



Temple Reflections

Temple Reflections

A TSDBT Monthly Publication

Volume XXXVIII, Issue I

January 2018

Special Event of interest

- Sunday, January 21st
- HoOnko & New Year Celebration
- 9:30 am Service
- 11:30 Luncheon

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World of Purity (Pure Land of Amida Buddha)

How to read the 48 Vows

You see candle lights on the *Naijin* during service. When I explain a single candle light, I say that it gives us light (Wisdom) and warmth (Compassion) – two elements though the candle light is one. *Amida* is explained this same way. Although *Amida* is one, *Amida* is made of Wisdom (48 vows) and the Name (Compassion).

Why, then, do we need the explanation of Wisdom and Compassion when we share *Amida*? Firstly, *Amida* tries to give us Light (Wisdom) to break our darkness, and the Light shows us our dark shadow. At the same time, however, we come to realize that we are in the Light. Thus, *Nembutsu* followers experience the two things: Sadness (shadow) and joy (light). How does this “*Shinjin Faith*” happen in the real world? Please consider my metaphor as follows:

A baby chick stays and grows inside an egg shell. When it's about time for the baby to get out of the shell, the shell is too strong for the baby to break. So the baby “knocks” making its “cheep cheep” sound and its mother hears it. The mother, then, starts pecking the shell from outside. Actions from inside and outside the shell over a period of hours or days should happen in timely manner. If the mother breaks the shell when the baby is not ready yet, the baby will die. If it is too late, the baby

also dies. But don't worry!

People who are listening to *Amida's World* are staying and growing just like baby chicks inside the shell. They are becoming chickens little by little, and finally they are ready to go out to a wider world. Although *Amida* is already and always with us, *Amida* appears to you to invite you to Immeasurable Working of Light and Life whenever you are ready. So “listening” is essential. Please don't give up this teaching even when you don't understand this teaching clearly.

You don't have to memorize each vow, but when you repeat the vows in your mind, you are heading to the essence of Wisdom and Compassion. Or, you are growing and ready for the moment *Amida* breaks your shell. In other words, everyday is the day to practice the vows for realization and awareness of the essence of *Amida*. Don't worry about anything!

When you want to know the taste of ocean water, you don't have to drink all the water in the ocean. You just need a little amount. Likewise, the essence (taste) is not written in the vows (ocean), but you reach the essence through the vows. The most important part should be realized and experienced by you.

In Gassho,

Rev. Doei Fujii

Monthly Salutations from Rev. Diana Thompson

Hello everyone, welcome to the New Year! We find ourselves yet again at the time of year when we reflect on the past twelve months and are ready to move forward based on the lessons we've (hopefully) learned. The new year is a time for purging. To clear out all of the clutter and try to start in a fresh space. I was considering this as I walked into my very clean living room the other day because for the past month or so, my daughter and I have been doing a home purge. We have been going room by room, opening drawers and closets, taking stock of all of things that we have accumulated and trying to decide which things needed to go. So far, this has resulted in four trips to the local donation centers and several bags that we were able to give to our Dharma School's dana projects. I am always happy to give things to good causes but I am also astonished at the sheer amount of things that I was able to donate. Every drawer I opened, no matter how small, contained items that could be given away. Things that I'm sure I got and kept for some specific reason (sentiment, some project I thought I would start etc.) but that had

gone untouched and forgotten long ago. There were clothes and shoes that I had purchased for specific occasions, worn once and kept 'just in case' and, even more embarrassingly, clothes I'd kept forever on the off chance that I'd be able to fit into them again one day.

For the most part, the purge was easy. There were plenty of things lying around that clearly had no use for me anymore and they went right into the donation boxes. However, there were the other, more difficult items that required some deeper consideration. The hardest to sort through were the things that held some sentimental value. Books, clothing, knick-knacks, etc. that had been given to me by friends or family members and even odd items like theater programs which I'd kept because it reminded me of some special moment in time. Now on the surface this seems perfectly reasonable. We all have things that we've kept for sentimental reasons and yet as I went through these things, I began to wonder what it was about the items themselves that made me keep them. Sometimes, I

would find several items that had been given to me by a loved one and I've kept them 'as a reminder.' However, most of those items weren't representative of the actual person, they were just things.

Why would I keep a deck of cards from a place I'd never been just because it was given to me by a certain person? If this person and I had regularly played cards, then I could see the true sentimental value. It had been 'our thing' and we probably used this deck for our games. But more often than not, the cards were just cards. These were the things I got rid of.

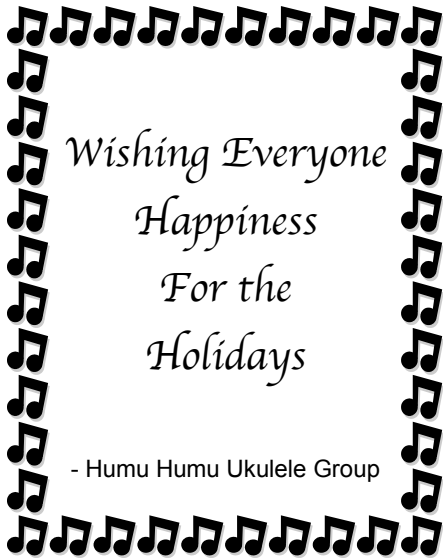
The quilt that my grandmother made for me is the work of her hands (and possibly the hands of aunties and cousins as well) and when my daughter and I curl up under it on cold days, it is like a warm hug from all of those women. These are the items that I kept.

I purged the things that didn't actually mean anything and/or things that made me sad, (the aforementioned 'skinny' clothes or books given to me by someone I'd rather forget) and I kept the things that were useful in both the literal and emo-

tional sense. Things like the quilt or pieces of art given to me by friends, things that remind me of the person that they are/were and bring me fond memories.

I've still got the storage closet to go through, but the inside of the house is done for now. With uncluttered drawers, closets and shelves, the place feels lighter. And so, as I step into this new year, I will try to use this purge as a reminder to myself to try and go through my things more often. Whether it is a closet or my own mind, I will try to go through all of the clutter. I will look at all of the items, reflect on them and then figure out what can be removed and what can stay. May you all enter 2018 with your own housecleaning efforts and find yourselves lighter and therefore ready to move freely into the New Year. Namu Amida Butsu





Wishing Everyone
Happiness
For the
Holidays

- Humu Humu Ukulele Group



年頭の辞：ご用心、ご用心！

臨済宗の僧に「一休さん」という人がいる。正式名は「宗純（そうじゅん）1394-1481」。浄土真宗の蓮如上人（1415-1499）」とは友人だったと史実に出てくる。この一休さんは蓮如上人のことを「あいつは俗中の俗だ」と悪口をいっているが、続けて「その蓮如の従っている阿弥陀仏の教えは最上の教えである」と。一休さん、さすが友人ですね。

さて、何かと奇行の多い一休さん、ある年の正月に京都の街中を棒にドクロをつきさして「ご用心！ご用心！」と叫びながら歩いたそう。人々は「このめでたい正月に！」と不快に思ったと伝書には出てくる。

さて、この「ご用心」との意味だが、「正月だと浮かれているが、無常は待ってはくれないぞ。生きている内に己の命の行方をはっきりと知り解決しなさい」とのこと。これを浄土真宗のことばでは「後生（ごしょう）の一大事の解決」という。めでたい、めでたい、いそがしい、忙しいと目先のことに心囚われている内に虚しく死んでしまうぞー、ということ。まあ、禅宗ではたびたび人の嫌がることを言うが、人々の心の眼を覚ませるためです。

山東三州仏教会はこの「後生の一大事」の解決のためにあり、今年も共に無常を超える法を聞いて行きたく思っている次第です。
合掌、藤井道栄



Wishing Everyone a Very Happy New Year
that's filled with new friendships and good health!

- Shirley Tsuchimoto



New Year's greeting

Beginning Note: Sojun (1394-1481) was a Rinzai Zen priest who was a good friend of Rennyo Shonin (1415-1499) of Hongwanji.

Sojun's life was famous for being full of "strange behaviors." On one New Year's Day in Kyoto, the priest walked around inside the city carrying a pole with a skull and was shouting loudly "Watch out! Watch out!"

People in Kyoto did not feel good about this behavior on this, normally, very happy day of the year. Sojun, however, wanted to say, "While you are in high spirits on New Year's Day, your life could disappear! Pay attention - finish your most important business first! Impermanence comes to you anytime and anywhere! Hurry up to solve your life!"

