



The Padma



August 2021

Berkeley Buddhist Temple Newsletter

Web Edition

In This Issue:

BBT Vacation 1

August Calendar 2

Dates to Remember 3

Rev. Kuwahara..... 7

Taiko Survey 8

Shotsuki Memorial (August)..... 9

Shotsuki Memorial (September) . 10

Diane Ames..... 11

Dharma School 12

Community Outreach 13

Membership 14

BCA Announcements..... 15

Other Events 17

Condolences 18

Guidelines:

The Padma welcomes articles from sangha members.

Articles should be around 500-600 words typed. Word documents are best; PDF documents are discouraged.

Please include your name, a title for the article, and include any photos. Please cite references if quotes are used.

Articles will be reviewed for content and length, and should contain information relevant to Buddhist teachings, the Berkeley Buddhist Temple, and/or the Buddhist Churches of America. Publication will be at the discretion of the editorial board.

August is Vacation Month at the Berkeley Buddhist Temple

Except for the Shotsuki Memorial Service on August 1st and the Dharmanar on August 26th, there will be no temple activities this month. But, don't forget to tune into the BCA Virtual Obon on August 15th.

Enjoy the summer. Relax your body, refresh your mind, and come back to the temple in September with new energy. We look forward to seeing you in-person.



Our Vision
A Community Where Our Spiritual Life And True Self Can Be Realized

Our Mission
To Live A Life Of Joy In The Nembutsu And Share The Dharma With Others

August 2021

the Padma



BERKELEY BUDDHIST TEMPLE

2121 CHANNING WAY, BERKELEY, CA 94704

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Berkeley Buddhist Temple (510) 841-1356 berkeleybuddhisttemple.org info@berkeleybuddhisttemple.org facebook.com/berkeleybuddhisttemple youtube.com/berkeleybuddhisttemple						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
9:30a Livestream - Dharma Family & Shotsuki Memorial Service 10:15a Virtual Yoga						
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
No Service		7:00p Board of Directors Meeting				Padma Articles Due
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
No Service 1:00p BCA Virtual Obon		Padma Newsletter Production				
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
No Service				6:30p Dharmanar		
29	30	31				
No Service						



Dates to Remember

J U L Y	Sun	Virtual
	25	BBT General Membership Meeting (after service)
	Thurs	Virtual
	29	BBT Dharmanar

A U G U S T	Sun	Livestream
	1	Combined August / September Shotsuki Memorial Service Virtual Yoga
	Sun	Livestream
	15	BCA Virtual Obon
	Thurs	Virtual
	26	BBT Dharmanar



BBT Virtual Yoga



Join us for a gentle yoga session by Hitomi Kuwahara that you can do while sitting on a chair or couch without a yoga mat. No experience or registration needed.
Everyone is welcome!

**Immediately after the service
Sun. June 6, 20, July 4, 18, and Aug 1**

at: <https://bbtevents.info/yoga>

Berkeley Buddhist Temple
2121 Channing Way Berkeley CA 94704
1(510)841-1356
info@berkeleybuddhisttemple.org

2ND ANNUAL
BCA OBON
VIDEO SUBMISSION

SUN 8/15/21 @ 1pm (PST)



Obon Leaders please submit a video of an Obon Dance or instructional video for the program by
AUGUST 1, 2021.

Click here to submit your video:
<https://tinyurl.com/29h2edey>
questions: bkmizushima@bcqhq.org

BBT Dharmanar

Monthly Online Study Session

JULY 2021
TOPIC

DEATH

Presentation by Rev. Kuwahara, Rev. CJ Dunford, and MA John Mullins followed by discussion

Thu. July 29, 6:30 - 8PM

RSVP here:

<https://bbtevents.info/dharmanar>





Do We Jodo Shinshu Buddhists Pray to Actualize our Prayers?

by Rev. Kuwahara



Since March 2020, the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, I have been attending four to five online study sessions a month. I deeply appreciate that we are able receive lectures from wonderful speakers from around the world.

On July 18th, 2021, I attended a Japanese lecture by Rev. Masahiro Asada. Rev. Asada is a Jodo Shinshu minister and one of the top scholars of Tendai Buddhism in Japan. He spoke about an interfaith event at the Todaiji Temple in Nara, Japan, at which Buddhist monks and other religious clergy got together and prayed (Jpn. *kitō*) for an end to the pandemic. He wondered, to himself, whether or not Buddhism teaches that people's wishes come true with prayers. Rev. Asada's audience, all Jodo Shinshu Buddhists, found this

reflection curious. Jodo Shinshu doctrine traditionally focuses on accepting the way things are, not on praying for things to be other than they are.

