

# the Padma

BERKELEY BUDDHIST TEMPLE

August 2013

Web Edition

## Okon



Our Vision

A Community Where Our Spiritual Life And True Self Can Be Realized

Our Mission

To Live A Life Of Joy In The Nembutsu And Share The Dharma With Others

# August 2013

# the Padma

BERKELEY BUDDHIST TEMPLE

2121 Channing Way, Berkeley, California 94704 (510) 841-1356

WEB EDITION

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
NOTE: For temple matters, please contact Rev. Matsumoto at (510)841-1356, or leave a message on the temple answering machine. Temple web: <a href="http://www.berkeleysangha.org">www.berkeleysangha.org</a> Temple e-mail: <a href="mailto:info@berkeleysangha.org">info@berkeleysangha.org</a>						
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
NO SERVICES						
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
NO SERVICES		Crafts 10am-1pm  Temple Bd Mtg 7:30 pm			Padma Articles Due	<b>BBWA RUMMAGE SALE</b> 10am - 3pm
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
NO SERVICES  <b>BBWA RUMMAGE SALE</b> 10am - 2pm		Padma Newsletter 6:30 pm	Gagaku Practice 6 - 7:30 pm			
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
9:30 am Comb Dharma Family/ Shotsuki Hoyo Svc  11:15 am BBWA meeting		Crafts 10am-1pm				

# FUTURE DATES TO REMEMBER

August 4, 11, & 18 - No services

August 17 & 18 - **BBWA Rummage Sale**

August 25 - DFS & Shotsuki Hoyo

September 1 - No service

September 8 - DFS; Start of Dharma School

September 22 - Fall O-Higan service  
& Potluck luncheon

September 29 - DFS & Shotsuki Hoyo

TELEPHONE COORDINATORS: SUSAN GABRIEL & LENA YIN (510-841-1356)

**AUGUST TOBAN:** Chmn: Lena Yin  
Cochairs: Miri Nikaidoh, Yuki Otake, Hiroko Okano

Kim Leo, Eric & Mary Lindquist, Jeff & Robin McGuire, Takashi & Miri Nikaidoh, Nobuko Nishikado\*, John Oishi, Ann Okahara & David Sakurai, Tsutomu Okahara\*, Joanne Okano & Aaron Escalante, Sachiko Okano, Gary Otake & Lisa Cougar, Gene & Yuki Otake, Marie Shiromoto\*, Satoshi & Elaine Steimetz, Toshio & Elaine Tsuda, Grace Ueda\*, George & Lena Yin.

**\*Denotes disabled and/or elderly - Toban duties optional.**

**SEPTEMBER TOBAN:** Chmn: Judy Kono  
Cochairs: Emily Ushijima, Patty Fujiwara, Wes Fukumori

Ryoichi & Michiko Anzai, Wes & Julie Fukumori, Patty Fujiwara & Carl Wilmsen, Jim Furuichi, Dale Haratani, Gordy & Judy Kono, Sandy Lee, Harry & Shizu Okino, David & Emily Ushijima, Roy & Alice Wakida, Kiyoko Eshima\*, Tomoko Hamamoto\*, Norman Hirose\*, George & Lily Kagawa\*, Taye Oda\*, Makoto & Amy Oto\*, Chiyo Pohan\*, Emma Saito\*, Ron Manning & Julie Kono.

**\* Denotes disabled and/or elderly - Toban duties optional.**

\* \* \* \* \*

PADMA STAFF: Rev. Matsumoto, Gene Chin, Pauline Fong, Susan & Al Gabriel, Lucy Hamai, Yo Hiraoka, Norman Hirose, Ellen Jorgensen, Keiko Kawakami, Emi Matsunaga, Yuki Otake, Mae Takeda, Scott Takeda, Edythe Vassall, and Yae Yedlosky.

## *The Tears of Kaneko Misuzu*

JŌDO SHINSHŪ teaches us that life's bitterness can turn into inexplicable sweetness. When the course of life obstructs our dreams, tears of despair may wash over us. And yet, somehow, those very obstructions can become the stuff of virtue, and we become able to attain true peace and joy. Surrounded by infinite light and life, we find that the Buddha's compassionate tears are shed for our sake, and we are given new life by their sustaining care.

