

the Padma

BERKELEY BUDDHIST TEMPLE

April 2015

Web Edition



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

April 2015

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: www.berkeleysangha.org Temple e-mail: info@berkeleysangha.org						
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8:30 am Chanting Service 9:30 am Dharma Family/ Shotsuki Hoyo Service 12:00noon Taiko Class						Gagaku Practice 11 am – 1 pm
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
8:30 am Chanting Service 9:30 am Hanamatsuri/Hatsumairi Service 12:00noon Taiko Class		Crafts 10 am – 1 pm Temple Board Mtg. 7:30 pm			Padma Articles Due	Sushi Making 9 am Flower Arrangement 10 am – 12 noon
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
8:00 am Chanting Service 9:30 am Dharma Family Service 12:00noon Taiko Class		Padma Newsletter 6:30 pm				
26	27	28	29	30		
8:00 am Chanting Service 9:30 am Dharma Family Service 12:00noon Taiko Class		Crafts 10 am – 1 pm Bazaar Mtg. Old Temple 7:00 pm	Gagaku Practice 6 – 7:30 pm			

FUTURE DATES TO REMEMBER

April 5 - DFS & Shotsuki Hoyo

April 12 - Hanamatsuri & Hatsumairi service

April 28 - 2015 Bazaar meeting

May 3 – Bazaar Construction

May 10 - Gotanye/Parents' Day service

May 16 & 17 - Annual Satsuki Bazaar

May 19 - Bazaar Clean-up

The Logic of Other Power [2]

SELF-POWER IS A DIRTY WORD or so some would have us believe.

How many times has someone told us this? We in Jōdo Shinshū should not try to perform any kind of religious practice for to do so would be to engage in self-power. Any attempt to attain enlightenment through our own efforts shows a lack of faith. We must stop trying to realize truth; then and only then will we be able to accept and rely upon Other Power.

These words might be quite profound. But, in another sense, couldn't they also be the result of making Other Power into a thing? A great "Other" will exercise his power to save us only when we give up any attempt to do it ourselves. Words can really confuse us at times. Not only that. They can become the chains of dogma that keep us from doing anything.

Self-power is not a synonym for self-effort. Shinran Shōnin, I believe, did not mean to keep us from trying to attain the truth. He did not focus his criticism on self-effort. Rather, he urged us to abandon the "mind of self-power." That is, he warned us against being convinced that "one is good ... relying on the self ... reflecting knowingly on one's evil heart ... and ... judging people as good and bad."¹ The word self-power, it would seem, points to our arrogance, to the fact that we are full of ourselves. We think that we are the good ones, the righteous ones, the masters of the universe. We have it all figured out; we pull the strings and everything dances before us.

Here I think that it would be useful to think of self-power as a kind of logic. It would go something like this:

I try very hard —————> and as a result of my efforts —————> I attain enlightenment.

Now, this kind of logic makes sense to us, for we use it everyday to great effect. We use the logic of self-power to gain success and make a lot of money. The logic of self-power builds pyramids and skyscrapers. It sends rockets to the moon. And in that sense, it is vital to our lives and our civilization.

But the logic of self-power can also lead to prejudice, war and pollution. That is because its central tenet is that we attain great things as a result of our mighty efforts. This logic provides a very thin mask for our arrogance and egotism, which always lurk behind it, never to be seen or brought into question. This logic does not question our arrogance; it encourages it.

In contrast, the logic of Other Power pulls away the mask and forces us to see ourselves for the first time. This is how I would render this startling logic:

I try very hard —————> but in spite of my efforts —————> I attain enlightenment.

Here our arrogant pride is pulled out from behind the mask and brought into question. This kind of logic is hard to swallow because we are not used to it. In everyday life, perhaps we only encounter the logic of Other Power in the experience of love. Fear, loyalty and even respect can and must be earned. But true love is never deserved. We receive love despite who we are.

In matters of love and life we must try to do the best we can, for our own sake and the sake of others. And yet, when we look deeply and honestly at ourselves, we come to a remarkable realization: Everything important and valuable in love and life comes from outside ourselves, in spite of ourselves.

