

## THE WORLD OF MUTUAL DEPENDENCE

By Rev. Ryoko Osa

Our temple has been closed since March 2020—so for over a year.

Because of the pandemic, people have not been asking to hold memorial services in person. Japanese Buddhist tradition has many memorial services. In Japan, when someone passes away, there is a funeral service right away; it is usually held within a few days of the person's passing. After this service, traditionally there is a memorial service every week for seven weeks. The 7th week service is called the 49th day memorial service. Following this, there is a 1st year memorial service, a 3rd year service, then 7th, 13th, 17th, 22nd, 27th, 33rd and 50th year memorial services. Adult children might have a 50th year memorial service for their grandparents even though they may barely remember them.

I would like to share a story which one minister heard from an elderly woman at the first year memorial service for her husband. After the memorial service she said to the minister:

While I was listening to the chanting I started to recall

things about my husband. He did physical labor on a mountain. Because he worked so hard, there came a point when he had to retire. His body had become tired and weak. Eventually, he had to enter a long-term care facility. Toward the end of his life I visited him every day, but he had forgotten who I was. A year ago he passed away. Of course, I was sad; but at the same time I was relieved. I had taken care of him for a long time.

However, at about the time of his 49th day memorial service I began to feel very weak. I had worried about my husband's condition and been tense for a long time. Maybe this was all that tension finally being released. I wondered why my physical condition had gotten so bad. At first, I thought it was because I was upset that my husband had passed away. Or maybe because I had spent so much energy trying to take care of him and support him when he was ill. However, over time I realized it was the opposite. I began to see that, in an important sense, my bedridden husband had been taking care of me! The whole time when I thought I was taking

care of him, actually he had been supporting me. When I came to this realization, part of me just couldn't accept it. But a year after his passing, I now understand that this is indeed what happened.

What do you think? From this story, the minister was saying that the woman and her family had been taking care of her husband's physical condition, but the bedridden man also was supporting his family simply by being alive. It's not simply a case of one side supporting the other. Rather, as human beings we are always supporting and being supported at the same time. This is true not just for the woman and her husband, but also for you in your relationships, and for me in mine.

It's hard to realize this in real time because we often take others for granted and fail to appreciate all they do for us.

But for almost all of us, throughout our lives we are mutually dependent beings. We live through supporting one another.

In the larger sutra, there is an

*(Continued on page 3)*



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## June 2021



Date	Day	Time	Event
6	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Live-streaming Family Service/Dharma School
7	Monday	1:00 p.m.	Zoom Shin Buddhism class
13	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Live-streaming Shotsuki service/Dharma school
14	Monday	1:00 p.m.	Zoom Shin Buddhism class
15	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Temple board meeting
20	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Live-streaming Family Service/Dharma School
21	Monday	1:00 p.m.	Zoom Shin Buddhism class
27	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Live-streaming Family Service/Dharma School
28	Monday	1:00 p.m.	Zoom Shin Buddhism class

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**JUNE TOBAN**  
 (group #2) *Eiko Iwata, Toyoko Araki, Jane Fujii, Anna Hightower, Hiroko Higuchi, Shirley Imai, Tazuko Jitoshō, Yukari McCarthy, Karen Morioka, Christine Sullivan, Sachiye Toyofuku*

**SUNDAY SERVICES**  
 We will continue live-streaming our Sunday services via Facebook. You DO NOT NEED a Facebook account in order to view the live-stream. Just go to the link on Sunday at 10:00 a.m. You will also be able to watch the service later if you miss the initial 10:00 a.m. broadcast.

Here is the link:  
<http://www.facebook.com/berkeleyhigashi/live>

**DHARMA SCHOOL**  
 The Dharma School's end of the school year & graduation party will be held on June 13 at 11am via Zoom. Everyone is invited. Contact [mdbeppu@gmail.com](mailto:mdbeppu@gmail.com) with questions.

**STAY UPDATED WITH TEMPLE NEWS**  
 Please sign up for Emails. Due to this unpredictable situation, the best way to stay current with temple updates is via email. If you or someone you know is not already on our email list and

would like to be added, please send to Rev.Osa at [osa@higashihonganji.org](mailto:osa@higashihonganji.org).

**SHOTSUKI MEMORIAL SERVICE**  
 Our Shotsuki service will be held on June 13 via live-streaming. The following families observe memorials for loved ones this month: *Akiko McCarthy, Barbara Masako Ikenaga, James Ikenaga, Fabiola Corona, Fermin Costales, Hiroshi Sakurai, Kesasuke Tanigawa, Shiki Ito, Nase Higuchi, Roger Yamashita, Shizuo Sasaki, John Shinagawa, Tamaye Dorothy Nakano, Teruo Nakazawa, Yasuko Yoshikawa, Shinoda, Yabusaki, Yoshii.*

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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**Thank you** to everyone for your donations, time, energy and support. Because of you, our temple exists for us and for future generations. Our apologies if any names were inadvertently left off the lists.

Domo arigato gozaimashita!

**GARDEN PRUNING** Dennis Makishima, and the Aesthetic Pruners Association for pruning and shaping trees and generally enhancing the Japanese-style of our temple garden. Thank you for your help *Anna Hightower, Nina Rizzo, Artie Yamashita, Mike Yatabe, Jimmy Kihara and Tom Morioka. Naomi Yamada* for serving lunch.

Thank you everyone for your donations, time, energy and support. Because of you, our temple exists for us and future generations.

## DONATIONS

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### 2021 Pledges

Christine Fujii	1200
Kazuko Doi	50
Lynn Wade	200
Steven/Kim Chew	50
Kumiko Yanagishita	200

### Temple

Thomas & Karen Morioka, Lisa, Kevin & Jack Toyama, Steven,	
Iris & Owen Morioka (for Memorial Golf Tournament)	500
Shannon & Satoko Davidson (to support the temple)	100

### Shotsuki Monthly Memorial

Tazuko Jitoshō (for May Shotsuki)	30
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David & Holly Araki (for May Shotsuki in memory of George Araki)	100
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Ryu Inoue (for May Shotsuki in memory of Shizue and Hajime Inoue)	200
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Michael & Pamela Yanaba (for May Shotsuki in memory of Takashi "Bob" Sasaki)	50
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Shizuko Asazawa (for Paul's Shotsuki memorial)	50
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Jane Fujii (for Shotsuki in memory of Dick Fujii)	50
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Kenneth and Terry Fujii (for Shotsuki in memory of Dick Fujii)	50
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Dick and Alice Horio (for Shotsuki in memory of Dr. Masami Jitoshō)	50
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Edwin and Marilyn Fujii (for Shotsuki in memory of Richard Fujii)	30
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Toyoko Araki (in memory of George Araki)	50
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Robert H. and Jo Ann T. Otani (in memory of Miyoko Uyemoto)	250
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### Hanamatsuri

Jane Fujii	50
Tazuko Jitoshō	30

### Shinran Shonin's Birthday Service

Toyoko Araki	25
Shizuko Asazawa	50
Tazuko Jitoshō	30

Some donors name will be shown next month.

Please note, donation acknowledgments will not appear in the Bombu on the same month as the donations are made due to processing time.

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(Continued from page 1)

evocative passage which speaks to such mutual dependence:

As for these jeweled trees, their trunks stand in orderly lines. Their boughs are symmetrical, their branches grow harmoniously, their leaves face each other, their flowers

bloom in an orderly fashion, and their fruits are well balanced. Their splendor is so brilliant that they cannot even be seen clearly.

These words of the sutra, this description of Pure Land sounds like a fantasy world. But actually the words of the sutra beautifully

express our true world which we normally cannot see. We co-exist; we are interdependent.

## 2021 Hanamatsuri Dharma School Poem

2020 was a year like no other.

We had to shelter in place and not see each other.  
Our beautiful temple had to close its doors.  
We could not have in person services any more.

With no picnic, bazaar, and camping last year.  
We missed seeing our temple friends from far and near.  
Thanks to Reverend Osa services have been over FaceBook live.  
Reverend Osa deserves kudos and many high fives.

We can still chant Shoshinge each week with one another.  
And recite the Golden Chain and Three Treasures together.  
Although we cannot see each other's warm smiles.  
It's nice that people can sign on from distant miles.

Virtual attendees are from all over the place.  
It's too bad we can't see each other's face.  
Nevertheless, it's wonderful that services continue on.  
And it's super convenient that we can attend with our pajamas on.

Services still look like the way we know them to be.  
With the Golden Chain, Three Treasures, Ondokusan sung weekly.  
Services are about forty-five minutes to one hour long.  
And they always still end with the Sayonara song.

In the fall, Dharma School came back over Zoom.  
It's not the same as being together in our upstairs classroom.  
But together we are every Sunday and that has been nice.  
We've even had Dharma School parties at least twice.

