

BUSSEI SCRIPT

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AUGUST 2020

Obon-Spiritual Connection

By Rev. Dr. Kenji Akahoshi,
Resident Minister



Our Obon service and *odori* (dance) are very special because it involves all of us, personally. Our other major services are important, as we observe the birth or memorial days of the Buddha, Shinran, or other significant events. Since all of us have lost a loved one, this Obon service and *odori* are for us, as we gather as a community. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is sad that we cannot be physically together. This physical isolation demanded by this virus emphasizes our separation. It is similar to the separation from our loved ones who have died.

Technology and ingenuity have made it possible for those with internet access to participate in virtual services and even Obon events. This creativity should be applauded. Seeing and hearing relatives and friends who are in distant places could only be imagined a century ago. But what about our loved ones who have passed on? We may have writings, photographs and movies/videos to remind us of their appearance and voices. Obon reminds us that a connection to those who have died also exists.

Our Obon observance is derived from a story of Moggallana and his mother. He was a monk who is able to see that his mother was in the realm of the hungry ghosts after her death. She was there because of her greed during her life. However, her greedy attitude was for the benefit of providing a pleasant life for her son. Moggallana accepts the Buddha's advice and provides food and gifts to his fellow monks. Because of his efforts, his mother is released from the realm of the hungry ghosts. To display his joy, he dances and this becomes the source of our Obon Odori (dance).

This story of Moggallana and his mother is a little hard to believe if we take it literally. But one aspect of this story suggests a uniquely human trait. It seems that we humans are the only animals to have the capacity to ponder an afterlife. I think that many of us have had the experience of a spiritual connection with loved ones who have died. Although some might consider this a made-up reality or imagination, many would consider this a real experience of True Reality.

If death is considered from a purely physical view, there

would be no need for any ritual or recognition of death beyond the loss of life. This is true for animals. But, even for the non-religious, I think there is an urge to relate to those who have passed. This may be part of the gift of being human. Obon, funerals, and memorial services urge us to really consider the reality of our spiritual nature. Our conventional lives are busy with the concerns of personality, profit, entertainment, and survival. But when a loved one dies; we stop to pay attention. Obon is a gentle reminder to wake up.

For families that have made temple Obon activities an important part of their lives, Obon is truly a gathering of joy. We sense the presence of grandparents, parents, and others as we dance. Their physical absence makes their spiritual presence more palpable. Tears of sadness and joy flow as we swing our arms and turn our bodies. There is a continuity of life and spirit in the dance.

We welcome those who are new to our joyous Obon response to death. It is a healthy means of grieving. It actualizes our Shin mythology. As one is assured of a birth in the Pure Realm after life ends, one hurries back to this realm of troubles and challenges. The essence of our loved ones is no longer restricted by their body nor personality. They bring us messages of pure wisdom and compassion to help us realize that life is good. Wake up. Dance. How fortunate we are to have ears to hear them. It is actually the heart that hears these messages.

If we doubt the spiritual nature of death, how would we explain the creation of life? We live on this earth which is part of a stark solar system which is part of an incomprehensible universe. It took billions of years of light and then life to evolve to the point of humans being able to contemplate our existence. The incomprehensible phenomenon of light and life are made accessible to us humans in terms of wisdom and compassion. The Buddha offered a deep appreciation of this incomprehensible process by providing us with the 18th Vow. Namo Amida Butsu wakes me up to this precious gift of life that I share with those who live and those who have lived. I find joy as the Obon dance connects me to my past, present, and future.

Gassho

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THIS MONTH'S CALENDAR

With the health and safety of the Sangha and friends our main priority, BTSD continues to remain closed for in-person activities. Below is the schedule for August:

SERVICES/DHARMA MESSAGES

2 — August Shotsuki Hoyo monthly memorial with Kenji Sensei, YouTube video

9 — Dharma message with Kenji Sensei, YouTube

16 — Dharma message with Kenji Sensei, YouTube

23 — Dharma message with Kenji Sensei, YouTube

Note: No Dharma message on August 30.

