

As 2014 comes to a close, I would like to thank Reverend Bob, Sensei Koichi, Cindy, Bob Chavez, our minister assistants (Reverend Tim, Reverend Carol, Sensei Grace, Sensei Kelvin and Sensei Keith), the Sacramento Betsuin Board of Trustees and sangha members for your continuous support. I am grateful for this opportunity to help and to be a part of this wonderful Sacramento Betsuin.

This has been another year full of changes. With Reverend Peter and Aileen retiring to Orcas Island at the end of August, and Sensei Keith receiving Tokudo Ordination in Kyoto, we have appreciated all of the kindness and support given to us. The Betsuin continues to oversee the Marysville Temple with Reverend Tim and Carol. We also continue to oversee our sister temple in Placer. With Sensei Koichi coming on board in September to fill the Visionary Programs position, our Betsuin's activity level continues to be in overdrive.

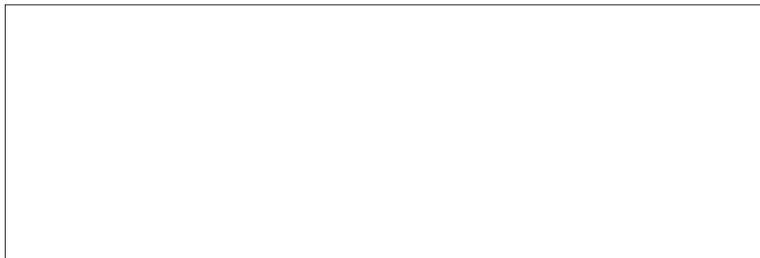
Although it is now December, it is still hard to imagine that Christmas and New Year's is just around the corner. A phrase that comes to mind during this time of the year was used by Master Oogway in the movie *Kung Fu Panda*: "Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. But today is a gift, and that is why it is called the present."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

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SANGHA

SACRAMENTO BUDDHIST CHURCH
VOLUME 51 NUMBER 12 - DECEMBER 2014

**SACRAMENTO
BETSUIN**

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**REV. PATTI'S
CORNER**
(CONTINUED)

During this gift-giving time of the year, we often think that the more extravagant the gift we give, reflects the depth of our love and friendship. But this phrase I mentioned earlier reminds us that the most important gift we can give to others and to ourselves is to "live in the moment." To truly be "present" and in the moment with the people we love. If we hurry through the days trying to complete our growing "list of things to do," then we will miss the opportunity to truly be with our family and friends. If we live rushing around in a blur of activity, the "present" will pass us by, unnoticed and unappreciated.

When we are young, we often can't wait to grow up... and our eyes are on the future. That's why young children often give their ages with fractions, saying, "I'm 4 ½; I'm 7 ¾ ... or I'm 9 going on 10." When we're young, we too often live in the future. When we get older, we too often begin to dwell on the past, reminiscing and remembering past events and happy times... or perhaps reliving things we regret. But just as we cannot live in the future, we also cannot live in the past.

When we do either of these... we will miss out on what is right in front of our eyes. And when we live in the past or the future, we take for granted the moment we are living right now. If we do this, we may find that before we know it, the days will have become weeks, the weeks will have melted into months... and the months will have blended into years. Decades may pass before we find ourselves wondering, "Where have the years gone?" As Buddhists, we know that if we are fortunate to live long, the time will come when we must say goodbye to those we love. And at such times, with regret, we will be wondering "Why didn't we spend more time together? Where did the time go? The years all went by so fast!"

One thing we can practice to help us avoid living with deep regret is to try our best to "live in the moment." Living in the moment means to appreciate the gift that is the present. In Jodo Shinshu, this is a path to living a life of Nembutsu. In other words, we can say that a life of Nembutsu is a life living with gratitude in the moment that is now. Nen is made up of two characters — *ima*, which means now, and *kokoro*, which means heart and mind. So Nen-Butsu also means that when our HEARTS AND MINDS are truly living in the Moment that is NOW... we are living in Oneness and Gratitude for all of the Understanding (wisdom) and Caring (compassion) that gives our lives meaning and purpose. Nen-Butsu.

