

JUNE 2025

KALAVINKA

A NEWSLETTER OF EKOJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

EKOJI'S OBON IS COMING – JULY 12 AND 13
SAVE THE DATE !



南無阿彌陀佛

Do not stand at my grave
by Mary Elizabeth Frye

Do not stand at my grave and weep,
I am not there; I do not sleep.
I am a thousand winds that blow,
I am the diamond glints on snow,
I am the sun on ripened grain,
I am the gentle autumn rain.
When you awaken in the morning's hush
I am the swift uplifting rush
Of quiet birds in circling flight.
I am the soft star-shine at night.
Do not stand at my grave and cry,
I am not there; I did not die.

NAMO AMIDA BUTSU



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TICKETS LIMITED & SOLD ONLY ONLINE

Obon

EKOJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE
Summer Festival

Saturday
July 12
5 - 9 pm



PUBLIC
PARKING

FOOD | FOLK DANCING | LIVE MUSIC
TAIKO DRUMMING | GAMES | VENDORS
GARDEN CANDLELIGHT SERVICE

ekoji.org

46th Ekoji Obon Festival on Saturday, July 12, 2025, from 5 pm to 9 pm at Ekoji Buddhist Temple! Experience Japanese "Bon" dancing, a Nen Daiko performance, delicious food, vendors, and children's activities. Stay for our moving evening memorial ceremony in the Japanese garden, filled with candles honoring loved ones.

- **Location:** Ekoji Buddhist Temple, 6500 Lakehaven Lane, Fairfax Station, Virginia 22039
- **Admission Tickets:** \$6 per person (children 2 and under free). Limited tickets sold online only. **No tickets sold at the gate. Order your tickets at www.ekoji.org.**
- **Gates** open at 5 pm ET, rain or shine. No tents or pets allowed. Folding chairs and blankets welcome. Ekoji is smoke-free. Your e-receipt is your ticket. Tickets are non-refundable and non-transferable.
- **Memory Candles:** \$5 each, available online and at the festival. Order at www.ekoji.org.
- **Volunteer:** Help out and get FREE admission! Learn more about this opportunity at www.ekoji.org.

GO TO THE EKOJI WEB PAGE (www.ekoji.org) to buy tickets, volunteer, pre-order some food, order memory candles for Saturday evening service, etc.



EKOJI'S OBON – WHAT IS IT?

Obon has its cultural roots in Japan and its religious roots in ancient Buddhist legends from India. Many Buddhist denominations consider Obon as a time to offer food and gifts to friends and to those who have passed away before us. They think of it as a time to “welcome and sendoff,” with lit lanterns, the spirits of one’s ancestors who have come to visit.

Our denomination, Jodo Shin Buddhism, however, observes Obon as a time to remember and honor all those who have passed on before us. It is a time for appreciating all that they have done for us and recognizing the continuation of their deeds upon our lives. And in Jodo Shin Buddhism, Obon dancing is a reflection of our joy and gratitude for all that we have received.

ON SATURDAY, JULY 12, WE WILL HAVE THE OBON FESTIVAL



Jodo Shin Buddhism’s Obon celebration came to the United States with the Japanese immigrants

when they came here in the late 19th and 20th centuries and the tradition continues today.

At the festival are Japanese folk dancing, taiko drumming, all kinds of Japanese and other foods, games for the kids, and a really festive and fun time for all.

It is also Ekoji’s biggest fundraiser and requiring enormous Sangha participation to pull it off.

Brant and Maya Horio are again filling their roles, carried over the past several years, as Co-Chairs. Team Captains are meeting to plan and work on getting things ready.

Due to county requirements, attendance will be limited. **All tickets will be sold online only – no-at-the-door sales.** Also, again this year, we cannot have amplified sound so we will again depend on live music to do the traditional folkdances.

We close this portion of the festivities with a traditional candlelight service in Ekoji’s Garden of the Three Treasures.

ON SUNDAY, JULY 13, WE EMPHASIZE THE RELIGIOUS SIDE OF OBON – A MEMORIAL SERVICE

During our 11:00 am Obon memorial service, we remember and pay our deepest gratitude and respect to our loved ones who have passed away.



Within the Obon Service, we hold a special segment for those whose loved ones have passed away since the last Obon service last July. This is called the **Hatsubon** or “**First Obon**”. Each of the Hatsubon families will be called to come up to the altar (Onaijin) and light a small memorial candle in remembrance and gassho.