Amida Buddha's Vow of great compassion is like love in that respect. It is the basic wish of all life, which is to become itself and give itself freely to others. It is the wish that, in spite of our arrogance and reluctance, we might be able to know ourselves, become ourselves and live our true lives. May we all hear that wish and may that wish become our own.

Namu Amida Butsu
Rev. D. Matsumoto
April 2015

¹ From *Notes on 'Essentials of Faith Alone'* CWS, 459.

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

After spending the past couple of months crossing out 2014 on checks and other documents, I am now used to writing "2015." It is funny how it takes us longer to get to the understanding that changes, like what year it is, have occurred.

We recently held our General Meeting for our membership and discussed how 2014 will be different from 2015. We presented a broad overview of our Temple and then discussed the current state of the Temple's finances. We are lucky to be part of an organization that is continuing to see growth, both in the number of members and also in our demographic makeup. Also presented were some of the projects we completed in 2014 and some of the ideas we have on tap for 2015. A big "Thank You" to all of you who were in attendance.

One of our projects for 2015, the renovation of the barbeque pits, has been in process for the past couple of weeks. We have expanded the project to now include the improvement of drainage in the courtyard. The work should be completed soon. Until it is done though, please be cautious of the materials in the courtyard.

We recently received an update from our Bazaar Committee. It always seems like the Bazaar "sneaks up" on us, but the committee has actually been meeting regularly since the start of the year and everything appears to be on schedule. Please look for communications regarding the work schedule. If you have any conflicts, please discuss them with the respective chair of the Bazaar duty to which you were assigned. The Bazaar Committee is always looking for more dedicated members of our Sangha to help. If you would like to assist, their meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month leading up to the Bazaar itself. Some dates to remember are Sunday, May 3, Bazaar Construction Day; Saturday and Sunday, May 16 and 17, the days of the Bazaar; and Tuesday, May 19, Bazaar Clean Up. The Bazaar is a significant source of funding for our operations and as such, we implore you all to join making this a wonderful event. Through our participation we can convey our gratitude to the Temple and those who have gone before us for all they have provided.

We look forward to seeing you all and thank you for your support in 2015!

Gassho,

Takashi Nikaidoh and Ron Hiraga
BBT Co-Presidents 2015

COMBINED DHARMA FAMILY SERVICE & SHOTSUKI MEMORIAL SERVICE

April 5, 2015

9:30 am

Shotsuki Hoyo Service – *April 5, 2015*, 9:30 AM

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

Flora T. Adachi	Kinoe Adachi	Shigetaro Adachi
Douglas I. Ariyoshi	Yoshino Ariyoshi	Nobuko Mae Asami
Jack S. Ehara	Dirk S. Fujii	Juzaburo Furuzawa
Rose-Annette Gervais	Toshiko T. Goodman	Takekuni Hino
Yoshio Hiramoto	Hisako H. Hirose	Hiroichi Hishida
Toyoye Ichiyasu	Soka Ikemoto	Chiyo Ishikawa
Kanzo Iyama	George Kako	Takeo Katayama
Kikutaro Kimura	Shunta Marubayashi	Chiyomi Masuda
Yemiko Masunaga	Kimiyo Matsui	Tsutomu Matsumoto
Hideaki Matsunaga	Victoria Mizuhara	Torao Tony Mizusaki
Toshio Morishita	Arthur Nakamura	Virginia T. Nakaso
James K. Nishimoto	Joe Oishi	Riu Oishi
Makitaro Sakaki	Shoichi Sawada	Matsutaro Takemori
Masae Takeshita	Hideo Taketa	Kenichi Tokuyoshi
Yoshimi Toyota	Alice T. Tsukimura	Izumi Uyeda
James Wakida	David S. Watanabe	Takeo Yamada
Katsuji Yokoyama	Yonosuke Yokoyama	Hideichi J. Yoshida
Hisayo Yoshimura		

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

1952

By Diane Ames

Coverage of the anniversary of the Selma march has reminded me of something that happened even before that. I think I was five or just turned six years old, being taken along on an expedition of the Austin (Texas) Gem and Mineral Society to hunt agates somewhere out in the country. It must have been towards the end of summer, because from the bus's window I saw ragged people, mostly black-skinned people, picking cotton in the merciless sun. Being a child, I soon wanted to go to the bathroom and was glad when the bus stopped at a gas station.

