BUDDHIST CHURCH OF OAKLAND

Lunar New Year meets Nirvana Day! by Rev. Harry Gyokyo bridge

THIS YEAR WE ARE OBSERVING

Nirvana Day on February 11, the day after this year's Lunar New Year! I got kind of excited, but then I realized that not only is Nirvana Day actually on the 15th, but that we are observing it according to the solar calendar. It is said that Shakyamuni Buddha passed away on the 15th of the second month, but that "second month" differs depending on whether you are using the solar or lunar calendar. Same with

New Year's actually! Traditionally in Japan, the lunar calendar was used, but that changed in the Meiji Period (1873 is the date I found online), when they switched to the Gregorian calendar.

To make things even more confusing, I tried looking up the lunar calendar date that other Buddhist traditions from other countries use for Nirvana Day. But Theravada Buddhism seems to celebrate Buddha's birth,

enlightenment, and death in one single observance: Vesak. This is also a lunar calendar observance, and isn't based on a date but on the full moon in the fifth month. Even then, it is celebrated on different dates depending on the country.

I think I had better stick to local traditions! Here at the Buddhist Church of Oakland and in the Buddhist Churches of America, we follow both Japan and CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

President's Message

BY KEIJU TERADA

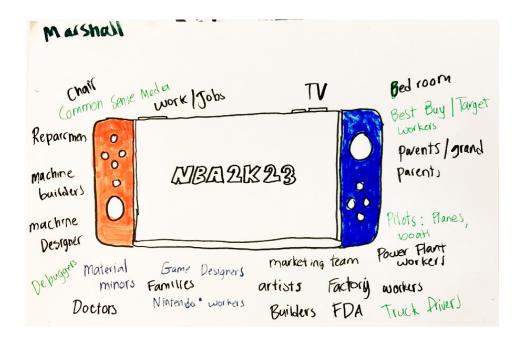
I HOPE EVERYONE HAD A wonderful holiday season. By the time you receive this Busshin, we're all settling in the new year, 2024. Starting on February 10, it will be the Year of the Dragon. I looked it up on the internet and found the following.

In Chinese astrology, "Dragon people who drive can hang a Mahogany Lotus Car Rearview Mirror Hanging Ornament in the car in 2024. It not only reminds them to drive carefully, but also means safety, and good luck for travel throughout the year." For clarity, the

ornament is not for a Lotus car (very expensive). It is made from mahogany wood with a carving shaped into a lotus. At first thought, it shouldn't hurt, right? But to hang it from my car rear view mirror, it may partially block my view CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

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DECEMBER WAS A MONTH OF exploring interdependence in Dharma School. We observed Bodhi Day as we continued our lessons along the theme, "Amida Buddha Is With Me: Exploring Emotions Through the Dharma".

The preschool through first grade class read the book, "Homeland: My Father Dreams of Palestine" by Hannah Moushabeck. We connected the story to the Buddhist value of compassion and how when people are hurting, we do not turn away from

them but come closer. We also made window posters expressing wishes for a more peaceful world.

In this session, Mr. Bissonnette's class discussed Bodhi day, connecting it to building empathy for others. We had a lively discussion on situations locally and globally that we can be empathetic towards and made commitments to take action!

The middle school and high school class discussed different manifestations and origins of greed. They enjoyed a snack and then charted the interconnection of all the people and things that deserve our gratitude for making our enjoyment of that snack possible. Then students created their own interconnection-gratitude charts for their favorite holiday gift.

Dharma School families enjoyed participating in Mochitsuki with the sangha in December. Many students assisted in cooling mochi, while some transported freshly made mochi to the cooling tables or provided flour covered trays to those shaping the mochi. Thank you to Jon Takagaki for organizing volunteers and to Ron Nomura for creating a space for our fundraiser merchandise. We also appreciate the support from those who purchased Dharma School mugs, tote bags, t-shirts or hats.

We would like to thank the OBWA for its generous year-end gift to the Dharma School, as well as Digger and Agnes Sasaki and Al and Miharu Kanzaki for their Kerokai donations, and John Minamoto for his donation. We are so grateful for your support and encouragement!

Happy Birthday

A very happy birthday to **Daniel T.F. and Toshi G.M.!** ■

SAVE THE DATE

Annual General Meeting

Sunday, Feb. 4, 2024 at 11am 825 Jackson Street, Oakland, CA 94607

The Annual General Meeting will be held in person and online. The Zoom Invitation will be sent out by email.

DEADLINE FOR MARCH 2024 BUSSHIN ARTICLES:

JANUARY 26[™]

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.

Oakland Buddhist Women's Association Winter Update

BY PEGGY TAKAHASHI

ON DECEMBER 3, 60 OBWA members and their guests had a great time at our first *Bonen-kai* since the pandemic. We all enjoyed seeing each other again at this festive gathering. I overheard many positive comments about Suruki's delicious lunch and the cake was pretty yummy, too.



We all enjoyed **Brian Wong's** wonderful koto playing. In addition to traditional koto music, **Brian's** musical prowess was demonstrated by his adaptation of a pop music tune to the koto, an incredible blend of the traditional to the now.

The occasion also provided an opportunity to announce the 2024 OBWA leadership team which includes:

President: **Kathy Terusaki** Vice President: **Joyce Yokomizo**

Treasurer: Judy Kano

Recording secretary: **Peggy Takahashi**Many thanks to **Patti Hisaoka**,
OBWA's outgoing president, for
extending her leadership through

2023.

The OBWA thanks Ron Nomura, John Minamoto and Jon Takagaki for setiing up the tables and chairs for this event. Props to Patti Hisaoka, Judy Kano, Kathy Terusaki and Carol Thunen for making this year's Bonenkai such a success and to Linda



Minamoto for emceeing. Many thanks to OBWA members who brought door prizes.

On December 10, concurrent with the BCA's mochitsuki event, the OBWA held our annual Holiday Gift Shop. This year's event was very successful thanks to Sharon Harada, Renie Yoshida-Grohl, and Donna Castro for setting up and handling sales, and to Carol Thunen and Dana Hiramoto for organizing donations. We also appreciate Ron Nomura for setting up the tables and display fixtures. Finally, a big shout out to the OBWA members who donated their handmade and homemade items, we couldn't do it without your support!

Based on the success of our previous card-making workshops, please stay tuned for another card-making session early next year presented by **Patti Hisaoka** and **Joyce Yokomizo**.









Memorial Service - **Reverend Bridge** began by reading the names of our past members. The tradition of having

WE HAD OUR ANNUAL MEMBERS

a Momijikai Members Memorial began with the *family of the late Fumi Soga* with her family requesting a service in memory of her.

We then recited *Juseige*. The words were on the TV monitor together with an image of our BCO Naijin.

Reverend Bridge spoke of different narratives (stories)-how words and things have different meanings different to Examples Reverend Bridge gave were of Shakyamuni Buddha, Amida Buddha, Shinran Shonin, 125th year anniversary in 2024, BCO's 125 year anniversary in 2026, Palestine, Israel, and the USA. When listening to different stories, we must use awareness, kindness, wisdom and compassion, and ask who is telling the story and why.

We then enjoyed a wonderful Yoga practice with **Patty**. I know I keep repeating myself, but this is time so well spent. Thank you, **Patty**. What was served for lunch? Various types of sushi, teriyaki chicken, cucumber sunomono, yummy almond cake made by **Thea Horii**, mini cream puffs, Russian tea cake cookies, and mandarin oranges were enjoyed by all. We were even treated to a party favor of Rice Krispie treat bears made by **June Masuyama**. Thank you, **Bruce**, for being our Uber Eats delivery person.

After lunch we took a virtual tour to Egypt thanks to Gary and Maya Lawrence. Gary showed interesting

slides of their trip taken in April of this year. **Gary's** explanation of these slides was so detailed we were able to appreciate the pictures. Thank you, **Gary and Maya** (who were dressed in native Egyptian garb)! Now I can say I've been to Egypt (via **Gary's** presentation)!

