



# QUARTERLY CONNECTION

SUMMER EDITION - 2023



TRI-STATE DENVER  
BUDDHIST TEMPLE

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

Hatsubon Memorial Service  
August 5th

Obon Odori  
August 5th

Family Service Resumes  
September 3rd

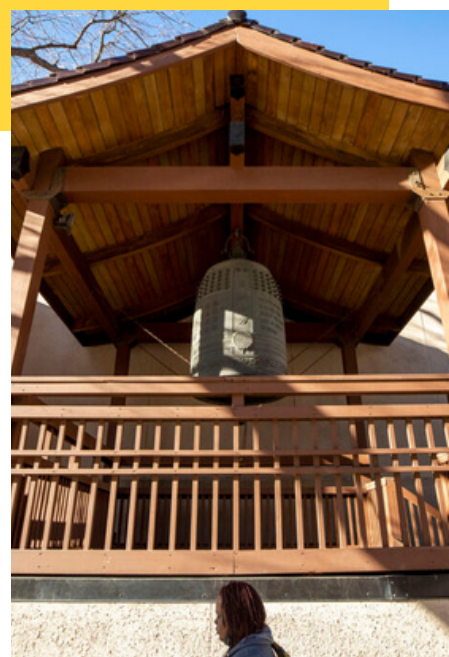
## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In May, we finished our first uninterrupted Dharma School year since 2019. Three weeks later, the Japanese American Community Graduation Program banquet was held at the Denver Museum of Science and Nature and we were able to celebrate our 2023 graduating seniors as well as the graduates of 2020, 2021, and 2022. A week after that, we welcomed hundreds of volunteers and tens of thousands of visitors to the Temple during the Cherry Blossom Festival. I mention all of these events because they serve as valuable reminders of the importance of our Sangha. The simple act of being able to come together—to learn, to celebrate, and to volunteer—is something that we should never again take for granted. Nor should we ever take for granted the amounts of time, effort, and commitment that are required to make each of these events possible.

Like the world around us, TS/DBT has experienced monumental loss, change, and triumph since the start of the COVID pandemic. We are constantly reminded of the doctrine of impermanence, that everything changes and nothing lasts forever. As we face new challenges, I encourage you to take the opportunity to re-acquaint yourself with friends at Sunday services and to introduce yourself to the many people who have joined the Sangha in recent years. TS/DBT has a rich history and a bright future.

Please join us at Obon Odori in August. We are again able to dance in the streets with friends, family, and the entire community. Take a few moments to introduce yourself to the person dancing in front of you or in the next line over. Each opportunity that we have to come together as a Sangha must be valued.

I look forward to seeing each of you.



## MESSAGE FROM REV. DIANA

Hello everyone, welcome back to the print edition of the newsletter!

So many changes have happened over the last couple of years and, as we had to become increasingly reliant on remote technology to keep in touch and informed, it became more difficult to keep certain things going in the same way as they had been before. The printed newsletters were always a community effort; the ministers and leaders of temple community groups would write articles and updates, our fabulous administrator would format and print the newsletter and then a group would get together to fold and label the hundreds of newsletters for mailing. As things began to shut down, we had less community news to print. Everyone was working and attending things remotely and our folding crew was obviously unable to get together. With such little to print and without being able to come together in person we had to change the ways in which we did things and had to use email and social media to keep you all informed. It was an opportunity for us to learn new skills and to learn how to embrace very large changes in our lives. It was not easy for anyone, but again, we were able to learn new things that helped us to get through it.

We know that things are always changing and now, we are in the midst of another transition from a time of isolation to a time of reconnection. We have been able to get together in groups outside of our homes, meet with each other in person, plan events and so we once again have 'all the news that's fit to print.

we therefore have the necessity for someone to format and print out this news and for people to gather to fold the newsletters. We will continue to make use of the technology that we adopted as we have found it to be very useful.



Zoom services and classes have been very helpful for those who are unable to come to the temple physically and some people prefer the convenience of weekly update emails. However, this time of reconnection also gives us the opportunity to make use of our in-person social skills again. We can talk personally with members at the services, we can plan events with others and we can produce this newsletter again for those of you who like the more personal touch provided by having a nice hard copy of the temple news.

Thank you all for sticking with us through all of the changes. If nothing else, it should have provided us with a means to deepen our own understanding of the impermanence of all things. Nothing stays the same even from moment to moment and in embracing this Truth, we learn more about ourselves and the nature of all things.

