

OCTOBER 2024

KALAVINKA

A NEWSLETTER OF EKOJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

THIS OCTOBER -- COME JOIN YOUR
LARGER EASTERN SANGHA



HYBRID EASTERN BUDDHIST LEAGUE CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 18 - 20, 2024
PLEASE JOIN US!!



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Rev. Rye's 84,000 Thoughts -- "Buddhism and The Way of Tea" ...	01 & 02
Pres. Message: "A Call to Action" ...	03 & 04
Editor's Kibitzing -- "Gratitude is Timeless" ...	05
Stewardship Teams for October ...	06
2004 - 2005 Children's Dharma School Begins on October 6 ...	07
Report on September Board Meeting ...	08 & 09
Treasurer's Report ...	10
Upon Their Shoulders - Shotsuki List for October ...	11
October Movie Discussion Session ...	12
In Gassho -- September Dana List // Podcast for October ...	13
EASTERN BUDDHIST LEAGUE CONFERENCE, Oct 18-20 ...	14 - 27
EBL Schedule ...	15
Preparing for the EBL Conference by Andrea Chapman ...	16
Dr. Scott Mitchell, "The Making of American Buddhism" ...	17
A Review of "The Making of American Buddhism" by Michael Huff ...	18 & 19
"Why EBL" by Rev. Todd Tsuchiya ...	20 & 21
Voices from the Past: 1944 -- Closing of Jerome WRA Camp and Dissolution of the YBA ...	22
Voices from the Past: 1946 Rept. on the formation of the EYBL in Cleveland's "Nirvana" ...	23
Voices from the Past: 1947 <u>The Future of EYBL</u> , Stanley Okada (EYBL 1st Pres.) ...	24 & 25
Voices from the Past: 1989 Message by Rev. Tsuji for first EBL hosted by Ekoji ...	26
View from the Past: 2014 Rev. Rye's Welcome to the 2014 EBL Conference ...	27
Ekoji October Calendar of Services and Activities...	28



84,000 THOUGHTS

BUDDHISM AND “THE WAY OF TEA”

By Rev. Kurt Rye

When asked my favorite season, I quickly respond that I enjoy Autumn, which surprises some since the Spring season seems the most popular. I have lived most of my life on the West Coast, though I lived in Silver Spring, Maryland, for the first fifteen years of my life. Living through the hot humid summers, I always enjoyed when the weather cooled down, and I got to see my friends with the beginning of school. As a baby boomer growing up in the 1960's, I, like others, experienced my life without much of a connection to the natural world around me.

As the years passed, I slowly came to appreciate the seasons more attentively and how they intertwined in my life. However, my connection with the seasons was drastically changed when I was introduced to Mrs. Locke, a master of the Japanese tea ceremony. She was certified in the Yabunouchi Japanese tea school, which has been in existence for over 400 years. I had been a member of the Seattle Buddhist temple for several years when Rev. Castro, who had been a student of Mrs. Locke, introduced us. The Japanese tea ceremony, known as Chado “The Way of Tea”, in Japanese, is considered a central importance to traditional Japanese culture. Sen no Rikyu (1522-1591) was the person who solidified many aspects of the ceremony and is considered the founder of most of the tea schools which exist to this day. Rikyu was ordained in the Rinzai School of Zen Buddhism, and he infused the philosophy of the tea ceremony with Buddhist concepts and teachings.

After years of study with Mrs. Locke, I came to realize the most significant teaching was experiencing mindfulness at a level I had not experienced before. This important Buddhist teaching has become wide spread in the larger society over the last twenty years, yet many don't know it's Buddhist origins. It is defined “As a mental state achieved by focusing one's awareness on the present moment, while calmly acknowledging and accepting one's feelings.”

Everything in the tea room is carefully selected and reflects the season and time of year. Though the tea room is inside, the atmosphere created makes one reflect on nature and the elements. The tea bowl might have an Autumn pattern of leaves or be made from a unique clay that demonstrates earth tones. The scroll might exhibit an image of a seasonal fruit or flowers. The flower arrangement utilizes what is in bloom at the moment. Even the sweets that are consumed before drinking the tea, reflect ingredients of the season. Every week when I entered the tea room, I would try to be mindful to see what had changed, and to reflect on the changes and become more aware of the current season, thus grounding myself in the present moment, going beyond my thoughts and the tea room.

The Tea Ceremony, (cont. Pg. 2)

I hope you would be able to apply this simple but powerful Buddhist teaching of mindfulness in your own life. A simple action as taking a moment in your day to look out the window, to stop your mind for a moment to remember the weather or the season. Perhaps, go for a short walk and slow your thinking process and let what you see simply enter your eyes.

The Buddha said one of the greatest teachings of the Dharma is “To see things as they truly are”. With mindfulness practice we can see things as they are, even if for a moment. It gives us insight.

Namo Amida Butsu

EKOJI’S VIRTUAL “DHARMA BREEZE” PROGRAM OF A SERVICE AND DISCUSSION WITH REV. KURT RYE WILL BE HELD EVERY WEDNESDAY EVENING, AT 7:00 PM.



WEDNESDAYS
7 PM ET
EKOJI.ORG

DHARMA BREEZE WILL INCLUDE: 3-MINUTE MEDITATION, CHANTING, DHARMA MESSAGE AND A SHORT DISCUSSION.

RSVP FOR THE ZOOM INFO USING THIS LINK:

[HTTPS://US02WEB.ZOOM.US/MEETING/REGISTER/TZMLCOGSQT0TGDIRTNNT5EYDBZXXK9F20VZJO](https://us02web.zoom.us/join/91012020000)



A CALL TO ACTION FOR OUR PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE MEMBERS



By Andrea Chapman

On Sunday, November 17, 2024, at 1 pm ET we will come together as members of Ekoji at our hybrid Annual Meeting of the Sangha. We will discuss important matters such as the operating budget, the challenges and opportunities which presented themselves in 2024, our future ambitions. And we will be asked to approve, amend, or disapprove as well as vote on the election of our 2025 Board of Directors.

It is the “Vote on the Board of Directors” that I would like to discuss with you today. This is a pivotal year for the administration of Ekoji in that three of your longstanding board members have fulfilled multiple terms and the remaining members are entering their second year of their first term. We were in a similar situation not so long ago and had to temporarily suspend our bylaws to elect more than 5 new members to the Board.

To lessen the chances of Ekoji being operated by a relatively inexperienced Board of Directors we will need to do two things at the elections in 2024 and 2025.

1. Retain as many of our existing board members as possible so we can continue to benefit from their institutional knowledge
2. Welcome two to three new members in 2025 and 2026

Serving on the Board of Directors is a voluntary elected position, which has no monetary compensation. It does yield many opportunities to advance your leadership and communication skills, and to meet people from all over the country (if you serve as a delegate for the National Council Meeting (NCM), National Board Meeting (NBM), or our Eastern District Meetings.

More importantly, serving on the Ekoji Board of Directors is a means for you to deepen your practice, engage in selfless giving and support the temple with your time and talents.

