



# Buddhist Thoughts

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## Dharma Parents

J.K. Hirano

*As for me, I simply accept and entrust myself to what my revered teacher told me, "Just say the nembutsu and be saved by Amida"; nothing else is involved. I have no idea whether the nembutsu is truly the seed for my being born in the Pure Land or whether it is the karmic act for which I must fall into hell. Should I have been deceived by Master Honen and, saying the nembutsu, were to fall into hell, even then I would have no regrets. Chapter 2: Tannisho*

With his teacher Honen as his inspiration and guide, Shinran Shonin transformed the Buddhist World. Buddhism is what we now call the truths that Siddhartha Gautama discovered to become the Buddha. April 8 is his birthday and we celebrate and call it Hanamatsuri. In the story of his life, Siddhartha Gautama left his family to search for these truths. In fact, he named his son Rahula, which is often translated as "fetter," a type of binding or obstacle. I believe that Shakyamuni Buddha felt that in many ways to have a family would make it difficult to follow the Path he taught. Until Shinran Shonin, to live the Buddhist life meant to leave the life of a householder and become a monk or nun.

Shakyamuni Buddha considered children as an obstacle to follow the path, as the name of his son seems to imply. There are many things that are obstacles in living a Buddhist life. The greatest obstacle and the parent of all obstacles is not our children; it is our ego. Being a parent maybe the greatest ego boost or builder there is in life. My children are the pride and essence of my being. They have fulfilled my life as nothing else. As a result they are the manifestations of my ego in full force. In a similar way, they also constantly show me what and who I am as a human being. To be a Buddhist parent, one must first strive to try to understand who you are. This is what I have often explained is the first question or step along the Buddhist Path.

On Monday, March 2, I had the pleasure of attending a lecture at the Orange County Buddhist Church on "Dharma Parenting." This lecture was presented by Mr. Pieper Toyama, the former Principal of the Pacific Buddhist Academy (PBA). The Pacific Buddhist Academy is the first Buddhist High School in the U.S. Mr. Toyama has been involved in education for over forty years. PBA's educational philosophy is based on the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist teachings. As

a result of his educational and parenting experience (two daughters) he presented some of his ideas.

In his talk he emphasized that to raise a child with Buddhist ideals, you must first understand who you are. Understanding yourself is essential in parenting your child, because your child eventually becomes you in many ways. It has been four years since my father died, yet more and more, I find that in many ways I am becoming him. I believe that the parts in my life that are good, my sense of ethics, what I believe to be right and wrong are all a result of my Dad. There are many things that I am that are not my father, but in general, I have found him more and more in who I am.

Pieper also expressed that in leading and teaching his students and his own children, he has encouraged them to follow a path that imitates the Bodhisattva spirit, which he considers the spirit to live a life of helping others. Success in life is not measured by material success; if your life has not helped others, you have failed, even if you are the richest man or woman in the world.

Some of his lessons as a Dharma parent are to develop Buddhist values. You must have a sense of your own Buddhist values and ethics before you can teach them to your children. He does this by sharing his understanding of the 6 Paramitas, interdependence, impermanence, the 4 Noble Truths and understanding of Bonno (passions) and Bombu (foolish being). Who we are is in our relationships with others. We are defined by our relationship to others; we do not live independent of others. To understand and implement these ideas, it is absolutely necessary to listen to our children. We must listen to our children in the spirit of *ichigo ichie* (one chance, one encounter). Although we hope that we will always be able to talk with our children, when we talk to them, we must do so as though this is our last and only time to do so.

In summary he said that we must develop a supportive relationship with our children. We must learn to give them a sense of independence while being aware of their interdependence. In this way our children can develop a personal sense of competency. We must understand what our own goals are for our children and the most important is to develop our own sense of who we are.

I really enjoyed Pieper's talk and I hope that at our temple, Dharma parenting can be one of the goals we can share. Jodo Shinshu has many strengths; however, Dharma parenting has been part of Jodo Shinshu tradition from the beginning. To be a Jodo Shinshu Buddhist is to understand what it is to be a part of the Nembutsu family. We are all parents and children at the same time. Namo Amida Butsu.

## Buddhist Women's Association (BWA) News

Elaine Endo

The BWA was in charge of the luncheon after Hoonko service on Sunday, January 25. Thanks to everyone who provided a variety of tasty main dish items, salads, and desserts. We especially appreciate Junko Mitsunaga for organizing the preparation of the traditional Oshogatsu ozoni soup and Karie Minaga Miya for cleverly baking and serving the salmon. Also, thanks to the BWA members who came bright and early that morning to help prepare the meal that was enjoyed by all.

BWA officers for this year are: President, Elaine Endo; 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, Sandy Iwasaki; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Presidents, Dot Richeda and Gayle Minaga; Recording Secretaries, Connie Sakashita and Karie Minaga Miya; and Treasurer, Cindy Yamada Thomas. Our goal this year is

to replace old kitchen equipment such as rice cookers, frying pans, old knives, etc. so that we're all able to work more effectively and efficiently while cooking for our many events.

