

SEPTEMBER 2025

KALAVINKA

A NEWSLETTER OF EKOJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE



OHIGAN

OHIGAN IS OBSERVED TWICE A YEAR AT HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLES – AROUND THE SPRING AND FALL EQUINOXES. IT IS WHEN DAYS AND NIGHTS ARE ABOUT THE SAME LENGTHS, AND IT IS NEITHER TOO HOT NOR TOO COLD. NATURE IS IN BALANCE.

OBSERVING OHIGAN PROVIDES US AN OPPORTUNITY TO MEDITATE ON THE HARMONY IN NATURE AND SEEK A HARMONY IN OUR PERSONAL LIVES WITH THE DHARMA.



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EDITOR'S NOTE: *While Rev. Rye is taking a well-deserved vacation, we have been asking other BCA ministers if the Kalavinka, with their permission, can reprint Dharma messages from their own temple newsletters. This September, Ekoji will be observing its Autumnal Ohigan service. Primarily a special time observed by Buddhists in Hongwanji temples, as well as other denominations in Japan, Higan is observed twice a year generally during the spring and autumn Equinoxes. It is a time when day and night are of equal length, it is neither too hot nor too cold, and there is a balance, a harmony in nature. It is a time for us to reflect on seeking such a balance within our daily lives in a Samsaric world and our life in the Dharma world.*

We are grateful to Rev. Mukojima for his kind permission to reprint his Dharma message from the Mountain View Buddhist Temple's March 2025 newsletter, Echo. He shares how difficult, even in the personal life of a "householder" Jodo Shin Buddhist minister, the challenge of daily life in this world of Samsara, and how the Dharma helps to gain a balance. Again, we thank Rev. Mukojima for sharing the Dharma with us. KHN

SHARP QUILLS OF EGO

By Rev. Yushi Mukojima

Resident Minister of the Mountain View Buddhist Temple



Currently, my daughter is an 11th grader. She's now experiencing a stressful life every day because she gets overwhelmed with her classes, homework, college-prep activities, and so on. Although I have heard that the junior year of high school is tough, it goes beyond my imagination. My wife and I sometimes feel like targets of our daughter's stress and frustration, so these days when we talk with her, it is with great caution. Sometimes, as her parent, I give her advice. But whenever she feels grumpy because of this, we sometimes end up arguing. I know that she is at a sensitive stage of

her life, but, when I think about myself as a teenager doing the same things, once again I cannot help but feel the hardships my parents endured for me. I am now learning how important it is to be patient as I witness my daughter's behavior.

Of course, if Mika and I were still hoping to become parents, but instead remained childless, we would likely be unhappy in that situation. So, it feels ironic to be blessed with two children, yet also feel stressed because of the heavy responsibility of parenthood.

(Sharp Quills of Ego, Cont on Pg 2)

(Sharp Quills of Ego, Cont from Pg 1)

There is a famous phrase about this dilemma in “The Buddha of Infinite Life” by Sakyamuni Buddha, which goes: *If we have no fields nor house, we become anxious and wish to possess them. If we have fields and house, we worry about them because of their administration and maintenance. In the same way - whether or not we have domesticated animals; manservants and maids; money and wealth; clothes, food and furnishings - we worry about them. Accumulating worries and compounding sighs, we live in constant anxiety and fear.*

This teaching is called “umu dozen,” which means that, whether or not we possess the things we desire, we still share the same anxieties and worries. It is not a question of which problem is better to have, because our anxieties and suffering will be present despite whatever choice we make.

Although the modern world that we live in has changed tremendously compared to ancient times, human nature is constant. We still worry and suffer. Why is this?

In his “Notes on Once-Calling and Many-Calling,” Shinran Shonin observes: *We foolish beings are full of ignorance and afflictions. Our desires are countless, and anger, wrath, jealousy and envy are constantly overwhelming us. To the very last moment of life, they do not cease, disappear nor exhaust themselves.*

Afflictions are the workings of the mind that confuse us and make us worry and suffer. And the root of afflictions that cause human suffering is our own ego. Because of our attachments to ego, various afflictions arise in our thoughts and disturb us, throw us off balance and make us suffer.

