



Temple Reflections

Temple Reflections

A TSDBT Monthly Publication

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ありのままを受け入れる

今田 法翔

仏教には「諸法無我」という言葉があります。全てのものは変化するもので、そこに固定化した実体はない、という言葉です。私たちが「存在する」と認識しているものは、実は変化の中の瞬間にたまたま仕上がっているものを見ているだけで実際に存在している訳ではないという考え方です。実は、私が認識しているこの「私」という存在も、世界の働きの一部でありたまたま仕上がっているだけであります。それにも関わらず「私」と「世界」とを分けて捉えようとするがために思い通りにならない事が起き、苦しみが生まれます。

1900年～1982年、安田理深という大谷派の僧侶がおられました。彼は日本の有名な仏教学者で多くの言葉を残しています。「人生が行き詰まるのではない、自分の思いが行き詰るのである。」「声は耳にある」「悟るといっても、迷っていることを悟るのである。」「良いことを言うのは易しい。本当のことを言うのは難しい。」「しなくてはならないのならやめなさい。やらずにおれないのならやりなさい。」など。ある時、理深は不運な事件に巻き込まれます。彼の隣の家が火事を起こし、それによって彼の自宅も全焼したのです。この時、学者の命ともいべき重要な書物やノート類はすべて焼けてしまいました。普通の人間であれば計り知れないほど大きなショックを受けるでしょう。しかし、彼は次ように語ったといわれています。「焼かれたのでもない。焼いたのでもない。ただ焼けたのだ。そうすると事実を事実のまま受けていけるのではないか。自も他も損なわなくてすむ。こんなことを今度の火事で学びました。」誰かに家を焼かれたのでもなく、自分で焼いたのでもない、ただ焼けたという事実がそこにあるだけであると受け止めていくと、自分も他人も傷つけずに済み、心が落ち着いたそうです。苦しみを生み出すのは常に「私」が原因であると今回の火事から学んだと仰っています。

私ならば「なぜ自分がこんな目に合うのか」と思ってしまいそうです。「諸法無我」と聞かせて頂いても、私は常に世界を自己中心的に世界を見てしまっています。彼の話は自分の苦しみの原因を知る事の大切さを教えてくれているように感じます。私たちの日常は日々変わっていきますが、仏教徒としてありのままを受け入れながらお念仏の日々を送らせて頂きたいと思います。南無阿弥陀仏

Sakura Square and Temple Redevelopment Update

By Gary Yamashita

The planning for the redevelopment of Sakura Square and the Temple steadily moves forward with the effort of dedicated volunteers and staff from the Temple and Sakura Square working tirelessly on numerous committees. Although the actual start of the construction remains several years away, meetings are taking place weekly to strategize the redevelopment of the entire block that will include a new Temple and Community Center building as the centerpiece of the project. The primary driver of this effort is the realization that the structural and mechanical systems of the existing aging facilities at Sakura Square and the Temple are reaching the end of their economic lives and require replacement.

Key to the redevelopment planning is the vision to create a cultural hub that honors and preserves

(concluded on page 5)

JUNE SERVICES

Sunday, June 6, 2021
9:30 am ZOOM service
10 am Dharma School
YouTube service online

Sunday, June 13, 2021
9:30 am ZOOM service
YouTube service online

Sunday, June 20, 2021
9:30 am ZOOM service
YouTube service online

Sunday, June 27, 2021
June Shotsuki Service
9:30 am ZOOM services
YouTube service online
Virtual PrideFest Parade

Dharma Conduit

By Rev. Kaitlyn Kongo Mascher-Mace

I think that June is one of those great months when you really feel a season change, the sun touches you as you come out of your house and you are reminded that you are always in the light. It gives the true feeling of change, from the unpredictable spring of Colorado into the warmth of early summer, and progress through another year. This year even more, as we are further and further venturing out of homes after over a year of working to keep each other safe.

There is one group in our Sangha who has had to experience the pandemic we have all gone through in a unique way, and that is our YBA, and especially the seniors this year who are graduating Highschool, moving from one stage of life to the next, emerging not only from their homes after a long winter, but from their childhood into the next stages. For them, graduations have been different, events missed or changed and the thanks that we all give them for all of their hard work and dedication to the Temple may not be as visible as it was in the past. So, I would like to tell each and every graduating senior this year, congratulations, I deep appreciate the hard work that you put into school and all of the help that you have given to the temple over your lives. Without you Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple would not be the place that it is today, you are the future of not only the Temple but Jodo Shinshu in America.

