

SANJSHA

SACRAMENTO BUDDHIST CHURCH
VOLUME 48 NUMBER 7 - JULY 2011

RB'S CORNER
REV. BOB OSHITA

Hello and welcome to the month of July.... There are so many things I need to share, that this month my article may seem more like a series of announcements. Here goes.

For the seventh year in a row, we will be hosting the BCA Youth Advocacy Committee (YAC) Retreat here at our Sacramento Betsuin. This one program has had a remarkable impact on not only the participants, but also on their home temples and their districts. This year's retreat will run from Monday, July 4 to Obon Sunday, July 10.

Our Obon Odori will take place on the Saturday evening of July 9. I've always been pleased that the Sacramento Betsuin really observes Obon (and does not combine it with the Bazaar). This way, everyone gets to participate and enjoy the Obon weekend. With the colorful Chochin lanterns surrounding the Yagura, when our Obon Odori (Dance) really gets going, we will have 500 or 600 folks out there dancing. There is really no better summer evening than Obon Odori.

Our Bishop of BCA, Socho Koshin Ogui, will again be our Obon-Hatsubon guest speaker. On that Obon Sunday, he also will preside over a special closing ceremony with our 15 YAC Retreat participants. There is no doubt that these youth programs are among Socho Ogui's highest priorities. We truly appreciate his support and encouragement.

And finally, the highlight I've saved for last. As most of you may know, after the March 11 Sendai earthquake and the tsunami that devastated the Tohoku area of Japan, the Sacramento Betsuin led a most amazing relief effort. Among the things most needed were non-perishable food, baby formula, diapers and toiletries. The Betsuin collected, sorted, labeled and packed almost two tons of these items that were requested by our sister temple in Tokyo, the Tsukiji Betsuin. The obstacles were many; it was not just transporting two tons of goods to Japan. We needed to have an official inventory, clear customs and arrange delivery to where it was needed most. In May, our

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

SACRAMENTO BETSUIN

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

INSIDE

Calendar	2
President's Message	3
SBWA	4
Condolences	4
Ministers' Assistants	5
Endowment Fund	5
Wedding	5
Maintenance	6
Senior Golf Tournament	6
Obon Practice Dinners	7
Teriyaki Beef Sandwiches	7
Boy Scouts	8
Girl Scouts	8
Sports Committee	8
Dharma School	9
Donations	10
Bazaar Volunteers Needed	12

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Non profit Org.
US Postage
PAID
Sacramento, CA
Permit No. 766

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

RB'S CORNER
 (CONTINUED)

Betsuin President, Dr. Kelvin Mark, spearheaded the effort to overcome these many obstacles. To explain the process would take pages, but let me cut to the chase. With help and guidance of one of our young members, Michael Morita (who is living and working in Tokyo), we were able to arrange for door-to-door shipment. On May 21, two tons of aid arrived at the Sendai Betsuin. The highlight is this: The Hongwanji Newspaper and the International Center Newsletter asked for pictures to accompany an article they are going to publish to encourage the continuing relief effort. In a way, the late arrival of our relief goods was a message to those affected by the March devastation that people still care.

As I often mention, the activity level of our Sacramento Betsuin is amazing. And not a day goes by that I am not grateful to be a part of this wonderful community and this remarkable sangha.

Gassho,
 RB

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
 KELVIN MARK, D.O.

Welcome to July: Happy Birthday United States of America! Our country is 235 years old and is fine-tuning the huge social experiment we call democracy. Birthdays put into a broader perspective, our Buddhist Church of Sacramento is 112 years young and continues working toward bringing Jodo Shinshu teachings and the Dharma to the forefront of our community's consciousness. To be sure, the success of our Betsuin and the growth of fellow temples is due in great part to the concerted efforts of our sangha. Our temple organizations and your efforts at our upcoming 65th Annual Bazaar and Cultural Program enable us to walk pathways beyond those paved by pioneer generations.

Just imagine, our home temple, the Hongwanji — Temple of the Primal Vow, was established in the year 1321. Our western branch, the Nishi Hongwanji, traces its origins to the year 1602 just after Tokugawa Ieyasu became shogun, having united feudal Japan and ushering in two-and-a-half centuries of national stability.* To be sure, Tokugawa was a warrior and a master strategist known for patience and direction of purpose. Later in his life, although *not* a Jodo Shinshu follower, he seemed to discover peace through introspection, scholarship and religion. One of his most famous quotes translates as:

"Life is like a long journey with a heavy burden. Let thy step be slow and steady, that thou stumble not. Persuade thy self that imperfection and inconvenience are the natural lot of mortals, and there will be no room for discontent, neither for despair. When ambitious desires arise in thy heart, recall the days of extremity thou has passed through. Forbearance is the root of quietness and assurance forever. Find fault with self rather than with others."

Thinking on RB's 4th grade Metta/Padma class, we can see that Tokugawa's reflection mirrors the truth of the Dharma. "Life is hard; life is hard because we are selfish; we make life less hard by being unselfish; we become unselfish by following the eight-fold path. It is in this way that we are able to embrace the Nembutsu — to live an other-centered life, to live a life of appreciation, to live a life with no regret."

Put into the context of our Jodo Shinshu Center (JSC), we might consider our place in history and the implications of patience, correct view, correct effort, and correct action. When thought of in this way, such aspirations resonate deeply in the present. Since opening in 2006, the JSC has come to be described by the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) as the major hub of Shin Buddhist academic development by housing the Center for Buddhist Education, the Institute for Buddhist Studies (IBS), and local offices of the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha and Ryukoku University. In simple terms, our JSC is a just a building. Our BCA leadership considers it a building necessary to house our scholarly pursuits rather than as an organizational unit of the BCA since each unit is self-funded and does not receive any monies from the BCA general fund. Since housing the IBS, interest from the Graduate Theological Union (GTU) and broad embrace of the Dharma has surged. Sixty-five students and 13 ministerial candidates are enrolled in the IBS.

However, interest debt on the \$3.1 million JSC building loan amounts to a staggering \$13,000 monthly, \$156,000 annually, which is charged to us as member temples until the debt is retired. A letter of apology was recently sent to each member of the BCA along with a request to make a one-time tax-deductible contribution of \$199 to pay off the debt. Only we can determine if the "one-time request" will fulfill the educational mission and engender fiscal accountability.

*Encyclopedia Britannica,
 Jodo Shu Research Institute

OFFICE MANAGERS

Meri Fong
 Tak Ito

BETSUIN OFFICE

446-0121

SANGHA HELPERS

Misao Abe
 Mary Amemiya
 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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
(CONTINUED)

Setting past BCA foibles aside, time will tell whether our national lay leadership has the vision, management skills and accountability to succeed in its mission to recruit, train and employ a relevant ministry that can grow membership beyond historical divisions and cultural boundaries. Our duty as a sangha is to open our dharma eyes, to see things as they are, and to test what we see. If we as a member temple consider ourselves the Buddhist Churches of America and if we consider that the JSC is our building, we ought do what we can to pay off the debt and enable ourselves to stride forward. I urge our sangha to gift whatever amount conscionably able. PayPal makes this just one easy mouse click away at <http://bcahq.org/DRF/>. In so doing, we may promote unity within our national organization and we may free up resources that can be more effectively used to spread the truth of the Dharma now and for future generations.

In Gassho.

SACRAMENTO BUDDHIST WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
KEIKO JEAN KASHIWADA



June's SBWA Board Meeting was held on Wednesday, June 1, 2011, with President Lynn Kurahara presiding.

BCA REPORT

Rinban Bob Oshita reported that Reverend Yukiko Motoyoshi was scheduled to leave Hawaii around June 16 and will be starting at the Stockton Temple in July. Other BCA news: Reverend Shoyo Taniguchi retired as of May 31, 2011.

