



The Padma



September 2023 **Berkeley Buddhist Temple Newsletter** Web Edition

In This Issue:

September Calendar.....	2
Future Dates to Remember	3
Maui Relief Appeal.....	5
Minister's Message	6
Diane Ames	9
Dharma School	10
BCA & CBE Announcements .	11
Community Announcements ..	12
Membership & Toban	13
Memorial Service Schedule	14

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

WELCOME BACK !



September brings the resumption of regular Sunday services and beginning the new Dharma School year.

The BBT ministers are implementing the plan to focus their Dharma messages on themes reflective of the time of year or the major service in the month.

The special Ohigan service on September 17th will celebrate the Fall Equinox, one of the two times a year when the length of the day and night are equal. It is thought that these are the times when this world and the "other shore" come the closest together. In Japan, Ohigan is a public holiday when many people return to their hometowns to honor their ancestors.

*September Dharma message topics:
Transition, Aging, and the Six Paramitas.*

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

September 2023

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	8	9
No Service 1:30p Taiko Regular					3:00p Taiko Beginner	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
9:30a Virtual & In person - Dharma Family Service Dharma School Begins 1:30p Taiko Regular		7:00p Board of Director's Meeting			3:00p Taiko Beginner	<i>Padma Articles Due</i>
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
9:30a Virtual & In person - Dharma Family & Fall Ohigan Service 1:30p Taiko Regular		Padma Newsletter Production			6:00p College Welcome Night	1:30p Taiko Regular
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
9:30a Virtual & In person - Dharma Family Service				6:30p Dharmanar	3:00p Taiko Beginner	



Dates to Remember

A U G / S E P T	Tue 24 August	Virtual BBT Dharmanar (Topic: Amida Sutra)
	Sun 10 Sept	Livestream & In-person Dharma Family Service Dharma School Begins
	Sun 17 Sept	Livestream & In-person Fall Ohigan Service *Ohigan Potluck
	Wed 20 Sept	Virtual Meditation & Discussion
	Fri 22 Sept	In-person College Welcome Night
	Thu 28 Sept	Virtual BBT Dharmanar (Topic: Nirvana Sutra)
2 0 2 4	Sat 15 Jun	2024: Save-the-Date Rev. Dr. David Ryoe Matsumoto Tribute & Retirement Celebration Mountain View Buddhist Temple

*Fall Ohigan Service & Potluck

Sun. September 17th after the service

Please check your toban moth for your lunch offering and tasks.

- July, August.....Salads
- September Onigiri & Rice Dishes
- All Other Months..... Main Dishes

- July Serve
- August Set Up
- September..... Clean Up

Fall Ohigan luncheon will be in the Social Hall.
Please bring lunch offerings to the Social Hall kitchen.



Berkeley Buddhist Temple
UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 20

WED. 7:00 - 8:00 PM

Sign up at:

<https://sanghaevents.info/meditation>

MEDITATION & DISCUSSION

Join us for an evening of online silent meditation led by our minister, Rev. Kuwahara. Everyone is welcome and no prior experience needed. We will have a short discussion after. All are welcome!

AUGUST 24

TUE. 6:30 - 8:00 PM

Sign up at:

sanghaevents.info/dharmanar

DHARMANAR

Join us for BBT's monthly online study session. We will focus on Buddhist sutras this year. In the August session, we will learn Amida Kyo. Rev. Kuwahara, Rev. CJ, and Rev. Tanis Moore will be presenting. Then we will discuss it after. Everyone is welcome!

2121 Channing Way, Berkeley, CA 94704

info@berkeleybuddhisttemple.org

www.berkeleybuddhisttemple.org/



**COLLEGE
 WELCOME
 NIGHT!**

Fri. September 22nd, 6:00pm

Berkeley Buddhist Temple

All are welcome!

This is an in-person event to welcome college aged young people to the temple. There will be a short service, an ice breaker, activities led by Berkeley Nikkei Student Union and food! Hope you can join us!

