



LAS VEGAS BUDDHIST SANGHA  
AUGUST, 2012, NEWSLETTER



**THERE IS NO MONTHLY AUGUST SERVICE; HOWEVER ALL SANGHA MEMBERS ARE NEEDED TO HELP AT OUR OBON SUMMER FESTIVAL both on Friday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. and on Saturday, August 11 at 6 a.m. at Spring Valley High School, which is at 3750 S. Buffalo, 89147, which is between Twain and Flamingo.** We remind everyone that our congregation is still rather small and predominantly senior retirees, so all members are asked to again recruit some younger friends & relatives for these specific tasks: cleaning and setting up the facility, and food preparation the day before, on Friday, August 10<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. and then the food preparation from 6 a.m. on Saturday, the 11<sup>th</sup>. In addition, we are grateful for help throughout the morning with the dishwashing; then mid-day for the food concessions; and the intensive afternoon cleanup from about 2:30 p.m. Please ask these volunteers to give their names and addresses to June Maruyama so that they can be invited to the traditional thank you luncheon, which will be at noon at the Social Club at Main Street Station on Saturday, September 1.

**DHARMA MESSAGE:** We thank Mits Nakayama for hosting Reverend Michael Endo who is the Executive Secretary to the new Bishop Umezu at the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) Headquarters in San Francisco. We enjoyed Reverend Endo's Dharma talk about a Japanese film which told the story of the daughter of an elderly and terminally ill woman who wanted her mother to move from her picturesque village to a hospice in Tokyo. However, when the son-in-law is sent to bring that mother back to Tokyo, he understands her rationale and shows her compassion and empathy that is often lacking when handling the elderly. We will look for a copy of the film to pass around to members of our congregation; so if you're interested, please email [lvjacl@cox.net](mailto:lvjacl@cox.net) or call 228-3071 to sign up for it. Our Sangha has appreciated the work that Reverend Endo has done arranging for the monthly ministers; so a small monetary token and certificate was presented to him at our service. We also thank Dale for his usual toban duties and arranging for 15 of the members to join Reverend Endo for lunch at Sushi on Rainbow. Moreover, we thank Michael Tanaka, who chaired the service, and Sally Hanagami, for her short presentation. She felt that she could have added a lot more information; so we're encouraging her to come back later this year with the rest of her story of what led her to our Las Vegas Sangha.

**OBON'S MEANING:** As stated in our previous August newsletters, the word for Obon is an abbreviation of Urabon or "suffering by being hung upside down." The sutra describes Mogalana, one of the ten great disciples of the Shakyamuni Buddha. When he attained the high rank of Buddhist training and obtained supernatural powers, he was able to see his mother who was suffering in the "hell of a hungry ghost." The Buddha advised Mogalana to offer unselfish giving (*dana*) for the monks when they finished with their retreat in the rainy season around July 15<sup>th</sup>. With this practice of pure *dana*, his mother was relieved from the realm of hell; so Mogalana danced joyously. This is the legend about the origin of our Obon dancing or "*Obon Odori*."

**CONDOLENCES:** George Tanji passed away of an apparent heart attack on July 2 in Los Angeles. He used to live in Los Prados and at one time co-chaired our Obon. He is survived by his wife and two daughters.

**TOBAN & MEMORIAL FLOWERS:** We thank Roy & Caryl Suzuki for the flowers. We also thank those who came early to help with toban duties.

**JULY DONATIONS:** Thank you to the following members for their generous donations at July's service: Ken & Gladys Akita; Sharleen Aoki, , Alice Branton, Sho Fukawa, Mabel Fukumoto, Sally Hanagami, Sandi Hiyane (annual), Dale & Rosan Ito, Rosie Kakuuchi (July & August), Kumiko Kashiwada, Pati Lira, Hank & June Maruyama, Sueno Migaki, Jimi & Barbara Mitsunaga, Daniel Miyake, Frances Miyasato (annual), Ben & Karen Mizusaki, Bill & Nanette Muraoka, Ben & Marilyn Nakagawa (annual), Dennis & Margaret Nakata, Mits Nakayama, Takako Ogata, Ellie Oshiro, Bob & Chizuyo Reynierse, Kazuo & Edna Shiotani, Roy & Caryl Suzuki, Alan & Oh Takemoto (annual), Sadako Wanless (annual), Scott & Tami Watanabe, Grace Wertz, Fred & Patty Yamano.

**MEMORIAL DONATIONS:**

Dennis Nakata - Father, Yonetaro Nakata  
Margaret Nakata - Father, Toraji Takemoto  
Caryl Suzuki - Sister, Setsuko Iwamoto

**MEETING OUR NEW SUPERVISING MINISTER, REVEREND MARVIN HARADA ON JULY 24 & 25:** Reverend Harada will be in town that week and has volunteered to give a lecture on Buddhism on Tuesday, July 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 P.M. at the JAACL Activity Center. All Sangha members are encouraged to attend. The very next night, July 25<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. the Sangha Board is meeting with Reverend Harada to discuss possible ideas for the future of our Sangha. Unfortunately, our President Stan Isa will be out of town, so contact board member Ellie Oshiro, 436-6265 or [eleanoroshiro@yahoo.com](mailto:eleanoroshiro@yahoo.com), who is the designated liaison for that evening's lecture, if you will attend. Vice President Harriet Huber will be chairing the board meeting. If you have specific agenda items to be covered, please email them to her at [hmhoba@aol.com](mailto:hmhoba@aol.com) or call her at 335-8123.

