

BUSSEI SCRIPT

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APRIL 2021



Humanity's 7th Step

By Rev. Dr. Kenji Akahoshi

We celebrate Hanamatsuri this month, honoring the birth of Shakyamuni Buddha. Legend tells us that the newborn infant took 7 steps and pointed to the heavens and the earth and declared

“Above earth and below the heavens, I alone am the world honored one.” The infant Buddha was not declaring his individual superiority over other humans. Mythologically, his statement coupled with the symbolism of the 7 steps, convey a message that his birth signified that humankind had attained an unprecedented level that could liberate it from the pain of ignorance.

The 7 steps symbolize that the Buddha was able to transcend the 6 realms of human experience. By voicing his achievement, the Buddha was declaring that by virtue of being born in the realm of humans, we are able to follow his path to liberation. Each of us has experienced the pain of struggling in the realms of hell, hungry ghosts, beasts, devas, and even gods. Our birth as humans enables us to follow the Buddha’s path of awakening going beyond the other six realms. Shin Buddhism assures us that we experience Shakyamuni’s truth by virtue of the Vow of Bodhisattva Dharmakara.

The path of Jodo Shinshu is told to us, mythologically, as the Bodhisattva Dharmakara makes and fulfills his 48 Vows. The bodhisattva is a being that vows not to become fully awakened to truth until all other beings are rewarded with the same awakening. As he has become Amida Buddha, we are all assured of a similar awakening. And so, the 7th step taken by the infant Buddha represents a truth available to all human beings. Our transcendence is our acceptance of the spiritual realm.

These realms can represent our human existence that result from our karmic actions. Greed, hatred and ignorance are familiar daily themes on the news. The recent anti-Asian acts of violence bring these mythical realms into focus as present life events. Their behavior places their thoughts in the animal realm. By blaming others for their bad fortunes, they admit to their inability to resolve their own issues. This may be problematic for Shin Buddhists as these acts of hatred are not our failures but that of those other people.

The traditional interpretation of Shin emphasizes the Japanese attitude of *gaman* or patience, restraint, and acceptance of a situation. However, this approach resulted in the incarceration of all Japanese-Americans during WWII. Today, 79 years later, the anti-Asian sentiment replicates a

similar dynamic of blame for a condition created by others.

In a recent presentation, Rev. Dr. Ken Tanaka and other contemporary Shin scholars and ministers in Japan are reevaluating the tenor of interpretations of Shinran’s writings. Previous interpretations deemphasized Shinran’s activist’s tendencies. Dr. Tanaka posits three areas characterized as wisdom, authenticity, and social engagement. He cites that wisdom denotes that we do not remain completely ignorant, but do gain some level of wisdom. Authenticity validates that the notion of an individual self does exist. Social engagement notes that Shinran and others displayed their Jodo Shinshu values by engaging in socially relevant activities.

This is a refreshing shift of attitude that can encourage a more active application of Shin values. We are told that the human level is significant because, unlike the other levels, we may overcome the limits of our ignorance. Shinran emphasizes that this awakening occurs more from the efforts of others rather than our own achievement. Impermanence assures us that we do not remain in this elevated state. Our wisdom and compassion are as fleeting as our ignorance and hatred. As we listen to the Dharma, we realize that the wisdom and compassion that we receive could be used in service of helping others. How will others learn of this freedom if we do not share its process.

By sharing Shin values with others in our current lives would be consistent with the newer interpretation of Shinran’s writings. Since we receive the benefits of the Dharma from others, should we not be a source of wisdom and compassion for others? Of course, this would be a most difficult task. Being victims of hatred and violence may make it more difficult to convince oppressors of their harmful ways. Shinran and Honen risked exile and even death to continue to teach the Shin Dharma. This effort may not convince others of this treasure, but our active defense and support of Shin values would make it more real for us.

Trying to convince others of their ignorance and ego-centric tendencies while being aware of our own ego-centric tendencies, would reveal our own inability to transcend ignorance. This realization of our limits is our 7th step. Our transcendence into the spiritual realm can only be provided by the efforts of others. It is a paradox of a deeper truth.

Namo Amida Butsu

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APRIL CALENDAR

During the Buddhist Temple of San Diego's closure, religious and social activities will continue to be offered virtually on the temple's Zoom (Z) live and YouTube (YT) pre-recorded channel video platforms. The temple urges everyone to participate in the virtual activities and share the opportunity with individuals who do not have computer internet access. Here is the April calendar:

3 – Sutra chanting, 1 p.m. (Z)

4 – Dharma School staff meeting, 9 a.m. (Z), Qigong, 9 a.m. (Z)

Shotsuki Hoyo monthly memorial and Dharma messages: English and Japanese (YT)

Dharma School/Family service, 10 a.m. (Z), BWA Meeting, 11 a.m. (Z), Taiko, noon (Z)

6 – Ways and Means meeting, 7 p.m. (Z)

7 – Taiko practice, 6:30 p.m. (Z), Buddhism 1-2-3, 7 p.m. (Z)

8 – **HANAMATSURI** (Sakyamuni Buddha's Birthday)

Board of Directors Meeting, 7 p.m. (Z)

10 – Kiku Gardens/Genki Homecare Meeting, 10 a.m.

Sutra chanting, 1 p.m. (Z), Book Club, 2 p.m. (Z)

11 – **HANAMATSURI SERVICE**, 10 a.m. (Z). Guest speaker: Mr. Koichi Mizushima, BCA Youth Director (pre-recorded message). Register and receive the link for the online service.

Qigong, 9 a.m. (Z), Jr. YBA Meeting, 11 a.m. (Z), Taiko practice, noon (Z)

14 - Taiko practice, 6:30 p.m. (Z), Buddhism 1-2-3, 7 p.m. (Z)

17 – Yasukochi Farms CSA Produce/Ichiban bento fundraisers drive thru pick up, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (parking lot)

Sutra chanting, 1 p.m. (Z)

18 – Qigong, 9 a.m. (Z), Dharma message (YT), Dharma School/Family service, 10 a.m. (Z)

Sangha Teens, 11 a.m. (Z), Taiko practice, noon (Z)

19 – May Bussei Script articles deadline

21 – Taiko practice, 6:30 p.m. (Z), Buddhism 1-2-3, 7 p.m. (Z), Activities meeting, 7 p.m. (Z)

24 – Sutra chanting, 1 p.m. (Z)

FDSTL conference, 1 to 6 p.m. (Z)

25 – Qigong, 9 a.m. (Z), Dharma message (YT), Dharma School/Family service, 10 a.m. (Z), Taiko meeting, noon (Z)

28 – May Bussei Script mailing, 9:30 a.m.

Taiko practice, 6:30 p.m. (Z), Buddhism 1-2-3, 7 p.m. (Z)

The Spanish-language Dharma message, presented by Arturo Rubio, will be posted on the temple's YouTube channel.

Office hours: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday. There is limited staff coverage on weekends. The temple is closed Mondays.

More information: Call the temple at 619-239-0896. Please leave a message if your call is not answered and staff will respond as quickly as possible. Send an email at info@btsd.net or check the BTSD website <http://www.buddhisttemplesandiego.org> for updates.

ACTIVITIES NEWS

As you are reading this report, the Activities group is preparing for the Yasukochi Drive Thru event on April 17. It will be nice to see many of you out there picking up your CSA vegetable/fruit boxes. By now those repeat customers know how nice the items are and how convenient it is having a box of fresh vegetables and fruit to create your favorite meal. For those of you first timers, I hope you will enjoy this experience. The service is available year-round as you will see on the Yasukochi Farms web site when you order. Also, that day will be our mask and bento sale. Many thanks go out to those of you who continue to participate in our events!

Our partnership continues with Ichiban Hillcrest, when you order and mention the Buddhist Temple of San Diego, they will donate 20% of your total order amount to the Temple, a win-win event for everyone. Most all menu items are included in the offer, Happy Hour items and alcohol are omitted. Please see the flyer attached to the March Kaiho for more details. On June 27 is the Temple Golf Tournament at the Riverwalk Golf Course in Mission Valley. There are still spots available so make your reservations today! Non-golfers may be part of the tournament by considering a monetary donation. Forms are available on our website or call the temple to have one mailed to you.

Our group continues to look for options to fund raise, one option is an online "Rummage" sale, more details will be coming out in the near future. As the pandemic restrictions are slowly easing up and because events involve so much planning, we are tentatively scheduling a Temple Furniture sale in August. The sale will be solely furniture, no clothing, housewares, shoes or other items as in past rummage sales.

Lastly on the calendar "coming up" is the Temple's 95th Anniversary!! We do not anticipate having a large event as pre-Covid has been but our committee has come up with many creative ideas from virtual to live to a combination of all! The tentative month for the celebration is October 2021. As with everything, our Sangha and friends health are first and foremost in our considerations.

In Gassho, Glenn Torio and Ann Ong

We thought it would be nice to see what people are doing. Do you have a hobby, or one you've gone back to that you did previously? Has something you're doing given you joy or improved your life over the last year? If you don't mind sharing in the next Kaiho, mail or email a short description of your activities from the last year to BTSD by 4/19.

We're in the midst of a pandemic and we want to know how you've Changed.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By LuAnn Lee, Board President

Sigh of relief as I received my second dose of Pfizer early in March.

I'm feeling more optimistic each day as I hear that more and more of us are getting the vaccine.

It is a balancing act of getting enough people vaccinated to achieve herd immunity before the stronger variants become the dominant strain all while Covid 19 guidelines are relaxing. Although it has been a year of sheltering in our homes, I truly hope we can gather again in a few months. Our re-opening teams will be meeting again in the near future to review CDC, State and Local Covid guidelines and evaluate our safety needs.

In February, Kenji Sensei, Nancy Martinez and I attended the zoom National Council meeting. The theme this year was "Sharing the Dharma Virtually". It was put on by the Bay District which includes Buddhist Temple of Alameda, Berkeley Buddhist Temple, Enmanji Buddhist Temple, Buddhist Temple of Marin, Buddhist Church of Oakland, Palo Alto Buddhist Temple, Buddhist Church of San Francisco, San Mateo Buddhist Temple and Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church. These temples did a great job with providing lots of technical help, organized voting procedures and interesting content for their workshops and services.

The BCA staff and volunteers also did a nice job with the meeting portion and they featured the new Dharma Forward Campaign. This is a program that will grow Shin Buddhism in America and the funds that are raised will go towards Education/Programs, Technology/Outreach, Facilities/Operations and Scholarships/Support. Bishop Harada is focused on outreach and spreading the Dharma to all and encouraged us to share and welcome new people to our temples.

They also updated the BCA website so please visit it for current events and more at <https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/>

Appreciation to Nancy for representing the temple and look for her notes that she shares from the National Council meetings later in the Kaiho.

