

LAS VEGAS BUDDHIST SANGHA

BULLETIN

4110 N. Martin Luther King Blvd., N. Las Vegas, NV 89032

JANUARY 2017

www.lasvegasbuddhist.org / email: lvsangha.info@gmail.com

VOLUME 13

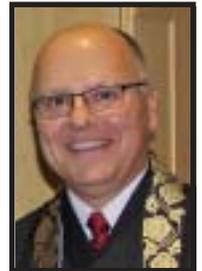


Message from the President

Gene Nakamura



JANUARY 2017 SERVICE



service will be held on
Sunday, January 8th
at 10 am

Presiding Minister

Rev. John Turner

Orange County Buddhist Temple

Topics for service:

- * Good News Bad News - sermon for children
- * Are You a Knower or a Learner - sermon for adults
- * On Being Wrong - materials for adult study/class

As we welcome in the New Year, we will have a new USA president to lead us hopefully to a more peaceful country and world. We must stop the bombing and shootings under the name of religious zealots and spread the word of understanding and compassion. Buddhism teaches us understanding and compassion, but we cannot stop there. We must take the time to help others and guide those that become lost in their faith.

2017 will be a challenge for all, but with hard work and strong belief, the Las Vegas Buddhist Sangha will grow.

One or two people do not make a Sangha. It will need the voices of many to succeed.

In gassho

Thank you, with Gassho
Gene

From the book of Joyful Thoughts:

My family surrounds me
What more can I ask
Namu Amida Butsu

Alison Nakagawa
Makawao Hongwanji



Message from the President

Kyle Morishita

Christmas is a special time of year because loved ones come together and are joyful. It is even more special because it encourages people to embrace the "season of giving," not only to their families, but to strangers in need.

Bodhi Day carries a similar, yet different message. It commemorates Buddha's enlightenment, when he came to understand the world. We may, therefore, use this day to celebrate the "season of understanding."

When someone cuts us off on the freeway, be understanding to the fact his spouse may be going into labor or she may be responding to a medical emergency. When someone bumps into us on street, be understanding to the fact he may have just been laid off or she may have just broken her leg.

So, as we celebrate Bodhimas, be understanding of others, give to others, and love every day.

Emergency	911
Sangha	(702) 228-3071
Center Rental Info	(619) 888-5301
Dharma Education	(702) 371-0947
Illness or Death	(702) 806-5520 (<i>Info: pg 2</i>)
Sangha Crafts	(818) 219-6982
Editor, Tilda Silao	(619) 888-5301

2017 Schedule of Service Ministers

January 8 Rev. Jon Turner
Orange County Buddhist Church
Host David Hopper & Eileen Castle

Education in Buddhism

Service Order & Etiquette Las Vegas Buddhist Sangha (LVBS) By Dr. David Hopper (LVBS)

At LVBS, services are in English with some chants done in Japanese. When Japanese chants or hymns are used, there is pronunciation guides so members do not have to read or write in Japanese, and full English text is also provided. For new members and visitors, we at LVBS hope this informational handout will provide you with some basic information to make your first visit with us more comfortable.

TERMINOLOGY

Dharma: The teachings and doctrines of The Buddha.

Gassho: Putting hands together. Gassho is not just for prayer. It is to recite the nembutsu, show respect and gratitude, or make a request. This is done with palms and fingers held together and straight. Hands are held at the heart level and pointed at around a 45 degree angle upwards. Beads (called a nenju or ojuzu) are placed around both hands during gassho. This represents all the opposites that exist in our life are really one under the Buddha-Dharma.

Gatha: Hymns sung during service.

Incense offering: The incense offering is also called oshoko. It is done out of gratitude and reverence. It also symbolizes impermanence of everything in this life including impurities.

Sutra: Buddhist scripture, or "writing," "text".

Three Treasures: Sometimes referred to as the Three Jewels, the Three Treasures refers to Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha. In Buddhism, we take refuge in the Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha (congregation, church).

SERVICE ORDER

1. Ringing of the Bell/ Meditation. Some temples signal the start of service with a bell. We do not have a service bell yet but, plan to get one. Until then, the service chair will announce the beginning of service. Some temples follow the bell with several minutes of meditation before the service officially begins. We also plan to initiate this practice in the future.

Contact for Illness or Death

Due to many recent illnesses and/or deaths, we would like members of the Sangha to know we respect your privacy and if there is anything anyone of us can help you with please always feel free to contact Michael Tanaka at (702) 806-5520 or www.lvsangha.info@gmail.com. When emailing or calling just tell us how you would like us to help you.

Person we should contact: _____

Do you wish this to be kept private? Yes No

Is it okay for a representative to contact or visit? Yes No

Do you allow announcement in newsletter? Yes No

The LV Sangha would like to invite and encourage everyone to stay immediately after every service for refreshments before leaving. This is the time for fellowship. Meet members of the Sangha and get to know our community. Refreshments provided by the Kitchen Committee but any donations of refreshments would be welcomed. Hot tea and bottled water served along with the monthly "goodies".

2. Introduction of visiting minister and announcement of memorials for the month.

3. Sutra chanting/ Incense offering. Some temples do these separately but, we combine them. The Sutras may be chanted or read in Japanese or English. The pronunciation guide is provided for Japanese along with the English text. Currently, we chant the Sutras in Japanese. During the chanting, there will be incense offering by Sangha members who have lost a family member the current month followed by the rest of the Sangha members and guests. There will be two incense stations so, two lines down the center aisle will be used.

4. Gatha. Stand to sing the first hymn (gatha). This will be announced by the chair and projected on the large video screen.

5. Three Treasures. Remain standing for reading of the Three Treasures which is contained in the service book. The chair will announce which reading to be read. It will also be shown on the video screen.

6. Dharma message. The minister will first provide a short dharma message (sermon) for the children after which, they will leave to attend dharma class. Then, the minister will deliver the dharma message to the adults.

7. Gatha. Stand for singing of second hymn as announced by chair and displayed on video screen.

8. Gassho. The minister will close the service with a meditation reading.

9. Announcements. The chair will introduce new members and guests, and will recognize those that have helped with the service in various ways. Others may come forward to provide various announcements (e.g., board information, activities, etc.).

Adjourn for refreshments. Minister will close with Gassho.

SERVICE ETIQUETTE

Entrance/ Exit: The main hall is called the hondo. When entering or leaving the hondo, we should face the altar (onaijin) and make a slight bow out of respect.

Beads: During services, we wear our beads (onenju or ojuzu) on our left wrist or hold them in our left hand. With gassho, we encircle our hands with the beads. These beads are available at the Center. Once you decide to become a member of the Sangha, a nice set of beads may be purchased through the sources listed in references.

Butsudan: The large ornate cabinet in the altar (onaigin) is called the Butsudan. Amida Buddha is the central figure in the Butsudan. It is small and somewhat in the background because we worship the Wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha and not the figure. There are other items in the altar area including (1) Light - Symbolizes the Wisdom of The Buddha which dispels the darkness of the human mind and shines without discrimination on all. (2) Incense burning - Symbolizes the spiritual "cleansing" or preparation to approach the Buddha and listen to the Dharma. The smoke rising represents the transition of existence in this life. (3) Flowers - Only fresh flowers are used which reflect the impermanence in this life. (4) Food - Fresh, whole food is offered to express thankfulness and gratitude. Rice, vegetables, and fruit are offered but, no form of animal are used. (5) Monetary offerings - Money may be offered in gratitude to the Center or ministers as an act of giving and are not to be made as payment for any services.

Nembutsu: We recite "Namu Amida Butsu" which means "I take refuge in Amida Buddha." Other ways of reciting the nembutsu include "Namandabutsu," "Namandabu," and "Namandab" which all mean the same. It is usually repeated three times and is said before and after chanting, Dharma talks or, at anytime.

Oshoko: Enter the line to make an incense offering. When it becomes your turn to approach the incense burner. Stop a couple steps before the table and take a slight bow. Step up to the incense burner and take a small pinch of ground incense and drop it into the incense burner. Repeat the Nembutsu in gassho. Take a couple steps back, bow lightly toward the Butsudan and then toward the minister, and return to your seat.

RESOURCES

There are numerous resources when learning about Buddhism. The following are some interesting books for the beginner layperson who is new to Buddhism. Many books and service items can be ordered through the LVBS Bookstore Services.

Jesus and Buddha: The Parallel Sayings. Marcus J. Borg. Ulysses Press. 2002.

The Dharma of Star Wars. Matthew Bortolin. Wisdom Publication. 2005.

What the Buddha Taught. Walpola Rahula. Revised and Expanded Edition. 1974.

buddhistchurchesofamerica.org [Educational materials and links to the BCA Bookstore and other sites may be found here]

ocbuddhist.org [Orange County Buddhist Church is our supervising temple. The website contains educational information as well as online courses on Buddhism]

ANNOUNCEMENT: Your information may be out of date. Please update your information on the membership form in this newsletter. Scan and email or hand it in at January service. Thank you

December Donations

Our apologies.

UPDATES for 2016 November & December will be our next bulletin

Membership Dues Received

If your name was not included, please notify:

Sangha Treasurer Jim Kurashige, 7528 Lassen Peak Circle, Las Vegas, NV 89149, and please report any mistakes at 702-839-8558 or by email at lasvegasbuddhistsangha@aol.com.

Special Date Reminders

JANUARY:

1ST - HAPPY NEW YEAR'S!!

8th -**SERVICE and stay for Dharma Talk**
We will also have voting for new a new board



ADULT DHARMA CLASSES

ADULT DHARMA CLASSES

HELD AFTER MONTHLY SERVICES

Adult Dharma Class is led by the hosting minister of the month. The class are about the teachings of the Buddha Dharma. Each visiting minister will give a short talk about a Dharma subject, followed by a discussion by all who attend.

If you have any suggestions about a subject, please submit to Dr. David Hopper, so the visiting ministers may prepare for the class.



January Birthdays

- 4 Daniel Miyake
- 4 Oratai "O" Takemoto
- 5 Clara Hamasaki
- 5 Julie Matsuyama
- 14 Travis Metzger
- 17 Tilda Silao
- 19 Carter Kakita
- 26 Lily Sakemi
- 30 Caryl Suzuki



January Memorials

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------------------|
| 5 Shizuka Okumura | Mother in law of Jim Akamine |
| 5 Masaru Akita | Father of Ken Akita |
| 7 Rev. Art Takemoto | Father of Alan Takemoto |
| 11 Kaoru Ogawa | Mother of Patty Yamano |
| 12 Natsuko Soeda | Mother of Ron Soeda |
| 15 Hannah Kaizumi | Sister of Alice Branton |
| 17 Dennis Muraoka | Brother of Bill Muraoka |
| 18 Kazuko Higashi | Mother of Gladys Akita |
| 18 Sonoe Muraoka | Mother of Bill Muraoka |
| 25 Joe Migaki | Husband of Sueno Migaki |
| 28 Maki Hoshiyama | Mother of Hana Fukumoto |
| 30 Dave Hoshiyama | Brother of Hana Fukumoto |

Sueno Migaki

passed away in early December. Memorial information will be forwarded as soon as we hear something.



January Anniversaries

22 Jim & Ellie Shibata



FLOWERS & FLOWERS

Thank you Harriet Huber and Kumiko Kashiwada. Toban: Ai Kayatani, Patti Yamano



Welcome to all our guest in December!

Candy Minx, Anthony Stagg from Chicago, Gary Nakai, husband of Rev. Patti, Richard from Denver: Richard and Michiko Yoshida, Mabel Googins, Ann and Bill Murphy (they are members of the Tri State Denver Buddhist Temple who were on the planning committee of their celebration of their church's 100 th anniversary. They were in Las Vegas to see the Alligence (sp?) with George Takae., Mia Stout returned with Violet who is 3 months and 6 year old triplets Wesley, Patricia and Pamela Oquist.



Thank you from the Kitchen

Thank you everyone that was able to participate in the annual Pot Luck. All the food was delicious.

I would like to thank all the ladies that helped serve the food and clean up after. Mary Ozaki, Ellie Oshiro, Hedy Ito, Gay Kurishige, Patty Yamano, and Takako Ogata.

My apologies if I forgot anyone. I want to wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas and a Healthy, Safe and Prosperous New Year. Thank you everyone for all your help all year long.

Margaret



FLOWER GOSSIP

PINE

Stand in Alcohol 10 minutes, then in water with preservative.

Sensei Muriel

Upcoming Events @ the Sangha:

Dharma School



Sangha Class Reminder

Have an idea &
want to share
with others?
Need a place to
teach?
Contact
Tilda Silao at
619-888-5301

February 18th

9th Island Cultural Club is hosting a BINGO NIGHT.
Look for details in February's bulletin!



Dharma school had a great time making spam musubis for the December Sangha's potluck.

We also finished the 2017 Dharma School Calendar. We look forward to completing our Wheel of Dharma next year.



Health Wellness & Meditation

Classes - 2nd Tuesday of every month @ 7pm

Need to de-stress at the end of a hectic day?
Want to sit relaxed and in quiet serenity?
Learn how to de-stress through meditation?

Meditation classes held by
Dr. David Hopper

Meditation followed by brief talk & discussion of current affairs & health topics

Classes are FREE to everyone!
(Donations welcomed)

Classes held 2nd Tuesday of each month at
Las Vegas Buddhist Sangha Center
4110 N. Martin Luther King Blvd., North Las Vegas, NV 89032

SIGN-UP by emailing www.lvsangha.info@gmail.com OR
Call: Eileen Castle @ 702-405-6644



Meditation Corner

Meditation class in December was lots of fun for everyone. After mindful meditation to start, we followed a great video on QiGong. Guest instructor, Maria McDermott, returned to show us the video and we followed along. It went through each step of the QiGong meditation so, anyone who missed a class was able to learn what they missed and still be able to go through all the steps.

QiGong is a powerful form of meditation that increases energy flow throughout your body creating improved mental and physical health. It does not require any strenuous activity so it is good for all ages. Meditation is a very powerful tool to improve health. By reducing stress, it helps prevent and heal many diseases because stress is responsible for at least 80% of all illness. Energy, or Chi, is necessary for proper health and healing. The various meditation techniques taught in this class are important ways of increasing Chi flow.

As always, we start with mindfulness meditation. Even though meditation class is monthly at this time, it's important to practice mindfulness daily whenever possible. Mindfulness is always where you want to go like center court in tennis. After each play, the tennis player returns to center court. This gives the player the best position for the next play. Mindfulness is like center court. It's the best position to make your next play in life from.

While you do not need to lie down for this class or wear special clothes, you are welcome to bring more comfortable clothes to change into if you wish or bring a mat to lie on. Whatever helps you gain maximum benefit from the classes is fine. With practice, you should be able to meditate in all types of environments. I have started bringing pads to lie down on to class and am looking to find more for use in class here. If anyone knows of a good, inexpensive source for yoga or exercise mats, or has any to donate, please let me know. They are used for yoga, exercise, meditation and other uses so, we will be able to use them for a variety of future classes we hope to start up later as well. Any donations of mats is for the sangha. There is no fee for the classes but donations to the sangha are welcome. Any and all donations to the church or individuals may be in various forms and are out of gratitude and not as payment for services.

Please join us for our January 10 class at 7 pm along with guest instructor Maria at the Sangha Center for mindfulness meditation and QiGong. We hope to be able to present the QiGong video on a larger screen so that the class can easily hear and see to follow along better. As always, we mix some question and answers along with discussion and sharing of the experience. The class is ongoing so, please feel free to start attending at any time. There is always a packet of information for new participants so, don't be afraid to start attending at any time. If you come a few minutes early, you can get caught up easily. The first part of meditation practice is the same and the second part involves introducing new forms of meditation. Participants are encouraged to let me know if there is a particular form of meditation they want to learn about or repeat. You can always go the sangha website at lasvegasbuddhist.org or mine at hopperinstitute.com and make comments, requests, or ask any questions you may have. You may request meditation information before class so that you have time to review information and techniques in advance. It is easy and simple to catch up with the class so do not worry about missing or starting late. In Gossho, *Dr. Dave*

December Service

We had our last service of the year last Sunday. We met Rev. Patti Nakai, her husband Gary, and several of her Chicago friends that were here for the weekend. We had a great potluck luncheon.



Rev. Patti & Gary Nakai with June Maruyama



Bill Muraoka with his uncle and cousin



Gary Nakai with Chicago visitors



Gene Nakamura, Mary Ozaki, Rev. Nakai, and Al Kayatani



Dennis and Brenda Creed



Delwayne and Muriel on the buffet line



Bob Reynierse with Chicago visitors



John Kosora, Sandi Hiyane, and Takako Ogata



Rev. Patti with Aiden



Chicago Visitors



Barbara & Jimi Mitsunaga with Fred Yamano



Rev. Patti with Summer Segawa

Mochitsuki 2016

LVBS along with JAACL hosted the second annual "traditional" Japanese mochitsuki. Pounding, cutting, and shaping of the mochi was all done traditionally. First timers enjoyed seeing the traditional pounding and had a great time! Thank you to all who came out and volunteered for the day. See you next year! (You can view more pictures at www.lasvegasbuddhist.org)

Thank you to Noriko Carroll from Japan Times for some of the photographs.





ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Sangha Board Meeting



TBD for January @ the Sangha
Open to ALL MEMBERS



Buddhist Sangha.

Amazon Smile Program: You can now donate to the Las Vegas Buddhist Sangha by shopping Amazon! It does not cost you extra. Amazon will donate a portion of every purchase you make to the Las Vegas

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. Select Las Vegas Buddhist Sangha as the charitable organization you wish Amazon to donate to. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile. You can bookmark Amazon Smile directly to your mobile device to make it easy to use. Your existing account can be set up as a Smile account. Amazon will then always remember to donate to the Sangha every time you buy from Amazon.

SAVE THE DATE.....



February 18th

Sponsored by the 9th Island Cultural Club at the Las Vega Buddhist Sangha.

FUN! FOOD! and LOTS OF BINGO GAMES!

Look for details in February's bulletin!

Holiday Sangha Craft Fair: We'd like to thank everyone that helped make our 4th quarter Fund Raiser a success. We had a great selection of vendors, delicious baked goods, excellent food and lots of fun. We raised over \$2000 for the Sangha. A big thank you to Derek Uehara for MC'ing our craft fair. Members of our Sangha Craft: Margaret Nakata, Sally Hanagami, Harriet Huber, Ellie Oshiro, Muriel Schiver, Hedy Ito, Sharleen Aoki, Bri Isa, Gay and Chelsea Kurashige, and Patty Yamano. We look forward to another craft fair next year and hope you will join us.

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Advertisement space available

email: lvsangha.info@gmail.com

business card = \$100 annually

1/4 page = \$140 annually

Special Announcements: \$25 per month



NAME:
(名前)

WHAT YEAR JOINED:
(サンガに参加した年月)

MEMBERSHIP TYPE: FAMILY INDIVIDUAL
(メンバーシップのタイプ)

POSITION/STATUS: (i.e. member, officer, secretary, etc.)
(ポジション/ステータス)

BILINGUAL: YES NO
(バイリンガル)

LANGUAGE(S):
(言語)

BIRTHDAY:
(誕生日)

RELATIONS (within sangha):
[(サンガ内での) 親族・親類]

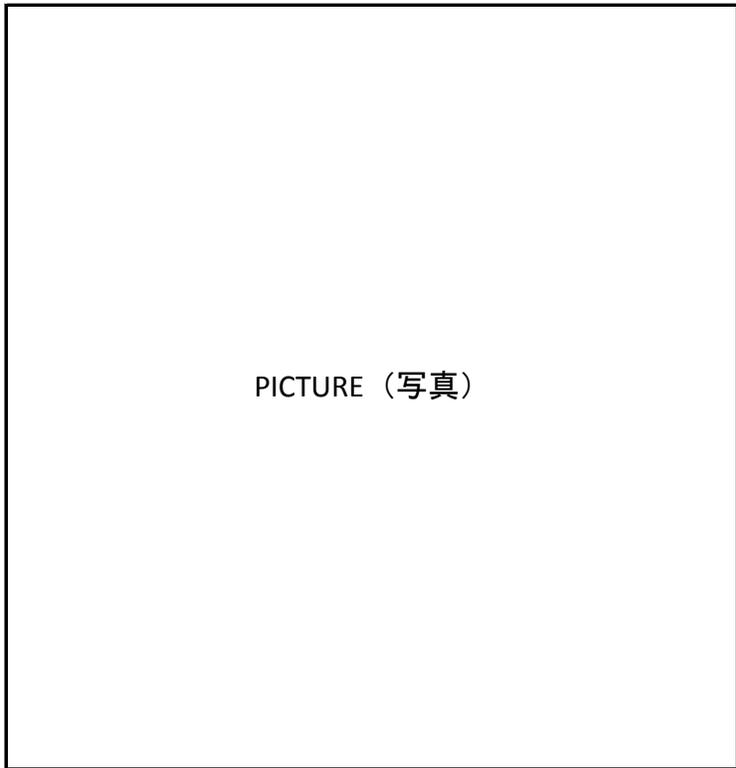
CONTACT INFORMATION (連絡先の情報)

Address:
(住所)

Phone #: (電話番号)
Home:
Cell:
Work:

E-Mail: (Eメールアドレス)

Preferred Method of Contact:
[希望する連絡方法 (例: 携帯電話)]



ANNIVERSARY:
(記念日)

MEMORIALS: (追悼日)

EMERGENCY CONTACT

Name:
(名前)

Relation:
(本人との関係)

Address:
(住所)

Phone #: (電話番号)
Home:
Cell:
Work:

E-Mail: (Eメールアドレス)

OTHER INFORMATION:
(その他の情報)

Las Vegas Buddhist Sangha
4110 N. Martin Luther King Blvd.
North Las Vegas, NV 89032