



Temple Reflections

A TSDBT Monthly Publication

VOLUME XXXIV July/August 2014

ISSUE SIX

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Formula in Buddhism The 19th Vow: Part-1

The formula below consists of essential items for learning the Teaching of Buddha:

1. To Learn Buddhism is to learn myself,
2. to learn myself is to learn Buddha's Compassion.
3. to learn Compassion is to forget myself,
4. and to forget myself is to throw me into Buddha's World.

The 19th Vow

"If, when I attain Buddhahood, the sentient beings of the 10 quarters, **while awakening the mind aspiring for enlightenment and performing meritorious acts, should desire to be born in my land with sincere aspiration, and yet should I not appear before them at the moment of death surrounded by a host of sages,** may I not attain the perfect enlightenment."

This Vow shows the "traditional way in Buddhism" for people to attain enlightenment. **First**, people have to awaken the mind, aspiring for enlightenment. **Second**, they go through various acts to accumulate virtues for enlightenment. **Third**, they finally attain enlightenment. However, what the Buddha addressed about Amida's World was completely different from the traditional ways.

When Amida's World was addressed by the Buddha at this time, he saw about 12,000 people who were all great and sincere followers. All of them were very surprised with his message, especially the Vow #17 and #18: The Name is nothing but essence of Immeasurable Wisdom and Compassion. Thus, the Buddha explained the difference between "traditional practices" and "practice of the Name."

Firstly, people do not have to awaken the mind for enlightenment. It is because Amida's vows already contain everything they need. We don't know what we have been looking for in this life truly. That's why we don't know what we should awaken. The vows in this sutra clarify what we have been looking for.

Secondly, people have limitations in many things. Thus, it is impossible for laypeople to perform meritorious acts consistently. That's why Amida's World does not expect people to accumulate virtues. Immeasurable Working (Amida) already possesses necessary virtues in the Name.

Thirdly, since life is uncertain, it disappears anytime and any where. We can not wait until a host of sages appear to us. Each recitation of the Name is nothing but completion of Immeasurable Working. It is not necessary for us to wait until the last moment of death. We are already in the heart and mind of Working every time we recite the Name.

The 19th Vow also clarifies what we are. Now you came to know the difference between "traditional" and "Jodo-Shin-Shu" ways. In Gassho, Rev. Doeji Fujii



July/August

Enjoy a few
moments of
personal
reflection



Monthly Salutations

from Rev. Diana Thompson

Hello Everyone, happy July and August! I would like to begin by thanking everyone for all of the help we received last month from our generous and dedicated sangha members.

The Denver Pridefest Parade, which was held on June 22nd, went off beautifully thanks to a small but incredibly enthusiastic group comprised of members from the Tri-State and Longmont temples. Those of you who missed out this year should definitely put it on your calendars for next year. We had so much fun!

And, of course, Sakura Matsuri, which happened over the weekend of June 28/29; this annual event requires so much from the sangha and you guys always come through. We can't thank everyone enough for helping us to pull off yet another great festival!

In July, we will celebrate Obon. The story goes that there was a great monk, Mokuren, who possessed the power to read minds and to discourse with the dead in order to explain their fates to them. During one of his 'astral traveling' meditations, he came across his mother, who was suffering in a terrible hell. Mokuren asked the Buddha how he could release his mother and the Buddha told him to make offerings to the monks returning from their winter retreat. Mokuren made the offerings to the monks and his mother was freed. When Mokuren saw this, he leaped and danced with joy.

(respect to past and looking ahead to the future, [theme of the Centennial, embodied in Sakura and the pridefest—one is old tradition and one is our present and our future])

Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temples

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Newsletter articles are due by the 10th of each month for publication in the next month's issue.

For additional information, or to read the newsletter online, go to our website at www.tsdbt.org

Temple High School Graduate Scholarship Awards

by Mike Shibata

Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple (TSDBT) extends congratulations to the following high school graduates and their parents:

Justin Akiyama, Lauren Chase, Jacob Daniels, Thomas Hirokawa, Alysse Kimura, Kyle Manley, Rebeka Nguyen, Benjamin Pettis, Aubreylin Shibata, and Kellie Tagawa.

