



# Buddhist Thoughts

Salt Lake Buddhist Temple: 211 West 100 South  
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## OBON DANCE FESTIVAL

Japanese Food served from 1 pm  
Snack Bar (hot dogs, snow cones,  
drinks)

open from 3-10

Chapel Tours 2-6

Taiko Drum Exhibition 7:00

Japanese Folk Dancing 8:00

**SATURDAY JULY 11**

**SALT LAKE BUDDHIST TEMPLE**

**211 WEST 100 SOUTH**

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION**

**363-4742**



[WWW.SLBUDDHIST.ORG](http://WWW.SLBUDDHIST.ORG)

## Magic of Obon

J.K. Hirano

*Once, King Virudhaka of Kosala was attacking the Buddha's motherland, Kapilavastu. Maudgalyayana, foremost in magic among the Buddha's disciples, volunteered to save the Sakya clan. The Buddha replied sadly, "Maudgalyayana, this is the Sakya clan's karma and they have not repented for it. Today they will have to pay for their deeds. Although they are my family, even my magic cannot spare them."*

*Maudgalyayana did not believe the Buddha's words. He flew into the city, which was completely surrounded by troops. He picked five hundred Sakya clansmen and magically put them in his alms bowl. He flew out of the city and happily came before the Buddha. He said, "Lord Buddha. Look! I have saved a group of your clansmen."*

*However, looking into the bowl, he was shocked. The clansmen had turned into a pool of blood. Even Maudgalyayana himself, who was renowned for his magic, could not overcome the force of karma. He could fly freely into the heaven and had ventured into hell to save his mother. Yet, he was eventually killed by a stone thrown by heretics. How can a venerable with such great magic be so easily killed by a stone? Many of the Buddha's disciples were perturbed and angry. The Buddha spoke to the disciples, "Magic cannot mitigate the force of karma. It is Maudgalyayana's karma to be killed by the stone thrown by heretics. You should not doubt the limit of magic. It is more important to diligently purify your action, speech, and thought."*

*Venerable Master Hsing Yun, The Buddhist Perspective on Magic and the Supernatural*

I think it is interesting how most of us only think of magic in terms of being mysterious, unusual or supernatural. In Japan, Obon is filled with superstitions about ghost and spirits of the deceased haunting individuals or families. I watched a movie about the Chinese Festival of Hungry Ghosts, which is connected to our Obon festival. It was a ghost story about a group of spirits seeking revenge. All of these superstitions come from our fear of the unknown. There is a very strong stigma attached to death or dead things, even when they are our own families and friends.

The academy award winning movie "Departures" shows how the Japanese view death and the handling of the dead as taboo. The handling of the dead is considered dirty or defiled. The movie is based upon the book Coffinman, by

Shinmon Aoki. This is an autobiography of his life as a Nokanshi, which is translated as coffinman. A coffinman prepares and places the body into the coffin. Traditionally this had been done by the family, but now there are people that do this for the family. Even when the deceased are our loved ones, there is often a fear or a feeling of dread associated with it. Within this book, Shinmon Aoki explains how Buddhism affected his life. It is subtitled, "a journal of a Buddhist mortician." This book was translated by Wayne Yokoyama and edited by Rev. Harada's Education group at the Orange County Buddhist Temple. It is a book I would recommend to everyone.

The passage I began with describes a legend about Maudgalyayana, we often refer to him as Mogallana or Mokuren in Japanese. He

was considered to be blessed with psychic powers. He is listed as one of the 10 great disciples of the Buddha. The story of Mogallana's mother from the Ulumbana sutra is the basis for Obon. In the story of Mogallana's mother, his magic fails to save his Mother from the hell he found her in and he goes to the Buddha for guidance. In following the Buddha's advice of performing acts of self less giving, rather than trying to use his psychi powers, his mother is freed from the bondage of the realm of hungry ghosts and as a result, Mogallana leaps in joy for his mother's release, thus beginning our tradition of dancing for joy. Obon is called "Kangi E", which translates to gathering of joy.

