



Buddhist Thoughts

Salt Lake Buddhist Temple: 211 West 100 South
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101, volume 23 issue 1
web site: slbuddhist.org

January, 2016
Rev. Hirano's contact numbers: Office: 363-4742,
home: 299-8727, emergency 819-2648

2016: Year of the Fire Monkey
Buddhist Year 2557

Lunar Calendar: 78th Cycle

2016, Year of the Fire Monkey

Masami Hayashi

The Chinese lunar calendar is the longest chronological record in history. The first cycle was introduced in 2637 BC. A complete cycle takes 60 years and is made up of five simple cycles of 12 years each. The system of two ordered sets of symbols, one of the units called the stems, 十干 (jikkan), and the other of 12 units called animals signs, 十二支 (junishi) There are two methods of naming the ten stems: alphabetically, from A to J or from Ko to Ki. The second method is to base the names of the yin-yang of the five elements: wood, fire, earth, metal and water. The animals are from the animal zodiacs in the following order: rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, ram, monkey, rooster, and boar. The present 78th cycle started in 1984 and will end in 2044. During the complete 60 year cycle, each of the 12 zodiac animals is combined in 2-symbol combinations, one for each set of five earth elements, to create a cycle of 60. After completing a cycle, the system is repeated for the next 60 combinations.

In the 78th cycle which started in 1984, the year 2016 is number 33. For the 33rd position, the zodiac animal is monkey and the earth element is fire. The combined name representing the year 2016 is fire monkey. The two Chinese characters, 丙申 are written in the Ten-sho style. This combination of two characters, fire-monkey, will be displayed as the year of 2016 in newspaper, magazine and television advertisements. Toys and crafts people will have funcreating doll monkeys of interesting figures.

To Live in the Realm of Gratitude

J.K. Hirano

Many things occur in human lives. But, whatever difficulties or sadness that we may have experienced, if we can look upon our lives as being rare and wondrous events, then we will truly have lived. If we are able to realize this realm of gratitude, in which we are able to live and die in gassho, then what else could we ever need?

Jitsuen Kakehashi: Bearer of Light

As many of you know, I love Star Wars and most other things associated with geeks and nerds. I had a wonderful Christmas vacation with both my daughters home for the holidays. I went to the new Star Wars movie. Carmela surprised me with my own BB8 droid, just like the one in the movie. Carmela and I watched a movie marathon of the six Star Wars movies. Went to Las Vegas, had some good meals with family, Carmela shopped with the girls as I lost in the casinos. It was an enjoyable holiday. However along with all this fun and happiness, I drove to Ontario, Oregon for the funeral service of Mr. Hideo Harada, father of Rev. Marvin Harada. Two days after I returned home from the funeral of Mr. Harada, Rev. Harada called me and said his Mother in Law had also died.

The quote I began with is from Rev. Jitsuen Kakehashi, considered by many to be one of, if not the most influential scholar of the past century. I first heard Rev. Kakehashi speak at the

BCA centennial celebration in 1999. It was a Japanese lecture and I remember sitting with Rev. David Matsumoto. My Japanese fluency is nothing compared to that of Rev. Matsumoto's understanding, so I would ask Rev. Matsumoto when I didn't understand something that was said in the lecture. Rev. Kakehashi was speaking about meeting with people he did not care for, I then thought I heard him say, "Sometimes I might even wish these people dead." I couldn't believe my ears. Rev. Kakehashi was a smallish scholarly man, with an extremely gentle manner, which at the same time glowed with a deep wisdom, kind of like Yoda in the Star Wars movies. I asked Rev. Matsumoto, did he say, "Wish them dead?" Rev. Matsumoto nodded his head in the affirmative. This immediately made me want to listen more closely. Rev. Kakehashi continued speaking and said that at the same moment this thought enters his mind, he realizes that these individuals were human beings with good and bad points, no different than himself. When he is able to see these individuals with this type of understanding, it didn't necessarily make him like them, but it changes his perspective a few degrees. This small change in perspective changes his world. He went on to say that if all of us could change our perspectives a few degrees in a similar manner, the entire world would change. I came to understand this to be the realm of gratitude. Not a distant place, but somewhere a few degrees different than our normal instinctual perspectives.

This realm of gratitude is not a world of milk and honey like Oz over the rainbow. In the realm of gratitude we will still experience suffering. The streets are not lined with gold. It is a world of life and death, happiness and sadness, a world of balance, embraced in true compassion. There is no good or bad, however, we will find that it is just right as it is. Personally I have great difficulty in living in this realm of gratitude. When I seem to find the entrance, I am immediately at the exit.

