



*A publication of the Ogden Buddhist Temple*

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## Identity

By Rev. J.K. Hirano

I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know; the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to serve.

-Albert Schweitzer

The reason for this story is because I was in the Philippines for a meeting with Carmela's family. I have never been to the Philippines and it was a wonderful experience. I have many new in-laws and along with that come many new nieces and nephews. We had a number of dinners where Carmela directed the family in introducing themselves to me and to catch her up on what has happened over the twelve years since she had seen many of them.

One of the things that I wanted to do in the Philippines was to visit the graves of Carmela's mother, father and nanny. I didn't hold any type of religious service, out of respect to Carmela's family who are staunch Catholics. The family said a prayer as we gathered over the graves of her mother and father. In holding this short service, we had the opportunity to talk about these people who were so important in Carmela's life. It allowed me to get to know these people who helped to care for and nurture this woman who is now such an important part of my life. Although I will never physically be able to meet them. In getting to know Carmela better, through her roots and family ties, I begin to understand our relationship better. With this understanding comes a better sense of who we are and what we bring into our partnership, our life. This sense of identity is important for a successful self or society.

Although I really enjoyed meeting all of Carmela's family, it is through her brother-in-law Roy Loreda whom I learned about the heart of the Filipino people. Roy has to be one of the most interesting men I have ever met. He is presently a writer and works with the indigenous peoples of the Philippines, educating and helping them develop an economic foothold in society. In the past he had been a political activist (revolutionary) who was imprisoned during the Marcos' regime. He was also a communist at one time, kicked out of the party for his non party line views. Physically he reminded me of an Asian version of Omar Shariff the actor. He had long salt and pepper hair, with a slight gap in his front teeth and a slight accent in his English.

Carmela and I visited her sister Ada and Roy's home in Quezon City. It is a fourth floor walk up, filled with books, plants and music. Ada is a professor of English literature at Ateneo de Manila University. Like Carmela, Ada does not have an interest in cooking, so Roy is also a gourmet cook. They have one son, Rolando, who is a student. Their home is filled with the aroma of herbs and books, with music playing in the background, a very romantic and idyllic place. One afternoon Roy and I talked in their living room which overlooked the garden like common area of their condominium complex. I asked him why the Philippines seemed so far behind their Southeast Asian counterparts in terms of economic growth. Taiwan which is within a two-hour plane flight is booming and isn't an English-speaking country. While the Philippines, which is an English-speaking country, is still trying to find a place in the world economy.

Roy said he believes it is a case of identity. The Japanese, Koreans, Taiwanese are very strong with their self identity. In these countries, there is a great pride in their history and culture. The Filipino people are still not sure of what to be proud of. At world economic summit meetings, the other Asian countries band together politically, the Philippines always just side with the United States, hoping that with their compliance, they may

receive some benefit. Roy used the example of a dog, rubbing up against its master, hoping for a treat to be dropped. As a result, if you include the political corruption, the Filipino lack of identity, have led to them trailing in the Asian economic boom.

I could tell that it was with a heavy heart that Roy explained this lack of identity within his people. Here was a man that was willing to go to prison for his beliefs, yet with the new government and hope arises with revolution, has begun to see that the fault may be deeper than mere politics. As a first time visitor to the Philippines, it was hard for me to understand this lack of pride. I am not even close to being a world traveler or someone that understands world economies. Yet having visited Japan, Korea and Taiwan, I could not understand this lack of pride in the Filipino people, for they have so much to be proud of.

The Philippines seemed an ideal combination of Eastern and Western traditions. As we walked the streets of Carmela's hometown of Iloilo, I could see the mix of Filipino, Spanish, Chinese, even Japanese cultures. It must take a very generous and open nature, to be able to so freely blend these Eastern and Western styles. Snorkeling in the beautiful waters of Anilao with its myriad of aquatic life, I was pleasantly surprised to enjoy this without the tour buses, neon lights, high rise hotels that you find in Hawaii. There was a store we visited that featured the arts of the Philippines. The native handicrafts were exquisite, from the textiles to the wood work. I would proudly use them in my home. And what they should be most proud of are the people. In saying Filipino, you are not describing one homogenous people. Physically they range from dark skinned, short and stocky, to light skinned tall and graceful. In the hotels, malls and markets, they still address their customers as "ma'am" or "sir" a sense of service almost antebellum in nature. Yet at the festivals, you will find joyous dancing and singing. As Bishop Ogui commented to me at Carmela and my wedding reception, "The Japanese American community is so inhibited; I wish they could loosen up and enjoy life like the Filipino community here." In the Philippines, I found that although life may be economically difficult for many, they could still enjoy what they had. There were many festivals with food, dancing and many styles of music. Karaoke and the various systems used to play them may have been invented in Japan, but it was in the Philippines where they were truly used and enjoyed.

You may be wondering what all this has to do with Buddhism? I find many parallels between the Filipino people in the world community to our own Sangha within Utah. Our Sangha has so much to be proud of. We have been in Utah for almost 100 years. We have a tradition that is in the process of using Western and Eastern forms of thought and practice. The foremost proponent of Zen Buddhism in the west, D.T. Suzuki, said that of all forms of Buddhism, Jodo Shinshu is the most suitable for the West. We are a spiritual tradition that is willing to accept and embrace the culture of the communities we are a part of. Yet because of a weak sense of self and identity, no one has heard of us.

What is it that is keeping our Sangha from being known within the larger community? Is there something we can do to break out of the self created imprisonment of our own inhibitions and passive nature? Is it merely a part of our Japanese American heritage that is holding us back? Is it a residual fear left over from the discrimination of the Issei and Nisei from World War II? Is it embarrassment at being different? How do we more actively become involved with the world around us? In developing our own pride and identity our entire Sangha and the larger community benefit. It will be interesting to see how both turn out. I wish I knew the answers but I don't. It is my hope that together we will be able to develop a pride in our spiritual heritage and identity. What is your sense of self? Who are you? *Namo Amida Butsu.*

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## President's Message

By James Aoki

WOW, what a wonderful way to start 2007, attendance at our Ho-Onko Service was incredible, our adult discussion group has been meeting twice a month and Reverend Hirano's second series of Thursday evening study classes have begun. There are many great things happening at the temple and I urge you to come support our different programs.

I want to thank many of you for your kind words of encouragement and would like to ask for your support this coming year. I hope to see you all at the temple! In Gassho ....

# BWA NEWS

By Ruth Kawashima

Many thanks to the following ladies for preparing the Ho-onko lunch:  
Chizuko Fukuda, Tami Hirai, Ellen Kato, Annette Koga, Fumi Koga, Kiyoko Miya, Masako Ryujin. Thank you to Date and Elise Shiramizu for donating the tsukemono.

The BWA Membership Party will be Sunday, March 11. We will meet at 11:30 a.m. at the Greenery Restaurant for lunch and return to the temple for a short service and Bingo. Please call Ellen Kato, 771-1761, to make your reservation. It should be a great afternoon of food and fun so please join us! We would especially love to have new members join us.

Our next 2 meetings are scheduled for **March 25 at 1:00** and **April 29 at 10:00**. Following the April meeting we will be setting up our next quilt.

In Gassho,  
Ruth Kawashima



## BUDDHIST STUDY CLASS & ADULT DISCUSSION GROUP

Did you know there are lots of ways to learn about Buddhism at the Ogden Buddhist Temple? We have just recently started a Buddhist Study class facilitated by Reverend Hirano. The emphasis is on Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. These classes are held on select Thursday evenings. We also have an adult discussion group on general Buddhism. This class is facilitated by Mike Monson and held on select Sunday mornings. Please see the enclosed calendar for exact dates and times.

### In Memoriam

January, 2007

The Ogden Buddhist Temple Sangha extends its deepest sympathies to the families of the following members who recently passed away.

*May the family members find solace and comfort in the Nembutsu.*

*Namo Amida Butsu*

Ms. Amy Sameshima - January 7, 2007

## TOBAN CLEANING

Our toban cleaning lists are currently being revised. Dharma School has agreed to do toban cleaning until our new schedule is complete. THANK YOU DHARMA SCHOOL!

