



THE GEPPPO



A publication of the Buddhist Church of Ogden

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THE KINDNESS OF "COOL KIDS"

J.K. Hirano

It's difficult for me to realize I am now an old man. I am surprised that I have even made it to sixty-eight years old. I wonder if we ever grow out of our childhood fears and insecurities, or if we just get used to them and integrate those into our lives and personalities. As I see the advertisements for back-to-school sales and see the kids in my neighborhood getting ready for school, I'm reminded of my youth. In fact, I don't really feel like an old man; I only notice how old I am because of the way others treat me. When I go to restaurants or any public venue, people call me "sir." I have spoken about this in the past, but on airplanes, when I fly Southwest Airlines, pretty women will even sit next to me because I am an old man and appear to be safe. If only they could see what is going on in my mind!? In general, I have found that people do treat me much kindly than they would when I was young, or is it me that has changed?

After sixty-eight years of life, in my mind's eye, I am still in my thirties. In a similar vein, I am still the fat, shy kid from the poor part of town. There is one thing I have noticed, however, which is evidence of my senior citizen status. After sixty-eight years, it seems as though there aren't as many ugly people walking around. Let me clarify; there are probably just as many ugly people now as when I was younger, but I don't see them as ugly anymore. It reminds me of something the late Rev. Shoki Mori of the Los Angeles Betsuin told my mentor, the late Rev. Russell Hamada.

Rev. Hamada and I were in the Coast District; he was at Mt. View Buddhist Temple, and I was at San Jose Betsuin. BCA still held major conferences with nearly 1000 attendees. Buddhist Women's Association (BWA) and Western Young Buddhist League were two of the bigger ones. He and I would often sit next to each other on the "Naijin" and as everyone came forward for Oshoko (incense burning), we would comment, "She's cute" or "She or he is ugly." Now you know what the ministers are talking about as we sit in the naijin and you come up for Oshoko. Rev. Hamada told me that at one such conference, Mori Sensei told him, "You are still young because you can discriminate between beautiful and ugly concerning the young women here. When you get to be my age, all the young women are beautiful, just because they are young. (*Mori Sensei was probably in his early sixties at the time. Rev. Hamada and I were probably in our thirties.*) I finally understand what Mori Sensei was talking about! It only took me thirty years to figure it out.

Growing up, I always felt that I was in the ugly group. I have always wanted to fit in and be one of the cool kids. I wasn't unpopular or a loner without friends; in fact, I had a lot of friends, but I was the only non-white

Rev. Hirano's article continued on next page

kid in these groups. If you are a non-Mormon, non-white person in Salt Lake City, it is difficult to fit in. In our teenage years, my friends began dating. I wanted to date, but I was so afraid of rejection. It wasn't just being Japanese American or non-Mormon; I was also fat and nearly blind. My glasses were the proverbial coke bottle lens. I don't think being non-Mormon or Japanese American was the problem. I realize that much of the fear was inside myself.

My cousin Glen Furubayashi was a cool kid, and he was pretty much like me, but wasn't fat and didn't wear glasses. But when we were younger, he was in a rock band, along with a number of the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple members. They were called "The Road Agents." On one occasion, they even won the battle of the bands. The lead singer was Richard Doi, the bass player was Glen, the keyboardist was Bruce Sakashita, and the drummer was Steven Doi. I think the manager was Robert Fujinami. Glen was 14 years old, and he had a 16-year-old girlfriend who would drive him around. I thought he was so cool. He married her. Back then, I was in junior high school, and Glen was only two years older, but he was cool. And I felt like such a dud, I couldn't even talk to girls.

I believe it is my encounters with various people through the temple that have led me to where I find myself in life. The positive and the negative aspects of the social interactions I have had have created this space that I can call "My life."