On June 1, the graduates were presented with a Certificate of Congratulations from the Buddhist Churches of America, The Teaching of Buddha by the Society for the Promotion of Buddhism and the book, Ocean from Tri-State Denver Buddhist Temple.

The 59th Annual Japanese American Community Graduation Program (JACGP) banquet honoring high school graduates was held at the Arvada Center for the Arts and Humanities on Saturday, June 14, 2014. At this event, the following scholarships were awarded to these Buddhist high school graduates:

Justin Akiyama - TSDBT Murahata Family Award, The Gary Lee Higa Friendship Award and Mrs. Ichiyo Uyeno / Dr. Takashi Mayeda / Dr. Ayako Wada-Mayeda Memorial Award

Lauren Chase - TSDBT Taeko Tawara Memorial Scholarship and Caroline M. Tagawa Memorial Scholarship Award

Jacob Daniels - Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple Award

Alysse Kimura - TSDBT Eugene and Kimiko Side Scholarship Award, Mile High Chapter Japanese American Citizens League Scholarship, and Mile High Japanese American Citizens League - Harry Sakata Memorial Plaque

Kyle Manley - TSDBT Caroline M. Tagawa Memorial Scholarship Award, DBT Judo Dojo Sensei Memorial Scholarship, and Tom Masamori Memorial Scholarship Award

Rebeka Nguyen - Japanese American Resettlement Through the Lens Award. Rebeka was also the winner of the JACGP Cover Design Contest.

Kellie Tagawa - Toshiaki Yoshimura - Mile High Chapter Japanese American Citizens League Scholarship

Also, congratulations are extended to the following college graduates and their parents:

Ian Berve, Ben Kiyotake, Lauren Miyazawa, Jaelyn Nakamura, Michelle Ospina, Mark Sakaguchi and K.C. Stewart.

発願回向（ほつがん・えこう）

この言葉はアミダ仏の教えの本質を言い表している大切な言葉の一つ。まだ日本にいた35年以上も前の話だが、ある家にお参りに行った。終わるとその主人が仁王立ちのまま、座っている私に「発願回向とはなにか」と見下すような態度で乱暴に問うた。「発願とは本願を起すことですから、私のことではない。アミダ仏のことです。回向とはその本願を私に差し向けていることです」と短く答えた。そんな短い答では納得しないだろうと思っていたが、彼は「おー、そうだったか」と変に納得した様子になり、「ちょっと待って下さい」と今度は丁寧な言葉使いになり、二階から一升瓶を二本ほど持って降りてきた。そして「これをどうぞ」と差し出した。私は他の家庭を回らねばならなかったので「これは荷物になりますから」と渋ると、「いや、是非」と押し付ける。仕方ないから、もらった。昼間から坊さんが一升瓶を二本もぶら下げて歩いているのはどうも風が悪かったが。

さて、この発願（ほつがん）とは、アミダ仏が48の本願をおこしたことがその中身の一つ一つが何と素晴らしいことか。この世に無いことが現れている。要約すれば、法（ダルマ）の世界が、本来私が自分で願い求めねばならない世界を、私に代わり、その世界を明らかにしているのが本願。つまりは「私の願うべきことを私は知らない」ということ。「私は愚者」ということ。では、具体的にどういうことなのだろうか。

私達の日々は、必要なもの、欲しいものを追い求めている日々ではないだろうか。例えば、衣食住が要る。そうかと言って食べ物があればそれでよいのではない。食べて腹痛を起こすような食べ物や水では困る。住む家とて雨露をしのげるだけの家では困る。寝ていてへビが布団の上をはい回ったり、毎晩ネズミが枕元で運動会をするような家では困る。また、「ボロは着てても心は錦」では人前には出られない。人々を不快にしないような服装がいる。教育、健康、家庭、仕事と数え上げれば必要なもの・欲しいものはいくらでもある。これらを追い求めている日々は結構忙しいものだ。