Rev. Asada shared with us a conversation he had with one of his good friends, a monk from a different school of Buddhism. In his friend's school, people make monetary donations and request the monks to pray for their wishes to come true. Sometimes they come true and sometimes do not. For him, interestingly, it didn't matter whether their wishes came true or not. It was how they reacted when their wishes didn't come true that was important. He saw two types of people: those who leave and those who stay.

When their wishes didn't come true, the former (those who leave) were disappointed and upset. They complained, walked away, and never came back. Those who stayed were also disappointed and upset when their wishes didn't come true. However, they stayed, listened, and came to realize that their wishes were wrong. Rev. Asada's friend approached them and started sharing the Dharma. He said as they listened to the teaching, they came to wish for what Buddha wished.

Listening to the story of this monk, I thought it was a good and interesting way to guide people to deeper listening and appreciation of the Dharma. All of us have things we wish for. Some people may expect that the Buddha or religious deity can actualize their wishes with their sincere prayers. But that is not the case with Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. Amida Buddha is not an agent to actualize our wishes, especially secular ones. We Jodo Shinshu Buddhists, instead, receive something more important. As we deeply listen to the teaching, we begin to examine our wishes objectively, and even critically. We begin to realize that often our wishes would bring more suffering to ourselves or give troubles to others.

More importantly, when we truly live with the Jodo Shinshu teaching, we remain calm and less emotionally affected by whether our wishes come true or not. I would say this is one of the benefits of *shinjin* in Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. As we truly listen to the teaching, we are nurtured and transformed so that we can accept and deal with situations in better or different ways. Therefore, in the Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, it is not the point whether or not our wishes come true with our prayers.

In the course of listening to the teaching, we encounter Amida Buddha's wish that all beings be liberated from the life of suffering and attain Buddhahood. When we truly realize the significance of Buddha's wish, we come to know that our essential wishes are enfolded within it and can live in Amida Buddha's compassion toward the actualization of the Pure Land.

In gassho (palms together),
Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara

Are you interested in Japanese taiko drum lessons?

We are considering starting weekly taiko class at the BBT as early as September. The class will be instructed by local professional taiko instructors.

Please let us know by filling out the survey or calling the temple office if you are interested! <https://berkeleybuddhisttemple.breezechms.com/form/taikosurvey>



COMBINED DHARMA FAMILY SERVICE & SHOTSUKI MEMORIAL SERVICE

Sunday, August 1, 2021
9:30 am

Live Stream Only: <https://www.berkeleybuddhisttemple.org/dharma-live>

Due to the Labor Day holiday, this will be a combined Shotsuki Memorial Service for those who passed away in August and September.

The following persons will be remembered during the Shotsuki Hoyo (monthly memorial service) for
AUGUST.

John William Barnes	Arthur Akira Iwata	Yaye Oda
Masao Fukawa	Masako Kami	Fujio Okano
Raymond Katsumi Fukunaga	Hiroshi Charles Kaneko	Shizuye Okubo
Fuyu Furukawa	Kimiko Kaneko	Yukie Hiramoto Onizuka
Katsujiro Furuzawa	Risuno Kaneshita	Takaaki Sakamoto
Kiyoshi Furuzawa	Soeko Kawamoto	Natsuko Nancy Shimada
Kiroku Furuzawa	Mitsuo Maegoto	Tadao Shiozaki
Yae Furuzawa	Stanley T. Marubayashi	Debbie Noriko Takamoto
Hisao Furuzawa	Hitoshi Marumoto	Shigeo Tanada
Kentaro Ohtsuka Gluck	Kanishi Masui	Lorraine Tokiwa
Misao Hataye	George Shigeru Matsuoka	Kiyono Tominaga
Ralph C. Honda	Eiko Morishige	Suematsu Uemura
Ellen Honda	Saichiro Muramoto	Hyakuzo Yamada
Harry Noboru Ikeda	Kiyo Nakagawa	Toshiko Yamamoto
Rev. Kanmo Imamura	Michio Andy Nishikado	Kiuzo Yoshinaga

The following persons will be remembered during the Shotsuki Hoyo (monthly memorial service) for
SEPTEMBER.

