

# Happy New Year!!

We welcome in the year of **2018** and another cycle of temple events. It is the **Year of the Dog**, and perhaps we can look forward to appreciating the qualities of loyalty and sharing that are exemplified by our four legged bodhisattvas.

The temple cycle begins with **Shusho-e, the New Year Day Service** on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January. In Japan, this observance started in the Nara Period and was to have lasted for 7 days. Homes were cleaned and debts were paid in preparation for the new cycle to begin. It is the natural break in the seasons that we may still sense today. We look to a fresh start and a new beginning as we open ourselves to another year.

The Japanese roots of our temple allow us a glimpse of customs of foods and decorations that mark the beginnings of the new cycle. Some of these explanations of our New Year customs are taken from the "Traditions of Jodo Shinshu" book and shared for the benefit of our ever-changing Sangha.

**SHOCHIKUBAI** means pine-bamboo-plum. These three elements are prominent in floral arrangements at the beginning of the year. Pine is a symbol of long life as the evergreen does not change like other plants through the seasons of the year. The bamboo tree is known to bend and sway without breaking. It is a symbol of resiliency. The blossoms of the plum tree are the first to appear in late winter and before the spring season takes place. The plum tree is a symbol of hardiness.

**MOCHI** refers to the pounded rice cakes made at temples and homes at the end of the year. Just as rice offerings are made at the home altar or at temple service, mochi is offered at the beginning of the year. Mochi is placed with one cake on top of another, and then a tangerine is usually set at the very top. This arrangement may be referred to as Kagami-mochi (mirror mochi) or Kasane-mochi (stacked or piled mochi).

**ZONI** is usually a clear broth soup with mochi, green vegetable, and Kamaboko (fish cake). After the New Year Day Service, many of our families gather to enjoy some traditional Japanese foods. The first thing eaten to start the year is Ozoni.

Please check our temple calendar as we have exciting events and adventures scheduled throughout the month of January. We look forward to sharing our times here. **Thank you** to everyone who takes the time to open our temple newsletter for the Dharma, the temple news, membership updates, and the announcements of what comes next. We appreciate all the support you provide that comes in so many different ways. The various Sangha activities reflect a vibrant community of fellow travelers seeking and growing their Nembutsu awareness.

Please note my contact information for your personal reference.

**Rev. Joshin Dennis Fujimoto**  
**Cell (916) 416 – 0919**  
**Email – [revdjoshin@gmail.com](mailto:revdjoshin@gmail.com)**

If you run out of time to catch me during our services and events, please feel free to call or email to schedule an appointment. If you would like to arrange for a visitation or service, please contact me. I will be more than willing to assist with coordination so that our arrangements are comfortable for all.

Rev. D

## Busy Sunday

On Sunday, December 3, 2017, the temple held services for the monthly memorials, Bodhi Day (when Siddhartha Gautama became Shakyamuni Buddha), and following the service, the ABWA presented our annual Keirokai celebration (honoring our elders - members over 88). This was also the first service that our new resident minister, Rev. Dennis Fujimoto, would be officiating. For all these reasons, the hondo was packed. It was good to see a full house!

Following the service, a group photo of all the keiro members was taken, and we moved to the hall to enjoy a delicious bento lunch. A good time was had by all.



Front Row: Dorothy Mizono, Terry Isono, Joyce Terao, Rev. D, Toshi Hasegawa, Mitzi Yoshimura, Cookie Takeshita

Second Row: Nan Kataoka, Hamako Suico, Misako Akiyama, Shigeki Sugiyama, Haru Shintani, May Yamaoka, Jean Nomura

Keiro members not in attendance: Mary Ann Hamasaki, Mary Hasegawa, Rose Imazumi, Yasuko Ann Ito, Kazue Iwahashi, Tama Koda, Dorothy Mizono, William Mizono, Takeo Mori, Nobuko Okamoto, Grace Shibata, Ray Tsurumoto, Archie Uchiyama, Yas Yamashita, Faith Yamato, Tomiyo Yoshiwara

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## ABWA NEWS

Happy New Year! We look forward to an exciting new year with our new minister, Rev. Dennis Fujimoto and his wife, Sharmon!

