



UPAYA

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

Volume XXV, No. 10

October, 2017

I'm still here!

Hello again everyone! This is my second article for the Upaya Newsletter, which means that I am still around! I will be supervising through at least the end of the year, so I will be attending board meetings at the Buddhist Temple of Alameda, contributing to the newsletter, and officiating and speaking at services about once a month.

I will also be on-call in case of emergencies. My cell phone number is 510-316-2842. In the evenings and late at night/early morning, please call both my cell and my home phone number: 510-339-3265 – my cell phone often doesn't ring at my house because of poor cellular reception. In non-emergency cases, please feel free to email me at revharry3@gmail.com or call the Buddhist Church of Oakland office at 510-832-5988. My days off at BCO are Monday and Tuesday (though of course in emergencies please don't hesitate to call any day of the week).



Rev. Harry Gyokyo Bridge

I need to include at least a little bit of Dharma, so I would like to talk about one of my favorite Buddhist teachings, “the Middle Way.” It can be found in foundational Pali texts, for example in the “First Turning of the Wheel” where Shakyamuni first speaks to his ascetic friends and propounds the Four Noble Truths and the Noble Eightfold Path. In fact, the Eightfold Path is equated there with the Middle Way. In other texts, Dependent Co-Origination (*pratitya samutpada*) is used to express the Middle Way between eternalism & annihilation. It is also related to Emptiness (*shunyata*) found in the Madhyamika School of the Mahayana. Perhaps the easiest example of the Middle Way is found in Siddhartha Gautama's rejection of both the pleasure of his early life in the palace and the difficult ascetic practices during his quest for enlightenment. His awakening and subsequent teachings were this Middle Way between those extremes.

So one thing we can do as Buddhists is try and live our life in accord with the Middle Way. But it isn't a simple dogma for us to follow. Instead, it asks us to look at our life, look at the choices to be made, and try and determine what the extremes are. Very often we don't live life in this way – we think we know the answers, we stubbornly cling to what we believe, or we mindlessly live according

to assumptions that we hold to be self-evident. But do we really know? What if we could see things from another perspective, what if we could see things the way they *really* are?

Unfortunately, to really do this we would need to be enlightened. But I believe that we can find the Middle Way in Jodo Shinshu too. On the one hand, we turn to the Buddha and the Dharma – whether to try and get an idea of how we should respond, or to rely on the Wisdom & Compassion that come to us through the Name, Namo Amida Butsu. On the other hand, we reflect on ourselves, trying to see ourselves humbly and honestly, willing to see ourselves as Foolish Beings, or *bonbu*, reciting Namo Amida Butsu in gratitude. We don't have to be perfect, we don't have to be something we are not – Amida Buddha accepts us as we are. And yet, we are encouraged by Shinran Shonin not to indulge in the three poisons either.

I look forward to finishing out the year with you, and hopefully continue on into 2018!

In gassho,
Rev. Harry Gyokyo Bridge



Jerry Sakamoto – Lay Speaker

After Rev. Taniguchi retired, when or if a new minister was assigned to our temple was a big unknown. In order to keep conducting regular services, the board decided to augment Dharma talks from Rev. Bridge and other available ministers with talks by our ministers' assistant, Mr. Shigeki Sugiyama, and by lay members. Lay members were reluctant to give formal "Dharma Messages", so it was agreed that members would talk about their own history with our temple or other Buddhist temples, and how the Buddha Dharma has influenced their lives.

Mr. Jerry Sakamoto volunteered to speak at the September 24, 2017, service. Jerry has been a member of more temples than anyone I have met. Mostly because of his employment with the Boy Scout of America, he has lived in San Luis Obispo, Stockton, Central California, South Korea, Washington State et al!! Wherever he went, he sought out Buddhist temples, and not only attended, but was willing to take on leadership positions. I guess that's why he volunteered to be one of our first lay speakers. Despite serious medical problems, Jerry continues to volunteer whenever asked.



ABWA NEWS

October is here...already! Here are some activities that are coming up in the next few months. We look forward to your participation!

