



Buddhist Thoughts

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Update: Horace the Hoonko Hippo J.K. Hirano

One day while I was reading the Letters of Rennyō (Gobunshō), I began to feel very sleepy. This isn't uncommon when I am studying and reading passages that require a great deal of thinking. However, suddenly I noticed a Post Script in the letters that I had never noticed before, it was in one of Rennyō's letters about Hoonko. It read as follows:

P.S.

On the eve of the Founder's memorial service the great Hoonko Hippo Horace will rise up from the depths of the jeweled ponds of the Pure Land to shout Namō Amida Butsu, as a reminder to all the children of Nembutsu followers that they are embraced by Amida Buddha, never to be abandoned. Thus this passage may also be known as Hoonko Hippo no sho, (The Letter on the Hoonko Hippo).

Listen to these words, Listen to these words

It's been a number of years since we visited Horace the Hoonko Hippo. Recently someone asked me what Horace had been doing since Santa had given him his new job and since Hoonko is over, what he did in his spare time. For those of you who don't remember him, Horace was a very grouchy hippo who didn't feel very appreciated in life. He was jealous of his more famous cousins -- the rhinoceros and the whale. He felt that he was just as grand and majestic as they were, but the world only saw him on "Animal Planet" T.V. hanging out in the river and yawning with his huge mouth. One day, he met Santa Claus taking a break after his Christmas rush and Santa took the occasion to teach Horace about gratitude and being embraced in Amida Buddha's compassion. This caused Horace to begin bellowing "Namō Amida Butsu! Happy Hoonko!" It was also rumored that to a few very special and grateful boys and girls, he brings them all the toys that they saw on commercials during the Christmas season which they thought they needed but hadn't received from Santa.

So I decided to see how Horace had been doing and gave him a call. Yes, Horace does have an iPhone 6 Plus. He explained he needed the 6 Plus because he kept dropping the smaller phones in the Pure Land's jeweled ponds. Although he had become the Hoonko Hippo, he still didn't have any fingers and the 6 Plus helped a lot.

He said that he had just finished his journey of rising from the jeweled ponds in the Pure Land during Hoonko and was on vacation. He was hanging out with some of his other mystical creature friends: Fawkes the phoenix from Harry Potter's books, Eve the Easter Bunny who worked for Cadbury chocolates, and Harry the Hanamatsuri groundhog. I was amazed how fame had really changed Horace for the better. He now had some very famous friends and sounded happy. I asked him to tell me a little about his famous friends.

He explained that Fawkes really didn't have much to do since Professor Dumbledore had moved on in the spiritual plane and now he just hung out in the Pure Land, drifting around on the thermal currents of the jeweled ponds and living off his royalties from the books and movies. Horace was also helping Eve make chocolates for all the Easter eggs. I asked him about the groundhog, for I had never heard about Harry the Hanamatsuri groundhog.

Horace explained, "Well, Harry is kind of a mystical creature wannabe. His regular job is popping out of a box on February 2nd, Groundhog day. He became a celebrity after the Bill Murray movie "Ground Hog Day" but never really made it to the big time. He doesn't really like living in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, so he likes to hang around the rest of us in the Pure Land, calling himself, Harry the Hanamatsuri groundhog." I asked Horace, "How did Phil get from Pennsylvania to the Pure Land?" He explained, "You know the Pure Land is so far, yet so close, but it would take me a lot longer than this phone call to explain Pure Land metaphysics.

"I have been teaching my mystical friends about Buddhism and they like it a lot. Buddhism seems to fit in with most of their stories. Phil said the movie "Groundhog Day" was really a Buddhist allegory and he had become a Buddhist since it was released. After his experience of making the movie and reading Paul Coelho's The Alchemist, between his scenes, he too found his own "Personal Legend" like Santiago the Andalusian shepherd boy in the book. His Personal Legend was to be the Hanamatsuri groundhog.

