The Official Newsletter of Ekoji Buddhist Temple

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84,000 THOUGHTS: A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER

WRITTEN BY REVEREND NARIAKI HAYASHI

"What is the significance of a Sangha?

One of the great aspects of a Sangha is that it gives us a sense of interconnectedness that allows us to go beyond ourselves into something deeper.

What does it mean to go beyond one's self? Through the dedication and tremendous efforts of Buddhist ministers, scholars and laity, the teachings of Buddha became available through various books, articles and internet writings. These can give you great knowledge of Buddhism.

However, written words have lost the sound of the original teachings which are then incomplete. I think it is important to receive the teachings through sound as well as the written words because the written words inform the mind but the sound touches the heart.

Chanting works the same way. When we chant in a foreign language, especially with a diverse group, we concentrate on our voices, accept the individual differences in our tones, and meld our voice with others around us. When we find ourselves part of such a harmonious sound, we go beyond ourselves and beyond race, gender, and status to become one. We recognize our interconnectedness. This can only happen within a Sangha.

It is important to read and learn about Buddhism, but it is difficult to be on the true path when one is alone. Buddhism needs you to go beyond yourself and so you need the Sangha.

My great hope for Ekoji is that even more people will encounter the truth of interconnectedness through our Sangha.

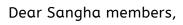






FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

WRITTEN BY JANE BLECHMAN





Our temple is a place of sanctuary where we feel safe and secure. But I think it is essential to address the issue of emergency preparedness with you. I cannot imagine someone who would want to harm others, but the real world is here, it can seep into our lives at Ekoji, and it is scary. I hope we will never encounter a situation of a natural disaster or an active shooter. Then again, we cannot put our heads in the sand and not face the topic. I want us to feel secure and safe, and our dharma school kids never to feel afraid.

The Board of Directors had the Fairfax County Police come out and evaluate our safety. They gave us advice on keeping our buildings safe with security measures regarding doors, windows, exits, etc. The board will be working on those initiatives. We will be actively seeking temple leaders who are willing to be trained in emergency preparedness, so if the occasion arises, we have someone to look to in time of confusion and fear.

We have scheduled, on June 23rd after service, an officer from the Fairfax County Police Department to give us a presentation on this issue. Please add this to your calendar; whether your children attend or not is your decision.

Rest assured we have not had any threats against us; we are proactive in an uncertain world.

Please if you have questions, or comments email me at janeblechman@gmail.com

In gassho, Jane

WHAT IS THE BOARD UP TO?

Campus Maintenance:

- *Kitchen renovation; working with a contractor, getting permits, buying appliances, etc.
- *New Temple HVAC systems to be installed soon.
- *Parsonage renovation made possible by the generosity of BDK
- *New Landscaping Company hired for grounds maintenance
- *General Maintenance: dealing with old doors, loose handles, etc.
- *Monthly finance work
- *Monthly board meetings

Fundraising Activites:

- *Food fundraisers; planned and cooked by Rev. and Mrs.Hayashi
- *Arts Festival fundraiser
- *Obon festival/fundraiser
- *Tet Celebration fundraiser
- *Valentine's day flowers fundraiser
- *Open Mic Night fundraisers
- *Membership pledge drive
- *Gift of Light Fund ongoing fundraising effort

Outreach:

- *Cherry Blossom Festival booth
- *Kalavinka and website redesign/update
- *Social media strategy review to keep our message clear and consistent across platforms
- *Informative brochure and admin guide redesign/update

Special Projects:

- *Emergency preparedness planning
- *Seeking volunteers (this is where you come in)

All of this plus more are being done by your minister, board members and members of our stewardship committees.

Join us in our effort to keep Ekoji going!

EKOJI SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Regular Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Service: Each Sunday 11:00 a.m.

The first Sunday service in April is a special service commemorating the birth of the Buddha and starts at 10:30 a.m.

Children's Dharma School: Meets from September to mid-May.

A Children's Service takes place the first Sunday of the month, beginning at 10:00 a.m.; followed by dharma school classes from 11-noon.

On subsequent Sundays the children meet for class beginning at 11:00 a.m.

Meditation Group:

Thursday evenings beginning at 7:30.

If you are new to meditation, it is suggested you arrive about 30 minutes early for orientation.

Oasagi Morning Service: The Service is held at 10:00 a.m. on the 16th day of each month.

Specials Services:

Arrangements for life marking special services like weddings, funerals, and memorial can be arranged through the minister, Rev. Hayashi at (703) 239-0500 or ekoji.info@gmail.com.

Please check our website at www.ekoji.org for possible changes in schedule.



PLEASE JOIN US FOR EKOJI'S JOINT GOTAN-E SERVICE

A CELEBRATION OF SHINRAN SHONIN'S BIRTH

EKOJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE May 19, 2019 – 11:00 a.m.

Gotan-e is one of the most important observances of a Jodo Shin Buddhist Temple. On Gotan-e, we celebrate the birth of Shinran Shonin (1173-1262), the founder of our Jodo Shinshu or Shin Buddhist Denomination. Shinran awakened to the Compassion of Amida Buddha's Primal Vow, and throughout his life, taught us that a life based upon an entrusting heart in the Primal Vow will be the way of overcoming the sorrows and tribulations that beset us. It is also our means of contributing towards the happiness and enrichment of society and mankind.

Today, not only in Japan but in countries throughout the world, there are increasing numbers of people who follow the footsteps of Shinran Shonin in their search for inner peace.

(From Shinran in the contemporary world, Hongwanji International Center.)

EKOJI'S PAST - OUR PAST

SHOTSUKI MEMORIAL SERVICE

At the beginning of every month, Ekoji, and many other BCA temples, conduct a Shotsuki Service in memory of those people whose date of death (meinichi) falls in that month. Those who are present during the service are invited to burn incense during the chanting of a sutra in remembrance of their loved ones, and the Kalavinka will also provide a list in remembrance of Ekoji's members and friends who passed away during the month of the issue.

This is not for those who have passed away because they are already taken care of by the fulfillment of the 18th Vow, but it provides us an opportunity to remember, express our gratitude and reflect on their continuing influence on our lives.

Traditionally special family memorial services are held on specific years following the death of a loved one. It provides us, as a family, to once again remember those who passed away and to hear the Dharma together.

Arrangements for Special Family Memorial Services may be arranged by contacting Rev. Hayashi.

FOR 2019 the years for Special Family Memorial Services are: 2018 - 1st Year; 2017 - 3rd Year; 2013 - 7th Year; 2007 - 13th Year; 2001 - 17th Year; 1995 - 25th Year; 1987 - 33rd Year; 1970 - 50th Year.

FOR THE MOTHS OF APRIL, MAY, and JUNE, we will be remembering with gratitude:

APRIL MAY JUNE

Robert Miyashiro, 2003 Clair Minami, 2009 Kimi Kawamura, 1992 Geraldine Hamai Cantwell, 2007 Mary Okamoto, 2017

Masaru Ushiro, 2008 Rev. Shojo Honda, 2015

EKOJI HOLDS ANNUAL HANAMATSURI SERVICE CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF THE BUDDHA, SIDDHARTHA

Instead of the usual ringing of the Kansho bell calling us to service on April 7th, we started with the beat of taiko drums announcing the start of Ekoji's 38th annual Hanamatsuri or Buddha Day Service celebrating the birth of Siddhartha, the historical Buddha. As the Sangha looked at the Naijin, they saw a beautiful Hanamido, or flower alter, welcoming them.

Assisted by Ekoji's Youth Minister's Assistant Nic Karen and Truc Vo, service started with a procession of each of the Dharma School children bringing flowers to add to the Hanamido, and pouring sweet tea over the statue of the infant Buddha in the flower alter.

Resident Minister Nariaki Hayashi, in his Dharma Talk, discussed the symbolism of the Hanamido to the birth story of Siddhartha. He explained that the Hanamido represented Lumbini Garden where Siddhartha was born, and the pouring of the sweet tea over the statue of the baby Buddha was symbolic of the sweet rain that fell from the heavens upon the Buddha as the universe celebrated his birth. Rev. Hayashi then pointed out that often when studying Buddhism, people focus on the teachings. However, there are also important things to learn from Siddhartha's life. Rev. Hayashi shared two stories about Siddhartha that he considers significant. The first details Siddhartha's experiences of giving up the severe life of an aesthetic after having already given up the luxurious life of a prince and subsequently finding the Middle Path to his enlightenment. The second story describes Siddhartha taking nourishment from the young maiden, Sujata, when he abandoned his aesthetic practice; consequently demonstrating that the differences of the social caste system were unimportant to him and that his teachings would be for all. Rev. Hayashi suggested that, as we study our religion more deeply, we need to look at the teachings in the many forms that it is presented to us.

Following Rev. Hayashi's Dharma Talk, Co-Superintendent of Ekoji's Dharma School Maya Horio introduced this year's Dharma School "Sangha Buddies" project. She explained that because the Dharma School and the regular adult service were at different times, the interaction between the two was limited. This year, each of the Dharma School children chose an adult whom they did not know and the new "Sangha Buddies" interviewed each other using questions chosen by the students. The interview write-ups, portraits drawn by each Sangha buddy pair, and photos of the buddies were taped onto the Hondo walls, and the Sangha were invited to look at the interviews and pictures to learn about their Dharma School students and fellow Sangha members. The students then led the Sangha in singing the gathas, "We Are One" and "A Flower Grows."

With the closing of the service, the Sangha was invited to also participate in pouring sweet tea, and performing Gassho.

We then enjoyed the Hanamatsuri pot luck and each other's fellowship as befitting a Sangha. A big thanks to Rev. Hayashi and Kim Nguyen for constructing the meaningful Hanamido and to the Dharma School children for their participation.

ANNUAL BUDDHIST OBSERVANCES AT EKOJI

Below is a list of annual Buddhist observances held at Ekoji. Services for these observances are generally held on a Sunday close to the designated date.

JANUARY

New Year's Day (Shusho-e) – January 1: This is a gathering to learn from our past and begin the New Year with a renewed resolution to endeavor to live a life in the Nembutsu.

Hoonko - January 16: This commemorates the passing of the founder of Shin Buddhism, Shinran Shonin.

FEBRUARY

Nirvana Day (Nehan-e) – February 15: The service commemorates the passing of Siddhartha, the historical Buddha, at Kusinagara.

MARCH

Spring Higan (Shunki Higan) – March 20: Held around the Spring Equinox when nature seems to be in balance, we should reflect on the harmony in our inner lives.

ΔPRII

Hanamatsuri (Buddha Day) - April 8: We commemorate the birth of Siddhartha, the historical Buddha, in Lumbini Garden.

MAY

Gotan-e (Shinran Shonin Day) – May 21: Celebrates the birth of Shinran Shonin, the founder of Shin Buddhism.

JULY

Obon (Kangi-e - A Gathering of Joy) - July 15: A memorial day providing us an opportunity to express our gratitude, not only to our ancestors, but to all who have passed before us.

SEPTEMBER

Fall Higan (Shuki Higan) - September 22: Like the Spring Higan, it provides us an opportunity to reflect on the inner peace within us

NOVEMBER

Eitaikyo (Perpetual Memorial Service): This service is dedicated to, and expresses our gratitude to those who helped the local temple and its Sangha grow in the Dharma.

Pet Memorial: It is a time to express or gratitude to all of our pets who have supported and protected us with their unqualified love, and to those animals who have died so that we could live.

DECEMBER

Bodhi Day (Jodo-e) -December 8: Commemorates the awakening of Siddhartha to the Dharma while meditating under the Bodhi Tree.

Year End Service (Joya-e) – December 31: This is a time to reflect upon our interdependence on everything that has helped us live this past year. It is also a time we ring a bell 108 times to symbolically cast off our 108 defilements and attachments binding us to this world of delusion.

EKOJI PARTICIPATES IN A "LOVE THY NEIGHBOR" INTERFAITH CONCERT

WRITTEN BY YUKO KEICHO

Ekoji singers and musicians joined an Interfaith Concert organized by and held at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Annandale, Virginia on March 17. This was the first time for Ekoji, which was led by Ekoji Music Director Yuko Keicho, to participate in such an interfaith music event. Eleven Ekoji Sanga members took the stage in front of over 300 people, and proudly sang three Gathas – "Vandana &Ti Sarana", "Namo Amida Butsu", and "We Are One".



The theme of the concert was "LOVE THY NEIGHBOR". The organizer, Regan Brough of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, explained that the idea of the concert came as the community was stressed out with increasing hostility and hate crimes in society. The concert provided an opportunity for people in different religions to understand each other through the joy of music.

Five churches and temples in the area – Ekoji, Abiding Presence Lutheran church, Congregation Olam Tikvah, John Calvin Presbyterian Church, and the Washington, D.C. Temple Choir – participated in the concert. Ekoji was the first performer of the evening. Following an introduction by Ken Nakamura, Rev. Hayashi started singing the first line of the Vandana Ti Sarana, "Namo Tassa Bhagavato Arahato Sammasambuddahssa...." in a beautiful clear voice. Other members joined Sensei and added harmony. Mark LaWall and Yuko Keicho accompanied them with guitar and piano. Our three simple songs were filled with dharma messages of interdependence, compassion and care. We felt that messages were reaching the audience. Many people in the audience commented afterwards that they loved the tranquility and peacefulness of the Gathas.

Ekoji participants also enjoyed listening to and singing along with music by other churches. Singing in Hebrew was particularly interesting. At the end of the concert, choir members from all of the churches went on to stage and sang an Irish folk song, "An Irish Blessing", to celebrate Saint Patrick Day and close the concert. A strong sense of bonding and unity filled the air as we sang this beautiful Irish song together.

THE SANGHA SCOOP

Welcome home to world traveler Anh Thu Vo who is in her last year at the University of Virginia. She spent last summer working in Vietnam, and then for the fall semester studied EU law in Amsterdam. Anh Thu joined her older sister, Truc, exploring Madrid and its environs. Then for Spring break, she visited her friends in Buenos Aires, Argentina, before coming home to Ekoji for a weekend before leaving for Charlottesville and school. That sound of footsteps running is Anh Thu.

Speaking of world travelers, Norm and Gail Kondo recently returned from another trip to Hawaii and Japan. They joined Norm's brother, his sister and brother-in-law in travelling to Tokyo, Hakone (Mt. Fuji), Hiroshima, Miyajima, Himeji to see the historic and beautiful Himeji Castle or White Heron Castle which is the largest, surviving castle complex in Japan, Okayama, and finally Kyoto. We understand more international travel is planned later in the year. No moss gathering under these rolling stones.

Brant and Maya Horio and their children, Connor and Nami, travelled with Brant's brother, Ross, and his four kids on a fast trip to Atlanta, Georgia to enjoy its wonders, including a giant shark in Atlanta's famous aquarium.

Ekoji welcomed Rev. and Mrs. Tatsuo Muneto of Honolulu, Hawaii, and their family as they joined us at our Hanamatsuri service. Rev. Muneto and family were neighbors of our minister, Rev. Nariaki Hayashi, at Hawaii's Honpa Hongwanji Betsuin when Rev. Hayashi was still a little boy. The Munetos were visiting their daughter, and family who live in Glenelg, Md.

Tim and Susan Cathcart, who retired to Kentucky, were recently in the area on a fast trip to VA and DC. They were able, however, to get together for dinner with Rev. Hayashi. They are doing well and staying busy, and extend their best to all at the temple.

Anthony and Cristy Capizzi report that daughter, Abby, is in the Army and has completed her training as a helicopter mechanic. We all wish her well, and very much thank her for her service.

Megan Craig left for Japan to teach English for a year in late March. We wished her a Bon Voyage and reminded her to come home to us, and we look forward to updates on her Japan adventure. In the meantime, parents Jon and Alice are trying to get used to being empty nesters.

Congratulations to Tom Cray's son, Cub Scout Torin Cray, on earning the Metta Religious Award. The Metta is the religious award for Cub Scouts and is administered by the Buddhist Churches of America on behalf of the Boy Scouts of America. Torin earned his award by working on line with Rev. Patti Oshita of the Sacramento Buddhist Temple. The Metta requires a lot of family participation. Tom said that his son wanted to know more about Buddhism, the path that his father has chosen to walk, so they both studied for the Metta together. Congratulations, Torin!

NEN DAIKO CONNECTS WITH HUNDREDS DURING CHERRY BLOSSOM SEASON

Did you notice that the sakura blossoms were extra fluffy this year? This was the first time in many years that Nen Daiko had the opportunity to perform at the Tidal Basin at peak bloom during the Sakura Taiko Takeover. Nen Daiko also performed at the Freedom Walk, Smithsonian American Art Museum, Torpedo Factory, National Harbor's Sakura Sunday, and Sakura Matsuri. We were even featured on the evening news by ABC 7 – WJLA for 15 seconds of fame!

At the Freedom Walk, we were joined by our teen taiko group Dounen Daiko. They helped us represent Ekoji respectfully at this special annual event.

On June 2, Nen Daiko will perform at the Maker Faire NoVA at George Mason University (https://nova.makerfaire.com/). This is the first time we have performed at this huge community event. We will also lead a workshop on making gomidaiko or practice taiko from plastic buckets.

On June 22, Nen Daiko will travel to New York to attend the 40th Anniversary Concert by our sister group Soh Daiko. This is a tremendous milestone for our mentors.

Please join us at one of our upcoming performances or open houses! Check out the calendar on our website: http://nendaiko.weebly.com



THANK YOU TO OUR SAKURA MATSURI BOOTH VOLUNTEERS



I want to take this chance to thank all of you for volunteering for this year's Sakura Matsuri Street festival. This was a great opportunity to share the Sangha of Ekoji with the rest of the Washington,D.C. metropolitan area. Every year we participate in this festival and it is a joy to have the opportunity to get to know the people that make Ekoji possible. Many people came up to the table and were interested in Buddhism and the Temple.

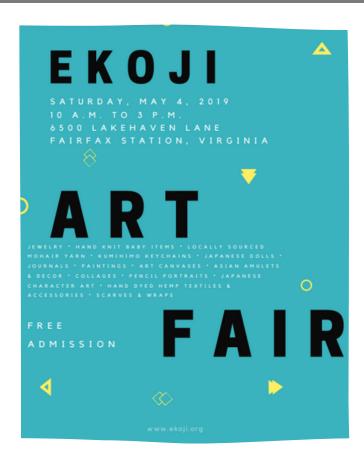
All of this would not have been possible without the people in front and behind the scenes. All of your efforts no matter big or small made a major impact on this festival. When we talk about interdependence, this festival is a true testament to the power of community. The festival was a great success.

I want to make a special thank you to Ed Sams. For the past few years he has been my Co-Chair for this festival. Without his help I don't know what I would do. Every year, this festival is a lot of work but your smiling faces makes it worth it.

I salute you all: Ed Sams, Diana Ho, Yasuko Okauchi, Mark LaWall, Roger Scott, Sean Ross, Seth Read, Anna Stevens, Loraraine Crilley, Trang Nguyen, Erick Ishi, Gabrielle Harrison Vu, and Shiho Horikiri.

I have been chairing the Sakura Matsuri Street festival since 2004. It is now time to pass the baton to another Chair person for the 2020 Sakura Matsuri Street festival. It has been a blast and I am sure the next person will enjoy it as much as I have these past years. The only thing that is required is a vehicle for transporting materials. If you are interested, please contact Delana Oliver at bethde_4@hotmail.com .

In much gratitude, Sakura Matsuri Chair: Delana Oliver



EKOJI WELCOMES ITS NEWEST MEMBERS

Anyone is welcome to attend Sunday services and social events at Ekoji regardless of their membership status.

Becoming a member of Ekoji Buddhist Temple is something more. It is a way of expressing your personal investment in continuing the temple's ability to share the Dharma and meet the needs of its sangha.

Thank You for joining Ekoji's Sangha!

Jan:

Joe Crilley Samantha Ondrusek

Feb:

Daniel Maggard

Mar:

Michele Bailey Jon and Alice Craig

NAMO AMIDA BUTSU

VICKEY CHURCHMAN AND LESLIE POON
TEAM PURPLE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
MEMBERSHIP@EKOJI.ORG

MAY 2019 SAVE THE DATES

Ekoji Arts Fair Saturday, May 4, 2019 10 am to 3 pm

Temple Clean-up
May 5,2019
9 - 10 am
Cleaning the temple helps us be mindful
about the atmosphere of the temple and the
people that are caring for the temple

Dharma School Class and
Family Service Schedule
May 5th 10 am Service/ Class at 11 am
May 12th Class 11am
May 19th End of Year Party 10 am-11 am
Joint service at 11 am
May 26th NO SCHOOL

Non-Violent Communication Workshop Saturday, May 11, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Instructor: Sean Ross Suggested donation, \$15 Register at :https://www.ekoji.org/workshops/

Nonviolent Communication is the integration of 4 things: Consciousness, Language, Communication and Means of influence. Come and learn an overview of this methodology as well as many examples of how NVC can be used to live with choice, meaning, and connection to enable more satisfying relationships.

Gotan-E Service May 19,2019 11 am

Refreshments in the Sangha Hall after service. Gotan-E celebrates the birth of our founder Shinran Shonin who was born on May 21, 1173.

Book Club May 19, 2019 12:30 pm Tsuji Center Conference Room

Naikan Self Reflection Workshop May 26th 9 – 10:45 am

ONGOING:
Dounen Daiko Practice at 1 pm
May 5th, 12th, 19th
Nen Daiko Practice at 2 pm
May 5th. 12th, 19th
Nen Daiko Practice at 7:30 pm

Nen Daiko Practice at 7:30 Every Wednesday

Meditation Every Thursday at 7:30 pm

Oasaji Service Thursday, May 16·10:00 – 11:00am

A memorial service held on the 16th of each month to honor our founder, Shinran Shonin. We chant the Shoshinge, offer incense, sit in quiet reflection. The Shoshinge delineates the development of the Jodo Shinshu path.

COUNTDOWN TO OBON BEGINS

That time of year again is fast approaching! This year's Obon Festival is on Saturday, July 13th, 2019! The Obon Festival is an opportunity to celebrate and remember our loved ones who have passed before us and to express our gratitude for their influence on our own lives.

This year is special as it's the 40th Ekoji Obon Festival. When we think about the Dharma and of causes and conditions, it is with nothing but gratitude that we consider the amazing fact that you the Sangha, have contributed in ways that have allowed our humble temple host an Obon festival 40 straight years, growing from less than a hundred guests to now over 1,800! As always, we expect to serve our guests some great food and entertainment, featuring Ekoji's own taiko ensemble, Nen Daiko, and our new youth taiko group, Dounen Daiko. The contemporary Hawaiian music group, the Aloha Boys have graciously agreed to come back, and of course, we will have Bon Odori dancing as the featured centerpiece of this traditional Japanese festival. New this year, we will have the "Eight Hole Path" mini golf course, and hopefully many more festival games. The popular kids scavenger hunt that allow the kids to explore the festival grounds will return, as well as the "Eightfold Path Obstacle Course," that features small obstacles for each of the Eightfold Path concepts, and three challenge events that represent the Paramitas, focusing on perseverance (Virya), meditation (Dhyana), and patience (Ksanti). In this way, we hope to make our Obon Festival not one of just celebration and culture, but of the Dharma.

DANA LIST

Ekoji Buddhist Temple thanks the following individuals for their generous gifts during April 2019:

Robert A. Rowe

and Archer W. Harmon

BDK America

Norm and Gail Kondo

Arthur and Keiko Brown

Anthony and Kristy Capizzi Michael and Miki Wellck

Ken and Nori Nakamura in memory of Shiqeki

Sugiyama

Ken and Nori Nakamura Marisa and Tamon Honda

Tasha and Thomas Brickhouse Sayoko and Yukio Kawamoto

Michele Bailey
Jesse Barrick
Carmen Bernett
Carol Blackwell
Jane Blechman
Andrea Chapman
Jon & Alice Craig
Joseph Crilley
John Daniels Riveros

Katherine Diep Mahkameh Doroud Joe Fabre

Stanley Fujii Robin Graine Susan Grimes

Rahman Gunawan

Hideo Hashimoto

Edward Hill

Yasuko Ho

Lan-Huong T. Hoang

Conservatee

Maya and Brant Horio Emily Ihara

Winn Jones Kio Kanda Yuko Keicho Sandy Kita Mark LaWall Jay Lindenberg Clifford Long

Sandra Lukic-Dapoingy Arlene and Wayne Minami Bert and Nancy Motonaga

Trang Nguyen
Leslie Poon
Piyatida Rask
Edward Sams
Roger Scott
Bob Shimokaji
John Sutch

Frank Swithers Pilar Uelmen Ramona Verrico Richard Wolford Mikio Yamashita

Our festival closes at the end of the evening in our beautiful Japanese garden, filled with lit candles that bear the names of our loved ones. Reverend Hayashi will close with a brief ceremony.

We will be building upon the success of last year, where our new food service design and parking arrangements helped us bring in the most revenue in the history of Ekoji's Obon Festivals. For this year to be even more successful, we have to focus on the biggest challenge that we faced last year: volunteerism. This is our biggest fund raising event of the year and we need all of your help. We all love this temple and this sangha and we need these funds to continue to share the Buddha Dharma, connect with fellow travelers on this path, and maintain our temple. Please stay in touch as we announce how you can help and what you can donate to help defray our costs. Thank you for your continued support of Ekoji and we will see you soon!

For more information on our Obon, please visit: http://ekojiobonfestival.weebly.com

In gassho, the 2019 Obon Planning Committee