



# Buddhist Thoughts

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## THANKSGIVING DAY

### Masami Hayashi

*Gratitude on the common, conventional level is a response to favors, kindnesses, and good fortune received from others. But gratitude on the religious level is an affirmation of the gift of life. Gratitude is based on the Buddhist world view, that any happening is the product of countless causes and conditions. We can not understand all the elements that contribute to making possible each moment, encounter or event in our lives.*

Of all the holidays, Thanksgiving Day is probably the best holiday for Shin Buddhists. It is based on the idea of recognizing our indebtedness and expressing gratitude for the things we receive. This is the heart of Shin Buddhism.

As I reflect on my life's journey, I realize that I am indebted to many people. I have been blessed and feel grateful to all who have given me guidance, support and companionship. Today, I would like to tell you about my relationship with Rev. Kozen Tsunemitsu of Tokyo. He had changed my life around, from a "C" student to an "A" student. He had been instrumental in providing me with basic educational tools which I believe has effected my entire life.

In 1937, Rev. Tsunemitsu and his staff realized that many nisei in Japan had difficulty entering college because of not understanding the Japanese language. So they made plans to educate younger students who were able to just concentrate on studying Japanese and its culture. Besides worrying about learning Japanese and selecting the appropriate career, the older Nisei who had dual citizenships also were concerned about being drafted in the Japanese military. Rev. Tsunemitsu and staff thus formed a special study group known as the *Shugakudan*. Rev. Tamai of the Tri-State Buddhist Temple was asked to recruit teenagers for this group. The group was recruited from the Tri-State area and consisted of 14 students, ten boys and four girls, ranging in ages from 12 to 17. I was one of the recruits at 13 and in the eighth grade. We went to Japan with Rev. Tsunemitsu who had developed an ambitious educational program for us. I stayed with the group for two full years. We lived and studied in a 45room men's dormitory known as the Nichi-bei Home for students from America. It was located in Nakano-ku, Tokyo. Women were housed in a separate dormitory. The Nichi-bei Home complex had classrooms, gymnasium, a chapel, dining room, showers and a lavatory.

What was this program like? For a boy who had a leisurely life, this was a big change. We had to adjust to a disciplined schedule of activities from 6:30 in the morning until 10:00 at night. We had classes six days per week. On Sundays we went on field trips. The day started by waking up with the ringing of the bell at 6:30. Morning service started at 6:45. We chanted the San Butsu Ge, recited the creed and sang, "The song of the Shugakudan." We had breakfast at 7:00. Classes started at 8:00 and we had lunch break at 12:00 noon. Then we went back to classes from 1:00 to 3:00 until tea and snack time. After our break we had free time until dinner at 5:00. Doors were locked at 7:00. It was our home study period from 7:00 until bedtime at 10:00. We had no radios and of course no TVs. It took several weeks before I got used to this rigid routine.

As the result of this vigorous education, we accomplished more than expected during the first year. We completed the 12 volumes of standardized readers to the sixth grade level in ten months. We kept a diary in Japanese of all our activities, We worked on our speeches, corrected our Japanese accents. We practiced three hours per week of Japanese calligraphy, learned the Japanese morals and ethics, studied Japanese history and geography, learned to use the soroban or abacus, deepened our feeling for Japanese music. We spent four hours per week on the martial arts of Judo and Kendo. The girls instead of taking martial arts, learned flower arrangement, tea ceremony, etiquette, needlework, koto, handicraft, and Japanese dancing.

In the second year a few more courses were added or substituted: we advanced to the Middle school grade readers, read Natsume Soseki's novels and the daily Asahi newspapers, studied Japanese grammar, read Kanbun or classical Chinese, studied Asian history and geography, and translated and interpreted Japanese into English and vice versa.

During the weekends we took many short trips to visit shrines, temples, museum, historical sites and other interesting places within the greater Tokyo area. We also were entertained in Japanese movies, kabuki, sumo and other sports activities. One of the highlights was an invitation to visit Prince Takamatsu, younger brother to Emperor Hirohito. He was interested in our education program and also wanted to know more about our parents. We were busy 7 days per week. Being a teenager, I had no time to feel grateful for all the wonderful experiences that was afforded me.

During the summer months we toured extensively for 20 days. The first year we toured Central Japan, Shikoku and Kyushu. The second year, we toured Korea and Manchuria. Since Rev. Tsunemitsu was well known for his Shugakudan program, we were invited as guests to the many Hongwanji temples scheduled on our tour. We prepared a speech in Japanese on our impressions of Japan and delivered it to the temple audiences.

After these extended tours we stayed with our relatives for a month to get acquainted with them. I met my grandparents, uncles, aunts, and cousins from both my father and mother's side. It gave me a chance to find my roots and learn more about who I am. They also got to know me.

The two years of disciplined education in Japan had change me. I became more motivated to continue studying not only the Japanese language and culture, but any subject of interest. I had become more appreciative for the study program that Rev. Tsunemitsu had provided us. Since obtaining a greater understanding of the Japanese language and culture I have benefited from this knowledge in many ways; such as served as translator-interpreter in the Manila War Crimes trials, served as guide to many visiting Japanese engineers who visited our metallurgical research facilities, taught and demonstrated Japanese calligraphy and assisted resident ministers as a Jodo Shinshu minister. I can never truly repay the gift of education and a challenging life style that Rev. Kozen Tsunemitsu and his staff of teachers provided me.

*Repentance is another phase of gratitude; the feeling of inadequacy, a sense that one can never truly repay the gifts received. Repentance, the confession of one's inability to be grateful, may be at the core of true gratitude. However, for all levels of gratitude, the ultimate expression of gratitude is the saying of the Name, Namu Amida Butsu.*

## **Dharma School**

### **Christy Fong**

Thank you to all the volunteers who signed up for various activities throughout the year. We appreciate your willingness to help! We are still looking for someone to oversee the Bowling party in February and to assist with the Nisei Luncheon in May. If you'd like to help, please contact Christy Fong.

Thank you to the **third** and **fourth** grade students for helping lead the Golden Chain and Promise during service in November and December.

We welcome new students, Owen Fetherston and Carter Fetherstone to Dharma School. Please welcome them and their father Eric, to our temple.

The Bodhi Day service and luncheon will be held on December 5<sup>th</sup>. Dharma School families are asked to contribute a salad or dessert to the luncheon. Please try to attend as we will be taking class pictures for an End of the year book.

We are asking each family to donate 3 dozen items for the Goodie Bags to be distributed in January at the Ho-onko luncheon.

Thank you again and again for your continued support!

## **Library**

### **Chris Oki**

The temple's library staff would like to thank Mrs. Yukie Okubo and Mrs. Ruth Aoki for their generous donation of books and other study materials from their personal libraries. A broad range of books, including those about Buddhism, Japanese culture/language, and Japanese-American history in Utah, are currently being processed and catalogued. We would like to encourage temple members to use the library's collection and check-out any books that they find interesting.

## Shotsuki Hoyo December 5, 10:00 am

<b>Deceased</b>	<b>Date of death</b>	<b>Next of kin</b>
Aramaki Yasu	12/8/86	Hiroshi Aramaki
Hideshima Hideji	12/28/90	Tad Hideshima
Hirano Kiyoshi	12/18/73	Henry Hirano
Ikari Hideyoshi	12/31	Sachiko Tohinaka
Ikegami Akitaro	12/2/60	
Iwasaki Bunjiro	12/11/65	Fujio Iwasaki
Katsuki Yoshio	12/9/87	
Kawaguchi Sato	12/1/83	Bill Kawaguchi
Kida Kiyoji	12/9/65	Jeff Kida
Komatsu Fumie	12/30/88	Judy Komatsu
Matsuno Albert	12/21/93	Yuriko Matsuno
Mitsunaga Kiyoshi	12/16/94	Helen Mitsunaga
Mori Michiko	12/3/87	Tami Mori
Nodzu Kentaro	12/22/70	Ken Nodzu
Okubo Riyo	12/24/83	Harry Okubo
Omura Roy	12/22/87	Terry Omura
Osako Sadao	12/16/88	Yaeko Osako
Sasaki Omatsu	12/15/92	Shigeru Sasaki
Shimamura Michiko	12/14/94	Geraldine Chappell
Suyehiro Fusa	12/6/46	Greg Matsuura
Sueoka Joanne	12/1/83	Dru Sueoka
Sueoka Lillian	12/17/88	Dru Sueoka
Usui Yoshio	12/1/83	Beth Usui
Yakumo Chijun	12/13/91	Kazuko Yakumo
Yakumo Aya	12/1/82	Kazuko Yakumo
Frank Nishimura	12/31/2000	Chiyoko Nishimura
Hamamoto Kiyoko	12/20/01	Aiko Okada
Shigemi Mori	12/5/08	Asako Mori
Kenny Mitsunaga	12/17/08	Tomio Mitsunaga
Henry Kawa	12/23/08	Glen Kawa

