MOUNTAIN VIEW BUDDHIST TEMPLE
50th Anniversary
1961-2011
Aspire:
Past, Present and Future
發願

September 2012

The ECHO
Volume 51 Number 8

MOUNTAIN VIEW BUDDHIST TEMPLE

Sit Back, Relax and Recite Nembutsu

By Rev. Dean Koyama

Mahasattva Nagarjuna
appeared in the world
And distinguished the paths of
difficult and easy practice;
Thus he leads us, who are
wandering in transmigration,
To board the ship
of the Universal Vow.

—Koso Wasan, #4, CWS, p. 362

Proclaiming the unexcelled
Mahayana teaching,
He would attain the stage
of joy and be born in
the land of happiness.
Nagarjuna clarifies the hardship
on the overland path
of difficult practice,
And leads us to entrust to the
pleasure on the waterway of
easy practice.

—Shoshinge, CWS, p. 71

Nagarjuna lived during the 1st century and is credited as one of the masters in the Dharma lineage of many Buddhist Sects, including Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. Shinran felt that one of Nagarjuna's important contributions was to define the **Easy Practice** as Nembutsu or calling the Name of Amida Buddha (Namo Amida Butsu).

This was to distinguish it from the **Difficult Practices** of meditation, keeping precepts, or living as a monk. Nagarjuna likened performing the Difficult Practices to traveling overland. I think of this expression every time I started to get drowsy on the long hot drive through the desert, and especially during the last couple of weeks.

Like many of you, I have just completed a couple of trips over the summer. After our Obon Festival we took a vacation to Florida. From there, Linda and Tommy went directly to Boston while Curtis, Justin and I retuned home to Mountain View.

I spent a few days conducting services, and then left the following Monday for Los Angeles for the BCA Ministers' summer research seminar. Meanwhile, Linda and Tommy returned from Boston on Tuesday night. The very next morning, Linda drove down to LA with Curtis to meet me. When the seminar ended on Thursday, we drove to Arizona to get Curtis settled in for school. On Friday morning, I flew back to San Jose for a funeral. Then on Saturday morning, I flew back to Arizona to drive the van back with Linda.

The drive home from Phoenix felt even longer. We planned to leave around 11AM. But en route to Phoenix, the van started making a clunking, grinding sound every time we turned left. On the morning of our drive back, we took the van to a garage to make sure the van could make it back home. After we had lunch with Curtis and said our goodbyes, we finally started our drive home. However, we had just driven about 15 miles on the freeway when I realized that I had forgotten my cell phone at Curtis' place. **We had to go back.**

Upon retrieving my cell phone, we set out a second time. By this time, we had already driven 100 miles on this tank of gas. I was worried that we wouldn't make it to Palm Springs, where we planned our next re-fueling. So we stopped at a nearby gas station to top off the tank.

September Highlights

- ***9/27 Mon, 7:30 PM***
  Religious Planning Meeting
- ***9/9 Sun, 10:00 AM***
  Shotsuki Hoyo
- ***9/12 Wed, 7:30 PM***
  Temple Board Meeting
- ***9/23 Sun, 10:00 AM***
  Fall Ohigan Service
- ***9/29, Sat, Noon-6:30PM***
  50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION
- ***9/30 Sun 10:00AM***
  Ki-E-Shiki Affirmation Service
  Conducted by
  Bishop Kodo Umezu

