



## Apr Highlights

- **4/5, Sun 10:00 AM**  
HANAMATSURI  
Hatsumairi  
(Infant Presentation)
  
- April Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service  
**Guest Speaker: Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara, Jodo Shinshu Center**
  
- 12:00 PM**  
Hanamatsuri Luncheon
  
- **4/6, Mon 7:30 PM**  
Religious Planning Mtg
  
- **4/8, Wed 7:30 PM**  
Temple Board Mtg
  
- **4/19, Sun 10:00 AM**  
Graduating Sr. Speakers:  
**Leslie Hamachi & Doug Hasegawa**
  
- **4/24-25**  
FDSTL Conference
  
- **4/26, Sun 10:00 AM**  
Graduating Sr. Speakers:  
**Megan Matsumoto & Brent Hiramoto**

### In Every Issue

Rev. Dean's Msg	1, 3-4
President's Msg	1, 5
Calendar (Apr/May)	2, 15
Sr. News	7
Religious Planning	11
BWA	6
Dharma School	14
Donations	16-17

## Playing in the Forest

*And when they reach that Lotus-held world,*

*They immediately realize the body of suchness or dharma-nature.*

*Then playing in the forest of blind passions, they manifest transcendent powers;*

*Entering the garden of birth-and-death, they assume various forms to guide others.*

**(Shinran's Shoshin Nembutsu Ge,)**

**By Reverend Dean Koyama**

After a week of record rain-fall, this past week has brought out the sunshine. It has also brought out our Friday "Gardening" group led by Isamu Higa who have been hibernating over the long winter break. From now through the autumn, this group comes out once a week to prune and shape the trees and bushes that adorn our temple compound. Seeing them out here this morning reminded me of a couple of events in my distant past.

Shortly after Linda and I bought our first house in Bellevue, Washington, my father came up for a visit. Being a gardener, the first thing he did was to look at our yard. Carefully, he surveyed what was around, and what he needed. I had to drive him to all of the nurseries in town to buy many plants and trees. Then I had to fit them into the back of a small 1985 Toyota Corolla hatchback and bring them home.

Trying to be the dutiful son, I volunteered to help my father as he did his magic. I



## A Look of Gratitude, A "Japanese Bow"<sup>1</sup> and "Learning by Feeling"<sup>2</sup>

**By Ron Murata**

meeting was at the Saturday night banquet when Hiroji Kariya was made an honorary PhD, the first such honor presented by the Institute of Buddhist Studies.

As I reflect back, I think, the moment was magic. I, like Russ Nakano, Reverend Dean and a number of others moved to the front of the banquet hall to take pictures of what we anticipated to be a special moment. Dr. Payne,

# april 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <p style="text-align: center;">March</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td> </tr> <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> <tr> <td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </table> </div>			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					<p><b>1</b></p> <p>9:00 AM BWA ahn</p> <p>7:00 PM Cub Scouts</p> <p>7:00 PM Scouts &amp; parents/ meeting</p> <p>7:30 PM Tri-City Youth Group</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Senior activity/crafts</p> <p>6:30 PM Taiko</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>9:00 AM BWA manju making</p> <p>4:00 PM Taiko</p> <p>4:30 PM Callig- raphy class</p>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>12:00 PM Memorial Service</p> <p>1:00 PM Memorial Service lunch/YBA Hall</p> <p>1:30 PM Memorial Service</p> <p>3:00 PM Memorial Service</p> <p>4:00 PM Memorial Service</p> <p>5:00 PM Tri-City Youth Group/Awards nigh/ Sangha Hall</p>							
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																																																					
<p><b>5</b></p> <p>8:30 AM Morning chanting</p> <p>10:00 AM Sun day Servi- ce/Shotsuki Hoyoi/ Hanamatsuri/ Hatsumairi/R ev Kiyon- obu Kawahara</p> <p>11:00 AM Dharma School</p> <p>11:30 AM BWA/manju sales</p> <p>4:00 PM Eagle Scout/Sangha Hall</p>	<p><b>6</b></p> <p>7:00 PM Girl Scouts</p> <p>7:00 PM Kendo</p> <p>7:30 PM Reli- gious Planning meeting</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p>8:00 AM BWA/ Sangha Hall/ manju making</p> <p>6:30 PM Tai chi</p> <p>6:30 PM Taiko</p> <p>6:30 PM Tri-City Newsletter/ Echo room</p> <p>7:00 PM Shodo Kai</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p>7:00 PM Cub scouts &amp; Scouts</p> <p>7:30 PM Temple Board meeting</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>8:00 AM BWA/ Sangha Hall/ manju making</p> <p>9:00 AM Senior activity/crafts</p> <p>6:30 PM Taiko</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>4:30 PM Callig- raphy class</p> <p>7:30 PM ABA meeting/conf. room &amp; YBA Hall</p> <p>8:00 PM YBA volley- ball/Sangha Hall</p> <p>Echo Deadline</p>	<p><b>11</b></p> <p>9:00 AM BWA meeting</p> <p>10:00 AM Kinyu Kai</p>																																																	
<p><b>12</b></p> <p>8:30 AM Morning chanting</p> <p>10:00 AM Sunday Service</p> <p>11:00 AM Dharma School</p> <p>11:30 AM YBA meeting</p> <p>12:00 PM Taiko</p> <p>12:15 PM YBA/YBA Hall</p>	<p><b>13</b></p> <p>11:00 AM Senior activity comm. meeting</p> <p>7:00 PM Kendo</p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p>6:30 PM Tai chi</p> <p>6:30 PM Taiko</p> <p>7:00 PM Shodo Kai</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>6:30 PM Echo</p> <p>7:00 PM Cub Scouts &amp; Scouts</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>7:00 AM Senior activity / Elkhorn Slough</p> <p>9:00 AM Senior activity/crafts</p> <p>6:30 PM Taiko</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>8:00 PM YBA volleyball/ Sangha Hall</p>	<p><b>18</b></p> <p>2:30 PM Memo- rial Service</p> <p>3:00 PM Cub Scouts over- nighter/Sangha Hall</p> <p>4:00 PM Memo- rial Service</p>																																																	
<p><b>19</b></p> <p>8:30 AM Morning chanting</p> <p>10:00 AM Sunday Service</p> <p>11:00 AM Dharma School</p> <p>12:00 PM Taiko</p>	<p><b>20</b></p> <p>7:00 PM Girl Scouts</p> <p>7:00 PM Kendo</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p>6:30 PM Tai chi</p> <p>6:30 PM Taiko</p> <p>7:00 PM Nakayo- shi Gakko/ meeting/room 7 &amp; 8</p> <p>7:00 PM Shodo Kai</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>7:00 PM Cub Scouts &amp; Scouts</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Senior activity/crafts</p> <p>6:30 PM Taiko</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Scouts/ Sangha Hall kitchen/??</p> <p>FDSTL conf./all Sangha Hall &amp; YBA Hall</p>	<p><b>25</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Scouts/ Sangha Hall kitchen/??</p> <p>10:00 AM Kinyu Kai</p> <p>FDSTL confer- ence/all Sangha Hall &amp; YBA Hall</p>																																																	
<p><b>26</b></p> <p>8:30 AM Morning chanting</p> <p>10:00 AM Sunday Service</p> <p>11:00 AM Dharma School</p> <p>1:00 PM Tri-City Keiro Kai/ Sangha Hall</p>	<p><b>27</b></p> <p>7:00 PM Kendo</p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p>6:30 PM Tai chi</p> <p>6:30 PM Taiko</p> <p>7:00 PM Shodo Kai</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p>7:00 PM Cub Scouts &amp; Scouts</p> <p>7:30 PM Bazaar meeting</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p>9:00 AM Senior activity/crafts</p> <p>6:30 PM Taiko</p>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <p style="text-align: center;">May</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td>S</td><td>M</td><td>T</td><td>W</td><td>T</td><td>F</td><td>S</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>1</td><td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td> </tr> <tr> <td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>31</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td> </tr> </table> </div>		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 3/16/2009 (events subject to change)

## Mountain View Buddhist Temple

## Playing in the Forest (Cont'd from Page 1)

also hoped that maybe I could learn a few things along the way. As my father began, I asked him,

“Dad, do you have a plan of what you’re going to do?”

“No,” was his detailed reply.

“Well, Dad, do you have a design to work from?”

“No.”

“Well, Dad, how will you know when you’re done?”

“When I’m finished, that’s when I’m done.”

I ceased asking any more questions and tried not to get in his way.

Just to make me feel helpful, he would give me a few tidbits of work here and there. “Dig here.” he would say, and I would dig, not knowing how

**“When I’m  
finished,  
that’s  
when I’m  
done.”**



deep nor how wide, wondering what would fill the hole.

Within a day, my father had skillfully landscaped what was once a dull, boring yard into a beautiful Japanese garden with big rock boulders, gravel, moss, logs, a stone lantern and cherry trees.

This reminded me of the house that I grew up in Sacramento. We had the only Japanese garden on the block at the time. And I remember waiting for the Sakura (Cherry blossom) tree to bloom. Every morning when spring was near, I would look out of my window to see if it had bloomed yet.

When it finally did, there were so many delicate blossoms of fragile pink that one shouldn't help but notice the tree. Once there were so many blossoms on that tree

that all the branches looked like they were sagging.

As the tree grew with the passage of time, one branch reached over and almost touched the roof forming an arch of pink cherry blossoms over the walkway to our front door inviting any guest to pass underneath. Our neighbors always came by to see all the trees and flowers in full bloom during the spring. Often people driving by would stop, say hello, and marvel at the Sakura tree standing proudly. There was one lady who had stopped and said that only a Japanese gardener could have designed such a garden and asked my father to take care of her yard.

And so with the arrival of Spring, I think about my Dad. I wish that I could watch him again work his magic as every movement was part of a

# The ECHO

## Playing in the Forest (cont'd from Page 3)

**To awaken to  
the Buddha mind  
is to realize  
the compassion  
that we have  
already received  
and  
will continue  
to receive  
all through  
our lives.**

dance in his grand scheme of placing the trees and plants in its proper place. However, I can only try to remember how he did it since he has passed on several years ago.

Vasubandhu, one of the Seven Masters of our Jodo Shinshu Tradition described Five Gates of Merit. The first four deal with the merit that benefits one's self. The Fifth Gate called Playing in the Forest is the merit involved when one benefits others.

The activity when one benefits others is not toilsome like "Work" rather it is like playing and frolicking in a forest. Shinran Shonin uses this concept by Vasubandhu to describe the compassionate activity of those who try to guide others toward enlightenment.

As I reflect upon my Father's activity in making a garden, truly it was not work. It was something he enjoyed doing because he knew others would also enjoy the fruits of his labor. He did not do it to satisfy himself, rather he did it because it came naturally to him.

As Shinran expresses in his Shoshin-ge, when a person realizes the supreme enlightenment and becomes a Buddha, he possesses unlimited powers and works in a variety of ways to guide others to this same awakening. As I watch the Friday "Gardening" group work on the garden of the temple, I remember the natural compassionate activity of my father and the gardens that he created over the many years. Each garden has changed as the plants and trees age, but the purpose

will always be the same. They are a reminder that there is a greater beauty in our lives when we think of others. That is truly the Buddha mind. To awaken to this mind is to realize the compassion that we have already received and will continue to receive all through our lives. To truly understand this is to awaken to the reality of Amida Buddha's great vow of wisdom and compassion. And then Namo Amida Butsu can be said freely and naturally, just as if we were playing in a forest.

Happy Spring Ohigan,

**Gassho,**

**Rev. Dean Koyama**

## Welcome New Members!

The Mountain View Buddhist Temple warmly welcomes the following new members:

### Zone 2

**Keleigh Collins  
Hiroshi Miura**

### Zone 4

**Setsuko Shimizu**

### Zone 5

**James Lund & Jill  
Kunishige  
Kazuyo Yonemoto**

### Zone 6

**Ryo Shishido**

### Zone 8

**Craig & Betty Hamasaki**

### Zone 13

**Joy Sakamoto**

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

Dean of the Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS), made the previously unpublicized presentation. After a brief description of Hiroji's instrumental role in the development of the BCA and the IBS, Dr. Payne with an emotional look on his face—a look of gratitude extended a plaque to Hiroji while making a “Japanese bow”. Hiroji received the plaque while reciprocating with a Japanese bow. No further words were spoken—I am sure that between the two of them, no further words were needed. I wonder if any picture taken really captured the moment.

Reflecting further on this moment, I wonder what the audience gained or learned from this moment. Did I learn anything?

I am sure that the people who as contemporaries of Hiroji and Dr. Payne and who travelled the same path had the same sense of gratitude as Dr. Payne. For many others who are aware of Hiroji, Dr. Payne and others but who have not experienced their hardships, frustrations, and joys did we

recognize the significance of the moment? Do we recognize and appreciate the benefits that will be coming to us long into the future?

I have known Hiroji for over 30 years. When I started to become active at the Mountain View Buddhist Temple, he was already a recognized and respected leader of our Temple, the BCA and IBS. While I didn't take part in the BCA and IBS activities that Hiroji played key roles in, I can imagine his dedication and the effort that he made. When Dr. Payne made the presentation, I could feel the emotion of the moment build in me. I think that maybe this is part of what Reverend Harada meant by “learning by feeling”.

At last month's session of “Bonehead Buddhism” Reverend Dean spoke to us about how difficult it is for individuals on their own to attain enlightenment. He also spoke about another way, the way of enlightenment coming to us – the Jodo Shinshu way. I think that the IBS and the Center for Buddhist Educa-

tion (CBE) are a part of enlightenment coming to us. The efforts of Hiroji, his contemporaries and many others before them have nurtured and cultivated Jodo Shinshu in America of which the most recognizable forms are our Temple, the BCA, the IBS and the CBE. Do we recognize and appreciate them? Have we the look of gratitude?

**In gassho,**

**Ron Murata**

### (1) “Japanese bow”

A simple elegant gesture without words being spoken, that expresses a heart-felt message, which sometimes cannot be expressed in words; sent by one person and recognized and reciprocated by the other

—Reverend Dean Koyama

### (2) “Learning by feeling”

A way of learning different from the typical Western way of study and education

—Reverend Marvin Harada

Have we  
the look of  
gratitude?



