

SANGHA

SACRAMENTO BUDDHIST CHURCH
VOLUME 49 NUMBER 9 - SEPTEMBER 2012

RB'S CORNER
REV. BOB OSHITA

SACRAMENTO BETSUIN

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Hello and welcome to the month of September.... As I look back on the event-filled summer of 2012, I feel that the Sacramento Betsuin has once again achieved greatness. In July, we hosted the 8th Annual YAC Retreat. This year we had 16 young participants from a dozen different BCA temples. Although we have been running these youth retreats for eight years, each retreat has been unique and special. And this year's Summer Retreat was as special as they come. Our own NaOmi Furukawa and Royce Kurahara participated this year, representing our Betsuin well. Thank you to Reverend Patti for being our primary organizer (she has had plenty of practice through the years just trying to organize my life!). Thank you to our Team Betsuin staff of teachers and trainers; to Reiko and Gladys and the Kitchen Crew for feeding us daily. And thank you to our supportive Board and the entire Betsuin! Having the Retreat here allows our participants to experience the tremendous vitality of the Sacramento Betsuin Sangha... for there are so many, many people who made this retreat possible.

We concluded the Retreat with our annual Saturday evening Obon Odori and our Sunday Obon/Hatsubon Service. Bishop Umezu came for the Retreat "graduation" service, as well as to be our Obon guest speaker. Our Obon Dance and the Obon services were deeply appreciated by all who attended.

Of course all of this was happening while the entire temple was also gearing up for our annual August Bazaar! This summer, we had rain in mid-June and 70-degree weather in July. But as the Bazaar weekend drew near, we entered a true Sacramento summer. Although the temperature soared to 107 degrees on Saturday (and 103 on Sunday), we were so grateful that the greater Sacramento community braved the heat and came out to support our one fund-raising event of the year. A very special thanks to the hundreds of our members and friends who came out and helped

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

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RB'S CORNER
(CONTINUED)

before, during and after the Bazaar. Although the weather seemed, at times, unbearable, the smiling faces and positive spirits of our hundreds of hard-working volunteers made this year's Bazaar not only a great success, but a tremendous collective accomplishment! This has truly been a most memorable summer.

This month, we begin our 29th Dharma School term together. To me, the Dharma School is the most important program for any temple; for when we see our Hondo filled with youthful vitality, we know that our temple has a bright future. As I've often said, without your participation, our Betsuin would just be some empty buildings on a corner lot. It is your participation that brings these walls to life and gives meaning to our temple. Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to seeing you in the coming Dharma School year.

Gassho,
RB

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
GORDON NITTA

The 66th Annual Bazaar was another success. Kudos to Sherman for chairing his second Bazaar, and his commitment to continue for another 15+ years (well maybe at least one more).

Mother Nature once again tested our perseverance. Just when we were saying the summer has been relatively mild compared to that of the rest of the drought-stricken U.S., Mother Nature reminds us that change is part of our lives. 100+ temperatures were back just in time for Bazaar weekend. OH, JOY!

Numerous attendees commented on how well the Bazaar was run and how pleasant all the volunteers were in spite of the heat.

A big heartfelt THANK YOU to all of you who are just as important a contributor to making the annual Bazaar a success as the next person — from Sherman, our Bazaar chair, to our new tempura co-chairs, Diane Tsuruoka and Diane Shimosaka, to all the Sangha members and families, relatives, community volunteers, and down to our young volunteers, Brandon Mark and Ben and Lily Yeargain, who kept the workforce hydrated with cups of ice and ice water. Be proud of yourselves for working as one to help make this year's Bazaar successful.

This month is September. I want to welcome all of you back for another Dharma School year 2012–2013. Such a busy and hectic time of year with the start of school, Dharma School, soccer, bowling, basketball, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and all the other activities you and your family members are involved in. Thank you and your families for their commitment to the Buddhist Church of Sacramento.

The Sacramento Betsuin Buddhist Women's Association (SBWA or Fujinkai) has been busy since our last meeting in July. President Midori Ito and Crafts Chairperson Shirley Kato have contributed reports for this month's SANGHA newsletter article.

The SBWA hosted a group of 12 people from Coloma who wanted to come see and participate in our Obon Odori on July 14. Alice Kataoka chaired this event, assisted by her committee, consisting of Frances Kondo, Hiroko Tsuda, Mitzie Muramoto, Fusako Takahashi, Aileen Okimoto, Reverend Patti Oshita and Sensei Kelvin Mark. The committee greeted our guests with a delicious early dinner and then a tour of our Hondo by Sensei Mark. They also met Rinban Bob Oshita and our new Bishop Umezu.

On August 2, the SBWA had an enjoyable outing to the Music Circus to see "Music Man" and had dinner afterwards. Thank you to Virginia Uchida for coordinating the event and to everyone who offered to drive.

August 11 & 12: Annual Food & Cultural Bazaar: Thank you to all SBWA members, their families and friends who helped in the sushi preparation and sales. A special thank you goes to Lynn Kurahara and Irene Takeda for chairing the sushi preparation and to all of you who came to the clean-up the following Monday.

Thank you to Shirley Kato for chairing the ever-popular craft booth with its wide variety of skillfully made crafts, including the beautiful quilts, which are raffled. Shirley's report is printed below:

Craft Booth: A special thank you to the following for their very generous donation to this year's Bazaar craft booth: Kathy Tanaka Henry, Rae London and Amy Dote for the beautiful quilts that were admired by all who stopped by

SACRAMENTO BUDDHIST WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
KEIKO JEAN KASHIWADA



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

the booth; Sally Hamatake, our talented seamstress, who sewed most of our aprons and tote bags; Mary Amemiya, Norrine Okamoto, Nancy Hashimoto and Midori Ito for the wonderful iris fold cards that members look forward to buying each year; Aileen Okimoto for her creatively decorated cards, containers, frames, notebooks, organizers and the fun origami animals; and Rachel Nagai, Ellen Ito, Hazel Kamada, Grace Nakao, Michiko Okamoto, Joan Ouchida and Dorothy Sasamoto for their clever creations of tooth fairies, chicken pin cushions, tote bags, cool ties and furoshikis.

Thank you also to the many others who helped fill the booth with great items, and to those who worked in the booth Bazaar weekend: Susan Bennett, Joanne Champ, Joan Curry, Diane Jones Dorsey, Mari Fitch, Meri Fong, Sherry Fujii, Gilbert Fujii, Cathy Fujimori, Janis Furuta, Tessie Goi, Darlene Hayashi, Naomi Hamamoto, Pattie Hashimoto, Meriko Hoshida, Emily Howe, Judy Inaba, Harley Inaba, Misao Inaba, Mary Inouye, Meriko Ishigaki, Yvonne Ishimoto, Nancy Ito, Fran Jaksich, JoAnn Jung, Clinton Jung, Jean Kashiwada, Amiko Kashiwagi, Keith Kato, Mitsuko Kitade, Toshie Kobata, Jane Komure, Frances Kondo, Gayle Kono, Emi Koshimizu, Reiko Kurahara, Kelli Omoto Lee, Sue Louie, Jean Mori, Bridget Morisaki, Carolyn Murai, Diane Muranaka, Jane Nakagawa, Barbara Nakatomi, Betty Nakatomi, Loleen Nakano, Lori Namba, Joanne Nishimura, Sandy Nishimura-Yee, Pauline Nishina, Jennifer Nitta, Eleanor Nobuye, Mary Noda, Sara Noonan, Yukie Okasaki, Misa Oshiro, Jean Ota, Linda Otani, Joyce Sahara, Chizuko Sakaishi, Kaye Sakamoto, Elsie Shimamoto, Mari Shimamoto, Pam Shintaku, Tokie Sunahara, Yaeko Tademaru, Irene Takeda, Jane Tamano, Kiyoko Tanaka, Harriet Taniguchi, Julie Toyama, Virginia Uchida, Faye Uyemura, Colleen Warner, Cheryl Watanabe, Donna Wong, Jeff Wong, Doreen Wong, Sueko Yamashita, Elaine Yoshikawa and Sandy Yuki.

Our next SBWA meeting will be on September 5.

**MINISTER
ASSISTANTS**
REV. TIM CASTLE

Welcome to September! Throughout each year there are many dates and seasonal reminders of the change that constantly surrounds us. It is natural for us to look at January 1 as an obvious time of year to see change... we ring in the new year, look back at the past year, and look forward to the upcoming year with anticipation and hope. For those who work for the state and some businesses, July 1 brings in a new fiscal year. While the new fiscal year brings new opportunities to spend, the overall economy reminds us that we need to spend very little! And, don't forget the ever-changing seasons that re-enforce that EVERYTHING is constantly changing.

To me, a time of year that makes me reflect upon this never-ending cycle of change is September. Does that sound odd to you? It is certainly not an obvious pick... not the change in the new year, not a change in the fiscal year... why September?

Late August and all through September marks the normal beginning of school for most. Both junior high and high school, and most colleges begin session right after Labor Day. Kids and young college students are nervous about the new school year. Will I fit in? Will people notice I grew 3 inches over the summer? Will they notice my new haircut? What will my roommates be like? Will college classes be difficult? You get the picture. As college freshmen or transferring juniors, many of our past Dharma School students are heading out for the first time on their own... excited about their future of being out of the house... yet nervous about... their future of being out of the house!

During this time of change, it is easy for me to hit the pause button and look at all of these students heading out on their college adventure. While I don't know half of these students as well as I would like to, the vast majority have come through one of the programs that I help out with. Whether it be Girl Scouts, Dharma School, Metta-Padma classes, or watching many years of Betsuin basketball, I am reminded of our recent Bishop's words, "My life is not just my life... my life is a part of your life, and you are now a part of my life."

All of these young adults have been a part of my life — some, if only for a moment or two. Even more so, I have been able to make strong friendships with many of their parents. In speaking with many of our friends this year, I can see the emotion in their eyes as they prepare for their kids to move out and move on to college. As we learned last year with our oldest daughter, Leann, moving to UC Santa Cruz, everyone in the house is impacted by this change. Even our dog, Molly, would sit at Leann's open bedroom door and look for her.

As Reverend Carol and I prepare for our youngest daughter, Keri's, senior year in high school, we both know that this year, change is inevitable and the year

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MINISTER ASSISTANTS (CONTINUED)

will fly by. In Buddhism, we are taught that while everything around us is constantly changing, it is our own attachments that make times like this very challenging. We can intellectually tell ourselves that it is great that our children have grown up and have opportunities like these. However, our hearts tell us that letting go, even just a bit, to our attachments is not that simple, and we wish we still had more time to just hang out.

