



# UPAYA

Newsletter of the Buddhist Temple of Alameda

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

Volume XXXIX, No. 2

March & April 2026

## Message from Rev. D.

### Spring Sprung Sprang 2026

**The Spring Ohigan** is a favorite time of year for many of us. Ohigan week marks the end of the winter season and the beginning of spring. The days are getting longer and the sunlight allows us to get more of our outdoor chores done. **Ohigan means "The Other Shore"**. We look to the other shore of enlightenment from this shore of attachments and suffering. We are provided the 6 Paramitas (6 Perfections) to guide us towards the realm of enlightenment. We enact generosity, discipline, patience, energy, meditation, and wisdom to move beyond our usual ego-centered approach to living, towards a life that is marked by compassion, sharing, and gratitude. We move into a life that is attuned to the qualities of awakened awareness and enlightenment.



**Each March, we look forward to the Spring Ohigan Service.** This is one of our major services on the Shin Buddhist calendar. We can anticipate the balance and harmony of the spring equinox. Hopefully, we are not only able to recognize the harmony of nature surrounding us, but also to sense this harmony within. **The equinox is "in here" as well as "out there"**. In a mindful moment, we can sense this connection and settle into it. We see that we are a part of the equinox and not just observing it from a separate point of view.

The Meditation Sutra encourages us to a meditative mind with the 6 Paramitas guiding us. We could be sitting while facing the direction of the setting sun to the west. The west is the symbolic direction of the Pure Land of Amida. When we enter our temple Hondo, we take our seats to face the Onajjin. There, too, the altar is adorned to symbolize the Pure Land. Whether meditating alone, or coming to service at the temple, we look to the Pure Land as our aspiration to move beyond our self-centered and "normal" perspective. **The Nembutsu calls** us away from our thoughts and habits of separation and self to be a part of all else. Perhaps this can be the direction of our Ohigan meditation. **The Spring Ohigan Service is March 22.** We look forward to enjoying this special service together.

**April** will bring us our favorite Hanamatsuri Service to commemorate the birth of Shakyamuni Buddha. **Rev. Yuki Sugahara, Rinban of the Sacramento Betsuin** will be our guest speaker. We look forward to sensei's visit. **Hanamatsuri Service will be April 12 at 10:00 AM.** Please mark your calendars for all our major services!!

By the time the Upaya newsletter is received, Howard, Jane, Kimberly and I will have returned from the **BCA National Council meetings** held at the Hyatt Hotel in Renton, Washington this year. Every year, I try to share with our temple members how impressed I am with the dedication and commitment of all those who come to the National Council. They serve in so many needed roles to get all the work done to run our national organization. Representing all the temples in each of our 8 districts, they come from near and far, sharing their knowledge and areas of expertise, to help secure the well-being of the Buddhist Churches of America. Our temple would not be here without their leadership and guidance. Thank you to everyone here for the needed support that allows us to participate in the National Council meetings. Your support is deeply appreciated. Gassho, Rev. Dennis Fujimoto

## Condolences

We regret to inform you of the passing of **Rev. Zuikei Taniguchi**. Sensei passed away January 14, 2026 at the age of 85. During his 53 years of service with the Buddhist Churches of America, Rev. Taniguchi served at the Buddhist Church of San Francisco, the Cleveland Buddhist Church, the Buddhist Church of Oakland, the Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church (SACBC, as supervising minister), and the Buddhist Temple of Alameda.

We will remember Rev. Taniguchi's boisterous welcome to both members and friends to all our temple events and activities. Many of us have been touched by Sensei's presence, efforts, and dedication during his time here in Alameda. Rev. Taniguchi is survived by his wife, Rev. Dr. Shoyo Taniguchi, and sons Zuiryo and Zuiho Taniguchi.

There will be no funeral service for Rev. Taniguchi. The family also respectfully wishes that no expressions of condolence, Koden, or flowers be sent to the family.



