



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. 5

September & October 2025

Message from Rev. D.

Fall Ohigan

It is time for Ohigan!! The harmony of the universe and the balance of self come together. It is indeed a special time of year when the movement of elements and forces beyond the self remind us that we are a part of this same flow. We may step beyond our daily chores of self concern to sense our connection to more than me.

Higan, meaning the Other Shore, calls for us to bring our attention to what is beyond this shore ... our normal life of personal accomplishments. The Other Shore comes into view as awareness of the countless causes and conditions, and the interdependence of all things makes itself apparent. In comparison the

normal view that we are accustomed to is revealed to be a small, limited, and narrow view of life. With this new awareness and a broader perspective, we begin to move beyond what was once normal towards a deeper and fuller life ... towards the Other Shore.

The 6 Paramitas are provided as guides to move towards the Other Shore. Behavior and ethics are guided to remind ourselves of our responsibility to the world and of our compassion towards all of life. The Nembutsu is sometimes described as the Call of the Infinite or the Voice of Reality. It calls from the Other Shore of Enlightenment for us to move beyond our limitations of self and ego.

Ohigan is always a refreshing time to renew our efforts and to re-evaluate our priorities. **Those new to the ways of the temple** can come to appreciate even more that the Shin Buddhist path is a common sense approach to spirituality. Compassion is balanced with Wisdom, and gratitude for life emerges out of truths recognizable by all. **Those long connected to the temple** can recognize once again that the Dharma and the Nembutsu path enrich our lives as individuals, family, and community. Continued support in various ways becomes our heartfelt manner to thank those before us and to share this path with each other. This year the **Ohigan Service will take place September 14 at 10:00 AM.**

BWA & Ladies of the Nembutsu Memorial Service

Each October we have our **BWA Memorial Service**, when we remember and honor the women of the temple BWA. We particularly honor those we have lost in the past year, but we also remember our mothers, aunties, and friends we may have lost through the years. We remember them as family, friends, and temple members, and recall the times we may have shared as we worked side by side to support the temple and promote the teachings. We also take this opportunity to reflect upon the contributions of **Kakushinni, Eshinni, Lady Ohtani, and Lady Takeko Kujo**. Each of these women may serve as role models as we become aware of the heart and mind of the Nembutsu that guided their life efforts.

When we come to the BWA Memorial Service, or any memorial service, not only do we reflect on those we have lost, but we reflect upon our own lives as well. **Those we have lost become our guides, our teachers, our bodhisattvas, our Buddhas.** Through the Nembutsu, we connect with them and we connect with the infinite. The Nembutsu and our shared connections provide stability. Our lives are grounded in our interconnection with those individuals and all else. Although we each



Everyone is Welcome

We will continue to live stream on our YouTube Channel.

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. D
11:00 Sangha Time

October

- 5 10:00 Shotsuki Hoyo/Monthly Memorial
11:00 Sangha Time
- 12 9:30 Dharma School Service
10:00 Family Service w/Birthday Sunday
11:00 Sangha Time
- 19 10:00 **ABWA, Ladies of the Dharma
(Eshinni, Kakushinni, Lady Kujo,
Lady Ohtani) Memorial Service**
Guest Speaker: Rev. Yukiko Motoyoshi,
11:00 **ABWA Luncheon**
- 26 9:30 Dharma School
Halloween Party
10:00 Family Service w/Ask Rev. Dennis
11:00 Sangha Time

November

- 2 10:00 Shotsuki Hoyo/Monthly Memorial
11:00 Sangha Time
- 9 9:30 Dharma School Service
10:00 Family Service w/Birthday Sunday
11:00 Sangha Time
- 16 9:00 Go Mei Nichi Service
10:00 **HOONKO Family Service**
11:00 Sangha Time
- 23 9:30 Dharma School
10:00 Family Service w/Ask Rev. Dennis
11:00 Sangha Time
- 30 **No Service (5th Sunday)**

Cont. Rev. D's Message

endure our own pain and suffering, we continue and we persevere. Our Dharma friends and the Nembutsu teachings guide us through our life hurdles and difficulties. **The BWA and the Ladies of the Nembutsu Memorial Service will be held on October 19, 2025 @ 10:00 AM.** We will see you at the temple.

