



**H**ello... And welcome to the month of May. This month we observe our annual Gotan-e Service. Gotan-e is our celebration of the birth of Shinran Shonin in 1173.

Shinran emphasized what we call the Nembutsu teaching. This is the expression we often hear in our temple, people quietly reciting "Namo Amida Butsu." "Namo Amida Butsu" is considered the very essence of Buddhism.

So what is "Namo Amida Butsu?" And how is Nembutsu the heart of Buddhism? Sometimes I define Nembutsu (Namo Amida Butsu) as: "That level of gratitude where the words 'thank you' are not enough." When was the last time we felt so grateful that words could not express our appreciation?

In Buddhism, one of the most essential teachings is to understand the reality that everything is impermanent; everything is constantly changing. It is to know that absolutely nothing can last forever. When we apply this essential teaching to our lives, we realize again that this moment we are living will never come again. A true dharma wonderment might be, "In our lifetimes, how many months of May will be ours to enjoy? How many more? Ten? Twenty? Thirty?"

However many, we know that number is limited. Realizing the momentary  
**(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)**

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# SANGHA

**SACRAMENTO BUDDHIST CHURCH**  
**VOLUME 50 NUMBER 5 - MAY 2013**

**SACRAMENTO**  
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## RB'S CORNER (CONTINUED)

nature of life opens our dharma eyes to see that we must make the most of each and every day.

Realizing that the number of winters, springs, summers and autumns we will know are limited, opens our dharma eyes to see that we must live not taking for granted the love of family, the companionship of friends... and the gift of each day.

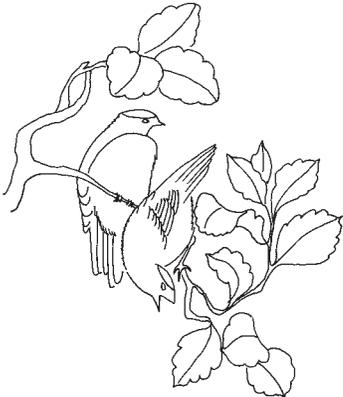
With such reflection on the reality of impermanence, we remember again to try to live with our wisdom eyes/our dharma eyes open. And when we live with our dharma eyes open to the reality of impermanence, we also begin to nurture a deepening sense of appreciation for the moments we are living... and the people whose lives are interwoven with our own.

In our tradition, Namo Amida Butsu is that timeless expression that captures a sense of gratitude beyond words. Knowing that each day is precious beyond value, let us try to live each day with gratitude beyond words.

This month, on Sunday, May 19, 2013, we celebrate the birth of Shinran Shonin, the founder of our Jodo Shinshu – Nembutsu tradition. Please come out and welcome our special guest speaker, Reverend Tetsuo Unno. As a part of our continuing “Visionary Programs” development, Reverend Unno will also be giving a special lecture here at the Betsuin on Saturday, May 18, 2013, at 2 p.m.

His Saturday dharma presentation has an intriguing title: “Shin Buddhism: Moving from Unhappiness to Happiness... to Salvation.” Let’s all come out that Gotan-e weekend and welcome Reverend Tets back to the Betsuin.

## SACRAMENTO BUDDHIST WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION KEIKO JEAN KASHIWADA



The April SBWA Board meeting was held on Wednesday, April 3, with President Midori Ito presiding.

### DONATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Minoru Akiyoshi .....	In Appreciation .....	\$250
Janet Matsumoto .....	Special Appreciation .....	\$50
Hideko Sakazaki .....	In Memory of Frances Kondo .....	\$50
Sharon & Ted Yoshimura .....	Birth of 1st Granddaughter- Ciara Kanaye .....	\$50
Hiroko Shimizu .....	In Appreciation .....	\$40
Janet Matsumoto .....	In Memory of Frances Kondo .....	\$30
Rachel Nagai .....	In Appreciation .....	\$20
Gary & Jane Komura .....	In Memory of Scott Fujii .....	\$25
Carol Keiko Kudow .....	Donation .....	\$5

### BCA UPDATE

Reverend Peter Inokoji-Kim reported that Rinban Hiroshi Abiko will be retiring from the Los Angeles Betsuin on August 31. Reverend Bill Briones will become the next Rinban.