ところが、私が考えたこともない世界が四十八願に示されている。例えば、「私は怒りの無い世界、貪りのない世界、に生まれたい。そして二度と怒りや貪りの境地にもどらなくてよい世界に生まれたい」と本願には出てくる。これらが私を真に幸福にする世界なのだと示す。あなたは思うだろうか。今までこんなことを本気で願ったことがあるだろうか。私の願うものはといえば、必要なもの・欲しいものばかりではないか。私の日々の姿と、法に願われている私の姿とはなんと違うことか。このようにして法（ダルマ）と呼ばれるものが私に顕（あらわ）れ私の行く末を明らかにする。そして、このような法の働きを説明しているのがこの「発願回向（ほつがん・えこう）」という言葉なのである。言い換えれば、本願とは全て自分のことなのである。

合掌、藤井道栄

*Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temples gratefully acknowledges donations
and offerings received from May 1, 2014- June 30, 2014:*

Gotan E Service

Junko Asakawa
Shizue Asano
Robin Burchardt
Antruan Henderson
Chiyeko Inouye
Ken & Amy Inouye
Kim Inouye
Beulah & Tsutomu Kagiya
Charles Kagiya
Ruth Kamibayashi
Jack & Alice Kimura
Manabu & Junko Kimura
Art & Tamiko Koyano
Tatsuo Matsuda
Lillian & Phil Miyazawa
Frank Miyazawa
Bill & Ann Murphy
Dat & Naomi Nguyen
Hank & Irene Shibao
Rose Shibao
Sayoko Takata
Michio & Hisae Taniwaki
Elaine & Ted Tsumura
Zak & Shannon Umetani
Louise Yamaguchi
Betty Yamashita
Richard & Michiko Yoshida

Memorial Day Services

Chad & Lianne Baessler
Walter & Sharon Chikuma
Mae Flickinger
Miyuki Mabel Googins
Tetsuo & Sadako Iwahiro
Charles Kagiya
Tom & Beulah Kagiya
Ruth Kamibayashi
Jack & Alice Kimura
Jean Matsuda
Frank Miyazawa
Lillian & Phil Miyazawa
Miyoko Murata
William & Ann Murphy
Sherri & John Ogawa
Rose Shibao
Hank & Irene Shibao
George H. Tagawa
Sayoko Takata
Sumiye Tanaka
Tom Urano, Jr.
Fumiko Yamashita
Betty Yamashita
Richard & Michiko Yoshida
Eugene & Evelyn Yoshihara
Rex & Marian Yoshimura

Obon/Hatsubon service

Robin Burchardt
Joe & Jill Ozaki
Frances Furukawa
Hiroshi Takeda
Charles Kagiya
JoAnne Sato

Memorial Day service

In memory of Shigeru Morishige
David & Gayle Goto
Himi Morishige
Sumiko Yamane

In memory of Chiyo Nakayama

Gladys Hiraoka
George & Yoko Nagai
DeDe Torizawa

In memory of Eiko Tagawa – 49th day

Kenso & Peggy Kagiya
Dick & Yo Miyoshi
Glenn Tagawa
George Tagawa
Ken & June Tagawa
Aiko & Yuji Kimura and family
Etsu & Jeri Tagawa and family
Yoshi & Annabel Tagawa

In memory of Frank Hiraoka – 49th day

Milt & Nancy Domoto and family
Dennis & Becky Hardman
Gladys Hiraoka
Eddie & Sue Hiraoka and family
S & C Hiraoka and family
Paul & Bev Horiuchi
C. Horiuchi
Ron & Jan Marshall and family

In memory of George Kuga – 3rd yr

Mary Kuga
Unsigned envelope

In memory of Tadao Kajiwara – 50th yr

Jene Kajiwara
Nobie Tsukiji & family
Miko Yamashita & family

In memory of Noboru Sogi – 17th yr

Clifford Sogi
Nancee M. Nishimi
Dora Shibata
Dick Takeda

In memory of Haruko Kimura

Jordan & M. Terry Fox
Wado Karate Federation
Jack Kimura
Sam & Sara Terasaki

In memory of Hisashi Ogawa – 7th yr

Dean Ogawa
Mitsuo & Telitha Ogawa
Janice Ogawa & David Valenciano

In memory of Shigeo Hiratsuka – 25th yr

Al Kawakami
Sharon Brooks
Calvin Kato
Squibbs Family
Don & Louise Takemura
Jeffrey Fujiki
Dean & Carrol Tsutsui

