



# U P A Y A

Newsletter of the Buddhist Temple of Alameda

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

Volume XXXVII, No. 4

July & August 2024

## Message from Rev. D.

### Obon and Hatsubon

The hot summer months are sneaking up on us. We are coming into the season of Obon. The Bon Odori festivities are sprinkled across our temple landscape like flower petals in the wind. The beautiful celebrations are the song of the Dharma announcing to Buddhists and non-Buddhists alike that each of our lives is a gift to be treasured. The spirit of parents and grandparents and so many others do return to remind us to savor and appreciate this one opportunity at life. It is part of our Shin Buddhist path that we stop and reflect to appreciate what they have done to create our current condition. Some of our families visit the cemeteries during the Memorial Day weekend.

Other families visit during the Obon Season. Still others visit regularly throughout the year. We bring flowers and tidy up the burial site or the niche as we reflect upon our of connections. When we come to the Obon Season, we are able to focus on the meaning of the festivities beyond the work schedule, the food preparation, and the mixture of hard work and fun.

The Obon Service is intended for each of us in general to reflect upon those we have lost during our lifetime. The Hatsubon is more specific, as we consider the delicate first year of a loss. It is our tradition to honor the temple members we have lost during the time from last year's Obon Service to this year's Obon Service. The families of the deceased are formally invited to attend this Hatsubon Service. A paper lantern is created with the name of each of the deceased. The lanterns are lit during the service as a gesture of honor and appreciation. As we elevate these others, we elevate ourselves to the realm of dignity, respect, and humility. As we honor them, we honor our own lives and remind ourselves to persevere and to make the most of our time. This is what Obon is about.

The wonderful story from the Buddha, where the mother of a dead child is told to get mustard seeds from some house where death has never entered is a poignant way to remind us that we are each touched by death. This is the commonality of the human condition. The festivities and the services are not for the deceased, but for us. We are the ones who struggle to find meaning and direction, and we help each other along this path. What a beautiful way to live.

The ways of Shin Buddhism allows for individuals to face the complete picture. From a young age, we are encouraged to see that life/death are one and inseparable. We face loss and death with dignity grounded in truth. We face loss with family and friends. We laugh and cry, laugh and cry. We take turns in mutual support. Those who pass become our teachers. They encourage us to use our time well and to appreciate each unrepeatable moment that we are able to have. The Hatsubon Service this year is July 21, 1:00 PM. We will see you at the temple.



Gassho,

Rev. Dennis Fujimoto  
revdjoshin@btoa.org  
(916) 416-0919

## Everyone is Welcome to Attend Services “In Person”

*Mask Optional*

*We will continue to live stream on our YouTube Channel.*

### JULY

- 7 10:00 Shotsuki Service  
11:00 Sangha Time
- 14 Birthday Sunday  
9:30 Dharma School  
10:00 Family Service  
11:00 Sangha Time
- 20 7:30 Bon Odori
- 21 1:00 Hatsubon & Obon Services  
2:00 Sangha Time
- 28 9:30 Dharma School  
10:00 Family Service & Ask Rev; Dennis  
11:00 Sangha Time

### AUGUST

- 4 10:00 Shotsuki Service  
11:00 Sangha Time
- 11 Birthday Sunday  
10:00 Family Service  
11:00 Sangha Time
- 18 & 25 NO SERVICES – Summer Break

### SEPTEMBER

- 1 NO SERVICE - Holiday
- 8 Birthday Sunday  
9:30 Dharma School  
10:00 Shotsuki Hoyo  
1:00 American Bon Dancing
- 15 10:00 Fall Ohigan  
11:00 Keiro Kai Program
- 22 9:30 Dharma School  
10:00 Family Service & Ask Rev; Dennis  
11:00 Sangha Time
- 29 NO SERVICE – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday

## ORDER your Obon Lanterns!

The Obon Lanterns are a traditional part of the Obon Festival at the Buddhist Temple of Alameda, where they have been used to beautifully light the path for the Obon dancers for the past 10 years. This festival serves as a fundraiser for the Temple and a way for members to honor and remember their ancestors and loved ones who have passed away.