# YBA NEWS

By Ellen Kato

Jr YBA/YBA is always thinking of ways to raise money so we can take trips with Salt Lake's Jr. YBA/YBA to learn more about Buddhism and our culture! We could not do any of this without your support! We truly appreciate your generosity.

The Jr. YBA/YBA had a very successful chow mein dinner in January. Thank you for supporting our organization. We would like to especially thank Ruth Kawashima for going and getting more vegetables in the middle of the dinner so we could make more chow mein. We would also like to thank the following for their donations:

Pam Sugihara	2 blankets for the raffle
Valerie Kato	I-Pod Shuffle for the raffle
Ruth Kawashima	Vegetables
Annette Koga	Chicken
Marcie Fujikawa	Cornstarch
Suzan Yoshimura	Chopsticks, Vegetables and Cupcake Liners

Kris Yamada, Betty Yamashita, Suzan Yoshimura, Pam Sugihara and Ellen Kato for making the butter mochi.

The Jr. YBA/YBA would like to thank everyone who supported the mochi fundraiser. It was a great success. We would like to thank the following for their generous donations:

Sugihara Family	35 lbs. of mochi gome and mochiko
Kato Family	35 lbs. of mochi gome and baggies
Annette Koga	Cheesecloth
Stan Hirai	Mochiko

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## DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

### 6<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

Together we took a field trip to attend the Salt Lake Interfaith Roundtable. This was an incredible experience for all. There were faiths of all kinds represented by music and dance. Our very own Ogden Buddhist Takio Group performed. We felt this experience directly tied in with our current learning and understanding of the Eightfold Noble Path.



Alex Hirai, Trenton Yamashita, KayLe Yamada & Mackenzie Hirai at the Interfaith Roundtable.

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### 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> Grade

We are currently studying the Eightfold Noble path.

We are learning how this affects our lives. We are trying to become better Buddhists.

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### Preschool – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

We are having so much fun learning all about Buddha and what he has done for us. Our teachers are so much fun! As quoted by Madison Yamashita, "I just love teacher Pam and teacher Ellen!"

## Dharma School Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>Class Chair</u>	<u>Pianist</u>	<u>Family – Alter</u>
3/4/07	Jr. YBA/YBA	Pam	Hirai Family
3/11/07	NO DHARMA School	Salt Lake Ski Party	
3/18/07	Board		Annette Koga Family
3/25/07	4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Marisa	Aoki Family
4/1/07	6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Pam	Yoshimura Family
4/8/07	Jr. YBA/YBA	Marisa	McGreal-Waters Family
4/15/07	Board		Annette Koga Family
4/22/07	NO DHARMA School	SL Hanamatsuri	
4/29/07	4 <sup>th</sup> & 5 <sup>th</sup> Grade	Pam	Kato Family

## Donation Lists

### BWA Donations

Omitted for online version.

### Jr. YBA/YBA Donations

Omitted for online version.

### Ogden Buddhist Church Donations

Omitted for online version.





**OHIGAN SERVICE 1:00 p.m.**  
**Shotsuki Hoyo**  
**KEIRO-KAI**  
**Sunday, March 18, 2007**  
**Otoki Lunch at 11:30 a.m.**

*The word Higan comes from the Sanskrit word Paramita - "Other Shore." The words "other shore" refer to the "world of Nirvana." As the name Higan denotes, this is the time to remind within each and every one of us the Bodhisattva practice of the Six Paramitas of charity, morality, patience, effort, meditation, and wisdom. It is the means by which one crosses over the illusory ocean of birth and death to the other shore of Nirvana.*



**HANAMATSURI SERVICE 10:00 a.m.**  
**Shotsuki Hoyo**  
**Sunday, April 15, 2007**  
**Lunch and Program Following Service**

**Guest Speaker: Michael Endo**

Michael Endo was born in Oakland California. He graduated from San Francisco State University with a BA in International Relations. He received his Tokudo from Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha on March 16, 2002. Michael is an active member of the Buddhist Church of Oakland where he served as the Church Office Manager for 12 years. He has been a board member since 1992 and served as President for 2 years. Michael is currently the Secretary to the Bishop, Office of the Socho.

