



HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL SANGHA MEMBERS & THEIR FAMILIES! We'll be meeting on Sunday, January 12, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. at the JACL Activity Center, 1401 Arville, which is south of Charleston Blvd. Our monthly service will be conducted by Rev. Seigen Yamaoka, our former Bishop.

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 with more new members, we think this will be a reality before too much longer! 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 18th 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: Reverend Akio Miyaji gave a message about Bodhi Day, the time that Shakyamuni Buddha became the Awakened One. This "awakening" of the "Dharma Rain" helps us cleanse our hearts. Rev. Miyaji emphasized the importance of attending services to help us in the spiritual growth by expressing our gratitude through reciting the Nembutsu which means to "come as we are." Rev Miyaji described Jodo Shinshu as having the essence of life with no color, smell or form, much like air or gravity. He also shared a film of a European boys' choir made up of boys younger than 14 years old and singing a beautiful Japanese song.

FLOWERS were brought by: Rosie Kakuuchi, Grace Wertz, Harriet Huber, Wayne Tanaka, Kumiko Kashiwada, & Sadako Wanless.

PARTNERSHIPS WITH THOSE LIVING ALONE: We thank the Kurashige family for picking up our charter Sangha member Hana Fukumoto so she could attend our service and pot luck. Also, Pati Lira has volunteered to put together a form for Sangha members who live alone to become part of a "buddy system" that pairs off members by Name: Address: Phone Number: and Contact Person in the event of emergency. If you are interested in participating, please fill out the form at the end of this newsletter and send it to our Treasurer, at 4874 Nardini Ave., Las Vegas 89141.

THE DHARMA CLASS' Isa girls, Brianne and Cristal, as well as Jimmy Kurashige had videos of their performances which were shown during the pot luck. As mentioned previously for 2014, it is our hope that we can pass on Buddhism through these 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: It was good to see Koichi Iida who teaches Japanese language classes at Spring Valley HS and Akira Sonomura who is a retired airline pilot. In addition, Rodney Okano brought his three children; Tia who attends Palo Verde HS, Roxanne and Kenji who are both students at the LV Day School. Also, Alice Kado who spends half the year in Vegas and the other half in Elk Grove near Sacramento, CA attended the service. Lastly in attendance was Yoko Beppu who teaches karaoke to various groups and came as the guest of Kumiko Kashiwada.

GET WELL WISHES: to Eileen Castle who fell during a trip to CA, to Sally Hanagami who is in CA also recuperating from a fall there, to Michael Tanaka who was been going to USC for medical care and to Dale Ito who quietly had surgery awhile back and is on the road to recovery.

CONDOLENCES: a card and koden were sent to Heide Ferguson whose mother passed away on Nov. 11.

DONORS AT THE DECEMBER SERVICE: Sharleen Aoki; Cathy Arakaki; Alice Branton; Sho Fukawa; Mabel Fukumoto (October, November & December); Sandi Hiyane (annual); Harriet Huber; Alice Kado; Rosie Kakuuchi; Kumiko Kashiwada; Pati Lira; Hank & June Maruyama; Roy & Kanyarat Matsuda; Jimi & Barbara Mitsunaga; Frances Miyasato (annual); Bill & Nanette Muraoka; Gene Nakamura & Tilda Silao; Dennis & Margaret Nakata; Mits Nakayama; Takako Ogata; Crystal & Rodney Okano; Ellie Oshiro; Bob & Chizuyo Reynierse; Muriel Scrivner; Roy

& Caryl Suzuki; Oh & Alan Takemoto (annual); Michael & Sharon Tanaka (annual); Sadie & Wayne Tanaka; Fred & Carolyn Tomiyoshi (annual); Sadako Wanless (annual); Grace Wertz; Mas Yamada; Tom & Sumiko Yanagihara (annual); Anonymous donors.

MEMORIALS DONATIONS RECEIVED: from Hana Fukumoto in memory of her father & brother, I & G Hoshiyama; Dr. Dave Hopper – father, Bill and son, Mike; Harriet Huber – parents, Kanayo & Hanayo Oba; Rosie Kakuuchi & Grace Wertz – brother, Kow Maruki; Margaret Nakata – brothers, Jimmy & Frank Takemoto; Roy Suzuki – father, Minoru Suzuki; and Sadako Wanless – mother, Matsuda Haruyo & brother, Matsuda Atsushi.

2014 MEMBERSHIP DUES RECEIVED: Alice Branton; Sho Fukawa; Mabel Fukumoto; Sandi Hiyane; Alice Kado; Helen S. Koga; Dale & Rosan Ito; Pati Lira; Roy & Kanyarat Matsuda; Jimi & Barbara Mitsunaga; Daniel Miyake; Frances Miyasato; Gene Nakamura & Tilda Silao; Dennis & Margaret Nakata; Mits Nakayama; Crystal & Rodney Okano; Ellie Oshiro; Bob & Chizuyo Reynierse; Muriel Scrivner; Pijuan “Tess” Seifred; Roy & Caryl Suzuki; Mas Yamada.

BUDDHISM CLASS DONATIONS: to cover the Rev.Miyaji’s expenses for the calligraphy materials: Dennis & Margaret Nakata, Michael & Sharan Tanaka, and Roy & Caryl Suzuki.

SPECIAL DONATION: Dave Hopper - \$400 towards service books; Patty & Fred Yamano – Bonenkai donation; Yoko Beppu –visitor who originally moved from Hawaii.

BUILDING FUND DONORS AS OF DECEMBER 15, 2013

Motomi & Jo-Dell Arao, Moorpark
Ichiro & Nobuko Doi, Bountiful, UT
Enmanji Buddhist Temple, Sebastopol
Kiyoshi & Ellen Fujimoto, Pepeekeo, HI
Kimiko & Larry Fukumoto, Cerritos (In honor of Fred Fukumoto)
Dennis & Setsuko Furuke, Summerland
Rev. Shousei & Keiko Hanayama, Watsonville
Phyllis & Eugene Hayashibara, Los Angeles
Miyuki Ichinose, Los Angeles
Minoru & Kathryn Inoshita, Glendale
James & Mary Ishiara, Los Angeles
Michiko & Carolyn Itatani Wahler, San Jose
T. Roy & Margo Iwami, Montebello (In memory of Helen Isa)
Florance Kajikawa, Torrance
H. Kamiyana, Hilo, HI (Kini Po Po Creations, Inc.)
Raymond & Julie Kawamoto, Woodland Hills
Cliff & Mavis Kurakazu, Monterey Park
Tayeko Kurashige, San Jose
Rev. Katsuya & Ayano Kusunoki, Lodi
Tom& Akiko Maeda, Gardena
Ayako Masada, Los Angeles
E. I. Masuyama, Cerritos
Sachi Matsumoto, Lomita
James Mayeda, San Pedro
Jimi & Barbara Mitsunaga, Henderson
Ted & Tomoko Mizukami Hermosa Beach
Helen Mori, Rancho Palos Verdes
Stanley & Evelyn Morimoto, Los Angeles
Ken & Kiyoko Nakagawa, Lomita
Gene Nakamura, Las Vegas
David & Lily Nakatani, Torrance
Roy & Terry Nakawatase, Topanga
Y. Mary Nakayama, Westminster
Sumiye Nishida, Phoenix
Chiyoko Nishimori, Somis (In memory of Minobu Nishimori)
Chiyoko Nishisaka, Culver City

Cindy Ogawa, West Hills
Tomiaki & Nobuko Okada, Rolling Hills
Rodney Okano, Las Vegas
Eleanor Oshiro, Henderson
Yukiko & Eugene Otake, El Cerritos
Keiko Otani, Redondo Beach
Toshi Otsu, Gardena
Billy & Sandra Saek, Los Angeles
Sachiko Sakamoto, Sylmar
Jane Sakashita, Salt Lake City
Amy Sato, Henderson
Fumie Sayegusa, Torrance
Kaye, Bartholomew, John, & Peter Scott, Spokane
Alfred, Doris & Susan Shigaki, Los Angeles
Mary Tamura, Torrance
Henry & Michiko Tanaka, Oxnard
Shigeru & Mary Tokiwa, Campbell
Rev. Jon & Linda Turner, Huntington Beach (OCBC Minister)
Kayoko Uno, Monterey Park
Masayo Uyeda, La Mirada
Beverly Yahata, Los Angeles
Hatsumi Yamamoto, Sacramento
Joyce Yamamoto, San Jose
Tom & Sumiko Yanagihara, La Mesa
Suzanne Yoshida, Torrance
George Yoshioka, Placentia

Building Fund total, as of December 15th, is: \$14,850.00

OSEIBO: for Supervising Minister, please send in your donation since we forgot to solicit specifically for this item at our service. The Sangha will supplement what will be sent. In addition, Michael & Sharan Tanaka are in charge of showing our appreciation to Cathy Moses for her continued service to the Sangha by taking her and husband Cliff to dinner & giving the receipt for the Sangha to pay. Each month, she reserves the room at Circus Circus that the ministers use and often arranges for a free upgrade to a suite.

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE: Your contribution went to the North Las Vegas **Koinonia Christian Church**. Its pastor Donald Clay, was honored on Sunday, November 23. He works for CCSD and thanks the many Sangha members who brought canned goods for this annual food drive.

JAPAN AMERICA SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN NV: Our Sangha board voted to donate \$120 for the JASN Bonnenkai that was held at the Smith Center's Founders' Room. With so many conflicting events, the attendance at the December 4 event was minimal, but the food and entertainment was outstanding. Kim Poole, who is the youngest of daughter of Sadie and Wayne Tanaka was there representing Congresswoman Dina Titus.

MOCHITSUKI PRE ORDERS NEEDED: On Saturday, December 28 at the Activity Center, the JACL will have its annual *mochitsuki* from 8 a.m. For members, it's \$4 / bag and non members, \$6 per bag. The New Year's luncheon will be held on January 4 at the JACL Center. The food is being catered by Osaka Restaurant and cost \$15 per person. Enclosed is a form which can be sent to JACL President Delwayne Arakaki, PO Box 28803, LV 89126, to reserve the mochi and for the luncheon.

DHARMA SCHOOL CALENDAR: We also thank the students who are finishing their calendar pictures for the 2014 calendar that we are giving their respective families & selling for a \$10 donation.

CRAFTS SALE & SEWING CLASS: If you eat at Naka Sushi, as so many Sangha members do, you will see a wall hanging in the restaurant made by our crafts group. We thank Patty Yamano for teaching the sewing class that was held on Tuesday, December 10, and for organizing the Sangha Crafts group who has been donating the profit from the sales of the *furoshikis* and wall hangings.

2013 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 2013 donations for the IRS. Please call our treasurer, Pati Lira at

496-3112 . We thank her for the time it takes to fill them out.

ELECTION: We thank Sharleen Aoki for the years of being secretary and for Jon Ogata for this past year's participation as our Board Member. Only two changes have occurred for the 2014 Sangha cabinet and board: Eileen Castle has agreed to replace Sharleen. Here's the 2014 list of officers: President Stan Isa, Jim Kurashige is our first VP while Harriet Huber continues as the second VP; Secretary is Eileen Castle and Treasurer Pati Lira. The following board members are Dennis & Margaret Nakata, Ellie Oshiro, Michael & Sharan Tanaka, Sandi Hiyane, John Kosora, and Kyle Watanabe. We will have a short "swearing in ceremony" conducted by the minister at our January service. The board will meet in January to review the 2014 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 to this month's service, please call Rosie Kakuuchi at 655-3028. Please remember to bring your own flower vase.

- 1/5 Shizuka Okumura, mother of Frances Akamine; Masaru Akita, father of Ken Akita
- 1/7 Namie Matsumoto, mother of Ann Aoyagi; 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

2014 VISITING MINISTERS: The list of the dates for our services that fall on the second Sunday of each month are as follows, along with a class in Buddhism on the Saturday of the same weekend: January 11&12; February 8 & 9; March 8 & 9; April 12 & 13 (tentative Grand Opening of our new building & Hanamatsuri); May 10 &11 (Mothers' Day), June 7 & 8; July 12 &13; Saturday, August 9 Obon; September 13 & 14; October 11 & 12; November 8 & 9; December 13 & 14.

2014 BOARD MEETINGS--MARK YOUR CALENDARS Every Sangha member is welcome to attend the following meetings that our scheduled around our President Stan Isa's schedule. Since we have both a fireman who is our president and a police officer who is our VP, we first schedule around Stan, then have the VP Jim Kurashige arrange for his days off, if at all possible, around these following board meeting days. We hope members join us during this most auspicious year where we can use as many good ideas to guide us as possible: JAN Tues 28, FEB Tues 25, MAR Tues 25, APR Wed 30, MAY Wed 28, JUNE Tues 24, JULY Tues 29, AUG Tues 26, SEPT Tues 23, OCT Wed 29 and DEC Wed 3.

JOB in HILO: A University of Hawaii student from Vegas is searching for a job near the Hilo campus. If anyone knows of someone who is hiring, please call Caryl at 799-5904 so in turn she can let the teacher and her daughter know. Thank you.

PARTNERSHIP WITH SINGLE PERSON: No, this is not a dating service, but one to make sure that another Sangha members checks in with you at regular intervals and before each service to see if you need a ride or any other help, like grocery shopping, etc. If interested in being paired off with a family, please fill out this form and mail it to Pati Lira at 4874 Nardini Ave., LV 89141.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE NO _____