December 2020

Volume 59 Number 12

MOUNTAIN VIEW BUDDHIST TEMPLE

December Highlights

- ***12/6 Sun, 10:00 am Shotsuki Hoyo & Bodhi Day Service, Online***
  - ** Japanese Language Service*
  - ** English Discussion Group*
- ***12/7 Mon, 7:00 pm Buddhist Discussion Group, Online***
- ***12/13 Sun, 10:00 am Mochitsuki @ Home***
- ***12/31, Thurs, 7:00 pm Joya-e Service - New Year's Eve Service, Online***

The Spirit of "No Side"

The U.S. Presidential campaign, which attracted a great deal of attention worldwide, finally ended on election day last November. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this election's issues included a record number of mailed-in ballots, technical problems, confusion at some polling places because of lack of workers, and other unusual circumstances. For these reasons, it took longer than normal to total the votes in some states, so all the results could not be determined for several days. It was an unprecedented situation. I know that many people rejoiced in the end results while others were deeply disappointed. But whichever candidate we supported, we each have the same hope, and that is for prosperity and peace of the U.S. and the happiness of its citizens.

By Rev. Yushi Mukojima

During this recent socio-political chaos, the ones who are being affected most painfully are the children.

All those who live in this country wish for a better and more harmonious society.

Certainly, America remains divided on many social issues. Discord arises on topics like religious conflicts, disability discrimination, the migrant and refugee crisis, and BLM and LGBTQ concerns, among others. Those whose values differ on these topics are often in conflict. Unfortunately, from what we have witnessed in the news, the sad reality is that those on opposite sides sometimes abuse and even use violence against one other in public.

During this recent socio-political chaos, the ones who are being affected most painfully are

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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 Frances Sawamura.** Her story is on Page 6 of this issue.

The photo was taken at the Mountain View Buddhist Temple Obon Festival

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	10:00 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 & Bodhi Day Virtual Service		6:30 pm Adult Taiko - Virtual 7:30 pm Ukelele Club - Virtual	10:00 am Senior Activities Sing-Along	10:00 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						
10:00 am Mochitsuki @Home (Virtual Event)		6:30 pm Adult Taiko - Virtual 7:30 pm Ukelele Club - Virtual	10:00 am Senior Activities Sing-Along	10:00 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 Osoji		6:30 pm Adult Taiko - Virtual 7:30 pm Ukelele Club - Virtual	10:00 am Senior Activities Sing-Along	10:00 am Senior Taiko - Virtual		
27	28	29	30	31		
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	7:00 pm Joya-e Service		

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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 — December 2020

December 6, 2020, Sunday, 10:00 am, Shotsuki Hoyo & Bodhi Day Service, Online Service

Bodhi Day Service: Siddhartha Gautama, as he meditated under the Bodhi Tree, attained Enlightenment and became the Sakyamuni Buddha

11:00 am: Japanese Language Service., Online

11:00 am: English Discussion Group, Online

December 7, 2020, Monday, 7:00 pm, Buddhist Discussion Group, Online

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

December 13, 2020, Sunday, Sunday Service, Online Service

10:00 am: Mochitsuki @ Home

December 20, 2020, Sunday, No Service

December 27, 2020, Sunday, No Service

December 31, Thursday, 7:00 pm, Joya-e / New Year's Eve Service, Online Service

Joya-E Service: Express our gratitude for the countless blessings received throughout the year

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

Mochitsuki @ Home

Date: ..... Sunday, December 13

Mochitsuki @ Home: ..... 10:00 am

Events: ..... Tea tastng, Bingo and More

More information available soon.

- Read Putra's Post
- Check the MVBT website for latest information.

The Spirit of "No Side" (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

the children. There are too many young people who are anxious and fearful about discrimination and violence. They don't see hope in America's future. Now that the election is over, we should try to respect and accept the differences we have with others. We must realize how important it is for each of us to recognize one's social identity and to protect human rights. This is how we can create a society that is kind and thoughtful. I believe this mindset is the only way to unite, not divide, this nation.

Rugby World Cup: "No Side"

Last year, the Rugby World Cup was hosted by Japan and it was a great success. Football is far more popular in the U.S., but rugby has one aspect superior to other team sports. It is the spirit of "No Side."

Rugby is very physical with lots of collision plays. Well-conditioned bodies come in contact repeatedly, and sometimes players get into fist fights. During the game, each team plays fiercely trying to beat its opponent. But once the game is over, there is "No Side" of winners or losers. No matter how fiercely the game was played, once it is finished, all players step away from the concept of their team versus another team. They only have praise for one another for their hard work. By showing this spirit, all the players can respectfully deepen their friendships.

This is the wonderful tradition of No Side and is the most attractive aspect of rugby.

Buddhism: Middle Way & No Side

In Buddhism, we have the teaching of the Middle Way, which shows how important it is to practice right mind which doesn't cling too hard to either side of extremes. This right mind has something in common with the spirit of "No Side." We should practice this spirit in our daily lives. For example, during the presidential campaign, we probably enthusiastically supported one political party. And because of the differences in our values, we may have argued with someone who supported another party. But now that the election is over, we should respect and accept one another regardless of any principles that we may still not share with others. Even if we are upset with or even hate that person, we shouldn't dwell on our differences, but just try to let them go. Do not give into hatred. Hatred can never create anything constructive.

> **Now that the election is over, we should try to respect and accept the differences we have with others.**

Everyone is Equal

In Buddhism, there is a phrase, ***onshin byodo***, which means not to discriminate between hate and love. It means that all those we love or hate should be regarded as equals without exception. It describes a state that is beyond love and hatred. It actually describes the state of the Buddha's enlightenment and is an important teaching that makes us realize the importance of seeing everyone as equals without discrimination or bias. We tend to see all things in duality: friend versus enemy, or justice versus injustice, and so on. But Amida Buddha's compassionate mind embraces all people equally with no exceptions.

Of course, it is really hard for us, ordinary people to develop this mindset. But if we try to calm our hatred against others and come to a compromise with them in some way, we should be able to accept them as fellow humans.

"No Side" Teaches "Middle Path"

The spirit of "No Side" is the right path to encourage the entire nation to stand together in harmony. This is how we can get beyond the barriers between races, religions, cultures, and everything else. This is a world filled with kindness and respect and without discrimination or hatred.

Regardless of which political party assumed power, if we firmly hold this spirit of "No Side" or the "Middle Way," we can create a safe and comfortable community in which each of us still respects another's values and protects another's civil rights. This shows us how to realize "the empathic world," meaning "When you are in pain, I am also in pain; when you are happy, I am also happy." It refers to the world of Nembutsu filled with kindness, respect and gratitude.

This spirit of "No Side" is the teaching of the Middle Way, the basis of Buddhism that encourages us not to be too attached to either side of extremes. It shows us how important and precious the way of life is that treats others, as well as ourselves, with respect.

Now that the election is over and because we all desire solidarity and harmony for the U.S., I sincerely hope that each of us will try to demonstrate the spirit of "No Side." Especially with its promise to fearful children everywhere that by truly respecting one another, we can create a kind and hopeful society to unite, not divide, this nation.

> **The spirit of "No Side" is the right path to encourage the entire nation to stand together in harmony.**

In Gassho,

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マウンテンビュー仏教会「回向」二〇二〇年十二月法話

ー「ノーサイド」の精神ー

駐在開教使 向嶋裕史

先月、全世界が注目したアメリカ大統領選挙がようやく終了しました。この度の選挙は、新型コロナウイルス感染拡大を受けて、郵便投票が大幅に増えたことから、人手不足や技術的問題が生じ、ある集計所では混乱が起きてしまいました。その為、最終結果が数日遅れてしまうという異例の事態となりました。選挙結果に歓喜する人達もいれば、不満を持って失望している人達も大勢いると思います。ですが、自国の発展と平和、そして国民の幸せを願う心はみんな同じです。アメリカに住む全ての人達が自国のよりよい社会、調和のとれた社会を目指しています。

しかし、ここ数年、アメリカは、宗教間の対立を始め、障碍者差別、移民・難民危機、黒人や同性愛者などに対する差別や偏見などといった数多くの社会問題を抱え、その価値観の違いから国民の間で深刻な分断が生じています。対立する者同士が公の場で互いに誹謗中傷し、暴力にまで発展するような悲しい場面がニュースで目につきます。

この混沌としたアメリカ情勢に心を痛めているのはこの国に住む子供達です。差別や暴力に恐怖を感じ希望を見出せない子供達が数多くいる現状に目覚めなくてはなりません。選挙が終わった今こそ、お互いが持つ異なった価値観を受け入れ、互いの存在を敬い、互いの人権を守るといった、国民一人ひとりの思いやりの心に満ちた社会づくりこそが、この国を分断ではなく、団結に導いていく唯一の方法だと信じています。

昨年十月に、日本でラグビーのワールドカップが開催され、大成功のうちに幕を閉じました。アメリカではフットボールの方が断然人気なのですが、ラグビーにはどのスポーツにも勝る教えがあります。それは「ノーサイド」の精神です。

ラグビーは接触プレーの多い大変激しいスポーツです。鍛え上げた大きい体が互いにぶつかり合い、相手を崩しにかかるわけですから、選手はつい熱くなり、時には乱闘にまで発展することもあります。試合中は、相手を倒すという意気込みでチーム全体が心を一つにして戦います。

しかし、ひとたび試合終了の笛が鳴ると、敵味方の違いを越えて、選手同士が敬意をもって互いの健闘を称え合い、友情を深めていくという伝統があります。これこそが、「ノーサイド」の精神であり、ラグビー最大の魅力でもあります。

仏教には、中道という教えがあり、両極に偏らない正しい心を意味しますが、まさにこの心は「ノーサイド」の精神に通ずるものがあります。私達はこの精神を日常生活において実践していかなくてはなりません。例えば、選挙期間中は、誰もが支持する政党を熱狂的に応援します。もちろん、価値観の違いから、反対政党を支持する人達と言い争うこともあるでしょう。しかし、ひとたび選挙が終われば、どのような主義主張であろうとも、私達は互いの存在を敬い、受け入れなくてはなりません。たとえ相手の主張が意に添わなくても、それを受け入れ、理解する度量が求められます。いつまでも燻る憎悪の感情は決して建設的なものを生み出しません。

仏の心を表す言葉に「怨親平等」という言葉がありますが、これは、恨んで止まない人も、愛して止まない人も分け隔てなく平等に見るという愛憎を越えた心をいいます。これこそ仏の悟りの境地なのですが、誰に対しても偏見や差別などといった感情を捨て、平等に見ていかなければならないという大切な教えです。私達は「敵・味方」、「正義・悪」といったように物事を二分して見てしまいがちです。しかし、阿弥陀仏の眼差し、つまり、お慈悲の心は、分け隔てなくどちらも平等に包み込んで下さいます。

この心を凡夫の私達が持つことは大変困難なことではありますが、互いに怨憎の心を和らげ、少しでも歩み寄ることができれば、同じ人間として互いの存在を受け入れることができるはずです。

「ノーサイド」の精神は人種間、宗教間、文化間などといったあらゆる壁を乗り越え、全ての国民に調和をもって団結を促す正しい道です。そこには差別や憎悪などといった感情を交えない敬いと思いやりの心に満ちた尊い世界が広がります。

たとえ、どの政党が政権を握ったとしても、私達一人ひとりが「ノーサイド」の精神、中道の精神を持っていれば、互いの価値観を敬い、互いの人権を大切にする安全で平和な社会を築き上げることができるのです。それは、相手の痛みは自分の痛み、相手の喜びは自分の喜びといった互いに共感する生き方、つまり「念仏の世界」の実現をいいます。

「ノーサイド」の精神は、自分にも相手にも醜い執着で偏らない、仏教の根幹である中道の教えです。この精神は、自分のこと同様、相手のことを大切にし、いたわり、思いやることがどれほど大切なことであり、如何に尊い生き方であるかということをはっきりと示してくれています。

選挙が終わった今、アメリカの団結と調和を希求しながら、私達一人ひとりが差別をなくし、互いの存在を重んじる「ノーサイド」の精神を未来ある子供達と共に実践していきたいものと切に願っています。

Super Senior Frances Sawamura: Dharma School Teacher, Odori Instructor & Dedicated MVBT Member

Written by Jean Shimoguhi

Frances Sawamura is well known within the Mountain View Buddhist Temple Sangha as a long-time Dharma School Teacher for the 1st and 2nd Graders, but she's much more than that. As a Super Senior (she prefers not to disclose her age), Frances is the definition of genki. She's funny, articulate and energetic.

LOCAL GIRL

Born Frances Idehara, she is a local girl who was born in San Jose Japantown and raised in San Jose. Frances had eight siblings – seven sisters and one brother and is the second youngest in the line of children.

When Frances was nine years old, Pearl Harbor was attacked. Anti-Japanese signs were everywhere and many stores refused to serve the Japanese. She had relatives in Northern California, so, in early 1942, the family moved to Palermo, CA (near Oroville). Executive Order 9066 was enacted in April, and shortly after in July, the family was ordered to evacuate their home. They boarded the train under military guard from Chico to Tule Lake. All they were allowed to take was one suitcase per person – radios and cameras were confiscated.

AFTER INTERNMENT

When they returned from camp, Frances was 13 years old and their old home in San Jose had already been occupied by another family. They were able to find a home in Coyote and lived there a short time. In 1948, Frances' parents found work on a farm in Milpitas, and from there, she attended Peter Burnett Jr. High, San Jose High School and was the first graduating class of James Lick High School in 1951.

MARRYING TAD

After graduating from a vocational school in San Francisco as a dental assistant, Frances worked for Dr. Okuda in Mountain View. One day, a handsome young man came to the office to collect a donation for MVBT. His name was Tad Sawamura. He probably noticed the bubbly, young dental assistant in the office. They were later introduced at a YBA dance. They dated for a few years and were married in 1957. They remained married for 62 years until sadly Tad passed away in 2019.

Family in 1967
Lf to Rt: Tad, Jaimie, Jackie, Steven & Frances

FAMILY & CAREER

Tad and Frances had three children: Steven, Jacquelyn and Jaimie, who all attended Dharma School. She also has two grandsons – Scott is a nurse in Reno and Brian is in accounting in the East Bay.

After their wedding, Frances began working in Tad and his brother Shin's (Doug Sawamura's father) family business – Sawamura Brothers Wholesale Flowers growing carnations. The business was originally in Mountain View, expanded to San Jose in the late 1960s, then consolidated to San Jose in the late 1970s. The families retired after 35 years in the flower growing business. After retiring, Frances went to work for Fujii Florist in Santa Clara for another 18 years.

While in Mountain View, their neighbors were the Tsukugawa family (Dennis' parents), who were once in the floral business. When the Tsukagawa boys outgrew their toys, they would share them with the Sawamura kids. Frances still has a hand me down bicycle from the Tsukagawas. Esther Bunya's family also lived nearby.

SUNDAY SCHOOL AT MVBT

In 1964, their son Steven turned six years old and Frances, along with Amy Imai, Esther Bunya and Aiko Sugimoto-Miyamoto volunteered as Sunday (as it was known then) School teachers. At that time the Temple was looking for teachers and Frances said, "Little did I know what I was getting myself into at the time."

Frances has taught for 56 years and is now teaching the 2nd generation of Dharma School students.

Traci Inouye states, "Not only was Mrs. Sawamura my Dharma School teacher and Mason and Kendall's Dharma School teacher....I have the honor of teaching our Kindergarten and 1st Grade class WITH her now. Just last Sunday, at our Zoom class, she did the closing Gassho...and I was moved by the sweet sincerity in which she expressed appreciation for the kids and led us in Namo Amida Butsu. We are all so lucky to have benefited from her guidance all these years."

Frances remembers the Temple not having enough classrooms, so plastic classrooms were built. She said, "It was hot in the summer, but in the winter, the walls were filled with condensation and, so when the

(Continued on page 7)

Super Senior Frances Sawamura (cont'd)

Sunday School Teachers in 1971
Frances in middle row, 2nd from left

Odori dancing on Yagura during Obon Festival

(Continued from page 6)

wind blew, everyone got wet." Her biggest challenge was staying up late on Saturday night ("I procrastinated") to create a lesson for the children, but then have only two students attend.

When asked how she wants her students to remember her, Frances said, "Oh, yeah, wow! Mrs. Sawamura was my Sunday School Teacher, too!"

FRIENDS & ACTIVITIES

Frances has met many wonderful people in our Sangha, but the people she'll always remember would be Amy and Robert Imai. We have been friends since 1957 and the families grew up together. Amy was thoughtful and kind with a generous heart. She had leadership skills not only in our Temple, but also with the Mountain View community. The success of the Iwata City Sister City exchange students was largely due to Amy and Mr. Roy Ozawa's energy, dedication and commitment to bring better understanding between our countries. Amy, through her words and actions, taught Frances to be grateful and treat others with kindness and respect.

Besides teaching young children, Frances has been an assistant Odori instructor since about 1966. Mrs. Yamakoshi from Palo Alto was the instructor at the time, then Marilyn Ozawa began her tenure as the instructor. According to Marilyn: "Frances has been dancing with me from my start and more. She is the tiny lady with unending energy and spirit and a joy to have with our Obon."

Also known for her cooking skills, Frances' favorite potluck dishes are barasushi and Spoon-Bread Tamale Bake. Frances demonstrated her skills on a videotape for the recent Obon-at-Home event with her Ginger Chicken recipe. Julie Satake Ryu says, "Personally, I would subscribe to a Sawamura Cooking You Tube channel!"

Cooking demonstration at 2020 Obon-at-Home

FRANCES' LEGACY

Frances is the epitome of the values of MVBT. She teaches the Dharma to the young children, wants the Temple to maintain our traditions, is part of the interdependence of the Sangha, has experienced impermanence and compassion for the Sangha, and respects and protects the community.

Girl Scout Buddhist Padma Award

The Girl Scout Padma Award program allows a girl to: 1) attain understanding and faith in the Buddha, 2) learn the Teachings, and 3) practice the harmonious Buddhist way of life in the spirit of the universality of all living things.

A MVBT Cadette Padma Scout studies Buddhism for a minimum of 72 hours over the course of two years under the guidance of Rev. Mukojima and instructors approved by the National Buddhist Committee on Scouting.

Dharma Message by Cadette Padma Scouts*
Kendall Ho, Kiera Nishimoto & Kurumi Mukojima

Kendall

Hello, I'm **Kendall** and I'm here with Kiera and Kurumi to give a Dharma talk about the movie ***Wreck-It Ralph***. Wreck-It Ralph longs to be as beloved as his game's perfect Good Guy, ***Fix-It Felix***. Problem is, nobody loves a villain. But they do love heroes…so when a modern, first-person shooter game arrives, Ralph sees it as his ticket to heroism and happiness. He's game-hops into the game with a simple plan -- win a medal -- but soon fails at his plan, and accidentally unleashes a deadly virus that threatens every game in the arcade. Ralph's only hope? **Vanellope von Schweetz**, a young troublemaking "glitch" from a candy cart racing game who might just be the one to teach Ralph what it means to be a Good Guy. But will he realize he is good enough to become a hero before it's "Game Over" for the entire arcade?

I'll be focusing on the beginning of the story. Ralph feels jealousy. He is jealous of Felix getting all the awards and praise. Then, while trying to solve his own problem, he disrupts another game for his own selfish needs, making things even worse. Even though he was warned not to, he still went through with his plan. While trying to find his medal, he runs into Vanellope. Then, Ralph uses her in order to gain his selfish wanting, which is the medal. This would hurt her in the end.

This would represent the first half of the **Four Noble Truths.** One, there is suffering and two, we are the cause of it. When Ralph decided to game hop, he was being reckless and selfish. Because Ralph didn't come back to his original game for a while, his game was unable to go on. No villain, no problem to fix. He didn't stop and think about how his actions would affect others. Ralph was trying to follow the Third Noble Truth, we can end our suffering, but he did not follow with the last Noble Truth. In order to end the suffering, we should follow the **Eightfold Path**. He repeats this action when fooling Vanellope into getting his medal back. He already was suffering in the shadow of Felix, then he caused even more with Vanellope. At the climax, Ralph sees the problems that he caused and realizes that he can go to the mountain to defeat the virus.

Ralph is trying to do the Third Noble Truth, we can remedy our own suffering, but he is causing more problems instead. The Fourth Noble Truth is that we can resolve our suffering by following the Eightfold Path. Kurumi's section will explain more about the Eightfold path.

Kurumi

Hi, my name is **Kurumi**. I am going to be talking about when Ralph did not see Vanel-

(Continued on page 9)

*Note: This Dharma talk was originally planned for presentation at a Dharma School service during Girl Scout month. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and that the Temple is unable to hold in-person services, their talk was submitted to the Echo.

Dharma Message by Cadette Padma Scouts (cont'd)

(Continued from page 8)

lope's side of the story and broke her car. You might be wondering who Vanellope is. Vanellope is a character who helps Ralph become a better person. Building on to what Kendall said, about suffering. I am going to talk about how Ralph continues to suffer when he doesn't follow the Eightfold Path. I'm also going to talk about how Ralph and Vanellope show **impermanence & interdependence**.

Ralph has been suffering because of being the villain in "Fix-it Felix." Ralph continues to suffer and makes everyone else suffer too. How Ralph didn't see Vanellope's side of the story led to not using the **Eightfold Path**, **Right View**. Ralph listened to the lie that **King Candy** told and that led him to not knowing the real story about Vanellope. By believing King Candy, Ralph broke Vanellope's car to stop her from entering the race. After doing this, Ralph finally learns the Truth and how he was mistaken, and Ralph uses The Eightfold Path to save Vanellope and her game.

Some examples of the Eightfold Path from the movie are:

Right View - When Ralph saw what he was doing was hurting other people.

Right Thoughts - When Ralph saw that Vanellope could not go through the portal and could not be saved, he realized it was up to him to save the arcade.

Right Speech - When a group of villains from the arcade are having the therapy session, they say the motto: "I'm bad, and that's good. I will never be good, and that's not bad. There's no one I'd rather be, than me."

Right Conduct - When Felix left the game to find Ralph to save the arcade.

Right Livelihood - When Ralph accepts his role in the game as a bad guy.

Right Effort - When Ralph creates the light source to get rid of the virus.

Right Mindfulness - When Ralph realizes that he can stop the virus, to make up for all the problems that he caused.

Right Meditation - When Ralph realizes it is ok to have a bad image on the outside, but it does not mean that you are bad inside.

This movie shows both interdependence and impermanence. **Interdependence** means that we all rely and influence one another. Wreck-it Ralph showed interdependence by Vanellope entering the race to get Ralph's gold medal back and Ralph helped Vanellope make her car and taught her how to drive to prepare for the race. **Impermanence** means that nothing stays the same, everything changes. Wreck-it Ralph showed impermanence by Ralph being the villain in the game, but after he saved Vanellope's game he became a hero to Vanellope. To talk about the climax and the end of the movie here is Kiera.

Kiera

Hello, my name is **Kiera**. Later in the movie, it's revealed that King Candy was another character in disguise. King Candy, previously known as **Turbo**, is a character notorious for invading other games, removing them from the arcade forever. Turbo does not learn that he causes his own suffering because of his greed to become the greatest racer ever. After learning that King Candy is actually Turbo, Ralph helps to evacuate people out of the deteriorating game and into a safer place.

While helping people evacuate, Ralph suffers as he watches Vanellope fail to go through the barrier to the power strip, which is safe from the virus. As Ralph watches the world around him fall apart, he realizes that he caused all of the problems and his own suffering because he wanted to be a good guy and get a medal for once. He then puts forth the effort and creates a deadly light source to attract all of the viruses from a mixture of Mentos and Cola from the mountain, saving everybody. In the end scenes, Ralph mentions to Vanellope that he has a purpose, to wreck the building in the video game **Fix-It Felix Jr.** He even improves the game Fix-It Felix-Jr. by incorporating lost characters such as **Q*bert** whose games are gone and overall helps other people find their place. In the end, Ralph realizes that even though his character may be a bad guy in the game, he is not a bad guy outside of the game. He is an integral part of the game and contributes to the bigger picture that is the arcade game, Fix-It Felix-Jr. This represents the Four Noble Truths and how Ralph realizes that life is suffering, he causes his own suffering, and he can stop his suffering by doing things that conform to the Eightfold Path.

Buddhist Lessons within the Movie. As you can see, we were able to find many Buddhist lessons within the movie. Some examples are suffering, impermanence, interdependence and compassion. Ralph is a great example of the Four Noble Truths and how he realized his first solution was making everyone suffer. In the end, using actions that represent the Eightfold Path, he was able to see a better way to solve problems.

Please join us in Gassho

Namo Amida Butsu

Namo Amida Butsu

Namo Amida Butsu

Dharma School News

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Keiro Kai

Even as ***Keiro Kai*** was moved online this year, the Dharma School students wrote letters to the ***keiros*** in celebration and acknowledgement of their contributions to the Temple.

Dharma School Registration

If you have not already done so, please complete the online registration form for your Dharma School student(s):

https://forms.gle/353mY13Gaq3VZyPL7

Dharma School Taiko

The MVBT Kids Taiko group has had two Zoom meetings this year. In the first meeting, each participant built their own "bucket drum" using a plastic bucket and packing tape, and sanded wooden dowels to make ***bachi***. For the second meeting, they did a variety of drum drills using their drum!

In Gassho,
Brent Izutsu
Dharma School Superintendent

ABA's Gratitude to the Sangha

MVBT Adult Buddhist Association

2020 has been a year like no other.

Thanks to **Rev. Mukojima** for helping to guide the Sangha through the year. ABA members appreciate the support of the MVBT Sangha and fondly remember the former ABA members who passed away this year.

We wish the entire Sangha a healthy and safe New Year's and 2021.

With Gassho,
Jean Shimoguchi
ABA President

Seniors Activities & Crafts Program

MVBT Seniors Activities and Crafts

The Temple is keeping us safe and taking every precaution before we can open the doors to the Temple. We all hope soon they will inform us of when our Thursday session can once again begin. The important concern is to keep you all safe and well. Please everyone, take care and stay well. You are all truly missed.

TAIKO

Thank you to our instructors, Susan Yuen and Linda Uyechi, for giving us our Taiko lesson via Zoom every Thursday at 10:00 am to 10:45 am. It is so mindful, keeping one alert on balance, memory and timing. A real brain teaser. Please join and enjoy Taiko with us. We have added two more to make nine currently enjoying Taiko lessons including our instructors. For more information, call Reiko Tsuchida.

SING ALONG

Thank you to Kinji and Julie Ushiba for coordinating the Sing Along. With the help of Susan Yuen and Linda Uyechi, we are having our Senior Sing Along program via Zoom. We started on Wednesday October 7 and will continue every Wednesday for one hour from 10:00 am to 11:00 am. Enjoy the Sing Along and visit with your senior friends. For more info, call Susan Yuen for help to use Zoom.

COOKBOOK

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

In Gassho,
Aiko Sugimoto-Miyamoto

Happy 101st Birthday, Rev. Nekoda

The birthday cards to celebrate Rev. Nekoda's 101st birthday were delivered to his assisted living facility on his big day, November 12.

Over the phone, **Rev. Nekoda** indicated that he was "happy and surprised to receive the cards! THANK YOU VERY MUCH!" Sensei has started opening the cards and he said it will probably take him all week to read them all. He said the cards are "Very Interesting."

The Sangha members were very creative with their cards. **Emi H. (7th grade)** showcased her quilling talent by creating a card with beautiful paper wisteria flowers. **Kosuke T. (4th grade)** created a card with the Buddhist Wheel. The **Inouye family (Mike, Traci, Kendall and Mason)** sent a personalized "freeway" sign.

Thank you to everyone who sent cards.

Jean Shimoguchi

Nekoda 101 Birthday Card

Emi holding her birthday card to Rev. Nekoda

Emi's birthday card to Rev. Nekoda

Kosuke's "Happy Birthday" card to Rev. Nekoda
"Otanjōbi Omedetō Gozaimasu"

Kosuke holding his birthday card to Rev. Nekoda

Miroku

OCTOBER MEETING

These past few months Miroku has been busy! New sixth graders joined our first meeting in October. We played an ice breaker and it was fun seeing everyone. We talked about what Miroku will do for the year.

NOVEMBER MEETING

At our November meeting, we talked about Miroku events. Kendall Inouye, Kaila Matsumoto and Emi Hirabayashi planned an Among Us game for Saturday, November 14. We are meeting with Mrs. Debbie Sato for a Visioning session on November 21 to discuss what middle schoolers might need at the Temple.

We will also be hosting the Bodhi Day service on December 6th.

MEET ON 3RD SUNDAYS

Our meetings are over Zoom and usually on the third Sunday of each month. We welcome all 6th - 8th Graders and you can join at any time.

AED CHECK

Also, thank you to Mr. Randy Sato for checking the AEDs for Miroku during these COVID times.

In Gassho,
Kate Hojo
6th Grade Miroku Member

MIROKU

middle school group

Fabric Face Masks

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

If you are interested in receiving a fabric face mask (designs variable), please go to the online link below.

Call **Julie Satake Ryu** at (650)787-9133 or email julie@satakenursery.com for any questions.

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

Volume 59 Number 12

Buddhist Women's Association

BWA NEWS

KEIRO KAI

The BWA senior members thank the Temple for the wonderful "virtual" Keiro Kai held on Sunday, November 15.

HOLIDAY SEASON

The month of November being the month of Thanksgiving, we have many things to be thankful for.

During the upcoming Holiday Season, we are mindful of family and friends, past and present, and the Temple who gave us so much.

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.

JOIN BWA

Anyone, men and women of all ages, interested in joining BWA, please call Reiko Murakami: 408-257-0687 or email: reikomurakami @comcast.net.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

BWA dues for 2021 are now being accepted.

BE SAFE AND STAY WELL

Everyone, please continue to stay safe and healthy!

In Gassho,
Reiko Murakami

MVBT GARDENS

HELP WANTED

Jobs Available
Every Friday Morning

Contact David Kariya,
dkariya@newsguy.com

Support Your Temple

Donate to Past & Upcoming Services

BWA DANA Youth Fund,

Eitaikyo, Bodhi Day, Joya-e (New Year's Eve), Shusho-e (New Year's 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

MVBT YBA NEWS

MVBT YBA

SPAGHETTI DINNER

Vice President Evan Itow is researching alternative Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser ideas. More details to come.

BCA YOUTH RETREAT & FRIENDS REUNION EVENT

Megan Nakagawa recently attended the virtual BCA Youth Retreat & Friends Reunion Event. Reverend Nori Imada gave a Dharma message about compassion and listening to other people's perspectives. Megan enjoyed meeting people from other YBA chapters and reconnecting with her friends from the 2019 BCA Youth Retreat.

In Gassho,
Megan Nakagawa
2020 - 2021 YBA President

November YBA Meeting

MVBT Girl Scout Troop #60736

VOTES FOR WOMEN

Brownie **Kelly T.** attended the Service Unit event called "Votes for Women: Girl Scouts Celebrate Suffrage." She said she had an awesome time learning about how important it is to vote!

TROOP MEETINGS

The **Brownie/Junior Troop** had a guest speaker at their meeting from Canine Companions for Independence.

At the **Cadettes/Senior Troop** meeting, the scouts discussed cyber safety. They also did a virtual treasure hunt, coming up with a list of items starting with the letters spelling out Girl Scouts.

Scouts celebrated the birthday of **Juliette Gordon Low** (founder of Girl Scouts of the USA) by dressing in costume on Halloween while wearing their Girl Scout vest.

PADMA PROGRAM

Normally, our Scouts participating in the Padma Program would deliver a Dharma Talk during Girl Scout Month services. Because services were cancelled due to COVID-19, our three Scouts' Dharma Message is in this issue of Echo. See Page **8**.

Kurumi in her cat costume and GS vest

MVBT Annual General Meeting

January 24, 2021 @ 11:00 am

Zoom Meeting following the Online Service

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

Upcoming Events

December 31, Thursday
Joya-e Year End Service

January 1, Friday
Shusho-e New Years Day Service

January 10, Sunday
Hoonko Service

January 17, Sunday
Eshinni-ko/Kakushinni-ko, Lady Ohtani and BWA Memorial Service

150 Club News

Our October winner is **Carter Shay**. Congratulations to Carter, one of our youngest winners.

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.

Toban & Echo Schedule

	Toban	Echo Article Deadline	Echo Mail
DEC	No Toban	N / A	N / A
JAN	No Toban	Dec 11 (Fri)	Dec 21 (Mon)
FEB	No Toban	Jan 15 (Fri)	Jan 25 (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

December 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 **December** Shotsuki loved ones are:

Yoshiko Akizuki	**IJ Iwamoto**	**Masazo Nakamura**
Edward Chikasuye	**Muriel Izumi**	**Miyuki Nakano**
Ichiro Chikasuye	**Shogo Kaku**	**Shunsuke Nakano**
Richard Endo	**David Kawamoto**	**Leo Nakayama**
Emiko Fujikawa	**Junso Kawamoto**	**Frank Okimoto**
Mamoru Fukuma	**Tsue Kawamoto**	**Kelly Sakae**
Emiko Furuta	**Toshiko Kawamoto**	**Jiro Sakano**
James Furuta	**James Ichiro Kawaye**	**Hatsue Sako**
Eigoro Hashimoto	**Tomiko Kosakura**	**Chiyo Shimoguchi**
Myrna Hayashi	**Alice Koyano**	**Yasuki Shinke**
Sato Hiroshige	**Tomoe Kumamaru**	**Laurie Takasugi**
Dorothy Horiuchi	**George Kunimoto**	**Robert Taniguchi**
June Hoshi	**Yoshio Kusaba**	**Kiyomi Tanouye**
Teruko Ikeda	**Nobuichi Masaki**	**Florence Tsukagawa**
Amy Imai	**Kiyoko Murakami**	**Hiro Uyehara**
Suyeno Imamura	**Tamae Nagatsuyu**	**Edward Yonemura**
Hana Inouye	**Paul Nakagawa**	**Teruo Yukawa**
Harry Ishii	**Jane Nakamura**	

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**

December

Monthly

Memorial

Service

* * * * *

Service at Temple Cancelled

* * * * *

Online service to be held on Sunday, December 6

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

january 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
ALL MVBT SERVICES, MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO COVID-19						
					10:00 am Shusho-e Service	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
ALL MVBT SERVICES, MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO COVID-19						
10:00 am Shotsuki Hoyo Virtual Service		6:30 pm Adult Taiko - Virtual 7:30 pm Ukelele Club - Virtual	10:00 am Senior Activities Sing-Along	10:00 am Senior Taiko - Virtual 6:30 pm Taiko Talks - Virtual	7:30 pm ABA Virtual Meeting	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
ALL MVBT SERVICES, MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO COVID-19						
10:00 am Hoonko Virtual Service		6:30 pm Adult Taiko - Virtual 7:30 pm Ukelele Club - Virtual	10:00 am Senior Activities Sing-Along	10:00 am Senior Taiko - Virtual 6:30 pm Taiko Talks - Virtual		
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
ALL MVBT SERVICES, MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO COVID-19						
10:00 am Eshinni-ko/Kakushinni-ko Lady Ohtani and BWA Virtual Memorial Service		6:30 pm Adult Taiko - Virtual 7:30 pm Ukelele Club - Virtual	10:00 am Senior Activities Sing-Along	10:00 am Senior Taiko - Virtual 6:30 pm Taiko Talks - Virtual		
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
ALL MVBT SERVICES, MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO COVID-19						
10:00 am Sunday Virtual Service and BWA, ABA, Temple Installation 10:00 am Virtual MVBT General Meeting		6:30 pm Adult Taiko - Virtual 7:30 pm Ukelele Club - Virtual	10:00 am Senior Activities Sing-Along	10:00 am Senior Taiko - Virtual 6:30 pm Taiko Talks - Virtual		
31						
ALL MVBT SERVICES, MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO COVID-19						

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January 17, Sunday
Eshinni-ko/Kakushinni-ko, Lady Ohtani and BWA Memorial Service

January 24, Sunday
Annual MVBTGeneral Meeting

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www.mvbuddhisttemple.org

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