

# SANGHA

SACRAMENTO BUDDHIST CHURCH  
VOLUME 47 NUMBER 6 - JUNE 2010

RB'S CORNER  
REV. BOB OSHITA

Hello and welcome to the month of June... Already the sixth month of the year is upon us. And with the coming of June, we also bring our 2009-10 Dharma School term to a close. We continue to have around 400 Dharma School students participating in our Dharma School and I know it is no easy task for the many teachers and program coordinators to keep this program humming along so smoothly. I don't have room enough in our newsletter to thank everyone, but our many remarkable Dharma School support staff, please know that your efforts and sacrifices are truly appreciated.

As some of you know, I grew up attending the San Francisco Buddhist Temple. Especially in my early years, I tried to achieve that illusive perfect attendance award. My favorite teacher was Mrs. Hatsumi Ishii. However badly we may have misbehaved, Mrs. Ishii was always so kind and patient. Only years later did I begin to appreciate my Dharma School experience.

I realized that our parents' efforts to take us each week maximized our opportunity to be with children whose families tried to instill those shared, solid core values that we carry with us today. It also connected us with a community — people who were an invisible safety net, to help us in times of need. And in times of loss, just being at the temple and with our Sangha families gave us a touchstone of constancy when the solid foundation of our world seemed to turn to quicksand.

Many parents of our friends became like extended parents to us... and those special bonds remain with us throughout our lives. I recall being with my mother in San Francisco's Japan Town when we happened to met Mr. and Mrs. Jack Mizono. They were all in their 80s and had been dear friends for over 50 years. It was nearing noon and I suggested we have lunch together. After that delicious and enjoyable lunch, the bill came to the table. I quickly took the check when Mr. Mizono said softly, "Bobby, I'll take that." He used "that voice" that moms and dads reserve only for their children. We all know that voice. It's that "no-nonsense" voice for which the only response is to

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

## SACRAMENTO BETSUIN

2401 Riverside Blvd.  
Sacramento, CA 95818  
(916) 446-0121  
(916) 446-1866 FAX  
betsuinoffice@gmail.com

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**RB'S CORNER**  
 (CONTINUED)

comply. With the barest hesitation, I handed it over. He had the power. I knew again that while growing up, I was fortunate to have had many moms and dads who cared for me... and what an honor to be spoken to with such stern affection. This is what it was to grow up in a Dharma community.

Of course I insisted that I be allowed to pay when next we ate together, but unfortunately that time would never have a chance to come. In October 2008, Mr. Mizono passed away, three years after my Mom.

But even now, I deeply appreciate the efforts of my parents to ensure that I knew what it was to be a part of a Sangha community. Perhaps it is because of this that I feel our Dharma School program is the most important dimension of our Betsuin. To the many people whose efforts make our Dharma School the best in BCA, please know that you are impacting positively on hundreds of children in ways that can never be measured.

Thank you all for another wonderful Dharma School term.

Gratefully,  
 RB

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**PRESIDENT'S  
 MESSAGE**  
 RICHARD KAI

**A**s I listened to our guest speaker for the May 16 Gotan-E service, it is very obvious why Rinban Oshita and Socho Ogui embrace the Ministers' Assistants (MAs) Program as the future for the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA). Reverends Tim and Carol Castle and Patti Oshita, Sensei Grace Hatano and Koichi Mizushima, and Reverend Peter Inokoji-Kim — the flagship for the program as the first MAs to graduate into the ranks of a full-time Kyoshi minister, not only understand American culture and values, but possess the ability to translate their learning into meaningful Dharma messages. Representatives from temples within the Northern California District have all praised the MAs and expressed their gratitude for their commitment to the Dharma, and ability to share their understanding and teachings with the Sangha of our sister temples that are without an assigned minister.

Reverend Tim's Dharma talk was on target, and delivered in a fashion that connected with every person in attendance, whether they were youngsters in age and young at heart. He began his Dharma message by welcoming everyone to our birthday boy's 837 year-old birthday party. Where else would you hear the guest speaker refer to the Gotan-E service as a birthday party for Shinran Shonin? The conservative right might call the reference disrespectful; the other side would say it's an effective way of communicating with our younger audience.