I am a person that is filled with blind passions and if things don't go my way, I judge it to be bad. In the Star Wars movies, I had judged Darth Vader as bad and Obi Wan Kenobi as good. However, as I watched the entire series this holiday, I was able to see that Darth Vader was neither good nor bad, just a fellow human being. He spoke to me in saying, "Jerry, I am your Father." And I would have to agree. All of his traits of greed, anger and ignorance were genetically similar to mine.

Although, I cannot stay in the realm of gratitude, it is always an amazing experience to witness someone living in the realm of gratitude. One of my most memorable experiences of this type was with Mr. Hideo Harada. I had met Mr. Harada on many different occasions over the thirty something years of my friendship with Rev. Harada. Mr. Harada loved to go to Las Vegas and my memory of him will forever be on his ninetieth birthday dinner. I never heard Mr. Harada complain about losing, although any one who gambles knows you don't always win. Mr. Harada had been a farmer his entire life. He was born and had lived in the Seattle area of Washington, but with the outbreak of World War II, his life changed and he was forced to move to a small town, about 45 minutes from Ontario, Oregon, near the Oregon, Idaho border. He worked the farm with his brother. It wasn't an easy life, but I believe that on this farm, Mr. Harada was able to find an entrance to the realm of gratitude. On his ninetieth birthday dinner, we were at a small Japanese café on the Las Vegas strip. Amid the flashy Las Vegas casinos with huge restaurants and celebrity chefs, for his birthday dinner we ate at this small Japanese café. He had a small plate of sushi and miso soup. As he was about to eat his miso, he paused and I heard him softly say, "Another perfect day, what a perfect day." This reminded me of the words of Rev. Kakehashi.

"Many things occur in human lives. But, whatever difficulties or sadness that we may have

experienced, if we can look upon our lives as being rare and wondrous events, then we will truly have lived. If we are able to realize this realm of gratitude, in which we are able to live and die in gassho, then what else could we ever need?"

On the beginning of this new year, Buddhist year 2559, year of the monkey 2016, I hope that you and your family will find the entrance to the realm of gratitude, the perfect place to live and die. May the force be with you, Namo Amida Butsu.

DHARMA SCHOOL

Sherrie Hayashi and Stephanie Sueoka

Happy New Year!

Gail Minaga and Holly Black are coordinating this year's Goodie Bags to be distributed at the Hoonko Service on January 17th. **Please bring 3 dozen nonperishable items by January 10th so we can help fill those goodie bags !**

For the **Hoonko Service on January 10th**, we are asking everyone to bring a **side dish or salad**. **BWA** will be providing the main dish.

January 24th will be the Dharma School Board Meeting after classes. All Dharma School Board, teachers and parents are invited to attend the meeting.

Our **Annual Tubing event** will be held on **January 31st**. More information will be announced.

We hope everyone is enjoying the holiday season in the best spirit of dana by cultivating the spirit of giving. The donation of time from our dharma school parents and board is one of the best ways in which everyone contributes. Oftentimes their work is unseen, tables are set up, dishes are washed and put away and the Temple is ready for the next event. So we thank everyone for helping out. It truly makes a difference.

Special Awards

Paul Terashima

Here are the winners for 2015: Jan- Shawna Kageyama, Feb- Grace Matsumura, Mar- Shari Lee, Apr- Daphne Wong, May- Rachale Elliott, Jun- Shauna Mayeda, Jul- Linda Aomori, Aug- Sandy Iwasaki, Sept - Brent Koga, Oct - Raymond Uno, Nov - Ivan Van Laningham and Dec - Susan Lowry.

Thank you for your donations. In 2015 we only sold 183 tickets, which raised \$6,300 for the Temple. Hopefully, in 2016 we will sell the maximum amount of 200.

Hoonko Service

New Year's Party

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dennis Shinseki
Resident Priest of Monterey Buddhist Temple
January 17, 2016

10:00 am

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
Ida Watanabe

1/18/13
1/9/14

Bob Sugino
Fumi Watanabe

2015 NOVEMBER-DECEMBER DONATIONS

(November 24 – December 21, 2015)

*** Corrections ***

Last month, four \$25 Shotsuki Hoyo donations (\$100 total), in memory of Hiroshi Mitsunaga, John Imada, Ruth Mitsunaga and Tsune Date were actually from Helen Mitsunaga (and not from Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga), but hand-delivered by Junko Mitsunaga.

Dana Campaign

Sanctuary for Healing & Integration (Carmela Javellana Hirano)	200	Pam Lancaster	75
Tom & Fran Akimoto	40	Kenneth & Renee Matsuura	100
Stan & Elaine Endo	35		

Food Bazaar Donations (just received)

Kay Senzee	50	Mary Sohn	50
------------	----	-----------	----

Bodhi Day

May Akiyama	25	Reiko Mitsunaga	20
Hiroshi & Mary Aramaki	25	Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga	25
Takeko Doi	25	Setsuko Nagata	25
Jim & Faye Eng	25	Dot Richeda	20
Mits & Terry Fujinami	25	Dru & Joni Sueoka	25
Brian Fukushima & Tammy Park	100	Chiyoko Terashima	25
Elaine Fukushima	25	Paul & Kathy Terashima	50
Maxine Furubayashi	25	Cindy Yamada Thomas	25
Rev. Jerry & Carmela Hirano	100	Robert & Tami Tokita	50
Sandy Iwasaki	25	Yoshiko Uno	25
Brent & Sherrie Koga	40	Byron & Reiko Watanabe	25
Richard Matsuda	25	Kazuko Yakumo	25
Buster Mayeda	25		

Hoonko

Kenneth & Renne Matsuura	25	Bob & Setsuko Schock	25
--------------------------	----	----------------------	----

Shotsuki Hoyo

May Akiyama	25
Richard Matsuda	30
Kenneth Nodzu	20
Charlie Sasaki	25
Kazuko Yakumo	25
Yutako & Yaeko Ikegami	50
Gary & Kathleen Takenaka	100

In Memory Of:

Akiko Takenaka
Akiko Takenaka

Yutako & Yaeko Ikegami	100	Akitaro Ikegami
Masami Hayashi	50	B. Fujii & R. Hayashi
Bob & Setsuko Schock	100	Frank Nishimura
Yutako & Yaeko Ikegami	50	Hideo Morinaka
Ida Watanabe Trust	25	Hikomune Watanabe
Ida Watanabe Trust	25	Ida Watanabe
Jim & Faye Eng	25	Ken Mitsunaga
Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga	100	Ken Mitsunaga
Maxine Furubayashi	25	Kiyoshi Hirano
Sandy Iwasaki	25	Kiyoshi Hirano & Bunjiro Iwasaki
Helen Mitsunaga	50	Kiyoshi Mitsunaga & Kenny Mitsunaga
Robert & Tami Tokita	50	Kiyoshi Mitsunaga & Kenny Mitsunaga
Mickey & Gina Morinaka	50	Masako Morinaka
Eleanor Naomi Kobayashi	25	Naoki Kobayashi
Takeko Doi	50	Sekizo & Amiko
Asako Mori	30	Shigemi Mori
Hiroshi & Mary Aramaki	25	Yasu Aramaki

BWA

Takeko Doi	500	In memory of Ichiro Doi
Kenneth Nodzu	50	

Dharma School

Takeko Doi	200	In memory of Ichiro Doi
Kazuko Yakumo	100	In memory of Rev. Chijun Yakumo
Kenneth Nodzu	50	

YBA

Takeko Doi	200	In memory of Ichiro Doi
Kazuko Yakumo	100	In memory of Rev. Chijun Yakumo
Kenneth Nodzu	50	

Jr. YBA

Kazuko Yakumo	100	In memory of Rev. Chijun Yakumo
---------------	-----	---------------------------------

Temple General

Bob & Setsuko Schock	100	Nokotsudo
Ivan VanLaningham	50	
Takeko Doi	2000	In memory of Ichiro Doi
Bradford & Akiko Hare	500	
Kazuko Yakumo	500	25th Memorial of Rev. Chijun Yakumo
Stan & Elaine Endo	50	
D.O. & J.K. Ikemoto	250	
Sandy Iwasaki	100	
Keiji & Kyoko Yasuo	250	
BWA	428	For rice cooker
Nina Yonetani	200	Use of facilities
Rev. Marvin & Gail Harada	200	World Parliament hospitality

2016 PAID SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIPS

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

Richard Doi
Lynne Doi
Carmela Javellana Hirano
Craig Mayeda
Reiko Mitsunaga
Kenneth Nodzu

Dot Richeda
Dave Sekino
Paul Terashima
Kathy Terashima
Roberto Toro
Ivan VanLaningham

2016 PAID MEMBERSHIPS

All 2016 paid memberships, through December 21, 2015. Kids not listed.

Tom & Fran Akimoto
May Akiyama
Hiroshi & Mary Aramaki
Cookie Chappell
Stan & Elaine Endo
Maxine Furubayashi
Troy & Ashley Holbrook

Bob Kasubuchi
Pam Lancaster
Kenneth & Renee Matsuura
Shauna Mayeda
Setsuko Nagata
Bob & Setsuko Schock
Kazuko Yakumo

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.

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.

