



# U P A Y A

Newsletter of the Buddhist Temple of Alameda

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

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November & December 2024

Message from Rev. D.

## HO ON KO and Bodhi Day

The mornings are darker and the days are getting shorter. The sun is not yet up as I run along the Alameda beach. Plovers run in groups along the water's edge, daring me to race them. On good days, I accept the challenge. November brings a bite in the air. At the temple, we look forward to the annual HOONKO Service.

HOONKO is the most important service in our Jodo Shinshu tradition. We recognize the death memorial of our founder, Shinran Shonin. The importance of HOONKO is for each of us to acknowledge Shinran Shonin. We are reminded to deepen our own appreciation of the Nembutsu path that has grown to mean so much to millions of fellow travelers throughout the world. Each of our lives becomes deeper and fuller as we recite Namu Amida Butsu and live the life of Nembutsu.



We are touched by the life and effort of Shinran Shonin in a very real way. A grassroots Buddhism was born, as he brought the Nembutsu path to the peasants ... farmers, fishermen, merchants ... people who worked hard every day. These are our people. Here is a poem by Goromatsu Maekawa who was 93 years old, translated by Rev. Taitetsu Unno. The poem is entitled "**JUST RIGHT** "

***You, as you are, you are just right  
Your face, body, name, surname,  
For you, they are just right.***

***Whether poor or rich  
Your parents, your children, your daughter-in-law, your grandchildren  
They are, all for you, just right.***

***Happiness, unhappiness, joy and even sorrow  
For you, they are just right.***

***The life that you have walked, is neither good nor bad  
For you, it is just right.***

***Whether you go to hell or to the Pure Land  
Wherever you go is just right.***

***Nothing to boast about, nothing to feel bad about,  
Nothing above, nothing below.***

***Even the day and month that you die,  
Even they are just right.***

## Continuation of Message from Rev. D.

***The Life in which you walk together with Amida,  
There is no way that it can't be just right.***

***When you receive your life as just right  
Then a deep and profound faith begins to open up.***

Shinran provided a spiritual path that is available to people of all walks of life. Beyond the aristocrats of high society or the monks dedicated to practice and study, everyone became welcomed to a way to connect to the infinite wisdom and compassion of Amida Buddha through the Nembutsu Path.

**The HOONKO Service this year will be held November 17 at 10:00 AM.** Three IMOP ministers from the Jodo Shinshu Center will join us and speak as part of their orientation program. We look forward to hosting them here! Please plan to attend and help to provide a big Alameda welcome!

December brings us our Bodhi Day Service to remember the day that Shakyamuni Buddha awakened to Enlightenment. This service is a reminder and our encouragement that we can each attain this same awakening in our lives. **Bodhi Day Service will be December 8 at 10:00 AM.** The calendars coincide this year, matching our service date to the awakening of the historical Buddha on the morning of December 8. Please join us for this special occasion service!

The final service of the year will be **Joya-E Year End Service on December 31 at 3:00 PM.** It is always a special gathering to come to the temple on the final day of the year. There is much to reflect upon as we look back on the past 12 months of our lives. The temple and the teachings have provided a foundation of stability for us to enjoy and endure the pleasures and the hardships we have encountered. We take a deep breath of reflection as we prepare for what will come next. We do this together.

Gassho,  
Rev. Dennis Fujimoto  
[revdjoshin@gmail.com](mailto:revdjoshin@gmail.com)  
(916) 416-0919



**Joan  
DiStefano**  
"Title:  
Dharma  
36"x24"  
Acrylic on  
canvas"

## 2024 BCA Virtual Art Exhibit

The BCA Virtual Art Exhibit is online at:  
<https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/bcart-exhibit-2024>

In 2024, we mark the 4th year of sharing artwork from our Sangha community and friends.

This year, the following members of our BTOA sangha are participating,  
**Karen Fong, Joan DiStefano, Suzanne Hitomi  
and Rev. Dennis.**

Please check out the art exhibit and help us spread the word by telling others to visit the site and encourage artists to join us for next year's exhibit.

We hope that the exhibit will continue to grow and spread like all of Amida's teachings.

## Everyone is Welcome to Attend Services "In Person"

*Mask Optional*

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

### November

- 3      10:00    **Shotsuki Hoyo**  
         11:00    Sangha Time
- 10            **Birthday Sunday**  
         9:30     **Dharma School**  
         10:00    **Family Service**  
         11:00    Sangha Time
- 17      10:00    **Hoonko**  
         11:00    Sangha Time
- 24      9:30     **Dharma School**  
         10:00    **Family Service & Ask Rev. D**  
         11:00    Sangha Time

### December

- 1      10:00    **Shotsuki Hoyo**  
         11:00    Sangha Time
- 8            **Birthday Sunday**  
         9:30     **Dharma School**  
         10:00    **Bodhi Day Service**  
         11:00    **BTOA Annual Meeting**  
         12:00    Sangha Time
- 15      10:00    **Family Service**  
         11:00    Sangha Time
- 22      **No Service**
- 29      **No Service**
- 31      3:00     **Joya-E (Year End) Service**

October Obento Sale – The Obento Sale was postponed until the Spring.



### Birthday Sundays 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the Month



September



October

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.**

## **ABWA NEWS**

It has been a busy fall with various events and activities.

### **FBWA Conference - October 4-6**

The BCA Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations Conference was held in San Jose at the Double Tree Hotel and at the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin. There were 6 attendees from our ABWA, including Rev. Dennis, Sharmon, Dorothy, Gayle, Joan, Tsueko and myself. The conference was hosted by the Coast District Buddhist Women's League, and the committee members and volunteers all did a great job! I felt inspired and impressed, and I gained more knowledge. I also made new friends and met old acquaintances!

The speakers and workshops were excellent! The keynote speaker was a former Congresswoman from Hawaii, Colleen Hanabusa, who as a Jodo Shinshu Buddhist, spoke of her experiences and perspectives on the conference theme, "Ichi Go Ichi E – Each Precious Moment, A Precious Treasure." As other speakers also spoke, the meaning of the theme became clearer to me. Retired minister, Rev. Yukiko Motoyoshi, also gave a wonderful talk. The LGBTQ+ Community Workshop had two panelists, Hoshina Seki and Rev. Ko'e Umezu. Each gave a very heartfelt talk about their respective journeys. One as a transgender and one as a lesbian member of the LGBTQ+ community.

At the Saturday evening banquet, there was a performance by The Grateful Crane Ensemble. They gave a very lively and fun skit that told the history of the Fujinkai (BWA's) from the Issei generation to the present day. The 5 talented singer/actors brought out a lot of laughter from the audience, since many of the humorous scenes and dialogs were universally understood by all BWA members. At the end of their performance, they had us all sing the gatha, "Seiya" written by Lady Takeko Kujo. The audience also joined in on the Obon dance, "Tanko Bushi" which everyone seemed to know! It was a great way to end a very eventful day!

### **Ladies Eshinni, Kakushinni, Takeko Kujo, Yoshiko Ohtani, and the Late ABWA Members' Memorial Service & Luncheon: Sunday, October 20**

Rev. Elaine Donlin, Minister's Asst. at the Buddhist Church of San Francisco was our guest speaker. We appreciated that she included in her talk, information about each of the "Ladies of the Dharma" which was educational for many of us. And, as it was our ABWA Memorial service, we also honored our dear members, Dianne Matsuoka and Mrs. Shintani who had passed away this year. They are deeply missed! Thank you to Yumi for being the chairperson for the service.

After the service, we had our ABWA Appreciation Luncheon at the Speisekammer restaurant. There were 40+ attendees and everyone seemed to enjoy the food and drinks. Thank you to Maria Piper for making all the arrangements for the restaurant. Although Toban Group #3 only had a limited number of members who were

able to help in organizing this event, several members from other Toban groups stepped up to help out. Thank you so much! We really have a wonderful ABWA!!