So during this special family time of gift giving and receiving, let us try to give ourselves and our families the gift of being "present" with... and for... each other. Wishing everyone a Healthy and Happy Holiday Season!

I hope everyone had a very Happy Thanksgiving. I am sure there were a lot of great meals and special moments spent with family and friends. Now it is time to get ready for the holiday shopping as Christmas and New Year's will be here soon.

As I write this message, the Teriyaki Chicken Throwdown has not taken place. Will Stockton win again, will Placer take the crown, will Sacramento take the crown or will Florin, Walnut Grove, Lodi or Marysville take the crown this year? Our Sacramento Betsuin has the home field advantage and I wish our SBC Teriyaki Chicken Crew the best of luck. The winner will be announced on November 22, 2014 at the event.

The Lodi Buddhist Church celebrated its 85th Anniversary. Gordon and I attended the anniversary service and luncheon. The program was very nice and you can see the photos of the event online.

The Talent Show rehearsal will start on December 6 at 6:30 p.m. If you think you could be the next "The Voice," "American Idol" or "Americans Got Talent" participant, please sign up.

I wish everyone a very Happy and Safe Holiday Season and please enjoy this time with your family, friends and loved ones.

As always, I wish to encourage you to come to me to discuss any ideas, issues or concerns related to our temple as I am always open to your comments.

I hope to see you soon at the Betsuin, and at the Sunday service.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I want to extend my sincere gratitude for all of your continued support, volunteerism and hard work.

**PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE**
ROBBIE MIDZUNO

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.

**IMPROVED
SECURITY
FOR THE
BETSUIN**
GORDON NITTA,
PRESIDENT-ELECT

**OFFICE
MANAGER**

Cindy Kitade

**OFFICE
PROJECT
COORDINATOR**

Jennifer Nitta

**BETSUIN
OFFICE**

446-0121

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Irene Hoshiko
Sanaye Imajo
Miyuki Inenaga
Mae Kaneko
Alice Kataoka
Yoshiko Morizawa
Mutsuko Noguchi
Faye Uyemura

Like many older neighborhoods in Sacramento, over the past five years, the area surrounding the temple has experienced changes, not all of which have been positive. While the Broadway corridor has seen upgrades and welcomed new businesses, it has also seen a continuance of vandalism and vagrant activity. At the Betsuin, we have definitely experienced an increase in the latter.

News of temple security incidents has been spread by word of mouth through our various organizations and committees and sometimes through our SANGHA newsletter. We realize that the information does not reach everyone, and in some instances, misinformation has been shared. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to provide a brief summary of the types of incidents that have raised concern around the temple grounds, as well as the steps that are being taken to ensure the safety of our members and visitors. A brief sampling includes:

- Confrontation/purse stolen in the early morning hours.
- Purse stolen from kaikan kitchen cabinet during a special event.
- Vehicles broken into/personal property stolen in parking lot, alley parking and areas around temple.
- Suspicious individuals entering the grounds, especially the main building, during normal business hours and many times after hours.
- Stabbing in the alley near kaikan (parties involved were not affiliated with the Betsuin).

The Board wrestled with the question of how we can secure the building and grounds, and yet remain accessible to all of you who come to utilize the temple seven days a week, from 8:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. After much research and deliberation, we decided that for Phase 1 of improving security, we would install a door-locking system with video/audio monitoring and remote access (courtyard and main door to Quinn Avenue).

Similar to those installed at other temples, this system allows the ministers and office staff to “screen” visitors before they enter the main building. It provides added security for those who are attending meetings or classes, participating in basketball practice, coming for special lectures, etc. During times of high traffic, such as Sunday morning Dharma Family Services or funeral services, the doors can be programmed to remain unlocked. At other times when people traffic is light, it just takes a simple ring of the doorbell to alert staff who can then grant entry.

