



# Temple Reflections

## Temple Reflections

A TSDBT Monthly Publication

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### Nehan E

By Rev. Noritaka Imada

Hello everyone. Nehan E is a February memorial service for Shakyamuni Buddha. It's an important day for all Buddhists. It is one of the three major memorial services set for the Buddha, along with the April Hana Matsuri, which celebrates the birth of Shakyamuni Buddha, and the December Bodhi Day, which is held for the day of enlightenment.

*Nehan* means Nirvana. *Nirvana* is a word that means the state of enlightenment, which means that the fire of suffering has been completely extinguished. Buddha was enlightened under the Bodhi tree. He continued to live to spread his teachings. To live means that the body still exists in this world, and to walk with suffering. Shakyamuni Buddha dared to choose the tough path to spread the teachings to us. And nirvana means that he has finished his life in this world. Nehan E was the day when he reached full nirvana, away from the suffering of his body. Shakyamuni Buddha was born about 2500 years ago as a prince, and eventually he became a monk, because of suffering from the impermanence of life. After he reached enlightenment at the age of 35, he visited various places and spread the teaching to people to escape the suffering of worldly desires and gain peace.

His journey continued until just before his death at the age of 80, and his nirvana is detailed in the Sutra. There is a picture called Nehan-Zu that shows the situation. It depicts the state of Shakyamuni Buddha when he arrived at Nirvana. A Buddha lies in the center, and his disciples, bodhisattva, and even animals and insects gather around him to mourn his death. The teachings that were spread long ago are now reaching us today because of the Shakyamuni Buddha who decided to spread the teachings. And many Dharma friends, including Shinran Shonin, have kept the teachings and spread them correctly to this day. I will walk the path to the Pure Land with the Nembutsu to show our gratitude and respect to Amida Buddha. Namo Amida Butsu

Gassho

### FEBRUARY SERVICES

Sunday, February 6, 2022  
9:30 ZOOM Services and  
Dharma School classes

Sunday, February 13, 2022  
9:30 am ZOOM services and  
Dharma School classes

Sunday, February 20, 2022  
Nehan E & Pet Hoji Service  
9:30 am ZOOM services and  
Dharma School classes

Sunday, February 27, 2022  
February Shotsuki  
9:30 am ZOOM services and  
Dharma School Classes



2月には涅槃会があります。涅槃会はお釈迦様が入滅されたとされる2月15日をご縁として勤まる追悼報恩の法要です。お釈迦様のご誕生を祝う4月の花まつり、悟りを開かれた日をご縁として務まる12月の成道会と並び、お釈迦様の三大法要の一つに数えられます。

涅槃とは苦しみの日が完全に消えた状態を表し、悟りの境地を意味する言葉です。お釈迦様は菩提樹の下で悟りを開かれましたが、その後も教えを広めるために生きられました。生きるという事は体がまだこの世界に存在しているということで、苦しみと共に歩むということです。お釈迦様は私たちに教えを伝えるため、あえてその道を選んで下さいました。そしてお釈迦様の入滅とはこの世での命を終えたことを意味します。身体的な苦からも離れて、完全な涅槃に至ったことから、お釈迦さまの入滅を涅槃と呼びます。

約2500年ほど前に王子様として生まれたお釈迦様は、やがて人生の無常を憂い出家されます。35歳でさとりを得てから各地を訪れ、煩惱による苦しみから逃れ、安らぎを得るといふ教えを人々に広めました。伝道の旅は、80歳で亡くなられる寸前まで続き、その入滅の様子は経典に詳しく伝えられています。その様子を伝えるものに涅槃図と呼ばれる絵があります。そこにはお釈迦様が入滅された時の様子が描かれています。中心にお釈迦様が横たわり、周囲には弟子たち、菩薩、天界の神々、さらには動物や昆虫までもが集まってお釈迦さまの死を悲しんでいる様子が描かれています。

遠い昔に広められた教えが今わたしたちに届いているのは、その教えを広める決意をしてくださったお釈迦様のおかげです。そして親鸞聖人を含む多くの祖師方が今日まで教えを伝えてくださったご恩へ報いる生活をお念仏と共に歩ませていただきます。南無阿弥陀仏

合掌

### Greetings, and Happy February!

submitted by TS/DBT Young Buddhist's Association

The YBA would like to once again thank everyone who supported our Mochitsuki fundraiser by purchasing mochi. It was so wonderful to be able to gather again to put on this event, and even though our group was small, we had so much fun making all of the mochi. We ended up making just about 300 pounds!

If you were unable to place an order, we have plenty of extra mochi available in the large freezer located in the Temple auditorium. Each bag has one pound of mochi, and there is a bucket next to the mochi to leave your payment (honor system, first come first serve). If you would like to order and pick up some mochi, please call or text Sarah Pettis at 720-295-7545.

Other YBA happenings include our continuation of Buddhist education and discussions led by Reverend Mascher-Mace. The students have really enjoyed learning more deeply about the histories of Jodo-Shinshu Buddhism and discussing how the teachings relate to our daily lives.

Additionally, as of the time of writing this article, we have coordinated a volunteer event with Benefits in Action, an organization that delivers food boxes with non-perishable and fresh foods to those living in the Denver-Metro area who are unable to acquire food on their own. Later this month, we will be helping out in the warehouse to prepare and package the food boxes for the community.

We hope that everyone is staying healthy and finding joy in the everyday moments. As we continue to meet on Zoom and plan future events, we are mindful of how fortunate we are to be a part of such a wonderful, supportive Sangha. To everyone reading this newsletter, we are thinking of you and wish you the very best!

### Dear Dharma School Families

from Alyssa Nilemo, Dharma School Co-Superintendent

This year I would like to challenge every Dharma School student, preschool through Y.B.A, to set a reading challenge for themselves. If you are a book lover like me - with a tower of "to be reads" - then maybe that challenge looks like finishing two books a month. If it is hard for you to get into reading it could mean finishing your required reading for school. Or maybe you want to listen to two audiobooks before the close of February... It doesn't have to be about how much you finish. . . your challenge might be listening to a bedtime story every night with your grownup.

Whatever you decide, email me at [dbtdharmaschool@gmail.com](mailto:dbtdharmaschool@gmail.com) with your personal challenge. Then at the end of the year check in and let's match your challenge results with fun prizes.

Mostly though I hope you take a chance to curl up with a book, or maybe an e-reader. That you listen to an audiobook in the car or on your headphones. Books are a wonderful way to grow our imagination, take a break from hard work and the best way to travel far away during the pandemic. Wishing you all the best in your reading challenge.

P.S. Parents, Guardians and Grown-ups: If Dharma School can help get a book in a kiddo's hand please let us know. We want reading and audiobooks to be accessible to all. We would be happy to send a collection of books or some audio credits to help your young reader set and accomplish their reading challenge. Please reach out by email and we can set up a plan together.

## Dharma Conduit

Rev. Kaitlyn Kongō Mascher-Mace

梁上の君子も見やれ草の露

*A robber looks too-  
ah! Dewdrops  
in the grass.  
-Issa*

Welcome to February TS/DBT. I have always thought of this month as the long one, even though it is the shortest month. The days, although getting longer, feel the most winter to me, and long are the days spent indoors, especially with the pandemic continuing. Being indoors, away from people and away from interactions we are not always aware of other people. It becomes easy then to forget how we are all connected to each other, how our actions and the actions of others effect everyone around us, and how all beings desire to be happy, desire to be loved.

The Jodo Shinshu Priest Poet Issa wrote the words above, that a robber looks too at the grass and sees the dewdrops.

Everyone looks at sees the dewdrops.

There is no difference between people, there is no person that is better than another.

A rich person and a poor person, a wise person and an uneducated person, a tall person and a short person, a male person and a female person, a straight person or a gay person, a Buddhist person or a Christian person. We all see the dew on the grass.

The reason I bring this up is I, just like so many other people around Denver, have noticed an increase of homelessness in our city, and along with that, an increase of crime, police activity, litter, and the blocking of roads and sidewalks. It is hard to look at, as much because it is a departure from normal, but also because we can see ourselves in those situations, ourselves being on the streets. When we read and hear Shinran's words about a rich person and a poor person, it is often that we see ourselves as the poor person, the bombu person, in that it makes us the perfect target of Amida's infinite compassion. However, it sometimes is hard to see ourselves as the rich person, the well homed person, but often we actually are. When in that position, it is important for us to remember that even a robber sees the dewdrops in the grass.

Shinran wrote in the Tannisho:

*“Even a good person is born in the Pure Land, how much more so is an evil person.”*

We all say the Nembutsu together, we take refuge in the name of Amida Buddha. We hear the teachings, we chant the sutras, and we share the fellowship that comes in being in the Sangha. We know that our birth in the Pure Land is settled through the other-power Nembutsu, and our hearts leap with joy even though we see our foolish selves in the mirrors. However, we are not the only ones that the teachings are meant for, nor are we the only ones who are worthy to hear them. They are for everyone. There is no litmus test for the Nembutsu, there is no qualification to be welcomed into the loving embrace of Amida Buddha. All beings, being a saint or sinner, good or evil, are the target of Amida's Vow, and are part of Amida's all encompassing embrace.

When we see people on the street - homeless and sad, cold and hungry - remember, they are part of the same embrace from Amida Buddha that we are. They are just as welcomed into the other-power Nembutsu teaching as we are. They are just as much our brothers and sisters in the Dharma as anyone else, they just may not know it yet. Through our limited kindness and our very limited compassion, we see them as people, we see them as our brothers and sisters in the Dharma. When someone takes from us, steals from us, let us remember that they see the same beauty in the world that we do. When we feel judgement and annoyance at someone sleeping in front of our door, against our gate - remember to look in the mirror and know that we are also the people who are embraced for our greed, anger and ignorance.

All are embraced by the Vow.

In Gassho,

**Bodhi Day service**

Manabu & Junko Kimura  
Miyoko Murata  
Sayoko Takata  
Shirley Tsuchimoto  
Richard & Michiko Yoshida

**Donation**

Ted & Elaine Tsumura  
Sharon & Stan Eshima  
James & Jeanne Matsuda  
Alice Mizuno  
Bill & Ann Murphy  
David Hammond & Mary Mead  
Grace Tochiara

**In memory of Mary Aigaki**

Family of Tosh & Mary Tawara  
Sandra Paolini  
Alice Yasumura

**October/November Shotsuki donors**

Mabel Googins ..... Mich Yoshimura  
Kent & Jane Kano ..... Ruth Suekama  
Marge and Rod Fukuhara ..... Tom Sasaki, Warren Fukuhara

**December Shotsuki donors**

Mabel Googins ..... Art Oka  
Hisae Taniwaki ..... Gladys Taniwaki  
Richard & Michiko Yoshida ..... Herman Yoshida, Nancy Matsuda  
Sayoko Takata ..... Isao Jon Takata, Hatsumi Takata  
Annette Ward ..... Jim Ward  
Miyoko Murato ..... Jon Takata  
Alice Mizuno ..... Junji Arakawa, Oscar Mizuno  
..... Leonard Mizuno  
Clyde & Judy Nitta ..... Kazuma Nitta  
Family of Tosh & Mary Tawara ..... Kiwa Tawara, Sallie Tawara  
Ida Sasaki ..... Kiyoko Sasaki Furukami  
Milt & Nancy Domoto ..... Shin Hiraoka, Motoma Kinoshita  
Dora Shibata ..... Tadashi Shibata, Sanaye Sogi  
Fumiko Yamashita ..... Kohana Yamashita  
January Shotsuki donor ..... in memory of  
Dora Shibata ..... Mitsuyo Sogi, Yukio Sogi

**Donation donors**

Ted & Elaine Tsumura ..... Kuritani and Tsumura parents  
Shirley Tsuchimoto ..... Eitai-kyo service  
Jack & Alice Kimura ..... HoOnko service  
Mabel Googins ..... Frances Yoshi Nishimura-17<sup>th</sup> yr  
Irene Shibao ..... funeral; Hank Shibao  
Rudy Miyake ..... funeral; Mary Miyake  
Marian Yoshimura ..... funeral; Rex Yoshimura  
Karen Matsushima ..... funeral; Ron Matsushima  
Pete & June Medina ..... Haruko & Shigeo Iwahiro  
Family of Matsumoto & Hirokawa ..... Mom & Dad  
Lisa Sasaki ..... John Nitta  
Sumi Akiyama ..... Kiwa Tawara-50<sup>th</sup> yr  
June Sachiko Matsuda ..... Margaret Matsuda-7<sup>th</sup> yr  
Cindy & Andy O'Callaghan ..... Ryoichi & Reiko Okamoto-17<sup>th</sup> yr  
James & Jeanne Matsuda ..... Susan Kiyoko Tawara-33<sup>rd</sup> yr  
Toni Yagami ..... Yamako(7<sup>th</sup>) & Mitsuo(33<sup>rd</sup>) Yagami

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

*Eiji Horiuchi*

*January 5, 1934 -December 26, 2021*

**To Our Community**

*from Gary Yamashita, CEO Sakura Square LLC*

As many of you are aware, Sakura Square and Temple representatives are actively working on the redevelopment of our block. In the coming days you may notice signs posted around the property regarding our application for a Certificate of Demolition Eligibility (CDE) for Sakura Square. If granted by the City of Denver, the CDE would provide us with a five-year window in which we can demo Tamai Tower and other commercial structures on the block. The CDE is the first step in a multi-year process regarding the redevelopment of Sakura Square, a project that will ensure the preservation of our Japanese American heritage for future generations. **Most importantly, the CDE process will have no immediate impact on any of our existing commercial tenants or Tamai Tower residents as any demolition and construction are still years away.** The Temple has previously applied for their CDE and has successfully received approval.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 303-204-8039 or [GaryY@sakurasquare.com](mailto:GaryY@sakurasquare.com). For additional information on the redevelopment, please visit [SakuraSquare.com](http://SakuraSquare.com) to view the redevelopment FAQs. Questions specific to the Temple can be directed to Chad Nitta, TSDBT Board President at [chad.nitta@kutakrock.com](mailto:chad.nitta@kutakrock.com).

We appreciate the community support we have enjoyed over the decades and will share more information as it becomes public. This once-in-a-lifetime opportunity will enhance our community and maintain the cultural elements at Sakura Square.

# February Shotsuki Names

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

Mitsuzo Aigaki	Yoshio Kataoka	Fusao Nakai	Rose Jitsuye Tanouye
Frank Y. Akahoshi	Kenzo Kawakami	Kiyoshi Nakamura	Noboru Tashiro
Kunisaburo Akahoshi	Michiko Kawakami	Yayeko Nakamura	Sunao Tashiro
Katsue Aoki	Byron Kawata	Fumiko Nakano	Sumae Tazawa
Yoshio Norman Arakawa	Shinzo Kimura	Kisaichi Nakano	Haruye Alice Terada
Isamu Jim Arita	Tomitaro Kimura	Sogo Nakano	Tom Todomu Terada
Melvin Ashida	George Akinori Kinoshita	Gohachi Nakata	Kinu Tersaki
Hatsuichi Chado	Yoshimi Jean Kinoshita	Hideo Nakata	Uhachiro Teshima
Janet Sachiko Chikuma	Bill Kenzo Kishimoto	Dale Neel	Masashi James Tochihiro
Torataro Doi	Nikichi Kishimoto	Miyoko Nigo	Yoshiko Toda
Tommy T Doizaki, Jr	Roy Mankichi Kishiyama	Yonezo Nishida	Margaret Taeko Torem
Henry Seichi Doizaki	Joanne Kimiye Knight	Shigeru Nishimoto	Misuo Tsuruda
Denji Eto	Robert Emmett Knight	Roy Isamu Nishimura	Yagoto Uchida
Chiyo Eya	Tepper Mark Koga	Bill Masuo Nukaya	Matazo Ueba
Katsusaburo Fujii	Akira Kojima	George Saburo Nukaya	Tetsu Ueba
Shizuye Marion Fujimoto	Baby Konishi	Kane Nukaya	Yoshie Ujifusa
Yuji Fujimoto	John Koshi	Zenita Oda	Chie Wakimura
Gregory James Fujita	Sestuko Koshio	Tome Ogawa	Minosuke Washizu
Harry Kiyoshi Fukaye	Masaye Lil Kuge	Hagino Helen Okada	Esther Kinue Watada
Guntaro Fukino	Jean Kunugi	Noriaki Okada	Lowell Wikoff
Shigeru Funakoshi	Hisako Kuroda	Suzu Okagawa	George Kiyoshi Yago
Joe Funayama	Kaz Kuroda	Tokusaburo Okamoto	Sueki Yamada
Janette Haruko Furukawa	Henry Atsushi Kuroki	Jukichi Okugawa	James Yamane
Tadashi Fushimi	Chizuko Doris Kuruma	Taichiro Omaye	Santo Yamasaki
Katsuki Gow	Itsuko Kuruma	Henry Omoto	Shizuye Yamashita
Nobu Gow	Masao Kuwada	Jirohachi Onodera	Tadao Tom Yamashita
Barbara Jean Masako Hamai	Kam Wah Kwong	Tsuka Onodera	Muneomi Harry Yanari
Shunji George Hamano	George H. Mamiya	Kunio Osaki	Sami Yasuda
Tomiye Mary Hamano	Yasu Masuda	Ito Sakurai	Tetsuichi Yasuda
Jessie Yoshiko Hanatani	Hatsuko Matsuba	Kiyozo Sameshima	Yu Yasumura
Lily Yuriye Hara	Charles Matsubara	Gene Yoshitsugu Sasa	Sam Susumu Yasuzawa
Sohichi Hara	Alyce Matsuda	Haruko Sasa	Aya Yoshihara
Harry Harada, Jr.	Jean Kimiko Matsuda	Tetsujiro Sasamoto	
Kazuyoshi Hasui	Bob Sakae Matsumonji	Kimiye Sato	
Kay Takako Hatanaka	Ikeru Akira Matsumonji	Lillian Sato	
Eijiro Hayashi	Betty Eiko Matsuno	Motoye Sawada	
George Shigenori Hayashi	Teruko Matsushima	Taichi Sera	
Michie Mary Hiramatsu	Ben S. Mitamura	Toshiye Shibata	
Yukiye Hirokawa	Hatsuyo Miyamoto	Jack Shigeru Shigetomi	
Kathleen Kiyo Hora	Masayoshi Fred Miyamoto	Yukano Shino	
Joe Tsunetoshi Horiuchi	Charles Nagahiko Mizunaga	Katsumi Harry Shiramizu	
Keiji Horiuchi	James Hisashi Mizuno	Josaku Shiroyama	
Shuhei Horiuchi	Kenneth Seiichi Mizuno	Chiyoko Nishiyama Stanhope	
Kunihiko Hosoya	George Mori	Hitose Suckama	
Tadashi Igata	Yoshi Mori	Alice Sugihara	
Yoshiharu Igata	Haruyo Morimoto	Sumiko Sumida	
Rikimatsu Inouye	Isaku Morita	Tamiko Suzuki	
Teizo Inouye	Michael Masatohi Murakami	Tazu Suzuki	
Zennosuke Ishiguro	Shizuko Murakami	Takeo Tadehara	
Suteji Ito	Douglas Dean Muroya	Frank Tadayuki Tagawa	
Aki Jackson	Kimiyo Muroya	Thomas Taggart	
Betty Kajiwara	Ichiyo Nagai	Mansuke Taira	
Isao Kajiwara	Shige Nagaki	Aiko Takeda	
Shizuko Kanai	Kumichi Nagamoto	Inohei Tamura	
Mitsuru Kanegaye	Iwayo Nakafuji	Haruo Tanaka	
Mary Setsuno Kanemoto	Edward Tamaki Nakagawa	Haruyo Tani	
Miyoshi Kasa	Kazuo Nakagawa	Kane Tani	

## **Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service**

February 27, 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 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 loves 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

When it was decided, way back in March of 2020, to temporarily close the Temple doors due to the statewide Corona-virus lockdown I packed a box of office files, loaded up my USB data stick and headed home with happy expectations of working from home while eliminating a nasty, daily commute.

I actually moved in with my daughter, her husband and their two big dogs. I almost lived the idyllic existence of a college coed roommate (no one passing out rules or bedtimes). But no matter the niceties of living a 'vacation' life, the pull to be home is strong. I had a timetable in my head of two weeks – two months at the most.

After two months, I was ready to go home. But the daily News was not good. The number of Covid deaths were increasing at an alarming rate. 'Statewide' lines expanded to border the nation, then all the places any of us had family, then the lines were re-drawn to define a global pandemic. A vacation life had grown to include a scary, inconvenient and helpless life.

Still, I wanted to go home. So I did. And I told myself that living alone and working from home would only last a few more months. Six at the most. Well, here we are – on the cusp of a full two years later (19 months after my last "prediction") – and Covid continues to regulate nearly every movement of our lives.

While the Temple gates have remained closed this entire time both Ministers and volunteer Sangha members, who rallied to serve on various committees, met and worked on a recurring schedule to maintain the Temple building and spirit.

Please join me in expressing gratitude to all who served on the following Committees: Temple Building Maintenance & Usage, Temple Re-Opening, 2022 Cherry Blossom Festival Planning, Temple Re-Development, Nikkei Treasures Fundraising, Dharma School Staff and Families, YBA Advisors and Students, Sodan, BWA Officers and Members, TS/DBT Membership. Many individuals served on more than one of these Committees [a working illustration of "interdependence"].

And thank you to all Sangha members who continued their practice of financial support – both through Membership payments and Service donations.

Most likely there will never be an 'end' to our Covid existence as much as there will be a new definition of what 'normal' looks like. We've shown our adaptability by participating in virtual Services and meetings, but just as compelling as my personal need to live in my own home, we (our Sangha) have a strong urge and desire to gather at the Temple – together and in-person.

While I have a dismal record for making accurate predictions, I nevertheless believe the Temple gates will be opened in 2022. I don't know exactly When or How but please realize that re-opening requires hard work from a few and much gratitude and patience from the rest of us.

Namo Amida Butsu.