The women and girls of the Society, all of whom were white, lined up in front of what must have been the gas station's ladies room, though I could not yet read the sign on the door. When I had finally gotten to the bathroom and was leaving with relief, I noticed that there were ragged black women, presumably cotton pickers, lined up in front of a tumbledown outhouse which also had a mysterious sign on the door and was in back of the gas station.

I did not yet see injustice. It would be more than a decade before I would at last see that. I did see grownups acting oddly and so naively asked my grandmother, why didn't those women also use the bathroom with the flush toilet? My grandmother, who was clearly upset by the question, said something like, "That's just how it is," and changed the subject. For my grandmother was a kind-hearted woman, and I believe that it was only by not thinking, just not thinking, about the whole abomination that was legal segregation that she could live at all.

I was very little then. By the time I had been in school for a while, it simply never occurred to me to ask why all my classmates were white. I knew that black people existed. (The term African-American had not yet been coined.) They were, in fact, ubiquitous in Dixie, and I had observed that some of them were children. But although I was generally an inquisitive child, I never even wondered where those children went during the day. By then I must have learned, must indeed have internalized, the lesson that some questions must not be asked because some social arrangements must not be questioned. As a military dependent, I went to elementary school in places like East Point, Georgia. I imagine that seeing the so-called schools they put black children in there might have been a shock. It is even possible that it might have shocked some of my white elders. But we all made no effort to see them or even speculate about them. It was safer to let sleeping dogs, or rather sleeping issues, lie, even in our minds.

It was all an excellent example of what the Buddha meant by ignorance.

**HANAMATSURI &
HATSUMAIRI SERVICES**

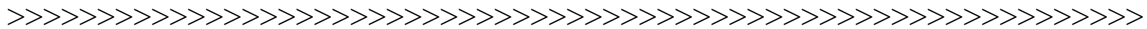
April 12, 2015
9:30 AM

Dharma School Program

Coffee Social following the service

BAZAAR PLANNING MEETING

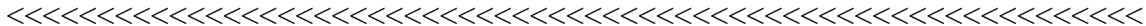
TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2015
7 PM in OLD HONDO



REMINDER

BAZAAR CONSTRUCTION ON
SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2015
PLEASE COME & HELP FROM 8:30 AM

Refreshments served.



TEL: (510) 841-1356

FAX: (510) 841-1435

Berkeley Buddhist Temple
2121 Channing Way
Berkeley, CA 94704

March 18, 2015

Dear Sangha Friends,

The warm spring has finally arrived. Cherry blossoms are preparing to bloom. We hope you are doing well in the Compassionate Light of the Buddha.

April is the month of O-Hanamatsuri, the celebration of the birthday of Shakyamuni Buddha. Buddhists all over the world celebrate his birth. At the Berkeley Buddhist Temple, we will celebrate Hanamatsuri on Sunday, April 12 from 9:30 AM. We will have a beautiful hanamido decorated by the 6th to 8th graders of our Dharma School. There will be a Dharma School program as well. There will also be a Hatsumairi service for infants. A coffee social will follow the service.

Please come and observe this auspicious occasion at our temple.

An envelope is attached for your special Hanamatsuri donation. The Temple greatly appreciates your thoughtful generosity.

In Gassho,

Berkeley Buddhist Temple

HATSUMAIRI
INFANT PRESENTATION CEREMONY
Sunday, April 12, 2015

We cordially invite you to bring your newborns and children up to one year of age to participate in our annual *Hatsumairi* Ceremony, which is to take place during our Hanamatsuri service on Sunday, April 12, 2015.

Hatsumairi literally means “first Buddhist service.” Often translated as “Infant Presentation Service,” *Hatsumairi* represents the first opportunity for parents to bring infants who were born during the previous year to our Temple. At the same time, it gives our Temple the opportunity to give expression to the Primal Vow of Amida Buddha, which embraces people of all ages, genders, races and social strata.

If you wish to participate, please complete the form below and return it to the temple by Sunday, April 5. Please call the temple at (510) 841-1356 if you have any questions regarding this ceremony. Thank you!

Please complete form and send to the temple **by April 5.**
Send to Rev. David Matsumoto
2121 Channing Way, Berkeley, CA 94704

HATSUMAIRI PARTICIPATION FORM

Name of child

Date of Birth

Parents' Names

Address

City

Zip

Phone number

Email address

Pledged members through March 1, 2015

The following members have pledged in amounts ranging from \$150 to \$500. Amounts are not intended to correspond to the alphabetical listing below. Pledges sent in after this date may not have been processed by the Padma deadline and will be published in subsequent issues. The temple gratefully acknowledges your generous contributions and thanks you for your *dana* and understanding. Please advise us of any omissions.

Michiko Anzai	Vernon & Karen Kato	Chizuko Nakashita
Lorin Bond	Rev Kiyonobu & Hitomi Kuwahara	Satoshi & Elaine Steimetz
Janey Egawa	Bob Matsueda & Ranko Yamada	Mieko Taketa
Gary & Evelyn Nakano Glenn	John & Nobuko Morita	Dean Ito Taylor
Ron Hiraga & Gayle Nishikawa	Mark & Nicole Eden Muraoka	Yoshiro & Julia Tokiwa
Ian Ho	Catherine Nagareda	Kiyoye Unoki
Kiyo Kato	Gary & Lorene Nakagiri	Paul Yonemura & Maya Murashima

Thank you to all temple members for your generous and continued support!
For any questions, please call Mimi Kagehiro (510-841-1356) or email info@berkeleysangha.org.



Thank You for Your Help with the Berkeley Buddhist Temple Canned Food Drive!

The Berkeley Buddhist Temple would like to thank everyone who donated to the 2015 Canned Food Drive. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to donate two barrels of food to the Alameda County Community Food Bank for people in need.

Your thoughtful dana is very much appreciated.



April 2015 Dharma School Schedule

Sunday, April 5: School-wide rehearsal for Hanamatsuri

Sunday, April 12: No DS; Hanamatsuri performance

Sunday, April 19: SACBC Dharma School visits; school-wide art project

Sunday, April 26: school-wide art project

CARDBOARD FOR BAZAAR

Costco shopping trip? New appliance in your future?

The 2015 Satsuki Bazaar needs cardboard to cover the kitchen, Old Temple and booth floors. If you could collect some large pieces of cardboard and bring them to the back of the Social Hall in the next few weeks before the Bazaar, it would be greatly appreciated. A good source for the large pieces of cardboard is the liners between items on the pallets at Costco (they allow you to collect them as you shop). Another good source is the box from that large appliance or big screen tv.

Thanks for your help,
Bazaar Construction Committee



Berkeley Buddhist Temple Jr. YBA

TODAY IS TODAY.

Sweatshirt Order Form



Lightweight Crewneck Sweatshirt
\$25.00

Zip Up Hooded Sweatshirt
\$40.00

Name: _____
 Email: _____
 Phone: _____

	Youth Medium	Youth Large	Adult X-Small	Adult Small	Adult Medium	Adult Large	Adult X-Large
Lightweight Crewneck Sweatshirt							
Zip Up Hooded Sweatshirt							
Total \$							

Please email completed forms to info@berkeleysangha.org or mail to Noel McGuire at 2121 Channing Way, Berkeley, CA 94704
 Order Deadline: March 31, 2015. Thank you for your order!



SIGN UP FOR eSCRIP TO EARN MONEY FOR THE TEMPLE

Shop at Safeway: Your participation can mean hundreds of dollars for the Temple.

- Go to eScrip.com
- Click on “1-Sign up”
- Enter your Club Card number
- Group ID#155954856

Online Shopping: Do your shopping online at stores such as Target, J. Crew, Nordstrom, Amazon, REI, Crate & Barrel and many more.

- Sign up with eScrip, enter your credit cards you would use at these stores.
- Go to the Online Mall at eScrip.com and start shopping. The Temple can earn up to 12% from your purchases.