CLASSES/SESSIONS

Every Saturday — Shoshin Nembutsu Ge and Wasan chanting, 1 p.m., Zoom live

Every Wednesday — Buddhism 1-2-3, 7 p.m., Zoom

FUNDRAISERS

3, 4, 10 and 11 — **Devine Pastabilities** specialty restaurant is teaming with BTSD for this great opportunity. Pastabilities specializes in Torpastas and Torsalads. Delicious pastas or salads are stuffed into a toasted garlic roll. The restaurant is open from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Present the flyer, found in this edition, when ordering and BTSD will receive a percentage of purchases made on the dates listed above. Address: 3545 Midway Drive, San Diego, 92110. Website:

www.torpasta.com

TBA — **Virtual Sound Bath Immersion Session** A date for August will be announced. Informational flyer and online registration is coming soon.

MEETINGS

10 — Ways and Means, 7 p.m., Zoom live

13 — Board of Directors, 7 p.m., Zoom

27 — Activities Committee, 7 p.m., Zoom

OFFICE HOURS

During the closure, business hours are 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Tuesday through Friday. Linda Redenbaugh, office administrator, will be happy to serve you. There is limited staff coverage on weekends. The temple is closed on Mondays.

For more information regarding any of the above listings and other events, please call the temple at (619) 239-0896. Leave a message if your call is not answered. Staff will return your call as quickly as possible. You may email the temple at info@btsd.net. Check on our website for updates at <http://www.buddhisttemplesandiego.org/>

CLARIFICATION

In the Spring-Summer print and online edition of Footprints, published by the Japanese American Historical Society of San Diego (JAHSSD), an advertisement offering BIN-GO at the Buddhist Temple of San Diego in September and December was incorrectly publicized. Resumption of BIN-GO, along with other temple activities, will be announced later. BTSD and JAHSSD regret the error.

WEEKLY CHANTING TO BE OFFERED ON ZOOM

In mid-April, the Shoshin Nembutsu Ge and Wasan virtual chanting session began under the leadership of Rev. Laverne Imori and Rev. Maribeth "Smitty" Smith.

Since then, the chanting session has brought together a handful of temple members each Saturday to recite the gatha of True Faith written by Shinran Shonin, founder of our Jodo Shinshu Buddhist tradition.

Beginning in August, Sangha members will be invited to join the sessions on Saturdays starting at 1 p.m. Interested individuals are urged to contact the temple for the Zoom link information.

Please join the group regularly as we chant Shinran's words of gratitude to Amida Buddha through the teachings of Sakya-muni Buddha and the Seven Masters.



Chanting participants (Top row: Kaytee Sumida, Laverne Imori, Norman Kiyono and Breven Honda. Middle row: Ralph and Avis Honda, Yukari Williams, Shirley Omori and Maribeth "Smitty" Smith. Bottom row: Roger Coppock, Kenji Sensei, Bill Teague and Noriko Kawai.

BCA VIRTUAL OBON DANCE AUG 15TH @ 6PM PDT

(OBON IN YOUR LIVING ROOM)

BCA バーチャル(仮想)御盆踊り
(盆踊り、自分の家で)



Obon Instructors from BCA temples will be sharing their dances. Sangha members will zoom in from all over the country.

Please register here to receive the zoom link:
<https://forms.gle/93mDAbuVAVrkQvjG6>
questions: cbe@bcahq.org or 510-809-1460

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By LuAnn Lee, Board President



Usually at the end of July, the Temple staff and sangha are planning for the Obon service followed by Odori dancing. Even if it's a smaller event, attendees enjoy eating bentos and Taiyaki, shopping the Obon Again Shop, seeing old friends and spending time with family. We also look forward to the Junior YBA Opportunity Drawing to see if our ticket

is the lucky one.

August was always a marathon of fundraising events. Obon concessions and Odori at Balboa Park, Rummage Sale and Golf Tournament filled the weekends. Although these events are labor intensive, our volunteers come out to help with their positive attitudes and working long hours to get the work done. I truly miss seeing those smiling faces, hearing the laughter and the camaraderie we share when getting together.

Since we can't gather this year, I am trying to use this time to rest and catch up on things at home. It is amazing how much "stuff" one can accumulate. It's been overwhelming at times but I have to encourage myself to keep at it, one box at a time. I have also noticed many things in my house that need to be fixed or tended to. So, the honey do list is getting long (poor Mr. Lee). Like many of you, I am finding old pictures and memorabilia that have triggered fond memories of people, places and events of the past. It has encouraged me to go through more things and find more hidden treasures. I am looking forward to hearing what all of you have been doing to pass the time!

