



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. 6

November & December 2025

Message from Rev. D.

HOONKO is our Major Service, not only for November, but for the year. It is **the most important service in our Shin Buddhist tradition**. We are encouraged to reflect upon the life and teachings of Shinran Shonin, and how our lives have been touched and impacted. Shinran's journey, first, as a young boy entering the priesthood, and then his dedicated and arduous efforts in study and practice on Mt. Hiei, inspires us. Much the same as we look at the lives of our own grandparents who sought to find their way through



difficulties and barriers, and against incredible odds, Shinran, too, faced incredible struggles. We have come to receive the fruits of all those before us.

When we look at the activities and events at the temple, we can see that we try to host a variety of happenings. There is something for everyone, and there is a place for each of us to help and contribute as our time and skills and interest permit. As we step back to observe this interaction, we could see that **people want to help** the groups or activities or events that are of value to the community. **We look for and notice positive and helpful efforts made in the world**. Each of us have this desire to **"be a part of" the whole**.

Some may enjoy being with each other at our services, and help out to welcome guests, or to help with service roles, or to pass out books for everyone. The service is set to activate all our 5 senses towards the direction of spiritual growth whether we are aware of it or not. Some are comfortable in the kitchen, and help to prepare and serve food, or to clean up afterwards so that our temple members, friends, and guests can enjoy the temple setting and social time. Still others try to come on "off days" to help keep up our beautiful garden, pond, and lawns. They come "under the radar" of others, and contribute in their own fashion, again, to "be a part of" the overall picture.

In this same fashion, **we have a deeper need, hope, or desire to "be a part of" something greater than ourselves**. We hold a question that is a riddle of life. What is it that I am seeking? What is it that I am missing? What is it that will complete me? **For Shinran, that something was Amida. He sought the ultimate connection to "be a part of" reality itself**. This greater reality is the infinite light and life that we call Amida. The finite "I" seeks its connection with the infinite "other".

Everyone is Welcome

We will continue to live stream on our YouTube Channel.

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)**

December

- 7** 10:00 Shotsuki & **Bodhi Day Service**
11:00 Sangha Time
- 14** 9:30 Dharma School Service
10:00 Family Service w/Birthday Sunday
11:00 **Annual General Meeting**
11:30 Sangha Time
- 21** 10:00 Family Service w/Ask Rev. Dennis
11:00 Sangha Time
- 28** NO SERVICE (Holiday)
- 31** 3:00 **End of Year Service**
4:00 Sangha Time

January

- 1** 10:00 Shusho E - New Year Day Service
11:00 Sangha Time
- 4** 10:00 Shotsuki Hoyo/Monthly Memorial
11:00 Sangha Time
- 18** 9:30 Dharma School Service
10:00 **All Beings Memorial Service**
w/Birthday Sunday
11:00 Sangha Time
- 25** 10:00 Family Service
**Installation of BTOA Board &
ABWA Cabinet Members**

Cont. Rev. D's Message

This is our path as followers of the Nembutsu. It's very simple, yet incredibly difficult. This is why we walk the path together. **Our HOONKO Service will be held on November 16 at 10:00 AM.** A special vegetarian Otoki meal will follow the service.

Bodhi Day

December brings us our annual Bodhi Day Service as we come to the end of the year. **Prince Siddhartha sought the answers and the truths of life as he faced the struggles and viewed the sufferings of existence** all around. In various ways and at different times, we each trace the same footsteps. We see our own faces and bodies change in the mirror day by day. Colds and flu and Covid can linger or turn for the worse. Bumps and bruises become breaks and more as our elastic and resilient bodies of younger days become more brittle and susceptible. We gradually lose family members and dear friends as we walk our shared path. Alas, **we confront the same conditions and the same truths as the Prince Siddhartha had.**

The Prince decided to look more deeply into his life and all of life. Encouraged and guided by spiritual teachers and friends, he continued to seek the deepest truths that could shine light upon his life and personal struggles of how to make sense of it all. **Each Bodhi Day, we celebrate the awakening of the Prince and the Enlightenment he had come to.** He became the Awakened One, Shakyamuni Buddha. His life and his teachings have spread and grown to touch millions of followers. We can reflect upon the life of

Birthday Sundays 2nd Sunday of the Month

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

Sangha members are encouraged to donate a quarter for each year they have lived. Some months we hear a lot of quarters being dropped into the osaisen box. All osaisen donations are given to the Dharma School for educational purposes.



September Birthday



October Birthdays

Cont. Rev. D's Message

the historical Buddha and appreciate the teachings that have evolved to become the Nembutsu path of our Jodo Shinshu tradition.

This year our **Bodhi Day Service will be held on December 7 at 10:00 AM**. Please come to share this service with our fellow Sangha members and to listen to the Dharma message. The Bodhi Day Service will also be our Shotsuki Service for the month of December. **Our very important BTOA General Meeting will be held the following week on December 14.** . It is an opportunity for all of us to be aware of the state of the temple as we move forward.

Wednesday, December 31 will be our annual End of Year Service, the Joya No Kane. Please check the temple calendar for the details to this service to ring in the New Year. The brisk cold of this time of year also bring fresh eyes to look forward to all the temple happenings in the coming year.

Sharmon and I would like to thank all the temple members who have welcomed and supported us at every turn throughout the year. We appreciate you all. See you at the temple.

Gassho,

Rev. Joshin Dennis Fujimoto

revdjoshin@btoa.org

1 (916) 416-0919

ABWA NEWS

Ladies Eshinni, Kakushinni, Takeko Kujo, Yoshiko Ohtani, and the Late ABWA Members Memorial Service and Luncheon – Sunday, Oct. 19

Rev. Yukiko Motoyoshi, retired BCA minister, was our guest speaker. Her dharma talks are always very interesting and informative. Not only did she talk about Ladies Eshinni, Kakushinni, Takeko Kujo and Yoshiko Ohtani, but she also talked about the hardships that the women of the Nembutsu had to endure in a male-dominated culture. She also spoke about her own personal experiences with both humor and insight. And, as it was our ABWA Memorial service, we also honored our dear members, **Marilyn Ishida-Lew**, **Satoko Furuichi**, **Takako Heinz**, **Jean Nomura** and **June Yamagata** who had passed away since the last ABWA Memorial. They are deeply missed! Thank you to **Joyce Maniwa** for being the chairperson for the service.

During the service, we sang the two BWA gathas, "Asoka no Sono" the original official FBWA gatha, and the newer one, "With Gassho from the Heart." The newer one was voted in at the recent FBWA Delegates' meeting as an additional official gatha which was composed for the 2023 World Convention. We were fortunate to have **Maria Piper**, a talented vocalist, and **Barbie Wong**, an expert pianist, assist us in the singing. We were very impressed by their performance!



After the service, we had a luncheon at the Park Street Tavern restaurant, attended by 40 attendees. Thank you to **Joan DiStefano** and **Jacqui Yamaoka** of Toban Group #1 for making the arrangements for the restaurant. We were delighted that they opened the restaurant for us, as they don't normally open for lunch. We enjoyed both the food and the service!



Continuing and Upcoming Events:

ABWA Annual Fall Food Drive – Until Nov. 16, Ho-onko

Monetary donations only, no food donations. You can donate online to the Alameda County Community Food Bank ([BTOA Autumn Food Dana](#)) or write a check to ABWA and it will be divided equally between the Alameda County and Alameda City food banks.

Ho-onko - Shinran Shonin's Memorial - Sunday, November 16

There will be an otoki luncheon prepared by Toban Group #2. It will be a vegetarian lunch of both Chinese dishes and Japanese red-bean rice (sekihan). Group #2 members will be notified in the coming weeks.

Next Meetings:

Our next meetings will be held on **Sundays, November 2 and December 7** after the Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Services and refreshments.

Gassho,
Lenni Terao-Doerr, ABWA President

Photo from the September 28th our Annual Fall Outdoor Service



KEIRO KAI CELEBRATION

Keiro-kai is an annual gathering to honor, celebrate, and show our gratitude to our elders members (88 years and older) at the Buddhist Temple of Alameda.



On September 14, we honored our Keiro members at a luncheon following the Fall O-Higan service.



Dorothy Okamoto served as the emcee of the festivities. In keeping with the program's theme of Precious, each of the honorees was escorted to the front of the hall in a specially decorated throne and introduced with a fond story presented by a special friend.

The honorees and their presenters are: Misako Akiyama presented by Jean Sato; Mamie Dye introduced by Ron Nakano; Yoko Hashimoto presented by Dorothy Okamoto; Sadao Hayano presented by Tammy Hayano; Nan Kataoka introduced by Howard Shintani; Ken Narahara presented by Amy Tomine, reading the words of Gary Takeda;

Betty Takano was introduced by Yumi Yasuda who read a message from Kent Takano and May Yamaoka, presented by Joe Klein.







The festivities ended with rounds of bingo with Barney Lew serving as our bingo caller.



Thank You to:

- The **Keiro Kai Committee** for planning and organizing this event. Committee members are **Lenni Terao-Doerr, Joyce Maniwa, Dorothy Okamoto, Gayle Okada and Jane Naito.**
- Those who **donated the prizes for bingo: Lenni Terao-Doer, Karen Fong, Jackie Ito-Woo, Joyce Maniwa, Jane Naito, Gayle Okada, Dorothy Okamoto, Howard Shintani, Gary Takeda and Tokyo Fish.** Apologies to any who may have been omitted from this list.
- **Barney Lew for calling the bingo games.**
- **Dorothy Okamoto for emceeing** the festivities and, once again, using her wonderful creativity to design the throne used to present each of our honorees.



Thank you to **Rev. Elaine Donlin** who is a Minister Assistant at the Buddhist Church of San Francisco (BCSF) . Rev. Donlin came to BTOA and was our guest speaker at our Fall Ohigan Service.

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS



Another year has started, and we've already had three guest teachers. **Joan DeStefano** did an art class using the theme of the three poisons – the kids were very creative in their interpretations!

Amy Tomine and **Vickie Hashimoto** did a class for the kids to experience “eating meditation.” Skittles was the food experience.... They also stressed the importance of dana – especially with Halloween coming up – would you share your Halloween candy???



Speaking of Halloween, our annual party be held on Sunday, October 26th. Looking forward to the spooky costumes!

We'll have one class in November on the 9th – no class on the 4th Sunday. due to the Thanksgiving holiday. '

Metta, The DS Team

Congratulations to Jane Naito



Once again, **Jane Naito** made us proud with her stunning floral arrangements — first at the de Young Museum's *Bouquets to Art* exhibit this past summer, and again this fall at the Sogetsu Ikebana Flower Show in Golden Gate Park. This year, Jane not only exhibited several beautiful arrangements and gave a demonstration but also served as co-chair of the ikebana show. Congratulations, Jane

Join or Renew Your Buddhist Temple of Alameda Membership

As the year draws to a close, it's time for our annual **Membership Drive!** Membership at the Buddhist Temple of Alameda begins each January, and we invite you to **renew or become a member** 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



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.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ok to list in membership directory, but do not list our cellular numbers.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ok to list in membership directory, but do not list our email addresses.	<input type="checkbox"/>
You may list me (and my spouse/partner), but do not list our children's contact information	<input type="checkbox"/>

Membership Dues	QTY	Fee	TOTAL
Individual Membership		\$250	
New Member 1 st 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
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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**

BTOA 110th Annivesary Celebration

SAVE these DATES

Saturday, February 28, 2026

Chair Yoga for All Ages with Bob Matsueda

We are delighted to welcome **Bob Matsueda** to lead a special **Chair Yoga** session suitable for all ages. Bob is a **Yoga/Wellness Instructor** and a certified **Yoga Therapist**, accredited by the **Government of India, Ministry of AYUSH**.

Bob has graciously agreed to guide us as we explore gentle, mindful movements and breathing exercises designed to support **wellness, flexibility, and relaxation**. This session is perfect for anyone looking to nurture both body and mind in a calm, supportive environment.

Join us to learn simple practices that you can carry into your daily life, helping to cultivate balance, energy, and mindfulness.

Saturday, September 12, 2026

Golf Tournament

Sunday, September 13, 2026

BTOA 110th Anniversary Service

Guest Speaker: Bishop, Rev. Marvin Harada

More dates and details to follow.

Annual General Meeting

All (paid) Members are welcome to attend our temple's General Meeting on Sunday, December 14th. Immediately following our Bodhi Day Service and Sangha Time,

TEMPLE MAINTENANCE UPDATE on THE ROOF

A huge thank you to all that have donated to our roof project. Many of you have seen the scaffolding, and the roof is now complete! We'll include a finished photo next issue once the scaffolding is removed.





An ancillary project was to shore up the entry way into the temple. It had been pulling away from the building to the point where we had to support it with temporary pillars. The last earthquake didn't help!

We can now feel confident that we'll be safe as we enter the temple.

Thank You!

🍎 New Year's Observances 🍎

As we approach the turning of the year, we warmly invite you and your family to join our Sangha in two special observances marking the transition from 2025 to 2026. Together, let us reflect with gratitude on the past year and open our hearts to the new one in the spirit of Amida Buddha's boundless compassion.

New Year's Eve Service & Joya-e @ 3PM. Join us on New Year's Eve for a brief service of reflection and gratitude, followed by the **Joya-e**—the ringing of the temple bell. With each of the 108 tolls, we symbolically let go of the delusions and attachments that trouble the human heart, welcoming the coming year with renewed awareness and peace.

This beautiful tradition reminds us that each moment offers the opportunity to begin anew in the embrace of Amida's Infinite Light and Life.

New Year's Day Service (Shusho-e) @ 10AM We begin the New Year with our **Shusho-e**, the first service of the year. Together, we express our gratitude for the blessings of the past year and reflect upon the Nembutsu as our guide for the days ahead.



The Buddhist Church of San Francisco & BCA Dharma Forward
invite you to a special homecoming performance by
the Grateful Crane Ensemble

LIVING GRATITUDE

A Musical Journey ~ Celebrating 125 Years of BCA

Captivating storytelling and heartfelt renditions of favorite
Japanese, American and Buddhist songs pay tribute to 125 years
of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in America.

**SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 15, 2025**

**12:30 Bento Luncheon
2:00 Show**

**BUDDHIST CHURCH OF
SAN FRANCISCO**
1881 PINE STREET
(AT OCTAVIA), SF, CA

TICKETS: Bento/Show: \$50
Show only:
General \$25
Youth (under 18 yrs.): Free

Bento option: \$25 order by 11/9
BENTO PROCEEDS BENEFIT BCSF

Order tickets online at: buddhistchurchofsanfrancisco.org
Checks payable to 'BCSF'. Note # of tickets/bento
Phone: BCSF Office: 415.776.3158
Email: bcsoffice@buddhistchurchsf.org

Performance made possible with a grant from BCA Dharma Forward
Learn about Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) Dharma Forward Campaign
<https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/dharma-forward>



Dharma
Forward 



 **BCA**
Life of Gratitude
BUDDHIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA



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Alameda, CA 94501

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2025 BCA Virtual Art Exhibit

Welcome to our BCA Virtual Art Exhibit! This marks the 5th year of sharing artwork from our Sangha community and friends. Whether you are a first time visitor or a gallery regular, we are happy that you have joined us today. The exhibit continues to grow with participants and entries. Your presence, participation, and words allows for the growth and continuation of the BCA Virtual Art Exhibit. Please encourage others to visit and artists to join in. The exhibit will continue to grow and spread like all of Amida's teachings.

The committee is now referred to as BCART. A new extension of our exhibit has been an in-person showing during the live BCA National Council meetings. Please look for this added dimension of our efforts to showcase the works of our talented Sangha to all. Thank you very much.

Rev. Dennis Fujimoto

This year, the following are exhibiting from the Buddhist Temple of Alameda:

- **Joan Claire Di Stefano**
- **Jane Naito**
- **Late, Teruko Naito**

To view the show online at the Buddhist Churches of America's website under NEWS and MEDIA:

<https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/bc-art-exhibit-2025>