



What Teachers Taught Remains Inside of Us Reverend Yuki Sugahara

I, Gutoku Shinran, disciple of Śākyamuni, discarded sundry practices and took refuge in the Primal Vow in 1201. -CWS, p.290

May is the birth month of our founder Shinran Shonin and this year, we are celebrating the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's birth and the 800th Anniversary of the establishment of Jodo Shinshu. The establishment of Jodo Shinshu and Shinran Shonin's encounter with Honen Shonin cannot be separated.

Unlike the modern era, there was no internet in the 13th century. The only source to find out which teacher is a good teacher was by "word of mouth." When Shinran Shonin was 29 years old, he heard about Honen Shonin, decided to leave Mt. Hiei where he had spent 20 years, and became a disciple of Honen Shonin. The encounter with Honen Shonin changed Shinran Shonin's life which he appreciated throughout his life.

As many of you know, one of my hobbies is Chinese Martial Arts. I love practicing them, but I also love watching YouTube videos of the masters' performances. There are many masters' videos interesting to watch, and motivates me to practice more.

My main style of practice is called Ying Jow Pai/Eagle Claw Kung Fu, but since some of the moves in YJP require physical fitness, sometimes it is hard for a person over 40 years old to perform it correctly. So I started to find interest in Tai Chi these past few years. Unlike Shinran Shonin's time, I researched online who is a good teacher in Portland and found Master Gao Jiamin. She has won many world competitions and is known as "Tai Chi Queen" of the world. It is amazing to have her in Portland! So I have been learning Tai Chi from Master Gao for about 2 years. She is down to earth, a knowledgeable teacher and a pleasure to watch her performance closely when we practice together.

One day after the practice, Master Gao showed me pictures of Japan when she visited there. She has many fans in Japan and when she held seminars there, participants made a long line to take pictures with her and to get her autograph. In the pictures, she showed me famous Tai Chi practitioners. I recognized many of them from YouTube videos and realized again that I'm learning from a very famous practitioner of Tai Chi! It is unfortunate that I have to leave Portland and not being able to learn from her anymore, but the experience of learning from Master Gao will stay inside of me. Then I thought this must be the similar feeling of Shinran Shonin when he found Honen Shonin, learned from him, and had to be separated from him.

Shinran Shonin encountered Honen Shonin in 1201 and he was granted permission to copy Honen Shonin's masterwork, Senjakushu, in 1205, which was only allowed to few disciples of Honen Shonin. But in 1207, Honen Shonin and Shinran Shonin were exiled from Kyoto to distant locations and they never had the chance to meet again. It is said that Honen Shonin told Shinran Shonin to spread the teaching of nembutsu wherever he goes. Shinran Shonin kept the word of Honen Shonin and spread the teaching of nembutsu and enjoyed the teaching with people. Although they were physically apart, Shinran Shonin kept Honen Shonin's teaching inside of him.

Now, as a Jodo Shinshu Buddhist, our teacher is Shinran Shonin. We hear his teaching through KyoGyoShinSho and many other writings. We cannot see him in-person, but through his writings, we are able to hear his sincere wish for us to hear the origin and fulfillment of the vow of Amida Buddha, and entrust ourselves to the working of the Name Namo Amida Butsu. What he taught us remains inside of us even though we are 800 years apart.

Because of the guidance of Shinran Shonin, many masters from the past, and our predecessors, we are now able to hear the teaching which all the Buddhas enjoy. How fortunate we are!

Gassho

*CWS refers to The Collected Works of Shinran

"OBT welcomes all people regardless of ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, gender identification, and political or religious affiliation."

Oregon Buddhist Temple 3720 SE 34th Avenue Portland, OR 97202-3037 503-234-9456

e-mail: info@oregonbuddhisttemple.com website: <http://www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com>

Please contact the temple with any comments, questions or concerns, or if you wish to report a change of address.

May Shotsuki Hoyo

This is a monthly memorial service to honor and remember those loved ones who passed away during the month of May. The Shotsuki-Hoyo service will be held at the May 21 Sunday service at 10 am. Please join us and offer incense in memory of your relative(s) or friends.

Listed below are the names of those who passed away starting from 1950. Oregon Buddhist Temple has records from 1904. Names of deceased prior to 1950 are added if requested. If a name is missing or incorrect, please notify Jean Matsumoto, Etsu Osaki, or the temple.

Asakawa, Kikuno 5/5/1962 *	Miura, Takuyo 5/2/1980	Sasaki, Kenjiro 5/3/1989
Egimoto, Kanichi 5/11/1950	Mori, Kura Masako 5/30/1980 *	Sasaki, Riye 5/1/1987 *
Fujinaka, Shuichi 5/20/1961	Mukaida, Kow 5/30/1977	Shido, George 5/22/1993
Funatake, Yoshichiro 5/15/1986	Myers, Susanne Mineko 5/10/2006	Shimizu, Matsuji 5/15/1954
Greenwood, Donald, 5/4/2010	Nagano, Saneharu 5/17/1965	Tajima, Yayoi 5/24/1965 *
Hasuike, Mitsuko 5/7/2016 *	Nakagawa, Denzo 5/8/1963	Takano, Unosuke 5/3/1956
Hooraku, Asaji 5/29/1952	Nakamatsu, Akiko 5/31/1983	Takashima, Richard Kiyoshi 5/31/2001
Ishii, Kiyoshi 5/4/1950	Nakamura, Hiroshi 5/11/1978	Takeuchi, Mary Natsuko 5/26/2001*
Iwamoto Isamu Sam 5/29/1996	Nakamura, Sally Mew Lin 5/26/2014	Takeuchi, Tomiye 5/27/1984
Kawachi, Akimi 5/10/1981	Nakano, Yukiye 5/23/1990	Tamiyasu, Mitsugi (Mits) 5/13/2011
Kawamoto, Ito 5/18/1950 *	Nakashima, Masao 5/4/1983	Tanada, Shime 5/30/1960 *
Kawasaki, Suekichi 5/19/1961	Nishikawa, Shotaro 5/6/1964	Toyooka, Nobuyoshi 5/13/1996
Kobuchi, Shin 5/11/1959	Obuchi, Shin 5/11/1959	Tsubouchi, Ikutaro 5/5/1952
Maehara, Martha Masako 5/18/1990*	Okabe, Mataroku 5/1/1955	Van Ness, Jayne Yasui 5/13/2021
Maetani, Toshio 5/15/1975	Okamoto, Dorothy Hanae 5/18/1984*	Wakayama, Seiichi 5/19/1954
Matsunaga, Jean 5/15/2006	Okino, Chiyono 5/7/1952 *	Yasutome, Yoshiko 5/27/2012*
Miller, Cruz T 5/26/2014	Onishi, Masuko 5/2/1963	Yoneyama, Yoneko 5/29/1996 *
Minami, Asoye 5/5/1977 *	Ozaki, Fukuo 5/30/1953	Yoshida, Kojiro 5/12/1973
Minami, Kiyomatsu 5/7/1980	Sakamoto, Hisano 5/29/1993*	Yoshiro, Akira 5/11/1997
Mishima, Katsumi 5/23/1963	Sakauye, Michio (Mich) 5/3/1995	

*OBWA MEMBER

2023 Memorial Services

Year Of Passing	Memorial	Year Of Passing	Memorial
2022	1 Year	2007	17 Year
2021	3 Year	1999	25 Year
2017	7 year	1991	33 Year
2011	13 Year	1974	50 Year

If you would like to schedule a memorial service for loved ones or ancestors, please make arrangements With Reverend Sugahara at 916-834-7350 or ysobtoportland0612017@oregonbuddhisttemple.com

“Arigato, Until We Meet Again”
 (ありがとう また会う日まで)
Come to Rev. Sugahara & Family Farewell Party
Saturday, June 17, 2023 - 12:00PM to 3:00PM
See lunch order form on page 8



President's Column Charles Reneau, OBT President

Dear Sangha,

Have you been following recent news about artificial intelligence? I've been reading about ChatGPT, and was curious to see if it could write a decent OBT newsletter article. Here are a few choice quotes from the program's first attempt:

"Spring has arrived, and with it comes a renewed sense of growth and vitality. As we emerge from the darkness of winter and the challenges of the past year, let us embrace the energy and optimism of the spring season."

That's a little cliché, but not a terrible beginning.

"By practicing mindfulness and compassion, we can cultivate the inner qualities that allow us to grow and flourish like the natural world around us."

This sounds very nice, but really misses the focus of our Temple life.

On the other hand, if I ask ChatGPT directly to explain Jodo Shinshu, it does supply some good text: *"Jodo Shinshu emphasizes the concept of tariki, or 'other-power' . . . Jodo Shinshu practitioners rely on the recitation of the nembutsu, or the name of Amida Buddha, as a way to connect with and receive the benefits of Amida's vow."*

Now that's more like it! However, it's just a simplification of the program's training material: probably the Wikipedia article on Jodo Shinshu. In fact, that Wikipedia article is pretty good, and leads me to my point: technology has come a long way, but is currently no substitute for humanity.

Wikipedia articles are written by volunteers; some are academics in the field who update articles in their spare time, and others are just amateurs with lots of interest and knowledge. Sometimes there are disagreements and controversies, but generally, all these volunteers work together to make the best articles they can.

The OBT is a lot like Wikipedia: it's only the labor of enthusiastic volunteers that keeps our Temple going. While we have been privileged to enjoy the skilled professional services of Rev. Sugahara, when he transfers to Sacramento in June, we will rely more and more on the efforts of our volunteer Minister's Assistants Etsu Osaki, Brenda Fugate, and Ken Garner.

Also, I think the difference between ChatGPT and Wikipedia extends to a deeper meaning: Chat GPT can give an answer that "sounds" correct, but it's not actually speaking to us. There's no connection, no understanding, no human communication. The personal connections we experience at the Temple are at the heart of our life. Just as with Wikipedia, the communication can occasionally be messy or inaccurate, but this communication is our shared wealth.

My final thought: several Temple members have lost loved ones recently. Please consider reaching out to them to

let them know you care about them. Holding each other in our grief is one of the best things we can do for each other.

ChatGPT didn't end up being good enough to write this newsletter article, but it did get the ending right:

*Namo Amida Butsu,
Charley*

Daily On-line Services

Reverend Yuki conducts daily on-line services including Sundays at 8 am. On Sundays he also conducts a service at 10 am. Go to the Oregon Buddhist Temple web site and "Check out the

[YouTube Channel of Oregon Buddhist Temple](#)

Or click on

[Oregon Buddhist Temple - YouTube](#)

Birthday of Shinran Shonin May 21, Gotan-e

親鸞聖人



Gotan-e celebrates the birthday of Shinran Shonin (1173 – 1263), the founder of Jodoshinshu, the True Pure Land Sect.

Often translated Saint Shinran, Shonin is the title given to Shinran, the founder of the Jodo Shinshu sect or school of the Pure Land tradition of Mahayana Buddhist.

Born to the Fujiwara Clan at Hino, southeast of Kyoto in 1173ad, he was given the name Matsuwakamaro. He

lost both his parents when very young and entered the priesthood at the age of nine, being given the name Hannen. He went to Mr. Hiei, the seat of Tendai Buddhism where he studied and practiced for twenty years. After twenty years, he abandoned the Tendai way to emancipation. While meditating for 100 days at a place called Rokkaido in Kyoto, he had a vision at dawn of the 95th day directing him to Honen who was propagating the Nembutsu Teaching. He became a disciple of Honen taking the name Shakku and later Zenshin.

Abandoning ego-self efforts to obtain emancipation and entrusting himself complete to the Buddha Amida, he took the name Shinran. In 1207, the Nembutsu Teaching was banned, and Shinran was exiled to Echigo Province (Niigata Prefecture), where he openly married Eshin-ni, breaking the long observance of priestly celibacy. He was pardoned in 1211, but remained in Echigo until 1214 when he went to Hitachi Province (Ibaragi Prefecture) where he remained for the next 20 years. In his later years, Shinran returned to Kyoto where he continued writing until his death in 1263.

Above narrative extracted from [Cocktails](#), by Reverend Masao Kodani

The OBT Hanamatsuri Service on April 23, 2023 Attracts Large Gathering



Oregon Buddhist Women's Association Nancy Walseth

CRAFT GROUP:

The craft group is reusing fabrics from older kimonos as they redesign and re-engineer kimonos and jackets for this year's fundraising and Obon prep season. The craft group needs up to five sewing machines, preferably the lighter, portable ones rather than the cast-iron. Please contact Toyoko Oguri (prestonToy@yahoo.com, 973-202-9806) to describe your sewing machine, if you may have one available to donate. A location in the basement is being identified for the sewing machines where the group can meet and enjoy crafting together again. Tentative dates for upcoming meetings of the craft group are: [4/26/2023], 5/10/2023, 5/31/2023. JUNE 17, 2023 – GOOD BYE SENSEI SUGAHARA – Bento party downstairs

VOLUNTEER OUTING - JUNE 24, 2023

Robbi Ando has guided the group to resume volunteering. Some may remember, three-ish years ago, a successful trip to the very pleasant Oregon Food Bank, to work two hours followed by lunch together at Kennedy School. Plans are afoot to repeat this on June 24.

Girl Scout Troop 43720 Amy Peterson



Thank you all for another successful cooking season. Cookie shortages were still an issue this year, but regardless the girls met their lower goals. We will be able to donate cookies to their favorite charity.

Then after a visit to the Portland Art Museum they got supercharged and the Juniors completed three badges: drawing, writing and cooking! For writing they created a haiku and a limerick. Aoi created her haiku in Japanese and the girls helped her translate it to English.



Here they are each practiced using a butane lighter before actually lighting the stove

They made eggs in multiple ways, prepared spam, egg and rice lunch and a three ingredient peanut butter cookie. Now they just need to plan and prepare a dinner for their family.

They'll miss formal meetings while I'm gone to Japan, but will plan for bridging the awards ceremony, especially since Aoi will be leaving and her new troop will have already bridged

OBT Events and Meetings

Links to and list of Recurring Events. Because most events are now live in OBT, this table will be reduced to a listing of recurring events with zoom links. For questions:

bec@oregonbuddhisttemple.com

Please check our website for any last minute updates.

<p>OBT Regular Service Dharma Exchange (following the Regular Service) And some special events that are held in the Hondo right after service like the general meeting.</p> <p>Link below to website for the filmed services, and below that the zoom link for the hybrid services and events that follow service. https://www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com/</p> <p>Zoom: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85452093371?pwd=RkV2QkRyb3dIRllyQkNneFE5cTRKQT09 Meeting ID: 854 5209 3371 Passcode: 517706</p>	<p>Every week – Sun 10 AM Every other week at 11 AM</p>
<p>Intermediate Study Class</p> <p>Zoom Meeting ID: 815 9359 3428</p> <p>https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81593593428?pwd=WEhYSEZTV0RlcEN4MjhpNnNvOUxBZz09://</p>	<p>Every 2 weeks – Wed 7 PM (see calendar) Passcode: 704135</p>
<p>OBWA</p> <p>Zoom Meeting ID: 962 3703 0266</p> <p>https://zoom.us/j/96237030266?pwd=QjYxMjI5dDM3cnFVLzR5YmEvUU94UT09</p>	<p>3rd Sat, mid-month, each month – 10 AM (see calendar) Passcode: 574232</p>
<p>Dharma School (specific dates in calendar)</p> <p>Meets almost every Sunday, in person at OBT. See Ann Shintani for details.</p>	
<p>OBT Girl Scout Troop (specific dates in calendar)</p> <p>Meets the first and third Sunday of each month at 12:15, in person at OBT. See leader Amy for details.</p>	
<p>Sunday Bon Odori</p> <p>We will have bon odori on the last Sunday of the month at 1 PM in the basement. (July is an exception because of Obon, and August we might be dancing at the Japanese Garden). Masks optional and we try to distance. I will try to remember to have the fans going to circulate the air.</p> <p>Zoom link if you can't make it in person. https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81054749182?pwd=aHBjNXhERzNyT3hUU0E5Wmw2cUliZz09</p> <p>Meeting ID: 810 5474 9182 Passcode: 113529</p> <p>We will send out a Japanese stuff email. But don't have the webpage done yet. See Chris for details.</p>	

**Oregon Buddhist Temple
March 2023 Donations**

In memory of May Watari

Duane Watari
Gerald & JoAnn Sumoge
Katie Tamiyasu
Carolyn J. Saiget
Susan Endecott
Amy Peterson
Kurtis & Jenny Inouye

In memory of Fusako Ouchida

Amy Peterson
Roberta Ando
Carolyn J. Saiget
Etsuko Osaki
Yoshie Kagawa

SHOTSUKI HOYO / LOTUS CIRCLE***In memory of grandmother******Hana Watari***

Duane Watari

In memory of Tokishi Tsujimura

Katie Tamiyasu

In memory of Michael Ando

Diane Ando Harder

In memory of Toshiko Tanaka

Susan Endecott

In memory of Herb Osaki

Yasuko Maekawa Fields

SHOTSUKI HOYO (continued)***In memory of Henry Matsunaga***

Janice Okamoto

In memory of James K. Kida

Lew Tomita family

In memory of Shoemon Nakamura

Lew Tomita family

In memory of Leonardo & Sachiko***Montes de Oca***

Dennis & Virginia Sugihara

In memory of James Yoshio Nakagawa

Nadine Nakagawa

In memory of Arthur Ojiro Sasaki

Joyce F. Olsen
Anonymous

In memory of Yoshito George***Sadamoto***

Setsy & Chip Larouche

Special donations

Judy Hittle (*online lecture*)
Etsuko Osaki
Kent M. Matsuda
Glenda Watson-Coly
Chie Nakamichi & Paul Nist (*hina dolls*)
Chris Nelsen

Spring Ohigan

Diane Ando Harder
Todd & Elaine Yuzuriha
Kiyomi Dickinson
Alfred Ono
Etsuko Osaki

2023 Annual Pledge

Colin Nakamura
Christine White
Ken Garner
Edward Liljeholm

Monthly/quarterly/semi-annual pledge

Susan Lilly & Erik Ackerson
Diane Ando Harder
Karol Kennedy
Jay Young & Marilyn Huh
Mark & Marilyn Achterman
Susan Endecott
Kaoru Hori
Marlene Moro

***Donation acknowledgements
are mailed for donations of
\$250 or more, and to any
donor upon request.
Please inform us of any
significant errors or
omissions. Thank you.
sjendecott@gmail.com***

Thank you for your continued support

Below is the application form to be a Supporter of the OBT for 2023. Please use one form for each person.



**SUPPORTER OF THE OREGON BUDDHIST TEMPLE
PLEDGE FOR 2023**

Please provide the information below to ensure that our records are accurate and up-to-date

Name _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

All individuals who make a pledge will be listed as a Supporter of the Oregon Buddhist Temple.

For Individuals who pledge \$300 or more:

- A portion of your pledge will be forwarded to the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) for BCA membership
- Eligible to be nominated to be on the Oregon Buddhist Temple Board of Directors
- Eligible to vote for the Board of Directors and other issues that are presented at the General Meeting

I will pledge for 2023, the amount of \$ _____

____ The above amount is to be given as a one-time amount of \$ _____ or

____ The above amount is to be given in payments of \$ _____

____ Monthly ____ Quarterly

Please send this completed Pledge for 2023 to:

Oregon Buddhist Temple
3720 SE 34th Avenue
Portland, OR 97202-3037

Pledge payments can be mailed to the above address or made via PayPal at
OregonBuddhistTemple.com

In gratitude for your support of the Oregon Buddhist Temple

“Arigato, Until We Meet Again”

(ありがとう また会う日まで)

Come to Rev. Sugahara & Family Farewell Party
Saturday, June 17, 2023 - 12:00PM to 3:00PM

Bento Lunch by Chef Yoshio Matsuzaki

~Vegetarian bento is available upon request~

\$25 per person

PIZZA for children not ordering bento

\$5 for one slice, \$10 for two or more

Please use the form below to order. Deadline: June 1, 2023

OBT Bento Order Form

Participant's name (please print)

Participant's name (please print)

of Bento _____ x \$25

of Pizza _____ x \$5

of Pizza _____ x \$10

Total Enclosed \$ _____

Oregon Buddhist Temple
3720 SE 34th Avenue
Portland, OR 97202

Make checks payable to the OBT. Mail above form and payment by June 1, 2023. Any questions please contact Jayne Ichikawa at (503) 810-6390 or email jayneichi@gmail.com

“We Will Miss You”

Unforgettable...The Lotus Skyliners Story

Although the Lotus Skyliners were formed only two short years ago, dance enthusiasts have acclaimed them one of the best young bands in Seattle. This success was the product of many hours spent in practice under the careful guidance of band-leader Don Kinsley.

It was in March, 1953, that Mr. Kinsley, with the support of the Lotus Shoyukai and Y&A organized this group. Many of the members were students of Mr. Kinsley at Washington Jr. High School.

DON KINSLEY

TRUMPETS	AGE	SAXOPHONES	RHYTHM
Vic Kihara-----	17	Shuzo Takemuchi----	Akira Ichikawa-----
Bill Nakashima----	15	Owen Takanaga-----	Harry Toshi-----
Ben Takashima-----	17	Akira Mariguchi----	Paul Tamita-----
		Tetsu Miyata-----	Bill Ishida-----
TROMBONES		Denny Tubal-----	Ron Yoshida-----
Norm Furukawa----	14	Irwin Yoshimura----	
Fred Kikuchi-----	13	Tom Kubota-----	VOCAL
Shinya Ichikawa----	13		Patsy Nakashima - 18

VOCALISTS

Harry Toshi Patsy Nakashima

For the past two years, a dedicated group of volunteers, many of whom are members of the affiliated Buddhist Churches of America, have been actively involved in compiling a book about the Lotus Skyliners. The Lotus Skyliners was a swing band sponsored by the Seattle Betsuin. The band was popular in the greater Seattle area and up and down the West Coast in the 1950s and 1960s. In 1955 and 1956 the band toured California, playing mostly for other Buddhist temples at community halls, dance halls and even at the civic auditorium in San Jose. The band played there on a Saturday night and was sandwiched between Ella Fitzgerald on Friday night and Louis Armstrong on Sunday night.

The book will be entitled “How a Big Band Lifts Up a Small Community”, and will be available for sale at book signing events and through online sellers like Amazon. The Wing Luke Museum of the Asian Pacific American Experience is the fiscal sponsor and Chin Music Press is the publisher.

The initial book signing and meet and greet event will be held at the Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple, located at 1427 South Main Street in Seattle, on Sunday, June 11, 2023 from 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Former members of the Lotus Skyliners will attend and big band music will be provided by the Rich Hirano quartet. Light refreshments will be provided at this free event. The publication of this book was made possible by a large group of Jump Start donors and generous grants from the Muckleshoot Indian Tribe and 4Culture of King County.

The below link is a video that was produced for a 2006 reunion of band members. It should give you some idea of the Skyliners.

<https://youtu.be/4BWDXTKnnvY>

Furusato – my native home

<https://youtu.be/dzs5kr-XOQ>



Andrea Giuffredi trumpet

A Photo from the Past



Mother's Day officially began as a tribute to one woman.

Anna Reeves Jarvis is most often credited with founding Mother's Day. After her mother Ann died on May 9, 1905, Jarvis set out to create a day that would honor her and moms as a group. She began the movement in West Virginia, which prides itself on hosting [the first official Mother's Day celebration](#) three years later at Andrews Methodist Episcopal Church, according to [CNN](#). In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson signed a bill recognizing Jarvis' idea as a national holiday to be celebrated each second Sunday in May.

The below article by board member Angie Hughes is intended to help make board members more accessible to temple members



Last month, my family and I had the opportunity to travel to Singapore and stay with friends. For all of us, it was eye opening, interesting, and challenging in different ways. My friend and long-ago college roommate, Dena, works in Singapore and because of her intimate knowledge of the city, we were able to have many local experiences that others perhaps may not encounter on a first visit. Singapore, a city, state, and nation smaller than Rhode Island, and situated just 85 miles north of the equator, is home to more than 5 million people. This combination of factors made for crowded streets and heavy heat. For me, climate has always been a consideration when I travel. I don't do well in oppressive heat, especially in intense humidity, compounded by having to compete for space. I tried my best every day, rested when necessary, and took all the precautions when out and about.

On our 6th and final full day in Singapore, Dena was kind enough to take us over to the Kebun Baru Birdsinging Club at Ang Mo Kio Park. She described it beforehand as a unique experience and something very special and local. When we arrived, we were immediately surprised by the hundreds of long staff-like bird hangers gracing the park's expansive lawn. The bird cages were hoisted high in the air, their keepers periodically checking on them and readjusting as was needed. While my family expressed their awe at the sight, I immediately felt a sense of worry for the birds in their cages. As the heat beat down, even at the early hour of 10am, I couldn't imagine being trapped inside, though each cage was either covered with a little decorative cloth or hung under a canopy. I grappled with this as we made our way through the park and tried to enjoy the scene as the birdkeepers obviously enjoyed themselves and chatted with their fellow enthusiasts. If they were certain that their birds could withstand this unrelenting heat without escape and had evolved to easily handle this environment, then I should trust that, too. Logically, I knew this but, internally, I had an overwhelming urge to set them all free.

We took photos, appreciated the variety of birds with their varied songs, and thanked a few of the keepers and then made our way to shade and shelter across the way. Putting my trust in others to know when to alleviate discomfort or suffering was something I had to lean into and practice deeply as I watched from afar and enjoyed my cool drink. Hoping that the keepers would determine the best time to retrieve their individual birds from the pounding sun and retreat to their own spaces was both a concerning and comforting thought I returned to throughout our last day of activities. During our time in Singapore, and with Dena's family guiding us, we encountered many special circumstances and learned much about the culture. However, Kebun Baru Birdsinging Park will continue to challenge me as I think of this daily ritual happening on the other side of the world.



All 3 Yuzuriha grandchildren participated in Hatsumairi at the Mountain View Buddhist Temple on April 9, 2023



Front row: Chris Fajardo, Reina Fajardo, Daisy Fajardo, Jill (Yuzuriha) Fajardo, Alison Fong Yuzuriha, Owen Yuzuriha, Ken Yuzuriha
Back row: Todd Yuzuriha, Elaine Yuzuriha, Linda Fong, Vance Fong

Gathering at the Backyard Deck of the Ichikawa Home

On the afternoon of Saturday, April 29, a group of members who were students of Rev. Sugahara’s Buddhism Class, gathered one more time to reminisce and say goodbye to Rev. Sugahara. In addition to the delicious and plentiful food and continuous conversations, a test was administered based on twenty questions derived from Rev. Sugahara’s OBT Newsletter articles. Two teams were formed to answer the questions with a point given to the team that answered correctly first. The result ended in a 10 to 10 tie. This was followed by a singing session in which the song popularly known as Sukiyaki was sung in Japanese and English, with ukulele accompaniment. The two photos include all the participants. Notice in the first photo Rev. Yuki is holding a guitar.



Brenda Fugate Yasuko Fields Rev. Yuki Ichikawa Glenda Watson Ken Garner Jeanette Hager
Jayne Ichikawa



June Shiigi Yasuko Fields Rev. Yuki Ichikawa Shinya Ichikawa Glenda Watson Ken Garner
Brenda Fugate Jayne Ichikawa Stan Shiigi