UPAYA

Newsletter of the Buddhist Temple of Alameda

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

Volume XXXVIII, No. 4 July & August 2025

Message from Rev. D.

BON ODORI and HATSUBON

The summer season rolls in and brings the **time for Bon Odori** to our temples. Obon festivities are held at all the BCA temples throughout the nation. Most Obon festivals are held through July and August … we welcome and join **the annual visit of dancers, music, dragonflies and lanterns.** Generations here today 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 connect, and we thank them all.

I recollect **dancers in kimono telling me, "I just love it!!" and "I don't want it to end!". Words from the heart come through faces with smiles.** 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 joyful 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 Nembutsu does its thing and opens us to unity.**

The Obon Service at the temple is intended for each of us 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 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 into 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.** It is at the temple that we find guidance to maneuver through 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. The temple provides such a treasure for us all. Our **Bon Odori Festival will be held on July19**. Please check the calendar for Odori practice dates. The **Obon/Hatsubon Service will be July 20** this year. We will see you at the temple.

Gassho,

Rev. Joshin Dennis Fujimoto

revdjoshin@btoa.org

(916) 416-0919

Everyone is Welcome

We will continue to live stream on our YouTube Channel.

July

6 10:00 Shotsuki Hoyo/Monthly Memorial
11:00 Sangha Time

13 10:00 Family Service w/Birthday Sunday
11:00 Sangha Time

19 **(Saturday) Bon Odori**

20 1:00 **Hatsubon & Obon Service**
2:00 Sangha Time

27 10:00 Family Service w/Ask Rev. Dennis
11:00 Sangha Time

August

3 10:00 Shotsuki Hoyo/Monthly Memorial w/ Atomic Bomb Memorial
11:00 Sangha Time / Tsuru Display

10 10:00 **Socho Ki (Bishops Memorial) & Rennyo Shonin Memorial** w/ Birthday Sunday
11:00 Sangha Time

17 NO SERVICE (Sensei on Vacation)
24 NO SERVICE (Sensei on vacation)
31 NO SERVICE (5th Sunday)

September

7 10:00 Shotsuki Hoyo/Monthly Memorial
11:00 Sangha Time

14 9:30 Dharma School Service
10:00 **Fall Ohigan Service** w/Birthday Sunday
11:00 **Keiro Kai Program**

21 10:00 Family Service
11:00 Sangha Time

28 9:30 Dharma School
10:00 **Outdoor Family Service** w/Ask Rev. Dennis
11:00 Sangha Time

Birthday Sundays
2nd Sunday of the Month

Please join us for Birthday Sundays and celebrate our sangha members' birthday with us.

May Birthdays

June Birthdays

Some have donated pennies, quarters, or dollars for each year they are celebrating. Come Join Us!!!

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

ABWA NEWS

Annual Home Visits and Bento Deliveries: On Friday, May 9. we visited and delivered bento to 17 of our Temple Keiro members and those who are homebound. We were glad to hear that Rev. Fujimoto visited Kazue Iwahashi in Novato where she is currently living with her family. It was good to see Kazue's photos, looking so well and in such good spirits! Thank you to all who volunteered to make the visits and deliveries. Everyone reported how wonderful it was to see our Keiro members.

Gotan-E: On Sunday, May 18, after our Gotan-E service, Shinran Shonin's birthday, Toban Group #2 served light refreshments. Assorted croissant sandwiches, a green salad, fruit salad, and chips were served, with cake for dessert. Thank you to Group #2 members for all your help! We had a great turn-out!

Bazaar: This year's 2-day bazaar on June 21 and 22, will have happened by the time this Upaya is published. More details will be reported in the next issue. Thank you in advance for all the help, support and donations that have been provided!

Upcoming ABWA Events:

Obon: Our Obon festival and dance will take place on Saturday, July 19, with the Hatsubon and Obon service on Sunday, July 20. Since the service will be at 1:00 PM, Toban Group #1 will be providing light refreshments after the service. More details will be discussed at the next meeting.

Clothing Drive:

Temple drop-off dates/times**: Sat., 8/2; Sun., 8/3; Fri., 8/8; 11AM-4PM**
Delivery to Savers: Sat., 8/9. We will be asking for volunteers for the drop-off shifts and to help in the loading and unloading for delivery to Savers.
Clothing, bedding, shoes, bags & suitcases only. No housewares or books, please!
(See the flyer in this issue for more details.)

Next Meeting:

Our next meeting will be held on **Sunday, July 6** after the Shotsuki Monthly Memorial service and refreshments**.** There will be **no meeting in August**.

Gassho,
Lenni Terao-Doerr, ABWA President

Please Take a Quick Survey on Why You Attend a BCA Temple

BCA President, Steven Terusaki wants to know "What draws individuals to our temples?".

Results will be shared in a future issue of the BCA Wheel of Dharma

.

Back by popular demand!

The ABWA Clothing and Soft Goods Drive

As a fundraiser, the Buddhist Temple of Alameda's Buddhist Woman's Association is collecting your gently used men, women and children's clothing, shoes, accessories, sheets, blankets, pillows, comforters, towels, tablecloths, handbags, backpacks, duffel bags and suitcases.

Sorry, we can NOT accept household items or books at this time.

Your unwanted, clean soft goods should be in usable condition and placed in boxes or plastic trash bags weighing no more than 20 pounds. You may fill your donated duffle bags, backpacks and suitcases instead of boxes or bags.

Drive through drop off location:
The Buddhist Temple of Alameda, 2325 Pacific Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501

Drop off dates and times:
Saturday, August 2 - 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Sunday, August 3 - 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Friday, August 8 - 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

***** Please tell your friends, family and neighbors. They will probably thank you ;-)**

All donations will be delivered to Savers Thrift Store in exchange for cash.
A portion of our proceeds will go to a local Alameda nonprofit organization.
Tax deductible receipts will be available at drop-off.

For more information contact Karen Fong (510) 821-1617, text or karenhfong@gmail.com

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

Another year almost completed! We've had a lot of fun this year with some learning in between. **Thank you to our guest speakers: Denny Terao, Amy Tomine**, and **Nash Chambliss.**

On April 26, we participated in **Rhythmix's API event at Bohol Park in Alameda.** It was our first time and we had a great time. Reverend Dennis manned the booth as well as Kimberly, Brian and Yumi. We had kids' activities with the most popular one being rock painting!

On May 3rd, we participated in the **Bay District Dharma School's beach clean-up at our own Crab Cove.** We were joined by temples from San Mateo, Oakland & SACBC. The East Bay Regional Park provided Ashley, a naturalist, who was able to explain what goes on in our local ecosystem and how the garbage affects our friends in the bay.

After the clean-up, we hosted a pizza lunch at the temple. Most had not been to our temple before, and they really enjoyed the tour up to the tower.

On May 11th, we had our annual pancake breakfast on Mother's Day. Thanks to all that helped to make this another fun day for all.

END OF YEAR PARTY!

This year we visited Oaktown Boulders for our end of year party… so much fun! Even Sharmon participated!

Congratulations!

We have three "graduates" this year – **Noah Yuen will be advancing to Bishop O'Dowd High School, Nico Yuen and Nash Chambliss will be entering Lincoln Middle School.**

Good luck to them and their parents.

See you all back in the Fall.
Dharma School starts back up on Sunday, September 14th.

Metta,
Dharma School Team

Congratulations
Welcome to Baby
Gabriel Ito Zamora!

Born: April 30, 2025 @ 7:14PM
Weight: 6 lbs. 15 ozs
Length: 19.25 inches

Parents:
Jessica & Michael's Zamora

Grandparents:
Jackie Ito Woo and Carl Woo

2025 Bazaar Raffle Winners

Grand Prize - $3,000.00 - Buddhist Temple of Alameda
Ticket was sold by the Okamoto Family in memory of the Hatsubon Families

1st Prize - $1,000.00 - Ruth Tomihara
2nd Prize - $500.00 - Mark Shintani

Two (2) Tickets to the 49ers Game – Jodi Griffin
Two (2) Tickets to the 49ers Pre-Season Game – Kyle Yamasaki

-

SENIOR SAFETY AWARENESS

Thank you to **Dorothy Okamoto** for organizing the Senior Safety Awareness class for our temple members, their families, and friends. We also deeply appreciate **Laura Armstrong** for leading the workshop, and **Janice Okamoto** and **Terry Woo** for their valuable assistance. It was a well-attended event, and participants came away feeling more informed and confident about how to handle various situations.

Upaya Articles, Announcements Deadline: If you'd like to submit an article, community flyer or announcement—such as a graduation, wedding, birth of a child or grandchild—please email it to info@btoa.org by August 18th for the Sept/Oct. edition.

2025 Vacationland Bazaar and Carnival

Now that it's Monday, we're taking a moment to reflect on the incredible success of our two-day Bazaar weekend!

It had been since 2019 that we hosted this event across both Saturday and Sunday, and we weren't sure how it would go. But thanks to the unwavering support of our community, we pulled it off—and then some.

We're continually amazed and deeply grateful for everyone who stepped up—whether you volunteered for a few hours or gave your entire weekend. This year felt especially meaningful, because of the remarkable teamwork we saw, not just during set-up and the event itself, but during cleanup as well. More than 50 volunteers rolled up their sleeves to build booths, prep food, run games, and take everything down when it was all over. It's truly inspiring to know that many of you even took time off work to help make this weekend happen.

While the Bazaar is our biggest fundraiser of the year, it's the sense of community and shared purpose that makes it so special. This long-standing tradition brings us together to support the temple, reconnect with old friends, and welcome new faces. One of the most touching moments came from a volunteer who isn't affiliated with the temple or the Buddhist community. She told us, "I've volunteered with many churches and organizations, but Alameda is always the friendliest. It's such a joy to help here." Her words capture the spirit of warmth and togetherness that makes this event so meaningful.

From all of us on the Bazaar Committee—**thank you** for your incredible generosity, hard work, and heart. We couldn't have done it without you!

— *The Bazaar Committee*

SHOTSUKI HOYO - MONTHLY MEMORIAL SERVICES
Sunday, August 3, 2025 & Sunday, Sept 7, 2025

In Person & Living Streaming on our BTOA YouTube Channel

Family members and friends are invited to the June & July Memorial Service for those listed below. If 2024 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:

1 yr - 2023 3 yr – 2022 7 yr – 2018 13 yr – 2012
17 yr – 2008 25 yr 2000 33 yr – 1992 50 yr - 1975

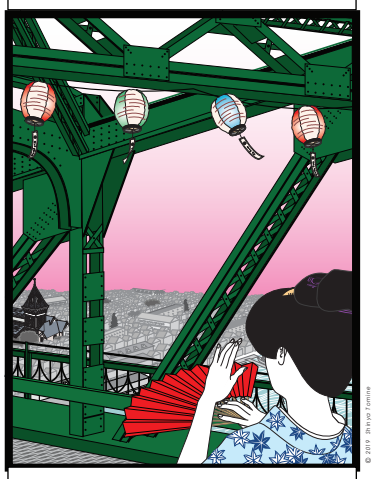
AUGUST

Masako Abe - 1997
Yoshio Ando -
Ethel Norell DiStefano - 1996
Masatomi Furuzawa - 1925
Hiroko Hashimoto - 1962
Jimmy Hashimoto - 1999
Yasuhiko Hashimoto - 1988
Kazuye I. Hattori - 2004
Kiyoko Hedani - 2008
Janice Hidalgo - 2021
Kazuko Higashi - 2009
Infant Hirotsuka - 1930
Tatsuo Honda - 1993
Wei Hsu - 2018
Yoshio Ikegaki - 1955
Nobue Imazumi - 2015
Tomio Inouye - 2008
Isamu Ishii - 1916
Paul K. Iwahashi - 2003
Kiyoshi Kanzaki - 1940
Masao Kataoka - 1984
Izumi Kawauchi - 1916
Roy Kitashima - 1996
Pat T. Konishi - 1999
Naoyoshi Kuge - 1983
Shinogu Marubayashi - 1941
Taichi Matsubara - 1924
Chiyoko Matsumoto - 1930
Wakataro Michisaki - 1929
Kiyoko Mitani - 2014
Takao Miyawaki - 1989
Kazuo Mori - 2002
Hisataro Mune - 1924
Hideko Nakamura - 1924
Kunio Nagasugi - 1949
Ichiro Nishida - 1995
Toji Oba - 1927
Tsugi Oishi - 1997
Virginia T. Okamoto - 2011
Yoshi Saito - 1989
Tsuneji Sakamoto - 1997
Yoshio Shibata - 1920
Kazuo Shimada - 1997
Akira Shirai - 1919
Ushitaro Shiraishi - 1959
Maki Sugino - 1935
Kimiko Sugiyama - 2013
Takashi Takahashi - 2005
Mitsuye Takao - 1989
Isamu Takara - 1925
Mildred Takeda - 1995
Shizu Takeda - 1971
Mana Tamura - 1945
Ura Terao - 1945
Miyano Tsuchiya - 1971
Matsutaro Tsurumoto - 1990
Fui Uchiyama - 1948
Shoichi Uo - 1917
James K. Ushijima - 2009
Mitsue Wada - 1951
Tomiye Yamasaki - 1922
Furu Yamashita - 1965
Haruno Yamashita - 2013
Masao Yamashita - 2011
Shochi Yamashita - 1953
Toshio Yamashita - 1959
Kazutomo Yanagi - 1967
Ichi Yoriji - 1927

SEPTEMBER

Osamu Akinaga - 2001
Alberta Bruno - 1996
Akitaka Doi - 1995
Akiko Fukayama - 2009
"Harry" Hisashi Hara - 2024
Akira Hasegawa - 1991
Tomo Hatakeda - 1949
Yoshie Hori - 1991
Kanae Imazumi - 1988
Rose Toshiko Imazumi - 2019
Chikara Inouye - 1943
Katsutaro Iwaihara - 1935
Hisao Kataoka - 1988
Yukino Kawahara - 2008

Obon Festival



Saturday, July 19th

5:00 PM & 5:30 PM
Talks by Rev. Dennis
Buddhist Being -The Pause that Refreshes

Starting from 5:00 PM
Burgers, Hot Dogs, and Chicken Wings

7:30 PM
Bon Odori

Obon Dance Practice

7:30PM – 9:00PM

Monday, July 7th
Tuesday, July 15th
Thursday, July 17th
Wednesday, July 9th

CONT. SEPTEMBER
Sensaburo Kobu - 1963
Kameko Komatsu - 1983
Heihachiro Kumamoto - 1953
Kazuko Maruyama - 1937
Ryuzo Mashimoto - 1956
Edward Masao Matsuoka - 2022
Kinu Mayeda - 1968
Asako McCroskey - 2017
Naoyemon Mikami - 1961
Kiyoshi Mochizuki - 2017
Itsuko Moritomo - 1929
Takao Murakawa - 1998
Richard 'Rick' V. Myer - 2019
Francis Nagai - 1933
Makoto Nakano - 1995
Tsuchino Nakano - 1949
Toshiko D. Nakao - 2006
Toyokichi Nakao - 1955
Iku Nakaso - 1983
Kimiyo Nishikawa - 2002
Misuye Noriye - 1960
Kiyomi Ogawa - 1947
Henry Omi - 1996
Hayame Ray - 2020
Saburo Sugitani - 1994
Shiro Sugiyama - 1935
Hinaka Tabushi - 2002
Nobu Tajima - 1941
Risaburo Takeda - 1963
Rey Tamura - 2015
Misuye Tateyama - 1974
Mariye Tsuchiya - 1990
Tori Tsurumoto - 1962
Kentaro Tsuyuki - 1951
Torakichi Umene - 1946
Goichi Yamada - 1940

Emiko Yamamoto – 1998

Motonori Yamamoto - 2005

Yujiro Yamamoto - 1939
Magoichi Yamasaki - 1968

Bon Odori – Saturday, July 19, 2025

Join us for the Buddhist Temple of Alameda's annual Obon Festival as we honor and remember our ancestors and loved ones who have passed.

Obon lanterns are once again available this year in memory of cherished family and friends. If you haven't received an email or letter with participation details, no problem—simply scan the QR code below or click on the link to reserve or renew:

https://btoa.app.neoncrm.com/eventReg.jsp?event=10&

Please respond by July 11. Lanterns are limited and available on a first-come, first-served basis.

If you have any questions, please reach out to the Obon Lantern committee at ObonLanterns@btoa.org.

We look forward to sharing this meaningful tradition with you.

Creamy Poppy Seed Dressing

Source: Barefeet in the Kitchen

Servings: 24 tablespoons, about 1½ cups

Ingredients

- ¾ cup mayo
- ¼ cup milk
- ¼ cup sugar
- ¼ cup white wine vinegar
- 2 tablespoons poppy seeds (I find that 1 tablespoon is enough)
- ½ teaspoon dry mustard
- ⅛ teaspoon kosher salt

Instructions

Combine all ingredients and then whisk until smooth. Transfer to a jar and refrigerate until you are ready to serve. Shake well before using. This will keep well in the refrigerator for up to a week.

Several members commented on how delicious the salad dressing was at the Gotan-e otoki. Jackie Ito Woo made the dressing and has provided it for all of us. This page is sideways so that you can take this page and place it into the BTOA cookbook.

Buddhist Temple of Alameda
2325 Pacific Avenue
Alameda, CA 94501

Time Sensitive Materials

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 7069
OAKLAND, CA

Return Service Requested

Donations can now be given via the Venmo or Paypal app. Checks by mail, still accepted.

Buddhist Temple Alameda
@BTOAlameda

venmo

Use this to donate via PayPal
Buddhist Temple of Alameda