



**Akemashite Omedeto! Happy New Year to one and all!**

Here's wishing everyone a year of family, friends, good health, peace, and prosperity! 2025 is the Year of the Snake and to those who were born in the Year of the Snake, this is your year! Live each day to the fullest and remember to take time to reflect upon how fortunate we are to be able to celebrate a new year! *Continue reading on page 2*

JANUARY 2025

# NEWSLETTER

MARYSVILLE BUDDHIST CHURCH



Rev. Yuki Sugahara

## Observing "Omens"

*How lamentable it is that monks and laypeople Select "fortunate times" and "auspicious days," And paying homage to gods of the heavens and earth, Engage in divination and rituals of worship*

—Shozomatsu Wasan 101

Happy New Year to all! Last year, Sacramento Betsuin celebrated its significant milestone—the 125th anniversary—with great success, thanks to your generous support. However, this milestone is not a goal but a waypoint. We will continue to enrich our programs so that Sacramento Betsuin and Marysville Buddhist Church remains an important place in your lives. We may occasionally ask for your support again, and we kindly ask for your continued assistance.

Now, speaking of the New Year, "Osechi" has long been a Japanese tradition. How is it these days? Even in my generation, the custom of preparing and eating Osechi has been fading, and future generations may practice it even less. So, what exactly is Osechi? Originally, it was an offering to Toshigami-sama,

the deity of the New Year, and each dish was imbued with symbolic meaning.

For example, "black soybeans" are meant to ward off evil and represent diligence. "Kazunoko (herring roe)" symbolizes prosperity and the continuation of descendants, and "kuri-kinton (sweet chestnut paste)" represents wealth. I suppose, through food, people made wishes to Toshigami-sama. These dishes aren't necessarily mandatory New Year's foods, but it seems Japanese people love the idea of "observing omens."

The term "observing omens" (げんを担ぐ, *gen wo katsugu*) originally stemmed from "carrying good fortune" (*engi o katsugu*). During the Edo period, a trend of reversing syllables turned "engi" into "gien" (akin to how "sushi" is sometimes jokingly reversed to "shisu"), which later became shortened to "gen." Interestingly, when "gen" is written as 験, it means the "effect" or "efficacy" of Buddhist practice. Well, I was wondering... have

you ever observed omens before?

However, the practice of observing omens or praying to deities carries the risk of thinking, "I'm safe because I observed an omen" or "Everything will be fine because I prayed." Conversely, it can also lead to thoughts like, "I observed an omen, but things didn't go well," or "I prayed, but it didn't work." This mindset shifts responsibility for one's situation onto external factors, which is not aligned with Buddhist thought.

In Buddhism, *engi* (interdependent origination) refers to *in-nen-sho-ki* (因縁生起): "Arising through causes and conditions." It emphasizes that every event has a cause. Misunderstanding *engi*—interpreting it as something superstitious, such as "the strap on my sandal broke, so it's bad luck"—may have given rise to the mindset of observing omens. Nonetheless, recognizing that all phenomena arise from a web of causes and conditions allows us neither to rejoice nor lament over

a single event, such as a broken sandal strap. Our current state is the result of countless factors.

The Buddha's realization is sometimes expressed through the teaching of the Twelve-fold Chain of Causation. This teaching traces our present state back to a fundamental cause called "ignorance." One might question whether this implies a singular cause. However, Buddhism describes our current condition as one of delusion. The Buddha taught that the root of this delusion lies in a state of ignorance where one, lacking wisdom, arbitrarily determines causes without understanding the true nature of reality. I could say that the key lies in the self-centered, arbitrary nature of this determination.

In the wasan by Shinran Shonin mentioned earlier, we find the words, "How lamentable it is that monks and laypeople Select 'fortunate times' and 'auspicious days'." In

Continue on page 7



## President's Message

Continued from page 1

### Reminder: Joya-e New Year's Eve Service - Tuesday, December 31, 2024, 11:00 a.m.

Because you will be receiving this Newsletter before December 31st, I would like to remind everyone about our Joya-e New Year's Eve Service to be held on Tuesday, December 31st, at 11:00 a.m. Rev. Yuki Sugahara will be the officiating minister. We invite all members and friends to attend this special service as we say goodbye to 2024 and say hello to 2025. We will be ringing the Kansho bell 108 times and following the service, we will be serving the traditional hot soba noodles. From what I recall my mother telling me that eating hot soba noodles before midnight on New Year's Eve is supposed to bring long life and prosperity in the new year ahead. Come and join us as we share a traditional meal with fellow members and friends!

### Upcoming Service: January Shotsuki Hoyo and Installation of Board of Directors Sunday, January 5, 2025, 1:00 p.m. Officiating Minister: Rev. Yuki Sugahara

For our January Shotsuki Hoyo, we will honor those who have passed away during the month of January. We will also have the Installation of Board of Directors during this service. All 10 Board Mem-

bers who were elected for the 2025 as well as a representative from the Hoyukai and the BWA will be installed during this time. The Hoyukai and BWA automatically have a seat on the Board and have voting rights. Currently, this brings the total of Board Members to 12.

The election of MBC Board Officers (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer) will take place at the Board Meeting prior to the service at 10:30 a.m. Lunch will be served before the service and refreshments will be served after the service. Everyone is welcome to attend.

### New Year's Party 2025 - Saturday, January 25, 2025 - 12:00 p.m.

Everyone is invited to attend the MBC 2025 New Year's Party luncheon to be held on Saturday, January 25, 2025. We will be serving prime rib, chicken, and as an appetizer, nigiri sushi. Kenji Colton Tokunaga will be serving nigiri sushi at our New Year's Sushi Bar. Entertainment will be provided by KennyU Music which is led by our very own Kenny Uyemoto! The New Year's Party Reservation form is attached to this Newsletter. *Reservation deadline is Wednesday, January 15, 2025.*

We will also have our **Gift Basket Raffle** once again for our 2025 New Year's Party! For the upcoming New Year's Party, we are asking for cash/check donations which will go towards the purchase of additional gift basket items. If you would

like to help support this gift basket fundraiser, you may submit your donation in the enclosed envelope.

**Volunteers** are needed on Friday, January 24, 2024, 9:00 a.m. to help with set up, cleaning and sanitizing, and food preparation. Volunteers are also needed on Saturday, January 25, 2025, 9:00 a.m. for set up and food preparation; 11:30 a.m. for platters, servers, refreshment bar, and kitchen helpers. Please contact Terrie Matsumoto if you would like to lend a helping hand. 916-479-1999 call or text or email: matsgt@yahoo.com.

### 2025 Monthly Services and Board Meetings

Monthly services will be held on the first Sunday of each month at 1:00 p.m. Officiating ministers will be on a rotating basis with the Sacramento Buddhist Church.

MBC Board Meetings will be held on the first Sunday of each month at 10:30 a.m.

### ALERT! 2025 OBON CHANGE IN DATE SATURDAY, JUNE 28, 2025 SAVE THE DATE!

Due to scheduling conflicts with SBC assignment of ministers, MBC Obon will be held on Saturday, June 28, 2025.

Schedule of Obon events and Teriyaki Box Dinners will be the same as last year but on a different day, Saturday, June 28, 2025.

Bon Dance Practice Dates: June 17, 19, 24, 26, 2025 - 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Obon planning meetings will begin in February, 2025.

### Mark your calendars and pass the word to your family and friends!

**Other MBC Items** such as 2025 Membership Drive and Reflections on the Bodhi Day/December Shotsuki Service can be found in this issue of the Newsletter. Keep on reading!

One of the teachings of the Dharma is impermanence. This coming 2025 New Year we will be experiencing some changes. We look forward to working together with you as we navigate through some of these changes. Our goal is to continue to provide programs and events in the spirit of Jodo Shinshu that will encourage people to come and be a part of what we have to offer.

Thank you to all who were part of the events of 2024 from last year's New Year's Party, 2024 Obon Festival, putting together the mini Hanamido, getting together monthly to assemble the Newsletter and other mailings, attending the monthly services and gathering for refreshments after the services. I have enjoyed all the sharing of memories, stories, friendship, and of course the food people brought to share. *Arigato gozaimasu!*

Please take care! Until we meet again. . .

In Gassho,  
Terrie



### STAY IN TOUCH with the Marysville Buddhist Church

Facebook, Twitter, & YouTube

- **Join MBC on Facebook:**  
facebook.com/MarysvilleBuddhistChurch
- **Follow MBC on Twitter:**  
twitter.com/MBuddhistChurch
- **Watch MBC Videos on YouTube:**  
youtube.com/user/MarysvilleBC



# Reflections on the Bodhi Day and December Shotsuki Service



Rev. Kelvin Mark

BY TERRIE MATSUMOTO

Rev. Kelvin Mark was the officiating minister at our Bodhi Day and December Shotsuki Service held on Sunday, December 8th. Through his Dharma Talk, he shared his perspective on why we chant. I do not know how many times I have heard people ask, “Why do we chant?” Here is an excerpt from his Dharma Talk that addresses his view as to

why we chant.

*Why do we chant? Our hope, as teachers, during chanting, is actually three-fold:*

1. Meditation - In helping to calm and settle our minds, so that we can tune out the myriad distractions of day to day life, sit calmly among fellow travelers and simply listen, MonPo, to hear earnestly, and to listen to the truth of life.

2. Ritually - Because our chanting connects us to the traditions and rituals practiced by countless teachers, who walked the earth centuries ago, long before written history.

3. The Teaching Aspect - When monks chanted the sutras, they learned and memorized them, not because of studying for a test, but because of practice. Just as with anything meaningful that we do in our lives, practice makes

the activity become one with who we are. We need to learn the contents of what we are chanting so that we can more fully appreciate the teachings laid down before us.

*Once Siddhartha attained enlightenment under the Bodhi Tree and became known as the Shakyamuni Buddha, his teachings, stories, and legends were first passed down in the Pali language, an oral tradition, shared before the advent of written word. Decades or centuries later, the oral tradition was logged in Sanskrit, enabling the teachings of Amida Buddha to spread far and wide.*

From what I can summarize from what Rev. Kelvin was sharing, is that from the time of Siddhartha’s enlightenment, the Sutra Chanting we are accustomed to are simply the

teachings of the Shakyamuni Buddha that has been translated from Pali to Sanskrit to Japanese characters to Japanese romaji and in some service books into English. I remember there were times when we tried to chant the sutras in English but there was something awkward about it. But when we chant the Sutras in Japanese even though we do not know what it is we are chanting, there’s something about the sound, pace, tone, rhythm that truly has a settling effect just as Rev. Kelvin describes in step #1.

Thank you Rev. Kelvin for sharing your Dharma talk at our December 8th service. We truly enjoyed your Dharma message and enjoyed having you and Cheryl part of our Sangha on Bodhi Day!



## SAVE THE DATE:

### 2025 New Year’s Party

Saturday, January 25, 2025  
12:00 p.m. MBC Hall Annex

## Who to Call

### WHO DO I CALL?

Contact the Sacramento Buddhist Church at 916-446-0121 in order to request ministerial assistance regarding family emergencies such as the passing of a family member. Please leave a detailed message including your name and number, and someone will return your call as soon as possible.

Contact the Marysville Buddhist Church at 530-743-6426 for normal business needs or basic information. Please leave a detailed message including your name and number, and someone will return your call as soon as possible.

## Reminder: Alarm System

Our temple now has an alarm system in place. ADT has installed door alarms and motion sensors throughout the premise of our temple. Please contact the Church Office at 530-743-6426 if you wish to have access to the church premises.

# WINTER PACIFIC SEMINAR

Southern District Ministers Association  
Center for Buddhist Education

<p style="text-align: center; border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin: 0;"><b>Title</b></p> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">Issues In Jodo Shinshu Heterodoxy 浄土真宗における異安心</p> <p style="text-align: center; border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin: 10px 0;"><b>Presenters</b></p> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">Rev Marvin Harada Rev Dr Takashi Miyaji Rev Dr Mutsumi Wondra Rev Kiyonobu Kuwahara</p> <p style="text-align: center; border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin: 10px 0;"><b>Individual Reg</b></p> <p style="margin: 5px 0;"><a href="https://tinyurl.com/WPSindividual">https://tinyurl.com/WPSindividual</a></p> <p style="text-align: center; border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin: 10px 0;"><b>Group Reg</b></p> <p style="margin: 5px 0;"><a href="https://tinyurl.com/WPSgroupreg">https://tinyurl.com/WPSgroupreg</a></p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 10px 0;"><b>Reg \$30 Bento \$15</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center; border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin: 0;"><b>When</b></p> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">Jan 25, 2025 9am - 1pm</p> <p style="text-align: center; border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin: 10px 0;"><b>Where</b></p> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">-Orange County Buddhist Church 909 S Dale Ave, Anaheim, CA 94804</p> <p style="margin: 5px 0;">-YOUTUBE LIVE</p> <p style="text-align: center; border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin: 10px 0;"><b>Questions?</b></p> <p style="margin: 5px 0;"> <a href="mailto:cbe@bcahq.org">cbe@bcahq.org</a></p>
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## JANUARY SHOTSUKI HOYO

The January monthly memorial service will be observed on **Sunday, January 5, 2025** at **1 p.m.** officiated by Rev. Yuki Sugahara

### Deceased & Relationship

Seu Ozawa  
Kamematsu Furodo  
Seijiro Hamahashi  
Aki Takeshita (GMI)  
Taro Moriki (F)  
Unosuke Toriibara  
Saichi Kagawa (GU)  
Rise Tsukimura (GGM)  
Tamakichi Nakamoto (GF)  
Kiyono Tanisaki  
Mitsuno Nakao (GM)  
Hisaichi Nakamura  
Ichihei Sasaki (GF)  
Katora Yokotobi (GM)  
Hatsuo Tagawa (GM)  
Tom Matsumura (B)  
Yoshio Kinoshita (U)  
Tora Higashi  
Yuiko Sasaki (D)  
Momojyu Nishikawa  
Hisao Wada  
Mashi Okamoto  
Kiichiro Matsumura (GF)  
Genichi Hashioka (F)  
Kenichiro Okikawa (F)  
Tetsuzo Nakagawa  
Tazue Sasaki  
Masashi Tanimoto (F)  
Haruyo Tanisaki  
Tom S. Tokunaga  
John Yoshimoto (F)  
Fusako Matsushima (A)  
Eijiro Hasegawa  
Paul H. Tanabe  
Shin Ishigaki (M)  
George Matsumoto (F)

### Sesshu Family

Matsumura Family  
Shingu Family  
Hamahashi Family  
Jim Tanimoto  
Mitsuye Kozuma  
Matsumoto Family  
Allen H. Sasaki  
Don Tsukimura  
Carol Lauher  
Tanisaki Family  
David Nakao  
Nakamura Family  
Allen H. Sasaki  
Mitsuko Yokotobi  
Gayle Broce  
Ann Nakata  
Nancy Nakagawa  
Okimoto Family  
Gladys Sasaki  
Nishikawa Family  
Wada Family  
Okamoto Family  
Larry Matsumura  
Masako Kanazawa  
Jiro Okikawa  
Nakagawa Family  
Sasaki Family  
Eugene Tanimoto  
Tanisaki Family  
Tokunaga Family  
Doris Ow  
Gayle Broce  
Hasegawa Family  
Tanabe Family  
Satoru Ishigaki  
Martin Matsumoto

Kane Fujii (M)  
Dick Yamachi (F)  
Yoshiro Harada  
Kimiye Nakatani  
Kazue Kay Yokohari (S)  
Bunichi Yasuda  
Fumiko N. Yoshimoto (A)  
Nobuko Tokunaga  
Yasuhide Onaha (F)  
Isao Tokunaga (F)

Alice Haruko Tanimoto (W)  
Yoshiye Tsukuda  
Sally H. Nakatsu (M)

May T. Nakao (M)  
Yoshio Muraki  
Edward T. Kakita (U)

Elaine T. Ariyama (A)  
Chieko Onaha (M)  
Tamiye June Yokotobi (M)  
Kiyoko Tagawa (A)  
Betty Eiko Ozawa  
Toshiko Yoshimura (M)  
Kenneth T. Yoshikawa (F)

Masao Shimizu(F)  
Gus Kiyoshi Tsuda (F)  
Sadao Itamura (H)  
Jeanne Tokunaga  
Joyce Nakatsu (W)  
Senrey Sasaki  
Chiyoe Kobayashi (M)  
Misao "Misa" Oji  
Phillip Dale Kinoshita  
George Inouye (F)  
Anna Kinoshita (M)

Dick Fujii  
Ron Yamachi  
Harada Family  
Nakatani Family  
Yoshimi Yokohari  
Yasuda Family  
Doris Ow  
Hamatani Family  
Haruko T. Arent  
Don Tokunaga & Patty Arakaki  
Jim Tanimoto  
Tsukuda Family  
Harold Nakatsu & Pat Ann Rutkowski  
David Nakao  
Muraki Family  
Michael Fujikawa & Walt Fujikawa  
Russell Kinoshita  
Haruko T. Arent  
Mitsuko Yokotobi  
Gayle Broce  
Ozawa Family  
Ron Yoshimura  
Kelly Kee  
Dean Shimizu  
Sharon Koga  
Irene Itamura  
Terrie Matsumoto  
Herb Nakatsu  
Sasaki Family  
Lysa Kinoshita  
Oji Family  
Kinoshita Family  
Mitzi Inouye Nakashima  
Shelley Glines

## Donations Gratefully Acknowledged

The Marysville Buddhist Church gratefully acknowledges the following donations received. For any corrections or omissions, please call the Church at (530) 743-6426 or email office@MarysvilleBC.org. **Thank You.**

Received from 11/11/2024 -  
12/8/2024

### In Memory Of (IMO)

*IMO: Patti Matsumoto*  
Martin Matsumoto  
*IMO: Alice Kuroda*  
Joann Kuroda  
*IMO: Tomizo Sankai*  
Ken & Linda Ishigaki  
*IMO: Mamoru Tanimoto*  
Naomi Lopes - Tanimoto Family  
Trust  
*IMO: Tadayuki Igawa*  
Ben Igawa  
*IMO: Soapy Naruto*  
Robert & Lillian Hatamiya  
*IMO: Kazue Tagawa*  
Stephen & Gayle Broce  
*IMO: Kenneth Matsushima*

Stephen & Gayle Broce  
*IMO: Wyman Wong*  
Don & Carol Tsukimura  
*IMO: Jirokichi Takeuchi*  
Lois Kashiwase  
*IMO: Robert Manji, Shozayemon Okidoi*  
Lynette Guevara  
*IMO: Wyman Wong*  
Darrell Naruto  
*IMO: Masatsugu Uchida*  
Monte Uchida  
*IMO: Steve Kadoi*  
Allen & Linda Sasaki  
*IMO: Shigeo J. Tanimoto*  
Betty Tanimoto  
*IMO: Kevin Fukumitsu, Wyman Wong,*  
*Nancy Komatsubara, Steve Kadoi*  
Clifford & Pearl Fukumitsu  
*IMO: Karuko & Iwao Kobayashi*

Lysa Kinoshita  
*IMO: Bob Hiroshi Fukumitsu*  
Fumi Fukumitsu  
*IMO: Yuri Tsuda*  
Nishimatsu Family  
*IMO: Fred Matsui*  
Jean Matsui  
*IMO: Jean Iwanaga, Fred Matsui*  
Pat Uyemoto  
*IMO: Jean Iwanaga*  
Craig & Janet Nakagawa  
*IMO: Mitsuma Yokohari*  
Yoshimi Yokohari  
*IMO: George Kochi*  
Kahn Kochi  
*IMO: Soapy Naruto*  
Kahn Kochi  
*IMO: Jirokichi Takeuchi*  
Gary Takeuchi

## Donations

Continued from page 4

### PET MEMORIAL

James & Pamela Edgman - *IMO: Betty Lou, Abigail, Ching Ching, Mickey, C.C.*

### BODHI DAY SERVICE:

Mizuye Hatamiya  
Richard & Haruko Arent  
Gary & Terrie Matsumoto  
Kahn Kochi  
Gary Takeuchi

### SPECIAL DONATION (Monetary):

Nancy Nakagawa – General Fund  
Clifford & Pearl Fukumitsu – General Fund  
Will & Suzanne Nakashima – General Fund  
Richard & Haruko Arent – December Shotsuki  
Will & Suzanne Nakashima – General Fund  
Irene & Scott Itamura – General Fund  
Louise Nishikawa – General Fund

### SPECIAL DONATION (Material Items)

The Marysville Buddhist Church would like to extend a special thank you for the following donations:

- Pat Uyemoto – Outdoor mat in front of Hall Annex main entrance.
- Lois Kashiwase – Altar Candles

### MEMBERSHIP 2025:

Joe & Sharman Kobayashi  
Robert Nakamura  
Lorene Wong  
James & Pamela Edgman  
Peggy & Ken Okabayashi  
Lois & Paul Kashiwase  
Lynette Guevara

Naomi Takeyama  
Walter Hashimoto  
Haruko Arent  
Frank & Mich Hatamiya  
Herbert Nakatsu  
Louise Nishikawa  
Fumi Fukumitsu

### SUSTAINING MEMBERSHIP 2025

Clifford & Pearl Fukumitsu  
Carol & Donald Tsukimura  
Irene Itamura  
Scott Itamura  
Clayton Elderts

### DANA IN ACTION:

*Pond & Garden:* Thank you to Scott Itamura & Jim Edgman for garden & pond upkeep & cleanup.

*Girl Scout Troop 94 Custodial Supervision:* Thank you to Jim Edgman & Darrell Naruto for providing custodial services to Troop 94 during the month of December.

*December 8th Shotsuki & Bodhi Day Service* Thank you to

Pat Uyemoto for playing the organ  
Kahn Kochi for chairing the service

Terrie Matsumoto for reading the December Shotsuki names.

*December 8th Refreshments:* Thank you to the following for providing treats:

- Kahn Kochi – Lasagna and Garlic Bread, Cookies
- Terrie Matsumoto – Salad and Salad Dressing
- Donuts – Pat Uyemoto
- Chashu Bao, Pineapple Bao – Lysa Kinohita
- Chocolate Candy – Dorothy Nishimatsu
- Blueberry Loaf Cake – Jean Matsui
- Persimmon Cake – Janet Nakagawa

- Oatmeal Chocolate Chip Cookies – Suzanne Nakashima

### NEWSLETTER CREW

A huge thank you to the following people for folding, taping, labeling, and sorting the December Newsletter as well as folding letters and forms, and for labeling, stuffing, sealing, and sorting the envelopes for the 2025 Membership information on Thursday, November 21, 2024.

Darrell Naruto  
Kahn Kochi  
Craig Nakagawa  
Janet Nakagawa  
Jean Matsui  
Irene Nabeta-Yee  
Pat Uyemoto  
Lysa Kinoshita  
Scott Itamura  
Russ Bates  
Bob Tokunaga  
Brad Battley  
Gary Matsumoto  
Terrie Matsumoto

Thank you to for providing refreshments and lunch for the Newsletter Crew.

- Jean Matsui - Panera Cookies
- Pat Uyemoto - Krinkle Donuts
- Terrie and Gary Matsumoto - Pizza Guys Pizza

### NEWSLETTER STAFF

Editor: Jeffrey Kimoto

Articles Editor: Terrie Matsumoto

Contributing Reporters:

- Minister's Message – Rev. Yuki Sugahara
- President's Message – Terrie Matsumoto
- Pond & Garden – Jim Edgman & Russ Bates
- Donations & Acknowledgments – Brad Battley & Terrie Matsumoto

## Happy New Year!



2025 New Year Greetings to all our friends!  
On behalf of the Board of Directors, we would like to wish everyone happiness, good health, & peace for the 2025 New Year! We thank you for your continued support and look forward to sharing your fellowship and camaraderie throughout the coming year.

Happy New Year!  
Buddhist Church of Marysville  
Board of Directors

## 2025 Holiday Greetings

The following members and friends would like to wish everyone a very Happy New Year!

James & Pamela Edgman	Fumi Fukumitsu
Richard & Haruko Arent	Kochi Family
Robert & Lillian Hatamiya	Don & Carol Tsukimura
Ray & Jane Fukui	Dorothy Nishimatsu
Elberta Filer	Len Lipnisky
Bob & Janis Tokunaga	Marc McBee
Gary & Terrie Matsumoto	Vivian Nishimatsu
Ron & Gini Yoshiimura	Rev. Tim & Sandy Castle
Martin & Sue Yan	Will & Suzanne Nakashima
Dave & JoAnn Sparks	<b>Hoyukai Board:</b>
Bob, Lynne, Sara, Dave,	Craig, Janet, Darrell,
Helena, Caleb	Darlene, Tony, & Kiyoko
George & Kashiwa	Sakaye Takabayashi
Hatamiya	Craig & Janet Nakagawa

Pond and Garden

October/November Notes

BY JIM EDGMAN

Last week the pond temperature was 58 degrees. This morning it is 54. That makes feeding the Koi questionable. The pond is covered over with those things that resemble cheese-puffs. They have been skimmed. The waterfall was just cleaned yesterday, but there are still all sorts of those cheese-puffs up there. They're going to have to wait. I just looked at the tree and it looks like there are a couple of thousand up there yet (great).

The neighbor's cat comes by every day. I learned his name is "Bobo". I called his name out to him the other day and boy did he give me a strange

look. I don't think he's quite figured out how I learned his name. I think he enjoyed the anonymity. He is always welcome here to get a drink or check things out.

The water temperature rose to 55 degrees so I fed the Koi 2/3 of a cup. I am going to have to monitor that for a while and maybe shut down the food for the winter.

We have had a few rain storms lately. After the first one, which was somewhat heavy, we had cheese-puffs everywhere. A million plus. The ones that fell into the pond were waterlogged enough that they sank. It was cleaned somewhat and the rest is going to have to wait. The cheese-puffs that fall onto the small trees have to be picked out by hand.

All the others were cleaned up, 2/3 of a garbage can. The waterfall was cleaned. I found 4 baby Japanese Trap Door Snails up there and returned them to the pond. When the snails are first laid they are the size of a grain of sand and somehow make it past the filter to reach the waterfall.

We're still getting numerous storms and I'm trying to keep up. Scott has been here a couple of times and we're sort of caught up on the garden. The Koi are no longer getting fed and the pond is entering it's winter stage.

Everything is OK  
In Gassho,  
Jim

MBC Membership Drive 2025

November 22, 2024 through March 31, 2025

On November 22, 2024, the Membership Letters and 2025 Membership Forms were sent out to all of the members and friends of the Marysville Buddhist Church. We welcome all new and renewing memberships for 2025. Membership dues represent the second largest source of revenue to the Church and provides critical support for all of its activities.

We are introducing a new membership level: the Sustaining Membership. As a valued friend of our church community, we invite you to become a "Sustaining Member" and join us in our mission to continue to be an important religious, cultural, and social center for the Japanese and larger community as the Church has been during its over 100-year history. By becoming a "Sustaining Member", you will express your commitment to provide annual, recurring support to the Church into the future.

Why Become a Sustaining Member?

Your ongoing support as a Sustaining Member helps us achieve our long-term goals and provides the Church with the stability to maintain and expand our programs. As a Sus-

taining Member, your annual contributions will:

• **Provide Consistent Support.** Your commitment to maintain annual Sustaining Membership status ensures that we can plan ahead and respond swiftly to new opportunities and challenges.

• **Empower our Initiatives.** Enable us to continue our impactful work, from providing regular church services, to covering the significant expenditures required to maintain our aging buildings and improve our kitchen facilities, adding new equipment to facilitate multimedia presentations by the forward-thinking ministers and minister assistants conducting our services, to establishing online transactions for donations, memberships, recurring Sustaining Memberships and event signups.

• **Enjoy Exclusive Benefits.** As a Sustaining Member, you will be entitled to a complimentary dinner at our annual New Year's Party in January, with couples receiving two dinners. Sustaining Members will receive acknowledgment in our newsletter.

How to Become a Sustaining

Member

To establish Sustaining Membership status, please select the Sustaining Membership status on the Membership Form included in this Newsletter and remit the indicated dues. Church staff will record your selection, and your status will be established.

In order to establish an accurate record of our membership, we ask that you completely fill out all areas of the form including home address, phone number, email address, and date of birth, and submit your membership dues and form by March 31, 2025. Submitting your dues and form by March 31st will allow us to financially plan for the calendar year of 2025.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we thank you for your continued support of the Buddhist Church of Marysville. If you have any suggestions or comments, we would really like to hear from you.

In Gassho,  
Terrie Matsumoto  
President, MBC Board of Directors



*Happy New Year of the Snake!*

# 2025

## *Come to the 2025 New Year's Party!*

Come join us at Marysville Buddhist Church's New Year's Party, Saturday, January 25, 2025. The fun begins with socializing and a delicious prime rib luncheon served at 12:00 p.m.

Don't miss out on Marysville Buddhist Church's New Year's Party; you're going to love it! There will be cocktails, appetizers, live musical entertainment by KennyU Music, good fellowship, a great dessert and gift baskets raffle. It will be a fun afternoon!

If you do not eat red meat, we will also be offering a serving of roasted chicken. Just let us know what you prefer, prime rib or chicken.

The cost for prime rib luncheons for MBC members will be \$25; for non-members the cost is \$30. For chicken luncheons the cost for MBC members will be \$20; for non-members the cost is \$25.

So please, all members of the MBC and friends of the temple, come join us on January 25 and please spread the word to all your friends. They are welcome and can enjoy this fun day too.

Please fill in the order form below and mail your order today!  
Luncheon Orders must be received by Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>.



### **New Year's Party 2025 \* SATURDAY, JANUARY 25th Prime Rib or Chicken Luncheon Order Form**

**Luncheon Orders must be received by Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>.**

Prime Rib - Cost for MBC members will be \$25; for non-members the cost is \$30.  
Chicken - Cost for MBC members will be \$20; for non-members the cost is \$25.

Please make check payable to the: Buddhist Church of Marysville  
P. O. Box 1462  
Marysville, CA 95901-1462

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Luncheons Prime Rib \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Prime Rib Dine-In \_\_\_\_\_ Take-Out \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Chicken Dine-In \_\_\_\_\_ Take-Out \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Due \_\_\_\_\_ Paid by Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_

If you have any questions, please call the church at (530) 743-6426 or email [office@MarysvilleBC.org](mailto:office@MarysvilleBC.org).

### **Rev. Sugahara**

Continue from page 1

the Buddhist worldview, every moment and every day is inherently auspicious. To arbitrarily deem one day "good" and another "bad," as in the practice of observing omens, is sternly admonished.

What we should rely upon is not omens but the Buddha's wisdom, which perceives reality as it truly is. As we enjoy *Osechi* during the New Year, let us savor it not for the purpose of observing omens, but as a delicious tradition. Let us embrace the wisdom light of Amida Buddha, which illuminates our lives, as our guiding support for the year ahead.

Gassho



## **CONDOLENCES**

Condolences for Patti Matsumoto who passed away November 3, 2024.

## **DIAL THE DHARMA**

### **800-817-7918**

To hear Bishop Harada's message.  
Press 1 for English, 2 for Japanese  
or 3 for Spanish.

# JANUARY 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
			Happy New Year!	Girl Scout Troop 94 Meeting 5:30 p.m.		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
January Shotsuki Hoyo 1 p.m. Rev. Yuki Sugahara Board of Directors Installation MBC Board Mtg 10:30 a.m.			JACL Board Meeting 2 p.m.			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
				Girl Scout Troop 94 Meeting 5:30 p.m.		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
		Newsletter Crew 10:00 a.m.			New Year Party Set Up & Preparation 9:00 a.m.	MBC New Year's Party 12 p.m.
26	27	28	29	30	31	
				Girl Scout Troop 94 Meeting 5:30 p.m.		

## FEBRUARY 2025

February 2 – Nirvana Day Service & February Shotsuki Hoyo 1 p.m. MBC Board Mtg 10:30 a.m.



BUDDHIST CHURCH OF MARYSVILLE  
P.O. BOX 1462 \* (530) 743-6426  
Marysville, CA 95901-1462

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Marysville, CA 95901  
**Permit No. 192**

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

### Buddhist Church of Marysville 2025 MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name First Name Middle Name

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip Code

BIRTHDATE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PRIMARY PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

**SPOUSE or PARTNER**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name First Name Middle Name

BIRTHDATE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PRIMARY PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_ Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP DUES**

\_\_\_\_\_ Single Under 80 \$150.00  
\_\_\_\_\_ Couple \$300.00  
\_\_\_\_\_ Senior Age 80 & over \$125.00  
\_\_\_\_\_ Senior Couple \$250.00  
(One or both age 80 & over)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Sustaining Membership Couple \$600.00  
\_\_\_\_\_ Sustaining Membership Single \$300.00  
\_\_\_\_\_ Additional Donation: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Due: \_\_\_\_\_

**For the Calendar Year: 2025**  
**Deadline: March 31, 2025**

Please make check payable to the: **Buddhist Church of Marysville**  
**P.O. Box 1462**  
**Marysville, CA 94901-1462**

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_