

OCTOBER 2025

KALAVINKA

A NEWSLETTER OF EKOJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

REMEMBERING ESHINNI AND KAKUSHINNI NAMO AMIDA BUTSU



Kakushinni - Shinran's
Daughter



Monument to Eshinni at
Ohtani Hombyo



Eshinni - Shinran's wife



Meichodo - Connected to the Sodan where Shinran's remains are enshrined

After Shinran Shonin passed away on January 16, 1262, his daughter, Kakushinni, buried her father's remains near the current site of Otani Hombyo in Kyoto. As many followers from all over Japan came to his burial site to pay their respects and discuss his teachings, Kakushinni and other followers worked to make the burial site more amenable for "fellow travelers" to visit the grave. They renovated the grave site and constructed a six-sided building, called the Sodan, where Shinran's ashes and an image of Shinran were enshrined. Kakushinni became the first "Caretaker" of the mausoleum, building an organizational structure into its operations.

"For those who revered Shinran's teachings, it became the birthplace of the Mind/Heart. As it developed the mausoleum became the foundation of which the Hongwanji organization was based"

("Jodo Shinshu, A Guide" Hongwanji International Center, Kyoto, 2004, pp. 93-22)



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Editor's Comments. *On October 12, Ekoji will observe its Eitai-kyo Service, The Perpetual Memorial Service when we, as a Temple and Sangha, gratefully recognize and pay a special tribute too our predecessors, who made a significant contribution and dedicated work to the growth of our temple and its Sangha.*

In the June 2018 Wheel of Dharma article below, then- BCA Bishop, Rev. Kodo Umezu, write, while sitting in the same office once occupied by our own Rev. Kenryu Tsuji in the late 1960s through the 1970s, about the Office and the National Headquarters as an embodiment of our Issei's and Nisei's (1st and 2nd generation Japanese and Japanese Americans) dream of sharing the joy of the Dharma with everyone.

I believe it is with the spirit of Eitai-kyo that Rev. Umezu gratefully recognizes the everlasting wish of those who preceded us to share the Dharma through the work of the BCA.

P.S. The Wheel of Dharma Article's article is accompanied by two pictures that I was unable to reproduce. They are Bishop Tsuji, in the early 1970s sitting on a couch in the office, and a second picture of Bishop Umezu, in 2018, sitting on the same couch in the Bishop's office. KHN

EVERLASTING WISH

By Rev. Kodo Umezu, BCA Bishop

My office in San Francisco is like a room in a museum. It shows no changes since the headquarters building was constructed in 1971. The furniture from when I came to visit Bishop Tsuji right after I arrived in the US in 1973 is still there. The only new items are the carpet and the telephone on my desk.



I believe that the BCA National Headquarters Building is the embodiment of our Issei's and Nisei's dream of sharing the joy of the Dharma with everyone. During the '60s and '70s, the makeup of the Buddhist Churches of America was mainly Nisei members. After World War II, they had to start from scratch. Some moved to new places to build their communities. Many returned to where they had come from and rebuilt their Japanese American communities and Buddhist Sanghas. After they finished their community-building tasks, they constructed this building in San Francisco. This building speaks to me deeply. To me, this building is not just bricks and mortar; it is the life of the Nisei-generation Japanese Americans asking us to carry on their dreams and hopes. Moreover, this building is the embodiment of the Buddha's wish.

From the '70s to the present time, our organization has been showing a great change—especially in the makeup of our membership. Younger people are expressing their sincere desire to learn more about the Nembutsu teaching. New people are constantly visiting our temples and churches. The teaching that we have received has much to offer in this world of uncertainty.

(Everlasting Wish, Cont. on Pg. 2)

(Everlasting Wish, Cont. from Pg. 1)

From the '70s to the present time, our organization has been showing a great change—especially in the makeup of our membership. Younger people are expressing their sincere desire to learn more about the Nembutsu teaching. New people are constantly visiting our temples and churches. The teaching that we have received has much to offer in this world of uncertainty.

Shinran Shonin appreciated this teaching and encouraged us to share it with people in the world. He was able to cure his spiritual illness with this wonderful medicine. He urges us to find this wonderful remedy that brings peace and happiness to people's minds. Unless we do this, there is no need to have our organization, nor buildings in San Francisco or elsewhere.

Our human wisdom does not bring true peace in the world. It is only through the Immeasurable Wisdom known as Amida that we come to realize the oneness of all beings and the limitations of our foolish views. Shinran Shonin wrote:

The Vow of compassion... is like a wonderful lotus blossom, for it is not stained by anything in the world.

It is like a sharp ax, for it loops off all the branches of suffering.

It is like a guiding master, for it informs foolish beings of the essential way of liberation.

It is like the right path, for it leads the multitudes of beings into the capital of wisdom.

(Collected Works of Shinran, excerpts from pages 66 and 67)

Besides the furniture, two other things in my office have not changed: the everlasting wish of our founders, and the Buddha's Compassionate Vow. If and when we renovate this building, I would like to strongly suggest that we have a ceremony to rededicate it to the Nisei members who did so much for us.

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/tZMlcOGsqT0tGdlRtNNt5EydbzXK9f2oVZjO>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Below is a Copy of the Report I will be Submitting to the BCA's Eastern District Council Regarding the Status of Our Temple.

EKOJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

Eastern District Council Report (Jan–Sep 2025)

Prepared by: Andrea Chapman | Date: September 13, 2025



Executive Summary

- Ekoji advanced priorities in community building, Dharma education, outreach, and infrastructure.
- Engagement remained strong across hybrid services and programs; the Obon Festival surpassed its fundraising goal.
- Targeted grants strengthened safety and technology; overall financial position remains sound despite a year-over-year dip in donations.

Strategic Priorities & Accomplishments

- Community Building: Hybrid Sunday services, weekly Dharma Breeze with Rev. Rye, and the January IBAA Dharma Exchange sustained a vibrant Sangha.
- Dharma School: Eagle Scout bench project underway for the modular classroom; September hybrid curriculum overview to engage parents and students.

- Community Engagement: Outreach at the Burke Festival (Sep 6–7). A Virginia Hate Crimes/Security Grant (via Fairfax County Police Department) will fund a new sign and security cameras.
- Fundraising: Obon Festival surpassed its fundraising goal. Additional fundraisers included a t-shirt sale, Reiki workshop, and Yoga workshop.
- Leadership Development: Recruited A/V and Zoom volunteers; trained additional Service Chairs; planning to establish 3 new committees in 2026 to include: membership, communications, and finance.



Program Highlights

- Obon Festival (Jul 12): Sold out weeks in advance; 100+ volunteers supported Bon Odori, a candlelight memorial service, and performances by Bonbu Stories, Nen Daiko and Dounen Daiko despite a brief weather delay.
- Dharma Seminars: “Many Faces of Buddhism” with Dr. George Tanabe launched in August, drawing 70+ attendees.
- Ministerial/Guest Visits: Bishop Marvin Harada (January); BCA President Steve Terasaki (Obon); Rev. Dr. Kenji Akahoshi scheduled for the September Higan Service.
- Music & Innovation: New Gathas developed with AI by Brant Horio, featured on the “Echo Ekoji” podcast.
- Ongoing Programs: Weekly in-person meditation; Wednesday and Sunday services with in-house and guest speakers; Buddhist Movie Discussion Group; new Tuesday Tai Chi group.

(President's Message, Cont. From Pg. 4)

Financial Snapshot

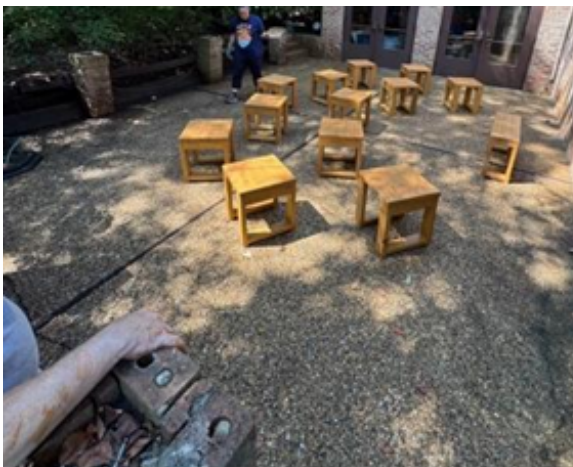
- Donations: Below prior-year pace.
- Events: Obon Festival surpassed its fundraising goal.
- Grants Received: Virginia Hate Crimes/Security Grant (\$7,000); Dharma Forward Technology Grant (\$44,000).
- Outlook: Overall financial position remains sound due to event performance and targeted grants.

Q4 Focus & Key Dates

- Sat, Oct 4: Promote and deliver Rev. Umezu's hybrid seminar, "Shinran's Message for a Fulfilled Life."
-
- Safety/Visibility: Install new sign and security cameras funded by the security grant.
- Volunteer & Leadership: Continue recruitment; standardize role descriptions and training for A/V, Zoom, and Service Chairs.
- Innovation: Pilot additional AI-assisted Gatha and digital engagement to broaden outreach.
- Sun, Nov 16: Prepare for the Annual Sangha Meeting to report 2025 outcomes and gather input for 2026 planning.

Acknowledgments

With gratitude to Ekoji's volunteers, leaders, and members; the Fairfax County Police Department; the Buddhist Churches of America; and our benefactor, BDK America.



By Ken Nakamura



EKOJI MEMBERSHIP

According to Ekoji Treasurer Maya Horio's September Report, donations (which means all income from the Sangha such as membership and dana) make up the largest portion (34%) of the income to run the temple. While membership has grown a little, the level of financial support has not changed, and we have been unable to meet our budget targets for the past two years.

This Sangha support really counts. It makes it possible for Ekoji to exist, pay its bills, repair and expand the facilities, and try new programs such as the new A/V system, have guest speakers and hold hybrid educational seminars. In providing this support, we can all continue to hear the Dharma, and to share with each other what Buddhism, and especially what Shin Buddhism, means to each of us in our daily lives and grow as we walk down our Buddhist path.

An increasing Ekoji membership plays, and will continue to play, a key role in this equation. It signals that the temple's message of the Dharma is reaching more people who consider the temple as a home. And it also solidifies the temple's core group of followers on the Nembutsu Path, who believe the temple is important and will help support Ekoji financially and with their hard work.

There usually is a statement, during the announcements after the service, about having an opportunity for our on-line Sangha members to donate to the temple. And for all of us, the message is about joining or renewing our membership in Ekoji. You can usually find a similar reminder at the end of Andrea's weekly Saturday updates.

These announcements address the need to increase our core group to help run and build Ekoji so that it can fulfill its mission in spreading the Dharma. Joining and renewing our membership can be done most easily on-line through the Ekoji website.

Many of us tend to tune these reminders out, or lose attention before we get to the bottom of an email. Thus, it came as a surprise that:

- Memberships and their associated pledges have to be renewed annually;
- While there are four levels of membership, Ekoji's By-Laws Art. 3 Sec. 2 states that only full members of the temple can vote—and only those members must have been full members for 90 days prior to the date of the vote, and in good standing.

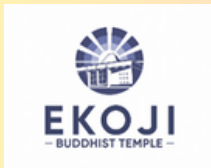
(Kibitzing, Cont. on Pg. 7)

(Kibitzing, Cont. from Pg. 6

When you look at what membership offers you, it is really less than overwhelming. I think of it as something like buying Girl Scout cookies – not the best cookies, prices are going up, and not as many cookies as you used to get in times past. But that's OK because it is for the Girl Scouts, and it is your daughter, or granddaughter, or the neighbor girl next door, or a girl in the Sangha who is selling the cookies – that improves the value 100%.

It is the same with the Temple. We need to join and support the Temple because it is our spiritual home where we can safely join in learning about and evaluating the Dharma for ourselves, those we love, and for the world around us.

**THE NEXT TIME YOU HEAR ABOUT MEMBERSHIP PLEASE JOIN OR RENEW.
APPARENTLY IT'S NOT AUTOMATIC, AND
ITS AN IMPORTANT THING TO DO.**



ANNUAL HYBRID MEETING OF THE EKOJI SANGHA
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 Members will be asked to vote on the 2026 - 2027 Budget and members of the Board of Directors and Trustees. While there are four levels of membership at Ekoji, only full members of the Sangha are allowed to vote.

Everyone can debate and discuss the issues. This is our opportunity to share our views on how things are going; what the temple still might do to provide for the spiritual and information needs of the Sangha; and non-religious support of the Sangha community,

A light lunch is planned prior to the Sangha meeting.



IT TAKES A VILLAGE –

TO ALSO RUN A TEMPLE THAT SHARES THE DHARMA AND SERVES THE SANGHA

Like most temples in the BCA network, Ekoji has one paid person, our Supervising Minister Rev. Kurt Rye. The rest of the work in making Ekoji run is done by many dedicated volunteers. Sometimes the work can be a “one shot deal” like Ekoji’s participation at the Burke Centre Festival as we reached out to the community. Other times, the work takes months of planning and preparation and then onto the show like our Obon Festival. Or the work can go on, month after month, like paying the bills and recordkeeping. But the work is ultimately essential.

To those who share their time and their talents, the Board expresses ITS DEEPEST GRATITUDE AND GASSHO. But like every volunteer organization, there is always space and a need for more volunteers, and we hope you will consider volunteering.

In recognition of those who have volunteered and to whom we sincerely thank:

EKOJI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Andrea Chapman
Vice President: Frank Swithers
Secretary: Michael Huff
Treasurer: Maya Horio
At Large: Mahkameh Doroud
At Large: Roger Scott
At Large: Jesse Barrick

(Members to the Board are elected at the All-Sangha Meeting in November of each year.)

MONTHLY TEMPLE CLEAN-UP

For the first Sunday of Every Month, a general call to the Sangha to help clean your temple goes out to meet at 9:30 for help.

[Those answering the call for September 7th were:](#)

Bob Shimokaji (Coordinator)
Matt Doubrava
Alexander Corbin
Andrea Chapman
Jesse Barrick

**MORE HELP COULD ALWAYS BE
USED !!!**

THE AUDIO/VISUAL CREW

(If you would like to help, training will be provided.)

Maya Horio (Coordinator)
Andrea Chapman
Ann Stegner
Joran Stegner
Roger Scott
Tom Cray
Bob Shimokaji

TWO-DAY BURKE CENTER FESTIVAL PARTICIPANTS FROM EKOJI

Ed Sams (Coordinator)
Roger Scott
Bob Shimokaji
Rob Fike
Steven Fike
Jesse Barrick
Frank Swithers



SERVICE LEADERS

Ed Sams (Coordinator)
Pilar Uelman
Jesse Barrick
Alex Corbin
Marisa Dillmuth
Jenina "Jeni" Almira
Positions are currently filled.

CHILDREN'S DHARMA SCHOOL

CO-SUPERINTENDENT: Maya Horio
CO-SUPERINTENDENT: Kim Nguyen

- Pre-K Teacher: Vacant
- Elementary Teacher: Gail Kondo and Kim Nguyen
- Intermediate Teacher: Truc Vo
- Advanced Teacher: Brant and Maya Horio
- Senior Teacher: Vacant

NEW COMMITTEES THE BOARD WOULD LIKE TO START -UP – NEEDS VOLUNTEERS:

If you would like to help, Please Contact
Andrea Chapman,
(AOAndreaChapman@gmail.com)

1. **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE:**

Meet Quarterly to plan, schedule, and help implement Ekoji's digital content from Website to Podcast to social media.

2. **FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

Work with Maya Horio (Treasurer) to meet Temple's Financial Requirements.

3. **MEMBERSHIP POC**

Restart Ekoji's Membership Program

PLEASE JOIN US AND ALL WORK TOGETHER AS WE SUPPORT EKOJI – 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 OCTOBER WE WILL BE REMEMBERING WITH GRATITUDE:

SEPTEMBER 2025

Akiko Iwata
9/27/1999

OCTOBER 2025

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

NOVEMBER 2025



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



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 importance 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

INTERESTED IN DHARMA SCHOOL – JOIN THE FDSTL WEBINAR



BUDDHA IN THE MACHINE
At the Intersection of AI and the Dharma



OCTOBER 4, 2025 12 Noon to 2:00 PM EDT

Please join us for a thought-provoking session on **Artificial Intelligence and Buddhism**. The keynote will be by Dr. Brant Horio of Ekoji Buddhist Temple who leads research at a technology firm. He will talk about:

- State of the Technology
- Ways to use AI in a classroom
- Limitations & potentials for misuse.

This will be followed by a discussion moderated by Rev. Harry Bridge of Buddhist Church of Oakland who has experimented with AI including using it to generate new Dharma talks.

ZOOM LINK [HTTP://BIT.LY/463PFVF](http://bit.ly/463pfvf) MEETING ID: 8860 9355 1144
PASSCODE: 696358



EITAIKYO SERVICE: The Perpetual Memorial Service



Ekoji's monthly **Shotsuki Memorial Service**, which we generally hold on the first Sunday of each month, is in memory and gratitude to those loved ones whose Meinichi, or date of death, falls in that particular month.

However, unlike the monthly Shotsuki Service which is personal to each of us, the **Perpetual Memorial Service, or Eitaikyo Service**, is a Service on behalf of our temple, Ekoji. It is a Japanese Buddhist observance held once a year. It provides Ekoji and its Sangha the opportunity to recognize and pay a special tribute to our predecessors, who made a significant contribution and dedicated work to the growth of our temple and its Sangha. As the temple grows older, we may not know or recognize these people, but it is important for us to remember, and to express our gratitude to them for their dedication and hard work that allows all of us to walk our Buddhist Path at Ekoji.

In Memoriam

Rev. Kenryu T. Tsuji # *	(2/26/2004)	Rev. Dr. Yehan Numata *	(5/5/1994)
Mrs. Sakaye Tsuji # *	(2/14/2025)	Rev. Kenneth Kazuo Tanaka # *	(2/8/2021)
Rev. Shojo Honda *	(4/13/2015)	Mr. Shigeru Steve Yamamoto *	
Mrs. Y. June Honda *	(4/8/2014)		
Mrs. Geraldine Hamai Cantwell * +	(4/6/2007)	Mrs. Nora Mineyo Nagatani # *	(10/23/2021)
Mrs. Mitsu Yasuda Carl # * +	(7/13/2001)	Dr. Herbert "Herb" Kazuto Oie # *	(8/31/2021)
Mr. Takashi Horita *	(12/19/2007)	Mrs. Lillian Oie # *	(2/1/1998)
Mrs. Akiko Iwata *	(9/27/1999)	Mr. Shigeki "Shig" James Sugiyama # *	
Mr. James "Jimmy" Kitahara*	(11/ /1002)	(1/14/2019)	
Mrs. Evelyn Kitahara*	(1/12/2001)	Mrs. Kimiko "Kimi" Sugiyama # *	(8/31/2013)
Mr. Yukio Kawamoto *	(1/7/2019)	Mr. John Sutch	(1/11/2020)
Mrs. Kim MacDonald *		Maj. Charles "Chuck" Teubert, (USMC, Ret.) *	
Mr. John Malcom *	(7/2/2012)	(8/21/2020)	
Mrs. Claire Minami *	(5/24/2009)	Mrs. Frances Ushiro*	(3/10/2021)
Mrs. Reiko Matsumoto*	(3/12/2016)	Mr. Masaru Ushiro *	(4/26/2008)

Member of the Washington, D.C. Sangha Dharma School

* Legacy Member of the Ekoji Buddhist Temple

+ Received a Buddhist Name from Honzan (Ingo) at the request of Ekoji Buddhist Temple

Editor's Note: *On October 26, we will be observing a special service honoring two women fundamentally important to the existence of Jodo Shinshu -- Eshinni and Kakushinni, Shinran Shonin's wife and daughter, respectively. Last year, Ekoji's Minister's Assistant, Trinh Truc Vo provided a Dharma message introducing the Sangha to these women. We are running this message again to help us understand their importance to Buddhism and to our temple, Ekoji.*

On October 26 for the Eshinni and Kakushinni Special Service, Rev. Laverne Imori, a former member of Ekoji's Sangha, and former Temple President, shares her insights on these two remarkable women so important to the development of Jodo Shin Buddhism.
KHN

Good morning, Ekoji. Thank you for joining us for our Eshinni/Kakushinni service. Please join me in gassho.

Namo Amida Butsu.
Namo Amida Butsu.
Namo Amida Butsu.

Many of us are familiar with the name Shinran Shonin, the founder of our sect of Buddhism, Jodo Shinshu. However, much of what we know about Shinran and his life is due to correspondence between Eshinni, Shinran's wife, and Kakushinni, Shinran and Eshinni's youngest daughter. Jodo Shinshu would not be where it is today without the efforts of these two women; and yet, many Jodo Shinshu Buddhists are unfamiliar with these two women. They may know that Eshinni is the name of Shinran's wife and Kakushinni is the name of Shinran's youngest daughter, but they are often unaware of the contributions these two women made towards Jodo Shinshu and preserving Shinran's legacy. Today, I would like to share some background about these two women and express gratitude for the actions they took to allow us to all follow this Nembutsu path today.

Most of our present-day knowledge about Eshinni is actually from the letters that she wrote to Kakushinni. These letters were found in 1921, and also helped shed light on Shinran's life as he had left minimal details regarding his life.

Eshinni was the daughter of Miyoshi Tamenori, a high-rank samurai in Echigo province on the Japan Sea side of the main island of Honshu. Based on her letters, she was born around 1182. She was said to be refined and well-educated. She was a capable landowner and oversaw multiple household servants and their families as well. Because of her own personal wealth, some believe that she was able to provide extra income for their family, along with what Shinran was able to make as a commoner, while he also studied and explained about the Nembutsu path.



Eshinni

(Eshinni and Kakushinni, Cont. on pg. 14)

The two met while Shinran was in exile in Echigo, and likely married in 1210 or earlier, according to one of her letters from 1263, which would have her around 28 or 29 when she married Shinran. Getting married was unusual for a Buddhist priest for at that time priests were to have been celibate. Of course, when Shinran was exiled, he was also defrocked leading Shinran to think of himself as neither priest nor commoner. Marrying a “former” priest and then marrying at age 28 or 29, which does not seem that old nowadays, but during that time, getting married at that age was fairly late. Eshinni and Shinran went on to have 6 children: three boys and three girls. Shinran and Eshinni raised most of their kids in Echigo and the surrounding areas near Echigo.

While living in Echigo, Eshinni likely received guidance from Shinran as her letters reveal that she was quite devout in her belief in the Nembutsu, and she seemed to have a firm grasp of the essence of the teachings.

Although Shinran was pardoned in 1211, and they could have gone back to the “civilized” world of Kyoto, Eshinni and Shinran moved to the Kanto region, which today includes the modern-day Tokyo area, to continue spreading the teachings.

While they were in Kanto, Shinran worked on his main work, the Kyogyoshinsho, in which he entrusts himself to the vows of Amida Buddha. During this time, however, Eshinni recalls that there was a brief lapse where Shinran forgot the Nembutsu and reverted to reading the sutras. She noted that everyone is fallible, and that faith is not unwavering.



Kakushinni

Ultimately, Eshinni and Shinran relocated to Kyoto around 1233 with some of their children, and Eshinni helped oversee their household in Kyoto.

Kakushinni, their youngest daughter, had been born in Mito in 1224. She was the only one of Shinran and Eshinni’s children to likely never have set foot in Echigo. Kakushinni would have been 10 or 11 years old when she moved with her parents to Kyoto.

Kakushinni married her first husband, Hino Hirotsumi (one of her father’s disciples) in 1238 or 1239 when she was 15 or 16 years old. She then gave birth to her first son, Kōju, who was also known as Kakue, his Buddhist name. Her husband passed when Kakue was seven, and she took Kakue back to live with her parents.

Eshinni stayed with Shinran until around 1254, when she had to return to Echigo to oversee her property. She was 73 years old at this time and Shinran was 84. She left Shinran in the care of Kakushinni. Upon Eshinni’s return to Echigo, she faced great hardship as there was famine and epidemics ravaged the already scarce population. Not only was Eshinni responsible for her land, she also was responsible for her orphaned grandchildren as well as her servants and their families. She details the hardships in her letters to Kakushinni, stating that she had sold her clothing in order to feed her household. Despite these hardships and her own wavering health in her advanced age, Eshinni remained steadfast in her belief of the Nembutsu.

Kakushinni and Eshinni continued to keep up correspondence after Eshinni returned to Echigo until Eshinni's passing in 1268. In one of Kakushinni's letter, she regales how Shinran's death in 1263 had been rather uneventful. At that time, people believed that strange and miraculous events would occur when an important religious person died. In her response to her daughter, Eshinni replied, "There is no doubt that your father was born in the Pure Land, and there is no need for me to reiterate this." This quote, some have written, was an indication of how deeply she, as did Shinran, had faith in the Nembutsu, and she wished that her children and grandchildren also accepted it.

Kakushinni had her father, Shinran, cremated a day after his passing, and his remains were deposited at a place called Otani the next day. She had a tombstone, that was five-levels and about 7 feet high, erected over Shinran's grave three years after his passing.

After Shinran's passing, followers from all over Japan came to his gravesite to pay their respects and share what he had taught them before, during and after his exile to Echigo. To accommodate Shinran's visiting followers, Kakushinni, on land given to her by her second husband, also a follower of the Nembutsu path, and with funds donated from many of Shinran's followers, built the Ancestor Hall and a six-sided structure (*Sodan*) in which an image of Shinran was enshrined, and to which his remains were moved. This became the original headquarters of our denomination, the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha.



Statue of Shinran leading to Ohtani Hombyo

Kakushinni was named as the first *Rusushiki* (Caretaker), and she determined that the property and buildings would not belong to her family, but rather owned jointly by Shinran's followers, and to be maintained by them jointly. The *Rusushiki* position was subsequently held by Kakushinni's sons, and was changed to *Monshu* or Administrator. The position also became a matter of direct lineage, from Shinran Shonin to his daughter, Kakushinni, and through her to Kakue, her son, then to Kakunyo, her grandson and to our current Gomonshu, Kojun Ohtani.

As it developed, the Ohtani Hombyo mausoleum, many believe, became the foundation of which the Hongwanji organization was based.

Please join me in gassho as I express our deep gratitude to these two women. We would not know Jodo Shinshu, as we do today, without the efforts of these two women. Eshinni's dedication and support to Shinran allowed him to explore the Nembutsu and spread these teachings. Kakushinni's efforts established the foundation and center from which Shinran's teachings could continue to spread for generations.

NAMO AMIDA BUTSU



ECHO EKOJI

TEMPLE PODCAST



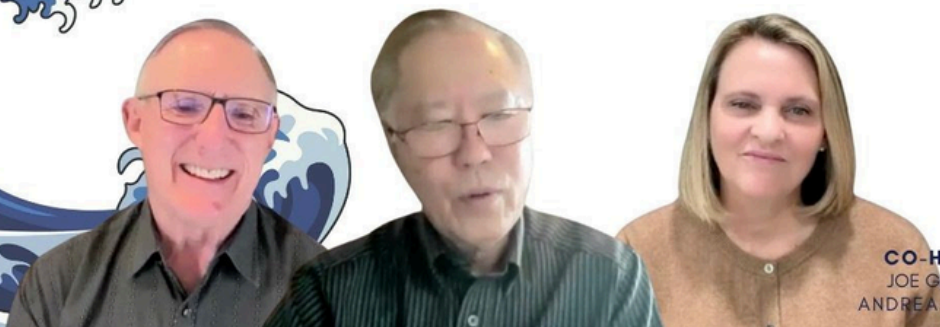
FIRESIDE CHATS



Author of Jewels and Ocean

SPECIAL GUEST

REV. KENNETH TANAKA



CO-HOSTS
JOE GOTCHY
ANDREA CHAPMAN

LEARN and PRACTICE TAI CHI AT EKOJI



- **What:** Lessons in Tai Chi (Chen Pan Ling Synthetic Form)
- **When:** **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.

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



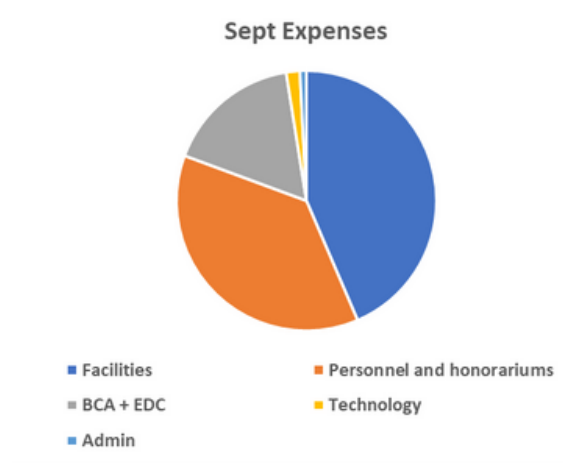
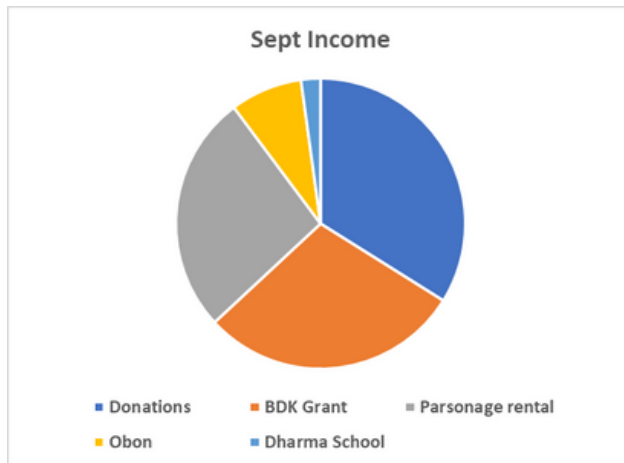
MONTHLY TREASURER'S REPORT

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.

Sep 2025 Finance Flows: Our income streams outweighed our expenses for this month, with membership renewals continuing and registrations starting for our children's Dharma School. We keep track of these monthly income and expense flows each year to allow us to track trends over time and to plan for our budget for the coming year. Stay tuned for notice of our annual general meeting in November, when we will present the proposed 2026 budget.

- **Income (\$12,415):** 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 received one last Obon donation and started to receive registration fees for our Dharma School students.
- **Expenses (\$9,442):** Our facility and personnel expenses made up 80% of our expenses for this month, with our BCA dues and travel expenses for the in-person Eastern District Council annual meeting comprising another 17%. We bought a number of Blink cameras to place around the temple grounds, with gratitude for the 2025 grant from Virginia's Department of Criminal Justice Services to improve the safety and security of houses of worship, in partnership with the Fairfax County Police Department. Hopefully the cameras will allow us to better track activity at the temple during the non-populated hours (including those who have been illegally leaving their trash in our dumpsters—our trash bill included an extra \$300 this month because of illegal dumping!).



Benjamin Benedict
Jane Blechman
Jessica Brooks
Eugenia Burkes
Evan Cantwell
Alexander Corbin
Joseph Crilley
Medium Dequan Jones
Mahkameh Doroud
Eric Ederer
Stanley Fujii
Rahman Gunawan
Connie Hoffman

Marisa and Tamon Honda
Emily Ihara
Erick Ishii
Yuko Keicho
Sandra Lukic-Dapoingy
Christopher Macey
Thea Maggard
Bert and Nancy Motonaga
Ken and Nori Nakamura
Jordan Norkewicz
Alexandra O'Brien
Aileen & Lawrence Parmeter

Art Politano
Jerry Rankin
Wolf Run Foundation
Edward Sams
Bob Shimokaji
Wyatt Spage
StefanSt-Hilaire
Edgar Sullivan
Frank Swithers
Mary Traynor
Pilar Urlmen
Mikio Yamashita



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 October is "**Coraline**" which can be streamed free on Tubi:
<https://tubitv.com/movies/667315/coraline> .

Because of scheduling problems, our next meeting day/time is supposed to be on **Sunday, November 16 th at 2 pm.**

Join the Zoom Movie Discussion
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84021310685>

Meeting ID: 840 2131 0685

SANGHA SCOOPS

By Ken Nakamura

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



The Eagle Service Project is one of the many requirements that a Life Scout must meet on his/her Eagle Path. The Community Service Project helps the Scout develop and demonstrate youth leadership skills as the Scout works to properly plan and develop the project and coordinate with the organization involved, as to whether that the proposed project is what they had in mind. She then further develops leadership skills as she works with and directs her fellow scouts in working together to complete the Service Project. Of course, creating an appropriate budget to accomplish the proposed Eagle Service Project and raising the funds was part of the work. With regard to her budget, on August 24, Hiroko held a bake sale outside in front of the Hondo and successfully raised more than \$100 over her anticipated budget needs.

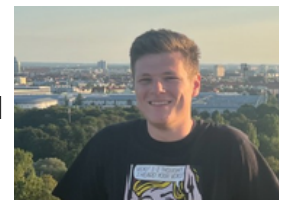


Life Scout Hiroko Rose completed her Eagle Project in early September, designing and making a dozen benches to be used as a modular classroom for Dharma School or others for temple meetings and get togethers.

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.

It was great to see **Wyatt Spage** at our Higan Service, where Rev. Kenji Akahoshi delivered the Dharma talk, and then stayed for the after-service hybrid discussion. Wyatt, now with the National Park Service, was posted in the Napa Valley, California area, and now has been transferred to Colorado. When he could, Wyatt would join us by Zoom from California.



Now that he is closer, Wyatt hopes to be able to come to more often. It's great to see him either on Zoom or in person, but I think we all agree that in person is the best!



Also, welcome home to **Cmdr. Dr. Matthew Doubrava** following his overseas Naval deployment in the Middle East. Besides his regular duties aboard his ship, when the ship's Chaplain found out that Matt was a Buddhist, he was asked to help provide religious

support to the ship's Buddhists and to those searching spiritually. With approval of BCA's Bishop, Matt was able to help the Chaplains Corp. Fortunately for us, his new assignment is in the area.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES, OCTOBER 2025

WEEKLY

SUNDAY

- CHILDREN'S DHARMA SCHOOL, 9:30 - 10:30 AM , EVERY SUNDAY EXCEPT THE LAST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH WHEN NO CLASS IS SCHEDULED.
- 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 NAJIN 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)

- EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR, "SHINRAN'S MESSAGE FOR A FULFILLED LIFE," PRESENTED BY FORMER BCA BISHOP, REV. KODO UMEZU, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4 AT 2:00PM IN THE HONDO AND ON ZOOM.
- OCTOBER 12, AT 11:00 , EKOJI'S "EITAIKYO , PERPETUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE"
- BECAUSE OF SCHEDULING PROBLEMS, THE **MOVIE GROUP WILL NOT MEET IN OCTOBER**. THE NEXT MOVIE WILL BE: **CORALINE**. WE WILL MEET ON SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16 AT 2:00PM IN THE EKOJI ZOOM ROOM. It can be streamed for free on Tubi.
- OCTOBER 26, AT 11:00 HYBRID "ESHINNI AND KAKUSHINNI REMEMBRANCE SERVICE"

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



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>	



Children's Dharma School

6500 Lake Haven Lane, Fairfax Station, VA 22039

Ekoidharmaschool@gmail.com www.ekoji.org

OBJECTIVE: Ekoji Buddhist Temple Children's Dharma School strives to teach students the basic Shin Buddhism teachings. Our goal is to enable our students to articulate in their own words what Buddhism is, and what it means to them, by the time they leave our temple for the world beyond.

Activities and Events

Our Dharma School meets three times per month:

Dharma School classes 2x/month. Classes are divided by age or at the discretion of the Dharma School teachers. We encourage regular attendance to the best of the students' and parents' ability because several of our classes build on consecutive lessons. However, we welcome students whenever you can join us!

Monthly Family Service, temple cleanup, and community service activity:

- Services led by Intermediate students; parents and children of all ages welcome to attend.
- Students clean immediately following the Family Service; Intended to instill in our students a sense of ownership and belonging to the temple.
- "Bite-size" dana (community service) projects follow the temple cleaning.

Class Curriculum

Pre-K – 1st grade (ages 4-6)

Commonly used Buddhist terms, Buddhist etiquette, gassho basics, expressing gratitude before and after meals, Onenju-making, paper altars, and Buddhist stories and parables.

Elementary (ages 7-9)

Altar – significance and care, life of Siddhartha, Buddhist symbols, Buddhist holidays, Three Treasures, and BCA structure and Ekoji structure.

Intermediate (ages 10-13)

Four Characteristics of Life, Four Noble Truths, Eightfold Path, Five Precepts, Six Paramitas, spread of Buddhism, division into Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism, and the Seven Patriarchs.

Advanced (ages 14-17) / Senior (ages 17+)

Life of Shinran Shonin, 18th vow, phase of going and phase of returning, sutras, comparative religions, Buddhism and current events, explaining Buddhism and Jodo Shinshu in your own words.

Fees

Tuition: Free for Ekoji members. Non-members: \$50 for one student; \$10 each additional student.

Supplies (members and non-members): \$30 per student

Contact the Dharma School Superintendents at ekoidharmaschool@gmail.com for this year's schedule and with any questions.

We wrapped up our 3-part "What we teach in Dharma School" series. Each session was recorded, so if you missed the live meeting and want to watch the recorded session, you can find those [here](#).

Student #3
Name

Age

Medical conditions/ Allergies

Please include any special instructions and equipment (such as Epi-pens), as necessary, if your child experiences an allergic reaction.

Student #4
Name

Age

Medical conditions/ Allergies

Please include any special instructions and equipment (such as Epi-pens), as necessary, if your child experiences an allergic reaction.

PARENT OR GUARDIAN INFORMATION

PARENT/
GUARDIAN:

PARENT/
GUARDIAN:

ADDRESS

ADDRESS

PHONE

PHONE

E-MAIL:

E-MAIL:

COMMENTS:

OFFICE USE ONLY

Registration Date: _____

Member: Yes No

Tuition Amount Paid: _____

Supply Fee Paid: _____

Total Amount Paid: _____

Notes:

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

YOUR TEMPLE TRUSTEES

Kim Nguyen Ed Sams

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TREASURER'S REPORT: Maya Horio
DHARMA SCHOOL: Maya Horio and Kim Nguyen
CALENDAR & EVENTS: Pilar Uelman
FROM THE BOARD: Andrea Chapman
NEN DAIKO: Emily Ihara**

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BOB SHIMOKAJI, CERTIFIED MINISTER'S ASSISTANT

ROB FIKE, CERTIFIED MINISTER'S ASSISTANT

TRUC VO, CERTIFIED 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
6500 LAKEHAVEN LANE
FAIRFAX STATION, VIRGINIA 22039**