

the Padma

BERKELEY BUDDHIST TEMPLE

February 2012

Web Edition



Happy New Year

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

February 2012

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			1	2	3	4
5 9:30 am Combined Dharma Family/ Nirvana Day Service Guest Spkr: Rev. Dr. Ron Nakasone Coffee Social following service Movie Showing 12 pm - 2 pm	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 9:30 am Combined Dharma Family/ Pet Memorial Service General Membership Meeting following service	13	14 Crafts 10 - 1 Temple Board Mtg 7:30 pm	15	16	17	18
19 9:30 am Dharma Family Service/ Taige-kai Sangha Singers rehearsal following service	20 HOLIDAY	21 Padma Newsletter 6:30 pm	22	23	24	25
26 9:30 am Dharma Family/ Shotsuki Hoyo Combined Service	27	28 Crafts 10 - 1 BBT Bazaar Mtg. 7 pm @ Old Temple	29			

FUTURE DATES TO REMEMBER

February 5 - **Nirvana Day service; Movies at noon**

February 12 - **Pet Memorial service; BBT General Membership Meeting**

February 26 - **DFS & Shotsuki Hoyo**

March 4 - **Dana Day service; BBWA Bento sale**

March 18 - **Spring O-Higan service; Potluck lunch**

March 25 - **DFS & Shotsuki Hoyo**

Open to All Members

General Membership Meeting

Sunday, February 12, 2012

Following Dharma School service, there will be a general membership meeting in the hondo. You are invited to join the BBT Board Members to discuss the 2012 temple budget and other issues facing our temple.

The reason that I was born [1]

How joyous I am, my heart and mind being rooted in the Buddha-ground of the universal Vow, and my thoughts and feelings flowing within the dharma-ocean, which is beyond comprehension! I am deeply aware of the Tathagata's immense compassion, and I sincerely revere the benevolent care behind the masters' teaching activity. My joy grows ever fuller, my gratitude and indebtedness ever more compelling.¹

"WHY WAS I BORN?" "WHY AM I ALIVE?" We humans seem to distinguish ourselves from other living beings with our propensity to ask these sorts of questions.

It seems that we ask these questions for a variety of reasons. Certainly there are times when we find ourselves pondering the big questions of life, such as "What's it all about?" or "What is the purpose of life?" But perhaps, I would guess, it is more often the case that the mysteries of life that we question are those that are closer to home. When we are confused or unsure about our lives, we might ask, "Where am I going?" or "What am I doing with my life?" When we are dissatisfied with ourselves or our prospects in life, we may wonder, "Why this life?" or "Why do I have to be like this?" And when we are faced with failure, loss or illness, or the death of a loved one that leads to sadness or despair, our plea might be, "Why me?" or "Why did this have to happen to me?"

Just as the motives for the question, "Why was I born?" may differ, so may the kinds of answers that are given. For instance, we may find satisfaction in common sense or scientific reasoning: "My mother and father gave birth to me," or, "I am a homo sapiens, the progeny of other homo sapiens. My purpose is to give birth to more homo sapiens." Sometimes, we try to answer big questions with big answers: "I was born to change things," or, "I was born to make a difference, to do great things, or to make the world a better place."

There may be times when we can't figure out the reason and so we look to others for answers: "God has a plan for me," or, "[He, they, it] will tell me who I am, what I believe, and what I'm supposed to do." And there may also be times when we simply stop searching for an answer: "Life is meaningless." "It's all fate." or, "It can't be helped. It is what it is."

And yet, there is another answer to our questions, "Why was I born?" and "Why am I alive?" It is an answer to which we can be guided by Śākyamuni Buddha, Shinran Shōnin, and all of our good teachers of the Way. It is a complex, multi-layered answer that arises through an awareness of the depth of our own ego-centeredness and the boundless compassion of life, which constantly gives itself to us. On one level, we find the answer when we realize a deep sense of gratitude or appreciation for all that life offers us, in spite of the smallness of our self-centered hearts. We feel sincere gratitude for the many people that have taken care of us—our parents, grandparents, siblings, doctors, teachers, and so on. We are able to give thanks every day, for the nourishment of food, the love and support of others, and the help of many that we receive daily. Appreciation on this level might be thought of as an ethical or spiritual sense of gratitude.

