Everything Changes

In keeping with the CDC “social distancing” guidelines:

* All Sunday Services have been cancelled through the month of March.
* Affiliated Temple organizations have also chosen to halt their activities through the end of March.
* Hanamatsuri special service, potluck and Dharma School performances have been cancelled. (But “stay tuned” for full information concerning April services; this information will be available at the end of March.)

This newsletter issue is being digitally distributed only: this means anyone who normally receives a paper newsletter through the USPS mail, will not be receiving this issue. If you know someone in your family or friendship circle is a Paper Customer, please share your issue by either printing it out or verbally relaying all the information inside.

Meanwhile, the Temple Office will be open as usual; the ministers are available to you as always. Please call as needed:
- Temple Office  303-295-1844
- Rev. Diana Thompson: 303-532-7445
- Rev. Noritaka Imada: 303-915-5213

Also, Sunday Dharma services have been and will be video-recorded and placed online so that you can still receive the Teachings. These recordings are available on the Temple’s Facebook page, the Temple’s Instagram account and on YouTube. [for YouTube, type in Tri-State Denver Buddhist Temple in the ‘Search’ line. A list of videos related to TSDBT will appear; click on the Tri-State Denver Buddhist Temple line and you will see a list of Dharma services available for your viewing. [NOTE: these videos are ‘home-made’ by our very own Rev. Thompson, Rev. Imada, Rev. Mascher-Mace and videographer, Karen Mascher-Mace.]
Hello everyone, welcome to April! This month, we are observing the birth of the historical Buddha, Shakyamuni. This is an occasion that is celebrated by Buddhists worldwide and is observed with (sometimes) elaborate services, rituals and of course, the recitation of the story of Buddha’s birth.

The story begins with a king and queen, Suddhodana and Maya, who live in a beautiful palace with every possible luxury and yet, they are not fully content because they have had no children. Year after year they wish for a child who never comes and after a time, they begin to lose hope. One evening, however, Queen Maya is gazing out of her window and sees the full, bright, silvery moon. Moved by its beauty, she once again whispers her wish and then turns to go to bed. As she is sleeping, the gentle moonbeams shine through her window and onto her sleeping form and, as she lays sleeping, she dreams of a white elephant who slides gently down the moonbeam and enters her side.

When she awakens the next morning, she tells her husband about the dream and they both decide to run to see the local sage who can interpret the dream for them. The sage informs them that Maya’s dream was an auspicious sign, that she was pregnant with a child who will be either a great king or a great spiritual leader. Maya and Suddhodana leap and dance with joy, but the sage begins weeping. When asked what the matter was, he tells them that he is sad because he knows that he would not be around to see the child reach its full potential.

The months pass and it is finally time for Maya to give birth. She gathers her retinue and begins the long journey to her family home. The road is hot and dusty and, just when everyone begins to think that they cannot take any more, they see a beautiful garden all around them, and stop to rest. As Maya is wandering through the garden, she feels the first slight pangs of birth. She reaches up to grab the branch of a nearby tree and the baby slips quietly and painlessly from her side.

The new baby rises from the soft ground and begins to walk, taking seven steps in each of the cardinal directions. When he returns to the middle where he began, he raises one hand, pointing his finger up and lowers the other with his finger pointing down and announces ‘in the heavens above and on the earth below, I alone am the world honored one.’ At these words, the earth begins to tremble. Flowers rain down from the sky and the animals, humans and devas gather around to honor this baby who will become the Buddha.

Thank you to the following volunteers for the folding, sealing, addressing and mailing of last month’s newsletter: Shirley Tsuchimoto, Rod Bruntz, Judy Smith, MaryJane Okamatsu, Kay Takahashi, Marge Furukawa, Lorraine Hisamoto and Dick Mayeda. Your monthly support is greatly appreciated.

Thank you to Glen Asakawa for taking and printing the front lobby portrait of Rev. Noritaka Imada. Our display line of Temple Ministers is certainly an impressive bunch, eh?