# The ECHO

## ABA Reno Trip on April 19th

After a busy March when ABA members participated in the weekly Sunday services many members shall be taking their annual trip to Reno. On April 19th the group will journey by bus to Reno and stay at Circus Circus. Thanks to Aiko Sugimoto for organizing this fun trip. Good Luck to all!!

In May ABA will be manning a cooking shift for the Temple Chicken Teriyaki fund raiser. Anyone who is available on

May 16 12noon4pm and would enjoy cooking chicken with fun company please contact Sterling Makishima. Refreshments are provided.

### DONATIONS

#### **Gratefully Acknowledged**

**Eileen & Richard Fujikawa**  
*Celebrating the birth of their granddaughter*

**Ken & Mieko Nakano**  
*In memory of Ken's father, Kenichi Nakano*



## BWA Manju Fundraiser April 5th during Hanamatsuri

### COAST DISTRICT BWL CONFERENCE, 2009

**March 14, 2009**

**Saturday, 10:00 AM**

Twenty six members and Rev. Koyama attended the conference in Watsonville and enjoyed the hospitality and lunch provided by the Watsonville BWA. The guest speaker, Rev. Gerald Sakamoto, of San Jose Betsuin, delivered the Dharma message. A general meeting of the Coast District BWL closed the conference.

### BWA FUNDRAISER

**April 5, 2009**

**Hanamatsuri Sunday**

BWA will hold a manju sale

as a fundraising event. The cost for a bag of manju is \$5.00. Everyone's support would be greatly appreciated.

### HANAMATSURI

BWA will provide sheet cakes (dessert) for the Hanamatsuri luncheon.

BWA ladies will also participate in the Hanamatsuri program by singing a popular marching song.

### SPECIAL THANK YOU

To Tamae Nagatsuyu for serving continental breakfast to guest minister, Rev, Seigen Yamaoka, BCA Minister Emeritus. (Nirvana Day Service)

To Toshiko Kawamoto for serving continental breakfast to special guest speaker, Rev. Ken Tanaka, who was visiting from Japan. (Girl Scout Sunday)

### DONATIONS

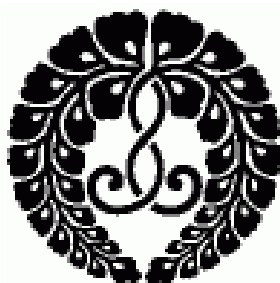
#### **Gratefully Acknowledged**

**Julie Hoshida Joyce and Chiyo Higuchi Family**  
*Special memorial (\$100)*

**Brad Takasuka and Family**  
*Special appreciation (\$100)*

### NEXT MEETING

April 11, 2009,  
Saturday, 9:00AM



**Buddhist  
Women's  
Association**

## Senior Activities in April and May

Every Thursday in April: 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, we will have the craft and activities from 9:00AM until 12:00PM. April 16th, we will take a field trip to the Elkhorn Sough in Moss Landing. We will plan to leave at 7:00AM so please check in at 6:30AM at the Temple office. We will return approximately 3:00PM. Please dress warm, with possibly an extra jacket and wear comfortable shoes.

May 20th & 21st is our annual Senior Reno trip. The bus will leave at 7:00AM so please check in at the Temple office for your snack bag at 6:30AM.

We will arrive back approximately 8:00PM. If interested in making this trip, call Chuck Uyeda at 408-736-5141.



A special note and information. On any of our planned trips, Temple members have first choice on a first come first served basis for two

weeks once the announcement for sign-up is announced. After that, it will be opened to non-members. It is our wish not to turn away any Temple members.

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

## Senior Activities For Spring



## Tai-chi Classes Start April 17th

Taichi classes will resume for a 10 week session, starting on April 7th, Tuesday. Time: 6:30PM to 7:30PM.

Taichi is a good exercise for the mind and body. Routines are simple and low impact. Please attend.

## Join YBA for the Mother's Day Brunch—May 10th

It's March and yes that means our YBA Coast District Conference has finally arrived. On March 28th over 100 YBA members from as far as Hawaii will be attending the Coast District Conference at the Mountain View Buddhist Temple. We hope everyone will have a great time!

Coming up in May our YBA will send two teams to the Bay District Volleyball Tournament. Practices will be starting soon so we can be ready for a weekend of friendly competition.

Also don't forget May 10th is Mother's Day and we would

love for everyone to join us for our Mother's Day Brunch held before service.

**In Gassho,**

**Megan Matsumoto**

**YBA President 2008-2009**

## YBA Activities Update

# The ECHO

## Let the Obon Planning Begin!

Plans for the Bazaar are coming up and I would like to put a notice in the Echo for the first meeting. Please enter this notice in the appropriate section of the April Echo.

The first meeting for the 2009 Obon Bazaar will be held April 29th at 7:30 p.m. All committee chairs' please come and meet in the board room.

Thank you and see you then.

**Bryan Nishimoto,**

**Obon Co-Chairman**

## CHICKEN TERIYAKI

**MOUNTAIN VIEW BUDDHIST TEMPLE**  
 SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2009

**DONATION: \$8.00**

**TICKETS AVAILABLE FROM:**  
**ZONE CHAIRPERSONS**  
 &  
**MVBT OFFICE**  
 575 N. SHORELINE BOULEVARD  
 TEL. (650) 964-9426

### 150 Club News

At the March 11th Board meeting, the winner of the drawing for March, 2009, was Jean Shimoguchi.

Thank you for participating in the 2009-150 Club.

### Toban/Revised Echo Schedule

	Toban	Echo	Article Deadline
APR	Zones 8 & 9	Apr 15	April 10
MAY	Zones 10 & 11	May 14	May 8
JUN	Zones 12 & 13	June 17	June 12

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)



## 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 April Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service will be conducted in conjunction with our Hanamatsuri (Birth of Prince Siddartha Observance) and the Hatsumairi (Infant Presentation) Ceremony. The April Shotsuki loved ones are:

March  
Monthly  
Memorial  
Service

Sunday  
April 5th

10:00 am

<b>Harry Fujii</b>	<b>Setsuo Kuboyama</b>	<b>James Sakuragi</b>
<b>Shigeru Fujii</b>	<b>Kazuko Makishima</b>	<b>Akiko Satake</b>
<b>Juzaburo Furuzawa</b>	<b>Tokiyo Maruyama</b>	<b>George Shimamoto</b>
<b>Ichihai Furusho</b>	<b>Kiwa Matsuba</b>	<b>Tom Shimoguchi</b>
<b>Rev. Russell Hamada</b>	<b>Ryuichi Miyamoto</b>	<b>John Shinseki</b>
<b>Tanejiro Hirano</b>	<b>Emi Morishima</b>	<b>Taichiro Sugimoto</b>
<b>Robert Hoshida</b>	<b>Fuji Nakano</b>	<b>Jeffrey Swartwood</b>
<b>June Ichikawa</b>	<b>Jishichiro Nakano</b>	<b>Ko Tachibana</b>
<b>Toshiko Ikebe</b>	<b>Kenjiro Nakashima</b>	<b>Amy Takaki</b>
<b>Tojiro Ishimaru</b>	<b>George Omori</b>	<b>David Takegami</b>
<b>Shigehito Kashima</b>	<b>Ochiyo Omori</b>	<b>Koichi Yamashita</b>
<b>Akira Kato</b>	<b>Junpei Ozawa</b>	<b>Tsune Yonemoto</b>
<b>Hatsuye Kato</b>	<b>Henry Ryu</b>	<b>Tsuneno Yoshida</b>
	<b>Margaret Sakino</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:

**Brian Kobata**

*February 22, 2009*

**Jane Okumura**

*February 23, 2009*

**Ken-ichi Nakano**

*March 3, 2009*

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

**Namo Amida Butsu**

# The ECHO

## Margaret Abe-Koga Honored by Assemblyman Paul Fong



Assemblymember Paul Fong (D-Cupertino) surprised City of Mountain View Mayor Margaret Abe-Koga with flowers and a visit to officially announce her nomination for the California Legislative Women’s Caucus Woman of the Year Award. The award is annually given to women who have significantly contributed and given back to their communities in celebra-

tion of Women’s History Month.

“I wanted to personally come down to City Hall and congratulate Mayor Abe-Koga on her nomination,” said Assemblymember Fong. “She is a hard working public servant who deserves to be recognized and I look forward to presenting the award to her on March 16.”

## Naomi Nakano-Matsumoto Honored by Joe Simitian

State Senator Joe Simitian (D-Palo Alto) announced his selection of Naomi Nakano-Matsumoto as the 11th State Senate District’s Woman of the Year.

Nakano-Matsumoto is the Executive Director of West

Valley Community Services (formerly Cupertino Community Services). Under her direction since 2005, the non-profit organization provides food, shelter, and emergency assistance to more than four thousand local residents each year. The organization serves

Cupertino, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Saratoga, and West San Jose.

“Naomi is one of our local heroes,” Simitian said. “Through her leadership, our neighbors have somewhere to turn in their time of need.”

## BCA Silent Auction—Thank You Dennis Tsukugawa

Congratulations to the BCA’s Silent Auction Committee for a most successful fundraiser at the February National Council Meeting in Anaheim.

The goal of raising \$30K to benefit next year’s Shinran Shonin’s 750th Memorial Commemoration was accomplished in part by the highest

bidded item which was furnished by the Mountain View Buddhist Temple: a Casino Party donated largely by our Temple member **Dennis Tsukagawa and his company, “Vegas 888 Casino Parties.”**

The winning bid went to an Orange County member

from Gardena for \$1,250.

Thanks Dennis, and thanks MVBT for always supporting BCA activities in such a large way!

**Russ Nakano**

## Religious Planning Committee Report—April

### MVBT Services

We kick off the month of April with a big bang! On the first Sunday, April 5th, we will celebrate the April Shotsuki Hoyo as part of our Hanamatsuri Service.

We will also have our 2009 Hatsumairi during this service. Following the service will be a luncheon and program hosted by our Dharma School.

The next two Sundays, April 12th and 19th, will be regular Sunday Services. Please join us as our Dharma School students will be chairing these services.

On the weekend of April 24th, our Temple will be hosting the Federation of Dharma School Teachers League Conference. Dharma School teachers from all across the country will be at our Temple for their annual conference.

That Sunday, April 25th, we will hold a regular Sunday Service and we have invited any of the Conference

*By John Arima*

attendees who wish come to come. Please come to show support for our Dharma School Teachers!

### Buddhist Education Opportunities at MVBT

As a continuation of our monthly study class sessions going forward, we held a “Stump the Sensei” session back in March.



The RPC is planning on having another study class session this month, but plans are not complete, yet.

Please check the Temple website calendar for detailed information as it become available.

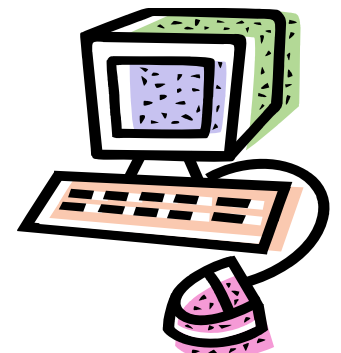
Anyone interested in helping our Temple continue to have

these great learning opportunities please contact John Arima about how you can get involved.

### Other Buddhist Education Opportunities

The CBE 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 next “Inspired by Shinran Shonin!” Dharma-thon will take place on April 16th (check website calendar for exact dates and times: [www.cbe-bca.org](http://www.cbe-bca.org)) at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley.

Also, an early notice that the 2009 Pacific Seminar 21st Century will be held June 26th to 28th at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley. The focus of the seminar will be on the Larger Sutra as discussed by Shinran in his Kyogyoshinsho. There is a \$25 discount from the regular registration fee of \$125 (for BCA members) if your registration is received before May 17th.



## 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)

# The ECHO

## Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Class—The History of Jodo Shinshu

**Buddhism remains an influential institution in Japan due to its deep rooted integration into the everyday life of the common Japanese citizen, not the political or academic elite.**

The following is from the current JSCC session. As always, I strongly encourage anyone who is interested in learning more about Buddhism and our Jodo Shinshu traditions to sign up for the JSCC. Please note that this example is simply my response to the question posed by the course and not the best or the only answer to this question.

### Question

Jodo Shin Buddhism, as a religious body, is regarded as one of the biggest religious institutions in Japan today. What was the socio-historical background of this phenomenon? What is your insight into the doctrinal conditions for Jodo Shin Buddhism to remain an influential religious institution in the United States?

### John's Response

The Japanese propensity towards taking something foreign and turning it into something “Japanese” is familiar to the modern world. One of the most often cited example is automobile production. There are three factors which drove integration of automobile production into Japanese society. The first is strong support of

**By John Arima**

the political (and economic) forces in power. Second, the production process was analyzed and restructured to align with the norms of Japanese society, becoming the Toyota production model. The third was integration into everyday Japanese life across all classes of society, especially among the common citizens. In the same way, Buddhism was one of the first foreign items integrated into the Japanese way of life.

The first two factors began to be addressed for Buddhism at the beginning of the seventh century C.E. Prince Shotoku Taishi promoted the integration of Buddhism with the Japanese political system by sponsoring Buddhist education and commissioning the building of temples. Buddhism was used as a source of consolation to the Japanese people and began to blend in Japanese folk religious and magical beliefs in order to provide context for individuals seeking enlightenment.

After Prince Shotoku, Japanese political control became more centralized and the regulation of religion, including Buddhism, became tighter. However, over

time this close connection between Buddhism and politics lead to degeneration of the Buddhist centers which were primarily in Nara during the eighth century C.E. With the relocation of the Japanese capital from Nara to Kyoto in 794 C.E., the Buddhist monasteries



**Oldest portrait of Shotoku Taishi**

*8th century, Imperial Collection*

of Mt. Hiei near Kyoto gained political influence, especially the Tendai monastery founded by Saicho and the Shingon monastery founded by Kukai. Saicho's monastery supported education on all current Buddhist schools, including Pure Land and Shingon along with Tendai teachings. As is a common course of institutions associated with politics, these schools also began to degenerate by competing for political power.

