



## Apr Highlights

- **5/3, Sun 10:00 AM**  
May Shotsuki Monthly Memorial Service  
Graduating Sr. Speakers:  
**Dani Ryu & Eric Jong**

- **5/4, Mon 7:30 PM**  
Religious Planning Mtg

- **5/6, Wed 7:30 PM**  
Temple Board Mtg

- **5/10, Sun 10:00 AM**  
**Gotan-E**  
**Shinran Shonin's**  
**Birthday Observance &**  
**Mother's Day**

Guest Speaker: Rev. Gerald Sakamoto, San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin

- **5/13-16 (Wed-Sat)**  
Chicken Teriyaki Food Preparation

- **5/17, Sun 9:00 AM**  
Chicken Teriyaki Pick-up

- **5/24, Sun 9:30 AM**  
Alta Mesa Memorial Service (No services at the Temple)

## In Every Issue

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## In Response

*The person who feels that his attainment of birth is not settled should, to begin with, say the Nembutsu in aspiration for birth.*

*The person who feels that his attainment of birth is definitely settled should, thinking of the Buddha's benevolence, devote himself to the Nembutsu in order to respond with gratitude for that benevolence, and should hope for peace in the world and the spread of the Buddha Dharma.*

*(Shinran's Goshosokushu)*

### By Reverend Dean Koyama

Lately, I feel that my life has just been a series of mindless reactions. When something happens I respond, usually mechanically.

The kitchen sink started to leak so I had to find my tools and fix it. The alarm clock rings and I wake up to take the kids to school. Someone needs a door opened at the temple; I take my keys and open the door.

These past few months have been filled with funerals, memorials and two conferences

preparations. In fact last week, I conducted 4 memorial services in one day.



My life has been hectic and busy; and I've been finding it difficult to know what I'm supposed to be doing with out looking at my calendar on my



It's amazing and yet to a casual observer it would have seemed so effortless in its passing.

## Did You See All of What Happened? How Did It All Happen?

### By Ron Murata

Sunday, April 5th, started with a combined service—**Hanamatsuri** with guest speaker, Reverend Kiyonobu Kuwahara, **Hatsumairi** with the introduction of 5 new-

born babies and Shotsuki Hoyo services. And this was just the beginning, for the BWA held a manju sale, Dharma School hosted its annual Hanamatsuri lunch and entertainment program and later in the evening

# 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 BWA meeting 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																																																																																			
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<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 7:30 PM Bonehead Buddhism Seminar 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 Altar renovation	<b>23</b> 10:00 AM Kinyu Kai 4:00 PM Memorial Service Altar renovation																																																																																			
<b>24</b> 9:30 AM Alta Mesa Memorial Park Altar renovation No Sunday Service	<b>25</b> 7:00 PM Kendo Altar renovation Memorial Day Holiday OFFICE CLOSED	<b>26</b> 6:30 PM Tai chi 6:30 PM Taiko 7:00 PM Shodo Kai Altar renovation	<b>27</b> 7:00 PM Cub Scouts & Scouts 7:30 PM Bazaar meeting 7:30 PM Tri-City Assn meeting/Echo room Altar renovation	<b>28</b> 9:00 AM Senior activity/crafts 6:30 PM Taiko Altar renovation	<b>29</b> Altar renovation	<b>30</b> 12:30 PM Memorial Service 4:00 PM Memorial Service																																																																																			
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Updated 4/11/2009 (events subject to change)

## Mountain View Buddhist Temple

## In Response (Cont'd from Page 1)

computer. Often I've been at the temple until late in the evening going home to sleep only to return to the temple the following morning.

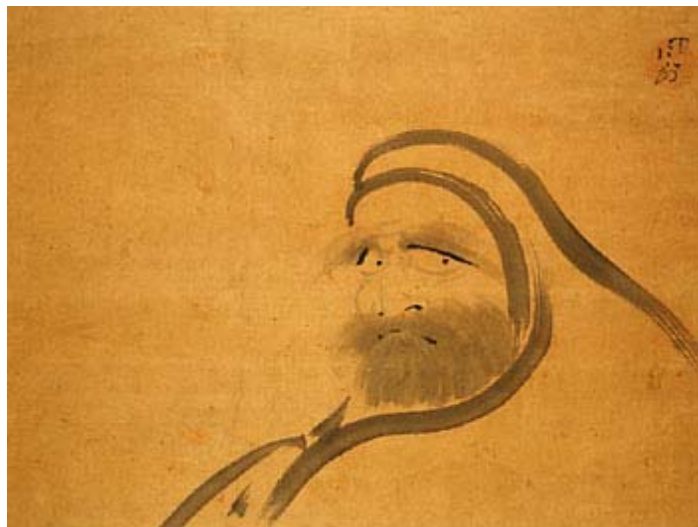
My routine has been so completely upset that I have no routine. Lately, I have not had the time to sit and think—even prepare a Dharma talk. This is not the best situation for a minister whose primary duty is to share the true heart and essence of the Nembutsu. I've felt as if I were just going through the motions, relieved when one thing is completed only to have that moment of satisfaction hurriedly end knowing that I must again respond quickly to something else.