In Gassho,

Rev. Joshin Dennis Fujimoto
revdjoshin@btoa.org
(916) 416-0919

Birthday Sundays 2nd Sunday of the Month

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



July Birthdays



August Birthdays

ABWA NEWS

Bazaar: A belated thank you to the following who donated baked goods as well as handmade crafts and other food items: **Donna Yoshida Castro, Karen Fong, Alan Hirahara, Jackie Ito-Woo, Nancy Kawabata-Poon, Janet Kwan, Cheryl Meitzenheimer, Tazuko Naito, Mary Nakahara, Gayle Okada, Linda Omi, Maria Piper, Esther Sakamoto, Jean Sato, Susan Shimamoto, Lani Takano, Lenni Terao-Doerr, Kae Hasegawa Tsu, Jacqui Yamaoka, Yumi Yasuda.** There were many positive comments on the wonderful treats and homemade items. Please accept our apologies if your name was not included on the list. We always try to catch all the donors, even if they haven't signed the clipboard. Sorry if we missed you!

Obon: Many thanks to Toban Group #1 for providing light refreshments following the afternoon service. This year there was a meditation walk included in the service, so it was a nice treat to have the delicious cake afterwards!

Photo Ops: The FBWA requested photos for a slideshow they will be presenting at the upcoming Representatives' Meeting and next year's national conference. They also wanted photos of our members at our Obon. It is always a challenge to gather everyone, but we were able to get a lot of our members during the 2-day Obon weekend.



Our special "honorary" member, Molly, attended our Obon festival in her custom-made kimono with her owner, Amy. At age 17, she still provides comfort to the elderly as a therapy dog at a senior facility. True "dana"!

Clothing Drive: We are grateful to all those who volunteered to help with the drop-off shifts and for loading and unloading the truck. Thank you to: **Susan Hiraki, Wayne Nakano, Yumi Yasuda, Karen Fong, Gayle Okada, Lenni Terao-Doerr, Vickie Hashimoto, Jane Naito, Amy Tomine, Jacqui Yamaoka, Gary Takeda, Lou Panzella, Tom Hashimoto, Hiko Shimamoto, Howard Shintani, and Rev. Fujimoto.** A special thanks to Hiko for getting us the truck and to Karen for being the liaison with Savers. Jackie Ito-Woo and Dorothy Okamoto provided a delicious lunch for the those who helped with the loading and delivery to Savers. Arigato to all who helped and to those who donated. A portion of the proceeds will go to the Alameda Point Collaborative, a non-profit organization that assists the homeless with housing, job training and other services.

Upcoming ABWA Events:

**Eshinni, Kakushinni, Lady Kujo, Lady Ohtani, and
the Late ABWA Members Memorial Service and Luncheon**

Sunday, Oct. 18

Guest Speaker: Rev. Yukiko Motoyoshi,

retired minister, formerly of the Buddhist Church of Stockton

Toban Group #1 will be responsible for coordinating the lunch at a restaurant. More information will be forthcoming.

Next Meetings:

Our next two meetings will be held on **Sundays, Sept. 7** and **Oct. 5** after the Shotsuki Monthly Memorial service and refreshments.

Gassho,
Lenni Terao-Doerr, ABWA President

Yoshiwara Wedding

Kaz (Kent & Pat Yoshiwara's son) and Lisa celebrated their wedding in Waikiki this August, with the ceremony and reception held at the beautiful Queen Kapiolani Hotel. Their children, Bodhi and Mika, played special roles in the wedding as flower children. Many family and friends were in attendance to celebrate this happy occasion.

Although both Kaz and Lisa from Walnut Creek, their love story began in Hawaii, where they worked together as coaches on the pool deck. Their bond grew stronger as they supported each other through their advanced degrees.

