



Marysville Buddhist Church Newsletter



"Let us discover the joy of living and the significance of birth."

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April 2020

2020 Theme: *Respect*

Hiking the Path, with Team Castle

In the last Hiking article, I wrote about one of the many strong and independent women who have made Jodo Shinshu Buddhism what it is today. One of the most significant woman in Jodo Shinshu history, is Takeko Kujo or often referred to as Lady Kujo.

In 1904, at just the age of 17, she co-founded the Buddhist Women's Association (BWA). Just 16 years later, she became the world leader of the BWA and that same year founded the Kyoto Women's College. In 1923, now living in Tokyo, she established the Asoka Hospital to aid recent earthquake victims and the less fortunate.

Lady Kujo was smart, forward thinking, a devout Buddhist, kind, compassionate, and even a well-respected poet. I was surprised that in looking at our service book, there are Gatha's based upon poems that she wrote. The Gatha, "Gassho no Uta" or Song of Gassho is a beautiful poem that so clearly, effortlessly, and succinctly captures the essence of Buddhism.

Passing through fields and over
mountains,
The pitiful travelers wander aimlessly.
How can they reach the Other Shore
With eyes clouded and steps unsure?

By the guiding light and benevolence of
the Eternal Vow,
We awaken and go forward on the
unobstructed Path.
The shadow of life's misery disappears,
and we offer gassho from a joyful heart.

This month I would like to revisit one of the most basic symbols of our practice. It is something that you should bring to service every time, our nenju or Ojuzu.

Recently one of our young Sangha members asked about making her own Ojuzu. She had been given a number of stone beads and she wanted to make her own unique Ojuzu. So how many beads do I need have she asked? Great question!

How many of you bring an Ojuzu to church every Sunday?? You should always bring one to service. Although it is hard for me to wear one everyday, I always have my little Ojuzu bag in my back-pack just in case I need one. How often to you think about your Ojuzu? All the time, right? How much do we really know about our Ojuzu?

When I first started coming to church, the only thing I really knew about my Ojuzu was that I was always supposed to bring it with me, hold in my left hand, and that I wasn't supposed to swing it around on my finger or play with it when I got bored!!

So let's talk Ojuzu's. We know that Buddhism began in India about 2,600 years ago, and the Ojuzu has been used for centuries by Buddhists throughout the world during meditation.

Now days, Ojuzus come in all kinds of colors, shapes and sizes. Traditional Ojuzu are long with 108 beads, others are a shorter style, and still others fit right around your wrist. They can be made of almost any kind of material you can think of: wood, stone, coral, glass, plastic. Some of my favorites over the years have been made by nursery school students out of Fruit Loops and even macaroni & cheerios! No matter what your Ojuzu is made of, you should always take good care of it.

As I mentioned earlier, a traditional Ojuzu has 108 beads that represent our *bonno* or blind passions. It is said that our blind passions are the root to all of our suffering – *they* are what make life tough. They come from the selfish part of us that makes us think, feel, and act in ways that cause us (and others around us) to feel frustrated, sad, angry or just plain bad.

There are all kinds of blind passions – greed, anger, arrogance, jealousy, doubt, and so on. Some people call these 'blind passions' because we tend to see them in everyone else but ourselves. Others call them 'blind passions'

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because they keep us from being mindful and seeing reality 'as it is'.

In Buddhism, we're reminded that everything in life is constantly changing and we're just a tiny part of the universal oneness of all things. And yet, being human, we tend to forget these very important truths. There's always that part of us that's looking out for number one. But the thing is... when we're only thinking of ourselves...when we say "Namo ME" instead of Namo Amida Butsu, when we monku and complain...we fail to see and appreciate the incredible caring and understanding that surround us every moment of our lives.

So to me, the beads are a great reminder...a reminder that I am not alone...that it is only due to the efforts of others, that I can live my life. Every day, I am surrounded by incredible caring, support, and understanding.

In Gassho,

Keep on Hiking!!

Team Castle



A special message to our Marysville Sangha!

Although our Temple is closed right now, we thought it would be good to get our newsletter out to all of you as a reminder of what will again be the norm in our lives. COVID-19 is not the norm, but a reminder that we all need to take really good care of ourselves and those around us.

The Sangha, the people of the Marysville Buddhist Church are the most important part of our temple. While we are temporarily closed, we are still a Sangha and still family. So please, each and everyone of us, take care and stay healthy. I look forward to seeing everyone again in the near future.

We will get through this chapter together and we will try to send out more mini-newsletters in the near future.