SHINRAN SHONIN'S 750TH MEMORIAL SERVICE AND THE WORLD BWA CONFERENCE

If any of you are interested in how Shinran Shonin's 750th Memorial Service and the World BWA Conference were, please ask Gayle Kono. Gayle provided us with pictures and a wonderful recap of their trip.

DONATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Elaine Yoshikawa Birth of Grandchild, Chloe Yoshikawa, on April 24..... \$50

UPCOMING EVENTS

BAZAAR - AUGUST 13 AND 14

President Kurahara is asking all BWA members to encourage their daughters, granddaughters and friends to come out to help with sushi making. We will have BWA ladies available to teach them how to make maki sushi, age sushi and chirashi. Please come out!

BAZAAR CRAFT BOOTH REPORT - SHIRLEY KATO

A huge thank you to Kathy Henry for the beautiful quilts she made and donated to SBWA. The quilts will be part of the craft booth raffle. And another huge thank you to the talented group of Mary Amemiya, Midori Ito, Norrine Okamoto and Nancy Hashimoto, who will again make their wonderful cards for the craft booth this year. Shirley will have an early Bazaar craft booth sale of "gently used" donated Obon garment items (ties, obis, etc.) at the Obon practice Tuesday, July 5.

The BWA Board would like to thank Shirley for organizing the craft booth sessions and keeping track of the donations.

FUTURE BWA OUTINGS AND ACTIVITIES

The BWA Board is planning more outings and fund-raisers. More details will appear in future SANGHA reports. We encourage you to participate and get to know the new BWA members. Please feel free to contact any BWA Board member if you have suggestions for activities or fund-raising events.


The next SBWA Board meeting will be on Wednesday, July 6, 2011.

SANGHA STAFF

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

CONTRIBUTING REPORTERS

President's Msg	Kelvin Mark
SBWA	Keiko Jean Kashiwada
Ministers' Assts	Koichi Mizushima
Endowment	Kelvin Mark
Maintenance	Gary Traganza
Boy Scouts	Ryan Soohoo
Girl Scouts	Ellen Shinfuku
Sports Cmte	Alan Wu
Dharma School	Ken Furukawa
2011 Bazaar	Jennifer Nitta




Condolences to the Families of:

Yoshitaka Sawada June 4, 1950 – February 25, 2011

Tomiko Tsukada January 30, 1923 – June 4, 2011

Kiyoshi Ono January 21, 1922 – June 12, 2011



MINISTERS' ASSISTANTS
KOICHI MIZUSHIMA

I remember a few years ago when Ellie was only about 3 years old. We had an old digital camera, which was still completely functional, but we never used it anymore. We decided to give it to her to play with. I watched her take her little camera and shoot random photos all day long. She loved mimicking our adult behavior by getting to play with something that seemed like it was only for adults.

One day, an idea popped into my head. I wanted to see what she was taking photos of with her little camera. So I got up and hooked the camera up to the computer. I downloaded hundreds of images. At first glance they looked like a random arrangement of everyday things. But as I looked a bit closer, I was amazed at the shots she took.

She captured everyday objects that I simply took for granted, things that I casually walked by every single day without a second thought. The shiny stainless steel garbage can in the kitchen. A tiny blue button on the ground. A small piece of string. And everything was shot from the perspective of a 3-year-old. As I continued to scroll through all the images, I was taken to a new world. A world seen through her eyes. A world seen through the eyes of a child. Nothing was too mundane to be photographed. Nothing too simple or boring. Everything had its own sense of wonder. I got a small glimpse of the world through her 3-year-old eyes, and it was amazing.

This really made me think about how we all view the world. As individuals, we all tend to see things only through our viewpoint and our perspective. It's very difficult to see things through the eyes of someone else. But it is important to remind ourselves that there is always another view, and oftentimes many other views. To experience what it felt like to see the world through someone else's eyes made me realize how important it is to take a step back and learn this very important truth of life.

The world is shared by all of us. We must all be compassionate and understanding to how other people feel and experience the world along with us. We can't just go charging through the world only seeing things through our eyes. We must open our minds and hearts and see the world as others see it. We are all connected. We are sharing this same space. We all need one another to live a happy life.

A major mission of the Legacy Endowment Fund is to promote educational programming and to support Buddhist education for members, ministers and ministerial candidates. Please join us in celebrating the support of our 2011 Youth Advocacy Committee scholars, Teryn Hara and Emma Maron.


RUMMAGE SALE

One new-in-gift-wrap artist's charcoal set and sketch book, 25 cents... two vintage new-in-box stainless steel hostess carving sets \$1... one full Marantz audio system and turntable \$5... spreading the joys of bargain hunting, smiles of interconnectedness and cleaning out the storage shed... PRICELESS!

Thank you to Co-Chairwomen Ruth Seo and Joyce Sahara and our many community volunteers for making the 2011 Rummage Sale a huge success. Rounded out by the most beautiful garden nursery specimens courtesy of Matsuda's Nursery and the tastiest foods from Reiko's Kitchen to keep us energized, the Legacy Endowment Fund Board carries on the proud tradition of putting on the best garage sale, rain or shine, known to humankind, bar none.

LEGACY ENDOWMENT FUND
KELVIN MARK, D.O.

おかげさまで

Congratulations
Newlyweds

Gordon Makishima & Kimmie J. Fong..... May 28, 2011

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

Have you paid your 2011 membership?

MAINTENANCE REPORT
GARY TRAGANZA

Over the last month, the following members performed maintenance on the Betsuin's facilities. The Betsuin is sincerely appreciative to these members for volunteering their time, expertise and hard efforts:

- Stephen Tanaka prepared and painted all the annex downstairs classrooms, hallways, the two stairwells, and boys and girls bathrooms as an Eagle Scout Project. These Scout projects involve a lot of planning, and coordinating large groups of people. A nice touch is the addition of a soft brown color part way up the walls on the stairwells.
- Don Honda, Clark Herman and Gary Traganza got our swamp coolers ready for the summer. Every spring the coolers are cleaned, motors lubricated, pans recoated, and the pads replaced if needed.
- Gary Traganza made a dolly for a recently donated piano. It has larger wheels for easier rolling on the carpet in the main Hondo and increases the width of the wheel base, making the piano far more stable. Bob Chavez helped with the installation of wheels and waxed the piano after the modifications were completed.

16th Annual Sacramento Buddhist Church



Senior Golf Tournament

Teal Bend Golf Course, Sacramento

Wednesday, August 24, 2011

ALL SENIORS AND FRIENDS OF SENIORS ARE WELCOME!

7:30 am Modified Shotgun Start. Check-in 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 6.

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: Sr. Golf Tournament c/o Grace Hatano.

Chairpersons: Brian and Cindy Hatano, and Paul Suwa.
For more information, contact Brian at fourhats@comcast.net

-----Cut and enclose with check-----

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City/Zip _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

Please put me in a foursome with some fun people!

I'd like to golf with (list names below):

NO TIME TO COOK DINNER BEFORE OBON PRACTICE?



FEATURING DIFFERENT DAILY SPECIALS EACH PRACTICE NIGHT JUNE 27 - JULY 7

**HOT DOGS
CURRY RICE
SPAGHETTI**

**CHILI OVER RICE
NACHOS
SHOYU WEENIES**

**SOMEN
TERIYAKI CHICKEN
DRINKS**

WE WILL ALSO BE SELLING DINNER ON OBON EVENING JULY 9.

PROCEEDS BENEFIT MATSUYAMA SCOUTS FROM TROOP 50/250.

MATSUYAMA SCOUT EXCHANGE PROGRAM TERIYAKI BEEF SANDWICHES

OBON - JULY 9, 2011
Pick Up Between 5 p.m. and Intermission
Sacramento Buddhist Church

Name _____

Phone No _____

Quantity	Price	Total	
_____	x \$5	\$ _____	Beef Teriyaki Sandwich
_____	x \$6	\$ _____	Beef Teriyaki Sandwich Meal (includes drink and chips)
Total Amount \$		_____	

Please make checks payable to "Troop 50."
Send order form to:
Kim Sakata
27 Cavalcade Circle
Sacramento, CA 95831

Proceeds benefit Troop 50 and 250 Matsuyama Scout Exchange Program.
Any questions, contact Kim Sakata at (916) 825-0107.

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



May was not the most active of the months for Troop 50 but there were still notable events. The Scouts did two flag ceremonies and a service project.

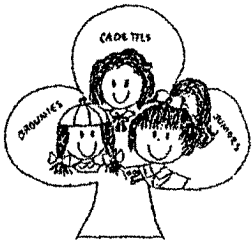
The first flag ceremony was for Operation Protect and Defend, held by the Sacramento Lawyer's association. This was done by two patrols that had rehearsed beforehand and had executed it very well.

The service project was to help out at the Cystic Fibrosis Run in Land Park. The Scouts had to control parking and direct runners. Afterwards, the Scouts helped clean up the area.

The final flag ceremony was on Memorial Day at the Odd Fellows Lawn Cemetery on Riverside Boulevard to honor the Issei pioneers. Other than the flag ceremony, Scouts helped set up chairs at the beginning and put them away at the end.

May saw a slight lull in Scouting activities, but many more events await Troop 50.

GIRL SCOUTS
ELLEN SHINFUKU



At the Girl Scout orientation there were 12 new girls interested in joining Troop 569.

Seniors 4 worked on a community service project for their gold award requirement. The girls designed and sold reusable grocery totes. They also collected non-perishable food items. With the proceeds from their sales, the girls purchased additional non-perishable food items and donated the totes and food to WEAVE and Ronald McDonald House. The girls would like to thank everyone for all the generous donations they received.

Daisies 1 did a service project in May and donated 36 potted silk flower pots to UC Davis Children's Hospital. The girls very much enjoyed their bridging ceremony and wrapped up the year two weeks later with a troop outing to see *Kung Fu Panda 2* in 3D!

Remember to stop by the Girl Scout booth on Obon night to eat some yummy treats.

**SPORTS
COMMITTEE**
ALAN WU



Well, hello there, and good day to you. Are you enjoying the summer of 2011? We hope you get your enjoyment in now, because August is just around the corner... and you all know what that means... Bazaar!

Actually, before August, we will have Bazaar construction on July 22-24, so come on out starting Friday evening and ending sometime on Sunday to help build out the various booths for Bazaar. But getting back to the Bazaar event, our sports families should keep a lookout for your Bazaar shift assignments. Even though to participate in our sports program there is a requirement to give back to the church in a couple of church events, like the Bazaar, we all know that it turns out to be more of a social experience and not a grind-it-out work chore. After a long summer of being away from church, you must admit that it is fun to see your fellow Sangha members again; c'mon, you can admit it! Not to mention bumping into all your other friends and family that support our Bazaar as patrons.

During the summer, the Sports Committee takes only a few short weeks off between wrapping up all the loose ends from the previous season and tooling up for the next season. As we all know, time relentlessly moves on without prejudice, and so too with some members of our committee, so:

We know that there are many talented individuals and leaders amongst the Betsuin Sangha that volunteer their time and expertise to make many of our programs at the Betsuin great! We are seeking parent volunteers to contribute their time and expertise through the following opportunities available on the Sports Committee.

1. Division Coordinators [opening for E-Boys and E-Girls (3rd-4th grade), Lil Hoopers (1st-2nd grade), B-Boys (10th-12th grade)] for the 2011-2012 (this September) season.
 - Responsible for overseeing their respective division regarding: coach selection, team formation and tournament bracket, with the assistance of the committee.



Rev. Bob Oshita
428-9833



Rev. Peter Inokoji-Kim
446-4988

SPORTS COMMITTEE

(CONTINUED)

2. Bazaar beef skewer preparation coordinator for 2012 Bazaar.
 - Will serve as the point of contact for preparing beef skewers for sale at the Bazaar, which includes the skewering, marinating (with Gordon Nitta's secret sauce) and cooking (BBQ) of the product.
3. Sacramento Buddhist Church Tournament Chair for 2013 tournament
 - Tournament Chair with the Tournament Binder will act as project manager overseeing the committee members in administrating and executing the tournament. The binder has been developed by prior Tournament Chairs and breaks down the tournament into easy-to-manage and delegated steps, simple as 1, 2, 3.

Parent involvement is what makes our church and the sports program great! If one of the above opportunities strikes your fancy, please e-mail Denis Ishisaka at d.ishisaka@comcast.net to discuss further. Also, if you and another parent would like to team up and share a position, we're open to that too!

All right, enough of all this administration stuff. Let's look at some June sports: Central Cal Cobra Tournament, Boston over Vancouver, Mavericks over the Heat, Giants lose Buster Posey (probably for season), A's on a double-digit losing skid.

There you go. See you next month.

Obon, Obon, it's festival time! Hooray! July is here, it is finally HOT (remember how we were all wishing it was warmer back in May?), and summer is in full swing. I hope you are all enjoying a fun summer. Please go out and dance during Obon... it is more fun than just sitting in the heat.

Although Dharma School is not officially in session, every day is a opportunity to experience and learn life, and experience the Dharma. And just like the dances during Obon, it is all more meaningful when you step in and participate. Along those lines, we are looking for a few adults to participate in the Dharma School program as team teachers in 5th, 7th and 8th grades. We are not asking for full-time commitments, but we need to recognize that it will be difficult for kids participating on Betsuin-sponsored teams to make the required minimum attendance if classes are not being held. So parents of participating children, please consider stepping forward!

For further information, please send me an e-mail at kfuruk@aol.com, or ask Valerie Fong at iprsrv@gmail.com.

Parents and students, remember that Dharma School classes have outdoor table bussing duties and shifts during Bazaar. In recognition of the maturity of our older students, the evening shifts (7:30 p.m. until after closing) both nights are manned by the students of 8th grade on Saturday and 9th/10th grades on Sunday. There is no real sign-up for the students, although there will be phone calls to remind each of this obligation. But, if the phone call is missed... consider this a reminder. Other students are encouraged to help during their respective class shifts as well. Believe me, there is plenty of work/fun for everyone!

Another opportunity for parents and older students to work and have fun is the weekend of July 22-24 beginning Friday evening at 6 p.m. with Equipment Pull Out, and continuing Saturday and Sunday mornings with Bazaar Construction at 7 a.m. both days. When you come out for construction, please remember to bring a hat and gloves (tools are also helpful). If you haven't done this yet, come out and have some fun, conversation, laughs, and good food! Bazaar is just around the corner.

In Gassho.

DONATIONS

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

Keith & Karen Adachi
Mary Amemiya
Minnie Iseri
Denis & Lesly Ishisaka
Kathy Kawano
Glen & Renee Kumamoto
Dale & Dina Louie

Eleanor Nobuye
Brian & Nancy Okamoto
Ken & May Okuhara
Ron & Lynn Ong
Edna Onodera
Molly Oto/Oto's
Marketplace

Florence Oto/Wong
Marty & Kim Sakata
Barbara & Steve Sasaki
Hiroko Takamoto
Alan & Julie Wu
Haruo & Sueko Yamashita
David & Keri Yasuda

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.

DHARMA SCHOOL

KEN FURUKAWA