RSVP

<https://sanghaevents.info/collegewelcome>

Berkeley Buddhist Temple

2121 Channing Way, Berkeley CA 94704



info@berkeleybuddhisttemple.org



berkeleybuddhisttemple.org



HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII

STATE HEADQUARTERS

1727 PALI HIGHWAY ■ HONOLULU, HI 96813 ■ PH: (808) 522-9200 ■ FAX: (808) 522-9209

www.hongwanjihawaii.com

August 10, 2023

Dear Dharma Friends,

We have been watching in disbelief the tremendous destruction caused by the recent wildfires on Maui. The loss of life, livelihood, and property has been devastating. Lahaina Hongwanji and its Sangha were directly affected by the fires. The temple, columbarium, classroom building, and minister's residence were completely destroyed in the horrific fires that devastated historic Lahaina town. Many temple members were forced to evacuate, and many homes were burnt to the ground. Our hearts go out to all who have been impacted by this disaster. As residents and our fellow Sangha members begin the process of rebuilding and healing, Hawaii Kyodan is committed to supporting relief efforts on Maui.

In the spirit of compassionate action, we have established the **MAUI WILDFIRE DISASTER RELIEF FUND**. You can donate in the following ways:

1. Online at www.hongwanjihawaii.com by clicking on the "Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief" button under the "Donate" tab.
2. Through GoFundMe at the following link: <https://gofund.me/ff77a520>
3. Check and cash donations can be sent directly to Hawaii Kyodan Headquarters. Please make check payable to HHMH and in the memo line designate "Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief" to ensure proper credit.

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii
1727 Pali Highway
Honolulu, HI 96813

All donations collected will go to support Lahaina Hongwanji and relief efforts on Maui. The Office of the Bishop and Committee on Social Concerns will prioritize addressing the immediate and short-term needs of temple families displaced by the fires and supporting the greater community as it rebuilds. The Committee will select reputable relief agencies and organizations to support in order to ensure our donations will directly aid those impacted by this disaster. Updates will be shared on our website at www.hongwanjihawaii.com.

Mahalo for your generosity and support during this time of tragedy.

In Gassho,

Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani
Bishop

Dr. Warren Tamamoto
President

Rev. Blayne Higa, Chair
Committee on Social Concerns



Minister's Message by Rev. CJ Dunford

私の大阪の家族

My Osaka Family by Rev. CJ 觸願 Dunford

8 August 2023

Greetings to everyone at BBT from Osaka! This city has changed my life, and I'm so happy to be back here seeing old friends, making new ones, and working on my Doctorate of Ministry (DMin) research! I'd like to express a deep thank you to the temple and our board for helping fund this research in addition to all the kindness and support our little sangha family have shown me throughout the years.

In 2019-2020, I had the good fortune of moving to Japan for almost one and a half years. The main objectives were to do Tokudo ordination and to study Japanese at Ryukoku University that fall and spring in Kyoto. Far from a vacation, that time was one of rest, growth, hard work, and spiritual transformation for me. I was reunited with one of my best friends, Nami Yoshihara, who I met in undergrad in Virginia and currently works as a therapist & scholar of therapy in different parts of eastern Japan. We've been dear friends since we first met in fall of 2005.

Though I hadn't regularly spent time with Nami since we both lived in Virginia, we kept in touch, and she is very much a part of my family. When I first got to Japan in June 2019, I lived with her and her family in Yokohama to adjust to the very different environment in Japan. Maybe it's because Nami and her family,



Nami, 2019

neighbors, and friends were all so kind to me. Maybe because I could speak a little Japanese. Maybe because I was training to be a Buddhist priest. Maybe all these little causes and conditions all led me to feel at home in Japan. There were definitely times when I felt like an outsider, but there were always people who made me feel like I belonged.

When I moved to Kyoto in September 2019 for school, I immediately decided to try my very best to make friends with my classmates, but I quickly learned that I wanted to make more friends with locals, and that's when I met Asuka Ito, who was a Ryukoku student at the time. Asuka and I quickly grew close, and I found out that she did a 3-month exchange program at the Ryukoku campus right next to BBT at the Institute of Buddhist Studies in Berkeley in 2018 while I was working on my degree then. Asuka is an Osaka native, and she is full of joy, loves to dance and laugh and sing, and after having dinner with friends several times and going to several parties, she confided in me that she is bisexual. In addition to being super fun, Asuka is also a pretty private person, so I felt really honored that she would share that with me.¹ To celebrate, we decided to go to an LGBTQ+ party in Osaka— called “No Gender Party”. At this party, both Asuka and I found a loving and supportive queer community in “the funniest city in the world” with the “funniest people in the world” (please go search “Oba Funk Osaka” on YouTube—you will be very happy with the results). We both found people who would become some of our best friends, chosen family, and even a bit of love and romance.

