



THE APPEARANCE OF SERENITY

By Rev. Ryoko Osa

The plum blossoms in our temple fully bloomed in February. This month, we will be delighted by the cherry blossoms as well. These flowers are especially cherished in Japan. They convey the teachings of Buddhism. During the winter, the plum and cherry trees shed their leaves, exposing themselves to the cold air. Although they may appear stark, the natural curves formed by their trunks and branches, devoid of any machine-like straight lines or angles, offer a serene and beautiful sight upon closer inspection.

Now, as many of you may know, Rev. Paul Imahara passed away in January. Since my family started our new life in Los Angeles from Japan, we have received much support and have built a close relationship with Rev. Imahara. Like the leaves of summer cherry trees, Paul was vibrant and full of energy. And naturally, over the past few years, he matured like the

whole winter cherry tree.

At the Higashi Honganji Temple, there is an inside mural called "Old Willow and Sleeping Egret" by Takeuchi Seiho. It depicts a beautiful white egret peacefully sleeping on top of an old large willow tree, painted in pure white. In this world of only black and white, no sound is heard, only silence prevails. The old willow is painted in ink, while the parts not covered in ink remain the color of the background, yet they give the impression of being covered in snow despite not being painted as such. And in this painting, the striking white color, which is the delicate and elegant white color unique to Japanese painting materials, is the egret that everyone's eyes are drawn to. In a world of black and white, the curled figure of the egret and the snow on top of the old tree evoke a sense of tranquility and coldness. It's a lonely painting, yet beautiful, and from the thickness of the old

willow's trunk and the long, slender toes of the egret gripping the tree, a sense of stability in that world is conveyed. This painting expresses Nirvana Silence.

When I worked at Higashi Honganji Temple in Kyoto, I introduced this painting many times during guided tours. Each time I saw it, I learned from this painting that Nirvana Silence is a peaceful and quiet world.

The appearance of Nirvana Silence may seem lonely, but it is a stable and pure world where joys and sorrows have ended. Although we who are alive cannot yet enter it, the appearance of Nirvana Silence heals those who see it and calms our troubled hearts. Through the winter plum and cherry blossoms, the inside mural, and the passing of Paul, we can feel the pure Nirvana Silence.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 2024



Date	Day	Time	Event
3	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Family service/Dharma school
		12:00 p.m.	Food bazaar
10	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Shotsuki/Dharma School
		11:00 a.m.	WBA meeting
17	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Spring Higan service
19	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Temple board meeting
24	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Pet memorial service/Family Service/Dharma School Speaker is Rev. Harry Kigoshi @ temple
31	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	NAD joint Sunday Service ONLINE only from LA https://www.facebook.com/hhbt.la/live

April

7	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Hanamatsuri Buddha's Birthday Service Shotsuki/Dharma School
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Please check out more detail the calendar on our website. <https://www.bombu.org/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH TOBAN
(Toban #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
We will continue Hybrid services, but encourage you to come to your temple. No RSVP is 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).

SHOTSUKI MEMORIAL SERVICE
Families observing a Shotsuki monthly memorial service for loved ones in March are *Usakichi Nomura, Carl Kurahara, Shige Fujii, Teruo Asazawa, Chosei Shinoda, Alice Fujikawa, Fumiko Yokota, Kimiyo Sasaki, Leslie Madden-Rizzo, Kazuhito Suzuki, Riichi Imada, Yoshiko Hikoyeda, Masao Omori, Kanoé Ota.* We hope you will attend this service.

SPRING HIGAN SERVICE
The spring equinox "Higan" Service will be held on March 17 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.

NAD JOINT SUNDAY SERVICE
This joint District service will be held on March 31. No service at the temple. Online only from LA Betsuin. Please join the service from this link. <https://www.facebook.com/hhbt.la/live>

PET MEMORIAL SERVICE
A "pet memorial" service will be held on March 24. It is said 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. Rev. Harry Kigoshi will also give

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a presentation on the results of a survey at our temple.

HANAMATSURI SERVICE

On Sunday April 7, a Hanamatsuri Buddha's Birthday

service will be held at our temple. Our guest speaker is Rev. Kodo Umezu, former bishop of Buddhist Churches of America.

STUDY CLASS

In addition to the live-streaming

of Sunday services, there is a zoom Shoshinge class on Mondays at 4 p.m. And Japanese Dharma zoom Gathering on Thursday 4:00 p.m. If you are interested, please contact me at ryoko.osa@gmail.com.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BIG THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING:

JAPAN STUDENT LUNCHEON - Thank you to the folks who contributed to the luncheon: *Steve Chin, Satoko Davidson, Jane Fujii, Alice Horio, Eiko Iwata, Tazuko Jitoshu, Karen Morioka, Steven Morioka, Lynne Neishi, Sherman Takata, Gary Tominaga, and Artie Yamashita.*

EITAIKYO SERVICE RECEPTION - Thank you to the WBA for setting up and serving post service snacks. A special thank you to *Eiko Iwata, Tazuko Jitoshu, and Naomi Yamada* for bring additional snacks.

ALTAR TABLE REPAIR - Thank you to Dick Horio.

KURIMANJU - Thank you to *Janice Adachi, Wendy Adachi, Gray Castleberry, Tracy Chan, Nina Costales, Satoko Davidson, Jane Fujii, Anna Hightower, Alice Horio, Eiko Iwata, Tazuko Jitoshu, Karen Morioka, Connie Morita, Denice Nakano, Nina Rizzo, Mimi Shiraishi, Lisa Toyama, Connie Wong, Naomi Yamada, Debbie Yatabe, and Lorraine Yoshikawa.*

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!

DONATIONS

Pledge 2024

Toyoko & David Araki	300
Adam Yoshikawa	100
Lorraine Yoshikawa	1000

Donations

Allan & Nancy Hikoyeda (2024 Spring Food Bazaar)	51.49
Penny Mori (2024 Spring Food Bazaar and Ohtani Basketball)	51.49

Nina Rizzo (in memory of Leslie Madden-Rizzo)	25.99
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Shotsuki

Shizuko & Gary Asazawa (In memory Jody Asazawa)	50
Shirley Imai (In memory Brent Moriwaki)	30
Grace Kubota - Yee (In memory Chidori Kubota)	50

Constance Morita (In memory M. Morita)	50
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Darlene Wong (In memory Ayako Yatabe)	41.29
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Norma Yamauchi	100
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Michael Yatabe (In memory Ayako Yatabe)	100
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Additional donations will be shown in next month issue.

パークレー東本願寺会報

2024年3月号

3月お寺の行事予定

3日(日)	午前10時	家族礼拝
	正午	フードバザー
10日(日)	午前10時	祥月、ダルマスクール
17日(日)	午前10時	彼岸会法要／ダルマスクール
19日(火)	午後7時	仏教会定例理事会
24日(日)	午前10時	家族礼拝 ペット追悼法要
31日(日)	午前10時	NAD合同日曜礼拝

31日のお参りはお寺ではなくオンラインの中継になります。このリンクからご参詣ください。

<https://www.facebook.com/hhbt.la/live>

4月

4月7日	午前10時	花祭り法要	ご法話:梅津広道師
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お寺にお参りするのが心配な方はzoomにて午前10時のお参りにご参加いただけます。

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3): 山田直美、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(敬称略)

今月の祥月法要: 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17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。



涅槃寂静の姿

長 良子

お寺の梅の花が2月に満開になりました。今月には桜の花も私たちの目を楽しませてくれることでしょう。日本で特に愛されるこれらの花は、仏教の教えを伝えています。梅と桜の木は冬の間、葉を落とし、冷たい空気の中にその姿をさらしています。一見すると寒々しいですが、幹と枝が織りなす自然の曲線は、単純な直線や角度は一つとしてなく、じっくりみると美しさと静けさに癒されます。

さて、ご存知の方も多いと思いますが開教使であったポール今原さんが1月にお亡くなりになりました。私たち家族が日本からロサンゼルスでの新生活を始めたときからポールさんにはお世話になり親しい関係を築かせていただきました。ポールさんは桜の夏の葉のように活発でエネルギーに満ちておられ、ここ数年は冬の桜の木のように円熟してこられていました。

東本願寺には「古柳眠鷺」という竹内栖鳳の障壁画があります。古い大きな柳の木の上で静かに眠る白鷺の姿が美しい清浄な白で描かれています。白と黒しかないその世界からは音が聞こえず、ただただ静かです。古柳は墨で描かれています、墨で描かれていない部分は下地の色のままで着色していないのに雪が積もっているようです。そしてこの絵でたった一色、それも日本の絵の具の儂い雅な白色、誰もがそこに目を注ぐ際立った白色が白鷺です。黒と白の世界で、鷺の丸めた姿と古木の上にある雪によって静けさと寒さを感じさせます。寂しい絵ですが、美しく、古柳の幹の太さと、長く細い鷺の足指(趾)が木にしっかりと捕まっている様子から、その世界の安定感が伝わってきます。この画が表現しているのは涅槃寂静です。

私は京都の東本願寺に勤めていた時、諸殿案内で何度もこの絵を紹介してきました。見るたびに、涅槃寂静というのは安らかな静かな世界であることをこの絵から学びました。

涅槃寂静の姿は寂しく見えますが、楽しみも苦しみも終わった安定した清浄な世界です。生きている私たちはまだその中に入れませんが、涅槃寂静の姿は見るものを癒し、私たちの混乱した心を鎮めてくれます。冬の梅や桜、障壁画、そしてポールさんが亡くなる姿をとおして、私たちは清らかな涅槃寂静を感じることができます。

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



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Address Correction Requested