

## THE GEPPO



#### A publication of the Buddhist Church of Ogden

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#### **BUDDHIST VALENTINE**

Rev. J.K. Hirano

Just as dawn is the forerunner and the first indication of the rising sun, so is Right View the forerunner and first indication of wholesome states.

- Sharon Salzberg

"Eightfold Path"
Right View
Right Thought
Right Speech
Right Conduct
Right Livelihood
Right Effort
Right Mindfulness
Right Meditation

The beginning this article with short quote by one of my favorite Buddhist writers, Sharon Salzberg. She is explaining why "Right View" is the first of the eightfold noble path. It is very important to understand this eightfold path, which is the fourth of the four noble truths. I originally thought that this eightfold path was usually just a random listing. I first learned of them at a YBA conference with the theme "VTSCLEMM" in Fresno, California in about 1973. In reading Sharon Salzberg, however, I realized how before we begin to study or practice any form of Buddhism, we must first have right view. One aspect of right view is to understand that Buddhism is trying to explain our life. Not any life, but our own being lived at this moment of our life. Buddhism has existed in various forms for over 2500 years. This is not just a chance occurrence. A key feature of Buddhism is that whatever culture the teachings has been introduced into, Buddhism has adapted to that culture. That is why there is a distinctive Tibetan form, Chinese forms, Korean form, Japanese form, among others. I believe that one day, though not any time soon, there will be an American form. For an American form to come to fruition, we must also understand our very Christian American culture with a Buddhist lens. Holidays are a large part of any culture and Valentine's Day is one of those holidays.

I have written about the origins of Valentine's Day in previous articles. It is based upon a Catholic Saint Valentine of Rome. He was executed (martyred) by the Romans in the third century for ministering to Christians.

Rev. Hirano's article continued on next page

It is required within the Catholic church that a miracle must be attributed to a person that is sainted. In the case of Valentine, it was said that while in prison, he cured his jailer's daughter of blindness. On the day of his execution, on the way to his death, he left a note for this girl as a farewell, signing it "Your Valentine." This was the origins of the Valentine's Day cards.

For the most part, you can decidedly say, "Valentine's Day is not Buddhist." However, as most of you who are familiar with my writings could guess, I believe we can look at it as a very Buddhist holiday. When we think of Valentine's Day we think of romantic love. Love is usually categorized in the west into two types: Agape and Eros. Agape is an unselfish love and Eros is an egocentric form of love, driven by our instinctual urges for romance or sex. Although some stories suggest Valentine of Rome had a romantic attraction to the jailer's daughter, I believe it was more of an unselfish love that I would define as Agape. In my thinking, this is very much like our Buddhist ideal of "Metta," which we usually translate as loving kindness.

On some Sundays we recite a shortened version of the Metta Sutra found in our service book; I like this version translated by Gil Fronsdal.

To reach the state of peace One skilled in the good Should be Capable and upright, Straightforward and easy to speak to, *Gentle* and not proud, Contented and easily supported, Living lightly and with few duties, Wise and with senses calmed, *Not arrogant and without greed for supporters,* And should not do the least thing that the wise would criticize. [One should reflect:] "May all be happy and secure; May all beings be happy at heart. All living beings, whether weak or strong, Tall, large, medium, or short, Tiny or big, Seen or unseen, Near or distant. Born or to be born, May they all be happy. Let no one deceive another *Or despise anyone anywhere;* Let no one through anger or aversion Wish for others to suffer." As a mother would risk her own life To protect her child, her only child, So toward all beings should one Cultivate a boundless heart. With loving-kindness for the whole world should one Cultivate a boundless heart, Above, below, and all around Without obstruction, without hate and without ill-will. Standing or walking, sitting or lying down,

Whenever one is awake,
May one stay with this recollection.
This is called a sublime abiding, here and now.
One who is virtuous, endowed with vision,
Not taken by views,
And having overcome all greed for sensual pleasure
Will not be reborn again.

This sutra is a wish, an aspiration that all beings be happy. I believe happiness is the basis for love of any type. I remember when I had my first crush in elementary school. Unlike Charlie Brown's love for the little red-haired girl, I was in love with a little blonde-haired girl. I can assure you, there wasn't anything eros about this crush. If she was absent from school, I remember hoping that she wasn't sick or hurting and I would willingly take her place if she were. It was like this Metta Sutra, hoping that she was not suffering. It wasn't until high school that I publicly faced my fear of girls and asked her to our senior prom. She accepted and we were friends ever since.

