

SANJSHA

SACRAMENTO BUDDHIST CHURCH
VOLUME 48 NUMBER 12 - DECEMBER 2011

RB'S CORNER
REV. BOB OSHITA

SACRAMENTO BETSUIN

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Seasons Greetings! And welcome to the month of December.... I seem to always feel this way when December comes, but it is hard to believe that the year is coming to a close. The older I become, the faster time seems to fly by. I think this is because as we grow older, there are more demands on our time. Each day we wake up to face a day filled with places to be, people to see and things to do.

As I have often said, we who are living in these technological times are the most well-informed, the most well-entertained and the most well-scheduled people who have ever lived. We are so well-scheduled that it is difficult to be completely in the moment, being only here and now. At least once a week I drive away from our home wondering if I closed the garage door. I crane my neck to check... or if I've gone too far to see, I make a U-turn to drive by the house again just to see if the door is closed. So far, it has always been closed.

But this is just an indication that my mind is already involved with what I have to do next or where I have to be. I'm everywhere but in the present.

When we were young children, one day could feel like forever. I think this is because when we were young, our minds and bodies were truly living in the moment. We didn't dwell on the past... and we didn't worry about the future.

When children play, they are totally in the here and now. To young children, tomorrow is the distant future. Some of our parents have shared with me that if they have vacation plans to go to Disneyland, they will not tell their young children until the day before they leave. If they tell them a week before, then each day they have to hear, "Are we going soon? When are we going to leave?" To a child filled with anticipation, next week is an eternity away... and time moves so very slowly. Birthdays can't come soon enough; so when asked their age, they might respond saying, "I'm 7 going on 8!" or "I'm 8 and three-quarters!"

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

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RB'S CORNER

(CONYNUED)

Now, the years seem to zip on by. But there is a way to slow them down. It's actually very simple. It is just to be mindfully and patiently in the moment. Buddhism is sometimes described as, "A journey to the present. A journey to the moment that is right now."

I rediscovered the ability to truly enjoy the moment in the last years of my Dad's life. If we are fortunate, we become aware that our time together, however long, is very short. Knowing this, I would often drive to San Francisco and spend a day with my folks. Whenever the weather was nice, I would put them in the car and we would start our day's journey going to lunch. With no destination in mind, we just drove. Sometimes out to the beach; maybe a meandering drive through Golden Gate Park; perhaps explore North Beach... drive down crooked Lombard Street and then up to Coit Tower. Once we drove all the way down Mission Street just to see how far it went. On these drives we would discover areas we had never seen and stop to eat wherever we thought was interesting. Once near the San Francisco Zoo, we found an odd little restaurant with a strangely international menu. Dad had won-ton soup, Mom had a pizza and I had a chili burger. Surprisingly they were all pretty good. On one excursion, we got off the Bay Bridge at Treasure Island (This is one of the best views of the City). I remember Mom saying that she had lived in San Francisco for over 50 years, and never once even thought about the view from Treasure Island. It was beautiful.

The point I'm trying to make is to slow down the passing of time, we have to rediscover the joy of just being in the moment. The way to find our way to the present is to nurture patience. One way to nurture patience is to enjoy a day with no place we want to be... rediscovering and enjoying wherever we are. If we succeed, that day can become a precious memory... and not just another agenda-filled day.

Wishing you all a winter holiday filled with precious memories, precious memories of this, never to come again, December of 2011.

—RB

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

KELVIN C. MARK, D.O.

Welcome to December 2011. Have you heard that thriving organizations grow because they connect with and invest in their community? That they make sense and are relevant to the people that they serve? That they resonate? One glance at our Sangha tells us this is true. Just this November past, our Dharma School welcomed nearly 50 new students of unprecedented family diversity and age. **WOW!** Although time will describe the depth and embrace of sharing the Dharma, take heart. Our new students have taken the first steps in living an "other-centered life"— a life of Nembutsu.

Our Issei pioneers established the Buddhist Church of Sacramento on December 17, **1899** and invested in building a community. First generation adherence to a basic code of conduct and grounding resonates clearly today. Subsequently, we have become dedicated to sharing the Dharma with, and beyond, our own generation. Members of our Sangha emulate such a spirit by attending Family Dharma service, participating in a multitude of sponsored and affiliated organizations, volunteering to guide and lead, and unselfishly giving monetary gifts, large and small, for the betterment of our temple. While the foundation of our church originated from the Japanese American community, we know that the Dharma is a worldwide, universal entity.

Many of us new to our Betsuin and traditions may be unaware of the conditions and actions that allow us to appreciate and walk the Dharma path of Buddhism and the Nembutsu together. Are you curious about what has happened in the 112 years of contemporary Shin Buddhism in Sacramento? If you agree that we can only know **where we are going** if we consider where we have been, please allow me to share a timeline of our Buddhist Church as outlined in our temple archives.

We know that the Shogun Tokugawa dispersed the power of his subjects by dividing the Hongwanji into Nishi (Western) and Higashi (Eastern) branches in 1602. The Meiji Restoration dismantled the samurai feudal order in preference of investing in a modern society based on a centralized parliamentary government. The U.S. Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 created a huge demand, by industrialists, to replace Chinese immigrant labor with workers from Japan. So began a major driving force for coming to America.