"Actually a lot of my friends have been working on their Personal Legends. I'm helping Eva the Easter Bunny with hers. She said she was never Christian in the first place. She was a Roman goddess named Eastre, but the Christians changed her personal legend to fit theirs. That's why she likes us to call herself Eve, in honor of the Christian legend, but has converted to being Buddhist. She said the Easter baskets could be used to explain the Buddhist Tripitaka ("three baskets") or the eggs, the (trikaya) three bodies of the Buddha as easily as they explain the Christian Trinity.

Anyways, my friends really like Buddhism. Fawkes has been practicing shooting water, in addition to the fire he naturally produced, and wants to be the Ohigan Phoenix. He wants to explain the Parable of the White Path for Ohigan. Shooting fire and water out of his wings, would make it possible to physically manifest the river of water and river of fire. We are working on an explanation for his healing tears. However, we might have to think of a new name for Fawkes, to match with Ohigan or Higan. He never really liked the name "Fawkes" in the first place; he says it sounds too much like a swear word. Actually Fawkes isn't male or female; phoenix reproduce by burning themselves up, so they don't need males or females. Could be a male or female name. Fawkes could be a good symbol for the LGBTQ Buddhist community.

"As you probably know, Harry the groundhog wasn't really Harry but named Phil. He says all the girls seem to like Harry Stiles from One Direction and liked the sound of Harry from the Harry Potter movies. So Phil now wants us to call him Harry rather than Phil. Besides he said his real name was Pete and a reporter named William A. Swartworth messed

up and changed it to Phil in 1952. They made up a story that Phil's Dad was Pete and had died and Phil was Pete's son. Harry now says, he was the one and original groundhog from the Ground Hog Day legend. He has resented the name Phil ever since. He told me his new Buddhist legend is that he pushed up the flowers from the ground when the Buddha was born. Yeah right, I know, I know, 2600 years is old even for a mystical creature, but none of us have the heart to call him on it. He says that he also provides the treats for all the kids who perform at various Hanamatsuri programs around the world."

I thanked Horace and told him that I'd like to give him a call on occasion to check up on what he and his interesting friends are doing. He said, "Sure, I don't have a lot to do between April and July. After Hanamatsuri I basically read a lot and around the middle of July to the first part of August, I help my friend Orlando the Obon Ostrich. Yeah, I know, I know, he's really a Gaki (Hungry Ghost), he even claims to have known Mogallana's Mother. But after he learned about Buddhism, he's reformed and doesn't want to be a Gaki. Since he has the same small mouth, skinny neck and big belly like the Ostrich, he just wears a few feathers and he's an ostrich. He goes around teaching Bon odori (Obon dancing). It's his thing, you know. Orlando says that he serves as an inspiration for all those people embarrassed to dance at Obon. If an Ostrich can dance, so could they. Besides, who am I to question; I'm a Hoonko Hippo. Santa helped me out a lot, so why not give a gaki a break. I'll talk about him more another time. But before you go I'd like to leave you with a quote I read the other day, from my namesake Horace, the Roman Poet, he wrote, "*Carpe Diem (Seize the Day)! Rejoice while you are alive; enjoy the day; live life to the fullest; make the most of what you have. It is later than you think.*" That is definitely a NAMO AMIDA BUTSU saying by me and that's saying a lot. Well, take care."

"Thanks, Horace. I will call you again soon. Namu Amida Butsu, Bye."

DHARMA SCHOOL

Sherrie Hayashi

Finally, winter is here!!!!!! To celebrate, Dharma School is going Tubing at **Soldier Hollow on Sunday, February 8th!**

We will have a pot luck in the Soldier Hollow lodge beginning [at 11:00 a.m.](#) The tubing session is from [12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m.](#) We have the lodge reserved for our exclusive use [from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.](#) After 1:00 the lodge will be open to the general public (including us of course). Those who want to stay warm can hang out there. Dharma School will provide Hot dogs and Chili. Salt Lake Dharma School is asked to bring side dishes, and Ogden Dharma School is asked to bring desserts.