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, March 8 after service. We will be discussing plans for preparing food for Nihonmatsuri. After the meeting, there will be a Food Handlers Class for those of you who are interested in receiving a permit that will be good for three years. The class will start at 12:00 and the cost is \$30. Hope to see you all then.

## **Dharma School**

**Stephanie Sueoka & Sherrie Hayashi**

Despite an unusual winter with no snow, Dharma School ventured out for Tubing at Soldier Hollow on February 8. Fortunately for snow-making machines, there was enough snow for a fun filled afternoon! We had a lot of Dharma School students and were joined by the Ogden Dharma School. Thank you to Mary Misaka for help organizing our winter event that was fun for the kids and the adults!

Dharma School has also ordered new Service Books published by the Orange County Buddhist Temple which should be here soon. Dharma school and the Bookstore will be coordinating a Toban schedule for the West Wing so it too will be clean and sparkly.

The next Dharma School Board Meeting will be on March 8<sup>th</sup>, and the Board will begin consideration of upcoming board members. If you are interested in serving on the nominating committee or on the board, please see Stephanie or Sherrie.

Jr. YBA/YBA is hosting a "Fun Bus" to Wendover on Saturday March 14, 2015 from 9:00 a.m.-7:00 p.m. At this time, reservations are completely filled, but there is a waiting list if anyone is still interested in going. Please contact Mark Minaga.

Dharma School will also be hosting a Bowling Party, Sunday March 1 @ 10:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at Bonwood Bowl, 2500 South Main Street. Pizza and drinks will be provided by Dharma School. Salt Lake Dharma School families will be asked to bring salads or side dishes. Ogden Dharma School will be asked to bring desserts.

## **March Shotsuki Hoyo**

March 22, 10:00 am

Deceased	Date	Next of kin
Adachi Henry	3/11/97	Fujii Adachi
Brouwer Mayeda Emiko	3/4/96	Fumio Mayeda
Endo Nobuzo	3/16/93	Stan Endo
Ikegami Mitsuko	3/2/72	Yuta Ikegami
Imada Matsuyo	3/12/91	Tsukamoto
Iwata Miya	3/11/91	Imai Family

Kano Setsu	3/14/40	Victor Oishi
Kida Uwano	3/16/67	Jeff Kida
Koseki, Iseko Ada	3/17/92	Kathy Terashima
Kumagai Hyozo	3/11/86	John Kumagai
Maeda Matsuzo	3/18/64	Koga Family
Matsumiya Chiyo	3/12/90	Jeanne Konishi
Matsumiya Jinzaburo	3/19/64	Jeanne Konishi
Matsuura Kame	3/25/54	Francis Akimoto
Muraki Tomekichi	3/1/75	
Nakano Tokuyo	3/3/91	Atsumu Nakano
Namba Makiji	3/2/57	
Nishikawa Emily	3/20/95	Nancy Wayman
Sasaki Yvonne Katsuyo	3/16/56	Haruto Sasaki
Shimizu Toshi	3/24/88	Kerry Lee
Tachiki Tetsu	3/18/83	Steve Tachiki
Uyeda Hisashi Harry	3/7/85	Uyeda Family
Kobayashi Sakae	3/17/00	Kobayashi Family
Shiba Takataro	3/10/01	Helen Nakashima
Igata Toshizo	3/2/02	Tomi Igata
Kasai Seiko	3/20/02	Grace Kasai
Taketa Shizuo	3/1/04	Nanae Taketa
Shizuye Nakagiri	3/6/12	Howard Nakagiri
Grahame Leach	3/1/12	Leanne Leach
Grace Kasai	3/8/14	Dru Sueoka

## 2015 JANUARY-FEBRUARY DONATIONS

*(January 26 – February 24, 2015)*

### **Dana Campaign for Foundation Fund**

Christopher & Shelley Taketa	500	Sanctuary for Healing & Integration (Carmela Javellana Hirano)	200
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### **Hoonko**

Kyle & Evelyn Matsumura	50	Kazuko Terasawa	35
Hisako Minaga	20	Sachiko Tohinaka	25
Ray Nishikawa	20	Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga	20

### **Nehan-E**

Mits & Terry Fujinami	25	Rev. Jerry and Carmela Hirano	100
Maxine Furubayashi	25	May Akiyama	50

### **Shotsuki Hoyo**

Thomas Endo	100	<b>In Memory Of:</b>
Chiyoko Terashima	50	Kathleen H. Endo
Frank Murakami	30	Kay Terashima, Masayo Doi
Mabel Okubo	25	Kume Murakami
Naomi Kageyama	50	Mojiro Tsutsui
		Masayo Doi, Kay Terashima

