



HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL SANGHA MEMBERS & THEIR FAMILIES! We'll be meeting on Sunday, January 11, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at the Sangha Center, 4110 N. Martin Luther King Blvd., which is south of Craig Blvd and north of Alexander. Our monthly service will be conducted by Rev. Jon Turner of the Orange County Buddhist Church (OCBC).

Each year we say that we hope to have a temple where we can hold a New Year's Day Service, traditionally the first Buddhist observance of the year; but this year it is a reality. The JACL is hosting a Shogatsu event on Saturday, January 10 at our Sangha Center (you may RSVP for it on their website, www.lvjacl.org). With more new members in our Sangha, we think we can help the JACL also expand its membership base. In Japanese culture the New Year's Day service is referred to as *Shusho-E* which is literally "a gathering to recover the correct path." It is a time for renewal and recovery and a time to reaffirm our commitment to following the "middle path" of Buddhism.

HO-ONKO: January 18 is the memorial for Shinran Shonin who was born in January, 1172. *Ho-onko* is a time to express our gratitude to the founder of our Shin Buddhist tradition. By studying the works of the Seven Patriarchs and adding the Jodo doctrine of his master, Honen Shonin, Shinran wrote the Kyo Gyo Shin Sho, upon which our sect of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism is based. The Japanese term *Ho-Onko*, "a gathering to repay a kindness," describes precisely the essential purpose for our Sangha. Remembering the life of Shinran-Shonin, we are able to see him as a signpost along the Nembutsu Path--a Bodhisattva guiding us in our struggles to walk the Pure Land Path with sincere intensity, courage, & humility.

DECEMBER DHARMA MESSAGE: Although Reverend Kuniyuki did not address the December 8th Bodhi Day, it is considered the time that Shakyamuni Buddha became the Awakened One. This "awakening" of the "Dharma Rain" helps us cleanse our hearts. At a previous Bodhi Day service, we were told about the importance of attending services to help us in the spiritual growth by expressing our gratitude through reciting the Nembutsu which could mean to "come as we are." We were told that our Jodo Shinshu sect has the essence of life with no color, smell or form, much like air or gravity.

Reverend Kevin Kuniyuki gave a message about Shin Buddhism being about the thoughts, speech and actions of the individual in order to attain peace and harmony. Moreover, after Reverend Kuniyuki attended the JACL mochitsuki and then our Sangha service and potluck, he encouraged our Sangha members to include "interdependence" as one of its core values. He also mentioned video taping our Dharma messages and posting it on our website.

FLOWERS were brought by Harriet Huber and Rosie Kakuuchi. Rosie sent her arrangement with Kumiko Kashiwada to Mountain View Hospital for Sho Fukuwa who was admitted the week of the December service. Our Sangha is based on interconnectedness and we will help each other during times of need, be it ill health, financial difficulty, driving to the service, or errands.

PARTNERSHIPS WITH THOSE LIVING ALONE: The Sangha wants to check in with singles at regular intervals and before each service to see they need a ride or any other help, like grocery shopping, etc. We thank Ellie Oshiro for picking up Takako Ogata and Sally Hanagami for doing the same for Hana Fukumoto so they could attend our service and pot luck. If you live alone, please list an emergency contact person that can be called when needed. If interested in being paired off with a family, please call Jim Kurashige.

UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION: Please fill out the form at the end of this newsletter and bring it to our next service, or put the requested information in an email and send it to Sandi at: SHiyane2010@hotmail.com.

GET WELL WISHES: Pati Lira, Sharan Tanaka, & Sho Fukawa may appreciate cards that let them know that we are thinking of them at the respective addresses: Pati's is 4874 Nardini Ave., 89141; Sharan's is 10812 Date Creek Ave., 89134; Sho's is 10033 Crescent Creek Dr., 89134.

DHARMA CLASS: For 2015, it is our hope that we can pass on Buddhism to our children; so if anyone wants to help with lessons or messages for the Dharma class, please let any of our Sangha board members know.

NEW MEMBERS or GUESTS: Donna Spearman-Davis, Assistant to Patricia Spearman, Senator from North Las Vegas, and her son, David Spearman. Koichi & Katie Iida's sons Thomas and Kendal & his girlfriend, Monica. Norm Hirata: new member, introduced to our Sangha by his golf friends. Shari Aoyagi, Pati Lira's contact, Sandi Ciel, who was a member of OCBC, now is an attorney in Las Vegas and lives 7 minutes away from our church. Ty Yamamoto,

cousin of Sandi Hiyane, originally from Hilo, Hawaii, now lives in Summerlin. He is attending Cordon Bleu Culinary School. Lenore S. Karita, M.D., a physician in Las Vegas.

BUILDING FUND DONORS –Our fund donors’ names are listed on the bulletin board in the foyer of our Sangha Center. In addition, since the temples in the NW region had a raffle specifically for our building fund, Patty Yamano made a special wall hanging for them. It will be on display in our main hallway. The picture of it is included at the end of this newsletter.

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE: Your contributions went to the North Las Vegas **Koinonia Christian Church**. Its pastor, Donald Clay, thanks the many Sangha members who brought canned goods for this annual food drive.

JACKET DRIVE: Thanks to all who donated jackets! Stan Isa delivered them to the Coats for Kids campaign.

MOCHITSUKI : On Saturday, December 13 at the Sangha Center, the JACL held its annual *mochitsuki* from 8 a.m. The following members are thanked for their participation both Saturday and after the pot luck on Sunday: Jimi & Barbara Mitsunaga, the Arakaki Family, Kurashige Family, Margaret Nakata, Patty Yamano, & Ellie Oshiro.

DHARMA SCHOOL CALENDAR: Will be available for a \$10 donation at our next service.

CRAFTS SALE & SEWING CLASS: We thank Patty Yamano for the free sewing class held after the potluck. With her guidance, the members made *furoshikis* to give as holiday gifts.

2014 DONATIONS: Receipts will only be given at the January service or sent via U.S. mail for each family who wants to use the itemized deductions to verify the 2014 donations for the IRS. Please call our new treasurer, Jim Kurashige at 702-839-8558. We thank his family members for the time it takes to fill them out.

INSTALLATION: We will have a short “swearing in ceremony” conducted by the minister at our January 11 service. The board will meet in January to review the 2015 budget & calendar.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS: 1/4 Daniel Miyake, Oratai “Oh” Takemoto, Clara Hamasaki, & Julie Matsuyama; 1/25 Jane Yahiro; 1/26 Lily Sakemi.

ANNIVERSARY: 1/22 Jim & Ellie Shibata

JANUARY MEMORIALS: If you wish to bring flowers for the memorials, please remember to bring your own flower vase, and take it with you when you leave.

1/5 Shizuka Okumura, mother of Frances Akamine; Masaru Akita, father of Ken Akita

1/7 Reverend Art Takemoto, father of Alan Takemoto

1/11 Kaoru Ogawa, mother of Patty Yamano

1/12 Natsuko Soeda, mother of Ron Soeda

1/15 Hannah Kaizumi, sister of Alice Branton

1/17 Dennis Muraoka, brother of Bill Muraoka

1/18 Kazuko Higashi, mother of Gladys Akita; Sonoe Muraoka, mother of Bill Muraoka

1/25 Joe Migaki, husband of Sueno Migaki

1/28 Maki Hoshiyama, mother of Hana Fukumoto

1/30 Dave Hoshiyama, brother of Hana Fukumoto

BCA NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING in San Diego from February 26 through March 1. At this time, we are trying to send Jim and Gay Kurashige, Gene Nakamura & Tilda Silao, and perhaps Dr. Dave Hopper and Eileen Castle. Also, members are encouraged to pay the \$107.25 per member or \$214.50 per couple dues to the BCA. You may submit those dues by writing a check to the Sangha and mailing it to Jim Kurashige, 7528 Lassen Peak Cir., Las Vegas, NV 89149.

30TH ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON: Plans for this momentous event are being discussed by the officers and board of directors. The tentative date is Saturday, October 10. The choices for a venue are the California Hotel’s Ohana & Maile rooms, or the Sangha Center. Since the Sangha Center can accommodate a maximum of 160 persons for a dining event, we may have to reserve the Cal’s rooms if we expect more attendees. If we have fewer attendees, the Sangha Center will cost approximately 30% less per person. The Sangha board will be polling our members to see how many will attend, and if they prefer the Cal or the Sangha Center. Please call Jim Kurashige at 702-839-8558 with your input.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!