At this time of year, I'd like to thank on behalf of the Momijikai group, Renie Yoshida Grohl, for all she does for us. We appreciate her leadership, keeping all our activities running smoothly. Thank you, Renie!



Lunar New Year meets Nirvana Day! continued from front page

the US in observing New Year's on January 1. Likewise, we consider Nirvana Day to be February 15 and we hold our (admittedly not major) service close to that. But because our temple is in Oakland Chinatown, I also like to think about the Lunar New Year, and actually enjoy getting a second chance! It's also interesting to think about the "end" of the Buddha's life actually as a new beginning, and this year since they are so close maybe I will try and talk about that at service!

President's Message CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

of the right side of the front windshield. So, it may not be a good idea. Instead, I'll continue to follow the "middle path" or the center of my lane. Besides, I'm not the Year of the Dragon anyway.

We recently held our annual mochitsuki on December 10. It was a successful event with many people and organizations coming out to help. Many thanks to Jon Takagaki for chairing this event once again. Thanks also to the BCO Boyz (Jon Takagaki, John Minamoto, and Ron Nomura) for the setup of the social hall; Ron Nomura, Don Kaneshige, Dennis Kiyohara and Keiju Terada for picking up the rice from Koda Farms in Dos Palos; the rice washing crew of John Minamoto, Ron Nomura, Dennis Kiyohara, Don Kaneshige, Al Kanzaki, George Kamita, Gary Tominaga, Ed Minamoto, Phil Li, Brian Wong and John Neishi; and Don Kaneshige and Ron Nomura for the setup of the rice steaming operation. Thanks to Norm Yoshida for setting up ordering on the BCO website and the drive-thru pickup. And Doris Okano for collecting the orders and helping to keep them straight. A special thanks to the OBWA, Dharma School Teachers for their craft and goodies booth, and the Jr. YBA and the parents for the delicious udon lunch. I admit I had to have two servings. It was OISHII! And there were lots of nice craft items and goodies that were quickly gone.

So, I bet you didn't know there were this many people behind the scenes. There is probably more that I missed, for which I apologize. My point is there are many individuals that help with the prepping as well

as other tasks throughout the event. Still, it is a joint effort with everyone participating. We finished early and the cleanup crew was able to go home earlier than in years past. Thank you all again. Hope you all had fun, too.

We have other events and activities coming up in the New Year. Keep checking the BCO website or the Busshin for dates and times. We will have Ho On Ko Service on Jan. 16. Dharma Chat following service is on Jan. 28. And Nirvana Day Service on Feb. 11. Don't forget the BCO General Meeting and New Year Party Luncheon on Feb. 4. (Note Super Bowl is on Feb. 11.) I look forward to seeing you all at our upcoming services and annual meeting.

In Gassho, Keiju Terada

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

REV. BRIDGE

www.dharmarealm.com twitter.com/gyokyo

In Memoriam

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

Nancy Yamamoto, November 4, 2023

May the family members find comfort and solace in the Nembutsu.

Namu Amida Butsu.



Thank You for Supporting BCO's Mochitsuki!

BY JON TAKAGAKI PHOTOS BY: NORMAN YOSHIDA



BCO'S MOCHITSUKI IN DECEMBER

was a huge success! I wish to extend deep appreciation to our Sangha members, friends of our Sangha, and the many Dharma School and Youth Club families who steamed the rice, formed the mochi, and fanned the mochi to ensure it was cool enough to package.

We did 500 pounds of mochi rice (compared to 450 pounds last year) to fill orders for 84 kagami sets and 575 10-piece komochi orders. With the tremendous turnout of help and support, we finished in record time! It was an awesome effort by all!

The mochitsuki leadership team included Rev. Bridge, Mika Bridge, Rev. Endo, Keiju Terada, Doris Okano, Norman Yoshida, Jean Kawata, Ron Nomura, John Minamoto, Don Kaneshige, and Ed Minamoto. I wish to thank this team for working

collaboratively and providing their guidance and leadership across the many aspects of the mochitsuki process.

