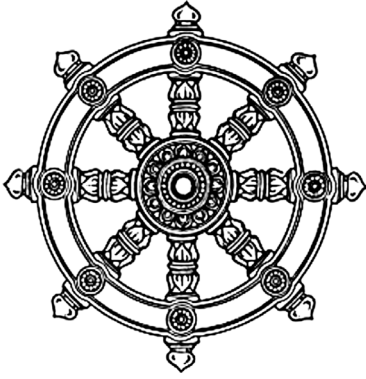


**Resident
Minister**
Rev. Matt Hamasaki



Recently I had been craving some Japanese snacks and obtained some. During my engorging on them, I was reminded of something that happened to me while I was in Japan: I had the opportunity to visit a Japanese high school with my fellow international classmates. Part of our curriculum was learning about Japanese culture, and one of the aspects of any country's culture is the educational system its children go through. When we arrived, everyone was very courteous and after introductions as a group, we broke up into smaller groups: a pair of Japanese students and a pair of international students, each. In line with the Japanese culture, they had brought snacks for us to enjoy together.

It wasn't simply a big bag of chips that everyone was reaching into on every table, but each group had a variety of snacks, both sweet and savory, as well as drinks that we could choose from. This was a unique opportunity to try different kinds of snacks that were popular with the youth in Japan. My mind (and really my stomach) started to formulate how I would be able to taste all the delectable treats and offered to share the bag of crackers that I opened in hopes that the favor would be returned. Of course, as polite as everyone was, there was no issue in sharing our different snacks and I was elated. However, the mood changed as I tried some of my partner's drink.

There was a gasp, and I heard a whisper from across the table say "間接キス!" [kansetsu kisu] translated as "indirect kiss!" I asked what this meant. It was explained

(Continued on page 2)

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SANGHA

Sacramento Buddhist Church
Volume 58 Number 4 – April 2021

**Sacramento
Betsuin**
2401 Riverside Blvd.
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Resident Minister (Continued)



Reverend Matt Hamasaki
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L&L Fundraiser Karen Adachi
Girl Scouts Maya Hoshida
Sports Cmte Alan Wu

to me that when you put your lips on something and then another person puts their lips on the same thing, it is as though you kiss indirectly. I thought it was silly at the time and a thing that perhaps only high school students worry about, but because I had remembered this story, I decided to investigate it online. There was a wealth of information on the subject, much more than I would have expected, and much of it was the different kinds of indirect kisses (like between a bottle or a spoon or ice cream) and their implied meanings (because I guess the level of mouth involved implies something else, depending).

But there was an article that got much more philosophical than I could have imagined. It began discussing the reactions that people have to an indirect kiss and stated that you can determine how accustomed you are to interacting with that person, and you can see into the room of that person's mind. I literally had to stop and reread what I had just read.

If I am correctly understanding this article, by examining the way we react to indirect kisses, we can get a glimpse into who we are as people. I had been so dismissive of the high school students simply being childish, but what more could I have learned if I actually considered what that reaction meant to whom they were as a whole person? And what did how I reacted to their reaction say to them? It was a learning moment for myself in the spirit of self reflection that we so often teach about in Jodo Shinshu. That to be compassionate and aware, we can't simply brush off things that we think we may be better than, whether we are too mature or some other gauge we compare ourselves to other people by. When people react to us, it is an opportunity to get some insight into who they are and learn what that means for both of you.

I hope all of you are doing well. Many more of you have received the COVID vaccination(s). The carefree lifestyle that we had in 2019 is gone. COVID has forever changed us. Pandemic, Quarantine, Social Distancing, Hand Sanitizers, Disinfecting Wipes, Vaccines, Mutation, Booster Shots, Contact Tracing — so much has been added to our daily vocabulary and personal use.

I am asked almost daily by sangha members about reopening plans and missing the person-to-person contact from friends and temple members. This past year and this year have been hard on all of us, but for those of us who have lost a family member, a relative or a friend to COVID, we've come to understand the temple closure has been necessary to keep everyone safe. At the time of this writing, because Sacramento has moved into the red tier, we are planning to open the nokotsudo to limited numbers by appointment only in April.

The Board of Trustees voted to postpone the 2021 in-person Obon and Bazaar. Both events will have a virtual presentation.

Reverend Hamasaki, the Board of Trustees and our affiliated organizations agreed to send a check and a letter of support to Higashi Honganji Temple for the vandalism that occurred to the temple. The letter is included below this article.

Next month I'll report on the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) National Council Meeting held via Zoom.

March 18, 2021

Rinban Noriaki Ito
Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple
505 East Third Street
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Dear Rinban Ito:

Our Sangha here in Sacramento was shocked and saddened to learn of the attack and arson damage done to your beautiful Higashi Honganji Betsuin in Los Angeles. We know that for your Betsuin and Sangha, there is now a heightened vigilance and awareness of potential threats to the Asian and Buddhist Communities in Southern California. What you have had to endure has also been a wake-up call for our Northern California Sangha to be more vigilant as hate crimes against Asians has been unfortunately on the rise.

Please know that we send this letter of support and encouragement to let you know we stand with you to end this culture of division, fear and hate that has been fanned by the Covid pandemic. We also appreciate your Dharma-centered comments that have been in articles and interviews you have done. Thank you for representing our Dharma tradition with compassion and caring.

Our Board of Trustees, Legacy Endowment Fund Board, Dharma School, Buddhist Women's Association and Adult Buddhist Association would like to contribute to your "recovery fund." You and your Sangha are in our thoughts and we hope there will be an end to such senseless attacks.

Gassho,

Rev. Matt Hamasaki
Resident Minister

Gordon L. Nitta
President

**Sacramento
Buddhist
Women's
Association**
Barbara Nakatomi
President



**Legacy
Endowment
Fund**
Ted Yoshimura

おかげさま

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Mika Matayoshi

Front Desk Staff
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Betsuin Office
(916) 446-0121

My Unfolding Buddhist Experience

While most religions tell you what to think, Buddhism invites you to question everything and discover the meaning of life by the things you experience, thereby creating tools for living that serve us in challenging times.

We don't have control over much of what happens around us. We have absolute control of how we respond to outside influences. Adopting the philosophy that all things happen FOR us, providing the path and direction for self-growth, we develop our individual guiding principles for the future challenges we may face.

Buddhism can show us that there is nothing wrong with the world — for example, a pond of stagnant and unhealthy water can provide the medium where beautiful lotus blossoms thrive. And karma is the example of nothing is good or bad — only the result of the energy and intention of ourselves and others that preceded it.

Those of us under the study of Shin Buddhism can also see the similarities of other Buddhist practices. Our Eightfold Path — Right View, Right Thought, Right Speech, Right Conduct, Right Effort, Right Livelihood, Right Mindfulness, Right Meditation — is so similar to the words of the great Thai Buddhist Master Ajahn Chah.

- Let go of your Ego.
- Engage in the things that are the right things to do, not just because they are good for you.
- Study how the world works and act according to that knowledge.
- Feel compassion toward others. Help them when they are down and even help them when they are up.
- Enjoy the little things. Be happy for others.

Since Buddhism is the practice of the present and present moments, we can always lean into learning more and living better to benefit all around us, including ourselves.

Namo Amida Butsu.

Some perspectives: Will we ever be able to resolve prejudicial bias?

We appear to be on a positive path with getting COVID-19 vaccinations and hopefully returning soon to our normal lives. There still seem to be other intense issues, such as the Black Lives Matter movement. We now have anti-Asian issues, which could be relevant to our temple as the majority of our sangha is Asian. A related secondary issue could be our Buddhist religion, as perceived by others.

The Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple in the Little Tokyo area of downtown Los Angeles was just vandalized in February 2021, when a person climbed over the fence and set fire to *chōchin* lantern stands, knocked over two metal lanterns, and shattered a glass panel in front of the foyer.

Just recently in Silicon Valley, a woman was accused of spitting on an Asian man and also saying, "Go back to where you came from!" Just a crazy ridiculous thought, but wasn't the original ethnic group in the United States the Native American Indians? Would that have made that woman and all other ethnic groups that arrived later be considered immigrants?

Have we retrogressed regarding racial prejudice? In the early 1900s, people were more explicit with their biases with ethnic exclusion legislative acts to restrict immigrants' rights. Then there was a subsequent time when it was less socially acceptable to outwardly exhibit bias. Attitudes toward prejudice, other stereotypes, and discrimination became more subtle. In our current times, with social group categories even more complex, are biases transforming once again?

Our society has made tremendous progress in raising our living standards through immense innovation and unbelievable technology. Our awareness of all sorts of social issues seems to have taken a step backwards.

Is racial bias the only prejudice that exists? A recent study discussed racial and gender bias also including other forms of discrimination, such as: against older seniors, wealth/socioeconomic levels, and persons with disabilities, etc. Could it also translate to social bias discrimination within your own ethnic group or peers? Do these other types of implied bias transcend racial issues and is personal judgment determined by wanting to fit in even though you personally may not agree or know it's not right? Is it a matter of basic human survival instincts to best assimilate to your environment or situation either by choice or circumstance?

Can we resolve prejudicial bias? It appears that even for myself, that natural instincts are to think of our ego self first. Our Buddhist tradition teaches us about awareness and understanding the limitations both in ourselves and others. True, there is the dukkha that life is tough...but, are we truly interdependent to everything that surrounds us and shouldn't we have respect for all living things? Can we not see this? Should we detach from our ego selves to truly understand? I hope that for the sake of our future generations that we can truly appreciate these basic Buddhist principles.

Thursday Night Medical Series

By the time you receive the SANGHA, Dr. Jolene Nakao will have given her seminar

Legacy Endowment Fund

(Continued)

“Health in Humanitarian Crisis and COVID-19 Response” on March 18. Jolene was a past Dharma School student at our temple.

On April 22, we will have Reverend Michael Endo’s seminar on “Introduction to Shojin Ryori Cooking Buddhist Vegetarian Cuisine.” Reverend Michael currently is the Executive Assistant to the BCA Bishop.

On May 20, we will have Dr. Stephanie Yoshimura’s seminar regarding “ Eye Health and Wellness in 2021.” Stephanie was also a past Dharma School student at our temple.

The seminars are all part of our Thursday Night Medical Series program coordinated by Reverend Patti Oshita. In 2014, Reverend Patti started this program with initial funding from the Legacy Endowment Fund Board, as part of her work as Program Development Director at the Sacramento Buddhist Church.

If you are interested in joining us for these sessions, please sign up by sending an email message to: BetsuinPrograms@buddhistchurch.org. All sessions begin at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Appreciation and Gratitude

We would like to thank all of our sangha members and families for their great support of the Legacy Endowment Fund throughout the years and especially through the pandemic. Please be safe.

Join us for these friendly, informative sessions. Ask questions and learn about steps you can take to ensure a healthy and happy life for yourself and those around you!

Please sign up at BetsuinPrograms@buddhistchurch.org

Buddhist Church of Sacramento, 2401 Riverside Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95818-2233

Thursday Night Medical Series: 'Living Each Day Well'



Introduction to Shojin Ryori Cooking Buddhist Vegetarian Cuisine

Thursday, April 22, 2021 – 6:30 p.m.
Zoom



Rev. Michael Endo
Executive Assistant to the Bishop,
Buddhist Churches of America

Adult Buddhist Association

Keiko Jean Kashiwada
ABA President

ABA is continuing to promote fundraising efforts of our church and other Northern California churches. Please support your local small businesses and churches.

ABA will also be presenting another education award this year in memory of the late Georgette Imura. The family and friends of Georgette have donated to ABA in her memory and have asked ABA to offer this monetary award this year. ABA will invite members of the Imura family to interview the graduating seniors who apply for our Community Service Award and make their selection from these seniors or the seniors who apply only for the Sacramento Buddhist Church’s education award. We want to thank Roy Imura and Aaron Imura for approaching ABA to offer this award. Throughout her lifetime, Georgette was encouraging all of us to become active in the community and to pursue higher education. ABA sincerely appreciates the generosity of the Imura family.

Please encourage your graduating high school seniors to apply for the Buddhist Church education award and the ABA Community Service Award.

Due to the recent Asian hate crimes, ABA is concerned about the safety of our members when they go out shopping or to appointments alone. Vice President John Yoshikawa and I are working with some members of the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) on a way to help our members stay safe. More information to come. In the meantime, please go out with a family member or friend and take advantage of the grocery stores that offer to walk to your car with you and help unload your groceries.

Continue to wear your masks and practice social distancing. Be safe and stay healthy!

Monthly Thursday Night Buddhist Class



Articles for the SANGHA are due on the 15th of each month. Late articles will be published in the following month's issue. When sending articles by email, please send email to: Sangha@buddhistchurch.org with a cc to: betsuinoffice@buddhistchurch.org and inform the church office at (916) 446-0121. Please include the author's name. Thank you.

2021 Family Memorial Service Schedule

Monthly Thursday Night Buddhist Class

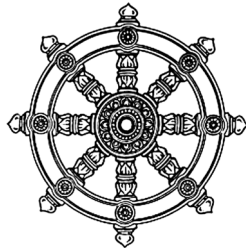
with Rev. Matt Hamasaki



"Shinran's Lamp" Discussion on Shinjin and Mattosho (Letters of Shinran Shonin)

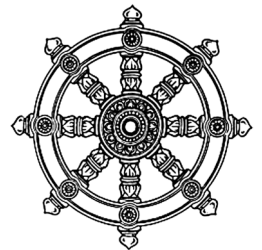
6:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. via Zoom January 28, February 25, March 25, April 29, May 27, June 24

Please RSVP to BetsuinPrograms@buddhistchurch.org Buddhist Church of Sacramento, 2401 Riverside Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95818



Welcome New Members

Allison Melott Lana Yoshimura

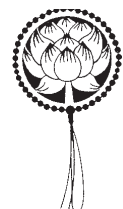


Traditionally, family memorial services are held for loved ones on designated anniversaries. These are precious occasions to honor the treasured memories of our beloved ones and to realize how fortunate we are to be embraced by Amida Buddha's light of wisdom and life of compassion.

Table with 4 columns: Year of Death, 2021 Memorial, Year of Death, 2021 Memorial. Lists years from 2020 to 2005 and 1997 to 1922 with corresponding memorial years.



Condolences to the Families Of



- List of names and dates: Tokio "Stan" Tanaka, Toshiye Fujikawa, Michiko Okano, Haruo Tao, Shigeru Nakayama.

**L&L Hawaiian
Barbecue
Fundraiser**
Karen Adachi

On April 27, 2021 from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., enjoy delicious L&L Hawaiian Barbecue and help the Buddhist Church of Sacramento!

A portion of sales on April 27 at L&L Hawaiian Barbecue goes to our temple.

Please present the special flyer or display a picture of the flyer on your mobile phone at the time of pick up at the following participating location:

L&L Hawaiian BBQ
1030 Florin Road (cross street: Greenhaven Drive)
Sacramento, CA 95831

You can stop in to place your order or order online for pickup at <https://direct.chownow.com/order/8870/locations/16081>.

Thank you Mark Hayashida and the crew at L&L Hawaiian BBQ for your partnership.

**SACRAMENTO
BUDDHIST CHURCH
FUNDRAISER EVENT**

Tuesday, April 27, 2021
11am - 9pm



1030 Florin Rd
Sacramento, CA 95831
(916) 392-5555

-PICK UP only
-Can not be combined with any other offers, discounts or delivery service.
-Present this flyer or display on your phone at time of pick up

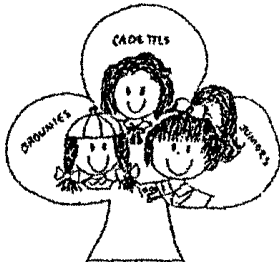
Virtual 'Way of Tea' Class from Sacramento State University

The California State University, Sacramento Library and Florin JACL will be hosting a 60-minute virtual chanoyu presentation via Zoom on April 12 at 10:30 a.m. These popular tea gatherings, typically held in the tearoom inside the University Library, have been moved online for the spring semester.

Gatherings are open to university students and faculty, as well as those who are interested in the Way of Tea. The presentation is free. Reservations are necessary. Please contact Eileen Namba Otsuji, eotsuji2012@gmail.com, (916) 834-6397 to learn more and to RSVP.

The website for the CSUS Nakatani Tea Room is at <https://library.csus.edu/tearoom/>.

Girl Scout Troop 569 Maya Hoshida



Hi! My name is Maya Hoshida and I'm a Girl Scout in the Juniors 3 Troop 56937. For most people (including me) this last year during the pandemic has been a rough time. One of the most challenging things for me has been being grateful, especially for COVID-19. I can't help but think, *what good is the pandemic doing for us?* I decided to take the Padma/Metta class, which is a beginning 10-week class about Buddhism taught by the senseis of the church. The class really helped me to appreciate and have more gratitude. After all, there is more to life than wanting.

Two of the things that really stood out to me were the Two Eyes and the Three Poisons. The Two Eyes are impermanence and interdependence. I feel like these two ideas are intertwining with my life because impermanence is change, and with COVID, things are constantly different. A good change is that we have a vaccine and my grandparents (the famous Meriko and Allan Hoshida) have gotten both shots. Also, I am thankful for COVID because it has changed all of my family's schedules and we have been able to be closer and spend more time together. Interdependence is also in my life because I have compassion for those who lost their loved ones. I don't really know how that feels, because I haven't lost anyone major in my life because of the coronavirus, but I can still put my feet in their shoes and feel sorry with them.

I know that the Three Poisons (greed, ignorance and anger) are constantly in my life because my brother and I are always wanting more toys, books and other fun activities. I have been jealous of some of my friends for having more electronics or toys, but after reading "A Modern Retelling of Little Women, Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy" and participating in the Padma class, I realized that I am rich the only way it counts: having a family that loves me to the brim.

Through learning with other Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts through the Padma class, I have learned some important lessons that have helped me through the pandemic and I will carry on and keep in my life. Thank you to all of the senseis for teaching me this awesome and helpful knowledge.

Congratulations to the other kids that completed the course: Mei Lynn Alforque, Kai Baldwin, Kate Baldwin, Chase Galang, Reese Galang, Keira Hamarlund, Dylan Huynh, Tommy Jiang-Son, Ella Kaneko, Kiyomi Moody, Cooper Morioka, Kaley Morioka, Jonah Rademaker, Raimie Yep and Hana Zhu!

P.S. If you haven't tried a No Monku contract with your family where you try to not monku (complain, whine, criticize or get angry) for 24 hours in a row, I recommend trying it! It was really hard for me, but you can do it!

Sports Committee Alan Wu



Hello! It is very nice of you to drop in. Well, by the calendar on the refrigerator or should I say the calendar on your phone? It will be a calendar on the refrigerator if you are of a certain age, and the calendar will be on your phone if you are not that age. So, whichever calendar you have and use to run your life, it and every other calendar should indicate that we are now in the month of April for the year 2021. What it may or may not indicate is if we are having fun yet. You know what they say... Time flies when you are having fun! It is simply incredible that we are in the month of April already, the fourth month of the year. Actually, looking back at the 2020 calendar, it will show exactly how much fun we did not have since March 2020. For the majority of people, after all the stay-at-home orders were in place, our calendars became a desert wasteland of nonactivity.

It is a unanimous conclusion that we all agree that 2020 was a bad year, a very very bad year; but now we are in 2021, the second quarter no less, and things are looking a little brighter now. The vaccines are available, and each county is gradually moving from the dreaded Purple category to the not-so-dreadful Dark Red and things are "opening up." However, we have to avoid putting the cart before the horse, and to not count the chickens before they hatch.

NOTICE: The following is a Public Service Announcement: Even though we are heading in the right direction, we are not out of the woods yet, so please do not let your precautionary guard down. Continue to wash your hands, wear your mask, keep six feet away, and avoid gatherings of people.

We do not want to take one step forward and then two steps back, if you catch my drift.

There was a bright shiny moment that happened that brought mystery, intrigue and diversion at the end of the dismal 2020. This of course was the sudden appearance of

Sports Committee (Continued)

triangular-shaped stainless steel monoliths that popped up around the globe, and the equally sudden disappearance of said monoliths. These trite events were a welcome distraction from the doldrums of 2020, even if it lasted only a quick minute in 2020.

The capper to this monolith story is the one that suddenly appeared in San Francisco on Christmas morning.

Again, as with the other monoliths, this was a much-needed detour from the usual path that was 2020.

Here are snippets from an Associated Press report:

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - In true pop-up art fashion, a nearly 7-foot-tall monolith made of gingerbread mysteriously appeared on a San Francisco hilltop on Christmas Day and collapsed the next day.

The three-sided tower, held together by icing and decorated with a few gumdrops, delighted the city on Friday when word spread about its existence.

Phil Ginsburg, head of [the] city's Recreation and Parks Department, told KQED the site "looks like a great spot to get baked" and confirmed his staff will not remove the monument "until the cookie crumbles."

People trekked to the park throughout the day, even as light rain fell on the ephemeral, edible art object.

[A monolith seeker said,] "It made me smile, I wonder who did it, and when they put it there."

There is still time for you to go out and find your monolith that will make you smile.

Speaking of the paper calendar that we all used to have, or may still have. There used to be a time when we all had a telephone mounted on the kitchen wall and on the kitchen counter right next to the telephone was an empty orange juice can that had a variety of macaroni glued to it and painted gold that was used as a pencil holder, and then right next to that was a pad of paper. Nowadays, there is no kitchen telephone, no golden macaroni pencil holder, and no central location for paper, so when I had to write a note for my kid while at her house, I searched all over but could not find any paper or pencils anywhere... so I had to use my whittlin' knife and a piece of wood.

Continue to stay safe and healthy out there. See you all the next time.

Use Amazon Smile Link to Support the Betsuin

amazonsmile

You shop. Amazon gives.

Shopping on Amazon is an easy way to benefit the Sacramento Buddhist Church. Just go to this link to get started — <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/94-1243674> — then return to smile.amazon.com when you shop. Making qualified purchases benefits the temple at NO EXTRA COST to you.

Please bookmark the link and tell all your friends. It doesn't cost you anything and the temple gets a percentage of all qualified purchases.

Reminder: Please visit smile.amazon.com when you shop (not amazon.com). You will need to manually turn on AmazonSmile if you shop using the Amazon mobile app.

When you donate to the Buddhist Church of Sacramento, your tax-deductible contribution helps support the operation, maintenance and many programs of the temple. Likewise, your membership dues and income generated from our annual Bazaar in August help sustain the church throughout the year. Donations to the temple are placed in the General Operating Fund. You also may direct your donations to the church to benefit one of our many programs, such as Scouts, Dharma School, ABA, SBWA, Minister Assistants, or for a capital expenditure project.

You may also contribute to the Legacy Endowment Fund, which is a long-term investment in which the principal remains untouched — only the interest generated is used. The fund is managed by financial professionals and the LEF Board. Contributions to the fund help fulfill these needs in a timely manner without undertaking major fundraising or depleting general operating funds. Specific needs include:

- Educational programs/scholarships for members, ministers, ministerial candidates plus perpetual or periodic scholarships
- Eitaikyo: Renovation and general maintenance of the temple shrine.

Of course, cash and checks are greatly appreciated, but your donations can be in the form of automobiles, and of distributions from IRAs, stocks and bonds. We also can take credit cards in the office. Click on the Amazon Smile logo on our website to enable the Betsuin to get a commission on your purchases on Amazon. Thank you for your ongoing support of the Buddhist Church of Sacramento. Because of your generosity, we have a vibrant and active Sangha — one of the largest in the Buddhist Churches of America organization. Our rich legacy began with our founding in 1899, with the mission to sustain the temple for the present and generations to come.

Where Does Your Donation Go?

Brian Hatano

Wall of Appreciation

If you have thought of donating to the Wall of Appreciation, please submit your donations to be included with the next set of donor names to be placed on the Wall of Appreciation in 2021.

Please fill out the Wall of Appreciation Donor Form as appropriate for the set of donors. With deepest gratitude and thanks for your generous support of the Buddhist Church of Sacramento in 2021.

Buddhist Church of Sacramento Wall of Appreciation Donor Form

The members of the Legacy Endowment Board had a vision to create a project that could express our appreciation for the Sacramento Betsuin. They contracted with a designer to create The Wall of Appreciation. This project is not only a symbol of gratitude for the Betsuin, but also for the generations of Sangha members who built and sustained this temple for so many years. It is only through the efforts of so many others that we are able to exist today. With deepest gratitude, thank you for your continued support of the Sacramento Betsuin.

DATE SUBMITTED: _____

DONOR NAME(S): _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE, ZIP: _____

PHONE #: _____

EMAIL: _____

NAMEPLATE WORDING:
(29 characters per line max including spaces & punctuation)

DONATION AMOUNT: \$ _____

DIRECTED TO:

GENERAL FUND

LEGACY ENDOWMENT FUND

SIGNATURE:

Levels of Giving



Kiku (Chrysanthemum)
\$1,000,000 +



Fuji (Wisteria)
\$500,000 +



Ichijuku (Bodhi Tree)
\$250,000 +



Hasu (Lotus)
\$100,000 +



Momiji (Maple)
\$50,000 +



Ume (Plum)
\$25,000 +



Icho (Ginko)
\$10,000 +



Ayame (Iris)
\$5,000 +



Sakura (Cherry)
\$2,500 +

Examples of Wording



Ted, Naomi & Mie Tanaka



In memory of
Jiro & Sumie Tanaka
& Mark Tanaka



The Tanaka Family



In celebration of
Jiro & Sumie Tanaka's 60th
Wedding anniversary



サンガ



理事長の挨拶

新田ゴードン

皆様、お元気でお過ごしのことと思います。多くの皆様がワクチンの接種をされたことでしょう。2019年までの自由なライフスタイルはなくなってしまうしました。コロナ菌は私達の生活をすっかり変えてしまいました。パンデミック、隔離、ソーシャルディスタンス、消毒液、消毒ワイプ、ワクチン、変転(ミュテーション)、ブースター接種、接触の足取り、等と多数の新語が私達の毎日使う用語に加えられました。

私は毎日のように別院をいつ再開するのか、友達やメンバー同志と直接会って交流することをミスすると耳にします。去年から今年にかけてとても困難な時期でした。家族、親戚、友人等をコロナ菌のために亡くした方々にとって別院が閉鎖されていることは、特別に辛いことでしたが、皆様を安全にするために仕方のないことでした。この記事を書いている今、サクラメントは赤のゾーンに移ったということで、4月より納骨堂を予約制で限られた人数のみ再開することになりました。

2021年度のお盆とバザーはオンラインのみと理事会で決定いたしました。

浜崎先生、全理事並びに別院附属団体は最近破壊行為のため損害を受けたロスアンゼルスの本願寺へ支援のため、手紙と寄付金を送ることを賛同しました。

BCAのナショナル・カウンシル大会がズームで開催されますので、来月、そのご報告を致します。



婦人会会長の挨拶

中富バーバラ

大抵の宗教は貴方に考えなさいといいますが、仏教はすべてに対して問いかけ、自分の体験の中から人生の意味を見つけなさいといいますが。従って、この困難な時を乗り越える方法を造りださなさいということです。

私達は身の回りで起こることをコントロールすることは出来ません。然し、私達は外部からの影響にどう応えるかということは自分の意志で決めることができます。この世に起こる事は全て私達のために起こるのだという思想をもとに、各自の向上のため私達は将来に起こるかもしれない困難を乗り越えるために、各自で基本的なガイドラインを開発することです。

仏教はこの世は何も間違っていないと教えます。例えば、汚い水の池にも美しい蓮の花が咲きます。そしてすべては良くも悪くもないという因縁が良い例です。私達と先立った他の人達の活力と決意の結果だけなのです。

真宗を学んでいる私達は他の宗派に似通ったところがあります。八聖道—正見、正思惟、正語、正業、正命、正精進、正念、正定—はタイの高僧アジャーニ・チャー師の言葉によく似ています。

- ◇ 自我を捨てよ
- ◇ 自分のためばかりではなく人のためにも正しい事をせよ
- ◇ 世の中のことを学べ、そして学んだことを実行せよ
- ◇ 人のために思い、助けがいるときだけでなく常に助けよ
- ◇ 小さなことに喜びを持ち、人の幸せを喜べ

仏教の教えは現在の瞬間を実践することで、私達の周りの人々の生活もより良くなることになるでしょう。