



Buddhist Thoughts

Salt Lake Buddhist Temple: 211 West 100 South
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101, volume 22 issue 11
web site: slbuddhist.org

December, 2015
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Reflections on What is Important in Life J.K. Hirano

On Friday evening you stole the life of an exceptional person, the love of my life, the mother of my son, but you will not have my hatred.

I don't know who you are and I don't want to know, you are dead souls. If this God for whom you kill blindly made us in his image, every bullet in the body of my wife is a wound in his heart.

So no, I will not give you the satisfaction of hating you. You want it, but to respond to hatred with anger would be to give in to the same ignorance that made you what you are.

You would like me to be scared, for me to look at my fellow citizens with a suspicious eye, for me to sacrifice my liberty for my security. You have lost.

I saw her this morning. At last, after nights and days of waiting. She was as beautiful as when she left on Friday evening, as beautiful as when I fell head over heels in love with her more than 12 years ago.

Of course I am devastated with grief, I grant you this small victory, but it will be short-lived.

I know she will be with us every day and we will find each other in heaven with free souls which you will never have.

Us two, my son and I, we will be stronger than every army in the world. I cannot waste any more time on you as I must go back to [my son] who has just woken from his sleep.

He is only just 17 months old, he is going to eat his snack just like every other day, then we are going to play like every other day and all his life this little boy will be happy and free.

Because you will never have his hatred either."

Antoine Leiris in response to the death of his wife Helen Moyal-Leiris

On November 13, 2015 in Paris, France, 130 people were murdered. One of these was Helen Moyal-Leiris, whose husband wrote this letter in response to her murder. There is so much information on the internet, from facebook, google, msn, etc. I usually read some and just ignore the rest. After the Paris murders, I felt, "Here we go again." Another senseless murder by a rage filled group of fanatics. Yes, I know that human beings had lost their lives. However, to an extent, all this news and information desensitizes me to the horror and suffering of the world. This letter by Antoine Leiris to his beloved Helen, put a much more human face on this murder.

Usually much of the rhetoric of terrorism and the reporting of such atrocities is filled with thoughts of rage and retribution, how one group will respond in violence to the violence that has been committed upon them or their friends and family. The recent murder by a fanatic at the planned parenthood clinic in Colorado has brought about a hate filled debate between Republican Presidential candidates and the

President about who is to blame for this killing? This is a perfect example of hate creating hate.

This letter was so different. Antoine expressed his grief, he admits to it, *“Of course I am devastated with grief, I grant you this small victory, but it will be short-lived.”* However, he denies the rage and hate, *“So no, I will not give you the satisfaction of hating you. You want it, but to respond to hatred with anger would be to give in to the same ignorance that made you what you are.*

You would like me to be scared, for me to look at my fellow citizens with a suspicious eye, for me to sacrifice my liberty for my security. You have lost.”

The Buddha spoke in a similar manner in the Dhammapada:

He abused me, He laughed at me, he struck me.

Thus one thinks, and so long as one cherished such thoughts

Ones anger continues.

Anger will never disappear, as long as thoughts of resentment

Are cherished in the mind.

Anger will disappear just as soon as thoughts of

Resentment are forgotten.

As many of you who have read my articles through the years know, I love the Holiday season. When I say Holiday season I mean from Thanksgiving through our Jodo Shinshu Hoonko in January. I realize everyday of the year should be a time of Thanksgiving and reflection. However, our lives are like the internet, filled with so much information and stimulation that we cannot process it all. We often forget about what is important in life, we are too busy, paying bills, running errands, even watching our favorite T.V. shows. At least during the Holiday season, maybe we can take time, to think of what is really important in our lives.

For our Christian friends, they are reminded of what is important in life, by the birth of Jesus Christ, whose parents were accepted in by strangers in a strange land, to become the savior of the world, because of his message of love over hate. As it was said to have been proclaimed by angels at his birth, *“Peace on Earth, Goodwill towards man.”* I have always believed, that whatever occasion, whether Christian, Buddhist, Muslim, I would try to use that occasion to remind me of what is important in life.