### UPCOMING ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

- SBWA’s Craft Booth: Thank you to the following for their contribution last month to the bazaar craft booth: **Aileen Okimoto** – donation of several wonderful crafts, including origami animals and decorated notepads; **Jane Komure** - making and teaching crochet scrubbers (both plain and sushi-design); **Jean Ota** - monetary donation; **Faye Uyemura, Mari Lynn Shimamoto** and **Terry Hirakida** – donation of pretty knitted scarves; **Kiyo Tanaka, Mary Inouye** and **Terry Kagiya** – donation of kimonos and yukatas; **Judy Inaba** – tracing designs onto dish towels (for embroidery); and **Darlene Hayashi** – teaching the April class on decorating light plate switches with an Asian design. Thank you also to **Kathy Tanaka Henry** for organizing the once-a-month craft classes at the church and to all the ladies who have come out to the classes to help make the items that will be sold in the craft booth in August!
- On Friday, May 17, 1 p.m., Joanne Nishimura will teach the popular “crocheted necklace” class. Participants should bring one crochet hook that is in one of these sizes: H-K.
- The Northern California District Council will be holding “A Delta Dharma Music Festival” on Saturday, August 31, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Walnut Grove Buddhist Temple. It will be an outdoor, tailgate picnic event. The deadline was March 30. However, since the event is in August, it is possible that you can still sign up. Here are three contacts:  
(916) 233-6725 [stevehiromoto@hotmail.com](mailto:stevehiromoto@hotmail.com)  
(916) 425-7652 [roymayhugh@sbcglobal.net](mailto:roymayhugh@sbcglobal.net)  
[r.d.raub@att.net](mailto:r.d.raub@att.net)

The next SBWA meeting will be on Wednesday, May 1.

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**LEGACY  
ENDOWMENT  
FUND**  
RUTH SEO

おかげさま

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Mae Kaneko  
Alice Kataoka  
Machiko Kimura  
Yoshiko Morisawa  
Mitzie Muramoto  
Mutsuko Noguchi  
Teruko Ono  
Faye Uyemura

The Thursday Night Medical Series kicked off on April 4 with Dr. Jonathan Eandi discussing "Prostate Awareness." The well-attended meeting provided important information followed by a lively question-and-answer period. Reverend Patti Oshita organized this talk sponsored by the Legacy Endowment Fund Board (LEFB).

The next program on Thursday, May 16 from 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m. features Dr. Yvonne Otani talking about "Vaccinations: Doing the Right Thing." The third presentation, by Dr. Elliott Wong, will be held on June 20 from 7 p.m.-8:30 p.m. on the topic "Cardiac Risk Factors." Sign up at the church office or by calling 446-0121. For questions, please contact Reverend Patti at [revpattibetsuin@gmail.com](mailto:revpattibetsuin@gmail.com).

The LEFB Rummage Sale is taking a break this year, but thanks go out to all who supported the Placer Buddhist Church rummage sale benefitting the taiko group's trip to Japan.

The LEFB appreciates the generous donations to the Legacy Fund, which makes it possible to sustain the Sacramento Betsuin now and for the future.

**E-WASTE DONORS**

Donors for March to the Legacy Endowment Fund e-Waste fund are: Lorna Fong, Donna Tanaka, Dildford and Edna Onodera, Evelyn Fong, and Phyllis Iwasaki.

LEFB appreciates the donations and encourages any individual or business who would like to schedule a free pickup at your home or office to call (800) 317-3112 or go to [www.eWaste4good.com](http://www.eWaste4good.com).

As I sit down to write this month's article, we have just finished with a very busy, but hugely successful day in Marysville. Several months ago it was decided to fully open the doors of the Marysville Buddhist Church (MBC) to the community by having an open house. The purpose of this open house was three-fold: 1) To introduce Reverend Carol and myself as the newly assigned part-time ministers; 2) To showcase the multiple offerings of the MBC; and 3) To allow the sangha of the MBC to come together and work hard, have some fun, and take pride in a 105+ year-old tradition that we hope will be open for business for many, many more years to come.