To stand for election as a Director or Trustee, one is required to be a “Member in Good Standing”. Loosely interpreted, the opportunity to stand for election is open to all members; however, as stated in Article 3, Section 2 of our temple bylaws, Membership is defined as:

([Pres - Call to Action](#) (Cont. on Pg. 4)

(Pres. Call To Action - Cont from pg. 3)

“...to vote in any election of the Directors or Trustees of the temple, and on any matter placed before the Sangha for consideration and approval, provided that the member has been registered as a member for at least 90 days at the date of the election or vote, and is otherwise in good standing.”
Part of being a “Member in Good Standing,” according to Art. III on Membership, Sec. 2(a)(3) is *“to support the temple financially. This includes the member’s share of the temple’s annual payment to the Buddhist Churches of America, an annual pledge to donate a defined amount of money to the temple (as defined by the member – including family membership and dana.)....*

The Board meets once per month to discuss the budget, upkeep of the property, fundraising and other special events, outreach, marketing and membership, as well as other pertinent matters that arise. As outlined in Article 6, Section 1 of our bylaws, we have a President, Secretary, Treasurer and two Trustees. All other members are either at-Large or in some instances co-Presidents and Vice Presidents. The respective positions are determined at the first meeting of the incoming and outgoing boards to facilitate an exchange of information and make for a smooth transition.

If you are currently a member of Ekoji, I invite you to consider being nominated for a seat on the 2025 Board of Directors. For more information or to put your name on the slate, please speak with Andrea Chapman, President, or Maya Horio, Treasurer.

If you are not yet a full member of Ekoji, I invite you to consider making the commitment. Member dues are used to maintain Ekoji as a Jodo Shinshu temple affiliated with the Buddhist Churches of America, and to support the temple financially. However, your active participation as a member is KEY as it contributes to the intellectual, social, and religious life of the temple and its upkeep.

With deep gratitude I thank you for thoughtfully considering these requests, and I look forward to discussing the business of Ekoji Buddhist Temple in detail with you at our hybrid Annual Meeting of the Sangha on Sunday, November 17, 2024.

HYBRID EKOJI SANGHA ANNUAL MEETING -- SUNDAY, NOV, 17, 2024 -- 1:00 ET

On Sunday, November 17, 2024, at 1 pm ET we will come together as members of Ekoji at our hybrid Annual Meeting of the Sangha. We will discuss important matters such as the operating budget, the challenges and opportunities which presented themselves in 2024, our future ambitions. And we will be asked to approve, amend, or disapprove as well as vote on the election of our 2025 Board of Directors



GRATITUDE IS TIMELESS

By Ken Nakamura

As you well know, “Gratitude is Timeless” is the overall theme of this year’s 2024 EBL Conference. Over the years and as I’ve gotten older, I’ve looked at multiple points in my life and realized how much I owe to so many people for who I am and the wonderful life that I’m enjoying. But all that is looking backward, and what I am starting to appreciate is that it takes a lot of time to realize that sense of gratitude.

In last month’s Kalavinka, Rev. Rye explored social gratitude, shaped by a self-centered point of view, and Buddhist gratitude coming from a Dharma perspective. He said,

The Dharma is a vehicle for us to see the world as it is, not what we see through our oft-tainted perception based on our views, consciously or unconsciously. In other words, to see the world from a less self-centered perspective. The teachings are a guide to direct us to see life as an ever-changing reality that is in constant flux. The Dharma can help give us a distinctive perspective of life and give us guidance.

One of the major teachings is the concept of interconnectedness. This teaching takes us from a self-centered world view to the reality that one cannot exist solely by themselves, in the physical or spiritual realm.

One of my favorite plays is Thornton Wilder’s *Our Town*. It’s a sparse, tender three act play, encompassing the stages of our life – youth, marriage, and death. And to me, it’s especially about the fragility of life, and the value, though often unrealized, of even the smallest things in our lives. In the 3rd Act, Emily Webb Gibbs, one of the main characters, has died in childbirth. Emily seeks to visit her family once more, and to do so, she chooses a not very important time in her life – her 12th birthday. Her mother, father, and sister are busy getting ready for Emily’s birthday and not paying any attention to each other. 12-year-old Emily comes down stairs, and no one seems to be paying any attention to her. Deceased-Emily watches all of this happening, and realizes that, in that moment in time, people aren’t enjoying the simple joys of life of being together and working together, but instead are letting things, life, just slip by. Emily cries in pain at our human condition and goes back to the cemetery.

In a way, we may be like the people in *Our Town*, living our self-centered lives, oblivious to all of the help, kindness, and wisdom we receive, stopping our sense of gratitude from blossoming. But our developing sense of gratitude is waiting for us to catch up, to realize our interdependence, to live it, and to carry it forward with us through our lives. And I believe there is more waiting for us, as we turn to Amida with our entrusting heart and know we are one, and have always been. Thus, we express our gratitude by saying “Namo Amida Butsu.”

And so, Our “Gratitude is Timeless.” We just need our self-centered self to get out of the way and let it blossom. But that is awfully hard to do.



EKOJI'S MONTHLY STEWARDSHIP GROUPS FOR SEPTEMBER

By Maya Horio

What is a Stewardship Group Anyway? Stewardship Groups is an initiative that started at Ekoji just before the Pandemic hit, and the groups came to a screeching halt. These groups had a practical side of sharing the work of taking care of our temple a month at a time. But it also has a religious side of working to strengthen Sangha ties. Besides working together in taking care of Temple activities, we hope that working together in small groups will provide each of us the opportunity to meet, get to know each other, and forge new, and deeper connections.

How were the Groups Formed? Each Sangha member has been assigned to a small, designated Stewardship Group which is led by a Board Member. There are 5 in-person groups and two virtual groups. The Stewardship Groups will be repopulated yearly.

On a Regular Basis, What Do Stewardship Groups Do? Each Group will be “on call” for a month at a time. During their “on call” month, the Group would divvey up a list of responsibilities. For the **5 in-person Groups**, these responsibilities include:

- the monthly temple clean-up,
- providing snacks for after the service social time, and cleaning-up after the snacks,
- set-up and clean-up for any temple potlucks,
- other special requests

For the two virtual Groups:

- Help capture post-service Dharma discussion highlights
- Serve as Ekoji’s Sunshine Committee in periodically checking-in with other Sangha members.
- Help host virtual Sangha building initiatives

OCTOBER STEWARDSHIP GROUP – Leader: Mah Doroud

Joanna Hudson-Therway	Kim Nguyen
Mike Therway	Hung Vo
AnneMarie Russell	Truc Vo
Hossein Assefbarkhi	Bob Shimokaji
Erwan Dapoigny	Bud Uyeda
Sandra Lukic	Libby Uyeda
Erick Ishii	Katie Tran (YBA)
Arlene Minami	Jasper Tsai (YBA)

OCTOBER DIGITAL STEWARDSHIP GROUP Leader: Michael Huff

Richard Malone	Dazhane Broden
John Mruk	Chet Damian
Gordan Bermant	Chris Fisher
Jane Blechman	Joe Gotchy
Matt Doubrava	Donna Omata
Yuko Keicho	Joyce Oshita
Andrea Walter	Marisa Dillmuth (YBA)



2024-2025 DHARMA SCHOOL YEAR KICKS OFF IN OCTOBER

By Maya Horio and Kim Nguyen,
Co-Superintendents



Classes for Ekoji's Children's Dharma School will start on Sunday, 6 October, kicking off our 2024-2025 school year.

Dharma School classes are open to all kids ages 4 to 18, and our monthly Family Service is open to all sangha members and children of all ages. Dharma School students are split typically by age into the following classes: Pre-Kindergarten-1st grade; Elementary; Intermediate; and Advanced classes.

Each class aims to instill in our students a basic understanding of Buddhist terms and concepts, working towards our overall Dharma School goal of enabling our students to be able to explain Buddhism and the Shin sect of Buddhism in their own words by the time they graduate. We also help the students learn to lead and chant at least two sutras on their own, understanding that many of our students will be physically distant from a Buddhist temple at various times in their post-Dharma School life.

Our classes will meet twice a month from 9:30-10:30am in the Tsuji Center, with our Family Service taking place on the second or third Sunday in the Hondo, also at 9:30am. Our Intermediate and Advanced students will chair the services and lead the chanting, and we will follow each monthly service by cleaning the Tsuji Center. Once we finish the monthly clean-up, we will also have the students participate in “dana bites”—discrete, focused ways to support the temple and broader sangha—in lieu of one larger community service project.

This year we will also include a joint Dharma School class once each semester in which we will ask our older students to come up with a lesson for their younger counterparts. We hope this joint class will allow the Dharma School students to engage directly with each other in new ways.

We have also reinstated Dharma School registration and supply fees this year. We stood down on the fees during the pandemic, when we were meeting via Zoom and then holding joint Dharma School classes. Now that we are back to multiple age-tailored, in-person classes that meet throughout the Tsuji Center, we are asking families to contribute to class supply fees and for non-member families to contribute to facility upkeep through the registration fees.

Please contact Dharma School co-superintendents Maya Horio or Kim Nguyen at ekojidharmaschool@gmail.com with any questions, or to sign your children up for the school year.



SECRETARY'S MINUTES FOR THE SEPTEMBER 21, 2024 EKOJI BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

BY Michael Huff, Secretary

At the Board of Directors meeting of Ekoji Buddhist Temple on September 21, 2024, the meeting began with the approval of the consent agenda and previous meeting minutes. Rev. Rye shared updates, including his involvement with the Eastern Buddhist League (EBL). He also noted a decline in attendance at Sunday services and Dharma sessions. The board then discussed upcoming plans to bring in a guest speaker for a seminar on crossing-over ceremonies, although the budget for the event was not yet confirmed.

Concerns were raised about the temple's ongoing maintenance issues, particularly the HVAC and fire alarm systems, which have been costly to repair. To manage these tasks, the board voted to hire a new maintenance manager who would oversee contractors and address these concerns. They also voted to rent out the temple's parsonage, which was soon to be vacated, as it provided a vital source of income.

Next, the board reviewed the progress of the website redesign. The project had been delayed due to scheduling conflicts, but a demo version was expected to be ready by the temple's annual meeting in November. For now, the current website would remain active to provide important information about the EBL conference, and its content was being archived online as a backup.

The board then addressed issues with the stewardship groups, which help maintain the temple and organize refreshments. Some leaders had been left to handle most of the work on their own, particularly cleaning duties. The board discussed ways to improve participation, such as creating written guidelines for common tasks and making them easily accessible. It was agreed that the stewardship program needed improvement but was critical to the temple's upkeep.

Attention shifted to the logistics of the upcoming EBL conference, which was expected to have around 55 attendees in person and eight joining online. The board discussed preparing meals for the event and considered recording the sessions to make them available later, potentially behind a paywall for donations. Roles for managing the event, including assistance with Zoom and chat for online participants, were assigned.

Preparations for the Young Buddhist Association (YBA) breakfast, scheduled for the Saturday of the conference, were also discussed. The board was concerned about having enough volunteers to prepare breakfast for 55 attendees. They asked for a finalized volunteer plan and menu by early October to ensure everything would be ready on time.

(Board Report Cont. on Pg 9)

(Sept. Board of Directors Report, Cont. from Pg. 8)

In potential new business, the board talked about the temple's Kalavinka newsletter. They considered reducing its frequency and moving some content, like celebration articles, to the website. Additionally, they discussed combining reports from the minister, president, treasurer, and secretary into a quarterly PDF for temple members. The board planned to revisit these ideas in November.

As the meeting continued, the board reviewed the upcoming Annual Sangha Meeting in November. They confirmed that the minister would participate virtually and planned to provide a simple lunch for attendees. The board also discussed the renewal of member terms and emphasized the importance of maintaining a stable group.

Finally, the board brainstormed ways to generate additional income for the temple, including installing electric car chargers in the parking lot and hosting weddings. Both options were considered viable revenue streams, though they would require careful planning and coordination with the minister for any non-Buddhist events. Much further discussion on this issue, all agreed, will be required.

The meeting concluded with the scheduling of the next board meeting for October 25.

HYBRID EKOJI SANGHA ANNUAL MEETING -- SUNDAY, NOV, 17, 2024 -- 1:00 ET

On Sunday, November 17, 2024, at 1 pm ET we will come together as members of Ekoji at our hybrid Annual Meeting of the Sangha. We will discuss important matters such as the operating budget, the challenges and opportunities which presented themselves in 2024, our future ambitions. And we will be asked to approve, amend, or disapprove as well as vote on the election of our 2025 Board of Directors



October Treasurer’s Report

By Maya Horio, Treasurer

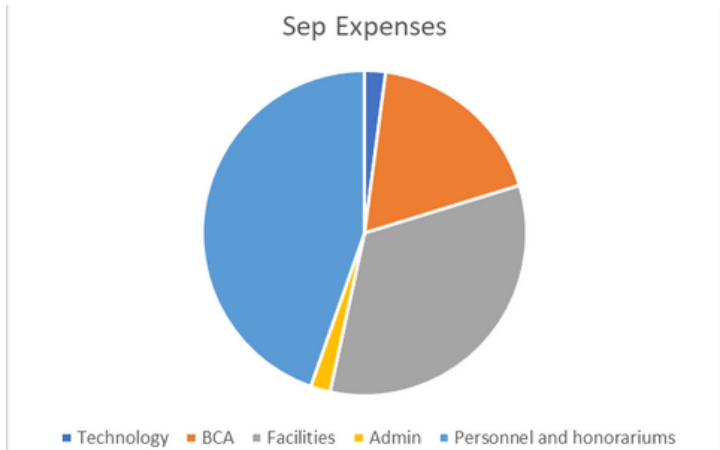
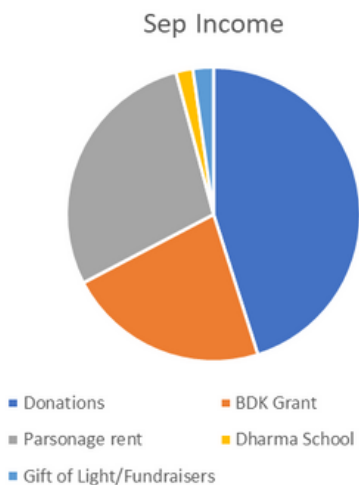
Monthly Treasurer’s Report

This monthly column is a result of Board discussions at our strategic planning retreat last December, where we identified transparency, sangha “ownership,” and responsible management as key goals for 2024. We share the results of our financial management and the proposed budget for the following year at our annual sangha meeting each fall, but much of our daily financial flows happens behind the scenes. The Board hopes that including a monthly recap of our finances in the Kalavinka will provide sangha members and friends with more insight on how we use your donations and the challenges in realizing our goal of financial self-sufficiency. We welcome your thoughts and questions, as directed to our temple Treasurer, Maya Horio, at ekojitreasurer@gmail.com.

