



LAS VEGAS BUDDHIST SANGHA NEWSLETTER
DECEMBER, 2014



This month's service will be held on Sunday, December 14, 2014 at 10:00 a.m. at the Sangha Center 4110 Martin Luther King Blvd, north of Cheyenne, south of Craig nearest Alexander & MLK. Our visiting minister will be Rev. Kevin Kuniyuki, the Director of the Buddhist Study Center for the Hawaii Kyodan. He will be in town with his wife for a short vacation.

We will be having our traditional potluck *bonenkai* luncheon after the service on Sunday, so please bring your special entree, salad, or dessert to share with our Sangha members. Please put your name on the dish so other members may let you know how much they appreciate what you've brought. It is one of the few times that we can leisurely sit and get to know one another better; so besides inviting interested friends, please bring a generous amount to cover any prospective members. Our *bonenkai* celebration is to "forget the hardships of the old year" while "being grateful for the interconnectedness" one has experienced this past year. Hopefully, the Dharma School students will be submitting both the artwork for the annual calendar, plus bringing in their gratitude jars and a video of any performance which will be shown during the luncheon in the tradition of many *bonenkai* celebrations (tennis tournament, gymnastic performance, T-ball; etc.)

DHARMA CORNER: December 8th, Bodhi Day, marks the time when Prince Siddhartha Gautama "awakened" from a life blinded by ignorance to an enlightened life as Shakyamuni Buddha. Gautama meditated under the Bodhi Tree (Tree of Enlightenment) and became a Buddha, perfect in Wisdom and Compassion. This historic event supposedly took place as the first faint light of day began to glow in the eastern sky. By his example, he showed us that it was possible for a human being to become a Buddha, a fully Enlightened Person. We all, therefore, possess this potential of Buddha-nature, which when awakened and cultivated, will enable us to achieve supreme Wisdom and Compassion.

NOVEMBER'S DHARMA MESSAGE: At our Sunday service, Reverend William Masuda's Dharma talk was about realizing that any real change must come from inside, and complaining about, and trying to change others, is not the way to attain personal peace and contentment. We thank Chelsea Kurashige for doing a good job chairing the service. In addition, we thank Stan and Nancy Isa for the special Veterans' tribute with the wonderful luncheon & brochure honoring our Sangha Veterans. Margaret Nagata and Ellie Oshiro are part of the Kitchen crew who helped set up and clean up after the luncheon.

GUESTS AT THE NOVEMBER SERVICE: Dr. Dan Lee, retired dentist, whose daughter is also a dentist in N. Las Vegas with an office close to our Sangha Center; Kaz, Leah and Kite Atsusawa; Georgiana and Al Kobayashi; John Kosora's mother, Katie Kosora; Dr. Sharl Edwards from AZ.

GET WELL WISHES are being send to Sharan Tanaka, wife of Sangha Board Member Michael Tanaka, and to Sho Fukawa. We thank Kumiko Kashiwada for checking in with Sho periodically.

NOVEMBER DONATIONS: Ken & Gladys Akita; Cathy Arakaki; Sho Fukawa; Hana Fukumoto; Mabel Fukumoto (October); Carolyn & Richard Higa; Sandi Hiyane (annual); Harriet Huber (October & November); Sally Hanagami; Nancy & Stan Isa; Dale & Rosan Ito (annual); Alice Kado; Al Kayatani (October); Rosie Kakuuchi (October & November); Kumiko Kashiwada (August, September, October, November & December); Georgiana & Albert Kobayashi (Grand Opening); Jimi & Barbara Mitsunaga (October & November); Bill & Nanette Muraoka (October); Gene Nakamura & Hilda Silao; Frances Miyasato (annual); Dennis & Margaret Nakata; Mits Nakayama; Steve & Myrtle Noguchi; Takako Ogata (October & November); Rodney Okano; Ellie Oshiro; Bob & Chizuyo Reynierse; Bill & Janet Sakahara (October); Roy & Caryl Suzuki; Alan & Oh Takemoto (annual); Wayne & Sadie Tanaka; Fred & Carolyn Tomiyoshi (annual); Sadako Wanless (annual); Grace Wertz; Sangha Crafts Group; Anonymous Buddhists.

2014 MEMBERSHIP DUES RECEIVED: Jim Akamine; Ken & Gladys Akita; Emiko Aoki; Minoru & Sharleen Aoki; Ann & Noboru Aoyagi; Cathy & Delwayne 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; Sadae Kasamoto; Kumiko Kashiwada; Al & Margaret Kayatani; Georgiana & Albert Kobayashi; Helen S. Koga; Rosie Kakuuchi; James & Gay Kurashige; Pati Lira; Hank & June Maruyama; Roy & Kanyarat Matsuda; Aiko Mayeda; Sueno Migaki; Jimi & Barbara Mitsunaga; Daniel Miyake; Frances Miyasato; Derek Morishita; Kyle Morishita; 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; Mike & Becky Suyeyasu; 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.

2015 MEMBERSHIP DUES RECEIVED: Mark Connolly (new); Tom and Lynn DeMann; Rosie Kakuuchi; Georgiana & Albert Kobayashi; Daniel Lee (new); Grace Wertz.

GRAND OPENING PHOTOS: Justin Appel of Appel Photodesign, (he was our photographer at the Grand Opening), sent your picture via email; please check your spam or junk folder. If you took pictures and have not received them, please email lvsangha.info@gmail.com with the email address written down at time of the photo shoot. We will also have a slide show of all the pictures taken that day in front of the step-repeat banner and at that time, give Justin or Tilda your email address. We'll set-up to email it to right then and there! IF YOU ARE STILL LOOKING FOR A PHOTOGRAPHER FOR YOUR HOLIDAY PHOTOS, contact JUSTIN@appelphotodesign@gmail.com to set up an appointment.

THANKSGIVING DONATIONS: We thank the numerous Sangha members who brought canned goods to November's service. As in past years, the canned goods were donated to the Koinonia Church, which has an outreach program through its Pastor, Rev. Donald Clay. Rev. Clay's weekday job is as an administrative secretary for Southwest Behavior School.

FLOWERS & REFRESHMENTS: This is last year's list: We thank all those who brought flowers for our service: Gladys & Ken Akita, Chizuyo & Bob Reynierse. We also thank Takako Ogata & Sadako Wanless, Nicholas & Jimmy Kurashige for coming early to set up the chairs and Obutsudan. Thanks to Dale Ito, Pati Lira & her mother who came in on Saturday to do the custodial duties for our Sangha Center.

MEMORIAL DONATIONS: Gladys Akita–Mitsugi Higashi, father; Sho Fukawa–Mr. & Mrs. Chisato Sasaki, Parents-in-law; Albert Kobayashi–Mitsuno Kobayashi, mother; Georgiana Kobayashi – Satoko Tachibana, mother.

DECEMBER MEMORIALS: If you would like to bring memorial flowers, please remember to bring a vase and to take home your flowers or give them away after the service.

12/1 Iwamatsu Hoshiyama, father of Hana Fukumoto; George Hoshiyama, brother of Hana Fukumoto; Yori Hamada, brother of Haru Toimoto
12/3 Masao Nii, father of May Soeda; Bill Hopper, father of David Hopper; Jay Kennedy, Father of Eileen Castle
12/4 Tom Tanaka, father of Cathy Moses and Michael Tanaka
12/6 Hideo "Joe" Ikeda; father of Deborah Harlig
12/8 Fumie Suyama, grandmother of Cathy Moses and Michael Tanaka
12/10 Reverend Jitsuryu Tanaka, father of Wayne Tanaka
12/12 Frank Takemoto, brother of Margaret Nakata
12/13 Minoru Suzuki, father of Roy Suzuki
12/18 Yoogo Oba, father of Harriet Huber
12/20 Stanley Okumura, father of Francis Akamine
12/23 Hanayo Oba, mother of Harriet Huber
12/25 Kow Maruki, brother of Rosie Kakuuchi & Grace Wertz
12/26 Haruyo Matsuda, mother of Sadako Wanless
12/28 Mitzy Tanaka, mother of Cathy Moses and Michael Tanaka
12/29 Kasumi Hamada, mother of Haru Toimoto
12/30 Jimmy Takemoto, brother of Margaret Nakata

KODEN SENT: To the family of Bertie Kasai, sister of Sangha member Alice Branton; and to the family of Jim Akamine for the passing of his wife, Frances.

HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAY on 12/11 Katherine Yoshikawa; 12/12 James Akamine; 12/12 Katie Iida; 12/15 Alice Kado; 12/17 Cathy Arakaki; 12/18 Kim Watanabe; 12/19 Sadie Kasamoto; 12/19 Crystal Okano; 12/20 Paul Sakamoto; 12/21 Rosie Kakuuchi; 12/24 Lori Muraoka; 12/25 Tomico Honda; and 12/31 Sadie Tanaka.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY on 12/10 Margaret & Dennis Nakata; 12/19 Nan & Bill Muraoka; 12/20 Sadie & Wayne Tanaka; 12/29 Lynn & Thomas DeMann.

BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD ON December 4 at 6 p.m. at Osaka Restaurant on Sahara. At our service, ballots were distributed. We have enclosed/attached a ballot and survey for those who did not attend. Please return them as soon as possible.

JACL MOCHITSUKI Saturday, December 13, from 7 a.m. Mochi must be prepaid (\$4/bag) at www.lvjacl.org or call Delwayne. Thanks to Gene Nakamura and Rob Gaudet for installing the shelves in the JACL/Kaminari Taiko room, and moving the reception desk. The New Year's *Oshogatsu* celebration will be on January 10.

JAPAN AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN NEVADA: Their Bonenkai is December 5th at Kabuki Restaurant in Tivoli Village. Please see the attached/enclosed flyer.

SAVE THE DATE: Julie Okabayashi of the Clark County Library has arranged to have Sam Mihara, a speaker on internment, visiting three libraries in one day, Tues May 19, 2015. Here's the itinerary:

11 am Rainbow Library multipurpose room 3150 N. Buffalo Drive
3 pm Sahara West Library multipurpose room 9600 W. Sahara Ave.
7 pm Clark County Library main theater 1401 E. Flamingo Road

The library should be getting the flyers in March or early April and will include the LV Kaminari Taiko concert as part of the Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month festivities. Also, Kaminari Taiko will be asked to perform on Sunday, May 3 or Sunday, May 17. In addition, there is a JACL anniversary concert on Nov. 23 at the library that interested members may want to attend.

SANGHA CRAFTS: There will be a sewing class on Dec. 14th after the Sangha Service and Bonenkai pot luck luncheon. Class will run approximately 1-2 hrs. The class is free, but a project kit will be sold for \$10.00. The project is a quilted casserole holder. Please call Patty Yamano at 818-219 6982 or email at patty.yamano@gmail.com for reservations. Please bring your sewing machine if you have one and the basic sewing essentials, black thread, scissors, & pins. If you do not have a sewing machine, one will be provided for you on a sharing basis. Hope to see you then.

SANGHA WEB ADDRESS AND FACEBOOK: Don't forget to like us on Facebook! This is the web address: <https://m.facebook.com/LasVegasBuddhistSangha>. Send items for posting to Chelsea Kurashige at: ckurashige@aol.com. Also, please visit our website for more photos and information about the Sangha. A special version has been created to optimize viewing on your mobile device: <http://www.lasvegasbuddhist.org/>

SPECIAL THANKS: To Akira Sonomura for donating the 3-D Lotus Flower that was created by Kai Shiotani. It will be hung in the main hallway.

CURRENT ASSET BALANCE: Derek Uehara, the Sangha's financial planner, informs us that our investments are doing very well. Combined with our checking account balance and the emergency CD, we are rapidly closing in on \$100,000. However, please remember that we now have monthly and annual expenses for our building; plus, we need to have funds available in case of unexpected expenses, such as vandalism, burglary, major maintenance, or natural disaster.

BUILDING FUND DONORS*

JAMES MASASHI AOKI
MINORU & SHARLEEN AOKI
MOTOMI & JO-DELL ARAO
KAYE BARTHOLOMEW & JOHN PETER SCOTT
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KIMIKO & LARRY FUKUMOTO (MEMORY OF FRED FUKUMOTO)
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FRANCES MIYASATO (Memory of Chester & Hatsumi Toguchi & Arlen Toguchi)
TED & TOMOKO MIZUKAMI
HELENE MORI
STANLEY & EVELYN MORIMOTO
MRS. KIMI MUKAI
BILL & NANETTE MURAOKA
REV. BRIAN A. NAGATA
KEN & KIYOKO NAKAGAWA
GENE K. NAKAMURA
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Y MARY NAKAYAMA
JERRY OGAWA & ROY NATIVIDAD
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CHIYOKO NISHISAKA
CRAIG & CINDY OGAWA
SUSAN OGAWA
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KATHERINE & RYAN YOSHIKAWA
GEORGE S. YOSHIOKA
SHIRLEY YOSHIOKA (MEMORY OF SHIGERU, HUSBAND)

**We apologize in advance for any errors or omissions. If you have any corrections, please email roy.n.suzuki@gmail.com*

LAS VEGAS BUDDHIST SANGHA
2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BALLOT

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Stan Isa*

SECRETARY:

Eileen Castle*

VICE PRESIDENT:

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(Mits Nakayama, Auditor)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Vote for 10**

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Patty Yamano*

Katherine Yoshikawa

Muriel Scrivner

Kyle Morishita

Shannon Cummings

*Incumbent

**Our By-Laws indicate 10 directors are needed along with officers.

Proposition for increase in yearly dues. The Board has discussed in great length increasing dues. It has been over 20 years since an increase in dues has been proposed, but only with your approval. This increase will cover added expenses of running our new center, anticipated new programs, classes and activities for our members and community. The Sangha would also like to create an "assistance" committee to be more active in helping our Sangha members who are ill or are in need.

Senior members (70 +) \$25.00 per year

Single members \$50.00 per year.

Family \$ 100.00 per year

Approve

Disapprove

* Additional information on anticipated expenses is available upon request *

November, 2014

Your Opinion Matters!

Your opinion does matter and we take it to heart! Please complete this survey so that your Board Members can plan 2015 with a calendar full of FUN!

What event(s) would interest you and would you participate? Check all that apply.

Movie nights

Bake Sales

Lessons via Skype

Bingo

Arts-n-Crafts

Health Fairs

Casino Night

Meditation

Bowling

Please suggest other event(s):

How about a Sangha Outing such as a Marukai Trip, picnic in the mountains, or hiking? Suggestions invited:

If we had one (1) fundraiser every 3 months, what would be your ideal event? For example, our Obon Festival would be our 3rd quarter fundraiser. Other suggestions such as a Rummage/Spring Cleaning Sale, Crab Feed, Mochitsuki, etc.

If LV Buddhist Sangha held a fundraiser, would you

Volunteer

Chair the Event

Attend

Help plan & organize

Please complete and return as soon as possible.

If you have already completed this survey, please disregard this notice.

Thank you!