



# U P A Y A

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 July 19**. 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](mailto: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) &  
Rennyō 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

**BUDDHIST CHURCH OF SAN FRANCISCO**  
**94th BON ODORI**  
*Dancing with Joy & Gratitude!*  
**SUNDAY, JULY 27, 2025 10AM - 3:30PM**

**10 AM - 1:00 PM**  
**GINZA SMALL BITES**

**1:00 - 3:00 PM**  
**BON DANCING ON OCTAVIA**

- JITEN DAIKO
- ENSOHZA - JAPANESE FOLK MUSIC
- RAFFLE DRAWING

**BON DANCE PRACTICES**  
6/23 - 7/11 (EXCEPT 7/4)  
MON/WED/FRI, 7:30 PM - 9 PM

**OBON & HATSUBON SERVICE**  
SUNDAY, JULY 20, 10 AM

**1881 PINE ST. (AT OCTAVIA), SF**  
415-776-3158 BCSFOFFICE@BUDDHISTCHURCHSF.ORG  
WWW.BUDDHISTCHURCHOFSANFRANCISCO.ORG

**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

A QR code is located at the bottom of the survey announcement box.

**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 duffel 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 3<sup>rd</sup>,** 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 11<sup>th</sup>, we had our annual pancake breakfast on Mother's Day. Thanks to all that helped to make this another fun day for all.



## 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.



## END OF YEAR PARTY!

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

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

**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*

**1<sup>st</sup> Prize - \$1,000.00 - Ruth Tomihara**

**2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto:info@btoa.org) by August 18<sup>th</sup> 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



# Creamy Poppy Seed Dressing

Source: Barefeet in the Kitchen

Servings: 24 tablespoons, about 1 1/2 cups

## Ingredients

- 3/4 cup mayo
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup white wine vinegar
- 2 tablespoons poppy seeds (I find that 1 tablespoon is enough)
- 1/2 teaspoon dry mustard
- 1/8 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.

**SACBC's 60th Annual Japanese Bazaar**  
Saturday July 19, 11:00am – 7:00pm  
Sunday, July 20, 11:00am – 3:00pm  
**Free Admission!**  
**FOOD • GAMES • ENTERTAINMENT & MORE!**

**Food — Japanese Cuisine**  
Chicken Teriyaki, Gyoza, Udon, Sushi, & Manju  
**Plus ...**  
TeriBurgers, TeriDogs, Corn-On-The-Cob, Shave Ice

**FUN for the whole family!**  
**Silent Auction:** Bidding ends Sun. 7:20 at 1pm. Need not be present to win.  
**Raffle Ticket Drawings:** Sunday, 3pm  
**Games:** Demon Smash, Deck-Pond, Nickel Pitch & Other Games for Children  
**Talko Demonstrations:** Sat. 4pm & Sun. 1:30pm  
O'Nami Talko, Kendo, Ikebana Exhibit  
**Intro to Buddhism,** Rev. Dr. Miyaji, Sat & Sun 2pm  
**Boutique & Crafts, Bookstore & more!**

**Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church**  
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[www.SACBC.org](http://www.SACBC.org) • [@SACBCBuddhistchurch](https://www.facebook.com/SACBCBuddhistchurch)



Buddhist Temple of Alameda  
2325 Pacific Avenue  
Alameda, CA 94501

*Time Sensitive Materials*

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OAKLAND, CA

*Return Service Requested*

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~~Paypal~~ app. Checks by mail, still accepted.

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