June 2022

Volume 61 Number 6

MOUNTAIN VIEW BUDDHIST TEMPLE

June Highlights

- ***6/4, Sat, 4:00 pm***
  Chicken Teriyaki Dinner
- ***6/5, Sun, 10:00 am***
  Shotsuki Hoyo, Online
  * *Japanese Language Service*
  * *English Discussion Group*
- ***6/12, Sun,10:00 am***
  Graduation Service, Online
- ***6/13, Mon, 7:00 pm,***
  Buddhist Discussion Group
- ***6/19, Sun,10:00 am***
  Fathers's Day Service, Online
- ***6/26, Sun, 10:00 am***
  Regular Sunday Service, Online

Who Are the Five Gravest Offenders?

We celebrated Mother's Day last month. It was the first Mother's Day since my mom passed away. I became keenly aware of how sad this day is without a mother. There is a Japanese saying, "By the time you wish to be a good son, your parents are long gone." Although I have heard this phrase many times, it is only now that I fully understand what it means. I feel nothing but regretful that, as her son, I hadn't been able to do much for my mother. When I look back over my life, I realize I caused her more anxiety and exhaustion than I gave her happiness and joy.

Five Gravest Offenses

Have you ever heard of the five gravest offenses? In Buddhism, these are considered such terrible

Rev. Yushi Mukojima

offenses that it is said if a person commits even one of these offenses, he will fall into ***Aviti***, which is the hell of interminable pain, the lowest level of the realm of hell. What are the five gravest offenses?

- The first one is killing your father.
- The second is killing your mother.
- The third is killing someone who seeks the way of awakening.
- The fourth is physically injuring the Buddha.
- The fifth is disturbing the peace and harmony of the Sangha community.

Any one of these is considered a serious offense in Buddhism, so in the 18th Vow, Amida Buddha also admonishes us never to commit them. However, even if we are told about these grave offenses, we tend to think that none of them really has any relevance to us.

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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

Rev. LaVerne and Helen Sasaki are the Super Seniors for this Echo. Their story started in the May 2022 Echo and continues on Page 8 in this issue.

This photo of Rev. LaVerne & Helen Sasaki was taken at the Mountain View Buddhist Temple's 2017 Keiro Kai Luncheon.

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 First Day of LGBTQ+ Pride Month	**2** 10:00 am Senior Taiko 6:30 pm Adult Taiko	**3** 6:00 pm Ukelele Club	**4** Chicken Teriyaki Event
5 10:00 am Shotsuki Hoyo Service 1:00 pm YBA Meeting	**6** 7:30 pm Tech Support	**7** 7:30 pm Ukelele Club 7:30 pm VISION LHF Committee Meeting	**8** 6:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:30 pm MVBT Board Meeting	**9** 10:00 am Senior Taiko 6:30 pm Adult Taiko	**10** 6:00 pm Ukelele Club 7:30 pm ABA General Meeting	**11** 12:00 pm Jun Daiko Taiko
12 10:00 am Graduation Service 12:30 pm MVBT Taiko	**13** 7:00 pm Buddhist Discussion Group 7:30 pm Tech Support	**14** Flag Day 7:30 pm Ukelele Club	**15** 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	**16** 10:00 am Senior Taiko 6:30 pm Adult Taiko	**17** 6:00 pm Ukelele Club	**18** 12:00 pm Adult Taiko
19 Father's Day Juneteenth 10:00 am Fathers' Day Service 12:30 pm MVBT Taiko	**20** Juneteenth (substitute) 7:30 pm Tech Support	**21** 7:30 pm Ukelele Club	**22** 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	**23** 10:00 am Senior Taiko 6:30 pm Adult Taiko	**24** 6:00 pm Ukelele Club	**25** 12:00 pm Jun Daiko Taiko
26 10:00 am Sunday Service 12:30 pm MVBT Taiko	**27** 7:30 pm RPC Virtual Meeting 7:30 pm Tech Support	**28** 7:00 pm Young Adult Buddhist Discussion 7:30 pm Ukelele Club	**29** 10:00 am Senior Activities Sing Along 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	**30** 10:00 am Senior Taiko 6:30 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 — June 2022

June 5, 2022, Sunday, 10:00 am, Shotsuki Hoyo, Online Service

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

June 12, 2022, Sunday, 10:00 am, Graduation Service, Online Service

June 13, 2022, Monday, 7:00 pm, Buddhist Discussion Group

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

June 19, 2022, Sunday, 10:00 am, Father's Day Service, Online Service

June 26, 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 or YouTube Channel

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:

Tracy Yamamoto July 14, 1968 - Feb 11, 2022

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

Namo Amida Butsu

Who Are the Five Gravest Offenders?

(Continued from page 1)

Actually, when I first learned of these as a high school student, I didn't pay much attention because I thought that these offenses are only committed by violent people. And, I firmly believed that I was incapable of killing my parents. So I really didn't take them seriously at all.

However, over 20 years ago, when I was serving at the Sao Paulo Betsuin in Brazil, I recall hearing a Dharma message given by the then Bishop Chikai Nakanishi, and being very impressed by his words. He said, "We cannot live without making our parents worried and stressed. In that respect, from the time we are born, we are actually causing our parents' lives to shorten." When I heard his words back then, it made me fully aware of the real meaning of "killing one's parents" as described in the five grave offenses.

Parent's Love

Certainly, from the day that my wife and I became parents, not a day passes without us thinking about our children. Whenever they get sick or injured, we really worry about them. Especially a mother's love for her child is deeper than that of anybody else. For example, when our kids were babies suffering a bad cough and high fever, my wife took really good care of them for 24 hours straight. Because of her care and devotion, they always recovered completely a few days later. But because my wife was so worried about them and didn't get enough sleep while nursing, she was worn out and afterwards looked as if she had aged ten years! Whenever I remember my wife holding our little child who had suffered for days with a bad cough that lasted through the night, I can really sense her deep maternal affection, love and anxiety for her child.

Also, I have taken my son to the emergency room twice since his birth. The first time was when he was three years old and we had found a small bump inside his mouth. As my son's situation was very unusual, the dentist suspected a tumor. So I immediately took my son to Stanford Hospital Emergency where the medical staff came into our room, administered an anesthetic to my son and laid him on the bed. Then a specialist scraped some cells from the bump. When I saw the blood all over my little son's mouth, it was hard to hold back tears.

We had to wait three days for the test results. During that time, neither my wife nor I were able to sleep well because of our fear and worry. Whatever I was doing, my son's worst-case scenario would suddenly come to mind. Fortunately, the bump in his mouth was not a tumor but an abscess. Although this was an unusual case, when we heard that result, we were so relieved. But we had become quite exhausted by so much stress. It was one of the most difficult and worrisome experiences of our lives as parents.

> Amida Buddha is calling each of us and says, "Just come as you are"

Another challenging incident occurred just last year when my son choked on some food. When I took him to the emergency room, he was diagnosed with a stricture in his throat. Since then, he has had an endoscopy procedure to stretch the narrow spot in his throat. He has already had this treatment eight times. Although my son has to be patient with the chest pain afterwards, he has never cried nor refused such tough treatment. So my son is a very strong boy and I am really proud of him. Fortunately, his condition has been improving. Although we are aware that there are some risks for the child because of this treatment, we have had lots of fears, worries, and stresses in the past year.

This is how parents always think and worry about their children. Their first priority is their children's health, safety, and happiness.

Almost 50 Years

Now when I look back over the past 49 years, I know I have caused my parents to endure, worry, and suffer from a lot of stress. This was because, as a child, I was sick or injured even more often than both of my own two children have been. What's more, I can remember many times making my parents angry or disappointed because I often talked back to them or gave them grief. And at times, I even made my mom cry with my harsh words. So I have seriously caused my parents trouble both physically and mentally for about 50 years!

Certainly, I have never done anything as awful as giving poison to my parents! But when I remember the Bishop's Dharma talk in Brazil, his words made me realize how many of my 50 years have made my parents feel like their lives have been shortened because of me. Then I cannot help but conclude that when I talk about grave offenders, I am really describing myself! That is a very important point that I only realized when I first became a father and also when I lost my mom last year.

If my mom were still alive, she would probably laugh my fears off, protesting, "No, that's not how it is at all!" But from my viewpoint as her child, I cannot help but reflect deeply on my selfish behavior that I am sure caused my mom to worry about me and cry over me way too often. And as I think about her now, I would like to express my deepest feelings of gratitude for her deep love that always embraced and never abandoned me.

And at the same time, my self-reflection forces me to acknowledge my selfish way of life that is far from living up to the Buddha's wish. Unfortunately, I am living with self-centered thoughts as though I have turned

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Who Are the Five Gravest Offenders?

(Continued from page 4)

my back to Amida Buddha. This means I have lived as if causing Amida Buddha's life to shorten because of my own foolishness. In that respect, it is comparable to injuring the Buddha's body that is one of the five offenses.

Of course, Amida Buddha is the Tathagata with immeasurable life, so my expression, "causing the Buddha's life to shorten" really isn't accurate. But from my perspective as a Nembutsu follower, I cannot help but reflect on my arrogant attitude that has always disappointed Buddha just as I felt sorry for my mom.

Everyone Embraced Equally

In Buddhism, it is said that those who commit the five gravest offenses are the worst among ordinary people. So those people are not the focus of the Buddha's compassion. But when I look deep into my true self through the Buddha's light of wisdom, I have to admit that I am also among these grave offenders. As I am incapable of causing even the immeasurable life to shorten, it is no wonder if I am abandoned by Amida Buddha.

But our founder, Shinran teaches us that with his great compassion, Amida Buddha embraces each being equally - as if they are each Buddha's only child, precious and irreplaceable. Unfortunately, we are foolish beings who really don't know what we would do if faced with causes and conditions. That is why Amida Buddha established the Primal Vow to liberate and save all suffering people from the world of delusion. Upon understanding our selfish way of life, Amida Buddha is calling each one of us, "Just come as you are." This calling voice of Amida Buddha is without question our utterance of the Nembutsu, "Namo Amida Butsu."

Shantao, one of the Seven Pure Land Masters, says, "To study Buddhism is to learn about the compassionate heart of the Buddha." In other words, the essence of Buddhism is to know that even the five gravest offenders are embraced by the great compassion, equally without exception, as if all beings are Amida Buddha's only child. That is why it is so important for us to live our lives each day with the Nembutsu, in joy and gratitude for Amida Buddha's unconditional compassion.

My Mom's Unconditional Love

Although it was a bittersweet Mother's Day for me without my mom, I was deeply grateful for the depth of Amida Buddha's compassion as I remembered my late mother's unconditional love.

In Gassho,

Zone 12 to Host Live MVBT Obon Bazaar 2022

Please hold the date, Saturday, July 16, 2022, for a possible live, in-person Obon Festival & Bazaar activity for MVBT members **only**. Members only include those members of MVBT's many affiliated organizations, too.

We are planning games, entertainment and bento boxes. We plan to also continue the virtual Obon Lantern tradition to allow people to recognize and remember those who have gone before us. More information will be sent to you through your Zone Chair or affiliated organization leader.

Please note, that due to ongoing COVID-19 concerns, this date and activity may change based on recommendations from the MVBT Health & Safety Committee and the MVBT Board of Directors.

In Gassho,
Zone 12 Obon Bazaar Committee

Dharma School News

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dharma School Summer Kickoff

The Dharma School is looking to host a summer kickoff activity in June. While we will not be able to have an overnight campout again this year, we are hoping to bring our Dharma School families together at the Temple for an outdoor evening activity. More details to follow.

In Gassho,
Brent Izutsu
Dharma School Superintendent

マウンテンビュー仏教会「回向」二〇二二年六月法話

ー五逆の悪人って誰？ー

駐在開教使 向嶋裕史

先月、母を失って初めて母の日を迎えました。この特別な日に母がいないということがどれほど悲しいことか痛感しました。日本に「親孝行したい時分に親はなし」ということわざがありますが、今になってようやくその本当の意味を理解し、息子として母親に何もしてあげられなかったことを深く後悔しています。

皆さんは、五逆罪という言葉を聞いたことがありますか。これは仏教における重罪で、一つでも犯せば無間地獄に落ちると説かれています。その五つの罪とは、(一)父親を殺す。(二)母親を殺す。(三)求道者を殺す。(四)仏さまに傷を付ける。(五)教団を破壊するーというものです。阿弥陀仏もこの五逆罪だけは犯すことがないようにと十八願の中で戒めておられます。しかし、私達がこの逆罪を耳にしても、自分とは関係のない罪であるように思っているのではないでしょうか。

私も学生の頃、「五逆罪」、特に「両親を殺める」という逆罪に対して全く気にも留めていませんでした。しかし、私がブラジルで開教使をしていた頃、当時の教団総長であった中西智海師がご法話の中で「私達は親に心配やストレスをかけないで生きることはできない。ある意味、私達は親のいのちを縮めながら生きているのだ」とおっしゃった衝撃的なお言葉が、五逆罪にある「親殺し」の本当の意味を明らかにして下さいました。

確かに、妻と私が親になって以来、子供のことを思わない日は一日もありませんでした。特に子供が病気やけがをした時は気が気でありません。また、母親の子に対する愛情は誰よりも深いもので、子供達が赤ん坊の頃、風邪を引いてひどい咳と高熱でうなされる度、妻は二十四時間付きっ切りで看病していました。そのお陰で子供達はすぐに完治するのですが、その後妻は心労と寝不足で憔悴しきっていました。その姿を思い出す度に我が子を案じる母親の深い愛情を感じます。

また、息子が三歳の時、口内に瘤が見つかり、医師から腫瘍の疑いがあると言われ、緊急病院へ駆け込んだことがありました。検査結果を待つ三日間、妻と私は不安と恐怖で眠ることができませんでした。幸い、瘤は膿瘍だったと医師から告げられたのですが、その瞬間、極度のストレスから解放され深い安堵に包まれたのを今でも鮮明に覚えています。また昨年、息子は食道狭窄症と診断され、バルーン内視鏡を使って食道の狭い部分を少しづつ拡張していくという治療を受けています。子供にはリスクのある治療なので何かと不安の多い一年でしたが、すでに内視鏡治療を無事に八回終えました。術後は胸の痛みに耐えなくてはいけないのですが、改善に向けて治療に励む息子を誇りに思います。

今改めて、私自身の過去を振り返って見ますと、今年で五〇歳を迎える私は、我が子以上に幼い頃から病気や怪我をしては両親に大きな心配をかけてきたました。また、これまで数えきれないほど両親に口答えをして怒らせ、失望もさせてきました。時には酷い言葉で母を泣かせたこともはっきりと覚えています。この約五〇年間、両親に身体的だけではなく精神的にも多大な苦労をかけて生きてきました。

確かに、これまで両親に向かって毒を盛るようなことは決してありませんでしたが、私が生まれてから今日に至るまで、一体どれほど両親にいのちの縮むような思いをさせながら生きてきたかを仏法に照らして問いつめてみた時、「五逆」の罪人が他人事の話ではすまされなくなってきました。それは、自分が親になって、そして母を失って初めて気づかされたことです。

もし母親が生きていれば、「全くそんなことはないわよ！」と笑い飛ばしてくれるでしょうが、息子である私の思いとして、両親のいのちを縮めながら生きてきた勝手で傲慢な自分自身を反省せずにはおれません。また、この深い内省が、自分中心の生き方では仏さまの願いに適うどころか、仏さまにいのちの縮むような思いをさせてしまっているという我が身の愚かさを改めて気づかせてくれました。これは、五逆罪の「仏さまに傷をつける逆罪」そのものだと言えます。もちろん、阿弥陀仏は無量寿の仏さまですから、いのちを縮めるという表現はありえないのですが、こちら側の思いとして、その限りない阿弥陀仏のいのちでさえ縮めかねない私の傲慢な生き方を反省せざるを得ません。

五逆の罪人は凡夫の中でも最も救い難い一闡提の極悪人だとされていますが、決して他人事でない私も阿弥陀仏の救いから外れてしまうのでしょうか？

親鸞聖人は、「阿弥陀仏は全ての衆生を分けへだてなく、かけがえのない一人子を慈しむように見ておられる」と教えて下さっています。縁がもよおせば何をしでかすか分からない危なっかしい凡夫だからこそ、必ず救うと本願を建てられたのです。阿弥陀仏は、自己中心的な生き方しかできない私を見抜いたうえで、「そのままで来なさい」と呼び掛けて下さっています。そのお呼び声こそが「南無阿弥陀仏」のお念仏なのです。

七高僧の一人、善導大師は、五逆の悪人であろうとも誰一人決して見捨てることのない阿弥陀仏の親心を知ることを「学仏大悲心」と言われ、ここに仏教のもっとも大切な心があると示されています。

今は亡き母と過ごした懐かしい日々に思いを馳せながら、この身にいただく阿弥陀仏のお慈悲の深さを味わわせていただいた特別な母の日でありました。

2022 MVBT Chicken Teriyaki Dinner - Pick up or Dine-in

Saturday, June 4, 2022, 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

This is a MVBT Member-only event and limited due to COVID-19 restrictions. Please be cognizant of the fact we are limited to 500 total meals and is first come, first serve by pre-order only.

Dine-in seating will be outdoors on the Sangha Hall Patio. Note, if it rains, this will be a pick up only event. Dine-in is limited to the first 100 people who sign up via the pre-order form. Water, tea and rice will be available for dine-in patrons. Feel free to bring your own beverage of choice.

Pre-order deadline is Wednesday, May 25, 2022, unless the dinner limit is reached before this date.

Questions? chamasaki21@gmail.com

----------ORDER FORM----------

Member's Name:_____ Zone #:_____

Email Address:_____

Phone #:_____

	Quantity	Total $
Chicken Dinner Teriyaki - (1) Breast, (1)Thigh & Tsukemono - $10.00 each		$
Additional donation		$
Grand Total		$

Pick up

Will you be picking up or dining in? Please circle one: Pick up or Dine-in

If dining in, how many people will be dining?_____

If picking up, who will be picking up your order?_____

Pick up times will be emailed to you a few days before the event.

Payment

Payment type: Check or Credit Card at https://tinyurl.com/MVBT-2022-Chicken-Teriyaki

- Check #_____. Make your checks payable to MVBT, and please note 'Chicken Teriyaki' on the check. Please mail in your form and check to the "Mountain View Buddhist Temple, % Chicken Teriyaki."
- **If paid by credit card, attach a copy of the email receipt to your order form.** And then, **please mail the form with your email receipt copy attached** to the "Mountain View Buddhist Temple, % Chicken Teriyaki."

Super Seniors Rev. LaVerne & Helen Sasaki

By Jean Shimoguichi

LaVerne & Helen Wedding on July 1, 1962

This is the second of two Super Senior articles on Rev. LaVerne and Helen Sasaki and their family.

Last month in the May Echo, Rev. LaVerne and Helen Sasaki and their family were highlighted in the Super Senior Article that focused on their time at the Mountain View Buddhist Temple when Rev. LaVerne was the resident minister. This article highlights their family life while at MVBT.

Family History

After becoming an independent temple in the Buddhist Churches of America, Rev. LaVerne's father, Rev. Sensho Sasaki, became MVBT's first resident minister from 1961 to 1972. He passed away in 1972. Rev. Sensho and his wife, Kinuko, were born in Fukui, Japan. Rev. Sensho received his first Hongwanji assignment in the BCA in 1929. He served at the Los Angeles Betsuin and the temples in Stockton, Tacoma, Placer, Sacramento, and finally Mountain View. After Rev. Sensho Sasaki passed away, Mrs. Kinuko Sasaki remained in MVBT's small parsonage (on the property now occupied by the storage shed) until her death in 1985.

Rev. LaVerne and Helen were both born in Stockton and delivered by midwives -- a common practice in those days. Rev. LaVerne is the oldest of five boys: Conrad Senpo was born 1931, Louis Senryu in 1935, Senmaro in 1940 and Senrey in 1942.

Sasaki Brothers with Dad in 1970

Front Row (l to r): Conrad, Father Sasaki, LaVerne & Senryu

Back Row: Senrey & Maro

Helen is also the oldest of five children: Florence Hideyo was born in 1939, Margaret Yuriko in 1940, Thomas Kiyoshi in 1947 and Steve Katsumi in 1955.

Helen's father, Frank Noriyasu Yokoi, was born in the San Francisco area. His father was working in the fields as a farmer's helper at that time that Frank was born. Helen's mother's, Yuki Sato was born in Sacramento. They owned a manju shop when Helen was born. At some point, Helen's mother and older sister returned to Japan. Her mom's oldest sister stayed in the United States, but she, too, eventually moved to Japan.

Rev. LaVerne completed his *tokudo* training from the Nishi Hongwanji and became an ordained Jodo Shinshu minister in 1958. He returned to the United States and began his temple assignment in Stockton, followed by Mountain View and San Francisco. He retired from the BCA in 2000.

Married Life and Raising a Family at MVBT

In 1960 or 1961, Rev. LaVerne and Helen began dating at the encouragement of both of their parents. Helen remembers that "I knew about him and he was one of the resident ministers at the Stockton Buddhist Temple. Someone talked to my parents and asked if I might be interested in meeting him more formally. We talked it over and figured there was no harm in meeting. We agreed, met, got along well, got engaged and were married on July 1, 1962, at the Stockton Buddhist Temple."

Rev. LaVerne and Helen came to the Mountain View Buddhist Temple in 1971 and their five children grew up at the Temple. Their youngest, Rina, was a baby when they arrived and became a college student when they moved to San Francisco. Rina remembers that "All five of us were born in Stockton, but I was only 6 months old when we moved to Mountain View, so it will always be considered home to me. My father loves to tell the story of how Yosh Nishimoto drove to the Stockton Temple parking lot to help us move and my mom was carrying me in her arms when he greeted us. Growing up at MVBT was every child's dream, because we had acres of land to play red light/green light, ride bikes, and it was the social center for YBA basketball games, conferences, dances, and the most epic Obon festival on the West Coast."

1970 Family Holiday Card

Front Row (From Left): Sharon, Rina, Ellen & Stanton

Middle Row: Helen & LaVerne

Back Row: Brian

(Continued on page 9)

Super Seniors Rev. LaVerne & Helen Sasaki (cont'd)

(Continued from page 8)

Rev. LaVerne and Helen have five children and 13 grandchildren. They are:

- Brian Senshin, age 57, who is married to Lorin Tomiyama. Their children are Hailey, 21, Chad, 19, and Jenna, 19.
- Sharon Hiromi age 56, who is married to Robert Yamamoto. Their children are Zoe, 19, and Ava, 17.
- Stanton Senshu, age 54, who is married to Lisa Iino. Their children are Jared, 23, and Katelyn, 21.
- Ellen Kyomi Maseba, age 53, who is married to Gus Maseba. Their children are Lindsey, 22, Emily, 19, Molly, 17, and Mitchell, 16.
- Rina Emi Vignola, age 51, who is married to Eric Vignola. Their children are Odin, 11, and Bodhi, 7.

Perfect Attendance Awards in 1977
Brian, Sharon, Rina, Ellen and Stanton

All five of the Sasaki children were involved in MVBT activities - from services to YBA to basketball. Helen remembers that "when we first got to MVBT, our children were very young. Most of the happiest events had to do with our children going to school and participating in activities that were of interest. Our dog, Black Beauty, used to come into the Temple. At first, people were kind of surprised, and I don't think they liked it, but then they got used to him and he became part of the Temple group."

Sharon said, "I especially loved the food-related 4-H Club activities led by Mrs. Higa. I won't forget the delicious vanilla home-made ice cream we made in our Bazaar booth and making amazing caramel apples."

The family liked to travel during the summer. They bought a tent trailer and the kids would play in it. During the summer, for a couple of weeks, they would pull the tent trailer and go on vacations. They went to British Columbia, Canada, Disneyland and Denver, CO.

Ellen said "My vacation memories are less about the destinations and more about the seemingly endless hours in our wood-paneled station wagon. Crammed in the rear -facing 3rd row – without seat belts - we passed the time playing Simon and Cat's Cradle, pumping our arms at passing big rigs (to request a honk) and hoping to catch Glenn Campbell's 'Rhinestone Cowboy' on the radio."

Rina recalls that "One of my most distinct, and terrifying, memories of summertime camping was screaming my head off while running through what seemed like a football field of grasshoppers jumping around us in order to get to the KOA pool. There was always an igloo full of powdered Countrytime lemonade, which our mom faithfully made for us."

Sasaki & Higa Families

The Sasaki family was close to the Higa family for many years. Jean and Jits had kids whose ages were close to the Sasaki children. The kids from both families did many things together, including going to school and playing basketball and baseball. The Sasakis always used to laugh because their family members happened to be a little bit taller than the Higa family and would claim that we could beat them in sports.

According to Margie Higa Nishimoto, "Rev. Sasaki had the idea to host a church fundraiser basketball game - kidding of course - he called the speedy Higas versus the more talented Sasakis. Although it never happened, every time I see Rev. Sasaki, he always mentions the basketball game and it always makes me laugh."

Brian said, "My fondest memories were participating in scouts, track & field, baseball and basketball with not only the Higa family, but many others in the surrounding neighborhood. Margie Higa would kindly offer rides to Mountain View High School before we had our driver's licenses and the Sasakis were often late crossing Shoreline Blvd to Bailey Plaza. I miss those simple, carefree years without the distractions of the Internet, smart phones and access to thousands of channels on TV."

Marilyn Higa Armstead remembers "the instant connection I felt when I met the Sasaki family because of the similar large family dynamics we had. Having five kids wasn't very common, but we both had silly, humorous fathers and quiet, supportive mothers. It was just easy to be around the Sasaki family because they were always happy, kind and welcoming."

Norm Higa says, "I had lots of fun growing up with the Sasaki family in their 'front yard', going to school with them and doing all sorts of sports, church or scouting activities. Now as an adult, I smile and think of our fond childhood memories and hope our kids are fortunate enough to have similar friends and positive influences in their lives. I feel we, the Higas and Sasakis, took our individual paths, but still remain connected as one BIG joyous family and community."

Sasaki & Furuichi Families

The Furuichi family were also good family friends. Tom always invited the Sasaki kids to their swimming pool next to their nursery. Stanton remembers that "going to the Furuichi swimming pool was one of my favorite

(Continued on page 10)

Super Seniors Rev. LaVerne & Helen Sasaki (cont'd)

(Continued from page 9)

and memorable activities as a kid. I was a bit scared of the deep end and I distinctly remember my father humming the Jaws movie theme as I dove off the diving board. And thankful for Grandma Furuichi giving us sweets as we left. She was so nice to us."

Passing of Father and Mother

Sadly, not all of the Sasaki memories at MVBT were joyous. The sudden loss of Rev. LaVerne's parents were extremely sad. His father died of a stroke and his mother from a car accident.

Rev. LaVerne remembers that "My father and I conducted the March monthly memorial service the night before he was stricken. After the stroke, he was in the hospital for 5-6 days before he died. The day he had the stroke, I went to play golf but left early. I called Mom to tell her I was home, and half an hour later, she called me back to say 'Papa ga hen' (something is wrong) and I rushed over. Dad had told Mom he was tired, and Mom had been entertaining a Temple visitor while he slept that morning. When I arrived, Dad was still in bed and wouldn't wake up. I called emergency and a fire engine came to take him to the hospital. If we hadn't quit golf early, Mom would have had to go through that all by herself."

Hondo Dedication in 1979

Back Row from Left: Helen, LaVerne & LaVerne's mother, Kinuko

Front Row from Left: Sharon, Stanton, Brian, Ellen & Rina

Rev. LaVerne's mother used to jaywalk across Stierlin Road (now Shoreline) as most people did. One day she was hit by a pickup truck and taken to the hospital. Rev. Sasaki was at her bedside in the hospital. She died a few hours later after enduring some pain and suffering. Rev. LaVerne said "'Oya to shi no wakare' (being together with your parent's time of death) is important and comforting to the dying parent. A fellow minister shared words of wisdom with Rev. LaVerne, " 'Alaya consciousness' (deep consciousness behind regular consciousness in Buddhist philosophy) comforted her even if she didn't hear me." The Sasakis were extremely grateful that more than 50 BCA ministers attended her funeral.

LaVerne & Helen's 25th Wedding Anniversary on June 22, 1987

Back row from Left: Stanton, Sharon, Rina, Ellen & Brian

Thank You to the Sasaki Family

While the Sasaki family left the Mountain View Buddhist Temple 32 years ago, they remain grateful for MVBT Sangha's involvement and support of their family. MVBT Sangha wishes them many years of good health and happiness.

Namo Amida Butsu —
With Kindness and Gratitude beyond words.

SAVE the DATE

Sasaki Memorial Golf Tournament

Saturday, August 27

Sunnyvale Golf

More information available soon

MVBT VISION Committee

VISION SURVEY WATCH PARTY

The responses from the **VISION Survey** indicated that the VISION Committee recognizes we have an aging and engaged population at our Temple.

We are continuing to gather more information from Seniors and 'Rising' Seniors to help us assess what types of programs and services can be helpful to our Sangha. We hope the post-service Watch Party presentation on the Vision Survey held after the Sunday Service on April 17 was helpful. The Committee truly appreciated all who responded.

If you would like to view the recording of the VISION presentation, please view it at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wNo2xxbWlJM

In Gassho,
VISION Committee

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

BWA News

Buddhist Women's Association

CONDOLENCES

Our heartfelt condolences to the family of **Audrey Inouye**. Audrey continued to take part in Temple activities during her long illness with the loving care of her husband Mel. She will truly be missed by all.

IN-PERSON MEETING

BWA will have an in-person meeting on Saturday, June 11, 2022, at 10:00 am in the YBA Hall. All who attend are required to have had the COVID-19 vaccination and booster. Masks will be required. Those who would like to attend, please call Reiko Murakami at 408-257-0687 or email: reikomurakami@comcast.net. Number of attendees is limited.

Looking forward to seeing everyone's smiling faces!

JOIN BWA

Join BWA to continue our work to support our MVBT!

$20 membership dues for 2022 are now being accepted.

In Gassho,
Reiko Murakami
BWA President

Mountain View Buddhist Temple Membership Drive

83% of Our Members Have Renewed Their Membership for 2022

佛 Buddha
法 Dharma
僧 Sangha

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

Thanks to everyone for their continued investment in the Mountain View Buddhist Temple! Without your support, we wouldn't be able to continuously provide our Sangha with valuable benefits and actively develop our programs. Put simply, you make what we do possible.

JOIN or **RENEW** your Membership TODAY, by either

- Mailing in your membership information, or
- Going online to the MVBT website main page under the JOIN & SUPPORT tab and BECOME A MEMBER. Or, following the link:

https://mvbuddhisttemple.org/join-support/become-a-member/

> Put simply, you make what we do possible.

COMING TO YOUR EMAIL OR MAILBOX IN JUNE

The Membership Committee will be updating its database on member information and would like each member to review their information to ensure it is correct. Please watch for your information and send back any corrections.

If you have questions, please email us at "membership@mvbuddhisttemple.org."

Remember, membership at the Mountain View Buddhist Temple isn't just about saying you belong to a community. It's about investing in the place you love, a community that feels like home both physically and spiritually. As a member of the Mountain View Buddhist Temple, you are a part of a supportive family, connected group of friends, and vibrant Buddhist community.

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

ABA News

MVBT

Adult Buddhist Association

ACTIVITIES

San Jose Giants

ABA members are looking forward to the summer and our annual trip to the San Jose Giants game with fireworks on August 19. And the best churros in San Jose. Go Giants!!

DONATIONS

Thank you to the following members for donating to ABA.

Special Donations

- **Ron and Carolyn Murata**
- **Min and Ann Uyehara**

Thank You Donation

- **Marie Ochi-Jacobs**

With Gassho,
Jean Shimoguchi
ABA President

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

Miroku

Service Project

In early May, Miroku members had our first in-person activity in two years. We assembled the "Together We Rise" duffle bags and delivered the 31 duffle bags to the Bill Wilson Center in Santa Clara.

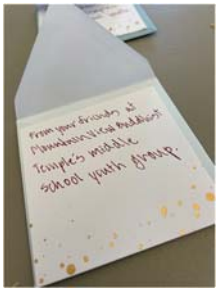
The duffle bags will be given to teens in shelters and transitional housing situations. Each duffle bag consisted of a set of towels, a blanket, candy, a note, and a toiletry kit with toothpaste, toothbrushes, hand sanitizer, and a $20 gift card.

The staff at Bill Wilson Center was very grateful for the considerate donation.

Thank you to everyone who donated to Miroku to support our service project this year!

In Gassho, (with palms together)
Kurumi Mukojima
Miroku Member

MIROKU



MVBT YBA News

2022 MOUNTAIN VIEW AAPI CULTURAL FESTIVAL

The YBA set up a table with an origami activity at the Mountain View AAPI Cultural Festival on May 14 from 1:00 pm to 4:30 pm to showcase our background and our organization.

YBA CAMPOUT PLANNING

The YBA advisors have begun planning for a two-night campout at New Brighton State Beach. It will be held June 24-26. Due to the limited number of available campsites, a poll has been sent to YBA members to get an initial headcount before determining whether there is enough capacity for incoming freshmen.

YBA TRIP PLANNING

The YBA Trip Planning Committee has finished developing an itinerary for our YBA Trip to Disneyland/LA this summer. The trip will be July 22-25. Twelve members will be going on the trip.

YBA TRIP FUNDRAISER

The YBA is planning a series of fundraisers to help subsidize the summer trip. The first will be a Buy-One-Get-One Card fundraiser at Jamba Juice. Contact a YBA member to buy the cards that we will be selling for $10.

In Gassho,
Evan Itow
2021-2022 YBA President

Mountain View Buddhist Temple

YBA

MVBT Girl Scout Troop #60736

Padma Service Project

Kiera Nishimoto completed her Senior Padma service project by creating face mask holder straps that can be useful especially when we return to the Temple for in-person gatherings. Over 70 straps were made for the MVBT Dharma School Teachers and members of the BWA.

Earning the Respecting Authority Petal

On May 14, our Juniors and Daisy's met over Zoom to earn the Respecting Authority Petal, reminding the girls to follow instructions of those in charge of safety and security. David Sakurai, Captain of Police and Fire of the Public Safety Office from the City of Sunnyvale, will present the petal to the Girl Scouts.

Stroke Awareness

B E F A S T

On May 22, 2022, our Juniors will be hosting a special presentation on Zoom on Stroke Awareness immediately following the MVBT Sunday Service. This presentation is for the Junior's Bronze Award. We hope all of our Sangha can join us for this important and informative presentation our girls have worked so hard on. (see hand drawn poster).

Upcoming Bridging Ceremonies

We will be planning our upcoming bridging ceremonies for two Juniors to Cadettes, one Cadette to Senior, and three Seniors to Ambassadors.

In Gassho,
Girl Scout Troop #60736

Left: Example straps for face masks made by Kiera Nishimoto

Above: May 14 Meeting on Respecting Authority

Support Your Temple

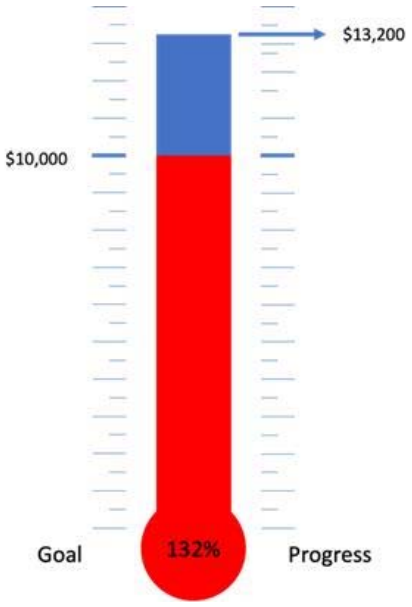
Donate to Past & Upcoming Services

Gotan-e / Kangi-e Obon / Hatsubon

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

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

SANGHA CONNECT DONATION DRIVE



As of May 13, 2022

The Sangha Connect Fundraiser total is nearly $13,200.00! We can't thank you enough for your continued support for this very important donation drive.

Recent contributions have included not only monetary donations, but also hand sanitizer, disinfectant wipes, and an air purifier filter. The two donated automatic hand sanitizing stations have been assembled and are ready for use in the Hondo.

Once instructions for opening/closing the Hondo are complete, a reservation system is finalized, and COVID infection rates decline, we will make the Hondo available for Sunday Service.

In the meantime, please consider donating to the Sangha Connect Fundraiser and stay healthy and safe!

A Donation Link and a Wish List can be found on the Sangha Connect Page:

https://tinyurl.com/MVBT-SanghaConnect

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

https://tinyurl.com/MVBT-DonateToday

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

In Gassho
MVBT Reopening Task Force

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 April 11, 2022, through May 8, 2022. These donors are:

Emilie Endo Family
Frances Sawamura
Gary Taniguchi
Chuck Uyeda
Carol Yonemura

The Temple again thanks our donors who supported this effort prior to April 11.

"With your support MVBT Reopening Task Force is able to maintain the connections that the Mountain View Buddhist Temple has nurtured over the years."

In Gassho,
Sangha Connect Committee

Seniors Activities & Crafts Program News

MVBT Seniors Activities and Crafts

Wednesday Monthly Sing Along

Missed many of you at our last monthly Sing Along. The Sing Along is scheduled for the last Wednesday of each month. Please mark the date on your calendar, May 25 and June 29. Great fun and a chance to see and visit your friends singing together or just listening via Zoom. Wish to thank **Susan Yuen**, **Sterling Makishima**, **Teri Hirota** and **Amy Arakaki** for getting our music together. Don't forget, we sing from 10:00 am to 11:00 am.

Every Thursday Taiko

The only program we have continued weekly in our Senior Activities program is the Taiko 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 and practice 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 the Senior Committee members. The sale price is still at $15.

In Gassho,
Aiko Sugimoto-Miyamoto

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.

2022 150 Club News

Our May winner is **Randy Sato.**

Congratulations to Randy.

Thank you for participating in the 150 Club!

Everyone, please stay safe and healthy!

150 Club Committee

Toban & Echo Schedule

	Toban	Echo Article Deadline	Echo Sent in Mail
JUNE	No Toban	N / A	N / A
JULY	No Toban	June 10 (Fri)	June 20 (Mon)
AUG	No Toban	July 15 (Fri)	June25 (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 .

June & July

Monthly

Memorial

Service

* * * * *

Service at Temple Cancelled

* * * * *

Virtual Shotsuki Hoyo for June & July to be held on Sunday, June 5

* * * * *

See MVBT website or Putra's Post for details

June & July 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 **June & July** Shotsuki loved ones are:

Shiro Abe	**Kisa Ruth Kamei**	**Ichitaro Okumura**
Dorothy Chikasuye	**Kevin Kamimoto**	**Bruce Okuno**
Spencer Cowap	**Koyuki Kamimoto**	**Lily Omokawa**
Robyn Delgado	**Yasuto Kamimoto**	**Florence Ozawa**
Kazuo Domoto	**Iris Kawamoto**	**Ryu Ozawa**
Kazuko Eidmann	**Kojuro Kawamoto**	**Yoshio Ozawa**
Frank Fujii	**Yasu Kawamoto**	**Ken Sakamoto**
Kotome Fujii	**Norma Kochi**	**Hannah Sato**
Masakazu Fujii	**Albert Kosakura**	**Mishi Sako**
Nobu Fukuda	**Mitsue Koto**	**Nizo Sako**
George Furuichi	**Tayeko Kurashige**	**Tad Sawamura**
Mike Furusho	**Kiyoshi Makishima**	**Suye Shimamoto**
James Furuta	**Erin Maruyama**	**Mary Shimizu**
Tomoye Goto	**George Masuda**	**Margaret Shinseki**
Shizue Haruta	**Jimmy Matsuba**	**Dora Sugimoto**
Ben Hayamizu	**John Matsumoto**	**Trevor Sugimoto**
Masako Hayamizu	**Frank M. Matsumoto**	**Yuki Taniguchi**
Grace Hayano	**Jimmy Matsumoto**	**Barry Tokunaga**
Joe Hayano	**Shizuko Mayeda**	**Ted Tokunaga**
Bessie Hayashida	**Natsumi Michihira**	**Ito Tsukagawa**
Mae Higaki	**Helen Miyake**	**Toshie Tsukamoto**
Sidney Hiramoto	**Chizuko Murai**	**Irene Uchiyama**
Masataka Hirabayashi	**Kazuko Nagatani**	**Kiyoshi Umeda**
Asa Hori	**Bernice Nakagawa**	**Kazuko Watanabe**
Genzo Horino	**Katsuki Nakagawa**	**Eiko Yamamoto**
Josephine Hoshiko	**Shigeo Nakanishi**	**Ichiji Yanaba**
Akie Idota	**Megumi Nakano**	**Kenji Yamane**
Kou Imai	**Kuni Nakagawa**	**Naoko Yamashita**
Yukishige Imai	**Tsuyoshi Nakashima**	**Imi Yasuda**
Takao Ishikawa	**Jim Nakayama**	**Goichi Yonemoto**
John Ishizaka	**Kiyo Ogata**	
Yotsu Iwata	**Takara Ogawa**	
Kenzo Kamei	**Mika Okita**	

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**

july MMXXII

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 6:00 pm Ukelele Club	**2**
3	**4** Independence Day 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** 6:00 pm Boy Scouts	**7** 10:00 am Senior Taiko 6:30 pm Adult Taiko	**8** 6:00 pm Ukelele Club 7:30 pm ABA General Meeting	**9**
10 10:00 am Urabon-e/Hatsubon Service	**11** 7:30 pm Tech Support	**12** 7:30 pm Ukelele Club	**13** 7:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:30 pm MVBT Board Meeting	**14** 10:00 am Senior Taiko 6:30 pm Adult Taiko	**15** 6:00 pm Ukelele Club	**16** Obon Festival & Bazaar (TBD)
17	**18** 7:30 pm Tech Support	**19** 7:30 pm Ukelele Club	**20** 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	**21** 10:00 am Senior Taiko 6:30 pm Adult Taiko	**22** 6:00 pm Ukelele Club	**23**
24	**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 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	**28** 10:00 am Senior Taiko 6:30 pm Adult Taiko	**29** 6:00 pm Ukelele Club	**30**
31						

Upcoming Events

July 10, Sunday

Obon / Kangi-e / Urabon Service & Hatsubon Service

July 16, Saturday

Obon Festival & Bazaar (TBD)
MVBT Members Only

August

No Services in the Month

September 11, Sunday

Shotsuki Hoyo

Support Your Temple

Donate to Past & Upcoming Services

Gotan-e

Obon / Kangi-e / Urabon

Hatsubon

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 Buddhist Temple

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