If you wish to participate in remembering your loved one during the Hatsubon portion of the service, there is a form on Ekoji’s website (ekoji.org) under the Obon tab that you can submit online or give in person to Erick Ishii or Andrea Chapman **by July 4** so that arrangements can be made.

FOR MORE DETAILS AND CHANGES, PLEASE
CHECK EKOJI’S WEBSITE (www.ekoji.org)



EKOJI OBON 2025

THINGS TO REMEMBER



- OBON is ultimately a memorial service, both during the festival portion and the service the next day, giving us the opportunity to remember with loving gratitude, those who have passed on before us for all that we have received, and are continuing be supported by them.
- **Tickets** (\$6.00/individual) for the Saturday evening festival will only be sold online. You will not be able to buy tickets at the entrance to the temple grounds.
- Before the Saturday, (7/12/25), there is **much that can be done online** at Ekoji's website, www.ekoji.org. You will be able to:
 - Buy tickets for the Saturday festival.
 - Pre-order some of the foods sold (food will also be sold on the grounds, but pre-ordering assures you that you will be able to get what you want).
 - Order memorial candles for the Saturday evening closing service.
 - **Hatsubon Families**. If you have lost a loved one during the past year, between last year's Obon and this year's Obon, there is a special part in the Sunday Obon service to recognize your loss. A special candle will be set aside you in memory of your loved one. On the website, there is a form to fill out and return by July 4, indicating that you will participate as a Hatsubon Family.
- We are very much looking for **volunteers** to help. You can volunteer to help on-line. A benefit is that you will not have to pay an entrance fee.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

5:00 — Gates open
5:15 — Opening Ceremony
5:30 — Demonstration service
5:45- 6:45 — Bon Odori (festival dancing) [End with Lantern Song]
6:45 – 7:05 — Okinawan Karate Demo
7:05- 7:15 — Dounen
7:15- 7:45 — Nen Daiko
7:45- 8:35 — Bon Odori (festival dancing)
8:45 – 9:00 — Candlelight memorial service
9:00 — Obon ends

In between events, enjoy the children and teen games and activities, temple tours and presentations, specialty food, desserts, beverages, vendor and artisan booths.



84,000 THOUGHTS

JODO SHIN BUDDHISM AND MEDITATION

By Rev. Kurt Rye

As a global religious tradition, Buddhism, akin to other spiritual systems, encompasses core teachings and doctrines that are shared across its diverse schools or sects. Similarly to other traditions, individual schools tend to concentrate on a specific teaching or practice. Notably, many individuals familiar with Buddhism are aware of the prevalent practice of sitting meditation. Some might believe this is the only path to enlightenment, but there are numerous avenues.

The significance and identification of meditation practice within Buddhist traditions are highly esteemed. However, it is pertinent to examine its role within our school of Jodo Shinshu. In contrast to other traditions, sitting meditation is not customary. This raises the intriguing question of whether the primary objective of a Shin service is the attainment of enlightenment. In fact many Jodo Shinshu ministers will claim that Shin Buddhists do not meditate. I don't completely agree with this stance and feel we can investigate it from a different perspective.

The ambiguity surrounding the role of meditation arises from the personal experience of our founder, Shinran Shonin (1173-1262). At the tender age of eight, he was entrusted to a Tendai monastery, where he spent his formative years participating in diverse Buddhist rituals, including meditation. The Tendai School of Buddhism asserts the existence of multifaceted doctrines and practices that facilitate the attainment of enlightenment. Through his involvement within this community, Shinran experienced a profound revelation that, despite over two decades of practices, meditation was not the most appropriate path for him. Consequently, he embarked on a journey to explore alternative forms of Buddhism and discovered the Pure Land practice as prescribed by Honen (1133-1212). Shinran found a genuine teaching with his comprehension of the nembutsu, as exemplified in the Pure Land teachings.

Shinran was cognizant of the diverse avenues one can traverse to attain enlightenment. Some assert that there are 84,000 gates. When he declared that the Pure Land path was his practice, he did not intend to disparage or discredit other schools or practices. All Buddhist paths are legitimate; they may simply employ specific practices or rituals.

