August 2020





Seattle Betsuín Buddhíst Temple, A Shín Buddhíst Temple, Jodo Shínshu Níshí Hongwanjí-ha

> a monthly newsletter of Seattle Buddhist Church Volume 39 Issue 8 online only

## The 75th Anniversary of the A-Bomb by Rimban Katsuya Kusunoki

Seventy-five years ago, my hometown Nagasaki was devastated. On 11:02 AM, August 9, 1945, the atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki city by the U.S. The A-bomb was produced at the Hanford Site in Washington state. Nagasaki city was instantly burned flat by the Abomb and seventy-three thousand, eight hundred eighty-four (73,884) people's lives were taken. My father was age six at that time. He was about three kilometers (2 miles) away from the hypocenter. I would like to think about "Peace" with you through the Nagasaki A-bomb.

Seattle Betsuin's Obon is usually held in July, and Obon season in Nagasaki is from August 13 through 15. My family's temple Kogenji becomes busy for Obon preparation from the beginning of August. Although it is hot in Nagasaki during the Obon season, many people visit their family gravesites and go to temple to attend Obon service. Buddhist ministers visit their members' houses and conduct Obon services at their homes, in addition to yearly or monthly memorial services.

Eleven years ago, on August 9, I was helping at my family's temple. It was just before I moved to the US. I visited temple members' houses to conduct memorial services. On that day, I visited a small apartment house and an old lady welcomed me. There was no airconditioning. The windows were wide open. I sat in front of the family altar (Obutsudan) and faced it. I found bananas there which she offered to Buddha. The room was so warm and the banana skin had almost turned black. After the service, she served me a cup of tea. I drank it and was leaving the room. Then, she said, "Reverend, please take these bananas". They looked almost rotten. I could not say "no"; instead, I said, "thank you" and took the bananas home. That night, I told my father, "I went to visit a member's house, then she gave me bananas which were almost rotten. I was not sure what I should say to her."

My father said, "Well, bananas spoil easily this time of year. It is August 9 today. Some of today's memorial services are for victims who died from the Atomic Bomb. She also lost her child by the A-bomb. She schedules her child's memorial service on August 9 every year.



Practicing for Virtual 2020 Bon Odori

#### **Thank You!**

Thank you so much to everyone who participated, watched, organized, donated, and or was involved in any way with our first ever Virtual Bon Odori! We were so honored to have so many people watching and dancing along at home. If you missed the event, check it out on Facebook. A final cut will be uploaded with all of our last minute inclusions and submissions. Thank you again to everyone!

### 2020 VSBO Premiere Event

https://www.youtube.com/ seattlebonodori

If you're interested in supporting the Seattle Betsuin, visit www.seattlebetsuin.com/dana



continued on p. 2...

### ...Rimban's Message continued from p. 1

During WW2, bananas were valuable food. She offers bananas because she wanted her child to eat banana."

I felt ashamed because I brought the bananas home without knowing her thought. When I read my father's articles on his experience of the A-Bomb, I realized that he also had a similar experience. When he was around forty years old, he visited an elderly woman's house to conduct a memorial service. The article follows below.

> "I visited her house to conduct a memorial service. She had put some onigiri (rice balls) on a regular plate and placed it on the obutsudan, the household Buddhist altar. This wasn't the proper way to offer rice to the Buddha. The rice must be shaped like a lotus bud. There is also a specific implement used to offer rice to the Buddha. I thought that she was not aware of how to properly make offerings. To correct her impropriety, I asked her why she offered to the Buddha a plain onigiri on a regular plate. Tears formed in her eyes and said that she had lost four children, all under ten years of age, due to the A-bomb. She then shared with me that on the day the atomic bomb was dropped, she had told her kids, 'I made some onigiri for your lunch. Be nice and share them.' Then, she left the house to go to Isahaya city to buy groceries. The A -bomb was dropped. She ran home as fast as she could because she was so worried about her children. When she got there, the house was crushed, and she found her children's dead bodies around the dining table where she had placed the onigiri. She told me, "I am the only person who can make onigiri for them."

He said that it was his first experience to deeply understand and feel the pain of the surviving families who had lost their loved ones because of the war and the Abomb. The late, Mr. Katsuji Yoshida was also a survivor of A-bomb and a member of Kogenji temple. He said,

> "Each and every life is equally precious. The number of people who died from Nagasaki's A-Bomb is 73,884. This number is important. The media and people who speak at the peace assembly often roundoff the number

### and discard the fraction and introduce just a rough number of victims. But we should not drop any number. Each one of them is precious. The number of 73,884 is important to remember".

Until now, I usually said that about 70,000 people died from the A-bomb in Nagasaki. Four children who were sitting around the dining table are also included in the number of 73,884. The child whose mother offered banana every year is also included. The A-bomb took many people's lives. Many people lost their father, mother, children, brothers, sisters, and friends. Even after many years have passed, these mothers offered banana and onigiri (rice ball) to the Butsudan (household Buddhist altar) for their children. They have never lost their love and they still wish for their children to eat banana and onigiri. Each one of 73,884 people had their family and lived their precious life. The Hiroshima and Nagasaki's Atomic Bomb victims memorial service gives us the opportunity to listen to their voices and cherish their lives.

"The basis for peace is for people to understand the pain of others". This is also the word from the late Mr. Katsuji Yoshida. In Buddhism, it is called Compassion to understand the pain of others. Amida Buddha has never rounded off any lives and discarded anybody. Amida Buddha sends compassion to each one of us. Shinran Shonin wrote in his hymn.

> "When a person realizes the mind of nondiscrimination The attainment is the <u>'state of regarding</u>

each being as one's only child'

This is none other than Buddha-nature; We will awaken to it on reaching the land of peace"

The expression, 'state of regarding each being as one's only child' tells us what the Amida Buddha's Compassion is. Amida Buddha regards and accepts each of us as his only child. It is the Buddha's Compassion to accept all beings' pain as his suffering. We listen to the guidance of the Buddha's Compassion and cultivate our heart and mind to understand the pain of others. It is the Nembutsu path to make this world peaceful. While conducting the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hiroshima/Nagasaki A-Bomb's victims' memorial service, I wish that Nagasaki becomes the last city where the A-bomb is dropped and that all beings live in peace.

## Betsuin Tea Talk by Leanne Nishi-Wong

## Gratitude

I hope that you are able to watch the services, workshops and presentations on YouTube and Zoom. The "stay at home, stay healthy" directive has allowed the Betsuin to explore alternative avenues of connecting you to the Dharma Teachings. The realization that everyone cannot access the present offerings, is one that the temple would like to address. Please let me know how the temple can keep you connected and engaged with the Dharma Teachings and the community? You can email me at <u>chairper-son@seattlebetsuin.com</u> or send your information to the temple office.

The Betsuin is grateful for the many volunteers and personnel who are working behind the scenes:

- The Temple grounds, buildings and park are well maintained and awaiting the Sangha's return. Thank you to the volunteers who spend many hours each day keeping the buildings and grounds safe, clean and welcoming.
- Rev. Kusunoki, Joan and Connor have kept the Temple running smoothly. Rev. Kusunoki conducts a virtual service almost every day, except Wednesdays. A Memorial Service is conducted each Saturday.
- Ayano with assistance from Yuiya, arranges the flowers for the Onaijin, Memorial Hall Chapel and the Nokotsudo each week.
- The Virtual 2020 Bon Odori will be featured on-line, until the next Obon Season. Thank you to Ron H. and his committee for a meaningful and joyful event. A special shout-out to Alex and Connor for putting in long hours to film, edit and produce the Bon Odori event.
- There are many Dharma School leaders/teachers, committees and organizations that are adjusting to holding their classes, meetings and events on-line.

The newsletter editors/translators, Irene and Machiko, keep us up to date on the Temple news.

The Cabinet and Board of Directors' continue to meet to ensure the continuity of the Temple business.

It takes a community to spread the Dharma Teachings. There are many other volunteers who are not mentioned, but are integral to the Temple business. The Betsuin appreciates everyone for their dana/support.

Thank you Gassho

# NEW! "Sangha Exchange: Joe Gotchy and Irene Goto invite you to gather

informally and virtually to keep in touch with each other, to get to know newcomers, and the Dharma. The Sangha is the third, but not the least, of The Three Treasures. Register at <u>Newsletter@SeattleBetsuin.com</u>, designate Subject: "Sunday Sangha Exchange". Provide your name, email address, affiliated temple, if any; you will be sent a Zoom link to attend." Joe and I look forward to seeing you! Gassho - Irene Goto

# Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Women's Association

SBBWA raised \$610 from 7 Betsuin members for ACRS (Asian Counseling and Referral Service) Walk for Rice this year. We could not walk the annual walk this year, but ACRS has reached 61% of their goal by raising \$132,311. Thank you for the support and we appreciate the donations. - Janie Okawa and Machiko



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## **Buddhist Book Study on Black Lives Matter**

The July discussion topic was on Black Lives Matter and our response as Americans and as Buddhists. Readings were an article by Rev. Tadao Koyama on "Are we too comfortable in our Buddhism", the BCA statement on BLM by Rev. Harry Bridge, and articles by a Black and a white Bud-



dhist practitioners. We also reviewed an account of two workshops conducted by YoungBuddhistEditorial earlier in July. Discussion included personal experiences, recollection of events in our past, reasons for the varied responses within the sangha and how as individuals we can respond to these times. – Wayne Suyenaga

The next Book Study will be on August 22, 2020 at 9:30AM. For a Zoom link., e-mail newsletter@seattlebetsuin.com, designate the Subject: Buddhist Book Study,.



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## ONLINE WEB CONFERENCING EVENTS ARE VARIOUS AND WELL ATTENDED

- IHG

JULY 17, 2020 REV. KODO UMEZU WHO/WHAT IS AMIDA BUDDHA?

REV. DR. KEN TANAKA ON HIS BOOK, JEWELS, WRITTEN FOR YOUTH, TO PASS THE TORCH, JULY 22, 2020





### WOMEN IN BUDDHISM Tools for Spiritual Wellness



A Webinar Gathering • October 3 & 4, 2020

Registration: Free • Details: seattlebetsuin.com/2020wib

### FIVE EXCEPTIONAL BUDDHIST EDUCATORS TO HEADLINE WOMEN IN BUDDHISM CONFERENCE

Saturday, October 3 & Sunday, October 4 via interactive video-conferencing 12:45pm to 3:15 pm

They will discuss practices that help bring Jodo Shinshu into clearer focus.

### Information and registration: seattlebetsuin.com/2020wib/

Presenters include: psychiatrist and MA at Salt Lake Buddhist Temple, Carmela Javellana Hirano; professor and Vipassana meditation instructor at Spirit Rock, Bonnie Duran; professor of Buddhism and yoga instructor, Sharon Suh; professor of Psychology and Neuroscience, Sheri Mizumori; and artist and arts educator Tara Tamaribuchi.

The programs are free. A suggested donation is \$15 per day.

Presented by Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple and Women's Association, and BCA Center for Buddhist Education







Carmela Javellana Hirano, M.D. Radical Humility: Jodo Shinshu Path to Joy

Bonnie Duran, Ph.D. Dharma for Undoing Internalized Stereotypes

Sharon A. Suh, Ph.D. Meditation & Yoga for Healing Trauma

Sheri Mizumori, Ph.D. Brain Health & Everyday Well-Being

Tara Tamaribuchi, B.F.A. Art as Healing



seattlebetsuin.com/2020wib Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple & Women's Association and BCA Center for Buddhist Education

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## Seattle Betsuin Gratefully Acknowledges the Following Donations July - August 2020

Funeral / Memorial / Nokotsudo:		<u>Given by</u> :
Hatsue Mizuno – Graveside Service	\$ 500.00	Lori Mizuno
Kimi Tanaka – In Memory of	\$ 200.00	Robert Tanaka
Nokotsudo	\$ 200.00	Sonoe Taketa
Yoshiko Yoshida – In Memory of	\$ 100.00	Junko & Gary Pankiewicz

#### CORRECTION TO JULY NEWSLETTER:

We apologize to the Okamura family for the inadvertent typographical error in spelling their last name. In Gassho, **Mineko Okamura** – 7<sup>th</sup> Year Memorial \$ 500.00 Trisha Morton **Ray Okamura** – 7<sup>th</sup> Year Memorial \$ 500.00 Trisha Morton

In Memory of	Given by:
Toshimi Hamamoto	Rev. Katsuya & Ayano Kusunoki
Masano & Frank Kawahara	Ritsuko Kawahara
Alan Kishi	George & Irene Mano
Bill Komoto	Mary K. Katayama; Hiroko Janet Kosai; George & Irene Mano; Mabel Nishizaki; Robert Seko; Katsumi Tanino
Tetsu & Daisy Kuramoto	Wayne Kuramoto
Yoshiko Okumura	Yoshiko Okumura
Sachiko Ozeki	George & Irene Mano
Teruyo Tanino	Rev. Donald Castro & Shuri Saigusa; Jeffrey & Susan Yamane
Mary Yoshijima	Duane & May Watari & Family

#### Hatsubon/Obon:

Toshifusa & Nobuko Oiye Julie Ann Oiye

Endowment: HM Kaneko Music Fund: Jennifer Ura Gavin Kemi Nakabayashi & Jim Norton Tacoma Buddhist Temple

#### Donald & Karen Akira

### General Donations:

	<u>Donor:</u> <u>For</u> :
Michele Anciaux Aoki	Obon
Miyoko Kaneta	Appreciation of Yukio & Karen Morikubo
Fred Kikuchi & Family	In Celebration of Shizue Kikuchi's 100 <sup>th</sup> Birthday
Anonymous	General Donation
Yukio & Karen Morikubo	General Donation

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## **Musical Notes**

submitted by Kemi Nakabayashi Thank you to Maya, Macy, and Misa H. for providing service music in June with the favorite gatha *We Are One* to close the Dharma School year and *Sadako and the Thousand Cranes* for the special Kids Summer Program service. Macy and Misa sang to the piano accompaniment of Maya for the recording of *Sadako and the Thousand Cranes*. This song was written by the late Michiko Pumpian, founder of the World Peace Project for Children and will be featured again this month as part of the Atomic Bomb Victims' Memorial Service on August 9, 2020.

