



THE GEPPPO



A publication of the Buddhist Church of Ogden

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DEATH'S DOULA: OUR PETS

Rev. J. K. Hirano

Dear Disciples, do not forget that death is only the disappearance of the physical body.

Our body was born from parents and nourished by food, so sickness and death are unavoidable. But the true Buddha is not a human body. The true Buddha is enlightenment. A human body must disappear, but the Wisdom and Compassion of Enlightenment (Amida Buddha) exist forever in the truth of the Dharma and the practice of the Dharma. Those who see only my body do not truly see me.

During the last forty-five years of my life, I have withheld nothing from my teaching. There is no secret teaching, no hidden meaning; everything has been taught openly and clearly.

After my death, the Dharma will be your teacher.

Dear disciples, this is the end. In a moment, I shall pass into Nirvana. This is my instruction.

– Death: Rites of Passage

Revs. Arthur Takemoto, Masao Kodani, Russell Hamada

Nirvana Day is the day Buddhists remember the passing of Shakyamuni Buddha. At our temples, we usually hold it in February, along with our Pet Memorial services. There are some who have wondered why I hold the two together. For me, Nirvana Day is a quiet day of reflection, not only about death, but about what continues beyond death. It invites us to reflect on impermanence, gratitude, and the teachings that remain alive long after a physical life has ended.

Near the end of his life, the Buddha told his disciples, “After I am gone, let the Dharma be your teacher.” He also reminded them that to truly see him was not to look at his physical body, but to see the truth of the teaching itself. In this way, the Buddha showed that death is not the end of learning, but another way the teaching continues to guide us.

One Shin Buddhist text, the Tannishō, expresses this tension clearly: how difficult it is for us to leave this familiar world, even when it is filled with suffering, and how hard it is for us to imagine the peace of the Pure Land. We cling to what we know, even when it hurts. And yet, when our karmic bonds to this world are fulfilled, we are carried beyond it. These words remind us that reluctance, fear, and love are all part of being human.

Often, we learn these truths not in grand moments, but in ordinary, deeply personal experiences.

Rev. Hirano's article continued on page 2

My friend Rev. Mauricio Hondaku Ghigonetto had told me that he knows of some ministers who were working with hospice as Death Doulas. Doulas are usually in reference to non-medical persons who assist with birth, something similar to midwives. Death doulas, assist in death and the psychological process of death and grieving.

For many families, the death of a pet is a child's first encounter with loss. Pets are not "just animals." They are members of the family. They greet us with joy, stay close without conditions and offer love without asking for anything in return. Through them, children learn something tender and lasting: love does not protect us from loss, and yet love does not disappear when someone is gone.

I remember this clearly from when my daughter Kacie was very young. Our dog Sammy had grown old and was suffering from frequent seizures. When the veterinarian explained that Sammy would need to be put to sleep, we struggled with how to explain this to our children. In trying to soften the moment, Sammy's passing was described as going to "La La Land."

When Kacie heard this, she took it very seriously. Later, after we had said goodbye to Sammy and held a simple service at home, I asked her to imagine what Sammy was doing. She said she could see him running through green grass in the sunshine. I gently explained that this was the Pure Land, where Amida Buddha's compassion embraces all beings.

That night, something quietly beautiful happened. Kacie placed Sammy's picture inside the Obutsudan, next to Amida Buddha. When I asked her why, she said she was worried Sammy might feel confused or afraid in a new place. She wanted Sammy to be close to the Buddha, so he would feel safe and cared for. In that moment, a child expressed a truth deeper than any explanation I could have offered: love wants comfort for those it cares about, even beyond death.

Years later, I encountered this same teaching again, in a much more painful way, when we had to say goodbye to Miso.

On a bright spring day, after a long winter, I spent time with Miso in the backyard. The sun was gentle, the air was calm, and I did not yet realize that this would be our last afternoon together at home. Soon after, the veterinarian explained that Miso was suffering from a serious illness and recommended that we let her go that same day, so she would not suffer further.

Holding Miso as she was put to sleep was one of the hardest moments of my life. Grief did not arrive quietly. It came as shock, anger, confusion and a deep ache that made it hard to breathe. Even knowing all the teachings about impermanence did not protect me from that pain.

And yet, slowly, something else began to surface. I remembered Sammy. I remembered Kacie's concern that Sammy might feel lost in a strange new place. And I realized that just as I had held Miso with care and love at the end of her life, she was now held by a compassion far greater than my own.

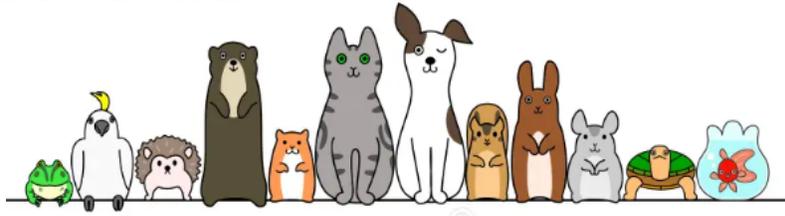
I placed Miso's ashes in the Obutsudan for a time. Not because she needed protection, but because I did. It reminded me that love does not end at death. It changes form, but it continues to shape us.

In February, our temple will hold both the Nehan-e service, commemorating the Buddha's passing, and a Pet Memorial Service. Holding these services together reminds us that remembrance is not about clinging to what is gone, but about honoring what has shaped our lives. The Buddha continues to teach through the Dharma. Our loved ones continue to live in our hearts. Our pets continue to guide us in kindness, patience and care. They may be our best death doulas.

On Nirvana Day,
we remember the Buddha.
We remember our loved ones.
We remember our pets.

And we give thanks for the love that continues.

Namo Amida Butsu.



PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

I have just returned from the BCA National Conference in Seattle. It was good to see old friends and meet new representatives to the National Council. The National Council is working on a new idea of assessing monies to the temples. This may take about a year before it is implemented.

The development east of the church is moving along, with all the sewer and water lines completed and work soon to start on foundations and roads.

We will be participating in this year's Nihon Matsuri in Salt Lake City. This could be the last one for awhile depending on the plans of the Smith Entertainment Group (SEG) for the Salt Lake City downtown redevelopment.

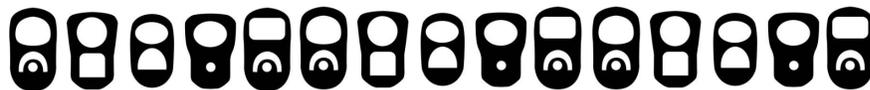
The spring outdoor clean-up may be scheduled, depending on the weather. An email will be sent out if a date is scheduled.

That is about it for now. I will keep you posted on what is going on around the church.

Happy New Year

In Gassho,

Mike



POP TABS



Thank you to everyone who saved their pop tops for Ronald McDonald House Charities.

In 2025 we collected 35 Pounds!!!!!!

Please keep saving them. Recycling pull tabs from beverage and food cans (think soup, pet food, SPAM) is a popular, simple and effective way to raise funds for Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC). These tabs are collected to support families staying at the House, raising awareness and funds through recycling initiatives.





BWA NEWS

By Brenda K.



“Let us treasure each moment of this life we are given! Be content, be grateful, be sincere and live happy!”
–Brian Nagata

The Buddhist Women’s Association continues to keep pace with their ongoing activities and those of the temple. The new year was welcomed with the temple’s annual Ho-onko service on January 25, including a traditional luncheon, service and installation of officers. Thank you so much to Annette K., her toban group and additional BWA ladies for preparing and serving a delicious, traditional meal to celebrate this occasion.



Then on February 15 the BWA had its annual membership luncheon and party with the lunch at The Greenery Restaurant followed by service and a fun afternoon of bingo at the temple. Thanks to Shauna R.’s toban group, especially Kris and KayLe Y. for the fun BWA balloon display and fun goodie boxes. And thank you KayLe for making us all your pretty decorated cookies



Photo taken by Carson B.

We welcomed a new member - Rachel P. New members are welcome to join, and if you are still interested in being a member of the organization, please contact Tami H. Everyone is encouraged to become a member regardless of gender.

The BWA is always open to temple and community service projects and needs. The group is exploring options for a community service project and currently is considering donating to a food pantry(s) affiliated with the Ogden City School Foundation.

BWA will be making fukashi manju to sell at Nihon Matsuri. We will be meeting on **Saturday, April 18 at 9:00 a.m.** Please join us, if you can. Sales will benefit the Buddhist Church of Ogden.

If you noticed something different in the women's restroom near the multi-purpose room, the organization purchased a changing table and had it installed. Now babies can be changed in a convenient location.



The BWA also purchased a beautiful wisteria emblem constructed of origami cranes. Thank you to Becky B. for creating the design and constructing the artwork hanging at the back of the hondo. She donated her time to construct the stunning piece.

The annual BWA Sushi Sale is coming up on **May 17**. Please see the order form in this newsletter for details. Proceeds to benefit the Buddhist Church of Ogden.

The next BWA meeting will be **March 8 at 10:00 a.m.** Another one is scheduled for **April 19 at 11:00 a.m.** Please attend and provide your ideas and input.

BWA DONATIONS

OMITTED FOR ONLINE VERSION

BWA MEMBERSHIP

OMITTED FOR ONLINE VERSION





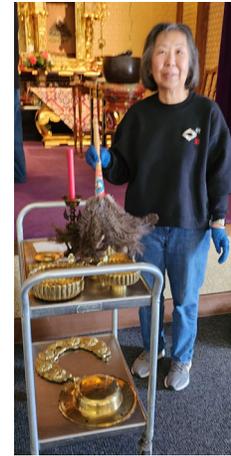
DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS



We are excited about continued growth in our Dharma School. After recent discussions, we have changed the weekly starting time of our Dharma School classes to **12:45 p.m.** The change ensures our Dharma School classes are done before service starts.



On February 1st, our Dharma School performed its annual Omigaki activities (altar cleaning). Our appreciation to all who attended and helped with this effort. We all enjoyed a pot-luck lunch after the cleaning activities.



Looking at our March activities, the Dharma School will be preparing and serving the annual Keirokai lunch. This lunch is held in honor and appreciation of our senior temple members. The luncheon will be held on Sunday, March 22nd at noon, followed by the Ohigan service. We invite all temple members and attendees to join us for lunch.

Hanamatsuri service and lunch is scheduled for Sunday, April 5th, celebrating Shakyamuni Buddha's birthday. **Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m.**, to allow time for the Dharma School students to perform a short program before service. The Dharma School has planned their 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 mentioned, our Dharma School students will be participating in a short program after the Hanamatsuri luncheon. As a reminder to our parent and guardians, our students will be practicing for the program every Sunday during class until Hanamatsuri. Please have your Dharma School students attend on Sundays so they can rehearse for the program.

We appreciate everyone's support to our Dharma School. Thank you!

In Gassho,
LaVerne K.



HANAMATSURI BAKE SALE

Sunday, April 5, 2026

Please package donations in
advance in \$2 portions.

DHARMA SCHOOL DONATIONS

NO DONATIONS

TAIKO GROUP DONATIONS

OMITTED FOR ONLINE VERSION



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. know what you can donate BEFORE you purchase it. Call or text <omitted for online version>.

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
Bottles of water (16 oz)



If you would like to make a monetary donation to help with the cost 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 with cleanup at the church afterwards, please let any board member know. All help would be greatly appreciated.

In Memory

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

*May the family members find solace and comfort in the Nembutsu.
Namo Amida Butsu*

Linda Kay Endo - January 6, 2026



YBA SUNSHINE TRIP



Thank you to everyone who participated in our recent YBA Sunshine Clothing Drive Fundraiser. Because of your incredible contributions, we didn't just meet our goal, we exceeded it, nearly doubling our projected earnings!

We truly appreciate everyone who brought weekly donations to the Ogden Buddhist Church and those who handled the transportation to the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple. A special thank you goes to Cy Z., our Ogden representative, for spearheading and coordinating the event so effectively.

These funds will directly support our upcoming Sunshine trip, allowing our youth to make a meaningful impact and create lifelong memories. We are deeply grateful for your generosity and unwavering support.

In Gassho,
YBA Sunshine



CHURCH MEMBERSHIP DUES

Please pay your 2026 annual membership dues at your earliest convenience.



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

TAIKO FUNDRAISER

To help refurbish Ogden's drums and to help Salt Lake refurbish their drums and purchase a new drum or two.

Drumming Up Some Luck!!!
A Taiko Fundraiser

\$40.00
 per person
 -lite lunch
 included

WENDOVER
 Bus Trip!

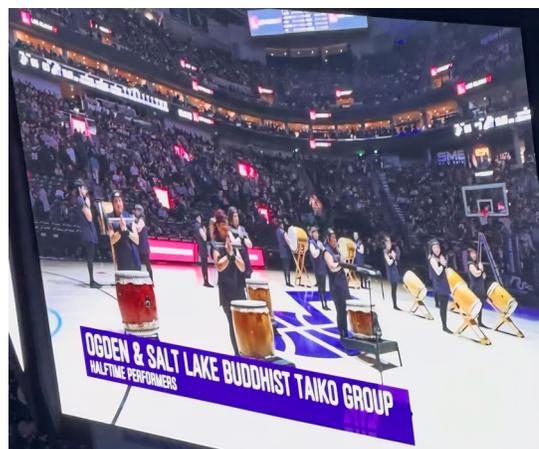
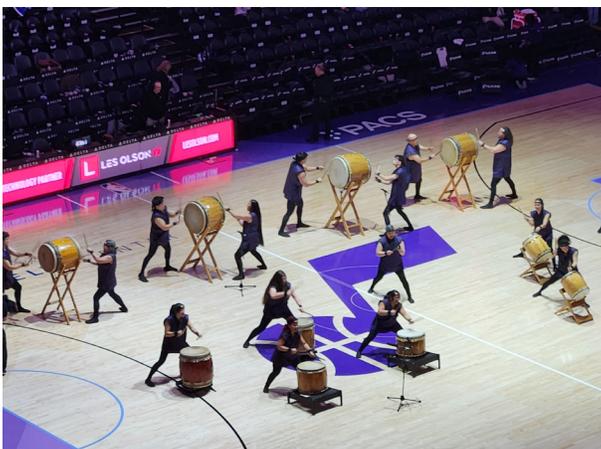
March 21, 2026
9:00AM - 7:00PM

Sign up and Pay via CC, Cash, Venmo
 - Sherri K

Meet at the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple at 8:30 am

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE OGDEN BUDDHIST TAIKO GROUP

On January 22, the Taiko group was the featured half-time performance at a Utah Jazz game. This was in conjunction with Japanese Heritage Night. Although they were only able to play a shortened version of one of their pieces, it was impressive and they looked good out on the floor of the Delta Center arena and on the jumbotron! Thank you Taiko for being such good representatives of our church and community!



March Shotsuki Hoyo

March 22, 2026 at 1:30 PM

Mar 22 2017 Toshiyuki Aoki
 Mar 18 2013 Akio Dick Hamada
 Mar 10 1967 Kanekichi Hamada
 Mar 29 2014 Hisano Higashiyama
 Mar 18 1971 Francis Hirabayashi
 Mar 18 1971 Ricky Hirabayashi
 Mar 11 1987 Yukiyo Iseki
 Mar 2 2015 Aileen Shizuko Kano
 Mar 29 1997 Kayzo Kano
 Mar 12 1999 Toyse Toshiharu Kato
 Mar 15 2005 Maxie Kimiko Kato
 Mar 26 2018 George Haruji Kawaguchi
 Mar 31 2019 Kuneko Kuni Kawashima
 Mar 14 1960 Tasaku Kumooka
 Mar 23 1988 Yoshimatsu Miyagishima
 Mar 23 1996 Hideo Miyawaki
 Mar 29 1998 Matsuyo Miyawaki
 Mar 4 2011 Rokuro George Nakano
 Mar 22 1988 Mary M. Morinaka
 Mar 5 1979 Shuichi Murakami
 Mar 14 1994 Masako Nakagawa Burrell
 Mar 16 1966 Bunkichi Oki
 Mar 18 1975 Itsu Ota
 Mar 30 2021 Masako Fujinami Ryujin
 Mar 31 1973 Taiji Shimada
 Mar 14 1970 Yasu Shiotani
 Mar 17 2020 Danzo "Date" Shiramizu
 Mar 3 1970 Utaro Sugihara
 Mar 11 1979 Masu Sugihara
 Mar 11 2000 George Joji Sugimoto
 Mar 16 1990 Mine Takabayashi
 Mar 17 2008 Judy Naoko Takara
 Mar 16 1983 Noble Edward Tsushima
 Mar 30 1988 Takashi Uemori
 Mar 27 2003 Saburo Butch Uyeno
 Mar 27 1964 Shinichi Yamada
 Mar 28 2014 Ted Teruo Yamada
 Mar 3 1996 Toshimi Yamada (Tsukamoto)
 Mar 7 1979 Mii Yamaguchi
 Mar 10 2007 Takeo Yamasaki
 Mar 16 1996 Ruby Toshiko Yamasaki
 Mar 3 2022 Bessie Oakes Yonetani
 Mar 28 1992 Kiyoshi Yei
 Mar 11 1976 Saburoji Yoshimura

April Shotsuki Hoyo

April 5, 2026 at 1:30 PM

Apr 1 2021 David Kaoru Aoki
 Apr 8 1982 Helen Haruye Estrada
 Apr 23 1974 Chohachi Fujita
 Apr 5 1979 Utaka Harada
 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 Ise 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 1962 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 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 2nd, 4th or 5th, 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 not 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>

2026 Memorial Service Schedule for those who passed away in:

2025 - 1 year	2014 - 13 year	1992 - 33 year
2024 - 3 year	2010 - 17 year	1977 - 50 year
2020 - 7 year	2002 - 25 year	1927 - 100 year



OHIGAN SERVICE
March Shotsuki Hoyo
KEIRO-KAI
Sunday, March 22, 2026 at 1:30 p.m.
Otoki Lunch at Noon

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 5, 2026, 1:30 p.m.
Lunch at 11:30 a.m., followed by short program

GUEST SPEAKER: BISHOP TATSUYA AOKI

- Born and raised in Sapporo, Hokkaido, Japan
- Resident Minister at Vancouver Buddhist Temple
- Elected and appointed as the Bishop of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada

Hanamatsuri or "Flower Festival" is held to commemorate the birth of Siddhartha 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 shrine 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

OGDEN BUDDHIST CHURCH

Member Appreciation Night



NOODLES & A MOVIE

スウィングガールズ



SWING GIRLS

Swing Girls is a 2004 Japanese comedy. The plot follows a group of inept high school girls who form a big band. The film ranked 8th at the Japanese box office in 2004, and won seven prizes at 28th Japan Academy Prize, including "Most Popular Film" and "Newcomer of the Year" for two of its stars.

Saturday, March 7

Dinner - 6:00 p.m. / Movie - 7:30 p.m.

Buddhist Church of Ogden

POPCORN & CANDY WILL BE AVAILABLE



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>March 2026</h1> 						
1 12:00 - Meditation 12:30 - Discussion 12:45 - Dharma School Class 1:30 - Family Service	2	3	4 7:00 p.m. - GO Club	5	6	7 6:00 p.m. - Noodles & Movie Night
8 10:00 - BWA Meeting 11:00 - Dharma School Meeting 12:00 - Meditation 12:30 - Discussion 12:45 - Dharma School Class 1:30 - Family Service	9	10 7:00 - Board Meeting	11 7:00 p.m. - GO Club	12	13	14
15 12:00 - Meditation 12:30 - Discussion 12:45 - Dharma School Class 1:30 - Family Service	16	17 	18 7:00 p.m. - GO Club	19	20	21
22 12:00 - Keiro-kai Lunch 12:45 - Dharma School Class 1:30 - Ohigan Service / Shotsuki Hoyo*	23	24	25 7:00 p.m. - GO Club	26	27	28
29 12:00 - Meditation 12:30 - Discussion 12:45 - Dharma School Class 1:30 - Family Service	30	31				

TOBAN GROUP:

Roland & Janice S. (Toban Cleaning Leader)
 Becky B.
 Fran H.
 Wes & Deb K.



*Service with Rev. Hirano

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>April 2026</h1>						
			1 7:00 pm - GO Club	2	3	4
5 11:30 am - Hanamatsuri Lunch / Program / BAKE SALE 1:30 - Hanamatsuri Service / Shotsuki Hoyo*	6	7	8  Buddha's Birthday 7:00 pm - GO Club	9	10	11
12 12:00 - Meditation 12:30 - Discussion 12:45 - Dharma School Class 1:30 - Family Service	13	14 7:00 pm - Board Meeting	15 7:00 pm - GO Club	16	17	18 9:00 am - BWA Manju Making
19 11:00 - BWA Meeting 12:00 - Meditation 12:30 - Discussion 12:45 - Dharma School Class 1:30 - Family Service	20	21	22 7:00 pm - GO Club	23	24 6:00 pm - Nihon Matsuri Prep	25 7:00 am to 5:00 pm - Nihon Matsuri
26 12:00 - Meditation 12:30 - Discussion 12:45 - Dharma School Class 1:30 - Family Service	27	28	29 7:00 pm - GO Club	30		

TOBAN CLEANING GROUP:
Kirk & Betty Y. (Toban Cleaning Leader)
Billy, Candace F. and Cy Z.
Steven & Kris Y.



*Service with Rev. Hirano

Buddhist Church of Ogden Donations

OMITTED FOR ONLINE VERSION



THANK YOU!! THANK YOU!!

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.



CHURCH MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

Please pay your 2026 annual membership dues at your earlist convenience.

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

BWA SUSHI FUND RAISER



\$12.00 per plate

Available for pick-up between 12 noon and 1:30 pm on Sunday, May 17th.

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 17, 2026.

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 8, 2026**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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