

MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

By Bishop Noriaki Ito

Amid pandemic worries, we now are faced with another major challenge—social justice. The death of George Floyd by police in Minneapolis sparked protests that quickly spread throughout the country and the world. It's just the latest incident in which African Americans have been unduly and at times viciously treated by law enforcement.

Somehow, we are more divided than ever. We're already worried about another surge in coronavirus infections due to the reopening of states, and now protests and demonstrations with crowds of people close together add to the risks. Although the protest movement began earlier in African American communities, today's demonstrators represent a broad diversity of people, including Whites, Latinos, and Asians, as well as people from various backgrounds, income levels, and age groups.

As a religious leader, I'd normally shy away from commenting on an issue deemed "political." But I've come to realize this is an issue of social justice; this is a human rights issue; this is an issue that concerns all of us who are trying to co-exist peacefully in this world.

In Buddhism, we constantly try to understand and appreciate the inter-dependence of the

world, how we cannot exist alone, how we are dependent on others, how each of us are tied together in a vast web of karmic relationships, how spiritually, we all are brothers and sisters. If we truly understand these truths, we would treasure and appreciate one another.

Buddhism also teaches us that unfortunately, we tend not to understand or appreciate these truths because of our innate selfishness. Consequently, we tend to see the world in terms of our own desires, our likes and dislikes, through eyes of greed and anger, and ultimately through our ignorance. Fortunately, we have the Buddhist teachings to guide and remind us of the great universal and eternal truth that in the end, we are part of a greater Whole, that in the end, we are not separate but One.

In this pandemic, the phrase "Alone Together" says we should shelter-in-place, but also to remember we're all in this together. Now the question is: How do we relate to each other? With fear and suspicion? Or as friends and part of a larger community.

It's natural to think only about our selves and the welfare of our family and friends. It's difficult to think about everyone

that way, especially strangers. I am heartened to see that complete strangers are shedding their differences, coming together to protest injustice, to effect change, and to work towards creating a safer, more equitable world.

Recently in a Los Angeles Times commentary, basketball legend Kareem Abdul Jabbar wrote: "Racism in America is like dust in the air. It seems invisible — even if you're choking on it — until you let the sun in. Then you see it's everywhere. As long as we keep shining that light, we have a chance of cleaning it wherever it lands. But we have to stay vigilant, because it's always still in the air."

It's difficult to see truth, unless it's illuminated by the light of wisdom. This is vitally important. In Buddhism, wisdom is symbolized by the lotus flower. Lotus plants grow in muddy water. This mud symbolizes difficulties and suffering. The mud nourishes the lotus, which grows and blossoms above the water. Likewise, difficulties help us grow and see the flower of wisdom.

Without wisdom, we'll continue to live self-centered lives thinking only about ourselves, about our own point of view, and not of others. The

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 2020



Date	Day	Time	Event
5	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Sunday Service (online)
11	Saturday	4:00 p.m.	Virtual Obon
12	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Obon cemetery service (tentative schedule)
		2:00 p.m.	Obon Family Service/Shotsuki (online)
19	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Sunday Service (online)
21	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Temple board meeting (telconference)
26	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Sunday Service (online)

August

2 Sunday 11:00 a.m. WBA Zoom meeting

UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY TOBAN
 (Toban #3) *Naomi Yamada, Kim Chew, Mashi Eshima Johnson, Julie Kihara, Galyn Lum, Connie, Morita, Dorise Ouye, Kellie Ouye, Lesli Jo Sawada, Carrie Yoshida, Lorraine Yoshikawa.*

Please continue to check the Temple's newsletter for further announcements regarding Temple activities and events and how you can continue to support the Temple.

