



LAS VEGAS BUDDHIST
SANGHA NEWSLETTER
JANUARY, 2013



HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL SANGHA MEMBERS & THEIR FAMILIES! We'll be meeting on Sunday, January 13, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. at the JAACL Activity Center, 1401 Arville, which is south of Charleston Blvd. The service will be conducted by Reverend Bill Dearth, from OCBC, who is currently getting his kyoshi ordination in Japan.

Each year we say that we hope to have a temple where we can hold a New Year's Day Service, traditionally the first Buddhist observance of the year; but with more new members, we think this will be a reality before too much longer! In Japanese culture the New Year's Day service is referred to as *Shusho-E* which is literally "a gathering to recover the correct path." It is a time for renewal and recovery and a time to reaffirm our commitment to following the "middle path" of Buddhism. We will also be having a Hatsumairi ceremony for the Yoshikawa family.

HO-ONKO: January 18th is the memorial for Shinran Shonin who was born in January, 1172. *Ho-onko* is a time to express our gratitude to the founder of our Shin Buddhist tradition. By studying the works of the Seven Patriarchs and adding the Jodo doctrine of his master, Honen Shonin, Shinran wrote the Kyo Gyo Shin Sho, upon which our sect of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism is based. The Japanese term *Ho-Onko*, "a gathering to repay a kindness," describes precisely the essential purpose for our Sangha. Remembering the life of Shinran-Shonin, we are able to see him as a signpost along the Nembutsu Path--a Bodhisattva guiding us in our struggles to walk the Pure Land Path with sincere intensity, courage, & humility.

DECEMBER DHARMA MESSAGE & DHARMA SCHOOL PERFORMANCES: Reverend Eijun Kujo gave a message about greed among family members as it relates to Buddhism. Also, Jared Sando, the second son of Marlo and Jason Sando read a poem that is attached to this newsletter that also focuses on being grateful for what we have as children of the Dharma. The Dharma Class entertained the Sangha during the potluck that included a video of Cristal Isa showing her the gymnastic form leading to her State Title, Jalen Sando playing the piano, Maile Sando singing, Megan Arakaki hula dancing, and Nicholas, Chelsea, and Jimmy Kurashige performing their karate moves. During 2013, it is our hope that we can pass on Buddhism through these children; so if anyone wants to help with lessons or messages for the Dharma class, please let any of our Sangha board members know.

NEW MEMBERS or GUESTS: We welcome Wayne Kozai who has been a JAACL member for years and helped at its mochitsuki the day before our service. Katherine and Ryan Yoshikawa with their month and a half old daughter Emi joined our Sangha as well as Alice Kado, who spends half the year in Vegas and the other half in Elkgrove near Sacramento, CA. Benjamin Gras was the guest from Paris, France, who is a Jodo Shinshu follower. He found us on Facebook and wishes to stay in contact with us and visit us again next year. He mentioned he really enjoyed his visit with us. Katherine and Ryan Yoshikawa are also Facebook followers, so this thing is working!

GET WELL WISHES: to Dale Ito who quietly had surgery awhile back and is on the road to recovery. He missed our December service since as usual, he went back to former temple, the Venice Hongwanji, to help them with their mochitsuki.

FLOWERS were brought in by: Harriet Huber, Rosie Kakuuchi & Grace Wertz, Roy Suzuki, Wayne Tanaka, Patty Yamano, and Sadako Wanless. Our apologies for omitting Alice Branton's name for her flower donation last month.

DECEMBER DONATIONS: Sharleen & Minoru Aoki; Cathy Arakaki; Alice Branton; Dennis & Brenda Creed; Sho Fukawa; Mabel Fukumoto (November & December); Sally Hanagami; Clara Hamasaki; Deborah Harlig; Sandy Hiyane (annual); Dennis Hopper; Harriet Huber; June Ikeda; Stan & Nancy Isa; Alice Kado; Rosie Kakuuchi; James & Gay Kurashige; Pati Lira; June & Hank Maruyama; Frances Miyasato (annual); Daniel Miyake; Bill & Nanette Muraoka; Ben & Marilyn Nakagawa (annual); Dennis & Margaret Nakata; Mits Nakayama; Takako Ogata; Bob & Chizuyo Reynierse; Alice & Paul Sakamoto; Mike & Becky Suyeyasu; Roy & Caryl Suzuki; Wayne & Sadie Tanaka; Alan & Oh Takemoto (annual); Sadako Wanless (annual); Grace Wertz; Fred & Patty Yamano; Tom & Sumiko Yanagihara (annual); Anonymous.

MEMBERSHIP: Emiko Aoki, Alice Branton; Dennis & Brenda Creed; Sho Fukawa; Mabel Fukumoto; Clara Hamasaki; Sally Hanagami; Deborah Harlig; Sandy Hiyane; Dr. David Hopper; June Ikeda; Stan & Nancy Isa; Alice Kado; Rosie Kakuuchi; Georgianna & Albert Kobayashi; Wayne Kozai (new); Pati Lira; Dennis & Margaret Nakata; Jon Ogata; Takako Ogata; Alice & Paul Sakamoto; Jason & Marlo Sando-Tsuchiyama; Muriel Scrivner; Agnes Tsuchiyama; Mike & Becky Suyeyasu; Roy & Caryl Suzuki; Grace Wertz; Fred & Patty Yamano.

MEMORIALS: Harriet Huber - in memory of parents, Yoogo & Kanayo Oba; Rosie Kakuuchi & Grace Wertz - in memory of their brother, Kow Maruki; Dennis & Margaret Nakata - in memory of Frank & Jimmy Takemoto; Roy & Caryl Suzuki - in memory of his father, Minoru Suzuki; Sadako Wanless - in memory of her mother, Haruyo Matsuda and her brother, Atsushi Matsuda.

OSEIBO: Rosie Kakuuchi; Mike & Becky Suyeyasu; Roy & Caryl Suzuki. Donations to our Supervising Minister are still welcome.

MISC. DONATIONS: Susan Ogawa - sale of cards; Patty Yamano - wall hangings; Dennis & Margaret Nakata - flower

arrangement. Sally Hanagami and the crafts group donated profits from Aki Matsuri and the JASN Bonenkai event.

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE: Your contribution went to three needy families in the North Las Vegas neighborhood where the **Koinonia Christian Church** is located. The pastor, Donald Clay, who also works for CCSD, thanks the many Sangha members who brought canned goods for this annual food drive.

THANK YOU TO THE SANGHA MEMBERS who showed up for the Saturday Mochitsuki and Sunday Bonenkai potluck set up on December 8th and 9th. Delwayne & Cathy Arakaki put in so many extra hours to bring together an outstanding Mochitsuki sale and program. We also thank the students who are finishing their calendar pictures for the 2013 calendar that we are giving their respective families & selling for a \$10 donation.

2012 DONATIONS: Receipts will only be given at the January service or sent via U.S. mail for each family who wants to use the itemized deductions to verify the 2012 donations for the IRS. Please call our treasurer, Pati Lira at 496-3112 . We thank her for the time it takes to fill them out.

ELECTION RESULTS showed all 30 votes cast approved the slate of officers and board members for 2013: President Stan Isa, Jim Kurashige is our first VP while Harriet Huber continues as the second VP. Secretary is Sharleen Aoki and Treasurer Pati Lira. The following board members received all the votes, also: Dennis & Margaret Nakata, Ellie Oshiro, Michael & Sharan Tanaka, Sandi Hiyane, John Kosora, Jon Ogata, and Kyle Watanabe. We will have a short induction/"swearing in ceremony" conducted by Reverend Dearth at our January service. The board will meet after the service to review the 2013 budget & calendar.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS: 1/4 Daniel Miyake & Oratai "Oh" Takemoto; Clara Hamasaki & Julie Matsuyama; 1/26 Lily Sakemi.

ANNIVERSARY: 1/22 Jim & Ellie Shibata.

JANUARY MEMORIALS: If you wish to bring flowers for the memorials to this month's service, please call Rosie Kakuuchi at 655-3028. Please remember to bring your own flower vase.

1/5 Shizuka Okumura, mother of Frances Akamine; Masaru Akita, father of Ken Akita

1/7 Namie Matsumoto, mother of Ann Aoyagi; Reverend Art Takemoto, father of Alan Takemoto

1/12 Natsuko Soeda, mother of Ron Soeda

1/15 Hannah Kaizumi, sister of Alice Branton

1/17 Dennis Muraoka, brother of Bill Muraoka

1/18 Kazuko Higashi, mother of Gladys Akita; Sonoe Muraoka, mother of Bill Muraoka

1/24 Ray Brown, husband of Kimiko Brown

1/25 Joe Migaki, husband of Sueno Migaki

1/28 Maki Hoshiyama, mother of Hana Fukumoto

1/30 Dave Hoshiyama, brother of Hana Fukumoto

2013 VISITING MINISTERS: The following page has the list of the ministers and dates to save for our services that fall on the second Sunday of each month, along with a class in Buddhism on the Saturday of the same weekend. We need volunteers for each month who will pick up & deliver our guest ministers. We still have a few openings. Please let us know if you would like to volunteer. Any expenses incurred while hosting the minister (restaurant, shows, etc.) will be reimbursed by the Sangha.

DONATED BOOKS: Former Sangha member, Eiko Ceremony, is donating ten books titled Allegro. Chapter 29 covers the Obon in Las Vegas, August 2000.



Benjamin Gras, Toshiko & Rev. Kujo, Alan Takemoto



Jim Kurashige & Stan Isa



Megan Arakaki



Jalen Sando

Las Vegas Buddhist Sangha 2013 Schedule of Classes and Services

Location of Services: The Las Vegas Sangha meets at 1401 Arville St. on the second Sunday of the month.

Location of Classes: Saturday and Sunday classes on the second weekend of the month are held at Southwest Behavior Junior/Senior High School, 640 Fairbanks Rd., Las Vegas, NV 89103.

<u>Date & Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>
Jan. 12, Saturday	1:00 – 3:00 class	Rev. Bill Dearth, OCBC	Introduction to Shin Buddhism
Jan. 13, Sunday	1:00 – 3:00 class	“ “ “ “	Introduction to Shin Buddhism
Jan. 13, Sunday	10:00 service	“ “ “ “	Shinran Shonin’s Memorial (<i>Ho-onko</i>)
Feb. 9, Saturday	1:00 – 3:00 class	Rev. Jon Turner, OCBC	Buddhism as it relates to everyday life
Feb. 10, Sunday	1:00 – 3:00 class	“ “ “ “	Buddhism as it relates to everyday life
Feb. 10, Sunday	10:00 service	“ “ “ “	Sangha Service
March 9, Saturday	1:00 – 3:00 class	Rev. Alan Sakamoto, OCBC	The Six Paramitas
March 10, Sunday	1:00 – 3:00 class	“ “ “ “	The Six Paramitas
March 10, Sunday	10:00 service	“ “ “ “	Sangha Service, Spring Equinox (<i>Ohigan</i>)
April 13, Saturday	1:00 – 3:00 class	Rev. George Matsubayashi	Life of the Buddha & its relevance for today
April 14, Sunday	1:00 – 3:00 class	BCA Minister Emeritus	Life of the Buddha & its relevance for today
April 14, Sunday	10:00 service	“ “ “ “	Sangha Service, <i>Hanamatsuri</i>
May 11, Saturday	1:00 – 3:00 class	Rev. Marvin Harada, OCBC	Resolving Life’s Problems Through Buddhism
May 12, Sunday	1:00 – 3:00 class	“ “ “ “	Resolving Life’s Problems Through Buddhism
May 12, Sunday	10:00 service	“ “ “ “	Sangha Service, Mother’s Day Service
June 8, Saturday	1:00 – 3:00 class	Rev. Bill Dearth, OCBC	Buddhism and Christianity
June 9, Sunday	1:00 – 3:00 class	“ “ “ “	Buddhism and Christianity
June 9, Sunday	10:00 service	“ “ “ “	Sangha Service
July 13, Saturday	1:00 – 3:00 class	Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara, CBE	Fundamental Shin Buddhist Teachings
July 14, Sunday	1:00 – 3:00 class	“ “ “ “	Fundamental Shin Buddhist Teachings
July 14, Sunday	10:00 service	“ “ “ “	Sangha Service, <i>Obon</i> Service
Aug. 10, Saturday	No class or service	Las Vegas Obon Festival, held at	Spring Valley High School 3750 S Buffalo Dr., Las Vegas, NV 89147
Sept. 14, Saturday	1:00 – 3:00	Rev. Alan Sakamoto, OCBC	Buddhism and Everyday Life
Sept. 15, Sunday	1:00 – 3:00	“ “ “ “	Buddhism and Everyday Life
Sept. 15, Sunday	10:00 service	“ “ “ “	Sangha Service, Fall Equinox (<i>Ohigan</i>)
Oct. 12, Saturday	1:00 – 3:00	Rev. Jon Turner, OCBC	Buddhism at the Movies
Oct. 13, Sunday	1:00 – 3:00	“ “ “ “	Buddhism at the Movies
Oct. 13, Sunday	10:00 service	“ “ “ “	Sangha Service
Nov. 9, Saturday	1:00 – 3:00	Rev. Marvin Harada, OCBC	Great Buddhist teachers and their teachings
Nov. 10, Sunday	1:00 – 3:00	“ “ “ “	Great Buddhist teachers and their teachings
Nov. 10, Sunday	10:00 service	“ “ “ “	Sangha Service
Dec. 14, Saturday	1:00 – 3:00	Rev. Akio Miyaji, OCBC	Buddhist Calligraphy Workshop
Dec. 15, Sunday	1:00 – 3:00	“ “ “ “	Buddhist Calligraphy Workshop
Dec. 15, Sunday	10:00 service	“ “ “ “	Sangha Service

Visitors and guests are always welcome at our services and classes. Registration fees for the classes are \$10 per weekend class. Registration fees will be collected at the class. There are no fees for services.



