



# BUDDHIST CHURCH OF MARYSVILLE

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## Hiking the Path, with Team Castle

### Hiking at home, Number 7. October 2020

In the last Hiking article, I wrote about myself thinking about this Obon time of year. One of the annual events I look forward to each year is our annual Obon Odori. I believe that the most meaningful annual services 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 our friends and family members who we dance in memory of.

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.

As we are now quickly approaching the change of seasons to Fall, we would all be gathering soon for our Fall Ohigan Service.

As the seasons begin to change and we reach a time of balance in our days and nights, it is nature who reminds us that today, like any other day, is the perfect time to hit the big pause button and think about where we are right here and right now. Nature reminds us to think about the constant change in our lives, and be grateful for every minute that we are able to share with each other...as EVERYDAY is a good day, and one that we need to be able to open our Dharma Eyes and be grateful for...even if it is not really a good day.

There is a saying in Japanese, SUBARASHII HIBI: and usually it is translated as, Every day is a wonderful day. I asked Rev. Yukawa about this translation one day, and he said that that is really not a good translation...really, is every day full of wonder. A better translation using our heart is: Every day is a good day, but even the word good is a bit of a landmine huh, because there are bad or difficult days!!

The word good, from a Buddhist perspective

would be good from the sense that everyday we are alive, we are able to look at each day with gratitude for what we have experienced, and what we have learned. So maybe a best Buddhist definition of SUBARASHII HIBI is: With our Dharma Eyes wide open, we have been given a gift of life. Life will give us ups and downs, and from these, we learn to live with gratitude in our hearts for each and every day.

Let all of us, each and every day, open our Dharma Eyes wide open, and live each day with gratitude in our hearts.

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 again on August 9<sup>th</sup> and then again just a couple of days ago on September 13<sup>th</sup>. We again started off our Board meeting with a short service before the meeting.

It seems that every day, there are new guidelines and criteria for reopening our world. The one criteria we cannot abandon is always keeping in mind this simple saying: In an abundance of caution.

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 service and events when we are healthy and free from symptoms.

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## TEMPLE UPDATE

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- ✓ 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!!

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. Reverend Tim can even conduct small services via Zoom and FaceBook. So please don't hold back and reach out to the Office and Reverend Tim.

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.

## MAINTENANCE UPDATE

With the temple currently closed due to COVID restrictions, it has been a time for catch up on a couple of major safety and maintenance issues.

Over the course of the last 3 years, you may have read about our ongoing roof leak and leaks in the kitchen and office. These leaks have haunted the members of the Board as with every "fix" we see improvement but not a total stoppage of leaks. Since we have been unable to solve the leak problem, we felt that any change of flooring in the kitchen should be postponed to avoid damage to our new floor.

Since July, the Board has approved the assistance of stucco and wall experts. A full inspection has meant a few more feet of drywall removed in the upstairs apartment. The inspection also led to the quick realization that we need to complete the window replacement process started a few years ago. More to come on the leak diagnosis but we will move forward with window replacement at a cost of \$4,700.00.

Lastly, the overall health of the MBC electrical system needed a full safety inspection. While not terrible news, it was not good! The electricians found several safety and overhaul needs. As of this update, the job has just been completed at a cost of \$11,500.00.

While these projects represent a lot of money to spend when fewer donations are coming into the MBC, the safety of our facility is second only to the safety of our Sangha members...and really they go hand in hand. Simply put, we could not afford NOT taking these projects on.

Quickly adding these maintenance costs up, current leak costs, new windows and electrical updates quickly became an unexpected cost of over \$16,200. **If you would like to make a donation to go directly to these projects, please do so and specify your donation to go to "MBC 2020 Maintenance" so we can designate and note your donation in the Newsletter.**

Lastly, if you have any referrals for Solar Power installation contractors, please call the MBC office and provide the contractors name and phone number. This may be a long term project for the MBC Board to review this coming year.