

OPAYA Newsletter of the Buddhist Temple of Alameda

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

Volume XXXVII, No. 5

September & October 2024

Message from Rev. D.

Fall Ohigan and Ladies of the Dharma

The temple calendar and our personal calendars seem to be constantly quickening as we roll through the months and major events each year. I remember wondering a few decades ago why this seemed to be, and concluded that the length of a day is proportional to your age. When we are 10 days old, the length of a day is 1/10th of our life. A day was a long time! When we are 8 years old, the days are quicker, but we still can get bored to death with nothing to do sometimes. When we are 50 years old, the length of a day is 1/18250th of your life. 24 hours is a smaller proportion of your total time and that is why it seems that time goes by faster and faster. It made sense to me at the time. Maybe you have a better idea or a different theory. Please let me know!



Regardless, the pace continues to quicken

The temple calendar brings us to the **Fall Ohigan** as **the major service for September**. It is the time of the Equinox when we come to the balance of day and night. The Equinox happens twice each year during the Fall and Spring seasons. The usually mild and pleasant weather has been recognized as an ideal time for study, meditation, and reflection. Higan, meaning the Other Shore, calls for us to bring our attention to what is beyond this shore ... beyond our normal life of self-concern and personal accomplishments. **The Other Shore comes into view when we expand our vision beyond ourselves.** We are encouraged by the Dharma and the lessons of the temple to become aware of all the causes and conditions that impact our lives every day, every minute. We become able to see the interdependence of all things without ourselves as the center of it all. **With this new awareness and a broader perspective, we begin to move beyond what was once normal towards a deeper and fuller life.**

The Buddha is not a god or a deity. Buddhism is not a belief system. It is a guide to expand our awareness. At our temples, we are encouraged to recite the Nembutsu. It is not a mantra. It is not a request for good luck, wellness, or happiness. The Nembutsu is explained as the voice from the infinite ... a voice from everything beyond ourselves ... our relatives both living and dead, trees, rocks, air, water, everything and anything beyond ourselves. The voice calls us to step from self to other so that our perspective becomes all-inclusive. We then step beyond self absorbed self concern. We move from this shore of personal perspective to the Other Shore of Infinite Wisdom and Compassion.

Ohigan is always a refreshing time to renew our efforts and to re-evaluate our priorities. Those new to the ways of the temple can come to appreciate even more that the Shin Buddhist path is a common sense approach to spirituality. Compassion is balanced with Wisdom, and gratitude for life emerges out of truths recognizable by all. Those long connected to the temple can recognize once again that the Dharma and the Nembutsu path enrich our lives as individuals, family, and community.

This year the **Ohigan Service will take place September 15 at 10:00 AM**. This will be followed by our **Keiro Appreciation luncheon and program.** Please encourage your family and friends to attend this Ohigan Service.

Continuation of Message from Rev. D.

October brings us our BWA Memorial and Ladies of the Dharma Service. We are able to acknowledge the BWA members we have lost since the service last year. We remember them and appreciate them with Gassho, Nembutsu, and Thank You for the many ways they helped and guided us in the ways of the temple. It is also our Ladies of the Dharma Service, as we look into the contributions of Eshinni, Kakushinni, Lady Ohtani, and Lady Takeko Kujo. Each provide example of the life of a Buddhist woman and our shared Nembutsu path. Of course, it was Eshinni and Kakushinni who were the earliest women of our Jodo Shinshu tradition. Eshinni, the wife of Shinran Shonin, and Kakushinni, their daughter, each play significant roles in the history of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. The BWA Memorial and Ladies of the Dharma Service will be held Sunday October 20, at 10:00 AM. Please come to honor our BWA members who have passed on and to gain insight into the contributions and influence of many of our Ladies of the Dharma.

Gassho, Rev. Joshin Dennis Fujimoto revdjoshin@gmail.com (916) 416-0919

Call for Entries

4th Annual BCA Virtual Art Exhibit

Open to all members of our sangha. Submit your original artwork today!

HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/ARTBCA

BCA Art Show Deadline Extended to September 15th

SAVE THE DATES:

Buddhist Education Classes on Thursday Nights in October Oct. 3, 19, 17, 24. 6:30-8:00.

The Buddhist Temple of Alameda, Buddhist Education Committee (BEC) will be offering a fall series of classes on Buddhism via ZOOM.

More info to follow on an email blast soon.

AlamedaBEC@btoa.org



American Bon Dancing – Sunday, September 8th @ 1PM – 3PM Yerba Buena Garden, Great Lawn (Mission Street between 3rd and 4th) A bus will be going from the Buddhist Church of Oakland to the event. Call/Text Jane Naito @ 415-378-1100 to make a reservation.

