

# Nembutsu Wave



Monterey Peninsula Buddhist Temple - 1155 Noche Buena Seaside, CA 93955 - 831-394-0119  
[www.montereybuddhist.org](http://www.montereybuddhist.org)

## July is Obon Season

In a few weeks we will be in what we call Obon season. Temples throughout the world celebrate and commemorate Obon. Sadly, this year, temples all over the world have been canceling the Obon celebration. This may be the first time since WWII that Obon has been canceled in many temples in the United States.

This is a time when we can take a moment to read about the significance and history of Obon. The tradition dates back to the time of the Buddha. The story of Obon comes from the Ullambana Sutra. A talented and wonderful disciple of the Buddha named Mogallana was well known for his ability to deeply meditate. He was thus able to see worlds beyond the human realm. He was able to see Jigoku (Hell), Gaki (Hungry Ghosts), Chikusho (Animal Realm), Ashura (Fighting Spirits), and Tenjin (Heavenly Beings).

One particular time while viewing the world of Gaki he was seeing all the many beings suffering in this realm. He was shocked and saddened to see his mother in this realm. She was hanging upside down and begging for water and food. Mogallana attempted to give her something to eat and when it reached her mouth it burst into flames, doubling her agony.

Mogallana, came out of his meditative state and immediately went to the Buddha and asked what he could do to help his mother. The Buddha informed Mogallana that his mother in her previous life had been selfish and therefore resides in the realm of the hungry ghosts. If he wants to help his mother, Mogallana was instructed that he must perform a selfless act of Dana (Selfless Sharing).

Mogallana then went to his fellow monks and presented them with clothing and food. This act of Dana released his mother from the realm of Gaki and when Mogallana saw this he danced for joy. This was the beginning of Bon Odori or the Bon Dance. The word Bon comes from the Sanskrit Ullambana.

The story of Obon is filled with symbolism and teachings that are very relevant to our lives today. Mogallana honors his mother with the practice of Dana. Each Obon we gather and honor our family members and make donations in their memory. We dance to celebrate our lives which are gifts given to us by our parents. We celebrate life with food dance and drink.

This year we cannot gather together to do this, but each of us can celebrate Obon in our own way. We can ring a bell, burn some incense and make a donation in memory of our loved ones. We can take a moment to remember our family members and vow to celebrate their lives by living our lives with gratitude, compassion and love. Happy Obon everyone.

Namoamidabutsu,  
Rev. Hosei Shinseki

**May Shotsuki Hoyo Donations**

Akemi Ito  
Itsuo & Keiko Nakasako  
Roy & Sydney Yamashita

Sayoko Yokogawa  
Toru & Mary Kinoshita  
Dr. Alan Amemiya & Linda Kadani

Wako Matsushita  
Miyoko Saiki

**Gotan-e Service Donations**

Toru & Mary Kinoshita  
Hidetake & Rimiko Ogura

Itsuo & Keiko Nakasako  
Dr. Alan Amemiya & Linda Kadani

Katsumi & Atsuko Kinoshita

**Special May Donations Received**

Jeffery Sumida, Shotsuki Donation in memory of Toki Takamoto  
Craig Higashi, Shotsuki Donation in memory of Chieko Higashi  
Becky Mann, Special monthly donation  
Shane Anderson, Special donation from Shane and Kimmie  
Nancy Tanaka, Gotan-e Service Donation  
Nathan Grijalva, Facility use donation for May  
Walt Uwate, Obon donation

**2020 Membership Dues Received**

Robert Silva  
Toshiko Uyeda  
Rick & Ellie Hattori  
Roy Sakai  
Sayoko Yokogawa  
Susie Tanaka  
Andy & Kathie Yoshiyama  
Margaret Satow  
Jill Yamashita  
Ruby Izumi  
Jane Hamada Shinseki  
Nancy Nakazawa  
Dr. Alan Amemiya & Linda Kadani

Roy & Sydney Yamashita  
Jack Krell  
Ray Sumida  
Marlyn Johnson  
Toru & Mary Kinoshita  
Judy Edmonds  
Miyoko Saiki  
Atsumi Uyeda  
Shane Anderson  
Jan Paulsen  
Lisa Honda  
Patricia Hori

Hidetake & Rimiko Ogura  
Katsumi & Atsuko Kinoshita  
Itsuo & Keiko Nakasako  
Hisashi Yoneya  
Dr. Sadayo Kanaya Lurie  
Laurel Lee Alexander  
Walt Uwate  
Mary Shintani  
Hans Royer  
Elaine Ewen  
Wako Matsushita  
Akemi Ito

*Thank you everyone for all your generous donations and thank you to all our members who have paid their 2020 Temple dues. All your financial support is appreciated during this very stressful time and your donations have helped us pay for the upkeep of our beautiful temple.*

**REMINDER:**

**To our Temple Members: During this very stressful time requiring everyone to “shelter in place” please let us know if you are in need of any assistance, such as: going to grocery store, going to doctor appointments, getting medications, etc. We are here to help you.**

**Please contact us: Julie Satow: (831) 595-2606. Linda Kadani: (831) 596-4132 and Akemi Ito: (831) 915-7534.**

**Stay Safe and Healthy.  
Monterey Peninsula Buddhist Temple**

**NOTES OF INTEREST****Online Live Streaming Sunday Services**

The Monterey Buddhist Temple will offer live streaming services each Sunday at 10:00 am until further notice. Log into the temple website at [montereybuddhist.org](http://montereybuddhist.org). On the home page, you will see a link to the “Sunday Service Live Stream”. Please join us each Sunday at 10:00 am.

Gassho,  
Rev. Jay Shinseki

**On Line Donation Option Available on Temple Website**

Make a one time donation to the Monterey Peninsula Buddhist Temple using a credit card via PayPal. No PayPal account is required, except to setup a recurring (monthly) donation if that is something you would like to consider.

Please view our website at [montereybuddhist.org](http://montereybuddhist.org). This option appears on the footer of every page of our website. We appreciate everyone’s generous donations and we hope this option will make it easier to forward your donations to our temple in the future.

If you have any questions, please contact our temple through our email:  
[montereydec@gmail.com](mailto:montereydec@gmail.com)

**2020 Membership Forms**

Please find in this newsletter our 2020 Membership form. The temple dues have remained the same as 2019. However, we once again are asking those who can participate to send in the additional \$155.00 BCA membership dues. The BCA dues have increased this year due to the increased 2020 Budget for the BCA.

Thank you to all our members who have paid for their 2020 Temple dues.

Arigatogozaimashita

**Statement in Support of Black Lives Matter and in Opposition to Racism**

**Today we find ourselves in a time of deep unrest and pain. There is no justification for the killing of George Floyd, of Ahmaud Arbery, of Breonna Taylor. These and other countless racially motivated misuses of force against Black people are a travesty that must not continue. The pain and anguish of the Black community is resounding throughout the United States and the world, and is touching the hearts of many more people, including our own ministers and members.**

**Amida Buddha is said to have the “Wisdom of Non-Discrimination.” This is manifested in the Great Compassion that embraces ALL beings. Amida Buddha does not reject anyone based on age, gender, class, race, or any other basis. Although it is difficult for us as unenlightened beings to manifest this Wisdom of Non-Discrimination, this radical equality is an ideal in our tradition. Although it is difficult for us as foolish beings to manifest the all-embracing Great Compassion, this kindness and caring is our model to strive for. However, this equality will never be reached until Black Lives Matter.**

**Buddhists are not immune from racism. The insidious influence of racism is learned from many x sources, usually unconsciously. It is important for us as Jodo Shinshu Buddhists to engage in self-reflection, and to be open to finding this racism within ourselves, as well as within our temples.**

**With the Buddha Dharma as our guide, let us help with the work to dismantle systemic and institutionalized racism, both within ourselves and our organization and in the community around us.**

**Harry Gyokyo Bridge  
On behalf of the Buddhist Churches of America Ministers  
Association**