



The Padma



January 2020

Berkeley Buddhist Temple Newsletter

Web Edition

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

Gantan-e New Year Service



January 1

New Year Luncheon



January 12

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

January 2020

the Padma



BERKELEY BUDDHIST TEMPLE

2121 CHANNING WAY, BERKELEY, CA 94704

Web Edition

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Berkeley Buddhist Temple phone: (510) 841-1356 web: berkeleybuddhisttemple.org e-mail: info@berkeleybuddhisttemple.org facebook.com/BerkeleyBuddhistTemple			1 Gantan-e New Year Service 10am	2	3	4
5 8:30 am Chanting Service 9:30 am Shotsuki Memorial Installation of BBT Officers	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 8:30 am Chanting Service 9:30 am Dharma Family Svc 10:30 am Mochitsuki 11:45 am New Year Luncheon	13	14 Temple Bd Mtg 7:30pm	15	16	17	18
19 8:30 am Chanting Service 9:30 am Dharma Family Svc Padma articles due	20	21 Padma Newsletter	22	23	24	25
26 8:30 am Chanting Service 9:30 am Dharma Family Svc	27	28	29	30	31	



FUTURE DATES TO REMEMBER

Wed
1
Jan
Gantan-e
New Year Service 10am

Sun
9
Feb
General Membership
Meeting

Sun
5
Jan
Shotsuki Memorial
Installation of BBT Officers

Sun
16
Feb
Nirvana Day Service

Sun
12
Dec
New Year Luncheon

Save the Date
Mike's Annual
BBT camping trip
July 30th – Aug 2nd
Manchester Beach KOA.
More details to come.

Future Buddhist Leaders



A devoted group of future Buddhist leaders had a joyous reunion at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley and visited the BBT at the Shotsuki Service and Dharma Family Service on Dec. 1.

The West Coast high school students took part in a two-night Buddhist Youth Retreat at the Tri-State Denver Buddhist Temple in August. And the August retreat was partially funded by the BBT and BBT Supervising Minister Kiyonobu Kuwahara. The students came from throughout California -- and also from Denver and Seattle.



New Year's Greeting

Happy New Year, everyone! At the beginning of this New Year, I would like to extend my best regards to you all.

Last year again, following the year before, Japan, as well as many other countries in the world, was struck with multiple natural disasters. I would like to convey my deepest condolences to those who lost their lives through those disasters and express my sympathy to everyone affected. In addition, we must never forget that armed conflicts and terror attacks as well as severe starvation is making it difficult to live, and lives are being lost every day.

Last September I had an opportunity to make an official visit to the temples of the Buddhist Churches of America as Monshu for the first time. This allowed me to complete the first round of visitations to all of the overseas districts which include Canada, Hawaii, South America, and the US mainland.

Although every temple and district has its own history and background, many of the overseas Jodo Shinshu temples were established and have been cherished by the Japanese immigrants and their descendants. Reflecting on how sincerely our predecessors entrusted themselves to the Buddha Dharma and how importantly they thought of their temples while facing many difficulties such as World War II, I cannot help but feel grateful and even awe for their tremendous efforts as well as many other wondrous circumstances that have allowed the Jodo Shinshu teaching to be handed down to us today.

However, a considerable amount of time has passed since the Japanese emigrated overseas, and the lifestyle of their descendants, as well as the world situation have changed greatly. In accordance with these changes, quite a few people who are not of ethnically Japanese origin have also come to appreciate the teaching clarified by Shinran Shonin, and attend our overseas temples.

What caused this is nothing but the universality of the Jodo Shinshu teaching that transcends time and space. In other words, Amida Buddha's compassion equally reaches and nondiscriminatively embraces everyone in the midst of all sorts of pain and agony.

In this year, let us continue to listen to the Dharma, considering it is directed to each one of us, and keep moving forward to share it with many other people as possible.

January 1, 2020

OHTANI Kojun
Monshu
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha



年頭の辞

新しい年のはじめにあたり、ご挨拶申し上げます。

昨年も日本をはじめ世界各地で多くの自然災害が起こりました。災害によってお亡くなりになられた方に謹んで哀悼の意を表しますとともに、被災された方に心よりお見舞い申し上げます。また、これら以外にも紛争やテロ・飢餓などによって、日々多くの方が犠牲となり、困難な生活を送ってられることも忘れてはいけません。

さて、昨年9月に、門主として初めて北米開教区を訪問させていただきましたが、これによって、カナダ・ハワイ・南米・北米の全開教区を門主としてお参りさせていただいたこととなります。各開教区、また各お寺によって、その歴史や現在の状況は異なりますが、多くのお寺が日本から移住された日本人の方とその子孫によって建立され、護持されてきました。第二次世界大戦をはじめとする様々な困難な状況にあっても、み教えを依りどころとして、お寺を大切に護ってこられた先人の方々に思いを致すとき、今日の私たちにまで浄土真宗のみ教えが受け継がれてきたことの尊く、また不思議なご縁をととても有り難く思います。

一方で日本人の方が最初に海外へ移住されてから相当の年数がたち、日系人の方々の生活も大きく変化し、また、時代状況も大きく変わりました。そのような中で、親鸞聖人が説かれた浄土真宗のみ教えは、日本人や日系人だけではなく、世界中の多くの方に伝わり、各開教区においても、様々な方がお寺へ来られるようになってきました。それは、浄土真宗のみ教えが、時代や場所を越えた普遍的な教えであるからです。すなわち、様々な悩みや苦しみを抱えるすべての人々を包み込み、摂め取ってくださる阿弥陀さまのおはたらきが普遍的であるということです。

本年も自分のこととしてみ教えを聞くとともに、多くの方にみ教えが伝わるよう努めて参りましょう。

2020年1月1日

浄土真宗本願寺派

門主 大谷光淳



Many Thanks to You All

I am writing this message after the annual temple cleanup on December 15. I am really grateful that many members and their friends came to help the BBT today! It is nice to have an annual cleanup in order to show our gratitude to the facility. Because of it, we could gather and had a great time this year. Please join us for the New Year's Eve *Joya-e* service and the New Year's Day *Gantan-e* service conducted at the clean and tidy Hondo hall.

At the end of year, I would also like to extend my deepest gratitude to all the members who have supported the Berkeley Buddhist Temple. Looking back at the year 2019, we have been able to do many things thanks to your support. We had a service almost every Sunday. To be honest, I was always nervous, checking the Hondo hall from the minister's waiting room and wondering "How many people will show up to today's service?" However, by the time the message for Dharma school started, the Hondo hall was usually filled with many people. It was really appreciative that about 70-100 people constantly attended Sunday service throughout the year. School teachers, Minister's Assistants, instrument players for gathas, sangha singers, monthly *Toban* volunteers, office staff, Padma volunteers, Dharma school student's parents, Sumito Flower Shop and so forth. Of course, the board members worked hard so that the BBT could offer services. Thanks to all those people, we could successfully complete 44 services and other activities in the year 2019

Some members drove 30-40 minutes or more to come to the temple. Different from many other BCA temples, parking is limited at the BBT. However, many of them came to the temple with a smile. Some members kindly gave a ride to others so that they could attend the service and see their Dharma friends. There were people who visibly and invisibly supported our Sunday service and temple activities, such as ministers who came as a guest speaker, Dharma!

In my Dharma message on December 1, I summarized my messages, compiling the PowerPoint slides that I had used this year. There were so many slides that it was really difficult to put them into a 20-minute slot. Although I covered various topics, as a Jodo Shinshu minister, the central focus of my messages was to share Amida Buddha's guidance or Wisdom so that each of us could live a spiritually fulfilled life. Especially, I focused on Amida Buddha's light.

Buddha, including Amida and Sakyamuni, is one who has attained Wisdom and is compassionately sharing it with those in suffering. Buddha's Wisdom is traditionally compared to light. This is because our main cause of suffering is the darkness of ignorance. We think we know ourselves. However, from Buddha's eyes, we are rather ignorant of who we are or how we live our everyday life in a true sense. In Buddha's light, we become able to see the true reality of our life more clearly, that is, our rigid and strong ego. Buddha's light, however, does not show us the true reality of our life, but also guides us for the improvement as if light also breaks the darkness. As our darkness is broken with the guidance of Buddha's Wisdom, our rigid and strong ego becomes more gentle and softer, which means we can become more humble, harmonious, compassionate, kind and so forth. This is one of the examples of how the teaching of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism practically changes us.

There are so many fights, conflicts and wars everywhere in the world. Many people get hurt, suffer and cry. While the technology has developed, fights, conflicts and wars have never decreased. I do believe the teaching of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism is the most effective remedy to decrease them. More people should encounter and be nurtured in the light of Amida Buddha so that all humans will become more humble, harmonious, compassionate and kind.

Again, thank you for your support in the year 2019. I appreciate you will continue to support the BBT in the year 2020 as well. Let us strive for the actualization of harmonious and peaceful world by sharing our teaching with more people in the world.

With gratitude (with palms together),
Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This past weekend individuals and families gathered at the temple for Osoji, the annual year-end tradition held to clean the temple in preparation for the New Year. Osoji, literally meaning big cleanup, is a custom performed in Japan towards the end of the year, offering households an opportunity to reset and start the new year refreshed. It was such a great feeling to work together with other temple members to freshen up the temple grounds in preparation for the New Year. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of those individuals who participated in the event. The temple now has a refreshed feeling and is spotless thanks to your hard work.



In addition to signifying the start of the New Year, January 1st will also bring about some changes to our temple leadership team. With the New Year, we will say goodbye to long-standing board member Denise Lapidus. From the ministerial team, we will miss both Rev. CJ Dunford and Rev. Aki Rogers as they both move to Japan to continue their ministerial education. I am extremely grateful to each of these individuals for the contributions that they have made to the temple. Their leadership will be greatly missed. I am happy to announce that Evelyn Nakano-Glenn, Ryan Matsuda, Robin McGuire, and Dennis Sakurai will be joining the board of directors in 2020. I would like to welcome and thank each of them for volunteering to serve the temple in this capacity. I encourage each of you to attend the installation of officers and introduction of board members at our January 5th Shotsuki/Dharma Family Service.

