



Temple Reflections

Temple Reflections

A TSDBT Monthly Publication

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OCTOBER SERVICES

- Sunday, October 3, 2021
9:30 ZOOM Services and
Dharma School classes
- Sunday, October 10, 2021
9:30 am ZOOM services and
Dharma School classes
- Sunday, October 17, 2021
9:30 am ZOOM services and
Dharma School classes
- Sunday, October 24, 2021
Shotsuki & Bday Sunday
9:30 am ZOOM services and
Dharma School classes
- Sunday, October 31, 2021
YBA Aki Matsuri
9:30 am ZOOM services

Volume XLI, Issue 9

October 2021

In the person of nembutsu opens up the great path of unobstructed freedom.

[Tannishō]

meaning explained by Rev. Noritaka Imada

This passage is from Shinran Shonin's writings in Tannishō. He said, "Nembutsu followers walk a great path without being disturbed by anything." Such strong words. How nice would it be if nothing disturbed us on our path? However, there are various obstacles in real life. We are living in the face of many obstacles such as health conditions or relationships, etc.

Shinran Shonin's words do not mean that "there are no obstacles to Nembutsu followers." In fact, even Shinran Shonin, who walked the path as a Nembutsu follower, suffered numerous obstacles, including exile due to the suppression of Nembutsu and breaking off relations with his eldest son. When we look back on his life, we can see that he lived through so many obstacles. So why did Shinran Shonin say, "In the person of Nembutsu opens up the great path of unobstructed freedom." The true meaning of his words is that Nembutsu followers should not distinguish between good and bad things and receive the truth as it is. We always divide what happened to us into good and bad, necessary and meaningless. And when I encounter something bad or meaningless, I live trying to avoid or eliminate it. However, the distinction between good and bad is often based on selfish judgment as to whether it suits me or not. As long as we live in a self-centered way, only for our own convenience, we feel that this world is full of inconveniences, and we feel as if we are living in the dark.

Nembutsu is the light of the wisdom of Amida Buddha, which illuminates the deep darkness of human selfishness. By placing the teachings of Nembutsu at the center of our lives, we can live a life that goes beyond the concept of "good and bad" for the various problems we face every day and accepts the facts as they are. This is what Shinran Shonin calls "In the person of nembutsu opens up the great path of unobstructed freedom." We will walk with Shinran Shonin on the unobstructed path opened by Nembutsu.

Namo Amida Butsu

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

John Nitta

April 13, 1958 - August 24, 2021

Judy Okamoto

July 7, 1947 - August 28, 2021

Hank Shibao

December 3, 1927 - September 1, 2021

In the person of nembutsu opens up the great path of unobstructed freedom. The reason is that the gods of heaven and earth bow before the practitioner of true entrusting, and those of the world of demons and rival paths cannot obstruct his way. The consequences of karmic evil cannot bear fruit, nor does any form of good equal his. Thus, it is called the great path of unobstructed freedom. [Tannishō]

Greetings from YBA Officers

submitted by Sarah Pettis, YBA Advisor

Greetings, and happy Fall! As the weather gets cooler and the days get shorter, the YBA has been diligently participating in Buddhist discussions and planning for the 2021-2022 Dharma School year. We have started this year out virtually again, and are making the most of our Zoom classes and meetings. We are hopeful that we will continue to bring our creative minds together to put on all of your favorite YBA events this year, whether that is virtually or eventually safely back together in person. With the Fall season upon us, and the Dharma School year in full swing, we wanted to take this month to reflect on the following quote:

"October is a symphony of permanence and change."
~Bonaro W. Overstreet

This quote reminds me how beautiful impermanence can be. Many find change to be frightening and intimidating. I definitely have been guilty of fearing change- so much so that I realize I sometimes forget to appreciate the ability to change and grow. We as humans have the unique ability to reinvent ourselves every day, week, month and year. We can change our outlook on the world and change the world with it and I think sometimes we're so busy fearing it,

because we don't have a guarantee of how it will turn out, that we forget how beautiful that really is. - **Keelyn Nitta (Co-President)**

This quote allows me to reflect on the seasons turning and reminds me that many new things are to come. In one of the most important times of my life, I am comforted by the fact that I have been here before and am capable of continuing. These words highlight the fact that though we may be changing, there is always something within us that stays the same. - **Kristi Case (Head Chef)**

This quote opens my eyes to the changes Fall brings, in nature and in oneself. The beautiful changing leaves always bring joy, and Fall is a time to personally grow. It is a time to see the beauty in ourselves and others! - **Amanda Charness (Treasurer)**

This quote makes me reflect on the cyclical nature of the seasons. In Buddhism, we recognize the truth of impermanence, and the shift from Summer to Fall is a wonderful example of this -- Summer cannot last forever, and the changes of Fall are here. I personally hope to take time to slow down to observe and appreciate this change. ~**Sarah Pettis (Advisor)**

念仏者は、無碍の一道なり

山東三洲仏教会 駐在開教使 今田 法翔

タイトルの言葉は、歎異抄の中にある親鸞聖人の言葉です。碍という字は(さまたげ)と読み、無碍というとさまたげがないことを表します。つまり、親鸞聖人は「念仏者とは、何ものにもさまたげられることのない、ひとすじの道を歩むものである」と仰いました。

自分が歩んでいく道において、何ものにも邪魔をされることがないとしたら、どんなにいい事でしょうか。しかし現実の生活には、さまざまなさまたげがあります。私たちは日々、人間関係や健康状態の問題など、多くのさまたげに直面しつつ生きていると思います。

この親鸞聖人のお言葉は「念仏者にはさまたげとなるような問題は何一つ起きない」といっているわけではありません。念仏者として道を歩まれた親鸞聖人の身のにも、念仏弾圧による流罪や長男の義絶など、大変多くの問題が起こっていました。彼の人生を知ると、実に多くのさまたげの中で生きておられたことが見えてきます。ではなぜ親鸞聖人は、「念仏者は、無碍の一道なり」と仰ったのでしょうか。その言葉の意味とは、私たちは、自分に起こった事を、良い事と悪い事、必要な事と無意味な事、という様に分けて見えています。そして悪い事や無意味だと思ふ事に出遭うと、それを避けたり排除しようとしながら生きています。しかしながら、その良い悪いという分け方は、自分の都合に合う合わないかという身勝手な判断に基づく場合がほとんどです。自分の都合のみを考えて自己中心的に生きている限り、この世界は不都合な事ばかり起こると感じ、まるで暗い闇の中で生きているように感じてしまいます。このような人間の身勝手さの深い闇を照らし破るものが、阿弥陀仏の智慧の光のはたらきであるお念仏です。お念仏の教えを自らの人生の拠り所とする事で、私たちが日々直面する様々な問題に対して「良い悪い」という概念を超えて、事実をそのままに受け止める生き方ができます。これが親鸞聖人のいう「念仏者は、無碍の一道なり」という事でしょう。お念仏によって開かれる、何ものにもさまたげられる事がない道を親鸞聖人と共に歩ませて頂きます。南無阿弥陀仏、南無阿弥陀仏

念仏者は無碍の一道なり。そのいはれいかんとならば、信心の行者には天神・地祇も敬伏し、魔界・外道も障碍することなし。罪悪も業報を感ずることあたはず、諸善もおよぶことなきゆゑなりと云々。

(歎異抄)

Dharma Conduit

Rev. Kaitlyn Kongō Mascher-Mace

秋風にあなた任の小蝶哉

In Autumn Wind

Trusting in the Buddha....

Butterfly

-1819 Kobayashi Issa (Jodo Shinshu Priest)

October represents one of those periods of a year when the season change becomes the most obvious, where the leaves turn, fall, where the weather turns crisp and the days short. In the Front range, it is rare to have an October where the snow does not fall. It is also the start of what I think of as the “downhill” part of the year, where a majority of the year has come and gone and it’s time to start taking stock of what has come and gone, and how we are where we are. This year, much like the last, we have found ourselves apart, distant due to the compassion we have for each other and our desire to protect one another. We have had brief moments of respite, of an opportunity to see each other, and yet it is often much like a sample at Costco (another thing missing in this pandemic time) it leaves you wanting more.

