



Buddhist Thoughts

Salt Lake Buddhist Temple: 211 West 100 South
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101, volume 18 issue 4
web site: slbuddhist.org

April, 2010
Rev. Hirano's contact numbers: Office: 363-4742,
home: 299-8727, emergency 718-5755

Under the Hanamatsuri Tree

J.K. Hirano

1. The gift of gentle eyes, looking at others kindly.
2. The gift of a smile and kind expressions
3. The gift of words, speaking kindly to others.
4. The gift of the physical body. Acting properly yourself, and treating others with respect.
5. The gift of heart, touching others with a heart full of love.
6. The gift of a resting place, offering others a place to sit and rest.
7. The gift of shelter and lodging, providing others with a room or a warm place to stay.

“The seven gifts that require no possessions.” Monshu Koshin Otani

Isn't it wonderful how during this time of year, you can feel the “spirit of Hanamatsuri” echo throughout our community? Families getting together and decorating their Hanamido with flowers and lights, children being on their best behavior in anticipation of their yearly visit by the Hanamatsuri Bunny (Part time job of the Easter Bunny), visions of manju dancing in their heads. All the families getting in their orders of Kentucky Fried Chicken to make sure they will have enough Kentucky Fried chicken for their annual Hanamatsuri Lunches with family and friends. As Johnny Mathis sings, “It's the most wonderful time of the year!”

Just kidding everyone, it's just my imagination running away with me, Oh it's just my imagination, running away with me. However, we do always get to eat Kentucky Fried chicken at the luncheon along with our Hanamatsuri program at the temple. Our Hanamatsuri traditions are still evolving. When I was in Dharma School, Hanamatsuri meant Japanese movies on Saturday night, and also on Sunday after the children's program. It was a Samurai movie and a modern drama or Tora san movie. It was a hostess twinkie along with a banana handed out to everyone in a festive brown paper bag.

The traditions of our temple during Hanamatsuri may not be widespread like Christmas or Easter. However, I do enjoy those traditions that we have been developing. Maybe each of our families doesn't have personal Hanamidos (flower viewing halls) with the baby Buddha in the center.

Yet aren't we lucky to have the beautiful Hanamido that Takeko Doi and Terry Fujinami so lovingly prepare for our temple. We don't have a Hanamatsuri Bunny; the Easter bunny never really

impressed me anyway. Although, I liked the idea of an Easter Bonnet and new clothes for Easter, maybe we can have Hanamatsuri shoes and new clothes for Hanamatsuri. As for presents under the Hanamatsuri Tree, there are many people that have complained about the commercialization of Christmas, why would we want to do that with Hanamatsuri? What would Buddha think?

I would like to suggest an idea for Hanamatsuri gift giving that we may try. During Ohigan I expressed that traditionally the practice of the six paramitas were emphasized as a means for reaching the other shore. In fact, I suggested that we try the first paramita: Dana (selfless giving), as a way of practicing these paramitas. During the Ohigan service, I suggested we try to practice Dana by using kind words towards each other, for just one hour. I'm not sure how long we could follow this practice. If you did it for one minute great, at least you tried. If we can each make an effort in these types of practices, we can change the world.

I truly doubt that we will ever have Hanamatsuri as a national holiday. I don't believe we could convince the Easter bunny to switch from Easter to Hanamatsuri; we just don't have the numbers. Having Hanamatsuri lights on the Hanamido with all that sweet tea, might prove to be a fire hazard. However, as for Hanamatsuri gifts! That's something I like the sound of, although I'm not talking about material presents with fancy paper and shiny ribbons. What if we can make Hanamatsuri presents as gifts of the heart? Some of the gift suggestions for Hanamatsuri would be the gifts I began this article with. In Monshu Koshin Otani's book Buddha's Wish for the World, he lists these seven gifts that require no personal possessions to give. I believe this would be a wonderful tradition we could start at our temple and homes and we don't have to worry about the size or if they will like it. Who doesn't like to be spoken to kindly or smiled at? Let's each try this during our Hanamatsuri service and program this April 11th. Happy Hanamatsuri and to all a good night!

President's Message

Dot Richeda

The 2010 BCA Ministers' Association and National Council Meeting were held on February 25 to 27 at the San Jose Fairmont Hotel and commemorating Shinran Shonin, 750th Memorial Service was held on Feb 27 and 28, 2010.

Christy Fong and I attended the first session on Thursday night. The Townhouse meeting was held for all delegates and it was an informal way to discuss issues about the upcoming BCA general meeting. It is was a nice way to meet other delegates.

On Friday morning, I attended the Presidents' breakfast. BCA President Billy Saeki and incoming President Everett Watada discussed the concerns of BCA including BCA debt, declining membership and using the internet to inform the general public about BCA.

At the BCA General Council meeting, three resolutions were passed.

- *2010 Budget

- *Longmont Buddhist Temple becoming an independent Temple.

- *Bylaws amendment

The Longmont Buddhist Temple is now an independent Temple from Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple. They will join the Mt States District.

At the installation ceremony, Rev Jerry Hirano was installed as the Chairman of the BCA Minister's Association.

After our session was adjourned on February 27, we attended the opening ceremony of Shinran Shonin 750th Memorial Service. The two days theme "Yononaka Annon Nare," May peace and tranquility prevail throughout the World, was used. Keynote Speaker : Dr Rev Ken Tanaka. It was a once in a life time event.

We attended the symposium and banquet Saturday night. Over 750 delegates and guests filled the ballroom. Speaker: Mr. Pieper Toyama, Head of School at the Pacific Buddhist Academy in Honolulu.

For the Sunday closing ceremony, "Take Refuge in the Pure Music," we were joined by Jane Sakashita , Brenda Koga, Phil and Connie Sakashita and Bruce Fong. Participants came from all over the world to attend this event. I came away with a feeling of peace and gratitude.

Thank you to Coast District for hosting this event.

It was an honor and privilege to represent the Temple. Thank you again for the great opportunity.

Please mark your calendar: April 11th – Hanamatsuri

April 24th – Nihon Matsuri

Next Board Meeting will be Wednesday, April 14th at 6:00 PM.

BWA NEWS

Brenda Koga

A fourth of the year has already passed, and the BWA is preparing for their spring activities. February and March were busy months. February was the rededication service and luncheon.

The BWA had a meeting on March 14 and discussed the upcoming Ohigan events as well as the Hanamatsuri service and luncheon and the Nihonmatsuri. An updated telephone calling tree was distributed. If you did not receive one and would like one, please contact Brenda Koga.

Thank you to all who assisted with the Ohigan Naikan Retreat on February 20, led by **Dr. Carmela Hirano**. Registration was chaired by **Dot Richeda**, the luncheon was arranged and prepared under the direction of **Sherrie Koga** and the refreshments were organized by **Reiko Watanabe**.

On the day of the Ohigan service a food sale was organized and operated by **Terry Fujinami, Takeko Doi** and **Ruby Doi**. Thank you to all who prepared items to sell with the proceeds going to the temple building fund for future projects.

Upcoming the BWA will make sakura mochi and musubis for the Hanamatsuri luncheon on April 11. Members are requested to prepare 2 dozen musubi for the luncheon.

Reiko Matsuura will chair the food preparation for the Nihonmatsuri to be held on April 24, 2010. She and her committee of **Reiko Watanabe, Sherrie Koga** and **Elaine Endo** will spearhead that endeavor. If you would like to help with that activity, please contact Reiko.

The next meeting of the BWA will be April 4 at 9:00 a.m.

Jr. YBA March 2010

Mark & Jim

On March 13, 2010, the Jr YBA held another successful movie night which featured “**Swing Girls**”, and for the younger audience, “Ponyo”. A light dinner was served from 5:30 to 6:30 pm and snack throughout the evening. All the Jr YBA students worked extremely hard in preparing and serving the food throughout the event. The Jr YBA would like to thank all those whom ventured out on a stormy night and especially for their generous donations. A special “THANK YOU” goes to all those parents for their contributions and for helping in the coordination, preparation, and clean up before and after the movie.

Thank you for continuing to support the Jr. YBA.

National Council Meeting – 2010

Christy Fong

It is with deep appreciation to Dot Richeda for inviting me, and to the temple for sending me to the National Council meeting and Shinran Shonin’s 750th Memorial in San Jose. I had the privilege of being a delegate representing the Salt Lake temple at the BCA proceedings. I also had the opportunity of attending the symposium and historical memorial for the founder of our faith.