Namo Amida Butsu

## MESSAGE FROM REV. NARI

今月よりデンバー仏教会のニュースレターを再び発行することになりました。以前の様に毎月の発行は難しくなりますが、まずは年三回の発行を目指します。それぞれのニュースレターではお寺での行事やコミュニティニュース、これからの活動等を皆様にご紹介できればと考えております。2023年第一号のニュースレターに際し、まずは私の簡単な自己紹介をさせていただきますと思います。

私、名前は林齊昭と申しましてデンバー仏教会の新しい僧侶として10ヶ月前にバージニア州にあります恵光寺 仏教会より移ってきました。出身は日本の京都で、約7年前に本願寺の開教使としてアメリカにきました。家族は妻の由香里と今年5歳になりました息子の大馳の三人家族です。妻の由香里は三重県の出身で、息子の大馳はアメリカで生まれました。今年からキンダーガーデンに入る大馳は絵を描いたり、クラフトをすることが好きです。最近ではレゴを作ったり、漫画のドラえもんを読むのにもハマっています。

さて、私たち家族はこちらのコロラドに引っ越してから、よくハイキングに出かけるようになりました、やはりコロラドと言いますと、ロッキー山脈がよく知られており、私たちもその圧倒的な景色と雄大な大自然を堪能しております。ハイキングのいいところは、日々の忙しさから解放されることができるところにあり、心をリフレッシュすることができます。私たち人間は日々の忙しさに追われ続けると、心が疲弊し、さまざまな不安などに襲われたり、また物事を見る視野も狭くなります。そうなりますと、うつ病を発症したり、重大な病にかかってしまいます。だからこそ、定期的にリフレッシュすることが大切になります。リフレッシュすることで、頭を整理することができ、日々起こっていることをもっと広い視野で見つめ、考え直すことができます。

リフレッシュするには何もハイキングだけでなく、スポーツをしたり、映画を見たり、家族や友人と会ったりと他にも様々な方法があります。大切なことは、そういうリフレッシュできる環境に自分を定期的に置くことです。自分は大丈夫だと思っても身を自ら置くことです。

仏法に触れることも良いリフレッシュになります。毎月第一木曜日には日本語法座をお寺で行なっております。どうぞ可能な方はお寺に足を運んでください。日本語法座はオンラインでもご参拝できます。Zoomリンクをご希望の方はinfo@tsdbt.orgまでメールにてお問い合わせ下さい。皆様にお会いできることを楽しみにしております。



がっしょう  
合掌



## Dharma School Message

Yay! We made it through the school year and finished with a wonderful family picnic at Carroll Butts Park in Westminster. Thank you to everyone who celebrated with us, brought a delicious potluck dish, and played some bingo! Also, many thanks to Diana Sensei for our service and words of wisdom, the Umetani's and Mizell's for toting their grills to the park and cooking up some burgers and hot dogs, and Roane Nitta for manning the grill and being our Bingo caller.

As I reflect on this past school year I am constantly reminded of the impermanence we are all surrounded by, and the interconnection we all have. Over the past couple of years, we have all had the thought, "when are things going to go back to normal?" Well, the truth is: everything is different and we have all just adjusted to a new post-COVID normalcy. But through it all, we have all become more resilient and have learned to cherish our time a little bit more. We have all learned the value of community and the importance of being needed. My hope is that this new generation of youngsters find that stability and companionship within our Temple and sangha.

This year we had a whopping 43 registered students! I am excited to see these numbers grow. A big congratulations to our YBA high school 2023 graduates: Maya Banks, Kristi Case, Amanda Charness, Calin Donaldson, Anna Hughes, Koji Inouye, and Keelyn Nitta. We are so proud of you and all of your accomplishments. We are very excited to see you continue to grow into amazing young adults and best of luck on your next adventures!

Thank you to our preschool class and Dharma School Dancers who represented us with so much cuteness and gracefulness at the Cherry Blossom Festival. And thank you to Amber Gargan, Alyssa Noguchi, Karen Shimamoto, and Megan Shibao for all your time and effort in teaching our dancers.

Also, Iain Reed has worked tirelessly on updating the Temple website. Thank you, Iain! This year we hope to utilize the website as a local hub where up-to-date and important information can be posted.

Can you believe it? We are already planning the 2023-24 Dharma School year! Thank you to our teachers who have committed to another year of Dharma School. We are still in need of assistant and substitute teachers. And even if you do not want to commit to one of those positions we would love your help, even if it is for one Sunday. Please contact [dbtdharmaschool@gmail.com](mailto:dbtdharmaschool@gmail.com).