To me, the importance of life, is found in love and gratitude. This tragedy that had befallen the life of Antoine Leiris, is a gift to me, to remind me of how hate cannot be overcome with hate. That only love and gratitude, can bring about Peace. Antoine Leiris, poem of love is the same message proclaimed by angels, *“Peace on Earth, Goodwill towards man.”* His letter also teaches me the importance of impermanence. That now is the time to tell those that I love, *“I love you.”* To tell my friends, *“Thank you.”*

On behalf of Carmela, Kacie, Taylor, Miso and myself, I would like to thank each of you for all that you do for us. It is my deepest wish on this holiday season that you will be able to talk with your loved ones to tell them how much you love and appreciate them and that you may even be able to love or at least respect your enemies. When I write my December article I usually like to use some type of Christmas saying, however, this year, my friend Rev. Marvin Harada had written an aspiration for each of us, after the Paris killings and I would like to close with that wishing each of you a wonderful Holiday season.

When the world becomes dark,

We open our hearts to receive light.

When the world is in conflict,

We open our hearts to the world of oneness.

When the world is filled with anger,

We open our hearts to the cool winds of compassion.

*When the world is filled with hatred,
We open our hearts to embrace all beings.
When the world is filled with chaos,
We open our hearts to the quiet serenity of wisdom.
When the world has lost its way,
We open our hearts to the path to enlightenment.*

Namo Amida Butsu and Merry Christmas everyone!

Dharma School

Sherrie Hayashi and Stephanie Sueoka

Bodhi Day Luncheon will be held on **Sunday, December 13th**. Dharma School will provide the main dish. We would appreciate **if everyone could contribute a side dish or salad to share.**

Gail Minaga and **Holly Black** will be volunteering to help Dharma School put together the annual Hoonko **goodie bags** for our older Temple members. Please bring **3 dozen items to contribute by January 3.**

We will have regular Dharma School Classes on December 6th, and December 20th. There will be no classes on December 27th.

A few quick notes, we want to thank **Tammy Park** for being in charge of bussing at the Bazaar and to all the **kids and parents** who volunteered. We really appreciated everyone bringing friends and relatives to help out. **Vanessa Shiba and Ryoko Okamoto** did a fantastic job coordinating the Dharma School **Halloween party**—it was a blast and so fun to see all the kids (and parents) dressed up. Thank you to **Ogden Buddhist Temple** for hosting the Mountain States Conference—I know the Dharma School kids who were able to attend had a great time just being able to hang out and hiking to Delicate Arch. The service at Balancing Rock will be something we won't soon forget—and making sure we are wearing the right “shoes” or “shu's.” And last but not least, thank you to all of the Dharma School students and teachers for making items to sell at the Boutique and to everyone who contributed to the bake sale.

Tentative Calendar for 2016

Jan

1	Shusho E	SLC
8	IBS Board mtg.	
8	BCA Joint Fundraising mtg.	
10	OCBC Hoonko	
16	Honeyville Hoonko	
17	SLC, Ogden Hoonko	
31	SLC General mtg.	

Feb
 18 BCA Exec, Bd. Mtg.
 21 SLC, Ogden Nehan E
 26-28 Hirano Vacation
 Mar.
 2-6 BCA Minister's mtg and National Council, Visalia, CA
 19 Honeyville Ohigan
 20 SLC, Ogden Ohigan
 April
 3 Ogden Hanamatsuri
 4-7 BCA Executive Comm. Retreat
 10 SLC Hanamatsuri
 May
 21 Honeyville Gotan E
 22 SLC, Ogden Gotan E/ Hatsu mairi
 June
 2-4 BCA Board mtg.
 5 Lagoon Day
 12 SLC Last Day of Dharma School Graduation service
 July
 9-10 SLC Obon and Hatsubon
 16 Honeyville Hatsubon, Ogden Bon Odori
 17 Ogden Obon/Hatsubon
 Sept.
 11 Dharma School Picnic
 18 First Day of Dharma School
 24 Honeyville Ohigan
 25 SLC/Ogden Ohigan
 Oct
 30 Halloween Party
 Nov
 19-20 Holiday Boutique
 20 Eitaikyo
 Dec
 11 Bodhi Day
 31 Joya E

Bodhi Day/Shotsuki Hoyo December 13, 10:00 am

Deceased	Date of death	Next of kin
Aramaki Yasu	12/8/86	Hiroshi Aramaki
Hideshima Hideji	12/28/90	Tad Hideshima

Hirano Kiyoshi	12/18/73	Jerry Hirano
Ikari Hideyoshi	12/31	Sachiko Tohinaka
Ikegami Akitaro	12/2/60	Ikegami Family
Iwasaki Bunjiro	12/11/65	Paul Iwasaki
Katsuki Yoshio	12/9/87	
Kawaguchi Sato	12/1/83	Bill Kawaguchi
Kida Kiyoji	12/9/65	Jeff Kida
Komatsu Fumie	12/30/88	Judy Komatsu
Matsuno Albert	12/21/93	Matsuno Family
Mitsunaga Kiyoshi	12/16/94	Helen Mitsunaga
Mori Michiko	12/3/87	Asako Mori
Nodzu Kentaro	12/22/70	Ken Nodzu
Okubo Riyo	12/24/83	Harry Okubo
Omura Roy	12/22/87	Terry Omura
Osako Sadao	12/16/88	Yaeko Osako
Sasaki Omatsu	12/15/92	Shigeru Sasaki
Shimamura Michiko	12/14/94	Geraldine Chappell
Suyehiro Fusa	12/6/46	Greg Matsuura
Sueoka Joanne	12/1/83	Dru Sueoka
Sueoka Lillian	12/17/88	Dru Sueoka
Usui Yoshio	12/1/83	Beth Usui
Yakumo Chijun	12/13/91	Kazuko Yakumo
Yakumo Aya	12/1/82	Kazuko Yakumo
Frank Nishimura	12/31/2000	Setsuko Nishimura
Hamamoto Kiyoko	12/20/01	Aiko Okada
Shigemi Mori	12/5/08	Asako Mori
Kenny Mitsunaga	12/17/08	Tomio Mitsunaga
Henry Kawa	12/23/08	Bob Kawa
Mary Nakai	12/31/09	Marianne Nakai
Akiko Takenaka	12/31/09	Gary Takenaka
Mary Sasaki	12/17/11	Sasaki Family
Ayako Tohinaka	12/21/11	Ray Tohinaka
Hideo Morinaka	12/29/12	Glen Morinaka
Yuriko Iwamoto	12/12/13	Iwamoto Family

2015 SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER DONATIONS

(October 24 – November 23, 2015)

*** Corrections ***

Last month, a \$1000 donation from Cindy Yamada-Thomas listed as “In Memory of Jerry Yamada” should have been listed as a donation “From Jerry Yamada,” for a Special Awards win.

Last month, a \$25 Shotsuki Hoyo donation listed as “From Arthur Yakumo” was actually from Kazuko Yakumo.

Dana Campaign

Sanctuary for Healing & Integration (Carmela Javellana Hirano)	200	Hiroshi & Mary Aramaki	200
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Hanamatsuri (check just received)
Buster Mayeda 50

Obon (check just received)
Stephanie Sueoka 25

Eitaikyo
Hiroshi & Mary Aramaki 25 Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga 25
Maxine Furubayashi 25 Byron & Reiko Watanabe 25

Shotsuki Hoyo

Kenneth & Renee Matsuura 20
Sachiko Tohinaka 25
Elaine Fukushima 50
Fred & Judy Tamagawa 50
Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga 25
Mabel Okubo 25
Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga 25
Monte Cruz and Cindy Nagasawa-Cruz 100
Maxine Furubayashi 25
Bob Sugino 25
Jim & Faye Eng 30
Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga 25
Robert & Tami Tokita 50
Kazuko Yakumo 25
Amy Tomita 25
Nobue "Nancy" Sudoku 25
Nancy Takagi 50
Paul & Kathy Terashima 25
Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga 25
Tomio & Junko Mitsuanga 25

