

MINDFUL OF COUNTLESS SUPPORT

By Rev. Ryoko Osa

After a long drought we've finally had some rain. Trees in our temple garden seem refreshed. In this regard, I would like to share a poem by Shinmin Sakamura. This is an English translation from Japanese.

*When you stare at a tree,
When you stare at a tree, you
will realize what God or
Buddha is all about.
Underground unseen by us,
the roots helped the trunk
grow, leaves come out,
blossoms come into bloom,
and fruit is borne.
Roots are God as well as the
Buddha, supporting us while
being concealed behind a
curtain.
Let's have insight into the
unseen world, and let's have a
mind that recognizes what we
cannot see with our eyes.*

All trees and flowers have roots. We too have roots that are always supporting us, and others, as if from behind a curtain.

What are those roots? They are our parents, our friends, family, relatives, teachers, and community. They include not just people, but also pets,

the sun, the wind, the rain... everything. It is impossible to count them all. Even our life experiences give us support. Our sad experiences help us to grow. Different causes and conditions make us who we are. We call these causes and conditions "Karma."

"Let's have insight into the unseen world, and let's have a mind that recognizes what we cannot see with our eyes." Actually, though, it is hard to recognize what we cannot see with our own eyes.

*Because of my eyes being
obscured by blind passions,
I am not able to see Amida
Buddha. However, the great
compassionate one is all the
time, untiringly shining upon
me.*

These are the words of Shinran Shonin, which he set forth in the Shoshinge. We know countless things support us, but it is impossible to know them all. The name Amida Buddha comes from the Sanskrit word "Mida," which means, "to measure." The "A" in Amida means "not." Thus "Amida" means "cannot be measured," or immeasurable,

infinite, and "countless."

We cannot see Amida Buddha or our "Karma." But although we cannot see them with our eyes, to rely on them for support is the meaning of faith. Our teaching encourages us to rely on Amida Buddha, to rely on great compassion. This is what Shin Buddhism teaches us.

Sometimes we may feel anxious, lonely, or powerless, and as if we cannot rely on anything. This is because we have forgotten about the countless support behind us. In this case we are like a tree that doesn't have roots; such a tree cannot stand on its own. But when we recognize that we are like a tree with long and deep roots, then we become capable of standing firmly, even in a heavy storm.

How can we remember that we have such immeasurable support? By saying Namu Amida Butsu. When we say Nenbutsu, we are saying that we rely on immeasurable life. Entrusting in Amida Buddha gives us the strength to accept the reality of suffering in our own lives.

Bombu (böm'bü) means "ordinary person." Shinran used this term to express his reflection that he was an ignorant and self-centered person.. He encourages us to be aware of our true nature and to live fully every day.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

December 2021



Date	Day	Time	Event
5	Sunday	10 a.m.	Last Dharma School/Bodhi Day Service
		11:00 a.m.	Bodhi Day party via Zoom
		1:00 p.m.	Jr.YBA District meeting
12	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Shotsuki service
		11:00 a.m.	WBA meeting
19	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	No service
21	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Temple board meeting
26	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	No service
31	Friday	7:00 p.m.	Year-end Service

January 2022

1	Saturday	11:00 a.m.	NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE
2	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	No service

Please check out our online calendar on our website for more detail. <https://www.bombu.org/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

TEMPLE FACILITIES
Due to COVID-19 safety concerns, the Berkeley Higashi Honganji facility continues to be closed until further notice. Rev. Ryoko Osa can conduct special online services for you and your family via Zoom. Weddings, Funerals, and Memorial Services are still happening. Please don't hesitate to contact Rev.Osa.

MOCHITSUKI CANCELED
Unfortunately, due to the ongoing COVID situation, we will not have Mochitsuki this year.

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>.