Initially, I began to go to the WYBL conferences in California because it was the first time, I didn't feel so isolated and different. I didn't understand why I was so uncomfortable at home, and yet at these BCA conferences I felt at home. Of course, there were still the cool kids at these conferences and I definitely wasn't one of them. About ten years ago, Carmela and I went to a dance that was held at one of the BCA conferences. The purpose of the dance was to allow those attending to somewhat relive their years when they attended the WYBL conferences. I had a deja vu experience while walking into the dance with Carmela. The music was the same type of music, and as we walked in, it felt as though everyone was staring at us, as if they were thinking, "Who are you and why are you here?" Although I was no longer a teenager but a minister; I had a flashback to when I first went to a WYBL dance. I had to remind myself; you no longer have a reason to be so insecure. You don't need to try to act cool; you are with Carmela, and you don't need to ask someone to dance. It was a very strange experience that, after close to thirty years, I was reliving how I was such an outsider when I was now one of the ministers running the conference. I was not an outsider at this conference, but I felt like it. These feelings of inadequacy never go away.

This combination of comfort at conferences and my questions about why I felt so insecure otherwise led me to study Buddhism. In Buddhism, specifically Jodo Shinshu, we talk about the meeting of our insecure self with the infinite wisdom and compassion of Amida Buddha as the essence of "Shinjin." Amida Buddha does not take away my insecurities; these will always be a part of who I am. Amida Buddha will not make me one of the cool kids, but the encounter with Amida Buddha allows me to see that I am okay as I am.

I have found that my encounter with Amida Buddha is rooted in the kindness of others. I was not a cool kid, but I had many friends who were cool kids, like my cousin Glen. Some cool kids are not nice, but the kind cool kids made my world a better place. As I said, Amida Buddha will not make you one of the cool kids; Jodo Shinshu does not make you cool. However, Jodo Shinshu has made me realize that, possibly, most people in the world, no matter how cool I may think they are, may not feel so cool. They are also filled with anxiety and fear about what others think about them. The one thing these sixty-eight years of life have taught me is that, whether cool or uncool, kindness is the great equalizer. Jodo Shinshu Buddhism is a teaching that can help make us kinder, and that is what being cool is truly about. We outsiders are the majority. What is sometimes difficult is to try to see the other outsiders as we want to be seen ourselves, fellow human beings, trying the best we can.

This is possible within the Nembutsu way of life. Besides, as much as I wasn't a cool kid, I ended up marrying one of the popular cool girls. I think it was worth all my ups and downs to come to this point in my life, at least married to one of the cool kids. I would never have thought that possible.

I recently came upon this poem, "Outsider" by James Berry OBE. He was a Jamaican poet who lived in the United States for a time and moved to England in the 1940s. His poetry is notable for using a mixture of standard English and Jamaican Patois. His writing focused on the tension he felt between black and white communities. He died at the age of 92 on June 20, 2017. His poem "Outsider" reminded me of what I felt as an outsider, or at least how I perceived myself as an outsider throughout my life. With school beginning, I hope that we adults can teach others that, beyond achieving good grades, school is an excellent opportunity to learn kindness. Suppose you see others mistreating someone different than them. If you can step up and treat them with kindness, you can not only change that person's life, but the entire world. We are currently in a time when bullying and mistreating others is modeled by many of our country's leaders. These are not the things that can benefit the world. Kindness can and hopefully prevail. Namo Amida Butsu!

Outsider

If you see me lost on busy streets,
my dazzle is sun-stain of skin,
I'm not naked with dark glasses on
saying barren ground has no oasis:
it's that cracked up by extremes

I must hold self
together with extreme pride.

If you see me lost in neglected
woods, I'm no thief eyeing trees
to plunder their stability
or a moaner shouting at air:
it's that voices in me rule
firmer than my skills, and sometimes
among men my stubborn hurts
leave me like wild dogs.

If you see me lost on forbidding
wastelands, watching dry flowers
nod, or scraping a tunnel
in mountain rocks, I don't open
a trail back into time:
it's that a monotony
like the Sahara seals my enchantment.

If you see me lost on long
footpaths, I don't set traps
or map out arable acres:
it's that I must exhaust twigs
like limbs with water divining.

If you see me lost in my sparse
 room, I don't ruminate
 on prisoners and falsify
 their jokes, and go on about
 prisons having been perfected
 like a common smokescreen of mind:
 it's that I moved
 my circle from ruins
 and I search to remake it whole.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hi everyone,

We just finished a bazaar that was very successful. I would like to thank everyone for all the hard work that was put into making it a success. We will be moving on to the Mountain States Conference in beautiful Moab. Our guest speaker is Rev. Kuwahara from BCA and incoming president Glenn I. and his wife Michiko M. I., who is very instrumental in the BCA Dharma Forward campaign.

We will also be holding our general board meeting at the end of November. In December we will have the Bodhi Day service and the Joya-E end of year service. Please check the calendar in the Geppo for more information.

Thanks to everyone for your concerns and hard work to make things happen.

In Gassho,
 Mike K.



GENERAL MEETING

Sunday, November 23 at 2:30 pm (following service)

The Buddhist Church of Ogden invites you to join us for our important General Meeting. Please come and participate in the election of our officers and board of directors, and also let us know your thoughts and future hopes for our temple. This is where you can have a say in what happens at our temple.



BWA NEWS

By Brenda K.



Though nobody can go back and make a new beginning...anyone can start over and make a new ending.
— Chico Xavier

Can you believe that the year is coming to a close? I just got accustomed to putting 2025 on my checks and documents. The Buddhist Women's Association has had a busy and productive year with a multitude of activities and projects. Most recently the group has been preparing for our annual food bazaar. On October 4 we made fukashi manju and on October 17 mochi manju. Thanks to all our members who donated the ingredients and all those who came to help. We appreciate the time and effort everyone dedicated for the endeavor, and the end product was great. For the bazaar people also worked in the kitchen from October 15 through October 18, the day of the event. Thank you all so much!

November 16 will be our next BWA meeting at 10:00 a.m. followed by our annual general meeting at 11:00 a.m. when we will select our officers for the next year.

Upcoming is our **Eshinni/Kakushini service** in conjunction with our temple's annual Eitaikyo service on **November 23**. We will be honoring three of our BWA members who passed away since our last BWA Memorial service:

**Kyoko Kawasaki Miya
Haru Hamada Toimoto
Marian Emiko Hirasuna**

We are fortunate to have Rev. Chiemi Onikura Bly as our guest speaker. Lunch will be served at noon prior to the service prepared by Ellen K's toban group. Please plan to attend for this special occasion.

On **December 14** will be our annual **Bodhi Day service**. We will again have a guest speaker, Bhante Seelawimala Madawala, and lunch will be served prepared by Tami H's toban group. We look forward to seeing you all there to celebrate this important event.



Saturday, November 22, 2025 - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Sunday, November 23, 2025 - 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Salt Lake Buddhist Temple
211 West 100 South, Salt Lake City, UT

Check out hundreds of unique gift ideas, including items made by local artisans.

Food available both days from noon. Come have lunch, then start your Christmas shopping!



www.lumbinisgarden.com



DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS



We were happy to see all of our Dharma School students return from the summer break. Our Dharma School continues to grow, so we have added a few more teachers and classes as listed:

Preschool – Kindergarten: Meghan Q.
1st – 2nd Grade: Kris Y.
3rd – 5th Grade: Maya C. & Christy F.
6th – 9th Grade: Brenda K.; Teaching Assistant: Cy Z.

We appreciate our teachers and teaching assistant for volunteering their time to help with our Dharma School classes and our students.

The Dharma School started the school year with several activities. On October 5th, we were fortunate to schedule a special Dharma School bonsai class activity taught by Ken Y. Each student was able to pot their own plant. We are grateful for the help and knowledge of Ralph S., who wrote each student's name in Japanese on rocks to personalize each student's plant. The students enjoyed a pizza lunch. Thank you to all who contributed sides, salads and desserts for the luncheon.



Many of our Dharma School students volunteered to help with our temple food bazaar, bussing and serving in the dining room or helping in other areas. A big thank you to all of our Dharma School students who helped make this event a success.

Our ghoulish Dharma School students enjoyed attending service at the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple and participating in their Halloween parade and party last month. A big thank you to the Salt Lake Dharma School for inviting our students to this event. Everyone who attended had a good time.

In November, our Dharma School will be doing a fundraiser at the Salt Lake Temple Holiday Boutique on November 22nd and 23rd, selling manju and mochi bites. In preparation of the boutique, we will be making fukashi manju on **Saturday, November 1st at 9 a.m.** On **Friday, November 21st**, we will be making mochi manju starting at **8:30 a.m.** We would appreciate the help from both the Dharma School adults and BWA members on both dates. The manju will be sold for \$10 for a tray of six manju. A pre-order form for the manju, due prior to November 16th, is included in this newsletter. We encourage everyone to support the Salt Lake Temple Holiday Boutique.

In December, our Dharma School students will be participating in the Salvation Army Angel Tree program again this year. We plan to meet at the Harrisville Walmart on **Sunday, December 7th at 10 a.m.** The students are given names from the Angel Tree and use money donated by temple families and members to purchase items from the wish lists of children in need. If anyone would like to contribute to this project, please make your checks to the **Ogden Dharma School** and give your donation to **Betty Y.** or myself. You may also Venmo @BuddhistChurchOfOgden and note Angel Tree Donation. We appreciate everyone's support and contributions to help these children in need.

On **Saturday, December 13th at 9 a.m.**, our YBA members will be making mochi for their annual fundraiser, providing the opportunity for temple members and friends to purchase their New Year's supply of mochi for the new year. We will be taking orders in advance, and the mochi will be available for pick-up on Sunday, December 14th at the Bodhi Day service. The price of the mochi is \$8.00 for a tray of six mochi. The mochi order form is included in this newsletter.

We appreciate everyone's support for our amazing Dharma School students!

Since this is the last Geppo newsletter for the year, I do want to extend my appreciation to Hirano Sensei; our minister's assistants, Geoff, James, Annette and Charles; along with our wonderful Dharma School teachers listed above, helping with the growth of our Dharma School students. And on the administrative side, my appreciation to our Dharma School treasurer, Betty Y., and our administrative/visual/audio extraordinaire, Kris Y. These two ladies help to keep the Dharma School and the rest of the temple functioning properly.

In Gassho,
LaVerne K.



DHARMA SCHOOL DONATIONS

OMITTED FOR ONLINE VERSION



SCRIP ORDERS

It's not too early to start working on your gift list. To help you out with purchasers we will place weekly orders -November 2 to December 14. The order form is available online under Donations and Fundraisers.

Place your order:

November 2	November 30
November 9	December 7
November 16	December 14
November 23	

Any questions, please contact Suzan Y. at <omitted>.

2025 BAZAAR BUSINESS AND NON-MEMBER DONORS

PLEASE support these businesses who were so generous to donate to our bazaar

ANA Financial
Blue Spruce Therapy
Criddle's Café
GriDeli's
(Mae Miya & Jani Hoch)
J&J Nursery
Japan Sage Market
Javiers Authentic Mexican Food

Lumbini's Garden
Macey's Food and Drug Store
Minky Couture
Nature Jim's Sprouts
Neighborhood WalMart - Layton
Ogden Pizzeria
Rainbow Gardens
SavOn Sporting Goods

Son Son Asian Grill
State Farm Insurance
(Kent Nagao)
Tasty's (Kaysville)
Valley Nursery
Carolyn C.
Nathaniel H.
Nate S.



BAZAAR DONATIONS

Big thanks to these members who donated food, raffle prizes, bingo prizes, dry goods, desserts and special raffle baskets.

Maya C.
Geoff & Linda R.
Candace F.
Christy F.
Julia F.
Chris G.
Fran H.
Stephanie H.
Stan & Tami H.
Bart & Robyn H.
Kevin & Justine H.
Pat K.

Steve & Ellen K.
Judy K.
Brenda K.
Mike & Annette K.
LaVerne K.
Tena M.
Mike & Darlene M.
Val O.
Jeannie P.
Rachel P.
Lorraine S.
Tomoko S.
Ruth S.

Roland & Janice S.
Sheldon S.
Art & Marie S.
Craig & Geniel S.
Kirk & Betty Y.
Steve & Kris Y.
Max & Georgia Y.
Marilyn Y.
Toby & Mui Y.
Blaine & Suzan Y.
Pam S.
Lindsay W.



Our bazaar is our major fund-raising event for our church and it takes everyone to make it successful.

