

Quarterly Issue ♦ July, August, September 2026

KALAVINKA

A NEWSLETTER OF EKOJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

July & August is OBON

A time to remember our loved ones who have passed, to reflect on the ways they continue to enrich our lives today, and to dance in joyful celebration of Amida's compassion.



September is OHIGAN

The autumn equinox is a timely reminder of how nature influences the rhythm of our daily existence and, in turn, how fortunate we are to be able to seek refuge in Amida Buddha through the daily recitation of the nembutsu,

“Namu Amida Butsu”

MESSAGE FROM REV. NISHIYAMA

Dear Ekoji Sangha and Friends,

I hope you are all doing well. First, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who helped make this year's Obon Memorial Service and Bon Dance such a wonderful success. Thank you to our many volunteers, food booth workers, setup and clean-up crews, and everyone who attended. Your time, energy, and joyful spirit made the event truly special. For me, this was my first Bon Dance at Ekoji, and it was a very meaningful experience. I was deeply touched to see people of all ages – children, parents, grandparents, long-time members, and first-time visitors – dancing together. It reminded me that Buddhism is not only something we study in the temple. It is something we live together through gratitude, kindness, and community.



Many people think Bon Dance is simply a Japanese cultural festival. While it is certainly a joyful tradition, its deeper meaning is found in the Buddhist teaching of gratitude. Obon is a time to remember our loved ones who have passed away. We express our appreciation for the countless gifts they gave us, their love, encouragement, sacrifices, and the life they passed on to us. Although they are no longer physically with us, their influence continues to live in our hearts and in the way we live each day.

The circle of Bon Dance also has a beautiful meaning. As we dance in a circle, no one stands at the front or back. We move together, reminding us that all people are connected. In Shin Buddhism, we realize that we do not live by our own efforts alone. Our lives are supported by countless causes and conditions and embraced by the boundless compassion of Amida Buddha.

One of my favorite moments this year was watching Dounendaiko, Ekoji Taiko Youth performers, radiating energy and smiling as dancers filled the dance circle. Some people knew every dance, while others were learning for the first time. It did not matter. Everyone was welcomed into the circle. Similarly, Amida Buddha's compassion embraces all people, just as we are, without discrimination.

As we move beyond the Bon season, may we continue to remember the spirit of Obon not only for one weekend, but throughout our daily lives. Let us live with gratitude for those who came before us, appreciation for those who support us today, and compassion for those we meet tomorrow.

Thank you again for your warm welcome and for allowing me to share this meaningful Bon season with all of you. Finally, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to Temple President Andrea for her great leadership!

With Gassho,

Rev. Shindo Nishiyama

JULY 2026 -- OBON FESTIVAL

Congratulations to the Obon Committee for another successful Obon festival and thank you to all the volunteers for your dedication and hard work!



JULY 2026 -- OBON FESTIVAL



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In Gassho,



SHOTSUKI HOYO – MONTHLY MEMORIAL OBSERVANCE

We pay homage to our beloved family and Sangha members whose passing falls during the months of July, August, and September. Whether it has been one year or many decades since their passing, we remain grateful for their enduring contribution to our temple.

JULY

Mitsu Yasuda Carl

John Malcolm

AUGUST

James Grohl

Kimiko “Kimi” Sugiyama

Maj. Charles “Chuck” Teubert, USMC Ret.

Dr. Herbert “Herb” Kazuto Oie

SEPTEMBER

Akiko Iwata

DHARMA SCHOOL CALENDAR

Ekoji's Children's Dharma School will start its 2026-2027 school year on Sunday, October 4, 2026. The Dharma School is open to children ages 4-17 and meets three times per month from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 am for classes, family service, and other activities.

Contact ekojidharmaschool@gmail.com to register or for more information.