Many thanks Melyssa Minamoto and Joemy Ito-Gates for coordinating the Dharma School's participation and thanks to Julie Kono-Manning and Jimmy Chan for arranging the Youth Club's assistance. Many thanks to the Jr. YBA for preparing and serving the delicious udon lunch to our volunteers.

Also, I wish to express our appreciation to the OBWA for their gift shop and to the Dharma School for setting up their table of Dharna School items. Thanks for providing us the opportunity to jump-start our holiday shopping with many handcrafted and unique gift items.

On behalf of the BCO Board of Directors, our deepest gratitude to

our Sangha members, friends of the Sangha, and BCO organizations for your continuing commitment and support of BCO!

With Gratitude

We wish to express our appreciation to deepest Koda Farms for their donation of mochigome and mochiko flour for our December 2023 Mochitsuki! Many thanks for your generosity and support!



























2024 February Shotsuki Memorial Service

Service: Sunday February 11, 2024 at 11:00 AM PST - in-person & online

(https://www.youtube.com/c/BuddhistChurchofOakland)

Dharma Message: Rev. Harry Gyokyo Bridge

The Shotsuki Memorial Service will be held both in-person and streaming online at 11:00 AM. These arrangements are subject to change in correspondence with safety guidelines - please consult the website for updates.

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.

Mr. Hiroji Aochi Mr. Shiro Aochi Mr. Arata Akahoshi Mr. Nobuta Akahoshi Mrs. Misae Cronin Mrs. Fusa Doi Mrs. Kiku Fujii Mr. Arata Fujikawa Mrs. Masako Fujikawa Mrs. Kuni Fujimoto Mrs. Yoshiko Fujishima Mrs. Junko June Fujita Mr. Fudekichi Fukuda Mr. Itaro Harada

Mrs. Seki Harada Mr. Toshiyuki Jack Harada Mr. Masatoshi Hashimoto Mrs. Yoshiko Hashimoto Mrs. Akino Henmi Mr. Sataro Hirai Mrs. Fumiko Hiramatsu

Mrs. Mary Hiromoto - 1st year Mrs. Koyoshi Idehara Mrs. Hatsu Igaki Mr. Hisashi Ikeda Dr. Charles Ishizu Mr. Harvey Clay Johnson

Mr. Suejiro Kanada Mr. George Kanagaki Mr. Naoichi Kaneshige Mr. Keijiro Kataoka Mrs. Masuko Kataoka Mrs. Sakae Kataoka

Mr. Wes Kawabata - 33rd year

Mr. Tad Kawamura Mr. Shuzo Kawaoka Mrs. Jean Kido - 1st year Mr. Rikizo Kido

Mr. Sagao Kido Mr. Toshiharu Kimura Mr. Jinpachi Kitagaki Mrs. Mieko Kitagaki Miss Kimi Michelle Kleven

Mr. Yutaka Kobori Mrs. Jane Koizumi

Mr. Thomas Koizumi - 25th year

Mr. Kotaro Komoda Mrs. Taka Kono Mrs. Tsutae LaChica Mr. Kashichi Matsui

Mrs. Nobuko Matsui Mr. Saburo Matsui Mr. Shigeru Matsumoto Mrs. Toku Matsutani Mrs. Lynn Mifune Mr. Jisaku Minamoto Mrs. Tokio Minamoto

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Mrs. Sakae Mori - 25th year

Mr. Yukio Mori Mrs. Hisa Murakawa

Mr. James Murashima - 17th year

Mr. Tran Ngoc My Mrs. Shizue Nakai Mr. Fred Nakamura Mrs. Kei Nakamura Mr. Masayoshi Nakamura Mrs. Rurie Nakamura - 1st year

Mr. Shozo Nakamura Mrs. Toki Nakamura Mrs. Tei Nakao Mr. Harry Nakaya Mrs. Tase Nakayama Mrs. Judy Narasaki Mrs. Hisa Natsuhara Mr. Jinpachi Nishimura Mr. Shosuke Nobori Mrs. Yae Nobori Mrs. Hisae Noda Mrs. Amy Noma Mrs. Hatsuko Nomura Mr. James Susumu Nomura

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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!

