

Busshin

Welcome Back! (?) BY REV. HARRY GYOKYO BRIDGE

SEPTEMBER FINDS US BEGINNING

a new Dharma School year, and the beginning of our “calendar” of services. Unfortunately, the ongoing pandemic means that we cannot meet in person. However, I hope that the rhythm of Sunday services provides some stability and routine in your lives.

This fall, I plan to continue the prerecorded Services and Dharma Messages on YouTube. However, I am

also thinking to have a live service via Zoom once a month! This would also include a Dharma School class component and possibly Adult Discussion as well. We are just in the planning stages as I write this at the end of July, so please keep an eye out via email for more information - we may do a test run at the end of August. We may also be able to offer Memorial Services live via Zoom as well - if you are

interested, please contact me via email and we can make arrangements.

Despite being apart, we can still be connected as a Sangha. Reciting the Nembutsu, we can be connected with Amida Buddha and with each other. I hope that you continue to be healthy and safe during this continued pandemic.

Namo Amida Butsu!! ■

BCO Closure Update - August 2020

DEAR BCO MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,

It is with sincere hope that this letter finds you well and safe amidst the COVID-19 new “normal world” we find ourselves in.

In early July, we issued BCO closure guidelines through August 31. These guidelines suspended all in-per-

son services, announced that video Dharma services would continue over the summer, and extended the closure of the BCO office. The sub-committee of the BCO Board has continued to monitor the pandemic.

Reports indicate that the COVID-19 health risks will continue to

persist in our communities over the next several months. Until a safe and effective vaccine is developed and widely available in 2021 (keeping fingers crossed), it seems likely that our adherence to the restrictions and practices we currently are required

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A Successful Virtual Food Drive!

BY JON TAKAGAKI

BCO'S VIRTUAL FOOD DRIVE to help the Alameda County Community Food Bank (ACCFB) has come to a close. In May, we kicked off the food drive and set a goal to raise \$1,500. I am excited to report that we raised

\$2,344 for ACCFB, 156% of our goal! Thank you to our Sangha members and friends of the Sangha for your dana!

Your donations help ACCFB distribute much needed food assistance

to families in our community during these difficult times. BCO wishes to express our sincere gratitude for your generosity and support! ■

Upcoming Online Event

WE ARE EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE a very special presentation and performance of traditional Okinawan sanshin music by **Dr. Wesley Ueunten**. Dr. Ueunten is a professor of Asian American Studies at San Francisco State University. He will be discussing the connection between traditional Okinawan folk songs and Buddhism.

Dr. Ueunten is a sansei Okinawan born and raised in Hawai'i. While living in Okinawa and Japan for 9 years, he studied the language and learned to play traditional sanshin music before returning back to the US and moving to California where he entered the

Ethnic Studies graduate program at UC Berkeley and he earned his PhD in 2007. Since then, Dr. Ueunten has become an educator, scholar, and community activist. Dr. Ueunten has also served as a member and officer of the San Francisco Okinawa Kenjinkai for 20 years.

Dr. Ueunten has been teaching and performing Okinawan music for over 15 years and has continued to inspire new generations of students.

Please join us on Zoom on **September 19th 4-6 pm**.

Registration link and flyers coming soon! ■

Dharma School News

BY CINDY SAKAI

DHARMA SCHOOL HOPES THE students are enjoying a restful though quarantined summer! As the start of school draws closer, we hope everyone is well and healthy.

Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday to **Emiko Masamori!**

Shop Amazon? Designate BCO as Your Charity!

AMAZON WILL DONATE 0.5% of your purchases if you designate Buddhist Church of Oakland on your AmazonSmile account. Go to www.Smile.Amazon.com and follow the directions to designate the Buddhist Church of Oakland as your charity. Always start your purchase on <https://amazon.com/smile> and contributions will go the BCO. Thank you! Questions? **Email Maya Lawrence.** ■

Welcome to
amazonSmile
You shop. Amazon gives.



In Memoriam

The Buddhist Church of Oakland extends its deepest condolences to the family of:

Kikue "Kay" Suda
June 7, 2020

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

AS THE UNWELCOME PANDEMIC lingers on, the sense of isolation becomes more and more pronounced. It makes us wonder when we might be able to meet with our friends again to be able to just talk and chat with as we work on our fundraising projects. At the moment, all is in limbo which I must say is quite depressing. In the meantime, we must abide by the rules of our present situation whether we like it or not. I try to keep up with the latest source of information via the computer which at times is hopeful and other times not. I know, we are all playing the waiting game. We all need to exercise with Patty and to be able to see our Momiji friends, to chat with them as we work on our projects for the next sales

event. Our leader, **Jean Nakazono**, has some plans arranged for our enjoyment also. In the meantime, let us take care as we wait for that day when we will be released from this confinement.

On another note, we all wish Jean a Happy 100th Birthday in August. Congratulations! We now have several members, **Nancy Tanaka, Edith Oto,** and **Matsuye Tani**, who have reached this auspicious milestone.

We all miss attending our church as most of our activities are centered there. I myself take in the Sunday services which sensei **Rev. Bridge** prepares via You-Tube. There are times I cannot hear too well, but I try to listen as intently as possible. I do not take the time to sign in as I am on

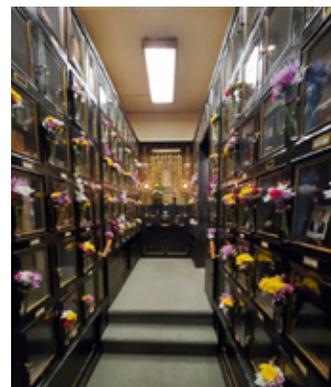
the run usually, but it gives one a sense of serenity just to sit and listen to the sensei's teachings. Thanks very much, Rev. Bridge. For the Momiji members, maybe we can hold a ZOOM gathering in smaller groups. It is a wonderful way of being able to see and talk with each other. Talking on the phone is okay, but one cannot see each other, we just hear the voice. My boys set a program up for me since one son lives across the country. Since any traveling is a NO! NO!, the ZOOM system of communication is great. It is great for small gatherings also.

For all of our Momiji friends please take care and do look forward to the day when we can get together again like the days gone by. ■

Temple Tid Bits

CONGRATULATIONS TO JEAN NAKAZONO on reaching a milestone birthday! Thank you, Jean, for your years of tireless contributions to the church, line-dancing, exercise classes, and numerous interesting activities for the Momijikai group, just to name a few. Happy Birthday, Jean! Wishing you many more to come!

BCO would like to show its appreciation to **Matt Turturici** for donating his time in building a security cabinet for our new tankless water heater,



outside our kitchen. It was our own **Eric Ikeda** who installed the cabinet after his coworker constructed it. Also would like to thank **John Minamoto, Jon Takagaki** and **Ron Nomura** who helped get the cabinet into place.

Thank you to **Gary Tominaga** and **HOST-1** for gardening and cleaning of both parking lots. Looks great!

On Friday 7/24 flowers were put up in the Nokotsudo by **Jean Kawata** with help from **Mayumi & Ron Nomura**. ■

DEADLINE FOR OCTOBER 2020 BUSSHIN ARTICLES: August 28th:

Articles submitted after this date may not be printed.

SEND ARTICLES TO: Joyce Yokomizo - email: joyce@yokomizo.com

You can also send articles to the church office.

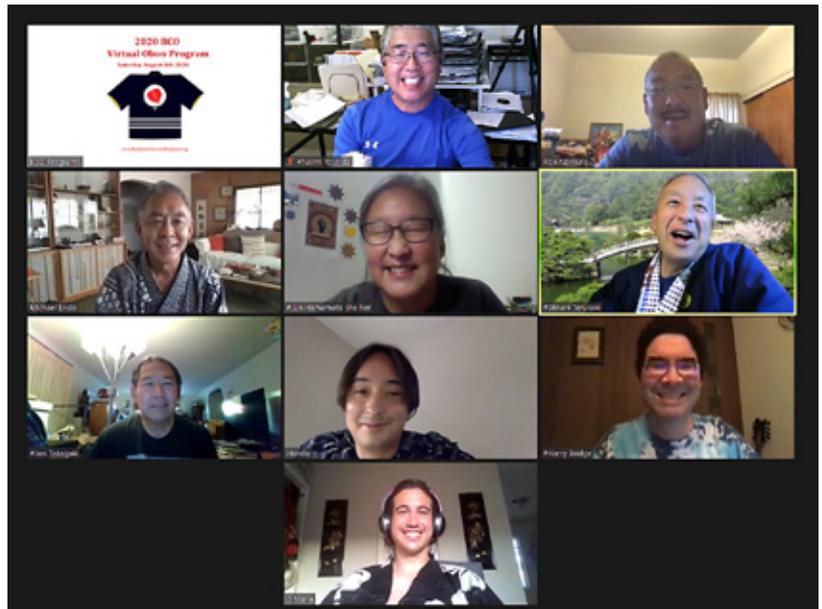
BUSSHIN COLLATION: No Busshin collation due to Stay at Home Order.

2020 BCO Virtual Obon Program

Saturday August 8th 2020



www.BuddhistChurchofOakland.org



ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 8TH WE held our virtual Obon Festival for 2020. It was a wonderful on-line event that captured the energy and excitement of this summer tradition. We had over 150 attendees either through the interactive Zoom event site or viewing the live-stream on BCO's YouTube channel. If you missed it, you can experience the event by viewing the YouTube recorded event at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_vq1aaJ9zs8.

Special thanks go out to the Virtual Obon Festival Organizing Committee who made this all possible. The Committee included: **Rev. Harry Bridge, Ron Nomura, Jon Takagaki, Michael Endo, Steve Terusaki, Norman Yoshida, Jun Hamamoto, Carlo Manois, Hondo Loble, Leila Neishi, Samia Neishi, Kiyomi Nomura.** We took a picture of the zoom gallery of the Commit-

tee after the event but missed Kiyomi and Leila in the photo.

Putting together the script, developing the videos, filming the five dances, supporting the technology, manning the zoom controls featuring speakers were all herculean tasks. I want to thank each and everyone for the effort and burning of midnight oil that it took to pull off this wonderful program. I'm sure everyone agrees that it was wonderful to see faces that we hadn't seen in many months and to experience dancing in our homes dressed in happi coats, yukata and kimono. It almost was like dancing under the lanterns on Jackson Street.

Our virtual Obon Festival included a drive-thru and pick-up of Curry Rice. Special thanks to **Jon Takagaki** and **Michael Endo** for organizing that effort. And special thanks to the entire supporting cast who followed

CDC guidelines in self-distancing, washing hands, wearing masks and gloves during the preparation and distribution of the curry rice. The support cast included **Doris Okano, Rev. & Mika Bridge, John Minamoto, Ron Nomura, Norman Yoshida, Steve & Kathy Terusaki** and **Linda Takagaki**. I enjoyed seeing masked-up members of our Sangha as they came through to pick up their pre-ordered curry rice dishes.

Thanks to everyone who attended. A reminder, if you would like to donate in memory of loved ones whose names were scrolled as part of the tradition of the Obon Memorial Lantern tags, please go to the BCO Website to "Donate to BCO". Select the option for General Church Donation in the drop-down menu. You'll find the option to leave a note/comment for "in memory of." Namo Amida Butsu. ■

BCO Curry Rice Fundraiser



Special Web Links

BUDDHIST CHURCH OF OAKLAND WEBSITE

<http://www.buddhistchurchofoakland.org/>

REV. BRIDGE'S SERMONS

<https://www.youtube.com/c/buddhistchurchofoakland>

PURPLE BOOK

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/18KI4SOj0EyQPmaF9NHeC5m1nLBJL6PDA/view?fbclid=IwAR3eqrppNTgKuuCHCIhxjC4XL-vMQv4t1KVXf7cbZyyxdGrwGCbmEzqx-LI>

GENERAL/REV. BRIDGE

www.dharmarealm.com

[instagram.com/gyokyo48/](https://www.instagram.com/gyokyo48/)

twitter.com/gyokyo

[facebook.com/gyokyo48](https://www.facebook.com/gyokyo48)

AMAZON "SMILE" PROGRAM

<https://amazon.com/smile>

2020 September Shotsuki Memorial Service

Service: Sunday, September 13, 2020, online

Dharma Message by Rev. Harry Gyokyo Bridge

PLEASE NOTE: For the safety of our members and visitors, the Buddhist Church of Oakland will be closed to the public.

Family and friends are invited to view this monthly memorial service online for those listed below. If any errors appear, please direct them to the church office at (510) 832-5988 or officebco@gmail.com at your earliest convenience.

Mrs. Satsuki Abe
Mr. Joe Deguchi
Mr. John Fujimoto - *33rd year*
Mrs. Nui Fujimoto
Mr. Hiroshi Fujiwara
Mrs. Fumi Fukawa
Mrs. Chieko Harada
Mrs. Chiyoko Hiramoto
Takayo Tamura Hiramoto
Ms. Hatsumi Hirao
Mr. Tatsumi Hori
Mr. Harry Hoshi
Mr. Masuji Idehara
Mr. Suekichi Idehara
Mr. Kanroku Kada
Mr. Masaru Kanada
Mr. Masutaro Kanesaki
Mr. Harry Katayama
Mrs. Tomi Kisanuki
Mr. Nobuo Kitagaki
Mrs. Komae Kobata
Mrs. Sada Koizumi
Mrs. Ruth Shigematsu Kosut
Mrs. Toyo Kuwahara
Mrs. Mitsu Matsui
Mr. Ronald Matsui - *17th year*
Mrs. Tazuko Matsushino
Miss Alice Ayako Matsutani
Mr. James Messenzehl
Ms. Alice Minamidani
Mr. Eizo Minamidani
Mr. Toshiro Minamoto
Mr. Toshio Mitsuda
Mr. Kenso Miura
Mr. Kameso Miyamoto

Mrs. Aiko Mizuhara
Mr. Ray Mori
Mrs. Tsuru Mori
Mr. Zenshiro Mori
Mr. Russell Muraoka - *1st year*
Mr. Harukichi Murakishi
Mr. Tsurukichi Nagafuji
Mrs. Harumi Nagai - *33rd year*
Mrs. Tsuru Naito
Mr. John Nakagawa
Mrs. Rowena Nakagawa - *13th year*
Mr. Magohei Nakagiri
Mr. Kengo Nakahara
Mr. Chiyotaro Nakano
Mr. Kenichi Nakano
Mrs. Kofuji Nakano
Mrs. Yoshiko Nakao - *25th year*
Mrs. Toyoko Nakao
Mr. Kikutaro Nakashima
Mrs. Sandra Nakashima - *13th year*
Mrs. Yoi Nakashima
Mrs. Sanaye Negi
Mrs. Ito Nishimoto - *33rd year*
Mr. Akio Noda
Mrs. Fumiko Obayashi
Mrs. Mary Fujiye Ogawa
Mrs. Elsie Ogata
Mrs. Kae Oka
Mr. George Richard Okano
Mr. Danzaburo Okawa
Mr. Robert Oto - *1st year*
Mrs. Kimiye Ozawa
Mr. Kozo Sasaki
Ray Simon Robles
Mrs. Kazuko Seiji

Rev. Shusei Shimada
Mr. Shigeru Shimamura
Mrs. Miyoko Shimizu - *13th year*
Mr. Mitsuo Shintani
Mr. Alan Suehiro
Mr. Kazunori Sunada
Mr. Kusutaro Sunayama
Mr. Kaoru Suto - *7th year*
Ms. Marsha Tagami
Mr. Kazuo Takahashi
Mrs. Fumiye Takashima
Mr. George Takashima
Mrs. Sugi Takashima
Mrs. Harue Tamura
Mrs. Hanako Terakawa Tamura
Mr. Gihei Tanada
Mrs. Marie Taniguchi
Mrs. Hayano Toyofuku
Mrs. Chiyo Tsuchiya
Mr. Muraku Tsuchiya
Mrs. Tome Tsujimoto - *50th year*
Mr. Kaoru Umeki
Mr. George Ushijima
Mr. Sadakichi Wada
Mrs. Tomo Watanabe
Mr. Jerry Yamamoto - *17th year*
Mr. Joni Yamamoto - *1st year*
Mr. Masaru Yamamoto
Mr. Sashichi Yamamoto
Mr. Shichiro Yokomizo - *3rd year*
Mr. Shoji Yoshida
Mr. George S. Yoshioka
Mr. Tadaichi Yoshioka - *50th year*

to follow will be with us for a while.

Based on the current situation, we have decided to “stay the course” and remain closed from September through December 31, 2020 to ensure that our Sangha members remain healthy and safe, our highest priorities during these challenging times. The guidelines are summarized below.

SERVICES

- **All in-person services at the church will continue to be suspended until further notice.** These services include regular Sunday services, Shotsuki monthly memorial, family memorial, and funeral services. Video Sunday services will resume in September. Shotsuki services and Dharma messages also will continue online. Please contact and consult with Rev. Bridge regarding a death in your family for an appropriate makuragyo service, as well as to discuss arrangements for when and how a memorial or funeral service may be held in the future.
- **We have decided to cancel Mochitsuki based on the risks associated with large group gatherings.**
- In the July BCO Closure Update, we referenced **Alameda County**

guidelines, which strongly encourage places of worship to continue virtual/remote services. These guidelines remain in place. Although small outdoor services are currently a possible option, and recognizing that Alameda County permits outdoor and indoor religious services contingent on following strict safety and health protocols, we feel that the health risks are higher when people gather together. We are especially concerned for seniors and those with pre-existing medical conditions so **we continue to recommend virtual gatherings.**

CHURCH OFFICE

- **The church office will remain closed to the office staff and visitors, except when it is necessary for essential individuals to be at church to complete critical and/or time sensitive activities.**
- The use of face coverings, adherence to physical distancing, frequent hand-washing, frequent use of hand sanitizer, and the use of gloves are required protocols.
- Here is contact information for the church office (phone and e-mail messages are picked up regularly).
Phone: 510-832-5988
E-mail: officebco@gmail.com

We are grateful for your continued support and understanding. While we are saddened that we must further postpone our gatherings as a Sangha, BCO will continue to provide opportunities to hear and receive guidance from the Dharma and will look for additional opportunities to gather virtually or through other safe events. It is most important during these unprecedented times that we stay connected and support each other as a Sangha.

The Board and sub-committee will continue to monitor all local, state, and federal guidelines and best practices. We will provide ongoing updates, as needed, with a year-end update in November. In the meantime, if you have questions, please do not hesitate to contact Rev. Bridge: revharry3@gmail.com or Ron Nomura: rnomura96@gmail.com.

Rev. Harry Bridge
Ron Nomura
Jon Takagaki
Rev. Michael Endo
Norman Yoshida
Doris Okano
Hondo Lobley

Dial the Dharma

OUR NEW BISHOP, REVEREND Marvin Harada, has set up a toll-free number that you can call to listen to a Dharma Message, in both Japanese

and English! The toll-free number is: **800-817-7918**. Push “1” for English, and “2” for Japanese. ■

SEPTEMBER 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
HOST 3: Leader: Jon Takagaki Temple closed to public events in September.						
		1	2 Board of Directors Meeting Online 7:00 pm	3	4	5
6 No Service	7 Labor Day Holiday Office Closed	8	9	10	11	12
13 Dharma Family Service YouTube Shotsuki Memorial and Adult Dharma Service YouTube	14	15	16	17	18	19 Okinawan Music Event 4:00-6:00 PM Online
20 Fall Ohigan Service YouTube	21	22	23	24	25 Busshin Articles Due	26
27 Live Dharma Family Service & Bishop's Memorial Service Zoom, 10:00 AM	28	29	30			