I have never attended a National Council meeting before so I had no preconceived notions of what to expect. I was impressed with the organization and dedication of the members of the BCA. I admit I’ve often wondered, “What does the BCA really do for those of us here in Utah.” It was amazing to hear of the exciting programs and ways our monies are used toward the propagation of Buddhism in America. IBS currently has many students enrolled in their educational institution, 15 which are on a ministerial track of learning. Dot and I attended a service conducted by the Youth Ministerial assistants trained through YAC. They were very impressive and capable and the sermon given by Haley Sugimoto from Mountain View, was truly heart rendering.

The three main issues addressed for vote were:

Clarification of verbiage in the By-Laws which passed

Dissolution of WABL (Western Adult Buddhist League) which passed

Longmont Buddhist Temple to become an independent BCA temple separate from the Tri State Buddhist temple which passed

During the Shinran Shonin symposium there were over 800 individuals in attendance and over 1,200 for the service. During the service a chronology was given of the temples within BCA. The newest temple being the Longmont Buddhist temple newly established in 2010 to the oldest established in 1898. It was emphasized that all the temples came about due to the dedication and contribution of Sangha members throughout the U.S. All levels and organizations of the BCA are suffering losses in their budgets. This year BCA started with a \$180,000 deficit due to economic issues and less interest earned on investments. It was stressed that all temples strive for transparency and proper procedure in all budgetary agendas and strive for ways to keep the temples not only

spiritually healthy but financially as well.

The memorial service included beautiful musical renditions and incredible sermons. All emphasized the theme of Peace and Tranquility in our dealings, opening our hearts, minds and souls to what the Dharma has to offer and having our temples be an environment that is open to all.

Thank you again for this incredible experience and I encourage everyone to take advantage of opportunities such as these.

In Gassho,
Christy Fong

Dharma School Brighton Ski Day and Barbeque March 7, 2010 Christy Fong

The Dharma School families and friends were treated to another fun, fun day for at the annual Brighton ski/barbeque outing. After many years of sunny weather, we were met with a day of snowfall!! The snow was excellent for skiing and snowboarding and it didn't keep anyone from taking to the hills and enjoying the day!

We especially want to thank Miles Miya for making the arrangements with Brighton and getting permission for us to have lunch in the Conference center. "Indoors, warm and cozy, and perfect for lunch!" Many thanks to Marcus and Karie Minaga-Miya for bringing up the barbeque grills and assorted protective coverings for those cooking outside. Arigato to Caryn Yamada for making and donating her delicious chili and to Brenda Koga for purchasing the hotdogs and hamburgers. Thanks also to Maya Chow for getting all the buns. A big round of applause to Marcus Miya, Bruce Fong, Chuck Chow and Wes Koga who weathered the storm to grill the lunch and then pack it up to the lunch site. Thanks to all the families that contributed salads, drinks, rice balls, and treats for the lunch. About 100 individuals enjoyed each others company during the barbeque lunch and day in the snow!

Jr. YBA Donations

Chic Terashima - \$50.00 - 1 Year memorial service

Buster Mayeda - \$25.00 - General Donation

Movie Night Donations

Renee & Kenny Matsuura	\$15.00
LaVerne & Ernie Kyed	\$20.00
Yoshiko & Ramond Uno	\$15.00
Faye Mitsunaga & Jim Eng	\$36.00
Yoko Matsubayashi	\$4.00
Karie & Marcus Miya	\$25.00
Atsuko Nielson	\$10.00

Lisa & Kirk Imamura	\$31.00
Bobbie & Rick Ikegami	\$23.00
Karen & Mike Tohinka	\$10.00
Debbie & Wes Koga	\$28.00
Merry & Torao Nakagawa	\$100.00
Setsuko Nagata	\$5.00
Junko & Tomio Mitsunaga	\$30.00
Hisa & Kozo Minaga	\$10.00
Gail & Mark Minaga	\$25.00

TEMPLE DONATIONS

Craige Mayeda	25	Shotsuki Hoyo
Maxine Furubayashi	100	Re-dedication Service
Elsie & Misao Doi	50	Re-dedication Service
Honeyville Buddhist Temple	300	Re-dedication Service
Karie Minaga-Miya	125	Monthly pledge
Ivan Van Laningham	100	Special
Rob Long & Stacy Martin	100	Jr Jazz gym use
Dora Iwasaki	200	Memory of Fudge Iwasaki
Christy Fong	50	Appreciation- BCA seminar
Yoshiko & Raymond Uno	10	Movie Night
SL Jr YBA	150	Movie Night appreciation
David & Josephine Shiraiwa	50	In memory of Chiyo & Jinzaburo Matsumiya

OHIGAN

Yukie & Floyd Okubo	50	Byron & Reiko Watanabe	25
May Akiyama	25	Renee & Ken Matsuura	25
Jeanne Konishi	25	Paul & Kathy Terashima	50
Ichiro & Takeko Doi	25	Jane Sakashita	25
Bruce & Christy Fong	30	Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga	25
Sachiko Tohinaka	20	Aki & Neil Chow	25
Brent & Sherrie Koga	25	Ivan Van Laningham	100
Karie & Marcus Miya	25	Nanae Taketa	25
Setsuko Nagata	30	Dot Richeda	25
Chic Terashima	25	Tomiye Ishimatsu	25
Chizuko Ishimatsu	25	Misao & Elsie Doi	25
Grace Oshita	25	Lynne & Richard Doi	25
Mark & Gail Minaga	25	Chie Sugaya	20
Tom & Fran Akimoto	30	Terry & Mits Fujinami	25
Cindy Thomas	30	Brenda Koga	25
Ruby & George Doi	25	Henry Hirano	25
Kozo & Hisa Minaga	20	Maxine Furubayashi	25

Stan & Elaine Endo 25

SHOTSUKI HOYO

Yutako Ikegami	100	Kenneth & Jean Kobayashi	25
Grace Kasai	75	Jeanne Konishi	100
Paul & Kathy Terashima	25	Lisa & Kirk Imamura	20
Bruce & Christy Fong	20	Nanae Taketa	25
Tomiye Ishimatsu	50	Chizuko Ishimatsu	100
Tom & Fran Akimoto	40	Yoshiko Uno	20
Bobbie & Rick Ikegami	20	Stan & Elaine Endo	25

BUILDING FUND

Joni & Dru Sueoka	100
Mitsuko Hirota	70
Rev. Akira Hata	100 (San Diego, CA)
Setsuko Nagata	200
Karen Tohinaka	100
Koyo Restaurant	100

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Misuko Shimada	Hatsue Masuda
Judy & Troy Watanabe	Sandy Iwasaki
Richard & May Matsuda	Yoshiko Uno
Karen Tohinaka -Kelsi	
Jason Fahrni	Grace Kasai
Kiyomi Ryujin	

DHARMA SCHOOL

Misuko Shimada	25	Goodie Bag
Hatsue Masuda	20	Goodie Bag
Craige Mayeda	25	Special
Dave & Erin Sekino	20	Ski outing
Keith & Sam Chow	20	Ski outing
LaVerne & Ernie Kyed	25	Ski outing
Floyd & Yukie Okubo	10	Ohigan breakfast
Rise & Dean Hirabayashi	20	Ski outing
Yuriko Iwamoto	25	Goodie Bag

JR YBA

Chic Terashima	50	1 yr memorial for Kay Terashima
Buster Mayeda	25	Memorial for Rose Mayeda

Movie Night -

Renee & Ken Matsuura	15	LaVerne & Ernie Kyed	20
Yoshiko & Raymond Uno	15	Faye & Jim Eng	36

Yoko Matsubayashi	4	Karie & Marcus Miya	25
Atsuko Nielson	10	Lisa & Kirk Imamura	31
Bobbie & Rick Ikegami	23	Karen & Mike Tohinaka	10
Debbie & Wes Koga	28	Merry & Torao Nakagawa	100
Setsuko Nagata	5	Junko & Tomio Mitsunaga	30
Hisa & Kozo Minaga	10	Gail & Mark Minaga	25

BWA

Yuriko Iwamoto	25	Special
Chiyoko Nishimura	25	Special
Chic Terashima	50	Husbands memorial
Mary Doi	10	Special
Jeanne Konishi	15	Special
Maxine Furubayashi	50	Special

NAIKAN RETREAT

Laura Mancilla	15	Reiko Matsuura	20
Dot Richeda	20	Setsuko Nagata	25
Karie Minaga-Miya	25	Marianne Ford	30
Tracy akimoto	40	Jane Sakashita	15
Janice Aramaki	50	Reiko Watanabe	20
Kaye Lillquist	50	Reiko Mitsunaga	50
Kristine Clifford	50		

MEMBERSHIP DUES -

Ayako Tohinaka	Yuriko Iwamoto
Mary Doi	Sadie Kato
Joyce Chen	Chiyoko Nishimura
Yoshiko Uno	Helen Mitsunaga
Sandy Iwasaki	Jeanne Konishi
Grace Kasai	