



# Buddhist Thoughts

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## Life's Lottery

J.K. Hirano

*Every day, think as you wake up, today I am fortunate to be alive, I have a precious human life, I am not going to waste it. I am going to use all my energies to develop myself, to expand my heart out to others; to achieve enlightenment for the benefit of all beings. I am going to have kind thoughts towards others, I am not going to get angry or think badly about others. I am going to benefit others as much as I can.*

*Dalai Lama*

One billion six hundred million dollars \$1,600,000,000.00, how many of you bought the lottery ticket? Rev. Marvin Harada and I bought ours and discussed how we would save Jodo Shinshu in America with the H and H foundation. We even worried about maybe having too many people wanting to become BCA ministers because of the wonderful benefits we would be able to provide. It was really fun to imagine all the ups and downs of what we would do with all this money. It was definitely worth the cost of twenty dollars worth of lottery tickets.

My daughter Kacie was also excited about buying her first powerball ticket. We discussed how she would spend the money. She discussed about how her life would be so different if she were to win. I asked her, if you had terminal illness and were told you can have a cure for 1.6 billion dollars, would you buy it? "Of course!" she said. "Than your life is worth over a billion dollars." All of us have this precious human life and have hit Life's lottery. However, it is often difficult for us to decide what to do with the winnings of this lottery.

The odds given for winning the powerball was 1 in 292.2 million. However, there is a Buddhist description of the odds of being born into human life. In the story, it is said there is a large tortoise that is swimming throughout the oceans of the world. This is a Buddhist and Magic tortoise so it can do a lot of amazing things. It can hold its breath for 100 years. Once ever 100 years, this tortoise must come to the surface of the ocean to take a breath. At the same time this tortoise is swimming in the ocean, there is a large wooden collar floating in the ocean. The collar is like a modern life preserver, which is probably easier to imagine. Well the odds of being born into human life, is like the odds of this tortoise coming up every 100 years and on this particular occasion, this collar just happens to be floating at the exact spot the tortoise is coming up and as the tortoise raises its head for a breath, it pokes its head through the collar. I'm not sure what the odds are for that, but given the size of the ocean, I imagine it is more than 292.2 million to one. So it is really hard to be born into human life or as our new service book says,

rare and wonderful is it to be born into human life.

Although there are a number of if, ands and buts to the question of trading my winning powerball ticket for life. Such as how long do I have to live or would my family be better off with the 1.6 billion dollars, that having me hanging around with a terminal illness etc. For the sake of this article, I would also say that time has a big part of the story. Most of us live our lives thinking we will live forever. However, I believe that living a long life is not the key element here. Living a happy life is the key.

What is a happy life, I believe that what Buddhism is trying to emphasize in happiness is gratitude. To live a happy life, one must live a grateful life. There is a book I recently read called, When Breath Becomes Air, by Dr. Paul Kalanithi. It is the autobiography of a young neurosurgeon who just as he is finishing his residency at Stanford Medical School, is diagnosed with terminal lung cancer. Up until this time, his life was all about the future and how he had lived through the present without really awareness totally focused upon a goal in the future. He would find happiness in the future.

*“But even if I had the energy, I prefer a more tortoiselike approach. I plod, I ponder, some days I simply persist.*

*Everyone succumbs to finitude. I suspect I am not the only one who reaches this pluperfect state. Most ambitions are either achieved or abandoned; either way, they belong to the past. The future, instead of the ladder toward the goals of life, flattens out into a perpetual present. Money, status, all the vanities the preacher of Ecclesiastes described, hold so little interest: a chasing after wind, indeed.”*

Whether we win the lottery or live to be one hundred years old. A life of happiness is to be found in a life of gratitude. It cannot be found in the past or future only in the present, where all three live. Buddhism’s goal is to help us find that happiness in life. Paul Kalanithi found it in his daughter, Cady.

*That message is simple: When you come to one of the many moments in life when you must give an account of yourself, provide a ledger of what you have been, and done, and meant to the world, do not, I pray, discount that you filled a dying man’s days with a sated joy, a joy unknown to me in all my prior years, a joy that does not hunger for more and more, but rests, satisfied. In this time, right now, that is an enormous thing.*

*Paul Kalanithi*

To find joy in life is the meaning of Namo Amida Butsu. It is what each of us search for. Although Paul Kalanithi was not Buddhist, it is a very Buddhist Book. We will be reading this book When Breath becomes Air for our March Book Club. I hope you will join us at 7:00 pm March 7 in the west building. The books are for sale in Lumbini’s Garden at a discount for members.

# SLBT President's Message

## Stan Endo

CONGRATULATIONS to the SLBT Officers, Board of Trustees and Organization leaders and Committee leaders for 2016.

For 2016 the tentative Temple **Board of Trustees** are:

Serving the second year of their two year term are Faye Mitsunaga-Eng, Dave Black, Craige Mayeda, Gail Minaga, Karie Minaga-Miya, Tina Munson, Paul Terashima, Arthur Yakumo, Ivan Van Laningham, Judy Watanabe, Dot Richeda and Reiko Mitsunaga.

Serving the first year of a two year term are Brent Koga, Stan Endo, Stephanie Sueoka, Dave Sekino, Brian Fukushima, Robert Tokita, Vanessa Shiba, Sherrie Koga, Aaron Froemming and Donna Sato.

As of this writing, we have 23 members and additional trustees will be established at the next board meeting based upon the listing of runner-ups and nominations.

### **For 2016, the Temple Officers are:**

PRESIDENT: Stan Endo

VICE PRESIDENT: Dot Richeda

VICE PRESIDENT: Craige Mayeda

SECRETARIES: Shelley Doi-Taketa and Tina Munson

TREASURERS: Vanessa Shiba (Disbursements) and Robert Tokita (Receipts)

AUDITORS: TBD

### **The 2016 Organizations/Committees with leadership are:**

DHARMA SCHOOL: Superintendents-Sherrie Hayashi & Stephanie Sueoka, Assistant Superintendents-Judy Watanabe & Tracy Akimoto-Robertson, Treasurer-Ashley Holbrook, Recording Secretary-Faye Mitsunaga

BWA: President - Elaine Endo, Vice Presidents – Gail Minaga & Dot Richeda, Secretaries – Karie Minaga & Connie Sakashita, Treasurer-Cindy Thomas

YBA: President-Haley Watanabe, **Vice President-?**, Treasurer-Eric Tokita, Advisor-Troy Watanabe

Jr. YBA: President-Carmeron Sueoka, Vice President-Ethan Hirabayashi, Treasurer-Anna Fukushima, Treasurer-Koji Brown, Advisor-Troy Watanabe

DOBO GAKO: Stephanie Sueoka & Sherri Hayashi (currently inactive)

### **COMMITTEES with Chairs are:**

EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES: Paul Terashima

BUILDING REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE: Stan Endo

TOBAN: Reiko Mitsunaga

Ministerial Affairs Committee: Stan Endo

BUILDING FUND/LUMBINI'S GARDEN: Sherrie Koga, Elaine Endo, Stephanie Sueoka, Mary Misaka, Joni Sueoka, Sandy Iwasaki, Susan Furubayashi

I will fill in the missing holes and provide an update throughout the year.

A special thank you goes to all of the individuals that have served on the board, as officers, and worked in the organizations and committees. All of the efforts at the Temple is on a voluntary basis and I know

everyone provides their time, sweat and monies to grow and sustain the temple. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the following individuals:

- Ivan Van Laningham as our past president. Ivan led the board through some very difficult times in the history of the temple.
- Dave Sekino has served as one of the treasurers for years (at least 20) and has kept us out of fiscal trouble.
- Aaron Froemming as vice president and his help in establishing computer network connectivity.
- Stephanie Sueoka, Mary Misaka, Tim Jessop, Sherrie & Brent Koga and Mark Masters as well as Walt, Karen and Heather Sato for their work in the west building establishing the new conference room and remodeled kitchen. Thanks to Phil Sakashita and Marcus Miya for the cabinet work in the kitchen. Our younger Sangha members (Ethan Hirabyashi, Keaton Yoshinaga and Kyle Eng. worked hard in the demolition of the room that is now the east conference room, thanks guys!!
- Henry Kuramoto for his efforts in helping organizing areas in the temple by building shelving and then putting in order the messes in the basement.