Everyone is Welcome to Attend Services "In Person"

Mask Optional

We will continue to live stream on our YouTube Channel.

1	10:00	September BCA 125 th Anniversary Commemoration Service We will be showing the service on our TV at the Temple to watch it all together. It will also be available on the BCA YouTube Channel.
8		Shotsuki Hoyo Sangha Time
15	10:00 11:00	3
22	9:30	Dharma School

Field Trip to NJAHS, American Bon

10:00 Family Service & Ask Rev. Dennis

11:00 Sangha Time

No Service – 5th Sunday

29

6	10:00 11:00	October Shotsuki Hoyo Sangha Time
13	9:30 10:00 11:00	Birthday Sunday Dharma School Family Service Sangha Time
20	10:00 11:00	ABWA Ladies of Dharma Service Sangha Time
27	9:30 10:00 11:00	Dharma School DS Halloween Party Family Service & Ask Rev. D Sangha Time
3	10:00 11:00	November Shotsuki Hoyo Sangha Time
10	9:30 10:00 11:00	Birthday Sunday Dharma School Family Service Sangha Time
17	10:00 11:00	Hoonko Sangha Time
24	9:30 10:00 11:00	Dharma School Family Service & Ask Rev. D Sangha Time



Gomonshu's Greetings for the BCA 125th Anniversaary

Congratulations on the observance of the Buddhist Churches of America's Joint Celebration marking its 125th Anniversary, Shinran Shonin's 850th Birthday and the 800th Anniversary of the Founding of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching.

Shinran Shonin was born in 1173 and through his main writing, *Ken Jodo Shinjitsu Kyogyosho Monrui (The True Teaching, Practice, and Realization of the Pure Land Way)* also known as *Kyogyoshinsho*, which is believed to have been completed in 1224, he systematically clarified the Jodo Shinshu teaching. Since then, the Jodo Shinshu teaching has been transmitted to us today, overcoming obstacles and has been shared by people not only in Japan but around the world. This is because regardless of time and place, the teaching always serves as a spiritual foundation and enables people to move forward in their lives.

The founder of Buddhism, Sakyamuni Buddha discovered the universal truth, such as, the principle of original dependency as well as the theory of impermanence. However, we, ordinary beings are not able to accept the truth as it is because we see things only through our self-centered and biased viewpoints. As a result, we suffer and fight each other when things do not go as we wish. Sakyamuni Buddha clarified that our own ignorance, in other words, our human desires or a feeling of obstinate attachment to something is the very cause of our sufferings. Receiving this basic Buddhist teaching, Shinran Shonin taught us that for the sake of such foolish beings like us, Amida Tathagata is always working as the Nembutsu, or recitation of the Name, that is nothing but Amida's calling voice.

Those who have fully recognized the benevolent working of Amida Tathagata cannot help but to lament and feel regret for their own *bonno* or persistent human desires, and it is natural that they feel ashamed of and try to minimize them. Such people would never indulge themselves in their egoistic cravings. Even though we had not been able to recognize our own selfishness, the encounter with Amida's working enables us to become aware of our true self, and through that recognition, we are naturally guided to make efforts to minimize such selfishness, and consequently we are enabled to change our way of living. Keeping this in mind, let us strive to live each day with a feeling of gratitude for Amida's great wisdom and compassion that always embraces us as we are.

September 1, 2024 OHTANI Kojun Monshu Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha



The 25th Head Priest OHTANI Kojun

The position of Monshu is taken by the Hongwanji Head Priest. The Jodo Shinshu tradition is transmitted through the Monshu, who leads the entire Buddhist organization as its spiritual leader.

Shinran Shonin's grandson, Nyoshin, is regarded as the second generation, thus Monshu's post has since been succeeded by Shinran Shonin's blood relatives. The present Monshu is the 25th generation, Sennyo Monshu, whose secular name is OHTANI Kojun. As Jodo Shinshu followers, we call him "Gomonshusama" with an honorific prefix and suffix.

