



Temple Reflections

Temple Reflections

A TSDBT Monthly Publication

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MARCH SERVICES

Sunday, March 6, 2022
9:30 ZOOM Services and
Dharma School classes
2 pm Sedgwick

Sunday, March 13, 2022
9:30 am ZOOM services and
Dharma School classes
11 am Ft. Lupton

Sunday, March 20, 2022
Ohigan Service
9:30 am In-Person services
and Dharma School classes

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

Volume XLII, Issue 3

March 2022

Sunset in the Ohigan Season and The Land of Buddha

Rev. Noritaka Imada



Hello everyone. Spring Ohigan is in March. Ohigan means the other side, which is the Land of Buddha. The sun sets in the west. The land of Buddha is said to exist in the west, and people have imagined the Pure Land by watching the sunset from a long time ago. On Earth, we can recognize directions such as west or east, but in the universe, it is difficult to discern lateral directions. Even if we asked the Buddha where the Land of Buddha was located, maybe we couldn't understand it.

If someone asks me, "I'm trying to go to a temple, but I'm lost. How can I get to a temple?" I would begin by asking him, "Ok, where are you now?", because if I know his current location, I can tell him the direction to go. The same is true for listening to Buddha Dharma. When I am illuminated by the light of Amida Buddha, my own figure which is my current location becomes clear. At the same time, we realize that Amida Buddha is pointing us the way we should go. Knowing the destination of our lives may change how we spend our lives. Buddhism tells us to go beyond birth and death as a way to live our unrepeated life without regrets.

There are various ways or paths in Buddhism. To know which path is right for me, I need to know my current location. Humans have repeated "birth and death" in six worlds. That is my current location. If I didn't encounter Amida Buddha's vow, I wouldn't be able to get out of that loop. The path that Amida Buddha shows us is a path where you can walk with peace of mind. Tough roads such as "the road you shouldn't get lost or go wrong" are very hard to walk and difficult to continue. Amida Buddha knows that humans are not perfect, so he says, "You can make a mistake," "You can get lost," and "I will definitely take you to the Pure Land." This is the path that Nembutsu followers walk.

Instead of "how I can get to Amida Buddha," Jodo Shinshu understands that "Amida Buddha is thinking about how to bring us." I would like to recite the Nembutsu during the Ohigan season, thinking that Shinran Shonin also saw the setting sun and imagined the Pure Land.

Namo Amida Butsu

Gassho

皆様こんにちは。お彼岸の時期がやってきました。お彼岸とは向こう岸、つまり仏国土を意味します。仏の国は西に位置すると考えられており、極楽浄土の事を西方浄土とも呼びます。人々は昔から、春と秋に真西に沈む太陽を見て仏の世界を想像していた事でしょう。地球上では、私たちは西や東などの方角を認識しやすいですが、宇宙では方向を識別するのが難しいですね。たとえ阿弥陀如来にお浄土の場所を教えてもらっても人間には理解し難いのだと思います。もしお寺の電話が鳴り「お寺に行こうとしているのですが道に迷ってしまいました。行き方を教えてもらえますか？」と聞かれたら、おそらく私は「そうでしたか、ではまずあなたが今どこにいるかを教えて頂けますか？」と聞くでしょう。その方の現在地が分かれば、そこから進むべき方向を教える事ができるからです。同じことが仏法を聞く事にも言えます。私が仏の光に照らされる時、私の姿、即ち私の現在地が明らかになってくるのです。その時、私たちがどこへ向かっていけばいいのかを阿弥陀仏が示して下さいている事に気づきます。人生の目的地を知ることで、人生に何らかの変化があるかもしれません。繰り返すことのできないこの人生を後悔なく生きる道として、仏教では「生死出づべき道」が示されます。「生死出づべき道」とは生老病死にとられる心からの脱却です。

仏教の中にも様々な道があります。私にとってふさわしい道を知るには、まず私の現在地を知る必要があります。人間は六道の中で輪廻を繰り返しています。これが私の現在地です。もし阿弥陀仏の本願に出遇わなければ、この輪廻の繰り返しから抜け出す事はできません。阿弥陀仏が示して下さいる道は、安心して歩むことのできる道です。もし「迷ってはいけない」「間違っはいけない」と緊張して歩く道ならば、歩くのに疲れてしまいますし、長続きしにくいでしょう。阿弥陀仏は、人間が時に道を間違えたり迷ったりする事を事前に見抜いて下さっています。だからこそ、私が道に迷っていても、道を間違える事があっても「必ず私があなたをお浄土へ生まれさせますよ」と呼び掛けて下さっています。その願いが今、南無阿弥陀仏という言葉となってここに届いています。そのお念仏を聞かせて頂き、その呼び声と共に歩む人生が念仏者の道でしょう。

「どうやって“私”が阿弥陀仏の所へ行くか」ではなく、“仏”が「どうやってあなたを浄土に生まれさせよう」と考えて下さっていた事に気づいていくのが浄土真宗の教えです。この事に気づいたとき。感謝のお念仏が自然と口から出てきます。お彼岸の時期に、かつて宗祖親鸞聖人も夕陽を眺めながらお浄土を想っていた事を考えながら、お念仏の日々を送らせて頂きます。南無阿弥陀仏

合掌

Help Us Help Others; A BWA Request

by Kay Takahashi, BWA co-President

Thank you for your generous donations, support and concern to the Marshall Fire victims. To date, we are aware of two of our Dharma friends who completely lost their homes, and two who suffered significant smoke damage to their residence. At the moment they are feeling overwhelmed and need time to assess their needs and process what has happened.

Knowing that this recovery process will take months, if not years, we are asking that donations be sent in the form of a check or gift cards directly to the Temple in lieu of clothing or household goods. Periodically, we will keep you apprised of their situation and progress. Please make checks payable to TS/DBT and add in the For/Memo that the donation is for the Marshall fire.

Your generous Dana is greatly appreciated.

Dharma Conduit

Rev. Kaitlyn Kongō Mascher-Mace

March 2022 will mark two years since the start of the Pandemic Response in the United States, two years since we last had a regular in-person service, and two years since many of us enjoyed ramen from a styrofoam cup. Excitedly it should also mark our return to in-person services, as well. With the evolution of the COVID-19 virus, vaccinations and all of the work we have done to keep each other safe over the last two years, we have all worked hard and come out on the other side. All of us have our scars to show from these two years, however, we have all stayed together and have shared in the teachings. I am so excited to see all of you together again, in person, in the Hondo, to the level that you are comfortable with. Know that even one year from now if you want to wear a mask at temple, you will always have a supporter in me, as we are all welcome in the temple, just as we are, and are all embraced in the Vow. Everyone, anyone, can be Jodo Shinshu Buddhist.

Over the last two years I have spent a lot of time in the temple looking through books, moving stuff around, and finding things I did not know about. I came across a book with a business card sticking out the top of it, buried back on a shelf in the upstairs library. The book is called JODO SHINSHU HANDBOOK FOR LAYMAN, a 1982 translation of the Japanese Book *Jinsei no Toi* and the business card belonged to Rev. Eijiro Doei Fujii when he was at the Seattle Buddhist Church. Rev. Fujii had written notes all through the book, so I thought I should see what had caught his interest. The Jodo Shinshu Handbook for Layman is broken up into 242 Hongwanji approved topics ranging from the purpose of life to hair styles of priests. One of the sections stood out to me the most, section 233, titled "Propagation by Everyone":

233. *They say, "Everyone a propagator," but is not propagation the responsibility of the priests? In the long history of the teaching, the priests have been called "teachers" and the layman "pupils", so that from this many people erroneously think that propagation is the work of just the priests. Jodo Shinshu teaches that priests and lay are one, that they are both recipients of Amida Buddha's compassion and that they should live together in the harmony of brotherhood. And even though there may be some differences in responsibilities the priest and the lay should hear the Dharma together and spread the Dharma together. This is why we say, "Everyone a propagator."*

This is a passage with a lot of important information in it, including that we all walk the path together, there is one specific saying that I think is the most important. "Everyone a Propagator". I have heard there is an idea

that Jodo Shinshu people do not proselytize, do not go out of their way to share the teachings. The word proselytize itself brings up visions of someone knocking on your door wearing white shirts, or standing on the street corner screaming, or someone offering resources only if you profess in their faith group, and when it comes to these scenarios, no we do not proselytize in that way. However, Jodo Shinshu Buddhists across the world do share their teachings, do share their heart expressed in the Buddha Dharma. We can all, and should all, share this wonderful teaching with all who want to hear it, and never keep it to ourselves. The teaching is for us, but not only for us.

