



WHERE IS YOUR HOMETOWN?

By Rev. Ryoko Osa

In our temple, there's a flower arrangement in front of the statue of Amida Buddha. It appears that fresh flowers are being offered to the Buddha. But the flowers are facing us. Do you know why?

The reason is the same for why Amida Buddha also faces us. It's because we receive teachings from the Buddha and the flowers. Flowers show us the truth of "impermanence." They symbolize the transient nature of life. Their beauty is not permanent but impermanent. We are encouraged to cherish them because their life is fleeting, just like ours.

Recently, I officiated the 17th year memorial service for Mr. Fukuji Tanji, father of Alice Horio, one of our dharma school teachers. Many of you may remember Mr. Tanji. He and his family lived in Concord, but he brought his family—wife and three children—to our temple every Sunday for service, which was quite a feat, especially since the Caldecott tunnel wasn't yet built, so the drive was arduous and long, winding through the hills to Berkeley.

Mr. Tanji also was active in

the Concord Howakai. Whenever I hear stories from more than 50 years ago, I imagine life in those days and wonder how many things have changed since that time. For example, someone told me how in childhood, he attended Japanese school at our temple. Now as an adult, he sees reminders of that time in the temple building itself, for example in a certain wall or an old faucet.

In Japan, I grew up in an industrial part of Saitama Prefecture, north of Tokyo. There were many factories and buildings used as housing for company workers. Now, they are all gone. Japan's economy has changed and those factories are no longer needed. In their place is a completely new city. There are no reminders of my childhood home when I was a little girl. Those reminders are only in my mind. Even those memories are slowly fading away.

So when I hear people recall fond memories of their past by coming to the temple, I realize that for many of us, our temple has become our furusato, which is Japanese for "hometown." Even if we live in a different place and the home where we grew up no

longer exists, we can think of our temple as our furusato.

There's a popular old song that kids learned growing up in Japan called Furusato.

In English, it goes like this:
I wonder if my parents are doing well. I wonder if my old friends are alright. When it rains, when the wind blows, I think of my hometown.

Once I've done what I set out to do, I'll return home one of these days where the mountains are green, my hometown. And the water is clear, my hometown. I still dream of those days even now. Oh, how I miss my hometown.

If we lose our hometown, what can we do? In Jodo Shinshu, we are told that wherever we are, whenever it may be, the light of Great Compassion shines on us. We are reminded of this truth whenever we recite, "NAMU AMIDA BUTSU." It is like thinking about a hometown where we may return at any time. "NAMU AMIDA BUTSU" is the Buddha's wish for us to attain true peace. If we truly listen to these teachings, we find in "NAMU AMIDA BUTSU" an eternal compassion that fills us like a warm embrace from our parents.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 2023



Date	Day	Time	Event
5	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Family service/Dharma school
		12pm - 4pm	Spring Food Bazaar (preordered only)
12	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Shotsuki/Dharma School
		11:00 a.m.	WBA meeting
19	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Spring Higan service
21	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Temple board meeting
26	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Pet memorial service/Family Service/Dharma School

April

2	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Family service/Dharma school
9	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Hanamatsuri Buddha's Birthday Service Shotsuki/Dharma School

Please check out more detail the calendar on our website. <https://www.bombu.org/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH TOBAN

(Toban #2) *Eiko Iwata, Toyoko Araki, Jane Fujii, Anna Hightower, Hiroko Higuchi, Shirley Imai, Tazuko Jitosh, Karen Morioka, Sachiye Toyofuku, Mimi Shiraishi.*

Teruo Asazawa, Chosei Shinoda, Alice Fujikawa, Fumiko Yokota, Kimiyo Sasaki, Leslie Madden-Rizzo, Kazuhito Suzuki, Riichi Imada, Yoshiko Hikoyeda, Masao Omori, Kanoë Ota, Maia Keyanna Hightower-Johnson

that animals, as well as humans, surrounded the Buddha when he passed away, symbolizing how they also are a part of the Buddha Dharma. Bring a picture or drawing of your pet, along with your memories to this special service.

SPRING HIGAN SERVICE

The spring equinox "Higan" Service will be held on March 19 at 10 a.m. Higan commemorates the spring equinox, when day and night are equal lengths for just one day, expressing the truth of impermanence. Please join us for this special service.

We hope you will attend this service.

SUNDAY SERVICE

We will continue Hybrid services, but encourage you to come to your temple. No RSVPs are needed. Masks are required. We recommend you come to the temple, but if you cannot attend in person for health reason or you live far away, you can join via Zoom. (Meeting ID: 854 0846 8091 Passcode: 539501).