SANGHA BOARD MEETINGS IN 2013

The Sangha Board will meet at 5:30 pm at the JACL Center on the following dates: Wednesday, Jan. 30; Tuesday, March 26; Tuesday, May 28; Wednesday, July 31; Monday, Sept. 23; Tuesday, Nov. 26.

BECOME A HOST FAMILY FOR A JAPANESE STUDENT!

Mia Miyagi, representing International Home, USA, is seeking host families for students from Japan. She says, "Becoming a Host Family may awaken a foreign spirit within you, or it may just give you a break from your routine, or it may lead you into a lifelong friendship! Give it a try!" Please contact her at: 702 588 2221, or get more information at internationalhomeusa@gmail.com.

LEO SOOHOO, AUDIOLOGIST

Leo SooHoo, M.A., Hearing Aid Specialist, will make a contribution to the Sangha with each purchase! His wife's maiden name is Tandana from Berkeley, CA, and his daughter is currently a senior at Clark High School. His office is at: 4760 S. Pecos Road, Ste. 102, Las Vegas, NV 89121. Phone: (702) 369-9706.

SUPPORT THE NEW SANGHA WEBSITE!

The Sangha is establishing a new website with the help of Horizon Web Marketing, headed by Roy Nakamura. Our cost for the website is \$1,200, which is a \$1,300 discount from the normal price. Our monthly fee is \$75, which is a \$25 discount. Roy Nakamura has been extremely generous, and has been great to work with. His Web Master, Robert Gillmer, is very knowledgeable and will help us keep the website current. Our website and our Facebook page should be a great way to attract attention to us.

Benjamin Gras visited us at our last service. He is a Jodo Shinshu follower from Paris, France, and he found us through Alan Takemoto's Sangha Facebook page. The Yoshikawa family also found us through Facebook, are new members, and will be having a Hatsumairi (newborn service) next month during our service, so this is an example of how having a presence on the Web can help us recruit new members.

Many years ago, we started a website, but it went nowhere because no one contributed any content, and it was never updated. Now that we are starting a new one, and we're paying professionals to make it effective (like we did with Derek Uehara managing our assets—made over \$17,000 in dividends in the last 12 months), please send in something we can put on the website! We should all do what we can to make this a success!

One thing that is really effective on any website is testimonials. Satisfied customers/members write about how being a member/participant has helped them in their daily lives or helped them connect with new and old friends. We hope that many of you will write a sentence or two about how being a Sangha member/Buddhist has benefited you. If you want it to be anonymous, we can do that. We want those who browse our website/Facebook page to feel welcome and to see that becoming a member is something that will help them. Please contact Roy Suzuki at 228-3071 or lvjacl@cox.net, or send him a letter at 8301 Slate Harbor Circle, LV, NV 89128.

Fortunate Birth (Read by Jared Sando at the Bonenkai)
By Sakyong Mipham Rinpoche. (A Buddhist Teacher)

In the kingdom of children
Every one of you is this child,
An innocent being
Who jumped out of heaven
And landed in Shambhala.
Fortunate birth is who you are—
Everything is perfect in your world.
Your clothing is the mist of heaven,
Your feet covered by dragon's breath,
You are the most fortunate beings on earth.
You are the children of dharma.
Nothing can close your open heart.
Other children suffer, caught in perpetual dilemma—
Because Buddha has touched you,
You are fortunate.
Be dharmic now,
Be powerful now,
Be benevolent now—

Not for me, not for others—
But because that is your blood.
When you feel privileged, use it.
When you feel ashamed, pounce.
Consume that hesitation—
It's only a flicker of your imagination.
You are the blessed people on this earth. Every atom of your being is
Buddha—What's left is joy_
You have no excuse;
Don't sulk.
You can be sad, for sadness is the most genuine expression.
Expression of goodness is who you are. Being a child of dharma is
dilemma. Being a child of dharma is freedom.
Consume this hesitation of not knowing.
Never doubt,
Only walk forward.
Love everything,
For that is why you are here.