Additional components of Phase 1 include:

- Significantly improved lighting in the main parking lot and courtyard.
- Posted policy to keep kaikan doors to Quinn Avenue closed at all times.
- Meetings are booked in main building; only when classrooms are filled will meetings be scheduled in the annex.
- Classrooms in main building to be kept locked when not in use.
- Communication through our sponsored and affiliated organizations, especially Sports Committee, to ensure that children are supervised at all times, even in our hallways.
- Those loitering along Quinn or in front of the hondo are consistently being asked to move along. For those who linger, Sac City PD has been quick to answer our calls for assistance.
- Security officers hired through an outside firm, when deemed necessary.

We are evaluating our current video surveillance system, as well as additional measures to help ensure the safety of everyone who comes to the Betsuin. You, too, can be part of the solution by being proactive in prevention:

- Be aware of your surroundings whenever you come to the temple, not just at night.
- Use the buddy system... look out for each other.
- Observe the posted safety signs — they are there for a reason.
- Keep valuables out-of-sight when parking your vehicle.
- Exchange cell phone numbers with others in your group to help facilitate after-hours entry.

Monday through Friday, the majority of those who utilize our temple are our older and elderly members and guests. I appreciate those of you who have taken a moment to share that you feel more secure with the new door-locking system, as that was one of our major concerns to be addressed. While having the new security feature has created a slight inconvenience for entering the building after hours or when office staffing is at a minimum, I believe we would all agree that a small inconvenience is a minimal price to pay for the safety of our families and visitors.

IMPROVED SECURITY FOR THE BETSUIN
(CONTINUED)

SACRAMENTO BUDDHIST WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
KEIKO JEAN KASHIWADA



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GRACE HATANO

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Girl Scouts	May Masunaga
Sakura Gakuen	John McDonnell
Sports Cmte	Alan Wu
Crab Feed	Nick Shebert
Tamales	Alice Kataoka Hiroko Tsuda

We do understand that any new system comes with growing pains, so I respectfully ask for your continued understanding as our subcommittee works through the minor issues that come up as we navigate these ever-changing times. Thank you in advance for willing to be a proactive part of the overall solution to the security challenges that the temple faces. Your questions, comments and suggestions are always welcome and can be made to the Betsuin office staff or through the office email address at *betsuinoffice@gmail.com*.

The September SBWA Board meeting was held on Wednesday, November 5, with President Fusako Takahashi presiding. A special thank you to my "buddy," Elaine Yoshikawa, for picking up the handouts during my absence from the November meeting. It's nice to be able to get away on a short trip and know that I will receive a great report on what I missed. Thank you, Elaine!

DONATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank you to the following people for their donations since our September meeting:

Peter Inokoji-Kim & Aileen Okimoto	In Appreciation	\$500
Mitzie Muramoto	Special	\$100
Charles & Kay Sakamoto	In Appreciation	\$50
Marlene Takeoka Family	In Memory of Tsugino Oto	\$25
Bessie S. Ohnoki	In Memory of Masako Hamatani	\$20

THANK YOUS

- Thank you to Mary & Harry Inouye, Terry Kagiya, Hiroko Tsuda and Virginia Uchida for taking on the successful tamale sale. It was a great fund-raising event for the SBWA!
- Thank you to Alice Kataoka, Utako Kimura, Kay Sakamoto and Rinban Oshita for manning the SBWA table at the recent Affiliated Organizations Open House on October 12.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

- The next SBWA meeting will be on Wednesday, December 10; 6 p.m. service first.
- See you on December 14 for the Bonenkai service and luncheon! SBWA Board members (and SBWA members, if you wish) bring a wrapped door prize or two to the church on the morning of the 14th. It will make for a very fun event.

Remember to pay your 2015 dues.

It's the first week of November as I write this article. The weather has been very cool and somewhat windy. The leaves on the trees are turning beautiful fall colors. They fall off the trees and are blown by the wind and scatter on the ground, creating work for somebody to rake them up.

Watching the leaves change colors and seeing nature take its course, I realize how wonderful life is, observing the changes happening around us.

I reached a milestone on October 22 — celebrating the wonderful age of 80. Hopefully I'm not just older, but a little wiser too.

I never looked forward to this age or thought of getting older. I hardly recall reaching my 70th birthday; could be because women try to keep our age a secret.