Kaneko Teru (1903–1930) was born in the small fishing village of Senzaki in Yamaguchi prefecture in Japan. Under the pen name, "Misuzu," she began writing poetry and songs for children at the age of twenty. Among the hundreds produced during her brief career, many of her poems contain images of fishing and sea. While child-like in their simplicity, her poems resonate with deep human and spiritual insight. Unfortunately, Kaneko had a very unhappy married life and, after divorcing her husband, she took her own life at the age of 26 during a dispute over the custody of their daughter. In 1982 Kaneko Misuzu was rediscovered by Setsuo Yazaki, who published a collection of 520 verses. Her poems have since gained wide acclaim throughout Japan. Many, it is said, offer simple and heart-felt expressions of Misuzu's awakening to the Buddha's compassion. Some have been put to song and performed by a wide range of artists.<sup>1</sup>

### *A Big Catch*<sup>2</sup>

In the red glow of morning ...	On the beach it's like festival.
It's a big catch.	Tho' in the sea, they are probably
A big catch of large sardines.	Giving rites to tens of thousands of sardines.

Our gratitude for the gift of life is also one of shame and concern for all of those lives taken by us.

### *When I am lonely*<sup>3</sup>

When I am lonely	When I am lonely
Strangers don't know it.	My Mom is kind to me.
When I am lonely	When I am lonely
My friends laugh.	The Buddha is lonely too.

Boundless wisdom knows us by becoming us. Boundless compassion makes all bitterness sweet.

### *A Bell, a Little Bird, and I*<sup>4</sup>

Even tho' I stretch out both of my arms	I don't make a pretty sound.
I can't fly through the sky at all.	But, though a bell can ring
But, though a little bird can fly	It doesn't know lots of songs like me.
She can't run fast on the ground like me.	A bell, a little bird, and I
Even when I shake my body	Are all different, and we're all just right.

All beings in this world of diversity are taken in and held, just as we are, within Amida Buddha's boundless light and life. And we are able to live in equality, mutual respect and peace.

Namu Amida Butsu  
Rev. D. Matsumoto  
August 2013

<sup>1</sup> Sources: <http://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/金子みすず>, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Misuzu\\_Kaneko](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Misuzu_Kaneko), D.P. Dutcher, trans. *Kaneko Misuzu: Something Nice* (Tokyo: Jula, 2001), *Kaneko Misuzu kyokushu-kodamasuru kokoro wo uta ni*, (Yamaguchi-shi: Chihiro Sound, 2011), and two CDs: *Chihiro - Watashi to kotori to suzu to* (Yamaguchi-shi: Chihiro Sound, 2010) and *Chihiro - Akarui hō e* (Yamaguchi-shi: Chihiro Sound, 2010).

<sup>2</sup> A translation of "Tairyō" (大漁). (All English translations are by David Matsumoto.)

<sup>3</sup> A translation of "Sabishii toki" (さびしいとき).

<sup>4</sup> A translation of "Watashi to kotori to suzu to" (私と小鳥と鈴と).

## **PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE**

Summer—long lazy days, warm weather, and baseball. Whether your ideal summer day is lying by the pool or beach, barbequing, watching the sunset, or taking that joyful ride to the wine country or lake, we hope you and your families are taking advantage of some of the rituals of summer. Please enjoy!

One of the summer rituals observed by the Berkeley Buddhist Temple is our annual Bon Odori, held this past July 13 on one of those wonderful summer evenings. Perhaps the largest turnout in recent times, the participants gave their expression of joy in the Nembutsu teachings through their dancing. Energized by MC Takashi Nikaidoh and led by Madame Hanayagi and the Hanayagi dancers, the joyful group performed such dances as “Obon no Uta” not once, but twice, and “Maniwa Manzai,” the towel dance. BBT participants were joined by Reverend Ken Yamada and members of the Berkeley Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple. Thank you to all who contributed to the success of Obon this year. A list of obon and bazaar events, as well as a scrolling of obon/bazaar posters, is located at [www.BuddhistChurchesofAmerica.org/obon-calendar](http://www.BuddhistChurchesofAmerica.org/obon-calendar).

Another ritual of summer is cleaning your garage, attic, kitchen, etc. Don't throw out that perfectly good lamp, gardening tool, or the kids' toys that are no longer their favorites! Instead, donate them to the Berkeley Buddhist Women's Association's Rummage Sale, which is scheduled for August 17-18. Japanese items, knick-knacks, musical instruments, household items, children's items, sports equipment, furniture, and office supplies are the major categories of goods sought after for the rummage sale. Benefits from the rummage sale will go toward the BBWA Centennial Anniversary in 2014!