Still, the desire for more connection has allowed me to think upon how important those connections are. Each person we come in contact with is a teacher for us, and has a deep effect on us, however every once in a while, one shines more brightly through their efforts to help spread the teachings of Jodo Shinshu to others. I want to take a little time to focus on one of our fellow travelers, Minister’s Assistant - Frank Miyazawa Sensei. When I first came to TS/DBT, Frank was welcoming and, as time went on and I started my pursuit of becoming a Jodo Shinshu priest, Frank was always encouraging. During on-site Temple Sunday days, he was always the first person at the temple, making the rice for the obuppan, putting out doughnuts and fruit, and greeting those who came in. The question is always, what else can I do, and when asked why, Frank always responds with “I just want to see this place continue on”. For me, the familiar cadence of his

reading of the Three Treasures has become the only proper way to read it, and in ensuring that everyone gets something to eat and drink after service is an example of the ondo spirit. Miyazawa Sensei is truly a great teacher.

It is in everyday activities, in helping and being helped, that we can make people feel welcomed in our lives and in the temple. Through these small efforts we can start to see each person as a fellow traveler, along side us on this journey that is life.

The poet-priest Issa paints a picture in our minds with the poem above; that of a cool breeze carrying a butterfly as the last touches of summer leave, the butterfly floating up and down, flapping its beautiful wings. With the falling leaves the butterfly will end its journey, but through it all, the ups and downs, the trust in the Buddha who embraces all remains. We are each a butterfly in this world, our journey is both long and short, but we are always embraced by the Buddha. When the cool wind hits us, and the knowledge of impermanence is with us, we can let the Nembutsu slip from our lips, awake or asleep, working or relaxing, happy or sad, we are always embraced. Knowing we are not alone but one of the fellow travelers on this road, we can look around us and think, how can I make their journeys better and help others see the Nembutsu in their lives, every day. Even though we are so limited, our impact is often felt by those around us, and those connections continue to make themselves evident. We all have the opportunity to share our love for this Temple in our own way, just as Frank Sensei does. Not everyone has to bring doughnuts yet every single person who comes into the temple is an important part of it, and everyone can contribute to make it a wonderful place to hear the Buddha-Dharma. When the doors open once again, let’s all do our best to make all of the Tri-State temples places that someone can hear the Nembutsu for the first time and be so moved by it that they never leave.

A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

by Alyssa Nilemo, Dharma School Superintendent

Honestly, this is not the welcome back I thought I would be giving to Dharma School Students and Parents - I was imagining us all together at the Temple. Yet, as we all know, plans and schedules are a moving and always changing target.

And so, we join together again this Fall in virtual classes over zoom. I am grateful that technology allows us to gather while still in our separate living rooms. We can still hear Dharma talks from our Reverends. Still say hello to friends and catch up in our classrooms.

We learned a lot together last year as we adjusted to the virtual format. We have had to learn how to communicate differently, teach lessons in a new way and engage with

one another. I also think we all are facing “zoom fatigue” (we ZOOM for school and work along with Dharma School). So with that, although I love seeing each of your smiling faces every Sunday, I hope you are also mindful of your mental and physical well being. If Sunday morning comes and it is better for you to curl up on the couch together for some cartoons, get outdoors for a hike, or make other plans, we hope you do that too.

Mainly, I hope that Dharma School ZOOM can be a welcoming and fun place to come learn the teachings of the Buddha. And for any families who may be looking to join us, welcome to you as well. Please email dbtdharmaschool@gmail.com for more information and so we can add you to our email list.

2021 CBF donations

Kent & Jane Kano
Tagawa Greenhouses, Inc.
Bruce Tawara

Obon Service

Aoki Family
Shizue Asano
Michiko Chikuma
Michiko Fujii
Junko & Manabut Kimura
Sue and Joshua Kimura
Glenn & Terrilyne Omoto
Hank & Irene Shibao
Sayoko Takata
Fumiko Yamashita
Richard & Michiko Yoshida

Kato & Mura Family Hoji

Wayne & Deb Berve
Linda Kato
Calvin Kato
Kiyoko & Karen Omoto
Sue Murahata
Dennis & Joan Murahata
Richard Murahata & Renee Bevis
Kit Mura-smith & John Ware
David & Joni Sakaguchi
Carrol & Dean Tsutsui