### **NEW Eshinni and Kakushinni Prints:**

Thanks to Jane Naito, we have been able to replace our old prints with these beautiful new ones! Jane ordered them from Japan and they have been beautifully mounted and framed! (See photo below)

### **Continuing and Upcoming Events:**

#### **ABWA Annual Fall Food Drive – Until December 31**

Monetary donations only, no food donations. You can donate online to the Alameda County Community Food Bank ([BTOA Autumn Food Dana](#)) or write a check to ABWA and it will be divided equally between the Alameda County and Alameda City food banks.

#### **Hoonko - Shinran Shonin's Memorial - Sunday, November. 17**

There will be an otoki luncheon prepared by Toban Group #2. It will be a vegetarian lunch (probably not Japanese). Group #2 members will be notified in the upcoming weeks.

#### **Next Meeting:**

Our next meeting will be held on **Sunday, November 3** after the Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service and refreshments.

Gassho,  
Lenni Terao-Doerr, ABWA President



**ABWA Luncheon**



**ABWA Visit to NJAHS Museum**

Thank you to **Karen Fong** for organizing our ABWA visit to National Japanese American Historical Society (NJAHS) visit to see the American Bon exhibited that was Co-Curated by Jane Naito and for arranging for the Japantown History tour lead by Kenneth Sasamori.

**Buddhist Temple of Alameda**  
**Alameda BWA**  
**2024 FALL OHIGAN DANA**  
**September 1, 2024 – December 31, 2024**

The Alameda Buddhist Women's Association is sponsoring our annual Fall Ohigan Dana (Giving) for the Alameda County Community Food Bank (ACCFB) and the Alameda Food Bank from September 1 to December 31, 2024.

This year we will NOT be collecting non-perishable foods as we have done in the past. Since each dollar donated gives more bulk purchasing power for the food banks to obtain more food, monetary donations by check or virtually are preferred.

If you want to split your dana between the Alameda Food Bank and the Alameda County Community Food Bank, please send a check payable to the "Alameda Buddhist Women's Association" or "Alameda BWA" and write "food banks" on the memo section of your check. Send your contribution to the Alameda BWA at the temple address.

Virtual online contributions to the Alameda County Community Food Bank are made directly on the ACCFB website under the title "BTOA Autumn Food Dana" If you wish to make a donation online:

1. Go to <https://www.ACCFB.org>.
2. Under "Give" tab, choose "Virtual Food Drive"
3. Go to "Start Shopping", under "Choose Your Recipient", choose tab "Fundraiser" and Start typing "BTOA Autumn Food Dana" (once you type BTOA, the rest should appear)

Thank you in advance for your support.

With palms together in gratitude,  
Gassho,  
Alameda Buddhist Women's Association





## Dharma School News

**Fall Dharma School Activities** - We started this year with a field trip after our outdoor service on Sept. 8<sup>th</sup>, followed by a visit to the **American Obon exhibit in San Francisco's Japantown at the NJAHS Museum, hosted by Jane Naito** co-curator who gave us a nice back story to the exhibit , the history of how it came to America along with the story of how Bon Odori came to be.



Our next class was led by one of our students: **Nash Chambliss**. He was able to share one of his passions – creating art with foam clay.



By the time this issue arrives, we'll have had our Halloween party. Pics to follow in January!

Please invite your family and friends to join us. We're an informal group and welcome all!

**Metta,**  
**The Dharma School family**



## Keiro Kai Celebration



**We were honored to have so many of our Keiro Kai member join us for our celebration.**

### **Thank You to:**

- Keiro Kai Committee, **Lenni Terao-Doerr**, **Dorothy Okamoto**, **Gayle Okada** and **Jane Naito** for organizing and hosting the event.
- The **BTOA Board of Directors** for preparing the luncheon.
- **Gary and Margie Takeda** for picking up the Chinese Food for us.
- **Chef Alan Hirahara** for his sashimi platter. It was a nice surprise treat for our Keiro Kai members.
- All of the cast of this year's hilarious Sumo Tournament Entertainment:  
**Rev. Dennis, Doug Doerr, Howard Shintani, Dwight Meitzenheimer, Hiko Shimamoto, Jackie Ito-Woo, Ron Tsuchiya, Gayle Okada, Lenni Terao-Doerr.**



**Special THANK YOU to Dorothy Okamoto who has continuously overseen our Keiro Kai entertainment for years and made each year's celebration memorable and fun for all.**

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**If you would like to join the  
Keiro Kai Committee  
to help plan next year's celebration,  
please contact Jane Naito.**

**[j.naito@btoa.org](mailto:j.naito@btoa.org)**

# SHOTSUKI HOYO MONTHLY MEMORIAL SERVICE

Sundays, November 3rd and December 1st

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:

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

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## November

Akahoshi, Kirk 2019  
Arai, Mr. Hanzo 1960  
Doi, Mrs. Mitsuyo 2003  
Fukuda, Mr. Sakumatsu 1918  
Fukuma, Mr. Senzuchi 1927  
Fujino, Infant Kimiko 1923  
Furuno, Mrs. Fujino 1988  
Handa, Infant Julian 1958  
Hashimoto, Mrs. Kiyo 1974  
Honda, Mr. Yoshitomo 1970  
Ikezoe, Mr. Tomitaro 1931  
Imazumi, Mrs. Chiyono 1957  
Imazumi, Mr. Kinkichi 1930  
Imazumi, Mrs. Shizuye 1987  
Imura, Mr. Sakunosuke 1949  
Kakimoto, Mr. Yoshio James 2007  
Kamiji, Mr. Yoshio 1963  
Kato, Infant Iwa 1920  
Kitajima, Mr. Kinhei 1923  
Kobashi, Mr. Kisomatsu 1955  
Kodama, Mr. Motokichi 1958  
Kumagai, Mrs. Misao 1942  
Maeda, Mr. Futami 2002  
Mandeville, Mrs. Kazuko 1993  
Matsumoto, Mr. Katsusaburo 1948  
McFarland, Mr. William 2011  
Minami, Mr. Tsunezo 1956  
Miyazaki, Infant Masako 1930  
**Muramoto, Barbara 2022**  
Muramoto, Infant Rei 1924  
Nakamura, Mr. Kiyoto 1938  
Nakano, Mr. Dick Hideaki 2013

Nakayama, Mr. Kakunojo 1958  
Nakayama, Mrs. Tane 1963  
Narahara, Mrs. Dorothy 2011  
Nishimoto, Mr. Wakanosuke 1923  
Nomiyama, Mrs. Masano 1918  
Ogami, Mrs. Matsu 1921  
**Ogi, Mrs. Matsuye 2012**  
Otsuka, Mr. Frank 1994  
Ruiz, Al 2017  
Saito, Infant Yayeko 1926  
Sakamoto, Mr. Zenichi 1969  
Sato, Mr. Goro 1991  
Sueyasu, Mr. Torakichi 1950  
Sugimoto, Mistress Midori 1929  
Takagi, Mrs. Ume 1918  
Terao, Rev. Eiyu 1994  
Terazawa, Infant Yukiye 1926  
Tsuchiya, Mr. Kishiro 1936  
Tsuchiya, Mr. Shigeru 1945  
Ushijima, Mr. Seisuke 1937  
**Wada, Mr. Frank 1992**  
**Yamamoto, Mr. Susumu 2000**  
Yamamoto, Mr. Yoshinori 2005  
Yamaoka, Mrs. Alice 2010  
Yamashita, Mr. Moriji 1949  
Yumikezuri, Mr. Chotaro 1922

## December

Ago, Infant Aiko 1922  
Akashi, Infant Tetsu 1934  
Asada, Mr. Masae 1919  
Cohen, Mrs. Florence R. 2011  
**DiStefano, Carl 2018**  
DiStefano, Ciro 1994  
Enomoto, Mr. Kyuzo 1947  
**Fujishima, Mr. Soichi 2008**  
Fujiwara, Infant Jiro 1923  
Fujiwara, Infant Yoshinari 1920  
Goto, Mr. Rokuzo 1951  
Hamasaki, Mr. Seiichiro 1951  
Haraguchi, Mr. Ikuhei 1958  
Haramaki, Mrs. Mite 1987  
Hasegawa, Mr. Kikumatsu 1954  
Hashimoto, Mr. George 2001  
Imazumi, Mr. Shozo 1924  
Imose, Mrs. Tome 1925  
Isoda, Mr. Kohei 1936  
**Iwahashi, Mr. James 2008**  
Iwataki, Mr. Joe 1988  
Iwataki, Mr. Gosaku 1935  
Kataoka, Masajiro 1938  
Kato, Infant Masaru 1923  
Kihara, Infant Fuyoka 1921  
Kobu, Infant Senichi 1919  
Kuge, Mrs. Aiko 1997  
Maruyama, Mrs. Fujiko 1958

## Shotsuki Hoyo Names for December continued:

Marubayashi, Mr. Bunju 1989  
Matsumoto, Mrs. Fusa 1948  
Matsuoka, Mr. Bunji 1925  
Matsuura, Mr. George 1977  
Miyamori, Mrs. Fujiko 1997  
Morino, Mr. George 2003  
Moriya, Mr. Heihachiro 1935  
Muramoto, Mr. Roy 2011  
Nakagawa, Mr. Tetsuya 1929  
Nakagawara, Mr. Katsuzo 1922  
Nakamura, Mr. Matsushiro 1930  
Nakano, Mrs. Hiroko 1994  
**Nakano, Mrs. Yukuse 1992**  
Nakao, Mr. Chuichi 1997  
Nakao, Mrs. Mikino 1968  
Nakashima, Mrs. Sahi 1938  
Nakaso, Mr. William Saburo 2004  
Nakayama, Mrs. Yoneko 2015  
Negi, Mr. Jotaro 1923  
Nishi, Mrs. Momoyo 1953  
Nomura, Mrs. Haruka 2004  
Ogata, Mrs. Sute 1949  
Ohye, Mrs. Tayo 1977  
Ota, Mr. Gary Hiromichi 2005  
Rorabaugh, Mrs. Umeko 1982  
Sakai, Mrs. Toki 1974  
Sakamoto, Jerry 2019  
Shimizu, Mr. Tajiro 1921  
Shimono, Grace 2019  
Shiota, Mr. Keiji 1972  
Shiraishi, Mrs. Misao - 1999  
Shiroishi, Infant Mitsuyo 1923  
Sueyasu, Mr. Jutaro 1935  
Sugihara, Infant Junko 1927  
Sugiyama, Mr. Yoshiteru 2007  
Suyeyasu, Ms. Naomi 1974  
Suyeyasu, Mrs. Rose 2001  
Takada, Mrs. Koume 1937  
Takayama, Mr. Ryukichi 1956  
Takayanagi, Infant Hideo 1957  
Tashima, Infant Hidehiko 1926  
Tashima, Mr. Ryukichi 1956  
Tashiro, Mrs. Saga 1952  
Tashiro, Mr. Yoneo 1990  
Terao, Mrs. Mary 1991  
Terao, Rev. Shigeo 1990  
Tsuchiya, Mrs. Arleen Setsuko Honda 2007  
Tsujiimoto, Mrs. Masami 2016  
**Uchiyama, Mr. Hideo Archie 2022**  
**Umene, Mr. Komei 2000**  
Ushijima, Mr. Kunitaro 1923  
Ushijima, Mr. Seisuke 1937  
Ushijima, Mrs. Sugino 1980  
Ushijima, Mr. Yasuki 1921  
Yamagami, Mrs. Eunice 2009

Yamagishi, Mr. Makoto 2005  
Yamamichi, Mr. Isamu 1996  
Yamasaki, Ms. Takeyo 1997  
**Yamashita, Mr. Jeffrey 1975**  
Yamashita, Mrs. Yoshino 1983  
Yatabe, Mrs. Mitsue 2001  
Yonekura, Mr. Kyuzo 1927  
Yoshimura, Mr. Minokichi 1936  
Yoshiwara, Mr. Eiichi 1979

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