Hello everyone, welcome to January! Once again we find ourselves at the beginning of a new year, where we can see and appreciate time. We count down to the moment of the new year and as we do, we look forward to the possibilities ahead of us, but also symbolically say farewell to the year that has just passed. In this moment of countdown, we are able to see past, present and future existing all at once which is exactly how we as Buddhists see time; our present moment is due to all of the people and happenings down through the endless past and everything that happened then and is occurring now will effect what happens in the future. Past, present and future exist simultaneously.

One of the epithets of Amida Buddha is ‘immeasurable life’ which refers to the eternal nature of the Dharma itself. As Shakyamuni Buddha lay dying, his followers gathered around him and asked how they should continue his teachings (what to say, how to practice, etc) and Shakyamuni told them simply to be a light unto themselves because the teachings he had imparted were not his alone. The Truths of impermanence and interdependence existed long before he was born and would continue long after he died. In other words, he was aware of them because of causes and conditions from the distant past and he was simply playing his small part in their present transmission in the hopes that those after him would continue to pass this knowledge along.

Shakyamuni saw the teachings as existing simultaneously in the past, present and future, but was also aware that all of life exists in this way. However, while he was able to see these Truths through the eyes of an Enlightened One (all of life is impermanent and interconnected) the rest of us unenlightened beings have a hard time seeing much less understanding these Truths beyond our tiny bubbles. Unless something has a direct effect on us, we are hardly aware of anyone’s or anything’s presence in our lives. This also makes it hard to see how we ourselves have an impact on the things around us. We hear things like ‘live in moment’ and sometimes take it to the extreme wherein we do not realize that this moment is in fact connected to the past and future. ‘Living in the moment’ requires an awareness of the other moments in time but not an attachment to them. If we worry too much about the future or hold on to things that could or should be let go from the past, we cannot properly see the present. However, if we ignore the things in the past that brought us to the present moment then we fail to see how our present moment will affect our future.

And so, as we step into this new year, let us do so with a greater appreciation of time. We should try and reflect on the past year in order to understand how we got to our current place in time and we should take this knowledge with us into the future in order to create a wiser self. Namo Amida Butsu
Happy New Year and a prosperous 2020!
This is the Year of the Mouse. There are twelve animals in the Japanese zodiac. They are Mouse, Cow, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep, Monkey, Chicken, Dog, Boar. What is the origin of the zodiac? There is an interesting story.
Once upon a time, a competition was held by animals. The title was "Who can arrive at the meeting place first?" The scheduled time was January 1st. And the order of arrival decided the order of the zodiac. So how did the mouse arrive first? In fact, the mouse rode on the back of the cow, and when the cow arrived, he got off the back and became number one.
And even though cats are familiar animals, they are not in the zodiac. This is because the mouse lied to the cat. A mouse who heard that it would gather on January 1 told the cat, “It’s January 2nd,” and the cat didn’t enter the competition. Some say, this is the reason why cats chase around mice, and aren’t in the zodiac.

This story is famous in Japan. The zodiac is used throughout Asia, but there are some differences in animals depending on the country. For example, in Vietnam, cats are used instead of rabbits, buffaloes are used instead of cows, and pigs are used instead of boars. In Mongolia, leopards are used instead of tigers.
Do you know which Chinese characters are used for mouse in the zodiac?
The kanji (Chinese character) for “child” which represents the mouse in the zodiac is often used in Buddhism, too. The word “Isshiji (一子地)” is written in the Hymns of the Pure Land written by Shinran Shonin. It can translated to the "state of regarding each being as one's only child." I would like to introduce this part.

