



UPAYA

Newsletter of the Buddhist Temple of Alameda
2325 Pacific Avenue Alameda CA 94501 (510) 522-5243 btoa.org

Volume XXV, No. 3

March, 2017

Spring Ohigan – Equinox

Spring and Fall, two times a year we conduct Ohigan – equinox Buddha Dharma gathering services. The middle day of the Spring Ohigan is March 20, 2017, and the middle day of the Fall Ohigan is September 23, 2017. During the Spring and Fall equinox, when the hours of the day and night are equal, the sun symbolically rises in the east, and sets in the west, in the direction of Ojodo – the Pure Land.

We are taught that mild weather comes with the Equinox. This is true. The Ohigan times are neither cold nor hot. These comfortable seasons of weather are perfect to practice the Buddha Dharma. Set seven days around the equinox days' centers. These weeks are called Ohigan weeks, and we practice the Buddha Dharma. We, ten schools of Pure Land Jodo Shinshu, all together decided that the Spring and Fall Ohigan weeks are to be weeks of improvement for our daily life. From long cold winter months and hot weather summer months, we finally become free, and during winter and summer seasons we forget to cherish our daily life.

Shakyamuni Buddha taught Pariamita, reach to higan – other shore. Other shore is the other side of Amida Buddha's Pure Land. We are living on this shore of human world. This shore is the delusion world of our passions. To reach to the other shore has important meaning for all of us. I recently read that if a person lived 70 years, during these 70 years, he or she walked about 500 million steps. This is 38,004,000 kilometers. He or she walked the distance from the earth to the moon. Thus, I have already walked beyond the moon! I cannot believe I have already walked such a distance.

We, human beings are dreaming of the happiness in our life, and are now journeying on our life. Through the Spring Ohigan, let us reflect on our present life, and let us ask if we truly have the things we can truly depend upon. Fortune, family, home, love and life are important aspects of life. But, these things cannot last forever. If we make strong attachments to our fortunes, we cannot become free from anxiety and mental suffering in our life. I like the following words of Shinran Shonin:

“How joyous I am, my heart and mind being rooted in the Buddha-ground of the universal Vow, and my thoughts and feelings flowing within the dharma-ocean, which is beyond comprehension!” (*The Collected Works of Shinran*, p.292)
He taught his peaceful and joyous heart in the end of the Kyo Gyo Shin Sho. To stand is like a big tree makes roots deep and wide underground. We too make our life's strong foundation in the ground of the universal Vow of Namo Amidabutsu.

In happy or difficult times, in any condition in our life, keep the Nembutsu in the center of your minds and hearts, and please be aware of the dynamic stability is always working for our mental sufferings by Namo Amidabutsu.

After extreme cold winter days, we finally can now feel the warm spring weather.

The Spring Equinox Ohigan Major Service will be conducted on Sunday, March 19, 2017, from 10:00 a.m. All temple members and Dharma friends, please come to the temple and enjoy Buddha Dharma teachings.

With Gassho,

Rev.Z. Taniguchi

Arigato – Thank you with Gassho

On Wednesday, Mr. Mas Takano and Mr. Ken Narahara kindly came to the temple and cut the temple lawn and cut some weeds. Because of all the rainy days, the garden needed extra care. Thank you Mas and Ken Sans.

On Friday, February 17, 2017, the temple switched to Direct T.V. service. Mr. Carl Woo kindly came and assisted in the installation. If you use the temple's Wi-Fi for internet connections while at the temple, please contact Jackie Ito-Woo for the new password.

Because of all the recent wind and rain, leaves had again blown onto the Social Hall roof. Carl went up to the roof and cleaned out the rain gutters so we don't have any more leaks in the hall. Thanks, Carl!



2017 New Year Service and Celebration

On Sunday, January 29, 2017, the temple conducted the 2017 New Year Service. Following the service, the Buddhist Women's Association installed its' new officers. After serving almost ten years as president, **Mrs. Joyce Maniwa** was finally relieved by **Ms. Lenni Terao-Doerr**. Joyce will stay on the board as vice-president to help with the transition. **Mrs. Judy Oda** will serve as treasurer and **Ms. Kimberly Kato-Chamblis** will be secretary.

The Board of Directors prepared a delicious Prime Rib lunch, always a crowd favorite.



Rev. Taniguchi's Retirement Party - May 6th

RSVP Deadline is April 7th

Seating is Limited

RSVP NOW





Altar Flowers Lessons

Sensei is teaching classes on how to arrange flowers for the onaijin. He learned from his father and is now teaching our members in order for us to carry on after he retires.

If you are interested in learning and volunteering to arrange the flowers for a Sunday Service.

Please contact: Jane Naito at

415.378.1100 or

janenaito@me.com

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Our Members in the News

Kiyoshi Naito and Yumi Yasuda BOTH in Major Magazines



Smithsonian Magazine January/February Issue *The Injustice of Japanese-*

American Internment Camps Resonates Strongly to This Day

Paul Kitagaki Jr., a photojournalist has pored over more than 900 pictures taken by War Relocation Authority photographers. He

found a photograph taken by Dorothea Lange of the late Rev. Shozen Naito as he locked up the Florin temple prior to being placed in Tule Lake. He persuaded **Kiyoshi Naito, past President of our temple** and his sister Yasuko Fukuda to be

photographed in front of the old Florin Temple Doors where their father once stood



Read more: <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/injustice-japanese-americans-internment-camps-resonates-strongly-180961422/#PaRFX8VHCk6TOsgl.99>

Vogue Magazine January – online only *Meet the Stylist Who Twins With Her Mom*

Even in Brooklyn, a haven for outré-dressed youth, **Miyako Bellizzi** stands out. She reps a tomboy clash of patterns - checkerboard or camo prints always accessorized with a dice wallet chain.

Along with her Bettie Page bangs and lacquered nails.

Though Bellizzi may appear one of a kind, especially in New York, she has a twin: her mom, **Yumi**. Mother and daughter both dress with a West Coast rockabilly-meets-street tinge.

Read more: <http://www.vogue.com/13524910/miyako-bellizzi-stylist-mother-daughter-twinning-fashion>



Dharma School News

The February Dharma School had good attendance with another new student. After friendly greetings on the Zafu cushion, they practiced Mindful Breathing and settled down their minds with calmness, peace and joy. Then, the Buddha's teaching, "We need to be happy and peaceful. When we become selfish, we do bad things," was introduced by the metaphor of "Three Poisoned G.A.S." produced by Selfishness: "G.A.S." stands for "Greed," "Anger" and "Stupidity."

After that, students did the "Family Metta (loving-kindness)" exercise. They all listened to the Metta words, with closed eyes, cross legged and smiles. It is impressive to observe their concentration and focus to these mental states. We never can overemphasize the importance of the Buddha's teaching of "Metta."

They listened to one of the Jataka Stories (story of the Buddha's previous lives), "The Baby Quail Who Could Not Fly Away." It is a beautiful story that tells the Power of Metta: the baby quail who could not still fly extended his True Metta to his parents and all other living beings that were left in the forest fire. By the truthfulness of Metta, a very heavy rain suddenly started over the forest and the fire extinguished. All life formed in the forest were thus rescued. It is always wonderful to listen to this story.

After the story, we divided students into two groups: younger than eight years and older than nine years. Age range of our students is quite big, therefore, we needed to have different activities: This day, younger students did a card making and older ones learned the more advanced Buddhist teachings.

Younger students were all excited to make Valentine Cards for their parents. They enjoyed working on their artistic imagination and skills, with special love to them.

Older students moved into the larger classroom. Focusing Metta, they learned one of the very important analysis of the Buddha, "Decision-making." They learned the process of "Metta" and the process of "Attachment" as often called "love." It was the first time to teach the "Decision-making" to this young people, but truly impressive to realize that they were all insightful and wise enough to understand it.

Buddhist exercises of Mindfulness or Metta are utilizable by all ages of children, and can be started at the age of even two. But some Buddhist doctrinal teachings, such as "Decision-making," can be explained after good life experiences. In this sense, it was nice to share it with pre-teens.

There are now teenagers in Dharma School, and they are ready to join the Bay District Jr. Y.B.A. (Young Buddhist Association). We are looking forward to see them as Jr. Y.B.A.

Thank you, Yumi, again for donating the Maiji-Ya's delicious snacks! Thank you, Howard Shintani for Peppertide farm Goldfish baked Snickers with new flavors and tastes!

Metta,

Buddhist Temple of Alameda, Dharma School Teaching Team:
Yumi Yasuda, Kimberly Kato-Chambliss, Andrew Taira, Shoyo Taniguchi

Dates to Remember

Thursday, March 2, 2017, from 7:00 p.m.

Adult Dharma Class

Rev. Dr. Shoyo Taniguchi

Sunday, March 5, 2017, from 10:00 a.m.

Dharma School Service and Monthly Memorial Service

Tuesday, March 7, 2017, from 10:00 a.m.

Japanese Language Monpo Service

Saturday, March 18, 2017, from 10:00 a.m.

Omigaki: polishing altar items

Note: this will be the last year Rev. Taniguchi can direct the disassembly and re-assembly of the hanging brass lanterns. Next year we will be on our own.

Sunday, March 19, 2017, from 10:00 a.m.

Spring Ohigan Major Service

Speaker: Rev. Dr. Shoyo Taniguchi

11:30 a.m. Otoki Lunch

Saturday, April 8, 2017, from 10:00 a.m.

Construction of Lumbini Garden

Sunday, April 9, 2017, from 10:00 a.m.

Dharma School

Hanamatsuri Major Service – Shakyamuni Buddha’s Birthday Celebration

Guest Speaker: **Rev. LaVern Sasaki**, BCA Emeritis Minister

11:30 a.m. Otoki Lunch

Sunday, April 16, 2107, from 10:00 a.m.

Monthly Memorial Service

Shin Buddhism Study Notes

ONDOKUSAN

By Shigeki Sojo
Sugiyama, MPA,

When we
Ondokusan at the
our family services.
wonder how many
singing know or
understand the
of the hymn. I,
did not learn the
of the *Ondokusan*
began my studies at
Institute of
Studies even though



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sing the
end of
I often
of those

meaning
myself,
meaning
until I
the
Buddhist
I had

learned to sing *Ondokusan* as a child. And I did not learn until 1975 that there is a second musical version of the gatha called *Ondokusan II*. I was first introduced to *Ondokusan II* when I was privileged to chair an *Obon Service* in the chapel of a university in Washington D.C. after the only *Obon Odori* ever conducted on the Washington Mall. I began to lead the singing of *Ondokusan* at the end of the service as I knew it. But it did not take me long to realize that I was singing the *Ondokusan* differently from the way the organist was playing the music and the gathering was singing the words. I learned later that there is a second musical version of the *Ondokusan* ..

To get back to the point, the *Ondokusan* is the final verse of Shinran Shonin’s *Shōzōmatsu Wasan*, Hymns of the Last Age. Notwithstanding the lengthy translation given in the he BCA’s service book , I would translate the words of the verse literally, as follows:

We should proclaim our debt of gratitude for the great compassion of the Tathagatas , until our bones be crushed [our bodies are overtaken by death.]

We should also express our debt of gratitude to our Dharma teachers until our bones be crushed [we die].

On the other hand, the Ryukoku University’s translation series provides us with the following paraphrase of the verse: *The compassion of the Tathagatas–Amida and oŚ~yamuni– and the benevolence of those who let us receive it, particularly the seven masters, is incomparably great. We should repay them, no matter how difficult it may be to do so.*

Although Shinran’s words were written more than seven hundred years ago, they were set to music, in Hawaii, in the 1920s by, I am told, a composer of Christian hymns (as were other gathas.) . In that light, I recall that when I occasionally attended Christian church services years ago, I was impressed by how congregations sang their *Doxology* with power and fervor at the end of their services. And, on recalling the fervor of the Christian voices, I recalled the voices of the Issei members of our temple singing the *Ondokusan* with heartfelt feeling., which I do not hear now.

And, in my contemplation of the *Ondokusan* in comparison to the *Doxology*, I note the contrast between Christian Theology and Buddhist Dharma. The words of the *Doxology*–
*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below,
 praise him above, ye heaen.ly host: Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Ameen.”*
 —while somewhat similar in apparent intent to that of the *Ondokusan*, reveal a difference between the two faiths. I presume that “praising God” is similar to expressing gratitude to God. However, such praise or gratitude is for all “blessings” (good and bad) which are believed to be given to us by God. Essentially, then, our lives are said to be controlled by God. However, Buddhist teaching reflected by the *Ondokusan* tells me, implicitly, that we should express our gratitude for being taught by the Tathagatas Amida and Ś~kyamuni and the seven masters how we can overcome the sufferings of human existence by following the path of their teaching. Essentially, in Buddhism, we can control our own destinies, whereas in Christian Theology, our lives are dependent on God’s will.

MONTHLY MEMORIAL SERVICES

The Monthly Memorial Service for the month of **March** will be held beginning at 10:00 a.m. on **Sunday, March 5th**. The names of those listed on the Temple’s memorial list as having passed away during the month of **March** were listed in the **February Upaya**.

The monthly memorial service for those who passed away in the month of **April** will be held on **Sunday, April 2nd**. The persons listed below are listed on the temple’s memorial list as having passed away during the month of **April**.

If **2017** is a *special service year* (as listed below) for a dear departed relative, please contact Rev. Taniguchi to arrange for special memorial arrangements.

Please inform Rev. Taniguchi of any corrections or additions to this list.

Special Service	Year of Death
1 Year	2016
3 Year	2015
7 Year	2011
13 Year	2005

Special Service	Year of Death
17 Year	2001
25 Year	1993
33 Year	1985
50 Year	1968

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

1928	Mr. Tosaka Shigematsu	1963	Mrs. Yukino Iwahashi
1929	Mr. Gohei Mayegoto	1965	Mr. Rinzo Yonekura
1931	Infant Takashi Nishino	1968	Mrs. Yumi Kataoka
	Mr. Tagoro Nagai	1970	Mr. Tomejiro Obata
1916	Infant Kiyoshi Ishii	1971	Mr. Hideo Yamashita
1919	Mr. Gendayu Soma		Mr. Totaro Yamamoto
	Mr. Tsurutaro Setogawa		Mrs. Kayo Yamaoka
	Infant Mitoma	1975	Mr. Tamotsu Kitajima
	Miss Kimi Nakashima	1979	Mrs. Mieko Okabe
1920	Infant Nakata	1984	Infant Kevin Maniwa
	Infant Kachiyo Morotomi		Mr. Taichi Shimada
1922	Infant Tsukie Tsuchiya	1985	Mrs. Komino Wada
1923	Infant Hisashi Tsuchiya	1986	Mr. Kumao Tanaka
1925	Mr. Yoshisuke Yamamoto	1988	Mr. Wilbur Rice
	Mrs. Fukuno Kinoshita	1990	Mr. Fumio Yamaoka
1926	Mr. Yaozo Kusuda	1992	Mrs. Nobuko Fukuoka
1927	Mrs. Kikuno Ikeda	1992	Mr. Satoru Yamazaki
	Miss Sadae Imura	1992	Ms. Hideko Yamaoka
1928	Mrs. Akiko Nakayama	1993	Miss Louise Komatsu
	Mr. Raiji Doi		Mrs. Shizue Sugiyama
1932	Mr. Yokichi Matsuzaki	1997	Mrs. Shigeko Takayanagi
	Miss Hisako Taguchi		Mr. Don Kuge
1933	Mrs. Sada Kanzaki	1998	Mr. Susumu Suyeyasu
	Mrs. Tsuru Kihara		Mr. Shigeo Futagaki
1939	Mr. Jirouyemon Machida	2002	Ms. Virginia Tomie Nakaso
1940	Mr. Kohei Nakamura	2002	Mr. Jim K. Yamaoka
1940	Mr. Hatsuzo Kuge	2007	Mrs. Marue Takayama
1945	Mr. Minoru Nakayama	2007	Mr. Gary Okada
1948	Mr. Jumi Nakano	2010	Mrs. Betty Yanari
1950	Mr. Thomas Takizawa	2010	Mrs. Ryoko Kimura
1952	Mrs. Tokie Narahara	2012	Mr. Tadao Takayanagi
1953	Mr. Hiroshi Sekigahama	2013	Mrs. Toki Yoshida
1954	Mr. Kumataro Shimada	2013	Mrs. Lillie Y. Ushijima
1957	Mr. Makitaro Sakai		
1959	Mr. Katsufusa Kawano		