But, there is yet an even deeper level to this answer, a level that involves an even deeper sense of appreciation. This deeper level is revealed to us through our encounter with the Primal Vow of the Tathagata of Infinite Light and Life. It is from his encounter with the basic wish of life itself that Shinran was able to shout out his words of joy and gratitude, which we see above. We will look into this deeper level of the human heart in next month's article.

Namu Amida Butsu
Rev. D. Matsumoto
February 2012

¹ Shinran, *True Teaching, Practice, and Realization*, VI, CWS, 291.

Presidents' Message

Greetings, Sangha friends.

On January 15 a "State of the Temple" report was given at our annual Town Hall Meeting. Due to time constraints, the members were not afforded an opportunity to have any input.

It was suggested we have a follow up meeting to provide a forum for members to present questions, concerns and ideas about the future of our temple. There is a process called Open Space Technology that can be utilized to meet this end.

Open Space Technology is an interactive process for hosting meetings without any formal agenda. It is based on the understanding that there is a great amount of wisdom and experience in any gathered group of people – that we are all "experts" – and all can contribute. It is designed to simulate that natural way people find each other and share ideas.

If, for example, we were having a one-day conference on the future of the Berkeley Buddhist Temple, an agenda could be created by the participants in about 30 to 45 minutes. During this time each member would have an opportunity to share an issue or topic for which they have a passion or interest and for which they would be willing to host a discussion group.

Obviously there will not be enough time at our BBT General Meeting on February 12 for such discussion groups, but maybe we can scale down the process to suit our needs. We can take a little time at the beginning of the meeting to create an agenda together. We can also try having many people speak to the questions raised, rather than getting responses only from the facilitator.

Let's try using just the agenda-setting part of the Open Space Technology process. Perhaps this way we can have more interaction at our General Meeting.

So please, come with your agenda items and your expertise to make our General Meeting a true dharma process. We hope to see you there.

Gassho,

Art Nishimura and Willie Fernandez
Co-presidents
February 2012

COMBINED DHARMA FAMILY SERVICE & SHOTSUKI MEMORIAL SERVICE

February 26, 2012
9:30 am

Shotsuki Hoyo Service - February 26, 2012, 9:30 AM

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

Toshiyo Adachi	James Asami	Ofui Baba
Hanae Doi	Shizuyo Doi	Sakuichi Egawa
Amy Melissa Erickson	Nicholas Fernandez	Sugino Fukumori
Taro Fukumori	Sawae Futatsuki	Sadako Hammonds
Sannosuke Hiraoka	Chiyeko Hori	Denzo Horiike
Koichi Ichiyasu	Takeko Ikeda	Shintaro Imazumi
Tomomi Ito	Shigeichi Iwasaki	Michiye Izumi
Saki Jio	Junichi Kami	Jiro Kato
Tsuto Kawakami	Matsuji Kikawa	Yunosuke Kusayanagi
Chiyoko Matsunaga	Grace Shizuko Matsuoka	Mokutaro Morimoto
Emiko Morishita	Taki Morishita	Uta Morishita
Yoshitaro Morishita	Edwin Akiyoshi Mutobe	Sadao Nakagaki
Harry Y. Nakahara	Kameo Nakamura	Kujuro Nishimoto
Chise Nitta	Kozo Nitta	Kazuo Onitsuka
Tsutano Ouye	Gary Hiroshi Sasaki	Steve Sasaki
Mary Hifuno Suto	Hirao Tabuchi	Shizue Tabuchi
Kenji Takamoto	Shizutoshi Takeda	Tsuneyo Takita
Jennifer Sayuri Tasaka	Ichiro Yamasaki	Kasumi Yonekura
Yoshio Harry Yoshimura	Nobuko Yoshiura	Yasu Yoshiura

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

New Year's Resolutions and the Futility of Self-Power

by Diane Ames

It's February. Do you even remember what your New Year's resolutions were? If you are like the innumerable people who mob the Y.M.C.A. exercise classes during the first week in January and then disappear, you'd probably rather drop the subject. So why do we all keep making these annual resolutions and then keep breaking them? Sometimes we resolve to do things that prove to be impractical. But more often, it's because we almost always resolve to change ourselves in ways that we think we should change but don't really want to. If you loved to exercise regularly, you would already be in the Y.M.C.A. swimming pool swimming laps, or doing something like that, long before New Year's Day. If in truth you would rather spend your spare time reading or in bed asleep, getting you into the gym requires a battle of you against you, and guess who usually wins?