Toichi Ariyoshi	Ted Teruo Mayeda	Keiko Ono-Moores
Masano Fujinaga	Masami Mayeda	Zentaro Ota
Denise Gervais	Misako Miyamoto	John Takashi Sakai
Ai Hamamoto	Sayuri Lily Miyamoto	Gentoku Sakiyama
Kiyooki Hamamoto	Kimiye Morimoto	Helen Yoshiko Sato
Dr. Lawrence Katsumi Harada	Alice Hanako Murakami	Shizue Shiozaki
Irene Haraguchi	Waseko Nagahisa	Yasuyuki Shiromaru
Takayo Tamura Hiramoto	Hazel Haruko Nakabayashi	Matsu Taketa
Chiyoko Hiramoto	Yonezo Nakagaki	Gihei Tanada
Richard Imazumi	Matahei Nakahara	Tora Tanada
Mary Ishiura	Iku Nakaso	Edward Hideichi Tsukimura
Robert Toshiaki Kaneko	Yoshiko Jean Nakaso	Iyono Wakida
Akio Kino	Mishi Nojima	Sumiko Yamamura
Kazuko Beatrice Kono	Kanki Oda	Hinaye Yokota
Mine Kubo	Gordon Oishi	Otoichi Yoshida
Arthur W. Long	Sozaemon Okita	Tsuruko Yoshida
Haruye Maki	Koto Okita	

Note: If there are any additions, corrections, or deletions to the above list, please notify the Berkeley Buddhist Temple at 510-841-1356.



An Ominous Fourth of July

by Diane Ames

“Ah!” cackled the virus. “There it is, the House of Methuselah Assisted Living Facility, home to my favorite prey, the very old! I see them happily munching Fourth of July barbeque in their wheelchairs. They’ll be helpless before ME, the mighty delta variant, the most contagious, the nastiest, the greatest variant of them all! I laugh at partial vaccination! I’ve caused hospitals in Missouri to run out of ventilators! I’ve put strong men in their thirties in the hospital! Octogenarians, I just mow down.”



“Just a minute, you blowhard!” said another virus. “You may be the most contagious and common variant, but you can’t claim to be the nastiest! That’s me, the gamma variant! Where I strike, I fill the ICUs--and the morgues! You, Delta, may be getting all the publicity, but I’m very much around.”

“Why argue?” said Delta. “Let’s pick off the old geezers together!”

“Halt!” said the facility nurse, standing in the door. “Everybody here is FULLY VACCINATED! The Buddha taught us to value our precious human bodies because living a life as a human being gives us a chance to escape samsara. Thus we must not neglect the body’s needs, must not destroy it in reckless pursuit of pleasure, and must generally act sane about our health. So simple a step as vaccination against a deadly disease should obviously be taken. Besides, elementary compassion for others requires us to protect ourselves from COVID so as not to spread it. So, residents, invoke your protection mantra. Wave your vaccination cards and chant, ‘COVID begone!’”



Dharma School – Back-to-School News

The Dharma School teachers are eager to hear about everyone's summer vacations and the new school year! One big change this year is that our beloved Pre-K to 2nd grade teacher, Mimi Kagehiro, has retired! We thank Mimi Sensei for many wonderful years of teaching and nurturing our youngest students. We have re-configured the classes from four to three: elementary, middle, and high school.

The first day of Dharma School this year is Sunday, September 12. The Dharma School has plans to return to in-person classes, but we will be prepared to pivot to a virtual format if both BBT and families decide not to meet in person. Regardless, the Dharma School teachers believe that we can create a school year that is inclusive, meaningful, and fun for all students.

Please stay tuned and thank you in advance for all families' flexibility. If you have any comments or questions about reopening, please use this Google Form to reach out to the Dharma School Staff: <https://forms.gle/HZ39USRLRbWEsgfYA>.

Dharma School Legacy

Mimi Kagehiro
Dharma School Teacher
from 1998 to 2021

Thank you, Mimi Sensei!
Namo Amida Butsu





Community Outreach



Virtual Food Drive

Jul 20 - Aug 31, 2021



Donate to the Alameda County Food Bank BBT Virtual Food Drive!

The BBT Community Outreach Committee is organizing a virtual food drive for the Alameda County Food Bank (ACFB) from **July 20, 2021 to August 31, 2021**.

Each **\$1 you donate will equal \$14 of food** for families who need it! Times have been tough for many families in Alameda County and there are less donations during the summer. You can help make a difference! Thank you for your support!



Multiply your Dana!

BBT Goal: \$1,000

Donate here:

<https://www.vfd-accfb.org/grouphome.aspx?ID=7885>



Berkeley Buddhist Temple

Each \$1 you donate = \$14 of food!!

- ACFB says that \$1 = \$7 of food!!!
- We will apply for the BCA matching Grant (up to \$3000)!



Membership

2021 Membership Pledges

The Temple would like to gratefully acknowledge the following members for their generous contributions for the period 6/11/2021 – 7/15/2021:

Paul Hirose
Lesli Hamamoto

You may know these people – Paul is Norman Hirose's son and Lesli is Tomoko Hamamoto's granddaughter. We are very grateful that Paul and Lesli have joined BBT's membership. Please join us welcoming them in our Sangha!

If you have any questions, please contact Mimi Kagehiro at membership@berkeleybuddhisttemple.org or 510-841-1356.



BCA VIRTUAL ART EXHIBIT

BCA Artists of All Ages

Submit your artwork to share with members of our BCA community. All submissions are due by 8/15/21 and will be approved by the committee.

Please click the registration link for more info:

<https://tinyurl.com/4urhwz4x>

SEPTEMBER 19 - 26, 2021

www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ~ REGISTER FOR ZOOM LINK



2021 CBE Seminars Online For All SUMMER: JUNE ~ AUGUST

All events listed in Pacific Time - Check your local time

SATURDAY
JUNE 19
*11 am - 1 pm
[REGISTER ONLINE](#)

EMBRACED AND NEVER ABANDONED: JODO SHINSHU AND LGBTQ+

Rev. Ko'e A. Umezu
West Los Angeles Buddhist Temple



Rev. Umezu



SATURDAY
JUNE 26
*11 AM - 1 PM
[REGISTER ONLINE](#)

KINNARA: THE ROOTS OF TAIKO IN THE US

Discussion with **Rev. Masao Kodani**,
BCA Minister Emeritus, and **Johnny Mori**
& other members of Kinnara Taiko
Moderator: **Rev. Jerry Hirano**, CBE Director



Rev. Kodani



Johnny Mori

SATURDAY
JULY 3
*11 AM - 1 PM
[REGISTER ONLINE](#)

SHINSHU AND CHRISTIANITY

Rev. David Quirke-Thornton
Shin Buddhist Fellowship,
United Kingdom



Rev. Quirke-Thornton



SATURDAY
JULY 24
*11 AM - 1 PM
[REGISTER ONLINE](#)

CREATING INCLUSIVE SANGHAS: WORKING COMPASSIONATELY WITH OUR THOUGHTS & ASSUMPTIONS

Mushim Patricia Ikeda East Bay Meditation Center
Rev. Harry Bridge Buddhist Church of Oakland



Mushim Ikeda



Rev. Bridge

SATURDAY
AUGUST 7
*11 AM - 1 PM
[REGISTER ONLINE](#)

THE ESSENCE OF THE THREE PURE LAND SUTRAS & HOW WE CHANT THEM

Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara
Berkeley Buddhist Temple
Rinban Katsuya Kusunoki
Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple



Rev. Kuwahara



Rev. Kusunoki

SATURDAY
AUGUST 21
*11 AM - 1 PM
[REGISTER ONLINE](#)

RENNYO'S CONTRIBUTION TO HONGWANJI THOUGHT

Rev. Dr. Mutsumi Wondra
Orange County Buddhist Church



Rennyo Shonin



Rev. Wondra

(3-25)

VISIT [BCA WEBSITE](#) FOR FLYER, FREE ONLINE REGISTRATION & DONATION LINK

BUDDHISTCHURCHESOFAMERICA.ORG EMAIL: CBE@BCAHQ.ORG TEL: 510.809.1460



Other Events

Retreat:
HUMAN NATURE - BUDDHA NATURE
June 25-27, 2021
Due to COVID, Retreat postponed to 2022



Replaced By: Zoom Seminar
“Human Nature – Buddha Nature”
The Practice of Living Shin Buddhism
July 31, 2021 – 11:00 am-12:30
Rev. Dr. Kenji Akahoshi

Listening to Dharma talks, reading books, and watching videos by Dharma teachers give us a good understanding of Shin Buddhism. However, until it becomes a daily practice, much of it remains a concept. The annual retreats have been a success since 1998 because they provided an **“experience”** of Shin. This seminar will present the Shin practice of the Nembutsu to become an experience.

Contact the BTSD office to register:
info@btsd.net or call (619) 239-0896.



Condolences

Berkeley Buddhist Temple expresses condolences and deep sympathy

To the Family of
Mrs. Asako Horimoto Mayeda
February 24, 1926 – July 2, 2021

In lieu of flowers or koden, the Mayeda family would be grateful for any contributions made in her honor to either the Berkeley Buddhist Temple or to Kokoro Assisted Living in San Francisco.

Gassho,

Namo Amida Butsu

Namo Amida Butsu

Namo Amida Butsu



The following is a list of special service years.
If you have a departed relative who has passed away
in any of the listed years,
and would like to make arrangements
for a memorial service,
please contact Rev. Kuwahara at [\(510\) 841-1356](tel:5108411356).

2021 MEMORIAL SERVICE SCHEDULE

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>SERVICE</u>
2020	1 st Year
2019	3 rd Year
2015	7 th Year
2009	13 th Year
2005	17 th Year
1997	25 th Year
1989	33 rd Year
1972	50 th Year
1922	100 th Year

Services

Our regular Sunday program begins with a Chanting Service at 8:30am followed by a Family Service at 9:30am. A Dharma talk is available after the Family Service while Dharma School classes are convened for students.

Special Services

January 1 Service	Gantan-e	New Year's Day
February	Nehan-e	Nirvana Day
March	Ohigan	Spring Equinox
April	Hanamatsuri	Flower Festival
May	Gotan-e	Birthday of Shinran
July	Kangi-e	Obon
September	Ohigan	Autumn Equinox
November Memorial	Hoonko	Shinran Shonin
December	Jodo-e	Bodhi Day
December 31	Joya-e	Year End Service

A Shotsuki Hoyo (Monthly Memorial) Service is held the first Sunday of each month.

Dharma School

Our Dharma School (Sunday School) has classes from preschool through high school. Our teachers are happy to discuss the appropriate level of spiritual enrichment for your student.

Monthly Discussions

In our discussions, we strive to experience the Buddha-Dharma with our entire selves – with our bodies (quiet sitting and other forms of meditation), voices (chanting and other liturgy) and minds (study and discussion).

Our sessions focus on ways in which Buddhist teaching and practice can impact our everyday lives. Each session will take up a different topic and you are welcome to attend any or all sessions.

All interested persons are welcome to attend.

Visitor Information

Please feel free to ask any of our greeters for information. We are here to assist you with whatever level of participation you may be seeking.

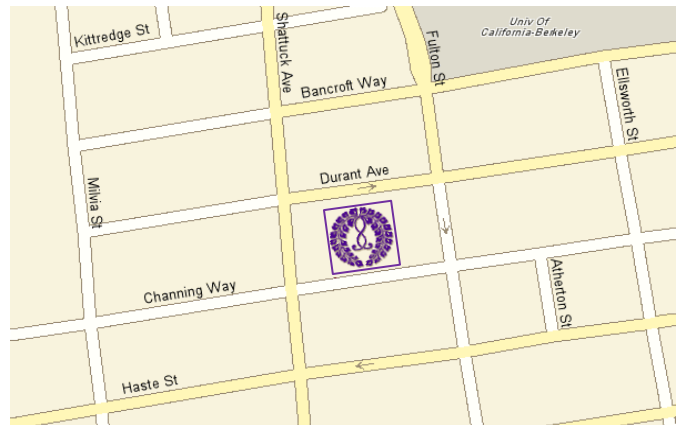
Whether you are here to satisfy a slight interest or to make a more personal connection, we wish you well and hope that you will be visiting us again soon.

Membership Information

Membership is open to all who view the Temple as their spiritual home and seek the Buddha-Dharma.

Kindly complete a [Membership Form](#), have your name entered in the membership roll and support the Temple through a pledge and participation.

For more information about becoming a member, visit our [Registration](#) page, or contact our [Membership Chair](#).



Berkeley Buddhist Temple

2121 Channing Way
Berkeley, CA 94704

Office Hours

Monday – Friday
10:00am – 1:00pm

[510-841-1356](tel:510-841-1356)

info@berkeleybuddhisttemple.org

berkeleybuddhisttemple.org

facebook.com/berkeleybuddhisttemple

youtube.com/berkeleybuddhisttemple