



UPAYA

Newsletter of the Buddhist Temple of Alameda

2325 Pacific Avenue Alameda CA 94501 (510) 522-5243 btoa.org

Volume XXVI, No. 4

April, 2018

Hanamatsuri - Flower Festival

Each April we are able to celebrate the birth of the historical Buddha. April 8, 565 BC is the date we recognize as the day Prince Siddhartha was born in Northern India. His parents, King Suddhodana and Queen Maya of the Sakya clan were so happy to welcome the baby prince into this world, that they named him Siddhartha. The name meant "Every Wish Fulfilled".

We each know this story as we re-create the events at our annual Hanamatsuri Service. At the temple, we build the Hanamido or Flower Shrine to symbolize the mystery of the flowers that bloomed out of season that day in Northern India. It is said that a sweet rain fell from the sky that day. This too, is symbolically replayed as we bathe the image of the baby Buddha with ladles of sweet tea.



The Hanamatsuri Service is always one of the most colorful and memorable services on the temple calendar. Flowers announce to us all that Spring is here. Nature shakes itself loose from winter slumber, and we are all ready to step into the sunlight. It feels good.

As we acknowledge the birth of the baby Buddha 2500 years ago, we also welcome him into our own lives today. We transition a moment in history, embellished with honor and respect, and bring it forward to contemporary relevance and personal treasure. An incredible journey has brought the story of the Buddha and the truths of the Dharma to touch our lives here and now. Infinite causes and conditions ... combining and intersecting ... falling and emerging again ... countless lives carrying the Dharma and handing it off to you and me. How lucky we are and how touched we should be. Far beyond the pictures in our phones and the family albums, and far beyond the personal connections to one temple or two, the story of Hanamatsuri connects us to a depth and scope of infinite happenings. Our lives become grounded in the recognition that we are an integral part of the greater picture.

In the Three Treasures, we proclaim that "I take refuge in the Buddha, the Dharma, and the Sangha". Together, we claim our place as part of the whole. Connected to all and grounded in the infinite, we are able to move forward through whatever our lives call us to do. Shakamuni's birth and his

journey to awakening has brought the Nembutsu path to us. It becomes our choice to take this path that leads to depth of life and quiet stability. Whether to take care of our children or our parents, or to wash the car or our laundry, we do it all as best we can. Everyday life is our practice. We do it well when we come to know our place in all things and our connection to all things. This is the path that the Buddha brought forward. We celebrate the beginning with Hanamatsuri. This year our Hanamatsuri Service is April 8 at 10:00 AM. Rev. Harry Bridge of the Buddhist Church of Oakland will be leading our service here. Please come to enjoy and share this very special service. We will see you at the temple.

Rev. Dennis

Rev. Joshin Dennis Fujimoto

Contact information:

revdjoshin@gmail.com

(916) 416-0919

Office Hours:

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Thursday through Monday

Or by appointment



2018 Vacationland Silent Auction Requesting Donations



Is it Spring Cleaning time?

Do you have some wonderful items in your storage unit, basement or attic that need to see some daylight?

Do you have a business or service that you would like to donate as a gift certificate to the Silent Auction?

The Silent Auction Committee is happy to receive your donations for this year's Vacationland Bazaar Silent Auction.

100% of the dollars raised from the Silent Auction goes directly to the Temple.

Start searching for those wonderful treasures and bring them to the Social Hall. Identify the item as a Silent Auction item and we will start collecting them.

Thank you for continued support!

Vickie, Sue and Fran

Silent Auction Committee

2018 Spring Ohigan Service

On Sunday, March 18, 2018, the temple observed, Ohigan, the spring equinox, the time of the year when day equals night, the perfect time to hear the Buddha Dharma. The guest speaker was **Rev. Henry Adams**, resident minister of the San Mateo Buddhist Temple. Chairperson for the service was **Mr. Ron Tsuchiya**; **Ms. Lenni Terao Doerr** was organist. **Rev. Dennis Fujimoto** officiated assisted by **Shigeki Sugiyama Sensei**.

Following the service, a special ohigan lunch was served in the Social Hall at which time, long time senior member, **Mr. Yas Yamashita** was honored. Yas has been attending our temple since a child, but has recently relocated in Lodi, California. Because the move was so sudden, many friends had not gotten a chance to say goodbye and wish him well. Besides, temple members, friends from Extending Connections and the Swinging Samurai golf club were in attendance. Both the service and hall were packed with well wishers.

Best wishes, Yas!



Mr. Ron Tsuchiya Shigeki Sensei Rev. Adams Rev. D. Fujimoto Ms. L. Terao-Doerr

Yas Yamashita's "We'll Miss You" Celebration



Jo Takata from Extending Connections



Swinging Samurai Golf Club

ABWA NEWS

Haru ga kita! Spring has come!

April brings a lot of events and activities.

~ Hanamatsuri - Sunday, April 8, 2018

We look forward to having Rev. Harry Bridge as our guest speaker. Toban group #2 will be preparing the otoki luncheon.



~ Pre-Hanamatsuri Set-Up - Saturday, April 7, 2018

We will be setting up our Lumbini Garden and Baby Buddha shrine from 10 AM. All are encouraged to come out and help!

~ Omigaki (Altar Brass Polishing) - Over the years, many of our ABWA members and helpers have volunteered their time and elbow grease to polish the altar brass ornaments before Hanamatsuri. This year, we will not be doing the omigaki as we have done in past years. The Wakabayashi company in Japan, who refurbished our altar and those of many other temples, have asked that we do not continue the polishing as before. It seems to have caused the natural finish to wear down. However, we will do some form of onaijin (altar) cleaning at a date to be determined.

