January 2021

Volume 60 Number 1

MOUNTAIN VIEW BUDDHIST TEMPLE

January Highlights

- ***1/1/21 Fri, 10:00 am,*** ***Shusho-e Service -*** *New Year's Day Service,* ***Online***
- ***1/3/21 Sun, 10:00 am*** ***Shotsuki Hoyo, Online***
  * *Japanese Language Service*
  * *English Discussion Group*
- ***1/4 Mon, 7:00 pm*** ***Buddhist Discussion Group, Online***
- ***1/10 Sun, 10:00 am*** ***Hoonko Service, Online*** ***Guest speaker:*** *Rev. Maribeth "Smitty" Smith*
  * *Workshop after Service*
- ***1/17, Sun, 10:00 am*** ***BWA Memorial Service, Online***
- ***1/24, Sun, 10:00 am*** ***Sunday Service, Online***
  * *Temple, BWA & ABA Installations*
  * *Annual General Meeting*

Heart Crying for Help

Happy New Year!

My family is really appreciative of the great kindness, help and support you have given us in the past year. We humbly hope to avail ourselves of your warm friendship and continued support again in the coming year.

2020 was a very unique and challenging year. We faced the unprecedented situation of the COVID-19 pandemic, many challenging social issues, and the chaotic U.S. presidential election. I am not sure there has been anything in recent history that has upset our peaceful daily lives more than these terrible issues. The fear of uncertainty has made many people feel anxious and depressed. This kind of pressure and stress over such a long period has made some people lose their tolerance to always accept the values of those around them. The result is a nation that is divided.

By Rev. Yushi Mukojima

The severity of the discrimina-

(Continued on page 4)

Highlights In This Issue

MVBT Annual General Meeting	*12*
YBA Spaghetti Diinner	*5*
Vision Committee News	*10*
Membership	*10*
Keiro Kai @ Home	*11*

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 Aiko Sugimoto-Miyamoto.** Her story is on Page 7 of this issue.

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

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	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	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 & Seminar		6:30 pm Adult Taiko - Virtual 7:30 pm Ukelele Club - Virtual	10:00 am Senior Activities Sing-Along 7:30 pm MVBT Virtual Board Meeting	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 11:00 am Virtual MVBT General Meeting	7:30 pm RPC Virtual 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						

Volume 60 Number 1

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 — January 2021

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

* * * * * * * * * * * * * * *

January 1, 2021, Friday, 10:00 am, Shusho-e / New Year's Day Service, Online Service

Shusho-E Service: Renew our resolution to live with Nembutsu gratitude

January 3, 2021, Sunday, 10:00 am, Shotsuki Hoyo, Online Service

11:00 am: Japanese Language Service., Online
11:00 am: English Discussion Group, Online

January 4, 2021, Monday, 7:00 pm, Buddhist Discussion Group, Online

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

January 10, 2021, Sunday, 10:00 am Hoonko Service, Online Service

Guest Speaker: **Rev. Maribeth "Smitty" Smith** from Buddhist Temple of San Diego
11:00 am: Workshop following the Service

January 17, 2021, Sunday, 10:00 am, BWA Memorial Service, Online Service

Memorial Service for Esshinni-ko / Kakushinni-ko, Lady Takeko Kujo, Lady Yoshiko Ohtani and past MVBT BWA Members

January 24, 2021, Sunday, Regular Service with Temple Installations, Online Service

Installation of Temple, BWA & ABA Cabinets
11:00 am: MVBT Annual General Meetiing following Service

January 31, 2021, Sunday, Regular Service, Online Service

Shotsuki Hoyo Service

Study Class

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

MVBT Annual General Meeting

January 24, 2021 @ 11:00 am

EVERYONE INVITED

Zoom Meeting following Online Service

Heart Crying for Help (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

tion addressed by Black Lives Matter and the LGBTQ community was thrown into relief last year. Many of us witnessed on television how the precious life of a Black man was taken when a police officer in Minneapolis used an inappropriate method of restraint on him. This behavior with no show of mercy was shocking to the nation. There have been many incidents involving police officers, including unjustified arrests, use of violence, and the deaths of Black citizens. American children of color suffer from fear and anxiety because of the chronic racism against Black citizens embedded within American society and history. For these reasons, the BLM movement has become more active, and thousands of people have joined together to protest this injustice and call for drastic police reform.

At our Temple, we offered a BLM workshop during which we offered our deepest sympathy to all the victims and their bereaved families and then talked about how we might eliminate discrimination. In this workshop, I learned that there is a problem with the phrase, "All Lives Matter" (ALM) which has often been used against the BLM movement. Of course, the idea of racial equality is very important. However, from the Buddhist perspective, the reason why Buddhism teaches that everyone is equal is because all people have Buddha nature and are capable of becoming a Buddha. In that sense, everyone is equal. Although the true nature of human beings is the same for each of us, if we assume that everything is always exactly the same and should be treated in the same manner under any condition, we would be making a big mistake.

