The ECHO

February 2026

Volume 65 Number 2

MOUNTAIN VIEW BUDDHIST TEMPLE

February Highlights

- ***2/1, Sunday, 10:00 am***
  Shotsuki Hoyo
  * *11:00 am: Japanese Language Service*
  * *11:00 am: English Language Discussion*
- ***2/8, Sunday, 10:00 am***
  Nirvana Day &
  ***Pet Memorial Service** with*
  Guest Speaker:
  Rev. Etsuko Mikame
- ***2/15, Sunday, 10:00 am, Online ONLY***
  BCA Eitaikyo Service
  * *NO Watch Party in MVBT Hondo*
- ***2/22, Sunday, 10:00 am***
  Boy Scout Sunday Service
- ***2/28, Saturday, 5 - 8 pm***
  YBA Spaghetti Dinner

Living in the Power of the Primal Vow

We observed the *Ho'onko* Service (Shinran's Memorial) on January 18, which was well attended by many members. It is the most important observance in the Jodo Shinshu tradition, held to honor **Shinran Shonin**, the founder of Jodo Shinshu, who passed away on January 16, 1262. During *Ho'onko*, we can express our sincere respect and deep gratitude for Shinran's lifelong efforts and virtues. The tradition is said to have started when Kakunyo, the third head priest and Shinran's great-grandson, conducted Shinran's 33rd Memorial Service at the Hongwanji at the age of 25.

At 29, Shinran met his lifelong teacher **Honen Shonin**, and from that point on, he devoted himself entirely to the Nembutsu of Other Power, entrusting himself completely to the Primal Vow of Amida Buddha, beyond human calculation,

Rev. Yushi Mukojima

until his death at 90 years old.

One of the leading Buddhist masters of the Kamakura period was **Dogen Zenji**, who was born when Shinran was 28 years old. At the age of 14, he entered Mount Hiei and underwent several years of rigorous training. However, he began to question the teachings of the Tendai school and eventually left the mountain. He later sought out **Eisai Zenji**, who had laid the foundations of Zen in Japan, and entered the Zen tradition, ultimately founding the Soto school of Zen.

Dogen, founder of the Soto school, said: "During the lifetime of Shakyamuni Buddha, there were not only the Buddha himself but also many outstanding disciples. Even these devoted disciples practiced with great diligence while seeking the Buddhist way. How much more, then, must we foolish ordinary beings of later times devote ourselves to practice?"

In contrast, Shinran said: "No matter how deeply I search, I find not even a glimmer of truth in my body or mind. No matter how sincerely and desperately I try to

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Tri-Temple Crab & BBQ Rib Fundraiser

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YBA Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser

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Chicken Teriyaki Fundraiser

May 3
Next Echo

February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 **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	**2** Groundhog Day **7p-8:30p** Buddhist Discussion Group	**3** **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	**4** **6p-9p** Boy Scouts **7p-9p** Boy Scouts	**5** **9a-12p** Senior Activities and Crafts **5:30p-7:30p** MVBT Adult Taiko **7:30p-9:30p** Thursday Night Basketball **8p-10p** Jun Daiko	**6** **6p-8p** MVBT Pickle Ball	**7** Tri-Temple Crab / BBQ Pork Ribs Fundraising Event
8 Super Bowl **10a-12p** Nirvana Day/Pet Memorial Service & Dharma School **12p-2p** Kids Taiko Class **2p-4p** Jun Daiko	**9**	**10** **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	**11** **7p-9p** Boy Scouts **7:30p-9:30p** MVBT Board Meeting	**12** **9a-12p** Senior Activities and Crafts **5:30p-7:30p** MVBT Adult Taiko **7:30p-9:30p** Thursday Night Basketball **8p-10p** Jun Daiko	**13** BCA National Council Meeting - Renewal: Jodo Shinshu for Today **6p-10p** ABA General Meeting **6p-8p** MVBT Pickle Ball	**14** Valentine's Day BCA National Council Meeting - Renewal: Jodo Shinshu for Today **9a-12p** BWA Meeting
15 BCA National Council Meeting - Renewal: Jodo Shinshu for Today **10a-11a** BCA Eitaikyo Service **12p-2p** Kids Taiko Class **2p-4p** Jun Daiko	**16** Presidents Day	**17** **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	**18** **7p-9p** Boy Scouts	**19** **9a-12p** Senior Activities and Crafts **5:30p-7:30p** MVBT Adult Taiko **7:30p-9:30p** Thursday Night Basketball **8p-10p** Jun Daiko	**20** **6p-8p** MVBT Pickle Ball	**21**
22 **10a-12p** Scout Sunday Service & Dharma School **12p-2p** Kids Taiko Class **2p-4p** Jun Daiko	**23** **7:30p-8:30p** RPC Meeting	**24** **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	**25** **7p-9p** Boy Scouts	**26** **9a-12p** Senior Activities and Crafts **5:30p-7:30p** MVBT Adult Taiko **7:30p-9:30p** Thursday Night Basketball **8p-10p** Jun Daiko	**27**	**28** YBA Spaghetti Dinner (5:00-7:00 Dinner, 6:00-8:00 Bingo)

Super Bowl Sunday = Nirvana Day & Pet Memorial Service

3:30 pm vs. 10:00 am

Join us. Listen and appreciate our special Guest Speaker,

Rev. Etsuko Mikame, *Minister at the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin*

Volume 65 Number 2

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

Religious Planning — February 2026

February 1, 2026, Sunday, 10:00 am, Shotsuki Hoyo

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

February 2, 2026, Monday, 7:00 pm, Shoshinge Study Class

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

February 8, 2026, Sunday, 10:00 am — Nirvana Day & Pet Memorial Service

Nirvana Day: Observe the passing of the historical Sakyamuni Buddha into Nirvana

Pet Memorial: Express our gratitude and gratefully remember the pets who provided us with love and companionship

Guest Speaker: **Rev. Etsuko Mikame,** Minister at the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin

February 15, 2026, Sunday, 10:00am — BCA Eitaikyo Service, Online Service

Eitaikyo: Means "perpetual chanting sutras." A memorial service that honors our family and friends who have lived before us. Without them, we would not exist.

NO Watch Party of service in MVBT Hondo

February 22, 2026, Sunday, 10:00 am, Scout Sunday Service

Observe the contributions of the Cub & Boy Scouts to the Mountain View Buddhist Temple

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March 15, 2026, Sunday, 10:00 am — Spring Ohigan

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

Guest Speaker: **Rev. Kodo Umezu, BCA Minister Emeritus**

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

At the Temple, put your Jozai into the Dana Box

or

Go to MVBT website & Press the Donate button & Find Jozai - Sunday Service Donation

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

Check Temple Website for latest information about Temple activities

MVBT Annual General Meeting

January 25, 2026 @ 11:00 am

EVERYONE IS INVITED

In the Hondo immediately following the Service.

Hybrid meeting

Living in the Power of the Primal Vow — cont'd

(Continued from page 1)

practice, it is like pouring water into a colander full of holes. All such efforts are in vain."

Interestingly, neither Dogen nor Shinran were satisfied with the teachings they studied at Mount Hiei and each eventually left the mountain. Yet from their words, we can see that, though both Dogen and Shinran were devoted to pursuing the Buddhist path, each had completely contrasting viewpoints.

Certainly, Dogen's spirit - trusting in one's own potential and holding the belief that, no matter how steep the path of Self Power, one can break through the obstacles before oneself - is an essential attitude for living with strength. For those of us navigating a competitive society, this way of thinking is equally compelling and inspiring.

However, Shinran fundamentally rejected the path of "self-power". He deeply lamented the ugly afflictions and delusions that continually lurked in the depths of his heart. In an effort to eliminate these delusive passions, he applied himself with all his might, practicing on Mount Hiei for twenty long years. Despite his dedication, he ultimately realized that these afflictions dwelling in his mind were his true nature. Just as a floor can never be completely clean if wiped with a muddy mop, no matter how much merit one accumulates through one's own efforts, it remains a good deed tainted by afflictions - ultimately empty and futile. This was Shinran's profound awakening to the limits of "self-power."

Shinran didn't attempt to reach Buddhahood through the path of self-power simply because it was steep or difficult. His twenty years of practice on Mount Hiei are said to have been extremely rigorous. Through this experience, Shinran realized that for ordinary beings burdened with afflictions, the path of self-power is ultimately closed and inaccessible.

Nagarjuna, one of the Seven Pure Land Masters, taught that there are two paths to reach Buddhahood. One is the path of Self-Power, like walking along a difficult overland route; and the other is the path of Other Power through the Nembutsu, like traveling by boat across water. He explained that the path of self-power is not an easy one for weak human beings like us, but a rigorous and demanding path. At the same time, he encouraged us to take the path of Other Power, much like boarding a boat that carries us safely over the water. By showing the arduous overland path, Nagarjuna makes ordinary beings aware of our own limitations and guides us to the path of Other Power - effortless practice that depends entirely on the Primal Vow of Amida Buddha.

In modern society, especially in a competitive world where getting ahead is valued above all, self-assertion is often seen as a virtue. As a result, people are driven to satisfy their own desires and live frantically, eyes fixed single-mindedly on success. For those raised in such an environment, Dogen Zenji's teaching to "trust in one's own potential" may appear immediate, vibrant, and inspiring. However, without the foundational experience of denying the ego and awakening to one's own limitations, this teaching remains fragile - like a castle built on sand - and eventually, people may lose even the sense of meaning in life.

Of course, Dogen also had such self-negation at his core. In his work, the *Treasury of the True Dharma Eye*, he writes: "Just set aside your body and mind, forget them, and throw them into the house of Buddha; then all is done by Buddha. When you follow this, you are freed from birth and death and become a Buddha without effort or calculation." With these words, Dogen demonstrates letting go of self-power and attaining the world of enlightenment through the power of Buddha.

Living by letting go of one's own power and instead entrusting everything to the Primal Vow of Amida Buddha may at first seem like a passive way of life. Yet through Amida Buddha's efforts, we are guided toward genuine independence and true self-realization.

Thus, Shinran denied the self, but in doing so did not resign himself to a life without meaning. Guided by the Primal Vow that supports frail ordinary beings, he lived his ninety-year life with remarkable strength, joy and gratitude, walking each step with a wholehearted and powerful spirit far beyond what we often experience today.

In Gassho,

マウンテンビュー仏教会「回向」二〇二六年二月法話

ー本願力に身を委ねるー

駐在開教使 向嶋裕史

先月、多くのご門徒の参拝を得て、御正忌報恩講を勤修しました。報恩講は、一二六二年にお亡くなりになられた宗祖・親鸞聖人を偲び、その遺徳を称え、感謝していく浄土真宗で最も大切な法要です。その歴史は、一二九四年に親鸞聖人のひ孫である第三代門主の覚如上人が二十五歳の時に聖人の三十三回忌を本願寺にてお勤めされたのが始まりだといわれています。

親鸞聖人は二十九歳で法然上人に出遇われてから九十歳で生涯を終えるまで、阿弥陀仏のご本願を深く喜ばれ、その本願力に身を委ね、はからいを超えた他力念仏の生き方を全うされました。

鎌倉時代を代表する高僧に、道元禅師がおられます。禅師は、親鸞聖人が二十八歳のときにお生まれになりました。十四歳で比叡山に上られ、数年修行を重ねられましたが、天台宗の教えに疑問を抱かれ、山を下りられます。その後、日本に禅の礎を築かれた栄西禅師を訪ねて禅宗に入り、やがて曹洞宗を開かれました。曹洞宗の開祖となられた道元禅師は次のように述べられています。「釈尊在世の時代は、釈尊以外に大変すぐれた仏弟子たちが多かったが、そんな方々でも一生懸命に仏道に励まれたのだから、今日我々のような愚かな凡夫はなおさら励んで修行せねばならない」と。

その一方で、親鸞聖人はこうおっしゃっておられます。

「私の身も心も、そのどこを探ってみても真実のひとかけらも持ち合わせていないのだから、その自分がどれだけ死にもの狂いで修行をしても有漏の行、穴だけのザルに水を入れているようなもので空しいものだ」と。比叡山で学んだ教えに満足できず山を下りられたお二人ですが、こうして見ますと、道元禅師と親鸞聖人の立場は、同じ仏道を励む者でありながら、全く対照的であったように見えます。

確かに、道元禅師の心意気―自己の可能性を信じ、自力の道がどんなに険しかろうとも、自らの前に立ちはだかる岩壁を打ち破ろうとする信念―は、人間が力強く生きていくために、欠かすことのできない姿勢です。競争社会に生きる私たちにとっても、非常に魅力的な考え方です。

ところが、親鸞聖人は、この魅力ある「自己の力」を根本から否定されました。心の奥底に潜み続ける醜い煩悩を深く嘆いておられたのです。聖人は、この煩悩を取り除こうと自己の力をふりしぼり、二十年という長きにわたって、比叡山で修行されました。しかしその結果、心に潜む醜い煩悩こそが、自らの本性であると悟られます。それは、泥だらけのモップで床を掃除しても決して綺麗にならないのと同じように、自分の力でいくら功徳を積んでも、それは煩悩にまみれた善行に過ぎず、空しいものであるという深い自覚でした。

親鸞聖人が自力の行によって仏に到ろうとされなかったのは、単にその道が険しいから、難しいからという理由ではありません。聖人の比叡山での修行は、実際に非常に過酷であったと伝えられています。その経験を通して、煩悩を抱えた凡夫にとって、自力の道は確実に閉ざされていることに気づかれたのです。

七高僧の一人である龍樹菩薩は、仏に到達するためには二つの道があると説かれました。一つは、陸路を歩いていくような自力修行の道で、もう一つが、水上を船で走るような他力念仏の道です。そして、自力修行の道は私たちのような弱い人間に辿れるような容易な道ではなく、大変苦しい道であることを示され、もう一つの水上を走る船に乗っていく他力の道を進むように勧められました。陸路を歩く険しい道を示すことによって、凡夫の私たちに、自己の限界を知らしめ、他力の道、即ち、阿弥陀仏の本願力に身を委ねる他力易行の道に導いて下さっているのです。

