



# BUDDHIST CHURCH OF MARYSVILLE

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## November 2020

### Hiking the Path, with Team Castle Hiking at home, Number 8.

In the last Hiking article, I wrote about Fall Ohigan.

As the seasons begin to change and we reach a time of balance in our days and nights, it is nature that 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 open our Dharma Eyes and be grateful for...even if it is not really a good day.

This time of year reminded me of the saying, SUBARASHII HIBI. 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.

As I sit down to write this month's article, I am just back home from a weekend spent at Yosemite. This trip to Yosemite was not simply just a trip to be outdoors, but also to officiate the wedding of my best friend's son.

To say that getting to the wedding had been a journey would be an understatement. This Yosemite wedding was at least "plan C" and was only a day away from being cancelled due to the recent forest fires. While plans A and B were planned and then cancelled, preparing for Yosemite also presented challenges. With COVID, Yosemite has been under limited access for several months. Having to purchase entry passes to the park means getting on-line 60 days in advance and hoping you are lucky to be able to purchase a pass. With our party of 10 all

having passes, we quietly waited for the big day with happy anticipation. Then, just the week before the wedding, massive fires and the resulting smoke closed Yosemite to all visitors. With zero days to spare, Yosemite opened the day before the wedding and ceremony was a go! After waiting months, the big day arrived. As we waited for service to begin, our dress shoes covered in dust, standing on Cathedral Beach with El Capitan in the background, I thought, this is perfect. Was it the wedding that was planned for last May...no. Was it the big reception that was planned...no. Was it anything that had been planned for so long...no. But in a way, it was better. As the 10 of us stood in one of the most beautiful spots in the world, our only focus became the wedding ceremony.

In a way, this weekend represented where we are at with all of these COVID restrictions and having to close the Hondo for services. What is important now is that we stay home. Right now, it is perfect, to not have services to protect one another, yet we still have the ability to do what is important. We can go outside every Sunday (or any day!!) at 10:00 a.m. and have our own service outside...perfect. Pass by your home Butsudan, place your hands together in gratitude...perfect. See the morning sun come up and recite the Nembutsu...perfect.

In Gratitude,

Namo Amida Butsu

Keep on Hiking!!

Team Castle