¹ Since this time, Asuka has come out in several of her communities, so I am not outing her here in this essay. She was comfortable in openly discussing her gender and sexuality during our interview earlier this year.



Monica and Asuka, 2023

Last month (in July 2023) when I arrived back in Osaka, Asuka and her partner Monica welcomed me back to Osaka just as if we had seen one another yesterday. We had okonomiyaki (my favorite Japanese food and an Osaka specialty— according to Osakans anyway), yakisoba, and a few other dishes, then went out for drinks to catch up. I've felt so happy to be back here with my wonderful Osaka family, and I've made several new friends too in the past month.

This joy and sense of spiritual and emotional support in spite of the many forms of societal oppression that we face as queer people (along with the other aspects of our identities that experience discrimination and marginalization— hello intersectionality) is what inspired my

DMin research and also deeply informed my MA research at the IBS. I really have no ability or desire to approach the Buddhadharma from some sort of objective lens, because I know that the teachings tell us that only Buddha, one who has experienced ultimate freedom, can see or understand anything objectively. My own ministry, my academic research, the type of spiritual care and comfort that I offer to myself and others—all these things—are and will continue to be affected by my own history. Some of that personal narrative is very painful and violent, but equally importantly, much of my story is filled with love, connection, and community.

A big part of my doctoral project is understanding these sorts of magical queer connections that happen. I know that “magical” might seem a bit like a silly word, but to be honest, I can't really explain it in any other way. The most important part of my own healing journey as a queer and transgender person has been learning that I don't need to constantly be filled with the shame my church and family of origin taught me, that I'm weird and worthy of love. That maybe we are all a little weird and that we are all worthy of love. That we all DESERVE love. While I'm in Japan and when I come back to the US, I'm conducting interviews that, hopefully, allow others to share their stories, to feel validated in our experiences, to feel proud, to feel that we belong, and to feel love and connection. I recently did an interview with Asuka, and it was a wonderful conversation where, even though we have



Friends and me at a fire festival in northern Osaka, 2023

been friends for years, we got to know each other a little more. After the interview was done, Asuka told me that she felt really good, like she had just had a really productive therapy session.

During my time in graduate school, I have not just studied Buddhist doctrine and history. A large part of my studies and practice cultivated in my education has been centered spiritual care and chaplaincy. I'm not trying to be a therapist, and I have no illusions about my role as a minister, but I do believe that my call to ministry is a therapeutic one where I can heal, and hopefully others can heal along with me.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone in the upcoming dharma school year this fall!

In gassho,

Rev. CJ



“Phoenix in July of 2023 and the Paramita of Effort”

by Diane Ames

One day in July of 2023, Chicken Little was running up and down in an air-conditioned shopping mall in Phoenix, Arizona crying, “The climate is changing! The climate is changing! Do something! Do something!”

“You’re bothering the shoppers!” said a grizzly bear security guard. “Why don’t you go outside?”

“Obviously because if I ran up and down the street shouting, ‘The climate is changing!’, I’d soon faint.,” said Little. “It’s 114 degrees out there. The hospitals are full of patients who got third degree burns when they fainted from the heat and landed on the incredibly hot sidewalks. I had to wear asbestos sandals to walk from the taxi to the doors of the mall, and I barely made it. We’ve got to do something!”

“Don’t bug me about it!” said a monkey who was buying oven mitts so he could touch his car without getting burned. “It’s depressing, and there’s nothing we can do. I have more urgent problems, like my huge electric (air-conditioning) bill!”

“What do you want us to do about it?” said a parrot who was eating a mango snow cone. “Go vegan? Being a parrot, I’ve been a vegan all my life, and it’s still so hot, I’d get heat stroke if I tried to fly. It’s discouraging!”

“Climate change requires collective, societal solutions,” said a wolf who was lapping up Gatorade. “We wolves know that we can’t bring down a deer unless the whole pack gets organized and follows the plan. But organizing to stop climate change is so discouraging. My pack has been howling that something must be done about all this warming before it kills us, but it seems like nobody is listening!”

