

Obon

According to an ancient legend one of the Buddha's disciples, Mokuren Sonja (Moggallana) by name, saw with his superhuman sight the agony of his mother suffering in the hell of starvation. When this fact was brought to the Buddha's attention, the Blessed One said that the woman, whose life on earth was characterized by greed and selfishness, was now reaping the fruits of her egocentric acts. The Buddha thus advised Mokuren to offer food to the disciples out of a pure, altruistic heart. When this offering was made, Mokuren's mother was saved; Mokuren and all the disciples clapped their hands and danced in joy.

The Obon Service and the colorful folk dances, having its origin in this legend, carries a special meaning for us today.

Let us meditate on the love and affection our parents have showered upon us. Were we not nurtured in their enduring love? Who gave us the encouragement when the future seemed dark? Indeed our hearts are one with them--with those that are in the twilight of their lives and those that have passed from our midst. To the living we shall give love, kindness, peace and security. To the dead we shall recite the Nembutsu.

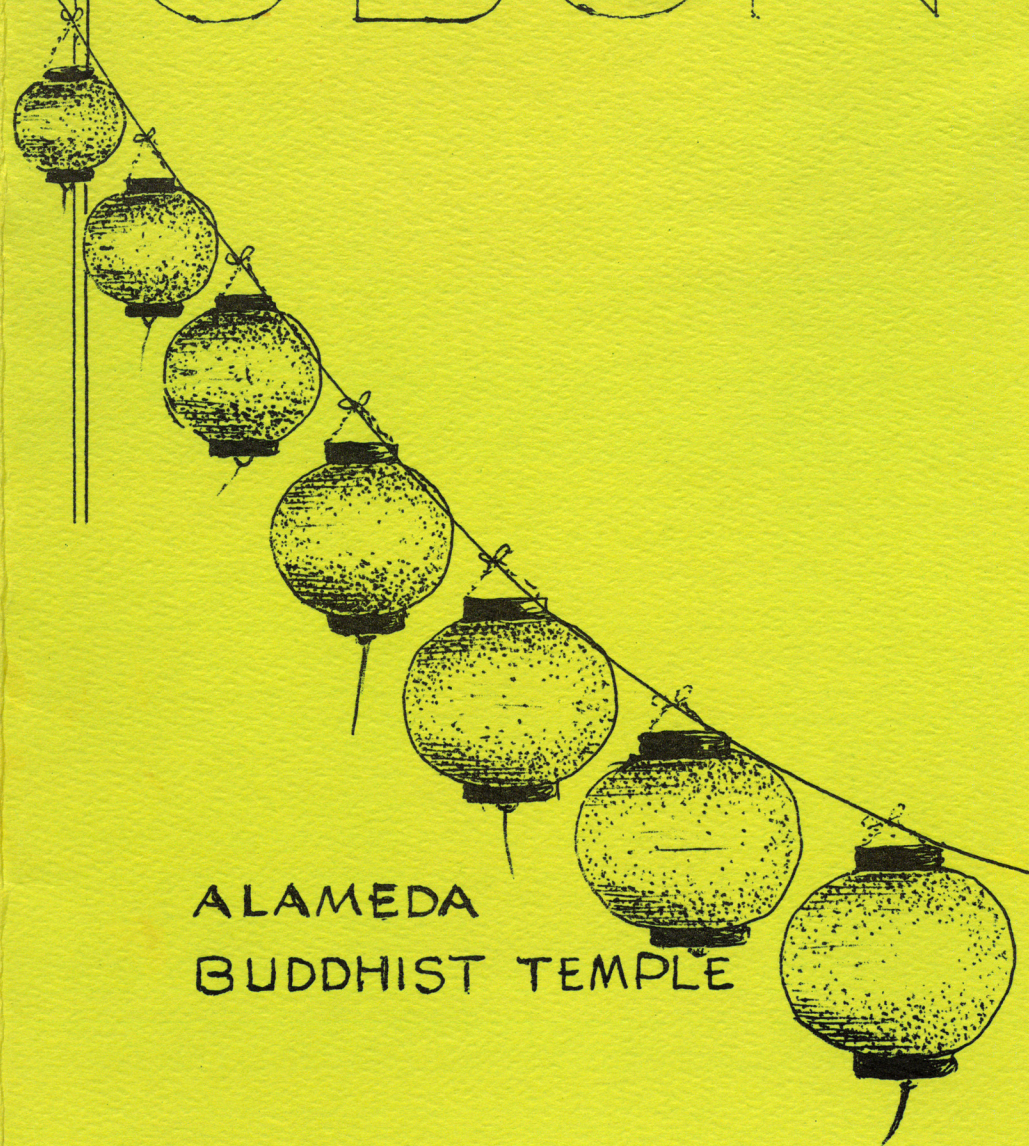
Let us meditate on the virtues of our forefathers. From the savage state of injustice, slavery and fear did they not create a civilization, proclaiming the dignity of man, his freedom and brotherhood? Therefore, shall we give generously of our time, thoughts and efforts for the preservation of this our common heritage.

Let us meditate on Amida Buddha. We shall remember His Wisdom and Compassion, that embraces all and forsakes none.

This Obon shall be truly a "Festival of Joy".

AUG. 9, 1986

O B O N



ALAMEDA
BUDDHIST TEMPLE

ALAMEDA OBON 1986

Master of Ceremony Don Kuge

1. OBON NO UTA (Uchiwa)
2. OIWAI ONDO (Towel)
3. NIPPON FURUSATO ONDO (Fan)
4. SOMA BON UTA (Uchiwa)

* * * INTERMISSION * * *

Entertainment provided by....San Jose Chidori Band

5. SHINRAN ONDO (Hand)
6. HATSUKOI ONDO (Kachi kachi)
7. DAI TOKYO ONDO (Uchiwa)
8. KYOMO EGAO DE KONNICHIIWA (Fan)
9. OSHIN ONDO (Hand)
10. TANKO BUSHI (Hand)
11. OBON NO UTA (Uchiwa)

Acknowledgements

Choreographer Mme. Michiya Hanayagi
Head Instructor Michisuya Hanayagi
Michitaka Hanayagi

Flower Arrangements in the Social Hall

Mrs. Teruko Naito, Chairperson

We wish to thank all the Temple members, friends and participants who contributed their time and energy to help us celebrate this occasion.