



## LAS VEGAS BUDDHIST SANGHA

JANUARY, 2016, NEWSLETTER

**SANGHA BONENKAI POT LUCK:** The Sangha Annual Bonenkai Potluck was held immediately after the service on Sunday, December 13. As usual, there was an abundance of great food for the many members and friends in attendance. We witnessed both female and male hula dancing (Jared, Jaylen, and Maile Sando), and videos of Japanese dancing (Megan Arakaki) and gymnastics (Crystal Isa). Photos are posted on the website.

**JACL MOCHITSUKI:** On Saturday, December 12, the Las Vegas Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), along with the LV Buddhist Sangha, hosted their first *mochitsuki* at the Sangha Center. The purpose of this event was not only to preserve and promote this traditional cultural event, but to serve as a fundraiser for the JACL, which is in dire need of income to preserve and grow its operating fund.

Unlike previous years, when we only used “mochi machines,” rice cookers that also mashed the sweet mochi rice, more traditional methods were used, including cooking the rice in steamers over a burner, and manually pounding the mochi. The intention was to make it into a more fun experience and to pass on to the current generation what a traditional *mochitsuki* is really like. Everything went as scheduled, except that the electric motor for the extruding machine, which does the initial mashing of the rice, burned out. An emergency mission was sent out to find a compatible motor. Mike Suyeyasu found one at Harbor Freight, and Alan Takemoto, Brian Segawa, and Gene Nakamura installed it. It was fixed within two hours, and, in the meantime, the mochi machines were used to keep the mochi making going.

Bentos, desserts, and crafts were sold, with all profits going to the JACL operating fund.

Many thanks for the hard work from Sangha members like Gene Nakamura (mochi pounding chair), Tilda Silao, Brian & Melanie Segawa as well as from the Arakaki Family, Betty Atkins, Kurashige Family, Patty & Fred Yamano (Sangha Crafts), Minoru and Sharleen Aoki, Jimi & Barbara Mitsunaga (mochi patties), Margaret Nakata (kitchen crew) and others you'll recognize in the enclosed picture collage and on the website.



Brian Segawa adjusts the new motor while Gene Nakamura flips the new batch of mochi.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL SANGHA MEMBERS & THEIR FAMILIES!** We'll be meeting on Sunday, January 10, 2016 at 10:00 a.m. at the Sangha Center, 4010 Martin Luther King, 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).

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.

**NOVEMBER'S DHARMA MESSAGE FROM REV. OGUI:** “Buddha Dharma teaches us how to think, what we think on the happenings in our life. This thinking become a source of our life.

When I was twenty four years old, my father called from Japan to come to see him. He invited me and my younger brother to hot springs located near my home. He told us that he going to die from stomach cancer within six months. He continued, saying that the cancer is a thankful disease which gives him a chance to prepare himself and also give him a chance to say thank you to his wife, his family and to his friends.

After I returned to Oxnard, California I got a call from my mother, who notified me of my father's death. She said he had lived day by day thanking everyone and everything. It is indeed true how we think, and what we think, is a source of our life and how we live. Buddha Dharma nourishes us as the source of thinking, saying, and acting in our life.”

**MEMBERSHIP DUES FOR 2016:** 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. Donations of kitchen and bathroom supplies are also appreciated.

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

If your name was not included, please notify Treasurer Jim Kurashige, 7528 Lassen Peak Circle, Las Vegas, NV 89149, or 702-839-8558, or by email at [lasvegasbuddhistsangha@aol.com](mailto:lasvegasbuddhistsangha@aol.com). Thank you.

**CONDOLENCES:** Kodan has been sent to Rev. Harada, whose father passed in late November, and to Myrtle Noguchi for her husband Steve, who passed away just before our December service.

**FLOWERS & TOBAN:** We thank Wayne Tanaka for flowers and Takako Ogata for setting up the *obutsudan*.

**THE DHARMA CLASS NEWS:**

Congratulations to Kaya & Carter Kakita, Michael Arakaki, and Summer Segawa for receiving their 1 year Dharma School pin. They received it for coming to 10 or more Dharma School classes during 2015. We welcome back Jared and Maile Sando, who have attended a service or two recently. The goal is to have all Dharma students working for their yearly pins by attending all of the Dharma School classes. We also thank the students who are finishing their calendar artwork for the 2016 calendar that we are giving their respective families & selling for a \$10 donation. And as mentioned previously, 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.

**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 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

**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:** 1/4 Daniel Miyake, Oratai "Oh" Takemoto, Clara Hamasaki, & Julie Matsuyama; 1/14 Travis Metzger; 1/19 Carter Kakita; 1/25 Jane Yahiro; 1/26 Lily Sakemi

**ANNIVERSARY:** 1/22 Jim & Ellie Shibata.

**DECEMBER DONATIONS:** Cathy Arakaki, Dennis & Brenda Creed, Shioji Fukawa, Norm Hirata, James & Harriet Huber, Stan & Nancy Isa, Dale & Rosan Ito, Hedy Ito, Kumiko Kashiwada, Al & Marge Kayatani, Jim & Gay Kurashige, Dan & Jeanne Lee, Toni & Will Medina, Frances Miyasato, Bill & Nanette Muraoka, Dennis & Margaret Nakata in Memory of Brothers Jimmy and Frank Takemoto, Mits Nakayama, Rodney & Crystal Okano, Bob & Chizuyo Reynierse, Brian & Melanie Segawa, Ron & May Soeda, Roy & Caryl Suzuki, Michael Tanaka, Wayne & Sadie Tanaka, Masaichi Yamada, Anonymous Cash \$ 153.25

Attendance: 66 Total Donation & Dues: \$1457.62 (\$223.25 Cash)

**SOCIAL MEDIA** - Thanks to Chelsea Kurashige and Patty Yamano, the Sangha has a presence on Facebook and Instagram. Please help us by logging into both sites, looking up lvbuddhistsangha and passing on our news and events to your friends and clients.

**SANGHA BOARD MEETING WAS HELD ON** Monday, December 28, at 6 p.m. New officers and board members will be elected at the next service (see attached ballot; all nominations are welcome). The MOU with OCBC has been approved. The board will tour Clark HS on Tuesday, January 12 at noon in preparation for the Obon.

The next board meeting will be on Monday, January 25, at 6 p.m. Please let Eileen Castle (ecastle@gmx.com, 371-0947) know if you plan to attend. A light dinner will be served.



Dharma School students Summer Segawa, Kaiya Kakita, Michael Arakaki, Roxanne Okano, Carter Kakita, & Maile Sando received awards from Patty Yamano, Rev. Koshin Ogui, and Chelsea Kurashige



A sumptuous potluck.