

# SANGHA

## SACRAMENTO BUDDHIST CHURCH VOLUME 48 NUMBER 9 - SEPTEMBER 2011

**RB'S CORNER**  
REV. BOB OSHITA

**H**ello and welcome to the month of September! Wow! Where did the summer go? It seems like only a few weeks ago we were preparing for the Summer YAC Youth Retreat, our July Obon and our August Bazaar!

As I now look back on the summer of 2011, all of our events were again a great success. It takes a great deal of caring and cooperation to accomplish the success the Sacramento Betsuin has come to enjoy. As the saying goes, "There is no 'I' in 'TEAM.'" And once again, the success of the Youth Retreat, our Obon and our Bazaar are testimony to the efforts of our sangha working hard together.

It is truly an honor to be a part of the Sacramento Betsuin. Special thanks to our Betsuin Board, affiliated and sponsored organizations, Bazaar Committee and booth chairs...and our Bazaar chair, Sherman Iida, for a job more than well done.

Every year, at our Bazaar, Reverend Peter and I have a presentation in the late afternoon of each day. I have always enjoyed these opportunities to introduce Buddhism and our Betsuin to the general public. In the past year, I've received a few requests for study classes. It is difficult to measure if there is enough interest to begin a series of classes, so I've decided to try to test the waters. There is never a date and time that would be good for everyone, so I thought it best to just pick a date and have a session.

On Monday, September 19, at 7 p.m., we will be having the first of two classes. In considering a title for this two-part class, I thought of calling it, "An Introduction to the Betsuin, Buddhism and Jodo Shinshu." Another idea was to call it, "Almost everything you wanted to know about Buddhism, but were afraid to ask..." A third idea that just came to mind might be this, "A Simple Dharma Conversation..." Although we have not settled on what to call it, it should be fun and hopefully informative.

With the coming of September, we begin our Dharma School term anew. For Patti and me, this

**(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)**

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**RB'S CORNER**

(CONTINUED)

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

KELVIN MARK, D.O.

will be our 28th Dharma School year with the Sacramento Betsuin. We look forward to seeing you on Sunday.

Gratefully,  
RB

“**H**onor the Ancestors, Live from Your Heart.”\* Are any words more powerful or aspirations more pure?

On behalf of your Betsuin Board of Trustees, let me personally thank you for treating our community to *the best* Food and Cultural Bazaar ever. Change and impermanence are evident when looking back on the early beginnings of the Bazaar when it was a small Nihonmachi-centered event. Since then, our food and cultural programs have morphed into a major “mark your calendar for next year” Sacramento community at large celebration. Without doubt, our temple founders surely would be proud.

The support given to Bazaar Chairman Sherman Iida and your efforts extended to our individual steering and committee chairs resulted in us being able to enjoy a fun-filled banner year celebration and provided a leg up in guiding our next generation of young leaders. Sales were red hot throughout the weekend, visitors accessing cultural exhibitions were too numerous to count, and our hondo was at capacity for both days of “Buddhist Altar and Introduction to Buddhist Philosophy” minister presentations.

Your collective efforts showed that we have the freedom of mind to set aside personal biases and differences in order to work together and put forth our best effort. A Sacramento County fire marshal visited our facility on a surprise inspection Friday before the event. During the visit, our groundskeeper was able to easily point out detailed specifics of our emergency evacuation plans, fire alarm schematic, Halon fire suppression systems, and fuels storage areas, among other key preparations. The marshal commented: “...if every organization had their house in this kind of order [his] job would be easy!” One would be hard pressed to hear a greater compliment or rating of approval.

Food and safety officials regularly mention to our leadership that they *want* to see our events go forward smoothly as planned; they make clear just how much that they *want* us to succeed. Sacramento City and County officials also make clear their *duty* to do their best to ensure public safety. In turn, we have an obligation to do our best, to do our part—be it maintaining proper food temperature, hand-washing stations, or protective garments. Though a few volunteers commented on the updated food safety ordinances, random inspections can show how important it is for us to be visible in adhering to such measures and just how important it is to demonstrate to the public our dedication to delivering quality.

The results are reflected in the many positive comments, ear-to-ear smiles, and cheers expressed by our guests: “I’m having a wonderful time; The lines are long but it was worth the wait; I’ve never seen anything like this before; I’m coming even earlier next year; I’ve not been here since 1963 but I remember cooking tempura when the temple was surrounded by dirt roads—you’ve come a long way, baby!”\*\*

As RB has mentioned, Bazaar brings to life Nihonmachi, if only for one weekend. This labor of love serves as a wonderful weekend reunion of friends and family and adds so much color to the fabric of our lives. How wonderful it is to be wrapped in the deep connection of truly being a community. To our hundreds of volunteers who helped lay the groundwork, worked tirelessly to build and take down our tent and booths, and put on a flawless celebration, the words thank you are not enough. Without doubt, you “Live from Your Heart.”

In Gassho.

\* *In memory of Ray Takata*

\*\* *Guests Yolanda Grigsby, Drs. George Doykos and Ronald Hayashi, Mr. Charles Cooper - USAF-Ret.*

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**NOTES FROM THE OFFICE**

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

**MINISTERS'  
ASSISTANTS**  
CAROL CASTLE

As many of you know, right after Dharma School wraps up its term in June, our summer sangha services begin. The summer services are a little different than the Dharma School services held throughout the rest of the year—they're much smaller, quieter, and they offer a nice opportunity to interact with the dharma and ask questions. Rather than a hondo filled to the rim and buzzing with activity, the attendance during the summer is typically around 50 or so people. Many of the faces are the same smiling faces of friends who come every week, and many others are those of visitors who are curious and eager to learn.

This year, we decided to do something a little different. Rather than the ministers and the minister assistants delivering the dharma talks, we thought we'd asked some of the past Youth Advocacy Committee (YAC) Retreat participants if they would be willing to speak. At first, we hesitated to ask because, after all, it's summertime... and when you're young, summertime is meant for sleeping in, chilling in front of the TV and hanging out with friends... not for writing dharma talks and waking up early on a Sunday morning for service! But then, we thought... why not... let's ask.

Sure enough, Teryn Hara, Tara Umemoto, Matt Nitta, Leann Castle, Erin Okino and Tyler Sasaki all stepped up and agreed to speak. And what a great job they all did! Their dharma talks were creative, thoughtful, heartfelt, and they offered a fresh perspective of the dharma as seen through the eyes of young adults on the verge of leaving their childhoods behind and entering the world of college, work and independence. Because of this, it was no surprise that the themes that seemed to run throughout the summer stemmed from the truth of impermanence, the importance of living in the moment, and not taking for granted all that we have. The lessons came to life in stories of friendship, the excitement and anxiety of moving away to college, and even experiences on the job. We were also reminded that some of life's greatest teachers can be found in the most unexpected places, such as Disneyland, behind the sushi bar, and even in the goofy smile of a rambunctious dog named Pax.

As I reflect back over the summer, I'm reminded of how wonderful it is to be together and how hard it is to say goodbye. How we must enjoy the moment without being afraid of what's to come. How important it is to slow down and make the effort to live each moment mindfully because this moment is one that will never come again. How we must try to live accepting reality, appreciating what we have and not dwelling on the past because what's done is done. And finally, how we can find happiness in living each day accepting life's changes. There's really no way for me to do justice to these wonderful messages. Instead, I encourage you all to visit [www.buddhistchurch.com](http://www.buddhistchurch.com) to watch them online. I think you'll be glad you did!

When I think of all of the YAC participants over the last seven years... and all the kids who are involved in YBA... and all the ones who attend Dharma School... I'm reminded that our children are the future of Jodo Shinshu in America. I hope that more of our kids will have opportunities like this — where they can get to know their ministers and temple leaders and look to them as mentors... to work and learn alongside them... and to share and experience the dharma in ways that are truly meaningful so that it will always be present in their lives and as a result, in the lives of generations to come.

To Teryn, Tara, Matt, Leann, Erin and Tyler... we are so proud of you and all that you've accomplished, and we are grateful to you for sharing your wonderful dharma talks with us during this past summer. We wish you the very best in the future and hope that you'll always consider the Betsuin your home!

In Gassho... your DBFLs (Dharma Buddies For Life).

**OFFICE  
MANAGERS**

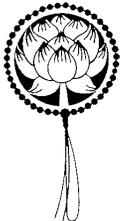
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Mutsuko Noguchi  
Teruko Ono  
Mary Tsukiji  
Faye Uyemura



*Condolences to  
the Families of:*

*Akiko Furuhashi ..... May 23, 1929 – June 11, 2011*

*Bette Kikuye Morita ..... September 14, 1923 – June 15, 2011*



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**SAKURA  
GAKUEN**  
MASAKO THOMAS  
JOHN MCDONNELL



It is not too late to register for fall semester, which is from September 10 (Saturday school) and September 12 (Monday adult school), 2011 to January 30, 2012. Full tuition scholarships by the Legacy Endowment Fund Board are available for our church members. Please submit The Legacy Endowment Fund Board Sakura Gakuen Scholarship Form to the church office.

Tuition for Monday evening adult classes is \$165 per semester/ class. New student registration fee is \$10. Adult classes are designed for busy people like you: once a week, small class size (8 to 15 students per class), and different types and levels of classes.

Beginner Level 1 requires no knowledge of Japanese. Intermediate and Refresher courses are for those who have learned some and want to improve or maintain the proficiency level. We also have continuing kanji class. Contact Masako Thomas at [thomas@sakuragakuen.us](mailto:thomas@sakuragakuen.us) with questions about the adult classes.

Sakura Gakuen's Saturday school for kindergarteners through high school registration and first day of class begins at 9 a.m. on September 10. A new kindergarten program is offered this year. Saturday classes run from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with three 10-minute recesses. High school credit may be available. Classes are taught by highly qualified bilingual speakers and variable abilities can be accommodated by the breadth of classes offered.

Please check the Sakura Gakuen website ([www.japaneselanguageschool.us](http://www.japaneselanguageschool.us)) for more information about the program. You can also contact Miki Wheeler at [miki@japaneselanguageschool.us](mailto:miki@japaneselanguageschool.us) with questions about the Saturday classes.

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**BETSUIN  
SENIORS**  
MIKE NAGAI

We had another successful Bazaar, thanks to the help from members and volunteers. But paraphrasing an old saying, the job is not completed until the clean-up is done. So, Monday was another full day of work and thanks to the dedicated members who spent the weekend working on various shifts at the Bazaar but still came out to help, our grounds were transformed from a festive atmosphere to an empty parking lot.

I'd like to thank the following seniors and other retired members who came out. The clean-up wouldn't have gone as well without their help: John Itagaki, Tomio Masaki, Ed Mizutani, Robert Ito, Akio Seo, Wayne Kurahara, Mervin Tamai, Gerald Muranaka, Mel Uchida, Harry Noguchi, George Inenaga, Hank Shigaki, Wil Nishina, John Yoshikawa and Gene Itogawa.

My apologies if I missed any other retired member. Thank you, guys. Your help was invaluable and greatly appreciated.

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**MAINTENANCE  
REPORT**  
GARY TRAGANZA

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

- John Fujimoto, Steve Sasaki, Steve Maron, Minh La, Gary Traganza trimmed all the trees in Quinn Alley and installed sign posts for our "Church Parking Only" signs.
- Gordon Nitta power washed the sidewalk outside of the outdoor kitchen on X Street.
- Steve Sasaki and Gary Traganza fabricated new support brackets for the blower assembly for a swamp cooler above the outdoor kitchen.
- Gary Ishimoto built four professional-quality wooden shelves for large refrigerator used during Bazaar. The new shelves allow better air flow and are coated with urethane so they can be cleaned.
- Brian Onodera installed a six-gallon water heater for the sushi area and a spot water heater used in the hot dog area. The new heaters satisfy the country health codes for hand-washing stations.
- Gary Traganza installed light switches for the fans and chochin in the courtyard, and additional wiring in the outdoor kitchen for Reiko and Gladys.
- James Amioka rebuilt the drains and "P" trap for a sink in the outdoor kitchen. He cut down the height of the sink dividers, making it easier to clean large pots and pans. He also fabricated heavy-duty supports for all the burners in the outdoor kitchen. The supports keep the pots above the flame, extending the life of the pots, and allow for more uniform heating.
- Also, thanks to Don Honda and Clark Herman. These two gentlemen arrived Sunday night after the Bazaar and worked through the night tearing down many of the displays. Their efforts gave us a much-appreciated head start for "clean-up Monday."

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**SANGHA  
STAFF**

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Editor (Japanese) Katsuko  
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Girl Scouts	Sheryl Kajioka
Sports Cmte	Alan Wu
Dharma School	Ken Furukawa
Sakura Gakuen	Masako Thomas John McDonnell

**DHARMA  
SCHOOL**  
KEN FURUKAWA



**A**ugust is behind us, and Bazaar was a success again! I want to thank all of the parents and students who helped with the outdoor table busing shifts over the weekend. I also really want to thank the Boy Scouts for setting up the tables and chairs on Friday evening, and all of the Scouts and other students who stayed **after Sunday close** to help with putting away so many of the tables, chairs and desks. It is a big job and is very tiring after the long days at Bazaar, and very much appreciated!

September is now upon us, and a new Dharma School term begins! Not only is it beginning a change from the routine of summer, but this year will have a few changes right off the bat. These changes are not being instituted just because they seem like a good idea, but they are in response to real issues.

**1. Registration for the first two weekends (September 11 and September 18) are attendance credit events, but will be very different than in prior years.**

After service on the 11th and 18th there will not be any classes. All students and parents will attend an assembly and registration in the kaikan. This will require a lot of cooperation, and some preparation, just like school registration. There will be a short series of announcements to address attendance credit policies and in-class and temple behavior expectations. There is also class registration, at which time teachers may have additional announcements and participation requirements for parents or students.

2. Part of the class registration requirements will be completion of emergency information cards. These will be used in event of any class-related emergencies, and for identification and notification in case of need to evacuate the temple and classrooms. The information required is similar to that supplied to your child's school, along with a small wallet-sized photograph (like last year's school photo). We will need two names and numbers to call for notification and pick-up, at least one current parent e-mail address, and the name(s) of alternate adults allowed to pick up the student in case of emergency.

3. Dharma School Safety committee, and the Board of Trustees Church Usage Committee will be preparing for a fire drill during an upcoming Dharma School Sunday. This will mean a real fire drill with full evacuation of all but essential personnel after service but during class time. The date is not being released, but be prepared. The information submitted to the teachers for the emergency information cards is essential for this process.

4. Fifth grade does not have a teacher assigned as of this time. The prior teacher and assistant teacher are unable to be available most Sundays of the Dharma School term. We will miss them. Because of this, and since no adults have volunteered to become teachers, the parents of the fifth grade class will need to meet with me, Rinban Oshita and others after registration September 11, and a similar meeting will be held after registration September 18. Unless a teacher is found before the term begins, the parents will be responsible for providing teachers and assistants for the term. The curriculum from prior years will be used as a guideline, and the prior teachers will be available as consultants. Regardless of the arrangements made during these meetings, the Dharma School will not be able to grant attendance credit for attending service without attending class, and if there is no class session, then there cannot be attendance credit. A similar situation presented itself for seventh grade a couple of years ago, and arrangements were developed that met requirements. Something will be arranged at these meetings too.

5. Fall Ohigan Service is on September 25, and a special Dharma School teacher class may be offered with a guest speaker after Dharma School service. All members are invited to attend. Look for an announcement during the services in September!

6. Think **safety!** The courtyard and parking areas are busy, crowded, and the surfaces are uneven. Please be aware that a few people fell during the Bazaar (one with potentially serious injuries averted through luck) in the courtyard area. We have had prior falls in that area related to the surfaces, and the traffic. Please keep small children under control, even if they are not yours. The area is **not a playground**, and we don't have one. Although it is tempting to let the kids blow off steam and energy in the courtyard, our issues have involved the interface between our older or handicapped members and the fast activity around them. Please **be careful!**

Enjoy the rest of your summer, and the Labor Day weekend!

In Gassho.



Rev. Bob Oshita  
428-9833



Rev. Peter Inokoji-Kim  
446-4988

**DONATIONS**

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

Grace & Sam Ito  
Utako Kimura

Pack 50  
Kiyo Tanaka

Virginia Uchida  
Elaine Yoshikawa

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**SPORTS  
COMMITTEE**  
ALAN WU



**A** rightly then! It is September. Do you remember... the 21st night of September? Just a question that doesn't really mean anything **except** for the fond memories of where you were when it was released in November 1978; at the very, very, least you can walk down memory lane every year at the chicken booth where one could hear the magical tones and mystical tunes of yesteryear while pumping out thousands and thousands of chicken orders.

Did someone say chicken booth? Well, that conjures up many recent memories of the Bazaar we just experienced last month. And following in the footsteps of our Obon Odori of July, it really turned out to be a very pleasant weekend in the Fahrenheit department, which turned out to be a little warmer than Obon, but the higher degrees always help with the sales of the beverage departments, including but not limited to the adult offerings.

This year we had several food lines well established well before our official opening time of 12 o'clock noon, but that is also a good sign, much to the chagrin of the busy workers still preparing for the high noon whistle to begin the weekend. As usual, most of the booths sold out; however, the winners of the homerun derby this year were the beef sandwich and the snow cone booths where many people thought the line was too long and would go back later only to find that the line was just as long hours later.

Boy oh boy, if you were not in the courtyard on Saturday evening from 6 p.m. to 8:15 p.m., you really missed out on a very special treat that would have sent tingles down your ear canals all the way to your tapping toes. Hearing time-tested sounds of the East Wind Band brought back many thoughts of 39 years ago when they first played at our Bazaar. It was very cool to hear their renditions of songs by The Commodores, WAR, ToP, James Brown, MJ and of course, EWF, just to name a few. As the winds of impermanence blow, this year we had a new captain at the helm and by and large we had our 65th successful Bazaar. Great job, Sherm!

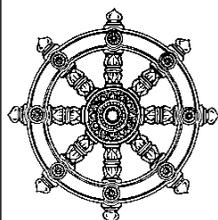
Getting back to September, the month, be prepared to get back into the Dharma School way of life on Sundays and remember to register for our basketball and bowling programs, keeping in mind that the first two weeks of Dharma School are extra credit days for basketball **and** the prime choice mochi tsuki work shifts. Yes, again this year, after you register for basketball, you can sign up for your favorite mochi shift, so get there early before your pick is all picked out. Again, check us out in the courtyard after service and get registered.

In case you forgot, all players in the basketball program must maintain a 60% attendance record. Anything below 60%, the player will be suspended until the attendance gets back above 60%. The attendance record does not begin every September, but rather rolls along on a 12-month calendar, so the last 12 months' attendance records are used to calculate the attendance percentage.

So, many players may be starting this September with a low percentage if they had poor attendance last April and May. The trick is to keep attending all the way through to the end-of-year picnic and take advantage of the four extra credit days. The first two extra credit days are the first two days of Dharma School in September, and the New Year's Eve and New Year's Day services. So now you know, so now you should plan, since it is September.

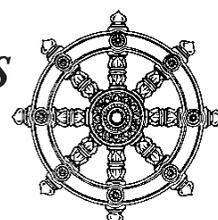
Please be aware that articles for the SANGHA are **due** on the **15th of each month**. Late articles will be published in the following month's issue.

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.

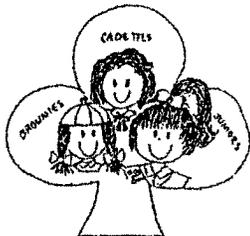


*Welcome New Members*

*Linda Ishibashi*



**GIRL SCOUT  
TROOP 569**  
SHERYL KAJIOKA



**BOY SCOUT  
TROOP 50**  
BRANDON DISHNO  
TROOP HISTORIAN



**G**irl Scouts from Troop 569 kept busy with their Bazaar shifts, helping out in the pastry/plant and teriyaki beef booths. They also assisted with duties in the kaikan by cleaning and busing tables.

Our pastry booth was well stocked with yummy treats provided by the Scout families and Sangha members. Thank you to everyone who purchased items; we appreciate your support!

On August 25, Troop 569 leaders gathered for the annual Girl Scout dinner meeting to discuss the calendar of events for the 2011-2012 year. A new Daisy troop was welcomed into our Scout family, which now totals 20 troops! Everyone in attendance was treated to a delicious meal prepared by Reiko and Crew. Thank you to Patti Oshita and Judy Inaba for coordinating this event.

**T**his July the Boy Scouts did several exciting events, such as the Bazaar Pullout Service Project, Camp Royaneh, and played many fun physical activities at the troop meetings.

This month's theme was physical fitness, so the Scouts were taught many skills involving physical fitness. One Friday they had to do a physical fitness test that involved push-ups, pull-ups, and sit-ups. Their patrol leaders tallied up the total number. This helped the Scouts to also do a requirement for the physical fitness merit badge. Once the test was over, the Scouts played a fun game of dodge ball and British Bull Dog.

The Bazaar Pullout Service Project occurred on July 24-25. Many Scouts show up to help construct the booths for the Bazaar. First the Scouts brought out all the tables and chairs. Then they started to unload the pieces to be assembled for the booths. They arranged the wood to go to the designated areas. Then after helping set up the drapes on the gates, they relaxed. The church provided delicious food once again. The Scouts ate sandwiches, cookies, chips, and drank soda. The Scouts were tired and happy when they left for their homes that night.

Lastly, this month was the annual Camp Royaneh. The Scouts leave from Lake Crest and depart to Royaneh for a whole week. The Scouts work on merit badges and do fun activities. The Scouts can take up to five merit badge classes and fulfill all the requirements in the week's time. It is a very useful camp designed to help Scouts advance. After the classes, at night there is recreation time where the Scouts can go shoot shotguns, rifles, bows and arrows, throw tomahawks, and their favorite, going to the snack bar. On the last night all the troops gather around a huge campfire and listen to skits and songs performed by the troops and staff. Once the skits are through, the staff retires a flag, show a slide show of pictures of the Scouts throughout the week-long course, then they say good-bye. This year the Scouts unfortunately met the flu bug. Almost 30 of the Scouts were sick. The Scouts packed up their backpacks and loaded their gear onto the trucks and cars and headed home, satisfied and sleepy after the long week of work and fun.