As the open house was scheduled on Hanamatsuri, we were able to introduce Buddhism and our Jodo Shinshu tradition to many new faces with the added beauty of the decorated Hanamido to spark additional interest. The birthday of the historical Buddha allowed Reverend Carol and me to revisit the historical story of the birth and early life of Prince Sidhartha during service, and then expand upon the Buddha's teaching in our intro to Buddhism discussion after lunch. With the vibe of the open house setting a very positive tone, we soon noticed that everyone, both volunteers and visitors, had something very special in common... a smile!

While we all work hard and focus on life and events such as our open house very seriously, I find myself returning my thoughts to the words of two very important teachers, Reverend Hozen Seki and our past Bishop, Socho Ogui. Reverend Seki stated, "Don't make the teachings of the Buddha a heavy load." Socho told our minister assistant group years ago: "1) Don't be too serious. 2) Don't lose sincerity; don't lose heart. 3) Don't lose sense of humor."

With these two teachers in mind, I think it is more important to remember to HAVE FUN as much as we can. Even during the hustle and bustle of an open house, the hot summer days of preparation and busy weekend of the Betsuin summer Bazaar, or even the day-to-day stuff that we all go through with our over-scheduled lives, we need to have fun and do things that bring enjoyment to our lives and smiles to our faces.

This idea goes beyond just having a positive mental attitude (PMA). PMA can simply redirect our perspective. Seeking out things that truly matter, have value, and can put a smile on our faces is huge! Even if it means we are hard at work, side by side with our dharma friends develops that deeper meaning of what being a part of a larger community, being a sangha member is really about.

Thanks again to everyone at the Marysville Buddhist Church for their hard work and dedication to our temple. We should all be proud of the work that was put into this event and recognize that it was a success from the first smile of the day.

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## NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

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## MINISTER ASSISTANTS PROGRAM (MAP) QUEST SESSION

DR. KELVIN MARK

Any address changes? It will be appreciated if you can notify the office of any address changes. It will save the church from paying for return postage. Thank you! Did you receive our 2013 calendar? If not, please contact the office and one will be mailed out to you.

*“My life is not only my life, but the lives of others’ sacrifices, kindness, thoughtfulness, and patience.”* — Immediate Past Bishop Socho Koshin Ogui

Because of the sacrifices, kindness, thoughtfulness, and patience of Socho Ogui and my mentor, Reverend Bob Oshita, I have the honor of reporting to you on the March 2013 MAP Quest session conducted at the Jodo Shinshu Center.

On behalf of Sensei Keith Kato and our 13 fellow MAP Quest minister assistants, let me thank Bishop Kodo Umezu and conference hosts Reverends Marvin Harada and Kiyo Kuwahara, co-directors of the Center for Buddhist Education. I’d like to thank guest faculty Reverend Henry Adams of the Oxnard Buddhist Church for his lectures on the *“Bodhisattva Vows,”* Reverend Harry Bridge of the Oakland Buddhist Church for leading chanting practice of the *“Shoshin Nembutsu Ge & Wasan,”* and Sensei Dr. David Pating of the San Francisco Buddhist Church for his guidance in *“Basic Pastoral Counseling.”* I’d also like to thank Jodo Shinshu Center Manager Glenn Kameda and express our deepest gratitude to Ms. Judy Kono and her kitchen crew for the delicious home cooking that sustained us during our three-day retreat.

In participating in my first MAP Quest Training Seminar, I experienced first-hand how our Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) minister assistants (MA) come from diverse backgrounds and varied walks of life. Each MA brings everyday life and generational experiences to share in hopes of helping us all to see things more clearly; to see things as they are. Although diverse, our MAP Quest group could be described by a single word: *gratitude*. Their involvement in the MA program is nothing less than an expression of their gratitude and willingness to serve others. These contemporary disciples of the Dharma are expressing the deep gratitude and respect to the head ministers of their respective temples and to our most essential teachers, Shinran Shonin and the Shakyamuni Buddha.

A special focus of this seminar centered upon the *Ojoyoshu*, delineated by the Japanese Buddhist monk Genshin (985 CE). *Ojoyoshu* is often translated as: The Essentials for Birth in the Pure Land, but might be subtitled: *The Correct Practice of the Nembutsu*. We came away with a better understanding that reciting the Nembutsu is more than just words. The Nembutsu is the expression of gratitude for the working of Amida’s Primal Vow and counter to the way of self-centered reasoning. Such is the practice that we strive in helping others around us. When we stop and think about it, as Pure Land followers, everything that we do in our lives, everything that we do in *this life*, can be thought of as *Ojoyoshu* — trying to correctly practice the Nembutsu.

