



**Las Vegas Buddhist Sangha  
APRIL 2014 NEWSLETTER**



**APRIL SERVICE:** This year's *Hanamatsuri* service will be held on Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 a.m. at the JAACL Activity Center, 1401 Arville, which is south of Charleston Blvd and on the east side of Walmart. Our guest speaker is Reverend George Matsubayashi, retired Rinban of the LA Betsuin and former minister of the Venice Hongwanji in Southern California. While here, the minister is conducting a 40<sup>th</sup> birthday event for a member of our congregation so if there are any other services for Reverend Matsubayashi to perform, please let a board member know so an individual family service at the JAACL Center may be arranged ahead of time on Saturday or Sunday evening.

Although the service will begin at 9:30 a.m., we will set up the *hanamido* from **8:00 a.m.** **If you would like to help with decorating the *hanamido*, please arrive at that time.** After the service, **we are having our Hanamatsuri potluck and would like each family to bring a favorite dish to share with the other members and any extra guests.** As usual, recipes are welcomed so others may try making your family's favorite dish in the future.

**MINISTER'S HOST:** Rev. & Mrs. George Matsubayashi will arrive on Saturday morning and leave on Monday. We hope someone would volunteer to pick them up at the California Hotel before our service, have them join us for lunch after the service; or take them back to the airport the next day. Whatever part of the weekend one volunteers for, it would be much appreciated.

**Hanamatsuri** is a service held to celebrate the birth of Gautama Buddha in Lumbini Garden approximately in 564 B.C. Amida, the Buddha of Infinite Wisdom and Compassion, made himself known among people as Gautama Buddha. During the service, a flower shrine known as a *hanamido* is set up in front of the main altar as a symbol of Lumbini Garden where he was born. A statuette of the infant Buddha is placed in the *hanamido*. The members of the congregation pour sweet tea over the Buddha who has one hand pointing skyward and the other pointing downward. According to ancient legend, Buddha was born as the connection between heaven & earth. The happiness surrounding his birth brought joyful music and flowers in full bloom through which sweet rain fell that is symbolized by the tea poured over the statuette of Buddha.

**MARCH DHARMA MESSAGE:** Our Sangha thanks Reverend Jon Turner for the informative Dharma message he gave about recipes and the cultural context of Buddhism. Also, thank you to Ellie Oshiro who picked up Reverend Turner and hosted him, as well as Patty and Fred Yamano, for dinner. On Sunday, a group took Reverend Turner out to lunch while Fred & Patty Yamano picked up that tab as Ellie had for the dinner as their way of supporting our Sangha. We again thank the various members who go out of their way to help our Sangha.

**GUESTS & NEW MEMBERS:** It was good to see Al Kayatani and returning new member Akira Sunomura at our service. Also, Rodney and Crystal Okano brought their two younger children, Roxanne and Kenji who helped demonstrate the Dharma talk about "separating eggs" in a recipe. Rodney Okano and Gene Nakamura have agreed to help co-chair the Panko Chicken preparation for our August 9<sup>th</sup> Obon and Crystal Okano has agreed to replace Kumiko Kashiwada as the dessert chair. Kumiko assured Crystal that she would be there every step of the way in training a younger member to take over.

**FLOWERS** were brought by Tomi Honda, Pati Lira and Sadako Wanless. In the future, if you're bringing flowers, please let the service chair know to include your name in the program.

**DONATIONS:** Ken & Gladys Akita; Sharleen Aoki; Sho Fukawa; Deborah & Arthur Harlig; Richard & Carolyn Higa; Sandi Hiyane (annual); Dave Hopper; Harriet Huber; Nancy & Stan Isa; Dale & Rosan Ito (annual); Rosie Kakuuchi; Kumiko Kashiwada; Albert & Georgiana Kobayashi, Helen Koga; Hank & June Maruyama; Jimi & Barbara Mitsunaga; Frances Miyasato (annual); Bill & Nanette Muraoka; Ben & Marilyn Nakagawa; Gene Nakamura & Tilda Silao; Dennis & Margaret Nakata; Mits Nakayama; Steve & Myrtle Noguchi; Takako Ogata; Crystal & Rodney Okano; Ellie Oshiro; Bob & Chizuyo Reynierse; Paul & Alice Sakamoto; Roy & Carly Suzuki; Fred & Carolyn Tomiyoshi (annual); Sadako Wanless (annual); Grace Wertz; Mas Yamada; Anonymous Buddhists.

**2014 MEMBERSHIP DUES RECEIVED:** Frances & Jim Akamine; Ken & Gladys Akita; Sharleen & Minoru Aoki; Ann & Noboru Aoyagi; Cathy & Delwayne Arakaki; Alice Branton; Dennis & Brenda Creed; Tom & Lynn DeMann; Sho Fukawa; Mabel Fukumoto; Clara Hamasaki; Sally Hanagami; Deborah & Arthur Harlig; Richard & Carolyn Higa; Sandi Hiyane; Tomico Honda; Dave Hopper; Harriet Huber; Nancy & Stan Isa; Dale & Rosan Ito; Alice Kado; Sadae Kasamoto; Kumiko Kashiwada; Al Kayatani; Albert & Geogiana Kobayashi, Helen S. Koga; Rosie Kakuuchi; Pati Lira; Hank & June Maruyama; Roy & Kanyarat Matsuda; Aiko Mayeda; Suena Migaki; Jimi & Barbara Mitsunaga; Frances Miyasato; Bill & Nanette Muraoka; Shumei & June Nagaya, Ben & Marilyn Nakagawa; Gene Nakamura & Tilda Silao; Dennis & Margaret Nakata; Mits Nakayama; Steve & Myrtle Noguchi; Takako Ogata; Crystal & Rodney Okano; Ellie Oshiro; Mary Ozaki; Bob & Chizuyo Reynierse; Paul & Alice Sakamoto; Muriel Scrivner; Ron & May Soeda; Akira Sunomura; Roy & Caryl Suzuki; Michael & Sharon Tanaka; Sadie & Wayne Tanaka; Fred & Carolyn Tomiyoshi; Sadako Wanless; Grace Wertz; T.R./M.M. Wiczorek; Mas Yamada; Patty & Fred Yamano; Stan & Arlene Yokoyama; Ryan & Katherine Yoshikawa; Shirley Yoshioka; If your name is not listed, enclosed is a pre-addressed envelope, so please send your \$20 dues to the treasurer, Pati Lira, 4674 Nardini Avenue, Las Vegas, NV 89141 Also, please report any mistakes to the Sangha Treasurer at 496-3112 or by email at [capopati@yahoo.com](mailto:capopati@yahoo.com). Thank you.

**MEMORIALS:** Tomico Honda – husband, Gumpe Honda; Dave Hopper – son, Mike; Dennis Nakata - brother -in-law Noboru Takemoto; Sadako Wanless: brothers, Toshiyuki and Keiji Matsuda; Mas Yamada – wife, June; Barbara Kinkade – father, Fred Fukumoto.

**SPECIAL DONATION - BUILDING FUND:** Bill & Janet Sakahara – in memory of Fred Fukumoto; Oregon Buddhist Temple.

**SANGHA BOARD MEETINGS:** All members are invited to attend any of the following board meetings: 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. The venue for the March 25 Board Meeting has not been determined. Jim Kurashige will look for a suitable restaurant. Further info will be sent out in an email. If anyone else is interested in attending and needs the agenda, please contact Stan Isa at 592-06846 or Roy Suzuki at 480-0352.

**APRIL MEMORIALS:** It is unnecessary to bring memorial flowers since we will be having the floral *hanamido* on display for our

Hanamatsuri service. However, if you wish to make a special memorial or Hanamatsuri donation, please do so with our treasurer, Pati Lira.

- 4/13 Tom Hanagami, Husband of Sally Hanagami
- 4/16 Tamotsu Matsuda, Father of Sadako Wanless
- 4/18 John Fukumoto, Son of Mabel Fukumoto
- 4/20 Tsuyako Yamada, Mother of Bill Sakahara
- 4/21 OchitoKosora, Mother of Dan Kosora & grandmother to John
- 4/21 Kiyoko Koyanagi, sister-in-law of Chizuyo Reynierse

**HAPPY APRIL BIRTHDAYS** to the following: 4/1 Tia Okano; 4/3 Fred Yamano; 4/4 Jason Sando; 4/5 Steven Suzuki; 4/8 Tom Yanagihara; 4/11 Thomas DeMann, Stefanie Muraoka; 4/13 Kyle Watanabe; 4/15 Alan Takemoto; 4/22 Darrel Matsuyama; 4/24 Megan Arakaki; 4/29 Brent Sumida; 4/30 Mits Nakayama.

**HAPPY APRIL ANNIVERSARIES:** 4/2 Cathy & Delwayne Arakaki; 4/11 Katie & Dan Kosora; 4/13 Mike & Becky Suyeyasu; 4/27 Jason & Marlo Sando.

**THANK YOU TO** Sandi Hiyane who has volunteered this past year to organize all the birthday cards and small gifts for the Dharma School students. If there are any additional birthdays, please contact Sandi during our service so the memorials and birthdays may be updated.

**KIKUO & KAORU OGAWA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP:** Applications are now available for the Kikuo and Kay Ogawa Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship is available to anyone that desires to further his or her education. Requirements are: 1) Member of a Buddhist Temple/Sangha (consideration will first go to LV Buddhist Sangha members); 2) High School diploma or equivalent (can be waived); 3) Application/Acceptance to a university, college, trade school, or institution. The scholarship for \$1000 is to be used for tuition and/or books. If you or anyone you know would interested in going to college/change vocations/finishing a degree or just interested in furthering their education, please forward this information. Application are available from Caryl Suzuki ([yxsuzuki@cox.net](mailto:yxsuzuki@cox.net)) or Patty Yamano ([patty.yamano@gmail.com](mailto:patty.yamano@gmail.com)) Applications are due by April 30.

**MAY KIESHIKI/AFFIRMATION CEREMONY, cancelling PANCAKE BREAKFAST:** Our Mother's Day Third Annual Pancake Breakfast will be postponed until next year due to our grand opening of the new place. Next year we will serve the mothers before the May service, but for this year, we are planning to have Bishop Umezu confer Buddhist names to anyone wanting to obtain one. Enclosed is the information to fill out and return ASAP so the BCA (Buddhist Churches of America) office in San Francisco can begin to match up the meaning of the name selected with Buddhist kanji. The board will plan the May service and grand opening activities to be announced after its board meeting on March 25.

**April Cultural Event:** Charles Herring hosts the Asian Pacific Dreams Festival, his Aloha Cultural Preservation Community Project. We are one of the guest culture groups representing Japan, Thailand, Hawaii, China, Tahiti, Philippines. The day will have free cultural performances, ethnic displays. All ages. He's done this for a few years at the Green Valley Library, 2797 N. Green Valley, Henderson, NV. Sangha Obon Dancers will be in the Library at 12:30 and out on the patio at 1:00. Wayne Tanaka will give a short presentation.

**BUILDING UPDATE:** The permits have been received and the construction can now begin in earnest. The trenches dug for the sewer/drains have been filled with concrete. The concrete will have to cure for three weeks before it can be sealed and stained. In the meantime, the JACL room will be completed, some of the walls will be framed, and the HVAC ducting will be installed. We are still on schedule to be completed in time for the May Mother's Day service. Donations have been pledged or received for the refrigerator (\$1,500) and the new cabinet for the *obutsudan* (\$3,400). If you would like to make a donation for a specific item, you may do so. Some examples are: (4) microwave ovens; triple compartment sink; cabinets; shelving; (6) ceiling fans; (12) round banquet tables; security system w/video cameras; marquee sign; and countertop appliances. The board will discuss publishing a "registry" or "wish list" with the items needed and their approximate costs. This could help us fund many of the items needed to finish the building.

If you would like to see the construction in progress, there should be someone there every weekday from now on, so you can drop by to take a look. Call Roy at 702 480 0352 if you have any questions or would like to know when he will be on site.