As we approach the beginning of the new year and I reflect back on the events of 2019, I am truly grateful for your support and guidance throughout the year. Because of your support and guidance, our temple was able to accomplish many “firsts” in 2019. During the past year we introduced new programming for our members and the community, including meditation sessions and a “late” morning service. This spring we awarded our first ministerial graduate student scholarship to CJ Dunford. During the summer, we conducted our first ever Dharma School Japan trip and also hired a part-time office administrative assistant. Thank you again. These are truly wonderful accomplishments. I hope to see many more “firsts” in 2020 as well.

As we wrap up the month of December, I would like to once again thank everyone for your countless hours of service to the temple. Our temple would not be what it is today without each of you. Please remember to join us on December 31st for our year end gathering Joya-e service. Following the service we will serve Toshikoshi-soba for everyone to enjoy. On January 1st, please join us to welcome in the new year at the Gantan-e service. On behalf of the temple's Board of Directors, I would like to wish each of you a safe and Happy New Year. I am truly excited for what 2020 has in store for us and hope that you share that same excitement as well. I hope to see you soon in the New Year.

Gassho,
Bradley

COMBINED DHARMA FAMILY SERVICE & SHOTSUKI MEMORIAL SERVICE

Sunday, January 5, 2020
9:30 am

Shotsuki Hoyo Service – *January 5, 2020, 9:30 AM*

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

Patricia Kaoru Abe-Calef	Tad Kawamura	Calvin Carl Steimetz
Charles Tokiuchi Aoki	Toku Kimura	George Jiro Sugihara
Masako Doi	Toshio Kenneth Kono	Iwao Lewis Suzuki
Masako Egawa	Mitsuko Kono	Sada Takahashi
Chika Takasaki Fujikawa	Uhachi Kubo	Sachio Takeda
Shima Fujioka	Shizuo Ken Kurakazu	Sally Tamie Takeda
Lily Yuriko Fujioka	Grace Marie Lindquist	Chotaro Taketa
Isamu Fujita	Mary Misako Maekawa	Bumtaro Takita
Goroku Furukawa	Menichiro Marubayashi	Takuma Tanada
Hidemi Furuzawa	Kikuyo Marubayashi	Kunika Tom
Yoneo Tom Futatsuki	Roy Maru Marubayashi	Mitsue Toriumi
Leonce Gervais	Chitoye Louise Matoba	Ronald Uchiumi
Therese Guilbert	Tsuyo Matsui	Sam Takenoshi Uchiumi
Rev. Gyodo Haguri	Shigeji Matsumoto	Rose Chiyo Uda
Tamekichi Haraguchi	Akie Mayeda	Shikano Umawatari
Fusa Haraguchi	Yoshiko Muranishi	Shawn C. Utsumi
Seitaro Hataye	Katsumi Nakagaki	Iyono Wakaye
Masami Sam Hataye	George Y. Nakahara	Mamoru Wakida
Catherine Yoshiye Hiraga	Shirley Isao Nakahara	Rev. Ryujo Yamada
Takeo Hirahara	Lawrence S. Nakano	Mike Minoru Yamamura
John Jitsutaro Hiramoto	Jiro Nakaso	Ichitaro Yamasaki
Ann Yoshiko Imada	Kimiko Nishimoto	Matsue Yamasaki
Tomomi Ito	Masayo Nitta	William Mamoru Yamasaki
Rev. Kakusho Izumi	Nancie Haruko Oda	Kimi Yamashita
Tokuo Izumi	Chiyono Okimoto	Rev. Seishin Yamashita
Kimi Kami	Fumiyo Okita	Sam Masaji Yamoto
Hisashi Kaneko	Sangoro Ouye	Frank Yokoi
Kojiro Kaneshita	Kimiko Sasaki	Minoru Yonemura
Masakazu Kawaguchi	Kimiko Sato	Yuhei Yoshiura
Masa Kawai	Emiko Shimada	

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

On Interdependence: The Second Great October Power Outage of 2019

By Diane Ames



Samsara Gas and Electric had turned off the electricity for all of Marin County as a fire prevention measure and then, to all appearances, started the Kincadee fire. Smoke filled the so-called air. As I sat in my recliner, morosely breathing as best I could, the retirement home nurse dropped by.

“I don’t have much time,” she said. “Our (limited) backup power, which has been recharging people’s oxygen compressors and ventilators, will soon run low. We may have to evacuate those who need them, some of whom are very sick. But I thought I’d see how you’re doing.”

“How do you expect a septuagenarian asthmatic to be doing?” I replied. “For sixty-one hours we’ve had no heat, no hot water, and what’s worse... (I stopped for breath.) ... no electricity to run the air conditioning, the ventilation system, or my air purifiers. I moved here partly because I thought these things ... (I stopped for breath) ... would take the smoke out of the indoor air during the next wildfire episode. And now ...”

“I know,” she sighed. “But at least the food service staff is managing to bring you meals. And we’re still able to power your nebulizer.”

