

## Palo Alto Buddhist Temple Donation Form

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I/we wish to make a contribution to the Palo Alto Buddhist Temple for the following observance(s):

☐ In memory of \_\_\_\_\_, who passed away in \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ for \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Month Year

☐ Other (e.g., one of the Buddhist observances below): \_\_\_\_\_ for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Important Buddhist Observances

- **January 1<sup>st</sup>: New Year's Day (Shusho-e)** – The first day of the year upon which we reflect on the past year and resolve to live an even better life.
- **January 16<sup>th</sup>: Ho-Onko** – The day on which we commemorate the memory of Shinran Shonin (May 21, 1173 - January 16, 1262), the Founder of the Jodo Shinshu (True Pure Land) sect of Buddhism.
- **February 12<sup>th</sup>: Nirvana Day (Nehan-e)** – On this day we solemnly observe the passing of Shakyamuni Buddha into Pari-nirvana.
- **March (18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup>): Spring Vigan (Utsushi Higan)** (Sanskrit for "other shore") is celebrated on or around the Spring Equinox. The "other shore" refers to "Enlightenment" or "Nirvana" which is attained through the Six Paramitas. Buddhist converts everywhere aspire to practice in this daily lives.
- **April 8<sup>th</sup>: Hanamatsuri (Birth of the Buddha)** – On this day we celebrate the birth of Siddhartha Gautama (who became Shakyamuni Buddha upon Enlightenment). At the Hanamatsuri Service, a flower shrine ("Hanamido") is set up in front of the main altar representing Lumbini Garden, Siddhartha's birthplace. The Sangha offers flowers and pours sweet tea over a statue of the infant Buddha.
- **May 21<sup>st</sup>: Gotan-e / Fujimatsuri (Shinran Shonin Day)** - On this day we observe his birth of Shinran Shonin, the founder of the Jodo Shinshu sect. He was born near Kyoto, Japan on May 21, 1173.
- **Mid-July to Mid-August: Obon / Hatsubon** – During this time we fondly reflect upon the love and compassion our loved ones who had passed away shared with us, and to celebrate their lives with joy.
- **September (10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup>): Autumn Higan (Higashie)** – On or around the Fall equinox we again observe the Six Paramitas, which eventually led to achieving the "other shore" (Enlightenment or Nirvana).
- **December 8<sup>th</sup>: Bodhi Day (Jodo-e)** – On this day we commemorate Shakyamuni Buddha's Enlightenment under the Bodhi Tree (Tree of Enlightenment) over 2500 years ago.
- **December 31<sup>st</sup>: Joya-e (Year-end Service)** – On New Year's Eve we meditate on and give thanks to the countless blessings we have received throughout the year and reflect on the teachings of the Buddha.

☐ I am enclosing a check payable to "Palo Alto Buddhist Temple" for the amount of my contribution(s).

*If paying by credit card, please complete the information below.*

Credit Card: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard ☐ Amex (Note: Credit cards will be charged upon receipt of this form.)

Acct. #: \_\_\_\_\_ Expires (MM/YY): \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Authorized Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please mail to: Palo Alto Buddhist Temple, 2751 Louis Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303**

**Thank you for your kind donation!**