

84,000 Thoughts - Cultivating the Dharma

By: Rev. Earl Ikeda

I just returned from this year's annual Buddhist Churches of America meeting which took place in Visalia, California. We drove from Berkeley to Visalia and the trip each way took over five hours. Visalia is in the San Joaquin Valley, one of the most productive agricultural areas in the world. Herds of cattle, flocks of sheep, and vast orchards of fruits and nuts came into view. Orchards were in full bloom and the landscape became a checker board of contrasting colors with red and pink fields bordering white and yellow ones. There were also acres of vineyards. Grape vines grow horizontally and look like they are holding hands. How wondrous nature is! How different it is from the life of the city!

This year's national council meeting theme focused on how to cultivate the dharma, a very appropriate theme for the location of the meeting. As we heard various speakers share their life experiences in agriculture it became very obvious that they embraced the rigors of that life and one could not help but deeply appreciate the people who work the land and cultivate crops and raise animals. A farmer spoke of being mindful and realistic about the unpredictability of what goes on in farming and life. Just because crops are planted, there is no guarantee that there will be a successful harvest. There are so many unforeseen challenges. A farmer must plant the right crop at the right time and hope for cooperative weather and other conditions. In addition, the farmer must know how to cultivate the crop during its various stages of growth. Knowledge and experience create wisdom and understanding which are essential in successful farming.

Cultivating awareness is similarly important in

understanding the process of life and in understanding the teachings of the Buddha. Like the farmer suggested, planting a seed does not assure that the result will be a flower, fruit or vegetable. It requires diligence and constant mindfulness. Namu Amida Butsu is not a magic mantra to erase all of our sufferings, but is a means by which we create a greater awareness of the truth of life. The recitation of the nembutsu helps us realize that just as there are countless numbers of negative things in life, there are an equal number of countless causes and conditions that embrace us. We must constantly cultivate our minds and hearts to understand truths by listening to the dharma, which takes on many different forms. The path to understanding the wonders of life begins with entrusting in the vow of the Buddha. To overcome the issues of life one must be able to learn countless numbers of lessons from it by truly living it. So it is that the farmer also learns about life and its realities by being the best farmer he/she can be through awareness and experience.

Whether one lives in the heart of an agricultural region or in a big metropolis, it seems that there are many similar themes in day-to-day life. Like farmers, we all cultivate, not crops, but hopefully, the truth. The dharma manifests itself in countless numbers of ways to help us realize this. Basically, we need to constantly ask ourselves the question, "What are we truly cultivating?" How mindful we are in our actions, speech, and thoughts will determine whether a flower will bloom or not. The effort one puts into understanding universal truth will reap a rich harvest and hopefully happiness for all. Indeed, there are many challenges

Continued on page 6

In this issue:

Sangha News and Events

BCA Voices

More Sangha News and Events!

Page 2

Page 3

Page 4

President's Message

Buddhist Symbols

Japanese Tours

Page 5

Page 6

Page 7

Sangha News and Events

April Events

Friday, April 1, 2016

- Rev. Nariaki Rajan Hayashi arrives!

Saturday, April 2, 2016

- 9:30 am Nen Daiko Performance at Freedom Walk in D.C.
- 10:00 am Cub Scouts visit Ekoji in Hondo
- 5:00 pm Dharma School Family Night

Sunday, April 3, 2016

- 9:00 am Sangha Temple Cleanup
- 10:00 am Buddhism 101 in Sangha Hall
- 11:00 am Shotsuki Service for April
- 12:00 pm Welcome reception for Rev. Hayashi in Sangha Hall
- 2:00 pm Nen Daiko Performance at Sakura Matsuri at U of Md.

Monday, April 4, 2016

- 6:45-7:45 pm Tai Chi with the Peaceable Dragon Society (hosted by Ekoji)
- 8:00-9:00 pm Tai Chi with the Peaceable Dragon Society (hosted by Ekoji)

Wednesday, April 6, 2016

- 10:00-11:30 am Hula Class with Fairfax County Senior Program (hosted by Ekoji)

Thursday, April 7, 2016

- 5:45 pm YBA Meeting (Sangha Hall)
- 8:00 pm Meditation (Hondo)

Saturday, April 9, 2016

- 11:20 am Nen Daiko Cherry Blossom Performance at Smithsonian American Art Museum (800 G St., N.W)
- 8:15 pm Nen Daiko Cherry Blossom Performance at SW Water Front Cherry Blossom Fire Works Show

Sunday, April 10, 2016 – Hanamatsuri Service

- 10:00 am Buddhism 101 (Sangha Hall)
- 10:30 am Joint Hanamatsuri (Buddha Day) Service
- 12:00 noon Hanamatsuri Pot Luck
- 2:00 pm Nen Daiko Practice

Monday, April 11, 2016

- 6:45-7:45 pm Tai Chi with the Peaceable Dragon Society (hosted by Ekoji)
- 8:00-9:00 pm Tai Chi with the Peaceable Dragon Society (hosted by Ekoji)

Thursday, April 14, 2016

- 8:00 pm Meditation (Hondo)

Friday, April 15, 2016

- 7:30 pm Nen Daiko Practice

Saturday, April 16, 2016

- 10:00 am Oasaji Morning Service (Hondo)
- 11:00 am Nen Daiko Cherry Blossom Street Performance (Navy Yard)
- 1:15 pm Nen Daiko Cherry Blossom Street Performance (Navy Yard)

Sunday, April 17, 2016

- No Dharma School Activities
- 9:00-10:00 am Religious Committee Mtg
- 11:00 am Regular Service (Hondo)
- 12:30 pm Buddhism Study Group Mtg.
- 1:00 pm Nen Daiko Performance at the Worlds Arts Festival

Monday, April 18, 2016

- 6:45-7:45 pm Tai Chi with the Peaceable Dragon Society (hosted by Ekoji)
- 8:00-9:00 pm Tai Chi with the Peaceable Dragon Society (hosted by Ekoji)

Wednesday, April 20, 2016

- 7:30 pm Nen Daiko Practice

Thursday, April 21, 2016

- 8:00 pm Meditation

Friday, April 22, 2016

- 11:35 am Nen Daiko Performance, Gallaudet University's 10th Annual Unity Fest

Saturday, April 23, 2016

- 1:00-3:00 pm Naikan Workshop (Sangha Hall)

Sunday, April 24, 2016

- 10:00 am Buddhism 101 (Sangha Hall)
- 10:00 am Dharma School Service (Hondo)
- 11:00 am Dharma School Classes (Tsuji Center)
- 11:00 am Regular Service (Hondo)
- 12:30 pm Open Dharma Discussion (Hondo)
- 12:30 pm Board Meeting (Board Room)
- 2:00 pm Nen Daiko Practice

Wednesday, April 27, 2016

- 7:30 pm Nen Daiko Practice

Thursday, April 28, 2016

- 8:00 pm Meditation (Hondo)

Saturday, April 30, 2016

- 1:00 pm Memorial Service for Reiko Matsumoto

Save the Date! Future Events

- Sunday, May 15, 2016, 11:00 am Gotan-e Service celebrating the birth of Shinran Shonin and Music Service
- Sunday, May 22, 2016, 10:00 am Parents' Day Brunch prepared by the Dharma School, followed by a Joint Parents' Day Service

Continued on page 4.

BCA Voices: Coffin Man

By Rev. Kusunoki and Ayano Kusunoki

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 Katsuya Kusunoki and his wife Ayano Kusunoki, which appeared in the September 2014 newsletter of the Buddhist Temple of Lodi.

COFFIN MAN (An essay by Ayano Kusunoki)

When we die, not all of us can choose by ourselves how to die; however, we can and do something for a family member who passes away. I sometimes visit nursing homes or hospitals. I know the reality that not all the patients can get good service; on the other hand, most of my relatives and friends have been well taken care of by kindhearted and skillful nurses. For the patients' family or friends, the fact that our loved ones are taken care of brings much relief. However, my maternal grandfather's case was a little bit different. He had senile dementia, so he was in the nursing home for a long time. Only my aunt visited and took care of him every weekend. She sometimes had complaints about the nursing home staff because Grandpa's feet were always chilled to the bone. Our family was concerned about him. A few years later, my grandfather passed away.

That was the first time I became a member of the family of the deceased. Two days before the funeral service, I saw a coffin man. In Japan, which is my homeland, when a person dies, instead of the family, a coffin man takes care of the deceased. If the family wants to bathe the deceased, or if the family asks to dress the deceased, the family's wishes are fulfilled. In the case of my grandfather, we asked the coffin man to change my grandfather's clothes. The coffin man and my family sat facing each other across my grandfather, who was lying on a Japanese mattress. Then, the coffin man started his ritual. He spread a new white clean sheet over Grandpa, he took off Grandpa's pajamas under the sheet, and he carefully wiped Grandpa's body. He did not show Grandpa's naked body at all to us. His attitude expressed his respect for my grandfather.

Grandfather was then dressed in a white kimono and tabi, which are traditional clothes and socks. The

coffin man shaved Grandpa and put some make up on him. For my family, this ceremony was very meaningful because Grandpa had been suffering from his illness for many years, so his expression was totally changed. With rosy cheeks, Grandpa looked just like he was sleeping. We were relieved a little bit.

Right after this ceremony, the coffin man started to prepare the coffin and Grandpa's body was covered with dry ice. My grandpa was put into the coffin and the lid was almost closed. Suddenly, one old memory came back in my mind. That was a memory involving my grandfather's hand. When I was only six years old, I visited my grandparents' house by myself. For a little girl, that two-hour flight to their home was like an adventure. As soon as Grandpa greeted me, he smiled and told me, "Welcome, welcome, welcome." We walked hand in hand, and we went to a Mongolian mutton barbecue restaurant. I had completely forgotten that dear memory; however, while gazing at the coffin man's movements, I remembered it in detail. I felt unexpected sadness. I faced the reality of the separation which Grandfather. My heart began to beat fast. "Once the coffin lid is closed, I will not be able to touch Grandpa's hands forever. I do not want to regret this. Is this my last chance to touch Grandpa's hand? I have to say something...."

I suddenly spoke to the coffin man. "Just a moment. This is the last chance to touch my grandfather's hands, isn't it?" My voice was trembling. He stopped, and he answered very quietly, "Yes." "I want to touch his hands one more time. Could you allow me to do this?" He accepted my request. He opened the lid again and took out the dry ice. Meeting this very gentle coffin man was a significant thing for me because he relieved my concern for my grandpa. While I was crying, I took hold of his hands. Grandpa's hands were of course very cold, but I could feel Grand's warm-hearted soul from his hands. That was the same feeling as when I was a six-year-old girl. My loneliness was changed to a sense of appreciation, so I could say my last words to my grandpa from the bottom of my heart: "Thank you, Grandpa, and see you again."

Rev. Kusunoki Comments on His Wife's Article

I would like to introduce an author, Shinmon Aoki

Continued on page 6

Sangha News and Events

Continued from page 2.

- Saturday, July 9, all day, Ekoji Bon Festival— Many Volunteers Needed – See co-chairs Brant Horio, Emily Ihara, Curt Long, and Diane Miyasato to help!
- Sunday, July 10, 2016, Ekoji Bon Service
- September 2-4, 2016, Eastern Buddhist League Conference at Seabrook, N.J. (about a three-hour car ride away, Rev. Dr. Kenneth Tanaka will be the resource person)

Buddhism Study Group

The monthly Buddhism Study Group session is a brown bag lunch meeting to deepen understanding of the Dharma through reading and discussion. The sessions will be led by Dr. Ann Stegner, world religions professor at NOVA, but it is more the Sangha taking refuge in the Sangha and helping each other. The group meets regularly on the third Sunday of each month.

Sangha Member News

A big welcome to Rev. Nariaki Rajan Hayashi as Ekoji's new resident minister. Rev. Hayashi began his ministry at Ekoji on April 1. We look forward to his guidance as we walk the Pure Land path together.

Ekoji offers its deepest sympathies to Michael and Meadow Galvin upon the passing of Michael's mother in March. While Amida welcomes all just as we are, it is still only human to be deeply saddened by the loss. May they find comfort and support in the refuge that is the Buddha, the Dharma, and especially the Sangha.

With sympathy, Ekoji joins husband, Hisao (Mat), and the Matsumoto Family in mourning the passing of wife, mother, teacher, author, and beloved Sangha member Reiko. We can still see her smiling, welcoming face greeting us, and to see her reading to Ekoji's kids as she shares her original stories. Needless to say, she will be greatly missed. Memorial Service for Reiko will be held on Saturday, April 30th, at Ekoji.

Ekoji also offers its deepest sympathies to Jane and Frank Blechman on the passing of their very close friend, David Collins, age 56. Jane said of their friend, "He was full of life and good will and I concentrate on continuing that legacy."

The Ekoji Sangha congratulates Greg and Lisa Nakamura on the birth of the daughter Siena Haruka Nakamura. She born on February 24th at 4:17 a.m. She was 7 lbs 6.52 oz. 19.69 inches. Mother, father, and baby Siena are doing fine if not somewhat sleep deprived, we understand. Siena is the granddaughter

of Ken and Nori Nakamura of Burke, and Toshihide and Yumiko Iwahara of Japan.

Ekoji also shouts its heartiest congratulations to Jane and Frank Blechman on the upcoming marriage (April 9) of their son, Zachariah to Ms. Janice McGaha. All of the parents are so far reported to be fine!

Welcome home to Nora Nagatani on her return to Burke after helping son Gerald and Janice Nagatani with happy babysitting duties for their second son, James. We missed you!

Ann and John Ishikawa are out gallivanting the world, first in Hawaii for a wedding, and then to the Benelux region for the joy of it. They promise to be home before the start of Obon to help out.

Speaking of Obon, Ekoji gratefully, gratefully thanks Brant Horio, Emily Ihara, Cliff Long, and Diane Miyasato for agreeing to serve as General Chairs of Obon 2016. Now that the top is filled, we can all safely step forward and offer to help. Ekoji's Obon Festival is on Saturday, July 9th, and the Obon Service is on July 10th. For such a big undertaking, it has always required an all hands attitude to make it work.

Ken and Nori Nakamura just returned from a short R&R to Kona, Hawaii. They enjoyed the sun and warmth as well as their favorite Hawaiian foods. They also had to go to five beaches to find an adequate white sand beach to fulfill a promise to their grandchildren, Connor and Nami: to make a sand castle.

Ekoji thanks Laverne Imori and Kendall Kosai for representing the temple at the recent Buddhist Churches of America's (BCA) National Council meeting in Visalia, California. While Laverne is an experienced hand, this is Kendall's first venture into the workings of the BCA national legislative body. We hope they enjoyed the many long meetings, and we thank them for their service.

Nick Karen and Avery Higgins attended the BCA Youth Advisory Committee's (YAC) Reunion and Refresher Workshop at the Sacramento Buddhist Temple. This past summer, Nick and Avery joined about 20 high school-aged teenagers from around the country at a week-long YAC Retreat at the Sacramento Temple. They studied Buddhist service ritual and doctrine, besides forming solid friendships. At the end of the process, they became certified BCA Youth Minister's Assistants.

Please submit news to Michael Galvin so we can share with the Sangha.

Ekaji President's Message

By: Michael Galvin

These past months have been good ones for Ekaji and the sangha. New people continue to find the temple, find Jodu Shinshu compatible with their current world view, and sense that their world view might evolve with the addition of Buddhism in general and the Nembutsu path in particular as an influential factor in their model of samsara. This is a not so linear, very complex, and somewhat sublime multivariate model that seems, for most of us, to be a good predictor of success in our own terms: moments of Shinjin, flashes of enlightenment, warm rushes of what feels like truth, a glimpse of the world as it really is, the taste of the delicious nature of the immediate moment, and the scent of a source of existence that is not available to us when life goes on smoothly and perfectly.

We are so lucky...and we know that luck is not one of the factors in our model. What are factors in our model are the multitude of causes and conditions that, through an unimaginable expanse of time, and an inconceivable number of bits of matter and living things and sentient beings: all that has preceded us in the golden chain. The model that that predicts the miracle of this moment in our personal and community experience is beyond our comprehension, at the edge of the ripples and waves in our ponds and oceans, and... luckily for we Jodu Shinshu, on the tip of our tongue, Namu Amida Butsu.

So, for just a moment, lets be that foolish beings we are and feel lucky that we are about to acquire something that we have been craving for...our resident minister. Nariaki Rajan Hayashi is a son of a Japanese Jodu Shinshu minister and was raised in Hawaii until he was about ten years old. Until a month or so ago he lived in Kyoto with his wife, who will be joining him in Virginia within a few months. He is 32 years old and, before climbing the ministerial ladder, had a previous life in the hotel and resorts business. He recently graduated from the Buddhist Churches of America's International Ministry Training Program, and has been in California training with our west coast family for about a month now. He is about to realize his dream of spreading the Dharma as a resident minister in the United States. Stuart and I will pick him up at Dulles on the evening of April 1 and have him ready for his debut appearance in Virginia on April 3. We will all need to be on his care team for the first month or so, as he is arriving having driven on the other side of the road on the other side of the car for most of his life, and may not have fresh memories of how strange and different creatures we U.S. Buddhists can be, especially we Jodu Shinshu ones. If you want to be on this team, write me at michaelgalvin@ekoji.org, or catch me on a Sunday at Ekaji. I have a feeling we are in for a wild ride; find your seat belts.

Get Ready for EBL - Hosted by Seabrook

The 2016 EBL Conference takes place this year at Seabrook Buddhist Temple in Bridgeton, New Jersey, over the Labor Day Weekend. Please save the dates and plan to attend an informative and fun event.

The theme of the conference is *Come as You Are*. Our special Keynote speaker is Rev. Kenneth Tanaka. Rev. Tanaka is a Shin Buddhist minister and a renowned scholar, author, and translator. It will be a great treat to spend some time with him.

Another feature of this year's conference is that the Services and workshops will be run by the East Coast Temples' Minister's Assistants, with the Resident Ministers of the various temples supporting as observers.

Seabrook Buddhist Temple is unique in the Eastern District. It was founded to support Japanese working at Seabrook Farms after experiencing the intern-

ment camps during WWII. Many people in the Eastern Buddhist League have long family ties to Seabrook.

The entire program, including conference meals (but excluding Friday and Saturday dinners), will be held at the Temple in its tranquil rural setting. The hotel, Fairfield Inn & Suites Millville-Vineland, is about 20 minutes away. Stop at some of the area's fruit and vegetable stands to get the world renowned New Jersey fresh produce. If you can extend your stay on either end, Seabrook is located right between Philadelphia, PA, and Atlantic City.

Plan to *Come As You Are* to Seabrook this Labor Day! Contact the conference co-chairs for further information or with questions: Susan Jacques, Seabrook Buddhist Temple, sjacquespt@verizon.net, Gary Jaskula, New York Buddhist Church, gjaskula@cloud9.net.

84,000 Thoughts

Continued from page 1.

but the nembutsu embraces and guides us unconditionally. As a home-gardener I am able to have some understanding of the ups and downs of the cycle of life through the efforts of a farmer and I believe that the land teaches us many truths as well. How grateful we should be for these individuals who help to sustain our lives by providing food for our tables. We drove

the same road back to the city to catch our plane home. It's amazing how quickly the scenery changed in a matter of just a few days. The brilliant colors of the blooming orchards had become sparser and the plants were moving into another stage of life. Another great lesson: things are constantly changing.

Namo Amida Butsu

BCA Voices: Coffin Man

Continued from page 3.

who wrote NOKANFUNIKKI or Coffin Man. The story of Coffin Man was based on the author, Shinmon Aoki's experience. He encountered a thousand deaths. He said that there is a moment of exchanging their honest feeling and their life between the person who is dying and the person who remains. He uses an expression, Life's Baton Passing, to describe the moment of exchanging their honest feeling and their life. Let me introduce his comment to you.

"A human being must die someday. Therefore, there is the life's baton passing between a person who dies and a person who remains. The person who is dying says, 'Thank you.' The person who remains replies 'Thank you.' There is such a baton passing between them. People who look away from death may overlook it. But, there is the life's baton passing in a mo-

ment of exchanging of feelings with their eyes."

In our Buddhist tradition, we cherish the end of our life and the moment of death. In a pillow service (Makuragyō), we reflect upon our life and our loved one's life and how our lives are related to our loved one. The author, Shinmon Aoki, said that there is life's baton passing a moment of exchanging their honest feeling and their life between the person who is dying and the person who remains. We cannot see the form of people we love that we have lost. We cannot talk with them anymore. We cannot hear their voice, but people we love that we have lost are always watching us and teaching us Buddhism, telling us to recite Namō Amida Butsu. We still have ties with our loved one. Namō Amida Butsu

Buddhist and Jodo Shinshu Symbols - April Hanamatsuri

HANAMATSURI. As was the custom in those days, Queen Maya was on her way to her parents' home to give birth to her child.

It was the eighth day of the fourth month of the 5th or 6th century BCE. Spring came late that year, and the hills and fields were bursting with flower, creating a most colorful sight. Queen Maya's retinue was so taken by the beauty of the Lumbini Garden, which they encountered on their journey home, that they decided to rest there for awhile. While rising to take a closer look at a branch of a lovely Asoka tree, the queen suddenly gave birth to a beautiful prince. The name chosen for him was Siddhartha.



According to the sutras that describe the event, Siddhartha took seven steps as soon as he was born. Pointing to the heavens and to the earth, he said in

a loud voice, "In the Heavens above and on the Earth below, I alone am the World-Honored One. All that exists in the Three Worlds is suffering, but I will bring comfort."

The Heavens were said to have been so moved by these words that they rained down sweet tea in response....

The day of his birth, April eighth is celebrated today as Hanamatsuri (lit., Flower Festival) or Buddha Day. Namō Amida Butsu

(Adapted from Jodo Shinshu: A Guide, Hongwanji)

Hongwanji Gomonshu Accession Tours

In 2014, Gomonshu (Abbot) Koshin Ohtani retired from his position as Gomonshu and his eldest son, Kojun was appointed as the 25th generation Gomonshu of the Nishi Hongwanji Temple and the Hongwanji Sect. In 2016 and 2017, six months of celebratory services will be held to mark the accession of His Eminence Kojun Ohtani. Two service dates, Oct. 21, 2016, and March 31, 2017, have been designated as service dates for international members, so these tours will coincide with these two service dates and you can join together with members from the Hawaii, Canada, South America and European sanghas on this auspicious occasion.

Several tours are being coordinated by temples on the West Coast, and we would like to invite Eastern District members to join the tours. If you have any questions or are interested in any of these tours, please contact tour coordinator Brian Nagata, manager@numatacenter.com as soon as possible. Tour arrangements are being made through Japan Travel Bureau (JTB) San Francisco office. You can also arrange through JTB to stay longer and tour more or visit friends and relatives before or after the tour as well. Tour #1 will take place this fall and will attend the October 21 Accession Service.

Tour #1: Japanese American Heritage Tour: The highlight of this tour will be an opportunity to meet or visit with your relatives if they live in Kyoto, Hiroshima, Yamaguchi, Fukuoka or Kumamoto prefectures. Translators available to help you communicate and if you don't have a current address or name of relatives, we will help you try to locate your relatives. This tour is being coordinated by the Central California District churches.

- Oct. 9 to Oct. 22 (14 days including travel)
- Tour Cost: Estimated \$3,600 plus airfare

Tours #2 and #3 will be going to Japan in March

2017 and will attend the March 31, 2017 Accession Service. Tour #3 is almost at maximum sign-up right now, so we encourage anyone wanting to go on this tour, to sign up as soon as possible with Brian Nagata.

Tour #2: First Timers – Best of Japan Tour: Geared to those BCA members who have never been to Japan before and would like to see and experience some of the highlights of Japan, its culture, history, religion and cuisine. Brian Nagata will lead this tour

- March 27 to April 7 (12 days including travel)
- Tour Cost: Estimated \$3,600 plus airfare

Tour #3: Hidden Nembutsu Tour: During the feudal era in Japan, the Hongwanji and the Shin sect became a major power in Japan, even overthrowing some provincial lords and ruling the area themselves. Afraid of this threat, the provincial lord of Kagoshima Prefecture banned Shin Buddhism for over 250 years in his province, and Nembutsu followers had to resort to practicing their faith underground or "hidden." During this time, more than 120,000 Shin Buddhists were put to death by the provincial government because of their unwillingness to give up their Nembutsu faith. We will visit some historical sites and see how the "hidden" Nembutsu survived and is cherished to this day. This tour is coordinated by the Berkeley Buddhist Temple and will be led by Rev. Candice Shibata.

- March 23 to April 3 (12 days including travel)
- Tour Cost: Estimated \$3,600 plus airfare

The above tour prices are only rough estimates and all tours are still subject to revisions. Tour prices and airfares are not yet finalized due to fluctuating dollar/yen valuations and changing oil prices. We will try to get prices as soon as possible if you are interested in going on one of the tours. About 1/3 of meals are included in the tour package price.

Ekaji at the Cherry Blossom Festival

Ekaji will be participating in the 56th Annual Sakura Matsuri Japanese Street Festival (aka the Cherry Blossom festival) in Washington, DC, on April 16. This year the Cherry Blossom festival will be located next to the National's baseball stadium, near the Navy Yard Subway station. Volunteer for a minimum of two hours at the Ekaji Buddhist Temple table and get the opportunity to enjoy the street festival for free. The minimum age to volunteer is 12 years old. Space is limited! If you are in need of volunteer hours, you are

able to receive them with this event. You must show up 10 minutes before your shift. This is a great way to get to know other members of Ekaji and connect with the community. If you would like to help, but you are unable to participate in the street festival physically, you can donate candy, trinkets, and other giveaways. Please leave the giveaways in the Ekaji office upstairs labeled Cherry Blossom Festival. To volunteer or if you have questions, contact Delana Oliver at bethde_4@hotmail.com.

Ekaji Dana List - February/March 2016

Ajit and Samantha Silva
Andrea Walter
Andrew Barden
Anna Tecson
Anne-Christine and David Moore
Anthony and Kristy Capizzi
Arlene Mayeda
Arlene and Wayne Minami
Art Politano
BDK America
Bob Shimokaji
Bud Uyeda
Clifford Long
Donald and Tomoko Smith
Ella and William Maneely
Emily Ihara
Erick Ishii
Erni Diez-Fugitt
Frank Swithers
Gerald Boudriaault
Heidi Forrest
Hisao Matsumoto
Hoi Chan Nguyen – Vietnamese
Tour Group
James Cho
Jane Blechman
Joran and Ann Stegner
Kelli Gary Higgins
Ken and Nori Nakamura
Kendal Kosai
Lan-HuongT Hoang Conservative

Lani Pham & Pierre Karen
Laverne Imori
Leslie Poon
Lisa and Greg Nakamura
Mark LaWall
Mary Okamoto
Michelle Amano
Norm and Gail Kondo
Peter Golemboski
Rachael Lang Harris
Rebecca Perry And William
Nelson
Ron and Nora Nagatani
Sam Fugitt
Sarah Barlow
SooH-Zun Hwang
Stuart Ott
Susan Grimes
Susan Nagata Bottari
Tida and Art Rask
Tim and Susan Cathcart
William Robertson
Yuko and Toshiaki Keicho

In Memory of:
Arlene and Wayne Minami for
Fred Okamoto
Mary Okamoto for Fred Okamoto
Y.B. Iwakiri for Mariko Horita
Mariko Harita from Ron and Nora
Nagatani

Kalavinka

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Join us at Ekaji!

Adult Service: Sundays at 11 a.m.
Meditation: Thursdays at 8 p.m.
Children's Dharma School (Sept. through
June):
10 a.m. family service and 11 a.m. classes

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



EKOJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE
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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

FIRST CLASS