

# the Padma

BERKELEY BUDDHIST TEMPLE

December 2015

Web Edition



Migi no hane ni wa sayounara Hidarigawa ni wa arigatou

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

# December 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: <a href="http://www.berkeleysangha.org">www.berkeleysangha.org</a> Temple e-mail: <a href="mailto:info@berkeleysangha.org">info@berkeleysangha.org</a>		1	2	3	4	5
6 8:30 am Chanting Service 9:30 am Comb Dharma Family/ Shotsuki Hoyo Svc 12 noon Taiko Class	7	8 Temple Bd Mtg 7:30 pm	9	10	11 Padma Articles due	12 Gagaku Practice 11am
13 8:30 am Chanting Service 9:30 am Bodhi Day Family Svc NO TAIKO CLASS	14	15 Padma Newsletter 6:30 pm	16	17	18	19
20 TEMPLE CLEAN-UP NO SERVICES NO TAIKO CLASS	21	22	23	24	25 CHRISTMAS	26
27 NO SERVICES NO TAIKO CLASS	28	29	30 Gagaku Practice 6:30 pm	31 JOYA-E SERVICE 7:00 PM	JANUARY 1, 2016 NEW YEAR'S SERVICE 10:00 AM	

On the cover

Rev. M and the BBT Natsukawa  
Rimi Fan Club

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## FUTURE DATES TO REMEMBER

**December 6 - DFS & Shotsuki Hoyo**

**December 13 - Bodhi Day service**

**December 20 - Temple clean-up;  
No service**

**December 27 - No service**

**December 31 - Joya-e service (End of  
the Year service)**

**January 1, 2016 - Shusho-e (New Year  
service)**

**January 3 - DFS & Shotsuki Hoyo**

**January 10 - New Year Lunch & BBT  
Officers Installation)**

## *and so ...*

We come together when conditions bring us to meet and part when conditions separate us.<sup>1</sup>

### AND SO ... WE MUST PART.

Echoing words from my first *Padma* article in January 2005, my family and I would like to express our deep thanks to you for allowing us to be part of this *nembutsu* community at the Berkeley Buddhist Temple for the past eleven years. We have been very happy here and grateful that we have been able to meet and get to know all of you over the years. We have enjoyed joining you as partners and friends in a “Dharmic enterprise” in which we all have had a stake and concern.

The words “goodbye” and “farewell” have a ring of finality about them. When we say them at a time of parting, there is a sense that our relationship is over or that we will never meet again. The Japanese word “*sayonara*” is often used with that same sense of “goodbye.” However, I believe that its meaning is much deeper. “*Sayonara*” (or more accurately, “*sayōnara*” さようなら) is derived from the classic phrase “*sayō naraba*” (左様ならば...). That expression can be understood to mean, “that being so,” “under those circumstances,” or “because of that situation.” I would state it more simply: “and so ...”

*Sayō naraba* recognizes that our lives—who we are and what we experience—are brought about through an infinite number of causes and conditions. This goes for the lives that we share with others. And when those conditions shift our lives change with them. In Shinran's words, “We come together when conditions bring us to meet and part when conditions separate us.”

Eleven years ago conditions brought us together at the Berkeley Buddhist Temple. They have allowed us to become friends, help each other and hear the Dharma together. But my work at the Institute of Buddhist Studies has increased of late, and it has become difficult for me to serve both IBS and our sangha adequately. “That being so” our paths must now diverge. Our temple will have a wonderful new minister in Rev. Candice Shibata, whom I am sure will be beloved by all of you. I will focus my attention on our school, its educational program, my students, and the future of Shin Buddhist Studies. And maybe, just maybe, I'll become a better husband and father.

And so ... we must part. Who knows where our paths will lead us? No one really knows. But we can be assured that with each step in our own journeys we will be together, embraced within the Dharma. I would like to end my last *Padma* article with these words from the first:

The Dharma of Jōdo Shinshū is based on this basic wish: that all beings may attain enlightenment. It is the wish that the disabled may be enabled—that the empty become fulfilled and the last become first. This is the fundamental wish of life. Life wishes to become itself so that all beings may know their true selves, become their true selves and live their true lives. This wish precedes all other wishes. It is the first aspiration of life, the Primal Vow of the Buddha.

And so ... first and last, our wish is that everyone at the Berkeley Buddhist Temple may be able to hear, learn and live the Dharma, and attain enlightenment together with all beings.

Thank you again for everything. *Sayōnara*.

