



BUDDHIST CHURCH OF MARYSVILLE

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Hiking the Path, with Team Castle

Hiking at home, Number 6. September 2020

In the last Hiking article, I wrote about the current dis-ease within the country and the world due to racial tensions and racism. As Buddhists, we have a great deal of responsibility to act during this crisis. As our main practice, self-awareness is step one in how we act. Self-awareness is difficult because it places responsibility on each and everyone of us. For me to have self-awareness, I have to take the responsibility to look deep within myself and find out who I am. On our own, we must each look at ourselves and recognize our blind passions. If we find that bias and discrimination exists within us, we must first recognize this and then act outwardly to live our life with the words of the Golden Chain in mind...to be kind and gentle to EVERY living thing...every living person.

It sounds simple huh? No way, it is difficult. But this journey of self-awareness is the first step in living our lives so that we become the standard in our own house, our own neighborhood, our own community. We will then set the tone for others to want to hike with us.

I again, encourage all of us to take that first step and look within ourselves.

As our summer is quickly moving forward, I find myself thinking about this Obon time of year. One of the annual events I look forward to each year is our annual Obon Odori and I believe that the most meaningful

annual service that I officiate each year is our annual Hatsubon service.

Obon time of year is a time of homecoming. Wherever we are at, even if we are unable to come home, our thoughts are with all of our friends and family members who we dance in memory of. Last year, with Reverend Carol's passing, I found that Obon Odori was a very comforting time for the girls and myself. As we danced with friends and family, I found that Carol, her sister Deb, and many other family members were again dancing with us. Obon has always been about family time for Team Castle, and it will continue to be so when we are able to all be together dancing outside in the future.

With the cancelation of Hatsubon and Obon Odori, I know that many of you felt this sense of disappointment as well. Although we are disappointed, I know that all of our loved ones who we dance for would tell us this very simple message. Stay home this year and be safe...so that we can all gather next year and dance in gratitude together.

In Gratitude,

Namo Amida Butsu

Keep on Hiking!!

Team Castle



TEMPLE UPDATE

As I mentioned in my last update, the Marysville Buddhist Church Board of Directors met on July 11th and then again on August 9th. We again started off our Board meeting with a short service before the meeting.

Closing the temple during this COVID crisis was one of the most difficult decisions the MBC Board has ever made. Yet at the same time, it was an easy decision as we knew protecting the health and safety of our Sangha is our goal. It is that same goal that makes opening up the MBC again for services so very difficult and yet easy.

Since our last meeting, Governor Newsom and the State of California have again placed restrictions on churches to allow only outdoor services with other social distancing and safety rules in place. Even our insurance company sent us a reminder that the Governor placed this restriction on churches in Yuba County.

The MBC Board has been busy developing the opening protocols that will ensure that our Sangha has a safe place to come to when we reopen. We continue to purchase the cleaning supplies and equipment that will be necessary to clean our temple.

We must all play a role in only coming to the MBC for service, events, and volunteer time when we are healthy and free from symptoms.

- ✓ We must always wear a mask when visiting the MBC.
- ✓ We must practice appropriate social distancing.

- ✓ We must use the hand sanitizers at the MBC each time we walk past one.
- ✓ We must clean up after ourselves to make sure the MBC is ready for the next gathering.

When the decision is made to re-open, we WILL be ready!!

The best advice I think that we can all take from the world right now is this:

Be patient, be safe, be healthy, and BE HOME!!!

Gassho,
Rev. Tim

SERVICE UPDATE

While Sunday services at the MBC are still on hold, I think that there cannot be a one size fits all approach to address the needs to our Sangha. If your family is in need of a Makura-gyo (Pillow Service), an annual memorial service, funeral/memorial service, or inurnment service, PLEASE contact the Marysville Buddhist Church Office. The office will pass along your contact information to Reverend Tim. There are many options to holding services, and it is important to discuss options on a case by case basis. Safety of our Sangha will still be the number one concern, but we have options that may meet your needs. We may be able to schedule a graveside service or even a home service in the back yard if that is appropriate.

Most importantly, if your family suffers a loss, the Sangha needs to know so we can help in any way we can. So if emergencies occur, please contact the MBC Office.