



Buddhist Thoughts

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What is Successful?

J.K. Hirano

Generally speaking, people are considered to be good and faithful followers if they lead a moral life, attend church services, and participate in welfare activities. In Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, however, while these practices are encouraged, they alone do not constitute the Buddhist way of life. What is critically important is that the teachings radically transform our way of thinking and living so that we become true individuals: strong in crisis, humble in success, tender in our feelings, and grateful at all times.

The Awareness of Self- Rev. Gyodo Haguri

I have just returned from a week vacation at Disneyland with my family. This is the third or fourth family vacation we have had with our newly blended family. After each of these vacations or at least three out of four, Carmela and I have said to each other, "Never again." These vacations have caused more family arguments, extreme fatigue and a huge blow to the family budget. It would seem that the purpose of a family vacation is to bring the family closer together and to be a time to refresh and relax us all, if not physically, at least mentally, no such luck, so far. Yet I can imagine that eventually, we will begin planning another family trip. Does that mean the vacation was successful or that we are hopelessly optimistic?

For many families that have children graduating from High School, this is the time to decide if and where their child will go to college. Our daughter Katie is graduating from high school. She was fortunate to have been accepted into most of the schools she applied to. Stanford seems to be her first choice. Yet, when tuition, room, board and various living expenses are factored in, one year will cost close to \$50,000.00 per year. The

University of Utah is much less, maybe one tenth of the cost. Does this mean that Stanford guarantees that you will be ten times more likely to succeed in life than graduating from the University of Utah?

These two recent experiences have made me look at what it means to be successful. What does it mean to have a successful family, successful college experience, a successful life? I wish I could remember where I heard this quote, but I can't, someone said, "We are all going to die, it is a basic fact of life that is proven over and over again. If you are human, you will one day die. Why is it that we live as though we will be the one exception?"

This makes me wonder about how we chase financial success and how we define that success. What is the cost of that success? How many of us work in the hope of enjoying our retirement, disregarding our happiness and harmony in our current life's situation? I remember when I was a student in Japan, studying to become a minister, a teacher asked us, "Why are you here?" Most of the students replied that they

were there to listen and learn about the Dharma. However, one student replied, "I want a comfortable and financially rewarding life and taking over my family's temple seemed like the easiest way to do that?" I remember the teacher and all of the students just staring at him. Yet, I had to admire him for his honesty. All of us want a comfortable and financially stable life. However, when those things are fulfilled, there is usually something else that we yearn for.

Carmela told me that when she was a child, her father told her that the meaning of life was in service. This led her to choose medicine as her goal when she was about 11 years old. I would have to agree with him. The notion that the meaning and significance of our lives can be fulfilled by service is a very succinct way of defining a goal and purpose for living. Although he was a devoted Catholic, this ideal would serve all human beings regardless of religion.

However, if we are honest with ourselves, all of us want what that student asked for, a comfortable and financially stable life. However, in achieving that goal, there are choices we must make as responsible human beings. I know of a great many individuals who have succeeded financially, some to the degree that most of us can't even imagine, yet at the end of their lives feel empty. The billionaire J. Paul Getty once said "I hate and regret the failure of my marriages. I would gladly give all my millions for just one lasting marital success." How many of you are in successful marriages, yet yearn for a billion dollars?

The passage I began with is from Rev. Gyodo Haguri's book Awareness of Self. I believe that if we can take the suggestion of Carmela's father of service as a key and Rev. Haguri's definition of a true individual, "strong in crisis, humble in success, tender in our feelings, and grateful at all times," These are wonderful guidelines for success in life. To our young Sangha members, I wish you the best in your decisions about your future. For ultimately it is

your decision now, that will determine true success in your future.

President's Message

Paul Terashima

Sensei, Reiko Watanabe and I have been looking at the Temple membership. We have discovered that there are quite a few last years members that have forgotten to renew their membership for 2006. As we all know, membership dues are needed to help run both the Buddhist Churches of America and our Temple. If you are one of these past members that have forgotten to renew your membership, please join as soon as possible. If you can't remember whether you paid or not check the Buddhist Thoughts, the Bulletin Board or call Reiko Watanabe (278-9711).

I would like to THANK Mark Minaga, He volunteered to Co-Chair the Food Bazaar for the third straight year. I am indebted to him for doing this. His Co-Chair is Gary Okamoto, he Co-Chaired two years ago and he also volunteered to chair this year. A very big thanks to both of you. Now the one Big headache is the Obon Chairs, I need two Sangha members to step-up for this event. I can handle all the small headaches, but I need this one to be solved by the Sangha.