The upcoming Obon Festival will take place on July 20, 2024.

**The deadline for ordering your Obon lanterns has been extended to July 5.**

If you are a returning donor and have not received an email, please check your spam folder as emails have been sent out to all returning donors.

### **To order your lantern:**

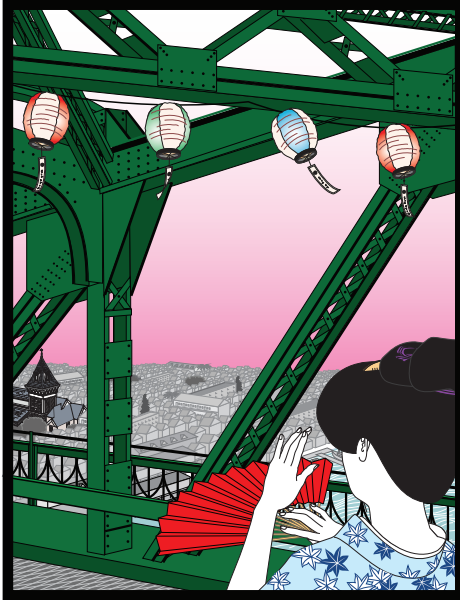
scan the QR code below or mail in a check to BTOA.



New Obon Lantern: \$50.00  
Renew Obon Lantern: \$40.00

**Thank you for your support.**

Buddhist Temple of Alameda  
2024 OBON FESTIVAL



Free Admission  
KAWASHIMA'S KITCHEN POP UP  
Plus: Hot Dogs, Hamburgers, Donuts, Coffee/Tea  
Talks by Rev. Dennis @ 5 PM & 5:30PM  
Buddhist Being -The Pause that Refreshes  
Saturday, July 20, 2024      2325 Pacific Avenue  
Mini Food Bazaar - 4 P.M.      Alameda, California  
Bon Odori - 7:30 P.M.      www.btoa.org

**Obon Dance Practice  
7:30PM**

Monday, July 8<sup>th</sup>  
Wednesday, July 10<sup>th</sup>  
Tuesday, July 16<sup>th</sup>  
Thursday, July 18<sup>th</sup>

This year there is a new dance based on the “**Lantern Song**”, commissioned by the BCA Music Committee. Bonbu Stories Asian American Arts collaborative group created the new song and bon odori dance for use at temple Obon festivals to commemorate the **125th anniversary of the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA)**.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ckLNeBsRcVc>

**NEW Food at Bon Festival:**

This year we have KAWASHIMA'S KITCHEN coming to sell food at our Bon Festival.

They will be set up between the parsonage and the social hall starting from 4:00 PM. Please bring the family early and eat dinner before the Bon Dancing starts at 7:30 PM.



## **ABWA NEWS**

### **Home Visits/Obento Deliveries- Friday, May 17**

This year we visited and delivered obento to 22 of our Temple keiro members and those who are homebound. Thank you to those who volunteered to make the visits and deliveries. This year, we ordered the bento from Super Mira in San Francisco, thanks to Jane Naito who made the order and picked them up for us. The feedback was very positive. Those who were visited as well as the visitors reported back on how wonderful the visits were!

### **Bay District Buddhist Women's League Conference - Saturday, May 18**

There were over 100 attendees at the conference at the Enmanji Buddhist Temple. Former BCA Bishop, Rev. Kodo Umezu was the keynote speaker. Along with his dharma talk, he showed a video from 1949 showing many of the BCA temples with the ministers and their families. It was very moving to see their vitality so soon after the end of WWII. The panel of speakers representing the 7 Bay District chapters each gave very different but inspiring talks. They spoke on the conference theme: "Reflections and Resilience." Jane Naito was our representative from Alameda and gave a very moving talk. Rev. Taniguchi was honored for being instrumental in our longtime Hoppo Fukuoka association with the Bay District which has now disbanded. He also led the conference attendees in a post-luncheon physical activity, using the "radio taiso" exercise method that is commonly used in Japanese workplaces and schools.



