



LAS VEGAS BUDDHIST SANGHA

DECEMBER, 2015, NEWSLETTER

SANGHA CRAFTS NEWS: The first annual Fall Sangha Asian Craft Fair was a huge success. The Sangha made over \$2,000 in donations, food, and vendor tables. A special thank you goes to the Kurashige family who went out of their way to help with the Craft Faire...giving up 3 days!!! Also, a big thank you to all the Sangha members who donated their time on Saturday to make our first craft faire a big success. Another thank you goes to Patty Yamano, the event organizer, and her husband and daughter. The vendor evaluations overwhelmingly agreed that our Sangha was friendly and helpful and all said they would come back if invited. The new Las Vegas Sangha T-shirts are here and on sale. Sizes Small, Medium, Large, Extra Large are \$12.00 for Sangha members and \$15 for non-members. XXL are \$2 more. The T-shirts will be available at our next Sangha service.

Sally Hanagami was one of the vendors, and she has donated her entire earnings from the Faire to the Sangha.

GET WELL WISHES: If you have wondered where our former treasurer, Pati Lira, has been recently, we found out that she and her mother both are recovering from health issues. We wish them well as they continue their recovery.

MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2016: We would like to have as many Sangha memberships as possible paid before the end of the year; so if you would include it in your donation at the next service or two, that would be much appreciated. In consideration of those who may have difficulty paying the dues, we are keeping them at \$20. However, it takes a substantial sum to run our new building, bring in a minister every month, and publish this newsletter, so we hope you will donate something extra—most other temples have dues of well over \$100.

2016 MEMBERSHIP DUES RECEIVED: Cathy Arakaki, Dennis & Brenda Creed, Thomas & Lynn DeMann, Sharl Edwards, Stan Fuke, Deborah Harlig, David Hopper & Eileen Castle, Shioji Fukawa, James & Harriet Huber, Koichi & Catherine Iida, Tohru Katano, Bitu Khamisi & Steve Yeager, Al & Marge Kayatani, Georgiana & Albert Kobayashi, John Kosora, Jim & Gay Kurashige, Daniel Lee, Charles & Ulrika Miyashiro, Robert & Chizuyo Reynierse, Roy & Caryl Suzuki, Ty Yamamoto, Fred & Patty Yamano. 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. Thank you.

INHERITED OR LOST ITEMS: If anyone wants a home *obutsudan* (altar), there is one in the pantry. Also, there were a couple of items left anonymously: a furoshiki (traveling scarf) from the LA Betsuin, and a 1958 wedding anniversary commemorative cloth from Masami or Masayoshi & Sachiko Nakasaki. If someone left it in our pantry, please let us know the connection to one of our Sangha families so we can acknowledge it. Thanks.

DECEMBER SERVICE: The service will be held on Sunday, December 13, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at the Sangha Center 4110 N. Martin Luther King Blvd, north of Cheyenne, south of Craig nearest Alexander & MLK. Our visiting minister will be Reverend. Koshin Ogui, the former BCA (Buddhist Churches of America) Bishop.

We will be having our traditional potluck *bonenkai* luncheon after the service on that 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 traditional times that we can sit and get to know one another better; so besides inviting interested friends, please bring a generous amount to cover any prospective members. During the luncheon we would like to showcase the talents of our Dharma School students as well as any other members who would like to use the karaoke machine or microphone to entertain the group. Please get in touch with our MC for the event, Wayne Tanaka, who has volunteered to chair that part of the program. 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 either performing or bringing a video of any performance to be shown during the luncheon in the tradition of many *bonenkai* celebrations (tennis tournament, gymnastic performance, T-ball; soccer, etc. of grandchildren, too).

NOVEMBER'S DHARMA MESSAGE: At our November service, Reverend Alan Sakamoto's Dharma talk was about experiencing the path to peace, happiness, wisdom and compassion. We thank Harriet Huber for chairing the service and the good job she does. In addition, we thank Stan and Nancy Isa for the special Veterans' tribute with the wonderful brochure honoring our Sangha Veterans. We also thank Margaret Nakata and her "Kitchen Krew" who helped set up and clean up after the luncheon. In addition, Margaret was instrumental with the meal disbursement for the Crafts Faire and we also thank Dr. Dave Hopper and Eileen Castle who hosted Reverend Sakamoto and his wife at Osaka Sunday evening.

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 human beings to become a Buddha, a fully Enlightened Person. We therefore possess this potential of Buddha-nature, which, when awakened and cultivated, will enable us to achieve supreme Wisdom and Compassion.

GUESTS AT THE NOVEMBER SERVICE: Georgiana and Albert Kobayashi, members who live in Mililani, came to Vegas for the UNLV vs. University of Hawaii football game. Other guests included Kelly and Kyle Murray, Charles and Ulrika Miyashiro, and new member Hedy Ito.

BOARD MEETING TO BE HELD ON Monday, November 30, at 6 p.m. Everyone is welcome to join us at the board meetings. Please let Eileen Castle (ecastle@gmx.com, 371-0947) know if you plan to attend so we can be sure to provide enough food.

SOCIAL MEDIA - Besides our facebook page, we have launched an Instagram page to advertise our upcoming events. Please log into Instagram and search for lvbuddhistsangha and follow our events.

ANNIVERSARY AND HOLIDAY PHOTOS: If you missed our 30th anniversary service and luncheon, Justin Appel of Appel Photodesign, will help take your picture at our Bonenkai service. We will print it up with the printer from Dr. Hopper's office and put it into a commemorative frame. IF YOU ARE STILL LOOKING FOR A PHOTOGRAPHER FOR YOUR HOLIDAY PHOTO CARD, contact JUSTIN @ appelphotodesign@gmail.com to setup an appointment.

FLOWERS & TOBAN: We thank Chizuyo Reynierse who brought flowers for our service. We also thank Takako Ogata, who was driven to our service by Ellie Oshiro, for taking care of the *Osonae* for the altar (*Obutsudan*). She is also training Margaret Nakata and Harriet Huber to do this very important chore when she isn't able to attend one of our services.

In addition, we appreciate Saturday's clean up crew at the Crafts Faire, which worked Friday afternoon and all day Saturday. They set up the chairs for our service and did the custodial duties for our Sangha Center.

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

- 12/1 Iwamatsu Hoshiyama, father of Hana Fukumoto; George Hoshiyama, brother of Hana Fukumoto
- 12/3 Masao Nii, father of May Soeda
- 12/3 Bill Hopper, father of David Hopper
- 12/3 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
- 12/23 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
- 12/30 Jimmy Takemoto, brother of Margaret Nakata

HAPPY DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS: 12/5 Brian Segawa; 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 Kaiya Kakita, Paul Sakamoto; 12/21 Rosie Kakuuchi; 12/23 Jennifer Kakita; 12/24 Lori Muraoka; 12/25 Tomico Honda; 12/28 Jerry Metzger; 12/31 Sadie Tanaka.

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

NOVEMBER DONATIONS: Cathy Arakaki, Al & Marge Kayatani, Shioji Fukawa in Memory of Mr. & Mrs. Chisato Sasaki, Sally Hanagami, James & Harriet Huber, Koichi & Catherine Iida, Hedy Ito, Rosie Kakuuchi, Kumiko Kashiwada, Jim & Gay Kurashige, Dennis & Margaret Nakata, Eleanor Oshiro, Ron & May Soeda, Roy & Caryl Suzuki, Mike & Becky Suyeyasu in Memory of Toshiro Suyeyasu, Wayne & Sadie Tanaka, Grace Wertz, Fred & Patty Yamano, Anonymous Cash \$270. Total: \$808.

Special Donations Received from Alan and Oh Takemoto: \$200 proceeds for their used refrigerator, which was sold to a teacher. They had also donated the proceeds from the sale of their washer and dryer; so we thank them for their generosity. In addition, we received a \$304 donation from Foundation for Positively Kids (Duck Derby - a nonprofit corporation) due to the involvement of Tilda Silao & Dharma School parents.

MOCHITSUKI: This is the first year that this traditional Japanese event will be held at our new facility. The JAACL, headed by Delwayne Arakaki, is planning to have it on Saturday, December 12th, the day before our *bonenkai* service. In previous years, mochi-making machines were used, but this year, the intent is to demonstrate the traditional way of steaming and pounding the mochi. Gene Nakamura will loan his equipment and help demonstrate the traditional methods used for centuries. Everyone will be encouraged to try their hand at pounding the mochi. In addition to mochi, bento, desserts, and drinks will be sold. All profits will go to the JAACL operating fund, which is in dire need of replenishing. It is in the Sangha's best interest not only to have a financially stable JAACL as our sister organization, but to expose the general public to this important annual event. We encourage everyone to attend and support the *mochitsuki*!



Rosie Kakuuchi, Rev. & Renka. Sakamoto, Eileen Castle, David Hopper



All of the Sangha Veterans were honored at the service.