“Don’t think I’m not grateful. But with my bad knee ... (I stopped for breath.) ... I wish I didn’t have to carry it up and down those stairs to plug it in. The elevator can’t work either.”

“So think Buddhist thoughts! This has all taught you an important lesson about samsara: that your control of events is limited. Everything is affected by myriad causes and conditions. Such is interdependence. Right now causes and conditions you can’t control, mostly associated with climate change and SG&E, are intervening to defeat all the measures that you have taken to protect you asthmatic lungs from bad air. Of course all this doesn’t mean that you are a helpless pawn of fate. Your actions are also part of the web of causes and conditions. For example, you have acted to surround yourself with air purifying technology which does work most of the time. But you are finding that all our technology can only function in dependence on electricity, which both natural disasters and human action can easily knock out. And along the way, you’ve learned something else: that in the end technology will not enable anybody, not even rich nations or rich people, to escape the web of causes and conditions called climate change, because everybody lives on this planet. We’ve got to remember that we’re all on it together.”

Then the electricity came back on, and I rushed to turn on my air purifiers.

**GANTAN-E
NEW YEAR SERVICE**

Wednesday, January 1, 2020

10:00 am

Greet the New Year with family and friends

**SHOTSUKI HOYO SERVICE
INSTALLATION OF BBT OFFICERS**

Sunday, January 5, 2020

9:30 am

**DHARMA FAMILY SERVICE
MOCHITSUKI AND NEW YEAR LUNCHEON**

Sunday, January 12, 2020

9:30 am

Mochitsuki And New Year Luncheon following service



Dharma School

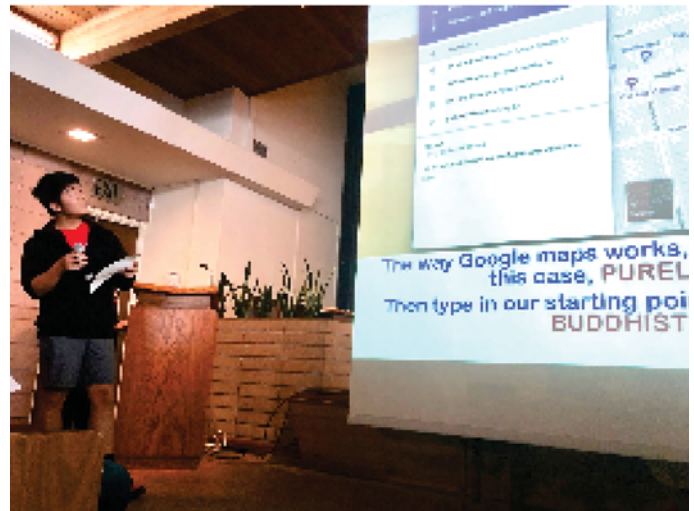
- Wednesday, Jan. 1: Gantan-e; no regular Dharma School classes
- Sunday, Jan. 5: Regular Dharma School classes
- Sunday, Jan. 12: New Year's Party and Mochitsuki; no regular Dharma School classes
- Sunday, Jan. 19: Regular Dharma School classes
- Sunday, Jan. 26: Regular Dharma School classes



**Akemashite
omedetou
gozaimasu!**

Happy Year of the Rat!

Happy New Year!



Left to right: Dr. Rev. David Matsumoto shares one of his favorite stories with the Dharma School students. Takato Kuwahara and his Dharma School classmates introduce Irene Sensei's wonderful DMV (Department of Mahayana Vehicles) Walking Meditation presentation for Bodhi Day.



This month the JYBA helped the BBT to volunteer at the Alameda County Food bank. We prepared and packaged 30 pound variety boxes for those in need. Our members found it very fun and satisfying to fit together the layers of cans, fruit juices, ramen noodles, and snacks as if it were a puzzle.

The Alameda County Food Bank donates food and services to those in need throughout the year. Our packaging equated to 8,900 pounds of food and, along with other volunteer groups, created 21,000 meals. If you are interested in helping the food bank they noted that the best way is to donate what you can. This holiday season, every dollar donated translates to 14\$ worth of food.

The JYBA hopes to continue to spread the holiday cheer this year and continue to give back to the community.



For at least the third time this year, the BBT Sangha members volunteered Dec. 14 at the Alameda County Community Food Bank in Oakland, packing food for families and individuals in need.

Thanks to Ryan Matsuda for organizing the event -- and thank you, Sangha members, for making a difference in people's lives.

Hoonko

The BBT Sangha was overjoyed in welcoming back Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto – now the President of the Institute of Buddhist Studies at the Jodo Shinshu Center – Nov. 24.

Rev. Dr. Matsumoto, the former BBT minister, was the special guest speaker for the Hoonko Service – and he was greeted by a capacity crowd. And he gave a talk that covered a multitude of topics, all with his own special brand of brilliance.

After BBT Supervising Minister Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara introduced him by noting his scholarly background and as "a very important guy," Rev. Dr. Matsumoto told the Sangha: "It's a good feeling to be back – there's a closeness, a connection. It's a warm feeling."