We can find our MAs on any given Sunday at the Betsuin or serving the needs of our sister temples. Their presence is transparent. Yet there's so much more that goes on behind the scenes that may go unnoticed by most of us. I found our MAs at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley on a recent Saturday visit. Our devoted MAs and Reverend Peter, it turns out can be found on any given Saturday attending classes to expand their understanding of the Dharma. They study together most week nights under the tutelage of Rinban Oshita, yet still find time to lead normal lives as parents, providers, chauffeur drivers, youth sports team supporters, and carry full-time jobs to bring home the bacon.

We owe a lot to our MAs. We could not be the vibrant, growing temple that we are without them. The temples within the Northern California District — Placer, Marysville, Lodi, Stockton, Florin and Walnut Grove — would be without ministerial guidance without our MAs. So why do so many not give the MA Program its just recognition and support? Thank you for your commitment, time and hard study to learn and share your understanding of the Dharma.

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**MAINTENANCE  
 REPORT**  
 ED IMAI

**O**ver the past month, the following members performed maintenance on the Betsuin's facilities. The Betsuin is sincerely appreciative to the following members for volunteering their time, expertise and hard efforts:

- Don Honda, Bob Chavez and Gary Traganza erected the scaffold and installed the protective cage and bulbs in new fluorescent light fixture above the basketball hoop in the Kaikan.
- Bob Chavez cleaned up the flower beds, trimmed bushes, weeded and applied roundup, especially in the indoor courtyard outside the Nokotsudo.
- Don Honda patched the water pans, replaced rollers, repaired valves for the swamp coolers above the main building.

**SACRAMENTO  
BUDDHIST  
WOMEN'S  
ASSOCIATION**  
SANDY  
NISHIMURA-YEE



The SBWA board meeting was held on Wednesday, May 5, 2010.

**DONATIONS/ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Yukiko Yagi Family .....	In Memory of Yukiko Yagi .....	\$100
Tomi Tanaka .....	Special Appreciation for Members' Support through Radiation .....	\$50
Anonymous .....	Shotsuki Hoyo .....	\$20
Dharma School Courtyard .....	Thank You for Generous Donation	
Warren Nishimura Family .....	Thank You for Ritsuko Nishimura	

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Community Service – A few months ago, we spoke about future SBWA activities. One activity was to participate in community service outside of the church. After much research, the one organization that seems feasible is helping serve lunch at St. John. St. John is a shelter for women and children in need of assistance. Groups of four people are needed. On a trial basis, the first scheduled date is Thursday, June 10. If you are interested in volunteering, please call Meriko Hoshida at 443-7718. Other future dates will be scheduled.

Another activity was to plan and organize religious sessions. Fortunately, Rinban Bob has graciously accepted to conduct these sessions. We are looking for topics that you may be interested in learning about. If you have a suggestion of topics, please call Lynn Kurahara at 392-3022. The religious sessions will be open to anyone interested.

Kintetsu Meeting — The next meeting is scheduled for June 16 at 1 p.m. at the church. This is a change from September 1. Deposits should have already been turned in and you should have received a letter confirming your deposit.

JTB Meeting — The next meeting is scheduled for June 30 at 1 p.m. at the church. There is still room for more for this trip to Okinawa, so if you're interested, contact Hiroko Tsuda at 427-0890.

The next SBWA Board meeting will be on Wednesday, June 2.

**MINISTERS'  
ASSISTANTS**  
MICHIKO YUKAWA

A few blocks from our home, returning from our morning walk, we were welcomed by a beautiful view of Mount Rainier. Fondly named "Tacoma Fuji" by the Japanese Issei many years ago, they saw the mountain as the masculine twin of the fabled symbol of Japan, Mount Fuji. For us, after weeks of "April showers" and not seeing sunny skies, it was truly a beautiful sight to see the majestic, snow-capped mountain against a cloudless blue sky, framed by tall evergreen trees and towering above the rooftops of our neighborhood homes.

It reminded me of an incident related to me a number of years ago by a reminiscing lady in her 80s. She was recalling her sighting of Mount Rainier from a train window in 1945. Excitedly calling her two sisters to her side, she remembered the three of them pressing their heads against the window, unable to stop the flowing tears. They were returning home — home from years of living behind barbed wires in an unaccustomed dry and treeless land, in multiple-family buildings with no privacy, unfamiliar food and most of all, uncertainty of their future. It was true that there still remained uncertainty for them because they did not know if they would be returning to the house that they had left behind, their neighbors, their parents' shops and livelihood. But how reassuring, how comforting it was for them to see, once again, the towering strength and beauty of Mount Rainier. Mount Rainier meant they were home again, and everything would be, somehow, all right.

Animals instinctively return home. "Homeward Bound: The Incredible Journey" is a classic among children's stories. A few years ago, there was a news article about a cat that had traveled across three states (over 850 miles!) to return home. Since ancient times, during seasonal migrations, wild creatures, including birds, bats, mice, turtles, fish, mammals and insects, travel over unfamiliar land and waters to reach home. Nomads, although they may carry their homes with them as they travel from place to place for the sake of their livestock, always return to the same location at the end of the season. And as we age, although a hospital may care for ill patients with the best of medical technology and medication, patients often indicate they want to go home and almost always voice a preference of spending their final days "at home."

Last year, my husband and I traveled to Japan. For 10 days, we enjoyed new sights, deliciously prepared food, comfort provided by the excellent service of the personnel in Japanese ryokan, as well as American-style hotels, and most of all the wonderful company of good friends. It was an unforgettable trip we

**OFFICE  
MANAGERS**

Meri Fong  
Tak Ito

**BETSUIN  
OFFICE**

446-0121

**SANGHA  
HELPERS**

Misao Abe  
Shiyoko Futaba  
Ruth Hayashi  
Irene Hoshiko  
Sanaye Imajo  
Miyoko Iwata  
Alice Kataoka  
Machiko Kimura  
Yoshiko Morisawa  
Mitzie Muramoto  
Mutsuko Noguchi  
Mary Tsukiji

---

**MINISTERS'  
ASSISTANTS**  
(CONTINUED)

thoroughly enjoyed. When we returned, I realized we would have to again shop for and cook our own meals, “do the dishes,” do laundry, clean house, weed the garden, etc., etc. Still, we found ourselves saying, “It’s good to be home!”

My husband reminded me that because we have a home to return to, we are able to enjoy going on a trip. And as Jodo Shinshu followers, we are so fortunate, for Shinran Shonin has taught us that at the end of our “journey of life,” through the infinite wisdom and compassion of Amida Buddha, we are assured of returning to our home in the Pure Land. Therefore, we are able to live our life, we are able to enjoy our “journey of life” without worry. Because we are assured of returning to the Pure Land, let’s live this life fully. Let’s live our life with gratitude.

Namo Amida Butsu.

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**BENEFIT  
RUMMAGE  
SALE**  
RUTH SEO

おかげさま

**W**ith the current emphasis on recycling and reusing, the Sacramento Buddhist Church Endowment Fund Benefit Rummage Sale offers the perfect opportunity to make space in your closets, cupboards and garage by cleaning out those things that you no longer need or use and making them available to others. Your usable recyclables will be sold to raise funds to help church projects, provide great items at bargain prices for customers while keeping more items from going into the landfills. Unsold items will be donated to charitable organizations to extend the benefits to others in the community.

The Rummage Sale takes place on **Saturday, June 5** at the Buddhist Church social hall from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Your donations will be accepted from Wednesday and Thursday, June 2–3 from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., and on Friday, June 4 from 9 a.m. to noon. Please invite all your friends, neighbors and relatives to donate their items and to come shop for great bargains. After all that cleaning, you will have plenty of room to purchase replacements.

Most items in usable, good condition will be gratefully accepted. Examples: clothing and shoes in all sizes for men, women and children; accessories of jewelry, handbags, purses, knickknacks; small working electrical appliances, such as lamps, toasters, DVD players, clocks, irons, mixers, sewing machines, vacuums, coffee makers, power tools; kitchenware, such as pots, pans, dishes, glasses, silverware, china, cooking utensils; bicycles, camping gear, sports equipment, musical instruments, toys, games, books, bedding, towels, linens, pictures and frames.

The following items **cannot** be accepted: tires, mattresses, televisions, large appliances, hazardous materials.

The Legacy Endowment Fund was established to create a means for funding projects that promote and sustain the Sacramento Betsuin and the propagation of Jodo Shinshu teaching. Educational programs, scholarships, major improvements and the maintenance of the temple shrine are specific projects for which the fund is intended. To date, the Endowment Fund has supported the ministers’ assistants in achieving Kyoshi certification and furthering their education; the publication of the *Metta/Padma Class Supplemental Booklet* authored by Courtney Kashiwagi; sponsored several educational workshops on charitable giving, financial advice, identity theft, caring for the elderly; supported the Youth Advocacy Program; and promoted the Jeff Adachi documentary of “You Don’t Know Jack: The Jack Soo Story.”

Please support the Legacy Endowment Fund Benefit Rummage Sale and make this a win-win for yourself, the church and for the public.

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**SPEAKERS  
AND  
RESOURCE  
DIRECTORY**  
EMILY FURUKAWA

**A**s part of my Girl Scout Gold Award project, I am compiling a “Speakers & Resource Directory” for the use of temple members and affiliated organizations. This directory will be available to aid organizations and members with service-related projects, presentations and meetings. Think of it as the Betsuin Yellow Pages for community services! Please consider being a part of this directory that will be presented to the Betsuin in hard copy and electronic format.

Please submit the following information to the office (ask for the staff to put it into Ken Furukawa’s folder or the Dharma School mail slot), or send via e-mail to [kfuruk@aol.com](mailto:kfuruk@aol.com):

Name  
Contact Information  
Summary of services offered  
Betsuin affiliations

**NO TIME TO  
COOK DINNER  
BEFORE  
OBON  
PRACTICE?**

**F**eaturing Different Daily Specials Each Practice Night:

Hot Dogs  
Chili over Rice  
Shoyu Weenies over Rice  
Somen  
Bottled Water

Chili Dogs  
Curry Rice  
Soba  
Other Goodies!  
Soda

**WE WILL ALSO BE SELLING DINNER  
ON OBON EVENING (JULY 10)**

June 28 - July 8  
Sacramento Buddhist Church  
2401 Riverside Blvd.

Proceeds benefit the Matsuyama Scouts from Troop 50/250

**SAKURA  
GAKUEN  
ELENA TOMITA**

**S**akura Gakuen wound up the year with a lovely graduation ceremony. Some of the students have been taking classes since kindergarten! Graduates were awarded with gifts from their teachers and the PTC. Classes sang Japanese songs, performed stories and showed what they have learned to a rapt audience of parents and friends. Pride shone everywhere!

Parents were reminded of the responsibility and fun coming up at the summer Bazaar. It's a great way to get to know other Sakura Gakuen parents and enjoy the foods and entertainment of the festival. Each family happily donates a few hours of their time to work at the Ginza gift booth. It's our way of giving back to the church, which generously supports the school and the region's only Saturday Japanese language program.

Fall registration for the Saturday children's school is Saturday, August 28, with the first day of instruction on September 9. This year the school is excited to be able to offer scholarships to students. If you are curious about the language school, drop by the Bazaar's Ginza booth and talk with a parent or teacher about the program.

**SACRAMENTO BUDDHIST CHURCH  
LEGACY ENDOWMENT FUND BENEFIT**



**SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 2010 8 A.M. - 2 P.M.**

**SACRAMENTO BUDDHIST CHURCH KAIKAN  
2401 RIVERSIDE BLVD., SACRAMENTO, CA 95818  
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL (916) 446-0121**

**USABLE ITEMS NEEDED  
(DONATIONS ACCEPTED JUNE 2 AND JUNE 3, 11 A.M. - 7 P.M.  
AND JUNE 4, 9 A.M. - NOON)**

Clothing (men, women, children - all types and sizes)  
Accessories, shoes (all kinds)  
Bedding items, draperies and curtains  
Houseware, glassware, toys, games, tools  
Radios and other small appliances (in good working condition)  
Furniture in good repair  
Ink cartridges, cell phones and laptop computers

**ITEMS WE DO NOT ACCEPT**  
Mattresses, TVs, computer monitors or large appliances

**JODO  
SHINSHU  
COURSE**

**JODO SHINSHU CORRESPONDENCE COURSE  
2010 FALL ENROLLMENT  
APPLICATIONS NOW ACCEPTED**

The Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course Office is now accepting applications for its fall 2010 enrollment. The popular two-year, computer-based program continues to offer online instruction in the origins and development of Buddhism, Shinran Shonin's life and teaching, sutras and masters of the Pure Land tradition and history of Jodo Shinshu.

An excellent opportunity for beginners or for those who have already studied Jodo Shinshu, the program reaches out to people all over the world. Students come from Brazil, Canada, Germany, Malaysia, Belgium, Poland and Japan, as well as Hawaii and the BCA. With more than 100 students enrolled, the course has much to offer those interested in deepening their understanding of Buddhism and Jodo Shinshu. The course instructors consist of 14 ministers and professors who specialize in the subjects taught. An optional August Workshop at the Jodo Shinshu Center is held every year.

For more information, please visit the course website at [www.JSCC.cbe-bca.org](http://www.JSCC.cbe-bca.org). Applications may be submitted online at the course website. Deadline: August 15. Questions may be directed to: Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course Office, 2140 Durant Ave., Berkeley, CA. (510) 809-1441. E-mail: [jsc@cbe-bca.org](mailto:jsc@cbe-bca.org).

**15TH ANNUAL SACRAMENTO BUDDHIST CHURCH**

**SENIOR GOLF  
TOURNAMENT**



**EMPIRE RANCH GOLF COURSE, FOLSOM  
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 25, 2010**

**ALL SENIORS AND FRIENDS OF SENIORS ARE WELCOME!**

**7:30 A.M. MODIFIED SHOTGUN START. CHECKIN 6:30-7:30.**

Four Player Scramble Format. Each team will consist of high and low handicaps to make the teams "even." Don't worry about making up a foursome. Participants don't need to worry about hosting 2011 tournament!

**\$65 PER PLAYER**

Includes Green Fees, Cart, Closest-to-the-Hole Contests, Prize Fund and a delicious lunch prepared by Reiko and Crew! Awards and Lunch following golf at the Buddhist Church.

**DEADLINE TO ENTER: AUGUST 8.**

Enter early. Field is limited to 72 players.

Mail entry form and \$65 per player payable to:  
Cindy Hatano, 8959 Sonoma Valley Way, Sacramento, CA 95829 or  
leave at church office, Attn: Senior Golf Tournament c/o Grace Hatano.

Chairpersons: Brian and Cindy Hatano, and Paul Suwa.  
For more information, contact Brian at [fourhats@comcast.net](mailto:fourhats@comcast.net)

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Cut and enclose with check

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address City/Zip

- Please put me in a foursome
- If possible, I'd like to golf with (list names below):

\_\_\_\_\_

## DHARMA SCHOOL

KEN FURUKAWA



**W**elcome to June and the end of the school year! Thanks to you (parents and students) for coming throughout this wonderful 2009-2010 year. I hope we all gained something from our program.

The end-of-the-year Dharma School picnic and service will be June 13 at William Land Park. We will again be at areas 20 and 21 in the southwest corner of the park, near Riverside and 13th Avenue. There will be a short service, recognition of the graduating seniors (so please attend), and the recipients of the Betsuin's scholarship award. And of course what would Dharma School be without FOOD from Reiko, Gladys and the Kitchen Crew! In addition, there will be games and lots of room to run and play!

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

June 2-4	Rummage sale setup, sorting and pricing.
June 5	Rummage sale and cleanup.
June 26	Obon tent setup.
July 10 & 11	Obon and Obon service.
July 23-25	Bazaar construction.
August 14-16	Bazaar and clean up.

### ATTENTION UPPER DIVISION STUDENTS!

Dharma School is responsible for bussing tables of the outdoor eating area during Bazaar. Please remember that 8th grade STUDENTS are assigned the last Saturday shift 7:30 p.m. until after closing, and 9th/10th STUDENTS are assigned the Sunday shift 7:30 p.m. until after closing. Other high school and college age students are also asked to help with the cleaning activities after closing on both nights. It is a lot of work, and it is fun too!

In Gassho.

### DONATIONS

Dharma School "courtyard" gratefully acknowledges donations from the following:

2nd Grade Class	Utako Kimura	Mary Orite
6th Grade Class	Kiyama Family	Mollie Oto & Oto's Marketplace
C & H Donuts	Doris Kuroko	Amy & Louie Watanabe
Stan & Barbara Chan	Yoshie Kyhos	Florence Oto Wong
Furukawa Family	Dr. Tim Mar	Sueko Yamashita
Nancy Hashimoto	Ed & Janet Mizutani	Fusaye Yokoyama
Donald Henry	Yoshiko Morisawa	
Minnie Iseri	Mike & Rachel Nagai	

## CUB SCOUT PACK 50

GLEN KUMAMOTO



Please be aware that 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 e-mail, please send e-mail to: [vibrocount@lanset.com](mailto:vibrocount@lanset.com) with a cc to: [betsuinoffice@gmail.com](mailto:betsuinoffice@gmail.com) and inform the church office at 446-0121. Please include the author's name. Thank you.

**S**o the summertime fun is starting to heat up for Pack 50! Now that the Webelos II have officially transitioned out of Pack 50, we are looking forward to a new group of Scouts to carry on the proud tradition of the Pack.

There are a number of summer activities that are currently being planned for the Pack. We are going to start things off with our annual swim outing at the Wackford Community Center on June 5. This is a super fun event that both Pack 50 and Troop 50 participate in. Thanks again to Teri Yasuda and Shelley Takaha for again chairing this event... I think you both deserve a push into the pool! A trip to the USS Hornet is also in the works. This would be a great opportunity for the Cubs to hear about the rich history of this highly decorated ship and the men who served on her. There is also a great display honoring the 442 RCT/ 100 BN... many of the boys have grandpas that served in this, the most decorated unit in the U.S. Army, so it would be a great exhibit to see.

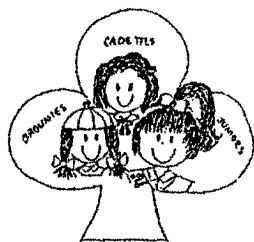
We currently have about 15 boys who are interested in joining Pack 50 as Tiger Scouts. This is a testament to all of our leaders, both past and present, who make Pack 50 the finest Pack in the district! Thank you to Audrey Seo and Shelley Takaha for signing up as our Tiger leaders. If you know of any kids who will be entering the 1st grade next year and are interested in scouting, please have them contact me. We are also looking for an additional leader or two. If you are interested, please let me know!

Pack 50 was fortunate to have yet another successful scouting year, proving that we can keep moving forward even with the current economy. This is mainly due to our excellent "trained" leaders, Pack Chair Norm Tanaka, former Cubmaster Marty Sakata, our incredible parents and enthusiastic Scouts. We'd also like to thank Rinban Bob, Reverend Peter, the ministers' assistants and the Buddhist Church of Sacramento. On behalf of Pack 50, I would like to give special thanks and recognition to Marty Sakata and Daryl Wong for their roles as the Cubmaster and Assistant Cubmaster. Their leadership and commitment to the Pack will be missed. I look forward to a wonderful, adventure-filled ride as the new Cubmaster of Pack 50!

**BOY SCOUTS**  
JARED K.



**GIRL SCOUTS**  
TRICIA WU BORGES



**SANGHA STAFF**

Editor (English) Cliff Adams  
Editor (Japanese) Katsuko Hirota

**CONTRIBUTING REPORTERS**

SBWA (English) Sandy Nishimura-Yee  
President's Msg Richard Kai  
Ministers' Asst Michiko Yukawa  
Endowment Ruth Seo  
Sports Cmte Alan Wu  
Dharma School Ken Furukawa  
Boy Scouts Jared K  
Cub Scouts Glen Kumamoto  
Girl Scouts Tricia Wu Borges  
Sakura Gakuen Elena Tomita  
Maintenance Ed Imai  
Directory Emily Furukawa

**D**uring the month of April, the Scouts had many activities. One of the main events that many Scouts attended was the Troop 50 Iron Chef Cook Off on April 24. Almost all the patrols attended, and each group was made up of two patrols. They each cooked something different and all the dishes tasted great.

Another event was Justin F., Eric F., and Drew Q.'s Eagle Ceremony. Each of them had earned enough merit badges and finished their Eagle Projects before they turned 18. The Eagle Ceremony gave all the other Scouts a chance to know and congratulate Eric, Justin and Drew before they left Troop 50.

Also, Cub Scout Pack 50 had their Arrow of Light Ceremony this month and many of the Scouts from Den 5 came to Troop 50. A few of the Boy Scouts were there to welcome the new Scouts as they bridged over to the troop.

Many of the Scouts also went on the Lake Pardee campout where many of the incoming Webelos came to check out Troop 50. The Scouts also had some meetings during April, at one of which they built swings and other things out of wooden staves.

**A**s part of her Gold Award, Ashley Joe from Seniors 1 organized, coordinated and held a Children's Day event to teach younger Girl Scouts about customs and celebrations of Japan. About 140 girls, not only from Troop 569, but from within the Land Park service unit, attended. Participants were able to make different crafts like Kokeshi dolls, colorful carp windsocks, origami samurai hats and bookmarks. They also got to make mochi. Everyone had a wonderful time. Great job, Ashley!

Every May Troop 569 holds its Bridging Ceremony. This year Brownies 1, Juniors 1, Juniors 2 and Cadettes 1 bridged to their next age levels of Girl Scouts and are ready to take on the new activities and challenges awaiting them.

Congratulations to Seniors 1 for graduating from Girl Scouts. With that they leave this message:

*As **Seniors 1** get ready to graduate from high school and bridge out of the Girl Scout program, we would like to thank Troop 569 for the wonderful opportunities and memories we have as a Girl Scout. Troop 569 has the greatest advisors, treasurer, FOG ST, leaders, and Girl Scouts; and Seniors 1 has been very fortunate and are grateful to be a part of such an awesome troop. We would also like to thank the Betsuin for providing a location for our meetings, ceremonies and events.*

*Thank you,  
Ashley Joe, Brittany Tom Sun and Makenna Huey*

**Juniors 4** are enjoying the beautiful spring weather. The girls had an opportunity to have a Peace Corps volunteer talk with them in May about his experiences in Namibia. It was fun to learn about a new country! They were so eager to participate in the Bridging Ceremony. It's always a great time to see all the older girls who are graduating, as well as the slides from all the troops. Have a wonderful summer!

**Juniors 1 and 2** attended the Golden Gate Bridging Event in San Francisco on May 8. It was a beautiful sunny day and the girls had a blast meeting other Girl Scouts from other cities and states. Six states were represented at the huge event. The girls felt that it made bridging to Cadettes special and it was a trip that they will remember for many years to come!

In addition to bridging to Seniors, **Cadettes 1** has three girls working on their Silver Award project.

**Seniors 5** have been busy taking SAT and ACT exams the past few months and despite their busy schedules, they have found time to work on their Gold and Rose awards.

During the month of May, Lindsey Valdovino conducted a clothes drive and book drive as part of her Gold Award project. She would like to take this opportunity to thank the entire Sangha for their generous donations. It was greatly appreciated.

Congratulations goes out to Karisa Yamamoto and Kristina Koyama for completing their Rose Award, following Jamie Chew and Lindsey Valdovino as the only recipients from Troop 569 to receive the Girl Scouts Heart of Central California Council's highest award.



**SPORTS COMMITTEE**  
ALAN WU



**A**s we bring in this year's version of the June, we must begin our swooning. As with the traditional ending of the school year, June is a month for cleaning up and putting to rest and closing out this year's iteration of our sports program to get ready for summer vacation.

We still have a few teams preparing for the annual Central Cal Cobra Tournament, but by and large, our storage room is busting at the seams with our tools of the trade and assorted paraphernalia. June is a time for taking stock and to reflect on happenings of yet another sports season, and get ready for summer vacation.

What happened this past season will undoubtedly go down in the history books for being very historical. The ending of the 2009-2010 season will mark the retirement of Gordon Nitta. Gordon has served on the Sports Committee for 12 or 14 or 20 years. He has been on the committee so long, no one really remembers just exactly how long it has been, but all through the years Gordon stayed true to his convictions, the most important one being: Doing what's best for the kids. Doing what's best for our kids is not as simple and easy as it sounds, oh no, Gordon ruffled some feathers and stepped on some toes along the way, and may not have been voted the most popular guy on campus, but he was always able to sift through all the hyperbole and personal agendas and did what was best for all our kids in the program. It may have not been the easiest path to take, but he was willing to take the heat to maintain his commitment to the kids. Thank you, Gordon for all your many years of service to the committee and the church and especially to our kids.

With the retirement of Gordon, we are very pleased to announce that the new Sports Committee Chair will be Denis Ishisaka. Denis played in the program, coached in the program, has kids in the program, and will now lead the program. Thank you to Denis for putting on yet another "hat" for our church, and from what we've seen so far, the "hat" fits him very well, and it is certain that he will do a great job as our committee chair. Welcome aboard, Denis!

Even though we have a new sheriff in town, we still have our attendance requirement, so keep coming to church!

Enjoy your summer vacation.

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