Two especially meaningful points were presented during the seminar. First and above all, we were encouraged, “don’t be a Baka-head!” In other words, use common sense. Secondly, while it is important to learn how to chant properly, we should strive to understand why the sutras are meaningful in the context of our lives. If we do this, we can see how the teachings of the Buddha apply to our everyday experiences. If we don’t understand and apply the teachings to our lives, then chanting is just the recitation of meaningless words. Said another way, by grasping a deeper understanding of the Dharma, we can hope to gain insight into its relevance with regard to our diverse national sangha. This will enable us to respond to our sangha’s changing needs and promote the growth of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in America.

These key points help us to better understand how the Dharma continues to resonate with modern everyday life, and how the sutras are relevant and meaningful to everything we see, think, say and do. Times change. This is an undeniable truth. People’s wants and desires change. This too is an undeniable truth. Through our study of the *Ojoyoshu* and our embrace of the Nembutsu, we are being reminded to use our common sense, to cast aside our biases, and to do our best to see things truly, as they are. By seeking a deeper awareness of the Dharma and by learning to nurture a genuine and humble concern for others, we are learning how to put everyday life into the context of the Buddha Dharma and to share our appreciation with others. These are just a few ways that I feel the MAP Quest Program aims to contribute to the causes and conditions that can nurture the growth of our sangha and perhaps foster new generations of scholars and leaders who will enable Buddhism to flourish in America

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## SANGHA STAFF

Editor (English) Cliff Adams  
Editor (Japanese) Katsuko Hirota

## CONTRIBUTING REPORTERS

SBWA	Keiko Jean Kashiwada
Minister Assts	Tim Castle
MAP Quest	Kelvin Mark
Endowment	Ruth Seo
Maintenance	Gary Traganza
Dharma School	Ken Furukawa
Sakura Gakuen	John McDonnell
Boy Scouts	Adrian Nguyen
Girl Scouts	Corlene Goi
Venture Crew	Kelly Phang
	Kenji Bennett
Sports Cmte	Alan Wu

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**MAINTENANCE  
REPORT**
**GARY TRAGANZA**

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

- For those of you who attended the Hanamatsuri play last month, you probably noticed that the stage actually looked like a "stage." By that I mean you didn't see cabinets and various items cluttering the sides and back walls. In preparation for refinishing the stage, Mike Nagai, Gordon Nitta, Wayne Kurahara, Bob Chavez and I cleared everything off the stage. After the floor was finished, Wayne Kurahara, Gordon Nitta and I spent most of one day painting all the walls flat black — like a professional stage. Without the distractions, the audience can focus on the actors and their props.
- Cliff Adams and I permanently attached speaker wire to the kaikan walls. Each time Cliff runs wires to the back speakers it takes him 1.5–2 hours to string the wires and later take them down. He does that three to four times a year for various events. Next time he sets up the rear speakers, it will be super quick, plus it looks a lot cleaner.
- I hope you noticed how nice the kaikan floors looked. Thank you, Ted Yoshimura, for taking point on getting bids and overseeing the refinishing of the floor of the kaikan and the stage.
- Mike Dishno replaced the front sprinkler valves at Reverend Peter's house. He also replaced a couple of emitters and adjusted all the sprinkler heads for uniform spray patterns. Thanks, Mike.
- Can you believe it was 87 degrees one day last week? With the hot weather just around the corner, Don Honda volunteered to get all our swamp coolers up and running. Cool work, Don.

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**SAKURA  
GAKUEN  
JAPANESE  
LANGUAGE  
SCHOOL**  
**JOHN MCDONNELL**

The school's Saturday students, families, guests and many others enjoyed a day of culture, food and activities for Hanamatsuri on a beautiful spring day. The students impressed all with their skills in song, skits, karate and dance. Taiko drumming by Bruce Morishita and company, koto and shamisen music by Naoko, and singing by Koichi and Ellie Mizushima inspired the students, who are now cramming for the end-of-the-year exam this month. A hands-on demonstration of mochitsuki was organized by Ericca Ikemoto and family. Mami Nakashita and Kama Kennedy enjoyed their sunny poolside duty of orchestrating the yo-yo tsumi, the traditional summer game of fishing for water-air filled balloons. The day ended with bellies full of curry rice and mochi, and lovingly putting away the school's delicate hina nigyo doll collection.

