UPAYA

Newsletter of the Buddhist Temple of Alameda

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

Volume XXXIX, No. 1 January & February 2026

Message from Rev. D.

A NEW YEAR!!

AKEMASHITE OMEDETOU GOZAIMASU!! Welcome to 2026! It feels strange to even write such a number! Each year we go through the shock of writing the new number even though the reflection in the mirror has been telling us all along that another day has gone by. "All things change" are the words of the truth of impermanence. How is it that we are still surprised??

This year will be **The Year of the Horse** according to the Chinese zodiac. I notice all the more since we have one in the family! Shadow will take her place of prominence and make sure we know that this will be HER YEAR! We should make her a Horse Onenju to remind her to be humble and kind along with the rest of us. Did I tell you that the horse across the way from Shadow is named Sensei? When her people come, they are all saying, "Hi, Sensei!" "Hi, Sensei!" It takes me a second to realize that they aren't talking to me.

We are told that 2026 is specifically the year of the **Fire Horse**. We will see images of red horses, conveying the **qualities of energy, passion, and bold action**. Perhaps the time is right for all of us to bring such qualities towards our efforts at the temple. It **will be contagious and our temple will grow**. I like that.

Along with Mochi, Mikan, Bamboo and Pine, our various cultures offer symbolic images of hope, growth, and wellness as we look forward to another cycle of events in our lives. This year **I hope we continue to grow our appreciation and awareness of the Nembutsu Path that guides us to stability and meaning in our lives. The Nembutsu calls to us to look beyond our self-concerns and to connect to what is true and real all around.**

The temple cycle begins with **Shusho-E, the New Year Day Service** on **January 1at 10:00 AM.** Each year we come to this service with a surprising number of attendees. It is a refreshing beginning to the New Year, as we chant together and toast wellness and safety to each other. We look forward to seeing you all to start the New Year together.

Each Sunday in January seems to have special elements for all of us to enjoy. **January 4 is our Shotsuki Service**. **January 11 is our All Beings Memorial**, when we can reflect upon the pets we have had and lost, as well as all forms of life, animal and other, who have touched and impacted our lives. Our Guest Speaker that day will be Ms Yumi Yasuda!! It is our BTOA tradition to have had lay speakers for many years for this service here in Alameda. This year Yumi will be able to share her experiences of animals, the week we have **temple New Year Party** on **January 18.**

February is also very full!! **February 1** will be our **Shotsuki Service**. **February 8** will be our **Eitaikyo and Nirvana Day Service**. The Eitaikyo Service is when we honor those special temple members whose names have been entered into our Eitaikyo Registry. These members had each made significant efforts to maintain the temple as a welcoming center where the Shin Buddhist teachings can be shared with all of us. Nirvana Day is the day that Shakyamuni Buddha passed away. It is his journey to awaken to the truths of life that has brought the Buddhist teachings forward to touch millions of lives and finally reaching each of us. **February 15 will be the BCA Eitaikyo Service**. This service has become an annual event, when the closing service of the BCA National Council meetings will be Zoomed in to each of our temples from the meeting site. Alameda members will gather at the temple as they would each Sunday and participate in this major service along with the National Council participants in Seattle. **I will be in Seattle, waving to you all before the chanting begins!!**

So many special services and events are lined up for us to start off the year. I look forward to sharing each of these with all of you.

In gassho, Sharmon and Rev. Dennis Fujimoto

Rev. Fujimoto's 2025 Ministers' Report

Sunday Services

Dharma School 15 and Family Service 20	35
Shotsuki Monthly Memoria	12
Special and Major Services	15
Guest Speakers	4
Lay Speakers	3
Gomeinichi Service	12
Guest Speaking Away	1

Temple Services & Activities

Family Memorial Services	6
Temple Funerals	1
Off site Funerals	3
Attending Funerals	3
Weddings/Anniversaries Officiated	0
Sangha Events	9
BEC Classes, Spring & Fall	8
Other classes attended	5

Temple Meetings Attended

General Meeting	1
Temple Board Meeting	11
ABWA Meeting	9
Dharma School Staff Meetings	9
Temple Planning Meetings	14
Temple Maintenance appointments	8
Temple Visitations	6
BEC Meetings	4
Bazaar and Obon Meetings	5
Service Planning Meetings	8
Home/Hospital Visitation	8
Temple Outreach	8

Bay District Meeting Attended

Minister's Association Meetings	9
District Council Meetings	4
BD BWL	2
BD DSTL	1
Gagaku	5
SACBC Bonbu Jams musical	1

BCA Meeting/Gathering Attended

2025 BCAMA/NC & NB Gatherings	3
2025 BCAMA/NC & NB Planning Mtgs.	6
BCA Minister's Assoc. FUKEN	4 days
MCE (Minister's Continuing Education)	6 days
FBWA	1
SFAP (Student Financial Assistance Prgm)	5
FDSTL	1
BCArt Committee	10
BCA Music Committee	1
IBS/BCA Services & planning	2

Other Activities Attended

Educational Lectures	4

Current Positions:

Resident Minister of the
Buddhist Temple of Alameda

Supervising Minister of the Enmanji Buddhist Temple

Co-Secretary of the BCA Ministers Association

Chairperon of the BCA Art Committee & the Bay District Ministers Association: Kyokucho

Ministerial Advisor for the BD Buddhist Women's League and BCA Student Financial Assistance Program

Thank you Sensei
for all you do for us!