Building Temple Membership

After the screening of the documentary, "Our Second Home" at our New Year's luncheon, Children's Dharma School student, Calvin Foltz, rushed to the table and said he wanted to

buy a copy of the DVD. When I told him HE was our future, he vowed to work hard to keep our Temple open.

May Yamaoka's granddaughter, Tamiko Panzella, emailed me to say she shared the DVD with her friends, and as a result, they wanted to come visit our Temple. Tamiko later emailed me to say she and her friend, Joe Klein, were inspired to join our Temple, so they filled out the paperwork to become members.

A friend of mine who viewed the documentary said watching it made her want to join our Temple. She is already a member of another Buddhist Temple, so she will not be joining us. If you have purchased a copy of our DVD, please share it with your family members and friends. Hopefully, it can inspire former members to come back to the Temple and new people to join our Sangha.

If you would like to purchase a copy of "Our Second Home", please contact me at msotomine@gmail.com or call me at 510 524-5725.

Amy Tomine

ABWA NEWS

Temple Brokerage Account

The temple now has an E*Trade brokerage account. This will allow supporters to donate stocks, bonds, and mutual funds to the temple.

We hope to have an accountant or financial planner speak at the temple to discuss the tax benefits to individuals who donate appreciated equities. Until then, please contact Tom Hashimoto or Jackie Ito-Woo for more information.

We

begin the new year with a new cabinet and three new ABWA members:

Susan Hiraki, Tsueko Muraca, and Jacqui Yamaoka-Panzella. Welcome to all!

On Sunday, February 12, 2017, combined with our Nirvana Day and Eitakyo Services, we held memorial services for Ladies Takeko Kujo and Yoshiko Ohtani.

It was the first time for our temple to formally recognize these two important women in the history of the Buddhist Women's Association. Lady Takeko Kujo was the daughter of the 21st Gomonshu, Koson Ohtani. A humanitarian and founder of the Buddhist Women's Association, she was also a prolific poet, and wrote the gatha, "Seiya." Lady Yoshiko Ohtani was the wife of the 23rd Gomonshu, Kosho Ohtani, and grandmother of the current Gomonshu, Kojun Ohtani. She organized the first World Buddhist Women's Convention and dedicated her life to spreading the Nembutsu and revitalizing the BWA. She visited many temples around the world including our own Buddhist Temple of Alameda!

An updated otoki toban list (yellow sheet) was distributed at the last ABWA meeting. If you would like a copy, please notify Lenni.

The next ABWA meeting will be held on Sunday, March 12, 2017.

Gassho,

Lenni Terao-Doerr
President, ABWA