現代社会、とりわけ先を制することを目的とする競争社会においては、自己主張が美徳とされています。そのため、人々は我欲を満たすことに追われ、血眼になって生きています。そのような環境で育った人々にとっては、道元禅師の「自己の可能性を信じる」思想が、より身近で、生気に満ちたものとして映ることでしょう。しかし、その根底に、自我を否定し、自己の無力さに目覚めるという体験がなければ、その思想は砂上の楼閣のごとく脆く崩れ去り、やがて人は生きる意味さえ見失ってしまうのです。

道元禅師も勿論こうした自己否定を根底にもっておられました。禅師が著された『正法眼蔵』の中で「仏の家に我が身、我が心を投げ入れて、仏に全てをおまかせし、仏に導かれてゆくならば、己の力をも入れず、心をも働かさなくして生死を離れることができ、仏になるのである」と自己の力を放れ、仏の力によって悟りの世界に到ると示されています。

自己の力から放れ、すべてを阿弥陀仏の本願力に任せて生きる姿は、一見すると消極的な生き方に見えるかもしれません。しかし、実際には阿弥陀仏のおはたらきによって、私たち人間は真の自立へと導かれているのです。

ですから、親鸞聖人は、自己を否定した上で、つまらない人生としてすべてを諦められたのではありません。無力な凡夫を支える本願力に導かれ、今日の私たち以上のたくましさで、九十年の生涯を喜びと感謝の心をもって力強く歩まれたのです。

President's Message

Thank You to MVBT Building Maintenance Committee

We are very blessed in our Sangha Community to have so many talented and giving volunteers. One group I would like to feature in this article is our incredible Building Maintenance Committee.

With its small, but mighty 13-person crew, they accomplish so many projects to keep our facilities in the best possible shape. Approximately 800 annual volunteered man-hours are spent doing all the work to keep our Campus and Temple events running smoothly.

Meeting once or twice monthly on Saturday mornings throughout the year, this group accomplishes a range of necessary repairs such as converting lamp fixtures from incandescent/fluorescent to LED, making electrical repairs, patching roofs, building paint touch up, treating for pests, repairing plumbing issues, maintaining equipment used for Temple activities and so much more.

They also keep a close eye weekly on the Temple Grounds as well as coordinate repairs that require special skills such as blocked sewer lines or window installations.

We as a Sangha are deeply grateful for this fabulous crew. The next time you see them on the campus, please let them know how much you appreciate their incredible work and dedication. Led by **Bob Matsumoto**, the Building Maintenance Committee includes **Eric Arakaki**, **Larry Bradley**, **Scott Hirotsu**, **Glenn Kitasoe**, **Sterling Makishima**, **Alec Matsumoto**, **Ken Nakano**, **Russ Nakano**, **Bryan Nishimoto**, **Randy Sato**, **Doug Sawamura** and **Steve Tsuchida**.

In deep appreciation for all the gifts of our Sangha,
Julie Satake Ryu
2026 MVBT Board President

4th Annual Tri-Temple Fundraiser - Choice of Crab or BBQ Ribs Dinners

SAVE THE DATE!

4th Annual
Tri-Temple Fundraising Event
(Mtn View, Palo Alto & San Mateo)

Saturday, February 7, 2026

Choice of Whole Crab or BBQ Spareribs

- **Take-out from ANY temple from 4:00 pm**
- **Dine together at PABT Dining Room from 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm**
- **Online Donation**
  Online Pre-Order Sales Only
  - Whole Crab: $70 per person
  - BBQ Pork Spareribs: $45 per person
- **To Order, Go to Dinner Website**

https://www.pabt.org/tri-temple-fundraiser2026

Or use QR Code

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2026 Mountain View Buddhist Temple Cabinet Installations at January 11 Sunday Service

Temple, BWA and ABA

Congratulations to the 2026 cabinets for the Mountain View Buddhist Temple, the Buddhist Women's Association (BWA) and the Adult Buddhist Association (ABA). The cabinets were installed during the Sunday Service on January 11. The Temple cabinet is below. The BWA and ABA cabinets are below and Page 7, respectively.

2026 TEMPLE CABINET

President	**Julie Satake Ryu**
1st Vice President	**Craig Hamasaki**
2nd Vice President	**Carol Yonemura**
Treasurer	**John Arao**
Assistant Treasurer	**Sterling Makishima**
Corresponding Secretary	**Debbie Ho**
Recording Secretary	**Rotating Zone Rep.**
Membership	**Leslie Imai**
Echo Editor	**Steve Tsuchida**
Auditor:	**Kevin Arakaki**
Historian	**Eric Arakaki**
Past President	**Jean Shimoguchi**

From Left: Eric, Craig, Debbie, Carol, Jean, John, Julie, Sterling, Rev. Mukojima & Steve

2026 BWA CABINET

President	**Shirley Matsumoto**
Vice President	**Lorrie Kitasoe**
Recording Secretary	**Phyllis Chan**
Treasurer	**Joan Aoki**
Corresponding Secretary	**Teri Hirota**
Religious Chair	**Lois Okino**
Historian	**Amy Arakaki**
Membership Chair	**Sandy Furuichi**
Official Delegates	**Diane Durst**
	Joan Aoki

From Left: Sandy, Joan, Diane, Shirley, Lois, Lorrie, Amy, Phyllis, Teri & Rev Mukojima

2026 Mountain View Buddhist Temple Cabinet Installations - Cont'd

2026 ABA CABINET

President	Glenn Kitasoe
Vice President	Russ Nakano
Treasurer	Sterling Makishima
Auditor	Steve Tsuchida
Recording Secretary	Lois Okino
Asst Recording Secretary	Shirley Matsumoto
Corresponding Secretary	Joyce Okumura-Lee
Asst Corresponding Secretary	Marilyn Ozawa
Co-Social Chairperson	Alice Ishida
Co-Social Chairperson	Judy Nakano
Historian	Will Dea
Asst Historian	Peter Matsumoto
Membership Chairperson	Reiko Tsuchida
Asst Membership Chairperson	Mieko Nakano
Hospitality Chairperson	Joanne Makishima
Ministerial Advisor	Rev. Yushi Mukojima
Advisor	Ken Nakano

From Left: Lois, Glenn, Marilyn, Russ, Alice, Sterling, Joanne, Will, Reiko, Ken, Shirley, Mieko, Peter, Rev. Mukojima & Steve

YBA SPAGHETTI DINNER & BINGO FUNDRAISER

Saturday, February 28

Dinner: 5 - 7 pm

BINGO: 6 – 8 pm

Bring the family & have fun!

Paper & Online Order Forms available soon

BINGO Fundraiser

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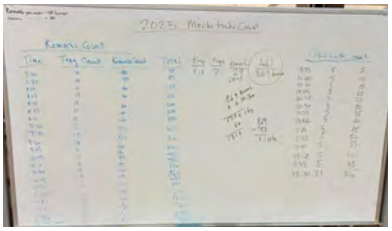
2025 Mochitsuki — Pounded & Made 1,800 lbs



200+ Volunteers Made 1800 lbs of Mochi

We had 240+ Volunteers who made 1,800 lbs of Mochi on Sunday, December 14, 2025. The volunteers pounded and produced mochi starting at 5:30 am and finished cleaning up by 4:00 pm.

Mochi – Sold Out

MVBT's Mochi is now Sold Out. (We had an abundance of pre-orders this year and very little leftover.) Better place your order early next year!

Thank You to Everyone

The Mochitsuki co-chairs would like to thank everyone for their guidance and support facilitating such a productive event for our MVBT community. Our many thanks to everyone who was able to come and help and/or contribute in some form. Mochi symbolizes prosperity, good fortune and longevity.

Wishing everyone a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

どうも ありがとう
ございます

Dōmo Arigatō Gozaimasu!

Zones 5 & 13
Mochitsuki Committee

2025 Mochitsuki — More Mochitsuki Photos

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Buddhist Women's Association

BWA Activities

Eshhinni-ko, Kakushinni-ko, Lady Takeko Kujo, Lady Yoshiko Ohtani and BWA Memorial Service

On January 11, our special guest speaker, **Rev. Melissa Opel** of the Buddhist Church of San Francisco gave wonderful Dharma Talks to our Dharma School and then our Adults. Rev. Opel shared in depth insights about Eshinni-ko, Kakushinni-ko, Lady Kujo and Lady Ohtani and their lasting impact to Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. Their contributions are why we honor them each year at our special BWA Memorial Service, along with all our BWA members who have since passed away.

Rev. Melissa Opel

Dana Youth Fund Gift Presentation

We thank our Sangha for their generous donations to our BWA Dana Youth Fund drive. During the BWA Memorial Service, BWA presented gifts to Dharma School, YBA, Miroku, Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts and Girl Scouts.

Dana Youth Fund
gift presentation recipients

Luncheon

Following the BWA Memorial Service, BWA members and guests enjoyed a three-course luncheon with **Rev. Melissa Opel** and wife **Becca Opel** at Ristorante Don Giovanni.

New Members Welcome

BWA members work diligently for the betterment of Temple, and the needs of the affiliated organizations through Dana (selfless giving) and Temple activities, where many friendships are formed. New members are open to Women and Men of all ages. Membership dues are $20 per year. Contact mvbt.bwa@gmail.com for more information.

In Gassho,
Shirley Matsumoto
BWA President

BWA

At the Luncheon
From Left: Julie Satake Ryu, Becca, Rev. Opel and Rev. Mukojima & His Family

At the Luncheon
Rev. Opel, Becca and BWA Members

Landscape Maintenance Committee

SEEKING VOLUNTEERS

The **Landscape Maintenance Committee** is accepting volunteers to help tend the grounds at the Mountain View Buddhist Temple. We meet on Fridays from 8:00 am to noon. Come out for some fresh air and a little exercise!

For more information, please contact **David Kariya**:

Phone: 650-515-5537

Email: dtkariya@gmail.com

Joya-e / New Year's Eve Service - Last Service of 2025

The last service of 2025 was held on Wednesday, December 31, 2025, at 7:00 pm. This Joya-E service had more than 108 Temple members and friends gathering on New Year's Eve. This service expresses the gratitude for the countless blessings received throughout the year.

The service included sutra chanting, meditation, and a Dharma message from **Rev. Mukojima**

After the service, everyone in attendance lined up and rang the Kansho (bell). It was at least 108 times. By striking the kansho, we symbolically "ring out" our passions and delusions and aspire to become free of them in the new year.

What is the significance of 108? Why 108 (6 x 3 x 2 x 3)? The "6" represents our six senses of sight, touch, sound, taste, smell and consciousness. The "3" indicates the different ways those sensations are experienced: good, bad or neutral. The "2" is for the dimension of attachment to pleasure: attached or unattached. The final "3" represents past, present and future.

Multiply the numbers together and you get 108.

In Gassho

Toshikoshi-soba Treat After Joya-e Service

After the service, Rev. and Mrs. Mukojima, Kurumi and Oji invited everyone to enjoy traditional Toshikoshi-soba (buckwheat noodles) in the Sangha Hall. Zones 2 and 3 assisted.

In Gassho

Shusho-e / New Year's Day Service - First Service of 2026

The first service of 2026 was held on Friday, January 1, 2026 at 10 am. The new year is a new beginning. The Shusho-E service is to renew our resolutions to live with Nembutsu gratitude. The service included sutra chanting, meditation and the first Dharma Talk for 2026 by Rev. Mukojima.

After the service, sake was served to adults and sparkling cider to children.

In Gassho

Dharma School News

Happy New Year and welcome 2026!

明けまして　おめでとう　ございます!

Thank you for continuing to support our Dharma School and make it an impactful and vibrant program for our youth. May we continue to work together to bring the Dharma alive for our current and future generations of students.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Mochitsuki and Osoji

Thank you to all of the Dharma School students and parents who came and helped with Mochitsuki and Osoji! It was so nice to see so many people come together to share in our temple's traditions and ensure that they are carried on.

Donations

We gratefully acknowledge the exceptionally generous donations from:

- MVBT Buddhist Women's Association (BWA) – Dana Youth Donation
- Bertha Higa-Baral

In Gassho,
Brent Izutsu
Dharma School Superintendent

MVBT Dharma School

Miroku

January 2026 Meeting

On January 11, we had our first meeting of the new year. We collaborated with the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade Dharma school classes to discuss and learn more about options for the Dana Service Project. We narrowed down the Dana project ideas

AED Check

We ended the monthly meeting with AED unit checks.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be on Sunday, February 8, in the YBA Conference Room after Dharma School class.

In Gassho,
Everett Cary
Grade Miroku Student

MIROKU

middle school group

Join the Fun This Summer at Nakayoshi Gakko!

NAKAYOSHI GAKKO FRIENDSHIP SCHOOL

"Friendship School"

Nakayoshi Gakko, or **"Friendship School"** is a two-week summer program held at the Mountain View Buddhist Temple where children in Grades 1 through 8 learn about Japanese culture and tradition. It is a wonderful opportunity for children and parents to explore the many aspects of the Japanese-American heritage.

Nakayoshi Gakko is a full day program (8:30 am-3:30 pm). Mornings feature art, literature, social studies, and Japanese language, while afternoons bring hands-on activities like origami, traditional dance (odori), abacus (soroban), cooking, calligraphy (shuji), games, music, and more!

Important Dates & Information

2026 Session:

June 15 - June 26, 2026

Children entering 1st- 8th Grade for the 2026-2027 school year are eligible.

Registration opens in January.

We are also a 501 (c)(3) organization and a co-op Parent participation is required and welcomed!

Visit

www.nakayoshigakko.org

for details and to secure your spot.

YBA News

Mountain View Buddhist Temple YBA

YBA Spaghetti Dinner: Feb 28

YBA Spaghetti Dinner Chair Kylie Uyekubo is in the middle of preparation for this year's Spaghetti Dinner. Both paper and online order forms will be shared soon. The Spaghetti Dinner committees have been in communication with each other and are working on their respective parts. We are excited to put on this fundraiser on February 28!

Coast District Activity

Mountain View's Coast District representative, Jill Lee, is currently planning the upcoming Coast District Winter Activity that will take place on January 24, following the monthly CD Meeting. We will be conducting a scavenger hunt through San Jose Japantown.

YBA Holiday Party

The YBA held its annual holiday party, which was planned by the advisors. Members, as well as their families, participated in fun winter-themed activities and ate some delicious food!

In Gassho,
Emi Hirabayashi
2025-2026 YBA President

YBA members playing White Elephant at the YBA Holiday Party

Volume 65 Number 2

Adult Buddhist Association (ABA) News

MVBT

Adult Buddhist Association

Happy 2026!

Welcome Glenn

To start the year, I'm excited to welcome **Glenn Kitasoe** as our new ABA President. Many of you know Glenn from his active involvement at MVBT and his leadership as Chairperson of the Ministerial Affairs Committee (MAC) for the BCA.

I also want to share a heartfelt "Thank You" with our 2025 ABA cabinet…I truly appreciate the time and effort you've given for our ABA family.

New Year's Celebration

We have a wonderful celebration coming up on January 31! We'll be hosting our New Year's Dinner at China Stix Restaurant to ring in the Year of the Horse.

Join ABA

Interested in joining ABA? For membership details or questions, feel free to contact **Reiko Tsuchida**, **Mieko Nakano**, or any of our members.

Save the Date

Our next ABA meeting is Friday, February 13, at 7:30 pm (Hybrid).

Gassho,
Ken Nakano

MVBT Girl Scout Troop #60736

JANUARY 2026 ACTIVITIES

Watercolor Painting

The Girl Scouts had a lesson in watercolor painting and made some beautiful creations.

Cookie Sales: Now thru March 15

Girl Scout cookie season started on January

12 and runs through March 15. Contact any girl scout for more information or to order!

In Gassho,
Girl Scout Troop #60736

2026 150 Club News

Wishing you the very best for the New Year!

The January and February winners will be chosen at the February MVBT Board Meeting.

Thank you for participating in the 150 Club for 2026!

Everyone, please stay safe and healthy!

Have a Happy New Year!!!

150 Club Committee

Toban & Echo Schedule

	Toban	Echo Article Deadline	Echo Sent in Mail
FEB	Zones 6 & 7	N / A	N / A
MAR	Zones 8 & 9	Feb 13 (Fri)	Feb 18 (Wed)
APR	Zones 10 & 11	Mar 13 (Fri)	Mar 18 (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

Seniors Activities & Crafts Program News

MVBT Seniors Activities and Crafts

SENIOR ACTIVITIES

We resumed our Senior Activities program on January 8.

Come and join the group. Find out the many interesting activities prepared for your enjoyment through June. Make new friends and renew old ones.

Thursday, February 19: We will have a guest speaker **Sharmin Sultana** from Breathe California, who is the Director of Senior Health Services. To keep our lungs healthy, her topic to educate us will be on "Cold, Flu and Pneumonia." With the winter season upon us, this will be an interesting and helpful presentation.

Lunch will be provided at 11:30 am and the presentation will start at 12:30 pm.

Everyone is welcome to join us.

DONATIONS

The Senior Activities gratefully acknowledges donations from:

- The Helen Sasaki Family
- June & Gene Sugimura
- Joe & Lily Shiroma
- Bertha Higa-Baral

SENIOR COOKBOOK

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

Everyone is welcome.

During Senior Activities

Light refreshment are provided that includes coffee, tea and pastry.

In Gassho,
Aiko Sugimoto-Miyamoto

Key Changes for Income Tax Itemizers (Starting in 2026)

Starting in 2026, the limits for charitable contributions in relation to Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) are as follows:

- You can only deduct charitable donations that exceed 0.5% of your AGI.
- The first 0.5% of your donations will not provide any tax benefit.
- This change means that smaller gifts may no longer be deductible.
- The introduction of this 0.5% AGI floor is a significant change in how charitable deductions are calculated.

These changes will affect taxpayers who itemize their deductions.

The above information is not intended as a substitute for specific individualized tax, legal or investment planning advice. Where specific advice is necessary or appropriate, Mountain View Buddhist Temple recommends you consult your own tax professional for guidance.

Support Your Temple

Donate to Past & Upcoming Services

Joya-e (New Year's Eve) / Shusho-e (New Year's Day)

Hoonko /

Nirvana Day Service / Pet Memorial Service

Spring Ohigan / Hanamatsuri

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

Upcoming Events

April 12, 2026, Sunday
Hanamatsuri Service

May 10, 2026, Sunday
Gotan-e &
Mother's Day Service

May 24, 2026, Sunday
Alta Mesa Memorial Day Service

May 25, 2026, Monday
Oak Hill Memorial Day Service

June 14, 2026, Sunday
Graduation Service

June 21, 2026, Sunday
Father's Day Service

February

Monthly

Memorial

Service

* * * * *

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

* * * * *

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

February 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 **February** Shotsuki loved ones are:

Bill Ichiro Asada	**James J. Inokuchi**	**Tsuneo Nishimura**
Tom Fukuda	**George Tadashi Ishimaru**	**Edward Okamura**
Hatsugoro Fukushima	**Kay Hisako Ishizawa**	**Kimi Okubo**
Ben Furuichi	**Jiro Iwata**	**Jane Okumura**
Thomas Gishi	**Kazuo Kato**	**Frank Sakino**
Yusaku Haruta	**Jack Kawamoto**	**Mary Sasaki**
Nabei Higa	**Nori Kondo**	**Kiyoshi Sawamura**
Chiyo Higuchi	**Chiyeko Matsumoto**	**Kuniko Shimoguchi**
Tomiuemon Hiramoto	**Frank Matsumoto**	**Zensaku Shishido**
Chiyoko Hirohata	**Hideko Helen Matsumoto**	**Mary Somen**
Jeanette Hirota	**Matsutaro Matsumoto**	**Rodney Togashi**
Maureen Hojo	**David Toshio Matsuo**	**Ruth Yamatoda**
Shuichi Hori	**Yosuke Mizuhara**	**Haruo Yamaji**
Henry Isamu Hoshi Jr.	**Richard Miyashiro**	**Toshio Yamaji**
Henry Hideo Hoshi	**Shigeki Murai**	**Tracy Takeichi Yamamoto**
Clara Hoshida	**Akiko Nakagawa**	**Mildred Yamanaga**
Matsuyo Idehara	**Haruko Nakano**	**Tsutomu Yamanaga**
Rev. Ryumei Iguchi	**Sally Tokiko Nakayama**	**Kenneth Yasuda**
Tatsuhiko Ikebe	**Tsuneko Nakayama**	
Francis Ikenaga	**Niro Nishimoto**	

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.

2026 is the Memorial Year for those who passed away in:

1st Year Memorial	2025	3rd Year Memorial	2024	7th Year Memorial	2020
13th Year Memorial	2014	17th Year Memorial	2010	25th Year Memorial	2002
27th Year Memorial	2000	33rd Year Memorial	1994	50th Year Memorial	1977

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March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 **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	**2** **7p-8:30p** Buddhist Discussion Group	**3** **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	**4** **6p-9p** Boy Scouts **7p-9p** Boy Scouts	**5** **9a-12p** Senior Activities and Crafts **5:30p-7:30p** MVBT Adult Taiko **7:30p-9:30p** Thursday Night Basketball **8p-10p** Jun Daiko	**6** **6p-8p** MVBT Pickle Ball	**7**
8 Daylight Saving Begins **10a-12p** Girl Scout Sunday Service & Dharma School **12p-2p** Kids Taiko Class **2p-4p** Jun Daiko	**9**	**10** **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	**11** **7p-9p** Boy Scouts **7:30p-9:30p** MVBT Board Meeting	**12** **9a-12p** Senior Activities and Crafts **5:30p-7:30p** MVBT Adult Taiko **7:30p-9:30p** Thursday Night Basketball **8p-10p** Jun Daiko	**13** **6p-10p** ABA General Meeting **6p-8p** MVBT Pickle Ball	**14** **9a-12p** BWA Meeting
15 **10a-12p** Spring O-higan Service & Dharma School **12p-2p** Kids Taiko Class **2p-4p** Jun Daiko	**16**	**17** Saint Patrick's 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	**18** **7p-9p** Boy Scouts	**19** **9a-12p** Senior Activities and Crafts **5:30p-7:30p** MVBT Adult Taiko **7:30p-9:30p** Thursday Night Basketball **8p-10p** Jun Daiko	**20** Spring Begins (Northern Hemisphere) **6p-8p** MVBT Pickle Ball	**21**
22 **10a-12p** Sunday Service & Dharma School **12p-2p** Kids Taiko Class **2p-4p** Jun Daiko	**23**	**24** World Tuberculosis 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	**25** **7p-9p** Boy Scouts	**26** **9a-12p** Senior Activities and Crafts **5:30p-7:30p** MVBT Adult Taiko **7:30p-9:30p** Thursday Night Basketball **8p-10p** Jun Daiko	**27** **6p-8p** MVBT Pickle Ball	**28**
29 **10a-12p** Sunday Service & Dharma School **12p-2p** Kids Taiko Class **2p-4p** Jun Daiko	**30** **7:30p-8:30p** RPC Meeting	**31** **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				

Upcoming Events

February 1, 2026, Sunday
Shotsuki Hoyo

February 8, 2026, Sunday
Nirvana Day & Pet Memorial

February 15, 2026, Sunday
BCA Eitaikyo Service

February 22, 2026, Sunday
Boy Scout Sunday

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March 15, 2026, Sunday
Spring Ohigan Service

Support Your Temple

Donate to Past & Upcoming Services

Bodhi Day / New Years Services

Hoonko / BWA Memorial /

Nirvana Day / Pet Memorial /

Spring Ohigan

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

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

(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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www.mvbuddhisttemple.org

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