For example, suppose that two people are drowning in a pond. A man nearby sees their plight and dives into the water to save both of them. One is a man who appears strong enough that he will have more time before his head sinks below the surface. The other is a woman without any energy and whose head is on the point of going underwater. The rescuer swims immediately to the woman and holds her, so that she won't go underwater. But when the drowning man sees that the woman is being rescued first, he yells, "Hey, all lives are equal! So save me at the same time!" and grabs onto the rescuer.

Now, please think about this scene. The rescuer cannot bring both to shore at the same time. Even if he tries to do so, he cannot save both the woman and the man. This means that even the lives that could have been saved may not be saved.

Looked at this way, the BLM movement is the cry for help of the person who is exhausted and on the point of sinking. ALM, on the other hand, ignores the situation of the woman most in need of help, and belittles the rescuer's efforts to save her.

Therefore, to insist that ALM is not against BLM movement is not neither inclusive nor positive. BLM sincerely asks for emergency support because deep-seated racial discrimination is killing Black lives. Unfortunately, the ALM movement turns the focus away from the pressing issue of racial discrimination against Black people.

Needless to say, all lives are equal and irreplaceable. Discrimination is a big problem not only for Black people, but for all races including the Asian community. All of us people have experienced unfair treatment at one time or another.

However, now we must save the Black community first, which has received unjust discriminatory treatment in American society throughout its history. We must never ignore their hearts crying out for help: "***Treat the lives of Black people equally as others! Change the structure of a distorted society which minimizes the lives of Black people!"***

Instead of confusing the different issues by insisting that all lives are equal, it is more important for us to stand together against racial injustice and share the tears of sadness and suffering of the Black community. And, we should discuss with our families and within our community how foolish it is to have a stereotype, prejudice or discrimination against a particular race.

The root of discrimination is the arrogance that makes one think highly of oneself in comparison with others. The wisdom that Buddhism seeks is the mind of non-discrimination that removes our tendency to compare all things. If we gain such a mind, we can recognize one another as ordinary people and realize that there is no reason to confront and blame each other anymore. More than this, it will be clear to us that we must help and support one another.

Even during the time of Sakyamuni Buddha 2,500 years ago, a caste system – discrimination by social class – was well established. Discrimination of all kinds has long been part of human history. Sakyamuni Buddha rejected the caste system outright because the concept of the superiority of one group over another cruelly denies the value of existence of all others. Sakyamuni Buddha said, ***"Not by birth does one become an outcast; not by birth does one become a Brahmin. By deeds one becomes an outcast; by deeds one becomes a Brahmin."*** In other words, our value is not determined by race nor religion, but by what our actions are.

All of us are capable of an ugly self-love that feels superior by looking down on and denying the equal importance of others. However, a person's act of discriminating against others based on race or religion de-

(Continued on page 5)

Heart Crying for Help (cont'd)

(Continued from page 4)

values the value of his own existence and makes others despise him. Therefore, we should be responsible for our behaviors.

Although it is most difficult to escape our shameful and miserable self-love, we should look deep into our own sense of discrimination that exists in our hearts and minds, so that we can realize the elimination of discrimination. Let us always be willing to regard and reflect upon our selfish way of life, saying the Nembutsu as our mind's mirror, and accepting all existence that has Buddha-nature.

I sincerely hope that 2021 will be a great year in which all of humanity will smile and be hopeful.

In Gassho,

MVBT YBA NEWS

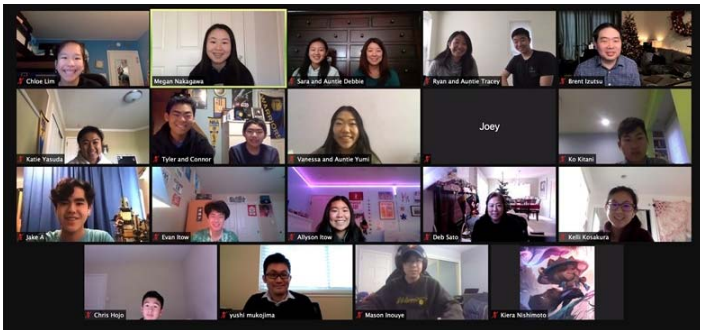
HOLIDAY PARTY

We recently had our annual Holiday Party. Thank you to the advisors for planning this event! We enjoyed writing holiday cards to each other and participating in a murder mystery game, especially after a stressful week of finals.

