The ECHO

December 2024

Volume 63 Number 11

MOUNTAIN VIEW BUDDHIST TEMPLE

December Highlights

- ***12/1, Sunday, 10:00 am***
  December Shotsuki Hoyo, Hybrid
  * *11:00 am: Japanese Language Service*
  * *11:00 am: English Language Discussion*
- ***12/8, Sunday, No Services***
  * *Mochitsuki*
- ***12//15, Sunday, 9:45 am***
  Short Sunday Service
  * *Osoji after Service*
- ***12/31, Tuesday, 7:00 pm***
  Joya-e Service -
  New Year's Eve Service

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January Highlights

- ***1/1, Wednesdaty, 10:00 am***
  Shusho-e Service -
  New Year's Day Service

Have You Already Received a Buddhist Name? Part 2 of 2

What follows is a continuation of last month's Dharma Talk in which Shoma was taken by the associate minister to the room where the Gomonshu sat waiting:

Rev. Yushi Mukojima

Shoma Understands Shinjin

Shoma looked calm, entering the room nonchalantly. Because he lacked manners, he didn't bow to the Gomonshu in reverence, but instead plopped down in front of him on the tatami mat, crossing his legs. They had the following conversation:

Gomonshu: Was it you who tugged on my sleeve?

Shoma: Yeah, it was me.

Gomonshu: What were you thinking about when you did so?

Shoma: Ah…that even wearing such a beautiful red robe, you can't escape hell by wearing it. That's why I asked if you were prepared to die.

Gomonshu: Yes, that's what I wanted to hear and that's why I asked you here. There are so many who revere me, but you were the only one who kindly showed concern for my afterlife. Thank you for asking. But how about you? Have you already received Shinjin, the entrusting mind?

Shoma: Oh, yeah! I have received it.

Gomonshu: Since you say so, explain to me briefly what your state of mind is after gaining Shinjin?

Shoma: It is nothing at all.

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Mochitsuki — Sunday, December 8

Order Deadline: Monday, November 25

Order Online: Go to:

https://tinyurl.com/2024MochiOrderForm

Order Form by Mail or Drop Off : Go to:

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To Sign Up for Work Shift: Go to:

https://tinyurl.com/2024MochiWorkShift

Komochi
$ 15
(2-pound pkg)

Okasane
$ 6
(1/2-pound pkg)

December 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10a-12p Shotsuki Hoyo & Bodhi Day Service (Hybrid) 11a-2p YBA Meeting (Sangha Hall 11-1 pm) (Sangha Hall\; Kitchen/ Game Room/Pancake Room & Education Bldg.\; 2)	**2** 7p-8:30p Buddhist Discussion Group (Zoom)	**3** 5:30p-7:30p MVBT Adult Taiko (Sangha Hall\; Gym) 6:30p-7:30p Adult Continuing Taiko (Sangha Hall\; Gym) 7p-8p Cub Scout Pack Meeting (YBA Hall\; Main Hall/ Kitchen & Sangha Hall\; Patio) 7:30p-8:30p Ukulele Club (Sangha Hall\; Pancake Room/Hybrid) 8p-10p Jun Daiko (Sangha Hall\; Game Room)	**4** 6p-9p Boy Scouts (Sangha Hall\; All) 7p-9p Boy Scouts (Sangha Hall\;All)	**5** 5:30p-7:30p MVBT Adult Taiko (Sangha Hall\; Gym) 8p-10p Jun Daiko (Sangha Hall\; Game Room)	**6** 6p-8p MVBT Pickle ball (Sangha Hall\; Gym) 7p-8p Ukulele Club (Zoom)	**7** 4p-9p Boy Scouts Court of Honor/Holiday Dinner (Sangha Hall\; All)
8 Mochitsuki 12p-2p Kids Taiko Class (Sangha Hall\; Gym) 2p-4p Jun Daiko (Sangha Hall\; Gym)	**9**	**10** 5:30p-7:30p MVBT Adult Taiko (Sangha Hall\; Gym) 6:30p-7:30p Adult Continuing Taiko (Sangha Hall\; Gym) 7p-8p Cub Scout Pack Meeting (YBA Hall\; Main Hall/ Kitchen & Sangha Hall\; Patio) 7:30p-8:30p Ukulele Club (Sangha Hall\; Pancake Room/Hybrid) 8p-10p Jun Daiko (Sangha Hall\; Game Room)	**11** 7p-9p Boy Scouts (Sangha Hall\;All) 7:30p-9:30p MVBT Board Meeting (YBA Hall\; Board Room/Main Hall/Kitchen)	**12** 5:30p-7:30p MVBT Adult Taiko (Sangha Hall\; Gym) 8p-10p Jun Daiko (Sangha Hall\; Game Room)	**13** 6p-8p MVBT Pickle ball (Sangha Hall\; Gym) 7p-8p Ukulele Club (Zoom)	**14** 10a-12p BWA Meeting (Sangha Hall\; Main Hall\, Kitchen)
15 9:45a-1p Osoji (All Facilities) 12p-2p Kids Taiko Class (Sangha Hall\; Gym) 2p-4p Jun Daiko (Sangha Hall\; Gym)	**16** 12p-8p Scouts - Eagle Scout Event (Sangha Hall - All)	**17** 5:30p-7:30p MVBT Adult Taiko (Sangha Hall\; Gym) 6:30p-7:30p Adult Continuing Taiko (Sangha Hall\; Gym) 7p-8p Cub Scout Pack Meeting (YBA Hall\; Main Hall/ Kitchen & Sangha Hall\; Patio) 7:30p-8:30p Ukulele Club (Sangha Hall\; Pancake Room/Hybrid) 8p-10p Jun Daiko (Sangha Hall\; Game Room)	**18** 7p-9p Boy Scouts (Sangha Hall\;All)	**19** 5:30p-7:30p MVBT Adult Taiko (Sangha Hall\; Gym) 8p-10p Jun Daiko (Sangha Hall\; Game Room)	**20** 6p-8p MVBT Pickle ball (Sangha Hall\; Gym) 7p-8p Ukulele Club (Zoom)	**21** Winter Solstice
22 12p-2p Kids Taiko Class (Sangha Hall\; Gym) 2p-4p Jun Daiko (Sangha Hall\; Gym)	**23**	**24**	**25** Christmas	**26**	**27** 7p-8p Ukulele Club (Zoom)	**28**
29 12p-2p Kids Taiko Class (Sangha Hall\; Gym) 2p-4p Jun Daiko (Sangha Hall\; Gym)	**30**	**31**				

Volume 63 Number 11

"Let us live with Kindness and Gratitude beyond words..."

Religious Planning — December 2024

December 1, 2024, Sunday — 10:00 am, Shotsuki Hoyo & Bodhi Day Service, Hybrid Service

11:00 am: Japanese Languare Service
11:00 am: Engliish Language Discussion Group

December 8, 2024, Sunday, No Sunday Services — Mochitsuki

December 15, 2024, Sunday, 9:45 am — Short Service

10:00 am: Osoji - Temple Cleanup - After Service

December 22, 2024, Sunday, No Sunday Services

No Services

December 29, 2024, Sunday, No Sunday Services

No Services

December 31, 2024, Sunday, 7:00 pm — Joya-e Service / New Year's Eve Service

Joya-E Service: Express our gratitude for the countless blessings received throughout the year

After the Service: **Toshikoshi-soba** served by **Rev. & Mika Mukojima** after service in Sangha Hall

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January 1, 2025, Monday, 10:00 am — Shusho-e Service / New Year's Day Service

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

JOIN US

Sunday Services are on Zoom. These Hybrid Services allow the Sangha to attend the service in person or on Zoom.
The Link to the Zoom Livestream can be found on Putra's Post that is emailed before the service.

JOZAI: SUNDAY SERVICE DONATION

Put your Jozai into the Dana Box
Go to MVBT website & Press the Dona Box

Shotsuki Hoyo Service **Study Class** **Dharma School - 11:00 am**

Check Temple Website for latest information about Temple activities

MVBT Annual General Meeting

January 26, 2025 @ 11:00 am

EVERYONE INVITED

In the Hondo immediately following the Service
Hybrid meeting

Have You Already Received a Buddhist Name? Part 2 of 2 — cont'd

(Continued from page 1)

Gomonshu: Ah…then with that you are prepared for your afterlife?

Shoma: I don't know anything about it.

Gomonshu: Without knowing, do you think you will attain birth in the Pure Land?

Shoma: If you want to know that, you should ask my boss.

Gomonshu: Who is your boss?

Shoma: It is Amida Buddha who is enshrined in the Hondo. It's not up to me to decide whether I can attain birth in the Pure Land or not. No sense asking me about it!

Gomonshu: Well, that's beautifully said! You are right. Our birth in the Pure Land is definitely possible only because of the work of Amida Buddha. It is not by our own calculation. So, it really is none of our business. You are truly an honest man. Let us be brothers. Please join me in a drink!

The Gomonshu praised Shoma for his deep understanding of Shinjin. He asked the servants to bring sake and he himself poured some for Shoma. They had a great time exchanging cups of sake. Because he was so loved by Gomonshu, Shoma was permitted to see him whenever he visited Kyoto. He was even given the Buddhist name Shaku Sho-Ma, which means "the Buddha's disciple who sees through Right Truth."

Shoma Called Myokonin (Superior Nembutsu Follower)

This anecdote explains why Shoma was called Myokonin and why many stories about him have accumulated in Jodo Shinshu over a long time. Shoma did not know much about culture nor the world. He lacked manners, was illiterate and couldn't even count money. But that his words and deeds have been passed down to us is evidence of his true devotion and virtue. He was a person who had received the wisdom of Buddha.

Shoma Understands the Primal Vow

In the letters of Gobunsho of Rennyo Shonin, there is a saying that goes:

"Those who are not concerned about their afterlife are considered ignorant, even though they may be well-versed in eighty-thousand Dharma teachings. Those who have resolved the matter of the afterlife are described as wise, even if they are illiterate laymen or laywomen."

It is those who are exactly like Shoma that Rennyo Shonin calls people of wisdom.

What I was very impressed by in the conversation between Gomonshu and Shoma was Shoma's response to the question, "Explain to me briefly your state of mind after gaining Shinjin." Shoma answered, "It's nothing at all." This is indeed the most important point in their conversation. It makes us realize Shoma's deep understanding of the Primal Vow.

The phrase, "It is nothing at all," seems on the surface just an elusive answer, but there isn't a more wonderful nor firm an expression in the teaching of Other Power.

Receiving the Buddha's Vow Is Shinjin

In religious faith, it is generally easy for all people to understand the expression, "I believe strongly without doubt." But unfortunately, no matter how hard we try, we are unable to be totally rid of our distrust and doubts so that we can have a faithful mind.

Sakyamuni Buddha explained that doubt is one cause of a troubled mind. He teaches us that, because **we** are unable to cast away our selfishness that causes a doubtful mind, we are always suffering. And because both faith and doubt are linked in our minds, we lack the strength to believe in anything absolutely.

Amida Buddha completely understands our selfishness and doubt. That is why his sincere wish is that we simply depend on Amida Buddha's inconceivable power. We shouldn't believe in Amida Buddha with an unreliable mind. Rather we should discard both our faith and our doubt. When we begin to understand how incapable we are on our own power, then we can begin to open our minds and hearts to receiving Amida Buddha's Primal Vow. To simply receive the Buddha's Vow is called Shinjin, the entrusting mind. Thus, by using the phrase, "It's nothing at all," Shoma teaches us what it means to gain Shinjin. It is just like a kitten being carried by its mother whom it trusts completely with a profound sense of security. It is precisely the world where we give up trusting our powerless self.

To take the tonsure (symbolically shave one's head) is a commitment to live with the Primal Vow of Amida Buddha as one's spiritual support, free of self-centeredness and arrogance. Shoma, who received the rite of the razor from Gomonshu, was a true Nembutsu follower who had already transcended the mind of calculation and was embraced by the great vow of Amida Buddha.

In Gassho,

マウンテンビュー仏教会「回向」二〇二四年十二月法話

ー 法名はお持ちですか？（二） ー

駐在開教使 向嶋裕史

先月の法話に引き続き庄松さんのエピソードを紹介いたします。取次ぎの僧が庄松さんをご門主のもとへ連れて行かれたところからの続きです。

取次ぎの僧についていった庄松さんは礼儀作法に全く疎く、ご門主を前にしても一礼することなく、大胆にもドスンとあぐらをかいて座りだしました。以下が、ご門主と庄松さんの会話です。

ご門主「私の袖を引っ張ったのは、そなたであったか」

庄松「ヘエ、おらであった」

門主「何と思って引っぱったのじゃ」

庄松「ヘエ、それは、そんな立派な赤い衣を着ていても、赤い衣で地獄を逃れることならぬで、後生の覚悟はよいかと思うて云うた」

門主「さあ、それじゃ。それが聞きたいためにそなたを呼んだのじゃ。私を敬ってくれる人はたくさんおるが、親身になって後生の意見をしてくれたものは、そななた一人じゃ。よう意見してくれた。しかしそなたはどうじゃ、信をいただいたか」

庄松「ヘエ、いただきました」

門主「ならば、その信を得られたすがたを一言もうしてみよ」

庄松「なんともない」

門主「それで後生の覚悟はよいのか」

庄松「そりゃ分からぬ」

門主「分からぬで、浄土へ参れると思うのか」

庄松「そりゃ、親分に聞いてもろたらようわかる」

門主「親分とは誰のことか」

庄松「本堂におられる阿弥陀さまのことじゃ。浄土参りはおらの仕事じゃないし、おらに聞いたとて分かるものか」

門主「おお、よく申した。往生の一定は弥陀のはからいである。我が機のはからいではない。おまえはまことに正直な男じゃ、今日は兄弟の杯をするぞよ」

ご門主は庄松さんのお味わいを非常に喜ばれて早速召使を呼んで酒を取り寄せ、本寂上人自らのお酌で兄弟分の杯を交わしたそうです。ご門主はよほど庄松さんが気に入られて「庄松よ、いつでもたずねてこい」といって御前を通るお許しを与えられたそうです。そして、この時、庄松さんはご門主から「釋正真」という法名をいただいています。

このエピソードは庄松さんが妙好人と呼ばれ、彼にまつわる数多くのお話が浄土真宗で長い間大切に語り継がれてきた理由を良く表していると思います。庄松さんは礼儀作法に疎く、字が読めないほど教養が低かったといわれていますが、非常に信仰に厚く、徳行に富んだ、正に仏の智慧をいただかれたお方でした。

蓮如上人の『御文章』に「釈尊一代の経典を学んだとしても、後生の一大事を心にかけない人は愚者であって、たとえ経文の一句一文を知らない尼入道であったとしても後生の一大事を知る人は智慧ある人だ」とあります。これは正に庄松さんのようなお方を指して智者とおっしゃっておられるのです。

庄松さんとご門主の間で交わされた会話の中で私が一番感銘を受けたところは、ご門主の「ならば、その信を得られたすがたを一言もうしてみよ」という問いに対して、庄松さんの「なんともない」というお言葉です。この一言こそが、お二方の間でなされた会話の一番重要な点であり、庄松さんの本願に対する深い味わいがうかがえる表現だと思います。

「なんともない」とはつかみどころのない言葉に聞こえますが、他力の教えにおいて、これほど力強く、確実な表現はありません。

通常であれば、「疑いなく信じる」というような表現が信仰上誰にでも受け入れやすく、また力強く感じますが、残念ながら、私達人間はこの「疑いの心」を払拭して、「信じる心」だけになりきることはできません。

お釈迦さまは、人間を悩ます心の一つに「疑心」を挙げられています。私達は常に疑いの心を捨て切れずに苦しんでいるというのです。人間の心の中には、「信」と「疑」が常に同居していて、絶対に信じ切る事ができるほどの力強さは、私達には無いのだと教えて下さっています。

阿弥陀仏は、この私達の心を全てお見通しなのです。それ故、当てにならない私達の心で阿弥陀仏を信じるのではなく、私達の信じる心も疑う心も全て打ち捨てて阿弥陀仏の心に全てを任せなさいと願われておられるのです。このお心をいただくことを「信心」と呼び、その信を得られたすがたを庄松さんは「なんともない」と教えて下さっておられます。それはまさに子猫が母猫に首根っこをくわえられて安心しきった姿、任せきった姿そのものです。これこそ自力を振り捨てた世界なのです。「なんともない」のです。

お剃刀を受けるということは、自我を離れ、驕りたかぶる心をなくし、ひたすら阿弥陀仏のご本願を依り所として生きる証であるように、ご門主からお剃刀を受けた庄松さんは、既にはからいを超え、阿弥陀仏の大願に摂め取られた真の念仏者でありました。

MOCHITSUKI - Sunday, December 8

MOCHITSUKI: SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8

The Pre-Order deadline is just around the corner

Must order by Monday, November 25

Remember:

- Komochi, minimum order is 2 lbs for $15
- Okasane, ½ lb is $6
- To be more ECO-Friendly, containers will be 100% compostable sugar cane fiber
- **No plastic carry bags will be provided**, so you **must** provide your own. Just as you would when grocery shopping
- MVBT cloth Totes will be available for purchase
- All orders will be done either online or a paper version for those without email or computer access. An online order link is now available. Go to:
  https://tinyurl.com/2024MochiOrderForm
- To ensure enough help on that Sunday, we are setting up two work shifts: 6:30 am to 11:00 am and 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. A link for signups is now available online. Go to:
  https://tinyurl.com/2024MochiWorkShift
- All pre-orders are due by **Monday, November 25, 2024**

Komochi
$ 15
(2-pound pkg)

Okasane
$ 6
(1/2-pound pkg)

Order form on next page

Event Schedule:

Sat., Nov. 30	8:00 am	Prep and Test equipment
Fri., Dec. 6	8:00 am	Wash Barrels, Soak rRce
Sat., Dec. 7	8:00 am	Final Setup, Clean Area, Move Equipment

Mochitsuki Day:

Sun. Dec. 8	5:30 am	Start Steamers
	6:00 am	Start Cooking Rice
	6:30 am	Start Pounding
	7:00 am	Start Shaping Mochi
	11:00 am - 3:00 pm	Mochi Pickup
	2:00 pm	Start Clean up

Cleanup:

Wed. Dec. 11	8:00 am	Final Cleanup

If you have any questions, please contact Zone 4 or 8 via email: mochi@mvbuddhisttemple.org.

MVBT
2024 Mochi Order Form

Order Deadline: November 25, 2024

Name:	
eMail:	
Phone:	**Mobile Phone** _____ **Home Phone** _____

Item	Quantity	Cost per Item	Total Amount
Komochi (2 lb)		**@ $15 each**	**= $**
Okasane (1/2 lb)		**@ $6 each**	**= $**
		Additional Donation:	**$**
		Total Amount Due:	**$**

Mail or drop off this order form and check to:

Mountain View Buddhist Temple
575 N. Shoreline Boulevard
Mountain View, CA 94043

Make checks payable to: "MVBT"
with note "Mochitsuki"

Order Online: Go to:

https://tinyurl.com/2024MochiOrderForm

Remember, all orders must be received by Monday, November 25, 2024.

Pick-up your Mochi on Sunday, Dec. 8, in the Sangha Hall Gym between 11 am and 3 pm.
Please bring your own bags to pick up orders

If you have any questions, please contact Zones 4 & 8 via email: mochi@mvbuddhisttemple.org

EVENT SCHEDULE			
MOCHITSUKI PREP	**Sat, Nov 30**	**8:00 am**	**Preparation, test equipment, hang plastic**
	Fri, Dec 6	**8:00 am**	**Wash barrels and soak rice**
	Sat, Dec 7	**8:00 am**	**Final setup, clean area, move equipment**
MOCHITSUKI DAY	**Sun, Dec 8**	**5:30 am**	**Start Steamers**
		6:00 am	**Start Cooking Rice**
		6:30 am	**Start Pounding**
		7:00 am	**Start Shaping Mochi**
		11 am – 3 pm	**Mochi Pickup**
		2:00 pm	**Start Cleanup**
CLEANUP	**Wed, Dec 11**	**8:00 am**	**Final Cleanup**

New Year's Eve and New Year's Day Services

JOYA-E

Year-End Service

Tuesday, Dec 31, 2024 at 7:00 pm

The Sangha is invited to the final service of 2024, the ***Joya-E*** (year-end) gathering on New Year's Eve.

This service is held to express gratitude for the countless blessings received throughout the year.

The service includes sutra chanting, meditation, a Dharma message from Sensei and the ringing of the Kansho (bell).

After the service, **Rev. and Mrs. Mukojima** invite everyone to enjoy traditional ***Toshikoshi-soba*** (buckwheat noodles) in the Sangha Hall.

SHUSHO-E

New Year's Day Service

Wednesday, Jan 1, 2025 at 10:00 am

The new year is a new beginning. Attend the Shusho-E service to renew your resolution to live with Nembutsu gratitude

Rev. Mukojima looks forward to sharing his first Dharma Talk in 2025 with you, followed by a toast to the New Year.

Support Your Temple

Donate to Past & Upcoming Services

Eitaikyo Memorial / Keiro Kai

Bodhi Day / New Year's Eve

New Year's Day / Hoonko

Your donations go to the General Fund supporting day-to-day operations.
These donations make up one-third of the Fund Income.

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

Upcoming Events

January 1, 2025, Monday
Shusho-e Service /
New Year's Day Service

January 5, 2025, Sunday
Shotsuki Hoyo

January 12, 2025, Sunday
Hoonko Service

January 19, 2025, Sunday
BWA Memorial Service
BWA Dana Youth Fund Presentation

January 26, 2025, Sunday
Annual MVBT General Meeting

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February 2, 2025, Sunday
Shotsuki Hoyo

February 9, 2025, Sunday
Nirvana Day & Pet Memorial

February 16, 2025, Sunday
Scout Sunday Service

"Crooked Tree" in Parking Lot

At its November meeting, the Temple Board approved the placement of a plaque near the "crooked tree" in front of our Temple to commemorate its planting by **Gomonshu Ohtani** and **Lady Ohtani** of the Kyoto Nishi Hongwanji who visited our Temple in 1964. In the 60 years since its planting, the tree has taken firm hold in the ground and the branches have extended high and wide into the sky as if to encourage us to earnestly follow the Nembutsu Path.

It was a wish of the late **Richard Endo** to commemorate the tree so that current and future members know the importance of the tree to our Temple's heritage. If you would like to make a donation towards this commemorative plaque, please visit our Temple Donation page at:

https://tinyurl.com/CrookedTreeMVBT

and look for "Crooked Tree Plaque."

In Gassho,
Family & Friends of Richard Endo

May 15, 1964

April 11, 2022

ABA News

MVBT

Adult Buddhist Association

Bishop's and ABA Memorial Service

On Sunday, October 20, ABA chaired the Bishop's and ABA Memorial Service with guest speaker and former MVBT Resident Minister, **Rev. Dennis Shinseki**.

Onenju Workshop

Also, on October 20, ABA hosted an Onenju Workshop, attended by 21 ABA and other Temple members. A great big thanks to **Joan Aoki**, who graciously offered to show those that attended how to make a wrist onenju. Everyone went home with a beautiful personally made Onenju. Much appreciation to **Mieko Nakano** who arranged the workshop.

ABA Meet & Mingle

Our annual Meet & Mingle on November 8 was another huge success with over 60 members and guests participating. With an array of tasty bites, extensive drink choices, "brain strain" challenges, the always-exciting LRC "tournament", and a rare "Battle of the Sexes" win by the men, it truly was a fun opportunity to meet and mingle.

Many thanks to **Alice Ishida and helpers, the Kitasoe Family crew, the M&M Committee, ABA members** for their food contributions, and everyone who helped with setup and cleanup. ***Domo Arigato!***

Join ABA

If you are interested in joining ABA or have any questions, please contact **Reiko Tsuchida** (Membership Chairperson), **Mieko Nakano** (Assistant Membership Chairperson) or any ABA member

Next Meeting

The next ABA meeting will be Friday, December 13, 7:30 pm. You're welcome join us.

In Gassho,
Ken Nakano
ABA President

Buddhist Women's Association

MVBT BWA Dana Youth Fund Drive

In keeping our tradition with our Dana Youth Fund Drive, the MVBT BWA sent out letters in November. All donations received through the end of December are gifted to our MVBT affiliated youth organizations.

Your donations will be presented to our Temple's youth organizations at the BWA Memorial Service on January 19, 2025.

Donate on the Temple webste or send a check to the BWA with Note: Dana Youth Fund.

In Gassho,
Reiko Murakami
BWA President

MVBT Youth Organizations for Dana Youth Fund

Dharma School | Miroku | Girl Scouts | YBA | Cub Scouts / Boy Scouts

MVBT Membership Committee News

Mountain View Buddhist Temple
2025 Membership Drive

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

First and foremost, we are grateful that you are a part of our Mountain View Buddhist Temple Sangha community and are especially appreciative for your continuing financial support through membership. As you know, your membership comes with specific benefits to you. Your dues are also critical for the long-term sustainability of our Temple, as they support a portion of the rapidly increasing costs of the day-to-day operations and expenses for maintaining the Temple, our programs, and services.

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES FOR 2025

To help offset the increase in our expenses, we are increasing Membership Dues 10% this year. Although we have not raised dues for the last three years, our expenses increased 18% in 2022 and 7% in 2023 and are projected to increase an additional 5% in 2024.

Thank you for your understanding, for your continuing membership, and for your ongoing donations (of both time and money) throughout the year, so that we can continue to center the Dharma in our lives together. Above all, thank you for your continued investment in the Mountain View Buddhist Temple.

COMING SOON TO YOUR MAILBOX OR EMAIL

- Package with Your Membership Information
- Annual Donation Summary (members only)
- 2025 Forms to JOIN or RENEW your membership

JOIN OR RENEW NOW

Join or Renew NOW at https://mvbuddhisttemple.org/. Select the "Join & Support" tab, then the "Become a Member" tab and "2025 JOIN or RENEW BUTTON".

YOUR MVBT COMMUNITY

Membership at the Mountain View Buddhist Temple is not 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, Steve, Jean & Leslie

MVBT YBA News

Mountain View Buddhist Temple

YBA

Halloween Activity

Our YBA had its Halloween Activity on October 26 at the Temple. This activity was run by our Activities Chair, **Danica Lim**. In addition to a delicious dinner, we did pumpkin carving, practiced our Coast District Conference skit, and did cookie decorating.

Coast District Conference

Our YBA attended the CC Conference in Fresno on November 9. There were 15 members of our YBA that went to the Conference. We participated in workshops, dinner/dance, and performed a skit for everyone at lunch.

In Gassho,
Jillian Higa
2024-2025 YBA President

YBA at CC Conference Dinner and Dance

Miroku

Service Project

Miroku has been thinking about our service project that we will finish this school year. We decided that our project will benefit animals or the environment. Our group has been looking into specific project ideas and we will make our final decision in December.

AED Check

Also, we checked the AEDs on the Temple grounds to ensure they are all in good working condition.

December Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, December 1, at noon in the YBA Conference Room. We are also looking forward to our holiday party on December 6.

In Gassho,
Shelby Nguyen
6th Grade Miroku Member

MIROKU

middle school group

MVBT Girl Scout Troop #60736

First Meeting

The Girl Scouts held their first meeting this month for our Brownie and Cadette girls. After checking the Temple's first aid kits, the girls learned some basics of crochet.

Girl Scout Nuts

Girl Scout nuts have been picked up and will be delivered shortly. Enjoy!

And, **Thank You** to the **Sangha** for your support!

In Gassho,
Girl Scout Troop #60736

Dharma School News

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dharma School

Registration Forms Due

If you have not yet submitted your Dharma School student registration form for this year, please do so. It will help us get an accurate headcount for this year's Dharma School classes which allow us to determine class groupings, funding for classroom activities, and birthday books.

October And November Birthdays

Happy Birthday to **Ari**, **Carter**, **Sydney** and **Aetius**!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Halloween Parade

It was fun to see all of the creative costumes

From Left: Brent Izutsu, Ari, Carter-Sydney, Aetius and Rev. Mukojima

of the Dharma School students, teachers, Cabinet, and the Sangha!

In Gassho,
Brent Izutsu
Dharma School Superintendent

MVBT Dharma School

ABOVE: Halloween Parade on Sunday, October 27

Seniors Activities & Crafts Program News

MVBT Seniors Activities and Crafts

As the holiday season is soon approaching us, our Senior Activities Committee wishes to extent to you a Safe and Healthy Holiday Season.

The last Senior Activities Day for 2024 was on November 21, 2024. We will resume on January 9, 2025, with some interesting events. Continue to stay well and enjoy the Holidays. Please mark this date on your calendar.

Senior Activities

January 9, 2025, Thursday: Resume Thursday Senior Activities.

January 16, 2025: We will have **Christine Takamoto** as our guest speaker. Her topic will be on "Mental Health." She will discuss how mental health practice can improve quality of life, reduce stress and further foster emotional resilience among seniors. Please join us.

Before the presentation, please join us for lunch between 11:30 am and 12:30 pm. Everyone is welcome.

February 20, 2025: We will have guest speaker **Sharmin Sultana**, a Senior Program Manager of "Breathe California." She will do a presentation about Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD). Learn about keeping our lungs healthy.

New Committee Member

We have added a new member to our committee. Welcome **Christine Takamoto** to our committee. We are glad she agreed to join us. She will be a great asset to our program and we welcome her.

Senior Cookbooks

The Senior Cookbook is still available. It can be purchased at the Temple office or through our committee members. The price is still $10. It makes a wonderful gift.

Senior Craft and All Activities:

The Craft and all Activities program starts at 9:00 am and ends at 12 noon.

During All Senior Activities:

A light refreshment is provided that includes coffee and tea. Everyone is welcome.

In Gassho,
Aiko Sugimoto-Miyamoto

2025 150 Club News

Thank you all for participating in the 2024 MVBT 150 Club Temple Fundraiser

The 2025 150 Club tickets are now available. Each ticket now costs $150.

Check with you Zone Representative for tickets.

Purchasing more than one ticket is OK.

Good luck!

Namo Amida Butsu – "Let us live with Kindness and Gratitude beyond words"
150 Club Committee

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

Susan Sumiko Nishimoto ***Dec 16, 1940 -Oct 17, 2024***

Barbara Kikuyo Sugimoto ***Sept 27,1926 -Oct 29, 2024***

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

Namo Amida Butsu

VISIONING the Future of MVBT

We hope you were able to join us for the VISION presentation at Sangha Day Picnic. The VISION Committee has been hard at work engaging in widespread surveys and focus groups of Temple members and affiliated organizations to clarify our vision of a Master Plan for the MVBT Campus.

As was shared at Sangha Day Picnic, we are beginning to gather information about the exact plans that need to go from concept to blueprint and the associated costs of planning and construction. As you may be aware, we have been through various phases of improvement on the MVBT Campus, from the original Hondo, which ultimately became YBA Hall, Classrooms, a NEW Hondo, a NEW Sangha Hall and a NEW Nokotsudo. We are extremely grateful for all those founders and Sangha Members that helped with planning, executing and funding the buildings that we enjoy today. It is now time for the current Sangha to help ensure the future of MVBT.

As discussed in the VISION presentation, we called the next phase of revisions to Sangha Hall as "Phase I." This is somewhat confusing as we have had a Phase I in every phase of redevelopment! To clarify, we will now refer to the next phase of our Campus Development to be the "Sangha Hall Phase." Plans are being made for specific renovations to accomplish life and safety upgrades, creating a level entry, addressing the size of the gym floor, enhancing food/kitchen/service areas as well as addressing storage needs. We will need to balance all of these requirements with the funds available both through lease funds and a Capital Campaign.

We hope this conversation is helpful and want to bring everyone along as we move into planning for the Future of MVBT. If you have any specific questions, you may always contact Julie Satake-Ryu at:

juliesatakeryu@mvbuddhisttemple.org

In Gassho,
The VISION Committee

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

2024 150 Club News

The November winner is **Susan Yuen**.
Congratulations to Sue!

And, **Thank You** to everyone who participated in the 150 Club!

Everyone, Happy Holiday! Please stay safe and healthy!

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

150 Club Committee

Toban & Echo Schedule

	Toban	Echo Article Deadline	Echo Sent in Mail
DEC	Zones 4 & 5	N / A	N / A
JAN	Zones 6 & 7	Dec 13 (Fri)	Dec 18 (Wed)
FEB	Zones 8 & 9	Jan 10 (Fri)	Jan 15 (Wed)

Please note the article deadline and mailing dates. This will provide time to layout, proof, finalize and print the issue.
Thank you. ***Domo Arigato***. ありがとう ございます。
Email all articles to echo@mvbuddhisttemple.org .

Buddhist Women's Association

BWA News

Thank You MVBT

My deep gratitude to the following MVBT and BWA volunteers for making the 47th BCA FBWA Conference on October 4-6, 2024, a great success!

Rev. Yushi Mokojima
Rev. Devon Matsumoto
Joan Aoki
Amy/Eric Arakaki
Phyllis/Russell Chan
Lois Okino/Will Dea
Diane Durst
Eileen Fujikawa
Sandy Furuichi
Teri Hirota
Evelyn Hori
Alice Ishida
Marie Ochi-Jacobs/
Allan Jacobs
Lorrie/Glenn Kitasoe
Bob Matsumoto
Shirley/Peter Matsumoto
Ray/Kari Murakami
Judy/Russ Nakano
Mieko/Ken Nakano
Doug Sawamura
Reiko Tsuchida
Toshiko Uyehara

Thank You All!

Please see the photo montages on Pages 16 & 17 of some of the activities at the 47th BCA FBWA Conference.

MVBT BWA Dana Youth Fund Drive

In keeping our tradition with our Dana Youth Fund Drive, MVBT BWA will be sending out our letters in November. All donations received through the end of December are gifted to our MVBT affiliated youth organizations. Donate on the Temple website or send a check to the BWA with Note: Dana Youth Fund.

Your donations will be presented to our Temple's youth organizations at the BWA Memorial Service on January 19, 2025.

Most Sincerely in Gassho,
Reiko Murakami
BWA President

MVBT CRM Guidance

Would you like to be part of a team helping the Temple move into the future? Want to consult with the Temple to better understand and communicate with our community? Help improve and automate the processing and management of members, donations, and events?

We are looking for people with experience in CRM solutions to help guide the Temple in selecting and implementing a CRM system. We are currently using Salesforce but realize we no longer have the technical expertise to manage Salesforce in its current state. We would like to find a solution that is low cost, simple to manage, and can meet our needs for understanding our members, donations, and events with options to expand beyond temple activities to our affiliated organizations.

Guidance Needs:

- Recommend and/or evaluate Nonprofit CRM solutions
- Understand cost to purchase and cost to support the system long term
- Understand Temple requirements to manage the solution with volunteers
- Ensure the solution meets the temple's requirements for membership, donations, and events
- Select a solution and develop an implementation plan

Time Commitment:

- 2-4 hours per month starting in January 2025

If you are interested or if you have any questions, please email Leslie Imai at leslie.imai@gmail.com.

一期一会
ICHI GO ICHI E
2024 FBWA CONFERENCE
Each Precious Moment, A Precious Treasure
47th BCA FBWA Conference
October 4-6, 2024
DoubleTree by Hilton-San Jose, California
San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin
REGISTRATION
Japanese American Museum of San Jose
535 North Fifth Street
47th BCA FBWA CONFERENCE
Joy Of Obon Odori!
Sponsor: Santa Maricot
Ichi-Go-Ichi-E

More Photos from 47th BCA FBWA Conference

Read if you are over 70 1/2 years old

Another Way to Donate to the Mountain View Buddhist Temple

Donate Your IRA Minimum Distribution Directly to the Temple and Avoid Taxes

If you are 70 ½ years or older, you can take advantage of a simple way to benefit the Mountain View Buddhist Temple and receive tax benefits in return.

Benefits of an IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution

- Avoid taxes on transfers of up to $105,000 from your IRA to Mountain View Buddhist Temple
- Satisfy your required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year
- Reduce your taxable income, even if you do not itemize deductions
- Make a gift that is not subject to the 60% deduction limits on charitable gifts
- Help further the work and mission of Mountain View Buddhist Temple

How an IRA Charitable Rollover Gift Works

1. Contact your IRA plan administrator to make a gift from your IRA to the Temple (Your IRA administrator must make the distribution directly to the Temple).
2. Your IRA funds will be directly transferred to Mountain View Buddhist Temple to help continue our important work.
3. Please note that IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions do not qualify for a charitable deduction.
4. Please contact us if you wish for your gift to be used for a specific purpose.

Contact Us

If you have any questions about an IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions, please contact us at treasurer@mvbuddhisttemple.org. We would be happy to assist you and answer any questions you might have.

The above information is not intended as legal or tax advice. Please contact your attorney or tax advisor for further details on making an IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution.

December

Monthly

Memorial

Service

* * * * *

Shotsuki Hoyo for December to be held on Sunday, December 1

* * * * *

See MVBT website or Putra's Post for details of the Service

December 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 **December** Shotsuki loved ones are:

Yoshiko Akizuki	**Muriel Izumi**	**Leo Nakayama**
Frank Nobuo Bunya	**Shogo Kaku**	**Richiko Obuchi**
Edward Chikasuye	**Mae Kawaguchi**	**Frank Okimoto**
Ichiro Chikasuye	**David Kawamoto**	**Kelly Sakae**
Richard Endo	**Junso Kawamoto**	**Jiro Sakano**
Sandra Aiko Enomoto	**Tsue Kawamoto**	**Hatsue Sako**
Emiko Fujikawa	**Toshiko Kawamoto**	**Yoshio Sato**
Mamoru Fukuma	**Itaru Kawano**	**Chiyo Shimoguchi**
June Furuichi	**James Ichiro Kawaye**	**Yasuki Shinke**
Emiko Furuta	**Tomiko Kosakura**	**Laurie Takasugi**
James Furuta	**Alice Koyano**	**Scott Takasuka**
Eigoro Hashimoto	**Tomoe Kumamaru**	**Junichi Takimoto**
Myrna Hayashi	**George Kunimoto**	**Robert Taniguchi**
Sato Hiroshige	**Yoshio Kusaba**	**Kiyomi Tanouye**
Dorothy Horiuchi	**Nobuichi Masaki**	**Florence Tsukagawa**
June Hoshi	**Toshiko Mori**	**Hiro Uyehara**
Frank Hoshida	**Kiyoko Murakami**	**Edward Yonemura**
Teruko Ikeda	**Tamae Nagatsuyu**	**Teruo Yukawa**
Amy Imai	**Paul Nakagawa**	
Suyeno Imamura	**Jane Nakamura**	
Hana Inouye	**Masazo Nakamura**	
Harry Ishii	**Miyuki Nakano**	
IJ Iwamoto	**Shunsuke Nakano**	

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 to acknowledge their continuing influence in our lives. If you wish to schedule a memorial service for a loved one, please call the Temple office during weekly office hours.

2024 is the Memorial Year for those who passed away in:

1st Year Memorial	2023	3rd Year Memorial	2022	7th Year Memorial	2018
13th Year Memorial	2012	17th Year Memorial	2008	25th Year Memorial	2000
27th Year Memorial	1998	33rd Year Memorial	1992	50th Year Memorial	1975

January 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 New Year's Day 10a-11a Shusho-e Service (Hondo)	**2** 5:30p-7:30p MVBT Adult Taiko (Sangha Hall\; Gym/Hybrid) 8p-10p Jun Daiko (Sangha Hall\; Game Room)	**3** 6p-8p MVBT Pickle Ball (Sangha Hall\; Gym) 7p-8p Ukulele Club (Zoom)	**4**
5 10a-12p Shotsuki Hoyo Service & Dharma School 11a-2p YBA Lunch & Meeting (Sangha Hall 11 am - 1 pm) (Sangha Hall\; Kitchen/Game Room/Pancake Room & Education Bldg.\; C) 12p-2p Kids Taiko Class (Sangha Hall\; Gym) 2p-4p Jun Daiko (Sangha Hall\; Gym)	**6** 7p-8:30p Buddhist Discussion Group (Online)	**7** 5:30p-7:30p MVBT Adult Taiko (Sangha Hall\; Gym/Hybrid) 6:30p-7:30p Adult Continuing Taiko (Sangha Hall\; Gym/Hybrid) 7p-8p Cub Scout Pack Meeting (YBA Hall\; Main Hall/Kitchen & Sangha Hall\; Patio) 7:30p-8:30p MVBT Ukulele Club (Sangha Hall\; Pancake Room/ Hybrid) 7:30p-8:30p Ukulele Club (Sangha Hall\; Pancake Room/Hybrid) 8p-10p Jun Daiko (Sangha Hall\; Game Room)	**8** 7p-9p Boy Scouts (Sangha Hall\; All) 7:30p-9:30p MVBT Board Meeting (YBA Hall\; All)	**9** 9a-12p Senior Activities and Crafts (Sangha Hall\; All) 5:30p-7:30p MVBT Adult Taiko (Sangha Hall\; Gym/Hybrid) 8p-10p Jun Daiko (Sangha Hall\; Game Room)	**10** 6p-8p MVBT Pickle Ball (Sangha Hall\; Gym) 7p-8p Ukulele Club (Zoom) 7:30p-9p ABA General Meeting (YBA Hall\; Board Room/Main Hall/ Kitchen)	**11** 10a-12p BWA Meeting (YBA Hall\; Main Hall / Kitchen)
12 10a-12p Hoonko Service & Dharma School (Hybrid) 12p-2p Kids Taiko Class (Sangha Hall\; Gym) 2p-4p Jun Daiko (Sangha Hall\; Gym)	**13** 1p-3p Senior Activities Committee Meeting (YBA Hall\; Main Hall)	**14** 5:30p-7:30p MVBT Adult Taiko (Sangha Hall\; Gym/Hybrid) 6:30p-7:30p Adult Continuing Taiko (Sangha Hall\; Gym/Hybrid) 7p-8p Cub Scout Pack Meeting (YBA Hall\; Main Hall/Kitchen & Sangha Hall\; Patio) 7:30p-8:30p MVBT Ukulele Club (Sangha Hall\; Pancake Room/ Hybrid) 7:30p-8:30p Ukulele Club (Sangha Hall\; Pancake Room/Hybrid) 8p-10p Jun Daiko (Sangha Hall\; Game Room)	**15** 7p-9p Boy Scouts (Sangha Hall\; All)	**16** 9a-12p Senior Activities and Crafts (Sangha Hall\; All) 5:30p-7:30p MVBT Adult Taiko (Sangha Hall\; Gym/Hybrid) 8p-10p Jun Daiko (Sangha Hall\; Game Room)	**17** 6p-8p MVBT Pickle Ball (Sangha Hall\; Gym) 7p-8p Ukulele Club (Zoom)	**18**
19 10a-12p BWA Memorial Service & Dharma School (Hybrid) 12p-2p Kids Taiko Class (Sangha Hall\; Gym) 2p-4p Jun Daiko (Sangha Hall\; Gym)	**20** Martin Luther King	**21** 5:30p-7:30p MVBT Adult Taiko (Sangha Hall\; Gym/Hybrid) 6:30p-7:30p Adult Continuing Taiko (Sangha Hall\; Gym/Hybrid) 7p-8p Cub Scout Pack Meeting (YBA Hall\; Main Hall/Kitchen & Sangha Hall\; Patio) 7:30p-8:30p MVBT Ukulele Club (Sangha Hall\; Pancake Room/ Hybrid) 7:30p-8:30p Ukulele Club (Sangha Hall\; Pancake Room/Hybrid) 8p-10p Jun Daiko (Sangha Hall\; Game Room)	**22** 7p-9p Boy Scouts (Sangha Hall\; All)	**23** 9a-12p Senior Activities and Crafts (Sangha Hall\; All) 5:30p-7:30p MVBT Adult Taiko (Sangha Hall\; Gym/Hybrid) 8p-10p Jun Daiko (Sangha Hall\; Game Room)	**24** 6p-8p MVBT Pickle Ball (Sangha Hall\; Gym) 7p-8p Ukulele Club (Zoom)	**25**
26 10a-12p Sunday Service & Dharma School and Annual Meeting (Hybrid) 12p-2p Kids Taiko Class (Sangha Hall\; Gym) 2p-4p Jun Daiko (Sangha Hall\; Gym)	**27**	**28** 5:30p-7:30p MVBT Adult Taiko (Sangha Hall\; Gym/Hybrid) 6:30p-7:30p Adult Continuing Taiko (Sangha Hall\; Gym/Hybrid) 7p-8p Cub Scout Pack Meeting (YBA Hall\; Main Hall/Kitchen & Sangha Hall\; Patio) 7:30p-8:30p MVBT Ukulele Club (Sangha Hall\; Pancake Room/ Hybrid) 7:30p-8:30p Ukulele Club (Sangha Hall\; Pancake Room/Hybrid) 8p-10p Jun Daiko (Sangha Hall\; Game Room)	**29** 7p-9p Boy Scouts (Sangha Hall\; All)	**30** 9a-12p Senior Activities and Crafts (Sangha Hall\; All) 5:30p-7:30p MVBT Adult Taiko (Sangha Hall\; Gym/Hybrid) 8p-10p Jun Daiko (Sangha Hall\; Game Room)	**31** 6p-8p MVBT Pickle Ball (Sangha Hall\; Gym) 7p-8p Ukulele Club (Zoom)	

MOCHITSUKI
December 8

Komochi
$ 15
(2-pound pkg)

Okasane
$ 6
(1/2-pound pkg)

See Pages 6 & 7
for more information

Support Your Temple
Donate to Past & Upcoming Services

Eitaikyo Memorial

Bodhi Day / New Year's Eve

New Year's Day / Hoonko

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

These donations make up one-third of the Fund Income.

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

Highlights in December Issue

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Mountain View Buddhist Temple
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Mountain View, CA 94043
www.mvbuddhisttemple.org

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