March 2021

Volume 60 Number 3

MOUNTAIN VIEW BUDDHIST TEMPLE

March Highlights

- ***3/1 Mon, 7:00 pm*** ***Buddhist Discussion Group, Online***
- ***3/7/21, Sun, 10:00 am*** ***Shotsuki Hoyo, Online***
  - ** Japanese Language Service*
  - ** English Discussion Group*
- ***3/21, Sun, 10:00 am*** ***Spring Ohigan Service, Online***
  - ** Seminar following Watch Party (TBD)*
- ***3/28, Sun, 10:00 am*** ***Girl Scout Sunday Service, Online***

Once Grasped, One Is Never Abandoned

The Coast District Young Buddhist League Conference will be held this month. We will have the conference online this year due to the CoVid pandemic. We have held our conference planning meeting online every month to discuss how we can provide the meaningful workshops online to all the participants under restricted circumstances. The youth members have done their best with a great sense of responsibility and untiring effort without complaints no matter what unfavorable situation they are in. I am very impressed by how they are meeting this challenge.

The theme of this year's conference is, "You've Got A Friend in Me." This is the song from the Disney/Pixar movie, ***Toy Story 4***. We believe that this theme will show how important it is to overcome the issue of social isolation aggravated by the pandemic by being able to feel the connection to our friends.

By Rev. Yushi Mukojima

Amida Buddha's benefit of "being grasped, never to be abandoned"

When the theme was decided last year, I watched this movie with my family at home. We really enjoyed it and what impressed me most was Woody's deep friendship with Forky.

Forky is Bonnie's favorite toy that she herself created. However, Forky only recognized himself as trash because he was made from a disposable spork and other things like a pipe cleaner and a popsicle stick. Because of this, he would repeatedly dive into a garbage can. Woody couldn't stand such unbe-

(Continued on page 4)

Highlights In This Issue

MVBT President's Message	*6*
YBA News	*9*
Super Senior Jim Shidawara	*10*
MVBT Membership	*12*
En-VISION-ing	*13*
Face Masks Available	*14*

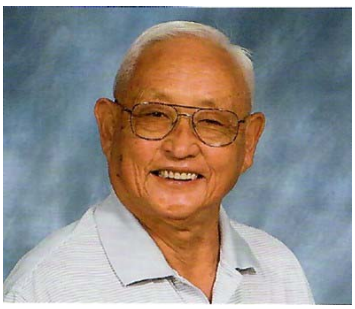
Super Senior Highlights

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

Jim Shidawara is the Super Senior for this Echo. His story is on Page 10 of this issue.

The photo was taken from the Mountain View Buddhist Temple's 50th Anniversary album dated October 2012.



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						
	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	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		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	7:00 pm YABA Zoom Social Hangout 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 12:00 pm YABA General 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		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	7:00 pm YABA Zoom Social Hangout	
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	12:00 pm Senior BINGO! 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			

Volume 60 Number 3

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 — March 2021

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

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

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

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

March 14, 2021, Sunday, 10:00 am, Sunday Service, Online Service

March 21, 2021, Sunday, 10:00 am, Spring Ohigan Service, Online Service

Spring O-higan: Higan, meaning Other Shore, is a service conducted in the spring on or about the vernal equinox. The practice of the Six Paramitas is emphasized on this occasion.

11:00 am: Seminar (TBD)

March 28, 2021, Sunday, 10:00 am, Girl Scout Sunday 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

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

Kaichi Okazaki	*Jan 21,1930*	-	*Jan 18, 2021*
Richard Miyashiro	*June 4, 1934*	-	*Feb 7, 2021*
Mary Sasaki	*July 15, 1923*	-	*Feb 7, 2021*
Yosuke Mizuhara	*Oct 9, 1933*	-	*Feb 7, 2021*

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

Namo Amida Butsu

Once Grasped, One Is Never Abandoned (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

lievable behavior and always saved Forky from the garbage can. But whenever Woody took his eyes off him, Forky would dive into the garbage can again, screaming, "I am a trash!" as if he were denying his own value. Although Forky did this many times, Woody never abandoned him and continued to encourage him to realize his own worth as a toy that Bonnie needs and treasures and who deserves to be with her. No matter how many times Forky ran away from Woody, Woody chased him without tiring.

This scene made me think of a benefit of Amida Buddha. It is called the benefit of ***"being grasped, never to be abandoned."*** It is the working of Amida Buddha that embraces all living beings in the light of compassion and never abandons them. This is the benefit that expresses the depth of Amida Buddha's compassion.

There is an interesting story about this benefit told of ***Shoma***, who is revered by Nembutsu followers as a ***myokonin***, or superior Nembutsu follower. One day, a certain temple's resident minister asked Shoma, "You know Amida Buddha's benefit of being grasped and never to be abandoned, don't you? So show me what this working looks like." Shoma suddenly stood up and opened his arms wide, screaming, "It looks like this!" And then he jumped at the minister. The minister was surprised at this sudden behavior, thinking that this difficult question had made Shoma lose self-control. So he got up and ran away from Shoma, who relentlessly chased him with his arms held wide open. Wherever on the temple grounds the minister ran to escape him, Shoma pursued him relentlessly. The minister felt so frightened of Shoma that he finally hid in a small, dark room in the inner part of the Hondo. Feeling deeply regretful, he thought, "Well, I shouldn't have asked Shoma such a difficult question…"

Just then, the door of the small room was suddenly slid open. The moment Shoma found the resident minister hiding there, he screamed, "This is the Amida Buddha's benefit!" and clung tightly to the resident minister. Amida Buddha's benefit of "being grasped, never to be abandoned" shows no matter how many times one runs away, Amida Buddha will chase and finally hold you without fail. When the resident minister was finally grabbed up in a big, firm hug, he greatly rejoiced in Shoma's action because it clearly demonstrated Amida Buddha's great working of compassion.

We are foolish beings full of blind passions. When things don't turn out as we desire or when unfavorable things happen to us, we tend to be easily upset and view the world negatively. And when we are unable to show more of our ability than we wanted, or when we couldn't meet somebody's expectation, we can only see the negative side of ourselves that makes us lose self-confidence. When these unpleasant things occur, we tend to dislike ourselves and may even think things like, "I don't care because my life is trash!"

But even if we are at a point where we see our lives as worthless as trash and question why we even exist, Amida Buddha will never abandon us, but instead embrace us firmly in the light of compassion. Even if we cannot say the Nembutsu in gratitude because we are delusional or because we continue to escape from Amida Buddha's grasp as if we had disappointed him, Amida Buddha will without fail run after us and embrace us. And once grasped, we are never abandoned.

Don't you think that Woody's friendship with Forky has something in common with Amida Buddha's great working? Woody saved Forky from the garbage can many times. And he continued to encourage Forky to see his own value as a toy that Bonnie loved and needed.

As we go through life, it is very important to have a friend like Woody. Such a deep friendship gives us the courage and hope to move forward to face any hardships. A good friend like Woody is our spiritual support just like Amida Buddha's deep compassion. Because of this spiritual support, we are able to find value in ourselves and overcome any difficulties with strength and confidence.

There is a saying by Sakyamuni Buddha in the Larger Sutra, which goes: ***"The one who hears and never forgets this Dharma, but sees and reveres it and greatly rejoices in attaining it—that person is my true friend."*** Buddha means that we who sincerely embrace the Nembutsu teaching are his true friends. He also shows us that we who live with the Nembutsu, being illumined by Amida Buddha's compassion, are all precious Dharma friends. Under Amida Buddha's benefit of "being grasped, never to be abandoned," we should each feel deep gratitude for the life we lead, firmly embraced by Sakyamuni Buddha and our many Dharma friends. Sakyamuni Buddha is always with us, saying, "You've got a friend in me!" This is a deeply reassuring message during this ongoing period of social separation for our own health and safety.

I would like all the youth members to be fully aware that they are always embraced by the working of Amida Buddha's benefit of "being grasped, never to be abandoned" as in the voice of Sakyamuni Buddha calling, "My friend!" I sincerely hope that these young people, together with their precious Dharma friends, and with great peace of mind, will make this year's CDYBL Conference a meaningful and valuable experience.

In Gassho,

マウンテンビュー仏教会「回向」二〇二一年三月法話

ー摂め取って捨てずー

駐在開教使 向嶋裕史

今月、沿岸教区の仏教青年会大会が開催されます。今年の大会はコロナ禍の影響を受けてオンラインでの開催となります。昨年から毎月、準備委員会会議を開き、限られた条件の中でどのようにオンラインでの大会を有意義なものにしていけるかを真剣に話し合ってきました。どんな不遇な状況におかれても、不平を言わず各自責任をもって準備を進めている子供達の直向きな姿を見て大きな感銘を受けました。

今大会のテーマは、ディズニーの「トイストーリー4」という映画の主題歌、「君には僕という友達がいるじゃないか」となっています。このコロナ禍で深刻化する社会的孤立を、友人との繋がりを感じることで乗り越えていけることをオンラインを通して教えてくれそうです。

このテーマが決まってから、自宅で家族とこの映画を楽しんだのですが、大変興味深いシーンがありました。それは主人公のウッディがフォーキーに示した深い友情です。

フォーキーは、ボニーが先割れスプーンでつくった手作りおもちゃで、ボニーの一番のお気に入りです。しかし、使い捨ての先割れスプーンで作られたフォーキーは自分のことをゴミだと思い込んで、自らゴミ箱に飛び込みます。そんな突拍子もない行動を見かねてウッディはフォーキーをゴミ箱から救い出しますが、フォーキーはウッディが目を離す度に「僕はおもちゃじゃない！」といって何度もゴミ箱に逃げ込みます。それを何度も繰り返すフォーキーですが、ウッディはそんなフォーキーを決して見捨てることなく、ボニーに必要とされている存在であること、そして、おもちゃとしての価値を見出すようフォーキーを励まし続けます。たとえどれほどフォーキーが逃げようともウッディは諦めず追いかけるのです。

このシーンを見ていた時、ふと阿弥陀仏の「摂取不捨」の利益が私の頭をよぎりました。その利益は、生きとし生けるものを慈悲の光の中に摂め取り、決して見捨てることのない阿弥陀仏のはたらきをいいます。

妙好人として大変有名な庄松同行に大変面白いお話があります。ある日、あるお寺の住職が庄松に「摂取不捨とは如何なるはたらきじゃ？」と尋ねました。すると、庄松はいきなり立ち上がり、両手を広げて「それはこういうことじゃ！」と叫びながら、住職に掴みかかろうとしました。驚いた住職は、難しい質問をしたことで庄松が取り乱したと思い、その場から逃げ出しました。しかし、庄松は両手を大きく広げたまま、住職の後を全速で追いかけます。境内のどこを逃げても庄松は追いかけてくるので、怖くなった住職は本堂奥にある行燈部屋へ逃げ込み身を潜めました。「やれやれ、庄松に難しいことを聞いてはならんの」と後悔していると、突然部屋の戸が開き、庄松が大声で「摂取不捨とはこれなり！」といって住職に抱き着きました。逃げて逃げて逃げ回る私を決して見捨てることなく追いかけて、ついに抱きとられるのが阿弥陀仏の摂取不捨です。住職はその阿弥陀仏のはたらきが、今抱き着いて離そうとしない庄松の姿と重なって見え、大いに喜ばれたというお話です。

私達は煩悩具足の凡夫です。物事が思い通りにならなかったり、面白くないことがあったりすると、すぐ腹を立て、世の中を否定的に見てしまいます。ましてや、自分が思っていた以上の力を出せなかったり、誰かの期待に応えられなかったりすると、自分の悪い面ばかりしか見えなくなり、自信を失ってしまいます。その結果、自分自身を嫌いになり、自分の人生をゴミのようにどうにでもなってしまえと思うことさえあります。

しかし、阿弥陀仏は自己否定をするこのような私をも決して見捨てることなく、慈悲の光の中に私達を包み込んで下さっているのです。たとえ煩悩に苛まれて報恩感謝の念仏を称えなくても、阿弥陀仏から背を向けるように逃げ続けても、阿弥陀仏はそんな私達をどこまでも追いかけて必ず摂め取って下さいます。そして一度つかまえたら、決して見捨てないのです。

そのような阿弥陀仏のはたらきとウッディのフォーキーを見捨てない友情が重なって見えませんか？ウッディは何度もゴミ箱に飛び込むフォーキーを救い出しました。そしてフォーキーがボニーに必要とされているおもちゃであることを誇りに思い、自分の価値を見出すよう友人として励まし続けました。

人生に於いてウッディのような友人を持つことはとても大切なことです。なぜならそのような友情は私達の心に人生の荒波に向かって進む勇気と希望をもたらしてくれます。友人の存在は阿弥陀仏の慈悲のように私達の心の拠り所となります。その心の支えによって、私達は自分自身に大きな価値を見出し、どのような人生の壁をも力強く、自信をもって乗り越えていくことができるのです。

お釈迦さまは、『大無量寿経』の中で「法を聞きてよく忘れず、見て敬い得て大きに慶ばば、すなわち我が善き親友なり」と念仏のみ教えを喜ぶ私達を善き友であるとおっしゃっておられます。そして、阿弥陀仏の慈悲に照らされて念仏に生きる私達は皆、かけがえのない法友です。阿弥陀仏の摂取不捨のはたらきのもと、お釈迦さまを始め、多くの法友に恵まれて生かされている人生に感謝の念を忘れてはいけません。お釈迦さまは私達に向かって「君には僕という友達がいるじゃないか」と呼び掛け、いつも寄り添って下さっておられます。

仏青のメンバー達には、どんなことがあっても見捨てないという阿弥陀仏の「摂取不捨」のはたらきと、お釈迦さまの「友よ」という力強い呼び声に導かれながら、大きな安らぎの中、かけがえのない法友と共に仏青大会を有意義なものにしていただきたいと切に願っています。

2021 Mountain View Buddhist Temple Cabinet Installations at January 24 Sunday Service

Temple Board, BWA, ABA & YABA

Congratulations to the 2021 cabinets for the Mountain View Buddhist Temple, the Buddhist Women's Association, the Adult Buddhist Association and the Young Adult Buddhist Association. The cabinets were installed at the Sunday Service on January 24.

2021 Mountain View Buddhist Temple Cabinet

President
Bob Matsumoto

President-Elect
Jean Shimoguchi

1st Vice President
Jean Shimoguchi

2nd Vice President
John Arima

Corresponding Secretary
Sharon Tsukahara

Recording Secretary
Don Fukuma

Treasurers
John Arao
Bob Imai

Auditor
Irving Ozawa

Assistant Auditor
Peter Matsumoto

Membership Chair
Bob Yamanaga

Assistant Membership Chair
Leslie Imai

Historian
Eric Arakaki

Echo Editor
Steve Tsuchida

2021 Mountain View Buddhist Temple Cabinet

(Continued on page 7)

MVBT President's Message

Happy Year of the Ox!

I hope that 2021 will be the start of new beginnings.

THANK YOU, DOUG

I would like to thank our past president, **Doug Sawamura**, for his dedicated and outstanding leadership these past two years. In addition to the normal challenges of being Temple President, the pandemic brought forth many new unexpected and unprecedented decisions, duties and responsibilities. Doug did this with mindful, patient, compassionate and strategic skills. Thank you also to his family, especially Phyllis who provided him the family support that allowed him to dedicate his time to the temple.

STAY ACTIVE & ENGAGED

In closing, I hope that with everyone's efforts, we can keep our Sangha engaged and active, while keeping everyone healthy and safe. I look forward to serving as your Temple President for the next two years and ask for your active engagement as we continue to build and support our Sangha, so that we can learn and live the teachings of the Dharma.

In Gassho,
Bob Matsumoto

Volume 60 Number 3

2021 Mountain View Buddhist Cabinet Installation (cont'd)

(Continued from page 6)

2021 Mountain View Buddhist Cabinets
For
BWA, ABA & YABA
(All officers for each organization not in the photo)

2021 Mountain View Buddhist Temple ABA Cabinet

President
Jean Shimoguchi

Vice President
Russ Nakano

Recording Secretary
Lois Okino

Asst Recording Secretary
Shirley Matsumoto

Corresponding Secretary
Joyce Okumura-Lee

Asst Corresponding Secretary
Marilyn Ozawa

Treasurer
Don Fukuma

Auditor
Steve Tsuchida

Historian
Carolyn Murata

Asst Historian
Toshiko Uyehara

Co-Social Chairpersons
Alice Ishida &
Judy Nakano

Membership Chairperson
Reiko Tsuchida

Asst Membership Chairperson
Mieko Nakano

Hospitality Chairperson
Joanne Makishima

Advisors
Rev. Yushi Mukojima
Sterling Makishima

2021 Mountain View Buddhist Temple YABA Cabinet

President
Alex Muselman

Vice President
Alec Matsumoto

Treasurer
Ashley Andrews

Secretary
Lauren Muselman

2021 Mountain View Buddhist Temple Buddhist Women's Association Cabinet

President
Reiko Murakami

Recording Secretary
Lois Okino

Corresponding Secretary
Miyo Takegami

Treasurer
Joan Aoki

Religious Chairperson's
Lorrie Kitasoe
Shirley Matsumoto

Historian
Kimi Nishimura

Official Delegates
Toshiko Uyehara
Reiko Murakami

MVBT Girl Scout Troop #60736

COOKIE SEASON

The Girl Scouts continue with cookie sales. Please see Putra's Post to order!

TROOP ACTIVITIES

Brownie/Juniors:

The Brownie/Junior group continued to learn about the care of animals and made fleece blankets to donate to the Humane Society of Silicon Valley. They also played some games, talked about their own pets, and learned about caring for other types of animals.

Cadette/Seniors:

The Cadette/Senior group had a special guest speaker at our meeting on Cybersecurity Basics, previous Temple President Doug Sawamura, The Scouts and Leaders all enjoyed the presentation and learned some especially important facts about safety and technology.

Padma Program:

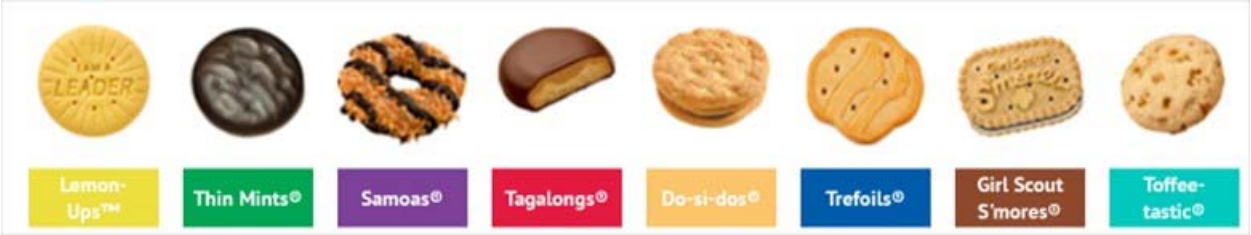
Our Padma scouts have been busy attending study sessions with guidance and input from MVBT Youth Minister's Assistants Stacey Kawabata, Alex Shinkawa and Vicky Shinkawa.

Fleece blanklets made by Brownie / Junior Group

Graduation Lei Fundraiser

The Cadette/Senior group is planning a Graduation Lei Fundraiser.

More Information Will Be Coming Soon!!



Find Order Form on Putra's Post

Support Your Temple

Donate to Past & Upcoming Services

Nirvana Day / Pet Memorial / Spring Ohigan / Hanamatsuri / Gotan-e

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

(1) Use the MVBT online "DONATE NOW,"

(2) Send a check to the Temple office

MVBT YBA NEWS

SPAGHETTI DINNER

This year's Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser included a dine-out fundraiser at Pasta Market, virtual Bingo, and a 50/50 Raffle. This event would not have been possible without the hard work of our Spaghetti Dinner Chairperson, **Evan Itow**. Thank you, Evan, for your creativity and flexibility these past few months!

Here's a message from Evan:

> Hello, my name is Evan Itow, and I was the YBA Spaghetti Dinner Chair for this year's fundraiser. Thank you to all of the Temple members who continued to help support the MVBT YBA, even in this unprecedented situation. I would also like to give a huge thank you to all of the YBA members and advisors who formed the many committees that helped make this whole thing a reality.

COAST DISTRICT WINTER ACTIVITY

YBA recently hosted the virtual Coast District Winter Activity. YBA members from Mountain View, San Jose and Salinas attended this event. We participated in a scavenger hunt and played Scattergories, Among Us and Jackbox. We also enjoyed meeting people from other chapters. Thank you to Activities Chairs **Chloe Lim** and **Kelli Kosakura** for planning this fun event!

In Gassho,
Megan Nakagawa
2020 - 2021 YBA President

Coast District Winter Activity

February YBA Meeting

YBA Committee for Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

Super Senior Jim Shidawara: MVBT Handyman and Best Friend to All

Written by Ricky Chu

Many of us know him as Uncle Jimmy, some know him as Jim, but we all know him as the helpful neighbor we have all grown to love.

CALIFORNIA JIM

Jim Shidawara has always been an important part of not just the Mountain View Temple Sangha, but also in the local community. Jim has lived in the same home in Los Altos for over 60 years and prior to that he resided in San Francisco and Marysville (where he was born on April 23, 1929).

In his early life, Jim already established himself as a hard-working individual. After facing internment camp in Topaz, Utah, he returned to San Francisco with his family. When Jim's father passed away suddenly, he found himself working his way through high school as a houseboy to support himself. After high school, he enlisted in the United States Navy where he served for four years. Recently, Jim was honored at a San Jose Giants game and threw out the ceremonial first pitch for his loyal service to our country. Jim was married to his late wife, Betty Shidawara, and they had two children Tami Shidawara-Vazquez and Clifford Shidawara. He has 5 grandchildren: Logan, Grant, Chelsea, Ricardo and Mateo.

Jim was in the Navy from 1949 to 1953. Photo taken in 2019 at San Jose Giants game.

JIM'S CAREER SPANS 47 YEARS

His career eventually took him to Pan Am Airlines where he worked as a mechanic. After nearly a decade there, he became an early pioneer in the emerging technology sector. Jim worked at Varian Associates, which was one of the first high-tech companies in the Silicon Valley, for 37 years. He specialized in research and development of thin-film silicon technology. Even with his busy work schedule, he found time to help his community.

MVBT HANDYMAN & LONG TIME MEMBER

Sterling Makashima fondly recalls, "Jimmy, like many of the nursery folks, were really handy with his hands. Jimmy and many others all helped the Temple develop through the years. So these Temple pioneers like Jimmy, are and were, the foundation of MVBT. I've learned so much from Jimmy's knowledge and experience at the Temple. Jimmy is a true friend, who would do anything to help you out, he has helped me out in many emergencies."

Jim was a lifelong Buddhist, so when his friends, Tad Horino and Tom Furuichi, asked him to join MVBT, he became one of the early members of our Sangha. As a close friend to the Los Altos Nursery, Jim recalls fondly, "I didn't know too much about gardening at the time, but during the weekends when things were crazy busy, I helped out in any way that I could." Tyler Furuichi adds, "(Jim) was a hard worker and always willing to lend a helping hand. Great handyman and can fix almost anything."

Gary Yamamoto, current President of the Nichiyo Golf Club (where Jim is the most distinguished member) details, "I met Jimmy playing slow pitch softball with Los Altos Nursery. Never could figure out how old he was because he always had silver gray/white hair. Also, couldn't figure out whose uncle he really was because everyone called him Uncle Jimmy. He was always smiling and always having a good time."

Family in Arizona in 2020

Jim's 91st Birthday in 2020 with 2 of 5 grandchildren

Over the years, Jim has been an important pillar for the MVBT community. When asked about his best memories of the Temple, Jim exclaims, "The Bazaar is definitely one of my favorites. It is a bummer we could not have it last year. The Bazaar is a great time to reconnect with everyone. Back in the day, we used to construct the booths using just 2x4's and screws. Every year we would reuse the same holes so we didn't have to buy new lumber. It was definitely old school construction. During Obon, I usually worked in the beer booth with Shig Tachibana and George Ishimaru and, by the end of

(Continued on page 11)

Super Senior Jim Shidawara (cont'd)

(Continued from page 10)

the night, we were having a great time!!! "

SPIRIT OF DANA

In speaking with his friends, the 'Spirit of Dana' is very evident in the many recollections:

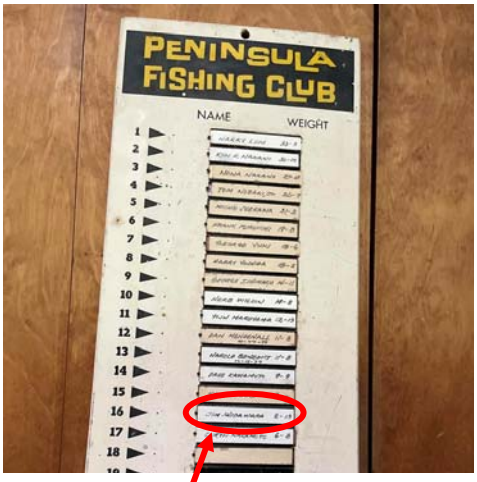
- Haruye Hoshi recalls, "Jim is a devilish rascal, but the nicest, helpful person to have as a friend. I have known him a long time and he has come over doing plumbing work for my family many times. He goes out of his way to help."
- Ron Sakino who worked for Jim's brother-in-law Ken Minemoto said, "Whenever I had a fix-it issue around the house, Jimmy was always there with his knowledge and truck with tools and parts to help solve the problem. He is a very special person to me and everybody who knows him."
- Larry Utsurogi, who met Jim in the 70's (also via the Los Altos Nursery softball team) explains, "Because I had the 70's perm, he named me 'Curly'. He still addresses me as Curly! Jimmy used to hang out with Shig at Obon. My father-in-law (Elmer Adachi) helped run the Beer Booth and our family would rendezvous there (store food, gold fish, etc.). Jimmy and Shig would be lit up and tell stories that were quite interesting and amusing. After Shig passed away, I would help Jimmy with gas line, plumbing and electrical projects during Obon construction. I learned many things, including short cuts, probably not to code, but effective (ha.ha.ha.). Can't do that anymore! Always a very pleasant, positive, humorous and sincere gentleman. I sincerely respect him."

JIM'S SECRET

I asked Jim recently what his secret was to keeping so fit in to his 90's. He mentioned, "I eat well, sleep well, don't drink and always stay active. I am not afraid of hard work, so maybe that has something to do with it." One interesting note about Jimmy was that he was once part of a famous local fishing group called Peninsula Fishing Club that was around since the 60's. At an estate sale a few years ago, Tami discovered an old trophy board for Striped Bass with Jimmy's name on it. In addition to the bass, he is said to have hooked up one of the largest King Salmon in the club weighing over 60 lbs.

THANK YOU, UNCLE JIMMY

We are thankful for all Jim is continuing to do for the Sangha and community. I can see why so many people refer to Jim as Uncle Jimmy, he is like family to so many of his friends.



Peninsula Fishing Club

1st pitch at San Jose Giants in 2019

Jim with sloth in Honduras in 2018

Staying active: Ziplining in Honduras in 2018

Jim with his dogs in 2019

2021 MVBT Membership Drive!

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

With the debut of our five new membership levels to support our diverse Sangha, the MVBT Membership Committee is excited to introduce the 2021 MVBT Membership Drive!

Membership Goal: To grow the MVBT membership to 400 in 2021.

Member Benefits: Learn about the Dharma, enjoy a sense of community, help make a difference, grow personally, experience social and cultural events, and know you have the support of the Sangha.

Why Join: Membership is a critical component of the MVBT community, and your dues support the day-to-day operations and expenses for maintaining the Temple, our programs, and services.

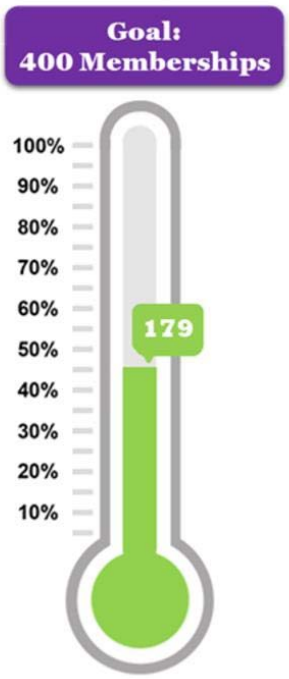
Member Expectations: Pay your annual dues, beyond that participation is an individual choice. You may be as active in the Temple as you like, but participation is not required. However, we believe that the more you get involved, the more you'll receive in personal satisfaction and growth.

We will be posting weekly updates on our progress in Putra's Post and encourage all of you who haven't renewed or joined, to do so today!

Learn more about membership at **https://mvbuddhisttemple.org/01c-membership.html**

Help us reach our goal and Join or Renew Today at **https://mvbuddhisttemple.org**

In Gassho,
MVBT Membership Committee



179 Memberships
as of Feb 12

Dharma School News

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Volunteers Needed for Online Engagement

The Dharma School is still 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.

Need Your Help for Hanamatsuri Program

One specific activity is Hanamatsuri, which will be observed on Sunday, April 11. The Dharma School will be putting together a virtual program. While this activity is still months away, we do need your help. Please contact any member of the Dharma School cabinet to join.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Donations

Gratefully acknowledged:

- **Todd and Ashley Uyehara**
  For Trevor's Birthday
- **Jeff and Janice Lee**
  For Joey's Birthday

In Gassho,
Brent Izutsu
Dharma School Superintendent

MVBT

Adult Buddhist Association

ABA News

DUES & KOROMO FUND

ABA continues to meet monthly through Zoom. Since we have curtailed our activities this year due to COVID-19, the group decided to donate our ABA annual membership dues to the **BCA's Koromo Fund.** The Koromo Fund provides monetary gifts to new BCA ministers for their ministerial robes. At last year's BCA National Council Meeting, three ministers received funds. When **Rev. Mukojima** joined BCA, he was a recipient from the Koromo Fund.

VACCINE SHOTS

Several of our members have received or scheduled their COVID-19 vaccinations. Some have received a single shot, while others already got their second. Anyone interested in receiving their vaccination, and who lives in Santa Clara County, can schedule an appointment through the Health Department:

https://www.sccgov.org/sites/covid19/pages/covid19-vaccine-information-for-public.aspx

YU-AI KAI EVENT AFTER SUNDAY SERVICE

ABA is coordinating an event with Yu-Ai Kai, a senior services agency in San Jose serving primarily the Japanese community. Jane Kawasaki, Board President, will do an informational presentation of the services, programs and classes they offer, followed by a Q&A session. This would be for anyone interested in learning about the resources available there, both seniors and their adult children alike. Please join us on Sunday, March 28, after the regular service to participate.

Our best wishes to the Sangha to remain safe and healthy.

With Gassho,
Jean Shimoguchi
ABA President

En-VISION-ing Coming Changes

Thanks to all the input from the VISION workshops, the VISION committee has been focused on sorting through all the suggestions on Temple improvements and starting to make these a reality. While some suggestions require more planning and timing, the 'VISION at Work' (also called 'Low Hanging Fruit') subcommittee has been working with various Temple committees and organizations to actualize the suggestions that can be implemented relatively quickly.

It was clear from the workshops and participation in past Compassionate Conversations that our Temple wants to continue discussing and responding to current events and manifestations of inequality and inequity. We are pleased to announce the formation of a new committee, the Engaged Sangha Committee, that will lead these discussions and encourage community engagement.

In collaboration with the Temple Membership Committee, we are also working to address suggestions related to the promotion of membership in our growing community. New membership categories have already been implemented for existing members. We are also in the process of improving the Onboarding Program for new members and creating a brochure of the different organizations at the Temple, making this information more accessible to those who may be interested. YABA's newly formed Membership Committee is addressing how to promote membership in the young adult population of the Temple.

Finally, the VISION committee is seeking your input on facilities and spaces that have resonated with you. Share examples of your favorite sports/athletics complexes, education buildings, other temples and churches, and outdoor spaces that can serve as models and inspiration for reimagining our Temple campus. Complete the survey today: http://tinyurl.com/2dz54lx7

Your voices are important and have been heard. We look forward to continuing working with you to build upon the Temple in these exciting times!

In Gassho,
VISION Committee

Buddhist Women's Association

BWA NEWS

The COVID-19 vaccines are being administered now which is a relief. As a matter of precaution, it is being advised to stay hydrated at least two days before you get your vaccine.

2021 BWA CABINET

The 2021 BWA Cabinet was installed on January 24, 2021.

President:
Reiko Murakami

Recording Secretary:
Lois Okino

Corresponding Secretary:
Miyo Takegami

Treasurer:
Joan Aoki

Religious Chairpersons
Lorrie Kitasoe
Shirley Matsumoto

Historian:
Kimi Nishimura

Official Delegates:
Toshiko Uyehara
Reiko Murakami

STAY SAFE

Even after the vaccinations, let us all stay safe and wear masks. And, we will all be able to meet together in the near future. We are all looking forward to that day.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

$20 membership dues for 2021 are now being accepted.

In Gassho,
Reiko Murakami
BWA President

Fabric Face Masks Available

Made by Donna T

Made by Judy

The talented MVBT Sewing Group has PLENTY of fabric face masks available for you to order. We have a variety of masks to offer that include adult & children sizes, ear loop or around the head, options for insertion of a paper mask or other filter, in the style of the KN95 and MORE.

If you have questions about what might be the best choice for you, please call Julie Satake Ryu at 650-787-9133 OR email julie@satakenursery.com. Only a small donation for shipping & handling is requested. Our artisans are making these masks for the health and safety of you and your loved ones. Order several for you, your family and/or caregivers.

Masks can be ordered online at the link below.

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

Made by Lois

Made by Shirley

150 Club News

Happy New Year as we start with new 150 Club winners.

At the February Board meeting of the Mountain View Buddhist Temple, the January and February winners were drawn.

January: Lauren Hamasaki
February: Stacey Kawabata

Congratulations to our winners!

Thank you for participating in the 150 Club.

Everyone, please stay safe and healthy!

Toban & Echo Schedule

	Toban	Echo Article Deadline	Echo Mail
MAR	No Toban	N / A	N / A
APR	No Toban	Mar 12 (Fri)	Mar 22 (Mon)
MAY	No Toban	Apr 16 (Fri)	Apr 26 (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

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.

Seniors Activities & Crafts Program

MVBT Seniors Activities and Crafts

It is important to us to that you all 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

Tuesdays: Exercise. Thank you, **Sterling**, for helping **Susan** with the exercise program. During our Pandemic, we have added another entertaining program for your enjoyment from our Senior Activities group. Join us every Tuesday at 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.

Wednesdays: Sing Along. A big thank you again to Sterling for supporting Susan with our Sing Along. Thank you, Kinji **and Julie Ushiba**, with the help from **Susan Yuen and Linda Uyechi**, we have started a Senior Sing Along program via Zoom. Every Wednesday morning 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.

Thursdays: Taiko. Thank you to our instructors, Susan Yuen and Linda Uyechi, for giving us our Taiko lesson via Zoom every Thursday at 10:00 am to 10:45 am. It is so mindful, keeping one alert on balance, memory and timing. A real brain teaser. Please join and enjoy Taiko with us. 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

March

Monthly

Memorial

Service

* * * * *

Service at Temple Cancelled

* * * * *

Online service to be held on Sunday, March 7

Go to MVBT website or Putra's Post

March 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 **March** Shotsuki loved ones are:

Theodore Abe	**Helen Matsumoto**	**George Tetsuo Noguchi**
Robert Arima	**Shizuko Matsumoto**	**Shigeru Okamoto**
Mine Chikasuye	**Tom Matsumoto**	**Fumio Okayama**
Alice Asaka Fujii	**Mary Mayeda**	**Kinuko Sasaki**
Satoru Fujikawa	**Akira Morishima**	**Rev. Sensho Sasaki**
Kazuo Furusho	**Cynthia Muranaka**	**Frank Sato**
Harriet Hamamoto	**Haruko Muranaka**	**Kanesuke Sato**
Yutaka Hamamoto	**Roy Nagatani**	**Brett Sugimoto**
Sekitaro Hananouchi	**Linda Nakagawa**	**Tora Tamaji**
Masao Hayashi	**Haruyo Nakano**	**Patricia Yukie Togashi**
Itsuyo Hori	**Harry Nakano**	**Thomas Takegami**
Ronald Hoshiko	**Kenichi Nakano**	**Shimoye Yamaji**
Koriyu Kariya	**Rokuro Nakano**	**Yoshikichi Yamaji**
Ruth Kawaguchi	**Hidemi Nakashima**	**Kazuo Yanase**
Miya Kawamoto	**Komao Nara**	**Torao Yokoyama**
Hakobu Koyano	**Robert Nishimura**	**Kiriye Yoshida**
Shinobu Maruyama	**Shizuko Nishimura**	

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 3

april 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
ALL MVBT SERVICES, MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO COVID-19						
				10:00 am Senior Taiko - Virtual 6:30 pm Taiko Talks - Virtual		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
ALL MVBT SERVICES, MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO COVID-19						
10:00 am Shotsuki Hoyo Virtual Service	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	10:00 am Senior Taiko - Virtual 6:30 pm Taiko Talks - Virtual	7:30 pm ABA Virtual Meeting	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
ALL MVBT SERVICES, MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO COVID-19						
10:00 am Hanamatsuri 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 7:30 pm MVBT Virtual Board Meeting	10:00 am Senior Taiko - Virtual 6:30 pm Taiko Talks - Virtual		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
ALL MVBT SERVICES, MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO COVID-19						
10:00 am Sunday Virtual Service		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		
25	26	27	28	29	30	
ALL MVBT SERVICES, MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO COVID-19						
	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		

Upcoming Events

April 4, Sunday
Shotsuki Hoyo

April 11, Sunday
Hanamatsuri Service
No Hatsumairi—Postponed until 2022

May 9, Sunday
Mother's Day Service

May 23, Sunday
Gotan-e Service

Join MVBT Sangha

- **5 membership categories — One will fit you**
- **Build & Support your Sangha, so that we can learn & live the teachings of the Dharma**
- **Impermanence & Interdependance — we are in this together**

Highlights in This Issue

MVBT President's Message	*6*
YBA News	*9*
Super Senior Jim Shidawara	*10*
Join MVBT Sangha	*12*
En-VISION-ing	*13*
Face Masks Available	*14*

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