Namu Amida Butsu  
David Y., Diane & David R. Matsumoto  
December 2015

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<sup>1</sup> From *A Record in Lament of Divergences (Tannishō)*, 6, CWS, 664.

## **PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE**

Well, the Holiday Season is under way. Our Dharma School had its annual Halloween party and it was a great time. Along with a fantastic potluck and great games and activities organized by the Jr. YBA, a representative of the East Bay Vivarium came out to present many animals, both cute and...not so cute and some that downright gave us the creeps. He made a statement though that really stuck with me. He asked the kids, "What is the most dangerous animal on Earth?" and provided the following answer, "Humans." He went on to spread the message that we, as humans, have an obligation to preserve all of these animals' right to exist - a great message for us all. Thanks to the Dharma School teachers, the parents, the Jr. YBA and, of course, the kids, for a wonderful evening!

Please mark your calendars for December 20th, Temple Clean Up, or Osoji, Day. Although not really from Jodo Shinshu teachings, cleaning one's home prior to New Year's Day is a tradition in Japanese culture. This tradition stems from the Shinto tradition in which it was believed that New Year's marked a time when kami would enter one's home. Having a clean home indicated one's respect for the Kami. For our Temple, this is a time that we can come together so that we can start the new year with a "fresh" environment.

You should have received your ballot for the Temple Board of Directors. Please make sure to complete the ballot and send it back. We do require that at least 20% of the ballots be returned for our Board to be validated. Thanks to Ron Hiraga, one of our Co-Presidents, as he steps down at the end of December. He has helped me come into this role with the Temple and has supported me many times.

As the year comes to a close let us all take a moment to reflect on the path we have followed and how much we have been able to share and enjoy our time with one another. More importantly, we would like to thank Reverend Matsumoto for the time he has spent with us as our guide and counselor for the past, almost 10 years. We have been very fortunate to have someone with such great doctrinal knowledge who also possesses an ability to personally connect with all of us and to connect all of us. He has helped greatly in showing our Sangha the path to take in our lives. We look forward to continuing our journey with Reverend Shibata in the New Year.

In Gassho,

Takashi Nikaidoh and Ron Hiraga  
BBT Co-Presidents 2015

# COMBINED DHARMA FAMILY SERVICE & SHOTSUKI MEMORIAL SERVICE

December 6, 2015  
9:30 am

## Shotsuki Hoyo Service – *December 6, 2015*, 9:30 AM

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

Harumi S. Aoki	Dick H. Fujioka	Tazuye L. Fujita
Jay Gluck	Helen Harada	Mitsuru Haraguchi
Sadami Hayashida	Jane M. Imamura	Diane Ishida
Nathan M. Iwasaki	Hide Jimbo	Yoshimi Jimbo
Toshio Kaji	Tazuko Kanda	Toshiko Kaneko
Miyo Katayama	Sode Kawano	Kameyo Kikawa
Tomiko Kosakura	Hisako Masunaga	Saburo Matsumoto
Wakaji Matsumoto	Shizue S. Matsuoka	Fred N. Miike
Kiyoshi Mitsuyasu	Masuyo Mitsuyasu	Shio Mizusaki
Asano Muramoto	Grace Y. Nakahara	Sachiye Nakahara
Haruko Nakano	Minoru Nojima	Stephen O'Donnell
Masako M. Oishi	Shinichi Okimoto	Kanichi Okita
Komura Okita	Keiji Onizuka	Kishino Ota
Cathy Hayashida Romeo	Toki Sakaki	Konami Sasaki
Henry K. Shiromoto	Eiko Sugihara	Kiku Sumida
William Sumner	Asako Tagumi	Akira Takaha
Yae Toyota	Thomas K. Uehisa	Rev. Dr. Taitetsu Unno
Thelma T. Wakasa	Yoneko Yamada	Mauch Yamashita
Yuki Yokoi	Shigeru Yokoyama	Sada Yoshida
Koichi Yoshimura	George T. Yuasa	

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

## Who Am I? (Part Two)

By Diane Ames

Last month we started talking about the Buddhist teaching that the self is not what we think it is because it has no independent, permanent existence and is made up of parts. Specifically, we elaborated on what is meant by "made up of parts." Now let us address this idea that there is nothing permanent about the self, that, in other words, it constantly changes.

