



## Jan/Feb Highlights

- **1/25 Sun**  
Temple Annual Mtg
- **2/1 Sun 10:00 AM**  
February Shotsuki  
Monthly Memorial
- **2/11 Wed 7:30 PM**  
Temple Board Mtg.
- **2/14 Sat 5:00—8:00 PM**  
YBA Spaghetti Dinner  
and Bingo Night
- **2/15 Sun 10:00 AM**  
Nirvana Day & Pet  
Memorial Service
- **2/15 Sun 10:00 AM**  
Nirvana Day & Pet  
Memorial Service
- **2/18 Wed 7:30 PM**  
Bonehead Buddhism &  
Jodo Shinshu Seminar
- **2/27-28, 3/1**  
National Council Mtg.  
(Irvine, CA)

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## MOUNTAIN VIEW BUDDHIST TEMPLE

Volume 48 Number 2

### Can Animals Become Buddha?

By Reverend Dean Koyama

Again, Sariputra, in that land there are always many kinds of rare and beautiful birds of various colors, such as swans, peacocks, parrots, saris, kalavinkas and jivamjivakas. Six times a day, birds sing with melodious and delicate sounds, which proclaim such teachings as the five roots of goodness, the five powers, the seven practices leading to Enlightenment, and the eightfold Noble Path. On hearing them, all the people of that land are mindful of the Buddha, the Dharma, and the Sangha....These birds are a manifestation by Amida Buddha so that their singing can proclaim and spread the Dharma.

—Amida-kyo

**There is a special bond  
that we have with animals  
and  
they have always  
played an important role  
in Buddhism.**

According to the legend of the historical Sakyamuni Buddha, Queen Maya dreamt of a 6-tusked, white elephant just prior to becoming pregnant with Prince Siddhartha after

many unsuccessful years of trying to bear an heir. In his youth, he saw his mean cousin, Devadatta, shoot a flying swan with an arrow. After the bird had fallen to the ground, Prince Siddhartha rushed to the bird taking it away from Devadatta and nursed it back to health. This incident revealed the great compassion of one who would later become a Buddha.

In the *Amida-kyo* that we chant occasionally here at our Sunday services, in describing the Pure Land of Utmost Joy, the Buddha describes that there are magnificently beautiful birds of all



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!** As I write this, my final message as Temple President, I must

### President's Message

By Russ Nakano

admit feeling a bit melancholy...or it could just be something I ate. Currently the weather outside is actually very warm and clear for January, It's probably in the low 70's, just as predicted by

Mike Inouye's friend Craig Herrera. ("Traffic and weather every morning on NBC Bay Area"... right, Mike?) Well, as much as I appreciate this great weather I realize that it will not last, because one of the many things that Reverend Dean has taught me is

# february 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> 8:30 AM Morning chanting 10:00 AM Sunday Service/Shotsuki Hoyo 11:00 AM Dharma School 11:30 AM YBA meeting 12:00 PM Taiko 12:15 PM YBA/YBA Hall	<b>2</b> 7:00 PM Girl Scouts 7:00 PM Kendo 7:00 PM Religious planning comm. meeting	<b>3</b> 6:00 PM Taiko 7:00 PM Shodo Kai	<b>4</b> 7:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Scouts & parents meeting 7:30 PM Tri-City Youth Group	<b>5</b> 9:00 AM Senior activity/crafts 6:00 PM Taiko	<b>6</b> 10:00 AM Rotary food delivery 4:30 PM Calligraphy class 7:00 PM Fuji Club	<b>7</b> 8:00 AM Rotary Crab Feed/prep 12:00 PM Kinyu Kai (Mr. Shioya)/classroom 7 & 8 2:00 PM Memorial Service 4:30 PM Rotary Club Crab Feed
<b>8</b> 8:30 AM Morning chanting 10:00 AM Sunday Service/Nirvana Day/Scouts Sunday 11:00 AM Dharma School 12:00 PM Taiko	<b>9</b> 7:00 PM Kendo	<b>10</b> 6:00 PM Taiko 6:30 PM Tri-City Newsletter 7:00 PM Nakayoshi Gakko/meeting/room 7 & 8 7:00 PM Shodo Kai	<b>11</b> 6:00 PM Cub Scouts/Blue & Gold dinner/pancake room 7:00 PM Cub Scouts & Scouts 7:30 PM Temple Board meeting	<b>12</b> 9:00 AM Senior activity/crafts 6:00 PM Taiko	<b>13</b> 4:30 PM Calligraphy class 5:00 PM YBA food prep 7:30 PM ABA meeting conference room/YBA Hall Echo deadline	<b>14</b> 9:00 AM BWA meeting 9:00 AM YBA Sangha Hall prep 10:00 AM Kinyu Kai 5:00 PM YBA Spaghetti Dinner
<b>15</b> 8:30 AM Morning chanting 10:00 AM Sunday Service/Nirvana Day/Pet memorial/Rev Seigen Yamaoka 11:00 AM Dharma School 12:00 PM Taiko	<b>16</b> 11:00 AM Senior Activity comm. meeting 7:00 PM Girl Scouts 7:00 PM Kendo	<b>17</b> 6:00 PM Taiko 7:00 PM Shodo Kai	<b>18</b> 7:00 PM Cub Scouts & Scouts 7:30 PM Bonehead Buddhism & Jodo Shinshu /conf. room & YBA Hall	<b>19</b> 9:00 AM Senior activity/crafts 12:00 PM Senior activity/speakers 6:00 PM Taiko 6:30 PM Echo	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 1:00 PM Memorial Service 4:00 PM Memorial Service
<b>22</b> 8:30 AM Morning chanting 10:00 AM Sunday Service 11:00 AM Dharma School 12:00 PM Taiko	<b>23</b> 7:00 PM Kendo	<b>24</b> 6:00 PM Taiko 7:00 PM Shodo Kai	<b>25</b> 7:00 PM Cub Scouts & Scouts	<b>26</b> 9:00 AM Senior activity/crafts 6:00 PM Taiko	<b>27</b> BCA National Council/Irvine, Ca	<b>28</b> 10:00 AM Kinyu Kai BCA National Council/Irvine, Ca

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

Updated 1/16/2009 (events subject to change)

## Mountain View Buddhist Temple

## Can Animals Become Buddha? (Cont'd from Page 1)

colors naturally singing. Their song is the music of the Dharma leading and encouraging all who hear it to awaken their Buddha nature and realize their highest potential by becoming a Buddha.

**Does a dog  
have  
Buddha nature?**

The Animal realm is one of the six realms of existence according to Buddhist cosmology (hell, hungry ghost, animal, fighting demons, humans and heavenly beings). Many of the Buddha's lessons are told in folk stories called Jataka Tales where the main character is some kind of animal (lion, deer, quail, etc.) and can be presumed to be the Buddha in a previous life.

In Zen Buddhism, a *koan* or a thought provoking question is intended to transcend ordinary conscious thinking and reasoning. You are supposed to meditate upon this question and then go to your Zen master's room and give a non-ego calculated response. The most famous Zen *koan* or puzzle is "What is the sound of the one-hand clap?" But probably ranking right with it is the

*koan*, "Does a dog have Buddha-nature?" The answer of course is the word "Mu." Although we associate the sound of "Mu" as being the sound a cow makes, the Chinese character for Mu means "nothing" or "empty".

Most importantly, animals play an important role in our everyday lives. Some have been a source of nourishment (chicken teriyaki) and a tool for work (horses, dogs, oxen to pull carts etc.). But probably the most important role that they have assumed is as companions to us as pets.



What is it about our relationship with our pets? They require a tremendous amount of care and attention. There are great costs involved. Yet we gladly make these sacrifices. For many of us, it is through our pets that we learn of life's lessons. We learn what it means to be responsible when someone or something is dependent upon our care.

About ten years ago, Linda and I had to come to the Bay Area to attend the BCA Centennial Celebration in San Francisco. It just so happened that my oldest brother was going camping around that time and offered to take our two older boys along with him especially since he also had two boys the same age.

But what to do with our youngest son? He was only about 3 or 4 at the time, and when he found out that his brothers were going camping with their uncle and cousins, he started crying, "I want to go too." It didn't help that his brothers were jumping for joy and gleeful chanting, "We're going camping! We're going camping," through the house. Tommy had never been without his brothers before nor ever stayed overnight without us. We tried to explain to him that he was too young and that Uncle Kenny couldn't watch all the boys by himself. Tommy's response was, of course, "It's not fair!"

Feeling very guilty, Linda was able to make arrangements for Tommy to sleep overnight at her brother's house in Berkeley. But Tommy responded, "I don't want to go to Uncle Richard's. I want to go camping too. It's not fair."

**Through our pets,  
we learn of  
life's lessons.**

**What it means  
to be responsible  
when someone or  
something is  
dependent  
upon our care.**

# The ECHO

## Can Animals Become Buddha? (cont'd from Page 3)

That's when we told him, "Uncle Richard has a dog."

Tommy's eyes widened with excitement. That was when the two older brothers looked at each other and asked us, "Can we stay with Uncle Richard too?"

Tommy had always wanted a dog. But it turns out that our kids had allergies. When Justin was still a baby, we put him down on a bed to take a nap at my brother's house when we were visiting. When he woke up, his eyes were all puffy and his face was all red. My brother had a cat that also slept on the bed. So we never got them a pet. Now, we told him, "You always wanted to have a dog. You can stay with Uncle Richard and learn what you have to do to take care of dog." He was beaming with excitement.

We dropped the two older boys off at their uncle's and proceeded to Uncle Richard's. Tommy couldn't wait. As soon as I parked the car, Tommy ran to the house. Just as he got to the front gate, he was greeted by Charlie, an energetic, black, frisky three-year old terrier mix. Charlie ran to Tommy, jumping up and down, trying

to lick his face. Tommy was only about two and a half feet tall weighing 30 lbs. Charlie was also about that tall and weighed about the same. It was love at first sight.

**What is the most important thing for a walking a dog?**  
**A plastic bag.**

When we were getting ready to leave Tommy, we asked him, "Are you going to be all right without us or your brothers?" Tommy just smiled. We were going to hug him goodbye, but Uncle Richard, Tommy, and Charlie were already on their way for a walk around the block. Tommy was holding on to the leash running for dear life as Charlie pulled him down to the corner. But Tommy had a huge smile on his face. We didn't have to worry about him at all.

After the weekend in San Francisco, we stopped at Uncle Richard's house in Berkeley to pick Tommy up. They weren't home when we ar-

rived. They had gone to the park to take Charlie for a walk in the park. As they came back, Tommy again, was holding on to the leash as tight as he could being pulled by Charlie who was running home at full speed.

After they got back, Tommy ran up to Linda and said, "Mommy, I learned how to take care of a dog and how to take it for a walk."

She answered, "You did?"

"And you know what's the most important thing for a walk?" Tommy asked.

"A leash" Linda guessed.

"Nope."

"What?"

"You have to take a plastic bag with you. And then you put the bag over your hand and then you pick up..."

"Uncle Richard made you pick up Charlie's poop?!"

As I said earlier, sometimes pets help us to learn about responsibilities.

Sometimes it is through our pets that we face death for



**Puppies in the Snow**  
Katsushika Hokusai  
Freer Gallery of Art

## President's Message (cont'd from Page 1)

that change is inevitable. Wait a sec.... perhaps the term was impermanence.

**As Temple President,**

**I am indebted  
to you all.**

There are other things that I have picked up from hanging around the Temple services and seminars. Interdependence and gratitude come to mind. I have been constantly inundated with the cohesion exhibited by our Temple members in the daily activities and chores encountered in supporting and maintaining the Temple grounds, buildings, activities and special events. Everyone seems to rise to the challenges posed, actually working together for a common purpose and depending on one another better than most families do. I can call that, "inter-dependence" of sorts. I am very thankful for the many cabinet officers, committee chairmen and the Board of Directors in general for their sacrifices and donation of time, energy and expense to help lead the way for the rest of the Sangha in supporting our model Tem-

ple. As Temple President I am indebted to you all.

