

BOMBU BOMBU

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March 2021

SOUND OF ONE HAND CLAPPING

By Ryoko Osa

It's been a whole year since the COVID 19 pandemic disrupted and changed our lives. During this time, probably many of you have thought more deeply about life, such as the meaning, purpose, and goal of your life, what you should do, and how to live from now on.

Every Sunday at our temple, we chant Shoshinge, which is a poem written by Shinran Shonin. Shoshinge begins with, "I take refuge in the Tathagata of Immeasurable Life" and "I entrust myself to the Buddha of Inconceivable Light." These two phrases mean the same as "Namu Amida Butsu," which we often say.

"Inconceivable" means beyond our understanding and thoughts. "Inconceivable Light" is the working of Buddha's wisdom, which is beyond our understanding. However, you might think it's like a mysterious power, but there's really no mystery. If we meet someone who is actually

living the Buddha's path, we may feel we too can entrust in Amida Buddha.

Our Pure Land tradition doesn't have Kōans, which are a Zen Buddhist form of practice. A Kōan is a question that challenges our thinking, often provoking doubt. There's a famous Kōan by the Zen master Hakuin called the Sound of One Hand Clapping. It goes: "You can hear the sound of two hands clapping. What is the sound of one hand clapping?"

Physically, it's not possible to make a sound with one hand. Can we possibly find some deeper, spiritual meaning in this question? We think maybe we can figure out an answer. We try to understand through words. What's the result? We may ask ourselves: What is the purpose of this question? What is the goal? What possible answer could I give? We struggle for answers. It's like making waves where there are no waves.

Hakuin said we must flip our perception of reality. We start by shifting the focus of our thoughts to our abdomen, or "hara" in Japanese. This state of mind, where there's no sound, smell, or color, transcends our thinking. At some point, we find there's no discriminative thinking, no physical body, and nothing in our minds.

Our hesitation, our ideas, and our discriminative thinking are not absolute. They are just our imagination. We think we can know the meaning, purpose, or goal of life. We think about what we need to do to achieve them. We constantly think and wonder about them in our heads. In the end, we may find our thoughts so limited, that we realize we can't rely on them.

This is wisdom beyond thought. Those preceding us who walked the Buddha's path, likewise, are beyond our thoughts. Just like the sound of one hand clapping.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 2021



Date	Day	Time	Event
7	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Family service/Dharma school
14	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Shotsuki/Dharma School
		11:00 a.m.	WBA meeting
16	Tuesday	7:00 p.m.	Temple board meeting
21	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Spring Higan service
28	Sunday	10:00 a.m.	Pet memorial service/Family Service/Dharma School

April

4		10 a.m.	HANAMATSURI Buddha's Birthday Service
11		10 a.m.	Shotsuki/Dharma School
		11:00 a.m.	WBA meeting

Spring Food Bazaar is canceled.

Please check out more detail the calendar on our website. <https://www.bombu.org/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH TOBAN
 (Toban #3) *Naomi Yamada, Kim Chew, Mashi Eshima Johnson, Julie Kihara, Galyn Lum, Connie Morita, Dorise Ouye, Kellie Ouye, Lesli Jo Sawada, Carrie Yoshida, Lorraine Yoshikawa.*

THE TEMPLE AND SOCIAL HALL
 Due to COVID-19 safety concerns, the Berkeley Higashi Honganji facility continues to be closed until further notice. Rev. Ryoko Osa can conduct special online services for you and your family via Zoom. Weddings, Funerals, and Memorial Services are still happening. Please don't hesitate to contact Rev.Osa.

SHOTSUKI MEMORIAL SERVICE
 Families observing a Shotsuki

monthly memorial service for loved ones in March are Usakichi Nomura, Carl Kurahara, Shige Fujii, Teruo Asazawa, Chosei Shinoda, Alice Fujikawa, Fumiko Yokota, Kimiyo Sasaki, Leslie Madden-Rizzo, Kazuhito Suzuki, Riichi Imada, Yoshiko Hikoyeda, Masao Omori, Kanoe Ota

We hope you will attend this service.

SUNDAY SERVICE
 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>.

SPRING HIGAN SERVICE
 The spring equinox "Higan" Service will be held on March 21 at 10 a.m. Higan commemorates the Spring equinox, when day and night are equal lengths for just one day, expressing the truth of impermanence. Please join us for this special service.

PET MEMORIAL SERVICE
 A "pet memorial" service will be held on March 28. It is said that animals, as well as humans, surrounded the Buddha when he passed away, symbolizing how

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they also are a part of the Buddha Dharma. Bring a picture or drawing of your pet, along with your memories to this special service.

HANAMATSURI SERVICE

On Sunday April 4, a Hanamatsuri Buddha's Birthday service will be held at our temple. Guest speaker will be Rev. Kodo Umezu (Previous BCA Bishop and currently Director of Jodo Shinshu International Office).

ZOOM North America District Seminar

Sunday, April 24, 2021, 10am – noon

Theme: "Introduction to the

IN MEMORY

Mrs. Chidori Kubota longtime Temple member, passed away peacefully at home on January 29, 2021 at the age of 88. A private service was held on February 6, 2021.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BIG THANK YOUS TO THE FOLLOWING

Non-contact infrared thermometer *Janice Adachi*

Thank you everyone for your donations, time, energy and support. Because of you, our temple exists for us and for future generations. Help us by calling or emailing the temple if names are inadvertently omitted from acknowledgements or donations. Domo arigato gozaimashita!

DONATIONS

Temple			
Darlene Wong	40	Akiko & Akinori Imai	25
(in memory of Ayako Yatabe)		(for Jr.YBA)	
Steven & Denice Nakano	50	Shotsuki	
(in memory of Masaharu Nakano)		Michael Yatabe	100
Shoji Kasegi	100	(for Shotsuki in memory of Ayako Yatabe)	
(in memory of Sada Kasegi)		Gregory Takahashi	50
Constance Morita	40	(for Shotsuki in memory of Cathy Takahashi)	
Agnes, Nancy, Grace Kubota	500	Dick & Alice Horio	50
(in memory of Chidori Kubota for WBA)		(for Shotsuki in memory of Fukuji Tanji)	
Agnes, Nancy, Grace Kubota	200	Tomi Isono	\$100
(in memory of Chidori Kubota for Dharma School)		(for Shotsuki in memory of Kensuki Ito & Tom Ito)	
		Julie & Robert Kihara	25
		(for Shotsuki in memory of Masaharu Nakano)	
		Christine Peter, & Kevin Sullivan	50
		(for Shotsuki in memory of Minoru Ikuta)	
		Jeff Shannon & Satoko Davidson	30
		(for Shotsuki in memory of Tokichi Nagatoshi)	
		Sachiko Yamada	50
		(for Shotsuki in memory of William Yamada)	
		Eiko Iwata	50
		(for Shotsuki in memory of Shizuko Uyeno)	
		Nina Costales & Robert Garvey	150
		(for Shotsuki in memory of Robert Garvey Sr., Hanayo Miyagi & Ed Garvey)	
		Pledge and Eitaikyo Perpetual Memorial donations will be listed next month	

パークレー東本願寺会報

2021年3月号

3月お寺の行事予定

7日(日)	午前10時	家族礼拝
14日(日)	午前10時	祥月、ダルマスクール
16日(火)	午後7時	仏教会定例理事会
21日(日)	午前10時	彼岸会法要／ダルマスクール
28日(日)	午前10時	家族礼拝 ペット追悼法要

4月

4月4日	午前10時	花祭り法要
4月11日	午前10時	祥月、ダルマスクール

春季日本食バザーは中止となりました。
すべての日曜礼拝はオンラインでの放送になります。

<http://www.facebook.com/berkeleyhigashi/> live このリンクからご参加ください。
Facebookのアカウントは不要です。

日本語法話会(ズーム): 毎週木曜日午後5時からオンライン日本語法話会を開催しています。ご興味のある方は長開教使までご連絡ください。

3月当番(3班): 山田直美、チュウ キム、えしま Johnston マシ、木原 ジュリー、ラムGalyn、森田 カーニー、大上ドリス、大上ケリー、さわだ レスリージョー、吉田カリー、芳川ロレイン(敬称略)

祥月法要: 今月の祥月法要: 14(日)午前10時より勤められます。今月の施主は藤川、篠田、横田、鈴木、佐々木、今田、藤井、浅沢、野村、倉原、彦枝、大森、大田の諸家です。

彼岸法要: 春の彼岸会法要が3月21日(日)午前10時より勤められます。お誘い合わせお参り下さい。



片手の拍手

長 良子

3月になり、コロナ感染による規制生活から一年が経ちました。この一年の過ごし方は人によって違いはあると思いますが、多くの方にとりましては落ち着いてものごとを考える時間が以前よりも増えたのではないのでしょうか？例えば、生きる意味、目的、理想、手段、結果、行動などについて思いを巡らしたりされたかもしれません。

さて、私たちのお寺では毎週日曜日に親鸞聖人の書かれた「正信偈」を唱和します。「正信偈」は「帰命無量寿如来 南無不可思議光」の二句から始まります。私たちがよく唱える「南無阿弥陀仏」を別の言葉で言い表したのがこの二句です。

「帰命無量寿如来 南無不可思議光」とは、限りない命の阿弥陀如来にお任せ(帰命)し、思いはかることのできない光の阿弥陀如来に帰依いたします、という意味です。「思議」とは、言葉で思うこと、それが「不可」なので「不可思議」とは、私たちの言葉では捉えきれないということです。よって「不可思議光」は私たちの思い、言葉、論理を越えた智慧のはたらきという意味になります。

そうは言っても、私たちの思いや論理を超えた仏の智慧に任せるとするのは、現代人からみるとまるで神秘的なものごとに頼るようで、抵抗感を感じる方もおられるのではないのでしょうか。

私たちの宗派は浄土真宗なので「公案」はありませんが、禅宗の修行の中には「公案」という問答があります。例えば「両手を打ち合わせると音がする。では片手ではどんな音がするか答えよ」という有名な問いがあります。

物理的に普通に考えたら片手で音は鳴りません。では「とんち」なのでしょう？あるいは精神的な深い教えがその問いの中に見出されるのでしょうか？どういう意味なのか、この問いからどんな結果が得られるのか、そのために何を理解したら良いのだろうか、と私たちは色々と考え始めます。このように「波なきところに波を起す」のが公案です。

この問いを出された白隠禅師は言います。「現実の迷いをうちすてて、自分の肚(はら)にむかって観想する。肚は、音もなければ色もない。あらゆるすがたを超絶している。いつしか一切の思慮分別はなくなり、心もなければ身体もなくなってくる」と。

自分の思慮分別は当てになるものではありません。私たちの考える意味、目的、理想、手段、結果、行動なども勝手な思い込みで、それらの思い込みによって日常の社会生活が回っているとしても、それらの思い込みを頼りにすべきではないということなのでしょう。

答えのない問いをぐるぐると考えることで、私たちの考えが当てにならないことに気づくのかもできません。言葉、論理を越えた智慧のはたらきは目でも言葉でも触れることができません。

そのような仏の智慧を頼りにすることが自分にとって可能になるのは、お念仏の教えに実際に生かされてきた人との出会いからだと思います。

Words of the Month | 今月の言葉

I take refuge in the Tathagata of Immeasurable life!
I entrust myself to the Buddha of inconceivable Light!

歸命無量寿如来 南無不可思議光

生きとし生けるものを喚(よ)び覚(さ)ましてやまない無量寿如来に歸命し、
思いはかれない智慧のみ光に歸依(きえ)いたします。

(Shōshinge正信偈)



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Address Correction Requested