Of course people sometimes do alter their behavior, even in ways that seem difficult. Smokers and alcoholics do quit; sedentary people do start exercising. But even these changes, which generally require desperation, are minor surface matters compared with trying to get the ego to stop being egocentric—to get the self to become enlightened, in other words. In this the ego feels its very existence threatened and will stop at nothing to defeat itself. In most cases, it doesn't even have to try very hard.

Its most potent weapons are pride and despair. Say that your Buddhist teacher tells you to meditate ten hours a day every weekend. (My Tibetan teacher did.) If you don't have too many responsibilities, you may be able to do it, which becomes a source of pride. But you will soon find yourself discouraged because you are just sitting there longing for the closing bell to ring, being bored off your tree—until late Sunday afternoon, when you succumb to distraction because you have started seeing demons on the wall again. Of course the resulting pride and despair just build up the ego. Whether I am great or I am hopeless, the statement affirms that I am me.

Then you are told to do a hundred thousand full prostrations. Should you manage it (and it took me over two years), it is impossible for a profoundly unathletic person not to feel proud of having done so. It is also impossible not to feel disheartened because after all that, aside from having lost some weight, you see no change in your neurotic self whatsoever.

In short, self-power is self-defeating. Namu Amida Butsu.

NIRVANA DAY SERVICE

February 5, 2012

9:30 AM

Guest Speaker

Rev. Dr. Ron Nakasone

Coffee social following service; movie following coffee social.

PET MEMORIAL SERVICE

February 12, 2012

9:30 AM

Members are invited to bring photos of deceased pets to place at the *onaijin*.

Open to All Members

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Sunday, February 12, 2012

Following Dharma School/Pet Memorial Service, there will be a general membership meeting in the hondo. You are invited to join the BBT Board Members to discuss the 2012 temple budget and other issues facing our temple.

Berkeley Buddhist Temple expresses condolences and deep sympathy
to the families of

Mrs. Jane Imamura
Shaku Chō Shō
August 9, 1920 - December 26, 2011

Mr. Takeo Hirahara
Shaku Myō Dō
November 26, 1935 - January 5, 2012

Mr. Masakazu Kawaguchi
Shaku Yū Kai
June 23, 1918 - January 5, 2012

Namu Amida Butsu Namu Amida Butsu Namu Amida Butsu



The following is a list of special service years. If you have a dear departed relative who 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.

2012 MEMORIAL SERVICE SCHEDULE

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>SERVICE</u>
2011	1 st Year
2010	3 rd Year
2006	7 th Year
2000	13 th Year
1996	17 th Year
1988	25 th Year
1980	33 rd Year
1963	50 th Year
1913	100 th Year

Taige-kai (体解会)

Berkeley Buddhist Temple Study Class

The Berkeley Buddhist Temple invites you to take part in the next session of the *Taige-kai*, a gathering to learn and experience (体解) the Path of the Buddha.

The Way to Enlightenment Many Paths, My Path

Dharma Family Service Sunday, February 19, 2012, 9:30 am

All interested persons are welcome to attend. Please invite you friends! We hope to see you at the *Taige-kai*!

§

"[T]he Buddha exhausted all the possible ways for humanity to reach enlightenment. The number of paths is an expression of the universality of the Buddha-Dharma. Within the 84,000 paths, one path is most suited to you." - *DharmaNet International* -



SPACE IS STILL AVAILABLE!

Center for Buddhist Education Educational Japan Tour: March 29-April 9, 2012*

Step back into history as we visit Kagoshima. We will visit sites of the "Kakure Nembutsu" underground movement from the samurai era when the Nembutsu teaching was banned, and peace memorials and other sites at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We will spend three days in Kyoto.

If you are interested, please contact Judy Kono at 510.809.1460, or by email at admin@cbe-bca.org, or Mieko Ogata of JTB at 415.986.4764, or by email at mogata@JTBusa.com.