Obon Lanterns*

Claryne Blanchard
Jonathon Campbell
Sharon Chikuma
Mathieu Desan
Earl Fukuhara
Kirk Horiuchi
Donna Inouye
Catherine Ishida
Karen Jones
Phyllis Kajiwara
Stevie Lo
Kaitlyn Mascher-Mace
Rhonda Matsuno
Karen Matsushima
Jeff Medina
Marie Miller
Phillip & Lillian Miyazawa
Michael Murrell
Tonya Newbill
Naomi Nguyen
Sherri Nitta
Steven Nitta
Courtney Ozaki
Terri Ozaki
David & Joni Sakaguchi
Evan Shigaya
Kay Takahashi
Phyllis Travers
Mia Tsuchimoto
Hailey Violo
Gary Yamashita

*to see donor's memorialized lanterns, go to TSDBTLanterns.com

In memory of Ronald Yamamoto; funeral/interment

Janeal & Cheyenne Bailey
Phil & Karen Yamamoto
Craig & Kyoko Yamamoto and family
Donald & Linda Yamamoto and family
Kent & Sheri Yamamoto and family
Debra Yamamoto

In memory of John Nitta

Sherri Nitta
Tyler Nitta & family
Crystal Himmel & family

July Shotsuki donations **in memory of**

Alyce Fujii	Ben Fujii
Clyde & Judy Nitta	Harry Nitta
Rex & Marian Yoshimura	Harry Nitta
Sharon Shin	Lily Shin
Mabel Googins	Sakae Oka, Kazuo Yoshimura
.....	Minoru Yoshimura

August Shotsuki donations **in memory of**

Albert Nakata Family	Frank Takeshi & Henry Kiyoshi
Kay Takahashi	Helen Shimono
Mabel Googins	June Yoshimura, Fudeko Yoshimura
Richard & Michiko Yoshida	Rise Yoshida
Jack & Alice Kimura	Sto T. Tani
Dennis & Sharon Ioka	Tom Ioka

September Shotsuki donations **in memory of**

Michael & Yuri Gorin	James & Grace Shimada
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Hatsubon service donations **in memory of**

Tanaka Family	Haruo Tanaka
Florence Apo.....	Janice Michiko Koshio
Bernice Fox	Janice Michiko Koshio
Mabel Googins	Jayne Yoshimura, Youko Yamasaki
Phillip & Lillian Miyazawa	John Nitta
Walt & Sharon Chikuma	Josephine Chikuma
Claryne Blanchard	Kenji Blanchard
Craig & Pamela Berube	Michi Kajiwara & Henry Kajiwara
Karen Matsushima	Ron Matsushima
Randy Matsushima	Ron Matsushima
Anonymous	Ron Matsushima
Gary & Shirley Horiuchi	Ruth Nukaya
Dennis & Joanne Wood	Ruth Nukaya
Nakata Family	Sally Nakata
Sue Yoshimura	Youko Yamasaki

Obon Service donations **in memory of**

Ronald & Janette Marshall	Frank & Gladys Hiraoka & Todd Fujimoto
Dora Shibata	Sogi & Shibata families
Nancee M Nishimi	Sogi & Shibata families

Donations **for / in memory of**

Fushimi Family	funeral; Bobby Fushimi
Emily Yuan	funeral; Ghen & Alice Yuan
Mayeda Family	funeral; Jennifer Kaoru Mayeda
Joseph Antonio	funeral; Lindsey Antonio
Sumida Family	funeral; Nagako Sumida
Doida Family	funeral; Stanley Doida
Takata Family	funeral; Tosh Takata
Sumida Family	in memory of Harry Hideo Sumida
Derrick Katayama	in memory of Henry Katayama – 7 th yr
Wayne & Joalene Yoshioka	in memory of Himi Morishige – 3 rd yr
Shirley Tsuchimoto	in memory of Jennifer Mayeda
Mia Tsuchimoto	in memory of Jennifer Mayeda
Sue Murahata	in memory of Sueki Joe Murahata
Shizue Asano	in memory of Tommy Asano
Jason Grigely	in memory of Kenji Blanchard
Stan & Gayle Shibao	in memory of Mary Shibao – 3 rd yr
Omoto Family	in memory of Masaru Omoto – 17 th yr
Paul & Sheryl Banecks	in memory of Yoshito and Mikazu Tsuchimoto
.....	Elaine Newhouse, Jenny Mayeda