I am sure that I have neglected many people that have worked tirelessly over the year and I apologize for not providing a “thanks” in this article. Please accept my apologies.

A group of individuals that we all need to recognize and thank are the Minister’s Assistants.

Rev. Masami Hayashi has Tokudo and Kyoshi and is a graduate of IBS. He is 92 years old, and as you know, Masami conducts services when Rev. Hirano cannot attend. He is also a Shodo (Calligraphy) Instructor and teaches some classes on Shodo. He takes care of all the Homyos and Kakocho and the Eitaikyo names for the temple.

Dr. Carmela Javellana has received Tokudo and helps in most of Sensei’s work but focuses on the meditation classes and new member outreach. She does a weekly meditation service, every Sunday at 9:00 am, along with the adult discussion group after Dharma School service. She supervises a meditation class on Wednesday nights with five rotating instructors. She also serves on the Salt Lake Interfaith Board of Directors with Rev. Hirano. The temple basically has another minister, but a volunteer one.

Ms. Dot Richeda helps Carmela, but her main function is to make sure any visitor to the temple feels welcomed. She explains service protocol and answers any questions about the temple. She also works with Carmela in a quarterly new member orientation class.

Mr. Troy Watanabe was Sensei’s minister’s assistant before there was any such program. His responsibility is Youth. He is in charge of all YBA activities and helps with the Dharma School.

A final Thank You goes to Paul Seo and Gail Minaga for the creation and donation of the Building Fund Donation plaque that is now hanging in the Temple entry way. Paul and Gail spent much time and effort to complete this. Again, thanks to those donors that identified on the plaque.

It has been many years since I have served as President. There are many new members that I look forward to meet and I will continue to support the existing Sangha. I WILL DO MY BEST! Please, if you have any questions or comments, contact me at the temple or you can email me at [stanakira@gmail.com](mailto:stanakira@gmail.com). I guarantee that I will respond. I am trying to catch up on the different aspects of the Temple and BCA. To that end, I hope to establish priorities and goals for the temple from an administrative perspective. Budgets, growth and membership sustainment, Sangha involvement and overall communication are just a few topics that have been brought to my attention or that I have been thinking about. I look forward to working with Sensei and will provide him my full support.

Finally, please let me know if you have any issues, concerns and suggestions. I appreciate any feedback you can provide.

# Building and Repair

Stan Endo

In 2015, I volunteered to chair the Building and Repair activities for the Temple and West Building (WB). Although I was elected to be Temple President in January, I will continue this effort until I can find a replacement.

There are many repairs, modifications and maintenance activities at both facilities that require attention and are of varying priority. These are repairs and modifications that if not completed would result in further damage, fire, safety or cost related issues. I believe the most high priority repairs are complete but there are many other issues and fixes that need to be performed which is way too much for one or two persons.

I would like to start a monthly or bi-monthly day where we convene a team of volunteers to “tackle” these repairs and maintenance issues. On this day, we will meet in the morning and “get to work”. The BWA has offered to provide a delicious lunch and they can also work on their projects, as needed. I hope this will save the temple money, maintain and improve our facilities plus be a team building activity where we can get to know each other. Our first “repair day” is tentatively February 19, 2016. I hope to hold these on a Friday. Perhaps those that have OFF Fridays from work can assist. I will be contacting individuals that have indicated their willingness to help. If you would like to join us, please see me at the Temple or email me at, [stanakira@gmail.com](mailto:stanakira@gmail.com).

At the beginning of winter, the WB boiler system was inoperative. It took a few days to repair but is now up and running. Of course, if not repaired, we could have had frozen pipes which would have been extremely expensive to fix. Much was learned about this system and it was realized that many of the problems were due to lack of maintenance. This problem also applies to the fire/smoke alarms, a fire suppression system, HVAC and water systems. Continued maintenance is need to minimize further costs. I will be outlining all of these repairs and maintenance efforts in a facility maintenance manual for both buildings.

We all take great pride in our temple facilities as it our focal point for gathering. To maintain and promote our thriving sangha we must also take steps to ensure the physical cleanliness of our temple. By maintaining an active awareness of our surrounding condition, we can reduce the workload of the Toban crews, improve overall condition of our facilities and hopefully reduce costly maintenance and repairs. **I ask that each organization, committee and individuals clean up after their class, meeting, cooking, or event.** This can be as simple as emptying garbage cans and sweeping up afterwards. We are proud of our Temple and we need to be take care of it.

## Buddhist Women’s Association (BWA) News

Elaine Endo

The BWA was in charge of the luncheon after Ho-onko service on Sunday, January 17. We served salmon, ham, and a variety of tasty main dish items, salads, and desserts provided by

BWA members and Dharma School parents. We especially appreciate Junko Mitsunaga and Setsuko Nagata for organizing the preparation of the delicious Oshogatsu ozoni soup. Thank you to all who helped make this luncheon a success.

BWA officers for this year are: President, Elaine Endo; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Dot Richeda; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Presidents, Gail Minaga; Recording Secretaries, Connie Sakashita and Karie Minaga Miya; and Treasurer, Cindy Yamada Thomas. We are always looking for new members! If you are interested in getting to know new people, sharing life stories, preparing authentic Japanese dishes, and helping the Sangha, we invite you to join BWA in 2016. Annual dues are \$15, cash or checks payable to Salt Lake BWA and we welcome new members throughout the year. If you have questions regarding BWA or its activities, feel free to contact any BWA member and they will be glad to help you.

## 2016 Major Memorial Service

For those years when there is not a major memorial service such as 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 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

2015 1 year	2004 13 year	1984 33 year
2014 3 year	2000 17 year	1967 50 year
2010 7 year	1992 25 year	1917 100 year

## February Shotsuki Hoyo

February 21, 10:00 am

<b>Deceased</b>	<b>Date of Death</b>	<b>Next of kin</b>
Masayo Doi	2/23/87	Ichiro Doi
Hirokichi Kawaguchi	2/2/69	Bill Kawaguchi
Shizue Kikushima	2/20/86	Bernice Kida
Yasuji Kobayashi	2/5/50	Jean Kobayashi
Hideo Kojima	2/3/85	Tama Kojima
Shime Maeda	2/4/36	Koga Family
Kanesaburo Nakai	2/19/60	Lily Havey
Hide Nishida	2/23/68	Aiko Okada
Shige Nodzu	2/7/80	Ken Nodzu
Gentaro Ogawa	2/9/09	Bob Sugino
Kazuyoshi Oike	2/3/59	May Koike
Paul Okawa	2/11/87	Kathy Okawa
Izyo Sauki	2/28/94	Marge Kruze
Kikuno Seko	2/4/89	Duzo Seko
Sataro Shiotani	2/13/85	Kai Shiotani

Otozo Suyehiro	2/2/36	Greg Matsuura
Tomiko Suyehiro	2/4/31	Greg Matsuura
Tokusaku Sueoka	2/4/70	Dru Sueoka
Masuko Tsugino	2/8/80	Bob Kasubuchi
Mojiro Tsutsui	2/23/73	Geraldine Chappell
Tatsu Ushio	2/14/03	Janet Thomas
Ichiro Roy Watanabe	2/19/85	Byron Watanabe
Emiko Yagi	2/6/83	Yagi Family
Sueyoshi Koga	2/22/99	Koga Family
Tamaye Sauki	2/22/98	Marge Kruze
Lessie Yamamoto	2/4/99	Eleanor Nakamura
Tadao Ushio	2/22/01	Janet Thomas
Michiko Koga	2/5/02	Gary Koga
Jerry Kiyoshi Tsuyuki	2/7/02	Mark Tsuyuki
Harry Tsutsui	2/27/02	Geraldine Chappell
Utako Tokunaga	2/27/02	Al Tokunaga
Jimmy Yoshi Kido	2/26/03	Yoshiko Kido
David Lew	2/14/06	Bobbi Lew
Frank Nakai	2/15/06	Eleanor Sasaki
Shigeo Nagata	2/28/07	Setsuko Nagata
Mary Tsuru Iwasaki	2/23/07	Karen Tohinaka
Kathleen Endo	2/26/07	Thomas Endo
Hanako Tachiki	2/08	Steve Tachiki
Ruby Ushio	2/28/08	Janet Thomas
Kay Kiyoshi Terashima	2/15/09	Chiyoko Terashima
Rose Mayeda	2/22/09	Buster Mayeda
Yukie Okubo	2/7/11	Noreen Okubo
May Koike	2/8/12	Pamela Stillman
Misao Doi	2/24/15	Misao Doi

## Temple Book Club

March 7, 7:00 pm

### When Breath Becomes Air

Written by Paul Kalanithi

This is the story of a young doctor's finding the meaning in life and his finding grace in death. The book is for sale in Lumbini's Bookstore.

## DECEMBER 2015-JANUARY 2016 DONATIONS

*(December 22 – January 25, 2016)*

### Dana Campaign

Sanctuary for Healing & Integration 200  
(Carmela Javellana Hirano)

Grace Oshita

300

Alice Endo Aikens	500	Walter & Karen Sato	50
Carl & Yuriko Dennison	75	Lynn & Marilyn Shimada	235
Tad Hideshima	500	Jamie Doi Slade	100
Yoshiko Kido	5	Greg Sueoka	2000
Jean Kobayashi	200	Christopher & Shelley Taketa	100
Mark & Gail Minaga	250	Cindy Yamada Thomas	100
Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga	100	Robert & Tami Tokita	300
Mits & Betty Morishita	25	Yoshiko Uno	100
Kim & Diane Mugleston	100	Byron & Reiko Watanabe	225
Ray Nishikawa	40	Tomiye Ishimatsu	10
Alice Ogura	50	Kumiko Iwamoto & Family	500
Terry Omura	150	Keizo Kobayashi	100
Gary & Ryoko Okamoto	100		

### **Bodhi Day**

Phillip & Connie Sakashita	50	Yoshiko Uno	25
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### **Joya-E**

Troy & Judy Watanabe	30	Edward Yakumo	100
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### **Hoonko**

Tamiko Adachi	25	Bill & Shigecko Mizuno	50
Tom & Fran Akimoto	75	Asako Mori	30
Tracy Akimoto	25	Haruko Moriyasu	25
May Akiyama	25	Setsuko Nagata	50
Nobuo Aoki	50	Takae Nakamura	20
Hiroshi & Mary Aramaki	50	Ray Nishikawa	25
Aki & Neil Chow	20	Kenneth Nodzu	25
Carl & Yuriko Dennison	100	Alice Ogura	25
Takeko Doi	100	Grace Oshita	50
Stan & Elaine Endo	50	Dot Richeda	25
Jim & Faye Eng	50	Jo Ryujin	25
Mits & Terry Fujinami	100	Jane Sakashita	100
Brian Fukushima & Tammy Park	50	Naomi Sanada	25
Maxine Furubayashi	50	Charlie Sasaki	25
Masami Hayashi	100	Donna Sato	20
Dean Hirabayashi	20	Steven & Vanessa Shiba	100
Rev. Jerry and Carmela Hirano	100	Jun Sudoko	40
Sandy Iwasaki	30	Nobue "Nancy" Sudoko	25
Joseph & Rose Kamaya	50	Nancy Takagi	25
Bob Kasubuchi	30	Christopher & Shelley Taketa	100
Brent & Sherrie Koga	40	Nanae Taketa	50
Henry & Tammie Kuramoto	25	Kazuko Terasawa	35
Buster Mayeda	50	Chiyoko Terashima	25
Craige Mayeda	50	Paul & Kathy Terashima	50
Mark & Gail Minaga	25	Cindy Yamada Thomas	50



Helen Mitsunaga	25	Sachiko Tohinaka	25
Reiko Mitsunaga	25	Robert & Tami Tokita	100
Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga	100	Byron & Reiko Watanabe	50

### Shotsuki Hoyo

Bob Sugino	25
Jim & Faye Eng	25
Helen Mitsunaga	25
Robert & Tami Tokita	25
Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga	200
Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga	25
Jim & Faye Eng	25
Asako Mori	50
Nobuo Aoki	50
Kenneth Nodzu	50
Kenneth Nodzu	50
Bob Kasubuchi	30
Robert & Tami Tokita	25
Takae Nakamura	25
Mark & Gail Minaga	20