### Tentative 2011 Schedule

January	16	Hoonko, Shotsuki Hoyo, New Year's Party
	30	General Meeting
February	13	Nehan E, Shotsuki Hoyo
March	20	Ohigan
April	3	Ogden Hanamatsuri
	10	Salt Lake Hanamatsuri
May	22	Gotan E

June	5	Lagoon Day
	12	Graduation/Eshinni ko, BWA Memorial Service
July	9	Obon Dance
	10	Obon/Hatsubon
	16	Honeyville Obon/Hatsubon, Ogden Dance
	17	Ogden Obon/Hatsubon
Aug	9-11	BCA Minister's Fuken
	13-14	Mt. States District Conf.
September	11	First Day Dharma School
	18	Ohigan/Shotsuki Hoyo
October	30	Halloween Party
November	19-20	Holiday Boutique
	20	Eitaikyo
December	11	Bodhi Day
	31	Joya E

## Bodhi Day Seminar

# “What the Buddha Taught”

Venerable Madawala Seelawimala

Institute of Buddhist Studies Professor of Buddhist Studies

December 4  
3:00-5:00 p.m.

## NOVEMBER DONATIONS

Tami & Robert Tokita	40.00	Oct Shotsuki Hoyo
Charlie Sasaki	20.00	Oct Shotsuki Hoyo
Elaine Fukushima	100.00	Memorial for Frank Fukushima
Brian & Tammy Fukushima	100.00	Memorial for Frank Fukushima
Ivan Van Laningham	25.00	Special
Elaine Ferguson (MD)	100.00	Visitation
Ryoko & Gary Okamoto	20.00	Andy's birthday
Sherrie Hayashi	10.00	Special
Gary Okamoto	10.00	Special
Ivan Van Laningham	25.00	Special
Bebe & Ila Okada	100.00	Special
Varian Medical Systems	100.00	Gary Okamoto/Co matching program
Dave Sekino	50.00	Eitaikyo
Karie Minaga-Miya	100.00	Eitaikyo
Karie Minaga-Miya	125.00	Pledge
Akiko O Hare	500.00	Special
Ruth Aoki	500.00	Special
Rose Watamura (CA)	50.00	Visitation
Ivan Van Laningham	25.00	Special
Mary Sayama	20.00	Buddhist Thoughts
Yukie Okubo	75.00	Buddhist Thoughts
Gary & Ryoko Okamoto	5.00	Special
Chris Oki	100.00	Denver bus
Nobue Sudoku	100.00	7 yr memorial for Taro Sudoku

## SHOTSUKI HOYO

Hiroshi & Mary Aramaki	20.00	Kazuko Yakumo	25.00
Ayako Tohinaka	100.00	Nancy Takagi	40.00
Sachiko Tohinaka	25.00	Brenda Koga	20.00
Amy Tomita	25.00	Jane Sakashita	20.00
Maxine Furubayashi	25.00	Tom & Fran Akimoto	50.00
Aiko Okada	25.00	Tomio & Junko Mitsunaga	20.00

## EITAIKYO

Chizuko Ishimatsu	50.00	Tomiye Ishimatsu	50.00
Nancy Takagi	25.00	Brenda Koga	25.00
Jane Sakashita	20.00	Maxine Furubayashi	25.00
Chie Sugaya	25.00	Henry Hirano	25.00
Ichiro & Takeko Doi	25.00	Terry & Mits Fujinami	25.00

## BUILDING FUND

Kenneth & Jean Kobayashi	500.00
Koyo Restaurant	100.00

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Karie & Marcus Miya

Hisa Minaga

DHARMA SCHOOL

Halloween Party --

Yukie Okubo	10	Kirk & Betty Yamashita	20
Elaine Fukushima	25	Steve & Kris Yamada	20
Mark & Gail Minaga	25	Jeff & Soni Hirasuna	25
Bruce & Christy Fong	25	Setsuko Nagata	20
Maya Chow	20	Reiko Matsuura	30
Richard & Lynne Doi	20	Grace Oshita	20
LaVerne & Ernie Kyed	20		

Tina Munson 30 Birthdays for Henry & Emma

JR YBA

Chris & Shelley Taketa 100 Wedding

Gary & Ryoko Okamoto 100 Special