

AUGUST / SEPTEMBER 2023

KALAVINKA

A NEWSLETTER OF EKOJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

HIGAN -- A TIME FOR CONTEMPLATION

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EKOJI BUDDHIST
— TEMPLE —



Bishop Harada's Statement Regarding the Wildfires and Destruction in Maui, Hawaii

We are all watching in great sadness and horror, the loss of life and destruction of homes and communities in Maui, Hawaii, due to the devastating wildfires. Our thoughts go to all there who have lost loved ones, homes, businesses, temples and churches, and their community. What a tremendous loss for everyone.

I recall a story from the Jataka Tales in our Buddhist tradition. Once there was a huge forest fire and all of the animals in the forest were running away from the fire for safety. One little bird was flying into a lake, dipping its wings in water, then flying over the forest fire dropping little drops of water to fight the fire. Back and forth the little bird flew. The other animals shouted to the little bird, “What are you doing? You cannot put out the fire that way?!” The little bird shouted back, “I may not be able to stop the fire, but this is all that I can do. I must try.”

In the face of such devastation, we will all do what we can do, whether it is to contribute to the disaster relief, to share our encouragement, or for those in Maui, to begin to rebuild, one step at a time, doing what they can do.

Gassho,
Rev. Marvin Harada
Bishop
Buddhist Churches of America

The Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) and its Social Welfare Committee have launched Maui disaster relief efforts in full support of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii (HHMH).

Donations can be made online through: <https://bca.kindful.com/>, or by check payable to: BCA Endowment Foundation (Please note on memo line: Maui Relief). Mail checks to: BCA Endowment Foundation at 2140 Durant Ave., Berkeley, CA 94704.

84,000 THOUGHTS

Universal Acceptance in Jodo Shinshu

By Rev. Kurt Rye

“In order to attain the entrusting heart (Anjin), you do not need wisdom or learning; it is not a question of whether you are rich and noble or poor and destitute, whether you are good or evil, male or female. The essential point is to give up various practices and take refuge in the right practice, that is, nembutsu.”

Rennyō Shōnin 1474

The above-cited passage is a portion of a letter written to a Jodo Shinshu follower by Rennyō Shōnin, (1415-1499), the 8th master of our Jodo Shinshu school of Buddhism. Rennyō Shōnin has a significant place in the history of our tradition. After the death of our founder Shinran Shōnin in 1262-3 the organization that would become our head temple, the Hongwanji, went through many organizational and liturgical changes in the decades after Shinran Shōnin’s passing. Many of the rituals and chants that were practiced then were from the Tendai School’s Pure Land practices. Rennyō made a concerted effort to standardize all aspects of Shin ceremony throughout its growing membership.

In Rennyō’s time, the number of Shin Temples with monks was a fraction of the size that it would grow into the following centuries. In many rural areas, the Jodo Shinshu followers would gather at small halls called dojos. The dojos did not have a monk or priest but rather a lay leader who perhaps was educated and could read the sutras. Rennyō addressed these dojos directly with letters containing the Shin teachings and practical advice concerning the Nembutsu practice and sutra chanting. He also addressed letters to established Shin Sanghas with temples that had attending monks. His efforts were a unifying factor in early Jodo Shinshu development. After his passing many of these letters were collected and put into a volume known as the Gobunsho. To this day, the letters are read by thousands of Shin followers in Japan on a daily basis.

These letters are still as relevant today as they were when they were written. These letters were meant to touch the hearts of the everyday person for whom they were written. Rennyō used colloquial Japanese and addressed questions that came up in everyday life. As you may recall, Buddhism at this time was the philosophy of the upper class and educated Japanese. He addressed the letters to people who, at the time, were considered in the larger Japanese society as unrealistic or unworthy to follow the Buddhist teachings. Rennyō addressed women, hunters, butchers, sake sellers and leather workers, all of whom were deemed to be outside of respectful society.

The letter at the beginning of this article is a perfect example of how Rennyō addressed the equality of all when it comes to hearing and following the teachings of Shin Buddhism. This is especially significant, for in the time Rennyō was living, the social roles of society were much more rigid compared to the society of today. And yet his message still resonates today. The message of universal acceptance is still a liberating message in our lives.

FROM YOUR BOARD

Andrea Chapman
President of Ekoji
September 2023



When I listen to Ken Nakamura or his wife, Nori, talk about their family and temple life, I am struck by the countless causes and conditions which had to take place for us to be here today. Ten years ago, if you would have told me I would be approaching my fourth year as the President of a Buddhist temple, I would have thought you to be mistaken. Yet today I can connect the dots between two people I admire very much (Ken and Nori) and my life. The common element, of course, being CHANGE.

As Buddhists we are encouraged to accept change as inevitable and do the best with what we have been given. That is the mindset that has carried me through the numerous challenges or changes that have occurred here at Ekoji in recent years.

A little over a year ago we bid farewell to the first Buddhist minister I had ever met, Rev. Hayashi. Just a few short weeks later, the Bishop of Buddhist Churches of America approached us with an innovative idea to onboard a part time virtual minister who you have come to know as Rev. Rye. Within months of making that transition, Bishop Harada messaged again to say he was planning to appoint Rev. Rye full time to oversee the entire Eastern District. And, as you are experiencing alongside of me, that means more change for Ekoji.

This time, we don't have to say goodbye to our minister; but, rather, expand upon the idea of what is possible for Rev. Rye, Ekoji and the Eastern District Temples which include New York Buddhist Church, Seabrook Buddhist Temple, Midwest Buddhist Temple as well as the Sanghas which are affiliated with these temples.

Currently, the Board of Directors here at Ekoji is focused on our mission to grow a worldwide Sangha. We believe this is in alignment with the broader vision Ekoji was founded on some forty years ago when Rev. Numata imagined the Buddha Dharma would "shine to all corners of this land" and established this temple alongside of Rev. Tsuji and our founding members.

We will never know if Rev. Numata meant that sentiment literally or figuratively; but, we will assume he made the statement with an entrusting heart and that he believed we could figure out how to do just that.

By embracing a threefold strategy which will build our credibility, create accessibility, and generate hospitality we intend to:

1. Remain an active member of the Buddhist Churches of America so that we can continue to benefit from the strength of being connected to an internationally recognized organization.
2. Stream our Sunday service via Zoom so that people near and far can partake in the Dharma with ease, while expanding our offering in October to include a mid-week Zoom service hosted by Rev. Rye.
3. Host a combination of virtual and in person social events such as the Dharma Discussion Group, Buddhist Movie Discussion Group, Open Mic Night, monthly potlucks and Obon festival that allow us to share the joy of being part of a Sangha with newcomers.

In addition, we remain committed to expanding our Buddhist Educational offerings and will continue to host our Introduction to Buddhism and Exploring Shin Buddhism courses on a regular basis, as well as invite quarterly guest speakers to present on a variety of Buddhist topics.

Rev. Rye will be available to assist Ekoji as needed on Wednesdays via his office Zoom hours, mid-week virtual service with discussion group and during his twice per year in-person visits. He will work closely with our minister's assistants and lay leaders to ensure they are trained, and our Sunday services continue uninterrupted, and that we have the support we need to develop our Buddhist Education programming. Funerals and memorial services will be accommodated by Rev. Rye or Erick Ishii as they arise.

We remain grateful for the unwavering service of our Tokudo Minister's Assistant, Erick Ishii, who has been working tirelessly to coordinate the many changes mentioned within and oversee our Sunday services since September of 2022. Please also allow me to recognize the Board of Directors and our benefactor BDK America for their commitment to Ekoji and attention to detail as we navigate the current changes and prepare ourselves for the ones that wait for us tomorrow.

In closing, I would like to leave you with the Buddhist notion that change itself is not painful; but your resistance to it is. With optimism and compassion, I invite you to join us on this journey of building a Worldwide Sangha via Ekoji Buddhist Temple. Here are the simplest ways in which you can help:

1. If you are enjoying our programming and find value in our services, become a member of the temple. Everything you need to know about membership can be found at ekoji.org.
2. If you see a new face online or in person – take a moment to welcome them and ask if you can answer any questions for them.
3. Volunteer or participate in a future temple event.

In gassho

2023-2024 DHARMA SCHOOL YEAR KICKS OFF ON 1 OCTOBER

Classes for Ekoji's Children's Dharma School will start on Sunday, 1 October, kicking off our 2023-2024 school year.

