



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. 3

May & June 2025

Message from Rev. D.

GOTAN E 2025

The hillsides are a lush green after all the rain from a few weeks ago. Water is compassion, bringing nutrients and moisture to the grass, flowers and trees.

Gotan E is the Major Service for the month of May, when we are able to recognize the birth of our founder, Shinran Shonin.

One of the often read stories of Shinran is of his 100 Day meditation retreat at Rokkakudo. On the morning of the 95th day, it is said that Shinran had a vision of Prince Shotoku coming to him to urge him to continue on his path to awakening. It is after this vision that Shinran determined to seek Master Honen Shonin. Just as with his prior retreat, Shinran went to Honen each day for another



100 days, rain or shine and regardless of difficulties that came up.

Shinran had questions of the Nembutsu path, and they were answered by Master Honen. He came to recognize that whether you were a good person or not, you would be taken in by the Nembutsu path. It was not our individual efforts to do or be good that would awaken us ... it was the power of the vow of infinite compassion embracing us that awakens each of us. It is a power beyond the self. Shinran's awareness and understanding of the Nembutsu Path became a path of absolute other power and beyond the realm of individual accomplishment. What I did or what I'm capable of was no longer part of the equation for walking the Nembutsu path of awakening. Such a warm embrace of acceptance and welcome was provided to each of us!

Each year, we take this opportunity to reflect upon the life and journey of Shinran Shonin. We remember significant events that mark his path and the development of the Nembutsu teachings. The stories and the teachings have touched each of us. The Nembutsu path may have been a part of our family legacy for generations. Or, it may be a new influence that has come to resonate with our views and our values. As we recognize a personal connection to Shinran, we may feel a sense of validation. Being Shin Buddhist and "a fellow traveler along the way" becomes a part of our identity. Connections validate. **The Gotan E Service** will be on **May 18 at 10:00 AM.**

Also upcoming this month will be cemetery visitations on the **Memorial Day Weekend.** Cemetery services will be held for the Buddhist Temple of Alameda on **Saturday May 24.** Please see the listings of visitation times provided separately. Please mark your calendars to participate. It is always touching to visit the gravesites of our family members. It becomes even more special to do this with temple friends along with family members. We look forward to joining in service together and having the opportunity to meet and visit. I hope to see you there.

Everyone is Welcome

We will continue to live stream on our YouTube Channel.

May

- 4** 10:00 Monthly Memorial/Shotsuki Hoyo
11:00 Sangha Time
- 11** 9:30 Dharma School Service
10:00 **Parents Day Family Service**
w/Birthday Sunday
11:00 Sangha Time
- 18** 10:00 Gotan e Service
Birth of Shinran Shonin

Cemetery Visitation Schedule Memorial Day Weekend Saturday, May 24

- 10:00 AM Chapel of the Chimes Oakland
12:00 Noon Lone Tree Cemetery Hayward
1:30 PM Mt. Eden Cemetery Hayward
4:00 PM Chapel of the Chimes Hayward

June

- 1** 10:00 Monthly Memorial/Shotsuki Hoyo
11:00 Sangha Time
- 8** 9:30 Dharma School Service
10:00 **Graduation and Diversity Service**
w/Birthday Sunday
11:00 Sangha Time
- 15** NO SERVICE (Bazaar preparations)
22 NO SERVICE **Bazaar**
29 NO SERVICE (5th Sunday)

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

Rev. D's Message Continuation:

June is again time for the famous **Vacation Land Bazaar!** With trepidation, we announce that we are going back to our two-day bazaar. Our guests and we will be able to relax, enjoy, and visit rather than to buy and eat in panic mode. The word is it will be fun!! I believe it! The bazaar dates will be June 21 and 22, 2025. Please look for postings, announcements, menus and times. I look forward to seeing you at all our temple services and events. We'll see you at the temple. Gassho,

Gassho,
Dennis Fujimoto
revdjoshin@btoa.org
(916) 416-0919

Buddhist Temple of Alameda 2025 Vacationland Carnival and Bazaar



Steak & Chicken Teriyaki, Sushi, Tempura, Udon,
Curry Rice, Corn, Hot Dogs, Hamburgers,
White Elephant, Arts & Crafts, Garden Center
Raffle Drawing up to \$4,500.00 in Cash Prizes

Saturday, June 21, 2025 - 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.
Sunday, June 22, 2025 - noon to 7 p.m.
2325 Pacific Avenue, Alameda, California
www.btoa.org



Birthday Sundays 2nd Sunday of the Month

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



March Birthdays



April 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.**

Membership

\$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.

2025 BTOA Membership

Thank you to those who already renewed or are new to BTOA (list as of April 1st).

Tsunetoshi Akimoto	Nancy Kawabata-Poon	Tamiko Panzella
Misako Akiyama	Rodney Komatsu	Brian Piper
Michael Bailey	Setsuko Kuramoto	Maria Piper
Robin Delaney	Janet Kwan	Alex Rivadeneira
Joan DiStefano	Barney Lew	Allen Sakamoto
Douglas A Doerr	Kathleen Lilienstein	Esther Sakamoto
Mamie Dye	Joyce Maniwa	Andy Shiozaki,
Naomi Ellis	Michiko Matsumoto	Karen Sugiyama
Ben Fong	Dwight Meitzenheimer	Ted Suyeyasu
Karen Fong	Tsueko Muraca	Josephine Taira
James Furuichi	Margaret(Peggy) Myer	Troy Taira
Dorothy Hashimoto	Alison Nagahisa	Betty Takano
Janet Hashimoto	Jane Naito	Gary Takeda
Morgan Hashimoto	Daniel Nakahara	Ikuko Takeshita
Tom Hashimoto	Mary Nakahara	Dennis Terao
Vickie Hashimoto	Ronald Nakano	Lenni Terao-Doerr
Yoko Hashimoto	Wayne Nakano	Amy Tomine
Eri Hatta-Tsuji	Chikako Narahara	Ronald Tsuchiya
Susan Hiraki	Ken Narahara	Grant Tsuji
Kiyomi Jean Howard	Judy Oda	Barbie Wong
Jackie Ito-Woo	Susan Ohye	May Yamaoka
Kazue Iwahashi	Gayle Okada	Jacqueline Yamaoka-Panzella
Nan Kataoka	Dorothy Okamoto	Yumi Yasuda
Kimberly Kato Chambliss	Lou Panzella	Kent Yoshiwara
		Patricia Yoshiwara

If you have yet to renew, please send in your membership due to the temple. If you're a new and need a form, you can find it on our website.

GIVE Gift Memberships - Buy a gift membership for a family member or friend. We will send them a welcome gift and let them know that you have given them the gift of BTOA membership. New adult memberships are only \$125.00. Discount on first year only.

ABWA NEWS

Happy Hanamatsuri!

Hanamatsuri Otoki Luncheon – Sunday, April 13, 2025

After a very special Hanamatsuri service with a play performed by our Dharma School students and a Dharma talk by our guest speaker, Minister's Assistant, Sydney Shiroyama, we enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared by Toban Group #1. Led by Jacqui Yamaoka and Gayle Okada, we were served very tasty ribs cooked up by chef, Lou Panzella, with sides of green beans, salads and bread. For those preferring a vegetarian dish, a special tofu dish was prepared by Jane Naito. Thank you to Group #1 for all your efforts! We thoroughly enjoyed it!



Upcoming ABWA Events:

Annual Visitations: We will be visiting our Keiro members and Temple members who are homebound on Friday, May 9. We will be delivering bento at that time. A list of those to be visited will be emailed to our members and we will be asking for volunteers to help with the visits and deliveries.

Gotan-E: On Sunday, May 18, we will be observing Gotan-E, Shinran Shonin's birthday. Toban Group #2 will be serving light refreshments after the service. Toban leaders, Lenni Terao-Doerr, Joyce Maniwa and Kimberly Kato Chambliss will be in contact with the Group 2 members.

Bazaar: This year on June 21 and 22, we will be having our **2-day** Temple bazaar. We will be discussing what we will be preparing at the upcoming meetings. ABWA members will be updated once we have more information.