MESSAGE FROM OUR SPAGHETTI DINNER CHAIRPERSON

Hi, this is Evan Itow, the YBA Vice President. This year due to COVID-19 restrictions, we had to come up with an alternate plan for the YBA Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser. We are planning to maintain the general aspect of our annual fundraiser by trying to make a take-out plan from an outside source, while also implementing virtual BINGO. COVID-19 has greatly changed what our annual Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser is going to look like, but we will be happy to see all of you participate. Look for information on how to register in the coming weeks. Thank you.

In Gassho & Happy Holidays,
Megan Nakagawa
2020 - 2021 YBA President



December YBA Meeting

YBA SPAGHETTI DINNER & BINGO

Sat, Feb 13

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

B	I	N	G	O
6	26	36	54	
2	23	39		67
12	25		47	66
9		40	51	68
	17	31	53	75

BWA NEWS

Akemashita Omedeto Gozaimasu! BWA extends our Best Wishes for a safe, healthy and Happy New Year!

DANA YOUTH FUND DRIVE

With deep gratitude, we thank you for your generous donations for our **Dana Youth Fund Drive**. We will be making our presentation to the Temple affiliated youth groups at our virtual **"Eshinni-ko, Kakushinni-ko, Lady Ohtani, Lady Takeko Kujo and BWA Memorial Service"** on Sunday, January 17, 2021.

STAY SAFE & HEALTHY

We are looking forward to the day that we will be able to meet again at our beloved Temple. Until then, please continue to stay safe and healthy.

MEMBERSHIP

$20 membership dues for 2021 are now being accepted.

In Gassho,
Reiko Murakami
BWA President

Buddhist Women's Association

マウンテンビュー仏教会「回向」
二〇二一年一月法話
ー こころの叫び ー

駐在開教使　向嶋裕史

新年明けましておめでとうございます。

さて、昨年はこれまでにないほどの試練の年でありました。新型コロナウイルス感染拡大を始め、さまざまな社会問題、そして混迷を極めた大統領選挙が多くの国民に不安を与え、そのストレスによる精神的ダメージが互いの価値観を受け入れる寛容さを失わせ、その結果、国民の分断を生み出してしまいました。

特に昨年はBLMやLGBTQなどといった差別問題の深刻さを改めて浮き彫りにしました。特に警察官の不適切な拘束方法によって黒人男性が死亡した事件が多くの国民に大きな衝撃を与えました。こうした警察官による黒人市民への不当な逮捕、暴力、そして殺害などといったアメリカの歴史に組み込まれた慢性的な人種差別に抗議するBLM(黒人のいのちも大切)運動が活発となり、警察の抜本的な改革を求める抗議デモが全米各地で起こりました。

当仏教会に於いても、BLMをテーマにしたワークショップが開かれ、被害に会われた方々とその遺族への哀悼の意を表すと共に、差別根絶の実現に向けて話し合う機会がありました。その中でALM(全てのいのちは大切)という言葉がBLM運動に対抗して盛んに使われ、新たな問題となっていると聞きました。この考え方はもちろん大切なことです。しかし、仏教が説く平等というのは、全ての存在は仏性をそなえ、仏になる可能性を有するといった点で平等であるということです。それは、人はその本質において平等であるという意味であって、何もかも一律に全てが平等に扱われなくてはならないと考えると、誤りを犯すことになります。

例えば、池で男女二人が溺れているとします。それを見つけた一人の男が二人を救出しようと池に飛び込みます。一人はまだ体力的に余裕があるとみられる男性で、もう一人は体力が限界でまさに頭が水に沈もうとしている女性です。助けに入った男はすかさず女性のところへ行って身体を抱きかかえます。すると、もう一人の男が、「全てのいのちは平等なのだから今私も一緒に助けてくれ」と言いだして、救助している男性の身体に抱き着いてしまいました。そうなってしまっては、助かるいのちも助けることができません。

このように、BLM運動は、まさに体力が尽き果てて溺れようとしている人の助けを求める叫び声であり、それに対抗するALM運動は、今まさに助けを必要としている人の声をかき消し、またその弱者を救おうとしている人々の努力を無駄にしてしまう訴えなのです。ですから、ALMという訴えは決して包括的でポジティブな意味ではありません。残念ながら、ALMは、差別の究極的な行き着く先である「存在の抹殺」いのちの抹殺」という待ったなしの緊急事態の打開を訴えるBLM運動に対して、普遍的な「全てのいのちの平等」に置き換えて曖昧模糊な運動へとすり替えて行こうとする悪意ある意図として感じられるのです。

もちろん言うまでもなく、全てのいのちは平等であり、かけがえのないいのちです。差別の問題は黒人だけではなく、全ての人種が抱える大きな問題です。私達アジア系など有色人種も長い間差別の対象としてされてきました。白人の方であっても差別を受けた経験があるはずです。

しかし、アメリカ社会で一番不当な扱いを受けてきた黒人コミュニティを今真っ先に救わなくてはなりません。「黒人のいのちを皆と同等に扱ってほしい」、「黒人のいのちを軽視するゆがんだ社会の構造を変革してほしい」という救済を求める心の叫びを決して無視してはいけません。全てのいのちは平等だと訴えて論点をすり替えるのではなく、差別に苦しみ悲しむ黒人コミュニティに寄り添い、黒人の人々の涙を共有することが大切です。そして、特定の人種に対する固定観念、偏見、差別がいかに愚かな行為であるかを家族や地域社会で積極的に話し合い、差別根絶の輪を内外に広げていかなくてはなりません。

差別が生ずる根源は、他と比較して自己を高しとする「傲慢」の心にあります。仏教の目指す智慧とは、ものを区別して見ようとする分別心をとり去った無分別心です。その心で見れば、お互いが凡夫であり、対立し非難し合う理由はどこにもなく、助け合っていかねばならない存在であることが明確になってきます。

お釈迦さまは、二五〇〇年前から差別という概念は人の存在価値を否定する最も卑劣な行為の一つであるとカースト制度を真っ向から否定されておられます。そして、「生まれによって賤しい人となるのではない。生まれによってバラモンとなるのではない。行為によって賤しい人ともなり、行為によってバラモンとなる」という言葉を残しておられます。つまり、人の価値は人種や文化、宗教によって決まるものではなく、その人の行いによって決められるものであるということです。

人の心には他人を見下し否定することで、優位に立とうとする醜い自己愛がありますが、人種や宗教をもって他を差別する行為は、自ら己の存在価値を下げ、軽蔑される身となることにつながります。ですから自分の行いに責任を持つことが大切なのです。

この悲しくも醜い自己愛を滅することは至難の業ですが、常にお念仏を申すなかで、どこまでも自己中心的な生き方を省みて、仏性としての存在を互いに認め合いながら、差別根絶のために内なる差別としっかり向き合い、全ての人が笑顔と希望に満ち溢れる二〇二一年にしていきたいと切に願っています。

Super Senior Aiko Sugimoto-Miyamoto: Temple President, Dharma School Teacher, Odori Instructor & More

Written by Marie Ochi-Jacobs

Aiko (Uchiyama) Sugimoto-Miyamoto is a long-time and well-respected member of the Mountain View Buddhist Temple Sangha. Her contributions to the development of the MVBT Sangha is a demonstration of Dana nature – generously helpful and kind to all.

Grew Up in South Bay

Aiko grew up in the South Bay with eight siblings and her parents worked every day in the field. According to Aiko, "We grew up taking care of each other. We learned to make up our games, such as, kick the ball, Annie-Annie Over, marbles and many more. On the farm, our mother bought baby chicks and raised them to provide fresh eggs." Running in the wind was her favorite activity so when she was nine years old, her mother signed her up for Japanese dance lessons. Aiko says, "Maybe she wanted me to be more graceful, especially with the three older brothers. It wasn't something I enjoyed, but I took lessons for 3 years."

Sam & Aiko and Family

In 1954, her family moved to a ranch in South San Jose and she finished high school at James Lick High School. It was not very long thereafter that she met her future husband, Sam Sugimoto, through a mutual friend, after a basketball game. After their marriage, the couple bought a home in Santa Clara and soon started a family. When their first son, Jeffry was ready for Sunday School, they joined the Mountain View Buddhist Temple. Aiko says, "With the years passing, I am truly blessed with four children: Jeffry, Jaymi, Jere and Julene, who are all healthy and well. One of my main reasons in joining the Temple was to have our children make friends within the Japanese community." During the kids' formative years, Aiko and Sam got involved with the Tri-City Association for their sports activities and spent 13 years involved with their sports and community activities.

Family in 1979
Front (from left): Sam & Aiko
Back (from left): Jaymi, Jeffry, Jere & Julene

Sam and Aiko's family has grown to include nine grandchildren – Ashley, Jeffry Jr., Garett and Kastyn Sugimoto; Michael and Alyssa (Villa) Hamlin; Janelle Garcia (Visentin); Divina Adylotte; and Paul Williams. There are seven great grandchildren--Makena, Hayden and Payton Visentin; Eliana and Ariana Adylotte; Olivia Hamlin; and Landyn Sugimoto.

Great Granddaughters
From Left: Eliana, Makena, Hayden, Ariana & Payton

Career Job at Signetics & MVBT

In 1966, Aiko started working for Signetics Semiconductor, which was bought out by Philips Semiconductor 10 years later (currently NXP Semiconductors N.V.). Aiko moved into different positions throughout the company and settled into the document department as a word processor working directly with the engineers to change their specifications. After 36 years, she retired in December 2002.