In this story I began with, Mogallana's magic once again fails to change the laws of karma. You would think he learned the first time. But I believe the message within this story from the sutras is that, Buddha is telling us not to waste our time wishing for magic to change our karmic lives. The Buddha does not deny the existence of magic; our lives are magical just as they are. As examples, I find the magic of Obon in the karmic conditions which draw so many people to our temple. I feel the magic of Obon as I dance and experience the connection to my friends and family that are no longer physically with me. The magic of Obon is that a clumsy dancer such as me unhesitating leaves his ego behind and dances through the night. Magic is present when I quench my thirst after an Obon dance in the hot summer night. The water is a magical potion sustaining and giving me life. Magic is not mysterious, unusual or supernatural, it is all around us. It is the light of Amida Buddha's compassion that embraces me as I dance in joy. Magic is that a foolish being like myself, can experience the love of friends and family, living and dead, even though I am filled with greed, anger and ignorance. When we are touched by magic, we can only respond, "Namo Amida Butsu!"

Please join us for Obon, the cemetery services will begin on July 10, 6:00 pm at the

Redwood cemetery, 7:00 at the Mountain View cemetery. The Obon festival is on July 11, food sales beginning at 1:00 pm, Taiko drums at 7:30 and Bon dancing at 8:00. The Salt Lake cemeteries will be on July 12, beginning at 10:00 am on the Northeast area and going down from there. The Obon/Hatsubon service will be held at 1:00 pm along with the July Shotsuki Hoyo. We hope you can join us.

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## President's Message

Dot Richeda

Summer is here!!

The posters are up. Obon dance practice will begin. Bring out the yukata. We are celebrating Obon on July 11<sup>th</sup>.

Calling all volunteers!! Please come and support Reiko Watanabe, Obon Chair and her committee. Your help and support are needed on July 10<sup>th</sup> and July 11<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your support

After Obon, the week of July 13<sup>th</sup> we will be cleaning out the Hondo, Classrooms and kitchen and moving the boxes to the West Wing to get ready for the Temple renovation. If you have boxes, we could use them but don't bring them until after Obon. We will need volunteers to work during this week.

Obon dance practice will begin June 29<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM.

Reminder: Mt States District Conference, Sept 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>. In Ogden

Next Temple Board meeting will be July 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM.

In gassho.

## STATE OF THE BWA

Jane Sakashita

Reverend Mutsumi Wondra was the guest speaker at the BWA Eshinni-ko service on June 7 and at the seminar held on June 6. As Reverend Wondra's name implies, it was a "Wondra-ful" experience for us to learn about the biographical histories of Shinran Shonin, his wife Lady Eshinni-sama, and their youngest child Kakushinni. Lady Takeko Kujo, a daughter of the 21<sup>st</sup> descendent of Shinran established the Buddhist women's organization in the 1920's. The letters written by Eshinni-sama confirms the life and history of her husband. Reverend Wondra spoke of the three necessary qualities in women: charm, compassion, and confidence.

Our gratitude to Reverend Hirano for arranging this visit from Reverend Wondra and to Dr. Carmela Hirano for conducting this seminar. Thanks go to Sherrie Koga who was in charge of refreshments, along with Carmela, Yo Uno, Kazuko Yakumo and Setsuko Nagata who also brought goodies.

At this annual BWA memorial service, we pay our respect to those deceased members of our organization. The only member whom we lost this past year was Rose Mayeda, wife of Buster Mayeda. All of us greatly appreciate her many decades of service at the bazaars, Obon festivals and other events. Her diligence on the monthly newsletters for several years is also noted with our gratitude.

We welcome two new members to our organization: Joyce Chen and Alice Ogura. They were presented with Okesa by Reverend Hirano.

A delightful luncheon held at the J. Wong Asian Bistro was enjoyed by over forty members and guests. Thank you to Faye Mitsunaga Eng who was instrumental in making all the arrangements at this lovely restaurant.

\* \* \* \* \* IMPORTANT  
UPCOMING EVENT \* \* \* \* \*

There will be a National BWA Conference in Sacramento on October 9-11 which will include Shinran Shonin's 750<sup>th</sup> Memorial Service. I urge every BWA member to include this important event in your itinerary—especially those who will not be attending the memorial service in Japan in May 2011. I somehow feel the urgency of attending anything I can, anywhere I can, because time waits for no one.

Therefore, I sincerely hope we will be able to get a busload to attend this conference in October at the Doubletree Hotel in Sacramento, California. Keynote speakers will be Reverend Diane Johnson of Anchorage, Alaska and Reverend Mariko Nishiyama from Maui, Hawaii.

