

SANJSHA

SACRAMENTO BUDDHIST CHURCH
VOLUME 48 NUMBER 10 - OCTOBER 2011

RB'S CORNER
REV. BOB OSHITA

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
Udon Fundraiser	5
Meri Fong Retires	6
New Members	6
Ministers' Assistants	6
Legacy Endowment Fund	7
Sakura Gakuen	7
Seeking Calendar Photos	8
Maintenance Report	8
Condolences	8
Halloween Party	9
Dharma School	10
Sports Committee	10
Boy Scouts	11
Medal Recommendation	11
Cub Scouts	13
Donations	13
Pancake Breakfast	15

Hello... and welcome to the month of October.... As we grow older, I think that each passing autumn becomes a more quietly reflective time. When we feel that chill in the air... and see the leaves slowly turning color... we sense another year coming to a close. We cannot help but reflect on the passing of time and perhaps look back on the autumns we've lived through.

When I was younger, spring and summer were my favorite seasons. I still look forward to the blooming of the fragrant freesias and my favorite tree, the orange osmanthus. But now, I find myself identifying more with the leaves turning color than the blooming flowers.

When the leaves begin to change color, I almost always find myself thinking about one of my favorite haiku poems. It may well be one of the most well-known of all haiku. I've spoken and written about this poem a few times. But like a good book, a favorite song or a good movie, it is always worth revisiting.

This poem was written by the Soto Zen priest and poet, Ryokan Taigu, who lived about 200 years ago in the Niigata area of Japan. It reads:

<i>Ura o mise</i>	Showing front
<i>Omote o misete</i>	Showing back
<i>Chiru momiji</i>	Maple leaves fall

In this simple 17-syllable haiku poem, it can be said that the very heart of Buddhism is revealed. In our minds' eye we can visualize the autumn-colored leaves fluttering down from the trees. We can almost feel the cooling weather and a gusting autumn breeze; and with the images of this poem, we experience the truth of Buddhism's essential teaching of Impermanence.

There is a sense of naturalness (*jinen*) of things being just as they should be. The leaves and the trees do not cling to each other; when autumn comes; when the karmic circumstances change, they part... for such is life.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

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
 (CONYINUED)

And as the leaves fall gently to the ground, they twirl and float, showing front and showing back. Too often, we human beings float through life only wanting to show our "front," our "good" side. The leaves fall without pretension and without concern for what is "good" and what is "not good." More than this, they have no concept of front and back, good or bad. Human beings, with our judgmental minds, we are the ones who create concepts of front and back or good and bad.

As we are constantly taught in Buddhism, if we open our eyes, the whole world is teaching us the dharma. Throughout this autumn season, let us quietly gassho in our hearts and appreciate the wonderful dharma messages of the falling leaves.

See you Sunday... RB

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

Welcome to October with the poignancy of Fall Ohigan and changing seasons imprinted freshly on our minds and guiding us toward solemn reflection and purposeful action.

Sangha members occasionally approach and ask me to explain what is autism? Chances are that you or someone you know is affected by autism. Perhaps you know how challenging it can be. Autism is a condition that does not discriminate. For now, physicians and scientists do not know its cause. For now, there is no cure. Autism affects some 1 of 125 children and is 4 times more prevalent among boys than girls. Its impact is a lifelong proposition.

The medical definition of autism describes a spectrum of complex neuro-developmental disorders characterized by impaired social interaction to include both verbal and nonverbal communication. Individuals on the spectrum tend to experience extreme sensitivity to physical contact, sound and textures. On the other hand, individuals with autism have a tendency to view the world literally, without bias, seeing things as they are. Perhaps this is why the nuances of language can be a challenge. As affected children mature, a parent, sib, educator or coach may find oneself in the role of guide, helping an individual to draw on one's strengths while striving to improve upon weaknesses.

A Jodo Shinshu definition of autism might include namo amida butsu. Perhaps appreciating the gift that every day brings and every moment offers. Our recitation of the nembutsu and traveling a Shin Buddhist path can allow us to transform what might otherwise be suffering into living a truly happy and meaningful life. When we see things, as they are, when we appreciate each moment, of every day, we can awaken. Test this and you may find it to be true.

Likewise, your Executive Committee, Board of Trustees and Legacy Endowment Board serve as guides to our Betsuin. We meet monthly to guide our temple, aspiring for stability and growth. Every month we awaken to new challenges and new points of view in which we hope to learn from our past and chart a responsible future. Consider for a moment that these collective actions encompass a minimum of 45 volunteer leaders who cumulatively provide a minimum of 150 hours per month and 1,800 hours per year to help guide our Betsuin and direct our efforts in the best direction possible.

The Executive Committee is a steering forum largely comprised of trustees. Your trustees can be thought of as "living in the moment" — in a nutshell, looking after the day-to-day, month-to-month operations of our physical plant, nourishing our Dharma School and sponsored organizations, cultivating our Scouting programs, and providing support to the most talented ministerial staff in all of BCA. Advisors to your trustees include past Board presidents and Temple elders. Please join me in congratulating our newest Temple elders: Alice Kataoka, Frances Kondo and Shigeiko Tanaka. Omedeto gozaimasu!

Your Legacy Endowment Fund Board can be thought of as an entity shaping and charting a course for sharing the dharma; living in the moment but preparing for our future. Most recently, your Legacy Fund Board has re-established Temple involvement with the Sakura Gakuen Language School. The Board provides Buddhist education scholarship via Youth Advocacy Committee (YAC) and ministerial education and is evaluating and planning the implementation of forward-thinking programs to share the Buddha dharma, which could include establishing an assistant minister director of youth program, endowed professorial lectureships, visiting minister agendas, or kyoshi-kaikyoshi minister development programs. These are just a few of the ideas being studied and evaluated in order to share the dharma for our generation and beyond.

OFFICE MANAGER

Tak Ito

BETSUIN OFFICE

446-0121

SANGHA HELPERS

Misao Abe
 Ruth Hayashi
 Irene Hoshiko
 Sanaye Imajo
 Miyoko Iwata
 Mae Kaneko
 Alice Kataoka
 Machiko Kimura
 Yoshiko Morisawa
 Mitzie Muramoto
 Mary Tsukiji
 Faye Uyemura

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
(CONTINUED)

SACRAMENTO BUDDHIST WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
KEIKO JEAN KASHIWADA



SANGHA STAFF

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

CONTRIBUTING REPORTERS

President's Msg	Kelvin Mark
SBWA	Keiko Jean Kashiwada
Ministers' Assts	Grace Hatano
Endowment	Ted Yoshimura
Maintenance	Gary Traganza
Boy Scouts	Ryan Soohoo
Cub Scouts	Glen Kumamoto
Sports Cmte	Alan Wu
Dharma School	Ken Furukawa
Sakura Gakuen	Masako Thomas John McDonnell

Whether living in the moment or shaping our future, your input as our sangha is both requested and encouraged. Our Temple community opens a path for us to appreciate all that we have, to express our gratitude for being united by the dharma, and to live each day, in each moment, as we choose. Every day is a gift, every moment an opportunity.

In gassho,
Kelvin

The September SBWA Board Meeting was held on Wednesday, September 7, with President Lynn Kurahara presiding.

DONATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Shiyoko Futaba	In Memory of Reverend H. Futaba (3rd year)	\$50
Alice Kataoka	Special Donation	\$50
Janet Matsumoto	In Memory of May Kurimoto	\$50
Pat Matsumoto	In Memory of Misato Furuike (3rd year)	\$50
Richard & Joanne Morita	In Memory of Bette Morita	\$25
Judy Geer	Special Donation	\$5

THANK YOUS

President Kurahara thanked Virginia Uchida for coordinating the successful Music Circus play and dinner, which was held on August 4. She also thanked Gayle Kono for coordinating the Angel Island field trip on July 30.

President Kurahara thanked the BWA Board members for coming out to help on Friday with the sushi ingredients preparation and the sushi rolling and stuffing early Saturday and Sunday mornings. Our "working BWA Board" and their families and friends are to be congratulated on the great sushi sales.

President Kurahara also thanked Fusako Takahashi for providing training on sushi rolling. Fusako was well-prepared, very patient and very supportive of all the ladies and men who came out to help with the sushi.

Bazaar Craft Booth Chair Shirley Kato would like to thank the over 85 ladies who helped to make crafts and take a shift or two in the Craft Booth. The booth made approximately \$5,700! Listed below are the ladies and men who made or donated crafts for the booth:

Gladys Adachi	Hazel Kamada	Nancy Noguchi
Mary Amemiya	Harry Kashiwada	Michiko Okamoto
Nora Bachus-Dressler	Amiko Kashiwagi	Norraine Okamoto
Joanne Champ	Bruce Keikoan	Yukie Okasaki
Joan Curry	Toshie Kobata	Aileen Okimoto
Winnie Detwiler	Misa Kodani	Kelli Omoto-Lee
Amy Dote	Jane Komure	Misa Oshiro
Sherry Fujii	Frances Kondo	Linda Otani
Jim Fujii	Gayle Kono	Joan Ouchida
Masako Fukuda	Emi Koshimizu	Deidre Parks
Janis Furuta	Yoshie Kyhos	Chizuko Sakaishi
Tessie Goi	Sylvia Lau	Alice Sakanori
Naomi Hamamoto	Sue Louie	Dorothy Sasamoto
Sally Hamatake	Shizu Miura	Helen Sekikawa
Nancy Hashimoto	Jean Mori	Ruth Seo
Kathy Henry	Peggy Mori	Mari Lynn Shimamoto
Darcie Kameda	Randy Mori	Yaeko Tademaru
Meriko Hoshida	Bridget Morisaki	Irene Takeda
Harley Inaba	Carolyn Murai	Jane Tamano
Judy Inaba	Diane Muranaka	Kiyo Tanaka
Misao Inaba	Rachel Nagai	Harriet Taniguchi
Mary Inouye	Jane Nakagawa	Virginia Uchida
Yvonne Ishimoto	Grace Nagao	Colleen Warner
Ellen Ito	Betty Nakayama	Donna Wong
Midori Ito	Lori Namba	Jeff Wong
Nancy Ito	Shirley Nishida	Alice Yagi
Tak Ito	Joanne Nishimura	Miyo Yamada
Masami Iwasa	Sandy Nishimura Yee	Junichi Yamamoto
Clinton Jung	Jennifer Nitta	Sueko Yamashita
JoAnn Jung	Eleanor Nobuye	Elaine Yoshikawa

UPCOMING EVENTS

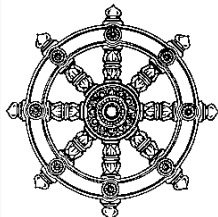
November 6 - BWA Udon Fundraiser. Keiko Jean Kashiwada will be co-chairing this Udon Fundraiser with her sister, Karen Adachi. Dine-in and take-out udon will be sold between 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Sunday, November 6. You can purchase your \$5 udon tickets from any BWA Board member or after Dharma School services in October. Please support the BWA!

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Molly Kimura was recently honored by the Japanese government for her years of promoting Japanese culture. Those of you who know Molly are aware of her talent, educational degrees and titles, which are too numerous to list, for fear of omitting some. Congratulations, Molly. We are so proud of you.

**MERI FONG
RETIREES**

After 15 years, Betsuin Office Manager Meri Fong has decided to retire, effective October 1. Tak and Meri started work together. Meri won't disappear entirely as she will still be around participating in church activities.



Welcome New Members

*Curtis & Sallie Dair
Phil & Eileen Morris*



**MINISTERS'
ASSISTANTS
GRACE HATANO**

As I sit here enjoying this beautiful warm fall weather, I realize our Dharma School service and class have already started. As for me, I've been in school all through the summer.

Some of us ministers' assistants and Reverend Peter have been taking an online course studying Shoshinge with Reverend Marvin Harada since February. We are learning to read and write the kanji characters. The drills, handouts and lectures have been very interesting, but also sometimes very difficult. I find myself reviewing the material a couple of times to absorb all the details of the Shoshin (nembutsu)ge.

Like when we learned our A-B-C's as children, we are learning by writing the kanji over and over, practicing many times to familiarize ourselves with each character and trying to instill in our heads the order of the strokes.

Our learning and visual recognition is similar to when we learned the alphabet. But, as you can imagine, this is much more difficult, especially since our older minds are not as receptive to absorbing all this new information. Some of the characters are repeated, and some characters are read differently depending on the arrangement of the phrases. We have worksheets that instruct us in the order of strokes to write the kanji, thankfully, and a few of my kanji look pretty good, even comparable to our instructor's; but I have many that are out of proportion. I realize that practice, and more practice, and writing it over and over, really helps.

We usually start each session with Reverend Marvin's lecture, interpreting 2-4 lines of Shoshinge, learning to write a few characters, then adding a few more. I was able to recognize some of the kanji characters.

At first, learning to write was an enjoyable challenge and I took much pride practicing my kanji strokes. Then, weeks and months went by and we progressed to Lecture 14, continually reading, writing and learning the in-depth meaning of the Shoshin(nembutsu)ge.

Learning the kanji characters started to become overwhelming — some had 19 to 21 strokes to complete! I felt that I was falling behind and having to cram. I don't know about the others, but I needed to review the previous lectures' handouts and devote hours of practice writing the kanji characters. We are fortunate we had well thought-out, detailed worksheets to review.

This is an excellent online course. The information is fed to us in a timely manner and we are able to progress without falling behind on the assignments. We are also fortunate to be able to revisit previous lectures. Reviewing the material and listening to the lectures over and over really helped reinforce the lessons.

But as with many things worthwhile in life, getting the full value of the lessons doesn't come easy or without some sacrifice. I hope to continue and complete this course, and with a little perseverance and extra studying, I know I can.

Thanks to Reverend Marvin for being such an understanding instructor and sharing his knowledge on the interpretation of the Shoshin(nembutsu)ge and teaching us to write the kanji characters.

In gassho.

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.

**LEGACY
ENDOWMENT
FUND**

TED YOSHIMURA

おかげさま

**SAKURA
GAKUEN
JAPANESE
LANGUAGE
SCHOOL**
MASAKO THOMAS
AND
JOHN MCDONNELL

The summer months of “fun in the sun” are starting to come to an end, Dharma School has started again, and it’s hard to believe that the year 2011 will be coming to a close in a few months.

IRA CHARITABLE GIFT EXEMPTION

As the year 2011 is in its last quarter, please consider a charitable donation to the Legacy Endowment Fund (LEF). Donations made to the endowment help us to provide funding to support our Temple programs, educational opportunities and other activities that propagate our Jodo Shinshu traditions.

The IRA charitable gift exemption for people over 70-1/2 has been extended to **December 31, 2011**. This means that people still needing to take their required minimum distributions for 2011 can have all or some of the money go directly to a charitable organization of their choice (such as the Legacy Endowment Fund) and it does not create a taxable distribution to the IRA owner.

The catch is that the distribution must go from the IRA custodian directly to the charitable organization’s custodial account. If the IRA owner takes the distribution and puts it in his/her checking account and then writes the check, he/she has to fill out special tax forms showing all the transactions. If you have such a desire to donate, we recommend potential donors should contact the Legacy Endowment Board directly to make sure the IRA gift goes through correctly without any hassles.

Please also consult with your financial advisor or estate planner for more information regarding the 2011 gift deductibility rules. In some cases, there may be a maximum percentage allowed on your deductible. You can also contact our Legacy Endowment committee members or the main office—(916) 446-0121—to obtain our custodial account number or if you have any questions.

2012 RUMMAGE SALE

Despite the unusual rains, we had a highly successful rummage sale this past June. Due to numerous favorable comments and requests, the 3rd Annual Rummage Sale is planned for Saturday, **June 2, 2012**. It may be early, but please start collecting usable items that you can donate for the sale, and mark your calendar to come to shop for outstanding merchandise at bargain prices!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please remember that if you know of either yourself or others who might need special funding, that pending approval, you or any temple group can apply for funding by submitting our applicant proposal request form. Our Legacy Endowment Fund Board’s main function is to support our Sangha members. Please contact the main office to obtain these forms.

Stay tuned to some exciting things and events to happen in the near future.

It is not too late to register and join our Monday evening adult program. Contact Masako Thomas at thomas@sakuragakuen.us.

The Saturday school for youth is in full swing with new students learning the Japanese syllabary (hiragana) and continuing students expanding their knowledge of kanji, vocabulary and grammar. This fall the school has begun a new bilingual class for advanced students and a kindergarten program for the very young learners. To keep school fun, in addition to cooking and other hands-on lessons, cultural events like the annual Sports Day or Undokai, a day of Obento and games, are enjoyed. Drop by the Saturday school, see what fun it is and snack on onigiri or other recess treats.

Spring semester begins the first week of February. Contact Futaba Wood at dfhwood@comcast.net for more information on the Saturday classes.

The school would like to thank the Legacy Endowment Fund Board for strengthening the link between the language school and the church with its generous scholarship program. Bringing non-members to the school and introducing them to the church community has had an enriching impact on the church and the reciprocal, enticing more church members to take advantage of the great opportunity to learn or refresh their Japanese, furthers that integration and sharing our interests.



**SEEKING
PHOTOS FOR
CALENDAR**

**NOTES FROM
THE OFFICE**

**MAINTENANCE
REPORT
GARY TRAGANZA**

It's that time of year again.... YES! Photos for our Betsuin calendar are requested by your Calendar Committee, chaired by Diane Shimosaka and coordinated by Cliff Adams. Dharma School, BWA, ABA, Jr. YBA, Sakura Gakuen, Senior Adults, Sports Committee, Pack 50, Troop 50 and Girl Scout Troop 569 should submit CD-rom photos to the office no later than October 7, 2011.

Have you paid your 2011 membership?

This month I would like to say thanks to an organization that is responsible for a lot of the improvements around our temple — our Eagle Scouts. One of the requirements of becoming an Eagle Scout is that the Eagle candidate must plan, develop and give leadership to others in a significant service project. The project plan must be approved by the organization benefiting from the effort (Sacramento Buddhist Church represented by Eddie Imai), Troop Leader (Bobby Tanaka), the Troop Committee Chair (Nick Shebert), and the Capital City District Advancement Committee Chair.

Troop 50 requires that each scout submit a binder (usually 120–150 pages) that details all phases of the project. Included will be a statement of exactly what will be done, before and after pictures, an estimate of all the materials and costs, and how many man hours it will take. Each project must have a minimum of 200 man hours (some are much longer). When a scout completes his community project, he will be awarded the prestigious Eagle Scout Award—the highest award in Boy Scouts.

Here are the Eagle Scout projects that have been completed in the last two years:

- Drew Quan built and painted four benches for the courtyard.
- James Yee painted all exterior hand railing.
- Matt Nitta built three large cabinets on wheels for the snow cone machines.
- Tyler Gee stained the southwest trellis structure.
- Ryan Ito painted classrooms 1-4, the main hallway and entry from the courtyard.
- Keith Ikami painted the exterior of Bob's residence, outdoor kitchen and storage building.
- Jeremy Wong painted six classrooms and hallway of the upper floor in the annex.
- Tyler Sasaki built two large cabinets to store our 12 rice cookers.
- Steven Tanaka painted five classrooms, two bathrooms, two staircases and the hallway in the annex.
- Kelly Uda stained and refinished 13 pieces of furniture in the church office and library.
- Kyle Fong painted the reception area, office and library.
- Jared Honda (Troop 250) painted the kaikan and installed new wallboard in the main kitchen.
- Josh Honda (Troop 250) washed and cleaned the Obon/Bazaar tent.


These projects represent thousands of hours of labor for the scouts and all who volunteered to assist. As a consequence of earning their Eagle Scout awards, these young men have added greatly to the aesthetics and functionality of our temple. Thank you.




Rev. Bob Oshita
428-9833



Rev. Peter Inokoji-Kim
446-4988



*Condolences to
the Families of:*



Rose Michiko Iseri..... April 22, 1925 – July 29, 2011

DHARMA SCHOOL
KEN FURUKAWA



Fall is in full swing, and that means the weather should be getting cooler, and the sky getting darker as the evening nears Halloween! An interesting holiday tradition, if you think about it. Not sure how to tie it into Dharma School other than to remind parents that the annual Halloween party and haunted house will take place the weekend before, and Dharma School service and classes will be held October 30. Don't eat too much candy at the Halloween party; after all, Monday is the trick-or-treat day itself!

As you are well aware, Dharma School has experienced a few teacher shortages due to the multiple commitments of the volunteer teachers at many grade levels. It has been developing over a few years that almost all of our teachers require at least one partner to cover the year.

Well, the trend continues. I am now asking for volunteers to help with the high school In Search Of class. As I understand it, essentially all of our adults who attend service could fill in to help with this discussion-based class, as they explore meaningful ways to deal with everyday life and experiences. Please consider this as an opportunity to help out and explore your own questions, along with appreciative students with real questions about many of the same life experiences we went through some years back! For information, please contact Dorene Kimoto or Kim Pell. I will be happy to forward e-mails.

By the time this makes it to your home, 5th grade parents will have developed a team-teaching plan, and hopefully 7th grade will have a part-time assistant teacher or team in place too. Sometimes it just takes time. Thank you to all involved!

The Dharma School service calendar:

October 2, 2011	Dharma School Service and Class
October 9, 2011	Dharma School Service and Class Cub Scout Breakfast
October 16, 2011	Eitaikyo Service and Class
October 23, 2011	Dharma School Service and Class
October 30, 2011	Dharma School Service and Class Dharma School Teachers' Meeting
November 6, 2011	Dharma School Service and Class Pet Memorial

Please note that the Pet Memorial service will specifically recognize those pets who have died within the last year.

Thanks for all that you do to support this program.
In gassho.

DONATIONS

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

Betsuin Senior Golf Committee	Norma Ito Tak Ito	Janet Matsumoto Terrie Matsumoto
C & H Donuts	Alice Kataoka	Yo Morisawa
Valerie Fong	Utako Kimura	Lorraine Nagae
Carol Fukumoto	Mahoraba	Sachi Sawada
Grace Hatano	Drs. Kelvin Mark & Cheryl Lieu	Shigeko Tanaka
Steve Hiromoto	Yen & Michael Marshall	Tomi Tanaka
Matsy Inaba Family		Emi Watanabe
Minnie Iseri		

SPORTS COMMITTEE
ALAN WU



As we enter the last quarter of 2011, we are reminded that even though change is inevitable and we must accept it as part of this life as an undeniable truth, there is a lot of truth in the saying, "The more things change, the more they stay the same."

As an example, every year we assist with Bazaar construction. Every year we pull out all the wood and tables and pipes to create all the Bazaar booths and also, as usual, we are "instructed" to simply tote around the 37 assorted refrigerators and freezers that were being used by someone with the initials: Reiko. But, because change is what it is, this year after moving one unnamed refrigerator about three times, we were informed that that particular one was dead, and needed to be thrown out. So, this year, not only did we have to relocate all the large appliances hither and yon, but we also had the privilege of moving a non-functional one to three different locations before it ended up out in the alley for the waste disposal truck! Yes, we certainly do embrace change!

And as usual, October means that the sports program is in full swing. The bowling league keeps rolling along on Sundays at 1 p.m. at Land Park Bowl. If you did not register in September, you can still come out and bowl on an ad hoc basis. So, you have no excuse not to join us for some bowling fun and perhaps some non-sanctioned friendly wagering.

**SPORTS
COMMITTEE**
(CONTINUED)

Now, the basketball side of the house is gearing up and gaining momentum. Registration for basketball was also in September, teams will be formed this month, team practices will commence all in preparation for the first league game in December, just as in years gone by.

As usual, we had two extra credit days in September; we hope you were able to take advantage. And also as usual, the next two extra credit days will be December 31, 2011 at the New Year's Eve service, and January 1, 2012 at the New Year's Day service, so put those in your handy dandy smart phone calendar and get those extra credits.

As usual, be back in about 30 days.

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


August is the final month of the scouting leadership year. August is also a very active month. At the very beginning of the month, scouts from Matsuyama, Japan arrive in Sacramento. They are welcomed by the troop with a dinner at the church. A couple days later, the scouts have a trip to Emerald Bay. The month is finished off with Bazaar setup and a trip to the Sac State Aquatic Center. In the end, August is the way the scouting year finishes.

The month of August really starts off with the scouts traveling to Emerald Bay, Lake Tahoe. Along with scouts from Troop 50 and 250, the Matsuyama scouts also join in the trip. At Emerald Bay, scouts have a ton of activities that they can do. On the first day, scouts hike down to Emerald Bay and spend a few hours there. The following day, scouts can choose between hiking, bicycling or spending time at the beach. The scouts who are hiking or biking are given amazing views of Tahoe and the surrounding forest. Scouts spending time at the beach can swim, kayak or take a ride on a raft pulled by Assistant Scoutmaster Dr. Mark's boat.

The following week, scouts help in setting up the Bazaar. Thanks to the help from Troop 50, the setup finishes pretty quickly. Scouts help pull out supplies like chairs, tables and other supplies in preparation for the Bazaar.

The last scout event of the year is an outing to the Sac State Aquatic Center at Lake Natoma. The scouts enjoy boating and other activities at the aquatic center as a nice way to finish off the scouting year and a very hot day.

In September, new scout leaders and new scout patrols will be assigned. The new leaders are selected by the adult leaders based on their qualification and leadership ability. This scouting year is officially ending, but it gives birth to new experiences in the coming year

September 14, 2011

Mr. Dale Kuehne
c/o Golden Empire Council, BSA
251 Commerce Circle
Sacramento, CA 95815

Re: Alexander Ma, Lifesaving Award Honor Medal Recommendation

Dear Mr. Kuehne,

My name is Dr. Kelvin Mark, Assistant Scoutmaster Troop 50, chartered by the Buddhist Church of Sacramento in the Capital City District of the Golden Empire Council. I take great pride in recommending Life Scout Alexander Ma to receive the Lifesaving Award Honor Medal for demonstrating exemplary emergency first aid skills and infection outbreak control during a rapid, severe, and unanticipated outbreak of Norovirus while at resident summer camp, Camp Royaneh, Cazadero, California.

To illustrate the scope of the outbreak, nearly two-thirds of the Camp Royaneh staff and over 50 percent of the resident participants became afflicted by the severe incapacitating illness. Alexander's numerous selfless acts and expedient efforts spanned the time period of approximately 2230 hours on Tuesday, July 26, 2011 to 0630 on Wednesday, July 27, 2011.

His continuous eight-hour intervention limited the spread of disease and no doubt prevented a widespread epidemic to our outlying home communities. His actions most certainly decreased the potential for spread within sensitive subpopulations encompassed by the elderly and very young where Norovirus has been known to spread rapidly, cause debilitating dehydration and death.

**LIFE SCOUT
ALEX MA
TAKES
CHARGE IN
CAMP
EMERGENCY**

**LIFE SCOUT
ALEX MA
TAKES
CHARGE IN
CAMP
EMERGENCY
(CONTINUED)**

These facts are noteworthy since Camp Royaneh staff were unaware of the species of infectious agent, unprepared for the broad scope of outbreak, and uneducated in the need to limit exposure to the civilian community at large.

Independent of direction by his adult scout leadership, without regard for self-preservation, avoidance of exposure to infectious bodily fluids and the potential for infection to himself, Acting Senior Patrol Leader Alex Ma took it upon himself to care for each and every afflicted member under his supervision. He saw to his camp's sanitation, disinfection, and provided immediate comfort and care to the sick and suffering.

Alex conscientiously and individually attended to all 27 of his incapacitated Troop members, which numbered 58 participants and six adult leaders. In the midst of a rapidly changing situation and a tidal wave of severe distress, Alex did not hesitate to act. Particularly noteworthy is that Life Scout Alex Ma assisted in:

- The establishment of quarantine bunk houses,
- Directed the construction and distribution of improvised bedside emesis basins,
- Assisted scouts to vacate vomit-splashed sleeping bags, quarters and clothing,
- Assisted the ill to wash,
- Provided hydration measures,
- Directed immediate bunkhouse emesis clean-up and infection control,
- Reminded first responders to take appropriate barrier infection control measures; all of this in the darkness of night.

Camp lights out had recently been called when our first two scouts awoke from deep sleep and violently vomited in their quarters. By 2300 hours approximately 10 scouts were abruptly affected, as were five of our six adult leaders.

Near 0100 that number doubled and by 0330, 27 scouts were beset by severe and recurring gastric distress. Several young men were in such deep levels of sleep that they did not awaken when vomiting. The risk for aspirating stomach contents and developing acute respiratory distress was a real possibility. Alex regularly intervened to reposition these sleeping, retching scouts, in order to keep their airways clear and to prevent life-threatening injury.



One can vividly imagine the foul odors, chilling sounds, and mass of soiled personal gear. Undaunted, Alex went above and beyond what anyone might imagine. At the first sounds of distress, Alex was like a proverbial fireman rushing into a burning building to give assistance while people were running out.

In the darkness of night, panic among the unaffected began with requests to call home and to leave camp. The hills and valleys of Camp Royaneh echoed distinctively with stomach-churning sounds of emesis from distant neighboring camps. At the time there was no indication as to the causative infectious agent nor was there any clue as to the potential for serious harm or loss of life. To say that our young men were tired and frightened is an understatement. None had ever witnessed or even read about such a situation and Camp Medic Tyler was overwhelmed by the campwide extent of illness.

Assessing the situation and recognizing that we were (a) sitting on a powder keg of contagious infectious disease, (b) that the ill could not easily car travel the 130 miles home, and (c) that the risk of spreading infection to their families and possibly causing a worldwide epidemic by returning home early, Alexander was key in counseling both the sick and healthy that it was perhaps most prudent to stay put and ride out the infectious storm. He explained to his Troop that advanced emergency medical attention and evacuation could be requested in the event that conditions did not improve.

Ultimately, his scouts chose to wait until morning light to decide what to do. The lynchpin in their collective decision to stay at camp focused on doing what they could do, as individuals, to prevent spread to their families, cities and beyond.

The previously panic-stricken scouts decided to keep themselves isolated from spreading the disease beyond Camp Royaneh. To say that they grew up several notches in reasoning and responsibility would be an understatement.

**LIFE SCOUT
ALEX MA
TAKES
CHARGE IN
CAMP
EMERGENCY
(CONTINUED)**

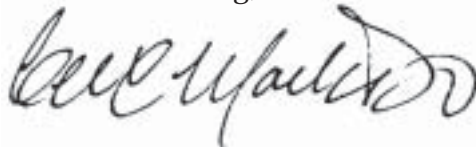
By 0600, the last of the soiled clothing, sleeping bags and quarters had been attended to and I observed Alex finally nod off to sleep in his camp chair, headlight still on his head, standing watch over his Troop. He had put up a Herculean effort of long hours under extremely stressful conditions.

By 0730, seeing that his boys were finally getting much-needed sleep, he excused himself to access his own previously scheduled scout program; the Camp Royaneh Breakfast Ride on horseback. Were it not for the fact that Alex nodded off while in the saddle during his return to the corral, one might have called him super human.

There is little doubt that Alexander Ma embraces all the good that a scouting life aspires to guide and provide. I can think of no better illustration of living the Scout Motto, "Be Prepared." Several inspirational phrases come to mind when considering his actions and efforts that night and early morning: "Do Your Best," "Take Charge," "Live and Lead by Example," "Do the Right Thing Because It Is Right, Not Because It Is Easy."

In conclusion, it is my humble recommendation that Alexander Ma be duly recognized for having demonstrated unusual heroism, skill and resourcefulness in saving or attempting to save life at considerable risk to self.

Yours in Scouting,



Kelvin C. Mark, D.O.
Physician and Surgeon
Assistant Scoutmaster, Troop 50

**CUB SCOUT
PACK 50
GLEN KUMAMOTO**



Ahhh, the summer has come to an end... the kids are back in school, Cubmaster Glen is writing an update and Pack 50 is on the move once again! I have been bad with my SANGHA articles, but that doesn't mean that Pack 50 hasn't been busy!

We recently had our annual summer kickoff event that is a family favorite. It's a huge campfire event at Camp Pollock along the river here in Sacramento. It's an event where the pack thanks our outgoing den chiefs and welcomes in the new. I'd like to thank Scoutmaster Bobby Tanaka and Assistant Scoutmaster Marty Sakata for coming out. It's an event for families to get together, enjoy each other's company and have s'mores over a huge campfire.

The best part of our Camp Pollock outing is the introduction of our new Tiger dens and new scouts. Pack 50 is honored to welcome seven new Tigers and several new families to the older ranks. It's always special to me to see the new kids who are starting their scouting life. It's a life journey and I am honored to be there at that "first event" for them. I hope that all the scouts and their families will enjoy their journey with Pack 50 and will reflect back someday with fond memories. I know I will....

As always, thank you to all those who make Pack 50 the best pack around. A special shout out to Reverend Peter for stopping in to say hello to our new families and to Rinban Bob for your continued support and guidance.

Pack 50 ROCKS!



Cub Scout Pack 50 Annual Pancake Breakfast & Bake Sale

Sunday October 9, 2011

8:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Sacramento Buddhist Church
2401 Riverside Blvd., Sacramento



All You Can Eat

\$6.00

Children 3 and under Free

Tickets pre-sold by any Pack 50 Cub
Scout or available at the door.

Menu Includes:

- ◆ Pancakes, Sausage, Ham, Scrambled Eggs, Potatoes, Fruit, beverages and more
- ◆ Homemade Baked Goods for sale

For more Information contact Cub Scout Pack 50 c/o Sacramento Buddhist Church at 916-446-0121 or email Pack50PancakeBreakfast@yahoo.com

HAPPY HALLOWEEN



Come join us for a spook-tacular night at the...

ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PARTY!! **SATURDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2011** **6:00 TO 9:00 PM - KAIKAN**

Costume Contest Registration and Games start at 6:00 PM

Visit the **HAUNTED HOUSE**

POTLUCK – Please bring a dish to share

CANNED FOOD DRIVE – Please bring 3 canned food items

Hosted by:

Cub Scout Pack 50
Girl Scout Troop 569
Boy Scout Troop 50

Sponsored by:

ABA/Sacramento Buddhist
Church/Dharma School/Scouts
Committee/Victory Trophies



Sacramento Buddhist Women's Association

2011 Udon Fundraiser



Sunday November 6, 2011

10:00 am – 1:00 pm

Donation: \$5.00

Tickets will be sold after Sunday Service on September 25 and Various Sundays in October, or may be purchased at the door.

Dine-In

Take Out