“The wolf has a point,” said a bodhisattva in the form of an owl. “Climate change will only be stopped if humanity co-operates to stop it. Getting nations to work together may seem impossible, but it must be done for the sake of all life on earth. You must remember the paramita of effort. Keep trying! Don’t give up!”



Berkeley Buddhist Temple

Dharma School Newsletter

September 2023

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!



September Schedule

Sunday, 9/10/2023	Sangha-wide icebreaker; no regular Dharma School classes
Sunday, 9/17/2023	Regular Dharma School classes
Sunday, 9/24/2023	Regular Dharma School classes



FAQs about our Dharma School

First and foremost: **ALL ARE WELCOME!** Please refer to this quick [FAQs sheet](#) with general information about the Berkeley Buddhist Temple Dharma School. Parents, guardians, and grandparents are welcome to observe and/or accompany their children to class. Please just ask to see Stacy, Karen, Irene, or Joyce before the Dharma Family Service. Namo Amida Butsu.





BCA & CBE Announcements

BCA

Buddhist Churches of America

3RD ANNUAL

VIRTUAL ART EXHIBIT

Please share your art in this wonderful exhibit showcasing the talent of our BCA Sangha community

SEPT 17, 2023

buddhistchurchesofamerica.org



SUBMISSION & INFO:
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/ARTBCA](https://tinyurl.com/artbca)



GOOD CARMA CAR SHOW '23



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2023

10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

PALO ALTO BUDDHIST TEMPLE | 2751 LOUIS ROAD, PALO ALTO, CA

**ALL MAKES AND MODELS ARE WELCOME
REGISTRATION: \$40 PER CAR**

FREE TO THE PUBLIC

BENTO LUNCH
LIVE MUSIC • TAIKO PERFORMANCE
BONSAI DISPLAYS & DEMOS
GRANDMA'S TREASURES (HEIRLOOMS &
COLLECTIBLES)
BUMMER RAFFLE DRAWING (2:00 PM)

SCAN THE QR CODE
TO REGISTER



pabl.org/pabl-car-show-2023

FEATURED CARS ON DISPLAY

Classic Cars • Exotic Sports Cars • Hot Rods • Muscle Cars • JDM Tuner Cars
Classic Asian & European Imports • Electric & Experimental Cars
Camper/Van Conversions • Overlanders • Dune Buggies



Community Announcements

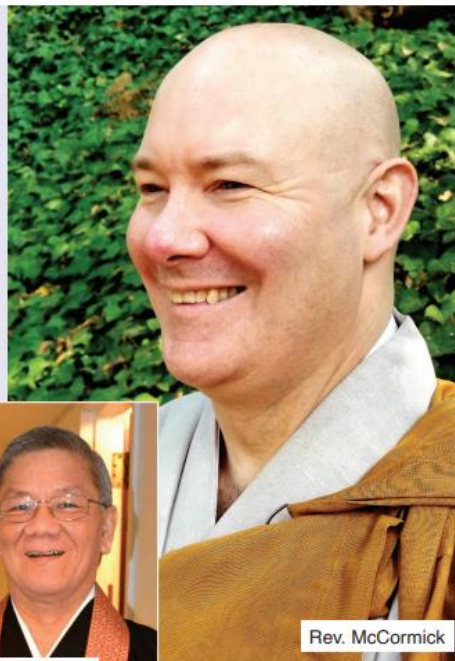
Shinshu Center of America (Higashi Honganji) Public Lecture

Nichiren and Shinran

His Light Shines Infinitely

Rev. Ryuei Michael McCormick

Minister, Nichiren Buddhist Sangha of the
San Francisco Bay Area



Rev. McCormick



Rev. Hata

Lecture Synopsis

In my talk, I hope to address and clarify the superficial similarity between Nichiren and Shinran as proponents of forms of Buddhism that are devotional in nature and focused on attaining buddhahood through an act of faith expressed in the form of chanting. However, I also hope to clarify the superficial difference in that one is exclusively devoted to attaining rebirth in the Pure Land through the Other-power of the Original Vow of Amida Buddha whereas Nichiren teaches that one can accomplish buddhahood in this very body by upholding the Lotus Sutra in the form of the Odaimoku. I also hope to address whether there are deeper and more profound similarities and differences in the structure of the ways to attain buddhahood that they are describing.

About the Speaker

Ryuei Michael McCormick is a priest of the Nichiren Shu, a Mahayana Buddhist lineage established in Japan by Nichiren Daisshonin in 1253. Ryuei became a disciple of Bishop Ryusho Matsuda of the Nichiren Order of North America in 1997, receiving full ordination at Kuonji Temple on Mt. Minobu in 2001. He is currently serving as minister to the Nichiren Buddhist Sangha of the San Francisco Bay Area, and is the author of *Lotus in a Sea of Flames* and *Open Your Eyes: A Nichiren Buddhist View of Awakening*.

Please register from the [online form](https://forms.gle/fVQstFkokH3tXtiw9)

(<https://forms.gle/fVQstFkokH3tXtiw9>) to receive the Zoom link. You can also scan the QR code below to access the form. Registration is free—donations gratefully accepted. Checks payable to Shinshu Center of America.

Schedule:

- 1:00–2:00 pm: Lecture
- 2:00–2:15 pm: Response by Rev. Peter Hata (Higashi Honganji) and additional talk
- 2:15–2:30 pm: Q&A with participants



Saturday, September 23, 2023

1 pm – 2:30 pm (PDT)

On Zoom Video Conferencing

SHINSHU CENTER OF AMERICA
505 E. 3rd St., Los Angeles, CA 90013

Tel: (213) 621-4064 Email: info@shinshucenteramerica.org Web: shinshucenteramerica.org



Membership & Toban

Membership Pledges (Receiving Period: 7/8/2023 – 8/4/2023)

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

Annette Lys
Sadao Oki

We'd like to introduce our new college members, Arjun Venkatesh and Scarlet Ferreira. Please give them a warm welcome when you see them at the temple!

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

TOBAN

Coordinators - Lena Yin & Pat Takeda

August 2023	September 2023
Chair - Pat Takeda Cochair - Carol Akiyama Cochair - Christina Iwasaki Akiyama, Bob & Carol *Daikai, Georgia Griffin, Craig & Linda Kurokawa, Aiko Lyon, David & Christina Iwasaki *Sano, Harold & June Takeda, Pat Takeda, Sandra Takeda, Scott Vassall, Edythe (HI) *Wakayama, Opal *Yamashita, Marrie	Chair - Maya Murashima Cochair - Ron Hiraga Abney, Saya (GA) *Fujinaga, Chiyoko *Hayashida, Sady & Amy Hiraga, Ron & Gayle Nishikawa Kawamoto, Jon Lewis, Kaz *Murashima, John & Irene Nagafuji, Jeff & Lucy Rivello *Nagafuji, Jerry Nakamura, Aileen (GA) *Shinoda, Makiko Tanaka, Ron & Carol Yonemura, Paul & Maya Murashima

** Denotes disabled and/or elderly. Toban 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).

2023 MEMORIAL SERVICE SCHEDULE

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>SERVICE</u>
2022	1 st Year
2021	3 rd Year
2017	7 th Year
2011	13 th Year
2007	17 th Year
1999	25 th Year
1991	33 rd Year
1974	50 th Year
1924	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.

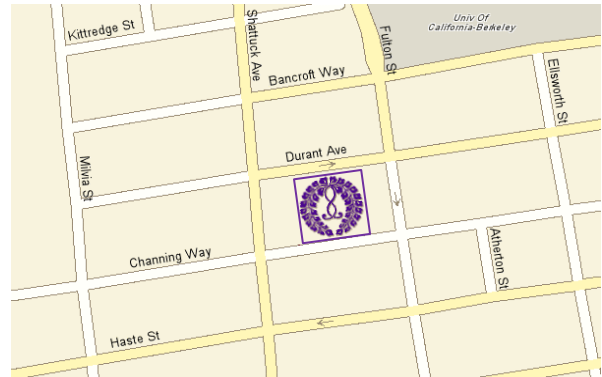
Whether you are here to satisfy a slight interest or to make a more personal connection, we wish you well and hope that you will be visiting us again soon.

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