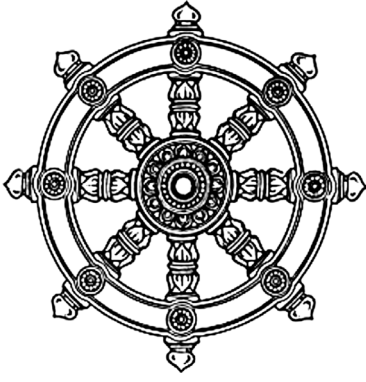


**Resident
Minister**
Rev. Matt Hamasaki



New Year, Same Stuff

Perhaps you've heard me bring up this story before, but that's OK. I believe that repetition is the best way to learn (which is maybe another thing you'll hear me repeat a lot!). When I was in high school, I used to walk home when school was over. It was a couple miles up the hilly landscape of Berkeley and I would see interesting things as I leisurely made my way back to my house. Sometimes it was people doing different things, sometimes it was businesses selling uncommon items.

For this particular story, I saw a bit of what could be described as graffiti written on the side of one of those cabinets that you see around town next to traffic signals that must house, I imagine, various control boards and wires (although I've never opened one up, so as far as I know, it could be just a bunch of elves pushing buttons). Along with various stickers and tagging, there scribbled on the cabinet was the phrase "There is no such thing as time — only watches." And this made me begin to think about what exactly that meant and what the purpose was of writing that down on this box that was owned by the city to keep traffic flowing.

For whatever reason, that has stuck with me since then and will probably continue to be with me for as long as I can remember that far back. It was turning and turning inside my brain because I found it profound: that the concept of time is completely created by humans in order to create some kind of structure and organization. I think we can all agree that there are purposes to how we conceptualize certain aspects of time passing

(Continued on page 2)

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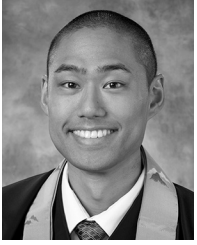
Sacramento Buddhist Church Volume 58 Number 1 – January 2021

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Resident Minister

(Continued)



Reverend Matt Hamasaki
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President's Message

Gordon L. Nitta

Sacramento Buddhist Women's Association

Barbara Nakatomi
President



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— that we have a day and a night, that there are four seasons as the Earth makes one revolution around the Sun. But the decision to create seconds, minutes, hours, and deciding how many make up each one is completely arbitrary.

This being said, I think we all had a difficult 2020. That is not to say that there were not good and happy things that also happened, but we have been challenged both as a community and as individuals like we have not in probably the last 100 years. However, to think that it will all magically change because we have to start writing down a different date when we sign things would be a mistake. The problems that existed in 2020 will exist in 2021. This may seem like a pessimistic view of the new year, but in my personal Buddhist outlook, I feel that it is freeing.

On the surface it seems like there are new challenges that we face every year. But deep down, the issues we have are the same that we had last year, the same that we've had for the past 2,000 years. We are too consumed by selfishness and do not act with enough compassion. And if this is the same problem, to me it's freeing because we don't have anything new to worry about! We can continue focusing on how to confront and accept our imperfect selves. So, I hope that this new year we recognize that while we may have to go and buy a new calendar, we still continuously have the responsibility to look at ourselves and try to practice a little more kindness.

Happy New Year 2021

The first order of business as I start my term as Betsuin President is to congratulate Stuart Ito on serving two successful terms as President. He, the Executive Committee and Board of Trustees have guided the temple into the second most disruptive event in the long history of the Sacramento Buddhist Church. Of course the first being World War II and the relocation of Japanese Americans.

My main goal for 2021 is to observe how effective the COVID-19 vaccine is in stopping the worldwide pandemic of COVID. Our decision to open the Betsuin back up to what we all know as normal temple life will depend on control of the spread of COVID. We have all grown tired of sheltering and quarantine, but let's be smart about slowly opening the temple one step at a time. Let's also keep practicing the methods we have used to prevent the spread of COVID as well as any airborne sickness — masks and hand sanitizers. We will continue to carry on most of the temple business via internet, phone and mail. Be safe and have a Happy New Year.

Hello Betsuin Sangha,

As the president of the past year and for the upcoming 2021 year, I have had a chance to reflect on many aspects of our Betsuin and the organizations that have contributed to its longevity.

Because of the pandemic, we have had to readjust our lives, our anticipations, our projections, our responsibilities, our expectations, and, yes, even sometimes our FAITH — in the cases where we cannot comfort our loved ones in their time of need.

Since I have no point of reference for anything in my life that has happened like this, I began reflecting on the evolution of our sangha and especially the Sacramento Buddhist Women's Association (SBWA) from their beginning roots in America.

When the Buddhist Church was founded in America in 1899, it's safe to say that the Buddha and the Dharma were present to form the Sangha. In a new land where the language and customs were unfamiliar, our ancestors began what has grown into the thriving sangha we know today. They continued to experience challenge after challenge. At every turn of events — even huge events like World War I, the Great Depression and the Internment during World War II, the sangha rose to meet the challenges and deliver the teachings of the Buddha, the virtues of kindness, wisdom and compassion. The sangha rose to the challenges in a way that created the vibrant temple activity as we knew it before the pandemic.

This past year, in addition to the regular committee work of the SBWA, we continued to meet monthly. Creative minds and hearts formed a new committee that will begin to document the history of the Women of Jodo Shinshu from Shinran's time to the way it has evolved in our Betsuin.

The SBWA was formed and built with the Issei and Nisei women and will be proudly continued by the grateful generations that follow. Our legacy will be to memorialize the vision and the struggle and the amazing accomplishments of the legacy we inherited. The future challenges that 2021 brings are unknown, but I know that the Sacramento Buddhist Women's Association will grow and thrive. Our contributions will continue to evolve from the Cabinet and the Board as THEY are the heart of this Betsuin that serves our sangha.

It looks like the first few months of 2021 may be more of the same isolation but our hope is that as spring breathes new life into this universe, we can begin to communicate and support each other in more new ways as well as the more familiar ways we were used to. Thank you for your continued support and know that together we can continue this legacy for the future generations.

NamoAmidaButsu.

Legacy Endowment Fund

Allan Hoshida

おかげさま

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Kellie Morioka Sato

Jennifer Nitta

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.

Happy New Year 2021 and best wishes from the Legacy Endowment Fund Board! Hope this finds all of you in good health. With continuing stay-at-home health directives from state and local jurisdictions, increasing transmission/spread of COVID-19 in some of our communities, many businesses/employees affected negatively by the community shutdowns, health care and frontline workers putting in many hours in a very stressful situation, churches/community groups being asked to minimize gatherings, personal interactions with family and friends being drastically reduced, etc. — 2020 has definitely been a very challenging year for many of us.

If you are able, I encourage each and every one of you to do something positive and beneficial to help/support others in your sphere of family, friends and community. Hoping we can all consider the welfare of others, compassion/understanding in all of our endeavors and assist those in need, as much as we can.

On a brighter note, Covid vaccines have been approved and community members are being inoculated, so this is providing hope and encouragement for the new year. Please stay safe and healthy.

2020 Summary of Legacy Endowment Fund projects approved/funded by the Legacy Board, totaling approximately \$24,277:

- Approved: Temple Leadership Workshop entitled "Cultivating Dharma-Centered Leadership," held at the Jodo Shinshu Workshop, on January 31–February 2, 2020, for registration, room/board for 3 Sacramento Board of Trustee member attendees: Stuart Ito, Barbara Nakatomi and Tristan Brown.
- Approved: Buddhist Church of Sacramento Telethon Legacy Fund Financial Donation to help support fundraising effort by the whole Betsuin temple community.
- Approved: Purchase of AV Equipment (Audio, Video, Computer and Software) to host 2020 Bazaar At Home Edition Livestream event on August 13, 2020, as well as future livestream or recorded events at the Betsuin. Thank you to Stuart Ito, Telethon Co-Chairs Karen Adachi and Koichi Mizushima, and the entire Telethon Fundraising Committee for a very successful Bazaar At Home Edition to help raise funds in place of our canceled annual Food and Cultural Bazaar.
- Approved: Young Buddhist Editorial (YBE) Board seed moneys in support of their newly formed national organization. YBE mission dedicated to providing a platform by young Buddhists and a safe place where such young Buddhists can foster growth, communication and interconnectedness between generations. Sacramento area young adult members include: Stephanie Fong, Allison Tanaka and Marisa Wong (all currently attending college/university). Best wishes to the YBE organization. We look forward to their ongoing communication, outreach and leadership in our Buddhist communities.
- Approved: Funding for Seiten Dharma Service Book publication for early 2021. This project is led by Reverend Patti Oshita, Reverend Matt Hamasaki, Reverend Tim Castle, and Minister Assistants.

Wall of Appreciation Legacy Donations Received for 2020

In Gratitude, The Tyson Family by Kathryn Tyson

Masaaki Kobayashi

In Gassho WS by Phyllis Iwasaki

Minister Assistants in Memory of Carol Castle

Yoshiaki & Esther Hokama & Family

Mr. & Mrs. Hachi Kawakami

Ikemoto Family: Roger, Ericca, Andrew & Miya

Curtis, Emily & Kyle Ishii and Trenton & Krystal Tanioka

Jerry & Sandy Tokunaga

Keith & Karen Adachi

Beef Teriyaki Sandwich Crew

Case Medical Group Inc. – Drs. Kelvin Mark and Cheryl Lieu

Kristy Ishihara

Stuart Ito

Jr. Young Buddhist Association/Sacramento

In Loving Memory of Fumie Keikoan Satake, Love Gail and Bruce

5 Anonymous donations

The above donor names will be placed onto the Wall of Appreciation by hopefully early February 2021. (Note: this installation schedule will be monitored and will depend on what the health directives may allow. Thanks for your understanding.)

Thank you for your support of the Buddhist Church of Sacramento/Legacy Endowment Fund and historic Wall of Appreciation project. Due to your generous donations, the Legacy Endowment Fund will be able to fund many more worthy projects in the future.



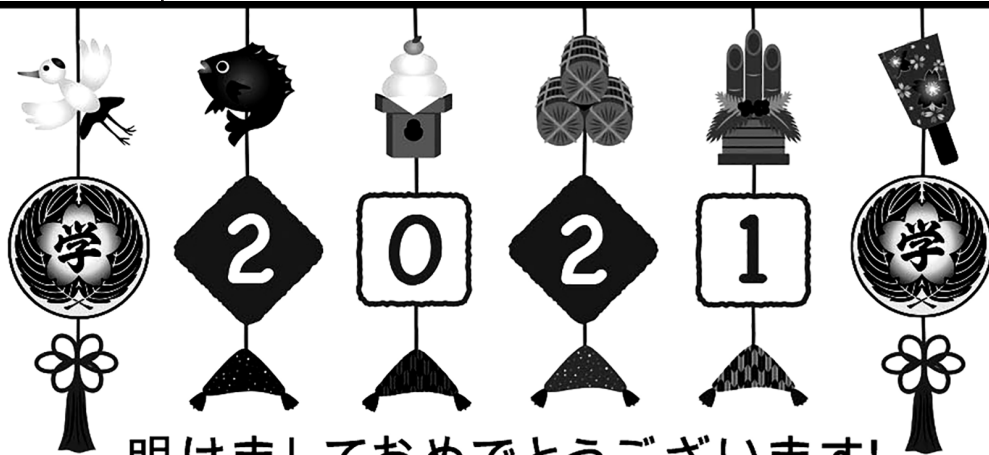
**Adult Buddhist
Association**
Keiko Jean Kashiwada
ABA President

On behalf of the Adult Buddhist Association (ABA) officers, I would like to wish everyone a very healthy and happy new year. Please continue to wear your masks and practice social distancing.

Our 2020 officers and committee chairs will continue in their same positions, with the exception of our Scholarship/Education Committee chairperson. Wayne Kurahara has volunteered to chair this committee. Thank you Wayne! Thank you Virginia Uchida for chairing this committee in the past years. ABA appreciates all the efforts you made, especially this year due to the pandemic.

ABA would also like to thank Amiko and the late George Kashiwagi for serving as our advisers. George was a former ABA president and treasurer and a very active member. Lastly, ABA would also like to thank Stuart Ito for his guidance and assistance. Stuart, we appreciate all you accomplished during your Board presidency and all you are continuing to do for our sangha.

Happy New Year everyone!



明けましておめでとうございます!

AKEMASHITE OMEDETOU GOZAIMASU!
HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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Thursday Night Medical Series: 'Living Each Day Well'



2021 Family Memorial Service Schedule

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

How to Prevent Cardiovascular Disease: Weight Loss, Cholesterol Lowering, and Beyond

Come and learn about Heart Health 101 and heart issues pertaining to women.

Thursday, January 21, 2021 – 6:30 p.m.
Zoom



Dr. Nancy Luo
Consultant Cardiologist, Mercy Medical Group

Community Care: Japanese American Buddhist Activism

Thursday, February 18, 2021 – 6:30 p.m.
Zoom



Naomi Nakano Matsumoto
Senior Director of Social Justice
YWCA
Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW)

and

Devon Matsumoto
Fresh Lifelines for Youth,
Leadership and Middle Schools Program Coordinator
Master of Social Work (MSW)

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.

Year of Death	2021 Memorial	Year of Death	2021 Memorial
2020	1 year	1997	25 year
2019	3 year	1989	33 year
2015	7 year	1972	50 year
2009	13 year	1922	100 year
2005	17 year		

Monthly Thursday Night Buddhist Class



Sports Committee

Alan Wu



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

2021 Greetings! It seems like it has been a long time coming (like when will 2020 be over!) but we are finally here to bring in the year 2021! So, Happy New Year everyone! Thanks for stopping by... please put your mask on and keep 6 feet away! 2020 was a year that turned the world and all our own worlds upside down, backwards and inside out (much like my boxers... on Wednesdays... oops, did I say that out loud?).

Yes, indeed, 2020 will be a year to remember, forever. As we know, time stands still for no one, so it keeps marching on and now we are presented with 2021 and looking forward to turn this ship around and get back to something "normal" ... whatever that may be.

Not only does time stand still for no one, but it has also been said that time heals all. And, fortunately, a good majority of time in 2020 has been spent on developing a vaccine. And, fortunately, it now appears that worldwide distribution of the new vaccines has begun to ring in the new year 2021, and only time will tell if or when our ship gets righted and back on course. Remember, it takes a lot of space and time to turn a ship.

In the world of sports, in 2020, we eventually crowned basketball champions, hockey champions, The Masters at Augusta champion, baseball champions, several horse racing champions, several NASCAR and Open Wheel champions, just to name a few. And very soon in 2021, a football champion.

Getting to the anointing of these champions was not without each discipline's own trials and tribulations on getting to that final conclusion. Many people spent many hours to figure out how to do business in 2020, only to realize that games got canceled due to protocols as late as 2 hours before kickoff (Cal at Washington State), and that's quite a monkey wrench in the soup. And, in the end we got The Masters in the fall (not the spring), more double headers in baseball, double headers on Monday Night Football and even Tuesday Night Football.

But in the end, was it worth the time, effort and risk to devise these schemes to bring us sports? Physically, maybe or maybe not, but psychologically it was probably what the world needed. With all the quarantines, stay-at-home orders, and new way we live each day, the world needed a diversion, something to take our minds off the ever-present danger. Decisions to that effect were made at that present time and only with the passage of time will we be able to examine and possibly answer this question.

If we were to pick one word for the year 2020, that word would be monolith. Monolith is a word that was probably not uttered by so many for decades, unless you are in an archeologist community. Monolith is an old word that describes an old world structure and is not really applicable or common in the 21st century, until recently. In case you missed it, here's the story.

Sports Committee (Continued)

Of course, we all remember the monolith in the 1968 movie “2001: A Space Odyssey,” where a stone rectangular monolith appears several times during the movie. In 2020, real life, a stainless steel triangular monolith about 10 feet tall appeared in the Utah desert. (Mind you, the Utah desert is not flat like the Mojave desert, but is filled with rugged mountains, and canyons of red rock, which is basically not fit for human habitation, much like the flat desert).

In November, a Utah wildlife survey team was flying around looking for bighorn sheep and spotted this monolith out in the middle of nowhere (well, only where bighorn sheep live). According to Google Earth, it was just sitting there for about 4.5 to 5 years unbeknownst to anyone (except the creators, of course). As news spread about this monolith, people found its location, trespassed on Bureau of Land Management property and hiked in to see it in person, when all of a sudden, it mysteriously disappeared. Due to its quick and abrupt departure, rumors, speculation and theories ran rampant, the most obvious ones being related to aliens who put it there and then when humans discovered it, took it back — all good fodder for discussion.

Subsequently, the same monolith OR very similar monoliths (? came raining down from the mother ship?) suddenly appeared or were discovered elsewhere around the world in Romania, England, Pittsburgh, San Luis Obispo County and Atascadero, just to name a few... that we know of.

However, only the one in Atascadero was claimed by its creators. A group of artists and metal workers pronounced themselves as responsible for this monolith in Atascadero and with permission of the Atascadero mayor, installed it on a mountain top.

The creators said: “People were loving it.” “They weren’t talking about COVID... They were just walking up our mountain all happy.”

A much-needed diversion in 2020. So, the time is now to go out and find your monolith... of course while wearing your mask and keeping 6 feet away.

Stay healthy... physically, psychologically and spiritually. Keep your mind, body and soul in balance.

Annual Holiday Donations

Jennifer Nitta

Due to COVID and the uncertainty of when the temple would be safe and opened again, it was difficult to plan our annual holiday donation program. For the years that temple members have supported this annual giving program, I thank each and every one of you. I am hopeful that sometime mid-2021 we will once again be seeing each other at the temple and that at that time a special donation program can be planned.

Until then, happy holidays to everyone. Please stay safe and healthy.

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- Select “Buddhist Church of Sacramento” in the charity search box.
- Bookmark it, and shop away!

It doesn’t cost you anything and the temple gets a percentage of all qualified purchases.

Support the Betsuin through Amazon Smile

Where Does Your Donation Go?

Brian Hatano

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.



サンガ



理事長のメッセージ

新田ゴードン

新年明けましておめでとうございます。

まず、最初に過去2年に渡って理事長を務めた伊藤スチュアートさんにお礼を申し上げます。別院の歴史の中で二度目の大事件、1度目は第二次大戦と日系人の強制収容、そしてこの度のコロナパンデミック禍において、彼は他の理事とともにこの困難な時を乗り越えるために多大な貢献をしてくれました。

私の2021年の主な目標はコロナのワクチンが世界中の感染防止にどれだけ効果があるかを観測することです。別院の再開の決断はこのワクチンが世界中に広がったコロナ菌感染をどれだけコントロール出来るかにかかっています。私達は在宅自粛や隔離生活に飽き飽きしていますが、ここで油断をしないよう、お寺の再開は急がずに一歩ずつ進んで行きましょう。そして、慣れてきた感染予防法のマスクや手洗いを続けて行きましょう。別院は引き続きインターネットと電話や郵便を利用して業務を行います。安全で楽しい新年を迎えて下さい。

婦人会の皆様、

中富バーバラ会長

今年と引き続き来年度の会長として、この1年の間に別院が今まで長く続いてきたその生命力について色々な面から深く考えてみる機会がありました。

パンデミックのお陰で私達の日常生活はもとより、私達の持っていた希望や将来の計画、責任や期待、そして時には信仰までも調整せざるを得なくなりました。何故なら、私達は大事な家族が緊急な場合でも傍に行くことさえも出来なくなったからです。

このような状況は今までに経験したことのない出来事で、私はこの別院、とくにサクラメント婦人会が創立されてからどのように発展してきたのかを深く考え始めました。1899年に仏教会がアメリカに創立された時、仏陀と仏法が存在していたと言えます。新開地において、文化も言葉も慣れなかった私達の祖先は、今このように繁栄している仏教会を始めたのです。彼等にとって挑戦また挑戦の繰り返しでした。

大事変のある度に、例えば第一次世界大戦や世界大恐慌、そして第二次大戦の強制収容など、その度に仏教徒は立ち上がり、仏陀の教えである思いやりや知恵と慈悲の心を持って挑戦を乗り越えてきました。そしてこのパンデミックの起こる以前にこの活力に満ちたお寺を築くことが出来ました。

今年はいつもの通りに毎月理事会を続けてきました。更に親鸞上人の時代から始まった浄土真宗の女性たちの歴史を記録する新しいコミティーを作りました。

サクラメント仏教婦人会は一世と二世の女性たちによって設立され、次の世代へと引き継がれていきます。私達がこの先見と努力の賜物を受け継いだことは記念すべきことです。2021年という年どのような挑戦が待ち受けているか分かりませんが、サクラメント婦人会は必ず成長を続け栄えていきます。役員と理事は別院の中心であり引き続き別院に貢献し続けて行くことは別院の繁栄にも繋がります。

2021年の最初の数か月は今まで通り外出自粛が続くことでしょう。しかし、私達の希望は春の季節が宇宙に新しい生命の息を吐くように、私達はいつものように、または、新しいやり方で連絡しあい、助け合うことができるでしょう。引き続きサポートして下さる皆様に感謝するとともに、先代から受け継いだものを次の世代へ継承されるように頑張りましょう。 南無阿弥陀仏

