



Temple Reflections

Temple Reflections

A TSDBT Monthly Publication

Inside this issue:

Rev. Imada's messages	1 2
Dharma School's Hanamatsuri	2
Cherry Blossom Planning Plea	3
Sakura Foundation Update	3
February Offerings	4
Hatsumairi Notice	4
April Shotsuki names	5
Temple Condolences	5
BWA News	6

Volume XLI, Issue 4

April 2021

All Lives Are Equal and Precious

by Rev. Noritaka Imada

Whether you look at the sky or the ground, You are the only one who is "you", all lives are equal and precious. These are the words that Buddha uttered when he was born. The season of Hanamatsuri has come this year; Hanamatsuri is a Buddhist event that celebrates the birth of Buddha, offering beautiful flowers and pouring sweet tea over the statue of Baby Shakyamuni Buddha.

So everyone, do you remember when you were born? Did you say anything right after you were born? Did you say "Wah-wah!", "Ogya-a!" or "Hi mommy, I am your baby. Nice to see you"?

Actually, I don't remember what I shouted when I was born. But, as I grew up, people around me said, "You were born!" or "You really grew up fast!" and the day came when I realized, "Ah, I was born."

We can say that we are living an entrusting life. Because I didn't even realize "I was born" until someone taught me. Nevertheless, as I grow up, it turns into a self-centered life. Babies don't say "I want to be born in Japan", "I want to be born in America", "I want to be born a man" or "I want to be born a woman". However, without being aware of it, the ego grows and the humans are becoming more self-centered in this world.

When Shakyamuni Buddha was born, he said that "Even if you look at the sky or the ground, You are the only one who is "you", all lives are equal and precious." Many things happen every day in our lives. There are various things that happen unexpectedly, such as happy things, and sometimes inconvenient things. Even if I wish "I wish this happened" or "I wish it didn't happen", there are many things that don't go as planned. The Buddha tells us that it is the cause of human suffering. He teaches us that letting go of these wishes is a way to live comfortably.

Whenever there is an encounter, there is a farewell. When we are born, there will always be a day to finish human life. Everything changes rapidly, which is called "Syo Gyo Mu Jyo" in Buddhism. It is decided that the moment of birth, the life will end someday. Birth always includes happiness and sadness. Amida Buddha is a Buddha who wraps all the joys and sufferings together and also illuminates the human's good and bad parts. We may often wonder why we encounter suffering, but let's also feel the joy of encountering the teaching of Buddhism. And walk the path of Nembutsu with all our Dharma Friends.

Namo Amida Butsu

APRIL SERVICES

Sunday, April 4, 2021
9:30 am ZOOM service
10 am Dharma School
YouTube service online

Sunday, April 11, 2021
Hanamatsuri Service
9:30 am ZOOM service
10 am Dharma School
11:30 am Brighton Zoom
YouTube service online

Sunday, April 18, 2021
9:30 am ZOOM service
10 am Dharma School
YouTube service online
11:30 am TSDBT BoardMtg

Sunday, April 25, 2021
April Shotsuki Service
9:30 am ZOOM services
10 am Dharma School
YouTube service online



皆様、こんにちは。今年も花祭りの時期がやってまいりました。花祭りはお釈迦様の誕生を祝う仏教行事で、綺麗な花をお供えしたり、お釈迦様の像に甘茶をかけたりしてお祝いします。

花といえばこんな言葉があります。「散る桜、残る桜も散る桜」桜は咲いた瞬間から、やがて散りゆく命を生きています。人間も同じように生まれた瞬間から老いて、時には病にかかり、いつかは命を終えていきます。

皆様は自分が生まれた時のことを覚えておられますでしょうか。大きな声で「オギャー」と言いましたでしょうか。私自身、生まれた時に何と叫んだかは覚えておりませんが、大きくなるにつれて周りから「あなたは生まれたのよ」と言われ「ああ私は生まれたのか」と気付く日がきました。私は「おまかせの命」を生きているにも関わらず、いつのまにか成長し大きくなるにつれて、「私が、私が」という自己中心的な命を生きていくようになっていきます。赤ちゃんは「日本人に生まれたかった」「アメリカ人に生まれたかった」とか「男に生まれたかった」「女に生まれたかった」とは言いませんね。しかしいつのまにか、自我が芽生え、世界を自己中心的に見るようになっていくのです。