### In Memory Of:

Aki Sugino	25
Buntaro Mitsunaga	25
Buntaro Mitsunaga	25
Buntaro Mitsunaga	25
Buntaro Mitsunaga (50 Year Memorial)	200
Kiyoshi Mitsunaga	25
Kiyoshi Mitsunaga	25
Carol Mori	50
Ei Matsuda	50
Father Kentaru Nodzu	50
Mother Shige Nodzu	50
Matsue Kasubuchi	30
Shizuko Imada	25
Tane Nakamura	25
Yasuzo Minaga	20

### Temple General

Ivan Van Laningham	50
anonymous	750
Wayne & Pat Aoki, Trevor & Sharen	1000
Carmichael, Roman & Ann Takasaki	
Mickey & Gina Morinaka	50
Tom & Fran Akimoto	50
Kumiko Iwamoto	500
Byron & Reiko Watanabe	100

In memory of Mike & Ruth Aoki

In memory of Hideo Morinaka

In memory of Ken Mitsunaga

In memory of Kiyotoshi & Yuriko Iwamoto

New Years donation

## 2016 PAID SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIPS

*These members contributed \$1200 per member in this premier membership category.*

Richard Doi	Kenneth Nodzu
Lynne Doi	Dave Sekino
Carmela Javellana Hirano	Paul Terashima
Buster Mayeda	Kathy Terashima
Craige Mayeda	Roberto Toro
Reiko Mitsunaga	Yoshiko Uno

## 2016 PAID MEMBERSHIPS

*All 2016 paid memberships, through January 25, 2016. Younger kids not listed.*

Tom & Fran Akimoto	Takae Nakamura
May Akiyama	Yosh Nakayama
Hiroshi & Mary Aramaki	Ray Nishikawa
David & Holly, Delaney Black	Alice Ogura
Geraldine Cookie Chappell	Lee Oikle
Aki & Neil Chow	Gary & Ryoko Okamoto

Carl & Yuriko Dennison  
Takeko Doi  
Stan & Elaine Endo  
Jim & Faye Eng  
Jeri Freedman  
Aaron Froemming  
Mits & Terry Fujinami  
Maxine Furubayashi  
Masami Hayashi  
Sherrie Hayashi  
Dean Hirabayashi  
Troy & Ashley Holbrook  
Lisa, Trey, Mitchell Imamura  
Chizuko Ishimatsu  
Tomiye Ishimatsu  
Sandy Iwasaki  
Bob Kasubuchi  
Yoshiko Kido  
Keizo, Evangeline, Jacqueline Kobayashi  
Brent & Sherrie Koga  
Henry & Tammie Kuramoto  
Pam Lancaster  
Kenneth & Renee Matsuura  
Shauna Mayeda  
Gina Mejia  
Mark & Gail Minaga  
Helen Mitsunaga  
Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga  
Bill & Shigeko Mizuno  
Asako Mori  
David & Julia Nagata  
Setsuko Nagata  
Torao & Merry Nakagawa

Chris Oki  
Grace Oshita  
Dot Richeda  
Kiyomi Jo Ryujin  
Jane Sakashita  
Phillip & Connie Sakashita  
Charlie Sasaki  
Tom Sasaki  
Donna Sato  
Walter & Karen Sato  
Bob & Setsuko Schock  
Steven & Vanessa Shiba  
Lynn & Marilyn Shimada  
Jamie Doi Slade  
Rick & Susan Spehar  
Jun Sudoku  
Nobue "Nancy" Sudoku  
Stephanie Sueoka  
Bob Sugino  
Nancy Takagi  
Christopher & Shelley Taketa  
Nanae Taketa  
Chiyoko Terashima  
Cindy Yamada Thomas  
Sachiko Tohinaka  
Robert & Tami Tokita  
Ivan Van Laningham  
Byron & Reiko Watanabe  
Troy & Judy Watanabe  
Dallas Weaver  
Robert Weitzel & Georgia Geerlings  
Arthur Yakumo  
Kazuko Yakumo