October Shotsuki Names

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

Tomiko Aigaki	Masu Honda	Toyo Maruyama	Bettie Tsukiko Noguchi	Tsutomu Tom Taketa
Inohachi Akagi	Frank Hoshijima	Ben Tsutomu Matoba	Grace Harue Noguchi	Heiichi Tanaka
Robert Shigeo Akahoshi	Gui-Ying Huang	Yoko Matsuda	Shintaro Noguchi	Tokuhichi Tanaka
Paul Allen	Mac Mansaku Inouye	Shigeno Matsumoto	Sam Noriyuki	Itsuro Tani
Shizue Allen	Ruth Inouye	Mary Haruyo Matsuno	Yoneko May Ogawa	Michio Taniwaki
William H. Aoki	Yoshito Elmer Ioka	Baby Matsuo	Isamu Okamatsu	Mata Tashiro
Tsukiyo Chado	Moto Iriye	Sumi Mayemura	Sumire Okazaki	Tatsue Tashiro
Guey Chang	Susumu Iwahashi	Jeanette Yaeko Messervey	Terue Okazaki	Mary Tawara
Sam Chikuma	Jinichi Iwatsuki	Kokimi Mikami	Mary Ono Okimoto	Tosh Tawara
Bruce Decker	Takichi Iyama	Teru Mitoma	David Okubo	Yori Teshima
Nobuo Eshima	Rose Kagiyama	Iwazo Miura	Heiji Okuno	Eikichi Tobo
Frank Masaaki Eya	Tamotsu Tom Kagohara	Nancy Tsuyoko Miura	David Shinichi Omiya	Hatsutarō Tochiwara
Jinbei Fujino	Genzaburo Kajiwara	Ichimatsu Miyahara	Adam Omoto	Hana Uchida
Franklin Akinito Fukasawa	Hideyo Kakuda	Chiye Miyake	George Omoto	Manpei Ujifusa
James Seichi Fukaye	Matsuji Kamihata	Don Koji Miyake	Ito Ono	Yonekichi Umemoto
Kotsuru Fukuhara	Chiyoko Kanemoto	Glenn Leslie Miyauchi	Masako Onodera	Patricia Ikuko Umetani
Haruko Furukawa	Kiyoshi George Kanemoto	Maki Miyazawa	Jessica Marie Padilla	Chukichi Uyemura
Takekuma Furukawa	Kame Kataoka	Sam Susumu Mizunaga	Kikue Sakai	Michiko Yokoi Uyemura
Moto Furuya	Goro Katayama	Tomiza Morikawa	Mary Sakurai	Arthur Matajiro Watada
Yoshizo Yo Fushimi	Haruo Katayama	Chika Motooka	Tetsuro Sato	Hisako Watada
Thomas Charles Googins	Kintaro Kato	Toyo Mugishima	Vickie Lee Yuri Sato	Fujie Watanabe
Ichiko Ida Hamada	Tom Takejiro Kawaguchi	Lee Toyoto Murata	Harry Susumu Shibao	Shigeo Watanabe
John Masayasu Hanatani	Koki Kawakami	Shizuyo Nagamoto	Mary Masako Shigetomi	Toku Wyeno
Henry Hara	Chiyoko Kawamata	Sumino Nagata	Sakujiro Shimada	Haru Yamaguchi
Tsuruye Hattori	Charles Chotaro Kishiyama	Sadao Naka	Chiyoki Sonoda	Torie Yamamoto
Eizo Frank Hayano	Sankichi Kishiyama	Saisamu Nakamura	Gail Doreen Starr	Fred Yamashita
Akemi Hayashi	Tom Takashi Kobayashi	Florence Yoshiko (Tsuzuki)	Kenjiro Sumida	Jihachiro Yamo
Orito Hayashi	Reishi Kodama	Nakata	Tsuyu Takahashi	Shigeo Yanaru
Kiyono Hayashida	Charles Gakuji Komaru	Kazu Nakayama	Takeo Takami	Masayuki Yokomizo
Takashi Higashi	Joe Kondo	Shizu Nakayama	Chieko Betty Takeda	Yukio Yoshida
Gregory Alan Hiraki	Tom Kondo	Shigeru Nakazono	Kichisuke Takeda	Kamejiro Yoshimura
Tommie Yoshio Hiraoka	Sekihei Kubo	Thomas Carl Newhouse	Fujio Takemura	Tokujiro Yoshizumi
Chiyo Hirasawa	Masami Kuwabara	Kaki Nishiyama	Mickey Michio Takeshita	Shoji Yunoki
Dotaro Hisatomi	Seiichi Kuwabara			
Masukichi Hiyama	Seido Mameda			

*Please save the date for this year's
Mountain States District Conference
Sesshu Fusha: Grasped, Never to be Abandoned
Our guest speaker:
Reverend C.J. Sokugan Dunfor (they/them pronouns),
Minister's Assistant of Berkeley Buddhist Temple.*

November 5-7, 2021
Salt Lake Buddhist Temple
211 West 100 South Salt Lake City, UT 84101

Hosted By: The Salt Lake Buddhist Temple
More information to follow with registration forms.

Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service

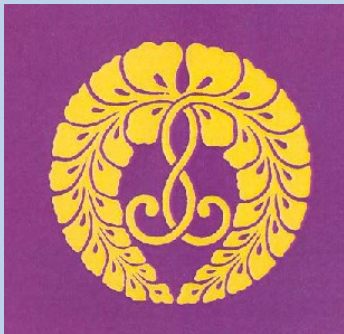
October 24, 2021

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

Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temples
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BWA Update by Mabel Googins

Life is impermanent and definitely not predictable. I don't know how many times I heard Imada Sensei excitedly announce months in advance that August 28, 2021 would be the "inaugural" IN-PERSON service for the Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple. Just like the many late-night comedians who had to work from their basement headquarters or other small space in their private homes for over a year to try to put some humor into our lives on a daily basis, the BCA sensei(s) also worked mainly from their homes or occasionally from the Nokotsudo or library of the Temple to keep Buddhism alive in our hearts.

But the Delta Variant of the Covid-19 virus had other plans. Not only is it more transmissible but it also seems to have no age boundaries on who to affect with these insidious viruses. The vaccination was just recently made available to those 12 years or older, but remains unavailable to the younger crowd under the age of 12 years. As a result, the TS/DBT Board of Directors made the wise decision to halt the in-person Obon Odori, which would attract many of our younger Dharma School children. The Obon/Hatsubon service still happened with limited in-person participation - masks required, contact tracing required upon arriving at the Temple - and live-streamed video for people to attend online.

As a result of this decision, all of the plans made by the various organizations came to a halt. No odori rehearsals by the Minyo group; Taiko players pared down their play lists for the virtual odori; no bento boxes to be sold by the BWA -

made especially for Obon celebration by Namiko's; no Spam Musubi to be made and sold as a YBA fundraiser; no refreshments for odori practice and on Odori night by Lorraine; and all of the crews to move tables and chairs; stage requirements, audio techs, etc. all were changed to fit the virtual program.

Pacific Mercantile was prepared with their popular shaved ice cones and other Japanese treats, as well as sushi trays for a snack for those who did not have dinner before coming to watch the odori. When opening plans changed, BWA decided to purchase and give out omanju to the participating Hatsubon families after the service. Jolie Noguchi would not accept any payment. Thank you very much, Jolie, for your generous dana!

An activity for BWA on the horizon is the Mountain District Conference to be held by Salt Lake City in November. This is a conference for all of the Mountain District Temples, and each Temple organization should attend (either virtually or in-person) to enjoy the company of their fellow Sangha members in our District.

The upcoming World FBWA convention will be held in Kyoto, Japan in May 2023! TSDBT BWA will begin many fundraising projects after the pandemic to support sending a delegation to this World conference where the Hongwanji is located.

Please be safe in all you do and encounter! Please be mindful of your own safety! Get vaccinated, wear a mask, and wash your hands!