



# Buddhist Thoughts

Salt Lake Buddhist Temple: 211 West 100 South  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101, volume 22 issue 1  
web site: slbuddhist.org

January, 2015  
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## Snowplow Meditation

J.K. Hirano

*Ignorance and blind passions abound,  
Pervading everywhere like innumerable particles of dust.  
Desire and hatred arising out of conflict and accord  
Are like high peaks and mountain ridges.  
Shozomatsu wasan 8 (Hymns of the Dharma Ages)*

It's amazing how we often wish for things and when we receive what we thought we needed, it doesn't turn out as we had hoped. This has been the case with the weather in Salt Lake City. Usually we have our first snowfall by Halloween, but this year there had not been any significant snow in my area and it was almost Christmas. Many of us were wishing for a white Christmas. It is one of the benefits of living in snow country. As if our dreams for a white Christmas began to fade in the 40-degree warmth of a strange Utah winter, to our surprise and happiness, on Christmas Eve snow began to fall. By Christmas evening, I had over a foot of snow in my yard. It was beautiful! But now, I will be plowing the snow, three times a day until the snow stopped, which now I had hoped would be soon.

Last year, I was frustrated with my snowplow and went to the hardware store and asked them for the biggest snowplow they had. I purchased a 30" plow with a 357cc engine, electric start, heated handles, headlights with power steering. The dealer assured me it would clear out almost any snow that would pile up around here. Just what I wanted, however, the problem I soon realized was that it was too big for my daughters or Carmela to use. So I find myself plowing three times a day. As I plow the snow, I find myself mumbling, "Why does it have to snow sooo much!" Of course I have a few more carefully chosen colorful phrases that I can't print. Trying to calm myself, I just concentrate on the plowing and remind myself of the Buddha's disciple Cuuda Pantaka (Jpn. Shuri Handoku).

Cuuda Pantaka was a disciple of the Buddha. I think many of us have the mistaken notion that all of the Buddha's disciples were brilliant men of immense concentration and abilities. This was not the case. Cuuda was a devoted disciple of the Buddha but he was not especially gifted in his mental abilities; we may even consider him mentally disabled. Cuuda had a brother named Maha Pantaka, who in contrast, was a brilliant disciple of the Buddha, and the other disciples often teased Cuuda for not living up to his brother's example.

Cuuda would often get very discouraged in his lack of ability, especially in comparison to his older brother. He was thinking of leaving the Sangha and went to the Buddha for guidance. He asked the Buddha if he should leave the Sangha and the Buddha explained that the Sangha was not just for the gifted and that there was a place for Cuuda as there was for his brother. He gave Cuuda a broom and instructed him, “Cuuda, as you sweep the leaves in the compound, repeat this mantra, ‘sweep, sweep, sweep away the leaves’. In this way you will do a great service to our Sangha.” It was said, that as Cuuda swept the leaves and recited “sweep, sweep, sweep away the leaves.” Just as he was able to clear the leaves, his mind soon began to clear of its defilements. In this manner Cuuda was able to reach enlightenment, before his brother, with the higher initial potential.

In following the Buddha’s instructions to Cuuda, I “plowed, plowed, plowed away the snow”. As the snow fell around me, I saw my bonno (defilements) falling away. It was working; my mind was clearing. It felt as though even the snowflakes recognized my nearing enlightenment. They no longer fell in my face, but flowed past my enlightened being. I wondered if the cars passing on the street could see that the glow around me was not emanating from the headlights on my plow, but that it was the glow of my enlightenment showing me the Bodhisattva path. As any good Bodhisattva would, I decided to clear the sidewalk in front of my two neighbors’ yards and while I was at it, I cleared the corner where the children walked to school. As I confidently continued on my Bodhisattva path, I imagined receiving some type of good neighbor award from the city. The local news would interview my neighbors who would comment on how they knew I was a Buddhist priest, but even they were surprised at how great it was to live next to a living Buddha. Continuing with my snowplow meditation, I turned in my neighbor’s driveway and saw that the Bodhisattva path I had cleared, was once again covered in snow. There was no longer any evidence of my amazing snowplow meditation. Just as my mind had initially cleared, my mind once again filled with all the colorful, explicit phrases of this world of samsara. Thus ended my snowplow meditation.

However, from the warmth of my home, as I write this article, I realize that it was the compassion of the snow storm and the snowplow that allowed me to have any realization at all. Drinking from my warm mug of coffee, I remembered the passage I began this article with and the following from Shinran’s Shozomatsu Wasan 16.

*The aspiration for enlightenment through self-power taught in the Path of Sages  
Is beyond our minds and words;  
We foolish beings ever sinking in transmigration -  
How could we awaken it?*

All of these semi realizations were not because of me. All I do is imagine how great and wondrous I am, when it is the snowplow doing all the work. My bonno (klesa) is constantly piling around me, like the falling snow. As I think I am clearing it through my self power, but in reality I am just holding on to it, as the snowplow clears the path for me. In this similar manner, we think we are doing various religious practices and good works, but in reality it is none other than the working of Amida Buddha’s Primal Vow. As we begin this new year, let us remember Elsa’s immortal words from Disney’s “Frozen,” “Let it go, let it go. And I’ll rise like the break of dawn. Let it go, let it go, that perfect girl is gone. Here I stand in the light of day. Namu Amida Butsu!” or something like that....Happy New Year!

# Buddhist Women's Association (BWA) News

Elaine Endo

Happy New Year! New BWA Board members for 2015 are: Holly Black, Yuriko Dennison, Lynn Doi, Elaine Endo, Faye Mitsunaga Eng, Sherry Hayashi, Sandy Iwasaki, Sherrie Koga, Tammie Kuramoto, Laverne Kyed, Reiko Matsuura, Gail Minaga, Karie Minaga-Miya, Dot Richeda, Connie Sakashita, Donna Sato, Marilyn Shimada, Joni Sueoka, Stephanie Sueoka, Shelley Doi Taketa, Kathy Terashima, Cindy Yamada Thomas, Yoshiko Uno, Judy Watanabe, and Reiko Watanabe. Congratulations to you all! We will be calling upon you throughout this year to help with various projects. Currently, we need to fill two officer positions. Kathy Terashima will be leaving her position as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Tammie Kuramoto will be leaving as Treasurer. Thank you both for your dedication and commitment to our organization and the temple.

The BWA is in charge of the Ho-Onko luncheon on Sunday, January 25. We are asking for help preparing the food that morning before service. Thank you in advance for your help.

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, January 18 at 9:00. Hope to see you all then.

## Hoonko Seminar **Identity (Who am I?)**

Rev. Harry Bridge

Resident Minister of Oakland Buddhist Temple

Adjunct Professor Institute of Buddhist Studies

3:00 p.m.

January 24, 2015

Salt Lake Buddhist Temple

## Hoonko Service New Year's Party

January 25, 2015

10:00 am

## Minister's Assistant Program (MAP)

Dot Richeda

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Hirano Sensei, the Temple Board, and the Sangha for allowing me to attend the Minister's Assistant Program (MAP) Winter Session, December 11-13, 2014 at the Jodo Shinshu Center. This was my first trip to Berkeley and the Jodo Shinshu Center.

This was an eye-opening few days for me. We had 14 participants at this winter session,

representing 14 Temples. This session was conducted by Rev Harada and Rev Kuwahara and the staff at the Center. At the opening session, we were greeted by Bishop Umezu. Workshops were conducted by Bhante Seelawimala- Theravada Buddhism, Rev Harry Bridge-Chanting and Liturgy, Dr Daijaku Kinst-Buddhist Chaplaincy, Dr Som Pourfarzaneh –Islamic Studies, Dr Nobuo Haneda-Jodo Shinshu, Temple Issues and “How to Conduct Study Classes at the Local Level”.

At every service, morning and evening, we chanted Shoshin nembutsu ge and all the attendees participated in the service: from ringing the bell, Kansho, to delivering Dharma Talks. I look forward in attending future sessions. Now I understand why all the attendees were humming the Shoshin ge in the hallways. Shoshin ge is now in my mind and heart.

Thank you to Rev Harada, Rev Kuwahara and all the staff members at the Jodo Shinshu. Everyone was so helpful and friendly. I had the opportunity to see the Jodo Shinsu Book Store for the first time. Gayle Noguchi was very helpful.

Thank you, again.