Thank you to all organizational leaders who carefully made important Temple operational decisions while considering current and ongoing Covid19 situations and policies.

Thanking all Sangha members in advance for the many changes that lay before us. As much as we take care to schedule out each month and year, we must also accept that ‘total control’ does not automatically come with every plan made.

Dharma Message
from Rev. Diana Thompson

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Though many of us have heard this story many times before, it is in its telling and retelling that we are able to hear and contemplate the Dharma. The story of the Buddha’s birth is a story of hope. Maya and Suddhodana hoped for a child and finally had one who would become a great teacher. When the baby Buddha was born, he took seven steps in each direction to show his own hope of being able to step out of the six realms of suffering and into awakening and his announcing that he was the ‘world honored one’ was also his hope that through his own experience and teaching, he would be able to lead others out of the six realms. These hopes became the Dharma that we all know and share to this day and so, when coming to the temple and sharing our stories we continue the tradition of hope. We hope for the awakening of ourselves and others to the great wisdom and compassion of the Buddhas and put our hands in Gassho that we are travelling this path of hope together.

Namo Amida Butsu

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Encountering the Path of Nembutsu  
by Rev. Noritaka Imada

Honen Shonin changed the lives of many people that he met. Shinran Shonin was perhaps one of Honen Shonin’s most documented disciples. I would like to share a story of one of Honen Shonin’s other disciples. There was a famous soldier, Naozane Kumagai, who served the Genji Clan during the Heian period of Japanese history.

During the Genpei War one of the enemy soldiers Naozane Kumagai fought and killed was of the same age as his son. He was shocked and felt impermanence and decided to become a Buddhist. Naozane told Honen Shonin, "I killed a lot of people, but I would like to be born in Pure Land if possible. If I could be born into Pure Land by killing myself with a sword, I am determined to do that."

Honen Shonin replied with surprising words, "You don't have to kill yourself. Just recite the Nembutsu and you can be born in Pure Land."
It was at that moment Naozane encountered Nembutsu teaching.

Shinran Shonin wrote about Honen Shonin in Kyogyoshinsho. His writings indicate that his encounter and separation from Honen Shonin were the greatest joy and greatest sadness of his life. Shinran Shonin writes at the last part of Kyogyoshinsho:

"I have collected true words so that they may help others practice the way for birth. For my wish is that those who have attained birth may lead those who come after them and those who aspire for birth may follow their predecessors, thus following one after another endlessly and uninterruptedly until the boundless sea of birth and death is exhausted."

When Shinran Shonin met Honen Shonin, he encountered the path of Nembutsu. Shinran Shonin wanted to share the teachings of Nembutsu with people born in the future. Shinran Shonin often compares Blind Passion with the Sea and Amida's Vow with the Ship.
Amida's Vow is for all sentient beings; it includes me, it includes all who recite nembutsu. If I recite NamoAmidaButsu, it means I entrust myself to Amida's Vow. It means I want to get on Amida's big ship which will take everyone to the Pure Land.

In closing I will share the passage of Shinran Shonin:

The ocean of birth-and-death, of painful existence, has no bound;  
Only by the ship of Amida's universal Vow  
Can we, who have long been drowning,  
Unfailingly be brought across it.  
Namo Amida Butsu

Katie Tsuchimoto and Serenity Thompson were part of a YBA group which led Sunday services on February 23, 2020 when all of our ministerial staff were in the state of Washington attending national BCA meetings. (additional photo on page ). The group led chanting and Katie delivered a Dharma Talk for the Adult Service.
お念仏の道との出遇い

親鸞聖人は法然上人の弟子として有名だが、法然上人には他にも多くの弟子がいた。今回はその一人である熊谷直実についての話を紹介したい。直実は世に知られた坂東武者であった。彼は源平合戦の際に、倒した平家の若武者の歳が自分の息子と同じであったことにショックを受け、無常を感じて出家した。直実は合戦で多くの命を奪ってきた罪業深き身であったが、できるだけ生の浄土へ往生したいと願った。その為なら刀で身を切ってもその罪をザンギしたいと法然上人に尋ねた。直実の命がけの問いに答えた法然上人の言葉は意外なものであった。「身を切る必要はありません、ただ念仏すれば往生できる。」これが直実が念仏の教えに出遇った瞬間であった。

ここに親鸞聖人の言葉を正像末和讃から紹介したい。

「無慚無愧のこの身にて まことのこころはなけれども 弥陀の回向の御名なれば 功徳は十方にみちたまふ」

お浄土に生まれる為に私たちにできる事は何もないと、阿弥陀仏の方から衆生を捕まえに来て下さる。念仏を称える回数にも決まりはなく、感謝するたびに言う「有り難う」のと同じように、何回でも称えてもいいのが念仏である。

法然上人に出遇い念仏の教えに出遇った人は多く宗祖もその一人である。宗祖の人生の中でも法然上人との出遇いはかなり重要であったと考えられる。宗祖は自らの人生についてはあまり記されなかったが、宗祖の著書である教行信証には法然上人のことが書かれている。これは法然上人との出遇いと別れが宗祖の人生にとって最大の喜びと悲しみであったことを示している。

教行信証の最後にはこう書かれている「真言を採り集めて、往益を助修せしむ。いかんとなれば、前に生れんものは後を導き、後に生れんひとは前を訪へ、連続無窮にして、願はくは休止せざらしめんと欲す。無辺の生死海を尽さんがためのゆゑなり」

宗祖は法然上人に出遇うことにより念仏の道に出遇い、その教えを「のちに生まれる人」にも伝えたいと考え、この言葉を教行信証の締めくくりに持ってきたのではないかだろうか。無辺の生死海という言葉が出てくるが、宗祖はしばしば煩悩を海と、阿弥陀仏の願いを船と例える。衆生は多くの煩悩を持っているが、お浄土に生まれる為の願いは持っていない。しかし幸いなことに、阿弥陀仏の願いが他ならぬ私の為である。念仏を称える全ての衆生の為の船、それが阿弥陀仏の願いであり、その船に乗りたいという言葉が南無阿弥陀仏なのである。私にはお浄土に生まれる為の願いがなから、阿弥陀仏の願いにお任せします、というのが念仏である。

最後に高僧和讃より、宗祖の言葉を紹介したい。

「生死の苦海ほとりなし ひさしくしづめるわれらをば 弥陀弘誓のふねののみぞ のせてかならずわたしうける」

南無阿弥陀仏
For over 60 years, members and visitors to the Denver Buddhist Temple have been greeted by the statue of Shinran Shonin. It has marked the entrance to the temple since its installation in 1958, even as the front entrance has changed location over the years. An ever-present figure, the statue is often featured in the pictures of visitors, on Google searches for the temple, or even on the temples’ Facebook page. It is an integral part of the Denver Buddhist Temples identity and its origin connects TS/DBT with other Jodo Shinshu temples across the world and is an example of how one person can help propagate the Dharma.

The story starts with a man named Seiichi Hirose, who was born in Hyogo, Japan in 1896. He was a metal founder, and owned a foundry. While he grew up living a normal life, the death of his son made him reflect deeply on his relationship to the world and on the Nembutsu. As a result, in 1937, he cast six statues of Shinran Shonin, one to represent each character in the six-character Myōgo, or Nembutsu: 南無阿弥陀仏. These statues were shipped to temples across Japan, including the most famous of these statues, which went to Hiroshima. During World War II, the Japanese Military confiscated statues from across Japan in order to melt the metal down for ammunition, and this included many of the statues that Mr. Hirose had made. However, the one in Hiroshima was not confiscated, and survived the dropping of the Atomic Bomb. In 1955, that same statue of Shinran Shonin, from Hiroshima, was donated to the New York Buddhist Church, where it still stands today. Mr. Hirose donated it with the wish “no more Hiroshima,” referring to the Atomic bombing and the devastation from the utilization of those weapons.

