

Busshin

Pessimistic/Optimistic/Realistic BY REV. HARRY GYOKYO BRIDGE

A WHILE BACK I SPOKE AND wrote about the ideas of “positive, negative, and neutral” in Buddhism. Recently, I figured out another aspect of this – “pessimistic, optimistic, and realistic” – that I would like to talk about today.

In high school I had a friend who played piano. He was actually an ex-

tremely talented jazz musician, and he enlisted me to play bass for him so that he could go off on his jazz explorations. We also played together in a band over the summer. This was when I was living in Tokyo, and the summer opportunity was in the resort town of Karuizawa. Everyone else went into it really excited, but he and I felt they were

overly optimistic. The other kids in the band thought we were too negative and pessimistic. We countered them by saying “No, we are being realistic!” Afterwards in college and in other bands I was in back in the US, I had similar feelings – whenever I went into a gig with high hopes, it never lived up to my

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President’s Message

BY NORMAN YOSHIDA

DEAR BCO SANGHA,

I am feeling very tired. Maybe I am just tired of having to “think” about everything that goes on around Church. Everything we do at Church seems to take so much effort and time to plan, schedule, organize and implement. We have tried to maintain a semblance of normalcy with virtual Dharma Services, virtual obons, drive-thru

bento sales, limited memorial services and altar visits. Yet, each of these activities takes a tremendous amount of time and effort. I am so fortunate to have a small dedicated team of Sangha members that go above and beyond to make “things happen” and to keep “things running” (and while wearing a mask and keep six feet apart).

With Church being basically closed, it has been hard connect with the Sangha and to hear your views and ideas. In August, we sent out a survey to collect information about what the Sangha feels about reopening the Church. This survey was to help us get information on how the Sangha felt about reopening. It was

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ON OCTOBER 10TH OUR DHARMA School lesson will be a virtual author appearance. **Joanna Ho**, author of the picture book, [Eyes That Kiss in the Corners](#), will be joining our Dharma School on Zoom, to read her new book, [Playing At The Border: The Story of Yo-Yo Ma](#), and answer students' questions.

Welcome to our new Dharma School families! **Antonia Dieste-Y.**, 2nd grade (Mom: **Kristina Y.**); **Lachlan "Lachie" G.**, Preschool (Dad: **Coby G.**); **Lana W.**, 4th grade (Parents: **Dennis W. & An T.**) **Evelyn A.**, preschool, (Parents: **Chris and Stacy A.**); **Joseph (Joey) S.**, preschool (Parents: **John & Julie S.**); **Hikaru H.**, preschool (Parents: **Barbara L. & Lyman H.**).

We'd like to share some info about YESS camp. For those of you who don't know, YESS Camp is an annual camp for Young Enthusiastic Shinshu Seekers (hence YESS) ages 13-23. YESS strives for teamwork, leadership, and communication, embraces the teachings of the Dharma in relevant + engaging ways, creates an open environment which nurtures lifelong friendships, encourages self-reflection + self-expression, and mainly, have fun!

YESS Camp 39 registration is open! This year's theme is "YESS Camp 39 3/4", which will be a spin on Harry Potter. YESS Camp will take place October 23 and 24, from 9 AM - 3:15 PM Hawaii Time. You can sign up for one day or

both! Regular Registration closes on September 12th. Please go to yesscamp.com/registration to sign up! If you have questions about the registration process, please check out our video [here](#) on instagram.

Happy Birthday

Happy October birthdays for **JJ S.** and **Sachi A.** Also, thank you to **Ted and Susan Tanisawa** and **Gary and Teresa Taniguchi** for your donations. We are grateful for your dana. ■

Special Web Links

BUDDHIST CHURCH OF OAKLAND WEBSITE

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

ONLINE SERVICES AND DHARMA TALKS

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

BCA SERVICE BOOK

<https://buddhistchurchofoakland.org/servicebook/>

AMAZON "SMILE" PROGRAM

<https://amazon.com/smile>

GENERAL/REV. BRIDGE

www.dharmarealm.com

www.instagram.com/gyokyo48/

www.twitter.com/gyokyo

www.facebook.com/gyokyo48

Youth Club News

BY CINDY SAKAI

DURING THESE UNCERTAIN TIMES, YOUTH CLUB

has decided to tentatively move forward with a close-to-normal season for vaccinated players over 12 (with a variety of safety protocols that are still in development) and possibly a modified season for younger, unvaccinated players (e.g. practice season, skills drills, tournament(s) later in the seasons.

Registration is still open and can be accessed through this link: <https://forms.gle/SCJz1pS9So8U7vcL7>

Thank you for your support! Questions? Please contact the Youth Club President, Tracy Donahoe tracydonahoe@gmail.com or 510-499-1945. ■

Donations

BCO would like to acknowledge the donations from our members and friends. We are very grateful and appreciative of your continued generosity and kindness. Thank you!

SPECIAL

Aikawa, Gary, *Mem of Etsuko Aikawa*
Akaba, Sachi, *Mem of Shigeko's 3rd yr*
Ancheta, Junell, *July Dana*
Ancheta, Junell, *August Dana*
Aoki, Miho, *General*
Aoki, Yas & Margaret, *Obon Service*
Bissonnette, Lynea, *Mem of Nancy Tanaka*
Endo, Eugene & Terri, *Tomoko Endo's 1yr Memorial*
Endo, Eugene & Terri, *Mem of Tomoko Endo*
Hashimoto, Karen, *Obon Service*
Henderson, Tre, *General*
Hiromoto, Mary, *Obon Service*
Hirota, Nancy, *Obon Service, Mem of Akira Ike Hirota*
Hisaoaka, Patti, *Obon Service*
Kano, Judy, *Obon Service*
Kaplan, Gay & Harvey, *General*
Katsumoto, Kiyoshi & Emiko, *Tomoko Endo's 1yr Memorial*
Kuritsubo, Ruby, *Obon Service*
Masuda, Rev. Wm Masuda, *Dana for box of incense*
Mitsuda, Mary Hatsuko, *Obon Service*
Miyouchi, Soumei, *Obon Service*
Mori, Sam & Helen, *Obon Service*
Murakawa, Katsuyo, *Obon Service*
Nagata, Brian, *Mem of brother Kevin*
Naito, Nana & Family, *Mem of Mitsu Naito*
Nakamura, Agnes, *Hatsubon, Mem of Jim Nakamura*
Nakamura, Agnes, *Funeral service for James Nakamura*
Nakashima, William & Roberta Lewis & Jane
Nakashima, *Nokotsudo Mem of Mitsuteru & Mikiye Nakashima*
Nakashima, Wm & Suzanne, *Mem of Mitsuteru & Mikiye Nakashima*

Nakazono, Jean, *Hatsubon, Mem of Kenji Kamada*
Neishi, Alice, *Obon Service*
Omori, Shirley, *Obon Service*
Otauka, Lorraine, *Obon Service*
Oto, Carrie, *Obon Service, Mem of Kimi Worrell*
Seiki, M/M Richard, *Obon service*
Shibata, Alice, *Obon Service*
Takagaki, Linda & Jon, *Obon service*
Takagaki, Linda & Jon, *Hatsubon Mem of Setsuko Yoshisato*
Takashima Family, *Mem of Michie Oseto Takashima*
Tamaki, Bobby & Nancy, *Honor of Keiju Terada's friendship*
Tani, Edward, *Mem of Matsuye Tani*
Taniguchi, M/M Gary/Teresa, *Obon Service*
Tanisawa, Susan & Ted, *Mem of Nancy Tanaka*
Tanisawa, Susan & Ted, *Altar Flowers, Mem of Nancy Tanaka*
Terada, Mas, *Mem of Masayuki & Gokuge Terada*
Uemura Family, *Mem of Jane Uemura*
Uemura, Ted, *Mem of Jane Uemura*
Wong, Shirley Muramoto, *Use of Issei Kaikan*
Yamaoka, Rev. Haruo, *Shigeko's scholarship fund*
Yamaoka, Rev. Haruo, *Obon Service*
Yokomizo, Cliff & Donna, *Mem of Nancy Tanaka*
Yokomizo, Denise, *Mem of Nancy Tanaka*
Yokomizo, Joyce, *Mem of Nancy Tanaka*
Yoneyama, Mollie, *Obon Service*
Yoshida, Craig, *Mem of Ruby Yoshida*
Yoshisato, Reiko, *Obon Service*