Next Meetings:

Our next two meetings will be held after the Shotsuki Monthly Memorial service and refreshments on **May 4th and June 1st.**

Gassho,
Lenni Terao-Doerr, ABWA President



Thank You to the **Merritt College Pruning Club** for coming to our Temple on April 5th to prune our pine trees and to the volunteers who came out to host them and help with the cleanup.

HANAMIDO Preparations



Guest Speaker - Sydney Shiroyama,
Minister Assistant at
Palo Alto Buddhist Temple.



THANK YOU! Once again we're so fortunate to receive **50 potted plants from the Suyeyasu family**. In addition, flower donations were received by **Yumi Yasuda, Betty Takano, Jane Naito, Joyce Maniwa, Lenni Terao-Doerr and Tsueko Muraca**.

Thank you to **Jane Naito, Hiko Shimamoto, Amy Tomine, Joyce Maniwa, Jackie Ito-Woo, Howard Shintani, Lenni Terao-Doerr, Betty Takano, Yumi Yasuda, Rev. D** for helping to create our beautiful hanamido this year. Thank you to **Rev. Dennis and Sharman** for sharing their stuffed animals and **Yumi Yasuda** for her special bee to adorn our hanamido.



The "Earth-Touching" mudra of the Buddha depicts the very moment when Skakyamuni Buddha called upon our Mother Earth to bear witness to his enlightenment.

Today, Mother Earth is bearing witness to our wanton mistreatment of her. To help, we must truly change our mind (and lifestyle) so that conservation becomes an integral part of our Buddhist practice. EcoSangha urges Buddhists of all traditions to truly demonstrate the spirit of interdependence.

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

We just completed our production of the "Birth of Buddha" at our Hanamatsuri service. The kids did a great job – and it was very well received....Thank you all for participating to help support our thespians. If you missed it, watch the service here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s9mD4L7jdaM>



On April 26th, we'll be participating in Rhythmix' API event at Bohol Park in Alameda. Here's more info about the event. By the time you receive this Upaya, it will have passed, but we'll tell you all about it next issue. <https://www.rhythmix.org/events/api-festival-2025/>

On Saturday, May 3rd, we're hosting the Bay District Dharma Schools at our first beach clean-up. All of the students, teachers & parents will be meeting at Crab Cove followed by lunch at the temple. Mother's Day is coming, and to our group it means a pancake breakfast! Please join us to celebrate our Mom's and Dad's. We've celebrated both on this day as Father's Day is on bazaar construction weekend.

We can't close without mentioning our Vacationland Bazaar. We'll be having our game booths and would love to have more kids to help man the booths. Please contact Yumi Yasuda (Yumiyasuda50@gmail.com) or Kimberly Kato-Chambliss (katochambliss@gmail.com) if you have any kids that are able to help.

Thank you!

SENIOR SAFETY AWARENESS

Empowerment Self Defense (EDS) COURSE @ BTOA

DATE: Thursday, May 15th
TIME: 1:00 – 3:00 PM
LOCATION: BTOA Social Hall
WHO: Ages 12-100 years old, everyone is welcome
COURSE GOAL: YOUR SAFETY

Empowerment Self-Defense (ESD) is a comprehensive system designed to help individuals recognize and avoid danger, de-escalate conflict, enhance problem-solving skills, and develop practical physical self- defense techniques.

This class is adaptable to all experience levels, ensuring that each participant can learn and grow at their own pace. **Suggested Donation: \$20.00**

We are honored to welcome **Laura Armstrong** from Canada and our local expert, **Janice Okamoto**. Both are highly respected ESD trainers with over 30 years of experience in martial arts. Their impressive backgrounds include national and international titles across various disciplines in martial arts. This is a rare opportunity to learn from such accomplished instructors, who are generously sharing their knowledge to give back to the community.

For more information, please contact **Dorothy Okamoto** at dorothyokamoto@aol.com.

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 by June 16th for the July/Aug. edition.

It's That Time Again – The BTOA Annual Bazaar!

Our biggest fundraiser of the year is just around the corner, and we're excited to announce that we'll be returning to our two-day format! Mark your calendars for

- **June 21, 2025 Saturday afternoon/evening (3:00 - 7:00pm)**
- **June 22, 2025 Sunday all day (noon to 7:00 p.m.)**

With the extended schedule, our greatest need for help will be on **Bazaar days**, as well as on **Saturday, June 14th** for construction and setup, and **Friday, June 20th** for food preparation and final setup. On the days of the event, we'll need extra hands for last-minute food prep—assembling sushi, preparing condiments, and handling other final details.

If you're available to volunteer, you can sign up by scanning the QR code with your mobile phone or by visiting this link: <https://bit.ly/btoabazaarsignup>.



Not a fan of technology? No problem — contact:

- Yumi Yasuda, y.yasuda@btoa.org or
- Mary Nakahara, m.nakahara@btoa.org directly.

We truly welcome and appreciate your support!

Also, let us know if you need **raffle tickets**—another great way to support the temple!

Questions? Reach out to the bazaar committee. Happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Thank you so much for helping us make this important event a success. We look forward to seeing you there!

Metta, The BTOA Bazaar Committee

Yumi Yasuda, Howard Shintani, Tom Hashimoto, Dorothy Okamoto and Dan Nakahara



Bay District Council Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival

For the past few years, the **Bay District Council** has had a booth at the Cherry Blossom Festival in San Francisco. This year, **Jane Naito** joined members of the Buddhist Church of San Francisco and Berkeley Buddhist Temple on Saturday, April 19th to greet the public at the festival and provide information about our Jodo Shinshu temples in the Bay Area.

Congratulations

The **Buddhist Temple of Alameda** nominated **Joanne "Jo" Aiko Takata** who established the "Extending Senior Connections" senior social group program in 1991 as a place for her aging father to socialize and be with people his age. The program started as a brown bag lunch group that expanded into homemade lunches for 60 people. The group outgrew the meeting room and moved to the Buena Vista Methodist Church social hall where seniors from the Buddhist Temple of Alameda began to join.

The program ran for 31 years, until the pandemic. Today, a small group of 16 meets at Jo's house twice a month. JoJo organizes exercise, music, dancing, singing, tai-chi, outings, games, birthday parties and presentations by guest speakers. She has provided a safe space for seniors to meet and share their past and present highs and lows of life. **Thank you JoJo!**

JoJo along with four others, was honored at the Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival Senior Appreciation Brunch on Sunday, April 20th. Many from the Temple along with JoJo's family attend the brunch. After the brunch some got to ride in a cable car along with JoJo in the Cherry Blossom Parade.





Our annual **Obon Festival** is this **Saturday, July 19th**. We welcome everyone to join us on Saturday night for a traditional Bon Dori dance to honor our deceased ancestors. In addition, we will have food and inspirational talks by Reverend Dennis Fujimoto.

If you're planning on dancing and need to brush up on your dance skills, come join us as we learn the dance from Hanayagi Sensei.

Obon Dance Practice - 7:30PM – 9:00PM

Monday, July 7th Tuesday, July 15th
Thursday, July 17th Wednesday, July 9th




Condolences

We regret to inform you of the passing of **Neal Dwain Byington**. Neal passed away on Monday, November 18, 2024 at the age of 77 in Lodi, CA. Neal and Janice settled in Alameda and raised their daughter Laura who became a part of our Dharma School. Neal and Janice were members of our temple until they recently moved back to Lodi.

In lieu of flowers or koden, the family asks that donations be sent to: **California Section, American Chemical Society, 2950 Merced St. Ste. 225, San Leandro, CA 94577**. All donations will fund outreach programs encouraging the next generation of chemists, something Neal was always passionate about.

Neal received his A.B. in Chemistry from U.C. Berkeley in 1970, his Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry from the University of the Pacific in 1982. For nearly 40 years, he was the National Petroleum Chemist at the San Francisco Laboratory, Department of Homeland Security, Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (formerly U.S. Customs Service).

Alien Immigrants - The Education Committee at Palo Alto Buddhist Temple is sponsoring an event on Immigration from a Buddhist Perspective. It will include a seminar by Minister's Assistant, Joanne Gozawa, video, and facilitated discussion.

 <p>"Alien" Immigrants</p> <p><small>Our fears meet Wisdom & Compassion Seminar, Video & Discussion</small></p> <p><small>May 17, 2025 - 10 am to Noon</small></p> <p><small>Palo Alto Buddhist Temple Isoo Hall 2751 Louis Rd. Palo Alto</small></p>	<p>The Education Committee at Palo Alto Buddhist Temple is sponsoring an event on Immigration from a Buddhist Perspective. It will include a seminar by Minister's Assistant, Joanne Gozawa, video, and facilitated discussion.</p> <p>The event is on Saturday, May 17, at 10:00 am. No need to register. The event is free.</p>
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2025 BTOA Bazaar White Elephant Sale Is Back

So now that you've found a place to donate your beautiful, antique Japanese Hidden Treasures.... How about donating some regular household items to our 2025 Bazaar White Elephant Sale?

Please donate your clean, gently used items to the social hall beginning in May 2025. You can drop off your items before/after our services or contact Vickie to make an arrangement for drop off.

Suggested (but not limited to) Items:

Kitchenware	Dining Linens	Toys
Pet Supplies	Luggage and bags	Clothing -Good condition and clean

Please identify the items as "White Elephant" and we will include the items in our White Elephant shopping area during the 2025 Temple's Bazaar on June 21 and 22, 2025. Please do not include broken, worn-out or unsellable items.

Our crew is hoping for the Social Hall Warriors Playoff Viewing Parties to start sorting through the White Elephant Items. 🙌 If you are interested in helping with the White Elephant Sale booth, please contact Vickie Miyashiro (510) 409-2058 or miyashiro@comcast.net.

CALLING ALL BAKERS – Pastry Booth at the Bazaar Needs Baked Goods



For all the bakers out there, **we invite you to bring your favorite treats** cakes, cupcakes, brownies, cookies, and pies are always welcome on Bazaar days. Japanese desserts such as mochi and baked manju are especially popular and always a hit!

Please note that refrigerator space is limited, so we kindly ask that you avoid cream-filled or chilled desserts. Drop off will be in the hondo.

Membership and Outreach Committees Thank Rev. Kenji Akahoshi

The Membership and Outreach Committees invited Rev. Kenji Akahoshi, chair of the BCA Propagation and Membership Committee, to speak about strategies for attracting new members and effectively engaging visitors at services. As word spread, interest grew, and the talk was opened to all after the service on March 9th.

The insights Rev. Akahoshi shared are now being used to assess our current practices and implement changes aimed at creating a more welcoming environment for visitors and helping retain new members.

Both committees are looking for sangha member to join their committee, if you're interested, please contact:

Membership Committee	Brian Piper, b.piper@btoa.org
Outreach Committee	Jane Naito, j.naito@btoa.org

BCA Offering Special 'Red Carpet Weekend' Orientation Program

The BCA will be offering a unique opportunity for all Sangha members to learn about the Buddhist Churches of America with the new "Members Red Carpet Weekend" in July.

The pilot program, which will be held **July 11-13 at the BCA's Jodo Shinshu Center (JSC) in Berkeley**, Participants in the 'Red Carpet' will learn what BCA is all about and they'll have the chance to experience the best of what the BCA has to offer.

Lodging and meals at the Jodo Shinshu Center will be entirely free. The program is being funded with grants from Dharma Forward, the BCA Executive Committee Bloomquist Educational Endowment and the Bishop's Expansion Fund. Space is limited and registration will open May 1 and close on June 20 or sooner, depending on the number of registrants.

Some of the events already being planned include:

- A roundtable discussion led by Bishop Rev. Marvin Harada and an opportunity for all participants to describe their own journey and path.
- A visit to the Buddhist Church of San Francisco — the first temple in the BCA — and an opportunity to view the temple's stupa housing the holy relics of the Buddha, a gift to the BCA by the Emperor of Siam (Thailand) in 1935.
- Dancing at the Berkeley Buddhist Temple's Obon festival.
- A visit to the BCA Bookstore at the JSC.
- An opportunity for individuals to take part in a Kieshiki ceremony, which involves a person receiving a Buddhist name and affirming their commitment to the Buddhist path.

Details on the BCA's "Members Red Carpet Weekend" will be available soon at the BCA website: <https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/>



Buddhist Temple of Alameda
2325 Pacific Avenue
Alameda, CA 94501

Time Sensitive Materials

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