The ECHO

November 2025

Volume 64 Number 10

MOUNTAIN VIEW BUDDHIST TEMPLE

November Highlights

- ***11/2, Sunday, 10:00 am***
  November Shotsuki Hoyo, Hybrid
  * *11:00 am Japanese Language Service*
  * *11:00 am English Language Discussion*
- ***11/4, Monday, 7:00 pm***
  Buddhist Discussion Group
- ***11/16, Sunday, 10:00 am***
  Eitaikyo Service

  Guest Speaker:
  Rinban Gerald Sakamoto, Head minister of the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin
- ***11/16, Sunday, 11:30 am***
  Keiro Kai Luncheon

What is the Nembutsu? What is Namo Amida Butsu?

I would like to add a disclaimer that I just read Mukojima Sensei's October Echo article and realized our articles are very similar. My mail at our apartment was placed on hold by accident, so I didn't get to read Sensei's article until it was too late and I had nearly finished mine. I apologize for the similarities, but hope everyone who reads our articles can deepen their understanding of Namo Amida Butsu.

Rev. Devon Matsumoto

"When life is fair and sunlight guilds the day,
When fortune smiles and flowers adorn our way;
Of't let us pause with grateful hearts to say
Namo Amida Butsu.
Even though our way leads 'neath a darkened sky,
And to our loved ones pain and death draw nigh;
Our tears may flow, yet trustingly we cry
Namo Amida Butsu"

from the gatha, *Namo Amida Butsu.*

To me, this gatha is the essence of our Jodo Shinshu teachings. In our tradition, it is said that all we must do in this life is to hold the Nembutsu in our hearts and minds knowing that we are embraced by the infinite Wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha. This sounds easy in theory, but in reality, I have found it to be very difficult to practice. I have often asked myself, "What is the Nembutsu? What is Namo Amida Butsu? and how can one phrase be the truth in this life?"

Understanding the Nembutsu is Complicated

My understanding of the Nembutsu has been fluid and has changed constantly over the years. However, it is always easy to remember the Nembutsu when life is going well. The gatha *Namo Amida Butsu* reminds us of this.

(Continued on page 4)

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MVBT Ballots for Board of Directors

To All Temple Members,

Please return your Temple ballots where you voted for your 2025 leaders in the 12 Temple Zones. The deadline for submittal is **Friday, November 7, 2025.**

In Gassho,
Board of Directors of the Mountain View Buddhist Temple

Return Your Temple Ballots by Friday, November 7

November 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Daylight Saving Time Ends **10a-12p** Shotsuki Hoyo Service & Dharma School **11:30a-12:30p** YBA Lunch **12p-2p** Kids Taiko Class **12p-1p** Miroku Monthly Meeting **12:30p-2p** YBA Meeting **2p-4p** Jun Daiko	**3** **7p-8:30p** Buddhist Discussion Group	**4** Election Day **5:30p-7:30p** MVBT Adult Taiko **6:30p-7:30p** Adult Continuing Taiko **7p-8p** Cub Scout Pack Meeting **7:30p-8:30p** MVBT Ukulele Club **8p-10p** Jun Daiko	**5** **6p-9p** Boy Scouts	**6** **9a-12p** Senior Activities and Crafts **5:30p-7:30p** MVBT Adult Taiko **7:30p-9:30p** Thursday Night Basketball **8p-10p** Jun Daiko	**7** **6p-8p** MVBT Pickle Ball	**8**
9 **10a-12p** Sunday Service & Dharma School **12p-2p** Kids Taiko Class **2p-4p** Jun Daiko	**10** **1p-3p** Senior Activities Committee Meeting	**11** Veterans' Day **5:30p-7:30p** MVBT Adult Taiko **6:30p-7:30p** Adult Continuing Taiko **7p-8p** Cub Scout Pack Meeting **7:30p-8:30p** MVBT Ukulele Club **8p-10p** Jun Daiko	**12** **7p-9p** Boy Scouts **7:30p-9:30p** MVBT Board Meeting	**13** **9a-12p** Senior Activities and Crafts **5:30p-7:30p** MVBT Adult Taiko **7:30p-9:30p** Thursday Night Basketball **8p-10p** Jun Daiko	**14** **5p-11p** ABA Meet & Mingle	**15** **9a-12p** BWA Meeting
16 **10a-12p** Eitaikyo Service & Dharma School **11:30a-2p** Keiro Kai Luncheon **12p-2p** Kids Taiko Class **2p-4p** Jun Daiko	**17**	**18** **5:30p-7:30p** MVBT Adult Taiko **6:30p-7:30p** Adult Continuing Taiko **7p-8p** Cub Scout Pack Meeting **7:30p-8:30p** MVBT Ukulele Club **8p-10p** Jun Daiko	**19** **7p-9p** Boy Scouts	**20** **9a-12p** Senior Activities and Crafts **5:30p-7:30p** MVBT Adult Taiko **7:30p-9:30p** Thursday Night Basketball **8p-10p** Jun Daiko	**21** **6p-8p** MVBT Pickle Ball	**22**
23 **10a-12p** Sunday Service & Dharma School **12p-2p** Kids Taiko Class **2p-4p** Jun Daiko	**24** **7:30p-8:30p** RPC Meeting	**25** **5:30p-7:30p** MVBT Adult Taiko **6:30p-7:30p** Adult Continuing Taiko **7:30p-8:30p** MVBT Ukulele Club **8p-10p** Jun Daiko	**26** **7p-9p** Boy Scouts	**27** Thanksgiving Day **5:30p-7:30p** MVBT Adult Taiko **7:30p-9:30p** Thursday Night Basketball **8p-10p** Jun Daiko	**28** **6p-8p** MVBT Pickle Ball	**29**
30 **12p-2p** Kids Taiko Class **2p-4p** Jun Daiko						