He spoke about Jodo Shinshu founder Shinran Shonin, about the importance of Hoonko (the most important Buddhist holiday commemorating Shinran's passing), discussed Shinran's "Shoshinge," told a story about a monkey without a tail, and talked about the importance of a name. He even included references to South African icon Nelson Mandela and lines from William Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet."

During his Dharma talk to the children, he spoke about Jodo Shinshu founder Shinran Shonin.

"He gave us a wonderful path to follow, so we're giving thanks to him," Rev. Dr. Matsumoto said.

His adult talk was titled, "What's in a Name," and he first began by quoting Shinran referring to himself as "Toku," or a "foolish stubblehead." He said that showed that Shinran was reflecting deeply about himself – expressing his name and humanity in his life – and instructing us to do the same.

Rev. Dr. Matsumoto spoke about the importance of having a name – which signifies one's identity, sense of family, ethnicity, as well as a place in this world.

He spoke about Mandela being stripped of his name for many years in prison – and being identified by only his inmate number.

After he was ordered released from prison by former State President of South Africa, Frederik Willem de Klerk, Mandela regained his name. And the two men shared the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993.

In 1994, Mandela was elected president of South Africa and forged a path toward reconciliation, bringing together the races.

"He lost and regained his name," Rev. Dr. Matsumoto said. "He regained his humanity."

Rev. Dr. Matsumoto said the Buddha has many names. And he said Shinran also knew the importance of a name.

According to Rev. Dr. Matsumoto, Shinran says the Buddhist voice used in saying "Namo Amida Butsu," embodies all the virtues of the Buddha.

"We awaken to his name. We hear his name. We are named. We encounter the Buddha – we realize Buddha's wisdom and compassion and live lives of Thanksgiving to Buddha, Shinran" and the other important Bodhisattvas in our lives, Rev. Dr. Matsumoto said.



Bodhi Day



Rev. Hirano is shown with his wife, Dr. Carmela Javellana Hirano, an integrative psychiatrist and founder of Sanctuary for Healing and Integration (SHIN) and also a minister's assistant, and with BBT Supervising Minister Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara.

On Dec 8, at the Bodhi Day Service, the special speaker was Rev. Jerry Hirano of the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple -- and he held the Sangha's attention throughout with his Dharma talk -- which was humorous, thoughtful, frank and compassionate.

"Coming here is like home," he told the crowd that packed the Hondo, saying he studied 35 years ago at the Institute of Buddhist Studies with former BBT Resident Minister Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto. And Rev. Hirano said he served as a BBT Dharma School teacher.

As a 6 year old growing up in Salt Lake City, he said the temple back then would use a Christmas tree instead of a Bodhi tree.

"Bodhi Day is not Buddhist Christmas -- Bodhi means the awakened one," Rev. Hirano said. "But for me, Bodhi Day is the day I can think of my own awakening."

He then described one of the stories -- "Rodney's Heart" -- in his book, "Teriyaki Priest."

Rev. Hirano said when he comes to Berkeley, he sees Rodney in the homeless men and women on the streets.

Rev. Hirano mentioned the story of Sujata, who is said to have fed a weakened Gautama Buddha and helped to provide him with enough strength to eventually attain Enlightenment under the Bodhi tree.

"If not for Sujata, to go beyond, to see another human, because of that act, we have benefitted over 2,600 years as Buddhists," Rev. Hirano said.

"I want you to think of becoming awakened to touch our humanity to those who you would ignore and stand away from," he said. "Listen to the Dharma ... the Dharma is in your real life, to awaken to the call to the true, real life."

He said when you "see all the suffering (of the homeless), think about Sujata and Rodney's heart."

Rev. Hirano wrapped up his Dharma talk by telling the Sangha that this -- the holiday season, with Christmas just days away -- was his favorite time of year because of the annual lights and festivities. He said he and his wife enjoyed going to see the Frank Capra holiday classic "It's a Wonderful Life," set to music at the San Francisco Symphony.

He once again said he was grateful to be at the BBT and said the temple "has played a huge part in training Buddhists. Happy Bodhi Day."

Thank You To Everyone Who Helped At Temple Clean-Up

Rev. Kuwahara
Bob Matsueda
Ron & Carol Tanaka
Rumi, Cipher & Kiki Taylor
Willie & Caroline Fernandez
Wes Fukumori
Ryan Matsuda
Lorraine Nobuye & Ted Gempf
Miki Adadchi
Jean-Yves Gervais
Anna Hamai
Akemi Hamai

Tara Umemoto
Pam Matsuoka
Florence Yokoi
Carl Wilmsen
Vernon & Karen Kato
Craig Griffin
Mimi Kagehiro
Doreen Sakamoto
Dennis Okamura

Ron Hiraga & Gayle Nishikawa
Ralph & Barbara Reid
Paul Yonemura & Maya Murashima
Takashi, Millie, Skye & Mia Nikaidoh
Susan Kajiwara
Michelle Galecki
David & Emily Ushijima



Noreen Fukumori
John Murashima
Russ Wells
Jeff Nagafuji
Parker Nagafuji
Scott Takeda



Grant Din & Rosalyn Tonai
Charlene Din
Alan Hirahara
Naomi Fukumori
Tony Hale
Dii Lewis & Joyce Oishi
Sadako Delcollo
Takato Kuwahara



Bradley Menda
Reiko
Cal Students

Visitor From The Recent Past



Serenity Thompson, the daughter of Rev. Diana Thompson of the Tri-State Denver Buddhist Temple, returned to the BBT on Dec. 1 -- where she grew up as a Dharma School student before her flight back to Denver.