### **Bazaar - Sunday, June 23**

Details of the bazaar will be reported on in the next Upaya. Thank you to the ABWA members for volunteering to help with the food preparations, bringing home-baked pastries, and donating so many beautiful handmade items to the crafts booth.

### **Clothing Drive:**

Temple drop-off dates/times: **Sat., 8/3; Sun., 8/4; Fri., 8/9; 11AM-4PM**

Delivery to Savers: Sat., 8/10. We will be asking for volunteers for the drop-off shifts and to help in the loading and unloading for delivery to Savers.

Clothing, bedding, shoes, bags & suitcases only. No housewares or books, please!

(See the flyer in this issue for more details.)

## **FBWA Conference – San Jose Double Tree Hotel & San Jose Betsuin, October 4-6**

For those who are interested in attending the conference, please remember to submit your registration forms to me by **Sunday, July 14**. I have emailed the registration information, but if you would like me to re-send it to you, let me know. The talks and workshops sound very interesting, but they are being offered on a first come, first served basis. For that reason, we are sending in our group registration a little earlier than the Aug. 1 deadline. Let me know if you need the registration forms. The registration fee is \$300, but ABWA will cover \$200, so members pay \$100. There is a discounted rate for the hotel. For those not staying at the hotel, we can arrange carpools.

### **Next Meeting:**

Our next meeting will be held on **Sunday, July 7 at 11:30AM**.  
There will be no meeting in August.

Gassho,  
Lenni Terao-Doerr, ABWA President

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**Come celebrate your birthday with us on the  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Month**



**Back by popular demand!**

### **The ABWA Clothing and Soft Goods Drive**

As a fundraiser, the Buddhist Temple of Alameda's Buddhist Woman's Association is collecting your gently used men, women and children's clothing, shoes, accessories, sheets, blankets, pillows, comforters, towels, tablecloths, handbags, backpacks, duffel bags and suitcases.



Sorry, we can NOT accept household items or books at this time.

Your unwanted, clean, soft goods should be in usable condition and placed in boxes or plastic trash bags weighing no more than 20 pounds. You may fill your donated duffel bags, backpacks and suitcases instead of boxes or bags.

#### **Drive-through drop-off location:**

The Buddhist Temple of Alameda, 2325 Pacific Avenue, Alameda, CA 94501

#### **Drop-off dates and times:**

Saturday, August 3 - 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Sunday, August 4 - 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Friday, August 9 - 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

**\*\*\* Please tell your friends, family and neighbors. They will probably thank you ;-)**

All donations will be delivered to Savers Thrift Store in exchange for cash.  
A portion of our proceeds will go to a local Alameda nonprofit organization.  
Tax deductible receipts will be available at drop-off.

For more information contact Karen Fong (510) 821-1617, text or karenhfong@gmail.com

### **Vacationland Bazaar Raffle Winners:**

**Second Prize of \$500.00 – Winner: Joanne Miyao**

**First Prize of \$1000.00 – Winner: Nancy Okamoto**

**Grand Prize of \$3,000.00 – Winner: Carole De Corsey (ticket sold by Gayle Okada)**

**Thank you to all who purchased tickets and supported our Temple.**

Vacationland Recap and Photos in the next issue of the Upaya.



## Gatha Practice

Lead by *Joyce Maniwa*  
Immediately after  
BTOA service on  
**Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup>**

## UCHIWA WORKSHOP

Lead by *Jane Naito*

**Saturday, July 6<sup>th</sup> 1PM-2PM**

**NJAHS Museum, San Francisco**

*National Japanese American Historical Society (NJAHS)*

**AMERICAN BON ODORI:** A multimedia exhibit on the history of Bon dancing in the continental United States from the 1930s to the present as the Buddhist Churches of America marks its 125th anniversary. See flyer for more info.