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

Religious Planning — November 2025

November 2, 2025, Sunday, 10:00 am, Shotsuki Hoyo

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

November 3, 2025, Monday, 7:00 pm, Buddhist Discussion Group

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

November 9, 2025, Sunday, 10:00 am, Sunday Service

November 16, 2025, Sunday, 10:00 am, Eitaikyo Service

The Eitaikyo Service is a time when we remember all those whose contributions to our Temple in the past allow us to continue to hear the Dharma today.

Guest Speaker: Rinban Gerald Sakamoto, Head Minister of the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin

November 16, 2025, Sunday, 11:30 am, Keiro Kai Luncheon

11:30 am Keiro Kai Luncheon following Eitaikyo Service

November 23, 2025, Sunday, 10:00 am, Sunday Service

November 30, 2025, Sunday, No Sunday Service

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

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

Kiyome Ishii May 19, 1936 - July 26, 2025

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

Namo Amida Butsu — With Kindness and Gratitude beyond words

What is the Nembutsu? What is Namo Amida Butsu? — cont'd

(Continued from page 1)

"When life is fair and sunlight guilds the day,

When fortune smiles and flowers adorn our way;

O'ft let us pause with grateful hearts to say

Namo Amida Butsu."

To me, this means that in our times of strength and joy the Nembutsu comes easy to us. It is harder to question the Nembutsu teaching when nothing in our life is going wrong.

But what about when our life is not going so well. How can Nembutsu be the answer to poverty, discrimination, mental health issues, death, sickness, and so on? These past few years I have been searching for the response to that question. And at each step along the way, my understanding of the Nembutsu has become more and more complicated.

One experience that has helped me better understand the Nembutsu, Namo Amida Butsu, was when my grandma passed away when I was in high school. Unfortunately, because she lived in Utah and didn't really understand English that well, I never really knew her on a personal level. I only knew her through the stories my mom and aunties told us from when they were growing up or from the stories my cousins shared since they all lived close by to her. My mom always made an effort for us to go visit her at least once a year, so thankfully I was able to form my own memories of her even if they were short. From what I could tell, she was an amazing and strong woman and I was still able to feel deeply connected to her and loved by her. I remember that in her last few days with us, my aunties had asked for our family to gather and chant together. This was difficult since half of us lived in California, while the other half lived in Utah. Luckily, we managed to do this through Skype. We recited Namo Amida Butsu together. "Namandabu Namandabu Namandabu." I remember the Nembutsu echoed through her room and ours. At first, I thought maybe the sound of the Nembutsu would wake her up so that we could spend a little more time with her or that the Nembutsu had some magical powers that would extend her life if we said it more. But I have come to learn that is not how Nembutsu works.

Let Buddha's Teachings Guide Us

I have come to realize that Namo Amida Butsu isn't just some simple phrase that we say to complete a ritual or practice and it is also not some sort of mystical and magical spell that we say to make our lives better. Rather, we say it, or I say it as a way to say "don't worry, we are in good hands, so we should let the Buddha's teachings guide me." By reciting Namo Amida Butsu, I am expressing my trust in the Wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha and their wish to liberate all beings from the cycle of suffering. At the end of the day, when I feel like I am left with nothing, I can still rest easily knowing that I am embraced in the Buddha's light that grasps all sentient beings.

I remember hearing the gatha *Namo Amida Butsu* at my grandma's funeral or memorial service and one line in particular stuck with me.

"And to our loved ones pain and death draw near;

Our tears may flow, yet trustingly we cry Namo Amida Butsu."

I think that this line perfectly summarized what I interpreted Namo Amida Butsu as meaning for me when my grandma passed away. Reciting the Nembutsu is a reminder that I cannot break free from the truth of impermanence that we all must face and that I am limited in my own ability to realize this. So, reciting Namo Amida Butsu is a reminder that I should entrust in the Buddha, Dharma, and the Sangha to guide me as I try to navigate this world filled with suffering.

Another experience that helped me better understand the Nembutsu was when my grandpa passed away in the summer of 2018. The year he passed away was a very dark year for myself. Within five months of my grandpa's passing, my friend from high school died by suicide. One week after that, a good family friend had a workplace accident and died. Then in the following spring semester of my final year of undergrad, I entered my externship placement where I would intern as a hospice social worker. There, I saw my clients come and go. Some I was with for months and others I was with just for a few weeks. And then that summer a mentor and supporter of my rebellious behavior within the temple community past away unexpectedly from cancer.

(Continued on page 5)

What is the Nembutsu? What is Namo Amida Butsu? — cont'd

(Continued from page 4)

During this time, I felt isolated and alone. I questioned how could the Nembutsu save them from death? How can the Nembutsu save me from feeling that pain? As I sat there contemplating all that I had lost that year, I realized how selfish I was being. I put myself at the center of those deaths and did not see how it was affecting their friends and families.

This is when I remembered the gatha *Namo Amida Butsu*.

"Even though our way leads 'neath a darkened sky,

And to our loved ones pain and death draw nigh;

Our tears may flow, yet trustingly we cry

Namo Amida Butsu."

The language of this gatha is so beautiful. It reiterates the truth that pain and death are inevitable. They are the only constant in this life. Nobody is immune to it. There is no "I" in the gatha, but instead, it emphasizes interdependence. It is not "my way," or "my tears," or "I cry," but "our way," "our tears," "we cry."

We Are Not Alone

And so, I have come to understand the Nembutsu as two things. First, the Nembutsu is not just Namo Amida Butsu. Namo Amida Butsu is countless things rolled up into one phrase. In the gatha it says "trustingly we cry" as a way to say "I am in good hands, you are in good hands, so let the Buddha guide us". With all that has happened around me, the Nembutsu is a way to remind us that we cannot end our suffering alone and thus we entrust our hearts and minds in the Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha. In our darkest times, we recite Nembutsu to remind us that we are not alone. "Our tears may flow, yet trustingly we cry Namo Amida Butsu." Nembutsu is a reminder of the impact of people's lives and how they too are our Dharma teachers.

Nembutsu Says "Thank You"

And so, the Nembutsu also becomes a way to say "thank you." During this time, I turned to a good friend and mentor of mine to help me understand all that was happening and why Nembutsu is so important. Bob Oshita Sensei reminded me that the Nembutsu is also "when the words thank you just aren't enough." We say Namo Amida Butsu before we eat to remind us of the lives and work it took to bring the food before us and to thank those who sacrificed for us. We open and close our meetings with Nembutsu as a way to say thank you to all those in the room for working together and for the causes and conditions bringing us all together. Even if we are not thinking it when we say it, Namo Amida Butsu is also thank you. Oshita Sensei reminded me that those that have left this earth do not leave but simply change forms. They turn into the Nembutsu. Each time we recite it, we allow them to live on in our hearts and minds and remember the impact they had on our lives and thus we say Namo Amida Butsu as an expression of deep gratitude.

Because of this, it is important to know that the Nembutsu will always be there. It will not solve our problems, it will not prevent death, or poverty, or sickness, but it will always be there guiding us towards the Buddhist path of liberation. As we recite Namo Amida Butsu, in our happiest of times and in our darkest of times, we can trust that all those who came before us and all those who will come after us are embracing us within the infinite Wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha.

Namu Amida Butsu

Chat with Kyoshi Minister Rev. Devon Matsumoto

I had the wonderful opportunity to chat with our own Rev. Devon Matsumoto, who will soon spend about a year and a half in Japan to complete his Kaikyoshi training. Among the topics of our discussion was the question of participation in organized religion, which in general is in decline, and thoughts he may have with respect to the role himself as a minister OR the role that our own MVBT organization has in continuing to be a growing and thriving community.

SPIRITUALITY vs. RELIGION. The younger generation may embrace the spirituality of the Jodo Shinshu teachings versus embracing the rigidity of religion as an institution. That may mean that we all need to work even harder to provide opportunities for all to participate wherever we can meet them from an activity, organization or interest level. Temples that offer many ways to engage an individual may be the ones that continue to grow and thrive.

SAFE SPACES / VULNERABLE SPACES / UNCOMFORTABLE SPACES. Through his work with Compassionate Conversations/Engaged Sangha, Rev. Devon has strived to bring forth to our Sangha Community different perspectives in our own safe spaces, so that we may engage in conversation and embrace other's lived experience to encourage increased understanding and compassion. At times this can be uncomfortable, but this may be necessary to encourage ourselves to understand another's perspectives.

SELF REFLECTION. When creating safe spaces so that we can allow vulnerable and uncomfortable conversations, we also need to reflect on how we ourselves may or may not have influenced others. Have we always been welcoming to those new to our community? Have we ever said something that made others feel uncomfortable or unsafe? Are we even aware of when this may happen? Perhaps simply having this thought in mind will allow us to engage respectfully with others, whether they are old friends or new acquaintances.

Rev. Devon Matsumoto

We are all so proud of our own Reverend Devon Matsumoto and wish him a safe and learning journey to Japan!

In Deep Appreciation,
Julie Satake Ryu
MVBT President

Miroku

New School Year and Welcoming New Members

Miroku had our first meeting of the year in September. We were extremely excited to be able to welcome back our old members, and even more delighted to receive and welcome three new members.

Sangha Day Picnic

We chaired the service for the Sangha Day Picnic, then stayed to enjoy all of the good food and fun games.

October Meeting

Thank you to **Mr. Ryan Tao** for coming to our October meeting to teach us about the AED's. It was interesting to learn that the AED machine walks you through the steps on what you have to do.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Sunday, November 2, after Dharma School lets out in the YBA conference room.

In Gassho,
Kainoa Matsumoto
8th Grade Miroku Student

MIROKU

middle school group

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Sangha Day Picnic

"with Gratitude"

Sunday, September 28, 2025

This year's Sangha Day Picnic was celebrated on September 28 at the Mountain View Buddhist Temple. It was a great turn out with about 200 Sangha members and friends. We had beautiful weather, just cool enough to enjoy the hot chili and just hot enough to enjoy the shave ice.

There was plenty of delicious food for all and everyone enjoyed the afternoon with kids' games, arm painting, guessing games, monkey bridge, 50/50 raffle, BINGO, and raffle.

Thank you to everyone for helping out with the potluck, set up, BBQing, working in the kitchen, BINGO, shave ice, and cleaning up at the end.