I think Buddhist love is a love that is not selfish. Valentine of Rome's love for the jailer's daughter was not a selfish love. Although, his feast day, which is the basis for our Valentine's Day is now based in romantic love, a type of eros. Its origins were much more benign.

Our entire Mahayana tradition of Buddhism is based upon this ideal of Metta or the way of the Bodhisattvha. For those who do not know, a Bodhisattvha is a being who is willing to give up their own enlightenment for the sake of others and works in service until all beings are enlightened. Theravada Buddhism's goal is to first awaken yourself and then you may help others. Mahayana's goal is to work for the benefit of all, to reach the stage of the Bodhisattvha. That is the literal translation of the word Mahayana "Larger vehicle," meaning a vehicle for all, not just one. I won't get into the definitions and various explanations for what a Bodhisattvha is, but I would like to end with short verse called, this version is from Jack Cornfield, "The Way of the Bodhisattvha" originally by Shantideva, consider this my Buddhist Valentine to each of you.

Happy Valentines Day, Namo Amida Butsu.

May I be a guard for those who need protection
A guide for those on the path
A boat, a raft, a bridge for those who wish to cross the flood
May I be a lamp in the darkness
A resting place for the weary
A healing medicine for all who are sick
A vase of plenty, a tree of miracles
And for the boundless multitudes of living beings
May I bring sustenance and awakening
Enduring like the earth and sky
Until all beings are freed from sorrow
And all are awakened.



#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year everyone,

Here we are in a new year, and once again you are stuck with me at the helm. I hope I am able to steer the ship in the proper direction. By the time your receive this newsletter we will have new carpeting in the Hondo due to the flooding caused by the rupturing of the expansion tank on the water heaters.

We should also have started replacing the steps at the west entrance, and after that is complete the doors on the multipurpose room will be removed and outfitted with new handicap access, and the ramp and sidewalk will be replaced with new cement. The ramp is being removed because it currently does not meet code for a handicap ramp. We are in the process of replacing the hall lighting, and when spring comes we will deal with the pole light between the sidewalk into the Hondo.

We are once again participating in Nihon Matsuri. We will be asking for help.

These are just a few of the upcoming projects in the near future. If you know of anything that needs to be addressed, please relay it to a board member.

In Gassho Mike K.



Thanks to all who saved their pop tabs, we collected a whopping 18.7 pounds last year. The Ronald McDonald House in Salt Lake was extremely impressed with our donation when Kris Y. brought it in December. The Ronald McDonald House for the Intermountain area gets about \$10,000 a year from the pop tab program.



My nephew Parker helped start us off this year by giving me a huge box full of pop tabs for my birthday in January. His collection weighed in at 8.4 pounds and set a good challenge for all of us. Remember, the pop tabs do not need to come only from soda cans, but any pop-top cans, such as soup, pet food, fruit or vegetable cans.

Please place any pop tab donations in the Donation Station in the hallway near the office. Thank you, Ruth

Here are some fun Tab-ulations:

1 pop tab = 1 inch --- 12 pop tabs = 1 foot 1280 pop tabs = 1 pound — 1 million pop tabs = 781.25 pounds It would take 68,369 pop tabs laid end to end to reach a mile. One million tabs end to end would stretch 15.78 miles.



### In Memory

The Buddhist Church of Ogden Sangha extends its deepest sympathies to the families of the following members who recently passed away.

May the famíly members find solace and comfort in the Nembutsu. Namo Amída Butsu

Tom Hiroshi Kishimoto - December 25, 2024 Tsutomu "Stom" Yamamoto - February 3, 2025



The Ogden Buddhist Church will be participating in Nihon Matsuri again this year. Our booth will be making and selling tonkatsu, manju and mochi bites. We are asking our members and friends if there is anything they can donate to help us offset some of the costs. If you can help us, please let Ruth S. <omitted> know what you can donate BEFORE you purchase it.

- 8 32 oz. cartons Egg Beaters
- 4 60 oz. bottles Bull-Dog Tonkatsu Sauce
- 1 25 lb. bag flour
- 6 2.2 lb. box S&B brand Medium-Hot Curry
- 6 20 lb. bags Botan brand rice

Cans of Sprite, Coke, Diet Coke or Lemonade

Bottles of water - (16 oz)



If would like to make a monetary donation to help with the costs of the pork, please send your donation to Betty Y. Please make checks payable to The Buddhist Church of Ogden and mail to P.O. Box 3248, Ogden, UT 84409. You can also VENMO @BuddhistChurchofOgden. Please note: Nihon Matsuri donation.

If you are able to volunteer to work in the booth or willing to help at the church afterwards to help with cleanup, please let any board member know. All help would be greatly appreciated.