The school will be hosting a fundraiser on Sunday, May 5, Kodomo no hi, in the kaikan. Please drop by after service to enjoy some handsome koi musubi and playful onigiri, and support the language school.

**SPECIAL LECTURE  
BY REVEREND TETSUO UNNO**

**SATURDAY, MAY 18, 2013  
2 P.M.  
CLASSROOMS 1-4**



**REVEREND TETSUO UNNO  
PASADENA BUDDHIST TEMPLE**

Please sign up in the Sacramento Betsuin office.  
Any questions? Contact Reverend Patti at [revpattibetsuin@gmail.com](mailto:revpattibetsuin@gmail.com)

Sponsored by the Betsuin Legacy Endowment Fund

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](mailto:vibrocount@lanset.com) with a cc to: [betsuinoffice@gmail.com](mailto:betsuinoffice@gmail.com) and inform the church office at 446-0121. Please include the author's name. Thank you.

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428-9833



Rev. Peter Inokoji-Kim  
446-4988

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- Free pick up and DMV paperwork
- Tax-deductible at the vehicle’s selling price
- Supports the Sacramento Betsuin

Please support your local vehicle donation program! To donate vehicles, contact the Betsuin office, (916) 446-0121.

**W**elcome to May! Before I write about the events this month, let’s rewind to April. I really want to thank so many people for a special Hanamatsuri observance. To the 8th grade TAs and Amanda Borges for coming out and setting up the Hanamido, using the generously donated flowers from Kiyo’s Floral Shop. The Hanamido was really beautiful, and the setup and cleanup were really fast compared to prior years. Gary Matsumoto again provided video recording support for both the service and the play. Ann Amioka and Cliff Adams again produced a wonderful play, with an ensemble cast directed by Gillian Ohta. And I want to thank the Dharma School Courtyard kitchen crew, the parents and other guests who helped set up chairs in the kaikan for the dress rehearsal and pizza on Saturday, and helped clean up on Sunday. I must comment that I think this was about the fastest cleanup in many years. I also want to thank Gary Traganza for his work to improve our kaikan sound system for the play. And of course Bob Chavez for helping with the Hanamido, and cleaning up after us while offering his interesting “Bobisms”!

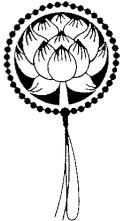
This is a busy month with events every Sunday! Of course there is Dharma School and service, so don’t miss those. But there are also some interesting events that are really special events:

- May 5 features two showings of the film “Infinity and Chashu Ramen” at the Crest Theater. Please come and see it.
- May 12 is Parents Day service.
- May 19 is Gotan-e with all its pageantry.
- May 19 is also the deadline for the childrens’ Bazaar T-Shirt design contest! For information, please ask your Dharma School teacher.

So as you can see there are many things going on. Come out and enjoy!

Dharma School “Courtyard” gratefully acknowledges donations from the following:

- |                           |                        |                           |
|---------------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Gladys Adachi             | Lynn Kurahara          | Sam Orite                 |
| R. C. & Suzanne Emery     | Dennis & Sylvia Lau    | Eileen Otsuji             |
| Ted Fukui (Campbell Soup) | Tim Lee                | Sachi Sawada              |
| Nancy Hashimoto           | Emmie Makishima        | Shirley Sekeres           |
| Irene Hoshiko             | Yo Morisawa            | Hiroko Takamoto           |
| Minnie Iseri              | Barbara Nakatomi       | Kazue & John Tanaka       |
| Meriko Ishigaki           | Craig & Elaine Nakatsu | Shigeko Mae Tanaka        |
| Ellen Ito                 | Pat Okamoto            | Tomi & Jim Tanaka         |
| Molly Kimura              | Mary Orite             | Ray Yamamoto, Sushi Oto’s |