お釈迦様は生まれた時に「天上天下唯我独尊」つまり、空を見ても地面を見ても、私という存在はただ一人しかいない。これはとても尊い事だ。と仰いました。この世界を生きている多くの命たちは、誰一人として同じ存在はなく、一人一人が同じように尊いのだ、という言葉です。

人生には毎日いろんな事が起こります。予想もしない嬉しい事が起きたり、時には、なぜこんな目に遭わないといけないのかというような都合の悪い事が起きたりと様々です。「こうなったら良いな」または「こうならなければ良いな」ということを願っていても、思い通りにはいかない事が多々あります。仏さまは、それこそが私たちの苦しみの原因であると教えてくれています。これらを手放す事が楽に生きる秘訣であると教えてくださっています。出会いがあれば必ず別れがあります。生まれたのなら、必ず命を終える日があります。全てのことはめまぐるしく移ろいゆくものである、これを仏教の言葉で諸行無常と言いますね。

生まれた瞬間に、その命が終わる事も決まっている。誕生は、喜びも悲しみも含んでいるのです。阿弥陀仏という仏さまは、人間の喜びも苦しみも、良い部分も悪い部分も全てを照らして包み込んで下さる仏さまです。なぜこんな目に遭うのかという事もよくあるかもしれませんが、仏教という教えに遇う事ができた喜びも噛み締めながら、お念仏の道を歩ませて頂きましょう。

南無阿弥陀仏



Celebrate Hanamatsuri with Dharma School Students

April 8th marks Buddha's birthday; here at TSDBT we celebrate this momentous occasion as Hanamatsuri (flower festival) with an elaborate service followed by a potluck luncheon and children's program. In keeping with the overriding theme of this newsletter – Covid19 restrictions prevent such a celebration for a second year in a row.

This year Dharma School will be hosting a virtual Hanamatsuri program – while Dharma school kids may not be appearing on an auditorium stage, you will be able to see everyone in a framed 'TV' screen. We hope you will join us on Zoom following the regularly scheduled service on April the 11th. The Zoom link will be available in the weekly bulletin that is distributed by the Temple ministers via email. If you are not receiving these weekly notices, please notify me at dbtdharmaschool@gmail.com; your email address will be added to the Dharma School grouping.

Dharma School students and teachers are currently creating special presentations to share with the Sangha. Virtual learning seems to have released our kids' creativity, energy and personality in new ways and we love this opportunity to engage with the rest of the Sangha. All Sangha members are invited to stay online following the program to wish one another a Happy Hanamatsuri.

The annual Cherry Blossom Festival (CBF) is the temple's major fund raiser and is critical to supporting the temple's programs and activities.

At the TSDBT General Meeting in February it was announced that Sakura Square will not be hosting the outdoor Cherry Blossom Festival festivities (entertainment and vendor plaza) due to the many unknowns of Covid-19 restrictions. Therefore, CBF Committee Chairs are meeting to re-imagine the other elements of the Temple's Cherry Blossom Festival 2021.

The Chairs would like your ideas and comments regarding different types of activities which you would support, through participation and/or volunteer labor. Some Committee ideas include:

- * food/bentos for pick-up and perhaps delivery
- * raffle
- * Fukubukuro (mystery grab bags)
- *

Any activity will require volunteer support from the sangha and community. i.e. can you help cook? Package? Can you shop for supplies or food? Can you take and track orders? Can you help with set-up? Clean-up?

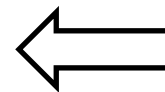
We are also looking for other fundraising opportunities/events to attain this year's temple budget goals. Some additional ideas are:

- * A website designed to support an online Nikkei Treasures fundraiser, a Temple raffle and/or a Silent Auction
- * Food/Bento such as manju, sushi and other offerings
- * Casino Nights
- * Bingo
- * Shred-a-thon
- * Golf Tournament

All of these are excellent ideas but we need PEOPLE to help lead, organize and support the efforts. WE NEED YOU TO STEP UP AND BE COUNTED!!! If you have ideas or would like to lead/contribute to any effort please contact:

Gayle Goto ggoto@comcast.net, 303-594-5839

Joni Sakaguchi (jsak5280@centurylink.net, 303-921-4064



Or, you can leave your name and phone contact number on the Temple voicemail 303 295-1844; this information will be forwarded to Gayle and Joni.

Community Update from Sakura Foundation

Happy Spring from Sakura Foundation! We hope you are well and optimistic about 2021. With the challenges of the pandemic, Sakura Foundation made adjustments and remained flexible in order to continue to make a positive impact on our community and live our mission. We are pleased to share our [2020 Community Report](https://sakurafoundation.org/2020-community-report/) (OR <https://sakurafoundation.org/2020-community-report/>) with you which provides an overview of our activities and programming. If you would like to receive a hard copy, please contact Stacey Shigaya at 303.951.4486 and provide your name and mailing address.

Sakura Foundation continues its support of youth in the JA community through its **Scholarship Program**. To date we have awarded more than \$57,000 in scholarships to graduating high school seniors through the Japanese American Community Graduation Program. This year, we will award two TS/DBT-Sakura Foundation Scholarships and one Sakura Foundation Community Scholarship. Deadline to apply is March 26, 2021. Please visit <https://jacgp.com/> for details.

Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temples gratefully acknowledges
Donations and offerings received from February 1, 2021 – February 28, 2021

In memory of Tadao Yamashita – 13th yr

Fumiko Yamashita
Gary & Debbie Yamashita

HoOnko service

Jack & Alice Kimura
Kenzo & Shirley Horiuchi
Manabu & Junko Kimura

Nehan E service

Sayoko Takata
Richard & Michi Yoshida
Jack & Alice Kimura

Donation

Matthew Ford
Norman Nakamoto Conservatorship
Shirley Tsuchimoto



February Shotsuki

Mary Matsubara
Mutsu Osaki
Fumiko Yamashita
Alice Mizuno

in memory of

Charles Matsubara
Kuniko Osaki
Tom Yamashita
Yoshio Arakawa, James Mizuno, George Yago

Donation

Clyde & Judy Nitta
Ronald, Georgia&Duane Noriyuki
Sato Family
Family of Betty Wong
Nancy Ohama
Ken & Amy Inouye.....
Alyssa Nilemo.....
Tom T. Urano, Jr.....
Phyllis Kajiwara
Evelyn, Michael & Richard Hara
Tom T. Urano, Jr.
Alice Mizuno
Mark & Christine Yamasaki
Paul Horiuchi

in memory of

December Shotsuki; Kazuma Nitta
our parents, Sam & Amy Noriyuki
January Shotsuki; Joe Tsuyoshi Sato
memorial & burial; Betty Wong
Mary Matsubara
osaisen
Pet Hoji; Jack
Tamai Sensei Memorial
Betty Kajiwara
Kiyoko Kay Hara
Ron Matsushima
James Mizuno – 7th yr
Santo Yamasaki – 50th yr
Takenobu Horiuchi – 1st yr

INFANT PRESENTATION CEREMONY REGISTRATION

Traditionally, TSDBT Sangha members observe the Infant Presentation Ceremony in conjunction with the Gotan E service held in May. Often referred to as Hatsumairi (first Temple visit), we had to forgo this highly anticipated event in 2020 due to restrictions of Covid19. Unfortunately, Covid19 continues to restrict our in-person gatherings, so we will be postponing our 2021 Hatsumairi service until we re-open (possibly in August).

At this ceremony, infants and new member toddlers (up to 4-yrs) are formally presented to the Buddha and the Sangha; parents make a solemn vow to help guide their child in his/her spiritual growth. This ceremony is for those Little Ones whose parents want to set a basic foundation in which to cultivate the Teachings of the Buddha. It’s this symbolic “first Temple visit” that makes an in-person, group gathering and presentation absolutely necessary.

We will hold Hatsumairi at the 2021 Opening, In-Person Service – whenever it happens but the target date is set for August of this year – watch for official announcements as the date draws nearer. Meanwhile, we anticipate an abundance of participants so, please register now. Fill out and send in the following application form with \$10 registration fee to: Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple, 1947 Lawrence St., Denver, CO 80202

We would like to participate in the upcoming Infant Presentation Ceremony tentatively scheduled for August 2021. Please contact us when the date and time are settled.

Child’s Name: _____

Child’s date of birth: _____

Child’s place of birth: _____

Parent’s name: _____

Parent’s name: _____

Contact information:

Email address: _____

Telephone number: _____



April Shotsuki Names

(Sangha members who have passed away in the month of April)

Min Abe	Shigeko Iwasaki	Hisao Morishige	Jane Tsurue Tashiro
Lily Akahoshi	Kiyoshi Roy Kagiya	Chizuko Mura	Kimiko Tatsumoto
Yoshio Akiyama	Mary Kajiwara	Masao Mura	Stephanie Tawara
Mitsuno Aoki	Goroku Kanemoto	Frank Masaki Murakami	Sadako Tochiara
Naru Arai	Murano Katayama	Jimmie Tamotsu Muroya	Aiko Mary Tomita
Rupert Arai	Minoru Lawrence Kato	Tatsuma Nagai	Kei Tsukamoto
Yoshio Arakawa	Shigeko Kawaguchi	Tsutomu Roy Nagata	Frank Nagayuki Urano
Noboru Ashida	Donald Masao Kawano	Jeannette Nakagawa	Henry Urano
Chih-Yuan Chia	Yutaka Kawano	Patricia Nakamoto	Yusaku Uyeda
Chizu Chikuma	Yutaka Kawata	Kaneo Nakamura	Margaret Uyemura
Martha Masako Cox Ozaki	Tsutomu Kaya	Kinjiro Nakamura	Masao Joe Uyemura
Winbourne Enomoto	Haruko Kimura	Seishiro Nakamura	Yai Uyeno
Umeno Eto	Tsurue Kimura	Tatsuzo Nakamura	Torakichi Watanabe
Machiko Eshima	Mitsue Kinoshita	Toki Nakamura	Carol Yago
Todd Kana Fujimoto	Betty Naoye Kitashima	Toshiko Nakashima	Sono Yamada
George Hichizo Fujinami	Eto Kitashima	Chiyo Nakayama	Rikizo Yamaguchi
Sano Fujino	Tokujiro Kitashima	Mieko Elaine Newhouse	Teruaki Yamamoto
Chiyo Fujita	Grace Kazuko Kiyotake	Toyo Nobuta	Sumi Yamaoka
James Fukuhara	Genkichi Koishi	Yoneko Nobuta	Jody Lynn Yamasaki
Misayo Fukuhara	Ito Kojima	Yoshi Ogata	Betty Shizuko Yanari
Tetsuo Fukui	Torayo Konishi	Darryl Ohye	Florence Hatsuko Yanaru
Genhichi Funakoshi	Wai Konishi	Eddie Shigeru Okada	Ken Frank Yokooji
Kazume Furuta	Haruko Koshio	Terujiro Okazaki	May Yokooji
Kume Furuta	Koma Kuge	Kumataro Okubo	Yone Yokooji
Josuke George Hada	Keiji Kusumi	Sumiko Okubo-Byerly	Chitoshi Yoshida
Fumi Hattori	Kiyu Kuwada	Toyoko Okumura	Keiichi Roy Yoshida
Denjiro Hiraiwa	Eshin Mabe	Tsugi Okuno	Lisa Eiko Yoshida-Henn
Kanichi Hiraki	Seiri Mameda	Tsuru Okuno	Kumiko Kate Yoshihara
Noriichi Hirokawa	Fumiko Mamiya	Aiko Omiya	Naoji Yoshikawa
Jojiro Honda	Kenji Matsuda	Lorilei Mayumi Omoto	
Gonroku Hongo	Tetsuko Matsunaka	Kamekichi Ono	
Sakiye Horiuchi	Tamaki Matsuo	Yae Osaki	
Shizuko Shirley Horiuchi	George Hiroshi Matsushima	Kameo Otsuka	
Take Hoshijima	Johnny Yoshikuni Mayeda	Marge Otsuka	
Matsuye Ihara	Kantaro Mayeda	Tsunetaro Otsuki	
Sumie Imatani	Kimiyo Mayeda	Motoichi Joe Ozaki	
Yukino Imatani	Terry Teruko Mayeda	Cheryl Jane Parisi	
Joan Ella Grime Inouye	Naka Migaki	Miriam Rodriguez-Uyeda	
Michita Inouye	Tamie Miyamoto	Hisano Sakaguchi	
Rin Inouye	May Misao Miyazawa	Hiroshi Sakurai	
Yoshie Inouye	Yoshiko Miyoshi	Paul Toru Sakurai	
Yonejiro Inouye	Toyo Mizushima	Chohachiro Sameshima	
Seitaro Ioka	Mary Hatsune Momii	Inokichi Sasaki	
Saichi Iritani	Takeno Momii	Sam Isamu Sasaki	
Minoru Jackson Ishida	Tom Kaoru Momoi	Yogo Fred Sasamoto	
Frank Ishiguro	Fujie Moore	Setsu Sato	
Fumiko Ito	Masakatsu Morikawa	George Kazuwo Shibata	
Michiko Iwahashi	Kiyoshi Morimitsu	Kinhichi Shigemura	
		Cissy Tatsuko Shigetomi	
		Masao Shimada	
		Amy Shimamoto	
		Yoshio Shuto	
		Kenzo Soma	
		Caroline Misako Tagawa	
		Eiko Tagawa	
		Eijiro Charles Takahashi	
		Yataro Takahashi	
		Natsuye Takamori	
		Chiyono Takeshita	
		Frank Morito Takeshita	
		Kumaichi Frank Tanabe	
		Isao Tanaka	
		Tsuyo Tanaka	
		Saburo Ray Tani	
		Jiro Tanigawa	
		Satoko Taniguchi	

Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service

April 25, 2021

The Shotsuki Service is a general memorial service held on a monthly basis for members and friends of the temple who have passed away during the month of service. Although there are major memorial (hoji) services set at specific time intervals such as 49th Day, 1st Year, 3rd Year, 7th, 13th, 17th, 25th, 33rd and 50th years, the temple provides families with monthly memorial Shotsuki services held in conjunction with regularly scheduled Sunday services, so family members will have the opportunity to pay respect and gratitude to loved ones who have passed away in that particular month. Donation by affected family members is appreciated: \$50/observance. In Gassho

TriState/Denver Buddhist Temples' membership offers condolences to the family and friends of:

Haruo Tanaka

April 3, 1941 – February 8, 2021

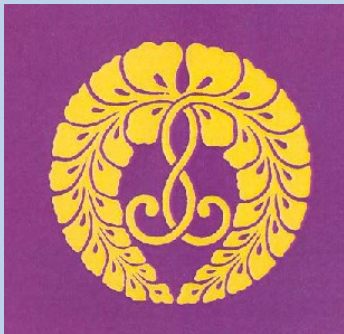
Mary Matsubara

January 3, 1922 - February 9, 2021

Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temples
1947 Lawrence Street
Denver, Colorado 80202

Address Service Requested

NON PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
DENVER, COLO.
PERMIT NO. 521



BWA Notes & Date by Wendy Thompson, BWA President

We are looking forward to a brighter and hopefully more in person 2021. These are some of our upcoming and ongoing activities.

Buddy System – This pandemic has been going on for over a year; loneliness and not being able to have visitors has been isolating to many. Volunteers are needed to help keep in touch with phone calls or cards with those who are homebound and in care facilities. If you are interested in volunteering please contact Mabel Googins for details, email mmgoogins@gmail.com or call (303)667-4077.

Membership – Our members should have received an email with your membership form. As of 2020 we are welcoming members of all genders! Please forward your membership email to friends and family who might be interested in helping. If you would like join the BWA, email tristatedenverbwa@gmail.com or call Wendy Thompson (303)717-8187.

Covid Vaccine – If you are having trouble with making a reservation to get your vaccine and need help navigating the system, feel free to contact Mabel Googins, email mmgoogins@gmail.com or call (303)667-4077.

General BWA Meeting & Eshinni and Kakushinni (Shinran Shonin's Wife & Daughter) Program, Saturday April 17th, 2021 – The General BWA business meeting will be held prior to the Eshinni and Kakushinni program which will be led by Reverend Thompson. We will email our members the Zoom link for the program and meeting as the date approaches.

Eshinni was the daughter of a samurai of high rank. She was refined, well-educated and a landowner. This allowed her and Shinran Shonin to survive and raise a family while Shinran pursued his life's mission of spreading the Nembutsu teaching. Eshinni was responsible for her farmlands, two orphaned grandchildren, servants and their families. She struggled to keep herself and her dependents from starving. Despite the hardships, Eshinni's belief in the Nembutsu was unwavering.

Kakushinni was Shinran Shonin's daughter. After Shinran's death, Kakushinni married Onomiya Zennen, who owned valuable property in Kyoto. Disciples of Shinran built the Ancestral Hall on the property and Zennen gave the property on which it stood to Kakushinni. He stipulated that it was for her to decide whether his sons would be the heir to the land. Kakushinni went beyond tradition and decided that the land would be jointly owned by the disciples of Shinran Shonin. Kakushinni assumed the duties of the first Protector of the Ancestral Hall, and served at that position until she passed away.

Eshinni gave Shinran Shonin her dedication and support, while Kakushinni established the foundation and center from which to transmit his teachings. Eshinni and Kakushinni represented women of the Kamakura Era who were confident and self-aware, and who actively participated in the history of Japan.

Reference: Rev. C. Myokai Himaka, 'Eshinni and Kakushinni Shinran Shonin's Wife and Daughter', 'Title of Document', <https://www.sfvhbt.org/eshinni-and-kakushinni/>, 9450 Remick Ave. Pacoima, CA 91331