



## WHY FUNERALS ARE IMPORTANT

By Ryoko Osa

Recently, families who do not have funerals have increased, and when they do, they are often held at mortuaries.

Funerals held at temples provide a warm, family-like atmosphere to send off the deceased, and the family and friends of the deceased seem to be able to accept the death, even in the midst of grief, through the rituals and the presence of those attending the ceremony, by having this opportunity for a public farewell.

Especially when we send off a member who had a deep connection with the temple, the members take on various roles such as setting up the social hall, receptionist, representative of the offering of incense, the eulogy, so on.

When we experience the death of a loved one, we ponder the meaning of life and death. This is accompanied by an emotional shock that is too strong for one person to bear alone. The next step is to face death in the context of the community. Together we mourn the deceased, share memories, comfort each other, express our gratitude to the deceased, and learn together in the community to realize that death is a natural

and inescapable part of life.

A long time ago, it was commonplace for the community to prepare and carry out the funeral service. This is how we have come to accept death. At the funeral, a brief history of the deceased is read, and we hear about the history of the deceased that we have never known before, that is, the hardships the deceased had to deal with and overcome, such as hardships caused by social conditions, deaths in the family, etc., as well as his/her love interests and family relations.

These days, many people say that they do not want to give their family any trouble after their death and that they do not need to hold a funeral service. Even so, we know that "death" is as much an event beyond our understanding as "birth," that it is a point of contact with the infinite, that it is inexplicable, unexplainable, that it is logically unacceptable for us, and that it is something special that should not be passed over in our daily lives. That is why we want to do something special when we come in contact with the death of someone close to us. However, those who are not involved with any temple are at a loss as to where to turn to for

help. This is true even for those who are studying meditation. Meditation is very popular now, and there are meditation centers all over the place, but when I asked if the community would hold a funeral or something if a member or his/her family member passed away, they told me that many members gather for meditation and study, not rituals, so there is no funeral or anything like that conducted there.

Now, what about our temple? I think that members of we, Berkeley Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple, can prepare themselves and their families with a great sense of security because they know that if their family member passes away, they will be seen off at the temple and that the members will support them. This sense of security will be able to be created by the Sangha, not by individual meditation.

It is precisely because we live in an age of individualism that we need to conduct the rites of seeing off of the deceased by the whole community, and I believe that the Sangha will play a major role through funerals in the future. I feel that the Sangha rituals have the potential to spread the teachings of the Buddha, which liberate people from suffering.



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## October 2023



Date	Day	Time	Event
1	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Family service/Dharma school
8	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Shotsuki service (monthly memorial)
		11:00 a.m.	WBA meeting
15	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Family service/Dharma school
17	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Temple board meeting
22	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Family service/Dharma school
29	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Kaikyo-ki (Former ministers' memorial service) Dharma school/Keirokai
<b>November</b>			
5	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Family service/Dharma school
12	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Hōonkō Service

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**OCTOBER TOBAN**  
(group #3) Naomi Yamada, Kim Chew, Mashi Eshima Johnson, Julie Kihara, Connie Morita, Kellie Ouye, Nina Rizzo, Lesli Jo Sawada, Carrie Yoshida, Katy Yamada, Lorraine Yoshikawa.

**SUNDAY SERVICE**  
Services are now offered in-person! No RSVP needed. We look forward to seeing you at temple, but you can also attend via Zoom if you live far away or have to stay home for health reasons. Meeting ID: 854 0846 8091 Passcode: 539501.

**SHOTSUKI MEMORIAL SERVICE**  
We will hold the Shotsuki monthly memorial service on October 8th at

10 a.m. This is a hybrid service and open to everyone. The following families will observe memorials for loved ones this month: Akiko Costales, Ellen Monroe, Ernie Nagatoshi, Masami Higuchi, Mrs. Ito Yatabe, Mrs. Moto Yanaba and Mrs. Fumiko Yanaba, Mrs. Yoshino Nomura, Robert Yamada, Shizuko Takata, Shizuo Yoshikawa, Tad Moriwaki, Takane Eshima.

**HO-ONKO (SHINRAN SHONIN ANNUAL MEMORIAL)**  
Literally the "biggest" service in our Jodo Shinshu tradition is Hōonkō, the annual memorial service for Shinran Shonin, upon whose life and writings Jodo Shinshu is based. We will hold the service on November 12th at 10 a.m.