Like my son Kevin mentioned, he didn't even know how old I really was for much of his life. Maybe because we say it's our birthday, and after age 21 or so, rarely mention our age. Or, maybe because I'm his mother and kids don't really want to know the age of their mom.

Now that the world knows how young I am, I am welcoming this age with open arms. I hope I will be able to continue to do the things I have been enjoying for many more years.

Here at the Betsuin, I am honored and privileged to be part of the Betsuin's ministerial staff as one of the minister assistants. I also enjoy being a Dharma School teacher for the kindergarten class, teaching line dancing classes, conducting aerobic/exercising classes, and helping wherever and whenever I can.

I enjoy working in the kitchen at Oto's Marketplace preparing bentos (food to go), washing dishes and doing other duties.

MINISTER ASSISTANTS (CONTINUED)

I was surprised when Mollie Oto stated that we have been together for about 30 years. When you're busy learning, sharing and enjoying doing various duties at the store, how time flies! It's really great when I see my present and former kindergarten students come by with their parents and I greet them. I'm just so happy they remembered me!

Life is good — no, life has been great! As I get older, I appreciate all the things I have and have been able to do.

I appreciate all the support and guidance as well as all the love and caring thoughts I have received through the years from my ministers, Reverends Bob, Patti, Timmy and Carol; minister assistants Koichi, Kelvin and Keith; and especially my family, Billy, Brian and his family, and Kevin and his family.

Only with such caring individuals am I able to do the things I love to do. Thank you so much.

To reach 80 years old in this day and time is a wonderful accomplishment. How lucky to live to be an octogenarian. True, I'm definitely not as young as I used to be. But I accept that. Time changes everything and everybody, and nothing remains the same. That is the teaching of the Buddha.

The Legacy Endowment Fund Board supports many programs, from Reverend Patti's informative medical series to youth programs where a select group of teens deepen their understanding of Buddhism to the crucial ministerial programs. These programs educate and inform our sangha members and religious and community leaders.

In an effort to remain in touch with the sangha, I asked temple members from 5 to 75 years old if they had "burning" questions for our ministerial staff. From these questions, I learned so much about our diverse and curious sangha. With considerable coaxing, the littlest members asked practical questions; these I enjoyed hearing and am sure the ministers enjoyed answering. When I asked our senior sangha members, they responded after giving it some thought, "Hmm, no, I don't have any questions." They seemed to be satisfied with their understanding of their world and how it worked. Q&A criteria: Ministerial staff to respond in 50 words or less.

M.M. (elementary): Why is church so early in the morning?

Patti: The Issei and Nisei were farmers so it was natural for everyone to be up early. This tradition has continued to the present day.

A.N. (high school): What is the importance of the bell in the morning?

Kelvin: Our kansho bell calls us to service. Whether individual gassho, reciting the nembutsu, or sitting quietly, the sound of the kansho bell helps to bring us together as a sangha and signals us to calm our minds, to quiet our thoughts, and prepare us for "monpo," to hear the dharma.

A.N. (high school): Do reverends in general have a life outside of church?

Tim: Absolutely! Our Jodo Shinshu tradition allows for ministers to marry, raise families, and pursue interests outside of the church if their schedule allows. Many of our Northern District ministers have unique interests that focus on playing musical instruments, playing sports, organizing and leading scout groups and other community groups, being involved in the arts. . . and the list goes on.

A.K. (middle school): Ojuzu question. Why are the two beads smaller?

RB: The two small beads on our ojuzu are reminders of the essence of enlightenment, which are wisdom and compassion.

B.M. (high school): Why do we chant?

Carol: In his lifetime, the Shakyamuni Buddha shared the dharma by speaking with individuals and gatherings of people. After his passing, the Buddha's teachings continued to be passed from generation to generation through an oral tradition that included chanting the sutras. Today, chanting can be considered an active form of meditation that helps bring our attention to the present, thus allowing us to listen and reflect upon the dharma.

E.M. (elementary): Why is church on Sunday?

Patti: When the Issei and Nisei came back from the internment camps, they felt they wanted to assimilate in a Judeo-Christian society and started to have Sunday services and classes for children.

A.O. (middle school): To be a good Buddhist, do you have to be at church each Sunday?

Keith: No, just be a kind and caring person, cherishing each day as if it is your last day.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS WITH MINISTERIAL STAFF

SANDY SUMIDA
TOKUNAGA,
LEGACY
ENDOWMENT FUND
BOARD

おかげさま

**QUESTIONS
AND
ANSWERS
WITH
MINISTERIAL
STAFF
(CONTINUED)**



Rev. Bob Oshita
428-9833



Rev. Patti Oshita
428-9833



Sensei Koichi Mizushima
424-7509

K.M. (parent): What does gassho mean?

Grace: Literally, gassho means palms pressed together. When we do this, our hands are naturally together in gassho.

E.M. (elementary): Why can't we be late to church?

Grace: You will miss hearing the kansho that tells you the service will be beginning. Also, coming in late is disruptive to others as you rush in to find a seat.

M.D.B. (high school): I have always wondered how the ministers get to the altar? What's happening behind there?

Carol: At the Sacramento Betsuin, the ministers enter the back of the altar through a door that leads from the church office. Behind the altar is a small storage area where supplies such as candles, incense, and stands for the rice offering are kept. Before service, the ministers, minister assistants and the youth minister assistants work together to make sure that the altar is prepared for service and that everyone knows what their job is during the service.

H.T. (parent): Is the Kanon Bosatsu female or male?

RB: Kanon is the Bodhisattva of Pure Compassion and as a concept, Kanon is gender free. Artists often depict Kanon with soft, gentle features to reflect compassion.

E.M. (elementary): Why do we play basketball as our main church sport?

Keith: The Betsuin once had youth baseball teams. Baseball was very popular; then basketball became more popular. In addition to basketball's popularity, we have the facility and people to teach basketball to the kids

S.I. (elementary): Why do we sing songs during church?

Patti: In 1872, Hongwanji sent a delegation of ministers to Europe to learn all they could about Western modes of music. This desire for non-Japanese music led to the creation of the first service books for both ministers and lay-persons in the late 19th and early 20th century. Since that time, we have been singing songs at service.

A.N. (high school): How are songs in the service book selected or picked?

Kelvin: The Gatha (service book songs) are selected in order to complement the special major service, holiday, seasonal recognition, and dharma message; for example: "We [sing] most [songs] routinely without much thought that we will never live this day again...." We hope that the lyrics reflect upon the message and theme of the service.

T.F. (middle school): Who does all the cooking?

Koichi: Reiko Kurahara (who is 87 years old) and her crew of volunteers often work throughout the entire week purchasing and prepping the food to be served after Sunday services and for most special events.

M.M. (parent): How are we planning to retain the volunteer workforce for bazaar with declining sports and scouting enrollment?

Koichi: We have a visionary programs development position here at the temple to help create and refine programs here to help draw new people and bring together our existing members. We also have our Young Buddhists Association (YBA) program with us for the high school age kids with almost 40 members.

N.W. & A.W (elementary): Who are all the people that sit on stage during a service and what do they do?

Patti: Ministers, minister assistants and youth minister assistants sit on the onaijin (altar area). They can lead in chanting, Golden Chain, Three Treasures or give a dharma talk. Everyone can also light the candles and take care of the incense.

K.R. (elementary): How do the ministers know about things and stuff from long ago?

Tim: One of the requirements to become a minister is education. During this educational process, we learned about the history of Buddhism and our Jodo Shinshu tradition. Besides history, there are classes on chanting, ritual, our altar, and how to apply all of this to our modern lives.

Hearing the thoughts of the sangha from the tiniest voices to the sage seniors brings to mind that we are part of a dynamic Buddhist temple with a rich 115-year history. I hope you found the questions entertaining and minister responses enlightening: perfect sound bites of everyday dharma. Thank you for your ongoing donations to the Legacy Endowment Fund Board, furthering its goals to support content-rich programs and events that engage our diverse sangha.

SAKURA GAKUEN

JOHN MCDONNELL



Thank you for your support of the language school this last month at the Ramen Fest. The generosity of The Best Betsuin is greatly appreciated.

This fall has been a flurry of energy at the Saturday school with the excitement of *Undokai* (Sports Day), *Aki Matsuri* (Fall Festival), cooking and the other fun cultural activities our teachers have shared with us. December will be a bit quieter as our young students focus on their studies in preparation for the fall semester final exam. This is a chance for beginning students to show off their mastery of the *kana* (phonetic writing system). Our teachers use fun mnemonic tricks, songs and imagery to help with memorization. Weather permitting, students can be seen in the courtyard with *hiragana* and *katakana* flashcards in one hand and *onigiri* in the other. Advanced students are practicing practical speaking skills with skits and simulations of being in a restaurant or asking for directions in Tokyo. After the exams, the Saturday students and their families will have a potluck luncheon. The annual theme is "my heritage" and the range of dishes, from curry rice and gyoza to borscht, ravioli, tamale and somosa, will be mouthwatering.

Monday evening's adult students are anticipating the New Year's potluck (January 26) and cultural activity (TBD). It has been said that food defines a culture and the school's activities are big on food as well as making learning fun. Enrollment for Monday spring classes is on January 12, 2015 at 7:30 p.m. in the annex. Continuing students can register in their current class. Spring semester begins February 2, 2015. For more information, contact Dean Thomas at thomas@sakuragakuen.org or check out the adult class web pages: sakuragakuen.org/classes/adult-classes/

Sakura Gakuen Japanese Language School
Buddhist Church of Sacramento, 2401 Riverside Drive
ORGANIC SATSUMA MANDARIN ORDER FORM
Order and Payment Due: December 10th, 2014
on-site sales will be very limited – preorder to guarantee your mikan

Delivery Date: December 13th & 14th morning @ 2401 Riverside

Total 10 lb Cartons: _____ @ \$20.00 = _____

Please complete the following information legibly and return to School PTC or Church Office

Name (first and last) _____

Phone (specify area code) _____

Email _____

Cash or Check payable to: Sakura Gakuen PTC

As the morning air gets chilly, the traditions of the season stir. Anticipation of the *mochi tsuki* rises. Mochi and mandarins are staples of the holiday, as well as integral to the traditional okasane. This month, the Sakura Gakuen Parent Teacher Committee (PTC) will be selling organic satsuma mandarins (mikan) as its principal fund raiser. Place your order now and pick up in the annex when you pick up your mochi in the kaikan on December 13.

Please use the above form to order mikan (satsuma mandarins). Additional forms may be found in the hallway by the Sakura Gakuen display, the new bulletin board in the annex or online at: sakuragakuen.org/forms/fundraiser-forms/

ANNUAL CRAB FEED

NICK SHEBERT



Hello members: Troop 50's annual Crab Feed will be held on Saturday, January 17, 2015, 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 628-5224. Thank you for all your support.

**PIANO
LESSONS
AVAILABLE**

**TAMALE
FUNDRAISER
A SUCCESS**
**ALICE KATAOKA AND
HIROKO TSUDA,
CO-CHAIRS**

Workshop morning piano lessons can be made available to those who may be interested. For more information about possible dates and times, please email bkmizu@gmail.com.

It takes a village to raise a child, but it also takes a village to raise funds for a cause. Thank you to the many supportive people who came to help either Saturday, October 25, or Sunday, October 26, or both days, to assist the Buddhist Women's Association (BWA) in making the 5,500+ tamales. Wow! We were overwhelmed with the feeling of gratitude and appreciation to all the people for their cooperative spirit and helping hands, in order to make this project a success! Our heartfelt thanks to all our volunteers! The funds will be applied toward the cost of the registration fees for the World BWA Convention attendees and other worthy causes. The SBWA wishes to recognize and thank the following volunteers for their time and effort to help with our fundraiser.

