



UPAYA

Newsletter of the Buddhist Temple of Alameda

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

Volume XXXVI, No. 12

December 2023

Message from Rev. D.

Bodhi Day - We look forward to our annual Bodhi Day Service as we come to the end of the year. Images of the life of Prince Siddhartha can come to mind from the stories and the pictures we may have shared at the temple through the years. The thoughts of the Prince turned to serious questions no matter how hard his father tried to hide the difficult and sometimes ugly truths of life. The story of the 4 Gates; confronted with Old Age, Sickness, and Death, and then meeting the monk in search of deeper truths in life encouraged the Prince to do the same.

In various ways and at different times, we each trace the same footsteps. We see our own faces and bodies change in the mirror day by day. Colds and flu and Covid can linger or turn for the worse. Bumps and bruises become breaks and more as our elastic and resilient bodies of younger days become more brittle and susceptible. We gradually lose family members and dear friends as we walk our shared path. Alas, we confront the same conditions and the same truths as the Prince had.

The Prince decided to look more deeply into his life and all of life. Encouraged and guided by teachers and friends, he continued to seek the deepest truths that could shine light upon his life and personal struggles of how to make sense of it all. At the same time, if there were such truths, they should hold for all of life, and remain true in any and all conditions or times.

Each Bodhi Day, we celebrate the awakening of the Prince and the Enlightenment he had come to. Rather than the Prince achieving the greatest of discoveries, the Truths of Infinite Reality had come to awaken the Prince. The Prince had received the truths of Enlightenment. He became the Awakened One, Shakyamuni Buddha. He has become our model for living in the light of Wisdom and Compassion.

This year our Bodhi Day Service will be held on December 10 at 10:00 AM. Please come to share this service with our fellow Sangha members and to listen to the Dharma message. Our very important BTOA General Meeting will follow the service. It is an opportunity for all of us to be aware of the state of the temple as we move forward.

Also in December, there will be no service provided on Sunday the 24th due to the Holiday weekend. Sunday December 31 will be our annual End of Year Service, the Joya No Kane. Please check the temple calendar for the details to this service to ring in the New Year. The brisk cold of this time of year also bring fresh eyes to look forward to all that will come in the coming year. Sharon and I would like to thank all the temple members who have welcomed and supported us every time we have been able to come to the temple for our services and meetings throughout the year. We appreciate you all.



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

Everyone is Welcome to Attend Services "In Person"

Mask Optional

We will continue to live stream on our YouTube Channel.

December

- 3** 10:00 Shotsuki Hoyo
(Monthly Memorial)
- 10** 9:30 Dharma School
10:00 **Bodhi Day Service**
11:00 BTOA General Meeting
- 17** 10:00 Family Service
Birthday Sunday
- 26** No Sunday Service – Holiday
- 31** 3:00 New Years Eve Service

January

- 1** 10:00 New Year's Day Service
- 7** 10:00 Shotsuki Hoyo
(Monthly Memorial)
- 14** 9:30 Dharma School
10:00 Family Service
- 21** 10:00 Family Service
New Year's Party
- 28** 9:30 Dharma School
10:00 Family Service
Ask Rev. D
Birthday Sunday

Birthday Sunday

Please join us on Birthday Sundays and celebrate our sangha members' birthdays with us. Some have donated pennies, quarters, or dollars for each year they are celebrating.

The kids love hearing all the coins being dropped into the osaisen box. All osaisen donations are used for Dharma School Programs.

2024 Japanese Goods & Hidden Treasures Sale

The Temple's Japanese Goods and Hidden Treasures Sale will be held the weekend of **March 23-24, 2024.**

If you're downsizing or have **Japanese items** in search of a new home, we'll gratefully accept your donation.

Items that sold well at our sale this spring include but are not limited to:

- Housewares/Dinnerware/Tea Sets
- Decorative Items (especially decorative baskets, wooden boxes)
- Clothing (kimono, yukata, haori, happi coat)
- Fabrics and textiles
- Ikebana items/vases/kenzan (pin frogs)
- Japanese-themed books on culture, art/design and cooking
- Trinkets
- Tansu

Regretfully, we cannot accept small appliances.

Donations may be dropped off at the Temple's Social Hall on the following Sundays from **11AM to 2PM** note: revised drop off time

- December 3, 2023
- December 10, 2023
- January 7, 2024
- January 14, 2024
- February 4, 2024
- February 11, 2024

Don't forget to take a donation receipt for your tax records!

