



# Temple Reflections

## Temple Reflections

A TSDBT Monthly Publication

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**NOVEMBER SERVICES**  
 Sunday, November 7, 2021  
 9:30 ZOOM Services and Dharma School classes  
 1 pm Sedgwick

Sunday, November 14, 2021  
 9:30 am ZOOM services and Dharma School classes  
 11 am Ft. Lupton

Sunday, November 21, 2021  
 Eitaikyo Service  
 9:30 am ZOOM services and Dharma School classes

Sunday, November 28, 2021  
 November Shotsuki & BDays  
 9:30 am ZOOM services  
 NO Dharma School Classes

Volume XLI, Issue 10

November 2021

### A flexible and forgiving way of life with the Nembutsu

by Rev. Noritaka Imada

How many times do we use water in a day? We use a lot of water under various circumstances such as drinking water, boiling vegetables, washing dishes, brushing teeth, washing faces, flushing toilets, washing hands, washing cars, taking a shower, etc. Humans cannot live without water. So, if you are asked what the shape of water is, how would you answer it? We may want to say that water has no shape. Then, if you are asked to draw a picture of water, how would you draw it? Let's use our imagination to draw a picture in our head. For example, if you pour water into a glass, the water will fit in the shape of the glass. Then, when you repour water into a glass of another shape, the water will change shape. Water can be flexibly reshaped and stored according to the prepared container. Water corresponds equally to any shape and does not say, "I hate this shape, so I don't want to change to this shape." But what if the water cools and turns into ice? When it becomes ice, it hardens and loses its flexibility. Ice larger than a cup cannot even enter the cup. Shinran Shonin, who saw this relationship between ice and water, was left with the following words:

*Through the benefit of the unhindered light,  
 We realize shinjin (True Heart) of vast, majestic virtues,  
 And the ice of our blind passions necessarily melts,  
 Immediately becoming water of enlightenment.*

— Shinran Shonin, from the Hymns of the Pure Land Masters (Koso Wasan)

Shinran Shonin likened "the way our Blind Passion melts due to the light of Amida Buddha" to the relationship between ice and water. Water and ice are originally the same thing, but their properties change depending on the environment and conditions. Our minds change as easily as water. The anger, sadness, and trauma that you endure in your daily life accumulate in the depths of your heart and harden like ice. Ice cannot be transformed into water by its own power. Just as ice in warm water melts and eventually disappears, the ice in our hearts also melts in the warm light of Amida Buddha. I would like to spend my days expressing gratitude to Amida Buddha, who never abandons us. Namo Amida Butsu

*This year's Interfaith Thanksgiving Service will happen both in-person and online; Central Christian Church is this year's host and Rev. Kaitlyn Mascher-Mace is the TSDBT clergy representative.*

*As of this writing, planning meetings are still taking place. An online link will be provided to you as soon as possible. Meanwhile, most of you will remember that Central Christian Church can be found at 3690 E. Cherry Creek South Dr., Denver 80209; service will begin at 10 a.m.*

*The Interfaith Thanksgiving service is a long standing, annual tradition of TSDBT members. Your participation is greatly appreciated.*

It may not feel like it, but it's true – Time is flying by and we are fast approaching the end of a calendar year AND, just as mysteriously, we will immediately find ourselves in a New Year.

If you would like to send out a New Year greeting in the Temple Reflections' January 2022 issue, please submit your message (and \$5 fee) to the temple office by Wednesday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

Please identify all submissions as "2022 New Year Greetings"; messages can be mailed to TSDBT, 1947 Lawrence St., Denver, CO 80202. OR you can email to [dinouye@tsdbt.org](mailto:dinouye@tsdbt.org)

Along with your personally worded greeting, please include a sign-off with name(s) of sender.

Thank you for participating in this annual tradition.

## Dharma Conduit

Rev. Kaitlyn Kongō Mascher-Mace

*I praise Amida's wisdom and virtue  
So that beings with mature conditions through the ten quarters may hear  
Let those who have already realized shinjin  
Constantly responded in gratitude to the Buddha's benevolence.  
-50<sup>th</sup> Wasan – Hymns of the Pure Land*

Happy November everyone! Snow is starting to fall, the leaves are changed and falling off the trees and the days are getting short. When I think of November, I cannot help but think of pumpkin pies, cranberries and Hatch Green Chile stuffing. In other words, it's Thanksgiving season. That also means the return of the annual Denver Interfaith Thanksgiving Service which will be happening at 10 am at Central Christian Church in Denver on Thanksgiving morning. This year will be a hybrid service of both in-person and an online option. Please join in the format which you are most comfortable and be part of this Denver Thanksgiving tradition.

The American tradition of Thanksgiving (reminder, there are several other Thanksgiving holidays in other countries, including our friends to the north Canada) is actually a replacement of Evacuation Day, commemorating the day the British left the United States after the Revolutionary War. The holiday being in November on a fixed day was not realized until FDR signed a resolution in

1939, and prior was a transitory holiday celebrated when the country needed a pickup of some sort, like during the Civil War. While the traditional story and background of Thanksgiving is rife with problems, the idea behind it is something great - to be thankful for the year, for the harvest and the labor which it has taken to get from last year to this one. In the 12 months between 2020 and 2021 there has been much labor done, both seen and unseen, in order to keep food on our plates, the lights on, and people safe and well cared for. It is important for us to try to see these causes and conditions around us, and be thankful for those who work and provide for us all.

There are many different ways to show gratitude to people, and to express our thanks. While a simple thank you is always a good way to let people know you appreciate them, there are more subtle ways like a head nod, or a fist bump. Not everyone receives thanks in the same way either, and so it is always good to be aware that sometimes being thankful can be an awkward endeavor for all involved, but will be deeply appreciated nonetheless.

As Jodo Shinshu Buddhists, there is a very simple way to show our thanks for the teachings and the benevolence of Amida Buddha, and that is to say the Nembutsu. In the 50<sup>th</sup> Jodo Wasan, Shinran writes "constantly respond in gratitude to the Buddha's benevolence" and in that he means that we should constantly say the Nembutsu with a mind and a heart that is thankful. As we see the teachings around us, and we understand the causes and conditions which we live in, we should say thank you for those who work hard to grow food for us or keep us safe, we should also say thank you to Amida Buddha. Instead of a fist bump, in this case all we have to do is say Namu Amida Butsu as an act of gratitude and thanksgiving. This is how we praise Amida's wisdom and virtue, just like Shinran Shonin did in the Wasan.

Please have a great Thanksgiving holiday season, and I hope that we will get to see each other at the Thanksgiving Interfaith Service. Until then, say the Nembutsu.

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

*Jacqueline Easton  
March 14, 1951—November 23, 2020*

*Akimasa Roy Sawamura  
November 7, 1943—September 22, 2021*

*Okī Matsushima  
November 10, 1925- September 29, 2021*

*George Nagai  
December 16, 1927- October 12, 2021*

In Gassho,

## お念仏と共に歩む、柔軟で寛容な生き方

山東三洲仏教会 駐在開教使 今田 法翔

私たちは一日の中で何回水を使うでしょうか。水を飲む、野菜をゆでる、食器を洗う、歯を磨く、顔を洗う、トイレを流す、手を洗う、車を洗う、シャワーを浴びる等、私たちは様々な状況下で沢山の水を使います。この人間は水なしでは生きていく事ができません。では、水の形とはどんな形でしょうか？「水に形などない」と言いたくなるかもしれませんが、例えば水の絵を描いて下さい」と言われたら、皆様はどう描きますでしょうか。ここはひとつ想像力を豊かにしてイメージしてみてください。例えばコップに水を注ぐと、水はそのコップの形に納まります。そして、別の形のコップに水を移すと水は形を変えます。水は用意された器に合わせて柔軟に形を変えて納まります。水はどんな形にも平等に対応し「この形は嫌いだからこの形にはならない」という事はないのです。では、水が冷えて氷になったらどうでしょうか。氷になるとガチッと固まって柔軟性はなくなります。コップより大きな氷はコップに入る事すらできません。このような氷と水の関係性を見た親鸞聖人は次のような言葉を残されました。

無礙光(むげこう)の利益(りやく)より 威徳(いとく)廣大の信をえて  
かならず煩惱のこぼり(氷)とけ すなはち菩提のみづ(水)となる(親鸞聖人)

親鸞聖人は「阿弥陀仏の光によって私たちの煩惱がとけていく様子」を氷と水の関係性に例えました。水と氷は、元々は同じ物ですが、環境や条件によって、性質が変わっています。私たちの心は水のように簡単に移り変わります。日々の生活の中で我慢した怒りや悲しみやトラウマなどは心の奥底に溜まっていき氷のようにガチッと固まってしまいます。氷は自分の力では水に変われません。暖かい水の中に氷を入れると溶けてやがてなくなるように、私たちの心の氷も阿弥陀仏の暖かい光の中で溶けていくのです。私たちを決して見捨てない阿弥陀仏のご恩に対して、感謝の念仏を申す日々を送らせて頂きます。南無阿弥陀仏

## YBA Greetings

submitted by Sarah Pettis, YBA Advisor

Greetings, and happy November! It's hard to believe how fast the end of the year always flies by. We hope that you and your family are staying healthy, warm, and enjoying the Colorado Fall weather.

This year in YBA, we have been taking advantage of the Zoom services and Dharma School meetings to connect with one another and plan events. While we are missing the face-to-face connection, we are still grateful for our shared time together.

In our weekly classes, we have been learning about and exploring various Buddhist topics. The students have been eager to use the YBA space for deeper Buddhist discussions and connections to Buddhism. For the month of October, our theme of exploration was: "What is Buddhism?" We've talked about what Buddhism means in our own lives and explored the origins of the Jodo Shinshu tradition. We are so

grateful for Kaitie Sensei's guidance and support through these meaningful conversations!

Because our group is so much smaller than it has been in past years, we have made the decision to scale back the extent of Temple-wide events that we plan. In that regard, we will not be doing the traditional Turkey Bingo event this year. Last year's virtual bingo event was a fun way to honor the games and event, but we very much missed the in-person excitement (as well as the typical prizes). We appreciate that we will still be able to come together with the Temple community in the weekly Zoom services despite not playing bingo this year. And fingers crossed that in 2022 we will be able to put on the most exciting, *in-person* Turkey Bingo to make up for the past two years. From the YBA, we wish everyone a happy and safe Thanksgiving and time with family!

**Obon Lantern**

Milton & Nancy Domoto  
 Mabel Googins  
 Dave & Gayle Goto  
 Robert & Gail Ida  
 Gloria Koshio  
 Stacey Umemoto Ospina  
 Stacey Shigaya  
 Shirley Tsuchimoto  
 Richard Yoshida

**Obon Service**

Kenzo & Shirley Horiuchi  
 Shirley Tsuchimoto

**Autumnal Ohigan service**

Michiko Chikuma  
 Jack & Alice Kimura  
 Richard & Michiko Yoshida  
 Mabel Googins  
 Junko & Manabu Kimura

**In Memory of John Nitta**

Natalie Abbott  
 Diana Himmel  
 Shirley Tsuchimoto  
 Dave & Gayle Goto  
 John Nitta Family

**September Shotsuki donors**

Elaine & Ted Tsumura .....  
 Shirley Tsuchimoto .....  
 Sayoko Takata .....  
 Clyde & Judy Nitta .....  
 Sumi Akiyama .....  
 Family of Tosh & Mary Tawara .....  
 .....  
 Sakamoto Families .....  
 Hiratsuka Families .....  
 .....  
 Mabel Googins .....  
 Ida Sasaki .....

**in memory of**

Amy Tsumura  
 Donn Tsuchimoto  
 Fujie Nishi  
 Goro & Dorothy Nitta, Tom Sasaki  
 Hitoshi & Akio Tawara  
 Hitoshi Tawara, John Akio Tawara  
 Harry Hiroshi Umemoto, Art Yoshimura  
 Kaz & Sally Sakamoto  
 Kura Hiratsuka, Misaye Hiratsuka  
 Yutaka Tak Hiratsuka  
 Norma Yoshimura  
 Tom Sasaki

**October Shotsuki donors**

Robert Matoba .....

**in memory of**

Dr. Ben Matoba

**Donations**

Dave & Gayle Goto .....  
 Elaine & Ted Tsumura .....  
 Sherri Nitta .....  
 Tomiko & Robert Takeda .....  
 Shizue Asano .....  
 Elaine & Ted Tsumura .....  
 Ann Hyde .....  
 Mitz Otsuka .....

**in memory of**

birth of granddaughter; Elliot Kodama  
 for video services  
 funeral; John Nitta  
 En Watada, Matajiro Watada  
 in memory of Hank Shibao  
 for Nikkei Treasures  
 hoji service  
 in memory of Shizue Peterson



**SO THANKFUL**

by Stevie Lo, Dharma School Co-Superintendent

How is it November?! It is hard to believe a second pandemic holiday season is upon us. It has been another tough year for all of us, but as we all adjust to this “new normal,” I find myself even more grateful for the wonderful things that I do have. I am thankful for the community and Sangha around me; the science and technology that keeps us healthy and connected; and most of all, the health and presence of all my family and friends.

Our small, but mighty Kindergarten-8<sup>th</sup> grade Dharma School class also has many things to be thankful for this year:

- ♦ Grey (Kindergarten)- I am thankful for money, food and treats.
- ♦ Ren (Kindergarten)- I am thankful for my bed, hallway and windows.
- ♦ Lux (2<sup>nd</sup> grade)- I am thankful for trees, my family and house.
- ♦ Ellie (3<sup>rd</sup> grade)- I am thankful for my glasses, my mom, and computers.
- ♦ Emi (7<sup>th</sup> grade)- I am thankful for my family and friends, school, and houses.
- ♦ Ian (8<sup>th</sup> grade)- I am thankful for my family and friends and not being homeless.

Wishing everyone a very Happy Thanksgiving!

It is not too late to register for Dharma School. We would love to see your face, even if it is for an occasional pop in to say “Hi!”  
 Please email us at: [dbtdharmaschool@gmail.com](mailto:dbtdharmaschool@gmail.com)



# November Shotsuki Names

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

Ine Ajisaka	Yoshie Inouye	Kimiye Miyake	Shuji Osaki	Kiyo Tani
Kichiro Akiyama	Kaname Isahashi	Misumasa Miyake	Yoshihiro Otaka	Masato Mike Tashiro
Kamekichi Ando	Betty Ishiguro	Genichi Miyamoto	John Sadahiro	Chitose Tateyama
Chiyeko Aoki	Tatsuo Roy Iwahashi	Chizuko Mary Miyauchi	Nobu Sadahiro	Mitsutarō Tawara
Martha Arakawa	Haruko Iwahiro	Kiju Yamashita Miyoshi	Helene Haruko Saeda	Shizue Terada
Naojiro Arika	Hisako Iwakiri	Shigeo Miyoshi	Shinpachi Saeki	Jim Naoiuki Tochihara
Naomi Brockman	Taka Iwata	Akira Mizunaga	Robert Kingi Sakaguchi	Mary Asako Tokunaga
Susan Hanatani Burkhardt	Misao Kagiyama	Dick Momii	Shin Ichi Sakai	Shinkichi Tokunaga
Yoshi Chikuma	Sam Fujio Kato	Shigeru Momoi	Takeo Sakamoto	Yoshiyuki Tsuchiya
Fred Kumaji Doizaki	Akira Kawanabe	Lucy Akiko Mori	Kie Sameshima	George Eiichi Tsukiji
Sumire Doizaki	Miyono Kawano	Toi Morimitsu	Hayami Russ Sato	Nobuyue Tsushima
Ura Doizaki	Haru Kawashima	Torajiro Mugishima	Teruko Sato	Noboru Tsutsumi
William Masashi Doizaki	Frank Sueo Kimura	Anna Murahata	Tatsuo Sera	Shannon Miki Oshiro
Jacqueline Easton	Kazuo Kimura	Matasaku Murai	Howard Haruo Shibao	Umetani
Hisao Haley Fujii	Sunao Kinoshita	Kenji Murakami	Yoshi Shibao	Lily Urano
Jim Fujii	Tsuchi Kinoshita	Linda Kimiko Murakami	Tatsuo Shibata	Goro Watanabe
Jean Ikuye Fujimoto	Tsuma Kishimoto	Otokichi Murakami	Hikoichi Shimamoto	Miyoko Yago
Warren Yoshiharu Fukuhara	Mitsuo Frank Kishiyama	Haru Murata	Wesley Shimoda	Seihichi Yago
Hisayo Furukawa	Takako Kishiyama	Mitsu Murata	Emiko Ruth Suekama	Kiso Yamada
Itsuno Hara	Yuichi Kiyonaga	Masako Nakadoi	Ukichi Sumida	Masakimi Yamada
Ugi Harada	Takaharu Kojima	Elton Kunisaburo Nakamoto	Francis Masaaki Suzuki	Shiro Yamada
Saju Hasegawa	Takao Kojima	Suga Nakasawa	Harry Tatsuo Tabuchi	Sahei Yamaguchi
Masaye Hashimoto	Mihoko Kondo	Sally Nakata	Albert Tokio Tagawa	Yamao Hatsu
Kikuno Hayashi	Katy Shizue Koshio	Harry Soichi Nakatsu	Hazel Haruko Tagawa	Betty Ayako Yamashita
Makoto Hideshima	Tom Koshio	Atsumu Nakatsuka	Kikue Takahashi	Sannosuke Yamashita
Gary Lee Higa	Asano Koto	Masako Nakayama	Tokuhei Takamori	Kazuyo Yasumichi
Gladys Reiko Hiraoka	Shosuke Kuroki	Yoshio Nigo	Tsuyako Takata	Asajiro Yonekura
Yutaka Honjo	Logan Kusuno	Kenichiro Nishi	Fujitaro Takemoto	Miyuki Yonemoto
Masako Hopp	Mark Isamu Kutsuma	Bob Akira Noguchi	Yonekichi Takeuchi	Shintaro George Yoshihara
Shigeke Horiuchi	Yaye Kuwabara	Nagafumi Nomura	Nobuko Tanabe	Hideichi Yoshimoto
Toyo Horiuchi	Kamematsu Masunaga	Maki Numokawa	Kenzuchi Tanaka	Soji Yoshimoto
Tsuneo Horiuchi	Sutekichi Matsubara	Howard Oda	Sam Shozo Tanaka	Mich Yoshimura
Nakao Hoshijima	Isamu Sam Matsuda	Toyosuke Ogura	Allen Hiroshi Tani	Chiye Yunoki
Earl Hiroshi Imanaka	Shunso Matsuda	Gonshiro Okada		
Betty Inamasu	Shiro Matsuno	Tsuya Okamoto		
James Inamasu	Ron Matsushima	Bill Mitsuo Okubo		
Shigeru Inamasu	Tomeko Mayeda	Mary Omoto		
Taju Inamasu	Kazuo Miyahara	Paul Den Ono		
		Yone Ono		

## In Memory of John Nitta

The Board of Directors and staff of Sakura Foundation express our deep sadness at the passing of John Nitta. John was a deeply dedicated board member who also served on the Cultural Events Committee. He was an active supporter of the Mirai Generations Leadership Program and its alumni and always made time for the young professionals in our community. His faith in their abilities and excitement about their willingness to make a difference was infectious. John recently resigned as a Foundation board member to dedicate more time to the Temple and to the Sakura Square/Temple redevelopment project. His supportive voice gave true meaning to the word "community" as he felt it was his honor and duty to contribute toward building a new cultural space and Temple that would serve future generations to come. With John's drive and love of community in our hearts, we will continue to carry out his work and build a legacy to make him proud.

### **Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service**

November 28, 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 49<sup>th</sup> Day, 1<sup>st</sup> Year, 3<sup>rd</sup> Year, 7<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 33<sup>rd</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> 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  
1947 Lawrence Street  
Denver, Colorado 80202

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## **Dr. Joyce Lebra**

submitted by Alley Watada

## **TSDBT Choir Notes**

submitted by Richard Yoshida

Emeritus Professor Joyce C. Lebra was conferred the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon on September 14, 2021. The Consulate-General of Japan in Denver recognized her for “Promoting academic exchange and the mutual understanding between Japan and the United States”.

Professor Lebra spent much of her childhood and periods later life in Hawaii, where she sympathized with indigenous Hawaiians and Asian Immigrant population. Interestingly, her greetings and farewell today is still expressed by “Aloha”.

Dr. Lebra was the first woman in USA to get a Ph.D. in Japanese History at Harvard/Radcliffe. She was also the first female professor at CU History Department, where she was a Professor of Japanese History and Indian History. Professor Lebra spent a total of 10 years in Japan on Fulbright Fellowship, National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship and other Fellowships. She taught 21 classes on Japanese history at CU which were attended by many members of the Sangha.

During Prof. Lebra’s career, she wrote several nonfiction and historical fiction books about Japan. Of local interest, she interviewed many local Niseis and compiled their comments in her book We Chose Colorado Japanese American Voices, ISBN 978-0-9863873-7-1, published in 2016.

Because of Covid-19, it has been a long time since we have gotten together as a choir and practiced and performed, and we have missed it dearly! Although we were not able to practice, a few of us did manage to gather once at the temple - prior to the Delta Variant temple shutdown. We intended to learn a beautiful new contemporary gatha, titled “Namo Amida Butsu” (for our Temple Obon/Hatsubon service) written and sung at various BCA events, by a talented trio called the “Cherry Blossomz”. It was also our hope to teach it to our Sangha at a later date.

Choir Co-director, Clarynne Blanchard, created a video of that only practice, with follow-along words beautifully displayed. The video was presented on September 6, 2021, as part of a One Year Anniversary Celebration (via Zoom) of a newly established Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) Music Committee, of which we are active members. The video was in response to the committee chair who had asked various BCA choirs and groups how we coped during the pandemic the past year. Our portion of the program was very well received and is available at:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fkta8AR\\_SmZsP2Wg3HVfTtea91eMOTjl/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fkta8AR_SmZsP2Wg3HVfTtea91eMOTjl/view?usp=sharing)

We hope you enjoy the video and encourage you to get familiar with the gatha, to sing it as a congregation, hopefully in the near future.