Sep 2024 Finance Flows: Yay! Our income this month far outweighed our expenses as we started to ease up on unanticipated facility repairs. Sangha donations have been lagging this year, but several members renewed their annual memberships this month and donated part or all of their membership dues. We re-instituted Dharma School registration and supply fees for the 2024-2025 school year, adding another small channel of income. If our income flows continue to pick up in the final months of 2024, we can avoid having to draw income from our investment fund, allowing that fund to continue to build on the capital that we invested in 2018.

·Income (\$11,272): Sangha donations made up the biggest chunk of our income this month, with an almost equal amount coming from our BDK grant and parsonage rent. Initial Dharma School registration and supply fees and Gift of Light capital campaign and bookstore sales made up the rest of our income.

·Expenses (\$6,724): Most of our expenses this month went to facility utilities, BCA dues, and personnel payments. Admin fees included Paypal and bank fees, our accounting software, and Google storage fees.





UPON THEIR SHOULDERS EKOJI'S PAST -- OUR PRESENT

The first Sunday of every month, Ekoji conducts a SHOTSUKI SERVICE in memory of those people whose date of death (meinichi) falls in that month. The Kalavinka provides a list in remembrance of Ekoji's members and friends who passed away during the month of the issue. Your Ekoji Buddhist Temple exists because of their devotion and efforts as they become a part of our Nembutsu history.

This Service is not for those who have passed away because they are already taken care of by the fulfillment of the 18th Vow, but it provides us an opportunity to remember, express our gratitude and reflect on their continuing influence on our lives.

Traditionally special family memorial services are held on specific years following the death of a loved one. It allows us, as a family, to remember once again those who passed away and to hear the Dharma together. Arrangements for Special Family Memorial Services may be arranged by contacting Ekoji at ekoji.info@gmail.com.

Based on the year of the passing of a loved one, for 2024 the years for Special Family Memorial Services are: 2023 – 1st Year; 2022 – 3rd Year; 2018 – 7th Year; 2012 – 13th Year; 2008 – 17th Year; 2000 – 25th Year; 1992 – 33rd Year; 1975 – 50th Year; 1925 – 100th.

FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER, we will be remembering with gratitude:

SEPTEMBER

Akiko Iwata
9/27/1999

OCTOBER

Nora Mineyo Nagatani
6/20/1945 -- 10/23/2021

NOVEMBER

James "Jimmy" Kitahara
6/14/1905 – 11/ /1992



JOIN THE EKOJI VIRTUAL MOVIE DISCUSSION SESSIONS



*The Dharma speaks to us through the sounds of the world –
Forcefully, eloquently and beautifully.
It speaks of the unending change around us,
The immutable truth of interdependence,
And the peace in nature
Do we have the ears to hear and listen...?
(Rev. Kenryu T. Tsuji, The Heart of the Buddha Dharma, p. 67)*

Enjoy Ekoji's **virtual movie discussions**. They are held on the third Sunday of each month. And are led by Ann and Joren Stegner. RSVP for the Zoom link [here](#). The discussion is casual, it wanders away from the movie a lot, and it is always a chance hear the Dharma through the movie and the discussion, regardless of whether it was on topic. The discussion for September was the Japanese movie, "Sliding Doors".

The movie for October is "Force Majeure". The Zoom discussion will be **at 2:00 on October 20th**. It can be watched on streamed on Hulu or Disney+, and can also be rented cheaply through Amazon Prime.



JOIN OUR TEMPLE

THE EKOJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE THE TEMPLE OF THE GIFT OF LIGHT

We are committed to growing a worldwide Sangha and invite you to join our diverse community. Explore the benefits of membership by visiting our membership portal at: <http://ekojibuddhisttemple.wildapricot.org>

ALL OUR WELCOME -- COME AS YOU ARE



In Gassho

Dana from August 27 to September 27, 2024

Jane Blechman
Thomas Brickhouse
Jessica Brooks
Grant Clark
Brian Crane
Joseph Crilley
John Daniels Riveros
Robert Denessen
Matthew Doubrava
Erick Ederner
Stanley Fujii
Marisa and Tamon Honda
Michael Huff
Emily Ihara
Yuko Keicho
Sandra Lukic-Dapoingy

Chris Macey
Thea Maggard
Richard Malone and Rick Ware
Maya and Brant Horio
Bert and Nancy Motonaga
Ken and Nori Nakamura
Diana Nguyen
Vinh Nguyen
Aileen and Lawrence Parmeter
Art Politano
Jerry Rankin
Edward Sams
Roger Scott
Pearl Thompson
Alexis Yamashita



Check out Ekoji's monthly podcast interviews at <http://tinyuri.com/EchoEkoji>
This Month Andrea and Joe are joined by Ekoji's own **BRANT AND MAYA HORIO**

EASTERN



EBL 2024

BUDDHIST

LEAGUE CONFERENCE

What to Expect:

- **Keynote Speakers**
Gain insights from Dr. Scott Mitchell of IBS, Rev. Kenji Akahoshi, Rev. Patti Nakai and others...
- **Workshops & Panels**
Engage in interactive sessions designed to provide inspiration and guidance.
- **Networking Opportunities**
Connect with like-minded travelers and share your lived experiences with new friends.
- **Enjoy Ekoji**
Unwind in our Japanese garden, dine with Sangha friends, play Bodhi Bingo with our ministers and more...



Registration Now Open!

Visit <https://ekojibuddhisttemple.wildapricot.org/EBL-2024> for registration and more information.

Don't miss this opportunity to engage with the Sangha and listen to the Dharma!

WEEKEND OF
18-20

OCTOBER 2024

EKOJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE
Fairfax Station, Virginia

Email:

• ekoji.info@gmail.com

REGISTER NOW!

PLEASE JOIN YOUR LARGER SANGHA -- TO LEARN, TO MEET NEW FRIENDS, TO SHARE THE BUDDHA-DHARMA TOGETHER

2024 EASTERN BUDDHIST LEAGUE CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

October 18 – 20, 2024

Friday, October 18th – Ekoji Buddhist Temple Sangha Hall In Tsuji Center:

Check in and Registration Table in the Sangha Hall, Ekoji

- 7:00 PM (in person only): Fireside Chat with Eastern District Ministers (Ekoji Buddhist Temple)
- 8:00 PM: Bodhi BINGO!