There is an interesting story called “Porcupine’s Dilemma.” On a winter morning, a pair of porcupines, almost frozen from the cold, tries to get close to one other in order to share body heat. But the closer they get, the more they hurt one another with their sharp quills. Because they can’t bear the pain, they move apart. But they also can’t bear the freezing cold, so they timidly try to get closer again. With this method - trying to get close, then moving away from one another, repeatedly - eventually they find just the right distance that makes them feel moderately warm without hurting one another.

This story expresses well our personal relationships. No matter how close two people may be, if they become too familiar, it sometimes causes friction. This is true of relationships between spouses, partners, girlfriend-boyfriend, friends, parent-child, and so on. The closer we become and the more interests we have in common, the greater likelihood that our selfish thinking - namely, the porcupine’s sharp quills - will hurt the other’s feelings to the point when we begin to hate one another.

(Sharp Quills of Ego, Cont on Pg 3)

(Sharp Quills of Ego, Cont from Pg 2)

It has already been sixteen years since I became a father, and I am deeply affected by this story. When I first became a parent, I accepted whatever our baby daughter did. I raised her while trying not to hurt her feelings, but to understand her instead, using gentle words. However, from the time she began to develop a sense of self and I saw her quills, I sometimes prioritized my own selfishness. Because of this, it is sometimes hard to maintain the right space with her. Sometimes we can't communicate effectively with each other when we keep distant from each other. Also, when we are too close, we hurt one other because we tend to say anything without hesitation.

When I consider my behavior through our family's history and contemplate why we quarrel now more than before, I find that I - who have always felt uneasy about my daughter's sharp quills - have forgotten that I have even sharper quills (self-centeredness) than she does. While arguing that I was simply giving her parental advice, I just pushed my selfish thoughts on her. I have to admit that I have countless selfish hopes for my daughter, and whenever those don't turn out, I get angry and point my sharp quills of ego at her. But on reflection, I realize the blame belongs solely on me, who views the world through my egotistical thoughts.

While illumined by Amida Buddha's light of wisdom, Nembutsu followers become aware of how important it is to be shamed by our arrogant, selfish attitude and to instead reflect deeply upon such a foolish way of living. And by listening to the Dharma repeatedly, may our greed, anger, wrath, jealousy and envy all transform into the mind of knowing enough, rejoicing and seeing things as they are. And at the same time, the feeling of humility and gratitude naturally grows in our hearts to gently embrace and soften our quills of selfishness. This mind and heart of gratitude is indeed the Nembutsu, "Namo Amida Butsu."

Even though my daughter suffers from lots of stress during her challenging junior year, she still tries to do her best every day. I am really proud of her. As her father, I will acknowledge and accept her efforts unconditionally and constantly strive to support her under the guidance of the Nembutsu in any way I can without showing my quills of ego.

In Gassho, Namo Amida Butsu

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



THE GIFT OF VOICE, THE LIGHT OF SERVICE

By: Andrea Chapman

As a vibrant part of our temple's ongoing journey, the [*Echo Ekoji*](#) podcast serves as a testament to the voices of our lay members, embodying the very spirit of inclusivity and shared experiences that define Ekoji. Four years ago, amidst the challenging times of the pandemic, we embarked on this venture with some skepticism, yet with great hope. Our initial guests, Ken and Nori Nakamura, set the stage for engaging conversations that have since flourished, proving the enduring power and relevance of lay participation.

Despite initial skepticism, the revival of [*Echo Ekoji*](#) by Joe Gotchy and myself has been guided by the intention of amplifying lay voices. As individuals who embraced Jodo Shinshu later in life, we understand the importance of diverse perspectives. Our recent interview with the esteemed Rev. Kenneth Tanaka left us inspired and optimistic about our role in shaping "American Buddhism," a concept enriched by discussions with Dr. Tanabe in his series [*The Many Faces of Buddhism*](#), and with our upcoming podcast interviews with Rev. Don Castro and Rev. Melissa Joshin Opel.

Change, while sometimes daunting, is essential for growth. Our very own Ken Nakamura is transitioning away from his editorial role at [*Kalavinka*](#). This evolution presents an opportunity for transformation into a digital format. To support this shift and sustain our temple's initiatives, we invite dedicated volunteers to step forward, contributing their voices and organizing efforts for a dynamic future.

Your involvement is crucial. Whether by greeting newcomers, coordinating community events, or participating in our discussions and podcasting endeavors, every contribution enriches our community. There are new and traditional opportunities, like teaching Dharma School, to help Ekoji be a vibrant voice for the Dharma.

Our annual board member election and membership meeting will be held in November, a perfect time to consider how you can become a steward of Ekoji's mission.

Reflect on what Ekoji means to you. Engage with our content, including the forthcoming podcast interviews, and be ready to share your thoughts and talents. Together, we can illuminate the path ahead for our temple, fostering an inclusive, vibrant community that thrives on shared experiences and collective growth.

Embrace the potential for change and the power of community. We look forward to walking this path with you.

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 SEPTEMBER , WE WILL BE REMEMBERING WITH GRATITUDE:

AUGUST 2025

James Grohl
12/9/1938 – 8/6/2014
Kimiko Sugiyama
12/5/1925 – 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 2025

Akiko Iwata
9/27/1999

OCTOBER 2025

Nora Mineyo Nagatani
6/20/1945 – 10/23/2021

ANNUAL HBRID MEETING OF THE EKOJI SANGHA ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2025 AT 1:00 P.M.

The Sangha of the Ekoji Buddhist Temple is invited to participate in the Annual Meeting of the the Sangha at. 1:00 pm on Sunday, November 16 in the Sangha Hall.

We will **receive status reports** on the work of the temple; **discuss** the challenges and opportunities facing the temple; and **consider** proposals for the direction of the temple. Full Member will be asked to **vote** on the 2026 Budget and members of the Board of Directors and Trustees. While at Ekoji, there are four levels of membership, **only full members** of the Sangha are allowed to vote. Everyone can debate and discuss the issues

A light lunch is planned prior to the Sangha meeting.

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/tZMlcOGsqT0tGdlRtNNt5EydbzXK9f2oVZjO>



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

FOR YOUR SEPTEMBER CALENDAR



LEARN and PRACTICE TAI CHI AT EKOJI

- **What:** Lessons in Tai Chi (Chen Pan Ling Synthetic Form)
- **When:** Starting August 19, **Every Tuesday at 7:30 pm**
- **Where:** Hondo at Ekoji Buddhist Temple, 6500 Lake Haven Lane, Fairfax Station, VA

Instructor: Ekoji Minister's Assistant Rob Fike. Rob has studied Martial Arts for almost 20 years, and he has studied and practiced Tai Chi (Chen Pan Ling Synthetic Form) for almost 10 years. Rob taught Tai Chi for a little more than two years at the University of Maryland, College Park, in their Continuing Adult Education Program.

Details: Classes will generally be held on Tuesday evenings at 7:30 pm and last about an hour or less. All levels of learners from beginners on are welcome. There is no charge for the class but donations for the Temple upkeep and utilities are welcome. Wear loose, comfortable clothing and good supportive shoes (tennis shoes are usually good). We will be exercising, but not too heavily, so bringing full water bottle is recommended.

About Tai Chi: Tai Chi is an old Chinese art that is often described as "mediation in motion." At the physical level Tai Chi is a form of low-impact exercise appropriate for all ages. Tai Chi's health benefits, both physical and mental, have been cited by many prominent organizations like Harvard Medical School (which has published a book on Tai Chi) and AARP. And there are numerous scientific studies that support these health claims.

SUNDAY, SEPT. 21, 2025. FOR EKOJI'S OHIGAN SERVICE, WE ARE JOINED BY SPECIAL GUEST MINISTER, REV. DR. KENJI AKAHOSHI.



Rev. Kenji Akahoshi, says that "for Shin Buddhists, the Middle Path is a practical way of maintaining a spiritual path in our mundane world. The Nembutsu is a reminder of the realistic journey between our conventional world and the spiritual."

For Rev. Akahoshi, the ministry is a second career. After retiring from a 30-year dentistry career, Rev. Akahoshi pursued his interest in Buddhism and in helping others by earning a Master's Degree in Transpersonal Psychology from Sofia University in Tokyo, Japan; a Masters in Shin Buddhist Studies from the Institute of Buddhist Studies at Berkeley, CA.; and was ordained as a Kyoshi Minister at the Nishi Hongwanji Temple in Kyoto, Japan. In 2013, at the age of 71, Rev. Akahoshi was assigned as the resident minister at the San Diego Buddhist Temple.

Rev. Akahoshi is a leader in the development of a contemporary Shin Buddhist understanding. Among other publications, Rev. Akahoshi published articles in both the Buddhist magazines, Tricycle and Lion's Roar. He has agreed to participate in the after service hybrid discussion.

FOR YOUR CALENDAR (Cont.)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, EKOJI SEMINAR
2:00 pm at the Ekoji Buddhist Temple
With Former BCA Bishop, Rev. Kodo Umezu

SHINRAN'S MESSAGE FOR A FULFILLED LIFE

Rev. Kodo Umezu states that the basic Jodo Shinshu message of Shinran Shonin is about leading to a satisfied, fulfilled life.

Rev. Umezu believes we often go through life feeling unsatisfied or as if something is missing. He says Shinran Shonin also felt this way in his life until he encountered the True Essence of the Pure Land Teaching and learned the deeper meaning of the of the Name - *Namo Amida Butsu*. Through exploring the words of Shinran in his *Kyo Gyo Shin Sho*, Shinran passes on the import of the Name for the sake of all of us. Shinran seeks to help us learn more about the teaching that can give our lives true meaning, and reveal what is missing, in order for us to lead to a fulfilled life.



Through this seminar and discussion, Rev. Umezu seeks to to share the essence of the Pure Land Teaching that Shinran discovered, and which gave his life fulfillment. Rev. Umezu hopes that we, too, can glimpse on how to live as a fulfilled, Shin Buddhist in today's 21st Century.

Come to Ekoji on Saturday, October 4th at 2:00 pm and join Rev. Umezu in discussing "***SHINRAN'S MESSAGE FOR A FULFILLED LIFE***".

NAMO AMIDA BUTSU





UPCOMING “WHAT WE TEACH IN DHARMA SCHOOL” PRESENTATIONS IN SEPTEMBER

By Maya Horio and Kim Nguyen, Co-Superintendents



Did you know that Ekoji's Children's Dharma School started even before the temple itself?

Since 1979, we have shared the Dharma with our youngest sangha members. Our goal--to teach students the basic Buddhist and Shin Buddhist teachings, enabling them to articulate in their own words what Buddhism is and means to them by the time they leave our temple for the world beyond.

Presentations on What and How the Children's Dharma School Operates.

On Sep 14, 21, and 28, from 9:30-10:30am, Maya Horio will walk you through what and how we teach at the Pre-K and Elementary (9/14), Intermediate (9/21), and Advanced and Senior levels (9/28) to achieve that goal. This series is aimed at parents who want a deeper understanding of what their kids are learning, and all Ekoji sangha members and friends who are interested in how we frame this wealth of Buddhist substance for younger learners.

Need More Volunteer Teacher Help.

We also hope that this series will help us recruit additional Dharma School teachers and mitigate our current teacher shortage. We try to have at least two teachers per class so they can share the teaching burden and to prevent single “points of failure” if one teacher is unavailable on any given class day, but we do not currently have enough teacher volunteers to achieve that goal.

We have found that most Ekoji sangha members self-deter themselves from teaching because we have many who are new to Buddhism, and they do not feel “deep enough” in the religion to teach others. The truth is that most our Dharma School teachers learn by doing, using our hardcopy materials, online resources, Google, ChatGPT, and whatever else is available to educate themselves to stay a few classes ahead of their charges, at least for the first couple of years. Even for Maya, having grown up in the religion, her understanding of the Dharma has grown immensely through her years of teaching Dharma School and learning how to answer kids' questions.

Register at ekoji.org to join Maya in the hondo or on Zoom for the September series, and contact ekojidharmaschool@gmail.com with any questions and/or if you are interested in helping us teach our youngest sangha members (and ourselves!).

Namo Amida Butsu



2025-2026 CHILDREN'S DHARMA SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

By Maya Horio and Kim Nguyen, Co-Superintendents



SEPT. 2025	OCT. 2025	NOV. 2025 PET MEMORIAL & T-DAY	DEC. 2026 BODHI DAY
<p>07 No DS</p> <p>14 No DS – Seminar “What we Teach”</p> <p>21 No DS – Seminar “What we Teach”</p> <p>28 No DS – Seminar, “What We Teach”</p>	<p>10.5 0930-1030 am DS Class</p> <p>12 NO DS (3-day weekend)</p> <p>19 0930-1030 am DS Service & Tsuji Center Cleaning</p> <p>26 0930- 103- am DS Class</p>	<p>02 0930-1030 am DS Class (Daylight Savings Ends)</p> <p>09 0930-1030 am DS Service & Tsuji Center Cleaning</p> <p>16 NO DS</p> <p>23 0930-1030 am DS Class</p> <p>30 NO DS Thanksgiving Weekend</p>	<p>07 0930-1030 am DS Class</p> <p>14 0930-1030 am <u>JOINT DS Class</u></p> <p>21 0930-1030 am DS Service & Tsuji Center Cleaning</p> <p>28 NO DS</p>
JAN. 2026 HO ONKO	FEB. 2026 NEHAN E /NIRVANA DAY	MARCH 2026 OHIGAN	APRIL 2026 HANAMATSURI
<p>04 0930-1030 am DS Class</p> <p>11 0930-1030 am DS Service & Tsuji Center Cleaning</p> <p>18 NO DS (3- day weekend)</p> <p>25 0930- 1030 - am DS Class</p>	<p>01 0930-1030 am DS Class</p> <p>08 0930-1030 am DS Service & Tsuji Center Cleaning</p> <p>15 NO DS (3- day weekend)</p> <p>22 0930-1030 am DS Class</p>	<p>01 0930-1030 am DS Class</p> <p>08 NO DS (Daylight Savings begins)</p> <p>15 0930-1030 am DS Service & Tsuji Center Cleaning</p> <p>22 0930-1030 am DS Class</p> <p>29 NO DS</p>	<p>05 NO DS</p> <p>12 1045-1200 Special Joint Hanamatsuri Service</p> <p>19 0930-1030 am DS Class</p> <p>26 0930-1030 am <u>JOINT DS Class</u></p>
MAY 2026 GOTAN E	JUNE 2026	QUESTIONS ?	
<p>03 0930-1030 am DS Class</p> <p>10 0930-1030 am DS Service & Tsuji Center Cleaning</p> <p>17 0930-1030 am DS Class</p> <p>24 NO DS (3-Day Weekend)</p> <p>31 0930 am <u>Joint End of Year Party</u></p>	<p>NO DHARMA SCHOOL – HAVE A GOOD SUMMER</p>	<p><u>PLEASE CONTACT:</u> ekojidharmaschool@ gmail.com</p>	



FALL RHYTHMS, SHARED RESONANCE

By Nen Daiko

With fall in the air, Nen Daiko returns to the stage! After having much fun at Ekoji's and Seabrook's Obon and a short August break,

Nen Daiko is ready to share exciting performances this September.

- Burke Centre Festival

Saturday, September 6, 11:30 am

Celebrate the season outdoors with taiko and community spirit.

- US Asian Fest

Saturday, September 6, performance time TBD

Use promo code "NENDAIKO" for \$5 off your ticket.

Special Performance - Resonate: Inclusion and Belonging in Practice

On Saturday, September 20 at 7:30 pm, Nen Daiko opens the third season of Little City Concerts at The Falls Church Episcopal. The series partners with local nonprofits; 50% of ticket sales will go to the Hamkae Center. Nen Daiko consulted with the Ekoji Board of Directors and selected the Hamkae Center, an organization that advances immigrant rights, civic engagement, youth leadership, and community services.

Event Details:

- What: Little City Concerts presents Nen Daiko. [Click for more info.](#)
- When: Saturday, 9/20, 7:30pm
- Where: The Falls Church Episcopal, Falls Church City. Use 166 E Broad Street for the church lot and accessible entrance.

How Much: \$25 general admission, FREE for students/youth (please register them in advance).

LEARN AND PLAY: NEN DAIKO WORKSHOP + APPRENTICESHIP AUDITIONS

Taiko Workshop: Saturday, September 27, 10 am - 12 pm

·Have you always wanted to play taiko? Join Nen Daiko for a hands-on workshop covering basic taiko fundamentals. Interested in our apprenticeship program? Auditions will be held right after the workshop. Registration coming soon!

A HIGHLY ENDORSED COURSE FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION



Description:	An Intermediate-level Introduction for those seeking a religious/spiritual understanding of Shin (or Jodo Shinshu) Buddhism, the largest Buddhist school in Japan today, with a history of 136 years in North America.
Dates:	10 classes on the first Saturday of the month (except in July)
For Details:	Please click here
Topics:	October 4: <i>Boarding the Ship – Starting Our Human Journey</i> November 1: <i>Falling off the Ship – Encountering Suffering</i> December 6: <i>Swimming by Striving – Practice</i> January 3: <i>Gasping for Air – Spiritual Impasse</i> February 7: <i>Letting go – Shinjin Realization and Entrusting</i> March 7: <i>Floating – Ocean that is Amida's Primal Vow</i> April 4: <i>Swimming with Ease – Assurance, Joy, and Clarity</i> May 2: <i>Thinking of Others – Engagement with Others</i> June 6: <i>Reaching the Island – Birth in the Pure Land</i> July 11: <i>Going out back into the Ocean – Returning to this Saha Realm</i>
Instructor and Moderator:	Kenneth K. Tanaka , Professor Emeritus, Musashino University, Tokyo. Former Assoc. Prof. and Assist. Dean, the Institute of Buddhist Studies, Berkeley. Former Minister of Buddhist Churches of America.
Register for the Course:	Please apply here
Donation:	Suggested amount \$50–\$100 (in Japan, ¥6,000) (Less is accepted for students and anyone on fixed or low income.)
Textbook:	<i>Ocean Two: The Ten Phases of Shin Buddhism for the West and Beyond</i> (Draft of this book will be provided free of charge to all registrants.)
Video Recordings:	Available to registrants when they miss the class.
Contact email:	shinbuddhismcourse@gmail.com