At the meetings, we were notified about the vandalism at Higashi Honganji and the BCA send a letter of support. Our Board of Directors also voted and approved to send a letter of support and a donation of \$100. Although this attack may not be racially motivated, there is heightened concern over the recent spikes of attacks on the Asian community. In last month's Kaiho, Kenji Sensei reiterated a caution to our members and friends to be mindful of this situation. I recently heard an interview of a young Asian adult in New York, and she said she stopped wearing headphones so she could hear things around her as she walks. Let's all try to be aware of our surroundings.

In closing, we want to give our deepest gratitude to all that

continue to donate to the temple. We were able to roll over the excess donations from last year and use for the first quarter of 2021 but since we will not be having any large fundraiser for the second quarter, the Board has voted to send an appeal letter to help us meet our budget. We know it has been a tough year for some so we understand if you will not be able to give a donation at this time. Please be safe and continue to keep 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/>

In Gassho, LuAnn Lee

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

The Board of Directors met on March 11:

1. Condolences to the families of Minako Nakano, Nobuko Amano, Ruby Yoshida and Miyeko Kinoshita.
2. Thank you to Ken Muraoka for overseeing the landscaping improvements of the Minister's residence front yard. Thank you to Carol Baker for providing Sago palms and other plants. A maintenance agreement was approved for six months and to be reviewed after that time.
3. A donation and a letter of support for the L.A. Higashi Buddhist Temple was approved.
4. The Board approved co-sponsoring the March 27th Bone Marrow Testing drive through for OCBC's Paul Goodman.
5. Monetary Offering Guidelines updates were approved.
6. Affiliated organizations and standing committees provided updates on their activities. The Buddhist Education
7. Committee received several requests for presentations for High School and Community College World Religions classes.



The 2021 BCA National Council Meeting convened on February 20, 25 and 26th.

Like all organizations the BCA had to work creatively with what the pandemic has required of us. The meeting was hosted by the Bay District which did an incredible job developing and coordinating the logistics of a virtual conference.

Rev. Dr. Kenji Akahoshi, Board President LuAnn Lee and Nancy Martinez were BTSD's voting delegates but many of the seminars and the Eitaikyo service were open to all.

There were almost 200 registered delegates; many temples were able to have representatives attend because of the meeting's remote format.

Reports were presented by the Bishop, BCA President, Ministers Association, Center for Buddhist Education, all standing and ad-hoc committees, Districts and Affiliated Organizations. Akahoshi Sensei is a member of the BCA Social Welfare Committee which reported on funding of some of the outreach efforts of member temples and other national or world relief organizations.

The Bishop provided an update on BCA minister candidates status.

Overall, there has been a decline in BCA membership numbers. The BCA is working on diversifying income streams and initiated a new capital campaign Dharma Forward to coordinate fundraising avenues.

Voting delegates approved the 2021 FY Budget, 3 Directors-at-Large, reduced dues for members 30 years and younger, and BCA affiliated organization candidate status for the Young Buddhist Editorial. Issuing a BCA statement of support for the Higashi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple in Los Angeles was also approved.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate. True gratitude to the many volunteers whose effort made the 2021 NCM possible.

Respectfully,
Nancy Martinez

BWA NEWS

This past week, I saw a very heartwarming movie about a young Korean American family trying to make a living in the Ozarks, far away from their California home. The movie, *Minari*, depicts the hardship a young family faced in moving to a desolate area of Arkansas, to forge a life in farming. It reminded me of many things: my mother's family immigrating from Japan and starting a farm in Corinne, Utah in the 1900's, my son and his wife resettling in America after living in Japan for several years, and my own challenges establishing myself in El Cajon as a young teacher in the early 70's. Moving from known to unknown is difficult for so many reasons as depicted in this film. I was fortunate when I first moved here in 1972, the school district, principal, families, and teachers were very friendly and supportive and only wanted a good education for the children we were serving.

Today, I think life has become worse for Asian Americans. I hope that there will be more awareness and understanding of the injustices inflicted upon us due to the last administration's racist comments about Covid 19. It is not easy to go for a walk anymore, without thinking of how to be "street smart" in protecting ourselves. I better understand now how difficult it was for our grandparents and parents who had to deal with this type of hate during and after WW2.

Recently, I visited Temple and saw the beautiful lanterns in the Hondo. I was so impressed with how exquisite the calligraphy painted on each lantern. My daughter-in-law was one of the artists who painted the names on these lanterns. Thank you, Miko, for doing this for our Temple. It is a beautiful tribute and remembrance to those family members who have passed away.

Qigong has been such a wonderful support for so many of us during the pandemic. The weekly exercise and meditation practices has given us a feeling of calmness and serenity to help us with the challenges we face. The conversations which follow are both enjoyable and supportive and helps us feel

closer to one another. A deep feeling of camaraderie and friendship has blossomed because of this workshop. It is open to anyone interested and if you would like to join in on this Sunday morning activity, please email me at

inam4@yahoo.com.

The monthly BWA Book Club continues in full swing. The newest book is called *Kindred* and was written by Octavia Butler. It is a story of a young African American writer who is transported to the segregated south to learn of the struggles her ancestor had faced under slavery. If you are interested in joining the BWA Book Club, it meets the 2nd Sat. of each month at 2 pm. Please contact Sue Moribe if you would like a link to the Zoom meeting. Her email address is Suzbandaid@yahoo.com

Please continue to take good care.

Respectfully submitted,
Mani Ryan

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

On April 4, the Dharma School kicks off the month by inviting our friends from the Vista Buddhist Temple Dharma School to our Zoom service. Our students are excited and can't wait to interact with Vista's students and teachers.

Dharma School looks forward to celebrating Hanamatsuri, birth of the Buddha, on Sunday, April 11 with the entire Sangha on Zoom. Mr. Koichi Mizushima, BCA Youth Director, will give a message to the students. All students may pick up their Hanamatsuri craft project kit at the temple prior to April 11.

At the end of the month, our DS teachers and staff will participate and attend the 2021 FDSTL Conference, hosted by the Southern District. The theme for the conference is "Meeting the Challenges of Today's Dharma School."

In Gassho,
Lisa Umekubo



SCRIP NEWS

March madness is upon us and with the San Diego State Aztecs in the NCAA tournament it will give us all someone for whom to root, So "Go Aztecs!"

For those of you who would like to order gift cards, there are a number of ways to do so. You can call the temple Tuesday thru Friday and place your order with Linda. You can make arrangements with Linda to let you know when they are at the temple and ready for pick up and you to pick up and pay or you can ask tell Linda that you will be sending a check (please include a little extra for postage) and would like your gift cards mailed to you. You can also send your order with your check to the temple with directions on pick up. For those of you mailing checks-always take your mail to the post office and mail them inside to be safe.

Gift card sales have been on-going, and many people feel safer using them instead of cash. The pandemic is still going on so please remain vigilant. Please stay safe and healthy and hopefully we'll be able to see one another soon.

APRIL SHOTSUKI (MONTHLY MEMORIAL) LIST

The Temple and Sangha offers sincere condolences to the family and friends of:



Karen Kawasaki ~ -Jan. 1, 2021

Hatsumi Oto ~ -Feb., 2, 2021

Ruby Yoshida ~ -Feb. 3, 2021

Miyeko Kinoshita ~ Feb. 17, 2021

Nobuko Amano ~ -Feb., 20, 2021

Minako Nakano ~ -Feb., 20, 2021

This month's memorial service will be posted to the temple's YouTube channel on Sunday, April 4. Families and friends of anyone who passed away in April are urged to view the video, burn incense at your home O Butsudan and Gassho in memory of your deceased loved ones. Please share the video and Dharma messages with family members and friends who do not have access to the internet. If you find an error, wish to add a name to the list or receive the link for the YouTube video, please contact the temple at (619) 239-0896 or email info@btsd.net Gassho.

DECEASED

FAMILY MEMBER

Toyosaburo Yanagihara (4-23-1930)..... Yanagihara Family
 Saburo Sugiyama (4-10-1936) Sugiyama Family
 Seihaichi Tsurudome (4-2-1943) Tamio Tsurudome
 Shizuko Kasubuchi (4-27-1947) Naoye Kasubuchi
 Masaichi Kuroda (4-30-1948) Toshio Kuroda
 Yoshitaro Matsumoto (4-19-1952) Eiji Matsumoto
 Yukichi Okuma (4-16-1953) Okuma Family
 Yohichiro Torio (4-24-1954) Betty Torio
 Hiromi Moribe (4-26-1954) Lee Moribe
 Mansaku Shinohara (4-6-1956)..... Shinohara Family
 Yoshiko Haseyama (4-5-1958) Noboru Haseyama
 Saburo Oyama (4-5-1963) Oyama Family
 George Kozuma (4-9-1966) Tomiko Kozuma
 Shinzaemon Fujii (4-28-1967)..... Katsumi Kida
 Shizuyo Izumo (4-1-1970) Yanagihara Family
 Ume Inouye (4-10-1970) Inouye Family
 Iwaguma Tsuneyoshi (4-9-1973) Motoo Tsuneyoshi
 Buheiji Tanaka (4-12-1975)..... Yoko Ozawa
 Hajime Kyutoku (4-10-1978) Tamio Tsurudome
 Ryohei Tsujimura (4-5-1980) Roy Tsujimura
 Kuzo Sugiyama (4-23-1980)..... Sugiyama Family
 Magoichi Hamano (4-3-1983) Toru Hamano
 Isao Imaizumi (4-27-1983) Imaizumi Family
 Kazumi Sugioka (4-29-1985)..... Sugioka Family
 George Yukio Kodama (4-19-1986)..... Vivianne Jones
 Chiyo Yamagata (4-27-1987) Harold Yamagata
 Mike Hagio (4-7-1988) Quimico Hagio
 Frank Tachiki (4-6-1989) Les Tachiki
 Terry T. Doi (4-28-1989) Patrick Doi
 Mine Takeshita (4-27-1991) Takeshita Family
 Zenbei Iwashita (4-11-1992)..... Iwashita Family
 Benso Tsuji (4-6-1993) Laura Katsue Tsuji