In Gassho,
Reverend Tim

President's Message

Here we are at the beginning of Springtime already, and it seems like we just left 2019 behind. Springtime is a great time to shake off all the cobwebs and dark areas which have crowded your dark recesses. During this time there are

lots of other people who don't have sons or daughters near and don't seem to have close friends to talk to. So, if you know of someone like this, ask them to come to our next Sunday service when the church reopens. Get them to get out of their homes and come to meet our group and find something in common with us. I can guarantee that in the Sunday service days we will have lots of activities they can be a part of to bring smiles to their faces. I challenge each and everyone to bring one person to see how we are.

In Gassho,
Gini Yoshimura



Pond and Garden

The last article left off with lily leaves starting to form. They have now started to reach the surface and fully open. The last water temperature reading was 56 degrees and above, so the fish have come off their fasting and are starting to get to eat. The seem quite happy about that.

It seems as one gets older it gets harder to keep up with things. There is money in the Pond and Garden fund, so at the last board meeting I got permission to use some of it to hire a younger worker to help me. I sent him into the pond to clear out Cattail Island, straighten up corral stones, do the mucking and some sweeping at the west end (the deep end). We worked 5 hours and got 1 ½ carts of muck out. There is still another cart in there, but I thought we did good, it looks nice. It is a learning process to be able to use the tools we have and once you stir things up, it is all by feel as you have no visual.

I used 1 cart of muck as filler in certain spots around the garden, still need more. Even though the pond is relatively cleared other than a few lily leaves the frog still manages to do a good job at hiding. I'll refer to him as "he" since someone named him Prince. Today we had a small yellow finch bird taking a bath at the waterfall. They are much more colorful than our common sparrows. They are a welcome visitor. Last month we showed signs of skunk activity, but they seemed to have moved on, they are not so welcome.

Also, last month, I mentioned that I made a bench for the pond area. That filled up quick, so I made another bench. This newer bench is longer, a touch over 9 feet. Some of this stuff I am able to make at work on my spare time. At 9 feet plus this bench needed some longitudinal

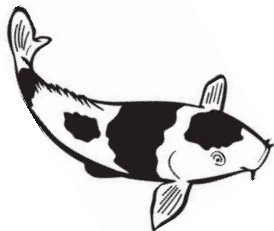
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support, so I took a half day off to fabricate that. It is made from 2 of our old stage boards at a cost of \$4.55 to us (church).

So far it has only had 1 customer, but it should get more use. If that gets filled up it is going to have to be standing room only. Anything more will distract from the pond.

We must have had an owl come in at night that caught a sleeping pigeon, for we had feathers everywhere west of the waterfall. The feathers have been cleaned up. Lily leaves have become more abundant. Our frog (Prince) has taken to sun bathing around noon on Cattail Island. He has grown and body size in now 5” long and 3” wide, but still manages to do an amazing job of hiding. I am still hoping for more serenades come spring and summer. I have heard that the serenades are seasonal.

In Gassho,
Jim Edgman

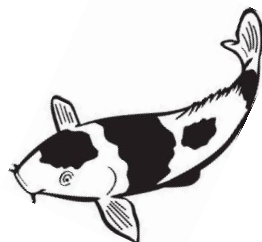


Pond and Garden Donations

Chinese American Pioneer Heritage Committee - \$100.00
Danny & Doris Ow - \$100.00

Thank you!

[MBC Garden & Koi Pond](#)
Video on YouTube



Hoyukai News

The Hoyukai’s Valentine Party and BINGO took place on Thursday, February 13th. Forty-seven members attended the gathering – an awesome turnout! Everyone enjoyed the delicious luncheon, homemade treats and, participated in playing BINGO.

Thank you to the following members for sharing the delicious treats and, contributing to the BINGO game:

- Roy Hatamiya – BINGO \$
- Hatsune Kadoi – BINGO \$
- Anna Kinoshita – BINGO \$
- Yuki Kiyono – BINGO \$ & persimmon nut bread
- Stan Marumoto – Blackout BINGO \$ & a chocolate cake
- Kiyoko Shimamoto – BINGO \$ & 3 containers of Spam
- Sakaye Takabayashi – BINGO \$ & a gift
- Jim Tanimoto – BINGO \$
- Pat Uyemoto – BINGO \$

- Elberta Filer – Two BINGO gifts
- Loraine Komatsubara - Three pumpkin breads and jar opener(s)
- Cinda Low – Two blender sticks
- Haruko Argent – Donut holes
- Darlene Inouye – Cookies
- Craig Nakagawa – Two rice cookers/food steamers, a Thermo cup, a Deco glass, a pumpkin light-up lantern & Door Prize
- Janet Nakagawa – Cup cakes
- Jean Matsui – Cheese cakes
- Dorothy Nishimatsu – Candy
- Lorene & Wyman Wong – Cream puffs & lemon curd
- Gini Yoshimura – Case of diced peaches & fruit

Other Donations:

- Richard & Haruko Argent
- Kaz & Mae Kakiuchi - \$20 dues
- Richard Ow

A big “Thank you” goes out to the BINGO crew (Craig, Kiyoko, Roy & Pat) and the members who helped prepare the luncheon and cleaned up (Mae & Yuki). A thank you goes out to Darlene Inouye, who provided the notes for this article.