We will hold a virtual Info Session via Zoom the previous Sunday, 24 September, at 9:30am to introduce new families to our Dharma School calendar and curriculum, and to answer any questions new or returning families might have.

Dharma School classes are open to all kids ages 4 to 18, and our monthly Family Service is open to all sangha members and children of all ages. Dharma School students are divided typically by age into the following classes: Pre-Kindergarten/Kindergarten; Elementary; Intermediate; and Advanced classes. Each class aims to instill in our students a basic understanding of Buddhist terms and concepts, working towards our overall Dharma School goal of enabling our students to be able to explain Buddhism and the Shin sect of Buddhism in their own words by the time they graduate. We also help the students learn to lead and chant at least two sutras on their own, understanding that many of our students will be physically distant from a Buddhist temple at various times in their post-Dharma School life.

Similar to our last school year, our classes will meet twice a month from 9:30-10:30am in the Tsuji Center, with our Family Service taking place on the second or third Sunday in the Hondo, also at 9:30am. Our Intermediate and Advanced students will chair the services and lead the chanting, and we will follow each monthly service by cleaning the Tsuji Center. Once we finish the monthly clean-up, we will also have the students participate in "dana bites"—discrete, focused ways to support the temple and broader sangha—in lieu of one larger community service project.

Please contact Dharma School co-superintendents Maya Horio or Kim Nguyen at ekojidharmaschool@gmail.com with any questions, to receive the Zoom link for the Info Session, or to sign your children up for the school year.

THE GOLDEN CHAIN

(Learned by our Dharma School students)

I am a link in Amida's golden chain of love that stretches around the world. I will
keep my link bright and strong.

May I be kind and gentle to every living thing and protect all who are weaker than
myself.

May I think pure and beautiful thoughts, say pure and beautiful words, and do pure
and beautiful deeds.

May every link in Amida's golden chain of love be bright and strong, and may we all
attain perfect peace.

STARTING A YOUNG BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION AT EKOJI **by Nick Karen and Wyatt Spage**

We are starting a Young Buddhist Association (YBA) chapter at the Ekoji Buddhist Temple and hope you might be interested in participating. This YBA will provide a welcoming space for young adults (ages 18 to 30) to explore Buddhism, form meaningful connections, and contribute to the betterment of society.

We understand the diverse demands of modern life, and recognize that formal settings do not always cater to everyone's needs. Our approach is relaxed and informal, encouraging members to express themselves authentically. We believe the Dharma can be woven seamlessly into our everyday lives, making it relevant and accessible.

We're a community that embraces diverse activities: from hikes that allow us to connect with nature, to volunteering initiatives that extend our compassion and support to those in need, and fundraisers that contribute to the well-being of others. This YBA is committed to making a positive impact.

We are delighted that the response to the creation of this YBA has been overwhelmingly positive. Since its inception, this YBA has already attracted ten enthusiastic members, who bring their unique perspectives and experiences to the table. Our growth speaks volumes about the younger Sangha members' desire for connection, exploration, and contribution.

In starting the YBA, we were inspired by the idea of creating a space where young adults can explore Buddhism. Our own journey has been one of self-discovery, and we believe that by sharing this path with others, we can collectively navigate the challenges of modernity with grace, mindfulness, and compassion. We envision this YBA as a conduit for fostering friendships, facilitating personal growth, and nurturing a sense of purpose. We are excited to join our fellow members in finding a sense of belonging to the Sangha, fulfillment in giving back, and strength in unity.

Please talk to us at the temple on Sundays, or by email through the temple email address: ekoji.info@gmail.com.

Our life is based on religious consciousness -- the world of the heart. Have you ever been tormented by the law of gravity or the law that governs the refraction of light? Suffering arises because our joy and anger, our grief and pleasure, have no connection with science. A true scientist is very much aware of this.

**A scientist who believes science is all there is, is not a first-rate scientist.
(Hideki Yukawa (Nobel Prize winner in physics))**

TSUJI CENTER UPDATE

Andrea Chapman, President

The Tsuji Center, named after our founding minister and former Bishop, Rev. Kenryu T. Tsuji, Ekoji's administrative and educational building is nearing the long-awaited end of our planned renovations for 2023.

In May, the building was remediated for mold.

In June, we took the opportunity to clear away the clutter and repaint the interior.

In July, a new shingle roof and gutters were installed on the second floor of the building and the leaking skylight was removed.

In August, we moved through Fairfax County's permitting process for a commercial kitchen and negotiated an agreement with a kitchen contractor via the assistance of our architect and project manager.

In September, construction of our commercial kitchen is anticipated to begin. This space will include a large refrigerator, three compartment sink, gas range, oven, microwaves, mop sink and ample storage and surface space to prepare meals.

Previously, the building was remediated for asbestos and new flooring and HVAC units were installed.

We are looking forward to the completion of what feels like an eternity of renovations and are excited to be able to put the building to good use soon.

SAVE THE DATE – SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2023, 1:00 PM IN THE HONDO EKOJI'S HYBRID GENERAL MEETING OF THE SANGHA

- **To Receive Reports from the Board on the Status and the Direction of our Temple.**
- **To Consider, Amend or Adopt a Budget for Ekoji's 2024 Fiscal Year**
- **To Consider and Elect Members of the Sangha to Ekoji's Board of Directors**
- **To Discuss and Make Recommendation to the Board on Temple Direction, Needed Programs, and Other Concerns and Ideas.**
- **To get involved in the life of our temple.**

OBON 2023 ROUND UP

Andrea Chapman, Co-Chair

It is with joy I write to tell you Obon 2023 was a success!

Our largest fundraiser and outreach event of the year attracted more than 1200 guests and 100 volunteers to our Fairfax Station temple. Many thanks to everyone who joined us in celebration of those who have come before us.

Rivaling Obons of the past, which you might recall as hot and labor intensive, this new model in its second-post pandemic year generated just over \$20,000 in profit for Ekoji. Obon revenue is a line item on our annual budget and is essential to our temple as it offsets the costs of maintaining our buildings and operating a hybrid model.

Deep gratitude to my co-chair, Maya Horio, our team captains and the many volunteers who supported this event with physical labor and donations. Please mark your calendars for the second Saturday in July and join us at Obon 2024!

BUSY JULY FOR NEN DAIKO AND UP-COMING TAIKO WORKSHOP, 9/16

Typically, July is the culmination of Nen Daiko's performance season with our two favorite performances at Ekoji's and Seabrook's Obon Festivals. This year we also played at some high-profile events. On July 1, we had the honor of performing at the Smithsonian Folklife Festival as part of this year's theme, Creative Encounters: Living Religions in the United States. Later in the day, Maya and Emily participated in a curated discussion with Sojin Kim, fellow taiko player and curator for the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, called "Dharma and Taiko: Drumming as Buddhist Practice". Gracie Rosenbaum, a student intern from Montgomery College, interviewed Maya and produced this video: [Fat Drums! with "Nen Daiko" at the 2023 Smithsonian Folklife Festival!](#) It was a wonderful experience to be able to represent Ekoji at this event and discuss taiko and Buddhism with a diverse audience.

Ekoji's Obon is always our favorite, and we enjoy being able to play on our own stomping grounds with our youth group, Dounen Daiko! We were prepared for rain this year with clear plastic bags to protect the drums, but luckily the clouds passed and Ekoji's Obon was a great success. We hope you enjoyed our set and were able to dance along to Ei Ja Nai Ka and the other Obon dances. The following week, most of us were able to travel to Seabrook for their Obon festival for more dancing and drumming. Always a good time!

Our final performance in July was for the series, Concerts from the Library of Congress: Live at the Library. On a beautiful summer evening, we played for a friendly crowd gathered to picnic and watch Shrek. In that spirit, at the end of our performance, we taught the audience a rhythm and song about the Muffin Man and invited them to give taiko a try.

If you'd like a chance to play taiko, we are holding a taiko workshop for beginners on September 16, 1-3 PM. Sign up [here!](#)

EKOJI CALENDAR OF EVENTS, SEPTEMBER 2023

WEEKLY

SUNDAY

- **CHILDREN'S DHARMA SCHOOL, 9:30AM – 10:30AM, EVERY SUNDAY, BEGINNING October 1, 2023, EXCEPT THE LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH WHEN NO CLASS IS SCHEDULED. Special virtual introductory parent/teacher discussion, Sunday, September 24, at 9:30.**
- **HYBRID SERVICE, 11:00AM WITH AN AFTER-SERVICE HYBRID DISCUSSION IN THE HONDO.**

THURSDAY

IN-PERSON MEDITATION GROUP, 7:30PM IN THE HONDO.