We are keeping gratitude jars with much to be thankful for.  
We are grateful for the family and friends that we adore.  
We went on a virtual field trip to the

Credits:

This is a publication of the Berkeley Higashi Honganji. Please contact Rev. Ryoko Osa at 1524 Oregon Street, Berkeley, CA 94703. 510-843-6933 [www.bombu.org](http://www.bombu.org). [osa@higashihonganji.org](mailto:osa@higashihonganji.org) . Newsletter design by Kevin Sullivan

aquarium in Monterey Bay.  
We saw jelly fishes, penguins, and even otters at play.

Reverend Ken joined us for class one day.  
He shared photos from his trip across the USA.  
We've done scavenger hunts around our homes.  
But so far no hunts to find a gnome.

We studied the Eightfold Path over several days.  
And came up with this poem in lieu of a Hanamatsuri play.

Unlike past skits where we practiced together maybe once or twice.  
We've been rehearsing this poem together several times so that has been nice.  
All the while we have learned things about each other even while apart.  
And have seen the kindness and compassion in everyone's heart.

Did you know this about our dharma school?  
Not only are the kids fun, bright, and cool.  
Connor and Aidan both like broccoli.  
Cara's favorite fruit is a strawberry.  
Aidan's favorite fruit is a mango.  
Zak's favorite place to be is at Lake Tahoe.  
Natalie likes to run in her free time.  
Teacher Mayumi likes to write things that rhyme.

Christopher, Zak, and Owen like to play games on their computer.  
Aidan wants to someday be a NBA player.  
Taro, Owen, Zak, Christopher, and Cara's favorite color is blue.  
We learned Teacher Nancy likes Harry Potter as much as the kids do.

Christopher's favorite candy are jelly beans.  
Connor's favorite color remains green.  
Natalie's favorite snack are cookies.  
Cara likes to do cartwheels and climb up trees.

Being with friends is Owen's favorite place to be.  
Natalie's favorite fruit are cherries.  
Architects are what Zak and Taro want to be one day.  
Taro's birthday is just days away.

Aidan's favorite candy are airheads.  
Natalie's favorite place to be is in bed.  
Connor wants to be a pro soccer player.  
Owen wants to become a game designer.

Being outside is Taro's favorite place to be.  
Christopher likes to eat celery.  
Connor is playing club soccer again and is happy as can be.  
Cara wants to be a nurse like her mommy.

We learned that the dharma school teachers do chores after class.  
Laundry, cleaning, and errands they seem to amass.  
Teacher Alice goes on walks with her dogs on Sunday.  
While the students enjoy an afternoon that includes some sort of play.

On this Hanamatsuri we miss seeing you all.  
We miss having udon and sandwiches together in Ohtani Hall.  
Oh and let's not forget all of the yummy sweets.  
The jellos, the cream cheese puffs, and the rice krispy treats.

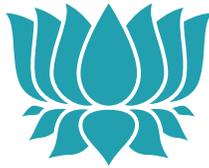
We miss seeing the beautiful flowers on the stage.  
And chanting and singing together page after page.  
We miss being able to ring the temple's bell.  
And seeing the wisps of incense and its smell.

We truly miss seeing everyone's beautiful face.  
And hope to soon be back at our special place.  
Our beloved temple on Oregon Street.  
We hope not far from now we can once again meet.

Until then everyone please stay safe and well.  
Reach out to one another as there are surely stories to tell.  
Thank you again Reverend Osa for bringing the dharma into our homes.  
And to remind us that while apart we are not alone.

Thank you everyone for being here with us.  
We hope you enjoyed our Hanamatsuri performance.





# BERKELEY HIGASHI HONGANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

## Summer Food Sale

It's the return of the Bazaar, takeout style!

**When: Sunday July 25th**

Pick-up between 12:00 pm and 3:00 pm

### Items Available

Chicken Teriyaki Dinner \$20 (max 300 dinners)

Includes 1/2 Chicken Teriyaki, Chirashi, Miso Beans, & Dessert

Curry Rice \$10 (max 200 orders)

Oden \$10 (max 150 orders)

Pre-order sales and takeout only.

Online ordering and payment will be available on bombu.org or mail orders can be sent to temple.

**All orders must be received by July 5th**

Signup for pick-up times will be sent after order received.

**Checks payable to:** Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple

**Mail to:** Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple

1524 Oregon Street

Berkeley, CA 94706

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone/Cell: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_  
[print]

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Chicken Teriyaki Dinner \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20 \_\_\_\_\_

Curry Rice \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10 \_\_\_\_\_

Oden \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10 \_\_\_\_\_

Donation (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_



Bombu Bombu

**THANK YOU - DOMO ARIGATO**

\* If we are required to cancel this event due to Covid-19 SIP ordinances, we will contact you via email and/or telephone to advise as to new date or status of the event. If you have questions contact Debbie at (707)-446-4475 or dyatabe@comcast.net.

# バークレー東本願寺会報 2021年6月号

## 6月お寺の行事予定

すべての日曜礼拝はオンラインでの放送になります。

6日(日)	午前10時	家族礼拝
13日(日)	午前10時	祥月法要、家族礼拝
15日(火)	午後7時	仏教会定例理事
20日(日)	午前10時	家族礼拝
27日(日)	午前10時	家族礼拝

礼拝はすべてライブ配信です。<http://www.facebook.com/berkeleyhigashi/live>.

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**6月当番(当番2):** えいこ岩田、ヨコアラキ、ジェーン藤井、アナハイタワー、ヒロコヒグチ、シャーリー今井、地頭所多鶴子、ゆかりマッカーシー、カレン盛岡、クリスティーナサリバン、豊福さちえ(敬称略)

**ライブ配信祥月法要:** 祥月法要が勤められます。今月の施主は、樋口、吉井、佐々木、谷川、篠田、藪崎、桜井、中沢、いとう、山下、品川、マッカーシー、中野、いけなが、よしかわの諸家です。お誘い合わせお参り下さい。

## オンライン日本語法話会

毎週木曜日午後5時からzoomで開催しております。ご希望の方はお寺にご連絡ください。



# 生老病死

長 良子

早いものでもう6月。コロナワクチン接種が広まり、やっと日常生活における制限が緩んできそうです。お寺でも再開に向けて感染予防のガイドラインを策定しております。

カリフォルニアでは一年以上も自主隔離生活が続きました。学校は全てオンライン授業。人と直接に対面するのはほぼ家族だけ、という状況でした。私が幼い頃に読んだ漫画では、近未来で人々がテレビ電話を利用している描写がありましたが、それがもはや特別なことではなくなりました。画面越しの会話の普及は、我々人間に大きな変化をもたらすことになるかもしれません。新しい生活習慣が私たちの体と脳にどのような影響をもたらすのか気になります。近未来の人間の身体の姿勢は今よりも前屈みになるという予想もあります。

そんな急激な変化の中でも人間の苦しみはやはり普遍にあります。お釈迦様は、私たちが避けられない四つの苦しみを示されました。それは生老病死です。年を経れば経るほど、この苦しみに会う機会が増えます。自然のことではありますが、悲しく、重く、そして不可思議であり、理解できないけれども避けられない真実がそこにあります。生老病死は生きている限り、全ての人間に起こる苦しみです。しかし、苦しみの出来事からは避けられませんが苦しいという自分の思いから解放されることはできます。自分で自分を縛っていることに気づくこと、そしてこの苦しみ悲しみを分かってくれる、見てくれている仏がいることに気づくことによって、握りしめた自分の思いをそっと手放すことが出来てくるのではないのでしょうか。

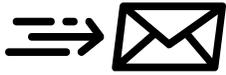
「仏がいる」というと実体的な存在を思い浮かべる方がおられると思います。しかし仏とは名前です。今ここにある智慧と慈悲の働きが「仏」として名付けられたのです。もちろん一生涯の中で現実に出会える人間の数は限られていますが、亡くなった人も含めて全ての人間が、今を生きている私と同じような悩み苦しみを抱えて生きたというそのことにおいて私は孤独ではなく、私の苦しみは人類共通の苦しみであって、悩み苦しんだ歴史上の全人類の智慧と慈悲の集積を「仏」と名付けてその名を呼んでいるのだと思います。したがって仏の教えを聞くということは、全人類の歩みを聞き開き、自分自身の生きる道をいただくことではないかと思うのです。



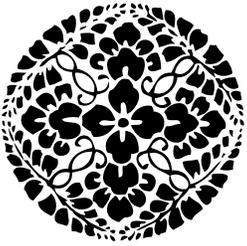
**Words of the Month** | 今月のことば

Within the depth of sorrow, there is true joy.

悲しみの 深さのなかに 真のよろこびがある



If you have an email address, please consider switching to a paperless subscription. Please contact the temple if you are interested. Thank you.



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Address Correction Requested