Am I still the cooing baby who was my mother's pride and joy or the moody teenager who was her cross to bear? I don't think so; neither of these people had gray hair or osteoarthritis. I'm also a lot larger than the infant and am able to get around by walking on two legs. However, the teenager could walk considerably longer distances without using a cane than I can now. All in all, I must conclude that I am neither the baby nor the adolescent, even though I am legally still the same person.

Of course I flatter myself that my mind has also changed and developed since babyhood and, indeed, since high school, that at the age of sixty-nine, I am more mature than I was at six months and, at times at least, more mature than I was at sixteen. But have I stopped changing? Not only has my physical form deteriorated with age, it continues to deteriorate at a frightening rate. As for my mind, well, what exactly is my mind? Is it my emotions? They change from hour to hour and sometimes from minute to minute, according to whether my body is functioning well or badly, whether I am reading a good book or cleaning the toilets, how well I am getting along with the people in my life, and too many other variables to list. Is it my thoughts? They go by even faster. They're rather like a rushing river, in fact. Even when I can pinpoint the thought I had in my head at some given moment, it's apt to be something like, "Do I dare to eat eggplant curry with my digestion in the state it's in lately?" I'd hate to think *that* constitutes my mind, much less that it's my essential self.

In short, before I can answer the question, "Who am I?" I have to ask, "Who am I at exactly what point in time?" My body changes faster than I like to think these days. (For instance, lately my digestive system may change for the worse almost immediately if I am rash enough to eat the eggplant curry.) My so-called mind cannot even be found amid the ever fluctuating chaos in my head. So where is the solid, permanent self I tend to assume I have?

# **BODHI DAY SERVICE**

**December 13, 2015**

**9:30 AM**

Coffee social following service

## **END-OF-THE-YEAR TEMPLE CLEAN-UP**

**December 20, 2015**

**8:30 AM**

**No Service**

EVERYONE'S HELP IS NEEDED

Please come and help clean our temple

Refreshments will be served.

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## ***JOYA-E/YEAR END SERVICE***

**Thursday, December 31, 2015**

**7:00 PM**

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## **NEW YEAR SERVICE**

***Friday, January 1, 2016***

***10 AM***

Greet the New Year with family and friends.



**Berkeley Buddhist Temple expresses condolences and deep sympathy**

**To the Family of  
Mr. Shunji Shinoda  
Shaku Shun Ji  
June 6, 1930 - September 29, 2015**

**To the families of John Murashima and Maya Murashima Yonemura  
on the passing of their mother,  
Mrs. Sumiko Kamikawa Murashima  
Shaku Antoku  
August 16, 1922 - October 8, 2015**

**Namu Amida Butsu**

**Namu Amida Butsu**

**Namu Amida Butsu**



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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.

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**2015 MEMORIAL SERVICE SCHEDULE**

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

# BERKELEY BUDDHIST TEMPLE

Come welcome Rev. Candice Shibata  
And celebrate the New Year  
Sunday, January 10, 2016

Year of the Monkey



9:30am	Dharma Family Service	BBT Board Installation
10:30am	Mochi-tsuki	
11:45am	New Year's Luncheon	

We hope you and your family will be able to attend our annual Temple New Year's Party on Sunday, January 10, 2016, at which we will be officially welcoming Rev. Candice Shibata as our new resident minister. At the service we'll also be honoring our dedicated temple volunteers. Mochi-tsuki will follow in the courtyard and we hope members of all ages will participate in the pounding and eating of freshly made mochi. At 11:45 AM everyone will gather in the Social Hall for the luncheon. You can pre-order a delicious bento box lunch. Come celebrate the beginning of a new year with our Sangha family and friends.

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*Cut along dotted line:*

**RSVP FORM**  
New Year's Party  
January 10, 2016

For more information call:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Lena Yin 510-841-1356

Number of box Lunches: (Adult or Child)

ADULT: Reg. Bento \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian Bento \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$15 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

CHILD: Reg. Bento \_\_\_\_\_ Total \$ 8 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Lunch Total = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: If you are an invited temple guest/s (Padma staff, Temple office volunteer or Dharma School teacher or staff)**

**Write your name on the line below and do not include yourself in the above lunch total**

Name/s \_\_\_\_\_

**Please respond by December 26, 2015.** Make checks payable to: **Berkeley Buddhist Temple**

Mail RSVP form and payment to: Lena Yin 2121 Channing Way, Berkeley, CA 94704  
[info@berkeleysangha.org](mailto:info@berkeleysangha.org)

**Are you interested in going to JAPAN for a  
ONCE in a LIFETIME event?**

**Would you like to see the BEAUTY of  
JAPAN while traveling with your BBT  
friends?**

**If your answer is YES, you're in luck!**



**Beginning in the late part of 2016 until May 2017, Nishi Hongwanji in Kyoto will be observing the *Dento Hokoku Hoyo*, which is The Commemoration on the Accession of the Jodo Shinshu Tradition. This series of ceremonies observes the appointment of the 25<sup>th</sup> head priest of Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha, Monshu Ohtani Kojun.**

**Due to the high number of tourists going to Japan for this once in a lifetime event, planning must begin as soon as possible. Accommodations will be made at Nishi Hongwanji for English speaking attendees on October 21, 2016 and March 31, 2017, but space is limited.**

**Reverend Candice is interested in planning a trip with interested BBT members to attend the ceremony in Kyoto on March 31, 2017. Following this ceremony, various individual or group tour packages can be arranged to see the beautiful sights of Japan. This will be a wonderful opportunity to experience this momentous occasion for the Jodo Shinshu Tradition during the gorgeous cherry blossom season of Japan.**

**Members who are interested in learning more about this trip can contact Reverend Candice at: [revshibata.bbt@gmail.com](mailto:revshibata.bbt@gmail.com) or can leave a message at the temple office: (510) 841-1356.**

**Thank you!**

# Berkeley Buddhist Temple's Bazaar Annual Gift Committee (BAGC)



This year in an effort to support the community at large, the Berkeley Buddhist Temple donated a portion of the proceeds from the Satsuki Bazaar to a non-profit organization. The 2015 recipient for the Berkeley Buddhist Temple Bazaar Annual Gift is the **Asian American Donor Program (AADP)**. This community-based nonprofit organization was nominated by the Jr. YBA. AADP is dedicated to increasing the availability of potential stem cells donors for patients with life-threatening diseases curable by a stem cell transplant.

The Bazaar Annual Gift Committee (BAGC) was formed to help designate each year's recipient. We would very much appreciate hearing from you regarding a deserving non-profit organization. To qualify, the non-profit should preferably serve the Berkeley area. Please help us by submitting the name of a potential recipient that you feel deserves consideration. Fill out the form below and return to Yuki Otake, 2121 Channing Way, Berkeley, CA 94707 or e-mail [info@berkeleysangha.org](mailto:info@berkeleysangha.org)

**Deadline for submissions is December 1, 2015.**

Please note that all nominations are subject to approval by the Berkeley Buddhist Temple Board of Directors.

Thank you for your assistance.

BAG Committee:

Mimi Kagehiro  
Pat  
Wayne Sugihara

Jr. YBA  
Yuki Otake

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## PAST RECIPIENTS:

- 2015 Asian American Donor Program
- 2014 Women's Daytime Drop In Center (WDDC)
- 2013 Friend's of Disabled Children, Inc.
- 2012 Alzheimer's Services of the East Bay (ASEB)
- 2011 Berkeley Food and Housing
- 2010 J-Sei
- 2009 Niroga Institute, George Mark Children's House
- 2008 Asian Neighborhood Design, East Bay Asian Youth Center
- 2007 North Berkeley Nikkei Senior Center
- 2006 Jodo Shinshu Center
- 2005 Sakura Kai, Westcoast Children's Center
- 2004 Japanese American Services of the East Bay (JASEB), Crisis Support Services of Alameda
- 2003 Asian Pacific Islander Legal Outreach, Buddhist Peace Fellowship (Prison Chaplainry)
- 2002 The Women's Refuge, Asian Community Mental Health Services (ACMHS)
- 2001 Spanish Speaking Citizen's Foundation, North County Women's Center

## **Guidelines for Bazaar Annual Gift (BAG)**

- 1) Gift recipient must be a non-profit organization.
  - 2) Preferably, the gift recipient will serve the Berkeley area.
  - 3) Temple members and Jr. YBA will be asked to submit names of potential recipients.
  - 4) Committee members will review all potential recipients and select recipients based on merit.
  - 5) BAG Committee will recommend the recipients and the amount of the donations, but recommendations will be subject to temple board approval.
- 

### **We would like to know the following information:**

1) Name of the non-profit organization: \_\_\_\_\_

2) What they do/whom they serve: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3) Organization address: \_\_\_\_\_

4) Organization phone number or e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

5) Why you would like to see them receive our donation: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

6) Your name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

**Shotsuki Hoyo****Name**

Ms. Miki Adachi  
 Mrs. Dorothy Ariyoshi  
 Mrs. Grace Ehara  
 Bill and Judy Fujimoto  
 Ms. Denise Gervais  
 Mr. Norman Hirose  
 Mr. Norman Hirose  
 Ms. Keiko Kawakami  
 Mrs. Amy Kuwada  
 Eric and Mary Lindquist  
  
 Mr. Lamar Marutani  
 Don and Fumi Matsubara  
 Jeff, Robin, Mali & Noel McGuire  
 Mrs. Etsuko Naito  
 Aki and Emi Nakao  
 Mrs. Grace Oki  
 Mrs. Margaret Parkes  
 Mr. Yoshi Shimada  
 Mrs. Makiko Shinoda  
 Ms. Grace Takahashi  
 Ms. Sumie Takahashi  
 Ms. Jean Terazawa  
 Ms. Emiko Umawatari  
 Mrs. Opal Wakayama  
 Mrs. Frances Yoshimura

**In Memory of**

Yoshiko Adachi  
 Milton Wakayama  
 Masakazu and Misuko Miyamoto  
 Chio & Mitsuo Tominaga, Ben Wakaye  
 Shotsuki Hoyo  
 Chiyo Hirose  
 Tsuneo Inuzuka  
 Shizuko Kawakami  
 Milton Wakayama  
 Waikko Lindquist, Chio Tominaga,  
 Mel Tominaga, Ben Wakaye  
  
 Haruno Marutani  
 Sumie Matsubara  
 Yoshikazu Takahashi  
 Isao Nishikawa  
 George Sasaki  
 Shigeru Oki, Shizuko Fukada  
 Sumiko Kawaguchi  
 Yasue Shimada  
 Kayo, Kiyooki and Shunji Shinoda  
 Toshie Takahashi  
 Shotsuki Hoyo  
 Yukiye Terazawa  
 Kizo Umawatari  
 Milton Wakayama  
 Miyeko and Nobuo Yoshimura

**Eitaikyo Donations**

Mrs. Georgia Daikai  
 Mr. & Ms. Detlev Gempf  
 Don and Fumi Matsubara  
 Mr. & Mrs. Kenji Ota  
 Mrs. Marrie Yamashita

Ms. Patricia Fujiwara  
 Mrs. Kimiko Kaneko  
 Aki and Emi Nakao  
 Mrs. Shizue Yamasaki  
 Anonymous

**Ho-On-Ko Donations**

Ms. Denise Gervais \$  
 Kiyoshi & Emiko Katsumoto  
 Mrs. Molly Momii  
 Mrs. Grace Ueda  
 Mrs. Sachi Yamasaki

Mrs. Nora Hataye  
 Mr. Bradley Menda  
 Aki and Emi Nakao  
 Mrs. Opal Wakayama

Donations List (cont.) November 2015 THANK YOU FOR YOUR DANA

**Special Donations**

Mrs. Masaki Eshima-Johnston	Donation
Makiko Shinoda Family	in memory of Shunji Shinoda
Donald and Suzy Lee	Donation
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Murakami	in memory of Alice Murakami
Mrs. Frances Tamekuni	Donation
Mrs. Kiyoye Unoki	Donation
Ms. Edythe Vassall	in memory of Masami Mayeda

## **BBT Community Outreach**

Our Berkeley Buddhist Temple members will be participating in the following community event through the end of December 1015:

- **Canned food drive** will benefit the Alameda County Community Food Bank. The drive will continue through the last week of services in December. Collection bins will be located in the temple lobby. Feel free to contact Bradley for more information. (510) 841-1356 or [info@berkeleysangha.org](mailto:info@berkeleysangha.org).

*This article of reflection was submitted in October 2015 by Detlev (Ted) Gempf, a Berkeley Buddhist Temple member who completed the Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course.*

## On Doubt

I was gratified to listen to Takashi Nikaidoh's sermon a few weeks ago where he spoke of his conversion to Jodo Shinshu beliefs. He spoke of his own Christian background as did our own Rev. Matsumoto in a recent sermon. I have in conversation asked this same question of other members of the Berkeley sangha and was comforted to discover that we have several ex-Christians like myself who have acknowledged Amida Buddha's vow. I joke about forming a Recovering Christian Support Group. Why, because I think there are at least two elements in Western Christianity that have caused me, and a lot of others, much anxiety and pain. One is the issue of sin and the other is of doubt.

The Christian concept of sin which, if it is not absolved through prayer and sincere repentance, reportedly can damn you to an eternity of pain and suffering. This is fairly easy to understand, but can cause tremendous psychological trauma in children and adults.

The other issue is doubt, which in Christianity has the same consequence associated with it. In other words, entertaining doubt is also a sin, and can likewise damn you. According to this thinking, you can forget about all the good deeds you've done in your life or your repentance for bad ones: if you have doubt you're out. Psychology teaches us that a person could, out of fear, suppress such thoughts, only to have them emerge as an emotional pathology.

Shinran Shonin spoke of keeping his faith in the Nembutsu even if his bones were crushed into dust. He speaks of his unwavering faith in Honen's teaching: "I have nothing to regret, even if I have been deceived by my teacher, and saying the Nembutsu should fall into hell". I'm sorry to admit that my faith is not that unshakably strong. As doubt surfaces, those Christian fears of burning in hell emerge: let's face it this is serious business.

The difference between sinful actions and doubt is that having doubt can be involuntary. It comes from our mind's reasoning ability, and often arises spontaneously. Occasional doubt in one's faith is something I'm sure we have all experienced, and I'm the first to admit to it. The concept of being punished for having doubt does not reflect the mercy Amida Buddha shows us bonbu who, because of our human nature and ignorance, are helpless against committing such "sins".

So, what does Jodo Shinshu say about how doubt affects our entry into the Pure Land? How do I accept my doubts and keep the faith? I think the answer is to be found in the Nembutsu and Jodo Shinshu teaching about our fallibility. We are unable to reach the Pure Land on our own self-power, namely jiriki. We must rely on the Amida Buddha, which is called other-power or tariki. To have doubts is a normal psychological function. As humans we can't escape them and therefore they cannot be "sins" because they can be involuntary. I truly envy those Shin Buddhists who were never traumatized as children when threatened with hell for thoughts that they had no control over.

Rev. Ikeda of New York City mentioned in his September seminar at the Jodo Shinshu Center that having doubts is normal for Buddhists (or for anyone else for that matter). And that in fact it can have a positive consequence, whereby doubt can initiate our interest in learning. What a beautiful and comforting way of looking at our doubts. Instead of the threat of some fearsome traumatic consequence, Jodo Shinshu teaches tolerance and understanding of our human weaknesses and encourages us to learn from them. The result is thus positive, allowing us to grow and solidify our beliefs. In conclusion I think we could look at doubt as a friend rather than an enemy to be feared.

*Namu Amida Butsu*



**BERKELEY BUDDHIST TEMPLE**  
**Board of Directors Meeting**  
**October 13, 2015**

Attendance: Takashi Nikaidoh, Ron Hiraga, Rev. Matsumoto, Rev. Shibata, Patty Fujiwara, Judy Fujimoto, Lucy Hamai, Don Hamasaki, Kiyoshi Katsumoto, Emiko Katsumoto, DII Lewis, Bradley Menda, Judy Kono, Emi Nakao, Karen Sugiyama, Russell Ware

Proxies: Millie Nikaidoh, Gary Oda, David Ushijima, Lena Yin, Denise Lapidus, Art Nishimura

Co-president Takashi Nikaidoh called the meeting to order at 7:30PM with opening gassho led by Rev. Matsumoto.

**SEPTEMBER MINUTES** were accepted as amended. MSC J. Fujimoto/K. Katsumoto

**MINISTER'S REPORT:** Rev. Matsumoto presented a written report for the period September 8, 2015-October 13, 2015 which included the following: 10 meetings; 3 chanting services; 1 shotsuki memorial service; 1 nursing home visitation; 2 telephone consultations; 1 Ohigan seminar and service, Mt. View Buddhist Temple, 4 Dharma Family Services; 1 Chaplaincy Seminar, IBS; 1 English study, San Mateo BT; 1 Central Cal District Ohigan Seminar and Service, Fresno BC; 1 Family memorial service; 4 moving days. Alice Murakami passed away on September 24, Shunji Shino passed away on September 29 and Sumiko Murashima passed away on October 8.

Motion to endorse Tara Umemoto's application as a certified minister's assistant. MSC K. Katsumoto/L. Hamai

Bay District Minister Association Seminar, "Treasure in Our Midst: An In-Depth Look at the Three Refuges" will be held on November 7, 2015 at the Palo Alto Buddhist Temple from 9am to 4pm. Registration deadline is October 30, 2015.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Satoshi Steimetz issued a written income/expense report for 9/1/15 to 9/30/15. Finance committee meeting report by K. Katsumoto: Plans to move some of the funds from the checking account to Eitaikyo account, set aside money for renovations of the old temple residence and transfer the remainder into funds at Schwab. Check for the silent auction work party from 2014 will be returned since work party was not used.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Custodial account statement for the end of August received. Otsukimi sponsored by the Oakland-Fukuoka Sister City Association and the Golden State Bonsai Collection North for an evening of Japanese food, entertainment and moon viewing on Sunday, October 25. Palo Alto Buddhist Temple 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Artistry Faire on October 24. Stuart Foundation Grant of \$500 for the BBT Taiko program. Sacramento Tofu is closing on 10/1/15 after more than 65 years in business. Thank you letter from San Luis Obispo temple for donation to their building repair fund. Thank you card from Tomi Lewis for graduation scholarship.

**REPORTS BY AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS**

**J-SEI:** Family festival went well. Jr. YBA sold shaved ice.

**DHARMA SCHOOL:** Inside Out theme is going well. Bradley tied the theme to his taiko lesson with the dharma school.

**JR. YBA:** President Noel McGuire issued a written report for September 2015. There are 14 registered members for 2015.

**STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**RELIGIOUS COMMITTEE:** Art Nishimura will provide an updated 2016 service calendar report. Changes: 2/14 DFS and general meeting, 2/21 Nirvana Day service with Bishop Umezu. Lucy suggested that the board help with food for the temple clean up. Rev. Jerry Hirano will be the guest speaker for the Hoonko service. Rev. Matsumoto suggested that we ask him to do a reading and a book signing for his book, Teriyaki Priest during the coffee social.

**PLEDGE/MEMBERSHIP:** A report from Mimi Kagehiro and Pat Takeda showed that we have 241 members from 165 family units for 2015. 88 senior members.

**BUILDING MAINTENANCE:** Renovations for the old temple residence is being assessed. Repair of the ovens and the kitchen stoves in the Social Hall Kitchen came to \$1345. Bathrooms don't have safety bars in the stalls. Craig Griffin will be consulted about installation.

**GARDEN MAINTENANCE:** Tree trimmer has left the area, but left information for a replacement.

**APARTMENTS:** Ron Hiraga reported that the Unit 4 on Channing Way that became vacant on August 30 was rented. The rent is \$1995, which is an increase from the \$1173 previous rent. Unit 1 has not yet moved or given notice. His request to sublet has been denied. He paid the rent for the past month. Reimbursement from K&S.

## COMMUNITY OUTREACH:

9/12 Held College Welcome Event. 26 college students attended. Event consisted of a Dharma talk by Rev. Shibata, an icebreaker led by CJ, and a curry rice dinner. Attendees surveyed said that they would participate other temple events geared towards college students. Will plan to have college events at the beginning and end of each semester. Thank you to Rev. Shibata, Mimi, Emi, CJ, Keith, and Naomi for helping to prepare for the event.

9/19 Volunteered at the Alameda County Food Bank. 18 temple members participated in the event. Will plan on organizing an event with the food bank every quarter. Thank you to Takashi for organizing the event.

9/27 Taiko classes resumed led by Cal Raijin Taiko. Classes will be every other week until December

### Upcoming Events:

- 10/18 Berkeley Sunday Streets. There are enough volunteers to fill the two shifts: 11a-1p or 1p-4p. We will pass out informational flyers and host a lei and koi making activity for children. Thank you to Noreen Fukumori for designing the banner that will display at the booth.
- 10/24 Walk to Feed the Hungry. Informally organizing temple members to participate in this activity. Starts at noon in SF Chinatown and ends in Japantown.
- Pending Events for November/December
  - Nov-Canned Food Drive
  - Nov-Warm Coat Drive
  - Nov-Temple Movie Night featuring Inside Out
  - Dec-Canned Food Drive
  - Dec-College de-stress event (prior to finals)
  - Temple movie night for Inside Out in November.

Authorize Bradley to get a \$75 three month trial license to show movies at the temple. MSC K. Katsumoto/L. Hamai

## OTHER REPORTS

**PHONE LINE:** 2nd phone line is used for infrequent faxes only. It will be transferred for use in the upstairs apartment.