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september 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
26 NO SUNDAY 3pm - Bob	27 6:30pm - Girl Scouts 7pm - Kendo @ gym 7:30pm - Religious	28 6pm - Taiko 6:30pm - Cub Scouts	29 7pm - Temple choir	30 9am - Senior activity 6pm - Taiko 7pm - MVBT	31	1 6pm - Jim Gray @
2 NO SUNDAY	3 LABOR DAY 11am - Senior 6:30pm - Girl Scouts 7pm - Kendo @ gym	4 6pm - Taiko 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 7pm - Shodo Kai @	5 6pm - Boy Scouts & 7pm - Temple choir	6 8am - Senior activity 6pm - Taiko 7pm - MVBT	7 11am - Midori Kai 4:30pm - Calligraph 6:30pm - Fuji Club	8 9am - Midori Kai
9 10:00amSunday 8:30am - O-asaji 10am - Shotsuki 11am - Dharma 11:30am - YBA 12pm - Taiko 2:30pm - TCYG @	10 6:30pm - Girl Scouts 7pm - Kendo @ gym	11 6pm - Taiko 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 7pm - Shodo Kai @	12 7pm - Boy Scouts 7pm - Temple choir 7:30pm - Temple	13 9am - Senior activity 6pm - Taiko 7pm - MVBT	14 ECHO DEADLINE 4:30pm - Calligraph	15 9am - BWA meeting
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23 10:00am Sunday 10am - Ohigan 11am - Dharma 12pm - Taiko 1pm - CDYBA 2:30pm - TCYG @	24 6:30pm - Girl Scouts 7pm - Kendo @ gym	25 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 6:30pm - Taiko 7pm - Shodo Kai @ 7:30pm - Tri-City	26 7pm - Boy Scouts 7pm - Temple choir	27 9am - Senior activity 6:30pm - Taiko 7pm - MVBT	28	29 50th Anniv. Ochigo Temple 50th
30 Temple 50th 10am - Ki-E-Shiki	1 6:30pm - Girl Scouts 7pm - Kendo @ gym 7:30pm - Religious	2 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 6:30pm - Taiko 7pm - Shodo Kai @	3 6:30pm - Boy Scouts 7:30pm - Temple 7:30pm - Tri-City	4 9am - Senior activity 6:30pm - Taiko 7pm - MVBT	5 4:30pm - Calligraph	6 7:30am - Oshiro

Mountain View Buddhist Temple ❖ 575 N. Shoreline Blvd ❖ Mountain View, CA 94043 ❖ (650) 964-9426 ❖ www.mvbuddhisttemple.org

Religious Planning—September

ALL SERVICES WILL BE HELD IN SANGHA HALL DURING CONSTRUCTION

Sept 9th, Sunday 10:00 AM —Shotsuki Hoyo

1st day of Dharma School

Sept 16th Sunday 10:00 AM

Sept 23rd Sunday 10:00 AM—Fall Ohigan Service

Sept 29th, Saturday Noon-6:00PM—50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Please see schedule for more details.

Sept 30th, Sunday 10:00AM—Ki-E-Shiki Affirmation

Conducted by **Bishop Kodo Umezu**

What Do These Icons Mean?

In an effort to consolidate information within the Echo as well provide more information on services, the following icons indicate various activities for Sunday Services:

Shotsuki Hoyo Service

O-asaji (Morning Chanting)—8:30 AM

Adult Discussion—11:00 AM

Dharma School—11:00 AM

50th Anniversary FINAL Meeting—

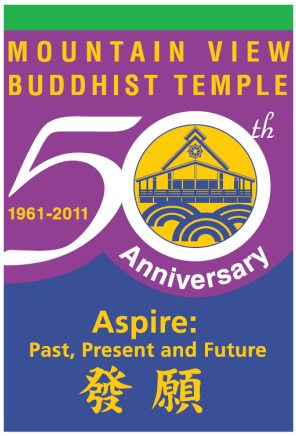
Thurs, Sept 10th, 7:30 PM Pancake Room

The 50th Anniversary celebration is September 29-30!

After six years of work by countless people, it is finally here.
Please be a part of this milestone of our Temple.

It is not too late to put in your reservation
(deadline is end of August).

There are many loose ends to wrap-up and
your attendance is needed.



Sit Back, Relax and Recite Nembutsu (Cont'd from Page 1)

The
CONCEPTUAL ACT
of reciting,
"Namo Amida Butsu"
is
simple and ***easy***,
but the
PHYSICAL ACT
of reciting
"Namo Amida Butsu"
is
difficult.

But after we filled up, Linda couldn't find her sunglasses anywhere in the van. We used my cell phone (that I had just picked up) to call Curtis to see if she had left her sunglasses with him. She sure did. We had to go back to Curtis,' say our farewells again and by the time we got on the road, it was 2 PM already.

Flying 3,000 miles to Florida took about 7.5 hours. In contrast, it took us 2 day of driving 6.5 hours/day just to drive 725 miles to Phoenix. Definitely the Difficult Practice. Or was it?

Nagarjuna compared performing the Easy Practice of Nembutsu was like traveling upon water by boat. Obviously, Nagarjuna lived long before air travel, but the modern analogy can be interpreted to include air travel. Like riding in a boat, or flying in a plane, Nagarjuna noted that the practice of Nembutsu was easy because it required no special education or training. Young or old, rich or poor, educated or uneducated all could perform the simple practice of reciting Namo Amida Butsu.

In this way, flying in a plane or riding in a boat is ***conceptually*** very simple. We don't have to know how to fly a plane. If an engine needs fixing, the airline mechanics do the work. If we get tired we can just fall asleep. When we get thirsty we can ask for something to drink. Most of all, if we have to go to the bathroom, we don't have to worry if the next exit will have a bathroom to run into. All we have to do is board the ship or plane and as the flight attendants say, "Sit back, relax and enjoy the flight."

However, ***physically*** boarding a plane is not necessarily easy or simple. We must arrive 1-2 hours prior to departure. We need identification and boarding passes. Getting through security checkpoints can take almost an hour. We must remove shoes, wallets, belts and watches before going through scanners. Once onboard, everyone jockeys for overhead bin space for carry-on luggage, and if you sit on the aisle seats you risk your life as people try to cram their heavy bags over you into the overhead bin.

Similarly, even though the Nembutsu may be considered to be an "Easy" practice, getting to the point of sincere recitation can be very difficult. Like flying, the ***conceptual act*** of reciting, "Namo Amida Butsu" is simple and easy, but the ***physical act*** of reciting "Namo Amida Butsu" is difficult.

How many times have I been asked to lead "Namo Amida Butsu" before we have a meal? Why must a minister lead it? Anyone can do it. It should come out freely and naturally.

What prevents it from being a totally spontaneous act is our ego. We calculate whether or not the time is appropriate for us to recite it. We don't want to embarrass ourselves if we say it first. We would rather hide with the masses and follow a leader. This kind of thinking is what makes reciting the Nembutsu so difficult.

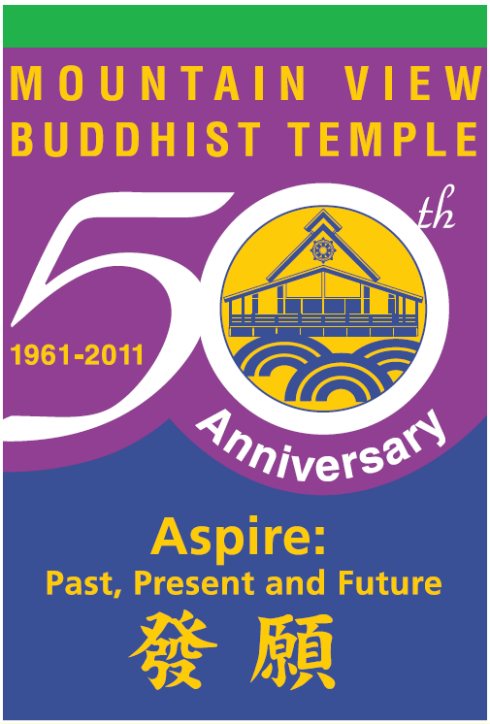
So how do we get to the point when reciting the Nembutsu becomes free and easy? For Shinran Shonin, it occurs when we are able to reflect honestly upon our ego-centered selves and realize all the wonderful gifts that we have already received in spite of our conditions.

Sounds simple enough but again, it is very difficult to attain.

All the more important to have a place to practice.

Fortunately we have had a just such a place these past 50 years. Please join the celebration of the Mountain View Buddhist Temple's 50th anniversary this September 29 and 30th. I am looking forward to seeing you there.

And I will be happy to lead in the recitation of Nembutsu so that you can just sit back, relax, and recite Namo Amida Butsu with joy and appreciation.



Don't Miss It!

The 50th Anniversary CELEBRATION

Schedule of Events—Saturday, September 29, 2012

12 noon	**Group picture taking**
1:00 p.m.	**50th Anniversary Service (including Chigo)**
2:30 p.m.	**Self-tour of Facilities and Displays** *Crafts for children* *Jun Daiko*
3:30 p.m.	**Pre-Banquet Program** **Opening** *Welcome and Opening Introductions by MC, Mr. Mike Inouye* *Opening remarks by MVBT President Bob Imai* *Opening remarks by Rev. Dean Koyama* **Congratulatory Messages by:** *Bishop of Buddhist Churches of America* *Mayor of City of Mountain View* *Keynote Speakers* *Video of Keiro Messages* *Mrs. Traci Inouye* *Mr. Bruce Morimoto*
4:30 p.m.	**Banquet dinner**
5:30 p.m.	**Entertainment by Temple organizations**
6:30 p.m.	**Closing**

Thank You for Obon Help | Planning Toward FBWA

Buddhist Women's Association

Thank you everyone for helping during the week of the Obon Bazaar. We were very busy before and after. It was a very successful fundraising.

We continue to meet to plan for the big FBWA Conference on Oct 12-14, 2012 at the Doubletree Hotel in San Jose. At least 24 will be attending from MVBT.

DONATIONS

Gratefully Acknowledged

Sumi Tanabe
In memory of husband, Arthur

George Ogata
In memory of Kiyo Ogata

Kenzo Kamei
In memory of wife, Ruth

Carolyn Sakae
Omimae

NEXT MEETING

Sept 15, 2012
9:00 AM in the Sangha Hall

THANK YOU FOR ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL OBON

I hope everyone enjoyed their summer. I wanted to thank all the temple members for their help and hard work to make the Obon festival such a success. It is your hard work and dedication that keeps our temple strong.

On behalf of Zone 2, thank you for another successful Obon.

In gassho

Yumi Higa
2012 Obon Chairperson

Celebrate the End of Summer with Baseball!

Thanks to all the ABA members who helped with MVBT Obon Bazaar. There were so many helpers from ABA working in the ABA booth and/or in charge of a another booth or aspect of this major fundraiser for our Temple. Thank you to all of you!

BASEBALL REMINDER!

SJ Giants (Sept 1, 2012)

Interested?
Contact **Joanne Makishima.**
Cost is $40/person, with dinner included.

DONATIONS

Gratefully Acknowledged

The Kakigi Family
(Linda Koyama's Family)

Congratulations to Girl Scouts on their Bridging Ceremony

Our troop hosted the Service Unit Bridging Ceremony at the temple in June, and our own troop Bridging Ceremony on June 4th.

The following Scouts bridged to their next level:

Daisy's Bridging to Brownies
Jamie Louie

Brownies Bridging to Juniors
Yumi Bellon
Sara Ho
Allison Lund
Ally Sze

Juniors Bridging to Cadettes
Lauren Hamasaki
Aili Koga
Victoria Shinkawa

The Girl Scouts enjoyed their annual Troop Camp-Out at the temple on June 8.

Our troop has designed our own Girl Scout Sunday patch to reflect our Buddhist tradition and our connection to MVBT. Every Scout who participates in the Girl Scout Sunday Service will receive a patch. The color of the patch will change each year.

A Busy Summer for the Boy Scouts

Summer for the Boy Scout Troop was once again packed with fun and exciting events!

We were glad to support the MVBT Obon with striping the parking lot, helping out where we could during the two-day bazaar.

We also packed three camping trips into July: Cutter Summer Camp, Indian Head Falls and of course, Oljato.

Here are the upcoming events for August and September!

8/15- Elections
Those of you with positions in the troop currently should prepare to lose them, keep them, or get new ones!

9/1- New positions go into effect.

So! Another action packed month of camping, events, activities and more camping!

Keep it up Troop 87!

Kevin Duan
Troop 87 Scribe

Dharma School Starts September 9th

We are looking forward to the opening of Dharma School on September 9th.

DONATIONS
Gratefully Acknowledged

Doug & Phyllis Sawamura
Campout

Gary & Arleen Tahara

Linda Koyama & Richard Kakigi
In memory of Toshiye Kakigi

Harold & Kathy Fujii
Campout

Dean & Linda Koyama
Tommy's Graduation

Aug/Sept

Monthly

Memorial

Service

Sunday

September 9th

10:00 am

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 Shotsuki loved ones are:

Kent Abe
Thomas Arakaki
Masataro Fujii
Masao Fukumoto
Dorothy Furuichi
Masuo Hamada
Hiroshi Haruta
Mary Haruta
Ronald Higaki
Akira Hiroshige
Matsujiro Hiroshige
Minoru Hiroshige
Takeshi Hori
Minoru Horino
Edith Hoshi
Aya Ichinaga
Misaye Ikebe
George Ikemiya
Akira Inamori
Atsushi Inouye
Kiyoye Inouye
Asa Ishimaru
Satoshi Ishimaru
George Izumi
Kimiko Kashima
Shigeo Kashima
Itsume Kawamoto
Shina Kinaga
Sumiye Kito
Albert Kobayashi
Toshio Kochi
John Kondo
Kazuo Kurashige
Chiyomi Masuda
Haru Matsuzaki
Kazuo Mayeda
Yoshino Miyamoto
Kakuemon Nagasaki
John Nagatoishi
Toshio Nakagawa
Edward Nakano
Janice Nakashima
Magoji Nakashima
Alice Nishimura
Tomisaburo Oda
Frank Ogata
Iyano Ogawa
Chieko Okamoto
Mineko Okamoto
Alfred Okubo
Tsuyo Okumura
Kin'ichi Okuno
Toshiko Okuno
Chiyo Ozawa
Haruno Saito
Harry Sakae
Warren Sakae
Kitao Sakai
Miyuki Sakano
Shimano Satake
George M. Sato
Koma Shinke
Hisayo Shinta
Hiroshi Sugimoto
Sam Sugimoto
Dora Suzuki
George Takaki
June Tokunaga
Jack Tsuchida
Nobuko Tsuchida
Yukiye Watanabe
Tom Yamaji
Yumi Yokoo
Totaro Yoshida

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.

E-mail **dkoyama@comcast.net**

Phone (temple office) **(650) 964-9426**

Welcome Back for Senior Activities—August 30th

SENIOR CRAFT HOURS

Thursdays, 9:00AM-12:00PM

Light refreshment of coffee, tea and desserts are always provided. Everyone is welcome to join in and share new ideas. Please feel free to join us, for we are always looking to make new friends

SEP 6—We will be making Manju, starting at 8:00 AM and preparing for the Midori Kai Arts and Craft Show, held in the Sangha Hall every year. Again, we ask for your support and time. Fundraisers help support our trips and lunches

LINE DANCING

Thursdays, 9:30AM-10:00AM

Line dancing resumes in August, Led by **Naomi Ariyama**, the Seniors enjoy a short, but invigorating half hour. Come and enjoy the group.

Senior Cookbooks for Sale

$18

The Mountain View Buddhist Temple would like to express its heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of:

Ted Tokunaga June 28, 2012

Jimmy Matsuba July 24, 2012

George Abey August 6, 2012

May you find comfort in the embrace

of Infinite Light and Life,

the wisdom and compassion of Amida Buddha.

Namo Amida Butsu

Toban & Echo Schedule

	Toban	Echo	Article Deadline
SEP	Zones 12 & 13	Sep 19 (Wed)	Sep 14 (Fri)
OCT	Zones 1 & 2	Oct 17 (Wed)	Oct 12 (Fri)
NOV	Zones 3 & 4	Nov 21 (Wed)	Nov 16 (Fri)

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

october 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 Temple 50th 10am - Ki-E-Shiki	1 6:30pm - Girl Scouts 7pm - Kendo @ gym 7:30pm - Religious	2 6:30pm - Cub Scouts 6:30pm - Taiko 7pm - Shodo Kai @	3 6:30pm - Boy Scouts 7:30pm - Temple 7:30pm - Tri-City	4 9am - Senior activity 6:30pm - Taiko 7pm - MVBT	5 4:30pm - Calligraph	6 7:30am - Oshiro
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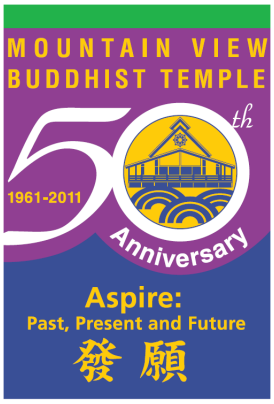
50th Anniversary Celebration September 29-30!



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In gassho,
The Echo Staff

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