With this idea of all practices being of value on the Buddhist path, we can question our understanding of meditation. As Buddhists are aware, Prince Siddhartha was an ordinary man, not a prophet or deity. He reached the state of enlightenment by practicing and going into a deep samadhi. The practice remains viable in the present day, and all individuals possess the potential to embark on this path towards enlightenment. This is only one form of meditation that is intended to lead to enlightenment itself.

(Rev. Rye on *Jodo Shin Buddhism and Meditation*, Cont. on Pg. 2)



FROM THE PRESIDENT: EKOJI'S NEWS AND UPDATES

By Andrea Chapman, President

I'm thrilled to share some exciting news and important updates as we move further into spring.

A New Exploration: AI and Our Practice

I'm so excited to announce that the latest edition of our temple podcast is now live! This episode delves into a truly fascinating and timely topic: **Artificial Intelligence (AI)**. **We explore with Brant Horio, how this powerful new tool might actually help us deepen our Buddhist practice and cultivate more profound listening.** I'm waiting with bated breath to hear your thoughts on this conversation, as it opens up some really interesting possibilities. To further explore this, Brant will be offering a Dharma message on this very topic on June 1. I highly encourage you to attend and participate in what promises to be a thought-provoking discussion afterwards.

Obon: Our Biggest Event Needs You!

Simultaneously, our largest fundraiser and biggest event of the year, **Obon**, is just around the corner, and **we absolutely need your help** to make it a success! We're looking for 144+ volunteers to staff this event. There are so many opportunities for you to assist – from serving delicious food and selling activity tickets to warmly greeting guests as they arrive and staffing our temple shop. Every helping hand makes a huge difference. Please sign up here today and let us know we can count on you.

You can also find tickets, candles, pre-orders for food, and more on our event page. As a token of our appreciation for your invaluable support, we're hosting a volunteer breakfast on Sunday, June 8, from 9:30 am to 10:15 am. All are invited to join us for some yummy eggs, spam, and rice, lovingly prepared by Kim, Erick, and Bob. Kindly RSVP here so we can get a headcount.

We're also incredibly excited to announce that Rev. Rye will be joining us for Obon 2025! This is wonderful news, and we look forward to welcoming him. If you would like to participate in Sunday's Hatsubon Service and reserve a Hatsubon Candle to be lit in memory of a loved one who passed in the last 12 months, you can reserve that here.

Ekoji Marches in World Pride!

In a first for Ekoji, we will be proudly participating in the World Pride Parade on Saturday, June 7. This is a wonderful opportunity to show our support and presence in the wider community. It's not too late to sign up here if you'd like to march with us! Jimmy will be hosting a team briefing on Sunday, June 1, after service, so please plan to attend if you're participating.

As always, thank you for your continued dedication and support of our temple. Your engagement makes our Sangha a vibrant and thriving community.

Namo Amida Butsu



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 JUNE, WE WILL BE REMEMBERING WITH GRATITUDE:

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

June 2025

Kimi Kawamura
6/11/1992
Mary Nobuko Okamoto
8/14/1920 – 6/12/2017

July 2025

Mitsu Yasuda Carl
10/22/1924 – 7/13/2001
John Malcolm
7/2/2012



ECHO EKOJI

TEMPLE PODCAST

Can AI be your partner on a Buddhist path?



SPECIAL GUEST
BRANT HORIO



CO-HOST
ANDREA CHAPMAN



CO-HOST
JOE GOTCHY

This month on ***Echo Ekoji*** we are pleased to welcome back Brant Horio, a longtime member of the temple, and the creator of the ***Dharma Remix***: <https://the-dharma-remix.com>

Brant is going to take us on a deep dive into something that is both cutting-edge and, frankly, a little provocative: the use of artificial intelligence as a new approach to deep listening to the Dharma.

<https://youtu.be/WRCpg7YfJFs>



The Dharma Remix



Echo Ekoji Podcast



FROM THE WISDOM OF OUR PAST MINISTERS -- REV. SHOJO HONDA – ON THE NEMBUTSU

On Sunday, May 18, Ekoji held a memorial service of gratitude observing the 10th anniversary of the passing of its second resident minister, Rev. Shojo Honda.



REV. SHOJO AND JUNE HONDA

While having a full 30-year career as a Senior Reference Librarian with the Library of Congress's Japanese Section, Asian Division, Rev. Honda volunteered to serve as our resident minister after the retirement of our founding minister, Rev. Kenryu Tsuji in 1999. Reverend Honda continued in that position until 2010.