As we come back from our two years apart, things are not going to be the exact same as they were when we left each other. Sangha members have moved, been born in the Pure Land, and have been born to this *saha* world. The junior YBA are now all the YBA and we have new board members. Many of our Sangha members have been engaged with the teaching and with the temple in different ways through the pandemic, some seen, some unseen. And there are new Sangha members, people who came across the TS/DBT YouTube, who have read books and articles, who are excited to be part of our group of fellow travelers. Let's greet all of the TS/DBT sangha members, including those we are meeting for the first time, those who are not members, those who just walked in the door by accident, with the Nembutsu on our lips and remember the mantra "Everyone a Propagator". Let everyone know that they are welcome, no matter who they are, just as they are, Sono Mama.

In Gassho,

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

*James Fujita
April 28, 1927 – December 27, 2021*

*Bernice Fox
October 1, 1938 - January 6, 2022*

*Grayce Nakagawa
March 12, 1923 - January 23, 2022*

*Tsugio Yoshimoto
June 16, 1924 - January 26, 2022*

HoOnko Service

Michiko Chikuma
Kenzo & Shirley Horiuchi
Jack & Alice Kimura
Kay Takahashi
Sayoko Takata
Shirley Tsuchimoto
Fumiko Yamashita
Richard & Michiko Yoshida

Donation

Wild Ginger Restaurant
Anonymous
Mary Ida
Velda Nance
Yoko Mooney
Ted & Elaine Tsumura

In memory of Terry M. Domoto-25th yr

Florence Yoshida
Milt & Nancy Domoto and family

Please read the Minister's Weekly Bulletin (distributed via email) to receive accurate re-opening information. The target date is Sunday, March 20th, but you know well the shifting nature of time and schedules (and, therefore, the importance of reading). ☺

January Shotsuki donors

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---|
| Kenzo & Shirley Horiuchi | in memory of Andrew, Shogo, Takenobu Horiuchi |
| | Bill Sato, Sada Sato |
| Ida Sasaki | Ayako Fukuhara, Shiichi Fukuhara |
| | Ichiimi Tsushima, Mary Chikuma |
| Phil & Lillian Miyazawa | Fairy Kuritani, Mary Miyazawa |
| Ted & Elaine Tsumura | Fairy Kuritani |
| Alice Mizuno | Fumio Arakawa |
| Junko & Manabu Kimura | Ichiimi Tsushima |
| Families of Joe&Teruko Sato | Joe Tsuyoshi Sato |
| Miyoko Murata | Katsu Nishi |
| Sayoko Takata | Katsu Nishi |
| Shirley Tsuchimoto | Scott Lee Kim |
| Harriett Sakamoto | Setsu Yanari |
| Family of Kay&Nancy Nitta | Shiichi Fukuhara |
| Earl & Deborah Fukuhara | Shiichi Fukuhara, Ayako Fukuhara |
| Donna Inouye | Steve Koga |
| Family of Tosh&Mary Tawara | Susan Tawara, Hatsumi Umemoto |
| Lenard Nobuta | Tomezoo Nobuta |
| Sharon Chikuma | Violet Kagiya |

Donations

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Family of Eiji Horiuchi | for OR in memory of funeral; Eiji Horiuchi |
| Mabel Googins | New Year's Eve service |
| Miyoko Murata | Nov Shotsuki; Kenichiro Nishi |
| Gloria Koshio | BCA Endowment donor |
| Charlotte and Ken Namba..... | Bernice Fox |
| Nancy Ohama | Mary & Charlie Matsubara |
| Michiko Fujii | Rev. Doei Fujii – 3 rd yr |
| Dennis & Joanne Wood | Ruth Nukaya – 1 st yr |
| Kenneth Hisamoto | Sachiko & Etsuto Hisamoto |
| Sumi Akiyama | Susan K. Tawara – 33 rd yr |

From the Temple Office

by Donna Inouye

Colorado's Marshall Fire erupted on December 30, 2021. It was of such velocity and destruction that on December 31, 2021, the US president approved a major disaster declaration. TSDBT members responded with equal pace and concern. . . were fellow Sangha members affected? Is everyone okay? How can we help?

TSDBT does not have an Emergency Plan in place. Worried members did not have a central phone or office to express concern or relay information. Still, we have been able to identify Sangha members who are Marshall Fire victims and know that all four families are at least currently safely housed. The task of restoring their lives to their pre-fire existence, looms before them as a complicated journey of many unknowns.

Thank you to the following Temple members who emailed in their willingness to "do anything to help" even before the Temple knew of anything to be done: Patricia Sato; Kenzo, Irene, Mika & Aya Kawanabe; Alex Kimata; Sharon Brooks; Debby Tanigawa; Aiko Kimura and Denver Taiko members; Alyssa, Matt, Lula, Milo & Ian deMars; Zak Cockcroft; Gloria Koshio; Lorraine Hisamoto and Kanya Okamoto.

Thank you to the following members who donated gift cards in very generous amounts: Kim Morehouse, Amy Emiko Koga, Charles & Teri Ozaki, Jean Yien, Ted & Elaine Tsumura, Wendy & Bill Thompson. BWA Officers have distributed the donated gift cards as immediate relief.

Thank you to the ministers, Donna Inouye, Yoko Mooney and Fumiko Yamashita whose cash donations form the base of TSDBT's Marshall Fire Victim's Assistance Fund. Presently the Temple President and BWA Officers are strategizing a plan to make use of sangha volunteers and collected funds in the most helpful manner possible.

Thank you to Rev. Kaitlyn Mascher-Mace for setting up the February Covid Vaccine Clinic.

Thank you to Joni Sakaguchi and Crew for running the Nikkei Treasures fundraising sale in February.

Thank you to Cal Noguchi for repair work on the incense burner table in the Hondo.

Thank you Jon Campbell and Wayne Berve for keeping close attention to the Temple building needs.

March Shotsuki Names

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

| | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Tom Fumio Abe | Yone Kishiyama | Katsubei Sakaguchi | George Yozo Yamada |
| Henry Masao Aigaki | Hachiro Kita | Kenji Sakurai | Haruko Yamada |
| Itsue Ando | Totaro Kitamura | Akio Sameshima | Jiro Yamada |
| Toshi Aoki | Juichi Kito | Joe Sasaki | Hayasuke Yamamoto |
| Shigeji Arai | Yone Kiyotake | Yoshiko Sasaki | Kiku Yamamoto |
| Tamiko Ruby Arai | Kiyoshi Jerry Kizu | Takiko Sasamoto | Joseph Satoshi Yamasaki |
| Yaye Komaru Aramaki | Asakichi Koga | Miyoko Dolly Sato | Tsuruyo Yashiro |
| Jim Ariki | Kanako Kojima | Kakugoro Sawamura | Helen Yokooji |
| Toki Ashida | George Yuji Kondo | Emi Shigemura | Rose Yokooji |
| Robert Boudreau | Taneji Koshio | Harley Haruo Shimamoto | Gladys Yoshie Yoshida |
| Namdjal Buchinow | Haru Koto | George Gunichi Shimoda | Toshiaki Yoshimura |
| Lisa Campbell | George Tomihara Kuga | Kamekichi Shimogaki | |
| Pop Chittivej | Isao Kuge | Fukumatsu Frank | |
| Kunio Ken Endo | Henry Yoshitaka Kuritani | Shimono | |
| Harry Shoichi Enomoto | David Martin Kutsuma | Yoshio George Shin | |
| Wilson Masayoshi | Jane Yoshiko Kutsuma | Shigeiko Shino | |
| Enomoto | Sajiro Kuwabara | Terry Teruko Shoji | |
| Dianne Eshima | Bill Shiro Matoba | Tommy Tadayoshi Shuto | |
| Kunio Eshima | Miyori Matoba | Isamu Sam Suekama | |
| Tamiko Furuiye | Toshiharu Matsuda | Kaichiro Suekama | |
| Jane Tomoe Gow | George Atasuo | Aiko Mary Suzuki | |
| Jim Hada | Matsumonji | Susumu Jack Suzuki | |
| Sadahachi Hamada | Tamie Matsuo | Kenny Kiyoshi Takahashi | |
| Alyce Hara | Kihei Matsushima | Tooru Takamatsu | |
| Tami Harada | Sadami Matsushita | Shigeiko Takamine | |
| Tommy Sadamu | Ichiro Matsuyama | David Ross Takata | |
| Hasegawa | Masuji Matsuyama | Tsui Takemoto | |
| Harumi Hayashi | Christine Mayeda | Kaname Takeshita | |
| Shigeo Hayashi | Ben Kiyoshi Miyake | Tsuneo Takeuchi | |
| Takako Hayashida | Yae Miyao | Yoshiko Takeuchi | |
| Roger James Hiraki | Shimo Momoi | Rokuro Tamai | |
| Frank Masando Hiraoka | Suekichi Morimitsu | Makuzo Tamura | |
| Haru Hironobu | Goro Morimoto | Kimiko Tanaka | |
| Jackie Hisamoto | Shizuko Morioka | Robert Kuya Tanaka | |
| Amy Horiuchi | Nihei Motoyama | Ruby Akiko Tanaka | |
| Carrie Katsuko Horiuchi | Sode Motoyama | Sumiye Tanaka | |
| Matajiro Igata | Shuichi Murakami | Jitsuzo Tani | |
| Shinko Iguchi | Torazo Nagasawa | Shungo George Tani | |
| Dorothy Natsuko Inouye | Taichi Nagata | Mitsuko Taniguchi | |
| Herbert Hideyo Inouye | Robert Yoshio Nakadoi | Oski Sakae Taniwaki | |
| Tsutomu Inouye | Chikako Nakagawa | Hitoshi Tashiro | |
| Yasu Inouye | Kaoru Jack Nakagawa | Eizo Tokunaga | |
| Misao Ishiguro | Towa Nakagawa | Shirley Tamiko Toya | |
| Kiyoshi Ishikawa | Heijiro Nakano | Mikazu Tsuchimoto | |
| Shinsuke Ito | Sakashi Mary Nakata | Toshiko Tsuruda | |
| Taeko Ito | Takuji Henry Nishi | Kenhichi Ujifusa | |
| Susumu Kagiya | Aki Nobuta | Michiye Umemoto | |
| Nobuko Kagohara | Tsuta Noriyuki | Errol Hisashi Umetani | |
| Ikuro Kano | Mark Hajime Nukaya | Helen Kikue Umetani | |
| Soichi Katayama | Kingoro Numokawa | Eddie Takeshi Uno | |
| Miyeko Kato | Shigeru Ogawa | Emiko Uno | |
| Toichi Kato | Saki Ogura | Dianne Urano | |
| Yuji Kato | Michita Sam Okamoto | Tamaki Uyeda | |
| Toyokichi Kawano | Fusano Okubo | Yoshimori Uyeda | |
| Arthur Yasuo Kinoshita | Sute Okugawa | Asakichi Uyemura | |
| Willie Tomomi Kinoshita | Eleanor Ann Noriko Okuno | Tetsuzo Uyemura | |
| George Noriyoshi | Chiyeko Omiya | Albert Tadashi Watada | |
| Kishimoto | Chieko Ono | En Watada | |
| Harry Mitsuo Kishimoto | Chikara Ozamoto | Denhichi Watanabe | |
| Kiyoshi Kay Kishimoto | Sai Saito | Matsuye Yago | |

Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service

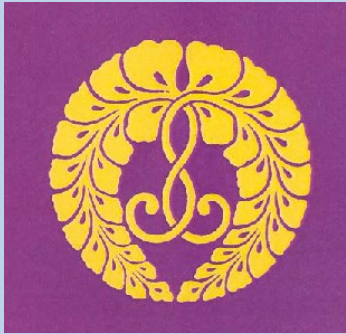
March 27, 2022

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 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
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