(continued on page 4)
新年あけましておめでとうございます。今年もよろしくお願いいたします。2020年はネズミ年にあたります。日本の文化としてネズミ年、ウシ年、トラ年など12種類の干支がありますが、十二支の由来はなんでしょうか。気になったので調べてみました。そこにはあるストーリーがありました。昔々、神様が動物たちにこう言いました。「1月1日に集まってください。そして、早くつくった順にごほうびをあげよう」として集まった順番が干支になったと言われています。

小さいネズミがなぜ一番になっているんでしょうか？これは実はねずみは牛の背中に乗って向かい、到着したところでピョンと背中から降りて、かなり一番になったからと言われています。そして干支には、身近な動物である猫が入っていませんよね？これは、ねずみが猫に嘘をついたからなんでしょう。1月1日に集まるという事を聞いたネズミは猫にこう言いました「神様のところに集まるのは1月2日だよ。」そして猫は干支には入れませんでした。猫がねずみをおいかけるようになったのはそのときからだといわれています。

ただ、この話は日本限定です。日本以外にもアジアなどで十二支が使われていますが、国によって動物に多少違いがあり、たとえばベトナムではうさぎではなく猫、牛は水牛、猪は豚。またモンゴルだと虎のかわりにヒョウが使われています。

また、干支で使われるネズミの漢字をご存じでしょうか？鼠という漢字があるのにこれを使わないのか調べてみました。由来を調べていると中国最古の王朝、殷（いん）の時代まで遡りました。これは約4000年前、日本は縄文時代のころの話で、古すぎて詳しいことは分かっていませんが、このときすでに十二支が使われていました。

発掘された殷の時代の遺跡から見つかった甲骨文字（こうこつもじ）には、十二支の漢字のもととなった字が刻まれており、循環（じゅんかん）する順序を表すのに用いられていたと考えられています。子の次は丑、丑の次は寅、……、亥の次は最初に戻って子、といった具合です。特に1年の12カ月を表すのに用いられていたようです。

干支でネズミを表す「子」という漢字、仏教でもよく使われます。親鸞聖人が書かれた浄土和讃の中に「一子地」という言葉が書かれています。一つに子供に地面の地と書きます。

平等心をうるときを 一子地となづけたり
一子地は仏性なり 安養にいたりてさとるべし

この「一子地」というのは、この世のすべての衆生の一人ひとり（つまり私たち一人一人）を、あたかも自分のたったひとりの子供であるかのように思う心を得る境地のことです。これは仏の境地であった私たちがマネできるものではありません。この何が難しいかといえば、人を属性や条件によって束縛しないという点です。例えば自分の子供に「男の子だから泣かないの」とか「お姉ちゃんなんだから我慢しなさい」とか言われた経験はありませんか？これは子どもを「男」だとか「年齢が上」などの属性で縛っているという事になります。阿弥陀様はそのようなことはしません。どんな人間であろうと、たった一人のわが子のように思う心を持っているのです。

また、先ほど読んだ和讃の最後の一文に「安養にいたりてさとるべし」とあります。これは「安養にいたる」つまり、阿弥陀如来の浄土へ往生した者は、阿弥陀如来が同じ境地にいる、という意味です。

我々が浄土に生まれた時には、自分だけでなく、まだお浄土へ生まれていない者の事も考えられるようになり、他人一人ひとりをたったひとりのわが子のように思う心を得ると書かれています。阿弥陀様の事を「親さま」と呼ぶこともありますが、これは阿弥陀様がすべての人間を我が子のようになさぎさせて見てくるからなんですね。

南無阿弥陀仏

Wishing you a great year that brings good health, good luck and good friends. Happy New Year!

In gassho,
Ted & Elaine Tsumura

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

Dick Momii
January 29, 1924 - November 12, 2019

Tom Koshio
December 20, 1927 - November 15, 2019

Betty Inamasu
September 29, 1932 - November 17, 2019
Here is the quotation:

When a person realizes the mind of nondiscrimination
That attainment is the "state of regarding each being as one's only child.
This is none other than Buddha-nature;
We will awaken to it on reaching the land of peace.

What does "state of regarding each being as one's only child." mean?
It means the mindset that Buddha thinks of every person in the world as if it were his only child. This is the heart of Buddha which we, as humans, do not possess. The reason why this “state of regarding each being” is difficult for humans is that we associate people with attributes and conditions. For example, have you ever heard or said the words, “Don't cry because you’re a boy?” Or “Be patient because you’re an older sister”? These words restrain the child with the attribute of “male” or “older”.