As we observe Ekoji's 46th Obon, we express our deep gratitude to all of those in our past, like Rev. Honda, who played an important role in Ekoji's growth and in sharing the Nembutsu Path with the world.

Below is a video and summary, recorded and shared by Ekoji Sangha member, Charles "Bud" Uyeda, of Rev. Honda giving a 2006 Dharma Talk on the Nembutsu.



REV. HONDA AND EKOJI'S FUTURE

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jCtgTyUuTI4&t=431s>

The video discusses Rev. Honda on the meaning of Nembutsu. Here's a summary of the key points:

(Summary courtesy of Gemini AI)

- Nembutsu is presented not as a prayer, but as an expression of gratitude to Amida Buddha [01:12].
- It serves as a way to show thankfulness for Buddhist teachings and life's blessings [01:32].
- The practice of Nembutsu is intended for the benefit of all beings, not just oneself [02:37].
- It is an expression of the wish for all beings to find happiness and be free from suffering [03:11].
- Nembutsu is accessible to everyone, irrespective of their background or beliefs [04:20].
- Despite its simplicity, this practice is described as having the power to transform lives [05:15].
- It is a means of connecting with Amida Buddha and all other beings [06:03].
- Nembutsu is a way to open one's heart and mind to the truth of Buddhism [07:11].
- It is portrayed as a way of living a life filled with compassion and wisdom [08:01].
- The practice is seen as a way to contribute to a better world for oneself and all beings [09:27].
- Nembutsu offers a path to finding peace and happiness amidst suffering [10:10].
- Ultimately, it is described as a way of realizing one's true nature as a Buddha [11:11].



2024 -2025 DHARMA SCHOOL YEAR ENDS ON JUNE 1

By Maya Horio and Kim Ngyuen, Co-Superintendents



Ekoji's Children's Dharma School will close out our 2024-2025 school year on Sunday, 1 June, with our all-ages end-of-year party. We typically close out each school year with games and activities that incorporate lessons from this year's classes, fueling student energy with breakfast snacks and sugary goodies.



chance to engage or learn together until our end-of-year party.

For our fall session, our older students planned a scavenger hunt based on Siddhartha's life. They created index cards with drawings of key events from Siddhartha's life and hid them around the temple grounds. They briefly explained each life event for the younger students, emphasizing clues that would help the students find each card.

For example, the older students hid the card depicting Siddhartha's birth in Lumbini Garden in Ekoji's garden, whereas the card depicting the hermit Asita was hidden in a room where "people like to be alone"--aka, a bathroom. After correctly identifying and finding the life event cards, the younger students each received a copy of each card, allowing them to end the activity with their own stack of index cards depicting Siddhartha's life that the older students then helped them clip together as a reminder of their shared lesson. The younger students enjoyed the scavenger hunt so much that they asked their older schoolmates to allow them a second run of each card, allowing them to end the activity with their own stack of index cards depicting Siddhartha's life that the older students then helped them clip together as a reminder of their shared lesson. The younger students enjoyed the scavenger hunt so much that they asked their older schoolmates to allow them a second run!

One fun new addition that we added this school year was one joint class each semester, during which our advanced and intermediate students planned and executed a class for their elementary and preschool classmates. Our teachers opted to add these to this year's schedule after realizing that the students do not otherwise have a





For our spring session, the older students taught each element of the Eightfold Path, taping signs for each around the Sangha Hall. After they explained each part of the Eightfold Path, they worked their way through a series of skits that they had pre-designed. After each skit, they asked the younger students to stand by the Eightfold Path element that the students thought the skit best represented, and they had the younger students explain how the skit

embodied that part of the Eightfold Path. There were lots of giggles by old and young alike during the skits and the explanations, as the younger students learned about how the teachings of the Eightfold Path manifest in real-life situations. The younger students enjoyed the activity so much that they asked to create their own skits and test the older students! They all did a great job helping each other internalize the Eightfold Path in such a fun way.



Huge thanks to all of our Dharma School teachers—Wyatt Spage and Nicolas Karen, Kim Nguyen and Gail Kondo, Truc Vo, and Brant and Maya Horio—for all of their hard work this year in helping our youngest sangha members learn the Dharma. The students and teachers have earned the upcoming summer vacation, and we look forward to seeing everyone again in the fall!