After living in several apartments, Kaz and Lisa recently moved to a house in Manoa last fall. Their new home provides more space for their two dogs, making it a perfect place for their young family.



DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

Hi all! Hope you all enjoyed your summer like we did –

Dharma School families participate in Obon!

Dharma School will begin on **September 14th, 9:30 a.m.**

We'll continue our twice a month schedule on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month.



Future DS Student, Kai!



Former DS Students:
Nick Bellizzi &
Hideki Maniwa

Former DS Students:
Lindsay & Allie Poon
w/Lindsay's husband
Andrew



Please tell you friends and family that new students are always welcome.

Bring your kids, your grandkids to learn about the Dharma and teach them about gratitude and dana.

We Our Dharma School Teachers

Ever Thought About Teaching Dharma School? Probably Not, but Why Not?

You don't need a background in education to be a Dharma School teacher. Our volunteers come from all walks of life—including healthcare, sales, business, youth work, and more. Some are full-time parents, while others are professional educators—but what they all share is a desire to connect with our students and share the Buddha-Dharma.

What does it take?

Just a willingness to engage with our children and youth, and to help pass on the teachings in a thoughtful and welcoming way.

Zoom Coffee Hour

"Zoom Coffee Hour" refers to us hosting a virtual sangha time after service for those who are unable to attend in person.

These informal gatherings provide opportunities for our members (especially those who have moved away) to continue to connect with each other while enjoying a beverage – coffee, tea, wine or whatever is your preference.

Not ready to commit as a full-time teacher? Consider being a **guest speaker!** In the past, we've welcomed speakers such as Doug Doerr, Denny Terao, Jane Naito, and Kenny Narahara—just to name a few.

We're still looking to connect our older members with the DS kids...Please let us know if you'd like to spend some time getting to know the students and providing some insights into who you are and why you're a member. We have two in high school, so it would also be helpful to share a little bit about your career and avocational pursuits.

If you're curious about getting involved, talk to **Rev. Dennis** or **Yumi Yasuda**. They'll be happy to share more about what's involved.

Let's inspire the next generation to hear and live the Dharma.

DS Team

Date: Sep 27, 2025
Time: 11:00 AM Pacific
Meeting ID: 830 3147 2652
Passcode: 476097

Date: Oct 25, 2025
Time: 10:00 AM Pacific
Meeting ID: 864 4658 5282
Passcode: 702812

Meeting hosted by Wayne Nakano. If you have any questions, please reach out to Wayne at wnakano@ix.netcom.com.

RAISE THE ROOF CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



For over 109 years, the Buddhist Temple of Alameda has served as a place of refuge and reflection for our Sangha. Now, it's time to care for the space that has cared for us.

Our Temple roof—over 30 years old—needs replacement. Recent weather has caused ongoing issues, and repairs are no longer sustainable. To preserve our Onaijin, classrooms, and gathering spaces, we're launching a **\$60,000 capital campaign** to replace the roof before the next rainy season.

How You Can Help

- Make a donation of any amount—every gift matters.
- Check if your employer offers matching donations.
- Share this campaign with family and friends.

Let's come together to protect the Temple for future generations.

Donation checks can be sent directly to the temple, or you can use this QR code to donate online.



In Gassho,

Kent, Tom, Howard, Yumi

Buddhist Temple of Alameda
Facilities Committee

BTOA Annual General Meeting
NOTICE - Open to All BTOA Paid Members

Sunday, December 14th
Following 10AM Family Service

Alameda World Tournament

Baseball hosted an international baseball tournament from August 3rd-9th, with teams from countries around the world. The tournament rotates between countries, and 2025 is Alameda's year. A unique aspect of this tournament is the homestay, where foreign players stay with local families during the tournament. **Temple members Brian and Maria Piper, and Grant and Eri Tsuji** each hosted two Japanese players at their houses.



Team Japan went 3-1 in group play, losing only to Alameda in the tournament's opening game. However, a strong run in the playoffs brought them to a rematch with Alameda in the championship, where a late rally by Japan sent the game into extra innings, and they eventually triumphed, 3-2. The players had a great time exploring the

Alameda and the Bay Area in between games, having fun with the other baseball teams, and a couple of them stopped by the Temple for a visit!

CHICKEN TERIYAKI OBENTO SALE

October 18, 2025
Pick Up – Noon to 3PM



CHICKEN OBENTO \$20.00

½ teriyaki chicken, rice, edamame,
picked daikon, and dessert

PRE-ORDER and DRIVE THRU ONLY



All proceed will go towards our
RAISE THE ROOF capital campaign.

Volunteers Needed to Work the Obento Sale
Please contact Howard, Tom or Yumi to volunteer!



KEIRO KAI CELEBRATION

September 14th

Keiro no Hi—known in Japan as *Respect for the Aged Day*—is a national holiday dedicated to honoring and showing appreciation for our elders.

On **Sunday, September 14th**, we will recognize and celebrate the contributions of our temple members who are **88 years old and over**.

2025 KEIRO HONOREES

| | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Misako Akiyama | Mamie Dye |
| Kayoko Fujimoto | Mary Ann Hamasaki |
| Yoko Hashimoto | Kazue Iwahashi |
| Tama Koda | Nan Kataoka |
| Setsuko Kuramoto | Dorothy Mizono |
| Jean Nomura | Carol Takaki |
| Norman Takaki | Betty Takano |
| Cookie Takeshita | May Yamaoka |
| Mitzi Yoshimura | Ken Narahara |

LUNCHEON RSVP

The celebration will take place following our **Spring Ohigan Service**. This year, we will enjoy a special **obento lunch**:

- **Adults –\$10.00** (choice of beef teriyaki or vegetarian)
- **Children –\$5.00** (choice of chicken karaage or vegetarian)

The Temple will be subsidizing a portion of the obento costs.

**RSVP TODAY with Gayle Okada at
(510) 918-4390 or
gayle.okada@gmail.com**

Rev. Dennis' Fall Lecture Series:

Chanting of the Ju Sei Ge

The *Enmanji Buddhist Temple* will offer fall classes on Buddhism this October on ZOOM. The classes will focus on the Sutra chanting of Ju Sei Ge from the Larger Sutra of Immeasurable Life.

**Classes will be held on Thursday evenings,
6:30 PM – 8:00 PM, October 2, 9, 16 and 23.**

Life responsibilities of work, home, and family increase the demands upon each of us. Declining health of those we care for, as well as ourselves, is an ongoing process. Age and illness confront us all. The Buddhist perspective provides stability and grounding. We are able to proceed through life with strength as the Dharma is assessed. As followers of the Dharma, our practice is to live our lives guided by the principles of Wisdom and Compassion.

A familiar and often used chant at our Shin Buddhist temples is the Ju Sei Ge. The meditative ritual of chanting with rhythmic breathing settles our minds and grounds the body. This class will guide our understanding and appreciation of the Ju Sei Ge as we explore the background story and the words of the chant.

**These classes are free of charge
and open to the public.**

For those interested, please email enmanji@sonic.net to receive the registration link. **Registration is required.** The deadline to register is **Monday, September 29, 2025.** As an option, students may purchase “The Three Pure Land Sutras, volume II – The Larger Sutra”. This can be ordered from the BCA Bookstore at BCABOOKSTORE.ORG. If this is your preference, please order by **September 20th** to receive it in time.

The Fall Lecture Series is being hosted by the Enmanji Buddhist Education Committee, Enmanji Buddhist Temple.

This Hidden Treasures article was inadvertently missed from the last issue of the Upaya. Apologies.

Japanese Hidden Treasures Sale Update

Thank you to all who donated to our Japanese Hidden Treasures Sale, held the weekend of April 26-27. Once again, the Temple was the recipient of beautiful kimonos, obi, lacquer ware, tableware, bonsai/ikebana vessels, artwork and more, providing our shoppers with a diverse selection of goods to choose from.

The success of the sale would not have been possible without the many volunteers - too many to name individually - who offered their time and talents. But special recognition must be given to **Lenni Terao-Doerr, Dorothy Okamoto, Tsueko Muraca, Maria Piper, Jackie Ito-Woo, Amy Tomine, Jacqui Yamaoka and Colleen Okamoto** for their assistance in preparing for the sale.



These tireless workers sorted, cleaned, ironed and repaired the donated goods. Then they created the beautiful displays and priced each item. With the number of donations received, this was a huge task! Some volunteers got their workouts in by removing the chairs from the hall and climbing the stairs carrying prior year donations down from the attic and up from the basement. Others made certain that we were well fed. And on the sale days, the event ran



smoothly thanks to those who volunteered to serve as greeters/security, customer service assistants and cashiers.

Thank you again for all your support – the success belongs to you.

Gayle Okada, Chair – Hidden Treasure's Sale



Special thanks to **Gayle Okada** for chairing and overseeing another successful Hidden Treasure's Sale!

Arigato Gayle!

COOL NEW ADDITIONS @ the BAZAAR THIS YEAR

TEMPURA WAITING SYSTEM

Thank you to **Carl Woo** for installing our **new industrial-grade LED displays for wait line management** in our Tempura Booth this year. Customers were given a number and then able to go sit and eat/drink with their family and friends until they saw their number appear for pick up.



RICE WASH MACHINE

Thank you to **Walnut Grove Buddhist Temple** for loaning us a rice washing machine this year. **Dan Nakahara** was able to coordinate the loan and transport of the machine. It saved us hours of washing the rice by hand. The rice washing machines utilize water pressure to circulate and clean rice, effectively removing impurities and excess starch.



While watching this happen, **Rev. Dennis** created a BTOA Bazaar

Jodo Shinshu Nursery Rhyme titled the

The Rice Wash Machine

"how much rice would a rice wash wash if a rice wash could wash rice"



Bon Odori at BToA

Beginning in the 1880s, Japanese workers settled in Alameda County and the city of Alameda on the San Francisco East Bay. In Alameda, a number of Japanese-owned businesses were established in the 1890s including a flower and retail store, shoe repair shop, tailor, grocery store, and hotel.

These enterprises formed the nucleus of a tight-knit Japantown roughly bounded by Park Street, Santa Clara Avenue, Walnut Street, and the Oakland Estuary. By 1910, the Japanese population in Alameda reached 500 with approximately 3,250 in the county.

The Buddhist community gathered in 1912 and soon rented space in a Victorian mansion on Pacific Avenue owned by former Alameda mayor Edward Kimberlin Taylor. The Buddhist Temple of Alameda purchased the property in 1919 and built a social hall in 1926. The earliest documented Obon with Bon odori was held in 1934, and by 1936, the event was a two-day affair. Guests from Centerville and Irvington participated in the 1940 Obon with Bon odori led by Tomoe Otsu, Matsue Sugiyama, and Misao Yamashiki.

During World War II, the Japanese population in Alameda County was incarcerated primarily at the Topaz concentration camp. The first postwar Obon with Bon odori was likely held in 1948 with instruction from Teruko Naito, wife of Reverend Shozen Naito. By the mid-1950s, Bon odori was led by Lillian Nishihara and took place around the newly constructed Japanese garden on the temple grounds.

Professional dancer and teacher Michiya Hanayagi led Bon odori starting in the 1960s and taught popular dances like "Tokyo Ondo" and "Yakyuken Odori," religious dances such as "Bon Odori Uta," "Shinran Odori," and "Shinshu Ondo," and an inaka version of "Tanko Bushi" that she learned in Tokyo. Michiya Hanayagi continued to teach until her retirement in 2016, when her daughter Eileen Tanaka (Mishisuya Hanayagi) assumed the teaching duties in Alameda, Berkeley, and Concord.

While the overall size of the Bon Festival is limited due to the dimensions of the temple grounds, it remains a significant and well-attended event. Temple member Chris Shinya Tomine illustrated a new Bon Festival poster each year from 2010 to 2019, and local artist David Savellano depicted the festival in a watercolor paintings.

Bon odori at the Buddhist Temple of Alameda begins and ends with "Bon Odori Uta," and includes approximately eight to ten additional dances. Favorite dances at the temples include "Hanabi Ondo," "Natsuko Ondo" with fans, and "Tanko Bushi." Bon odori is danced without taiko accompaniment.



Wynn Kiyama has worked as a musicologist, ethnomusicologist, nonprofit arts executive, and freelance musician. His research on Bon odori has been presented in articles, a CD booklet, and museum exhibits. He lives with his family in Honolulu, Hawai'i.

**Just a reminder, it's not too late for you to
renew your membership dues.**

\$250 Adult Membership
\$125 New Adult Membership (first year)

\$50 Young Adults less than 30 years old
\$200 Senior adults 80 years and over



PHOTOS from Our BON ODORI





2025 Hatsubon Names

Mieo “Mike” Kuroki

黒木 ミエオ “マイク”

1945 – 2024, Age: 79

釋 重誓

Shaku JU SEI

Reiterating the Vows

•

Helen Haruye Ishida

石田 ヘレン 春江

1941 – 2024, Age: 83

釋 慈忍

Shaku JI NIN

Compassion & Patience

•

Marilyn Miyuki Ishida-Lew

石田-ルー マリリン ミユキ

1946 - 2024, Age: 78

釋 浄心

Shaku JO SHIN

Pure Mind, Heart, & Spirit

•

Satoko Furuichi

古市 里子

1938 – 2025, Age: 86

釋 好春

Shaku KOU SHUN

To Take Delight in the Spring

•

Kay Yamagata

山形 ケイ

1940 – 2025, Age: 84

釋 慈恩

Shaku JI ON

Compassion & Kindness



The Buddhist Temple of Alameda would like to express our heartfelt condolence to the family and friends of **Ms. June Yamagata** who passed on May 26, 2025, just weeks before she was to have her 100th birthday.

June is remembered fondly for her active presence at activities and events at the Buddhist Temple of Alameda.

June had lost her sister Kay, in March. She is survived by her nephew, Glenn (Vivian) Yamagata. A private family service was held at our Temple.

THANK YOU

Thank you to all our donors and volunteers and who supported our Obon Lantern fundraiser. The lanterns shone brightly in our temple garden, in loving honor of our loved ones.

Nancy Kawabata-Poon



Meditation Walk

In lieu, of a sermon for our Obon Service Rev. Dennis created a meditation walk which started in our Social Hall and then lead into our garden. We walked in silence and mind fulling read the reading at each of the mediation stations out load and then recited the nembutsu, Namo Amida Butsu.



"As the sun shines upon the earth, awakening into growth the seeds that lie dormant in the soil, may the Light of Wisdom shine into our minds and truly awaken us to our igonorance and by this insight stir us to strive for a life of deeper understanding and enlightenment."

Meditation Reading #4
Namo Amida Butsu



"Whether I go before others, or others go before me; whether it be today, or whether it be tomorrow; who is to know? Those who leave before us are as countless and as fragile as the drops of dew."

On the White Ashes
Namo Amida Butsu



"In silently contemplating the transient nature of human existence, nothing is more fragile and fleeting in this world than the life of man. Thus we have not heard of human life lasting for ten thousand years. Life swiftly passes, and who among men can maintain his form for even a hundred years?"

On the White Ashes
Namo Amida Butsu



"Listen. Listen to the voice of the Dharma. Listen to the birds, singing in the morning, The wind sighing in the boughs overhead, And the roar of the waves on the beach. Listen to the rain on the roof and the snow falling in the fields. The Dharma speaks to us through the sounds of the world

.. ..
Kenryu Tsuji, The Heart of the Buddha-Dharma
Namo Amida Butsu



"As a solid rock is not shaken by the wind, a wise person is not moved by blame or praise. (Dhammapada)
"A man is not learned because he talks much; he who is patient, free from hatred and fear, he is called learned."

Dhammapada
Namo Amida Butsu



*"Support and sustenance
In all forms and limitless manner;
Gratefully received with mind and body bowed.
Compassion of the Infinite
Embraces the individual
And becomes One in identity;*

Gratitude replacing ego."
Namo Amida Butsu

"We respectfully call upon Tathagata Amida to enter this Dojo As we joyfully scatter flowers of welcome.

We respectfully call upon Tathagata Shakamuni to enter this Dojo As we joyfully scatter flowers of welcome.

We respectfully call upon Tathagatas of the ten directions to enter this Dojo As we joyfully scatter flowers of welcome."

Sanbujo

Namo Amida Butsu



Nakaharas Move to Seattle



Longtime members **Dan & Mary Nakahara** recently moved to their new home in Seattle.

Fear not, Mary will remain on our Board and oversee our Temple's networking, database systems and website, while Dan has promised to come back for our bazaar!

We wish them the best of luck in their new home and look forward to seeing them at back at our Temple soon.

Upaya Articles, Announcement Deadlines: If you'd like to submit an article, community flyer or announcement – such as a graduation, wedding, birth of a child/grandchild – please email it to info@btoa.org by Oct. 13th for the November/December edition of the Upaya.

Looking for Volunteer Drivers for JSEI Meal Delivery.


Several years ago, J-SEI was not delivering food to Alameda due to a lack of volunteers. We're proud to say that the Buddhist Temple of Alameda stepped up to recruit and coordinate volunteer drivers in Alameda. Initially, deliveries were made only to our temple members, but the program has since expanded to serve anyone in Alameda who qualifies to receive a hot and nutritious lunch.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to our dedicated volunteer drivers: **Karen Fong, Barney Lew, Kathy Fong, Gary Taketa, Hiko and Susan Shimamoto, Esther Sakamoto, and Jane Naito.**

Currently, the driving schedule is organized by Karen Fong.

J-SEI is now looking to expand food deliveries in Alameda by adding another delivery day—possibly Tuesday—to better serve those in need.

If you're interested in volunteering as a driver and/or coordinator, please contact **Karen Fong** for more information:

 (510) 821-1617
k.fong@btoa.com

If you or a family member would like to receive a hot meal, please reach out directly to:

Sianne Susbilla
Nutrition Services Manager
 (510) 654-4000 ext. 105
sianne@j-sei.org

U P A Y A
Newsletter of the Buddhist Temple of Alameda

Help Us Share the News! Newsletter Creator Needed

Are you creative, organized, and passionate about keeping our church community connected? We need you! The Temple is looking for a volunteer or two to design and manage our bi-monthly newsletter.


What You'll Do:

- Collect news, announcements, and articles from Rev. D and various affiliated organizations and committee leads
- Create and format the newsletter
- Work with Jane Naito and Rev. D to finalize content and provide for printing in a timely manner

Ideal Candidate:

- Enjoys writing, editing, or graphic design
- Comfortable with basic layout tools (like Canva, Word, Pages or similar – your pick)
- Good communicator and team player

Whether you're an experienced communicator or simply someone with a heart for community connection, we'd love to hear from you!

Interested? Contact Jane Naito at:
 (415) 378-1100
j.naito@btoa.org

**Let's keep our sangha informed,
inspired, and engaged!**



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

Call for Entries
5th Annual BCA Virtual Art Exhibit

Submission Deadline: Aug 31, 2025

Open to all members of our BCA Sangha Community!

Register at
TINYURL.COM/BCART2025

 Buddhist Churches of America
ARTWORK BY BETTY KANO, *To Be Joyous, II*

Calling All BTOA Artist
Submission Deadline Extended
Submit Today!

Rev. Dennis founded the BCA Art Committee several years ago, and today it continues under the name **BCArt**. Now in its 5th year, BCart highlights and shares artwork created by our Sangha community and friends.

Over the years, several **BTOA members** have taken part by submitting their pieces. We invite you to join them and share your creativity in this year's exhibition.

Art Show will be on-line
after Sept 15th