



# The Padma



August 2022

Berkeley Buddhist Temple Newsletter

Web-Edition

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## 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. 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.

Email submissions to [padma@BerkeleyBuddhistTemple.org](mailto:padma@BerkeleyBuddhistTemple.org)

## **OBON - *Kangi-e***

**A gathering of *joy in body and in heart*; the joy we experience upon contemplation of all we have received from our ancestors and from Amida Buddha.**



*Rev. Kuwahara held Obon Ohaka Mairi services on July 9th at Sunset View Cemetery in El Cerrito (pictured here) and Chapel of the Chimes in Oakland.*

**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 2022

# the Padma



BERKELEY BUDDHIST TEMPLE

2121 CHANNING WAY, BERKELEY, CA 94704

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



## President's Message by Bradley Menda



During the month of August, temple activities tend to slow down. Dharma school is no longer in session and weekly Dharma family services come to a temporary pause. Some would say that the temple is on a much needed “summer break,” especially when thinking about all of the temple activities that occurred in the past few months. In April we were able to reopen the temple to limited in-person activities, but unfortunately in June we reverted to virtual-only activities due to the high incidence of COVID-19 in Alameda and Contra Costa counties.

Although we are still greatly affected by ebb and flow of COVID-19 in our communities, I am still glad that we can remain connected virtually and in-person. Despite all of this, we still had a virtual Satsuki Bazaar in May and more recently joined

Berkeley Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple for an in-person Obon Odori event. Thank you to the temple's fundraising committee, led by Takashi Nikaidoh, for a successful virtual event. Thank you to each of you for your participation in the virtual event and your continued support of the temple. I am hopeful that we can gather and host an in-person bazaar and Obon Odori next year.

In September, we will resume Sunday service and Dharma School. The temple's COVID-19 Response committee continues to meet on a regular basis to evaluate our reopening guidelines. During our most recent meeting, we made the careful decision to allow in-person activities during the CDC's Orange-High Community Level tier. As you are aware, current guidelines require us to cease in-person activities in the Orange tier. This change will go into effect on September 1, 2022. Please note that anyone attending in-person events in the Orange tier will be required to follow additional safety protocols to ensure the health and safety of everyone present. Safety protocols include in-person capacity limits, social distancing, enhanced air exchange/airflow, the use of a high particulate filtering mask (N95, KN95, etc.), and certain health screening criteria. A revised re-opening grid will be distributed to all members prior to September. For those who still wish to remain virtual, Sunday services will continue to be livestreamed.

I think that the concept of rest is very important, especially for an organization like ours, made up entirely of volunteers. The temple would cease to run without the help and guidance that each of you provide to the organization. Please be sure to take some time to rest and rejuvenate from all of the hustle and bustle of the prior months. We have the exciting Fall months to look forward to with the start of weekly family Dharma services and Dharma School. I hope to see everyone, well-rested and energized in September, in-person or virtually, when Dharma family services and Dharma School resumes.

Gassho,

Bradley



## Minister's Message by Rev. Kuwahara



### 2022 Gathering of the GenX Sangha

I was born in 1975. This birth year (between 1960 and 1982) makes me part of the so-called Generation X. There is a group I belong to called GenX Dharma Teachers Sangha. It is made up of people in this age group in the US., Canada, South America, and Europe who teach the Buddha Dharma. It grew out of the "Next Gen" conference held at the Garrison Institute in New York in 2011. Since then, a gathering has been held every two years at different locations, attracting 40-50 teachers from different Buddhist lineages.

In 2019, the GenX Dharma Teachers Sangha met at the Great Vow Zen Monastery in Oregon. After that gathering, I was invited to join the planning committee for the next conference in 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2021 conference was changed from an in-person to online event. I stayed on the planning committee and helped to organize the 2022 in-person gathering at the Won Dharma Center (WDC) in Hudson, New York, which ran from July 12<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup>.

The Won Dharma Center is a meditation/retreat center based on the teachings of Ven. Sotaesan, the founding master of Won Buddhism, a Korean Zen tradition. The Won Dharma Center was dedicated 11 years ago and is set on 400+ beautiful, wooded acres in upstate New York. Despite the difficulties of the COVID-19 pandemic, about 40 of us from different lineages came together for a wonderful gathering thanks to the support of the WDC staff.

I have been involved in the GenX Dharma Teachers Sangha for over 10 years and have learned many valuable things from the other members. We are all Buddhist practitioners, dedicated to spread the Dharma, but we each represent different styles of Buddhism. There are monks and nuns leading monastic lives, priests serving at temples, Dharma teachers supporting Buddhist communities, and Buddhist chaplains. At our gatherings, we have many small group discussions, from which I always receive new perspectives which cause me to revisit the teachings of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism and renew my understanding of the Buddha Dharma.

