

Popular Speakers Headlining Ekoji Seminars

By: Ken Nakamura

Ekoji is fortunate to have two great speakers meet with our Sangha and share their understanding of the Buddha Dharma in the coming months. On Sunday, September 13, Rev. Dr. Kenneth Tanaka will deliver the Dharma message at our 11:00 a.m. joint service and then present a lecture at a seminar from 2:00 – 4:30. On the weekend of October 17 & 18, Ekoji will sponsor its Fall Seminar with Rev. Dr. William Masuda speaking at the Saturday Seminar and at the 11:00 Sunday Service.

Rev. Dr. Kenneth Tanaka, the author of several books and articles, including the popular book, *Ocean*, will speak on the topic of “The Distinctiveness of Shin Buddhism: Amida, Other Power and Nembutsu Meditation” at the Ekoji Seminar from 2:00 – 4:30 on Sunday, September 13 in Ekoji’s Sangha Hall.

Rev. Tanaka is a well published and popular speaker who grew up in Mountain View, CA, and attended the Mt. View Buddhist Temple. While in the temple’s Young Buddhist Association, he decided to study Buddhism, which he did at Stanford University (B.A.). He continued his studies at a temple in Thailand, the Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS) in Berkeley, CA, where he earned his MA. He then went to Japan to study at Tokyo University (MA) and received a PhD at the University of California at Berkeley. He taught at the Institute of Buddhist Studies from 1984-

95, and served as the minister at the Southern Alameda County Buddhist Temple from 1995-98. Dr. Tanaka is currently Professor and Dean of Buddhist Education at Musashino University in Tokyo, a Jodo Shinshu based institution. He also serves as President of two academic associations, the International Association of Shin Buddhist Studies and the Japanese Association for the Study of Buddhism and Psychology.



After the seminar, Rev. Tanaka will be available to sign his latest book, *Buddhism on Air: Kaleidoscope of a Growing Religion*, which is based on a televised series aired in the Los Angeles area.

Rev. Dr. William Masuda will be the speaker for Ekoji’s Fall Seminar on Saturday, October 17. The theme is “Existential and Experiential Ingredients of the Nembutsu which Enrich the Lives of the Nembutsu Followers.” Rev. Masuda will also provide the Dharma Talk at Ekoji’s regular 11:00 service on Sunday, October 18.



Rev. Masuda received his BA in Psychology from San Francisco State University and an MA in Shin Buddhist Studies from Ryukoku University in Kyoto, Japan. He returned to the University of San Francisco to earn his Ed. D in Counseling Psychology in 1993.

Along the way, Rev. Masuda served, for nearly 7

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Sangha News and Events

September and Future Events

September 4-6: EBL Conference in Cleveland, Ohio

September 6 (Shotsuki Sunday)

- 9:00 AM: All-Sangha Temple Clean-up
- 11:00 AM: Shotsuki Service
- 12:00 PM: Open Dharma Discussion (Hondo)

September 13 (Sunday) – FIRST DAY OF DHARMA SCHOOL

- 9:00 AM: Religious Committee Meeting
- 10:00 AM: Dharma School Welcome Brunch
- 10:00 AM: Buddhism 101 – Session 1 (Location TBD)
- 11:00 AM: Joint Service with Reverend Dr. Kenneth Tanaka
- 12:00 PM: Open Dharma Discussion (Hondo)
- 12:30 PM: Lunch Reception for Reverend Dr. Kenneth Tanaka (Sangha Hall)
- 2:00 PM: Seminar with Reverend Dr. Kenneth Tanaka (Hondo)

September 18 (Friday)

- 7:00 PM: Ekoji MAPs Gathering with Reverend Ikeda

September 19 (Saturday)

- 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM: Nen Daiko Workshop (Sangha Hall)
- 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM: Ekoji MAPs Training Session with Reverend Earl Ikeda and Set up Onaijin for Ohigan Service

September 20 (Sunday) – SHUKI HIGAN-E (Autumn Equinox)

- 10:00 AM: Dharma School Service
- 10:00 AM: Buddhism 101 – Session 2 (Sangha Hall)
- 11:00 AM: Ohigan Service with Reverend Earl Ikeda
- 11:00 AM: Dharma School Classes
- 12:00 PM: Open Dharma Discussion (Hondo)

September 26 (Saturday) - Otsukimi

September 27 (Sunday)

- 10:00 AM: Dharma School Service
- 10:00 AM: Buddhism 101 – Session 3 (Sangha Hall)
- 11:00 AM: Regular Service
- 11:00 AM: Dharma School Classes
- 12:00 PM: Open Dharma Discussion (Hondo)
- 12:30 PM: Ekoji Board Meeting

October 17: Fall Seminar with Reverend Dr. William Masuda

October 18: Dharma School Teachers' Workshop with Mrs. Kiyoko Masuda

October 24: Dharma School Family Night

October 25: Eitaikyo Muen Hoyo Service

In-kind Donations and Thanks

Thank you to the following individuals who donated their time and skills to help out the temple:

- Kalavinka Editor and Contributors: Andrea Walter (Editor), Kennon Nakamura, Laverne Imori
- Office Management: Jane Blechman
- Wisteria Lane, Library and Three Treasures Garden: Heidi Forrest
- Temple Supplies: Kim Nguyen
- Onaijin Set-Up and Clean-Up: Minister's Assistants and Heidi Forrest
- Dharma Talk Recordings: Michael Galvin and Frank Swithers
- After-service refreshments: Thank you to all who contributed refreshments, prepared coffee and tea and cleaned up afterward! We need volunteers to bring refreshments and help clean up afterward. Our sign-up sheet is in the foyer.
- Thank you to those who volunteered to be service leaders, rang the kansho, played the piano, and helped collect dana.

My apologies if we missed any names. We are, indeed, fortunate to have so many volunteers assisting with Temple activities. Laverne Imori

Sangha Member News

Please submit news such as special honors or awards, weddings, births, graduations, etc., to Laverne Imori at limori@comcast.net, so we can share with the Sangha.

Ekoji Needs Your Help!

We also need help to provide refreshments after service on Sundays. This includes setting up and cleaning up afterward. There's a sign-up sheet in the foyer.

Don't forget that the first Sunday of each month is Sangha Clean-up Day. Just show up in the Hondo, grab a broom, vacuum, or duster and start cleaning. If you have any questions, please contact any of our Board members and they'll show you where the cleaning supplies and equipment are.

Buddhism 101

The dates for the Buddhism 101 classes are as follows: September 13, 20, 27, and October 4, 11, 18 (Crossing over to Jodo Shinshu), and November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 and December 6 (Crossing over to Jodo Shinshu).

BCA Voices: Obon - The Same Old Thing

By Rev. Dean Koyama

The ministers of the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) have important lessons to share with us. Through this column, we would like to share many of those lessons with the readers of the Kalavinka. The following article is by Reverend Den Koyama, which appeared in the September 2014 newsletter of the Palo Alto Buddhist Temple, Sangha Guide.

“Everything that has a beginning has an end. Each moment is the first time and the last time.”

One of the pleasures I had, as a father to 3 very small children was to read books to them before they went to sleep, I would cuddle in their bed, and depending upon how tired I was I would have them pick one to three books. Almost every night they would pick the same exact books over and over again.

“Don’t you want to read something else for a change?” I would ask. “No, Dad, read these please,” they would emphatically answer.

So, I would repeat the ritual of reading the same books every night. Unfortunately, no matter how energetic I was at the start, I would begin getting drowsy after reading only a couple of pages from the first book because we read them so many times. Since I read them over and over again, I already knew how the story would end. But for the boys, they enjoyed the repetition and would correct me if I skipped a word. Sometimes, if I was really sleepy, I would try to skip a couple of pages hoping to end this night time ritual quickly so that I could go to sleep in my own bed. But they would always catch me and make me read from the correct spot. Then I would get so drowsy that I would fall asleep while I was reading aloud and insert all kinds of words that wouldn’t make any sense.

For example, “Do you like green eggs and ham? I do not like them, Sam-I-am. I do not like green eggs and ham. Would you like them here or there? Not on a boat or gravy, jellybeans go fast potatoes....zzzz.” That is when the kids would run and complain to their mother who, at the time, was enjoying some precious moments of solitude free of the kids. “Mom, Dad is falling asleep again and he didn’t finish reading to us!!!” The she would have to come to their bedroom, tell me to go to bed and she would finish the stories with great enthusiasm.

As I reflect back upon that wonderful time, I realize that while I looked upon reading the same books for the umpteenth time with drudgery, the kids still

looked upon them as if they were hearing the story for the very first time filled with wonder and awe. They were able to look upon these times as being the first and last.

As the Buddha taught Sariputra, “Everything has a beginning and end. Every moment is the first and the last.” No matter how much we may try to re-create an event or occasion we can’t. Similarly, no matter how many times we may do the same thing over and over again, it is different. Some things will have changed, be it the time, the circumstance, or the environment. Nothing stays the same. Therefore it will always be a different moment.

We are a little more than a month and a half away from observing our 100th anniversary. This is truly a wonderful milestone to celebrate. With these 100 years of history, I am sure that some of the things that we do here at the temple may seem like the same-ol-thing. The reality is that we can’t look upon it as the same thing over and over again. And perhaps because we are observing our 100th Anniversary, this is a good time to re-evaluate how we do the things we do.

That is where our challenge lies. Up to now, I have gotten the impression that we have just tried to maintain what we do with what we have here at the temple. I think we need to change our mindset keeping in mind the Buddha’s teachings that “Everything has a beginning and end. Every moment is the first and the last.” This means instead of just trying to maintain, we need to invest and upgrade now for the future. And I see great potential at our temple. I saw great examples of this past month. At our Obon, not only did we have out traditional menu of delicious chicken teriyaki, udon, and curry but we also experimented by adding some new items to our menu

We cannot be afraid to take a look at how we have always done things and make changes that will benefit a better future for our temple.

Once again, we begin our new Dharma School year... And although our last official day of the year will be sometime in June, we should look upon each day, each moment, yeah year as the first and the last. By doing so, we can come to truly appreciate and make the most of each opportunity to be with each other. Living a life of appreciation and gratitude is living a life of Nembutsu. Gassho, Rev. Dean

Ekoji President's Message

By: Laverne Shidou Imori

The weekend of August 15-16 was a busy one. On Saturday, the 15th, Reverend Kurt Rye and Reverend Earl Ikeda conducted an afternoon workshop for Ekoji's Minister's Assistants followed by an informal dinner and talk-story time. Participants included Bob Shimokaji, Erick Ishii, Ken Nakamura, Laverne Imori, Mark Lawall, Michael Galvin, and Rob Fike. Ekoji MA Norman Kondo was out-of-town and unable to join the group.

On Sunday, Reverend Rye delivered his farewell Dharma Talk to the Ekoji Sangha. He was joined on

the Onaijin by Reverend Ikeda, Laverne Imori and Youth Minister's Assistants, Anh-Thu Vo, Avery Higgins and Nic Karen.

Following the service, a light lunch was served in Sangha Hall.

We want to extend our deepest gratitude to Rye Sensei for his guidance the past 2½ years and look forward to working with Ikeda Sensei who will serve as our Supervising Minister until we have a new resident minister.



Buddhist and Jodo Shinshu Symbols - Manji (Swastika)

The manji, which translates into English as auspicious and is called swastika in Sanskrit, is one of the world's oldest symbols.

The manji takes two forms: one in which the four angled legs face clockwise, and the other in which they face counterclockwise.

The manji, used singly and in combination, is the most commonly used Buddhist symbol in Mahayana countries. When used singly, the legs of the manji face counter-clockwise.

Until World War II, the manji or swastika was the most often used symbol of Buddhists in America. However, because of Hitler's and the Nazi's

use of the Indian swastika as the symbol of their racist doctrine of Aryan purity and superiority, post-war American Buddhists turned to the use of the Dharma Wheel.

In East Asia, however, the manji is still the most widely used symbol of Buddhism. In Japan, it appears in countless border designs, family crests, and cloth patterns.

(Jodo Shinshu – A Guide, Hongwanji International Center, Kyoto, Japan, March, 2002. p. 141.)



YAC 11

By: Nick Karen

YAC stands for Youth Advocacy Committee where each year a group of high-school-aged youth members are chosen to participate in a week-long program to further their knowledge about the Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha. We were split into two groups, or Tobans, having 7 or 8 people in each group. Each Toban worked together as a group to carry out a service. Every day we conducted 3-4 services consisting of one in the morning, one or two in the afternoon, and one in the evening. We also rotated each service taking on a different task each time such as giving the Dharma Talk, ringing the Kansho Bell, or being Doshi (Service Leader). Working together as a group became a real challenge; for example when we entered onto the Onaijin we had to walk in perfect synchronization with the person on the opposite side of the Amida statue, listening carefully to their footsteps. Giving Dharma Talks also came as a challenge because we had to get over our fear of public speaking and at the same time give an easily understood lesson of the Dharma that is relatable to all the other YAC participants. It became much simpler after we had a workshop about the main components of a Dharma Talk.

Another activity we did daily was a Buddhist Workshop where we learned about Shinran Shonin, Siddhartha, the main Sutras, and life lessons. We practiced how to chant Juseige, Junirai, Sanbutsuge, Sambujo, and Shoshinge. Sambujo came also as a real challenge because usually here at Ekoji we chant Sambujo in about a minute. During the workshop the ministers took out a cd recording of a monk who seemed as if he had iron lungs and stretched out the chant to 5 minutes and in the time he took had taken one breath we had

taken ten and were still gasping for air. The Shoshinge also came as a challenge being a 20-30 minute chant. By the end of it our throats were bone dry.

One of the life lessons taught at YAC during the workshops were when to say "I love you" to someone. Reverend Bob, the teaching minister of the class, told us to wait until we turn 26. The reasoning behind it is only a question Reverend Bob can answer.

At the beginning of the week, the ministers told us that the people who were at YAC with us would become our best friends for life or Dharma Buddies for Life (DBFLs for short) and we truly did. One of the experiences we had together was on Day 2 of the 7-day retreat. About half of us had gone to the main part of the church to play cards at around 12 am with one of the ministers who was supervising us. The annex where we slept was in a building separate from the main part of the church only accessible through the courtyard of the church. We had stayed up till about 1-2 am when we decided to go to bed and the supervising minister had left. Little had we known the door for the annex had been locked and the people with the keys had already fallen asleep inside. We tried to attract any attention for someone to wake up and open the door for us, one of those methods included knocking on the door like a Kansho bell. Unfortunately, nobody heard us and we were locked out. We (the 6 of us who were locked out) decided that we would sleep in the classroom on the floor on top of a few seat cushions. We literally took Refuge in the Sangha and really came together as we shivered on that night. YAC was a great experience and it really changed the way we looked at the Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha.

Popular Speakers for Ekoji Seminars

Continued from page 1.

years, as the Director of Buddhist Education and the Buddhist Study Center with the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, where he coordinated children, youth, and adult Buddhist education curricula, programs, and activities. In 1983, then-Bishop Kenryu Tsuji enticed him to leave Hawaii for San Francisco and become the Director of Buddhist Education with the Buddhist Churches of America from March 1983 to September 1986.

Rev. Masuda retired in August 2012 after serving for 10 years as minister of the Palo Alto Buddhist

Temple, and a total of 45 years in the ministry in both Hawaii and the mainland U.S. Prior to his assignment in Palo Alto, he served as the head minister (Rinban) at the Fresno Betsuin Buddhist Temple, the Buddhist Temple of Marin and the Los Angeles Betsuin Buddhist Temple.

For the seminars, a nominal donation of \$10.00 will be asked from participating non-members of the temple. Information about these seminars will be posted on Ekoji's web site, www.ekoji.org.

Introduction to Japanese Buddhist Art and Language:

Course in Memory of Reverend Honda Shôjô

Thursdays, September 17 to November 19, 2015 at Sangha Hall of Ekoji Temple

Ekoji Buddhist Temple is happy to announce a Japanese Language and Cultural Course. The course will be held September 17 (every Thursday) from 7 to 9 p.m., until November 19. While this course is not intended as a Shin Buddhist religious course, students can expect to get an introduction to the Japanese language, and learn about the cultural roots of Japanese Buddhism. The course, taught by scholars in the field, Drs. Sandy and Terry Kita is offered in memory of our Reverend Shojo Honda, whose goal was to have a welcoming temple for all. The course consists of 10, two-hour lessons. The first hour focuses on Buddhist Art and Culture and the second focuses on language. The course fee is \$100 for Ekoji registered members and \$200 for non-members of Ekoji. In addition, there is a small additional cost of \$10 to cover the cost of preparing materials for handouts.

As this is our first class offering of this type, it will be limited to the first 20 students that sign-up. The registration deadline is September 3rd. If you have any questions about this course, please call the course facilitator, Art Politano at 703-725-2088. If you are a native Japanese speaking instructor and wish to support and lead small group laboratory activities please contact Terry Kita at skita@cox.net.

Your Name (Please Print) _____

Phone Number _____ Email Address _____

Number Attending Course and Membership (Please Circle Y or N):

1. Name: _____ Phone Nu. _____ Ekoji Member? Y or N
2. Name: _____ Phone Nu. _____ Ekoji Member? Y or N
3. Name: _____ Phone Nu. _____ Ekoji Member? Y or N

Once payment has been received, a receipt and student instructions will be sent to you or your check will be returned, if no space is available.

- a. Number of Registered Ekoji Members x \$ 100 = Sub Total \$ _____
- b. Number of Unregistered Ekoji Members x 200 = Sub Total \$ _____
- c. Copying Fee:
Total number of attendees (a +b) x \$ 10 = Sub Total \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Please make your check* payable to **Ekoji Buddhist Temple** and mail to: Japanese Course Registration, c/o Ekoji Buddhist Temple, 6500 Lakehaven Lane, Fairfax Station, VA 222039

* Registration Fee is not deductible because a service is being provided.
Please send this completed form and payment by September 3, 2015.



The Japan-America Society of Washington DC
& Ekoji Buddhist Temple present



EKOJI BUDDHI

Otsukimi

*Moon Viewing at
Ekoji Buddhist Temple
6500 Lakehaven Lane Fairfax Station, VA 22039*



**Saturday, September 26, 2015
6:30 – 9:00 p.m.
Held Rain or Shine**

Join the **Japan-America Society of Washington DC (JASW)** and **Ekoji Buddhist Temple** for a celebration the ancient custom of admiring the Harvest Moon. The moon will rise at 6:09 p.m., and should be high in the sky by sunset at 8:00 p.m. This event is free of charge.

Attendees may bring their own picnic dinner or order an obento (box meal with Japanese food) through JASW. There will provide soft drinks, shaved ice, snacks and dango (sweet dumplings that represent the moon) for sale. **Obento orders MUST be received and paid for in advance no later than 5:00 p.m., Wednesday, September 23.** Vegetarian obento is available by request only, and there is no special obento for children. Obento cancellations after September 23 and no shows cannot be refunded. Space is limited.

This year we will have lots to do during JASW's Otsukimi event!

- ❖ **Ekoji Buddhist Temple** will have mini lectures on Shin Buddhism
- ❖ **Live Music**
- ❖ **Write your own Haiku!**
- ❖ **Mochitsuki** (rice pounding) – Learn how to make mochi (rice cakes)
- ❖ **Children's Corner** with origami and other Japanese games
- ❖ **Kakigori** (shaved ice) will be served!

Otsukimi at Ekoji Buddhist Temple, Saturday, September 26, 2015

Registration on-line (www.jaswdc.org), by mail or fax (202-833-2456) it to JASW by **September 23, 2015.**

<input type="checkbox"/> Check (make payable to JASW) <input type="checkbox"/> MasterCard <input type="checkbox"/> Visa * Credit Card #: _____ Exp. Date: ____ / ____ Signature: _____ V-Code: _____ *Credit card registration must include the billing address for the card

❖ Pre-Obento Orders _____ x \$15
Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

Additional Name(s): _____

Payment to: **The Japan-America Society of Washington DC, 1819 L Street NW, B2, Washington, DC 20036**

If you have any questions, please call us at (202) 833-2210 or e-mail at info@jaswdc.org.



Kalavinka

Managing Editor: Andrea A. Walter
Assistant Editors: Ken Nakamura, Laverne Imori

Sangha members and community businesses can publish **advertisements in Kalavinka**. Please contact us for information!

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www.ekoji.org

Join us at Ekoji!

Adult Service: Sundays at 11 a.m.

Meditation: Thursdays at 8 p.m.

Yoga: Mondays at 7:30 p.m.

Children's Dharma School (Sept. through June):
10 a.m. family service and 11 a.m. classes

Consult the Ekoji website for the complete event calendar at www.ekoji.org.



EKOJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE
6500 Lake Haven Lane
Fairfax Station, VA 22039

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS