

BOMBU BOMBU

Monthly Bulletin of Berkeley Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple

Volume 15 Issue 9

www.bombu.org

September 2020

WE HAVE RECEIVED AMIDA'S INNERMOST ASPIRATION

By Rev. Ryoko Osa

How is everyone doing? It has already been half a year since we were first restricted from directly getting together, due to the spread of coronavirus. People all over the world have been living through an unprecedented experience and our lifestyles have changed dramatically.

Most of you have probably found that you have more time to yourself, more time to think quietly than before. Even though the result of a destructive virus, isn't this "time to think quietly" a precious thing that we, people of the modern world, have been losing for years?

Many of us feel as if we are always spending time chasing after new and more information. However, most of the information we have been chasing is really not so important compared to our peace of mind. The growing popularity of meditation shows that many people are seeking calmness from the world of information overload.

What do we think about during these moments of quiet reflection? It might be how we are released from anxiety and are able to be helped. Dharmakara Bodhisatva, who become Amida Buddha after his vows were fulfilled, thought

quietly innumerable years about how to save sentient beings. As people of the modern world, we may find it difficult to believe this because it is not considered historical fact. Further, when we reflect on the idea of "Amida Buddha is trying to save me" it sounds like Amida Buddha is personalized, and so perhaps we experience some resistance.

Then, here is a thought: Why don't you imagine your ancestors and seniors? And imagine all the human beings of the past whom you have never met. They may also have been wondering about the meanings of life, what life was all about. This problem they had is the same as ours. And their innermost aspirations have been the same as ours. In this way, if we look at all of these human beings as our seniors and teachers, their innermost aspirations can help guide us.

Taking advantage of my time at home, I have read and listened to various past Dharma talks. Different teachers repeatedly make the same point. "You have received Amida's innermost aspiration." The innermost aspiration, that is the result of the Dharmakara Bodhisatva's deepest reflections, is calling you and me. It is true Amida Buddha is not a person who historically existed like Shakyamuni

Buddha. However, Amida Buddha's innermost aspiration is like the innermost aspiration of countless human beings who lived before us. So this calling is real.

And yet, our doubt itself is a very important feeling which connects us to the teaching. Shinran Shonin talked about the deep, entrusting mind (Shinjin). There are two basic convictions of the deep mind.

One is to believe deeply and decidedly that you are a foolish being of karmic evil caught in birth-and-death and have no hope for self-deliverance; thus, we are destined only for hell.

The second is to believe deeply and decidedly that Amida Buddha's Forty-eight Vows grasp sentient beings, and that by allowing yourself to be carried by the power of the Vow, without any doubt or apprehension, you will attain birth.

The former is a deep insight into human nature as it is. The latter is the single-hearted reliance on Amida's Compassion which never forsakes any sentient being.

The deep, entrusting mind thus reflects two sides of the same coin. We cannot reflect just one side but not the other. We doubt Amida's working, this is so; and yet Amida is always calling us.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 2020



Date	Day	Time	Event
6	Sunday		No service
7	Monday		Labor Day
10	Thursday	1:00 p.m.	Ministers meeting (Zoom)
13	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Shotsuki Service (monthly memorial)
		11:00 a.m.	WBA meeting
15	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Temple board meeting
19	Saturday	10:00 a.m.	NAD committee meeting (Zoom)
20	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Higan service
27	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Family service

October

4	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Family service
11	Sun. 10 a.m.		Shotsuki Service (monthly memorial)

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER TOBAN

(Toban #2) *Eiko Iwata, Toyoko Araki, Jane Fujii, Anna Hightower, Hiroko Higuchi, Shirley Imai, Tazuko Jitoshu, Yukari McCarthy, Karen Morioka, Christine Sullivan, Sachiye Toyofuku*

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/>

Buddhism Learning Group

What does it mean to recite "Namu Amidabutsu"? I talk about "Amida's primal vow" in my Dharma talks. Those words are very important for us to live by. But do you know the origin of them? For a deeper understanding of Buddhism, please join me and others to read Shoshinge and discuss the meaning behind Shinran's words. Take a late lunch break and learn together. The online class runs from 1:00-1:45 pm every Monday. Please contact me. Reverend Ryoko Osa: ryoko.osa@gmail.com.

SHOTSUKI MEMORIAL SERVICE

We will hold the Shotsuki monthly memorial service on Sept. 13 at 10

a.m. via Facebook. The following families will observe memorials for loved ones this month: *James Ikenaga, Jean Nagatomi, Kizo Doi, Kunitaka Higuchi, Rita Iris Garvey, Shoji Kubota, Hiroshi Kubota, Taiyo McCarthy, Tomio Komori, Tomoye Kamio, Toshiye Tanji, Yuan-Yuan Pong, Inoue.*

FALL HIGAN SERVICE

To commemorate the Autumn equinox, when day and night for a single day become equal in length, we hold a traditional Buddhist service called Higan. The Higan service will be on Sunday, Sept. 20 at 10 a.m. Please join us.

