



# Buddhist Thoughts

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## How to Live (because we know we're going to die)

JK Hirano

*"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." John F. Kennedy*

The other day I was driving in the car with my daughters Kacie and Taylor. We were talking about how the trees in the mountains were changing color. I reminded them that this change of seasons is similar to how our lives are always changing. I asked them if they could name anything on the altar that reminded them of this change and impermanence. They both said, "The flowers!" I told them they were both right.

As usual, this little bit of competition led to an argument. I could hear them going back and forth. Kacie would say, "Dad says that life is impermanent. That means that everything dies. Everything that is alive is going to die." Taylor responds, "No way.. I'm not going to die."

"Yes, you are! I'm going to die, Dad's going to die, Ponzu's going to die. Everything that lives will die."

"Not me." says Taylor. "Taylor! That's why I try to be happy in the morning when I wake up. I don't know when I am going to die, so I am happy and grateful when I wake up and have another day!"

"Well, you can die, but I'm not going to die."

"Daaaad! Tell Taylor that she is going to die like everything else. Isn't that what you say in church!" As I get pulled into their argument, I say,

"Yes, Taylor, all living things are impermanent. I don't know when, but one day we will all die." I hear Kacie whisper to Taylor, "Sееее....." Taylor whispers back, "Well, maybe you and Dad are going to die, but I'm still not going to die!"

I still chuckle when I remember their argument. However, in reality, we all live with this argument taking place within ourselves. Rationally we can see that life is impermanent. Those of us past middle age can attest to the daily ravages of time. As we get up from the lounge chair for the commercial break, that little creak in the neck or back and slight groan that issues automatically from our mouths are witness to this inevitable change. We have had friends and close family members die, much too young. Yet, how many of us with this type of personal experience still live as though we will never die.

Each night as we go to bed, can we look at the day and feel satisfied with how we left the world? Or have we gone to sleep without saying "I love you, thank you, I'm sorry", etc. to those who mean so much to us? There is a part of us that understands how we should live our lives. Yet that part is usually the quietest voice in our heads. How many times have you seen something you knew wasn't right, but didn't do or say anything?

For instance, take an injustice you may have witnessed in the store or workplace. It's so easy

for us to just say, "It's none of my business." There are many theories, lessons, practices in Buddhism. However, in very simple terms, Buddhism tries to teach us how to live our lives with our thoughts, words and deeds in sync.

In Jodo Shinshu we say we live a life of gratitude. As Kacie said, when she wakes up, she tries to be happy, because she knows that life is impermanent. Yet, what do you do with that gratitude or happiness? How does it affect the world? Do you believe you will live forever?

Our world, especially our current society, is falling deeper and deeper into a hell of "them" and "us". It is almost as if the worst case scenario from my youth is playing out in our political landscape. It makes me long for the hope that was instilled in my generation with the election of John F. Kennedy, which brought me to the quote I began this month's article with. We can all express gratitude, yet how do we live by those words?...a wonderful koan to live with this month. Namo Amida Butsu.

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## President's Message

Paul Terashima

Saturday Sept. 23, we held our annual Temple fall cleanup. Maya Chow, Brenda Koga, Lynne and Rich Doi, Tammy and Henry Kuramoto, Carmela, Kacie, Taylor, and Sensei, Kathy Terashima cleaned the inside of the Temple. Ernie Kyed, Henry and Tomio Mitsunaga installed the new water fountain in the entrance hall. Craig Mayeda, Tomio and I cleaned the patio and court yard. With the people on hand the Temple and grounds looked a lot cleaner for our first Dharma Service. Thank you all for taking time out of your busy schedule to clean the Temple.

Sunday Sept 24, the Dharma School Building Fund, had the Ohigan Breakfast. It was a great breakfast and had a lot of support from the Sangha and the Japanese Church of Christ. Thank you Sherrie Koga, Elaine Endo, Joy Furubayashi and all your volunteers for making this event so successful.

Sunday Sept 24, Wes Koga, the Temple's master electrician was in the gym rewiring the outlets on the West gym wall. He wanted to make

sure that nothing electrical will interrupt the food bazaar. Thanks Wes for taking on this job without anyone asking you.

Manwill Heating and Air Conditioning have installed two new furnaces in the basement. One will heat Sensei's office and the kitchen. The second one will heat the class rooms. A new heater and air conditioner has been installed in the North portion of the Hondo. So the Temple's heating and air conditioning problems should be solved for a while. We are still waiting for Carpet One to finish the baseboards and fix a few items that need fixing, but they have finished the front stairs down to the basement.