MVBT Involvement

Throughout this time, Aiko became more involved with the Temple, making new friends and also helping Sam's aging parents. The Temple's choir was created and flourished thanks to the inclusion of Aiko's beautiful singing voice.

Aiko was familiar with most of the MVBT Dharma School teachers and was approached by May Shimoguchi to help teach. Over the course of 40 years, Aiko taught various grades and served as Dharma School Superintendent for three years. According to Aiko, "Today, it is wonderful and heartwarming to see the next generation bringing their children to Dharma School."

In 1982, Aiko attended the WYBL (Western Young Buddhist League) Conference as a YBL advisor. In the San Jose auditorium, she struck up a conversation about "odori." This encounter led to an enduring friendship with Hideo and Ruth Harada from Ontario, Oregon. "From 1982 to 2003, we have taken our weeks' vacation in Ontario . Their son is Bishop Marvin Harada."

Sam too was active with MVBT where he was needed. An avid and experienced fisherman, Sam provided and prepared the tuna for sale at the Obon Bazaar; taught fly fishing, on how to cast and make your own pole through the Friday Fun Night Program;

(Continued on page 8)

Super Senior Aiko Sugimoto-Miyamoto (cont'd)

Sam's 60th birthday in 1990

Back row from Left:
Taichiro Sugimoto, Jere, Julene, Mickey Hamlin w/ son Michael, Jaymi, & Nelson Faller

Middle Back row:
Sam's Father, Sam, Ashley & Jeffry

Middle Front row:
Aiko & Brenda

Front row:
Jeffry Jr. (Aiko's lap) & Garett (Jeffry's lap)

Aiko & Amy in 2011

Obon in 2013

Oasaji & Chanting in 2018

Tom & Aiko in 2018

(Continued from page 7)

helped Nakayoshi Gakko by demonstrating and explaining how to cut fish; and started the Tuesday night basketball. With ABA, he co-chaired the ABA Luau with Sets Kuboyama, a big fundraiser.

Sadly in 2003, Sam passed away with lung cancer. It was a difficult time for Aiko, but with the help of her children, family and the Temple, she kept busy. Rev. Koyama had just started the early morning chanting program. "I joined as it gave me a lot of comfort to chant," says Aiko. This group is now the Sunday Oasaji program, which has flourished under the leadership of Ken Nakano. "Ken has taken the time to educate us on the set up [of the Onaijin] and proper procedures and schedules for each service."

In 2004, then Temple President, Richard Fujikawa called and said "Aiko, you have many friends. The Board wants you to be President -elect." Aiko was shocked, so she called her long-time friend Amy Imai and asked for her advice. Amy said "you could do it" and that she would support Aiko. Aiko accepted and became the first woman President-elect in 2005, and then President in 2006 of the MVBT Board.

At that time, Aiko thought "Now I can be heard." For some time, she wanted to start a weekly Senior Activities and Craft program. She told Rich Endo about her idea and he said "Go for it". In 2002, the Senior program was launched with the guidance of Rev. Jay Shinseki. This program has evolved into a vibrant and popular program that includes line dancing, card games like Shanghai and Japanese/Hana, Sing Along, chair exercise, social time and, of course, crafts. During the COVID-19 shutdown, the Senior Activities Group has halted in-person gatherings, but they look forward to the day when they can all get together again.

Marrying Tom

In 2005, Aiko had a chance meeting with Tom Miyamoto. They had known each other many years prior. A mutual friend, reintroduced them and they were married on December 28, 2010.

(Continued on page 9)

Super Senior Aiko Sugimoto-Miyamoto (cont'd)

(Continued from page 8)

More MVBT

When the Temple started planning a 50th anniversary event, Amy Imai asked Aiko to co-chair the organizing committee. The event was planned for 2011 and provided another great challenge for Aiko. She jumped in with both feet. Under Amy and Aiko's leadership, the committee organized a successful celebration.

Aiko has been involved with MVBT since about 1962. She states "I have been fortunate and privileged to work and learn from each one of the ministers: Rev. Sensho Sasaki, Rev. Laverne Sasaki, Rev. Russell Hamada, Rev. David Matsumoto (temporary), Rev. Jay Shinseki, Rev. Dean Koyama and our current Rev. Yushi Mukojima. Rev. Mukojima is respected by many as he is a caring, personable and a humble minister. We hope he will be with us for a long time."

Currently, everyone is struggling with the coronavirus pandemic. Aiko finds it "gratifying to observe the power and strength our Temple has shown during this pandemic. It is reassuring that the Temple Board and organizations have continued to bring and focus on sharing the activities being held at the Temple via Zoom and YouTube. Foremost, being able to observe and connect us with the various Temple is proof that our Sangha will continue to be strong and successful for generations to come. I say this with great pride and am truly proud that I belong to the Mountain View Buddhist Temple."

Thank You from MVBT

The MVBT is proud to have Aiko Sugimoto-Miyamoto as a respected and beloved member of the MVBT Sangha. We thank her for her decades of commitment, compassion and leadership.

Seniors Activities & Crafts Program

MVBT Seniors Activities and Crafts

We hope you are all well and staying healthy during this awful time enduring the virus. It is important to keep safe and well. You are all truly missed. Try to keep in touch through the program that got started for your entertainment and also to visit your friends.

VIRTUAL SENIOR ACTIVITIES

During our Pandemic, we have added another entertaining program for your enjoyment for our Senior Activities group. Every **Tuesday** from 10:00 am to 11:00 am, we have **Julie Ushiba** leading us to a mild exercise session. What better way to start your day. Thank you, **Susan Yuen** for your support.

Thank you **Kinji and Julie Ushiba**, with the help from Susan Yuen and Linda Uyechi, we have started our Senior Sing Along program via Zoom. Every **Wednesday** morning for one hour from 10:00 am to 11:00 am. Enjoy the Sing Along and visit your senior friends. For more info, call Susan Yuen, for she can help and show you the way to Zoom.

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. For more information, call 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 holidays are again soon approaching. The sale price is still at $15.

In Gassho,
Aiko Sugimoto-Miyamoto

Vision-ing Coming to Your Affiliate Orgs/Committees

The VISION committee has been busy approaching EACH of the affiliates, committees, groups and special activities to ask questions that will help us with determining what facilities changes the Sangha requires. We have already scheduled or discussed these questions with 20 or more groups. The questions we are starting with are:

- WHAT kinds of facilities that DO NOT EXIST NOW at MVBT would help you run and expand your program?
- WHAT about our current facilities LIMIT the ability for you to run and expand your program?
- WHAT facility change might IMPROVE your program?
- WHAT facility change might INCREASE your programs membership and/or outreach?
- WHAT about our current facility IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL and is necessary for your program/group.

This information will be very important for us to develop master planning suggestions to the Facilities Planning Committee. If you are a member of any of the organizations or otherwise wish to provide us feedback, we are happy to include you.

'LOW HANGING FRUIT' WORKSHOP SUGGESTIONS

Bob Matsumoto and **Leslie Imai** assisted by **Rev. Mukojima** have been working across many committees and groups to implement the many 'Low Hanging Fruit' workshop suggestions. This is a MAJOR task for us to create and deepen the connections we have as a Sangha. Note that many of these are not simply the action of the LHF Sub-Committee, but are a product of multiple individuals and committees working together for the benefit of the Sangha.

This committee is coordinating with Kimochi Kai and Yu-Ai Kai to bring a presentation to the Sangha early in 2021. Look for an announcement in Putra's Post.

More will follow, we are still gearing up and welcome anyone who would like to help us continue to improve MVBT services and programs.

Submitted by Julie Satake Ryu on behalf of the VISION Committee

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

MVBT Membership—New Membership Categories for 2021

As a member of the Mountain View Buddhist Temple, your dues support the maintenance of your Temple, your minister, the facilities, organizations, and all the wonderful programs that benefit our Sangha.

In an effort to better address the needs of our diverse Sangha, MVBT is expanding our membership categories in 2021. Five new categories will be available in addition to the two existing categories: Family and Individual. Note that Family and Individual dues will remain the same at $600 and $300 per year, respectively.

We are adding Sustaining Family and Sustaining Individual categories to provide additional financial support to your Temple. These optional dues are $1,000 and $500 per year. We are also introducing Associate Individual, Young Adult Individual and Community Individual as new categories. These categories are designed to appeal to the younger demographic and others that show interest in becoming part of our Sangha. These categories will reflect a lower cost to better align with the individuals represented by the categories.

More information will be included in the membership statements and on the Temple website in January.

In Gassho,
MVBT Membership Chairs

2020 Keiro-kai @ Home – "Resilience"

On Sunday, November 15, the Mountain View Buddhist Temple held their annual Eitakyo Service and Keiro -kai @ Home event. At the service, **Rev. Mukojima** gave a nice Dharma talk reminding us about "Eitai dokyo." The Temple Choir performed a rendition of Arigato.

Following the service was the Keiro-kai @ Home event program. This year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Keiro-kai @ Home was an online Zoom event. While there was not the traditional luncheon, there was plenty of entertainment, fun and smiles all around. The theme this year was "Resilience," which was aptly named for the trying times we all faced in 2020.

About 47 Keiros and 58 non-Keiros pre-registered and it was likely that well over 100 people attended. We are thankful for help and assistance from friends and relatives in getting our Keiros online and participating!

This year, two centenarians were recognized. **Rev. Nakoda (101)** & **Mrs. Ryo Shishido (103)**. **Congratulations!**

Keiro-kai @ Home began with welcoming messages by our MC Debby Inenaga, as well as messages from **Rev. Mukojima and Temple President Doug Sawamura**.

"Okagesamade"

"Shikata ga nai"

We can "bounce back"

Doug then presented a slide show of the Hiro Apartment complex now taking shape in the back lot. Next in the program was an audience participation Sing Along followed by an encore performance of "Lava" by the Ukulele Club. Next were two entertaining slide shows put to music. The first was "Then and Now", a photo history of events and landmarks on the Temple grounds. So interesting! The second upbeat slide show depicted the Boy Scout activities from our own Troop 87.

Finally, it was time to play BINGO! About 15 games were played with some great prizes. On every game, we played until a Keiro had a BINGO, which made for some great fun!

In other Keiro-kai @ Home activities, personalized greeting cards were mailed by the Dharma School students to every Keiro. Many thanks to **Carol Harbin** for organizing this activity. Also, Fun Facts was questions and answers submitted by many the Keiros, mostly about having fun and getting by during the pandemic. Please visit the Keiro-kai @ Home website to read the interesting responses and view pictures of the event.

After all the festivities, we had closing Gassho by Rev. Mukojima. It was a nice opportunity to again hold our Annual Eitaikyo Service and Keiro-Kai and to be able to honor our Keiros along with the special recognition of our 100-year-old Keiros.

In Gassho,
Zone 9 - Keiro-kai @ Home Committee

Dharma School News

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dharma School In 2021

Due to the current and anticipated COVID-19 situation in the Bay Area, Dharma School will continue to be held remotely into 2021. We thank our Dharma School students, teachers, and families for being flexible and resilient even as we continue to face new and ongoing challenges during the pandemic.

Volunteers Needed for Online Engagement

The Dharma School is seeking volunteers to help plan and execute online activities to help reconnect and re-engage our families even as we continue to remain in our homes.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Donations

Gratefully acknowledged

Irving and Marilyn Ozawa

2020 Was a Remarkable Year

We have seen much physical, mental, and economic suffering as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to spread around the globe. We have been forced to reflect on our preconceived notions of the world and look inwardly to confront our explicit and implicit biases as issues of social and economic inequity and inequality, systemic racism, and racial violence were – and continue to be – put into stark focus. We have seen large swaths of California (and other parts of the country) burned in fast-moving fires that put many communities in harm's way. And, we continue to grapple with repercussions of a contentious election that highlights sharp divides within our country.

But, it wasn't all bad. We have also seen people step up to help others in big and small ways:

- Our first and second responders put themselves at risk to answer all of the challenges that have arisen throughout the year;
- Our communities have stepped up to support and amplify the voices of our Black brothers and sisters; and
- Here in our Mountain View Buddhist Temple community, we have seen our members and affiliates reach out with online events and activities, meals, assistance, phone calls, emails, and letters to check in and take care of each other.

Suddenly, the busyness in our lives has shifted to an appreciation for the people we have in our lives and our opportunities to connect with one another. We have learned important and memorable lessons in interdependence, in sacrifice and humility, in resilience, and above all, compassion.

So as this year comes to a close, let us gratefully reflect upon the people and things we appreciate and the special moments we found despite the unprecedented chaos. May you and your families have a safe and happy holiday season, and we'll see you (online) in 2021!

In Gassho,
Brent Izutsu
Dharma School Superintendent

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

Amy Osugi ***Jan 21, 1941 - Nov 24, 2020***

Frank Hoshida ***Dec 30, 1923 - Dec 12, 2020***

Mae Kawaguchi ***May 30, 1926 - Dec 13, 2020***

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

ABA's Gratitude to the Sangha

YEAR OF THE OX

Within the Chinese Lunar Calendar, 2021 is the Year of the Ox. People born under the Year of the Ox are thought to be honest, earnest, never seek to be the center of attention and do not look for praise. They cultivate their relationships with their friends and family to navigate hardship, appreciation and meaning.

These characteristics also describe the MVBT Sangha – hardworking, earnest and cultivating relationships within the Temple. Our Sangha members are dedicated to the strength and commitment of the Temple and Shinran Shonin's teachings.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

The ABA members wish all MVBT Sangha members a safe, healthy and happy 2021 and we look forward to the day when we can gather together in-person.

DONATIONS

Thank you for the following donations:

- **Mel and Audrey Inouye** for the Bishop/ABA Memorial Service
- **Chuck Uyeda** for the Bishop/ABA Memorial Service

With Gassho,
Jean Shimoguchi
ABA President

MVBT

Adult Buddhist Association

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 vary), please go to the online link below.

If you have questions, contact **Julie Satake Ryu**

Phone:
(650)787-9133 or

Email;
julie@ atakenursery.com.

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

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

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

February Events

February 7, Sunday
Shotsuki Hoyo

February 13, Saturday
YBA Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

February 14, Sunday
Nirvana Day & Pet Memorial Service

February 21, Sunday
Boy Scout Sunday

February 28, Sunday
BCA Eitaikyo Service

150 Club News

Our December winner is **Stacey Kawabata**.

And, our Grand Prize winner for 2020 is **Don Fukuma**.

Congratulations Stacey and Don.

Thank you all for participating in 150 Club! The 150 Club tickets for 2021 are available now from your Zone Representative.

Everyone, please stay healthy and well!

Toban & Echo Schedule

	Toban	Echo Article Deadline	Echo Mail
JAN	No Toban	N / A	N / A
FEB	No Toban	Jan 15 (Fri)	Jan 25 (Mon)
MAR	No Toban	Feb 12 (Fri)	Feb 22 (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

January 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 **January** Shotsuki loved ones are:

Nobuko Akahoshi	**Minoru Ishii**	**Satoru Okuno**
Kiyoshi Aoyagi	**Tamaye Ishikawa**	**Tsuyako Osaki**
Ronald Asada	**Shirlee Ishimaru**	**Kiyoshi Oto**
Tsuyuko Virginia Asada	**Ronald Iyemura**	**John Saito**
Ichiro Endo	**Itsuyo Kato**	**Karen Sakae**
Shigeko Betty Fujii	**Katsuko Kochi**	**Doris Sakai**
Tomizo Furuichi	**Muneo Masaki**	**Shinajiro Satake**
Yoshiye Furuichi	**BettyJane Masukawa**	**Larry Shimamoto**
Yasuko Betty Furusho	**Joe Matsumoto**	**Tomoye Shimamoto**
Hidemi Furuzawa	**Tsuya Nagasaki**	**Tom Sugimoto**
Mary Hiramoto	**George Nakano**	**Shig Tachibana**
Kiyoye Hirano	**Haruyo Nakano**	**Linda Takahashi**
Tom Hirano	**Misao Nakano**	**Shinsaburo Togashi**
Frank Hirohata	**Yashichi Nakano**	**Yoshimitsu Tokutomi**
Alan Hoshi	**Sylvia Nara**	**Thomas Tsukamoto**
Robert Hoshi	**Kisaye Nishimoto**	**Yoshio Yamaguchi**
Masaburo Hoshi	**Katsumi Nishimura**	**Yumi Yoneda**
Kiyoko Inamori	**June Okino**	**James Yoshino**
Setsuko Sara Ikeuye	**Brad Okuno**	**Ben Yoshizumi**
Grace Ishii	**Kazuko Okuno**	**Henry Yusa**

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 **reverend@mvbuddhisttemple.org**

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

January

Monthly

Memorial

Service

* * * * *

Service at Temple Cancelled

* * * * *

Online service to be held on Sunday, January 3

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.

2021 is the Memorial Year for those who passed away in:

1st Year Memorial	2020	3rd Year Memorial	2019	7th Year Memorial	2015
13th Year Memorial	2009	17th Year Memorial	2005	25th Year Memorial	1997
27th Year Memorial	1995	33rd Year Memorial	1989	50th Year Memorial	1972

february 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
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		
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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 MVBT Virtual Board Meeting	10:00 am Senior Taiko - Virtual 6:30 pm Taiko Talks - Virtual	7:30 pm ABA Virtual Meeting	YBA Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser & BINGO
& Bingo14	15	16	17	18	19	20
ALL MVBT SERVICES, MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO COVID-19						
10:00 am Nirvana Day & Pet Memorial 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		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
ALL MVBT SERVICES, MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO COVID-19						
10:00 am Boy Scout Virtual Sunday Service	7:30 pm RPC Virtual 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		
28						
ALL MVBT SERVICES, MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO COVID-19						
10:00 am BCA Eitaikyo Virtual Service						

Upcoming Events

December 31, Thursday
Joya-e / Year End Service

January 1, Friday
Shusho-e / New Year's Day Service

January 3, Sunday
Shotsuki Hoyo

January 10, Sunday
Hoonko Service

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

January 24, Sunday
Annual MVBT General Meeting

Highlights in This Issue

MVBT Annual General Meeting	*12*
YBA Spaghetti Diinner	*5*
Vision Committee News	*10*
Membership	*10*
Keiro Kai @ Home	*11*

Mountain View Buddhist Temple
575 North Shoreline Boulevard
Mountain View, CA 94043
www.mvbuddhisttemple.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME DATED MATERIAL

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT #225
MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA