Hello everyone, welcome to March! This month we are observing Spring Ohigan, the time of year when we are encouraged to turn our minds towards the Other Shore or Amida Buddha’s Pure Land of enlightenment. It is said that the Pure Land is located in the Western quarter and it is a land of infinite light and bliss. This light is the Buddha’s light of infinite wisdom that shines on all beings and is one of the aspects of the Pure Land that we try to encounter when we set our minds towards this land of enlightenment.

Light, as we know, is a nurturing force. The light of the sun is one of the necessary elements of growth and it works in conjunction with other elements to bring about life. In the Springtime, we can see the working of light very clearly especially as the plants begin to reemerge. The tiny, dormant seeds beneath the earth contain vast potential and with the right causes and conditions, they will be able to realize their fullest lives. The seeds draw in nutrients from the soil, are fed by the water from the melting snow and eventually begin to push their way towards the light. Once emerged, they open their buds and turn their faces towards the sun to draw from its life-sustaining energy. But even before they break the surface, the light of the sun is helping them to grow by melting the snow and warming the soil to keep it from getting too wet. The seeds might not ‘know’ that the sun is there, but nonetheless, its light is there.

We ourselves are like the little seeds beneath the ground. We contain the potential for fullness of growth and when we have the right elements in place to nurture our growth, we begin to emerge from the darkness and head towards the great light of wisdom. Like the light of the sun, the light of wisdom is always there and we receive its benefits regardless of our awareness of its presence. When talking about turning our thoughts towards the Pure Land, it is a way of encouraging us to become aware of the working of that great light of wisdom. In the midst of our very human lives it is sometimes difficult to see or feel that light surrounding us and yet, it is always there. The Buddha shines this light continuously in the form of Namo Amida Butsu, knowing that there will eventually be a time when we can encounter and acknowledge it and when we say ‘Namo Amida Butsu’, this is our response in gratitude for that continuous light. It is our little seed pushing through the darkness and turning our faces towards the sun in order for us to experience the full potential of our lives.

Namo Amida Butsu
March News
by Rev. Noritaka Imada

"It is difficult to meet true teachers
And difficult for them to instruct.
It is difficult to hear the teaching well,
And more difficult still to accept it."
(Hymns of the Pure Land-69)

This is a verse from Shinran Shonin in Hymns of Pure Land. The word "difficult" is used repeatedly. What is difficult? He mentions four things: "Meet a good teacher", "Teach someone about Buddhism", "Listen to Dharma", "Just entrust it".

What is a good teacher? It represents those who teach Buddhism and guide us on the path of Nembutsu. That means all those who have helped me get to know the teachings of Buddhism.

Some people watch(ed) their parents reciting Nembutsu every day.

Some wonder what life is when their family has passed away, and then they begin to Nembutsu.

Some have an unanswered problem. And they look for answers in Buddhism, and begin to study Buddhism.

The timing of entering the path of Nembutsu differs from person to person. There are many different kinds of good teachers.

Shinran Shonin started writing this passage with the words that "meeting a good teacher" is difficult. It represents the difficulties of meeting those who will guide us on the path of the Buddha.

Dharma has been handed down from person to person and has reached me from a long time ago. If I think so, I realize that a huge number of people are involved. I want to say that all these people are good teachers.

Recently, some people may not want to encounter Nembutsu. This means that it is difficult to get to know Buddhism.

Now, I recite the Nembutsu in my daily life. I want to say thank you to all good teachers.

Namo Amida Butsu

TLDR*: Just Say the Nembutsu

By Rev. Kaitlyn Mascher-Mace

*Too Long, Didn’t Read - an online acronym known by “anyone who knows anything” about reading, posting or texting online

Nothing is needed except the Nembutsu and, if you learn nothing else other than to say ‘Namo Amida Butsu’, then that is enough. In being mindful and in saying the Nembutsu, we become aware that it is not simply something that we say, but rather it is something freely given by Amida Buddha. By knowing that it is not us that says the Nembutsu, but rather Amida, this becomes the Nembutsu of other-power. For foolish beings like ourselves, it is the other power which allows us to transcend crosswise, free of the blind passions of this world, directly to birth in the Pure Land.