Impermanence does not have a day-off or vacation. It occurs anytime and anywhere; it is ongoing. Our Temples are the places to solve this big business. In the year of 2018, I would like to share Amida's Teaching with you. May I see even one person who goes beyond Impermanence through Namo-Amida-Butsu.

In Gassho,
Rev. Doei Fujii





Greetings from Dharma School!

By Sara Downey Robinson, Co-Superintendent

Dharma Discussion With Rev. Thompson

January 9, 16, 23 & 30
Tuesdays at 11:30 a.m.

January 12 & 19
Friday evenings at 7:00 pm

Discussion preceded by a
short service

You are invited to join in dharma discussions that cover such topics as Amida Buddha and the PureLand, basic temple etiquette, onaijin objects and other concepts related to Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. Bring your own questions and thoughts to keep the discussions lively and relevant.

Contact
Diana Thompson Sensei at
303.295.1844 OR
dthompson@tsdbt.org

Dates and times are subject to change. Contacting Diana Sensei ahead of time is highly recommended.

Happy New Year,
Dharma School Families!

We hope everyone had an enjoyable holiday season and are ready to kick off the New Year with a bang.

We had a wonderfully successful Turkey Bingo with Dharma School raising nearly \$1,000! Thank you to our entire Sangha for the support. Furthermore, we'd like to give a very huge thank you to everyone who donated to the Turkey Bingo raffle and also our glasses and mugs to our Unicorn Hot Chocolate Dana Project.

Clean Up Sunday is scheduled for January 7, 2018.

Following the 9:30 am service, everyone will go to their assigned areas to clean. When we are finished, we'll enjoy lunch in the auditorium provided by Dharma School.

Here's the breakout of who will be cleaning what area:

Adult Sangha (last name A-H) - Hondo and Foyer

Adult Sangha (last name I-R) - Auditorium and Stage

Aikido, Judo, Karate, Basketball and Volleyball - Gym

Dharma School Students and Teachers - Classrooms

Dharma School Students/ Parents - Bathrooms

Taiko- All-purpose Room Downstairs

BWA - Kitchen and Supplies Area

Choir - Cry Room

All TSDBT Affiliated Clubs - Will Clean Their Associated Class and storage Spaces

Please bring cleaning supplies, rags, paper towels, labeled spray bottles, vacuum cleaners, mops, etc. – whatever equipment is necessary in cleaning your assigned area.

Bake sale for January is as follows:

Jan 7th - No Bake Sale (Clean Up Sunday - lunch provided)

Jan 14th - Preschool

Jan 21st - 4/5th Grade

Jan 28th - Band

Mark your calendars now for our upcoming *Pet Hoji service on Feb 18th*. Be on the lookout for information in next month's newsletter.

Thank you again for all of your support.

Okagesame de



Thank you to the following volunteers for helping prepare the Temple newsletter for mailing: Joyce Mizunaga, Richard Yoshida, Kay Takahashi, Dora Shibata, Shirley Tsuchimoto, Rod Bruntz, Lorraine Hisamoto and Michi Kawakami.

Thank you to Joni Sakaguchi and Gayle Goto who headed up two major-Temple mailing tasks; they organized the Sunday service attendees as a highly efficient working machine.

Thank you to Wayne Berve and Cal Kato for the many maintenance chores you performed throughout 2017 so that Temple members could remain sheltered and safe.

Thank you Frank Miyazawa Sensei and Kaitlyn Mascher-Mace Sensei for volunteering your time and efforts to learning and practicing the Dharma.

Thank you Sangha Members for financial and physical help whenever and however you can; the Temple exists because of you.

Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temples gratefully acknowledges donations and offerings received from November 1, 2017—November 30, 2017:

Eitaikyo Service

Armijo Family
 Susie Asano
 Michiko Chikuma
 Gary & Shirley Horiuchi
 Cindy Horiuchi
 Kent & Jane Kano
 Jack & Alice Kimura
 Ayako Kimura
 Junko & Manabu Kimura
 Frank Miyazawa
 Alice Nishimoto
 Charles & Teri Ozaki
 Hisae Taniwaki
 Shirley Tsuchimoto
 Richard & Michiko Yoshida

In memory of Anna Murahata – 1st yr

Berve Family
 Calvin Kato
 Family of Anna Murahata
 Sue Murahata
 Joan & Dennis Murahata
 David & Joni Sakaguchi

