



Buddhist Thoughts

Salt Lake Buddhist Temple: 211 West 100 South
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101, volume 22 issue 4
web site: slbuddhist.org

April, 2014
Rev. Hirano's contact numbers: Office: 363-4742,
home: 299-8727,
emergency 819-2648

Death by Disney

J.K. Hirano

If, when I attain Buddhahood, sentient beings in the ten directions who aspire to be enlightened, perform various meritorious deeds and sincerely desire to be born in my land, do not see me appear before them at their death surrounded by a multitude of sages, may I not attain perfect Enlightenment.

19th vow in the Larger Sutra

Aspiration for birth in the Pure Land always played a major role in Jodo Shinshu. One of the first things that inspired me about Shinran Shonin was that in Chapter nine of Tannisho (A Record in Lament of Divergences), Shinran's student Yuien says, "I have no thought of wanting to go to the Pure Land quickly. How should it be?" Shinran replies, "I too have had this question and the same thought occurs to you, Yuien!" Shinran didn't have that aspiration to quickly go either. He didn't put Yuien down or suggest that he was still too young. He said, "Me too! Good for you Yuien." It made me realize how honest Shinran was about his experiences of life.

When I listen to, chant or read the Amida Sutra or chant Ojo Raisen, the desire to quickly be born in the Pure Land has never arisen in me. It was explained to me that in ancient times, there were people following a service chanting the Ojo Raisen, who would leap off cliffs and kill themselves, to quickly be born into the Pure Land. I thought, "How ridiculous is that! Those stupid uneducated peasants."

This past Spring break, my family along with the Black Family took a vacation to Disneyland. Whether it is Disneyland, Disneyworld, California Adventure, Tokyo Disneyland, Disneysea, these amusement parks inspired by Walt Disney's creations are my favorite places in the world. To me there is more than one happiest place on Earth. I know Carmela would rather go to other vacation destinations, but I could vacation to Disney every year. I would rather visit these places than visit the sacred sites in India. They don't sell smoked turkey legs or have the Tower of Terror in Bodhgaya (the place Siddhartha was enlightened).

Disneyland is an exhausting place. I have now decided to always rent an electric scooter to ride on, but it still tires me out. I guess 12 to 14 hours in an amusement park should. Our friend Pam Yamane is a concierge at the Grand Californian Hotel. When we stay there she always gets us a wonderful room. This year we had a suite that overlooked California Adventure

Park and the pond where “Disney’s Wonderful World of Color” plays nightly. On the end of our first full day, having left the room about 7:00 am to get in line for the early admission at 8:00 am, by 9:00 pm, I was beat. However, I couldn’t pass up the early morning pass. No more e tickets in Disneyland, but you had to get up early to get a fast pass. When I got to my room, I sat in the armchair in front of the living room window and turned on the T.V. to play the music for the light show which began at exactly 9:45 pm. As I watched this show of colored lights and flowing fountains, the T.V. was blaring Disney movie songs to go along with the projected images on the flowing water, I began to hear chanting in my head. “Dai nyo sho rin Sho shiki sho ko O shiki O ko Shaku shiki shako byakushiki byakko...” This was the Amida Sutra revolving in my mind “In the ponds are lotuses as large as chariot wheels—the blue ones radiating a blue light, the yellow a yellow light, the red a red light, and the white a white light.” It was really quite wonderful and strange at the same time. It felt as though a part of me was aspiring to be born into this land of light, as created by Disney.

I instructed Carmela that when the time comes and the Doctor has given my prognosis of only a few weeks to life, to book this room. The Tibetan Book of the Dead is used as a guide for the dying. As a person is dying, a monk or family member would often chant the tome as a way to guide them beyond this world. We don’t know for certain who wrote these ancient guides to a life beyond this one. However, I have found my own personal guide at Disneyland. Disney has not only given me a wonderful experience in life, it may now guide me in death. During that show, I felt as if I could transition to the Pure Land quite comfortably. In traditional Buddhist writings of death, the dying person is often greeted into the Pure Land (Rinju Raigo) by Amida Buddha, Kannon Bodhisattvha and Seishi Bodhisattvha, perhaps in Death by Disney, you are greeted to the Pure Land by Walt Disney, Mickey and Minnie. Walt greets you saying, “To all who come to this happy place; Welcome. Disneyland is your land.”

