

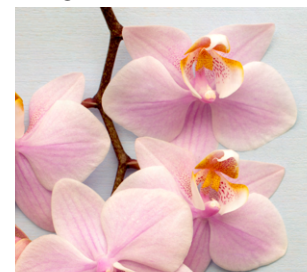
Connection

2024 Winter Edition

September 7

Fort Lupton Tomato Festival on Trapper day

*Orchid:
A symbol of tranquility
in Buddhism*



Fort Lupton Buddhist Temple participated in the City of Fort Lupton's Tomato festival this year for the very first time with the hope that people of Fort Lupton will learn more about the temple and how we are open to all. Gladly, we had a new visitor attend our Sunday service the following Sunday. Thank you to all volunteers who came out to help us on this wonderful occasion.



October 20 Tamai Memorial Service

This service is held every year in recognition of Rev. Tamai's dedication and service at Denver Buddhist Temple. On this occasion we reflect on the words of Rev. Tamai where he stated in the original blue service book, "It is my sincere hope of the continued growth of our Buddhist Sanga in America."



Rev. Thompson's Connection

*Lotus:
A symbol of
enlightenment
in Buddhism*



Hello everyone!

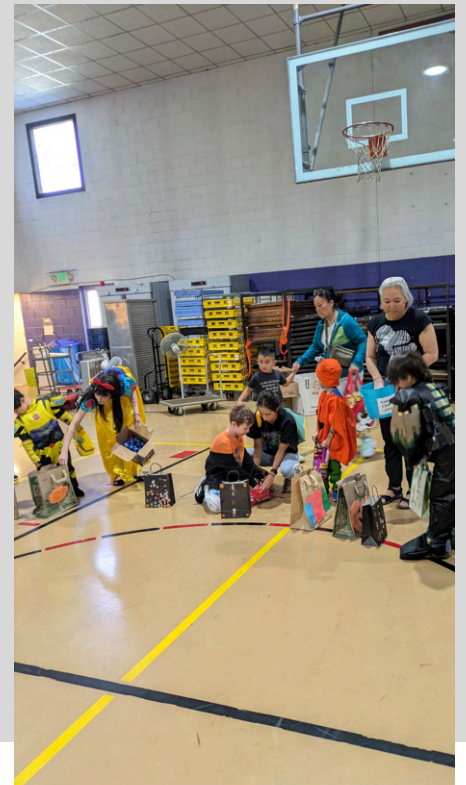
Welcome to another addition of the temple newsletter. A lot of change has happened since the last one, and I hope that this edition finds you well and plugging along. As Buddhists, one of the great Truths that we come to know is the Truth of change.

We are all aware that everything around us is constantly changing, growing, and passing away, but we also know that change is often difficult and can be the cause of our suffering or dis-ease. Change doesn't always have to be negative, though. Change can be growth and contains within it a sense of possibility. The loss of one thing can open the door to new opportunities and give us a chance for reinvention either of ourselves or our situations. If nothing else, we learn how to keep moving forward.

Everything around us is always in a state of flux. The universe is moving and changing around us and ultimately, change causes the most suffering when we try to resist it, when we simply stand still instead of moving with it. We are human beings, and change will make us uncomfortable. We will have moments of fear and grief but knowing that change exists and is inevitable can help us to move through even these feelings instead of letting them freeze us in place.

So, as we move into this next year, let us remember to move. We are all part of the dynamic flow of the universe and knowing this, we can find comfort amidst our dis-ease. Namo Amida Butsu

October 27 Aki Matsuri (Fall Festival)



November 17 Eitaikyo service

*Palash flower:
A symbol of
regeneration in
Buddhism*



During the Eitaikyo service, we reflect on what people have given to provide us with this space and community of learning dharma, and we practice gratitude for past and future giving.

We are a nonprofit organization funded mainly by its members, through membership dues, special service offerings, donations in the offering box, larger gifts, and various fundraisers. All donations go directly to the temple's operations and upkeep. Donations allow us to invest in programming and community-building opportunities, like our chat & teas, meditative listening sessions, and online adult classes. They pay for the technology to share our services online with those who can't be at the temple. They reduce the administrative burden on ministers and Board members so they can best use their training and talents to share the dharma and support the community.

At closing of the year, we often think about gratitude and giving. We ask you to consider the temple as you make giving decisions and to give what you can when you can throughout the year. Reflect upon all the things that go into the upkeep and growth of our temple and sangha, and all the donations that people made over time to make the temple what it is today. Every contribution matters, and it is with gratitude that we hold this Eitaikyo service.