HANAMATSURI SERVICE

On Sunday April 9, a Hanamatsuri Buddha's Birthday service will be held.

BUDDHISM LEARNING GROUP

What does it mean to recite "Namu Amida Butsu"? For a deeper understanding of Buddhism, please join me and others to read Shoshinge and discuss the meaning behind Shinran's words. The online class runs from 4:00-4:45 p.m. every Monday.

SHOTSUKI MEMORIAL SERVICE

Families observing a Shotsuki monthly memorial service for loved ones in March are *Usakichi Nomura, Carl Kurahara, Shige Fujii,*

PET MEMORIAL SERVICE

A "pet memorial" service will be held on March 26. It is said

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BIG THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING:

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF REVEREND YASUSHI KIGOSHI He has been staying in Berkeley as a visiting scholar of UC Berkeley. Thank you for your understanding and support, he has been living in the Mochi House since last April. He will go back to Kyoto, Japan through Honolulu on March 14th. He had a great time in Berkeley with your support.

EITAIKYO SERVICE RECEPTION Thank you to the following temple members who helped serve and provide delicious refreshments at the Eitai-kyo Service Reception: Clayton Au, Jayson Lee, Janice Adachi, Wendy Adachi, Shirley Imai, Eiko Iwata, Tazuko Jitosh, Elsie Lum, Connie Morita, and Michi Takata.

Thank you everyone for your donations, time, energy and support. Because of you, our temple exists for us and for future generations. Help us by calling or emailing the temple if names are inadvertently omitted from acknowledgements or donations. Domo arigato gozaimashita!

BUDDHIST RITUALS AND SYMBOLS

Gassho In Jodo Shinshu, "gassho" is the time we place our hands together in a "prayer position," which symbolizes "oneness," such as the oneness of ignorance and wisdom, life and death. Together with reciting "Namu Amida Butsu," gassho expresses our gratitude and appreciation.

Nenju Also referred to as "ojuzu," the nenju is the Buddhist prayer beads used in Jodo Shinshu. They are placed around the hands for "gassho," symbolizing many Buddhist teachings, such as the Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha, as well as the oneness of life. The nenju always is carried in the left hand. We use the nenju when reciting the Nembutsu (thus, the name "nen" ju)

DONATIONS

Pledge 2023		Donations		Nina Costales & Robert Garvey 50 (in memory of Robert Garvey Sr)
Kihara family	200	Kevin & Christine Sullivan	52.48	Nina Costales & Robert Garvey 50 (in memory of Edward Garvey)
Lynn Wade	200	Dennis Hirota	204.47	Tazuko Jitosh 30 (in memory of February)
Yoko Tsuno	100	(In memory of Kanoe Ota)		Dick & Alice Horio 50 (in memory of Fukuji Tanji)
Wayne Kurahara	50	Shotsuki		Ken & Naomi Yamada 150 (in memory of Jack Kanbara)
Toyoko Araki	300	Satoshi Iwahashi	510.44	Gregory Takahashi 50 (in memory of Cathy Takahashi)
Diane Nishioka	100	(in memory of Calvin Iwahashi)		Charles & Helen Hinson 150 (in memory of Jack Kanbara)
Wayne Kurahara	50	Robert & Julie Kihara	50	Mike Yatabe 100 (in memory of Ayako Yatabe)
Diane Nishioka	100	(in memory of)		Sachiko Yamada & Barbara Inouye 25 (in memory of William Yamada)
Donations		Darlene Wong	41.29	Shirley Imai 50 (in memory of Brent Moriwaki)
Jeffrey & Satoko Davidson	100	(in memory of Aya Yatabe)		Eitai-Kyo, Perpetual Memorial and pledge donations will be listed next month
Shirley Imai	100	Mildred Nakai	100	
(In memory of Alice Mitani)		(in memory of Yoshio Nakai & Kazuko Yokota)		
Sentimental Strummers	225	Shizuko and Gary Asazawa	50	
Geoffrey Cantrell & Anne Takefuji	500	(in memory of Jody Asazawa)		
Norma Yamauchi	100	Christine & Kevin Sullivan	50	
Rev. Kigoshi	1000	(in memory of Minoru Ikuta)		
Shizuka Ogishima	100	Eiko Iwata	50	
Anonymous	1000	(in memory of Shizuko Uyeno)		
		Mike & Diane Nishioka	50	
		(in memory of)		
		Nina Costales & Robert Garvey	50	
		(in memory of Hanayo Miyagi)		

パークレー東本願寺会報

2023年3月号

3月お寺の行事予定

5日(日)	午前10時	家族礼拝
12日(日)	午前10時	祥月、ダルマスクール
19日(日)	午前10時	彼岸会法要／ダルマスクール
21日(火)	午後7時	仏教会定例理事会
26日(日)	午前10時	家族礼拝 ペット追悼法要
4月9日	午前10時	花祭り法要

お寺の日曜礼拝にはマスクをご着用の上、ご参詣ください。

お寺でのお参りがご心配な方はzoomにて午前10時のお参りいただけます。

Meeting ID: 854 0846 8091 Passcode: 539501

日本語法話会(ズーム): 毎週木曜日午後4時からオンライン日本語法話会を開催しています。
ご興味のある方は長開教使までご連絡ください。

3月当番(当番2): えいこ岩田、ヨコアラキ、ジェーン藤井、アナハイタワー、ヒロコヒグチ、シャーリー今井、地頭所多鶴子、カレン盛岡、豊福さちえ、ミミ白石(敬称略)

今月の祥月法要: 12(日)午前10時より勤められます。今月の施主は藤川、篠田、横田、鈴木、佐々木、今田、藤井、浅沢、野村、倉原、彦枝、大森、大田の諸家です。

彼岸法要: 春の彼岸会法要が3月19日(日)午前10時より勤められます。お誘い合わせお参り下さい。



ふるさと

長 良子

お寺の内陣の仏様の前には花が生けられます。仏様にお供えするお花なのに、正面が私たちの方に向かっていています。なぜ私たちに向かっていているのでしょうか？それは、仏様のお顔が私たちに向いているのと同じことで、仏様が何かを伝えようとされているからです。何かというのはもちろん仏様の教えです。生花をこちらに向けるのは「無常」という私たちの現実を伝えるためです。美しい花も生き物である以上いつかは枯れてしまいます。儚いからこそ私たちはよりいっそう美しいと感じるのでしょう。

先日、丹治ふくじさん(ダルマスクールの先生のアリスのお父様)の十七回忌を勤めさせていただきました。その時に故人についてご家族からお話を聞かせていただきました。いまから50、60年ほど前でしょうか。3人のお子さんを連れてご両親は毎週欠かさずコンコードのご自宅からパークレーのお寺の日曜礼拝にお参りされていたそうです。また、ふくじさんはコンコード法話会の方でも大変ご活躍されておられたそうです。一昔前の賑やかなお寺お話を聞くたびに羨ましくもあり、時代の変化を感じます。

また他の方ですが、同じ頃、日本語学校のためにお寺に通っていて、今でもお寺の壁などさまざまな部分を見るたびに幼いころの風景が思い出される、とおっしゃっていました。

私は幼い頃、埼玉の工場が立ち並ぶ工業団地で育ちました。日本経済の変化により工場が閉鎖、団地も人も姿を消し、今は街全体がすっかり新しい街へとその姿を変えました。幼いころの生活を思い出させるものはありません。思い出だけが私の中に残されましたがその思い出さえも今は消えつつあります。現代社会において私たち個人の生活も急激に変わりつつあります。そのような中で、私たちのお寺が、今も皆様にとって変わることのない大切な懐かしいふるさとになっていることに感動しました。ここで日本のうた「ふるさと」から一節を引用します。

如何にいます父母 恙なしや友がき
雨に風につけても 思いいずる故郷
こころざしをはたして いつの日にか帰らん
山はあおき故郷 水は清き故郷

幼いころに慈悲を受け守られ育てられたという原体験は、無自覚なままでも今の私たちの支えとなっていることでしょう。

では生まれ育った家や街がなくなったらどうしたらよいのでしょうか。実は、物質としての形を持たない南無阿弥陀仏という六字が私たちの心のふるさとなのだと思うのです。無数のいのちの願い、仏の慈悲がそこにつまっているのです。こころの耳をすまし目をあければ、親が幼い私たちを暖かく抱きしめてくれたように、南無阿弥陀仏が私たちを包んでいることに気づくことができるのではないのでしょうか。

Words of the Month | 今月の言葉

The working of wisdom and compassion itself is the “Buddha”.

智慧・慈悲のはたらき そのものが
「仏」なのです



If you have an email address, please consider switching to a paperless subscription. Please contact the temple if you are interested. Thank you.



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Address Correction Requested