

APRIL 2025

KALAVINKA

A NEWSLETTER OF EKOJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

CELEBRATING SIDDHARTHA'S BIRTH WITH THE WORLD --
HAPPY HANAMATSURI – HAPPY BUDDHA DAY !



According to the Sutras describing Siddhartha's birth, Prince Siddhartha took seven steps as soon as he was born. Pointing to the heavens and to the earth, he proclaimed in a loud voice, "In the Heavens above and the Earth below, I alone am the World-Honored One. All that exists in the Three Worlds is suffering, but I will bring comfort." In addition, it is said that the Heavens were so moved by these words that they rained down sweet tea in response.

(Jodo Shinshu-- A Guide, Hongwanji, 2006)



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84,000 THOUGHTS

Editor's Note: *Because of an extremely busy schedule, Rev. Rye gets a break from writing for the Kalavinka this month. During these difficult and unsettling times, we are including, instead, a Dharma message by Rev. Gregory Gibbs of the Pasadena Buddhist Temple. We look forward to Rev. Rye's message in the 84,000 Thoughts section next month.*

THIS WILL BE ENOUGH

Rev. Jundo Gregory Gibbs

I really do hope we can become more environmentally responsible. Even so you know, in the end, no one makes it out alive. If we stop industrial pollution, use public transit, and cease to expand human dwellings where we need it to be left natural; - the human race will not die out anytime soon. Still, each of us, individually, at some point, will pass on. When our time comes, will we be able to say, this was enough?

Last month I talked with you about a Calvin and Hobbes cartoon strip. This month, I am discussing a couple of movies. The article's title comes from the movie "The Seventh Seal". The Protagonist, a knight returned from the Crusades, spends a morning with a charming young couple and their toddler son. They share a breakfast of wild strawberries and fresh milk. He takes some of this from a large bowl and declares, "This will be enough. I will hold this memory like I hold this bowl, and this will be enough."

Yes, we must make changes to avoid worsening climate change. We must take the political action necessary to decrease the development and dissemination of catastrophic weaponry. We must cure cancer. But we will, all of us, individually, face an end to our biological lives. Also, all life on earth will end one day. The sun begins the supernova process in 5 billion years and biological life on earth will end. It's a shame.

It's a shame that everything is impermanent, that all beautiful things must fade and die. But if we truly love our family, our friends, our temple community, ... the time we have spent with them will be enough. The love I have for my family, friends and Sangha members. The warm times I have already spent with them; - if the sun supernova is 5 billion years early, that will have been enough. Say the Nembutsu, love your family, recall all the precious memories, and when the time comes, you will be able to say, "This is enough."

Namo Amida Butsu

EKOJI'S VIRTUAL "DHARMA BREEZE" PROGRAM OF A SERVICE AND DISCUSSION WITH REV. KURT RYE WILL BE HELD EVERY WEDNESDAY EVENING, AT 7:00 PM.



**WEDNESDAYS
7 PM ET
EKOJI.ORG**

DHARMA BREEZE WILL INCLUDE: 3-MINUTE MEDITATION, CHANTING, DHARMA MESSAGE AND A SHORT DISCUSSION.

RSVP FOR THE ZOOM INFO USING THIS LINK:

[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/MEETING/REGISTER/TZMLCOGSQTOTGDIRTNNT5EYDBZXK9F2OVZJO](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/91012020000)





THE STRENGTH OF SANGHA: INVESTING IN COMMUNITY

By Andrea Chapman

On most Sundays, I find myself among the last to leave Ekoji, aside from Erick, who works late into the evening. Recently, I had the privilege of a lingering conversation in the parking lot with several of our Young Buddhist Association (YBA) members, culminating in a profound exchange with Wyatt, the YBA President. Wyatt, who has played a vital role in revitalizing the YBA, reminds me of my own son. As we reflected on our discussion, he looked at me and, with a wisdom beyond his years, stated, “Community really is important.”

This sentiment resonates deeply with me. Sangha, the community of spiritual practitioners, is one of the Three Treasures of Buddhism, holding equal importance with the Buddha and the Dharma. In response to Wyatt’s observation, I emphasized the necessity of investing time in our communities—be it family, temple, professional networks, or any other area of significance. It is not sufficient to remain on the periphery; active participation is essential.

This investment, while seemingly altruistic, ultimately benefits us all. We inevitably encounter crises, and during these challenging times, a supportive community provides invaluable emotional support and compassion. The Buddha’s teachings highlight our interconnectedness, yet we often underestimate the impact of our actions, or inaction, on others.

We are fortunate at Ekoji to have a dedicated core of members who consistently offer their support. Recently, I have been heartened to witness an expanding circle of individuals contributing to our temple in diverse ways. Hearing a member from Seattle express their admiration for our event lineup, a member from Maryland emphasizes the significance of our Zoom services, and another from Texas affirms their commitment to becoming a permanent virtual member underscores the reach and impact of our community.

Our recent parking lot conversations also revealed the hidden struggles within our Sangha, including homelessness, deportation, and medical crises. While respecting individual privacy, it is crucial to recognize that our community, though small, is a delicate ecosystem of interconnected individuals who benefit from each other’s presence.

A smile, a kind word, or a comforting hug can provide solace in times of need. However, our presence is equally valued during ordinary days, when profound conversations unfold in discussion groups, parking lots, and beyond the temple walls. If you have been observing from the sidelines, I encourage you to join us: participate in discussions after service, engage with new members in the lobby, wear our temple apparel (shameless plug and reminder to order your t-shirts [here](#) before April 20), and volunteer at Obon.

In our podcast interviews, we consistently ask our guests, “What does Ekoji mean to you?” For me, Ekoji is a community of individuals from diverse backgrounds, united in their spiritual exploration and mutual support.



EKOJI TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2025 WORLDPRIDE PARADE

We are thrilled to announce that Ekoji has decided to participate in the [WorldPride Parade](#) in [Washington D.C.](#) on [June 7th, 2025](#).

This decision reflects our deep commitment to the Buddhist Churches of America's (BCA) tradition of recognizing unions in all forms, and it aligns perfectly with Ekoji Buddhist Temple's welcoming motto, "Come as you are."

We believe this is a powerful opportunity to demonstrate our values of inclusivity, compassion, and loving-kindness to the wider community.


We envision up to 100 members of our Sangha and friends marching mindfully and compassionately in the parade, carrying a banner that proudly represents Ekoji.

So that Ekoji can participate in the March in June, here's how you can help.

- WE NEED TO MEET A \$600 REGISTRATION FEE BY MARCH 31. [**GOAL REACHED AND THEN SOME !!! THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR SUPPORT.**](#)
- Consider joining us in Washington, D.C. to march with the Sangha
- Hold us in your thoughts and offer your mindful support, even if you cannot attend in person that day.

This is a chance for Ekoji to shine as a beacon of acceptance and understanding. Our participation is part of a decades-long role that BCA has played in supporting the LGBTQ+ community.

In Gassho and Come Join Us





Gildan Softstyle Jersey T-shirt
Sizes YS - XXXXXL [View Sizing Guide](#)

About this campaign

Embrace the spirit of Ekoji with our beautiful new t-shirt design. Every purchase directly supports the temple's vital programs and community outreach. Wear your values and make a difference!

Buy a t-shirt and support Ekoji!

 All funds raised will go directly to **Ekoji Buddhist Temple**

 9 items sold of 50 goal 24 days to go

\$35
Gildan Softstyle Jersey T-shirt
Unisex - Black

[Buy / Donate](#)

[Share](#)



THE BUDDHIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA AND THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

In its 44-year history, I believe there was only one time that the Ekoji Buddhist Temple, as an entity, took a public stand on a social issue. At that time in the late 1980s, after an afternoon Special Sangha Meeting to discuss the matter, the then-Ekoji President was authorized, on behalf of the temple, to join an Amicus Brief to be filed with the United States Supreme Court on a case regarding religious freedom.

This June 7, 2025, will be the second time when Ekoji shares its views on an important social issue. While carrying an identifying banner, Ekoji will participate in the WorldPride Parade in Washington, D.C., Ekoji President, Andrea Chapman, said,

We believe this is a powerful opportunity to demonstrate our values of inclusivity, compassion, and loving-kindness to the wider community. We envision up to 100 members and friends of our Sangha representing Ekoji's welcoming motto, "Come as you are."

Other BCA Temples are participating in other WorldPride parades in their own cities.

At the 2023 BCA National Council Meeting, Bishop Marvin Harada asked Rev. Maribeth "Smitty" Smith of the Buddhist Temple of San Diego, and Rev. Gary Jaskula of the New York Buddhist Church and the Albany Buddhist Sangha, to share their thoughts on the benefits of a teaching that embraces all and forsakes none. Both Minister's Assistants are from the LGBTQ+ community.

But in fact, this 2023 BCA workshop was a continuation of a long on-going tradition of supporting same-sex marriages and LGBTQ+ rights among Jodo Shin Buddhist temples in the mainland United States and Hawaii.

Soon after the "1969 Stonewall Uprising", often considered the start of the Gay Rights Movement, starting in the early 1970s and every decade thereafter, BCA ministers have been quietly and without fanfare performing minister-led same-sex ceremonies, regardless of location or the person's religion.

According to Dr. Jeff Wilson, a well-known Buddhist scholar at Waterloo University in Toronto, Canada, the late Rev. Rebecca Joren MacDonald in 1977 performed a ceremony for a couple who were not Buddhists. Rev. MacDonald explained, "They felt they had nowhere to go, and they wanted some sort of religious recognition of their union."

(The BCA and the LGBTQ, Cont on Pg 6)

Dr. Wilson believes there are three major reasons for this Jodo Shin Buddhist acceptance of same-sex marriages and human rights. **First** was the long experience with racism and discrimination against Japanese Americans prior to and after World War II and their incarceration. Secondly, Jodo Shinshu theology and scriptures carry no homophobic rules or messages. Thus, there is no real foundation upon which to build potential objections to same-sex marriage or other LGBTQ+ issues.

Thirdly, Dr. Wilson believes, however, the most important reason, he states, is:

Ministers and laypeople alike consistently reference the all-embracing nature of Amida Buddha, the central icon of Jodo Shinshu. The Buddha acts always and only out of compassion, possessing no judgmental or severe side. All beings are embraced and liberated by the Buddha, good and bad, old and young, male and female, the teachings proclaim – and straight and gay as well

Our religion is a matter of personal belief, and as one of Ekoji's Sangha members reminds us, "*I said I'm a Buddhist, not the Buddha.*" So regardless of what the BCA says, or our temple leaders, or our minister and the bulk of our Sangha say, we must make up our own minds and our own hearts, and follow the teachings of the Buddha as he urged us to let the Dharma be our guide. As each of us follows our hearts, Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara, the Co-Director of the BCA's Center for Buddhist Education, cautions all of us "*to guard against our own self-righteousness, in particular, the potential to not extend compassion to those with an opposite or discriminatory attitudes or to be blind to one's own discriminatory attitudes*". He stressed that "*the lack of overt discrimination is not the same as creating a truly inclusive environment.*"

Rev. Kuwahara continued that "*the basis of Buddhist inclusiveness is self-reflection. We must humbly (examine our biases) ...it's only when we truly know ourselves that we can change our behavior.*"

Namo Amida Butsu

"For some, and many of us who identify as LGBTQ+, being accepted just as you are without the possibility of being rejected or abandoned, can be very powerful. I know many in the LGBTQ+ community who have experienced rejection, discrimination and abandonment. And it can be very painful to experience discrimination or rejection when you come out, when you reveal who you truly are."...

"We who are bombu (foolish beings) or are unenlightened or just ordinary beings discriminate against each other with our deluded and unenlightened mind. Through the eyes of enlightenment, none are discriminated against and none are rejected. ...Shinran makes it known to us that wisdom and compassion doesn't discriminate, doesn't reach out to some people while rejecting others, and at the same time, we're all equally embraced by the light of Compassion, grasped and never abandoned and never forsaken. These teachings can enable us to live our lives without suffering, without fear, and without the pain of rejection."

Rev. Mariabeth Smith, to the BCA National Council, 2023.

REGISTRATION

- This is a hybrid event, offering both in-person and Zoom participation, and serves as a fundraiser for Ekoji Buddhist Temple.
- In-person participation: Advance registration and a fee of \$35 is required, which includes a nourishing lunch.
- Zoom – \$20.00
- Zoom participation: Advance registration and a suggested donation of \$20 is appreciated. Zoom link will be emailed to participants a few days prior.

EKOJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE Yoga & Buddhism

— YOGA TO SUPPORT THE THREE TREASURES —

Exploring the history, philosophy, and practice of yoga.
Open to all levels, from beginners to experienced practitioners.

WORKSHOP PRESENTED BY

Bob Matsueda
**Yoga Wellness Instructor &
Yoga Therapist**
**Certified by Govt. of India,
Ministry of AYUSH**

Rev. Bob Oshita- Rinban
Emeritus Sacramento Betsuin
**Co-author of "Dharma Is
Everywhere"**



Instructor: Bob Matsueda

Keynote: Rev. Bob Oshita

Saturday, April 12, 9am - 4pm

Register Now

<https://ekojibuddhisttemple.wildapricot.org/events>

6500 Lakehaven Lane, Fairfax Station, VA or join us via ZOOM

FOUNDATIONS OF YOGA: HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, AND PRACTICE

Embark on a transformative journey into the heart of Yoga. This workshop offers a comprehensive introduction to the rich tapestry of Yoga, exploring its history, philosophy, and practical applications.

DISCOVER

The Roots of Yoga: Delve into the ancient origins of Yoga, tracing its spiritual significance within Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and its broader Indian context. Learn how Shakyamuni Buddha utilized Yoga practices on his path to enlightenment.

Philosophical Insights: Explore the core principles and philosophies that underpin Yoga, gaining a deeper understanding of its purpose and meaning.

