



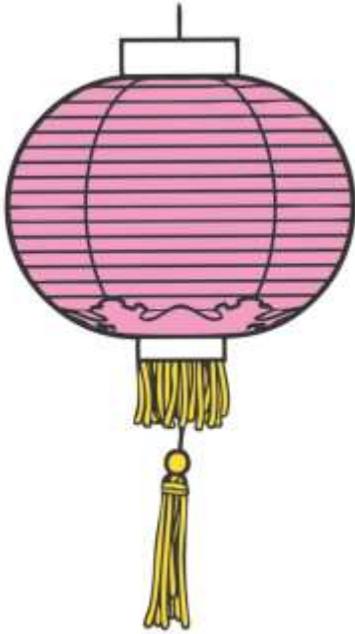
Buddhist Thoughts

Salt Lake Buddhist Temple: 211 West 100 South
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101, volume 22 issue 7
web site: slbuddhist.org

July, 2015
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SALT LAKE BUDDHIST TEMPLE OBON JAPANESE FESTIVAL

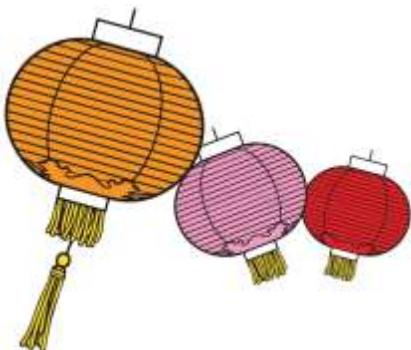
Saturday, July 11, 2015
211 West 100 South, SLC



Japanese food served from 1 pm
Japanese items and gifts for sale
Snack bar open from 3:00-10:00
Memorial Lanterns are \$5

Chapel Tours 2:00-7:00
Taiko Drum Exhibition 7:00
Obon Street Dancing 8:00

For further information
www.slbuddhist.org



Memorial Lanterns can be purchased during
Dance practices and Obon
Practices are 7:00 p.m. June 29-30
July 1-3, July 6-9

Hatsubon 2015

(Hatsubon means first Obon after death)

1. George Sumio Akimoto	2/21/1917-7/21/2014	SLC
2. Kusuo Sato	7/27/1922-7/22/2014	Honeyville
3. Tatsumi Misaka	6/14/1928-8/1/2014	SLC
4. Michiyo Sakurada Aoki	11/24/1932-8/27/2014	Honeyville
5. Mutsuko Margene Nagasawa	1/6/1933-10/12/2014	SLC
6. Karen Chiyeko Miyake	8/11/1948-10/29/2014	SLC
7. June Teruko Nagao	6/3/1932-11/13/2014	Honeyville
8. Yusako Obayashi Burke	4/4/1933-10/28/2014	Ogden
9. Shigeru Kiyomura	5/5/1918-12/5/2014	Ogden
10. Yukimi Yonetani	5/2/1920-12/19/2014	Ogden
11. Dayna Mitsuko Stark	7/28/1980-1/22/2015	Honeyville
12. Steven Koga	8/2/1955-1/27/2015	Ogden
13. Halu Aoki	1/17/1927-2/5/2015	Honeyville
14. Roy Gosaku Taketa	11/13/1923-2/8/2015	Ogden
15. Aileen Shizuko Kano	9/30/1916-3/2/2015	Ogden
16. Mary Hisaye Doi	7/18/1923-4/29/2015	SLC
17. LaVerne Vera Summers	4/27/1932-4/29/2015	Ogden

Each of these names represents more than an individual. They were fathers, mothers, husbands, wives, aunts, uncles, brothers and sisters. These seventeen names represent hundreds of individuals who have been touched by death over the past year. These Dharma friends were loved and had touched the lives of many and their influence lives on in this world.

Amida Buddha's compassion embraces us in the worlds of past, present and future. Obon is the bridge of love that spans these worlds. It is a time we breach the divide that we put up between them and us. It allows us to celebrate along with our Mothers and Fathers, Grandfathers and Grandmothers, brothers and sisters who have died before us. We dance in love. We gather in joy. In Love, the world of the living and dead are one.

Our Hatsubon/Obon service is on July 12th at 1:00 pm. Our guest speaker will be Rev. Kojo Kakihara resident minister of the Tacoma Buddhist Temple.

June and July Shotsuki Hoyo

July 12, 1:00 pm

Deceased	Date of Death	Next of Kin
Akiyama Uhichi	6/12/67	Francis Akimoto
Fujimoto Kanta	6/7/56	Grace Oshita
Fujinami Tomakichi	6/12/68	Mitsuru Fujinami
Harada Tsuyono	6/2/85	Harada Family
Imai Fujii	6/28/91	Aoki Family
Kobayashi Tsui	6/20/43	Kobayashi Family
Mayeda Buntaro	6/5/89	Fumio Mayeda
Muraki Sakae	6/24/87	Nakamura Family
Nakamura Chogoro	6/28/45	Takae Nakamura
Noda Ben	6/29/92	Noda Family
Sakinada Kathleen	6/4/89	Sakinada Family
Sasaki Nobuko	6/22/34	Charlie Sasaki
Shiba Eiji	6/30/85	Shiba Family
Suzuki Kiyoji	6/11/69	Suzuki Family
Tadehara Mary	6/30/84	Rose Kamaya
Tani Hatsuye Mary	6/17/84	Eleanor Nakamura
Yokome Roy	6/26/95	Ray Uno
Araki Aiko	6/16/98	Aoki Family
Aoki Fred Toshio	6/17/98	Kay Aoki
Niwa Teruchiyo	6/11/00	Pat Ninomiya
Karen Haruko Shiba	6/17/00	Tosh Shiba
Kiyo Nakamura	6/10/04	Phil Nakamura
Fusano Mayeda	6/21/76	Yoshiko Kido
John Kasubuchi	6/8/10	Robert Kasubuchi
Floyd Okubo	6/22/10	Byron Okubo
Kenneth Kobayashi	6/10/11	Jean Kobayashi
Misuko Shimada	6/3/14	Lynn Shimada
Beppu Yoshio	7/25/55	Jane Sakashita
Fujii Daiji		Amy Tomita
Hasegawa Masuta	7/1/81	Roxanne Hasegawa
Kameda Tasaku	7/14/84	Kameda Family
Konishi Becky	7/14/91	Jeanne Konishi
Konishi Isamu Lawrence	7/1/91	JeanneKonishi
Matsuda Kanji	7/1/63	Dick Matsuda
Matsumiya Kaoru	7/1/54	Sego Matsumiya
Matsumori Tome	7/12/86	Matsumori Family
Matsuura Yosaku	7/31/40	Reiko Matsuura
Mochizuki Jiro		Jerry Mochizuki
Nishida Roy Kazuo	7/10/03	Aiko Okada
Okino Shoichi	7/31/89	Kazuko Okino
Sanada Shintatsu Rev.	7/6/82	Tracy Roberson

Sasaki Shozo	7/73	Charlie Sasaki
Satomura Tome	7/20/86	Kimiko Mizuta
Sugino Kizo	7/28/52	Bob Sugino
Tohinaka Heizo	7/15/53	Sachiko Tohinaka
Yamaguchi Hoshiro	7/14/91	Jeanne Yamaguchi
Sumida Kimiyo	7/9/95	Barbara Mitsunaga
Tadehara Yukiyei	7/22/98	Amy Tomita
Roy Naosaburo Tachiki	7/16/01	Steven Tachiki
Ken Ogura	7/20/07	Alice Ogura
Rowena Ling	7/21/07	Elaine Fukushima
Henry Hirano	7/29/11	Jerry Hirano
George Akimoto	7/21/14	Sharon Akimoto

COME AND JOIN US!!

2015 OBON FESTIVAL ACTIVITES

JULY 11, 2015-SATURDAY SCHEDULE

- FOOD: 1:00 – 8:00 PM
- YBA SNACK BAR 3:00 – 10:00 PM
- SALT LAKE BLDG FUND 1:00 - 10:00 PM
- CHAPEL TOURS: 2:00 - 6:00 PM
- DANCE FESTIVAL:
 OGDEN and
 SALT LAKE TAIKO GRP 7:00 - 8:00 PM
 OBON DANCE 8:00 - 10:00 PM

JULY 12, 2015-SUNDAY SCHEDULE

1:00 pm HATSUBON/OBON_SERVICE:

OBON CEMETARY VISITS

July 10th 6:00 pm Redwood Memorial States
 7:00 p.m. Mt. View Memorial Estates
 July 12th 10:00 pm Salt Lake City Cemetery
 beginning at the Northernmost section

The Obon Carol
(The story of Orlando the Obon Ostrich)
J.K. Hirano

As a leaf falls from a tree and flutters to the ground, showing all sides of itself, front and back, so should you dance.

Even though you are a congealed mass of greed, anger, stupidity, you should dance.

Even though you are an enlightened saint, you should dance. Dance not for form, dance not for show, dance not for grace, dance not awkwardly to conceal your awkwardness, dance not for identity, dance not for Japanese-ness.

Bon Odori is just a religious dance, which it to say it is "Just dancing."

Just as Amida Buddha accepts you sono mama "Just as you are." For this we "Just say the Nembutsu. Namo Amida Butsu."

Obon, the Kangi-E, the "Gathering of Joy" calls us yet again to this world of "just-ness, thus-ness, as-it-is-ness."

That is why we, "Just Dance!"

Rev. Masao Kodani

I have written about Horace the Hoonko Hippo on a couple of occasions. The last time we visited him, he mentioned hanging out with other mythical animal friends, such as Fawkes the Phoenix and in February he introduced us to Harry the Hanamatsuri Groundhog. At that time, he also mentioned a friend named Orlando the Obon Ostrich. This is Orlando's story.

Orlando was not always an Obon Ostrich, in fact he has been many things, as each of us are constantly changing and take on many forms and facets. However, Orlando as we know him now, was once a human being, named Delbert Gibson. Delbert worked for the government, in the federal library system. He was a librarian of sorts. He wasn't trained as a librarian with a degree in Library science, his degree was in Zoology, but while in college he had a part time job in the federal library and just never left. Poor Delbert spent his life working in the library, gradually moving up the government salary system, reading National Geographic Magazines, and wishing he had pursued an advance degree in Zoology. His government job had decent health benefits and the pay wasn't terrible, just enough to keep him from quitting, but never letting him feel satisfied. His career was a life of wanting more and what ifs.

Delbert married right out of college. He and his wife, Eugenia Maria Immaculada Concepcion Santos, a pharmacist, had two children. Eugenia was born in the Philippines, but had immigrated to the United States with her family when she was a child. Her parents had high hopes for their beautiful daughter, naming her Eugenia, which they found in a name book and meant "well born". They felt the name sounded very British and high class. Diana was born in 1981, the year of Prince Charles and Diana's wedding. There was a British craze in the Philippines just as in the rest of the world. As Delbert and Eugenia hoped their children would become something special, so had Eugenia's parents hoped the same for her, she was a local beauty queen, quite intelligent and had exhibited every sign that she would be their American dream. They immigrated to the United States at great cost, for the sake of their children. However, while in college, to the disappointment of her parents, Eugenia had met Delbert and fallen in love. That's one of the quirks of love and human life we really don't have a choice in who we fall in love with. It is a great gift if we do fall in love at all and someone loves us back, but

most of us forget that part. Eugenia's parents had hoped she would marry a nice Filipino-American physician or lawyer, but Eugenia had fallen in love with Delbert.

"Average" was the word that Delbert used to describe his entire life, average job, average wife, average children, average life. In describing his life as average, Delbert revealed an important aspect of his true nature. No one aspires to be average. As a result, Delbert spent his life always wanting more. Delbert never realized that in his life, he had definitely married someone far more beautiful and accomplished than anyone would have expected him to marry, given his looks, personality and job. Even at his bachelor party, his friends joked about how someone like him could receive the love of someone as beautiful and kind as Eugenia. He never realized that he and Eugenia had quite a wonderful life. They lived in an upper middle class neighborhood and had a lifestyle to match. Eugenia's salary was quite good, but even with that, she and Delbert often talked about the limitations of a Pharmacist's salary and in retrospect, maybe she should have gone into computer science or medicine. This negativity of Delbert's was like a virus that eventually infected Eugenia, who loved Delbert and didn't care about material things, but had married Delbert because she loved him. Delbert and Eugenia were successful by most economic indices, but as a result of this hunger and thirst for just a little more, they never felt satisfied. It was like eating at a buffet, yet having the food turn to flames, tasteless, as a result of just wanting "a little bit more".

Delbert and Eugenia's children were quite exceptional. However, Delbert's thirst for more, even infected the love for his children and therefore they were only average by Delbert's personal standard. Somewhat surprisingly these children loved their father and mother very much. Delbert had everything a person needs for a happy and joyful life, a wonderful spouse who loved him and two children that thought he was so special. Yet, Delbert had wasted his life hoping for just "a little bit more".