#### BWA NEWS By Brenda K.



#### Surround yourself with flowers and friends and it will always be spring in your heart.

The year is moving along quickly and the Buddhist Women's Association continues to keep pace with their scheduled activities as well as the temple events. In January the BWA prepared a delicious traditional luncheon for HoOnko with Ruth S.'s toban group in charge. Thank you to those members for preparing and serving the meal. Also, our appreciation to those who helped with the dishes and clean up duties.

In February the BWA held their annual membership party and luncheon at the Greenery Restaurant on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of the month. Following the luncheon, service was attended prior to the party activities at the temple. Our gratitude to Annette K. and her toban group for organizing and hosting that event. Anyone still interested in joining is welcome to pay their **\$20** membership fee, and we welcome anyone (not gender specific) who supports the BWA mission. Contact any BWA member or Tami H. if you need more information.





Look for future information concerning a BWA service project in the community. If you have any suggestions for opportunities, please contact Tami H..

Upcoming the BWA will be preparing manju to sell at the Nihon Matsuri Festival in Salt Lake City to be held on April 26, 2025. Preparation for the manju is scheduled for **April 19 at 9:00 a.m**. for those available to help. Please contact Tami H. for more details if needed.

May 18 will be our annual sushi sale with preparation on **May 17 and 18 at 9:00 a.m.** Please come and help if you are able. Order forms for sushi can be found at the end of this newsletter. For questions, contact Tami H. or any BWA member.

Our next meeting will be March 16 at 11:00 a.m. Please attend if you are available.



OMITTED FOR ONLINE VERSION



#### DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

We are pleased to announce that our Dharma School classes are growing! To help serve our Dharma School students and parents/guardians better, we will start holding weekly classes starting Sunday, March 2nd. Our classes will still be held at 1:00 pm.



Recapping our recent activities, on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, our Dharma School conducted our annual Omigaki activities (altar cleaning). Our appreciation goes out to all who attended and helped with this effort. We all enjoyed a pot-luck lunch after the cleaning activities.

Looking at our future activities, the Dharma School will be preparing and serving a Keirokai lunch in gratitude and appreciation of our older temple members on March 23rd at noon. We invite all temple members and attendees to join us for lunch.



Our Hanamatsuri service and lunch is scheduled for Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, to celebrate Buddha's birthday. The lunch starts at **11:30 am** to allow time for the Dharma School students to perform a short program before service. The Dharma School will be doing our annual bake sale as part of the luncheon. We request baked good donations from our Dharma School parents and other temple members. It is helpful if the donated items are packaged in advance in a \$2 portion. The proceeds for the bake sale help fund the lunch for our Dharma School Lagoon Day scheduled in June.

As part of our Hanamatsuri celebration, our Dharma School students will be participating in a short program after the luncheon. As a reminder to our parent and guardians, our students will be practicing for the program every Sunday during class until Hanamatsuri, so please try to attend on Sundays.

In Gassho, LaVerne K.

December Birthday - Taelynn B.





#### DHARMA SCHOOL DONATIONS

OMITTED FOR ONLINE VERSION

#### TAIKO GROUP DONATIONS

OMITTED FOR ONLINE VERSION



#### 2025 PERCH AT THE CHURCH

After a 2-year hiatus due to bad ice conditions at Mantua Reservoir, we had our Dharma School Ice Fishing Party on 19 January!! We had about 25 fishermen on the ice and different than some past events at Mantua, fishing was good with trout, bluegill and lots of little yellow perch caught.

After fishing, we all met back at the church and had our traditional pot-luck luncheon that included noodles and fried chicken. Thanks to Marisa A. and Suzan Y. for preparing the noodles and to all who brought items that made for a great lunch. It can be argued that the post-fishing luncheon is more popular than the fishing itself, as shown by the over 50 folks in attendance.

Thanks to all for making it a great day! Steve K.



















#### March Shotsuki Hoyo

March 23, 2025 at 1:30 PM

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Mar 28 1992 Kiyoshi Yei	Mar	28 1992	Kiyoshi Yei
Mar 11 1976 Saburoji Yoshimura			

