February 2021

Volume 60 Number 2

MOUNTAIN VIEW BUDDHIST TEMPLE

February Highlights

- **2/1 Mon, 7:00 pm**
  Buddhist Discussion Group, Online
- **2/7/21, Sun, 10:00 am**
  Shotsuki Hoyo, Online
  * *Japanese Language Service*
  * *English Discussion Group*
- **2/13, Sat, 6:00 pm**
  * *YBA Spaghetti Dinner*
- **2/14 Sun, 10:00 am**
  Nirvana Day &
  Pet Memorial Service, Online
- **2/21, Sun, 10:00 am**
  Cub & Boy Scout Sunday Service, Online
- **2/28, Sun, 10:00 am**
  BCA Eitaikyo Service, Online

What Is Stubborn Stone?

"Hard is stone, soft is water. Water will wear away stone. If one has plumbed the mind, the Enlightenment of Bodhi is certain." If Shinjin (true entrusting) is at a distance, intensive listening to the Buddha Dharma ends in Shinjin due to Amida Buddha's compassionate activity. All we need do is expend our efforts in listening to the supreme teaching.

~ A passage from "*A Record of Master Rennyo's Words*" by Rennyo (1415-1499), 8th Head Abbot of the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

* * * * * * *

Of course, we know stone is hard and water is soft. But there is a Japanese proverb that says, ***"Constant dropping wears away stones."*** In this way, no matter how hard the stone may be and, if a single drop of rainwater continues to drip on it over time—perhaps many years—a depression will be left on the surface of the stone. No matter how jagged the stones lying at the bottom of the river may be, the gentle water moving repeatedly over them, will eventually make the stones smooth and rounded—even if it takes many years.

By Rev. Yushi Mukojima

The passage I quoted at the beginning of my message are well-known words of Rennyo, an expression that compares the relationship between our self-centered mind and Amida Buddha's great compassion, simply by using the metaphor of stone and water.

Although Rennyo shows us that a rough stone symbolizes our self-centered thoughts and blind passions, T'an-luan, one of the Seven Pure Land Masters, also describes the blind passion that blocks the Amida Buddha's light

(Continued on page 4)

MVBT President's Message

By Doug Sawamura
MVBT President

Hi Everyone! I hope you are all doing well.

As we close out the Year of the Rat, and welcome the Year of the Ox, I'd like to express my sincere gratitude to the entire Mountain View Buddhist Temple Sangha. You've persevered through the worst possible year in our Temple's history, yet you've all managed through it, and thanks to your thoughtful generosity, I think we emerged from 2020 as an even stronger Sangha.

I'd like to take this time to thank Reverend Mukojima and our two Minister's Assistants, John Arima and Devon Matsumoto, for bringing us our online services this past year. Our online Sunday Services have brought calm to the ongoing storm that we continue to maneuver each and every day.

(Continued on page 5)

Highlights In This Issue

Girl Scout Cookies	*5*
YBA Spaghetti Diinner	*7, 8*
Super Senior George Makishima	*3, 9*
Mayor Ellen Kamei	*12*
MVBT Membership	*13*
Hatsumairi	*17*

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						
		10:00 am Exercise with Friends (via Zoom) 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 YBA
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	10:00 am Exercise with Friends (via Zoom) 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	/Raffle
14	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		10:00 am Exercise with Friends (via Zoom) 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 10:45 am Compassionate Conversations - Racial Justice (Following Service)	7:30 pm RPC Virtual Meeting	10:00 am Exercise with Friends (via Zoom) 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						

Volume 60 Number 2

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 — February 2021

February 1, 2021, Monday, 7:00 pm, Buddhist Discussion Group, Online

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

February 7, 2021, Sunday, 10:00 am, Shotsuki Hoyo, Online Service

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

February 14, 2021, Sunday, 10:00 am, Nirvana Day & Pet Memorial Service, Online Service

February 21, 2021, Sunday, 10:00 am, Boy & Cub Scout Service, Online Service

11:00 am: Compassionate Conversations following service

February 28, 2021, Sunday, BCA Eitaikyo Service, Online Service

Shotsuki Hoyo Service **Study Class**

JOIN US

Sunday Dharma Messages by Rev. Mukojima and Minister's Assistants John Arima and Devon Matsumoto 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

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 George Makishima.** His story is on Page 9 of this issue.

The photo was taken for the Mountain View Buddhist Temple's 50th Anniversary Album.

What Is Stubborn Stone? (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

from a stone. He calls it "Stubborn Stone" in his book, ***"Commentary on the Discourse on Birth."*** No matter how much it rains, if there is a huge rock, the ground under it will never be wet. Similarly, although all of us are already embraced by Amida Buddha's compassion, because of our own blind passions we refuse the working of the Buddha Dharma and cannot simply accept the light of Amida's wisdom.

As Rennyo and T'an-luan say, our minds are just like "rugged stone," meaning they are stubborn and inflexible. We lack the tolerance to be able to accept Buddha's light or even that of others around us. This inflexibility is dangerous because it could harm others with hurtful words or oppressive behavior.

This is how the phrase **"hard as stone"** accurately describes our self-absorbed egotism. Although intellectually, we realize that dignity of life and respect for human rights are fundamental principles of this earthly life, our self-absorption has created a history of hate, conflict and killing, much like hard stones being bashed together. Humankind has been surviving while tied to such a regretful history of broken relationships. That is why we are still faced with social problems like racial inequality, LGBTQ concerns, and so on.

Selfishness is what causes suffering. Our selfishness can be divided into the three minds. ***First***, there is the mind of believing, or the certainty that I alone am always right. ***Second***, there is the mind that wants to have its own way in everything. And, ***third*** is the mind that loves only itself.

All of us are ordinary people (or ***bonbu***) who are constantly confused by these three selfish minds. That is why, even if we are wrong, we cannot apologize. To affirm our own existence, we tend to have a prejudice against those who have their own values and ideas that differ from ours. This is why we discriminate against those who are different from us in race, skin color, religious belief, and so on. We take kindness for granted, so we cannot show our thanks. When things don't turn out as we desire, we get angry and blame others. And because we can't forgive another person's faults and errors, we constantly complain about them. For these reasons, when we accuse others, we also brush aside our own shortcomings. We tend to look down on others while seeing ourselves as the standard for righteousness. These examples of our self-centeredness are just like a dangerous rugged stone that can easily harm others.

In a passage from ***"A Record of Master Rennyo's Words,"*** Rennyo Shonin describes a person with Shinjin or entrusting mind: ***"A person with Shinjin would not say hurtful words to fellow Nembutsu practitioners and is sure to gain a peaceful mind. This is because Amida Buddha vows that all sentient beings who have been touched by the Buddha's light will become gentle in body and mind. Contrarily, without Shinjin, one would be wrapped up in one's own self-centeredness, speaking hurtful words that are bound to result in conflict with others."***

Rennyo teaches us if we attain the entrusting mind, that our minds, shut tightly, will surely be opened, that will lead us to become fully aware that our lives are sustained by the blessing and kindness of all others. By becoming aware of this truth, our long-held complaints and discontentment will naturally turn into gratitude. We will gain the compassion that understands another's pain because we are able to put ourselves in another's place.

In Jodo Shinshu tradition, we are taught that listening is essential to attaining ***Shinjin***. Through repeated listening, Amida Buddha's great compassion (Dharma water) will make our stubborn minds (rugged stone) soften and smooth. It is because no matter how thick blind passions cloud our minds, everyday listening—like a drop of rainwater which continues to drip—will gradually make a depression, wear a hole in the stubborn stone of blind passions, and make the heart and mind open to the world of ***Shinjin*** naturally.

By listening to the Nembutsu teaching again and again, we are reminded why Amida Buddha established the Primal Vow for all sentient beings, and what Amida had to go through in order to extend the Primal Vow to each one of us. Through these repeated lessons, our misshapen "Stubborn Stone" will surely become smooth and rounded because of the Dharma Water, which is Amida Buddha's great compassion. The smooth, rounded mind which results is ***Shinjin***. I believe that the world that is created when we receive ***Shinjin*** is just like the Pure Land. It is full of the deep compassion that is truly considerate and respectful of others and makes each of our lives shine.

In Gassho,

Volume 60 Number 2

MVBT President's Message (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

My term as President comes to an end on January 24, 2021, when Bob Matsumoto will become the new MVBT President. I hope you will give Bob the same support that you have shown me during my term as MVBT President. 2021 will not be without challenges and our Temple will continue to need everyone's support. Even with vaccines on the way, COVID-19 will persist for many months to come and this will force us all to continue to think of new ways to support each other during these uncertain times.

Happy New Year to all. Stay safe and healthy and I hope to see you all (in person) real soon. Please take care!

With Kindness and Gratitude
beyond words,
Doug Sawamura
MVBT President 2019-2020

MVBT Girl Scout Troop #60736

TROOP ACTIVITIES

The **Brownie/Junior Troop** learned how to make no-sew facemasks. They talked about how to keep themselves safe during the pandemic.

The **Cadette/Senior Troop** continued doing research on their Travel Badge, and started work on the Cybersecurity Badge. They also learned to knit on a loom and donated the hats they made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

COOKIE SEASON

It's Cookie Season! All our Scouts are preparing to sell Girl Scout Cookies virtually this year. Orders can be placed by contacting any Girl Scout or Leader. For more information, please email us at gscouttroop736@gmail.com

Support Your Temple

Donate to Past & Upcoming Services

Hoonko / Nirvana Day / Pet Memorial / Spring Ohigan / Hanamatsuri

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

マウンテンビュー仏教会「回向」二〇二一年二月法話

ー頑石って何？ー

駐在開教使　向嶋裕史

「極めて硬いものは石である。極めて柔らかいものは水である。その柔らかい水が硬い石に穴をあけるのである。心の奥底まで徹すれば、どうして仏のさとりを成就しないことがあろうか」という古い言葉がある。どれほど信心を得ていない者であっても、真剣に念仏のみ教えを聴聞すれば、阿弥陀仏の慈悲によって、信心を得ることができるのである。ただ仏法は聴聞するということに尽きるのである。『蓮如上人御一代記聞書』皆さんもご存知のように、石は硬いものであって、水は柔らかいものです。日本の古いことわざに、「点滴石をも穿つ」というのがありますが、どんなに硬い石であっても、何年、何十年と雨だれのしずくが落ち続けることによって、いつの間にか石の表面に窪みができます。更に、川底に眠る石は、どんなにごつごつとした石であっても、柔らかい水が長い歳月をかけて石の表面を丸くし滑らかにしてくれます。

文頭で紹介した一節は、蓮如上人の有名なお言葉ですが、硬い石と柔らかい水を用いて人間の自我と阿弥陀仏の大悲心の関係を譬えられたものです。蓮如上人は硬い石を私達人間の自我、または煩悩として表現されていますが、七高僧の一人である曇鸞大師も「往生論註」の中で、阿弥陀仏の光明を拒絶する人間の煩悩を石に譬えて「頑石」といわれています。どんなに雨が降ろうとも、大きな岩石があると、その下の土は決して濡れることがないように、私達は既に阿弥陀仏のお慈悲に包まれながらも、自らの煩悩のために仏法のはたらきを拒んで、阿弥陀仏の智慧のみ光を素直に受け入れようとはしないのだというのです。

蓮如上人や曇鸞大師がおっしゃるように、私達の心はごつごつとした石のように頑固で、み仏のみ光のみならず、周りの人達を受け入れる柔軟で寛容な心を持ち合わせていません。その上、荒っぽい言葉や乱暴な態度で相手を傷つけかねない危うい存在です。

このように「きわめて硬いものは石である」とは、正に私達人間の自我、我執の心を表しているのです。私達はいのちの尊厳や人権の尊重などといった人として生きるうえでの根本原則を理解しているつもりですが、我執の心は、硬い石と石とがぶつかり合うように、人と人とが憎しみ、争い、殺し合い、そして、人と人を引き裂く悲しい歴史を私達人間は引きずって生きています。それ故に、今なおBLMやLGBTQなどといった社会問題を抱えているのが現状です。

その我執こそが私達凡夫の心に苦しみを生み出す最大の原因であるといわれていますが、この我執を三つの心に分けると、一つ目に、自分が常に正しいという心。二つ目には、自分の思い通りにしたいという心。三つ目には、自分がかわいいという心となります。

この我執の心に振り回されて生活しているのが私達凡夫です。ですから、たとえ自分が悪くても謝る事ができない。自分の存在を肯定するために、自分と価値観や思想が違う相手を偏見の目で見たり、自分と違う人種や肌の色、宗教に対して差別的発言をする。相手から好意を受けても、当たり前のように受け止めて感謝をしない。少しでも自分の思い通りにならなくなると、誰かのせいにして腹を立てる。そして、他人の失敗や過ちを許すことができずにいつも愚痴をこぼします。私達の悲しい性は、いつも自分の事は棚に上げて、他人の非を責め、常に正義の立場から相手を見下します。この我執の心は、まさに相手をいとも簡単に傷つけることのできるごつごつとした危険な石のようです。

蓮如上人は『御一代記聞書』の中で、「信心を得たなら、念仏の仲間に荒々しくものを言うこともなくなり、心も穏やかになる。阿弥陀仏の誓いには、光明に触れた者の身も心も和らげるとあるからである。逆に、信心がなければ、自分中心の考え方になって、言葉も荒々しくなり、争いも必ず起ってくる」と、信心に恵まれた人の在り方について述べられております。信心を得ることで、私達の頑なに閉ざされた心が解かれ、皆のお陰で生かされている我が身のいのちに気付かされ、深い反省の中から積もりに積もった不平や愚痴が感謝の心に変わり、相手の痛みが分かる思いやりの心を持つことができるとおっしゃっておられます。

そして浄土真宗では、その信心を得るには聴聞が絶対不可欠だといわれています。聴聞を通して、阿弥陀仏の大悲心（法水）が、私達人間の頑なな心（頑石）を和らげ、滑らかにして下さるのです。なぜなら、たとえ私達の心がどれほど硬い煩悩に覆われていようとも、日々の聴聞が滴り落ちる雨だれのしずくのように、少しずつ窪みを作り、ついには煩悩の頑石に風穴を開けて信心への世界へと心が自ずと開かれていくからです。

このように、聴聞を通して、阿弥陀仏のご本願が起こされた理由と、それが私達一人ひとりに届くまでのご苦労を何度も聞かせていただくうちに、阿弥陀仏の大悲心（法水）が私の歪な形をした心（頑石）を滑らかに仕上げて下さいます。その丸く滑らかに仕上がった心こそが信心なのです。そして、その信心をいただいたもの同士が作る世界とは、互いを思いやる気持ちを持って、互いの存在を尊重し、そして、互いのいのちを輝かせ合うことのできる慈悲の心に満ちた極楽浄土の世界なのです。

Volume 60 Number 2

MVBT YBA NEWS

SPAGHETTI DINNER

YBA will be hosting Spaghetti Dinner at Home on **Saturday, February 13.** This fun-filled evening will include a dine-out fundraiser, virtual Bingo, and a 50/50 Raffle over Zoom!

DINE-OUT FUNDRAISER

This year's Spaghetti Dinner will be a **TAKE-OUT only fundraiser** at the Pasta Market in Los Altos. This location will be **open from 11:00 am to 9:00 pm on Saturday, February 13.** You'll need to call in your order directly with Pasta Market or order in person for takeout. Please remember to **mention "MVBT YBA"** so that your purchase will be counted for our fundraiser. See the flyer on Page 8 for details.

VIRTUAL BINGO & 50/50 RAFFLE

Virtual Bingo and the 50/50 Raffle will take place on February 13 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm via Zoom. Bingo cards (1 card per sheet) are $5 each. Raffle tickets are $5 each. You can purchase Bingo cards and Raffle tickets through this link (pay via PayPal):

https://tinyurl.com/y68zwx4w

OR you can complete and mail the flyer included in the Echo with a personal check for payment. The deadline to purchase Bingo cards and Raffle tickets is **Sunday, January 31.**

The Zoom link will be provided via email to those who have purchased Bingo cards or Raffle tickets.

We hope to see everyone at virtual Bingo and the 50/50 Raffle. Check the upcoming Putra's Posts for more info. If you have any questions, please contact Spaghetti Dinner Chairperson **Evan Itow** (evan.itow2022@gmail.com / 408-806-1211) or YBA advisor Brent Izutsu (brent.izutsu@gmail.com). Thank you in advance for your support!

WINTER MINISTER'S RETREAT

Coast District Conference co-chairs and workshop leaders attended the virtual Winter Minister's Retreat. During this event, the co-chairs and workshop leaders ran through the conference and received feedback from the ministers.

In Gassho,
Megan Nakagawa
2020 - 2021 YBA President

YBA SPAGHETTI DINNER & BINGO

Sat, Feb 13

January YBA Meeting

YBA Holiday Party

150 Club News

Wishing you the very best for the New Year!

The January and February winners will be chosen at the February MVBT Board Meeting.

Thank you for participating in the 150 Club for 2021!

Everyone, please stay safe and healthy!

Toban & Echo Schedule

	Toban	Echo Article Deadline	Echo Mail
FEB	No Toban	N / A	N / A
MAR	No Toban	Feb 12 (Fri)	Feb 22 (Mon)
APR	No Toban	Mar 12 (Fri)	Mar 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

2021 MVBT YBA Spaghetti Dinner at Home

Saturday, February 13, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

*This year, the Mountain View Buddhist Temple YBA (Young Buddhist Association) will be hosting **Spaghetti Dinner at Home** consisting of a dine-out fundraiser, virtual bingo, and 50/50 raffle over Zoom.*

The Pasta Market Italian Restaurant in Los Altos
4546 El Camino Real, Los Altos, CA 94022

PLEASE CALL THEM DIRECTLY AT **650-949-1235** to place a PICK-UP order.

Mention "MVBT YBA" to make your purchase count. YBA will receive 20% of purchases made from the regular menu on February 13. (YBA will not receive proceeds from 3rd party delivery services like DoorDash or Grubhub).

JOIN YBA FOR ONLINE BINGO AND 50/50 RAFFLE!

In addition to our DINE OUT fundraiser at The Pasta Market Italian Restaurant in Los Altos, the YBA will also be hosting online BINGO and a 50/50 Raffle. Please join us on Zoom on Saturday, February 13 from 6-8 PM to play!

Name: _____ **Mailing Address:** _____

Email: _____ _____

Phone Number: ( ) _____ - _____ _____

Purchases of BINGO cards and 50/50 raffle tickets **must be mailed by January 31**. This year, prizes will be gift cards that will be mailed or emailed to you from some of your favorite stores!

	Quantity		Total
Number of Bingo Sheets: *(NOTE: these are 1 card per sheet, different than Obon or other events where we have 4 per sheet)*	_____	**x $5.00**	$_____
Number of Raffle Tickets: *The winner will receive half of the 50/50 raffle ticket sales proceeds, and the winning ticket will be pulled live on Zoom!*	_____	**x $ 5.00**	$_____
Additional Donation:			$_____
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED:			$_____

PAY BY CHECK: Please make your checks payable to **MVBT YBA**. **Use the form above or** go to **https://tinyurl.com/y67hgyrq** Mail your payment and order form to:

MVBT YBA
c/o Ryan Mukoyama
3395 Londonderry Drive
Santa Clara, CA 95050

PAY BY CREDIT CARD: Go to **https://tinyurl.com/y68zwx4w** and pay with PayPal

Volume 60 Number 2

Super Senior George Akira Makishima's Return to the United States

Written by Sterling Makishima

On May 8, 1940, 19-year-old U.S. citizen George Akira Makishima arrived at the Port of San Francisco on the S.S. *Tatsuta Maru* ocean liner. He was returning from Japan where he had lived with his paternal grandparents for nearly a decade.

Early Life

Born in Elk Grove, California, on Nov. 25, 1921, George's life was filled with life-changing events at an early age. His parents, 19-year-old Chiyeno Takemoto and 25-year-old Kiyoshi Makishima, divorced before he was one-year-old, each going their separate ways and leaving him with his paternal grandparents as Japanese custom dictated.

His mother moved to Sacramento where she ran the Star Rooming House at 510 J Street. She remarried and had two more children.

His grandparents, Tsunosuke and Mitsuo Makishima, lived in Perkins where they had a small strawberry farm. George helped on the farm, went to Japanese language school and attended Washington Elementary School. The strawberry season had been good and they had made some money. He had just begun sixth grade when his grandparents decided to return to Japan. On October 19, 1934, George boarded the S.S. President Lincoln ocean liner with his grandparents, an aunt and an uncle.

Life In Japan

Their final destination was Yamaguchi prefecture where they planned to live out their lives. As he neared his 20th birthday, he faced a serious decision. Japan and China were at war. Japanese army training began in high school. By graduation, participants had reached second lieutenant ranking. As a foreigner, George would have been pressured to sign paperwork relinquishing his U.S. citizenship and would have probably been drafted into the Japanese army and entered the war. George said to his grandparents that, "I don't want to go to war. I want to go back to America." His grandfather told him he was old enough to make his own decision and urged him to find his mother. Whatever the reasons for the divorce, he said, "Don't blame your mother. Just go and visit her. I'm sure she'll be happy.'" The last time George saw his grandparents was at the port in Kobe, Japan.

George is in the middle. Photo taken in Hawaii in 1934 during his voyage from the United States to Japan

Photo found in US government file discovered by a reporter

Returning to California

Upon arrival in San Francisco on May 8, 1940, George was taken to the Angel Island Immigration Station. He was on his way to live with his uncle in Penryn. But his plans were delayed and he spent nearly three months at Angel Island when he could not produce any documentation of his U.S. birth.

"I was in a huge room with a window way up in the high ceiling. You couldn't see the view. Nothing." He was even denied access to the exercise yard and recreation room. With his life and future up in the air, George even considered returning to Japan, "I'm not used to this kind of life. It's just like a prison."

One memory that stands out was seeing German people in the next room as he passed through to go to the bathroom. He

(Continued on page 10)

Super Senior George Makishima (cont'd)

(Continued from page 9)

later learned they were prisoners of war.

Meanwhile his uncle was trying to get George released without much luck. He knew where George was born, but he didn't know what year or month. So, his application got rejected.

When the Immigration and Naturalization Service began to consider sending him back to Japan, his uncle had no choice but to contact George's mother. She agreed to help and traveled by train to San Francisco. In May 1940, he was interviewed with his uncle and his mother, who provided proof of his U.S. birth. When his immigration application was approved, George moved to Penryn where his uncle had a fruit orchard. He worked there until the season ended, then went to Lodi to pick grapes. From there, he moved to a potato farm outside of Stockton. In 1941, finding himself in an exclusion zone, George went back to his uncle's house in Penryn until that area was also zoned and they were ordered to report to the Marysville Civilian Assembly Center.

Internment Camp

There he stayed for several months until he volunteered to work on a sugar beet farm in southern Idaho. He was then interned at the Minidoka Camp near Twin Falls, Idaho.

After the sugar beet season ended, George got a job driving a truck. "I got a chance to go out to pick up food and supplies at the railroad station and drive back to the camp."

While at Minidoka, George used a skill he had learned in Japan. "In Japan I took Judo. I was a second-grade black belt. In camp, I taught that to the younger bunch. I still didn't like staying in the camp, you know, I wanted my freedom." He found a job at a mining camp in Utah where they mined gilsonite, a natural asphalt found only in the Uintah Basin. The mining crew was made up entirely of Japanese and American Indians.

Thanksgiving 2019

Next, George got a seasonal job in Wyoming, cutting timber for railroad ties, where the car crews were all Japanese. Through this job, George got a reprieve from the army.

After the War

After the war, George moved to Denver where much of his family had settled, including his mother who had bought a small hotel. George met his future wife in Denver when he answered an ad in a local newspaper placed by the Sugimoto family who needed a farm helper.

The Sugimoto family and George moved to California in the mid-1940s. George married Kazuko Sugimoto and they had four children. The second son, Ted, passed away at birth. While George and his wife, Kazuko, lived in the Bay Area, he worked in the dry-cleaning business. He was a very hard worker; five days at the dry cleaners, Saturdays gardening, and Sundays sharpening lawn mowers on the side.

George eventually bought his own business, Betty Brite Cleaners in Sunnyvale, which he ran for over 20 years.

Life at MVBT

Until recently, George continued to participate in a local "*shigin*" group affiliated with MVBT. (Shigin is a traditional form of Japanese folk singing.) His other favorite pastimes included fishing, gambling in Reno and Las Vegas, and playing/studying horse racing. George remembers the day at an ABA sponsored Bay Meadows outing, he picked a long-shot Exacta (1st & 2nd place winners) for the ABA members. ABA members pooled $20 each and a total ticket payout was over $8,000; each member made over $400. They practically carried him out on their shoulders!

George in April 2011
89 years old

(Continued on page 11)

Super Senior George Makishima (cont'd)

(Continued from page 10)

George's fondest memories at MVBT are:

- ECHO Editor: 1961 - 62. After each issue was done, he enjoyed having wonderful food . His wife Kazuko's Cioppino was an ECHO staff favorite.
- Obon Festival & Bazaar Chair: 1963. He remembers having to bring home all the cash and put it under his bed until the bank opened (no night drops in those days).
- Having senior Rev. Sensho Sasaki over regularly for his favorite Curry over rice dinner that Kazuko made.

Family

In addition to his three children, George has eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. He is currently enjoying retirement while watching his Japanese DVD movies, NHK news, and listening to old Japanese songs. Unable to help out at the Temple anymore, George hopes that his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren will continue their support of MVBT. The Temple has given George and his families so much for so many years.

With Gratitude & Appreciation,
George Akira Makishima

Seniors Activities & Crafts Program

MVBT Seniors Activities and Crafts

We hope you are all well and staying healthy during this pandemic. It is important to us to that you keep safe and well. You are all truly missed. Try to stay in touch through the programs we have started for your entertainment and also a chance to visit your friends via Zoom.

VIRTUAL SENIOR ACTIVITIES

During our Pandemic, we have added another entertaining program for your enjoyment from 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**, and 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 from 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 sale price is still at $15.

In Gassho,
Aiko Sugimoto-Miyamoto

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

Masako Okazaki	*April 16, 1938*	*Nov 15, 2020*
Yoshio Sato	*July 6, 1925*	*Dec 5, 2020*
June Furuichi	*June 6, 1932*	*Dec 17, 2020*
Setsuko Hirano	*Feb 11, 1930*	*Dec 25, 2020*

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

Namo Amida Butsu

Ellen Kamei – Mayor of City of Mountain View & MVBT Member

Ellen Kamei

Congratulations to Temple member, Ellen Kamei, who was sworn in as City of Mountain View's mayor on Jan. 12, 2021. The Kamei family are no strangers to the Mountain View Buddhist Temple. Ellen's grandparent's, Kenzo and Ruth Kamei were very active in the Temple helping with various events, especially Obon. Ruth was very active in the BWA. Ellen's bigger circle of relatives that are active in the Temple include the Ozawa, Inouye, Nishimoto and Uyehara families.

Ellen was born and raised in Silicon Valley. She grew up in Mountain View and moved to Morgan Hill when the Kamei's moved their nursery. She was an active member of both the Morgan Hill Buddhist Church and San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin, where she participated in Girl Scouts, Jr. YBA, Judo and Suzume No Gakko. She served as a Dharma School assistant during high school and participated in the Padma Program.

Ellen with Grandfather Kenzo in 1987

Padma Award recipient in 1996

Ellen learned to speak Japanese in college. After finishing her undergraduate studies, she went to the Mie Prefecture of Japan as a Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program Assistant Language Teacher. She taught Kindergarten, Elementary and Middle School for two years.

Kenzo & Ruth Kamei with granddaughter Ellen at Ellen's undergraduate gradation from UC Santa Barbara in 2005

When Ellen moved back to California after Graduate School, she moved in with her Grandfather and became a board member of the Japantown Community Congress of San Jose. As a board member, she served as a Coordinator for the Nikkei Community Intern Program, an eight-week summer internship. She is honored and proud to share that her family will provide on-going funding for one participant of the Nikkei Community Internship (NCI) Program in San Jose Japantown. It will be called "The Kamei Family" Scholarship.

Ellen was proposed to in November 2019 by Chris Takeuchi in front of the garden at the Mountain View Buddhist Temple. Ellen and Chris were recently married in the same spot this past October under COVID-19 restrictions. The Temple wishes them well!

Ellen, Chris & their dog, Nori.
Wedding at MVBT in October 2020

Ellen is the first known Buddhist serving as Mountain View City Councilmember and Mayor. The Mountain View Buddhist Temple is very proud of Ellen and look forward to her leadership in serving the City of Mountain View this year.

Ellen at Mountain View City Council on January 12,2021

Additional information about Ellen's accomplishments can be found by going to the City of Mountain View's website:

https://tinyurl.com/EllenKameiBiography

Kicking Off New MVBT Membership Categories in 2021

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

The members (Sangha) of the Mountain View Buddhist Temple are its life blood. To encourage Temple membership and participation, the Board of Directors has approved new membership categories to meet the needs of anyone who would like to be a part of the Sangha. Below are the descriptions of the new membership categories. Note: A portion of your dues is allocated to the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA).

Members will receive their renewal packet in the mail and given the option to submit their dues online or through a check mailed to the Temple. If you have any questions, please send them to membership@mvbuddhisttemple.org.

Sustaining Family

- ❑ Definition: 2 adults in a household that may include children under the age of 26
- ❑ Benefits: Full Temple benefits
- ❑ Annual Dues: $1,000. Note: The additional funds to help sustain MVBT

Family

- ❑ Definition: 2 adults in a household that may include children under the age of 26
- ❑ Benefits: Full Temple benefits
- ❑ Annual Dues: $600

Sustaining Individual

- ❑ Definition: 1 adult in a household that may include children under the age of 26
- ❑ Benefits: Full Temple benefits
- ❑ Annual Dues: $500. Note: The additional funds to help sustain MVBT

Individual

- ❑ Definition: 1 adult in a household that may include children under the age of 26
- ❑ Benefits: Full Temple benefits
- ❑ Annual Dues: $300

Associate Individual

- ❑ Definition: 1 adult between the ages of 26-35
- ❑ Benefits: Full Temple benefits
- ❑ Annual Dues: $150

Young Adult Individual

- ❑ Definition: 1 adult between the ages of 18-25 or full-time student
- ❑ Limited Benefits: Access to MVBT affiliate organization. No facility rental privileges
- ❑ Annual Dues: $25

Community Individual

- ❑ Definition: 1 adult with limited Temple benefits
- ❑ Limited Benefits: Access to MVBT affiliated organization. No privileges to zone membership, facility rentals, Nokotsudo or funeral (*sodan*) arrangements
- ❑ Annual Dues: $120

Dharma School News

明けましておめでとうございます!

I hope that 2021 will ultimately be a better year. As we begin the new year, I would like to thank all of you for supporting the Dharma School, especially given the challenges that the coronavirus pandemic has presented. I am particularly grateful for our teachers who have remained resilient and adapted to remote and online instruction. I am also appreciative of our students and families who have continued to hear and learn the Dharma despite remaining apart. And, I thank the Sangha for your continued support and contributions.

ACTIVITIES

Teacher and Cabinet Appreciation Activity

The Dharma School teachers and cabinet members were treated to an online chocolate making party with Brigadeiro kits from "tiny B chocolate." It was a fun and tasty activity! A special thank you goes to **Debby Inenaga** for making the arrangements!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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.

2021 started with a dark moment in our history. The deplorable invasion of our nation's Capital Building put into stark focus the ugliness that greed, anger, and ignorance can create when left unchecked without self-awareness and self-reflection. Buddhism teaches us to see the true nature of the world as it is:

"tiny B chocolate" Party: Fun & Tasty

> *"To move past our own preconceptions and prejudices and listen with empathetic ears, open minds, and compassionate hearts to the suffering around us, and then act to alleviate those conditions."*

While it is easy to point to external causes for our suffering, with a reflective mind, we can begin to see and understand that much of it is created by our own egos, desires, and our fears.

The tragic events that we saw unraveling on television, in text chats, and on social media that day provides us with an opportunity to discuss how our thoughts, words, and actions affect the people and the world around us. In our Sunday Services and in our Dharma School classes, we learn about interdependence and dana, our imperfect selves, and compassion for ourselves and others. Let us work together as a Dharma School and Sangha to make sure that our words and actions inspire and unite not only future generations, but our current community as well.

In Gassho,
Brent Izutsu
Dharma School Superintendent

ABA News

MVBT

Adult Buddhist Association

ABA members welcomed 2021 on the New Year's Day Service with our rendition of the "Twelve Days of New Year's":

On the first day of New Year's the Temple gave to me: One kaki from a member's Tree
On the second day of New Year's the Temple gave to me: Two bowls of oishi ozoni
On the third day of New Year's the Temple gave to me: Three new onenjus
On the fourth day of New Year's the Temple gave to me: Four Girl Scout Cookies
On the fifth day of New Year's the Temple gave to me: Five choir singers
On the sixth day of New Year's the Temple gave to me: Six spaghetti dinners
On the seventh day of New Year's the Temple gave to me: Seven odori dancers
On the eighth day of New Year's the Temple gave to me: Eight Senior Cookbooks
On the ninth day of New Year's the Temple gave to me: Nine chicken dinners
On the tenth day of New Year's the Temple gave to me: Ten pounds of mochi
On the eleventh day of New Year's the Temple gave to me: Eleven Bodhi tree leaves
On the twelfth day of New Year's the Temple gave to me: Twelve taiko players

DONATIONS

Thank you to the following members for their donation for the Bishop's and ABA Memorial Service:

- John and Chau Arima
- Phyllis Chan
- Jaime Holknecht
- Haruye Hoshi
- Alice Ishida
- David Kariya
- Glenn and Lorrie Kitasoe
- Sterling and Joanne Makishima
- Jean Shimoguchi
- Aiko Sugimoto-Miyamoto
- Ed Tsumura
- Toshiko Uyehara

With Gassho,
Jean Shimoguchi
ABA President

Young Adult Buddhist Association

MVBT

YABA

Even before COVID-19, the prevalence of mental illness was on the rise. The pandemic has only exacerbated the negative impact on individuals' psychological and emotional well-being due to self-isolation, anxiety, loneliness, fear, economic struggles, and so much more. Even with the hope of the vaccines on the horizon, the mental health impact of the pandemic may continue to affect society much longer than the virus itself. With this in mind, YABA held a mental health discussion-based workshop on New Year's Eve.

Everyone has faced their own unique challenges this past year. Some have been unable to see their families and friends. Some have felt fear about the safety of themselves and of those closest to them. And others have faced the tragic death of loved ones. These challenges are not only being faced by those already existing with mental health issues, but also by those who are newly triggered by recent events. It is also important to recognize that minorities are generally disproportionately affected, especially the Asian American community.

"Being on a spiritual path does not prevent you from facing times of darkness. But it teaches you how to use the darkness as a tool to grow." – Sadhak Anshit

Buddhism teaches us that suffering is inescapable. Life is suffering. Buddhism was founded on the experiences of one man's own search for understanding suffering on his path to enlightenment. From my own experience with depression and anxiety, suffering can make you feel alone in your pain. However, by sharing our individual challenges with others in our workshop, it reminded me of the power of interconnectedness. It reminded me that we are not alone and that we can support each other in our struggles.

Even though we all were experiencing suffering, it was clear that these struggles also paved the way for positive change. This past year taught us how to better balance our lives, how to ask for help, how to appreciate those closest to us, and many more lessons that we can take into the new year and beyond. These are lessons that can teach us how to be kinder to ourselves and those around us, and how to live more healthy lives. A prime example was seeing how our temple had come together as a community this past year, such as making Obon at Home happen and holding Compassionate Conversations through the difficult challenges of 2020.

2020 was definitely a difficult first year for YABA. However, we are optimistic for the new year. We have welcomed a new cabinet: myself as President, Alec Matsumoto as Vice President, Ashley Andrews as Treasurer, and Lauren Muselman as Secretary. We hope to continue to build up YABA and find ways to contribute to not only the temple, but also the community.

As a final note, I implore everyone to reflect on the challenges you have faced and what positive lessons they have taught you. By focusing on these positive lessons, we can continue our journey to inner peace in this ever-changing and impermanent world.

In Gassho,
Alex Muselman
YABA President

Buddhist Women's Association

BWA NEWS

NEW MEMBER, WELCOME

BWA welcomes **Alice Ishida** as a new member. We are very pleased to have her join us.

BWA DANA FUND

Our deep gratitude to the Sangha for your support of the MVBT BWA Dana Youth Fund Drive. Because of your generosity, we were able to give the Dana gifts to the affiliated youth groups, which are the Dharma School, Miroku, Cub Scout-Boy Scout, Girl Scout and YBA.

MEMBERSHIP

$20 membership dues for 2021 are now being accepted.

In Gassho,
Reiko Murakami
BWA President

Hatsumairi Child Presentation - Postponed until April 10, 2022

The Hatsumairi Service ("First Visit Ceremony") is a ceremony at which the parents present their child before the Amida Buddha and the Sangha. Children of all ages are welcome to participate in the Hatsumairi ceremony.

The Mountain View Buddhist Temple traditionally holds the Hatsumairi Service in conjunction with the Hanamatsuri Service, which celebrates the birth of Shakyamuni Buddha.

The Temple has chosen to hold the Hatsumairi Service as an in-person ceremony. This allows the child to be presented in front of the O-naijin (or altar), which symbolizes the truth that is embodied within the human experience. To do this, the Hatsumairi Service is postponed until April 2022. The. Hatsumairi Service will be combined for 2020, 2021 and 2022.

SUPPORT YOUR TEMPLE

Shop at Amazon Smile

Earn Income for MVBT!

At no cost to you, Amazon will donate a % of your purchase to MVBT.

Visit **www.smile.amazon.com**. In your account, pick "Mountain View Buddhist Temple" as your charitable organization.

Make your purchase. Thank you for your help.

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**

February

Monthly

Memorial

Service

* * * * *

Service at Temple Cancelled

* * * * *

Online service to be held on Sunday, February 7

Go to MVBT website or Putra's Post

February 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 **February** Shotsuki loved ones are:

Bill Ichiro Asada	**Rev. Ryumei Iguchi**	**Tsuneko Nakayama**
Tom Fukuda	**Tatsuhiko Ikebe**	**Niro Nishimoto**
Hatsugoro Fukushima	**Francis Ikenaga**	**Tsuneo Nishimura**
Ben Furuichi	**James J. Inokuchi**	**Edward Okamura**
Thomas Gishi	**George Tadashi Ishimaru**	**Kimi Okubo**
Yusaku Haruta	**Kay Hisako Ishizawa**	**Jane Okumura**
Nabei Higa	**Jiro Iwata**	**Frank Sakino**
Chiyo Higuchi	**Kazuo Kato**	**Kiyoshi Sawamura**
Tomiuemon Hiramoto	**Jack Kawamoto**	**Zensaku Shishido**
Chiyoko Hirohata	**Chiyeko Matsumoto**	**Mary Somen**
Jeanette Hirota	**Frank Matsumoto**	**Rodney Togashi**
Maureen Hojo	**Matsutaro Matsumoto**	**Ruth Yamatoda**
Shuichi Hori	**David Toshio Matsuo**	**Haruo Yamaji**
Henry Isamu Hoshi Jr.	**Shigeki Murai**	**Toshio Yamaji**
Henry Hideo Hoshi	**Akiko Nakagawa**	**Mildred Yamanaga**
Clara Hoshida	**Haruko Nakano**	**Tsutomu Yamanaga**
Matsuyo Idehara	**Sally Tokoko Nakayama**	**Kenneth Yasuda**

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**

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

Volume 60 Number 2

march 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						
		10:00 am Exercise with Friends (via Zoom) 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	10:00 am Exercise with Friends (via Zoom) 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	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20 CDYBL
ALL MVBT SERVICES, MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO COVID-19						
10:00 am Sunday Virtual Service		10:00 am Exercise with Friends (via Zoom) 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		You've Got a Friend in Me
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 Spring O-Higan Virtual Service		10:00 am Exercise with Friends (via Zoom) 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	29	30	31			
ALL MVBT SERVICES, MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO COVID-19						
10:00 am Girl Scout Sunday Virtual Service	7:30 pm RPC Virtual Meeting	10:00 am Exercise with Friends (via Zoom) 6:30 pm Adult Taiko - Virtual 7:30 pm Ukelele Club - Virtual	10:00 am Senior Activities Sing-Along			

Upcoming Events

February 13, Saturday
YBA Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

March 7, Sunday
Shotsuki Hoyo

March 21, Sunday
Spring Ohigan Service

March 28, Sunday
Girl Scout Sunday Service

April 11, Sunday
Hanamatsuri Service

Highlights in This Issue

Girl Scout Cookies	*5*
YBA Spaghetti Diinner	*7, 8*
Super Senior George Makishima	*3, 9*
Ellen Kamei	*12*
MVBT Membership	*13*
Hatsumairi	*17*

Mountain View Buddhist Temple
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