Serenity was in Berkeley for the reunion of the Buddhist Youth Retreat at the Jodo Shinshu Center. Serenity is shown with her former Dharma School teachers Mimi Kagehiro and Joyce Oishi as well as BBT Supervising Minister Kiyonobu Kuwahara.

Thank You Aki and Best Wishes

In an emotional sendoff, the BBT Sangha bid farewell -- for now -- on Dec. 8 after the Bodhi Day Service to one of its key members, Minister's Assistant, Sensei Akiko Rogers, who is leaving Berkeley to return to Southern California on the way to her next adventure in Japan.

The Sangha packed the Social Hall to attend the brief ceremony -- complete with a chocolate cake -- which was led with a heartfelt speech by Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara.



Sensei Rogers -- aka Sensei Aki -- will be headed to Japan for the IBS-Ryukoku University Exchange Program. After the year-long exchange program, she plans to continue my studies in Japan, first, at Chuo Bukkyo Gakuin, a Nishi Hongwanji seminary, to earn my kyoshi certification and improve her Buddhist Japanese language skills, and then at Ryukoku University in its master's program.

Thank you, Sensei Aki, for all you've done for the BBT in these past 2 1/2 years -- and we wish you the best in the future. And, of course, we look forward to a return visit!

When I Think About the Future of Buddhism

by Tara Umemoto

I see inclusivity, change, kindness, and community, says Tara Umemoto.
I see Namu amida butsu.

From minister to lawyer, social worker to construction worker, artist to accountant, age zero to 104 – we are each here because of infinite causes and conditions. We are who we are because of our interactions with other people, our upbringing, our culture, and our experiences.

Anyone can be Buddhist, no matter their race or ethnicity or gender or sexuality or socioeconomic class or ability or language. But because of these differences, we also have different perspectives that impact the way we interact with everything around us, including Buddhism.

When I think about the future of Buddhism, I see inclusivity.

With this diversity, we need to be aware that we don't really know other people's experiences, values, and perspectives. You are talking with a new person after service and their eyes keep flickering to their phone sitting on the table.

Are they fearful of being in a new place? Anxious? Shy? What brought them to the temple? Did something happen to them before coming to the temple? Are they waiting to hear back from a loved one who is in another country?



(cont. on next page)

(Future of Buddhism continued)

When someone does something we disagree with, we need to remember that they have experiences we may not know about that affect their perspective and actions. We also need to remember that we are all human beings and Amida Buddha accepts us as we are. By having this understanding, we can be more inclusive.

When I think about the future of Buddhism, I see change.

Everything is constantly changing. This is a core Buddhist teaching. Buddhism itself has a history of change. It has adapted over time as it moves from one country to the next, one city to the next, one home to the next, one teacher to the next. With each change, each adaptation, it is not quite the same as it was.

Today, our environment is changing. Our political climate is changing. There is increasing diversity, and at the same time fear and ignorance of diversity. There is more and more technology, and with that comes both opportunities for us to connect and also new challenges: distraction, isolation, cyberbullying.

Today, youth face different types of stressors, pains, and suffering than those of past generations. Not better or worse, just different.

And, like everything else, the Buddhist community is constantly changing. Buddhism needs to adapt to meet the new needs of its ever changing members. By listening to the sangha and coming generations, we can change to meet their needs.

When I think about the future of Buddhism, I see kindness.

I was yelled at by multiple people at work. Despite knowing it was not my fault and that I had done all I could do, I kept thinking, "I have failed, I have messed up, I have made a mistake."

After work that evening, I walked onto the temple grounds, where a fellow member caught my eye. A huge smile stretched across her face and she lifted her hand to wave hello, saying, "Hi, Tara! Good to see you!"

In an instant, I could feel the anger and frustration and stress disappear, and instead I was filled with warmth and kindness and courage.

When I think about the future of Buddhism, I see community.

Whether it is deepening my understanding of the dharma, giving me a job at the bazaar fundraiser, inviting me on the camping trip, offering me a ride home, or simply listening, the temple has made me feel part of a community.

When the roof leaked, many members came out to catch the water, move the carpets, and work together to ensure the service could still happen. When a temple member fell ill, members came together to donate money, write cards, and reach out to make sure they felt supported. The community has been a constant support through the changes and struggles members have faced. It will continue to be there for others facing life's challenges.

I have had a positive experience of sangha, and not everyone has this. I met a young professional who wanted to join the community. She joined a committee but could not make the meetings because they were scheduled during work hours. This youth didn't feel included.