Amida does not do that. No matter who you are. The Buddha has a heart that regards each being as his only child.
The last sentence of Shinran Shonin's words, “We will awaken to it on reaching the land of peace" means that the person who goes to the Pure Land, will obtain the same mind as Buddha. It means that when I am born in the Pure Land, I will be able to consider not only myself but also those who have not yet been born in the Pure Land. I will attain the heart to think of each other as if they were my own child.
Sometimes Buddha is called “the parent” because Amida-sama looks at all human beings like his child.
Namo Amida Butsu

all is left is the Nembutsu. The Nembutsu – Namo Amida Butsu - is the constant in our lives. It is the compassion and great working of Amida Buddha that sets us free to see the world as it truly is. With this acceptance we can say the Nembutsu with gratitude in our hearts.
As the year starts, remember - be you. Be happy. How lucky is it that we were born into human form, to hear the wonderful Dharma. Let the Nembutsu live on your mind, in your heart and on your lips.

Trusting to the Buddha
Good and Bad
I Bid Farewell
To the Departing Year
-Issa, Priest of Haikaiji Temple – 1819

In Gassho,

Best Wishes for a happy, healthy & Great Year of the Rat
From the Googins’ Family

Ring in the New Year with happiness, good health and gratitude!
May you all have a very Happy New Year!
-Shirley and Rod

Wishing everyone a Happy, Healthy & Prosperous New Year!
-In Gassho,
BWA Members
New Year’s Greetings
to all in the Sangha:
Wishing you Good Health, Happiness and Prosperity
—Richard and Michi Yoshida

In gassho,
Youko Yamasaki and family
January Shotsuki Names
(Sangha members who have passed away in the month of January)

