMORIAL SERVICE
Sunday, August 6, 2023

In Person & Living Streaming on our YouTube Channel

Family members and friends are invited to the August Memorial Service for those listed below. If 2023 is a special service year as indicated below, 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	2022	17 year	2007
3 year	2021	25 year	1999
7 year	2017	33 year	1991
13 year	2011	50 year	1974

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. Matsutaro 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



THE BENEFITS OF A LIFE OF GRATITUDE: Benefits of Shin Buddhism PART 2

Saturday, July 15, 2023 11:00 am – 1:00 pm (PT)

**Guest Speakers: Rev. Dr. Kenji Akahoshi, Jean Paul deGuzman,
Sydney Shiroyama, Teresa Shimogawa**



Rev. Dr. Akahoshi served as the resident minister of the Buddhist Temple of San Diego for 8 years and recently retired. He received a master's degree from the Institute of Transpersonal Psychology in Palo Alto and a Masters of Buddhist Studies from the Institute of Buddhist Studies of Berkeley, CA. He originated (1998) and continues to conduct annual Shin Buddhist Retreats in California, Washington, and Hawaii.



Jean-Paul deGuzman is a minister's assistant at the San Fernando Valley Hongwanji Buddhist Temple and a ministerial aspirant. His writing on Buddhism in America appears in *Lion's Roar*, *The Wheel of Dharma*, *Everyday Buddhist*, and *Religion in Los Angeles: Religious Activism, Innovation, and Diversity in the Global City*. He teaches at Windward School and UCLA where he earned the Distinguished Teaching Award.



Sydney Shiroyama (she/her) is a multiracial yonsei who grew up attending the Palo Alto Buddhist Temple (PABT), where she currently serves as a Certified Minister's Assistant, Dharma School Teacher, and board member. She works as a pediatric occupational therapist and is completing the Masters of Buddhist Studies program at Institute of Buddhist Studies. Sydney designs and facilitates taiko sessions for special education classrooms and self-advocates with Down Syndrome.



Teresa Shimogawa is a minister's assistant at Orange County Buddhist Church. She teaches government at a public school in Orange County, CA and stays busy raising her three young children. She is also a writer.

Moderator: Rev. Marvin Harada

Registration

<https://forms.gle/kPFubgiL56xgmrne9>

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Buddhist Temple of Alameda
2325 Pacific Avenue
Alameda, CA 94501

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COME JOIN US!

**Saturday, July 15th
Bon Odori @ 7:30PM**

**Sunday, July 16th
Obon/Hatsubon
Service @ 1:00PM**