*This tour was originally planned for April, 2011 but had to be rescheduled due to the East Japan Earthquake of March 11, 2011.

Please contribute to the
Berkeley Buddhist Women's Association

Dana Day Canned Food Drive

January 1 to February 29, 2012

Bring your non-perishable food items to the Temple for pick-up

Food will be donated to the
**Alameda County Community Food
Bank**

Your *dana* will be greatly appreciated!



New Year's Party and Mochitsuki 2012

Thank you to the many members who helped with the New Year's Party and *Mochitsuki*!

Special thanks to the January, February and March Tobans for setting up and helping with all of the activities; Aki and Emi Nakao for the use of their *usu*; Craig Griffin for making the poles for our *mochitsuki* (which allowed the children to participate); mochi machines from Fumi Matsubara and Mimi Kagehiro; Yuki Otake for making the *an* for the mochi; Lena Yin for purchasing the raffle prizes for the BBT and for ordering the *bento*; BBT Board of Directors for prizes; Craig Griffin and George Yin for picking up the *bento*; Ron and Lorin Kagehiro for getting the *manju*; Art Nishimura and Willie Fernandez for working on the program; Takashi Nikaidoh for being the MC; entertainment by Dii Lewis and Carl Wilmsen; flowers from Yuki Otake; mandarin oranges from Yuki Otake and Joanie Hamasaki; and special thanks to Judy Kono for keeping all of us organized.

With the combined help of the Tobans and other members, everything ran smoothly and the event was enjoyed by all. Thank you to everyone who stayed to help with the clean-up!

Happy New Year!

Susan Gabriel
Mochitsuki Chair

Dana Day Service and Luncheon

Sunday, March 4, 2012



Lady Kujo Takeko

Commemorating the spirit of community service and giving as exemplified by

Lady Takeko Kujo, 1887 – 1928

Sponsored by the Berkeley Buddhist Women's Association

Please reserve obentos by February 27, 2012

-----Tear-----

DANA DAY OBENTO RESERVATION FORM

NAME: _____ Phone No. _____

_____ Qty. Adult obentos (regular) x \$10 = \$_____ Qty. To Go _____

_____ Qty. Adult obentos (vegetarian) x \$10 = \$_____ Qty. To Go _____

_____ Qty. Child obentos x \$7 = \$_____ Qty. To Go _____

Total Due: \$_____

-----Tear-----

BERKELEY BUDDHIST WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM FOR 2012

NAME: _____ Phone No. _____

Address: _____ E-mail: _____

Dues: [] \$10.00 (under 70 years old) [] \$6.00 (over 70 years old)

For luncheon and membership please make check payable to Berkeley BWA and mail to:

BERKELEY BWA
Attention: Maya Murashima - Yonemura
2121 Channing Way
Berkeley CA 94704

From each member's dues, \$1.00 goes to the National Dharma School Fund and \$1.00 to the National Dana Fund

Don't forget to order your OFFICIAL CENTENNIAL GROUP PHOTO!

The group photo taken at our Centennial will be included in the commemorative book which will be distributed to all temple pledge members and Dharma School families next spring. However, if you wish to have a separate copy of this photo, please contact Emiko Katsumoto at 510.841-1356 or info@berkeleysangha.org OR Complete the form below by January 30 and mail to the temple at

2121 Channing Way
Berkeley, CA 94704
ATTN: Centennial Photo

-----Tear-----

REQUEST FOR A CENTENNIAL GROUP PHOTO

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone # and/or email address _____

Sangha Cinema presents

SAMURAI FICTION

Sunday, February 5, 2012

Noon at the Berkeley Buddhist Temple

A typical samurai revenge story told in a very unusual way, with an amazing Dharma message thrown in. Don't miss it!

In Japanese with English subtitles, 1 hour 50 minutes.

Children's animated movie will be shown simultaneously.



Pledged members through December 31, 2011

The following members have pledged in amounts ranging from \$300.00 to \$1000.00. Amounts are not intended to correspond to the alphabetical listing below. Pledges sent in after this date may not have yet been processed and any omissions will be published in subsequent issues upon advisement. The temple gratefully acknowledges your generous contributions and thanks you for your dana and understanding.

Michiko & Ryoichi Anzai
Mary Iyama
Vernon Kato & Karen Kaldunski

Robert Kaneko & Cathleen Jones
Miri & Takashi Nikaidoh
Dennis & Mary Okamura

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Thank you all for your generous and continuing support!

TELEPHONE COORDINATORS: SUSAN GABRIEL & LENA YIN

FEBRUARY TOBAN: Chmn: Bob Matsueda
Cochairs: Judy Fujimoto, Don Hamasaki, Barbara Hedani-Morishita

Tamiko Escalante, Jenna Childs & Francisco Flamenco, Ayako & Jiro Fujii*, Judy & Bill Fujimoto, Joanie & Don Hamasaki, Lori Suzuki & Dean Ito-Taylor, Kiyo Kato*, Karen & Vernon Kato, Stella Kimura*, Hitomi & Rev. Kuwahara, Haruye Maki*, Ranko Yamada & Bob Matsueda, Janet & Ron Miyake, Barbara Hedani & Leroy Morishita, Jerry Nagafuji, Nurjehan & Mansurali Nurmuhammad, Ami & Sadao Oki*, Mitsuko & Hayato Okimoto.

MARCH TOBAN: Chmn: Emi Nakao
Cochairs: Emi Matsunaga, Lorene Nakagiri, Helen Tagawa

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

***Denotes disabled and/or elderly – Toban duties optional.**

* * * * *

PADMA STAFF: Rev. Matsumoto, 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, Yasuyo Wolfe and Yae Yedlosky.

Techno Buddha Conference

Who Am I?

“The Search for the Spiritual Self in the Digital Age”

March 2-4, 2012

Guest Speaker
Reverend Mark Unno

All young adults (21-39) interested in
Buddhism welcome!

Workshops: (Tentative)

- Introduction to Jodo Shinshu
 - Comparative Buddhism
 - Dharma Discussions
- Self-perception & Self-realization
- Finance: Buddhism and Money
- Hip-Hop Dance & Creative Identity

Registration: \$35 by February 3rd, 2012

Late Registration: \$45 by February 17th, 2012

Lodging available (See Registration Form)

For more information:

Email: technobuddha2012@googlegroups.com

Facebook: <http://tiny.cc/technobuddha2012>

Sponsored by the Center for Buddhist Education
Jodo Shinshu Center, 2140 Durant Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94704



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 5	Nehan-e	Nirvana Day
March 18	Ohigan	Spring Equinox
April 8	Hanamatsuri	Flower Festival
May 6	Gotan-e	Parent's Day
July 8	Kangi-e	Obon
September 16	Ohigan	Autumn Equinox
November 11	Hoonko	Shinran Shonin Memorial
December 2	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.

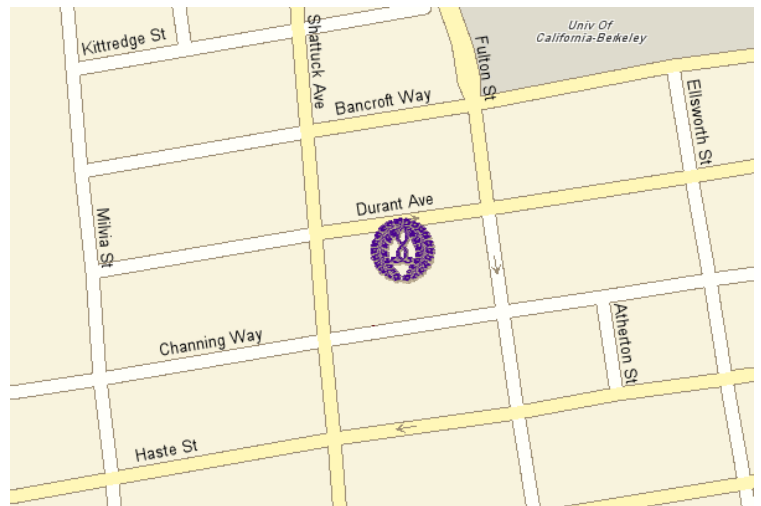
Whether you are here to satisfy a slight interest or to make a more personal connection, we wish you well and hope that you will be visiting us again soon.

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

web: www.berkeleysangha.org