



Temple Reflections

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A TSDBT Monthly Publication

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Volume XXXX, Issue 9

September 2020

Monthly Salutations

from Rev. Diana Thompson

Rivers Flow Into One Sea

by Rev. Noritaka Imada

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Please know that the Temple Staff is available to you at all times. Our response may not be instantaneous but will always happen. Email me (Donna) at: dinouye@tsdbt.org

Hello everyone, welcome to September! This month, we are observing Fall O-Higan which is the time near the Autumnal equinox when the days and nights begin to be the same length. Old Buddhist tradition has it that these extra daylight hours should be used for contemplation of 'Higan' or the 'Other Shore' which is Amida Buddha's Pure Land. The Pure Land is located in the Western quarter, the direction in which all things go to rest and therefore contemplation of it is meant to settle the mind and heart.

The story that is usually told at this time of year is the 'Parable of the White Path'. This story details the journey of a traveler who is traversing a dark forest with a variety of dangers within it including beasts, bugs and bandits. The traveler finally reaches a place where light can be seen, but a river of fire and a river of water rage over the path to this light and the traveler does not know what to do or how to continue along the path. From a distance, both behind and ahead of the traveler, there are encouraging voices that are trying to break through the darkness and bring the traveler to safety. This story is a story about us. We are the traveler and the darkness and dangers are our own human minds trying to hold us back. The fire is our anger and the water is our ignorance. The encouraging voices are the voices of Shakyamuni and Amida Buddha trying to bring us to the Dharma and therefore out of the darkness and away from the dangers.

We tell this story because it is difficult for many of us to sit and deeply contemplate the Other Shore. It, as with all stories, is a way for us to hear and remember the teachings in a more relatable way. When Spring and Autumn O-Higan come around, I like to tell this story at the family service because it is a way for all of us to participate together in the Dharma. Obviously, we are unable to do this together this year, but I am going to re-tell the story below and as you read it, try to imagine that you are at the temple with everyone. Perhaps you are wearing the traveler hat, perhaps you are making waves with your arms or holding up

(continued on page 3)

Rivers of blind passions, on entering the ocean

The great, compassionate Vow

Of unhindered light filling the ten quarters

Become one in taste with that sea of wisdom.

[KosoWasan 42 CWS 371]

Hi everyone! I hope you are doing well. Today's Passage of Shinran Shonin is from Koso Wasan. Shinran Shonin teaches us, "Amida Buddha is a Buddha whose light reaches anywhere, unhindered by any Blind passion".

As in the title of this article, the water of all rivers eventually flows into the sea and becomes one. When river water flows into the sea, the name "river water" changes to "sea water." What does sea water taste like? No matter what country you ask, sea water has the same salty taste. This is the meaning of, "become one in taste with that sea of wisdom." When I enter the sea of Amida Buddha with my blind passion, blind passion becomes Wisdom of Buddha, and everyone has the same taste. We call this Ichimi [One taste"].

Side Note: Do you add anything when you eat Udon noodle? I always add Ichimi pepper. And there is another similar spice called Shichimi [Seven tastes]. The name comes from seven flavors, such as red chili pepper, white sesame seeds, dried ginger, perilla seeds and sansho pepper.

When you are born into the Pure Land, everyone will get the same wisdom in one place. It feels good to know where one goes after finishing life in this world. Without knowing there is great anxiety.

When a person is born, it is similar to when an airplane takes off from an airport; life is like an airplane trip. From the time each person is born, being alive means being in flight. However, when an airplane takes off, it will always come down someday. I can't keep flying forever. When I ran out of fuel, I have to get off. How far and comfortably can you fly? When flying, you also need to troubleshoot problems. What to do if you enter a turbulence, what to do if you encounter a typhoon. Should I fly in the low sky? Or can I fly for a long time if I fly in the high sky? The best way to fly will always change.

(continued on page 5)

Hello fellow travelers! I miss you all and am extremely grateful and moved by the sacrifices that you have made to keep our Sangha safe, yourselves healthy and the Nembutsu in your heart and on your lips. I am truly moved. I personally can not wait until the pandemic has become a distant memory and we can all again enjoy each other's company while sharing the wonderful Buddha-Dharma. Please hold fast and do your best.