Special Awards winners for this year are: January-Linda Omori, February- Byron Watanabe and March-Tom Akimoto. Thank you for supporting this fund raiser. Good luck for April. **MAY Toban**-*Lynn Shimada and *Fran Akimoto - Marilyn Shimada, Tom Akimoto, Dennis Akimoto, Tracy Roberson, Fumio Mayeda, Rick Ikegami Bobbie Ikegami, Lisa Imamura and Victor Oishi.

BWA News

Yoshiko Uno

We held our monthly meeting on April 23th. Our Food Sale which we had on the 26th of March

was a great success. The monies were donated to the Building Fund. With the generous contribution of food items we raised about \$352.00. Some of our members got together at the Temple to make ohagis which added to our profits. THANKS to all who brought food items to sell.

For our Hanamatsuri that was held on April 8th, our members contributed omusubis. Sakura mochi was again made by our talented members and was enjoyed by all.

Our next big project will be the Nihon Matsuri on April 29th. We will be preparing obentos. It is hoped that all will help to prepare the food and come support this event.

On May 14th at our Shotsuki Hoyo Service Carmela Hirano will receive her certification as a minister's assistant and Bishop Ogui will be in town for this special service. Hoping everyone will join us in congratulating Carmela and welcome our Bishop to Salt Lake City.

We are planning a Women's Health Seminar for Saturday, June 10th and on Sunday, June 11th our Eshiniko Service and luncheon. Please mark these days on your calendars. Hoping you'll join us for an informative and relaxing weekend.

Our next meeting be held June 4 at 10:00 am.

Eshinniko Seminar

Brenda Koga

On June 10, 2006 the Buddhist Womens Association will be sponsoring a seminar entitled "Healthy Living Through the Dharma". This will be in conjunction with our annual Eshinniko service to follow on June 11. Our featured speakers will be the newly certified ministers' assistants, Carmela Hirano and Annette Koga (Ogden).

The seminar will begin on Saturday at 1:00 with a brief opening service, followed by 2 workshop sessions with the speakers and

concluding with a health fair in the gymnasium. The health fair will include stations with information /simple assessments for blood pressure, nutrition, osteoporosis and exercise. Following the seminar a dinner for the speakers and anyone interested will follow at the Pagoda restaurant at 5:30 p.m. The cost will be \$15.00 per person.

Sunday, June 11 will be the Eshinniko service at 11:00, following the Dharma School service. The Eshinniko service will again be addressed by Carmela Hirano and Annette Koga and include the induction of the new members to the BWA. A luncheon will follow at the Golden Dragon restaurant.

The seminar and service are open to anyone interested in attending and the seminar is free to participants. Reservations for the dinner and luncheon are required and should be made by contacting Jane Sakashita at 582-0560 no later than June 3, 2006. Charges for the dinner and luncheon will be collected at the time of registration.

Further inquiries regarding the above events should be directed to Brenda Koga 466-6552.

Jr. YBA
Christy Fong

The Jr. YBA participated in their first 2006 community project on April 1 at the Utah Food Bank. The kids donated their time to organize hundreds of food items for the needy. Thanks to those Jr. YBA members that participated, as well as Brenda Koga, Maya Chow, Sam Chow, Christy Fong, Dave Sekino, Merry Nakamura, and Paul and Karen Seo who assisted the kids.

The Jr. YBA will be taking their 2nd Bus trip on August 4 – 8. The destination is Northern California with stops at Marine World and Great America amusement parks, BCA, IBS, Jodo Shinshu Center, and San Francisco Japan town. We will also participate in the Oakland and Palo Alto Obons.

Anyone interested in joining us is welcome. The estimated costs will be \$250-\$300 per person which includes transportation, lodging and amusement park admissions. For more information, please contact Maya Chow or Bruce or Christy Fong.

The next Scrip order will be taken on May 14. There will be once last chance for orders on June 11.

The next Jr. YBA meeting will be held on April 30th following classes.

History of BWA

Yukie Okubo

In 1916 a few women who wished to be of service got together and called themselves "Mother's Group" or *Fujinkai*.

Injured mine workers were hospitalized at the old St. Marks Hospital on 2nd West. Women visited them with food etc. Very young women arriving from Japan as picture brides needed motherly love getting adjusted to married life in their new life in this strange land.

They supported the men who were Board Members of the temple. Women served them tea at their meetings. They prepared special delicious food for all special occasions for the congregation. They not only donated their time, but also all the ingredients. They took pride and voluntarily kept the temple clean.

In 1965 for the 50th anniversary of the *Fujinkai*, now known as Buddhist Women's Association (BWA), they collected funds amongst themselves, a sufficient amount to purchase the beautiful shrine. It was quite a sacrifice to have accumulated the sum within about 2 years. The new temple was dedicated in March 1962.

In 1976 BWA chartered a bus to attend the 76th anniversary National BCA FBWA Conference in San Jose. There were several

English and Japanese speakers. Each spoke for 20 minutes. I remember one speaker who said, "Fujinkai should be more than just good cooks." These were our Issei predecessors.

In the 1950's the *Sonenkai* or YABA was organized for men and women who were too old to be in the YBA. These Nisei were a very hard working fun loving group. After the dedication of the new temple they held fund raising turkey and ham dinners to pay off the debt. These Nisei women were reluctant to join the Issei in BWA. Only a few had joined before 1971.

In 1971 Salt Lake needed to host the National FBWA convention. Prior to that date the Issei needed to have the Nisei women join so they could take care of that convention. That is when the Nisei women joined the BWA.

I think we are at a juncture; we desperately need to have the next generation of women join BWA, to ensure the perpetuation of this BWA, for which our predecessors sacrificed so much. They wanted to establish this temple and BWA, for future generations to have a place to come to listen to the Dharma. They knew in their hearts that Jodo Shin Shu enabled them to survive all odds. They lived a life filled with joy and gratitude in spite of years of the most difficult circumstances. Those of us who were children know and wonder in amazement.

We would like very much for all the younger women who are temple members, and those not yet members to join our temple and join BWA before our special annual ESHIN NI KO service in June. Feel free to come any Sunday at 10 AM to check us out.

We currently have monthly meetings for all members to discuss upcoming monthly activity. We are in charge of making sushi and O-hagi for O-Bon and Bazaar, Annual visitation of shut-ins. Brenda Koga got us involved in community Service with Chilli Affair and Donation of warm clothing to The Road Home homeless shelter.

Yo Uno, our current President, conducts

the meetings very effectively so that all reports are distributed by good helpers. The agenda is covered within an hour, including a little time for any comments

Infant Presentation (Hatsu Mairi)

May 14

On Sunday, May 14, we will be holding an infant presentation service. This service is for any child born into our Sangha over the past year. During the ceremony, the child will be brought to the front of the naijin. This service is to help begin the child's first steps along the Nembutsu path. The child is presented before the Buddha and Sangha. The child will then take part in the three treasures and be presented with a nenju. Those interested please fill in the form and return it to the temple.

Infant's name:
 Date of birth:
 Parent's Names:

 Address:

 Phone:

Ishimatsu Fujie	5/13/80	Chizuko Ishimatsu
Iwasaki Tori	5/28/69	Fujio Iwasaki
Minaga Taka	5/15/96	Kozo Minaga
Miyake Mitsuyoshi	5/31/84	Mary Miyake
Moshizuki Kuniko	5/21/83	Takeo Mochizuki
Namba Jin	5/20/84	Kaz Namba
Ninomiya Tei	5/8/64	Yoshiko Ninomiya
Nishida Seiichi	5/15/64	Aiko Okada
Nishikawa Shigeru	5/18/98	Nancy Wayman
Nakahara Nancy	5/21/99	Lily Nakahara
Okino Masano	5/18/81	Masako Imamura
Shiba Hideo	5/4/96	Ayako Shiba
Sueoka Kame	5/15/89	Rhu Sueoka
Suzuki Saku	5/31/00	Yeiko Nagata
Tanaka Hiroshi	5/6/91	Masahiro Tanaka
Tsuyuki Yoshiko	5/27/91	Mark Tsuyuki
George Nakai	5/12/01	Mary Nakai
Haruo Nakagiri		Shizue Nakagiri
Nishiye Sasaki	5/15/05	Shigeru Sasaki

May Shotsuki Hoyo

May 14, 10:00 am

Name	Date of Death	Next of kin
Akita, Sam Hideo	5/17/64	Ruby Ushio
Aoki, Michio Mike	5/13/92	Ruth Aoki
Atagi Tomi	5/26/89	June Seo
Fujii Fumiye	5/10	Ritsuko Hayashi
Hirano Ikuye	5/10/88	Henry Hirano
Hirano Kazuyo	5/31/92	Henry Hirano

Gotan E May 14, 10:00 am Bishop Koshin Ogui Buddhist Churches of America

We are honored to welcome Socho Koshin Ogui to the Intermountain area. He will be visiting and conducting the minister's assistance certification in Salt Lake and Ogden. Please join us in welcoming Bishop Ogui to Utah.