By **1900**, church membership increased, necessitating the relocation to 410 O Street. We welcomed our first resident minister, Reverend Ryotetsu Harada.



Rev. Bob Oshita
428-9833



Rev. Peter Inokoji-Kim
446-4988

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(CONTINUED)

OFFICE MANAGERS

Tak Ito
Kathy Yamamoto

BETSUIN OFFICE

446-0121

SANGHA HELPERS

Misao Abe
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

Soon after, the Buddhist Women's Association (BWA) was organized. During the same year, the Vacaville Buddhist Church was founded.

1903 Penryn establishes a BWA branch. The Nihon Sho Gakko—Japanese Language School—was established and continues to this day. The Gakko served as a boarding school to children of the Issei who needed a safe place for their children to stay while they worked long migrant hours in the fields.

1923 Our Buddhist Church of Sacramento was struck by the most tragic incident in its history. The chapel and Sakura Gakuen dormitory buildings were completely destroyed by arson in which 10 of 28 students living at the dorm perished in the fire.

1924 Temple branches are established in Isleton and Walnut Grove.

1925 Our church completes and dedicates a brick reconstruction project.

1928 Annexes are built to accommodate the growing language school whose name is changed to the Sacramento Gakuen.

1931 Marysville Buddhist Church grows in size to become independent. Sacramento commemorates the 30th Anniversary with a project to construct a large YBA social hall, stage, and full-scale basketball court to promote spiritual and recreational activities for the younger members; it gives children, marginalized by the community at large, a place to play.

1941 The Sacramento Gakuen grows to become the largest Japanese school in Northern California with over 350 students. America enters World War II.

1942 President Franklin Roosevelt issues Executive Order 9066. The Buddhist Church of Sacramento is closed down due to the complete incarceration of Japanese nationals and American citizens of Japanese ancestry. The United States Army, under the administration of the City of Sacramento, occupies our church buildings.

1945 WWII ends. The city relinquishes control of the church the following year. The YBA Hall and Sakura Gakuen classrooms serve as hostels for some 2,000 people returning to Sacramento from internment camps with little more than the clothes on their backs. The church acts as an employment agency to secure jobs for returnees. You can imagine the sense that the Buddhist Church felt like home, a treasured place for people to feel safe from bigotry, from danger, from harm. Our temple radiates the warmth and feeling of home.

1951 Fire destroys the Vacaville Buddhist Church. Members sell the land and donate the proceeds to the Buddhist Church of Sacramento. All members in the Vacaville area transfer membership to the Betsuin.

1958 The City of Sacramento Redevelopment Project forces the relocation of the Buddhist Church of Sacramento despite a more than half-century presence, moving to our current location.

1961 The first issue of the *Sacramento Sangha* newsletter rolls off the presses, becoming the official bulletin of the Buddhist Church of Sacramento. Sunday Dharma study services begin in Winters-Esparto. Miss Machiko Kimura, director, reorganizes the Buddhist Church of Sacramento Choir. Sunday Dharma School opens in Suisun-Vacaville the following year.

1962 The Sarana Affirmation Ceremony is held and 143 church members receive their Buddhist name and affirm their embrace of the Buddha Dharma. A vigorous membership drive was initiated. 104 mostly Nisei families join the church. By 1963, total membership is 450.

1966 Our home temple, the Nishi Hongwanji, Temple of the Primal Vow, bestows the honorific title: *The Sacramento Hongwanji Betsuin*, the fifth Betsuin within the Buddhist Churches of America.

1967 Church membership reaches 700. Sunday school teems with 600 students. Mr. Akio Imai and Mr. Kuichi Masaki co-chair the expansion plan to add 15 classrooms, renovation of the Little Hondo (Small Chapel), and kitchen. Mr. Mitsuo Fujimoto carries on with Mr. Imai after the untimely death of Mr. Masaki.

1968 Designed by Architect Ray Takata and built by the Bob Guro and Harry Yamasaki Construction Companies, our Betsuin celebrates the completion of the major expansion project.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(CONTINUED)

1969 For the first time in the 71-year history of the Buddhist Churches of America, the annual BCA Ministers and General Meetings are held at the Sacramento Betsuin.

1971 Mr. Hiroshi Yamauchi helps the Sakura Gakuen Language School become officially certified by the Sacramento City Unified School District to issue foreign language credits.

1998 The Centennial Building Project expands the capacity of our hondo and builds the beautiful nokotsudo, columbarium, and memorial hall.

2003 Hongwanji consents to have a Tokudo Ordination for candidates from BCA, Canada, Hawaii, Australia and Europe. The Sacramento Betsuin had six individuals who had been studying with Rinban Yukawa and Reverend Bob since 2001. These six—Koichi Mizushima, Grace Hatano, Carol Castle, Tim Castle, Michiko Yukawa and Patti Oshita—were invited to receive Tokudo in Kyoto, Japan. Due to his many responsibilities, Koichi was not able to join his teammates to receive Tokudo Ordination at that time. But the others went to Kyoto in October 2003 for this unique Tokudo experience.

2004 Socho Koshin Ogui takes office as the Bishop of BCA. He begins the Ministers' Assistant Program and starts with the certification of the five members of the Sacramento Betsuin—Koichi Mizushima, Grace Hatano, Carol Castle, Tim Castle and Patti Oshita.

2005 Our Betsuin hosts the first-ever Youth Advocacy Committee Retreat. It was designed to be a "Mini-Tokudo" experience for the young Dharma seekers. Joined by Sensei Peter Inokoji-Kim, a minister's assistant from Denver who they met during Tokudo, the Betsuin staff of minister's assistants helped create the experience of immersing the young participants in the Dharma tradition.

2006 Socho Ogui was so impressed with the sincerity and enthusiasm of the young YAC Retreat participants, he creates the Youth Minister Assistants Program. The Sacramento Betsuin Summer YAC Retreats became the site where our young Dharma seekers would undergo their initial training and eventual certification by the BCA Bishop, Socho Ogui.

2007 Socho Ogui negotiates with Hongwanji to invite Tokudo recipients to take the qualifying examination to receive Kyoshi Certification. Carol Castle, Tim Castle and Patti Oshita went forward to receive Kyoshi Certification in December 2007. With Kyoshi Certification, a Minister's Assistant may apply for assignment within a BCA Temple.

2009 Reverend Peter Inokoji-Kim is assigned by Socho Ogui to the Sacramento Betsuin. He becomes the first full-time assigned minister to come through the Minister's Assistant Program.

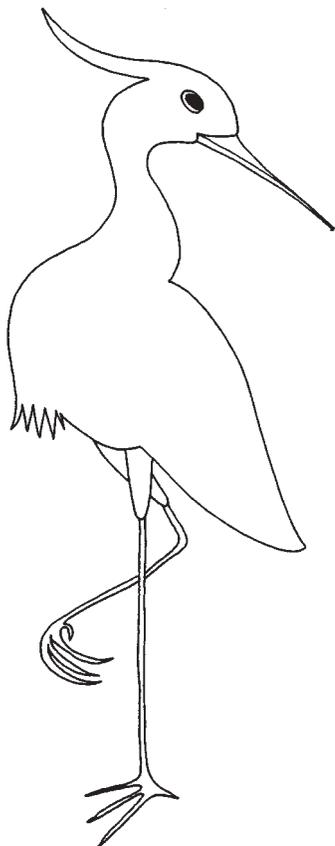
2011 Reverend Peter Inokoji-Kim attains Kaikyoshi status. In doing so, Sensei makes history in being raised, educated and ordained in America along a revolutionary ministerial pathway. The 7th Annual YAC Retreat is hosted in Sacramento and graduates its **93rd** Youth Minister Assistant, encompassing youth leaders from **26** different temples from **all 8** temple districts. **WOW!**

2012 Interconnected by past and present, the path and course of our Buddhist Church is ours to chart—the future is ours to write. Much like the development of a child into capable adult, our church may look to thrive and advance as a force of the Buddha Dharma separate from the BCA. Forged from a pioneer spirit and tested by unimaginable adversity, the foundation of our church is strong and our collective leadership unwavering. We see this in the effectiveness and ordination of capable home-grown Shin Buddhist ministers. We see this in the enthusiasm of the Youth Advocacy movement. We see this in the growth of our family memberships and in the expanding diversity of both Dharma School and social programs. We see this in the compassion and spiritual guidance of our dedicated ministerial staff. What shall we do to share the Dharma for our generation and beyond? What programs shall we innovate, nurture and grow? Is now the time for us to forge a future independent of the BCA? The path and course is ours to chart — the future is ours to write.

In Gassho,
Kelvin



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



GENERAL MEETING OF THE BWA/ELECTIONS

The General Meeting of the BWA was held on Wednesday, November 2, at 7:20 p.m. for the purpose of voting in 10 Board members. The following ladies are the newly elected/returning members of the BWA Board of Trustees, who will serve a new three-year term from 2012 to 2014: Lorraine Itow, Shirley Kato, Lynn Kurahara, Jane Nakagawa, Jean Ota, Mollie Oto, Kay Sakamoto, Virginia Uchida and Sharon Yoshimura. Congratulations and thank you, ladies for continuing to serve as active BWA Board members.

NOVEMBER MONTHLY BOARD MEETING

The November SBWA Regular Monthly Board Meeting followed the Election Meeting at 7:25 p.m., with President Lynn Kurahara presiding.

DONATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Miyo Carter In Appreciation \$50

BCA/BETSUIN UPDATE

Rinban Bob Oshita gave the following report:

- The Reverend Umezu will become the new Bishop of the BCA effective April 1, 2012.
- The Reverend George Shibata will be retiring in December from the Reedley Temple.
- The October 18 study group on "Buddhism and Death" was very well-attended.
- On October 30, Dr. Kelvin Mark became certified as a Minister's Assistant.