**DHARMA SCHOOL UPDATE**  
Dharma School celebrated the first day of school on Sunday, September 10th with a bagel party. Thank you to everyone that attended the event and a special thank you to Steve & Owen Morioka for the donuts. For information about Dharma School, please contact [mdbeppu@gmail.com](mailto:mdbeppu@gmail.com).

**KEIROSHA**  
If you know any new Keirosha (who have reached age 75 years) of our temple this year, please let the temple know.



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## Big Thank You To The Following:

**GARDEN PRUNING** - Dennis Makishima, and the Aesthetic Pruners Association for pruning and shaping trees and generally enhancing the Japanese-style of our temple garden. Thank you for your help, *Jimmy Kihara, Tom Morioka, Anna Hightower, Richard Shiraishi, Kevin Lee, Owen Morioka, Taro Yokoyama*. Thank you to the WBA who always serve delicious lunches: *Eiko Iwata, Toyoko Araki, Mimi Shiraishi, Tazuko Jitoshu*.

Thank you everyone for your donations, time, energy and support. Because of you, our temple exists for us and for future generations. Please call the temple if your name was inadvertently omitted from acknowledgements or donations. Domo arigato gozaimashita!

## DONATIONS

### 2023 Pledges

Christopher Pong & Anthony Marzo	100
Wayne Kurahara	50
Lynn Wade	200

### Donation

Leslie Lethridge (In Memory Sachi Yamada)	102.48
Constance & Kent Matsumoto	250
Malon Ugaki (Donation from Jane Rouzer)	60
Higashi Honganji (Shinshu Otani-ha)	
USA HQ	600
Darlene Hamady (In Memory of Sachi Yamada)	51.49
Myron Okada (In Memory of Sachi Yamada)	51.49
Yamada family	1000
Sachi Yamada c/o Yamada family	600

### Summer Bazaar

Morris & Chris Moriuchi	30
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### 2020 Fund Raising Drive

Shannon & Satoko Davidson	100
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### Obon

Jane Fujii	50
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### Shotsuki Memorial Service

Lynn Wade (In Memory Janet Jung)	100
June Iwahashi (In Memory Kiyoko Iwahashi)	100
Thomas Fukuman (In Memory Sebastian)	50
Kumiko Koroiva (In Memory Takaji Matsunaga)	25
Kimberlie/Bruce Moriwaki/Louie (In Memory Nancy Moriwaki)	50
Tazuko Jitoshu	50
Sachiye Toyofuku (In Memory Noriko Yanaba)	50
Grant Tominaga (In Memory Tomeo Tominaga)	25
Alice Neishi (In Memory Tom Tominaga)	50
Jim Hiwano	50
Ichiko Jitoshu (In Memory Kasuko Jitoshu)	100
Kaz & Michi Takata (In Memory Chiyoji, Hideko & Ernie Nagatoshi & Asako Tamekuni)	400
Gerald & Barbara Hanabusa (In Memory Chiyoji Nagatoshi)	25
Gary & Anne Tominaga (In Memory Tom Tominaga)	50

The Doi Family c/o Yoshiko Scion 153.48  
(In Memory Kizo Doi)

Mashi Johnston (In Memory Tak Eshima)	153.48
Alan Yanaba (In Memory Noriko Yanaba)	25
Agnes Kubota Gotuaco (In Memory Shoji Kubota)	50
Ryu Inoue (In Memory Jean Nagatomi)	100
Gary & Anne Tominaga (In Memory Fumie Tominaga)	50
Lorraine Yoshikawa (In Memory Shizuo Yoshikawa)	30
Alice Neishi (In Memory Fumie Tominaga)	50
Nancy Kubota (In Memory Shoji Kubota)	50
Grant Tominaga (In Memory Fumie Tominaga)	25
Dick & Alice Horio (In Memory Toshiye Tanji)	50
Nina Costales & Robert Garvey (In Memory Rita Garvey)	75

Please note, donation acknowledgments will not appear in the Bombu on the same month as the donations are made due to processing time.

## First Day of School



# バークレー東本願寺会報

## 2023年10月号

### 10月お寺の行事予定

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: 5395013

1日(日)	午前10時	日曜礼拝
8日(日)	午前10時	祥月法要、ダルマ・スクール
15日(日)	午前10時	日曜礼拝、ダルマ・スクール
17日(火)	午後7時	仏教会定例理事会
22日(日)	午前10時	日曜礼拝、ダルマ・スクール
29日(日)	午前10時	開教忌法要

### 11月お寺の行事予定

12日(日) 午前10時 報恩講

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**10月当番(当番3):** 山田直美、ケーティ山田、チュウ キム、えしま Johnston マシ、木原 ジュリー、森田カーニー、大上ケリー、さわだレスリージョー、吉田カリー、芳川ロレイン、ニナリッツォ(敬称略)

**祥月法要:** 10月8日(日)午前10時より、祥月法要が勤められます。今月の施主は、渡辺、樋口、吉井、高田、築場、野村、森田、ながとし、やたべ、彦江打、大谷、中澤、山田、えしま、もりわき、芳川、コスタレス、大谷の諸家であります。お誘い合わせお参り下さい。(敬称略)

<http://www.facebook.com/berkeleyhigashi/> live このリンクからご参加ください。





# お葬式

長 良子

最近日本でもアメリカでも、お葬式をしない家族が増えており、またお葬式をする場合も葬儀所で行われることが多くなっています。お寺でつとめられるお葬式では、家庭的な温かな雰囲気の中で亡き人をお見送りし、残された家族や友人もこの公の別れの機会があることによって、悲しさの中においても儀式と参列者の存在そのものによって、受けとめ難い死を受けとめられているように見えます。

特にお寺と深いつながりのあったメンバーの方をお送りする場合、メンバーが昼食会場の設営や受付、司会、代表焼香、弔辞など様々な役を担います。

私たちが近い人の「死」を経験する際、まずごく近い家族である生きている「私」が「死」と対面します。そこには一人では抱えることができないほどの強い感情的衝撃が伴います。次の段階として、共同体の中での「死」との対面があります。共に故人の死を嘆き、思い出を語り、慰め合い、感謝し、死は免れない自然なことであると実感として、共同体の中で共に学ぶことができます。

ひと昔前は、共同体が葬儀の準備と実行をすることは当たり前でした。そうやって、私たちは死を受けとめてきたのです。葬儀では亡き人の略歴が読まれ、今まで知ることがなかった故人の歴史、つまり時局による苦難、家族の死など、故人が乗り越えたあるいは抱えていた苦しみ、そして故人が愛した趣味、家族との関わりの話を聞き、この世にその方が確かに生きた軌跡を心にやきつけ、お見送りします。

この頃、自分が死んだ後、残された家族に面倒はかけたくないので葬儀は簡素にあるいはしなくていいと、言われる方が多くなりました。そうはいっても「死」は「生」と同等に私たちの理解を超える事象であり、無限との接点であり、言葉にならないこと、受けとめきれないこと、日常に流してはならない特別なことであるということを私たちは知っています。だからこそ近い人の死に接し何か特別なことをしたいと私たちは思うのです。しかし、お寺に関わりがない方はどこに何を頼めばよいかわからないと途方に暮れます。瞑想を勉強している人でもそうです。今、瞑想が人気で、瞑想センターがあちらこちらにあります。メンバー本人あるいはその家族が亡くなったら、そのコミュニティでは葬儀か何かするのか尋ねたところ、多くのメンバーは儀式ではなく、瞑想や勉強のために集まるので、葬儀等はないということでした。

さて、私たちのお寺はどうでしょうか。パークレー東本願寺のメンバーは、もし自分の家族が亡くなったらお寺で見送られる、メンバーが支えてくれると知っているので本人も家族も大きな安心感を持ち心の準備ができるのではないのでしょうか。この安心感は、故人が行う瞑想ではなくサンガによってつくられる安心感です。



個人主義の現代だからこそ共同体による死者のお見送りが必要で、これから葬儀を通してサンガが大きな役割を果たしていくと思えてなりません。苦しみから解放される仏の教えがサンガによる儀式によって広がっていく可能性を感じます。

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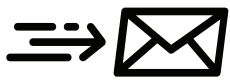
**Words of the Month** | 今月の言葉

Amida Buddha is the illuminating light, expressing wisdom.

(Notes on Essentials of Faith Alone by Master Shinran)

阿弥陀仏は光明なり 光明は智慧のかたちなり

(親鸞聖人 唯信鈔文意より)



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