Whether or not any of this will happen really doesn’t matter. I realize, I am embraced by Amida Buddha wherever I may go or wherever and whenever I may die. What this experience has taught me is that the aspiration for a life beyond, begins in a life well lived. It is not something that is for the uneducated masses. It is a belief and an entrusting of living in a compassionate world of the Nembutsu. For it is within the nembutsu that we find our aspiration for birth. Our birth in the Pure Land requires no calculation, e ticket or pass, it is not Namu Disneyland, it is Namu Amida Butsu.

BWA Trip to Las Vegas Obon 2014

Jane Sakashita

Time flies so swiftly and the Obon Festival in Vegas will be here soon. We will again make a four-day trip leaving Friday, August 08, at 9:00 a.m. from the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple and returning on Monday, August 11, at approximately 6:00 p.m.

We will make stops along the trip at Scipio and Mesquite and there will be soft drinks, water, Bingo games, etc. Upon arrival in Vegas after we check in at the California Hotel, the bus will transport us to and from the Makino Japanese restaurant for dinner (this is optional).

On Saturday, August 9, for those wishing to go the Las Vegas Obon Festival, the bus will also transport us to and from the location of the festival. We will leave the hotel around 11:00 a.m.

and return about 3:00 p.m.

No activity is scheduled for Sunday, August 10, so you are on your own to make lots of money attend shows at various casinos, or do whatever you wish.

On Monday, August 11, the bus will depart from the hotel at 8:00 a.m. (Nevada time) and make a couple of stops before returning to Salt Lake City by approximately 6:00 p.m.

Even though gas (especially) and hotel costs have escalated, we have worked with the Le Bus Company and the California Hotel so that the following prices will be in effect for those attending from Salt Lake City. As in the past we are unable to accept reservations for Bus Only due to hotel room guarantees.

Bus and 3-nights hotel (double occupancy) per person (only an \$8.00 increase over last year's)	\$180.00
--	----------

Bus and 3-nights hotel (single occupancy)	\$230.00
---	----------

Again the Obento cost will be \$8.00 so you may include this in your payment.

If you are interested in making this trip, please make tentative reservations before May 15 by calling Jane Sakashita (801-582-0560), Reiko Matsuura (801-266-6691), or George Yoshimura (1-801-388-3606). Total payment for your hotel, bus and Obento will be due by June 30 to secure reservations. Unfortunately there is No Cancellation after July 31. I sincerely hope many of the BWA members will make this trip as one of the fun activities for 2014.

Contacts: Jane Sakashita 801-582-0560 Reiko Matsuura 801-266-6691
1474 Canterbury Dr.
Salt Lake City, UT 84108

Infant Presentation (Hatsumairi) May 18

On Sunday May 18, we will be holding an infant presentation service. This service is for any child born into our Sangha over the past year. This service is to help begin the child's first steps along the Nembutsu path. The child is presented before the Buddha and the Sangha. They are presented with a gift from the Temple. Those interested please fill in the form and return it to

Rev. Hirano

Infant's name

Date of birth

Parent's names

Address

Phone

Temple member Yes No

2014 JANUARY-MARCH DONATIONS

(Through March 17, 2014)

Joya-E (Last Night Gathering)

Rev. Jerry & Carmela Hirano	100	Troy & Judy Watanabe	50
Sherrie Hayashi	25	Ronald & Linda Omori	25
Ivan Van Laningham	100	Tom & Fran Akimoto	40

Shusho-E (First Day/New Year)

Sanctuary for Healing & Integration (Carmela Javellana Hirano)	100	Ernie & Laverne Kyed	50
---	-----	----------------------	----

Hoonko

Lynn Shimada	50	Sachiko Tohinaka	20
Bill Mizuno	50	Richard Matsuda	25

Nehan-E (Nirvana Day/Pet Memorial)

Mark & Gail Minaga	25	Robert & Tami Tokita	25
Mits & Terry Fujinami	25	Kazuko Yakumo	25
Maxine Furubayashi	25	Ichiro & Takeko Doi	25
Byron & Reiko Watanabe	50		

Spring Ohigan

Mits & Terry Fujinami	25	Charlie Sasaki	20
Tomiye & Chizuko Ishimatsu	100	Dave Sekino	30
Jeanne Konishi	125	Richard & Lynne Doi	25
Jamie Doi Slade	30	Grace Oshita	25
Christopher Taketa & Shelley Doi-Taketa	30	Jane Sakashita	25
Karen Cone-Uemura	25	Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga	25
Mark & Gail Minaga	25	Setsuko Nagata	25
Kazuko Yakumo	25	Nanae Taketa	25
Rev. Jerry & Carmela Hirano	100	Dot Richeda	30
Maxine Furubayashi	25	Stan & Elaine Endo	40
Brent & Sherrie Koga	40		