In memory of Gladys Hiraoka - 3rd yr

Milton & Nancy Domoto
 Family of Gladys Hiraoka
 Sue & Edwin Hiraoka
 Jan & Ron Marshall & family

Donation

Cheryl Hiraoka
 Kumiko Ohtake
 Ben & Cody Yoshida
 Anonymous
 Unnamed

Offering Box

4th/5th Grade Class
 Yoko Mooney
 Kumiko Ohtake
 Preschool Class

Facilities Usage

DBT Craft Class
 Funeral reception; Charles Komaru
 Funeral reception; Pat Umetani

November Shotsuki payments

Michael & Karen Jones
 Yo & Betty Shimamoto
 Betty Inamasu
 Jack & Alice Kimura
 Sayoko Takata
 Jack & Alice Kimura
 Richard & Michiko Yoshida
 Families of Tosh&Mary Tawara
 Junko & Manabu Kimura
 Kenzo & Shirley Horiuchi
 Betty Inamasu

in memory of

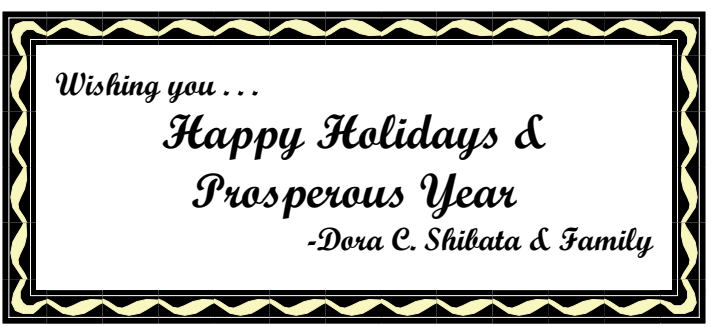
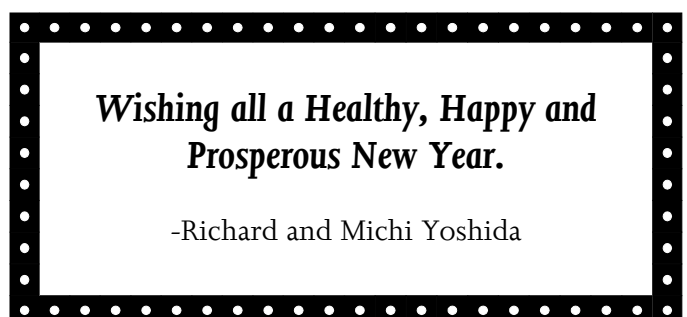
Gary Higa
 Hikoichi Shimamoto
 James Inamasu, Sam Inamasu
 Kazuo Kimura
 Kenichiro Hishi
 Kiyo Tani
 Misao Kagiyama
 Mistutaro Tawara
 Nobue Tsushima
 Shigeko Horiuchi
 Tsuma Kishimoto, Marie Ito

Donations

Brighton Buddhist Sangha.....
 Shirley Baker
 Tokiyo Imanaka
 MaryAnne Miller
 O'Callahan Family
 Deborah Sakaguchi

for

Obon service
 imo Betty Ishiguro – 1st yr
 imo Earl Hiroshi Imanaka – 3rd yr
 imo James Shoji Suekama
 imo Reiko Okamoto
 imo Robert King Sakaguchi – 3rd yr



Saturday, January 27, 2018
43rd Denver Kohaku Uta Gassen
Red (Female) Team vs White (Male) Team Singing Competition
Doors Open at 11:00 a.m. with FREE admission
Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple auditorium

The Denver Kohaku Uta Gassen is one of the most entertaining events for the Japanese Community in the greater Denver-metro area. Your support by attending this event is greatly appreciated. The Consul General's Championship Trophy will be presented by Consul General Hiroto Hiraokoba to the winning team at the end of the program. As always, the net proceeds will be donated to TSDBT.

The Denver Buddhist Women's Association will prepare and sell a \$10.00 Japanese Bento Box. Many door prizes will be given away. And, this year's special interval entertainment includes: Okinawan Dance, Humu Humu Ukulele Group, Sakura Chorus Group, Colorado Japanese School and Japanese Academy of the Rockies Children's Chorus and guest singers, Mr. Souichi Nakamura and Ms. Chiaki Okuyama.