SHOTSUKI MEMORIAL SERVICE

This month, we will hold the Shotsuki monthly memorial service together with our Obon service on July 12, at 2 p.m via live-streaming. Families of the following will observe memorials for their loved ones this month: *Ai Fujikawa, Aiko Koike, Fumio Jitoshō, Kimiyo Uchino, Masuji Fujii, Robert Jung, Sachiko Watanabe, Sadao Umemoto, Satsuki Fujii, Shigeo & Nobuo Tsuyuki, Shigeo Kaneko, Shigeo Shigemoto, Tad Hikoyeda, Ichiji Yanaba, Kanoe Ota.*

CANCELLATIONS
 Due to the uncertainty of the COVID-19 public health crisis and restrictions on large group gatherings, the Berkeley Higashi Honganji Board of Directors made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 Obon Odori and 2020 Summer Bazaar. This decision was made after carefully considering the health and safety of our Temple members and event participants.

SUNDAY SERVICE
 We will continue live-streaming our Sunday services via Facebook. You DO NOT NEED a facebook account in order to view the live-stream. Just go to the link on Sunday at 10:00 a.m. You will also be able to watch the service later if you miss the initial 10:00 a.m. broadcast. Here is the link:
<http://www.facebook.com/berkeleyhigashi/live>.

VIRTUAL OBON DANCE
 Save the Date! Join us for a virtual Obon with Berkeley

(Continued from page 2)

Buddhist Temple on July 11th from 4 - 5:30 p.m. More details to be announced soon by e-mail.

CEMETERY AND OBON SERVICE

On Sunday, July 12, we pay our respects with a cemetery service and laying of flowers beginning at 10 a.m. at Sunset View Mortuary, El Cerrito (meet in the Heian Garden section) and afterwards at Chapel of the Chimes, Oakland. This is our tentative schedule, please check our website, for any changes due to the COVID 19

situation.

Our Obon service will be live-streaming at 2 p.m.

Hatsubon ('first obon') families: Rev.Osa will have a special candle lighting ceremony as part of the hatsubon observance.

The names of the people who passed away in the past 12 months are called and offered candles during the service by Rev. Osa. If your loved one is not listed or if you are observing Hatsubon this year, please call Rev. Ryoko. Current

list for candle offering: *Fumie Tominaga, Emiko Joan Nakano, Tsukasa Ikemoto, Fusae Edna Morodomi, Paul Hichiro, Paul Asazawa, Shizu Fujimura.*

EMAIL ADDRESS PLEASE

In order to quickly notify temple members and friends of important information, we would like to obtain everyone's email address - if you are not already on the temple email list. You can request to still receive the newsletter by US mail if you choose. Please send your email address to tmorioka@aol.com. Thank you.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BIG THANK YOU TO THE FOLLOWING

DHARMA SCHOOL/GRADUATION PARTY *Mayumi Beppu, Nancy Kubota and Alice Horio.*

NEWSLETTER MAILING *Tom & Karen Morioka.*

DENNIS MAKISHIMA his students and the Aesthetic Pruners Association for pruning and shaping trees and generally enhancing our Japanese-style temple garden. Thank you to the following people for working the garden pruning, *Anna Hightower, Artie Yamashita, Mike Yatabe, Jimmy Kihara, Miyoko Truong & Kazuko Doi, Tom & Karen Morioka.*

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!

IN MEMORY

Mrs. Shizu Fujimura passed away on May 25 at age 102. Her maiden name was Fujikawa. Mrs. Fujimura was a longtime member from the beginning of the temple. Our condolences to the Fujimura family.

Mr. Paul Asazawa passed away on May 25 at age 67. Mr Asazawa was a longtime active member and especially supported temple building maintenance. Our condolences to the Asazawa family.



(Continued from page 1)

death of George Floyd, and others like him, was unjust. Some people have known it long

before. Finally, many more of us now know it, are speaking up, and taking action. As Buddhists

would say, this is the working of wisdom—the light—awakening us from our ignorance.

PLEDGE DONATION

Many of you received a request for our annual pledge donation. The upkeep, repair and maintenance of our temple, as well as various programs and activities depend on the support and generosity of our members. Unlike other organizations, we don't require a membership fee, however we do rely on voluntary pledge donations from our members. If you'd like to make a pledge, simply send a check for any amount, marked "2020 pledge" to the temple, payable to Berkeley Higashi Honganji. To everyone who has pledged already for this year, we thank you very much.

E-MAIL SUBSCRIPTION

For COVID 19 safety precautions and to save temple expenses, we are currently asking members to change their subscription format from the mailed paper version to email. If you have an email address, and would like a paperless subscription, please contact Rev. Osa at: ryoko.osa@gmail.com.

SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

We are pleased to announce that a scholarship in the amount of \$1,000 is available to high school seniors graduating this coming school year, and to college and trade school students, provided by the Sajiro Morita Memorial Scholarship Fund. The fund was started several years ago by Sajiro Morita and has received subsequent donations from the Morita family. Only temple members and their children are eligible to apply. Applications may be requested by contacting the temple. The deadline to apply is September 30, 2020. The award will be presented at our Ho-onko service in November.

SUPPORT OUR TEMPLE BY SHOPPING

Our temple has "amazon smile" donation program. When you shop with Amazon, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organizations selected by customers, at no cost to you. (If you shop \$100 there, 50¢ will be sent to temple, it is small but Many a little makes a mickle.) You just need to login to "smile.amazon.com" which will connect you to the same Amazon web-site you usually use. On your first visit, select "Berkeley Higashi Honganji Inc". If you miss, no worry, go to Your Account" then select the option to "Change your Charity". Please support our temple while you enjoy shopping!

DID YOU KNOW

When it comes to offering incense, did you know that just a tiny amount is enough? Sometimes people will pick up a whole lot of powdered incense to make smoke. Sorry, but that's wrong way to do it. All you need is a tiny pinch of it. That's enough. Be frugal. Using thumb, middle, and index finger just pinch a tiny amount. After all it's not only you but also all the other members who have to offer the incense as well. And besides the point of the incense powder is to subtly perfume the air with its fragrance. It soothes us. We are making an offering of the fragrance not the smoke. So please use just a tiny little amount of the incense.



VIRTUAL OBON DANCE



Date

Saturday July 11, 4:00 PM

Venue

Join by Zoom, Facebook, or YouTube

Hosted by Berkeley Higashi Honganji and
Berkeley Buddhist Temple

Format

Featuring dances lead by Hanayagi Sensei
and storytelling by members of both temples

Admission

Open free to everyone

Please RSVP at <https://bit.ly/BerkeleyObon2020>

For more info/questions, contact
berkeley_virtual_obon_2020@outlook.com



バークレー東本願寺会報

2020年7月号

すべての日曜礼拝はオンラインでの放送になります。

また新型コロナウイルス感染防止の為、誠に残念ながらバークレー東本願寺理事会において今年のサマーバザーとお盆踊りの中止を決定致しました。

7月お寺の行事予定

5日(日)	午前10時	日曜礼拝
11日(土)	午後4時	オンラインお盆踊り
12日(日)	午前10時	お盆墓参り(変更の可能性があります)
	午後2時	お盆、初盆法要、祥月法要
19日(日)	午前10時	日曜礼拝
21日(火)	午後7時	仏教会定例理事会
26日(日)	午前10時	日曜礼拝

「若いメンバーが買い物のお手伝いをします」

お寺では買い物に行くことが困難な方の買い出しを若いメンバーが代行して行ってくれます。どうぞ遠慮なさらずお申し出ください。

対象：65歳以上の方または、免疫機能に問題を抱えておられる方でご家族や友人からのサポートが得られない方でアラメダとコントラコスタ群にお住まいの方

方法：日本語をお話しの方はシドニー(510)406-0648 or spaderna@gmail.com またはお寺(510) 843-6933 にご連絡ください。

7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、ラムGalyn、森田 カーニー、大上ドリス、大上ケリー、さわだ レスリージョー、吉田カーリー、芳川ロレイン(敬称略)

ライブ配信祥月法要：7月12日午後2時に、祥月法要が勤められます。今月の施主は、藤川、小池、地頭所、内野、M藤井、Jung、渡邊、梅本、S.藤井、露木、金子、重本、彦江田、やなば、浅沢、佐々木の諸家です。