A “Thank you” card was received from the late Ms. Takako Mizokawa family.

REMINDER: Unfortunately, our Spring Party Luncheon & BINGO scheduled for Thursday, March 12th, is CANCELLED.

If you have not renewed your Hoyukai membership, Darlene Inouye will gladly assist you for an annual fee of \$10. New members are gladly welcomed! You can mail your dues to the Buddhist Church, Attention: Darlene Inouye.

In Gassho,
Darrell Naruto
Hoyukai Secretary

Card Making

At our first card making session for 2020 on February 20, we had a group of 11 ladies come out with their creative talents to make a variety of cards. Unfortunately, we had quite a few ladies who were unable to join us because they were under the weather. We miss you and wish all of you a speedy recovery and hope to see you back soon!

Thank you to the following for the wonderful variety of foods that were brought to share.

- A. J Tomita mabo tofu
- Vivian & Dorothy
- Nishimatsu apple pie & wasabi crackers

Toshiko Henneberry	marinated salmon
Masako Edwards	inari sushi
Irene Itamura	cookies
Hatsune Kadoi	cake
Mae Kakiuchi	fried rice
Pearl Fukumitsu	matsutake rice & oden
Darlene Inouye	cookies
Kathie Staas	chicken soup
Elberta Filer	Asian salad & fruit salad

Thank you to A. J. for donating wrapping paper and to Mae for donating a variety of craft paper.

Pearl Fukumitsu

Honoring Those Who Passed Away in The Month of April

Deceased & Relationship

Sekizo Kadoi (FIL)	<u>Sesshu Family</u>
Osamu Hasegawa (B)	Hatsune Kadoi
Kikuhei Nakagawa (GF)	Hasegawa Family
Some Tanimoto (A)	Nakagawa Family
Sadaji Yoshimura (GF)	Jim Tanimoto
Riyo Okubo (A)	Ron Yoshimura
Kiyo Nakagawa (M)	Jim Tanimoto
Itsuji Yokohari (F)	Nakagawa Family
Natsuo Nakashima (M)	Yoshimi Yokohari
Iwakichi Tanimoto (U)	Mitsuo Nishikawa
Mariko Kodani (A)	Jim Tanimoto
Suetaro Shimizu (GF)	Misaki Rooney
Yukuno Shimizu (GM)	Kawada Family
Hiromu Toruibara (U)	Kawada Family
Masaki Toruibara (U)	Matsumoto Family
Masamu Uyeki (U)	Matsumoto Family
Hideo Kagehiro (C)	Kimura Family
Toyono Nakao (GM)	Don Tsukimura
Buntaro Nakamura (FIL)	Hatsuye Nakamura
Masu Uchida (GM)	Uchida Family
Masato Kimura (GF)	Kimura Family
Taki Yasuda (GM)	Doris Ow
Hamayo Tahara (GM)	Alan Tahara
Kinue Nabeta (M)	Ken Nabeta
Kumi Takeshita (MIL)	Jim Tanimoto
Suma Kakita (GA)	Michael Fujikawa
George Honda (B)	Hatsuye Nakamura
Shichiro Harry Yasuda (U)	Doris Ow
Fumio Thomas Hatamiya (H)	Mizuye Hatamiya
Iwae Hasegawa (GM)	Hasegawa Family
Frank H. Komatsubara (H)	Lorraine Komatsubara
Koto Naruto (M)	Soapy Naruto
Shigeshi Nabeta (B)	Ken Nabeta
Goro Kagehiro (BIL)	Kimura Family
Frank F. Nakamura (H)	Hatsuye Nakamura
Hisako Jean Doizaki (M)	Shirley Mizuno
Fumie Iwasaki (M)	Iwasaki Family
Michiko Uyemoto (M)	Jimmy Uyemoto
Janine M. Manji (D)	Carolyn Manji
Yoshiko Kagehiro (A)	Kimura Family
Teruko Matsumura (M)	Larry Matsumura
Mabel Tanisaki	Tanisaki Family
Carol S. Wada (S)	Ron Wada

BCA Update

Rev. Marvin Harada Ratified As Next BCA Bishop

Rev. Marvin Harada, who was elected as the next Bishop of the Buddhist Churches of America in December 2019, was ratified by the BCA National Council during its annual meeting in Renton, Washington on February 21, 2020. He will take office on April 1, 2020. Rev. Harada currently serves as the resident minister of the Orange County Buddhist Church, supervising minister of the Vista Buddhist Temple, Interim Rinban of the Buddhist Church of Sacramento, and Co-Director of the Center for Buddhist Education. (The special confirmation ceremony at the Hongwanji in Kyoto for Rev. Harada, conducted by His Eminence Monshu Kojun Ohtani, will be held at a later date yet to be determined (due to the COVID-19 outbreak).

Bishop Kodo Umezu To Retire

Rev. Kodo Umezu has announced that he will retire on March 31, 2020 as he concludes his two terms as Bishop of the Buddhist Churches of America. Rev. Umezu assumed the position of Bishop of the BCA on April 1, 2012.

Tweets from Dr. Kent Matsuda, BCA President

For the latest news from the BCA Follow Dr. Matsuda on Twitter: @BCA_President

US Census Begins April 1, 2020

Every ten years, as mandated by the US Constitution, the federal government gathers data about every person living in the United States. This data impacts policy and decision making for federal and local governments, as well as the private sector. This Census data will be used to distribute over \$600 billion in annual federal funding over the next ten years and will determine federal funding allocations for programs that are vital for our communities.

Please encourage your temple members and affiliates to participate. Census materials are available in English, Japanese, as well as other languages at this website:

[Link to Census Materials](#)

Donations Gratefully Acknowledged

The Marysville Buddhist Church gratefully acknowledges the following donations received. For any corrections or omissions, please call the Church at (530) 743-6426. **Thank You.**

Received from 2/15/20 to 3/19/20

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Donations Gratefully Acknowledged

In Memory Of

IMO: Haruye Tabata
Zenji Tabata
Mitsugi Tabata
Clifford & Pearl Fukumitsu

IMO: Gus & Yuriko Tsuda
Sharon & Tom Koga

IMO: Chiyoe Kobayashi
Teresa Nishikawa

IMO: Ron Ow
Hanako Yoshimoto
Danny & Doris Ow

IMO: Takako Mizokawa
Karen Masaki
June Melemai
Georgette Wong

IMO: Takashi Ozawa
Bob Matsumura
Violet Tanaka

IMO: Hisayo Kanda
Uchida Family

IMO: Tony Kawasaki
Kuniyoshi Yokotobi
Yokotobi Girls

IMO: George Nakao
Opal Wakayama

IMO: Toshiro Yoshimura
Kimiko Kagehiro
Lynne Yoshimura

IMO: Toshi F. Naruto
Jiro & Kiyome Okikawa

IMO: Lily Uyemoto Berger
Gilbert Berger

IMO: Yoshiye Ota
Clem Ota

IMO: Keiji Doizaki
Hisako Doizaki
Keiji Kay Doizaki, Jr.
Conrad & Shirley Mizuno

IMO: Masako Nakamoto
Carol Lauher

IMO: Kazuko Tabata
Cliff & Pearl Fukumitsu
Paul & Mabel Modrell

In Memory Of

IMO: Bob Matsumura
Matsumura Family

Membership (2020)

Shirley Sasaki
Jean Matsui
George & Kashiwa Hatamiya

Nirvana Day

Betty Kochi

Higan-E

Seiji & Amy Iwamura
Mizuye Hatamiya
Frederick & Misaki Rooney
Sumie Muraki
Kahn Kochi

Special Donation

Chinese American Pioneer Heritage
Committee – Use of Facilities
Sharon & Tom Koga – Publication
Roy Fukushima – General
Ken Nabeta – General
Chinese American Pioneer Heritage
Committee – Pond & Garden
Danny & Doris Ow – Pond & Garden

Dana in Action

Thanks to the following for writing, typing, editing, printing, collating, and mailing the March 2020 Newsletter:

Rev. Tim Castle Scott Itamura
DeeDee Chew Hatsune Kadoi
Tony Dughi Louise Nishikawa
Jim Edgman Gini Yoshimura
Pam Edgman

Thanks to the following for sharing after Sunday Service, February 16th:

Rev. Tim Castle – Monju
Betty Kochi – Cake
Gini Yohimura – Pastries & Cookies
Louise Nishikawa – Wafer Cookies
Lorraine Komatsubara – Rum Cake
Anna Kinoshita – Cookies
Pat Uyemoto – Mini Cupcakes
Irene Itamura – Scones

Thanks to the following work crew for the ceiling teardown and inspection on March 29th:

Tony Dughi Kahn Kochi – Donuts
Brad Battley Rachael Coffman – Cookies

Thanks to the following for sharing after Sunday Service, March 1st:

Lorraine Komatsubara – SPAM Nigiri & Mandarin Cake
Betty Kochi – Rum Cake
Gini Yohimura – Coffee Cake & Tib Bits
Hatsune Kadoi – Almonds
Sakaye Takabayashi – Grapes