As a product of the continued fight against COVID, and the uniqueness of the ask for all of us to basically stay home, to remove ourselves from the common behavior of humans to commune, I have found myself with an increased amount of free time. In one of these days I was deep in the depths of google and came across something interesting, a book. It was written in 1955 and was titled "Buddhism and Jodo Shinshu". Being an avid book collector, especially anything I can find from the early years of Jodo Shinshu in the US (although 1955 is not that early, but still early for English Language Books) I ordered this book off of the antique book website and I was very happy when it arrived three weeks later, specially due to one of the listed authors - Rev. Tsunoda.

Rev. Tsunoda, long-time resident minister of TS/DBT (1944 – 1974) went to the Pure Land in 2005. His impact is felt in the temple and BCA to this day. In 1938, he was the first Nisei Kaikyoshi in the United States. The book he helped write was filled with easy to understand English, providing context for

Jodo Shinshu's position within the Buddhist world, tracking from the time of Shakyamuni Buddha to Shinran. How lucky we were that the causes and conditions allowed him to be part of the Denver experience.

In Dr. Duncan Williams' book, *American Sutra*, Rev. Tsunoda, prior to his assignment to Denver, while being held in the Poston WRA (War Relocation Authority) camp was quoted in a Dharma talk for the YBA concerning the status of Buddhism in America: *Buddhism in America is doomed. Such was the impression of many people following the outbreak of war and the resulting evacuation... However, contrary to this pessimistic view taken by the faint-hearted, we find that the very opposite phenomenon has taken place; the hardship and adversities of our faith in Lord Buddha and His All-embracing Teaching [and]...our experience in the relocation centers has shown more clearly that religion does not consist of beautiful churches and host of clergymen, neither does it consist of dogma as set down by ecclesiastical authorities; the fundamental basis of religion is the strength of our faith.* (Williams, 125)

I think that Rev. Tsunoda would say much the same today when focused on how we have approached what we have needed to do to stay safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. While I can never understand what he and so many JA people went through in the WRA camps, I can be grateful that on the other side, the Jodo Shinshu teachings remained and welcomed me in. And when we come out of the other side of this crisis, we will remain, sharing the Buddha-Dharma with all that reach out for it.
Namo Amida Butsu

河川は流れて、一つの海へ

今田 法翔

尽十方無碍光の 大悲大願の海水に 煩惱の衆流帰しぬれば 智慧のうしほに一味なり (高僧和讃42)

ご無沙汰しております。皆さまとも中々お会いできず、自宅からもあまり外出できない日々が続き、気がつけば九月がやって参りました。

今回あげさせて頂いた御讃題は、浄土真宗の宗祖である親鸞聖人が書かれた高僧和讃にある言葉です。和讃は俳句や短歌のように読みやすい文字数になっているので、読んでみるとどこか心地よい気分させてくれます。

尽十方無碍光（じんじっぽうむげこう）の 大悲大願の海水に 煩惱の衆流（しゅりゅう）帰しぬれば 智慧のうしほに一味なり

現代語に訳しますと、まず尽十方無碍光というのは「十方（あらゆる方向）」にいたり届く「無碍光（さまたげがない光）」と書きます。親鸞聖人が「阿弥陀仏とは一切の煩惱にさまたげられることのない光の仏さまですよ」と教えて下さっています。

そして海水という言葉が出てまいります。今回の記事の題名のように、あらゆる川の水はいずれは海に流れ、一つになります。川の水が海に流れ入れれば「川の水」という名前から「海水」という名前に変わります。海水はどんな味でしょうか？どこの国で聞いてみても、海の水は塩辛くしょっぱいと答えるかと思えます。同じ味ですね。これが一つの味と書く「一味」ということです。どこの海水も同じように塩辛いのです。

阿弥陀仏の海の中へ煩惱まみれの私が入ると、煩惱はたちまち仏の智慧となり、みんな同じ一つの味になるということです。これが阿弥陀如来の働きです。

皆さんはうどんを食べる時に何か入れますか？私は一味を入れます。また、一味に似ているものがもう一つありますね。七つの味と書いて七味。これは「唐辛子、山椒、ゴマ、青じそ、生姜、青のり・・・」など七つの味が混ざっているから七味と呼びます。そうではなくて、阿弥陀仏のお浄土に生まれたものは一つの同じ場所で、皆んな平等に、同じ智慧を得ると言われます。お盆に日本でお墓参りに行くとよく「倶会一処」と書かれているのを目にしますが、これは一つの場所で会える世界があるということです。

このように、自分がこの世での命を終えた後、行く場所が分かっているというのは有り難いことです。私がこの世の縁尽きた後どこに行くのか分からないことは不安の原因になります。