**NJAHS Japantown Peace Gallery, 1684 Post Street  
San Francisco • Noon - 5 pm • Monday to Friday**



## Dharma School News

We've completed another Dharma school year. We celebrated with a breakfast at Jim's and some time spent at Subpar, where the kids were able to play their favorite games as well as miniature golf. The parents had fun too!

We also had two graduates! **Fletcher Chambliss** and **Ellis Omi** are heading to high school!

Also, our previous **DS teacher, Darren Taira** is graduating from UC Davis as a software engineer. He's already landed a job in Livermore. **Congrats to Fletcher, Ellis and Darren!**

Looking forward to seeing all the families and kids back in September.

**Please come and share your stories  
with the Dharma School.**

**SIGN UP TODAY  
To Be A  
Dharma School Classroom Guest  
Speaker for 2024-2025**

**Rev. Dennis  
revdjoshin@btoa.org**





Last Day of  
Dharma School  
Celebration @  
Surpar in  
Alameda





**SHOTSUKI HOYO**  
**MONTHLY MEMORIAL SERVICE**  
**Sundays, JUNE 2 & JULY 7**

*In Person & Living Streaming on our YouTube Channel*

*Family members and friends are invited to the Memorial Service for those listed below.*

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**August Shotsuki List**

Abe, Ms. Masako 1997  
Ando, Mr. Yoshio 1930  
DiStefano, Mrs. Ethel Norell 1996  
Furuzawa, Infant Masatomi 1925  
Hashimoto, Mrs. Hiroko 1962  
Hashimoto, Mr. Jimmy 1999  
Hashimoto, Mr. Yasuhiko 1988  
Hattori, Mrs. Kazuye I. 2004  
Hedani, Mrs. Kiyoko 2008  
Hidalgo, Janice 2021  
Higashi, Mrs. Kazuko 2009  
Hirotuka, Infant 1930  
Honda, Mr. Tatsuo 1993  
Hsu, Brian Wei 2018  
Ikegaki, Mr. Yoshio 1955  
Imazumi, Mrs. Nobue 2015  
Inouye, Mr. Tomio 2008  
Ishii, Infant Isamu 1916  
Iwahashi, Mr. Paul K. 2003  
Kanzaki, Mr. Kiyoshi 1940  
Kataoka, Mr. Masao 1984  
Kawauchi, Infant Izumi 1916  
Kitashima, Mr. Roy 1996  
Konishi, Mr. Pat T. 1999  
Kuge, Mr. Naoyoshi 1983  
Marubayashi, Infant Shinogu 1941  
Matsubara, Mr. Taichi 1924  
Matsumoto, Infant Chiyoko 1930  
Michisaki, Mr. Wakataro 1929  
Mitani, Mrs. Kiyoko 2014  
Miyawaki, Mr. Takao 1989  
Mori, Mr. Kazuo 2002  
Mune, Mr. Hisataro 1924  
Nakamura, Mrs. Hideko 1924

*If 2024 is a special service year as indicated below, please contact Rev. Joshin Dennis Fujimoto to arrange a special memorial service for your family.*

**Special Service based on the Year of Death**

1 year 2023	3 year 2022
7 year 2018	13 year 2012
17 year 2008	25 year 2000
33 year 1992	50 year 1975

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Nagasugi, Mr. Kunio 1949  
Nishida, Mr. Ichiro 1995  
Oba, Mr. Toji 1927  
Oishi, Mrs. Tsugi 1997  
Okamoto, Mrs. Virginia T. 2011  
Saito, Mrs. Yoshi 1989  
Sakamoto, Mr. Tsuneji 1997  
Shibata, Master Yoshio 1920  
Shimada, Mr. Kazuo 1997  
Shirai, Infant Akira 1919  
Shiraishi, Mr. Ushitaro 1959  
Sugino, Mrs. Maki 1935  
Sugiyama, Mrs. Kimiko 2013  
Takahashi, Mr. Takashi 2005  
Takao, Mrs. Mitsuye 1989  
Takara, Infant Isamu 1925  
Takeda, Mrs. Mildred 1995  
Takeda, Mrs. Shizu 1971  
Tamura, Miss Mana 1945  
Terao, Mrs. Ura 1945  
Tsuchiya, Mrs. Miyano 1971  
Tsurumoto, Mr. Matsutaro 1990  
Uchiyama, Mrs. Fui 1948  
Uo, Mr. Shoichi 1917  
Ushijima, Mr. James K. 2009  
Wada, Mrs. Mitsue 1951  
Yamasaki, Infant Tomiye 1922  
Yamashita, Mrs. Furu 1965  
Yamashita, Mrs. Haruno 2013  
Yamashita, Mr. Masao 2011  
Yamashita, Mr. Shoichi 1953  
Yamashita, Mr. Toshio 1959  
Yanagi, Mr. Kazutomo 1967  
Yoriji, Mr. Ichi 1927