**We Love You Sensei!**  
**We Shall Miss You - XOXO**

# Transbay Minister Exchange!!!

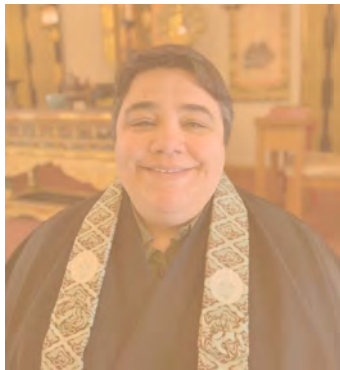
Sunday, March 8, 2026 @ 10AM

On March 8, 2026, Special Guest Speaker Rev. Melissa Opel of the Buddhist Church of San Francisco will join us to lead the Family Service at 10:00 AM.

The Bay District Ministerial Association has set up a first ever **Transbay Minister Exchange!!** On that day, the Bay District ministers who are available are trading places to provide a change of scenery and lead the family service at a neighboring temple.

- Rev. Opel (BCSF) will be here in Alameda
- Rev. Miyaji (SACBCA) will go to San Francisco
- Rev. Koyama (Palo Alto) will go to Oakland
- Rev. Bridge (Oakland) will go to SACBC
- **Rev. Fujimoto (BTOA) will go to Palo Alto**

The visiting minister will lead the Sutra Chanting and provide the Dharma Message while the resident minister travels to another temple nearby. Each temple Sangha will assist to help the visiting minister in preparing for the service. Such an exchange would be difficult to do for a major service, but we hope such a family service exchange will provide a special service event to look forward to. **Please mark this on your calendars and support our special guest minister.**



**Rev. Melissa Opel** was born and raised in Western Washington State and moved to Eastern Washington to attend college on a partial music scholarship. While in the Spokane area, Rev. Opel earned a BA in Interdisciplinary Studies, focusing on English and Music and later completed an MFA in Creative Writing. After a number of life events that included coming out as part of the LGBTQ community, Rev. Opel left the faith of her upbringing and after a time away from all spiritual practices, began looking into Buddhism. Eventually she made her way to the Spokane Buddhist Temple and never left. In 2019 Rev. Opel received her Tokudo Ordination and then in 2022 her Kyoshi Certification. Rev. Opel is currently the resident minister at the Buddhist Church of San Francisco.

***Save the Date!***

***Vacationland Bazaar will be 2 day event.  
Saturday, June 27<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, June 28<sup>th</sup>***

## Everyone is Welcome

We will continue to live stream on our YouTube Channel.

### March

- 1** 10:00 Monthly Memorial/Shotsuki Hoyo  
11:00 Sangha Time
- 8** 9:30 Dharma School Service  
10:00 **Transbay Minister Exchange**  
**Guest Speaker, Rev. Melissa Opel**  
w/Birthday Sunday  
11:00 Sangha Time
- 15** 10:00 Family Service  
11:00 Sangha Time
- 22** 9:30 Dharma School Service  
10:00 **Sping Ohigan Service**  
w/Ask Rev. Dennis  
11:00 Sangha Time
- 29** NO SERVICE (5th Sunday)

### April

- 5** 10:00 Monthly Memorial/Shotsuki Hoyo  
11:00 Sangha Time
- 11** **(Saturday @ 10AM) - Hanamido Set Up**
- 12** 9:30 Dharma School Service  
10:00 **Hanamatsuri Service**  
**Guest Speaker: Rev. Yuki Sugihara**  
w/B-day Sunday  
11:00 Sangha Time
- 19** 10:00 Family Service  
11:00 Sangha Time
- 26** 9:30 Dharma School Service  
10:00 Family Service w/Ask Rev. Dennis

### May

- 3** 10:00 Monthly Memorial/Shotsuki Hoyo  
11:00 Sangha Time
- 10** 9:30 Dharma School Service  
10:00 **Parents Day Family Service**  
w/Birthday Sunday  
11:00 Sangha Time

## Hanamido/Flower Shrine Creation Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 10AM

Flower donations are greatly appreciated! Feel free to bring blooms from your lovely garden or a bouquet from Trader Joe's—any type is welcome, including small potted plants.

