

FULFILLMENT OF OBLIGATIONS

by Kaoru Inouye

PART III (CONCLUSION)

I left Japan just after the Korean incident started in late June, 1950 and GHQ G-2 was unable to get me off the ship, whereas all the Army officers aboard were called off the ship leaving their families aboard. Once I returned to my home in Los Gatos with my family in July, 1950, I was greeted by my mother, sister and brother. The employment situation was bleak in Northern California at the time so I decided to look around in the Los Angeles area. Fortunately, I was able to get a good position with Aerojet General Corporation, an aerospace industry located in Azusa, California, as a laboratory technician to start in an analytical laboratory for asphalt propellant. I soon was promoted to a chemist to supervise another quality control laboratory which analyzed all the ingredients for solid and liquid propellants. My sudden promotion was based upon my wide technical knowledge, management ability and knowledge of quality control, obtained while working as a technical investigator in Japan. During the ten years in the control laboratory, many laboratory procedures were written and quality control standards were developed and established for raw ingredients used in propellant manufacturing, as well as standard procedures for chemical analysis. The analytical data had to be accurate and reliable to meet specifications, since human lives are involved in the firing of both liquid and solid rocket motors. During this period my brother had graduated from Santa Clara University as a Valedictorian with a degree in mechanical engineering, and obtained a one year scholarship to Stanford University. In attendance at this graduation ceremony at Santa Clara, I was gratified to have fulfilled another of my father's requests, and hoped that my brother would continue to do his best. My sister had decided to get married so I took the place of my father to give her away at her wedding at the San Jose Buddhist Temple. The outdoor reception for relatives and close friends was held at home in Los Gatos.

After working for ten years I was given another position to develop and take charge of the microchemical laboratory, where we analyzed potentially hazardous and highly reactive organic compounds in minute quantities by means of conventional and automated systems. During this period I was able to attend and participate in three world microchemical symposiums held in Pennsylvania, as a member of the American Microchemical Society, where I was able to meet some of the world's leading microchemists for exchange of the latest techniques. I believe that I am the first Nisei [2nd generation Japanese American] microchemist in the aerospace industry with several papers to my credit. Chemical microscopy and micro elemental analyses was my major as a graduate student at the University of California, Berkeley. With the changing situation in the company towards electronics and the chemical development of both solid and liquid propellant being moved to the Sacramento facilities, the analytical department was finally terminated at the Azusa facilities. At this time I had put in twenty years of service and became eligible for early retirement as a research chemist in early 1971. The group in the Analytical Department decided to stay intact by getting outside financial support and formed a private laboratory with the purchase of the existing equipment. I took the early retirement from Aerojet General Corporation and joined the new private company, Analytical Research Laboratories established in Monrovia, California, to do various chemical and environmental analyses. I worked as a research chemist with the group in various capacities including microscopy, spectrographic analysis, microchemical analysis, thermo-analysis, non-aqueous titrimetry, field sampling and maintenance service of electronic instruments and apparatus for ten years, and then retired at 65 to obtain my social security benefits. I had worked thirty years in my field of study and accomplished what I wanted to do to the best of my ability. When I graduated from the university, the employment situation for Nisei in the technical field was nil. The only regret that I have is that I was not able to continue my graduate studies at the University of California for the further advancement of microscopy, because of my father's illness in 1939 when I had to return to take over the farming operations. My mother passed away after a series of strokes in a convalescent home in 1972 and Rev. Ryuei Masuoka, Rimban of Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji, officiated the funeral service at the San Jose Buddhist Temple. Thus, my father's and my mother's funeral services were both conducted

by the Rimban of Los Angeles Hongwanji, and in return I have a deep conviction in the support and expansion of the temple.

During this period while I was working as an analytical chemist, I was active in the American Chemical Society, American Rocket Society, American Society For Quality Control, the Japanese language school, Kyodo System, and the Los Angeles Hompa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. I served as president of the Pasadena Japanese School for two years and served as recording secretary for the Buddhist temple from 1959 to 1981, and as recording secretary for the Buddhist Churches of America, Southern District Council, for twelve years prior to 1981. Commencing in 1971, for the next fifteen years I served as National Councilman to the BCA National Council meeting. In 1979, I attended the Nishi Hongwanji's *Sosampai* Meeting in Kyoto as a representative from Southern District, to discuss the Monshu's expansion program. Then I was asked to serve as Chairman of the Board of the temple in 1982 and 1983 during which time the Day Care Center was developed and opened, the ramp alongside the temple was constructed, electric water chillers were installed, and the repairs to the Kaikan roof were made. Many other repairs were also undertaken. During the two years, I was able to establish the Hatsumairi program and the formation of the Betsuin Golf Committee. Since then, until my surgery in 1989, I was the maintenance man for the temple as well as serving on many committees.

