

**REVEREND
PETER'S
CORNER
REV. PETER
INOKOJI-KIM**



Welcome to December, the last month of 2013. This time of year, I'm always amazed at how fast time flies. I always ask myself... "Is time speeding up, because when I was a kid, life didn't seem to fly by that fast, and things during the holiday season didn't seem as hectic as they do now?" Although the Christmas holiday season may seem more hectic now compared to when I was younger, the Buddhist teachings that we are taught in our Jodo Shinshu tradition can help us ground ourselves to what is really of value during this "season of giving."

Starting in November, retailers bombard us with TV commercials, sales inserts in our newspapers, holiday sale displays in stores, and now I see a lot of people with Santa Claus or elf hats in front of strip malls holding, spinning and shaking wooden signs that point to their store. They jump and dance around in hopes of getting our attention to visit their store and buy holiday gifts since it's the "season of giving."

In Buddhism, we too have teachings about "giving," but not in the sense that corporate America and many businesses encourage us to do during this time of the year. In Buddhism, selfless giving is called "Dana." Dana is a Pali word and is the first of the Six Paramitas or practices to attain enlightenment.

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SANGHA

**SACRAMENTO BUDDHIST CHURCH
VOLUME 50 NUMBER 12 - DECEMBER 2013**

**SACRAMENTO
BETSUIN**
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**REVEREND
PETER'S
CORNER
(CONTINUED)**

Dana means giving with “no strings attached.” I was once taught that if someone gives something to a person and thinks ... “I just gave this person something,” then it is not Dana because the person may be placing a value judgment on the act of giving, or maybe the act of giving is somehow tied to the individual’s ego. True Dana or giving unselfishly to others is difficult, but each of us has the potential to perform Dana.

Dana does not just mean giving a material gift to someone. Dana can be the gift of a smile, encouraging words, or the gift of a special relationship that you have with someone. Therefore, Dana does not have to cost anything or have a monetary value.

The spiritual leader of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, who we call the Gomonshu Koshin Ohtani, wrote a book entitled, “*The Buddha’s Wish for the World.*”

The Gomonshu wrote about Dana and “The seven gifts that require no possessions” ... the gift of:

- Gentle eyes;
- A smile and kind expressions;
- Kind words;
- Treating others with respect;
- Touching others with a heart full of love;
- Offering others a place to sit and rest;
- Providing others with a warm place to stay.

Buddhism is encouraging us to see that during this “season of giving,” there is something deeper than giving or receiving a material gift such as a new computer game, a fancy TV, a new toy, expensive jewelry, or a new golf club. The gift of a sincere heart, kindness, comforting words, and other actions that require no money... is a priceless gift that will never become “outdated.” And if we are ever fortunate enough to receive such a gift, we naturally respond with Namu Amida Butsu... gratitude beyond words.

During this holiday season, enjoy your time with the people you love, take care of your health, your family, and your friends, and think about the meaning of true Dana if you feel overwhelmed by the “normal” activities and expectations during this special time of year.

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



GENERAL SBWA MEETING

The general meeting of the Sacramento Buddhist Women’s Association (SBWA) was held on Wednesday, November 6 at 7 p.m. for the purpose of voting in 10 Board members. The following ladies are the newly elected and returning members of the SBWA Board of Trustees, who will serve a new three-year term from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2016.

Congratulations and thank you, ladies, for continuing to serve as active SBWA Board members: Kathy Tanaka-Henry, Jane Komure, Marcia Matsuda, Loleen Nakano, Barbara Nakatomi, Joanne Nishimura, Beverly Tanaka, Betty Wilson, Sueko Yamashita, and Elaine Yoshikawa. Thank you for continuing to help make the SBWA an active organization of the Sacramento Betsuin!

SBWA REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING

The SBWA held its monthly board meeting on Wednesday, November 6, 2013.

DONATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

John & Mae Kaneko In Memory of Tokuyo Ogata \$50
Ken & Midori Ito In Memory of Don Matsuda \$25

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

- December 8, 2013 Noon: SBWA annual Tsuito Hoyo (memorial service) and installation of the 2014 cabinet officers beginning at noon in the Hondo. The guest speaker will be Reverend Yushi Mukojima.
- December 8, 2013: SBWA Bonenkai (year-end party), **following the service.** Raffle/door prize donations are greatly appreciated. Please bring them to the Kaikan on the morning of December 8 and please sign the donation sheet.
- April 19, 2014: Northern California Buddhist Conference in Stockton, California — open to families — and friends.
- October 10–12, 2014: Federation of Buddhist Women’s Associations (FBWA) Conference in Irvine, California
- May 29–31, 2015: World FBWA Conference in Calgary

Our next SBWA meeting will be on December 4, 2013, at 7 p.m.