In Memory Of:

Frank Fukushima
Frank Tamagawa
Hiroshi Mitsunaga
Hisae Tsutsui
John Imada
Margine Nagasawa
Masato
Mitsuye Sugino
Ruth Mitsunaga
Ruth Mitsunaga
Ruth Mitsunaga and John Imada
Ryujun Yakumo
Shigeno Fujii
Taro Sudoku
Toma Hachisuka and Tami Takagi
Toraji Koseki
Tsune Date
Tsurukichi Mitsunaga

BWA

Rick & Susan Spehar	150	In memory of Yuriko Inouye
Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga	25	Eshinniko Service
Mits & Terry Fujinami	25	Eshinniko Service
Maxine Furubayashi	25	Eshinniko Service
Kenneth & Renee Matsuura	30	Eshinniko Service
Setsuko Nagata	25	Eshinniko Service
Dot Richeda	25	Eshinniko Service
Paul & Kathy Terashima	50	Eshinniko Service
Byron & Reiko Watanabe	25	Eshinniko Service
Kazuko Yakumo	25	Eshinniko Service
Hiroshi & Mary Aramaki	25	Eshinniko Service
Mark & Gail Minaga	25	Eshinniko Service

Donna Sato	15	Steak Fry donation
YBA		
Rick & Susan Spehar	150	In memory of Yuriko Inouye
Jr. YBA		
Rick & Susan Spehar	150	In memory of Yuriko Inouye
Temple General		
Pam Lancaster	20	
Ivan VanLaningham	125	
May Akiyama	25	
David Lipschitz	30	
Steven & Rae Louie	30	
Don Marion	346	
Roberto Toro	25	
Tom & Fran Akimoto	100	Boutique Donation, from Tom & Fran & BWA
Rick & Susan Spehar	300	In memory of Yuriko Inouye
Buddhist Churches of America	500	Parliament of the World's Religions hospitality

2015 PAID SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIPS

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

Richard & Lynne Doi	Dot Richeda
Carmela Javellana Hirano	Dave Sekino
Craige Mayeda	Paul & Kathy Terashima
Reiko Mitsunaga	Ivan VanLaningham
Kenneth Nodzu	

DANA CAMPAIGN

For 6+ years, the expenses of our Temple have exceeded the revenues. We have been making withdrawals from our Foundation Fund (savings account) to pay the bills. The purpose of the Dana (selfless giving) Campaign is to help replenish the Foundation Fund. The duration of the Dana Campaign runs from November 2014 to December 2019. At the conclusion of this campaign, we will honor donors with a plaque, to be displayed inside the Temple. It will certainly help us sustain our Temple, built and sustained with thousands of donations over the last 60 years.

Why donate?

- To ensure the legacy of Jodo Shinshu in the United States and Salt Lake City area.
- To create conditions for people of today and tomorrow to appreciate life guided by the compassionate light of Amidha Buddha.

YEAR-END DONATIONS

Note that if you wish to make an end-of-year donation, your donation must be received by December 31, 2015. If you are getting close to the deadline, drop your donation into the SLBT mailbox (to the left of

the front doors) by Noon on Thursday, December 31. If you are mailing a donation that you want to claim on 2015 income taxes, I recommend you mail by Saturday, December 26.

2016 DUES

For 2016, membership dues for the Temple and organizations will remain the same. There will be not be a discount for early payment. Please submit your membership dues by January 31, 2016.

We will continue our concept of a “Sustaining Membership.” Sustaining Members will donate \$1200 (or \$100 per month) for such a membership. The names of Sustaining Members will be printed in every issue of Buddhist Thoughts.

The membership/donation form is again double-sided. The front side collects names, address, phone numbers and e-mail addresses. The back side collects dues and donation information, and gives details about paying by check or credit card. If paying by credit card, you can choose to split dues and Dana Campaign donations into quarterly or monthly payments in 2016. If you have questions, see Robert Tokita at the 10:00 a.m. Family Service on Sundays.