Each gathering has a theme. This year's theme was "Past, Present and Future". In one of our group discussions, we talked about the current social divide in the US. Some participants were from blue states while others were from red states. All of us expressed difficulties in dealing with the polarization, especially with social network posts and the backlash from members who support the other side. I learned the importance of the Buddhist teaching of the middle path. As leaders of Buddhist sanghas and communities, our role is to reduce the tension between the

two extremes. Sometimes, due to the three poisons within ourselves, we go too far and pour more fuel on the flame, intensifying the situation. When we live mindfully and reflect deeply upon ourselves in the Light of the Buddha Dharma, we can find balance.

Such reflection also allows us to realize that we see other people with self-centered and narrow views. When we truly recognize them as individual human beings, we can cultivate acceptance and even respect for those whose opinions differ from our own. Such acceptance is the key to healthy and constructive dialogue, leading to mutual understandings. It won't bring about an immediate solution, but it would put us on a meaningful and steady path toward it.

This is one example of the "Dharma nutrition" or "Dharma food-for-thought" I received and digested from the 2022 GenX Dharma Teachers Sangha conference. I deeply appreciate the gift of the teachers' guidance and Dharma friendship. It is a gift I hope to share with you, the Berkeley Sangha.

In gassho (palms together),  
Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara

Note: For those who are interested in seeing what these gatherings look like, here's a link for you to check out: <https://genxdharma.com/past-gatherings/>



# “People Can Change. They Really Can.”

by Diane Ames

“Opening your temple, shutting your temple, opening it again— doesn’t it get confusing?” said a voice behind me. “All because of some mysterious algorithm of the CDC! Don’t you get tired of watching services on a screen, all by yourself? Wouldn’t you really rather be in the temple enjoying the social hour?”

I turned around to see who was talking. And lo and behold, it was Death, wearing the military uniform he wears now that there is a war in Europe again.

“What’s it to you?” I asked.

“If you must know, I’m annoyed by that row of lanterns at the Obon service,” he said. “There are only seven of them! In a whole year!”

“What! Seven deaths of temple members are not enough for you?”

“It’s no more than I would expect in a pre-Covid year! After the winter surge of Covid, in a superannuated congregation like this one, I had a right to expect a lot more! Why couldn’t your temple be like those big churches that insisted on holding in-person services with hymn singing, even before there were vaccines? Their services turned into huge superspreader events, in their congregations and the community beyond! Dozens of ministers died of Covid with their parishioners. But your temple had to listen to the CDC, and you Buddhists had to get vaccinated, get boosted, wear masks in public, and do all that stuff that rigs the odds in Covid roulette against me. When I saw this bunch of octogenarians facing this deadly epidemic, I thought I had everything going for me here. But you’ve cheated me! Against all expectation, most of you have survived!”

“Yes,” said the voice of the Buddha as he appeared on my bookshelf, “this sangha has managed to do as I taught and combine compassion with wisdom. Buddhists should always try to do the compassionate thing, after doing their best to make sure they know what they’re doing.”

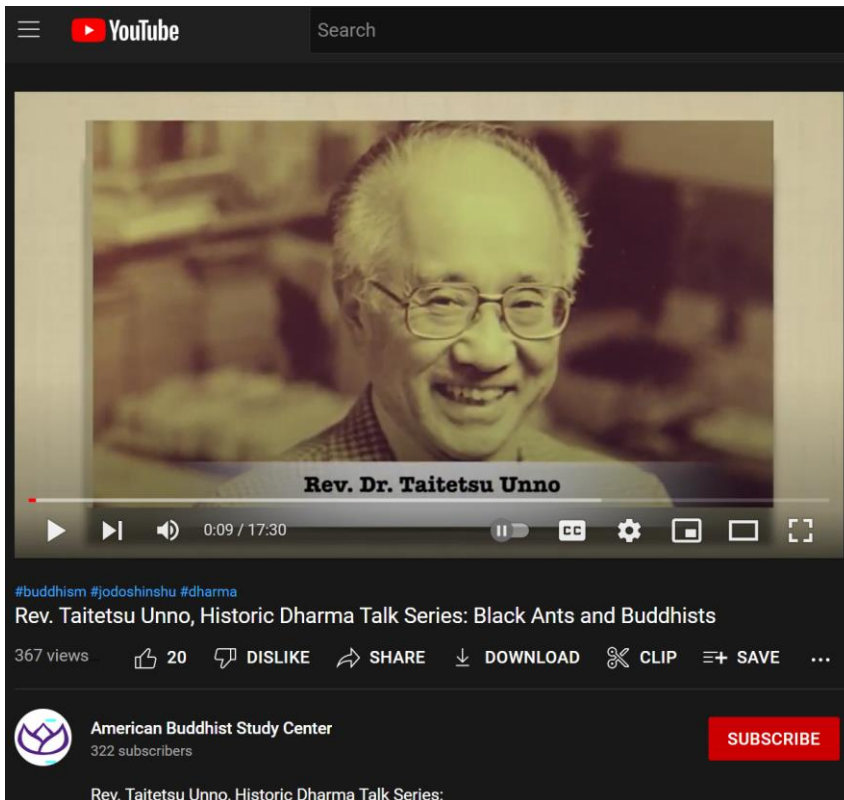




# “Black Ants and Buddhists”

## A Dharma Talk by Rev. Dr. Taitetsu Unno

Contributed by Edythe Vassall



During the summer break from temple services, you might like to check out a fabulous Dharma message on YouTube by the late Rev. Dr. Taitetsu Unno. He talks about a book called *Black Ants and Buddhists*, written by a second-grade teacher. Dr. Unno describes how, one day, black ants invaded the classroom. Some of the students started killing them but two Buddhist students protested. The teacher and students discussed the situation together and came up with an appropriate, compassionate solution.

Rev. Unno’s gentle talk has a wonderful Dharma lesson

for children and adults alike. The video, created by a volunteer for the American Buddhist Study Center, has child-friendly visuals added. You can find it at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=ICVm4J-rHhY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ICVm4J-rHhY) or Google search the title “Rev. Taitetsu Unno, Historic Dharma Talk Series: Black Ants and Buddhists.”

***Black Ants and Buddhists: Thinking Critically and Teaching Differently in the Primary Grades*** by Mary Cowhey is a guide for teachers (not a children’s book) about a method of education where every student is heard. The author notes, “I teach this way so that I can hear every child’s voice and see each jewel sparkle.” Please enjoy the video!



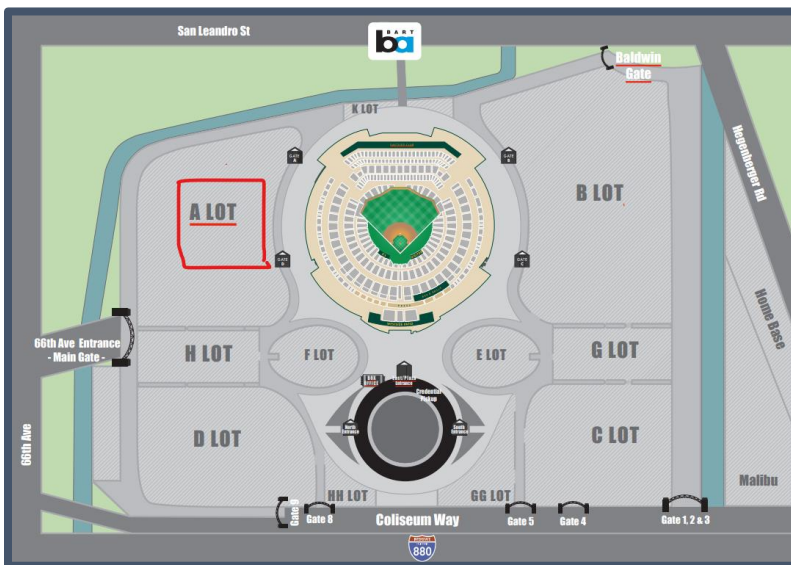
# Temple Announcements

## Oakland A's Tailgate - August 21st

Thank you to all – more than 50 of you have responded! – to the BBT Oakland A's game on Sunday, Aug. 21 against the Seattle Mariners. It should be a fun time and a chance for BBT Sangha members to get together. Details will be made available soon on the tickets and parking passes – you will be contacted individually.

The tailgate will be in **Section A8 in Lot A** of the Oakland Coliseum parking lot. I've attached a map indicating where Lot A is. I'll be flying an Oakland A's flag on a pole by my car for increased visibility. (I'll be reaching out to a few of you to come early to block off the area for the tailgate!)

The Musashi bentos will be available for pickup there. People are encouraged to BYOB – to bring your own bottle – as well as folding chairs.



