



Buddhist Thoughts

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Living Buddhism

J.K. Hirano

Buddham Saranam Gacchami
Dhammam Saranam Gacchami
Sangham Saranam Gacchami
(Pali)

Namo Kie Butsu
Namo Kie Ho
Namo Kie So
(Japanese)

I take refuge in Buddha
I take refuge in Dharma
I take refuge in Sangha
(English)

To begin with, I would like to thank all of the Sangha members that have written me by e mail , regular mail or called. to talk with me on the phone about my having submitted a letter of resignation to the temple board. Although it is only May, I had the feeling it was Christmas and I was living through a personal version of "It's a Wonderful Life." I cannot tell you how much I appreciate the many kind words concerning my staying in Salt Lake as the minister of this temple.

My decision of resigning had nothing to do with the way I am being treated at this temple. I realize that criticism is just part of the job as Kaikyoshi. I serve on the Buddhist Churches of America Minister's Affairs Committee and I am treated very well compared to the treatment some ministers have had to live with. For the size of our

temple, Salt Lake has treated me very fairly and I realize that the criticism about my performance as Kaikyoshi was limited to a very small group of people. This may have been the seed that resulted in my letter of resignation, but it was not the only reason.

Almost every minister I know, loves their job. As most of you know, it isn't the greatest materially paying job in the world, but as for spiritually satisfying, I can think of nothing I would rather do. This is the attitude of all the ministers I know. This isn't the type of job that you can fake your way through. You either love it or people will see through your insincerity. Each of us feels blessed to have been allowed to become Kaikyoshi. However, along with that title comes responsibility.

One of the most influential people in my decision to become a minister was the late Rev. Russell Hamada. When I was at the University of Utah, seriously contemplating Law School and he was a student at the Institute of Buddhist Studies, we had many conversations about giving back to our communities. This was during the time of the civil rights movement and what we call Asian American awareness. Russell had worked as a grant writer and program developer for the Japanese Community Youth Council in San Francisco's Japan town area. He had also played with the idea of law school or teaching History in High School. It was his sincere belief that by becoming Kaikyoshi he was serving the community on a level that was very important. I agreed and followed his inspiration.

One of the important lessons that Russell taught me was about the responsibility we hold as Kaikyoshi. He explained that many people may expect all Kaikyoshi to just be nice. Whatever they say or do, they are often expected to just say, "That's wonderful. Thank you for coming to the temple and supporting us." He explained to me, a Kaikyoshi should be kind. However, to just say yes to everything and express only how wonderful things are, is not doing your true job. In the title of Kaikyoshi is the characters to spread or open the teachings (Dharma). The last character shi is not the character for teacher, as some assume. It comes from the phrase "Nyorai no tsukai." Messenger of the Buddha. With this title comes the responsibility of protecting the Dharma.

I began this article with the three lines that all Buddhists recite no matter what country or language you speak. We refer to these as the three treasures or three refuges. The notion of taking refuge in the Buddha is obvious, to rely upon an enlightened being for guidance. What we rely upon is the teachings left by the Buddha for guidance. In the paranirvana sutra, the Buddha says, "After my death, the dharma will be your teacher."

With the Dharma, the only way for it to be transmitted or for it to become a living entity, is

through the lives of the Sangha. Although traditionally the Sangha referred to the monks and the brotherhood surrounding the Buddha. Within our tradition and that of our Buddhist Churches of America, you and I as members of this temple, are the Sangha. By integrating the teachings into our lives and acting to the best of our abilities as followers of the teachings, Buddhism comes alive. If we only use this temple as a gathering place without remembering what the teachings are about, Buddhism is nothing more than 2500 year old lines of ancient philosophy. The Sangha is living Buddhism.

When I submitted my letter of resignation. I felt that I had failed in getting this across. We had done a remarkable job of raising money for our temple. We had many wonderful individuals that worked for the benefit of the temple. However, the way some were treating one another, this made me feel as though the temple was nothing more than a social gathering place. If that was the case, I felt a recreation director was more suited for my job, rather than Kaikyoshi. I had failed in my abilities of spreading the Dharma or protecting it.