In that spirit, knowing that all you seniors are going out into the world, I want to leave you with a quote from the 6th chapter of the Tannisho, where Shinran deals with the problem of various groups and teachers who fought with each other in order to win as many followers as they could. Shinran points out that everyone is equal in the Nembutsu, and there is no such thing as a teacher having their own followers, as everyone is taught directly by Amida Buddha.

It is utterly unreasonable for those who are devoted solely to the Nembutsu to quarrel, saying "These are my disciples", or "Those are others' disciples". I, Shinran do not have even one disciple of my own. The reason is, if I should lead others to utter the Nembutsu by my own efforts, I might call them my disciples. But it is truly ridiculous to call them my disciples, when they utter the Nembutsu through the working of Amida Buddha.

If there are conditions which bring us together, then we must meet. If there are conditions which separate us, then we must part. Against this fact, some say that one who turns against this teacher and, following another, utters the Nembutsu will not be born in the Pure Land. This is quiet absurd. Do they mean they could take back the Faith given by Amida Buddha as if it were their own? Again and again, this view is impermissible. When we become in accord with the principle of naturalness, we shall realize what we own to the Buddha and also feel gratitude towards our teacher. Thus it was said.

No matter where you go in life, where your journey takes you, there is nothing which can take the Nembutsu from you. Even if you were to leave the temple and not come

back until you were 80, the Nembutsu will always be next to you. To say the Nembutsu, to be embraced by the vow is to be grasped by the compassion of Amida Buddha and to never be abandoned. No where you can go in your journeys is outside of the compassion of Amida Buddha, and the Nembutsu can be said anywhere, anytime and in any condition. So go and live the adventure of your life, and enjoy the knowledge of your birth in the Pure Land, with the Nembutsu on your lips and joy in your heart.

Congratulations once again, and do your best!

In Gassho

Dear Dharma School Students (of every age),

We (Dharma School Teachers [of every age]) hope you are doing well and enjoying your summer vacation. While we take a break from Dharma School we wish to invite you to participate in our newsletter challenge! Please submit an article anytime in the months of June, July and August! Submissions will have a chance to be published in the next month's newsletter and authors will receive a prize!

Articles should be anywhere between 100 to 500 words in length. You may submit pictures or 2d art pieces to accompany your article. Articles should be submitted to dbtdharmaschool@gmail.com with the subject line of Newsletter Challenge, and include the author's name and age.

Prompts for these news articles are meant to be very open ended and we encourage your creative interpretations:

- (1) I see the teachings of the Buddha in...
- (2) I keep my part of the Golden Chain bright and strong by...
- (3) My favorite temple memory is...

Can't wait to see what you all come up with. Please reach out if you have your own prompt idea!

In gassho,
DBT Dharma School Teachers

YBA's Busy Year

(continued from page 6)

work and dedication from our graduating seniors! They have put in lots of time and effort into making this year a successful one and have demonstrated leadership for our younger members. Congratulations Katie, Tomi, Tara, Jaz, and Lula! We will miss you all and wish you the best in your future endeavors!

Once again, we would like to thank the Sangha for helping us make this unusual year a success! We know that the YBA thrives with the support from the rest of the community. We hope you have a restful and safe summer, and we hope to see everybody back at the Temple in the fall!

Congrats to YBA Class of 2021

Written by Ally Tanigawa, YBA Secretary

No one could have predicted the crazy year that was 2020. While the majority of the attention was focused on the class of 2020, the incredible class of 2021 stood to endure an entire year full of hardships and challenges. From a year of online classes, quarantines, and a complete change in their daily lives, the seniors stayed resilient through it all. ***The YBA would like to recognize our high school seniors and take a moment to appreciate the incredible impact they had in our community.***

From the creativity they utilized to plan events through these rare circumstances, to the perseverance they maintained to balance not only Dharma School but also the impacts of the pandemic in their daily lives, we are so grateful for their efforts not only this past year, but over the last four. Saying goodbye to these members of the Sangha will be incredibly difficult; these people who have become more like family than friends. But even though saying goodbye is difficult, we would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every senior for their service in the community and send them our love as they start a new chapter in their lives.

Katie Tsuchimoto is graduating as valedictorian from Colorado Early Colleges Castle Rock and Arapahoe Community College. She will be attending the University of Oregon and majoring in Business Administration with a concentration in Finance. Katie has been a prominent member in the community, participating as both a Chibi mentor, YBA co-president, and various other leadership roles. She has played such a big part in YBA and will be missed dearly.

Tomiko Tawara is graduating from Aurora Central High School and will be attending Metropolitan State to major in Physics. Tomi served as a co-president of YBA and played an important role in our community. Her hardworking spirit and kindness is apparent in every class and her presence at Temple will be missed by so many.

Tara Case is graduating from Arapahoe High School and will be attending Colorado State University in their Exploratory Studies program. Temple members probably recall seeing Tara around the temple throughout her years in YBA, always with a smile on her face. She has such a kind spirit and you can always rely on her to work hard and help out. Thank you so much for all your work throughout these years; we know you're going to do great things.

Jazmin Armijo is graduating from Prairie View High School and will be attending Front Range Community College/Denver University to major in Library and Information Sciences. Jazmin is such a positive person and brightens up any room she walks into. She never fails to make those around her laugh and she is always a joy to be around. We can't wait to see all the great things you are going to do.

Lula DeMars is graduating from Pomona High School and will be attending Cal State Bakersfield. Lula has always been a great role model in YBA. She has great ideas and provides a sense of leadership in the class. She has put a lot of work into YBA these past few years and we're forever grateful for everything she's done. She will be missed, but we can't wait to see what she will do in the future.

Please join us in wishing all of our YBA seniors the very best! Congratulations to the Class of 2021! We look forward to the exciting futures ahead of you.

What a ride these past 15 months have been! We've hit the waves of ups and downs, riding each wave as it comes. We've adjusted to almost everything that hit us! I think we are on the upward side of the past year and we survived...slowly and cautiously.

In the times of quiet moments when the world seemed to have stopped, it taught us peace, tranquility and inner peace. We learned that everything was Impermanent—nothing stays the same, everyday was different with new challenges and goals. Interdependence taught us that when we needed help or assistance someone was there to give us a hand. Interconnectedness taught us that we could depend on family, friends and our ministers for their valued guidance. Yes, during the pandemic period it made us slow down to re-evaluate what was important to us and we survived knowing that we were all the better for it.

I want to thank the TSDBT/ BWA members who assisted with our Hanamatsuri-Dana Project. Those making and delivering fun gift bags were Mabel Googins, Debbie Tono, Jane Kano, Dick Mayeda, Kay Takahashi, Lorraine Hisamoto, Shirley Tsuchimoto, and Sharon Brooks. We made over 75 gift bags filled with such items as lip balm, packs of tissue, yummy edible treats, and even fun bubbles. We individually made these small

(continued on page 4)

*Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temples gratefully acknowledges
Donations and offerings received from April 1, 2021 – April 30, 2021*

Shotsuki Donors **in memory of**
 Sherri&John Nitta; January Shiichi Fukuhara, Fairy Kuritani
 Earl & Deborah Fukuhara; January .. Ayako Fukuhara
 Robert&Donna Miller; February Joanne Knight, Robert Knight
 Sherri&John Nitta; March Denshiro Nitta, Henry Kuritani

April Shotsuki donations **in memory of**
 Shirley Tsuchimoto Elaine Miyeko Newhouse
 Donna Inouye Florence Yanaru, Grace Kiyotake
 Elaine & Ted Tsumura Harry & Betty Yanari
 Ida Sasaki James Fukuhara, Misayo Fukuhara
 Miyuki Mabel Googins Jody Lynn Yamasaki
 Beulah & Tsutomu Kagiyama Keiichi Yoshida
 Richard & Michiko Yoshida Keiichi Yoshida
 Henry & Melanie Kusumi Keiji Kusumi
 Richard & Michiko Yoshida Roy Kiyoshi Kagiyama
 Families of Tosh&Mary Tawara Stephanie Tawara, Yoshio Akiyama
 Jan & Ron Marshall Todd K. Fujimoto
 Lenard Nobuta Toyo Nobuta, Yoneko Nobuta
 Robert & Gail Ida Tsurue Kimura
 Jack & Alice Kimura Tsurue Kimura
 Sumi Akiyama Yosh Akiyama
 Earl & Deborah Fukuhara James Fukuhara

In memory of Yoshiko Sasaki-13th yr

Sam&Mary Sasaki and families
 Judy&Ken Sato and families
 Amy&Don Tokunaga and families
 Kathy&Mark Yoshimoto and families

In memory of Sakiye Horiuchi-13th yr

Eiji & Fumiko Horiuchi
 Eugene Horiuchi
 Cindy Horiuchi
 Setsu & Gary Horiuchi

In memory of Keegan Yoichi Fushimi

Glenn & Debbie Fushimi
 M/M Bryce Fushimi
 Desiree, Chris, Arianna & Rosch DeClau

**In memory of Charles Kagiyama(1) &
Vi Kagiyama(17)**

Family of Charles&Vi Kagiyama
 Beulah & Tsutomu Kagiyama

Hanamatsuri Service

Michiko Chikuma
 Earl & Deborah Fukuhara
 Miyuki Mabel Googins
 Kenzo & Shirley Horiuchi
 Robert & Gail Ida
 Jack & Alice Kimura
 Junko & Manabu Kimura
 Robert & Donna Miller
 Stacey Umemoto Ospina
 Kay Takahashi
 Sayoko Takata
 Hisae Taniwaki
 Shirley Tsuchimoto
 Tom T. Urano, Jr.
 Fumiko Yamashita
 Richard & Michiko Yoshida

May Shotsuki donations **in memory of**
 Walter & Sharon Chikuma Charles Kagiyama
 Miyuki Mabel Googins Frances Reiser, Michio Yoshimura
 Calvin Kato Kimi Kato, Yasu Kato
 Robert & Donna Miller Kiyoko Kobayashi
 Ida Sasaki Sam M. Fukuhara
 Roland & Carrie Ann Aoki Tokutaro Yanari
 Sakamoto Family Takutaro Yanari

April donations **because & in memory of**
 TSDBT Endowment Fund 2nd Qtr disbursement
 Walter & Sharon Chikuma burial service; Josephine Chikuma
 Jean Urano Cherry Blossom Festival
 Robin Kerry Yoshimura funeral; Jayne Yoshimura
 Sue Yoshimura funeral; Youko Yamasaki
 Miyuki Mabel Googins Gotan E & Memorial Day services
 Brighton Buddhist Sangha HoOnko service
 Kenneth & June Tagawa Amy Tsumura, Hazel Tagawa
 Bruce Thompson Keirokai
 Yoko Mooney osonae
 BCA Endowment Fund shared donation; Gloria Koshio
 Robert & Gail Ida Shinran Service
 Ted & Elaine Tsumura online video services
 Peggy Osuga & Matsumoto Family .. Ayako Matsumoto
 Chiyo Yoshida Chitoshi Yoshida, Lisa Yoshida
 Reiko Urano Henry Urano
 Kathryn Kuge Isao Kuge-33rd yr
 Stan & Gayle Shibao Mary Shibao-3rd yr
 Calvin Kato Youko Yamasaki

Special service donation

Alec Douglas
 Darren Kim
 Oisin Knauss
 Stacey Ospina
 Charles Ozaki
 Shannon Umetani

Spring Ohigan Service

Jack & Alice Kimura
 Kay Takahashi

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

*Miyaoko Otsuki
May 20, 1922-May 6, 2021*

BWA News

(continued from page 3)

bags and then personally delivered them to our elderly Temple members who were in care facilities or who were homebound. The Brighton Sangha also made over 25 small gift bags for their members. Thank you to Paula Armijo and Naomi Tashiro who spearheaded event this for the Brighton Sangha and to all of your helpers! Finally, I would like to give high fives to my fellow BWA members for all of their hard and dedicated work during the last three years that I was your Co-President. It was truly an honor serving the Temple and the community. The new BWA Co-President is DJ Ida who will be joining Kay Takahashi as Co-President. Wendy Thompson will serve as the BWA secretary and Mabel Googins as Treasurer. What a team they will be!!! I'm excited to have DJ take my place. She has been a lifelong member of the Temple and many of you know she served as the Temple's YBA's advisor for many years. DJ comes with a myriad of experience dealing with mental health issues of Asian Americans and of the elderly. She recently retired but still speaks at seminars throughout the country. I'm so excited for programs she will bring to the BWA and the Temple during the next few years!

June Shotsuki Names

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

Hiroshi Horace Aigaki	Masa Kishimoto	Sue Tsugiko Nakamura	Hideko Takahashi
Glenn Akahoshi	Hara Ayako Kishiyama	Shizuyo Nakaoki	Ippachi Takahashi
Mitsuko Mary Akahoshi	Hikosaku Kishiyama	Seiichi Namba	Kimiye Takaki
Yoshio Akizuki	Sekihei Kiyonaga	Makoto Hugh Nishimoto	James Hajime Takemoto
Fred Aoki	Mildred Fujiye Kiyotake	Toshi Nitta	Sumiji Tamaki
Satsuki Willie Chikuma	Robert S. Kiyotake	Taki Noda	Julie Ann Tanaka
Ladda Chittivej	Matsu Kobayashi	Matsutaro Noriyuki	George Tani, III
Fred C. Devault	Setsuji Kobayashi	Kosaburo Ogata	Matsuichi Taoka
Terumi Viola Doizaki	Shige Komatsu	Morio Ogata	Minoru Taoka
Sumi Enomoto	Mitsu Kondo	Hisashi Bob Ogawa	Edward Tashiro
Masao Eshima	Gladys S. Yuki Konishi	Shigeo Ohtsu	Shina Teraji
Nobujiro Eshima	Eva Lynne Shimoda Konz	Joe Kazuma Okamoto	Teikichi Terakado
Fumiye Mary Fujii	Kenzo Kuga	Manzo Okamoto	Fujiye Tobo
Seikichi Fujinami	Naka Kurachi	Nellie Natsue Okamoto	Hyosaku Tomita
Komasaku Fujita	Shikakichi Kurachi	Shiogo Okamura	Momoyo Tsuchimoto
Henry Masahiko Fukino	John Shiro Kushihashi	Sandra Yoshiko Omoto	Nobuzane S. Tsumura
Tami Fujui	Toshi Matsubara	Tazo Otsuji	Mutsuyo Tsunoda
Mae Satsuki Funakoshi	Toshiake Matsuda	William Mori Oyama	Isajiro Uyen
Fuji Funayama	Tatsusaburo Matsumonji	Edward Tetsuro Ozaki	Goro Ray Yago
Douglas Haruo Furukawa	Mitsuko Matsumoto	Yone Ozamoto	Hichi Yamachika
Jack Yoshiharu Furukawa	Eiji Matsuno	Torakichi Saito	Kaoyo Yamada
Keegan Fushimi	Nora Matsushima	Masato Sakaguchi	Sentaro Yamada
Daniel Kiyoshi Hara	Takashi Matsushima	Ryosuke Ray Sakaguchi	Bill Tadashi Yamaguchi
Yoshisaburo Hashimoto	Yukino Mayeda	Mitzi Misao Sakurai	Donald Shin Yamakishi
Hana Hayashi	Daisuke Migaki	Hannah Sameshima	Natsue Lillie Yamakishi
Kinuko Hiraoka	Tsuneichi Mikawa	Isa Sameshima	Gennosuke Yamamoto
Tomono Hirazawa	Hiroko Miyake	Tamiya Sasamoto	Noboru Henry Yamashita
Sawaye Hirokawa	Sueko Miyako	Mitsuko Sato	Nancy Kiyoko Yokomizo
Shizue Honda	Otosaku Miyamoto	Rose Shibao	Gerald Yoneda
Sadao Hora	Jean Harumi Miyazawa	Tom Isamu Shibao	Isayo Yoshida
Kazuko Hori	Kiyoka Miyazawa	Kiyoko Shima	Kiichi Ben Yoshida
Shigeru Horiuchi	Donald Shigeru Miyoshi	Shigeo Shimamoto	Kohei Yoshida
Masakuni Iguchi	Mutsuko Mizukami	Edward Tatsuo Shimoda	Louis Togo Yoshida
Mojiro Iida	Minosuke Momoi	Kane Shimono	Yoshie Yoshida
Hiroshi Imada	Henry Hayato Morimitsu	Sumi Shin	Nao Yoshihara
Harley Motoyoshi Inouye	Chiyo Morishige	Hanzo Shinn	Mura Yoshimura
Tetsuzo Iriye	Chiyoko Cherry Motosaka	Ito Shinn	Jiroku Yunoki
Eddie Ito	Toshiko Murakami	Chiyoko Shino	
Takeshi Kagiya	Tsugiko Murata	Rikio Shishido	
Teya Kagohara	Natsuko Muroya	Noboru Sogi	
Thomas Shuichi Kajiwara	Noboru Muroya	Yuriko Steenbarger-Tamai	
Takeo Kasa	Uki Mary Muroya	Hichiro Sugihara	
Ichiji Kawamata	Shizuka Nagata	Kiyoto Sugiura	
Hisashi Kinoshita	Ayano Nakagawa	Henry Makio Suzuki	
Minoru Kinoshita	Julia Yoshiko Nakamoto	Taeko Tagawa	
Take Kinoshita	Rose Hisako Nakamura	Edward Tetsuro Tajiri	

Redevelopment Update *(continued from page 1)*

the rich history of our Japanese and Japanese American heritage and strives to create a vibrant destination that is open to the general public to enjoy. In addition to the Temple and Community Center facility, an open plaza area will be an important component of the redevelopment that will allow for cultural programming and activities to take place on a regular basis. As we move farther along in the design process, we will be sharing the other components of the block. It is vital that the entire block be successful in order for the Temple and Community Center to be sustained for generations to come.

An effort of this magnitude to redevelop an entire downtown block requires the representatives of the Sakura Square/Temple Redevelopment Executive Committee to work closely with numerous real estate consultants and development professionals to successfully achieve this project. In addition, this complex and lengthy process will require the cooperation and patience by our community and Sangha as well. If you have any questions regarding the Temple redevelopment, please contact Temple President Chad Nitta at chad.nitta@kutakrock.com. Questions regarding the Sakura Square redevelopment, can be directed to Sakura Square LLC CEO Gary Yamashita at garry@sakurasquare.com.

Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service

June 27, 2021

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

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YBA Update by Craig Hirokawa with Sarah Pettis & Jon Campbell, YBA Advisors

To say that the past Dharma School year has been unique is a bit of an understatement. Just as the Sangha had to acclimate to Zoom services so, too, did the YBA have to adapt to the times. Many YBA traditions had to be modified; thankfully, our YBA members rose to the occasion and proved just how resilient and flexible they are.

The pandemic was not the only major change to the YBA at the start of the Dharma School 2020/2021 year. As Jon and Amy welcomed their son, Arthur, into the world, Sarah and I joined YBA as new advisors. We are grateful for the warm reception that we have received. It has certainly been interesting getting to know the YBA over Zoom, and we are hopeful to get to know the YBA members more in person next year!

Our first major event of the year was an online Akimatsuri. We shared a video highlighting our favorite memories from past Akimatsuris. We were also able to host Turkey Bingo. Over 70 families joined in to play. While we were not able to high-five friends who got a Round Robin or Blackout, we are thankful that we were able to go virtual for this event and still connect with the community! We're thankful that the intensity and enthusiasm was still there, even in a virtual setting!

Throughout this pandemic, we have been reminded how the mail can help us stay connected. In December, the YBA wrote and mailed letters to our Sangha elders. In these letters, we shared the things that we are grateful for, things we missed about gathering in person, and our hopes for the end of the

pandemic. Through this process, we were able to feel more connected to our Sangha during a time we are physically apart.

In March, YBA held a virtual Dana Project, where we raised funds for the Food Bank of the Rockies. We know that the pandemic has greatly impacted many people in the broader Colorado community, and we wanted to do what we could to help others endure this tough year. We would once again like to thank the Sangha for helping make this virtual food drive a success. Thanks to everybody, we were able to raise over \$1100 for local families!

The YBA joined in on the Hanamatsuri festivities as well. The YBA filmed a lip sync to the song, "Mr. Blue Sky." We chose this song because we felt that the lyrics expressed the hope and optimism that we have for life after the pandemic. Next year, we hope to celebrate the lyrics with everybody in person: *Hey there Mr. Blue (sky) / We're so pleased to be with you / Look around see what you do / Everybody smiles at you.*

Our final project of the year was our annual Keirokai. Once again, we were not able to celebrate our elders in person, but we are glad to have been able to modify this tradition—instead of having members come to us for lunch, we were able to deliver lunch to our members! For the first time all year, we were able to have a small, in-person meeting to cook the lunches, which we then delivered to some of our local elders.

We could not have made it through this year without the hard

(continued on page 2)