Gomonshu's Greetings for the BCA 125th Anniverasary

このたび、北米開教区において「親鸞聖人御誕生 850 年・立教開宗 800 年慶讃法要」並びに「北米開教区創立 125 周年記念法要」がご修行されますこと、心よりお喜び申し上げます。

親鸞聖人は 1173 年にご誕生になり、1224 年にその主著である『顕浄土真実教行証文類(教行信証)』に浄土真宗のみ教えを体系的に著されました。以来、浄土真宗のみ教えは数々の苦難を乗り越え、日本はもとより世界各地で今日まで受け継がれてきました。それは、み教えがそれぞれの時代や地域において、多くの方々の生きる支えとなったからです。仏教を説かれたお釈迦様は、縁起や諸行無常という時間や場所を超えた、この世界のありのままの真実を明らかにされました。しかし、私たちはこの真実をそのままに受け入れることができず、常に自己中心に物事を捉え、その結果、自分の思い通りにならないことで悩み苦しみ、人と争うなどしています。お釈迦様は私たちの苦悩の原因を、この自己中心的な執われの心である無明煩悩にあると示されました。そして、親鸞聖人は、このような私たちに向け、阿弥陀如来は「必ず救う」のよび声となって、はたらき続けて下さっていることを明らかにされました。

阿弥陀如来のおはたらきに出遇った私たちは、自らの煩悩を深く悲しみ、慚愧して、それを厭離しようとするのが当然であり、決して自らの煩悩的欲求に無批判に従うということはありません。それは、これまで自己の執われに無自覚であった者が、執われに縛られている自己であると知らされ、執われを離れようと意識させられ、その意識が毎日の生活に影響を与えるということです。これからも阿弥陀さまの大慈大悲のおはたらきにお任せし、報恩感謝の思いで日々を過ごしてまいりましょう。

2024年9月1日 浄土真宗本願寺派 門主大谷光淳

ABWA NEWS

Happy Autumn!

My report for our last issue of the Upaya was submitted before our summer events, so I'd like to acknowledge those who helped to make them successful.

Bazaar

Thank you to all those who volunteered to help with the food preparations, brought home-baked treats, and donated so many beautiful handmade items to the crafts booth. Many thanks to those who made donations: Alison Nagahisa, Betty Takano, Doug Doerr, Gayle Okada, Jackie Ito-Woo, Jacqui Yamaoka, Janet Kwan, Julie Takano, Kiyoko Panzella, Lani Takano, Lenni Terao-Doerr, Linda Omi, Maria Piper, Mary Nakahara, Nancy Kawabata-Poon, Susie Nakamura, Tamiko Panzella, Tazuko Naito and Yumi Yasuda. I apologize to anyone whose name may not have been on the sign-in sheets.



This year we deeply missed our dear friend and ABWA member, Dianne Matsuoka, who chaired the crafts booth for many years. We paid tribute to her by displaying her framed memorial service program in our booth.

Clothing Drive

Thank you, everyone who made donations to our clothing drive. And, a BIG thank-you to the volunteers who helped with the drop-off shifts, and with the loading and unloading of the truck for delivery to Savers. Arigato to: Amy Tomine, Denny Terao, Diane Morimune, Doug Doerr, Gary Takeda, Gayle Okada, Hiko Shimamoto, Howard Shintani, Jacqui Yamaoka, Joe Klein, Karen Fong, Kathy Fong, Lenni Terao-Doerr, Lou Panzella, Susan Hiraki, Tom Hashimoto, and Wayne Nakano. Special thanks to Hiko, AGAIN, for getting us the truck and delivering our donations to Savers! We are so fortunate to have his support and expertise! This year we brought in a total of \$822.14. A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Alameda Point Collaborative, a local homeless project.

Upcoming Fall ABWA Events:

<u>Food Drive</u>: We plan to have our annual food drive in the fall. An email announcement will be forthcoming, as soon as arrangements have been made.

Eshinni, Kakushinni, Lady Kujo, Lady Ohtani, and Late ABWA Members' Memorial Service & Luncheon:

Sun., Oct. 20 More information will be announced in the coming weeks.

Both of the above events will be discussed at the next meeting.

Next Meeting:

Our next meeting will be held on **Sunday**, **Sept. 1** after the online viewing of the BCA 125th Anniversary service at our Temple. We hope to see you there!

Gassho,

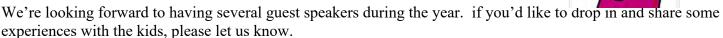
Lenni Terao-Doerr, ABWA President

DHARMA SCHOOL 2024-2025!

We're ready for the new school year! Our first class will be on September 8th.

For the younger students up to 5th grade, service will start at 9:30 a.m. and class will follow immediately afterwards. The older students, 6th grade and up will have class at 9:30 a.m. and then attend the regular service at 10:00 a.m.

Our classes will continue to be twice a month, generally the 2nd and 4th weeks of the month. We'll be communicating some changes to this schedule as the year goes on.



Our second class is on the 22nd. After a short. Service, we'll be going to San Francisco to visit the Obon exhibit as well as a short tour of Japantown.

Please let us know if you'd like to join us for any of our classes/activities.

And did someone say Jr. YBA? If you're in high school, Alameda is planning to re-join the Bay District Jr. YBA group. The first meeting is Sunday, September 8th at 1:00 p.m. at BCSF (Buddhist Church of San Francisco). We'll be carpooling, so let us know if you'd like to attend and meet some great kids!

Metta

Dharma School teachers yumiyasuda50@gmail.com





2024 Keiro Kai Honorees

Mrs. Setsuko Kuramoto Mrs. Misako Akiyama Mrs. Mamie Dye Mrs. Dorothy Mizono Mrs. Kayoko Fujimoto Mrs. Jean Nomura Mrs. Mary Ann Hamasaki Mrs. Carol Takaki Mrs. Yoko Hashimoto Dr. Norman Takaki Mrs. Takako Heinz Mrs. Betty Takano Mrs. Kazue Iwahashi Mrs. Cookie Takeshita Mrs. Nan Kataoka Mrs. May Yamaoka Mrs. Tama Koda Mrs. Mitzi Yoshimura

Plus New Member: Mr. Ken Narahara

Please come to our Keiro Kai Party on Sunday, September 15th, immediately following our Fall Ohigan Service at 10am where we will honor our Keiro Kai honorees!

To RSVP for the luncheon, please contact Gayle Okada at gayle.okada@gmail.com or (510) 276-3483

We would especially love to see all the family members of our Keiro Kai honorees join us for this celebration party.

The entertainment organized by Dorothy Okamoto is not to be missed!

Hiroshima/Nagasaki Memorial

After our August Shotsuki Hoyo/Monthly Memorial Service, we hung a thousand cranes on our front gate and offered incense in memory of those who we lost in the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.









Birthday Sundays 2nd Sunday of the Month

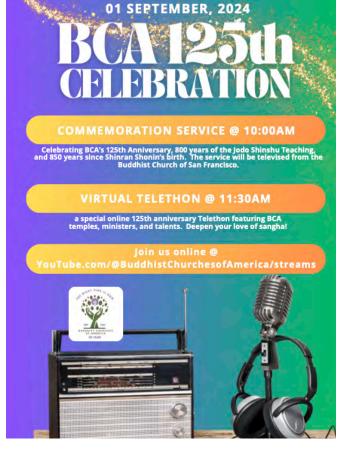
Please join us on Birthday Sundays and celebrate our sangha members' birthdays with us. Some have donated pennies, quarters, or dollars for each year they are celebrating.

The kids love hearing all the coins being dropped into the osaisen box. All donations are used for Dharma School Programs.



August

C





2nd Annual Fall Seminar series:

BUDDHISM & CULTURE



tember 29, 2024



Buddhism and Language: The influence of Buddhist teachings on Japanese language October 27, 2024



uddhism and Culture wrap-up, review and Deember 15, 2024

Hosted by the BUDDHIST TEMPLE OF MARIN

60-minute hybrid sessions 1pm after Sunday Service

390 Miller Ave. Mill Valley, CA Suggested donation: \$20





Women have long played an important supportive and largely "behind the scenes" role in the expansion of the Dharma and at BCA. Today we have many opportunities to grow in leadership, engage in our Sanghas, and share the Dharma.

SEPT. 28, 2024, SAT 9:30AM-5:00PM



REV. CANDICE SHIBATA & REV. MELISSA OPEL





Conte for inspired to large your own path.

Jodo Shinshu Center
2140 Durant Ave. Berkeley 94704 - and parts online Register by Sept. 15, 2024 e https://forms.gle/Bm/ZBysEcYpZRZfwM9
\$50 Registration & Meals, Register for online Free*
Some rooms available to stay overnight e the JSC

*Supported by the Hemera Foundation and the Buddhist Churches of America's commitment to Women in Buddhism

SHOTSUKI HOYO MONTHLY MEMORIAL SERVICE Sundays, Sept.8th and Oct 6th

In Person &

Living Streaming on our YouTube Channel

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

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

September

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. Katsutaro 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 Norive, Mrs. Misuve 1960 Ogawa, Infant Kiyomi 1947 Omi, Mr. Henry 1996 Suaitani, 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

October

Abe, Mrs. Mutsu 1975 Akinaga, Mr. Yun 2014 Baba, Mrs. Fujiko 1932 Hamasaki, Mr. Seiji 1997 Haramaki, Mr. Shozo 1994 Hasegawa, Mr. Katsumi 1980

Cont October

Hashimoto, Mr. Hiroshi 1997
Hashimoto, Mr. Robert 2012
Hayashida, Mrs. Fujie 2002
Hirai, Mrs. Misuye Mary 2000
Heinz, Mr. Charles Jr. 2015
Ideoka, Mr. Takeshi 1993
Inouye, Mrs. Miyoko 2008
Inouye, Mrs. Natsuno 1982
Ishida, Infant 1933
Ishida, Mr. Masamitsu 1984
Ishida, Mr. Shunichi 2000
Ito, Wakako 2018
Iwahashi, Mr. Minoru 1994

Iwahashi, Mr. Minoru 1994 Kakimoto, Mr. Heijiro 1950 Kakimoto, Mr. Shigeo 1932 Kakufuri, Infant Amato 1926 Kamada, Mrs. Asa 1957 Kamiji, Infant Sumiko 1926 Kato, Mr. Hisato 1948 Kato, Infant Hitoshi 1934

Kawabuchi, Mr. Hiroshi 2012 Kitani, Mrs. Tayeko 1975

Koga, Mr. Matao 1970 Kono, Carol 2020

Kuge, Mrs. Isono 1992

Kuji, Mr. Kanmi 1955 Kuramoto, Mr. Kanji 2004 Kuroki, Mrs. Suyeko 1923 Kuwano, Mr. Iwao 2007 Matsuura, Mr. Kumazo 1963 Mikami, Mrs. Koshiye 1970 Mitsukawa, Infant Tadashi 1919 Mune, Ms. Kazuye 1933 Nakamura, Mr. James 2014 Nakamura, Mr. Jinichi 1958 Nakano, Mr. Kazuo 1991

Nakano, Mr. Masao Fred 2007 Nakaso, Mr. Reiji 1936 Narahara, Mr. Isamu 1994 Natsuhara, Mrs. Ritsuko 2007 Nitahara, Infant Shinobu 1918 Nogita, Mr. Toshio 1921 Obana, Mrs. Setsuko 1974 Ogawa, Mr. Shozo 1986 Ohye, Kimi Higashi 2018 Okabe, Mr. Henry 1977 Okada, Mrs. Tsuya 1990 Oki, Infant Hideii 1927 Okumura, Mrs. Yaye 1962 Omi, Mr. Henry 1996 Ozeki, Mrs. Akino 1978 Pang, Mrs. Yon Chan 2004 Sakamoto, Mr. Shigeto 1959 Sekigahama, Mr. Magoichi 1963 Shibata, Mr. Yoshimi 2015 Shiira, Infant Megan 1996 Shimono, Mr. Makoto 1991 Sugino, Ms. Hideko 1942 Suico Mr. John 1980 Suzawa, Ms. Kazuye 1929 Takagi, Ms. Yumi 1918 Takara, Mrs. Nui 1923 Takayama, Mrs. Yukiye 1933 Takemoto, Infant Sonae 1923 Takeshita, Mr. Shiro 2001 Takishita, Infant Henry 1917 Taniguchi, Mr. George 2022 Tomine, Mr. Susumu 2002 Tomine, Mrs. Tomoe 1997 Tsuchiya, Paula Bisson 2020 Wada, Mr. Kazuo 2003 Yamagishi, Mrs. Kikuko 1937 Yamakami, Ms. Masaye 1924 Yamaquchi, Mrs. Sono 1918 Yamashita, Mrs. Haruko 1990 Yasuda Ota, Mrs. Louise 2022 Yasuhiro, Mr. Naka 1964 Yasutake, Mr. Tosaku 1938



Yonekura, Mr. Satoshi 1945



Thank you for all the volunteers, donors and to those who came out to support us at our 2024 Vacationland Carnival & Bazaar this past June. The bazaar is our



BONFESTIVAL

We're fortunate to continue to have Hanayagi Sensei come and teach us the Bon Odori dances each year. Thank you to her and all her students and all of you who came out to dance and to those who came just to eat and watch ©

Special thank you to Dorothy Okamoto who decorated the wheelchair floats and organized the dressers who were onsite to help the dancers get ready.



Donations can now be sent via Venmo or Paypal. Checks are still accepted.



LOST & FOUND

These items were left at the bazaar/bon festival. If it's yours, please pick up at one of our Sunday services.



ORENTO SALE, Saturday OCTORED 10th

OBENTO SALE: Saturday, OCTOBER 19th SAVE THE DATE!

Information and online ordering will be on our website soon.



Buddhist Temple of Alameda 2325 Pacific Avenue Alameda, CA 94501

Time Sensitive Materials

Return Service Requested



Thank you to
ABWA Toban
Group #1 for
serving the
refreshments after
our Obon Service.

In memory of their toban group leader, Dianne Matsuoka.

Namo Amida Butsu

NON-PROFIT ORG

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