Please attend this year's competition for a fun day filled with rivalry, prizes, food and entertainment.



BCA Ministers' Association and National Council Meeting

Together in Gassho

DoubleTree Inn by Hilton - Sacramento, CA
February 21-25, 2018

Registration Materials were sent to temples in October

January Shotsuki Names

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

Ine Ajsaka
Kichiro Akiyama
Kamekichi Ando
Chiyeko Aoki
Martha Arakawa
Naojiro Ariki
Naomi Brockman
Susan Hanatani Burkhardt
Yoshi Chikuma
Fred Kumaji Doizaki
Sumire Doizaki
Ura Doizaki
William Masashi Doizaki
Hisao Haley Fujii
Jean Ikuye Fujimoto
Hisayo Furukawa
Itsuno Hara
Ugi Harada
Saju Hasegawa
Masaye Hashimoto
Kikuno Hayashi
Makoto Hideshima
Gary Lee Higa
Gladys Reiko Hiraoka
Yutaka Honjo
Masako Hopp
Shigeko Horiuchi
Toyo Horiuchi
Tsuneo Horiuchi
Nakao Hoshijima
Earl Hiroshi Imanaka
James Inamasu
Shigeru Inamasu
Taju Inamasu
Yoshie Inouye
Kaname Isahashi
Betty Ishiguro
Tatsuo Roy Iwahashi
Haruko Iwahiro
Hisako Iwakiri
Taka Iwata
Misao Kagiyama
Sam Fujio Kato
Akira Kawanabe
Miyono Kawano
Haru Kawashima
Frank Sueo Kimura
Kazuo Kimura

Sunao Kinoshita
Tsuchi Kinoshita
Tsuma Kishimoto
Mitsuo Frank Kishiyama
Takako Kishiyama
Yuichi Kiyonaga
Kojima Takaharu
Kojima Takao
Mihoko Kondo
Katy Shizue Koshio
Asano Koto
Shosuke Kuroki
Logan Kusuno
Mark Isamu Kutsuma
Yaye Kuwabara
Kamematsu Masunaga
Sutekichi Matsubara
Isamu Sam Matsuda
Shunso Matsuda
Shiro Matsuno
Tomeko Mayeda
Kazuo Miyahara
Kimiye Miyake
Misumasa Miyake
Genichi Miyamoto
Chizuko Mary Miyauchi
Kiju Yamashita Miyoshi
Shigeo Miyoshi
Akira Mizunaga
Shingeru Momoi
Lucy Akiko Mori
Toi Morimitsu
Torajiro Mugishima
Anna Murahata
Matasaku Murai
Kenji Murakami
Linda Kimiko Murakami
Otokichi Murakami
Haru Murata
Mitsu Murata
Masako Nakadoi
Elton Kunisaburo Nakamoto
Suga Nakasawa
Harry Soichi Nakatsu
Atsumu Nakatsuka
Masako Nakayama
Yoshio Nigo
Kenichiro Nishi

Bob Akira Noguchi
Nagafumi Nomura
Maki Numokawa
Howard Oda
Toyosuke Ogura
Gonshiro Okada
Tsuya Okamoto
Bill Mitsuo Okubo
Paul Den Ono
Yone Ono
Shuji Osaki
Yoshihiro Otaka
John Sadahiro
Nobu Sadahiro
Helene Haruko Saeda
Shinpachi Saeki
Robert Kingi Sakaguchi
Shin Ichi Sakai
Takeno Sakamoto
Kie Sameshima
Hayami Russ Sato
Teruko Sato
Tatsuo Sera
Howard Haruo Shibao
Yoshi Shibao
Tatsuo Shibata
Hikoichi Shimamoto
Wesley Shimoda
Emiko Ruth Suekama
Ukichi Sumida
Francis Masaaki Suzuki
Harry Tatsuo Tabuchi
Albert Tokio Tagawa
Hazel Haruko Tagawa
Kikue Takahashi
Tokuhei Takamori
Tsuayo Takata
Fujitaro Takemoto
Yonekichi Takeuchi
Nobuko Tanabe
Kenzuchi Tanaka
Sam Shozo Tanaka
Allen Hiroshi Tani
Kiyo Tani
Masato Mike Tashiro
Chitose Tateyama
Mitsutaro Tawara
Shizue Terada