*We'll be meeting in Section A8 in Lot A in the Oakland Coliseum parking lot.*

Questions? Reach out to Jon Kawamoto at; [jonkawamoto@gmail.com](mailto:jonkawamoto@gmail.com) or at 510-386-7122.



*This is an image of a flag -- not the exact image -- that will be flying at the tailgate site in Section A8. The flag will have a big "A" -- look for it!*



# Free Girls Basketball Clinic - Ages 6 to 13

Do you know of any girls ages 6 to 13 that are interested in basketball? If so, please let them know about a free basketball clinic being hosted by the East Bay Girls Athletic League (EBGAL), their member churches/organizations and the Warriors Basketball Academy.

The number of teams participating in the EBGAL has been dwindling over the years. (Berkeley Sangha was a former member. Oakland, Berkeley Higashi & SACBC are still active members.) In an effort to recruit more girls to the league and possibly build teams starting at a younger age, the EBGAL is working with the 2022 NBA Champion Golden State Warriors to hold a free basketball clinic on August 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:30 - 11 AM in Oakland.

Details are in the flyer & registration is required.

<https://warriorscamps.leagueapps.com/events/3231076-ebgal-kick-off-clinic>

**Note:** The flyer states that girls ages 8 to 13 are eligible. However, the age range has been expanded include girls ages 6 to 13.

EAST BAY GIRL'S ATHLETIC LEAGUE,  
*along with its membered churches, in conjunction with*  
WARRIOR'S BASKETBALL ACADEMY *is hosting a FREE*

## BASKETBALL CLINIC

**Saturday, Aug. 6th**  
**9:30-11am**

**FREE Basketball Clinic**  
for beginner girls ages 8 to 13 years old.  
Meet representatives for your local team.  
Sign up today! Go to:  
<https://warriorscamps.leagueapps.com/events/3231076-ebgal-kick-off-clinic>.

Warrior's Former Practice Facility: 1011 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94607



Diablo Athletic League · Eden Athletic Club · Buddhist Church of Oakland · Berkeley Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple · Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church Athletic Association



# BBT Dharma School Newsletter

AUGUST 2022



*Zora and Romare join Buddhist Church of Oakland Dharma School students for a morning of farming community service at Gill Tract Farm in Albany.*

## Jr. YBA End-of-the-Year Bonding Activities

### Volleyball Conference at SACBC



## Ocean Beach clean-up in San Francisco



## Summer Fun - Camping!

Thank you to Tina Iwasaki and the Camping Committee for encouraging our BBT families to join them in Mendocino at the end of July for our traditional and super fun BBT camping trip! Please take many photos to share with us.

## First Day of Dharma School

The Dharma School hopes that all of our families are having a healthy and joyful summer! The first day of the 2022-23 Dharma School year will be on Sunday, September 11, when we will help the entire Sangha enjoy a beginning of the year community building activity. We look forward to seeing everyone there!



# BCA Announcements

CBE/IBS/JSIO

## SUMMER PACIFIC SEMINAR **REFLECTIONS ON THE PURELAND**

**AUGUST 5-6, 2022**

**IN PERSON & VIRTUAL**

Jodo Shinshu Center, 2140 Durant Ave, Berkeley 94704



**DR. AARON PROFFITT**

Dr. Proffitt received his PhD in Buddhist Studies from the University of Michigan, and works as an Assistant Professor of Japanese Studies at the University at Albany-SUNY. Dr. Proffitt has published in English and Japanese on East Asian Buddhism, Pure Land Buddhism, Esoteric Buddhism, and the Lotus Sutra.



**DR. MELISSA CURLEY**

Dr. Curley is associate professor in the Department of the Comparative Studies at Ohio State University and the author of Pure Land, Real World: Modern Buddhism, Japanese Leftists, and the Utopian Imagination. Her current research focuses on the body in twentieth-century Japanese Buddhism.

**Moderated by Reverend Dr. Takashi Miyaji**

Institute of Buddhist Studies/Southern Alameda County Buddhist Temple

REGISTRATION & INFO: <https://tinyurl.com/PacificSeminar>

# BCA

Buddhist Churches of America

## VIRTUAL

— OBON DANCE —

**AUGUST 14, 2022 @ 2PM (PT)**



**SUBMIT YOUR OBON VIDEO HERE**

<https://tinyurl.com/ObonBCA>

# - Help Wanted! -



SACBC  
Japanese Language School

## SEEKING JAPANESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL INSTRUCTORS FOR K-12 STUDENTS

**School:** SACBC Japanese Language School

**Website:** [www.sacbc-jls.org](http://www.sacbc-jls.org)

**Location:** Southern Alameda County Buddhist Temple  
32975 Alvarado-Niles Road  
Union City, CA 94587

**Details:**

- Paid position
- Training provided
- Prior teaching experience preferred but not required
- Classes are on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and run from August through June

**Contact:** For more information email: [info.sacbcjls@gmail.com](mailto:info.sacbcjls@gmail.com)

# COMBINED SHOTSUKI MEMORIAL SERVICE for AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

*Sunday, August 7, 2022, 9:30 AM*

The service will be livestreamed at:

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

The following persons will be remembered during the Shotsuki 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
Kazuyoshi Ide	Kiyo Nakagawa	Toshiko Yamamoto
Harry Noboru Ikeda	Michio Andy Nishikado	Kiuzo Yoshinaga
Rev. Kanmo Imamura		

The following persons will be remembered during the Shotsuki 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.



# Membership & Toban

## 2022 Membership Pledges (Receiving Period: 5/6/2022 – 7/7 /2022)

The temple would like to gratefully acknowledge the following members for their generous contributions:

Emi & George Matsunaga  
Sadako Kashiwagi  
Sandra Takeda  
Joyce Oishi & Dii Lewis  
Aiko Kurokawa

## New Members

We'd like to welcome new member, **Nancy Blackwell**. Here's a little bit about Nancy:

*I am currently serving as a teacher in a small, rural school district in the Mojave Desert. Before this, I lived in the Washington, D.C. area, working as a psychologist and raising my family. I have appreciated the well thought out and supportive access you give to your services and Sangha. I live in a very isolated area, and I appreciate this generosity.*

If you have any questions, please contact Mimi Kagehiro at [membership@berkeleybuddhisttemple.org](mailto:membership@berkeleybuddhisttemple.org) or 510-841-1356.

# TOBAN

Coordinators - Lena Yin & Pat Takeda

July	August
Chair - Mimi Kagehiro Cochair - Denise Lapidus Cochair - Susan Kajiwara  Bond, Aaron & Lorin Din, Grant & Rosalyn Tonai Egawa, Janey McCurley, Kyle *Harano, Yasuko Haratani, Dale Kagehiro, Ron & Mimi Kagehiro Anoruo, Erin *Kajiwara, Susan Lapidus, Denise Ledwith, Grace Lethridge, Nikki *Nakagawa, Ittsei & Kiriye *Ota, Emi Oshima, John Ueda, Geri *Yasumoto, Liane	Chair - Vicki Chin Cochair - Gary Oda Cochair - Irene Wells  Chin, Gene & Vicki Chinn, Alfred & Arline *Furuya, Alyce Furuya, Suzanne Kutchins, Albert & Mari Mayeda *Lys, Annette *Mayeno, Art Nakaso, Judy *Oda, Gary Ono, Michelle Sweeney, LauraLee *Takeda, Mae *Tokiwa, Yosh & Julia (WA) Wells, Russell & Irene *Yamasaki, Sachi Ye, Elicia

\* Denotes disabled and/or elderly. Toban duty optional.



# Memorial Service Schedule



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).

## 2022 MEMORIAL SERVICE SCHEDULE

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>SERVICE</u>
2021	1 <sup>st</sup> Year
2020	3 <sup>rd</sup> Year
2016	7 <sup>th</sup> Year
2010	13 <sup>th</sup> Year
2006	17 <sup>th</sup> Year
1998	25 <sup>th</sup> Year
1990	33 <sup>rd</sup> Year
1973	50 <sup>th</sup> Year
1923	100 <sup>th</sup> 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.

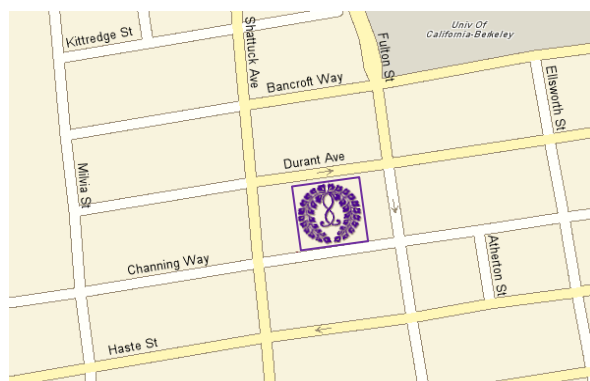
Whether you are here to satisfy a slight interest or to make a more personal connection, we wish you well and hope that you will be visiting us again soon.

## 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](mailto:info@berkeleybuddhisttemple.org)

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