## ***Buddhism is Integrated into Japanese Civilization***

In the subsequent Kamakura period (1185-1332), systems of Buddhism critical of the corrupt Buddhist orders and appealing to all levels of Japanese society developed, leading to the spread of the Pure Land and Zen teachings. The accessibility of Pure Land teachings to even the common Japanese citizen aided its permeation into everyday Japanese life. This met the third and most important factor that allowed the continuation of the Pure Land teaching of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism through to modern day Japan.

During the periods of Japanese rule under Oda Nobunaga, Toyotomi Hideyoshi and Tokugawa shogunate, all Buddhist institutions were completely under secular control; some gained much political power. Though Buddhism had been integrated in to Japanese life and the monasteries were centers of scholarly practice, Buddhism no longer was supported as a spiritual belief among the Japanese feudal leadership. Rather than believing in the spiritual experience of Buddhist practice, the feudal leadership saw Buddhism as an instrument of social control. With the re-establishment of Imperial

leadership under the Emperor Meiji in 1868, Buddhism in Japan faced another political challenge as Shinto beliefs were promoted as the true Japanese religion. This attack on Buddhism failed due to the deep permeation of Buddhism into all classes of Japanese society, especially among the common Japanese citizens.

This deep integration into Japanese society has allowed Buddhism to remain part of everyday Japanese life throughout subsequent historical periods, including opening of Japan to the West and even through Japan's defeat in World War II. In today's Japan, Buddhism remains a vital part of everyday life having satisfied the three factors of political support, alignment with societal norms and integration into the everyday lives of the common citizens.

In historical perspective, Buddhism remains an influential institution in Japan due to its deep rooted integration into the everyday life of the common Japanese citizen, not the political or academic elite. In order for Jodo Shinshu to become and remain an influential institution in the

United States, the same integration into everyday life must become established. There is no need to address any of the doctrinal conditions upon which Jodo Shinshu practice is based. While those who are active practitioners of Jodo Shinshu strive to follow the Eightfold Path and integrate the Dharma into their everyday life, this is not a societal norm for the United States. This does not mean that Jodo Shinshu must become the practice of a majority of the United States population.

What this does mean is that the teachings and practices of Jodo Shinshu need to be better understood by a majority of America so that any mysteries and misunderstandings about the practices are removed. Once there is a more complete understanding of the Jodo Shinshu practices among the majority of the population, then Jodo Shinshu can begin to become viewed as part of the societal norms within the United States and become an influential institution.



***Oldest sculpture of Shotoku Taishi***

*ca. 1121, Horyu-ji*



# Dharma School

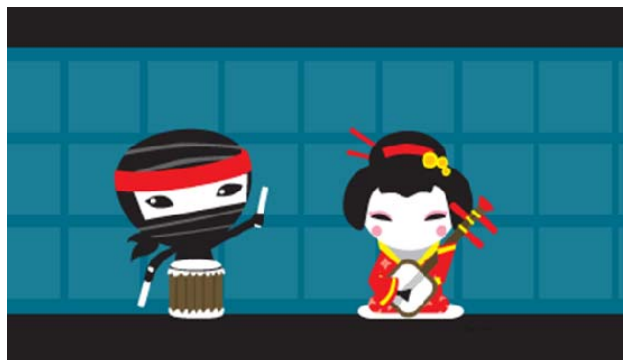


## April

- 4/5/09, 10 AM      Shotsuki Hoyo & Hanamatsuri Service & Hatsumairi & DS
- 4/12/09, 10 AM    Sunday Service & DS
- 4/19/09, 10 AM    Sunday Service & DS
- 4/24/—4/25        FDSTL Conference
- 4/26/09, 10 AM    Sunday Service & DS

## May

- 5/3/09, 10 AM      Shotsuki Hoyo Service & DS
- 5/10/09, 10 AM    Gotan-e Service & DS  
Guest speaker  
Rev. Gerald Sakamoto, San Jose Betsuin
- 5/17/09, 10 AM    Sunday Service & DS  
Chicken Teriyaki Fundraiser
- 5/24/09, 9:30 AM Memorial Day Service  
at Alta Mesa Memorial Park
- 5/31/09, 10 AM    Sunday Service & DS



## DONATION THANK YOU'S

- William Hamada — birthday
- Erich Lund—birthday
- Rossten Nakamura — birthday
- Kelly Nishimura — birthday
- Nakamura Family—pet memorial