SHOTSUKI MEMORIAL SERVICE
We will hold our Shotsuki monthly memorial service on Dec. 12 at 10 a.m., along with our family service. The following families will observe memorials for loved ones this month: *Eddy Umemoto, Grace Haruko Imada, Haruo George Toyofuku Hisako Yokota, Isami Nobori, Joe Ouye, Margaret Ouye, John Sullivan, Juichi Uyeno, Kazuo Jitosh, Kiyomi Nagata, Kunio Ichioka, Lee Chin, Masato Takata, Mitsuyo Nagatoshi, Miyoko Matsunaga, Sajiro Morita, Takeshi Tanigawa, Yoshimi Shinoda, Yoshinori Tsuno.*

(Continued on page 3)

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 & Christine Sullivan

(Continued from page 2)

BODHI DAY SERVICE

BGautama Siddhartha sat beneath a tree nearly 2,500 years ago, vowing to sit in meditation until he reached an understanding about the world and himself. The day he awakened to great Truth is known as Bodhi Day and thereafter Siddhartha became known as the Buddha, the "awakened one." Our Bodhi Day service will be December 5.

PLEDGE REMINDER

POnly one month left to make your 2021 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 haven't yet made your pledge for this year and would like to do so, simply send a check for any amount, marked "2021 pledge" to the temple, payable to Berkeley Higashi Honganji. To everyone who has pledged, we thank you very much.

TEMPLE BOARD ELECTION

TBallots to vote for the 2022 Temple board will be mailed to members. Please vote and return your ballots to the temple by January 12.

ANNUAL NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS

In our first newsletter of the New Year, January, it's our tradition to print and send out New Year's

greetings from fellow members and friends. If you'd like your name or your family's name included, we're asking for a donation of \$10. Please send your check to the temple. The deadline is December 18.

LOOKING FOR AN APARTMENT OR HOUSE TO RENT

Rev. Yasushi Kigoshi will study at UC Berkeley, as a visiting scholar, and he will live here from the end of March 2022 to February or March 2023. He is looking for a place to live. Sometimes alone, sometimes with his wife. Most of our long time temple members know about him. His father Rev. Tatsuru Kigoshi was our temple's resident minister from 1959 to 1967 before Rev. Imai. Rev. Yasushi Kigoshi was called Harry and raised in the Mochi House when he was little. He is the president of Otani University in Kyoto. Rev. Osa is helping him to find a house or an apartment. If you know anyone who owns a house or an apartment where he can rent during that period, please let Rev. Osa know.

SUPPORT OUR TEMPLE BY SHOPPING

Our temple has "Amazon Smile" donation program. When you shop with Amazon, the Amazon Smile 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 spend \$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 website 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!

SAJIRO MORITA SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Would you like to help young temple members pursue their dreams of higher education? You can help by donating to the Sajiro Morita Scholarship Fund.

The fund was established as a memorial to Mr. Sajiro Morita. He never had a chance to complete his education in Japan. He came to the US to work and secure a better life. He always wanted his own and other children to do their best to complete their education and, if possible, to go on to higher education.

The Temple did not have any funds to start a scholarship program. Therefore, the Shigeru Morita family made the initial monetary contribution. The Temple Board of Directors named it the Sajiro Morita Memorial Scholarship Fund. It has been funded by the Morita family to help qualified young people pursue their educational and career goals. Anyone can make contributions to the fund.

Please consider donating to help this scholarship program continue.

IN MEMORY

Mrs. Grace Goto passed away peacefully at her home on November 4th. She was a longtime member of our temple. She was active at our Women's Buddhists Association. A private memorial service was held on November 19th.



DONATIONS

2021 Pledges

Sherman Takata	1000
Lynn Wade	200
Wayne Kurahara	50
Steven/Kim Chew	50
Lynn Wade	200
Deborah Yatabe	1200
Eiko Iwata	500
Kumiko Kuroiwa	200

Ho-onko Donations

Tazuko Jitoshō	50
Sachiye Toyofuku	50
Constance Morita	50
Nancy Kubota	50
Toyoko Araki	25
Jacki/Steve Wolf	76.98
Mike Yatabe	100
Dick/Alice Horio	50
Akinori /Akiko Imai	50
Jane Fujii	50
Gary/Shizuko Asazawa	50
Eiko Iwata	50
Gregory Takahashi	50
Arthur /Patricia Yamashita	50
Kevin/Christine Sullivan	100

Kaikyoki Service/Keirokai

Sachiye Toyofuku	50
Shannon/Satoko Davidson	50
Dick/Alice Horio	50
Jane Rouzer	100
Tom /Karen Morioka	50

