

Vista View

Vista Buddhist Temple

October 2005

FULFILLMENT OF OBLIGATIONS

by Kaoru Inouye

PART II

After studying the Japanese language in military school, I was promoted to the rank of Technician Fifth Grade (T/5). I became a team leader with a rank of Staff Sergeant upon graduation. We were all given a short furlough and I returned to the relocation center to visit my family and bid them farewell. I returned to Fort Snelling and prepared for departure to Manila under classified orders with a group of 535 enlisted men without an officer-in-charge, aboard a Navy troop carrier departing from Wilmington, California. In the meantime, the war had ended and upon arrival in Manila, we waited for a major storm to subside so that we could be flown to Japan for occupation duties. Since the storm did not subside, we took a ship to Yokohama and arrived in Tokyo at General Headquarters, Allied Translator Interpreter Service (GHQ ATIS), in early October, 1945. Knowing that I would be shipped out from Headquarters in Tokyo, I did not waste any time in attempting to locate my relatives in Japan. I located my uncle and aunt in Chiba-ken where they had evacuated from Tokyo and learned that my other relatives, particularly my brothers, were safe and well. Upon returning to Headquarters, I learned that my orders for departure had arrived. I was to be sent to Kure, X Corps Headquarters with a group of men, the following morning as a Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) of the 167th Language Detachment, in order to replenish the existing personnel who had served their term of duty and were now eligible for return home to the United States. Upon arrival in Kure in October 1945, I was fortunate in running into an ex-Japanese Lieutenant who happened to know my brother while living in Hiroshima. He mentioned that he was returning to his home near my brother's place in Hiroshima that night, and stated that he would notify him that I just arrived and that he would possibly bring my brother to see me the next morning. Thus, I met my Hiroshima brother, who was injured by the atomic bomb, the next day and it was quite a surprise reunion after nineteen years. My first thought was that he might be resentful of me in the uniform of an US soldier, but it turned out otherwise. Several days later I obtained permission from X Corps Intelligence to enter off-limits Hiroshima, and I drove a jeep through the devastated city to my brother's home located on the outskirts of town near the Ota River. To my surprise my other younger brother from Nagano-ken had followed me after learning from my uncle that I had arrived in Japan. Seeing both of my brothers at the same time in Hiroshima — alive — was delightfully unexpected. After greeting my aunt, my father's older sister, I learned that she was informed of my father's passing through the International Red Cross. I told her that I would not mention anything about the passing of father to grandmother, who was already in her 90's. Instead, I lied to her, stating that one of these days he will return to take care of her after having been gone for so many years. If I had told her the truth, she would probably have lost all ambition and hope to live any longer. She had remembered me as a child, but could not recall my name. I mentioned my name but all she could recall was that I was one of the family members. That evening, after not having seen each other for nineteen years, my two brothers, aunt, grandmother and I, had a happy reunion dinner at home.

The X Corps was being deactivated and its area jurisdiction was being taken over by the New Zealand troops. My 167th Language Detachment received orders from General Headquarters, Allied Translator Interpreter Service (GHQ ATIS), to go to Kyoto for deactivation in January, 1946. Upon arrival in beautiful Kyoto, I took care of the deactivation and finally joined the 163rd Language Detachment attached to I Corps for a short time. At this point I had to make a serious decision — either accept a field commission of 2nd Lieutenant that was being offered, or take an important civilian position which was free of military regulations, with officers' privileges. I decided to accept the civilian position as a chemical investigator for Technical Intelligence Detachment, an intelligence division of General Headquarters (GHQ G-2), which gave me personal freedom and broadened my academic technology. Since my father had invested in my education, I felt that I should increase and enhance that knowledge by investigating the technology of the Japanese scientists during the war. I became a civilian after being discharged from the service, and began to investigate the major industrial and university research facilities in Japan to determine their contribution to the war effort as well as many other industrial and individual projects. During the time I spent in Kyoto I was able to meet the Monshu of Nishi Hongwanji, Kosho Ohtani, through a former minister,

Rev. Jokatsu Yukawa, who was Rimban at Los Angeles Betsuin before the war. The former Bishop of the Buddhist Churches of America, Rev. Kenju Masuyama, was at the time the Bishop of Nishi Hongwanji, and I took care of many correspondences between him and Bishop Ryotai Matsukage, who took over the Buddhist Churches of America before the war. Prior to the outbreak of World War II, I was asked on several occasions by Bishop Matsukage, if I wanted to become a minister. My reply was that I did not want to change my field until I could first utilize the knowledge gained during the Great Depression. Knowing the two Bishops from

Dharma School News

We will begin this month with a “Welcome Back” outing to Calavera Park in Carlsbad. On Sunday, October 2, following service, Dharma School families are welcome to join in the fun as the children play and parents get to know each other better. Dharma School will provide lunch. Please let Terri or any of the teachers know if you will attend.

Jr. Taiko is coming to VBT! Taiko lessons will be given to our students, 10 years and up, starting October 16 after service. If you are interested or have any questions please see Terri or Diane B. (see article in this month’s newsletter).

At the end of the month, Oct. 30th, we will have our annual Costume Party. Come in costume to Temple. During Dharma School class time we will have activities for the children followed by our traditional trick-or-treating activity. All we ask is for each family to bring some treats to share. Dharma School will provide refreshments.

The Temple Rummage Sale will take place next month. Start cleaning out your closets and save November 19 to help out.

Upcoming activities:

- 10/2 Sun 9:30 a.m. Dharma School
Dharma School Outing to Calavera Park following service
- 10/7-9 F-S Camping Trip – No Dharma School
- 10/16 Sun 9:30 a.m. Dharma School – SJMC
- 10/23 Sun 9:30 a.m. Dharma School
- 10/30 Sun 9:30 a.m. Dharma School – Costume Party
- 11/6 Sun 9:30 a.m. Dharma School
- 11/12 Sat 7:30 p.m. Eitaikyo Service
Guest minister Rev. Marvin Harada of Orange County Buddhist Temple

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I saw a bumper sticker on a truck that read, “A bad day of fishing is better than a good day at the office.” I think there is lot to be said about that statement. Obviously, the truck belongs to a fisherman.

Two weeks ago I was afforded time off work to go on a fly-fishing trip “with the boys” to a remote location in the far north reaches of Utah where we fished the Green River, a premier trout fishing locale in the country. The monstrous gorge the river runs through is pristine and its beauty is post card perfect. The beauty is equally matched by the greatness it offers in running rapids and trophy size trout. My catches in the 3 days there equaled total catches for 3 years of fishing in the eastern slopes of the Sierra. Needless to say, it was one incredible trip.

I share this story with you only because there is a good reason behind it all. The row-boat guide who we hired, Scotty, was not only an excellent guide and a great fisherman, but also my teacher for the trip. We did a lot of fishing, talking and fishing. It was in one of the conversations that he made a statement about his way of life, his view of things around him that I found to be genuine and it stayed with me all this time. He said “I live in harmony with nature: river, canyon, trees, fish ... It and I are all one. What makes me a good fisherman is that I think like one.” Although I didn’t ask him if he practiced any particular religion or studied philosophy, he made me feel as if he practiced Buddhism. I left the river that particular Sunday afternoon with a sense of having heard the dharma.

I am now looking for a bumper sticker for myself that reads “A good day of fishing is better than a good...you know what!”

Oh, by the way, all the fish caught were released on the spot. Catch-and- release method is popular among most sports fishermen.

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The temple received a very generous donation from our neighbor, the Japanese American Culture and Community Center of Vista, in the amount of \$3,910. It is because of their generosity that we were able to pay our share of the expenses for the parking lot sealer application completed last month. We are very grateful for their support.

By now you should have received the BCA Campaign solicitation letter. The Temple supports this campaign and encourages each of you to do the same by making donations.

TOBAN NEWS

A HUGE thank you to those of you who helped with the Temple clean-up last month. A lot was accomplished with some great teamwork and your efforts are very much appreciated! Also, thank you to Rodney N. for removing the old was and applying the new to the downstairs floor!

October Temple cleaning will take place on Sunday, October 2, by Group 3

Osonaye will be provided by the Taiko Group.

Thank you, everyone!

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 from now through November 2nd. Hot selling items in the past include working electronic items (televisions, radios, etc.), furniture, luggage, craft supplies, baby items, children's clothes and toys.

Please make sure that items are in working condition, not soiled or torn.

We also need help with prep and selling. We would appreciate members help on any of the following days:

Sorting: Wednesdays Oct – Nov. 16 8:30-11a.m.

Prep: Friday 11/18 Time TBA

Sale Day: Saturday 11/19 6:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

VBT Upcoming Events

Nov 12 Eitaikyo Service – Perpetual Memorial Service

Nov 19 Temple Rummage Sale

Dec 3 Oseibo – Year-end Appreciation Party

Dec 11 Bodhi Day Service

Dec 18 Mochitsuki

Dec 31 Year-end Service

BWA News and Updates

The women of the BWA are busy this month.

Oct. 16 ~ Lady Eshinni Service

On this day we honor Lady Eshinni, the founder of the Fujinkai now known as the BWA. It is a day where we recognize the leadership of Lady Eshinni and it is a time to celebrate all the accomplishments of the women of the BWA.

Remember that all donations made at this service will be donated for the support of our Dharma School.

Oct 23 ~ Tupperware Party

Everyone can use Tupperware and there is probably someone wanting to replace a favorite item. Evelyn has been so gracious in arranging for this event to support the efforts of the BWA. Items will be on display downstairs after service. Evelyn has the catalogs and order forms and will be giving them to anyone who is interested. She will take preorders if

you are not able to attend the 23th. Also she can take outside orders from friends and relatives as well. A percentage of the proceeds will be a part of the BWA's donation to the Temple.

October 25th ~ Annual BWA DINNER

The appreciation dinner will be held on Tuesday, October 25th at 6:30 pm at Kurando Restaurant. Please let Evelyn or Grace know if you will be attending the dinner. BWA will also be calling members for your RSVP.

Every opportunity to practice compassion is an opportunity to practice the Dharma.

Gassho,

Merle

Taiko For Kids

Starting October 16

Jr. Taiko is coming to VBT! The children have been patiently waiting to learn Taiko and now the opportunity has arrived. Taiko lessons will start on Sunday, October 16. Lessons will be held on Sundays after service and Dharma School classes. Lessons will last about 45 minutes. Lessons are for any child ages 10 - 18 years old and who's parents are members of the Vista Buddhist Temple.

Not only will the children learn how to play taiko, they will learn about Buddhist Taiko and apply the Dharma to their lessons, they will practice teamwork, cooperation and respect, practice patience and how to adapt to changes, as well as express their creativity.

If you are interested or have any questions please see Terri or Diane B.

TAKING THE LONG VIEW

There are so many important causes to financially support these days, and now there are the Hurricane Relief efforts to help those who have lost their homes, lost their possessions and lost their livelihoods. How can we do it all? This is the question that each of us have to answer for ourselves.

How is the temple doing financially? I can answer that one for you. Despite our best efforts, and in the face of fewer helping hands, our Festivals, which are a main source of income, fell short of last year's income level. Normal income is a little behind everyday expenses. The temple is not immediately threatened by this situation, due to the extra income and donations from our Fund Raising Campaign. But we have long term problems to resolve.

The Vista Buddhist Temple's Fund Raising Campaign is very important to our future. Some members have generously donated to the effort. Some members have chosen to step up their membership to the Supporting or Sustaining Level. Others are questioning the importance of the Campaign.

We are not asking you to give to the Fund Raising Campaign because of the last Dharma message you heard, or the last Taiko performance you attended, nor as a vote of confidence for your current Board of Directors, nor in appreciation of the hard work of those who served the Obon Festival.

We are asking you to take the long view. We are all here to preserve the history and heritage of the Vista Buddhist Temple, and to ensure its existence for generations to come. It is our mutual responsibility to do what we can to contribute to the health and welfare of the Vista Buddhist Temple. Look at the bigger picture, take the long view, and do what you can. Consider one of our higher levels of membership, send in a one-time donation in support of the temple, and help us get closer to achieving our goal. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask myself or any of the Board members how to contribute.

Thank you very much