Now after nearly six months of thinking about my decision. After discussion with Bishop Ogui, I have decided to stay at the temple as Kaikyoshi. This decision is the result of so many of you writing and calling me about your concerns for the temple. Thank you very much for your concern.

I know that there will always be individuals who would use the temple as their personal country club. There will always be those that look to find fault with what I do. This is just human nature. However, I hope that all of you will take responsibility of acting towards one another in a kind and considerate way. Our society in general can be a very harsh place. Let us all work to make our Sangha a true refuge. It is not an easy task and at times it may take great personal resolve and integrity. When I get angry with a member of our Sangha. I try to remember what the great teacher Jitsuen Kakehashi spoke about at our BCA centennial.

He said that there were times when he was confronted by people he just didn't like. He could just feel that feeling of hatred arise within himself. As those time, he reminded himself that the person he so despised was a future Buddha. It wasn't that he no longer disliked them. However, his small change in perception allowed himself to treat that other with respect. He said that if all of us could just take that moment of reflection to see your enemy as a future Buddha, the entire world would change.

At our temple, we are not all going to get along. To believe that, would be sheer indulgence and wishful thinking. Yet, we can each try to respect one another. I don't believe that there is any one at our temple that is willfully trying to hurt someone else. Everyone is trying to work for the benefit of the temple in their own way. If that way, offends you, just try to do your own thing, your own way and let them do theirs. Thank you for allowing me to remain as the Kaikyoshi of this temple. I look forward to working with all of you to make our temple a true refuge in an often time turbulent world. Namo Amida Butsu.

President's Message

Paul Terashima

On April 30, 2005, the Japanese community sponsored the Nihon Matsuri. This was chaired by Floyd Mori, past National J.A.C.L. president. He got the Utah J.A.C.L. chapters, Japanese Church of Christ, Dai Ichi Ward, and the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple to anchor this festival. Sherrie Koga got vendors to sell their wares. Nihon Matsuri had 43 booths, selling food, drinks, artwork, clothing and many other items. In the Buddhist Temple's gym was a photo exhibition of old Japan Town, where the Salt Palace now stands. There were also photos of Topaz. For the older people like my mother, father and myself, it was a time to reminisce

about old 1st south and all the friends we grew up with.

The Salt Lake Buddhist Temple has to thank Sherrie Koga, Elaine Endo and Joy Furubayashi for chairing this event. It was really great to see all the Temple organization participating. Everyone worked hard to make this event a success. I was really proud of the Temple. The Nihon Matsuri put \$2,668.28 into the Temple's General Fund. The Mt. Olympus J.A.C.L. donated 10% or \$200.00 to the Temple for use of our bar-be-cue equipment.

Sat., July 9, 2005 is the Temple's Obon. Bruce Fong and David Sekino are co-chairs for the second straight year. There is a sign-up sheet for different jobs. As of May 23, I have not seen very many volunteers. Please sign-up early, this would make Bruce and David's job so much easier.

There are green flyers on the front table about this year's Mountain States District Conference. It has all the information needed to register. The conference will be held July 29-31 in Park City. Thank you Karen Tohinaka and Dhama School for chairing this event.

The winners for the 2005 Special Awards are Jan- Richard Matsuno, Feb- Dr David A Lusty, April-Al Tokunaga, April-Richard Sekiguchi and May-Reiko Mitsunaga.

BWA News

Yoshiko Uno

We held our monthly meeting on **May 15th**. I want to thank Tammie Kuramoto and Yuki Okubo for providing refreshments and Dot Richeda for updating our telephone list. If you have been missed please let us know.

We had a great turnout for our Temple cleaning on **April 23rd** and at our **April 24th** Food Handler's training.

On **April 30th** we worked with Sherrie Koga and Elaine Endo in preparing for the **Nihon Matsuri**. Terry Fujnami, Takeko Doi, Kathy Terashima, Setsuko Nagata, Jeannie Konishi, Junko Mitsunaga, Jane Sakashita and myself prepared sakura mochi and azuki for the snow cones. Some of us helped Friday and Saturday preparing and working on the Obentos. Thank you to all who helped. As you may have heard, we all sold out early. Next year we will need to work out shifts. We will need more help. I don't know how Sherrie and Elaine managed the organization of booths, food preparation and sales, and the craft booths. They did a marvelous job. We need to thank them for their dedication and hard work.

On May 14th we lost a member of our organization, Nishie Sasaki. Our sympathy and condolence to her family.

On **May 22nd** we had Gotan E, Shotsuki Hoyo, Hatsumairi, and Parent's Day service. Lunch was enjoyed by all which was prepared and served by our YBA. They did a great job.

On **June 12th** we will have our **Shotsuki Hoyo, Graduation, and Eshinniko Service**. We usually have our Luncheon after the service at this time to welcome our new members, spouses, and friends. Hoping you will join us at the Golden Dragon for lunch. You will be receiving a call for reservations.

The **Federation of Buddhist Women's Association Conference** will be held on **September 1st to 3rd of 2006 in Hawaii**. They are asking for preregistration by August 31st of this year. Cassandra Van Buren has posted all the information on our Temple web site. Please check it for details and forms. Sensei is wanting to get a group together for the conference and a tour. Hoping you will join us in Hawaii.

Our next meeting will be June 26th at 10 AM.
Please join us.

Dharma School

Karen Tohinaka

The Dharma School is in charge of the 35th Annual Mountain States Conference to be held on July 29-31 in Park City at the Land Mark Hotel next to the Outlet Mall. We would like to invite all the Sangha to attend, the youth and especially the seniors. Many senior members of the Sangha, fondly remember the Conferences of the past and have developed many friendships w/ the Denver groups and would like to renew their relationships since many are getting up in years. We will have activities for all ages. So please consider attending this year's conference.

See the attached flyers and if you have any questions, contact:

Karen Tohinaka: (801) 288-2514

Lynne Doi: (801) 583-2111
Dot Richeda- (801) 262-8406

Thanks to Sherri Koga and Elaine Endo for all their hard work that went towards the Nihon Matsuri. Many thanks also goes to all the BWA and Dharma School students and parents that came out and helped throughout the whole day. We couldn't have done it without you all.

On May 7th, the Dharma School hosted the Nikkei Center luncheon and several of our classes performed and provided the entertainment and centerpieces for the raffle and the luncheon. Thanks to the parents and students that came out to help set up, serve, and clean up.

Parent's Day was hosted by the YBA who served the delicious lunch and Jr. YBA who passed out the gifts. Thanks to the advisors Dave and Erin Sekino, Debbie and Wes Koga, Maya Chow, and Bruce and Kristi Fong for organizing the wonderful day for all.

Lagoon Day will be June 5th. I have not received the discount tickets yet, but I will announce it at service when I do get them.

Jr. YBA

Christy Fong

The Jr. YBA will be taking their last Scrip order June 12. Orders will be ready for pick-up during Obon dance practices or when we see you. Order your gift cards, restaurant cards, and gas cards for the summer break. Plan ahead for birthdays, special occasions, and thank yous. We thank the Sangha for their continued support.

The Jr. YBA will be having a fund raising Chow Mein Dinner on June 25, Saturday, from 5:00 – 8:00 pm. Proceeds will go towards funding their next temple exchange trip. Tickets are available from any Jr. YBA member or may be purchased at the door. Take out orders will also be available. The cost will be \$8.00 per dinner. We hope to see you there!

The annual end of the year Barbeque for Jr. YBA members and their families is scheduled for July 4th. Please contact Bruce or Christy Fong at 451-4516 or email at christykf@hotmail.com and let us know how many family members will be attending. Have a fun and safe summer break!

Obon

(a gathering of joy)

Christy Fong

Our annual OBON Festival is scheduled for July 9th, a time for our entire Sangha to join together in joy and honor the memory of our loved ones who have passed before us.

This festive and lively observance is also an important fund raising opportunity for our temple. Being the 2nd mate of one of the co-chairs for both the Obon and Food Bazaar, I have observed with awe the many unsung heroes that work for our temple, from the wee hours of the morning, until late in the evening to make our fund raising efforts a success. They not only are there for every event, but have probably contributed in this way for years and years. The load can be lightened if we all lend our time and helping hands, and a greater spirit of oneness and friendship throughout the temple and across the ages can grow. The traditions and knowledge can only continue if we pass this down through the generations.

We ask that all our members, young and old alike, volunteer your time at this event. Sign up sheets and time schedules are posted on the church bulletin board. Food preparation begins on Friday, July 8th. Sushi is prepared and rolled from 6:30 am – 10:00 am on Saturday, July 9th. Other food items are prepared from 10:00 – 1:00 that same day. Food sales begins at 1:00 pm.

Last year we learned that food sales continued during the entire evening. It would be

helpful if the men would sign up for the later shifts, giving the women the opportunity to dance in the Obon if they wish. Otherwise, we expect to see you dancing!

Let's all do our part to make this event successful in all ways for the temple.

Temple Calendar

Cassandra Van Buren

The Temple website now has a new calendar, which allows members to add events that are of interest to the Sangha. The calendar is accessed by visiting the temple website at <http://www.slbuddhist.org> and clicking the "Calendar" link, or visiting this URL using your web browser:

<http://www.localendar.com/public/slbuddhist>

It is set up so that added events are approved (so that strangers don't add unwanted events), and you are welcome to add Temple information as you see fit. If you have any additional information for existing calendar entries, or are unable to add calendar items on the website, just email the info to Cassandra Van Buren at cvb@dadabase.org or 364-3077 and she will make the addition.

YBA Blanket Raffle

Keith Chow

The YBA would like to thank all the church members for buying raffle tickets during the Hanamatsuri to support the YBA. We had a very successful fund raiser selling a lot of tickets and making some money for our activities. The YBA would like to thank all of the YBA members that helped sell tickets and make the blanket for the raffle. We would also like to give a special thanks to Debbie Koga for donating the material and the time to make the blanket.

June Shotsuki Hoyo

June 13, 10:00 am

Deceased	Date	Next of kin
Akiyama Uhichi	6/12/67	Francis Akimoto
Fujimoto Kanta	6/7/56	Grace Oshita
Fujinami Tomakichi	6/12/68	Mitsuru Fujinami
Harada Tsuyono	6/2/85	Amy Enomoto
Imai Fujii	6/28/91	Ruth Aoki
Kobayashi Tsui	6/20/43	Ken Kobayashi
Mayeda Buntaro	6/5/89	Toshi Mayeda
Muraki Sakae	6/24/87	
Nakamura Chogoro	6/28/45	Takae Nakamura
Noda Ben	6/29/92	Reiko Jean Noda
Sakinada Kathleen	6/4/89	
Sasaki Nobuko	6/22/34	Charlie Sasaki
Shiba Eiji	6/30/85	
Suzuki Kiyoji	6/11/69	Masako Suzuki
Tadehara Mary	6/30/84	Rose Kamaya
Tani Hatsuye Mary	6/17/84	Elanor Nakamura
Yokome Roy	6/26/95	Ray Uno
Araki Aiko	6/16/98	
Aoki Fred Toshio	6/17/98	Kay Aoki
Niwa Teruchiyo	6/11/00	Pat Ninomiya
Karen Haruko Shiba	6/17/00	Tosh Shiba
Kiyo Nakamura	6/10/04	Phil Nakamura

With Deepest Sympathy

Our Temple offers our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of

Nishie Sasaki

4/18/1929-5/14/05

We hope that through the nembutsu teachings and the strength of your family and community, you will find comfort in this difficult time.
Namo Amida Butsu.

June Toban

*Brent Koga	*Jeff Watanabe
Sherrie Koga	Silvana Watanabe
Mitsuru Fujinami	Terry Fujinami
Jim Eng	Faye Eng
Donna Sato	Stephanie Sueoka
Merry Nakamura	Takeko Doi