



Temple Reflections

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A TSDBT Monthly Publication

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APRIL SERVICES

Sunday, April 3, 2022
HANAMATSURI
9:30 a.m. Services

Sunday, April 10, 2022
9:30 am Service
Brighton Hanamatsuri

Sunday, April 17, 2022
9:30 am Service
11:30 am TSDBT Board Mtg

Sunday, April 24, 2022
April Shotsuki
9:30 am Service
2 pm Sedgwick service

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The Universe As a Curry Pot and a Ladle

Rev. Noritaka Imada

In Amida-kyō Sutra, a depiction of the Pure Land is written:

Again, Shariputra, in that world there are lotus ponds whose shores are decorated with seven kinds of jewels. The ponds brim with waters of eight good qualities and the floor of the ponds are lined with sand of gold. The ponds are surrounded by steps on their four sides made of gold, silver, lapis lazuli, and crystal. Above, are pavilions lavishly adorned with the seven jewels of gold, silver, lapis lazuli, crystal, coral, red pearls, and agate. There are lotuses blooming in the ponds, and their flowers are as large as the wheel of a cart. The blue flowers emit a blue light; the yellow flowers emit a yellow light; the red flowers emit a red light; and the white flowers emit a white light. Each of the lotus flowers glows, weaving an harmonic scene while emitting a subtle fragrance. Shariputra, this land of Ultimate Bliss, is an ideal environment, so that whatever people lay their eyes upon will bring about awakening.

It is said that when people are born into the Pure Land, they will be born from the lotus flower in the Pure Land's Pond. The passage shared at the beginning tells about the lotus flowers that bloom in the Pure Land of Amida Buddha. The phrase "the blue flowers emit a blue light; the yellow flowers emit a yellow light..." tells us that each of us already has our own shining color, that everyone is different, everyone is precious and each person has life that won't be compared with anyone else's. People may think that having something superior to others is a condition for living brilliantly. Everyone is desperately struggling to get something better than others. However, we all have strengths and weaknesses. Moreover, as humans go through life and get sick and frail, they eventually cannot do anything by their own power. All human beings have a finite existence. In the limited time we have, even if we look for something excellent in ourselves that no one else has, it is just a comparison. From the Buddha's point of view, everyone is at the same level and equal. The true meaning of shining brightly is freed from the mind that wants to compare with others.

While reading a book, I found a good parable using the characteristics of curry in a pot. The curry in the pot contains carrots, onions, potatoes and meat etc. Think of the entire curry pot as the universe, and you are the curry that is scooped in a single ladle. A friend or family member, an animal, a mountain, or a chair are each a separate scoop of curry. Each time you scoop from the curry pot, the curry inside the ladle will not be the same (different amounts of potatoes, carrots and all the spices etc). This is what Shakyamuni Buddha said when he was born, "Tenjo Tenge Yuiga Dokuson (天上天下唯我独尊)" which means "everyone is different and everyone is precious." Namō Amida Butsu.

Gassho



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

Gary Okimoto

November 20, 1949 - January 31, 2022

Norio Jack Taniguchi

November 18, 1940 - February 2, 2022

Wayne Nitta

June 25, 1953 - February 13, 2022

阿弥陀経というお経の中には浄土の描写が書かれています。

又舍利弗、極樂国土、有七寶池。八功德水、充滿其中。池底純以金沙布地。四辺階道、金・銀・瑠璃・玻瓈合成。上有樓閣。亦以金・銀・瑠璃・玻瓈・磔磔・赤珠・碼磧、而嚴飾之。池中蓮華、大如車輪。青色青光、黃色黃光、赤色赤光、白色白光、微妙香潔。

訳: また舍利弗(お釈迦様の弟子)よ、極樂浄土には七つの宝のできた池があり、八功德水(不可思議な力を持った水)で溢れています。池の底には一面に黄金の砂が敷き詰められ、また四方には金・銀・瑠璃・水晶のできた階段があります。岸の上には楼閣(背の高い重層の建物)があって、それもまた金・銀・瑠璃・水晶・磔磔(白珊瑚)・赤真珠・碼磧で美しく飾られています。また池の中には車輪のように大きな蓮の花が咲いていて、青い花は青い光を、黄色い花は黄色い光を、赤い花は赤い光を、白い花は白い光を放ち、いずれも美しく、その香りは気高く清らかです。