WE WILL BE PRE-SELLING TICKETS. We have **60** discount tickets available. Tickets are \$16.50 for ages 7 and up, \$11.00 for ages 3-6. (Regular price is \$21 for ages 7 and up, \$11 for ages 3-6.) Children under the age of 3 are not allowed to ride the lift but they do offer a free tube for use on the small slope. If someone is not tubing, they do not need to buy a ticket. Overall, Soldier Hollow restricts the number of people who are on the hill. We can buy additional discount tickets, but only if there is availability. Tickets can be purchased from Mary Misaka, Stephanie Sueoka, or Sherrie Hayashi. Checks can be made out to Salt Lake Dharma School.

Directions to Solider Hollow: From Salt Lake City, take I-80 East to Silver Creek Junction (exit 146). Go east on U.S. 40 past Jordanelle Reservoir toward Heber City. Take right turn on State Road 113 (100 South) to Midway. Take a left on 113 in Midway, and travel two miles. Turn right just before the railroad tracks and follow signs to Soldier Hollow. Located in Wasatch Mountain State Park, Soldier Hollow is about 53 miles from downtown Salt Lake City. <http://soldierhollow.com/location>

Also, many thanks to **Gina Mejia, Judy Watanabe and Faye Mitsunaga** and the **many others** who helped with the Bodhi Day luncheon. Also thank you to **everyone** for donating items for the shut-ins which were distributed at Ho-on-Ko, and to **Rise Hirabayashi and Faye Mitsunaga** for coordinating the Goodie Bags, and to **Judy Watanabe and Holly Black** for leading the Dharma School kids in decorating the cute bags!

Dana Awards

Jane Sakashita

The 2014 Dana Awards were presented to Byron and Reiko Watanabe for exemplary service to our temple over several decades. They both have extended themselves over the years to the Dharma School, the Buddhist Women's Association (BWA) and the Buddhist Temple board. Byron served on the temple board from the 1970s through 1992 and as chairman of the Obon Festivals and various events sponsored by this temple. Reiko served on the Dharma School board from the 1980's and subsequently board member of the temple and the BWA board as treasurer.

Byron was born in Los Angeles, California in 1941 Shortly before the beginning World War II. He and his family were relocated to the Manzanar Relocation Center just before his first birthday in 1942. Byron's father was in the floral business in L.A., so he knew of Leon Brown of Brown Floral who offered him employment. This was the family's opportunity to move from Manzanar and , therefore, they came to Salt Lake City. Following high school, Byron served in the Army, after which he worked in the Office Supply Business and continues in this occupation.

Reiko was born in Carbon County just before World War II. Her father who worked in coal mining had lost his job because of the prohibition of Japanese and Japanese Americans not being allowed to work with explosives. He eventually was able to contact some acquaintances, and the family of eight children and two adults moved to Utah County where he started truck farming. Reiko grew up in Utah County and moved to Salt Lake City after graduation from Orem High School.

Reiko and Byron met at the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple in 1962 when Byron returned from the Army and were married at the Temple. They are the proud parents of Troy, Kenny and Kiku and grandparents to Haley, Max and Josh who faithfully attend Dharma School. Congratulations Byron and Reiko!

2015 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

2014 1 year	2003 13 year	1983 33 year
2013 3 year	1999 17 year	1966 50 year
2009 7 year	1991 25 year	1916 100 year

February Shotsuki Hoyo

February 22, 10:00 am

Deceased	Date of Death	Next of kin
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

DECEMBER 2014 - JANUARY 2015 DONATIONS

(December 23, 2014 – January 25, 2015)

Note that I am now starting to generate these Buddhist Thoughts donations lists by exporting from our accounting software, instead of retyping all donations. As a result, donations will be listed by the name of the member(s). If a donation is from a married couple, but only one spouse is a member, just the member name will be listed here. Thanks for your understanding, Robert Tokita.