Ray/Junko Morodomi	50
Steven/Kim Chew	25
Toyoko Araki	30
Eiko Iwata	50

Shotsuki Monthly Memorial

Alan Yanaba (In memory of Fumiko Yanaba)	25
Alan Yanaba (In memory of Moto Yanaba)	25
Nina Costales/Robert Garvey (In memory of Akiko Costales)	50
Julie/Robert Kihara (In memory of Emiko Nakano)	50
Don, Martha, & Curtis Uejo (In memory of Sharon Uejo)	200
Gerald/Barbara Hanabusa (In memory of Ernie Nagatoshi)	25
Kimberlie Moriwaki/ Bruce Louie (In memory of Tad Moriwaki)	50
Mike Yatabe (In memory of Ito Yatabe)	100
Rev. Patti Nakai (In memory of Ed Oasa)	51.49
Sachiye Toyofuku (In memory of Moto & Fumiko Yanaba)	75
Kaz/Michi Takata (In memory of Chiyoji Hideko, Ernie Nagatoshi, Asako Tamekuni)	400
Satoko Davidson (In memory of Isono Hiyatsuka)	30
Darlene Wong (In memory of Joe Goto)	41.29
Greg/Sakiko Goto (In memory of Joe Goto)	510.44
Constance Morita (In memory of Shig Morita)	50
Steven/Denice Nakano (In memory of Emiko Nakano)	100

Michael/Pamela Yanaba (In memory of Kaz Yanaba)	25
Jacki/Steve Wolf (In memory of Joe Goto)	500
Darlene Wong (In memory of Ito Yatabe)	51.49

Temple

R.A. /Midori Shiraishi (Wedding Donation)	200
Nancy/Allan Hikoyeda (Year-end donation)	200
Tazuko Jitoshō (Kaikyoki)	30
Shannon/Satoko Davidson (For 2020 Fundraising Drive)	100
Toyoko Araki	10
Carlo P. Barlaan	60
Ann Fujikawa	50
Kaz /Michi Takata	600
Sentimental Strummers	200
Thomas/Steven Colby	200

In memory of Grace Goto

Samuel and Norma Uchihara	50
(In memory of Grace Goto)	
Bruce and Valerie Hironaka	102.48
Jacki/Steve Wolf & Greg/Sakiko Goto	3000
Robert Otani, Robin Thompson, & Jo Ann Otani	50

Donations received by the 15th of each month are listed. Donations received after that date, are published the following month.

Keirokai



CHANGE IN TEMPLE BYLAWS

The Temple Board recently made a recommendation to amend the bylaws language that will allow the Board to either meet in person, meet via an electronic means (i.e. Zoom), or a hybrid blend of the two. The current bylaws state the monthly Board meetings and Annual meeting can only be held via electronic means IF there is a threat to health and safety that prevents the Board from meeting in person.

For a year and a half, the Temple Board of Directors has been meeting via Zoom because of the Covid 19 pandemic. The Zoom meetings have greatly increased the participation of members at the meetings. For that reason and for the safety of Board members, the Board is recommending that the bylaws be amended to allow for the Board and the Annual meeting be in-person, via electronic means, or a hybrid blend of the two.

Temple members must approve any revisions to the current bylaws at the annual meeting held in January of each year. The Board kindly welcomes Temple members to review the revised language ahead of the January 2022 Annual Meeting.

If you would like a copy of the revised bylaws language, please contact Nancy Kubota at nhk7709@gmail.com.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BIG THANK YOUS TO THE FOLLOWING

Many thanks to the following volunteers who helped make our Keirokai a success this year

The WBA who provided manju for the bento lunches

Naomi Yamada who ordered the manju from Osaka ya

Debbie & Dave Yatabe who picked up the manju from Sacramento

Dharma school children and Mayumi Beppu & Nancy Kubota who made gifts for the keirosha

Jane Fujii who ordered the bentos from Suruki's

The drivers who delivered the bento to the keirosha - Nancy Kubota, Kevin & Christine Sullivan, Naomi Yamada, Artie & Patti Yamashita and Debbie Yatabe.

We hope that next year we will be able to celebrate Keirokai at church; attend service and eat lunch together.