MINISTER ASSISTANTS
 MICHIKO YUKAWA

Ahh, here we are welcoming the month of December, the last month of 2013... the end of another year. The "end" sounds very final. When I look out the window, I see that after working very hard to put especially vivid and brilliant colors on the tree leaves this fall, Mother Earth is taking time to rest and rejuvenate for spring and a new growing season, a new beginning. The "end" then actually marks the "beginning" of something new.

For many of us however, unlike Mother Earth, the end of the year marks the beginning of the busy holiday season! In this technology-ridden world today, we are inundated by a world of multi-tasking. We feel the need to be well organized so that we can make the best use of our time. It seems we are constantly hurrying to get so much done.

Some years ago, Reverend Marvin Harada, if my failing memory serves me correctly, wrote in the *Wheel of Dharma* about an elderly man who stood on the sidewalk in front of his home, waving to passing drivers every morning. As Reverend Marvin drove past the man on his way to attend classes at the Institute of Buddhist Studies, he noticed other drivers smiling and shaking their heads in disbelief at this seemingly "crazy" behavior. But as Sensei continued to drive by every morning, he was surprised to find himself not only looking forward to seeing this man, but doing so brought a happy smile to Sensei's own face.

Reverend Yukawa remembers a brightly clothed gentleman who directed cars leaving the parking garage at the busy and crowded San Francisco International Airport many years ago. With a beaming face and a loud, "Have a nice day!" he moved, or rather danced around and, waving his arms, kept the traffic moving evenly and smoothly... and the drivers smiled as they drove out.

There is a Buddhist saying, "*Ichi gu wo terasu*," or "Brighten one corner." Sheltered by a bushy fence, a tiny, yellow flower blooms brightly by our home though everything else around it has turned brown and bare. Across the street from our home, one of the maple trees lining the sidewalk succumbed to harsh winds a few years ago, causing the tree trunk to break near the bottom. Since it did not bloom the following spring, we thought the tree had died. Then last spring, it began to send out shoots from the base of the tree and resembled a large shrub. This past spring, the shoots became six- to eight-foot branches and the "shrub" became a large treetop with a very, very short trunk. And in October, the branches were covered with the most vivid red, orange and yellow leaves of all the trees on the street.

Ichi gu wo terasu. Our Dharma teachers remind us that even a small candle can brighten and bring warmth to a dark room. Then, by sharing its light with other candles, there is no limit to the brightness and warmth this small candle can bring.

As the days become busier, as we try to multi-task even more, let's take time to rest and rejuvenate by, as Reverend Patti wrote last month, "coming to the temple and listening to the Dharma with open and pure hearts and minds." As the new year approaches and we make our resolutions, rather than multi-task our list, perhaps we need only to remember "*Ichi gu wo terasu*." Then all else will naturally follow.

Namo amida butsu.

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

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.

PET MEMORIAL PHOTOS

Did you drop off a favorite photo of your pet for our Pet Memorial Service last month? If so, we still have quite a few in the office. If you would like yours back, please stop by to claim it!

LOST AND FOUND

Have you been missing a special treasure (An iPod? A gold character necklace? Pokemon cards?)? How about car keys or a water bottle? Maybe a hat or some glasses? A special journal with photos? **You would be amazed at the lost and found items we have in the office!** Please call or come by to see if any of your special items have found their way to our L & F box. Anything still here in January will be donated.

ANY ADDRESS CHANGES?

This standing reminder appears each month in the SANGHA and we appreciate those of you who have been informing us of changes to your mailing address. However, most of our notifications are still coming from the U.S. Postal Service which, in turn, costs the Betsuin return postage fees. If you have moved, or are planning to do so in the near future, please pass that information along to us so that we can make the correction in our membership database.