LOOKING  
**BACK**  
TO THE **FUTURE**  
THE EARLY LIFE OF SHINRAN SHONIN

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

*Register now!*  
*It's not too late!*

# may 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																			
					<b>1</b> 4:30 PM Calligraphy class 5:00 PM Wedding rehearsal 7:00 PM Fuji Club 8:00 PM YBA volleyball/Sangha Hall	<b>2</b> 3:00 PM Wedding																																																																																			
<b>3</b> 8:30 AM Morning chanting 10:00 AM Sunday Service/Shotsuki Hoyo Service 11:00 AM Dharma School 11:30 AM YBA meeting 12:00 PM Taiko 12:15 PM YBA/YBA Hall	<b>4</b> 7:00 PM Girl Scouts 7:00 PM Kendo 7:30 PM Religious Planning meeting	<b>5</b> 6:00 PM Nakayoshi Gakko/parent orientation/all Sangha Hall & all classrooms 6:30 PM Tai chi/YBA Hall	<b>6</b> 11:00 AM Memorial Service 7:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Scouts 7 parents/meeting 7:30 PM Temple Board meeting	<b>7</b> 9:00 AM Senior activity/crafts 6:30 PM Taiko	<b>8</b> 4:30 PM Calligraphy class 7:00 PM ABA meeting/conf. room & YBA Hall 8:00 PM YBA volleyball/Sangha Hall Echo deadline	<b>9</b> 9:00 AM YBA/Sangha Hall/food prep 10:00 AM Kinyu Kai 1:00 PM Memorial Service 4:00 PM Memorial Service 5:30 PM Memorial Service																																																																																			
<b>10</b> 8:00 AM YBA/Mother's Day brunch/Sangha Hall lobby 8:30 AM Morning chanting 10:00 AM Sunday Service/Gontan-E/Rev Gerald Sakamoto 11:00 AM Dharma School 12:00 PM Taiko	<b>11</b> 11:00 AM Senior activity comm. meeting 7:00 PM Kendo	<b>12</b> 6:30 PM Tai chi 6:30 PM Taiko 7:00 PM Shodo Kai	<b>13</b> 6:00 PM Chicken cleaning 7:00 PM Cub Scouts & Scouts 7:30 PM Tri-City Youth Group	<b>14</b> 9:00 AM Senior activity/crafts 6:30 PM Echo 6:30 PM Taiko	<b>15</b> 5:00 PM Dharma School/ manju making/Sangha Hall 7:00 PM Scouts set up/game room 8:00 PM YBA volleyball/Sangha Hall	<b>16</b> 6:00 AM Cook chicken 8:00 AM Tsukemono, wash rice & oranges 9:00 AM BWA meeting 10:00 AM Scouts/Sangha Hall kitchen 3:00 PM Nisei Ski Club/YBA Hall																																																																																			
<b>17</b> 4:00 AM Rice cooking 9:00 AM Chicken Teriyaki/pick up 10:00 AM Sunday Service 11:00 AM Dharma School	<b>18</b> 7:00 PM Girl Scouts 7:00 PM Kendo	<b>19</b> 6:30 PM Tai chi 6:30 PM Taiko 7:00 PM Shodo Kai	<b>20</b> 7:00 PM Cub Scouts & Scouts Senior activity/Reno 1	<b>21</b> 9:00 AM Senior activity/crafts 6:30 PM Taiko Senior activity/Reno 1	<b>22</b> 8:00 PM YBA volleyball/Sangha Hall	<b>23</b> 10:00 AM Kinyu Kai 4:00 PM Memorial Service																																																																																			
<b>24</b> 9:30 AM Alta Mesa Memorial Park No Sunday Service	<b>25</b> 7:00 PM Kendo Memorial Day Holiday	<b>26</b> 6:30 PM Tai chi 6:30 PM Taiko 7:00 PM Shodo Kai	<b>27</b> 7:00 PM Cub Scouts & Scouts 7:30 PM Bazaar meeting 7:30 PM Tri-City Assn meeting/Echo room	<b>28</b> 9:00 AM Senior activity/crafts 6:30 PM Taiko	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 12:30 PM Memorial Service																																																																																			
<b>31</b> 10:00 AM Sunday Service 11:00 AM Dharma School 12:00 PM Taiko	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <table border="1" style="font-size: small;"> <caption>April</caption> <thead> <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>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td></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> <table border="1" style="font-size: small;"> <caption>June</caption> <thead> <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>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> </div>					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			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				
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																																																																																					
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																																																																																							

Updated 3/16/2009 (events subject to change)

## Mountain View Buddhist Temple

## In this Echo—April Events



Be sure to mark your calendars for upcoming events in April. Graduating senior speakers begin on April 19th.

April 5th—Hanamatsuri, Hatsumairi & Shotsuki Hoyo

April 19th and 26th—Graduating Senior speakers

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

**In gassho,  
The Echo Staff**

### **Highlights in This Issue**

<i>Rev. Dean's Msg</i>	1, 3-4,
<i>President's Msg</i>	1, 5
<i>Calendar (Apr/May)</i>	2, 15
<i>Sr. News</i>	7
<i>Religious Planning</i>	11
<i>BWA</i>	6
<i>Dharma School</i>	14
<i>Donations</i>	16-17

**TIME DATED MATERIAL**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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

575 North Shoreline Boulevard  
Mountain View, CA 94043



**Mountain View Buddhist Temple**

**NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
PERMIT #225  
MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA**