



This year's Hanamatsuri service will be held on Sunday, April 12, at 10 a.m. at the Sangha Center, 4110 N. Martin Luther King Blvd., 89032, which is south of Craig Road and north of Cheyenne and on the east side of MLK. Our guest speaker is Reverend Paul Imahara, a former minister from LA. He will be able to perform memorial services, so you would like to schedule one, please let a board member know so the service at the Sangha Center may be arranged ahead of time on Saturday or Sunday evening.

Although the service will begin at 10:00 a.m., if you would like to help with decorating the *hanamido*, please arrive at 8 a.m. After the service, we are having our *Hanamatsuri* potluck and would like each family to bring a favorite dish to share with the other members and any extra guests. As usual, recipes are welcomed so others may try making a family's favorite dish in the future.

*Hanamatsuri* is a service held to celebrate the birth of Gautama Buddha in Lumbini Garden approximately in 564 B.C. Amida, the Buddha of Infinite Wisdom and Compassion, made himself known among people as Gautama Buddha. During the service, a flower shrine known as a *hanamido* is set up in front of the main altar as a symbol of Lumbini Garden where he was born. A statuette of the infant Buddha is placed in the *hanamido*. The members of the congregation pour sweet tea over the Buddha who has one hand pointing skyward and the other pointing downward. According to ancient legend, Buddha was born as the connection between heaven and earth. The happiness surrounding his birth brought joyful music and flowers in full bloom through which sweet rain fell, that is symbolized by the tea poured over the statuette of the Buddha.

**MINISTER'S HOST:** Rev. Imahara will be hosted by Al & Marge Kayatani. For May, Gene Nakamura and Tilda Silao will host Reverend Akahoshi, and in June, Marge & Al Kayatani will host Rev. Hiroshi Abiko. Mike & Becky Suyeyasu will host Rev. Katsuya Kusunoki in July, and Wayne Tanaka will host Rev. Kevin Kuniyuki from Hawaii in September. The Kurashige family will host Rev. Patti Usuki who will officiate at our 30th Anniversary service in October. Dr. David Hopper and Eileen Castle will host Rev. Alan Sakamoto in November. We still need a host family for former bishop Rev. Koshin Ogui in December.

**MARCH DHARMA MESSAGE:** Our Sangha thanks Reverend Peter Hata who was one of the original jazz musicians of the group Hiroshima. He showed slides of the interested tourists who drop by the Higashi Hongwanji in the heart of downtown LA. Ellie Oshiro hosted the minister and his wife Dianne while Gene and Tilda took him to breakfast before the Sunday service. In addition to the slides from Rev. Hata, we saw slides taken by the four Sangha members (Tilda Silao, Gene Nakamura, Eileen Castle and Dr. Dave Hopper) who represented our Sangha at the BCA Council meeting in San Diego February 26 through March 1. We also thank the Kurashige family and Dale Ito for setting up the practice run to prepare the Panko Chicken and inarizushi for everyone's lunch following the service. And one last thank you goes to Patty Yamano for organizing the Dharma class students who made ojuzus last month and a hand in gassho, as a place to put their ojuzu at home.

**GUESTS & NEW MEMBERS:** It was good to see Mauricio Portillo as a returning new member. New members are attorney Steve Yeager, who is in the Public Defender's office, and his wife Bitu Khamsi, who was recently appointed as a Las Vegas Justice of the Peace.

**FLOWERS** were brought by Al & Marge Kayatani as well as Mike Suyeyasu who went out to buy flowers, dish soap and a broom set for the kitchen. The Kurashiges picked up Takako Ogata, but could not contact Sadako Wanless. In the future, any person who needs a ride to the service should call the Kurashiges at 702- 645-4661 or Roy Suzuki at 702-480-0352. If you're bringing flowers, please let the service chair know to include your name in the program.

**SPECIAL DONATIONS:** From Margaret and Gary Nakayama of Belmont, CA and Jim Sakasegawa of Salinas for the birthday donation for Caryl Suzuki.

"We would like to acknowledge the donation of \$580 to the Sangha from Jan-ie Low of the Chinese New Year in the Desert group. This donation is a direct result of work provided by members Wayne Tanaka, Mike Suyeyasu, plus close friends and non-members Rob Gaudet, Paulino Espinosa, and Ray, during February 18-22 at the Linq promenade. They spent several early mornings, starting at 4:00 a.m., assembling and installing decorations, stage props, tables, and chairs at the promenade. Instead of accepting payment, they had their funds directed to the Sangha. Next time you see them, please thank them for their generosity." ~Tilda Silao & Gene Nakamura

**DONATIONS:** Cathy Arakaki; Dennis & Brenda Creed; Kazuko Eidmann; Shoji Fukawa; Hana Fukumoto; Sally Hanagami; James & Harriet Huber; The Kado Family; The Kakita Family; Rosie Kakuuchi; Kumiko Kashiwada; Jim & Gay Kurashige; Bill Muraoka; Mits Nakayama; Steve & Myrtle Noguchi; Takako Ogata; Rodney Okano; Bob & Chizuyo Reynierse; Roy & Caryl Suzuki; Wayne & Sadie Tanaka; Grace Wertz; Anonymous Cash donations, \$210; Anonymous Walmart donation receipts for food/supplies \$90.90. Also, Wayne Tanaka collected over \$100 from Sangha attendees to give to the Lupus patients who lost their medical coverage. However, Dr. Hopper volunteered to take in these two patients as he has quietly done in the past, treating a CSN student with a drug problem.

**MARCH MEMORIAL DONATIONS:** Tomico Honda – husband, Gumpe Honda; David Hopper in memory of Michael Hopper; Al & Margaret Kayatani in memory of Deborah Kayatani; Dennis Nakata - brother -in-law Noboru Takemoto; Sadako Wanless: brothers, Toshiyuki and Keiji Matsuda; Masaichi Yamada in memory of June Yamada; Barbara Kinkade – father, Fred Fukumoto.

**2015 MEMBERSHIP DUES RECEIVED:** Jim Akamine, Kenneth & Gladys Akita, Cathy Arakaki, Sandi Ciel, Dennis & Brenda Creed, Tom & Lynn DeMann, Sho Fukawa, Hana Fukumoto, Mabel Fukumoto, Ronald Ghiraldi, Sally Hanagami, Harriet Huber, Dale Ito, Alice Kado, Dr. Lenore Kakita, Sadie Kasamoto, Kumiko Kashiwada, Helen Koga, Jamie Kuratomi, Bill & Nanette Muraoka; Gene Nakamura & Tilda Silao, Margaret & Dennis Nakata, Steve & Myrtle Noguchi, Mary Ozaki, Muriel Scrivner, Kazuo & Edna Shiotani, Ron & May Soeda, Akira Sonomura, Roy & Caryl Suzuki, Alicia & Rodney Tamura, Tami & Scott Watanabe, Masaichi Yamada, Tom & Sumi Yanagihara, Stan Yokoyama, Katherine & Ryan Yoshikawa, and Steve Yeager & Bitu Khamsi, If your name was not included, you will see an envelope included with this April newsletter and may send your \$20 family membership to Sangha Treasurer Jim Kurashige, 7528 Lassen Peak Circle, Las Vegas, NV 89149 Also, please report any mistakes to the Sangha Treasurer at 702-839-8558 or by email at lasvegasbuddhistsangha@aol.com. Thank you.

**SANGHA BOARD MEETING:** All members are invited to attend the meeting on Monday, March 30, at 6 p.m. at the Sangha Center. If you are interested in attending and need the agenda, please contact President Stan Isa at 702-592-06846 or Secretary Eileen Castle at 702-371-9838.

**APRIL MEMORIALS:** It is not necessary to bring memorial flowers since we will be having the floral *hanamido* on display for our *Hanamatsuri* service. However, if you wish to make a special memorial or *Hanamatsuri* donation, please do so with our treasurer, Jim Kurashige.

4/13 Tom Hanagami, Husband of Sally Hanagami  
4/16 Tamotsu Matsuda, Father of Sadako Wanless  
4/18 John Fukumoto, Son of Mabel Fukumoto  
4/20 Tsuyako Yamada, Mother of Bill Sakahara  
4/21 Ochito Kosora, Mother of Dan Kosora & grandmother to John  
4/21 Kiyoko Koyanagi, sister-in-law of Chizuyo Reynierse

**HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAYS** to the following: 4/1 Tia Okano; 4/3 Fred Yamano; 4/4 Jason Sando; 4/5 Steven Suzuki; 4/8 Tom Yanagihara; 4/11 Thomas DeMann, Stefanie Muraoka; 4/13 Kyle Watanabe; 4/15 Alan Takemoto; 4/22 Darrel Matsuyama; 4/24 Megan Arakaki; 4/29 Brent Sumida; 4/30 Mits Nakayama.

**HAPPY APRIL ANNIVERSARIES:** 4/2 Cathy & Delwayne Arakaki; 4/11 Katie & Dan Kosora; 4/13 Mike & Becky Suyeyasu; 4/27 Jason & Marlo Sando.

**THANK YOU** to Sandi Hiyane, who has volunteered this past year to organize all the birthday cards and small gifts for the Dharma School students. If there are any additional birthdays, please contact Sandi during our service so the memorials and birthdays may be updated at shiyane@juno.com

**KIKUO & KAORU OGAWA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP:** Applications are now available for the Kikuo and Kay Ogawa Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship is available to anyone that desires to further his or her education. Requirements are: 1) Member of a Buddhist Temple/Sangha (consideration will first go to LV Buddhist Sangha members); 2) High School diploma or equivalent (can be waived); 3) Application/Acceptance to a university, college, trade school, or institution. The scholarship for \$1,000 is to be used for tuition and/or books. If you or anyone you know would interested in going to college/change vocations/finishing a degree or just interested in furthering their education, please forward this information. Applications are available from Wayne Tanaka (wtanakai@cox.net) or Patty Yamano (patty.yamano@gmail.com). Applications are due by May 22.

**MAY'S MOTHERS' DAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST:** Our Mother's Day Fourth Annual Pancake Breakfast will be served to the mothers AND ANYONE ELSE WHO COMES EARLY ENOUGH before the May service; so Dharma students please arrange to be there by 8 to serve breakfast by 9 a.m. on Sunday, May 10.

**NOVEMBER FUND RAISER** will be the First Annual Aki (Fall) Craft Show in Las Vegas featuring Asian crafts. This year, it will be a one day event in hopes that next year we can expand to 2 days. The tentative date is November 7th. We would like to invite anyone that would like to be on the committee to contact Patty Yamano at 818 219-6982 or by email at patty.yamano@gmail.com. Or if you know of anyone that might want to exhibit at this craft show, please contact Patty.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to Nicholas Kurashige who received an award as being the outstanding employee of the year from Easter Seals.



**SATURDAY  
MARCH 28TH**

**8 AM - 2 PM**

**AT**

**4110 N. MARTIN LUTHER KING BLVD.  
NORTH LAS VEGAS, NV 89032**

**Items needed:**

Gently used children and adult clothes; Shoes in good condition; Small working household appliances; Household items and Toys in good condition; Tools – yard, garage, car, etc.; Jewelry – costume or otherwise. **Items not sold will go to charity.**

IF YOU WANT TO SELL YOUR CRAFTS OR YOUR SECOND HAND ITEMS,

CONTACT TILDA AT 702-233-4376

The Sangha Center will be open Wednesday from 5 to 7:30pm for drop-offs

**\*\*WANT TO DONATE BAKED GOODS?** Contact Eileen Castle, [ecastle@hopperinstitute.com](mailto:ecastle@hopperinstitute.com)

**CRAFTERS NEEDED!!** Contact Tilda Silao, [lvsangha.info@gmail.com](mailto:lvsangha.info@gmail.com)