



LAS VEGAS BUDDHIST SANGHA

AUGUST, 2015 NEWSLETTER

OBON'S MEANING

Obon is an abbreviation of Urabon or "suffering by being hung upside down." When Mogalana, one of the ten great disciples of the Shakyamuni Buddha, 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*."

In the spirit of *dana*, we hope you will please contact younger friends and relatives who ARE NEEDED TO HELP AT OUR OBON's annual fundraiser both on Friday, August 7th from 9 a.m. and on Saturday, August 8th from 7 a.m. at CMHS which is at 2300 N. Tenaya 89128, between Lake Mead and Smoke Ranch off North 95 Hwy. We need help setting up chairs and hanging signs.

Besides cooking the chicken and beef outside, we are very 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 Volunteer Chair Nicholas Kurashige or to our Secretary Eileen Castle so that invitations may be sent to all volunteers. Our traditional thank you luncheon will be held at 2:30 p.m. after our September 13th service at Makino's, Decatur & Flamingo.

2015 OBON Goals: To Sell 1000 Bentos and 5000 Raffle Tickets. As of July 12, Sold 332 Bentos & 1869 Raffle Tickets. Special Donation made by Ellie Oshiro: \$100 to purchase 10 bento tickets for Kaminari Taiko drummers.

Please make it your priority to sell as many raffle tickets as possible! They bring in more income than all of our other sales combined! You can simply collect the money and give us the names and we will fill in the info and put the tickets in the barrel!

JULY SERVICE: We thank John Kosora for chairing the service and Mike Suyeyasu for hosting Reverend Katsuya Kusunoki from the Lodi Buddhist Temple. Reverend Kusunoki's father survived, at the age of six, the atomic bomb that was dropped on Nagasaki on August 9, 1945. One can read about the article he wrote and that Rev. Kusunoki translated for the BCA's *Wheel of Dharma's* July and August editions.

AUGUST SERVICE: The Sangha Board voted to hold a first time Obon service on the Sunday following our fundraiser at Cimarron Memorial High School (CMHS). We realize how tiring Saturday will be, but if everyone can rest up from 4 p.m through 10 a.m Sunday, we hope to see many members and guests at the service on Sunday, August 9, to show our out of town guests our new Sangha Center. Rev. Marvin Harada will preside.

SEPTEMBER SERVICE: Our next service will be held on Sunday, September 13th, at 10:00 a.m. at our Sangha Center, 4110 Martin Luther King Blvd., a half block south of Craig Road and less than a mile north of Cheyenne. Reverend Kevin Kuniyuki from the Hawaii will be our guest minister.

SANGHA BOARD MEETING

will be held on Monday, July 28, at 6 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Everyone is welcome to attend.

2015 OBON Goals: To sell 1,000 Bentos and 5,000 Raffle Tickets. Sold as of 6-14-15: 71 Bentos & 160 Raffle Tickets. Thanks to Ellie Oshiro for a very special donation for 10 bento tickets for the Kaminari Taiko performers.

OBON DANCE PRACTICE:

We hope that more of our you will come out for practice on July 25, and one last practice on August 1, with our Obon the following Saturday, 8/8. If you have any questions, please call Ann Mikami at 228-2692 or cell phone 339-1253.

OBON GOLF TOURNAMENT

Last year, we were able to raise almost \$3,000 and gave the out of town guests something to do in the early morning before the Obon started. Entry Fee is \$125. The tee time is 6:30 at Badlands Golf Club, which gives you plenty of time to golf and then to participate in the Obon. Please encourage your friends to play! It is a 4 person scramble format, and golfers over 70 can play from the ladies' tees, so it should be a lot of fun!

Your entry fee includes a bento lunch and a \$25 booklet of raffle tickets! Prizes for winners will be awarded at the Obon!

Send your entry fees and players' names to Jim Kurashige. (Address on next page.)

NEW MEMBERSHIP DUES

RECEIVED: Brian and Melanie Segawa; Wayne & Sadie Tanaka; Yoshi Tsuma.

To avoid repetition and to save space, we will list only dues received since the last newsletter.

If your name appeared in past newsletters, rest assured that your membership is good for the rest of the year. If you paid your dues since the last newsletter and you are not listed above, please notify Sangha Treasurer Jim Kurashige, 7528 Lassen Peak Circle, Las Vegas, NV 89149, 702-839-8558 or by email at lasvegasbuddhistsangha@aol.com. Thank you.

DONATIONS: Thank you to the following members for their generous donations: James Akamine, Cathy Arakaki, Kenneth & Akiko Akita, Darlene Bagshaw, Shoji Fukawa, Hana Fukumoto, Shioji Fukawa, Sally Hanagami, Norm Hirata, James & Harriet Huber, Rosie Kakuuchi, Kumiko Kashiwada, Myrtle Eiko Kiehm, Al & Marge Kiyatani, Jim & Gay Kurashige, June Maruyama in Memory of her mother, Hisako Hamada, Bill Muraoka, Dennis & Margaret Nakata, Takako Ogata, Rodney & Crystal Okano, Bob & Chizuyo Reynierse, Muriel Scrivner, Kazuo & Edan Shiotani, Roy & Caryl Suzuki, Michael Tanaka, Wayne & Sadie Tanaka, Grace Wertz, Anonymous Cash \$173; 65 people were in attendance donating over \$900.

GUESTS: Cory Uyesono, a friend of John Kosora, Ty Yamamoto, Sandi Hiyane's cousin currently attending Cordon Bleu culinary school. Yoshie Tsuma (a former Sangha scholarship winner) with her parents; and from Stockton Darlene Sakata Bagshaw with her husband Charlie and son Alex.

AUGUST MEMORIALS:

8/4Tamae Koyanagi, Mother of Chizuyo Reynierse
8/6 Yonetaro Nakata, Father of Dennis Nakata
8/6Yoshi Maruyama, Mother of Flora Tsuma
8/10 Elizabeth Kennedy-Stanley, Sister of Eileen Castle
8/11TorajiTakemoto, Father of Margaret Nakata
8/27 Francis K. Maruyama, Father of Flora Tsuma
8/29 Hagino Ito, Mother-in-law Hana Fukumoto
8/30 Yoshito Matsuda, Father of Sadie Tanaka
8/30 Kenichi Tsuma, Father-in-law of Flora Tsuma

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

JULY WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES: 8/4 George & Jane Yahiro; 8/5 Albert & Georgina Kobayashi; 8/13 Mike and Becky Suyeyasu.

TOBAN & MEMORIAL FLOWERS: We thank Kumiko Kashiwada for the flowers as well as Takako Ogata for setting up the *osonae* offerings for the *Obutsudan*.

SPECIAL DONATION: We thank Mike & Becky Suyeyasu for their generous donation of consumable supplies for the kitchen & pantry.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS

Margaret Nakata – father, Toraji Takemoto
Dennis Nakata – father, Yonetaro Nakata
Caryl Suzuki – sister, Setsuko Iwamoto

HOSPICE CARE

Sharan "Q" Tanaka, wife of Michael Tanaka, is at Desert Springs Senior Living, 6650 W. Flamingo #250. You may visit at any time or day of the week.

OBON REMINDERS!

- Please let Jim Kurashige know how many lunch tickets you have sold by Wednesday, July 29th.
- On Saturday, August 8th, anyone with a truck, SUV, or van can come out to help move 7 truckloads-please call Dale at 869-0557.
- Drinks Chairpersons Garrett and Jennifer Kakita encourage Sangha members to bring sodas on Friday or Saturday. The drinks needed are water, Coke/Pepsi, Diet Coke/Diet Pepsi and Sprite/7-up, but we will accept anything you wish to donate.
- Rice Committee Chairperson Delwayne Arakaki has asked everyone to bring a pot of cooked rice to the school in the morning. This speeds up the food prep process. 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 cooled rice 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. Please bring cutting boards and knives labeled with your name. All members are also asked to stay, if at all possible, until all the cleanup is done in the afternoon.
- Dessert chairman Crystal Okano asks that everyone bring desserts **ESPECIALLY JAPANESE ONES** when they report on Saturday. We ask that you consider making your family's favorite ethnic dessert! Cutting individual servings and pricing will be done by the committee. Please sign in & list your donation so that the proper acknowledgments are made. Use disposable container; but if you have to bring a pan or utensil, put your name on it and remember to pick it up.
- Coffee and donuts and Subway sandwiches will be provided.
- Obon Booklet Ads are available for donations of \$50 (full page), \$30 (half page) and \$25 (business card), or free with a raffle prize donation. Please call Katherine at (702) 806 7462 or email her at katherineyoshikawa@gmail.com.

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, September 19, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. - please help our Dharma School Children who are fundraising for the LV Lucky Duck Family Festival at Town Square. They will be selling duck adoptions at the Obon Festival: \$5 per single duck; \$25 for a Quack Pack (6); \$50 for a Double Pack (12); and \$100 for a Flock of Ducks (24). This fundraiser helps both the Foundation for Positively Kids www.positivelykids.org and the Dharma School (for every single duck sold the Dharma School receives \$2). Please purchase from or see Chairperson Cathy Arakaki or Melany Segawa at Obon Festival. The LVBS is sponsoring children's games and prizes for the LV Lucky Duck Family Festival and need volunteers, children and parents to help supervise. Please email Katherine and Ryan Yoshikawa chairpersons) at katherineyoshikawa@gmail.com to join the team.

Sunday, October 11, at 10 a.m., 30th Anniversary service and catered luncheon after the service.

Saturday, November 7, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Sangha Fall Craft Faire-- fourth quarter Fund Raiser. Please let friends/relatives/co-workers know that we are looking for crafters to sell their crafts at our Faire. Anyone that is interested in selling their crafts should contact Patty Yamano 818 219-6982 or patty.yamano@gmail.com.