I am, however, especially

**Reverend Dean Koyama**

grateful to three individuals. The first is **Reverend Dean Koyama** who came to our Temple only a few years ago with very big shoes to fill, having to follow a short list of previous ministers, all of whom were very popular among our Sangha. I have seen first hand all that the Reverend does for us at the Temple, much of which is not fully disclosed to the membership. I have become much closer to Reverend Dean and Linda during my two terms and consider them dear friends, and for this I am very grateful.

**President-elect Ron Murata**

I am also grateful to **President-elect Ron Murata**, and not because he accepted the position on the Board. Ron is the Temple member that I admire most, period. I have always appreciated his all around knowledge and enthusiasm for Jodo Shinshu, his unselfish attitude in stepping up where needed and for always fully supporting the organization to which he belongs. I speak not only of our

Temple, but of Tri-City Association, where we first became acquainted. I remember being impressed with Ron as he once coached his son Brent's B-Jr. basketball team, coming directly from work in his dress suit. He just laid his coat and tie on the bleachers and ran his team though practice while still wearing his dress shoes. Boy, what impressive dedication, I thought.

This will be Ron's second term a Temple President. Having been one of our youngest Temple Presidents, Ron had served his previous term in 1987, when Brent was only 12 years old and son Mark was still in elementary school. The Temple needed someone to step up to lead back then just as it does now, and Ron responded. Such unselfish dedication is one of the reasons I admire Ron Murata and why I am so grateful to him. Judy and I are both honored to call Ron and Carolyn our friends.

**My wife, Judy**

The last person that I would like to thank is **my wife Judy**. Without her love and support I would not be able to help out the Temple in any way, shape or form. I would

# The ECHO

## Can Animals Become Buddha? (cont'd from Page 4)

**We will  
acknowledge  
the great debt  
of gratitude  
to our pets  
by observing a  
pet memorial  
service  
February 15th**

the very first time. Somehow they become cherished members of our family. Perhaps it is because, through them, we are able to encounter a heart of unconditional love and devotion. Perhaps it is through them that we are able to feel what it is like to be accepted just the way that we are. Perhaps it is through them that we can feel a heart of infinite wisdom and compassion. Perhaps it is through them that we are able to meet a Buddha.

Does a dog have Buddha-nature? Can animals become Buddhas? Traditional Buddhism says no, they must first become humans to realize their suffering and awaken to the infinite wisdom and compassion of the Buddha.

Yet at times, there are instances when these very ani-

mals can exhibit that infinite wisdom and compassion of the Buddha already in this life. And they can do it far better than we, who are filled with blind passions, ignorance, greed and anger. Perhaps, there is some truth to the idea that in past lives the Buddha was a rabbit or a dog. How else can we benefit from the unconditional love and acceptance that we receive from these pets? For again, they show us the limitations of ourselves, and the unlimited potential that we have yet to realize. Does a dog have Buddha nature? Can animals become Buddhas? They already have.

Just as the Buddha realized the importance of animals in his life by requesting their presence before he died, we too must acknowledge the significance they have played

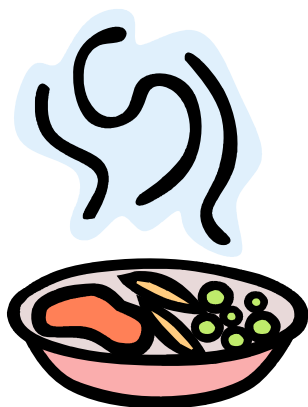
in our lives. So in conjunction with the day that the Buddha died, we will acknowledge the great debt of gratitude to our pets by observing a pet memorial service.

Please bring a picture or drawing of your pet that has passed away to the Nirvana Day/Pet Memorial service on February 15th. You can place the picture of your pet on a table in front of the altar and oshoko in memory of your beloved pet. Also, let Rev. Koyama know that name of your pet beforehand so that he can read all the names at the service as well.

You can e-mail him the name at [dkoyama@comcast.net](mailto:dkoyama@comcast.net) or call him at 650-964-9426.

**In Gassho,  
Rev. Dean Koyama**

## Thank You from ABA Mochitsuki Lunch Committee



Thank you, Fuji Club and Scouts (Boys & Girls), for your generous contribution of the turkey and pot luck dishes from your Christmas party.

This enables us to prepare and serve the turkey curry lunch, which we have been

doing for the last 25 years. Thanks to you and everyone's generous donations, we have served more than 6,300 members to date.

Thanks also to Hiroji and assistant Frances for the delicious *daikon oroshi mochi* treat which is enjoyed by all.

Last but not least, thank you ABA members and friends for your invaluable help in the kitchen and your delicious food donations.

Thank you, thank you.

### President's Message (cont'd from Page 5)

probably qualify to be a zombie. Judy gives me life.....a life of gratitude.

In all honesty I have surprisingly enjoyed my two terms as "leader of the pack", as "conductor of the orchestra", as "head honcho," or as the

"big cheese," but because you have all allowed me to handle the position in my own humorous way, for this I am grateful.

I think I will end my message now and get back to enjoying the pleasant weather. As the ABA daba doos recently sang,

*"Not a cloud in the sky, got the sun in my eyes, and I won't be surprised if it's a dream".....hmmm, just can't seem to get that tune out of my head!*

**In gassho,  
Russ Nakano**

### Okagesama de—for Toshikoshi Soba Help



As we cross over to the New Year (on soba noodles!), I like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to all the members of the Mountain View Temple who take care of our family 365 days a year. You provide a roof over our heads and stomachs that are constantly full; who could ask for more! We appreciate your friendship and support and guidance throughout the year.

今年も よろしく おねがいいたします。

I'd like to thank all the people

who braved the cold weather to come to the end of the year service on December 31, 2008. I would especially like to thank the following people who helped prepare and serve the soba noodles: John, Chau, Kaylen and Hayley Arima; Eric and Amy Arakaki, Jits and Jean Higa,



Sterling and Joanne Maki-shima. Ron and Carolyn Murata, Russ and Judy Nakano, Mieko Nakano and Tom and Joyce Tamaru. Also, a big thank you to the Arakaki boys, Kevin, Kyle, and Kendrick for helping our boys do all the dishes that night!

Last but not least, I would like to extend my gratitude to Imahara Produce for their generous donation for the ingredients for the soba noodles. Please show your appreciation by patronizing their store.

I hope the New Year of the Ox will bring good health and much happiness to each and every one of you!

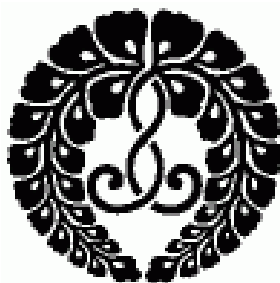
Thank you again for everything!

**In gassho,  
Linda Koyama**



# The ECHO

## HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM BWA



### Buddhist Women's Association

2008 has come and gone as fast as the past two years of my presidency. One of the most eventful occasions of the year was the Coast District BWL Conference held at MVBT on March 15th. Helping Misao Tanouye, 2007 President of CDBWL(MV), with the preparation of the conference from start to finish was quite a challenge. The support from our members, the Temple members, and Rev. Dean Koyama for his ministerial guidance made the conference a very organized and successful event.

The Year End Celebration--seeing a movie and having dinner and entertainment at the Sushi Tei Restaurant--was enjoyed by our members. Once again, the Dana Manju and Udon fundraisers were a great success; we had many compliments that the Udon was very good. It was nice to see the members preparing these fundraisers with such

**By Mitsue Fukuda**  
enthusiasm and pride in their work. In appreciation, we also gladly remember the help and support of others here at the temple.

Recently we were able to send in our second donation to the Jodo Shinshu Center for Buddhist Education (CBE). In 2006, the National FBWA passed a resolution to donate 5% to 10% of the unrestricted funds from each chapter for the next three years. Our last contribution will be in December 2009.

There will be many important conferences that will take place in the coming years. In 2009, the national BWA Conference will be held in Sacramento. At this conference, the National BWA Cabinet (from the Coast District) will be installed. In 2011, the BWA World Conference will be held in Kyoto, Japan. In 2012, the National

FBWA Conference (CD) will be held in San Jose. The Years 2009 to 2012 will keep us very active, but with your expertise and following the teachings of the Buddha and reciting the Nembutsu, I'm sure we may look forward to productive and interesting times for the coming years. Thank you everyone for your continuous and generous support and to Rev. Dean Koyama for this guidance and Linda and their sons for supporting our activities.

At our last meeting and election, Sumi Uyeda and I agreed to serve as co-Presidents for 2009. Along with our 2009 cabinet, we will do our best to support MVBT BWA and the temple activities. We again thank you and ask for your support to make 2009 a successful year.

**In Gassho,  
Mitsue Fukuda,  
BWA President**

### Donations

*Gratefully acknowledged*

**Mrs. Aiko Taniguchi,**  
In Memory of Robert  
Taniguchi (\$250)

**Mary and Shozo Mayeda,**  
Year End Donation (\$300)

**Dennis Tsukagawa,**  
In Memory of Mother,  
Florence (\$100)

**Yasuo and May Shimoguchi,**  
(\$20)





## 2009 Buddhist Women's Association Cabinet

<b>Co-Presidents</b>	Mitsue Fukuda & Sumi Uyeda
<b>Vice-President</b>	Toshiko Kawamoto
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Marie Ochi-Jacobs
<b>Corresponding Secretaries</b>	Toshiko Masaki, Minako Nakamoto & Sylvia Nara
<b>Treasurer</b>	Misao Tanouye
<b>Assistant Treasurer</b>	Mary Kato
<b>Social Chairpersons</b>	Alice Kaku, Tomiko Maruyama, Hideko Matsumoto & Kiyoko Sato
<b>Religious Chairpersons</b>	Chiharu Nishimura & Marie Ochi-Jacobs
<b>Dana Chairpersons</b>	Tamae Nagatsuyu, Masae Okuno & Kiyoko Sato
<b>Historian</b>	Minako Nakamoto
<b>Official Delegates</b>	Mitsue Fukuda, Toshiko Kawamoto, Misao Tanouye & Sumi Uyeda
<b>Past President</b>	Mitsue Fukuda
<b>Minister</b>	Rev. Dean Koyama

## 2009 ABA Cabinet & News

<b>President</b>	Sterling Makishima
<b>Vice President</b>	Dennis Tsukagawa
<b>Recording Secretary</b>	Audrey Inouye
<b>Asst. Recording Secretary</b>	Eileen Fujikawa
<b>Corresponding Secretary</b>	Ann Uyehara
<b>Asst. Corresponding Sec.</b>	Marilyn Ozawa
<b>Treasurer</b>	Don Fukuma
<b>Auditor</b>	Steve Tsuchida
<b>Historian</b>	Alice Ishida
<b>Asst. Historian</b>	Carolyn Murata
<b>Co-Social Chairperson</b>	Alice Ikenaga & Haruye Hoshi
<b>Membership Chairperson</b>	Reiko Tsuchida
<b>Asst. Membership Chair.</b>	Jeanne Ohara
<b>Hospitality Chairperson</b>	Jits Higa
<b>Advisors</b>	Rev. Dean Koyama & Ron Murata

## ABA

## Updates



On January 10, 2009 ABA members attended their annual New Year/Installation Dinner. This event was co-chaired by Ann & Min Uyehara and Mel and Audrey Inouye. ABA members enjoyed good food, great company and fun entertainment as well. ABA had the privilege of having a very famous duo "The Koyamas" sing. Thank you to all members who helped with this event (Russ, Judy, Mieko Ken, Reiko, Sadaa, Alice, Emi, Carolyn. Ron, Marilyn, Jeanne, Irving).

We like to thank Akio, the Koyamas and the Fujikawas

for the additional raffle prizes. Most of all we thank those who actively participated so we could all really enjoy the evening and laugh together.

# The ECHO

## The 2nd Installment of the Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Class

**What would it mean for the Buddha to be everywhere?**

**Who or what would the Buddha be in such a case?**

The following is from the 2nd month's assignments for JSCC session. I strongly encourage anyone who is interested in learning about Buddhism and our Jodo Shinshu traditions to sign up. Please note that this is simply my response and not the best or the only answer to this question.

### Question

In some of the writings (sutras, gathas) there seems to be an omnipresence about the Buddha. *"Just as there is no place where there is no sky, the Buddha abides everywhere universally."* Can you accept this? What would it mean for the Buddha to be everywhere? Who or what would the Buddha be in such a case?

### John's Answer

While this statement seems to imply omnipresence of "the Buddha", similar declarations by Shakyamuni Buddha are also used to illustrate that buddha nature is transcendental. If buddha nature is beyond time and space, then the *Dharmakaya*, (the ultimate realization of enlightenment) must also be so. By extension, a buddha, and in the verse cited ("the Buddha abides everywhere universally") Shakyamuni Buddha, is also transcendental. Thus, we

**By John Arima**

can interpret omnipresence to be focused on buddha nature. Since we are unable to see or touch buddha nature, the declaration expresses the vehicle through which buddha nature can be observed, one who has achieved enlightenment – a buddha.



In a discourse on buddha nature, Shakyamuni Buddha says, "there is no abode for the *Dharmakaya* of the Buddha; neither is there an abode for buddha nature. .... I say that all people universally possess buddha nature." The expression that "the Buddha abides everywhere" can be interpreted to mean that everyone, everywhere possesses the capacity to become enlightened. If all people possess buddha nature, then buddhas abide within all people. In this respect, Buddha can be everywhere.

In the same discourse, he says, "great loving-kindness and great compassion are called buddha nature. For both always accompany a bodhisattva like a shadow that follows its form. Since all people will necessarily realize both, I say that they all possess buddha nature. Great loving-kindness and great compassion are buddha nature, buddha nature is the Buddha." Since Amida Buddha is often referred to as the buddha of light and compassion, we can interpret the statement to mean that buddha nature is Amida Buddha and if all people will realize light and compassion they possess buddha nature and Amida Buddha. In this respect, the Buddha that abides everywhere is Amida Buddha.

Amida Buddha can be considered analogous to the Dharma if we consider how we as terrestrial beings are able to understand Amida Buddha. If by the series of relationships listed above, we determine that Shakyamuni Buddha is really stating that Amida Buddha (and the Dharma) exists everywhere, it can be accepted that "the Buddha" exists everywhere, within each individual in how we realize the Dharma.

## **MVBT 2009 Major Events & Gatherings**

January 1	New Years Day Shusho-E
January 4	Shotsuki Hoyo Service
January 18	Hoonko Service
January 25	Temple Installation
January 25	Temple Annual Meeting
February 1	Shotsuki Hoyo Service
February 14	YBA Spaghetti Dinner
February 15	Nirvana Day/Pet Memorial Day
February 27, 28, March 1	BCA National Council Meeting/Irvine, Ca
March 8	Shotsuki Hoyo Service
March 22	Spring Ohigan Service
March 28, 29	CD YBL Conference (Mtn View)
April 5	Shotsuki Hoyo Service (Hanamatsuri/Hatsumairi)
April 24, 25	FDSTL Conference (Mtn View)
May 3	Shotsuki Hoyo Service
May 10	Gotane Service
May 17	Chicken Teriyaki
May 24	Alta Mesa Memorial Park
June 7	Shotsuki Hoyo Service
July 5	Kangi-e-Obon Hatsubon Service
June 30, July 2, 7, 9, 14, 16	Odori Practice
July 18, 19	Obon Bazaar Festival
August 23	Sasaki Golf Tournament
September 6	Shotsuki Hoyo Service
September 20	Fall Ohigan
September 27	Sangha Day Picnic
October 4	Nembutsu Family Conference
October 11	Shotsuki Hoyo Service
October 16, 17	Fall Ohigan Seminar
November 1	Shotsuki Hoyo Service
November 8	Eitai-kyo Service/Keiro Kai
November 29	Eshini-ko/Kakushinni-ko Service
December 6	Shotsuki Hoyo Service/Bodhi Day
December 13	Mochitsuki
December 27	Osoji (clean-up)
December 31	Joya-e Year-end Service

***Subject to Change (Updated January 14, 2009)***

# The ECHO

## YBA News—Don't Miss Spaghetti Dinner February 14th



**February 14  
5 PM– 8 PM  
Sangha Hall**

**\$7.50  
Dinner  
(Served 5-7 PM)**

**\$5.00  
Bingo  
(6-8 PM)**

Our YBA Holiday Party in December was a huge hit! We played games, had a gift-exchange, and made elaborate gingerbread houses. On January 16-18th we will be heading up to Tahoe for our snow trip. We are all excited to ski or snowboard our way down the mountain.

**By Megan Matsumoto**  
Coming up very soon is our YBA's annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser on February 14th. Also the excitement is growing as we prepare for our Coast District YBA Conference. The conference will be held on March 28, 2009 at the Mountain View Buddhist

Temple. Our theme is Buddha, Family, and Friends.

**In Gassho,**

**Megan Matsumoto  
YBA President 2008-2009**

## Spaghetti Dinner & Bingo—Pre-Order by February 8th!

The Mountain View YBA is pleased to announce our annual Spaghetti Dinner. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy a delicious meal and a fun night with our other temple members.

Proceeds allow the YBA members to attend conferences as well as pay for other activities throughout the year. We also appreciate any donated goods, services, and of course any monetary donations. We all hope to see you there!

### To Pre-Order

Please fill out the order form below. Checks should be made out to Mtn. View YBA

Dinner and bingo tickets may also be purchased at the door. If you have any questions about the dinner or bingo donations, **please contact Eric Jong at (650) 967-8945**. Thank you very much and we greatly appreciate your continued support of the Mountain View YBA.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

Eat In     Take Out

	Quantity	Cost	Total
Spaghetti Dinners		X \$7.50	
Bingo		X \$5.00	
<b>Additional Donation</b>			

**TOTAL COST**

Please make checks to **Mountain View YBA**. Orders due **February 8th**.

## Shotsuki Hoyo (Monthly Memorial Service)

The Shotsuki (Monthly Memorial) Services are conducted and sponsored by the temple in memory of the past members who have passed away during a given month. It is not meant to be a substitute for families to observe their Family Memorial Service for their loved ones. The February Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service will on February 1st at 10:00 AM and held in memory for the following loved ones:

February

Monthly

Memorial

Service

Sunday

**February 1st**

**10:00 am**



<b>Bill Ichiro Asada</b>	<b>Clara Hoshida</b>	<b>Norio Nishimoto</b>
<b>Happy Hatsugoro</b>	<b>Matsuyo Idehara</b>	<b>Tsuneo Nishimura</b>
<b>Fukushima</b>	<b>Rev. Ryumei Iguchi</b>	<b>Edward Okamura</b>
<b>Thomas Gishi</b>	<b>Francis Ikenaga</b>	<b>Kiyoshi Sawamura</b>
<b>Yusaku Haruta</b>	<b>Jiro Iwata</b>	<b>Mary Somen</b>
<b>Tomiuemon Hiramoto</b>	<b>Jack Kawamoto</b>	<b>Rodney Togashi</b>
<b>Chiyoko Hirohata</b>	<b>Chiyeko Matsumoto</b>	<b>Toshio Yamaji</b>
<b>Shuichi Hori</b>	<b>Frank Matsumoto</b>	<b>Mildred Yamanaga</b>
<b>Henry Isamu Hoshi Jr.</b>	<b>Matsutaro Matsumoto</b>	<b>Kenneth Yasuda</b>
<b>Henry Hideo Hoshi</b>	<b>Shigeki Murai</b>	



If a name has been inadvertently left off, or you would like to add a family member to the Mountain View Buddhist Temple list of Shotsuki names, please contact Rev. Koyama either by e-mail at [dkoyama@comcast.net](mailto:dkoyama@comcast.net) or call the temple office at (650) 964-9426.

## Condolences



The Mountain View Buddhist would like to express its heart-felt condolences to the family and friends of:

May you find comfort in the embrace of Infinite Light and Life, the wisdom and compassion of Amida Buddha.

**June Hoshi**

*December 12, 2008*

*Namo Amida Butsu*

**Misao Helen Nakano**

*January 10, 2009*

# The ECHO

## Religious Planning Committee Report—February

### Upcoming

### Nirvana Day

### Guest Speaker

Rev. Seigen Yamaoka

February 15th

10:00 AM

### MVBT Services

February is the month our Scouting organizations chair our Sunday Services. On Feb. 1st, we will have our Shotsuki Hoyo service and our Boy Scouts will chair.

Feb. 8th will be Boy Scouts Sunday, so please join us for this special service commemorating the founding of the Boy Scouts and see our Temple Troop deliver the Dharma message!

We will celebrate Nirvana Day on Feb. 15th. Nirvana Day commemorates Shakyamuni Buddha's death and his passing on to parinirvana or final Nirvana. Rev. Seigen Yamaoka will be our Guest Speaker for this service. Also, there are various legends about the death of Shakyamuni Buddha which include references to animals gathering about him in his final moments. With respect to this, we will also include a Pet Memorial as part of our Nirvana Day service for the second year in a row. Those who have lost a pet in the past year or if you were un-

### By John Arima

able to attend last year's Nirvana Day / Pet Memorial service, please let Rev. Koyama know that you would like the name of your pet read in memorial at this service. Also, we will display a photo of your pet in front of the Onaijin for this service.



Finally, on Feb. 22nd our Temple's Girl Scout will chair our Sunday Service. Please come out and see how well this organization has grown in the short time since its organization.

### Buddhist Education

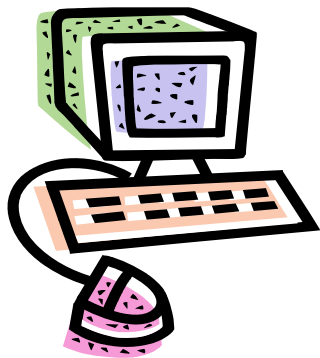
#### Opportunities at MVBT

The fourth and final "Bonehead Buddhism and Jodo Shinshu" seminar with Rev. Koyama, on February 18th will cover the traditions

and practices we follow in our Jodo Shinshu traditions. Anyone interested in this seminar series, please visit our Temple website, or contact Rev. Koyama or John Arima for more details.

We have decided to cancel our 2009 Spring Seminar this year due to many other events we will be holding at our Temple including the Coast District YBL Conference in March and the Federation of Dharma School Teachers League Conference in April.

Anyone interested in helping our Temple continue to have great learning opportunities like Rev. Koyama's "Bonehead Buddhism and Jodo Shinshu" seminars, please contact John Arima about how you can get involved. The Religious Planning Committee is looking for people who want to help form an informal group to help generate ideas and coordinate planning for new seminars. We are especially looking for people who would like to give input on our 2009 Fall Seminar.



## CURRENT EVENT SCHEDULE AND TEMPLE CALENDAR

### VISIT THIS LINK

[http://mvbuddhisttemple.org/home/index.php?option=com\\_gcalendar&Itemid=38](http://mvbuddhisttemple.org/home/index.php?option=com_gcalendar&Itemid=38)

## Religious Planning—JSCC Enrollment Closes 2/15

### Other Buddhist Education Opportunities

Enrollment is currently open for the next session of the Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course. Enrollment closes on February 15th, but the last session filled up before the deadline, so if you are interested in taking the JSCC it's best to enroll early. The cost is \$360 per year and the full course runs for two years. Each month there is a 30-40 page reading available for download and the assignment is to give a writ-

ten response to one of several questions about the readings. The assignments are essay form and range from 400-800 words. If anyone is interested in finding out more about the JSCC, please contact John Arima.

The Center for Buddhist Education invites the public to join in a monthly appreciation of Shinran Shonin's life and teachings and their relevance today, in 21st century America. The "Inspired by Shinran Shonin!" Dharma-

thons will take place monthly in 2009, on or around the 16th day (check website calendar for exact dates and times: [www.cbe-bca.org](http://www.cbe-bca.org)) at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley. The gatherings will feature dharma talks, chanting, films and cultural presentations reflecting a diversity of perspectives on the founder of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. Anyone interested in participating, please contact the CBE at (510) 809-1460 or visit [www.cbe-bca.org](http://www.cbe-bca.org).

## 2009 Memorial Services

Traditionally, Memorial Services are conducted for loved ones on certain anniversaries. If a death occurred in the following years, you are encouraged to conduct a Family Memorial Service.

<b>2008</b>	<b>1st year Service</b>
<b>2007</b>	<b>3rd Annual Service</b>
<b>2003</b>	<b>7th Annual Service</b>
<b>1997</b>	<b>13th Annual Service</b>
<b>1993</b>	<b>17th Annual Service</b>
<b>1985</b>	<b>25th Annual Service</b>
<b>1977</b>	<b>33rd Annual Service</b>
<b>1960</b>	<b>50th Annual Service</b>



As the schedule for the temple fills up quickly, you are advised to make arrangements with Rev. Dean Koyama as much in advance as possible to accommodate your date and time requests. Call the temple office to schedule your Family Memorial Service at 650 964-9426.

# The ECHO

## Spring Activities—Updated Schedule & Activities

**Senior  
Activities  
For  
Spring**

### Craft & Activities

Every Thursday  
February: 5, 12, 19, 26,  
9:00AM until 12:00PM.

### Guest Speaker Feb 19th

We will provide lunch and a guest speaker on the subject of Alzheimer Disease from the Alzheimer Association. She will speak to the group about the disease and medication that may help slow down the advance of the disease. Important information will be shared on the role of the caregiver.

### March 19th (Wednesday)

Lunch will be provided after craft session at 11:30AM. A different kind of activities of "Fun and Casino" games at 12:30PM provided by Dennis Tsukagawa. He is the new

owner of his business called "Vegas 888 Casino Parties" which he offered to bring many table gaming to teach us the many popular tables games. A possibilities of slot machines too. A fun afternoon for seniors or anyone wishing to learn a few tricks to the casinos games.

### April 16th

#### **Elkhorn Slough Safari Trip**

Elkhorn Slough Safari at Moss Landing trip has been planned. A whole day of sight seeing; museum, walking and lunch is planned. There will be two excursion of 22 people at a time. We are able to accommodate 44 capacity for this trip. Therefore, it will be a first come first serve basis. The price is

tentatively set at \$35.00 per person. The Senior Activities Group will subsidize half the cost of the bus.

Sign up for this will start February 1st. Call Chuck Uyeda at 408-736-5141.

Again, through your continued support, we are able to make these trips. Thank you to the many that have donated monetary, many crafts items, food items, and especially your time and effort.

We are truly grateful to the many for sharing with the group.

Arigato

ありがとう。

### **150 Club News**

At the January 14th Board meeting, the winner of the drawing for January 2009, was **Bob Tanaka**.

Thank you for participating in the 2009-150 Club.

This being the first drawing for 2009, there are still 11 more chances for a winner plus the big bonus drawing in December.

### **Toban/Revised Echo Schedule**

	<b>Toban</b>	<b>Echo</b>	<b>Article Deadline</b>
FEB	Zones 4 & 5	Feb 19	February 13
MAR	Zones 6 & 7	Mar 19	March 13
APR	Zones 8 & 9	Apr 16	April 10

Please note the revised article deadline, printing dates and email submission process. This is provide time to layout in the new format. Thank you.

Email all articles to [echo@mvbuddhisttemple.org](mailto:echo@mvbuddhisttemple.org)



# Join Girl Scouts—Or Just Get Some Cookies!



## Girl Scout Troop # 60736

### COME JOIN US!

Daisy are girls who are ages 5 through 6  
(K dg - 1st grade)  
Brownie are girls who are ages 6 through 8 (2nd - 3rd grade)  
Juniors are girls who are ages 8 through 11 (4th - 6th grade)

**MVBT Daisy Scout, Brownie Scout and Junior Troop meets on the 1st and 3rd Mondays of the month from 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM.**

For more info and to join:  
Naomi Nakano-Matsumoto [naoninm@aol.com](mailto:naoninm@aol.com)  
408-666-9367  
Debbie Ho [akemi\\_ho@sbcglobal.net](mailto:akemi_ho@sbcglobal.net)



### COOKIE TIME

Cookie Sales have begun.

Please support our temple Girl Scouts and buy lots of cookies.

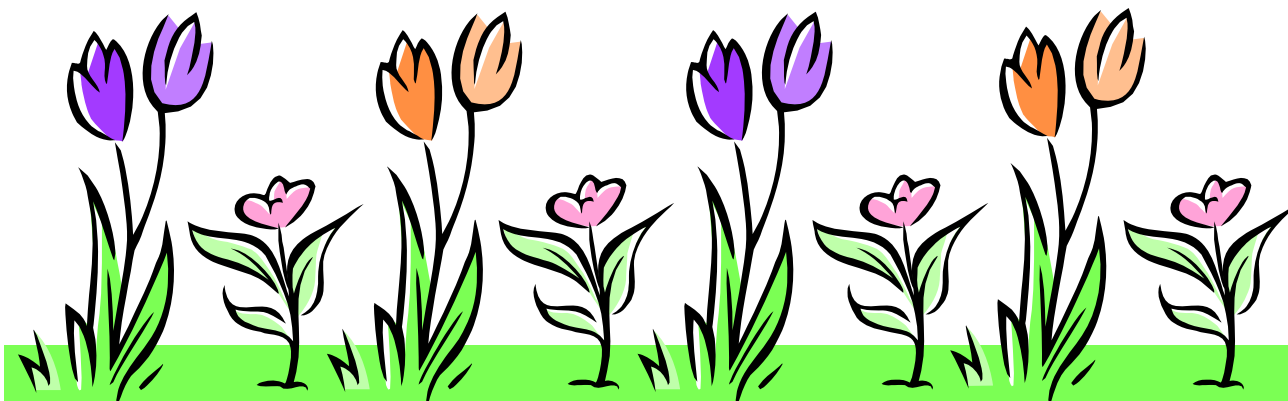
You can order from individual girls or wait for the Cookie Booth Sale on Girl Scout Sundry, Feb. 22



Cookies are \$4 per box



Girl Scouts builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.





# Dharma School



### DONATION THANK YOU'S

Kaylyn Arima - birthday  
Brianna Lee - birthday  
Jimmy Sato - birthday  
Anonymous \$150

### Welcome New Students

4th Grade  
Maya Vega

6th Grade  
Xoe Vega

### February

2/1	10 AM	Shotsuki Hoyo Service & DS
2/8	10 AM	Boy Scout Sunday & DS
2/15	10 AM	Sunday Service & DS
		Nirvana Day & Pet memorial
2/22	10 AM	Girl Scout Sunday & DS

### March

3/1	10 AM	Sunday Service & DS
		Hinamatsuri
3/8	10 AM	Shotsuki Hoyo Service & DS
3/15	10 AM	Sunday Service & DS
3/22	10 AM	Spring Ohigan Service & DS
3/29	10 AM	Sunday Service & DS

LOOKING  
**BACK**  
TO THE **FUTURE**

THE EARLY LIFE OF SHINRAN SHONIN

58th Annual FDSTL Conference  
April 25, 2009  
Mountain View Buddhist Temple

Look for your  
registration  
packets!

# march 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
<b>1</b> 8:30 AM Morning chanting 11:00 AM Dharma School 11:30 AM YBA meeting 12:00 PM Taiko 12:15 PM YBA/YBA Hall	<b>2</b> 7:00 PM Girl Scouts 7:00 PM Kendo	<b>3</b> 6:00 PM Taiko 7:00 PM Shodo Kai	<b>4</b> 7:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Scouts & parents meeting 7:30 PM Tri-City Youth Group	<b>5</b> 9:00 AM Senior activity/crafts 6:00 PM Taiko	<b>6</b> 4:30 PM Calligraphy class 7:00 PM Fuji Club	<b>7</b>																																																																																											
<b>8</b> 8:30 AM Morning chanting 10:00 AM Sun day Service/Shotsuki Hoyo 11:00 AM Dharma School 12:00 PM Taiko 2:00 PM Cub Scouts/Pinewood derby/Sangha Hall	<b>9</b> 11:00 AM Senior activity comm. meeting 7:00 PM Kendo	<b>10</b> 6:00 PM Taiko 7:00 PM Shodo Kai	<b>11</b> 7:00 PM Cub Scouts & Scouts 7:30 PM Temple Board meeting	<b>12</b> 9:00 AM Senior activity/crafts 6:00 PM Taiko	<b>13</b> 4:30 PM Calligraphy class 7:30 PM ABA meeting conference room / YBA Hall Echo deadline	<b>14</b> 9:00 AM BWA meeting 10:00 AM Kinyu Kai 7:00 PM Scouts Court of Honor/Sangha Hall																																																																																											
<b>15</b> 8:30 AM Morning chanting 10:00 AM Sunday Service 11:00 AM Dharma School 11:00 AM YBA meeting/conf. room 12:00 PM Taiko	<b>16</b> 7:00 PM Girl Scouts 7:00 PM Kendo	<b>17</b> 6:00 PM Taiko 7:00 PM Nakayoshi Gakko/meeting/room 7 & 8 7:00 PM Shodo Kai	<b>18</b> 6:30 PM Echo 7:00 PM Cub Scouts & Scouts	<b>19</b> 9:00 AM Senior activity/crafts 12:00 PM Senior activity/Senior Casino Day/Sangha Hall 6:00 PM Taiko	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 9:00 AM Oshiro Karate Dojo/Sangha Hall																																																																																											
<b>22</b> 8:30 AM Morning chanting 10:00 AM Sunday Service/Spring Ohigan 11:00 AM Dharma School 12:00 PM Taiko	<b>23</b> 7:00 PM Kendo	<b>24</b> 6:00 PM Taiko 7:00 PM Shodo Kai	<b>25</b> 7:00 PM Cub Scouts & Scouts 7:30 PM Tri-City Assn. meeting/Echo room	<b>26</b> 9:00 AM Senior activity/crafts 6:00 PM Taiko 7:00 PM Shodo Kai	<b>27</b> 6:00 PM YBA/CD conference/Sangha Hall & classrooms	<b>28</b> 7:00 AM YBA/CD conference/Sangha Hall, YBA Hall, & classrooms 10:00 AM Kinyu Kai																																																																																											
<b>29</b> 8:30 AM Morning chanting 10:00 AM Sunday Service 11:00 AM Dharma School 12:00 PM Taiko 12:00 PM YBA/CD conference/Sangha Hall	<b>30</b> 7:00 PM Kendo	<b>31</b> 6:00 PM Taiko 7:00 PM Shodo Kai	<table border="1" style="display: inline-table; margin-right: 20px;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">February</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td></tr> <tr><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" style="display: inline-table;"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">April</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th><th>M</th><th>T</th><th>W</th><th>T</th><th>F</th><th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td></tr> <tr><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table>				February							S	M	T	W	T	F	S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	April							S	M	T	W	T	F	S				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30		
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Updated 1/16/2009 (events subject to change)

## Mountain View Buddhist Temple

## In this Echo—Happy Holidays and A Joyous New Year



We hope that everyone enjoyed the holiday season, and wish you and your families well for the New Year.

Remember that you can also find a color pdf version online at:  
[www.mvbuddhisttemple.org](http://www.mvbuddhisttemple.org)

**In gassho,**

**The Echo Staff**

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**TIME DATED MATERIAL**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

[www.mvbuddhisttemple.org](http://www.mvbuddhisttemple.org)

575 North Shoreline Boulevard  
Mountain View, CA 94043



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