In memory of Nancy Yokomizo

Marvin & Virginia Scott
Melvyn & Barbara Peterson

Donation

Anonymous
Joe Molina
Tom Koshio
Osamu Hideshima

Facilities Usage

DBT Craft Class
Wednesday Nite Bball
Kokusei Kai
JACGP
Denver Taiko

Osaisen

Yoko Mooney
Kumiko & Takeshi Ohtake
2nd Grade Dharma Class
4th Grade Dharma Class
5th Grade Dharma Class
Sumie Carter
Jr. YBA Dharma Class
Jane Kano
Paul & Julie Kimura
Preschool Dharma Class

Visitation

Boulder Valley School District
Douglas County Schools
May Tran

Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temples gratefully acknowledges donations and offerings received from May1, 2014- June 30, 2014:

Glenn Tagawa	funeral; Eiko Tagawa
Family of James Fukuhara	funeral; James Fukuhara
Thomas Yokooji	funeral; May Yokooji
Amy Noriyuki	inurnment; Sam Noriyuki
Jason Collison	wedding; with Sarah Sowers
Doris Yagi	in memory of Donald Takashi Yagi
Taeko Morimitsu	in memory of Henry Morimitsu
.....	In memory of Arthur Morimitu
Elaine & Ted Tsumura	in memory of Kiyo Tsukamoto
Sharon Yamashita	in memory of her parents
Family of Haruko Kimura	funeral; Haruko Kimura
Norman Yago	funeral; Katie Yago
Eddie, Jennie Ito & family	in memory of Gary Ito – 1 st yr
Mary Aigaki	in memory of Hiroshi Horace Aigaki – 7 th yr
Lisa Bilotta & Joe Montoya	wedding
Gene Yokomizo	funeral; Nancy Yokomizo
Family of Kiyoshi Kinoshita	funeral; Kiyoshi Kinoshita
Jack & Alice Kimura	in memory of Kiyoshi Kinoshita

Note From the Editor: I apologize for printing an incomplete list of Colfax Marathon donors last month. My mistake is in no way a reflection of the gratitude for your donations.



Colfax Marathon Donations (add'l)

Lorraine Hisamoto
 Frank Miyazawa
 Junko & Michael Manley
 Shirley Tsuchimoto
 Mike & Ann Nakamura
 Dora Shibata
 Judy Okamoto
 Herb Inouye
 Ken & Amy Inouye
 Anonymous
 5th Grade Dharma Class
 Sarah Degn

**Beginner Ukulele Class
 September 2014**

For those who want to learn to play this small but fun instrument, come to a beginner’s class on Sunday, September 14th at 11:30 AM upstairs in the Cry Room. We will have an informal session just to introduce you to the different types of ukes and the sounds they make.

The ukulele was brought over by the Portuguese “cowboys” who settled on the Big Island of Hawaii in the 1800’s to teach the Hawaiians how to raise cattle. The name ukulele comes from the word “uku” which in Hawaiian means jumping fleas and fleas of course are those small and pesky bugs.

Our Humu Humu Ukulele Group meets twice a month. We meet at the Temple on the first Sunday of each month from 11:15 AM until 1 PM and, again, on the third Tuesday of each month from 7-9 PM.

Please come to the introductory class and have some fun. If you have any questions please call or e-mail me. Hope to see a lot of new faces!