DHARMA SCHOOL 2026-2027									
September-26		October-26		November-26 (Pet Mem; Tday)		December-26 (Bodhi Day)		January-27 (Ho'onko)	
6	No DS	4	0930-1030 am DS Class <i>ALL: Meet & greet in Tsuji Center Sangha Hall</i>	1	No DS	6	0930-1030 am DS Service & Tsuji Center cleaning	3	0930-1030 am DS Class
13	No DS	11	NO DS (3-day weekend)	8	0930-1030 am DS Service & Tsuji Center cleaning	13	0930-1030 am DS Class	10	0930-1030 am DS Service & Tsuji Center cleaning
20	No DS	18	0930-1030 am DS Service & Tsuji Center cleaning	15	0930-1030 am DS Class	20	0930-1030 am JOINT DS Class	17	NO DS (3-day weekend)
27	No DS	25	0930-1030 am DS Class	22	0930-1030 am DS Class	27	NO DS	24	0930-1030 am DS Class
				29	NO DS (Thanksgiving weekend)			31	NO DS
February-27 (Nirvana Serv)		March-27 (Ohigan)		April-27 (Hanamatsuri)		May-27 (Gotan-E)		June-27	
7	0930-1030 am DS Class	7	0930-1030 am DS Class	4	0930-1030 am DS Class	2	0930-1030 am JOINT DS Class	No DS Have a great summer!	
14	NO DS (3-day weekend)	14	0930-1030 am DS Service & Tsuji Center cleaning	11	1045-1200 Special Joint Hanamatsuri Service	9	0930-1030 am DS Service & Tsuji Center cleaning		
21	0930-1030 am DS Service & Tsuji Center cleaning	21	No DS	18	No DS	16	0930-1030 am DS Class		
28	0930-1030 am DS Class	28	0930-1030 am DS Class	25	0930-1030 am DS Class	23	0930am DS Joint End-of-Year party!		
						30	No DS		

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Open House: Join us on **Saturday, November 7, 1 pm to 3 pm** for our fall open house. Volunteers are needed to welcome guests and answer questions. Light refreshments will be served.

Annual Meeting of the Sangha: Save the date and join us for this important meeting on **Sunday, November 8, 2026 at 1 pm**. A light lunch will be served prior to the meeting. Only full members in good standing are eligible to vote but all are welcome. Please refer to the temple by-laws for specifics.



OPEN HOUSE, SAT. NOV. 7, 1 PM TO 3 PM



BCA Member Survey - we want to hear your thoughts!

We would like to invite you to participate in a brief survey to share your thoughts and perspectives regarding the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA). The purpose of this survey is to better understand awareness of BCA programs and services, along with your perception of the value BCA provides to local temples and sangha members, and opportunities to strengthen communication and engagement.

Your feedback is important and will help guide future efforts to support temples, ministers, and sangha members across our organization.

We invite you to complete this anonymous online survey using the link below. We expect the survey will take approximately 5 minutes to complete.

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts and help shape the future of our Buddhist community.

In Gassho,

Gayle Noguchi
Executive Director
Buddhist Churches of America

Scan the QR Code to Complete Survey



In Gassho – Dana from Nov 2025 to Sept 2026

Alaina Archie
Hossein Assefbarkhi
Christine Baldridge
John Barnes
Jesse Barrick
Andrew Beachy
Gordon Bermant
Shirley Bertoni
Adam Black
Jane Blechman
Gerard Boudriault
Tasha and Thomas Brickhouse
Carla Brown
James & Taeko Buck
Eugenia Burkes
Loredana Calin
Evan Cantwell
Kyoko Carey
Andrea Chapman
James Cocco
Ted Coleman
Alexander Corbin
Michael Coyne
MileSade Crank-Brock
Tom Cray
Joseph Crilley
Margaret Cummisky
Margaret Cummisky
(in memory of Yoshie Cummisky)
Nen Daiko
James Daniel
Alicia Del Barrio
Marisa Dillmuth
Mahkameh Doroud
Matthew Doubrava
Brenda Ducker
Eva DuGoff
Brindley Family
Emily Fasick
Stanley Fujii