~ Hakone Gardens Field Trip - Thursday, April 12, 2018

Now that a date has been set, we are working out the details of our field trip for ABWA members and toban helpers. A report of our outing will be in next month's Upaya.

The next meeting will be held on Sunday, April 1, 2018, after the Monthly Memorial service.

Gassho,

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

Lay Speaker Series

Our new format of having the Dharma Talk given by a lay member during the family service on the fourth Sunday of the month continued with **Mr. Masaki Takano** speaking at the service on Sunday, March 25, 2018. Chairperson for the service was **Mrs. May Yamaoka**, **Rev. Joshin Dennis Fujimoto** officiated assisted by **Shigeki Sugiyama sensei**. **Ms. Lenni Terao-Doerr** was organist.

Mas is a long-time second generation temple member. His talk revolved around his discomfort in not being able to justify or explain his identification as a Buddhist to school friends or people he met at camp and college. He felt this was because of the organization of the pre-war temple, and the lack of resources available for Buddhist education of children. Services were conducted entirely in Japanese which he did not understand. After returning from service in the Korean Conflict, Mas educated himself and helped reorganize our “Sunday School”, served as teacher, and, I recall, also served as Sunday School Superintendent!

Mas explained his reluctance to give this Dharma Talk, as it was just an accounting of some of his personal experiences. Rev. Fujimoto expressed his appreciation for these talks as it afforded him and the rest of the Sangha a better insight into all the members. Appreciation was also afforded to **Ms. Amy Tomine** for recruiting and scheduling the speakers. Rev. D said he hoped the Lay Talks would continue, not as a stopgap measure until the new minister arrived, but as a sharing of the Sangha as *Dana* out of gratitude.

zensho



Shigeki sensei May Yamaoka Mas Takano Rev. D. Lenni Terao-Doerr



Masaki Takano

MONTHLY MEMORIAL SERVICES

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

The monthly memorial service for those who passed away in the month of **May** will be held on **Sunday, May 6th**. The persons listed below are listed on the temple's memorial list as having passed away during the month of **May**.

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	Special Service	Year of Death
1 Year	2017	17 Year	2000
3 Year	2016	25 Year	1994
7 Year	2012	33 Year	1986
13 Year	2006	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 MAY

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

Abe, Infant Seitaro 1922 Ago, Infant Kimiye 1926 Akinaga, Mr. Nobuo 1977 Akiyama, Mrs. Shina 1920 Arima, Infant Kazuo 1930 Ariyoshi, Mr. Keitaro 1934 Bruno, Mr. Thomas 1982 Doerr, Mr. Richard 2012 Fujikawa, Mr. Kenneth 1999 Fujisaki, Mrs. Yoshiko 1919 Fukuoka, Mr. Heiji 1979 Hanada, Mr. Tetsunosuke 1917 Hasegawa, Miss Misuzu 1951 Hashimoto, Mrs. Yaeko 2008 Iijima, Infant Paul 1983 Ikeda, Mrs. Kikuno 1937 Ishikata, Mr. Isamu 2002 Isoda, Mrs. Ai 1925 Kaida, Mrs. Alice N. 2013 Kaji, Infant Masayuki 1930 Kamada, , Mr. Tokumatsu 1940 Kato, Miss Sumiko 1954 Kazusaka, Master Haruto 1935 Ken, Mr. Umeichi 1930 Kikugawa, Mr. Sadao 1932	Kita, Mrs. Oyoshi 1967 Kitashima, Mr. Sakaye 1934 Kuwahara, Mr. Jusaku 1925 Maeda, Mrs. Dakino Toki 2008 Marlin, Mrs. Mariko J. 2013 Marubayashi, Inf. Tadashi 1925 Marubayashi, Mrs. Takeko 1943 Maruyama, Mr. Hyakutaro 1936 Matsui, Mr. Seinosuke 1937 Matsuura, Mrs. Sumiko 1995 Mayegoto, Infant Kazuye 1922 Misumi, Mrs. Miyono 1930 Mitani, Mr. Jitsuo 1977 Myer, Mr. 1987 Nakagawara, Mrs. Shigeno 1933 Nakano, Mr. Ataru 1983 Nose, Mrs. Kazuye 1929 Ohye, Mr. Senichiro 1980 Okada, Mr. Kinji 2007 Okada, Mr. Minoru 1955 Okada, Ms. Kazuko 1991 Okami, Mr. Taneo 1922 Okamoto, Mr. Henry S. 2014 Okamoto, Mr. Takaharu 1932 Okamoto, Mr. Tomio Thomas 2008	Sakamoto, Mrs. Merry S. 2017 Sakata, Mrs. Akino 1934 Sekiyama, Mr. Takeo 1919 Shibata, Mr. Zenzuro 1947 Shikano, Miss Tomiye 1960 Takahashi, Mr. Eitaro 1938 Takeda, Mr. Taro 2010 Takei, Mr. Matsugoro 1921 Takimoto, Mrs. Masami 1918 Tamura, Mr. Kenichi 1947 Tanaka, Mrs. Kameye 1929 Tou, Mr. Reisui 1984 Tsurumoto, Mrs. Setsuko 2014 Wada, Mr. Genjiro 1967 Yamagami, Mrs. Hisano 1951 Yamamoto, Mr. Koei 1933 Yamamoto, Mr. Nobuso 1990 Yamasaki, Mr. Suyekichi 1981 Yamasaki, Mr. Yasuji 1941 Yamashita, Mr. Tom 1993 Yamashita, Mrs. Shige 2009 Yonekura, Mr. Hisakichi 1919 Yoshida, Mr. Kiyosuke 1938
	Rubly, Mrs. Clara 1952	