



OBT established 1903

# PureLand Path

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The Oregon Buddhist Temple Monthly Newsletter

August 2020

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## Harmony in Society Reverend Yuki Sugahara

*Pure winds blow in the jewel-trees,  
Producing the five tones of the scale.  
As those sounds are harmonious and spontaneous,  
Pay homage to Amida, the one imbued with purity.*

It has been over four months since this shelter in place situation started. I hope everyone is staying safe and healthy and trying to find something that attracts you. If that is the Buddhism teaching that's great! I am live-streaming morning service and now I am reading the Wasan/Hymns of the Pure Land written by Shinran Shonin every morning. This month's article is mostly from one of the morning services' talk. In the above poem, "one imbued with purity" has two meanings:

- One is that Amida Buddha is the Buddha of the Pure Land which had been established through the merit of the pure vow mind.
- Another is to understand that Amida Buddha is the Buddha of the Pure Land of the pure fragrance.

These differences come from the understanding of the Chinese characters, but either understanding is good. To me, the first understanding fits the above wasan poem. However, one of the textbooks I have used the latter to explain this wasan.

The five tones the major pentatonic scale refers to is C, D, E, G, and A. (Western music uses 440Hz for tuning, but Chinese Court music uses 430Hz for tuning so there is slight differences of the pitch.) If I play all the notes together, what

would the chord be? C Six Ninth (C major 6<sup>th</sup> added 9<sup>th</sup>)? I thought it would sound terrible, but when I play all the notes together it sounds really pretty.

Each note has a different character and if each note is selfishly played it would sound terrible. But all the notes played together and spontaneously are harmonious. This is because, as the jewel-trees of the Pure Land, all the notes played together is greater than the sum of its parts.

When we listen to Jazz music, especially when it comes to the bass solo, the other musicians turn their volume down so that the sound of the bass stands out. Each musician respects each other in the band to create beautiful music. In some bands, each member just wants to show how good he/she is without listening to other players. That kind of band sounds terrible.

So the Pure Land was established through the merits of the Pure Vow mind of nondiscrimination and mutual respect and the sound in the Pure Land is pure and in beautiful harmony

How are we living? Are we creating beautiful harmony among each other? Are we playing our part too loud when someone else needs to be spotlighted? If so, we need to turn our volume down so that other people can be heard. I believe that this wasan poem or the adornments of the trees, sounds of the Pure Land, is teaching us to respect each other.

Finally, this August marks 75 years since the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the end of the World War II. To avoid repeating this terrible history, we all need to respect each other and create beautiful harmony in society.

Gassho

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Save the Date

August 1



Oregon Buddhist Temple

Virtual Obon Festival

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

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e-mail: [info@oregonbuddhisttemple.com](mailto: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.

## August Shotsuki Hoyo

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.