Mako Fujioka
Francis and Mary Garrison
Joseph Gotchy
Ilona Gravers
Rahman Gunawan
Mark H Rooney
Ivor Harris
Hideo Hashimoto
Melanie Hatter
Connie Hoffman
Marisa and Tamon Honda
Maya and Brant Horio
Maya and Brant Horio
(in memory of Ellen Nakamura)
Maya and Brant Horio
(in memory of Phoebe Horio)
Ross Horio
Thomas Horio
Thomas Horio
(in memory of Phoebe Horio)
Emily Ihara
Ken Ikeda
Michiko Inanaga
Lindsay Innis
Ann and John Ishikawa
Jarrett Jacinto/Taron Murakami
Angela Jones
Susan Kasa and Stephen Nishigawa
Amiko Kashiwagi
Yuko Keicho
Norm and Gail Kondo
Norm and Gail Kondo
(in memory of Rev. & Mrs. Tsuji)
Norm and Gail Kondo
(in memory of Shozo & Hatsuye Kondo)
(in memory of James & Evelyn Kitahara)
Regina Lam
Greg Langlois
Gary and Maya Lawrence
(in memory of Rev. & Mrs. Tsuji)
Timothy Lee

In Gassho – Dana from Nov 2025 to Sept 2026

Cody Leihgeber-Carpenter
Cheryl Long
Sandra Lukic-Dapoingy
Christopher Macey
Thea Maggard
Jenina Mallari
Richard Malone & Rick Ware
Amatullah Maxey
Arlene Mayeda
Andrew Mckay
Christina McQuirck
Evan Merz
Arlene and Wayne Minami
Arlene Miyasato
Bert and Nancy Motonaga
John Mruk
Reverend Brian Nagata
Kemi Nakabayashi
Ken and Nori Nakamura
Ken and Nori Nakamura
 (in memory of Ellen Nakamura)
Ken and Nori Nakamura
 (in memory of Fusako Akahoshi)
 (in memory of Rev. Eijun Kujoz)
 (in memory of Sato Noguchi)
Ken and Nori Nakamura
 (in memory of Phoebe Horio)
Ken and Nori Nakamura
 (in memory of Seinosuke Nakamura &
 Irene Takemori)
Lisa and Greg Nakamura
Robert & Marissa Newman
Kim Nguyen and Hung Vo
Vinh Nguyen
Diana Nguyen-Rivera
Rev. Shindo & Suzie Nishiyama
Jordan Norkewicz
Alexandra O'Brien
Donna Omata
Donna Omata
 (in memory of Hiroko Kamikawa Omata)

Donna Omata
 (in memory of Robert Rokuro Omata)
Joyce & Robert Oshita
Rico Ozaki
Jack Perry
Joanna Porter
Jerry Rankin
Seth Read
Allyn & Constance Richert
George Roberts
Samuel Romanzo
Ayako Rosi
Ayako Rosi
 (in memory of Akemi Suzuki)
Annemarie Russell
Onoe Ryu Dance Enterprises LLC
Edward Sams
Diane Schwab
Roger Scott
Carolyn Seeger
 (in memory of Rev & Mrs Tsuji)
Bob Shimokaji
Dale Shirasago
Tamiko Shudo
Michael Socarras
Wyatt Spage
Joran and Ann Stegner
Edgar Sullivan
Kiyonobu Suzuki
Frank Swithers
Elena Takaki
Gary Tanigawa
Anna Tecson
Mary Traynor
Eleanor & Roz Tsuji
 (in memory of Rev & Mrs Tsuji)
Jeff Turner
Crissa Turnerra
Nicholas Turza
Kayla Turzak

In Gassho – Dana from Nov 2025 to Sept 2026

Pilar Uelmen
Charles Uyeda
Charles Uyeda (in memory of Charles Uyeda)
Julie Uyehara
Luke Van De Voorde
Amy Vu
Ngoc-Yen Vu
Andrea Walter

Michael and Miki Welck
Alexis Yamashita
Mikio Yamashita
Marla Yonamine
Cody Yoon
Julia Yukavage
Doreen Zebdi

Upcoming Service Calendar

October 11: Eitaikyo Service

November 15: Pet Memorial Service

December 6: Bodhi Day Service

December 31: New Year Eve Service



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

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