

Nembutsu Wave



Monterey Peninsula Buddhist Temple - 1155 Noche Buena Seaside, CA 93955 - 831-394-0119
www.montereybuddhist.org

White Ashes

“Hard is to be born into human life” A Buddhist parable says that being born is a rare and wonderful event that takes countless causes and conditions. If a sea turtle swims in a vast ocean and every one-hundred years comes up out of the depth of the ocean and takes a breath. The turtle goes back down for another 100 years. Suppose a small ring 3’ in diameter is floating in that vast ocean. The sea turtle comes up out of the ocean and pokes its head up for the once in 100 years’ breath of air and comes up right through the 36” diameter ring.

What are the odds of this happening? They are phenomenal. This is how the Buddha described our birth into this world. A rare and wonderful event that takes countless causes and conditions.

By the same token countless causes and conditions lead up to our death. In an instant we may be gone. Last Sunday, I was attending the funeral of Mr. Richard Endo. His cousin Rev. Michael Endo came into the room where the ministers were gathered before the funeral and announced that Laker star Kobe Bryant had been killed in a helicopter crash. We were all shocked at the news.

Subsequently I learned that 8 other people had died in that crash along with Kobe Bryant’s 13-year-old daughter. How tragic and sad for all the families. On that same day a tragic marina fire broke out in Alabama killing 8 people. A plane crashed on that same day killing 2 people. And hours later on the same day 7 US servicemen and women were killed in an Air Force jet crash.

When we all heard about Kobe Bryant we were saddened by the news. At the same time death and tragedy is happening all the time around us. It becomes stark and real for us because of the celebrity of Kobe Bryant. It is no less sad and tragic for all the other lives lost that day around the world. It comes to the forefront of our minds and hearts because it is someone we “knew” and admired.

Kobe Bryant and all the others lost that day, teach us the rarity of birth and the frailty of life. In one instant they are gone from this world.

In silently contemplating the transient nature of human existence, nothing is more fragile and fleeting in this world than the life of a human being. Thus, we have not heard of human life lasting for a thousand years. Life swiftly passes and who among us can maintain our form for even a hundred years?

continued

White Ashes - continued

Whether I go before others, or others go before me; whether it be today, or it be tomorrow, who is to know? Those who leave before us are as countless as the drops of dew. Though in the morning we may have radiant health, in the evening we may turn to white ashes. When the winds of impermanence blow, our eyes are closed forever; and when the last breath leaves us, our face loses its color.

Though loved ones gather and lament, everything is to no avail. The body is then sent into an open field and vanishes from this world with the smoke of cremation, leaving only the white ashes.

There is nothing more real than this truth of life. The fragile nature of human existence underlies both the young and old, and therefore we must, one and all, turn to the teachings of the Buddha and awaken to the ultimate source of life.

By so understanding the meaning of death, we shall come to fully appreciate the meaning of this life which is unrepeatable and thus to be treasured above all else. By virtue of true compassion, let us realize the irreplaceable value of human life, and let us together live with the Nembutsu in our hearts. *Namu Amida Butsu*

You and I have been given the gift of life and the gift of the Dharma by your family members. They reach out to us today imploring us to listen. The Zenmonshu said:

1. Listen like it's the first time you are hearing
2. Listen like it is for you alone
3. Listen like it is the last moment in your life.

To be able to encounter the Buddha Dharma is a rare and wondrous event that is truly "difficult to be" or arigatai. We have been given by your family the rare opportunity as sentient beings to be able to hear and receive the Buddhas Dharma that is the nembutsu teaching. Shakyamuni expounds the teaching of Amida Buddha's Primal Vow and we are now able to hear the receive it. Let us be immersed in the light of Amida.

Gassho,

Rev. Hosei Shinseki

MARCH 2020

Shotsuki Hoyo Sunday, March 8, 2020 - 10 A.M.

Deceased

Setsuji Kodama & Rose Sonoe Kodama
 & Mae Satsuki Kodama
 Sonosuke Tsubouchi and
 Joanne Chisato Nishi
 Kozaburo Saiki
 Michiko Inazu
 Yoshitaro Yokota
 Ikutaro Takigawa & Toshiko Takigawa
 Yoshio Yokomizo
 Jisaburo Inagaki
 Miyuki Takahashi &
 Masako Takahashi
 Toshio Satow & Torazo Satow
 Chiyono Yamaguchi &
 Toshiko Yamaguchi
 Ginroku Kono & Jean Kono
 Yayano Hatakeda
 Waka Imai
 Harumi Tokubo
 Ayame Uyeda
 Fumiyo Stagnar
 Yoshiko Yoshihara
 Tome Hori

 Takara Nakamura &
 Isogoro Matsumoto
 Barbara Hanano & Haruno Hanano
 Masato Morikawa
 Masayuki Mike Higashi
 Nobumitsu Shijo
 Katsumi Tanaka
 Takeshi Sasaki
 Tom Kadomoto
 Toshie Kinoshita
 Kare Jean Shea
 Mariko "Mollie" Sumida
 Ikuo "Sam" Okuma
 Betty Phillips
 Jon Anthony Smith
 Haruko "Harkie" Honda
 Kaye Kinuye Tanaka

Family

Mr. George Kodama

 Mr. & Mrs. Ken Nishi

 Mrs. Miyoko Saiki
 Ms. Lisa Honda
 Dr. Eric Yokota
 Mr. Gene Takigawa
 Yokomizo Family
 Hamamura Family
 Takahashi Family

 Mrs. Margaret Satow
 Mr. Hitoshi Yamaguchi

 Ms. Kim Kono & Mr. Mark Kono
 Mrs. Tomiko Yorita
 Mrs. Fumiko Imai
 Ms. Naomi Takigawa
 Mrs. Atsumi Uyeda
 Mrs. Yuriko Davis
 Yoshihara Family
 Ms. Lisa Hori & Ms. Suzanne
 Schenck
 Mr. Bill Omoto

 Hanano Family
 Mr. & Mrs. Rey & Ann Alamares
 Mr. Craig Higashi
 Mrs. Tanemi Shijo
 Mrs. Fukuyo Tanaka & Family
 Sasaki Family
 Mr. & Mrs. Tom & Eileen Fukunaga
 Mr. & Mrs. Toru Kinoshita
 Shea Family
 Mr. & Mrs. Ray & Betsy Sumida
 Jane Okuma & Chris Gordon
 Jan Phillips Paulsen
 Ms. Karen Hoffman
 Mr. & Mrs. Lorence & Diane Honda
 Mr. & Mrs. Ed Tanaka

January Shotsuki Hoyo Donations

Itsuo & Keiko Nakasako
Sayoko Yokogawa
Alan Amemiya & Linda Kadani

Akemi Ito
Gary & Ranko Nakamura

Lisa Honda
Atsumi Uyeda

Joya-e & Shusho Service Donations

Akemi Ito
Thomas & Yuri Oda
Anonymous

Mary Shintani
Jim, Yoshiko & Bruce Arao

Mr. & Mrs. Osamu Matsushita
Masako Sawada

Hoonko Service

Lisa Honda
Roy & Sydney Yamashita
Toru & Mary Kinoshita

Katsumi & Atsuko Kinoshita
Robert Silva
Hidetake & Rimiko Ogura

Itsuo & Keiko Nakasako
Mary Shintani
Akemi Ito

Special January Donations Received

Stanley Kato, Shotsuki Hoyo in memory of Natsue Kawasaki
Naoko Ochikubo, Shotsuki Hoyo in memory of Dr. George Akira Ochikubo
Jane Naito, Shotsuki Hoyo in memory of Frank Tanaka, Yaye Tanaka and Ko Kadani
Tomio & Kimi Masuda, Shotsuki Hoyo in memory of Isao Masuda
Steven & Sherry Hattori, Shotsuki Hoyo in memory of Dr. Takashi Hattori
Rey & Ann Alamares, Shotsuki Hoyo in memory of Hisaye Morikawa
Ken & Yoko Nishi, Shotsuki Hoyo in memory of Ichiko Tsubouchi & Shika Tsubouchi
Dr. Eric Yokota & Family, Shotsuki Hoyo in memory of Tak & Margaret Yokota and Ayame Yokota
Randolph & Jeanne Onitsuka, Shotsuki Hoyo in memory of Alice Sakai
Anonymous Shotsuki donation for the month of January
Anne Oda, donation for nenju purchase
Rick & Ellie Hattori, Jenny Hattori and Tommy & Danielle Hattori, additional donations for maintenance repairs and painting of temple.
Marsha Shintani, donation in appreciation for mochi
Akemi Ito, donation in appreciation for omimai & Bodhi Day Service donation
Ohara Ikebana, c/o of Rimiko Ogura, facility use for December
Tai Chi, c/o Yoshiko Arao, facility use for November
Nar-Anon, c/o Cyndy Gosponetich, facility use July – September
Oseisen, anonymous donation for 12/31/19, 1/1/20, 1/5/20 and 1/19/20

(This entry noting Rick & Ellie Hattori (installed new gutters) in the February Newsletter was in error. Please accept our apologies for this incorrect acknowledgment)

Rick & Ellie Hattori, Special donations for Temple painting & Temple Building Repairs (installed new gutters)

Thank you for your Generous and Thoughtful Donations

BITS & PIECES

Otonowa Concert
Featuring: Akira Tana
Watsonville Buddhist Temple
Saturday March 7, 2020

@ 3:00 PM

Advanced Tickets: \$25.00

At the door: \$30.00

Please call 831-724-7860 or
Wbtemple.org

SPRING OHIGAN SERVICE &
DHARMA YOUTH PROGRAM
SUNDAY MARCH 22, 2020
AT 10:00 A.M.

The Ohigan service is a
time to praise the
Wisdom and Compassion
of the Buddha and
listen to the Dharma.



TRI-TEMPLE SOCIAL

Friday, March 20, 2010 - 7 PM

Please come and join the
Watsonville, Monterey & Salinas
Sangha at the Buddhist Temple of
Salinas for a fun social get
together.

See you there!!!

WITH DEEP APPRECIATION and
GRATITUDE TO

Tom & Shirley Pochylski
and
Merv Kato

For their very generous
donations to our temple in
memory of Mrs. Shizuko Kato.

With their generous dana, we
have replaced and installed all
new rain gutters at our
temple.

Domo Arigato Gozaimashita

We apologize to the Pochylski
and Kato family for originally
announcing in the February
newsletter that Rick & Ellie
Hattori has donated funds to
the temple to replace the rain
gutters. We are sorry for this
incorrect acknowledgement.

MOVIE NIGHT

Monterey Buddhist Temple
Friday, April 17, 2020 @ 7:00 PM

Ken Watanabe in

UNFORGIVEN

A spin on Clint Eastwood's
Unforgiven chronicling an aging
swordsmen who is lured back into
action for one final job.