**MINISTER CELL PHONE/LAPTOP IN THE BAY DISTRICT:** Rev. Matsumoto did an informal poll and found that In general, temples pay for minister's cell phones. Much of the communication is now done electronically so many ministers use laptops for daily business. Rev. Matsumoto suggested we provide Rev. Shibata with a laptop and work cell phone.

**WEBSITE UPDATE:** Scott Takeda suggested that we move to another platform- Score Space \$19/month to update the website. MSC E. Katsumoto/J. Kono Website committee will be Bradley, Rev. Shibata, Russell Ware and Scott Takeda.

**RENOVATIONS FOR OLD TEMPLE APARTMENT:** A detailed list was presented. Move to authorize \$60,000 for renovations for items on the list. MSC K. Katsumoto/J. Kono Ron is waiting for an estimate from Milrand Builders to fix the back porch.

**INTERNET USE GUIDELINES:** Should we have a formal policy? This will be forwarded to the website committee.

**NEW YEARS PARTY:** January 10, 2016 will include a welcome for Rev. Shibata

**REV. MATSUMOTO RETIREMENT PARTY:** In February or March.

**BISHOP SELECTION:** It appears that Rev. Umezu will continue in his role as bishop.

**BOARD ELECTIONS:** Slate will be put together by Takashi.

DII Lewis, Patty Fujiwara, Bradley Menda and Joni Hamasaki were thanked for the delicious refreshments. Next Month: Gary Oda and Bradley Menda. The meeting was adjourned at 9:13 PM with closing gassho led by Rev. Shibata.

Respectfully submitted,

Patty Fujiwara, recording secretary

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

TELEPHONE COORDINATORS: SUSAN GABRIEL & LENA YIN

DECEMBER TOBAN: Chmn: Emi Nakao  
Co chairs: Lorene Nakagiri, Karen Sugiyama

Pauline Fong, George & Emi Matsunaga, Catherine Nagareda, Lorene Nakagiri, Aki & Emi Nakao, Karen Sugiyama, Craig & Helen Tagawa, Stan & Kathy Meyer Tamaki, Yasuyo Wolfe, Kusuo Inadomi\*, Kimiye Nakao\*, George Okano\*, Joanna Sakai\*, Elaine Sato\*, Abe & Terry Watamura\*, Yae Yedlosky\*

JANUARY TOBAN: Chmn: Vicki Chin  
Co chairs: Gary Oda, Irene Wells, Denise Gervais

Gene & Vicki Chin, Alfred & Arline Chinn, Suzanne Furuya, Detlev & Lorraine Nobuye Gempf, Denise Gervais, Andy & Lisa Mayeda, Albert & Mari Mayeda Kutchins, Judy Nakaso, Gary Oda, Milton & Diane Furuya Wong, Russell & Irene Wells, Annette Lys\*, Fumi Mayeda\*, Mae Takeda\*, Yosh & Julia Tokiwa\*, Sam Uchiumi\*, Amiko Mayeno

\* \* \* \* \*

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

## 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.

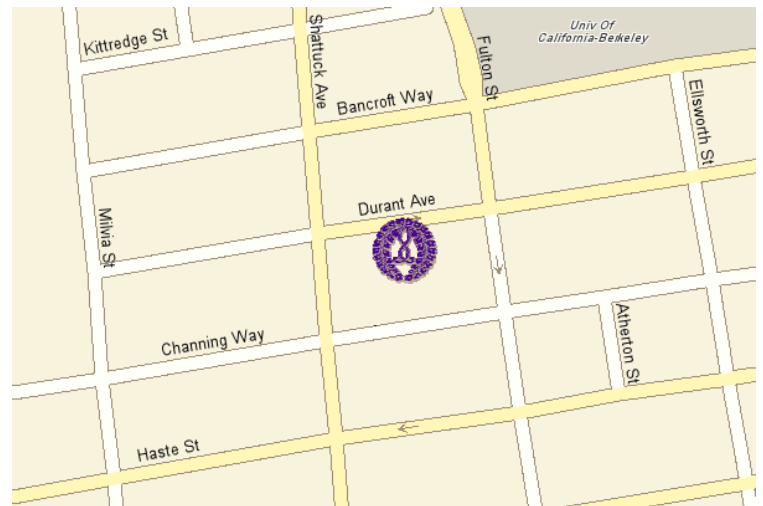
Whether you are here to satisfy a slight interest or to make a more personal connection, we wish you well and hope that you will be visiting us again soon.

## 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  
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Phone: 510-841-1356

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