🙏

BTOA Sangha

To the Alameda Sangha:

Welcome to a New Year!
We hope all our BTOA members, families, and supporters have a fruitful and healthy year as we enter The Year of the Horse, 2026!!

In Gassho from the Fujimoto Household:
Sharmon, Michelle, Buddy, Ping Pong, Shadow, and Rev. Dennis

Raise the Roof Campaign - With Gratitude for Dāna

With deep appreciation and heartfelt gratitude, we extend our sincere thanks to everyone who practiced *dāna* in support of our Raise the Roof Campaign. Through your generosity and compassionate giving, we raised a total of **$87,880.76**, including direct donations as well as proceeds from our **Hidden Treasures Sale** and **Fall Obento Sale**.

Use of Funds

- Roof and porch repairs: **$67,252.00**
- Heater and air conditioning replacement: **$25,310.00**

Guided by the collective spirit of *dāna* within our sangha, the Raise the Roof Campaign fully covered the cost of the roof replacement and porch repairs. The remaining **$20,629** supported more than **80%** of the cost of the new furnace serving the classrooms and *hondō*, as well as the air conditioning system for the *hondō*.

This shared act of generosity helps ensure a safe, comfortable, and welcoming temple for all who enter. We are deeply grateful for your continued support and kindness.

The position of Monshu is taken by the Hongwanji Head Priest. The Jodo Shinshu tradition is transmitted through the Monshu, who leads the entire Buddhist organization as its spiritual leader.
Shinran Shonin's grandson, Nyoshin, is regarded as the second generation, thus Monshu's post has since been succeeded by Shinran Shonin's blood relatives. The present Monshu is the 25th generation, Sennyo Monshu, whose secular name is OHTANI Kojun. As Jodo Shinshu followers, we call him "Gomonshu-sama" with an honorific prefix and suffix.

New Year's Message from the Monshu Kojun Ohtani

As we welcome the new year, I wish to extend to you my greetings.

First of all, in recent years, natural disasters such as typhoons, heavy rains, earthquakes and large-scale forest fires have occurred frequently in Japan and other parts of the world, causing great damage. I would like to express my sincere condolences to those who lost loved ones and convey my sincere sympathy to everyone who was affected by these disasters. I sincerely hope that everyone will be able to return to a sense of peace and normalcy as soon as possible.

Last year was a milestone year marking 80 years since the end of World War II. In July, I had the precious opportunity to conduct memorial services in Okinawa, Hiroshima, and Nagasaki, each location which experienced indescribable destruction in this war. I was also given the precious opportunity to listen to the stories of those who experienced the war. Listening to those stories, it made me reflect on the message delivered in 1995 by then Sokunyo Monshu at the "Memorial Service for All the Victims of the 50th Anniversary of the End of the War," at which time he expressed his regret that our organization went against the teachings of our founder and actively cooperated in the war in the name of Buddhism. I was reminded that I must take to heart the words of Sokunyo Monshu and move forward carrying out my duties with a renewed determination.

The post war journey of our organization began with the aim of realizing a peaceful society where all people can live happily, while not forgetting how we actively cooperated and participated in the war. We must remain mindful of this fact and never repeat the same mistake. Even today, wars and conflicts continue around the world, and many precious lives are threatened. In such a situation, let us always keep in mind the wish of our founder, Shinran Shonin, and move forward each day guided by his words, "Let there be peace in the world, and may the Buddha Dharma spread".

2026 年 年頭の辞

新しい年を迎えるにあたり、ご挨拶申し上げます。

まず、近年、日本をはじめ世界各地で台風や豪雨、地震などの自然災害や大規模な山火事などが頻繁に発生し、甚大な被害がもたらされています。犠牲となられた方々に謹んで哀悼の意を表しますとともに、被災された皆さまに心からお見舞い申し上げます。皆さまが一日も早く、平穏な日常を取り戻されますことを心から願っております。

さて、昨年は第二次世界大戦の終戦から 80 年という節目の年でした。私は 7 月に、この戦争で筆舌に尽くしがたい惨禍がもたらされた沖縄・広島・長崎の追悼法要のご縁をいただき、戦争体験者の方々のお話を聞かせていただく尊い機会を得ました。そして、平成 7 年・1995 年の「終戦 50 周年全戦没者追悼法要」における、「宗祖の教えに背き、仏法の名において戦争に積極的に協力していった過去の事実を、仏祖の御前に慚愧せずにはおれません」との教団の戦争責任にかかる即如門主のお言葉を改めて心に刻み、これからも歩んでいく決意を新たにいたしました。

戦後の教団の歩みは、戦争に積極的に協力・加担した事実から目をそらさず、その反省を踏まえ、誰もが心豊かに生きられる平和な社会の実現を目指すことから始まりました。私たちは、その事実と真摯に向き合い、決して同じ過ちを繰り返してはなりません。現在も世界各地で戦争や紛争は続いており、多くの尊い命が脅かされています。そのような中にあって、宗祖親鸞聖人の「世のなか安穏なれ、仏法ひろまれ」との願いを常に心に留めて、日々の歩みを進めてまいりましょう。

ABWA NEWS

Happy New Year of the Horse! Thank you, all, for your continued friendship and support throughout the past year. May we look forward to a year full of happiness and "dynamic energy!" And, may you have a safe and healthy 2026!