Saturday, October 19th -- Ekoji Buddhist Temple:

Saturday, AM – Check in and Registration in the Sangha Hall, Ekoji

- 8:00 AM: Walking Meditation in the Garden of the Three Treasures (Ekoji Buddhist Temple)
- 8:00 AM: Pancake Breakfast sponsored by the Young Buddhist Association (Ekoji Buddhist Temple Sangha Hall)
- 9:00 AM: **Hybrid Opening Service** led by Rev. Ron Miyamura (Ekoji Buddhist Temple Hondo)
- 10:00 AM: Keynote Address by Dr. Scott Mitchell (Institute for Buddhist Studies) (Ekoji Buddhist Temple Hondo)
- 12:00 PM: Lunch (Ekoji Buddhist Temple)
- 1:00 PM: Gratitude Workshop with Rev. Kenji Akahoshi who will join us via Zoom (Retired BCA Minister) (Ekoji Buddhist Temple Hondo)
- 2:45 PM: Nen Daiko Presentation by Maya Horio who will join us in person (Ekoji Buddhist Temple Hondo)
- 3:45 PM: Break for shopping, dinner on your own, rest
- 7:00 PM: Book Discussion at the Fair Oaks Marriott --Mt. Vernon Room

Sunday, October 20th: in person and livestream via Zoom

- 8:30 AM: Walking Meditation in the Garden of the Three Treasures (Ekoji Buddhist Temple)
- 8:30 AM: Continental Breakfast sponsored by the Minister's Assistants (Ekoji Buddhist Temple Sangha Hall)
- 9:30 AM: Butsudan Making Activity & Dharma School Service (additional cost: \$40) (Ekoji Buddhist Temple)
- 11:00 AM: **Hybrid Sunday Service** led by Rev. Patti Nakai (Buddhist Temple of Chicago) (Ekoji Buddhist Temple Hondo)
- 12:00 PM: Hybrid Dharma Discussion Group led by Andrea Chapman (Ekoji Buddhist Temple Hondo)
- 12:00 PM: Chinese luncheon for everyone (Sangha Hall)
- 1:00 PM: Free Time to get to know each other even better -- WE are the larger Sangha.

HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME --THANK YOU FOR JOINING US !

NAMO AMIDA BUTSU!



PREPARING FOR THE EBL CONFERENCE

By: Andrea Chapman, Co-Chair

When the opportunity to host the Eastern Buddhist League Conference, or EBL as it is commonly referred to, presented itself, I had an inkling of how much effort and coordination would be required to pull this off. I helped coordinate the first virtual EBL during the pandemic.

At our first district wide planning meeting, I asked the committee members to define what the mission or purpose of the EBL was. Rev. Ron Miyamura succinctly stated, “to gather and listen to the Dharma”. I have referred to that mission countless times during the days leading up to this event, while envisioning our temple filled with Dharma friends from near and far.

The process has gone surprisingly well, in large part, due to the cohesiveness of our multi-temple planning committee, which has met regularly via Zoom. Our last formal planning meeting was held on Monday, Sept. 23, and we were focused primarily on hospitality and technological logistics, as the major facets of the event were solidified months ago.

By the time you read this excerpt we will have transitioned to late registration (\$175) for our in-person guests, an option which will only be available for a short period of time before registration closes so we can properly coordinate our meals, gifts and the like. Our Zoom option (\$75) will remain open until the day prior, and is an excellent choice for those who procrastinated and/or do not live near Ekoji, and would still like to partake in the Dharma and the joys of being a part of the broader Eastern District Sangha.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to the first hybrid EBL in just a few short weeks, and will soon be in touch via email with those who have already registered to confirm your travel plans, dietary needs and relay more details about this fun and engaging weekend that have been months in preparation for.

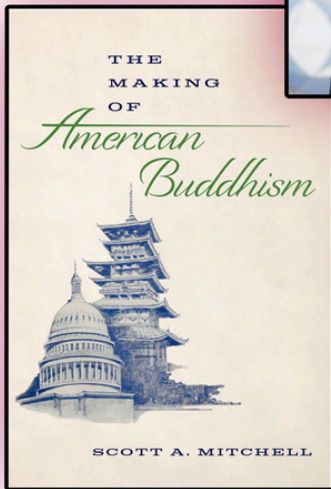
My deep gratitude to all the members of the 2024 EBL Planning Committee, to those who have already registered and to the countless causes and conditions that will bring us together to hear the Dharma, engage in enlightening conversation, and make memories that will carry us through until we meet again.

Namo Amida Butsu



Gratitude is Timeless

Dr. Scott Mitchell
President
Institute of Buddhist Studies
effective July, 2024



Eastern Buddhist League Conference

OCTOBER 19-20, 2024

Keynote speaker, Dr. Scott Mitchell
will discuss his new book

THE MAKING OF AMERICAN BUDDHISM

Get your copy now and join the conversation.

As of 2010, there were approximately 3-4 million Buddhists in the United States, and that figure is expected to grow significantly. Beyond the numbers, the influence of Buddhism can be felt throughout the culture, with many more people practicing meditation, for example, than claiming Buddhist identity. A century ago, this would have been unthinkable. So how did Buddhism come to claim such a significant place in the American cultural landscape?

Watch for the full agenda and registration materials coming soon!

BUDDHISM AMONG ASIAN AMERICANS : A PEW Research Study October 11, 2023

- About one-in-ten Asian American adults (11%) say their religion is Buddhism, a slight decline from 14% in 2012.
- A much larger share (21%) currently say that, aside from religion, they feel close to Buddhism for reasons such as ancestry or culture. In total one-third of Asian Americans express at least some connection to Buddhism.
- Asian Americans of Southeast Asian origin are the most likely to actually identify as Buddhist.
- Among East Asian origin groups, most respondents who have a connection to Buddhism do not identify as Buddhist, but rather say they feel “close to” Buddhism aside from religion

GRATITUDE IS TIMELESS

EASTERN BUDDHIST LEAGUE CONFERENCE OCTOBER 18-20, 2024

From the Editor: For the next three months leading to the EBL Conference in October, we would like to publish an article a month on Religion in America, and particularly the future of Jodo Shin Buddhism. We hope you will find these articles interesting and thought provoking. KHN

DR. SCOTT MITCHELL'S THE MAKING OF AMERICAN BUDDHISM: A REVIEW

By Michael Paul Huff

In February of this year, I flew to Sacramento to attend the 2024 National Council Meeting of the Buddhist Churches of America. Surprisingly, the flight went quickly — I was reading Dr. Scott Mitchell's book, *The Making of American Buddhism*, and rather than being dry & academic, it was an engaging read about how Japanese American Buddhists, especially the second-generation Nisei, helped Buddhism grow in America from the 1930s to the 1960s.

The story starts with the early 20th century when Buddhism was mostly unknown in America. By the mid-20th century, Buddhism had become more popular, thanks to the Nisei. These Japanese American Buddhists published a magazine called the *Berkeley Bussei*. They said Buddhism was a religion that fit well with American values, being rational, scientific, and peaceful. Their efforts laid the foundation for modern American Buddhism.

A major theme in the book is the hard work behind the scenes that made this possible. The *Berkeley Bussei*, published from 1939 to 1960, was a key platform for Nisei Buddhists to express their identity as both Americans and Buddhists. They argued that Buddhism could positively contribute to American society. This magazine, along with other community efforts like conventions and translation projects, created a strong religious foundation that supported their community and helped popularize Buddhism among others, including white converts and Beat poets.

Mitchell's research challenges the common stories about American Buddhism. He critiques the idea that Buddhism in America is divided into two groups: intellectual converts and immigrant communities. This view ignores how these groups influenced each other. Mitchell highlights the contributions of Japanese American Buddhists, who are often overlooked in favor of more famous white converts and intellectuals. These Japanese Americans played a crucial role in establishing Buddhism in American religious life.

(Review of American Buddhism Book, Cont. on Pg, 19)

The book also explores the difficulties Japanese American Buddhists faced during and after World War II. The Nisei generation dealt with significant racial discrimination, including being put in internment camps. Despite these challenges, they continued to advocate for an American identity that included their Buddhist faith. Their hard work is shown through archival research, revealing the contributions of less-known figures like Jane Imamura and Mihoko Okamura. These women, among others, played vital roles in supporting their temples and communities, often without recognition.

One of the most interesting parts of the book is its focus on the everyday work that kept the Buddhist community going. Mitchell shares stories of how community members helped important figures like D. T. Suzuki by providing transportation, accommodation, and financial support. These everyday tasks were essential for the success of American Buddhism. Mitchell's narrative shows that the achievements of American Buddhism were a collective effort, relying heavily on the unrecognized contributions of laypeople, especially women.

Mitchell's book also discusses broader cultural and theoretical issues about the development of American Buddhism. He critiques the simplifications and biases in previous research, which often depicted white Buddhists as modern and universal while viewing Asian American Buddhists as traditional and ethnic. Through a detailed analysis of the Berkeley Bussei and the activities of the Shin Buddhist community, Mitchell presents a more inclusive story. He shows how these Japanese American Buddhists participated in and contributed to the discussion on Buddhist modernism, expanding the field's boundaries.

Overall, *The Making of American Buddhism* is an important book for understanding American religious history. It highlights the crucial but often overlooked role of Japanese American Buddhists in shaping American Buddhism. Through careful research and a compelling story, Mitchell honors the hard work and legacy of these pioneers, reminding us of the complex nature of American Buddhism. This book is a valuable resource for anyone interested in the crossroads of religion, culture, and identity.

Namo Amida Butsu



WHY THE EBL?

By: Rev. Dr. Todd Tsuchiya
Midwest Buddhist Temple

You may be familiar with the Eastern Buddhist League (EBL) Conference. It started in 1945 as the Eastern Young Buddhist League (EYBL) but the name was changed to EBL in 1976. The first conference was held at the Olivet Institute in Chicago (see photo). There were well over 250+ in attendance the first year, which is amazing when you think they were all just resettling in new cities after being released from incarceration by their government. Early conferences attracted upwards of 400 delegates! This year's theme is "Gratitude is Timeless."



The EBL is comprised of Temples and Sanghas in the Eastern part of North America. It currently consists of Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) Temples and Sanghas in the Eastern District, Shin Temples in Canada and non-BCA Shin Temples in the US. The Eastern District of the BCA, of which Ekoji is a part, is the largest geographically but the smallest by membership. Most districts can gather with car rides to a location since the density of temples on the west coast is greater. Due to the smaller number of temples and sanghas in the Eastern half of North America and the greater distance between them, groups can feel isolated.

When the EBL started having gatherings, they included other temples that were nearby but still isolated in their respective regions. Temples like the Toronto Buddhist Church, Manitoba Buddhist Temple, and several small fellowships.

The goal of the EBL is to utilize shared resources to bring the dharma to us in the eastern part of North America and to share these experiences with each other.

In our Shin tradition our practice is often described as deep listening or Monpo. That is not hearing with our ears but with our hearts and minds. Socializing with other Shin Buddhists sharing our life experiences with each other is where we learn the most. I have met many EBL attendees over the years that have become friends. These conversations with other Jodo Shinshu Buddhists and reconnecting with our friends is an important part of our practice.

(Why the EBL -- Cont on Pg 21)

(Why the EBL?-- Cont from Pg.20)

There is an organization that comes out of the EBL called the Eastern District Coordinating Council (EDCC) that started in 1963. It is composed of representatives and ministers from each temple in the district and acts as a support network. It is a more formal way for our temples and sanghas to stay connected to help one another. This has been an invaluable resource.

For those of you coming for the first time, besides meeting Shin Buddhists from other temples, there are wonderful learning opportunities. Because of shared resources, we can bring in outside speakers to a forum like this. For the upcoming EBL, we will have the rare opportunity to hear from Dr. Scott Mitchell, who is the President of the Institute of Buddhist Studies in Berkeley, California. He recently published a book called “The Making of American Buddhism” and will be speaking about his book and taking questions from attendees.

You will have a chance to hear Dharma Messages by experienced ministers from other parts of the country to hear their perspective on the teachings. With the advances in technology, we will also have a presentation on gratitude over zoom by Rev. Dr. Kenji Akahoshi, a retired BCA minister, that we can experience together in the Ekoji hondo.

Lastly, there is nowhere in the world that you can have the opportunity to build a home butsudan designed by a member of the Twin Cities Sangha. It is of exceptional quality and you will be proud to have one in your home. It is easy enough that I can even do it!

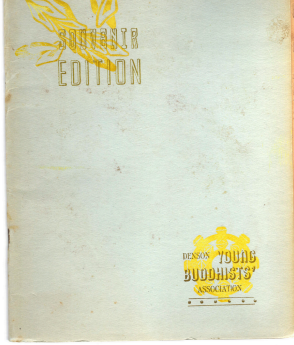
We recognize it has always been a burden on the local temple to organize and support the EBL, yet one of the best outcomes is what the local sangha receives from their effort. So as members of Ekoji, this conference is really for you. It is an opportunity to rally around an event, to make connections with one another in the sangha, and to hear and meet other Buddhists.

This is monpo in action!

This is just the tip of the iceberg of what you will experience from attending the EBL. These are rare opportunities to listen to and experience the Dharma in various forms. This is gratitude, what we receive by attending the EBL.

Namo Amida Butsu

EDITOR'S CORRECTION. In the September Kalavinka Article regarding an “Ol Timer’s View of the EBL”, I incorrectly wrote that the **Buddhist Temple of Chicago (BTC)** was a Jodo Shu Temple. I kindly received a correction to that statement. To clarify for others who also read the Kalavinka, and to remind my self, within the EBL, BTC and Toronto are “non BCA” Shin temples. I was reminded that “BTC has been a Jodo Shinshu temple from the beginning since all the ministers have been ordained in the Higashi Honganji (Otani-ha) Lineage. Officially BTC calls itself “non-sectarian” because the temple does not formally belong to Higashi or any other larger organization, but Higashi considers BTC an affiliated temple. The Editor deeply appreciates the correction.



2024 EBL – VOICES FROM THE PAST

**JUNE 1944 -- DENSON, ARKANSAS (Jerome WRA
Center)
Denson Young Buddhists' Association**

FAREWELL WITH GASSHO

Dear Bussei:

The disbandment of the Denson YBA which was organized on October, 1942, overcast us with the air of sadness.

During the year and eight months, each YBA member felt his responsibility and cooperated with the Bussei activities. It will be the memory to be treasured as long as we live.

The Center life have made a great change on us spiritually. It is dreadful to even imagine what may happen to us if we did not have religion in the center.

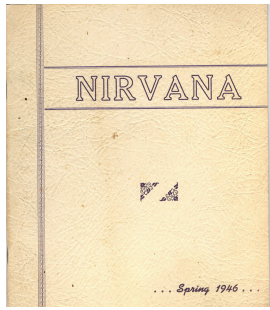
One who lives in religion were always able to pass the days peacefully and harmoniously. While he who does not have Faith suffers himself in restraint, in dissatisfaction, and opposition.

Wherever we may go, we must be loyal to our religion. Though there may not be a Buddhist Church, to change one's religion is condemning one's Faith.

Lastly, to those relocatees who have supported and encouraged the Benson YBA activities, we extend our sincerest gratitude and to those parting we hope for your best of health and happiness.

Keep your religion; Have pride in your Faith

*With Gassho,
Rev. Gyodo Kono
Rev. Tadao Kouchi
Rev. Sensho Hida*



2024 EBL – VOICES FROM THE PAST
SPRING 1946 – NIRVANA, (Vol 1 Number 3)
Cleveland Young Buddhist Association
The Formation of the EYBL

EYBL REPORT

History

In April of 1944, the Rev. Gyodo Kono of the Midwest Buddhist Church journeyed to New York with the express purpose of discussing the possibility of organizing a league of YBAs on the East Coast and Middle West to coordinate the activities of the numerous Buddhist organizations that were being formed in various Cities.

The result of this initial step was a conference of delegates from the Chicago and New York YBAs in New York in September of 1944. As a direct result of this meeting and of a subsequent meeting held in November of that year in Chicago, preparations were made to hold a final conference in New York for the purpose of drafting the machinery for the organization of a permanent league.

At this final meeting, attended also by a delegation from Cleveland, a young Buddhist league was officially organized with the temporary name of "The Eastern Young Buddhists' League" and the skeleton of its constitution was adopted. Temporary officers were elected at that time.

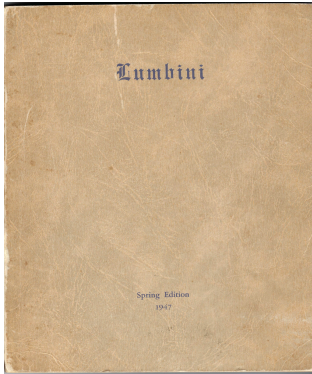
Officers pro temp.

<i>President</i>	<i>Stanley Okada, New York</i>
<i>Vice President</i>	<i>Akira Yebisu, Chicago</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Sada Aoyama, New York</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Tokuo Yamamoto, Cleveland</i>
<i>Advisors</i>	<i>Rev. Newton Ishiura, New York, and Rev. Gyodo Kono, Chicago</i>

The first meeting of the EYBL officers was held at the Midwest Buddhist Church in Chicago. The constitution was approved and mailed to the member YBAs for ratification. The EYBL Constitution became effective on August 24, 1945, Cleveland being the last member YBA to ratify the constitution... . On March 18, 1946 the League welcomed its first new member, the Seabrook YBA with 39 members.

Article II of the constitution states: "The purpose of this league shall be to further Buddhism, to foster better relationships and understanding, and to coordinate the activities of all member organization." (Editor highlight)

This purpose, the Eastern Young Buddhist League is determined to fulfill.



2024 EBL – VOICES FROM THE PAST

SPRING 1947 – LUMBINI Seabrook Young Buddhist Association

THE FUTURE OF E.Y.B.L.

By Stanley T. Okada (First President of the EYBL)

I congratulate the members of the Seabrook YBA for publishing this special Hana Matsuri edition. This year your YBA became the largest chapter and naturally your cooperation counts heavily in deciding future activities of our Eastern Young Buddhists' League. Therefore, I wish to avail myself of this opportunity to explain the historical background of EYBL, our present activities and future plans.

Our League is little short of two years since it was organized officially by Chicago, Cleveland, and New York YBAs, with primary purpose of spreading the teachings of Lord Buddha and improving Young Buddhists' organization through the coordination of activities and mutual encouragement... [Mr. Okada shares information on financing the EYBL]. The present membership is about 450 with eight chapters....

Now let us examine what we have accomplished so far during this year. We have published two issues of nirvana and conducted the second annual Scholarship Fund. The intangible gains creditable to EYBL are the mutual encouragement and fellowship enjoyed by the chapter members.

I think everyone recognizes the value of having brother chapters in different localities. Mutual encouragement and fellowship, even if you don't come in contact with other chapter members directly, have a great influence in our life. Of course, it is more effective when the inter-chapter activities are made more frequent and efficient. Here we face the problem of distance. We may try the inter-chapter activities on the sectional basis. The New York, Philadelphia, Seabrook basketball tournament, although loosely organized, has set a good start. I believe many other activities can be successfully carried out on this small sectional basis in the future, rather than on an entire EYBL basis.

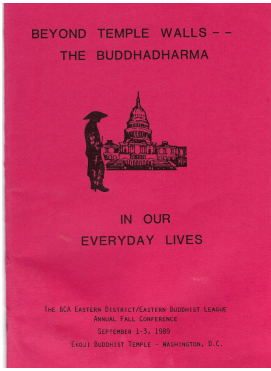
(Mr. Stanley Okada on Future of EYBL, Cont.
from Pg 24)

[Mr. Okada then discusses the importance of the now EYBL publication Nirvana in helping to keep other YBA chapters informed about what each other is doing. The EYBL chapters are scattered from Minneapolis to New Jersey, and says, "Although Nirvana has not yet reached the stage of the ideal publication, it is fulfilling its purpose." Mr. Okada then discusses the EYBL Scholarship Fund, to support ministers' training in the first instance, and working to assist in the establishment of an institute to train our future ministers in this country.]

Today there are more people in the world who profess to have some sort of religion than those who either ignore or repudiate the truth of religious teachings. Furthermore, so far as I know, all of these religions teach their followers to bring about a peaceful and happy world. Unfortunately, however, our world is still far from this goal. Why? Probably the most frank answer is that there is a big gap between what our religions teach and what we followers practice. Let us look at our own daily conduct. This is something we should think about in order to call ourselves Buddhists and denounce Atheism. We, so called religious followers cannot escape the responsibilities for the existence of injustice, unrest and sorrow in this world.

EYBL is not a church, but it should not be forgotten that the cornerstone of our League is the Buddha's teaching. When we plan our activities on this foundation, and incorporate the teachings in our community life, we are contributing toward the establishment of an ideal world -- the world where everyone enjoys the true happiness.

The future of EYBL is in our hands, to make or to break. EYBL depends and calls on every member to help build up a truly successful future by participating with more active interest in support of its various projects.



EBL – VOICES FROM THE PAST

**SEPTEMBER 1989 – PROGRAM BOOK FOR THE 1989
EBL CONFERENCE: “ BEYOND TEMPLE WALLS – THE
BUDDHADHARMA IN OUR EVERYDAY LIVES”**

HOSTED FOR THE FIRST TIME BY THE EKOJI BUDDHIST

**TEMPLE
WELCOME MESSAGES BY REV. K. TSUJI, RESIDENT MINISTER, AND
MS. CHERRY TSUTSUMIDA, TEMPLE PRESIDENT**

GREETINGS

May I express my Heartiest Greetings to all the delegates to the Eastern District Buddhist Conference which is beginning today.

We are honored to have the participation of Bishop Seigen H. Yamaoka of the Buddhist Churches of America, Bishop Toshio Murakami of the Buddhist Churches of Canada, and former Bishop Yoshiaki Fujitani of the Homba Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, as well as the keynote speaker, Reverend Ken Yamaguchi. It is the first time we have been able to bring together such distinguished personalities who will discuss with us their vision of Shin Buddhism in the 21st Century.

I am sure that with your continued dedication to the Buddha-Dharma, you will generate new ideas that will greatly benefit the course of the Nembutsu life in America. I hope that you will all have a wonderful weekend in Washington.

Gassho,
Kenryu T. Tsuji

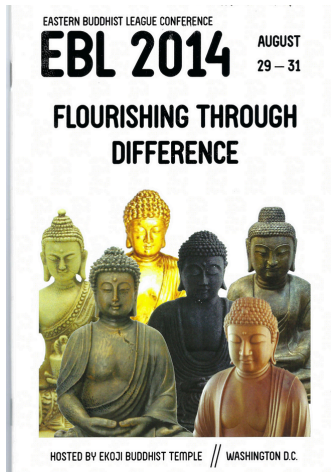
On behalf of the Ekoji Buddhist Temple and Board, I would like to welcome each and everyone of you to this Eastern District BCA Conference in the Nation's capital.

We are excited and proud that in this pluralistic society where freedom of religion is guaranteed by the First Amendment to the Constitution, Ekoji Temple is hosting so many members of the Shin Buddhist movement. Our parents brought Shin Buddhism to this country just as they brought many of their most valued possessions. Despite hardships and isolation, they made it possible for Buddhism to blossom along the west coast.

Today a new generation is attempting to attract new members with whom to share the Buddha Dharma. The membership is of all colors and of all nationalities. Some have never been to Japan or even to California. Indeed, as this nation prepares to enter the twenty-first century, this Conference may serve as a historical footnote to a modern, materialistic mentality, arriving to seek expression in a scientific society but also rooted in a wisdom far older than even this Nation itself.

Welcome!. An exciting event is about to happen.

Sincerely,
Cherry Y. Tsutsumida, President



2024 EBL – VOICES FROM THE PAST

**AUGUST 2024 – PROGRAM BOOK FOR THE
2014 EBL CONFERENCE, “FLOURISHING THROUGH
DIFFERENCE”**

HOSTED BY THE EKOJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

WELCOME MESSAGES BY REV. KURT RYE, RESIDENT AND LAVERNE IMORI, TEMPLE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 2014 Eastern Buddhist League Conference, to the Washington, D.C. Metro Area and to Ekoji Buddhist Temple. We are honored to host this year’s conference and excited to meet fellow travelers from temples and communities of the EBL.

There is a wonderful opportunity to hear the Dharma and make connections with the larger Shin Buddhist communities in Canada and the U.S. Midwest and Eastern states.

Our theme this year is a hope for the future. We hope to learn from each other what it means to flourish through difference. We hope that discussions this weekend will help us identify what our differences are and how we can use our experiences to benefit, not only the future of our individual communities, but the larger Shin Buddhist community, as well.

We hope shared experiences and discussions will help build networks at the individual, temple and district levels, with the common goal to support and share the gift of the Dharma.

Gassho

Reverend Kurt Rye
Ekoji Resident Minister

Laverne Imori
Ekoji Board President

CALENDAR OF EVENTS, OCTOBER 2024

WEEKLY

SUNDAY

- **Beginning Sunday October 6, Children's Dharma School, 9:30am – 10:30am, Every Sunday Except The Last Sunday Of The Month When No Class Is Scheduled.**
- **Hybrid Service, 11:00am With An After-Service Hybrid Discussion In The Hondo.**

WEDNESDAY

- **DHARMA BREEZE ONLINE SERVICE, 7:00pm In The Ekoji Zoom Room.**

THURSDAY

- **In-Person Meditation Group, 7:30pm In The Hondo.**

MONTHLY

October Stewardship Group 5 led by Mah Doroud

FIRST SUNDAY

- **TEMPLE CLEANUP, 9:30AM – 10:30AM**
- **SHOTSUKI SERVICE**– During The Chanting Of A Sutra, Sangha Members Who Have Lost A Loved One During That Particular Month In Any Prior Year Are Invited To Go Before The Naijin To Offer Gassho And Burn Incense In Loving Memory And Gratitude For The Person Who Has Passed.
- **POTLUCK LUNCHEON, 12:00pm In The Sangha Hall After The Shotsuki Service.**

SPECIAL EVENTS AND HOLIDAYS (DETAILS AT WWW.EKOJI.ORG)

- **EASTERN BUDDHIST LEAGUE CONFERENCE (HYBRID EVENT), Friday, October 18 – Sunday, October 20. Location Varies By Event** – Please Check Online For Conference Details At www.ekoji.org. Pre-Registration Is Required.
- **Movie Group Discussion, “Force Majeure”, Sunday, October 20 At 2:00pm In The Ekoji Zoom Room.**
-

MINISTER'S OFFICE HOURS

- **WEDNESDAY, 1:00PM TO 2:00PM**
- **SCHEDULE A ZOOM OR PHONE MEETING WITH REV. KURT RYE BY CALLING 703-239-0500 OR EMAILING rye.ekoji@gmail.com**

A Kalavinka is a mythical bird with the head of a human and a long flowing colorful tail. It lives in the Pure Land, and it has a beautiful Voice that sings praises to the Buddha, the sutras, and the words of the Buddha.



YOUR 2024 TEMPLE LEADERS

SUPERVISING MINISTER
REVEREND KURT RYE

YOUR TEMPLE BOARD

PRESIDENT: Andrea Chapman
SECRETARY: Michael Huff
TREASURER: Maya Horio
MEMBER AT LARGE: Jim Daniel
MEMBER AT LARGE: Mahkameh Doroud
MEMBER AT LARGE: Nick Karen
MEMBER AT LARGE: Roger Scott

KALAVINKA STAFF

MANAGING EDITOR: Ken Nakamura
DISRIBUTION: Andrea Chapman
84,000 THOUGHTS: REV. KURT RYE
TREASURER'S REPORT: Maya Horio
DHARMA SCHOOL: Maya Horio and Kim Nguyen
CALENDAR & EVENTS: Pilar Uelman
FROM THE BOARD: Andrea Chapman
NEN DAIKO: Emily Ihara

YOUR TEMPLE TRUSTEES

Kim Nguyen
Ed Sams

SERVICES

Rev. Kurt Rye, Supervising Minister to Ekoji
Rev. Erick Ishii, Minister's Assistant with Ordination (Tokudo)
Bob Shimokaji, Certified Minister's Assistant
Rob Fike, Certified Minister's Assistant
Truc Vo, Certified Jr. Minister's Assistant
Ken Nakamura: Certified Minister's Assistant (Ret.)
Pilar Uelman, Lay Dharma Leader
Molly Kuramoto: Lay Dharma Leader
Ed Sams: Lay Dharma Leader and Service Chair Coordinator

EKOJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE
6500 LAKEHAVEN LANE
FAIRFAX STATION, VIRGINIA 22039
(703) 239-0500 ekoji.info@gmail.com