**Questions:
Contact Gayle Okada
510-276-3483
gayle.okada@gmail.com**

SHOTSUKI HOYO
MONTHLY MEMORIAL SERVICE
Sunday, December 3, 2023

In Person & Living Streaming on our YouTube Channel

Family members and friends are invited to the December 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

Ago, Infant Aiko 1922
 DiStefano, Carl 2018 Akashi,
 Infant Tetsu 1934
 Asada, Mr. Masae 1919
Cohen, Mrs. Florence R. 2011
 DiStefano, Ciro 1994
 Enomoto, Mr. Kyuzo 1947
 Fujishima, Mr. Soichi 2008
 Fujiwara, Infant Jiro 1923
 Fujiwara, Infant Yoshinari 1920
 Goto, Mr. Rokuzo 1951
 Hamasaki, Mr. Seiichiro 1951
 Haraguchi, Mr. Ikuhei 1958
 Haramaki, Mrs. Mite 1987
 Hasegawa, Mr. Kikumatsu 1954
 Hashimoto, Mr. George 2001
 Imazumi, Mr. Shozo 1924
 Imose, Mrs. Tome 1925
 Isoda, Mr. Kohei 1936
 Iwahashi, Mr. James 2008
 Iwataki, Mr. Joe 1988
 Iwataki, Mr. Gosaku 1935
 Kataoka, Masajiro 1938
 Kato, Infant Masaru 1923
 Kihara, Infant Fuyoka 1921
 Kobu, Infant Senichi 1919
 Kuge, Mrs. Aiko 1997
 Maruyama, Mrs. Fujiko 1958
 Marubayashi, Mr. Bunju 1989
 Matsumoto, Mrs. Fusa 1948
 Matsuoka, Mr. Bunji 1925
 Matsuura, Mr. George 1977
 Miyamori, Mrs. Fujiko 1997
 Morino, Mr. George 2003
 Moriya, Mr. Heihachiro 1935
Muramoto, Mr. Roy 2011

Nakagawa, Mr. Tetsuya 1929
 Nakagawara, Mr. Katsuzo 1922
 Nakamura, Mr. Matsushiro 1930
 Nakano, Mrs. Hiroko 1994
 Nakano, Mrs. Yukuse 1992
 Nakao, Mr. Chuichi 1997
 Nakao, Mrs. Mikino 1968
 Nakashima, Mrs. Sahi 1938
 Nakaso, Mr. William Saburo 2004
 Nakayama, Mrs. Yoneko 2015
 Negi, Mr. Jotaro 1923
 Nishi, Mrs. Momoyo 1953
 Nomura, Mrs. Haruka 2004
 Ogata, Mrs. Sute 1949
 Ohye, Mrs. Tayo 1977
 Ota, Mr. Gary Hiromichi 2005
 Rorabaugh, Mrs. Umeko 1982
Sakai, Mrs. Toki 1974
 Sakamoto, Jerry 2019
 Shimizu, Mr. Tajiro 1921
 Shimono, Grace 2019
 Shiota, Mr. Keiji 1972
Shiraishi, Mrs. Misao - 1999
 Shiroishi, Infant Mitsuyo 1923
 Sueyasu, Mr. Jutaro 1935
 Sugihara, Infant Junko 1927
Sugiyama, Mr. Yoshiteru 2007
Suyeyasu, Ms. Naomi 1974
 Suyeyasu, Mrs. Rose 2001
 Takada, Mrs. Koume 1937
 Takayama, Mr. Ryukichi 1956
 Takayanagi, Infant Hideo 1957
 Tashima, Infant Hidehiko 1926
 Tashima, Mr. Ryukichi 1956
 Tashiro, Mrs. Saga 1952
 Tashiro, Mr. Yoneo 1990

Terao, Mrs. Mary 1991
 Terao, Rev. Shigeo 1990
Tsuchiya, Mrs. Arleen Setsuko Honda 2007
 Tsujimoto, Mrs. Masami 2016
Uchiyama, Mr. Hideo Archie 2022
 Umene, Mr. Komei 2000
 Ushijima, Mr. Kunitaro 1923
 Ushijima, Mr. Seisuke 1937
 Ushijima, Mrs. Sugino 1980
 Ushijima, Mr. Yasuki 1921
 Yamagami, Mrs. Eunice 2009
 Yamagishi, Mr. Makoto 2005
 Yamamichi, Mr. Isamu 1996
 Yamasaki, Ms. Takeyo 1997
 Yamashita, Mr. Jeffrey 1975
 Yamashita, Mrs. Yoshino 1983
 Yatabe, Mrs. Mitsue 2001
 Yonekura, Mr. Kyuzo 1927
 Yoshimura, Mr. Minokichi 1936

Coffee Hour
 If you would like to
 receive notifications for
 our monthly Zoom
 Coffee Hours, please
 email Wayne for
 the link.

wnakano@ix.netcom.com

ABWA NEWS

Ho-onko Otoki Luncheon: Sunday, Nov. 19th

A big THANK YOU to ABWA Toban Group #3 for preparing the traditional Japanese vegetarian otoki luncheon for the important memorial service for Shinran Shonin. Led by Joyce Maniwa, they started preparations from Saturday morning. Some ABWA members who were not in Group #3 also helped out. Thank you to all for your efforts! It was so nice to be able to enjoy an otoki lunch as we had in the past!



Dana Food Drive:

We have received quite a lot of donations thanks to the generosity of so many of you! We will be applying to the BCA Social Welfare Committee, Temple Charitable Match Program, where they will match collected donations that will be given to charities. In this case, it will be to both the Alameda Food Bank and the Alameda County Community

Food Bank. There will be more updates to come.

Future Meetings:

We will have some changes in the coming year.