Namo Amida Butsu

OBON DANCE PRACTICE SCHEDULE

- **June 22, 2025 at 1:00 in the Hondo**
- **June 29, 2025 at 1:00 in the Hondo**

Dances

**Besides the traditional dances we have been doing in the past,
there will be two new dances to learn,
"The Lantern Song" and
"Fukushima Ondo"**



EKOJI TO PARTICIPATE IN THE 2025 WORLDPRIDE PARADE in Washington D.C. on June 7th, 2025

This reflects Ekoji's 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 inclusiveness, compassion, and loving-kindness to the wider community.

We envision our members of Ekoji's Sangha marching mindfully and compassionately in the parade, carrying a banner that proudly represents Ekoji.

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.

COME JOIN US IN D.C. ON JUNE 7TH FOR THE WORLDPRIDE PARADE



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



EKOJI BOARD SECRETARY'S REPORT – MAY 2025

By Michael Huff, Board Secretary

The Ekoji Buddhist Temple Board of Directors held its monthly meeting on May 19. The group shared updates on temple projects, events, and planning for a busy summer. The meeting began with Gassho led by Reverend Kurt Rye, and the consent agenda—April meeting minutes and the treasurer's report—was quickly approved.

Minister's Report: Planning Support for Ekoji

Reverend Rye shared an important update on his continued role with Ekoji. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which outlines his responsibilities, still needs to be finalized. He encouraged the Board to consider asking the New York headquarters to allow him to visit Ekoji in person four times a year. These quarterly visits could include minister's assistant training and weekend workshops to support Reverend Eric, who is feeling overworked. To balance his schedule, Reverend Rye proposed taking the month of August off from both his New York and Ekoji responsibilities. He emphasized the importance of maintaining weekly Dharma Breeze sessions due to the strong connection many members have to the group.

President's Update: Big and Small Wins

President Andrea Chapman reported a mix of updates:

- Media Recognition: Ekoji was featured in the BCA's Wheel of Dharma on page 5. Extra copies will be shared at services.
- Wisteria Trellis: Concerns about overgrown wisteria will be addressed after Obon. The gardener, who has cared for the garden since it was created, is assessing the trellis and will provide an estimate.
- Reiki Workshop: The recent event was a success, with several participants, including new faces.
- Trustee Paperwork: Andrea and Michael are working to get notarized minutes from this year's Annual Meeting to make Kim and Ed official temple trustees.
- Thermostat Donation: Bob generously donated smart thermostats, which can be controlled via smartphone and may help lower the electric bill.
- YBA Update: Wyatt, a longtime Young Buddhist Association (YBA) leader, sent a heartfelt goodbye letter. With no one to take his place, the group is currently inactive.

Obon Planning in Full Swing

Obon planning is underway, and Maya shared several updates:

- Permit Progress: They've passed health and event permit stages and are preparing for the fire marshal application—the toughest part of the process.
- Tickets & Sales: 139 tickets have been sold so far. A secret stash of tickets will be saved for last-minute buyers.
- Sponsorships: Mini sponsorships have raised \$475.

(Secretary's Report: Cont. on Pg. 11)

- Volunteers: The signup is now live, and scouts are being recruited to help.
- New Yagura: The center stage will be rebuilt using donated wood, replacing the old rotting structure.
- Music & Dance: A new dance, Fukushima Ondo, will debut thanks to a special workshop by Maui Taiko. Volunteers are being trained for live music performances.

Dharma School & Summer Activities

Maya also reported on Dharma School events :

- End-of-Year Party: Kids will play games that teach patience, kindness, and interdependence—plus enjoy sweet treats.
- Teacher Needs: With Wyatt leaving, the school needs a new pre-K/kindergarten teacher and hopes to recruit more volunteers through upcoming briefings.

Upcoming Events

- Temple Cleanup: Scheduled for June 1.
- Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast: Set for Sunday, June 8 at 9:30 a.m., with a menu of Spam, eggs, and rice. Kim and Eric are leading the cooking, but help is still needed for setup and cleanup.
- Movie Group: Their meeting is moved to June 22 due to Father's Day.