Summer Gassho,

Lucy Hamai and Ron Hiraga  
BBT Co-Presidents, 2013

# COMBINED DHARMA FAMILY SERVICE & SHOTSUKI MEMORIAL SERVICE

August 25, 2013  
9:30 am

## Shotsuki Hoyo Service – August 25, 2013, 9:30 AM

The following persons will be remembered during the Shotsuki Hoyo (monthly memorial service) for August.

Matsu Fujii	Masao Fukawa	Raymond K. Fukunaga
Fuyu Furukawa	Hisao Furuzawa	Katsujiro Furuzawa
Kiroku Furuzawa	Kiyoshi Furuzawa	Yae Furuzawa
Kentaro O. Gluck	Misao Hataye	Ellen Honda
Ralph C. Honda	Harry N. Ikeda	Rev. Kanmo Imamura
Arthur A. Iwata	Hiroshi Kanda	Hiroshi C. Kaneko
Risuno Kaneshita	Soeko Kawamoto	Kazuko Long
Mitsuo Maegoto	Stanley T. Marubayashi	Hitoshi Marumoto
Kanishi Masui	George S. Matsuoka	Eiko Morishige
Saichiro Muramoto	Kiyo Nakagawa	Andy Nishikado
Yaye Oda	Fujio Okano	Shizuye Okubo
Yukie H. Onizuka	Asami Kawachi Oyama	Takaaki Sakamoto
Nancy Shimada	Tadao Shiozaki	Shige Tanada
Lorraine Tokiwa	Kiyono Tominaga	Suematsu Uemura
Hyakuzo Yamada	Toshiko Yamamoto	Haru Yamashita
Kiuzo Yoshinaga		

Note: If there are any additions, corrections or deletions to the above list, please notify the Berkeley Buddhist Temple at 510-841-1356.

## Pneumonia, Mortality, and Shinran

By Diane Ames

“Looks like pneumonia,” said the doctor, looking up from his microscope. “I’m changing your antibiotic. If you survive the side effects of this one, you should start to feel better in two or three days and recover, oh, eventually. Here’s the emergency number to call if none of this happens.”

I looked at the drug warning sheet that came with the pills. It said that if you became mentally confused or had trouble breathing, you should call your doctor at once. It didn’t say how. Nonetheless, because of the circumstances, I swallowed one as soon as I could. That’s when I realized that someone else had sort of fluttered into the room. It was Death, in his usual white pancake makeup and long black opera cloak.

“Don’t panic,” he said. “I’m just hovering. My, you’re prone to pneumonia. This is the third time in the last ten years, isn’t it?”

“I’ll be fine!” I protested. “We have antibiotics now!”

“You mortals may have antibiotics, but I have resistant strains! Look, your pneumonia resisted the penicillins. What if it resists the tetracyclines too?”

“There are yet more antibiotics! I’ll recover! I’m not nearly *that* sick!”

“All right, you’ll most likely survive this time, but you know that I always win sooner or later. One of these days you’ll get pneumonia yet again, if something else doesn’t get you first, and you’ll be too old, too weak...”

“No doubt. All conditioned dharmas are impermanent, and obviously that includes me.”

“For all that Buddhist talk, you’re afraid of me!”

“Shinran himself admitted that he was afraid to die, so why should I be ashamed if I am too? He said it only shows that we are weak beings full of blind passions, and that Amida has compassion on us anyway. It’s in the ninth chapter of the *Tannisho*. And for the present, I’m not at your door yet! So take that Halloween costume and get out of here!”

“See you later,” said Death, as he fluttered off to Telegraph Avenue, obviously figuring that he would pass unnoticed there.

# BBWA RUMMAGE SALE

To benefit the Berkeley Buddhist Women's Association's Centennial in 2014!

**August 17-18, 2013**

**Saturday: 10-3; Sunday: 10-2**

**YOU MAY DROP OFF ITEMS FROM SUNDAY, JULY 20 (no earlier please)**

**Monday – Friday from 10 am to 1 pm during office hours (call 841-1356 first)**

**Sundays, 10-12**

**FURNITURE ITEMS CANNOT BE DROPPED OFF UNTIL AUGUST 11. WE WILL NOT ACCEPT ADULT CLOTHING, TVs, COMPUTERS, ELECTRONICS, MATTRESSES, LARGE APPLIANCES**

## JAPANESE ITEMS

### KNICK-KNACKS

Collectibles, antiques, memorabilia  
Artwork, handicrafts

## MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

### HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

Dishes, cups, flatware, bowls  
Kitchen accessories and appliances  
Microwaves, rice cookers  
Gardening equipment, tools  
Baskets, vases, lamps, linen (good condition)  
Books, DVD's, fans, room heaters