Dana Campaign for Foundation Fund

Greg Sueoka	2000	Haruko & Mikio Moriyasu	50
Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga	1200	Kenneth Nodzu	110
Christopher Taketa & Shelley Doi Taketa	500	Jo Ryujin	100
Carl & Yuriko Dennison	25	Robert & Tami Tokita	300
Georgia Geerlings & Robert Weitzel	120	Roberto Toro	100
Masami Hayashi	100	Troy & Judy Watanabe	25
Dean Hirabayashi	60	Sanctuary For Healing & Integration (Carmela Javellana Hirano)	200

Hoonko

Tom & Fran Akimoto	50	Bill & Shigeo Mizuno	50
Tracy Akimoto	20	Asako Mori	25
Nobuo Aoki	50	Setsuko Nagata	50
Hiroshi & Mary Aramaki	50	Takae Nakamura	20
Charlie & Susan Nagata Brown	25	Yosh Nakayama	25
Aki & Neil Chow	20	Grace Oshita	25
Carl & Yuriko Dennison	50	Dot Richeda	30
Ichiro & Takeko Doi	100	Jo Ryujin	25
Stan & Elaine Endo	75	Jane Sakashita	50
Thomas Endo	100	Phillip & Connie Sakashita	50
Jim & Faye Eng	40	Charlie & Tom Sasaki	20
Mits & Terry Fujinami	100	Donna Sato	20
Brian Fukushima & Tammy Park	100	Dave Sekino	30

Maxine Furubayashi	50	Lynn & Marilyn Shimada	50
Masami Hayashi	100	Jun Sudoko	30
Dean Hirabayashi	25	Nobue "Nancy" Sudoko	25
Rev. Jerry and Carmela Hirano	100	Dru & Joni Sueoka	25
Sandy Iwasaki	25	Nancy Takagi	25
Bob Kasubuchi	35	Elizabeth Takasaki	100
Brent & Sherrie Koga	40	Christopher & Shelley Taketa	75
Jeanne Konishi	50	Nanae Taketa	50
Henry & Tammie Kuramoto	25	Chiyoko Terashima	50
Richard Matsuda	25	Paul & Kathy Terashima	50
Kenneth & Renee Matsuura	30	Cindy Yamada Thomas	50
Buster Mayeda	50	Robert & Tami Tokita	100
Mark & Gail Minaga	25	Yoshiko Uno	25
Helen Mitsunaga	25	Byron & Reiko Watanabe	50
Reiko Mitsunaga	25	Kazuko & Arthur Yakumo	50
Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga	100	BWA	100
Marcus & Karie Minaga-Miya	100		

Shotsuki Hoyo

Richard Matsuda	30
Nanae Taketa	25
Nobuo Aoki	50
Bob Sugino	25
Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga	30
Takae Nakamura	25
Kenneth Nodzu	50
Bob Kasubuchi	35
Hiro & Elaine Iwasaki, Jeanette Misaka,	50
Mark & Hiroko Mitarai.	
Robert & Tami Tokita	25
Mark & Gail Minaga	25
Marcus & Karie Minaga-Miya	100
Lynn & Marilyn Shimada	25

BWA

Dot Richeda	25	Eshinniko Service
Kenneth Nodzu	50	

Dharma School

Kenneth Nodzu	50
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YBA

Kenneth Nodzu	50
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Temple General

Brent & Sherrie Koga	40	Bodhi Day
Rebecca Jackson & Sean Clegg	20	
Ivan VanLaningham	125	
Ivan VanLaningham	189	For credit card processing system setup and 6 months monthly fees
Donna Sato	100	

In Memory Of:

Ei Matsuda
Aki Kawata Sugino
Buntaro Mitsunaga
Jane Nakamura
Kentaro Nodzu
Matsue Kasubuchi
Ruth Watamura
Shizuko Imada
Yasuzo Minaga
Yasuzo Minaga
Yoshino Oishi

Trust	27.80	
anonymous	50	
Koyo Restaurant	100	
Asako Mori	60	In memory of Carol Mori
Hiroshi & Mary Aramaki	20	In memory of Jenshi Ogawa
Kumi Iwamoto	500	In memory of Yuriko Iwamoto & Kiyotoshi Iwamoto
Greg Oda	100	
Allan & Nancy Hiyokeda	50	In memory of Fumiko & Yoshio Usui
Bob & Ida Okada	20	Misuko Shimada Memorial Service

2015 PAID SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIPS

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

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

2015 PAID MEMBERSHIPS

As suggested by a SLBT Board Member, we are listing ALL 2015 Paid Memberships.