BIG, BIG thanks to all who came to help prepare the foods, set up the church and worked during the bazaar.



YBA MOCHI FUND RAISER



The Ogden YBA will be making mochi again this year to provide you and all our temple friends with your New Year's supply!

We will be making the mochi on **Saturday, December 13, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.** Please come out and help if you can! We are taking orders in advance. Mochi will be available for **pick up on Bodhi Day, December 14, 2025.** Please reserve your order by **November 30, 2025.** The price for each order is \$8.00 for an order of six pieces of mochi. See order form at the end of this newsletter.

~be kind ~be kind ~be kind ~be kind ~be kind

DHARMA SCHOOL ANGEL TREE DANA PROJECT

The Dharma School students will participate in the Angel Tree program again this year. Instead of buying Christmas gifts for each other they will use that money to give Christmas to a child who is less fortunate than them! This is a GREAT way for our students to learn about Dana and truly share the Buddha's compassion! Here is how you can be part of this Dana! Just take the money you would have used to purchase gifts for our church families and donate that to this project instead. You can make you check payable to the Ogden Buddhist Dharma School and give it to our treasurer, Betty Y. or Dharma School Superintendent, LaVerne K.. Or you can VENMO

@BuddhistChurchOfOgden. Please note: Angel Tree, your name and your donation.

Depending on how much money is donated towards this event, they will try to sponsor six to eight children.



HELP PRESERVE THE HISTORY OF THE BUDDHIST CHURCH OF OGDEN

Weber State University's Special Collections and University Archives is seeking to preserve and share the rich history of the Buddhist Church of Ogden and its community. We are looking for:

- Photographs
- Letters and diaries
- Scrapbooks
- Other personal materials that document temple activities and community life

We are also hoping to connect with individuals who are willing to share their stories or memories about the temple and its role in the Ogden community.

If you or your family have materials or would like to participate, please contact:

Sarah Langsdon, Curator of Special Collections, SCUA co-head
slangsdon@weber.edu
801-626-6337

Help us ensure that the legacy of the Buddhist Church of Ogden is preserved for future generations.

Sarah Langsdon, Associate Professor, Weber State University

November Shotsuki Hoyo

November 23, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.

Nov	5	2016	Masao Endo
Nov	20	1986	Shizu Fukuda
Nov	20	2003	Masaru Hamada
Nov	17	2001	Shigeru Hamada
Nov	23	2005	Norma Hatsuye Inouye
Nov	21	1961	Kunimatsu Inouye
Nov	14	1964	Kyuta Ishibashi
Nov	6	1981	Kikujiro Ishii
Nov	21	1982	Masami Itakura
Nov	21	1961	Chiyoji Kamita
Nov	16	1993	George Toshio Kano
Nov	18	2006	Yoshito (Yosh) Kato
Nov	23	1963	Kiyoyasu Kawashima
Nov	20	1989	Jimmie Noboru Kunimoto
Nov	21	1964	Todd T. Kuroiwa
Nov	2	1981	Masaichiro Marumoto
Nov	18	2024	Kyoko Kawasaki Miya
Nov	13	2014	June Teruko Nagao
Nov	6	1961	Yagoro Nakamoto
Nov	24	2013	Miyuki T. Nakano
Nov	17	1981	Shigako Nimori
Nov	26	1991	Kimi Nishikawa
Nov	23	2016	Roy Kiyoharu Ryuji
Nov	22	2013	Toddy Sameshima
Nov	27	1959	Jisaku Sakurada
Nov	26	1964	Kamesaburo Suekawa
Nov	23	1979	Motoharu Sumida
Nov	5	1970	Sanji Tawatari
Nov	11	2001	Dan Tsukamoto
Nov	7	1988	Kiyonobu Watanabe
Nov	25	1964	Tomesaku Watanabe
Nov	24	1979	Suzumi Yamada
Nov	15	1989	Sidney Yukiyoshi Yamasaki
Nov	28	1986	Shunjiro Yamasaki
Nov	23	1991	George Yamashita
Nov	1	2019	Nina Yonetani
Nov	14	1982	Munagi Yoshitaka

December Shotsuki Hoyo

December 14, 2025 at 1:30 p.m.