Delbert died at a slot machine in the Orleans Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada, as he played his favorite "Wizard of Oz" slot machine and wishing he could be playing and staying at one of the fancier hotel/casinos on the strip. As Delbert's mind wandered on what he wanted and not appreciating what he had, just as he pushed the slot button one more time, for just a little more from his \$20.00 free play, he had a massive cerebral hemorrhage. He was dead, before the final click of the spinning video wheel of the slot machine.

Upon dying, as the Tibetan Book of the Dead described, Delbert heard various sounds and lights, as he wandered the Bardo (in between state), it seemed as though he had walked for days and on the fourth day, he saw a beautiful light. However, Delbert was so tired he didn't go to the light, instead he decided to take a nap. Waking from what he thought was a bad dream, he found himself in Gakido (Realm of the Hungry Ghosts). It really wasn't that bad, it looked a lot like Las Vegas. Actually it looked like one of those fancier hotels on the strip that he had always wanted to stay and play at. For a few minutes, he was quite happy, but then he felt the thirst. When a beautiful cocktail waitress approached and handed him a drink, it burst into flame. This happened again and again. He decided he wasn't going to give this place his business and left in a huff.

He was quite hungry and thirsty when he left the casino to try another, strangely even though it was night, the moon seemed to burn his skin. In the buffet line, at the casino he ended up in he first realized that all the people around him, looked like ostriches. They had large bodies, with long skinny necks and small heads and mouths. He thought to himself, "Where am I?" Just as he thought this, he looked at the mirrors on the wall and realized he also looked like everyone around him. He then thought, "Who am I?"

Just as this question came into his smallish head, a man in a tuxedo asked him if he would like free tickets to the 7:00 pm show. Delbert never passed up free tickets, especially for a Las Vegas show. Even a bad Las Vegas show usually sold for close to \$50.00 a ticket. Although hungry, Delbert went

directly to the theatre. He realized that everyone else at the buffet, had the same result as he did with the drink, all the food burst into flame as they tried to eat. He hurried to make the 7:00 pm show. Delbert was always in a hurry looking for “a little bit more”.

He had just made it to his seat as the lights dimmed in the theater. First up was a clown who came on stage, Delbert thought, “Wow, this is like Cirque Du Soleil.” Two magicians that followed looked a lot like Penn and Teller, the larger of the two announced, *“I know you are wandering about where you are and what you are doing here. If you haven’t figured it out, you are now in Gakido! The realm for those that always want a little more. In your preceding lives, each of you had spent your precious lives, hoping for more, rather than appreciating all that you had. You’re probably surprised that you are in a Bizarro Las Vegas of sorts, however, who do you think built and financed Las Vegas? Yes, we Gakis did! That little bit more, little bit more, that each of you hoped and prayed for in the casinos, built Las Vegas. So here you are! (strangely there was applause from the audience) Yet, you finally won, the jackpot! Those of you in this theatre, have asked yourselves the most important question, “Who am I?” This is your chance, let’s begin the show!”*

With that the stage turned to a scene from an Indian Bollywood movie, with a group of monks in a forest practicing meditation. Suddenly a monk, shouts out, *“No, it can’t be true!”* He gets up and runs from the hall. The scene halts and the monk is now sitting before the Buddha crying, *“Oh world honored one, I have searched and searched for my beloved mother and in my meditation, I found her in Gakido. She looked hideous and hungry and thirsty. I tried to send her food and drink, but whatever I sent to her, turned into flames. I love my Mother even though she has passed from this realm of existence. What can I do?”* The Buddha nodded in understanding and explained, *“Maudgalyayana (Mokuren in the Japanese subtitles), your Mother also loved you dearly. However, her love never moved beyond you. She was not able to see how she would selfishly deny or thwart the happiness of others, to benefit you her son. The only way you will be able to help her, is if you can lead a good and wholesome life of benefiting others. My suggestion is that you begin to practice Dana (self-less giving) first to those closest to you, your fellow monks and then moving that practice to the rest of the world.”*

Maudgalyayana listened to the words of the Buddha. Upon going to the Buddha for guidance, listening to the teachings and then embracing his fellow monks, as he would himself and his mother, he came to a deep realization of the interpenetration and interdependence of all life. The next scene we see him meditating once again. He suddenly jumps up claps his hands and begins dancing, the rest of the monks jump up and in true Bollywood fashion, begin singing and dancing in a large circle. The music is incredibly stirring and pretty soon everyone in the theatre is dancing.

Delbert also dances with tears of joy, wishing he knew in life what he now understood. He cries out, *“I will honor Obon in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. I will live in the Past, Present and Future. The spirits of all three will strive within me. I will not shut out the lessons that they teach. Oh, tell me I may sponge away the writing on the stone!”* Suddenly a loud voice boomed from the stage, *“Delbert, you are in the wrong movie, this isn’t a Christmas Carol.”* Delbert defiantly shouted back, *“But it is, it is. It is the Obon Carol. The spirit of Christmas that Ebenezer Scrooge finds is founded upon the idea of gratitude and self less giving. These are the lessons that Buddhism is also trying to teach us. We Gaki are manifestations of the opposite of these virtues. We are like Scrooge in our own little worlds of material wants and needs, rather than asking what can I do for others. Marley and the spirits of the first encounter are we Gaki, roaming the world unable to do for others in death, as we should in life. The lessons of the Christmas Carol are the same as those of this story of Obon. It is Christmas in July, without Jesus Christ’s birthday thrown in! I get it, I get it! Namu Amida Butsu!”* Suddenly, a spotlight lit the stage and to everyone’s surprise out came Santa Claus dressed in a red sequined tuxedo, *“Delbert, come on down, Ho, Ho, Ho!”* chuckled Santa. Delbert sheepishly went on

stage. Santa went on, *"Delbert, I know that you are finally starting to get it. I also know you have never liked the name Delbert. As a Christmas in July present, I am going to call you Orlando, like that handsome actor Orlando Bloom."*

"Thank you Santa." Stammered Delbert. Santa went on, *"You know lately, I have been asking a few special beings to spread my teachings of gratitude and selfless giving. Christmas has begun to get a little too materialistic and commercial."*

"Santa you're wearing a red sequined tuxedo on a large Las Vegas theater stage, isn't that a bit much?" Asked Delbert.

"Well, Delbert, actually you just see me in a red sequined tuxedo because we are in what you imagine to be Las Vegas. I am a spirit, an essence, you only see me as Santa Claus, I have many forms. I take on the form of what you need to see. Anyways, I don't want to get into too much of that metaphysical mumbo, jumbo. But I want you to help me spread the word. I have asked a Hippo, named Horace and a groundhog named Harry, to help me. I would like you to help me spread the message of joy, at the gathering of Joy (Kangi E) or as you know it Obon. Just as you danced tonight in joy with your fellow Gaki, I want you to go around the world of sentient beings, to the various Obon festivals to dance in Joy."

"Santa, don't you think I look a little scary?"

"Nah, you actually look like an Ostrich. No one will know the difference. I will call you Orlando the Obon Ostrich. You will go around during the Obon season to dance in gratitude, not for form, not for show, but to just dance, just as you just say Namu Amida Butsu. If an Ostrich like you can dance, without embarrassment, so should anyone. Get it?"

"Now I know why you appear to me as Santa Claus. This is definitely Christmas in July. Thank you, thank you. Obon, Obon, it's festival day! Namu Amida Butsu."

With that, all the Gakis or as Santa called them, Ostriches, along with Santa, the magicians and everyone began to dance.

This is the story of Orlando the Obon Ostrich. As Orlando's favorite poem I began this story with states:

Bon Odori is just a religious dance, which it to say it is "Just dancing."

Just as Amida Buddha accepts you sono mama "Just as you are." For this we "Just say the Nembutsu. Namu Amida Butsu."

Obon, the Kangi-E, the "Gathering of Joy" calls us yet again to this world of "just-ness, thus-ness, as-it-is-ness."

That is why we, "Just Dance!"

Please join us for this year's Obon from Salt Lake to Honeyville. Salt Lake City's Obon Dance will be July 11, with the Hatsubon and Obon service on July 12 at 1:00 pm. Honeyville Hatsubon and Obon service will be at 11:00 am. Ogden's Obon dance will be on July 18 and the Hatsubon Obon service will be the 19th at 12:00. The guest speaker for all services will be Rev. Kojo Kakihara of the Tacoma Buddhist Temple.

2015 MAY-JUNE DONATIONS

(May 26 – June 24, 2015)

Dana Campaign

Sanctuary for Healing & Integration 400
(Carmela Javellana Hirano)

Shotsuki Hoyo

Mits & Terry Fujinami
 Noreen Okubo
 Grace Oshita
 Eleanor Naomi Kobayashi
 Eleanor Naomi Kobayashi
 Tom & Fran Akimoto

In Memory Of:

25
 100 Floyd Okubo
 25 Kanta Fujimoto
 25 Kenneth Kobayashi
 25 Tsui Kobayashi
 25 Uhichi Akiyama

Dharma School

(April & May donations)

Kenneth & Renee Matsuura	25	
Soni & Jeff Hirasuna	30	Tubing Day donation
Rise Hirabayashi	35	Donation for Hanamatsuri food purchase
Faye Mitsunaga	30	Donation for Hanamatsuri food purchase
Mits & Terry Fujinami	25	Parents Day
Jane Sakashita	25	Parents Day
Charlie & Susan Nagata Brown	25	Parents Day
Elaine Fukushima	50	Parents Day
Ichiro & Takeko Doi	25	Parents Day
Ashley & Troy Holbrook	25	Parents Day
Mary Doi Trust	50	Parents Day
Byron & Reiko Watanabe	20	Parents Day
Shirley Farr	50	Parents Day
Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga	30	Parents Day
Brian & Tammy Fukushima	50	Parents Day
Kazuko Yakumo	25	Parents Day
May & Mas Akiyama	25	Parents Day
Tracy Akimoto	25	Parents Day
Connie & Phillip Sakashita	30	Parents Day
Yoshiko Uno	25	Parents Day
Cindy Yamada Thomas	30	Parents Day
Chiyoko Terashima	25	Parents Day
Maxine Furubayashi	25	Parents Day
Paul & Kathy Terashima	25	Parents Day

YBA

Donations to be reported next month

Buddhist Thoughts

Ida Watanabe Trust 25

Temple General

Ivan VanLaningham 75
 Chen-Han W Wu 41
 Osamu Hideshima 300
 Kiyoko Olsen 20

Kay Senzee	50	
Mary Sohn	50	
United Way of Salt Lake	13.93	
Rev. Jerry and Carmela Hirano	30	Proceeds from book sales
Tina Munson	50	Henry graduation
Maya Chow	25	In memory of Elsie & Misao Doi
Jean Shiba	30	In memory of Karen Shiba
Alice Endo Aikens	50	In memory of Walt Masuda
Xan-Elizabeth Endo-Masuda	1000	In memory of Walt Masuda
Thomas Endo	100	In memory of Walter Masuda
Maxine Furubayashi	25	Nepal Earthquake Relief
Anonymous	100	Nepal Earthquake Relief
Nikkei Senior Center	30	Use of facilities for Nikkei Luncheon, hosted by Dharma School

2015 MEMBERSHIPS

Trey & Mitchell Imamura

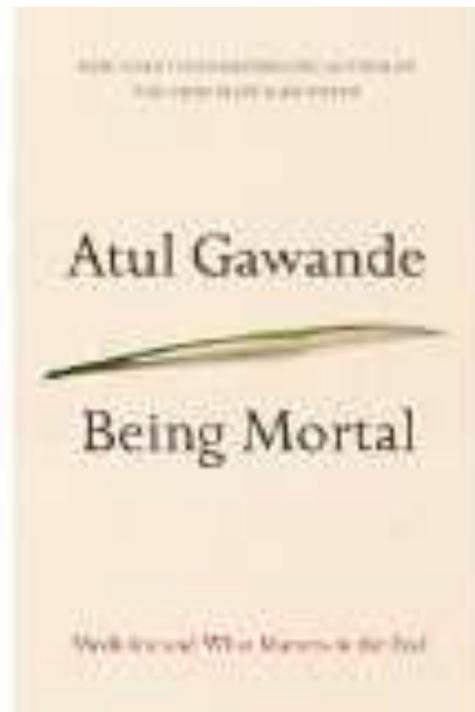
Sadie Kato

2015 PAID SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIPS

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

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

Dot Richeda
Dave Sekino
Paul & Kathy Terashima
Ivan VanLaningham



JULY BOOK CLUB

Monday, July 13 at 7 p.m.

Salt Lake Buddhist Temple

West Wing Library, 100 S. 215 W.

A surgeon grapples with the inevitable: human death, and the ethical, financial and emotional – *and human* – perhaps misguided attempts of Modern Medicine to prolong life, but at what cost?

20% off at Lumbini's Garden 5/1 - 5/31/15



August Book Club
Monday August 3 at 7:00 pm
“TERIYAKI PRIEST: Tales from
the Realm of Gratitude”
by Rev. Jerry Hirano

Stories on appreciating our life through Birth, Illness, Aging & Death. (20% off cover price at LUMBINI'S GARDEN until August 2.)