Don't see your family or friends listed? Encourage them to renew their membership!

Don't see yourself listed? Time flies, doesn't it? Time to renew already!

Forms available in the November/December 2014 Buddhist Thoughts, in the SLBT Lobby, or from Stephanie Sueoka.

Tom & Fran Akimoto	Bob Kasubuchi	Phillip & Connie Sakashita
Tracy Akimoto	Keizo, Fumina, Kana Kobayashi	Charlie Sasaki
May Akiyama	Brent, Sherrie, Ty, Eric Koga	Tom Sasaki
Nobuo Aoki	Jeanne Konishi	Donna Sato
Hiroshi & Mary Aramaki	Henry & Tammie Kuramoto	Walter & Karen Sato
Jeri Aramaki	Craig Lamanna	Setsuko Schock
David & Holly Black	Richard Matsuda	Steven & Vanessa Shiba
Andres Calderon	Kenneth & Renee Matsuura	Lynn, Marilyn, Corey Shimada
Cookie Chappell	Buster Mayeda	Jamie Doi Slade
Aki & Neil Chow	Shauna Mayeda	Chad & Kim Smith
Tawny Conte	Hisako Minaga	Jun Sudoku
Carl & Yuriko Dennison	Mark & Gail Minaga	Nobue "Nancy" Sudoku
Ichiro & Takeko Doi	Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga	Dru & Joni Sueoka
Ruby Doi	Marcus & Karie Minaga-Miya	Stephanie Sueoka
Rachael Elliott	Bill & Shigeko Mizuno	Bob Sugino
Stan & Elaine Endo	Asako Mori	Nancy Takagi
Jim & Faye Eng	Haruko Moriyasu	Gary & Kathleen Takenaka
Aaron Froemming	Mikio Moriyasu	Christopher & Shelley Doi
		Taketa
Mits & Terry Fujinami	Tyler Morris	Nanae Taketa
Brian Fukushima & Tammy Park	Tina Munson	Chiyoko Terashima
Elaine Fukushima	David & Julia Nagata	Paul & Kathy Terashima

Maxine Furubayashi
Georgia Geerlings & Robert
Weitzel
Masami Hayashi
Sherrie Hayashi
Dean Hirabayashi
Carmela Javellana Hirano
Troy & Ashley Holbrook
Chizuko Ishimatsu
Tomie Ishimatsu
Tak Iwamoto
Sandy Iwasaki

Setsuko Nagata
Torao & Merry Nakagawa
Takae Nakamura
Yosh Nakayama
Ray Nishikawa
Lee Oikle
Gary & Ryoko Okamoto
Chris Oki
Grace Oshita
Jo Ryujin
Jane Sakashita

Cindy Yamada Thomas
Sachiko Tohinaka
Robert & Tami Tokita
Roberto Toro
Yoshiko Uno
Byron & Reiko Watanabe
Troy & Judy Watanabe
Arthur Yakumo
Kazuko Yakumo

Temple Book Club

March 1, 7:00 pm

This month's selection is the classic work on Naikan therapy:

Naikan: Gratitude, Grace and the Japanese Art of Self-Reflection
Written by Gregg Krech

Every Ohigan in March and September our temple hosts a one day Naikan Retreat. These retreats are to help us better understand the power of gratitude in our lives. Gratitude is not just an attitude but a practice to deepen our human life experience and find joy in everyday living. This book is a seminal work on the practice of Naikan, a Japanese form of reflective therapy. Dr Carmela besides her psychiatric practice is a certified Naikan therapist and a number of our temple members have travelled to the ToDo Institute in Vermont for training in Naikan with Gregg Krech. At this meeting we will be discussing this important work, please join us. The books are sold in our temple bookstore at the discounted price of \$12.00.