人が浄土に生まれる時、浄土の池に咲く蓮の花の中から一人一人生まれるといわれています。冒頭にある「青い花は青い光を放ち、黄色い花は黄色の光を放ち...」という一節は、私たち一人一人がすでにそれぞれの素晴らしい色を持っていて光り輝いていることを表しています。またそれは「みんなちがってみんないい」という、誰とも比較されることのない世界の姿です。しかしながら人間の社会では「いかに自分が他人より優れているか」を見せる事に必死になってしまう事もあります。そうしないと生き残れない悲しい世界なのかもしれません。個々の人間が持つ「得意、不得意」を比べて「勝った、負けた」と騒いでいても、仏の視点からは全ての命が平等に見えているので、それはまるでどんぐりの背比べのようです。比べたがる心からの解放こそが、個々の色がそれぞれ輝くことに繋がっていくでしょう。

人と人を比べる必要がない事を知るには、元々は全ての生命が繋がりにある事を仏法の中に聞いていく事も重要であろうと考えます。

先日、本を読んでいた際、鍋の中のカレーとお玉の関係を使った例え話を見つけました。鍋の中のカレーには、にんじん、玉ねぎ、じゃがいも、肉などが入っています。鍋の中のカレー全体を宇宙と考えると、お玉ですくわれたカレーは私であると考えられます。そして別のお玉にすくわれたカレーは、友人や家族、または動物や植物などの生命、さらには山や椅子などの物体であるということです。そしてお玉のカレーをポットに戻し、もう一度すくっても同じ内容物ではありませんね。これがお釈迦様が生まれたときに仰った「天上天下唯我独尊」つまり「空を見ても地上を見ても、私(あなた)という人間はたった一人しか存在しないから全ての命は等しく尊いのだ」という言葉です。

4月はお釈迦様の誕生日である花まつりがあります。お釈迦様や親鸞聖人のおかげでいま私が仏教に出遇えている事を、甘茶や仏花やお経などのお供えを通して喜ばせて頂きます。

南無阿弥陀仏

合掌

YBA Calendar Filling With Events & Activities by Sarah Pettis and Craig Hirokawa, YBA Advisors

Wow, it's hard to believe that it is already April! We have a couple of YBA updates to share with you. The biggest news is that last month, we were finally able to gather and meet at the temple together for Dharma class! We've been fortunate to have been able to meet in-person a few times before in-person services resumed, but this official "reopening" has brought a new energy to our group. The past two years of shifting plans and adjusting to zoom services and class has given us a deeper gratitude to the small moments we are able to have when we gather at the temple.

In addition to our group meeting face-to-face again, we are excitedly planning our final big events to finish out the 2021-2022 Dharma School year. We are eager to come together for Hanamatsuri this month, and some of our students are participating in Chibi no Gakko as mentors. We are also planning a Keirokai luncheon and performance to hopefully take place in early May - stay tuned for further details! Finally, our seniors are in the

midst of the excitement of applying to colleges and scholarships, and making post-graduation plans. All of our students have endured so much with the rapid changes that we have all undertaken, and it is such a pleasure to be able to work with such a resilient, kind-hearted group.

We look forward to hopefully seeing some of you at the temple soon, and in the meantime, will continue to plan YBA events and grow in our understanding of Jodo-Shinshu Buddhism together.

Namo Amida Butsu



Dharma Conduit

Rev. Kaitlyn Kongō Mascher-Mace

Hello Dharma Friends and a Happy April to you. Hopefully the sun is shining and warming you out of the cold of the winter, and the flowers are starting to break the surface. I always think of April as the start of the best time of the year; the warm times as the trees and flowers start to come to life. It's amazing how one small thing like a flower can express so many emotions, give so much information. The ability that humans have to communicate with each other is amazing, and the fact that complex ideas with so much built into them can be assigned a word, phrase or even a picture reminds us that there is so much contained in our communications. Often just one word can sum up how one feels, how their effort has been spent or what they want to do, all things that when the attempt to fully describe them would lead to pages of text.

The Buddhist Priest Poet, Kobayashi Issa, wrote three-line simple poems, often expressing a deep well of emotions and appreciation not only for the world around him, but for Buddhism and the Nembutsu. He wrote so many of these poems that it is easy to find one for every season.

さく花や此世住居も今少し

Blooming Flowers
residents of this world, too,
for a short time.

