



LAS VEGAS BUDDHIST  
SANGHA NEWSLETTER  
DECEMBER, 2012



This month's service will be held on Sunday, December 9, 2011 at 10 a.m. at the JAACL Activity Center, 1401 Arville Street, a block south of Charleston. Our visiting minister will be Rev. Eijun Kujo who is flying in from San Francisco. He will arrive on Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> at 6:45 p.m. and leaving on Monday, December 10 at 1:15 p.m. If any Sangha member is available to pick him up, please let Roy know at 480-0352. We will be having our traditional potluck *bonenkai* luncheon after the service on Sunday, so please bring your special entree, salad, or dessert to share with our appreciative Sangha members. Please put your name on the dish so other members may let you know how much they appreciate what you've brought. It is one of the few times that we can leisurely sit and get to know one another better; so besides inviting interested friends, please bring a generous amount to cover any prospective members. Our *bonenkai* celebration is to "forget the hardships of the old year" while "being grateful for the interconnectedness" one has experienced this past year. Hopefully, the Dharma School students will be performing in the tradition of many *bonenkai* celebrations. They are also making designs for the 2013 Dharma School calendar; so parents are asked to encourage students to send in their pictures by the end of Thanksgiving weekend, if at all possible, so the calendar can be printed and assembled by December 9<sup>th</sup>.

**DHARMA CORNER:** December 8th, Bodhi Day, marks the time when Prince Siddhartha Gautama "awakened" from a life blinded by ignorance to an enlightened life as Shakyamuni Buddha. Gautama meditated under the Bodhi Tree (Tree of Enlightenment) and became a Buddha, perfect in Wisdom and Compassion. This historic event supposedly took place as the first faint light of day began to glow in the eastern sky. By his example he showed us that it was possible for human beings to become a Buddha--a fully Enlightened Person. We therefore all possess this potential of Buddha-nature, which when awakened and cultivated, will enable us to achieve supreme Wisdom and Compassion.

**NOVEMBER'S DHARMA MESSAGE:** We thank Carolyn and Richard Higa for hosting her cousin, Reverend Jay Shinseki who lives in San Jose, works in Santa Cruz and is the minister of the Monterey Buddhist Temple. We were fortunate to get him on such short notice when former Bishop Seigen Yamaoka had a conflict in his schedule. Reverend Shinseki spoke about superstitions all of which make us human. He also spoke about Genza who lived like a Bodhisattva in the Japanese village of Tottori from 1852-1930. Genza reminded others that Amida Buddha is like the ox who shoulders much of the weight of our burdens.

**NOVEMBER DONATIONS:** Gladys & Ken Akita; Sharleen Aoki; Cathy Arakaki; Alice Branton Sho Fukawa; Sandi Hiyane (annual); Harriet & Jim Huber; Stan & Nancy Isa; Rosie Kakuuchi (October & November); Kumiko Kashiwada; Jim & Gay Kurashige; Pati Lira; Hank & June Maruyama; Aiko Mayeda; Sueno Migaki; Daniel Miyake; Frances Miyasato (annual); Ben & Karen Mizusaki; Daniel Miyake; Ben & Marilyn Nakagawa (annual); Dennis & Margaret Nakata; Mits Nakayama; Steve & Myrtle Noguchi; Bob & Chizuyo Reynierse; Paul & Alice Sakamoto; Mike & Becky Suyeyasu; Roy & Caryl Suzuki; Alan & Oh Takemoto (annual); Grace Wertz (October & November); Masaichi Yamada; Fred & Patty Yamano.

**MEMORIAL or SPECIAL DONATION:**

Gladys Akita - Mitsugi Higashi, father; Alice Branton - Ralph, husband; Sho Fukawa - Mr. & Mrs. Chisato Sasaki, Parents-in-law; June & Hank Maruyama - Kojiro Hamado (June) and Masaji Maruyama (Hank), fathers; Caryl & Roy Suzuki - Mother Mary Iwamoto's 90th birthday; Rosie Kakuuchi; Ben & Karen Mizusaki; Mike Suyeyasu - BCA Donation.

**FLOWERS & REFRESHMENTS:** We thank all those who brought flowers for our service: Gladys & Ken Akita, June & Hank Maruyama, Chizuyo & Bob Reynierse, Sadako Wanless. As usual we thank Sadako Wanless for coming early to set up the chairs and Obutsudan. Usually she and Takako Ogata drive together, but Takako hurt her wrist. We wish her a speedy recovery and hope to see her at our next service and potluck.

**THANKGIVING CANNED FOOD DRIVE:** We thank the members who generously brought all the food that was given to a church in North Las Vegas. They have some needy members whose pastor, Donald Clay, also works for the school district.

**DECEMBER MEMORIALS:** If you would like to bring memorial flowers, please contact Rosie Kakuuchi at 655-3028. Please remember to bring a vase and to take your flowers or give them away after the service.

- 12/1 Iwamatsu Hoshiyama, father of Hana Fukumoto; George Hoshiyama, brother of Hana Fukumoto; Yori Hamada, brother of Haru Toimoto
- 12/3 Masao Nii, father of May Soeda
- 12/3 Bill Hopper, father of David Hopper
- 12/4 Tom Tanaka, father of Cathy Moses and Michael Tanaka
- 12/6 Hideo "Joe" Ikeda; father of Deborah Harlig
- 12/8 Fumie Suyama, grandmother of Cathy Moses and Michael Tanaka
- 12/10 Reverend Jitsuryu Tanaka, father of Wayne Tanaka
- 12/12 Frank Takemoto brother of Margaret Nakata
- 12/13 Minoru Suzuki, father of Roy Suzuki
- 12/15 Fumiko Oshiro, sister of Hideko Shimabukuro
- 12/18 Yoogo Oba, father of Harriet Huber
- 12/20 Stanley Okumura, father of Francis Akamine

12/23 Hanayo Oba, mother of Harriet Huber  
12/25 Kow Maruki, brother of Rosie Kakuuchi & Grace Wertz;  
12/26 Haruyo Matsuda, mother of Sadako Wanless  
12/28 Mitzy Tanaka, mother of Cathy Moses and Michael Tanaka  
12/29 Kasumi Hamada, mother of Haru Toimoto  
12/30 Jimmy Takemoto, brother of Margaret Nakata

**HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS** on 12/12 James Akamine; 12/17 Cathy Arakaki; 12/18 Kim Watanabe; 12/19 Sadie Kasamoto; 12/20 Paul Sakamoto; 12/21 Rosie Kakuuchi; 12/24 Lori Muraoka; 12/25 Tomico Honda; and 12/31 Sadie Tanaka.

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARIES** on 12/10 Margaret & Dennis Nakata; 12/19 Nan & Bill Muraoka; 12/20 Sadie & Wayne Tanaka; 12/29 Lynn & Thomas DeMann.

**SOUTHERN NEVADA JAPANESE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION'S** Ninth Annual Japanese Speech Contest The congregation approved donating \$100 to this event that Dharma School student Megan Arakaki participated on **Saturday, November 17** at Coronado High School.

**BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 19 AT 5:30 P.M.;** Our supervising minister Reverend Harada will be in town so the Sangha board members will be meeting with him to discuss the recommendations that came from the brief board meeting held this past Sunday, November 11.

**BILL ENDOW GOLF TOURNAMENT RAFFLE TICKETS:** As mentioned previously, the Sangha has bought a hole sponsorship for this worthwhile event. Two of our Dharma School members, Anne Aoki and Chelsea Kurashige, have received one of the \$2,000 scholarships awarded by the Bill Endow Foundation. Please support the golf tournament (**Dec. 1 at Rio Secco**) by either golfing or buying 5 raffle tickets for \$20. First prize is 2 round trip tickets on Southwest; second prize is a flat panel HDTV (+many more prizes). **You don't have to be present to win!** Send your check (made out to Bill Endow Foundation) to the Asian Chamber of Commerce office at 6272 Spring Mountain Rd. Suite 115, Las Vegas, NV 89146, or call 737-4300 and they will take your credit card number over the phone.

**JAPAN AMERICA SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN NEVADA (JASN)** is hosting their second annual Bonenkai on **December 6, 2012**, from 6 p.m. at the mansion that Michael Jackson leased while in Las Vegas. The board voted to approve the fee to send 10 board members to the event; so Sally Hanagami will have her crafts booth set up for others to see and to get further information about our Sangha.

**JACL MOCHITSUKI** will be held on **Saturday, December 8**, from 7 a.m. Lunch will be served at noon. Both the mochi & lunch must be prepaid (\$4/bag, \$15/person). Costs are more for non-JACL members in hopes that more Sangha members will sign up. It only costs \$20 per family. There are plans for an interesting group of performers that day.

**USED CAR PURCHASE:** There is a teacher whose 16 year old son needs a reliable older car to purchase. If you know someone who wants to get rid of a car for a reasonable price, please call Mary Savage at SW Behavior School, 799-5904 x 4653.



Rev. Shinseki, flanked by Richard & Carolyn Higa, who were his hosts during his visit.