## September Shotsuki list 2024

Akinaga, Mr. Osamu 2001  
Bruno, Mrs. Alberta 1996  
Doi, Mr. Akitaka 1995  
Fukayama, Mrs. Akiko 2009  
Hasegawa, Mr. Akira 1991  
Hatakeda, Mrs. Tomo 1949  
Hayame, Ray 2020  
Hori, Mrs. Yoshie 1991  
Imazumi, Mr. Kanae 1988  
Imazumi, Mrs. Rose Toshiko 2019  
Inouye, Mr. Chikara 1943  
Iwaihara, Mr. Katsutarō 1935  
Kataoka, Mr. Hisao 1988  
Kawahara, Mrs. Yukino 2008  
Kobu, Mr. Sensaburo 1963  
Komatsu, Mrs. Kameko 1983  
Kumamoto, Mr. Heihachiro 1953  
Maruyama, Miss Kazuko 1937  
Mashimoto, Mr. Ryuzo 1956  
Matsuoka, Mr. Edward Masao 2022  
Mayeda, Mrs. Kinu 1968  
McCroskey, Mrs. Asako 2017  
Mikami, Mr. Naoyemon 1961  
Mochizuki, Mr. Kiyoshi 2017  
Moritomo, Infant Itsuko 1929  
Murakawa, Mr. Takao 1998  
Myer, Mr. Richard V. "Rick" 2019  
Nagai, Infant Francis 1933  
Nakano, Mr. Makoto 1995  
Nakano, Mrs. Tsuchino 1949  
Nakao, Mrs. Toshiko D. 2006  
Nakao, Mr. Toyokichi 1955  
Nakaso, Mrs. Iku 1983  
Nishikawa, Mrs. Kimiyo 2002  
Noriye, Mrs. Misuye 1960  
Ogawa, Infant Kiyomi 1947  
Omi, Mr. Henry 1996  
Sugitani, Mr. Saburo 1994  
Sugiyama, Infant Shiro 1935  
Tabushi, Mrs. Hinaka 2002  
Tamura, Mr. Rey 2015  
Tajima, Mrs. Nobu 1941  
Takeda, Mr. Risaburo 1963  
Tateyama, Mrs. Misuye 1974  
Tsuchiya, Mrs. Mariye 1990  
Tsurumoto, Mrs. Tori 1962  
Tsuyuki, Mr. Kentaro 1951  
Umene, Mr. Torakichi 1946  
Yamada, Mr. Goichi 1940  
Yamamoto, Mrs. Emiko 1998  
Yamamoto, Mr. Motonori 2005  
Yamamoto, Mr. Yujiro 1939  
Yamasaki, Mr. Magoichi 1968  
Yamasaki, Mrs. Shina 1965

Donations can now be given via the Venmo or Paypal app. Checks by mail, still accepted.



