



# Temple Reflections

## Temple Reflections

A TSDBT Monthly Publication

**Bodhi Day Service  
December 6, 2020**

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**December 2020**

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### Monthly Salutations

by Rev. Diana Thompson

*"If you miss me, you should recite the Nembutsu, because I am the one in the word Namu Amida Butsu."*

by Rev. Noritaka Imada

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Hello everyone, welcome to December! Finally, we have reached the end of the year. Typically, I am not quite so enthusiastic about the end of another year but 2020 was, well, it was a bit much. At this time, I am often looking back at the year that has just gone by, trying to reflect on the good, bad and everything in between to possibly glean lessons and do a little emotional and spiritual house cleaning to get the head space cleared for the New Year. Sorry 2020, you have not been the kind of year that I want to reflect upon. I know that as Buddhists, we are taught to understand and try to accept the fact of change but the changes that occurred happened too fast and too often for me this year. I felt that I never had a moment to get used to the changes and so I find myself at the end of the year unable to reflect because there is way too much to sort through.

Recently I was cleaning my garage and came upon, 'the box'. This is the box that is full of little trinkets and odds and ends that have no real value other than nostalgic. It is a box full of memories and somehow manages to follow me through every move. I never go through the entire box in one sitting but once in a great while, I will pull out an item or two and either wistfully recall some long-ago person or event or I will find that I can't recall how or why I got a particular item and will finally get rid of said item. The box will then go back on some high up shelf or in the back of some closet to be forgotten for a while until I feel like looking at it again.

Sorry 2020, you're going to be that (mental) box for me. I am going to have to put you in the back of my mind, up on some high shelf, knowing that I will revisit you at some point. Don't worry, 2020, the box will be marked "handle with care" as I do not wish to shake up your contents leaving them even more jumbled and broken than they were. I will put you up somewhere where you will not get damaged by weather or infested with spiders so you will be 'safe' until we meet again. I know that I have

It's finally December, and there's only one month left for this year. How did this year go for you? Looking back, there were some changes, such as weekly service and class being held online. I feel nostalgic for the days when I met many people at the temple every Sunday. Even so, we keep in touch by phone or video, but I still feel something is missing, and I deeply realize that people cannot live alone.

When I touch Shinran Shonin's teachings, my anxiety has changed to peace of mind for some reason. The anxiety I mean is daily feelings and also someday after I finished this life.

**"If you miss me, you should recite the Nembutsu, because I am the one in the word Namu Amida Butsu."**

I remember the moment very strongly when I heard these words. All the people who went to the Pure Land are in the word Namu Amida Butsu. It includes my grandfathers, Shinran Shonin and any Dharma friends.

Both of my grandfathers lived as Buddhist ministers, and both have been born into the Pure Land. In fact, I never met my paternal grandfather because he passed away before I was born. But when I recite Namu Amida Butsu while thinking of such grandfathers, I feel like I hear his voice, "I'm always watching over you, you're doing your best" from Nembutsu. I try to think about how to live a life with Nembutsu.

**Recite Nembutsu even when I'm sad.** I will hear a gentle voice "I'm sad, too." There is a Buddha who feels my sadness as if he were himself. When I find out that I am not alone, my sadness feels a little lessened.

**Recite Nembutsu even when I'm happy.** I will hear a warm voice "I'm glad to hear that. You are a very important person in this world. You can live a life as you are." Then, I will know that I can live as I am. This is why I said that anxiety turns into peace of mind. Recite Nembutsu - not only when life is hard but also when it's happy - this is the way of the Nembutsu life for me. A Buddha who watches over me all the

If you would like to publish a New Year Greeting in the Temple's January 2021 newsletter issue, please send your greeting message and 'sent by' name(s) by **December 10th** with a \$5-\$10 donation to: TSDBT  
1947 Lawrence St.  
Denver, CO 80202  
OR, you can email your submission to:  
dinouye@tsdbt.org

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## 「恋しくば 南無阿弥陀仏を称うべし 我も六字の 中にあり」

今田 法翔

from Rev. Imada

(continued from page 1)

