



THE GEPPPO



A publication of the Buddhist Church of Ogden

155 North Street Ogden UT 84404

P.O. Box 3248 Ogden UT 84409

Supervising Minister; Rev. Jerry Hirano

Rev. Hirano contact info: Office: 801-363-4742

Emergency: 801-819-2648

May / June 2026 Issue

801-392-7132

Temple President: Michael K.

Minister's Assistant: Rev. Geoffrey R.

Minister's Assistant: Rev. James A.

Minister's Assistant: Charles A.

Assistant to the Minister: Annette K.

Web Site: ogdenbuddhistchurch.org

THE TERROR WITHIN (REVISITED)

Rev. J.K. Hirano

Let us cease from wrath, and refrain from angry looks. Nor let us be resentful when others differ from us. For all people have hearts, and each heart has its own leanings. Their right is our wrong, and our right is their wrong. We are not unquestionably sages, nor are they unquestionably fools. Both of us are simply ordinary people. How can anyone lay down a rule by which to distinguish right from wrong? For we are all, one with another, wise and foolish like a ring, which has no end.

— Shotoku Taishi

The events of September 11th once shook our world in a way that felt unimaginable. I wrote an article I called “The Terror Within.” Sadly, today, we once again find ourselves living in a time where war, violence, and uncertainty seem to surround us. Conflicts across the globe—particularly in the Middle East, tensions involving Iran, and wars that continue to unfold—fill our news, our conversations and our hearts with unease.

The deaths and suffering, both physical and emotional, continue to affect countless lives. And just as with the loss of a loved one, many of us react with anger, disbelief, sadness, and grief. Even when we understand that impermanence is a central teaching of the Buddha, when suffering touches us directly, we are often surprised by our own reactions.

What continues to surprise me is how quickly anger and the desire for retaliation can arise within me. When we hear of attacks, threats, or escalating conflict, there is a natural impulse to respond with strength, with force, with the idea that something must be done immediately. These feelings are not new—they are part of our human condition.

But as we reflect more deeply, we begin to recognize this pattern. Fear turns to anger. Anger turns to blame. And blame often leads us to dehumanize others. We begin to divide the world into “us” and “them,” forgetting that the very tendencies we condemn are also present within ourselves.

This is not limited to any one nation, religion, or group of people. The seeds of hatred and intolerance are not confined to distant lands or unfamiliar cultures. They exist within all of us. Whether we are aware of it or not, anger and resentment are often just beneath the surface, waiting for the right conditions to arise.

At the same time, during moments of crisis, something else also arises.

Rev. Hirano's article continued on next page

We see an outpouring of compassion. People reaching out to help one another. Communities coming together. Acts of kindness that remind us of our shared humanity. These responses are just as real as the anger and fear. We live in a society shaped by many beliefs and traditions. As Buddhists, we may not always express ourselves in the same way as others around us, but we can still understand the feelings that give rise to their actions. There is a time for teaching, and there is a time simply for being present, for supporting one another, and for acting with kindness.

In times like these, we may feel powerless. We may wonder what we can possibly do in the face of such large and complex events.

But the Buddha's teaching gives us a place to begin. We can look within.

We can recognize the anger that arises in us, and instead of acting from it, we can pause. We can choose not to let hatred take root. We can act with care, with patience, with compassion—first in our own lives, and then in our communities.

If a small number of individuals, driven by anger and hatred, can bring about such widespread suffering, then what might be possible if we, as individuals, act from compassion?

This is not naïve. It is deeply practical.

Every action we take contributes to the world we live in. The law of karma reminds us that causes and conditions shape outcomes. If we respond to hatred with more hatred, the cycle continues. But if we respond with understanding and compassion, even in small ways, we begin to interrupt that cycle.

Shotoku Taishi reminds us that we are all limited, all partial in our understanding. None of us holds the complete truth. This humility is essential, especially in times of conflict, when certainty can quickly turn into self-righteousness.

As adults, we have a responsibility to examine our own hearts. To notice when anger arises, and to work with it. To refrain from harmful actions, even when they feel justified. To cultivate compassion, not just for those we love, but for all beings.

For our children, the teaching can begin simply. Be kind. Be patient. Treat others with respect. Not just friends, but everyone.

If even a few individuals can influence the world through hatred, imagine what is possible when many act from kindness.

This is the heart of the Buddha's teaching—love and compassion for all beings.

In a world where many pray for protection and blessing, we can remember that Amida Buddha's compassion embraces all beings without exception. It is not limited by borders, nations, or beliefs.

We are called to live within that compassion and to express it through our actions.