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

オンラインお盆おどり：11日(土)午後4時から5時半までオンラインにてお盆踊りのイベントを行います。詳細は決定次第 e-mailにて連絡いたします。お寺からe-mailを受け取っておられないメンバーの方は、お寺にご連絡をおねがいします。

E-mailでの寺報送信：新型コロナウイルス感染防止並びにお寺の経費削減の為、この寺報の送付方法を郵便から E-mailへと変更させていただきたく皆様にご協力をお願いしております。お寺の支援のためにE-mailによる受け取りに変更しても良いという方はお寺にご一報をお願いします。

お盆法要：7月14日午前10時からSunset View Cemeteryでのお墓参りを予定しております。(変更の可能性あり)当日、午後2時、フェイスブック配信にてお盆初盆法要が厳修されます。<http://www.facebook.com/berkeleyhigashi/live> このリンクからご参加ください。



罪業深重

長 良子

新型コロナウイルス感染拡大による外出規制から3ヶ月が経ちました。多くの方がご家族やご友人と以前のように気軽に会いたいと思われていることと存じます。そんな中、アフリカ系アメリカ人に対する人種差別への抗議運動が勢いを増しています。

もちろん日本にも差別問題は存在しその抗議運動も実践されています。しかし、このアメリカの地における人種差別への抗議運動に対する考え方は、アメリカで生まれ育った人と日本で生まれ日本で育った人とは同じではないのでしょうか。

さて、日本語には「業が深い」という表現があります。幼い時にこの言葉を聞いたたり読んだりした時は、あきらめたような言い回しで文学的ではあるが煙に巻かれた心持ちがしました。また、嫉妬深い、お金に執着しているという意味で単純に使われることもあります。宿業について学ぼううちに、「業が深い」とは現在の自分が自分では知ることでもできない途方もない長い過去とつながっており何事

も自分の思い一つだけで動く単純なものはないという意味であると気付きました。それは善悪ではなく、好き嫌いでもなく、単なる事実なのです。

例えばこの世の中には、アフリカ系アメリカ人としてアメリカに生まれた人、その中でも人種差別を経験した人、あまり差別を経験したことのない人、或いは日系人としてアメリカに生まれ日系人の受けた差別問題に関わってきた人、日本生まれでアメリカに住んでいる人など様々な人がいます。生まれや育ち、差別の経験は自分の選択ではありません。そして選択の余地のない個々における過去の人生経験や環境的条件を基礎にして、私たちは選択をしています。自身を形成したそれまでの経験と条件をもとにして生き方を選択するわけですから、自分の意思ひとつだけで完璧に何かを選んだということは、ないとも言えます。

こういう前提の理解があつて「業が深い」という言葉が出るのではないのでしょうか。そもそも仏教が日本に伝来したのはおよそ1500年前で、以降、私たち日本人の

生活、習慣、文化、芸術に深く根ざしてきました。このように深い意味をもつ「業」という言葉を日本人が平生使ってきたことに日本における1500年の仏教の歴史を思わずにおられません。

私たちの「業」は一人一人異なります。そこに対立、衝突がおこります。反面、違うからこそ豊かさが生まれます。互いを異なる「業」を持つ一人の人間として尊重し、相手の悲しみを自らの悲しみとし善悪の判断よりも真実をそのまま明らかに見る努力が必要なのではないのでしょうか。

親鸞聖人は自分自身を含めて我々衆生は皆、罪業深重の凡夫であると言われていきます。罪業深重の凡夫である我々は清らかな行いに満ちた場所（清浄業処）に住みたいと願います。如来はそのようなわれら凡夫に「南無阿弥陀仏」のはたらきを差し向けて（回向）下さっているのです。



Words of the Month | 今月のことば

When I attain Buddhahood, should there be hells, the realms of hungry spirits,
or the realm of greed in my land, may I not attain the perfect enlightenment.

Buddha's first vow

私が仏になることができるとしても、わたしの国に地獄や餓鬼や畜生の
生き方をしている衆生が存在するならば、私は仏にはならない。



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Address Correction Requested