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

We are pleased to announce that a scholarship, provided by the Sajiro Morita Memorial Scholarship Fund, is available in the amount of

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

\$1,000 is available to high school seniors graduating in 2021, and to college and trade school students. The fund was started several years ago by Shigeru Morita in memory of his father 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.

Anyone can make contributions to the scholarship fund so that we can continue to support members who wish to pursue their educational goals.

E-MAIL SUBSCRIPTION
For COVID 19 safety precautions

and to save temple expenses, also in order to quickly notify temple members and friends of important information 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.

IN MEMORY

Mrs. Kazuko Jitoshō passed away peacefully at home on August 16, 2020. A private ceremony has been held.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to Lorraine and Adam Yoshikawa, who offered their help one day in August, working together at the temple for garden cleanup. If you can support the temple by helping do some work, please feel free to contact me. I will talk with you about what you could do to help meet some of the temple needs. Please contact me: Reverend Ryoko Osa: ryoko.osa@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER MAILING 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!

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. Using thumb, middle, and index finger just pinch a tiny amount. 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.



Credits:

This is a publication of the Berkeley Higashi Honganji. Please contact Rev. Ryoko Osa at 1524 Oregon Street, Berkeley, CA 94703. 510-843-6933. www.bombu.org. ryoko.osa@gmail.com. Newsletter design by Kevin Sullivan

バークレー東本願寺会報

2020年9月号

9月お寺の行事予定

すべての日曜礼拝はオンラインでの放送になります。

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

Facebookのアカウントは不要です。

6日(日)		休み
7日(月)		勤労感謝の祝日
13日(日)	午前10時	祥月法要、ダルマ・スクール
15日(火)	午後7時半	仏教会定例理事会
19日(土)		開教区委員会
20日(日)	午前10時	秋季お彼岸法要
27日(日)	午前10時	日曜礼拝、ダルマ・スクール

10月

4日(日)	午前10時	日曜礼拝、ダルマ・スクール
11日(日)	午前10時	祥月法要、ダルマ・スクール

9月当番(当番2): 敬称略

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、ゆかりマッカーシー、カレン盛岡、クリスティーンサリバン、豊福さちえ、敬称略)

ライブ配信祥月法要: 9月13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、池永、ナガトミ、土井、樋口、ガービー、窪田、マカーテイー、小森、カミオ、丹治、井上、近藤の諸家です。

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



願われている私

長 良子

皆様いかがお過ごしでしょうか？コロナ感染拡大により外出が制限され半年が経とうとしております。世界中の人々が今までにない経験をし私たち一人一人の生活様式が劇的に変化しました。

多くの方に取りましては、立ち止まって静かにものを考える時間が増えたのではないのでしょうか。この「静かにものを考える時間」というのは現代人にとって、実は失われつつあった貴重な時間なのではないのでしょうか？

私たちは情報を追いかけて、時間に追われていました。しかし追いかけていた大抵の情報は私たちの心の平安に比べたらどうでも良い情報だったのではないのでしょうか。いま、瞑想が流行しているのも心の落ち着きを求める人がたくさんいるという事実を示しています。

私たちが普段考えている内容といえば自分がどのように不安から解放され救われるかという自分を中心とした内容ですが、阿弥陀様は、法蔵菩薩であった時、途方もない長い年月をかけて衆生をどう救おうかと考え、本願をたててくださったのです。

しかしこの様に言われても、現代人である私たちにとっては、この物語は歴史的な事実ではないので、信じることはできないと感ずることでしょう。私を救おうとしていると言われても、阿弥陀仏を人格化しているようで抵抗感があります。

そこで、自分の先祖、先輩方、そして会ったこともない過去の全ての人類を想像してみましょう。今は亡き全ての人間が、自分に与えられた命とは何であるか、悩まれたことでしょう。この悩みは私たちの悩みと同じです。この全ての人類を私たちの先輩、師として見ると、彼らの願いが私たちを導いてくれるとも言えます。

この数ヶ月、対面で人と話をする機会は減りましたが過去の様々な法話を讀んだり聞かせてもらいました。違う先生が繰り返し繰り返し同じ一点を言われていました。「願われているのはあなただよ」ということです。法蔵菩薩の思惟の結果である願いは私とあなたに呼びかけられているのです。

阿弥陀仏はお釈迦様の様に歴史的に存在していた方ではありません。しかし、その願い、つまり私たち一人一人への呼び掛けは無数の人間によって南無阿弥陀仏として今ここに伝えられている、



このことは真実なのです。以前の様に人に会ったりできるのはいつなのかまだ見通しがつきません。もしお一人で家におられて日本語でお話しがしたいと思われましたら、どうぞ遠慮なさらずお寺にお電話ください。

Words of the Month | 今月の言葉

You have received Amida's innermost aspiration.

阿弥陀仏の本願は、今、あなたにはたらいっているのです。



Berkeley Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple
1524 Oregon Street
Berkeley, CA 94703
U.S.A.

Address Correction Requested