As the Dhammapada teaches: *"Let us live happily then, hating none in the midst of those who hate. Let us dwell free from hatred among those who harbor hatred."*

Namo Amida Butsu.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

When you receive this Geppo we will have participated in possibly the last Nihon Matsuri for some time. Thank you to all the volunteers who came out to help that day.

Annette and I attended the National Council Meeting in Renton, Washington, where the delegates welcomed our new president Glenn I. Those who attended our district meeting in Moab were able to meet and talk with him.

We are looking at some repairs on the outside of the multi-purpose room. This will be completed by early May, weather permitting. Another project we will be undertaking is the repaving of the parking lot. We will be getting bids and may start sometime after Obon.

The housing project to the east of our property should get underway soon. The developers have put in the road and will start digging the foundations soon.

If anyone has any questions, please let me know.

In Gassho,
Mike K.



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 the dollar amount spent, so that I can include it on your year-end statement of contributions.

Thank you,
Betty Y.

SAVE TAXES AND HELP THE TEMPLE



In 2026 non-itemizing taxpayers can deduct cash contributions up to \$1000 for singles and \$2000 for married couples filing jointly. Thus, donating to the temple in cash or in-kind (purchased goods) will be able to reduce your taxes even if you do not itemize.



NIHON MATSURI DONATIONS

We are grateful to those who donated needed items for Nihon Matsuri

Maya C.
Brenda K.
Mike and Annette K.
Ernie & LaVerne K.
Mike & Darlene M.

Geoff and Linda R.
Ruth S.
Roland and Janice S.

Craig & Geniel S.
Steve & Kris Y.
Kirk & Betty Y.
Mae M. and Jani H.
(GriDeli’s North)



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*

Masami Miya - March 22, 2026



MEMORIAL DAY CEMETERY SERVICES

Monday, May 25, 2026

Cemetery services will be as follows:

- 10:00 a.m. at Syracuse Cemetery
- 10:45 a.m. at Washington Heights Cemetery
- 11:15 a.m. at Ogden City Cemetery



HATSUMAIRI

Our Hatsumairi (infant presentation) will be held in conjunction with the Gotan-E service on May 17, 2026. Please let us know if you have a baby in your family born this past year, as we want to recognize all our new Dharma School babies during this annual presentation. Please fill out the form in this newsletter so we can get all the information needed for this special (and always cute) presentation.





BWA NEWS

By Brenda K.



Do not ask your children to strive for extraordinary lives. Help them instead to find the wonder and the marvel of an ordinary life. Show them the joy of tasting tomatoes, apples and pears. Show them how to cry when pets and people die. Show them the infinite pleasure in the touch of a hand. And make the ordinary come alive for them. The extraordinary will take care of itself. – William Martin

Our Buddhist Women's Association continues to be involved with not only its activities, but many of our members are assisting with Dharma School events. Thank you to the members who played a role in preparing the Ohigan/Keirokai luncheon on March 22. Also, our appreciation to those who contributed salads and sides for the Hanamatsuri luncheon and those who donated baked goods for the bake sale.

120 meal packs were created on April 19th to donate to the Ogden School District Foundation to distribute to students in need. The contents were gathered by Ruth S. and Betty Y. The Dharma School students helped put together the kits to be delivered by LaVerne K.



The Nihon Matsuri street festival was on April 25 in Salt Lake City, and the temple had a booth largely due to efforts from BWA members. Our gratitude to those who donated ingredients for and those who helped make the fukashi manju on April 18 which was sold at the festival. Members also donated and made mochi bites to sell. Also, a huge thank you to all who labored in the booth the day of the festival. All proceeds were dedicated to the temple general funds.

On May 16 our members will gather at 9:00 am, working all day to prepare sushi for our annual sushi fundraiser, which is on May 17 in conjunction with the Gotan-E service. Thank you again to all who commit their time and efforts to prepare and sell the final packaged product. Again, the proceeds will be funneled into the temple's general fund to help with the operating expenses.

In preparation for the upcoming Obon festival on July 18, 2026, the BWA has set dates to make manju for the event. June 20 at 9:00 a.m. the group will be making fukashi manju followed by yaki manju preparation on July 12 at 9:00 a.m. Then on July 17 at 9:00 a.m. BWA members will prepare the mochi manju. Please come and help if you are available.

The next BWA meeting will be on **May 3, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.** with the following meeting set for **June 14 at 11:00 a.m.** Please be in attendance if possible to provide your input.

THANK YOU!

BWA DONATION

Omitted for online version

BWA MEMBERSHIP

Omitted for online version



DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS



Our Dharma School year is quickly coming to a close! A quick recap of our Dharma School events since the last Geppo issue: The Dharma School prepared the Keirokai lunch in conjunction with the Spring Ohigan service on March 22nd. The Dharma School prepared and served a delicious meal for all who attended. Our thanks to **Justine H.**, **Robyn H.** for coordinating the luncheon and to **Kris Y.** and **Betty Y.** for purchasing all the ingredients needed. Also, our gratitude to everyone who came to help with the preparation of the meal, furnished Rice Krispie bars for dessert, and helped with clean up.

On April 5th, our talented Dharma School students participated in our Hanamatsuri program. We were honored to have the beginning taiko group perform their “maiden performance” for our audience. Additionally, the Pre-School through 2nd grade class sang, “Buddha Loves You” in such **cute** costumes; the 3rd-5th grade performed a skit about the birth and life of Siddartha Gautama; and the 6th-9th grade class performed a skit called “The Rabbit and the Moon.” Then, we were treated to a magic show performed by Carson B.. All the students did a fantastic job!!! Our appreciation to **Kris Y.**, **Christy F.**, **Maya C.** and **Brenda K.** for their efforts to create, organize, practice and coordinate the program with the students and their parents and grandparents. Some pictures are included in this newsletter. A special thank you to **Ellen K.** and **Valerie O.** for donating the goodie bags for the performers. Also, our gratitude to **Robyn H.** and **Justine H.** for coordinating the Dharma School bake sale during the Hanamatsuri luncheon. The proceeds from the bake sale help fund our Lagoon Day lunch.

Moving forward, on Sunday, May 14th, our annual Hatsumairi, infant presentation, will be held in conjunction with our Gotan-E service. If you have a baby or a grandbaby you would like to present to our Sangha, please contact Kris Y. or myself. The registration form for participating in the presentation is found within this newsletter.

We will be honoring any of our Dharma School graduates for this school year during a special service on Sunday, June 14th. We will also be holding a celebration for our Dharma School students’ birthdays after service on the 14th.

Please mark your calendars for these upcoming special services.

Finally, our annual Dharma School Lagoon Day is scheduled for Sunday, June 21st. Discount passes will be \$71.00 per person. The discount passes will be available for sale as the event get closer. Like last year, families are allowed to bring their lunch items. If anyone has questions about this event, please let me know.

In Gassho.
LaVerne K.

DHARMA SCHOOL DONATIONS

Omitted for online version



HANAMATSURI PROGRAM



May Shotsuki Hoyo

May 17, 2026 at 1:30 PM

May 14 1972 Mitsuko Hamada Enomoto
 May 16 2006 Etsuko Fujimoto
 May 15 2022 Aiko Inouye Hamada
 May 17 1963 Zentarō Higashiyama
 May 1 1973 Tomene Higashiyama
 May 10 2009 Leo Sumio Iseki
 May 24 1969 Tsunayoshi Iseki
 May 26 1965 Shujiro Kakushi
 May 31 2011 Fumi Ota Kamigaki
 May 20 2014 Dale Kano
 May 29 1969 Buichi Kataoka
 May 10 1960 Tome Kawaguchi
 May 10 2013 Kim Kawashima
 May 1 1968 Keitaro Kikuraku
 May 25 1995 Sumiko Koga
 May 28 2002 Shigeko Koga
 May 4 1954 Kaihei Kosaiku
 May 1 1926 Ruby Kosaiku
 May 24 1991 Tsugi Miyagishima
 May 8 1979 Sakujiro Moriyama
 May 24 1974 Shinayo Nakano
 May 17 1986 Hana Nishihara
 May 31 1961 Tsurukichi Omori
 May 16 1973 Suga Omori
 May 19 2009 Henry E. Riley
 May 15 2019 Max Ryuji
 May 19 1969 Ginichi Shigei
 May 4 2013 Kerry Mamoru Shimada
 May 3 1972 Tomeyo Shimada
 May 16 1970 Mike Maseo Shimizu
 May 1 1987 Naka Shiramizu
 May 29 1996 Hisako Teramoto
 May 6 1999 Harry Hisao Teramoto
 May 22 2001 Kiyoshi Kay Watari
 May 16 1993 Yoshiye Yamaguchi
 May 16 1991 Kamesaburo Yamasaki
 May 21 2011 Mitsuru "Sootie" Yamasaki
 May 20 1970 Shigenori Yano
 May 6 1972 Toriko Yei
 May 10 2016 Yoshiko Yokota
 May 27 2017 George Goro Yonemura
 May 26 2012 James Yonemura
 May 30 2006 Daiiche Yoshimura
 May 20 2005 Sumiye M. Yoshimura
 May 27 2001 Masaji Roy Yoshinaga
 May 1 2008 Helen Fujiko Yoshinaga

June Shotsuki Hoyo

June 14, 2026 at 1:30 PM

June 28 2005 Haruye K. Endo
 June 12 1998 Yoshiyuki George Hirabayashi
 June 16 1998 Shizue Kano
 June 16 1969 Shigejiro Kawaguchi
 June 7 1977 Kanichi Kawaguchi
 June 28 1985 Kiku Kudo
 June 23 1965 Uji Miya
 June 30 1965 James Jusuburo Murakami
 June 24 2001 Hichiro Jim Nakano
 June 20 2020 Kiyoshi Nakayu
 June 23 1994 Mine Ogata
 June 25 1965 Kakutarō Okawa
 June 24 1998 Masao Okuda
 June 18 2024 Alice Onishi
 June 6 2000 Kimiko Tsukamoto
 June 27 2016 Arthur Asa Toimoto
 June 17 2025 Haru Hamada Toimoto
 June 29 2016 Masayo Y. Sato
 June 3 2014 Misuko June Shimada
 June 6 2002 Joe Yamashita
 June 26 1976 Suga Yano
 June 11 1993 Tome Yoshimura

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: 801-363-4742, Emergency: 801-819-2648. Any corrections please contact Ruth Schriock, 801-259-6908

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



Sunday, May 3, 2026
Service at 1:30 p.m.

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER: Rev. Sydney Shiroyama, Palo Alto Buddhist Temple

Rev. Sydney Shiroyama (she/her) is a certified minister's assistant at the Palo Alto Buddhist Temple who completed Tokudo ordination in October 2025. She is a pediatric Occupational Therapist and plans to move to Japan this October to continue her journey toward full time ministry. She is also a founding member of Bonbu Stories, an Asian American artists collective. In 2024, the group created "Lantern Song", a new Obon song and Odori dance created to commemorate the Buddhist Churches of America's 125th anniversary.



GOTAN-E
May Shotsuki Hoyo
Hatsumairi
Sunday, May 17, 2026
Service at 1:30 p.m.

This service is to celebrate the birth of Shinran Shonin (1173-1262), the founder of our sect. It is also called Fujimatsuri in reference to the Wisteria flower which represents our sect. Unlike other flowers which seem to stand up straight and tall when in full blossom, the wisteria hangs down, when in full bloom, as if in humility. This teaches us that a true and real human being does not stand up in arrogance at their accomplishments, but rather realizes that they have so much for which to be grateful.

In connection with this very special observance, we hold Shosanshiki also know as Hatsumairi (First visit ceremony) or Infant Presentation service. This service is held for all children born into our Sangha over the past year. It is a day to present the child to Buddha and to the Sangha, and to celebrate their first step upon following the Dharma.



JUNE SHOTSUKI HOYO
Graduation / Dharma School Birthday Celebration
Sunday, June 14, 2026
Service at 1:30 p.m.



LAWN SCHEDULE

Thank you to everybody who pitches in every summer to help keep our temple grounds looking fantastic!



WEEK OF	SCHEDULED PEOPLE
4/26/2026	Mike K., Tom F., Craig S.
5/3/2026	Steve K., Bart H., Kevin H.
5/10/2026	Geoff R., Ray L., Brock C., Jonathan B.
5/17/2026	Ernie K., Andrew K.
5/24/2026	Kirk Y., James A., Steve Y., Charles A.
5/31/2026	Steve K., Bruce F., Ryan Y.
6/7/2026	Mike K., Tom F., Craig S.
6/14/2026	Blaine Y., Billy Z., Cy Z.
6/21/2026	Ernie K., Andrew K.
6/28/2026	Geoff R., Ray L., Brock C., Jonathan B.
7/5/2026	Steve K., Bruce F., Ryan Y.
7/12/2026	Mow Lawn During Obon Outside Clean-up
7/19/2026	Kirk Y., James A., Steve Y., Charles A.
7/26/2026	Blaine Y., Bart H., Kevin H.
8/2/2026	Mike K., Tom F., Craig S.
8/9/2026	Ernie K., Andrew K.
8/16/2026	Geoff R., Ray L., Brock C., Jonathan B.
8/23/2026	Steve K., Billy Z., Cy Z.
8/30/2026	Kirk Y., James A., Steve Y., Charles A.
9/6/2026	Blaine Y., Bart H., Kevin H.
9/13/2026	Mike K., Tom F., Craig S.
9/20/2026	Ernie K., Andrew K.
9/27/2026	Geoff R., Ray L., Brock C., Jonathan B.
10/4/2026	Steve K., Blaine Y., Bruce F., Ryan Y.



Obon Festival - Sunday, July 18, 2026
Obon/Hatsubon Services - Sunday, July 19, 2026



DANCE PRACTICE - 7:00 pm

Monday, June 29	Wednesday, July 1	Friday, July 3
Monday, July 6	Wednesday, July 8	Friday, July 10
Monday, July 13	Wednesday, July 15	

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>May 2026</h1> 					1	2
3 10:00 am BWA Meeting 11:00 am Dharma School Meeting 12:00 Meditation 12:00 Discussion 12:45 Dharma School 1:30 Family Service w/Guest Speaker	4	5	6 7:00 pm - GO Night	7	8	9
10 12:00 Meditation 12:00 Discussion 12:45 Dharma School 1:30 Family Service	11	12 7:00 pm - Board Meeting	13 7:00 pm - GO Night	14	15	16 9:00 am - BWA Sushi Prep
17 9:30 BWA Sushi 12:00 Meditation 12:00 Discussion 12:45 Dharma School 1:30 Gotan-E / Hatsumairi / May Shotsuki Hoyo	18	19	20 7:00 pm - GO Night	21	22	23
24 No Services	25 Memorial Day Cemetery Services: 10:00 10:45 11:15	26	27	28	29	30
31 12:00 Meditation 12:00 Discussion 12:45 Dharma School 1:30 Family Service						

TOBAN CLEANING GROUP:

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



*Service with Rev. Hirano

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<h1>June 2026</h1>						
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 10:00 SLC Pride Parade 12:00 Meditation 12:30 Discussion 1:30 Family Service	8	9 7:00 pm - Board Meeting	10	11	12	13
14 11:00 BWA Meeting 12:00 Meditation 12:30 Discussion 12:45 Dharma School 1:30 Family Service / June Shotsuki Hoyo Graduation	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 Dharma School Lagoon Day 10:00 Mediation 10:30 Discussion	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 10:00 Mediation 10:30 Discussion	29 7:00 pm - Obon Dance Practice	30				

TOBAN CLEANING GROUP:
 Mike & Annette K. (Toban Cleaning Leader)
 Maya C.
 Christy F.
 Julia F.
 Brenda K.



*Service with Rev. Hirano

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 801-725-6096 or my email address is yamiiek@netscape.net.

Thank you. - Betty Yamashita



As Mike mentioned in his President's Message, this may be our last Nihon Matsuri for a while, so a thank you to everyone for making it happen.

A big thanks to all our volunteers who helped with Nihon Matsuri last Friday and Saturday. Taking care of our booth is hard work, especially having to haul so much equipment and supplies all the way from our church down to Salt Lake. We are lucky to have so many members willing to use their vehicles for that task.

We are grateful to the Japanese Christian Church for allowing us to use its kitchen to cook our rice. Thank you to Mike K., James A., Stan H. and Alex H. for taking care of cooking the rice and getting it to the festival and to the booth. It was a long way from the Japanese Christian Church's kitchen to our booth.

Big thanks to our tonkatsu fry crew who stood over the hot oil the whole day, like Steve K., Blaine Y., Kevin H., Kirk Y., Bart H. and others. Kevin was also our curry master and made each batch and got it to the booth without spilling a drop!

This year the work in the booth worked out well. Everyone showed up for their four-hour shifts and we had a smooth transition for each time slot. We have a small space for so many people, but we all worked well together, got the job done and enjoyed spending time with each other. Thanks to Ernie K. for manning the "payment station" all day. A huge thank you to ALL the volunteers in the booth.

We appreciate the clean-up crew who took in all the dirty dishes back at the church and got everything washed and cleaned.

All this would not be possible without Kris Y.. Kris prints all the labels, brings all the extra tables, the ladder, crates and the washing station. You need something, Kris has it. On top of all of such prep-work, she makes sure we pass our health department inspection. Thank you Kris for keeping us so organized!





Hatsumairi Infant Presentation

Our Hatsumairi (infant presentation) will be held in conjunction with the Gotan-E service on May 17, 2026. Please let us know if you have a NEW baby in your family or if you know of a baby born this past year. We are excited to recognize all our new Dharma School babies during this annual presentation.

*Please complete the form below and email to Kris Y. at <omitted> or text to <omitted>.

Infant Full Name:

Mother's Name:

Father's Name:

Baby's Birth Date:

Full Address:

Phone Number:

Each infant will receive a special certificate and ojuzu for coming.

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!