Shirley Tsuchimoto
 303-688-2774
 shirleytsuchimoto@gmail.com

**MARATHON RELAY
 GRATITUDE**

By Gary Yamashita

On behalf of the 25 runners that participated for the Temple in the Colfax Marathon Relay, a special thank you to everyone that supported their hard training and effort with their donations. As a result of the generosity of these donors, we were able to raise an amazing \$7,562.40 in just a short period of time for the Temple and Children’s Hospital. I had the pleasure of personally delivering the check to the Children’s Hospital. Everyone that participated in the marathon relay agreed that it was a fun time and they are already making plans for next year’s race. We hope to have even more runners next year. Thank you again to everyone for your support and encouragement.

Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temples’ membership offers condolences to the family and friends of:

*Nancy Yokomizo
 November 7, 1939 - April 22, 2014*

*Kiyoshi Kinoshita
 October 15, 1925 - May 8, 2014*

*Hugh Makoto Nishimoto
 March 1, 1920 - June 16, 2014*

*Masae Kawabe
 April 6, 1919 - July 1, 2014*

Sakura Square & Tamai Tower Update

by Gary Yamashita

This summer has brought many exciting changes to Tamai Tower and Sakura Square. For Tamai Tower, the transition from a project-based Section 8 housing development to a mixed income building will be complete on August 1st. Many of the apartment units are undergoing renovations now. For Sakura Square, among other things, the Japanese American Resource Center of Colorado (JARCC) has moved into its new, larger location on the Mezzanine and recently hosted *The Awakened Spirit* travelling calligraphy exhibit. Enhancements to the Sakura Square facilities and common area are already taking place with more to come.

Tamai Tower has adopted a person-based Section 8 program, transitioning almost all currently subsidized residents to a new voucher program that enables them to continue to live at Tamai Tower at low, subsidized rental rates. This voucher is a lifetime benefit, as long as the resident continues to qualify, and can be used elsewhere if a resident chooses to move.

This voucher program exists in cooperation with market rate units, providing a new multigenerational, multicultural resident mix. In addition, residents who have called Sakura Square home for years but have not been subsidized, will see a gentle transition in housing costs over a period of time based upon their tenure at Tamai Tower.

As part of the conversion, management responsibilities and personnel of Tamai Tower has shifted to Cornerstone, an apartment management company with a great deal of experience in mixed income rental properties in the Denver urban core. With the end of the existing Section 8 and 236 programs, there have been staffing changes, including the phasing out of six Tamai Tower staff members who had served many years with dedication under the previous program. Their efforts provided the foundation for Tamai Tower to move forward into this new phase. The new Cornerstone staff is equally committed to ensuring the success of the building and all of its residents.

In keeping with the founding Tri-State Buddhist Church Apartments' (Sakura Square) goal to support and help sustain the Tri-State/Denver Buddhist

Temple, we (new staff) are also committed to help celebrate Japanese American heritage, culture and community. The Sakura Square Board will continue to look at unique ways to enhance Sakura Square as a vibrant cultural and community meeting place that thrives in harmony with the Temple.

Please feel free to reach out to Gary Yamashita with any questions gary.yamashita@comcast.net or (303) 204-8039.



Arigato Gozaimasu

Thank you to Dora Shibata, Michiko Aoki and Kay Takahashi for folding and sealing last month's newsletter; you'll notice that our "summer" crew is a bit lesser than earlier in the year. Yet, they remained cheerful - almost to the point of exuberant. Thank you.

A special thank you on behalf of the TSDBT Sangha, Tamai Tower residents and Sakura Square businesses to Mabel Googins, Hiroko Walker, Tuan Le, Son Nguyen, Mike Shibata and Barbara Fry for devoting over 20 years (average) of your working life in Tamai Tower positions to serve Tamai Tower residents. Your conscientiousness is truly a kind display of "interdependence" as, in doing a good job for your residents, you made life easier for Temple and community "residents", also.

Thank you to Dat Nguyen for persistently working on the Temple copiers and the office computer. Thanks to your well-applied know-how, all office machinery seem to be cooperating with all office laborers ☺

Thank you to Susie Asano for donating two - 100 rolls of Forever postage stamps to the Temple. That is really a good idea - even with all our computer correspondence, we still put out a great deal of "snail mail". Thank you for applying your dana in such a useful manner.

Thank you to anyone and everyone who sweated, talked, smiled, served, cooked, lifted, mopped, folded, sat, walked, carried, counted, yelled, watched, laughed, enjoyed, dreaded, cleaned, assisted, sang, danced your way through our Cherry Blossom Festival. Your participation is truly appreciated.

Religious Services

SAT July 26 11 am Hoji
3 pm Wedding

SUN July 27 9:30 am Family Service

During the month of August, there will be NO:
- Nihongo Sunday services
- Shinran's Day service
- outlying temple services

SUN Aug 3 9:30 am Family Service

FRI Aug 8 10 am Family Reunion Hoji

SAT Aug 9 Family Reunion Hoji - offsite

SUN Aug 10 9:30 am Family Service

SUN Aug 17 9:30 am Family Service

SUN Aug 24 9:30 am Family Service

SUN Aug 31 NO Service; Labor Day Weekend

SUN Sept 7 Dharma School Begins!
8:30 am Nihongo Service
9:30 am Dharma School service
10:15 am Adult Service



Longmont Buddhist Temple

invites you to

**1st Annual Longmont Buddhist Temple
Mini-Golf Event**

Hyland Hills Adventure Golf
Sheridan Blvd

Saturday, September 6, 2014

Mark your calendars to join the fun!!!!

www.longmontbuddhism.org
for more updated info

Want to relive some awesome visual moments of this year's Cherry Blossom Festival? Luckily, many have been preserved for us through the "magic" of Glen Asakawa and Sam Davis. Please use the web address below:

<http://cherryblossomdenver.org/event-photos>

**2014 Winners of the 42nd Annual
Cherry Blossom Festival Raffle**

Steve&Gwen Kawashima	1st place	\$3000.00
Kris Alo	2nd place	\$1200.00
Ralph Tanoue	3rd place	\$900.00
Gloria Hisamoto	4th place	\$750.00
Herbert Maruyama	5th place	\$400.00
R. Aoki	6th place	\$250.00
Hunter Chase	7th place	\$100.00
Susie Asano	8th place	\$100.00
Kiyoshi Nakata	9th place	\$100.00
Chris Tsutsui	10th place	\$100.00
Pam Buck	11th place	\$100.00
Gail Ida	12th place	\$100.00
Deb Omoto-Berve	13th place	\$100.00
Tom Koshio	14th place	\$100.00
Shizuye Peterson	15th place	\$100.00
Lisa Kamibayashi	16th place	\$100.00
May Miyazawa	17th place	\$100.00
Taeko Morimitsu	18th place	\$100.00
Kaz Iwahashi	19th place	\$100.00
Cal Kato	20th place	\$100.00
Anna Murahata	21st place	\$100.00
S. Yago	22nd place	Isle of Capri gift certificates

Gym Schedule

SUNDAY 11:30 am Karate

MONDAY 6 - 7:30 pm Aikido
6:30 - 8 pm Judo

TUESDAY 7 pm Volleyball

WEDNESDAY 7:30 pm Basketball

THURSDAY 6 - 7:30 pm Aikido
6:30 - 8 pm Judo

FRIDAY 6 - 7:30 pm Family Aikido
Judo (every other week)

July 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
R = Rockies' game	June 30	1	2	3 R	4 R	5 R
	BCA Summer Fuken at Jodo Shinshu Center			4 pm Hoji (F)		10:30 Family Reunion Hoji - offsite
6 R	7 R	8 R	9 R	10	11 R	12 R
8:30 am Nihongo service 9:30 am Family service	Donna - Out of Town				11 am Shinran's Day Service (F)	
13 R	14	15	16	17	18	19
9:30 Family Service	10 am Sedgwick Hakamairi 12 pm Sedgwick Obon/Hatsubon		11 am Lajara/Alamosa Hakamairi			10 am Auit Hakamairi 11 am Greeley Hakamairi 1:30 pm Sunset
9 am Brighton Obon/Hatsubon 11 am Ft. Lupton Obon/Hatsubon						3 pm Obon/Hatsubon 6 pm Obon Odori
20	21 R	22 R	23 R	24	25 R	26 R
8:30 am Nihongo service 9:30 am Family service			7 pm nightly: Obon Odori practice			11 am Hoji
27 R	28	29	30	31		
9:30 am Family service					3 pm Wedding rehearsal 6pm Judo practice	3 pm Wedding