-

Special Summer Class Series

Dr. Tanabe and Mr. Yamashita plan to teach a four-part adult education seminar titled The Many Faces of Buddhism. The first class will be held in person and hybrid on Wednesday, August 6, covering Shakyamuni Buddha. The other three sessions will be on Zoom and focus on different Buddhist traditions like Tendai, Shingon, Pure Land, Soto Zen, and Nichiren. The temple will promote this widely, including a sign-up station at Obon.

Wrapping Up

The Board confirmed that the next meeting will be on Sunday, June 16—just after Father's Day. Maya will be away but plans to submit the treasurer's report ahead of time. The meeting ended with closing Gassho and appreciation for everyone's efforts.



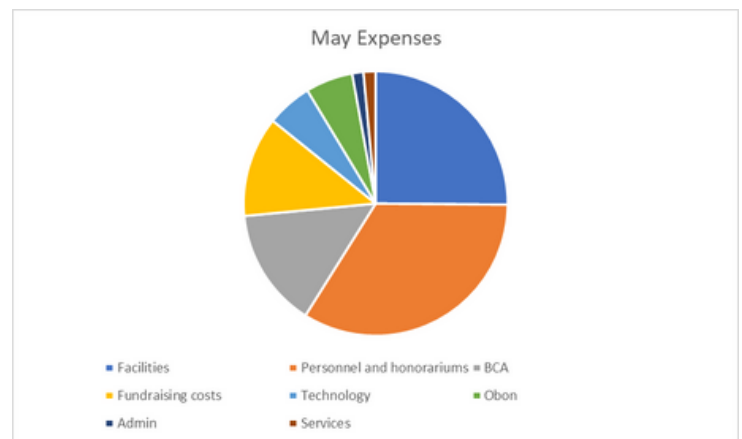
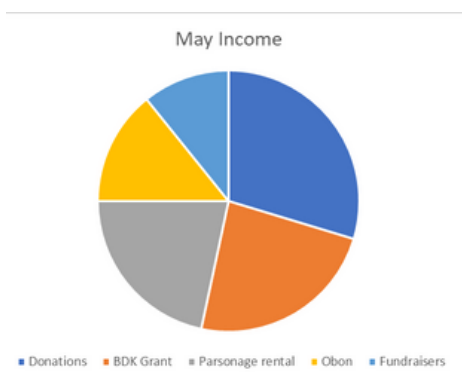
MONTHLY TREASURER'S REPORT

By Maya Horio, Ekoji 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.

May 2025 Finance Flows: Our income remained steady this month, almost doubling our expenses. Our Obon income and expenses are picking up, with tickets and pre-order items now on sale—take note that OBON TICKETS WILL BE SOLD ONLINE ONLY this year! Our Obon volunteer sign-up site has many slots still open, so we hope to see those filled in the coming weeks as we gear up for our biggest fundraiser of the year!

- **Income (\$15,309):** Sangha membership dues again made up our largest chunk of income this month, closely followed by our monthly grant from BDK America and parsonage rental income. Obon income made up a healthy chunk of our income, with most of those funds coming from ticket sales and mini-sponsorships. We also held our first t-shirt fundraiser, thanks to the great efforts of Pilar Uelman, Pilar's daughter-in-law, and Andrea Chapman—a big thumbs up to all of our sangha members and friends sporting the new design!
- **Expenses (\$8,878):** Facility and landscape costs, personnel payments, BCA dues, and fundraiser-related expenses made up the majority of our outflows this month. Our Obon-specific expenses were largely related to the continuing Fairfax County permitting process, which we are happy to report are largely complete.



“NOT TO BE MISSED” EXHIBITION AT THE SMITHSONIAN AMERICAN ART MUSEUM ON THREE OUTSTANDING JAPANESE AMERICAN WOMEN PAINTERS OF THE 20TH CENTURY

By Donna R. Omata

Pictures of Belonging: Miki Hayakawa, Hisako Hibi, and Miné Okubo presents an in-depth look at the careers of three trailblazing American women of Japanese descent and asserts their rightful place in American art.

Miki Hayakawa (1899-1953), Hisako Hibi (1907-1991), and Miné Okubo (1912-2001) were three of the most active and critically acclaimed American artists of Japanese descent in the years leading up to World War II. Their careers spanned eight decades and four US states, yet the full extent of their contributions remain underrecognized within twentieth-century American art history.