Dining Out: You can earn contributions to the Temple by eating out at restaurants such as Pican or Ozumo (in Oakland), La Note Restaurant or Troy Greek Cuisine (in Berkeley). These and other establishments will donate up to 3% of your bill to the Temple.

- Sign up with eScrip.com and enter your credit cards you would use at these restaurants.

**Please contact Maya Murashima Yonemura at (510) 841-1356
or email info@berkeleysangha.org with any questions.**



BERKELEY BUDDHIST TEMPLE

Board of Directors Meeting

February 10, 2015

Attendance: Takashi Nikaido, David Ushijima, Patty Fujiwara, Kiyoshi Katsumoto, Russell Ware, Emiko Katsumoto, Judy Kono, Judy Fujimoto, Gary Oda, Yuki Otake, Caroline Fernandez, Lucy Hamai, Don Hamasaki, Millie Nikaido, Dii Lewis, Art Nishimura, Wayne Sugihara, Karen Sugiyama. Guest: Amy Shinsako

Co-president Takashi Nikaido called the meeting to order at 7:30PM with opening gassho led by Art Nishimura

JANUARY MINUTES were accepted with one correction. MSC J. Fujimoto/L. Hamai

MINISTER'S REPORT: Rev. Matsumoto presented a written report for the period 1/13/15 – February 10, 2015, which included the following: 7 meetings; 3 consultations; 2 visitations; 7 BBT services, 4 chanting services, 2 BBT family memorial services, 2 home family memorial services, 1 cremation service, 1 BD MA Study session - BCSF. Two memorials: Rev. Seishin Yamashita and Mrs. Kiyoko Kato.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Satoshi Steimetz issued a written income/expense report for 1/1/15 to 1/31/15

CORRESPONDENCE: Thank you cards from Dii Lewis, Tara Umemoto, Marrie Yamashita, and Rev. Matsumoto. Grant from the Unno Family Charitable Fund. Invitation to Remember at BMU on 2/15/15. Social Security letter stating Satoshi Steimetz as authorized representative. Co-president Takashi Nikaido circulated the refreshment list for the year for sign-up.

REPORTS BY AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

BBWA: Proposal to reorganize submitted. In order to be recognized as a member organization of the FBWA and BDBWL there must be a group or committee named "Buddhist Women's Association" and the member organization must pay dues. An Interim Standing Committee with a modified cabinet will be established, with help from the BBT Board, to keep the organization going until such time the BBWA can recruit a full cabinet. The projects previously carried out by the BBWA would be taken up by the BBT (social welfare, community outreach, etc.) Board members support this interim solution. A new standing committee could be established that would take on the BBWA activities. A request was made for the BBWA to make a list of the activities they sponsor.

J-SEI: Amy Shinsako wanted to thank BBT for their support with volunteers and facilities. They are looking to purchase a building in Emeryville for a senior, cultural and community center for the Japanese community. All services will be consolidated at the new site. They are planning on adding a commercial kitchen. They are looking for input into what the facility can offer the community. 24th Annual Crab Feed (2/22/15, 4-7 pm) tickets and raffle tickets are available for sale/distribution by BBT members Yuki Otake and Amy Shinsako. Sponsorship of the Flavors of Spring at the Momiji level MSC L. Hamai/J. Fujimoto

DHARMA SCHOOL: Staff meeting to plan out spring semester schedule held on 2/8/15.

JR. YBA: VP Noel McGuire issued a written report for January 2015.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

RELIGIOUS COMMITTEE: Art Nishimura provided an updated 2015 service calendar report.

PLEDGE/MEMBERSHIP: A report from Mimi Kagehiro showed that we have 118 members from 85 family units for 2015. Total pledges for 2015: \$29,049.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE: Old Temple rear stairway and door repaired. Glass lobby door also repaired. Gutters are blocked and new downspout is needed. Leak in the flashing between the overhang and the building by the library (water stain is evident).

GARDEN MAINTENANCE: The gardeners removed the cherry tree. The other cherry tree will be treated for termites.

