



Buddhist Thoughts

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My Vision for our Temple J.K. Hirano

(121) The success of our tradition has nothing to do with the number of followers. A single man of faith is testament to doctrinal transmission of selective correct practice, and it is from this power of those following it that our tradition flourishes.

(129) It is said, Far is near; near is far; and that next to the Lighthouse it is dark. Listening to the dharma, persons enjoying proximity are self satisfied, reaping benefits they consider commonplace and ordinary. Those at a remote distance of the capital, on the other hand, would hear the buddhadharma with greater reverence, and be more deeply motivated in listening.

Rennyō Shōnin Goichidaiki kiki-gaki

Since I came back home to this temple 20 years ago, I have used these passages to describe our situation here at the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple. These are from a book called the Goichidaiki kiki-gaki. It is a series of anecdotes about Rennyō Shōnin (1415-1499, *Eighth Abbot of Jodo Shinshu Honganji Ha*) and his comments concerning a variety of situations in his life. In these two passages, Rennyō is describing how people who live far away from centers or temples with large Buddhist populations are often inspired to listen more closely to the Dharma than people near these Dharma centers. I believe that this is very true of our temple.

Many of the visiting ministers to our temple have commented on the energy of our Sangha. They often mention the diversity of our Sangha and how inspiring it is. They consider our temple to be a model of how BCA can survive beyond a Japanese American culture. All of BCA's temples are going through a transition right now where the Nisei (second generation Japanese Americans) are dying. Within the next five to fifteen years, most of our Nisei Sangha will have passed on to the Pure Land. This creates the situation where we the Sangha need a master plan or vision for our temples to continue. Whether we like it or not, money is a big part of the reality we need to take into account for our Sangha to continue on into the future.

There are some temples with large endowments or assets that can keep them going for many years. Our temple has neither an endowment nor a great deal of material assets. However, we are in a much better situation now compared to 20 years ago. At that time, I had wondered how we would keep going with our rather precarious financial situation. But because of the dedication of our Sangha, we have done well so far. We have new diverse members coming to the temple and we have a bit of a cushion to pay our bills. Yet, like the rest of BCA, with our Nisei members in their 80's, things are quickly changing.

I propose that we look into the existing resources of our temple, not only in material assets, but

human assets as well. I think that there are a few things that must be done right now to ensure our survival in light of these changes. Our temple needs additional sources of funds, and, I believe, also a new cultural perspective for the temple in general.

Personally, I have tried to make the Dharma relevant for a culturally diverse group and to create opportunities for new people to come to the temple. We currently have a meditation service, dharma school and family services; we also have study classes, discussion groups, retreats and participation in Salt Lake's interfaith community. However, we need to find more ways for more people to learn about our temple.

The location of our temple has little or no foot traffic, thus no visibility. One of the most frequent comments I receive from visitors and new members is, "I never knew there was a temple here." This physical isolation has also made us vulnerable to vandalism. We have had the air conditioners in back of the West Wing stolen twice in the last year. Our main temple building has been fortunate in having only been broken into twice in the twenty years I have been here. But I believe that visibility and a better physical presence at the temple can help in both of these areas.

Our temple is fortunate to have some incredible people as members. Although it may seem arrogant, I believe Carmela and her credentials as a psychiatrist and therapist is a great asset to the temple. She is known within the mental health community for her Buddhist and holistic approaches to counseling. Non-Buddhists often look to Buddhism being related to psychotherapeutic benefits. To have a place like "Sanctuary for Healing and Integration (SHIN)" on our temple's property would be a valuable first step. Not only would there be the financial help by the temple receiving rent, it would also help with maintaining a physical presence Monday through Friday. I feel that the temple and her psychiatric practice can collaborate and form a synergistic relationship that will benefit both parties.