*Condolences to  
the Families of:*



*Tom Fujimoto ..... November 3, 1925 - February 11, 2013*

*Stacee Tsuruoka..... July 7, 1988 - February 22, 2013*

*Wayne Maeda ..... August 26, 1947 - February 27, 2013*

*Lorrie Toohey-Maeda ..... June 26, 1948 - March 2, 2013*

*Orene Ochikubo ..... December 15, 1935 - March 5, 2013*

*Frances Kondo ..... February 22, 1926 - March 7, 2013*

*Misako Takeuchi ..... September 8, 1914 - March 18, 2013*

*Gary Kajioaka ..... April 1, 1951 - March 26, 2013*

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**SPORTS  
COMMITTEE**

ALAN WU



Since we are now entering the month of May 2013, the days are getting longer — well, actually the days are still 24 hours as they are in the dead of winter, but it is the amount of daylight that is getting longer. The days are getting warmer, and the flora awakens from its winter slumber, which is the good news, but bad news is that this time of year also brings about the season of allergy, and most of us valley dwellers suffer each and every year from hay fever, but with boxes of facial tissue and bottles of allergy tablets at hand, we manage to survive enough to enjoy the coming of summer.

It being May, have you danced around your Maypole yet? You know it's a tradition! Just like the crowning of the May Queen.... Hmmmm, no May Queen? Surely you must then give out May baskets, another age-old tradition... You know this is when you make up a basket of goodies and leave it on a porch, ring the doorbell and run away. Surely you must have done this before... even as a kid? This May tradition sounds vaguely familiar to another tradition of leaving a brown paper bag filled with another type of goodie on someone's porch, lighting it on fire, and then running away only far enough to watch the crotchety old man stomp it out and make a stinky mess on his slippers... No?... Didn't play that game either? Be honest... we all know of this game! I tell you, what is this world coming to, when all of the May Day traditions are being lost and forgotten! It's a sad, sad day.

Since we are the topic, have you seen the kaikan floor? It is beautiful, isn't it? These guys who refinished the floor did a great job. It is all shiny and makes your shoes squeak. Now we have to try to preserve that new luster, but as we all know, that floor has to accommodate many, many functions and activities going on at the church, so only time will tell on how resilient this coating will be. But let's make a concerted effort toward making it last.

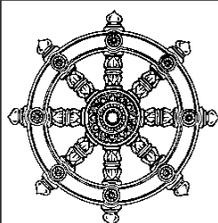
Since it is May, the bulk of the basketball season is behind us now, with the Central Cal Cobra Tournament in Fresno on Father's Day weekend being the usual and customary finale to this year's tournament season.

Since it is a tradition for us to close out each year with a Coaches' Appreciation Dinner, we did just that, and it was a pretty swell shindig with special thanks going out to Chef Louie and his crew for "catering" this year's event (albeit he really did not have a choice since he was told that he was doing this). Thanks, Dale for yet another delicious meal.

Since it is usual and customary to announce the annual awards at the coaches' dinner, we did just that too. The Aki Fukushima Award is awarded to the two Dharma School students/basketball players who best exemplified their skills both on and off the court and also exhibited exemplary temple citizenship. This year the award was given to Melissa Shinfuku and Kory Bartlett. Congratulations to Melissa and Kory and their families. The other award given out is the Rinban Yukawa Award, which is given to the coach who best demonstrates the philosophies of sportsmanship, fair play and the Right View in sports and in life. This year the recipient of the Rinban Yukawa Award was David Kunisaki. Congratulations to David and his family.

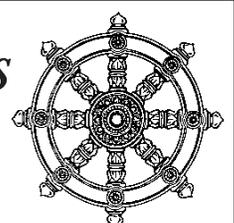
Since it is May after all, now is the traditional time to put out a reminder of the attendance requirement to participate in our sports program. So here it is: all players need to maintain an attendance of 60% and higher to be eligible to play. Attendance is tracked on a rolling calendar, which means that attendance in April, May and June is used to calculate the percentage. Therefore, even though the perception is that when the season is over, attendance is not important, on the contrary, it is even more important because these months factor heavily at the beginning of the next season. So, please keep your attendance up and everything will be A-OK.

Since it is usual and customary, we'll meet again, same place next month.



*Welcome New Members*

*Kathryn &  
Stephen Shimane*



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**BOY SCOUT  
TROOP 50**

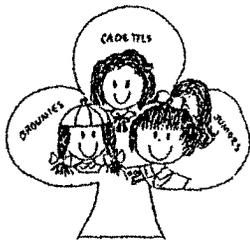
ADRIAN NGUYEN




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**VENTURE  
CREW 50**
KELLY PHANG,  
PRESIDENTKENJI BENNETT,  
HISTORIAN


---

**GIRL SCOUTS**
CORLENE GOI  
JUNIORS 3

**A**pril is the fourth month of the year and the eighth month of the scouting year. Last month, in March, the theme was cooking. On March 16, 17 and 24 were the troop-wide scoutmaster conferences. All scouts met with the scoutmaster and their patrol advisor on one of the three dates to talk about their progress toward their next rank, their merit badge achievements, and how their leadership role is going. Scouts also went on the Blue Ridge Loop Trail on March 23 and hiked about 5 miles.

April's theme was communications. On April 5-7, scouts attended the annual Lake Pardee camping trip. This trip was open to all Webelos scouts who were interested in attending a Troop 50 campout and getting a taste for Boy Scouts. On April 12, a lashing session was held to help scouts with their knot tying. A troop meeting was also held on this day. At the troop meeting, scouts were split into patrols and were given 30 minutes to come up with a presentation about pre-chosen subjects or present interviews about another scout to the troop. The troop also went to Garcia Bend on April 13 to remove trash and debris for the Creek Week Service Project.

The District Camporee Camping trip was held on April 19-21. The last troop meeting of April took place on April 26. Scouts will also be able to be a part of the first Bicycle Tour Camping trip Troop 50 has ever had on May 4-5. The two troop meetings of May will be on May 10 and 17.

**O**n behalf of Venture Crew 50, thank you for supporting our first major fundraiser of the year, Corned Beef Hash Breakfast 2013. Executive Chef Kelly Phang and Sous Chef Kenji Bennett led the effort to cook and serve 325 sangha members and guests: 100 pounds of corned beef, 80 pounds of russet potatoes, 1,000 farm-fresh eggs, 400 slices of hash browns, 120 cups of steamed rice, 70 navel oranges and two tubs of spicy kimchee. Mmmm... Taaasty! We had a lot of fun cooking, and we hope you enjoyed the food! We'd also like to thank Reiko and Crew for letting us invade their kitchen space. We have a totally new appreciation for what they do for us...every week! Thank you. We'd also like to thank Bob, who helped us find everything that we needed.

We also take suggestions for food ideas! Do you have a favorite food item you'd like us to serve? Be sure to tell us how we can improve and we will do our best to make the proper adjustments.

Upcoming events for our Crew include applying an oil finish on the church parking lot fence service project. In May, the Crew takes to the waters of the San Francisco Bay, where we will take an introductory course on sailing with the Olympic Circle Sailing Club, Berkeley.

Venture Crew, formerly known as Explorer Post, is a youth organization of the Boy Scouts of America. It is open to young men and women age 14 through 20 who would like a broader experience in leadership, vocations and hobbies. Please contact advisors Dr. Kelvin Mark, Bobby Tanaka, Mickey Bennett, or any Crew member for additional information.

**S**eniors 5 led the Junior First Aid badge meeting for Juniors 3. Seniors 5 created informational and colorful posters depicting the first steps to take in an emergency. Juniors 3 also learned how to speak to first responders and how to make and carry a first aid kit. Seniors 5 role-played multiple creative emergency skits and Juniors 3 had to respond with the correct action to take when handling urgent first aid issues, and most important, Juniors 3 learned how to help people who are sick or hurt. Thank you very much Seniors 5! Juniors 3 is also completing their aMuse journey and will begin earning their Girl Scout Bronze Award.

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**THURSDAY NIGHTS MEDICAL SERIES**  
**SACRAMENTO BETSUIN, CLASSROOMS**

**THURSDAY, MAY 16, 7-8:30 P.M.**  
**DR. YVONNE OTANI**

**"VACCINATIONS: DOING THE RIGHT THING"**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 20, 7-8:30 P.M.**  
**DR. ELLIOTT WONG**

**"CARDIAC RISK FACTORS"**

Please sign up in the office.

Any questions, please contact Rev. Patti at [revpattibetsuin@gmail.com](mailto:revpattibetsuin@gmail.com)

Sponsored by the Legacy Endowment Fund