April 2022

The ECHO

Volume 61 Number 4

MOUNTAIN VIEW BUDDHIST TEMPLE

A Life Transformed by the Nembutsu

We had our annual Girl Scout Sunday Service on Sunday, March 27. For April, I would like to introduce Hisako Nakamura who was a true Nembutsu follower of Jodo Shinshu. She was called the Helen Keller of Japan because she also was a great woman who lived her life with an intense effort and spirit despite her physical handicaps.

Rev. Yushi Mukojima

Early Years

Hisako was born in 1897 in Takayama City, Japan. Unfortunately, when she was three years old, she was stricken with Buerger's disease - a kind of severe frostbite - on her hands and legs. Because they eventually turned to gangrene, Hisako had to have both arms amputated to just above the elbow and both legs to just above the knee.

Sadly, that was not her only misfortune. Hisako's father died unexpectedly when Hisako was seven years old. Her mother remarried, but her stepfather abused Hisako terribly and she lost sight in both eyes due to the stress of this terrible experience. She was also bullied by her stepsiblings. Because she had no hands, Hisako could only eat like a dog does, only using her mouth. So they teased her constantly, saying, "You are a beast!" In her despair, Hisako's mother planned to attempt suicide by jumping from a bridge with Hisako in her arms, but she stopped upon hearing Hisako's cry, "I am scared!" Soon after, Hisako somehow recovered the sight in her both eyes. However, when her mother realized that they couldn't rely on anybody to help them in their sad situation, she became determined to train her handicapped daughter to live independently. It is said that Hisako's mother became so stern that it was as if she had turned into a different person.

Hisako Masters Everyday Tasks

She challenged Hisako to do everything by herself: sweeping, cooking, washing clothes, and so on. She never allowed Hisako to say, "I can't do it!" Hisako cried over her mother's sternness every day. But

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April Highlights

- ***4/3, Sun, 10:00 am***
  Shotsuki Hoyo, Online
  * *Japanese Language Service*
  * *English Discussion Group*
- ***4/4, Mon, 7:00 pm,***
  Buddhist Discussion Group
- ***4/10, Sun,10:00 am***
  Hanamatsuri Service, Online
  Guest Speaker:
  Rev. Hoshu Matsubayashi (BCA Minister Emeritus)
  * *Seminar following Service*
- ***4/23, Sat,12:00 pm, Noon***
  Federated Dharma School Teachers League Conference, Online

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Super Senior Highlights

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

With Gassho,
Senior Memories Committee

Akira & Tokiko Nakano are the Super Seniors for this Echo. Their story starts on Page 8 of this issue.

This photo of Akira & Tokiko is from the Mountain View Buddhist Temple's 50th Anniversary album dated October 2012.

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 6:00 pm Ukelele Club	**2** 12:00 pm Adult Taiko
3 10:00 am Shotsuki Hoyo Service 1:00 pm YBA Meeting	**4** 7:00 pm Buddhist Discussion Group 7:30 pm Tech Support	**5** 7:30 pm Ukelele Club 7:30 pm VISION LHF Committee Meeting	**6**	**7** 10:00 am Senior Taiko 6:30 pm Adult Taiko	**8** 6:00 pm Ukelele Club 7:30 pm ABA General Meeting	**9** 12:00 pm Adult Taiko
10 10:00 am Hanamatsuri Service 12:30 pm MVBT Taiko	**11** 7:30 pm Tech Support	**12** 7:30 pm Ukelele Club	**13** 7:30 pm MVBT Board Meeting	**14** 10:00 am Senior Taiko 6:30 pm Adult Taiko	**15** 6:00 pm Ukelele Club	**16** 12:00 pm Adult Taiko
17 Easter Sunday 10:00 am Sunday Service 12:30 pm MVBT Taiko	**18** Tax Day 7:30 pm Tech Support	**19** 7:30 pm Ukelele Club	**20**	**21** 10:00 am Senior Taiko 6:30 pm Adult Taiko	**22** 6:00 pm Ukelele Club	**23** FDSTL Conference 12:00 pm Adult Taiko
24 10:00 am Sunday Service 12:30 pm MVBT Taiko	**25** 7:30 pm RPC Virtual Meeting 7:30 pm Tech Support	**26** 7:00 pm Young Adult Buddhist Discussion 7:30 pm Ukelele Club	**27** 10:00 am Senior Activities Sing Along	**28** 10:00 am Senior Taiko 6:30 pm Adult Taiko	**29** 6:00 pm Ukelele Club	**30** 12:00 pm Adult Taiko

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

https://www.mvbuddhisttemple.org or https://tinyurl.com/MVBT-YouTube

Current and Past Dharma Messages are available.

Namo Amida Butsu – "Let us live with Kindness and Gratitude beyond words..."

Religious Planning — April 2022

April 3, 2022, Sunday, 10:00 am, Shotsuki Hoyo, Online Service

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

April 4, 2022, Monday, 7:00 pm, Buddhist Discussion Group

To join, send email request to staff@mvbuddhhisttemple.org

April 10, 2022, Sunday, 10:00 am, Hanamatsuri Service, Online Service

Hanamatsuri: This service commemorates the birth of Prince Siddhartha, who later became the historical Sakyamuni Buddha

Hatsumairi: Rescheduled to April 2023.

April 17, 2022, Sunday, 10:00 am, Regular Sunday Service, Online Service

April 23, 2022, Saturday, 12:00 pm, Federated Dharma School Teachers League Conference, Online

April 24, 2022, Sunday, 10:00 am, Regular Sunday Service, Online Service

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

Shotsuki Hoyo Service

Study Class

Check Temple Website for latest information about Temple activities

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

Audrey Inouye Nov 5, 1941 - March 15, 2022

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

Namo Amida Butsu

A Life Transformed by the Nembutsu (cont'd)

(Continued from page 1)

Gauze wrapped around both Hisako's arm stumps

Hisako was also very strong-willed. With practice and more practice, she learned to do anything she had to without any help. For example, she taught herself to eat with chopsticks by wrapping gauze around her arm stumps. She mastered it because she didn't want to be called "beast" by others anymore. And, when ordered to sew, she had to figure out how to tie two threads together and how to thread a needle. With repeated trial and error, she was able to do these things herself. First, she used her tongue to tie two threads together in her mouth. Then, while she held a needle in her short arm stumps and held the thread in her mouth, she pushed the thread through the needle's eye. By pressing the cloth against the floor with her arm stumps, she sewed the pieces together by holding the needle with her lips and moving her head up and down. Eventually she was able to make kimonos and dolls using this method.

She also taught herself to write by gripping a pen or writing brush in her mouth. And she taught herself to cook and prepare food by holding the knife and utensils under her arms. Her mother's harsh training forced Hisako to use her creativity. And with constant effort and great spirit, Hisako mastered everyday tasks despite her physical limitations.

Her mother never allowed Hisako to give up, constantly urging her, "Do it until you succeed! The reason you cannot do it is because you are lazy!" I think that, when her mother witnessed others' heartless behavior towards her daughter, she realized that in order for Hisako to survive, she had to learn to do everything on her own. That is why her mother had to harden her heart and be very strict with Hisako.

Hisako writing with a brush in her mouth

Accepts Blind Passions

It was because of this harsh upbringing that Hisako was able to grow up as an independent woman. Unfortunately, it also caused Hisako to hate her mother and lament, "She is not my mother! She is a demon!"

When Hisako became an adult, the only way she could make a living was to work at a carnival-like show. She was in a "Dharma Girl" freak show, demonstrating how she could do everyday things like writing and sewing despite having no hands or legs. But back in those days, society's prejudice against anyone with physical disabilities was quite common, so Hisako had to suffer unbearable humiliation. Hisako later confessed that despite her remarkable independence, she constantly had thoughts like, "What did I do to deserve this?" and was convinced, "Everyone discriminates against me!" So fierce was her anger and frustration that she often imagined killing all those around her.

As it happened, one of the visitors to her exhibit one day was a famous calligrapher. He gave Hisako some words of encouragement, saying, "You should be a lotus in the mud." Hisako's misery was lifted by these compassionate words. Soon afterwards, she read the book ***Tannisho*** and became fully aware of Shinran's words, "foolish beings filled with blind passions." This is his famous teaching to accept your blind passions just as they are. These words made Hisako contemplate what her blind passions were. She recognized that the cause of her blind passions was her own body without hands or legs. It was also her deep regret over her handicapped state that made her kill countless people in her imagination and even hate her strict mother so much that she declared, "She is not my mother!"

Arms Above My Elbows

With this profound realization, she understood that to accept blind passions meant that she must accept her handicaps just as they were. So she accepted her body just as it was, without comparing it to others. In that very moment, her great lament, "I envy others. I have no arms below the elbow," became instead her deep gratitude for the reality, "I have arms above my elbows!" What the Nembutsu taught Hisako was not the world of complaint, "I have no arms below the elbow," but it was instead the world filled with joy and gratitude, "I have arms above the elbow!"

A lotus grows in the mud, but its flower blooms beautifully unpolluted high above the mud. Until she found the Nembutsu teaching, Hisako not only hated her body, but she killed countless people in her imagination because of her anger and jealousy. It was as if she was living a polluted life. But by accepting

(Continued on page 5)

A Life Transformed by the Nembutsu (cont'd)

(Continued from page 4)

her own body just as it was, guided by the Nembutsu teaching, Hisako stopped complaining about her shortcomings and instead was able to rejoice in the fact that she has arms above her elbow.

She also was able to accept the fact that it would have been impossible to live independently if she had not been trained so harshly by her mother. She finally was able to see that the unbearable experiences she had suffered in her childhood were the other side of her mother's deep love for her. Although she had once hated her mother as a demon, she couldn't help but now regard her mother as a compassionate ***Bodhisattva***. Hisako was even deeply grateful to her body's severe limitations because they had led her to encounter the Nembutsu teaching.

Helen Keller Meets Hisako

In 1937, Helen Keller visited Japan to give a lecture. During her stay in Japan, she was introduced to Hisako. She learned that Hisako had no hands or legs and was very impressed by her great effort and spirit to overcome the difficulties she faced. So she praised Hisako, acknowledging, "She has suffered more misfortune than I, yet is a much greater person," and gratefully accepted a Japanese doll that Hisako had lovingly made.

Toshio, Hisako's husband, gives Hisako a piggyback ride

Hisako's Lotus Flower Blooms

Hisako was able to acknowledge that it was her disability that made it possible for her to create such a wonderful life. Her great determination gave many others she met the courage and hope to overcome their own difficult situations.

In her later years, Hisako visited different places throughout Japan like women's associations, schools, temples and prisons. She did this to encourage others who had struggles of their own. She devoted her lectures and writing activities to the establishment of the Law for the Welfare of Physically Disabled Persons. After her death, she left behind many famous poems and quotes which still inspire others. Among them are these words:

> *Human life is quite mysterious. The only certain things are that we are alive and that we do not live alone. There is always a way to live any life which allows us to live without despair. There is never despair in any life.*

By encountering the Nembutsu teaching, Hisako's life of anger and complaint was transformed to one of finding joy and gratitude in any situation. She rejoiced in "she has" and no longer lamented, "she doesn't have." Hisako was a true Nembutsu follower who made her own lotus flower bloom beautifully above the mud.

In Gassho,

2022 150 Club News

The new year is looking better!

Our March winners are **Mel & Audrey Inouye's Grandkids**.

Congratulations to the Grandkids.

Thank you for participating in 150 Club!

Everyone, please stay safe and healthy!

150 Club Committee

Toban & Echo Schedule

	Toban	Echo Article Deadline	Echo Sent in Mail
APRIL	No Toban	N / A	N / A
MAY	No Toban	April 15 (Fri)	Mar 25 (Mon)
JUNE	No Toban	May 13 (Fri)	May 23 (Mon)

Please note the article deadline and mailing dates. The mailing date has been adjusted to accommodate the Temple's COVID-19 requirements. This will provide time to layout, proof, finalize and print the issue. Thank you. *Domo Arigato.* Email all articles to echo@mvbuddhisttemple.org .

マウンテンビュー仏教会「回向」二〇二二年四月法話

ー転ぜられる人生ー

駐在開教使 向嶋裕史

先月、当仏教会でガールスカウトの日曜礼拝がありました。そこで今月は、浄土真宗を代表する真の念仏者、中村久子さんを紹介したいと思います。久子さんは日本のヘレンケラーと呼ばれ、重い障害を抱えながらも凄まじい努力で自らの人生を切り開かれた女性です。

久子さんは一八九七年に飛騨高山でお生まれになり、三歳の時に突発性脱疽という重い病気を患い、両腕は肘、そして両脚は膝関節から先を切断しました。

父親は久子さんが七歳の頃に急死、母親はその後再婚するのですが、久子さんは養父から執拗な虐待を受け、ストレスで両眼が見えなくなってしまいました。その為、母親は絶望に陥り、久子さんを抱いて投身自殺を図るのですが、「お母さん、怖いよ」という泣き声を聞いて思い留まります。その後、何とか視力を取り戻した久子さんではありましたが、他人に頼れない現実を目の当たりにした母親は、久子さんが一人で生きていけるよう人が変わったように厳しく躾けるようになりました。

母親は「掃除せよ、洗濯せよ、炊事せよ」と何でも一人でこなすよう命じ、久子さんが「できない」と言っても決して許すことはありませんでした。しかし、気の強い久子さんは食事の際、両手に包帯を巻き、そこに箸を差し挟んで一人で食べることを習得しました。縫物をするよう命じられた際は、試行錯誤の末、二本の麻糸を口の中で結び、針を肘で挟んで、口で針の穴に糸を通すことを編出し、更には布を両肘で押さえ、針をくわえて頭を上下に動かしながら縦に縫われました。また、口で文字を書いたり、包丁を脇に挟んで食材を切って炊事をこなしたりと、必死に努力を重ね自分一人の力で日常生活を送れるようになりました。

母親は「できるまでやりなさい。できないのはあなたが横着だからです」と言って決して諦めることを許さなかったと言います。他人の心無い久子さんへの態度を見て、自分が心を鬼にしてでも一人前にするしか娘の生き残る道はないと悟られたのだと思います。

そうした母親の厳しいしつけにより一人の女性として自立した生活を送れるようになった久子さんですが、母親に対しては「これでも親か。鬼だ」とずっと恨んでおられました。その後一人で生計を立てるために養父に身売りされる形で「だるま娘」の名で見世物小屋で芸人として働かれましたが、その時代においては障碍者に対する偏見が酷く屈辱も大きかったそうです。

「何故、私ばかりこんな目に」という大きな不満が、相手の顔を見ただけで「私を差別している」と感じ、自分の心の中で何人もの人を殺したと言われています。

しかし興行先で観客の一人であった書道家から「泥の中の蓮であれ」という励ましの言葉が久子さんの心を救いました。その後、歎異抄に出遇われた久子さんは、親鸞聖人の言葉「煩悩具足の凡夫」、すなわち、煩悩を引き受けよという教えに目覚められました。それは、「煩悩とは何か」と思案するうちに煩悩の出所は両手両足のない我が身であった。人殺しまでするような心になったのも、「これでも親か」と厳しい母親を恨んだのも、全部両手両足のない身体が原因であった。煩悩とは両手両足のないこの身体であった。「煩悩を引き受けよ」ということは、両手両足のない身体をそのまま引き受けよということだと気づかれたのです。そして、人と比較することをやめ、両手両足のない我が身を受け入れた途端、「私は肘から先がない。皆は五体満足で羨ましい」という思いが転ぜられて「肘まで腕があった！」という現実を喜ばれたのです。久子さんが念仏から教えられた世界は、「肘から先がない」のではなく、「肘まであった」という感謝と感動の世界でした。

蓮は泥の中で成長しますが、蓮の花は泥に染まることはありません。久子さんは念仏に出遇うまでは、両手足のない身体をつねに憎み、心の中で多くの人を殺すような泥に染まった生活をしていました。しかし、念仏の教えに導かれた久子さんは、煩悩の原因であった不自由な身体をそのまま受け入れることによって、愚痴や妬み、そして怒りの生活から「肘まであった」という感謝に満ちた日暮らしに転ぜられていったのです。

そして、母親の厳しい躾がなければ自立した生活を送ることは不可能であったと、幼少の頃に経験した厳しい生活の裏に母親の深い愛情を見出し、鬼と憎んでいた母親を悲母なる菩薩であったと仰がれ、念仏のみ教えに出遇えたのも両手両足のない不自由な身体のお陰であったと自分の病気にまで感謝されました。

一九三七年に来日したヘレンケラーは久子さんと対面した際、「私より不幸な人、私より偉大な人」と称賛されました。手足がないという障害こそが自身の素晴らしい人生を作りだしてくれたのだとする久子さんの力強い生き方が多くの人々に大きな勇気と希望を与えました。久子さんは亡くなるまで、婦人会、学校、刑務所、お寺など全国で講演活動を重ね、心に響く名言を残されています。「人の命とはつくづく不思議なもの。確かなことは自分で生きているのではない。生かされているのだと言うことです。どんなところにも必ず生かされていく道がある。すなわち人生に絶望なしいかなる人生にも決して絶望はないのだ。」と。

念仏によって、「ない」ことへの絶望の人生から「ある」ことの感謝と喜びへと転じられた久子さんは、その人生に見事な蓮の花を咲かせられた真の念仏者でした。

Mountain View Buddhist Temple's Statement on the Ukraine Crisis

The Sangha of the Mountain View Buddhist Temple condemns the Russian invasion of Ukraine and calls for an immediate end to this crisis so that normalcy can be returned to the Ukrainian people as soon as possible. We extend our compassion and deepest condolences to the victims of the Ukrainian Crisis.

It is with profound sadness and misgivings that the entire world now witnesses the invasion of Ukraine by Russia. We can only imagine the Ukrainian people's grief, confusion and horror at the sudden loss of their beloved ones, their peaceful daily life, and at witnessing and enduring the destruction of their homeland. Public buildings, private facilities and residential areas alike are being destroyed and innocent blood is being shed. Even the nuclear power plant was attacked, so we also face a growing nuclear crisis.

War is an outgrowth of human greed, anger and ignorance. These emotions find justification for attack to the exclusion of those on the other side. Both sides claim that they alone are justified, resulting in the many innocent lives injured or taken in the name of justice.

For this reason, true justice should always be based on wisdom, loving kindness and compassion, without anger or hatred. From this perspective, for all Buddhists, whatever the reasons given, the invasion of another country out of anger, greed or hatred will never be acceptable.

Sakyamuni Buddha said the following:

> ***All people are frightened by violence and all people are afraid of death. Life is beloved by all people. Therefore, we must put ourselves in the other person's place: we must not kill others and we must teach others not to kill.***

With Buddha's wise guidance, let us reflect on how innocent citizens are being targeted and killed, and imagine the fear and suffering of the Ukrainian people under attack whose basic human rights are being disregarded. If each of us could imagine ourself in another person's dire situation, we could never condone hurting others out of greed, anger, hatred or discrimination.

May all beings be happy and well. May they all be free from pain and suffering. May they be free from illness, anguish and grief. May they all be free from discrimination and violence. May our wish for world peace bless all people living in Ukraine. May all of our loving kindness ring throughout the ages.

In Gassho (with palms together),

Rev. Yushi Mukojima, MVBT Resident Minister
Bob Matsumoto, MVBT President
The Mountain View Buddhist Temple Sangha

Super Seniors Aki & Toki Nakano

By Ricky Chu

Aki & Toki
Recent Christmas in Los Altos

Love is the best word to describe Aki and Toki Nakano.

I was fortunate to have had the opportunity to meet with the happily married couple who recently celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary! We talked about many things, but the one thing that stood out was how the Mountain View Buddhist Temple has been such an important part of their lives.

60th Wedding Anniversary

EARLY LIFE

Toki was born in Fresno, California, and was one of seven children. She grew up on a vegetable farm along with the rest of her siblings. Her memories of childhood were lots of hard work and spending time with her family. Their family grew onions, carrots amongst other bunch vegetables. She recalls, "We looked forward to 3 pm when we were done working, especially in the summer months!" Her mom originated from Oahu, Hawaii, and her father's side was from Hiroshima, Japan. As a child, she was relocated during the internment years with her first stop at the Fresno Assembly Center. She was then moved to Jerome, Arkansas, and then finally to the Tule Lake Internment Camp.

As a middle school student during her internment years, she recalls, "In Arkansas, the camp was close to the edge of the forests, so there were many snakes. We would see them everywhere. The boys were mean at times and would catch snakes and put them around my shoulders. There were also snake shows that were pretty interesting. We made the best of our time and spent a lot of time with our families."

After the war, the family returned to their farm to start their lives again. Fortunately, a Chinese farm worker had maintained the property and kept things in place for their return.

Aki was born in Stockton, California, and was one of five kids in the family. His family also farmed vegetables. At a young age, Aki recalls working a lot on not only their family farm, but helping many of the neighbor's farms. When their family was relocated during the war, Aki was just starting high school. His family was first relocated to Santa Anita where the horse stables were converted to living quarters at the time. Aki recalls, "It wasn't very private. We were literally living in converted horse stables. Even though it was a tough time [Aki spent his high school years all in internment camps], we were kids and had fun running around and playing at the race track. After a brief stay at Santa Anita, the family was relocated to Heart Mountain, Wyoming, which was very different for the family. The weather was different, it snowed and generally was a lot colder compared to California."

After returning home, he continued his hard-working ways of helping his family and community on the farm. As a young man, he also began learning carpentry through his friend Mr. Tamo Kitaura's dad who owned a construction company.

Aki on the Farm

Aki mentioned, "I liked wood shop in high school and it was enjoyable working outdoors so I decided to give it a try." As an apprentice carpenter, he quickly became a lead carpenter and worked in the local Carpenter's Union for the rest of his career. He recalls, "I worked on the Packard's home (Co-founder of Hewlett-Packard), Jack Tramiel (founder of Atari) and Joan Baez (singer). One project took us three years to complete!"

STARTING A NEW LIFE TOGETHER

Aki and Toki met through Tamo, who was a mutual friend at an event in San Francisco. They both recalled that, after a couple months of knowing each other, they went off to Las Vegas and got married. They explained their wedding ceremony was simple and quick. They met a couple of nice

(Continued on page 9)

Super Seniors Aki & Toki Nakano (cont'd)

(Continued from page 8)

Aki & Toki Wedding Photo

"Hakujin" ladies who were their witnesses, found a chapel and were pronounced husband and wife.

After getting married, they settled down in Sunnyvale where they remember Sunnyvale to be a lot different than today. "Lots of orchards!" exclaimed both Aki and Toki. Together they have five children, 11 grandchildren and one great grandson. Their children are:

1. **Oldest son Rick** Nakano
2. **Second son Larry** and his wife Donna. They have two sons and one grandson: son Ryan with wife Sharon and grandson Evan; son Jason with wife Brigitte.
3. **Daughter Karen** and her husband Scott Iwamoto. They have one son and two daughters: Kyle, Kelli and Kaitlyn.
4. **Daughter Lisa** and her husband Paul Andrews (deceased) . They have three daughters: Heather and twins Nicole and Ashley. Ashley is married to Dylan Okuno.
5. **Youngest daughter Joni** and her husband Carl Furumasu. They have two sons and a daughter: Nikolas, Kevin and Jessica.

June 2016
Oldest grandson Ryan's and Sharon's Wedding

Christmas 2017
All 11 Grandchildren and Spouses

October 2021
Aki & Toki with
Great Grandson Evan
(2 years old)

The family eventually moved to a larger home in Sunnyvale after finding the widest lot in the neighborhood according to Aki.

Craig Hamasaki recalls, "I have known the Nakanos since I was in high school, and knew their daughters, Karen, Lisa and Joni. I always enjoyed spending time with them at their house, they were always so welcoming. They really supported their girls in their school activities; volleyball was the big sport back then. They also supported them during their YBA days at the Temple. We continue to be friends to this day."

GETTING INVOLVED AT MVBT

Over time, as Aki and Toki began raising their family, through Aki's brother-in-law, Dan Iwata, Aki became more and more involved in the Mountain View Buddhist Temple. He remembers, "I did whatever needed to be done. With the kids starting Sunday School there, I helped out in any way possible."

Daughter, Joni, now a mother of three, remembers her earliest Sunday School memories, "We used to have a small, clear pouch that contained our book of gathas, Onenju & Dana money. After getting ready, my mom always gave us our pouches to take to church. Back then, the sermons were hard for me to understand because I was so young, but I always loved singing the gathas. I'd even take my book out at home to sing."

Toki stated, "Obon was a nice event to see all the old friends and eat good food. My favorite food was Ohagi because it was so fresh. During the Obon, I helped where I could, usually making sushi, ohagi & manju or whatever else they needed help with. If there is an Obon this year, I would definitely con-

(Continued on page 10)

Super Seniors Aki & Toki Nakano (cont'd)

(Continued from page 9)

sider attending because we have missed it greatly! Mountain View has the best food!"

Aki also was a busy volunteer every year at the Obon. He recalls, "I was asked to help by my brother-in-law to help in Color Spot and soon became a regular thing. After a few years, I decided to improve on the game and offer a 'special' grand prize. Instead of the regular stuffed animal grand prizes, I put a $10 bill up as the grand prize and we attracted a lot of players! I don't think the Temple was too big of a fan. My favorite food was Chicken Teriyaki. Time passes fast and the Obon was a way to see old friends and catch up with everyone."

MANY TEMPLE FRIENDS

Many folks remember Aki for his many years of service in the former Wednesday group that ran for decades.

Good friend Ben Horita recalls, "Aki and I were a part of the Wednesday group for over 20 years where we started doing small projects like fixing broken lights and repairing things. But over the years, they turned in to a lot bigger projects. We took them on as best we could, but eventually the projects got too big and we got too old! Aki being a carpenter took the lead on many projects. I always remember along with a small group of friends, we traveled often by bus to the East Coast and visited many destinations. We took bus trips to Reno, Las Vegas and those were always fun. Eventually we started traveling together overseas to Europe {Italy, Germany, England] and Japan."

Aki with MVBT Wednesday Group in 2004

Back row (L to R): Iwao Nakao, Shozo Mayeda, Kenzo Kamei & Dan Iwata

3rd row (L to R): Yosh Umemoto, Kay Ikeuye & John Matsumoto

2nd row (L to R): Richard Endo, Muneo Masaki, Ben Horita & George Sato

Front row (L to R): Alan Nara, **Aki Nakano**, Ruth Kamei, Yasuko Kariya & Rev. Dean Koyama

Dr. Russ Nakano exclaims, "I am eternally grateful to Aki and Toki for their confidence and faith in me to care for their family and friends throughout the 45 years I was in [my dental] practice!"

Current President Bob Matsumoto says, "The words that come to mind in describing them are: humble, dedicated to their family, quiet. I've developed friendships with their children and my children have developed friendships with their grandchildren. They have a close-knit family."

Fellow neighbor Randy Sato adds, "We met the Nakanos when we first moved to Sunnyvale over 15 years ago. Actually, I think they were probably the first neighbors we met after we moved in. My wife Debbie was pregnant at the time with our son Connor and her parents were up from L.A. to help us with the house. The Nakanos introduced themselves to my in-laws who were in our front yard dealing with all the overgrown ivy.

Over the years I've seen Mr. Nakano working in front of their house sweeping, gardening, taking out the garbage, etc. (Mrs. Nakano would help too). I've also bumped into them at Safeway and at the Temple at large events (YBA Spaghetti Dinner, Keiro Kai, the occasional Sunday Service, etc.) as well. Mr. Nakano was also part of the famous long running Wednesday Maintenance team. Every Wednesday I would see him get into his pick-up truck and head to Temple to meet the guys. That group would take care of everything at the Temple (broken tables, burned out lights - even those giant lights high up on the gym ceiling, leaky faucets, etc.). I think the one thing that stands out to me about the Nakanos is that they're still very much in love. Joni mentioned one time that Mr. Nakano had to go somewhere and, when he returned, Mrs. Nakano was so happy to see him that she gave him a huge hug and said how much she missed him. I've also heard the same thing from one of their granddaughters (Ashley) who drops by their house to help out. She mentioned to me one time Mr. Nakano would still give Mrs. Nakano jewelry as gifts. We should all be so lucky."

Rev. Mukojima states, "I would like to say that I really appreciate their longtime dedication. Our Temple is possible only because of the generous support of the Temple members. So I am deeply grateful for their Dana Spirit because they have helped and supported our Temple and Sangha without expecting anything in return. I hope that they will continue to stay safe and healthy."

Christmas 2019
Aki & Toki with T-Shirts

THANK YOU FROM THE MVBT

It is special to meet a couple with so much love for their family, friends and community. I hope we all get the chance to spend time with our Super Seniors this year [in-person] and be able to show our love for all they have contributed to our Sangha.

Namo Amida Butsu —
With Kindness and Gratitude beyond words.

VISION Committee Report

MVBT Vision Survey Question
What do you find appealing about being a part of our Temple community?

MVBT Vision Survey Results
Thank you to everyone who responded to the Vision Survey! Your feedback will be instrumental in our planning on future of Temple programs and help to create a plan for maintaining, upgrading and expanding the Temple facilities.

We will be sharing the survey results in the Echo in the coming months. An overall update will be presented at the Sunday Service on April 17.

Below are the words the Sangha used to describe what they find most appealing about MVBT. The larger the word, the more people who used that word in their comments.

In Gassho,
VISION Committee

Overwhelmingly, it is the sense of community that makes MVBT special

Dharma-Centered	Interdependence	Tradition	Impermanence	Compassion	Community

Thank You to All of the "Sangha Connect Donors"

The Mountain View Buddhist Temple thanks all of our donors who have supported this effort from February 10, 2022 through March 9, 2022. These donors are :

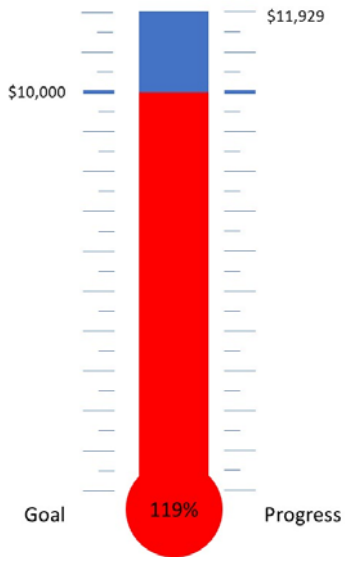
Jill Fajardo
Akemi Flynn-Do
Haruye Hoshi
Glenn & Lorrie Kitasoe
Lisa Schindler
Steve & Reiko Tsuchida

The Temple again thanks our donors who supported this effort prior to February 10. These donors are listed in previous Echos.

"With your support we are able to maintain the connections the Mountain View Buddhist Temple has nurtured over the years"

In Gassho,
Sangha Connect Committee

SANGHA CONNECT DONATION DRIVE



As of March 9, 2022

Thank you everyone who has donated and continues to donate to the Sangha Connect Donation Drive! Every week we are in awe of how many people are willing to help. As we move closer to reopening, we continue to make purchases (e.g. air purifiers and camera for live streaming) that will enable us to stay connected in a safe and responsible manner.

Please consider donating to the Sangha Connect Donation Drive and help us maintain the connections that nurture and sustain us. A Donation Link and a Wish List can be found on the Sangha Connect Page:

https://sangha.mvbuddhisttemple.org/

Donations can also be made on the Mountain View Buddhist Temple's donation page:

https://secure.qgiv.com/for/mvbt

As always, a check written out to MVBT with Sangha Connect in the note section can be mailed to the Temple office, too!

In Gassho
MVBT Reopening Task Force

MVBT YBA News

YBA TRIP PLANNING

The YBA Trip Planning Committee has begun developing an itinerary for our YBA Trip to Disneyland/LA this summer. The dates for our trip are currently being decided, either being July 22-25 or July 23-26. A parent meeting for potential travelers will be held on Sunday, March 13.

COAST DISTRICT WINTER ACTIVITY

Mountain View YBA hosted the Coast District Winter Activity on Saturday, March 5. Over thirty attendees from Mountain View and San Jose participated in icebreaker activities, enjoyed goodie bags filled with movie night snacks, and watched Crazy Rich Asians outside under the stars.

2023 COAST DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Planning has begun for the 2023 CD YBL Conference. Ryan Mukoyama will be Mountain View YBA's conference co-chair.

In Gassho,
Evan Itow
2021-2022 YBA President

Mountain View Buddhist Temple

YBA

MVBT Girl Scout Troop #60736

Girl Scout Sunday, March 27

Our troop is chairing the Girl Scout Sunday Service on Sunday, March 27. During the service, three girl scouts are presenting their Padma Award articles that interviewed female BCA "Sensei"s.

Cookie Sales

Girl Scout Cookie Sales continue until Sunday, March 27, 2022 (Girl Scout Sunday).

To order cookies from Kurumi, go to:

https://digitalcookie.girlscouts.org/scout/kurumi184570

Daisy/Junior

Daisy/Juniors completed a service project sending homemade cards to all of our BWA Members and Dharma School Teachers.

The Juniors are working hard for their Bronze Award Presentation, which will be held on Zoom on May 22 on Stroke Awareness. Please save the date.

Cadette/Senior/Ambassador

The 2022 World Thinking Day theme is "Our World, Our Equal Future: The Environment and Gender Equality." Our Cadette/Seniors/Ambassador scouts earned an award by working on World Thinking Day activities. They explored how girls and women are disproportionately affected by climate change and made the Girl Scout Tree Promise.

In Gassho,
Girl Scout Troop #60736

Miroku

Service Project

Miroku would like to say a big "Thank You" to everyone who has donated to Miroku to support our service project this year!

We are working with Togetherwerise.org to purchase duffle bags and other necessities for foster teens in our area. We agreed to spend $310 from our bank account to sponsor 10 bags, and challenged the Sangha to match us.

We have already exceeded this amount! We are going to keep the drive open until next Friday, March 18, and will update everyone on how many teens we were all able to help.

If you're interested in donating, you can do so at the Temple website or by mailing a check to the Temple office made out to "Miroku."

Thank you very much!

In Gassho,
Kendall Inouye
Miroku Member

MIROKU

We can do it together

- Donate on the MVBT website: https://secure.qgiv.com/for/mvbt
- Mail donation check to the Temple Office — made out to "Miroku"

Hatsumairi Child Presentation - Postponed until April 9, 2023

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.

Hatsumai will in an In-Person Ceremony on April 9, 2023

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 2023. The. Hatsumairi Service will be combined for 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Got SPAM?

We can help you!

We hope it's the good kind, you know, for Spam Musubi and not the kind in your inbox.

Every day we are bombarded with fake calls and emails. With calls, we can ignore the number if we don't recognize it, but with emails, it can be difficult. So to help you, the Mountain View Buddhist Temple's Tech Committee has set up an inbox where you can forward any suspicious emails and we will review it!

If you believe you have received a SPAM email, just forward the email to

SPAM@MVBuddhistTemple.ORG

We will review it and let you know if it is safe or not. Please do not open any links or files contained within; they could be harmful to your device and data.

In Gassho,
Technology & Website Committee
Alec Matsumoto

Mountain View Buddhist Temple Membership Drive

仏 Buddha
法 Dharma
僧 Sangha

Did you receive your membership information in the mail? Have you had a chance to update your membership?

Remember, Mountain View Buddhist Temple members are the lifeblood of our organization, and your dues support the maintenance of the Temple, our minister, facilities, organizations, and all the wonderful programs that benefit our Sangha. Without your support we would not be who we are today.

If you have already sent in your membership information, thank you! If not, remember we offer several different payment options and methods.

JOIN or **RENEW** your Membership **NOW**, by mailing in your membership information or going to the MVBT website main page under Membership Info.

Note, we have been delayed in sending out the membership information to update database? Watch for something in your email or mail in the coming weeks.

If you have questions or updates, please email us at:

membership@mvbuddhisttemple.org

In Gassho,
MVBT Membership Committee
Bob, Steve, Jean, Leslie, & Elise

Dharma School News

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FDSTL Conference

The Northern California District Dharma School Teachers' League will be hosting the Federation of Dharma School Teachers Leagues Conference for teachers and ministers on Saturday, April 23, 2022, virtually. The theme for this year's conference is "Cheers to Finding a New Norm." Reverend Dr. Takashi Miyaji from the Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church will be the keynote speaker. Registration with a $30 fee is due on March 31, 2022.

Dharma School Taiko

In-person lessons have resumed outside of the Sangha Hall. It's great to have the kids together and enjoying taiko again in a safe environment.

In Gassho,
Brent Izutsu
Dharma School Superintendent

ABA News

MVBT

Adult Buddhist Association

HELPING TO SOLVE HOMELESSNESS

ABA and YABA members continue to team up to provide "Welcome Baskets" for LiveMoves' clients. Members from both affiliated organizations will purchase items for Welcome Baskets, assemble those baskets, and deliver them to the LifeMoves facility – always following the MVBT Health and Safety protocols. They will create 15 Baskets with a goal of presenting them to LiveMoves in mid-April.

With Gassho,
Jean Shimoguchi
ABA President

Seniors Activities & Crafts Program News

MVBT Seniors Activities and Crafts

Wednesday Monthly Sing Along

We have started the Sing Along program again. It is scheduled for the last Wednesday of each month. Please mark March 30 on your calendar for March's Sing Along and the last Wednesday thereafter. Great fun. A chance to see and visit your friends and sing together. Wish to thank **Susan Yuen**, **Sterling Makishima**, **Teri Hirota** and **Amy Arakaki** for getting our music together. Don't forget, we start at 10:00 am and end at 11:00 am.

Every Thursday Taiko

We will continue the Taiko program every Thursday from 10:00 am to 10:45 am. We thank our instructors, **Susan Yuen** and **Linda Uyechi**, for their patience, in giving our Taiko lesson via Zoom. Please join in the fun with us, for it is never too late to enjoy and learn Taiko. We are looking for interested taiko members. For more information, call **Reiko Tsuchida**.

Cookbook Sale

The Senior Activities Cookbook is still available and can be purchased at the Temple office or through any Senior Committee member. The sale price is still at $15.

In Gassho,
Aiko Sugimoto-Miyamoto

April

Monthly

Memorial

Service

* * * * *

Service at Temple Cancelled

* * * * *

Virtual Shotsuki Hoyo for April to be held on Sunday, April 3

* * * * *

See MVBT website or Putra's Post for details

April 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 **April** Shotsuki loved ones are:

Fujiko Abe	**Hatsuye Kato**	**Henry Ryu**
Harry Fujii	**Kathleen Miki Kobata**	**Margaret Sakino**
Shigeru Fujii	**Setsuo Kuboyama**	**James Sakuragi**
Ruth Fukuda	**Kazuko Makishima**	**Akiko Satake**
Naoye Fukuma	**Tokiyo Maruyama**	**Hiram Sera**
Ichihei Furusho	**Ryu Masaki**	**George Shimamoto**
Juzaburo Furuzawa	**George Matsuba**	**John Shimizu**
Rev. Russell Hamada	**Kiwa Matsuba**	**Tom Shimoguchi**
Osamu Hirano	**Ryuichi Miyamoto**	**John Shinseki**
Tanejiro Hirano	**Shigeki Mori**	**Taichiro Sugimoto**
Dorothy Horino	**Emi Morishima**	**Jeffrey Swartwood**
Robert Hoshida	**Fuji Nakano**	**Ko Tachibana**
Hiromichi Hoshino	**Haruye Nagatoishi**	**Fumiye Takahashi**
June Ichikawa	**Jishichiro Nakano**	**Amy Takaki**
Toshiko Ikebe	**Iwao Nakao**	**David Takegami**
Tojiro Ishimaru	**Kenjiro Nakashima**	**Toshihiro Tanaka**
Eric Ives	**Henry Nishimura**	**Heidi Terada**
Shizuko Iwata	**Tomoe Okada**	**Megan Yang**
Toshiko Juda	**George Okashima**	**Koichi Yamashita**
Yotsuo Juda	**George Omori**	**Fred Yonemoto**
Shigehito Kashima	**Ochiyo Omori**	**Tsune Yonemoto**
Akira Kato	**Junpei Ozawa**	**Tsuneno Yoshida**

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.

2022 is the Memorial Year for those who passed away in:

1st Year Memorial	2021	3rd Year Memorial	2020	7th Year Memorial	2016
13th Year Memorial	2010	17th Year Memorial	2006	25th Year Memorial	1998
27th Year Memorial	1996	33rd Year Memorial	1990	50th Year Memorial	1973

may MMXXII

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 **First Day of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month** 10:00 am Shotsuki Hoyo Service 1:00 pm YBA Meeting	**2** 7:00 pm Buddhist Discussion Group 7:30 pm Tech Support	**3** 7:30 pm Ukelele Club 7:30 pm VISION LHF Committee Meeting	**4**	**5** 10:00 am Senior Taiko 6:30 pm Adult Taiko	**6** 6:00 pm Ukelele Club	**7** 12:00 pm Adult Taiko
8 **Mother's Day** 10:00 am Mothers' Day Service	**9** 7:30 pm Tech Support	**10** 7:30 pm Ukelele Club	**11** 7:30 pm MVBT Board Meeting	**12** 10:00 am Senior Taiko 6:30 pm Adult Taiko	**13** 6:00 pm Ukelele Club 7:30 pm ABA General Meeting	**14** 12:00 pm Adult Taiko
15 10:00 am Gotan-e Service & Seminar 12:30 pm MVBT Taiko	**16** 7:30 pm Tech Support	**17** 7:30 pm Ukelele Club	**18**	**19** 10:00 am Senior Taiko 6:30 pm Adult Taiko	**20** 6:00 pm Ukelele Club	**21** 12:00 pm Adult Taiko
22 **Chicken Teriyaki Fundraiser** 10:00 am Sunday Service 12:30 pm MVBT Taiko	**23** 7:30 pm Tech Support	**24** 7:30 pm Ukelele Club	**25** 10:00 am Senior Activities Sing Along	**26** 10:00 am Senior Taiko 6:30 pm Adult Taiko	**27** 6:00 pm Ukelele Club	**28** 12:00 pm Adult Taiko
29 10:00 am Alta Mesa Memorial Day Service 12:30 pm MVBT Taiko	**30** **Memorial Day** 7:30 pm RPC Virtual Meeting 7:30 pm Tech Support	**31** 7:00 pm Young Adult Buddhist Discussion 7:30 pm Ukelele Club				

Upcoming Events

May 1, Sunday
Shotsuki Hoyo Service

May 8, Sunday
Mother's Day Service

May 15, Sunday
Gotan-e Service - Online

May 29, Sunday
Alta Mesa Memorial Day Service

Support Your Temple

Donate to Past & Upcoming Services

Spring Ohigan / Hanamatsuri / Gotan-e

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

(1) Use the MVBT online "DONATE" or
(2) Send a check to the Temple office

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Mountain View, CA 94043
www.mvbuddhisttemple.org

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