



Baby Yuiya and an old rookie Papa - part 2

by Rimban Katsuya Kusunoki

After Ayano delivered the baby, she was very tired. The nurse said that the baby was also very tired. I was very tired, too. After I took a nap, I went home to pick up Ayano's sister. I wanted her to see and hold our baby. At the counter desk at the hospital, Ayano's sister signed in. When an entrance man saw the room number and my wristband, he could tell that we came to see a newborn baby. So, he said to me, "Congratulation. Are you a grandparent?" I know I look old, but I didn't expect that word at all. Ayano and I were both 39 years old at that time and having a first baby. When I calmly thought about my age, it is possible to be a grandparent. I am an old father. I am an old rookie Papa! His word made me truly realize that I became a father and we started our new life.

On Tuesday, September 20, Ayano and Yuiya were discharged from the hospital. I drove my car to the entrance. I put Yuiya in the baby seat. It took a while to tie the seat belt correctly. I carefully drove my car to our home. When we arrived at our house,



Ayano's sister welcomed us. After we made a phone call to Ayano's parents in Japan, we went to bed. Next morning, after I woke up, I went to our family Obutsudan to officiate a morning service as usual. While chanting a Sutra, I remembered when my older brother got married ten years ago.

His wedding was very big because my family temple's

membership is over 1500. My father was still the resident minister. My older brother was the one who would be taking over my father's place in the near future. So, a lot of people came to celebrate his wedding. It was a large-scale wedding. It was a splendid reception. Because we invited a lot of people, there were two wedding ceremonies and receptions. We rented a big hall in a hotel for this wedding reception. I think about 800 people came to his wedding receptions. Everybody was so happy. Specially, my father was very happy. He visited everybody to say thank you, do Kanpai and drink SAKE. He rejoiced very much to celebrate my older brother's wedding. Next day was on Sunday. Not many temples in Japan do Sunday Service, but my family's temple does Sunday service every Sunday. About 100 people came to the service. My father, my older brother, and I sat in the Naijin and chanted a Sutra. After that, my father usually gave a dharma talk. But, my father asked my older brother to read the "White Ashes" before his dharma talk. We usually read, listen, and remember the White Ashes, when we encounter death, tragedy, and sad situations. White Ashes reminds us that our life is impermanent, fragile and fleeting. That day was not a sad occasion. Nobody in our family died on that day. It was a happy and auspicious occasion. But, still my father asked my brother to read the White Ashes.

I don't remember all of my father's dharma talk but I remember that my father said, "We need to listen to 'White Ashes' now because it is a happy and auspicious occasion." We usually think that "White Ashes" tells us about "Death" and "Impermanence". We feel sadness and loneliness when we listen to "White Ashes". But, we have to know that White Ashes is not only talking about "Death". White Ashes is telling us about our "Life". "Death" is part of our life. "Wedding" is also part of our life. "Birth" is also part of our life. Our life is impermanent. Because we don't know what will happen tomorrow, we should cherish this moment. We should

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The Seattle Betsuin Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations August - September 2017

Funeral / Memorial / Nokotsudo:

Given by:

Noriko Holcombe – Funeral, Cremation and Memorial Services (7 th ; 14 th ; 21 st ; 28 th ; 35 th ; 42 nd ; 49 th Day)		\$ 3,500.00	Roger Holcombe
Eiichi Morimoto – Funeral Service	\$ 600.00		Ruth Morimoto
Nokotsudo – In Memory of Dick Hara	\$ 300.00		Reiko Hara
Takayuki Kawamoto – 13 th Year Memorial	\$ 300.00		Masako Kawamoto
Fred Suto – Inurnment Service	\$ 150.00		Carey & Tammy Suto
Judy Suto – Inurnment Service	\$ 150.00		Carey & Tammy Suto
Joseph Hamanaka – 7 th Year Memorial	\$ 100.00		Yoko Hamanaka
Nokotsudo – Removal of Urn	\$ 100.00		Katherine Hendrikson

In Memory of:

Given by:

Sumie Akizuki	Takiko Miyauchi
Marion Dumont	Ann Dreyer; Mark & Judy Jost; Ann Maruhashi; Donald & Lucille Nakanishi; Katsumi & Terrie Tanino
Minoru Fujii	Takiko Miyauchi
Tom Hasegawa	Takako and Paul Kogita
Daisy Kuramoto	Fumiye Taniguchi; Mutual Fish, Co. Inc.; Harry Yoshimura
Goroku Mochizuki	Shinya Nokota
Linda Quintua	Gerald Quintua
Gayle Sordetto	Takiko Miyauchi; Frances Shintaku

General Donations:

Given By:

In Honor of Miyoko Tazuma's 88 th Birthday	Gary & Sandee Hamatani; Jane Hamatani; Takako Kogita; Yoshio & Judith Nakamura; Mabel Nishizaki; Tokuzo & Mari Okumura; Frances Shintaku; Roy & Kazumi Shimizu; Sato & Darlene Shimizu; Masao & Frances Tamekuni
Cement Mixer for Rice Washing	Takako Kogita
Appreciation for use of Temple parking lot for wedding	Rev. Finch of Koyasan Temple: Finch Consulting, LLC
Appreciation for use of facilities	Keiro Northwest for classes
General Donation	Shinya and Jayne Ichikawa
General Donation	Charlotte Ramsey
General Donation	Stan Kondo & Bonnie Duran
Appreciation for Pickle Ball	Leslie Wittman
Appreciation for Onenju Repair	Janet Baba
Temple Visitation	Anonymous
Proceeds from Recycled Materials	Joseph Gotchy

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ON BEHALF OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE...

We would like to “thank” the following regular members, for contributing their minimum annual Sustaining Membership dues (the basic dues toward the Temple maintenance/operations). These are the most recent paid members for the fiscal year of 2017.

Steven Aisaka, Michele Anciaux-Aoki, Eric & Carolyn Ashihara, Nobie Chan, Jenni Chinn, Leonora Clarke, Florence Fujita, Cathleen Gosho, Kazumi Janice Gosho, John & Lynda Hamakami, Robert Hamatani, Kathy Hasegawa, Edith Imanishi, Gail Kaminishi, Malcolm & Eileen Kanemoto, Masao Koba, Duane & Ann Mayeda, Takiko Miyauchi, Yoshiko Miyauchi, Paul & Teresa Mori, Fumiko Nakamura, Junko Nakano, Marianne Osaki, Gerald Quintua, Kengo Sakamoto, Nori Suguro, Michael & Gayle Teramoto, Ryan Yamamoto & Suzanne Phan

We'd like to 'welcome' Ryan Yamamoto & Suzanne Phan as new members of our Sangha.

Youth install mural to beautify and advertise

Rev Kusunoki is pictured with artists Emily Ko and Caroline Natsuhara and the mural they designed and hand painted for Emily's Wohelo award for Camp Fire. Her intent was to add color and vitality to that wall of the temple and to increase awareness of our temple in the community. The theme is interconnectedness. Key figures represented include Shakyamuni Buddha, Shinran Shonin and his daughter Kakushinniko. The leaves of the bodhi tree show organizations within the Sangha. The mural is displayed on the alley wall and visible from Jackson street.



Save the Date: February 21-25, 2018

BCA Ministers' Association and National Council Meeting
Together in Gassho

DoubleTree Inn by Hilton - Sacramento, CA

Registration Materials will be sent to temples in October



**COLLEGE
WELCOME
DINNER**

at

**SEATTLE BETSUIN
BUDDHIST TEMPLE**

1427 S. Main Street Seattle, WA
98144

www.seattlebetsuin.com

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21
6:00—9:00PM**

Open to all 17-26 year-olds Looking for a Buddhist temple to be your temple away from home? Check us out at the Welcome Dinner and meet other students, Rev. Kusunoki and play ping pong or volleyball in our gym! Please rsvp to: office@seattlebetsuin.com or 206-329-0800
Transportation available with rsvp.

Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Women's Association

submitted by Machiko Wada

Thank you all for supporting our Oyakodonburi/bake sale on September 10. Members, thank you for donating baked goods, pricing, organizing, cooking, and cleaning, couldn't have done it without your help. Bake goods also sold out and we made over \$450. Thank you to Leanne and Mrs. Kawahara for spearheading the fundraiser.

Many feminine products were donated for commemorating Eshinniko-Kakushinniko memorial service. We have taken them to women's shelter. Thank you for your support and generosity.

The board nominees for 2018-2019 were sent to you. Please vote, some of the board members are retiring, we will be happy to install new faces. Please don't hesitate to join the board if interested.

SBBWA memorial service will be October 29. Hope you will join us for this important service for BWA. If you would like to send in pictures of your mother or grandmother who were SBBWA member, please mail to the temple or to office@seattlebetsuin.com. The photos will be shown during the service.

If you have an email address and are not getting our emails, please let us know. Call the temple office or email to office@seattlebetsuin.com

Thank you for coming to the pantry clean up. It's always nice to work with other members and to get to know each other.

Pictures are from Oyakodonburi fundraiser and Eshinniko-Kakushinniko service and are from Aki Taniguchi & Nina Tomita-Kato.



... Rinban's Message continued from p. 1

be grateful each single moment. On September 19, 2017, my wife delivered our baby "Yuiya". My wife and I were so happy although we were both so sleepy.

In that morning, I sat in front of our Obutsudan (family altar) and did a short service. At the end of the service, I read "White Ashes" to remind me of preciousness of our life and being grateful this moment.

Gassho,

Rev. Katsuya Kusunoki





Rainbow of Infinite Light: LGBTQ in Shin Buddhism Seminar in Seattle

Date: Saturday, November 18, 2017

Time: 10 am – 4 pm (check in begins at 9:15 am)

Location: Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple, 1427 S. Main
St. Seattle, WA 98144

Ticket Price: \$40 (Students \$20) which includes a box lunch (vegetarian option available) Please register by November 8, 2017. On-line registration is at rainbowbuddhists.brownpapertickets.com

The Seattle Buddhist Temple and Buddhist Churches of America -- Center for Buddhist Education will present **"Rainbow of Infinite Light," a seminar on LGBTQ and Shin Buddhism, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday November 18, 2017, at the Seattle Buddhist Temple, 1427 S. Main St, Seattle, WA 98144.** Participants will explore Shin Buddhism's historical and modern relationship with sexuality, gender and acceptance.

For more than 40 years, Shin Buddhist ministers have officiated same-sex marriages in the U.S. This legacy stems from Shin Buddhism's core principles of equality and acceptance of all.

The purpose of the LGBTQ and Shin Buddhism seminar is to show inclusivity within the Seattle Betsuin and BCA Churches. The committee would like to extend an invitation especially to those who have been raised in the Jodo Shinshu tradition and are LGBTQ to participate in this event.

We also welcome LGBTQ individuals who are BCA members to consider participating in a panel discussion the day of the seminar. The goal is to create a welcoming and accepting space for all! If interested, please contact Lynne Goodrich or Dean O'Shields for more details.

Registration deadline: November 8, 2017

Ticket includes lunch, coffee, tea, and snacks

\$40 general, \$20 student

For more information:

www.seattlebetsuin.com/index.php/rainbow

Registration:

rainbowbuddhists.brownpapertickets.com

Book Study Group

We will begin our discussion of the Larger Sutra on **Saturday, October 7, 2017** and be working from the translation by Hisao Inagaki. The meeting will take place in Memorial Hall Chapel from 9:30-11:30am. There will be a brown bag lunch afterwards. There is no cost to attend. submitted by Leonora Clarke



Scout Troop 252 News

Troop 252, Senior Patrol Leader Samuel S, Jacob L, Evan K, Brent N, and Jared N presented a flag ceremony at the 75th Remembrance of Puyallup Assembly Center, "Camp Harmony" on September 2. They also enjoyed the complimentary Washington fair afterwards. At the SPL meeting on September 10, we discussed the last summer camp and agenda for next couple months. We are set for Camp Parson next summer. We are planning to go camping in North Bend in early October. Special holiday projects will soon be planned by each assigned PIC (Person in Charge). We plan to invite cub scouts as we did last year and craft holiday ornaments with them. Gassho. Daniel

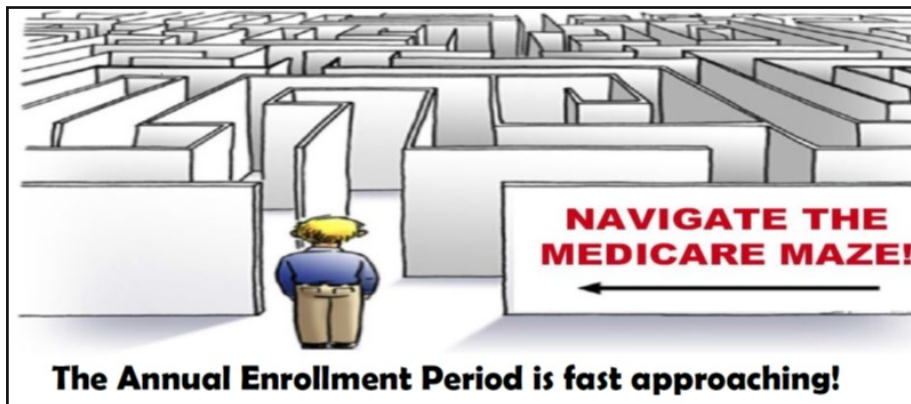
Musical Notes

submitted by Kemi Nakabayashi



One year ago for the Jodo Shinshu Center 10th anniversary celebration, I was able to arrange a meeting with Shinji Eshima during the afternoon social hour at Berkeley Buddhist Temple. My late mother Marion Dumont, and my husband Jim were with me. Shinji plays bass in the San Francisco opera and ballet orchestras. I had contacted him originally because he is the composer of the gatha *In A Quiet Valley*. My mother remembered Shinji's late father Tak Eshima who was a classmate of hers while in internment camp in Topaz, Utah. In July, Shinji contacted me to let me know that he was attending the opening ceremony of the Topaz Museum in Delta, Utah. A puppetry play *E.O. 9066* was part of the opening ceremony festivities there on July 8 and featured Shinji's original music. The theme from *E.O. 9066* is a variation of a work Shinji previously wrote called *August 6*. This composition premiered in San Francisco on the 50th anniversary of the Hiroshima bombing, written originally for violin and double bass. Later, Shinji orchestrated *August 6* for San Francisco Ballet's RAKU which premiered in 2011. We hope to welcome Shinji to Seattle next April as he plans to attend one of the Pacific Northwest Ballet premiere performances of RAKU. Check out the YouTube interview of Shinji speaking about his background and describing the collaboration and development of the SF Ballet production of RAKU at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rYNFo_4DDSo

Preparation continues for the 8th annual autumn music service on Sunday, November 19. Any additional children or adults interested in participating, please contact me as we are planning rehearsals for the instrumentalists. Sangha Singers resumed meeting in the hondo this fall. Anyone is welcome to join as we review gathas and learn new music in the hondo before the Sunday 10 am service.



Please call the Betsuin office at (206) 329-0800 to reserve your seat.
Submitted by Betsuin Office

Free workshop to get your Medicare questions answered by

Jerry Fujita and Kara Mayeda
Health Insurance Specialists

Sunday, October 15, 2017

12:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Seattle Betsuin Dining Room

Hatsumairi

Hatsumairi or "First Visit" is a Jodo Shinshu tradition that acknowledges the child's first visit to the temple. Parents present their children before Amida Buddha and members of the Sangha as an expression of their gratitude and desire to expose them to the teachings of the Buddha.

Children of all ages are welcome to participate in the Hatsumairi ceremony to be held during the 10:00 a.m. Family Service on October 15, 2017. If you would like to present your child(ren) at this joyous occasion, please complete a registration form available at the office and the September issue of this newsletter; **return it to the Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple, 1427 S Main St, Seattle, WA 98144 by October 8, 2017.** A Dharma School representative will contact you with details. If you have any questions, please direct them to the temple office at (206) 329-0800 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Dharma School News

Welcome back everyone!! The first day of Dharma School got us all off to a wonderful start with the *hondo* and halls filled with lots of excited children. We look forward to a terrific year. Thanks to everyone who came, registered their children and provided refreshments.

All Dharma school parents are welcome in the Memorial Hall chapel for parent's meetings and Dharma exchanges this year during class time. Have an idea for a discussion topic?? Let

Hatsumairi, or a child's first visit to the temple will be observed on October 15. In this special service children are presented to the sangha and parents pledge to raise them with the dharma. If you are or know of a family with an infant/child who you would like to participate in this event please fill out a registration form and return it to the temple by October 8.

Calling All Children Interested In The Upcoming Ochigo Procession Sunday, November 5! If you have a child who is interested in participating in this memorable event coinciding with the Ho-onko service, please pick up a participation form in the foyer and return to Yvette Terada or the Betsuin office by

Monday, October 10. You may also contact the Betsuin office for more information at [\(206\) 329-0800](tel:2063290800).

Classroom Reports

Pre-K & Kindergarten Classroom Report The Pre-K/K teachers welcomed their students to the first day of Dharma School by discussing Jodo Shinshu Buddhist etiquette. Temple and classroom behavior and rules were also discussed. To celebrate Fall Ohigan, the children read the book *Why Do Leaves Change Colors?* They then decorated boxes with red, yellow, orange, brown and green leaves and filled their boxes with similar fall colored candy. The teachers look forward to a fun and exciting year exploring the Dharma with their students and families.

1st/2nd grade: We've started off the first two Sundays with 8 very enthusiastic, bright kids. We began by introducing ourselves and learning some of our favorite snack foods. Yum! We read a book about Yoko the cat who could write in Japanese and we discussed good rules to have for the rest of the year so we can all be safe, considerate of each other and have fun. We have agreed on the ones we like and soon will sign our class contract.

