

# SANJSHA

SACRAMENTO BUDDHIST CHURCH  
VOLUME 48 NUMBER 8 - AUGUST 2011

RB'S CORNER  
REV. BOB OSHITA

Hello and welcome to the month of August.... With the coming of August, the Sacramento Betsuin gears up to host our annual Bazaar. There is no doubt that this is a major community event. People come together to enjoy a weekend of great food in wonderful company. It doesn't get much better than that. From the time Patti and I first came to Sacramento back in 1984, we felt there was something very special about our Sacramento Betsuin Bazaar.

As the years passed and I began to understand the history of our temple and community, I sensed an underlying current that may give some insight into why our Bazaar is so special. Here it is. In the late 1950s, the State of California began an urban renewal project. Sacramento was the first city to undergo this transformation. In the process of "redeveloping" the inner city area, our Nihonmachi (Japantown) and also our Sacramento Chinatown were redeveloped out of existence.

In 1959 our Betsuin, founded in 1899, was moved from 4th and O Street to our present location. In the late 60s, with visionary young leaders like Rye Keikoan, Ray Takata, Hank Nishikawa and Reverend Yukawa (and so many more who deserve recognition), the Bazaar began to grow. It grew with an incredible vitality that continues to this day.

Here is my theory: We may no longer have a physical Nihonmachi as we had back in the day, but we continue to have a strong spiritual sense of community. And each year, for one weekend, our Nihonmachi comes to life again. It is a labor of love and a wonderful weekend reunion of friends and family. It is wonderful to see everyone working together and amazing to feel that deep connection of truly being a community.

There are literally hundreds of people working to bring our Bazaar to life each year. And I have no doubt that those who founded our temple in 1899 would be overwhelmed and proud to see the vitality of our Betsuin 112 years later.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

## SACRAMENTO BETSUIN

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**RB'S CORNER**  
(CONTINUED)

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**  
KELVIN MARK, D.O.

We truly appreciate Sherman Iida for taking on the task of chairing our Bazaar this year. And even more, we thank the hundreds of people who are working so hard to bring the old Nihonmachi to life once again... for an amazing weekend. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Bazaar!

**D**id Sensei just say welcome to August? WOW! On behalf of your Betsuin Board of Trustees, let me extend a great many thanks to all who turned out to help raise our tent, to caringly prepare our chochin paper lanterns, and to make our Obon/Hatsubon observances so meaningful. Do you hear the aspirations of loved ones passed echoing in your hearts and minds? How impressive it was to see so many new faces active at tent construction, to watch new skills being taught to our youth, and to be part of new friendships being forged. Gratefully, many hands made otherwise heavy work light.

If you've not yet participated in tent raising, in constructing, or in putting away our Bazaar booths, you really must to treat yourself and your families to being part of these most dramatic of sangha feats. How amazing it is to see the triangular-shaped sections of sailing canvas emerge from storage and get hoisted to the top of the yagura. One cannot help but be reminded that each of us is like a *yagura* to our Jodo Shinshu way and to our Betsuin. *Yagura?* Really?

Well, you see, the construction of our tent begins at our raised platform or "watchtower," the name being derived from *ya*, meaning "arrow," and *kura*, which means "storehouse." The castles of feudal Japan often used the yagura as cornerstone defensive structures and for the well being of all within. In the countryside, villages erected *yagura* to serve as watchtowers to guard against fire, to send and to receive signals from afar.

In this modern day, our outlook and conduct form the cornerstones of our ethnically and socially diverse Betsuin. The vibrancy of our Dharma School and activeness in social programs each signal the relevance and meaning of Jodo Shinshu in our everyday lives. Your unselfish financial support of our temple and willingness to roll up your sleeves to pitch in on behalf of our sponsored and affiliated organizations are principal gauges as to the health and vitality of our Betsuin and serve as living examples of the Jodo Shinshu way.

With preparations for our 65th Annual Food and Cultural Bazaar well underway, I hope you will join me in bringing the same vibrancy and energy in support our major fundraiser of the year, a proud tradition since 1946. We anticipate hosting well over 60,000 guests during our weekend event. Whether you find yourself busing a table, preparing or serving our delicious foods, or working with a hammer and driver, let us challenge ourselves to consider how far we have come since 1946... and where we aspire to be in 2076? Thank you for all that you do to keep our temple strong and moving forward.

In gassho.

**J**uly's SBWA Board meeting was held on Wednesday, July 6, with President Lynn Kurahara presiding.

#### DONATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

George Morita .....	In Memory of His Wife, Bette K. Morita .....	\$100
Anonymous .....	Shotsuki Hoyo for Bill and Nancy Tanaka .....	\$50
Stephen & Jean Kashiwada .....	Birth of Grandson Nolan Masato Yoshimura .....	\$50
Ted & Sharon Yoshimura .....	Birth of Grandson Nolan Masato Yoshimura .....	\$50
Ted & Sharon Yoshimura .....	Birth of Grandson Jordon Naoki Yoshimura .....	\$50

#### UPCOMING EVENTS

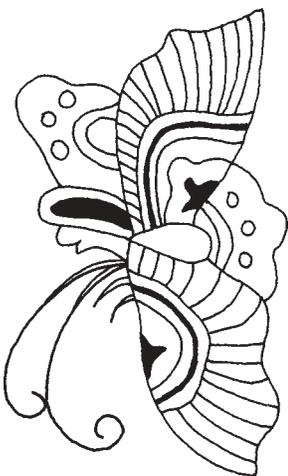
**Bazaar - August 13 & 14:** President Kurahara is asking all BWA members and their families and friends to come out to help with sushi making. Male help is greatly appreciated.

August 12 (Friday) from 7:30 a.m.	Food preparation
August 13 (Saturday) from 2 a.m.	Food preparation
August 14 (Sunday) from 2 a.m.	Food preparation

Please wear something to cover your hair and bring an apron. Gloves will be provided. Coffee, tea and donuts will be provided each day. A delicious lunch will be provided on Friday, along with a delicious breakfast on Saturday and Sunday.

**Bazaar Craft Booth:** Be sure to check out the Craft Booth for the wonderful items made by the BWA and friends of the BWA. Thank you to the following for their donations to the Bazaar craft booth last month:

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**SACRAMENTO BUDDHIST WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION**  
KEIKO JEAN KASHIWADA


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## SACRAMENTO BUDDHIST WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

CONTINUED

Janis Furuta, Jane Nakagawa, Tessie Goi, Misao Inaba, Mary Inouye, Carolyn Murai, Rachel Nagai and group, Jennifer Nitta, Virginia Uchida, Junichi Yamamoto, Frances Kondo, Yukie Okasaki, Elaine Yoshikawa, Gladys Adachi and Meriko Hoshida. Their contributions are much appreciated!

Many thanks to Jane Komure for teaching the art of making washi paper-covered eggs in June; and to Kathy Henry for leading the July group in card-making.

### FUTURE BWA OUTINGS AND ACTIVITIES

The BWA Board is planning some fun outings and fundraisers. More information will be available after our September 7 meeting.

See you at the Bazaar!

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## NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

**H**ave you paid your 2011 membership?

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## MINISTERS' ASSISTANTS

TIM CASTLE

**Y**AC "7/11" has just ended, so it must be August! What is a YAC 7/11?? This is our **seventh** Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) Youth Advocacy Committee (YAC) summer retreat and it was held in 2011... 7/11!

This year, we kicked off our Fourth of July with day one of 7/11. Fifteen outstanding young adults from both coasts of BCA arrived at the Sacramento Betsuin, met each other for the first time, and dove head first into some hard-core Buddha boot camp.

When we first developed the YAC retreat format, we wanted to duplicate, in part, our Tokudo experiences from 2003. Each day of the retreat, the participants woke up at 7 a.m. for 8 a.m. service... the first of four each day! For each service, the participants were taught how to ring the kansho (service bell), how to lead chanting, chair the service, prepare the altar (light candles and incense) and give the howa or dharma talk. Each participant had to learn all service tasks, so 15 participants meant 15 services during the week!

While the first services were challenging, by the end of the week it was almost like the Betsuin had 15 new minister assistants! While almost all the participants commented on how nervous leading chanting and speaking was, the best comment overheard was that being on the altar "made me proud to be Buddhist."

It is truly amazing to be a part of the YAC Retreat Program and to be surrounded by the youth of the BCA. These participants will no doubt be the leaders and backbone of our temples and BCA in the future. Many of our first YAC participants from our first retreat have graduated from college, started out on their careers, and are looking to be an active part of their local temples. We are hopeful that the YAC Program is supported by BCA for many years to come.

As we closed out day 7 after our Obon/Hatsubon service on Sunday afternoon, we were left with many memories of YAC 7/11... simply happy to have made so many new friends and DBFLs. The ministers and minister assistants were especially proud of our Sacramento participants, Emma Maron and Keri Castle. Both ladies did an outstanding job and represented the Sacramento Betsuin with strong voices and stronger hearts.

As our Bishop and guest speaker, Socho Ogui, stated in his closing thoughts to the 7/11 participants, "Your life is not only your life, but a life of others' patience, kindness and sacrifice...."

The YAC retreat is yet another example of this. It is through the efforts of so many people from the Betsuin, BCA and the YAC that we are able to host this retreat. From the "robe ladies" who have already started planning next year's robes, the volunteers who made such delicious food for us to eat, the facility volunteers and temple employees who made sure everything was clean and in working order for all, and especially "Team Betsuin," my Dharma Buddies for Life — "DBFLs" — RB, Patti, Peter, Gracie, Koichi, and especially Carol.

I Gassho to all of my DBFLs, old and new!



Rev. Bob Oshita  
428-9833



Rev. Peter Inokoji-Kim  
446-4988

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## SANGHA STAFF

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Editor (Japanese) Katsuko  
Hirota

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Endowment	Ruth Seo
Maintenance	Gary Traganza
Boy Scouts	Ryan Soohoo
Girl Scouts	Kristi Omoto Yvonne Otani
Sports Cmte	Alan Wu
Dharma School	Ken Furukawa
BCA Debt Relief	Mike Nagai

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**LEGACY  
ENDOWMENT  
FUND**  
RUTH SEO

おかげさま

Despite the rain that started on June 3 and continued till the close of the third annual Legacy Endowment Fund Board (LEFB) Rummage Sale on June 4, undaunted committee leaders and volunteers prepared and sold thousands of donated items, and then prepared the leftover items for pick-up by many charities. The LEFB wishes to thank the Sangha and the greater Sacramento community for your support in helping make the project one that benefits so many people. A special thank you to the incredibly talented and hardworking committee leaders and the many volunteers who came out for four consecutive days, and to Reiko Kurahara and Gladys Adachi and their crew who kept workers well-fed and nourished to sustain them through the many hours of work.

The LEFB also wishes to acknowledge the generosity of **Marcia and Don Matsuda** of Matsuda's Nursery for their donation of a truckload of beautiful plants and trees. Their contributions account for much of the financial success of the rummage sale for the past three years. Thank you very much, Marcia and Don.

Although the goal of the Legacy Endowment Fund (LEF) is to grow the principal so that the interest can fund major projects, fundraisers such as the rummage sale make possible the immediate funding of worthy events that fall within the LEF guidelines. One such project that was funded this year is the Youth Advocacy Committee (YAC) Retreat. LEF helped pay the registration for two active Betsuin members, **Keri Castle** and **Emma Maron**. Keri and Emma went through a rigorous application and selection process, which earned them the opportunity to join a group of 15 teenagers from 13 temples for a week of intensive activities that gave them a mini-Tokudo experience that helps them connect with the traditions and teachings of Buddhism and Jodo Shinshu. Emma and Keri are now among the 93 young people, 11 from the Sacramento Betsuin, who have participated in the YAC program. From their start seven years ago, the YAC retreats have been hosted at our temple and led by Reverends Bob and Patti Oshita, Peter Inokoji-Kim, Tim and Carol Castle, and Senseis Grace Hatano and Koichi Mizushima. The LEFB extends our appreciation and congratulations to all who worked so hard to make the YAC Retreat a meaningful experience for all who participated.

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**BCA DEBT  
RELIEF  
EFFORT**  
MIKE NAGAI, ELDER

**OFFICE  
MANAGERS**

Meri Fong  
Tak Ito

**BETSUIN  
OFFICE**

446-0121

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Mary Amemiya  
Shiyoko Futaba  
Ruth Hayashi  
Irene Hoshiko  
Sanaye Imajo  
Miyoko Iwata  
Mae Kaneko  
Alice Kataoka  
Machiko Kimura  
Yoshiko Morisawa  
Mitzie Muramoto  
Mutsuko Noguchi  
Teruko Ono  
Mary Tsukiji  
Faye Uyemura

Back in May, we all received a letter from the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) announcing a one-year debt relief effort to retire or substantially reduce the \$3.1 million debt owed to the California Bank & Trust for the construction of the Jodo Shinshu Center (JSC). The letter requested that a donation of \$199 per member or \$398 per couple be made toward this effort.

Articles published in the May issue of the BCA *Wheel of Dharma* by Janice Doi, president of the San Jose Betsuin, and in the June issue of the Sacramento Betsuin SANGHA by our president, Kelvin Mark, described the benefits provided by the JSC and stated that the BCA looks at it as a major hub for Shin Buddhist academic development in this country. Both presidents support this effort by BCA and urge their respective sanghas to contribute whatever amount they can.

I would like to provide a fiscal view of why we should support this effort. The present amount owed on the debt is \$3.1 million. Approximately \$240,000 is made in annual payments, of which about \$168,000 is for interest. If we continue to pay off the mortgage at this present rate, the estimated interest paid over the life of the loan will amount to \$2.1 million. (Note: Data derived and extrapolated from an article in the May 2011 issue of the *Wheel of Dharma*).

The BCA is a non-profit organization and like any other non-profit, it relies on member assessments and donations to fund operations AND any debt obligations. There are no government grants or funds from outside sources to relieve this burden. In other words, debt repayment is an obligation that falls on you, me and every other member of the 60 or so temples in the BCA.

If each of us can scrape together enough cash to pay the \$199 per member — or whatever amount we can afford, be it \$100, \$50, \$500 or even more — we will benefit by avoiding all those huge interest payments. It boils down to pay now and reduce future interest payments or pay later and pay a lot more, which may ultimately result in increased BCA assessments to the temples and in turn, increases in temple dues to each of us. From a financial standpoint, the first option is obviously the wiser thing to do.

I hope you will join me and make your contribution! And for those who can afford do a little more, I urge you to do so. Let's not leave this burden for

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**BCA DEBT  
RELIEF  
EFFORT  
CONTINUED**

others to assume. Let's step up and do our share to reduce this debt now. Kudos to our neighboring Florin Buddhist Church, whose members have fully participated. As Ms. Doi wrote to her San Jose sangha, "It is time to acknowledge that we (the members) are the BCA. Accept the situation that we are in, and address the problem with a goal toward resolution."

In gassho.

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**BAZAAR  
TENT SETUP**


The following members helped with the Bazaar tent setup on June 26.

Gladys Adachi	Roger Ikemoto	Gordon Nitta
Keith Adachi	Denis Ishisaka	Alex Ng
Sam Adachi	Richard Kai	R. Ng
James Amioka	Cheryl Kajioka	Marty Sakata
Mark Amioka	Ken Koyama	Tyler Sakata
Clark Herman	Brian Koyasako	Sachi Sawada
Bob Chavez	Steve Koyasako	Diane Shimosaka
Melo Coloma	Lynn Kurahara	Gene Soo Hoo
Don Honda	Reiko Kurahara	Ryan Soo Hoo
Joshua Honda	Wayne Kurahara	Bobby Tanaka
Sherman Iida	Tyler Lee	Norman Tanaka
Drew Ikemoto	Kelvin Mark	Gary Traganza
	Randy Mori	Kelly Uda

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**MAINTENANCE  
REPORT**

GARY TRAGANZA

Over the last 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:

- Gordon Nitta repaired two of the tables in the courtyard. The third was beyond repair. He and Bob Chavez disposed of it.
- Gordon Nitta and Jennifer Nitta made a special trip to the temple to cover the Obon stage with plastic just before the hard rain last month. Had they not done so, the tables would have been badly damaged.
- Gordon Nitta and Bob Chavez stayed late after the Obon Odori to tear down the stage to make room for parking for the Obon/Hatsubon service Sunday morning.
- Matt Nitta, Gordon Nitta and Gary Traganza installed an antenna on the roof, strung coaxial cable and mounted a TV in the library. Thank you, Reverend Peter and Aileen for donating the TV.
- Don Honda and Gary Traganza refurbished two swamp coolers over the outdoor kitchen.
- Gary Oshita repaired and serviced the annex coolers in time for the BCA Youth Advocacy Committee Retreat. Without these coolers, it would get pretty uncomfortable for our guests. Thank you again, Gary.

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**BOY SCOUT  
TROOP 50  
RYAN SOOHOO,  
TROOP HISTORIAN**


June is the month when Scouting events start to pick up. Scouts are finally out of school and able to attend more events and projects. Plenty of events and meetings occurred and probably the biggest part of the month was new Scouts being introduced to the troop.

Scouts usually enter the troop during the summer. They have to get more used to life as a Scout and experience projects and outings for the first time. The first troop meeting in June introduced the new Scouts to the rest of the troop. They participated in activities during the meeting.

The following day, Scouts attended a service project at the Walnut Grove Buddhist Church. They helped in setting up the tent and pulling out supplies for the upcoming Walnut Grove Bazaar. It was and always is a fun service project and not just because of the guaranteed food at the end.

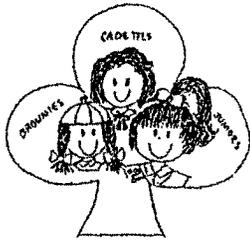
A couple weeks later, the Scouts set up the tents and lanterns for our own church. A few Scouts came out to help, but the job was finished quickly and finished well. The lanterns you see on top of you when you dance at Obon were set up with the help of Scouts from Troop 50.

June is the month for new Scouts to be introduced, but what will occur over the next few months will definitely shape their Scouting experience.

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**GIRL SCOUT  
TROOP 569**

KRISTI OMOTO

**O BON**

**G**irl Scouts from Troop 569 participated in earning their 2011 Obon patch. To receive the patch, the Scouts must attend an Obon workshop and also participate in the Obon Festival. We would like to gratefully acknowledge Obon workshop instructors, **Linda Ito, Kathi Omoto** and **Sandy Fong**. Well done, ladies! We would also like to thank **Rinban Bob Oshita** for the meaningful Obon lecture. As always, it was very informative and interesting.

Troop 569 sold refreshing cold somen, delicious spam musubi, homemade mochi and ice cold Hawaiian ice tea during the Obon Festival. Thank you to **Judy Inaba** for coordinating this effort. **Judy** coordinates this fundraiser for the troop every year and we are so appreciative of her time and generosity. Thank you also to the parent volunteers who helped to make this fundraiser a success.

**JUNIORS 2****YVONNE OTANI, JUNIORS 2 TROOP LEADER**

The girls had a great time dancing at our Obon Festival during the month of July. The girls also loved being with each other for a summer sleepover on July 16. Swimming, playing games, making cupcakes and staying up late were all part of the fun! **Juniors 2** is looking forward to our August Bazaar and baking lots of treats for the Girl Scout pastry booth!

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**DHARMA  
SCHOOL  
NEWS**

KEN FURUKAWA



**W**elcome August and Bazaar! By this time almost everyone has competing commitments to help at the Betsuin's premier event. Please don't forget to show up for Dharma School's outdoor busing assignments by class! The schedule will be posted near the information booth where we wipe off and collect trays... so please check. If you are available during your child's class assignment, drop on by for awhile. It is work, but it can be fun too!

**All students in the 8th, 9th and 10th grades are expected to show up for the shifts in place of parents!** Those shifts are Saturday 7:30 p.m. until after 9 p.m. for 8th grade, and Sunday 7:30 p.m. until after 9 p.m. for 9th and 10th grades. Younger students are also encouraged to help during assigned class times; it is never too early to participate on your own too!

September is just around the corner, and so is the next Dharma School term. This 2011–2012 term will see some obvious changes right from the beginning. At this time the Dharma School registration process will start to mirror real school procedures, beginning with the registration process for parents during the first two Sundays of the term. Parents will need to provide a student picture (for emergency information cards), primary and alternate telephone contact, address and e-mail (students often provide their personal addresses, which is not appropriate). Look for September's SANGHA for more detailed information! Remember, the constant is change!

As this goes to press, **we still need teachers for 5th, 7th and 8th grades!** If you are interested in seeing what this is all about, please contact me at [kfuruk@aol.com](mailto:kfuruk@aol.com). If we are unable to secure teachers, then parents of these classes will be solicited to fill in for teaching duties throughout the term. Thanks.

Also, thank you to the Betsuin Choir for the delightful performance during the Obon service on July 10.

In Gassho.

**DONATIONS**

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

Grace Hatano

Roy Iwata Family

Irene Hoshiko

George Morita &amp; Family

Utako Kimura

Eleanor Nobuye

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**EDUCATION  
AWARDS  
FUND**

**T**he Buddhist Education Committee of the Board of Trustees thanks the following organizations for donations to the Education Awards Fund:

- Sports Committee
- Adult Buddhist Association (ABA)
- Sacramento Buddhist Women's Association (SBWA)
- Dharma School
- ABA Off Broadway group

Without such support, the generous awards to 16 outstanding graduated high school seniors would not have been funded. Each of the students was exceptional in their dedication and support of various programs at the Betsuin. We wish them all the best in the years to come!

**SAKURA  
GAKUEN**  
MASAKO THOMAS

**SPORTS  
COMMITTEE**  
ALAN WU



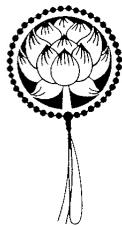
**S**akura Gakuen Adult Classes (Monday evenings): Registration and orientation for the fall semester is on Monday August 22, at 6 p.m., first come first served. Our classes are designed for busy people like you: once a week, small class size (7 to 15 students per class), and different types and levels of classes. Beginner Level 1 requires no knowledge of Japanese. Intermediate and Refresher courses are for those who have learned some and want to improve or maintain the proficiency level. We also have a continuing Kanji class.

The fall semester is from September 12, 2011 to January 30, 2012. Tuition for church members is \$132 per semester class, 20% discount of \$165 for others. The registration fee for a new student is \$10. Please check the Sakura Gakuen Adult Class website, or contact Masako Thomas at [thomas@sakuragakuen.us](mailto:thomas@sakuragakuen.us).

**M**any hot August greetings to you. Actually, so far, this summer has been a pretty mild one with only a few days in the 100s and a few other days in the low 80s, so all in all the standard sweltering Sacramento summer has not made an appearance yet. Oh yeah, the high 90s and low 100s, in July are expected and commonplace, but the high 70s and low 80s in July, in Sacramento, now that's highly unusual, rather odd, and even downright peculiar. And to top it off, how about that half-inch of rain that fell in June? And what about Mount Lassen still being snowed in or snowed under in July? And what about the Boy Scouts having to make alternate plans for their 50-mile hike in the Sierras due to the excessive snow pack? Now that is a bizarre summer!

We can only hope the weather will cooperate and not be too bizarre for our Bazaar. With it being August, it is far from bizarre to speak of the Bazaar; for 60-umpteen years, August has been synonymous with our annual Bazaar. This year the annual Bazaar is on August 13 and 14, and if you have not already received your Bazaar shift assignment(s), you should in the very near future. Please make sure to fulfill your obligations, and if you absolutely cannot, please make sure to find a replacement for you. Remember, we are all in this together; we are on the same team working toward the common goal. Let's go out, have some fun and knock this year's Bazaar out of the park!

September is just around the corner too, so get prepared for the new Dharma School year, basketball registration, and bowling league sign-ups... and do not forget about the two extra credit days in September; not just one, but two!



## *Condolences to the Families of:*



*Akiko Furuhashi ..... May 23, 1929 – June 11, 2011*  
*Bette Kikuye Morita ..... September 14, 1923 – June 15, 2011*

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.

