

# BOMBU BOMBU

Monthly Bulletin of Berkeley Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple

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## STORIES OF WISDOM AND COMPASSION

By Ryoko Osa

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In different religions, there are various stories. Some stories are metaphors and anecdotes for making listeners understand their teachings. Those stories were a mix of local folk tales and legends, then updated and changed, like how Buddhism spread from India to China and was influenced by the local culture. Those stories are a way to help people reach the world of awareness.

Some religions tell their stories not as fiction, but as historical fact. Perhaps we are the ones who want to believe those stories are historical fact, instead of metaphors for reaching the truth, because it's easier to think the stories we hear are true. We want to believe those stories literally, exactly as we hear them, instead of thinking about them deeply, which takes more effort.

In our Jodo Shinshu tradition, and in the Pure Land tradition, we hear the story of Amida Buddha. Amida Buddha

personifies wisdom and compassion. According to the story, there was a bodhisattva named Dharmakara, or in Japanese, Hozo Bosatsu, who followed certain practices and finally became a buddha named Amida. Hozo Bosatsu made 48 vows, which included establishing a Pure Land. According to Amida's 18th vow, people will be helped if they call Amida's name with a sincere and entrusting heart and aspire to be born in this Buddha's land. That's why in the Jodo Shinshu tradition, we say Nenbutsu, Namu Amida Butsu.

When we hear these kinds of stories, which sound like heroic legends and anecdotes in the Buddhist sutras, people often think they are role models to follow and that we need to be like them. Then they think they must say Namu Amida Butsu as many times as possible, or that they must practice something difficult like Hozo Bosatsu did. We think we must practice so that we can be born in the Pure Land.

However, in Mahayana Buddhism, the practices of Hozo Bosatsu symbolize compassion toward us.

We receive this compassion. We also can think that our ancestors are in the Pure Land, and are waiting for us, watching and guiding us. This expression is a metaphor. This story encourages us to remember what we have received from them. We have received their love and wisdom. Their lives have become part of our lives. This is the way we connect with the Buddha's compassion. This story may not be historical fact, but their love and the Buddha's compassion toward us are very real. We can feel it in our hearts.



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## October 2021



Date	Day	Time	Event
3	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Family service/Dharma school
10	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Shotsuki service (monthly memorial)
		11:00 a.m.	WBA meeting
17	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Family service/Dharma school
19	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Temple board meeting
24	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Family service/Dharma school
31	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Kaikyo-ki (Former ministers' memorial service)/Dharma school

### November

7 Sunday 10:00 a.m. Hōonkō Service (Daylight savings ends)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### OCTOBER TOBAN

(group #1) Janice Adachi, Wendy Adachi, Nina Costales, Satoko Davidson, Alice Horio, Doreen Imada, Elsie Lum, Denice Nakano, Diane Nishioka, Michi Takata, Miyoko Truong

### 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>.

We hope the coronavirus situation is resolved soon. And so we look forward to future events, which we hope will start up again in the near future. Please check out the calendar on our website for the latest

schedules and information.  
<https://www.bombu.org/>

### SHOTSUKI MEMORIAL SERVICE

We will hold the Shotsuki monthly memorial service on October 10 at 10 a.m. via Facebook. The following families will observe memorials for loved ones this month: *Akiko Costales, Ellen Monroe, Ernie Nagatoshi, Masami Higuchi, Ito Yatabe, Moto Yanaba and Fumiko Yanaba, Yoshino Nomura, Robert Yamada, Shizuko Takata, Shizuo Yoshikawa, Tad Moriwaki, Takane Eshima, Emiko Nakano.*

### H-O-NKO (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 7th at 10 a.m via Facebook.

### DHARMA SCHOOL UPDATE

The first class of the 2021-2022 Dharma School year began on September 12th. Until further notice, classes will be held each Sunday at 11:00 a.m. via Zoom. All pre-K to 8th grade students are invited to join the classes. For more information, please contact the temple's office or [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 contact Rev. Ryoko.



# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## Big thank yous 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, *Nina Rizzo, Jimmy Kihara, Adam Yoshikawa* and *Tom Morioka*. *Naomi Yamada, Dorise Ouye, Kim Chew* and *Rinako Osa* for serving lunch.

**Kitchen Stove Cleaning** - *Naomi Yamada, & Jane Fujii*

*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

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### 2021 Pledges

Lynn Wade	200
Wayne Kurahara	50
Steven/Kim Chew	50
Mayumi Beppu	300

### Shotsuki Memorial Service

John & Lynn Wade (In memory of Janet Jung)	50
Jocelyn Jung (In memory of Janet Jung)	50
Roselyn Jung/Ramona Gonzalez (In memory of Janet Jung)	50
Kathryn Jung (In memory of Janet Jung)	25
John & Lynn Wade (In memory of Robert Jung)	50
Jocelyn Jung (In memory of Robert Jung)	50
Roselyn Jung/Ramona Gonzalez (In memory of Robert Jung)	50
Kathryn Jung (In memory of Robert Jung)	25
Michael & Pamela Yanaba (In memory of Arvene Sasaki)	50
Satoko Davidson (In memory of Chiyoji Nagatoshi)	100

Julie & Robert Kihara (In memory of Janet Jung)	25
Ryu Inoue (In memory of Jean Nagatomi)	100
Alan Yanaba (In memory of Noriko Yanaba)	25
Nina Costales & Robert Garvey (In memory of Rita Garvey)	50
Nancy Kubota (In memory of Shoji Kubota)	50
Grace Kubota-Yee & Harry Yee (In memory of Shoji Kubota)	50
Agnes Kubota Gotuaco (In memory of Shoji Kubota/Hiroshi Kubota)	50
Kimiko Kuroiwa (In memory of Takaji Matsunaga)	30
Gary & Anne Tominaga (In memory of Tom and Fumi Tominaga)	100
Alice & Dick Horio (In memory of Toshiye Tanji)	50
Michael & Pamela Yanaba (In memory of Noriko Yanaba)	25

### Obon

Kevin & Lisa Toyama	50
Deborah Yatabe	50
Christine Fujii	50

### Other Donations

Jeff Shannon & Satoko Davidson (2020 Fundraising Drive)	100
Christina Matsuoka	50
Yoshiko Scion	50
Gerald & Barbara Hanabusa (In memory of Chiyoji Nagatoshi)	25
Ken & Naomi Yamada (In Memory of Mrs. Fumiko Kanbara)	500

### Public Lecture By Rev. Ken On August 21st

Total donation	555
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### Food Sale

Nina Costales & Robert Garvey	50
Gloria Wilmer	50
Irving Yamashita	300
Berkeley Bowl Produce	200
Ichiko Jitoshō	50
Tokumarū Fujii	100

### Various Supplies

Tazuko Jitoshō, Kim Chew, Jimmy Kihara Chris Fujii, and Jane Fujii	
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# バーkeley東本願寺会報

## 2021年10月号

### 10月お寺の行事予定

日曜礼拝のオンライン配信は<http://www.facebook.com/berkeleyhigashi/> live のリンクからどうぞ参加ください。Facebookのアカウントは不要です。

対面式での日曜礼拝の再開については、コロナウイルス感染の状況を見ながら委員会で検討しております。決定後はホームページで発表しますので、お寺のホームページからご確認ください。

3日(日)	午前10時	日曜礼拝
10日(日)	午前10時	祥月法要、ダルマ・スクール
17日(日)	午前10時	日曜礼拝、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	日曜礼拝、ダルマ・スクール
31日(日)	午前10時	開教忌法要

### 11月

7日(日)	午前10時	報恩講
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**10月当番(当番1):** あだちジャニース、あだち ウェンディ、Costales ニーナ、Davidson さとこ、堀尾アリス、今田ドーリン、Lum エルシー、中野デニース、西岡 ダイアン、高田みち、みよこTruong (敬称略)

**ライブ配信祥月法要:** 10月11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。



# 智慧と慈悲の物語

長 良子

昔話、伝説、神話或いは宗教で語られる多くの説話にはその物語を通して私たちに訴えかける人間の姿、世界観があります。語り手によっては宗教説話を架空の物語でなく歴史的事実として伝えることもあります。ひょっとすると、聞き手の方こそが比喩としての物語からその先にある意味を汲み取るよりそのまま言葉通りに受け取り、単純に歴史的事実とみなしているのかもしれませんが。その方が深い思索を必要とせず簡単だからです。

さて私たち浄土真宗の伝統においては、法蔵菩薩が阿弥陀仏となる物語が語られてきました。法蔵菩薩がありとあらゆる仏と浄土を見た後に、四十八の誓いを立てて、修行の結果、浄土を建立され阿弥陀仏となったという物語です。その四十八の誓願の中の第十八番目の願いは、すべての人々が心から信じてお浄土に生まれたいと願って阿弥陀仏の名を呼べば必ずお浄土に生まれることができるという誓いです。その仏の願いに呼応して私たちは南無阿弥陀仏と称えているのです。法蔵菩薩の物語は迷信ではなく比喩であり、その物語から私たちに呼び掛けられている事を私たち自身が考え確かめていくことが求められます。

しかし迷信でなく比喩だということが分かっても、今度は例えば英雄物語を聞くように聞いてしまうと、私たちも法蔵菩薩のように修行せねばならない、或いは南無阿弥陀仏と何度も称えるべきだということにこの物語のメッセージを受け取ってしまう場合があります。ところが大乘仏教では私たちに向かって、菩薩の勤勉さ、誠実さ、努力を見習えと伝えているのではなく、菩薩の修行という表現を通して私たちにかけられている慈悲を伝えているのです。

例えば亡き人がお浄土で私を待っていてくれるという表現も慈悲の表現であり、大切なことはその慈悲が真実であるという事なのです。私たちは亡き人から愛情や智慧をいただいております、亡き人のいのちが私たちの一部となっているのです。そのことに気づけば私たちはすでに今、全てのものごとから、自然から、世界から智慧と慈悲を受け取っており、遥か遠い昔から私にまで届けられた阿弥陀仏の物語も私に向けられた智慧と慈悲の物語として聞かせていただくことが出来るのではないのでしょうか。



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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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Address Correction Requested