submitted by Joyce Tsuji

Dharma Exchange Notes - an after-service discussion

August 27, 2017 - Rinban Kusunoki conducted the DX and read "A Thousand Winds," in English and Japanese. This poem was translated into Japanese by Man Arai, and it was originally called "Do not Weep at my Grave for I am not There." It came from the Makah Indians who reside in the NW corner of Washington state. Sensei's father allowed this song to be sung at an inter-faith program on August 8. . . Sensei commented on the differences between memorial services in Japan and the US. (A page from the Hongwanji Funeral Guidebook lists the eight separate services used in Japan. They are performed in eight different venues. (Copies were passed.) He commented that a memorial service helps one think about our life and our ancestor's lives as Buddhists. . . When we chant *Ko gen gi gi*, the sound comes from behind, as in the mountains and forests.. . In Buddhism, flowers teach a life of impermanence. Sensei said anything can be his teacher including his young son or a dog. . . When Sensei's father died 800-900 people came to pay respect 24 hours a day. When Rinban saw the movie, "Departures," he realized how much others had done for him. He described how after cremation the family picks over the remaining bones and puts them into an urn which goes to the gravesite at the 49th day service. . . Sensei related a few changes to be made at Dharma Exchange including the Dharmathon during which 2-3 ministers and ministerial assistants offer a brief talk of 7-10 minutes. . . Rosalie May MA talked about her early life in South Jersey when her family resided in an upscale neighborhood where she felt her family was the poorest. (Not actually poor in the classic sense -- just having less than most.) When she was in the 5th grade her teacher was very aware of people who were upper or lower class. She divided the class into groups reflecting her prejudice. Rosalie lost her best friend and was bullied all through the 5th grade, through middle and high school. She was able to escape by skipping her senior year and going straight to college. Later she lived in a tent on Orcas Island. Her best friend, Sarah, was kind and loving but spoke very poor English, which Rosalie felt she must correct. Rosalie later realized that luck plays a large part in determining which

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The Betsuin gratefully acknowledges the donations received for the following special services. If your name is not listed, the donation may have been received after the deadline for this newsletter and will be listed in the next edition. Please accept our apologies for any inadvertent misspelling of names:

Hatsubon / Obon: Aisaka, Steven; Akira, Donald & Karen; Anonymous, ; Arinobu, Gene & Yuki; Asaba, Marian; Baba, Janet; Beard, Clara; Beck, Chris & Marcia Kajimura -; Bobrow, Patricia; Chinn, Connie Ozeki -; Deguchi, Mae; Dodo-bara, Kenny & Yoshie; Driscoll, Irene Goto -; Enomoto, Sachiyo; Evans, Lisa; Fujii, Aiko; Fujinari, Suzanne; Fujino, Suteko (Sue); Fujishima, Tom & Ichiko; Fujita, Florence; Furuta, Geraldine; Furuta, Mary Y.; Furuta, Sue Sumiko; Glasser, Bill & Beverly; Habu, Gordon & Mae Yamasaki -; Habu, Jack & Fumi; Hamakawa, Ron; Hamanaka, Yoko; Hamatani, Jane; Hanada, Miyuki; Hanada, Peggy; Harada, Michiko; Harada, Setsuko; Hasegawa, Nancy; Hasegawa, Stephen; Hirata, Michiko; Huh, Jamie; Ichikawa, Satoru & Grace; Isomura, Toshiko; Kaku, Dale & Shizue; Kaminishi, Gail; Kaneta, Miyoko; Kashima, Tetsuden & Cecilia Kanako; Kashiwa, Ann T.; Kataoka, Kenny & Linda; Katayama, Mary K.; Kato, Alan; Kato, Kazue (Katie); Kato, Nina Tomita -; Kawahara, Ritsuko; Kawamura, Sanaye; Kido, Momoko; Kikuchi, Shizue; Kogita, Takako; Kojima, Esther; Kondo, Stan & Bonnie Duran; Kosai, June (Yoshie); Kozai, Yoshiko; Kubo, Masako; Kumasaka, Lisa; Kunihiro, M. Carolyn; Kuramoto, Daisy Toyoko (estate of); Kusakabe, Peter; Kuwahara, Kinue; Mamiya, Haruko; Mano, Mariko; Masunaga, Fumiye; Matsui, Tsugio Jack; Mayeda, Julie; Miyata, Tetsuo & Linda; Mizoguchi, Allan & Lorraine Blackler; Mizumori, Sheri; Mori, Paul Bruce & Teresa; Morikubo, Yukio & Karen; Nae-mura, Joseph & Janie Okawa; Nagai, Ernest & Sanaye (Sunnie); Nakabayashi, Kemi; Nakamura, Ruby; Nakamura, Yoshio & Judith; Nakanishi, Kiyoko; Nakano, Craig & Joan; Nakano, Junko; Nakayama, Curtis & Charlene; Natsuhara, Calvin; Natsuhara, Todd; Nishimura, Hiro & Dorothy; Nishizaki, Mabel; Ohtani, Michiye; Okada, Barry & Marlene; Okada, Emiko; O'Shields, Dean; Oxrieder, Gregory & Catherine Ann; Oye, Sunako (Sunkie); Poplawski, David & Karyn Taki -; Poplawski, David & Karyn Taki -; Ramsey, Charlotte Miya; Sako, Masako; Sakuma, Louise; Sakuma, Pauline; Sato, Joyce; Seko, Robert; Shibata, Dennis M.; Shigaya, Mary S.; Shigaya, Teruko (Terrie); Shimada, Shirley; Shimbo, Ben & Etsu; Shimizu, Roy & Kazumi; Shinoda, Franklin; Shintaku, Frances; Tahara, Masaru & Anna; Takamura, Kuniko; Takashima, Kiyoko; Taketa, Haruso & Sonoe; Tanaka, Nami (estate of); Tanaka, Rikuko; Tanemura, Kevin; Tanemura, Peggy; Taniguchi, Fumiye; Taniguchi, Martha (Masayo); Taniguchi, Theodore & Akiko; Tazuma, Grace; Tazuma, Miyoko; Terada, Allan & Kayoko; Terada, Calvin J. & Yvette; Terada, Hideko; Teramoto, Margaret; Teramoto, Stuart; Tokunaga, Toshio & Dolly; Toyoshima, Michiko; Uchida, Sam & Masako; Uyenishi, Tazuko; Wada, Machiko; Watanabe, Henry & Christy; Wong, Leanne Nishi -; Yahata, Shizue; Yamada, Arlene; Yamashita, Dennis & Elaine Aoki -; Yanagimoto, Michiko; Yee, Fukuyo; Yokoyama, Kevin & Kari Ann; Yoritsune, Charlene M.; Yoshida, Fuyo; Yoshida, Mary; Yoshimi, Crystal; Yutani, Nobuo; Zumoto, James & Tomiko;

Atomic Bomb Memorial Service: Fujii, Aiko; Kawahara, Ritsuko; Kawamura, Sanaye; Kubo, Masako; Kunihiro, M. Carolyn; Kusumi, Shogo & Fusako; Kuwahara, Kinue; Mamiya, Haruko; Miyauchi, Takiko; Namekata, Tsukasa & Keiko; Tanaka, Rikuko; Toyoshima, Michiko; **Bishop / Rimban Memorial Service:** Anonymous, ; Ichikawa, Satoru & Grace; Kashima, Tetsuden & Cecilia Kanako; Namekata, Tsukasa & Keiko; Shimbo, Ben & Etsu; Toyoshima, Michiko; **Gotan-Ye:** Uyenishi, Tazuko

New Time/Place for Meditation at Seattle Betsuin
Before Sunday Morning Service - 9:00am - 9:40am
In Memorial Hall Chapel - NOTE: NEW LOCATION!

New: Wednesday Morning Service

Service includes sutra chanting and readings from the Gobunsho on most Wednesdays from 10:00AM – 10:30AM in the hondo. Please check the calendar in the Betsuin newsletter or on SeattleBetsuin.com or call the office at (206) 329-0800 **to confirm** the morning service dates.

Reprinted from the Wheel of Dharma, October 2017

Mutual Recognition

By Rev. Kodo Umezu, BCA Bishop

Some time ago, I heard a senior member of the Buddhist Churches of America express with surprise that a long-time resident didn't even know that a Buddhist church existed in their town. I could see how that happened. Our Buddhist churches and temples have been here for over one hundred years. However, their main purpose had been to care for the wellness of the Japanese immigrants, their families and descendants facing historical and cultural obstacles such as racism, religious intolerance, and language differences. Our ministers and leaders provided whatever was needed in order for their people to survive in this country. Churches and temples were and are needed for those reasons. But the conditions surrounding our organization are rapidly changing. Today, we are seeing some positive changes. One is that more and more people are looking to Buddhism as their spiritual and religious quest. According to Rev. Nariaki Hayashi of Ekoji Buddhist Temple in Virginia, around 1,800 people came to their Obon Festival, and many people attended the Obon Service to listen to the Dharma. He also said that over 500 scouts came to the Buddhist Sunday Service at the 2017 Boy Scouts of America National Jamboree on July 23. The space allocated to the Buddhist group had a capacity for only 150 people, so he had to divide the group into three and it was still standing room only. As reported in the August issue of the Wheel of Dharma, Rev. Hayashi was assisted by a Youth Minister's Assistant, Brandon Fujii of Oxnard Buddhist Temple. Many scouts were impressed to see a young Buddhist actively participating in the Sunday morning service. Rev. Hayashi is trying to let the public know that Ekoji Buddhist Temple is there in the community. I would like us to encourage each other to let people know that we are here. It is our responsibility to let people know that we exist and

would like to welcome them. When the community recognizes our temple, our temple truly becomes a temple. This reminds me of the third stanza of Juseige*:

When I have fulfilled the Buddha-way, My Name shall pervade the ten quarters; If there be any place it is not heard, I vow not to attain the supreme enlightenment.

Although the Buddha is always the Buddha, if we do not recognize the Buddha or his Wisdom and Compassion, he does not become the Buddha. It is like the mutual recognition between a mother and her child when the child calls out, "Mother." Amida Buddha appears in this world of samsara** as the Name, Namo Amida Butsu,*** because Amida wants us to recognize his presence and call his Name. Our True Friend has been calling to each and every one of us through the Name. However, it is not merely a name. It is the powerful and effective working of Enlightenment. It destroys our foolishness. It breaks our massive ego. It takes us to our True and Real Home. Therefore, the Name itself is Amida Buddha; the activity of the infinite compassion and wisdom. To call the Name of Amida is to hear, recognize and praise his profound compassion within the Name. It is indeed a call and response. The First of September is the founding day of the Buddhist Churches of America. It was called the Buddhist Mission of North America at the time. Let us express our deepest appreciation to the founding members and leaders of our organization. And let's be a little more proactive in letting people know that we are here and would like to share the Dharma with everyone. Namo Amida Butsu.

* Juseige: Three Sacred Vows **samsara: eternal cycles of birth, suffering, death, and rebirth ***Namo Amida Butsu: a command to take refuge in Amida Buddha; an expression recited in gratitude

2017 Women in Buddhism Conference Photos

Submitted by Akiko Taniguchi and Irene Goto



MESSAGES

Below and on the BCA website are [Rev. Kodo Umezu's recent messages](#) on Hurricane Harvey and Charlottesville.

Our Response to Hurricane Harvey

On Friday, August 25, a tropical storm which developed into Hurricane Harvey struck the state of Texas, creating major flooding devastation in Houston and threatening to inundate neighboring states, including Louisiana. The tragic loss of life, massive damage to infrastructure, and the destruction of the livelihoods of countless people is tremendous. This may become the worst flood disaster in U.S. history. Our hearts and thoughts go out to everyone who is suffering as a result of this catastrophic natural disaster.

Let us respond to the call for help from the survivors in every way we can. Let us also be aware that tragedies and natural disasters happen repeatedly, all over the world. We are part of the world community and we should remember that our Jodo Shinshu temples and churches must be mindful of people in all areas. I want to encourage you to support these relief efforts and to engage in social welfare efforts in your local community as well, wherever that may be.

In Gassho (with palms together), Rev. Kodo Umezu, Bishop, Buddhist Churches of America

Statement on the Killing in Charlottesville, Virginia

On August 12, 2017 at a white supremacist rally, a neo-Nazi drove a car into the people protesting his ideology. He killed a woman and injured 19 other people. It was very deplorable and sad to see this incident in Charlottesville, Virginia. I would like to express my deepest sympathies and condolences to the victims' families and friends.

The action that we witnessed was caused by anger and hatred deriving from a sad American historical background. We, as American citizens and residents, are experiencing the heavy karmic effects of our past history. We should be reminded of the American doctrine that all people are equal, as we often hear. We should turn to the core values of each individual's religion or faith to find the way to live harmoniously.

No matter what path we walk, we know that we should not get angry or hate others. We know that we want to love everyone. And at a time like this, we all ask why this happened and how we can stop this type of human behavior.

We, as Buddhists, come to hear the urging voices coming from our teachers in the midst of this world of suffering – this world of samsara. The Buddha is standing with us with tears in his eyes, urging all of us to turn to the Infinite Compassion and Wisdom in order to transcend love and hate. Transcending love and hate does not mean that we eliminate our feelings of love and hate. It means that we recognize and understand that these powerful emotions exist within each of us; they are part of our human condition. We seek to encounter people who feel deep sorrow for our human condition and aspire to attain something worthier.

When we are touched and moved by the Vow of the Buddha to save all beings from suffering with Infinite Wisdom and Compassion directed at us to find the True and Real World beyond our foolish thoughts, we begin to live our lives with humility, understanding, and concern for one another.

Ultimately, we are all within the World of Oneness. Let us start with each individual to help create a better community by hearing the Compassionate Call from the World of True Equality.

Namo Amida Butsu,
Rev. Kodo Umezu Bishop, Buddhist Churches of America

*Ignorance and blind passions abound,
Pervading everywhere like innumerable particles of dust.
Love and hatred arising out of accord and conflict
Are like high peaks and mountain ridges.*

(Collected Works of Shinran, p. 400)

*When we reflect on the establishment of the Vow,
We find that the Tathagata, without abandoning sentient beings
in pain and affliction,
Has taken the directing of virtue to them as foremost,
Thus fulfilling the mind of great compassion.*

70 attend 5th Women in Buddhism Conference

Buddhist Paths: Women's Choices

Some 70 Betsuin members and newcomers attended our 5th Women in Buddhism Conference on Saturday, September 23, 2017. Most comments were positive, i.e., “an informative time, successful, wonderful, great, my mother and I really enjoyed it, wonderful day.” Some came from afar: Janet Holmberg whose family was a Betsuin member over 20 years ago and Jamie Davis came from Spokane; Marilyn Tang, Robert Corella and Cathy Yoshida-Corella came from the Phoenix, Arizona area; Michele Kammerer of Senshin Buddhist Temple came from Bellingham, Herb and Etsu Osaki from Portland; many were newcomers: Dee Goto, Rev. Katsuya, Ayano and Yuiya Kusunoki, Arlene Lev, Georgette Magnin, Jay Miyabara, Julie Myers, Wayne Suyenaga, Yoko Yanari, Amy Berg, and Jamie Davis; Pat Kawabata and Lily Kato from White River Buddhist Temple, and many of our Betsuin members returned this year. Thank you all for attending.

I had asked the speakers to speak on challenges that they themselves or others have faced as Buddhist women. The historical Buddha taught that there are 84,000 paths to true awakening and peace of mind, each being distinctive. And our speakers' talks were each distinctive, differing in perspective – from the historical, doctrinal and personal.

Professor Kyoko Tokuno spoke on the audacity of a Heian period nun, Dharma Medicine, who overcame restrictions imposed by monks in 12th century Japan and included photos of her research journey to Mt. Koya Buddhist Temple, Japan. Reverend Carol Himaka spoke on the relevance to women, today (seemingly none), of the 35th Vow of Dharmakara from the Larger Sutra. Reverend Candice Shibata spoke on her own life struggle and sadness in accepting the sudden loss of her mother. Thank you to all the speakers for their time and energy devoted to sharing their experiences with us.

Many SBBWA members and others helped - Etsu Shimbo, ordered *bento*, Todd Natsuhara delivered them, Alan wrote the checks. Nina Tomita-Kato, Janet Baba, Shizue Yahata, Karen Akira, (for the potted yellow ‘mums’), Gail Suzaka beautifully decorated luncheon tables and more SBBWA members provided fruit and desserts; Rosalie May and Grace Tazuma donated ready-brewed coffee; the Friday night basketball players set up tables and chairs, Todd Natsuhara and others for helped put them back; Ann Oxrieder organized the Warmup-Icebreaker; Junko Nakano, by Gail's invitation, led a lively yet calming QiGong exercise after lunch; Rosalie May moderated the panel with questions derived, in part, from the Warmup/Icebreaker activity; SBBWA members, Leonora Clarke, Leanne Nishi-Wong and Kanako Kashima served as Betsuin panelists. Leonora Clarke, Shirley Shimada, Joan Nakano and Alan Hoshino, and Howard Luke all helped make registration happen. Gail Kaminishi and Rev. Kusunoki helped prep materials; Gail Kaminishi, Matt and Rosalie May hosted dinners for the speakers and provided transportation along with myself. Joan made hotel arrangements and supplied all the other administrative details. Kemi Nakabayashi provided piano accompaniment for singing of 2 gathas by Tacoma's Michiko Yukawa and Donna Sasaki. Rimban Kusunoki made suggestions for the program and listened to our ideas and rang the bonsho. I did the emailing back and forth between speakers and committee members, produced the written program, sent out some flyers as did Ann Oxrieder and Gail Kaminishi; I made the name-tags. My husband and I are glad it all seemed to turnout well.

Thank you, Betsuin sangha, for supporting this event. Our first speaker for 2018 has committed and is working on a theme for us; Rev. Kusunoki's invitation will make it official. If all schedules hold firm, I can guarantee that you will enjoy next year's 6th Women in Buddhism Conference. Let's all tell our friends how much we enjoyed this year's Conference and that next year's will be even better! If you can help in planning, please let us know.

Gassho, Irene Goto, on behalf of the WiB Committee



Chairperson's Message

The Betsuin is bustling with activity this fall and chief among the activities is an exciting line up of visiting guest speakers. Last month we had Rev. Mas Kodani for our Fall Ohigan service and Reverends Carol Himaka and

Candice Shibata along with Professor Kyoko Tokuno at our 5th Women In Buddhism seminar. Next month's visiting guest speakers include Rev. Ryuta Furumoto of the Senshin Buddhist Temple in Los Angeles on November 12th for our Hoonko service. The following weekend we'll be co-hosting with the Buddhist Churches of America's Center for Buddhist Education, a seminar titled "Rainbow of Infinite Light: LGBTQ in Shin Buddhism" featuring Rev./Dr. Jeff Wilson, Marsha and Aiden Aizumi, Minister's Assistant Elaine Donlin (BCSF) and Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara (CBE). Thank you Rinban Kusunoki and the two seminar planning committees for working so hard to bring to Seattle such a wonderful group of guest speakers this fall to share the Buddha Dharma with us.



For those who are interested in helping organize more opportunities to hear other interesting guest speakers please bring your ideas to and volunteer to staff a future event with the temple's Religious Department. The department is led by Rinban Kusunoki and vice chair Calvin Terada. Both are eager to hear your ideas and help you plan our next great event!

Speaking of volunteering, the temple will be electing 10 individuals later this fall to serve on our Board of Directors. Upcoming projects and decisions needed to be made over the next few years requires those willing to share their knowledge and experience in several fields including but not limited to: accounting, architecture, auditing, building asset management, commercial real estate development, construction project management, customer database/CRM, edu-

cation, information technology, legal/contracts, marketing/promotion, multi-media production, public relations, records management, structural engineering, and wealth management. Directors govern our organization and serve on working committees to guide the temple. The term of office is three years. The board meets six times a year. To be eligible you must be a current member in good standing of the temple's support and maintenance organization (sustaining member, aka Ijikai). If this sounds like something you're interested in please send an e-mail with your contact information to office@seattlebetsuin.com indicating you're interest in serving as a director and provide a short bio of your background. If you'd like to discuss our board or the process please drop me a note or grab me on any Sunday.

Finally, a big shout out to the temple's maintenance committee and the many volunteers who've stepped up to help the maintenance team this fall. The big project underway is the renovation of the large parsonage. Rev Katsu and Ayano decided this summer to make the large parsonage their permanent residence and with that the temple board authorized a major renovation of the house. Before a contractor could get to work we had to empty the house which had become a storage warehouse for the temple archives, temple library and all sorts of odds and ends including a full costume set for a Japanese theatrical troupe. Not only has the maintenance team cleared space in other parts of the temple campus and moved dozens upon dozens of boxes they have also sparked a new project to address the temple's archives. Through the hard work of our former archive committee members we have an important collection that documents not only the temple's history but also the history of the local Japanese American community. Realizing the temple is not in the business of being a museum we are working with experts from several institutions such as Densho, the Wing Luke Museum, the Stanford University Archive, and the Japanese American National Museum to formulate a plan to ensure that this collection will be preserved and made available for future generations. This is expected to be a multi year process so expect to hear updates as things progress.

Thank you all for your continued interest in and support of the temple. With palms together, Alan.

...Notes from Dharma Exchange continued from p. 7

group we occupy. After coming to Buddhism she wondered how it did not matter to Amida Buddha whether we were kind, smart or wealthy. How can that be? The answer was causes and conditions. . . Mat May MA learned that Amida Buddha roared like a lion to spread the Dharma according to Dharmakara. Shakyamuni Buddha used the lion's roar to spread the Dharma. He concluded by saying we learn about the vows so we can eliminate suffering. . . Rinban Kusunoki described the difference between giving a Dharma talk and a lecture. A Dharma talk conveys a sharing and appreciation of the Dharma. A lecture is simply presenting some knowledge. Because each Buddhist minister has his own and different appreciation of the Dharma it is worthwhile to listen to many. In Japan it is a tradition to read passages of the Gobunsho by Rennyo Shonin at the end of a service (Matt read it in Japanese). . . Rinban Kusunoki said Rev. Castro will handle the service on Sun, Sep 10, and Rev. Mas Kodani, formerly of the Senshin Temple in L.A., will preside over Dharma Exchange following the monthly memorial service for Shinran on Sat, Sep 16. He will also be guest speaker at the Ohigan service on Sun, Sep 17.

Sept. 10, 2017 - Rev. Castro led the DX and talked about the Platinum Rule vs. the Golden Rule. His revered teacher, Eidmann Sensei explained the former to him. The Golden Rule suggests, do unto others as we would have them do unto us. The Platinum Rule suggests, do unto others as THEY would have us do unto THEM. This is an important distinction.. A participant asked about the role of meditation in Jodo Shinshu as opposed to Zen. He indicated Rev. Ogui, former bishop, was asked to sign a pledge from Japan that he would not promote Zen. A BCA minister said, "Never recommend that anyone practice meditation." Zen is very hard to do. Castro Sensei referred to it as the "Marine Corps of meditation." Castro Sensei refers to his method as sitting in gratitude. The meditator is told to count to 10 while inhaling and exhaling at each count. With the first breath one says to oneself Namu Amida Butsu Then continue with the 2nd breath, the 3rd breath etc. all the way to 10. If thoughts interfere go back to the first breath and Namu Amida Butsu, and continue to the 2nd, 3rd and 4th etc. . . Suzuki Roshi, who had a Zen father and a Jodo Shinshu mother, saw a parallel practice. He wrote "Zen Mind, Beginners Mind," the subject of a Book Study Group attended by Dr. Jason Wirth of Seattle University. In the Theravada tradition "corpse meditation" is given to young boys who have begun to ogle girls. . . To close the Dharma Exchange, Sensei read the poem

"Reincarnation" by Wallace McRae, a Montana poet-cattle rancher. Sensei feels it has a Buddhist feel.

Sept. 17 - Rev. Masao Kodani was guest minister who gave the Dharma talk as well as conducted the Dharma Exchange in the Hondo for all ages. He said his favorite thing to talk about is Japanese Buddhism. He indicated that many believe death and life are the opposite sides of the same coin. He said we should embrace death as it will make us more alive. While he was minister at the Senshin Temple in LA a woman asked him if it was all right to bring a child to a funeral service. He didn't know what to say even though he felt it was OK. He said the more we encounter death the more our lives become more significant. This is contrary to American society being repelled by death. He posed the question: What is the fun part of a funeral service? Answer: Chinese food! He allowed as how we are willing to discuss a memorial service and talk about it and include the whole range of human emotion that takes place at a memorial service. . . He feels that there is no such thing as an eternal soul in Jodo Shinshu. The suffering we experience is caused by not realizing change. "No naked man ever lost anything," was his witty comment. . . Who are you? He replied, you can not tell me as there is no separate being. We are all self-centered. . . After 20 years Shinran said, "I don't get it," and left to study with Honen Shonin. Perfection is ego centered, and Enlightenment means to wake up. He feels that the smarter one is the longer it takes to realize we are self-centered. Better to be stupid. . . Sensei felt that weddings have become high performance, and sadly funerals are heading that way as well in US culture. He reminded us that a funeral is not a celebration of a person's life, but rather a mourning and acceptance of a loved one's death. . . He went on to say the older one gets the better one gets. Japanese Americans have to complain 39 times a day. If one fails at this after three days of not complaining 39 times a day, one dies! . . He asked, Is there life after death? No, right now is all there is. . . At Bon Odori we should just dance and forget the self. To be concerned about remembering the dance steps is an example of being ego-centric. . . Before his daughter was age two, he asked her to jump down from a high place. She immediately began to jump and he was able to catch her. He tried the same experiment when she reached the age of two, and she refused. He concluded children are trusting until the age of two. . . Shinran married publicly and ended the monastic tradition forever. . . It is important to come to the temple and engage the sangha with talking, laughing and discussing. It ensures the temple will continue on.