SHOTSUKI

Endo, Brian & Cynthia, *Mem of Tomoko Endo*
Endo, Michael, *Mem of Chieko Endo*
Hirota, Nancy, *Mem of Masajiro & Tad Hirota, Masako Sakaki*
Matsutani, Koichi, *Mem of Toshikazu Matsutani*
Minamoto, Melyssa, *Mem of Harue Minamoto*
Morrreira, Casey, *Mem of James Ushijima*
Nagata, Brian, *July*
Nagata, Brian, *August*
Nakano, Rumiko, *Mem of Don Nakano*
Otsuka, Lorraine, *July*
Otsuka, Mary, *July & August*
Sakaue, Keiko, *Mem of Akira Nakamura*
Sakaye Katayama Family, *Mem of Sakaye Katayama*
Sasaki, Dick & Agnes, *Mem of Moriichi Sasaki*
Sekigahama, Janet, *Mem of Yuguchi Hashimoto*
Shimada, Dianne, *Mem of Asaemon Muramoto, Take Muramoto & Masami Muramoto*
Takata, Mineko, *Mem of Koichi Takata*
Tamori, Bob, *Mem of Mrs. Nobu Tamori*
Tamori, Bob, *Mem of Kumetaro Tamori*
Tani, Edward, *Mem of Chugoro Tani*
Taniguchi, M/M Gary/Teresa and Family, *Mem of Mitsuo Taniguchi, Matsusuke Taniguchi & Shizuo Yamamoto*
Wong, Nancy, *Mem of Masako Sasaki*
Yamaoka, Rev. Haruo, *Mem of Shigeko Yamaoka*
Yokoyama, Eddie & Terry, *Mem of Aiko Yokoyama*
Yoneyama, Mollie, *Mem of Mrs. Den Inouye & Rinzo Kato*
Yoshida, Craig, *Mem of Ruby Yoshida*

IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE THAT IT is September when I am penning this article and that it is for the October Busshin. Where's has the time gone?

As Chairperson for this year's 2021 Obon Festival I wanted to acknowledge the efforts and contributions of so many of our Sangha who made this year's Festival successful. My deepest appreciation to each and every one of you. And to the many members of our Sangha who supported this year's Festival with your donations, your dana made this year's Obon Festival a financial success that compares well with our past Obon Festivals.

I'd like to start by acknowledging the members of the Obon Festival Planning Committee. We started our planning meetings on May 8, 2021 and worked to put together a program that came together for the July 31, 2021 Saturday Bento Fundraiser and Virtual Obon Program.

The 2021 Obon Festival Planning Committee:

Rev. Harry Bridge	Michael Endo
Renie Yoshida Grohl	Jun Hamamoto
Carlo Manaois	Carrie Oto
Ron Nomura	Jon Takagaki
Keiju Terada	Steve Terusaki
Gary Tominaga	Norman Yoshida
Joyce Yokomizo	

In addition to the Planning Committee there are many more to whom I would like to acknowledge for their enormous contributions. These include our dedicated performers, dancers, videographers, back-of-house individuals, OBWA members who helped with the Bento preparation. Without

each of these individuals the event could not have come together. Here's a listing of those who I can remember. My sincerest apologies if I missed recognizing you.

- **Duane Takahashi** from the Chidori Band for providing the videos of the Chidori Band performances
- **Madame Suiyo Fujimoto** from the Ohana School of Ikebana and **Mrs. Mitsuko Maruyama** who created the beautify ikebana arrangement and the explanations for the video edited by **Rev. Bridge**
- **Shirley Muramoto-Wong, Brian Mitsuhiro Wong, Isabella Kazuai Lew, Emily Imazumi, Mayumi Nomura** and **Noah Powell** for their koto performances of Soran Bushi and Senbon Zakura; and **Nathan Yee Ong** for editing the final videos
- **Bishop Marvin Harada** for his Welcome Message
- **Ms. Kiyomi Nomura** for putting together the video segment of Obon Memorial Lantern names and Hatsubon names
- **Sami Neishi** and **Leila Neishi** for the leading the dance segments both in the final dance videos and for the practice videos and for **Michael Endo** for coordinating the music and for **Rev. Bridge** who recorded and edited the dance videos
- **Ms. Keiko Allen** for providing the video of the Mottainai Ondo and its explanation
- **BCO Office staff** for supporting the Obon Festival effort through donations collections; recording the Memorial Lantern names; tracking Bento fundraiser orders and payments

- **Norman Yoshida** for editing of videos and pulling together all the video segments for use during the Virtual program
- **Gary Tominaga** for sharing host responsibilities for the Virtual Obon Festival Zoom program
- The BCO Tech Squad (**Jon Takagaki, Jun Hamamoto, Norman Yoshida, Carlo Manaois**) for supporting the Live Zoom Virtual Program
- **Ron Nomura, Norman Yoshida, Sean Yoshida, Ryan Yoshida** and **John Minamoto** and others who set up the Bento pick-up area
- **Jon Takagaki** for organizing and leading the Bento Fundraiser effort; and the many Sangha members who came out over 3 days to help in the preparation of the Bento items: a full listing of all those who assisted published by Jon Takagaki under separate cover; and for the few who came to clean-up after the Festival
- **Renie Yoshida Grohl** for orchestrating bento deliveries with **Jun Hamamoto** to home-bound seniors

One of our goals for this year's Obon Festival was to create Sangha engagement. As you can see, despite the pandemic, we were able to provide an opportunity for many of our members to come out and participate in what turned out to be a wonderful Obon Festival. If you didn't have the opportunity to watch the Virtual Obon Festival, the recording is available on the BCO website under the BCO YouTube tab.

In gassho,
Steve Terusaki,
Obon Festival Chair ■

Pessimistic/Optimistic/Realistic CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

expectations, so I tried to temper my expectations and go into the shows with more of what I thought was a “realistic” attitude.

But was it realistic? In retrospect, I can see how my attitude affected the outcome. By letting go of a positive vision, the music was already going to be different, and even though I was less likely to be disappointed, the gig was also more likely not to be special, since I had lowered my expectations. There were so many other factors as well – the other band members, our communication (or lack thereof), and also a growing lack of interest on my part, since I had become much more interested in Buddhism instead.

So what does Buddhism say about this? I think that Buddhism encompasses all three views, and we

can see this in the Four Noble Truths. Truth #1: Life is Suffering – this is the teaching that many people see when they describe Buddhism as “pessimistic.” Samsara consists of unfulfillable desires, flare-ups of anger, and ignorance of how things really are. But the story doesn’t end here! Truth #2: Suffering is caused by Desire & Ignorance – this is the analytical side of Buddhism, or maybe we can call it “realistic.” Let’s look at the situation and try and figure out what’s going on, rather than just mindlessly react. And the biggie, Truth #3: if you remove the cause, you can remove the result. This is the “optimistic” side of Buddhism. There is a remedy! Happiness is possible!

So what does this have to do with where we are now? I think it applies to the pandemic – at the

beginning of the summer things seemed on track for the pandemic to be over, so I think we all felt disappointment when things didn’t go the way we want. Truth #1 in action – pessimism. The pandemic sucks. When will things get back to normal?!! But we also understand why these things happen, and can recognize the danger of ignoring the reality – Truth #2 – analyze and understand. Truth #3 reminds us, though, that Truth #1 is not permanent – there is a path to awakening. We will persevere and adapt – understanding that things are always changing – and we can follow this path by saying the Nembutsu and taking refuge in Amida Buddha, reflecting on our lives and appreciating our relationships. ■

President’s Message CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

not intended to be a “vote” to reopen, but as a way to give our Sangha members a way of communicating their feelings, thoughts and ideas. The lockdown and closure of the Church has led us to look for different ways to keep the communication channels open between Sangha members, the Board, and Office. Hopefully, the use of surveys is one option. Let us know.

In addition to our professionally produced and edited monthly Busshin newsletter, we have been posting each week current BCA and Church events activities on the BCO website www.Buddhist-ChurchofOakland.org. Our website is a good place to look for up to date

Church information. Check the bottom of the page for BCA news, Community news, and past activities. In addition, there are links to information on Buddhism, online classes, Japanese America History sites and museums, BCO membership and donation information and much more.

For direct contact to the Sangha, we have setup a new emailing system using Constant Contact. We are now able to easily maintain, create, and change email recipients. This has allowed us to focus our messages in a professional and consistent manner. We have been able to save hundreds of dollars each month by sending the Busshin by email direct

to our Sangha members. (Note: If you still prefer a printed version of the Busshin, please let Doris know in the Office and we will add you to the “mailing list.”)

We need your help... Please continue to send me, the Board and/or the Office your comments, complaints, suggestion, ideas, and anything else. Call, email, text, or mail. Or better yet, join a Church Committee or the Church Board.

Hope you all have gotten your “shots” and are wearing your masks. With patience and some common sense, we may see you at Church soon...