For those students who are about to leave town and jump feet first into their future, it has been a pleasure being with you for the ride, if only for a brief moment of the ride. I hope that your nervousness is short-lived and your excitement about learning new things, meeting new people and blowing apart your comfort zone keeps you moving forward. Good luck and have fun.

In Gassho.

SAKURA GAKUEN JAPANESE LANGUAGE SCHOOL MASAKO THOMAS AND JOHN MCDONNELL

Travel to Japan, chatting with Japanese relatives and friends, or even reading *manga* in Japanese. Whatever the reason, we have a class for you. It is not too late to register for the fall semester, which begins on September 8 (Saturday's youth school) and September 10 (Monday's adult classes) and goes until the end of January. The 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. Adult 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 their proficiency. We also have a Continuing Kanji class for adults.

The Saturday school for kindergarten through high school students is open to all levels of proficiency. The successful kindergarten class begun last year will be offered again this year. The benefits of children learning a second language are tangible: increased standardized test scores, enhances focus and cognitive development, improves understanding of native language, benefits academic progress in other subjects, promotes abstract and creative thinking, and opens doors to college and careers. Our language studies are made fun with cultural enrichment through songs, games, snacking on *onigiri*, learning traditional crafts and cooking skills, as well as cultural events and field trips. High school credit may be available.

Registration for the Saturday school and the first day of class begins at 9 a.m. on September 8. The Adult school begins on Monday, September 10 with a 20% adult tuition discount for our church members. Saturday tuition is \$220 and Adult full tuition is \$185. New student one-time registration fee is \$10. Church members with students enrolled in the Saturday classes are exempt from PTC dues.

For more information on the classes, visit the web page: www.sakuragakuen.org, or contact Masako Thomas at thomas@sakuragakuen.org (for adult class info) or Miki Wheeler at miki@sakuragakuen.org (for Saturday classes).

ELECTRONIC WASTE DONATIONS CAN BENEFIT LEGACY ENDOWMENT FUND RUTH SEO

The Legacy Endowment Fund (LEF) Board wishes to acknowledge the donations from the following individuals who designated their electronic waste pick-up to the Legacy Endowment Fund: **Jean Uda, Louie Watanabe, David Gellerman, Ann Yoshizuka and Brian Hatano.**

The LEF is working with eWASTE 4 GOOD, which has designated the Sacramento Buddhist Church Legacy Endowment Fund as a year-round fundraising beneficiary.

Perhaps you are like many of us who are holding on to old electronics because they still work but are woefully outdated. Here is a chance to clear out those unwanted or unused items for proper recycling and benefit the LEF in the process. Simply go to the following website — www.eWaste4good.com — and fill in your information and enter Sacramento Buddhist Church Legacy Endowment Fund as the beneficiary. A dispatcher will call you to schedule an at home or office pick-up date. Your electronics will be picked up and recycled, and the proceeds will come to LEF. You can also call eWaste4good at (800) 317-3112. Please see the accompanying flyer for examples of acceptable items.

According to Glenn Takeda, director of eWaste4Good and a church member who helped the Rummage Sale committee with proper disposal of unsold electronic items, acceptable items are those which plug into an electrical outlet or can run on batteries. The items do not have to be in working order.

**ELECTRONIC
WASTE
DONATIONS**
(CONTINUED)

As the LEFB decided to take a break from the rummage sale in 2013, recycling through the eWaste4good program will provide a way to continue with your cleaning program. Thank you for your continued support. If you have questions, email me at rseo@att.net.



Free E-Waste Pickup Fundraiser
Please Help Support

Sacramento Betsuin Legacy Endowment Fund

All you have to do is go to the following website:

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Fill in your information and enter our organization as the beneficiary. Within a few days a dispatcher will call you to schedule an at home or office pickup date. Then, your electronics will be picked up, recycled and the proceeds will be sent to our organization. You can also call eWaste4good at 800-317-3112

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Helping Us!!**



**Thank You for
Helping Us!!**

Items we pickup, working or not:

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Vacuum Cleaners

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Computers
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Stereo Systems
Medical Equipment
Power Tools
Small Appliances

Networking Equipment
Keyboards
Mice
Misc Wires and Cords
Speakers
And Much More!

**LEGACY
ENDOWMENT
FUND**
SANDY SUMIDA
TOKUNAGA

おかげさま

“If I didn’t DO this, I would regret this for the rest of my life.”

—Keith Kato, Minister Assistant in Training

The Legacy Endowment Fund Board (LEFB) supports many programs within the Betsuin. One of the most impactful is the Minister Assistant Training Program with Keith Kato being a recent beneficiary. Below are excerpts from an interview with Keith about beginning this journey on the eve of his retirement from state service. It starts with an idea, a question that is then recognized as an opportunity:

Q: What brought you to the decision to pursue training?