My youngest brother, after receiving his MS degree in Mechanical Engineering from Stanford University in 1953, started to work for Ames Laboratory, NASA in Mountain View where he currently holds a staff engineer position. In 1981 I attended his wedding in Japan to a Japanese national. Therefore, after about forty years, I was able to complete all the requests that my father had bestowed and wished me to fulfill without making any serious mistakes. Many things have happened during the past forty years, but each event has been successfully completed with good judgment and without straying off on the wrong track. It is a wonderful feeling to accomplish all the things that were imparted to me. I thought, at first, it was an impossible task to give my sister and brother their college education. I have kept faith in Nembutsu all these years and have no regrets, since I have seen my own four children grow up to be individuals with college educations. I am now enjoying my hobby as a photographer for the Betsuin *Jiho* [newsletter] and the BCA *Wheel of Dharma*, keeping all Buddhists aware of the interesting projects and events. I have learned that to accomplish an established goal, it is necessary to prioritize the items which may take many years to fulfill. At times many details are forgotten since one must make a living to survive the hardship. With a strong mind and determination to progress with hard work, I achieved this goal by utilizing the education invested in me and obtained under hardship during the Great Depression when discrimination against the Nisei was a serious problem during my university days. My challenge was to break the discrimination barrier and get into the American industry to show that I was able to contribute to the progress of the company. This I did when I joined Aerojet General Corporation to make contributions to the advancement of rocket science as a member of a company team to put a man on the moon.

Namo Amida Butsu

Namo Amida Butsu

President's Message

It's fun to go on a camping outing –especially the old-fashioned style of camping, bedding down in a sleeping bag inside a tent and sleeping through the night while leaves rustled, acorns fall off trees making crackling noises, and the night air chilled by gusts of wind. Here are some comments often heard around the campground: “It's great to live with nature,” “It's so peaceful and quiet,” “everything tastes better cooked and eaten outdoors”, and “we should do this more often.”

Well, last month's weekend campout with fellow temple members was a totally memorable experience. It was a time of good conversations, shared time with kids and adults alike cooking and cleaning after each meal, and quality time spent with kids while fishing and hiking the mountains.

I learned some time ago that one of the most important steps in the understanding and appreciation of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism is that one must “experience it.” It is not necessary that one believe everything one hears or believe everything one reads. It is through the practice of the teachings and by experiencing, that one comes to realize the true understanding. And this we all did.

I am certain that all those who shared the weekend up at Palomar Mountain agree with me that, “We should do this more often.”

...Mick K.

Perpetual Memorial Service

Saturday, November 12 7:30 PM

THE PERPETUAL MEMORIAL SERVICE (*Eitaikyo Hoyo*) is conducted as an expression of respect and gratitude to the beloved members of our Sangha who have preceded us through life. Through their guidance and inspiration we are enabled and encouraged to listen intently to the Dharma within each of us. From these occasions we welcome the opportunity to hear and awaken to the compassion of Amida Buddha.

The Eitaikyo Service provides not only an opportunity to pay respect to our forebears, but it also helps to make us mindful of the honorable obligation we have been entrusted with to see that our temple exists far into the future. Riding on the Vow of Amida Buddha, this connection we have with all sentient beings becomes eternal.

Please join us in honoring the roots of our temple on **Saturday evening, November 12 at 7:30 PM**. Our guest speaker will be **Rev. Marvin Harada** of the Orange County Buddhist Church. All temple members are cordially encouraged to attend this most important service.

HURRICANE KATRINA DISASTER RELIEF FUND

News reports have described Hurricane Katrina as the worst natural disaster in U.S. history. At the September Board meeting, the Board decided that VBT would initiate a fundraising effort for Hurricane Katrina Disaster Relief that would continue throughout the month of September. VBT started its fundraising drive on Sunday, Sept. 11, by donating that day's *Osaisen* collection to the relief effort. VBT members and guests also picked up Hurricane Katrina Disaster Relief envelopes in the foyer and made donations on Sept. 11 or at subsequent Dharma gatherings. Thanks to everyone's generous offerings, VBT was able to raise \$777 for the relief effort!

It was decided at the October Board meeting to direct these monies to the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) Social Welfare Fund as the BCA will allocate all the donations received through this year's Social Welfare Fund solicitation (called the 24th Annual BCA Thanksgiving Offering) to Hurricane Katrina Disaster Relief. Earlier this year, BCA members raised over \$162,000 for Southeast Asia Tsunami Disaster Relief with the understanding that "we are intricately connected to all that exists in the world."

TOGETHER WE SHOULD TAKE PRIDE

The VBT Fund Raising Campaign is winding down. The Campaign will end on January 31, 2006, which will mean it has been two years running. This has been the most ambitious financial effort in VBT's recent history. Though we are still far short of reaching our goal of \$75,000, we should take pride in our accomplishments. Many have given generously, and with our collective efforts we will have paid for needed facilities repairs, covered shortfalls in our festivals this year, and we will be able to retire a bit more of our long term debt from building the temple.

So in making one last push toward achieving our Campaign goal please be reminded of two important points.

First – all contributions to the Vista Buddhist Temple are tax deductible, so some of us might consider an additional contribution as part of tax planning for 2005. Paying 2006 membership dues in December 2005 is also a way of getting additional tax deductions in 2005 (talk to your accountant for details).

Secondly – as you probably remember, VBT changed its procedures on collecting membership dues. Annual dues are scheduled to be paid in January for all members, rather than the anniversary month of joining the temple. Also, our Tiered Membership will be an ongoing program for VBT. Please consider joining at a Supporting Member or Sustaining Member level and in doing so in January 2006, it will help us achieve our Campaign Goal.

Thank you all for supporting the Fund Raising Campaign. We should all feel proud of our accomplishment, as we have made important strides in securing the future of the Vista Buddhist Temple. I would personally like to thank each and every contributor.

BWA NEWS

Our gratitude for all the innumerable gifts imparted to us by our women of the Sangha!

Lady Eshinni's Memorial is more than a remembrance of her contributions to Shinran Shonin and to the development of the Jodo Shinshu sect. It is also a reminder of the contributions of the spouses of our spiritual leaders who serve without question and doubt. The rigors, sacrifices and compassionate ways of the spouses of our leaders hardly begin to tell the story of the innumerable and often times mundane activities of the ministers' wife, the mother to the family and her example to the Sangha. We take this opportunity to give thanks for all you give. We follow your example and we acknowledge your work on behalf of our spiritual growth.

While celebrating our ministers' spouses we must also take the time to acknowledge and encourage the women of the Temple in their practice of the dharma. While life gets busier, the time we spend in the stillness of our thoughts, can be the energizing and settling force to put life's encounters in perspective.

As the Dalai Lama said in his greeting to the Buddhist Women's International Conference in 1995 "...Peaceful living is about trusting those on whom we depend and caring for those who depend on us. Even if only a few individuals try to create mental peace and happiness within themselves and act responsibly and kind-heartedly towards others, they will have a positive influence in their community. As well as being equally capable, women have an equal responsibility to do this."

Thanks to all who participated in the Tupperware fundraiser.

November Rummage Sale and BWA Bake Sale. Mark your calendars for Nov. 19th

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

We have begun the 2005 – 2006 term with a great start. Last month was filled with lots of activities for the families. It began with a welcome back picnic at Calavera Park. The kids had a great time playing together and the adults enjoyed the opportunity to visit with each other.

The following weekend, some families trekked up to Palomar Mountain for a fun filled weekend of camping. For some it was their first time and they survived! The kids had a great time. They went fishing and all caught trout. We enjoyed their catch for dinner thanks to chefs Mick & Ford. They went on a day hike & night hike, prepared delicious stew for our dinner and the all time favorite activity was "Acorn". What is it? Ask one of the kids. Since we could not have a traditional campfire due to weather conditions, we enjoyed the not so traditional camping activity – Movies! Thanks to Phil, our camp coordinator, who brought all the equipment and for our own outdoor theater. We can't wait for the next camping trip.

We began our Jr. Taiko program on Oct. 16. Ten students attended the first class. They all enjoyed the team work activity and making their Bachi (drumsticks). They also learned that the goal of Buddhist Taiko is not to just perform but to learn to play together as one and develop a greater understanding of the Dharma as it is applied during the lessons. We welcome any child between the ages of 10-17 years and whose parents are members of VBT.

At the end of the month, Oct. 30th, we held our annual Costume Party. Since the newsletter went to print before the party we will let you know how it went next month. We would like to thank The Vogtmann Family for their generous donation of goodies and craft activity items. We appreciate their thoughtfulness. Even though they knew that they would not be here for the party they still made sure that the students had a craft activity.

The Temple Rummage Sale will take place this month. Clean out your closets and save November 19 to help out. We hope our Dharma School families will be able to sign up for a shift. The signup sheet is in the Temple foyer.

Upcoming activities:

11/6	Sun	9:30 a.m.	Dharma School
		10:30 a.m.	SJMC
11/12	Sat	7:30 p.m.	Eitaikyo Service
11/19	Sat	6 a.m – 3 p.m	Temple Rummage Sale
11/20	Sun	9:30 a.m.	Dharma School
11/27	Sun	9:30 a.m.	Dharma School
12/3	Sat	4:00 p.m.	Oseibo-Temple Year-end Party

VBT UPCOMING EVENTS

Dec 3	Oseibo – Year-end Appreciation Party
Dec 11	Bodhi Day Service
Dec 18	Mochitsuki
Dec 31	Year-end Service
Jan 1	New Year’s Day Service
Jan 15	Ho-Onko Service

Temple Rummage Sale
Saturday, November 19, 2005
8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Empty your closets, garages, cabinets, etc. and bring items to the Temple's downstairs social hall now through November 12. Hot selling items in the past include working electronic items (televisions, radios, etc.), furniture, luggage, craft supplies, baby items, children's clothes and toys. If you need assistance with delivering items to the Temple please leave a message at the Temple. We also need help with prep and selling. We would appreciate members help on any of the following days:

Sorting: Wed. Nov. 2, 9, 16 8:30-11 a.m.

Prep: Friday Nov 18 9:00 a.m.-12 noon

Sale Day: Saturday Nov 19 6:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Please sign up for a shift. Sign up sheet in Temple foyer

Mary Kay Holiday Gift Show
VBT Benefit

Sunday, November 20

11:30 am – 2:00 p.m.

Let me help you with your gift giving from stocking
stuffers to customized gift baskets!
Come shop and sample. Many items already gift wrapped.

Something for everyone on your list:
Family, Friends, Office Gifts, Teachers, Hairstylist,
Manicurist, Baby Sitter, Secretary, Business Associates
Hostess Gifts or Even Yourself!

A portion of the net proceeds will be donated to VBT

Orders placed through Dec. 15, 2005 will benefit VBT

November 2005



VISTA BUDDHIST TEMPLE

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Office Closed	2 Wed. Group 8 am Rummage Sale Sorting 8:30 - 11:00 am	3 Taiko 7:30 pm	4 Board Mtg. 7 pm	5 Dharma Dialogue & Meditation 10 am
6 Dharma Gathering 9:30 am SJMC 10:30 am Toban 11:00 am	7 Office Closed	8 Office Closed	9 Wed. Group 8 am Rummage Sale Sorting 8:30 - 11:00 am	10 Taiko 7:30 pm	11	12 Eitaikyo Gathering 7:30 p.m. Rev. Marvin Harada
13 No Dharma Gathering	14 Office Closed	15 Office Closed	16 Wed. Group 8 am Rummage Sale Sorting 8:30 - 11:00 am	17 Taiko 7:30 pm	18 Rummage Sale Prep	19 Rummage Sale 8:00 am - 1:00 pm Dharma Dialogue & Meditation 10 am
20 Dharma Gathering 9:30 Mary Kay Fundraiser 11:30 am-2:00 pm	21 Office Closed	22 Office Closed	23 Wed. Group 8 am	24 THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY Temple & Office Closed	25	26
27 Dharma Gathering 9:30	28 Office Closed	29 Office Closed	30 Wed. Group 8 am	December 1	2 Board Mtg. 7 pm	3 Oseibo Gathering