NOMINATIONS - MOLLIE OTO

Congratulations to the following BWA ladies who were elected for a new BWA term:

President	Midori Ito
President-Elect	Fusako Takahashi
Recording Secretary	Joanne Nishimura
Treasurer(s)	Mollie Oto, Kay Sakamoto and Tomi Tanaka
Auditors	Meriko Hoshida and Elaine Yoshikawa
Immediate Past President	Lynn Kurahara

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 4: The BWA Bonen-kai Service and Luncheon will be held on Sunday, December 4. BWA members 80 years and over were sent invitations and should contact Midori Ito or Shirley Kato. For others, the cost for the lunch is \$10 and the BWA 2012 dues are \$10. Make your check for \$20 payable to SBWA and leave it in the church office (BWA mail slot) or give it to BWA members Tomi Tanaka and Rose Takata at the Tanoshimikai lunches at the Methodist Church or Misao Abe at the Sacramento Betsuin Tanoshimikai lunches. The deadline is November 20.

Thursday, December 8: The Butsuren Bodhi Day Service will be held at the Sacramento Betsuin. Service starts at 7 p.m. and everyone is welcome to attend. BWA Board Members are asked to bring dessert items and help to serve tea.

Next BWA meeting will be on Wednesday, December 7, 2011. Please feel free to contact any BWA board member if you are interested in joining our organization.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving! It is one of the most "Buddhistic" holidays of the year, according to Rinban Oshita.

Post Script: We just concluded a very successful BWA Udon Fundraiser. Final numbers are not quite in; however, preliminary figures indicate a profit of a little over \$3,000! WOW... thank you for supporting the BWA!

As the chair of the BWA Udon Fundraiser, I would like to thank my Saturday and Sunday work groups.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5 (10 A.M. TO 2 P.M.)

- Dashi Chairman Stephen Kashiwada's Crew: Gary Ishimoto, Wayne Kurahara, John Yoshikawa, Bob Nishimoto, Mel Uchida, Edmund Yee, Tosh Ohara, Mike Yuki
 - Condiment Prep Karen Adachi's Crew: Amy Ishimoto, Midori Ito, Aileen Okimoto, Alice Kataoka, Lynn Kurahara, Elaine Yoshikawa, Barbara Nakatomi, Sandy Salmon, Sandy Nishimura-Yee, Heidi Sakazaki, Fusako Takahashi, Hiroko Tsuda, Sueko Yamashita, Mitzi Muramoto, Norrine Okamoto
- A special thank you goes to Fusako Takahashi and Sueko Yamashita for taking

**SANGHA
STAFF**

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

**CONTRIBUTING
REPORTERS**

President's Msg Kelvin Mark
SBWA Keiko Jean Kashiwada
Minister's Assts Michiko Yukawa
Endowment Ken Furukawa
Maintenance Gary Traganza
Boy Scouts Aaron Louie
Cub Scouts Glen Kumamoto
Girl Scouts Tricia Wu Borges
Sports Cmte Alan Wu
Dharma School Ken Furukawa
Sakura Gakuen John McDonnell

**SACRAMENTO
BUDDHIST
WOMEN'S
ASSOCIATION**
(CONTINUED)

on the job of cooking and flavoring the age. Reiko Kurahara gave them the final OK on the flavoring. It was delicious!

**SUNDAY - NOVEMBER 6
6 A.M. TO 2 P.M.**

- Stephen Kashiwada's Udon Cooking Crew:
Eddie Fong, Wayne Kurahara, John Yoshikawa, Bob Raisner, Bob Nishimoto, Edmund Yee, Allan Hoshida, Mike Yuki
- Jean Kashiwada and Karen Adachi's Noodle Packaging/To-Go Packaging Crew:
Mollie Oto, Sandy Nishimura-Yee, Elaine Yoshikawa, Virginia Uchida, Hiroko Tsuda, Utako Kimura, Lynn Kurahara, Gayle Kono, Sharon Yoshimura, Amy Ishimoto, Fusako Takahashi, Meriko Hoshida, Shirley Kato, Emily Raisner, Patti Oshita

10 A.M. TO 1 P.M.

- Stephen Kashiwada's Noodles & Dashi Crew:
Keith Kato, Charlie Sakamoto, Mike Yuki
- Jean Kashiwada and Karen Adachi's Order Taking/Condiment Ladies:
Alice Kataoka, Midori Ito, Joanne Nishimura, Jane Nakagawa, Kay Sakamoto, Utako Kimura, Kathy Tanaka Henry, Tomi Tanaka

To-Go Pickup: Amy Ishimoto & Utako Kimura

Cashiers: Aileen Okimoto & Jane Komure

Coffee, tea, snacks, lunch on Saturday and coffee, tea and snacks on Sunday:
Reiko Kurahara

Kitchen Clean-Up Crew on Sunday:

Stephen Kashiwada, Jean Kashiwada, Charlie Sakamoto, Karen Adachi, Mike Yuki, Utako Kimura, Heidi Sakazaki

Kaikan Tables & Chairs Set-Up and Clean-Up:

Boy Scout Troop 50 —Boys and parents going to Matsuyama, Japan next year

Special thank you: A special thank you goes to my sister, Karen Adachi, who helped me with this fundraiser, and my family members, Amy Ishimoto, Gary Ishimoto and Stephen Kashiwada. They always get "roped in" when I volunteer to chair activities and I really appreciate their support and hard work. I could not have done it without them and all of the BWA ladies and spouses who helped.

— Keiko Jean Kashiwada

**MINISTERS'
ASSISTANTS'**
MICHIKO YUKAWA

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** with a **cc to: betsuinoffice@gmail.com** and inform the church office at 446-0121. Please include the author's name. Thank you.

At the age of 81, my grandmother traveled alone from Japan to the United States for the first time in her life. Of her six children who she raised, only three remained and two of them lived in the United States with their families. Knowing it would be very difficult for all of us in America to travel to Japan, she had decided it would be much easier if she made the trip here herself if she wanted to spend some time with all of us "before she died." She further insisted that she wanted to reassure herself that, having sent two of her children to live in a faraway country, we were all living safely and well. Since she was still very spry and healthy, my uncle in Japan consulted with his siblings in America and arrangements were made. Though everyone was concerned about her flying alone, they all knew that once Oba-chan made up her mind to do something, she was not one to be stopped!

On Oba-chan's day of arrival, we all went to the San Francisco International Airport to welcome her. We were particularly worried about how she would get through customs, but hoped that since it was a flight arriving from Japan, someone who spoke Japanese would help her through. We needn't have worried. At that time, it was still relatively unusual for someone her age to make such a long transpacific flight, alone. Therefore, upon landing, a stewardess escorted Oba-chan to the flight door where an attendant waited with a wheelchair and chauffeured her to customs. There, she watched safely and comfortably from the side while the customs officials took care of everything. Then they wheeled her, baggage and all, to where we were waiting.

Later, she marveled that she was able to travel from Japan in just one day. She told us that all she had to do was sit back in her chair and the kind stewardesses brought all her meals **to** her on a tray. To Oba-chan, who was only a petite 4 feet, 8 or 9 inches tall, her chair was so big and comfortable, she "slept like a baby," especially since the thoughtful stewardesses always made sure she had a pillow and a blanket. Since Oba-chan did not speak English, we could picture her just repeating, "Arigato! Arigato!" during the entire flight and customs.

**MINISTERS'
ASSISTANTS**

(CONTINUED)

In that short visit, Oba-chan taught me what a life of gratitude really means. Her actions, thoughts and words were a continuous reflection of her deep understanding of *okagesama*. She accepted her life situations just as they were and instead, concentrated her thoughts and efforts toward the happiness and comfort of those around her. She felt deep gratitude for all of life around her, for all the many, even small acts of kindness by others that we so often take for granted and do not give a second thought to or even acknowledge.

Oba-chan expressed her gratitude by starting and ending each day in front of the obutsudan reciting the nembutsu with gassho. Oba-chan taught me that, I, too, am guided in my lifetime, especially as a Jodo Shinshu Buddhist, by the teachings of Shakyamuni Buddha, Shinran Shonin, Rennyo Shonin and generations of family and friends who inspire me to live a life of *okagesama*, a life of gratitude.

Namo Amida Butsu.

**LEGACY
ENDOWMENT
FUND**
KEN FURUKAWA

おかげさま

Thank you to our many donors for your generous contributions to your Legacy Endowment Fund! Thanks to so many of you over the years, the Endowment has increased in value, and the annual proceeds are available to fund individual and organization requests for funds. The final form for an updated application process is being considered and will be released soon. If you have a project that will help propagate Jodo Shinshu teaching, and you think it deserves funding, talk to one of the Legacy Endowment Fund Board members or send me an e-mail.

Over this past year your Legacy Endowment Fund has participated in funding guest speakers, ministerial staff education and training, and Minister Assistant training. We are interested in developing ongoing programs beyond the Hondo, and you may have a great idea that just needs to be encouraged to grow. Remember that Jodo Shinshu is part of our everyday existence, so many activities may qualify for funding! Funding projects takes place as they are approved, but that takes some time for the Board to exercise its responsibility of due diligence. So let's get started!

FYI. The Third Annual Rummage Sale will be sponsored by your Legacy Endowment Fund in June 2012, so start saving the good stuff!

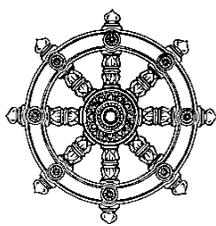
**JODO
SHINSHU
COURSE**
**JODO SHINSHU CORRESPONDENCE COURSE
2012 SPRING ENROLLMENT APPLICATIONS
NOW ACCEPTED**

The Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course Office is now accepting applications for the spring 2012 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, U.K., Japan and Nepal, as well as Hawaii and the BCA. With more than 80 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

Applications may be submitted online through the course website. Deadline: February 15. Course starts March 1. Questions may be directed to: Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course Office, 2140 Durant Ave., Berkeley, California. Telephone: (510) 809-1441, e-mail: jsc@cb-bca.org.



*Welcome New Members
Ralph & Sonja Montano*



**SAKURA
GAKUEN
JAPANESE
LANGUAGE
SCHOOL**
JOHN MCDONNELL



With December, thoughts turn toward the winter potluck that follows the fall semester exam. At the annual feast, students entertain family and friends with songs and skits demonstrating language skills mastered at Sakura Gakuen. After the holiday break, students will return to celebrate the New Year with cultural activities that in recent years have included *mochitsuki*, practicing *shodo*, playing *fukuwarai*, and making *kadomatsu*. In addition to teaching the Japanese language, the dedicated school staff shares the traditions and history of Japan and the foundations of the school and the Japanese-American community. This puts the academic instruction in context and promotes appreciation and retention.

Food is an integral part of our traditions, from turkey on Thanksgiving to New Year's *osechi*. The seasons at the Betsuin are punctuated by the pancake breakfasts, crab feeds, snow cones, teriyaki chicken, udon and mochi. To add to this tasty celebration, the language school is selling Owari Satsuma Mandarins (*unshu mikan*). The proceeds will support the school's cultural programs including a field trip to the San Francisco Cherry Blossom Festival. These golden orbs of winter are not only sweet, easy to peel and fun to eat, but they make great gifts, center pieces, stocking stuffers and can top off your *kasane* set you bought. Last-minute mandarin orders will be accepted until 5 p.m. Tuesday, December 6. Pick-up will be in the Annex on Saturday, December 10 between 9:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.

Akemashite omedetou gozaimasu. Happy New Year and see you in the Year of the Dragon.

Please use the form below to order mandarins. The order deadline has been extended to December 6. If you have questions, ask us at sakuramandarins@gmail.com.

**SAKURA GAKUEN
JAPANESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL
PARENT TEACHER COMMITTEE**

**LOCAL ORGANIC
OWARI SATSUMA MANDARINS**
MIKAN みかん

Pick up: Saturday, Dec. 10, 2011, 9:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Where: Buddhist Church of Sacramento Annex
Deadline for Orders: December 6, 2011, 5 p.m.
Cost: \$20/10 lb box

Please submit orders and make checks payable to:
Sakura Gakuen PTC
c/o Buddhist Church of Sacramento
2401 Riverside Blvd.
Sacramento, CA 95818

MIKAN ORDER 2011

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

E-Mail _____

of boxes _____

Total Cost \$ _____

Cash _____ Check _____

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.

- Don Honda replaced all the batteries in the smoke alarms and clocks—scheduled each fall as we come off daylight savings time.
- Roy Imura took point on securing bids from several companies for needed roof repairs over the Hondo and outdoor kitchen. The work completed includes repairing damaged areas over both locations and the installation of gutters around the tempura/BBQ area.
- Kelvin Mark and Gary Traganza jointly worked with an outside company to replace badly damaged wood around the tempura/BBQ area, including all the fascia boards and trim around all the windows and doors. With the new gutters and wood trim, the whole east side of that area looks great.
- Mike Dishno took out the concrete flower bed next to the annex southeast wall. Mike, by himself, jackhammered out all the concrete and hauled it away—quite a chore for one man. That area is now an extension of the newly designated handicapped parking stall and affords unrestricted access through the pedestrian gate.
- Alan Wu and Minh La installed our new security control unit. The new unit has much better resolution, a larger storage drive, and is remote accessible. Alan and Minh are our primary electronic gurus.

PHOTO-GRAPHERS WANTED

No professional or expert experience necessary! No weekly commitment! Do you like to take pictures of friends and family? We need you!

Most of the organizations have a historian to record their events, but we do not have anyone who is capturing the activities on Sundays at service, Dharma School, in the courtyard and also other activities held at the Betsuin that are not sponsored by a particular organization.

If you are interested, please leave your name, phone number and/or e-mail address at the church office and a member of the Board of Trustees Sangha/Calendar Committee will contact you once we have an idea of the interest this request generates.

Thank you.

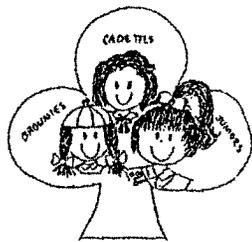
NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

Have you paid your 2011 membership?

Thanks again to our "dynamic trio" for helping with the mail outs. Thanks to Billy Hatano, Wayne Fong and Ted Ito.

GIRL SCOUTS

TRICIA WU BORGES



Season's Greetings from Girl Scout Troop 569! Troops from 569 reported to have decorated at least 53 stockings and donated items to fill each one for the AT&T Pioneers' annual stocking drive.

Cadettes 1 led the Brownie 1 meeting on November 4. The Cadettes planned and prepared an educational and exciting meeting for the Brownies where they got to earn the Animal Try-it! Thank you Cadettes 1 for leading our meeting. We had fun working with our Girl Scout sisters!