This poem from Issa gives us the impression of the impermanence of life, and yet its beauty - something that can be deeply felt. When I read this poem, I can feel the beauty of the flowers, the bright colors, the work and

effort of the plant, and the knowledge that it's only for a short time - so much enclosed in eleven English words. There is a modern concept of large amounts of information conveyed by using minimal or almost no language and that is - the meme. A meme is an idea conveyed in a picture, a few words, or a small animation. It's a whole slew of cultural information and understanding on a subject, often shared in a funny way, and they change rapidly with time, often evolving from one meaning to another. The classic example may be the "Kilroy was here" meme from the 1940's or the more modern grumpy cat.

So, what does this have to do with Jodo Shinshu? Well, we often may hear, "how can your entire practice be just saying the Nembutsu? Shouldn't there be more to it than that?"

If we as foolish beings can pack so much meaning into a few words or a simple picture, without fully understanding how it will be seen or their own causes and conditions, imagine what the Buddha can do? The Nembutsu contains all of the compassion of Amida Buddha, the opening of the merit storehouse and is the perfect practice for the meme loving human of today. Within the 6-character name is all of the Buddhist practice that we need to be born into the Pure Land. How amazing is that?

As you go out and admire the flowers this April or sit down and doom scroll reddit for the memes, remember that you can say the Nembutsu anywhere and anytime and it will contain all you need for birth in the Pure Land. Enjoy the sun and live in the light.

In Gassho,



Cherry Blossom Festival 2022

Update from the Temple and Sakura Foundation Organizers

The festival is BACK! We are so excited for the **48th Annual Cherry Blossom Festival, June 25 and 26, 2022!** After the two-year cancellation due to the pandemic, we are eager to invite the community back into the Temple, to bring back our cultural entertainment, discussions of Jodo Shinshu, great food, wares, and community! After COVID-induced isolation, we realize how important it is to gather together and maintain our connections. Both the Temple members and Sakura Foundation staff are already hard at work planning the Festival. We are making some changes in order to keep the Sangha, our volunteers, our Temple Affiliate organizations, and the community as safe as possible. For example, all dining tables will be located outside or under the gym. We will also activate the plaza area facing 19th Street with more activity.

Many people have expressed their excitement for the Festival! People are eager to go to events again and start doing things that they missed because of the pandemic. We feel our attendance may be at least as much as in previous years and we want everyone to have a great experience. **As you know, it is the largest annual fundraiser for the Temple.** *Our success relies on our dedicated and amazing volunteers! Your hard work is needed and greatly appreciated!* Stay tuned for how you can volunteer, support the Temple, and meet up with new and old friends!

Nehan E Service

Earl & Deborah Fukuhara
Junko & Manabu Kimura
Jack & Alice Kimura
Miyoko Murata
Sayoko Takata

In memory of Masaye Kuge

Myron Kuge
Kathryn Kuge

In memory of Tamiye Ozaki-33rd yr

Charles & Teri Ozaki
Joe & Jill Ozaki

Donation

PayPal Giving Fund
The Blackbaud Giving Fund
Shirley Tsuchimoto

Marshall Fire Victims Assistance Fund

Mabel Googins
Sharon Brooks
Shirley Horiuchi
Junko & Manabu Kimura
Ogden Buddhist FujinKai

January Shotsuki donors

Sherrri Nitta
Stacy Hendershott.....
Mia Tsuchimoto
Families of Kay & Nancy Nitta

in memory of

Mary Miyazawa, Fairy Kuritani
Scott Kim
Scott Kim
Shiichi Fukuhara

February Shotsuki donors

Phyllis Kajiwara
Nancy & Milton Domoto
Albert Nakata
Lillian & Phillip Miyazawa
Lenard Nobuta
Family of Tosh & Mary Tawara
Family of Miyoko Nigo
Carole Sierchio
Fumiko Yamashita
Mary Jane Arakawa
Alice Mizuno
Ida Sasaki

in memory of

Betty Kajiwara
Chizuko Domoto
George Gohachi Nakata
Harry Yanari
Hatsuyo Miyamoto
Mitsuzo Aigaki
Miyoko Nigo
Robert Knight, Joanne Knight
Tom Yamashita
Yoshio Norman Arakawa
James Mizuno, Norman Arakawa
Yoshiye Hirokawa

Donations

Lajara/Alamosa Buddhist Sangha
Tagawa Families
Alyssa & Korey Nilemo
Rhonda Matsuno & family
Mitzi Nakamura
Mile High Ministries
Mabel Googins
Gil Asakawa
Harriet Loo

for/in memory of

HoOnko service
Legacy Endowment; imo Frank Tagawa-33rd yr
Pet Hoji; Kona
Betty(33rd yr) & Shiro Matsuno
Tetsu Ueba-25th yr
for Rev. Imada's speaking engagement
for Dr. Kenneth Tanaka's online class
for Rev. Imada's participation in Shinnenkai
TSDBT library; Memories – a photo journal

Come learn and experience the Art of Taiko With Denver Taiko

Don... Ka..... tsuku don.....

These are the beats of Taiko and a welcoming call to all returning and new students.

Jr. Denver Taiko will be resuming practices for all students from 3rd grade through 12th grade. We like to get an idea of who would be interested in participating in our taiko classes either this summer or fall. Please fill out this form and either send to:

Denver Buddhist Temple
c/o Denver Taiko
1947 Lawrence St
Denver, CO 80202

or Text Aiko Kimura
303-201-7113
send text photo of form



We will contact you when we receive the form and will follow up with you for more information.

Requirements:

- Accepting 3rd thru 12th grade students
- Fully vaccinated
- Want to have fun, learn the art of Taiko and history.

Student Name: _____
Current Grade: _____
Parent(s) name and phone number _____
Parent(s) email _____
Returning student: Yes or No

April Shotsuki Names

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

Min Abe
Lily Akahoshi
Yoshio Akiyama
Mitsuno Aoki
Naru Arai
Rupert Arai
Noboru Ashida
Chih-Yuan Chia
Chizu Chikuma
Josephine Chikuma
Martha Masako Cox Ozaki
Winbourne Enomoto
Umeno Eto
Machiko Eshima
Todd Kana Fujimoto
George Hichizo Fujinami
Sano Fujino
Chiyeno Fujita
James Fukuhara
Misayo Fukuhara
Tetsuo Fukui
Genhichi Funakoshi
Kazume Furuta
Kume Furuta
Josuke George Hada
Joyce Eiko Harada
Fumi Hattori
Denjiro Hiraiwa
Kanichi Hiraki
Noriichi Hirokawa
Jojiro Honda
Gonroku Hongo
Sakiye Horiuchi
Shizuko Shirley Horiuchi
Take Hoshijima
Matsuye Ihara
Sumie Imatani
Yukino Imatani
Joan Ella Grime Inouye
Michita Inouye
Rin Inouye
Yoshie Inouye
Yonejiro Inouye
Seitaro Ioka
Saichi Iritani
Minoru Jackson Ishida
Frank Ishiguro
Fumiko Ito
Michiko Iwahashi
Shigeiko Iwasaki
Kiyoshi Roy Kagiya
Mary Kajiwara
Goroku Kanemoto
Murano Katayama
Minoru Lawrence Kato
Shigeiko Kawaguchi
Donald Masao Kawano
Yutaka Kawano
Yutaka Kawata
Tsutomu Kaya

Haruko Kimura
Tsurue Kimura
Mitsue Kinoshita
Betty Naoye Kitashima
Eto Kitashima
Tokujiro Kitashima
Grace Kazuko Kiyotake
Genkichi Koishi
Ito Kojima
Torayo Konishi
Wai Konishi
Haruko Koshio
Koma Kuge
Yoshiko Kushihashi
Keiji Kusumi
Kiyo Kuwada
Eshin Mabe
Seiri Mameda
Fumiko Mamiya
Kenji Matsuda
Tetsuko Matsunaka
Tamaki Matsuo
George Hiroshi Matsushima
Johnny Yoshikuni Mayeda
Kantaro Mayeda
Kimiyo Mayeda
Terry Teruko Mayeda
Naka Migaki
Tamie Miyamoto
May Misao Miyazawa
Yoshiko Miyoshi
Toyo Mizushima
Mary Hatsune Momii
Takeno Momii
Tom Kaoru Momoi
Fujie Moore
Masakatsu Morikawa
Kiyoshi Morimitsu
Hisao Morishige
Chizuko Mura
Masao Mura
Frank Masaki Murakami
Jimmie Tamotsu Muroya
Tatsuma Nagai
Tsutomu Roy Nagata
Jeannette Nakagawa
Patricia Nakamoto
Kaneo Nakamura
Kinjiro Nakamura
Seishiro Nakamura
Tatsuzo Nakamura
Toki Nakamura
Toshiko Nakashima
Chiyo Nakayama
Mieko Elaine Newhouse
Toyo Nobuta
Yoneko Nobuta
Yoshi Ogata
Darryl Ohye
Eddie Shigeru Okada