All the works and information presented in this exhibition are worthwhile to view. It is noteworthy to point out that Hisako Hibi's faith in Jodo Shinshu teachings were communicated in her 1970 painting entitled, "Poems by Lady Takeko Kujo", oil on canvas. Lady Kujo, (1887-1928) was an important educator of Jodo Shinshu teachings. According to Dr. Alfred Bloom, Takeko Kujo "had a broad spiritual outlook, viewing the wonder of the universe. At the same time, she was aware of the very evil that inhabits our own minds and gives Shin Buddhism its distinctive character. She was also an independent spirit and provides a modern example of a spiritually-grounded, independent woman."

PICTURES OF BELONGING

Currently on view until August 17, 2025,

- Open Daily, 11:30 am to 7pm,
- Free Admission at:
- Smithsonian American Art Museum, 8th and G Streets, NW
- Washington, DC 20004

(The Gallery Place Metro Stop is within walking distance.)

Plan your visit to the gallery: <https://americanart.si.edu/exhibitions/pictures-of-belonging>



Editor's Note: *The painting is by Hisako Hibi and the writing on the painting is inscribed by Hibi. It is from a portion of Lady Kujo's poem "Yowakiga mamani" (as weak as you are)*

Joy Aso	Emily Ihara	Donna Omata
John Barnes	Laverne Imori	<i>(In memory of Griffith Evans</i>
Andrew Beachy	Norm and Gail Kondo	<i>Hubbard II, Esq)</i>
Chloe Bell	<i>(In memory of Rev. Shojo Honda)</i>	Donna Omata
Jane Blechman	Norm and Gail Konda	Mark H. Rooney
Tasha and Thomas Brickhouse	Sandra Lukic-Dapoingy	Ayako Rosi
Alexander Corbin	Thea Maggard	Edward Sams
Joseph Crilley	Richard Malone and Rick Ware	Roger Scott
Mahkameh Doroud	Bert and Nancy Motonaga	Edgar Sullivan
Matthew Doubrava	John Mruk	Frank Swithers
Stanley Fujii	Ken and Nori Nakamura	Pilar Uelmen
Peter Golemboski	<i>(in memory of Rev. Shojo Honda)</i>	Charles Uyeda
<i>(Posthumously)</i>	Ken and Nori Nakamura	<i>(In memory of Rev. Shojo</i>
Joseph Gotchy	Lisa and Greg Nakamura	<i>Honda)</i>
Marisa and Tamon Honda	Nichii Namaho-Ono	Andrea Walter



JOIN EKOJI'S MOVIE DISCUSSION



*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 almost regularly on the third Sunday of each month and are led by Ann and Joran Stegner. 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 June is "[The Fountain](#)" (2006). So that we will not conflict with Father's Day, the Movie Discussion Group will **meet next on Sunday, June 22, at 2:00 pm**. The film is about a man who travels through time on a quest for immortality and to save the woman he loves from the cancer that is killing her.

The movie can be rented cheaply through Amazon Prime:

https://www.amazon.com/gp/video/detail/B00C3LY4EM/ref=atv_srfle_c_sr4e8ffb_1_1_1?sr=1-1&pageTypeIdSource=ASIN&pageTypeId=B000QTBDLA&qid=1747595070792

Join the Zoom Movie Discussion

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84021310685>

Meeting ID: 840 2131 0685

SANGHA SCOOPS

By Ken Nakamura



Three generations of Teuberts -- Mother Kristen, grandmother Kathy, and granddaughter and recent Masters graduate Marley

Our heartiest congratulations to **Marley Byorick**, granddaughter of long-time Ekoji member **Kathy** and the late-Major **Chuck Teubert (USMC)**. Marley recently received her Masters Degree in Public Health. **Kathy credits Ekoji's in-house Epidemiologist, Dr. Erick Ishii, for helping Marley choose her field.**

The Teuberts joined Ekoji not long after we started in our first building in Springfield, VA. They would leave when Chuck was deployed elsewhere and always come back to us, which allowed us to see their kids, Kristen and Trevor, grow from children into adulthood.

Though Kathy now lives in southern New Jersey, with her son Trevor living close by, she joins us online for Sunday service and the after-service discussions, and the Wednesday evening service and discussion on Dharma Breeze with Rev. Rye. Kathy often joins us for special services, and when there is lots of work to be done like the garden clean-ups. That's how the temple met Marley, as Kathy dragged her along so we could have younger hands helping. But Kathy says Marley's ties to Ekoji go back much further as she has a picture, which she is now looking for, of Mrs. Tsuji holding baby-Marley. Another example of Indra's Net connecting all of us. **Congratulations again, Kristen, Kathy, and Marley and the rest of the family.**

In the May *Kalavinka*, we wrote of **Anh Thu Vo**, daughter of Hung and Ekoji Trustee, Kim Nguyen, and younger sister to Minister's Assistant Truc Vo, being designated as a Luce Scholar by the Henry Luce Foundation. Anh Thu leaves at the end of June for a couple weeks of training and briefings in Singapore, and then on to her work as a Luce Scholar in Thailand on human rights issues. We'll all be waiting for you. **Travel safely.**



Anh Thu Vo



Ekoji has always said that we have a transient Sangha with many people coming and going because of work or because the person "kicked our tire," and found we didn't work for him or her. We've recently had two of our younger members leave for work, Nick Karen and Wyatt Spage. They were dedicated Sangha members and certainly up-and-coming temple leaders.

In a letter to Ekoji, Wyatt writes,

I am, of course, sad to leave. As I write this letter, I can't put everything Ekoji has meant to me into words. You've been my refuge, my home, and my support among other things. Ekoji has given me so much. Leaving you feels like saying goodbye to my heart. I know attachment is the cause of all suffering, but as Molly once said in a Dharma talk, "Love is often about choosing who you're willing to suffer for." And I love Ekoji.

... I've experienced innumerable wonderful moments at Ekoji, and even more because of Ekoji. You've been there for me through thick and thin. I shudder to think who I would be without Ekoji. You've introduced me to so many great people. My attachment to Ekoji is so strong that I feel as though you've become my family. But I must leave now. And I am filled with a bittersweet feeling.

As for you, please don't worry about me. I know Amida watches over me. The vow is my refuge, and I have no doubts that it will protect me. In my absence, I ask that you chant the Junirai for me; it is my favorite. Moreover, please keep in contact with me.... Even though I am gone, I will keep a watchful eye on Ekoji.

In gassho

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES, JUNE 2025

WEEKLY

SUNDAY

- HYBRID SERVICE, 11:00AM WITH AN AFTER-SERVICE HYBRID DHARMA 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
- SHOTSUKI – 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 NAIJIN TO OFFER GASSHO AND BURN INCENSE IN LOVING MEMORY AND GRATITUDE FOR THE PERSON WHO HAS PASSED.

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

- **CHILDREN'S DHARMA SCHOOL END OF YEAR PARTY**, SUNDAY, JUNE 1 AT 9:30AM IN THE SANGHA HALL. THE CHILDREN'S DHARMA SCHOOL WILL BEGIN AGAIN IN OCTOBER, 2025
- **WORLD PRIDE PARADE**, SATURDAY, JUNE 7 AT 1PM IN DOWNTOWN WASHINGTON, DC. PLEASE RSVP [HERE](#) TO RECEIVE EVENT DETAILS AND TO MARCH WITH EKOJI.
- **VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST**, SUNDAY, JUNE 8 AT 9:30AM IN THE SANGHA HALL. PLEASE RSVP [HERE](#) AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU.
- **BUDDHIST MOVIE GROUP DISCUSSION**, "THE FOUNTAIN," SUNDAY, JUNE 22 AT 2:00PM IN THE EKOJI ZOOM ROOM.
- **BON ODORI DANCE PRACTICE**, SUNDAY, JUNE 22 AND SUNDAY, JUNE 29, AT 1:00PM IN THE HONDO. ALL ARE WELCOME.

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. IT HAS A BEAUTIFUL VOICE THAT SINGS PRAISES OF THE BUDDHA, THE SUTRAS, AND THE WORDS OF THE BUDDHA.



KALAVINKA

YOUR TEMPLE LEADERS

**SUPERVISING MINISTER
REV. KURT RYE**

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TRUC VO, CERTIFIED JR. MINISTER'S ASSISTANT

KEN NAKAMURA: CERTIFIED MINISTER'S ASSISTANT (RET.)

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ED SAMS: LAY DHARMA LEADER AND SERVICE CHAIR COORDINATOR

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