

SANJSHA

SACRAMENTO BUDDHIST CHURCH
VOLUME 49 NUMBER 1 - JANUARY 2012

RB'S CORNER
REV. BOB OSHITA

Happy New Year and Welcome to the Year 2012! With the coming of 2012, we bring to a close Socho Koshin Ogui's eight years as Bishop of BCA. My friendship with Socho Ogui began over 40 years ago when he was the minister at the San Francisco Buddhist Temple. He was a young minister in his late 20s at the time. Even back then, there was something intriguing about him. He was quick to laugh... yet deeply thoughtful. He seemed to take nothing lightly but could let it go without hesitation. And... as I've mentioned before, he was always a "chance taker." In 1970, he wrote my letter of recommendation to study Buddhism.

My life has been touched by many wonderful Dharma friends; Socho Ogui is certainly among them. I once asked him, "What is the most important work of a minister?" Rather than give a conclusive response to my question, he told me a story about his father.

Socho Ogui grew up the youngest son of a Temple Family in the town of Ogui in the Wakayama Prefecture. He recalled going with his father to officiate a service at the home of a very well-to-do member. After the service concluded and it was time to go, an orei (donation) was offered to his father. His father felt the envelope and asked, "Jubun ni tsutsunda ka? (Did you put enough in here?)" Socho said he was shocked that his father would ask such a question. The member bowed and said, "Hai, hai..." (indicating the orei was substantial).

Then to Socho's surprise, he asked that ALL the manju also be wrapped up for him to take. Without hesitation, they quickly prepared the manju to go. Socho said that although he was just a young boy, he felt embarrassed that his father would make such a request. It was awkward for him to receive the manju that his Dad indicated he should carry.

On the way home, they made two stops. They were at the homes of members who were not so well off. At each home, Socho's father left half of

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

SACRAMENTO BETSUIN

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RB'S CORNER
 (CONYINUED)

the donation and instructed his son to leave half the manju. They returned home with nothing. He added, "I was very young then and I remember wishing I could have had just one of the manju."

His father passed away in 1965, while Socho Ogui was a minister at the Oxnard Buddhist Temple. His father had told him, "Kaete konakutemo ii." He said, when I die, "You don't have to come home to Japan. Stay where people need you...."

Within these two memories Socho shared with me, I could sense a little of what he felt meaningful about being a Jodo Shinshu minister. There are no rules. Not really. It is more about simply living our lives as true human beings of no rank... trying to do the "right" thing.

After more than 48 years of serving BCA, Socho Ogui is retiring. We are fortunate that he has requested that the National Conference banquet, held here in Sacramento, also serve as his retirement banquet. He has done so much to help our Betsuin and our Northern District during his years as Bishop, we would like to invite our members to attend his retirement party on Saturday, February 25, 2012, at the DoubleTree Inn. If you are able to, please make plans to join us in celebrating his remarkable career. Banquet reservation forms will be available at the Betsuin office.

Hope to see you there!

RB

Iwould first like to say THANK YOU to the Mark family — Kelvin, Dr Cheryl Lieu, Lyndsie and Brandon — for the sacrifices made for the church and all of us this year.

I am honored to have been asked to serve as President of the Board of Trustees of the Buddhist Church of Sacramento. Accepting the position gives me the opportunity to give back to the church for the many programs that have helped shape our children, Samantha and Matthew, into responsible young adults. Jennifer and I are very proud of their participation and accomplishments in these programs

A few of their awards and accomplishments from the programs offered at the Church are:

Samantha:

- Girl Scout Gold Award
- Jr. YBA President (Junior Young Buddhist Association)
- 2005 Aki Fukushima Award (Outstanding Girl and Boy Athlete Each Year)
- 1st graduating class of YAC Retreat (Youth Minister Assistant Program)
- Trip to Japan with other BCA youths

Matthew:

- Boy Scout Eagle Scout Award
- Tour of Japan with Matsuyama Scouting Exchange Program
- Senior Patrol Leader Boy Scout Troop 50
- Jr. YBA President (Junior Young Buddhist Association)
- 2010 Aki Fukushima Award (Outstanding Boy and Girl Athlete each year)
- Graduate of 5th Annual YAC Retreat (Youth Minister Assistant Program)

Jennifer and I are most proud of them in that they have decided to give back. Samantha graduated from college and returned to Girl Scout Troop 569 to lead her own troop. Matthew is still active as a youth minister, he is coaching in the Sports Program, a Merit Badge Counselor with Boy Scouts and an advisor for the Jr. YBA.

We are the largest and most active church in the BCA. We have the best ministers in the BCA and the best affiliated and sponsored youth programs — Girl Scouts Troop 569, Cub Scouts Pack 50, Boy Scouts Troop 50, Sports Program, Junior YBA, Dharma School, YAC Retreat, Sakura Gakuen.

GIRL SCOUT TROOP 569

Established in 1992

Started with 7 Girl Scouts

Today we have 200 Girl Scouts and 80 Leaders

CUB SCOUT PACK 50

Established in 1992

Today we have 66 Cub Scouts and 19 Leaders

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
 GORDON L. NITTA

OFFICE MANAGERS

Tak Ito
Cindy Kitade

BETSUIN OFFICE

446-0121

SANGHA HELPERS

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Mary Amemiya
Shiyoko Futaba
Ruth Hayashi
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Miyoko Iwata
Mae Kaneko
Machiko Kimura
Yoshiko Morisawa
Mitzie Muramoto
Mutsuko Noguchi
Faye Uyemura

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(CONTINUED)

BOY SCOUT TROOP 50

Established in 1930
 Disbanded during the Japanese Internment
 Re-established in 1962
 Today there are 80 Boy Scouts and 27 Leaders

VENTURE CREW 50 (YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN)

10 Scouts and 4 Leaders

SPORTS PROGRAM

Today there are 200 Basketball Players and 25 Coaches
 The Bowling Program has 32 Youth and Adult Bowlers

JUNIOR YBA

35 Young Adults 9th through 10th grades
 2 Advisors

DHARMA SCHOOL

370 Students and 60 Teachers

YAC RETREAT

Established in 2005
 Currently in its 7th Year
 Have 93 Youth Graduates to Date

SAKURA GAKUEN

60 Youth Students, 40 Adult Students and 10 Teachers

All of these programs are made possible by the guidance and support of our ministers, Executive Board, Board of Trustees, Legacy Endowment Committee, and most importantly you, our passionate volunteers.

A few of you have asked what my vision was for the church as the new President. My vision is for your children and their children to always feel that the Sacramento Betsuin is home.

Thank you. I hope your holidays were safe and happy.

President of Board of Trustees
 Gordon L Nitta

“Ganjitsu wa, ze mo hi mo nakute, shujo nari - New Year's Day; Nothing good or bad, Just human beings.” —Shiki

Let me welcome you to 2012 and the transition of our Board of Trustees leadership to President Gordon Nitta. Many of us know Gordon, wife Jennifer, daughter Samantha, and son Matthew. As a family, their support of our church truly is something to admire, emulate and celebrate. Over Gordon's many years of dedication in supporting our Betsuin and community programs, you may remember his efforts with Troop 569, Pack 50, Troop 50, Dharma School, Jr. YBA, the YAC, Sports Program, Buildings and Grounds, Annual Bazaar, and SASF. A complete list would easily fill a page, but volumes could not express the full depth of our gratitude and appreciation for Gordon and his family, for just being who they are.

With origins from diverse communities and various traditions, we share a common bond in experiencing the suchness of assimilation, as *“just human beings.”* To be sure, this suchness has been built upon the unimaginable struggles and efforts of generations past. The changing composition of our temple and of Shin Buddhism in America is reflective of the same in many ways. The early decades since our church's founding in 1899 largely reflected a closed community. The sangha was comprised exclusively of Japanese Americans and their parents from Japan.

Today, we are fortunate to enjoy a sangha whose non-Asian diversity encompasses people whose backgrounds are represented by every continent and whose spiritual experiences reflect every major religion. According to the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, Buddhism — *Zen, Mahayana, Theravada* — is the fastest-growing religion in America. For a multitude of reasons, we find ourselves sharing in this gift and walking the Dharma path together. The vibrancy and vitality of our sangha has been made possible by being unafraid to share the Dharma with our community at large and through the innovative efforts underscored by the Minister Assistant Program, Youth Advocacy (YAC), Jr. YBA, Sakura Gakuen, Sports, Scouting, and Cultural Bazaar.

EX-OFFICIO PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

KELVIN C. MARK, D.O.

SANGHA STAFF

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 Editor (Japanese) Katsuko Hirota

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Maintenance	Gary Traganza
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Cub Scouts	Glen Kumamoto
Girl Scouts	Lisa Tomita-Cooper
Sports Cmte	Alan Wu
Dharma School	Ken Furukawa

**EX-OFFICIO
PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE
(CONTINUED)**

By living in a spirit of volunteerism and in providing for the financial stability of our Buddhist Church, we can help Shin Buddhism share in such growth. Let me close by thanking you for giving me the honor of serving as your president. I have tried to approach my role with little ambition and instead move forward with a deep personal sense of purpose. With these thoughts in mind as we welcome 2012, please join me in extending our full support to President Gordon Nitta, our Board of Trustees, and to our dedicated ministers in keeping our Betsuin the best temple in BCA.

In Gassho,
Kelvin

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

Happy New Year! The December SBWA Board Meeting was held on Wednesday, December 7, with President Lynn Kurahara presiding. This was President Kurahara's last meeting as BWA President. The BWA Board truly appreciates her dedication and contributions as our BWA President for the past four years. Lynn officially turned over the gavel to Midori Ito at the December meeting and thanked the Board for their support during her terms of office.

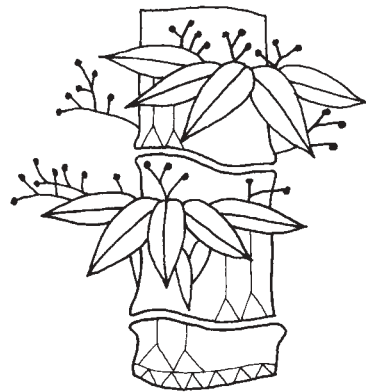
DONATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Molly Kimura	GMJC Award	
	(Japan Foreign Minister's Commendation)	\$100
Lynn Kurahara	In Appreciation	\$100
Tsuto & Jean Ota	60th Wedding Anniversary	\$60
Frances Kondo, Alice Kataoka & Shige Tanaka	In Appreciation	\$30.00

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2012

- **Tule Lake Community Cookbook Project:** Stacy Kono (Allan Hoshida's relative) is coordinating this event on January 29, 2012 from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Sacramento Betsuin. Please come out and share your stories and recipes from your Tule Lake days.
- **Eshinniko, Kakushinniko and the late Lady Yoshiko Ohtani Memorial Service:** Plans are being made to have a luncheon in conjunction with the February 12, 2012 memorial service. Mark your calendars. More details to come in January.
- **BWA Fundraiser:** Mary Inouye has volunteered to plan another fundraiser for the BWA. Money raised will be used toward a fun event for the BWA ladies (such as the Music Circus). More details to come after the January meeting.

Next BWA meeting will be on Wednesday, January 4, 2012. Let's all become ACTIVE BWA members and support President Midori Ito and her cabinet. By the way, I was reappointed as the BWA Corresponding Secretary for 2012 by the new President, so you'll be hearing from me in the SANGHA or by email every month.



**MINISTERS'
ASSISTANTS
FORGIVENESS
KOICHI MIZUSHIMA**

The most powerful action any human being can ever do is forgive someone. Think about that for a moment. At first glance, it seems easy to argue that point. Love is more powerful, and so is hate. But those aren't always conscious actions, they just happen. It's easy to love something or someone, and it requires no effort to hate someone or something. It just happens. Forgiveness requires real effort, and true understanding, and the action is more powerful than you could ever imagine.

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.

Whether it is a petty argument between neighbors, or an unspeakable act against a loved one, the pain and anger that we hold onto takes over our bodies like a cancer. It lays hidden away in the dark corners of our soul, slowly eating away at our hearts. We go about our day as though everything is fine, but in the moments of silence when we are alone with ourselves, that anger and hate creeps up on us.

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.

And that anger is usually directed at someone or something else. And the irony is that the other party is usually none the wiser. So the anger and frustration you hold in your heart only ends up affecting you, and not that other entity you are angry at. So all we end up doing is punishing ourselves. Clearly that makes no sense.

But our sense of justice tells us that we just can't let them get away with that! They must be punished. Justice must prevail. Those dirty evil-doers must get what's coming to them.'They need to get what they deserve, and then I'll feel better. Or will I?

**MINISTERS'
ASSISTANTS
FORGIVENESS
(CONTINUED)**

There is a story about two Buddhist monks who came upon a beautiful carriage. The carriage stopped right in front of a large mud puddle, and the doors swung open to reveal a beautiful young woman. She was obviously quite wealthy and looked down at the puddle wondering how to cross it without ruining her elaborate dress.

The older monk immediately walked into the puddle and offered to carry her on his back to dry land. She accepted, and he carried her across without incident. After he set her down, she went about her way without even stopping to look back at him, let alone thank him.

The two monks continued on their way. As they walked, the young monk was restless and preoccupied. And several hours later, the young monk finally had to break his silence.

He turned to his master and said, "I can't believe that over-privileged woman didn't even have the courtesy to thank you for helping her."

To which the old monk replied, "What woman?"

"The one you helped carry on your back to cross that mud puddle back at the town."

The old monk laughed. "I stopped carrying her on my back hours ago. Why is it that you still carry that burden?"

We carry these burdens, and they weigh heavily on our hearts. And they only hurt us. And the moment we can truly release them and let them go, our hearts will be free. The part of us that kept obsessing on that pain or anger is now gone. It can finally free up space in our hearts to focus on the things that really matter in our lives.

Anger and hate take up a very large amount of space in our hearts, and they have a limit. Compassion, understanding, and forgiveness are boundless. There is always room for more.

At this time of year, we start to think of our resolutions and things we want to change in our lives. The most powerful thing you can ever change is how you think and perceive the world around you.

So while you are resolving to clean out the garage, lose some extra pounds, clean out the house, organize the office, and get rid of all that extra clutter in your life... don't forget one of the largest things in your life that is taking up the most space. That hate and anger can all be washed away once you find it in your heart to simply forgive. And when you get rid of that, you find more space in your hearts and minds to do more than you could ever imagine.

**BISHOP OGUI
TO RETIRE**

After nearly **49 years** of dedicated service and ministry to the Buddhist Churches of America, Socho Koshin Ogui, Bishop of the BCA, will retire from the ministry on March 31, 2012. Socho's retirement coincides with the conclusion of two terms as Bishop of the BCA.

Bishop Ogui's innovative and visionary accomplishments include the establishment of the Minister's Assistant Program and pathway to Kaikyoshi Minister ordination by the Hongwanji-ha, the Annual Youth Advocacy Committee and Retreat, and the Youth Minister's Assistant Program.

It is with deepest gratitude and appreciation for Socho's skillful service to our Sangha, and dedication to bring Shin Buddhism to the forefront of the American consciousness, that we say thank you to Bishop Ogui and his family. We wish Socho Ogui continued good health and happiness in his retirement.

Socho Ogui's retirement party will be held on Saturday, February 25, 2012 in conjunction with the **2012 BCA National Council Banquet at the DoubleTree Hotel, right here in Sacramento.**

In appreciation for his service to our member temples and sangha, we will extend tokens of our gratitude at his retirement party. A receptionist table will be available at the banquet to receive gifts. For those unable to attend the National Council Banquet, gifts may be forwarded to our church office or sent to BCA Headquarters at 1710 Octavia Street, San Francisco, CA 94109.

Kansha - Gratitude

On March 31, 2012, my two terms as Socho, Bishop of the Buddhist Churches of America will end. At the same time, I shall be retiring from the BCA and active Kaikyoshi ministry after a career that spans over 48 years. My wife, Mayumi, my daughter Ayaka, and I wish to express our sincere appreciation and gratitude for your friendship and support throughout this wonderful journey.

As I take this next step in my life, I look forward to continuing my ministry by helping out at a smaller temple of the BCA as a Retired Kaikyoshi Minister. It is my desire to continue to propagate the Buddhist teaching and encourage others towards a life of Nembutsu realization for a few more years.

*Gassho,
Koshin Ogui, Socho
Bishop*

Socho Koshin Ogui

<i>Arrived in the United States:</i>	<i>October 24, 1962</i>
<i>Assigned Los Angeles Hampa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple:</i>	<i>November 1, 1962 – June 25, 1963</i>
<i>BCA Headquarters Secretary:</i>	<i>June 25, 1963 – March 31, 1965</i>
<i>Oxnard Buddhist Temple:</i>	<i>April 1, 1965 – May 31, 1968</i>
<i>Attend Yale Divinity School (helped at New York Buddhist Church)</i>	<i>June 1, 1968 – June 30, 1970</i>
<i>Buddhist Church of San Francisco:</i>	<i>July 1, 1970 – December 15, 1976</i>
<i>Cleveland Buddhist Temple: (Supervising Minister: Detroit, MI and Columbus, OH)</i>	<i>January 1, 1977 – August 31, 1992</i>
<i>BCA Ministers' Association, Chairman</i>	<i>March 1, 1997 – February 28, 1999</i>
<i>Midwest Buddhist Temple: (Supervising Minister: Cleveland Buddhist Temple)</i>	<i>September 1, 1992 – March 31, 2004</i>
<i>Socho, Bishop of BCA:</i>	<i>April 1, 2004 – March 31, 2012</i>
<i>President, Institute of Buddhist Studies:</i>	<i>April 1, 2004 – March 31, 2012</i>
<i>Years of service: 48 years 5 months, 7 days</i>	

MAINTENANCE REPORT

GARY TRAGANZA

Hello and welcome to 2012. Each year the regular members of the maintenance crew along with other sangha members save our temple thousands of dollars by repairing and upgrading the buildings and grounds ourselves instead of hiring outside businesses. Some of the projects involve painting, rebuilding fences and gates, repairing swamp coolers, installing needed lights, correcting plumbing issues, etc. The skill level for most of these tasks is pretty basic. If you have any experience in the above areas and would like to join the maintenance department in keeping "The Best in BCA" running smoothly, please call me at home 567-0707.

Thank you,
Gary

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:

- Ryan SooHoo completed his Eagle Scout Project by painting the men's and women's restrooms in the main building. The new colors are softer – more pleasant to the eyes. Also, thanks to the following parents who assisted Ryan and his fellow painters ; Bobby Tanaka, Nick Shebert , Keith Adachi , Karen Yee, Kelvin Mark, Jeff Tsuruoka, Mike Dishno, Ken Okuhara
- Don Honda for repairing a facet in the outdoor kitchen.
- Mike Dishno for rerouting a copper water pipe in parking lot and soldering on a new facet.
- Bob Chaves, Gordon Nitta, Steve Sasaki and Gary Traganza cleaned the leaves off the roofs and out of the gutters.

JODO SHINSHU COURSE

JODO SHINSHU CORRESPONDENCE COURSE 2012 SPRING ENROLLMENT APPLICATIONS NOW ACCEPTED

The Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course Office is now accepting applications for the spring 2012 enrollment. The popular two-year, computer-based program continues to offer online instruction in the origins and development of Buddhism, Shinran Shonin's life and teaching, sutras and masters of the Pure Land tradition and history of Jodo Shinshu.

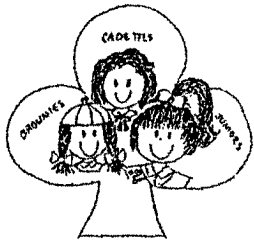
An excellent opportunity for beginners or for those who have already studied Jodo Shinshu, the program reaches out to people all over the world. Students come from Brazil, Canada, Germany, Malaysia, U.K., Japan and Nepal, as well as Hawaii and the BCA. With more than 80 students enrolled, the course has much to offer those interested in deepening their understanding of Buddhism and Jodo Shinshu. The course instructors consist of 14 ministers and professors who specialize in the subjects taught. An optional August workshop at the Jodo Shinshu Center is held every year.

For more information, please visit the course website at: www.JSCC.cbe-bca.org

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

GIRL SCOUTS

LISA TOMITA-COOPER



Happy New Year from Girl Scout Troop 569! Hope everyone had a restful holiday season with their family and friends. It's that time again—Girl Scout Cookie sales will begin on January 13. So, be on the lookout for the cute little Daisies and Brownies seeking your support!

Cadettes 1: Cadettes 1 collected paper goods for the Loaves and Fishes. Thank you everyone for their generous donations! We sponsored a family for Christmas and had a great time shopping for them. We participated in the Santa Parade representing the Land Park Unit. We had over 200 girls. Amazing! Looking forward to working with the Brownies to assist them in earning the hobby badge. Happy New Year to all.

Cadettes 3: We were busy during the month of December by preparing for the Winterfest event and helping out at Park Vista Preschool for community service. The girls sold homemade spaghetti and dessert items. In celebrating the holidays, they ended the year with a party at Cheesecake Factory. Thanks to all for making girl scouts so successful.

Juniors 2: They got into the holiday spirit by donating gifts to the Angels Trees at Arden Fair. The girls helped plan the event and picked out their own gifts to give. In January, the girls are looking forward to dancing in the Zumba class hosted by the Land Park Service Unit.

Happy New Year to all!

**CUB SCOUT
PACK 50
GLEN KUMAMOTO**



**BOY SCOUT
TROOP 50
REID MASAKI**



Rev. Bob Oshita
428-9833



Rev. Peter Inokoji-Kim
446-4988

Black Friday... Cyber Monday... Mega Sale Tuesday... Broke and have a headache Thursday. You know it's Christmas time! The holiday season is often the busiest time of all for all of us. It seems that we are running around here and there, rushing to get this or get that. Thinking of what we need to take care of next. As RB often says... "We need to live for the moment." So as I write this... I'm going to pause, take a deep breath and live for the moment.

Pack 50 has so many fun things planned for 2012, but I'll save those for next month's article.

I always take the time to thank our sponsors, our parents and our committee chairs, but I never really ever thank the boys. I'm always so proud to see all of our scouts together having fun. They all work so hard at being good scouts. They work hard toward their rank advancements, belt loops and requirements to become a Boy Scout. All of their effort makes me so proud. I'm honored to be Cubmaster to such a great group of kids. No matter how tired I am, they always seem to do something that makes me laugh and I forget about being tired. So I want to say thank you to all the cubs of Pack 50, thank you for being you.

I wish you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

Pack 50 ROCKS!

November is the third month of the new scouting year. It also marks the beginning of the holiday season. The theme for the month was fishing; the youth leadership was able to tie scout skills such as knot tying into the theme. We had multiple troop meetings, service projects and had a fun troop outing.

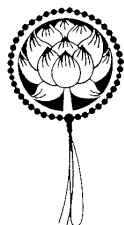
The first event of the month was the Troop and Parent Meeting on November 4. At the Parent Meeting, troop historians presented slideshows and talked about events that happened in October. At the Troop meeting we had fishing activities such as fish trivia and knot tying.

The next event was a service project for the My Sister's House, Fun Run Race on November 5. Scouts arrived early in the morning to help set up for the Fun Run. Scouts also assisted in directing traffic away from the course, handed out water to the runners and gave encouragement to runners. After the race, the scouts helped take down the event and clean-up; then many scouts went to assist scout Wes O. with his Eagle Scout Project at the Walnut Grove Buddhist Church.

On November 11, the troop had the Rocknasium Overnighter. The troop does this event every two years at the Rocknasium, an indoor rock climbing facility located in Davis, California. Scouts can stay up all night rock climbing and can earn the Climbing Merit Badge.

On November 13, the troop held its Fried Rice Breakfast fundraiser. The parents cooked the fried rice and the scouts helped package and sell the fried rice meals. The troop also performed a flag ceremony at the Florin Buddhist Church that same day.

The final event of the month was a Troop and Green Bar meeting on November 18. At the Green Bar meeting the youth leadership went over the past scouting month and went over what worked and what didn't. We also went over the next month and what was coming up. At the troop meeting we had more fishing activities.



*Condolences to
the Families of:*



Atsuko Nishimoto May 13, 1935 - November 11, 2011
Shigeru "Shig" Shimazu .. December 1, 1926 - November 15, 2011
Jimmie Katsuo Kiyama August 21, 1924 - November 26, 2011

**SPORTS
COMMITTEE**

ALAN WU



Well, well, well, another year has come and gone. It is now 2012. Hello 2012! Say goodbye to 2011! It is time to throw out the old and bring in the new. Do we need to make sure the last one in is first one out, or should it be the first one in is the first one out? Maybe it is time to turn over a new leaf because we've turned the corner. Could it be the dawn of a new beginning? Naaaa, it's just another January and another year like any other January and any other year, a routine event like bending over to pick up the newspaper and becoming immobilized... well, routine to some and extraordinary for one other.'

So let's not dwell on past back spasms but look forward to future spasms.

Last month on December 10, we held our annual Mochi Tsuki and grinded through 1,000 pounds of rice and finished cleaning up before noon. Many thanks go out to all our sports families and the BWA for their help and support. We give special thanks to Rod Kunisaki for keeping our ancient grinders grinding, and to Eddie Imai and Don Honda for coming out to fire up the streamers at 4 o'clock in the morning. Of course, thanks to Reiko and Crew for providing the refreshments for everyone. And last, but not least, many thanks to Sam for overseeing the mochi sales at Oto's Marketplace. This annual event is always a success due to all of your efforts under the guidance of our Mochi Queen — thanks, Deb for all your hard work again!

Coming on January 14 will be picture day for the E Division, and January 15 for the all the other divisions. Your Team Moms will provide further details for your team's photo session.

Be back next month with just another February.

**DHARMA
SCHOOL
NEWS**
KEN FURUKAWA


Happy New Year! Good luck to all of us for 2012! And thank you all for all your help and support in 2011. I don't know that there is a Jodo Shinshu teaching about luck, but I will guess that it would be that we make our own luck in our lives. Of course there are many things in life that we cannot control, and they shape our lives in so many ways. Yet, there are so many things that we do that affect our lives all the time. I believe that many of those are the "little" things that add up in so many ways, and often without our knowledge, but we can control them. Ah, the truths of interdependence and cause and effect!

I will freely admit that I owe all the good things that I am credited with to other people. It is this good luck that I will strive to cultivate further this new year, and in keeping with this general thought, I need to thank a few more people for all of their help in 2011. Although the last SANGHA newsletter submission for Dharma School was not supposed to be an all-inclusive thank you, I managed to forget to mention some very key people who selflessly make sure the Dharma School program is always on track:

- Sensei Grace Hatano for organizing each Dharma School service.
- Derek Ikami the Dharma School treasurer, whose hand is often tired writing checks for the program.
- Ms. Reiko Inaba and Ms. Gloria Inaba, who are the Dharma School hostesses for visiting ministers and special guests. Their quiet grace must be very appreciated amidst the hustle and bustle of our Dharma School program.
- Richard Kai, who as the Dharma School superintendent emeritus has kept me on track locally and regionally.

Thank you to all the teachers, teacher assistants and students for pulling off an orderly and efficient fire drill evacuation last month! I have heard only praise from parents and grandparents since the drill. Thanks to the hard work and planning of Steve and Bridget Maron we had the direction and organization to pull off a very organized drill. Thanks to the Board of Trustees greeters and security team for assisting with local crowd control.

So here is to another wonderful year for the best Dharma School in BCA!

In Gassho,
Ken Furukawa

DONATIONS

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

ABA	Eleanor Nobuye	Tomi Tanaka
Valerie Fong	Jan Okimoto	Jerry & Sandy Tokunaga
Ted Fukui (Campbell Soup)	Mary Orite	Emi & Louie Watanabe
Denise Ham	Sam Orite	Ray Yamamoto (Sushi Experience)
Minnie Iseri	Mollie Oto	Sueko Yamashita
Alice Kataoka	Oto's Marketplace	
Tim & Selise Lee	Shigeru "Shig" Shimazu	
Yo Morisawa	Family	