At a youth panel at a Buddhist conference, the majority of the time was taken up by a non-youth telling their story. These youth didn't feel heard.

This shows we have room to grow. In Buddhism, we learn that everyone has the potential to change and be better. We must be intentional about including each person who comes through our doors. We must be prepared to adapt and meet the needs of the new generation. I hope that we all can make that effort every day to continue to learn and change and do better.

When I think about the future of Buddhism, I see inclusivity. I see change. I see kindness. I see community. I see Namo amida butsu.

This article was part of Lion's Roar's "Buddhism's Next 40 Years: The Next Generation" series.

Lion's Roar is an independent non-profit foundation whose mission is to communicate Buddhist wisdom and practices in order to benefit people's lives and our society, and to support the development of Buddhism in the modern world.

For more info and to read the full series, see lionsroar.com

BERKELEY BUDDHIST TEMPLE

2020 NEW YEAR PARTY

SUN. JAN 12

9:30AM DF Service

10:30AM Mochitsuki

11:45AM New Year's Luncheon



Come celebrate the New Year with our Sangha family and friends!

We hope you and your family will be able to attend our annual Temple New Year's Party. At the service, we'll be honoring our dedicated temple volunteers, Padma and Office Staff. Mochitsuki will follow in the courtyard and we hope members of all ages will participate in the pounding and eating of freshly made mochi. Then, everyone will gather in the Social Hall for the luncheon.

Bento boxes are only available by pre-order. Please use the link below.



Please order bento online!



<https://www.berkeleybuddhisttemple.org/online-store>

Orders must be received by January 3, 2020

Name: _____

Number of Box Lunches: (Adult or Child)

ADULT: Reg. Bento _____ Vegetarian Bento _____ Total \$20 x _____ = \$ _____

CHILD: Reg. Bento _____ Total \$12 x _____ = \$ _____

Lunch Total = \$ _____

- Make check payable **Berkeley Buddhist Temple**
- Mail the order form and payment
- Orders must be received by January 3, 2020

Questions? Contact:
rumi@berkeleybuddhisttemple.org



The *Kieshiki* Affirmation Ceremony

Conducted by Bishop Umezu
of the Buddhist Churches of America
at Berkeley Buddhist Temple
on March 15th, 2020, 9:30am
(during Ohigan Service)

The Affirmation Ceremony is performed before the altar of Amida Buddha. One determines to tread the path toward Buddhahood by affirming one's reverence for the Buddha, Dharma and Sangha.

By participating in this Ceremony, one also receives a three-Chinese-character Buddhist name (Jpn. *hōmyō*). Buddhist name in the Shin Buddhist tradition is in the form of *Shaku* and two Buddhist terms which follow. The first character *Shaku* means “disciple of Sakyamuni” and signifies that the person has joined the followers of the teachings of Sakyamuni Buddha, a community that transcends race or nationality.

All pledged members of the Berkeley Buddhist Temple and their children may request an **application packet** by emailing: rumi@berkeleybuddhisttemple.org

Application deadline: March 1st, 2020
Donation for the ceremony: \$35/applicant
(Make check payable: Berkeley Buddhist Temple)

In Gassho,



Berkeley Buddhist Temple, 2121 Channing Way Berkeley CA 94704, (510)841-1356

2019 Membership Pledge

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

Scott Horstein & Antonia Glenn, Aki & Emi Nakao, Scott Takeda

If you have any questions, please contact Mimi Kagehiro.

Welcome New Members

The Berkeley Buddhist Temple welcomed four new Sangha members during the special Hoonko Service on Nov. 24.

BBT President Bradley Menda introduced Kentaro and Caitlin Yamamoto, Samuel Mori and Michelle Galecki as the newest members to the temple.

The Yamamotos, who have been attending the BBT for about three years, were actually married at the BBT in June 2018 with Rev. Candice Shibata officiating the service. Kentaro is currently attending Cal and getting his Ph.D. in Logic and Mathematics and plans to graduate in May 2020.

Mori grew up in Los Angeles attending the Nishi Hongwanji Los Angeles Betsuin in Little Tokyo. He works for a law firm that helps clients in developing affordable housing.

Galecki, who works at the Islamic Networks Group - ING, has attended the FDSTL conference in San Jose, a YABA event in San Mateo and has participated in the BBT's Satsuki bazaar.



Shown, from left, are: Institute of Buddhist Studies President and former BBT Resident Minister Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto; Minister's Assistant Sensei Akiko Rogers; Michelle Galecki; Sam Mori; Caitlin Yamamoto; Kentaro Yamamoto; BBT President Bradley Menda; new Minister's Assistant Charlene Din; and BBT Supervising Minister Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara.