New Sofa for the Mochi House and Moving costs *Steve, Karen & Tom 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!



バークレー東本願寺会報

2021年12月号

5日(日)	午前10時	成道会法要、ダルマ・スクール
12日(日)	午前10時	祥月法要
	午前11時	WBA会議
19日(日)		日曜礼拝お休み
21日(火)	午後7時	仏教会定例理事会
26日(日)		日曜礼拝お休み
31日(金)	午後7時	歳末勤行

1月

1月1日(土)	午前11時	修正会
1月2日(日)		日曜礼拝お休み

12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。

12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、大上ドリス、大上ケリー、さわだ レスリーショー、吉田カリー、芳川ロレイン(敬称略)

祥月法要: 12月の祥月法要は、12日(日)午前10時より勤められます。今月の施主: 梅本、今田、とよふく、横田、のぼり、大上、サリヴァン、うえの、地頭所、ながた、いちおか、チン、高田、長俊、松永、森田、谷川、つの、しのだの諸家

お餅つきキャンセル: 毎年、メンバー及び大谷バスケットボールの親子のボランティア活動でお餅をお寺から販売させていただいています。残念ではありますがコロナウイルスの感染拡大を防止のため、今年もお餅つきを中止とさせていただきます。ご理解のほど宜しくお願いします。

年末勤行: 年末、仏前において今年一年の歩みを振り返り、私の思いを超えた「いのち」のあゆみに深く感謝いたします。お正月の準備で忙しくお寺にお参りができなければ、準備の終わった一時に、ご自宅のお内仏の前で座ってお参りしましょう。12月31日(金)午後7時から、お寺からオンラインにて放送します。

日本語法話会(ズーム): 毎週木曜日午後5時からオンライン日本語法話会を開催しています。どなた様も大歓迎です。ご興味のある方は長開教使までご連絡ください。

修正会: お正月の初参り勤行を「修正会(しゅしょうえ)」とって、年初のご挨拶を仏様に申し上げ、南無阿彌陀仏とともに一年を過ごさせて頂くことに改めて御礼申し上げる大切な法要です。「修正会」は2022年1月1日(土)午前11時よりオンラインにて正信偈で勤まります。

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念仏の感染

長 良子

2021年も残り一ヶ月となりました。皆様方におかれましては、コロナ禍において今年も外出の少ない一年だったのではないかと存じます。お寺では先月報恩講をお勤めしオンラインで配信いたしました。報恩講法要は、宗祖親鸞聖人のご命日である11月28日の前後、報恩謝徳のために勤められる法要で真宗門徒にとって一番大事な法要です。

報恩というのは御恩に報いるということであり、お念仏の歴史そのものに感謝してその御恩に報いる生活を送るということではないでしょうか。なぜなら、親鸞聖人を聖人として尊ばせしめているものは、親鸞聖人の教えに救われた方々の人生だからです。念仏に生きた方々との出会いによって、教えが教えとして自分にまで届いて参ります。誰かが念仏に出会って救われていく姿が、私に感染し、私がお念仏と出会い救われて行くはたらきへと転換されます。

阿弥陀様は不可思議光とも言いますが、不可思議とは自分の思いを超える慈悲との思いがけない出会いでありその意味は、自分自身では救いの道を導き出すことはできない有限性を思い知り、そしてそのような私はすでに慈悲に抱かれていたのだと気づくこと、発見することです。

そして、自分が救われたいという個人的望みが単なる個人的な問題には終わらず、私たちの根底には共に救われたいという人類の普遍的願いがあるのだと気づき、それは仏から届いた願いであったといただくとお念仏申す感謝の気持ちが湧き上がってくるように感じます。

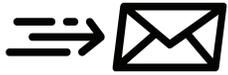
念仏者の生き方には感染力があります。コロナには感染したくないですが、お念仏のはたらきには大いに感染したいものです。



Words of the Month | 今月の言葉

When we say the Nembutsu, we are enabled with the power to continue living.

念仏申すところに 立ち上がっていく力が あたえられる (西元宗助)



If you have an email address, please consider switching to a paperless subscription. Please contact the temple if you are interested. Thank you.



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

Address Correction Requested