- Dana Food Drive - now until November 19, 2017

As part of our Dana project, we will again be donating to the local Alameda Food Bank and to the Alameda County Community Food Bank. There will be a barrel at the Temple for food donations (non-perishable, non-expired, and non-glass containers, please). Monetary donations are welcomed as well. Checks may be made payable to **ABWA** and the proceeds will be divided in half and given to each food bank. Please indicate that your donation is for the **food banks** on your check. Donations (food and checks) can be made until November 19, 2017, our Hoonko service day.

- Eshinni, Kakushinni, Lady Ohtani, ABWA Members' Memorial Service - Sunday, October 29, 2017 Our guest speaker will be Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara. Following the service will be a luncheon at Pier 29 Waterfront Restaurant in Alameda. Rides will be available. More information will be provided at the October 1st meeting. If you miss the meeting, we will be in touch.

- Keirokai – Sunday, December 3, 2017

Although it is still 2 months away, this is a heads-up for our annual event honoring our temple members who are 88 years and older. We welcome all temple members to join in the celebration, as well as family members of our honorees. Please see the announcement in this issue of the Upaya for more details.

The next ABWA meeting will be on Sunday, October 1, 2017, after the monthly memorial service.

In Gassho,

Lenni Terao-Doerr, President

Alameda Buddhist Women's Association

Buddhist Temple of Alameda
Alameda BWA
FALL OHIGAN FOOD DANA
September 24 to November 19, 2017

Once again, in the spirit of Dana (giving) the Alameda Buddhist Women's Association is sponsoring a food drive for the Alameda County Community Food Bank and the Alameda Food Bank. A food barrel will be available for contributions of non-perishable foods. Please bring your food donations to the temple any time between September 24 and November 19, 2017, (Hoonko). The food barrel will be picked up before Thanksgiving.

Most Needed Nonperishable Foods in non-glass containers:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|
| Canned fruits & vegetables | Peanut butter |
| Canned meats and fish | Cereal/Oatmeal |
| Pasta and tomato sauce | Powdered milk |
| Beans, rice | Nutritional beverages |

Monetary contributions are also welcome. If writing a check, please write your check payable to: Alameda Buddhist Women's Association. The funds will be consolidated and sent equally to the Alameda Food Bank and the Alameda County Community Food Bank.

Thank you in advance for your support.

With palms together in gratitude
Alameda Buddhist Women's Association





From the Temple Parsonage Team:

Well, we completed one of our first projects! The re-upholstery subcommittee of Stacey, James, Dianne, Eddie, Jacqui and Lou has successfully recovered the eight dining room chairs in the residence. They spent many hours including planning, buying materials, disassembling, sanding, polishing and re-cushioning these chairs. It took about half a dozen sessions but they finally completed it on Sunday the 3rd in that hot weather.

We are deeply indebted to their enthusiasm, motivation, teamwork and camaraderie to allow this project to get completed quickly and they had so much fun working together.



So what is next on the agenda? Well, we had a comprehensive building inspection done. We have a list of items that need to be completed, thus our next step will be to get the windows & doors replaced. At the same time, we will be working on updating the existing bathroom, adding a second bathroom, upgrading the electrical service, converting to central heating, installing a new water heating system, and painting. With a sense of urgency to complete our many projects, we have a very good team in place to accomplish the Temple's parsonage remodeling goal.

Thanks to all!!!

In Gassho,

Yumi, Kent, James and Stacey



MONTHLY MEMORIAL SERVICES

The Monthly Memorial Service for the month of **October** will be held beginning at 10:00 a.m. on **Sunday, October 1st**. The names of those listed on the Temple's memorial list as having passed away during the month of **October** were listed in the **September Upaya**.

The monthly memorial service for those who passed away in the month of **November** will be held on **Sunday, November 5th**. The persons listed below are listed on the temple's memorial list as having passed away during the month of **November**.

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 Minister's Assistant Sugiyama 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

AFTER THE FIRST SPECIAL SERVICE YEAR, THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL SERVICE YEAR IS THE YEAR BEFORE THE ANNIVERSARY YEAR.

THE NAMES OF THOSE WHO PASSED AWAY DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER.

(AS LISTED ON THE TEMPLE'S MONTHLY MEMORIAL LIST)

1918	Mrs. Ume Takagi	1938	Mr. Kiyoto Nakamura	1987	Mrs. Shizuye Imazumi
	Mr. Sakumatsu Fukuda	1942	Mrs. Misao Kumagai	1988	Mrs. Fujino Furuno
	Mrs. Masano Nomiyama	1945	Mr. Shigeru Tsuchiya	1991	Mr. Goro Sato
1920	Infant Iwa Kato	1948	Mr. Katusaburo Matsumoto	1993	Mrs. Kazuko Mandeville
1921	Mrs. Matsu Ogami	1949	Mr. Moriji Yamashita	1994	Mr. Frank Otsuka
1922	Mr. Chotaro Yumikezuri		Mr. Sakunosuke Imura		Rev. Eiyu Terao
1923	Mr. Kinhei Kitajima	1950	Mr. Torakichi Sueyasu	2000	Mrs. Hatsuko Hoshi
	Mr. Wakanosuke Nishimoto	1955	Mr. Kisomatsu Kobashi		Mr. Susumu Yamamoto
	Infant Kimiko Fujino	1956	Mr. Tsunezo Minami	2002	Mr. Futami Maeda
1924	Infant Rei Muramoto	1957	Mrs. Chiyono Imazumi	2003	Mrs. Mitsuyo Doi
1926	Infant Yayeko Saito	1958	Mr. Kakunojo Nakayama	2005	Mr. Yoshinori Yamamoto
	Infant Yukiye Terazawa		Infant Julian Handa	2007	Mr. Yoshio James Kakimoto
1927	Mr. Senzuchi Fukuma		Mr. Motokichi Kodama	2010	Mrs. Alice Yamaoka
1929	Mistress Midori Sugimoto	1960	Mr. Hanzo Arai	2011	Mr. William McFarland
1930	Mr. Kinkichi Imazumi	1963	Mr. Yoshio Kamiji	2011	Mrs. Dorothy Narahara
	Infant Masako Miyasaki		Mrs. Tane Nakayama	2012	Mrs. Matsuye Ogi
1931	Mr. Tomitaro Ikezoe	1969	Mr. Zenichi Sakamoto	2013	Mr. Dick Hideaki Nakano
1936	Mr. Kishiro Tsuchiya	1970	Mr. Yoshitomo Honda		
1937	Mr. Seisuke Ushijima	1974	Mrs. Kiyo Hashimoto		

Shin Buddhism Study Notes
IGNORANCE, FOOLISHNESS, STUPIDITY
By Shigeki Sojo Sugiyama

In two letters by Shinran in the *Mattōshō* and as recounted by Yuiembō in the *Tannishō*, Shinran counselled his followers that they should not imbibe in the ‘three poisons’(greed, anger and ignorance) just because they believed that they would be saved by Amida Buddha through his great compassion. I think that most people know what ‘greed’ and ‘anger’ mean, although their causes and consequences may not be known. However, what does it mean to be ignorant? To my knowledge, Shinran did not fully explain what he meant by ignorance, other than perhaps lack of knowledge of the guidance given us by the Buddha Dharma. Thus, I have toyed with my own notions as to what it means to be ignorant, and the potential consequences thereof.

we are all ignorant to some degree and Shinran referred to himself and all of us as *bombu*, which I take to mean “an un-enlightened person”. After all, only a Buddha is enlightened in that sense. Some of us know a little bit of many things, and there are others who know a lot about a few things. But, human beings are incapable of knowing everything about everything. Thus, we are all ignorant to some degree. But we characterize the behavior of others based on various kinds or degrees of ignorance with derisive words such as foolish or stupid.

Referring to someone’s behavior as foolish is often a kinder way of referring to someone’s lack of good judgment, rather than calling the person stupid. The other day, I took a friend sightseeing to Lake Tahoe and visited a casino for a bite to eat. While there, I put twenty dollars into an electronic slot machine, knowing very well that such machines are designed to make a profit for its owner. In less than ten minutes, my twenty dollars were gone. Thus, I wasted money foolishly since the money could have been put to better use by donating it to a food bank.

To return home, I decided to return via Truckee and Interstate 80, rather than via Highway 50. I knew that I had to make a left turn somewhere on the road on the north side of the lake to reach Truckee, but did not recall where that turn is. I thought of setting the GPS on my car to help me find my way, but did not do so. As a consequence, I missed the turn and wound up going all the way to Reno and Highway I-80. It took me an hour and half longer than planned to get home. That would be called, rightly, stupid.

We, today, are apprised daily through various media of various kinds of foolish and stupid ‘things’ that are committed by others locally and around the world. However, most people are oblivious of how detrimental such behavior or actions by others is to our wellbeing. Thus, we don’t realize how we suffer because of the foolishness and tepidity of others upon whom our wellbeing depends.

This theme will be continued in my next article.

Movie Notice

LARKSPUR, CA, SEPTEMBER 18, 2017 – Unwashed Masses Productions is pleased to announce that the new documentary feature film, **THE ITO SISTERS**, will have its festival premiere as part of the 2017 Berkeley Video & Film Festival, and will screen on Sunday, November 5, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. at the East Bay Media Center, 1939 Addison Street, Berkeley, CA 94704. A Q&A will follow the screening.

*The film is directed and produced by **Antonia Grace Glenn**, the granddaughter of late temple members, **Mike and Haru (Lillian) Nakano**.*

THE ITO SISTERS captures the rarely told stories of the earliest Japanese immigrants to the United States and their American-born children. In particular, the film focuses on the experiences of Issei (or immigrant) and Nisei (or first generation born in the US) women, whose voices have largely been excluded from American history.

At the center of the film are three Nisei sisters: Natsuye (Nancy), **Haruye (Lillian)** and Hideko (Hedy), who were born on a farm in the Sacramento River Delta and whose lives were directly impacted by some of the most significant events of 20th-century America, from the San Francisco Earthquake of 1906 to the Great Depression to World War II. The film also explores the lives of the women's parents, Yetsusaburo and Toku Ito, who came to the United States to earn money and then return home to Japan, but whose plans were repeatedly thwarted. These personal narratives are set against the backdrop of the anti-Japanese movement in California, a 60-year campaign by politicians, journalists, landowners, labor leaders and others that culminated in the evacuation and incarceration of more than 120,000 Japanese Americans from the West Coast. Featuring interviews with the three sisters—conducted in their 80s and 90s—the film is also brought to life through family and archival photographs and documents; verbatim quotes from prominent historical figures, performed by a cast of talented voice-over artists; commentary and analysis from renowned scholars; and artistic illustrations.

THE ITO SISTERS reveals a little known chapter of American history, focusing on life in what was essentially a California plantation system between the world wars, with Asian and Mexican laborers working the fields of white landowners

Eshinni, Kakushinni, Lady Ohtani, ABWA Members' Memorial Service

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ARIGATO – THANK YOU
To Our 2017 Keirokai Members

Please join us on **Sunday, Dec. 3rd**
(after Bodhi Day & Monthly Memorial Service)
for our

Annual Keirokai Luncheon
to honor our members who are
88 years young and older.

Keirokai members and families all welcome.

Please RSVP by Sunday, Nov. 19th
(Hoonko Service Date) to order your Obento

Joyce Maniwa
510-537-5150 or jmaniwa@sbcglobal.net

ALAMEDA KAYO CLUB KARAOKE SHOW

Celebrating 33 Years!

Enjoy Listening to Traditional & Contemporary
Japanese Song Favorites
Performed by Members and Guests



Saturday, October 7, 2017

1:00 – 4:00 PM

Buddhist Temple of Alameda
2325 Pacific Ave, Alameda, CA 94501

Tickets: \$10.00 at the door

For more information please contact Judy Oda at (510) 521-3662