



LAS VEGAS BUDDHIST SANGHA  
MAY 2015 NEWSLETTER



Our annual Gotan-E & Mothers' Day service will be held on Sunday, May 10th from 10 a.m. at the Sangha Center, 4110 N. Martin Luther King Blvd, N. Las Vegas 89032, a block south of Craig & Camino del Norte. Our visiting minister will be Rev. Kenji Akahoshi. Since it is Mothers' Day, we will have a pancake breakfast at 9 a.m. for the Dharma class students to make and serve their mothers, **plus anyone else that attends our service**. Please RSVP to [lvjacl@cox.net](mailto:lvjacl@cox.net) or call 702-228-3071 and leave a message.

**Gotan-E** is a service that is sometimes called the Wisteria Festival (Fuji Matsuri) and it celebrates the birth of Shinran Shonin, who was born near Kyoto on May 21, 1173. As the founder of our Jodo Shinshu sect of Buddhism, Shinran Shonin emphasized the 18<sup>th</sup> vow that taught the meaning of Nembutsu and faith. He was the first Japanese Buddhist priest 750 years ago to break the vow of celibacy, married, and raised a family. He also spread the teachings of the Buddha not only to the educated, but to all who would listen.

**APRIL HANAMATSURI SERVICE:** was held with Reverend Imahara and chaired by Al Kayatani. In addition, we appreciate Dale Ito and the Kurashige family who came on Saturday to set up the *Hanamido*. We also thank Margaret Nakata and the kitchen crew of Harriet Huber, Ellie Oshiro, and Takako Ogata who came early to get the pot luck items set up. We also thank Chelsea Kurashige and Brianne Isa for teaching the Dharma class students: 5 year olds Summer Sagawa and Carter Kakita; 7 year olds, Michael Arakaki and Kenji Okano; 9 year old Kaiya Kikita and 11 year old Roxanne Okano.

**GUESTS AT THE APRIL SERVICE:** We welcome Chas & Jessica Murashige, who have joined our Sangha. Chas flies for Spirit Airlines, and Jessica is a property manager. Norm Hirata, who golfs with the some of the Sangha guys, brought his friend, Naomi. They were joined by another golfer, Rob Gaudette, and his wife Barbara, who are snowbirds from Edmonton, Canada. Rob is the contractor who helped last year during the construction of our Sangha Center. The Sagawa family joined us with 5 year old Summer, her dad Brian, who sets up security systems, and her mom Melanie, who is an interior designer. Also, Akiko Rulien, a friend of Rev. Imahara, Annie Alba, his daughter, and another friend of theirs, Kazuko Yasuda, were visiting from California. And last but not least is Yoko Bepu who is a former movie star from Japan, but now living in Vegas. We welcome all of our visitors and hope to see them regularly.

**GET WELL WISHES:** It was good to see Sho Fukawa before the service began. Sho's son-in-law, Tom Ruyle, drove to the Sangha Center just to drop off their Hanamatsuri donation. Sho is living in his daughter Joann and Tom's casita. Joann has helped print up our Obon Bento tickets while Tom has volunteered for the chicken frying committee. We appreciate their involvement in our Sangha. Also, we received news that Sangha Board member Michael Tanaka has moved his wife, Sharan, back home to their place in Sun City Summerlin. Michael is asking to take a leave of absence from our board at this time to take care of Sharan. Another Sangha member, Sadako Wanless, has not been in contact with any member; so after her hospitalization, we assume that her son may have moved her to AZ where he is a police officer. And the last two updates are about former Sangha treasurer, Pati Lira, who has not answered back after get well cards and flowers have been sent. We have positive thoughts being sent her way so she knows her Sangha friends truly miss her after all the years of her volunteering as Sangha treasurer. Lastly, we wish a speedy recovery to Oh Takemoto who is recovering from surgery. She is doing well but has lost some weight that Alan hopes his cooking will help recover.

**MAY MEMORIALS:** 5/1 Tom Wanless, husband of Sadako Wanless; Shig Yoshioka, husband of Shirley Yoshioka; 5/3 James Tanimine, brother of Alice Branton; 5/5 Mitsuji Kasamoto, father-in-law of Sadie Kasamoto; 5/19 Misao Wakayama, mother of Myrtle Noguchi; 5/24 Sadie Shintani, sister of Margaret Nakata.

**MAY BIRTHDAYS:** 5/1 Mark Connolly; 5/10 Sharleen Aoki; 5/11 Sueno Migaki; 5/13 Muriel Scrivner; 5/14 Nancy Isa, 5/15 Cianni Connolly; May Soeda; 5/22 Minoru Aoki; 5/27 Marlo Sando, Margaret Kayatani, Kathryn Tanaka, Sumi Yanagihara; 5/29 Kenji Okano.

**MAY ANNIVERSARIES:** 5/20 Fred & Patty Yamano.

**APRIL DONATIONS:** Minoru & Sharleen Aoki, Cathy & Delwayne Arakaki, Shioji Fukawa, Hana Fukumoto, Mabel Fukumoto in memory of her son Jon, Sally Hanagami, Norman Hirata, Sandi Hiyane, Jack & Harriet Huber, Koichi & Catherine Iida, Ikenobo Ikebana, Rosie Kakuuchi, Kumiko Kashiwada, Al & Marge Kayatani, Jim & Gay Kurashige, Daniel Lee, Jimi & Barbara Mitsunaga, Bill & Nanette Muraoka, Dennis & Margaret Nakata, Beverly Ogata (daughter) & Takako Ogata, Rodney & Crystal Okano, Eleanor Oshiro, Muriel Scrivner, Mike & Becky Suyeyasu, Roy & Caryl Suzuki, Midori Tabery in memory of Doug Iwamoto, Grace Wertz, Masaichi Yamada. We thank Tilda Silao and her volunteers who organized our **first Rummage Sale** on Saturday, March 28, that brought in over \$1,100 for our Sangha. We also thank Deborah Harlig for the spam cutters she donated.

**MEMBERSHIP DUES RECEIVED:** James Akamine, Kenneth & Gladys Akita, Sharleen & Minoru Aoki, Dennis & Brenda Creed, Shioji Fukawa, Hana Fukumoto, Mabel Fukumoto, Ronald Ghiraldi, Clara Hamasaki, Sally Hanagami, Harriet & James Huber, Stan & Nancy Isa, Dale & Rosanne Ito, Jackie Ka'anoi, Alice Kado, Lenore Kakita, Rosie Kakuuchi, Sadie Kasamoto, Kumiko Kashiwada, Al & Margaret Kayatani, Helen Koga, Jim & Gay Kurashige, Jamie Kuratomi, Pati Lira, Hank & June Maruyama, Frances Miyasato, Bill & Nanette Muraoka, Chas & Jessica Murashige, Brian Nagata, Gene Nakamura & Tilda

Silao, Dennis & Margaret Nakata, Steve & Myrtle Noguchi, Takako Ogata, Rodney & Crystal Okano, Eleanor Oshiro, Mary Ozaki, Muriel Scrivner, Kazuo & Edna Shiotani, Ron & May Soeda, Akira Sonomura, Roy & Caryl Suzuki, Mike & Becky Suyeyasu, Alan & Oratai Takemoto, Alicia & Rodney Tamura, Derek Uyehara & Jan- Ie Low, Tami & Scott Watanabe, Grace Wertz, Masaichi Yamada, Fred & Patty Yamano, Tom & Sumiko Yanagihara, Ryan & Katherine Yoshikawa, Shirley Yoshioka. If your name is not listed, please send your \$20 dues to the treasurer, Jim Kurashige at 7528 Lassen Peak Cr., Las Vegas 89149. If you've paid and your name has been inadvertently omitted, please call Jim Kurashige at 702-839-8558.

**SANGHA BOARD MEETING:** will be held on Monday, April 27 at 6 pm. All members are welcome to attend at the monthly meeting at our Sangha Center.

**KIKUO & KAORU OGAWA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP** applications are still available and due by May 22. The scholarship is open to any Sangha member that has a high school diploma or equivalent and wants to continue her education. The scholarship is for \$1000 to go towards tuition and books. Applications can be obtained from Wayne Tanaka ([wtanaka@cox.net](mailto:wtanaka@cox.net)) or Patty Yamano ([patty.yamano@gmail.com](mailto:patty.yamano@gmail.com)).

**SCHOLARSHIP CONGRATULATIONS:** The Sangha Board voted to give \$1,000 each to our two graduating high school seniors, Thomas Iida and Tia Okano. In addition, former member Victoria Ferguson won one the Bill Endow Scholarships from the Asian Chamber of Commerce.

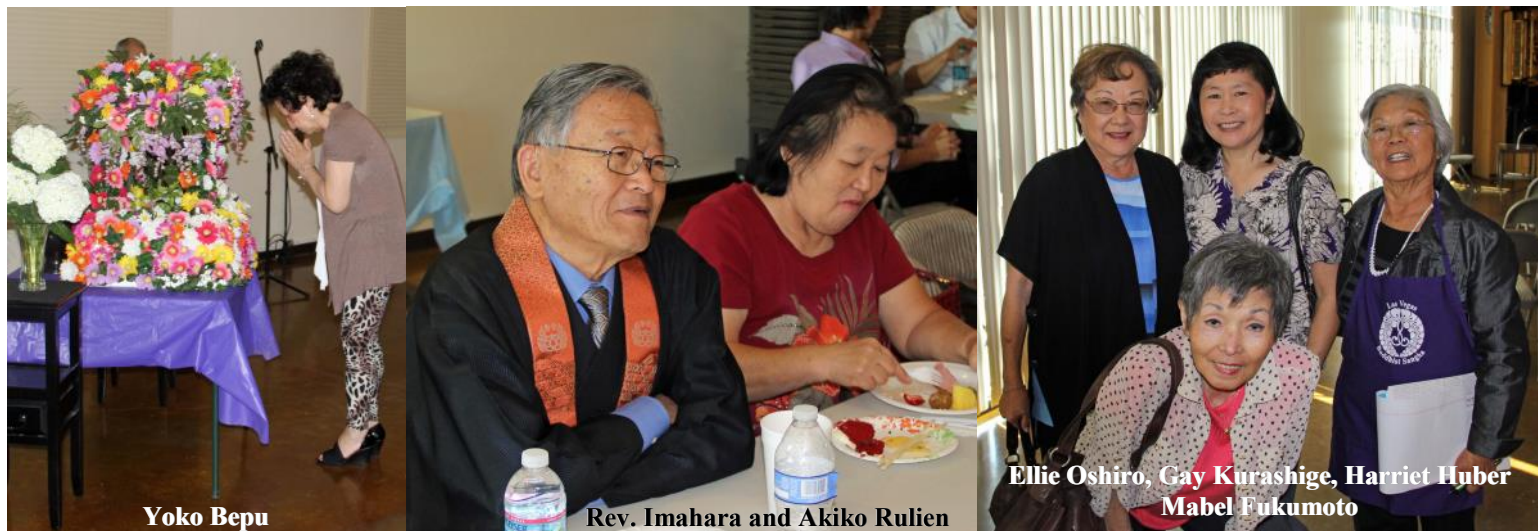
**SANGHA CRAFTS** - Volunteers are needed to sew simple crafts to be sold at Obon this year. Material, patterns and directions are available...all we need is help putting our items together. If you know how to sew a semi straight line or are good at ironing, we need your help. Please call Patty Yamano at 818 219-6982 or email at [patty.yamano@gmail.com](mailto:patty.yamano@gmail.com).

**FALL FUNDRAISER** - We need volunteers for the committee to put together this year's fall fund raiser, "Aki Craft Faire" on Saturday, November 7, 2015 from 9am to 4pm. It will be the first Asian Crafts fair in the Las Vegas area and hopefully will become an annual event. Volunteers are needed to help plan and execute the fair. If you can't volunteer for the committee, we will also be asking for volunteers to set-up, patrol and clean up on the day of the event. If you are available to help out on Nov. 7th or volunteer to help on the committee, please contact Patty Yamano at 818- 219-6982 or [patty.yamano@gmail.com](mailto:patty.yamano@gmail.com).

**OBON UPDATE:** Plans are underway with Dale Ito chairing the event once more. He has obtained the liability insurance so the paperwork with the school district is forthcoming to reserve Cimarron Memorial High School for the second Saturday, August 8, 2015 from 6:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please save this date on your calendar since we need all the help we can get for that particular Friday at 9 a.m. for food prep and Saturday for the actual event. If you have any new ideas for the Obon, please call Dale Ito at 702-869-0557. We owe a debt of gratitude to Dale who has been training our next Obon chair, Treasurer Jim Kurashige, as to what needs to be done for the various jobs.

This is the tentative list of volunteer committee members; so if anyone wants any changes, please call Dale.

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| Obon dance practice: Ann Mikami                          | Kitchen Supervision: Jan-Ie Low & Derek Uehara |
| Raffle Tickets: Bob Reynierse & Paul Sakamoto            | Desserts: Crystal Okano & Kumiko Kashiwada     |
| Norimaki Sushi: Emily Aoki & Harriet Huber               | Inarizushi: needs a volunteer chair            |
| Chirashi: Alice Branton                                  | Rice cooking: Delwayne Arakaki                 |
| Teriyaki Sauce: Rosie Kakuuchi                           | Beef: Bill Muraoka & Alan Takemoto             |
| Chicken-Aiko Mayeda, Tom Ruyle                           | Drinks: Alan Takemoto                          |
| Bento Sales: Gay & Jim Kurashige                         | Spam Musubi: John Kosora & Sandi Hiyane        |
| Crafts Sales-Margaret Nakata & Patty Yamano              | Bento distribution: Rosan Ito & Chris Kakuuchi |
| Bento Ticket printing: Joanne Ruyle                      | Master of Ceremonies: Wayne Tanaka             |
| Program Booklet: Roy Suzuki                              | Ad Sales: Katherine Yoshikawa                  |
| Yagura Setup and Decoration: Gene Nakamura & Tilda Silao | Cleanup: Russ Suzuki                           |



Yoko Bepu

Rev. Imahara and Akiko Rulien

Ellie Oshiro, Gay Kurashige, Harriet Huber  
Mabel Fukumoto