



Buddhist Thoughts

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2017: Year of the Fire Rooster Buddhist Year 2558

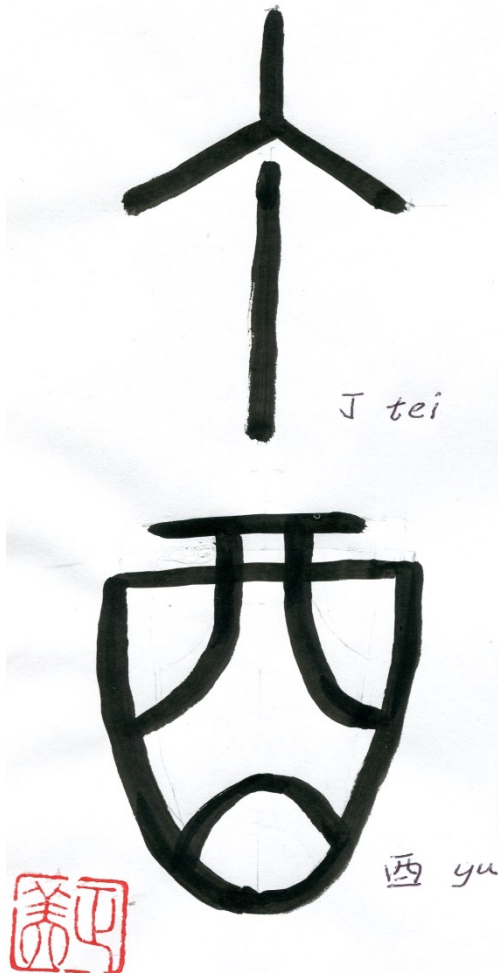
2017 - The year of the Fire Rooster

With fire as his element, the Fire Rooster will be vigorous, highly motivated and authoritative. He will be able to operate independently and with great precision and skill. Strongly principled and single minded in his pursuit of success, he will display managerial abilities and leadership.

The Chinese Lunar Zodiac

In 2637 BC Emperor Huang Ti introduced the first Chinese Zodiac in the 61st year of his reign. A complete cycle takes 60 years and is made up of five simple cycles of 12 years each. The 77th cycle started on February 5, 1924 and ended on February 1, 1984. Twelve animals were assigned to each of the 12 years. Only 12 came to bid the Buddha farewell. As a reward, each animal was awarded a place in the Zodiac in the order that they arrived. First came the Rat, then the Ox, the Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Sheep, Monkey, Rooster, Dog and Boar. In the 60 year cycle each of the animals is combined with the five elements: wood, fire, earth, metal, and water. These five elements are further split into magnetic poles called the Ying and Yang. Thus we have the 12 zodiac animals combined with the basic elements with their respective Ying and Yang poles to make up the 60 year cycle. In the present 60th cycle, 2017 becomes No. 34, the Fire Rooster, Tei yu (丁 - 酉). The calligraphy, Tei-yu is written in the seal script style.

-Chinese Horoscope.



Lessons from the Snow

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 (Hymns of the Dharma Ages) Verse 8 CWS pg. 400

During the past few weeks with all the snow, we finally seemed to break through some of the drought that has afflicted our state for the past few years. Whenever the snows fall, I get to plow the snow that covers my driveways and the sidewalk in front of my house. I get a strange pleasure from plowing with my large 13 horsepower snow thrower that can cut a 30" swath through the snow. I think it's because of my OCD, but my mind seems to clear as I throw the snow. I have warm water proof boots, heavy gloves, heavy down jacket with hood, a warm red University of Utah Winter cap, my noise cancelling headphones and iPhone set to Tower of Power's "American Soulbook"; I feel invincible. From the chaos of a snow-covered drive way and sidewalk to a clear path: confusion to clarity, I feel as though I am able to easily cut through this difficult obstacle and find my way to a clear path.

The passage I began with reminds me of the unreality of this feeling of power I often receive from clearing the snow. As I clear the snow for a moment, the snow continues to fall and once again cover the path of clarity. This is like my mind, there is an unreality to any clarity I feel, it is there for a moment and quickly my bonno covers this clarity with greed, anger and ignorance. If I think about it, I am not even the one clearing the snow. With a snow shovel, I get very tired after a few shovelfuls, let alone two driveways and the sidewalks of three homes. It is the 357 cc Briggs and Stratton engine that allows me to find those moments of clarity. In a similar manner, it is not my foolish self, but the power of Amida Buddha that allows me those moments of clarity in my bonno filled mind.

Speaking of unreality, a few days before New Year's Day, I had a very strange dream. In this dream, I was lost in a familiar city. I was going on a trip with Carmela and as the shuttle bus we were on was about to stop, a little girl danced by me, I recognized her, now she was doing cartwheels. It was India Elliot and I thought she was going to cartwheel down the stairwell so I jumped up to help her. In that split second, Carmela shouted "Jerry, this is our stop!" and jumped off the shuttle. Making sure that India was alright, I went back to my seat to get my backpack, but it was gone. No one seemed to know where my backpack was. The shuttle began to drive away and I saw Carmela walking towards the door to the station without noticing that I had not gotten off the shuttle.

I once again frantically began looking for my backpack. Asking all the other passengers, "Have you seen my backpack? Have you seen my backpack?" The shuttle began to leave and I reached for my cell phone to call Carmela. My cell phone was also missing. As I said, it was a familiar city. It felt like Salt Lake, but I realized Carmela and I don't take shuttles to the airport on a shuttle tram. This was a much larger city. All around me were large buildings and subway stops. This did not look like Oakland or Berkeley or any place that I regularly traveled, but it felt familiar. I jumped off the shuttle, thinking that my cell phone must just be in another

pocket or in my jacket and that it would all make sense once I found my cell phone and called Carmela.

Jumping off the shuttle, I suddenly found myself in a crowded downtown area. Something did not feel right. I tried to ask the people around me what city I was in, but no one seemed to speak English. In fact, I couldn't tell what language they were speaking. I kept thinking, "I just need to get my cell phone and call Carmela and everything will be ok." As I looked in all my pockets for my cell phone, I realized my wallet was missing. Then I began to think, this cannot be happening to me. This is a dream, I could not lose Carmela, my backpack, my suitcase, my cell phone, wallet and money. This is a bad dream, but how do I wake up. I have to call Carmela. If I can call Carmela it will ground me to reality. I wandered all over this city, I kept thinking how can this be happening to me, it's too long to be a dream and if it was a dream, "HOW DO I WAKE UP!" Just as my panic level reached this high point, I turned a corner and suddenly found myself turning in bed. I lay there wondering what a strange dream. I looked at the clock and it was 7:45 a.m. I remembered that an alarm had rang at 7:00 a.m. and at 7:30 but I had turned them off to sleep a little longer. The dream seemed to have been at least 8 or 9 hours, but in the reality I awoke to, it had only been 15 minutes.

Hearing Carmela in the bathroom, I shouted to her, I just had the strangest dream. I got up and told her my dream and she said, "Welcome to my brain." Now you know what my mind feels like every day. We laughed and I asked her, "How do I know this isn't a dream." She said, "You don't. This could be like the movie 'The Matrix' and you are Neo." I just looked at her and shook my head. Buddhism always explains that this life is like a dream. It is a life fueled by our bonno, that constantly fills our life, like the snow constantly falling this winter. Just as I was searching for the phone to wake me up and to find my foundation in Carmela, the only thing true and real is the Nembutsu. Each of us, are living our lives in dreams of unexpected beauty, confusion, horror and boredom. The one thing we should each wake up which can help us live a true and real life is Namo Amida Butsu. Please join us for Hoonko and our temple's New Year Luncheon on January 22.

SLBT President's Message

Stan Endo

I would like to wish everyone a healthy and happy 2017. I am hopeful that this coming year will be another great year at our temple.

We must continue to work towards improving our financial situation by reducing expenses and increasing receipts. It is my hope that we can restore the funds in our reserve accounts that were previously used to meet operating expenses. Please renew your membership and support our major fund raisers this coming year. Cost growth continues not only at our temple but with the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA). We expect that there will be a needed increase in the BCA dues which comes directly from our membership dues that we pay to the temple. Given this increase, there will be less operating funds from your membership. We ask that you support and donate to the temple whenever possible and reduce costs by helping with the maintenance, clean-up and repair of our temple.

A reminder that the temple General Membership meeting will be held on January 29, 2017. Included in this meeting will be a vote on changes to the Temple By-Laws. These By-Laws and proposed changes are posted on the bulletin board in the lobby of the temple for your review. Other meeting topics will include summary reports from the various organizations and an overall

financial summary for the temple.

This year the SLBT will be hosting the Mt. States Conference on the weekend of November 4th. Mark your calendars as this will be a wonderful opportunity to become acquainted with members from other temples. Bishop Umezu is scheduled to be the guest speaker at the conference.

Prior to 2016 the temple allowed employees and patrons of the Refugee & Immigrant Center to park in our small west parking lot. They are our neighbors located on the 300 West and very close to the temple. Because of insurance and liability issues, we had to stop their use of the parking lot. Recently, we resolved these insurance coverage issues. They are now allowed to park in this lot on weekdays during working hours. Parking for temple functions will take priority if there is a conflict. This parking lot is available for paid temple members, guests during temple functions and the Refugee & Immigrant Center use. Because of liability issues, others are not allowed to park in this lot. If you see unknown people parking in this lot, please inform them that they are not allowed to park there. Sometimes this occurs during Jazz games and other events in the area.

The Refugee & Immigrant Center is a non-profit organization that helps many immigrants that come to this country and they do many great and worthwhile activities including teaching of English, life skills and helping with employment. Allowing them to park in our lot is just a small effort that we can do to “give back” to our community. There may be other ways we can help this organization as the year progresses.

Finally, I would like to welcome Dean Hirabayashi, Jeff Watanabe and Rolen Yoshinaga to the Temple Board. They will serve a two-year term. Many thanks to those that have served and continue to serve on the Board.

Buddhist Women’s Association (BWA) News

Elaine Endo

The BWA will be in charge of the main course for the luncheon after Hoonko service on Sunday, January 22. If you are able, please bring a side dish to add to the salmon, ham, and ozoni that we will prepare. The Dharma School will provide the salads and desserts. We are also asking for help in the kitchen at 8:00 so thank you in advance if you are able to help us.

BWA officers for this year are: Co-Presidents, Elaine Endo and Cindy Yamada Thomas; 1st Vice President, Dot Richeda; 2nd Vice President, Gail Minaga; Recording Secretary, Karie Minaga Miya; and Treasurer, Connie Sakashita. Board members are all other existing members. Our goals this year are to build our membership, continue to replace old kitchen equipment, and keep the stove and oven clean for safe use. In the long term, we hope to replace the stove and oven with a newer, safer model.

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, February 5 after service. Hope to see you all then.

Special Award Winners

Paul Terashima

2016 is coming to an end, here are this year's Special Award Winners:

January: Greg Sueoka

February: Tracy Sudoko

March: Cory Shimada

April: Elaine Fukushima

May: Yoe Kageyama

June: Kristine Aramaki

July: Steven Shiba

August: Ty Koga

September: Henry Monson

October: Yuki Okumura

November: Frank Ujifusa

December: Mary Misaka

We didn't sell all the tickets this year. I hope 2017 is the year that we finally sell all 200 tickets. We would like to thank all the Sangha that participated in this Temple Fund Raiser. Thank you all! Have a wonderful Holiday!

Relevance of Buddhism in my Life

David Black, psychotherapist

If I had to select one word to describe how Buddhism has changed my life it would be gratitude. This gratitude began with the open and loving arms of the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple Sangha. When my family and I first visited the temple years ago I couldn't believe the love and understanding shown to simple strangers. When I look back now I clearly understand that these people weren't just chanting, singing, and listening to the Dharma, they were living examples of it. My wife, daughters and I all quickly agreed that this was a very special kind of place.

Over the years the Sangha has provided hope and encouragement. Never pushing but always providing teachings and opportunities as I continue to search and understand the Dharma. For the first time in my life I can let go of perfection knowing that the Primal Vow *Namo Amida Butsu* is boundless and limitless and will accept me just as I am...as a foolish being (bambu). Gradually it has become easier to embrace my mental struggles, inner dialogues and self-narrations with gratitude.

Now as we begin 2017 a new chapter in my life unfolds. Dedicating myself to listening, loving, and serving others and attempting to deepen my practice of *shugyo* (self-cultivation). I entrust myself to Amida Buddha by following the examples of all of the other members of the Sangha. Thank you for the endless compassion you have shown my family and me...clearly I am no "body" doing no "thing" without direction from all of you...*Namo Amida Butsu!!*

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2016 DONATIONS

(November 22 – December 20, 2016)

Dana Campaign

Sanctuary for Healing & Integration (Carmela Javellana Hirano)	200	Buster Mayeda	300
Troy & Ashley Holbrook	100	Kenneth Nodzu	50
Roberto Toro	8.33	Alice Ogura	345
Aaron Froemming	10	Lee Oikle	25
Hiroshi & Mary Aramaki	200	Grace Oshita	400
Andres Calderon	50	Walter & Karen Sato	70
Stan & Elaine Endo	435	Jun Sudoko	100
Jim & Faye Eng	155	Bob Sugino	50
Bob Kasubuchi	25	Cindy Thomas	110
Henry & Tammie Kuramoto	200	Byron & Reiko Watanabe	205
Pam Lancaster & Michael Maccarone	50	anonymous	900

Bodhi Day Donations

May Akiyama	25	Marcus & Karie Minaga-Miya	50
Takeko Doi	25	Setsuko Nagata	25
Mits & Terry Fujinami	25	Dot Richeda	25
Brian Fukushima & Tammy Park	100	Phillip & Connie Sakashita	30
Douglas Green	5	Dru & Joni Sueoka	25
Troy & Ashley Holbrook	25	Chiyoko Terashima	25
Sandy Iwasaki	30	Paul & Kathy Terashima	50
Henry & Tammie Kuramoto	25	Cindy Yamada Thomas	25
Kenneth & Renee Matsuura	50	Robert & Tami Tokita	100
Buster Mayeda	30	Byron & Reiko Watanabe	25
Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga	25	Kazuko Yakumo	25

Shotsuki Hoyo

May Akiyama	25	
Richard Matsuda	30	
Kazuko Yakumo	50	
Yutako & Yaeko Ikegami	50	Akiko Takenaka
Yutako & Yaeko Ikegami	100	Akitaro Ikegami
Naomi Kageyama	25	Ben Terashima
Kenneth Nodzu	50	Father's Shotsuki Hoyo
Naomi Kageyama	25	George Doi
Yutako & Yaeko Ikegami	50	Hideo Morinaka
Mickey & Gina Morinaka	50	Hideo Morinaka
Naomi Kageyama	25	Ichiro Doi
Jim & Faye Eng	25	Ken Mitsunaga
Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga	100	Ken Mitsunaga
Helen Mitsunaga	25	Kenny Mitsunaga
Robert & Tami Tokita	25	Kenny Mitsunaga

In Memory Of:

Byron & Reiko Watanabe	25	Kentaro Nodzu
Jim & Faye Eng	25	Kiyoshi Mitsunaga
Helen Mitsunaga	50	Kiyoshi Mitsunaga
Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga	25	Kiyoshi Mitsunaga
Robert & Tami Tokita	25	Kiyoshi Mitsunaga
Naomi Kageyama	25	Sekizo Doi
Asako Mori	50	Shigemi Mori
Hiroshi & Mary Aramaki	25	Yasu Aramaki
Hisako Minaga	100	Yasuzo Minaga
Marcus & Karie Minaga-Miya	50	Yasuzo Minaga
BWA		
Kenneth Nodzu	50	
Merry Nakagawa	100	In memory of Torao Nakagawa
Dharma School		
Kenneth Nodzu	50	
Merry Nakagawa	100	In memory of Torao Nakagawa
YBA		
Merry Nakagawa	100	In memory of Torao Nakagawa
Temple General		
Jeanne Konishi	1000	6 Shotsuki Hoyo services, Ohigan, Hanamatsuri, Obon, fund-raisers
Taylor Viertel	10	For visit to church
David Nagata, Elaine Nagata & Jeanne Nagasawa	500	In memory of Suzuko Nagata
Merry Nakagawa	500	In memory of Torao Nakagawa
Bobbie Ikegami	40	Proceeds from yoga instruction
Charlene Doi	100	Nokotsudo
Schaefer/Tokita/Holbrook basketball team:		
Steven & Cynthia Burian	32	Use of gym (basketball practice)
Josh & Caroyn Hickman	18	Use of gym (basketball practice)
Troy & Ashley Holbrook	68	Use of gym (basketball practice)
Ragu & Shalini Kasturi	38	Use of gym (basketball practice)
Jesus & Claudia Lamas	18	Use of gym (basketball practice)
Tamara Taylor	18	Use of gym (basketball practice)
Robert & Tami Tokita	75	Use of gym (basketball practice)

2016 PAID SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIPS

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

Richard Doi	Marcus Miya
Lynne Doi	Karie Minaga-Miya
Brian Fukushima	Kenneth Nodzu
Tammy Park	Dave Sekino
Carmela Javellana Hirano	Paul Terashima

Buster Mayeda
Craig Mayeda
Reiko Mitsunaga

Kathy Terashima
Roberto Toro
Yoshiko Uno

2017 PAID SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIPS

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

Carmela Javellana Hirano
Buster Mayeda
Craig Mayeda
Tomio Mitsunaga

Junko Mitsunaga
Kenneth Nodzu
Paul Terashima
Kathy Terashima

2017 PAID MEMBERSHIPS

Children (under 18) are not listed.

Tracy Akimoto-Roberson
May Akiyama
Hiroshi & Mary Aramaki
David & Holly Black
Susan Nagata Brown
Robert Bottom
Andres Calderon
Geraldine Cookie Chappell
Neil & Aki Chow
Takeko Doi
Rachael Elliott
Stan & Elaine Endo
Jim, Faye, Marisa, Kyle Eng
Mits & Terry Fujinami
Elaine Fukushima
Sherrie Hayashi
Troy & Ashley Holbrook
Chizuko Ishimatsu
Tomiye Ishimatsu
Sandy Iwasaki
Bob Kasubuchi
Keizo, Fumina Kobayashi
Henry & Tammie Kuramoto
Pam Lancaster & Michael Maccarone
Gina Mejia
Richard Matsuda

Kenneth & Renee Matsuura
Shauna Mayeda
Asako Mori
Tina Munson
Setsuko Nagata
Takae Nakamura
Ray Nishikawa
Alice Ogura
Lee Oikle
Gary & Ryoko Okamoto
Linda Omori
Grace Oshita
Phillip & Connie Sakashita
Walter & Karen Sato
Jun Sudoku
Nobue "Nancy" Sudoku
Dru & Joni Sueoka
Stephanie Sueoka
Bob Sugino
Christopher & Shelley Doi-Taketa
Cindy Yamada Thomas
Kathryn Timm
Byron & Reiko Watanabe
Troy, Judy, Haley Watanabe
Arthur Yakumo
Kazuko Yakumo

Hoonko Service
New Year's Party
January 22, 2017
10:00 am

January Shotsuki Hoyo

January 22, 10:00

Deceased	Date of Death	Next of Kin
Akita Uheiji	1/21/62	Janet Thomas
Hirota Harry	1/28/97	Hirota Family
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	Kido Family
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