Registration fee is \$130 per person, and the deadline is July 31, 2009. The hotel rate is \$110.00 single or double with two beds plus taxes and \$1.25 tourism fee. This totals \$124.56, and the deadline for the rooms is September 9 at this low rate. The hotel is equipped to accommodate persons with disabilities. The official delegates from our temple are Christy Fong and Karie Miya. Jane Sakashita will be the Mountain States District delegate.

Our telephone chain callers will be in touch with each BWA member to see if reservations are desired. They will also call you regarding preparation for the Obon Festival. There will be no BWA meeting in July.

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**Jr. YBA**  
Christy Fong

Hope everyone is having an enjoyable summer!  
Reminders to the Jrs.

All paperwork and final deposits for the Bus Trip are due by July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Remember to gather your new, out grown toys and stuffed animals for our Raffle at the Obon. Those of you who took items to make for us to sell, (Tostito Kachi Mochi, Sweet Coconut mix,

etc.) please have to Obon by 1:00 pm. Please email your advisors of the times you may be able to help with sales in the Jr. YBA area.

We appreciate all you do!

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## Building Update—June 2009

Brenda Koga

As of June 18, 2009, initial drawings are completed, and the process has begun to acquire the necessary permits to begin construction. Subcontractors visited the temple today and will submit their bids by next week.

We are projecting to initiate construction directly following the Obon festival. Thus, the week of July 13 we will need to pack and move items from the areas of construction. We are asking all temple members available to assist with the moving. Please save some appropriate sized boxes for loose articles such as the kitchen items and bring the boxes to the temple after the Obon.

Most items will be moved to the West Building.

In addition to boxes we will also need large plastic tarps or light weight coverings to protect furniture and the onaijin pieces from the construction dust. A moving plan has been established to complete this project as efficiently as possible. If you are interested in helping with the move and are available either during the day or in the evenings, please contact Brenda Koga (801-466-6552) to schedule your times.

The trees and rocks on the east side of the temple will need to be removed. Also the refrigerators and the stoves in the kitchen will be replaced. If you are interested in these items, please contact Brenda as soon as possible.

It is our hopes to have construction completed for the annual food bazaar; however, that is tentative, depending upon construction surprises. The temple will be unusable during the end of July and the months of August and September.

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## Hatsubon for 2009

Families that have lost a loved one since last year's Obon will be listed for this year's Hatsubon service. The Salt Lake service will be July 12 at 1:00 pm. The Honeyville service will be at the Honeyville Buddhist Temple on July 18 at approximately 11:00 am. The Ogden service will be on July 19<sup>th</sup> at approximately 11:00 am at the Ogden Buddhist Temple..

Shizuko Kano (Honeyville)  
Rhu Sueoka  
Mas Yamada (Ogden)  
Shoji Watanabe (Honeyville)  
Shigemi Mori  
Kenny Mitsunaga  
Henry Kawa (Ogden)  
Lily Endow (Ogden)  
Kay Terashima  
Rose Mayeda  
Oscar Misaka  
Shigeru Shimada  
Kikue Oda (Ogden)  
Leo Iseki (Ogden)  
Henry Riley (Ogden)

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## Shotsuki Hoyo

*service will be held in conjunction with the  
Hatsubon/Bon hoyo on Sunday, July 12, 1:00pm*

Deceased	Date of Death	Next of Kin
Beppu Yoshio	7/25/55	Jane Sakashita
Fujii Daiji		Amy Tomita
Hasegawa Masuta	7/1/81	Otome Hasegawa
Kameda Tasaku	7/14/84	
Konishi Becky	7/14/91	Jeanne Konishi

Konishi Isamu Lawrence	7/1/91	Jeanne Konishi
Matsuda Kanji	7/1/63	Dick Matsuda
Matsumiya Kaoru	7/1/54	S e g o Matsumiya
Matsumori Tome	7/12/86	
Matsuura Yosaku	7/31/40	Reiko Matsuura
Mochizuki Jiro		Jerry Mochizuki
Ogi Seiji	7/16	Tomoko Ogi
Ogi Takeshi	7/22	Tomoko Ogi
Nishida Roy Kazuo	7/10/03	Aiko Okada
Okino Shoichi	7/31/89	Kazuko Okino
Sanada Shintatsu Rev.	7/6/82	Tracy Roberson
Sasaki Shozo	7/73	Charlie Sasaki
Satomura Tome	7/20/86	Kimiko Mizuta
Sugino Kizo	7/28/52	Bob Sugino
Tohinaka Heizo	7/15/53	Sachiko Tohinaka
Yamaguchi Hoshiro	7/14/91	Mitsue Yamaguchi
Sumida Kimiyo	7/9/95	Barbara Mitsunaga
Tadehara Yukiyei	7/22/98	Amy Tomita
Roy Naosaburo Tachiki	7/16/01	Steven Tachiki
Ken Ogura	7/20/07	Tammy Kuramoto
Rowena Ling	7/21/07	Elaine Fukushima

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## Mt. States District Conference

As we all prepare for Obon and summer fun, I would like to remind everyone to mark one more date on to their calendar. The Salt Lake Buddhist Temple will be hosting this years Annual Mountain States District Conference from September 4-6, 2009. Since our Temple will be in the mist of renovations, Ogden Buddhist Temple has been gratuitous to allow us to hold the conference at their Temple. This years conference will be full of great events with special guest speaker Harry Bridge from Oakland Buddhist Temple, a ukulele clinic, and a golf outing. This will be a great opportunity to renew acquaintance and make new friends. I hope that you will all plan on attending and assisting with this wonderful event.

In Gassho  
Reiko Mitsunaga

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## BWA Donations

Kayo Hayakawa	Special	50
Yuriko Iwamoto	Special	25
Ken Nodzu	Special	25

### Eshinniko Donations

Aiko Okada	25	Masako Imamura	20
Aki Chow	20	Maxine Furubayashi	25
Alice Ogura	25	Maya Chow	17
Ayako Tohinaka	20	Mitsuko Hirota	25
Brenda Koga	25	Nobue Sudoko	25
Carl & Yuriko Dennison	40	Reiko Watanabe	20
Christy Fong	20	Renee Matsuura	25
Connie Sakashita	25	Ruth Aoki	25
Elsie Doi	25	Setsuko Nagata	30
Geroge & Ruby Doi	25	Shizuye Nakagiri	25
Grace Oshita	25	Takae Nakamura	20
Jane Sakashita	25	Takeko Doi	25
Jeanne Konishi	25	Tammara Kuramoto	25
Junko Mitsunaga	30	Terry Fujinami	25
Karie Minaga Miya	25	Tomiye Ishimatsu	25
Kazuko Yakumo	25	Yoshiko Uno	20
Mary Nakai	20	Setsuko Nagata	20
		(Seminar)	

BWA Membership pd

Joyce Chen

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## JUNE TEMPLE DONATIONS

### **Eshinniko Service –**

Chizuko Ishimatsu	10
Tomiye Ishimatsu	25
Alice Ogura	25
Mark & Gail Minaga	20
Ken Nodzu	25
Grace Kasai	25

**June Shotsuki Hoyo-**

Yoshiko Uno	20
Terry & Mits Fujinami	25
Takae Nakamura	25
Ruth Aoki	25
Aiko Okada	25
Charlie Sasaki	20
Fran & Tom Akimoto	25
Grace Oshita	25
Kenneth & Jean Kobayashi	25

**Special donations-**

Aiko Okada	100	7 yr memorial for Roy Nishida
Gary Okamoto	5	Special
Ivan Van Laningham	100	Special
Mitsuko Hirota	35	Nokotsudo
Reiko Watanabe	15	Food Handlers class
Osamu Hideshima	200	Special
SL YBA	150	In appreciation
Mark & Gail Minaga	20	Matthew's birthday
Tosh & Jean Shiba	30	In memory of Karen Shiba
Tosh & Jean Shiba	30	Buddhist Thoughts
Mary Nakai	20	In memory of George Nakai
Masako Suzuki (Calif)	25	Buddhist thoughts

**BUILDING FUND DONATIONS**

Mitsuko Hirota	200
ATK -Ernie Kyed	520
Kenneth & Jean Kobayashi	300
Koyo Restaurant	100

**Dharma School donations-**

Bruce & Christy Fong	25	Jennifer's graduation
Lisa Pappac	30	Parents Day
Lisa Pappac	15	Cheryl's birthday

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