On July 25, we held our first in-person fundraiser. We thank Yasukochi Farms for donating a portion of the veggie/fruit box sales. Many of us have been ordering this after the stay at home orders started and I think it is one of the best quality and good balance of veggies and fruits. Thank you to Ann Ong and Glenn Torio for heading it up and appreciation in advance to the volunteers who came out to help distribute and to the members and friends that purchased the boxes.

Since March, I have enjoyed seeing my family and friends becoming really good cooks and also many have started growing their own veggies in the back yard. This pandemic has been good in that way. But there are days when I can't think of what to cook so it's been nice to have local restaurants offer fundraising opportunities with our temple.

As you may know, Ichiban restaurant is one of those and they are very grateful to the temple members and friends that supported them for the months of June and July. Kanpai also joined in to offer the same for sales on July 23. Thank you to both of these businesses and to Junko for making the arrangements with them.

We are looking forward to trying another local restaurant, Devine Pastabilities on August 3, 4, 10 and 11. The restaurant plans to donate a portion of sales to the temple. Thank you to Chelsey Koga for making the connection. I'm very grateful to the Board of Directors and the many committees that have continued to meet via zoom and for going in to take care of temple business.

Special thanks to Kenji Sensei, Karen Akahoshi and Bill for your hard work in getting weekly Dharma messages online and Linda for taking good care of the office needs and getting the newsletter ready for our Sangha. In the news, I hear some negative stories of churches that have had in person services and having to re-close soon after finding out that someone that attended the service came down with the virus and unfortunately spread to others. At this time, our Board is going to stay the course and continue virtually. We will continue to evaluate monthly and address any concerns that come up in between meetings. Deep appreciation for your understanding and patience as we work through this unprecedented pandemic.

In closing, thank you for all your nice congratulations and wishes on being a grandma. It is all and more of what everyone has told me about being a grandparent. The absolute best. I can't stay away from sweet, innocent Avery and we think she is now giving us real smiles from seeing us more clearly. She makes all the worries go away. I hope all of you are doing well and keeping in touch with one another.

If you know of someone in our temple that needs support, please reach out to us. Call the temple 619-239-0896 or e-mail at info@btsd.net. Check on our website for updates at <http://www.buddhisttemplesandiego.org/>

Namo Amida Butsu In Gassho

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

The Board of Directors met on July 9:

1. The Board received reports from Rev. Akahoshi, the Treasurer, and the temple's affiliated organizations and standing committees.
2. Funds were approved for wood rot (termite and water damage) repair for the Annex and Sangha Hall. Maintenance and deferred maintenance continue to be addressed during the temple closure.

Notice

The August, Fall issue of the Buddhist Tricycle magazine will include an article by Rev. Kenji Akahoshi, entitled "Shin Buddhism: A Path of Gratitude." Shin Buddhism is finally being recognized by more Buddhist publications.

BWA NEWS

During the month of August, the BWA has been involved in a weekly Qigong Session led by Karen Akahoshi. A group of over 15 members and friends have enjoyed the weekly sessions stating how calming and helpful they have been. For centuries, Asian medicine has mentioned about life force energy flowing throughout our body. Qi is life force energy. Gong is the practice or movement which opens the meridian channels to allow the life force energy to permeate throughout our body. Our body maintains opposing and complimentary forces called Yin and Yang forces. Qigong, is the way in which we allow the life force energy to flow through meridians in our body to maintain the balance of these opposing forces. For example, the “Yin is the soft, feminine, calm, and dark cosmic principle—a quality of night, moon, and water. The Yong is the hard, masculine, energetic, and light cosmic principle—a quality of day, sun and fire.” (pg.7 Qigong for Beginners by Stanley D. Wilson, Ph. D.) Once we have a balance of these opposite and opposing forces, we can attain maximum health and well-being both physically and spiritually. The meditation which follows the exercise portion of each session, has helped us to raise our consciousness level in order to maintain this very important balance in our lives.

In addition to thanking Karen for the weekly Qigong workshop, I would like to thank those of you who have made or donated masks for the members of our Temple. Gale Kaneshiro was instrumental in inspiring many of us to begin this project when she shared a pattern for making masks from the East Honolulu Clothing Company (<https://youtube/wnLlbAegmtM>). From that tutorial, the Temple mask project was born and many of us followed this pattern as well as others to make masks for our senior members. We gratefully thank all of you who have done this to help these members to stay safe and protected during this difficult time.

In addition, I would like to send out a special shout out and thank you to Laurine Ota for her kindness and support for those who have needed extra assistance in using the Zoom application on the computer. Through her patient and thoughtful support, she has helped and guided many to connect to the Qigong Workshop on a weekly basis.

Lastly, thank you to those of you who have called the many senior members who do not have access to the internet to inform and support them during this time of social isolation. A special thank you to Aki Tomiyama for calling the members on my list while I was in the hospital in May.

Continue to stay safe and healthy.

In Gassho, Mani Ryan

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

Dharma School has been out for the summer since last month, but virtual activities are still going for some of the students! Every year, the Los Angeles Buddhist Coordinating Council (LABCC) hosts a camp for Dharma School students ages 8-13, at the end of July/beginning of August. This year LABCC hosted a “Virtual Camp,” with Zoom sessions on Aug 3, 5, and 7. We will have a recap of this new and fun experience from a couple of the students in next month’s newsletter!

On behalf of the Dharma School, we would like to thank everyone who supported us this past year! We are so grateful for the support of our students and families, our dedicated teachers who worked hard to conduct classes online, Dharma School Staff, and the support of the Sangha throughout our classes and activities. We are looking forward to the upcoming 2020-21 year! Due to the current situation, we are planning on having classes online when Dharma School resumes. More information is forthcoming. Wishing you health and happiness as we continue to encourage social distancing. Enjoy the rest of your summer!

In Gassho, Lisa Umekubo

JR. YBA NEWS

Hi everyone! We hope everyone’s summer is going well, and that everyone is staying safe! As for Jr. YBA activities, we don’t have many events this summer, but we’re still keeping in touch and making sure to be mindful of how Buddhism is affecting our everyday lives.

We also have some exciting news regarding Southern District Jr. YBL. Two of our Jr. YBA members, Jenna Sasaki and Zoe Yamamoto (myself), will be serving as First Vice President and Secretary, respectively, of the Southern District Jr. YBL cabinet for the upcoming school year! The year will definitely be very different, but we are excited to be more involved with Jr. YBA and we’re grateful towards our teachers and advisors that encouraged us to join the cabinet.

We have also been attending Zoom calls regarding Buddhism and current events. In July, two of our Jr. YBA members, Ava Yamamoto and myself, attended a particularly informative and inspiring workshop about the importance of the Black Lives Matter movement and how it relates to Buddhism. This workshop really motivated me that I can use my voice to stand up for what is right and to promote change in this country. It is important for us all to recognize systemic issues in America, especially those regarding race, and to do our part to strive for reform.

Although this year will throw some new challenges our way, we are excited for the new school year! We hope the Sangha is staying connected with their loved ones during these times, and we can’t wait to see everyone again soon!

In Gassho, Zoe Yamamoto

TEMPLE AWARDS 2020-2021 ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Bill and Joyce Teague, Advisors Scholarship Committee

We congratulate the seven scholars receiving Temple scholarships for the coming academic year.

The Temple Scholarship Committee awarded seven academic scholarships to Temple youths as announced in the Temple's video Obon service on July 26.

Honda Memorial High School Graduate Scholarship

This scholarship, in memory of the late and beloved Temple leader **Ben Honda**, went to **Kyle Baker**, a graduate of Mission Bay High School, who will be starting at San Diego State University this Fall. Kyle's parents are **Carol and Michael Baker**.

Kashima Memorial Continued Higher Education Scholarship

This scholarship, in memory of the late and beloved Temple leader **Tetsuyo Kashima**, was awarded to **Breven Honda, Sara Matsumoto, Trevor Muraoka, Davis Ong, Hailey Sasaki, and Mark Torio**. More details on each scholar follows:

Breven, son of **Ralph and Avis Honda**, a Senior, Journalism major, San Diego State University; **Sara**, daughter of **Richard and Roselinda Matsumoto**, Post-Graduate, Physical Therapy, Palomar College; **Trevor**, son of **Ken Muraoka and Sharyn Kang**, Junior, Mechanical Engineering, the University of California, Berkeley; **Davis**, son of **Ann and and Mike Ong**, Junior, Sociology, University of Arizona; **Hailey**, daughter of **Lorin and Brian Sasaki**, Cognitive Science and Economics, University of California Davis; **Mark**, son of **Glenn and Janet Torio**, Senior, Electrical Engineering, San Diego State University.

Essay Excerpts

Students applying for the Kashima scholarship are asked to write an essay, this year on the theme of the Pandemic. We are always impressed by the depth and sensitivity shown in these essays. Excerpts follow.

Breven Honda: Our temple's Dharma School theme for this year is "Gratitude" and I think about how thankful we are to live each day. Before the coronavirus pandemic hit the United States, we were living what was then "normal." We saw many of our friends at temple services and activities. We enjoyed each other's company during hospitality and other events. Times together were certainly good. Now that we are not able to take part in those events, it has helped me realize to be grateful every time when we get to convene and talk to other Sangha members or anyone in public.

Sara Matsumoto: I often tell the High School Dharma School kids that the teachings are like tools in a tool box. Each teaching or tool is there to help fix different problems that arise in our lives. We have some tools that we use more often and others just on occasions. But no matter what, as we go through our lives we carry around this metaphorical

tool box with us every single day. I have found that I carry the same tool box I was before the pandemic started, but what makes my experience a little different nowadays is that I am using my tool box so much more.

Trevor Muraoka: I am curious, for the foreseeable future, if this [technological response to the pandemic, of videos and Zoom sermons] is how most church services will [continue to] be held for the temple. I am also curious what the long term effect would be if this would occur and could this potentially lead to a deeper understanding of the teachings and if through something like YouTube, could also have the potential to gain a wider audience and a more mainstream influence in American culture.

Davis Ong: For me, my experience with Buddhism continued to exist in my life after I graduated High School and left San Diego. Even though I was in a new place, with new friends and new communities to be a part of, I always found myself going back to many of the teachings I received back in San Diego. Even though I was unable to attend a Buddhist temple when in Arizona, I continued to stay active with BTSD, which sometimes included me arriving home from college and immediately being brought to an event that I was already signed up to help at. Through all of this involvement, I learned that even if I am disconnected from where I spent my entire childhood, I am able to look to my experiences there to push through any struggles. This was not only a helpful tool I used while missing home at my first semester of college, but was critical in me continuing to work throughout the lonely, quiet nights that were a result of the onset of COVID-19.

Hailey Sasaki: Someone once said that when we look back on 2020, we will classify our lives as pre- and post pandemic. Impermanence has never felt so real as it does during these trying times. And although it is evident that our lives will never be quite the same, I hope that we can learn from this experience and make our world better because of it. Our world is torn apart in so many ways, but it's up to all of us, particularly my generation, to sew the divisions of our country back together.

Mark Torio: Although the pandemic has affected some aspects of Buddhism for me there are others that have not changed. One of the most important aspects of Buddhism for me is being kind and compassionate to people. Being kind does not only apply to those that you see in person but also those who you communicate with online. This pandemic has only increased the importance of being kind to others online, since during the stay at home order people are communicating mostly online.

DONATIONS

The Buddhist Temple of San Diego is grateful to the following individuals and organizations for their recent donations to the Temple and its affiliated organizations. "IMO" means "In memory of." For a correction, please call or email the temple 619-239-0896 or info@btsd.net.

BUDDHIST TEMPLE

Estes, Toshiye - Ichiban
Fundraiser
Tsuneyoshi, Motoo & Angie
Omori, Shirley
Okuhara, Roy & Karen
Sugiyama, Yukiko
Kruse, Kimberly, Jeff & Fam.
IMO Dorothy Kruse,
Beloved grandmother &
great-grandmother
Tsukamoto, Wayne
Ochi-Fontanott, Janet
IMO Mr. & Mrs. Hideo
Ochi
Koga, Florence
Estes, Toshiye -- Yasukochi
Farms Fundraiser
Negoro, Glenn - July
Yagi, D T - Buddhist Ed
Segal, Larry P
Okuhara, Roy & Karen
Ohara, Fumiko

DHARMA SCHOOL

Kruse, Kimberly & Jeff
Yamamoto, Kengo & Mae

FLORAL OFFERING

Kruse, Kimberly & Jeff

GENERAL MAINTENANCE

Kruse, Kimberly & Jeff

HATSUBON SERVICE

Honda, Ralph & Avis
Honda, Mikiye - Obon
IMO Sumiye Nakashima,
Aoyama, K. Alice -
Rev. Tesshi Aoyama

MAP

Kruse Family
Yamamoto, Kengo & Mae
Kawamoto, David H. & Carol

MEMBERSHIP PLEDGES

*We thank you for recent re-
newals:*

Kruse, Kimberly & Jeff
Yamamoto, Kengo & Mae

OBON

Honda, Ralph & Avis
Hendrix, Hiroko
Otsuji, Dennis
Suyenaga, Irene
Kuwada, Howard Kanji &
Kaneko
Tanaka, Kelvin
Yamamoto, Jane

Uyeji, Masako
Jones, Mikako & Morton
Graeber, Kiku
Nogata, Yuriko & Sumihiro
Torio, Betty
Moriyama, Chieko
Sugiyama, Yukiko
Omori, Shirley
Kashima, Jeanie
Martinez, Nancy
Tsukamoto, Wayne
Hashiguchi, John & Tsune
Tanaka, Kelvin
Oyama, Candice
Yamamoto, Koichi & Joyce
Aoyama, K. Alice
Shigehara, Wilbur & Janice
Masumoto, Chiyoko
Himaka, Michio & Naomi
Yanagihara, Sumiko
Morikawa, Kazuhiko
Ohara, Fumiko
Tsuji, Masako
Koga, Florence
Oto, June
Kawasaki, Kiyoshi & Aileen

SCHOLARSHIP

Kruse, Kimberly & Jeff
Honda, Mikiye

SHOTSUKI HOYO

Kuwada, Howard Kanji
Honda, Mikiye - July
Kida, Katsumi - (from
Katsumi,
John & Liz Kida)
IMO James Kida
Omori, Shirley
IMO Kiyoko Omori
IMO James Kida
IMO Shigeo Yamanishi
Moriyama, Chieko
(from Chiyeko Moriyama,
Madeline & Michael
Clogston)
IMO Betty Tsuneko Yano
Tomiyama, Sayoko
IMO Mother Wasa Osaki
Hashiguchi, John & Tsune
IMO Fuji Hashiguchi
Himaka, Michio & Naomi
IMO Paul K Shimizu
IMO Chosuke Himaka
IMO Christine Shimizu
IMO Henry Shimada
Yanagihara, Sumiko
IMO Kingo Ouchi

IMO Kats Tanizaki
Honda, Ralph & Avis - July
Suyenaga, Irene
Ishino, Isabel
IMO Kasuburo Ishino
IMO En Nishiguchi
Kawasaki, Kiyoshi & Aileen
Tsuneyoshi, Motoo
IMO Fusa Inouye
Ohara, Fumiko
Honda, Margaret

SPECIAL DONATION

Omori, Shirley
Ochi, Kay
Himaka, Michio & Naomi
Ohara, Fumiko
Mayekawa, Ahren
Fujii, Joan
Moriyama, Rodney
*(All donations received are
through July 19)*

BUDDHIST EDUCATION IN AUGUST

Buddhism 1-2-3 continues in August. The Temple will continue to host live Zoom sessions for Buddhism 1-2-3 sessions this month, each Wednesday at 7 p.m., most led by Kenji Sensei. Contact the Temple for login information or email coordinator Bill Teague, btcomms@cox.net.

In addition to videos posted each week on our Website, throughout the BCA there are many video or live Zoom sessions available. We will post a number of these on our website.



SCRIP NEWS

It just seems like yesterday that I wrote the article for the newsletter. I know that being at home for this long a period of time that I am doing a lot more baking and using a lot of grocery store gift cards. My husband has even gotten into the act of making bread. At first he dug out the bread machine which we hadn't used in over 20 years to make a loaf of French bread. Then he actually made a recipe that took him a couple of days to make. Both turned out good.

My younger son does a lot of our grocery shopping and I am able to provide him with gift cards to use at the stores. My older son lives in Maryland and I send him grocery store gift cards for him to use there. He seems to be doing a lot more cooking since he is working from home.

We are still selling gift cards. We have the usual gift cards that we regularly have in stock as we just placed an order. If you need special cards, call the temple office and give us a couple of weeks to get them. To find the retailer list, just go to the Great Lakes Scrip website and scroll down to the bottom and click on retailer list. Just give Linda a call and she can answer any questions or she will contact me and one of us will answer your questions. Stay safe, sane, and healthy.

EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS! FUNDRAISERS ASSISTING THE TEMPLE DURING CHALLENGING TIMES

The Activities Committee has been creative with planning and executing unique fundraising opportunities, and collaborating with community businesses in partnering with the temple during these challenging times.

Yasukochi Farms CSA Fundraiser

Thank you to all of the temple members and friends who participated in the Yasukochi Farms CSA Produce Box Fundraiser and our first ever contactless drive-through pick-up on July 25! We sold 112 CSA boxes, 83, three-packs of fresh strawberries and 100 cloth masks!



Strawberry trays and produce boxes are ready for customers.

We appreciate Yasukochi Family Farms for their generous donation to the Buddhist Temple of San Diego and our hard-working mask volunteer crew, heavy-lifting loaders, check-in crew, car-to-car mask sellers and parking lot attendants on the day of the event. Many thanks to Kimberly Kruse for helping me manage the orders and payments, Glenn Torio for general arrangements, Bill Teague for quickly placing the order forms and articles to the temple website and Facebook, Linda Reden-

baugh for collecting the mail-in orders and making the signs, and Nancy Martinez, Aki Tomiyama and the Treasurer's committee for all of their help along the way.



Who are these masked volunteers? Front row (Left to right): Ann Ong, Carol Baker, LuAnn Lee, Kimberly Kruse, Laura Yoshida, Maya Hotta, Nancy Martinez and Harold Lee. Back row (L-R): Mark Torio, Glenn Torio, Breven Honda, Arturo Rubio, Ralph Honda and Rev. Kenji Akahoshi. Not pictured: Glenn Negro. Photo credit: JoAnn Katsuda Hotta

Thank you to Mani Ryan, Doreen Kamada-Fujii and an anonymous donor for making a variety of beautiful cloth masks.

The best part of the day was seeing temple friends who we haven't seen for months, even though it took a little longer to recognize people with their masks on!

There may be another Yasukochi Farms CSA Box Fundraiser in the future if there is interest. If you order online directly for home delivery through the Yasukochi Family Farms website at <https://www.yasukochifamilyfarmsoceanside.com/>, please add "Buddhist Temple of San Diego" to the comments and they will donate a portion of the proceeds to the temple.

Ichiban and Kanpai Restaurant Fundraisers

Thank you to all members and friends who participated in these fundraisers! Kanpai expressed their apologies for slightly longer waiting times for the event held on July 23. Ichiban Restaurant continued their support by extending its program from the end of June to July 31.

Devine Pastabilities Fundraiser

BTSD is collaborating with this new Italian concept restaurant that specializes in Torpastas and Torsalads. Delicious pastas or salads are stuffed into a toasted garlic roll. The dates for this opportunity are August 3, 4, 10 and 11 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Present the flyer when ordering and BTSD will receive a percentage of purchases made on the dates listed above. Devine Pastabilities is located at 3545 Midway Drive, San Diego, 92110. Check the website: www.torpasta.com

Virtual Sound Bath Immersion Session

A date for August will be announced and the informational flyer and online registration is coming soon.

Join us for a one hour sound bath immersion virtually on Zoom with Amy Freeman. Ms. Freeman has been a yoga and meditation teacher for 20 years, and a sound and reiki healer for five years. This deeply relaxing sound journey will include crystal singing bowls, Koshi chimes and drums.

Some of the benefits of sound healing includes:

- Decreased stress levels
- Decreased blood pressure
- Fewer mood swings
- Improved sleep
- Lower cholesterol
- Helps clear energetic blockages allowing the body to heal and find equilibrium at a deep level

Gassho,

Ann Ong and Glenn Torio
Activities Committee Co-chairs

MEMORIES OF SHARING BON ODORI AT BTSD AND BALBOA PARK

It is a strange summer not being able to participate and enjoy, in-person, the festive atmosphere of the Bon Odori 2020. In order to help everyone remember the spirit of Kangi-E or Festival of Joy, the Bussei Script is sharing photos from past O Bon festivals.

