

# BUSSEI SCRIPT

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VOLUME 80 5

www.buddhisttemplesandiego.org

May 2020

## Birthdays -- Mother's Day

By Rev. Kenji Akahoshi, Resident Minister



May is the month that we celebrate and appreciate our mothers on her special day. On Gotan-E, we acknowledge the birthday of Shinran, who showed us a path for ordinary people to awaken to a True Reality. Shin Buddhists celebrate the birth of Siddhartha Gautama in April. Unfortunately, this year, we must celebrate these occasions individually or in small family groups. Of course, we celebrate the accomplishments of Shakyamuni Buddha and Shinran by noting their day of birth. But, are not those days the real accomplishments of their mothers?

I think that all children enjoy the attention they receive in celebrating the day of their birth. This annual event may also recognize their accomplishments as they have acquired additional skills from the previous year. Although they are the ones who have practiced and accomplish the higher levels of achievement, we may not emphasize those who provided the education, instruction, and support. Birthdays tend to emphasize the individual or ME. In the background are the parents, teachers, and others who comprise the WE. Let us apply this same perspective to our spiritual birth.

A modern interpretation of "birth in the Pure Realm" could be called a spiritual awakening. We have said that a Shin awakening is received as contrasted to, perhaps, a Zen achievement of satori or awakening. We can use the example of a biological birth to better understand a Shin birth in the Pure Realm or spiritual awakening. An infant has received its birth by virtue of its mother (with some participation from its father). It is the mother who has provided this miraculous event. As Shin Buddhists, this model may help us understand our relationship to Amida Buddha. We may awaken to this rare, difficult, and wonderous life, but it is because of the effort of others. Our mothers represent our spiritual parent, *Oyasama*, or Amida Buddha.

We could agree that our biological birth is caused by the efforts of our mothers and others. Similarly, we are told that our birth in the Pure Realm is caused by the efforts of Amida Buddha. So, what is our part in this revelation? For many, just reciting the Nembutsu brings no response. It seems that some self-effort may be indicated. Yes, but even this sense of self-effort comes from another source. The word *jinen* can be interpreted as "to be made so by itself" or naturalness. I interpret this to mean that this is part of our

human condition. As infants, we have very little skills and abilities. But, as our physical bodies and brains develop, we naturally aspire and learn to walk, talk, read, write, and advance to complicated human endeavors. There is also a natural aspiration to awaken to our own consciousness. Our aspirations are fulfilled by others: parents, family, teachers, masters. I think there is a basic symbiotic relationship among us humans, **to teach and to learn**.

In Shin, the Bodhisattva model is our guide. A bodhisattva is a being that vows not to gain awakening until all others have gain that level. It is the ultimate example of the ME within the WE. The Larger Sutra describes one Bodhisattva Dharmakara making and fulfilling the 48 Vows on our behalf. The truth of interdependence suggests that we are all interconnected beings so each of our awakenings are dependent on each other. Dharmakara's Vow ensures that we all feel the security, serenity, and joy of awakening.

A child learns from the people and environment around her. There is a natural instinct to grow, mature, and fill a need of society. It may not be enough for parents to desire a life of physical security for the child. The deepest wish of a parent would be to have a spiritual security. Without seeing, hearing, and being among those who have traveled along this spiritual path, this aspiration might be difficult. Giving birth to a child and raising her to a level of social competence may not be enough. The Nembutsu calls us to aspire to the higher spiritual realm of serenity and joy. Namo Amida Butsu can remind us that our biological and spiritual births are caused by sources beyond myself. The emphasis in Shin, is to shift our focus from our own achievements to the gifts from others.

We are now in a critical phase of a pandemic. Our usual life has been dramatically challenged. The reality of death is a real threat, as over 50,000 Americans have died in one month. The American dream of a good job and a pleasant home become insufficient when the lives of loved ones are at risk. It is time for each of us to fully understand and appreciate the spiritual gift that the Nembutsu provides. The Dharma awaits our discovery.

Namo Amida Butsu

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

|                             | Page |                          | Page |
|-----------------------------|------|--------------------------|------|
| Rev. Akahoshi's Message     | 1    | Donations & Scholarships | 5    |
| Temple Closure, Word search | 2    | Shotsuki Hoyo List       | 6    |
| President, BOD, BWA         | 3    | Rev. Mukojima's Message  | 7    |
| BEC, Jr. YBA, DS            | 4    | DS For Mother's Day      | 8    |

## TEMPLE CLOSURE CONTINUES, MORE ACTIVITIES CANCELED

Continuing to follow the “Stay-At-Home” order for non-essential travel, due to COVID-19, the Buddhist Temple of San Diego will remain closed and all activities suspended during May and June until further notice. The temple’s Board of Directors and affiliated organizations approved the closure during its online meeting on April 11. Although some restrictions have been eased since the board’s decision, it is patiently waiting to determine upcoming decisions.

Activities affected by the temple’s closure include:

Sunday family services including Shotsuki Hoyo, monthly memorial services (May 3 and June 14), Mother’s Day (May 10) and Gotan-E, the commemoration of Shinran Shonin’s birth (May 17).

Spring Furniture Sale, May 2.

Mother’s Day Breakfast hosted by Jr. YBA, May 10.

Dharma School/Family Campout, May 22-24.

BINGO, May 9 and June 13.

Japanese Cultural Bazaar, June 7 (tentatively rescheduled for October 11 or 18).

Temple Picnic and year-end Dharma School appreciation, June 21.

Rev. Akahoshi’s retreat, June 26-28.

25<sup>th</sup> Annual Golf Tournament, June 28.

Other cancellations include Buddhism 1-2-3 (Wednesdays), Introduction to Buddhism (fourth Sunday of month), Taiko (Sundays and Wednesdays), Minyo (Wednesdays) and Tai Chi (Thursdays). Memorial weekend activities at Imperial Valley cemeteries (May 23), Ft. Rosecrans National Cemetery (May 24), and Mt. Hope Cemetery and Cypress View Mortuary (May 25). The Friday Villa Gardens (Kiku) senior lunch program is also suspended.

All committee and organizational meetings, including Dharma School classes are taking place virtually via Zoom.

In the event of the death of a loved one, please contact Rev. Dr. Kenji Akahoshi at (408) 610-0022, Ralph Honda (619) 885-3788 or the temple.

With the closure, please contact the temple by phone (619) 239-0896 or email [info@btsd.net](mailto:info@btsd.net) if you have any questions or concerns. Please leave a message if your phone call is not answered. Staff will return phone calls and emails in a timely manner.

During this continued period of uncertainty, the temple will do its best to support the needs of the Sangha. Please refer to the temple’s website <http://www.buddhisttemplesandiego.org/> for up-to-date information. For those who have internet access, please link to messages provided by Kenji Sensei. Bishop Marvin Harada offers occasional “Dial the Dharma” phone messages. Please dial (415) 528-7220 and listen to the Dharma.

The board will continue to monitor and re-evaluate the situation when it reconvenes in May to determine future actions.

Thank you very much for your patience and understanding during this difficult and challenging time. *Namo Amida Butsu.*

Gassho,

Board of Directors

### Mother’s Day Word Search Puzzle

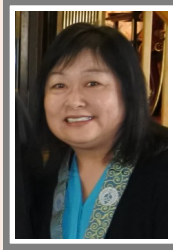
```

a s o w t p s z u f r u o q o
t p y c n n s b u k g i y m w
a e p c a r e h t o m l f x g
q c e r u u n r d f u t f h k
h i s a e x d t a f s l w k d
g a e u j c n m u p j f q f d
u l p g i v i n g m k k c z x
a h s p v l k a h d q r w j f
l o v e y m e w t o f u s s t
n w o k j f c f e i l w h q p
y p c b c q t e r v o i r e n
f g j i v p i h y s w n d g t
s s k v f g w p u q e w m a y
s k j k b n x n z g r d y y y
z n z p g o q k o l s u x j m
    
```

| FIND THE WORDS |         |
|----------------|---------|
| Appreciation   | Hugs    |
| Kindness       | Care    |
| Daughter       | Laugh   |
| Family         | Love    |
| Flowers        | May     |
| Fun            | Mother  |
| Giving         | Parent  |
| Happy          | Son     |
| Holiday        | Special |

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By LuAnn Lee Board President



I hope this finds everyone doing well and feeling healthy.

It's hard to believe what is going on in this world we live in. So many people affected by this global disease. Every day, we are hearing news about many more people testing positive in the US including right here in San Diego. Today in Chula Vista, where I live, face masks are now mandatory due to a spike in number of new positive cases and number of rising deaths.

We hear about the wide range of symptoms that people are experiencing. My niece Caylee, who lives in New York, was certain she had a mild case of Covid but was never tested. Thank goodness she was able to recover from her fever, body and headaches, tiredness and not being able to smell/taste.

Scientists and medical frontline staff are finding out new things about this virus daily and will hopefully find a treatment and eventually a vaccine.

In the mist of all this uncertainty, the Board of Directors was able to have a board meeting via zoom in the middle of April. Thank you to Kimberly Kruse for her expertise in setting this up and appreciation to Kenji Sensei for his guidance and for his inspiring on line Dharma messages.

We decided to cancel all activities and services through June. We talked about postponing the Bazaar to October and have a tentative date but will revisit this in the near future. The Ways and Means Committee led by Michael Kinoshita has evaluated the budget and will be sending a letter in regards to the temples finances.

We will continue to monitor the status of the Coronavirus and will take into consideration the recommendations of the CDC, Local, State and National Governments as well as the BCA to decide on how to move forward and the fate of the upcoming events later in the summer.

I have also connected with Southern Districts Presidents via e-mail and they have informed us that many of their Obon Festivals have been cancelled. More information will follow as it becomes available.

Although this is a very scary and trying time dealing with Covid 19, I see so many reports on people volunteering to help and donating time and money to the cause.

One heartwarming story was on the nightly news last night. It featured a man with the children in the who drove to get free food and waited many hours in line. When he got to the front of the line, they were out of food so he went to a different line and the same thing happened – out of food. He went home empty handed. Well, the next day, he had people from all over the country contacting him. They wanted to donate money so he could feed his family. Needless to say, he was overwhelmed with appreciation for the kindness of strangers.

People at the food banks are reporting that many people coming through to food lines have never had to ask for food.

If you know anyone at our temple that needs help, please reach out to us as we are here for each other. Call the temple (619) 239-0896 or e-mail the temple at [info@btsd.net](mailto:info@btsd.net). Check on our website for updates at <http://www.buddhisttemplesandiego.org/>

In closing, please be safe and stay well.

Namo Amida Butsu.

In Gassho, LuAnn Lee

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS NEWS

The temple's Board of Directors met via Zoom conferencing on April 11th:

1. The Board discussed the current COVID-19 directives and advisories and voted to postpone or cancel temple events through June.
2. Orei was approved for Rev. Henry Adams for his recorded video Dharma messages for the Hanamatsuri observance.
3. A small business loan application was made through the Cares Act Payroll Protection Program. Status is pending.
4. An oiwai was approved for retiring Bishop Kodo Umezu. Rev. Umezu is scheduled to be our 2021 HoOnko Guest Speaker.
5. Outreach, alternative fundraisers and donation requests were discussed. The Board approved that a letter be sent to temple members and friends of temple after the Ways & Means Committee reviews the status of the temple's 2020 finances.
6. Kenji Sensei updated the Board on his phone visitations with temple members, the temporary suspension of funerals and memorial services. If anyone would like to schedule a memorial service, they are asked to contact the temple or Kenji Sensei directly.

## BWA NEWS

Although B.W.A. activities have been cancelled until further notice, we have been actively involved in keeping in touch with one another either through email or phone calls. On a weekly basis since the Stay at Home mandate was proposed by Governor Newsom, a group of B.W.A. members have reached out to members without email or internet access to notify them of current messages from Reverend Kenji and ways they can communicate with us or Temple members for help. We have also notified them of a telephone number available to call in order to hear the Dharma message.

It has been a difficult time for all of us to follow the Stay at Home mandate that was implemented on March 19. It is, however, working and the curve of the hospitalization rate seems to be flattening.

Nevertheless, we still need to stay at home, and for grocery or other essential shopping, to be diligent in maintaining social distancing and to use safe health practices.

Respectfully submitted, Mani Ryan

## Amida Buddha Is in the House Home Worship During Sequester

Bill Teague, Buddhist Education Chair

While we stay at home for the pandemic, we can experience Jodo Shinshu just like followers of Nembutsu over the centuries – as a daily presence at home.

### All Forms of Home Altars Are Okay

For hundreds of years Jodo Shinshu Buddhists – and Buddhist culture in Japan is to visit a Temple only on special public occasions or for personal family services – and relied on daily home worship otherwise. But there is no reason to delay home worship over concern about not having the “right” kind of altar.

Because Amida Buddha’s compassion is always available to us, any home altar from instant to formal helps us take our next step on the Nembutsu path. Here are some guidelines on starting from nothing to more formal options.

### Instant, Basic, In Process, Formal

**Instant.** You are never alone and separate from Amida’s compassion and so you never have just nothing. Putting your hands together (*Gassho*) and bowing while reciting the name of Amida Buddha creates an instant shrine and will keep Amida in your heart.