KK: Reverend Patti asked me if I was interested in being part of the Minister Assistant (MA) program. I thought she was pulling my leg and said I would think about it to appease her. After a few months, she asked again. Then Reverend Bob came up to me and asked if I was ready to join the MA group. They were serious! There are pivotal moments that can clearly define a person and I felt that this was one of those moments. So far, I have no regrets being part of a “fantastic” group of caring people: Reverends Bob, Peter, Patti, Tim, Carol and Senseis Grace, Koichi and Kelvin.

Q: How has LEFB supported your pursuit?

KK: LEFB was gracious enough to pay the tuition for the two-year online Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course that covers General Buddhism (origin, teachings and development of Buddhism AND the spread of Buddhism from Asia to America), Shinshu (Shiran Shonin’s life, Jodo Shinshu teachings, Three Pure Land Sutras and the Seven Masters), and the history of Jodo Shinshu. All the feedback has been informative and is adding to my knowledge of Buddhism. This has been a pleasurable experience.

Q: What duties have you performed for the Betsuin/temple(s)?

KK: I have been attending monthly sessions with the MA group, learning how to prepare the onaijin (staging area of the hondo), including walking through the onaijin, lighting candles, placing incense into the incense burner and properly walking and bowing before Amida Buddha, Shinran Shonin, Rennyo Shonin, the Seven Masters and Prince Shotoku Taishi.

I have accompanied the reverends and senseis to perform gravesite ceremonies. The Memorial Day service at the temple Nokotsudo was a memorable and moving day for me.



Keith Kato (center) is certified as a BCA minister assistant during the obon service.

During the Youth Advocacy Committee Retreat (YAC, also a beneficiary of the LEFB) at our church, I was amazed at the energy and eagerness of these select 16 kids to be part of the YAC experience. They learned to give and gave admirable Dharma talks, chanted Shoshinge and Juseige and learned to ring the Kansho bell.

During the fall, I will be going to Placer Buddhist Church to help conduct services and possibly give Dharma talks.

Q: What is the final goal?

KK: As I journey down this path of a minister assistant and for the remaining years of my life, I want to live a life of Nembutsu...a life of gratitude. In living the life of Nembutsu, I want to appreciate what life has to offer (i.e., family, friends and people in general) and grow individually as a person. I hope to help others if they seek refuge in Shin Buddhism. BOTTOM LINE...I want to achieve “inner peace” within myself.

Q: How would you define enlightenment for our younger sangha?

KK: I think enlightenment is different for everyone. I hope to achieve enlightenment one day, but who knows. I can only live my life. I do believe that enlightenment does exist for some of us when we are at church. There is a “special” feeling we have when we step on the temple grounds and participate in the temple’s activities.

As for the younger sangha, I would only say to live in the present, make each moment count, and be more conscious of and grateful to the people who have

**LEGACY
ENDOWMENT
FUND**
(CONTINUED)

and will help you along the way... especially your parents and grandparents. AGAIN THE BOTTOM LINE... be a model citizen and a decent human being.

Thank you to Keith for taking the time to share your journey. We look forward to seeing you on the onaijin leading us in a sutra.

The LEFB is supported by our sangha's generous donations. These donations, large and small, become life-changing opportunities that benefit the recipient, the temple and the sangha at large.

**BAZAAR
RECAP**
SHERMAN IIDA



A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to all who helped with this year's Bazaar! I am humbled by the level of dedication that is exhibited year after year by our Sangha members and friends toward making our Bazaar one of the major cultural events in the greater Sacramento area.

This year, as you undoubtedly know, we had the challenge of trying our best to overcome the hottest weekend of the year. Knowing in advance that the heat was coming, we anticipated a dip in gross revenue and it came true. However, due to all your efforts, including a last-minute call to try to open at 11 a.m. instead of noon to accommodate cooler temperatures for our patrons, we came in about 11 percent under last year's total revenue, which was one of our best years ever, so I am extremely pleased with the results. You should all be very proud!

Some of the things of which you may or may not have been aware: We had close to 20 incidents EACH DAY of people needing first aid, primarily due to the heat. Fortunately, we have a top-notch first aid crew and they were able to provide great aid and comfort for the patrons who needed it.

We had a great early turnout of people willing to help clean up and put things away on Monday, which meant we were for all intents finished by 4 p.m. The reason we were able to complete things so quickly on Monday: Several individuals stayed after the Bazaar closed on Sunday night and unscrewed everything that was bolted down. Thank you all for your going above and beyond! As usual, the cleanup crew was more than adequately fed by Reiko, Gladys and dedicated help. The featured evening meal was roast pork, a favorite of RB's, and I personally witnessed him packing it away with a grateful smile on his face.

In case you didn't notice, we had GREAT media coverage for our event this year, both print and TV. I believe that it helped draw out people who otherwise might have stayed home to avoid the heat. I do know that we have a very loyal "fan" base that will come out no matter what the weather brings.

Once again, my humblest thanks to all of you who helped out this year in whatever capacity and know that every volunteer hour helps make the Bazaar a continuing success story.

In gassho.

**BAZAAR
SCHEDULING**
JENNIFER NITTA

Have you ever wondered how manpower is scheduled for the Bazaar? It's a complicated process that takes several representatives from multiple organizations many hours to coordinate. Our goal in this process is to schedule families at times when they can come to the Bazaar at the same time, review each person's schedules so that they do not overlap with their other commitments, and we take into consideration things like family vacations, soccer games, starting school the Monday following Bazaar, and other outside personal obligations (when you let your representative know ahead of time).

