



## Anniversaries

BY REVEREND HARRY GYOKYO BRIDGE

This year marks several anniversaries for me. I had my appendix out in 1990. That same year I saw the band Phish for the first time while I was in college, and heard my first Dharma Talk, which sparked my interest in Buddhism. Now that I think about it, these all happened twenty years ago! And around the time that you read this article, I will be turning 40!

This is the perfect time to reflect on my life, whether the past twenty or the entire forty. I find it interesting that one of these events involves music, which has been such a major part of my life. Phish was one of my favorite bands, I saw a lot of their concerts during college and afterwards. I also played in a band myself during this time – in fact, I thought that this was what I wanted to do with my life.

But this was not the way things would turn out. The interest in Buddhism that was born out of that first Dharma Talk led me on a search, first to Japan, then to **Rev. Taitetsu Unno** in Northampton, Massachusetts, and then to Berkeley, California and the

Institute of Buddhist Studies to begin my studies and training to become a minister.

Do I have any regrets? If I could go back and do it all over again, would I do anything differently? Maybe. I would try and be less shy. I would try and put more effort into school. I would try and have more confidence. But Buddhism isn't about reliving the past, it's about living NOW. Of course, the way I live my life now is affected by the past, but it is not determined by the past. The bonds of karma are incredibly strong and difficult to break, but Buddhism teaches that change is possible. By reflecting on my life, by being in a Buddhist community, by taking refuge in Amida Buddha, I am able to live a more "real" life – I won't become perfect, but maybe my normal self-centered way of being gets broken open a little bit, and truly living life, not only for myself but for my family and community and ultimately for all living beings becomes more of a reality.

Namo Amida Butsu  
Rev. Harry Gyokyo Bridge ❁

### IN THIS ISSUE

Minister's Message	1
President's Musings	2
Temple Tidbits	2
In Memoriam	2
Church Picnic 2010	3
Youth Club	4
Dharma School News	4
Nippongo Gakuen	4
Halloween Party	6
Shotsuki Service	7
Calendar	

**TEMPLE TID-BITS**

**Reminder to Members:**

Have you sent in your Gojihi/dues for 2010? We are entering the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of the year 2010. The various programs at the Buddhist Church of Oakland depend upon your donations and Gojihi. Also a portion of the dues is sent to support The BCA. If you are not a member to date and you would like more information, please call the office at (510) 832-5988. Office staff will be glad to send you membership information. The church is trying to minimize mailings to save on paper and stamps. Thank you in advance for your support.

**Walking Tour Includes BCO**

Did you know ... that our Buddhist Church of Oakland is included on a walking tour of historical and significant buildings in Oakland's Chinatown area? What a wonderful honor to be recognized in our community!

**Errors & Omissions**

The Busshin staff regrets the following errors in the September Busshin:

1. p. 8 Momiji Kai News August 5, 2010, Event cancelled
2. Hatsubon Service Donations:
 

Fukumae, Vicki Suda	20
Mitsue Kato	
Suda, Kikue	25
(Mitsue Kato)	
Yoneyama, Mollie & Sam	25
(Mitsue Kato)	

In Memoriam

The Buddhist Church of Oakland extends its deepest condolences to the families of the following members:

Charles Elmer Kekaiula  
St. Germain  
August 9, 2010

Mitsuo Nakagawa  
August 13, 2010

Tamaki Kanda  
August 27, 2010

May their family members find comfort and solace in the Nembutsu, Namu amida butsu.

President's Musings

BY STEVE TERUSAKI

It's autumn and in the Bay Area that means Indian Summer. After such a cool summer, we are now enjoying our brief and fleeting heat waves. Unlike the Central Valley or the rest of the country, our heat waves are only a couple/three days in length. And with each spike in temperatures, we all look forward in great anticipation to the return of that finger of fog that penetrates the Bay and provides our natural air conditioning. Within this climatic cycle of heat and fog, we enjoy our Northern California autumn: viewing the yellows, reds and browns in the ash, maples, ginkgo's and sycamores that

line our streets; enjoying football Saturdays in Memorial Stadium on the Cal campus, waiting in great anticipation if another year must pass before a Rose Bowl bid; the golden light of fall sunsets as the sun disappears behind the Golden Gate; Sunday Family Dharma services and our annual Keiro service honoring our members who are 75 and older - this year on October 24th.

With the beginning of the new school year our Dharma School is again holding classes every Sunday after the Family Dharma service. We encourage you to help us identify families who might be interested in bringing their children to Dharma School. If you know of anyone, please provide contact information to our Dharma School superintendent, **Mrs. Maya Lawrence** at: [maya.lawrence@comcast.net](mailto:maya.lawrence@comcast.net) We will use the information to send a personalized invitation to come and visit and experience our Dharma School and our family dharma services. Your efforts will help to strengthen our entire Sangha as new families bring new energy and new perspectives into the BCO community.

As you have noticed, the Roof Renovation project is well underway. Scaffolding remains around the building as the contractor finishes up work on installation of the molded GFRC (glass-fiber reinforced concrete) members that are replacing the former wood roof dragons and wood timbers that grace the peaks and

gables of the roof. The Contractor is also painting, replacing flashing, waterproofing critical joints and junctures, and replacing the membrane-roof over the Little Chapel. The Contractor's schedule has been extended as a result of the discovery of additional dry rot and previous construction that needed to be corrected. As of this writing, the work is about 60% complete and should be complete in October rather than at the beginning of September as initially planned. Parking and access will continue to be an issue as long as the scaffolding remains up. We will try to provide alternative means of ingress and egress from the church's parking lots during this period of construction. Please bear with us as the Contractor finishes this important renovation that will add to the beauty and longevity of the church.

On the Roof Renovation Campaign front, we received an additional \$8,580 in pledges and donations; and \$1,340 of payments on existing pledges through the month of August. Our Campaign total now stands at \$188,507, or 47.1% of our campaign goal of \$400,000. That's an additional 2.1% since last month's Busshin. Thank you to everyone who participated in the Obon lantern memorial tag program. We raised nearly \$3,000 through that program. I would like to especially acknowledge **Brian Nagata** and the Numata Center for the donation of the lanterns. The

Contractor has been submitting invoices at a rapid clip. We have been able to keep up payments with the donations that have to be made; however, we will shortly need to access other funds to cover the contractor's bills. For those who haven't yet contributed please consider doing so as we go into the last quarter of the year; take advantage of the tax benefits of making a contribution to the roof fund.

Finally, the Buddhist Church of Oakland has put into nomination, **Mrs. Daisy Tsujimoto** for the Kay Okamoto Award for Community Volunteer. Daisy has volunteered her time and energy in supporting the Church and its activities for more than 50 years. As stated in the Letter of Support from Mrs. Maya Tsuji Lawrence, "Daisy works competently, quietly with joy and cheer, without complaint or drama, and is a model to all in the Buddhist Church of Oakland." Among the many activities for which Mrs. Tsujimoto volunteers her time, the following were highlighted as part of the nomination:

§ Dharma School Teacher for 36 years

§ Altar Flower Arrangement Committee member for 14+ years

§ Oakland Jr. Women's Association / Buddhist Women's Association member for 50 years

§ Annual Nikkoland Bazaar Committee member for 12 years

§ Annual Obon Festival Committee member for 12 years

§ Community volunteer working with children with learning disabilities and visual impairment

§ JAACL Membership Committee member

We look forward to the committee's decision. The awardee will be honored at the Japanese Community and Cultural Center of Northern California Tabemasho event on September 25th. ❀

## Church Picnic 2010

BY RON NOMURA

At Pleasant Hill Park, the site of this year's picnic, we had the perfect weather made for a relaxing Sunday outing. Not a cloud in the sky, the sun shining bright, birds chirping, kids giggling, people laughing, the aroma of hot dogs and hamburgers cooking – picnic heaven. **Reverend Bridge** started the day with morning service and then we were treated to lunch. Thank you to **Maya Lawrence, June Masuyama, Harry Bergland, Digger Sasaki, Rick Sasaki, & Jon Takagaki** for preparing and serving lunch for everybody.

After lunch, the kids were treated to games provided by the Jr. YBA headed by **Charlotte Abrahamson**. Prizes were handed out by **Valerie** and **Tak Otsuka** – My appreciation goes out to them for the hard work on organizing the games & prizes and putting smiles on the youngsters faces (including those watching) year after year.

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Church Picnic  
Continued from previous page

Bingo and raffle followed the games with **Dave Hirota** and **Kenji Okamura-Wong** calling out numbers to get everybody into a bingo frenzy. We had lots of bingo's being yelled out and those "aw's" for those that were just 1 number away from a bingo. I hope everybody had a good time; it was nice to see so many of you bringing out your children, parents, aunts, uncles, and grandchildren. It's great to take time out of our busy lives to enjoy a simple day at the park with family and friends.

On behalf of the church, I would like to thank those who helped set up and cleaned up to make the picnic an enjoyable day and to those who donated prizes, tasty desserts and fruits to the delight of all. I would like to especially thank **Yosh Nakano** for making arrangements every year to obtain the great picnic site. It is with much gratitude that the church thanks you all for your continued support. We hope to see at next year's picnic. ❀

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## Nippongo Gakuen

By GARY TOMINAGA

The Oakland Nippongo Gakuen is accepting applications and tuition for the Fall Trimester.

Classes start on Saturday morning, September 18th.

Tuition for the Fall Trimester is \$225 (\$150 for adults). Please

send your application and tuition payable to:

Oakland Nippongo Gakuen  
825 Jackson St  
Oakland, CA 94607

The Oakland Nippongo Gakuen is also accepting applications for additional sensei. Please send your application to:

Oakland Nippongo Gakuen  
825 Jackson St.  
Oakland, CA 94607

For more information, please call or e-mail **Gary Tominaga** at (510) 581-6645 or GATOMINAGA@COMCAST.NET. ❀

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## Youth Club News

By DAVID HIROTA

Hi Everyone. Wow, it is September already and that means basketball season once again. On behalf of the Youth Club and the Church, I would like to thank all the families who volunteered their time to help out at the bazaar and Obon. Without your efforts these events would be very difficult to perform.

Teams are still being formed and it is not too late to join in on the fun. If your child or grandchild is interested in playing this season contact me at 510-292-0598. Remember all children or grandchildren of church members are guaranteed roster spots. We have kids playing from K thru 12 grade both boys and girls.

The Youth Club would like to thank the **Endo family** for their generous donation in memory

of Wesley Endo who was a legendary Oakland YBA and Berkeley Cleaners basketball player. **Richard** and Wesley Endo helped put BCO basketball on the map in the 50's and 60's.

Important dates for the club are December 12th for Mochitsuki and March 25th for the Appreciation Dinner. ❀

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## DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS...

By JANET UMEZU

Goong, Gooong, Goooong, the church bells ring. Goong, Goong come one and all.....

Welcome Back as the 2010-2011 Family Dharma Services and School officially resumed on September 12. It was a day of reuniting with our Dharma friends, getting to know new teachers and sharing a special hot dog luncheon chaired by **Daisy Tsujimoto** and **Donna Castro**. During the service, this year's Dharma School Teacher's Cabinet was installed. The officers are as follows:

Superintendent

**Maya Lawrence**

Secretary

**Janet Umezu**

Treasurer

**Mollie Yoneyama**

Birthday Chairperson

**Joni Hiramoto**

Busshin Reporter

**Janet Umezu**



BDDSTL Representatives

**Maya Lawrence & Janet Umezu**

The Dharma School would also like to welcome **Robert Noguchi** as a new Dharma School teacher. He will be working with the Jr YBA. Students. Thank you Robert for agreeing to give of your time. We would also like to thank our veteran teachers, who are always there to assist in all ways. We continue to look for new teachers. If anyone is interested in helping with the Dharma School, please see Maya Lawrence.

Ohigan quickly came and that means our thoughts turned to Fall and our senior members. In the month ahead, the Dharma School students will be busy making appreciation gifts for the

Keirokai members. These gifts will be presented on October 24 at the Keirokai Luncheon. Please make sure your students attend class as we work on the project. We will also be needing assistance with the collating of the Busshin on October 17. Please let Maya Lawrence know if you can assist.

Just a reminder that October Birthday Sunday will be celebrated on October 3. We wish all those students a very Happy Birthday. They are



**Miya Li, Brittany Nakamura, Paul Noguchi, Cameron Owoc, and James Toyofuku.**

SAVE THE DATE: October 31, 2010 – Annual Halloween Party ❁

**DEADLINE FOR  
November 2010 BUSSHIN  
ARTICLES: October 1<sup>st</sup>**

Articles submitted after this date may not be printed. Send articles to **Joyce Yokomizo**:  
email: joyce@yokomizo.com  
fax: (415) 970-0810  
You can also send articles to **Tomita Shimamoto** at the church office.

**BUSSHIN COLLATION  
by the Dharma School on  
Saturday, October 17th by  
the Dharma School**



*Dharma School Teachers' Seminar*



**You are cordially invited  
to the Oakland Buddhist Church**

# **Halloween Party**

**Sunday, October 31, 2010**

**10:00 am**

**Oakland Buddhist Church**

**Lunch Provided**

**Children can wear costumes or change after the Service**

**Adults are welcome to wear costumes too**

**& Visit the Haunted House created by the JR YBA**



## October Shotsuki Memorial Service

Service: Sunday, October 3, 2010 at approximately 10:45 a.m.

Sermon by Reverend Harry Gyokyo Bridge

Family and friends are invited to attend this monthly memorial service for those listed below. If any errors appear in the list below, please notify the church office at (510) 832-5988 at your earliest convenience. Next month's Shotsuki Service will be held on Sunday, November 7, 2010 at 10:45 a.m.

Mrs. Maya Aikawa: 3rd year	Mr. Takashi Kimoto	Mrs. Fujie Oniki
Mr. Charles S. Ajari: 3rd year	Ms. Setsuko Kimura	Mr. Ted Hitoshige Sakaki
Mrs. Kane Aochi	Mrs. Shige Kisanuki	Mr. Kumamashichi Sakamoto
Mr. Shigeru Asakura	Mr. Kokichi Kiya	Mrs. Kikue Sameshima:
Mrs. Kane Baba	Mr. Tameji Kobori	50th year
Mr. Takashi Baba: 3rd year	Mrs. Yoshiye Kume	Mrs. Hisa Sasaki
Mrs. Ichi Chiyoda	Mr. Karoku Kuramoto	Mrs. Tomiye Satake
Mr. Hachiro Endo	Mrs. Tamayo Kuramoto	Mr. Hidemi Seiji
Mr. Heitaro Fujii	Mr. Yoshimitsu Kuramoto	Mrs. Tomiye Seta
Mrs. Kikuno Fujii	Mrs. Tama Kuritsubo: 13th year	Mrs. Yasumatsu Shigaya
Mr. Fred Fujii	Mrs. Tamae Kurotori	Mr. Harvey Shinomoto: 25th year
Mr. Rikizo Fujinami	Mr. Shoroku Kuwahara	Mr. George S. Takahashi
Mrs. Marie Miyako Fujino:	Mrs. Sachi Masuyama: 7th year	Mrs. Tame Takahashi
25th year	Mr. Gary Matsumoto	Mr. Shinobu Tani
Mr. William Furuta	Mrs. Misty Minamihara	Mr. Masayuki Terada
Mr. Miyao Harada	Mrs. Tomiko Minamoto:	Mr. Loren Teramura
Mr. Sunao Harada	17th year	Mr. Eiya Ugai
Mr. Katsuji Harano	Miss Yuki Minamoto	Mrs. Misao Watanabe
Mrs. Seki Hayashi	Mr. Tomijiro Miyagawa	Mr. Wataru Watanabe
Mrs. Saki Hirao: 25th year	Mrs. Kazue Mori	Mrs. Ruth Miyoko Wong:
Mr. Horizo Horimoto	Mr. Gene Tatsuo Moriki	13th year
Mrs. Kiyoko Idehara	Mrs. Taki Nagafuji: 50th year	Mrs. Dai Yamabe
Mr. Jukiji Igaki	Mr. Kohachi Nakao	Baby Yamamoto
Mr. Tomenosuke Inouchi	Mrs. Satsuki Nakao	Mrs. Miyuki Lois Yamamoto:
Mrs. Fusayo Inouye	Rev. Juko Nakashima: 33rd year	17th year
Mr. Shokichi Isono	Mrs. Tsuneno Nakatani	Mrs. Tatsuyo Yamamoto:
Mr. Seitaro Iwamoto	Mr. Torataro Nakayama	33rd year
Mr. Jitsugo Iwata	Mr. Yaichi Nakazono	Mrs. Chizuko Yamanaka:
Mrs. Yuki Kamano	Mr. Alan Neishi	7th year
Mrs. Tatsumi Kanada	Mr. Tsunekichi Niizawa:	Mr. Kuhachiro Yamaoka
Mr. Seiso Kanesaki	25th year	Mrs. Tsuya Yamashita
Mr. Shonosuke Kato	Mrs. Toshiko Ninomiya:	Mr. Choshiro Yokoyama
Mrs. Hatsu Kawabe	13th year	Mrs. Yoshino Yokoyama
Mr. Tokichi Kawamoto	Mr. Sam Hoyo Noma	Mrs. Ino Yoshida
Mr. Shuichi Kawoka	Mr. Seizo Nomura	Mrs. Misa Yoshida
Mr. Ichiro Kayatani	Mrs. Tamayo Norimoto	Mr. Yozo Yoshida
Mr. John Kido	Mrs. Miyeko Okamoto	Mrs. Grace Yoshioka
Mr. Meiji Kido	Mrs. Sei Okawa	Mr. Shosaburo Yoshioka ❀
Mrs. Teiko Kido: 13th year	Mrs. Sueno Oki	

# October 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 1:00-3:00 p.m. <b>Hiroshima Kenjinkai Prep</b>  Busshin Articles Due	2 9:00 a.m. <b>Nippongo Gakuen</b> 1:00-4:00 p.m. <b>Hiroshima Kenjinkai: Main Hall</b>
3 9:00 a.m. <b>OBWA Mtg</b> 10:00 a.m. <b>Family Dharma Service</b> 10:45 a.m. <b>Shotsuki Service</b>	4 9:30 a.m. <b>BCO Golf Tournament,</b> Sequoia Country Club 1:00 p.m. <b>Line Dance</b> 7:30 p.m. <b>Karaoke</b>	5 6:00 p.m. <b>OBWA Nominating Committee</b>	6 7:00 p.m. <b>Board Meeting</b>	7 10:00 a.m. <b>Momiji Kai</b> 6:30 p.m. <b>Adult Gakuen</b>	8	9 9:00 a.m. <b>Nippongo Gakuen</b> 2:00 p.m. <b>Ikebana</b>
10 10:00 a.m. <b>Family Dharma Service, Esshin- ni, Kakushin-ni &amp; Lady Yoshiko Ohtani Memorial</b>	11 10:00 a.m. <b>Wanto Shodo Kai</b> 1:00 p.m. <b>Line Dance</b> 7:30 p.m. <b>Karaoke</b>	12 7:00 p.m. <b>EBYAL Meeting</b>	13 6:00 p.m. <b>BCO Nominating Committee</b>	14 6:30 p.m. <b>Adult Gakuen</b> 7:30 p.m. <b>Concord How- akai</b>	15	16 9:00 a.m. <b>Nippongo Gakuen</b> <b>BD Buddhist Women's League Conference/En- manji</b>
17 10:00 a.m. <b>Family Dharma Service &amp; Adult Study</b> 6:00 p.m. <b>Ashland Howakai</b>  Busshin Collated by Dharma School	18 1:00 p.m. <b>Line Dance</b> 7:30 p.m. <b>Karaoke</b>	19 7:00 p.m. <b>Fukuoka Sister City</b>	20	21 10:00 a.m. <b>Momiji Kai</b> 6:30 p.m. <b>Adult Gakuen</b>	22	23 9:00 a.m. <b>Nippongo Gakuen</b> 1:00-3:00 p.m. <b>Wanto Fukuoka Kenjinkai Bingo</b>
24 10:00 a.m. <b>Keirokai &amp; Family Dharma Service, Keiro- kai Luncheon (Board), Bingo (Jr YBA)</b>	25 10:00 a.m. <b>Wanto Shodo Kai</b> 1:00 p.m. <b>Line Dance</b> 7:30 p.m. <b>Karaoke</b>	26 7:30 p.m. <b>Youth Club Board Meeting</b>	27	28 6:30 p.m. <b>Adult Gakuen</b>	29	30 9:00 a.m. <b>Nippongo Gakuen</b> <b>Jr YBA Sleepover Halloween Construction</b>
31 10:00 a.m. <b>Family Dharma Service, Hallow- een Party, Otoki (Jr YBA)</b>						



# November 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 1:00 p.m. <b>Line Dance</b> 7:30 p.m. <b>Karaoke</b>  Busshin Articles Due	2	3 7:00 p.m. <b>Board Meeting</b>	4 10:00 a.m. <b>Momiji Kai</b> 6:30 p.m. <b>Adult Gakuen</b>	5	6 9:00 a.m. <b>Nippongo Gakuen</b>
7 9:00 a.m. <b>OBWA Meeting</b> 10:00 a.m. <b>Family Dharma, Shotsuki Service</b>	8 10:00 a.m. <b>Wanto Shodo Kai</b> 1:00 p.m. <b>Line Dance</b> 7:30 p.m. <b>Karaoke</b>	9 7:30 p.m. <b>EBYAL</b>	10	11 6:30 p.m. <b>Adult Gakuen</b> 7:30 p.m. <b>Concord Howakai</b>	12 <b>Board Election Ballots Due</b>	13 9:00 a.m. <b>Nippongo Gakuen</b> 2:00 p.m. <b>Ikebana</b>
14 10:00 a.m. <b>Eitaikyo Service, Otoki (OBWA)</b> 3:00 p.m. <b>Kagoshima Kenjinkai</b>  Busshin Collated by the Board	15 1:00 p.m. <b>Line Dance</b> 7:30 p.m. <b>Karaoke</b>	16 7:00 p.m. <b>Fukuoka Sister City</b>	17	18 10:00 a.m. <b>Momiji Kai</b> 6:30 p.m. <b>Adult Gakuen</b>	19	20 9:00 a.m. <b>Nippongo Gakuen</b>
21 10:00 a.m. <b>Family Dharma Service &amp; Adult Study</b> 6:00 p.m. <b>Ashland Howakai</b>	22 10:00 a.m. <b>Wanto Shodo Kai</b> 1:00 p.m. <b>Line Dance</b> 7:30 p.m. <b>Karaoke</b>	23 7:30 p.m. <b>Youth Club Board Meeting</b>	24	25 <b>Thanksgiving Office Closed</b>	26 <b>Office Closed</b>	27 <b>No Gakuen</b>
28 10:00 a.m. <b>Family Dharma Service &amp; Adult Study</b>	29 1:00 p.m. <b>Line Dance</b> 7:30 p.m. <b>Karaoke</b>	30				