**CHOIR
FESTIVAL
COMING TO
SACRAMENTO**



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428-9833



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446-4988

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**VOLUNTEER
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Miyoko Iwata
Mae Kaneko
Alice Kataoka
Machiko Kimura
Yoshiko Morisawa
Mitzie Muramoto
Mutsuko Noguchi
Faye Uyemura

The Choir Festival is coming to our Betsuin! The members of the Choir are excitedly planning for the June 21, 2014 event for six participating temple choirs — Fresno, Mountain View, Palo Alto, San Francisco, San Jose, and of course, Sacramento — and to have their beautiful music resonate through our temple.

The Choir expresses its heartfelt thank you to our ministers, minister assistants, executive board, Buddhist Women’s Association, Legacy Endowment Committee, and our Choir Fan Club for their untiring support and guidance.

We would especially like to acknowledge the generous donation from the Legacy Endowment Committee to make it financially possible to host this event in Sacramento. The Choir is looking forward to hosting a fun-filled day of music and friendship.

We would also like to recognize our other donors:

Nancy & Dennis Hashimoto	Barbara Nakatomi & Jim Perna
Minnie Iseri	Myra Okasaki
Stephen & Jean Kashiwada	Miwako Yamashiro (Placer temple)

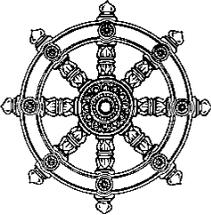
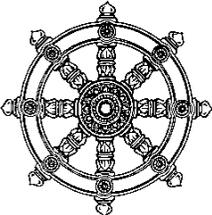
And — we are thrilled to welcome five new gentlemen singers who have brought much warmth and depth to our sound with their beautiful voices:
George Dressler George Kashiwagi Harry Noguchi
Marc Ely John Koyama

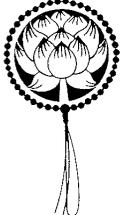
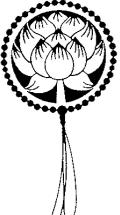
If you’re interested in singing and making new friends, please join the Choir. We practice most Sundays after Dharma Service in the classroom in the annex building. Just listen, and you’ll find us!

BGT
BUDDHISTS GOT TALENT

2013 SACRAMENTO BETSUIN
TALENT SHOW - KAIKAN

SATURDAY, DEC. 7, 2013
6:00 P.M.

 *Welcome New Members* 
Karen Goding

 *Condolences to
the Families of:* 

Fumiko Maki June 19, 1931 – September 30, 2013
Barbara Takai December 7, 1926 – October 1, 2013
June Haruyo Kitade June 25, 1919 – October 6, 2013
Debra Nagai Bell June 11, 1957 – November 2, 2013
Asa Shintaku October 6, 1925 – November 11, 2013
Mitsuye Mori January 26, 1916 – November 18, 2013
George Takimoto August 25, 1924 – November 18, 2013

**CUB SCOUT
PACK 50**

STEVE ITAGAKI



It has been a festive fall season for Cub Scout Pack 50. At the beginning of the Cub Scout year, the Pack held its kickoff campfire on the grounds of the Walnut Grove Buddhist Church Japanese School. The scouts gathered around a bonfire to welcome new friends to the scouting trial and get fired up for all the new adventures that were on the way.

We joined up with the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts to put on a fright-filled Halloween party.

And as the holidays drew near, we held our end-of-the-year celebration where the boys received the awards for all of their achievements, prepared and donated care packages to the women and children at My Sister's House, and then got an early visit from Santa Claus!

We want to say thank you to the Betsuin, the sangha and everyone else who came out to eat at our annual pancake breakfast in October. It was a delicious success! The breakfast is our only fundraiser for the year and it will pay for all the activities and awards.

Thank you all for continuing to support our boys and our efforts to keep up this wonderful program. We could not do it without you!

We also want to give a special shout out to the event's donors: Nor Cal Produce (Gene Morisaki), Holsum Produce (Jacque Yokoi), Calvada Foods (Don Lee), Oto's Marketplace (Russell Oto), Ron Nakano, Roger Ikemoto, Reiko Kurahara, Sam and Gladys Adachi, and Cindy Kitade. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

**TROOP 50
CRAB FEED:
JANUARY 18**


Hello members: Troop 50's annual crab feed will be held on Saturday, January 18, 2014 at the Buddhist Church Kaikan. Seating will begin at 4:30 p.m. and dinner will be served promptly at 5:30 p.m.

You may request tickets from the Buddhist Church office or speak to any Troop 50 boy scout, who would happily sell you a ticket. The tickets are \$45.