The West Wing building is a material asset the temple owns, but it has not been used to its full potential. I believe that it can be the base for a not only bringing in new members, but revenue to the temple. The first goal is to have someone we can trust, to lease at least half of the building. This rent, combined with the money Ogden and Honeyville pay the temple for my services; make up more than my current salary. This is why I have asked Carmela to consider moving her practice close to the temple. I know that she will have the temple's best interests in mind with her practice located there. Her presence and the number of people who come to her and her colleagues will help the visibility of the temple. In addition, we cannot afford to have a regular secretary or receptionist at the temple. Carmela and her staff there will be like having volunteer receptionists everyday to answer questions, display brochures to the temple, and assist visitors in some way who may be looking for further information about the temple. This also makes the temple look active and vibrant when people see that there are activities there everyday.

The west half of the building can be used as a permanent bookstore, with Sherrie Koga's fund raising group as the foundation. Her inventory of goods and gift items can be permanently displayed, boutique style, and include Buddhist merchandise and books. The closest to a Buddhist bookstore in Salt Lake City is Golden Braid Bookstore. Because I get a number of phone calls and emails asking if our temple have Buddhist supplies for sale, I see this as an opportunity to be part of the growing popularity of Buddhism in Utah. People want Buddhist supplies and Buddhist books; I think Sherrie can sell a lot of these items, even if the store would only be open on weekends.

If Carmela's office staff and visitors are there Monday through Friday, and Sherrie's group there on Saturdays, and our religious services are on Sundays, the temple's West Wing will be utilized seven days a week. This will create a presence that is needed in that area. There are now plans to revitalize Japantown Street with hotels and other business institutions to be built between the Gateway and our temple. This would help create the vitality in this area that is sorely needed and would benefit our temple.

There is another good reason, that warrants a daily physical presence at the temple, and that is so that some of our members can come to the temple on weekdays. If they come and I am there, the only thing they can do is come into my office and chat. Over the past twenty years, there have been less than

a handful of members who would do that on weekdays. When I was new here, I would conduct a morning service at 10:00 am and stay until 4:00 pm. A number of the older members would ask me, "Sensei, why do you stay at the temple so much when this isn't like your previous temple; people here don't come on weekdays." I would like people to come to the temple, not just to see me, but also to just hang out and enjoy each other's company. The West Wing could also become a gathering place that supports a feeling of community (Sangha) in the new library area, which could be set up like a lounge or reception space, where people can sit on sofas and chairs, read, talk, and just get to know each other better. I envision this as a place where some of the Niseis can come during the week and watch Japanese videos or Korean dramas together, play cards, and catch up on each other's lives. There is the kitchen in the west wing, which can be used to prepare snacks and coffee or tea. With Carmela and her staff physically present, I think older members would feel fairly safe to spend part of their day there. People who have told me that they don't have much access to the Temple on weekdays can now have doors open to them seven days a week.

The bottom line for all this visibility and access is to increase the membership of our temple and ensure our Sangha's continuation beyond five to fifteen years. Our membership drive at this temple has been rather casual, to say the least. It's time that we have a more structured and organized membership initiative. I have asked Stephanie Sueoka to spearhead the membership committee. This isn't just about sending out membership forms, but to try to find old members who have not paid their dues and encourage new people to join.

I began this article with Rennyō Shōnin's words because he grew Hongwanji from a small obscure temple in the Eastern foothills of Kyoto to a dynamic religious institution active throughout Japan by recognizing the importance of women. These women of our Sangha: Carmela and her staff, Sherrie Koga and her fundraising committee and bookstore, Stephanie Sueoka and her networking talents through a membership drive, are just a sampling of the human resources/assets here to assist us. We all know how many more dedicated and talented individuals are already working hard for the benefit of our Temple.

I realize how much work and effort are needed to move this process along. Financially it won't be easy for everyone involved, and to be totally frank, this isn't just a commitment and risk for the temple; it is also a huge risk for Carmela and me. I am asking Carmela to take the risk of relocating her medical practice to the West Wing. The physicians on our board have asked why anyone would risk disruption of an established livelihood when there is no apparent logical reason or financial advantage to it. Well, there is no reason other than we believe in the Temple. We believe in its larger purpose of ensuring continuity of the Dharma and the Nembutsu teachings for generations to come. We believe the personal risk is worth it for the Temple's potential benefit.

I have decided to stay and serve at the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple. Although financially the bigger California temples are more lucrative, I don't want to leave our Temple in uncertainty. I want to see to it that the Temple is flourishing and growing to its full potential. When I leave this temple or retire from here, I want it to be without regrets, knowing that I have done everything I could to help it thrive and continue into the future.

Without a doubt, there are risks and responsibilities that must be shared by all of us. I hope you believe as I do, that it is better to try this approach, than just let the temple slowly die, which is almost a certainty in the present cultural environment we have in Utah. I believe we can succeed here. Carmela and I are willing to put our livelihoods on the table for our temple. I hope the Sangha will be willing to join us in this vision. If you have questions or comments, please contact me at jkhirano@msn.com.
Namo Amida Butsu.

News from the BWA

Karie Minaga-Miya

It has already been a busy year for the BWA membership. As we said goodbye to 2012, BWA members Elaine Endo and Sherrie Koga prepared Somen for those who attended Joya-E service on New Year's Eve. January has come and gone and the new officers for the BWA have been installed at the Hoonko Service held on January 20th. The 2013 BWA Officers are:

- Co-Presidents: Gail Minaga/Karie Minaga-Miya
- 1st Vice President: Reiko Matsuura
- 2nd Vice President: Elaine Endo
- Secretary: Maya Chow
- Treasurer: Tammie Kuramoto
- Auditors: Temple Auditors (Karen Seo & Dean Hirabayashi).

A delicious lunch was served by the combined efforts of the BWA and Dharma School. We thank everyone who helped bring the salads and side dishes to go with the main course prepared by Dharma School Teachers.

Next month in coordination with Higan-E, a Naikan Day of Retreat will be held on Saturday, March 16, 2013. The workshop will be lead by Dr. Carmela Hirano. Please join us for this day of reflection and celebration of the spring equinox.

At our next BWA meeting on February 17 at 12:00 noon, we will be planning the coming year's activities and accepting volunteers to coordinate the various activities this coming year. Come join us as we plan an eventful year with the membership of the BWA.

DANA AWARDS

Jane Sakashita

Presented at Hoonko Service, January 20, 2013

CARL DENNISON

One of our unsung heroes of this temple is Carl Dennison whose contributions to the Temple Board has been titanic. He was elected and served on the board for eight consecutive years-1986 through 1993. During those years he had countless suggestions for the betterment of our temple. Carl co-chaired the Obon festival in 1984 and has been on the annual raffle committee since the inception of raffle ticket sales to members as well as to nonmembers, and the attendees would be greeted at the entrance by him. Our appreciation, Carl, for your many services to this temple.

MAY AKIYAMA

May has been the stronghold of our temple for many years in her quiet, subdued and modest ways. She served on the Dharma School board from 1986 through 1992, and as its treasurer in 1987 and 1988. Everyone who came to the temple for the Obon dance practices as well as the Obon festivals would see her behind the counter in the kitchen serving the beverages for the dancers. In her gentle way she would assist in all aspects of the temple. Thank you, May, for your selfless help these countless years.

TAKEKO DOI

Many of our past and current temple members would not remember that Takeko served as an assistant Dharma School teacher in 1971 and as the secretary in 1983 and 1984. She has been on the BWA board from 1984 to the present time, serving as treasurer in 1991, vice president in 1995 and public relations from 1993 to 1997; as well as the treasurer in 2008. Temple members should appreciate the time and

gasoline she has spent buying the altar flowers since 1984. The Hanamido flowers at Hanamatsuri also has been under her supervision. Thank you, Takeko, for the precious time you have expended for this temple for over 40 years.

SETSUKO NAGATA

Another of our unsung heroines of our temple is Setsuko Nagata who was a Dharma School teacher back in the 1970's. She has also served on the BWA board since 1983—having done public relations work in 1951, religious chairperson in 2003, and one of the food chairpersons since 2003, a long nine years. Serving as a food chair involves a lot of precious time that we do not truly appreciate. It involves the purchasing of the various articles, organizing them in advance before the rest of the kitchen crew arrives, and overseeing the preparation of the food in its entirety. Thank you, Setsuko, for your contributions also for over 40 years.

2013 Major Memorial Service

For those years when there is not a major memorial service such as 2nd, 4th, 5th, etc. the temple holds the Shotsuki Hoyo. During these services, the temple will list the names of those members who have died during the month in the preceding years. These services are not meant to replace the major memorial services as listed before. The numbers for the years of service are using the “kaiki” which begins first year as 1 and second year as third year. To schedule a private memorial service please contact Rev. Hirano

2012 1 year	2001 13 year	1981 33 year
2011 3 year	1997 17 year	1964 50 year
2007 7 year	1989 25 year	1914 100 year

February Shotsuki Hoyo

February 17, 10:00 am

Deceased	Date of Death	Next of kin
Doi Masayo	2/23/87	Ichiro Doi
Kawaguchi Hirokichi	2/2/	Bill Kawaguchi
Kikushima Shizue	2/20/86	Bernice Kida
Kobayashi Yasuji	2/5/50	Jean Kobayashi
Kojima Hideo	2/3/85	Tama Kojima
Maeda Shime	2/4/36	Koga Family
Nakai Kanesaburo	2/19/60	Lily Havey
Nishida Hide	2/23/68	Aiko Okada
Nodzu Shige	2/7/80	Ken Nodzu
Ogawa Gentaro	2/9/09	Bob Sugino
Oike Kazuyoshi	2/3/59	May Koike
Okawa Paul	2/11/87	Kathy Okawa
Sauki Izyo	2/28/94	Marge Kruze
Seko Kikuno	2/4/89	Duzo Seko
Shiotani Sataro	2/13/85	Kai Shiotani
Suyehiro Otozo	2/2/36	Greg Matsuura
Suyehiro Tomiko	2/4/31	Greg Matsuura
Sueoka Tokusaku	2/4/70	Dru Sueoka

Tsugino Masuko	2/8/80	Bob Kasubuchi
Tsutsui Mojiro	2/23/73	Geraldine Chappell
Ushio Tatsu	2/14/03	Janet Thomas
Watanabe Ichiro Roy	2/19/85	Byron Watanabe
Yagi Emiko	2/6/83	Helen Yagi
Koga Sueyoshi	2/22/99	Koga Family
Sauki Tamaye	2/22/98	Marge Kruze
Yamamoto Lessie	2/4/99	Eleanor Nakamura
Ushio Tadao	2/22/01	Janet Thomas
Koga Michiko	2/5/02	Gary Koga
Tsuyuki Jerry	2/7/02	Mark Tsuyuki
Tsutsui Harry	2/27/02	Geraldine Chappell
Tokunaga Utako	2/27/02	Al Tokunaga
Kido Jimmy Yoshi	2/26/03	Yoshiko Kido
Lew David	2/14/06	Bobbi Lew
Nakai Frank	2/15/06	Eleanor Sasaki
Nagata Shigeo	2/28/07	Setsuko Nagata
Iwasaki Mary Tsuru	2/23/07	Karen Tohinaka
Endo Kathleen	2/26/07	Thomas Endo
Tachiki Hanako	2/08	Steve Tachiki
Ushio Ruby	2/28/08	Janet Thomas
Terashima Kay Kiyoshi	2/15/09	Chiyoko Terashima
Mayeda Rose	2/22/09	Buster Mayeda
Yukie Okubo	2/7/11	Noreen Okubo
May Koike	2/8/12	Pamela Stillman

2013 JANUARY DONATIONS

Karen & Mike Tohinaka	500	In memory of Chad	
Gary & Kathleen Takenaka	50	December Shotsuki Hoyo	
Yuriko & Carl Dennison	50	Bodhi Day	
Sadie Kato	25	Bodhi Day	
Kazuko Terasawa	35	Bodhi Day	
Lynn & Marilyn Shimada	25	Bodhi Day	
Yuriko & Carl Dennison	20	Joya-E Service	
LaVerne & Ernie Kyed	50	Shusho-E Service	
Tom & Fran Akimoto	40	Joya-E & Shusho -E	
Tomiye Ishimatsu	50	Shusho -E Service	
Chizuko Ishimatsu	25	Shusho -E Service	
Linda & Ron Omori	25	Joya-E Service	
Carmela & Jerry Hirano	50	Shusho -E Service	
Ivan Van Laningham	100	Special	
Charles Inouye Family	50	Memory of Sachichi Inouye, Ruth Aoki & Mike Aoki	
HOONKO -			
Sandy Iwasaki	25	Ivan Van Laningham	100
Sadie Kato	25	Maxine Furubayashi	25
Jerry & Carmela Hirano	100	Helen Mitsunaga	25
Nancy & Tom Hohler	20	Reiko Mitsunaga	25

Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga	100	Kiyomi Ryujin	25
Misuko Shimada	25	Lynn & Marilyn Shimada	50
Yuriko & Carl Dennison	50	Nobue Sudoko	25
Rose & Joseph Kamaya	50	Terry & Mits Fujinami	100
Karen Tohinaka	25	Tammy & Henry Kuramoto	25
Alice Ogura	50	Richard & Lynne Doi	100
Grace Oshita	100	Misao & Elsie Doi	50
Masami Hayashi	100	Chris Oki	50
Donna Sato	20	Hisa Minaga	25
Richard Matsuda	25	Jane Sakashita	25
Lisa Imamura	20	Rose Watamura	10
Charlie Sasaki	20	Judy & Troy Watanabe	40
Neil & Aki Chow	20	Hiroshi & Mary Aramaki	50
Bill & Shigeko Mizuno	50	Jeff & Silvana Watanabe	25
Dot Richeda	30	Karen Seo	20
Ichiro & Takeko Doi	100	Brent & Sherrie Koga	25
Setsuko Nagata	50	Nobuo Aoki	50
Karie Minaga-Miya	25	Hatsue Masuda	20
Haruko Moriyasu	25	Dave Sekino	40
Tom & Fran Akimoto	50	Buster Mayeda	50
Chris & Shelley Taketa	50	Sachiko Tohinaka	25
May Akiyama	25	Bruce & Christy Fong	25
Rise & Dean Hirabayashi	20	Chic Terashima	25
Brian & Tammy Fukushima	100	Robert & Tami Tokita	30
Yoshiko Uno	20	Faye & Jim Eng	40
Paul & Kathy Terashima	50	Stan & Elaine Endo	40
Nancy Takagi		25 Connie & Phillip Sakashita	50
Byron & Reiko Watanabe	50		

SHOTSUKI HOYO -

Richard Matsuda	30	Lynn & Marilyn Shimada	25
Karie Minaga-Miya	100	Hisa Minaga	50
Nobuo Aoki	50	Nanae Taketa	25
Faye & Jim Eng	20	Faye & Jim Eng (Kiyoshi Mitsunaga)	20
Robert & Tami Tokita	20	Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga	30
Helen Mitsunaga	50	Terry Omura	25

Dharma School

Karen & Mike Tohinaka 100 In memory of Chad

BWA

Karen & Mike Tohinaka 200 In memory of Chad

Ruby Doi 25 Bento appreciation

Kazuko Yakumo 25 Bento appreciation

YBA

Karen & Mike Tohinaka 200 In memory of Chad

JR YBA

Karen & Mike Tohinaka 100 In memory of Chad

Please join us for a weekend of quiet self-reflection...



NAIKAN: Growing your Gratitude Garden

Saturday * March 16, 2013 * 8 - 5

Complacency is like dead leaves under the melting snow. Where is there room for joy when despair, deprivation and despondence abound?

Be poignantly surprised. Let Self-Reflection (Naikan) nurture & grow the seeds of dormancy to your garden of Gratitude & Renewed Purpose.

OPEN to the PUBLIC at the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple
211 W. 100 S. Salt Lake City, UT 84101

www.slbuddhist.org

Register at the Door at 8:00 a.m.; First Session starts at 8:30 a.m.

Light Refreshments Provided. Donations Much Appreciated.