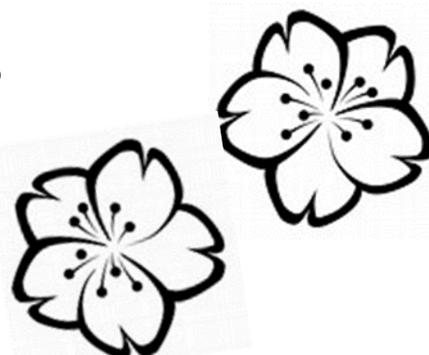
Terujiro Okazaki
Kumataro Okubo
Sumiko Okubo-Byerly
Toyoko Okumura
Tsugi Okuno
Tsuru Okuno
Aiko Omiya
Lorilei Mayumi Omoto
Kamekichi Ono
Yae Osaki
Kameo Otsuka
Marge Otsuka
Tsunetaro Otsuki
Motoichi Joe Ozaki
Cheryl Jane Parisi
Miriam Rodriguez-Uyeda
Hisano Sakaguchi
Hiroshi Sakurai
Paul Toru Sakurai
Chohachiro Sameshima
Inokichi Sasaki
Sam Isamu Sasaki
Yogo Fred Sasamoto
Setsu Sato
George Kazuwo Shibata
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
Jane Tsurue Tashiro
Kimiko Tatsumoto
Stephanie Tawara
Sadako Tochiwara
Aiko Mary Tomita
Kei Tsukamoto
Frank Nagayuki Urano
Henry Urano
Yusaku Uyeda
Margaret Ujemura
Masao Joe Uyemura
Yai Uyeno
Torakichi Watanabe
Carol Yago
Sono Yamada
Rikizo Yamaguchi

Teruaki Yamamoto
Sumi Yamaoka
Jody Lynn Yamasaki
Youko Yamasaki
Betty Shizuko Yanari
Florence Hatsuko Yanaru
Kenji Frank Yokooji
May Yokooji
Yone Yokooji
Chitoshi Yoshida
Keiichi Roy Yoshida
Lisa Eiko Yoshida-Henn
Kumiko Kate Yoshihara
Naoji Yoshikawa
Jayne Yoshimura

Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service

April 24, 2022

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



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

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Cherry Blossom Festival 2022

We are excited to begin planning for the Cherry Blossom Festival this year. We hope you can help out by making contributions from our list and help offset the Cherry Blossom Festival expenses. Items that are not used during the festival are put to use throughout the year at the Temple for various events including Dharma School, Turkey Bingo, Hanamatsuri, and other events. There will be a table in the auditorium marked for your donations. Thank you for your continued support!

Please submit cash donations to the Temple office in an envelope marked "Cherry Blossom Donation" and let us know which items you'd like us to purchase.

In gassho, the Cherry Blossom Committee

In-kind Donation List

Soda Pop - Coke, Pepsi and 7-Up (no diet pop)
SPAM, original flavor
Green Tea Bags
Coffee
Hashi (chopsticks) wooden disposable
6" paper plates
Dinner size napkins (nothing fancy)
Cocktail napkins
Laundry detergent (not high efficiency)
Dish soap
White vinegar

Dear Dharma Families,

Can you believe Spring is finally beginning and that before long we will be seeing spring showers, flowers and warmer days!!! With that in mind please make sure Dharma School has your contact information. With ever changing weather and Covid situations it is difficult to create a reliable, forward facing calendar for publication. However, Dharma school is hopeful with the warmer days our students and families can safely gather at parks. We will email out this information so that all can join! If you are not sure if you are on our email list please send your information to: dbtdharmaschool@gmail.com

These gatherings are open to all Sangha members who enjoy spending time with Dharma School and out in the sunshine. If you would like to volunteer your time to host park games please let us know. We would love to collaborate with you if you have a great idea for keeping kids active!

In Gassho,
Dharma School