MONTHLY

FIRST SUNDAY

- **TEMPLE CLEANUP, 10:00AM – 10:45AM**
- **SHOTSUKI SERVICE – 11:00 – 12:00 AM. During the chanting of a sutra, sangha members who have lost a loved one during that particular month in any prior year are invited to go before the altar to gassho and burn incense in loving memory and gratitude for the person who has passed.**
- **POTLUCK LUNCHEON, 12:00PM IN THE SANGHA HALL AFTER THE SHOTSUKI SERVICE.**

SPECIAL EVENTS AND HOLIDAYS (DETAILS AT WWW.EKOJI.ORG)

- **NEN DAIKO TAIKO WORKSHOP, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 16 FROM 1–3 PM AT EKOJI SANGHA HALL**
- **BUDDHIST MOVIE GROUP DISCUSSION, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17 AT 2:00PM IN THE EKOJI ZOOM ROOM. This month, the movie will be “Eye in the Sky” which can be viewed on Prime.**
- **OPEN MIC NIGHT, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 23 AT 7:00PM IN THE SANGHA HALL.**
- **SPECIAL CHILDREN'S DHARMA PARENT/TEACHER VIRTUAL MEETING, SUNDAY, 24 SEPTEMBER, AT 9:30AM TO INTRODUCE NEW FAMILIES TO OUR DHARMA SCHOOL CALENDAR AND CURRICULUM, AND TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS NEW OR RETURNING FAMILIES MIGHT HAVE.**

MINISTER'S OFFICE HOURS

WEDNESDAY, 1:00PM TO 2:00PM

SCHEDULE A ZOOM OR PHONE MEETING WITH REV. KURT RYE BY CALLING 703-239-0500 OR EMAILING RYE.EKOJI@GMAIL.COM

WHAT'S THAT MEAN?

HIGAN and SPECIAL BUDDHIST SERVICES

By Ken Nakamura

This month, we will be observing the Autumnal Higan Service. There are several Buddhist special services throughout the calendar. Jodo Shin Buddhism seems to almost have at least one each month.

The late Rev. Dr. Shoyu Hanayama, who was my minister at the Seabrook Buddhist Temple during my high school years, organizes these special services into various categories in his book *Buddhist Handbook for Shinshu Followers*. He explained,

1. Services generally observed by all Buddhists
 - a. The Birth of the Buddha (in Japanese it is referred to as Hanamatsuri or Flower Festival)
 - b. The day of Buddha's enlightenment (in the west, Jodo Shin Buddhists refer to it as Bodhi Day)
 - c. The day Siddhartha died, which we call Nehan-e or Pari-Nirvana Day.

In some traditions, these three events are observed in one service, called Vesak, which is observed in the Spring. In the Jodo Shinshu tradition, they are observed separately.

2. Japanese Buddhist sects and their overseas branches.
 - a. Observances, which are held by all Japanese Buddhist sects and their overseas branches.
 - (1). **Higan**, which is observed in the spring and fall as devotion days.
 - (2). Obon memorial service
 - b. Observances which are observed by a particular sect and their overseas branches. In the case of Jodo Shin Buddhism,
 - (1) Shinran Shonin's birth date, or Gotan-e
 - (2) The day Shinran Shonin died, or Ho On Ko
 - (3) Some BCA Temples include on their calendars, a New Year's Eve Service (Joya-e), New Year's Day Service (Shu Sho-e), Founders' Day Memorial Service, and Pet Memorial Service.

HIGAN, which means the "Other Shore of Nirvana", is somewhat different in that it does not observe a particular event, such as Bodhi Day, when Siddhartha is to have Awakened to the Dharma, or honor a particular individual (s), such as Shinran Shonin on his birth day, or is a memorial service like Obon. Rather, Higan is observed during the Spring and Fall Equinox when days and nights are of equal length, and it is neither too hot nor too cold, and nature is in balance. According to *Jodo Shinshu-- A Guide*, "It is a service of reflection when practitioners should meditate on the Harmony of Nature and devote themselves to the realization of this harmony in our inner lives. During Higan, emphasis is placed on observance of the Six Paramitas (precepts) which leads to the other shore."

Rev. George Shibata, in his short BCA pamphlet, The Buddhist Holidays, further clarifies in terms of Jodo Shin Buddhism, “How can we cross this wide sea and arrive at the other Shore of Nirvana? The Six Paramitas serve as a bridge spanning across this wide sea and by practicing Charity, Morality, Patience, Right Effort, Meditation, and Wisdom, we can reach the Other Shore.

“In the other Buddhist Sects, emphasis is placed on self-power on the devotee’s part. Although the observance of Ohigan gives us an opportunity to direct ourselves to the practicing of the Six Paramitas, the way of self-power is long and difficult.

“Through the Compassion and Wisdom of Amida Buddha, we are accorded an easy path by which we can cross over from this shore of Samsara to the Other Shore of Nirvana by relying on the Other Power.

“When Amida’s infinite Compassion is realized, there arises within us a natural expression of gratitude for our ensured salvation. Thus, Ohigan is a time for us to simply express our gratitude to Amida Buddha for awaking us to the boundless Compassion and Wisdom. Applying the Six Paramitas in our daily lives is the Shin Shu way of expressing our gratitude and thanksgiving for our unconditional salvation. It is not necessary for us to wait until Higan to do so, let’s proceed to do so from today for tomorrow may never come.”

EKOJI TO BEGIN THE “DHARMA BREEZE” WEDNESDAY EVENING VIRTUAL SERVICE AND DISCUSSION WITH REV. KURT RYE



WEDNESDAYS
7 PM ET
EKOJI.ORG

Dharma Breeze will include: 3-minute meditation, chanting, Dharma message and short discussion.

RSVP for the Zoom info using this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMlcOGsqT0tGdIRtNNt5EydbzXK9f2oVZjO>



UPON THEIR SHOULDERS EKOJI'S PAST – OUR PRESENT

The first Sunday of every month, Ekoji conducts a Shotsuki Service in memory of those people whose date of death (meinichi) falls in that month. The Kalavinka provides a list in remembrance of Ekoji's members and friends who passed away during the month of the issue. Your Ekoji Buddhist Temple exists because of their devotion and efforts as they become a part of our Nembutsu history.

This Service 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 Ekoji at ekoji.info@gmail.com.

FOR 2023 the years for Special Family Memorial Services are: 2022 – 1st Year; 2021 – 3rd Year; 2017 – 7th Year; 2011 – 13th Year; 2007 – 17th Year; 1999 – 25th Year; 1991 – 33rd Year; 1974 – 50th Year.

FOR THE MONTHS OF AUGUST, SEPTEMBER, and OCTOBER, we will be remembering with gratitude:

AUGUST

**Kimiko “Kimi” Sugiyama
12/5/1925 - 8/31/2013**

James Grohl

12/9/1938 - 8/31/2013

Maj. Charles “Chuck” Teubert,

USMC Ret.

12/18/1950 - 8/21/2020

Dr. Herbert “Herb” Kazuto Oie

12/16/1933 - 8/31/2021

SEPTEMBER

**Akiko Iwata
9/27/1999**

OCTOBER

**Nora Mineyo Nagatani
6/20/1945 - 10/23/2021**

SANGHA SCOOPS

By: Ken Nakamura

It's hard to believe that any person can have more bandwidth with all the responsibilities carried and roles that she must play from Ekoji's Temple President, to student, parent, independent business owner, and trying to have a private life, but **Andrea Chapman** shows it is possible as she moves to a new house. We can well imagine that just serving as Ekoji's President requires juggling many balls, from watching over the renovation and basically reconstruction of the Tsuji Administration and Education Center; putting in a new, professional-grade digital audio and visual system in the Hondo; and, of course, always being concerned about the Sangha's welfare. Andrea always has the help and leadership of Ekoji's dedicated and hard-working Board members, but living in Washington, we know where the buck is supposed to stop, and who has the watch. Andrea says it is her childhood dream of having a "tree house" but now it's a little bit bigger. It is still in Haymarket where her kids went and are going to school, and where their school friends are. But after living in large communities, this time, she will be on a quiet, secluded A-Frame house on a hill, surrounded by trees. Andrea is very excited about her move. We admire how wide her bandwidth is in taking on more responsibilities with the move and settling in, and we wish her our heart-felt congratulations.

The **Horio Family – Brant, Maya, Connor, and Nami** – went on a well-deserved break from their busy schedules here in the DMV to Maine. We've seen pictures of the size (humongous) of the lobsters they are eating and the gelatos they are ending dinner with, and that was just on the first day. It seems the intention was to take a break, enjoy the beauty of the state, eat their way in seafood and blue berries from Portland to Bar Harbor and back. We trust that there will be seafood left for the rest of us.

The temple continues to offer its support and **gassho to Tom Horio and his family**. On August 8th, an inurnment service was conducted for Phoebe Horio at Arlington National Cemetery. Phoebe was Tom's loving wife, mother to Brant and Ross Horio, and grandmother to Thomas, Sophia, Sayuri, Samantha, Connor and Nami Horio. Phoebe's two sisters and their families came from Hawaii and New York to join Tom at Arlington. A meaningful service and Dharma message was provided by Rev. Erick Ishii, Ekoji's Minister Assistant with Ordination.

Ekoji shouts a hearty "Welcome Home" to **Arlene Maeda, and her sons Kenneth and Steven**, after serving back-to-back tours as the U.S. Agricultural Attache to Japan. When she left the U.S. and Ekoji, the boys were very much children. Now, some of us have to look upwards to see their faces, and the chance to look them "straight in the eyes" has come and gone. It's great to have them home as they have always been part of the Ekoji family. Welcome Home!!

Many in Ekoji's Sangha have been traveling this summer. **Greg, Lisa, and Siena Nakamura** went to Japan to see Lisa's mother and family. While in Japan, they also enjoyed the sights of Osaka and Kyoto, and went to both Jodo Shinshu's main temple, the Nishi Hongwanji temple and to Ohtani Hombyo, where the ashes of Greg's maternal grandparents, Rev. Shingetsu and Fusako Akahoshi, and his aunts, Hideko and Nobuko Akahoshi, are with the ashes of Shinran Shonin. While at Ohtani Hombyo, Greg and the family burned incense and chanted the Juseige. Greg commented that it felt like being home.

Other Sangha members on the road the last few months include Minister's Assistant **Bob Shimokaji** who went to Hawaii after a 40-year break, and Minister's Assistant **Rob Fike** who went to Chicago. And **Wyatt Spage** found himself venturing in Paris this summer.

We also wish **Foreign Service Office Jeff Freeman**, as he leaves Washington and Ekoji to take up new responsibilities in his posting in Japan. We wish him a great tour, and that he comes home to Ekoji when his duties allow.



AUGUST DANA LIST

Aileen & Lawrence Parmeter	Lani Pham and Pierre Karen
Ajit and Samantha Silva	Lisa and Greg Nakamura
Anna Tecson	Loredana Calin
Annemarie Russell	Mahkameh Doroud
Arlene and Wayne Minami	Margaret Cummisky
Arlene and Wayne Minami (in memory of Konami Kakeuchi)	Marisa and Tamon Honda
Ayako Rosi	Matthew Doubrava
Bert and Nancy Motonaga	Maya and Brant Horio
Christine Davey	Mel Byrne
Dara Johnson	Michael Huff
Donna Omata	Michael Therway
Edward Sams	Mikio Yamashita
Emily Ihara	Name
Evan Cantwell	Nen Daiko
Frank Swithers	Ngoc-Yen Vu
Hossein Assefbarkhi	Norm and Gail Kondo (in memory of Kitaharas & Kondos)
Jack Perry	Patrick & Jenny Cantwell (in memory of Geraldine Cantwell)
Jane Blechman	Paul and Susan Jacques
John Mruk	Richard Malone & Rick Ware
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A *Kalavinka* is a mythical bird with the head of a human and a long, flowing colorful tail. It lives in the Pure Land. It has a beautiful voice that sings praises of the Buddha, the sutras, and the words of the Buddha.



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