Paul & Kathy Terashima	50	Masayo Doi, Kay Terashima
Setsuko Nagata	25	Shig Nagata
Kenneth Nodzu	50	Shige Nodzu
Byron & Reiko Watanabe	50	Shige Nodzu, Roy Watanabe
Eleanor Naomi Kobayashi	25	Yasuji Kobayashi
Frank Murakami	30	Yoshiko Rose Watamura
Noreen Okubo	100	Yukie Okubo
<b>Dharma School</b>		
Mabel Okubo	25	
Ichiro & Takeko Doi	25	Goodie Bag
Mits & Terry Fujinami	25	Goodie Bag
Maxine Furubayashi	25	Goodie Bag
Richard Matsuda	15	Goodie Bag
Helen Mitsunaga	25	Goodie Bag
Setsuko Nagata	25	Goodie Bag
Grace Oshita	25	Goodie Bag
Bob Sugino	25	Goodie Bag
Sachiko Tohinaka	15	Goodie Bag
<b>YBA</b>		
Robb & Sarah Farr	100	In honor of Kira & Kenzi Joko
<b>Buddhist Thoughts</b>		
Mabel Okubo	25	
<b>Temple General</b>		
Ivan VanLaningham	150	
Joe & Mariko Kuwahara	100	
Trust	9	
Bob Kasubuchi	35	Memory of Tsugino Masuko
Byron & Reiko Watanabe	25	Pet Memorial
	200	Sangha Award Thank You
Byron & Reiko Watanabe		

## 2015 PAID SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIPS

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

Richard & Lynne Doi	Dot Richeda
Carmela Javellana Hirano	Dave Sekino
Craige Mayeda	Kathy Terashima
Reiko Mitsunaga	Ivan VanLaningham
Kenneth Nodzu	

## 2015 PAID MEMBERSHIPS

*This month, we are listing ALL 2015 Paid Memberships.*

*Don't see your family or friends listed? Encourage them to renew their membership!*

*Don't see yourself listed? Time flies, doesn't it? Time to renew already!*

*Forms available in the November/December 2014 Buddhist Thoughts, in the SLBT Lobby, or from Stephanie Sueoka.*

Tom & Fran Akimoto	Bob Kasubuchi	Jane Sakashita
Tracy Akimoto	Keizo, Fumina, Kana Kobayashi	Phillip & Connie Sakashita
May Akiyama	Brent, Sherrie, Ty, Eric Koga	Charlie Sasaki
Nobuo Aoki	Jeanne Konishi	Tom Sasaki
Hiroshi & Mary Aramaki	Henry & Tammie Kuramoto	Donna Sato
Jeri Aramaki	Craig Lamanna	Walter & Karen Sato
David & Holly Black	Richard Matsuda	Setsuko Schock
Andres Calderon	Kenneth & Renee Matsuura	Steven & Vanessa Shiba
Cookie Chappell	Buster Mayeda	Lynn, Marilyn, Corey Shimada
Aki & Neil Chow	Shauna Mayeda	Jamie Doi Slade
Christine Young Clifford	Hisako Minaga	Chad & Kim Smith
Tawny Conte	Mark & Gail Minaga	Jun Sudoku
Carl & Yuriko Dennison	Helen Mitsunaga	Nobue "Nancy" Sudoku
Ichiro & Takeko Doi	Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga	Dru & Joni Sueoka
Ruby Doi	Marcus & Karie Minaga-Miya	Stephanie Sueoka
Rachael Elliott	Bill & Shigeko Mizuno	Bob Sugino
Stan & Elaine Endo	Asako Mori	Nancy Takagi
Jim & Faye Eng	Haruko Moriyasu	Gary & Kathleen Takenaka
Aaron Froemming	Mikio Moriyasu	Christopher & Shelley Doi
		Taketa
Mits & Terry Fujinami	Tyler Morris	Nanae Taketa
Brian Fukushima & Tammy Park	Tina Munson	Chiyoko Terashima
Elaine Fukushima	David & Julia Nagata	Kirk Terashima
Maxine Furubayashi	Setsuko Nagata	Paul & Kathy Terashima
Georgia Geerlings & Robert Weitzel	Torao & Merry Nakagawa	Cindy Yamada Thomas
Masami Hayashi	Takae Nakamura	Sachiko Tohinaka
Sherrie Hayashi	Yosh Nakayama	Robert & Tami Tokita
Dean Hirabayashi	Ray Nishikawa	Roberto Toro
Carmela Javellana Hirano	Alice Ogura	Yoshiko Uno
Troy & Ashley Holbrook	Lee Oikle	Byron & Reiko Watanabe
Chizuko Ishimatsu	Gary & Ryoko Okamoto	Troy & Judy Watanabe
Tomiye Ishimatsu	Chris Oki	Arthur Yakumo
Tak Iwamoto	Grace Oshita	Kazuko Yakumo
Sandy Iwasaki	Jo Ryujin	