



Vista View



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JULY 2021

BEING A CONTRIBUTION BY REV. JON TURNER

Strolling along the edge of the sea, a man catches sight of a young woman who appears to be engaged in a ritual dance. She stoops down, then straightens to her full height, casting her arm out in an arc. Drawing closer, he sees that the beach around her is littered with starfish, and she is throwing them one by one into the sea. He lightly mocks her: “There are stranded starfish as far as the eye can see, for miles up the beach. What difference can saving a few of them possibly make?” Smiling, she bends down and once more tosses a starfish out over the water, saying serenely, “It certainly makes a difference to this one.”

This is a story by Loren Eiseley, I read it in Ben and Rosamund Zander’s book *The Art of Possibility*, a retelling of an original Buddhist story between a monk and his disciple. I found it to be the best contemporary explanation of how we can live our lives in one of two ways. The first is a life of calculation and second is a life of contribution. Rosamund Zander describes calculation as the mind of measurement. It lives in a world of scarcity and achievements. Life is seen as a zero-sum game where there are winners and losers. It is a mind that competes with others even while practicing Buddhism. In this world, everything is ranked and measured.

In contrast to this, is a world of contribution. This is where we experience infinite opportunities and possibilities. It is a universe where we can find everything in abundance. Rather than focusing on achievements, we look for ways we can contribute. Rather than doing it on our own, we become part of something bigger than ourselves.

We do this by following *Rule Number 6*, “Don’t take yourself so seriously.” It turns out that there are no other rules, only *Rule Number 6*. It is a paradox but when the *small-self* is exposed then the *true-self* is able to shine itself. It is the small-self that hoards and clings.

Rule Number 6 sounds a lot like Namuamidabutsu. We might call it the *Rule of 6 Characters*. It is how a Shin Buddhist can become deeply self-aware.

Perhaps this is how we can get through the rest of COVID19—by merely contributing without worrying about the outcome, by relaxing our expectations in order to experience our life more fully. Rather than measuring what we have now against how it used to be, we can embrace this new world ahead of us and save every starfish possible laying along the beach. It would mean the world to everyone we meet.

Namuamidabutsu, Rev Jon Turner



Vista Buddhist Temple
A temple in the
Jodo Shinshu
tradition & incorporated
under the
Buddhist Churches of
America



UPCOMING EVENTS

**BCA 2nd Annual Virtual
Bon Odori Dance**
August 15

**Southern District
Tri-Temple BEC Seminar
via Zoom hosted by VBT**
September 25

Online Links will be
emailed. If you would like to
receive the links, please
email a request to the
temple at vbt@vbtemple.org



HELP WANTED: STAND UP FOR GOOD BY VBT BOARD PRESIDENT RICKY SCHLESINGER



We are increasingly bombarded in the news by social atrocities; whether it's the too frequent deaths of unarmed Blacks interacting with police, incidences of anti-Asian violence in cities across our country, or mass murders perpetrated by unstable citizens with automatic weapons. Even our nation's Capital was under siege by an incited mob. Deep-seated hatred, bigotry, and prejudice have been drawn to the surface and caused division among us as we suffer through a pandemic.

It's horrible to hear about acts of hatred. If you are relieved that these are not in your community or on your block, you may have a false sense of security. It is everywhere. Two personal examples: "Black Lives Matter" signs posted in Leucadia have been ripped down and left on the street destroyed. A Black friend of ours was stalked in a Carlsbad shopping center parking lot in broad daylight last week by a white male slowly driving a pickup truck casually brandishing a pistol. These incidents are not an indictment of our community, but indications that racism, prejudice and bigotry exist right here.

As Buddhists, we need to be seen and heard as a force of good across the country as well as in our own community. Bishop Reverend Harada was called to the White House last week, along with other Buddhist leaders to represent Mahayana Buddhism at a Vesak Ceremony remembering the birth, death and enlightenment of Shakyamuni Buddha. Why did President Biden take this action? Because Buddhism represents peace, love, tolerance and compassion and he wants these values to be represented within his administration.

So what do we do? We show up, we speak out, we engage. There are many ways we can reach out in North County San Diego and make our presence known—supporting charitable causes, participating in activities aligned with our values, advocating for tolerance and justice and against hatred. It is no longer enough for a Buddhist Sangha in America to only nurture itself. It needs to be visible in its community. Yes, Buddhist practice does focus on introspection, but our temples and our Sanghas should be visible in our communities and stand for socially redeeming ideas and actions.

Help Wanted. Our community and our society needs Buddhists to be heard, represent our values, support those in the communities that need it most and stand up for good.

Gassho,
Ricky

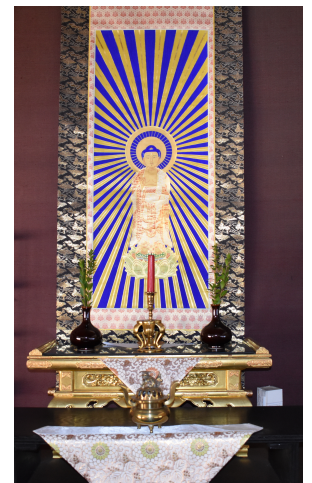


OBON AND HATSUBON SERVICE

Sunday, July 18, 2021 10 a.m. via Zoom

Rev. Jon Turner will conduct the Vista Buddhist Temple Obon and Hatsubon Service online. Even though we are unable to gather in person we can still join together and remember all those who have passed before us as we express our deepest gratitude.

The Hatsubon Service is a special memorial when we remember loved ones and Dharma friends who have passed away since last year's Obon Service. If you would like to remember a loved one by having their name place on the Hatsubon Memorial list and a candle lit in their memory please call the temple, **(760) 941-8800**, or send an email, vbt@vbtemple.org





BWA BY DIANE BARRON, CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Greetings to everyone! With things opening up, I hope that all of you have the opportunity to be with friends and family often.

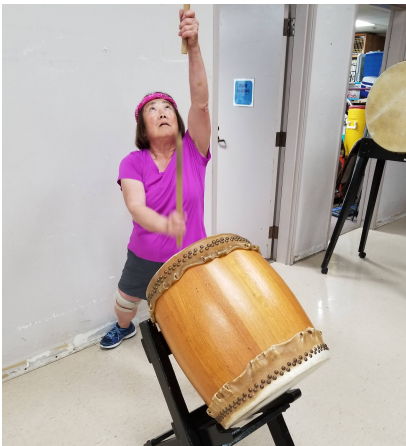
The BWA held an all temple Bingo game on April 25. I'm sure that everyone enjoyed the time together via Zoom; thank you, Kacy, for being the caller during the game!!

The Shibori tie dye project was finally completed and the results were stunning; thank you to everyone who participated!

The Gardena Temple hosted a Southern District BWA Zoom meeting on June 19, and on June 27, the Vista BWA held a meeting via Zoom. We hope to see one another in person soon! Until then, be well and enjoy the summer.



TAIKO BY DIANE BARRON



Welcome to the warm days of summer! The taiko members have been meeting since May via Zoom and began going over familiar pieces reciting the pattern as well as tapping out or playing them. People joining the sessions used their bachis, pencils, pens or anything that could be used to "play" pieces. Though many unconventional items were used, the sticking we practiced simulated what it would be like to play on our drums. It was good to get our muscle memories back in gear!

June 13 was our very first in-person practice. We played outside with homemade mutes for our bachis or muted drums and practiced pieces outside. We hope to continue practices at the temple on our taiko drums. We had missed the sound of our drums being played and the company of our taiko family...but we're back!!

Be well and hope to see everyone back at temple and practice.

EITAIKYO MEMORIALS

BRACAMONTE, MILLICENT	07/11/1993
HAYASHI, SUSUMU	07/05/1983
ITO, CHIE	07/18/2004
ITO, SHIZU	07/21/1987
KOGA, RICHARD H.	07/18/2018
OKAMOTO, SUEKO	07/29/1993
SHIMAHARA, HIROSHI	07/16/1990
TABATA, HIDE	07/24/1982





DHARMA SCHOOL BY STEPHANIE YASUKOCHI



We hope your summer is off to a great start. On June 6th, the Dharma school completed a year of meeting on Zoom. We would like to thank the students and parents for their participation, flexibility, and patience this year. If anything, using Zoom brought us out of our comfort zone to embrace technology. This year we learned about Shinran, reviewed Buddhist concepts with Zen Pig, played games and did craft projects. We were able to meet new Dharma friends when San Diego hosted a Dharma Exchange. Hopefully, we will be able to meet them in person in the near future.

We will be taking a break from the bi-monthly Zoom classes this summer. We may have a few meet ups during the summer, but those are TBA. Please have a fun and safe summer, and hopefully, we will see you at Temple in September.

The 2021-2022 Dharma school year will begin on September 12th.

Happy Birthdays to:

July - Cuauh Hernandez

September - Emiley and Nicholas Arai

VBT VIRTUAL OBON 2021: "AN OBON LIKE NO OTHER"

Even though the number of COVID-19 cases have dropped significantly, the Festival Committee and Board of Directors decided that, in the interest of the safety and well being of our Sangha and community, it would NOT hold a traditional Obon Festival. However, VBT could not go another year without an Obon event and thus, the Festival Committee organized the following online events for Obon 2021:

- ❖ Obon & Hatsubon Service via Zoom on July 18, 10:00 A.M.
- ❖ Virtual Online Silent Auction from July 10-July 25
- ❖ Bon Odori Instructional Videos & Demonstrations
- ❖ Buddhist Education Program
- ❖ Special Memorial Donation Opportunity

For Shin Buddhists, Obon is a time to remember all who came before us and to reflect on their efforts with deepest gratitude. We hope you will join and support VBT's 2021 Obon as we continue the legacy given to us, of sharing the Dharma with all.

Please be on the lookout for more information that will be sent in a separate mailing.





ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Editor's Note: Acknowledgements are published quarterly in the January, April, July, and October issues of the Vista View Newsletter. Since solicitations for newsletter content go out a month prior to publication, acknowledgement of donations and gifts received may not show up until the next publication. THANK YOU in advance for your understanding.

Ohigan

- Barron, Diane
- Furuya, George & Gail
- Haruta, Kizio
- Hernandez, Costa & Erin
- Ishii, Takeshi & Reiko
- Ito, Tadao & Kazuko
- Kozlow, Gary
- Marume, Mits & Elaine
- Matsubara, David & June
- McDaniel, Diane
- Nagata, George & Alethea
- Ohno, Jan & Hajime
- Omori, Evelyn
- Omori, Ford & Terri
- Omori, Grace
- Omori, Ray & Yoko
- Omori, Yusuke
- Ruddeck, Fred & Julie
- Sasagawa, Glenn & Lindy Nagata
- Schupp, Satomi
- Shibata, Wanda
- Standerfer, Ritz
- Streck, Charlie & Suzy
- Taylor, Atsuko
- Ukegawa Family, J.
- Watanabe, Bill & Machiko
- Yada, Frank & Joyce
- Yasukochi, George & Akie

Temple Dana

- Anonymous
- Armstrong, Elaine
- Barron, Diane
- Davenport, Sterling & Jaclyn
- Hill, Bob & Audrey Uchino
- Inouye, Annette
- Just, DeeDee
- Kane, Jerry & Linda
- Kasai, Karl & Stephanie Yasukochi
- Macias, Adrian
- McDonald, Marianne
- Rafal, Laura
- Tanaka, Jane
- Yasukochi, Luckie
- Ziska, Bill

Hanamatsuri

- Barron, Diane
- Furuya, George & Gail
- Hernandez, Costa & Erin
- Honda, Michiko
- Ishii, Takeshi & Reiko
- Ito, Tadao & Kazuko
- Just, DeeDee
- Kozlow, Gary
- Malone, Jackie
- Marume, Kacy
- Marume, Mits & Elaine
- McDaniel, Diane
- Nagata, George & Alethea
- Nishimoto, Hannah
- Omori, Evelyn
- Omori, Ford & Terri
- Omori, Grace
- Omori, Ray & Yoko
- Omori, Yusuke
- Parker, Liat
- Peck, Jim
- Ruddeck, Fred & Julie
- Sasagawa, Glenn & Lindy Nagata
- Schlesinger, Rick & Judy Nakatomi
- Shibata, Wanda
- Standerfer, Ritz
- Streck, Charlie & Suzy
- Taylor, Atsuko
- Uchimura, Mae
- Ukegawa Family, J.
- Watanabe, Bill & Machiko
- Yagade, Gary & Sharon
- Yasukochi, George & Akie
- Yasukochi, Luckie

Memorial

- Fennell, Donna ~ In memory of Keiichi Inouye & Tsuneo Doi
- Hannah Sonoda Family ~ In gratitude for Homyo to Hannah Sonoda
- Inouye, Kimiko ~ In memory of Keiichi Inouye
- McDaniel, Diane ~ In memory of Hannah Sonoda, Homyo
- Sasagawa, Glenn & Lindy Nagata ~ In memory of Denise Yasukochi-Beltran
- Sheehan, Cyril & Yukiko Irene ~ In memory of Keiichi Inouye & Tsuneo Doi
- Yasukochi, Luckie ~ In memory of Rev. Ken Yamaguchi

Gotan-E

- Barron, Diane
- Dong, Ros & Tim
- Furuya, George & Gail
- Hernandez, Costa & Erin
- Ishii, Takeshi & Reiko
- Ito, Tadao & Kazuko
- Kane, Jerry & Linda
- Kozlow, Gary
- Marume, Mits & Elaine
- Nagata, George & Alethea
- Omori, Evelyn
- Omori, Ford & Terri
- Omori, Grace
- Omori, Ray & Yoko
- Omori, Yusuke
- Ruddeck, Frederick & Julie
- Sasagawa, Glenn & Lindy Nagata
- Shibata, Wanda
- Sonoda Estate, Hannah
- Standerfer, Ritz
- Streck, Charlie & Suzy
- Taylor, Atsuko
- Ukegawa Family, J.
- Watanabe, Bill & Machiko
- Yasukochi, George & Akie

Eitaikyo Fund

- Omori, Grace ~ In memory of Elmer, Daryl & Masumi Omori





MEMBERSHIPS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Sponsoring Membership

- McDonald, Marianne

Sustaining Membership

- Ziska, Bill

Supporting Membership

- Haruta, Kizio
- Yasukochi, Stephanie and Family

Membership

- Donisi, Immacolata
- Hawk, Rich
- Kato, Ida
- Lennox, Samm & Family
- Ma, Richard & Cathy Egusa
- Matsubara, David & June
- Omori, Katie
- Peck, Ybis
- Roberson, Bridgette
- Schupp, Satomi
- Yashar, Diana
- Yasukochi, Michelle
- Yumori, Wendie



The Buddhist Churches of America was honored to participate in a Vesak candle lighting ceremony held on May 25th in Washington, DC. Bishop Rev. Marvin Harada joined Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff and representatives of Theravada and Vajrayana Buddhism to celebrate the birth, Enlightenment and passing of the Buddha, Siddhartha Gautama.



A BUDDHIST STORY

There was once a pair of acrobats. The teacher was a poor widower and the student was a young girl by the name of Meda. These acrobats performed each day on the streets in order to earn enough to eat.

Their act consisted of the teacher balancing a tall bamboo pole on his head while the little girl climbed slowly to the top. Once to the top, she remained there while the teacher walked along the ground.

Both performers had to maintain complete focus and balance in order to prevent any injury from occurring and to complete the performance. One day, the teacher said to the pupil:

“Listen Meda, I will watch you and you watch me, so that we can help each other maintain concentration and balance and prevent an accident. Then we'll surely earn enough to eat.”

But the little girl was wise, she answered, “Dear master, I think it would be better for each of us to watch ourself. To look after oneself means to look after both of us. That way I am sure we will avoid any accidents and earn enough to eat.”

EIGHT-FOLD PATH

Wisdom	Right View
	Right Intention
Ethical Conduct	Right Speech
	Right Action
	Right Livelihood
Mental Development	Right Effort
	Right Mindfulness
	Right Concentration