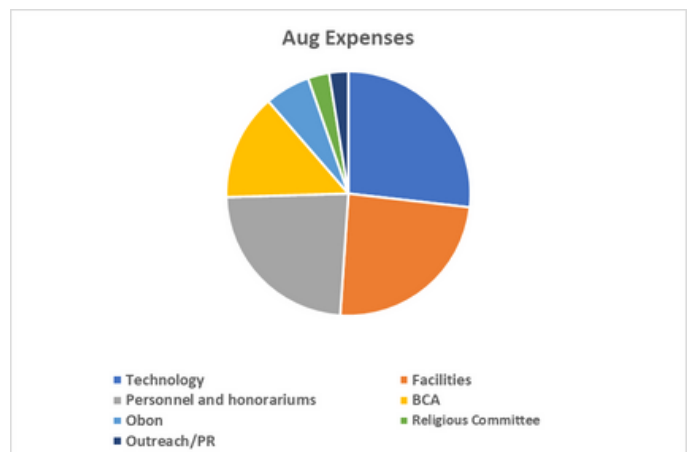
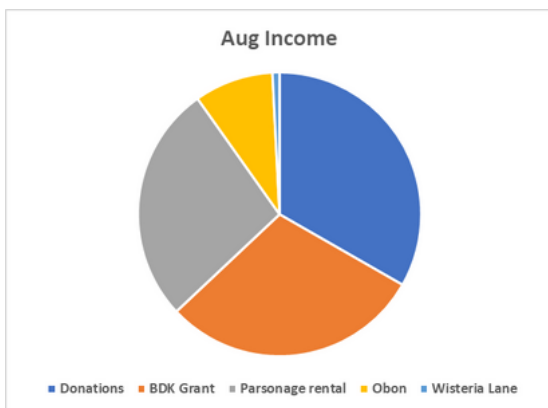
MONTHLY TREASURER'S REPORT

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.

Aug 2025 Finance Flows: We returned to more of our typical finance flows this month after the excitement of our annual Obon fundraiser in July. We were close to a straight balance between our income and expenses for August; if we can maintain that trend, we are likely to end the year without a deficit. Sangha donations did make up the largest chunk of our income for this month, but overall has drawn in less this year than anticipated in our approved 2025 budget, so that trend is one that we do not want to stay static. We welcome ideas on how we can better emphasize the impact of donations on our ability to share the Dharma with our global sangha.

- **Income (\$12,192):** Sangha donations made up the largest chunk of our income for this month, followed closely by our BDK minister support grant and parsonage rental income. We also received belated Obon donations and sold remaining bookstore items.
- **Expenses (\$12,785):** One of our biggest expenses this month was our annual subscription for our Wild Apricot membership platform, followed by relatively equal expenses on facility maintenance and personnel. Our BCA monthly dues and travel planning costs for the upcoming in-person Eastern District Council meeting in Chicago was the next largest expense. Smaller flows on remaining Obon reimbursements, support for Ministerial Assistant education, and outreach and PR bills comprised the rest of our expenses for this month.



Jane Blechman	Thomas Horio	Ken and Nori Nakamura
Eugenia Burkes	<i>(in memory of Phoebe Horio)</i>	<i>(in memory of Fusako Akahoshi)</i>
Alexander Corbin	Emily Ihara	Akahoshi)
Joseph Crillley	Erick Ishii	Jordan Norkewica
Medium Dequan Jones	Miye Jacques	Alexandra O'Brien
Mahkameh Doroud	Susan Jacques	Donna Omata
Matthew Doubrava	Yuko Keicho	Ayako Rosi
Stanley Fujii	Norman and Gail Kondo	Edward Sams
Connie Hoffman	Sandra Lukic-Dapoingy	Roger Scott
Marisa and Tamon Honda	Thea Maggard	Tamiko Shudo
Maya and Brant Horio	Christina McQuirck	Edgar Sullivan
<i>(In memory of Fusako Akahoshi)</i>	Bert and Nancy Motonaga	Mary Traynor
Maya and Brant Horio	John Mruk	Tyler Zaremba
<i>(In memory of Hatsuko Horio)</i>	Ken and Nori Nakamura	



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 **September is Freaky Friday (2003)**. The Movie Discussion Group will **meet next on Sunday, September 21, at 2:00 pm**.

The movie can be rented cheaply through Amazon Prime:

https://www.amazon.com/gp/video/detail/B00D5Y0X4G/ref=atv_sr_fle_c_sr4e8ffb_1_1_1?sr=1-1&pageTypeIdSource=ASIN&pageTypeId=B003QSLDTA&qid=1755459223956

Join the Zoom Movie Discussion

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

Meeting ID: 840 2131 0685

SANGHA SCOOPS

By Ken Nakamura



Ekoji is gratefully receiving a gift from the Scouts. On her trail to the rank of Eagle Scout, **Life Scout Hiroko Rose** is working with the Temple Board to develop a lasting community project to benefit the Temple and the Sangha. As her Eagle Service Project, Hiroko will be designing benches to be used as a modular classroom for Dharma School, YBA, and other temple events.

The Eagle Service Project, one of the many requirements that a Life Scout must meet on their Eagle Path, helps the Scout, who he or she is, as a youth leader as the Scout continues to develop and test his/her skills in proper planning and development of the project, coordinating with the organization involved that the proposed project is what they had in mind; give leadership to her fellow scouts in working together; and of course, creating an appropriate budget to accomplish the proposed Eagle Service Project. With regard to her budget, on August 24, she held a bake sale outside in front of the Hondo and successfully raised more than \$100 over her anticipated budget needs.

She plans to begin her project around September 6th of this year. Upon attainment of the Eagle Scout rank, the highest in Scouting, Hiroko will be among the 4% of all the millions of scouts, since the inception of Scouting in 1911, to have attained the rank of Eagle after a lengthy and demanding review process.

As your ancestors would say, Ganbatte, Hiroko-san!!!



Dr. George Tanabe completed an August, Four - Session Hybrid Lecture Series on the “The Many Faces of Buddhism” to rave reviews. Dr. Tanabe’s premise is that “Everything changes, including Buddhism itself. There is no such thing as Buddhism in the singular, only many Buddhisms in the plural”. During the four sessions, Dr. Tanabe started with the basics of Siddhartha’s Buddhism, and then looked at the

various faces of Japanese Buddhisms by examining the Tendai, Shingon, Jodo, Jodo Shin, Zen, and Nichiren Schools of Buddhism.

One of Ekoji’s active members living in suburban Seattle, Washington, Joe Gotchy said,

“Thank you...all of you....for hosting and facilitating Professor Tanabe’s series of lectures on the faces of Buddhism....and for allowing it to be streamed via Zoom. I learned a great deal....would love to hear more from him....and found his understanding of Buddhism in our tradition as well as the others to be fresh, provocative....and often at odds with what I have heard from Jodo Shinshu ministers in the West and Pacific Northwest.”

Through the wonders of technology, the lecture series was recorded and should be posted on-line shortly.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES, SEPTEMBER 2025

WEEKLY

SUNDAY

- HYBRID SERVICE, 11:00AM WITH AN AFTER-SERVICE HYBRID DHARMA DISCUSSION IN THE HONDO.

TUESDAY

- TAI CHI CLASS 7:30 PM IN THE HONDO **(NEW)**

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)

SUNDAY, SEPT. 21, 2025, EKOJI HIGAN SERVICE WITH GUEST MINISTER, REV. DR. KENJI AKAHOSHI.

CHILDREN'S DHARMA SCHOOL: DHARMA SCHOOL HYBRID CURRICULUM OVERVIEW SESSION, 9:30 - 10:30 AM IN THE HONDO OR ON ZOOM:

- SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 – PRE-K AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL LEVEL
- SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 – INTERMEDIATE LEVEL;
- SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 – SENIOR LEVEL

BUDDHIST MOVIE GROUP DISCUSSION, "FREAKY FRIDAY", SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 AT 2:00 PM 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. 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

YOUR TEMPLE BOARD

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