## Hatsubon and Obon Service

**Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup> @ 1PM**

*Everyone is Welcome  
Come Join Us*

*Hatsubon is a special service is a memorial service held in dedication and gratitude for all the members of our Sangha who have died over the previous year.*



## Hatsubon Names for 2024

**Ann Suyeyasu  
July 23, 2023, Age 81**

**"Harry" Hisashi Hara  
September 10, 2023, Age 90**

**Dennis Tetsushi Nakai  
November 20, 2023, Age 81**

**Dianne Hatsuko Matsuoka  
April 3, 2024, Age 76**

**Haruko Shinrani  
April 21, 2024, Age 100**



## Thursday Night Series

Thursday,

August 15, 2024, 6:30 pm

### "Buddhism and Television: The Odd Couple?"



**Kent Takano, TV Producer/Writer**

Buddhist Church of Sacramento, 2401 Riverside Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95818-2233

Please sign-up at  
[BetsuinPrograms@buddhistchurch.org](mailto:BetsuinPrograms@buddhistchurch.org)

BTOA  
Member,  
Kent  
Takano  
(son of  
Betty  
Takano)  
will be  
presenting  
a talk via  
Zoom on  
Thursday,  
August  
15<sup>th</sup> @  
6:30PM  
(PST).

Please sign  
up to  
receive the  
zoom link  
(see flyer)  
and join us  
for the  
talk.



# AMERICAN BON ODORI: *Dancing in Joy and Remembrance*

A COMMEMORATIVE CULTURAL ARTS SERIES PRESENTED BY AMERICAN BON CONSORTIUM

ALL EVENTS FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

**EXHIBIT July 1 – Sept. 30, 2024**

**NJAHS Japantown Peace Gallery**

1684 Post Street, San Francisco

Noon – 5 pm • Monday to Friday;  
Sun. 9/1 and Mon. 9/2 (Labor Day)

A multimedia exhibit on the history of Bon dancing in the continental United States from the 1930s to the present as the Buddhist Churches of America marks its 125th anniversary. Curated by Dr. Wynn Kiyama and Jane Suiei Naito.



SF Civic Center, 1974, BCA 75th Anniversary Book

**SATURDAY WORKSHOPS**

**July 6, Aug. 3 & Sept. 7**

1 – 2 pm at NJAHS Peace Gallery

Bon crafts for all ages, and on 9/7: “The Magic of Obon Dancing” with Nobuko Miyamoto.



For information on the exhibit and workshops, scan the QR code, call (415) 921-5007 or visit [www.njahs.org/events](http://www.njahs.org/events)

Presented in partnership with **National Japanese American Historical Society (NJAHS)**

## AMERICAN BON DANCING

**Sunday, September 8, 2024 • 1pm – 3 pm**

**Yerba Buena Gardens - Great Lawn**

Mission Street between 3rd & 4th Streets, San Francisco



Join us to “just dance” as we remember those who have passed on, and enjoy the present moment together.

Learn new dances created in celebration of the 125th anniversary of the Buddhist Churches of America by

**Nobuko Miyamoto and Bonbu Stories**

Enjoy new and traditional works by **PJ Hirabayashi/TaikoPeace, San Jose Taiko and Ensohza Folk Music Ensemble**

Bon Dance Coordinator:

**Reiko Iwanaga (Hanayagi Reimichi)**

Presented in partnership with **Yerba Buena Gardens Festival**

For dance details, scan the QR code, call (415) 543-1718 or visit:

[ybgfestival.org/event/american-bon-dancing-2024](http://ybgfestival.org/event/american-bon-dancing-2024)



**YERBA BUENA GARDENS FESTIVAL**  
SAN FRANCISCO



Photography: Mark Shigenaga



Presented by the American Bon Consortium in partnership with Yerba Buena Gardens Festival,

National Japanese American Historical Society, Buddhist Churches of America Music and Archive Committees, and Contemporary Asian Theater Scenes

Funding made possible by The Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Charitable Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and San Francisco Japantown Foundation



**The Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Charitable Foundation**





Buddhist Temple of Alameda  
2325 Pacific Avenue  
Alameda, CA 94501

*Time Sensitive Materials*

**NON-PROFIT ORG**  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT NO. 7069  
OAKLAND, CA

*Return Service Requested*

**BTOA Koden  
Thank You Cards  
Available for Purchase  
\$20.00  
for a set of  
50 cards/envelopes**