Booths like Teriyaki Sandwich, Curry, Tempura, Teriyaki Chicken, Dharma School and Outdoor Sushi recruit a large part of their own workforce needed for the weekend. However, each year the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts and Sports Committee are assigned specific duties/shifts and are required to delegate their Scouts/Players/Parents to fill these shifts. This is how scheduling works:

- 1 Girl Scouts sets their schedule for filling shifts in the Indoor Pastry, Teriyaki Sandwich and Plant Booths along with assigning dads to fill two shifts in the teriyaki chicken BBQ pits.
- 2 Next, the Girl Scout schedule along with the Girl Scout rosters is passed along to **Julie Wu (Boy Scout Representative)**. She schedules the Boy Scouts

BAZAAR SCHEDULING
(CONTINUED)

and Parents to work Indoor Bussing, Teriyaki Chicken and Indoor Games (not to mention that the Boy Scouts and parents have extra duties the Thursday and Friday evenings before Bazaar). Any extra parents are then put in contact with Fujinkai to assist with their shifts. Julie refers to the Girl Scout and pre-set Dharma School schedules as well as taking into account special considerations previously listed — especially for those who start school in August.

3. Next, the Girl Scout and Boy Scout schedules are passed along to **Kim Sakata (Cub Scout and Sports Representative)**. She takes into consideration both Scout schedules before scheduling her Cub Scouts and parents to their shifts so that, again, shifts don't overlap with other obligations AND families can come together to the Bazaar. Any extra parents are assigned to work with Outdoor Sushi, Fujinkai, and any other booths that have indicated they need help filling shifts.
4. Lastly after everyone associated with Scouts receives their schedules, the Sports Committee assigns the Games/Sanitation schedule. By this time, parents know what their other schedules are and can then choose a time/date for their players to work in the game booths. Also, Kim will schedule the B/C Boys and their dads to their Sanitation shifts — Thank them when you see them dragging out bags of garbage. — This is a tough job.

So when you ask, “**Why do the Scout/Sports schedules come out so late?**” — now you know why. Julie and Kim put a lot of time, effort and coordination into scheduling to make your family's Bazaar schedule as effortless as possible. In the past, **Barbara Sasaki** has also been an integral part of this process. When you see these three at church, please be sure to thank them. We might end up with a few overlapping schedules, but without their dedication and commitment, families would be scrambling to trade and juggle their work shifts. Thank you, Julie, Kim and Barb!

SAVE THE DATES

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2012
2 P.M.

“MY LIFE IS NOT ONLY MY LIFE”

REV. KOSHIN OGUI
(FORMER BCA SOCHO)
WHITE RIVER BUDDHIST TEMPLE



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2012
7 P.M.

“SUPPORT FOR THE CAREGIVERS”



FRANCES KAKUGAWA AND DR. SATSUKI INA

Sign up in the Temple Office
Any questions, please contact Rev. Patti Oshita
revpattibetsuin@gmail.com

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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.

**2012 YAC
SUMMER
RETREAT**
ROYCE KURAHARA



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Dharma School	Ken Furukawa
Girl Scouts	Samantha Nitta
Boy Scouts	Jason Otow
Cub Scouts	Glen Kumamoto
Sakura Gakuen	Masako Thomas John McDonnell
Sports Cmte	Alan Wu

I have known this temple for as long as I can remember. I have grown up walking through the two grand wooden doors leading into the Hondo, and I have chanted the Junirai countless times. I have spent countless hours in the Kaikan, and I know the ins and outs of the church office. I've run into, up and around both kitchens a thousand times, and I have walked the stairs to the annex classrooms over and over. I know practically every member of Team Betsuin, as well as the office staff and kitchen crew. I know this place. I know the Sacramento Betsuin.

Or at least I thought I did.

This past mid-July, the 8th annual YAC retreat was held at the Betsuin, and I was fortunate enough to be selected as one of the 16 participants. Walking in on the first day, I was both excited and nervous. Yes, I have known the Betsuin my entire life, but the idea of meeting completely new people and participating in the week-long retreat had me on edge. I had never been totally away from home for so long. As I walked into the temple grounds, everything around me seemed so familiar, yet at the same time contained a different and even electrifying aura. I unloaded my gear in the annex classrooms upstairs, and then walked into the room next door which happened to be full with the other 15 participants. As expected, the first couple hours were a tad bit awkward. I quickly realized that all of us were pretty spaced out in terms of where we lived. We had participants from Arizona, Washington and even Oregon, in addition to fellow Californians from the Bay Area and Southern California. All of us lived so far apart, yet here we were, about to embark on what would turn out to be one of the best weeks in all of our lives.

As expected, daily services were a part of the YAC routine. At first glance, I thought the four-services-a-day schedule was going a little overboard, but it turned out to be just the right number. The 16 of us were split into two Tobans, or teams, with eight participants each. From there, the two teams took turns chairing services. In my opinion, this was the area from which I learned the most. With Team Betsuin's help every step of the way, all of us were able to become knowledgeable and familiar with the onaijin etiquette, how to lead a service as Chosho, and many other essential rules that are required when you step in the altar area. Before, during and after services, we were given strenuous amounts of constructive criticism, whether it was on our entries and exits or on the deliveries of our hand-crafted Dharma talks. Not only did we have services to run, but we also had several guest speakers over the week-long schedule. We had lectures about the life and history of Shinran Shonin by Reverend Ryuta Furumoto from the San Mateo Buddhist Temple, to the deep and complex dimension that exists in what we call the Nembutsu. We also had a "Buddha bus trip" to the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley, as well as the BCA headquarters at the San Francisco Buddhist Temple. There we met Bishop Kodo Umezu and Reverend Ron Kobata.

Not only did we learn a lot about the Dharma path and Buddhism itself, but also about ourselves and each other. As we went through the week, our YAC 8 group meshed in ways I have never bonded with people before. Here we were just meeting each other, yet getting along so well. What made it so much more satisfying was the idea that everyone was being "real" with each other — nobody was trying to front. We really had so many different personalities. We had Declan, who really only could be described by being "The Declan." We had Rosie, perhaps the funniest person I've ever met in my life. We had Mallory, who fainted on the first day! We had Darren, the Mini-me Reverend Bob/Jr. Minister-to-be. We had Anna, who kept saying I looked just like her brother. We had Jen, the confident leader and photo-bomber. We had Alissa, one of the strongest individuals I have ever met. We had Sydney, the super easy-going homie. We had Kelsey, the opera singer. We had NaOmi, the true essence of nature and the wind. We had Kallie, the sneaky prankster. We had Erin, the "tell it like it is" girl/silent assassin. We had Kevin, the Klamshell, who just needed to be pried open a bit to reveal the pearl inside. We had Haley, the quiet but inspired intellectual. We had Kaylin, the energetic fireball of fury who always kept the conversations flowing. And somewhere on the middle of this we had me, Royce, you know... Reiko's grandson.

This group of 16 made up YAC 8. Despite our different personalities, we quickly found ourselves to be united as one. We were "YAC 8-finity," 16 strong. We all had found a group of people who we could call friends forever. I found myself laughing at every turn, and I must have been sprawled out on the floor drowned in laughter at almost every opportunity. Even though I didn't get much sleep, I actually didn't want it. Sleeping would just be time away from hanging out with everyone else and creating unforgettable memories together. I really want to thank each and every one of them for an amazing and unforgettable experience. I will miss you all dearly.

**2012 YAC
SUMMER
RETREAT
(CONTINUED)**

This was easily one of the best weeks in my life. Not only did my love grow for every participant, but for the entire Betsuin as well. At first I had been a bit skeptical about going to the week-long retreat, but looking back, I am so thankful I did. Although I have been attending this temple forever, I found myself looking at it in so many different eye-opening ways. The bonds I share with this temple and all of its caretakers have grown to an unprecedented amount, and hopefully later in life I can play a larger part in ensuring the successful future of the Sacramento temple.

Reflecting on this past week, we (YAC 8) would like to take this time to thank each and every one of the individuals who played a part in making YAC 8 happen. We want to thank Team Betsuin — Rinban Bob, Reverend Patti, Reverend Peter, Reverend Tim, Reverend Carol, Sensei Grace, Sensei Koichi, Sensei Kelvin, Sensei Keith Kato, and all our other guest speakers. Thank you so much for all your encouragement and constructive criticism. Because of you, we are now able to continue taking future steps in the name of the Buddha. We would like to thank the YAC committee, Keith Sawada and Jim Shimomaye for taking all the photographs, as well as the Breakfast/Lunch “Dynamic Duo,” Susan Bottari and Charlene Grinolds, as we like to call them, as well as any other committee member who played a part in this experience. We would like to thank the Dinner Crew — Reiko, Gladys, Sam, Rachel, Mike, Aki, Robert, Bill, Sachiko — for all the wonderful meals. All the food made us fatter, so thanks a lot! Finally, we would like to give a special thank you to Koichi, our teen discussion leader. His personality, aura and character is unmatched, and we couldn’t have asked for a better leader. On a personal level, you are not only a true role model, but a friend, and most importantly, a father figure in my life. Thank you so much. We can only imagine how much of a sacrifice each and every one of you made for us this week, and we really want to express our gratitude on behalf of the YAC 8 participants. Not only were temple operations practically shut down, but all of you were constantly with us for the majority of the days, helping us on the Dharma Path every step of the way. We couldn’t have done it without you.

We left this retreat not only as better students in the teachings of the Buddha, but as better human beings. The ideas and concepts of camaraderie, friendship and love were truly instilled into our hearts because of this YAC experience, and we all look forward to making everyone proud in the future to come. I hope to keep in touch with all the participants and staff, and I know we are all looking forward to the reunion retreat! No words can describe how grateful I am for this wonderful experience. Good luck to each and every one of you in the future, and let us continue living out our lives with our Dharma eyes open. See you soon!

Love,
Royce Kurahara

On behalf of Declan Morita, Rosie Yasukochi, Mallory Shiroyama, Jennifer Adachi, Haley Sawamura, Alissa Kato, Anna Norimoto, Sydney Chisholm, Kelsey Ishimatsu-Jacobson, NaOmi Furukawa, Darren Kawasaki, Kevin Yoshimoto, Kaylin Gilbert, Erin Tanaka, Kallie Ochiai

**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.

- Frank Hirota for making arrangements with Home Depot to add badly needed insulation to Reverend Peter’s attic. Not only will it be more comfortable for R.P. and Aileen, it will also save on energy.
- Did you notice that the pesky pigeon poopers are no longer living in our yagura? A local pest control company gave us a bid of \$1,200 to discourage the birds from nesting there. However, thanks to the help of Gordon Nitta, Mike Dishno, Minh La and Gary Traganza, plus \$55 worth of netting and a few hours of work, the problem is solved—no more pigeons.
- Gordon Nitta and Gary Traganza securely attached the two griddles to their carts. Before, the heavy griddles simply sat on the carts and would slide around. If one ever slid off, it could seriously injure someone. Also the gas regulators were rerouted behind and below the griddles so it will no longer be necessary to take them off to get the carts through the doors.

**DHARMA
SCHOOL**
KEN FURUKAWA



Welcome to September! August was hot, and fun, and centered upon Bazaar. I hope that you and your family enjoyed the event despite the heat! I want to thank the parents, volunteers, students and our ministers who bussed tables for the outdoor eating area for several hours! It was hot, sweaty, greasy, smelly and really busy at times. It bothered me that many people left big messes, and just got up and left, expecting someone else to clean it up. But despite all of that, everyone had a good attitude.

Well almost everyone... I wanted to leave early, stay in cool places (and I did for short periods), hang with friends, leave the trays and their fates to others, and just sit down and monk. Then just when I was thinking that I'd had enough (at least a few times) I saw one of the students or a parent smiling as they cleared away a messy tray with spilled food, beer and melted snowcone. Oh, they were hot, sweaty and getting smelly too, but at least at that moment they showed me that it really wasn't that bad. Maybe they had a better attitude, or heard a good joke, or got a nice compliment, but their example made me feel better about what I was doing. I don't know if this is an example of Right Action, Right View, or both, but at those moments everything was just BETTER. Those moments sustained me throughout the Bazaar, even during clean-up late into the night on Sunday, when the high school students and recent graduates who stayed to help really turned it on! Thank you all for your help and your examples.

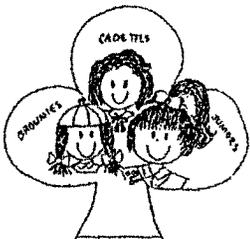
Dharma School registration will be in the Kaikan after service Sunday September 9! This will be open registration again. There will be forms requiring parent names, addresses, cell phone numbers, email addresses and signatures. Among them will be a behavior contract, and emergency notification forms. Can you find last year's wallet photos of your children? One of those would be great for the emergency notification forms!

Teachers are still wanted for 4th grade, 5th grade and 8th grade! We are looking for any interested adults to try it out. If you think you would like to see what it is all about, speak to Rinban Bob or Reverend Peter, or me of course! Parents of children in these classes will likely be required to help with lessons and general classroom support. Further notifications may be forthcoming by email, phone calls or at registration.

Attention, incoming 9th through 12th grade students! Are you interested in being a teacher assistant? If you are, then talk to me or Ms. Valerie Fong, and send either one of us an email (mine is kfuruk@aol.com) or letter telling why you want to be a TA and why you think you are a good candidate.

Welcome to Dharma School 2012-2013!

**GIRL SCOUT
TROOP 569**
SAMANTHA NITTA



Girl Scout Troop 569 participated in different activities around the church's Bazaar this year. Thank you to all the girls and parents who came out to help.

Seniors 4 had a wonderful weekend trip to Northstar in August. The weekend was highlighted with horseback riding, paddle-boarding, wake-boarding and bunko! The girls planned and cooked all the delicious meals. Big thank you to Uncle Kelvin and Auntie Cheryl for bringing their huge 12-seater van (more like a bus... Woohoo!) and their luxurious boat for wake-boarding. A good time was had by all.

Cadettes 6 is excited to start out the new Girl Scout year. We wanted to send out a special thank you to all the families who donated goods for the pastry booth, as well as our families who volunteered in different areas for the Bazaar in the heat this year. After finishing our first journey, AMAZE!, last year, the girls will start on our new journey, MEdia, this year. Some of our girls are choosing to start their Silver Award projects also, but more on that later!

Cadettes 5 had a busy summer! We had our first annual weekend camping trip to Henry Cowell State Park near Santa Cruz where we enjoyed hiking, cooking outdoors, pitching a tent, campfires and s'mores! We took a break from the great outdoors and went to the Santa Cruz Beach and Boardwalk for some fun in the sun too. We completed the Breathe Journey by enrolling in a week-long day camp at UC Davis where we studied environmental science. We were also able to get a taste for college life by staying in the dorms overnight, eating in the college cafeteria and riding bikes on the campus! To get ourselves ready for back to school, we had a summer book club reading of *The Giver*. We are now focusing on preparing for our Silver Awards and look forward to getting the year started again in September.

**BOY SCOUT
TROOP 50**
JASON OTOW



July was a busy month for the scouts in Troop 50, full of outings and community service projects. At one of our troop meetings, we learned about car mechanics, such as how to change the oil in a car, how to change a tire, and other useful things we can do ourselves to keep a car running smoothly. We also set up the Obon tent for the Buddhist Church's annual Obon Odori. Assistant Scoutmaster Mr. Lowe took a group of boys on a five-day backpacking trip. Scouts helped with the Bazaar pullout, as well as helped with the construction of the many booths needed for the annual Buddhist Church Bazaar held in August.

More than 35 scouts went on a week-long houseboating trip at Bullard's Bar. The scouts worked on merit badges, went swimming, and had a great time cruising the lake. The ASMs who attended this outing were Mrs. Yee, Mr. Shebert, Dr. Mark, Mr. Fong, Mr. Kochi, and Mr. Tanaka. There were quite a number of scouts who went on this trip, and many of the younger scouts attended for the first time. Everyone had a good time, even the scouts who had attended this outing in previous years.

Some of our scouts also traveled to Matsuyama during July, which is the troop's sister city in Japan. This trip provides the scouts an opportunity to share cultures, ideas, goodwill and friendship on an international level.

**CUB SCOUT
PACK 50**
GLEN KUMAMOTO



Can you say... "HOT?!" That's what Pack 50 is! Even as we bake in the summer sun, Pack 50 has been on the move the past month. We started the summer with our summer time favorite... the Wackford Swimming event. This event is our Pack 50 and Troop 50 pool party. This year was as fun as always! The kids had a great afternoon of swimming and pizza. Thanks to Carolyn Murata, Jori Noguchi and Curtis Matsuura for chairing the event, great job!

We had our annual family summer camp out at beautiful Donner Lake. The weather was perfect! We had a great time with friends and family. Our scouts went on a beautiful wilderness hike that included a visit to the Donner Party Museum. The kids got a chance to learn a little history on the sacrifice that earlier generations had to endure in order to provide a better life for their families. We had awesome food, awesome fishing and great activities. I would like to thank the committee members that make this event so great — Glenn Noguchi, Jeff Crawford and a special shout out to the hardest-working guy I know... Minh La. Special thanks to Curtis Matsuura for towing the trailer and Marty Sakata for letting the Pack use his trailer and to Oto's Market for donating much of the food!

Speaking of HOT, Pack 50 scouts and parents were working hard at the SBC Bazaar. With temps well over 100 degrees, our scouts and parents soldiered on in the heat. From cooking chicken to serving hot dogs and walking around selling drinks, Pack 50 rolled up their sleeves and did their best to give back to our charter organization. Special thanks to Barb Sasaki and Kim Sakata for once again helping organize the hot dog booth. Without their efforts, I know we would not have been as successful.

Last but not least, I want to thank Steve Itagaki for taking on the role of Assistant Cubmaster. Steve will be taking over my role as Cubmaster next year... when you see him, please be sure to thank him!

Thank you to those who I may have left off this list. I know there are so many parents who do so much and go unrecognized. Thank you to all for making Pack 50 the best Pack around! Pack 50 ROCKS!

**SPORTS
COMMITTEE**
ALAN WU



Welcome to September and another new Dharma School year. We hope you had a great summer. A couple of famous poets once wrote: We've only just begun to live, White lace and promises, A kiss for luck and we're on our way, We've only begun... And yes, we've just begun. And yes, we've just begun to gear up for the new Dharma School year and new basketball season. So, this is your early warning system reminding you that basketball registration is here and happening in the courtyard the first two weeks of Dharma School this month. And also the first two weeks of Dharma School just happen to be extra credit days for attendance.

And as a reminder, everyone wanting to participate in the sports program MUST maintain an attendance record of 60% and higher, and these extra credit days come in very handy. There are only two additional extra credit days for the year, and they are the New Year's Eve and the New Year's Day services.

**SPORTS
COMMITTEE**
(CONTINUED)

These four extra credit days are a quick and easy way to bolster the attendance percentage, so please take advantage of them. That's what they are there for!

And as a reminder, attendance is based on a 12-month rolling calendar. The 12-month rolling calendar means that no matter what month it is today, the attendance records from the previous 12 months are used to calculate the attendance percentage. So, if Dharma School was skipped a lot last April and May, your attendance percentage may be on the low side now, and that is why the extra credit days can be very useful, if used wisely.

And as a reminder, as soon as you complete the basketball registration, you will be able to select your mochi-tsuki shift, so the early basketball birds get the mochi worms... and in this case the choice work shift for mochi-tsuki.

And as a reminder, we will also be out in the courtyard taking signups for our bowling league. Again, bowling is open to adults and the kids, and has been a fun non-competitive event for the whole family, unless you engage in unofficial non-sanctioned wagering; then it may get a little serious. Otherwise, a great time is had by all! Even though the signups are at the same time, the bowling league is scheduled before the basketball league begins, so there will be no conflict in schedules.

And as a final reminder, the Sports Committee would like to thank all our families for fulfilling their obligations to work their Bazaar shifts. This year we were challenged with 105-degree heat on Saturday and we were lucky enough to catch a break on Sunday, when the high was only 102 degrees, but you all persevered and braved the elements and helped make this year's Bazaar another great success in spite of the slightly warm... No, no, no, the wretchedly hot weekend. But we must be reminded that the last time we had a HOT Bazaar was more than 4 or 5 years ago, so we all knew that we were overdue; it was inevitable.

And as final final reminder, no one has claimed any of our fabulous prize packages for our "Find the Hidden Dharma Message Game."