Ho-onko – Shinran Shonin's Memorial Otoki Luncheon – November 16
Following the Ho-onko service, Toban Group #2 served a Chinese vegetarian luncheon for the otoki with seki-han (red bean rice) made by Joyce Maniwa. We also had persimmons and pears from Joyce and Mrs. Aki-yama's yards. For dessert, white cake with strawberries. There were also some treats from those who had just returned from their trip to Japan. Thank you to Group #2 for the lunch preparations and clean-up!

ABWA Annual Fall Dana Food Drive – **Sept. to Nov. 16 (Ho-onko)**
Thank you for your generous donations to the Alameda County Community Food Bank (ACCFB) and the Ala-meda (city) Food Bank! ABWA collected $2,736.05 and voted to round the total up to $3,000. Each food bank will receive $1,500. (ACCFB also received $680 directly from online donations.)

Upcoming in 2026:

ABWA New Year's Party Luncheon – **Sunday, February 8**
Our first ABWA event of the year will be our New Year's luncheon. Once we have the 2026 updated Toban list and schedule completed, the assigned group will be working
on the details for the New Year's Party. We will keep you posted!

Annual Membership Dues
Dues will remain $20 this year. **No dues** for those **88 years and older**, our honorary Keiro members. Please write checks payable to ABWA and submit to Jackie Ito-Woo by early February. We need to submit our BDBWL dues in February, and FBWA dues in early March. Or you can also pay online when you join or renew your Temple membership dues. Thank you!

Next Meeting:
Our next meeting will be held on **Sunday, January 4** after the Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service and refresh-ments.

Gassho, Lenni Terao-Doerr, ABWA President

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

As the calendar year comes to a close, we've enjoyed several more classes with our guest teachers. Thanks very much to **Amy Tomine**, **Vickie Hashimoto** and **Dwight Meitzenheimer** who have braved the atten-tions of our students!

We're always looking for additional contributors so please contact us with any ideas or activities you'd like to share!

We'll meet on January 11th joining the adult service and back to our regular schedule on the 25th.

Metta, The DS team

Everyone is Welcome to Attend Services "In Person"

We will continue to live stream on our YouTube Channel.

January

1 10:00 **Shusho E - New Year's Day Service**

A service to reflect and with renewed dedication to endeavor to live a life of gratitude and joy.

4 10:00 Monthly Memorial/Shotsuki Hoyo Service
11:00 Sangha Time
11 9:30 Dharma School Service
10:00 **All Beings Memorial Service** w/Birthday Sunday

A service to reflect upon the pets we have had and lost, as well as all forms of life, animal and other, who have touched and impacted our lives.

11:00 Sangha Time
16 9:00 Go Mei Nichi Service
18 10:00 Family Service
11:00 BTOA New Year Party
25 9:30 Dharma School Service
10:00 Family Service w/Ask Rev. Dennis
11:00 Sangha Time

February

1 10:00 Monthly Memorial/Shotsuki Hoyo Service
11:00 Sangha Time
8 9:30 Dharma School Service
10:00 **Eitaikyo/Nirvana Day Servic**e w/Birthday Sunday

Eitaikyo - A memorial service of "perpetual chanting" of sutras to honor deceased loved ones and the temple's enduring legacy.
Nirvana – A service that marks the day Shakyamuni Buddha

11:00 Sangha Time
ABWA NY Luncheon
Super Bowl Watch Gathering
15 10:00 Family Service w/BCA Eitaikyo Service
Live from Seattle, watch in BTOA Hondo
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16 9:00 Go Mei Nichi Service
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11:00 Sangha Time
28 (Saturday) **BTOA 110th Anniversary**
Program Event: YOGA Workshop

March

1 10:00 Monthly Memorial/Shotsuki Hoyo Service
11:00 Sangha Time
8 9:30 Dharma School Service
10:00 Transbay Minister Exchange Service w/Birthday Sunday
11:00 Sangha Time
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16 9:00 Go Mei Nichi Service
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10:00 **Spring Ohigan Service** w/Ask Rev. Dennis

A Service around the Spring Equionx, observing the Six Paramitas to cross from the shore of ignorance (this world) to the other shore of enlightened awareness.

11:00 Sangha Time
29 *5th Sunday – NO SERVICE*

The entire 2026 calendar is included in this issue of the Upaya; however, services and programs are subject to change.

Birthday Sundays
2nd Sunday of the Month

Please join us on Birthday Sundays and celebrate our sangha members' birthdays with us.

December

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 donations are used for Dharma School Programs.**

Photo taken at our Sunday, December 21st service. Rev. D brought even more Snoopys this year!

This and most of the photos from our services are taken by Denny Terao our resident Sunday service photographer. **Thank you Denny, for always being there and ready to snap a pic for us!**

All Living Being Service

Sunday, January 11th

We are pleased to welcome **Yumi Yasuda**—past President of BTOA, Dharma School Leader, and a familiar presence at our Sunday services—as the guest speaker for our **All Living Beings Service.**

Remember to bring pictures of your pets and animals to place on the altar tables

BTOA Annual New Year's Party
Sunday, January 18th

BTOA Members' and Friends of BTOA are invited to our New Year's Party to celebrate the YEAR OF THE HORSE.

The party will begin immediately following the family service at 10:00 am on **Sunday, January 18th.** Hope to see you all in service and at the party.

