



DR. TODD TSUCHIYA TO PRESIDE AT OUR APRIL 14 SERVICE



Dr. Todd Tsuchiya is a retired dentist from Minneapolis, Minnesota. He is currently completing his studies at the Institute of Buddhist Studies in Berkeley, CA, where he is pursuing his Masters of Divinity degree. He is scheduled to go to Japan for Tokudo training in July, 2019.

HANAMATSURI

Hanamatsuri, or Spring Flower Festival, commemorates the birth of Buddha, and it will be celebrated at our service on Sunday, April 14, at 10 a.m. Volunteers may arrive an hour early to help with the preparations.

The *hanamido* is a small house of flowers. During *oshoko*, everyone is encouraged to pour sweet tea over the small statue of the Buddha inside, celebrating his birth, when he stood and pointed to heaven and earth, and sweet rain fell.

Following the service, we will have our traditional Hanamatsuri Potluck, so please bring your favorite dish to share.

REMEMBER ME

By Rev. Ken Yamada

Imagine a good friend calls and says, "Hey this Sunday, let's meet at the temple for service!" Some of you may go, but I'd bet most would answer, "Nah, I'm busy," or "I need sleep," or "The Raiders are playing," or give some other reason.

Now imagine that friend passed away. Just hearing his or her name and "service this Sunday" you'd probably think, "No matter what, I must go" and attend the memorial service or funeral.

Such is the power of a name. While alive, it's easy to ignore a loved one, argue, fight, and not listen. Our egos clash, thinking we are right and the other is wrong. However once gone, that person's name and voice may grow stronger than ever. We may begin to listen. During his years traveling the countryside, the Buddha stopped in villages, where he taught many people before moving on. Once, a man asked the Buddha, "When you are gone, who will teach us? Who will be our guide?"

The Buddha replied: "Do not worry. When I am gone, think of me. Call my name. Remember the Dharma, the teachings. The Buddha is always with you." In Buddhism, "to contemplate" or "remember" is "nen" and "Buddha" is "butsu" in Japanese. These form the word "Nenbutsu," also "Nembutsu." These are the roots of our Nembutsu tradition in Jodo Shinshu, in which we call the Buddha's name by saying, "Namu Amida Butsu." "Calling" also implies "hearing," which really is more important. Do you hear the Buddha? If you hear—although he is not physically present—we are guided by the Buddha's teachings.

Loved ones who are physically gone may guide us in this way. We remember them, their smiles, words, actions, teachings, and kindness. They affect who we are, how we think, and what we do. In that sense, they are like Buddhas to us. As the Buddha teaches, if we forget, we need only call their names and remember to know they are with us.

A loved one who passes away forces us to confront the meaning of life—who we are and what life is really about. Asking, "What is death?" also means asking, "What is life?" Buddhism encourages us to see that our lives come from and are connected to lives of the past. Being connected doesn't mean, "We are two," it means "We are One." Each month, during our Shotsuki memorial service, we reflect on loved ones who passed away that month. We hear their names and offer incense in appreciation for their lives, which continue to live in us. It is a bond unbroken by time or place. In this way, we transcend life and death.

In our Buddhist tradition, we have various services that connect us to these lives passed, beginning with a "makurakyo" or bedside service, immediately following death. Next is a funeral, typically followed by a 49-day service and various anniversary date services such as one year, three years, seven years and so forth. There's also Obon in the summer and Eitaiyo (Perpetual memorial).

Through these services, we are encouraged to remember our connection to others, that we always are together, that we are One.

Our loved ones are calling us. Listen and you will hear.



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Wine glass image by Getty Images



FOOD ONLY

Please Donate

\$5

If you don't
drink but want
to have food
and fun!

ANOTHER FUN BINGO GAME AT SANGHA

By MA Dave Hopper

After our March second service, the Sangha had another fun time playing bingo. Led by our emcee Wayne Tanaka, we played different types of bingo like hard luck and black out in addition to regular bingo. The prize winners included Grand Prize Winner Gay Kurashige, her daughter Chelsea and her mother-in-law Tay (2), Al Kayatani, 9-year-old Bode, Takako (2), Myke Tanaka, Eileen Castle (2), and Harry Oyama.

Everyone had a blast. It feels so good to have so much fun together. If you haven't played bingo at the Sangha, you're missing out. Please join us for a fun break from the frantic, stressful world out there once a month with Sangha bingo. And if you have anything to donate for a prize, please bring it to the next service. Prizes range from all types of items to gift certificates to cash prizes. Hope to see you there!

LAS VEGAS BUDDHIST SANGHA COLUMBARIUM RESERVATIONS



The Las Vegas Buddhist Sangha Columbarium is finished. It will be on display at our April service, and it will be dedicated at our service in May. Niches are now available for reservations.

A survey of prices in Las Vegas yielded an average cost of \$3,000 to \$5,000 per niche. There are additional costs for opening and closing, engraving, etc. In contrast, our Sangha prices are very low. Sangha costs are: **\$500** for 7"W X 8"H by 12"D (Family), **\$650** for 7"W X 10"H by 12"D (Large), or **\$800** for 7"W X 12"H by 12"D (XL-Tall), or 12.5"W X 7"H by 12"D (XL-Wide). There is a \$75 fee/year for maintenance for all sizes. For \$500, any size niche will be designated "Perpetual," which means that all maintenance fees are waived in perpetuity. Several niches are already reserved.

We will provide a Columbarium Lease Agreement Form and you may submit it to MA Michael Tanaka with your check.

For questions, please contact: MA Michael Tanaka at michaelmtanaka@yahoo.com, or 702.878.6930.

Thank you for your support for the well-being and future growth of our Sangha.

MAY 10TH BASEBALL EVENT CANCELLED

The May 10th Aviators Nikkei night has been cancelled. It was difficult to rally the support needed in the short time frame that was allotted.

The movie, *American Pastime*, will be shown at the Sangha after one of our future services.

We thank everyone for their efforts in getting this very worthwhile project off the ground. Maybe next year?

April Memorials

- 13 Tom Hanagami Husband of Sally Hanagami
- 16 Tamotsu Matsuda Father of Sadako Wanless
- 18 John Fukumoto Son of Mabel Fukumoto
- 20 Tsuyako Yamada Mother of Bill Sakahara
- 21 Kiyoko Koyanagi Sister-in-law to Chizuyo Reynierse

SANGHA MEETING FOR WOMEN

by Dave Hopper MA

It's finally time to start the Buddhist Women's Association chapter at LVBS. There will be a meeting after *Hanamatsuri* service and potluck lunch so the women can get together and begin our BWA chapter formally. Cathy Arakaki and Eileen Castle will help get the meeting off the ground so, if you have any questions, ideas, etc., please contact them. Eileen may be reached at (702) 371-9838 or ecastle@gmx.com. Cathy may be contacted at arakakict@gmail.com.

As you know, Lady Kujo was the founder of BWA during the Russo-Japanese War in 1904-1905. The BWA helped the war victims and their families in many ways. During the Great Kanto earthquake, the BWA helped the victims and families. They founded Asoka Hospital, Kyoto Women's University and high school, and the Tsukiji Betsuin in Tokyo. They helped the poorest and sickest people. Lady Kujo developed sepsis and died on February 7, 1928 at the age of 40. As you can see, Lady Kujo and the women of BWA were nothing short of absolutely incredible. There is no reason that the women of LVBS can't also do amazing things.

The general mission statement is to cultivate religious awareness as Jodo Shinshu women and promote fellowship among its members; to serve and support the Las Vegas Buddhist Sangha, and contribute services to the welfare of the community. I will bring to the service all the information received regarding setting up the BWA and becoming an official chapter.

From August 30 through September 1, 2019, the World Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations will be holding their conference in San Francisco. It would be great if LVBS had some women representatives at the conference. For more information, please go to www.wbwconvention.org.

Let's let the world know how great the LVBS Buddhist women are! See you at *Hanamatsuri*!

In Gassho.

Dr. David Hopper, MA

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Center Rental	(619)888-5301
Dharma Ed.	(702)371-0947
Illness/Death	(702)806-5520
Sangha Crafts	(818)219-6982
Editor	(702)228-3071



Gay Kurashige with Rev. Ken Yamada



Meya Stout with her family



Chelsea Kurashige with Dharma School Class



Columbarium with LED lights on



Columbarium being delivered



Gay with Bingo Grand Prize



LVBS COLUMBARIUM

The columbarium is installed in its own enclosure at the back of the main hall. It has interior LED lighting, locking glass doors, and is supported by a steel frame with wheels, so it can be moved out for special occasions, or when we move to a larger building.

It will be dedicated at our May service, but you may reserve your space at any time. There are already a couple of spaces taken. Please see page 3 for prices and sizes.