Michael is skilled in the art of Japanese Ikebana Flower Arrangements and the Japanese Chanoyu Tea Ceremony.

*Hanamatsuri or "Flower Festival" is held to commemorate the birth of Siddhartha Gautama in Lumbini Garden. According to the ancient legend, the universe was filled with joyful music, flowers bloomed in full glory and sweet rain fell from the heavens to make this a joyful event. During the service a flower shine known as the Hanamido is set up in front of the main altar as a symbol of Lumbini Garden. In this shrine is placed a statuette of the infant Buddha and the Congregation offers flowers and pours sweet tea over the image.*

**March Shotsuki Hoyo**

March 18, 2007, 1:00 p.m.

Mar 10 1967 Kanekichi Hamada  
 Mar 18 1971 Francis Hirabayashi  
 Mar 18 1971 Ricky Hirabayashi  
 Mar 11 1987 Yukiyo Iseki  
 Mar 29 1997 Keizo Kano  
 Mar 12 1999 Toyse Toshiharu Kato  
 Mar 15 2005 Maxie Kimiko Kato  
 Mar 14 1960 Tasaku Kumooka  
 Mar 23 1988 Yoshimatsu Miyagishima  
 Mar 23 1996 Hideo Miyawaki  
 Mar 29 1998 Matsuyo Miyawaki  
 Mar 22 1988 Mary M. Morinaka  
 Mar 5 1979 Shuichi Murakami  
 Mar 14 1994 Masako Nakagawa Burrell  
 Mar 16 1966 Bunkichi Oki  
 Mar 18 1975 Itsu Ota  
 Mar 18 1976 Hisayoshi Oto  
 Mar 31 1973 Taiji Shimada  
 Mar 14 1970 Yasu Shiotani  
 Mar 3 1970 Utaro Sugihara  
 Mar 11 1979 Masu Sugihara  
 Mar 11 2000 George Joji Sugimoto  
 Mar 16 1990 Mine Takabayashi  
 Mar 16 1983 Noble Edward Tsushima  
 Mar 30 1988 Takashi Uemori  
 Mar 27 2003 Saburo Butch Uyeno  
 Mar 27 1964 Shinichi Yamada  
 Mar 3 1996 Toshimi Yamada (Tsukaoto)  
 Mar 7 1979 Mii Yamaguchi  
 Mar 16 1996 Ruby Toshiko Yamasaki  
 Mar 28 1992 Kiyoshi Yei  
 Mar 11 1976 Saburoji Yoshimura

**April Shotsuki Hoyo**

April 15, 2007, 10:00 a.m.

Apr 8 1982 Helen Haruye Estrada  
 Apr 23 1974 Chohachi Fujita  
 Apr 5 1979 Utaka Harada  
 Apr 25 1970 Toraki Hattori  
 Apr 2 1980 Joe Hideo Imaizumi  
 Apr 2 1995 Miyoe Inouye (Miyamoto)  
 Apr 16 1983 Ise K. Kato  
 Apr 5 1979 Bunshiro Kikuchi  
 Apr 4 2000 Mitsuru Koga  
 Apr 21 1963 Katsugoro Miya  
 Apr 22 1967 Eimatsu Miyagishima  
 Apr 4 1962 Kenjiro Mukai  
 Apr 11 1993 Yukimi Nakashige (Naito)  
 Apr 13 1962 Kosaku Nakta  
 Apr 11 1975 Gentaro Nikashige  
 Apr 13 1987 Chiyoichi Ogata  
 Apr 24 1979 Haruge Okuda  
 Apr 11 1987 Kumaye Okuda  
 Apr 13 1980 Kirk Sakae Omori  
 Apr 17 1984 George Sakae Omori  
 Apr 4 1961 Kotaro Ono  
 Apr 3 1991 Randall Petersen  
 Apr 11 1979 George T. Ryujin  
 Apr 21 1999 Tomotsu Tom Ryujin  
 Apr 2 2004 Etsuko Ryujin  
 Apr 4 1999 Mary Sase  
 Apr 6 1990 Takino Sugimoto (Nakano)  
 Apr 26 1995 Yoshiko Tawatai (Yamasaki)  
 Apr 29 1993 Shizuyo (Shitsuyo) Uyematsu  
 Apr 22 1971 Kiyoshi Yamamoto  
 Apr 17 1995 Miyeko Yamane (Nakagawa)  
 Apr 28 1967 Suzuko Yamashita  
 Apr 24 2006 George Seiichi Yoshida

For those years not having a specific memorial service such as 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, etc. the temple is holding these monthly Shotsuki Hoyo. During these services, the temple will list the names of those members who have died during the month in the preceding years. The families then attend that monthly service in memory of their loved one.

These services are not meant to replace the specific memorial services. Please contact Rev. Hirano to make arrangements for those services.

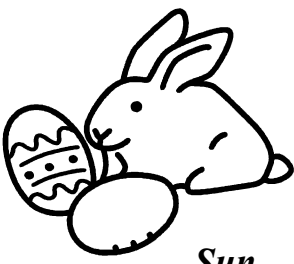
Rev. Hirano contact information - Office: 363-4742, Home: 299-8727, Emergency: 718-5755

<b>2007 Memorial Service Schedule for those who passed away in:</b>		
2006 - 1 year	1995 - 13 year	1975 - 33 year
2005 - 3 year	1991 - 17 year	1958 - 50 year
2001 - 7 year	1983 - 25 year	1908 - 100 year



# MARCH, 2007

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
				1	2	3
4 9:00am – Beginning Taiko 10:00am – Regular Taiko 11:30am – Dharma School Teacher/Parents Mtg. 12:30pm – Dharma School 1:00pm – Family Service with Rev. Hirano  *SCRIP ORDERS DUE*	5	6	7	8	9  ←National Council Mtg. in Oakland, Calif. (March 9, 10	10
11  Day Light Savings! Salt Lake Ski Party @ Brighton NO Dharma School 10:45am – Adult Discussion Group 11:30am – BWA Membership Party	12	13 7:30pm – Board Meeting	14	15 7:30pm – Study class with Rev. Hirano	16	17 St. Patrick's Day!
18 9:00am – Beginning Taiko 10:00am – Regular Taiko 11:30am – Otoki Lunch will be served 12:30pm – Dharma School 1:00pm – OHIGAN SERVICE, March Shotsuki Hoyo & KEIRO-KAI SERVICE	19	20	21	22 7:30pm – Study class with Rev. Hirano	23	24
25 9:00am – Beginning Taiko 10:00am – Dharma School 10:45am – Adult Discussion Group 1:00pm – BWA Meeting 1:00pm – Regular Taiko	26	27	28	29 7:30pm – Study class with Rev. Hirano	30	31



# APRIL, 2007

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<b>1</b> 9:00am – Beginning Taiko 10:00am – Dharma School 10:45am – Adult Discussion Group 1:00pm – Regular Taiko  *SCRIP ORDERS DUE*	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 7:30pm – Study class with Rev. Hirano	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> <b>HAPPY EASTER!</b> 9:00am – Beginning Taiko 10:00am – Dharma School 10:45am – Adult Discussion Group 1:00pm – Regular Taiko	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 7:30pm – Board Meeting	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> YBA/Jr. YBA Meditation Retreat @ Honeyville*
<b>15</b> 10:00am – HANAMATSURI SERVICE with guest speaker Michael Endo & April Shotsuki Hoyo LUNCH & PROGRAM will immediately follow service.	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Deadline for GEPP0 articles.	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 10:00am - SL Buddhist Church HANAMATSURI SERVICE No Ogden Dharma School	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Nihon Matsuri Festival
<b>29</b> 9:00am – Beginning Taiko 10:00am – Regular Taiko 10:00am – BWA Meeting 12:30pm – Dharma School 1:00pm – Family Service with Rev. Hirano	<b>30</b>					

\* Reverend Hirano is going to take SL and Ogden’s Jr YBA/YBA to the Honeyville Temple for an overnight Meditation Retreat. They will spend the night in Honeyville and return to the Ogden Buddhist Temple on Sunday to attend the Hanamatsuri Service.  
**More information will follow.**