The Board members will be cooking our famous prime rib. There will be a vegetarian option as well.

Please RSVP with Gayle Okada at gayle.okada@gmail.com or (510) 918-4390 by January 11th.

BTOA Coffee/Tea Hour

Jan 24, 2026 11:00 AM Pacific Time
Join Zoom Meeting:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83731456664?pwd=sJXg0tScAlvkxFiTyZAqFavhP3APEE.1

Meeting ID: 837 3145 6664
Passcode: 225173

Feb 28, 2026 11:00 AM Pacific Time

Join Zoom Meeting:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83116888608?pwd=f51qOme5vN6XHpj38hr2DEMA3bxsfu.1

Meeting ID: 831 1688 8608
Passcode: 160134

EITAIKYO SERVICE & REGISTRY

In February, we will hold our Eitaikyo Service & Nirvana Day Service on **February 8th at 10:00 AM**. **Eitaikyo** is a special memorial service dedicated to loved ones whose names are recorded in the Eitaikyo Registry.

The Eitaikyo Fund and Registry are common to most BCA temples and were established to help ensure the continuation of our temple and the teachings of the Nembutsu.

The Eitaikyo Registry is a calendar-style record listing those who have made donations to the fund. Through a donation to the Eitaikyo Fund, a sutra is chanted in memory of your loved one in perpetuity—on the anniversary of their passing and at our annual Eitaikyo Service.

Each temple follows its own guidelines. The suggested minimum donation is $1,000**. Please contact Rev. Dennis for more information on how to add your loved one's name to the registry prior to our annual service on February 8th.**

Renew Your Buddhist Temple of Alameda Membership TODAY

It's time for our annual **Membership Drive.** Membership at the Buddhist Temple Alameda begins each January, and we invite you to **renew your membership** for 2026.

While a portion of your membership dues supports the Buddhist Churches of America, your membership also sustains our own Temple—helping to fund services, programs, and events, and ensuring it remains a place of practice, reflection, and community for all who enter.

Why Membership Matters - Membership is more than an annual contribution—it's a way to connect with the Sangha and deepen your understanding of the Buddha's teachings. Your support keeps our Temple vibrant and allows us to share the Dharma with future generations.

Member Benefits - As a member, you'll enjoy opportunities to:

- Participate in Temple services, programs, and activities
- Support and strengthen our Sangha community
- Stay informed about upcoming events, classes, and workshops
- Access family history and Temple records
- Enroll children in our Dharma School program
- Use Temple facilities at member rates
- Explore our library of Buddhist teachings and resources
- Hold funeral and memorial services through the Temple

How to Join or Renew

It's simple to join or renew your membership!

- Complete and return the enclosed membership form by mail
- Or join online using the QR code or link below

$ **Annual Membership Fee:** $250 per person (Adults)

Senior Membership Fee (80+ years old): $200 per person

New Members Fee: $125 per person for the first year

Young Adult (under 30 years old): $50 per person

Child Membership: Free

Membership Year: January–December

Join or Renew Online

A BTOA 110th Anniversary Celebration Event

February 28, 2026

A Yoga Workshop with Instructor Bob Matsueda

An introduction to Yoga history, philosophy; meditation, chanting, mantras, breathing techniques; movements (asanas) relaxation techniques for stress, anxiety, sleep, diet and lifestyle choices.

We will be doing chair yoga in th social hall.

Open to all ages. Everyone is welcome.

Registration Details to Follow

SAVE the DATE
February 28, 2026

2026 Buddhist Temple of Alameda Membership Form

Main Contact Information				
Last Name	First Name	Birth Year (YYYY)	Home Telephone	Cellular
Address (Street, City, Zip code)			Email Address	
Spouse/ Partner Information (ONLY IF MEMBER)				
Last Name	First Name	Birth Year (YYYY)	Cellular	
			Email Address	
Children - Under Age 31 Living at Home (ONLY IF MEMBER)				
Last Name	First Name	Birth Year (YYYY)	Cellular	Email Address
Last Name	First Name	Birth Year (YYYY)	Cellular	Email Address
Last Name	First Name	Birth Year (YYYY)	Cellular	Email Address
Emergency Contact – Will Remain Confidential				
Name		Phone Number		

Membership Directory A membership directory will be created and distributed to all members. If you wish to NOT be included, please check a box below.	
	Check box
Do not list in the membership directory.	
Ok to list in membership directory, but do not list our cellular numbers.	
Ok to list in membership directory, but do not list our email addresses.	
You may list me (and my spouse/partner), but do not list our children's contact information	

Membership Dues	**QTY**	**Fee**	**TOTAL**
Individual Membership		**$250**	
New Member 1st Year		**$125**	
Young Adult (18-30 years old)		**$50**	
Child (under 18 & parent is member)		**FREE**	
Senior Adult (80 years and older)		**$200**	
Additional Donation			

Note: Membership dues support the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) and the Temple. Any direct donation helps the Temple support the resident minister's salary, our educational programs, and maintaining our facilities.

By submitting this document, you hereby grant the Buddhist Temple of Alameda the right to use the photographs taken of you for promotional purposes on our website, social media platforms and other marketing materials.

Signature	**Date**

- Age information will be used to determine membership categories and keiro status only.
- Ages, Emergency Contact Information and Contact Information for children under 18 will NOT be published.

Please enclose form and check payable to:
Buddhist Temple of Alameda
2325 Pacific Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501

NEW POSITION @ BTOA

The Buddhist Temple of Alameda Board has decided to hire a part-time administrative staff member to support daily and event operations at the Temple. Many BCA temples, along with several Bay Area Buddhist temples currently have a part-time administrative position in place. This administrative position would significantly benefit our Temple by relieving volunteers who are currently handling many administrative tasks, allowing them to focus on other priorities. In addition, this role would help document and formalize Temple processes and ensure ongoing tracking of compliance requirements.

If you, a family member or friend is interested in the position, please send your resume and cover letter to **info@btoa.org.** The submission deadline is **Saturday, January 31, 2026**.

Part-Time Administrative Staff
Buddhist Temple of Alameda (BTOA)

Location: Alameda, CA (primarily on-site; some remote flexibility)
Schedule: Part-Time, 20 hours/week
Pay: $23.00–$28.00 per hour (commensurate with qualification and experience)

About the Role
The Buddhist Temple of Alameda is seeking a Part-Time Administrative Staff member to provide essential office, communications, and program support. This role supports daily operations and serves as a primary point of contact for members and the public. The ideal candidate is organized, dependable, and demonstrates a professional and welcoming presence aligned with Buddhist values.

Key Responsibilities
- Provide day-to-day office and front-desk support (phone, email, visitors)
- Coordinate schedules, meetings, events, and maintain the Temple calendar
- Maintain office systems, records, supplies, and vendor relationships
- Acknowledge donations and assist with administrative financial tasks
- Support programs, classes, ceremonies, and special events as needed
- Prepare and publish the *Upaya* newsletter (print and digital) for distribution
- Assist with membership outreach and annual membership drive
- Perform other related duties as assigned

Qualifications
- 2–3 years of administrative or office support experience
- Strong communication, organization, and multitasking skills
- Proficiency with office software and email platforms
- Ability to work independently and collaboratively
- Professional, discreet, and culturally sensitive demeanor

Preferred
- Experience in nonprofit, religious, or community organizations
- Familiarity with donor/membership databases (e.g., NEON CRM)
- Newsletter, website, or basic design experience

Benefits
- California state-mandated sick leave
- Two (2) weeks unpaid time off (with prior approval)

This position is non-exempt and eligible for overtime in accordance with California law.
The Buddhist Temple of Alameda is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, or any other protected status

BTOA CALENDAR

January

1 10:00 **Shusho E - New Year's Day Service**

A service to reflect and with renewed dedication to endeavor to live a life of gratitude and joy.

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11:00 Sangha Time
11 9:30 Dharma School Service
10:00 **All Beings Memorial Service** w/Birthday Sunday

A service to reflect upon the pets we have had and lost, as well as all forms of life, animal and other, who have touched and impacted our lives.

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Eitaikyo - A memorial service of "perpetual chanting" of sutras to honor deceased loved ones and the temple's enduring legacy.
Nirvana – A service that marks the day Shakyamuni Buddha died and entered Parinirvana (complete, perfect nirvana).

11:00 Sangha Time
ABWA NY Luncheon
Super Bowl Watch Gathering
15 10:00 Family Service w/BCA Eitaikyo Service
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A Service around the Spring Equionx, observing the Six Paramitas to cross from the shore of ignorance (this world) to the other shore of enlightened awareness.

11:00 Sangha Time
29 *5th Sunday – NO SERVICE*

April

5 10:00 Monthly Memorial/Shotsuki Hoyo Service
11:00 Sangha Time
12 9:30 Dharma School Service
10:00 **Hanamatsuri Service** w/Birthday Sunday

A service to commemorate the birth of Siddhartha Gautama (the historical Buddha) with a floral altar called a hanamido to represent Lumbini Garden, where the prince who later became a buddha was born.

11:00 Sangha Time

April

16 9:00 Go Mei Nichi Service
19 10:00 Family Service
11:00 Sangha Time
26 9:30 Dharma School Service
10:00 Family Service w/Ask Rev. Dennis
11:00 Sangha Time

May

3 10:00 Monthly Memorial/Shotsuki Hoyo Service
11:00 Sangha Time
10 9:30 Dharma School Service
10:00 **Parents Day** Family Service w/Birthday Sunday
11:00 Sangha Time
16 9:00 Go Mei Nichi Service
17 10:00 **Gotan E Service** w/Ask Rev. Dennis

A service celebrating the birthday of Shinran Shonin, the founder of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism.

11:00 Sangha Time
23 (Saturday) BTOA Memorial Day Cemetery Visitations
10:00 Chapel of the Chines, Oakland
12:00 Lone Tree Cemetary, Hayward
1:30 Mt. Eden Cemetary, Hayward
4:00 Chapel of the Chimes, Hayward
31 *5th Sunday – NO SERVICE*

June

7 10:00 Monthly Memorial/Shotsuki Hoyo Service
11:00 Sangha Time
14 9:30 Dharma School Service & Graduation Party
10:00 Graduation and Diversity Service w/Birthday Sunday
11:00 Sangha Time
16 9:00 Go Mei Nichi Service

20 (Saturday) **Bazaar Preparations**
21 NO SERVICE (Bazaar Preparations)
27 & 28 **BAZAAR**

July

5 10:00 Monthly Memorial/Shotsuki Hoyo Service
11:00 Sangha Time
12 10:00 Family Service w/Birthday Sunday
16 9:00 Go Mei Nichi Service
18 (Saturday Evening) **Bon Odori**
19 **1:00 PM** Hatsubon & Obon Service

Hatsubon: First observance of Obon following the passing of a loved one.
Obon (Kangi-e): Annual gathering to remember departed loved ones. Honoring our ancestors.

2:00 Sangha Time
26 10:00 Family Service w/Ask Rev. Dennis
11:00 Sangha Time

August

2 10:00 Monthly Memorial/Shotsuki Hoyo Service
Special Atomic Bomb Memorial
11:00 Sangha Time / Tsuru Display
9 10:00 Socho Ki & Rennyo Shonin Memorial Service
w/Birthday Sunday

Socho Ki – A service to honor all of the former BCA Bishops who have passed away.
Rennyo Shonin – remembering the 8th head priest who is referred to as the second founder of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism.

11:00 Sangha Time
16 NO SERVICE – Summer Break (Sensei on Vacation)
17-20 **BCAMA Summer Fuken in Denver**
23 NO SERVICE – Summer Break (Sensei on Vacation)
30 5th Sunday – No Service

September

6 10:00 Monthly Memorial/Shotsuki Hoyo Service
11:00 Sangha Time
13 9:30 Dharma School Service
10:00 BTOA 110th Anniversary Service
w/Special Guest: Bishop Marvin Harada
Fall Ohigan Service, Keiro Kai and Kieshiki w/Birthday Sunday

Fall Ohigan – A service marking the equinox (similar to Spring Ohigan)
Keiro Kai – A celebration to honor our elder members over 88 yrs of age
Kieshiki – Buddhist Name Ceremony

12:00 Special Celebration Luncheon
16 9:00 Go Mei Nichi Service
20 10:00 Family Service
11:00 Sangha Time
27 9:30 Dharma School
10:00 Outdoor Family Service w/Ask Rev. Dennis
11:00 Sangha Time

October

2-4 **BCA FBWA Conference in San Diego**
4 10:00 Monthly Memorial/Shotsuki Hoyo Service
11:00 Sangha Time
11 9:30 Dharma School Service
10:00 Family Service w/Birthday Sunday
11:00 Sangha Time
16 9:00 Go Mei Nichi Service
18 10:00 **ABWA, Ladies of the Dharma Memorial Service**
(Eshinni, Kakushinni, Lady Kujo, Lady Ohtani)

A service to honor the women of Jodo Shinshu and our own past ABWA members.

11:00 Sangha Time/ABWA Luncheon
2 9:30 Dharma School Service
10:00 Family Service w/Ask Rev. Dennis
11:00 Sangha Time

November

1 10:00 Monthly Memorial/Shotsuki Hoyo Service
11:00 Sangha Time
8 9:30 Dharma School Service
10:00 Family Service w/Birthday Sunday
11:00 Sangha Time
15 10:00 Family Service
11:00 Sangha Time
16 9:00 Go Mei Nichi Service
22 9:30 Dharma School Service
10:00 **HOONKO Service**

The most important observance of the year, commemorating Shinran's passing (Jan. 16th), focusing on gratitude for our Nembutsu Path.

11:00 Sangha Time
29 5th Sunday NO SERVICE

December

6 10:00 Monthly Memorial/Shotsuki Hoyo & **Bodhi Day Service**

A service celebrating the enlightment of Shakyamuni Buddha.

11:00 Sangha Time
13 9:30 Dharma School Service
10:00 Family Service w/Birthday Sunday
11:00 BTOA General Meeting
12:00 Sangha Time
16 9:00 Go Mei Nichi Service
20 10:00 Family Service w/Ask Rev. Dennis
11:00 Sangha Time
27 Holiday - NO SERVICE
31 3:00 Joya-E (End of Year) Service

A service to focus on reflecting & expressing gratitude for the past year.

4:00 Sangha Time

Please check the Upaya for updates.

Memorial Services

During memorial services, we remember the deceased with gratitude for enabling us to be who we are and to receive the *dharma*. It is a time not only to strengthen family ties, but also to reflect upon relationships beyond the immediate family, remembering and appreciating the oneness of all life.

Monthly Memorial Service (祥月法要 Shotsuki Hoyo)

Monthly Memorial Service is observed for those who died during that particular month. BTOA holds Monthly Memorial Service on the first Sunday of the month. The names of the deceased are read during this service, and family and friends of the deceased offer incense. The BTOA newsletter lists the names of the deceased for the month.

Perpetual Chanting of Sutras Memorial Service (永代経 Eitaikyo)

Eitaikyo (perpetual or eternal – ages – sutra) is the perpetual chanting of sutras in memory of the deceased. However, "it is not that we are providing for memorial services to be held for our ancestors, but our ancestors are providing the vehicle for us to ensure the future" In other words, *Eitaikyo* can be understood to mean, 'in order that the sutra be passed on indefinitely, from generation to generation'.
Donations for Eitakyo are put in a special fund for the temple. At BTOA, the funds are used to furnish and maintain the altar area (*onaijin*) and fund Buddhist education. The names of the deceased so remembered are entered into an Eitaikyo book which is kept on the altar. The BTOA Eitaikyo service is held in Febrruary.

Family Memorial Service (法事 Hoji)

The Family Memorial Service differs from other services in that attendance is limited to family, relatives, or friends. Arrangements are made privately with the Rev. Fujimoto, by the family.

The first three Family Memorial Services are held on or around the 7th, 49th, and 100th day after the day of death. Thereafter, services are observed near the date of death during specified years, although some families hold a Family Memorial Service every year. The 1st cycle Family Memorial Service is held on the 1-year anniversary. Subsequent services are counted Japanese style so that the 3rd cycle Family Memorial Service is held on the 2nd anniversary. The following cycles are observed: 1st, 3rd, 7th, 13th, 17th, 25th, 33rd, 50th, and 100th

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Go Mei Nichi Service – This service falls on the 16th of each month (no matter what day of the week). It is held on the 16th to memorialize Shinran's death on the 16th day of January, 1263.

Shibata Thank You Bench

As we approach the seventh year memorial of Grace Shibata passing this February, we would like to highlight the bench located in our garden. It was commissioned in loving memory of the Shibata family, whose generosity to our Temple spanned many years and generations. Many of us fondly remember the annual Temple picnic held in their beautiful Japanese garden, as well as the family's generous donation that made possible the establishment of a library of Japanese Buddhist books.

Following Grace's passing in 2020, the Yoshimi and Grace Shibata Living Trust further honored their legacy with an exceptionally generous monetary gift to the Temple.

The bench was crafted by local furniture maker Lawrence Gandsey. His signature hallmark is the placement of a penny on the underside of each piece, stamped with the year it was made. Our bench features the Shibata *mon* along with two additional pennies dated 1916 and 1925—the birth years of Yoshimi and Grace Shibata. Notably, 1916 is also the year the BTOA was established. Yoshimi's parents, Zenjuro and Koyuri Shibata, were founding members of our Temple.

We are forever grateful to the Shibata family for their enduring kindness, deep gratitude, and beautiful expression of *dāna*, which continue to inspire our community.

Gomonshu and Lady Ohtani visit the Shibata's Mt. Eden Floral Japanese Garden, Hayward, CA 1951-52

J-Sei's 35th Annual Crab Feed

Sunday, February 1, 2026
Fratellanza Club, 1140 66th Street, Oakland
(1 block east of J-Sei with on-site parking)

Live band, no host bar, and raffle drawing : 5:00 to 6:00 pm
Doors to dining room and seating open : 6:00 pm
Dinner : 6:00 to 7:30 pm

Enjoy fresh Dungeness crab, Asian salad, garlic noodles, rolls, desserts, and beverages with your family and friends at J-Sei's in-person, sit-down, family-style crab feed!
(Menu subject to change depending on availability of crab)

Early Bird Special, purchase by January 18 : adults $80
Dinner tickets : adults $90, children 12 & under $40
(Sorry, no to-go meals)

Please RSVP by Sunday, January 25
Very limited number of dinners may be bought at the door.

Buy Tickets on J-SEI website: www.j-sei.org

SHOTSUKI HOYO
MONTHLY MEMORIAL SERVICE
Sunday, February 1st &
Sunday, March 1st

We would love to see you in person, but you can also watch the service online at our BTOA YouTube Channel Family members and friends are invited to attend the Memorial Service for those listed below.

If 2026 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 year	2025	3 year	2024	7 year	2020	17 year	2010
13 year	2014	25 year	2002	33 year	1994	50 year	1977

February

Hikaru Abe-1976
Honji Abe-1961
Jody Bailey-2021
Satoko Furuichi-2025
Shigeru Hayame-2002
Hanaye Hayashi-1940
Nobukichi Hirai-1917
Toranosuke Hisoka-1955
Akiko Honda-1986
Asako Ito-1924
Hiroshi Ito-1990
Yasuko Ann Ito-2023
Koyuki Iwataki-1920
Nami Iwataki-2010
Ichi Kano-1952
Jenny Kato-2013
Joshua Kato-2013
Roy Kato-2013
Rieko Kawabata-2017
Hideo Kawahara-2014
Yoshimatsu Kawakami-1965
Masumi Kawamura-1939
Shigeichi Kobashi-1990
Eiko Kono-1929
Kenjiro Kozen-1916
Masaru Matsumoto-1920
Shin Matsuo-1921
So Matsuzaka-1930
Mitsuye Mifune-1920
Tazue Miyake-2016
Yutaka Momii-1960
Amy Nakamura-2000
Shinsuke Nakamura-1949
Yutaka Nakayama-1988
Kazumi Niita-1936
Hamako Nishida-1994
Hisashi Noda-1925
Mutsuo Noriye-1934
Hitoshi Ogi-1991
Wataru Okino-2006
Toshiko Okita-
Kanzo Otsu-1924
Grace Shibata-2020
Kiwa Shimada-1995
Misao Shiraishi-1999
Keiichiro Sugiyama-1967
Masaye Wada Sumimoto-2014
Tsunetada Sunakawa-1928
Sakae Suyeyasu-2001
Yoshimi Suzawa-1928
Misa Tajima-1977
Shinichi Takagi-1931
Masaki Takano-2023
Shohei Takara-1926
Toshiko Tashiro-2011
Kaeo Tawara-1922
Keichi Togiwata-1931
Mitsuo Togiwata-1918
Fumiko Tomotoshi-1921
George Tsuchiya-2010
Kenjiro Ushijima-1916
Hana Wada-1949
Katsuichi Yamagata-1979
Ben Yamanaka-2020
Noboru Oscar Yamaoka-2000
Faith Yamato-2023
Iwazo Yoshida-1920
Kuniko Yoshimura-1939
Tomiyo Tee Yoshiwara-2018

March

Teruo Akinaga-2001
Infant Arai-1957
Haruye Baba-1936
Helen Baba-1988
Chiyo Date-1985
Toshie Dillon-1997
Jean Doerr-2004
Ruby Eaves-1994
Gonshiro Fujita-1935
George Fukayama-2017
Yone Fukuma-1928
Shigeru Furuno-1974
Noriaki Hashimoto-2000
Kitoko Higake-1975
Otomatsu Higashi-1932

March cont.

Saburo Hirakawa-1963
Shichibei Hirao-1919
Tomoe Hitomi-2005
Eikichi Hiyama-1942
Sachiko Ishida-2010
Santaro Ishikawa-1961
Noboru Iwahashi-2008
Setsuko Iwahashi-2001
Shizuko Iwahashi-2014
Seijiro Kaito-1968
Misao Kakimoto-2007
Ochiyo Kakimoto-1992
Yuzuru Kamiji-1933
Setsuko Kawabata-1999
Toshiro Kawabata-2017
Chiyono Kawakami-1974
Ruriko Kitajima-1920
Saburo Koga-1928
Mitsue Konishi-1992
Toshio- Konishi-2000
Tom Kono-2001
Teru Kuge-1986
Asao Kusama-1989
Asono Kuwano-1985
Denzaburo Kuwano-1970
Ken Kuwano-1925
Rutaro Maeda-2003
Muneto Masuda-1938
Kojiro Matsui-1932
Hisao Matsuo-1987
Sachi Matsuura-1947
Takeyo Mori-2021
Mitsue Mune-1922
Shizuo Murakoshi-1941
Hideno Nagahisa-2011
Teruko Naito-2003
Hisakazu Nakagawara-1983
Masami Nakano-1916
Etsuko Narahara-2019
Yoshi Niizawa-1996
Sadako Nishi-1922
Sadasuke Nishi-1962
Teisuke Nishi-1962
Takino Nishiyama-1924
George Masaki Nomura-2010
Seki Nomura-1979
Jinzaburo Okami-1924
Bunjiro Okamoto-1916
Toshio Okamoto-1927
Yoshino Otsu-1971
Kata Sadamune-1926
Chiyoe Sakaguchi-1982
JoAnne Shigemoto-1997
Shuzo Shiota-1994
Sawa Soga-1935
Hidemi Jenna Suehiro-1980
Kaneko Tabuchi-1925
Hikoichi Tajima-1983
Kumagoro Takagi-1936
Hiroshi Takayama-2014
Kinzo Tateyama-1970
Hisashi Terao-1947
Mathilde Tesch-1998
Masaji Tsuboi-1923
Tadashi Tsuchiya-1919
Aisuke Uchiyama-1956
Mamoru Bob Utsurogi-2002
Jun Wada-2007
Yoshie Wada-2004
Kichiuemon Yamagami-1935
Kay Yamagata-2025
May Yamagata-2025
Hatsuno Yamamoto-2001
Matsuzo Yamashita-1970
Takeshi Yamashita-2013
Toshiko Yamashita-2005
Tetsuo Yamato-2000
Tomi Yanagi-1988
Tokio Yano-1977

Thank you to Buddhist Church of Oakland and the Oakland Fire Department

The local fire station near the Buddhist Church of Oakland (BCO) donated cases of masks and hand sanitizer to them. BCO generously shared some of these supplies—about 1,000 items—with our temple.

Please pick up masks and hand sanitizer the next time you visit the temples, while supplies last.

BCA Virtual Art Exhibit Marks Fifth Year in Showcasing Talent

Rev. Candice Shibata of Stockton submitted the photo at far left and quoted Shinran's "Shoshin Nembutsu Ge," in which he writes, "Pure light, joyful light, the light of wisdom ... The multitudes of beings all receive this radiance." At left, Kenneth Amamoto of the Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple says of his photograph: "One of Dad's hobbies was woodcarving and towards the end of his life, he started carving a Buddha for each of his four children. He lived his life as a true Buddhist and I wanted to share a part of my dad with everyone."

In second row at left, June DeBusk of Enmanji has painted kaki still life on sanded paper. In middle, Tara Tamaribuchi of Seattle Betsuin presents an acrylic screen printing titled "Geyser of Human Groove," which she describes as an "artwork is a party decoration for human groove, featuring some of the human cells that communicate to produce the human urge to dance to music." At right is Enmanji member Shawna S. Truong's "The Gourdgeous Starry Night," an acrylic paint inspired in part by Vincent Van Gogh's famous "Starry Night." At left, Jane Naito of Alameda creates this botanical print of fresh and dried plant material. At center, is a work by Naito's grandmother, Teruko Naito, who passed away in 2003, at the age of 95. "At the time of her death, she was engaged in creating this Kusa-e work depicting the 'Kannon Bodhisattva' from the Amida Triad," Jane Naito says. At right is a watercolor depicting an Obon dance by Maho Suzuki Garner of Oregon.

Rev. Dennis Fujimoto the Chair of the BCA Art Committee. We hope that more artist from BTOA will particpate next year.