



LAS VEGAS BUDDHIST SANGHA  
AUGUST, 2014, NEWSLETTER



AT THIS TIME, THERE IS NO MONTHLY AUGUST SERVICE; HOWEVER ALL SANGHA MEMBERS ARE NEEDED TO HELP AT OUR OBON SUMMER FESTIVAL both on Friday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, at 9 a.m. (clean up/set up/food prep) and on Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, 6 a.m. (food prep) back at Cimarron Memorial High School, which is at 2300 N. Tenaya, 89128, between Lake Mead and Smoke Ranch, near the I-95 Hwy. This newsletter is being sent out before our July 30<sup>th</sup> 6 p.m. Board meeting; so if it's decided to have a Sunday service in lieu of a Saturday Open House during Obon, we will tell everyone by email or postcards. We also remind our members to recruit some younger friends & relatives. 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. when the Obon raffle is over. Please ask these volunteers to give their names to our Sangha Secretary, Eileen Castle, so that our invitations to the traditional thank you luncheon which will be sent to them.

**DHARMA MESSAGE:** We thank Harriet Huber for chairing the service and for taking Reverend Dearth back to Circus Circus and then to the airport. We thank her as well as Sharleen Aoki for taking the time to take him to lunch after the service. We enjoyed Reverend Dearth's Dharma talk about the process he went through to feel comfortable with Buddhism after being a Christian minister. In addition, we appreciate Oh Takemoto for her help with the Dharma class lesson. Tia, Roxie, and Kenji Okano, along with 8 year old Katie Crow, each made Buddhist flags and learned about the Five Precepts of not to kill, lie, steal, cheat or be intoxicated. We have sent an email showing the meaning of the five colors of the Buddhist flag.

**Guests:** Along with Katie Crow, her mother Kaitlyn and father Mark drove to Vegas from Meadview, AZ (near Grand Canyon) after finding us on our website. They were here during the weekend to get groceries and then were heading back to Arizona after our service. The parents were happy to attend the service and hopefully will be back next month for our Obon to help out. Also, Kristin and Kaitlin Cummings were in attendance. They are the daughter and granddaughter of charter members, Bill and Janet Sakahara. Wayne Tanaka's former neighbor Sean Thompson also attended our service and is interested in Buddhism. We will send each of the visitors membership applications when we get their email addresses.

**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 which is the basic cause of that suffering." 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 15th. 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."

**TOBAN & MEMORIAL FLOWERS:** We thank Sadako Wanless as well as Takako Ogata for coming early to help set up the offerings for the Obutsudan. The floral arrangements were provided by Sadako, Muriel Scrivner's *ikebana* class, and three other floral arrangements were provided by the Timmons family from the memorial service held on Saturday evening.

**GET WELL WISHES:** Sho Fukawa is at Mountain View Hospital but doesn't necessarily want any visitors. He's in a transitional room 2003; so get in touch with his daughter Joanne Ruyle at 3225 Horn Bill Ct., N. Las Vegas, NV 89084. She has created and printed up our Obon Bento tickets each year.

**JULY DONATIONS:** Thank you to the following members for their generous donations: Ken & Gladys Akita; Sharleen Aoki; Hana Fukumoto; Mabel Fukumoto (June & July); Richard & Carolyn Higa; Sandi Hiyane (annual); Harriet Huber; Dale & Rosan Ito (annual); Kumiko Kashiwada; James & Gay Kurashige; Pati Lira; Frances Miyasato (annual); Bill & Nanette Muraoka; Gene Nakamura & Tilda Silao; Dennis & Margaret Nakata; Mits Nakayama; Takako Ogata; Rodney & Crystal Okano; Ellie Oshiro; Bob & Chizuyo Reynierse; Muriel Scrivner; Kazuo & Edna Shiotani; Roy & Caryl Suzuki; Mike & Becky Suyeyasu; Alan & Oh Takemoto (annual); Wayne & Sadie Tanaka; Fred & Carolyn Tomiyoshi (annual); Sadako Wanless (annual); Scott & Tami Watanabe; Mas Yamada; Anonymous Buddhists.

**2014 MEMBERSHIP DUES RECEIVED:** Frances & Jim Akamine; Ken & Gladys Akita; Emiko Aoki; Minoru & Sharleen Aoki; Ann & Noboru Aoyagi; Cathy Arakaki; Alice Branton; Dennis & Brenda Creed; Tom & Lynn DeMann; Mitch & Nam'e Dukes; Sho Fukawa; Hana Fukumoto; Mabel Fukumoto; Clara Hamasaki; Sally Hanagami; Deborah & Arthur Harlig; Richard & Carolyn Higa; Sandi Hiyane; Tomico Honda; Dave Hopper; Harriet Huber; Koichi & Catherine Iide; June Ikeda; Nancy & Stan Isa; Dale & Rosan Ito; Alice Kado; Rosie Kakuuchi; Sadae Kasamoto; Kumiko Kashiwada; Al & Margaret Kayatani; Georgiana & Albert Kobayashi; Helen S. Koga; James & Gay Kurashige; Pati Lira; Hank & June Maruyama; Roy & Kanyarat Matsuda; Aiko Mayeda; Sueno Migaki; Jimi & Barbara Mitsunaga; Daniel Miyake; Frances Miyasato; Bill & Nanette Muraoka; Brian Nagata; Ben & Marilyn Nakagawa; Gene Nakamura & Tilda Silao; Dennis & Margaret Nakata; Kumiko Nakata; Mits Nakayama; Steve & Myrtle Noguchi; Takako Ogata; Crystal & Rodney Okano; Ellie Oshiro; Mary Ozaki; Bob & Chizuyo Reynierse; Paul & Alice Sakamoto; Lily Sakemi; Muriel Scrivner; Kazuo & Edna Shiotani; Ron & May Soeda; Akira Sunomura; Roy & Caryl Suzuki; Alan & Oh Takemoto; Michael & Sharon Tanaka; Sadie & Wayne Tanaka; Fred & Carolyn Tomiyoshi; Flora Tsuma; Sadako Wanless; Scott & Tami Watanabe; Grace Wertz; T.R./M.M. Wiczorek; Mas Yamada; Patty & Fred Yamano; Stan Yokoyama; Katherine & Ryan Yoshikawa; Shirley Yoshioka. If your membership donation has been inadvertently omitted, please contact our treasurer Pati Lira at 496-3112.

**BUILDING/MISC. DONATION:** as of July 14, totals \$46, 628, which includes a huge donation of stock. Please let any of the donors you know that we are grateful for their monetary support. Also tell them that they will be invited to our Grand Opening on Saturday, October 18 so they can check out how their donation was put to use with our new Sangha Center.

**SPECIAL DONATION:** Mabel Fukumoto donated the cost of the cleanup brushes needed for maintaining our restrooms.

**AUGUST BIRTHDAYS:** 8/2 Ryan Suzuki; 8/4 Cristal Isa; 8/4 Darrel (D.J.) Matsuyama Jr.; 8/8 Harry Ogawa and Nicholas Kurashige; 8/11 Mary Ozaki; 8/21 Catherine Moses; 8/21 James Kurashige; 8/22 Kazuo Shiotani; 8/24 Albert Kayatani; 8/25 Monica Kaili; 8/28 John Kosora; 8/28 David Hopper; 8/31 Mel Igawa.

**MEMORIALS:** 8/4 Tamae Koyanagi, mother of Chizuyo Reynierse; 8/6 Yonetaro Nakata, father of Dennis Nakata; 8/6 Yoshi Maruyama, mother of Flora Tsuma; 8/11 Toraji Takemoto, father of Margaret Nakata; 8/27 Francis K. Maruyama, father of Flora Tsuma; 8/29 Hagino Ito, mother-in-law of Hana Fukumoto; 8/30 Yoshito Matsuda, father of Sadie Tanaka; 8/30 Kenichi Tsuma, father-in-law of Flora Tsuma.

**ANNIVERSARIES:** 8/4 George & Jane Yahiro; 8/5 Albert & Georgiana Kobayashi; 8/13 Mike and Becky Suyeyasu.

**OBON REMINDERS:** In order to get enough ingredients to cover the amount of lunches that need to be made, please let Jim Kurashige know how many lunch tickets you have sold by Wednesday, July 30<sup>th</sup> or when the board meets that day at 5:30 p.m. We thank our Obon Co-Chairs, Jim Kurashige and Dale Ito, who are purchasing the supplies and getting them to CMHS on Wednesday, August 6<sup>th</sup>. On Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, if you have a truck and can come out to transport these 4+ truckloads, please call Dale at 869-0557.

On Friday, August 8<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 30 dancers who will represent our Sangha. The remaining practices are on July 19, 26, and August 2, from 10 to noon at our Sangha Center. If you want a DVD of this year's dances, please contact Ann at 228-2692.

**Drinks Chairperson** Alan Takemoto encourages Sangha members to bring Coke or Pepsi, Diet Coke or Diet Pepsi and Sprite or 7-up. Please call Alan at 254-7261 so he knows what else to get.

**Rice Chairperson** Delwayne Arakaki has asked everyone to cook a pot of rice and bring it already cooked to the school in the morning. We never seem to have enough to begin with, which holds up the process later in the morning. If you plan to do a lot of rice cooking at home, borrow one of the gray bins in the pantry at the Sangha Center to bring the rice cooled to CMHS. ALL OTHER COOKING WILL BE DONE AT THE HIGH SCHOOL, so everyone is asked to report to Cimarron Memorial High School at 6 a.m. **sharp** on Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup>. Again, please bring cutting boards, and knives labeled with your name to use while we prepare the food.

**Dessert co-chairpersons** Kumiko Kashiwada, Tomi Honda and Crystal Okano ask that everyone bring desserts, ESPECIALLY JAPANESE ONES, when they report at 6 a.m. on Saturday. Any dessert brought in later is still welcome. Thanks to the manju made by Margaret Nakata last year, we had much more Japanese desserts than the year before; so we ask that you consider making your family's favorite ethnic 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 are 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.

Chizuyo Reynierse is in charge of inarizushi and Harriet Huber is in charge of the makizushi. Any help will be much appreciated. Sandi Hiyane and John Kosora, along with some younger members, will be in the Teachers' Lounge area making spam musubi.

**Obon Booklet Ads:** have been solicited by chairperson Katherine Yoshikawa who also picked up a number of top prizes for our raffle, too. If you frequent a business that is willing to advertise or offer raffle prizes, please call 806 7462 or email Katherine at katherineyoshikawa@gmail.com.

**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 and to let the chairperson, Wayne Tanaka at 876-6716 or wtanaka@cox.net, know what's been donated.

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.

**URGENT:** Obon Happi Coats: Some were borrowed for the downtown Chinese New Year parade early February. However, those happi coats were misplaced. If you know where they are, please let us know. Also, Ann Mikami has a number of the older ones that are in excellent shape for the dancers and others to borrow.

**SAVE THE DATE:** On Saturday, October 18, we are planning on having our Grand Opening of the Sangha Center. Reverend Harada will be here and, if the board votes on inviting the wife of Bishop Umezu, she can represent her husband who will be in Japan that particular weekend. We will discuss this matter in detail after the Obon, but want to lock in the date to have the various political dignitaries attend due to the November elections.



Sean Thompson, Rev. Dearth, & Wayne