**OBON REMINDERS:** In order to get enough ingredients to cover the amount of lunches that need to be made, **please let June Maruyama know at 869-0680 how many lunch tickets you have sold by Wednesday, July 25<sup>th</sup>, before the board meets that day at 5:30 p.m.** We are grateful for the Obon Co-Chairs, Stan Isa and Dale Ito, who are purchasing the supplies and getting them to SVHS on Saturday, August 11<sup>th</sup>. If anyone living nearby has a truck and can come out to help transport these 4+ truckloads, please call Dale at 869-0557. Thanks to Mel & Betty Igawa & Fred & Caroline Tomiyoshi for their generous donations of water and other Obon supplies.

On Friday, August 12<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m., ALL SANGHA MEMBERS are asked to come out to set up the chairs in the cafeteria, clean the kitchen, and prepare the chicken. Please bring **rags, knives, cutting boards and other supplies such as pliers, scissors & tape** for all that needs to be done. The 400 school chairs need to be wiped down and set up with the other 400 rented chairs.

**Dance Instructor, Ann Mikami**, has at least 24 dancers who will represent our Sangha. If anyone is interested, please know that they can be introduced to the dances via a DVD. The remaining practice will be on Saturday, July 14 at 8:30 – 10:00 a.m.; July 21 & 28: 9 - 11 a.m. at the JACL Activity Center where our Sangha has its services. If you want a DVD of this year's dances, please contact Ann at 228-2692.

**Drinks Chairperson Hank Maruyama** encourages Sangha members to bring sodas & water that we sell at Obon. The drinks needed are Coke or Pepsi, Diet Coke or Diet Pepsi, and Dr. Pepper and 7-up. Please call Hank at 869-0680 so he knows what else to get.

**All members are asked to cook a pot of rice and bring it to the school in the morning.** We never seem to have enough rice to begin the day, which holds up the process that morning. ALL OTHER COOKING WILL BE DONE AT THE HIGH SCHOOL, so everyone is asked to report to Spring Valley High School promptly at **6 a.m. on Saturday, August 11<sup>th</sup>**. Again, please bring **cutting boards and knives** labeled with your name to use while we prepare the food. All members are also asked to stay, if at all possible, **until all the cleanup is done.**

**SANGHA MEMBERS ARE ASKED TO BRING DESSERTS, ESPECIALLY JAPANESE ONES** when they report at 6 a.m. **on Saturday**; although any dessert brought in later will not be turned away. We ask that you consider making your family's favorite dessert! Please **do not cut your dessert** since individual servings and pricing will be done by the committee. Also, please sign in & list your donation so that the proper acknowledgments can be made. Moreover, please bring your dessert, if at all possible, in a disposable container; but if you have to bring a pan or utensil, put your name on it and come by to pick it up so that there is less to clean up for the dessert committee.

**Chizuyo Reynierse** is in charge of on-site inari-zushi making, and Harriet Huber is in charge of the makizushi making, so anyone willing to help them will be much appreciated. Spam musubi will be made in the Teachers' Lounge area. Chair Alan Takemoto would also appreciate any assistance.

**Raffle Tickets:** Since the profit margin is higher for the raffle than the food items, please put in as much effort as possible to sell raffle tickets. We need some hustlers to go out and sell tickets that day.

Although **Minoru Aoki** is the perpetual chair for the Cleanup Committee, we need a variety of volunteers for keeping up with the dishwashing from early in the day of Obon. **Therefore, if you are sitting around or can take a break from what you are doing to take a turn at dishwashing, please do so.** It will help lighten the load—so bring a pair of rubber gloves to get in there and scrub those pans! Also year after year, Richard Tanaka is always seen helping to sweep and mop the kitchen. Any help in that area will be much appreciated.

**A light mid-morning lunch will be supplied;** so no one has to bring anything else besides what is needed directly for the Obon. Coffee and donuts as well as Subway sandwiches will be available for everyone early in the day. **Any Sangha member who wants a box lunch** must purchase it by the deadline on Wednesday, July 25, when everyone is asked to turn in the bento (box lunch) count to June Maruyama at 869-0687. **June will give a report at the Board Meeting at the board meeting Wednesday, July 25 at 5:30.** We need an accurate number to make the last minute purchases.

**Obon Happi Coats:** Last year we were so lucky that Margaret Nakata and her sister sewed 42 happi coats that are being sold again for \$30. If you want to buy one, we are selling them at the dance practices on July 14, 21, & 28. All remaining happi coats will be available for sale on Obon day.



Rev. Michael Endo receives certificate from Myke Tanaka

Ogata Family (visiting from Hawaii) with Rev. Endo