Abe, Patsy 8/30/2006 *	Kinoshita, Sei 8/1/1973*	Sakamoto Hantaro 8/25/1954
Akao, Toshiko 8/14/2000	Kuribayashi, Tatsuko 8/20/2001 *	Sasaki, Teruko 8/28/2009
Ando, Suematsu 8/26/1957	Kutada, Emi 8/3/2016	Shido, Mary 8/14/2000
Ando, Sumiko 8/25/2001 *	Maeda, Francis Kanji 8/24/2001	Shintani, Kazumi 8/12/2016 *
Azuma, Nisuke 8/11/1961	Maeda, Kinu 8/31/1987 *	Smith, Vincent 8/19/2001
Brandon, Sada 7/16/2016	Masuoka, Nobuko 8/5/2016 *	Sugimura, Kinu 8/10/1972 *
Brown, Jan Jr 8/31/2007	Matsumura, Kina 8/10/1972	Sumida, Alice Etsuko 8/17/2018 *
Brown, Reiko Akao 8/15/2011	Mayers, Bernard Leon 8/17/2010	Susaki, Nobuko 8/2/2001
Fujii, Yoshimi 8/31/1995	Melore, Barbara 8/17/2006	Takabayashi, Tsunetaro 8/20/1960
Fujinaka, Nobuko 8/23/2018	Morita, Yachiyo 8/31/1997 *	Tamiyasu, Hirao 8/21/1978
Greenwood, Arlita 8/10/2001	Muramatsu, Phyllis 8/11/2006*	Tanaka, Saichi 8/12/1957
Harrison, Henrietta Ueoka 8/5/2014	Muramatsu, Sam Matsutaro 8/13/1978	Teramura, Kisuke 8/26/1969
Hata, Kesae Kay 8/17/2000	Naemura, Saisuke 8/20/1953	Toyooka, Hatsuye 8/23/1983 *
Higashi, Jinsue 8/11/1961	Naganuma, Sam Sadatoshi 8/12/2001	Uesugi, Take 8/9/1953 *
Inahara, Tei 8/6/1997 *	Nakano, Sanami 8/28/2008	Uyeda, Henry 8/24/1974
Ishida Baby 8/12/1950	Nakao, Emil 8/14/2005	Uyeda, Josephine 8/12/2012 *
Itamura, Edith 8/6/2002	Nakao, Taitaro 8/5/1972	Wnner, Diane Renee 8/7/2001
Ito, Masu 8/26/1956*	Ng, Joann 8/21/2004	Yagi, Kan 8/9/2013 *
Katada, Kazue 8/28/1995*	Okawa, Reiko 8/31/1998 *	Yamaguchi, Ujitsubo 8/27/86
Kato, Koriku 8/16/1974	Okawa, Toichi 8/11/1959	Yoshida, Kamekichi 8/28/1952

\*OBWA member

## 2020 Memorial Services

Year Of Passing	Memorial	Year Of Passing	Memorial
2019	1 Year	2004	17 Year
2018	3 Year	1996	25 Year
2013	7 Year	1988	33 Year
2008	13 Year	1971	50 Year

If you would like to schedule a memorial service for loved ones or ancestors, please make arrangements with Rev. Sugahara at 916-834-7350 or [ysobtporland06012017@oregonbuddhisttempl.com](mailto:ysobtporland06012017@oregonbuddhisttempl.com)

## Hatsubon Families for 2020

Hatsubon is a Buddhist ceremony commemorating the first Obon service following a loved one's passing. This year's Hatsubon service was held remotely on July 12.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qMj\\_aX3-VQo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qMj_aX3-VQo)

This special service occurs during Obon, which is the yearly Buddhist tradition of remembering ones ancestors. "Hatsu bon" literally means the first obon.

The names of those who passed in the last year are on the following page.

	<u>Day of Passing</u>
Asakawa, Carol	4/10/2020
Hokama, Tom	2/25/2020
Hrubant, Frank	10/1/2019
Ikata, Rose	12/20/2019
Ito, Yoshiko	6/21/2020
Kurihara, Wallace	3/19/2020
Meiners, Dale	4/17/2020
Sato, Kathie	4/28/2020
Sato, Lury	7/30/2019
Seibel, Penny	9/29/2019

## President's Column

### Cathy Yarne, OBT President

*Dana - The Sanskrit word means the practice of giving.*

Dear Sangha,

At our temple, Dana takes on many forms. Recently I was trying to compose a sentence that acknowledged how almost all aspects of the temple are dependent on volunteers. Only in a few situations do we “hire” a professional to complete a necessary task. Rarely do we think about all the number of hours that goes into managing, maintaining and organizing the temple. When you think about it, it is truly incredible.

The generous practice of making small but needed purchases is not unusual. Frankly, most of the time, we don't even know a person has covered the cost. Now during our covid shut down I've learned about several people covering the expense of several, more larger expenses. Without being solicited, these people volunteered to pay for the services and items that were needed.

OBT has also received several donations from individuals recognizing we have canceled our traditional fundraisers.

On August 21 we will be hosting our very first virtual concert and fundraiser. You can look forward to a wonderful evening of entertainment from some of our very talented Sangha members. Recognizing that this has been a financially challenging year, you'll have the opportunity to make a special donation during this event. Even more so now, during our time away from regular temple activities, many of us have come to appreciate the value of the Oregon Buddhist Temple in our lives. One way to express your gratitude is to donate during this concert event.

We are truly grateful for all your gifts of Dana.

Gassho,  
Cathy Yarne

## Preparing for Virtual ObonFest

### Saturday, August 1

#### Ann Shintani

Obon is a festival to express joy and gratitude, to see friends and family, and to remember. Our hope is to have our own bon odori event for our community during this overwhelming time of pandemic, economic, social, and political uncertainty. On a Saturday morning in July, a small group of ObonFest volunteers gathered, taking safety precautions, to record our shortened list of bon odori for 2020. Join us via Zoom, YouTube, radio, or even phone. We will be together in spirit on August 1<sup>st</sup>. There will be three segments: service, radio bon odori, and bon odori.

Sensei Sugahara will start with a **10:00 am Obon Service** with Sensei's message for ObonFest, and a display of our virtual lanterns. The lanterns allow us to remember and pay tribute to loved ones and organizations. As a bonus and warmup, bon odori favorites will be broadcast over **KBOO, 91.7 FM at 6:00 PM**. Lastly, we have our **Virtual Obonfest at 7:00 PM** for bon odori. We hope you will join in the dancing, as Chris Dart Sensei has posted the bon odori tutorials on our website. To participate using Zoom, check your email for the invitation and instructions the week before.

Thank you to Sensei Sugahara, and to Traci Kiyama for the service and virtual lantern program. For the bon odori, thank you to Chris Dart, Elaine Werner, Brenda Fugate and Ann Shintani; to technical support Bob Kagawa, Sugahara Sensei and Ken Garner. For the bon odori radio broadcast, another huge thank you to Jenna Yokoyama, who is also with KBOO Community Radio, and Chris Dart. Lastly, a huge thank you to Ryan Davis for providing technical expertise in producing the videos and enabling us to share ObonFest virtually with Zoom and YouTube. Take care and stay safe.

## Zoom on Over for an OBT Concert

### Cathy Yarne

The Oregon Buddhist Temple is excited to announce a first time virtual concert event, **In the Spirit of Giving: An Evening of Music with OBT on Friday August 21, from 7:00-8:30 pm**. It will be a special evening featuring our talented OBT musicians and an opportunity to show your support by making a donation to the temple.

OBT has not been immune to the financial impact of the pandemic. Since this is a unique situation, a few, very generous donors are challenging us to match or exceed their total donation during this virtual event. You are being asked to participate in this challenge by making a special donation during this event via PayPal, Facebook Messenger or Zoom chat. If you need assistance learning how to access these giving platforms, please reach out to Ryan Davis at [ryand@clackamas.edu](mailto:ryand@clackamas.edu) or 503 367-2541 and he will gladly walk you through the steps.

If you are unable to make your donation during this event, you are encouraged to mail it into the temple.

Thank you for supporting our temple. Your generosity enables OBT to continue the gift of making the Dharma available to all. In addition to being a fundraiser, this is also a way for our Sangha to come together and express our shared appreciation for our community and each other. We look forward to seeing you on August 21 for OBT's *In the Spirit of Giving: An Evening of Music with OBT*.

Also see display on page 8

## 2020 OBT Board of Directors

**Term Ending 2020:** Angie Davis (Vice President), Traci Kiyama (Secretary), Cathy Yarne (President), Jenna Yokoyama  
**Term Ending 2021:** Marilyn Achterman, Ken Garner, Mai Thi La, Ann Shintani

**Term Ending 2022:** Erik Ackerson, Jayne Ichikawa, Katie Tamiyasu, Christine White

## OBWA News Katie Tamiyasu

Hard to believe It has been almost four months since the temple had to close due to the coronavirus. We hope everyone is keeping safe and healthy during this unprecedented time, which has changed our way of living in so many ways.

A huge 'Thank You' to Yasuko Fields and Judy Yamauchi for sewing masks for members, and there will be some available for those without them when we are able to reopen safely.

We have not had an OBWA meeting since February, thus there is no news to report on. So here is a favorite refreshing recipe that was shared by our dear past member, Patsy Abe at a Dharma Exchange "Open Classroom" on Oct. 23, 2005.

### PICKLED VEGETABLE SALAD

\*Ingredients: Broccoli flowerets  
 Cauliflower flowerets  
 Daikon (sliced)  
 Carrots (sliced)

Vinegar solution for the salad:

1/2 c. sugar (or "Splenda")  
 1/3 c. vinegar  
 1/3 c. water

Cook over medium heat to dissolve sugar. Set aside to Cool.

Salt vegetables 2 hours or more (even overnight is fine)

Rinse vegetables well with water.

Mix vegetables together with vinegar mixture. Then serve and enjoy!

\*You can use any vegetables you want with this salad.

Next month's OBWA reporter is Nancy Kajitsu.

## 2020 BCA Buddhist Youth Retreat July 5 - 9 Mayu Garner

This July, I went to the first ever virtual BCA Buddhist Youth Retreat. When I heard about the retreat a year ago (when it was still supposed to be an actual in person camp) I wasn't really looking forward to it. Though I enjoy learning about the Dharma, and seeing other temples, I was scared to stay with a group of kids that I didn't know. I was afraid that all those kids were already friends, as I heard most of them would be from California.

Due to Coronavirus, the retreat was changed to be online, using Zoom. I still felt a little anxious, because I didn't know what it was going to be like! All I was told in advance, was to prepare a short Dharma message to share during the camp.

At 7pm on Monday, when I first entered the Zoom meeting, I saw a lot of other kids that looked like they were anxious just like I was, and I felt much better. The retreat had 17 kids including me, and most of them were even my age! Without much time to spare, we got straight into chanting after brief introductions. Every night, the camp started with a service, which the kids took turns to chair. The camp was led by Mr. Koichi Mizushima from Sacramento Buddhist Temple, along with other ministers and staff from BCA. I got to meet many ministers throughout this camp -- some gave us Dharma messages, and some were there for conversation with us!

The camp was from 7 to 11pm for 5 evenings. Each night was packed with student Dharma talks, longer Dharma messages from BCA ministers, and discussions. Time went by so fast, and I think we formed a great friendship and support group together! We had a lot of fun and meaningful conversations, and it felt almost like we all grew up at the same temple because there was so much in common between us!

Though it wasn't in person, I feel like this retreat was just as important, meaningful, and fun, because in just 20 full hours, I learned so much about Buddhism, and made 16 new friends in California and Hawaii!

We've become so close that now, for the rest of summer, we have scheduled meetings on every Friday just to hang out! :)

*The following article by Traci Kiyama is the seventh in a series of articles written this year by an OBT board member to help make board members more accessible to temple members/*

## Be Kind and Gentle to Every Living Thing Traci Kiyama

This year I have attended obon in San Jose, Chicago, and Los Angeles. Of course, it has all been from the comfort of my home behind my computer, but I suppose this is one perk of pandemic life. I get a glimpse into obon around the country. Usually, this is the time when everyone pulls out their yukata, makes vats of teriyaki sauce, tests the shave ice machine, dances with family and friends, and remembers those that have passed

before us. This year, we can still do these things, just on our own at home, knowing others are also missing the same things that have been so easy to take for granted.

I am remembering my many family members and friends who have passed before me: Grandma Mary, Grandpa Jack, Grandma Hamako, Grandpa Komakichi, Uncle Gary, Uncle Ko, Allison, Mrs. Gurewitsch, Valerie, and many more.

I am also thinking of the many black and indigenous lives lost in this country because of racism: Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, Atatiana Jefferson, Emmett Till, Paul Castaway, Stephon Clark, Botham Jean, Philando Castille, Tamir Rice, Quanice Hayes, Jason Pero, and so so many more.

This obon, as I contemplate the impermanence of life, I hope for good health for my community amidst a pandemic and for systemic changes for our country. We need to find a way forward as a nation so that all humans are truly seen as equally deserving of this beautiful life.

The Golden Chain comes to mind: "I will be kind and gentle to every living thing and protect all who are weaker than myself." What would it look like if we all lived this way? Namu Amida Butsu.

## Buddhist Study Class via Zoom



### Intermediate Class:

Reading The Three Pure Land Sutras – encountering the teaching which the Buddhas enjoyed

**When:** 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of the month, 7pm to 8:30 pm

**Where:** Participants are at

their respective homes on their computers, communicating via Zoom.

This is twice a month intermediate level Buddhist study class. Please contact Reverend Sugahara for more information.

Currently we are reading Tannisho. Rev. Sugihara gives the historical background of its writing and interpretations of confusing statements. Discussion and questions are welcome and encouraged.

The next class will be July 29 and will cover Chapter VII and VIII of Tannisho.

*VII In the person of nembutsu opens up the great path of unobstructed freedom. The reason is that the gods of heaven and earth bow before the practice of true entrusting, and those of the world of demons and rival ways cannot obstruct such a person. The consequences of karmic evil cannot bear fruit, nor does any form of good equal the nembutsu. Thus, it is called the great path of unobstructed freedom.*

*VII The saying of the nembutsu is neither a religious practice nor a good act. Since it is practiced without any calculation, it is "non-practice." Since it is also not a good created by my calculation, it is "non-good." Since it is nothing but Other Power, completely free of self-power, it is neither a religious practice nor a good act of the part of the practice*

## Can You Find It?

Erik Ackerson, Photographer



Image of the Buddha appears after pruning of pine tree

## Coincidentally

The Buddhist Temple of Southern Alberta July newsletter contained the below article and photo.

**Buddha in Our Garden**  
The warm June morning bathes the BTSA Buddha in the garden in sunshine, even with the temple closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Not quite the Bodhi tree but the apple tree provides cover for the welcoming statue.



## Look Up

So your tears won't fall

*ue o muita arukou*

*namida ga kobore naiyouni*

Kids liked Pat's singing too, at the August 4, 2007 Obonfest.



<https://youtu.be/m4-Sru6HXyo>

## Portland Taiko Summer News

Wynn Kiyama

Portland Taiko is keeping busy even though our performance season has been canceled. This spring, we taught our classes online for the very first time and this summer we will be welcoming two guest artists for Zoom taiko workshops.

Both workshops are designed for minimal or no taiko equipment (see [www.portlandtaiko.org/classes](http://www.portlandtaiko.org/classes)).

After four months of online rehearsals, Portland Taiko will practice a handful of times in the OBT parking lot with appropriate distances between people. In order to be mindful of our neighbors, we will be practicing on tires and gomi-daiko (drum surfaces made from plastic garbage cans). In a way, this is a reminder of Portland Taiko's beginnings when the group had only one real taiko and a battery of DIY drums.

In the coming weeks, we will be videotaping performances outside—at a farm, winery, in the Gorge, near water—for our fall concert video with No-No Boy focusing on the rich history of Japanese Americans in Oregon. We are excited to present songs and stories based on JA communities in Orient, Ontario, Toledo, Portland, and more. This video will be debuted in late September and details will be posted on our website. We hope you can tune in, and until then, we hope you stay healthy and safe!

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**Donations to Oregon Buddhist Temple can be made through PayPal on the Temple website. Click the “support” heading or see below. For those familiar with PayPal, see below. Donations can also be mailed to the Temple.**

### **Donate through PayPal**

Did you know that OBT has a PayPal Account? We gratefully accept the donations through PayPal. This is the perfect way to donate during this difficult time of social distancing.

Thank you for your consideration!

Gassho,  
Yuki Sugahara  
Resident Minister  
Oregon Buddhist Temple



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When paper newsletters were mailed, donation envelopes were enclosed for those months that had special services and events. Now that the newsletter is available only electronically this is not possible. This is a reminder to encourage readers to continue the donations, not only for these events but anytime. Thank you.

February	Hoonko
March	Spring Ohigan
April	Hanamatsuri
May	Gotan-E Shinran Shonin Birthday Celebration
July	Kangi-e "A Gathering of Joy" Obon Service
August	Obonfest
September	Fall Ohigan
November	Eitaikyo - Perpetual Memorial Service
December	Year End Gift for the Temple

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**Oregon Buddhist Temple is closed until further notice**



# Virtual OBONFEST

**Oregon Buddhist Temple**

**Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020**

**Oregon Buddhist Temple is bringing OBONFest to you at home!** While safely social-distancing, we will share Dharma messages, remembrances, memories, and bon odori music and dancing. We hope you can join us!

**How is this going to work?** We will gather on Zoom, an online video meeting platform. You can join from a computer or smartphone to watch. Join by phone to listen.

**Let's gather online to dance together!** You can just watch, but we hope you'll dance with us. Dress up and clear a space for your bon odori circle.

**Radio?! Yes!** Portland's own KBOO will broadcast bon odori favorites, so you can listen to a special Obon program if you don't have internet access.

**Remember our loved ones.** Order a virtual lantern to remember loved ones or to honor someone special. Deadline is Saturday, July 25. The on-line order form is on our website.



## PROGRAM

### **Virtual Obon Service with Commemorative Lanterns**

Reverend Sugahara  
10:00AM – 11:00AM  
*Livestream on YouTube*

### **KBOO Bon Odori Tribute**

Jenna Yokoyama  
6:00PM – 7:00PM  
*KBOO Radio, 90.7 FM*

### **Virtual OBONFest**

Bon odori instructor Chris & dance leaders  
7:00PM – 8:00PM  
*Gather on Zoom*

### **Gather online**

For the YouTube and Zoom links, and for updated information, go to [Oregon Buddhist Temple's website](https://www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com).

Watch for a short flashback video with images from OBT's past!

## In the Spirit of Giving: An Evening of Music with OBT

You are cordially invited to a virtual benefit concert  
fundraising event for  
Oregon Buddhist Temple



### Featured Performers

The Kiyama Family ~ Ken Garner ~ Yasuko Fields & Miyoko Maeda ~ Nancy Walseth  
Charles Reneau ~ Todd, Elaine, & Joy Yuzuriha ~ Reverend Yuki Sugahara

*This will be an evening to remember as we enjoy our first virtual OBT concert to benefit our ongoing efforts to share the dharma. Come and participate by sharing your matched donations to help support OBT. This show will not be rebroadcast so please be sure to tune in and enjoy!*

**Date, Time & Location:**  
Friday, August 21, 2020  
7:00 p.m.

**Zoom Link:**  
<https://bit.ly/obtgiving>

**Password: Giving**

Your ongoing support  
is appreciated by all  
who call Oregon  
Buddhist Temple their  
spiritual home



For more details to  
donate in advance of  
the benefit and for a  
direct link to the  
concert on Zoom,  
please visit the OBT  
website:  
[www.oregonbuddhist  
temple.com](http://www.oregonbuddhisttemple.com)



**Oregon Buddhist Temple  
June 2020 Donations**

**SHOTSUKI HOYO**

***In memory of Seiichi Fujii***

Diane Ando Harder

Roberta Ando

**LOTUS CIRCLE**

***In memory of parents,***

***James & Mitsuko Hasuike***

Betty Hasuike Young

***In memory of Masaki &***

***Yachiyo Kinoshita***

Watari family

***In honor of Jean Matsumoto***

***& Etsu Osaki***

Iwasaki families

***Special donations***

Yasuko Maekawa Fields

Herb & Etsu Osaki

Network for Good (*grant*)

Susan Leedham

Maegan Prentice

Jamez McNicholas

Iwashita Family

Rei Okabayashi (*Obon*)

Bernard L. Perez (*Dana*)

Gary Higashi

Jennifer A. Rogers

Paul Telles

Kyle Burch

Amanda Stein

Dana Kakishita (*Dharma  
messages & virtual services*)

***2020 Annual Pledge***

Betty Hasuike Young

Yasuko Maekawa Fields

Cathy Shikatani & Willem Stoeller

***Monthly/quarterly/semi-  
annual pledge donations***

Randy Choy & Kim Kono

Jean Matsumoto

Nancy Walseth

Susan Lilly & Erik Ackerson

Diane Ando Harder

Susan Endecott

***Donation acknowledgements are  
mailed for donations of \$250 or more  
and to any donor upon request.  
sjendecott@gmail.com***

***Thank you for your continued support***