August 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Rev. Thompson - Out of Town NO Service (Labor Day)		August NO Nihongo service NO Shinran's Day service NO Outlying Temple services	R = Rockies' game		1	2
3 9:30 am Family Service	4	5 R	6 R	7 R	8 10 am Hoji	9 Harada Family Reunion Hoji - Ft. Collins Ashes Burial - Albuquerque, NM (F)
10 9:30 am Family Service Albuquerque, NM (F)	11	12	13	14 R	15 R	16 R
17 R 9:30 am Family Service 11 am TSDBT Board mtg	18	19 R	20 R	21	22 R	23 R
24 R 9:30 am Family Service	25	26	27	28	29 Rev. Thompson - Out of Town	30 Rev. Thompson - Out of Town

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Arigato Gozaimasu 2

Cherry Blossom Festival 2014 has come and gone with its usual flurry of rushed activity. In fact, at a quick glance, Cherry Blossom Festival occurred much the same as any other of the previous 41 festivals. But, should you consider a second, more thoughtful glance, you will surely see some of the many moments that made this year's Festival very special, indeed.

As a Temple, we can begin by acknowledging the Herculean efforts of Wendy Thompson, Joni Sakaguchi, Gail Ida and Keiko Yoshida; without their physical labor & presence, their visionary & calculating minds, their caring & committed spirits - Cherry Blossom Festival would simply cease to be.

Fortunately, their endurance attracts and cements strong bonds of loyalty from a mighty group of equally giving "foot soliders" who were industrious weeks and months before the actual weekend event - Eric Sasano, Gayle Goto, Wayne Berve, Emiko Koga, Michelle Asakawa, Gary Matsuda, Glen Asakawa, Lorraine Hisamoto, Cynthia Kiyotake, Gene Watada, Deb Omoto-Berve . . .

With such a strong foundation, it's easy for worker bees to climb on board: Linda Akiyama, Tepper Koga, Jamie Chikuma, Junko Kimura, Hisae Taniwaki, Susie Asano, Ayako Kimura, Rachel Davis, Amy Yoshimura, JoAnne Adair, Rose Shibao, Ruth Kamibayashi, Michi Chikuma, Betty Yamashita . . .

And, of course, no work force would be complete without members of YBA, Dharma School, BWA, Minyo Club, Ikebana, Bonsai, DBT Judo Dojo, Aikido Dojo, Denver Taiko

Each of these listed (*and, you would think by now I would know the "danger" of listing names. Please know that I believe it is a worse sin to not name anyone for fear of not catching everyone; consequently, please do not feel slighted if I haven't listed you specifically by name. Afterall, we are working by and through the mind of someone whose presence and knowing is sketchy, at best ☺*) groups and individuals volunteer because each is accompanied and supported by a powerful entity labelled simply as "family". Do you see a giant Golden Chain forming?

I would like to end this note of gratitude by sharing the one moment that made this a very special Cherry Blossom Festival, for me. As you know, the task of bussing tables falls to our Dharma School students (and their parents). When the festival closed on Saturday, I was greeted at my office door by Mateo Sakata and Tara Case - accompanied by their supervisor (teacher&mother), Vicki Case. Apparently, they had worked the final shift of the day, so after they cleaned up they found a busser table "Tip" cup overflowing with customer donations - \$112.80 to be exact. They brought the carefully counted money up to the office as a donation to the Temple which they elegantly presented to Rev. Fujii. I'd like to seize this opportunity to congratulate all Dharma School students for your very earnest efforts - isn't it wonderful that guests can recognize you for the hard workers that you are or, (as Vicki Case is convinced), for your ever evident "cuteness" and feel compelled to acknowledge your efforts with a monetary tip? Thank you for taking on team CBF responsibility and thank you for your Dana.