Jim Naoiuki Tochihara
Mary Asako Tokunaga
Shinkichi Tokunaga
Yoshiyuki Tsuchiya
George Eiichi Tsukiji
Nobuye Tsushima
Noboru Tsutsumi
Shannon Miki Oshiro Umetani
Lily Urano
Goro Watanabe
Miyoko Yago
Seihichi Yago
Kiso Yamada
Masakimi Yamada
Shiro Yamada
Sahei Yamaguchi
Hatsu Yamao
Betty Ayako Yamashita
Sannosuke Yamashita
Kazuyo Yasumichi
Asajiro Yonekura
Miyuki Yonemoto
Shintaro George Yoshihara
Hideichi Yoshimoto
Soji Yoshimoto
Mich Yoshimura
Chiye Yunoki

Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service

January 28, 2018

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' membership offers condolences to the family and friends of:

Warren Fukuhara

June 16, 1927-November 15, 2017



February 2018

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

4	5	6	7	8	9	10
8:30 am Nihongo serv. 9:30 am Family service 10:15 am Adult service 11:30 BWA Annual Meeting 1 pm Sedgwick service					10:30 APALA mtg (aud) 11 am Shimran's service	9 am—12 noon Chibi No Gakko
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
9:30 Family service F 10:15 Adult service F 9 am Brighton service T 11 Ft. Lupton service T						1 pm Greeley Service T
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
18 Nehan E & Pet Hoji 8:30 am Nihongo service 9:30 Family service 10:15 Adult service 11:30 Nenju-making class 11:30 TSDBT Annual General Meeting					BCA National Council Sacramento, CA	12 noon-2 pm Chibi Celebratory Potluck
25	26	27	28			
25 February Shotsuki 9:30 am Family Service 10:15 am Adult service Final day of BCA Nat'l		7 pm Humu Humu				

January 2018

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	Wednesday	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	Saturday
	1 11 am New Year's Day Service	2	3	4	5	6
7 Dharma School Clean Up Sunday 9:30 Family Service 1 pm Sedgwick	8	9 11:30 am Dharma Disc. & Service T	10	11 6 pm UtaGassen practice	12 7 pm Dharma Disc. & Service T	13
14 9:30 am Family service F 10:15 am Adult service F 9 am Brighton service T 11 Ft. Lupton service T	15	16 11:30 am Dharma Disc. & Service T	17 6pm Lajara/Alamosa service F	18 6 pm UtaGassen practice	19 7 pm Dharma Disc. & Service T	20 12 noon Greeley T HoOnko w/lunch
21 HoOnko & New Year Celebration 9:30 am Combined service 11:30 HoOnko luncheon 1 pm UtaGassen practice 3 pm Denver Taiko work shop	22	23 11:30 am Dharma Disc. & Service T 7 pm Humu Humu	24	25 6 pm UtaGassen practice	26	27 Kohaku Uta Gassen
28 January Shotsuki 9:30 am Family Service 10:15 Adult Service	29	30 11:30 am Dharma Disc. & Service T	31			

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HoOnko Potluck Luncheon

January 21, 2018

by Lesli Hirokawa, BWA Officer

The HoOnko Service & New Year's celebration will be held on Sunday, January 21st. The service will begin at 9:30 a.m. and the potluck luncheon will start at 11:30 am. Please bring a potluck dish according to your last name:

A through G - Side Dish (including salad, rice/bread, fruit, etc.)

H through Z - Main Dish

Since the luncheon is to celebrate the New Year, 2018, it would be an interesting experience to bring whatever you traditionally eat on New Year's Day—whether it's Osechi Ryori (traditional Japanese food served in Japan), SPAM musubi (a common Japanese American potluck dish), or black-eyed peas (a traditional Southern dish) - and share your New Year favorite with your fellow mates. Besides, many New Year's foods are believed to bring good luck during the new year and who doesn't need a little good fortune?

Also, the HoOnko service is a major service with many more Sangha members as well as invited guests attending and staying for the potluck. In order for everyone to get a variety of foods, please bring enough food for at least 5 to 10 to people. If there are leftovers, we invite anyone who will be able to visit a family member or friend in a nursing home or assisted living facility to take a plate to them. Although it's just leftovers, they will most likely enjoy a home cooked meal and your company.