**Often  
our lives are truly  
the response of  
whatever occurs.**

Often are lives are truly the response of whatever occurs. This is the natural outcome of the law of cause and effect. Seeing how busy our everyday lives can get, it is easy to understand

why many people do not consider matters of greater importance. We simply do not have time to think. We are too busy responding and reacting from one crisis to the next. This is what the Buddha referred to as the endless cycle of **Samsara** (transmigrating in the worlds of birth and death).

During the time of the Buddha, to break this cycle and be liberated from **Samsara**, you had to be a monk. And as a monk, there were certain rules of conduct to be obeyed. The purpose of being a monk was to give up all worldly attachments to obtain egolessness. He could own nothing but his sandals, robes, razor, tweezers, begging bowl and robes, which were originally, donated pieces of cloth sown together and dyed with the cheapest dye available at the time. He had to vow to observe a long list of the precepts or rules to help keep order in the assembly of monks. There were rules on when to eat, how to walk, where to sit. Today, some of these rules may seem very trivial. For example, when a monk goes on his begging rounds, he had to keep his eyes cast downward, couldn't slouch or sway his arms excessively when walking. He had to re-



**The Buddhist Monk  
Bodhidharma**

Fugai Ekun (1568–1654)  
Japan, 17th century

Freer/Sackler Gallery  
Washington, D.C.

frain from laughing, stuffing his mouth with food, smacking his lips, or talking with his mouth full.

As a Jodo Shinshu minister, we experienced this kind of monastic lifestyle to a certain degree when going through our ordinations. Ordination sessions last 10 days. We were secluded from our families and had to shave our heads.

There were about 100 of us, and the atmosphere was like an army boot camp. The instructors would yell at us if we weren't wearing our robes correctly or if we had poor posture. They would make us chant verses over and over again. They told us how to walk, do **gassho**, bow, even how to eat.

One day we had to chant the **Shoshinge** without looking at a book. Usually, this isn't a

# The ECHO

## In Response (cont'd from Page 3)

*How can  
a person  
break through  
the cycle of  
Samsara?*

problem because, even if you don't have it completely memorized, especially with 100 people, someone will remember the next line.

But that day, the instructors had been picking on us a lot. So when it was time for the service, everyone was hesitant. We started the service, and right away the instruc-

tors told us to start over because we were chanting too fast. We began again, and were told to start over because we didn't start on the right note.

The third time we started and the instructors let us continue. Then we got to the middle part, we all finished chanting one line... there was

a momentary pause that seemed like a year. Everyone blanked out. No one remembered the next line. Of 100 people chanting, no one remembered.

I thought the instructors were going to strangle each and every one of us right then and there. After their initial surprise, they calmly

## Congratulations Hatsumairi Families!

The Mountain View Buddhist Temple warmly welcomes our new Hatsumairi families. Pictured with their families (front row, left-right) are: Francesca Mayumi Bunya, Jeremy Tamotsu Tao, Kendall Mayumi Inouye, Nathan Huy Ishida, and Miya Joy Sakurai,



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

Troop 87 held an Eagle Court of Honor for Robbie Imai and Adam Le.

The Fuji Club under the leadership of Jean Higa had been arranging for weeks for the flowers needed to decorate the Hanamido. They came in early Sunday morning to complete the decoration of the Hanamido and then chaired the Hanamatsuri service. Reverend Koyama had arranged for Reverend Kuwahara to be the guest speaker months before.

There were five new Hatsu-mairi families. The beaming faces of the proud parents, grandparents and other family members were a perfect welcome for **Nathan Huy Ishida, Francesca Mayumi Bunya, Kendall Mayumi Inouye, Miya Joy Sakurai, and Jeremy Tamotsu Tao**. How were each family contacted and invited? Who did all the background legwork?

The monthly Shotsuki Hoyo service is usually conducted on the first Sunday of each month. Because it's been a practice for several years now, families are aware of the schedule. A few times a year the usual pattern needs to be broken, yet Shotsuki families are informed when changes occur; how does this always happen?



The BWA had its manju sale following Hanamatsuri service. Preparations were underway weeks in advance with the final manju making on Wednesday

and Thursday of the preceding week. Many people came to help in the preparation.

Boy Scout Troop 87 sponsored by the Mountain View Buddhist Temple is alive with activity throughout the year. It is especially noteworthy when Scouts attain Scouting's highest rank of Eagle Scout. The ceremony and dinner celebrating such an occasion takes many days of planning and preparation.

As the Temple President I witnessed all of these activities on Sunday, April 5th. How did all of these activities come together on the same day at the same place and flow together seamlessly?

The mindfulness and awareness of the Mountain View Sangha is truly amazing to behold.

**Ron Murata**

**Temple President**

**The mindfulness  
and  
awareness  
of the  
Mountain View  
Sangha  
is truly amazing  
to behold.**

**OBON BAZAAR MEETING**  
**Wed, May 27th, 7:30 pm (Boardroom)**  
*Please Attend*

# The ECHO

## In Response (cont'd from Page 4)

*Instead of  
mindless,  
mechanical  
responses,  
wouldn't it be  
wonderful to  
respond  
by saying  
Namo  
Amida  
Butsu.*

told us the line and allowed us to finish the service. Those instructors were smart, instead of letting us know right then and there how irresponsible we were; how we didn't deserve to go through with our ordinations; that we should just pack up our things and go home; they let us stew about it. They let us wonder about it for the rest of the service. Instead of spanking us right then and getting over it, they made us dwell on it.

The discipline and routine in a monastic setting, I believe is very beneficial. Although it was strict and regimented, our basic needs were fulfilled allowing us to concentrate solely on our studies and practices. But for many of us, living as a monk is very difficult to do. We take care of families and children. We provide an income so that we can buy groceries. As a result, we have to devote ourselves to our jobs and work, and get caught up in deadlines and stress when time becomes crucial.

Then how can such a person break through this cycle of **Samsara**? Shinran understood the situation of the ordinary person who must

provide for his family. That is why we stress the importance of the Nembutsu.

The Nembutsu is to think upon the Buddha and say the Name, Namo Amida Butsu. How will thinking upon the Buddha and saying Namo Amida Butsu help us to relieve the stress and tension caused by the busy-ness of our everyday life?

*The Nembutsu  
is to think upon  
the Buddha*

By having the opportunity to stop and think upon the Buddha, we are also stopping to think upon our own lives at the same time. As we keep the messages of True Wisdom and Compassion in our minds, we are given an opportunity to reflect upon the causes and conditions with which we have received and been allowed to live. As a result of this awakening, a natural sense of appreciation and gratitude arises with which we wish to respond by repaying our debt of gratitude to others. By repaying our debt of gratitude, we are in actuality able to practice wisdom and compassion for the very first time. It is this

wisdom and compassion that liberates us from the endless cycle of meaningless reactions.

It is okay to be busy. Sometimes we can't help the causes and conditions that cause our busy-ness. Instead of mindlessly responding mechanically, wouldn't it be wonderful to respond by saying Namo Amida Butsu. Even though we may not be filled with gratitude upon saying Nembutsu, that is Okay. It has been taught that the saying of Namo Amida Butsu is a response of gratitude. In addition to that, according to Shinran in the opening passage, it is also the aspiration seeking that awakening to gratitude. Nembutsu, then is the cause as well as the response. It is both the beginning and the end.

Despite our very busy schedules, I hope all of you will take the time to stop, reflect, think upon the Buddha and say Namo Amida Butsu no matter how busy you may be. I gotta go now and get ready for the Sunday sermon...Namandabu, Namo Amida Butsu.

**Gassho,**  
**Rev. Dean Koyama**

# 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**

## Thank You from BWA!

### SUCCESSFUL BWA FUNDRAISER

Thank you, everyone, for buying the manju! It was a sellout. Besides the BWA members, many non-members came and helped out, and BWA is very, very grateful.

### Special Acknowledgment

Aggie Hirotsu, Amy Imai, and Irene Uchiyama for their extra special help.

### Additional Acknowledgment

For five men who worked along with the ladies all day: Allan Nara, Isamu Higa, Gary Hirotsu, Ron Murata, and Chuck Uyeda.

They were the Other Power needed to get the job done.

Therefore, with heartfelt gratitude, BWA thanks **EVERY-ONE** for the support and help that were given to this event.

### SPECIAL THANK YOU

To **Toshiko Kawamoto** for serving continental breakfast to guest minister, Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara, of Jodo Shinshu Center. (Hanamatsuri)

To **Tomiko Maruyama** and **Kazuko Tashiro** for their leadership in the participation in the Hanamatsuri program.

### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### **FDSTL Conference**

**April 26, 2009**

Some BWA members will be helping at the conference .

#### **Chicken Teriyaki Fundraiser**

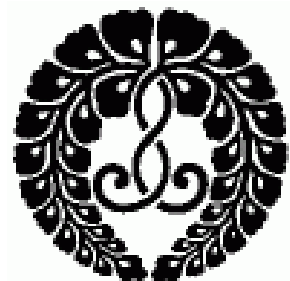
**May 13-17, 2009**

BWA members will be involved with helping the Temple chicken teriyaki fundraiser.

#### **NEXT MEETING**

*Saturday, May 9, 2009,*

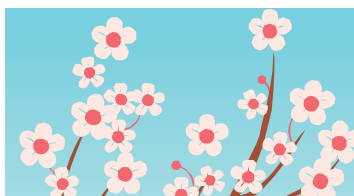
**9:00 AM**



**Buddhist**

**Women's**

**Association**



# The ECHO

## 2009 Chicken Teriyaki Work Schedule—See You There

**May 17—Sunday**

**Chicken  
Teriyaki  
Fundraiser  
Day**

**Final count due:  
May 6, 2009**

**Contact  
Chuck Uyeda**

**(408) 736-5141**

**csuyeda@earthlink.net**

**May 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> (Monday or Tuesday)**

Turn on outdoor reefers

**May 13<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday)**

- 6 AM Chicken delivery
- 8 AM Clean & wash barrels – Wed. group & zone members
- 10 AM Prepare teriyaki sauce, chicken cleaning setup and check all supplies
- 6 PM Clean chicken –All affiliated organizations

**May 14<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)**

Check reefer

**May 15<sup>th</sup> (Friday)**

- 6AM Delivery from Imahara Produce
- 8 AM Turn chicken and make tsukemono
- 7 PM YBA Bag fortune cookies
- 7:30 PM Boy Scouts set up tables

**May 16<sup>th</sup> (Saturday)**

- 6 AM 1<sup>st</sup> Chicken cooking crew (6AM-12PM)  
Dan Iwata & helpers prepare breakfast for cooking crew
- 8 AM Pack tsukemono, wash rice, wash & cut oranges
- 12 PM 2<sup>nd</sup> Chicken cooking crew (12 PM-4 PM),  
Dharma school prepares lunch for cooking crew

**May 17<sup>th</sup> (Sunday)**

- 4AM Rice cooking & cooling  
Aggie Hirotsu prepares breakfast for rice cooking crew
- 6AM Clean up crew, pack rice in cups and start packing chicken
- 7AM Set up tables for pickup
- 9AM Ready for pickup
- 12 PM Prepare lunch

**May 17<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) PICKUP TIMES AND LOCATIONS**

- 9AM to 3PM MVBT pickup**
- 10AM to 12Noon Morgan Hill pickup**
- 10AM to 2PM San Jose pickup**

**May 22<sup>nd</sup> (Friday)**

- 8 AM Final cleanup & washing



## Senior Activities for May & Clean Up Reminder for Groups

### Crafts & Activities

May 7th, 14th, 21st, 28th  
Thursdays, 9am – 12pm

### Reno Trip May 20-21

May 20th - 21st (Wed./Thu)  
Nugget & Silver Legacy lodging,  
Cal Neva & Boomtown. Be at the temple at 6:30am.  
Bus leaves promptly at 7am.

### Nursing Home Registry

Information is being gathered to develop a registry of skilled nursing homes, residential care homes, assisted living and in home support services. Information on

country on county based services will also be available. (Life Alert, transportation services, and insurance data)

Many thanks to Dennis Tsukagawa and his crew for providing a wonderful fun packed afternoon for the seniors. Everyone had a good time.

The ladies are eager to share their ideas for different craft items. Please join us!

The seniors are busy making various items to donate to the Obon bazaar craft booth.

### ATTENTION

**All groups and organizations who use the Sangha Hall, YBA Hall or any other facility—**

Please clean up by putting the garbage in the dumpsters, flatten the cardboard boxes, recycle cans & bottles, and place them next to the dumpsters which is between the Rev. house and the YBA Hall. We have been having groups just leaving the garbage behind and creating ants and rodents problem. Don't expect someone else to do the clean up.

**Senior Activities —Reno Trip**



**Mountain View YBA invites you to  
Mother's Day Brunch**  
9 am, Sunday, May 10, 2009 (Sangha Hall Lobby)  
All are invited!

## Upcoming YBA Mother's Day Brunch—May 10th

The end of the school year is fast approaching but we still have tons of things planned for the upcoming months. In May the YBA will be helping out at chicken teriyaki bagging fortune cookies and boxing chicken. We also will be hosting May services. Coming soon is the Bay District Volleyball Tournament, where we will be sending two teams

to compete. We are super excited to play the other chapters in the area.

Also on May 10th please join us for a fantastic Mother's Day brunch at 9am in the Sangha Hall lobby. We would love to see everyone there to celebrate our gratitude for everything that our mothers do.

Finally we would like to express a special thank you to our BBQ chef Dave Kawamoto who barbequed all the meat at our CDYBL Conference. The food was delicious thank you so much!

**Gassho  
Megan Matsumoto  
YBA President, 2008-2009**

**YBA Activities Update**

# The ECHO

## ABA Supports Chicken Teriyaki Fundraiser

Reminding all ABA members to come out to help with the Temple chicken teriyaki fundraiser in May!

The designated “ABA” cooking shift is 12 noon to 4 pm. Some ABA members will be the “chefs” on other shifts as

well. This fundraiser not only requires cooking but a lot of prepping as well.

So please come to help with anything—washing oranges, cutting parsley, cleaning chicken, Check the schedule in the Echo. See you there!

### **DONATIONS**

**Gratefully Acknowledged**

**Ed & Dorothy Chikasuye**

*Ed is recovering from hip surgery!*

*Good wishes to him!*

## Re-Employment Support Group (RESG)

A support group has been formed for members that are currently unemployed and looking for a new job or career. Join us to discuss topics, such as resumes, interviewing, and social networking,

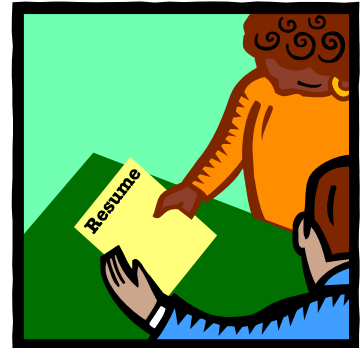
If you know of a job opportunity, there may be qualified candidates here at the temple, and we can help connect you with members that are looking for employment.

We have currently employed temple members who have volunteered to help with information they have about job search and jobs at their companies.

Open to all MVBT members, MVBT affiliated organization members, and their immediate family

**Thursday May 7<sup>th</sup>  
7:30 – 9:00 pm  
MVBT, YBA Hall**

If you have any questions or information, please contact: John Arima or Yumi Higa or leave a message with the Temple office 650-964-9426



**Are you  
looking for  
employment?  
  
Do you  
know of  
a possible job  
opportunity?**

## 150 Club News

At the April 8th Board meeting, the winner of the drawing for April, 2009, was Ed & Dorothy Chikasuye.

There are still 8 more monthly drawings plus the big bonus drawing in December. You still have a chance to be picked. Good luck.

Thank you for participating in the 2009-150 Club.

## Toban/Revised Echo Schedule

	Toban	Echo	Article Deadline
MAY	Zones 10 & 11	May 14	May 8
JUN	Zones 12 & 13	June 17	June 12
JUL	Zones 2 & 3	N/A	N/A

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 May Shotsuki loved ones are:



<b>Robert Ariyama</b>	<b>Hideo M. Kumamaru</b>	<b>Koji Sakai</b>
<b>Naka Chikasuye</b>	<b>June Kusumoto</b>	<b>George Sato</b>
<b>Rev Philipp Eidmann</b>	<b>Edward Morimoto</b>	<b>Shigemi Sato</b>
<b>Isano Hamada</b>	<b>Hana Nagao</b>	<b>Betty Shidawara</b>
<b>Dr. Yuta Hongo</b>	<b>Charles Nagatoshi</b>	<b>Frank Shimizu</b>
<b>Kay Ikeuye</b>	<b>Yoshito Nakamura</b>	<b>Mitsuye Togashi</b>
<b>Robert Imai</b>	<b>Naoko Nakashima</b>	<b>Sumiye Tomota</b>
<b>Nancy Ishii</b>	<b>June Naritomi</b>	<b>George Tsukagawa</b>
<b>Nobukichi Ishikawa</b>	<b>Herbert Nishimura</b>	<b>Seiko Tsumura</b>
<b>Caroline Izumi</b>	<b>Isamu Nishite</b>	<b>Torao Watanabe</b>
<b>Yasuko Kariya</b>	<b>Momoyo Ogino</b>	<b>John Wittlesey</b>
<b>Joe Masao Kawaguchi</b>	<b>Yoshihiro Okasaki</b>	<b>Peggy Yamaguchi</b>
<b>Makoto Joseph Kawaguchi</b>	<b>Leonard Oku</b>	<b>Frances Yamaji</b>
<b>Kiyono Kawano</b>	<b>Joe Okuno</b>	<b>John Yamaji</b>
	<b>Chizuo Sakae</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:

**Frank Kawamoto**

*March 17, 2009*

**Tom Matsumoto**

*March 25, 2009*

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

***Namo Amida Butsu***

**May**  
**Monthly**  
**Memorial**  
**Service**

***Sunday***  
***May 3rd***

***10:00 am***

# The ECHO

## Religious Planning Committee Report—May

### MVBT Services

Our May service schedule is quite busy. The YBA will chair most services.

### May 3rd Services

On May 3rd, we hold our monthly Shotsuki Hoyo service which will feature speeches from two of our Temple’s graduating High School seniors. Please come to support them as they prepare to enter the next phase of their lives.

### May 10th Services

We celebrate Gotane to commemorate the birthday of the founder of our Jodo Shinshu tradition, Shinran Shonin. We will also celebrate Mother’s Day including the annual Mother’s Day Brunch hosted by our YBA before service.

### May 17th Services

We have a Sunday Service chaired by our 2nd Grade class, allowing our YBA to help at the Chicken Teriyaki Fundraiser. The YBA will also give the Dharma Talk. Please support our 2nd Graders and YBA before you pick up your chicken.

### May 24th Services

On Memorial Day weekend,

By *John Arima*

we will hold our annual Memorial Day service on May 24th at Alta Mesa Memorial Park in Palo Alto.

### May 31st Services

We end with a regular Sunday Service featuring two more of our graduating seniors giving speeches. Once again, please come to service to support them.



### Buddhist Education Opportunities at MVBT

We will hold a seminar on May 20th from 7:30 to 9:00 in the Board Room in our YBA Hall. Prior to the seminar, we will post an article for everyone to read and reflect upon. We will then discuss the article. Everyone will have a chance to express their thoughts and opinions and then we will hear feedback and thoughts from Rev. Koyama. The article will be

available in the Temple office and from your organization’s Religious Planning Committee representative. Please contact John Arima if you have any questions.

Many people have been asking about a repeat of the “Bonehead Buddhism and Jodo Shinshu” seminars. We will not be able to squeeze in another set before the end of this school year, but we will repeat them this Fall. To meet the needs of all members, we will distribute a survey to help determine the best schedule for the next session, so please keep an eye out.

### Other Buddhist Education Opportunities

On May 9th, the Center for Buddhist Education (CBE) will hold a Japanese Language Nembutsu Seminar: “Haru no Mombou no Tsudoi” (Spring Dharma Gathering). The seminar will be from 10:00am to 3:00pm at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley. Registration is \$20 for BCA Members and the registration deadline is May 4th.

The May “Inspired by Shinran Shonin Monthly Dharmathon & Chazuke Chat” session

## Religious Planning Committee Report—May (cont'd)

from the CBE will be on May 16 from 12:00 to 12:45 at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley. The Dharmathon will be followed by a discussion session (the Chazuke Chat) lasting until 1:30. Please bring a “brown bag” lunch if you wish. A \$2 donation for ochazuke is requested.

Also on May 16th there will be a “Central California In-

teractive Dharma Forum: Crossing Over to Buddhism”. This will be held from 1:30 to 4:30 at the Buddhist Church of Fowler. Guest Speakers include our own Rev. Koyama & Ministers Assistant Bill Dearth from the Orange County Buddhist Temple. The suggested door donation is \$20 (\$15 for BCA Members).

Here is 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.

## Welcome New Members!

On Sunday, March 22, new temple members were introduced at the Spring Ohigan service. A welcome lunch for new members was held at Su Hong Restaurant in Palo Alto. Joining Reverend and Mrs. Koyama at the luncheon were 19 temple members and 9 new member guests. A delicious 6 course meal was served plus soup, rice, and dessert.

From left: Rev. Koyama, Joy Sakamoto, Craig & Betty Hamasaki with daughters Erin & Lauren, Jim Lund & Jill Kunishige with daughter Allison, Keleigh Collins with daughters Xochitl and Maya.



# The ECHO

## Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Class—Buddhism in America

**As it matures,  
what do you think  
Buddhism  
in America  
will look like?**

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:**

Dr. Alfred Bloom speculates on the future of "American Buddhism" in his text, "Streams of Tradition". His friend and colleague, Rev. Dr. Ken Tanaka, has said that any form of Buddhism that will survive in America must be "democratic, engaged and optimistic". As it matures what do you think Buddhism in America will look like?

**John's Response:**

As stated previously, there are three factors which drove integration Buddhism into Japanese society. The first was strong support of the political forces in power. Second, Buddhist practices were aligned with the norms of Japanese society. The third was integration into everyday Japanese life across all classes

**By John Arima**

of society, especially among the common citizens.

Support from the government at national and local levels was given to Buddhism. Part of this support included giving benefits such as money and labor to those who supported the development of Buddhism which helped gain support from all levels of government. The alignment of Buddhist beliefs to fit with the norms of Japanese society occurred due to the acceptance of Buddhist practices which promised to secure health, wealth, spiritual security and good future rebirth. The general Japanese population was seeking consolation during trying times and these practices filled their needs.

Over time, as these practices became routinely performed, they became part of everyday life in Japan, fulfilling the third factor. In this way, Buddhism achieved becoming a "democratic, engaged and optimistic" part of Japanese culture.

In his book "Ocean—An Introduction of Jodo-Shinshu Buddhism in America", Dr.

Tanaka responds to the question, "What do you see as the greatest challenge facing the Jodo-Shinshu institutions in North America?" with the following:



The temples need to become fully Dharma-centered. In the past, Dharma has had to share its position with the cultural (ethnicity, arts, social, etc.) needs of the Japanese American members . . . If the cultural elements continue to dominate the center, the temple will exclude people who are interested in Buddhism but do not share the same strong interests in cultural matters.

The universal nature of the Dharma, in contrast, has the ability to include diverse groups and to give spiritual meaning to their interests. Dharma can then function as the "hub" of the many cultural activities of the temple. The cultural activities will not

## ***How Will Buddhism Remain Relevant in American Society?***

disappear any time soon, nor do we want them to, but they need to “step down” to take their secondary place in the life of a temple.”

In the background to this passage by Dr. Tanaka discusses two major historical events which lead to the high position of cultural needs in the Jodo-Shinshu temples.

The first event was the increased discrimination against the Japanese immigrants by the American public in the early 1900's. The Alien Land Laws of 1924 terminated and prohibited property ownership by Japanese nationals and the Oriental Exclusion Act blocked new immigration from Japan. In response to these unfair actions, many Japanese in America decided to join the Buddhist temples in order to take refuge among other Japanese away from the general American population. The temples became a source of support and comfort during that period of time. The second event was the internment of Japanese and Japanese-Americans during World War II.

Jodo-Shinshu practice was maintained during internment and again offered a source of

comfort to the Japanese and Japanese-Americans, even within the interment camps themselves. In both cases, these responses were for those of common circumstance to join together against the society which was oppressing them. However, this stands in opposition to what Dr. Tanaka refers to as the universal nature of the Dharma to include diverse groups. This is the major obstacle which Jodo-Shinshu faces towards becoming a “democratic, engaged and optimistic” part of American culture.

***The challenge for the Buddhist Churches of America and Jodo-Shinshu Buddhism is to become more integrated with the norms of American society.***

While the first factor which influenced Buddhism in Japan is not possible in America due to the separation of church and state, the other two factors must be addressed in order for Buddhism in America to become an influential institution. While there have been American movements which embraced Buddhist and other Asian forms of thought such as the transcendentalists and the beat generation, they existed outside the norms of American society and never became integrated in everyday American life.

The challenge for the Buddhist Churches of America and Jodo-Shinshu Buddhism is how to overcome the historical legacy of “circling the wagons” and become more integrated with the norms of American society. What worked for Jodo-Shinshu in Japan and for the Issei and other culturally Japanese followers in America has become less effective with younger sansei, Yonsei and Gosei generations as well as those not culturally Japanese. Again from Dr. Tanaka's book, “Ocean”.

“What is then called for, is moral guidance that is rooted

# The ECHO

## *How Will Buddhism Remain Relevant in American Society?*

in Jodo-Shinshu teachings in the new cultural environment. Plus, there must be an ongoing adaptation and engagement with the rapidly changing problems and difficult ethical decisions brought on by new technological advancement (e.g., organ transplant) and social diversity (e.g., racial tensions).”

Adaptation of Jodo-Shinshu Buddhism which allows it to

become and remain relevant in American society is what will be required as Buddhism in America matures.

Initiatives to address the needs of the entire BCA community, the new multi-ethnic community, are required.

Programs designed to address the current challenges in American society which are grounded in Jodo-Shinshu

teachings, not Japanese or Japanese-American culture, are required.

This is the manner in which Buddhism can begin to align with American society and over the course of time become integrated with everyday American life and survive in America.

## OBON SCHEDULE 2009

### **Obon Odori Dance Practices**

Tuesdays and Thursdays  
7:30 PM at the Sangha Hall  
July 2, 7, 9, 14 and 16.

### **Kan-gi E Obon/Hatsubon Service**

July 5, 2009 Sunday, 10:00 AM  
Guest Speaker: Rev. LaVerne Sasaki, BCA Minister emeritus

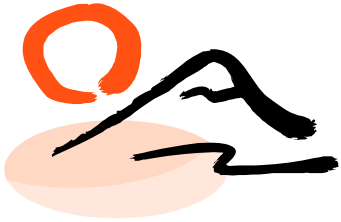
### **Obon Bazaar**

July 18, Saturday 4 PM – 10 PM

July 19, Sunday 12 PM – 9 PM  
Obon Odori Service—6:30 PM  
Obon Odori (Dance)—7:00 PM  
Raffle Drawing—9:00 PM







# Dharma School



## DONATION THANK YOU'S

Stacey Kawabata – birthday  
 Emily Terada—birthday  
 Curt Kawabata & Joan Aoki—Hanamatsuri  
 Toshiko Kawamoto—Hanamatsuri  
 Doris Kuboyama—Hanamatsuri

## DANA Project

Family Giving Tree's

**Back-to-School Drive for  
lower income children**

Pick up a wish card at service  
 and donate a backpack and fill it  
 with  
 needed  
 supplies



## May

5/3/09 10 AM Shotsuki Hoyo Service & DS High School Speakers  
 5/10/09 10 AM Gotane Service & DS Guest speaker Rev. Gerald Sakamoto  
 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 High School Speakers

## June

6/7/09 10 AM Shotsuki Hoyo Service & DS High School speakers  
 6/14/09 8 AM Field Trip  
 6/21/09 10 AM Sunday Service & Graduation Recognitions Attendance Awards Father's Day



# june 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																											
	<b>1</b> 7:00 PM Girl Scouts 7:00 PM Kendo 7:30 PM Religious Planning meeting	<b>2</b> 6:00 PM Taiko 6:30 PM Tai chi	<b>3</b> 7:00 PM Cub Scouts 7:00 PM Scouts & parents 7:30 PM Tri-City Youth Group	<b>4</b> 9:00 AM Senior activity/crafts 6:00 PM Taiko	<b>5</b> 4:30 PM Calligraphy class 7:00 PM Fuji Club	<b>6</b> 9:00 AM Scouts/Sangha Hall & gateball area/archery 4:00 PM Girl Scouts Annual Bridging ceremony/Sangha Hall																																																																																											
<b>7</b> 8:30 AM Morning chanting 10:00 AM Sunday Service/Shotsuki Hoyō 11:00 AM Dharma School 11:30 AM YBA meeting 12:00 PM Taiko 12:15 PM YBA/YBA Hall	<b>8</b> 11:00 AM Senior activity comm. meeting 7:00 PM 50th anniv. comm. meeting 7:00 PM Kendo	<b>9</b> 6:00 PM Taiko 6:30 PM Tai chi 6:30 PM Tri-City Newsletter	<b>10</b> 7:00 PM Cub Scouts & Scouts 7:30 PM Temple Board meeting	<b>11</b> 9:00 AM Senior activity/crafts 6:00 PM Taiko	<b>12</b> 4:30 PM Calligraphy class 7:30 PM ABA meeting/conf. room & YBA Hall Echo deadline	<b>13</b> 9:00 AM BWA meeting 10:00 AM Kinyu Kai 4:00 PM Fujii/Sangha Hall game room																																																																																											
<b>14</b> 8:30 AM Morning chanting 10:00 AM Sunday Service 11:00 AM Dharma School /Field trip 12:00 PM Taiko	<b>15</b> 7:00 PM Girl Scouts 7:00 PM Kendo	<b>16</b> 6:30 PM Taiko 7:00 PM Nakayoshi Gakko/meeting/room 7 & 8	<b>17</b> 6:30 PM Echo 7:00 PM Scouts Court of Honor/Sangha Hall	<b>18</b> 9:00 AM Senior Activity 12:00 PM Senior activity /movies	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 7:00 AM Nakayoshi Gakko/maintenance 1 3:00 PM Memorial Service																																																																																											
<b>21</b> 9:30 AM Dharma School	<b>22</b> 7:00 AM Nakayoshi Gakko/session 7:00 PM Kendo	<b>23</b> 7:00 AM Nakayoshi Gakko/session	<b>24</b> 7:00 AM Nakayoshi Gakko/session 7:00 PM Cub Scouts & Scouts 7:30 PM Bazaar meeting	<b>25</b> 7:00 AM Nakayoshi Gakko/session	<b>26</b> 7:00 AM Nakayoshi Gakko/session	<b>27</b>																																																																																											
<b>28</b> NO SUNDAY SERVICE	<b>29</b> 7:00 AM Nakayoshi Gakko/session 7:00 PM Kendo	<b>30</b> 7:00 AM Nakayoshi Gakko/session 3:00 PM Memorial Service	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <table border="1" style="font-size: small;"> <caption>May</caption> <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> <table border="1" style="font-size: small;"> <caption>July</caption> <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>1</td><td>2</td><td>3</td></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</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
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Updated 4/11/2009 (events subject to change)

## Mountain View Buddhist Temple

## In this Echo—A Full Schedule of Activities in May



May promises to be a bustling month of activity.

Gotan-e Service is on May 10th, with a guest speaker from San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin; and our annual Chicken Teriyaki Fundraiser is scheduled for May 17th.

Check the calendar for the complete list of events.

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)

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