

SANJSHA

SACRAMENTO BUDDHIST CHURCH
VOLUME 48 NUMBER 3 - MARCH 2011

AB'S CORNER
REV. BOB OSHITA

Hello and welcome to the month of March... Twice a year, in March and September, we observe our Ohigan services. Ohigan literally means "other shore," which is the "shore" of enlightenment. As many of you know, Ohigan takes place during the spring and autumn equinox.

As the seasons change, we feel the world moving from the cold days of winter toward the heat of summer. As we move toward Ohigan, the days grow incrementally longer. When we reach the equinox, the days and nights are of equal length, 12 hours each. The weather is usually temperate, not too hot and not too cold; not too wet yet not too dry. We feel around us the world in balance and comfortable harmony as the trees and flowers blossom to announce the coming of spring.

During Ohigan we feel the world in natural transition, in comfortable balance and harmony, with flowering buds and greening plants reminding us that the flow of life continues on.

Often, during our Dharma School services, I find myself looking out at the hundreds of children in our Hondo... seeing each one of them as a budding flower. Their lives are just beginning to show signs of blossoming. Their futures lie ahead, full of promise.

But as we are taught in Buddhism, from the moment we are born, there is no guarantee of even one day of life. Each day is a gift that we must not take for granted.

We always hear this, but we are truly fortunate. And we who are living in the United States today... we are truly among the most fortunate people in the world.

I read these facts recently. If we have food in the refrigerator, clothes on our backs, a roof over our heads and a place to sleep, we are richer than 75 percent of the world's population! If we have a little money in the bank or spare change in a dish somewhere, we are among the top 8 percent of the

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

SACRAMENTO BETSUIN

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RB'S CORNER (CONTINUED)

world's wealthy. If we can drink from our kitchen tap whenever we want, then we are more fortunate than 1.5 billion people in the world, who have no access to clean water. If we can read these words, then we are more fortunate than 2 billion people in the world who cannot read. If we can attend a church or temple or political rally without fear of harassment, arrest, torture or death, we have the kind of freedom denied to 3 billion people on the face of the earth.

So remember, if ever we feel that our problems are weighing us down, we must keep in mind that there are billions of people in the world who would gladly trade places with us right now, problems and all!

The Shakyamuni Buddha said this to his disciples almost 2,600 years ago. It is documented in what we call, the Three Treasures. He would say, "How fortunate to be born in life as a human being; now we are living that life. How rare and wonderful to encounter a teaching so clear and reasonable as the Dharma; now we are able to hear it." Are we lucky or what?

When our Dharma Eyes open, we begin to appreciate every day, rain or shine, hot or cold. When our Dharma Eyes open, we see how truly fortunate are we.

See you Sunday....
RB

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE KELVIN MARK

The 28 days of February have flashed by as if within a dream. What a treat it was to appreciate Scout Sunday's thoughtful message from Troop 569 Gold Award Girl Scout and Brownie Leader Samantha Nitta, the Cub Scout Pack 50 Blue and Gold birthday celebration, the energy of the Jr. YBA Spaghetti Feed, and to reflect upon Nirvana Day and the Eshinni-ko/Kakushinni-ko/Lady Ohtani Memorial Service.

Newly retired minister, Reverend Akio Miyaji of the Orange County Buddhist Church, was our Nirvana Day and Memorial Service guest speaker. Miyaji Sensei's lighthearted bilingual presentations reaffirmed our interdependence with one another, highlighted life's impermanence, and underscored the appreciation for all things. As Miyaji Sensei put it, "... **the Dharma is everywhere; we need only look.**"

The thoughtful tribute, sponsored by our Buddhist Women's Association, commemorates the contributions made by three extra special women of Jodo Shinshu. Lady Yoshiko Ohtani (1918-2000), wife of our 23rd Monshu, who founded the worldwide BWA Conference so that various chapters could share with one another their practice of the cornerstones of Buddhist aspirations — compassion, sense of community, and gratitude toward others. You may recall that Eshinniko, wife of our teacher Shinran, was in many ways a woman before her time. Her thoughts and perspectives are chronicled in letters penned to their youngest daughter, Kakushinni-ko. Were it not for Eshinniko's support, Shinran might not have become who he was, and we might not enjoy the dharma as we do today.

The same could certainly be said of the support extended to us by our own mothers, the love from our spouses, and the care extended to us by our Fujinkai. Though our days may be filled with seemingly countless activities and demands — workplace, school projects, youth leadership, sports program, or even home taxi service — it is my sincere hope that we set aside time to support our Fujinkai, to join our BWA, and to share our Betsuin cultural traditions. Truly, the efforts of our Fujinkai demonstrate what it means to be raised and nurtured in the heart of the Buddha dharma.

With these thoughts in mind, we greet Spring Ohigan, when the Earth's north pole is in near perfect balance, neither pointing toward nor away from the sun. We turn the calendar toward our own Northern California Church League March Madness and the ABA Spring Food Festival — *remember to submit your preorder forms*. The Betsuin Sports Program is fortunate to host the first tournament in the series — our — **40th** — Annual Invitational — with the opening tip on Saturday March 5, followed by the two-weekend SJUMC, and culminating with the SASF Tournament. Let's send a sportsman's cheer for our kids to represent our Betsuin well. Play hard, play fair, and **above all** have fun.

February erratum: Family service osaisen baku donations support the Dharma School. Courtyard oishii is provided through the fully independent, generous contributions and support of our sangha's individuals and families. Gassho!

OFFICE MANAGERS

Meri Fong
Tak Ito

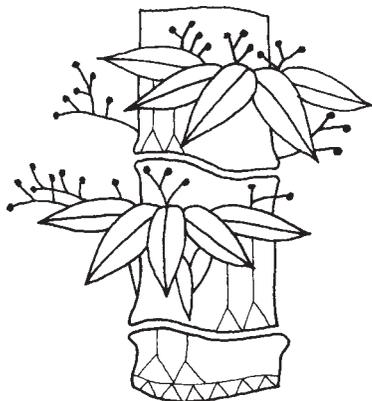
BETSUIN OFFICE

446-0121

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Ruth Hayashi
Irene Hoshiko
Sanaye Imajo
Miyoko Iwata
Mae Kaneko
Alice Kataoka
Machiko Kimura
Rodney Morisawa
Yoshiko Morisawa
Mitzie Muramoto
Mutsuko Noguchi
Mary Tsukiji

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



The February 2011 meeting of the BWA was held on Wednesday, February 2, 2011.

DONATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Family of Dorothy Fujimoto Thank You Note
 Legacy Endowment Committee Thank you for donation to the
 Nisei Appreciation Luncheon
 Tak Ito Thank you note for the oseibo
 Saiko Amioka Donation for Husband's 13th Year Memorial \$100
 Ichiho Family Donation in Memory of Henry Ichiho \$50

President Kurahara wanted to thank the following BWA ladies for their generous donations at the December Bonenkai service and luncheon:

Misao Abe \$25	Tomoko Lillian Kohaya .. \$20	Esther Sakata
Mary Amemiya \$20	Frances Kondo \$20	(raffle prize) \$25
Meri Keiko Fong \$25	Alma Koyasako \$20	Hideko Heidi Sakazaki . \$100
Ichiko Fujishima \$50	Carol Keiko Kudow \$20	Ikuko Sakazaki \$20
Masako Fukuda \$50	Lynn Kurahara \$25	Helen Sekikawa \$25
Carole K. Fukumoto \$30	Reiko S. Kurahara \$20	Ruth T. Seo \$15
Sadako Furuike \$25	Sumiye Bernice	Kikue Kay Shirai \$25
Janis Furuta \$20	Kusunoki \$20	Yaeko Tademaru \$20
Sumiye H. Hamamoto ... \$20	Anna Louie \$10	Barbara M. Takei \$30
Yuki Hashisaka \$25	Terry Makishima \$10	Rose Takata \$10
Ruth Hayashi \$40	Amy E. Matsumoto \$15	Misako Takeuchi \$20
Irene Hoshiko \$10	Pat Matsumoto \$25	Haruko Tanaka \$20
Blossom Ikemoto \$20	Teiko Matsuo \$10	Helen Hatsuye Tanaka ... \$25
Kikuye Imura \$20	Fusako Mizushima \$20	Kiyoko Tanaka \$20
Mary Satoko Inouye \$25	Ann Mori \$20	Miyeko Betty Tanaka \$20
Gladys Eiko Irokawa \$25	Yoshiko Morisawa \$25	Shigeko Mae Tanaka \$20
Yukiko Minnie Iseri \$30	Sumi Morita \$30	Tomi Tanaka \$50
Meriko Ishigaki \$20	Mitzie Muramoto \$20	Yuki Tomita \$20
Lillian Ishii (donation) ... \$20	Takaye Lorraine Nagae ... \$20	Hiroko Tsuda \$20
Lillian Ishii	Jane S. Nakagawa \$10	Gerry Setsuko Tsukiji \$50
(membership) \$20	Kiyoko Nakamoto \$30	Mary Tsukiji \$25
Emiko "Amy" Ishimoto .. \$20	Bette M. Nakatomi \$10	Kazuko Uyeminami \$20
Nancy K. Ito \$20	Pat Namba \$20	Fuyuko Faye Uyemura ... \$25
Masami Iwasa \$100	Sakaye Nishikawa \$25	Ruby Waki \$20
Yoshiye Iwasaki \$10	Eleanor Nobuye \$25	Emi Watanabe \$10
Terry Kagiya \$20	Helen Noguchi \$20	Alice Chieko Yagi \$25
Jean K. Kaneko \$100	Mutsuko Nancy	Miyoko Yamada \$20
Mae Yoko Kaneko \$25	Noguchi \$25	Satsuki Dorothy
Amiko Kashiwagi \$20	Miyoko Omoto \$10	Yamamoto \$20
Alice Kataoka \$20	Tsugino Oto \$25	Mariko Yamashita \$30
Machiko Kimura \$50	Eileen Otsuji \$ 5	Sueko Yamashita \$25
Utako Kimura \$25	Shuny Sagara \$20	Fusaye Yokoyama \$25
Toshie Kobata \$15	Esther Sakata \$20	Elaine Yoshikawa \$25

President Kurahara also wanted to thank and acknowledge the following businesses who donated to the Bonen-kai luncheon to help make it such a successful event:

Kiyo's Floral Shop Gift Certificate
 Oto's Marketplace 2 Gift Certificates
 SBWA 5 Gift Cards from Oto's and several wrapped prizes
 Courtyard Dharma School Bottled water

The BWA would also like to thank the BWA ladies who donated raffle prizes:

Anonymous	Keiko Jean Kashiwada	Mrs. Ono
Gladys Adachi	Kaye Kato	Katherine Onuki
May Arai	Shirley Kato	Rev. Bob & Rev. Patti Oshita
Junko Egi	Molly Kimura	Jean Ota
Meri Fong	Utako Kimura	Mieko Oto
Masako Fukuda	Meiko Kono	Mollie Oto
Shiyoko Futaba	Carol Kudow	Esther Sakata (cash)
Nancy Hashimoto	Lynn Kurahara	Chizuko Sakaishi
Ruth Hayashi	Reiko Kurahara	Heidi Sakazaki
Meriko Hoshida	Bernice Kusunoki	May Shimada
Irene Hoshiko	Yoshi Kyhos	Barbara Takai
Mary Inouye	Fumiko Morishige	Shige Tanaka
Amy Ishimoto	Joanne Morita	Tomi Tanaka
Ellen Ito	Keiko Nishimoto	Hiroko Tsuda
Midori Ito	Aileen Okimoto & Rev. Peter	Gerry Tsukiji
Tak Ito	Inokoji-Kim	Elaine Yoshikawa

UPCOMING EVENTS/ ACTIVITIES

• **Bazaar Craft Booth.** Craft Chair Shirley Kato reported that the craft sessions will be held at the church in Classroom 1 from 1 p.m. on the following days: February 18, March 18, April 15, no session in May, June 17, and July 15. The sessions will be from 1 to 3 p.m. in Classroom 1 unless the classroom is needed for an otoki. In those instances, the sessions will be held in a class-

**SANGHA
STAFF**

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 Hirota

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Endowment	Allan Hoshida
Minister Asst	Carol Castle
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	Kelvin Mark
Sports Cmte	Alan Wu
Boy Scouts	Ryan Soohoo

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

room in the Annex. The craft leaders will be Kathy Tanaka Henry, Sue Louie and Bridget Morisaki.

- **Spring Food Festival — March 13.** This year, we are going to try a new format — PRE-SALE ONLY. Pre-sale orders will be taken every Sunday in February after the Dharma School Service or you will be able to mail in your order using the form in the February SANGHA. The deadline for all orders is February 27. Your order will be ready to pick up between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Sunday, March 13.

Please come out on Saturday, March 12 from 8 a.m. Bring your friends and family members (women and men) to help. As always, lunch will be provided. On Sunday, we can use your help again from 3 a.m. in the kaikan and kitchen. This is a major fundraiser for the BWA and ABA, so please come out and help.

- **Udon Fundraiser – November 6.** Jean Kashiwada will be chairing the BWA Udon Fundraiser on Sunday, November 6. Co-chairing this event will be ABA member and Bazaar Udon Chair Karen Adachi. At the September BWA meeting, tickets will be passed out to all BWA Board members to purchase or sell, and tickets will be sold after Dharma School services. More details to follow as we near the event.
- **Nursing Home Visitations.** Due to the new privacy laws, we are unable to obtain the names of Betsuin and BWA members who currently reside in nursing homes. If you know of members in nursing homes that would like a visit from the BWA ladies, please leave the person's name and the name of the nursing home facility in the BWA mail slot in the church office. Please make sure that these members want to have a visitation by the BWA ladies.

THANK YOU

The BWA would like to thank Mary Amemiya for purchasing the material and hemming 10 large dish towels to be used to wrap large tubs used during the Spring Food Festival and Bazaar. Thank you, Mary, for taking on this much-needed project for the BWA.

Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday evening, March 2.

**MINISTER
ASSISTANTS**
CAROL CASTLE

A couple of weeks ago, I said good-bye to one of my closest friends who passed away. She was the best of the best, with a good heart and a warm, friendly smile. We first met in 1999. She was walking down the street with a friend of ours and in no time she became a member of our family. In fact, it was love at first sight. Keri, who was four at the time, was a little scared of her at first, but all it took was a wag of the tail and a kiss on the cheek and the deal was sealed... we had our very first dog!

Her name was Maisy. She was a tiny little thing — only a few weeks old. Keri named her Maisy after the little storybook mouse — one of Keri's favorites at the time. Being a rescue dog who came from an "owner" who kept her tied up in a field and threw her food on the ground, Maisy didn't know what it was like to live in a house or be part of a family. And never having had a dog before, we didn't know what it was like to have a puppy in the house. Let's just say we *all* had a lot to learn, but with a lot of patience and love, we figured it out. In a way, you could say that we all grew up together.

Maisy had a way of making people smile. Out on walks, strangers would stop and talk to her... and friends who came by to visit almost always found themselves out back throwing the ball with her. She spent hours with the girls playing in the yard — pretending to be on an adventure or trying to catch bubbles mid-air. To say that Maisy was spoiled would be a huge understatement. In fact, at one point Tim actually walked outside with an umbrella to keep her dry while she went potty. If you ask him, he'll say that we made him do it... and I have to confess... we did. After all, how can he say "no" to his two little girls and his wife? What a good man!

My folks also fell in love with Maisy. To them, she was the grand-dog and ranked right up there with the grandkids. Even Pop, who was never a big fan of animals, found in Maisy a loving and devoted companion. Wherever Pop went, Maisy was sure to be right behind. The two of them walked the neighborhood together every day and shared a snack every afternoon. Arare (Japanese rice crackers) were her favorite. And if she wasn't with Pop, no doubt she'd be with Grandma watching Korean dramas or curled up at Grandma's feet as she worked on her quilts in the sewing room. Over time, Maisy spent more and more time at my folks' house. I always felt better knowing that she



Rev. Bob Oshita
428-9833



Rev. Peter Inokoji-Kim

MINISTER ASSISTANTS
(CONTINUED)

was there to help keep them safe. They had their routines and they took good care of each other.

Toward the end of January, we noticed that Maisy was slowing down and just wasn't herself. After spending time at the veterinary clinic... on the day that we thought she could finally come home... we received the phone call that none of us were prepared for... our little Maisy had cancer. Her condition was not only terminal, it was such that without notice, the tumor could burst and she would go into distress. The news broke our hearts and we knew we couldn't bear to see her suffer. We knew we had to let her go.

We stayed with her until the end, stroking her fur and quietly whispering our good-byes. She drifted off peacefully... without fear... without pain... surrounded by the family she loved. If there was one gift we could give her, we wanted it to be that.

The relationship we have with our pets is like no other... and when the day comes when they leave us, we feel the kind of loss that only comes from losing one who has truly touched our lives. As I look back over our time with Maisy... how much she brought to our world and how much we miss her... I feel my heart and mind opening yet again to the truth and the beauty of the Dharma, and even in my sadness, I can't help but feel grateful... so very grateful.

With palms pressed together... Namo Amida Butsu.

2010 LEGACY ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD ANNUAL REPORT
ALLAN HOSHIDA

おかげさま

2010 LEGACY ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD (LEFB) COMMITTEE:

Chair Person: Allan Hoshida
Treasurer: Kelvin Mark
Secretary: By whole committee on rotating basis
LEFB Members: Ken Furukawa, Marcia Matsuda, Joyce Sahara, Ruth Seo, Valerie Fong and Mark Umeda.
Betsuin President: Richard Kai
Betsuin Past President: Ted Yoshimura
Ministers: Rinban Bob Oshita and Rev. Peter Inokoji-Kim

Income Statement: We have been receiving donations throughout the year. Expenses/costs for workshops, Nokotsudo floral decorations, miscellaneous office expenses, etc. have been very minimal throughout the year 2010.

Investment Report: First Allied financial statement month ending December 31, 2010 had a balance of \$748,467. Financial statement balance ending December 31, 2009 was \$638,582. The year-end statement reflects the broad market as follows:

12/31/07 Balance	\$426,584	
Deposits for 2008	\$131,000	
Dividend Reinvested	\$18,638	4.4%
<u>Loss</u>	<u>(\$130,172)</u>	<u>-30.5%</u>
12/31/08 Investment Balance.....	\$446,050	
12/31/08 Investment Balance.....	\$446,050	
Deposits for 2009	\$91,000	
Dividend	\$13,417	+3.0%
<u>Profit (loss)</u>	<u>+\$88,115</u>	<u>+19.7%</u>
12/31/09 Investment Balance.....	\$638,582	
<u>12/31/09 Checking Account Balance</u>	<u>\$14,831</u>	
Total 2009 Year End Assets	\$653,413	
12/31/09 Investment Balance.....	\$653,413	
Deposits for 2010	\$46,500	
Dividend	\$18,620	+2.9%
<u>Profit (loss)</u>	<u>+\$29,934</u>	<u>+4.6%</u>
12/31/10 Investment Balance.....	\$748,467	
<u>12/31/10 Checking Account Balance</u>	<u>\$20,025</u>	<u>+3.0%</u>
Total 2010 Year End Assets	\$768,492	

Numerous and generous monthly donations increased our accounts and together with dividends and increase in asset value, 2010 resulted in a net profit/income of approximately 10.5% over the last 12-month reporting period.

Notes: 1) The above summary for 2010 does not include anonymous residential property donation or the life insurance benefit donation. 2) 2008 and 2009 Year-End Summaries are included for reference purposes only.

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.

**2010 LEGACY
ENDOWMENT
FUND BOARD
ANNUAL
REPORT**
(CONTINUED)

Annual Applicant(s) Report: As the LEFB is still formulating policies/procedures, there was no official 2010 report for applicants. However, for the year 2010, the LEFB did approve to assist in supporting Minister Assistants Continuing Education at Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley, Nisei Appreciation Luncheon, Historic Photo Scanning and Documentation, and YAC Summer Program and Retreat Reunion for \$6,000 total funds distribution. In addition, due to fund-raising activities and dividend/interests earned from 2010, the board has identified and is budgeting up to \$20,000 for various programs throughout 2011.

Narrative: Monthly meetings were held on the third Tuesdays of each month throughout the year with the primary focus being to further market the LEFB to our Sangha members, complete our policies, provide some educational workshops. In addition, fund-raising activities were scheduled to give visibility in the community as well as a means to provide financial support for current ongoing programs/individuals that met the Legacy goals and objectives. Major highlights were the following:

1. **LEFB Sangha Newsletter Articles:** Through monthly writing assignments by each LEFB member, monthly SANGHA newsletter articles were written to market our endowment program and also provide information to our temple members.
2. **Educational and Fund-Raising Activities:**
 - A successful **Rummage Sale** was held on June 2-5, 2010. Overwhelming support, donations from sangha members. Extraordinary amount of donated items. Also minimized throwing away and dumping into our landfills by donating left-over items to a number of community-based non-profit organizations and helping those in need within our neighboring communities: i.e., St. John's Shelter Program for Women & Children, SPCA, United Cerebral Palsy, Goodwill Industries, My Sister's House.
 - Jeff Adachi movie screenings of "**You Don't Know Jack**," held at the kaikan on Saturday, April 10, 2010. Raised awareness of Jack Soo story and invited many sangha and community folks to learn more about a unique time and individual.
 - **Nisei Appreciation Luncheon** on November 21, 2010, co-sponsor with Betsuin Board. Worthy activity to thank and acknowledge our Nisei members and families for their dedication, support and leadership of our Betsuin and sangha community.
 - **Guest Speaker Reverend Tetsuo Unno** seminar lecture, co-sponsored with BWA, thought-provoking presentation/discussion/Q&A entitled "Notes on the Inward Journey Toward Shin Buddhist's Absolute Depth" on December 4, 2010.
3. **Credit Card Setup:** This process was set up by Mark Umeda to allow members to donate monies through the credit card process. Monthly deposits are being made.
4. **501 (c) Status:** The pros and cons of having the LEFB have its own tax identification number were discussed. As our investments are currently relatively small with limited exposure, it was decided that we can re-visit this requirement when we acquire significantly more assets.
5. **Memo for Record:** It should be noted that the General Fund of the temple has approximately \$67,000 in Union Banc to be specifically assigned to be used for Nokotsudo maintenance/future construction of niches. Currently the island niches are being priced out for possible construction in 2011.
6. **Future Long-Term Objective:** Future long-term goal was determined to have \$1,000,000 in the LEFB. This will enable the LEFB to fund and assist many more programs for our temple. After the sale of anonymous residential donation (in spring 2011), this goal will be very close.
7. **100th Anniversary Photos:** Most of the original photos from the 100th Anniversary Photo project have been scanned by Alan Wada and was officially presented as part of a slideshow during the Nisei Appreciation Luncheon on Sunday, November 21, 2010. The Legacy Board has had ongoing discussions on how to keep and maintain digital files, and how to display on TV monitors for future viewing by sangha members.
8. Mark Umeda, attorney and member of LEFB, is working on the following: (*Note:* These items are not included in the Investment Report Summary above).
 - Anonymous donation of residential property (to be shared equally with Asian Community Center upon sale of property).
 - Anonymous donation of life insurance policy future proceeds. (All appropriate paperwork has been completed and official documents are housed in the office safe for future reference).



**SCOUT
SUNDAY**
SAMANTHA NITTA

Good Morning! I am honored to be here with you this morning as one of your speakers for today's Betsuin Scout Sunday Service. For those of you who may not know me, my name is Samantha Nitta and coming here to the Sacramento Betsuin has always been a part of my life. I started out in our Troop 569 Girl Scout Program when I was in second grade.

Before that, I probably could not have told you what a Girl Scout was. To give the younger Scouts an idea of how long ago that was: if I were still in school I would be in the 17th grade. Also, back when I was in Scouts, there was no bronze award to be earned and we didn't have the choice of getting khaki uniforms. Now, that may not seem like that long ago to some, but it does to me.

When I talk about being in Girl Scouts now, I get a lot of questions like, "so you could really survive out in the wild on your own and things, right?" I usually reply back with something like, "Well, not exactly. My Girl Scout group was more of a 'shopping group' than a 'camping group.'"

I still remember my first day at Girl Scout orientation here at the Betsuin. We made key chains out of beads and did some other fun things that brownies do. But looking back, what I remember and cherish most from my Girl Scout experiences were the times that we were able help others and have fun at the same time.

Now, as a new Brownie leader in Troop 569, I feel my life with Girl Scouting has coming full circle. I find myself looking back on the things that I remember doing when I was in Scouts. And I look forward to sharing the exercises that I did... and helping my young Brownie Girl Scouts along their journey through life. Whether they take the same path and eventually become a leader or not, I hope their experience as a Girl Scout will help them on their path to success.

My decision to come back as a Girl Scout leader was a natural one for me to make. With all the time I've spent with the troop and the church as I grew up, I saw this as an opportunity for me to give back to the organization that has done so much for me.

From the Girl Scout Law we are given words and phrases that we should strive to live by: honest, fair, friendly, helpful, considerate, caring, courageous, strong, responsible for what I say and do, respect yourself and others, respect authority, use resources wisely, make the world a better place and be a sister to every Girl Scout.

We are nurtured and encouraged to strive to bring these ideas into our lives. I have tried to practice all of these things in my life in and out of Scouting. I've come to feel that it is a part of our job as Scouts to show others how to live by the standards that Scouting inspires us to achieve.

Girl Scouting promotes leadership both in and outside of our troops. I believe that this is one of the strongest things that I've carried with me throughout my life after Scouting.

In Scouts we were taught how to take the lead on projects and to help others when they need assistance or guidance. This applies to both younger girls and our peers.

We learn leadership in working together with girls who are younger than us as we help them complete projects, whether they are big or small. We develop organizational and leadership skills in planning and running meetings... and in working on projects with our peers.

The experience in planning and facilitating both my Silver and Gold Award helped me to develop skills I continue to use in my life. I learned early on that there are no easy ways to do something well and there are few shortcuts to completing a difficult task. Looking back, I cannot forget the countless people who helped me achieve these awards. I know I could not have done it without them.

For my Gold Award, I planned a referee clinic for Sacramento Asian Sports Foundation (SASF). At that time in my life, that was by far the biggest project and the greatest responsibility that I had ever taken on. It taught me lessons in the responsibilities of leadership, as well as time management and project planning.

Without these three things I may not have been able to put all the pieces together to finish my award and run a successful clinic. It took, what felt like, countless days of planning, to prepare for the clinic to become a reality. Now, I

**SCOUT
SUNDAY**
SAMANTHA NITTA
(CONTINUED)

know this experience has helped me in planning many other events that I have helped organize since then.

Before my Scouting years came to a close, I participated in the YAC youth retreats and eventually became a youth minister's assistant. With this new title, I was given the responsibility of helping and sharing what I've learned with others throughout the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA).

After entering college I became very active in College Young Buddhists Association (YBA). As a co-president of the organization, I found the many organizational and leadership skills I learned in Girl Scouting were very useful in creating workshops, planning conferences and developing projects for our group.

Getting things done in a timely manner and making sure that the pieces would all come together were important in completing my Girl Scout award projects and they have remained important in succeeding in life.

I know I could never have been able to take on such responsibilities without the lessons I was taught in earning my Gold Award.

Earning my Gold Award was on the top of my list of achievements when I interviewed for my first real job out of college. My panel seemed very impressed with my long involvement, growing up within our Girl Scouting program. When asked about my leadership skills, all I had to do was mention Girl Scouts and the panel seemed to understand. I believe that many people recognize that the words Scouts and leadership are synonymous. Now, I can't tell you that being a Girl Scout was the reason that I got the job, but I'm sure that it helped me.

Some girls may think, "Why should I get my Gold Award? It's not going to help me later in life." But I am proof that over four years later, earning the Gold Award has helped me. Taking the time and effort to achieve Scouting's highest award, whether it be the Girl Scout Gold or the Boy Scout Eagle, shows a level of dedication that will reflect well on you for the rest of your life.

I remember that being in Scouts was not the coolest thing to do when I was in school. Fortunately, most of the girls in my group stuck with it all the way through the 12th grade and all but one earned both their Gold and Silver awards.

Trust me when I say that if you work hard at what you do and earn the awards that you set your mind to achieve, it will help you out in the future.

So my last words of advice would be: if you ever think about quitting Scouts, consider how positively it can impact your life in the future and how you can use the skills you learn in Scouts to make yourself a better leader and a better person. I have no doubt that you will be able to take the things that you have learned from Scouting and apply them to the life you will create beyond your Scouting years.

**LEADING
CHANGE:
SCOUT
SUNDAY**
KELVIN MARK, D.O.

Bienvenidos a la Explorador Domingo. Me Llamo Dr. Mark. En mi profesion, estoy un anesthesiologo con el Grupo Case Medico alle en el Sacramento. Hoy, me gustaria hablar de Lider el cambio.

Errrrht... Wait a minute, what does Spanish have to do with "change"? Well as a child, I first spoke English. Then, I learned to speak Chinese, mainly to communicate with my grandma, who spoke no English. Later still, I took up Spanish for my work as a physician. Just like languages changing over time, can you imagine the changes we've seen right here in America?

Until 1942, our nation's Chinese Exclusion laws restricted Chinese from immigrating to America and blocked their citizenship. This year, the City of San Francisco is being led by its first Chinese American mayor, Mr. Ed Lee.

California's anti-Asian land laws blocked our Issei from owning much of the land that they farmed. But today, we celebrate California's *only* elected public defender, Troop 50 Eagle Scout, Mr. Jeff Adachi.

In 1935, Washington State introduced laws to make illegal those of Filipino descent from intermarrying. Today, we are awed by the elevation of California Supreme Court Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye.

Think about this: until 1865, African peoples were brought to America as slaves. Once freed, as American citizens, this culture of people was segregated

**LEADING
CHANGE:
SCOUT
SUNDAY**
KELVIN MARK, D.O.
(CONTINUED)

in every aspect of public life. But now, we appreciate our first African American President in Barack Obama.

Here are four well-known former Scouts and leaders who are at the forefront of leading change. Leading by example, they are telling us that there are basically two types of leaders — those who lift you up, and those who pull you down.

Like these leaders, challenge yourself and ask: “What kind of leader will I become?” Ask yourself, “How will I lead change?”

Well, great leaders tend to live by simple rules. Three simple rules readily come to mind: Trust, Commitment, and Love; *trust* - in that you use common sense and do the right thing, *not* because it is easy, but because it is right. Second, by *commitment*... by ridding yourself of all excuses of why you can't do something and focusing on what you have, you can commit to doing your best; and third by *love*... to understand your purpose, and to show always, that you care. Rearrange the letters and you have *TLC*. You see — three simple rules. All that people around you really want to know:

- 1) Can I trust you? Since every successful relationship begins with trust.
- 2) Those around you want to know: Are committed to excellence?
- 3) And we want to know: Do you really care, and will you do your best?

Raise your hand if you know what these Scouts are famous for?

- **Sam Walton:** Walmart founder raised by a farming family amidst world-wide suffering that we know as the Great Depression. Mr. Walton rewrote the book on marketing, merchandising and distribution.
- **Hank Aaron:** Sure, Mr. 755... Home Run King — the first MLB player to hit 3000 hits and 500 homers. At one time, it was said that “The Hammer” led the league in everything... *except* hotel accommodations. You see, Mr. Aaron faced discrimination during much of his career, but he did not let that stand in his way to do his very best.
- **Norman Mineta:** San Jose Congressman interned with his family at Heart Mountain, Wyoming during World War II. He went on to serve in the Cabinets of two Presidential administrations — George H. Bush AND Bill Clinton.
- **Hilary Rodham Clinton:** Secretary of State who rewrote the role of our nation's First Lady. She successfully raised her family, and now, she is the chief diplomat of the United States of America.

As you think on the lives of these famous Scouts and consider the challenges and changes that they experienced over their lifetimes.... Take a moment to think on the challenges faced by *your first and greatest* leaders... your mom and dad.

Their passion to succeed began with sacrifice. When you think about it, sacrifice can be a good thing. Losers think of sacrifice as punishment. But winners see sacrifice as opportunity. Great leaders will use *challenge and opportunity* to lead change.

In our lives we expect challenge. We *expect* adversity. Reflect on your grandparents and great grandparents, pause for a moment to imagine the unimaginable, linked to places like: Tule Lake, California; Nanking, China; Warsaw, Poland; Mindinao, Philippines; Cho Sun, Korea; Saigon, Vietnam.

Across great oceans from islands and continents, over mountains and across rivers, through valleys and past hardship, your ancestors sacrificed. They gave and they give to you now, all to bring *you* to this moment in time, a time for *you* to do your best... a time for *you* to lead change.

Now, raise your arms and make a muscle.... Come on, flex those biceps. Without knowing it, in your arms, in your bodies, and in your minds, you carry the *strength* of your parents, the *courage* of your grandparents, and the *honor* of your great grandparents. Our Bishop, Ogui Socho, said it best... “Challenge [yourself] to search amidst the uncertainties of life, and be not afraid of trying new things or making mistakes along the way.” At the end of each day, ask yourself: “How did I get better... *today*?” Ask yourself, “How will I improve for tomorrow?”

Challenge yourself to live by three simple rules — *TLC* — and become the change that you want to see in the world. Pull together, cover your role, and do your job. As a challenge escalates, you, as leaders... must elevate. Just do your best.

Your commitment to giving your best effort will move you in the right direction since *attitude* to commitment is what makes us better than we were yesterday

**LEADING
CHANGE:
SCOUT
SUNDAY**
KELVIN MARK, D.O.
(CONTINUED)

and attitude is the most important choice *that you* make every day. Leading change will happen by living your oath and pledge:

On my honor... just means *I* promise to be guided by the Scout Oath and Law.

I will do my best... simply means that *I* pledge to set high standards for myself and to do what is right.

To do my duty... means that *I* promise to follow the truth, to defend the rights of others and to help others at all times.

In closing, Let me thank you for inviting me to speak on this Scout Sunday. Remember, we Scouts have *every* reason to succeed. Think TLC.

Remember that sacrifice and challenge are *our* opportunities. And finally, *Do your best*, and *Be* the change that *YOU* want to see in the world.

**DHARMA
SCHOOL
COURTYARD
DONATIONS**



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

Nursery 1
Kindergarten
2nd Grade Class
4th Grade Class
5th Grade Class
Gladys Adachi
George & Mary Amemiya
Boy Scout Troop 50
C & H Donuts
Valerie Fong
Grace Hatano
Midori Ito
Ted Ito
Utako Kimura

Frances Kondo
Emi Koshimizu
Grace & Ben Kotani
Reiko Kurahara
Dr. Timothy Mar
Diane Muranaka
Teiko Matsuo
Rachel Nagai
Eleanor Nobuye
Judi Okamoto
Mary Orite
Sam Orite
Ted Otani

Ron Otsuji
Sacramento Buddhist
Women's Association
Sachi Sawada
Audrey Seo
Paul Suwa
Barbara Takai
Hiroko Takamoto
Sandy & Jerry Tokunaga
Pat Wai
Don Yamabe Family
Ray Yamamoto
Fusaye Yokoyama

**SPORTS
COMMITTEE**
ALAN WU



As we exit the winter months, we are reminded of the historical stanza found etched on the wall of the Sacred Tibetan caves:
The smell of March is in the air
The shell of the gym will soon be cracked
The spell of the tournament will be the fair
The quell of Spring will soon be hacked.

These ancient words are most apropos for us in the 21st century as they describe how the seemingly tranquil transition from the icy cold of winter to the warm life-spawning time of the year we call spring is rudely interrupted by the din and furor of the tournament; well in our case, tournaments, plural, like three of them.

As you should be aware of by now, March is laden with basketball tournaments each and every weekend, and it is just about all you can do to keep up with all of the action. So as you partake in the tournament play of your son, or daughter, or nephew or niece, or grandson or granddaughter, or just because you are the type of person who actually watches about 500 basketball games per year, just sit back and enjoy the sport and make sure to bring your healthy appetite, for there is always good food and drink at all our gyms with our very own concession stands. And please let it be known that we thank you all for your continued support of the Sports Program.

To recap the schedule of March, we open the month up with our 40th Annual Sacramento Betsuin Invitational Basketball Tournament on March 5 and 6, to be followed by the Sacramento Japanese United Methodist Church (SJUMC) tournament on the next two weekends, and the Sacramento Asian Sports Foundation (SASF) tournament on March 25, 26 and 27 will close out the month.

The Sports Committee would like to thank the Cooper Family for its generous monetary donation to the program.

The Sports Committee would like to thank Mrs. Susie Imai and Family for the donation of a mochi-grinding machine to the program.

If there are no more announcements, then this will conclude this month's edition; there are more petroglyphs to read.

Remember these ancient words: Do or do not. There is no try.

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



January is the beginning of a new year. This includes the beginning of the snow, the beginning of fundraisers, and the beginning of new experiences. The Scouts held their annual crab feed on January 22 and then the family ski trip on January 29. Both of these events were great experiences for the Scouts and everyone had fun.

The crab feed is the only fundraiser that the Scouts have. There was a great turnout and everyone had a good time. It's a big event and all of the Scouts pitch in and perform their duties proficiently. Washing dishes is the least favorite job of most Scouts. But dishwashing isn't the only job. Some Scouts served and others prepared the food bowls. In the end, when the last dish is finally washed, we give a big sigh of relief and are thankful. Troop 50 extends its thanks to everyone who attended our crab feed and supported our fundraiser that makes it possible for us to conduct different Scouting events throughout the year.

The family ski trip to Soda Springs Ski Park is always a fun event for everyone. Skiing is something that can be done only a few times a year and each trip is always a lasting memory. On this outing, the Scout families went and everyone had a great time. Unfortunately, one of our leaders had a bad fall and had to go to the hospital. Thankfully, he will be alright and no other injuries were sustained by the troop. (Although the ground and I had a close relationship during the first few hours we were there, and that was a little frightening.)

The end of January is not, as some may think, the end of the beginning. In fact, what can be considered the start of the Scouting year is September. January is the start of the new camping seasons, including snow camping, and the gateway to spring camping. This is the start of a new year for Troop 50.

MATSUYAMA SCOUTS EXCHANGE PROGRAM TERIYAKI CHICKEN PLATE LUNCH

April 10, 2011 (Hanamatsuri)
Pick up between 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Sacramento Buddhist Church Courtyard
or Alley Way
2401 Riverside Blvd
Sacramento, CA 95818

\$8/plate or \$15 for 2 plates

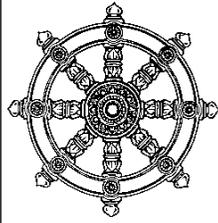
Checks can be made payable to "Troop 50" and write "Matsuyama" in the memo field.

Each plate will contain rice, teriyaki chicken, cabbage salad, fruit and dessert.

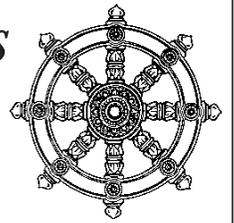
Tickets may be purchased from a Troop 50 or Troop 250 Scout going to Matsuyama, on various Sundays after service, or by contacting Kim Sakata at (916) 825-0107 or at tmak.saks@sbcglobal.net.

Only a limited number of teriyaki chicken lunch plates will be available for sale on the day of pick-up. All proceeds will go toward the Matsuyama Scout Exchange in August.

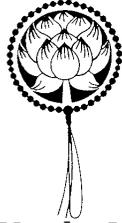
Thank you for supporting the Matsuyama Scout Exchange Program.



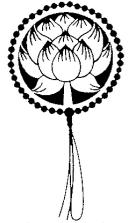
Welcome New Members



*Sandi Nishio
David & Lisa Ohara*



*Condolences to
the Families of:*



*Yuriko Watanabe October 21, 1932 – December 24, 2010
Anthony David Yokoi May 25, 1962 – January 19, 2011
Chips Seiro Yamamoto January 10, 1962 – January 23, 2011
Mamoru Sakuma August 4, 1918 – January 29, 2011
Mary Kiyo Katsuro February 6, 1918 – February 6, 2011*

**DONATIONS
FUNERAL**

The Sacramento Betsuin gratefully acknowledges donations received from late Jan. to Feb. 15. Please report any errors or omissions to the Betsuin office. Thank you.

MEMORIAL

Judge Mamoru Sakuma Family	In Memory of Judge Mamoru Sakuma	\$2,500
Jacqueline Yokoi	In Memory of Anthony David Yokoi.....	\$1,000
Yamamoto Family	In Memory of Chips Yamamoto	\$600
Fred & Jane Yokoi, Douglas Yokoi, Frank & Teresa Yokoi Fong	In Memory of Tony Yokoi	\$500
Terry Sumida	In Memory of Bob Sumida	\$300
Yamamoto Family	In Memory of Helen Yamamoto	\$300
Mark, Courtney, Riley & Sam Amioka	In Memory of Bob Sumida	\$100
Patricia Namba	In Memory of Judge Mamoru Sakuma	\$50
Tomoko Sato	In Memory of Judge Mamoru Sakuma	\$50
Kelvin & Cheryl Mark	In Memory of Tony Yokoi	\$30
Eleanor Yamamoto	In Memory of Judge Mamoru Sakuma	\$30
Junichi Yamamoto	In Memory of Judge Mamoru Sakuma	\$30
Ted & Tak Ito	In Memory of Judge Mamoru Sakuma	\$25
Tommy Fujinaka	In Memory of Helen Yamamoto	\$20
Jean Kanemoto	In Memory of Anthony Yokoi	\$20
Fujimoto Family	In Memory of Dorothy Fujimoto	\$300
Kaz Shintaku	In Memory of Seiichi Shintaku, In Memory of Akino Shintaku, In Memory of Masato Shintaku, In Memory of Sakae Shintaku, In Memory of Noboru Shintaku, In Memory of Kiyoharu Shintaku	\$300
Masao Inada, Thomas & Nancy Shimizu	1st Year for Sadie Inada	\$200
Tom & Peggy Nakamura	In Memory of Tsuyako Nakamura	\$200
Steven Yokoi	1st Year for Frank Yokoi	\$200
Masami Iwasa	In Memory of Hisata Iwasa	\$100
Shizu Miura	3rd Year for Hajime Miura	\$100
Thomas & Judith Nishimura	49th Day for Jeanette Tsujita	\$100
Marlene & Bill Ohara	49th Day for Jeanette Tsujita	\$100
Keiko Kono	49th Day for Jeanette Tsujita	\$50
Akio Miura	3rd Year for Hajime Miura	\$50
Yoneo Miura	3rd Year for Hajime Miura	\$50
Marcia Watanabe, Ferris Yayasaki	49th Day for Jeanette Tsujita	\$50
Hiroko Hayashi	1st Year for Frank Yokoi	\$30
Ted & Tak Ito	In Memory of Jeanette Tsujita	\$30
Tom & Carol Kudow	1st Year for Frank Yokoi	\$30
Mitsuye Okubo	In Memory of Jack Okubo	\$30
Steven & Junko Egi	In Memory of Yukiko Yagi	\$25
Ritsuko Iwasa	In Memory of Hisata Iwasa	\$25
Reiko Kurahara	49th Day for Jeanette Tsujita	\$25
Karen & Kenny Miyao	In Memory of Jeanette Tsujita	\$25
Joyce Sasaki	49th Day for Jeanette Tsujita	\$25
Sally Yamaichi	In Memory of Yukio Kikumoto	\$25
Bob Ariyasu	In Memory of Cary Kuni Tanihana	\$20

DONATIONS
(CONTINUED)

SPECIAL

M/M Clyde Dietzen	In Memory of Tsuyako Nakamura	\$20
Setsuko Ichimoto	In Memory of Tsuyako Nakamura	\$20
Tomio & Michiko Shimizu	1st Year for Frank Yokoi	\$20
Sachiko Sawada	49th Day for Jeanette Tsujita	\$10
Sacramento ABA	Scholarship Fund	\$1,000
Florin Buddhist Church	In Appreciation	\$500
Boy Scout Troop 50	Special Donation	\$400
Marysville Buddhist Church	In Appreciation	\$300
Steven & Kimiye Touchi	Special Donation	\$150
Aichi Kenjin Kai	Special Donation	\$125
Masaaki Tademaru	Junichi Yamamoto's 90th Birthday	\$100
Eiji, Kathleen, Ryan & Brett Yamamoto	Junichi Yamamoto's 90th Birthday	\$100
Junichi Yamamoto	Birthday Donation	\$100
Gladys Adachi	Special Donation	\$50

**ENDOWMENT
FUND**

Anonymous	Legacy Endowment Fund	\$500
Wayne Kurahara	Special Donation	\$50
Richard Kai	Legacy Endowment Fund	\$40
Joe & Alice Kataoka	In Memory of Judge Mamoru Sakuma	\$25
Utako Kimura	7th Year for Kent Nishimura	\$20
Utako Kimura	In Memory of Jeanette Tsujita	\$20
Mitzie Muramoto	In Memory of Judge Mamoru Sakuma	\$20

NOKOTSUDO

Markcurtis Otani		\$50
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HOONKO

Kimi Sagara	In Memory of Isoye Sagara, Hideo Sagara & Masao Sagara	\$20
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BODHI SEALS

Florence Wong		\$20
Harley & Judy Inaba		\$10
Lorraine Nagae		\$10
Fusaye Yokoyama		\$10
Meriko Ishigaki		\$8
Yoshio Kono		\$6

CORRECTION

Betty Tabata	In Memory of Mitsuko Nishimoto	\$25
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SHOTSUKI HOYO

Wesley & Asako Fujii	In Memory of Matsuo Father & Brother, 7th Year for Yuri Yamada	\$100
Betsie Sanui	In Memory of Richard, Flu, Toshiko Inaba & Mabel Okubo	\$100
Rieko Inaba		\$50
Tsuto & Jean Ota	In Memory of Father, Brother, Sister & Niece	\$50
Ted & Gerry Tsukiji	In Memory of George Nakano	\$50
Emiko Masunaga	In Memory of Toshiko Inaba	\$30
Joan Hisamoto		\$25
Gloria Inaba		\$25
Joe & Alice Kataoka	In Memory of Father, Shigeo Takeda	\$25
Isamu Kobata	In Memory of Father	\$25
M/M Tom Matsumoto	In Memory of Yoshio Matsumoto	\$25
Kay Shimada	In Memory of Tokiko Shimada	\$20