In Gassho

## January Shotsuki Hoyo

January 25, 10:00

Deceased	Date of Death	Next of Kin
Akita Uheiji	1/21/62	Janet Thomas
Hirota Harry	1/28/97	Mitsuko Hirota
Honda Nobuyoshi	1/18/95	Honda Family
Inouye Kinsaku	01/2/94	Tom Inouye
Inouye Sashichi	1/18/75	Sharen Carmichael
Iwamoto Sei	1/19/57	Takeo Iwamoto
Iwamoto Masakichi	1/19/72	Takeo Iwamoto
Kaizumi Hannah	1/15/93	Craig Kaizumi
Matsuda Ei	1/5/96	Matsuda Family
Mayeda Tadao	1/5/72	Yoshiko Kido
Mitsunaga Buntaro	1/7/67	Tomio Mitsunaga
Mori Carol	1/10/88	Asako Mori
Mori Masakiyo	1/27/80	Ko Mori
Nakamura Tane	1/16/75	Takae Nakamura
Namba Matsuno	1/8/56	Kaz Namba
Ninomiya Yasaeuemon	1/11/41	Ninomiya Family
Oishi Ginzo	1/31/62	Victor Oishi
Oishi Yoshino	1/11/83	Victor Oishi
Kanekichi Okino	1/3/48	Imamura Family
Saito Masano	1/24/54	Ninomiya Family
Saito Yoshinaga	1/10/59	Ninomiya Family
Seo Tommy	1/25/93	Paul Seo
Shiba Miyoe	1/15/92	Shiba Family

Shimada Shoichi	01/2/92	Yoneko Shiba
Takata Raisaku	1/18/86	Teruko Takata
Takehara Sumiko	1/19/93	Dick Takehara
Taketa Shintaro	1/16/85	Shizuko Taketa
Tsutsui Kiyoshi	1/12/91	Tsutsui Family
Nakai Yoshiko	1/23/98	Lily Havey
Imada Shizuko	1/26/02	Helen Mitsunaga
Miyake Mary	1/14/04	Jim Miyake
Matsue Kasubuchi	1/7/07	Robert Kasubuchi
Yasuzo Minaga	1/11/78	Karie Minaga-Miya
Sachi June Minaga		
Kadowaki Schneider	1/22/09	Karie Minaga-Miya
Ruth Mitsuye Aoki	1/15/11	Sharen Carmichael
Akiko Kawata Sugino	1/18/13	Bob Sugino
Ida Watanabe	1/9/14	Fumi Watanabe

## 2014 NOVEMBER-DECEMBER DONATIONS

(November 24 – December 22, 2014)

*Note: Donations by Credit Card will be listed next month.*

The Salt Lake Buddhist Temple appreciates every donation, large and small! We appreciate the donations that have started pouring in, now that we have been raising awareness of our annual deficits.

### Dana Campaign for Foundation Fund

Anonymous	\$500	Mark & Gail Minaga	100
Grace Oshita	500	Torao & Merry Nakagawa	50
Andres Calderon	20	Donna Sato	50
Stan & Elaine Endo	85	Setsuko Schock	50
Jim Eng & Faye Mitsunaga	55	Jamie Doi Slade	100
Brian Fukushima & Tammy Park	40	Jun Sudoko	100
Troy & Ashley Holbrook	60	Chiyoko Terashima	100
Buster Mayeda	50	Byron & Reiko Watanabe	100

### Bodhi Day

May Akiyama	\$50	Setsuko Nagata	25
Hiroshi & Mary Aramaki	25	Dot Richeda	30
Ichiro & Takeko Doi	25	Jane Sakashita	25
Jim & Faye Eng	25	Phillip & Connie Sakashita	50
Mits & Terry Fujinami	25	Lynn & Marilyn Shimada	25
Brian Fukushima & Tammy Park	200	Dru & Joni Sueoka	25
Maxine Furubayashi	25	Paul & Kathy Terashima	50
Dean Hirabayashi	20	Robert & Tami Tokita	25
Richard Matsuda	25	Yoshiko Uno	25
Buster Mayeda	20	Byron & Reiko Watanabe	25
Mark & Gail Minaga	25	Kazuko Yakumo	25
Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga	25	Reiko Mitsunaga	20

**Hoonko (January)**

Jeanne Konishi	50	Setsuko Schock	25
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**Shotsuki Hoyo**

Richard Matsuda	30
Charlie Sasaki	25
Sachiko Tohinaka	20
Byron & Reiko Watanabe	25
Yutako & Yeiko Ikegami	25
Gary & Kathleen Takenaka	100
Yutako & Yaeko Ikegami	100
Kazuko Yakumo	50
Yutako & Yaeko Ikegami	50
Mickey & Gina Morinaka	100
Sachiko Tohinaka	35
Hiroshi & Mary Aramaki	25
Maxine Furubayashi	25
Jim Eng & Faye Mitsunaga	25
Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga	25
Helen Mitsunaga	50
Robert & Tami Tokita	50
Paul & Kathy Terashima	25
Patti K. Iwamoto/Iwamoto Family	30

**In Memory Of:**

Akiko Takenaka
Akiko Takenaka
Akitaro Ikegami
Chijun Yakumo & Aya Yakumo
Hideo Morinaka
Hideo Morinaka
Masayoshi & Chad Tohinaka
Yasu Aramaki
Kiyoshi Hirano
Ken Mitsunaga
Kiyoshi Mitsunaga
Kiyoshi Mitsunaga & Ken Mitsunaga
Harry Kiyoshi Mitsunaga & Kenny Mitsunaga
T.J. Koseki
Yuriko Iwamoto

**BWA (10/21 – 12/22)**

Yoshiko Uno	25
Cindy Nagasawa-Cruz	50
Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga	50

In memory of Margine Nagasawa  
Ken's 7-year Memorial Service

**Dharma School (10/21 – 12/22)**

Hiroshi & Mary Aramaki	40	Goodie Bags, replacement check
Tracy Akimoto	25	Halloween Party
May Akiyama	20	Halloween Party
Richard & Lynne Doi	25	Halloween Party
Brian Fukushima & Tammy Park	50	Halloween Party
Sherrie Hayashi	20	Halloween Party
Troy & Ashley Holbrook	25	Halloween Party
Ernie & Laverne Kyed	30	Halloween Party
Kirk & Betty Yamashita	25	Halloween Party
Monte Cruz & Cindy Nagasawa-Cruz	50	Halloween Party
Sherrie Hayashi	20	Seiji & Miye Birthdays
Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga	50	Ken's 7-year Memorial Service

**YBA**

Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga	50	Ken's 7-year Memorial Service
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**Junior YBA**

Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga 50 Ken's 7-year Memorial Service

**Nokutsudo**

Setsuko Schock 100 In memory of father, Frank Nishimura  
Setsuko Schock 100 In memory of Frank Nishimura & Chiyoko Nishimura

**Temple General**

Bradford & Akiko Hare \$500  
Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga 500 Ken Mitsunaga's 7 Year Memorial Hoyo  
D.O. & J.K. Ikemoto 250  
Gerald Iseda 50  
Ray Tohinaka and Sally Warmath 150  
Rev. Jon & Linda Turner 100  
Asako Mori 100 Memory of Shigemi Mori  
Ivan VanLaningham 150  
Keizo & Noriko Kobayashi 5  
Dharma School 110 For vacuum cleaner  
Building Fund via Dharma School 251.25 Holiday Boutique

**2015 PAID SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIPS**

*(Received November 24 – December 21, just adult members listed)*

*Note: Sustaining Memberships paid by Credit Card will be listed next month.  
These members contributed \$1200 per member in this new membership category.*

Richard & Lynne Doi

Craige Mayeda

**2015 PAID MEMBERSHIPS**

*(Received November 24 – December 21, just adult members listed)*

*Note: Memberships by Credit Card will be listed next month.*

May Akiyama  
Nobuo Aoki  
Andres Calderon  
Ruby Doi  
Rachel Elliott  
Stan & Elaine Endo  
Jim Eng & Faye Mitsunaga  
Brian Fukushima & Tammy Park  
Maxine Furubayashi  
Sherrie Hayashi  
Carmela Javellana Hirano  
Troy & Ashley Holbrook  
Tak Iwamoto  
Sandy Iwasaki  
Bob Kasubuchi  
Keizo, Fumina, Kana Kobayashi  
Jeanne Konishi  
Henry & Tammie Kuramoto  
Craig Lamanna

Takae Nakamura  
Yosh Nakayama  
Gary & Ryoko Okamoto  
Lee Oikle  
Grace Oshita  
Charlie Sasaki  
Tom Sasaki  
Phillip & Connie Sakashita  
Donna Sato  
Setsuko Schock  
Jamie Doi Slade  
Lynn, Marilyn, Corey Shimada  
Jun Sudoko  
Nobue "Nancy" Sudoko  
Dru & Joni Sueoka  
Nancy Takagi  
Gary & Kathleen Takenaka  
Nanae Taketa  
Chiyoko "Chic" Terashima

Richard Matsuda  
Kenneth & Renee Matsuura  
Buster Mayeda  
Shauna Mayeda  
Mark & Gail Minaga  
Asako Mori  
Setsuko Nagata  
Torao & Merry Nakagawa

Paul & Kathy Terashima  
Cindy Yamada Thomas  
Sachiko Tohinaka  
Yoshiko Uno  
Byron & Reiko Watanabe  
Arthur Yakumo  
Kazuko Yakumo