Ine Abe
Thomas Tatsunori Ajisaka
Jerrie M. Akahoshi
Toyo Akahoshi
Toichi Akimoto
Taeko Alger
Nobuko Arakaki
Fumio Arakawa
Hiroko Asano
Donald Buckmaster
Gotaro Chikuma
Mary Chikuma
Sadami Sam Doida
Kumakichi Doizaki
Shogo Doizaki
Chizuko Domoto
Terry Masaru Domoto
Roy Satoshi Fujii
Tadao Fujimoto
Midori Josephine Fukaye
Shige Fukaye
Ayako Fukushima
Shiichi Fukushima
Albert Nobori Furuiye
Taro Hada
Tomoemon Hagihara
Utetake Kiyoko Hand
Rikichi Haras
Misako Ruby Harada
Mollie Mae Harada
Fumi Hatanaka
Joe Iwao Hatanaka
Kazuto Hayashi, Sr
Mitsuzo Hayashi
Yaeko Hellen Hayashida
Mumeo Masae Herndon
Tsutaya Higuchi
Hajime Jimmie Hiraki
Goro Hirayama
Kikuno Hirayama
Fusaye Hisamoto
Sachiko Sue Hisamoto
Mary Yoshiie Hisamoto
Jong G. Hong
Kichitaro Hora
Toshio Hora
Andrew Kiyohiko Horiiuchi
Shogo Horiiuchi
Kazuichi Hoshijima
Kikuko Hoshijima
Toshi Inouye
Rokujiro Inouye
Rose Kinuye Ishii
Doreen Miyuki Ishimoto
Sueo Ito
Hisaku Iwasaki
Eijitsu Izuo
Violet Toshiko Kagiyma
Sumie Kagohara
Miyako Fujisawa Kambara
Hanayo Kataoka
Kameichi Kato
Tsuya Kawaji
Katusaburo Kawamura
Steven Masumi Kawanabe
Tomehachi Kawano
Phillip Andrew Kennedy
Scott Lee Kim
Sakutarou Kishimoto
Michiko Mitzi Kishiyama
Benjamin Kitashima
Jun Kito
Mary Fusae Kobayashi
Seiichi Kobayashi
Steven Koga
Junichi Komuro
Frank Yoshimi Kondo
Kathleen Chikako Kondo
Matsumi Koni
Shime Koshio
Charles Takayoshi Koto
Harry K. Kuga
Isamu Kuge
Satoro Kunita
Fusako Fairy Kuritani
Albert Saburo Kushihashi
Sumako Kusuno
Mitsuno Kuwabara
Tomiko Lovjoy
Tosuke Mabe
Ginjiro Matoba
Kunio Matsuda
Margaret Matsuda
Kazuo John Matsuuo
Eiko Karen Matsushima
Kikutarou Mayeda
Sam Isamu Mayeda
Earl Lennie Mayemura
Suyeko Sue Mayemura
Peony Miyahara
Chiyono Miyake
Genichiro Miyake
Jean Tazuko Miyamoto
Yoshio Miyao
John Takeo Miyasaka
Margaret Masako Miyasaka
Mary Yuriko Miyazawa
Edward Sueki Miyoshi
Richard Miyoshi
Shima Mizokami
Katsuji Mizushima
Seiki Morii
Kazumasa Mori
Shima Mori
Tomiko Morikawa
Yoshiyuki Morimoto
Shigeru Morishige
Hatsuno Motoishi
Jimme Koji Motoyama
William Henry Motoyama
Hatsumi Murata
Jack Iwao Murato
Isao Murayama
Tomoichi Nagamoto
Misuyo Nakagawa
Akira Nakamura
Eikichi Nakamura
Zennoosuke Nakamura
Sobei Nakano
Masano Nakatsuka
Hisako Nakayama
Mikenchiko Nakayama
Noboru Nakayama
Yaeji Nayematsu
Katsu Nishi
Kinbei Nishida
Chiyoe Noaki
Tomezo Nobuta
Frank Genji Norimoto
Goro Nukaya
Naota Ogata
John Casey O’Hara
Takeshi Ohtake
Yoshiko Okamoto
Kazuoe Okazaki
Ryoichi Omo
Mary Osaki
Teruko Otsuki
Kathleen Robin Oyama
Tamiye May Ozaki
Hisayo Saeda
Morichi Saeda
Carl Kunitoshi Saito
Frank Saito
Tsuyo Saito
Goro ‘Goon’ Sakaguchi
Henry Sakaguchi
Kyosuke Sakaguchi
Kitaro Sakai
Ron Sakai
Haru Sakata
Hideichi Sakurai
Kunio Sakurai
Tom Kiyotaka Sameshima
Tomigorou Sameshima
Hiroshi Bill Sato
Joe Tsuyoshi Sato
Sada Sato
Shoji Joe Sato
Zennemon Sato
May Misao Sawada
Tasani Shibao
Myron Shibata
Toshiya Shibata
Jim Kanao Shimamoto
Katsu Shimamoto
Tadao Shimamoto
Haruki Shimogaki
Yoshiko Shino
Tsugi Shinto
Tokuyoro Shiramizu
Mitsuyo Sogi
Shigeo Roy Sugihara
Kenki Sugimoto
Phyllis Yukio Tabuchi
Mitsuye Mary Tadahara
Frank Shigeo Tagawa
Henry Yoshihata Tagawa
Tomie Taggart
Charles H. Takahashi
Roy Mitsuori Takahashi
Tomi Takahashi
Harry Hiromitsu Takagi
George Hisao Takao
Shigeo Takase
Kiyoshi Takata
Ray Takeo Takeda
Ben Yotaro Takeshita
Yuwako Takeuchi
Dorothy Sumiye Tanaka
Chiyo Tanaka
Kikutarou Tanaka
Paul Mitsu Tanaka
Tsunetaro Tanaka
Yukio Tanaka
Fumio Tani
Hazel Sunaye Tani
Riichi Tanigawa
Matazo Tateyama
Mitsunobu Tatsumoto
Susan Kiyoko Tawara
Satoshi Terada
Michiko Thompson
Sachiko Tobo
Shiro Toda
Hanayo Totsugi
Hisakichi Tsukamoto
Ichimi Tsuchita
George Masao Uchida
Yuzo Uchida
Hatsumi Umemoto
Kaoru Urano
Tohachi Uyehara
Chiki Uyemura
Tomiko Togashi Uyemura
Gosaku Ueno
Masao Washizu
Andrew Ryuchi Watada
Robert Wetmore
Yamako Yayami
Betty Haruko Yagi
Magsaburo Yamachika
Asamatsu Yamada
Suezo Yamaguchi
Bob Shizuto Yamamura
Minoru Robert Yamaoka
Noboru James Yamashita
Doris Kimiko Yanaga
Setsuko Yanagi
Satsuki Yanari
Yun Yang
Ayanos Yasuda
Ichisaburo Yokomizo
Nick Tsunenobu Yonedo
Saburo Yonehiro
Iwao Yonemoto
Masaru Yoshikawa
Suyeno Yoshimura
Yoshiko Yoshimura

Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service
January 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 ones who have passed away in that particular month. Donation by affected family members is appreciated: $50/observance. In Gassho.
Dear Dharma Families,

Welcome to the new year! We can't wait to share in the Dharma with you and your families here in 2020! To help kick off the second half of the Dharma School year we are looking for submissions from students grade preschool through 12th:

Please submit your piece via email to: dbtdharmaschool@gmail.com The selected piece(s) will be published in the newsletter and winners will receive a prize to be presented at service!

Choose to write a piece (creative, factual, editorial, etc) on the topics of:
1) The Dharma & You
2) Year of the Rat
3) A pet or animal who made a difference in your life.

Consider writing a short story (300-500 words), a poem, a news article, or any other format that appeals to you. Please submit your piece from now until March 31st. Winners will be selected on a rolling basis and prizes will be announced in the newsletter and during Sunday service announcements. Include your name, age and contact information with each submission.

In gassho,
Alyssa Nilemo

Dear TSDBT Sangha,

Thank you to all those who purchased mochi and were able to contribute their time for Mochitsuki; with your help, we were able to make plenty of mochi to go into the new year! Also, a special thanks to everyone that made it to our New Year’s Eve soba celebration.

We look forward to seeing everyone in 2020, and during our last few fundraisers as we prepare for our Sunshine Trip this summer!

In gassho,
TSDBT YBA

A Very Happy, Healthy and Joyous New Year to all of our Dharma Friends
From
Rev. Kaitlyn and Karen Mace

BWA Project Invite

BWA members are hand making New Year’s greeting cards; they have also enlisted and received the help of wonderful Sangha friends. These cards will be mailed to people in care facilities or those who are homebound.

If you know someone who might enjoy receiving a card, please fill out a request form found in the BWA Box which is located below the BWA bulletin board on the black door of the cabinets in the auditorium.

Please include the name of the recipient as well as complete address including room/apt. number and zip code.

A sincere thanks to all for helping us in our outreach project.

Wishing you a very Happy New Year.

In Gassho,
The TSDBT BWA
If you have questions please contact: Shirley Tsuchimoto or Ann Yoshihara-Murphy
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11am New Year's Day Service
9:30 Nihongo service
9:30 Family Service
10:15 Adult Service
1 pm Sedgwick | 6 | 7
11:30 am Dharma service & discussion | 8 | 9
11 am Shinran's Day Service | 10 | 11
8-11 am Chibi No Gakko
9 am Craft Class | 12
9:30 am Family
10:15 Adult
9 am Brighton
11 am Ft. Lupton
1 pm Uta Gassen practice | 13 | 14
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HoOnko
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Service continues
For everyone else
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Southern/Pacific Buddhist
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**February 2020**

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<td>Clean Up Sunday</td>
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Wishing you a myriad of hopes and good intentions in the New Year.

In everlasting friendship.

Newsletter Folding Crew
Saturday, January 25, 2020
45th Denver Kohaku Uta Gassen
Red(Female) vs White(Male) team singing Competition

Doors open at 11:00 AM with Free Admission
At Tri-State/ Denver Buddhist Temple Auditorium

submitted by
Seiji Tanaka, the Chairman of Denver Kohaku Uta Gassen Executive Committee

The Denver Kohaku Uta Gassen is one of the most entertaining and popular Japanese Cultural event 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 Midori Takeuchi to the winning team at the end of the program. As always, the entire net proceeds will be donated to TSDBT.

The Denver Buddhist Women's Association will prepare and sell delicious Japanese Bento Box. Many door prizes will be given away.

This year's special interval entertainment includes: Okinawan Traditional Dance, Sakura Chorus Group, Colorado Japanese School and Japanese Academy of the Rockies Children's Chorus, Mirai Daiko, a guest singer and Consul General Midori Takeuchi.

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