On October 11, 1958, the Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple received a new statue of Shinran Shonin from Mr. Seiichi Hirose. This was one of many donations that Mr. Hirose made to propagate the Jodo Shinshu teachings across the world. An installation ceremony was held with BCA Bishop Rev. Shinsho Hanayama coming to Denver to officiate. Though Mr. Hirose died in 1979, his works and actions placed around the world remain with us. Shinran’s statue, with the snow piled on his hat in the winter, or his occasionally changing walking stick, welcomes us into the Temple. While Mr. Hirose was a normal everyday person like you or me, the results of his donation continue to be his acts of compassion. By sharing this teaching through statues, he helped bring us closer to the infinite Compassion of Amida, given to us freely through the Nembutsu.

I am sure that it would bring great joy to Mr. Hirose today to know our statue still stands, and welcomes all who enter through the gates. Let’s share the Nembutsu together with equal joy. In Gassho.

DBT Choir Invites You To Join in Excitement
by Richard Yoshida

Our Temple Choir is dedicated to providing Dana through the joy and beauty of music. Under the leadership of our Co-directors, Clarynne Blanchard and Audrey Charness, we improve our musical arrangements and increase our gatha selection at regularly held practice sessions.

This year we are scheduled to perform for the Nisei Veteran’s Memorial Day Service at Fairmont Cemetery and the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service hosted by TSDBT in November.

Also, our choir was fortunate to receive an invitation to participate in an exciting Choralfest sponsored by the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii on September 26th and 27th. This is the eighth Hawaii Choralfest and is open to singers from all temples in Hawaii and to a limited number of temples from BCA and Japan (we have a connection through Clarynne). Participating Denver Buddhist Choir members will be part of a massed chorus singing five contemporary choral arrangements.

The purpose of the musical event is for both singers and listeners to express the joy of the Buddha-Dharma as inspired by the gathas.

To prepare for this wonderful music service we will be learning these beautiful songs and practicing through the year.

This year’s exciting schedule gives us motivation to grow our choir by offering you a chance to join! Share your voice in upcoming services AND you can also join our upcoming Hawaiian adventure.

Registration deadline for the Choralfest is April 30. Please contact the choir directors or any choir member if you would like join our fantastic group!
Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temples gratefully acknowledges donations and offerings received from February 1, 2020 - February 29, 2020

Nehan E Service
Mabel Googins
Kirk Horiuchi
Cindy Horiuchi
Kent & Jane Kano
Manabu & Junko Kimura
Karen & Kaitlyn Mascher-Mace
Frank Miyazawa
Charles & Teri Ozaki
Hank & Irene Shibao
Sayoko Takata
Hisae Taniwaki
Shirley Tsuchimoto
Tom T. Urano, Jr.
Fumiko Yamashita
Richard & Michi Yoshida

Pet Hoji
Karen & Kaitlyn Mascher-Mace for Charlie
Joyce Nakata-Kim for Mocha

In memory of Ruth Kamibayashi-49th day
Family of Ruth Kamibayashi
Ruby & Holly Miyazawa
Monica Nagai

In memory of James Yamane-1st yr
Dale & Jamie Chikuma & family
David & Gayle Goto
Family of James Yamane

In memory of Rev. Doei Fujii
Michiko Fujii
Garold Uyeda
Richard & Michi Yoshida

December 2019 Shotsuki donations .......................... in memory of
Clyde & Judy Nitta ............................................ Kazuma Nitta

January Shotsuki donations .................................. in memory of
Lenard Nobuta ................................................... Tomezo Nobuta
Clyde & Judy Nitta ............................................. Joe Tsuyoshi Sato

February Shotsuki donations ................................. in memory of
Janet Fujita ....................................................... Gregory James Fujita
Lenard Nobuta ................................................... Hatsuyo Miyamoto
David & Gayle Goto ............................................ James Yamane
Jamie, Dale Chikuma & family ................................ James Yamane
Carole & Ray Sierchio .......................................... Joanne Knight
Eiji & Fumiko Horiuchi ........................................ Keiji Horiuchi
Mutsu Osaki ..................................................... Kunio Osaki
Family of Tosh & Mary Tawara .............................. Mitsuzo Aigaki
Alice Mizuno .................................................... Norman Yoshio Arakawa
Marie Nishimoto ................................................ James Mizuno & George Yago
Fumiko Yamashita ............................................... Shigeru Nishimoto
Ida Sasaki ......................................................... Tom Yamashita

Donations ......................................................... for reason of
Mile Hi Ministries ................................................ class visitation
Uta Gassen ....................................................... additional earnings
Lorraine Hori ..................................................... Legacy Fund donation
Family of Helen Fujishima ................................... funeral; Helen Fujishima
Jack & Alice Kimura ............................................ Gotan E service
Mitzi Nakamura ...................................................... in memory of Akira Nakamura-13th yr
Joyce Nukaya ....................................................... in memory of Bill Masao Nukaya-17th yr

Facilities Usage
DBT Judo; 2019 annual
Denver Taiko; March workshop
Kazuko Ortiz; Okinawan dance

Strands of tsuru prepared by volunteers gathered at the Temple on February 29 and March 1st by BWA in support of

Keelyn Nitta, Nicholas Tanaka and Serenity Thompson complete the YBA group of students (SEE: photo on page 2) who led Sunday Services on February 23, 2020. Keelyn read a children’s story for the Family Service Dharma talk. Nicholas proved to have a strong and confidant voice in leading the Sangha through JuSeiGe chanting.
April Shotsuki Names
(Sangha members who have passed away in the month of April)

Min Abe
Lily Akahoshi
Mitsuno Aoki
Naru Arai
Rupert Arai
Yosio Arakawa
Noboru Ashida
Chih-Yuan Chia
Chizu Chikuma
Martha Masako Cox Ozaki
Winbourne Enomoto
Umeno Eto
Todd Kana Fujimoto
George Hichizo Fujinami
Sano Fujino
Chiyo Fujita
James Fukuhara
Misayo Fukuhara
Tetsuo Fukushima
Gennichi Funakoshi
Kazume Furuta
Kume Furuta
Josuke George Hada
Denjiro Hiraiwa
Kanichi Hiraki
Noriichi Hirokawa
Jojiro Honda
Gonroku Hongo
Sakgye Horicihu
Shizuko Shirley Horichi
Take Hoshijima
Matsuyue Ihara
Sumie Imatani
Yukino Imatani
Joan Ella Grime Inouye
Michita Inouye
Rin Inouye
Yoshie Inouye
Yonejiro Inouye
Seitaro Ioka
Saiichi Iritani
Minoru Jackson Ishida
Frank Ishiguro
Fumiko Ito
Michiko Iwasaki
Kiyoshi Roy Kagiyma
Mary Kajiwara
Goroku Kanemoto
Murano Katayama
Minoru Lawrence Kato
Shigeo Kawaguchi
Donald Masao Kawano
Yutaka Kawano
Yutaka Kawata
Tsutomu Kaya
Haruko Kimura
Tsurre 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
Keiji Kusumi
Kiyu 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 Kao Momoi
Fujie Moore
Masakatsu Morikawa
Kiyoshi Morimitsu
Hisao Morishige
Chizuko Mura
Masao Mura
Frank Masaki Murakami
Jimmie Tamotsu Muroya
Tatsuma Nagai
Tsutomu Roy Nagata
Jeanette Nakagawa
Patricia Nakamoto
Kaneo Nakamura
Kinjiro Nakamura
Seishiro Nakamura
Tatsuzo Nakamura
Toki Nakamura
Toshiko Nakashima
Chiyu Nakayama
Mieko Elane Newhouse
Toyo Nobuta
Yoneko Nobuta
Yoshi Ogata
Darryl Ohye
Eddie Shigeru Okada
Terjiro Okazaki
Kumataro Okubo
Sumiko Okubo-Byerly
Toyoko Okumura
Tsugi Okuno
Tsuru Okuno
Aiko Omiya
Torile Mayumi Omoto
Kamekichi Ono
Yae Osaki
Kameo Otsuka
Marge Otsuka
Tsunetaro Otsuki
Motoichi Joe Ozaki
Cheryl Jane Parisi
Miriam Rodriguez-Uyeda
Hisano Sakaguchi
Hirosi Sakurai
Paul Toru Sakurai
Chohachiro Sameshima
Inokichi Sasaki
Sam Isamu Sasaki
Yogo Fred Sasamoto
Setsu Sato
George Kauzu Shibata
Kinhichi Shimemura
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 Monto Takeshita
Kumaichi Frank Tanabe
Isao Tanaka
Tsuio Tanaka
Saburo Ray Tani
Jiro Tanigawa
Satoke Taniuchi
Jane Tsurence Tashiro
Kimiko Tatsumoto
Stephanie Twara
Sakado Tochiura
Aiko Mary Tomita
Kei Tsukamoto
Frank Nagayuki Urano
Henry Urano
Yusaku Uyeda
Margaret Uyemura
Masao Joe Uyemura
Yai Uyeno
Tarakichi Watanabe
Carol Yago
Sono Yamada
Rikizo Yamaguchi
Teruaki Yamamoto
Sumi Yamaoka
Jody Lynn Yamasaki
Betty Shizuko Yanari
Florence hatsuko yanaru
Ken Frank Yokooji
May Yokooji
Yone Yokooji
Chitoshi Yoshida
Keichi Roy Yoshida
Lisa Eiko Yoshida-Henn
Kumiko Kate Yoshihara
Naoji Yoshikawa

Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service
April 26, 2020
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 loves ones who have passed away in that particular month.
Donation by affected family members is appreciated: $50/observance.
In Gassho
**Hatsumairi** literally means “first visitation and is often translated as “Infant Presentation Service”. **Hatsumairi** represents the first opportunity for parents to bring infants & children before the shrine of Amida Buddha and to pledge a commitment to raising the child in the way of Buddha-Dharma. On May 17, 2020, Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple is holding Infant/Toddler Presentation Ceremony (Hatsumairi).

At this ceremony, infants are formally presented to the Buddha and the Sangha; the parents of each infant make a solemn vow to help guide their child in his/her spiritual growth. A Buddhist name is NOT given at this ceremony. This ceremony is for those infants whose parents want to set a basic foundation in which to cultivate the Teachings of the Buddha.

The Infant Presentation Ceremony will be held in conjunction with the Denver Buddhist Temple Gotan E Service. The Infant Presentation will begin at 9:30 am with the family and adult services following immediately after.

Please fill out the attached registration form and return it to the temple office with your $20 registration fee by Sunday, May 3, 2020.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of Child:</th>
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<td>Names of Father &amp; Mother:</td>
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<td>Date of Child’s birth:</td>
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<td>Place of Child’s birth:</td>
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<td>Home Address:</td>
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<td>Phone number:</td>
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<td>Email address:</td>
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<td>Parent’s Signatures:</td>
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<td>Sunday</td>
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<td><strong>May 2020</strong></td>
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<td><strong>11:30 am Dharma Service &amp; Discussion</strong></td>
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<td>9:30 Nihongo service Comb. Family/Adult</td>
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<td>9:30 Family Service MM 10:15 Adult Service</td>
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<td>10 am Brighton service T</td>
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<td>11:30 TSDBT Board Mtg</td>
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*April 2020*