Dec	5	2013	Jayden Endo
Dec	26	1982	Kristen Taeko Fukawa
Dec	29	1986	Kasumi Hamada
Dec	1	1972	Yorito Hamada
Dec	11	2004	Dick Setsuji Hirabayashi
Dec	6	1977	Yasu Hirabayashi
Dec	24	2016	Alice Setsuko Hirai
Dec	24	1982	Tome Inouye
Dec	11	1966	Masayasu Ito
Dec	7	1991	Nobuo Kamigaki
Dec	23	2008	Shigeru Henry Kawaguchi
Dec	22	1985	Ray Isao Kano
Dec	19	1989	Hideo Kawaguchi
Dec	25	2024	Tom Hiroshi Kishimoto
Dec	5	2014	Shigeru Kiyomura
Dec	30	2019	Fumie Nagao Koga
Dec	21	2016	Jimmy Kusuda
Dec	23	2007	Shizu Nakano Miya
Dec	30	1995	James Sunao Morinaka
Dec	29	1991	Hanako Moriyama(Yonemoto)
Dec	23	1961	Yae Murakami
Dec	29	1995	Suyeo Frank Nakano
Dec	19	1962	Isekichi Nishiki
Dec	30	1981	Masashi Nozaki
Dec	11	1995	Staci Sachiko Oda
Dec	21	1994	Wataru Jack Oda
Dec	29	1968	Mitsugu Oda
Dec	21	1993	Tokiichi George Sato
Dec	19	2012	Elsie Shiramizu
Dec	20	1969	Yonekichi Shiramizu
Dec	31	1978	Hajime Tokifuji
Dec	3	1990	Asao Tsukamoto
Dec	2	1984	Tatsuji Watanabe
Dec	6	1989	Takako Watanabe (Onishi)
Dec	22	1969	Torahei Yamamoto
Dec	19	2014	Yukimi Yonetani

For those years not having a specific memorial service such as 2nd, 4th, 5th, etc. the temple is holding these monthly Shotsuki Hoyo. During these services, the temple will list the names of those member who have died during the month in the preceding years. The families then attend that monthly service in memory of their loved one.

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>

2025 Memorial Service Schedule for those who passed away in:

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



**Eshinniko and BWA Memorial Service
Eitaikyo Service
November Shotsuki Hoyo**

**Sunday, November 23, 2025
Otoki Lunch at 12 noon
Service at 1:30 p.m.**

GUEST SPEAKER: Rev. Chiemi Onikura Bly

Rev. Chiemi was raised in a Jodo Shinshu temple family in Fukuoka, Japan. A graduate of Chikushi Jogakuen, a Jodo Shinshu-affiliated high school and college. She has been deeply rooted in the teachings of Shin Buddhism from an early age.

Her formal path in ministry began with completing the Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course in 2016, followed by Tokudo ordination the same year. She graduated from Chuo Bukkyo Gakuin Seminary in Kyoto in 2023 and received Kyoshi ordination in 2024. Rev. Chiemi is passionate about making the Dharma accessible and is constantly exploring innovative ways to share the teachings of Amida Buddha.

Rev. Chiemi is currently the Assistant Minister for the Twin Cities Buddhist Sangha in Minneapolis, Minnesota

This is a memorial service the wife of Shinran Shonin, Eshinni. Eshinni is considered the first role model of Jodo Shinshu woman hood. In this regard, the memorial service is held in memory of any BWA (Buddhist Women's Association) member who died during the previous year.

In Memory of:

**Kyoko Kawasaki Miya
Haru Hamada Toimoto
Marian Emiko Hirasuna**

The Eitaikyo Service is a memorial service for people who have handed down the teaching of the Nembutsu to us. In the glossary in our temple's service book, "Eitaikyo" is defined as a "perpetual memorial service." This is a general memorial service for all departed members of the temple. The word Eitaikyo actually means "perpetual sutra." Eitai means "perpetual" and Kyo means "sutra," or "teaching of Buddha."



Bodhi Day & December Shotsuki Hoyo
Sunday, December 14, 2025
Otoki Lunch at noon
Service at 1:30 p.m.

GUEST SPEAKER: Bhante Seelawimala

Venerable Madawala Seelawimala Mahathera (Bhante Seelawimala) is a Theravadin monk from Sri Lanka. He received his novice ordination at age 10, and full ordination at age 20, in 1968. Since 1976, Bhante Seelawimala has been a Professor of Theravada Buddhism at the Institute of Buddhist Studies. He is also the Founder of the American Buddhist Seminary, and Spiritual Director of their Temple.

At the age of 35, while meditating under the bodhi tree, Siddhartha Gautama attained enlightenment and became Sakyamuni Buddha. By his example, the Buddha showed us that it was possible for anyone to become a Buddha - a fully enlightened person. We commemorate this very special event on Bodhi Day.



Joya-E
(Last Night Gathering)
New Year's Eve Service
Saturday, December 31, 2025
Service at 8:00 p.m.

This year end service is held to express gratitude for all the causes and conditions which have allowed us to live this past year. It is a time to reflect upon the interdependence of all Sangha members and the lives we live. At the end of the service all those attending the service participate in the ringing of the Joya no Kane (Last Night Bell). The Temple Bell is rung 108 times signifying the 108 Bonno or Passions that make up our human existence. This bell is rung to recognize these traits in our own personalities and express appreciation for Amida Buddha's compassion, which embraces us, even though we are bound by these passions.



Before service please
join us for a
Potluck Dinner
at 6:00 p.m.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
November 2025 						1 9:00 am - Dharma School Manju Making
2 12:00 Meditation 12:30 Discussion 1:00 Dharma School 1:30 Family Service Scrip orders due	3	4	5	6 Mountain States District Conference - Moab	7 Mountain States District Conference - Moab	8 Mountain States District Conference - Moab
9 NO SERVICES Mountain States District Conference - Moab Scrip orders due	10	11 7:00 pm - Board Meeting	12	13 	14	15
16 10:00 BWA Meeting 11:00 BWA General Meeting 12:00 Meditation 12:30 Discussion 1:00 Dharma School 1:30 Family Service Scrip orders due	17	18	19	20	21 8:30 am - Dharma School Mochi Manju Making	22 10:00 am to 4:00 pm - Salt Lake Holiday Boutique
23 12:00 Otoki Lunch 1:00 Dharma School 1:30 BWA Memorial/ Eshinniko/ Eitaikyo/ Nov Shotsuki Hoyo* 2:30 OBC General Meeting Scrip orders due	24	25	26	27  Thanksgiving	28	29
30 NO SERVICES Scrip orders due						

TOBAN CLEANING GROUP:
 Bart & Robyn H. (Cleaning Leaders)
 Kevin & Justine H.

*Services with Rev. Hirano



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
December 2025 						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 10:00 - Angel Tree Project 12:00 Meditation 12:30 Discussion 1:30 Family Service Scrip orders due	8	9 7:00 pm - Board Meeting	10	11	12	13 9:00 am - YBA Mochi Tsuki
14 12:00 Otoki Lunch 1:00 Dharma School 1:30 Bodhi Day / Dec Shotsuki Hoyo* Scrip orders due	15	16	17 GEPPPO Articles Due	18	19	20
21 12:00 Meditation 12:30 Discussion 1:00 Dharma School 1:30 Family Service	22	23	24	25 	26	27
28 NO SERVICES 9:00 am - OBC Mochi Tsuki	29	30	31 6:00 pm - Potluck Dinner 8:00 pm - Joya-E Service*			

TOBAN CLEANING GROUP:

Stan & Tami H. (Toban Cleaning Leader)
 Mackenzie & Alex H.

*Service with Rev. Hirano



2026 TOBAN GROUPS

The toban groups have been re-assigned. Please note the new groups. If you are not in a toban group and wish to volunteer, please talk to Brenda K. or Ruth S.

JANUARY

Blaine & Suzan Y. (Toban Cleaning Leaders)
Cameron M.
Greg O.
Karen D.

FEBRUARY

Craig & Geniel S. (Toban Cleaning Leaders)
LaVerne K.
Ernie K.
Andrew K.

MARCH

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

APRIL

Kirk & Betty Y. (Toban Cleaning Leaders)
Billy, Candace F. and Cy Z.
Steven & Kris Y.

MAY

Geoff & Linda R. (Toban Cleaning Leaders)
Brock C.
Ray L.
Rachel P.
Ruth S.

JUNE

Mike & Annette K. (Toban Cleaning Leaders)
Maya C.
Christy F.
Julia F.
Brenda K.

JULY

Obon Clean-up

AUGUST

Tom & Marcie F. (Toban Cleaning Leaders)
Steve & Ellen K.
Ryan & Amanda Y.

SEPTEMBER

James & Marisa A. (Toban Cleaning Leaders)
Charles A.
Max & Georgia Y.
Toby & Mui Y.

OCTOBER

Bazaar Clean-up

NOVEMBER

Bart & Robyn H. (Toban Cleaning Leaders)
Kevin & Justine H.
Christine G.

DECEMBER

Stan & Tami H. (Toban Cleaning Leaders)
Craig & Susan H.
Mackenzie & Alex H.



POP TABS

HAVE YOU BEEN SAVING THOSE POP TABS?

Now is the time to bring them to church. Please bring them to the church no later than our Bodhi Day Service on December 14, 2025

The tabs are collected for the benefit of the Utah Ronald McDonald House.



Buddhist Church of Ogden 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.

IN-KIND DONATIONS

If you are making any In-Kind donations (non-monetary) to the church for Obon, Bazaar or for general use, please submit your receipts or give me a dollar amount spent, so that I can include it on your year-end statement of contributions.

Thank you, Betty



IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO PAY YOUR 2025 MEMBERSHIP

Please pay your 2025 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.





DHARMA SCHOOL MANJU HOLIDAY FUND RAISER



Fukashi "Steamed" Manju



Mochi Manju



Mochi Manju cooling

In conjunction with the Salt Lake Buddhist Temple Holiday Boutique the Ogden Dharma School will be taking pre-orders for Manju until November 17, 2025.

\$10.00 per tray of 6 homemade Manju pieces



DHARMA SCHOOL MANJU PRE-ORDER FORM

Thank you for your support!

Manju will be ready for pick-up on either

Friday, November 21, 2025 at the Ogden Buddhist Church 3:00 – 4:00 pm **OR**

Saturday, November 22, 2025 at the Salt Lake Holiday Boutique.

\$10.00 per plate of 6 homemade Manju

Your name: _____

Please select Manju type by putting the number of **trays** ordered in the square (example: place a number 3 in the square next to "6-pieces of Fukashi Manju" if you would like to pre-order 3 **trays** of Fukashi Manju):

6-pieces of Fukashi Manju tray

6-pieces of Mochi Manju tray

3-pieces of Fukashi Manju & 3-pieces of Mochi Manju tray

of **trays** ordered _____ x \$10.00 each = \$_____ total due

Please pre-order by November 17, 2025 and make checks payable to:

The Salt Lake Buddhist Temple

Order forms & payment can be given to Kris Y. (OBC) or Sherrie K. (SLBT). THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!

YBA Mochi Fundraiser



The Ogden YBA will be making mochi again this year to provide you and all our temple friends with your New Year's supply!

We will be making the Mochi on
Saturday, December 13, 2025.

Please come out and help, if you can!

We are taking orders in advance. Mochi will be available for pick up at our Bodhi Day Service, **December 14, 2025.**

Please reserve your order by November 30, 2025

The price for each order is \$8.00
for an order of six pieces of Mochi!

**Thanks again for your support of the
Ogden Buddhist Church YBA.**



Ogden YBA Mochi Fundraiser Order Form

Thank you for your support! Your Mochi will be ready for pick-up
on **Sunday, December 14, 2025.**
Mochi is \$8.00 per tray of six.

Your Name: _____

of trays ordered _____ x \$8.00 each = \$ _____ Total

Please make checks payable to: Ogden Buddhist Church
YBA and mail to: P.O. Box 3248 | Ogden, UT 84409
or
VENMO @BuddhistChurchOfOgden
(write "YBA Mochi" in comments)

Thank you for your continued support!