



# Fellow Travelers

The monthly newsletter of the Longmont Buddhist Temple

Longmont Buddhist Temple Northwest corner – Pike Road and Main Street  
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## Message from Sensei John Minister's Assistant

On December 8, 1941 my dad, two of his brothers and one of my mother's brothers were at CU. The four of them went down and enlisted to defend democracy from fascism. By the end of the war four more uncles and one aunt served. My other two uncles served in Korea. Several cousins and I served during Viet Nam. My brother served after Viet Nam. My daughter and a nephew served in Afghanistan and Iraq. Both grandfathers served in WWI. An ancestor served in the French/Indian wars; several in the Revolutionary War and in the Civil War.

Grandmother's uncle died on San Juan Hill. The point of this recitation is that my family has a long, proud history of Service to Country. I am appalled at what is happening to our country today!

The current administration in the US is rushing headlong into being fascists. And many citizens of this country are so deeply divided and full of fear that they are not paying attention to how eerily similar Mr. Trump's words and deeds are to those of Benito Mussolini's in the 1920s and 30s. Racial hatred, concern for the rights of corporations over the rights of people, making all who are different into the "other," all these actions mirror the rise of fascism in Italy and Germany. Most who read these words had family members – fathers, uncles, grandfathers or great-grandfathers who fought fascism in the 1940s; but many are so imbued with fear that they are standing by and allowing our current government to become what our ancestors fought against.

In 1974 I read a book by Hannah Arendt in a Poli Sci class. I think it was "Totalitarianism." Ms. Arendt was a leading researcher in fascism – how it rose and why. One of most important things I remember from what I read is that many Germans and Italians were in deep fear because of the depression. When the fascists came along blaming the "Other" for all the troubles that the people were suffering, many accepted the lies because it meant that the blame

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had somewhere to go. There was someone to hate. Many good people kept their mouths closed and hoped the evil hatred would go away. It did not!

It is critically important to understand what is real – honest truth – and what is false. Mr. Trump constantly calls things that are demonstrably true as "FAKE NEWS." This is not an accident. This type of behavior comes directly from the playbook of Joseph Goebbels, Hitler's propaganda minister. Goebbels practiced telling lies over and over and louder and louder until many Germans believed them. This worked in the 1930s and it is working now. Good people need to stand up and call a lie a lie and the truth the truth; or the evil people will win.

Honest good people need to stand up and with love and compassion call a lie a lie and the truth the truth. Do not hate those who deluded; but do not enable the delusion. Stand up and be counted.

Namo Amida Butsu,  
Sensei John

First they came for the Socialists, and I did not speak out—  
Because I was not a Socialist.  
Then they came for the Trade Unionists, and I did not speak out—  
Because I was not a Trade Unionist.  
Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak out—  
Because I was not a Jew.  
Then they came for me—and there was no one left to speak for me.

German Lutheran pastor Martin Niemoller

**Temple Updates**  
**by Jackie Tono, Temple Board**

A huge, huge thank you to everyone for your Dana in helping with the Temple clean up!!! The 12-14 hearty souls who worked so hard to clean up our yard and garden areas before we had our visiting minister come did a super bang up job and all your hard work is greatly appreciated!! They cut down two dead trees, trimmed up the scrubs, cut/pulled all the weeds and fixed the bamboo fence in the garden. The timing was perfect because the City of Longmont also gave us a notice that we were in violation with all the weeds growing in our yard. Our timing of the Temple cleanup was perfect!!!!

In case you were not able to attend, the discussion & service with Rev. Ron Miyamura it was a very refreshing, honest discussion on Shin Buddhism. Thank you to everyone who brought refreshments for Saturday & Sunday.

New at the Temple: if you haven't noticed, when you enter the Hondo we have been fortunate to receive new service books from Noreen Okubo's sister and her husband (Karen & Howard Nakagiri). Karen was visiting Noreen here in Colorado. Noreen & Karen came to one of our services at the Longmont Temple. Karen is a member of the Orange County Buddhist Church, OCBC is the Church that published the new Shin Buddhist service books. Please take a minute to look through the book because there are many English translations to our chants as well as some great information about Shin Buddhism. I also noticed many songs that have been translated into English!! Maybe Christina and Stu will be able to teach us some new gathas.

Summer time is in full force with all our hot

temperatures!! Please make sure you stay in the shade and drink plenty of water. With summer here, we have a lot of events coming up.

The annual Rhythm on the River Duck Race tickets have been mailed out to our members. If you haven't received them, please contact Gail Hogsett for your tickets. This is a great fundraiser for the Temple. The St. Vrain Rotary hosts this event for all the non-profits in Longmont. We buy the tickets for \$1.00 (we have been fortunate in the past & this purchase has been donated to the Temple) & sell them for \$5.00. Our Temple profits the whole \$5.00!! In the past years we've had a few of our members win some of the smaller prizes!!! This could be your lucky year, buy a ticket or two & see if you are the lucky winner.

July 21<sup>st</sup> our Temple is having our largest fundraiser of the year. We will be holding a rummage & bake sale on Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup> of July from 9:00 – 3:00. Please see the other article in this newsletter for details on when we will be accepting small and large donations. We will need many, many volunteers to sort, label, set up, day of sales help and tear down and bake goodies for sale.

August 5<sup>th</sup>, Sunday, will be our annual Obon/Appreciation picnic which will be held at Kanemoto Park. We've had to change the date because our dancing devas were busy with other events. Kanemoto park has lots of trees so there will be plenty of shade on a hot day. We will be inviting all our former members to this event to thank them for all they have done to help keep our Temple growing. We will start at 10:00 with a walking meditation followed by service at 10:30, then Obon dancing followed by a potluck lunch.

I have said this many, many times but I am always so grateful to everyone at our Temple. We are a small Temple with few members, but everyone is always willing to step up and pitch in to help with our fundraising events Temple cleanup, bake sales or donate to someone in need. There was a request asking for donations to help one of our members who is dealing with some serious medical issues and having difficulties making ends meet. Many of you were so generous and opened up your wallets to help our member during this difficult time. We all are so grateful to all of you for all your dana and generous offerings, whether it's monetary, spiritually or physical help. It's so inspiring and humbling to me and I'm so grateful to be associated with such wonderful people in our Temple. A special thank you to the one person who made a large donation to the

Temple to help us set up a special fund to help other people in need. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!!! As Rev. Miyamura said, "Shin Buddhism is a religion of thank you". I am always so appreciative to everyone for all your support of the board, of Sensei John and of the Temple.

In Gassho,  
Jackie

### Wheel of Dharma July 2018

#### **President's Message: Why Am I a Shin Buddhist?** **By Rick Stambul, BCA President**



Some time back I attended a symposium at Gardena Buddhist Church. What was going on during Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto's Dharma talk was interesting and absorbing, but as happens with all of us from time to time, my mind started to drift. I couldn't stay focused. I noticed the picture of Shinran Shonin on the back wall of the *Naijin*. I saw my friends, Tosh and Masako Ishioka, and remembered the time when they asked me out to dinner. I recalled that meal with clarity. During the evening we talked about the old days when Tosh's family ran a boarding house in West Los Angeles for those returning from the camps during WWII; about their upcoming trip to Japan and my suggestion they be sure to visit Koyasan high up in the mountains. And what did we eat that night? Let's see, we started with...

Suddenly, my attention shifted to something that Rev. David said. He was talking about authenticity, love, friendship, and shame, and I realized he was offering something that really resonated with me. But where was my mind before then? It had been wandering all over the place.

And it is precisely this awareness of my monkey mind swinging from one branch to another with awe-inspiring skill that contains the answer to the question at hand: Why am I a Shin Buddhist? There is no correct answer to that question. What the Dharma means to me may not be what it means to others. For some it may mean just hanging out with friends

at the temple; for others it may mean searching deep inside themselves.

For me, being a Shin Buddhist means being aware that I was sitting at a Shin service while my head was somewhere else. My body may have been there, but my thoughts were in a different place. A classic case of dualism. Of not being present. Of not being fully awake.

It is the possibility of wakefulness that attracted me to Shin Buddhism.

To be present means to be awake. To be awake means to appreciate the interconnectedness of all beings and to realize a transformation of consciousness that allows one to dare to aspire to peace, freedom, and equality in oneself and in the world. To be awake means to try to build a society and a culture in this life befitting the Pure Land; a refuge of true peace and harmony without discrimination, hatred, or suffering. Being awake, being fully present, can create an awareness that allows us to engage in compassionate work.