**Basic.** For us, the central object of worship – to help us focus our attention – is Amida Buddha, represented by an image or calligraphy of his name. If you do not have something currently at home, and have a computer and printer, you can search images for Amida Buddha or Nembutsu and print one you like. (Our sect emphasizes images of Buddha while standing, which signifies Amida being an *active* Buddha.)

**In Process.** Over time you can supplement the central image with household items, secondary to the central image. A simple altar would include a candle on the right and a floral offering on the left. If you have incense at home, you can start an incense burner a little distance in front of the central image.

**Informal Incense Burner:** Improvise an informal incense burner using a small bowl. You can create a bed for the incense with uncooked beans or rice. Incense comes in many forms, but the idea is to burn the incense and allow the ashes to accumulate. Over time the rice or beans can be sifted out and the burner contains only ash. (Once the Temple is reopened, we can supply ash from the Temple’s incense burners for you – we have plenty!)

Other items can include a **vase for flowers** (plenty of pretty flowering weeds just now out there to help you find a flower), food offerings in a small dish or bowl (after offering the food to Buddha, later you can eat it yourself). Appropriate offerings could be rice, fruit, bread, cookies; just remember Buddha is usually a vegetarian!

Over time you can acquire elements of a more formal altar for worship.

**Formal.** The cabinet style shrine, common in Japan, is called an *Obutsudan* or *butsudan*. *O* is an honorific; *butsu* is Buddha; *dan* is altar or shrine. Furniture is not required to welcome Amida into your heart! But many families appreciate a more formal Buddhist altar.

**Always in Process.** Even for those of us with a formal *Obutsudan*, the altar is always *in process*. Items will come and go. Where we put the altar will change over time. Reciting the Nembutsu in front of an instant, basic, or formal shrine, **we are always in process of re-awakening to Amida Buddha.**

## DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

It is hard to believe it has been over a month since we have been practicing social distancing and have not been able to leave our homes! Unfortunately, our annual Dharma School camping trip and year-end Father’s Day picnic have been cancelled due to COVID-19.

On a more positive note, Dharma School students enjoyed connecting during online classes over the last month! Several families participated in our first online class on Hanamatsuri, and students shared fun things they have been doing at home. Some students shared that they wrote gratitude letters for hospital workers and sent pictures to nursing homes. Thank you very much to our Dharma School teachers for jumping in and conducting online classes each week to keep their students connected. We truly appreciate our teachers!

Students had so much fun seeing their teachers and Dharma School friends over Zoom. The Pre-K through 4th grade class enjoyed catching up with their fellow classmates, listening to stories, doing the *Hokey Pokey* and participating in *Good Morning Yoga*. The 5th through 8th grade class discussed how students can be helpful to their parents during this difficult time.

The high school class discussed how today’s unfortunate COVID-19 pandemic has affected them and how their experiences and the experiences of their community can be related back to Buddhism. Although the topic itself can be saddening, the high school students came to an understanding as they brought up how GRATEFUL they were to have homes to stay safe in whilst the pandemic occurs, and for the health and wellness of their families.

We hope everyone continues to find pockets of joy and are staying healthy during this unprecedented time. Let us be grateful for our community and look forward to the time that we can return to temple and see our Sangha friends.

Lisa Umekubo

## JR. YBA NEWS

Hi everyone!

We hope everyone is doing well and staying optimistic! We’re a little disappointed that we won’t get to see everyone at temple events for a while, but we’re very grateful for the health of our loved ones.

Even though we can’t see each other in person, the Jr. YBA has been communicating through texts and video calls! Our Dharma School teacher, Ms. Sara Matsumoto, has created a “challenge” for us over text so that we can keep in touch and keep learning Buddhist teachings. Every week, we read a quote and answer a question that Ms. Sara comes up with, and we send a text to others in our Dharma School class!

Although these last few weeks have been tough, we hope everyone is staying safe and keeping their hopes up. Remember to wash your hands, to practice social distancing, and to be mindful of your actions!

Lastly, thank you to everyone who continues to support the Jr. YBA! We would not be so successful if it weren’t for the Sangha.

In Gassho, Zoe Yamamoto

## DONATIONS

We are grateful for the recent donations to the Temple and its affiliated organizations. "IMO" means "In memory of." For a correction, please inform our secretary at (619) 239-0896 or [info@btsd.net](mailto:info@btsd.net).

### BUDDHIST TEMPLE

Munoz, Christian  
Gladsjo, Julie  
Kawasaki, Kiyoshi & Aileen -  
Cherry Blossom Festival  
Segal, Larry - Offering  
In my absence  
Yanagihara, Sumiko  
IMO Shizuko Yanagihara  
Redenbaugh, L  
IMO Mike Doi  
Segal, Larry P - Offering  
Alpine, John Mac  
Okuhara, Roy & Karen

### DHARMA SCHOOL

Ochi-Fontanott, Janet

### FLORAL OFFERING

Ochi-Fontanott, Janet

### GEN. MAINTENANCE

Ochi-Fontanott, Janet

### GOTAN E

Ryan, Mani and  
Yamaguchi, Laura  
Spears, Margo  
Iwashita, Setsuo and Jan  
Iwashita, David & Katie  
Ohara, Ann  
Ota, Laurine  
Martinez, Nancy

### HANAMATSURI SERVICE

Tomiya, Steve  
Suyenaga, Irene  
Nogata, Yuriko  
Hashiguchi, John & Tsune  
Kuwada, Howard Kanji &  
Kaneko  
Tsuneyoshi, Motoo & Angie  
Aoyama, K. Alice  
Yamamoto, Kengo & Mae  
Estes, Toshiye  
Ohara, Fumiko  
Moriyama, Chieko  
Otsuji, Dennis & Elaine  
Kasubuchi, Naoye  
Shigehara, Wilbur  
Sugiyama, Yukiko  
Jones, Mikako  
Sakai, Jeffery & Family  
Hendrix, Hiroko  
Honda, Ralph & Avis  
Honda, Mikiye  
Hidinger, Holly  
Tomiya, Sayoko  
Kawasaki, Kiyoshi & Aileen  
Yamamoto, Koichi & Joyce  
Omori, Shirley  
Schell, Kenneth & Family  
Koga, Florence  
Moncrief, Mayko  
Hagio, Quimico  
Yanagihara, Sumiko  
Yamamoto, Jane  
Benson, Agnes

Tsuji, Masako  
Torio, Betty  
Masumoto, Chiyoko  
Ochi-Fontanott, Janet  
Tsukamoto, Wayne  
Yonekura, Roy & Susan  
Uyeji, Masako  
Kawamoto, Yukio & Mitsu  
Okuhara, Roy & Karen  
Amano, Nobuko  
Sumida, Floyd & Kaytee

### MAP (Ministers Assist. Pr)

Ochi-Fontanott, Janet

### MEMBERSHIP

We thank the following  
For their recent renewals:  
D'Orsi, Linda  
Kashima, Jeanie  
Ochi-Fontanott, Janet

### NIRVANA DAY

Benson, Agnes

### OHIGAN

Ohara, Fumiko  
Okuhara, Roy & Karen  
Hashiguchi, John & Tsune  
Aoyama, K. Alice  
Honda, Mikiye  
Hidinger, Holly  
Yanagihara, Sumiko  
Benson, Agnes  
Jones, Mikako & Morton

### SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Ochi-Fontanott, Janet

### SHOTSUKI HOYO

Uyeji, Masako  
IMO Eda Asamen  
IMO S. Kodama  
Tsukamoto, Wayne  
IMO Shizuko Tsukamoto  
Kasubuchi, Naoye  
IMO James Kasubuchi  
IMO Shizuko Kasubuchi  
IMO Kuzo Sugiyama  
IMO Saburo Sugiyama  
Tsuneyoshi, Motoo & Angie  
IMO Father  
Uyeji, Masako  
IMO Kottie Uyeji  
Pang, Valerie  
IMO My Father,  
Carl M. Ooka -  
May 19, 1991  
Yanagihara, Sumiko  
Benson, Agnes -  
April, May, June  
Takashima, Wilbur  
IMO Yoshiko Takashima  
IMO Setugo Taniguchi  
IMO Renso Tsuji  
Honda, Mikiye  
Kawasaki, Kiyoshi & Aileen  
Hagio, Quimico

Moriyama, Chieko & Family - IMO Misao Nakagawa Moriyama

## 2020-2021 Academic Scholarship Applications

### Temple Scholarships Available for Temple Scholars

Bill Teague, Outgoing Chair

The Temple offers two scholarships to applicants who are sons and daughters of Temple members (or who may be dues-paying members themselves).

**What.** Two scholarships are available.

**For Students Entering College:** The Ben Honda Memorial Graduating High School Graduate Scholarship is a one-page form.

**For Students Beyond Freshman Year:** The Tetsuyo Kashima Memorial Continuing Education Scholarship application includes both a one-page form and an informal essay requirement.

**How.** Paper forms can be mailed from the Temple by request or by email attachment. They will also be posted on the website. (Go the bottom of the Temple website and look for a menu link FORMS). Where possible the Scholarship Committee we will also be conducting outreach to likely candidates among the Sangha.

**When and Where.** Applications are due at the Temple office July 1, either as a hard copy or sent via email attachment. Awards will be presented during the 2020 Obon Service on Sunday, July 26, whether **virtually** (if we still under social distancing mandate) or **in person**.

**Who.** These memorial scholarships are named after two beloved members who helped the Temple grow and thrive in the Post-War period, both of whom passed away far too soon in the mid-1990s.

**Why.** We encourage all qualified applicants to apply. Scholarships help with costs when every little bit helps, and they distinguish resumes when graduates apply for jobs and opportunities.

**Beyond Academics.** When travel resumes and other temples or the Jodo Shinshu Center offer events, a portion of Scholarship funds are available to offset costs of deepening your understanding of Jodo Shinshu. More information will follow in June's newsletter. Please contact the Temple office for more details.



FROM THE SANGHA TEENS: A. Bull, A. Covarrubias, P. Covarrubias, C. Muraoka, A. Rubio and T. Isakari.



## MAY SHOTSUKI (MONTHLY MEMORIAL)

The Shotsuki Hoyo (MEMORIAL SERVICE) scheduled for May has been postponed due to the temple's closure. Families and friends of anyone who passed away during the month of May are urged to burn incense at your home O Butsudan and Gassho in memory of your deceased loved ones. Families will be notified when the May memorial will take place. Thank you very much for your understanding. If there are any errors in the list, please notify the temple at (619) 239-0896 or e-mail [info@btsd.net](mailto:info@btsd.net)

| <u>DECEASED</u>                      | <u>FAMILY MEMBER</u>  |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Mary Koba (5-17-1939).....           | Duane Koba            |
| Nasuemon Ishizuka (5-26-1942) .....  | Tachiki Family        |
| Tsuneko Masumoto (5-13-1948) .....   | Bert Masumoto         |
| Kumataro Kimura (5-30-1949) .....    | Ochi Family           |
| Jirosuke Nishiuye (5-27-1953).....   | Yoshiro Nishiuye      |
| Yasukichi Fujimoto (5-16-1956) ..... | Fujimoto Family       |
| Gohei Tomiyama (5-15-1958) .....     | Sayoko Tomiyama       |
| Fujiye Oya (5-18-1958).....          | Paul Oya              |
| Kisaemon Kato (5-18-1964) .....      | Dennis Otsuji         |
| Yoshimatsu Yagura (5-24-1966) .....  | Yagura Family         |
| Richard Eejima Jr. (5-31-1969) ..... | Eejima Family         |
| Osamu Amano (5-19-1970).....         | Mikiye Honda          |
| Moritaka Tsuneyoshi (5-29-1971)..... | Miki Tsuneyoshi       |
| Yoshi Morimoto (5-31-1971).....      | Morimoto Family       |
| Asao Tanaka (5-18-1972) .....        | Tanaka Family         |
| Hiroshi Mayumi (5-6-1973) .....      | Mayumi Family         |
| Tamiko Mamiya (5-10-1973).....       | Kawamoto Family       |
| Seiko Fujimoto (5-20-1973).....      | Fujimoto Family       |
| Shoichi Hamatake (5-17-1974).....    | Masako Prestidge      |
| Magotaro Adachi (5-6-1975).....      | Yoshioka Family       |
| Tsume Takashima (5-14-1976).....     | Wilbur Takashima      |
| Rev. Gikan Nishinaga (5-2-1978)..... | Mani Ryan             |
| Mitsuko Iguchi (5-7-1978).....       | Iguchi Family         |
| Hatsuko Miyamoto (5-15-1979).....    | Fumiko Miyamoto       |
| Shizuye Saito (5-2-1981) .....       | Saito Family          |
| Kakuye Yamada (5-11-1981) .....      | Yamada Family         |
| Hisayo Fujimoto (5-29-1982) .....    | Fujimoto Family       |
| Kuni Higuchi (5-8-1989) .....        | Yasuko Higuchi        |
| Carl M. Ooka (5-19-1991) .....       | Valerie & Gerald Pang |
| Carol James (5- -) .....             | Etsuko Smith          |
| Hiroko Kitada (5-17-1992).....       | Yoshitsugu Kitada     |
| Hisashi Ozaki (5-14-1993) .....      | Ozaki Family          |
| Shizue Koba (5-15-1994).....         | Duane Koba            |
| Morizo Fujimoto (5-30-1994).....     | Jack Fujimoto         |
| Kazu L. Scott (5-15-1996) .....      | Lee Scott             |

| <u>DECEASED</u>                           | <u>FAMILY MEMBER</u> |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Momoyo Amano (5-6-1998).....              | Mikiye Honda         |
| Yoshio Koike (5-25-1999) .....            | Kikuko Koike         |
| James Yamaguchi (5-25-1999).....          | Fusako Yamaguchi     |
| Ichiye Ochi (5-28-1999) .....             | Ochi Family          |
| Agnes Masae Kishi (5-9-200) .....         | Masao Kishi          |
| Harumi Hokanson (5-9-2001).....           | Raymond Hokanson     |
| Mikazu Kaminaka (5-10-2001).....          | Kaminaka Family      |
| Paul Yoshimasa Naitoh (5-1-2002) .....    | Masako Naitoh        |
| Yukie Yagade (5-8-2002).....              | Steven Yagade        |
| Roy Morinaka (5-11-2002) .....            | Asako Morinaka       |
| Tamiko Iwashita (5-13-2002).....          | Iwashita Family      |
| George Higuchi (5-25-2002) .....          | Yasuko Higuchi       |
| Noboru Yamamoto (5-31-2002) .....         | Yamamoto Family      |
| Sanae Gutzman (5-8-2003).....             | Louis A. Gutzman     |
| Matsue Ishino (5-9-2003) .....            | Hiroko Ishino        |
| Jane Akemi Obayashi (5-19-2003) .....     | Glenn Obayashi       |
| Katsumi Takashima (5-3-2005) .....        | Wilbur Takashima     |
| Donald Hamilton Estes (5-7-2005) .....    | Carol Estes          |
| Misao Nakagawa Moriyama (5-2-2006) ...    | Chieko Moriyama      |
| Masako Falk (5-27-2006).....              | James F. Falk        |
| Horace Shigeto Koga (5-10-2007).....      | Katsuko Koga         |
| Tiffany Wadzinski (5-19-2008).....        | Mellissa Wadzinski   |
| Phoebe Wadzinski (5-19-2008) .....        | Mellissa Wadzinski   |
| John Ernest Benson (5-20-2010) .....      | Agnes Benson         |
| Chonja Lee Haruko Bolick (5-8-2011) ..... | Jack Tetsuo Bolick   |
| George Masato Uda (5-11-2001).....        | Georgiana Uda        |
| Arlene Shizue Hirata (5-4-2012) .....     | Jason Hirata         |
| William Perkinson Jr. (5-6-2014) .....    | Michiko Perkinson    |
| George Yada (5-18-2014) .....             | Yada family          |
| Setsuko Yada (5-18-2014) .....            | Miyoko Hashiguchi    |
| Jane Kozuye Yagade (5-23-2014).....       | Steven Yagade        |
| Peggy Fumiko Tsurudome (5-26-2014) .....  | Carly Tsurudome      |
| Kuniko Denton (5-27-2014).....            | Charles Denton       |
| Leora Chiyeko Hamada (5-2-2016).....      | Gary Hamada          |
| Frederick Ichiro Tsuji (5-7-2016).....    | Masako Tsuji         |

### MEMORIAL SERVICES

MEMORIAL SERVICES allow us to pay homage to loved ones who have passed away. In our Jodo Shinshu tradition, family members hold a service at certain intervals following a relative's death to express gratitude and acknowledge their continued influence in our lives. To schedule a memorial service for a loved one, please call during weekly office hours.

#### 2020 is the memorial year for those who passed away in:

|                   |      |                    |      |                    |      |
|-------------------|------|--------------------|------|--------------------|------|
| 1st Year Memorial | 2019 | 13th Year Memorial | 2008 | 27th Year Memorial | 1994 |
| 3rd Year Memorial | 2018 | 17th Year Memorial | 2004 | 33rd Year Memorial | 1988 |
| 7th Year Memorial | 2014 | 25th Year Memorial | 1996 | 50th Year Memorial | 1971 |

# 愛憎を越えて

駐在開教使 向嶋裕史

先の三月半ば、アメリカ政府は新型コロナウイルスの感染拡大を受けて、国家非常事態を宣言し、ほとんどの州で自宅待機命令が発動されました。そのため、仏教会や学校などといった公共施設が閉鎖され、私達の行動がかなり制限されています。

コロナウイルスの感染力は非常に高く、世界中で多くの方が感染し、亡くなる方も日々増えている現状です。いつ終息するのかわからないという不安と恐怖が常に付きまといますが、私達一人ひとりが責任ある行動をとって共に一丸となって乗り越えていかなければなりません。

しかし、自宅待機命令が出て約三週間が経った今、先の見えない自粛生活に私達の多くはストレスと疲労で精神的に厳しい状態にあります。どれほど平常心を保とうと努力しても、仕事や子供の学校、そして経済のことを考え出すと冷静ではいられません。多くの方が自分達の日常がコロナウイルスによって奪われている現状を腹立たしく感じ、未だ誰もこのウイルスに対して最善の策が見いだせない世界的脅威に恐怖を感じています。それ故に、世界中で多くの人達が心のバランスを失い、ストレスを蓄積し、激しい苛立ちから相手の心を傷つけ、危害を加えるなどといった出来事が多発しています。

特に、コロナウイルスの元凶はアジア人だという認識の下、世界中で心無い人達から何ら罪のないアジア人が罵声を浴びせられ、暴行を受けたりする事件が発生しています。このアメリカに於いても、多くのコロナ差別が横行しています。先日、クパチーノにある食料品店でアジア

人女性が数名の店員や買い物客にウイルスを持ち込んだと罵声を浴びせられ、店から追い出される侮辱を受けたという悲しいニュースがありました。アジア人というだけで隣人から心無い差別を受けたこの女性の気持ちを考えて胸が締め付けられる思いで一杯です。

残念ながら、先の見えない不安が原因で、普段は他人に優しく寛容な人であっても攻撃的になり、通常使わないような侮辱的な言葉で相手の心を傷つけてしまっている方が数多くいると思います。親鸞聖人は「縁によって私達人間は何をすべきか分からぬ凡夫である」とおっしゃってられます。このお言葉を胸に、ストレスのはけ口が差別行為とならぬよう自分の言動に気を付けると同時に、差別を許すことのない地域社会を目指していかなくてはなりません。

よくよく考えてみますと、差別問題は今回に限ったことではありません。ここ数年、残念なことに、特定の人種や宗教に対する差別をはじめ、障害者や同性愛者などに否定的な立場をとる人々が公の場で彼らを誹謗中傷するような悲しい出来事をニュースで目にします。

人間の心の中には、誰もが差別意識は少なからずあるもので、二五〇〇年前のお釈迦さまの時代でさえもカースト制度という身分差別が確立されていたほど差別意識は人間の歴史に深くかかわっています。お釈迦さまは、差別という概念は相手の存在価値を否定する最も卑劣な行為の一つであるとカースト制度を真っ向から否定しておられます。

親鸞聖人は、浄土和讃の中で「仏さまは平等の心でもって全ての衆生を分けへだてなく、かけがえない一人子を愛するように見つめておられる」と明らかにされています。このお言葉の中にお釈迦さまのお心が凝縮されているように思います。

お釈迦さまのお心である平等心とは何かといいますが、それは「怨親平等の心」をいいます。怨親とは愛と憎しみを表す言葉で、怨親平等とは、愛憎を超えた心をいいます。これはとても大変なことで、私達凡夫には到底想像も尽かない世界ではありますが、実はこれが、仏さまのお悟りの領域であり、この怨親平等の心を開いた尊いお方を仏というのです。

差別を認めない私達仏教徒は、当たり前のように「みんな平等だ」と言います。これは大変尊い思想ですが、愛するものと憎むものを全て平等に見ていくという生き方が日常生活の中で本当に実践されているでしょうか？ 私達は、どれだけ差別根絶の社会を目指して行動しようとも、一度、自分の嫌いな人や憎んでいる人に出会ったと、たちまち偏見の目で見てしまいます。これは非常に自分勝手に大いに矛盾しています。この相手を受け入れられない感情が差別思想へとつながっていくのです。

悟りの境地、怨親平等の心とは、その自己中心的なものの考え方を完全に打ち破ることであり、自分の嫌いな人は単に自分がくり出した心の迷いにすぎないと目覚めることなのです。目の前に憎い人がいるのではありません。その人を憎んでいる私がかこにいるのです。憎いも愛しいも心の迷いにすぎないことを悟ったとき、全ての人がかげがえのない尊い存在なのだという平等の世界が開けてきます。

お念仏は、不完全な我が身をはつきりと映し出して下さる尊い心の鏡です。常にお念仏を申す中で、どこまでも自己中心的な生き方しかできない己を省みつつ、仏性としての存在を互いに認め合い、差別根絶のためには内なる差別としっかり向き合っていくべきです。同じ人間同士共に助け合いながらこのコロナ危機を力強く乗り越えていきましょう。

# HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY FROM DHARMA SCHOOL