APARTMENTS: Ron Hiraga reported that the Channing Way and Fulton St. apartments are fully occupied; reimbursement for January received from K&S

OTHER REPORTS

TAIKO: BBT will provide orei (not exceeding \$50) in May to the Cal Raijin members who have been volunteering to teach MSC J. Fujimoto/W. Sugihara. Table this motion to find estimated income and expenditure for the group. MSC K. Katsumoto/W. Sugimoto

BAZAAR: 1/27, 7pm -first meeting. Karen Kato will send email to one representative/family. Taiko was discussed. Rice will be delivered directly to the temple. Entertainment has not been finalized. More PVC pipe booths will be used. BBQ pit will be completed the second week of March. Volunteers will be needed to help with demolition and trenching on Saturday, March 14. Up to \$8,000 will be allotted for trench/drain for BBQ MSC R. Ware/K. Katsumoto

NEW BUSINESS

NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING: Ron Hiraga and Lucy Hamai will attend as temple representatives at the meeting in San Diego on 2/27-3/1. Judy Kono will be attending as a committee member. Changes to three by-laws will be voted on. BCA dues will continue to be \$109.

MEETING WITH BISHOP UMEZU: Takashi will meet on 2/11/15.

GOTOMEETING: Takashi will look into setting this up.

TEMPLE COMPUTER BACKUP: Gary Oda will buy a 4 terabyte hard drive for the computers for backup.

Don and Joanie Hamasaki and Russell Ware were thanked for the delicious refreshments. Next Month: Emi Nakao and Judy Kono. The meeting was adjourned at 9:45PM with closing gassho led by Art Nishimura.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Fujiwara, recording secretary

* * * * *

(Please contact a Board member is further clarification of these minutes is required.)



The following is a list of special service years. If you have a departed relative who has passed away in any of the listed years and would like to make arrangements for a memorial service, please contact Rev. Matsumoto at (510) 841-1356.

2015 MEMORIAL SERVICE SCHEDULE

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>SERVICE</u>
2014	1 st Year
2013	3 rd Year
2009	7 th Year
2003	13 th Year
1999	17 th Year
1991	25 th Year
1983	33 rd Year
1966	50 th Year
1916	100 th Year

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	Nehan-e	Nirvana Day
March	Ohigan	Spring Equinox
April	Hanamatsuri	Flower Festival
May	Gotan-e	Birthday of Shinran
July	Kangi-e	Obon
September	Ohigan	Autumn Equinox
November	Hoonko	Shinran Shonin Memorial
December	Jodo-e	Bodhi Day
December 31	Joya-e	Year End Service

A Shotsuki Hoyo (Monthly Memorial) Service is held the first 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.

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.

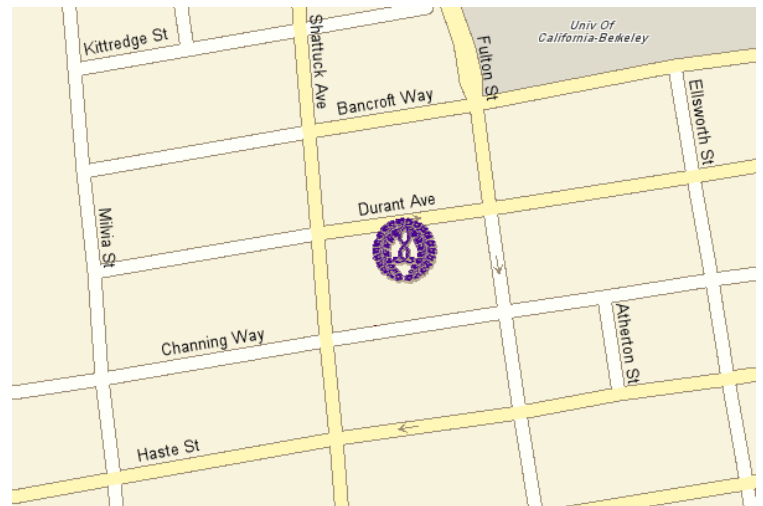
Whether you are here to satisfy a slight interest or to make a more personal connection, we wish you well and hope that you will be visiting us again soon.

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

web: www.berkeleysangha.org