The 2023-24 Dharma School year will begin on September 10th. Until then, we hope you have a wonderful summer. Please use this time to relax and spend time with family and friends.

## Summer Learn & Play

With Dharma School being out for the summer, we are providing this "Play and Learn" specifically for the parents who would like to attend the adult service at 10:15 AM all summer.

Ignite your child's curiosity and foster their growth in a nurturing environment at our Buddhist Temple's 2023 summer child care program. We offer a carefully crafted blend of enriching activities, mindful teachings, and interactive play. We provide a holistic experience that cultivates a love for learning and a chance for your child to grow friendships or form new ones.

There will be a volunteer who will work with your children during that time. The Play and Learn will run the length of the adult service, approximately 45 minutes. It will be held on the second floor in the activity room.



## BWA / BDA MESSAGE

(NOW KNOWN AS THE BUDDHIST DANA ASSOCIATION)

The Tri-State Denver Buddhist Temple's BWA is going through a transition period as it prepares to expand and prepare for the future. We are pleased that Rev. Nari Hayashi is our new advisor and will be working closely with BWA during this process and beyond. BWA has expanded over the past few years to include men which raised the question of whether Buddhist Women's Association was still an appropriate name. Important discussions were held that reflect the importance of respecting the history of BWA and its place within BCA but also acknowledging the changing demographics of the organization. Several possible names were suggested this past spring. At the annual BWA meeting in April, a vote was taken to use a hyphenated name BWA/DBA which maintains the BWA history while broadening the title to Buddhist Dana Association to reflect the spirit of giving. We encourage those of you who are not members of BWA to please join us. It is no longer for women only, and those who were older. In moving forward it seeks to become an organization that welcomes men and women of all ages.

We were pleased to welcome Rev. Dianne Thompson as the guest speaker at our annual meeting. She focused her talk on 'dana' or selfless giving and the different forms it can take in Buddhist traditions. This includes giving to the temple, gifts of the Dharma and the perfect selfless giving of Buddhas and Bodhisattvas. Sensei brought the conversation back to Shinran's wife and daughter (Eshinni and Kukushinni), and Lady Takeko Kujo, the founder of the BWA. She shared her appreciation for the BWA's longstanding role of nourishing the temple, of the importance of celebrating the contribution of countless women who have come before and served the temples and community with loving dana.

She concluded with the following thought - We are all fellow travelers carried by the ship of Amida's vow of great wisdom and compassion and even if we may feel that our contributions are small, it should not deter us from joining with others to do what we can.

Summary of other BWA activities so far this year:

January 28 - Kohaku Uta Gassen. This singing contest which literally means Red and White Song Festival, was first held in Japan in 1951. BWA made for the obento for the event which continues to be very popular and brings together Japanese Americans, those born in Japan and others interested in Japanese culture.

Hojis and funerals. BWA provide refreshments to those attending a hoji or funeral service for a loved one. This year there have been two funerals and one hoji during the first half of 2023.

March 4th Steve Nakata funeral

April 1 Eddie Nozawa funeral

May 26 Wayne and Johny Nitta hoji

May 10-12 World BWA Conference. Mable Googins and Ann Hyde attended 2023 World BWA conference that was held at the Nishi Hongwanji in Kyoto, Japan. BWA members from Japan, Canada, South America, and the United States including Hawaii meet every four years. This year's celebration has special significance as it celebrates Shinran Shonin's 850th birthday as well the 800th anniversary of the founding of our sect of Buddhism. About 2000 members from throughout Japan and other countries attended this celebration.

Approximately 300 BCA members from the United States, including many from Hawaii. All conference members attended workshops and other educational meetings. It was difficult to accommodate everyone in one location for the banquet so an extraordinary bento box was prepared at the end of the first day. Rows of tables in the convention hall were set up with 5 Japanese members sitting in a row with non-Japanese in an effort to meet each other and get acquainted. Omiages were exchanged with others in their row.

During the entertainment portion of the convention, the FBWA granted the BCA Music Committee funds to compose a song building on the poem of Lady Takeko Kujo. The song, titled "with Gassho from the Heart", was sung by representatives from each of the 8 BCA districts as well as by someone using sign language. The conference provided a unique opportunity to share the Dharma with other BWA members in different parts of the world.

**Dana** (pronounced "DAH-nuh") noun. Sanskrit, "gift, alms, donation"; voluntary giving of materials, energy, or wisdom (dharma) to others; generosity; regarded as one of the most important Buddhist virtues.

## AMACHE PILGRIMAGE

Pilgrimages to former WWII concentration camps for those of Japanese descent were started in the late 1960s. It took nearly a quarter century for former prisoners and their descendants to question why they had been imprisoned and begin searching for answers. The first formal pilgrimage to Amache was one of the official events commemorating the state of Colorado's centennial from 1975-76. After pilgrims arrived at Amache, they cleaned the cemetery site. Learn more on the [Pilgrimage History](#) page.

The annual Amache Pilgrimage usually takes place on the Saturday before Memorial Day weekend, which this year is May 20, 2023. Nikkeijin Kai of Colorado and Amache Preservation Society will continue to coordinate the original Pilgrimage memorial services and potluck lunch much as they have been held for over 40 years for pilgrims coming from Denver for a [one-day Pilgrimage](#).

This year, due to increased interest in Amache becoming a National Historic Site, Amache Alliance, the University of Denver Amache Project, National Parks Conservation Association, and Colorado Preservation Inc. will be providing [additional weekend events](#) for people who have their own transportation and may desire to learn more about the Amache site and its community.





## Japanese American Community Graduation Program

In 1955, the Japanese American community of Denver Colorado established a scholarship to honor the late Harry Sakata. Sakata was involved with the Japanese American community on both the local and national levels, and believed the youth were the future of the Japanese American community.

From those early beginnings, the Japanese American Community Graduation Program (JACGP) has evolved into a program that recognizes all high school seniors of Denver's Japanese American ancestry who exemplify Sakata's qualities of leadership and community service.

Annually, a graduation banquet is held to honor all eligible high school graduates. Several awards and scholarships are also presented at this dinner to assist some of these deserving young students to continue with their education.

The JACGP is staffed solely by volunteers, and is funded by the generous donations from the community and proceeds from the JACGP's Go For Broke golf tournament.



## Cherry Blossom Festival

In 2023, Denver once again welcomed spring's enchantment with its vibrant Cherry Blossom Festival, an annual celebration that encapsulates the beauty of Japanese culture. Amidst the picturesque backdrop of blooming cherry blossom trees, locals and visitors alike gathered in a delightful display of camaraderie.

The festival grounds were adorned with a kaleidoscope of traditional Japanese decorations, immersing attendees in an authentic experience. Lively performances of taiko drumming, graceful traditional dances, and captivating tea ceremonies provided glimpses into the rich heritage of Japan.

The aroma of mouthwatering Japanese delicacies filled the air, tempting taste buds with delectable treats such as sushi, mochi, and matcha-flavored delights. Artisans showcased their craftsmanship through intricate origami creations, calligraphy displays, and elegant kimono exhibitions. Families strolled hand in hand, capturing the beauty of the ephemeral cherry blossoms through photographs and cherished memories. As the sun set on the final day, hearts were filled with gratitude for the shared joy and the anticipation of the Cherry Blossom Festival's return in the coming year.



## New Parking System

The Sakura Square has installed a new parking system effective on August 1st. You will be required to finish the parking process either with your phone or at the Kiosk inside of the temple BEFORE you leave the exiting gate. Temple visitors will be validated for up to 6 hours.

For those who choose to use the Kiosk, PLEASE MEMORIZE OR TAKE A PICTURE OF YOUR LICENSE PLATE NUMBER BEFORE YOU ENTER THE TEMPLE.

To set up your parking please either utilize the QR code or the kiosk at the entrance of the temple.

If you have any questions or need assistance setting up parking someone will be available at the entrance to help you validate your parking.

## Gratitude for Community Support at TSDBT

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the remarkable community members whose unwavering dedication breathes life into our beloved Buddhist temple. Your selfless efforts in volunteering to prepare nourishing meals, maintain cleanliness, extend warm welcomes to newcomers, and meticulously organize events are the cornerstone of our temple's vibrant existence. Your spirit of service and unity embodies the teachings of compassion and mindfulness that we hold dear. With each gesture, you infuse our sacred space with positivity and harmony, ensuring that the temple remains a sanctuary for all seekers. Your commitment is a beacon of inspiration, illuminating the path of kindness and generosity.



**"Teach this triple truth to all: A generous heart, kind speech, and a life of service and compassion are the things which renew humanity."**

If you would like to add your event to the newsletter, submit images, or shoutout a volunteer for their work please email River Mizell. [rivermizell@gmail.com](mailto:rivermizell@gmail.com)