

SANGHA

SACRAMENTO BUDDHIST CHURCH
VOLUME 49 NUMBER 5 - MAY 2012

RB'S CORNER
REV. BOB OSHITA

Hello and welcome to the month of May... I have really been looking forward to this month, because our Gotanye special guest speaker is going to be Reverend Yukawa! As many of you know, back in 1961, he began his career as a minister right here and he served the Sacramento Betsuin for 10 years. He left and served other temples... and returned 35 years later, in 1996.

It was my privilege and pleasure to be able to work under Yukawa Sensei when he served as the Rinban of the Sacramento Betsuin from 1996 to 2003. We had a blast... and I know I will always look back on those years as just the very best.

When there were quiet moments, I would sometimes just sit and visit with Sensei in his office. We would talk about anything and everything.

I remember one day telling Sensei about a documentary that I saw the evening before on PBS. I only caught the ending of this documentary, but it left me with such a good feeling. It was about a new medical procedure that could help restore eyesight to some who had become blind. I shared with Sensei the words of a woman who was being interviewed at the end of this show. After decades of blindness, this new procedure helped her regain her sight.

In the interview, she said this, "In this world, there is nothing that is ugly. Everything is beautiful; the dust in the corner of the room, graffiti sprayed on walls and billboards, garbage piled high in an alley; everything is beautiful... just because I can see it!"

With a warm smile, Yukawa Sensei said, "Wow... she has Enlightened Eyes."

It was so true. We who have never lost our sight, we take our vision for granted. We look at things and judge them to be good or bad, beautiful or

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

SACRAMENTO BETSUIN

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RB'S CORNER
(CONTINUED)

ugly; we evaluate and we criticize... and say, "Look at that mess! What an eyesore! Someone should clean that up."

Our eyes may be open... but our Dharma Eyes are closed....

This woman who regained her sight... realized that just being able to see is amazing.... And as she said, "In this world, everything is beautiful." She had the eyes of deep gratitude and appreciation.

She had Nembutsu Eyes.

It will be great to have Yukawa Sensei here with us again for a weekend. On Saturday, May 19, at 2 p.m., we will be speaking at a special lecture sponsored by the Legacy Endowment. The topic is "Every Other Day Buddhism." Then on Sunday, May 20, Sensei will be our Gotanye speaker.

Let's all come out and welcome Reverend Yukawa back to the Sacramento Betsuin!

See you soon....

RB



SALE DATE: Saturday, June 2, 2012, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sacramento Buddhist Church Kaikan

2401 Riverside Blvd., Sacramento, CA

DONATION DROP OFF DATES: May 30th, 31st, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
June 1st, from 9 a.m. to noon

USABLE ITEMS NEEDED: Clothing, accessories, jewelry, specialty items, shoes, purses, housewares, glassware, toys, games, sports equipment, seasonal items, books, tools, electronics, small appliances in working condition, furniture in good repair, laptops, computers, monitors, cell phones, ink cartridges and smaller TVs.

ITEMS WE CANNOT ACCEPT: Mattresses, large appliances, baby cribs, carseats or baby items with expiration dates.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Sorting, organizing, selling, cashiering, monitoring, traffic control, security, and loads of other skills. **Volunteers that want to have a fun time and find great treasures! Sign up in the Church office!**

INFORMATION: (916) 446-0121

**PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE**

GORDON L. NITTA

This is the month of May 2012. One month has passed since the retirement of Socho Ogui. His eight years seemed to pass so quickly. No sooner had he started his first term, that we worried if he would be voted in for a second term. No sooner had he entered his second term, that we started counting the years, months and then days until his term would end. All along we worried what our future without him would hold.

For many of us, he is the only Socho that we know or even remember. How many times have I heard I thought Socho was his name (not title). His was the familiar face that spent so much of his valuable time with us, the Sacramento Betsuin. I can still hear his words "If all the Buddhist Churches were like Sacramento then the future of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism...."

I would like to share with you a letter that Socho Koshin Ogui sent to the Sangha of the Buddhist Church of Sacramento, YOU.

DEAR
THE BUDDHIST CHURCH
OF SACRAMENTO

With Deepest Gratitude

On this occasion of my retirement from the Buddhist Churches of America, I wish to convey my heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to you for your generous gift. As a minister with the BCA for nearly 49 years, including these last 8 years as your Socho, Bishop of the BCA, my journey to share the Buddha-Dharma with you has been one of great joy and gratification. I am happy to have been able to share the Nembutsu with you. And I am honored to have been a part of this journey to bring Jodo Shinshu Shin Buddhism a step closer to the forefront here in America.

Thank you for your support and encouragement over the years. As I retire from the BCA, I look forward to whatever the future has to offer, and to enjoying this next phase of my life with my wife, Mayumi, and daughter, Ayaka.

Again, thank you very much for your generous gift and friendship.

Gassho,


Koshin Ogui, Socho
Bishop

感謝

私の引退に際しまして、皆様からの御厚情、並びに、お祝いを頂き、感謝致します。48年間にわたります開教伝道、その間の8年を総長として務めさせて頂き、ここまで皆様と共に歩めましたことは、私の何よりの喜びであります。

仏法、念仏の教えを一人でも多くの人々と分かちあい、浄土真宗をメジャーな宗教となすように努力してきたことを誇りに思っております。皆様の多大な御支援と御尽力に対しまして、妻、眞弓 娘、絢佳と共に感謝致します。

残されました人生、体験を活かし、開教伝道に精進する覚悟しております。

合掌

小杭好臣

Socho, thank you for taking both a personal and monetary risk by allowing the Sacramento Betsuin to create and implement new programs that all proved to be very successful. Your trust and vision help put us on the BCA map and the top of the heap.

We live in the moment, but we can look back and smile.

The new bishop's accession/ outgoing bishop's appreciation banquet is scheduled for Saturday, June 2, 5 p.m., at the Hotel Kabuki (formerly Miyako Hotel), 1625 Post Street, San Francisco, CA 94115. For further information or to make reservations, please contact Reverend

Michael Endo, Executive Assistant to the Bishop, (415) 776-5600, ext. 22 or shakuensho@aol.com.

SANGHA MESSAGE

BRIAN HATANO

[Brian, the son of Billy and Sensei Grace Hatano, is the newest member of the Board of Trustees.]



From left: Reverend Honshu Y. Matsubayashi, Cirby Hatano, Brian Hatano and Reverend Watanabe, visiting from Japan

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It's funny how a short time can seem like an eternity (especially those last few years leading up to turning 21), and how a span of four decades can feel like hardly anything. Sometimes all it takes to compress the passing of many years is hearing a familiar voice that sparks a long-ago memory.

Forty years ago, when I was in Boy Scout Troop 50 at our church, I learned just about everything I know about Buddhism in a Sangha class taught by Reverend Matsubayashi. To earn the Sangha award, we attended classes for several weeks and had to pass a test.

Fast forward to 13 years ago, when my son Bryson earned his Cub Scout Metta Award, discovering Buddhism with Rinban Bob. I gained additional knowledge while attending RB's classes, things I never knew!

Both of us were fortunate to have learned the fundamentals of the Buddha's teachings — and much more — directly from our Betsuin's resident ministers.

Memories of these classes came to mind on March 11 as I sat in the pews of the New York Buddhist Church. Delivering the sermon was its resident minister — the very same Reverend — Yoshihide Matsubayashi who gave me lessons in Buddhism four decades past.

I was visiting my daughter Cirby, who is a professional stage manager intern at the Juilliard School in Manhattan. She agreed to attend Sunday service at the NY church on this day with me because it would be commemorating one year since the earthquake and tsunami devastated northern Japan.

Seems that several other people had come to the church for the same reason. They lived in that region of Japan, and announced to the congregation that they desired to be in a place where the date would be recognized. They cited a longing to be with like-minded people, and a heartfelt desire to express gratitude that their loved ones — though their lives were forever adversely affected — had survived.

I mentioned a similar compelling reason to attend this special service as I introduced Cirby and myself to the congregation. I also told about my connection to Reverend Matsubayashi and how it felt like 1972 again, sitting in our own Hondo in Sacramento hearing his words. As I listened to his sermon, I reflected on many things: the plight of the victims and survivors; how grateful I was to be healthy and witness my daughter thriving on her own; and, how I felt a sense of *deja vu*.

Cirby and I met Reverend Matsubayashi before the service. He was like me, 40 years older since we last saw each other, and therefore not exactly looking the same. I'm sure he didn't recall our Sangha class, or me as a 13-year-old when I mentioned our affiliation. But when I handed him my business card and mentioned that my mother is Sensei Grace, his eyes lit up and he nodded his head affirmatively. (Once again, a connection was made because of my mom!)

Buddhism teaches us about impermanence, and how nothing stays the same. But I learned from this reunion separated by 40 years that some things sure *feel* the same. I enjoyed visiting my daughter, and my past, 3,000 miles from home.



Rev. Bob Oshita
428-9833



Rev. Peter Inokoji-Kim
446-4988

**LEGACY
ENDOWMENT
FUND PILOT
PROGRAM**
REV. PATTI OSHITA

おかげさま

**BETSUIN
DHARMA
EDUCATION
AWARD**
KEN FURUKAWA

**DHARMA
SCHOOL**
KEN FURUKAWA



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.

Since April 1, I have had the privileged and honor to serve as the first ever Assistant Minister, Program Coordinator for the Sacramento Betsuin. This pilot program is funded by a grant (from the Legacy Endowment Fund) specifically to create and develop programs and workshops that will be meaningful to our Sangha members. We also hope that it will draw others who may be interested in becoming a part of our temple.

For years, our Betsuin ministers have worked hard to develop an atmosphere of our Betsuin being a Dharma center. Now is the perfect time to "kick it up a notch" and cultivate more Dharma-centered programs for our Sangha.

As our past Bishop Koshin Ogui would often say, "Don't be afraid to try new things." From the beginning of his administration, he encouraged, "Let's do something now!" I am excited to have the time, the support and the resources to try to do something "now."

Since March, Sangha members and the community have already enjoyed Dharma programs sponsored by the Legacy Endowment Fund. We have had seminars with Reverend Tetsuo Unno and Reverend Sunnan Kubose. In May, Reverend Yukawa and RB will also have a Dharma seminar.

Dr. Satsuki Ina gladly accepted an invitation to conduct a seminar on grief and mourning after the loss of a loved one (May 14), and our Betsuin Board has approved our sponsorship of the 2nd Sacramento Vesak Bodhi Day event at the Kim Quang Temple on June 9.

My goal is to create and provide programs for all age groups in our Sangha, but I need your help. Please feel free to let me know of any programs or activities you would like to see. We are going to try our best to make the most of this momentary opportunity.

Thank you for this wonderful chance to be a part of this creative Dharma endeavor.

Thanks to the high school senior students who submitted completed applications for the Betsuin Dharma Education Award. Please keep your eyes and ears open for announcements for the interview! Relax, it is not a high pressure experience, but put your best foot forward!

Hanamatsuri was successful, and a lot of fun! When was the last time you can remember hearing about "golden nuggets" from a minister? Truly, the Dharma is everywhere! Of all the services each year, Hanamatsuri has to be the one that always teaches me the truth of interdependence and impermanence. I really must thank the 8th grade students, TAs, and my wife Leilani for setting up the Hanamido! It was so beautiful, but only lasted a day! This year's flowers were so beautiful, and were again donated by Lisa and Jason Taira of Kiyos Flower Shop,

Thanks to the following for so much help (and the many more who I forgot to include on this list):

- Reiko, Gladys, Dharma Kitchen Crew... they set up many of the chairs in the Kaikan!
- Cliff Adams and Ann Amioka for their expert work on the play and production.
- Richard Kai for arranging the food for the dress rehearsal.
- Gary Matsumoto for videotaping on short notice.
- Bob Chavez for all the facilities work.
- Kelvin Mark for unsolicited but oh-so-needed help at the end of the cleanup.
- Sam Adachi and crew for stage extension setup and dismantling.
- Grace Hatano and the Candy Men.
- Dharma School teachers, parents and students.
- Rinban Oshita, Reverend Inokoji-Kim, and the Ministers Assistants!

May has already arrived! The school and Dharma School terms are almost finished. Please remember that the end-of-year service and picnic will be at William Land Regional Park areas 20 and 21 on the second Sunday of June!

Are you interested in helping the Dharma School as a teacher or teacher assistant? We have openings in several grades and classes, and are willing to accommodate your schedule. Please think about it, and talk to me, Valerie Fong, Reverend Peter or Rinban Bob!

In Gassho.

**DHARMA
SCHOOL
COURTYARD**

The most frequent question the Dharma Courtyard Kitchen is asked by visitors is: "How do you provide great treats every Sunday? Wish our church could do the same."

Our answer is: The monetary — big or small — donations allow us to purchase top-quality meat and food products. On a regular basis, two individuals each donate 100 pounds of rice. One individual donates a case of #3 cans of coffee. A huge food manufacturer gives non- or near-expired items such as crackers and snacks — all safe for eating — to non-profit children and senior organizations, churches, preschools. Many businesses, organizations and Sangha members donate food items, paper goods, etc. We are truly grateful to have such support. Another Dharma term is ending. The Dharma Kitchen says, "Many thanks."

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

4th Grade Class	Utako Kimura	Rev. Patti Oshita
Cafe Caprich	Dr. Kelvin Mark	Naomi Piper Pell & 2nd
Carol Fukumoto	DeAnne Ng	Grade
Nancy Hashimoto	Mary Orite	Robert & Aki Shimada
Lucille Hitomi	Sam Orite	Tomi Tanaka

**SPORTS
COMMITTEE**
ALAN WU


Now we gather here today to collectively recollect on the collections of the collective body of work that transpired this past basketball season.

Other than that, we will just do a little recap of the 2011–2012 iteration of the NCCL. As per usual, we capped off our season with the yearly gathering of the collection of our instructors, trainers, tutors, teachers of the game of basketball to collectively partake in a communal consumption of food and drink.

Gathered we did for our annual Coaches Appreciation Dinner (CAD), where approximately 432 members of our little sports family collectively lauded our coaches for all the fine work and time spent for our Dharma kids.

Appreciation of our coaches goes far beyond the ceremony and pretty much beyond words, but our appreciation dinner is but a small token to express our true gratitude for all the men and women who tirelessly (or at least hid their tiredness) coached our kids.

So, in addition to our small token of appreciation, we, here now for all to observe, want to recognize all our coaches for their hard work, time and effort they put forth this past season. Thank you, thank you, thank you to our coaches one and all! Appearing in no particular order other than alphabetical, we now present our coaches from the 2011–2012 NCCL:

Aoki, Kelley	Kunisaki, David	Ohara, David
Beutler, Mitch	Kushida, Cary	Okamoto, Brian
Campbell, Jason	Kwong, Taffy	Onodera, Bryan
Chan, Jordan	Lee, Brandon	Ota, Melanie
Cooper, Tony	Lee, Candace	Ota, Stephanie
Crandall, Tyler	Lee, Heather	Oto, Russell
Fajardo, AJ	Lewis, Brandon	Paneda, Keilani
Fukushima, Alan	Low, Mari	Takaha, Blake
Fukushima, Megan	Maseba, Gus	Tanigawa, Kara
Fukushima, Stephanie	Matsuda, Marty	Thomas, Kari
Hamamoto, Jason	Matsuura, Curtis	Tran, Raymond
Hamamoto, Kara	Midzuno, Robbie	Tsuye, Kyle
Hamamoto, Steve	Murakami, Steve	Uda, Kyle
Ikami, Keith	Na, Christine	Wallace, Pat
Ikemoto, Ericca	Nakao, Glenn	Wong, Brian
Ikemoto, Roger	Nishimura, James	Yamamoto, Bryan
Ishisaka, Denis	Nitta, Matthew	Yamamoto, John
Ito, David	Noguchi, Glenn	Young, Lisa
Kawahara, Stacy	Nomura, Keri	

Every year at our CAD, a traditional event would be our anointment of this year's recipients of the Aki Fukushima Awards. This year the Akis went to Allison Tamai for the girls category and for the boys category there was a two-way tie at 836 votes each for Jasen Fong and Royce Kurahara. Congratulations to all three of these kids for their hard work on and off the court, in and for the church and its programs!

Volumes and volumes of hand written letters and notes came in this year to the committee for recommendations, suggestions and lobbying for the recipient of this year's Rinban Yukawa Award. And by a landslide victory, this year's Rinban Yukawa Award goes to Steve Hamamoto! Congratulations to Coach Steve (Hamo) for all his years of dedicated service to coaching our youngsters and providing an excellent venue for learning and experiencing lessons in life and basketball.

**OFFICE
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Cindy Kitade

**BETSUIN
OFFICE**

446-0121

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Misao Abe
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Sanaye Imajo
Miyoko Iwata
Mae Kaneko
Alice Kataoka
Machiko Kimura
Yoshiko Morisawa
Mutsuko Noguchi
Teruko Ono
Corey Tanaka
Faye Uyemura

**SPORTS
COMMITTEE**
(CONTINUED)

Even though we had our CAD, which generally marks the end of our season, we still have a few teams that will participate in the Central Cal Cobra tournament in Fresno/Clovis during Father's Day weekend. Good luck to you, but if you are not going to the Central Cal tournament, please prepare to return your uniforms. If you are a coach or team mom, please make arrangements to collect the uniforms and other team equipment. Your division coordinator will be sending out collection information.

Remember, attendance still counts all the way through to the end-of-year picnic! Your team may be all done for this year, but your attendance for May and June will be used for next year's eligibility, so keep attending until the picnic.

(Hidden within this month's article is one of RB's favorite Dharma topics. If you think you know what it is, send your answer to sbcodhitree@yahoo.com and you may be eligible to win a fantastic prize package.)



17th Annual Sacramento Buddhist Church

Senior Golf Tournament

Teal Bend Golf Course, Sacramento

Wednesday, August 22, 2012

ALL SENIORS AND FRIENDS OF SENIORS ARE WELCOME!

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

Four Player Scramble Format. Make your own foursome,
or we'll make your team for you.

Participants don't need to worry about hosting next year's tournament!

\$70 per player

Includes Green Fees, Cart, Closest-to-the-Hole Contests,
Prize Fund and a delicious lunch prepared by Reiko and Crew!
Awards and Lunch following golf at the Buddhist Church.

Deadline to enter: August 8.

Enter early--field is limited.

Mail entry form and **\$70** per player payable to
Cindy Hatano, 8959 Sonoma Valley Way, Sacramento, CA 95829, or
leave at church office,attn: Sr. Golf Tournament c/o Grace Hatano.

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

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

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City/Zip _____

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____ (one contact per group)

Please put me in a foursome with some fun people!

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

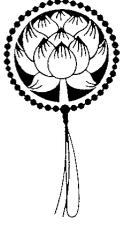
**NOTES FROM
THE OFFICE**

Any address changes? Have you paid your 2012 membership dues?
Thanks in advance.

*Congratulations
Newlyweds*



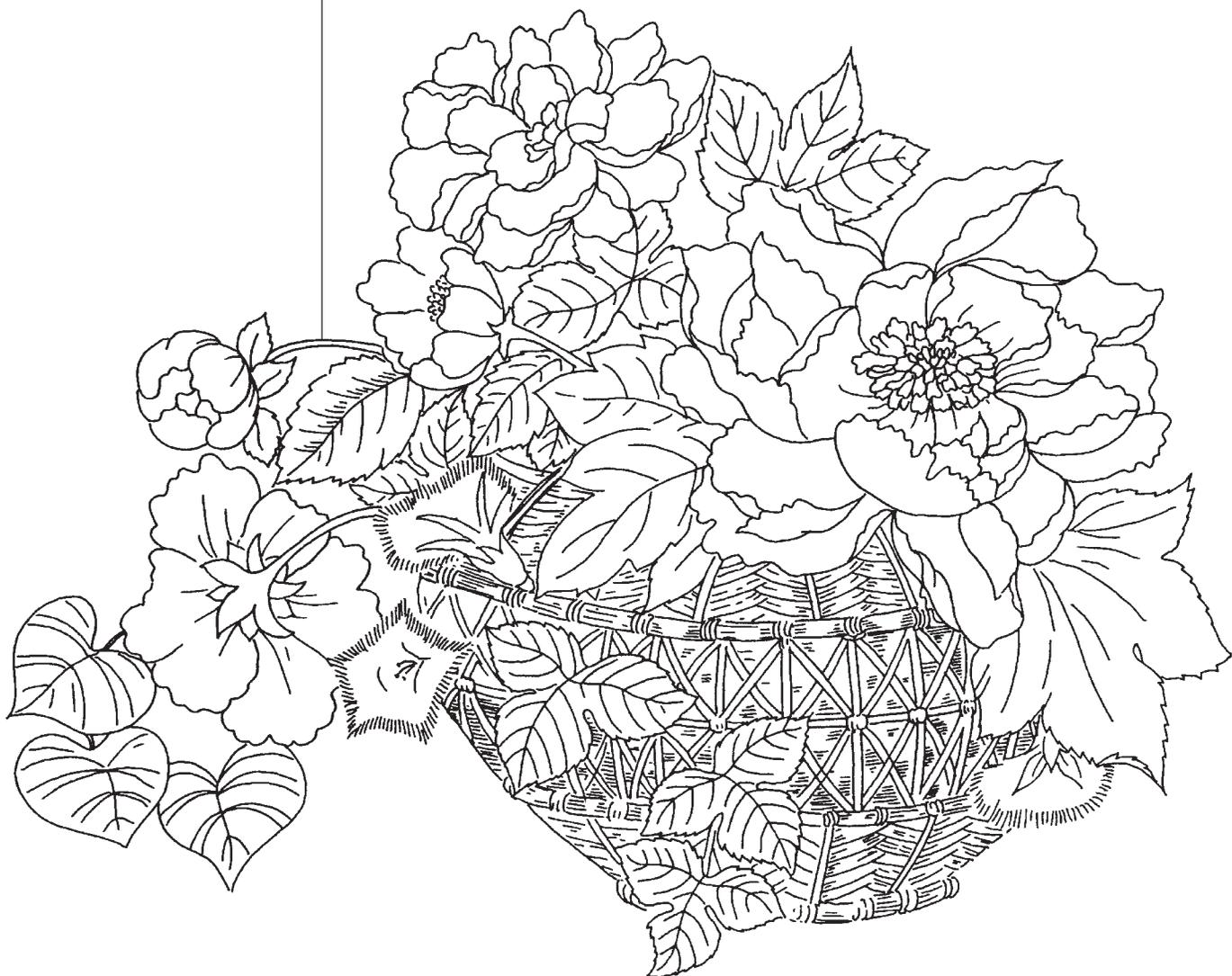
Ryan Yamamoto & Phing Yam March 17, 2012



*Condolences to
the Families of:*



Yaoko Najima November 4, 1926 – February 12, 2012
Irene Kiyoko Wada July 15, 1942 – March 13, 2012
George Seiji Nakamura April 27, 1920 – March 21, 2012
Grace Kiyō Morimoto November 30, 1919 – March 25, 2012



*Buddhist Church
of Sacramento*

Legacy Endowment Fund

おかげさま



Okagesama

The Buddhist Church of Sacramento supports an active and vibrant membership through programs and activities benefiting youth, adults, and families. For over a hundred years, it has served as the physical and spiritual heart of the Buddhist community by reinforcing life-shaping values and a meaningful religious tradition. Contributions to the Legacy Endowment Fund help fulfill the mission to sustain the Temple now and for generations to come.

The Buddhist Church of Sacramento is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) entity (tax ID# 94-1243674).

*Honor the Past
Continue the Legacy
Shape the Future*

How can I make a difference for generations to come? *Give to the Legacy Endowment Fund*

Complete and return this post card to discover the many benefits that await you, including the potential for substantial tax relief and life time income, when you make a contribution to the Buddhist Church of Sacramento Legacy Endowment Fund.

I would like more information on:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Making a donation | <input type="checkbox"/> Real Estate |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Making a bequest | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Insurance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cash/Securities | <input type="checkbox"/> Retirement Plans |
| <input type="checkbox"/> IRA Roll Over | |

Legacy Endowment Fund Board
Buddhist Church of Sacramento
2401 Riverside Blvd.
Sacramento, CA 95818

Name _____ Telephone _____

Address _____

City/Zip _____ E-Mail _____

Best Day and Time to Call _____