Shotsuki Hoyo

Lynn Shimada	25
Richard Matsuda	30
Eleanor Naomi Kobayashi	25
Noreen Okubo	100
Thomas Endo	100
Byron & Reiko Watanabe	50
Paul & Kathy Terashima	50
Naomi Kageyama	25
Naomi Kageyama	25
Buster Mayeda	100
Chic Terashima	100
Setsuko Nagata	25

In Memory Of:

Yoshino Oishi
Yasuji Kobayashi
Yukie Okubo
Kathleen Endo
Shige Nodzu & Roy Watanabe
Masayo Doi & Kay Terashima
Masayo Doi
Kay Terashima
Rose Mayeda
Kay Terashima & Masayo Doi

May Akiyama	25	
Ichiro & Takeko Doi	25	Masayo Doi
Kenneth Nodzu	50	Shige Nodzu
Ruby Doi	25	Masayo Doi
Pamela Koike-Stillman	25	May Koike
Craige Mayeda	50	Chizuko
Eleanor Naomi Kobayashi	25	Sakae Kobayashi
Eleanor Naomi Kobayashi	25	Miyuki Hasegawa
Anonymous	200	Grace Kasai
Maxine Furubayashi	20	Masako Imamura
Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga	20	Masako Imamura
Yoshiko Uno	25	Amy Mayeda Brouwer
Nanae Taketa	25	
Stan & Elaine Endo	25	Nobuzo Endo
Tom & Fran Akimoto	25	Kame Matsuura

BWA

Reiko Matsuura	25	
Chizuko & Tomiye Ishimatsu	25	Hoonko
Connie Nakahara	50	Appreciation for meals
Joy Furubayashi	100	In memory of Miyuki Nakano
Masami Hayashi	50	Fujii-Hayashi Memorial

Dharma School

Jeannie Konishi	10	Goodie Bags
Chic Terashima	20	Goodie Bags
Ruby Doi	25	Goodie Bags
Mabel Okubo	25	Goodie Bags
Alice Ogura	15	Goodie Bags
Bob Sugino	25	Goodie Bags
Nobue Sudoko	25	Goodie Bags
Helen Mitsunaga	25	Goodie Bags
Richard Matsuda	25	Goodie Bags
Asako Mori	25	Goodie Bags
Ichiro & Takeko Doi	25	Goodie Bags
Mits & Terry Fujinami	25	Goodie Bags
Family of Ruth Watamura	100	In memory of Ruth Watamura
Ernie & Laverne Kyed	25	Tubing Party
Jun & May Sudoko	20	
Craige Mayeda	30	
Anonymous	100	In memory of Grace Kasai
Masako Imamura Family/Helen Berger	75	In memory of Masako Imamura