We invite everyone to help us set up our hanamido. No RSVP required—just come and join us!



## Hanamatsuri Service Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 10AM



### **Guest Speaker: Rev. Yuki Sugihara, Rinban\* of the Sacramento Betsuin**

*\*Rinban: Ministers in charge of a Betsuin. There are five (5) Betsuins or central temples within the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) – Fresno, Los Angeles, Sacramento, San Jose and Seattle –each headed by a Rinban.*

Rev. Sugihara is originally from the Shimane District, north of Hiroshima; he comes from a family of ministers from both his mother's and his father's side in Japan tracing back 15 generations.

He has served at the Florin Buddhist Church, Oregon Buddhist Temple in Portland, Oregon and is currently the Rinban at the Buddhist Church of Sacramento.

## ABWA NEWS

### ABWA New Year's Party Luncheon – Sunday, February 8

We had a wonderful New Year's luncheon at Pier 29 Restaurant which was attended by over 40 people. Thank you to Toban Group #2 members, Jackie Ito-Woo, who coordinated the luncheon with the restaurant and ordered the cake, and Maria Piper who took care of the invitations and RSVP's. And, thank you to Carl Woo, for picking up and delivering the cake! Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves; it was a great way to start off the new year!

### ABWA New Year's Party



### Upcoming Events:

#### Hanamatsuri: Sun., April 12

After the Hanamatsuri service, Toban Group #1 is responsible for the otoki luncheon after the service. Toban leaders, Jacqui Yamaoka and Gayle Okada will be in contact with the Group 1 members.

## ABWA Continuation

### Conferences:

This year, we will be having 2 conferences. More information will be forthcoming.

~ **Bay District Buddhist Women's League (BDBWL): Sat., May 16, Oakland**

Theme: *"May All Beings Be Happy & Well: Mental & Physical Well-being"*

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Marvin Harada, BCA Bishop

Workshops: Nutrition - Karen Owoc (KRON TV), Presenter

Yoga for everyone – Norma Hoshide, Yoga instructor for Oakland's senior group

~ **Federation Buddhist Women's Association (FBWA): Fri. – Sun., Oct. 2-4, San Diego**

Theme: *"To Remember as We Build for the Future"*

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Kenji Akahoshi, Retired BCA Minister

~ **2027 World Buddhist Women's Convention (WBWC): Sept. 11-12, Honolulu, Hawaii**

Early registration is already open with a discounted registration fee.

Deadlines and Rates:

June 30, 2026 – Early Registration (\$325)

March 31, 2027 – Regular Registration (\$350)

July 1, 2027 – Late Registration (\$375)

Hotel reservations must be made first, in order to complete the convention registration:

<https://www.eventleaf.com/e/WBWC2027staff>

Conference registration: <https://cvent.me/ZzanPm>

### Next Meetings:

Our next meetings will be held on **Sundays, March 1** and **April 5** after the Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service and refreshments.

Gassho, Lenni Terao-Doerr, ABWA President

## **Seeking Donations for our Upcoming BTOA Golf Tournament**

As part of our 110th Anniversary celebration, our temple will be hosting a special golf tournament on **Saturday, September 12**, at the **Corica Park South Course**.

**We are currently seeking donations for tournament prizes** — golf-related items as well as other goods and services are greatly appreciated. **Sponsorships are also available.**

If you would like to become a sponsor or contribute a prize donation, please contact **Tom Hashimoto** or **Lou Panzella** for more information.

Tom Hashimoto – [t.hashimoto@btoa.org](mailto:t.hashimoto@btoa.org) (510) 846-7133

Lou Panzella - [vbcoachlou@yahoo.com](mailto:vbcoachlou@yahoo.com)



## Birthdays 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Month

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



Mrs. Fujimoto turns 100!

January Birthdays



February Birthdays

**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.**

## 2025 BTOA Membership

Thank you to those who already renewed their membership dues for this year. If you have yet to renew, please send in your membership due to the temple. If you're a new and/or need a form, you can find it on our website.

**\$250 Adult**

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

**\$50 Young Adults less than 30 years old**

**\$200 Senior adults 80 years and over**

*Most of the membership dues you pay will be going to the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA). We hope that you will give a little extra with your membership dues to help us with our educational programs, maintaining our facilities and to pay for our resident minister.*

### 2026 New Members

**Heidi Collins, Roberta Hough, Yumiko Ishida  
Satoko Miyamoto, Jane Woods, Michael Woods  
Donna Castro and Jeffrey Peterson**

### **Thank You for Your Renewal (as of 2/20/26):**

Alison Nagahisa, Allen Sakamoto, Amy Tomine, Andrea Shintani, Andrew Shiozaki, Ayumi Tsuji, Barbie Wong, Barney Lew, Ben Fong, Betty Takano, Brian Piper, Caelan Piper, Chikako Narahara, Clara Piper, Cora Piper, Dana Shintani, Dennis Terao, Don Suyeyasu, Dorothy Hashimoto, Dorothy Okamoto, Doug Doerr, Dwight Meitzenheimer, Eri Hatta-Tsuji, Esther Sakamoto, Frank Hashimoto, Gary Takeda, Gayle Okada, Grant Tsuji, Hiko Shimamoto, Howard Shintani, Ikuko Takeshita, Jackie Ito-Woo, Jacqueline Yamaoka, James Furuichi, Jane Naito, Janet Kwan, Joan DiStefano, Josephine Taira, Joyce Maniwa, Judy Oda, Julie Takano, Karen Fong, Karen Sugiyama, Kathleen Gardner, Kathleen Lilienstein, Kazuyoshi Sato, Ken Ikeda, Ken Narahara, Kent Yoshiwara, Kimberly Kato Chambliss, Lenni Terao\_Doerr, Linda Hashimoto-Myers, Lou Panzella, Mamie Dye, Marc Ishida, Margaret Myer, Maria Piper, Mark Sato, Mary Nakahara, May Yamaoka, Michiko Matsumoto, Misako Akiyama, Morgan Hashimoto, Nancy Kawabata-Poon, Naomi Ellis, Nico Yuen, Noah Yuen, Pat Yoshiwara, Robin Delaney, Ron Tsuchiya, Ronald Nakano, Sadao Hayano, Susan Hiraki, Susan Ohye, Susan Shimamoto, Suzanne Hitomi, Tamiko Panzella, Tamiko Yuen, Tammy Hayano, Ted Suyeyasu, Tom Hashimoto, Troy Taira, Vickie Hashimoto, Vickie Miyashiro, Wayne Nakano, Yoko Hashimoto, and Yumi Yasuda.



# A Spiritual Path for Today

## The Life of Shakyamuni Buddha

The *Buddhist Temple of Alameda* will offer spring classes on Buddhism this April on ZOOM. We will utilize the book, "The Teachings of Buddha" published by Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai to explore the life and teachings of Shakyamuni Buddha. We will also provide supplemental notes. The Buddha's experience of awakening and enlightenment can assist us to cultivate our own foundation of stability and strength to face the demands of our difficult lives in the modern world today.

Classes will be held on Thursday evenings, 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM, April 2, 9, 16, & 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. Despite such difficulties, stability and grounding allow us to proceed with strength and joy. Buddhism provides such a path.

As followers of the Dharma, our practice is to live our lives guided by the principles of Wisdom and Compassion. What is the wisdom that guides our lives? Is compassion our gift to better the world or is compassion a gift humbly received? As we live our everyday lives, we are guided to a different way of seeing life and the world that surrounds us.

These classes are free of charge and open to the public. For those interested, please email [alamedabec@gmail.com](mailto:alamedabec@gmail.com). **Registration is required.** Deadline to register is March 30, 2026. The book may be purchased or downloaded free of charge through BDK America. Classes are hosted by the Alameda Buddhist Education Committee, Buddhist Temple of Alameda, 2325 Pacific Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501. For further information and updates, please view our website [btoa.org](http://btoa.org). You can also call or text Rev. Dennis Fujimoto at (916) 416-0919, or email him at [revdjoshin@gmail.com](mailto:revdjoshin@gmail.com).

# 110 YEAR ANNIVERSARY EVENTS

Buddhist  
Temple  
of Alameda



*110 years of gratitude*

## SAVE THESE DATES

### Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> (after service in Hondo)

Talk with Dennis Evanosky

A Building's Journey: History of 2325 Pacific Avenue

**Dennis Evanosky** is an award-winning East Bay historian and Editor of the Alameda Post. He has been presenting series of walking tours in Alameda since 2022.

### July – September (NJAHs, Japantown, SF)

Chris Shinya Tomine Art Exhibit – details to follow

This exhibit will showcase a retrospective of the 20 years of Bazaar and Obon posters that Chris created for BTOA along with some of his personal artwork.

### September 12<sup>th</sup> (Corica Park Golf Course)

BTOA Golf Tournament – details to follow

### September 13<sup>th</sup> (BTOA)

Anniversary Service, Keiro Kai Honorees, Kieshiki Buddhist Naming Ceremony and Celebration Luncheon. Guest Speaker: Rev. Marvin Harada, Bishop of Buddhist Churches of America (BCA)

**Kieshiki Ceremony:** During the affirmation participants will receive their Homyo (Buddhist Name). BTOA membership is not required to receive a Homyo, but it is strongly encouraged. **\$50 per person** is the requested contribution to participate in the Kieshiki Affirmation Ceremony. Sign up with this QR Code.



If you have any questions regarding the service or the Kieshiki Ceremony, please contact Rev. Dennis at [revdjoshin@btoa.org](mailto:revdjoshin@btoa.org) or (916) 416-0919.



## THANK YOU - SPONSORS ALAMEDA YOUTH BASKETBALL 2025-2026

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Alameda Pediatric Dentistry & Orthodontics  
Alameda Sports Cards and Comics  
Alameda Vipers Basketball  
Amy K.Lee, DDS  
APM Remodels  
Buddhist Temple of Alameda  
Cerde-Zein Real Estate  
Chistle's International Real Estate Sereno  
City of Oakland Drainage Department  
Coast + Co Real Estate  
Dr. Daniel Chin, Park Street Optometry  
Dr. David M. Perry, DDS  
Exelixis  
Eyewise Optometry  
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Siteworks Landscape Inc.  
State Farm Insurance - Team Kelly Lux  
Taqueria Mi Burrito  
Tucker's Ice Cream

BTOA proudly sponsored two teams for the 2025–2026 Alameda Youth Basketball season: the 3rd grade boys team, the **Green Giants**, and the 4th grade girls team, the **Golden Hornets**.

Among the players were BTOA Dharma School members **Caelan Piper (3rd grade)** and **Cora Piper (4th grade)**. By the time this issue of *Upaya* is published, the teams will have completed their playoff games.

We wish them all the best — good luck, Green Giants and Golden Hornets!





## All Living Being Service in January

Thank you to **Yumi Yasuda** for her funny and entertaining stories about the animals in her life. Photos of some of our members' pets.



If you would like to be next year's speaker at our All Living Being Service, please contact Rev. Dennis.

## Celebrating Miyako Bellizzi 🎉

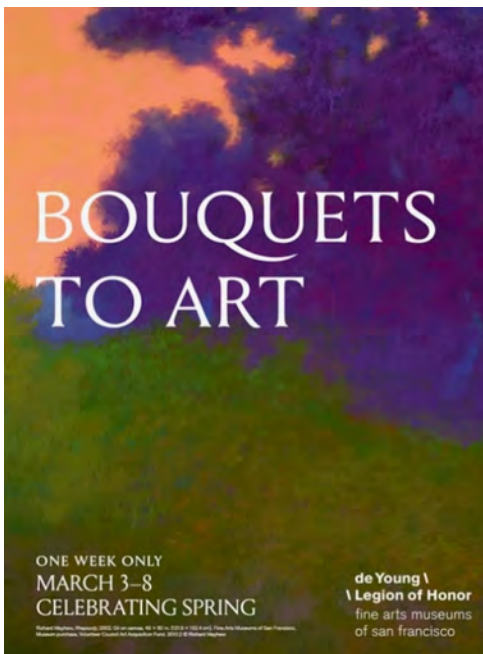


A huge congratulations to **Miyako Bellizzi**, one of our own and a proud graduate of BTOA's Dharma School and Jr. YBA! Miyako has been nominated for an **Academy Award for Best Costume Design** for her work on **Marty Supreme**, making her one of the **youngest nominees ever** in this category—an incredible milestone.

Miyako's work spans an impressive range of film and television projects, including *Next Goal Wins*, *War Pony*, *Scenes from a Marriage*, *Goldman vs. Silverman*, *Uncut Gems*, *Good Time*, *Patti Cake\$*, and *As You Are*. She has also worked on numerous music videos for **Jay-Z**, **The Weeknd**, **Anna Lunoe**, **The Skaters**, and more. Her creativity and dedication continue to shine on the world stage.

We are so proud to celebrate Miyako and her remarkable accomplishments. She currently lives in New York City and often returns to visit her hometown of Alameda and family (mom: Yumi and brother: Nick).

Don't forget to tune in to watch the Oscars on Sunday, March 15 at 4pm PT/7pm ET! You may see a glimpse of Yumi and Nick!



Jane Naito, our resident Ikebana teacher will be exhibiting at three (3) events in March.

**March 3-8 @ de Young Museum's Bouquets to Art Exhibit,**

**March 21-22 @ Ikebana International Ikebana Show** in Golden Gate Park where she will be demonstrating at 2PM on Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> and

**March 26-28 @ ArtScapes in the Garden** at the Ruth Bancroft Garden in Walnut Creek.

If you get a chance, please come and see her arrangements.

### BCA National Council Meeting in Renton, WA



**Rev. Fujimoto, President Howard Shintani and Board Member Kimberly Kato-Chambliss** represented BTOA at the meetings this year. Rev. Dennis had triple duties, representing Enmanji Temple and as Chair of the BC Art Committee.

**Jane Naito** attended as Chair of the BCA Achieves and Historical Preservation Committee.

During the meetings, the Northwest District was having a conference. **Mary Nakahara** who recently moved to the Seattle area attend the conference and was able to join us for dinner at the banquet and the Sunday Eitaikyo Service.

**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 [communications@btoa.org](mailto:communications@btoa.org) by April 20<sup>th</sup> for the May/June edition.



## Join Us for BTOA Coffee Hour!

Please join us for our next **BTOA Coffee Hour** on:  
**Saturday, March 7, 2026**  
**11:00 AM (Pacific Time)**

### What is Coffee Hour?

Coffee Hour is simply a chance to connect. It's a time to visit with friends, meet new ones, and get to know our Sangha a little better. There're no agenda and no set topic — just open conversation. Coffee not required (BYOD).

We might chat about recent experiences, favorite books or shows, restaurants we love, family updates, travel plans, what's happening at BTOA, or whatever naturally comes up. If you're unable to attend Sangha Hour in person, this is a wonderful way to connect and enjoy community time virtually. We hope you'll join us!

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83116888608?pwd=f51qOme5vN6XHpj38hr2DEMA3bxsfu.1>

Meeting ID: 831 1688 8608  
Passcode: 160134

**The April Coffee Hour is scheduled for**  
**Saturday, April 25, 2026**  
**11:00 AM (Pacific Time)**

**Same Zoom link, same zoom passcode**

## **Buena Vista United Methodist Church (BVUMC)** **Spring Festival is on Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>.**

You can pre-order their Chicken Teriyaki dinner (\$20 each), Kalbi Beef dinner (\$25 each) and purchase Raffle tickets in sets of 10 (\$2 for single tickets, \$18 for every 10) online at their website. <https://www.buenvistachurch.com/bazaar>

More food options will be available on-site. **Please plan to go over and support our neighbors after our service.**



Buddhist Temple of Alameda  
2325 Pacific Avenue  
Alameda, CA 94501

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Thank you



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