TOBAN
Coordinators
Lena Yin & Pat Takeda

JANUARY TOBAN

Chair
Lena Yin

Cochairs
Miri Nikaidoh
Yuki Otake

Toban
Darren & Courtney Fujikawa
Masako Hane*
Kim & Vera Leo
Eric & Mary Lindquist
Jeff & Robin McGuire
Takashi & Miri Nikaidoh
Nobuko Nishikado*
Yoshiye Nonaka*
Gordon Oishi
Gary & Lisa Cougar Otake
Gene & Yuki Otake
Satoshi & Elaine Steimetz
Toshio & Elaine Yokoyama Tsuda
Billy Wollbrinck
George & Lena Yin

FEBRUARY TOBAN

Chair
Judy Kono

Cochairs
Emily Ushijima
Patty Fujiwara
Wes Fukumori

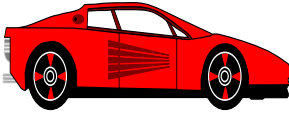
Toban
Michiko Anzai
Wes Fukumori
Jim Furuichi*
Tomoko Hamamoto*
Gail Harada
Norman Hirose*
Dina Honda
Judy Kono
Ron & Julie Kono Manning
Shizu Okino*
Makoto Oto*
Chiyo Pohan*
Akiko Rogers
David & Emily Ushijima
Roy & Alice Wakida*
Carl & Patty Fujiwara Wilmsen

* Denotes disabled and/or elderly
Toban duties optional

Silent Auction Donation

Silent Auction Donation

Satsuki Bazaar & Arts Festival



It's not too early to donate to Silent Auction 2020!
We gladly accept new, gently used, antiques, preferably boxed donations.

Artwork: Japanese artwork, house-ware, ceramics, paintings, photographs...

Electronics: iPhone, iPod, iPad, iTunes, cell phone, Google Home, Alexa,....

Entertainment: civic light opera tickets, movie passes, Lawrence Hall of Science, memberships...

Gift Certificates to your favorite restaurant, fun centers, spa treatment, massage...

Kitchen appliances: perhaps an unopened wedding gift?

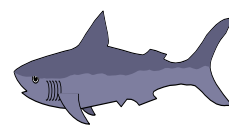
Services or lessons: yard-work, construction, swimming, SAT, math, reading, music.....

Sporting event tickets to: As, Giants, Raiders, 49ers, Sharks, Bears, Cardinal, Warriors, tee-times at golf courses, auto-racing.....

Travel: spare frequent flyer mileage.....

Weekend Get-Away: donate your condo for a weekend in Tahoe, Reno, Hawaii, wine country, Monterey bay, Europe.....

Contact Silent Auction Co-Chairs: Grant Din or Miki Adachi (AdachiMiki26@yahoo.com)





Scholarship Program

Graduate Scholarship Program

The Berkeley Buddhist Temple has a scholarship program for those attending graduate studies with the goal of achieving kyoshi status as a Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) minister.

Here are some of the terms:

- Interested parties must apply annually.
- Applications are due by January 31 each year and awards will be granted by April 30.
- Applicant must be a BBT member or immediate family member (as defined by the IRS) https://www.irs.gov/irm/part1/irm_01-025-001#idm140207100487968
- Applicant must be enrolled or expect to be enrolled in a graduate program in the school year to start in the same calendar year of the award.
- The program must result in the applicant achieving kyoshi ordination in the BCA.

If you are interested, please reach out to Wayne Sugihara at info@berkeleysangha.org and submit the enclosed application.

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	Shusho-e	New Year's Day Service
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	Hoonko	Shinran Shonin Memorial
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 child.

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 so 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.

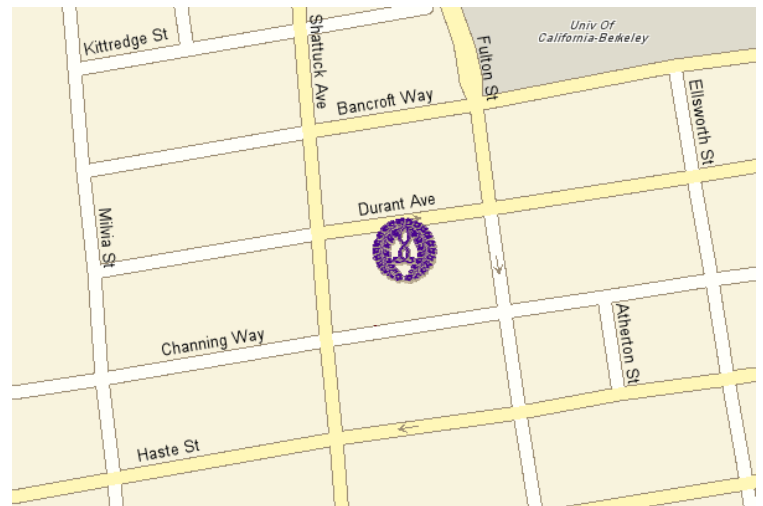
Whether you are here to satisfy a slight interest or to make a more personal connection, we wish you well and hope that you will be visiting us again soon.

Membership Information

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

To join, complete a membership form, have your name entered on the membership roll and support the Temple through a pledge and participation.

To inquire about becoming a member, please speak with our Membership Chair or Minister.



Berkeley Buddhist Temple

2121 Channing Way
Berkeley, CA 94704

Office Hours
Monday – Friday
10:00am – 1:00pm

510-841-1356

info@berkeleybuddhisttemple.org
facebook.com/BerkeleyBuddhistTemple