November 2020

Volume 59 Number 11

MOUNTAIN VIEW BUDDHIST TEMPLE

November Highlights

- ***11/1 Sun, Shotsuki Hoyo Service, Online***
  - ** Japanese Language Service*
  - ** English Discussion Group*
- ***11/2 Mon, 7:00 pm, Buddhist Discussion Group, Online***
- ***11/15 Sun, Eitaikyo Service***
  - ** 11:00 am: Keiro Kai Activity, online*

11/29 Sun, No Services

Those Who Don't Read the Sutra, But Instead Know Its Essence – Part 2

By Rev. Yushi Mukojima

To pick up where we left off last month, I would like to share an interesting anecdote about Shoma. Although he was illiterate and couldn't even count money, he worked hard at the Shokaku Temple as a handyman while striving to listen to the Nembutsu teaching. Because of his great devotion, Shoma was treated like a son by the Shokaku Temple's resident minister. However, one day, one of the associate ministers who was jealous of this affectionate relationship got it into his head to make fun of Shoma and embarrass him.

The next day, in front of a crowd of sangha members, that associate minister brought out the second volume of the Large Sutra, held it out to Shoma and said, "Hey, Shoma. Everyone here knows how devout you are. Why don't you read what it says in this Sutra to us?"

The text he was referring to was "Goakudan," a part of the Large Sutra, which is even difficult for ministers to read. That minister was fully aware that Shoma would not be able to utter a single word of it. He expected to see Shoma admit in deep distress, "I am ashamed to say that I cannot read any of this." But all Sutras are the same to an illiterate man. So instead, Shoma accepted the volume in both hands, raised it up to his forehead respectfully and said, "Yes, I am very honored to read it." Standing before the many members watching with breathless

(Continued on page 4)

Super Senior Highlights

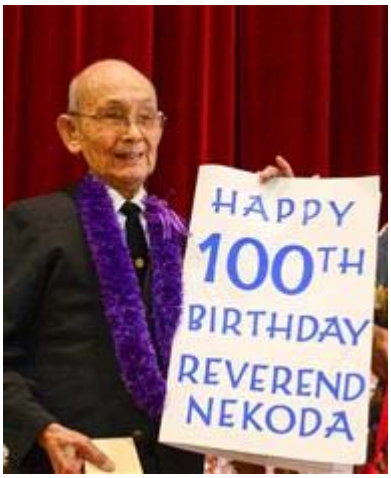
MVBT's Super Seniors are those members who are over the age of 80 and have been the pillars of the Mountain View Buddhist Temple. These valued members of our Sangha have led interesting lives and greatly contributed to the growth and success of our Temple.

With Gassho,
The Senior Memories Committee

This month's **Super Senior is Rev. Ensei Nekoda.** His story is on Page 6 of this issue.

The photo was taken at the 2019 Keiro Kai Luncheon held November 17, 2019.

Rev. Nekoda will be 101 years old on November 12, 2020.



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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	10:00 am Senior Activities Sing-Along	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	10:00 am Senior Activities Sing-Along 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 11:00 am Keiro Kai @ Home, Virtual		6:30 pm Adult Taiko - Virtual 7:30 pm Ukelele Club - Virtual	10:00 am Senior Activities Sing-Along	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	10:00 am Senior Activities Sing-Along			
29	**30**					
ALL MVBT SERVICES, MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO COVID-19						
No Sunday Services	7:30 pm RPC Virtual Meeting					

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

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 — November 2020

November 1, 2020, Sunday, Shotsuki Hoyo, Online Service

11:00 am: Japanese Language Service., Online

11:00 am: English Discussion Group, Online

November 2, 2020, Monday, 7:00 pm, Buddhist Discussion Group, Online

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

November 8, 2020, Sunday, Sunday Service, Online Service

November 15, 2020, Sunday, Eitaikyo Service

The Eitaikyo Service is a time when we remember all those whose contributions to our Temple in the past allow us to continue to hear the Dharma today.

11:00 am: Keiro Kai Activity, online

November 22, 2020, Sunday, Online Service

November 29 2020, Sunday, No Services

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

Keiro-Kai@Home –"Resilience"

Celebrating and Honoring our Seniors

Virtual Zoom Event

Sunday, November 15

11:00 am to 1:00 pm

All MVBT invited - Free of charge

Sunday Activities (Following Eitaikyo Virtual Service)

- Participate in a Sing Along
- Performance by Ukulele Club
- Historical Tour of Mountain View Buddhist Temple
- Bingo, Prizes & more!

Deadline to Register: Friday, October 30

Watch your US Mail and email for registration information or
https://sangha.mvbuddhisttemple.org/keirokai/ - Deadline October 30th

Questions? Bruce Inenaga, inenagab@gmail.com , 408-507-6051 or
Phyllis Chan, ptchan59@comcast.net, 408-749-0657

Those Who Don't Read the Sutra, But Instead Know Its Essence – Part 11

(Continued from page 1)

interest, Shoma stood tall and read loudly, "'Shoma, I [meaning Amida Buddha] will liberate you! Shoma, I will liberate you!' It says so."

What a wonderful interpretation this was! Shoma had not read the actual text of the Sutra, but instead he understood the truth and essence of it. It was a reading from the heart. This was the point of Rennyo Shonin's lesson that I introduced in last month's article. When we chant the sutras, we usually only read the words aloud. However, Shoma captured the essence of the Sutra – namely, the great compassion of Amida Buddha. He understood it completely. He accepted the voice of Amida Buddha calling from the Sutra, the Primal Vow of Amida Buddha described in great detail in the Larger Sutras not for the sake of just anyone, but "for myself, alone."

When we chant the sutra, we hear Buddha's vow through our own voices

By this example, we should understand that reading the Sutra does not mean to just follow the words but to make the truth of it our very own.

One more important thing is that the sutras should be chanted with the image of Amida Buddha before us. The reason that we should do so is, in the last four lines of the ***Sanbutsuge***, which is very familiar to us:

"KE RYO SHIN SHI
SHO KU DOKU CHU
GA GYO SHO JIN
NIN JU FU KE"

translates to:

"Even though my body may undergo much suffering and pain, I shall never cease in my efforts. Whatever I must bear, I shall have no regrets."

To put it simply, it is sworn for the sake of each one of us, "If I am able to save you, even if my body may undergo much suffering and pain, I shall have no regrets."

We are truly grateful to hear these words because Amida Buddha made such a sacred vow for the sake of each of us. When we chant the sutra, we hear Buddha's vow through our own voices and can be moved and even surprised at the depth of Amida Buddha's compassion. We cannot help but rejoice in our encounter with Amida Buddha's vow.

Is there anyone around you who would say without hesitation, ***"If I can make you happy or save you, I will sacrifice my life?"*** We can't be sure any such person in this whole world except Amida Buddha. The Sutra is the sacred words of Amida Buddha calling us; and our chanting is how we give voice to his precious words each time we chant. Because the Sutra is what makes us realize the depth of Amida Buddha's mind, it is most important that we chant with a deep bow in front of Amida Buddha's image to show the depth of our gratitude.

This is why, in Jodo Shinshu tradition, we don't chant sutras for the benefit of our departed loved ones, nor to have our wishes granted. Instead, our chanting is Amida Buddha calling to us, "I will surely save you just as you are." And, as we hear our own voices, his words reach deep into our minds. To chant the Buddha's words repeatedly in our daily lives is to truly receive the Buddha's vow in our hearts and minds.

If you are able to hear (the sutra) just as Shinran did, … you are a sincere Nembutsu follower who does not just read the Sutra, but who knows its essence.

There is another reason why Sutra chanting is important to Jodo Shinshu Buddhists, and that is to praise Amida Buddha's virtues. Let us realize how important it is, as we hear our voices chanting, for us to rejoice, be grateful for, and praise the depth of Amida Buddha's compassion.

It is important because in the epilogue of the Tannisho, our founder Shinran Shonin declares, "When I ponder that the compassionate Vow of Amida Buddha, established through five kalpas of profound thought, was made for me, Shinran, alone. Because I am burdened so heavily with karma, I feel even more deeply grateful to the Primal Vow, which was made precisely to save me." Shinran's acceptance, ***"it was for me, Shinran, alone,"*** was due entirely to his daily chanting. This is how he came to fully understand more than anybody else the sincere vow of Amida Buddha and to rejoice in the deep compassion of Amida Buddha.

It may be a challenge for English speakers to chant Sutras that are not translated into English, but left instead in their original form. But, if you are able to hear them just as Shinran did, realizing, ***"The Primal Vow of Amida Buddha, established through many hardships, was for myself, alone,"*** then you are a sincere Nembutsu follower who does not just read the Sutra, but who knows its essence.

Whenever we chant the Sutras filled with such precious words, let us feel grateful for Amida Buddha's voice calling us to take the great path of truth with the Nembutsu.

In Gassho,

マウンテンビュー仏教会「回向」
二〇二〇年十一月法話

ー 聖教読まずの聖教読み(二) ー

駐在開教使 向嶋裕史

今月は、先月に引き続き、庄松同行のエピソードを紹介いたします。庄松さんは全くの無学で、お金の勘定すらできない方だったのですが、檀那寺である勝覚寺の寺男として聴聞に励みながら一生懸命働かれました。勝覚寺の住職はそんな庄松さんを日頃から我が子のように可愛がっておられました。しかし、ある日、そのことを妬んで見ていた役僧の一人が、「ここは一つ庄松をからかって、皆の前で恥をかかせてやろう」と思いつきました。

そこで翌日、大勢の門徒さんがいる前で、その役僧は懐から大無量寿経の下巻を取り出し、庄松さんに向かって、「庄松さんよ、お前は有り難い同行さんじゃってな。ならば、このお経に何と書いてあるか読んでくれんか」と差し出しました。それは、お経の中でも大変読みづらい「五悪段」でした。その僧は庄松さんが字を読めないのを承知で、嫌がらせをしたのです。

僧は、庄松さんが「わしゃ字が読めんけんのう」と困り果てた姿を想像していたのですが、字の読めない庄松さんにとっては、どんなお経も同じことで、両手でお経を受け取ると、「それでは読ませてもらおうかのう」と言って、うやうやしく押し頂きました。

固唾を呑んで見守る大勢の門徒さんを前に、背筋を伸ばした庄松さんは大きな声で、「庄松、助くるぞよ。庄松、助くるぞよ、と書いてある」と読んだというのです。

何とも素晴らしい味わい方だと思います。庄松さんは、経文の字面を読むのではなく、経文に書かれている真実、真髄を読んでおられたのです。まさに蓮如上人の教えそのものです。お経を称える時、文字をただ声に出して読んでしまいがちですが、庄松さんは経文に書かれている真の内容、つまり阿弥陀仏の大悲心を見事につかみきっておられたのです。『大無量寿経』に詳しく述べられている阿弥陀仏のご本願は誰のためでもない、私一人の為のものでしたと阿弥陀仏の呼び声を経文の中から頂いておられたのです。このように、お経を読むというのは、単に文字を追いかけるのではなく、その中に説かれている真理を我が身に頂くということなのです。

そして、もう一つ大切なことは、お勤めは必ずお仏壇の前で行うということです。その理由は、私達の親しみのあるお経である『讃仏偈』の一番最後にある「仮令身止・諸苦毒中・我行精進・忍終不悔」というお言葉にあります。

この意味は、「あなたを幸せにすることができるのなら、『我』は例え、この身を毒の中に沈めても一切後悔しません」と、この私達一人ひとりのために誓われているのです。何とも頭の下がるお言葉ですが、この『我』とは誰のことかといいますと、実は阿弥陀仏のことなのです。ですから、お勤めというのは、「今、阿弥陀さまが私に向かって、『お前を救うことができるのであれば、例え毒の中にこの身を沈めても後悔しない』とおっしゃって下さっている。ああ、何とも有難いことであります。南無阿弥陀仏」と阿弥陀仏のご本願に出遇わせて頂くということなのです。

「あなたを幸せにすることができるのなら、どんな犠牲も省みない」ということを無条件でおっしゃって下さるお方は世界中探してみても阿弥陀仏しかおられません。お経はその阿弥陀仏が私達一人ひとりに語りかけて下さっているお言葉であり、阿弥陀仏がおっしゃったその尊いお言葉を重ねて私達が声に出している姿をお勤めというのです。そして、阿弥陀仏のお心の深さに気づかせて下さるのがお経ですから、額ずかずにはおれない感謝の気持ちを表す為に、お勤めは仏前で行うことが最も大切なことなのです。

読経は、私達が亡くなったお方に称えているのではなく、また、願い事を叶えるために読んでいるのでもありません。私達が称えるお経の声が、「お前を救わずにはおれない」という阿弥陀仏の呼び声となって私の耳を通して、私達の一人ひとりの心に至り届いて下さるのです。仏さまのお言葉を重ねて称えることが、本当に仏さまのお心を我が身に頂くということなのです。

また、もう一つ大切なことは、浄土真宗における読経は「仏徳讃嘆」といわれるように、お経を称える自分の声を聞きながら、阿弥陀仏のお慈悲の深さを慶び、感謝し、そして讃えることが最も大切なことなのです。

親鸞聖人は、『歎異抄』の中で「弥陀の五劫思惟の願をよくよく案ずれば、ひとえに親鸞一人がためなりけり。されば、そくばくの業をもちける身にてありけるを、たすけんとおぼしめしたちける本願のかたじけなさよ」と述懐されていますが、「私一人のためのご本願である」と頂かれたのは、日々のお勤めの中で得られたものであり、お経に書かれている阿弥陀仏のお心を誰よりも深く理解し、お慈悲の深さを誰よりも一番喜んでおられたからのことなのです。

このアメリカで英訳でないお経を称えることは大変難しいことではありますが、「阿弥陀仏のご本願は、私一人のためのご苦労であった」とお経を頂く事ができれば、それは「聖教読まずの聖教読みあり」の尊い念仏者です。

尊いお言葉で満たされたお経を声高らかにお勤めさせて頂きながら、常に阿弥陀仏のお呼び声に耳を傾け、真実の大道を報恩感謝のお念仏と共に歩ませていただきたいものです。

Super Senior Reverend Ensei Nekoda: Retired BCA Minister, Shiatsu Expert & Origami Master

Written by Joan Aoki

On November 12, 2020, Reverend Ensei Hitoshi Nekoda will be 101 years old. He is one of MVBT's oldest Sangha members. Prior to the Temple closure due to COVID-19, Sensei took part in major Mountain View Buddhist Temple services and he sat in the Onaijin with Reverend Mukojima and the O-asaji group on many Sundays. He also participated in Thursday Senior Activities and has led workshops on origami and acupressure. His intricately folded origami zodiac animals are works of art.

Rev. Nekoda circa 1960s

BORN IN CANADA

Sensei was born in British Columbia, Canada, and grew up in Vancouver. He was one of five children born to immigrants from Hiroshima, Japan. He attended both Vancouver Technical School and Japanese school through high school. After graduation, he planned to attend college. This was during the Great Depression, so he planned to work two years first, then attend college for four years, (instead of the usual course of ½ year attend college, ½ year work). However, due to an illness while employed at a lumber company, he had to alter his plans. He then took a job as a male nurse, then worked at a drug store and had plans to continue studies in medicine.

Nekoda Family in 1996. Front row (lf to rt: Beth, Mrs. Nekoda (98 yrs old), Rev. Nekoda. Back row: Nick and Joe.

Note: Mrs. Nekoda lived to be 101 ½ years old

JAPANESE CANADIAN INTERNMENT CAMP

But then two years later, World War II started, and his family was interned at three Japanese Canadian Internment camps: Kaslo, Bay Farm and Slocan.

Kaslo and Slocan were "ghost town" Canadian internment camps along and between Kootenay Lake and the Selkirk mountains, near the Rocky Mountain range in British Columbia, Canada. At Kaslo he worked as a carpenter, sheet metal worker, electrician, correspondence course aide and unpaid lifeguard. At Bay Farm he worked as an instructor/school teacher of manual training. During the internment years, he was trained as a school teacher, taught 8th Grade while holding the position of Vice Principal, and then was Principal of the last graduating class. After the war, the family moved to Toronto in eastern Canada.

BECAME BUDDHIST MINISTER

In 1950, he went to Japan and became an ordained Buddhist minister. In 1960, he did post graduate work on religious education at the Pacific School of Religion and the Buddhist Studies Center (now the Institute of Buddhist Studies in Berkeley, CA) under Dr. Fujiwara and Reverend Fujitani.

Rev. Nekoda in 2020

He married Masako Deguchi in 1963 and was married for 42 years.

Rev. Nekoda with wife, Masako, in 1994

BCA ACTIVITIES

Sensei worked for Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) as Sunday School Material Department Trainer and Director for 13 years. During that period, he traveled to many BCA temples and churches to promote the Dharma School curriculum. He then served as resident minister at Placer Buddhist Temple for 14 years (1976-1990). Sensei is also credited for helping build up the Toronto Buddhist Church, assisting Reverend Tsuji. As a retired minister, he spent 24 years at the West Los Angeles Buddhist Temple assisting Reverend Oda and Reverend Usuki. He then moved to Sunnyvale and started attending Mountain View Buddhist Temple, (MVBT).

(Continued on page 7)

Super Senior Rev. Ensei Nekoda (cont'd)

(Continued from page 6)

MVBT CONNECTIONS

Reverend Nekoda's ties to MVBT go back to 1962, when the first YBA Building Obutsu-dan/Hondo was completed. He knew Reverend Sensho Sasaki (MVBT's first resident minister) and was invited to attend the dedication ceremony of the Hon-do. If you look at the old photos in YBA Hall, Sensei is one of the ministers in the photos taken that day.

Sensei also recalls a past speaking engagement at a MVBT Ohigan service (pre-1990). He was committed to attending the service even though he was con-valescing from a fever. He re-members asking his wife to drive him to Mountain View.

In 2014 he moved to a re-tirement home in Sunnyvale. He will always remember Richard Endo for driving him back and forth to MVBT for services and activities.

2019 KEIRO KAI

Last year, at MVBT's 2019 Kei-rokai, Reverend Nekoda was honored for his 100th birthday. Sensei was happy to receive congratulatory cards especially from the Dharma School stu-dents who wrote him letters as he believes in the importance of Dharma School.

THANK YOU

MVBT thanks Reverend Nekoda for his decades of service to spread the Buddha Dharma.

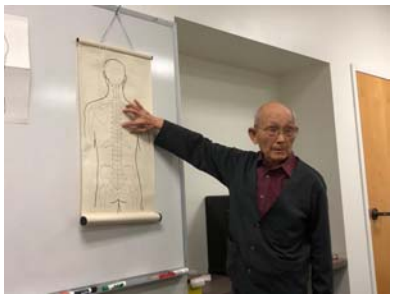
We wish him a **HAPPY 101ST BIRTHDAY!**

Origami Zodiac Animals made by Rev. Nekodo

Right: Rat 2020.....101 yrs
Center: Boar 2019.....100
Left: Ox 2021.....102

2019 Keiro Kai at MVBT: Celebrating Rev. Nekoda's 100th birthday

Rev. Nekoda folded this tsuru in 2019



Rev. Nekoda giving Shiatsu Workshop for ABA in 2019

MVBT Seniors Activities and Crafts

Seniors Activities & Crafts Program

The Temple has not informed us if they will open our Thursday ses-sion as yet. The important con-cern 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.

TAIKO

Thank you to our instructors, **Su-san Yuen** and **Linda Uyechi**. We are having our Taiko lesson via Zoom every Thursday from 11:00 am to 11:45 am. It is so mindful, keeping one alert on balance and timing. A real brain teaser. Please join and enjoy Taiko with us. We have added two more to make nine students currently enjoying Taiko lesson including our instruc-tors. For more information, call **Reiko Tsuchida**.

SING ALONG

Thank you to Kinji and Julie Ushi-ba and with the help of Susan Yuen and Linda Uyechi, we have started our Senior Sing Along program via Zoom. We started on Wednesday October 7 and will continue every Wednesday from 10:00 am to 11:00 am. Enjoy the Sing Along and visit your senior friends.

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

Sangha Day @ Home

SANGHA DAY @ HOME

Thank you, everyone, for joining us at Sangha Day @ Home! It all would not have happened without the help of all our affiliated organizations and the fantastic MVBT Tech Support team.

It was wonderful to see over 90 people attend the Sangha Day @ Home event, and we hope this trend continues to grow, so please engage others to join in the fun of our future events and activities.

Congratulations to **Vanessa Higa** for being the Bingo Grand Prize winner! And all the other winners of "Your Day with Putra" and "Sangha Day Picnic Memories." If you haven't picked up your prizes at the Temple, please do so soon! **Julie Nakatani** will be waiting for your call at (650) 964-9426 to arrange for your pick up.

FUTURE ONLINE EVENTS

We realize that teaching family members might be challenging to do, so please reach out to our Tech Support team; they can help. Please email us at: techsupport@mvbuddhisttemple.org or Call: 650-964-9426, option 3. **Kristi Matsumoto** created a Zoom user guide just for the Temple. The guide is located at: https://sangha.mvbuddhisttemple.org/tech-support/

We would love to see all of the Sangha engaged in our events.

In Gassho,
Donna, Sandy & Yuki
Zone 13

Sydney, Putra, Sophia and Callie

Putra in Hawaii with the Higa Family

Tao Family are social distancing using FaceTime with Bachan. "Ha ha!"

Breakout room activities. "How to Make Towel Animals". Shown are elephants and monkeys.

MIROKU

middle school group

Miroku

Miroku's first official meeting of the school year was held on Sunday, October 18 at 11:30am! We temporarily moved our meetings to the third Sunday of each month to avoid conflicts with Dharma School classes.

JOIN MIROKU

Any 6th to 8th Grader is welcomed to join. Please contact Traci Inouye and she will connect you with the Zoom link.

Looking forward to a great year!

In Gassho,
Traci Inouye and Janell Tao
Miroku Parent Advisors

MVBT VISION COMMITTEE

LOW HANGING FRUIT

(i.e. ideas that are quick and easy to implement)

As we reported last month, the Low Hanging Fruit subcommittee was launched to investigate the ideas that were collected from the VISION Workshops that could be implemented relatively quickly. These ideas ranged from having Watch Parties to discussions after service, seminars, town hall meetings, Compassionate Conversations, helping our new members better engage with the Temple, how to become a Dharma School teacher and more.

We are happy to report that your ideas have been heard and we are working with our various Temple committees and organizations to bring these ideas to fruition.

We are excited that a number of ideas have been implemented and many are in process. Make sure you join our virtual Sunday Service Watch Parties and enjoy the after-service discussions with other Temple members. Please join us for our virtual seminars, a 4-part series of "Intro to Buddhism." Keep an eye out for information on future town hall meetings and Compassionate Conversations workshops, which are in the planning stages.

We are also working with our Religious Planning Committee (RPC) on finding volunteers who welcome people to services in-person and virtually. Our Membership Committee is doing great things developing an Onboarding Program for new members. And our Website Committee is working on making our website easier to use and more mobile.

The VISION Committee would like to thank the affiliated organizations and the Sangha for all their input on our future and helping our Temple grow.

In Gassho,
The Vision Committee

Dharma-Centered | Interdependence | Tradition | Impermanence | Compassion | Community

Dharma School News

The 2020 – 21 Dharma School Cabinet was installed over Zoom on Sunday, October 4. This will be a year of transition as several of our long-serving members will be stepping down at the end of the academic year.

Superintendent: .....Brent Izutsu
Dharma Education Coordinator: ..Carol Harbin
Secretary: .....Katie Tamaru-Itow
Treasurer:.....Karen Bunya
Registrar: ..... Janice Lee
Dharma School Communications:... Randy Sato
Taiko Coordinator:..... Ashley Uyehara

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to them for continuing to serve while we grapple with these unusual circumstances. I would also like to thank Debby Inenaga for her commitment over the last two years to our Dharma School program as our Dharma Education Coordinator and warmly welcome Carol Harbin.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dharma School Registration Forms Due

If you have not yet completed the online Dharma School student registration form, please use the following link:

https://forms.gle/353mY13Gaq3VZyPL7

This year's registration forms are especially important as they will help determine how we plan and allocate resources while we are doing remote teaching and learning.

Halloween

We are encouraging the Sangha to wear Halloween costumes to the online service on Sunday, October 25! Even as we are not meeting in person, we would like to continue this fun tradition.

In Gassho,
Brent Izutsu
Dharma School Superintendent

MVBT Sewing Group

Fabric Face Masks

The MVBT Sewing Group is continuing to lovingly produce face masks for the MVBT Community.

We have plenty of face masks available! Fabric face masks are NOT sterile and DO NOT provide complete protection from the coronavirus. BOTH the CDC and WHO RECOMMEND face masks be worn during this pandemic. These are designed to cover the mouth and nose. They are to be used in addition to social distancing and hand-washing, which has been shown to slow the spread of the coronavirus according to the CDC. Anyone in the Temple may order face masks. When we are able to gather at the Temple again, face coverings may be required in order to participate.

If you are interested in receiving a fabric face mask (designs variable), please go to the online link at the end of this article.

Sewing Group

Amy Arakaki
Teri Hirota
Lorrie Kitasoe
Shirley Matsumoto
Judy Nakano
Lois Okino
Julie Satake Ryu
Phyllis Sawamura
Pauline Shinkawa
Donna Takasuka

We are usually able to send out masks within two weeks of ordering. We appreciate your patience. If you have particular sizing (ex: large, male, female, young adult or children, etc) or preference for elastic or tieback style, please indicate this in the notes portion of the online order or the request form. We will try to fill the order as best as we can. If you have already ordered and would like another set of masks, please send in your order!

The MVBT Sewing Group meets approximately once a month to discuss how we can improve on our mask designs and also provide this valuable service to our Sangha. Currently, we are improving our adjustable ear loops with a bead/elastic or bead/t-shirt material.

Call **Julie Satake Ryu** at (650)787-9133 or email julie @satakenursery.com for any questions. If you or someone you know has sewing skills and would like to join our MVBT Sewing group OR you have non-woven interfacing or a supply of 1/8 inch or ¼ inch elastic, please let me know.

Stay safe & healthy!
Julie Satake Ryu

Face Mask Online form: **https://tinyurl.com/mvbtmasks**

Support Your Temple

Donate to Past & Upcoming Services

Bishops & ABA Memorial Service, Eitaikyo, Bodhi Day, BWA DANA Youth Fund

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

MVBT YBA NEWS

MVBT YBA

YBA CABINET INSTALLATION

The YBA Cabinet Installation recording with Rev. Mukojima was played during the October 18th Sunday service. The 2020-2021 YBA Cabinet members are:

President:
Megan Nakagawa

Vice President:
Evan Itow

Treasurer:
Ryan Mukoyama

Recording Secretary:
Katie Yasuda

Corresponding Secretary:
Sara Ho

Religious Chair:
Jake Aquino

Activities Chair:
Chloe Lim

Coast District Representative:
Ko Kitani

Historian:
Vanessa Higa

HALLOWEEN ACTIVITY

YBA will hold a virtual Halloween Activity and enjoy playing online games. Thank you to Activities Chair Chloe Lim and Kelli Kosakura for planning this event!

DONATION

Thank you to the **Ozawa family** for donating to the YBA. We appreciate your support!

In Gassho,
Megan Nakagawa
2020 - 2021 YBA President

YBA Cabinet Installation

YBA Meeting

MVBT Girl Scout Troop #60736

MEETINGS

Girl Scout Troop #60736 held a Bridging & Rededication Ceremony to start off the new year on September 21.

THANK YOU CARDS FOR FIREFIGHTERS

Half of the troop participated in the Service Unit's service project by making Thank You cards for the Firefighters who are fighting the recent California wildfires.

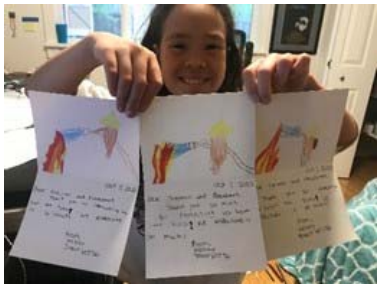
BCA PADMA PROGRAM

Both the Brownie and Cadette level scouts have held virtual meetings. As part of the program, the Padma Brownies learned about gratitude, memorized the Golden Chain, made their own Onenju, toured the Onaijin and learned about the parts of a home Obutsudan.

The Padma Cadette scouts are continuing with their studies and they are currently working on a Dharma Message.

TROOP LEVEL MEETINGS

The Brownie/Junior level had their first meeting and had an enlightening lesson on Empathy and "How to be a Good Virtual Friend."



Thank You cards for Firefighters

Drawing of "How to be a Good Virtual Friend"

Buddhist Women's Association

BWA NEWS

WORLD BUDDHIST WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

The Federation of Buddhist Women's Association (FBWA) held a virtual delegates meeting on Saturday October 10, 2020. There were 58 in attendance from all the U.S. Districts. **Toshiko Uyehara** and I attended from our chapter. The meeting was held to finalize the World Buddhist Women's Conference (WBWC), which was held in San Francisco last fall.

Thank you to those that attended the WBWC in San Francisco. The MVBT BWA truly appreciated your support. Those that attended the conference will receive a post-conference book, mailed to your home.

The next WBWC will be held in Japan in May 2023 and then South America will host the conference in 2027.

FEDERATION OF BUDDHIST WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

FBWA will have the National Conference, hosted by the Northern California District on October 14-16, 2022, at the Double Tree Hotel in Sacramento, California.

Coast District will host the FBWA National Conference in 2024. Preparations are already underway.

BWA DANA YOUTH FUND DRIVE

Although we are in the midst of Covid-19, BWA will continue our tradition with our MVBT BWA Dana Youth Fund Drive. The Dana letters will be sent out in November.

BE SAFE AND STAY WELL

The BWA ladies are doing well with the COVID-19, staying at home and being safe. I hope you all are doing well!

In Gassho,
Reiko Murakami
BWA President

Upcoming Events

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 October winner is **Shizue Hiroshige**. Congratulations to Shizue.

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

The **2021 150 Club tickets** will be available soon. Get in line to buy yours.

Everyone, please stay healthy and well!

Toban & Echo Schedule

	Toban	Echo Article Deadline	Echo Mail
NOV	No Toban	N / A	N / A
DEC	No Toban	Nov 13 (Fri)	Nov 23 (Mon)
JAN	No Toban	Dec 11 (Fri)	Nov 21 (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

ABA News

BISHOPS & ABA MEMORIAL SERVICE

ABA was honored to sponsor the Bishops and ABA Memorial Service on Sunday, October 11.

Thanks to **Russ Nakano** for chairing the service. Also, thanks to **Sterling and Joanna Makishima**, **Peter and Shirley Matsumoto**, **Reiko and Steve Tsuchida**, and **Marilyn and Irving Ozawa** for reciting the Daily Creed.

CONDOLENCES

Our condolences to the families of the ABA members who passed away since the 2019 ABA Memorial Service:

Richard Endo
Bill Oto
Toshiko Kawamoto
Fumie Satake
Doris Kuboyama
Kiyoshi Yoshinaka

DONATIONS

Thanks to the following ABA members for their donations:

- **Norris and Teri Hirota**
  For the birth of granddaughter,
  Madeleine Koemi Hirota
- **Steve and Reiko Tsuchida**
  For the birth of grandson,
  Weston Ng Tsuchida

With Gassho,
Jean Shimoguchi
ABA President

Russ Nakano chairing Service

ABA member reciting Daily Creed

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

November 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 **November** Shotsuki loved ones are:

Tatsuko Adachi	**Hideo Kato**	**Kanji Omokawa**
Tsutomu Akizuki	**Shigeaki Kihara**	**Roy Ozawa**
Tomoye Aoki-Johnson	**Eugene Kono**	**Tom Ozawa**
Takiko Fukushima	**Kinuyo Kunimoto**	**Ichiro Sakae**
Frank Furuichi	**Shigeko Masaki**	**Kosue Sakae**
Fred Furuichi	**Gregory Matsumoto**	**Akira Sasaki**
Robert Furusho	**Rose Morimoto**	**Masako Alice Sato**
Sunao Furusho	**Haruko Nakamura**	**Seikichi Shimoguchi**
Hana Furuto	**Miyuki Nakano**	**Sei Tachibana**
Eddie Higuchi	**Tsuruye Nakano**	**Alice Takagi**
George Hirota	**Yutaka Nakano**	**Masaru Takahashi**
Fred Hoshi	**Ayako Nakashima**	**Mildred Takegami**
Akira Hoshiko	**Teiichi Naritomi**	**Kay Tanouye**
Tom Ichikawa	**Yoshio Nishimoto**	**Chieko Umeda**
Keiji Haruta	**Nobuo Oda**	**Kaz Yanaba**
Kiyoko Kay Horita	**Walter Okino**	**Kiyoshi Yoshinaka**
Frank Ikebe	**Nuiko Okuno**	

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**

November

Monthly

Memorial

Service

* * * * *

Service at Temple Cancelled

* * * * *

Online service to be held on Sunday, November 1

Go to MVBT website

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: _____

december 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
ALL MVBT SERVICES, MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO COVID-19						
		6:30 pm Adult Taiko - Virtual 7:30 pm Ukelele Club - Virtual	10:00 am Senior Activities Sing-Along	11:00 am Senior Taiko - Virtual 6:30 pm Taiko Talks - Virtual		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
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	10:00 am Senior Activities Sing-Along 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	
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
ALL MVBT SERVICES, MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO COVID-19						
Mochitsuki @ Home		6:30 pm Adult Taiko - Virtual 7:30 pm Ukelele Club - Virtual	10:00 am Senior Activities Sing-Along	11:00 am Senior Taiko - Virtual 6:30 pm Taiko Talks - Virtual		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
ALL MVBT SERVICES, MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO COVID-19						
10:00 am Sunday Virtual Service (TBD)		6:30 pm Adult Taiko - Virtual 7:30 pm Ukelele Club - Virtual	10:00 am Senior Activities Sing-Along	11:00 am Senior Taiko - Virtual 6:30 pm Taiko Talks - Virtual		
27	28	29	30	31		
ALL MVBT SERVICES, MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO COVID-19						
No Sunday Services		6:30 pm Adult Taiko - Virtual 7:30 pm Ukelele Club - Virtual	10:00 am Senior Activities Sing-Along	11:00 am Senior Taiko - Virtual 6:30 pm Taiko Talks - Virtual 7:00 pm Joya-e Service		

Did You Know?

MVBT Budget Needs Your Help

Every little bit helps provide needed income!

MVBT gets **a small % of your purchase –**
at no additional cost to you or to the Temple.

amazon.com DONATES TO

EVERYBODY can help -- siblings, parents, any family member and all of your friends.

Just go the MVBT website first and press the Amazon logo, do your shopping, and MVBT will get a donation from Amazon.

www.mvbuddhisttemple.org→ press Amazon Logo → www.amazon.com → Place Your Order

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Mountain View Buddhist Temple

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