ついに12月に入り、今年も残すところあと1ヶ月となりました。今年皆様にとってどんな1年間でありましたでしょうか。思い返してみると今年は様々な行事がオンラインでの開催に変更されたりと大きな変化がありました。日々お寺にて多くの人にお会いしていた日々をもはや懐かしく感じています。そんな中でもなんとか電話やビデオ等で連絡を取り合うことはできていますが、やはり何か足りないものを感じ、人は一人では生きていけないのだと深く実感します。親鸞聖人の教えに触れると、不思議なことにその不安が安心に変わる事があります。それは今日の事もですし、いつかこの命終えた後の事にも同じ事が言えます。

「恋しくば 南無阿弥陀仏を称うべし 我も六字の 中にあり」こういう言葉聞いた事があります。これは「私の事が恋しくなったなら南無阿弥陀仏と称えるべし、私はその六文字の中にいる一人ですよ」という意味で、先にお浄土へ旅立たれたあのおじいちゃんもおばあちゃんも親鸞聖人もみんな「南無阿弥陀仏」という六字の中におられるんですよ、という言葉です。

つまり、もう会えない誰かが恋しいと思った時は南無阿弥陀仏と称える。するとお念仏の中にいつでも私はいるんだよ、というのです。

私の祖父は二人とも僧侶として生きましたが、二人とも既にお浄土へ旅立ちました。父方の祖父は私が生まれる前に亡くなっているので私は会ったことはありません。そんな祖父たちを思いながら南無阿弥陀仏と称えたとお念仏の中から「ちゃんと見よるよ、頑張るとの。」と聞こえるような気がします。

念仏者の生き方とはなにかと考えてみますと、苦しい時もナンマンダブ、聞こえてくるのは優しい声「しんどいね、私も悲しいよ」私の悲しみを自分のことのように悲しんでくださる仏様がいる、自分は一人ではないと分かったと悲しみは少しだけ和らぐような感覚になります。

そして、嬉しい時もナンマンダブ、聞こえてくるのは暖かい声「よかったね、そのままでいいんだよ」自分はこのまま生きていいんだ、と安心します。辛い時だけではなく嬉しい時もお念仏、これが私にとっての念仏者の生き方です。

いつでも私を見ていてくれて私のことを全て分かってくれている、まるで親のような仏さま、それが阿弥陀さまです。どんな時でもお念仏と共に生きていく念仏者の道は、決して一人ではありません。また、私は一人では生きていけませんが、人に囲まれて生きるのも時には辛いと感じるようなワガママな心を持っています。これは自分を中心に世界を見る色眼鏡を常にかけているからです。私が見ている景色と相手が見ている景色は全く別物です。これが原因で人は喧嘩をして、悲しみ・怒りといった感情を自ら生み出しています。それでも阿弥陀仏からしたらみんな平等な尊い命なので、全ての命が仲良く支え合って生きる事が仏の願いです。そのために作られたのがお浄土です。私は今そのお浄土への道を歩ませていただいています。だから私は色眼鏡をかけたまま生活しつつも、少しでも阿弥陀様の願いにかなうような生き方を心がけていきたいと深く感じます。

南無阿弥陀仏 南無阿弥陀仏 南無阿弥陀仏

time and knows everything about me, like a parent, that is Amida Buddha.

The Nembutsu path is not the way to walk alone. I cannot live without other's help, but sometimes I also have a selfish mind that I don't want to live surrounded by people. This is because I live wearing colored glasses in my mind which look at the world selfishly. The scenery I see and the scenery the other person sees are completely different. Because of this, people quarrel and create emotions such as sadness and anger themselves. Even so, from the perspective of Amida Buddha, everyone has an equal and precious life. The wish of the Buddha is that all lives support each other and live in harmony. The Pure Land was created for that purpose. I am now on the road to the Pure Land. Therefore, I deeply feel that I want to live in a way that fulfills Amida Buddha's wishes even while living with colored glasses on.

Namo Amida Butsu.  
Namo Amida Butsu.  
Namo Amida Butsu.

Sunday, December 6, 2020  
all ministers  
Bodhi Day service  
9:30 am ZOOM service  
10 am Dharma School

Sunday, December 13, 2020  
9:30 am ZOOM service  
10 am Dharma School  
11:30 am Brighton service

Sunday, December 20, 2020  
December Shotsuki service  
9:30 am ZOOM service  
10 am Dharma School  
11:30 am Board Mtg

Sunday, December 27, 2020  
NO ZOOM services  
NO YouTube service

Thursday, Dec 31, 2020  
New Year's Eve Service  
Format to be determined  
& announced later

*Trusting to Buddha,  
Good and bad,  
I bid farewell  
To the departing year.  
-Issa, Priest of Haikaiji Temple in 1819*

The year is ending, and it has been a strange one. Retrospectively, at the end of the year it is good to think about what has come and gone, the events that we have done as a temple, as a sangha, and think about how those have affected us, thanked each other for their hard work, and in those statements express a desire for peoples work to continue on. As a temple, we operate based on the hard work of others. This year however, it has been harder to see that work visibly, however I can say that the work has been happening. I want to start off my end of the year message by saying thank you to the TS/DBT Board who have worked to keep the lights on and the temple safe. To the TS/DBT Kaikyoshi ministers, Rev. Thompson and Rev. Imada, your flexibility this year to

continue to provide the Dharma to everyone has been something that should be remembered, from the first YouTube service to the Thanksgiving Interfaith Service, everything has been to the highest standards of Jodo Shinshu Ministers. And to Donna, the temple literally would not work without you, period, end of sentence. Thank you for all the hard work you do. Lastly, but most importantly, I want to thank each member of the Sangha, as everyone has been so flexible to keep each other safe in this time of uncertainty. Jodo Shinshu Buddhism has often been called the practice of no practice. We trust to Amida Buddha for our birth in the Pure Land, and from the outside it looks like we do nothing. However, much to the contrary, Jodo Shinshu is active, and we do work, just we leave the great practice to Amida Buddha. We all work together to make sure that the Dharma is heard, that the Nembutsu is said. It is fundamental in human nature that we are on a rolling sea, the sea of samsara, with crests and troughs, and at different moments we see the world around us differently, as one of just water, or of one of just sky, from horizon to horizon. However, even when down in the trough, even when up on the crest, the light from Amida still guides our way, still illuminates us with the great compassion that is the Nembutsu. The work for us is to open our eyes and to see it. This is Shinjin. To accept that crosswise leap, that is work, as we have to come to know things about ourselves, and we have to acknowledge our being embraced by the Universal Vow.

This year has opened our eyes in new and unique ways due to the new and unique challenges. Lets all remember the feelings that we had, so that when we are on the crests of the waves and down in their troughs, we can remember that no matter what we are embraced in the great teachings of Amida Buddha, and that the calling voice of the Nembutsu is calling to us always. The path is always open, no matter the chaos of the world around us. In the words of Issa, I will end this year, trusting to Buddha, the good and the bad, and bid farewell, to 2020.

In Gassho,

## What's cooking?

We want to print a new Temple cookbook in 2021. We want the cookbook to include your family recipe(s). And if there is family lore or family history that goes with the recipe, we want that, too.

Email your recipe(s) to: [2021cookbook@gmail.com](mailto:2021cookbook@gmail.com)

Or

Send a written copy to:  
Gail Ida  
1615 W 113th Ave  
Westminster, CO 80034

RECIPE SUBMISSION DEADLINE: FEB 1, 2021

## from Rev. Thompson

*(continued from page 1)*

learned plenty from the changes that have happened, I know that I will find meaning amidst the chaos. I will certainly not be defeated by this absurd year, but I also know that I will need time.

Sooo, 2021, let's do this! It's unlikely that I will fling open the door to meet you. I will probably tiptoe gently and tentatively across your threshold, but I will be coming and hope that you will be equally gentle in welcoming me. I will arrive with that box I mentioned (and likely some baggage left over from other years) but will try to unpack it slowly and neatly rather than leaving things strewn about. I will recall the Buddha's teaching that one of the root causes of our suffering is our inability to accept change and I will recall the lines from a Buddhist poem (author and title forgotten) 'I know that all life is suffering but I am certain that all is well.'

Namo Amida Butsu

*We're excited to announce the 2021 dates for  
our annual Cherry Blossom Festival -  
June 26 & June 27*

*We don't know how it will look, we're not sure  
how it will taste. We can't say where we will be  
but we do know it will happen :) AND we know  
we'll need you there!!*

*Save the dates on your calendar!!*

*Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temples gratefully acknowledges  
Donations and offerings received from October 1, 2020 – October 31, 2020*

**Obon service**

Brighton Buddhist Sangha  
Mabel Googins

**Donation**

David & Mary Hammond  
Landon Yamaoka  
Judy Wong  
Yoko Mooney

**Ohigan service**

Michiko Chikuma  
Mabel Googins  
Bill & Ann Murphy  
Shirley Tsuchimoto  
Fumiko Yamashita  
Richard & Michiko Yoshida

**Tamai Sensei Memorial service**

Michiko Chikuma  
Kenzo & Shirley Horiuchi  
Kay Takahashi  
Shirley Tsuchimoto  
Richard & Michiko Yoshida

**In memory of Misaye Hiratsuka – 13<sup>th</sup> yr**

Calvin Kato  
Carrol Hiratsuka-Tsutsui

**August Shotsuki donations**

Mabel Googins .....  
Phyllis Kajiwara .....  
Carrol Hiratsuka-Tsutsui .....

**in memory of**

June Yoshimura & Fudeko Yoshimura  
Kikuno Kajiwara  
Moichi Hiratsuka

**September Shotsuki donations**

Carrol Hiratsuka-Tsutsui .....  
Mabel Googins .....

**in memory of**

Kura Hiratsuka and Yutaka Tak Hiratsuka  
Rev. Yoshitaka Tamai

**October Shotsuki donations**

Harriett Sakamoto.....  
Phyllis Kajiwara .....  
Mabel Googins .....  
Hisae Taniwaki .....  
Amy Noriyuki .....  
Sumiko Akiyama .....  
James & Jeanne Matsuda .....  
Family of Tosh & Mary Tawara .....  
Sumiko Saito .....

**in memory of**

Bruce Decker  
Genzaburo Kajiwara  
Karen Yamamoto and Thomas C. Googins  
Michio Taniwaki  
Sam Noriyuki  
Tosh & Mary Tawara  
Tosh & Mary Tawara and Yoko Matsuda  
Tosh & Mary Tawara and Tomiko Aigaki  
Yori Teshima

**Donations offered**

Shinichi & Judy Yasuzawa.....  
Ted & Elaine Tsumura .....  
Denver Taiko .....  
Phyllis Kajiwara .....  
Donna Otake .....  
Cindy Horiuchi .....  
Brighton Buddhist Sangha .....  
Jon & Sandra Otsuki .....  
Phyllis Kajiwara; June Shotsuki .....  
Miyuki Googins; July Shotsuki .....  
.....  
Rex & Marian Yoshimura .....  
Miyuki Googins .....  
Susan Yoneda .....  
Yoshiko Kushihara .....  
Family of Tosh & Mary Tawara .....

**for purpose of:**

2020 CBF donation  
BCA/Temple Dana Share  
facilities usage  
Feb. Shotsuki; Betty Kajiwara  
funeral; Mac M. Inouye  
Special services & CBF donation  
Hanamatsuri service  
imo George Otsuki – 17<sup>th</sup> yr  
Thomas Shuichi Kajiwara  
Minoru Yoshimura,  
Stanley Kazuo Yoshimura  
Nokotsudo niche purchase  
nokotsudo visitation  
imo Grace and Gerald Yoneda  
imo Kushihashi family  
imo Mary Tawara – 7<sup>th</sup> yr

### Sakura Square / Temple Redevelopment Update

by Joni Sakaguchi, Executive Committee Lead

I recently found an article, “The Saga of Sakura Square”, from the May 6, 1973 issue of the Empire Magazine of The Denver Post! It’s a wonderful look back at the grand opening of Sakura Square and the sacrifices and risks taken to make it happen. We’ve seen a lot of changes during last 47 years at Sakura Square and even more during the 104 years at the Temple.

This link will allow you to access and read this historical article:

[https://mcusercontent.com/d41f0e52b2aeb5d23202880ba/files/df135146-113e-4d38-b2f9-839d0b9fd975/Empire\\_Sakura\\_Square\\_5.6.73.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/d41f0e52b2aeb5d23202880ba/files/df135146-113e-4d38-b2f9-839d0b9fd975/Empire_Sakura_Square_5.6.73.pdf)

Again, thank you to everyone who participated in the community online survey regarding the Sakura Square redevelopment. We heard from almost 500 temple sangha and community members.

# December Shotsuki Names

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

Hitoshi Aoki	Tokuichi Kiyotake	Yasasuke Ogawa	Tamayo Tomoi
Junji Arakawa	Iwao Charlie Kobayashi	Arthur Akira Oka	Frank Yasuna Torizawa
Andrew Minoru Aratani	Tomeno Kodama	Hagino Helen Okada	Tom Tokimaru Toya
Beaver Sadao Asano	Takamaru Kojima	Tomotaro Okamoto	George Yoshio Tsukamoto
Suekuma Bajio	Koume Akizuki Komaru	Kichigoro Ono	Shihichi Ujifusa
Harry Satoshi Chikuma	Kameyo Konishi	Izo Onoda	George Tatsuo Umetani
Matsue Mae Doida	Sotaro Kora	Yoichi Osumi	Jim Masami Ward
Kaoru George Egawa	Floyd Hajime Koshio	Louise Misuye Ota	Harukichi Watanabe
Ishi Eshima	Gontaro Kubota	Richard Masayoshi Ota, Sr.	Mary Yagami
Rev. Eijiro Doei Fujii	Kiyo Kubota	Isamu Sam Ozamoto	Mitsuo Yagami
Kiyo Sasaki Furukami	Kazue Kuga	Matsu Riuo	Henry Yoichi Yagi
Tatsuto Furuta	Yu-Yin Kuo-Hsu	Sachiko Rogers	Itsuno Yaguchi
Gonokichi Gorai	John Shimpei Kurachi	Matsunosuke Saiga	Kazuo William Yamada
Hanae Gorai	Sadami Kuroda	Chiye Saito	Tome Yamaguchi
George Yukuo Gow	Tsuneko Kuroda	Tadashi Saito	Yukino Yamaguchi
Alice Sueko Hagihara	Sueko Maeda	Frank Fumio Sakamoto	Amy Emiko Yamamoto
Nao Hamano	Gary Masuda	Mantaro Sakuma	Kikuye Yamamoto
Benjamin Tsutomu Hara	Nancy Akiko Matsuda	Bill Sameshima	Ryokichi Yamanashi
Yuku Hara	Teruko Pauline Matsumonji	Taji Sanada	Amy Yemiko Yamasaki
Kome Hashimoto	Ayako Matsumoto	Kata Sasaki	Kohana Yamashiroya
Kinue Hasui	Sojiro Matsumoto	Tameline Sasaki	Takashi Sam Yamashita
Yajiro Hattori	Tomokichi Matsunaga	Tetsuya Sasamoto	Judy Yasuzawa
Tsuneko Hayashi	Chiyo Mayeda	Sakuju Sato	Kiyoshi Yonemoto
Kiju Hayashida	Nisaku Mayeda	Yasu Kikuchi Sato	Herman Masanobu Yoshida
Masuyo Hiraki	Takashi Mayeda	Tokuhei Shibata	Hideichi George Yoshida
Shin Hiraoka	Haruo Mikami	Masakichi Shigetomi	Kimi Yoshida
Bill Hisamoto	Nobu Mitamura	Yoshio Shigetomi	Tamiichi Yoshida
Toragoro Horisaka	John Tsunemi Miura	Hidekichi Shimamoto	William Tadashi Yoshida
Kaisaku Horiuchi	Toshiko Miyake	Xander Lee Shimamoto	Hidemi Roy Yoshihara
Saburo Horiuchi	Hatsuye Miyamoto	Kamekichi Shimoda	Hajime Yoshimoto
Hisae Igata	Sakuichi Miyamoto	Seiichiro Shioshita	Hide Yoshimoto
Hajime James Imatani	Kunihei Miyasaki	Enzo Shiramizu	Kenji Yuasa
Kogoro Inouye	Hiroshi Miyauchi	Sanaye Sogi	Namiye Rose Yura
Helene Ioka	Hirokichi Miyoshi	Craig Lopez Steinebrey	
Shigeru Robert Ishimoto	Fukutaro Mizokami	Hanako Sugihara	
Helen Itoko Ito	Leonard Mizuno	Jirohachi Sumada	
Howard Hiroshi Iwata	Oscar Mizuno	June Sakae Suzuki	
George Kagohara	George Toshio Mizushima	Hiro Tada	
Kaori Kajiwara	Tom Togo Momii	Takino Takamatsu	
Kinjiro Kamesaka	Juki Morikawa	Hatsumi Takata	
Ruth Masuye Kamibayashi	Asato Louis Morimoto	Isao Jon Takata	
Tsutomu Jimmie Kanemoto	Masaye Morita	Tomoko Takemoto	
Steven Kataoka	Masakazu Nagaki	May Takemura	
Bunyoshi Katayama	Shintaro Nagata	Babe Yoshinori Takeoka	
Kai Kawahara	Sam Sadaichi Naka	Kinsaku Takusagawa	
Hisayo Kawanabe	Yusuke Nakagawa	Hatsue Tamai	
Shizue Kawano	Haruko Helen Nakamoto	Kiyoko Tamaki	
Tsuya Kimura	Chieko Nakamura	Miyoko Tamura	
Carl "Shorty" Kinoshita	Fujie Nakamura	Kiku Tani	
Motoma Kinoshita	Futaye Nakamura	Margie Tani	
Kazuo Kishiyama	Matsuyo Nakamura	Toshio Tani	
Toku Kishiyama	Jeanne Kesako Nakano	Yumi Tani	
	Bob Goro Nakao	Gladys Shizue Taniwaki	
	Tokiwa Nakaoka	George Taoka	
	Mineko Nakayama	Kiwa Tawara	
	Fukuo Nakazono	Tomiko Sallie Tawara	
	Isaac Jun Nishida	John Satoshi Terada, Jr.	
	Misu Nishimoto	Eduardo Terrones	
	Frances Yoshi Nishimura	Tatsuo Tochiara	
	Kazuma Nitta	Miki Mike Toda	
	Tamotsu John Noguchi	Bunji Tokunaga	
	Janet Norimoto	Kimiko Tomita	

## **Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service**

December 20, 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 49<sup>th</sup> Day, 1<sup>st</sup> Year, 3<sup>rd</sup> Year, 7<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 33<sup>rd</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> 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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## From the Temple Office

by Donna Inouye

I think 2020 began as a good year. The beginning seems so long ago, I really can't remember. But I do know that I love numbers & patterns and omens. So I'm pretty certain I must have greeted the new year with hope which was generated by the facts that 01/01/2020 is a double double number; that it was scheduled to be an Olympics year; that the month of February would have a leap-year day; that it was going to be a US Presidential Election year; . . . .

You see how my mind works? I try to at least start out on the bright side.

But, then, March arrived. As Coloradans, we slid into the pandemic crisis known as Covid 19. We learned and experienced first-hand quarantining, testing, face masks, essential workers. We came to terms with cancellations, closures, remote schooling, remote working, hands-off/ touch-free encounters. We simultaneously resisted, valued & tired of virtual gatherings and meetings.

Unfortunately, as the Conveyor of Lessons in Reality, 2020 had so much more to give because 2020 is not a single year but, rather, a culmination & passing-on point of events and people throughout the Universe's beginning. So we endured, either personally or through a daily barrage of headlines . . .

Systemic discrimination. Racial profiling. Racial inequities. Police brutality. Bully politics. Dangerously angry wildfires. Increasingly numerous tropical storms. Climate change fall-out. Global warming. Marching for basic Human rights. Speaking up for Civil rights. Tending to Mother Earth.

Until (and finally) here we are – limping along to get to the end of the year, determined to finish the year as if some sort of definitive line exists. A line that can be crossed then, everything on the 2020 side, can be left behind. Collectively, traditionally we know there is no magical line; we use this end-of-year pause to reflect upon the year we have just survived, the lessons we have learned, the changes we envision and the gratitude felt for all of it.

We exist in this world and this time together. And though I may lead a provincial life, I realize the actions of my life ripple outward affecting places and people I know and people I cannot know. Likewise, I am the recipient of such ripples originating from when or where, I do not know. Still, I do know that I love numbers & patterns and omens. And I do know I am grateful to have lived this past year, however it happened, with you.

Okagesama de.