## CHILDREN'S ITEMS

Toys, games, puzzles, books, CDs  
Strollers, high chairs, furniture, swings  
CLEAN clothes, costumes, stuffed animals  
Tricycles, bicycles

## SPORTS EQUIPMENT

### FURNITURE

Bookcases, lamps, chairs, tables  
Desks, small sofas, bedframes

### OFFICE SUPPLIES

## WANTED: RUMMAGE SALE VOLUNTEERS!

The Berkeley Buddhist Women's Association would like to ask everyone for their help in this year's rummage sale, which they are sponsoring for the first time. Proceeds will benefit BBWA's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2014. It's a large-scale event, and it will take a lot of volunteers to organize and staff it. We need help with setting up, sorting, pricing, cashiering, etc. If you can help, please contact **Caroline Fernandez** or **Yuki Otake** (510.841.1356) or email [info@berkeleysangha.org](mailto:info@berkeleysangha.org) to volunteer. Doumo arigatou!





# FUNDRAISER

**Help raise money for the Temple** when shopping at Safeway. Safeway will contribute a percentage of your grocery preferred savings card purchase to the Temple, at no cost to you.



## IT'S EASY!

Just register your grocery loyalty card at [eScrip.com](http://eScrip.com) and designate Berkeley Buddhist Temple or group #155954856 as the recipient organization.

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**More information at [www.berkeleysangha.org](http://www.berkeleysangha.org) or contact  
Maya Murashima Yonemura 510-528-6994/[mmyonemura@comcast.net](mailto:mmyonemura@comcast.net)**

[www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com)

# BCA Center for Buddhist Education Upcoming Events

*at the Jodo Shinshu Center, 2140 Durant Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94704*

## **Experimental Buddhism:**

**Innovation and Activism Among Shinshu Priests in Contemporary Japan**

**Professor John K. Nelson**

Department of Theology and Religious Studies, University of San Francisco

**Saturday, August 3, 2013 @ 1:00 pm**

FREE PUBLIC LECTURE: Donations appreciated

This talk will emphasize how a growing number of progressive Shinshu priests in Japan are exploring new approaches and affiliations that apply Pure Land teachings to pressing social and political concerns.

*Presented by BCA Center for Buddhist Education in conjunction with the Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course August Workshop*

*"Make the Dharma Connection" October 18-20, 2013*

**A Dharma School Teachers' Continuing Education Seminar**

**With Guest Speaker: Kiyō Masuda**, Educational Resource Specialist

*Materials for all levels: Pre-Kindergarten through High School  
Share and explore new approaches and teaching tools*

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Baby Boomers' Seminar November 2, 2013

**WAKE UP & BE ALIVE!**

**Keynote Speaker: Rev. Masao Kodani**, Senshin Buddhist Temple

To register online for these events, visit [www.bcasites.net](http://www.bcasites.net)

For more information on CBE programs, email: [admin@cbe-bca.org](mailto:admin@cbe-bca.org) or call: 510.809.1460

**Looking for OBON SCHEDULES? Visit [www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/obon-calendar](http://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/obon-calendar)**

A graphic of a bright yellow sun with rays peeking from behind a white, fluffy cloud against a blue sky background.

Save the Date



# FAMILY FESTIVAL

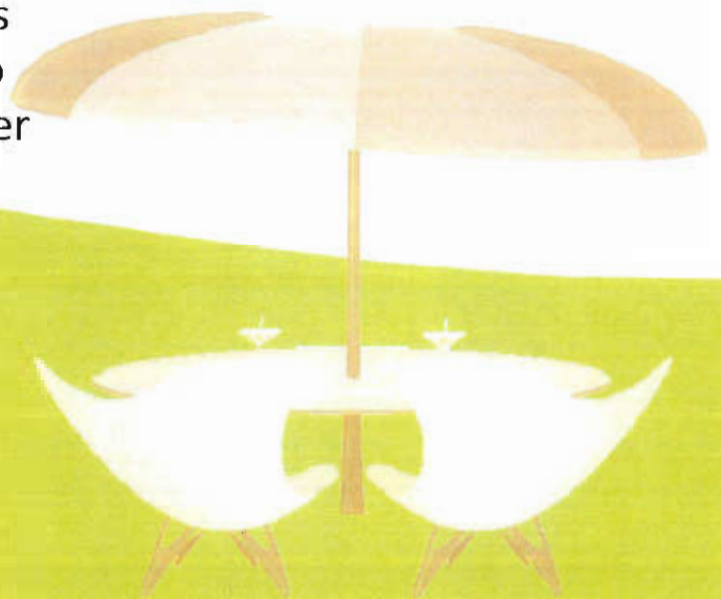
Sunday, September 8 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

El Cerrito Community Center  
7007 Moeser Lane, El Cerrito, CA 94530

In celebration of Grandparents' Day, please join us for the 2nd Annual J-Sei Family Festival. Japanese cultural activities, demonstrations, and food for all ages will be featured. Planned indoor and outdoor activities include:

- ◆ Musical Performances
- ◆ Food Booths
- ◆ Hands-On Cooking Demonstrations
- ◆ Japanese Wood Joinery Daiko Dojo
- ◆ Children's Games in the Kid's Corner
- ◆ More

Entrance is **FREE**.



## Services

Our regular Sunday program begins with a Family Service at 9:30am. A Dharma talk is available after the Family Service while Dharma School classes are convened for students.

### Special Services

January 1	Shusho-e	New Year's Day Service
February 3	Nehan-e	Nirvana Day
March 17	Ohigan	Spring Equinox
April 7	Hanamatsuri	Flower Festival
May 12	Gotan-e	Birthday of Shinran
July 14	Kangi-e	Obon
September 22	Ohigan	Autumn Equinox
November 17	Hoonko	Shinran Shonin Memorial
December 1	Jodo-e	Bodhi Day
December 31	Joya-e	Year End Service

A Shotsuki Hoyo (Monthly Memorial) Service is held the last Sunday of each month.

## Dharma School

Our Dharma School (Sunday School) has classes from preschool through high school. Our teachers are happy to discuss the appropriate level of spiritual enrichment for your child.

## Monthly Discussions

In our discussions, we strive to experience the Buddha-Dharma with our entire selves – with our bodies (quiet sitting and other forms of meditation), voices (chanting and other liturgy) and minds (study and discussion).

Our sessions focus on ways in which Buddhist teaching and practice can impact our everyday lives. Each session will take up a different topic and so you are welcome to attend any or all sessions.

All interested persons are welcome to attend. Please invite your friends! We hope to see you!

## Visitor Information

Please feel free to ask any of our greeters for information. We are here to assist you with whatever level of participation you may be seeking.

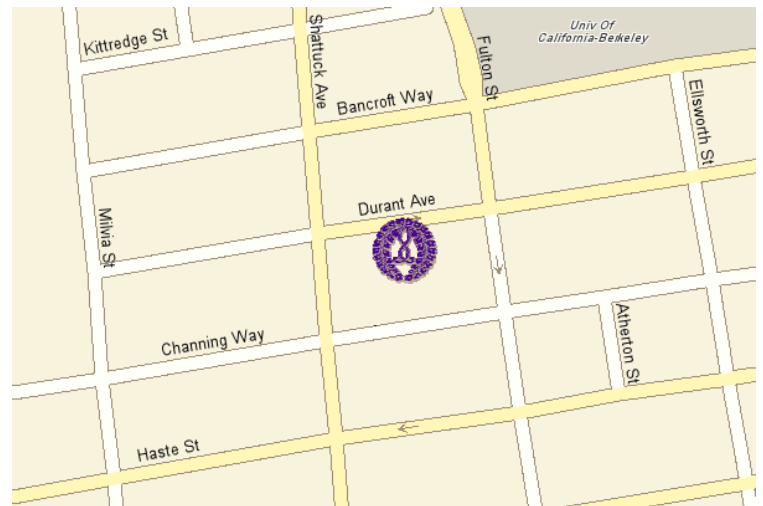
Whether you are here to satisfy a slight interest or to make a more personal connection, we wish you well and hope that you will be visiting us again soon.

## Membership Information

Membership is open to all who view our Temple as their religious home and seek the Buddha-Dharma.

To join, complete a membership form, have your name entered on the membership roll and support the Temple through a pledge and participation.

To inquire about becoming a member, please speak with our Membership Chair or Minister.



### Berkeley Buddhist Temple

2121 Channing Way  
Berkeley, CA 94704

Office Hours  
Monday – Friday  
10:00am – 1:00pm

Phone: 510-841-1356

email: [info@berkeleysangha.org](mailto:info@berkeleysangha.org)

web: [www.berkeleysangha.org](http://www.berkeleysangha.org)