November 24 Turkey Bingo



Shinran group

The Shinran group is a Japanese speaking group that meets on the first Thursday of each month. Although this is a Japanese service, the Dharma talk is offered in both Japanese and English.



*Mango Flower:
A symbol of
impermanence in
Buddhism*



Dharma School Connection

We have had a great first half of our Dharma School year. It is thrilling to see how much our Dharma School has grown in the past couple of years and continues to grow week after week. I look forward to coming to Temple every Sunday to not only hear the teachings of the Buddha, but to bring my kids to a safe space where they can feel a sense of acceptance and belonging. It is extremely exciting and hopeful to see how many Dharma School families show up week after week. Every time I look at the kids, I am shocked with how fast they are growing up. The once little ones that were in preschool are now reading, chairing services, helping with bake sale clean up, singing in the choir, setting up tables, cooking us meals. It all goes by so fast. This is the time of year I'm reminded to slow down and enjoy the time with family and friends and embrace all the chaos life brings.

Dharma School has had several successful events this Fall, including: bake sales, Akimatsuri, and Turkey Bingo. Thank you to everyone for donating your time, bringing in food for bake sale and potlucks, lending a hand to clean up the kitchen on Sundays, and donating turkeys and raffle items. Also, a huge thank you to all those that help keep the Temple afloat and make Dharma School a possibility: Rev. Hayashi and Rev. Thompson, Alison in the office, Clarynne and Amy for playing the organ, the Board of Directors, BDA, choir, Sakura Foundation, Robert the security guard, Dharma School teachers, Lorraine in the kitchen, YBA, Dharma School families and Temple sangha. Because of all of you, we are here! Wishing everyone a happy and healthy New Year!

November 28

148th Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

This year's Interfaith Thanksgiving Service was held at University Park United Methodist Church. Denver's Interfaith Service of Thanksgiving is one of the oldest continuous interfaith partnerships in the country. Since the first service was held in 1876, it has welcomed new partners of different faiths so that today we have participants from Christian, Buddhist, Jewish, Muslim, and Unitarian expressions of faith. This year's theme was "peace in turbulent times". Denver Buddhist Temple will host the 2025 Interfaith Service of Thanksgiving.



*Sala flower:
A symbol of
interconnection
in Buddhism*



ANSWERED!



Why do we raise our service book to our heads?

Raising something to one's head is a traditional sign of respect. The service books that we use at the temple contain the teachings of the Buddha in the form of our chants, songs, and readings, and when we raise the books to our head, we are showing our respect for those teachings. This gesture is known in Japanese as 'itadaku' (lit. 'raising to the head') and is done before we open the book and right after we close it.

You may have noticed that we also use a similar phrase, 'itadakimasu,' before we begin eating. It has the same meaning, although we tend to put our hands together when saying it rather than raising the food to our head. Again, this is a show of respect. It expresses our gratitude to all the causes and conditions and people which made it possible for us to enjoy our meal.

We try to show gratitude every day to all those things which make our lives possible, whether our daily food or the lessons that we learn, and 'itadaku' is one of many small ways that we can do this.

Admin's Connection

Facilities

Thanks to Mike Okada and his crew for all the work they have been doing on the Temple recently. We can't thank them enough for helping us with old equipment (air conditioners, swamp coolers, electrical systems) that needs special attention and care. Thanks, Mike!

Membership Drive

We have begun our 2025 Membership Drive: start or renew your membership today! Membership information is available at <https://tsdbt.org/membership/>, including the membership form and information about how to pay dues donations. Paper copies have been mailed to those on our mailing list. We ask that EVERYONE, all new and renewing members, fill out the membership form this year. We are updating our membership systems, and it's important that we have the most up-to-date information. Forms can be filled out on the website or contact the office (303-295-1844 or info@tsdbt.org) if you need a paper copy.

Zooming Out!

Thank you to the Zoom Team: Dan Nolan, Yukari Hayashi, Sarah Pettis, and Clarynne Blanchard! They ensure that everyone can participate in Sunday services. Special thanks to Dan Nolan for upgrading camera and audio technology to improve the service experience.

Nikkei Treasures

Nikkei Treasures is a thrift store of gently used Japanese American goods, open once a month on the mezzanine at Sakura Square. Organizers Joni Sakaguchi, Gail Ida, and Gayle Goto and their team of volunteers have raised more than \$30,000 toward the kitchen in the temple's future redevelopment effort. Thank you all!

Security Camera

We have installed four new security cameras so that we can take care of security problems immediately. Thanks to Gregg Tsuchimoto for leading us in this effort!

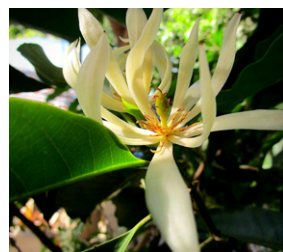
Bookstore Updates

The Temple Bookstore is open most Sundays after services. We have added new inventory from different books about Buddhism to new onenjus, as well as the service book and our community cookbook. Please send all questions and requests to info@tsdbt.org.

Administrative Assistant Office Hours

Monday 9:30am – 3:00pm
Wednesday 9:30am – 3:00pm
Thursday 9:30am – 3:00pm
Friday 9:30am – 3:00pm

*White Sandalwood
Flower:
A symbol of purity in
Buddhism*



President's Connection

Greetings!

As we reach the end of 2024, I think about how much has happened and the opportunities open to us in the coming year. Since the pandemic, we have adapted to the on-line world by providing regular and special services to those unable to travel to the temple. We have been surprised by the community's support of our annual Cherry Blossom Festival, the main source of revenue for the temple's operation. And we continue seeing new faces each weekend and hope they become new members.

Looking to the future, there are many unknowns that continue to face us. The most obvious concern is the physical condition of the temple. We have been able to temporarily address issues by adding baseboard heating in the Hondo, making repairs to entryways and enclosures, and making repairs to the roof. There are many issues which are being addressed "behind the scenes" by volunteers who put in personal time to care for the buildings. It will become more and more difficult, if not impossible, to continue making patchwork repairs to our aging building. Discussions between representatives of the Temple Board, Sakura Foundation, and Sakura LLC continue to form a plan for the future.

Equally important is our changing Sangha. We continue to suffer the loss of our elder members, upon who we have depended for wisdom and guidance. Our actions and decisions must be made by a new group who want to guide the future of the temple into its 2nd century of existence in an evolving urban environment. It is the responsibility of those of us who attend services to honor and embrace the legacy handed to us from those who preceded us and to help develop a vision for the future. This could be our most difficult task, as buildings will come and go, but I hope the lessons we have learned from our predecessors will be shared with those who join us as new days approach.

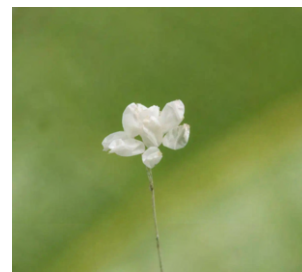
Thank you for the honor as serving as your president for the past year.

In gassho,
Randy Matsushima

December 28 Mochi making



*Udunbara flower:
This flower is said to
bloom every 3,000
years, thus it symbolizes
rarity in Buddhism.*



Buddhist Dana Association's Connection

The Buddhist Dana Association has been busy as always, this past year and with our members aging it is becoming more difficult to support all the activities. We encourage all of you to join the BDA so that we can continue to support the temple.

This fall BDA organized our Dana Project with the Dharma School Students. We held a food drive to benefit Metro Caring, a non-profit food bank serving the metro area. Metro Caring provides fresh, healthy food and other items for free in a grocery-store-style market. We asked everyone to bring in donations and had generous support from the Sangha. The Dharma School Students bagged rice and beans into smaller, manageable portions. They sorted the supplies and hygiene products. We delivered the donations to Metro Caring in December, which will help replenish their shelves.

The BDA conducts many Otoki's throughout the year. We serve family provided food and drinks for funeral services receptions. We conducted our largest annual fundraiser in January, by selling bentos at Uta Gassen. We sold over 200 bentos and also manju to the attendees. We also supported the Dharma School with 5 bakesales last year. Our members generously bring items which we sell to the Sangha. In August we made onigiri for the Nikkeijin Kai Picnic.

In October we had two members, Ann Hyde and Mabel Googins, attend the Federal BWA Conference in San Jose, CA. In the late Rev. Gyomay Kubose book "Ichi Go Ichi E means that every day of our life is like the first day and like the last day. Every day could be fresh and new, but it could also be the last day of our life. Our life every day is precious, and unrepeatable, and should be lived with gratitude and appreciation." The conference included craft sales, Obon odori dances, workshops and lectures.

Food Drive for Metro Caring



*Chrysanthemum;
A symbol of peace
in Buddhism*



Marigold:
A symbol
of radiance
in
Buddhism



Rev. Hayashi's connection

わたし がつと しよう なか ねんじゅ
私たちがお勤めするときを使用するものの中にお念珠があります。
じょうどしんしゅう ねんじゅ み つ たいせつ ひと
浄土真宗ではお念珠を身に付けることは、大切なたしなみの一つとされて
います。れんによしようにん かた ねんじゅ も ほとけさま て
います。蓮如上人という方は「お念珠を持たないのは、仏様を手づかみに
するようなものである」とおっしゃっています。ですからねんじゅ たいせつ
ものであり、投げたり床に直接置いたりせず、つくえ うえ お
机の上に置くなど、丁寧にていねい
取り扱うように私たちは教えられています。

ねんじゅ しよき ぶつきょうと も
お念珠は、もともとインドでの初期の仏教徒においては、持たなかったよ
うです。ほとけさま らいはい とき たいせつ ぶつきょう なか じょじょ
のちに仏様を礼拝する時の大切なものとして、仏教の中で徐々に
つか はじ じょうどしんしゅう しゅうそしんらんしようにん ししゅう じょうどしゅう
使われ始めました。浄土真宗の宗祖親鸞聖人や、その師匠である浄土宗を
はじ ほうねんしようにん えぞう み ねんじゅ て も
始められた法然聖人の絵像を見ると、お念珠を手にとっておられます。

つうじょう がっしょう りょうて ねんじゅ い み
通常は合掌をした両手にお念珠をかけるわけですが、それはどういう意味
を持つのでしょうか。
こだい わたし ひだりて ふじょう て けが い み も みぎて
古代インドでは、私たちの左手が不浄の手、汚れの意味を持ち、右手は
しょうじょう て きよ も しん わたし
清浄の手、つまり清さの意味を持つと信じられていました。これを私たち
お か ふじょう わたし にんげん しょうじょう ほとけ しょうちよう
に置き換えると、不浄が私たち人間で、清浄が仏を象徴していました。
いっけん ふじょう しょうじょう まはんたい べつべつ わか かんが
一見、不浄と清浄は真反対で別々の別れたもののように考えてしまいます
が、ふじょう しょうじょう ふじょう ことば
不浄があるのは清浄があるからであり、不浄という言葉がなければ、
しょうじょう ことば ふじょう しょうじょう わか かんけい
清浄という言葉もそもそもありません。つまり、不浄と清浄は別れた関係
にあるのではなく、ひとつの関係にあります。
ひかり かげ かんけい ひかり なに
これは光と陰の関係のようなものです、陰があるということは、光が何か
うし てら ひかり かげ う
の後ろから照らしているからです。光がなければ、陰は生まれません。で
すから、ひかり かげ ひと かんけい
光と陰はひとつの関係にあります。
かげ ひかり ふじょう しょうじょう わたし ほとけ
陰があるから光がある、不浄があるから、清浄がある、私があるから、仏
がある。

がっしょう ねんじゅ ぼんのう わたし
ですから、合掌をしてお念珠をかけると、煩惱にまみれた私たちであって
ほとけさま つね わたし いっしょ わたし ひと あじ
も仏様は常に私と一緒にいる、私と一つであると味わうことができます。

Future Special Schedules and Events



January 1 at 11 am- New Year's Service

January 19 at 10:15 am- Joint Ho-onko Service
(Commemorating the death of Shinran Shonin)

January 25 - Kohaku Utagassen
(Red & White Singing Contest)

February 16 at 9:30 am- Family Nirvana Day Service
at 10:15 am - Adult Nirvana Service

March 2 at 9:30 am - Joint Family & Adult Service
after service - Temple Clean up

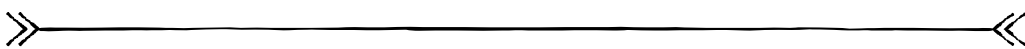
March 16 at 9:30 am - Pet Memorial Service
at 10:15 am - Ohigan Service
(Celebrating the Spring Equinox)

March 23 at 11:30 am - Annual Sangha Meeting

April 6 at 10:15 am - Joint Hanamatsuri Service
(Celebrating the historical Buddha Sakyamuni`s birth)

April 20 at 9:30 am - Hatsumairi Service
(Children's First Visit to Temple Ceremony)
at 10:15 am - Eshinni & Kakushinni Service
(Commemorating the Wife and Daughter of Shinran)

The dates and times are subject to change



The radiant light, unhindered and inconceivable, eradicates suffering and brings realization of joy, the excellent Name of Namo Amida Butsu, perfectly embodying all practices, eliminates obstacles and dispels doubt. This is the teaching and practice for our era. Devote yourself to it. - Shinran Shonin