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Endo, Donald & Kathy

Hamamoto, Jun

Katayama, Dennis

Kato/Lang Family

Kawabata Robbin & Gutekunst, Carl

Maher, Lilian Miwa

Nakamura, Dennis

Negoro, George & Dora

Umezu Hall, Norio

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ALTAR FLOWERS

Kuramoto, Aki & Michiko Mineko Takata - 3 year

Memorial Service

SPECIAL

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Donation

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Donation

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November Donation

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Donation

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Dana

Shimamoto, Mark & Tomita

Thank you for printing

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Mochitsuki Donation

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Donation

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Osaisen

Terada, Keiju & Ruth

In Memory of Yukiye Terada,

3rd Year Memorial

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General Donation

Woo, Carl

Mochitsuki Donation

Yamamoto, Bruce & Cindy

Donation to Dharma School -

In Memory of Nancy Yamamoto

Yamamoto, Bruce & Cindy

Donation to OBWA -

In Memory of Nancy Yamamoto

Yamamoto, Bruce & Cindy

Donation to Momijikai -

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Yamamoto, Bruce & Cindy

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Shigeko Yamaoka Scholarship Fund

Yamaoka, Rev. Seigen

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Yokomizo, Cliff & Donna Donation

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In Memory of Mary & Tom Fujimoto

Harada, Sharon

Imazumi. Sharon

Shibata, Alice

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Lawrence, Gary

Keirokai Appreciation

Shibata, Alice

Keirokai Appreciation

Shibata, Teruko

Keirokai Donation

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Aochi, Masao

Mem of Yoneko Aochi

Endo, Brian

Endo. Kathv

Mem of Tom Ikemiya - 13th year

Fujii, Ron

Mem of Carrie Fujii

Hayame, Cheryl

Mem of Don Nomiyama 25th year

Hiramoto. Dana

Mem of Wakako Adachi - 33rd year

Hiramoto, Joni

Mem of Wakako Adachi - 33rd year

Hiramoto, Ruby

Mem of Wakako Adachi - 33rd year

Hiromoto. Sharon

Mem of Fred Hiromoto

Kaneshige, Akiko

Mem of Fred Kaneshige

Kaneshige, Don & Clare

Mem of Fred Kaneshige, Agnes Tsuji

Kanzaki. Al & Miharu

ızakı, Al & Minaru Mem of Noboru Kanzaki

Kaplan, Harvey & Gay

Mem of Kimuko Diana Hirabayashi

Kaplan, Harvey & Gay

Mem of Mitsuru Hirai

Kato/Lang Family

Mem of Marian Kato

Kawabata, Curt, Joan & Stacey

Mem of Yasuhiko Aoki - 3rd year

Kawata, Jean

Koda, Tama

December Shotsuki

Mem of Mareyo Tsuchiya, Takenori Tsuchiya, Keisaburo Koda

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10

NEXT STUDY CLASS IS SCHEDULED

for Saturday, January 27th from 1-3pm in the Social Hall (Rescheduled due to a scheduling conflict). Rev. Bridge will present Buddhist Narratives: Shinran Shonin. Not only the life of Shinran Shonin, but also the impact his story has on our teachings.

Next Dharma Chat is scheduled for Sunday, January 28th at 10:45am (following Dharma Family Service). Rev. Michael Endo will talk and answer questions about his recent trip to Hongwanji in Japan accompanying Ministerial aspirants for Ordination.

- · Due to scheduling issues, there will be no Dharma Chat in February
- Study Class: Sat 2/10 from 2-3:30pm
- Dharma Chat for March: Sun 3/23 at 10:45am - Topic: Ohigan: Back to Basics
- Study Class: Sat 3/10 from 1-3pm -Topic: Nembutsu
- Dharma Chat for April: Sun 4/28 (Topic TBD)



Study Class held on November 18th

- Study Class: Sat 4/13 (Topic TBD) Dharma Chat for May: Sun 5/12 (Topic TBD)
- Study Class: **Sat 5/11** (Topic TBD)
- Due to scheduling issues, there will be no Dharma Chat nor Study Class in June
- Tour of BCO Hondo: Sat 6/15 during Bazaar
- Introduction to Buddhism: Sat 6/22 from 1-3pm (more info to come)

- Tour of BCO Hondo: Sat 8/4 during Obon
- · Introduction to Buddhism: Sat **8/10 from 1-3pm** (more info to come)

Dates and times are subject to change.

For more information, please contact the Church Office or check the BCO website.

Donations CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

Kuroki. Munenori Shotsuki

Matsumoto, Chiyoko Mary Mem of Tomie Satake

Mori, Penny

Mem of George Shizuo Mori

Muramoto Wong, Shirley

Mem of Naoto Roy Muramoto

Naito, Namie

Mem of Shigeji Naito

Nakatani, June

Mem of Tomiko Nakatani

Neishi, Lynne

December Shotsuki

Nomiyama, Ken

Nomura, Ron & June

December Shotsuki

Ohara Oakland School of Ikebana Appreciation

Otsuka, Mary

Mem of Tomio Otsuka, Jane Otsuka, Masaye Yokomizo, Yonekishi Yokomizo, Steve Yunge, Nobuye Yokomizo

Sasaki, Raymond

Mem of Jun Sasaki

Seiki. Richard & Tsuneko

Mem of Masao Shinomoto

Shibata, Alice

Mem of Masato Mori, Fred Hiromoto, Kunio Shibata

Shibata, Teruko

Mem of Kunio Shibata - 7th year

Suwa, Toshiro & Mieko

Shotsuki Donation

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Mem of Kazumi Takahashi

Takahashi, Peggy & Lamont, Alan Mem of Itsu Takahashi

Tamori, Bob

Mem of Teiko Tamori, Toru Nakagawa Tani, Ed

Mem of Masayo Tani

Tanisawa, Ted & Susan

Mem of Yotaro Najima

Terada, Masateru & Lily

Mem of Kazuyuki Terada - 3rd year

Terusaki, Steve & Kathy

Mem of Baby Jason Tetsuo Terusaki

Toyofuku, Donald & Yurika

Mem of Ryu Kawaoka, Keiji Toyfuku

Toyofuku, Susan

Mem of Ryu Kawaoka, Keiji Toyfuku

Ushijima, Glenn

Mem of Yoshi Ushijima

Yamamoto, Bruce & Cindy

Mem of Kenneth Yamamoto

Yokomizo, Denise

Mem of Tony & Nowie Yokomizo

Yokomizo, Joyce

Mem of Tony & Nowie Yokomizo

FEBRUARY 2024 Sun Mon Tue Wed Thur Fri Sat 2 3 **HOST 11 Leader: Lyman Hollins** 10:00 am 9:00 am Momijikai Japanese Language For HOST details, please check with your HOST leader. 7 8 5 6 9 10 4 10:00 am 9:00 am Dharma Family **Board of Directors** Japanese Language Service Meeting 7:00 PM In person & online Ikebana Issei Kaikan 11:00 am Annual General 1:00 - 3:30 pm Meeting In person & online 16 11 12 13 14 15 17 10:00 am 9:00 am 10:00 am Dharma School & Momijikai Japanese Language Online Dharma Family Service Nirvana Day In person & online 11:00 am Shotsuki Memorial & Adult Dharma Service In person & online 20 22 18 19 21 23 24 10:00 am 9:00 am Holiday Dharma School & Japanese Language Busshin Articles Due FOMC (Facilities Dharma Family Finance Committee Operations & Service Meeting 7:00 PM Maintenance In person & online Committee) Meeting 7:00 PM Lady Takeko Kujo & **OBWA Members** Memorial Service 27 25 26 28 29 No BCO Service 10:00 am BCA Eitaikyo Service