

THE KALAVINKA

The Official Newsletter of Ekoji Buddhist Temple

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84,000 THOUGHTS: A MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER



WRITTEN BY REV. NARIAKI HAYASHI

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SYMPATHY AND EMPATHY?

According to the Oxford English Dictionary, sympathy means, “feelings of pity and sorrow for someone else misfortune.” Note that it says you have these feelings for someone else.

Empathy according to the Oxford English Dictionary is: “the ability to try to understand and share the feelings of another.”

The point here is to share the same feelings, which involves you to reflect within yourself what has occurred to others. I think this is the attitude that is needed when receiving the Dharma, Buddha's teachings.

The Dharma is not just a set of ideas that you try to understand objectively but must be internalized. We must see ourselves in the Dharma. So the issue is not what the Dharma literally means, but what it means for you in particular.

For example, one of the fundamental teachings is impermanence, which literally means that everything changes, nothing lasts forever, or all is transient. If impermanence is taken objectively, it is just an interesting philosophical idea. Since impermanence is not internalized, you may just say “I understand impermanence,” where you are the subject of the sentence and impermanence is the object and two are separated. However, when you internalize and try to see yourself in the uncontrollable nature of impermanence then your mind will say “I myself am impermanence,” so the subject, I, and the object, impermanence, become one.

The objective way of thinking means that you may understand impermanence with your head but not in your heart. So when impermanence finally does affect you, it will be hard to believe in impermanence and even harder to accept it. Then the fact that we are all impermanent will cause great stress and suffering. However, if you see impermanence not as something outside yourself but as part of you, you will be able to adjust to it.

KALAVINKA

A Newsletter of Ekoji Buddhist Temple

- Advisor: Rev. Nariaki Hayashi
- Editor In Chief: Ken Nakamura (interim)
- Production Editor: Molly Kuramoto
- Contributing Editors and Writers:
- Dharma School: Maya Horio
- New Member Recognition: Vickey Churchman and Leslie Poon
- Volunteer Thank You: Ed Hill and Rose Fitzpatrick
- Calendar and Events: Jane Blechman
- Nen Daiko: Emily Ihara

You are invited to visit our website at ekoji.org for more information about Shin Buddhism and Ekoji Buddhist Temple.

FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

WRITTEN BY
JANE BLECHMAN



Dear Sangha members,

One tire on my car was losing air regularly. It was annoying finding it low and having to add air. For two years, my adventure continued; the tire shops said there was no damage, no nails, signs of tears or puncture holes. The shop tells me to monitor it and let them know if it continues. Losing air is frustrating, worrisome and when there is no answer, it becomes downright stressful. In April, it was losing air every day so back to the dealership this time. Now, I again have an okay tire but worn, but they went one step further. They sanded down the wheel rim and sold me four new tires. Frustration over, stress over.

MORAL OF THE STORY:

In life, things happen to us, and the only thing that truly matters is how you choose to react to it and what you make out of it. Life is all about learning, adapting and converting all the struggles that we experience into something positive.

LESSON LEARNED:

Straight to the dealership = no stress

In gassho,
Jane

BDK VISIT TO EKOJI

WRITTEN BY JANE BLECHMAN

On the weekend of April 29, Ekoji had the pleasure of hosting Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai's (BDK) leaders--from Japan Rev. Katsura, Mr. Aoki and Rev. Ogi, along with BDK's American representatives, Dr. George Tanabe, Mr. Mikio Yamashita and Rev. Brian Nagata. From Ekoji's very beginning, BDK has been a strong supporter of the temple and its programs over these many years.

The gentlemen were in North America to endow a Chair of Numata Programs in Buddhist Studies at the University of Toronto. However, they decided to take a quick trip down to visit us.

Although BDK was here only for the weekend, we were able to spend time to get to know each other. Rev. Hayashi and I spent time with Rev. Katsura (Chairman of BDK) on Saturday evening discussing Ekoji's vision, how we are a diverse community, and our vision of moving Ekoji forward. On Sunday they attended service and afterwards enjoyed a lovely reception with our Sangha. They expressed a positive impression of Ekoji and its members.

We are very grateful to BDK for taking the time to visit Ekoji. While BDK has been a steadfast supporter of Ekoji over its 35 years, we as members of Ekoji are responsible for maintaining our temple and for our growth. Let us continue on this path, and thank you all for being a part of Ekoji and helping to show BDK who we are -- an American Shin Buddhist temple based in the Dharma.

WHAT IS THE BOARD UP TO?

APRIL BOARD MEETING REPORT

APPROVED:

Purchase of new service books at \$4,000
Kitchen deposits to contractor for \$7,950
Temple HVAC contract signed and deposit of \$28,650
Parsonage renovation contractor deposits of \$14,500
Kitchen renovation continues with coordination between contractors

WORK IN PROGRESS:

Facilities

Parking lot lights are damaged, and lights are out

HVAC systems work should start in June

New landscaper is working with garden committee and Facilities

Religious

Buddhism 101 and Shin 101 classes-- estimated class start August or September

Seminar "Crossing Over" planned for fall

MAP (Minister Assistant Program) training session are monthly

Outreach

Work on " Ekoji Dana Society" with motto " Action before Words"

A program for sangha participation in community service projects to help people in need in our area.

Social media (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter) are integrated into a Buffer service which can send out the same message at once.

Obon PR/Social Media/Announcements are being coordinated and planned.

General Business

Emergency Preparedness Presentation scheduled June 23 at 12:30.

Refreshments/Potlucks need volunteer points of contact

EKOJI SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Regular Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Service:

Each Sunday 11:00 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.

Oasaji 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.



Photo courtesy of Andrea Chapman

SHOTSUKI MEMORIAL SERVICE

The first Sunday service of each month is called a Shotsuki Service; it is conducted 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.

Shotsuki service is not for those who have passed away; rather, this service provides us with an opportunity to remember, express our gratitude, and reflect on our deceased loved ones' continuing influence on our lives.

Traditionally, individual family memorial services are held on specific years following the death of a loved one. This provides the family with a chance to once again remember those who have passed away and to hear the Dharma together.

Arrangements for Individual 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 MONTHS OF APRIL, MAY, and JUNE, we will be remembering with gratitude:

MAY	JUNE	JULY
Clair Minami, 2009	Kimi Kawamura, 1992 Mary Okamoto, 2017	Mitsu Yasuda Carl, 2001 John Malcolm, 2012

OBON AND THE HATSUBON CEREMONY

WRITTEN BY REV. NARIAKI HAYASHI

Hatsubon is a Buddhist ceremony commemorating the first anniversary of a loved one's passing.

However, in Shin Buddhism, we understand Hatsubon to have a deeper meaning. We recognize Hatsubon as a moment that was provided by our loved ones. It is not that we hold this ceremony for them, but it is our loved ones who brought us here. It is for our loved ones who made us take a moment away from the busy world so that we could perceive our presence and the presence of others. By perceiving deeply within ourselves, we open our minds to our loved ones, and also all those who came before us who made it possible for us to exist.

Therefore, on this occasion of Hatsubon, let us gather not only to remember our loved ones, but also to recognize and appreciate how they bring us all together.

PARTICIPATION IN EKOJI'S HATSUBON CEREMONY

At Ekoji, the HATSUBON CEREMONY, which means "the first Obon", will be part of our Obon Service on Sunday, July 14. The Obon Service will begin at 11:00 am.

Hatsubon is a special part of our service to remember loved one who passed away between the Obon service last year and this one. Participants will be called to come before the Naijin, light a memorial candle for their loved one, and do gassho.

If you wish to participate in memory of a loved one, please contact Rev. Hayashi or Minister's Assistant, Erick Ishii, and provide them with the name of your loved one and the date of birth and/or date of death by Wednesday, July 10.

MORE THAN AN ISLAND: EKOJI'S TIES TO A LARGER SANGHA

WRITTEN BY JANE BLECHMAN

According to the Pew Report, Buddhism is one of the larger of the 1% religions (in terms of a percentage of self-proclaimed religious followers) in the United States with Christianity and Catholicism making up the lions share. However with most of the U.S. Shin Buddhists living in the west, it can feel a little lonely back here in the eastern states.

But for us, if we take a larger perspective, we begin to see a network of connections that binds us to a larger Sanga. The Buddhist Churches of America (BCA), Eastern District Council (EDC), and Eastern Buddhist League (EBL) are the organizations that work to bind us together.

Our national organization the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA), consists of 60 temples. BCA is the hub of Shin Buddhism in mainland America. The Eastern District Council (EDC) appoints representatives to the National Board of the BCA, meets once a year to exchange our temple's news, discuss issues that affect us and how best to serve our east coast temples. The Eastern Buddhist League (EBL) which hosts a Conference each year is a weekend long series of workshops, keynote speaker and Sangha-building activities. The EBL was formed so that temples of the U.S.'s EDC and Canada's eastern district could get together and work with each other.

Rev. Ron Miyamura from Chicago's Midwest Buddhist Temple is the administrating minister for our 5 EDC temples and one sangha on the east coast. Rev. Earl Ikeda from New York Temple and Rev. Hayashi are the other ministers.

EDC met in April and we heard our temple reports and talked about the importance of safety, shared our successes and failures. It seems we all have the same issues, declining membership, decreasing budgets and yet we all are trying to increase our Shin Buddhism educational opportunities and stay afloat. EDC has small grants available for folks needing assistance for MAP training, and minister's ordination; we also have grants for outreach programs or scholarships to temples and members that can be used for student overseas programs or BCA youth programs in California.

Every year, on a rotating basis, the Eastern Buddhist League Conference is hosted by an EDC or Canadian temple. This year, the Twin Cities Sangha in Minneapolis is hosting the Conference. The theme is "Social Awareness – Living the Nembutsu", held on October 11-13, 2019. The keynote speaker is Rev. Matthew Hamasaki.

This conference is always exciting and fun. It is a place for you to hear other speakers, participate in workshops and get to know other EDC temple members. I would encourage you to attend, it has been a great experience for me every year. I come back reenergized in Shin Buddhism and I learn a lot.

To register and for more information visit: tcbuddhist.org

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.

APRIL

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.

THE ART FAIR IN REVIEW

WRITTEN BY ANDREA CHAPMAN,
EKOJI MEMBER AND ART FAIR CO-CHAIR

Saturday, May 4th, marked the first of what I hope will be many Art Fairs for Ekoji Buddhist Temple. In total, 19 local artists participated in the event which attracted a modest, yet sustainable, audience whom enjoyed mild temperatures, a delicious vegetable curry lunch and a captivating collection of artwork, jewelry, Japanese dolls, fiber arts and home accents.

Perhaps more importantly, than the weather holding out and captivating artwork on display, is the fact that the event also served as an opportunity for us to open our serene campus up to the community. Membership co-chair, Leslie Poon, gleefully provided visitors with tours of the Temple while I wandered table to table collecting stories of inspiration and hope.

Situated in the nook, just outside the Temple doors, is where fellow Ekoji member, Michele Bailey, confided this was her first art exhibit. Michele, like many, was particularly grateful to display her art amongst the company of Sangha friends.

Each spot was filled first come first serve. In hindsight, I realize how much of a risk this was; for everyone involved. The vendors were obviously taking a chance on us as this was our first event and we were taking a chance on them. This, I suppose, is what it means to have an entrusting heart.

Inside, the Sangha Hall, fellow member, Pilar Uelmen and friend, proudly displayed their beautiful collection of locally sourced mohair yarn and hand knit goods. And, just to her right, board member, Molly Kuramoto and husband, officially launched their handmade business which specializes in kumihimo keychains.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who helped the day of the event. All in all, it was a successful event, that has great potential to grow and support this Temple not only as a fundraiser; but, also as an outreach opportunity. So please mark your calendars for the first Saturday in May 2020 and plan to join us for the Second Annual Ekoji Art Fair!



Photos courtesy of Andrea Chapman

THE SANGHA SCOOP

News on Some of our **Older Dharma School "Kids"**:

Congratulations to **Anh Thu Vo** who received her BA in Global Security and Justice with a second major in African Studies from the University of Virginia.

Avery Higgins will be graduating this December in Computer Science from Virginia Tech. It seems Avery made a weekend showing at home on his way to Minnesota, and may be seen at the end of summer on his way back to school, but that is not assured. He is interning this summer with a computer firm in Minneapolis, and rumor is he is being recruited for after graduation.

Nic Karen will be transferring to Virginia Tech to finish out his undergraduate work in the fall. This summer, Nic was selected to go to Japan as part of the Buddhist Churches America-led tour of Japan to study Shin Buddhist history and culture as it developed in Japan.

P.J Karen, after a sabbatical, will begin college at Virginia Commonwealth University in the fall.

Soh Daiko, the New York Buddhist Church's famous Taiko group, will be celebrating its 40th Anniversary on June 22, and many of the members of **Ekoji's Nen Daiko** and their friends will be travelling to New York City to support Soh Daiko in their anniversary concert. The ties between the two groups go back to when Nen Daiko was starting off, and there was a lot of help from Soh Daiko; teaching basic drumming, how to make drums, etc. Ever since, the two groups have been close, playing together every year at the Seabrook Obon, and helping at each other's Obon. Soh Daiko's 40th Anniversary Concert will be held at Columbia University's Miller Hall beginning at 2:00PM on June 22. For more information see: 40th.sohdaiko.org.

CONGRATULATIONS, SOH DAIKO !

Archer Harmon, who is vegan, lives his concerns for animal welfare by volunteering his time most Saturdays to work at the Poplar Springs Animal Rescue in Poolesville, Md. During the week he is a well dressed executive, but on Saturdays you can find him dressed to work with large animals at the shelter slopping hogs, cleaning horse stalls and cow pens, and other similarly glamorous tasks. While the shelter also has other kinds of work, Archer has chosen to walk (carefully watching where he places his feet, we understand) a path far different from his day job. If you want to know more about his volunteer work or if you would like to join him, Archer would be glad to help you volunteer your time.

Ken and Nori Nakamura spent a week in Maine with **Toshiko Kujo**, Nori's sister, and her husband **Rev. Eijun Kujo**. They spent the time exploring small towns, seeing lighthouses, and shopping between Portland, Booth Bay Harbor and Bar Harbor, including Acadia National Park. Because Rev. Kujo is a "foodie", there was a lot of great eating with no stops at McDonalds or Dunkin Donuts. It was a great vacation for the four of them.

EKOJI LADIES GROUP ENJOYS EXHIBITS AT SACKLER ON EMPRESSES OF CHINA AND ON “ENCOUNTERING THE BUDDHA”

WRITTEN BY VICKEY CHURCHMAN,
COORDINATOR

The Ladies Group headed out for another fun day together in early May. We went to the Freer Sackler Museum in DC to see a special exhibit called Empresses of China's Forbidden City. It highlighted women who took active roles as heads of state during their reigns. Many of the personal items and artworks have never been exhibited outside of China before. Some of these Empresses were even encouragers of Buddhism in China.



We also enjoyed a standing exhibit called Encountering the Buddha. Many diverse schools of Buddhism were represented and it created a lively discussion amongst us. We then walked across the Mall to find a place for lunch and thoroughly enjoyed our day together getting to know each other better and creating stronger bonds.

Please look for emails in the future with plans for our next get together. Everyone is welcome (even men we understand)! If you are not already on our email list and want to be, just send me an email and I'll make sure you are included.

Vickey Churchman
tvrjones@msn.com

JUNE 2019 SAVE THE DATES

June 1st
10 am Sew a Japanese Knot Bag

June 2nd
9 am Temple cleanup
9 am Obon Planning Mtg
11 am Service
2 pm Daiko Practice

June 9th
11 am Service
1 pm Dounen Daiko Practice
1 pm Minister Assistant Session
2 pm Nen Daiko Practice

June 16th FATHER'S DAY
9 am Obon Planning Mtg
11 am Service
12:30 pm Book Club Discussion
1 pm Dounen Daiko Practice
2 pm Nen Daiko Practice

June 22nd
10 am – 12 pm Tai-chi Workshop

June 23
11 am Service
12:30 – 2 pm Emergency Preparedness
Presentation
1 pm Dounen Daiko Practice
2 pm Nen Daiko Practice

June 30
Board Meeting- Time TBD
9 am Obon Planning Mtg
1 pm Dounen Daiko Practice
2 pm Nen Daiko Practice

Every Thursday
7:30 pm Meditation

TEMPLE SECURITY PRESENTATION ON JUNE 23 AFTER SERVICE

WRITTEN BY ED HILL

Has the temple received threats? No. But we need to prepare as we live in today's new world. This is for the worst-case scenario, and we all hope it will never happen. But we see constantly on the news. New Zealand, Pittsburgh, Charleston—shootings at religious sites are sadly becoming more frequent. Maybe you've asked yourself, "What would I do if a shooter ever came to Ekoji?"

As painful as it is to think about such a tragedy, doing so is the first step in preventing greater suffering. You can play a part in protecting your children, family, and fellow sangha members through education and awareness. We will be hosting an Active Shooter Presentation at the temple on June 23rd, after service at 12:30 PM. It is taught by the Fairfax County Police Department, and the information is specially tailored for relevancy to religious sites.

The presentation will last approximately an hour, and will involve video and audio materials. Please note that some of the content may be disturbing or upsetting for younger children. The presentation is free, and all are welcome to participate, whether you are a member or a regular attendee of the temple. There will be time afterward for questions and discussion with the officer. Please come and help us keep Ekoji a safe and welcoming place for all.

EKOJI'S CHILDREN'S DHARMA SCHOOL: WRAPPING UP ONE YEAR, PREPPING FOR THE NEXT

SUBMITTED BY MAYA HORIO, DHARMA SCHOOL CO-SUPERINTENDENT

The Children's Dharma School wrapped up our 2018-2019 school year with a fun party on Sunday, 19 May. While the students and teachers ate fruit and sweets, the students each noted one memory from their Dharma School year. The memories included learning about stories from Siddhartha's life, relaying parts of the Four Characteristics of Life, and playing the fun game of Buddhaland (the Buddhist version of Candyland!). After their snacks, the students broke up into two groups. The younger group played their last game of Buddhaland for the school year, while the older group "escaped" from a Four Characteristics of Life-themed escape room. We also gave thank you presents to the Dharma School teachers in appreciation for their hard work this year.

While the students and teachers are all looking forward to a relaxing summer break, we are already planning our annual organizational meeting in anticipation of the next Dharma School year! With the new school year comes the hunt also for new Dharma School teachers. It takes a lot of teachers to raise our Dharma School village, so to speak, and we try to have co-teachers for each class when we can. Co-teaching helps our students hear different perspectives on the Dharma while providing the teaching team the ability to share the load of classroom management, lesson planning, and the actual teaching.

Some sangha members might feel shy or intimidated to try their hand at teaching Dharma School. You might think you need to be deeply steeped in the Dharma before you can teach it to others. The truth is that all of our teachers learn as we teach, and we often stay only one or two lessons ahead of the students! We have a number of resource materials available for lesson planning, from workbooks to information guides to our minister and minister's assistants. The qualities we seek in our teachers are: a) the ability and willingness to convey ideas to kids at their learning level; and b) a desire and willingness to learn the Dharma so that you can then teach it to our youngest sangha members. If you have both of these qualities, you're well on your way to making a great Dharma School teacher.

Serving as a Dharma School teacher is a great way to support the temple and fully engage our youth in learning the Dharma...and it's just a lot of fun! The students ask great questions and their anecdotes about their lives provide great fodder for pulling out all kinds of Dharma threads. If you are interested in volunteering to help teach Dharma School, please contact Dharma School Co-Superintendents Maya Horio and Kim Nguyen at ekojidharmaschool@gmail.com.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE TO HELP A TEMPLE SHARE THE DHARMA

The Universal Truth of the Dharma will always be there in our lives and our reality. But it takes a temple, it's teachers, and a Sangha to help explain what the Dharma means for us in awakening to our own peace. And for the temple to succeed, it needs people, the Sangha, who believe in the Dharma and seek to share it with others. It takes many volunteers to organize events like Obon, participate in outreach activities, and to help make our temple welcoming and comfortable. It all requires people – you and me.

To those who come out and help, we say "Thank You." To those who are thinking about it, we sincerely invite you to join us. It really does take a village.

HELP KEEP THE TEMPLE CLEAN AND WELCOMING

The first Sunday of each month at 9:00 a.m., Ed Hill organizes volunteers to help clean the temple by mopping vacuuming and dusting, etc. Depending upon the number of people, it takes about an hour. Contact Ed or just come out and help.

FOR MAY, OUR VOLUNTEERS WERE:

Ed Hill, Coordinator
Rev. Nariaki Hayashi
Bob Shimokaji
Roger Scott
Ken Nakamura
Shiho Horikiri
Darryl Tom
Trang Nguyen
Dat Nguyen
Vinh Nguyen
Ed Sams

KEEP EKOJI'S GARDEN A PLACE OF BEAUTY, MEDITATION, AND PEACE

Under the guidance of Rose Fitzpatrick assisted by Board Representative Leslie Poon, volunteers who would like to help maintain Ekoji's garden coordinate with Rose and Leslie.

Sometimes special work days are organized, and at other times, they will ask that you go into the garden as time permits to weed or work on certain areas. Contact Rose or Leslie.

FOR APRIL, WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK:

Rose Fitzpatrick
Leslie Poon
Pilar Uelmen
Shiho Horiki
Sandra Luki-Dapoingy

VOLUNTEERS WHO HELPED MAKE EKOJI'S FIRST ARTS FAIR A SUCCESS

Andrea Chapman, Coordinator
Yasuko Okauchi
Maya Horio
Leslie Poone
Robin Graine
Shiho Horikiri
Joy Aso
Diana Ho
Kristy Capizzi
Alex Capizzi
Ed Sams
Megan Chapman

GIRL SCOUTS:

Liz Lauer (Troop Leader)
Ashyrah Everett
Payton Lauer
Brooklyn Alarcon

Thank you all!

GIFT OF LIGHT FUND UPDATE

Hello. Hopefully by now you have seen or received information about Ekoji's Gift of Light Fund. I am writing to provide an update on the Fund's progress as well as to make an appeal for your participation. The Fund was approved and launched in October 2019. Its purpose is to leverage the generous support we get from Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai (BDK.) and help sustain the temple's religious and education programs and continue to share the Buddha Dharma well into the future.

We are seven months into the fundraising campaign and as you can see from the progress chart, we have raised \$105,000 or 38% of our goal. A good start, but we have a ways to go. It is making a difference already in the financial well-being of the temple. Recently the temple needed to replace its oil furnace and HVAC which was a costly, unanticipated and unbudgeted expense. The Fund was able to provide \$35,000 to help offset a significant amount of the repair. In addition, a BDK delegation visited Ekoji a few weeks ago and expressed appreciation for us creating the Fund and for the sangha playing its part to support the temple. It will help us forge a strong partnership with BDK into the future.

For the 24 individuals and families that have made a contribution, thank you. It is greatly appreciated. As important as it is to reach our monetary goal, it is equally important to have as many sangha members contribute as possible – ideally 100%. Please reflect on your experience and sense of connection with Ekoji and help us by making a contribution to the Fund, one that makes sense given your own circumstances and capacity. Your contribution is important and your participation is essential.

To make a donation or a pledge use the donor form in the Gift of Light Fund Brochure. They are located in the temple lobby or you can get it online at www.ekoji.org/gift-of-light-fund. You can pledge any amount and pay it over a 5 year period. You can also choose to have your donation support temple operations or facilities if you have a preference. We will provide updates on how we are doing on the Fund as well as the temple programs it supports.

In Gassho,

Rich Wolford
Gift of Light Fund Chairman

DANA LIST

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

Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai
Robert & Michiko Tanaka
Norm and Gail Kondo
Arthur and Keiko Brown
Michael and Miki Wellck
Justin and Molly Kuramoto
Ken and Nori Nakamura
Marisa and Tamon Honda
Tasha and Thomas Brickhouse
Arlene and Wayne Minami (Claire Minami)
Arlene and Wayne Minami (Mary Okamoto)
Michele Bailey
Andrew Barden
Gordon Bermant
Carmen Bennett
Jane Blechman
Andrea Chapman
Joseph Crilley
John Daniels Riveros
Katherine Diep
Mahkameh Doroud
Stanley Fujii
Robin Graine
Susan Grimes
Rahman Gunawan
Archer Harmon
Edward Hill
Emily Ihara
Yuko Keicho
Sandy Kita
Mark LaWall
Jay Lindenberg
Sandra Lukic-Dapoingy
James McMahon
Fairfax Memorial Funeral Home
Arlene and Wayne Minami
Tom Mitchell
Bert and Nancy Motonaga
Lisa and Greg Nakamura
Trang Nguyen
Lani Pham and Pierre Karen
Leslie Poon
Piyatida Rask
Sean Ross
Edward Sams
Roger Scott
Bob Shimokaji
Ajit and Samantha Silva
Frank Swithers
Anna Tecson
Pilar Uelmen
Ramona Verrico
Everly Wheatley Funeral Home
Richard Wolford
Mikio Yamashita

Progress So Far