With Gratitude,
Zone 6 and 7

Keiro-Kai Luncheon Following Eitaikyo Service

KEIRO-KAI LUNCHEON

Sunday, November 16, 2025

Following Eitiakyo Service

The **Mountain View Buddhist Temple** and **Zones 2 and 10** will host a Keiro-Kai Luncheon in honor of our members who are over seventy years young.

This year's theme is "Kumihimo" or "Coming together." Please join us in celebrating our Keiro Kai with MVBT's spirit of appreciation and cooperation shared between our multiple generations.

Keiros will be receiving an invitation in the mail in the next couple of weeks. Be sure to RSVP by returning the RSVP form by **October 27, 2025**.

Non-keiro Temple members are encouraged to join us for lunch as well. You can also order and RSVP online via the link in Putra's Post or using the QR code below. Please place your order by **October 27, 2025**.

Schedule of Activities

11:30 am..... Check-in at the Sangha Hall
12:00 pm..... Lunch and Program begin
12:30 pm..... Entertainment
12:45 pm..... Raffle
1:30 pm..... Group photo. Then, program ends & clean up by non-Keiros

If you have any questions, please email Alex Muselman at alex.muselman3@gmail.com.

Buddhist Women's Association Activities

Buddhist Women's Association

BWA ACTIVITIES

MVBT BWA Udon Fundraiser

BWA will have our popular

take-out **Udon Fundraiser** on Sunday, December 7, 2025.

Pickup will be at Sangha Hall from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. Pre-orders only. Cost is $12.50. Udon Takeout includes noodles, dashi, toppings and a dessert treat.

Order deadline is November 16, 2025. Use hardcopy order form in this Echo or order online at URL:

https://tinyurl.com/BWA-Udon-Fundraiser

or use QR code.

Thank you, Sangha, for your support.

BCA FBWA Delegate Meeting

On October 11, the Federation of Buddhist Women's Association (FBWA) held an online meeting with delegates from all the FBWA BWA chapters. We were represented by **Joan Aoki**, **Diane Durst** and **Rev. Mukoji-ma**.

In Gassho,
Shirley Matsumoto
BWA President

2025 MVBT Keiro-Kai Luncheon

Bento Order Form for Non-Keiro Attendees

If you are a Keiro, **do not** use this order form. Your lunch is complimentary. All Keiros were sent a letter via US mail and should RSVP using the form included with the letter. If you did not receive a letter, please contact Sharon Tsukahara at tsukaharas@gmail.com.

Bento Options
(from Suruki Supermarket)
Price: $20 each

Bento A: Chicken Teriyaki, Salmon w/ Mayo Sauce, Croquette, Nishime, Kimpira Gobo, Hijiki, Rice

Bento B: Edamame Gyoza, Nishime, Kimpira Gobo, Sunomono, Spinach

Contact Information

First and Last Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

	Bento A	Bento B
Total # of Bentos: x $20 each	_____ (x $20)	_____ (x $20)
Total:	$ _____	$ _____

Optional: Donation to help cover the costs of the Keiro-Kai event: $ _____

Total due to MVBT: $ _____

Please make checks to: "MVBT" and include "Keiro-Kai Luncheon" in the Memo section.

If you would like to pay by credit card, please go online to order or use QR code on previous page.

2025 Autumn MVBT BWA Udon Fundraiser Order Form

Sunday, December 07, 2025

Pickup 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
MVBT Sangha Hall (Pancake Room)
575 N. Shoreline Blvd
Mountain View, CA 94043

$12.50 Udon includes noodles, dashi, toppings and dessert treat. Pre-orders Only!

To Pre-Order Udon (Deadline November 16, 2025)

- Fill out the order form below
- Please drop off your payment with this order form at the MVBT Temple Office, or mail it to
  MVBT BWA – Udon Order
  575 N. Shoreline Blvd
  Mountain View , CA 94043
- Make checks payable to "MVBT BWA" **(For credit card payment, please order online. See QR code and online link below)**

Name _____ Contact Person _____

Contact Person Phone Number _____

Contact Person Email _____

	Quantity	Total
Udon (includes noodles, dashi, toppings and dessert treat)	_____ x $12.50	$_____
Additional Donation:		$_____
Total Amount Enclosed:		$_____

Your support is greatly appreciated. Questions ? Email mvbt.bwa@gmail.com

With Gratitude

MVBT BWA

QR Code for Online order form and Credit Card payments
https://tinyurl.com/BWA-Udon-Fundraiser

MOCHITSUKI - Sunday, December 14

Everyone Is Invited

It's that time of year again. This year's MVBT Mochitsuki will be held on Sunday, December 14, 2025. Everyone is invited to come and participate. Have fun while working with family and friends making mochi for New Year's.

Work Shifts

To ensure enough help on that Sunday, we are setting up 2-hour work shifts from 6:00 am to 4:00 pm. The online sign-up sheet will be available beginning October. 31. The online sign-up link will be in Putra's Post and the MVBT website at **https://tinyurl.com/2025MochitsukiSignup**

Mochi Orders

This year's prices will be:

Komochi, 2 lbs for $15
Okasane, 1 lb for $8

To be more ECO-Friendly, containers will be 100% compostable fiber. No plastic carry bags will be provided, so you must provide your own bag just as you would when grocery shopping or purchase a blue reusable MVBT tote for $5 each.

All orders will be done:

(1) **Online**. An online order link will be available in early November.

(2) **Paper version**. This is for those without email or computer access. These will be available in the back of the Hondo or in the MVBT Temple office. All orders will be due by: **Sunday, November 30, 2025**.

Komochi
$ 15
(2-pound pkg)

Okasane
$ 8
(1-pound pkg)

Reusable MVBT Bag
$ 5

Order form on next page

EVENT WORK SCHEDULE

MOCHITSUKI PREP

Sat.,	Dec. 6	8:00 am	Preparation, Test equipment, Hang plastic
Fri.,	Dec. 12	8:00 am	Wash barrels and Soak rice
Sat.,	Dec. 13	8:00 am	Final setup, Clean area, Move equipment

MOCHITSUKI DAY

Sun.	Dec. 14	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

CLEAN UP

Wed.	Dec. 17	8:00 am	Final Clean Up

If you have any questions, please contact zone 5 or 13, at mochitsuki2025@gmail.com

MVBT
2025 Mochi Order Form

Order Deadline: November 30, 2025

Name:	
email:	
Phone:	Mobile Phone _____ Home Phone _____

Item	Quantity	Cost per Item	Total Amount
Komochi (2 lb)		@ $15 each	= $
Okasane (1 lb)		@ $8 each	= $
Reusable MVBT Bag		@ $5 each	= $
		Additional Donation:	$
		Total Amount Due:	$

Mail or drop off 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 – use the link or QR code below

https://tinyurl.com/2025MochitsukiOrder

Remember, all orders must be received by Sunday, November 30, 2025.

Pick up your mochi on Sunday Dec. 14, in the Sangha Hall Gym between 11 am and 3 pm.
Please bring your own bags to pick up orders unless ordering blue reusable bag(s).

If you have any questions, please contact Zone 5 &13 via email: mochitsuki2025@gmail.com

2025 EVENT WORK SCHEDULE:

MOCHITSUKI PREP	Sat, Dec 6	8:00 am	Preparation, Test equipment, Hang plastic
	Fri, Dec 12	8:00 am	Wash barrels and Soak rice
	Sat, Dec 13	8:00 am	Final setup, Clean area, Move equipment
MOCHITSUKI DAY	Sun, Dec 14	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
CLEAN UP	Wed, Dec 17	8:00 am	Final Clean Up

Seniors Activities & Crafts Program News

MVBT Seniors Activities and Crafts

Senior Activities

November 20: We will have BINGO, our most requested fun event. Lunch will be provided at 11:30 am and BINGO will start at 12:30 pm. Eat lunch with your friends and win BINGO prizes, a fun day for all. Everyone is welcome.

Also, the Senior Activities on November 20 will be our last day for the year, with holidays soon approaching. Mark this date on your calendar.

We will resume on Thursday, January 8, 2026.

Thank You to Junior Members

Back on June 12, our last day of our Senior Activities Program before the 2025 Summer Break, we invited and hosted several of our Junior members for lunch, who, unselfishly gave up their time to drive their Senior parents to our Senior Activities Program, every Thursday. We are grateful that many of the Junior members also stayed and enjoyed our activities, which included Taiko, Line dancing, cards games, Sing Along, rhythm exercise and just socializing with friends.

We hope many more Junior members will join us. We can count on them being our future leaders to continue this much needed program.

Senior Cookbook

Senior Cookbooks are still available. They can be purchased at the Temple office or through any of our committee members. The price is still $10, and makes a wonderful gift.

Senior Crafts:

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

Refreshments

During the Senior Activities, light refreshments are provided that includes snacks, coffee and tea.

Everyone is welcome.

In Gassho,
Aiko Sugimoto-Miyamoto

Your VISION of the MVBT Courtyard

Earlier this year, the VISION Committee invited you to give us feedback to help enVISION changes/improvements to the Courtyard space. The timing for any changes is unknown, but giving us the ability to understand what you think of the space is important. This Word Cloud (at right) shares the essence of your comments.

If you have anything further to share, please let us know at

vision@mvbuddhisttemple.org.

Stay tuned for further updates!

With Gassho,
MVBT VISION Committee

ABA News

MVBT

Adult Buddhist Association

Sangha Day Picnic

At the Sangha Day Picnic on September 28, ABA was responsible for the Bingo games. **Ryan Tao** (Honorary ABA member) did a great job of calling the numbers while other duties such as writing the called numbers on the blackboards and verifying the winning cards were handled by the following ABA members that **Russ Nakano** recruited… **Adele and Norm Sato**, **Bryan Nishimoto**, **Marilyn and Irving Ozawa**, **Rich Mori**, **Steve Tsuchida**, **Sterling Makishima** and **Kay Sasaki**. Thanks to all!

BCA Bishops' Memorial Service

The ABA and BCA Bishops' Memorial Service Sunday, was held on October 12 with guest speaker, **Sensei Koichi Mizushima** of the Sacramento Betsuin. Sensei Koichi gave a fun and entertaining Dharma message to the Dharma School students with his puppet friend Elmo. He later gave an adult message that was also enjoyable, meaningful and with a personal touch.

Appreciation to **Russ Nakano** for chairing the service, **Joyce Okumura-Lee** for the Buddhist reading, **Emi and Rich Mori** as Greeters, **Bob Matsumoto** for broadcasting the service on Zoom, **Steve Tsuchida** assisting as a Zoom Co-host and **Cheryl Shay** who played the gatha and oshoko music.

Meet and Mingle

The ABA will host its annual Meet & Mingle on Friday, November 14. ABA members and guests will have an evening of tasty bites, drinks, a Left-Center-Right tournament, and other games. It will be a fun night to meet and mingle.

Consider Joining 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 on Friday, December 12, 7:30 pm. (Hybrid)

No November meeting due to our Meet & Mingle activity on November 14.

In Gassho,
Ken Nakano
ABA President

Left: Sensei Koichi and Elmo

Right: Sensei John, SenseiKoichi, Rev. Mukojima & Rev. Matsumoto

2025 150 Club News

The October and November winners will be selected at the November 2025 MVBT Board Meeting.

Thank you to everyone 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
NOV	Zones 12 & 13	N / A	N / A
DEC	Zones 2 & 3	Nov 14 (Fri)	Nov 19 (Wed)
JAN	Zones 4 & 5	Dec 12 (Fri)	Dec 17 (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 .

MVBT Girl Scout Troop #60736

SANGHA DAY PICNIC

The troop hosted the Guessing Jar Game for the Sangha Day Picnic. The winners of the game for each age group are:

Age 2-11: .....Ayden

Age 12-20: .....Kendall I.

Age 21-40: .....Diana Ariety

Age 41-60: .....Mike Shay

Age 61+: .....Margaret Aoki

Congratulations!

FIRST MEETING

We had our first meeting of the year for our combo Daisy-Junior-Cadette-Senior girls. We had a guest speaker from the Sunnyvale Fire Department talk to the girls about what to do in certain emergencies, and answer questions from the Scouts.

The girls then made their own first aid kid and learned how to use each item.

Our new Daisy worked on learning the Girl Scout Promise and earned her Orange Petal "Responsible for What I Say and Do" by learning how to make a first aid kit and what each item in the kit does.

FALL SALES

Our fall sales program for magazines, nuts and chocolate continues, and there are some new products this year! Check Putra's Post for links to order, or see any Girl Scout.

In Gassho,
Girl Scout Troop #60736

Girl Scouts first aid kits they made, and some girls holding the badge they earned

Support Your Temple

Donations are 1/3 of the Yearly Operating Income

Donate to Past & Upcoming Services

Bishops' & ABA Memorial

Eitaikyo Memorial / Keiro Kai

Bodhi Day

Joya-e / Shusho-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

MVBT YBA News

Mountain View Buddhist Temple

YBA

Sangha Day Picnic

YBA helped run children's games, offered glitter tattoos, and ran the Lucky Draw table. $200 was donated to the Temple, and $1,080 was split between the YBA and the winner. It was a great way for YBA to connect with other members in the Sangha and everyone had a fun time!

CC Conference

Our YBA plans to attend this year's Central California Conference in Fresno on November 8. We currently have 19 members signed up to attend and are beginning to work on a skit for the talent show. The theme for this year is Mario's Middle Path!

YBA Babysitting

YBA is planning on continuing our Babysitting Fundraiser! We have set the date for December 6 from 5 pm to 8:30 pm for our first night of babysitting. We plan on providing winter-themed activities, food, and a movie. Sign-ups are coming soon.

In Gassho,
Emi Hirabayashi
2025-2026 YBA President

Dharma School News

MVBT Dharma School

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Registration

Don't forget that registration should be completed by the end of October:

https://tinyurl.com/mvbtds-reg25

Halloween Parade

Please wear your Halloween costumes to service on Sunday, October 26! We would like to encourage all of our students (and adults!) to dress up for the annual Halloween parade immediately following service in the Hondo before the students are excused for class.

HIGHLIGHTS

October Birthdays

The Sangha wished happy birthdays on Sunday, October 5, to Aetius, Sydney, Carter and Nate.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Sunday, October 19:

Coast District Nembutsu Family Conference in Salinas

Sunday, October 26:

4th and 5th Grade Class Chairs Service; Dharma School Halloween Parade

In Gassho,
Brent Izutsu
Dharma School Superintendent

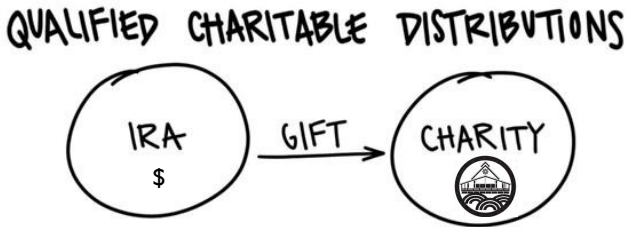
October Birthdays

From Left: Brent, Sensei John, Aetius, Sydney, Carter, Nate, MA Kevin & Rev. Mukojima

READ ONLY IF YOU'RE OVER 70 ½ YEARS OLD

Donate from Your IRA using a QCD

Directly to the Temple and Save on Your 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 for yourself. QCDs can start as early as 70 ½ even though Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from your IRAs are not required until age 73.

Benefits of an IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution

- Satisfies part or all of your Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) for the year
- Reduces your taxable income, even if you are using the standard deduction
- Helps 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. Please note that your IRA Qualified Charitable Distributions does not qualify for a charitable deduction.

CONTACT US

If you have any questions about an IRA Qualified Charitable Distribution, 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

Building MVBT: A Historical Look Back

This lookback into the artifacts of your Mountain View Buddhist Temple first appeared in the December 2018 Echo.

Dharma Wheel on the top of the Hondo

The Dharma Wheel was built and donated by the Matsumoto Brothers, who owned and operated T & J Garage. The Dharma Wheel was installed on the completed Hondo in March 1979.

Building MVBT: A Historical Look Back

This lookback into the artifacts of your Mountain View Buddhist Temple first appeared in the January 2019 Echo.

Incense Burners in the Gejin

The center incense burner and two side incense burners were donated by Temple members

Inscription on the back of the center incense burner

Donated by: Taichiro Sugimoto
Date: October 1961

Inscription on the back of the left and right incense burners

Donated by: Kinuko Sasaki
Date: March 7, 1978
Dedication: In Memory of Rev. Sensho Sasaki, 7th Year Memorial.
Rev. Sasaki was the first minister of the Mountain View Buddhist Temple

Gold Wisteria on the Gejin Podium

This lookback first appeared in the February 2019 Echo.

Gold Wisteria on the Podium

Donated by: Yas and May Shimoguchi
Date: January 2003
In Memory of: Linda Takahashi, Daughter, (1956 - 2003)

November

Monthly

Memorial

Service

* * * * *

Shotsuki Hoyo for November to be held on Sunday, November 2

* * * * *

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

November 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 **November** Shotsuki loved ones are:

Tatsuko Adachi	**Eugene Kono**	**Amy Osugi**
Tsutomu Akizuki	**Kinuyo Kunimoto**	**Roy Ozawa**
Tomoye Aoki-Johnson	**Shigeko Masaki**	**Tom Ozawa**
Takiko Fukushima	**Gregory Matsumoto**	**Ichiro Sakae**
Frank Furuichi	**Rose Morimoto**	**Kosue Sakae**
Fred Furuichi	**Haruko Nakamura**	**Akira Sasaki**
Rosie Furuichi	**Akira Nakano**	**Masako Alice Sato**
Robert Furusho	**Miyuki Nakano**	**Osamu Shimoguchi**
Sunao Furusho	**Tsuruye Nakano**	**Seikichi Shimoguchi**
Hana Furuto	**Yutaka Nakano**	**Sei Tachibana**
Keiji Haruta	**Ayako Nakashima**	**Alice Takagi**
Eddie Higuchi	**Teiichi Naritomi**	**Masaru Takahashi**
George Hirota	**Yoshio Nishimoto**	**Mildred Takegami**
Kiyoko Kay Horita	**Kevin Nishita**	**Rick Eiji Tanimoto**
Fred Hoshi	**Nobuo Oda**	**Kay Tanouye**
Akira Hoshiko	**Patty Toshiko Ogino**	**Chieko Umeda**
Tom Ichikawa	**Masako Okazaki**	**Kaz Yanaba**
Frank Ikebe	**Walter Okino**	**Kiyoshi Yoshinaka**
Hideo Kato	**Nuiko Okuno**	
Shigeaki Kihara	**Kanji Omokawa**	

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.

2025 is the Memorial Year for those who passed away in:

1st Year Memorial	2024	3rd Year Memorial	2023	7th Year Memorial	2019
13th Year Memorial	2013	17th Year Memorial	2009	25th Year Memorial	2001
27th Year Memorial	1999	33rd Year Memorial	1993	50th Year Memorial	1976

Eitaikyo Service on Sunday, November 16

The Eitaikyo Service will be held on Sunday, November 16. The guest speaker will be **Rinban Gerald Sakamoto**, head minister of the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin.

After the service, the Mountain View Buddhist Temple will host its annual Keiro Kai Luncheon to honor the Seniors, who are MVBT members and who are 70 years old and older. A flyer is in this Echo on Page 8.

What is the Eitaikyo Perpetual Memorial Fund?

永代読経

The word *Eitaikyo* is a contraction of the more formal term, **Ei-tai dok(u)-kyo (永代読経).**

Ei means eternal. It is composed of the Chinese Characters for a river with many tributaries that flows on and on. ***Tai*** means generations. ***Kyo*** means sutras or the words of the Buddha. ***Doku*** means to read or chant. Thus the meaning of Eitaikyo is to eternally chant the sutras on behalf of our loved ones for generations and generations to come.

The Eitaikyo Perpetual Memorial Fund

A special Eitaikyo Perpetual Memorial Fund was established to ensure the continuation of the teachings of the Buddha and Nembutsu. It is to be used specifically for religious purposes such as to purchase candles and incense, religious articles, altar enhancements and altar repairs. This fund is established through the donations made in memory of deceased members of the family, relative, and friends. This ensures a perpetual service for the deceased even when there is no one left in the family to observe a Buddhist Service.

Because the purpose of Eitaikyo is to ensure that a Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Service be conducted eternally in memory of a loved one, an initial substantial donation is requested to place a loved one's name in the Eitaikyo Registry. An amount of $500 or more is suggested. However, due to circumstances any amount will be considered. Please consult with the resident minister.

The Eitaikyo Registry

After completing the Eitaikyo form and donating to the Eitaikyo fund, the name of your deceased loved one will be entered into a Special Eitaikyo Registry book. This is a calendar type book listing the deceased names on the day of death. This book is kept in the Mountain View Buddhist Temple's altar. Each day, the morning service is dedicated to the names that appear on the page for that particular day. Thus by donating to the Eitaikyo Fund, a sutra will be chanted in memory of your loved one for eternal generations to come. As an expression of appreciation and gratitude for the guidance, leadership and support in the growth of the Mountain View Buddhist Temple, automatically entered into this Eitaikyo registry will be:

1. Past Ministers and Ministers' spouses who served the Mountain View Buddhist Temple
2. Past Mountain View Buddhist Temple Presidents who have served two or more years. No donations from the family will be expected in these cases.

The Annual Eitaikyo Service

Every November an Annual Eitaikyo Service will be conducted at the Mountain View Buddhist Temple. This service will be dedicated in special memory to those loved ones newly recorded into the Eitaikyo registry within the past year. Those families will be sent an invitation to this service so that they can o-shoko in memory of their loved one during the service.

Mountain View Buddhist Temple

EITAIKYO PERPETUAL MEMORIAL FUND DONATION

No. _____

Date: _____

In Memory of _____

Last Name: _____ **First Name:** _____

Japanese Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ **Date of Death:** _____

Buddhist Name _____

English: _____ **Japanese:** _____

Place of Funeral: _____

Name of Donor(s)

Last Name: _____ **First Name:** _____

Japanese Name: _____

MVBT Office Record Use Only

Amount of Donation: _____ **Date of Eitaikyo (Initial) Service:** _____

Acknowledgment Forwarded: _____

Remarks: _____

Signature of Minister: _____

December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	**2** **5:30p-7:30p** MVBT Adult Taiko **6:30p-7:30p** Adult Continuing Taiko **7p-8p** Cub Scout Pack Meeting **7:30p-8:30p** MVBT Ukulele Club **8p-10p** Jun Daiko	**3** **6p-9p** Boy Scouts	**4** **5:30p-7:30p** MVBT Adult Taiko **7:30p-9:30p** Thursday Night Basketball **8p-10p** Jun Daiko	**5** **6p-8p** MVBT Pickle Ball	**6**
7 **6a-2p** BWA Udon Fundraiser (Pickup 11 am - 1pm) **10a-12p** Shotsuki Hoyo & Bodhi Day Service & Dharma School **11:30a-12:30p** YBA Lunch **12p-2p** Kids Taiko Class **12p-1p** Miroku Monthly Meeting **12:30p-2p** YBA Meeting **2p-4p** Jun Daiko	**8** **7p-8:30p** Buddhist Discussion Group	**9** **5:30p-7:30p** MVBT Adult Taiko **6:30p-7:30p** Adult Continuing Taiko **7p-8p** Cub Scout Pack Meeting **7:30p-8:30p** MVBT Ukulele Club **8p-10p** Jun Daiko	**10** **7p-9p** Boy Scouts **7:30p-9:30p** MVBT Board Meeting	**11** **5:30p-7:30p** MVBT Adult Taiko **7:30p-9:30p** Thursday Night Basketball **8p-10p** Jun Daiko	**12** **6p-10p** ABA General Meeting **6p-8p** MVBT Pickle Ball	**13** **9a-12p** BWA Meeting
14 Mochitsuki **12p-2p** Kids Taiko Class **2p-4p** Jun Daiko	**15**	**16** **5:30p-7:30p** MVBT Adult Taiko **6:30p-7:30p** Adult Continuing Taiko **7p-8p** Cub Scout Pack Meeting **7:30p-8:30p** MVBT Ukulele Club **8p-10p** Jun Daiko	**17** **7p-9p** Boy Scouts	**18** **5:30p-7:30p** MVBT Adult Taiko **7:30p-9:30p** Thursday Night Basketball **8p-10p** Jun Daiko	**19** **6p-8p** MVBT Pickle Ball	**20**
21 Winter Solstice **10a-12p** Osoji **12p-2p** Kids Taiko Class **2p-4p** Jun Daiko	**22**	**23** **5:30p-7:30p** MVBT Adult Taiko **6:30p-7:30p** Adult Continuing Taiko **7:30p-8:30p** MVBT Ukulele Club **8p-10p** Jun Daiko	**24** **7p-9p** Boy Scouts	**25** Christmas **5:30p-7:30p** MVBT Adult Taiko **7:30p-9:30p** Thursday Night Basketball **8p-10p** Jun Daiko	**26** **6p-8p** MVBT Pickle Ball	**27**
28 **12p-2p** Kids Taiko Class **2p-4p** Jun Daiko	**29** **7:30p-8:30p** RPC Meeting	**30** **5:30p-7:30p** MVBT Adult Taiko **6:30p-7:30p** Adult Continuing Taiko **7:30p-8:30p** MVBT Ukulele Club **8p-10p** Jun Daiko	**31** **7p-9p** Boy Scouts **7p-8p** Joya-e Service **7p-8p** Joya-e Service			

Upcoming Events

December 7, Sunday

- **Shotsuki Hoyo & Bodhi Day Service**

December 14, Sunday

- **Mochitsuki**

December 21, Sunday

- **Osoji**

December 31, Wednesday

- **Year End / Joya-e Service**

January 1, Thursday

- **New Year's Day / Shusho-e Service**

Support Your Temple

Donate to Past & Upcoming Services

BCA Bishops' & ABA Memorial

Eitaikyo Memorial

Joya-e & Shusho-e

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

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BWA Udon Fundraiser	*8 , 10*
Mochitsuki	*11 - 12*
Your VISION	*13*
QCD	*17*
Eitaikyo Service & Memorial Fund	*20 - 21*

Mountain View Buddhist Temple

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