October 2020

Volume 59 Number 10

MOUNTAIN VIEW BUDDHIST TEMPLE

October Highlights

- ***10/4 Sun, Shotsuki Hoyo Service, Online***
  - ** Japanese Language Service*
  - ** English Discussion Group*
- ***10/5 Mon, 7:00 pm, Buddhist Discussion Group, Online***
- ***10/11 Sun, BCA Bishops' & MVBT ABA Memorial Service, Online***
  - ** 11:00 am: Seminar*
- ***10/18 Sun, Sunday Services, Online***
  - ** Dharma School Cabinet and YBA Cabinet Installations*
- ***10/25 Sun, Sunday Service, Online***

Those Who Don't Read the Sutra, But Instead Know Its Essence – Part 1

By Rev. Yushi Mukojima

It has already been seven months since we started sheltering-in-place due to the COVID pandemic. Because we haven't been able to come together for Sunday Services for a long time, I feel really sad that I'm not able to hear the voices of our members chanting in the Hondo. In a normal Dharma School year starting each September, I would be seeing our students smiling and placing their hands together in the Hondo to the Buddha's image every Sunday. It is unfortunate how our daily lives have been completely changed since last March.

Currently we are offering online Sunday Services on YouTube, so that our members can hear the Buddha Dharma and enjoy our services from their homes. I sincerely hope that by participating in our online services despite the chaos of this world, our members will awake to the Primal Vow of Amida Buddha and rejoice in the fact that we are always connected together in the Nembutsu, which is the fruit of Amida Buddha's wisdom and compassion.

As you know, most people who visit our Temple for the first time usually come because of an interest in Zen meditation or sutra chanting. It seems that they are fascinated by these unique Buddhist traditions that are not found in western culture.

Certainly, when you see someone in the Hondo sitting silently in mindful meditation, his

(Continued on page 4)

Super Senior Highlights

MVBT's Super Seniors are those members who are over the age of 80 and have been the pillars of the Mountain View Buddhist Temple. These valued members of our Sangha have led interesting lives and greatly contributed to the growth and success of our Temple.

With Gassho,
The Senior Memories Committee

This month's **Super Seniors** are **Jits & Jean Higa**. Their story is on Page 9 of this issue.

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october 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
ALL MVBT SERVICES, MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO COVID-19						
				11:00 am Senior Taiko - Virtual 6:30 pm Taiko Talks - Virtual		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
ALL MVBT SERVICES, MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO COVID-19						
10:00 am Shotsuki Hoyo Virtual Service 11:00 am Japanese Language Virtual Service 11:00 am English Virtual Discussion Group	7:00 pm Buddhist Virtual Discussion Group	6:30 pm Adult Taiko - Virtual 7:30 pm Ukelele Club - Virtual		11:00 am Senior Taiko - Virtual 6:30 pm Taiko Talks - Virtual	7:30 pm ABA Virtual Meeting	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
ALL MVBT SERVICES, MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO COVID-19						
10:00 am Bishops' & MVBT Virtual Memorial Service 11:00 am Virtual Seminar		6:30 pm Adult Taiko - Virtual 7:30 pm Ukelele Club - Virtual	7:30 pm Temple Board of Directors Virtual Meeting	11:00 am Senior Taiko - Virtual 6:30 pm Taiko Talks - Virtual		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
ALL MVBT SERVICES, MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO COVID-19						
10:00 am Sunday Virtual Service		6:30 pm Adult Taiko - Virtual 7:30 pm Ukelele Club - Virtual		11:00 am Senior Taiko - Virtual 6:30 pm Taiko Talks - Virtual		
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
ALL MVBT SERVICES, MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO COVID-19						
10:00 am Sunday Virtual Service	7:30 pm RPC Virtual Meeting	6:30 pm Adult Taiko - Virtual 7:30 pm Ukelele Club - Virtual		11:00 am Senior Taiko - Virtual 6:30 pm Taiko Talks - Virtual		

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While Sunday Services at the Temple are cancelled, Dharma Messages are available at the Temple website.

https://www.mvbuddhisttemple.org or https://tinyurl.com/MVBT-YouTube

Current and Past Dharma Messages are available.

Namo Amida Butsu – "Let us live with Kindness and Gratitude beyond words..."

Religious Planning — October 2020

October 4, 2020, Sunday, Shotsuki Hoyo, Online Service

11:00 am: Japanese Language Service., Online

11:00 am: English Discussion Group, Online

October 5, 2020, Monday, 7:00 pm, Buddhist Discussion Group, Online

To join, send email request to "staff@mvbuddhisttemple.org"

October 11, 2020, Sunday, BCA Bishops' and ABA Memorial Service, Online

This is an opportunity to remember the BCA Bishops and past MVBT ABA members who have crossed into the Pure Land.

11:00 am: Seminar, Online

October 18, 2020, Sunday, Online Service

Dharma School Cabinet and YBA Cabinet Installations

October 25, 2020, Sunday, Online Service

JOIN US

Sunday Dharma Messages by Rev. Mukojima and Minister's Assistant John Arima are available on the MVBT website.

JOZAI: SUNDAY SERVICE DONATION

Put your Jozai into the Dana Box
Go to MVBT website & Press the Dona Box

Shotsuki Hoyo Service | **O-asaji (Morning Chanting) - 9:00 am** | **Study Class - 7:00 pm**

Adult Discussion - 11:00 am | **Dharma School - 11:00 am**

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

Masataka Hirabayashi	*Sept 24, 1939*	*July 31, 2020*
Doris Kuboyama	*April 30, 1933*	*August 27, 2020*
Matthew Cusimano	*Dec 9, 1944*	*Sept 3, 2020*
Allan Nara	*May 19, 1928*	*Sept 4, 2020*

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

Namo Amida Butsu

Those Who Don't Read the Sutra, But Instead Know Its Essence – Part 1

(Continued from page 1)

I feel really sad that I'm not able to hear the voices of our members chanting in the Hondo.

posture looks poised and dignified. And when we hear the beautiful chanting, it makes us forget our busy everyday lives and we feel as if our minds and bodies are transported elsewhere by the chanting.

Whenever I go back to Japan, I visit our head temple in Kyoto, the Nishi Hongwanji, to participate in the morning service. During the service, I am always in deep reflection because I feel as if the beautiful chanting voices that echo through the Hondo become the calling voice of Amida Buddha questioning me about my self-centered ways.

There are Buddhist schools like Zen which practice meditation and those which do not. It depends, of course, on the teaching of each sect. But with sutra chanting, all schools have a strict practice. And although chanting is an important part of Buddhism, do you know what it means in our Jodo Shinshu tradition? I would like us to consider the significance of chanting in our Jodo Shinshu sect.

As you know, we are foolish beings with many faults. Once we get an idea into our heads, we become mentally blind and unable to see anything else around us. We believe without questioning what we see, and we are quite sure about what we hear, too. The moment we are certain we are right; we develop this blind spot that makes us lose insight.

Even if those of us with this blind spot were to discuss a matter of life and death seriously with others, we might not be able to solve anything about it. Despite how much we who are lost try to figure a problem out, we cannot seem to find the right answer.

That is why it is very important for us to listen to the true words that transcend delusion. What tries to grasp the true words is the Sutra. And in Jodo Shinshu tradition, the sutra chanting or reading is what asks the sutra and what questions the sutra.

To clarify: "What asks the sutra and what questions the sutra" actually means, "To ask and question the word of the Buddha." This is an important facet of Jodo Shinshu. For many practitioners, sutra chanting or reading means to nod our heads, accepting, "Oh, how grateful I am," as we listen to the Buddha's words, and bringing us up to the level of one who can embrace his/her own life just as it is.

Many Buddhists have had a wrong attitude about sutras. As I mentioned, in many sects, teachings may differ from that of other sects because each has its own emphasis. But there are some schools that teach that the sutra is read or chanted for the sake of the deceased. And there are many sects that believe one's wish will come true simply by chanting. These sects claim that sutra chanting brings benefits in the present life.

The reason we chant or read the Sutra is so that we may sincerely receive the true teachings described in the Sutras.

Some 2,500 years ago, Sakyamuni Buddha shared his insights with those around him and left them for those who would be born later. These teachings, compiled after his death, are the Sutras that we hold in our hands today. A Sutra is the teaching that Buddha handed down to each one of us living at this moment. So to read a Sutra is not to chant for anybody's sake. Through our loved ones who have died, and the innumerable causes and conditions, the reason we chant or read the Sutra is so that we may sincerely receive the true teachings described in the Sutras.

There is an important lesson in ***Recorded on the Life of Master Rennyo***, which says, "There are those who read the text of the Sutra, but do not read the truth; and those who do not read, but instead know the essence of it." These are the words of Rennyo Shonin, the eighth head priest of Jodo Shinshu, who is often called its second founder. Through this lesson, we should realize that we read the Sutra to accept its content—the truth and essence of the Sutra—to make it our own.

One person who truly understood this was Shoma (1799-1871), well known in Jodo Shinshu tradition as a ***Myokonin***, or superior Nembutsu follower. Shoma was born into a poor sharecropping family. He worked very hard making ropes and Japanese sandals while babysitting. Although he never married, he cultivated a small field and worked at the temple as a handyman.

Shoma was illiterate and couldn't even count money. Yet while working at the Shokaku Temple as a handyman, he was able to encounter the Primal Vow of Amida Buddha. Because of this, Shoma lived with the Nembutsu in deep gratitude for Amida's compassion and was born with the guidance of his temple's resident minister.

There is an interesting anecdote about Shoma that I would like to share it with you in my Dharma Message in the next Echo. Please look forward to it!

In Gassho,

マウンテンビュー仏教会「回向」二〇二〇年一〇月法話

ー聖教読まずの聖教読み(一)ー

駐在開教使 向嶋裕史

新型コロナウイルス感染拡大のため自粛生活を始めて早七カ月が過ぎました。仏教会で日曜礼拝ができなくなって大分久しいですが、本堂に響き渡るご門徒方のお勤めの声が聞けなくなって大変寂しい思いをしております。また、九月には日曜学校も始まり、本来であれば子供達の明るい笑顔と仏さまに手を合わす姿を毎週日曜日に本堂で目にすることができたのですが、それもかなわず、私達の生活様式が一変してしまって残念でなりません。

現在、自宅でも日曜礼拝に参加できるよう、オンライン法要を行っていますが、この混沌とした世の中において一人でも多くの方が阿弥陀仏のご本願に目覚め、阿弥陀仏の智慧と慈悲の結晶—お念仏の中で皆が繋がり合っているという喜びを共にできればと切に願っています。

さて、ご存知のように、仏教会に初めて足を運ぶ方は、たいてい座禅や読経に興味を持っておられます。西洋文化にない仏教独自の伝統に魅せられる方が多いようです。

確かに、座禅を組んで静かに精神統一をはかる姿は、神秘的で気高く感じますし、美しいお勤めを聞くと、心が日常生活から離れて、身体と心全体が洗われるような気持ちになります。私も帰国した際は、本願寺へお参りするのですが、本堂に響き渡る美しいお勤めが、仏さまの呼び声となって、私の自己中心的な生き方を問い質して下さっているように思えて、いつも反省させられます。

座禅は宗派によって、教えるところと教えないところがありますが、読経に関してはどの宗派でも厳格に実践されています。それほど仏教において読経は大切な役割を果たしています。では、浄土真宗におけるお勤めとは何を意味しているのでしょうか。そこで、読経について少し味わってみたいと思います。

ご存じの通り、私達人間は思い込みが激しく、ともすると盲目的になってしまうという欠点を持った愚かな生き物です。自分が見たものは疑いなく信じ、自分が聞いたものは確実だと思っています。しかし、そう思い込んだとたん、一瞬にして私達は周りを見る力を失っているのです。これが私達人間の盲点というものなのです。

そういう盲点を持ったもの同士が、たとえ真剣に議論を重ねても生死の問題は何一つとして解決できませんし、迷っているもの同士がどれほど相談しても正しい答えには至りません。それ故、迷いを超えた真理の言葉に耳を傾けようというのが、お経であり、お経に問い、お経に聞くということが浄土真宗でいう読経なのです。

お経に問い、お経に聞くということは、仏さまのお言葉に問い、聞くということであり、浄土真宗でもっとも大切にされているところです。読経とは、仏さまのお言葉を聞かせていただいて「ああ、そうでしたか」と頷いて、人生そのものを受け入れていくことのできる人間に育てられていくことなのです。

このお経に対する姿勢を、長い間、多くの仏教徒は間違えてきました。先ほども申しましたように、仏教には数多くの宗派が存在し、その宗派によって教えも異なるのですが、お経というのが、亡くなった方のために読むものだと考える宗派が少なくありません。または、お経を読むことで願い事が叶うという現世利益を信じている宗派も意外に多いのです。

今から約二五〇〇年前、仏教の開祖であるお釈迦さまは、今を生きているものに対してお説教なさいました。そのお説教を後になってまとめられたのが、お経として現在私達の手元に届いているわけです。ですから、お経を読むというのは、誰かのために称えるのではなく、亡き方を始め、数多くのご縁を通して、お経の中に説かれている真実なる教えをしっかりと私の心にいただくということが、お経を読むという意味なのです。

中興の祖である蓮如上人の『御一代記聞書』に次のような教えがあります。「聖教よみの聖教よまずあり、聖教よまずの聖教よみあり」(訳)お経の字面は読んでいるが、中身を読んでいない人、お経の字面は読めないが、中身をしっかりと味わっている人。

このお言葉から、お聖教の内容、中身をしっかりと受け取り、我がものにするということが、お経を読むという意味なのだと教えられるのです。

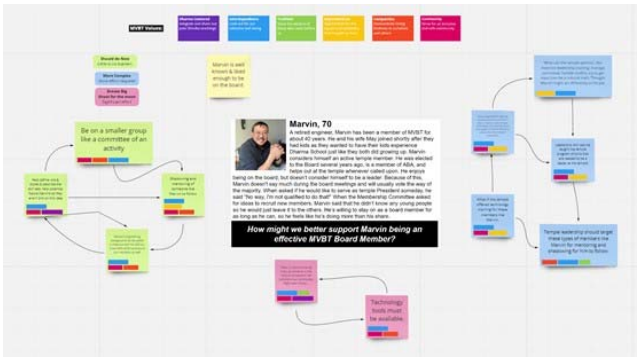
この蓮如上人のお言葉をしっかりと受け継がれたのが、讃岐の妙好人として大変有名な庄松さん(一七九九ー一八七一)です。庄松さんは、貧しい小作農の家に生まれ、縄ないや草履つくり、子守などをしながら一生懸命働いたと伝えられています。そして、生涯独身を通し、僅かな田畑を耕して生涯を終えられました。

また庄松さんは、全く無学の方で、お金の勘定ができないほどだったといわれています。しかし、檀那寺である勝覚寺の寺男として働く中で、阿弥陀仏の本願に出遇い、住職の導きによって報恩感謝の念仏に生きる妙好人庄松が生まれたといわれています。その庄松さんに大変興味深いエピソードがあるので、来月の法話で紹介してみたいと思います。

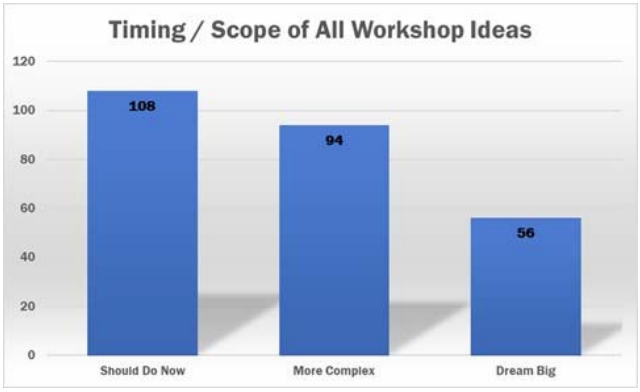
MVBT VISION COMMITTEE

VISION WORKSHOP IDEAS

As reported last month, there were many creative ideas generated from four virtual Workshops held in May and August. A grand total of almost 300 individual "sticky notes" with ideas were written during the online Workshops.



Virtual Whiteboard used for online Vision Workshops



A key element of the Workshops was for participants to draw upon their compassion towards others. Profiles of people who are either part of the Temple community or have interaction with the Temple were created, and participants were asked to think of ideas of how MVBT could help them with the issues or concerns that were described in their profile.

We categorized all the ideas Workshop participants generated and found that about a third of them recommended new programs that the Temple could develop. The second highest number of ideas were pointing towards expanding or improving existing programs at the Temple. When these two categories are combined, almost half of all ideas from the Workshops focus on programs. Though many ideas were written down multiple times over the course of all the different Workshop sessions within each of the idea categories, we found it very telling that participants want the Temple to build programs to serve people in need of support. It speaks volumes that our Temple community can genuinely express such compassion towards others.

The workshop participants also sorted the ideas based on the timing and scope estimated to begin to execute on these ideas. Over a third of the ideas were thought to be actionable now. Based on this, a subcommittee was launched to investigate the "low hanging fruit."

Ideas are beginning to be developed, and the Sangha will begin to see some things start to happen. We will be seeing more discussion groups and town halls following our services, even while we are having online services. We held a seminar following Fall O-higan Service and our next one will be following October Shotsuki Hoyo Service. The Membership Committee is working to help new members better understand how our Temple operates and what is involved with our fundraising activities, and to increase opportunities to learn about Buddhism and our Jodo Shinshu teachings. Please look for more things to come as we harvest more of the "low hanging fruit".

NEXT STEPS for VISION

The engagement with affiliated organizations, committees and special activities will continue as we now seek input on improvements of the Temple facilities that could enhance those groups' activities and help them achieve their missions. Several organizations have provided their input and the Vision Committee will be reaching out to those who have not yet had a chance to complete their feedback. This feedback will be organized and aligned with the ideas generated from the Vision Workshops to help provide direction for the strategic growth of the Temple and update the facilities master plan as needed to align with that growth.

In Gassho,
The Vision Committee

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Dharma School News

Dharma School

Welcome to a new year of Dharma School! As with many things this year, Dharma School will be very different – at least while we are still seeing the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. As outlined in the parents' meeting on September 13, classes will be using different approaches for remote learning and instruction for at least the Fall Quarter.

If you know of any family who might be interested in joining our Dharma School, please encourage them to come and experience one of our classes — it's not too late!

DHARMA SCHOOL CLASSES

The Dharma School classes for 2020-21 are as follows:

Pre-K .....Curt Fukuda, Tracey Mukoyama and Joann Yamani
Producing monthly videos with storytime and other fun activities and mailing supplies monthly for projects

Kindergarten and 1st Grade.....Esther Bunya, Traci Inouye, Frances Sawamura and Reiko Tsuchida
Meeting the second Sunday of each month on Zoom; sending lessons to students and would like parent involvement

2nd and 3rd Grades.....Diane Umemoto and Toshiko Uyehara
Meeting the second Sunday of each month on Zoom; distributing materials to students

4th Grade.....Joan Aoki, Gail Satake-Nakamura and Sharon Tsukahara
Meeting the first Sunday of each month on Zoom

5th and 6th Grades .....Carol Harbin and Debby Inenaga
Meeting the first Sunday of each month on Zoom

7th and 8th Grades .....Kelsey Sawamura and Haley Sawamura
Meeting the fourth Sunday of each month on Zoom

High School.....Elise Fujimoto, Brent Izutsu and Bruce Morimoto
Meeting weekly starting September 20 for a short discussion with the third Sunday of each month involving a 45-minute lesson on Zoom; mailing materials and supplies to students

Please welcome Kelsey Sawamura and Haley Sawamura as our new 7th and 8th Grade teachers! We are excited to have them return to our Dharma School!

We would also like to acknowledge our librarians, **Marie Ochi-Jacobs** and **Jeanne Ohara**.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Sunday, September 27: Sangha Day at Home
Dharma School families were asked to RSVP by September 11 so that materials could be mailed to each household for participation. The YBA will be coordinating activities for children.

In Gassho,
Brent Izutsu
Dharma School Superintendent

DIAL THE DHARMA

Call the toll free number - 800-817-7918 to hear Bishop Harada's message
Push "1" for English and "2" for Japanese

Please share this phone number with friends, family, and those Sangha members who may not use computers or the internet, to be able to listen to a short Dharma message during this time of sheltering at home.

Sasaki Scholarship Golf Tournament

This article first appeared in the September 1986 Echo.

The article is about the first Annual Rev. and Mrs. Sensho Sasaki Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament.

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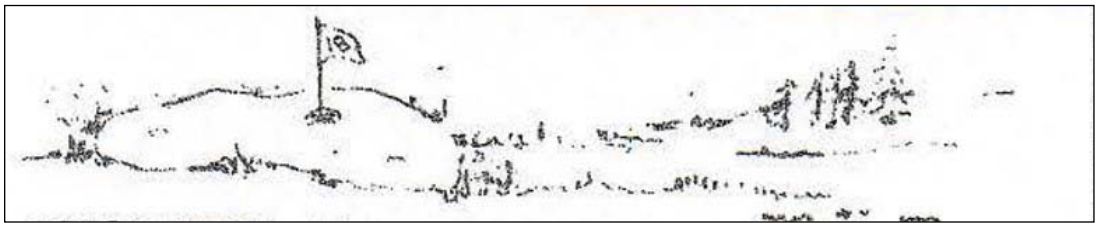


The first activity of the Mountain View Buddhist Temple 25th Anniversary program was the Rev. and Mrs. Sensho Sasaki Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament held at Shoreline Golf Course on August 17, followed by a barbecued steak dinner at the Sangha Hall dining room. The event netted over $700 toward the scholarship fund.

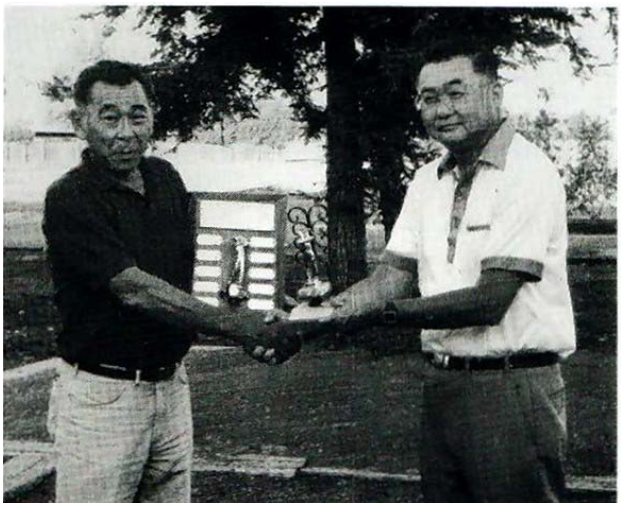
The handicap tournament winner was **Sam Sugimoto** with a net 57. Runner-up was **Dave Kamachi**, who shot low gross of 78 at this difficult course. There were 43 players in all, four being from Japan. ·

A delicious steak barbecue followed the event at the Sangha Hall dining room where prizes were presented. The eighty dinner attendees were winners because of the many donated merchandise and raffled prizes.

The Golf Tournament Committee thanks the following for their donations: **Cusimano Mortuary** (golf balls), **Yamane Jewelry** (trophy), **Clark Taketa** (gift certificate), **Nishimoto Trading** (beer), **Japan Foods** (rice and foods), **Kinichi Okuno**, **Kei Hayame**, **Shozo Mayeda**, **Yas Shimoguchi** (food), and all participants and supporters whose contributions made this event so successful.

The golf organization extends special thanks to the **Harry Sakae** YABA team, particularly **Jim Kawaye** and his pit crew and the golfers' families who helped prepare the excellent dinner. Most of all, the committee expresses its deepest gratitude to every one for their generous donations for a worthy cause.

Yas Shimoguchi
Golf Tournament Chairman



1986 Sasaki Memorial Golf Tournament with winner Sam Sugimoto (left) and Chairperson Yas Shimoguchi (right)

EDITOR NOTES:

- *Matt Cusimano donated several dozen golf balls for the first Sasaki Memorial Scholarship Golf Tournament. Sleeves of balls were given to each golfer in the tournament. He continued to donate golf balls for every tournament until this year when the tournament was cancelled because of the coronavirus pandemic. He would have had donated if the tournament was played – it would have been the 35th Annual Rev. & Mrs. Sensho Sasaki Scholarship Golf Tournament.*

- *The recipients for the 35th Annual Rev. & Mrs. Sensho Sasaki Scholarship were Stacey Kawabata, Kylie Mukoyama and Wendy Sakuma.*

In Gassho,
The Mountain View Buddhist Temple

Buddhist Women's Association

BWA NEWS

CONDOLENCES

Our heartfelt condolences to the family of Allan Nara, who passed away on September 4, 2020. Allan was a great friend to the BWA, and he will be missed.

SANGHA DAY at HOME

I hope that those of you who were able to take part in the virtual Sangha Day "Picnic @ Home" enjoyed yourselves. It was a great way to take a break from the stay-at-home boredom.

DEALING WITH COVID-19

Everyone, please stay safe and healthy!

In Gassho,
Reiko Murakami
BWA President

Super Seniors Jits & Jean Higa: Dedicated MVBT Members for 50 Years

Sensei often speaks about how interdependent we all are in relation to one another. I found this especially true as we highlight this month's Super Senior couple, Mr. Jits & Mrs. Jean Higa.

Written by Ricky Chu

Did you know that Jits & Jean have been a part of the Mountain View Buddhist Temple Landscape Committee for the last 4+ decades? (2020 marked the 50th year of service for Jits!) To be a part of any organization for that long shows a unique level of dedication. There is always a sense of peacefulness when you step foot on the Temple grounds. We are very blessed to have such a wonderful group of volunteers all these years. Fellow member Ken Nakano says it well, "Jits and Jean exhibit the 'spirit of Dana' by setting the example consistently over many years at the Mountain View Buddhist Temple."

JITS HIGA

A couple summers ago, I recall meeting Jits at Nakayoshi Gakko summer school where he was happily dropping off his grandchildren in the mornings. He always had a warm smile and humorous demeanor. Jits & Jean have 10 grandchildren [Kyle, Jaimie, Lindsey, Caitlyn, Vanessa, Jillian, Lacey, Kylie, Blake and Sammi whose ages range from 9-26]. Their five children are: Margie Nishimoto, Garret Higa, Norman Higa, Marilyn Armistead and Clayton Higa.

Jits was born in 1932 on Lawai, Kauai and grew up in the town of Molaa, Kauai. His family was originally from Okinawa. Jean was born in Honolulu, Hawaii and her family was originally from Hiroshima. The two met in 1958 in Berkeley at a bowling alley.

Of all the many talents Jits possesses, one that many know about is his singing talent. As a member of the Mountain View Buddhist Choir, Jits performs regularly for the Sangha at Sunday Services and other important Temple events. It is always a treat to have the choir perform as they provide a truly uplifting experience especially for the Dharma School students.

Fellow choir member and conductor, Mel Inouye states, *"Jits is one of the most dedicated choir members who actually sang with the previous choir in the 1980's as well as singing Karaoke for years. Always one of the first to show up for rehearsals and performances. So pleased to have him."*

Another fellow choir member, Irv Ozawa fondly says, *"Of the three Tenors who normally perform, Jits is usually 'OUR' lead Tenor. The Tenors follow Jits' lead on the notes & rhythms so the Tenors can perform in unison. So when the Tenors make a noticeable error, Jits always says, 'At least we all made the same mistake in unison, so it all still sounds good!'"*

Jits's favorite songs to sing are *"Seiya"* and *"What a Wonderful World."*

Higa Family

Jits in the MVBT Choir (front row, far right)

Jits singing at Obon in the 80's

Quiz

Where is this sign?

What building am I near?

Where is Simba and Bambi?
Where is this plant located?

Super Seniors Jits & Jean Higa: Dedicated MVBT Members for 50 Years (cont'd)

(Continued from page 9)

JEAN HIGA

Jean has been an integral part of the MVBT community and many of her friends can attest to her dedication and love for others.

Jean Higa

Donna Okubo recalls, *"I was in the first group of girls in the MVBT Fuji 4-H, which Jean started (Leader of the Club for 40 Years). Our 4-H did not consist of taking care of any livestock, but we did a lot of crafts and cooking, which are part of Jean's many talents. Our uniforms were green pants, white shirts, and a green scarf with the gold 4-H pin. I'm sure our uniforms were all handmade by our moms or with the help of Jean. A few of my fondest memories include how she submitted all of our "Bunka Shishu" to the Santa Clara County Fair. We all took first place, which included a cash prize of $1 (See picture).*

"A few years ago, Jean and I were helping out at the Chicken Teriyaki fundraiser. We had to take the chicken bags of four in each bag up to the lobby area. There she was carrying four bags of chicken on each arm! I'm grateful for Jean's leadership of establishing the first girls' program for the Temple, as well as her continued commitment and hard work at the Temple."

Ken Nakano also recollects, *"My favorite memories of Jean are when she would collect the plastic yogurt cups as flower vases for decorating the Keiro Kai luncheon tables...so now, I never throw away the cups! Also, when she would ask to come over to our house to have Jits cut holly berries from our tree after Thanksgiving to mail back to Hawaii...I have no interest in the holly berries, but didn't realize it's a novelty in Hawaii so I'm glad now because my tree gets trimmed once a year!"*

Bunka Shishu at Santa Clara County Fair - First Place in 1977

THANK YOU, JITS AND JEAN

There are not enough words to describe the devotion that Jits & Jean and their entire close-knit family have given to the Sangha. When I asked their friends to describe Jits & Jean in 3-words, these were the adjectives that were most commonly used:

Jits: sense of humor, strong, family

Jean: selfless, devoted, quietly funny

Next time we are at the Temple, we should take a moment to look around and reflect upon how fortunate we are to have Jits & Jean as a part of our lives. The two of them have truly touched us all with everything that they have contributed to our Sangha.

Volume 59 Number 10

SAVE THE DATE

Sangha Day @ Home
Sunday, September 27
10:00 am to 1:00 pm

Sunday, Schedule

- Sunday Service, chaired by Fuji Club
- Obon@Home Thank You video
- Activities hosted by YBA and YABA
- Vision Committee Update
- BINGO, Pull-Tabs, and Pre-Sangha Day Activities Drawing

NEW - Pre-Sangha Day Activities – Participate for Your Chance to Win!!!!

Deadline: September 23

Just upload your pictures, and you will automatically be entered into our drawing for a $25 gift card.

https://sangha.mvbuddhisttemple.org/sangha-day/pre-sangha-day-activities/

- Sangha Day Memories –Share your favorite Sangha Day Picnic from the past.
- Your Day with Putra - Putra misses everyone! Help us make a fun online photo album for Putra by taking pictures of "Your Day with Putra."

In Gassho,
Donna, Sandy & Yuki
Zone 13

Donate to the Past & Upcoming Services

Support Your Temple

Fall Ohigan, Bishops' & ABA Memorial Service, Eitaikyo, Bodhi Day

Your donations go to the General Fund supporting day-to-day operations

(1) Use the MVBT online "DONATE NOW,"
(2) Send a check to the Temple office

Seen and Unseen: Queering Japanese American History Before 1945 is the first-ever exhibit focused on Nikkei (Japanese Americans) who were involved in intimate same-sex relationships or defied gender roles in the early 20th century. Queer Nikkei are virtually non-existent in Japanese American history, but this exhibit brings them into view. Drawing from recent research by scholars in history, cultural and literary studies, *Seen and Unseen* brings to light a hidden past when same-sex relationships and female impersonation were accepted parts of Japanese immigrant culture, and how queer Japanese Americans expressed themselves as the Nikkei community came to mirror white American fears of same-sex intimacy and gender nonconformity.

Seen and Unseen will open on October 11, 2020 to coincide with National Coming out Day, and run through Feb 19, 2021. Seen and Unseen: Queering Japanese American History Before 1945 is hosted by J-Sei and co-curated by Amy Sueyoshi and Stan Yogi.

The following exhibit-related programs will take place over Zoom:

Sunday, October 11, 2020, 4 - 5 pm - Opening Program
"Seen and Unseen: A Virtual Tour & Meet the Curators Amy Sueyoshi and Stan Yogi

Sunday, November 8, 2020, 4 - 5:30 pm
"Queer Compulsions: Love, Sex and Scandal in Turn of the Century Japanese America" by historian Amy Sueyoshi

Tuesday, November 17, 2020, 7 - 8:30 pm
"We Were Here and Queer Before the Issei" by literary scholar Andrew Leong

Tuesday, December 1, 2020, 7 - 8:30 pm
"Queer Cinematic Visions of Nikkei History" by filmmaker Tina Takemoto

CALIFORNIA HUMANITIES
A STATE OF OPEN MIND

This project was made possible with support from California Humanities, a non-profit partner of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Visit www.calhum.org. Any views, findings, conclusions, or recommendations expressed in the exhibit and related programs do not necessarily represent those of California Humanities or the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Our community partners include: Aldersgate United Methodist Church, API Equality-LA, Buena Vista United Methodist Church, Densho, GAPA, GLBT Historical Society, Japanese American National Library, Japanese American Service Committee (Chicago), National JACL, Mountain View Buddhist Temple, National Japanese American Historical Society (NJAHS), Omusubi, Pine United Methodist Church, Wesley United Methodist Church, and more. (partial list)

Join us for a **MVBT *Compassionate Conversation, Mindful Action / Mindful Conversation, Compassionate Action*** discussion on Sunday, October 25 at 11 AM. More info to follow.

ABA News

ABA continues to have monthly Zoom meetings and enjoy seeing members – even if it's virtual. We will be hosting the Bingo game as part of the Sangha Day @ Home. Good luck everyone! 🤗

CONDOLENCES

Our condolences to the families of former ABA members Fumi Satake and Doris Kuboyama. We will miss them.

DONATIONS

Thanks to the following Sangha members for their donations.

- **Ken and Mieko Nakano**
  For the birth of grandchild.
- **Ozawa Family**
  In memory of Edna Ozawa

With Gassho,
Jean Shimoguchi
ABA President

MVBT

Adult Buddhist Association

ONLY IF YOU'RE OVER 70 ½ YEARS OLD

Donate from Your IRA using a QCD
Directly to the Temple and Save on Your Taxes

No RMD is required in 2020, but you can still do a QCD.

Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) are not required in 2020. But, you can still take a tax benefit for yourself and the Mountain View Buddhist Temple. Consider a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD).

Benefits of an IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution

- QCD reduces your taxable income, even if you are using the standard deduction. Because the amount transferred from your IRA to the Mountain View Buddhist Temple is not included in your adjusted gross income (AGI) for the year
- QCD is a viable tax strategy that helps further the work and mission of Mountain View Buddhist Temple

How an IRA Charitable Rollover Gift Works

1. Contact your IRA plan administrator to make a gift from your IRA to the Temple. Your IRA administrator must make the distribution directly to the Temple.
2. Please note that your IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions does not qualify for a charitable deduction.

CONTACT US

If you have any questions about an IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution, please contact us at treasurer@mvbuddhisttemple.org. We would be happy to assist you and answer any questions you might have.

The above information is not intended as legal or tax advice. Please contact your attorney or tax advisor for further details on making an IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution

Amazon and MVBT — Fundraise While You Shop

Step 1

Step 2 amazon.com

Step 3 1 Cart

Are you an Amazon shopper?

If so, please use the Amazon link on the MVBT home page **BEFORE** you select your item and make a purchase on the Amazon site. Your purchase will help MVBT earn some income—at no additional cost to you.

Even if you're not an Amazon shopper, give it a try.

Here are the steps:

1. Go to https://www.mvbuddhisttemple.org
2. Press the Amazon logo
3. Find your item and place it into the cart. Checkout

Questions? Please contact **Steve Tsuchida**

MVBT Seniors Activities and Crafts

Seniors Activities & Crafts Program

The Temple has not informed us if they will open our Thursday session as yet. The important concern is to keep you all safe and well. Please everyone, take care and stay well. You are all truly missed and being hopeful we can see you all very soon.

CONDOLENCES

Our Heartfelt Sympathy to **Allan Nara's Family**. Allan was one of our valuable committee members in our Senior Activities Program. We relied on him to be our Treasurer and he will be greatly missed as a dear friend and Temple member. We wish Allan's family well.

TAIKO

Through the instruction by **Susan Yuen** and **Linda Uyechi**, we are having our Taiko lesson via Zoom every Thursday at 11:00 am to 11:45 am. It is so mindful, keeping one alert on balance and timing. Please join us and enjoy Taiko with us. We have seven currently enjoying Taiko lesson including our instructors. For more information, contact **Reiko Tsuchida**.

COOKBOOK

The Senior Activities Cook Book is still available and can be purchased at the Temple office or through our Senior Committee members. The sale price is still at $15.

In Gassho,
Aiko Sugimoto-Miyamoto

Upcoming Events

November 15, Sunday
Eitaikyo & Keiro Kai Tribute

December 6, Sunday
Bodhi Day

December 13, Sunday
Mochi Tsuki @ Home

December 31, Thursday
Joya-e Year End Service

January 1, Friday
Shusho-e New Years Day Service

150 Club News

Our September winner is **Jean Shimoguchi**. Congratulations to Jean.

And, thank you to all for participating in 150 Club!

Everyone, please stay healthy and well!

Toban & Echo Schedule

	Toban	Echo Article Deadline	Echo Mail
OCT	No Toban	N / A	N / A
NOV	No Toban	Oct 16 (Fri)	Oct 26 (Mon)
DEC	No Toban	Nov 13 (Fri)	Nov 23 (Mon)

Please note the article deadline and printing dates. The printing date has been adjusted to accommodate the shelter-in-place requirements. This will provide time to layout, proof and finalize the issue. Thank you. *Domo Arigato.* Email all articles to echo@mvbuddhisttemple.org

MVBT YBA NEWS

Mountain View Buddhist Temple YBA

CENTRAL CAL JR. YBA VOLLEYBALL MIXER

Due to COVID-19, the annual Central Cal Jr. YBA Volleyball Mixer in Fresno was cancelled.

YBA CABINET MEETING

YBA held its first cabinet meeting of the year to discuss roles and responsibilities and to plan for the upcoming year.

FIRST YBA GENERAL MEETING

YBA recently held its first General Meeting of the year. We welcomed new members and played a virtual game to get to know each other better.

SOUTHERN DISTRICT JR. YBL VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

Kelli Kosakura and **Megan Nakagawa** attended the Southern District Jr. YBL Virtual Conference. The theme of the conference was "Sharing the Dharma Virtually" and included an opening service, a Dharma message by **Rev. Jon Turner** (Orange County Buddhist Church), the installation of the Southern District cabinet, and more. Kelli and Megan also participated in the pre-conference virtual scavenger hunt with other Coast District attendees.

MVBT SANGHA DAY AT HOME

YBA will run several breakout rooms in Zoom for children's games. YBA is excited to host these virtual activities and reconnect with the Sangha.

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

YBA is currently planning virtual activities to stay connected until we can meet again in person.

In Gassho,
Megan Nakagawa
2020 - 2021 YBA President

First YBA Cabinet Meeting

MVBT Girl Scout Troop #60736

MEETINGS

Our Girl Scout Troop held their Bridging and Rededication Ceremony on September 21.

Regular meetings and the Padma program will all continue virtually.

SANGHA DAY AT HOME

We will be hosting the Guessing Jar game during the Sangha Day at Home.

October Shotsuki Hoyo (Monthly Memorial Service)

The Shotsuki (Monthly Memorial) Services are conducted and sponsored by the Temple in memory of the past members and their family 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 **October** Shotsuki loved ones are:

Kent Abe	**Takeru Kawamoto**	**Hagiyo Sato**
George Abey	**Masakatsu Kito**	**Itoju Sawamura**
Sumako (Sue) Abey	**Shozo Mayeda**	**Yas Shimoguchi**
Sachi Adachi	**Yachi Miyake**	**Drew Sugimoto**
Evelyn Arakaki	**Yoshiaki Murakami**	**Takie Sugimoto**
Kikue Fujii	**Lily Nakamura**	**Dr. Ray Uchiyama**
Irene Hatsue Furuta	**Aiko Nakano**	**Tiny Yamaji**
Mary Hayamizu	**Takeno Nara**	**Fumiko Yanaba**
Ted Hayashida	**Mikiyo Nishimoto**	**Masayo Yokoyama**
Saburo Higa	**Mary Nishita**	**Yukiko Yonemoto**
Tad Iimura	**Hiroshi Obuchi**	**Mollie Yoshizumi**
Masako Inokuchi	**George Ogino**	
Fred Inouye	**Toemon Ogino**	
George Ishikawa	**Shigeto Okimoto**	
Hoichi Kato	**Kayoko Okubo**	
Ihei Kawamoto	**Jerry Okumura**	
Mamoru Kawamoto	**Tsui Sakai**	

October

Monthly

Memorial

Service

* * * * *

Service at Temple Cancelled

* * * * *

See service on MVBT website

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. Mukojima.

E-mail **ymukojima@gmail.com**

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

MEMORIAL SERVICES

Memorial services allow us to pay homage to loved ones who have passed away. In our Jodo Shinshu tradition, family members hold a service at certain intervals following a relative's death to express gratitude for and acknowledge their continuing influence in our lives. If you wish to schedule a memorial service for a loved one, please call during weekly office hours.

2020 is the Memorial Year for those who passed away in:

1st Year Memorial	2019	3rd Year Memorial	2018	7th Year Memorial	2014
13th Year Memorial	2008	17th Year Memorial	2004	25th Year Memorial	1996
27th Year Memorial	1994	33rd Year Memorial	1988	50th Year Memorial	1971

Eitaikyo Service on Sunday, November 15, Online

The Eitaikyo Service will be held on Sunday, November 15. Usually a Keiro Kai Luncheon follows this service, but because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the luncheon at the Temple is cancelled. The Keiro Kai Committee is planning an event to honor the Keiros. More information will be available soon.

What is the Eitaikyo Perpetual Memorial Fund?

永代読経

The word *Eitaikyo* is a contraction of the more formal term, **Ei-tai dok(u)-kyo (永代読経).**

Ei means eternal. It is composed of the Chinese Characters for a river with many tributaries that flows on and on. ***Tai*** means generations. ***Kyo*** means sutras or the words of the Buddha. ***Doku*** means to read or chant. Thus the meaning of Eitaikyo is to eternally chant the sutras on behalf of our loved ones for generations and generations to come.

The Eitaikyo Perpetual Memorial Fund

A special Eitaikyo Perpetual Memorial Fund was established to ensure the continuation of the teachings of the Buddha and Nembutsu. It is to be used specifically for religious purposes such as to purchase candles and incense, religious articles, altar enhancements and altar repairs. This fund is established through the donations made in memory of deceased members of the family, relative, and friends. This ensures a perpetual service for the deceased even when there is no one left in the family to observe a Buddhist Service.

Because the purpose of Eitaikyo is to ensure that a Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Service be conducted eternally in memory of a loved one, an initial substantial donation is requested to place a loved one's name in the Eitaikyo Registry. An amount of $500 or more is suggested. However, due to circumstances any amount will be considered. Please consult with the resident minister.

The Eitaikyo Registry

After completing the Eitaikyo form and donating to the Eitaikyo fund, the name of your deceased loved one will be entered into a Special Eitaikyo Registry book. This is a calendar type book listing the deceased names on the day of death. This book is kept in the Mountain View Buddhist Temple's altar. Each day, the morning service is dedicated to the names that appear on the page for that particular day. Thus by donating to the Eitaikyo Fund, a sutra will be chanted in memory of your loved one for eternal generations to come. As an expression of appreciation and gratitude for the guidance, leadership and support in the growth of the Mountain View Buddhist Temple, automatically entered into this Eitaikyo registry will be:

1. Past Ministers and Ministers' spouses who served the Mountain View Buddhist Temple
2. Past Mountain View Buddhist Temple Presidents who have served two or more years. No donations from the family will be expected in these cases.

The Annual Eitaikyo Service

Every November an Annual Eitaikyo Service will be conducted at the Mountain View Buddhist Temple. This service will be dedicated in special memory to those loved ones newly recorded into the Eitaikyo registry within the past year. Those families will be sent an invitation to this service so that they can o-shoko in memory of their loved one during the service.

Mountain View Buddhist Temple

EITAIKYO PERPETUAL MEMORIAL FUND DONATION

No. _____

Date: _____

In Memory of

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Japanese Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Date of Death: _____

Buddhist Name

English: _____ Japanese: _____

Place of Funeral: _____

Name of Donor(s)

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____

Japanese Name: _____

MVBT Office Record Use Only

Amount of Donation: _____ Date of Eitaikyo (Initial) Service: _____

Acknowledgment Forwarded: _____

Remarks: _____

Signature of Minister: _____

november 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**
ALL MVBT SERVICES, MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO COVID-19						
10:00 am Shotsuki Hoyo Virtual Service	7:00 pm Buddhist Virtual Discussion Group	6:30 pm Adult Taiko - Virtual 7:30 pm Ukelele Club - Virtual		11:00 am Senior Taiko - Virtual 6:30 pm Taiko Talks - Virtual		
8	**9**	**10**	**11**	**12**	**13**	**14**
ALL MVBT SERVICES, MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO COVID-19						
10:00 am Sunday Virtual Service		6:30 pm Adult Taiko - Virtual 7:30 pm Ukelele Club - Virtual	7:30 pm Temple Board of Directors Virtual Meeting	11:00 am Senior Taiko - Virtual 6:30 pm Taiko Talks - Virtual	7:30 pm ABA Virtual Meeting	
15	**16**	**17**	**18**	**19**	**20**	**21**
ALL MVBT SERVICES, MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO COVID-19						
10:00 am Eitaikyo Virtual Service TBD Keiro Kai Appreciation Event		6:30 pm Adult Taiko - Virtual 7:30 pm Ukelele Club - Virtual		11:00 am Senior Taiko - Virtual 6:30 pm Taiko Talks - Virtual		
22	**23**	**24**	**25**	**26**	**27**	**28**
ALL MVBT SERVICES, MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO COVID-19						
10:00 am Sunday Virtual Service		6:30 pm Adult Taiko - Virtual 7:30 pm Ukelele Club - Virtual				
29	**30**					
ALL MVBT SERVICES, MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO COVID-19						
	7:30 pm RPC Virtual Meeting					

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At no additional cost to you or the Temple

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Mountain View Buddhist Temple

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