Juniors 1, 2 and 3 worked together to create decorations and thank you gifts for the Food Bank's Volunteer Appreciation Event that will occur this month. The girls will also be volunteering the day of the event, acting as guides for the new facility, serving as volunteers at a candy bar that the troops are donating to the event, and handing out gifts.

To gear up for camping next year, Cadettes 5 had a dry-run camp overnighter to learn how to plan and budget for camping, set up and take down camp, prepare meals outdoors (including making a box oven), and sleep under the stars. Although we camped in a large backyard, it was a great lesson for the newly camp-certified leaders and for the girls to make sure everyone is prepared for the real camping trip when the weather warms up again next year. Cadettes 5 is also off to fast start as they are working on their first Journey Award, a prerequisite for beginning the Silver Award.

Girl Scout Cookies are just around the corner! We will start taking pre-orders next month and appreciate your support!

Happy Holidays!

**BOY SCOUT
TROOP 50**

AARON LOUIE



October was filled with fun events. All the patrols are starting to settle in, finalizing names, yells and flags. The first-year scouts, who we call Smurfs, are beginning to get the feel of how scouting is run. They are making the transition from Cub Scouts to Boy Scouts with complete confidence, coming to each meeting with more requirements being signed off.

Our first event was the Mount Diablo outing where the Smurfs got their first taste of a Boy Scout outing, as well as a hike. It was a fun outing, and everyone enjoyed it.

The month's theme for our troop meetings was sports. On October 14, Adam B. led the meeting and hosted a troop-wide dodge ball game. The troop was split into two groups and played games from there on.

On October 21, we had our second troop meeting of the month and continued on with the sports theme. We played the popular game of British Bulldog. The game is similar to Sharks and Minnows where the middle players must pick up the runners for three seconds. Many scouts had fun; however, many thought otherwise.

As you all know, October is the month of Halloween, which means Cub Scouts have their annual Halloween party at the church. The Boy Scouts are in charge of designing and running a hair-raising haunted house. The haunted house was full of new ideas and from what was heard throughout the haunted house, we can conclude that it was pretty frightening!

**CUB SCOUT
PACK 50**

GLEN KUMAMOTO



Boo! Halloween always seems to bring out the inner child in all of us. What other time of year can you dress up in a costume and have it be acceptable?! This year was no exception at the annual SBC Halloween Party! This yearly event was sponsored by ABA, SBC Board, Dharma School, Sports Committee and Victory Trophies. It was hosted by Cub Scout Pack 50, Boy Scout Troop 50 and Girl Scout Troop 569.

Without the help of a wonderful committee and the assistance of so many people, this event could not happen. I could take the entire article thanking all those who contributed, but you know who you are! I know that the smiles and laughter and screams of scary delight were all that are needed to show the appreciation of so many kids and their families. We also had a very successful canned food drive where we were able to collect over 15 bags/boxes of canned goods and over 200 lbs of dry goods. All of this was delivered to the Sacramento Food Bank in Oak Park and will go toward the feeding of many families in need. They were very grateful for the contribution. Reverend Peter even showed up in his sumo costume, much to my dismay. I could not resist the challenge to bump bellies with him. Yet another example of one of those things that can happen only on Halloween... bumping bellies with a Reverend You're next, RB!

Now that Halloween is officially over and Thanksgiving and Christmas are right around the corner, we should take the time to be grateful for all that we have. Most important is the support of our charter organization and all the countless parents and volunteers who devote so much time to the success of our pack. I am truly grateful for all that you do.

What's next for Pack 50? On Friday November 18, we will have our end-of-year dinner where we also will assemble 100 gift bags for the Women's Wellspring Center and each den has taken on the effort of making scarves to donate as well. It's another great example of the awesome leadership and participation of the pack. Jill Shebert has done such a good job at organizing this event, I am going to convince her to stay on as permanent chair.

As always, thank you to all those who make Pack 50 the best pack around. Pack 50 ROCKS!

**SPORTS
COMMITTEE**

ALAN WU



December, December, it is December 2011. It is the last month of the year we know as Two Thousand Eleven. As one of the undeniable truths, time continues relentlessly without pause, unless you were around when Superman got so angry and flew around the world so fast he caused the earth to spin backwards and consequently not only stopped time but caused time to repeat itself in order to save Lois. Do you remember when that happened? Sounds cool, but it would be a drag to repeat getting a flat tire or spilling coffee on your tie more than once. Remember time stopping when "The Day the Earth Stood Still" in 1951? Then it happened again in 2008... perhaps because Superman got so mad... aw, never mind!

SPORTS COMMITTEE
(CONTINUED)

As the time we know and love as 2011 is coming to an end, our new basketball season is just beginning. Is that part of the circle of life? Like you "gotta" break some eggs to make an omelet, or one must die for one to live, or with the closing of a window, another door opens.

Actually, the beginning of the NCCL games during the first weekend of December has been the usual and customary NCCL schedule for over 45 years of time, so this year, the official basketball games will begin on December 3 for the E Division and December 4 for the rest of the league. Please confirm with your Team Mom for your game time and location. During the few days before December 3 and 4, the NCCL board will be putting in untold hours of time finalizing the schedule to resolve most and perhaps all of the conflicts that arise amongst the churches.

All churches have other activities and events going on at the same time during the basketball season. For instance, our Mochi Tsuki happens during the second week of the league, so the NCCL makes accommodations for our players, teams and families so that both events can co-exist harmoniously with minimal trepidation, if any. Needless to say, each church has a variety of conflicts that must be mitigated by the NCCL board. Every year, it is an arduous task that requires a lot of time to reconcile. So please be understanding and patient if you get a call late Friday night with a game time change. Since it is December, it is time to play basketball, so sit back and enjoy this year's edition of church basketball just because it is church basketball.

As mentioned at an earlier time, it is also time for our annual Mochi Tsuki on December 10. Take time to cut out the Mochi Order Form below in this SANGHA or print the order form from our website at: www.buddhistchurch.com. Time is running out, so get your order in! The Mochi Tsuki only comes around one time a year, so order enough to last until it is mochi tsuki time again.

It is time to remind everyone that the last two attendance extra credit days are quickly approaching. Extra credit can be earned by attending the New Year's Eve Service on December 31, and by attending the New Year's Day Service on January 1, 2012. That's it! It could not be any simpler; just make time to attend these special services, and bam!, you have extra credit.

According to the time display on my phone, we are out of time and it is time to say goodbye until next time.



**SACRAMENTO BETSUIN
SPORTS COMMITTEE**

MOCHI TSUKI

Pick Up:

**Saturday, December 10, 2011, 12:30-2:30 pm
or Sunday, December 11, 2011, 9:00-11:00 am**

**Where: Sacramento Buddhist Church Kaikan
Deadline for Orders: December 5, 2011, 11:00 am
Cost: \$3.50/pound or \$6/Kasane Set**

Please submit orders and make checks payable to:
Sacramento Betsuin Sports Committee
c/o Sacramento Buddhist Church
2401 Riverside Blvd.
Sacramento, CA 95818

MOCHI ORDER

Name _____
 Address _____
 Telephone _____
 E-mail _____
 Lb(s) _____ Kasane Set(s) _____
 Total Cost \$ _____ Cash Check # _____
 Pick Up: Saturday Sunday

**DHARMA
SCHOOL
NEWS**
KEN FURUKAWA



December already! 2011 is nearly finished as you read this in the SANGHA, and soon we will all be thinking about 2012. At this time of year it is easy to focus on the past and look to the future, but we must live in the present. Now is where we should focus our energies, with appreciation for the past and the support of our friends and family, and look to the future as the natural progression of now. To these ends, I want to thank the following individuals for their unwavering support of the Dharma School and its activities, in the past, the future, and especially now:

- Rinban Bob and Reverend Peter for their guidance and inspiration to the Sangha.
- The Minister Assistants for their examples of volunteering for all of us.
- Tak Ito, Kathy Yamamoto, Meri Fong and Bob Chavez for their steadfast support and help with the day-to-day needs.
- Carol Tamai and Janet Oto for keeping track of who goes where, does what, and me.
- Valerie Fong for stepping in for all of the superintendent duties that I cannot complete myself.
- Gary Matsumoto and Alan Wu for recording the Dharma messages and preparing the webcasts.
- Reiko Kurahara, the Adachis, the Nagais, and all of the regulars who make up the Dharma School kitchen crew; the food and beverages are always so good!
- The Dharma School teachers and teaching assistants for all the days of service throughout the year.
- The parents and students for attending and supporting the classes and many activities associated with Dharma School.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- December 4 Bodhi Day service
- December 25 Holiday
- December 31 Joya-E service, end of the year observance
- January 1 Shusho-E, New Year's Day service

Please note that a FIRE DRILL is planned in December. Please make sure that all students are properly prepared for colder weather and possible rain. If you were present for last term's drill, we will again practice evacuating the buildings and courtyard, assembling the students and teachers in the California Bank & Trust parking lot, and returning to the classrooms for release.

DONATIONS

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

- | | | |
|----------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Jeff Adachi | Maynard & Cindy Kurahara | Okabe Family |
| Ann Amioka | Maharaba - Mitzie | Gayle Okamoto |
| Mickey Bennett | Muramoto | Gladys Okino |
| Ms. Corley | Emmie Makishima | Sam Orite |
| Denise Ham | Paula Mishima | Mollie Oto |
| Billy Hatano | Mike & Rachel Nagai | Ted & Helen Sekikawa |
| Grace Hatano | Koji Nishimoto | Sandy Tokunaga |
| Mae Kaneko | Harry Noguchi | Eichi & Kathy Yamamoto |
| Machiko Kimura | Mieko & John Non | Sueko Yamashita |
| Utako Kimura | Tami Nostal | |



*Condolences to
the Families of:*



- Robert Masao Yabu..... January 27, 1934 - October 3, 2011*
Katherine Kazuko Uchigoshi..... Dec. 27, 1929 - October 5, 2011
George Okabe..... March 23, 1922 - October 21, 2011
Takeo "Tak" Kawamoto..... December 2, 1933 - October 22, 2011