こんな話があります。「人生とは飛行機の旅に似ている」という話です。

生まれたときが飛行場を飛び立ったときだとすると、それぞれ飛び立ってから今日まで、色々なことがあったと思います。そして今日、自分が生きているということは、今も飛行中ということですね。ところが飛び立った飛行機は、いつか必ず降りるときがきます。いつまでも飛んではいられません。やがて燃料が切れたとき、降りなければなりません。人間の世界には医学や科学、政治や経済やまたは法律など、さまざまな人間の営みがあります。これは「いかに遠くまで、快適に飛ぶか」という飛び方の問題にすぎないのです。乱気流に入ったらどうするのか、台風に遭遇したときはどうするのか、飛ぶときにはそういった困難に対する対策も必要です。低いところを飛ばばいいのか、それとも高いところを飛ばば長く飛べるのか、その時々で飛び方も色々変わります。

こういった「飛び方」も大切なことですが、飛行機にとって一番大切なことは何でしょうか？それは、やがて燃料が切れたときに、どこへ降りるのか？またどこへ向かって飛ばばいいのかという事です。もし燃料が切れたとき、いざ降りようと思ったら海のだ真ん中で、見渡す限り下は海、着陸する場所がない！こうなったら、もう墜落するしかないですね。

「飛行機の旅が人生と似ている」と言いましたが、たとえば人生の中で「好きな人と結婚できたとか、子供ができたとか、車を買った！家を建てた！」というような楽しい出来事もあります。しかし、これはいかなればすべて飛行機の中での出来事です。それはまるで機内食を食べて、機内でショッピングをして、浮かれて騒いでいるようなものです。たとえ楽しいフライトだとしても、その飛行機の燃料が途中で切れたらどうなりますか？墜落してしまいますね。それでは決して楽しい空の旅とは言えません。ましてや突然機内で「お客様にご案内です、着陸地点は未定です」というアナウンスが入れば、楽しいどころか不安な空の旅になります。それよりかは、いつ燃料が切れても、安全に誘導される保証があり、着陸できる場所がハッキリしているほうが、とても楽しい旅になるでしょう。人生も同じで、これがハッキリしていないと不安で悩んでしまうのです。科学が進歩して、物も豊かになり、便利な世界になって幸せだと思っても、人間の根本的な苦しみは変わらないということでしょう。医学や科学、政治や経済でも埋めることができない深い不安が人間の心の底にあります。これは着陸地点が決まっていない飛行機に乗っている不安と同じです。

「阿弥陀仏の力によって、煩惱を抱えたままの私はいつ死んでも極楽浄土に生まれる」というのが親鸞聖人のメッセージでしょう。

そう言われてもやはり「はたして本当なのかな？」と疑ってしまうのが私たちの心です。それを見越した阿弥陀仏という仏様は「無碍光（さまたげのない光）」で「尽十方（あらゆるところ）」へ至り届いて下さる仏になられました。これに気づいた時「ああ有り難いなあ、これで安心して日々の生活が送れる」こういう気持ちが起これば、自然と口から「ナンマンダブ、ナンマンダブ、私は阿弥陀仏にすべてお任せします。ナンマンダブ、ナンマンダブ」とお念仏がこぼれてきます。合掌

南無阿弥陀仏 南無阿弥陀仏 南無阿弥陀仏

WHEN WILL IT BE SAFE TO RETURN TO THE TEMPLE?

asked and pondered by John Nitta, TSDBT Board Member

That question as well as many more share a common answer - right now we aren't sure. We realize that doesn't sound very comforting however, looking on the positive side, we are beginning to plan for that day. This past year we have seen so many changes in our daily lives and from the Ministerial, office staff and well as the TSDBT board we all want to thank everyone for their support. We also share your concerns about the safety of our sangha. We formed a committee from the groups listed above, preparing for the day we can open safely. If you would like to volunteer and/or assist with your ideas, contact John Nitta at johnnitta@comcast.net or call the temple 303 295-1844.

TSDBT YBA

By Ally Tanigawa, YBA Secretary

With the new 2020-2021 school year approaching, YBA is so excited to announce our newly elected officers. With these unique circumstances, we were thankfully able to have virtual elections.

This year, our YBA co-presidents are seniors, Katie Tsuchimoto and Tomiko Tawara. The vice president is incoming senior Lula Demars. Our treasurer will be 10th grader, Keelyn Nitta, and secretary/historian is incoming junior, Ally Tanigawa. The chef is sophomore, Kristi Case. Finally, Milo DeMars, Amanda Charness, Nicholas Tanaka, and Tara Case are the freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior representatives.

With such a different and exciting year ahead, we are so eager to see what these new officers will bring. There are many changes in the future for the YBA, including new YBA advisors who will be spotlighted in a future article. Hope everyone is staying safe and doing well!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2020 TSDBT GRADUATES!

by Mike Nakamura, JACGP Committee

We hope this newsletter finds everyone well and healthy. This is truly an unusual time for everyone and requires some innovative solutions to this unique situation. The TSDBT Scholarship Committee tried to comply with the "Stay at Home" requirements and made adjustments in the manner that we performed our duties as the TSDBT Scholarship Committee and the interview process.

That being said, this year we conducted the TSDBT interviews and also had a JACGP Virtual Banquet with the aid of Zoom. The process went extremely well, thanks to Karen Shimamoto and Jon Campbell. The seniors were all recognized and many of their achievements were highlighted at the virtual banquet. Our Judges were Debby Tanigawa, Nick Blanchard and Wayne Berve, who all did a wonderful job in interviewing the Senior Class of 2020. This year, the Seniors were Maya Davis, Mika Kawanabe, Hailey Mayeda, Keiko Tawara, Tadashi Thompson and Cody Yoshida.

All of the Seniors did an outstanding job during their four years in high school, participating in every possible activity. Even though they did not have the chance to participate in many of the traditional senior activities, they do have much to remember and be proud of! Below are the Awards received by the Seniors from the TSDBT Scholarship Program and the Japanese American Community Graduation Program this past month.

Again, congratulations to all the Seniors and Best of Luck in your future endeavors!

Maya Davis

Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple Caroline M. Tagawa Scholarship Award (Temple)
Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple Yoshida Family Award
Caroline M. Tagawa Scholarship Award (Community)

Mika Kawanabe

Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple Taeko Tawara Memorial Scholarship Award
Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple Sakura Foundation Scholarship (Temple)
JACGP Outstanding Essay #1
Japanese American Resource Center of Colorado
Japanese American Community Graduation Program Committee Award

Hailey Mayeda

Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple Kageyama Memorial Award
Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple Eugene and Kimiko Side Scholarship Award
JACGP Leo Goto Memorial Award
Mrs. Ichiyi Uyeno / Dr. Takashi Mayeda Memorial Scholarship
Denver Nisei Bowling Association Award
Simpson United Methodist Church Eugene and Kimiko Side Scholarship

Keiko Tawara

Gary Lee Higa Friendship Award
Mile High Chapter Japanese American Citizens League Scholarship

Tadashi Thompson

The Nikkeijin Kai of Colorado Scholarship

Cody Yoshida

Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple Murahata Family Award
Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temples Award
Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temples Sakura Foundation Scholarship (Temple)
Tomo Ida / Harry Ida Memorial Award
Japanese Business Association of the Rockies Scholarship
Mile High Chapter Japanese American Citizens League – Harry Sakata Memorial Plaque

Where do you want to get off, and where do you want to fly? When you run out of fuel? If I wanted to land when the fuel ran out, in the middle of the sea, as far as the eye could see, there is no place to land! It is time to crash. What happens if the plane runs out of fuel, even if it's a fun flight? It will crash. It's not a fun air journey. Even more suddenly, if the announcement "Attention please, the landing point is undecided" comes onboard, it will be an uncomfortable air trip rather than a fun one. However, it's a much more enjoyable trip if you have the guarantee that you will be guided safely when the fuel runs out and you have a clear place to land.

Life is the same. If the final landing place is not clear, people are anxious and cannot enjoy life. Even if you think that science has advanced and the invented convenient machine makes you a convenient world, and you are happy, the underlying human suffering will not change. There is deep anxiety in the heart of human beings that cannot be filled by medicine, science, politics, and economy. This is the same as the anxiety of being on an airplane with no fixed landing point. The message from Shinran Shonin is "By the power of Amida Buddha, I will be born into the Pure Land whenever I finish my life. Even if I have Blind passion." Even so, it is our heart to doubt what is really true. A suspicious mind is the reason why Amida Buddha has become the Buddha who delivers "unhindered light" to everywhere. When I notice this, I'm thankful, I can live my daily life with peace of mind. If I feel like this, the word of "Namo Amida Butsu" spill from my mouth naturally. Namo Amida Butsu

Gassho,

*TriState/Denver Buddhist Temples' membership
offers congratulations and welcome to
The parents:*

Jon & Amy Campbell

Of newborn son:

*Arthur Roderick Tatsuo Campbell
August 1, 2020*

*Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temples gratefully acknowledges
Donations and offerings received from July 1, 2020 – July 31, 2020*

In memory of Harry Nitta

Steven & Mitsuko Nitta
Rex & Marian Yoshimura

In memory of Kimiko Kato – 7th yr

Calvin Kato
David & Joni Sakaguchi

In memory of Himi Morishige – 1st yr

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Reiko Urano

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.....

.....

Stan & Gayle Shibao

Bob & Donna Miller

Family of Kenso Kagiyama

in memory of

Chigi Aigaki & Henry Shigeo Doi
George Saito
Harry Nitta
Kansuke Kinoshita
Kizo Takata
Lily Shin
Mitsuo Fukui
Mitsuo Fukui
Sakae Kusumi & Tamiko Koyano
Shigero Morishige & Himi Morishige
Tamiko Koyano
Yasutaro Yoshihara
Sumi Shin
Takeshi Kagiyama

in memory of

Si Yago
Yosh Akiyama
Yosh Akiyama
Yosh Akiyama
Yosh Akiyama

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Matsushima Family hoji service
in celebration of marriage
Obon services
Charles Kagiyama – 49th day
in memory of Helen Fukushima
In memory of Sumiye Tanaka
In memory of Tom & Tomiye Urano
In memory of Yosh Akiyama
in memory of Mary Shibao
in memory of Matsu Kobayashi – 50th yr
in memory of Peggy Kagiyama – 49th day

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<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/84-1612521>

For a musical treat, access:
<https://youtu.be/KkgM03wAHEc>
“We’ll Be Back - A Buddhist Hamilton Parody

September Shotsuki Names

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

Jane Mutsuyo Adams
Yasujiro Akamatsu
Miyoko Aoyagi
Yokichi Asano
Hirokichi Ashizawa
Michiko Bryson
Koshiro Dote
Yoshimitsu Egawa
Yaye Eguchi
Shizu Fujii
Tatsue Fujii
Muneko Furuiye
Harvey Kinnosuke Goto
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Misaye Hiratsuka
Yutaka Tak Hiratsuka
Etsuto Ed Hisamoto
Masako Hiyama
Joe Hyomi
Chieko Inouye
Frances Lucille Inouye
Jerry Yasuo Inouye
Lynn Michael Inouye
Rose Shizue Inouye
Mine Ishida
Tsunehichi Jye Ishikawa
Ned Seitaro Iwakiri
Chitsuko Iwasaki
Yoshimasa Iwasaki
Hide Iyama
Nofu Kagiya
Yasutoshi Kanamaru
Tokiko Kawaji
Fue Kawamoto
Keiko Kawano
Harue Louise Kelly
So Ko Kin
Kyoko Kita
Yasuko Kobayashi
Masaichi Komura
Kichitaro Kondo
May Sakiko Koshio
Kyosuke Kuroki
Sute Kuromiya

Toraichi Sam Kuruma
Gentaro Kushihashi
Tsuta Kushihashi
Hiroshi Kusumi
Setsuko Kusumi
Kenzo Kuwabara
Mitsu Mameda
John Maruyama
Yasumasa Maruyama
Richard Yukio Masaki
Daisy Haruye Matsuda
Mamoru Matsuda
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Johnny Matsunaga
Yoshitaro Matsuno
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Atsuko Dorothy Matsushima
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Niwano Miyako
Sono Miyasaki
Hatsuyo Mizokami
Shumpei Momii
Richard Morikawa
Yuki Mary Morimitsu
Tetsujiro Motooka
Grace Toshiye Motoyama
Sueki Joe Murahata
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Kanzuchi Nakagawa
Kichisaburo Nakamura
Toshi Nakamura
Yoshiko Nakamura
Michiyo Nakano
James Tadashi Nakata
Teruichi Nakayama
Shizuyo Nakazono
Setsuko Ashida Neel
Fujie Nishi
Dorothy Sakaye Nitta
Goro Nitta
Shotaro Noda
Hichiro Ogata
Yaichi Ogata
Momoyo Ohtsu
Daisuke Okuno
Motomu Onodera
Akira Otsuka
Howard Shizuye Otsuki
Kaji Otsuki

Mary Setsuko Oyama
Shizuye Peterson
Robert Oliver Redus
Kaichi Sadahiro
Kazuchika Sakamoto
Sally Sakamoto
Kisa Sameshima
Lucille Sameshima
Sam Isamu Sameshima
Takami Tom Sasaki
Elsie Aya Sato
Itsuo Frank Sato
Gorosaku Sawamura
Tomio Shigemura
Grace Hisako Shimada
James Tsunemi Shimada
Chozo Shin
Karoku Shino
Betty Jane Chiyoko Sugihara
Ayako Sumida
Satsumi Sumikawa
Agnes Takahashi
Mase Takahashi
Tokuzo Takahashi
Sachiko Takai
Yasokichi Takaki
Rodney Takeda
Kichinosuke Takeuchi
Yoshitaka Tamai
Tadao Frank Tamura
Hana Tanaka
Kakushi Rocky Tanaka
Shinzo Tanaka
Roy Yonema Tani
Tom Jitsuo Taniguchi
Michiye Tanino
Michisuke Tanouye
Hitoshi Tawara
John Akio Tawara
Roy Kazuo Terada
Fumiko Tomiyama
Richard Tomoi
Donn Shizuo Tsuchimoto
Tomiye Amy Tsumura
Nina Hisako Ujifusa
Harry Hiroshi Umamoto
Ryukichi Umetani
Takashi Sam Uyemura
Shizu Uyeshima
Kiyoko Watanabe
Ruriko Kutsuma Welch

Matsuo Yagami
Donald Takashi Yagi
Grace Yago
Masao Yamada
Jisaburo Yamaguchi
Shinichi Masui Yamakishi
Mankichi Yamani
Frank Seiji Yamashita
Perry Kazuyuki Yamashita
Dale Masaru Yanari
Kaichiro Yayama
Tamiyo Yonemoto
Eiichi Yoshida
Tachiko Yoshida
Elsie M. Yoshimoto
Art Yoshimura
Norma Lou Yoshimura
Yaokichi Yunoki

Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service

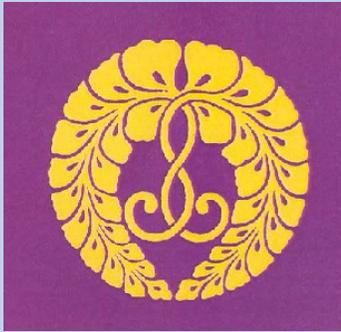
September 27, 2020

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 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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Okagesama de

Thank you to our ministerial Band of Three – Rev. Diana Thompson, Rev. Noritaka Imada, Rev. Kaitlyn Mascher-Mace – for sustaining our Dharma teachings and services through creative means. A grateful and cooperative Sangha makes all this possible; by expanding the ways in which we experience and share gratitude, we have shown that we can sustain the Temple's financial needs through generous and wide-spread Cherry Blossom Festival 2020 donations. We have shown we can sustain the celebratory gathering aspect of Temple events through our virtual Obon Odori. Thank you to Kay Takahashi, Joanne Adair and Lorraine Hisamoto for making a weekend trip to the Temple for the purpose of cleaning the kitchen refrigerators, freezers and pantry.

Thank you to Gail Ida, Gayle Goto and Joni Sakaguchi for additional sorting and cleaning of Temple kitchen food stuff and storage – especially as related to Cherry Blossom Festival. Besides getting everything organized, the CBF Planning Committee was able to donate six – 50 pound sacks of sugar to the Samaritan House which is a charitable organization that (among other activities) prepares and feeds meals to women in need of shelter.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Providing Meals online chain for a fellow Sangha family when Covid19 Stay-At-Home/Distance regulations made difficult

medical situations even more difficult to navigate. Thank you to BWA members who formed a Buddy system for keeping in touch with isolated persons. Thank you to YBA and Dharma School students who hand-wrote letters to elderly Sangha members.

Despite the absence of human life during Covid19 Stay-At-Home months, the building's systems – a network of pipes and wires (much like a human system of blood vessels, muscles, bones, etc.) – continue to run and require attention to keep in operation. Thank you to Wayne Berve and Lance (of Excel Cleaning) for performing maintenance chores in care of the Temple building.

Thank you to the anonymous Solera Apartment resident who called (2X) when she sighted unusual activity occurring at the Temple. Thank you to Pacific Mercantile for keeping your doors open during this pandemic, lending a sense of normalcy to our city block. Thank you to Sakura Square for sharing your personnel and resources when it comes to Temple safety and security.

Many kindnesses are taking place; mostly unseen by all but, most certainly, appreciated by all. While this list of thank you's may seem like we are all working to keep the Temple available for some unnamed Back to Business date, these efforts actually serve to keep the Temple available to everyone now. Okagesama de.