Jodo Shinshu guides me to a deeper awareness of my own spiritual imperfections, my own inadequacies in a never-ending search for who I really am. Authenticity and shame are critical components of this exploration. The more I dig out the ore of my own spiritual faults and shortcomings, the more real and embracing becomes my awareness of Amida Buddha's compassion. By obtaining a deeper understanding of ourselves, we come closer to appreciating the truth of interconnectedness.

Rev. Mas Kodani (retired BCA minister of Senshin Buddhist Temple) teaches that the ego and its never-ending needs, is the real obstacle to awareness. In the rare moments, sometimes nanoseconds of time, when I briefly transcend the demands of my own ego, I can sense a new life, a spiritual rebirth. The deeper problem, however, is how to transform those glimmers of ecstasy into an enduring state of mind.

Namo Amida Butsu.

## *Wisdom and Compassion are Inseparable*

By Rev. Matt Hamaseki

Buddhist Church of Sacramento



I recently attended a banquet on behalf of a graduating high school senior. The banquet was put on to recognize students who maintained a high Grade Point Average (GPA). I thought I did pretty good in high school, but I was sitting in a room with over 100 students who were receiving awards for their academic excellence. Many of them had GPAs over 4.0. I was overwhelmed at their intelligence and thought I didn't belong among them.

I was there because I was invited as the "sponsor" for a member of the Junior Young Buddhist Association (Jr. YBA). This meant that this particular graduating senior felt that I made an impact in his life. I was incredibly honored and humbled to be thought of this way and it was my privilege to be able to go and celebrate his accomplishments. During the program, there was a student speaker who was well-spoken and had a good message. She said that, while that evening was all about numbers, the students themselves were more than numbers, and to remember that while finding their passions in life. I couldn't agree more. As Jodo Shinshu Buddhists, we take refuge in the Buddha of Infinite Wisdom and Compassion. Wisdom and compassion are inseparable. And while I am very proud of how smart this Jr. YBAer is, I also know that his caring personality is what will allow him to make a true impact on the world.

He never seemed to have his homework at the study sessions I held at the temple, but I guess that didn't matter since he still got good grades. He was more there for the camaraderie. And I will never forget when I put together a program for the Dharma School kids of all ages to participate in fun activities that would help them get in touch with the Dharma. A family with young children came to the temple for the first time. Without any direction, this senior took it upon himself to entertain these kids and make sure they had a fun time in a new place. His compassion led this family to a relationship with the temple. His actions were an inspiration to me for how to live a compassionate life.

The principal gave the closing words. He told the students to thank their parents for all the efforts they

put in during their high school career. From taxiing them everywhere to helping them study, graduating would have been impossible without their help. This was true for the Jr. YBAer's parents as well. They are two of kindest, funniest, most supportive people I know. And, as Jodo Shinshu Buddhists, when we look at Amida Buddha as our parent, we begin to realize all of the people who made our lives possible. I am so grateful I was given the opportunity to attend that banquet. Not only was I given dinner, I was also given a great honor, saw some great friends, and opened my eyes and heart to the Great Compassion of the Buddha.

### *Rummage Sale*

By Christina Hildebrandt, Temple member

Plan to give items to and attend the Temple's biggest fundraiser of the year, our **Rummage Sale on July 21st from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.!**

This is a fun way to hang out with your Temple friends and benefit your Temple as well. Outside in the parking lot, we'll have tents set up to sell the larger and heavier items; inside we'll have books, baked goods and refreshments for sale, and our bookstore will be open for business. John Sensei will give tours on the hour for people interested in Buddhism.

Please sign up for one or more of the following ways to help:

- You may bring things for the sale before and after both services July 1 and 15th.
- July 9, 11 and 13th from 4-8pm, we will accept donations of small items and clothing. That evening, we'll need **pricers, sorters and organizers of stuff.**
- Large items such as furniture will be accepted at the Temple on July 19th and 20th from 4-8pm, and you can **volunteer to organize** those things that evening.
- **Bakers**, please bring to the Temple on July 20 from 4-8pm your yummy cookies, cakes, pies and other goodies to sell.

## **Comment Regarding the Humanitarian Crisis at the U.S. Border**

Americans have always taken great pride in considering our country a humanitarian nation. Laura Bush, former first lady of the United States, commenting on the state of affairs at our nation's borders, reminds all of us that "these images are eerily reminiscent of the internment camps for U.S. citizens and non-citizens of Japanese descent during World War II, now considered to have been one of the most shameful episodes in U.S. history." I agree.

This is a humanitarian crisis that cannot be watched in silence. It is unacceptable to witness the utter lack of compassion, and the inhumanity of separating children from their parents. Horrific events occur when people lose their sense of humanity.

The Buddhist Churches of America is the oldest and largest Buddhist organization in the west. When people seeking refuge in the United States are automatically criminalized and their innocent children are traumatized, there is a humanitarian imperative to speak out as Shin Buddhists, and as human beings.

Richard A. Stambul  
President, Buddhist Churches of America

## **Message on the Separation of Parents and Children at the U.S. Border**

We all wish to see an immediate end to the cruel separation of children from their parents at the southern border of the United States. We are overwhelmed with feelings of profound sorrow and concern.

Our founder Shinran Shonin was guided by deep self-reflection. Following his example, let us realize that everything that happens in our human society is actually caused by us directly or indirectly. We should recognize the responsibility each of us has in the causes of and solutions to our problems. We sincerely want the suffering caused by inhumane actions to stop and for all of us live harmoniously and peacefully.

As Buddhists, we should strive to create a world of kindness to all beings by listening to the Compassionate Call from the World of Nirvana, the realm in which there is no separation between self and other; the True and Real Home for all.

Rev. Kodo Umezu  
Bishop, Buddhist Churches of America

## June Calendar

July 1	Regular Service	
	Newcomers Welcome	9:30 am - 10:00 am
	Meditation Service	10:00 am - 10:30 am
	Service and Dharma Talk	10:30 am
	Toban (Coffee/Tea Hour) in Community Room	11:30 am - 12:30 pm
	Board Meeting	12:00 - 1:00
July 8	Mindfulness Class with Sensei John Hughes	10:00 am - 11:00 am
July 15	Regular Service	
	Newcomers Welcome	9:30 am - 10:00 am
	Meditation Service	10:00 am - 10:30 am
	Service and Dharma Talk	10:30 am
	Toban (Coffee/Tea Hour) in Community Room	11:30 am - 12:30 pm
July 21	Rummage Sale	9:00 – 3:00
July 22	Mindfulness Class with Sensei John Hughes	10:00 am - 11:00 am
	Upcoming Events	
August 5	Obon at Kanemoto Park	10:00 am
September 15	Carnival	TBD

<b>Contact Information</b>		
Temple Website:		<a href="http://longmontbuddhism.org">longmontbuddhism.org</a>
Temple E-Mail		<a href="mailto:info@longmontbuddhism.org">info@longmontbuddhism.org</a>
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Treasurer: Gail Kanemoto Hogsett	303-776-9578	<a href="mailto:gkhogsett@gmail.com">gkhogsett@gmail.com</a>

ANNUAL OBON, PICNIC & FOUNDER'S

APPRECIATION DAY

NEW DATE: AUGUST 5, 2018

TIME: 10:00 A.M.

NEW LOCATION: KANEMOTO PARK SOUTH PRATT PARKWAY & MISSOURI AVE  
LONGMONT

**BRING A DISH TO SHARE & YOUR DANCING SHOES!**



# TEMPLE RUMMAGE SALE

DATE: SATURDAY - JULY 21, 2018

TIME: 9:00 A.M. – 3:00 P.M.

## COLLECTION DATES/TIMES:

SUNDAY-JULY 1, 2018	11:00 AM-2:00 PM	SMALL ITEMS ONLY
SUNDAY-JULY 15, 2018	11:00 AM-2:00 PM	SMALL ITEMS ONLY
JULY 9 <sup>TH</sup> , 11 <sup>TH</sup> , 13 <sup>TH</sup>	4:00 - 8:00 PM	SMALL ITEMS ONLY
JULY 19 <sup>TH</sup> & 20 <sup>TH</sup>	4:00 – 8:00 PM	LARGE ITEMS

PLEASE SIGN UP TO HELP ON ANY OF THESE DAYS

THIS WILL BE OUR LARGEST FUNDRAISER