DECEASED

FAMILY MEMBER

Setsugo Taniguchi (4-14-1993) Wilbur Takashima
 Yoshiko Sueyoshi (4-2-1995)..... Sueyoshi Family
 Shizuko Yanagihara (4-30-1995)..... Yanagihara Family
 Ai Yamada (4-27-1996)..... Keisuke Yamada
 James Kasubuchi (4-12-1998) Naoye Kasubuchi
 Muneo Torimaru (4-30-1998)..... Ricky Torimaru
 Hazel Ito (4-13-2000) Ito Family
 Shigenori Tsurudome (4-30-2000)..... Tsurudome Family
 Taro Matsui (4-29-2001) Matsui Family
 Kenshi Tachiki (4-30-2001)..... Lewis Tachiki
 Haruko Muraoka (4-13-2002) Takenori Muraoka
 Yoshiko Takashima (4-21-2002)..... Wilbur Takashima
 Shinichi Okuyama (4-07-2003) Mai Kawaguchi
 Kosaburo Ochi (4-27-2004)..... Emi Ochi
 Toshio Hayakawa (4-11-2005) Emiko Hayakawa
 Yoshiko Miyazaki (4-29-2005)..... Madoko M. Miyazaki
 Armando Leal (4-11-2006)..... Rubio Family
 Kaneko Houdek (4-09-2006) John Houdek
 Kikuo Uyeji (4-21-2006)..... Chieko Takeguchi
 Kattie Magotsugu Uyeji (4-15-2007) Masako Uyeji
 Hidetoshi Akiyama (4-25-2007) Terry Akiyama
 Masao Santohigashi (4-06-2008)..... Kiku Graeber
 Judi Shigeko Shinohara (4-18-2009)..... Janice Shinohara
 Shimako Uda (4-26-2009) Georgiana Uda
 Setsuko Himaka (4-24-2011)..... Lynn Fuchigami
 Earl Isoki Osaki (4-21-2013) Gail Furuya
 Robert C. McDonald Bruce McDonald
 Kazuo Kiyono (4-6-2014) Norman Kiyono
 James Noboru Nakashima (4-7-2014) Tomoye Nakashima
 George Tachiki (4-22-2014) Miyako Tachiki
 Hiro Tsurudome (4-19-2015)..... Joanne Tsurudome Garcia
 Mildred Pocock (4-2016)..... Pocock Family

M E M O R I A L S E R V I C E S

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 for and acknowledge their continuing influence in our lives. If you wish to schedule a memorial service for a loved one, please call during weekly office hours.

2021 is the memorial year for those who passed away in:

1st Year Memorial	2020	13th Year Memorial	2009	27th Year Memorial	1995
3rd Year Memorial	2019	17th Year Memorial	2005	33rd Year Memorial	1989
7th Year Memorial	2015	25th Year Memorial	1997	50th Year Memorial	1972

The Buddhist Temple of San Diego is grateful to the following individuals for their recent donations to the Temple and its affiliated organizations. "IMO" means "In memory of." For a correction, please inform us at (619) 239-0896 or info@btsd.net. List is through March 19.

BUDDHIST TEMPLE

Guiang Family -
John's 88th Birthday
Shigehara, Wilbur &
Janice
IMO Miyeko Kinoshita
Ryan, Mani - February
Honda, Mikiye - Calendar
Otsuji, Dennis & Elaine
IMO Roy Yonekura
IMO Chieko Moriyama
Himaka, Gary & Karen - In
honor of Yukiko Sugiyama
100th Birthday - 2/15/21
Yoshida, Laura
IMO Ruby Yoshida
Gladsjo, Julie
Yanagihara, Sumiko

COVID-19

Sasaki, Brian & Lorin
Sasaki, Brian & Lorin

DHARMA SCHOOL

Hosaka, June
Tsuneyoshi, Motoo &
Angie
Hill, Miyo
Seymour, Leslie
Negoro, Glenn
Yamamoto, June
Ring, Linda
Tanizaki, Gary
Ochi, K Kay
Ohara, Ann
Ota Family
Kaneko, Richard & Ruth
Kashima, Jeanie
Yamamoto, Koichi & Joyce
Smith, Maribeth "Smitty"
& Jacki Goor
Yoshioka, Caitlin & Brian
Isakari, Henry & Marcia
Nakatani, Fred & Nancy

FLORIAL OFFERING

Tsuneyoshi, Motoo &
Angie
Hill, Miyo
Kida, Katsumi
Seymour, Leslie
Negoro, Glenn
Yamamoto, June
Ring, Linda
Ochi, K Kay
Ohara, Ann
Ota Family
Kaneko, Richard & Ruth
Yamamoto, Koichi & Joyce
Smith, Maribeth "Smitty"
& Jacki Goor
Yoshioka, Caitlin & Brian
Isakari, Henry & Marcia
Nakatani, Fred & Nancy

GENERAL MAINTENANCE

Tsuneyoshi, Motoo
Hill, Miyo
Kida, Katsumi
Seymour, Leslie
Negoro, Glenn
Yamamoto, June

Ring, Linda
Ochi, K Kay
Ohara, Ann
Ota Family
Kaneko, Richard & Ruth
Yamamoto, Koichi & Joyce
Smith, Maribeth "Smitty"
& Jacki Goor
Yoshioka, Caitlin & Brian
Isakari, Henry & Marcia
Nakatani, Fred & Nancy

HANAMATSURI

Ryan, Mani and
Yamaguchi, Laura
Hidinger, Holly
Hill, Miyo
Ohara, Ann
Ota Family, Ken & Laurine
Kaneko, Richard & Ruth

HO ONKO

Ota Family, Ken & Laurine

MAP (Ministers Assist)

Kawamoto, David H
Tanaka, Kelvin & Lara
Tomiyama, Sayoko
Yamanishi, Miyoko
Hidinger, Holly
Tsuneyoshi, Motoo &
Angie
Hill, Miyo
Ohara, Ann
Ota Family, Ken & Laurine
Kaneko, Richard & Ruth
Ochi-Fontanott, Janet
Yamamoto, Koichi & Joyce
Smith, Maribeth "Smitty"
Yoshioka, Caitlin and Brian
Isakari, Henry & Marcia
Nakatani, Fred & Nancy

MEMBERSHIP PLEDGES

Kawai, Noriko
Rubio-Torres, Arturo
Negoro, Glenn
Yokotobi, Fusako
Hosaka, June
Tsuneyoshi, Motoo &
Angie
Hill, Miyo
Kida, Katsumi
Yamamoto, June
Ring, Linda
Tanizaki, Gary
Moribe, Susan & Lee
Maruyama, Karly
Kaneshiro, Gale
Ochi, K Kay
Ohara, Ann
Liss, Kathryn Moriyama
Ota, Ken, Laurine, Grant
And Tomiya Ota
Kaneko, Richard & Ruth
Kashima, Jeanie
Fuchigami, Stephen P &
Lynn
Sumida-Johnson, Ann &
Edward
Amano, Takeko
Ochi-Fontanott, Janet

Yamamoto, Koichi & Joyce
Kuwada, Howard Kanji &
Kaneko
Sakai, Jeffery & Kathy
Baker, Carol & Mike
Smith, Maribeth "Smitty"
& Jacki Goor
Yoshioka, Caitlin & Brian
Isakari, Henry & Marcia
Nakatani, Fred & Nancy
Seymour, Leslie
Azuma, Adam

MOCHI GOME

Hidinger, Holly

NEW YEAR'S DAY

Sumida, Kathleen & Floyd
Ochi-Fontanott, Janet
Spears, Margo
Tsukamoto, Wayne
Kawasaki, Kiyoshi & Aileen
Moncrief, Mayko
Hill, Miyo
Kawamoto, Mitsuko
Ohara, Ann
Ota Family, Ken & Laurine

NIRVANA DAY SERVICE

Sumida, Kathleen & Floyd
Shigehara, Wilbur & Janice
Honda, Ralph & Avis
Hendrix, Hiroko
Suyenaga, Irene
Jones, Mikako
Yamamoto, Jane
Masumoto, Chiyoko
Nogata, Yuriko
Moncrief, Mayko
Otsuji, Dennis & Elaine
Kodama, Jay
Hashiguchi, John & Tsune
Tanaka, Kelvin
Sugiyama, Yukiko
Graeber, Kiku
Kuwada, Howard Kanji &
Kaneko
Estes, Toshiye
Kashima, Jeanie
Yanagihara, Sumiko
Hidinger, Holly
Okuhara, Roy & Karen
Kawasaki, Mildred & Trace
Ohara, Fumiko
D'Orsi, Ruby
Hill, Miyo
Kida, Katsumi
Tomiyama, Steve & Aki
Kawamoto, Mitsuko
Tsukamoto, Wayne
Kawasaki, Kiyoshi & Aileen
Torio, Betty
Yamanishi, Miyoko
Ohara, Ann
Aoyama, K. Alice
Ota Family, Ken & Laurine
Honda, Mikiye
Koga, Florence
Nakatani, Nancy
Yamamoto, Koichi & Joyce
Sakai, Jeffery & Kathy

OHIGAN SERVICE

Hidinger, Holly
Hill, Miyo
Ohara, Ann
Ota Family, Ken & Laurine
Kashima, Jeanie
Honda, Ralph & Avis
Torio, Betty
Tanaka, Kelvin & Lara
Kodama, Jay & family
Shigehara, Wilbur &
Janice
Suyenaga, Irene
Nogata, Yuriko & Sumihiro
Yamamoto, Kengo & Mae
Moncrief, Mayko
Nakamura, Jake K & Patty
Otsuji, Dennis & Elaine
Hendrix, Hiroko
Gladsjo, Julie
Kuwada, Howard Kanji &
Kaneko
Yanagihara, Sumiko
Masumoto, Chiyoko
Yamamoto, Jane
Jones, Mikako & Morton
Yamamoto, Koichi & Joyce
Estes, Carol
Oto, June
Martinez, Nancy
Tomiyama, Steve & Aki
Tsukamoto, Wayne
Moribe, Susan & Lee
Kawasaki, Kiyoshi & Aileen
Sakai, Jeffery & Kathy
Hashiguchi, John & Tsune
Tsuji, Masako
Sumida, Floyd & Kaytee
Sugiyama, Yukiko
Yanagihara, Sumiko
Okuhara, Roy & Karen
Yamanishi, Miyoko
SCHOLARSHIP FUND
Tsuneyoshi, Motoo
Hill, Miyo
Seymour, Leslie
Negoro, Glenn
Yamamoto, June
Ring, Linda
Tanizaki, Gary
Ochi, K Kay
Ohara, Ann
Liss, Kathryn Moriyama
Ota Family
Kaneko, Richard & Ruth
Yamamoto, Koichi & Joyce
Ochi-Fontanott, Janet
Kashima, Jeanie
Yoshioka, Caitlin & Brian
Isakari, Henry & Marcia
Nakatani, Fred & Nancy
SHOTSUKI HOYO
Takashima, Wilbur & Iris
IMO Hisaichi Taniguchi
IMO Tetsuyo Kashima
Honda, Ralph & Avis
Kashima, Jeanie - 25 Yr.
IMO Tetsuyo Kashima
Masumoto, Chiyoko

IMO Yuki Masumoto
Yagura, Ronald
IMO Iwao Yagura
Ohara, Fumi
Hidinger, Holly
IMO Hideo Ochi - July
IMO Kiyoko Ochi - Aug.
Hill, Miyo
IMO Jon Konishi - Jan.
IMO Koyoshi Nakamura -
February
IMO Minoru Nakamura -
June
IMO Kinjiro Nakamura -
August
IMO Yoshiko Nakamura -
November
Yamanishi, Miyoko
Ohara, Ann
IMO Kisae Ohara - Oct.
IMO Takeyoshi Ohara -
Nov
Ryan, Mani
IMO Ron Nishinaga
Honda, Mikiye - February
Kawasaki, Kiyoshi & Aileen
March
Himaka, Michio & Naomi
IMO Osao Himaka
IMO Patsy Yanagihara
IMO Suma Shimada
Koga, Florence
IMO Mary Sugimoto
IMO Eikichi Ishisaki
IMO Bill Koga - January
Tanizaki, Gary
IMO Mariko Tanizaki
Nakatani, Nancy & Fred
IMO Yoshiko Kawato
IMO Susumu Kawato
Honda, Mikiye - March
Torio, Betty - March
Suyenaga, Irene
Amano, Takeko - March
IMO Sam Amano
Otsuji, Dennis & Elaine
IMO Haruhiko Otsuji
IMO Ayako Otsuji
Yanagihara, Sumiko - Mar.
Estes, Carol
IMO Michael Kawamoto
IMO Fred Nabeta
Oto, June
IMO Motono Oto
Yagura, Ronald & Sheila
IMO Mary Yagura
Martinez, Nancy
IMO Fred Nabeta
IMO Shimenon Nabeta
IMO Mas Yoshioka
Inouye, Jeanne M.
IMO Fred Nabeta
IMO Shimenon Nabeta
IMO Ben Sekishiro
Yanagihara, Sumiko - Mar.
IMO Masaru Yanagihara
IMO Senkichi Yanagihara
IMO Hideo Watamura
Yamanishi, Miyoko - Mar.

— 信心の白道を歩む —

信心 びやくどう あゆ
駐在開教使 向嶋裕史

先月、ご講師に宮村ロン先生をお迎えして、春の彼岸会法要をお勤めしました。多くのご門徒と共に彼岸を意味する極楽浄土を目指して歩む人生の旅路について改めて学ばせていただく大変素晴らしいご法縁でありました。また、法要後のセミナーでは、宮村先生から浄土真宗のみ教を分かり易く譬えた「二河白道」のお話しを紹介していただき、阿弥陀仏のご本願の心を深く味わわせていただきました。

「二河白道」とは、七高僧の一人である善導大師（六一三年～六八一年）が説かれた『観無量寿経疏』の中にでてくる大変有名なお話ですが、今月は、このお話しを、今一度味わってみたいと思います。

ある旅人が荒野を西に向かって一人で旅をしています。すると、旅人の背後に盗賊や猛獣がどこからともなく現れ一斉に襲いかかってくる。旅人は「殺される！」と覚り、必死に西へと走り出します。すると二つの河が行く手をさえぎります。一つは、激しく荒れ狂う水の河もう一つは激しく燃え盛る火の河です。そして、二つの河の間には白道が向こう岸に向かって続いていますが、幅はわずか十五センチ程しかないうえ、激しい波と炎につつまれてとても渡れそうにありません。

逃げ道を失った旅人は、ただ死の恐怖に怯えていきます。すると、東岸から「汝、まっすぐこの道を進んでゆくとよい。決して死ぬことはない。もしそこにいたなら死を免れることはない」という白道を勧める声が聞こ

え、同時に西岸から「汝、安心して、わき目を振らず、ためらわず、まっすぐに進んできなさい。私がついてい

る。何の心配もない」という喚び声が聞こえてきます。その二つの声に導かれて無心で歩いてみると、その細い道は、実は激しい波にも燃え盛る炎にも妨げられない大道でありました。そして旅人はその白道を無事に渡りきり、待ち受けていた良き友人と限りない安らぎを得たのです。以上が、「二河白道」のあらましです。

このお話は、浄土教の信心を譬喻を用いて明らかにされたものです。まず、東の岸とは、恐れと不安に満ちた迷いの世界、即ち、今私達が住んでいる世界。一方、西の岸とは、光といのち極みなき悟りの世界、お浄土を表しています。また、旅人は迷いの世界に生きる私自身を表し、襲い来る盗賊などは真実を捻じ曲げてしか物事を見ることのできない愚痴（愚かな心）を表しています。更に、水の河は、貪欲（貪りの心）、そして、火の河は瞋恚（怒りの心）を表しています。白道とはお念仏の道であり、水と火を取り去っていく道ではありませんが、何ものにも妨げられることのない確かな道です。そして、背後から響く東の聲は、この世の仏、お釈迦さまのみ教であり、西岸から聞こえる声は、お浄土の仏、阿弥陀仏のご本願のお喚び声なのです。

ここで注目すべきところは、阿弥陀仏のご本願の喚び声というの、極楽浄土の世界から手招きしながらの喚び声ではなく、私の眼前に白道となって真実の世界へ導いて下さっている「南無阿弥陀仏」のお念仏を表しているということです。

一九八二年、エア・フロリダ九〇便がワシントンDC郊外のポトマック川に墜落した事故を覚えていらっしゃいますか？多くの乗客は一瞬にして犠牲になりましたが、ほんの数人は凍りついた川に投げ出されて救助を待っていました。その時、凍てつく氷の上で憔悴している一人の女性に、ヘリコプターから浮き輪が投げ下ろさ

れました。その女性は無我夢中で浮き輪を手にするのですが、しがみつく力は既に残っておらず、すぐに浮き輪から手を放してしまい溺れ始めました。その時、一人の男性が川岸から飛び込んで泳いでいき、彼女をしつかり抱きかかえて岸に運んで救助しました。事故の惨事もさることながら、彼の勇気ある行為は新聞やテレビを通して世界中に広まり賞賛されました。当時、私は一〇歳でしたが、その光景をテレビで見て大変感動したのを今でも鮮明に覚えています。

浮き輪を投げてもそれにしがみつく気力も体力もな

い人に、岸から本人のところへ泳いで近づき、抱きかかえて助ける。ここに本當の救いの姿があると思

います。それは、まさに、阿弥陀仏の救いそのものです。それは、決して浮き輪を与えるようなものではありません。浮き輪にすがりつく力もない、全くの無力のものところまでいつて抱きかかえて救うのです。煩惱の海に沈んでいる凡夫の私を浄土の悟りへ導く為、阿弥陀仏が私のところまで来て、私をしつかり抱きかかえて救って下さるはたらきが本願念仏の白道となって表されていくのです。

ですから、たとえ、毎日が貪りと怒りの水と火に覆われる私であっても、恐れることなく、逆らうことなく、

良き人の仰せのままに白道、お念仏の道を歩ませてください。これが信心の白道と云います。

「二河白道」の譬えは、迷いの世界で煩惱の炎に身を焦がす私が、お念仏と共に人生の不安や苦悩を乗り越えながら、真実の世界へ向かって安らかに力強く生き抜いていく道が説かれているのです。

この度の彼岸会法要を通して、「ためらわず進めよ」、「安心して来なさい」という二尊の仰せを聞かせていただいた今、何ものをも恐れることなく、信心の白道—お念仏の道を共に歩ませてくださいませよう！

Buddhist Education in April

Temple Welcomes Koichi Mizushima,
Guest Speaker for Hanamatsuri

Let's get together for Hanamatsuri, Even if only by Zoom!

Bill Teague, Chair, Buddhist Education Committee



We are now preparing for our Hanamatsuri Service to be held by Zoom on Sunday, April 11, from about 9:45 a.m. to about 11 a.m.

Zoom Logins Available!

We will send out a blanket email so you can sign up online for receiving the login information, and you can also call the Temple to request the information. Based on experience so far, we think there will be enough logins for everyone.

The Best Thing about Zoom Is Getting to See Each Other!

We encourage you to log in early, just as you might come to a Hanamatsuri Service early. In lieu of constructing a Hanamido (a flower shrine for the infant Buddha), we are asking Temple members to send us photos of their flowers in their garden or on their Obutsudan (shrine). We will do a slide show of these photos along with some images of Hanamidos in the past. The service is expected to start formally at 10 a.m., with Rev. Maribeth Smith as Chair, and Rev. Dr. Kenji Akahoshi as officiant.

Following the service, we will have breakout rooms so you can socialize with other Sangha members.



About Koichi Mizushima

For our Hanamatsuri Service, we welcome **Koichi Mizushima**, Ministerial Assistant, at the **Buddhist Church of Sacramento Hongwanji Betsuin**. Koichi is married to Janet Mizushima and has long been dedicated to the BCA and his Temple. It's likely you know or have seen

Koichi through his ongoing efforts to support CBE videos on the technology front or in even more charming videos, of the many videos of he and daughter Ellie singing, usually with Koichi Ellie's lovely singing voice.

One of the first Dharma School services we held here took advantage of a video they made over ten years ago? Ellie was a tyke with a great voice, natural and engaging presence, and infectious joy in singing. It was a simple popular song, "Count on Me," with Dad playing ukulele and adding his voice to the chorus in harmony. On our Website, we will post links to some of these videos. Ellie is now in High School, and they continue dropping music videos.

Starting decades ago, Koichi stepped into active roles at both his Temple and the BCA for decades. He joined the staff at the BCA's Center for Buddhist Education in 1998 and continues in that role today. At the Betsuin, he was a Dharma School teacher from 1997 to 2003, re-established their Jr. YBA program in 1998, and became a ministerial assistant in 2003.

His dedication to the Dharma continues at both the Temple and BCA level. At the BCA he took on the role of Youth Coordinator in 2018. At his Temple he was most recently Program Director for five years ending in 2019.

Earlier in his life he owned and operated Japanese restaurants in partnerships, including Taiko Sushi, Osaka Sushi, and Komon. All told he was in the restaurant business for almost 20 years, starting soon after his graduation from U.C. Davis with a Bachelor's Degree in Economics Management in 1995.

His hobbies include an occasional game of Texas Hold 'Em, movies and musical comedies, and allowing the family dog Duke to occasionally cameo in of his and Ellie's musical videos.

Membership Update

Bill Teague, Membership Chair

We hope you've visited the Members Only part of the website – if you are a member and need the login, just contact me (btcomms@cox.net) or the Temple. New is that the Status Check section now lists members who have explicitly renewed as of last week.

What Does It Mean if Your Name is Listed?

This shows that we have explicitly processed a membership renewal that you sent in for 2021. You are a member in good standing! But if you don't see your name, you may still be good.

What Does It Mean if Your Name Does Not Appear?

First, you may be subject to auto-renewal or tend to renew later in the year. Or through human error we did not capture your renewal. In either case, don't worry! If you visit the page of listed renewals and don't see your name and have a question, use the email options mentioned in the first paragraph.