



# Buddhist Thoughts

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## To Play in the Ocean of Birth and Death J.K. Hirano

*Attaining the "entrusting heart" - awakening to the compassion of Amida Tathagata (Buddha) through the working of the Primal Vow – we shall walk the path of life reciting Amida's Name (Nembutsu). At the end of life, we will be born in the Pure Land and attain Buddhahood, returning at once to this delusional world to guide people to awakening.*

From Kyosho: Essentials of Jodo Shinshu

Over my career as a minister for the Buddhist Churches of America, I have participated in hundreds of funerals. To a certain extent, ministers become accustomed to death and the grief families and friends express and feel during the mourning period, whatever that may be. Over the past two months, I have once again witnessed how fragile human life is. I have attended and participated in two funerals for friends of mine, my cousin Glen Furubayashi and a long time friend Carl Kurahara. Glen was 60 and Carl was 59 years old. They both learned that they had stage four pancreatic cancer a few months before their death. Neither had been ill, both had merely had some stomach pains. The friends and families of both of these men, were shocked and deeply mourn their passing.

However, it is quite synchronistic that my thoughts concerning my friends have been on how they remain a part of my life, although they have physically left this ocean of birth and death and at this year's National Buddhist Churches of America Board Meeting, our Bishop Kodo Umezu quoted this portion of the Kyosho for his Dharma talk, which I began this article with. When we speak of Buddhism we often focus on the importance of this moment. Not knowing what will happen tomorrow, we are encouraged to focus on this moment and all that we receive now and not worry so much about the non-existent past or future. However, those of us who are left behind after our loved one's die wonder, "What happened to Glen or Carl?"

In the section from Teaching in the Kyosho which I began this article with it says, "*At the end of life, we will be born in the Pure Land and attain Buddhahood, returning at once to this delusional world to guide people to awakening.*" Within Jodo Shinshu there are two aspects to the life of a Bodhisattva, the first phase is called "Oso eko" going to the Pure Land and the second is "Genso eko" returning from the Pure Land. In life and at death we experience going to

the Pure Land. At death we return to this delusional world to guide people to awaken to true and real life.

In the Pure Land, our loved ones come back to us and remain a part of our lives. Glen and Carl have become Genso Bodhisattvha to teach me about my life. A Bodhisattvha's life is referred to as a life of Play. The reason I mention all of this is that, as I was driving home from Wendover, Nevada, I had some car trouble. I had to drive home at 45 miles an hour. It was a long drive home. During that drive which was a couple of days before Glen's funeral, I was thinking a lot about Glen and how much I would miss him and missed him at the golf tournament I had just played. As I reminisced and drove, I listened to Glen's favorite group: Earth, Wind and Fire. As I drove, the song "fantasy" came on and it really made me think of Glen. I must of repeated the song five or six times, listening to the words over and over. It felt as though Glen was coming to me through this song, telling me he was alright. This month, I would like to end with the words to this song and express how I hear these words. The words in parentheses are my thoughts.

As one

Comes to see victory

In a land called fantasy

Loving life for you and me.

*(At the moment of death, we finally see that although we love life, in death there is victory in our entering into the Pure Land of Amida Buddha.)*

It is to behold your soul is ecstasy

You will find other kinds

That have been in search of you.

Many lives have brought you to

Recognize it's your life now in review

*(Within the Pure Land, we find enlightenment and it has taken many causes and conditions for us to recognize this.)*

As you stay for the play

Fantasy (The Pure Land) now has in store for you.

*(As we return to this world we are both in the Pure Land and return this world to play as a Bodhistvha.)*

A glowing light will see you through

It's your day, shining day

All your dreams have come true

*(In the Pure Land, we are embraced in the light of Amida Buddha's wisdom and compassion)*

As you glide in your stride

With the wind as you fly away

Give a smile from your lips and say

Are you free, yes I'm free

And I'm on my way

*(Once we are no longer bounded by our physical body, we are free and fly back and forth between the Pure Land and this world to help and guide those we love.)*

## President's Message

Stan Endo

As you may have heard, Salt Lake City and Salt Lake County are moving ahead with the building a large hotel on the east side of the Salt Palace Convention Center block on West Temple. Although we support the economic growth of the city, we are not sure what the impact will be to the temple with respect to reduction of street parking during services/funerals/weddings, increased traffic, limiting street closure for Obon, Bazaar and Nihon Matsuri. I ask that we all be cognizant of these future developments and when appropriate attend city and county public hearings to become knowledgeable, stay involved and protect our temple as a religious entity. The following link will provide information from the SLC Council,

<http://slcgov.iqm2.com/citizens/default.aspx> .

As you all know, Obon is coming up in July. This event, along with the Food Bazaar and Nihon Matsuri, is one the major fundraisers that provide the operating funds for the temple. This is our opportunity to earn revenue beyond our sangha. However, we do need the support and volunteers from our sangha and friends to do all of those activities to have a successful Obon. When asked, please volunteer!!! Karie Minaga Miya and Reiko Mitsunaga are the Obon chairs this year, please thank them for leading, arranging and the hard work they have and will perform.

The Finance and Funding Committee and Temple Board continues to work towards achieving our objective of increasing revenue by 10% and reducing spending by 5%. Again, Obon is a big source of this revenue. We recently had a mandatory roof repair and was able to reduce the cost by \$800 with negotiations with the contractor and with the help of Aaron Froeming who raised close to \$400 by establish a Go Fund Me donation site. Thanks Aaron as this is the kind of activity that really helps.

It has been a great year so far! Thanks to Sensei, the Ministerial Assistants, organization leaders and committee leaders for your tireless efforts. I look forward to a great second half of 2016 and hope we all have a great summer.

## DHARMA SCHOOL

Sherrie Hayashi and Stephanie Sueoka

It is hard to believe the 2015-2016 Dharma School year is quickly coming to a close. The year has been filled with many fun activities and events including all of the special services/parties and delicious luncheons, the memory filled Sunshine trip to California, Obon, the back to school picnic at Sensei's, the Food Bazaar, Boutique, Hanamatsuri and Nihonmatsuri. These memories and the Dharma lessons will not only last a lifetime but will help shape our already amazing and brilliant Dharma school students.

We hope everyone will join us at Lagoon on June 5, 2016. It is our last big even of the year. Tickets are **\$38.50 per person**, the same as the youth ticket price, please make checks out to Ogden Buddhist Church. For lunch, the Ogden DS will furnish chicken, musubi, drinks and salads. **Salt Lake DS families are asked to bring desserts**. Please see **Judy Watanabe** for tickets. Gates open at 11:00a.m. and we will be in the Willow Terrace. Hope to see everyone there!

Sherrie and Stephanie would like to express our gratitude for the continued support of the Sangha, BWA and of course the devoted and selfless Dharma school parents. Without their labor of love and their commitment of time, food and talents we could not have had such a great year. We are so excited to be passing the helm back to the amazing Judy Watanabe. As you know it took two of us to do her job as Superintendent. She will be an outstanding Superintendent again. Please continue to support Judy, the Dharma school and our students, so that our children, our future, will have another extraordinary year.

## Obon committee update

Reiko Mitsunaga

Summer is just around the corner and we all know what that means. Well if you don't – it means Obon time. As everyone is getting ready for summer vacation and fun, don't forget that Obon is one of two major events that sustain our Temple financially. Obon this year will be held on July 9<sup>th</sup> and there are a lot of things that need to be done to prepare for it both on the 9<sup>th</sup> and the days previous to it. We are asking for everyone to volunteer to help out with this major function. Feel free to even volunteer your friends, a great way to spent time with them. We will also be starting a donation in kind. I will post items needed on the Temple Bulletin board for people to sign up with. Examples of items need for Obon: pre-washed rice, Nori ( ½ sheets), Nori Komi Furikake, Individual soy sauce packages, spam cutter, etc. Please contact Reiko Mitsunaga or any of the board members if you are able help out with this event. Arigato

## Temple Toban

Reiko Mitsunaga

I would like to thank the toban leaders and their crew for their tireless effort in helping keep the Temple clean. [Keeping a temple clean is not an easy job.](#) For those who do not know, each month Temple members come and clean the Temple. [Toban is a way to spread the work of the temple among its members.](#) Some of the area's they clean are: the Hondo, class rooms, gym, kitchen, bathrooms and the west wing building. Twice a year, usually in April and August we have a general cleaning by all Temple member, to clean both the interior and exterior of the Temple. We are looking for more volunteers to serve on these Toban groups. If you can help out, please let me know.

We had our annual general temple cleaning on April 23 and we able to accomplish a few things. There are still many more items that need to be tackled. I hope you will all join us in our August general temple cleaning. Also, for anyone using the Temple, please help us keep it clean. It takes everyone's help to maintain our Temple. Let's take pride in how it looks.

## Shotsuki Hoyo

June 12, 10:00 am

<b>Deceased</b>	<b>Date of death</b>	<b>Next of kin</b>
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

## Obon Dance Practices

June 27, 28, 29, 30

July 5, 6, 7

7:00 pm

Salt Lake Buddhist Temple

SUMMER SERVICES

10 A.M. Sundays on the following dates:

June 19, 26

July 10\*, 17, & 24

August 7, 14,

\*No 10:00 am, Hatsuon Service starts at 1:00 p.m.

Join us

Dharma Discussion at 11:00 a.m.

Open to the Public \* "Come as You Are"

## APRIL-MAY 2016 DONATIONS

(April 26 – May 25, 2016)

### Dana Campaign

Sanctuary for Healing & Integration (Carmela Javellana Hirano)	200	Aaron Froemming	10
Troy & Ashley Holbrook	100		

### Hanamatsuri

Bob & Shirley Farr	50	Buster Mayeda	30
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### Nihon Matsuri Donations

Cash	26	Reiko Mitsunaga	45
Masami Hayashi	50	Gary & Ryoko Okamoto	50

### Gotan E

May Akiyama	20	Dot Richeda	30
Hiroshi & Mary Aramaki	50	Jane Sakashita	25
Stan & Elaine Endo	50	Dru & Joni Sueoka	25
Mits & Terry Fujinami	25	Paul & Kathy Terashima	25
Maxine Furubayashi	25	Robert & Tami Tokita	25
Rev. Jerry & Carmela Hirano	50	Byron & Reiko Watanabe	25
Sandy Iwasaki	25	Troy & Judy Watanabe	30
Brent & Sherrie Koga	20	Kazuko Yakumo	25
Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga	25		

### Shotsuki Hoyo

Nobuo Aoki	50
Maxine Furubayashi	25
Phil & Merry Nakamura	25
Charlie Sasaki	25
Jane Sakashita	25
Dru & Joni Sueoka	50
Dru & Joni Sueoka	25
Setsuo Takenaka	50

### In Memory Of:

George Sakashita
Ikuye Hirano
Kazuyo Hirano, Ikuye Hirano, Tori Iwasaki
Yoso Takenaka

**Dharma School**

Tracy Akimoto	20	Parent's Day
May Akiyama	25	Parent's Day
Jim Eng & Faye Mitsunaga	25	Parent's Day
Mits & Terry Fujinami	25	Parent's Day
Brian Fukushima & Tammy Park	50	Parent's Day
Maxine Furubayashi	25	Parent's Day
Sherrie Hayashi	20	Parent's Day
Brent & Sherrie Koga	20	Parent's Day
Buster Mayeda	35	Parent's Day
Tina Munson	50	Parent's Day
Dot Richeda	25	Parent's Day
Jane Sakashita	25	Parent's Day
Phillip & Connie Sakashita	30	Parent's Day
Paul & Kathy Terashima	25	Parent's Day
Robert & Tami Tokita	25	Parent's Day
Byron & Reiko Watanabe	25	Parent's Day
Kazuko Yakumo	10	Parent's Day

**YBA**

May Akiyama	25	Parent's Day luncheon
Mits & Terry Fujinami	25	Parent's Day luncheon
Dean & Rise Hirabayashi	20	Parent's Day luncheon
Sandy Iwasaki	25	Parent's Day luncheon
Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga	25	Parent's Day luncheon
Joni Sueoka	25	Parent's Day luncheon
Paul & Kathy Terashima	25	Parent's Day luncheon
Robert & Tami Tokita	25	Parent's Day luncheon
Byron & Reiko Watanabe	25	Parent's Day luncheon
Kazuko Yakumo	10	Parent's Day luncheon

**Temple General**

Osamu Hideshima	200	
Hiroshi & Mary Aramaki	20	In memory of Aiko Okada
Tracy Akimoto	30	In memory of Landon Akimoto
Tracy Akimoto	20	In memory of Shizue Adachi
Nikkei Senior Center	30	Kitchen/gym rental
Stan & Elaine Endo	50	Special
Bobbie Ikegami	80	Yoga class instructor donations
Jean Shiba	30	Buddhist Thoughts

**2016 PAID SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIPS**

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

Richard Doi  
Lynne Doi  
Brian Fukushima  
Tammy Park  
Carmela Javellana Hirano  
Buster Mayeda  
Craig Mayeda  
Reiko Mitsunaga

Marcus Miya  
Karie Minaga-Miya  
Kenneth Nodzu  
Dave Sekino  
Paul Terashima  
Kathy Terashima  
Roberto Toro  
Yoshiko Uno

## 2016 PAID MEMBERSHIPS

*2016 paid memberships, April 26 to May 25, 2016. Younger kids not listed.*

Irene Linnett