If this is the fundamental truth of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, why do we have so many sutras that we chant, why is the Kyôgyôshinshô six chapters long, and why do the ministers spend so much time in school learning about so many different aspects of Shin Buddhism?

This same question was posed to Shinran by a samurai, Hagihara Toshikage, when Shinran was being held in exile in Echigo. Shinran replied,

“We only have to get on the ‘boat of the universal salvation.’ We do not attain rebirth into the Pure Land through our own efforts. But if you want to know more about the Land of Bliss, it would be pleasant to read the Sutras. To the priests, it is convenient to know the Sutras in detail. But all shall be reborn into the Pure Land, regardless of whether they know the Sutras. They all go to the same destination, whether they know the Sutras or not.”

The most learned and most ignorant persons achieve birth in the Pure Land, through embracing the Primal Vow and the Nembutsu, just as does the most ignorant person. Clarity of Shinjin is not enhanced through the knowledge of the Sutras, teachings, commentaries, wasan or any other Shin writings. However, as Shinran says, isn't it pleasant to read the Sutras?

For humans it is hard to just accept something because we are told to accept it. It is better to know something with complete conviction. While it is possible to know without a doubt that the Nembutsu is for me, it often comes with our own strings attached - our own doubts and attachments. One thing that helps us as human beings is quantifying our position, and for Shin Buddhists that means learning not only what is in front of us but also the causes which brought all of this to be the way it is now.

I will be holding three Sunday study classes during the month of March. We will cover the basics of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism and clarify the teachings of just say the Nembutsu.

Gassho
March News
by Rev. Noritaka Imada

「善知識にあうことも おしえることもまたかたし よくきくこともかたければ 信ずることもなおかたし(浄土和讃六九)」

浄土和讃にある親鸞聖人の言葉です。この和讃の中には「かたし」つまり「難しい」という言葉が繰り返し使われています。何が難しいのかというと、4つのことを挙げられています。「善知識(ぜんちしき)にあうこと」「教えること」「よくきくこと」「信じること」の四つです。「まず善知識とは何か」ということですが、これは仏法の教えを説いて念仏の道に入ることを勧め、導く者のことを言います。私が仏教に出遭う手助けをしてくださった人達を総じて善知識と呼びます。念仏をする親の姿を見ており私もしているという人や、家族の死を機縁に「命とは何か」という問題に真剣に向かい仏教に出遭う人や、答えのない問題を抱えているときに仏教に答えを求めるうちに仏法に出遭ったりと、念仏の道に入るタイミングは人それぞれですがこれらはすべて善知識なのではないでしょうか。

この和讃の初めに、親鸞聖人は「善知識にあふること」が難しく困難であると述べられました。これは、我々を念仏の道に導いてくれる人に出会うことの難しさを表しています。法は人から人へと語り継がれ、遠い昔から私の所まで届きました。その間に関わったすべての人が、善知識と言えるのではないでしょうか。そう考えるととても少ない人物が関わっている事に気づかされます。その中で、たまたま私が善知識に出遭い念仏の道を歩ませて頂いているのです。今の時代、そもそも念仏に出遭いたくないと思っている人も多いかもしれませんが、これが誰かに失う事が難しいという事でしょう。そんな中、仏法に出逢い念仏と共に日々を送らせて頂いている事は有り難いことです。「有ることが難しい」と書いて有り難いと言います。多い

ないとても貴重な日々を送らせて頂いていることに感謝の念仏を申し日々を送らせて頂きましょう。

BWA Update

Our heartfelt gratitude to all those members who came out for cleanup Sunday on February 2, 2020. Your tireless dedication toward this effort has resulted in a cleaner and healthier environment for our Sangha.

Upcoming events:
February 29 (Sat. 9am-1pm) and March 1 (Sun. 11:30am-3pm), the BWA will host a “Tsuru for Solidarity” folding event at the Temple. This is in support of a national pilgrimage to Washington D.C., June 5-7, to close current immigrant and refugee detention centers and camps, and to raise awareness of the 125,000 Japanese Americans who were wrongly interned during WWII. We encourage the community to support this worthwhile project by helping us fold and contribute towards the national goal of 125,000 paper cranes (expressions of solidarity) to be displayed in Washington DC. Instructions, paper and light snacks will be provided. You may also bring your own paper, all colors and sizes will be accepted. More information can be found at Tsuru for Solidarity and the Pacific Citizen websites.

March 15 (Sun. 11:30 am) the BWA will hold an important general meeting in the Hondo. We will hand-out 2019 activity and treasury reports, elect new officers (Co-President & Treasurer) and collect membership forms and dues from new and renewing members. All genders and ages are welcomed. We hope you will support and enjoy the Dharma School bake sale prior to the meeting. (No food or drink in the Hondo)

April 18 –(Sat., tentatively 10 am)- we will honor Eshinni & Kakushinni, the wife and daughter of Shinran Shonin. Our guest speaker will be DJ Ida on the topic of “Finding Your Voice”. Details will be forthcoming.

In Gassho,
BWA Officers

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

Helen Fujishima
April 20, 1921 - January 10, 2020

Takenobu Horiuchi
August 1, 1934 - January 14, 2020
New Year’s Eve service
Betty Shimamoto
Bill & Ann Murphy
Peter & Shigeko Menda
Michiko Fujii
Cindy Horiuchi
Marge Fukuhara & Rod Fukuhara
Rick & Daryl Horiuchi
Monica Nagai
Joe & Jill Ozaki

2020 BCA Calendars
Ft. Lupton Buddhist Temple
Brighton Buddhist Sangha
Lajara/Alamosa Buddhist Sangha
Sedgwick Buddhist Temple

Facilities Usage
DBT Craft Class; 2019 assessment
TSDBT Karaoke Club; 2019 assessment
DBT Minyou Kai; 2019 assessment
Rick & Daryl Horiuchi; funeral reception
Kazuko Ortiz; Okinawan Dance
Denver Taiko; workshop
Denver Taiko; 2019 assessment
Monica Nagai; funeral reception

Donation/Osaisen
Carolyn Takeshita
Anastasis Academy
Kent & Jane Kano
Randy Matsushima
Preschool Dharma Class

Donations
Joe & Jill Ozaki
Monica Nagai
Rick & Daryl Horiuchi
Longmont Buddhist Temple
Marge Fukuhara & Rod Fukuhara
Cindy Horiuchi
Michiko Fujii
Peter & Shigeko Menda
Betty Shimamoto

for reason of
for 2020 Special services
funeral; Ruth Kamibayashi
funeral; Takenobu Horiuchi
January MOU
Legacy Fund pledge
Andrew Horiuchi-7 yr
Koaru Urano-7 yr
in memory of Doei Fujii
in memory of Haruko & Shigeo
in memory of Jack Tani
in memory of Ruth Kamibayashi
in memory of Mary Osaki-7 yr
in memory of Tadao Shimamoto-7 yr

in memory of
Dave & Priscilla Franey
Fairy Kuritani
Fairy Kuritani
Hatsumi Umemoto
Hatsumi Umemoto
Ichimi Tsushima
Ichimi Tsushima & Aya Fukuhara
Karen Eiko Matsushima
Mary Miyazawa
Mary Miyazawa
Scott Lee Kim
Setsu Yanari
Steve Koga
Susan K. Tawara
Susan K. Tawara
Suyeno Yoshimura
Tamiye Mary Ozaki

New Year’s Day service
Robin Burchardt
Randy Matsushima
Frank Miyazawa
Alise Nishimoto
Terri Nishimoto
Richard & Michiko Yoshida

2019 EOY donation
Fred & Toki Gow
Shirley Tsuchimoto

January Shotsuki donations
Jill Ozaki
Phillip & Lil Miyazawa
John & Sherri Nitta
Ted & Elaine Tsumura
Karen Tawara Jones
Tawara Families
Junko & Manabu Kimura
Ida Sasaki
Randy Matsushima
Phillip & Lil Miyazawa
John & Sherri Miyazawa
Sayoko Takata
Shirley Tsuchimoto
Harriett Sakamoto
Donna Inouye & Alyssa Nilemo
Sumi & Yoshi Akiyama
Family of Tosh & Mary Tawara
Rex & Marian Yoshimura
Joe & Jill Ozaki

Donation
January Shotsuki
in memory of
Jill Ozaki
Phillip & Lil Miyazawa
John & Sherri Nitta
Ted & Elaine Tsumura
Karen Tawara Jones
Tawara Families
Junko & Manabu Kimura
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in memory of Mary Osaki-7 yr
in memory of Tadao Shimamoto-7 yr

HoOnko service
Don Akiyama
Glenn & Michelle Asakawa
Junko Asakawa
Susie Asano
Clarynne & Nick Blanchard
Unmarked envelope
Audrey & Jay Charness
Michiko Chikuma
DBT Aikido
Denver Kohaku Uta Gassen
Earl & Debbie Fukuhara
Mabel Googins
Greeley Buddhist Church
Cindy Horiuchi
Robert & Gail Ida
Kenichi & Amy Inouye
Tetsuo & Sadako Iwahiro
Kent & Jane Kano
Roy Kikuyama
Jack & Alice Kimura
Yuji & Aiko Kimura
Manabu & Junko Kimura
Lajara/Alamosa Buddhist Sangha
Justin & Stevie Lo
Randy Matsushima
Frank Miyazawa
Miyoko Murata
Dat & Naomi Nguyen
John & Sherri Nitta
Donna Noguchi
Stacey Umemoto Ospina
Hank & Irene Shibao
Kay Takahashi
Sayoko Takata
Doris Taniguchi
Hisae Taniwaki
Shirley Tsuchimoto
Fumiko Yamashita
Gary & Debbie Yamashita
Richard & Michiko Yoshida

Nokotsudo; Mitsumasa & Kimiye Miyake
Thomas & Stephanie Miyake
Flo & Cal Newlin

Memorial Service; Rev. Ed Doei Fujii
Shizue Asano
Walter & Sharon Chikuma
Mabel Googins
Cindy Horiuchi
Dj Ida
Charles Kagiyama
Frank Miyazawa
Yoko Mooney
George Tagawa
Sayoko Takata
March Shotsuki Names
(Sangha members who have passed away in the month of March)

Tom Fumio Abe
Henry Masao Aigaki
Itsue Ando
Toshi Aoki
Shigeji Arai
Tamiko Ruby Arai
Yaye Komaru Aramaki
Jim Ariti
Tokio Ashida
Robert Boudreau
Namdjal Bucinow
Lisa Campbell
Pop Chittivej
Kunio Ken Endo
Harry Shoichi Enomoto
Wilson Masayoshi Enomoto
Dianne Eshima
Kunio Eshima
Tamiko Furuiye
Jane Tomoe Gow
Jim Hada
Sadahachi Hamada
Alyce Hara
Tami Harada
Tommy Sadamu Hasegawa
Harumi Hayashi
Shigeo Hayashi
Takako Hayashida
Roger James Hiraki
Frank Masando Hiraoka
Haru Hironobu
Jackie Hirasato
Amy Horiiuchi
Carrie Katsuko Horiuchi
Matagiro Igata
Shinko Iguchi
Dorothy Natsuko Inouye
Herbert Hideyo Inouye
Tsutomu Inouye
Yasu Inouye
Misao Ishiguro
Kiyoshi Ishikawa
Shinsuke Ito
Taeko Ito
Susumu Kagiyama
Taeko Ito
Shinsuke Ito
Misao Ishiguro
Yasu Inouye
Tsutomu Inouye
Herbert Hideyo Inouye

Some of you have historical family articles in the invaluable We Chose Colorado book authored by Joyce Lebra. Joyce said that the “Old John Publishing”, publisher of the book, will be closing and that the book will no longer be available in the bookstores in the near future. If you would like to purchase the book(s) for members of younger generation, which I am going to do, I would encourage you to purchase them before they are no longer available.

-Alley E. Watada

Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service
March 29, 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 April 3rd, 1st Year, 3rd Year, 7th, 13th, 17th, 25th, 33rd and 53rd 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 loves ones who have passed away in that particular month. Donation by affected family members is appreciated: $50/observance.

In Gassho

Save the Date
Saturday, March 7, 2020
10:00 a.m. to noon

Do you know what the Jodo Shinshu rituals and traditions are when a person dies?

Rev. Diana Thompson and Rev. Noritaka Imada will talk about the funeral rituals and temple procedures for funeral planning.

There will also be a presentation on the Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple Nokotsudo and general funeral options.
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**March 2020**

**SUNDAY**
- 9:30 Nihongo service
- 10:15 Adult Service

**MONDAY**
- 9:30 CO Senate opening
- 11:30 Dharma service & discussion

**TUESDAY**
- 9 am Brighton I
- 11 am Ft. Lupton I
- 6 pm Lajara/Alamosa I
- 11:30 Dharma service & discussion

**WEDNESDAY**
- 10 am HS visitors
- 11 am Shiran’s Day Service

**THURSDAY**
- 10 am Death/Funeral Workshop

**FRIDAY**
- 9 am Brighton I
- 11 am Ft. Lupton I
- 10 am Death/Funeral Workshop

**SATURDAY**
- 11:30 Dharma service & discussion

**SUNDAY**
- 9:30 Family Service
- 10:15 Adult Service

**MONDAY**
- 9:30 Nihongo service
- 10:15 Adult Service

**TUESDAY**
- 9 am Brighton I
- 11 am Ft. Lupton I
- 12 pm Dharma Class MM

**WEDNESDAY**
- 9 am Brighton I
- 11 am Ft. Lupton I
- 12 pm Dharma Class MM

**THURSDAY**
- 9 am Brighton I
- 11 am Ft. Lupton I

**FRIDAY**
- 9 am Brighton I
- 11 am Ft. Lupton I
- 12 pm Dharma Class MM

**SATURDAY**
- 11:30 Dharma service & discussion

**SUNDAY**
- 9:30 CO Senate opening

**MONDAY**
- 9:30 CO Senate opening

**TUESDAY**
- 9 am Brighton I
- 11 am Ft. Lupton I
- 12 pm Dharma Class MM

**WEDNESDAY**
- 9 am Brighton I
- 11 am Ft. Lupton I
- 12 pm Dharma Class MM

**THURSDAY**
- 9 am Brighton I
- 11 am Ft. Lupton I
- 12 pm Dharma Class MM

**FRIDAY**
- 9 am Brighton I
- 11 am Ft. Lupton I
- 12 pm Dharma Class MM

**SATURDAY**
- 11:30 Dharma service & discussion
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I know you won’t believe it but Spring is just around the corner! This means it’s almost time for Hanamatsuri! . . . . Which, in turn, means students and teachers will be spending March Sundays in rehearsal mode for their annual Hanamatsuri program – please ensure a successful experience for the student(s) in your family by faithfully attending all five (yes! count ’em – 5!) Sunday services in the month of March.

Hanamatsuri falls on Sunday, April 5th. This special service will include ceremonial pouring of sweet tea over the statue of Baby Buddha standing in the Lumbini Garden of our hanamido. After service we will all enjoy a potluck lunch followed by some wonderful Dharma School children performances. We hope you will join us in your Sunday best as we come together to celebrate the Buddha’s birthday.

For potluck offerings please bring the following items using the starting letter of your last name:
A-G Desserts
H-N Appetizers
O-Z Main Dish

Thank you and look forward to seeing you all there!

The YBA has had a great year so far, and we’re very appreciative of the support of the Sangha (especially since the Sunshine trip is this summer!). As part of our gratitude, we look forward to hosting our annual Keirokai luncheon for the seniors.

**Save the Date!**
**April 4, 11 am**

Keirokai recipients will receive a letter with more details later in March.

Learn the history of taiko (drum), how to play taiko and more in two 2 hour workshops offered by Denver Taiko on two consecutive Saturdays in March. No experience is required and you will receive a pair of bachi (sticks).

You must sign up; space is limited to 20 people:
Saturday, March 14th & 21st; 9 am to 11 am
$80 workshop fee is due at first class
Meet at the Denver Buddhist Temple, 1947 Lawrence St.

Sign up at: https://forms.gle/iJFeMCMUMPQg6Jfp8