In gassho, Pat Bobrow

Betsuin Events for October 2017

MOST SUNDAYS – confirm at www.SeattleBetsuin.org. “coming events” listing, or call the temple office

9:15 am - 9:40 Meditation *New Time/Location*- Memorial Hall Chapel

10:00 am - 10:35 SERVICE - in *hondo* (main hall) includes Sutra Chanting, singing, and Dharma Talk

10:35 am - 10:45 Sangha Gathering - offer incense, “meet and greet” after service in *hondo*, Main Hall

10:50 am - 11:30 Children’s Dharma School; school year starts Sept. 10 for all grades

DHARMA EXCHANGE – in dining room; a mix of discussions and educational programming; topics will be posted in newsletters in advance

PARENTS’ DHARMA EXCHANGE in Memorial Hall Chapel - discussion among parents of Dharma School children while children are in class; a minister or minister’s assistant attends

TEMPLE TOURS - to welcome newcomers!

SUNDAYS 9:00 am Meditation *New Time*

October 1 9:00 am Meditation in Chapel

10:00 am FAMILY SERVICE AND
CHILDREN’S SERVICE: Rev. Castro
Youth/Adult: Rimban Katsuya Kusunoki
Japanese: Video
DX: Rimban Kusunoki
Dharma School: open house

11:45 am SBBWA Board Meeting

October 8 9:00 am Meditation in Chapel

10:00 am FAMILY SERVICE
Youth/Adult: Rimban Katsuya Kusunoki
Japanese: Video
DX: Rev. Jim Warrick, “Buddhism on Air”
DSDX: Rev. Rosalie May

1:00 pm Metta Class 2

October 15 9:00 am Meditation in Chapel

10:00 am HATSUMAIRI SERVICE
Youth/Adult: Rimban Katsuya Kusunoki
Japanese: Rimban Kusunoki
DX: Rev. Irene Goto and MA Leonora Clarke
DSDX: Rev. Rosalie May

October 22 9:00 am Meditation in Chapel

10:00 am FAMILY SERVICE
Youth/Adult: Rimban Katsuya Kusunoki
Japanese: Rimban Kusunoki
DX: TBD
DSDX: Rev. Rosalie May

11:45 am SBBWA Cabinet Meeting

1:00 pm Metta Class 3

October 29 9:00 am Meditation in Chapel

10:00 am FAMILY SERVICE and
CHILDREN’S SERVICE: Rosalie May
Youth/Adult: TBD
Japanese: Video
DX: Rimban Kusunoki and Kemi Nakabayashi
DSDX: Rev. Rosalie May

1:00 pm SBBWA Memorial Service

MONDAYS Rinban’s Days Off

October 16 10:00 am Shinran Shonin Monthly
Memorial Service

TUESDAYS

October 24

10:30 am Keiro Service (MA Irene Goto)

WEDNESDAYS 10:00 am Morning Service

THURSDAYS

October 5

1:30 pm Nikkei Manor Service

October 19

1:30 pm Nikkei Manor Service (MA Irene Goto)

7:00 pm Betsuin Cabinet Meeting

October 26

7:00 pm Betsuin BoD Meeting

FRIDAYS

October 6

12:00 pm Gojikai Service and luncheon meeting

October 27 – 28 (Fri-Sat) Rinban Kusunoki at
LA Betsuin as guest lecturer

SATURDAYS

October 7 9:30 – 11:30 am Book Study Group:
Larger Sutra translated by Hisao Inagaki

October 21

9:00 am – 2:00 pm NW District Ministers and
Minister’s Assistants Continuing Education

6:00 – 9:00 pm College Night

October 27 – 28 (Fri-Sat) Rinban Kusunoki at
LA Betsuin as guest lecturer

November Newsletter Deadline
Monday, October 16, 2017
8:00PM

November 2017: Major Events

November 5 (Sunday) Temple cleanup

November 12 (Sunday) Hoonko Service with

Ochigo and guest speaker, Rev. Ryuta
Furumoto from Senshin Buddhist Temple

November 18 (Saturday) “Rainbow of Infinite
Light” LGBTQ in Shin Buddhism Seminar

November 19 (Sunday) Family Music Service
SBBWA General Meeting

Seattle Buddhist Church

1427 S Main Street
Seattle, WA 98144

October 2017

Wheel of the Sangha

A Monthly Newsletter of
Seattle Buddhist Church

THIS
IS
A COVER PAGE
PLEASE SCROLL UP
↑
FOR NEWSLETTER

October Major Events of Interest

- Saturday, October 7 9:30 – 11:30AM Book Study Group: *Larger Pure Land Sutra* translated by Hisao Inagaki
- Sunday, October 15 10:00AM Hatsumairi Ceremony service, see p. 6
- Saturday, October 21
9:00 am – 2:00 pm **NW District Ministers and Minister's Assistants, Continuing Education Session** at Seattle Betsuin; for NW District Kaikyoshi ministers, Minister's Assistants, (Kyoshi/Tokudo/BCA Certified), and Youth Minister's Assistants; lecturers: Rev. Koshin Ogui and Rev. Don Castro; contact Rev. Kusunoki to register **by October 16**
- 6:00 – 9:00 pm **College Night: Open to all 17-26 year olds** looking for a Buddhist temple to be your temple away from home; ping-pong, volleyball, dinner; for transportation and to **RSVP** go to office@seattlebetsuin.com.

Contact Us

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*Visit us on the web at
www.*

SeattleBetsuin.com

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Mon-Fri 9am–4pm*

*Emergencies: Call
the temple office
for updated recorded
message.*

Wheel of the Sangha Editors
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Deadline is the third Monday each month at 8PM