Norman Yoshida
“Tired” BCO President ■

2021 October Shotsuki Memorial Service

Service: Sunday, October 3, 2021 online

Dharma Message: Reverend Harry Gyokyo Bridge

There will be a pre-recorded online Shotsuki Service posted to our YouTube channel as we have been doing during the pandemic. 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. Maya Aikawa
Mr. Charles S. Ajari
Mrs. Kane Aochi
Mr. Shigeru Asakura
Mrs. Kane Baba
Mr. Takashi Baba
Mrs. Gloria Bucol
Mrs. Ichi Chiyoda
Mr. Hachiro Endo
Mr. Heitaro Fujii
Mrs. Kikuno Fujii
Mr. Fred Fujii
Mr. Rikizo Fujinami
Mrs. Marie Miyako Fujino
Mr. William Furuta
Mr. Miyao Harada
Mr. Sunao Harada
Mr. Katsuji Harano – 17th year
Mrs. Seki Hayashi
Mr. Kiichi Hiramoto
Mr. Jitsuro Hiramoto
Mrs. Loralee Tucker Hiramoto
Mrs. Saki Hirao
Mrs. Fumiyo Honda
Mr. Horizo Horimoto
Mrs. Kiyoko Idehara
Mr. Jukiji Igaki
Mr. Tomenosuke Inouchi
Mrs. Fusayo Inouye
Mr. Shokichi Isono
Mr. Seitaro Iwamoto
Mr. Jitsugo Iwata
Mrs. Yuki Kamano
Mrs. Tatsumi Kanada
Mr. Seiso Kanesaki
Mrs. Alice Kaneshige
Mr. Shonosuke Kato
Mrs. Yoshiye Kawabata
Mrs. Hatsu Kawabe
Mr. Tokichi Kawamoto
Mr. Shuichi Kawaoka
Mr. Ichiro Kayatani
Mr. John Kido
Mr. Meiji Kido

Mrs. Teiko Kido
Mr. Takashi Kimoto
Ms. Setsuko Kimura
Mrs. Shige Kisanuki
Mr. Kokichi Kiya
Mr. Tameji Kobori
Mrs. Kathleen Koeber
Mrs. Jane Kosakura – 3rd year
Mrs. Yoshiye Kume
Mrs. Tama Kuritsubo
Mr. Harry Kurotori – 3rd year
Mrs. Tamae Kurotori
Mr. Shoroku Kuwahara
Mr. George Matsutani
Mrs. Grace Masui
Mrs. Sachi Masuyama
Mr. George Matsui – 3rd year
Mr. Gary Matsumoto – 33rd year
Mrs. Misty Minamihara
Mrs. Tomiko Minamoto
Miss Yuki Minamoto
Mr. Tomijiro Miyagawa
Rev. (Rinban) Shoki Mohri
Mrs. Kazue Mori
Mr. Roy Mori – 3rd year
Mr. Gene Tatsuo Moriki
Mrs. Sumiko Murashima – 7th year
Mrs. Taki Nagafuji
Mr. Shigeji Naito
Mrs. Sachie Nakamura – 1st year
Mr. Kohachi Nakao
Mrs. Satsuki Nakao – 50th year
Rev. Juko Nakashima
Mrs. Tsuneno Nakatani
Mr. Ben Nakaya
Mr. Torataro Nakayama
Mr. Yaichi Nakazono
Mr. Alan Neishi – 17th year
Mr. Motomu Neishi
Mr. Tsunekichi Niizawa
Mrs. Toshiko Ninomiya
Mr. Keary Nitta
Mr. Sam Hoyo Noma
Mr. Seizo Nomura

Mrs. Tamayo Norimoto
Mrs. Miyeko Okamoto
Mrs. Sei Okawa
Mrs. Fujie Oniki
Ms. Etsuko Onizuka
Mr. Edward Otake
Mr. Ted Hitoshige Sakaki
Mr. Kumamashichi Sakamoto
Mrs. Kikue Sameshima
Mrs. Hisa Sasaki
Mrs. Tomekichi Satake
Mr. Hidemi Seiji
Mr. Shigeru Seta
Mrs. Tomiye Seta
Mr. Yasumatsu Shigaya
Mrs. Ruth Shimada
Mr. Harvey Shinomoto
Mrs. Fumiko Evelyn Soga
Mr. George S. Takahashi – 50th year
Mrs. Tame Takahashi
Mr. Shinobu Tani
Mr. Masayuki Terada
Mr. Loren Teramura
Mr. Eiya Ugai
Mrs. Misao Watanabe
Mr. Wataru Watanabe
Mrs. Ruth Miyoko Wong
Mrs. Dai Yamabe
Baby Yamamoto
Mr. John Yamamoto
Mrs. Miyuki Lois Yamamoto
Mrs. Tatsuyo Yamamoto
Mrs. Chizuko Yamanaka
Mrs. Michi Yamane
Mr. Kuhachiro Yamaoka
Mrs. Tsuya Yamashita
Mr. Choshiro Yokoyama
Mrs. Yoshino Yokoyama
Mrs. Ino Yoshida
Mrs. Misa Yoshida
Mr. Yozo Yoshida
Mrs. Grace Yoshioka
Mr. Shosaburo Yoshioka

HELLO, EVERYONE! THERE ISN'T MUCH TO REPORT THIS MONTH. MOST, IF NOT ALL, OF OUR members have started school. We plan to have our first meeting on *September 12th*, so there should be more information in my next article. I hope you are all doing well and, seeing as this is the October issue, Happy Halloween! ■

Temple Tidbits

BUDDHIST CHURCH OF OAKLAND WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND OUR GRATITUDE TO Jean Kawata for donating and putting flowers up in the Nokotsudo for our Obon Service. She has done this every year along with Memorial Day. We also appreciate **Valerie Otsuka & Ron Nomura** for assisting Jean with putting the flowers up. ■



Update on BCO Services and Church Visitations

BY NORMAN YOSHIDA

WE HOPE YOU AND YOUR families have enjoyed the summer and have stayed safe and well. This letter is an update from the BCO Board and COVID Task Force on the plans for upcoming BCO services, expanded opportunities for church visitations, and a summary of responses from the recent Re-Opening Survey.

BCO Services and Church Visitations

The health and safety of our Sang-

ha members and their families, the BCO staff, and the community at large remain the highest priorities of the BCO Board. Because of the surge of COVID cases and hospitalizations, the BCO Board has decided to continue with online Dharma Family, Dharma School, and monthly Shotsuki services for the foreseeable future.

This was a difficult decision for the Board. Many factors were taken into consideration including concerns over

the increased spread of the Delta and other variants, the waning immunity effectiveness of the vaccines, increased illnesses among children, particularly the risks to the unvaccinated under the age of 12, and the viewpoints from the Re-Opening Survey. The Board will continue to closely monitor pandemic information and federal/state/local public health guidance and will continue to keep the Sangha informed through periodic updates.

BCO Services and Church Visitations

Dharma Family, Dharma School, Shotsuki Services

As we return to regular Sunday services on September 12, Dharma Family Services will continue online via Zoom and livestreamed over YouTube. Dharma School classes will also continue online. The schedule of Dharma School sessions is currently being developed. Monthly Shotsuki Services will continue online over YouTube.

Visitations to BCO

In June, we resumed visitations to the Nokotsudo. To provide additional opportunities to visit church, we also would like to invite Sangha members to visit the Hondo with family members. Visitation hours have been expanded. By appointment only, visits to the Nokotsudo and/or Hondo may be scheduled Wednesday thru Friday, between 10:00 am-3:00 pm. To make an appointment, please email the church office (officebco@gmail.com) or call the church phone (510-832-5988). Please contact Rev. Bridge directly by email or phone to review safety and health protocols or to discuss the possibility of other scheduling options.

Small Memorial and Funeral Services

Since mid-July, several memorial and funeral services have been held in the Hondo and other locations. Please contact Rev. Bridge directly by email or phone, send an email to the church office (officebco@gmail.com), or call and leave a message on the church office phone (510-832-5988) to request and schedule a consultation meeting to plan service arrangements. During the meeting, safety and health protocols will be reviewed with the family.

Church Office

The church office will remain closed to office staff and visitors, except when it is necessary to complete essential activities. If you need assistance or have questions, please send an email (officebco@gmail.com) or call the church office phone (510-832-5988). Emails and phone messages are picked up regularly.

We all look forward to when we can safely resume in-person services and gather as a Sangha. We are taking steps now to ensure we are prepared for that day. Health and safety protocols are currently under review for in-person services. We have purchased touchless hand sanitizer stations and

are putting in place detailed sanitization procedures.

Efforts are well underway by the Facilities and Maintenance Committee, with full support from the Board, to research options to update the ventilation, air filtration, and air conditioning systems in the Hondo and church

building. This is an important step to improve indoor air quality. This work will be a significant investment and we will be thoughtful and prudent in deciding the best course of action. While we want to get the work done as soon as possible, we ask for your patience

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I WISH TO THANK OUR SANGHA members and friends of the Sangha for your support of the Obon Katsu Bento Fundraiser on July 31! Through your enduring support and generosity, our bento event raised \$7,100 for BCO!

We have received some very nice comments on the menu of chicken or tofu katsu, chirashi rice, sunomono, and dessert treats.

I would like to thank the amazing leadership team who oversaw every detail of the planning and execution of this event. This team includes **Patti Hisaoka, Jean Kawata, Kathy Terusaki, Doris Okano, Michael Endo, Carlo Manaois, John Minamoto, Ron Nomura,** and **Norman Yoshida.**

It was the dedication and commitment of the many volunteers who came to church to help prepare the menu items and bento boxes, whose efforts contributed to such a successful event. Asked to follow our BCO health and safety protocols, our volunteers worked tirelessly, some for two and three consecutive days. I wish to express our appreciation to all our volunteers for their long hours and hard work.

On behalf of the BCO Board of Directors, our deepest gratitude to our Sangha members and friends of the Sangha for your continuing support of BCO! ■

DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER 2021 BUSSHIN ARTICLES: SEPTEMBER 24TH

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.

Update on BCO Services and Church Visitations

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as we anticipate that it will take several months to plan, schedule and complete the work.

Highlights from the Re-Opening Survey Responses

I wish to thank you for your responses to the survey. This survey was conducted because the Board and COVID Task Force wanted to hear the perspectives and viewpoints from Sangha members on how in-person services could be planned and held safely.

Below are highlights from the survey responses. A separate communication will be sent out to the Sangha shortly with a more detailed summary of the survey responses.

- Approximately 70% of respondents indicated they would be comfortable in attending in-person services, with safety protocols in place.

- On the question of what protocols would make in-person services safe for you, a mask requirement (92%) and limiting attendance to the fully vaccinated and vaccinated children over 12 years of age (76%) received the highest percentages of responses.
- Thank you for your thoughtful and insightful written comments. The comments touched on a variety of topics but there were some common themes.
 - o Recognition that improved ventilation and filtration is an important consideration to be addressed
 - o Concerns over the spread of the Delta and other variants
 - o Vaccinations, especially for children under the age of 12 who are not yet eligible

Looking Forward

Not being able to gather as a Sangha community has been difficult for all of us but we have much to look forward to when it is safe to gather again as a Sangha.

I wish to express our deepest gratitude to Rev. Bridge, Rev. Endo, Mary Hiromoto, and Doris Okano for all their hard work to support the Sangha. If you have questions or need assistance in any way, please do not hesitate to reach out to me, Rev. Bridge, Rev. Endo, the church office, or any of the BCO Board members.

Please take care and when you go out, please protect yourself and your family, even if you have received one of the vaccines. Thank you for your continued support and understanding! ■

Thanks to HOST 3

BY JON TAKAGAKI

I WISH TO THANK HOST 3 FOR for their hard work and dedication to the clean-up duties at church for the month of August. We hadn't seen each other for about one year so it was especially nice to chat and catch up a bit with each other, albeit adhering to being masked and socially distanced outdoors! Thanks to all of HOST 3 for your support! ■

Thank you!

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BCO Golf Committee
510-832-5988

BUDDHIST CHURCH OF OAKLAND
GOLF FUN DAY OUTING

Monday, September 27 at 11:00 AM PT

Berkeley Country Club
7901 Cutting Boulevard El Cerrito, CA 94530

OCTOBER 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
HOST 5: Leader: Carol Thunen *Service format TBD					1	2
3 *Dharma Service *Shotsuki Memorial and Adult Dharma Service	4	5	6 Board of Directors Meeting Online 7:00 pm	7 10 am Momijikai Online	8	9
10 *Keirokai Service	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 *Dharma Service *Eshinni/Kakushinni/Lady Ohtani Memorial	18	19	20	21 10 am Momijikai Online	22 Busshin Articles Due	23
24 *Dharma Service	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 *Dharma Service						