Nokutsudo

Setsuko Nagata	25	
----------------	----	--

Buddhist Thoughts

Mabel Okubo	25	
-------------	----	--

Temple General

Ivan Van Laningham Dharma School	625 1000	From Dharma School, to the Temple General Fund, for deficit reduction
Rose Watamura Family/Elizabeth Takasaki	700	In memory of Ruth Watamura
Grant Wiscomb	25	
Joe & Mariko Kuwahara	100	In memory of Buntaro & Shizuko Mitsunaga
Geraldine Chappell	25	In memory of Harry Tsutsui
Film Festival & Book Sales	517	
Book Sales	111	Proceeds from "Teriyaki Priest" donated by Sensei Hirano
John & Yoko Meier	50	Infant Presentation
Jim Eng & Faye Mitsunaga	25	In memory of Yuriko Iwamoto
Mits & Betty Morishita	50	In memory of Yuriko Iwamoto
Sachiko Sue Hisamoto	25	In memory of Yuriko Iwamoto
Misao & Elsie Doi	75	In memory of Yuriko Iwamoto
Charlene Doi	100	In memory of Yuriko Iwamoto
Nikkei Senior Center	30	Use of facilities, November 2013
Will & Gina Mejia	100	
Employees Charity Organization of Northrop Grumman	48	On behalf of Stan Endo
Employees Charity Organization of Northrop Grumman	240	On behalf of Sharon Matsuura
Marion Hori	100	Thank you
Lynda Craig/Tazuko Harrington Trust	100	
Hatsuye Sasaki	30	In memory of Yvonne Sasaki
Rebecca Jackson	10	
Tomiye & Chizuko Ishimatsu	25	Dharma
Masako Imamura Family/Helen Berger	500	In memory of Masako Imamura
Yuriko Family Trust made donations on behalf of:		
Ichiro & Takeko Doi	30	Donation made by family of Yuriko Iwamoto
Ruby & Susan Doi	50	Donation made by family of Yuriko Iwamoto
Taiko & Mitsuru Fujinami	100	Donation made by family of Yuriko Iwamoto
Linda Miyake & Phillip Robinson	30	Donation made by family of Yuriko Iwamoto
Jane Sakashita	20	Donation made by family of Yuriko Iwamoto
Kazuko & Arthur Yakumo	50	Donation made by family of Yuriko Iwamoto
Various donors, cash	51	Jodo Shinshu Class
Reiko Mitsunaga	30	Jodo Shinshu Class
Junko Mitsunaga	10	Jodo Shinshu Class
Various donors, cash	81	Meditation Class (2 nights)
Rev. Jerry & Carmela Hirano	120	Meditation Class

2014 PAID MEMBERSHIPS

(Received January 25 – March 17, kids not listed)

Geraldine “Cookie” Chappell
Aaron Froemming
Brian Fukushima & Tammy Park
Lisa Imamura
Jeanne Konishi
Kristen Larson
Richard Matsuda
Buster Mayeda
Fumio Mayeda
Will & Gina Mejia
Bill & Shigeko Mizuno
Haruko Moriyasu

Torao & Merry Nakagawa
Yoshiko Ninomiya
Ray Nishikawa
Phillip & Connie Sakashita
Walter & Karen Sato
Dave Sekino
Lynn, Marilyn & Corey Shimada
Nobue Sudoko
Christopher Taketa & Shelley Doi-Taketa
Sachiko Tohinaka
Robert & Tami Tokita
Roberto Toro
Ivan Van Laningham

Shotsuki Hoyo

April 13, 10:00 am

Deceased	Date of	Next of kin
Akimoto Landon	4/12/92	Tracy Roberson
Akiyama Kiyoshi	4/28/39	Francis Akiyama
Arishita Ayako	4/23/00	Sam Arishita
Fujimoto Rae	4/20/97	Grace Oshita
Hachisuka Shiroku	4/4/69	Nancy Takagi
Imada Shizuye	4/24/51	
Iwasaki Kamesaburo	4/13/67	Dean Iwasaki
Iwasaki Toshimasa	4/9/98	Dean Iwasaki
Koga Ichizo	4/16/62	
Koga Shigeichi	4/20/62	
Konishi Toraye	4/30/88	Jeanne Konishi
Masuda Tatsuro	4/6/91	Hatsuye Masuda
Matsuura Chotaro	4/4/50	Francis Akimoto
Minakawa Harushige	4/13/70	Dean Iwasaki
Mitsunaga Shizuko	4/14/90	Tomio Mitsunaga
Oda Fumi		Shigeru Sasaki
Oda Hayano		
Sakashita George	4/2/75	Jane Sakashita
Sugihara Yoshio	4/12/86	Dorothy Sugihara
Tachiki Kayo	4/?/27	Steve Tachiki
Takenaka Yoso	4/9/95	Takenaka Family
Taketa Shinobu	4/18/82	Nanae Taketa
Okada Hito	4/5/84	Aiko Okada
Terashima Kiyoyuki	4/29/66	Paul Terashima
Mayeda Chieko	4/6/99	Craig Mayeda
Shizue Adachi	4/8/01	Tamiko Adachi
Hasegawa Miyuki	4/7/02	Roxanne Hasegawa
Chow Choy Lan	4/8/02	Chuck Chow
Sekino Lillian	4/17/02	David Sekino
Aoki Eva	4/2/03	Nob Aoki
Oishi Tai	4/25/03	Victor Oishi
Shigeru Shimada	4/9/09	Misuko Shimada
Kozo Minaga	4/2/10	Hisako Minaga
Larene Yamashita	4/7/11	Becky Tachiki
Lois Crook	4/5/12	Kathleen Takenaka
Fujie Kunimoto	4/1/12	Karen Sato