Young Adult Minister's Assistant Maya will be a sophomore at Seattle University this fall and was featured in the Young Buddhist Editorial Youth Advocacy Committee Series of "Humans in Buddhism" under the YAC 13 Edition. She studied piano, then took up flute for her middle school and high school bands, and enjoys singing for fun with her sisters. Macy started singing at age 6 with the Seattle Girls Choir. She currently sings for Rainier Youth Choir in South King County. Macy was chosen to participate in the Northwest American Choral Directors Association as

well as the Washington Music Educators Association Honor Choir this past February. Macy sings in her high school choir and is also part of an all-girls a capella group. She will be a sophomore this fall. Maya relates that her youngest sister Misa "started singing as soon as she could speak." Misa will start middle school this fall but has already participated in school theater productions and Rainier Youth Choirs. Misa also played percussion in elementary school. All three sisters have participated in playing steel drum for Steel Magic Northwest. Maya says it's a musical activity they all shared together before Maya went off to college. Responsive to our need for additional audio recordings for the Seattle Betsuin online services, we are most grateful for the talent and dana of music offerings from Maya, Macy and Misa.

In the Oregon Buddhist Temple August newsletter, in addition to its virtual Bon Odori on Saturday, August 1, OBT has announced a virtual benefit concert on Friday evening, August 21 at 7 p.m. Please visit the OBT website in advance of the concert date for more information on how to tune in and support our Northwest District Dharma friends. <u>https://</u> www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com/benefit-concert

# Sat Ichikawa's Crystal City Camp Story

Sat Ichikawa is the son of the head minister of the Seattle Buddhist Church during the WWII years. In March, 1942, Rev. Tatsuya Ichikawa was taken from the family by the FBI. He was imprisoned in detention Centers in Montana, Texas, New Mexico and finally ended up at Crystal City in Texas. Sat, his mother and six siblings spent two years of incarceration at Minidoka before reuniting with Rev. Ichikawa.

<u>Crystal City Camp Story</u> is Sat's second book which tells the story of his final two years of incarceration at the Crystal City Camp. Originally written for his grandchildren, Sat also did all the illustrations. If you are interested in a copy, please contact Debbie Kashino at <u>debbiekashino@gmail.com</u>. - DK:IHG

## Request Dharma School (DS) Weekly E-news. If you

haven't been getting weekly e-news for the latest happenings by teachers, students, and parents of Seattle Betsuin's fantastic, proactive and socially engaged Dharma School, you can request notices of events, meetings, and programs via e-mail and get on board the Dharma School train!

Just go to Newsletter@SeattleBetsuin.com and designate in the Subject line: DS eNews. Include your first and last names and e-mail address. Dharma School resumes September 13, so get ready to roll! - IHG

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Seattle Betsuin Newsletter

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### Seattle Buddhist Church

1427 S Main Street Seattle, WA 98144

2020 August Wheel of the Sangha A Monthly Newsletter of Seattle Buddhist Church





### Want an Official Temple Service Book?

The Seattle Betsuin is planning to give out service books to members and people who have been watching our weekly services. If you're interested in a book, we will be holding a drive-thru in the back alley of the temple where people may come to pick up a copy of the Seattle Betsuin service book. You do not need to schedule a pick up time. Supplies are limited!

When: Sundays, August 9 and 16 12:00pm - 2:00pm

If you have questions or concerns, you can write to marketing@seattlebetsuin.com



Rev. Kusunoki conducted Obon Cemetery Services, Hatsubon Service and Obon Memorial Service

> Wheel of the Sangha Editors Irene Goto, English: newsletter@seattlebetsuin.com Machiko Wada, Japanese: newsletter-jpn@seattlebetsuin.com Deadline is the third Monday each month at 8PM

### Contact Us

Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple 1427 S Main Street Seattle, WA 98144 Phone: 206. 329.0800 Fax: (206) 329-3703

Email: office @SeattleBetsuin.com

Visit us on the web at www. SeattleBetsuin.com

Office Hours: Mon-Fri 9am—3pm

Minister 24 hours: 206.779.2214 Rimban: Rev Katsuya Kusunoki

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