Dinner includes all-you-can-eat salad, bread, savory pasta, Dungeness crab and dessert.

You may also place a "to go" order and dinner will be packaged for you to take out. Checks can be made payable to "Boy Scouts Troop 50."

If you need further information, please contact Kay Fong at 429-9683. Thank you for all your support.

**SPORTS
COMMITTEE**

ALAN WU



December, December, December, good golly Miss Molly! Is it already December, the last month of 2013? It IS December already... can you believe what you are smelling? The smells of another year coming to an end; yes, that smell. Well, are we having fun yet? Well, if you wanted to have fun in 2013, you had better hurry up and get busy, because before you can say "happy new year," it will be Happy New Year 2014. Well, it needs to be said that time flies when you're having fun and being that it IS December already, that must mean we must be having fun, so stick a fork in it, it's done!

Well, it needs to be said that our fun is just about to begin with the Northern California Church League (NCCL) games commencing on December 1 for the D, C, and B Divisions and December 7 for E Division. So, just to be clear, E Division games will begin on Saturday, December 7, and the other divisions begin on Sunday, December 1. The final final schedule should be out by now, so consult your team mom or your coach for the time and place for your games.

Yes, it is very odd to begin the games on Thanksgiving weekend, but due to the alignment of the stars, the moon, and current Gregorian calendar, Thanksgiving this year is rather late, and we need to complete our league before the tournament season gets underway in March 2014. So there is some method to this madness. After all, the NCCL has been doing this basketball league for something close to 45 years now.

Well, it needs to be said again that there is an attendance requirement to participate in our basketball program. All players are required to attend Dharma School and Service no less than 60% of the time. All families agreed to this requirement at registration, so this should not come as a surprise to anyone. What may be a surprise is that as of October 2013, there are eight

SPORTS COMMITTEE
(CONTINUED)

players who are in the danger zone and have an attendance percentage in the 60s; and there are two players who are below 60% and therefore are ineligible to play games.

So please check with your coach, team mom, or division coordinator to make sure your player is not one of these special 10 players. Players below 60% attendance are "benched" until the overall attendance is above 60% once again.

Well, it needs to be said that our annual mochi tsuki is on December 14 this year, and everyone should have their work shift already inked in on the calendar. Did you order your mochi? Mochi tsuki comes around only once a year, so order plenty! There is an order form in this SANGHA. Clip it out and get your orders in by December 8!

Well, it needs to be said that even though the basketball league is a big part of the SBC Sports Program, it is NOT the only activity we offer. Currently, our bowling league is going on at the AMF Land Park Bowl on Freeport Boulevard at 1 p.m. on Sundays. It is an excellent way to relax while knocking the paint off the pins for personal satisfaction.

Our league is noncompetitive and anyone of any age can come out and join us on any given Sunday. Of course, if you choose to go head to head against your comrade, then that is up to you. The SBC Sports Program will disavow any knowledge of any type of wagering that may or may not exist!

Well, it needs to be said that new for this year, 2014, we will be offering a hula session, where anyone who has the interest in learning the hula can come out and learn the hula. The signup sheet is on the hallway bulletin board near the office. AND we were just informed that in addition to the hula, ukulele instruction will also be available for anyone interested in learning the ukulele. Please use the same signup sheet to express your interest in the hula or the ukulele, or both.

Well, it needs to be said that we are NOT just a pretty basketball face!

Well, it needs to be said again by borrowing the words of Reverend Bob... Enjoy the holiday season thoroughly! See you next year!



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Sports Cmte Alan Wu

SACRAMENTO BETSUIN SPORTS COMMITTEE

MOCHI TSUKI

Pick Up:
Saturday, December 14, 2013, 11:30-2:00 pm
or Sunday, December 15, 2013, 9:00-11:00 am

Where: Sacramento Buddhist Church Kaikan
Deadline for Orders: December 8, 2013
Cost: \$4/pound or \$6/Kasane Set

Please submit orders and make checks payable to:
 Sacramento Betsuin Sports Committee
 c/o Sacramento Buddhist Church
 2401 Riverside Blvd.
 Sacramento, CA 95818

MOCHI ORDER

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

E-mail _____

Lb(s) _____ Kasane Set(s) _____

Total Cost \$ _____ Cash Check # _____

Pick Up: Saturday Sunday