Practical Techniques: Engage in hands-on learning of essential Yoga practices, including:

Meditation and Chanting

Mantra Recitation

Breathing Techniques (Pranayama)

Physical Postures (Asanas)

Relaxation Techniques for Stress, Anxiety, and Sleep

Holistic Wellness: Learn how Yoga can support healthy diet and lifestyle choices.

This workshop aims to introduce Yoga to the surrounding community, highlight the complementary nature of Yoga and Buddhism, promoting both education and practical application, enhance the health and well-being of participants through accessible Yoga practices, building upon the established online community.

PRESENTER:

Bob Matsueda, a highly experienced Yoga & Wellness Instructor and Yoga Therapist, certified by the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India Yoga Certification Board, will guide this enriching workshop. Learn more about Robert at bobmatsueda.com.

Additional details:

This workshop is open to all levels, from beginners to experienced practitioners. Please bring a yoga mat (optional as chairs are also available), comfortable clothing, and an open mind.

This is a hybrid event, offering both in-person and Zoom participation, and serves as a fundraiser for Ekoji Buddhist Temple.

- Zoom participation: Advance registration and a suggested donation of \$20 is appreciated.
- In-person participation: Advance registration and a fee of \$35 is required, which includes a nourishing lunch.

TIMELINE:

8:30 am temple doors open

8:45 am Zoom room opens

9:00 am – 11:30 am yoga presentation (hybrid)

11:30 am – 12:30 pm luncheon (included in price)

Japanese Garden open for self-guided walking meditation

12:30 pm – 1:30 pm yoga nidra (stress and relaxation practice, mat suggested but not required) (hybrid)

1:30 pm – 2:00 pm short break

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm Rev. Bob Oshita (hybrid)

3:00 pm – 3:15 Guided walking meditation in the garden / tranquil music (hybrid)

3:15 pm – 4:15 pm Circle sharing / Healing circle (hybrid)

5:00 pm – Group dinner out, Dutch treat (optional)

Sponsored by: the Center for Buddhist Education (CBE), Buddhist Churches of America & Dharma

Forward: Endowment Foundation Grant

Your participation in this workshop directly supports Ekoji Buddhist Temple. As a fundraiser, and due to the considerable preparation required, we appreciate your understanding that refunds cannot be provided.



HANAMATSURI – CELEBRATING THE BIRTH OF SIDDHARTHA, THE HISTORICAL BUDDHA

By Ken Nakamura

Siddhartha Gautama, who we recognize as the historical Buddha, was a human being and not a god or some Supreme Deity. He was born about 2,600 years ago in the northeastern portion of the Indian Subcontinent where he lived in palatial splendor until he was about 29. Siddhartha lived and traveled in that area and became a great religious leader, a Buddha, whose teachings about the Dharma have spread over the world, touching millions and millions of people. At the age of 80, Siddhartha died at Kusinagara, India.

Records say that Siddhartha was born a Prince in a small kingdom in the Shakya clan as the son of King Suddhodana and Queen Maya. As was the custom of the time, Queen Maya was returning to her parent's home to give birth there. She and her escorts stopped along the way to rest and enjoy the beautiful Lumbini Garden. There in Lumbini Garden, Siddhartha was born

SIDDARTHA'S BIRTH-LEGEND

Rev. Kenneth Tanaka, in his book *Jewels*, explains that "Legends" are stories often written by later followers of extraordinary people. These extraordinary people are often described as having super-human qualities, to enhance their special-ness even more.

"According to Buddhist legend, one night Queen Maya had a strange dream, in which she dreamed that a white elephant entered her womb through the right side of her chest. Soon after, she learned that she had conceived a child. When it came time to give birth, Queen Maya set out to return to her parents' home to have the baby, in keeping with the custom of her day.

"On her way she took a rest in the Lumbini Garden, finding her self captivated by the beautiful flowers of the Ashoka tree. As she reached for a branch of one of the trees, it is said that the tree bent down to meet her hand. She then gave birth in a standing position, while holding on to the branch for support.

*"As soon as her baby, the prince, was born, legend has it that he took seven steps. Then he pointed the right arm up and the left arm down and proclaimed, "In heavens above and earth below, I alone am the World- honored One. All that exists in the Three Worlds is suffering, but I will bring comfort." (Rev. Kenneth Tanaka, *Jewels*, , 2020, pg. 36.)*

And the Legend continues, "The Heavens were said to have been so moved by these words that they rained down sweet tea in response." (Jodo Shinshu: A Guide, Hongwanji, 2004, p. 6)

(Hanamatsuri, Cont. on Pg. 10)

During our Hanamatsuri celebration of the birth of Siddhartha, the future Buddha, we, in a way, re-enact the Birth-Legend.

- At the Naijin, there is flower-house (Hanamido) representing the beauty of Lumbini Garden.
- Within the Hanamido is a statue of the baby Buddha with the right arm pointed toward the sky and the left arm pointed toward the earth.
- At the Hanamido, we pour a ladle of “sweet tea” over the statue of the baby Buddha, as in the legend, the sky opened up and rained sweet tea upon the baby Buddha in joy and happiness.

As we celebrate Hanamatsuri, we also express our deep gratitude and indebtedness for the teachings that Buddha brought to us. For Jodo Shin Householder Buddhists, it includes the teachings of the Nembutsu Path, and the all-embracing, non-rejecting, wisdom and compassion of Amida Buddha that we become one with.

Namo Amida Butsu



Ekaji's Hanamido thanks to the Hung Vo family who constructed it .



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 allows us, as a family, to remember once again 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.

Based on the year of the passing of a loved one, for 2025 the years for Special Family Memorial Services are: 2024 – 1st Year; 2023 – 3rd Year; 2019 – 7th Year; 2013 – 13th Year; 2009 – 17th Year; 2001 – 25th Year; 1993 – 33rd Year; 1976 – 50th Year; 1926 – 100th.

FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL, WE WILL BE REMEMBERING WITH GRATITUDE:

March 2025

Reiko Matsumoto
3/12/2016

April 2025

Robert Thomas Miyashiro
4/7/2003
Geraldine Hamai Cantwell
8/13/1944 – 4/6/2007
Ralph Ishii
4/16/2007
Masaru Ushiro
4/26/2008
Rev. Shojo Honda
6/25/1929 – 4/13/2015
Junichi Kamikawa
11/11/1922 – 4/2/2003
“Tattoo” Tom Mitchell
3/7/1969 – 4/22/2024

May 2025

Rev. Dr. Yehan Numata
4/2/1897 – 5/5/1994
Claire Minami
1/12/1915 – 5/24/2009
Jon Craig
5/25/2019



Secretary's Report: Ekoji Buddhist Temple Board of Directors Meeting

Date: March 17, 2025

The March meeting of the Ekoji Buddhist Temple Board of Directors was held on the evening of March 17, 2025. Reverend Kurt Rye opened the meeting with Gassho, bringing everyone together in a moment of reflection before beginning the evening's discussions.

The board first reviewed the consent agenda, which included the February meeting minutes and the treasurer's reports. Michael Huff apologized for sending the minutes late, explaining he had been unwell. Maya made a motion to approve the consent agenda, and Michael seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Next, President Andrea Chapman gave her report. She shared a 7-minute video from the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) called "What Does the BCA Do?" The video was shown to help everyone better understand the work and services the BCA provides. Andrea said she hoped to play the video at a future Sunday service. To make it more accessible, she suggested providing a printed list of terms and acronyms used in the video, like "Kaikyoshi" and "Tokudo." Reverend Rye agreed and added that the video could be a helpful tool, especially with some added explanation for newcomers.

Andrea also spoke about the recent National Council Meeting, which was held virtually. She said the national board plans to return to in-person meetings in the future. Because of this, Ekoji should be prepared to include travel costs for board delegates in upcoming budgets. One key takeaway from the council was the idea of thinking about temple programs as either "doors" that invite people in or "exits" that may push people away. Andrea encouraged everyone to think about how Ekoji's actions support inclusion and hospitality.

During the National Council discussion, the board talked about who should pay for travel to national meetings. Some felt the Eastern District should cover these costs, while others noted that this may depend on the year's budget. The next National Council meeting will be in Seattle from February 13–15, 2026. Two delegates from Ekoji will need to attend. Andrea offered to give up her seat if others wanted the opportunity. The group clarified that both board members and trustees are eligible to serve as delegates.

The board then reviewed the results of a recent special Sangha meeting, held the day before. At that meeting, Frank Swithers was re-elected to the Board of Directors to fill the seat left vacant by Nick's recent relocation to NYC. During the current meeting, Reverend Rye administered the official oath of office to Frank. Frank also agreed to take on the role of Vice President, joining the Executive Committee. The board also acknowledged that Jim Daniels had stepped down for personal reasons. Since Frank has rejoined the board, the remaining members agreed not to fill Jim's vacancy until the November annual meeting.

Next, Jimmy Major presented two new proposals. The first was to host a shared lunch with Marmalon, the Korean Buddhist nunnery next door. The goal is to build stronger relationships between the two communities. The board was supportive, and Jimmy agreed to coordinate scheduling and bring a thoughtful gift of new teacups. His second proposal was for Ekoji to participate in the D.C. Pride Parade this June. This would be a way to show Ekoji's support for inclusion and its message of welcoming all people. The board responded positively. Jimmy will handle the logistics and registration.

Andrea then shared exciting news: Ekoji was awarded a \$44,000 technology grant from the Dharma Forward campaign. This will help cover the cost of the AV system that supports online services and programs. As part of the grant, Ekoji will submit a story to the Wheel of Dharma newsletter. Andrea asked board members and Sangha participants to submit quotes about how the technology has helped them connect to Ekoji.

Finally, Jimmy gave a brief library update. He reported continued donations of books and shared that a small committee had been formed through the Young Buddhist Association (YBA). The library is growing and will soon be ready to share with the full Sangha.

The meeting ended with the closing reflections and Gassho from Reverend Rye.

Namo Amida Butsu



Cherry Trees In Full Bloom Around Ekoji



MONTHLY TREASURER'S REPORT

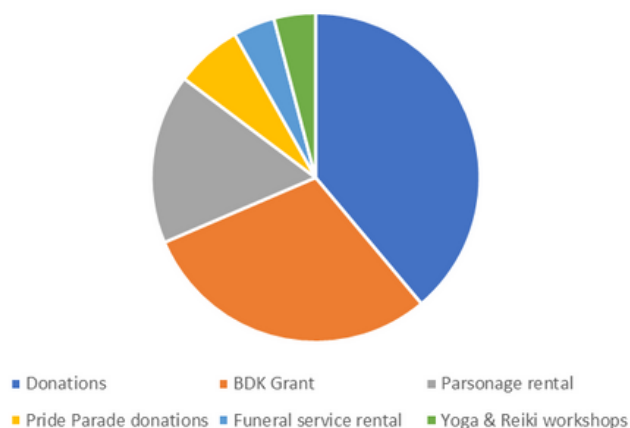
By Maya Horio, Treasurer

The Board presents this column to make transparent how we use sangha donations and our other income streams, and to illuminate the daily financial flows that happen behind the scenes, complementing the financial recap and outlook that we share at our annual sangha meeting each fall. We welcome your thoughts and questions, as directed to our temple Treasurer, Maya Horio, at ekojitreasurer@gmail.com.

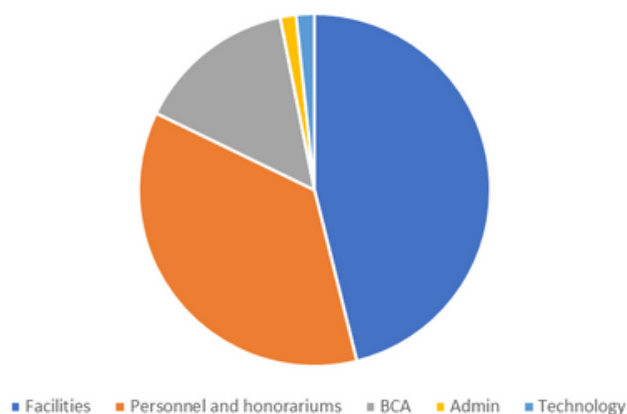
March 2025 Finance Flows: Our income outweighed our expenses this month as members continued to renew their annual memberships, and with ad hoc income coming from donations for Ekoji's Pride Parade registration and upcoming yoga and reiki workshop registrations.

- **Income (\$12,208):** Sangha membership renewals again made up our largest chunk of income this month, closely followed by our monthly grant from BDK America and parsonage rental income. Donations for Ekoji's Pride Parade registration, registrations for our upcoming yoga and reiki workshops, and a funeral rental payment comprised almost 1/6 of our income this month.
- **Expenses (\$8,322):** Facilities continued to make up our primary expense, with most of that split between our electricity bill and garden upkeep. Personnel payments, our BCA monthly dues, and a small amount of admin expenses made up the remainder.

Mar Income



Mar Expenses





By Maya Horio and Kim Nguyen, Co-Superintendents



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 split typically by age into the following classes: Pre-Kindergarten-1st grade; 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.

SEPTEMBER 2024	OCTOBER 2024	NOVEMBER 2024 (Eshinni and Kakushinni Day & Pet Memorial)	DECEMBER 2024 (Bodhi Day)
01 NO DHARMA SCHOOL 08 NO DHARMA SCHOOL 15 NO DHARMA SCHOOL2 22 0930 Teacher Work Day 29 0930 - 10-30 am DS Info Session	06 0930 - 1030 DS Classes 13 NO DHARMA SCHOOL 20 0930 - 1030 am Service & EBL Conference DS Home Altar Project 27 0930 - 1030 am DS Classes	03 0930 - 1030 DS Classes (Daylight Savings Ends) 10 NO DHARMA SCHOOL 17 0930 - 1030 DS Service & Tsuji Center Cleanup 24 0930 - 1030 DS Classes	01 0930 - 1030 Joint DS Classes 08 0930 - 1030 DS Classes 15 0930 - 1030 DS Service & Tsuji Center Cleanup 22 NO DHARMA SCHOOL 29 NO DHARMA SCHOOL
JANUARY 2025 (Ho Onko Service)	FEBRUARY 2025 (Nirvana Day)	MARCH 2025 (Higan)	APRIL; 2025 (Hanamatsuri)
05 0930 - 1030 DS Classes 12 0930 - 1030 DS Service & Tsuji Center Cleanup 19 NO DHARMA SCHOOL 26 0930 - 1030 DS Classes	02 0930 - 1030 DS Classes 09 0930 - 1030 DS Service & Tsuji Center Cleanup 16 NO DHARMA SCHOOL 23 0930 -1030 DS Classes	02 0930 - 1030 DS Classes 09 NO DHARMA SCHOOL 16 0930 - 1030 DS Service & Tsuji Center Cleanup 23 0930 - 1030 DS Classes 30 NO DHARMA SCHOOL	06 1045 - 1200 Special Joint Hanamatsuri Service 13 NO DHARMA SCHOOL 20 0930 - 1030 DS Classes 27 0930 - 1030 Joint DS Classes
MAY 2025 (Gotan - E)	JUNE 2025		
04 0930-1030 DS Classes 11 0930 - 1030 DS Service & Tsuji Center Cleanup 16 0930-1030 DX Classes 26 NO DHARA SCHOOL	01 0930 JOINT END OF THE YEAR DS PARTY		



In Gassho

Dana from February 28, 2025 to March 28, 2025

Joy Aso
John Barnes
Chloe Bell
Carolina Betto
Jane Blechman
Jessica Brooks
Nicolas Brown
Eugenia Burkes
Loredana Calin
Alexander Corbin
Joseph Crilley
Mahkameh Doroud
Matthew Doubrava
Eva Dugoff
Hao Fong
Stanley Fujii

Joseph Gotchy
Kay Hill
Connie Hoffman
Marisa and Tamon Honda
Maya and Brant Horio
Maya and Brant Horio
(In memory of Phoebe Horio)
Emily Ihara
Angela Jones
Cheryl Kameda
Yuko Keicho
Kikuyuki no Kai Dancers
Norm and Gail Kondo
Sandra Lukic-Dapoingy
Thea Maggard
Richard Malone and Rick Ware
Bert and Nancy Motonaga

Ken and Nori Nakamura
Ken and Nori Nakamura
(in memory of Janet Kuroda)
Ken and Nori Nakamura
(in memory of Sakaye Tsuji)
Diana Nguyen
Donna Omata
Joyce and Robert Oshita
Jerry Rankin
Edward Sams
Bob Shimokaji
Tamiko Shudo
Edgar Sullivan
Frank Swithers
Charles Uyeda
Michael and Miki Welick
Mikio Yamashita



Check out Ekoji's monthly podcast interviews at <http://tinyuri.com/EchoEkoji>
This Month, Andrea and Joe are joined by Ekoji's own **Minister's Assistant Rob Fike**



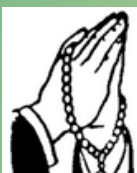
JOIN THE EKOJI VIRTUAL MOVIE DISCUSSION SESSIONS



*The Dharma speaks to us through the sounds of the world –
Forcefully, eloquently and beautifully.
It speaks of the unending change around us,
The immutable truth of interdependence,
And the peace in nature
Do we have the ears to hear and listen...?
(Rev. Kenryu T. Tsuji, The Heart of the Buddha Dharma, p. 67)*

Enjoy Ekoji's virtual movie discussions. They are held on the third Sunday of each month and are led by Ann and Joran Stegner. RSVP for the Zoom link [here](#). The discussion is casual, may wander away from the movie a lot, but it is always a chance hear the Dharma through the movie and the discussion, regardless of whether it was on topic.

The movie for April is **"The Professor and the Madman,"**. The Zoom **discussion will be at 2:00 on April 20**. It is streaming on Kanopy, Hoppla, and Tubi or can be rented cheaply and watched on Amazon Prime.



JOIN OUR TEMPLE

THE EKOJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE THE TEMPLE OF THE GIFT OF LIGHT

We are committed to growing a worldwide Sangha and invite you to join our diverse community. Explore the benefits of membership by visiting our membership portal at: <http://ekojibuddhisttemple.wildapricot.org>

ALL OUR WELCOME -- COME AS YOU ARE

SANGHA SCOOPS

By Ken Nakamura

First, we would like to offer our deepest thanks to **FRANK SWITHERS** for his willingness to serve on the Ekoji Board again, filling the position held by Nick Karen, who recently moved to New York City. Frank was nominated and elected unanimously at the hybrid Sangha Special Meeting on March 16th, which followed the regular 11:00 am regular Sunday Service.

It's the beginning of April and it is that time again – **OBON IS COMMING !!**



BRANT HORIO, last years very successful Obon Chairman, announced that it is time to get ready for Ekoji's Obon Festival and Service on Saturday and Sunday, July 13 and 14, 2025. The OBON Festival on Saturday is Ekoji's biggest fund raiser, and **it requires everyone's help**. You will be hearing calls for help and explanations of how the volunteer coordination is working. Again, we hope you can step forward and help.

On Sunday, March 30, the **PEACEFUL FOREST TAIKO FAMILY** provided a varied musical performance in Ekoji's Sangha Hall. The family group is led by renowned taiko player Takumi Kato who is accompanied by his three sons. Through 9,000 performances in every state in the U.S., they seek to share Japanese culture and the Culture of Taiko, with the American people. The family group plans to join Ekoji at Obon, for an encore performance.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS, APRIL 2025

WEEKLY

SUNDAY

- CHILDREN'S DHARMA SCHOOL, 9:30AM – 10:30AM, SUNDAY, APRIL 20 AND SUNDAY, APRIL 27 IN THE TSUJI CENTER.
- HYBRID SERVICE, 11:00AM WITH AN AFTER-SERVICE HYBRID DISCUSSION IN THE HONDO.

WEDNESDAY

- DHARMA BREEZE ONLINE SERVICE, 7:00PM IN THE EKOJI ZOOM ROOM.

THURSDAY

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

MONTHLY

FIRST SUNDAY

- TEMPLE CLEANUP, 9:30AM – 10:30AM, ALL ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE

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

- **FUNERAL SERVICE FOR MRS. SAKAYE TSUJI, SATURDAY, APRIL 5 AT 5PM IN THE HONDO VIA ZOOM.**
- JOINT HANAMATSURI SERVICE, SUNDAY, APRIL 6 AT 11:00AM IN THE HONDO, FOLLOWED BY A POT LUCK LUNCHEON IN THE SANGHA HALL. DHARMA SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE ASKED TO ASSEMBLE IN THE HONDO FOYER AT 10:45AM.
- YOGA AND BUDDHISM WORKSHOP, "FOUNDATIONS OF YOGA: HISTORY, PHILOSOPHY, AND PRACTICE", PRESENTED BY BOB MATSUEDA AND REV. BOB OSHITA, SATURDAY, APRIL 12 FROM 9AM TO 4PM IN THE HONDO. PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED AND LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED.
- SHOTSUKI SERVICE, SUNDAY, APRIL 13 AT 11:00AM IN THE HONDO. (Change from the usual 1st Sunday of the month)
- YOUNG BUDDHISTS ASSOCIATION MEETING, SUNDAY, APRIL 13 IN THE SANGHA HALL IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE HYBRID SUNDAY SERVICE.
- BUDDHIST MOVIE GROUP DISCUSSION, "THE PROFESSOR AND THE MADMAN," SUNDAY, APRIL 20 AT 2:00PM IN THE EKOJI ZOOM ROOM.

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

A Kalavinka is a mythical bird with the head of a human and a long flowing colorful tail. It lives in the Pure Land, and it has a beautiful Voice that sings praises to the Buddha, the sutras, and the words of the Buddha.



YOUR 2025 TEMPLE LEADERS

**SUPERVISING MINISTER
REVEREND KURT RYE**

YOUR TEMPLE BOARD

PRESIDENT: Andrea Chapman
VICE PRESIDENT: Frank Swithers
SECRETARY: Michael Huff
TREASURER: Maya Horio
MEMBER AT LARGE: Mahkameh Doroud
MEMBER AT LARGE: Roger Scott
MEMBER AT LARGE: Jesse Barrick

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DISRIBUTION: Andrea Chapman
84,000 THOUGHTS: Rev. Kurt Rye
TREASURER'S REPORT: Maya Horio
DHARMA SCHOOL: Maya Horio
CALENDAR & EVENTS: Pilar Uelman
FROM THE BOARD: Andrea Chapman
NEN DAIKO: Emily Ihara

YOUR TEMPLE TRUSTEES

Kim Nguyen
Ed Sams

SERVICES

Rev. Kurt Rye, Supervising Minister to Ekoji
Rev. Erick Ishii, Minister's Assistant with Ordination (Tokudo)
Bob Shimokaji, Certified Minister's Assistant
Rob Fike, Certified Minister's Assistant
Truc Vo, Certified Jr. Minister's Assistant
Ken Nakamura: Certified Minister's Assistant (Ret.)
Pilar Uelman, Lay Dharma Leader
Molly Kuramoto: Lay Dharma Leader
Ed Sams: Lay Dharma Leader and Service Chair Coordinator

EKOJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

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