



Buddhist Thoughts

Salt Lake Buddhist Temple: 211 West 100 South
Salt Lake City, Utah 84101, volume 17 issue 4
web site: slbuddhist.org

April, 2009
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The Curious Birth of Siddhartha Gautama

J.K. Hirano

Is it so small a thing,
To have enjoyed the sun,
To have lived light in the Spring,
To have loved, to have thought, to have done;
To have advanced true friends, and beat down baffling foes;
That we must feign a bliss
Of doubtful future date,
And while we dream on this,
Lose all our present state,
And relegate to worlds yet distant our repose?

Empedocles on Etne (1852) Matthew Arnold

This month we will be celebrating Hanamatsuri. Hanamatsuri literally means "flower festival." The flowers are in reference to the flowers that were said to have suddenly blossomed at the birth of Siddhartha Gautama, who we also call Shakyamuni Buddha. In this mythical birth scene, dragons fly down from the heavens to assist in the birth of the Buddha. They carry the child to the Earth as he leaves the womb of Queen Maya. Sweet rain begins to fall, nourishing the Earth. The Earth as witness shakes in six directions and begins to blossom with flowers. The baby Siddhartha is said to have walked seven steps and announced to the world, "In the heavens above and the world below, I alone am the World Honored One."

This story of the birth of the human child Siddhartha Gautama, who would become the

historical Buddha, should not be taken literally. Yet I do not think it should easily be dismissed as a foolish fairy tale, either. Throughout human history, mankind has needed to embellish stories that are important. When I think of the birth of my own children, in my mind's eye, it was an incredibly beautiful moment. To the nurses and doctor who delivered them, it was probably just another birth that they probably don't even remember.

For me, their birth was the fulfillment of my life dream. Their birth seemed to answer the question I had struggled with for years, "Why am I here, where is the meaning of my life?" In this story, I remember the angels dressed in white, who brought forth my children. The tears of joy in my eyes felt as though they were moistened with sweet rain that seemed to have fallen from the sky. My world, my life, my existence, was shaken into true

meaning and existence at the moment of their birth. Yet very little of this was caught on the video taken when they were born. To the casual observer, there were no angels, the Earth didn't shake and there was no rain falling in the delivery room. Yet what version is the true version?

In each of our lives there need to be truth and objectivity. The Buddhism I have learned and am trying to explain is a religion without superstition. I would argue with my friends who are Theravada monks as to the actual facts of the birth of Siddhartha. Yet, I can also listen to this story and understand why we celebrate Hanamatsuri. I too can see the flowers blooming.

This passage I began this article with is from the poem, Empedocles on Etna by Matthew Arnold. It is a very long poem, but I love this passage that asks whether or not these things in our life are enough;

To have enjoyed the sun.
To have lived light in the Spring,
To have loved, to have thought, to
have done;
To have advanced true friends,
and beat down baffling foes-

When stated as Arnold does in this poem, I would say yes, this is the beauty of life. It isn't necessary to dream of a future afterlife. The miracle of this life should be enough. This world as we see and experience it is truth and need not be embellished with superstitions and fantastic stories. Yet as a human being I have a need to be reminded that there is more than just meets the eye. Even with all I receive, my bonno says I want more. To just live and appreciate all that I have should be enough. However as Issa beautifully stated, "The world of dew is the world of dew and yet and yet..." I do forget about the beauty of the Spring sun as soon as the evening comes. I take for granted so much that life has given me. Issa's "and yet and yet" goes beyond Arnold's allusion to just this world. This unseen beauty beyond superstition can only be "Namo Amida Butsu."

With the Nembutsu I appreciate it all and it is enough. In this world of black and white, the Nembutsu changes everything to color. Happy Hanamatsuri! Namo Amida Butsu!

President's Message

Dot Richeda

Have you heard the saying "Try it, you might like it" I have been on the Temple Board and have heard "stories" about the BCA Council meeting so I was a little hesitant to attend this years meeting. You know, "I tried it and I like it." President Billy Saeki conducted the meeting very professionally and I came away with a better understanding of A.

On Feb 26th, Reiko Watanabe, Carmela Hirano and I left for Irvine, CA to attend the BCA Ministers' Association meeting, National Council meeting. Sensei Hirano was already there. James Aoki and Steve Kato from Ogden and two delegates from Denver with Rev Okamoto represented the Mt States District. I will not go into details but will give you an overview of some of the things that happened at the meeting.

We elected three Directors AT Large: Richard Endo, Ron Murakami and Ralph Honda. We passed several resolutions: BCA to endorse the auto insurance Program with Commerce West Insurance Company (CA only). Hire a Clerical Assistant for the Campaign Office, Accept the Budget for . BCA to perform a full external audit with associated controls. There were two symposium presented. On Friday IBS presented their Winter Symposium on "The Great Sound of Enlightenment" Shin Buddhist Music Throughout the ages. Presenters were Rev Maso Kodani, Rev Harry Bridge, Mr Peter Hata, Scott Michell. Staruday's workshop was on Archives. How to Begin to preserve Temple History.

Under the Ministers Assistant Program a

new committee for Ministerial Training and Development was established. We have 15 temples in BCA without any ministers and we had five retired last year. The need for ministers, President Saeki reiterated that as part of our responsibility we need to take the information back to our Temples and communicate to all our members.

I would encourage you to attend this conference next year even if you just attend the symposium. The two symposiums were very well presented.

After returning from the council meeting, I realized that all the past ministers and delegates had their long meeting so that decisions for the future of BCA could be enjoyed by all. WE as the present members must be sure to do the same for the future generations.

State of the BWA

Jane Sakashita

The winter scene of glistening silver snow and the sun peeking through the cumulus clouds is absolutely breathtaking, but it's leaving me breathless as I walk and drive up and down the streets of Salt Lake City. When will this winter ever cease?

President Obama in his Press Conference talked about his philosophy of persistence, and I believe I must also embrace this philosophy if I'm going to conduct your meetings this year. Therefore, the BWA will be heavily involved in the improvements and remodeling of our kitchen, and we are asked to submit lists of our desires. Reiko Matsuura will be contacting members, who prepare foods for our various fund-raisers or who have restaurant experience, for visits to wholesale places that sell cooking stoves. With Reiko Watanabe providing cloth material, our ladies will be involved in sewing and making chair cushions. We hope volunteers will assist her in any way we can. At the meeting a report was given on the Federation of BWA Delegates

Meeting in Oakland. The National BCA Council Meeting in Irvine, CA was reported by President Dot Richeda and Reiko Watanabe.

Representatives from BWA to assist the Obon chair will be Reiko Matsuura, Junko Mitsunaga and Setsuko Nagata.

March 8 was scheduled for "Omigaki" of the altar, and thank you to Takeko Doi and Terry Fujinami for preparing the polishing tea and to all the ladies who provided the labor in making the altar pieces bright and shiny. Chicken for the Hanamatsuri will be taken care of by Christy Fong, and the BWA members are asked to prepare rice (Onigiri) to supplement the chicken dinners. Thank you to those who signed as volunteers. Our gratitude to Yoshiko Uno and Setsuko Nagata for providing the refreshments for the March meeting.

PLEASE NOTE: Arrangements for the bus trip to Las Vegas for the Obon Festival have been made, and I sincerely hope that we can have a busload of members, husbands or guests going for a fun weekend. Here is the schedule:

August 7, Friday	Leave Ogden at 8:00 a.m. Leave Salt Lake at 9:00 a.m. Stops in Beaver and Mesquite or as needed for breaks Arrive in Las Vegas in the afternoon
August 8, Saturday	Leave hotel for Obon Festival held at a high school. Bus will accommodate us to other destinations if requested.
August 9, Sunday	Depart Las Vegas

around 10:00 a.m.
Arrive in Salt Lake
Arrive in Ogden

THE BEST NEWS: Two nights stay at CALIFORNIA HOTEL, including bus travel \$135.00 per person for double occupancy \$200.00 single occupancy Bus trip includes complementary drinks & bingo with cash prizes. Payment will not be due until July 1. Bus is being furnished by Le Bus arranged by George Yoshimura and brother Tok.

Please make your reservations to Jane Sakashita @ 801/ 582-0560

In Ogden to: Ruth Kawashima @ 801/ 293-6042

In Ogden to: Alice Hirai @ 801/ 395-1529

Next meeting will be Sunday, April 19, after Dharma School.

Dharma School

Lisa Matsuda

Dharma school classes and service will not be held on Sunday, April 5th, to allow everyone to attend the Hanamatsuri observances at the Ogden Buddhist Temple. The weekend following will be our annual Hanamatsuri service, lunch and program (Sunday, April 12th, 10 AM). While the performances will undoubtedly be fun and entertaining, this year our students and their audience are very fortunate to have a stage with new curtains! After all the rehearsing and performing that our students have been and will be doing on the stage I think this is a prime time to again ask our Dharma school parents to please discourage your young children from being up on the stage unnecessarily. The children are at risk of falling off or having heavy items cause them harm while they are on the stage unsupervised. Though

it's been a few years since I, myself, have wanted to play on the stage, judging from many youngsters' behavior, the allure of playing in those long, flowing curtains must be nearly IRRESISTIBLE. To keep our little ones safe and to also maintain the good condition of our new curtains we need to prevent the children from wandering up onto the stage as much as possible. Thus far we have been very fortunate in that no one has been seriously injured due to playing on or jumping from the stage. Regular classes and Dharma school services will resume beginning April 19th.

Last month we again enjoyed a fun day at Brighton Ski resort. With an impressive selection of barbeque fare and good company, we thank everyone who set up, cooked, cleaned and brought goodies and/or furniture (the charcoal pit was very much appreciated by the non-skiers). Special thanks to Karie, Marcus and Miles Miya for again having their grills, picnicking gear and other essentials up and ready for our use. We so appreciate the efforts of Maya Chow and Christy and Bruce Fong who repeatedly make this event such a great get together for our students, their families and friends.

Jr. YBA Christy Fong

The Jr. YBA will be selling Chow mein bowls and Spam musubi for a fund raiser during Movie night on May 2nd. We will also be selling concessions to enjoy during the viewing of the movie.

Our next Scrip order will be taken on April 12th on Hanamatsuri.

Thanks to everyone for their continued support!

Dharma School Ski Outing at Brighton

Once again the Dharma School Ski day was sun – sational! We were treated to great snow, sunny skies and wonderful friendship and food. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the delicious lunch.

Special thanks to Marcus and Karie Minaga-Miya for the use and transportation of gas grills, tables and fire pit! Roasting marshmallows was a new thrill for the kids this year. Thanks also to Miles Miya for making the arrangements with Brighton Ski Resort to let us take over our usual corner of the parking lot. Thanks to Karie and Maya Chow for preparing their always popular steak to go along with the rest of the buffet.

Let's hope we can keep this event going and continue our good luck with the weather!

TEMPLE BUILDING UPDATE

Brenda Koga

This update is current as of March 22, 2009 and includes the discussion from the building committee meeting as of today.

Ernie Kyed and **Tim Jessop** have been involved in several conversations and meetings with both Cameron Construction, Silverpeak Engineering, and city planning/engineering offices regarding the building remodel project. Initial steps are in process to acquire the appropriate permits prior to the actual construction. Simultaneously, initial designs and drawings are being reviewed and revised as appropriate.

In pursuing plans to extend the building on the east side, city officials have informed the temple of several issues. By extending out to the sidewalk, the temple will encroach upon city property which could possibly be an option involving a lease agreement with the city for that parcel. This matter

will be a decision the temple board will determine at their next meeting.

Along with this issue is a possibility of the need to upgrade the curb and gutter at the front of the temple building. The building committee will continue to explore negotiations with city officials to come to an amenable agreement.

Again, the committee is seeking input from the various temple organizational leaders regarding organizational needs and wishes. Individuals who wish to provide input should contact their respective officers or Brenda Koga and provide their ideas in writing within the next few weeks.

Concurrent to the construction, the building committee will be depleting the funds collected and designated for the building project. The temporary recognition placard which currently is displayed in the temple foyer will be replaced with a permanent display.

Several members have noted that the current information is incorrect or that they desire some elements changed. The committee recognizes that the information on the display has not been updated on a regular basis. The committee is currently gathering updated information especially in regard to the amounts of donations. **However, if members have a desire to change their information aside from the levels of giving, please contact Brenda Koga with that update.**

Additional solicitation of funds will be pursued by the committee. Those new members who were not involved in the initial fund drive will be asked to pledge/donate their contribution to the building fund. Also, those members who initially pledged a set amount are being asked to fulfill their pledges as they are able.

April Shotsuki Hoyo April 12, 10:00 am

Deceased	Date of Death	Next of kin
Akimoto Landon	4/12/92	Dennis Akimoto
Akiyama Kiyoshi	4/28/39	Genevieve Akiyama
Arishita Ayako	4/23/00	Sam Arishita
Fujimoto Rae	4/20/97	Grace Oshita
Hachisuka Shiroku	4/4/69	Nancy Takagi
Imada Shizuye	4/24/51	
Iwasaki Kamesaburo	4/13/67	Dean Iwasaki
Iwasaki Toshimasa	4/9/98	Dean Iwasaki
Koga Ichizo	4/16/62	
Koga Shigeichi	4/20/62	
Konishi Toraye	4/30/88	Jeanne Konishi
Masuda Tatsuro	4/6/91	Hatsuye Masuda
Matsuura Chotaro	4/4/50	Francis Akimoto
Minakawa Harushige	4/13/70	Dean Iwasaki
Mitsunaga Shizuko	4/14/90	Tomio Mitsunaga
Oda Fumi		Shigeru Sasaki
Oda Hayano		
Sakashita George	4/2/75	Jane Sakashita
Sugihara Yoshio	4/12/86	Dorothy Sugihara
Tachiki Kayo	4/2/27	Steve Tachiki
Takenaka Yoso	4/9/95	Ben Takenaka
Taketa Shinobu	4/18/82	Nanae Taketa
Okada Hito	4/5/84	Aiko Okada
Terashima Kiyoyuki	4/29/66	Paul Terashima
Mayeda Chieko	4/6/99	Craig Mayeda
Shizue Adachi	4/8/01	Tamiko Adachi
Hasegawa Miyuki	4/7/02	Paul Hasegawa
Chow Choy Lan	4/8/02	Chuck Chow
Sekino Lillian	4/17/02	David Sekino
Aoki Eva	4/2/03	Nob Aoki
Oishi Tai	4/25/03	Victor Oishi

sequel to the last movie that captured our hearts in the previous movie night. This series is about life in Japan in the late 50's and how a small Japanese community near Tokyo Tower works, lives and grows together. Here is a review of the movie:

This piece of great film work took Japan by storm, and once I saw it realized why it had turned out that way. The film is immensely nostalgic and filled with bits of memorable moments that would send you bursting out with laughter while tears are still continuing to fill up your eyes.

The plot is austere simple, yet the characters are smartly introduced and thoroughly elaborated. It's ultimately easy for us to believe that the Third Street community and those characters are real. The relationships between them are reasonably developed and eventually leads to a powerful and heart-wrenching-yet-warmly ending.

Truly a worth-seeing gem for movie lovers. Another delicate Asian craft which has all the qualities that Hollywood mainstream movies still lack of.

I would like to thank Mark Minaga, Gary Okamoto, Troy Watanabe and the Jr YBA for all their time and effort to bring movie night back to the Temple for all generations to enjoy.

Special Award Winners Jeff Watanabe

The Special Awards winners were:
January Ichiro Doi, February Jane Sakashita

Movie Night is Here Again!

By Jim Eng

Movie night is tentatively scheduled for Saturday May 2nd. The Jr YBA will be serving chow mein bowls from 5:30 pm to 7 pm and the concession stand will be open from 5:30 pm to closing. The movie will start at 7 pm. "Always 3-chome no Yuuhi, Part II" will be the feature presentation, a

BWA Donations

Ayako Tohinaka Bodhi Day	25
John Kasabuchi 12/7/08 Donation	20
Sachiko Tohinaka - Thank you	50
Carmela Hirano - Special	40
Setsuko Schock - Special	50
Yoshiko Uno - Special	15
Yuriko Iwamoto - Special	25
Buster Mayeda - Special	25
Karie Minaga-Miya - Special	10

Memorial Service Donations to BWA

Asako Mori	100
Aiko Okada in Memory of Kiyoko Hamamoto	50
John Kasabuchi	50
Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga	50

2009 BWA Memberships Paid to Date

Frances	Akimoto	Gail	Minaga
Ruth	Aoki	Karie	Minaga-Miya
Aki	Chow	Helen	Mitsunaga
Maya	Chow	Junko	Mitsunaga
Yuriko	Dennison	Setsuko	Nagata
Elsie	Doi	Shizuye	Nakaguri
Lynne	Doi	Mary	Nakai
Ruby	Doi	Takae	Nakamura
Takeko	Doi	Alice	Ogura
Christy	Fong	Aiko	Okada
Terry	Fujinami	Yukie	Okubo
Maxine	Furubayashi	Grace	Oshita
Carmela	Hirano	Dorothy	Richeda
Mitsuko	Hirota	Connie	Sakashita
Masako	Imamura	Jane	Sakashita
Yuriko	Iwamoto	Chie	Sugaya
Grace	Kasai	Nancy	Takagi
Brenda	Koga	Nanae	Taketa
Sherrie	Koga	Chic	Terashima
May	Koike	Kathy	Terashima
Jeanne	Konishi	Yoshiko	Uno
Tammy	Kuramoto	Reiko	Watanabe
Renee	Matsuura	Kazuko	Yakumo

MARCH TEMPLE DONATIONS

Mary Doi	35	Goodie Bag
John Kasubuchi	30	Feb Shotsuki Hoyo
Minaga Family	50	Nokotsudo-June Minaga Schneider
Asako Mori	100	49 day memorial for Shigemi Mori
Mabel Okubo	50	Shotsuki Hoyo
Ivan Van Laningham	100	Special
Gary Okamoto	5	Special
Roy Tachiki Family	1000	In memory of Roy & Hana Tachiki
Kawa Family	100	Memorial for Henry Kawa
Fusae & Dennis Nakanishi	100	Shotsuki Hoyo for Jenzaburo & Chiyo Matsumiya
Chic Terashima	500	Funeral Service for Kay Terashima
Setsuko Nagata	100	3rd year memorial for Shig Nagata
Takako Ogata	50	Bert Ogata's 7 year memorial
Hatsuye Sasaki	50	In memory of Yvonne Sasaki
Jane Sakashita	100	Special awards
Buster Mayeda	500	Funeral for Rose Mayeda
Ichiro Doi	500	Special awards

OHIGAN

May Akiyama	25	Gary & Ryoko Okamoto	5
Yuriko & Carl Dennison	30	Karen & David Cone	10
Mits & Terry Fujinami	25	Bruce & Christy Fong	25
Jane Sakashita	25	Byron & Reiko Watanabe	25
Jeff & Silvana Watanabe	20	Chic Terashima	25
Charlie Sasaki	20	Paul & Kathy Terashima	25
Brenda Koga	25	Ivan Van Laningham	100
Henry Hirano	25	Sachiko Tohinaka	20
Mary Nakai	20	Neil & Aki Chow	25
Masako Imamura	20	Ichiro & Takeko Doi	25
Jeanne Konishi	25	Ruth Aoki	25
Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga	25	Shizuye Nakagiri	25
Ayako Tohinaka	25	Brent & Sherrie Koga	25
Maxine Furubayashi	25	Sandy Iwasaki	25
Mark & Gail Minaga	25	Misao & Elsi Doi	25
Kazuko Yakumo	25	Rev Jerry & Carmela Hirano	50
Marcus & Karie Miya	25	George & Ruby Doi	25
Setsuko Nagata	30	Stan & Elaine Endo	25
Dot Richeda	25	Troy & Judy Watanabe	20

MARCH SHOTSUKI HOYO

Tom & Fran Akimoto	25	Jeanne Konishi	100
Grace Kasai	50	Tomiye Ishimatsu	100
Paul & Kathy Terashima	25	Nanae Taketa	25

Yo Uno	20	Chizuko Ishimatsu	100
Yutako Ikegami	100	Craige Mayeda	25

BUILDING FUND

Koyo Restaurant	100
Ichiro & Takeko Doi	10,000
Mary Kawakami	200
Jane Sakashita	500
Kent Sakashita	500

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Sandy Iwasaki	Misao & Elsie Doi
Cindy Thomas	Bill & Shigeiko Mizuno
Kiyomi Ryujin	Ben & Maurea Terashima
Otome Hasegawa	

DHARMA SCHOOL

Buster Mayeda	100	Funeral Service for Rose Mayeda
Chic Terashima	100	Funeral Service for Kay Terashima
Setsuko Nagata	100	3rd yr memorial for Shig Nagata

YBA

Chic Terashima	100	Funeral Service for Kay Terashima
Setsuko Nagata	50	3rd year memorial for Shig Nagata

JR YBA

Chic Terashima	100	Funeral Service for Kay Terashima
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DOBO GAKKO

Chic Terashima	100	Funeral Service for Kay Terashima
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MEMBERSHIP DUES

Tom & Fran Akimoto
Mary Doi
Stan & Elaine Endo
Sadie Kato
Merry Nakamura -Merissa, PJ