#### April Shotsuki Hoyo

April 13, 2025 at 1:30 PM

Apr	1	2021	David Kaoru Aoki
Apr	8	1982	Helen Haruye Estrada
Apr	23	1974	Chohachi Fujita
Apr	5	1979	
Apr	3	2018	Jaxon Jones Masaaki Hattori
Apr	25	1970	Toraki Hattori
Apr	2	1980	Joe Hideo Imaizumi
Apr	2	1995	Miyoe Inouye (Miyamoto)
Apr	16	1983	lse K. Kato
Apr	5	1979	Bunshiro Kikuchi
Apr	4	2000	Mitsuru Koga
Apr	1	2012	Fujie O. Kunimoto
Apr	21	1963	Katsugoro Miya
Apr	22	1967	Eimatsu Miyagishima
Apr	4	1962	Kenjiro Mukai
Apr	11	1993	Yukimi Nakashige (Naito)
Apr	13		Kosaku Nakata
Apr	11	1975	Gentaro Nakashige
Apr	30	2009	Kikue "Kixie" Oda
Apr	13	1987	Chiyoichi Ogata
Apr	24	1979	Harugo Okuda
Apr	11	1987	Kumaye Okuda
Apr	13	1980	Kirk Sakae Omori
Apr	17	1984	George Sakae Omori
Apr	4	1961	Kotaro Ono
Apr	3	1991	Randall Petersen
Apr	11	1979	George T. Ryujin
Apr	21	1999	Tomotsu Tom Ryujin
Apr	2	2004	Etsuko Ryujin
Apr	4	1999	Mary Sase
Apr	9	2009	Shige Shimada
Apr	6	1990	Takino Sugimoto (Nakano)
Apr	29	2015	LaVerne Vera Summers
Apr	4	2010	Fred W. Taniguchi
Apr	26	1995	Yoshiko Tawatai (Yamasaki)
Apr	29	1993	Shizuyo (Shitsuyo) Uyematsu
Apr	23	2021	Kiyoko Yamada
Apr	22	1971	Kiyoshi Yamamoto
Apr	17	1995	Miyeko Yamane (Nakagawa)
Apr	28	1967	Suzuko Yamashita
Apr	24	2006	George Seiichi Yoshida
Apr	7	2014	Debbie Yoshimura

For those years not having a specific memorial service such as 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup>, the temple is holding these monthly Shotsuki Hoyo. During these services, the temple will list the names of those members who have died during the month in the preceding years. The families then attend that monthly service in memory of their loved ones. These services are <u>not</u> meant to replace the specific memorial services. Please contact Rev. Hirano to make arrangements for those services. Rev. Hirano contact information - Office: 363-4742, Emergency: 819-2648. Corrections/additions to the Shotsuki Hoyo list - please contact Ruth S., <omitted>

#### 2025 Memorial Service Schedule for those who passed away in:

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2024 - 1 year	2013 - 13 year	1991 - 33 year
2023 - 3 year	2009 - 17 year	1976 - 50 year
2019 - 7 year	2001 - 25 year	1926 - 100 year



# OHIGAN SERVICE KEIRO-KAI March Shotsuki Hoyo Sunday, March 23, 2025, 1:30 p.m.

Otoki Lunch - 12:00 p.m.

The word Higan comes from the Sanskrit word Paramita - "Other Shore." The words "other shore" refer to the "world of Nirvana." As the name Higan denotes, this is the time to remind within each and every one of us the Bodhisattva practice of the Six Paramitas of charity, morality, patience, effort, meditation, and wisdom. It is the means by which one crosses over the illusory ocean of birth and death to the other shore of Nirvana.

Shotsuki Hoyo - Monthly Memorial Service



### HANAMATSURI SERVICE April Shotsuki Hoyo Sunday, April 13, 2025, 1:30 p.m.

#### Otoki Lunch - 11:30 a.m. followed by short program

Hanamatsuri or "Flower Festival" is held to commemorate the birth of Siddartha Gautama in Lumbini Garden. According to the ancient legend, the universe was filled with joyful music, flowers bloomed in full glory and sweet rain fell from the heavens to make this a joyful event. During the service a flower shine known as the Hanamido is set up in front of the main altar as a symbol of Lumbini Garden. In this shrine is placed a statuette of the infant Buddha and the Congregation offers flowers and pours sweet tea over the image.

Shotsuki Hoyo - Monthly Memorial Service

# Member

#### MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Meet Brock C., our newest board member. Brock first joined us at Obon practice a few years ago and then started coming to meditation and discussion on Sundays.

SPOTLIGHT

Brock was born in Cody, Wyoming, and his family moved to Utah when he was about one year old. He grew up in Bountiful and attended Viewmont High School. Brock served an LDS mission to Shikoku, Japan, where he cultivated a love of Japan and Japanese culture. Brock received a master's degree from Utah State University in history, folklore and American stories and currently teaches English at Box Elder High School.