The Building Committee is planning on installing panic doors in the gym where it goes out into the patio. Replace the sliding doors in the classroom with panic doors and replace the North doors in the Hondo with panic doors. We have ask Tim Jessop to design a Japanese Temple door for the main entrance into the Temple. The next Building Committee meeting will be held Wednesday Oct 25 at 6:00 PM. If you are interested in improving the Temple, please attend. Special Awards winners for this year are January-Linda Omori, February-Byron Watanabe, March-Tom Akimoto, April-Lisa Imamura, May-Dru Sueoka, June-Mark Minaga, July-Setsuko Schook, August-Hiroshi & Mary Aramaki and September-Raymond Uno. Thank you for supporting this fundraiser. Good Luck for October.

OCTOBER TOBAN-\*Paul Terashima, \*Byron Watanabe, Kathy Terashima, Reiko Watanabe, May Akiyama, Elaine Fukushima, Ken Nodzu Troy Watanabe, Judy Watanabe, Ken Matsuura and Reiko Matsuura.

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## Jr. YBA Christy Fong

The Jr. YBA will be sponsoring an Appreciation Pancake Breakfast on November 5<sup>th</sup>, Sunday, to say "Thank You" for your support of our fundraising efforts. Come have breakfast on us (complimentary) from 8:30 – 10:00 and re-live our Northern California bus trip with us.

We will continue to take Scrip orders this year. If you need gift cards or gift certificates, order through us. The next order will be taken on October 29<sup>th</sup> at the Halloween Party.

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## Jr. YBA Bus Trip

Katherine Seo

The Northern California bus trip was such a great experience for myself and the Jr. and Sr. YBA classes. We had fun shopping in San Francisco and braved the extreme roller coasters of the two theme parks we visited. We enjoyed not only those things, but most of all we got to know other kids in Jr. YBA classes from San Mateo, San Francisco and Oakland. We had so much fun talking to them, dancing in some of their obons, and creating friendships.

All who attended this trip had such a fun and memorable time. Many of us created new friends who we plan to keep in touch with. Lastly, the Jr. and Sr. YBA would like to thank the sangha for supporting us and for your donations because without you none of this would be possible.

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## Utah goes to the Bay Area

P.J. Nakamura

In 2004, the Jr. YBA had the opportunity to take a trip to Southern California. During this time we got to go to Disneyland as well as meet the Jr. YBA from the Orange County Buddhist Church. Orange County was such a memorable trip that the Jr. YBA decided to fundraise for another trip. After two years of fundraising, we finally had enough funds to go to Northern (Bay Area) California. With extensive planning over a period of several months, we decided to take this trip during the summer and to even participate in several Obon festivals. The trip we had worked so hard for was coming up quickly as soon as July came to an end.

On the night of August 4, we gathered at our Salt Lake Temple for a pre-trip meeting. During this time, we barely found out that we

would be able to stay in the newly built (and not yet finished) Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley. After a 12 hour + bus ride through the night we arrived at the Marine World Theme Park. After a fun day of riding roller coasters, we went to the Jodo Shinshu Center where Mr. Rich Endo was waiting to let us into the building. The JSC was very nice and was similar to a hotel for traveling Buddhists and ministers. Though several things were not yet complete, the JSC was still quite accommodating for our group of 30-40 people.

The next day we ate breakfast at the Berkeley Buddhist Temple, and we met three members of their Jr. YBA: Matt, Tiffany and Parker. Soon after, we took a bus to Chinatown where we ate dim-sum for lunch and shopped, and then walked to Fisherman's Wharf for more touring of San Francisco. Towards the end of that afternoon, we took the bus to Oakland, where we would be participating in the Obon that evening. After eating dinners provided by the Oakland Buddhist Temple, everyone got ready to dance (including our friends from the Berkeley Jr. YBA). We all were wearing red Nihon Matsuri happi coats so everyone could tell we were from Utah. Dancing was extremely fun! Everyone in our group was dancing and just having a great time – regardless of whether we knew the dance or not. When Oakland's Obon ended, we were already anticipating the Palo Alto Obon, which was the following night!

By the next morning, we were awakened early in the morning to go to service at the Buddhist Church of San Francisco, followed by a bit of time to shop in Japan Town. After shopping and eating crepes, we visited another temple in San Mateo, where we met many more friends in their Jr. YBA. After lunch at SMBT, we left for the Palo Alto Obon which would be happening later that night. The Palo Alto Obon was even bigger than the Oakland one, and even had a bazaar! Once again, we had a great time dancing and after helped clean up. We were staying for two more nights at Palo Alto's church. We were exhausted from the busy schedule.

On our last day, we visited the Great America Theme Park with all of the friends we had made from Berkeley, San Mateo and Palo Alto. It was fun riding even more rides including many roller coasters and a two-level merry-go-round. After a day at Great America we returned to Palo Alto where we had dinner with the Bay District and hung out until everyone had to leave.

On Tuesday morning, we woke up early, and got all of our stuff together and prepared for the long ride home. After saying goodbye to those who came to bid us farewell, we left Palo Alto. Nearly half a day later, we arrived in Utah, and returned to our homes, full of many good memories!

Obviously this summary can't replace the entire experience, but that was basically our schedule for the five days in Northern California. Though it was busy, we were always doing something, so there wasn't a lot of down time or times that we would just sit around. Looking back to the trip we took two years ago, it was still memorable, but during that time, there was a definite age gap between the Jr. YBA of Utah and Orange County (Jr. YBA is Middle and Junior High School age in Utah). But this trip, we were all older, and many more of our group's members had closer ages to that of the people we met. Though the time was short, we got to spend several days with our friends from the Bay Area, which was great! Matt and Tiffany Hamasaki (from Berkeley's Jr. YBA) were even our "honorary members" because they were with us for all of our trips and activities around the Bay Area! Not only was this a trip for meeting new people, it was one for seeing old friends – our advisors/chaperones saw people they knew (who lived in the Bay Area) at the Obons, and Sean Sekino and I even saw someone we met in Japan last year at Oakland's Obon! We all became closer as a group as well – we got to know more about people we didn't talk to as much before, as well getting to know people we hadn't known from our own temples! Though we were all different in some ways, the fact remained that we were all Buddhist. There are

only three temples in Utah (Salt Lake, Ogden and Honeyville), so our Buddhist community and YBA groups are smaller in numbers when in comparison to the many in California. Because of this, it felt good to be meeting other people who were our age in the Bay District, who we could relate to in regards to religion.

Much gratitude and thanks to the Utah and Bay District temples and YBA's, the BCA, Socho Ogui, and everyone else who supported this trip. Without them, this would have never been possible! We all have great memories of this trip!

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## October Shotsuki Hoyo

*Service will be October 29*

Deceased	Date of death	Next of kin
Akita Sakae	10/25/36	Ruby Ushio
Iwasaki Ritsuko	10/25/61	Dean Iwasaki
Kano Gunpei	10/13/65	Tai Oishi
Masuko Kyushiro	10/25	Matsue Kasubuchi
Mitsunaga Ruth	10/30/95	Faye Mitsunaga-Eng
Muto Chiyo	10/15/83	
Ninomiya Katsuji	10/20/42	Yoshiko Ninomiya
Nishihara Alice	10/20/90	Greg Matsuura
Oda Mitsuji	10/9/31	Mumatsu Sasaki
Ogawa Fusaye	10/19/31	Sugino
Ogawa Kuma	10/6/19	Sugino
Oike Katsuye	10/14/74	May Koike
Saito Shizuno	10/26/21	Yoshiko Ninomiya
Sasaki Sukeichiro	10/19/68	Charlie Sasaki
Shiba Yoshiro	10/19/52	Takatara Shiba
Sugiyama Unosuki	10/27/84	
Tadehara Masami	10/9/87	George Tadehara
Tohinaka George	10/28/95	Ayako Tohinaka
Tokunaga Shigao	10/27/90	Utako Tokunaga
Tsuyuki Ikuzo	10/3	Mark Tsuyuki
Wakayama Gerry	10/7/94	Mary Wakayama
Yamamoto James	10/25/71	Eleanor Nakamura
Tamagawa Frank	10/18/95	Shizue Tamagawa
Hisae Tsutsui	10/15/01	Geraldine Chappel
Frank Ling	10/02/02	Elaine Fukushima
Betty Yamaguchi	10/8/04	Jeannie Yamaguchi
John Imada	10/24/05	Reiko Imada

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