In January, we will be having our meeting via Zoom on **Tuesday, January 2, at 7PM.**

Beginning in February, we will be resuming **in-person meetings.** The February meeting will be on **Sunday, February 18** after the family service. Future meetings will be announced at a later date. We previously held our meetings on the first Sunday of each month after the Monthly Memorial service. However, because Rev. Dennis also conducts the Enmanji Monthly Memorial services, that date will not work for our meetings.

We understand that many of you could not attend meetings on Zoom. We miss seeing you and getting your input! We hope that more of you will attend our in-person meetings!

Next Meeting:

Our December ABWA meeting will be on **Monday, Dec. 4 at 7PM via Zoom.** The Zoom link with the agenda and reports will be emailed close to the meeting date.

Gassho,
Lenni Terao-Doerr, ABWA President
understand Ho-onko! We were very honored with his presence.

**BTOA
Annual General Meeting
Sunday, December 10th
Following Bodhi Day Service.**

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

Our November was enhanced with a visit from venerable Shinran Shonin to help us understand Ho-onko! We were very honored with his presence.

We were equally appreciative to have Sharmon speak to our Dharma School class.

Thank you Senseis!



HAPPY TURKEY DAY!!!

GOBBLE

GOBBLE



A BIG THANKS TO SUNNY BEANS COFFEE FOR THEIR CONTINUOUS GENEROUS DONATION OF COFFEE TO KEEP US GOING! WE BENEFIT FROM FRANCIE'S GREAT COFFEE AT EVERY EVENT.

Some of you may remember her coffee shop on Santa Clara Avenue, that she had for many years.

Did you know that you can order Sunny Beans coffee from her anytime? She roasts every month and has a great selection of beans.

You can order by phone: 510-769-1916. Or email: sunnybeanscoffee@aol.com. She can send you her list of roast options.

MAINTENANCE NEWS

Another busy month – thanks to Ward Construction who replaced our sump pump in time for our winter weather. They also added a smaller sump pump to the pond, so we now have drainage into the street in case we need it for any potential flooding.

We still need to have the motor replaced for the waterfall. Who would you like to see that running again? We're open to any and all feedback.

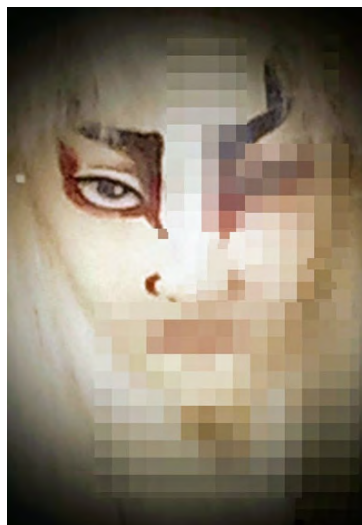
We also had our bi-annual visit from the Merritt Pruners. We so appreciate their time and effort to keep our pine trees and garden looking fabulous....it's truly an art and a labor of love.



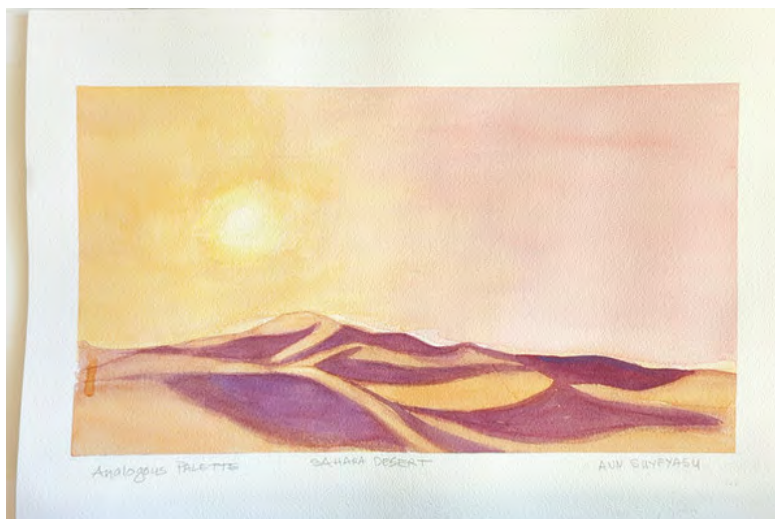
BCA Virtual Art Exhibit 2023

Rev. Dennis is chair of the BCA Art Committee that has grown each year. This year's exhibit is still online at the BCA website under NEWS & MEDIA . If you haven't checked it out – please do so before it goes away.

Kabuki Actor
Joan Clair Di Stefano



Painting of Sahara Desert
Ann Suyeyasu



Woodblock Print of Shinran Shonin
Jane Naito



These are just a few of the entries from our temple. Please enjoy the show.
<https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/bca-art-exhibit-2023>



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2325 Pacific Avenue
Alameda, CA 94501

Time Sensitive Materials

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Return Service Requested



Holiday Greetings!

We look to enjoy the upcoming Holiday Season and the New Year with you all!! Both Sharmon and I extend our deepest appreciation for your friendship and support throughout the year. We look forward to more shared times in the light of the Dharma.

*Gassho,
Rev. Dennis & Sharmon Fujimoto*