Brock has been married to Shannon for 19 years, and they have three daughters each from previous marriages, which he likens to the Brady Bunch but with all girls. In 2019, Brock and Shannon took a vacation to Kyoto, where Brock was impressed with how gracious and civilized everyone seemed. They enjoyed a tea ceremony at a private house, which he called a "huge, moving moment" in his life. On returning home, Brock started

looking for tea ceremony lessons and now has two lessons per month, where he is studying hard to learn all the steps and correct gestures of the ceremony. His love of Japan has also prompted him to purchase a summer home in Yamagata, Japan. He hopes one day to go back and walk the Ohenro Shikoku pilgrimage. The Shikoku Pilgrimage is a 1,200-year-old, 1,200km pilgrimage to 88 Buddhist temples located on the island of Shikoku, Japan.

Brock felt that he wanted to "find more Japan" in his life. His tea ceremony classes prompted him to explore Japanese culture more deeply, and he connected with the Ogden Buddhist Church when he saw our calendar and information for Obon dance practice. He is slowly attending different church events to discover where he best fits in. He is more than willing to help where he can.

In March, Brock is scheduled to give a lecture about the Japanese tea ceremony for the Japanese Club at Weber State University. He enjoys playing Go and sometimes participates in games nights and tournaments at Weber. Brock would love a game or two with anyone who enjoys playing Go.





HANAMATSURI - SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 2025 Donations should be packaged in advance in a \$2 portion.

## **Buddhist Church of Ogden Donations**

#### DONATIONS OMITTED FOR ONLINE VERSION



On behalf of the Board, I would like to Thank everyone for their generous donations. It is only through your donations, that our temple can meet it's financial obligations.

If you have any questions or concerns about any donations made, please feel free to contact me at <omitted> or my email address is <omitted>.

Thank you Betty Y.



Please pay your 2025 annual membership dues at your earliest convenience.

Annual dues are \$200 per adult member \$10 for members 20 and under Members 80 years old and above are exempt



MAY 18, 2025 GOTAN-E and HATSUMAIRI

JULY 19, 2025 OBON FESTIVAL
JULY 20, 2025 OBON/HATSUBON SERVICE

NOVEMBER 7-9 MOUNTAIN STATES CONFERENCE - MOAB

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
March	202	5				1
2 11:00 Dharma School Meeting 12:00 Meditation 12:30 Discussion 1:00 Dharma School Class 1:30 Family Service	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 12:00 Meditation 12:30 Discussion 1:00 Dharma School Class 1:30 Family Service *	10	7:00 pm - Board Meeting	12	13	14	15
16 11:00 BWA Meeting 12:00 Meditation 12:30 Discussion 1:00 Dharma School Class 1:30 Family Service	17	18	19	20	21	22
12:00 Otoki Lunch 1:00 Dharma School Class 1:30 Ohigan/Keiro Kai/March Shotsuki Hoyo*	24	25	26	27	28	29
12:00 Meditation 12:30 Discussion 1:00 Dharma School Class 1:30 Family Service	31					

#### **TOBAN GROUP:**

Roland & Janice S. (Toban Cleaning Leader) Fran H. Brenda K.

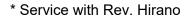




Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
April 2	025	g.				
****		1	2	3	4	5
6 12:00 Meditation 12:30 Discussion 1:00 Dharma School Class 1:30 Family Service	7	8 7:00 pm - Board Meeting	9	10	11	12
13 11:30 Otoki Lunch / Hanamatsuri Program 1:30 Hanamatsuri Service / April Shotsuki Hoyo*	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 12:00 Meditation 12:30 Discussion 1:00 Dharma School Class 1:30 Family Service	21	22	23	24	25 6:00 pm - Nihon Matsuri Prep	26 7:00 am - 5:00 pm Nihon Matsuri
27 12:00 Meditation 12:30 Discussion 1:00 Dharma School Class 1:30 Family Service	28	29	30			

#### **TOBAN GROUP:**

Kirk & Betty Y. (Toban Cleaning Leader) Steven & Kris Y.





## BWA SUSHI FUND RAISER





\$12.00 per plate

Available for pick-up between 12 noon and 1:30 pm on Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>.

All proceeds to benefit the Buddhist Church of Ogden



#### BWA SUSHI FUND RAISER

Sushi plates will be ready for pick-up between 12 noon and 1:30 pm Sunday, May 18, 2025.

Your name:			
# of plates ordered	x \$12.00 each = \$_	total due	

Give to any BWA member or mail in with your check to:
P.O. Box 3248 Ogden, UT 84409
Please make checks payable to: The Buddhist Church of Ogden OR
You can VENMO @BuddhistChurchofOgden
Please note: SUSHI, your name, # of plates

ORDERS MUST BE RECEIVED BY Friday, May 9, 2025

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!