In December, we celebrated our 88+-year-olds with our annual Keirokai. Although it was a Temple-sponsored event, most of our honorees were ABWA members and the planning committee were all from the ABWA. Dorothy Okamoto was our lively M.C. for the event, and also presented the slideshow. She took photos of our honorees with vintage hats, and had us guessing the back views of each person before showing their faces. Other committee members, Jane Naito, Jean Sato, Joyce Maniwa, and Lenni Terao-Doerr also worked on various tasks for the event. Dianne Matsuoka, Jacqui Yamaoka and Lenni Terao-Doerr made the table decorations and programs.



On Sunday, January 21, 2018, we will have our ABWA New Year's luncheon after the family service. We will be having bento and sashimi at the Temple. If you would like to attend, please RSVP to Joyce Maniwa by January 14, 2018, to order your bento. Members' price is \$15, and non-members' is \$20. We hope to see you there!

Joyce's contact information: [jmaniwa@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jmaniwa@sbcglobal.net) (510) 537-5150

Just a friendly reminder: ABWA dues are \$20 and can be given to Judy Oda at the luncheon.

At the next meeting, I will be distributing the 2018 otoki toban list.

Toban assignments this year are as follows:

Group 2	Hanamatsuri	April 8
Group 3	Gotan-e	May 20
Group 1	Obon	July 22
Group 2	Ho-onko	Nov. 18

The next meeting will be on Sunday, January 7, 2018, after the Monthly Memorial service.

Best wishes for a wonderful new year!

In Gassho,

Lenni Terao-Doerr, President  
Alameda Buddhist Women's Association

## MONTHLY MEMORIAL SERVICES

The Monthly Memorial Service for the month of **January** will be held beginning at 10:00 a.m. on **Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup>**. The names of those listed on the Temple's memorial list as having passed away during the month of **January** were listed in the **December 2017 Upaya**.

The monthly memorial service for those who passed away in the month of **February** will be held on **Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>**. The persons listed below are listed on the temple's memorial list as having passed away during the month of **February**.

If **2018** is a *special service year* (as listed below) for a dear departed relative, please contact Rev. Joshin Fujimoto to arrange for special memorial arrangements.

Please inform Minister's Assistant Shigeki Sojo Sugiyama of any corrections to this list.

Special Service	Year of Death
1 Year	2017
3 Year	2016
7 Year	2012
13 Year	2006

Special Service	Year of Death
17 Year	2000
25 Year	1994
33 Year	1986
50 Year	1969

*After the first special service year, the special service year is the year before the special anniversary year.*

### THE NAMES OF THOSE WHO PASSED AWAY DURING THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY (AS LISTED ON THE TEMPLE'S MONTHLY MEMORIAL LIST)

1916	Infant Kenjiro Kozen	1952	Mrs. Ichi Kano
1917	Infant Teruko Ushijima Mr. Nobukichi Hirai	1955	Mr. Toranosuke Hisoka
1918	Infant Mitsuo Togiwata	1960	Mr. Yutaka Momii
1920	Mrs. Mitsuye Mifune Infant Masaru Matsumoto Mrs. Koyuki Iwataki Mr. Iwazo Yoshida	1961	Mr. Honji Abe
1921	Infant Shin Matsuo Infant Fumiko Tomotoshi	1965	Mr. Yoshimatsu Kawakami
1922	Infant Kameo Tawara	1967	Mr. Keiichiro Sugiyama
1924	Infant Asako Ito Mr. Kanzo Otsu	1976	Mr. Hikaru Abe
1925	Infant Hisashi Noda	1977	Mrs. Misa Tajima
1926	Mr. Shohei Takara	1979	Mr. Katsuichi Yamagata
1928	Infant Tsunetada Sunakawa Infant Yoshimi Suzawa	1986	Mrs. Akiko Honda
1929	Mrs. Eiko Kono	1988	Mr. Yutaka Nakayama
1930	Mrs. So Matsuzaka	1990	Mr. Shigeichi Kobashi
1931	Mr. Keichi Togiwata Mr. Shinichi Takagi	1991	Mr. Hitoshi Ogi
1934	Infant Mutsuo Noriye	1994	Mrs. Hamako Nishida
1936	Infant Kazumi Niita	1995	Mrs. Kiwa Shimada
1939	Mr. Masumi Kawamura Infant Kuniko Yoshimura	1999	Mrs. Misao Shiraishi
1940	Mrs. Hanaye Hayashi	2000	Mrs. Emi Nakamura
1949	Mrs. Hana Wada Mr. Shinsuke Nakamura	2000	Mr. Noboru Oscar Yamaoka
		2001	Mr. Sakae Suyeyasu
		2002	Mr. Shigeru Hayame
		2006	Mr. Wataru Okino
		2010	Mrs. Nami Iwataki
		2010	Mr. George Tsuchiya
		2011	Mrs. Toshiko Tashiro
		2014	Mr. Hideo Kawahara
		2017	Mrs. Rieko Kawabata

*Shin Buddhism Study Notes*  
**RIGHT SPEECH**  
By Shigeki Sojo Sugiyama, MPA, MJS

I rely on Nāgarjuna's commentary on Śākyamuni Buddha's guidance in the *Mahaprajnaparamita Sutra* concerning the meaning of words, as quoted by Shinran Shōnin in the *Kyōgyōshinshō*. Nāgarjuna advises that "[W]ords may indeed have meaning, but the meaning is not the word. Consider, for example, a person instructing us by pointing to the moon with his finger. [To take words to be the meaning] is like looking at the finger and not at the moon. The person would say, 'I am pointing to the moon with my finger in order to show it to you. Why do you look at my finger and not the moon?' Similarly, words are the finger pointing to the meaning; they are not the meaning itself. Hence, do not rely upon words."

I am constantly disturbed by rhetorical foolishness that abounds in the political pronouncements of our governmental leaders. Most, if not all, of that rhetoric is simply a verbal response that criticizes the *words* of the "opposition" without any reference to the issues that may be involved, nor give a better solution to correcting problems at issue.

For example, the President insists on "building a wall" to keep "undocumented individuals" from crossing the southern border into the United States, notwithstanding that it is well established that building a "wall" will not stop people from crossing a border. (The "Great Walls" of China are a good example.) So it appears to me that what the President wants to do is to stop people from entering the United States without proper authority, even though a more effective way of forestalling or preventing illegal border crossing other than by building a "wall" is needed. After all, reform of immigration policy cannot be effective without more effective means and methods for stopping illegal immigration.

My thoughts on 'the meaning of words leads to considering the import of the *Eightfold Noble Path's* 'Right Speech, which, following Right View and Right Thinking, entails more than understanding the meaning of words (which often change.) A reference tells me that Right Speech means to refrain from 'telling lies, speaking ill of others, 'double-tongued' slandering g', and using 'loose words' [irresponsible speech.] It also refers to leading and teaching others correctly with words. praising others, using words appropriate for the situation, as well as nurture peace and happiness of others.

Thus, we teach children in Dharma School through recitation of the Golden Chain—

*I will think pure and beautiful thoughts, say pure and beautiful words,  
and do pure and beautiful deeds.*

to nurture the development of Right Speech habits and understanding the correct meaning and use of words.

# **Buddhist Temple of Alameda Outreach & Membership Committee**

- Newly formed October 2017 -

## **The Committee's Charter:**

*As members of the Buddhist Temple of Alameda's Outreach & Membership Committee, we will develop and implement a plan that includes a comprehensive outreach program, which invites community involvement and increases the Temple membership.*

## **Current committee members:**

Rev. Bridge (Supervising Minister), Joyce Maniwa, Jane Naito, Stacey Morikawa-Won, James Won, Kimberly Kato Chambliss, Eddie Matsuoka, Amy Tomine, Tamiko Panzella, Jackie Ito-Woo, Ron Nakano

## **Existing responsibilities:**

- Review and update membership forms as needed
- Advertise annual membership drive in Upaya, website, Facebook, etc.
- Maintain accurate & keep up-to-date recordkeeping
- Send out reminder notices to unpaid members
- Update Temple directory
- Submit payment to BCA

## **New goals for 2018:**

- **Develop WELCOME BROCHURE.** (Target date: December 2017)

Brochure can be passed out to visitors and the community that includes information such as:

- Temple & minister information
- Service times
- Website information
- How to become a member & Membership form (short version)
- Contact information

Goal: Test effectiveness by passing out 1<sup>st</sup> print to Dharma school students and parents. Our hope is that more Dharma school families will become members.

- **Request every Board Member to try and enroll 1 family member / friend who is currently a non-member.** (Target date: Yearly Membership Drive period)



- **Re-establish fun activities we once sponsored.** (Target date for 1<sup>st</sup> activity: January 2018)

As a committee we will be sponsoring 1 event every 3 months (quarterly).

- **Provide a LECTURE SERIES for community and Temple members.** (Target Date: 1<sup>st</sup> Lecture beginning in March 2018)

Request Buddhist Education Committee (BEC) to create annual lecture series that can be widely advertised by the Outreach & Membership Committee.

- **Develop a NEW MEMBER PACKET.** (Target date: March 2018)

For new members, provide them with a New Member packet that may include: Buddhist teaching handbook, temple directory, current Upaya & forthcoming Wheel of Dharma newspaper from BCA.

- **Provide an OPEN HOUSE.** (Target date: Obon weekend)

It was suggested to have an Open House during Obon weekend because it is the time in which we get the greatest amount of visitors from the community and from Temple member's friends and family.

***Note: IF/ WHEN we obtain notification of a new resident minister, the committee & Temple Board will host a special service. Committee will create an announcement for the community and Temple members to come and meet the new minister. Utilize 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary mailing list, Upaya, newspaper and website to distribute the announcement.***

## More Dharma Talks by Members

In 2017 our Sangha learned about the lives and reflective thoughts of our last two Dharma Talk speakers, Jerry Sakamoto and Doug Doerr. They spoke from their hearts to share their journeys as Buddhists. As a result our Sangha has a closer relationship with fellow members, and can begin to examine our own histories and beliefs. Thank you to Jerry and Doug for being the first to volunteer.

We will continue our Lay Speaker program in 2018 with 6 new speakers lined up to share their life journeys as Buddhists. Please join us on the following dates to support our lay speakers. Dharma talks will be approximately 20 minutes.

Feb. 25	Ron Nakano
Mar. 25	Mas Takano
Apr. 29	Justin Dawson (our contractor)
July 29	Cookie Takeshita
Aug. 12	Dianne Matsuoka
Sept. 30	Amy Tomine

Rev. Fujimoto has kindly offered to review Dharma talks with the speakers if they would like some guidance. Every member of our Temple has something to share. If you would like to be a future speaker, please let me know.

Amy Tomine [msotomine@gmail.com](mailto:msotomine@gmail.com) or 510 524-5725

## 2018 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

It's that time of the year again to renew your membership to our temple, the Buddhist Temple of Alameda.

This year our goal is to reach out to others who are interested in becoming a member of our Temple. We would like to increase our membership by reaching out to as many people as possible. Please ask your family members and friends to join our Sangha. **The Buddhist Temple of Alameda is open to everyone!**

The membership dues are the same as last year.

- Individual membership \$150.00
- Young Dharma Friends (18 – 25 years old) \$50.00
- New Members (first year only) \$100.00
- Children under 18 years old whose parents are members are FREE

Please fill-out the Membership Form on the back of this page and send in a check payable to: Buddhist Temple of Alameda  
2325 Pacific Avenue  
Alameda, CA 94501

It's the Temple's preference that the dues be renewed within the first two months of the year (January, February). New members may join the Temple anytime of the year.

Thank you for your continued support.

*Membership and Outreach Committee*

# Let's Play BINGO!

Buddhist Temple of Alameda's Outreach & Membership Committee Event



*Calling all MEMBERS, FAMILY and FRIENDS to play BINGO*

**When:** Sunday, January 14, 2018

**Where:** Buddhist Temple of Alameda, 2325 Pacific Ave.

**Start Time:** 11:30AM (after 10AM Family Service)

**What to bring:** *One (1)* wrapped BINGO prize per person (price range between \$5-\$10) and a potluck dish