Saturday, October 25, 2014

Burns, Kimi
 Fujimori, Cathy,
 photographer
 *Fukuda, Masako
 Hamamoto, Naomi
 Hamamoto, Sumi
 Hashimoto, Nancy
 Hattori, Harriet
 Hayashi, Ruth
 Hoshida, Meriko
 *Inouye, Mary
 Ishimoto, Yvonne
 Ito, Midori
 Kagiya, Terry
 Kaneko, Mae
 *Kataoka, Alice
 Kato, Shirley
 Kimura, Utako
 Kitaoka, Rosemary
 Kobata, Toshie
 Komure, Jane
 *Kurahara, Reiko
 Lau, Sylvia
 Matsumura, Teruko
 Nagai, Rachel
 Ito, Midori
 Nakagawa, Jane
 Nakao, Grace
 Nishimoto, Keiko
 Nitta, Samantha
 *Noguchi, Nancy
 *Oshiro, Misa
 *Ota, Jean
 Raisner, Emily
 Sakamoto, Kay
 Sakazaki, Heidi
 Sakazaki, Ikuko
 Sasamoto, Dorothy
 Sawada, Sachi
 *Watanabe, Emi
 Wong, Pansy
 Yamamoto, Pat
 Yamashita, Sueko
 Yamauchi, Nancy
 Yoshikawa, Elaine
 Yoshimura, Sharon

Male Helpers

Adachi, Sam
 Atajar, Matt
 Chavez, Bob, table setup &
 misc.
 Egi, Steve
 Ikemoto, Roger
 Ikemoto, Ron
 Inouye, Harry
 Ishisaka, Denis
 Ito, Ken
 Kashiwada, Stephen
 Matsuda, Marty
 Masaki, Ross
 Nishina, Will
 Law, Phillip
 Raisner, Bob
 Tanaka, Kenny
 Tsuda, Jim
 Yee, Gary
 Yee, Ed

Kawahara, Marsha
 Keikoan, Fumi
 Kimura, Utako
 Kitaoka, Rosemary
 Komure, Jane
 *Kurahara, Reiko
 Matsumura, Teruko
 Nagai, Rachel
 Nakagawa, Jane
 Nakao, Grace
 Oshiro, Misa
 Ota, Jean
 Ota, Mollie
 Sakazaki, Heidi
 Sakazaki, Ikuko
 Sasamoto, Dorothy
 Sawada, Sachi
 Tanaka, Kiyo
 Uchida, Virginia
 Watanabe, Emi
 Yamamoto, Pat
 Yamashita, Sueko
 Yee, Wendy (distribution)
 Yoshikawa, Elaine

Sunday, October 26, 2014

Abe, Misao
 *Adachi, Gladys
 Adachi, Karen
 Burns, Kimi
 Cotton, Karen
 Fukuda, Masako
 Hamamoto, Sumi
 Hashimoto, Nancy
 Hattori, Harriet
 Hayashi, Ruth
 Hoshida, Meriko
 Ikemoto, May
 Inouye, Mary
 Ip, Mandy (distribution)
 Ishimoto, Yvonne
 Ito, Midori
 Itow, Lori
 *Kagiya, Terry,
 Kagiya-Yee, Wendy
 Kaneko, Mae
 Kashiwada, Keiko Jean
 Kataoka, Alice
 *Kato, Shirley

Male Helpers

Chavez, Bob, table setup
 &misc.
 Ikemoto, Roger
 Ikemoto, Ronald
 Inouye, Harry
 Ishisaka, Denis
 Kagiya, Cary
 (distribution)
 Kashiwada, Stephen
 Masuda, Marty
 Nishina, Will
 Ota, Michael (distribution)
 Sakamoto, Charles
 Tsuda, Jim
 Tanaka, Bobby &
 Venture Crew, set up & take
 down
 Yee, Ed
 Yee, Gary
 Yee, Ivan

Thank you for the donation of food and/or beverages.

For Mary and Harry Inouye, this was their finale. Thank you, muchas gracias, for jobs well-done!

The Sacramento Betsuin Talent Show is set for Sunday, December 7 after Dharma School (11:45 a.m.) in the kaikan. Food and drinks will be on sale during the event, thanks to Reiko & Crew. All attendees are asked to help with clean-up and take down after the show.

The mandatory sound check and dress rehearsal are scheduled for Saturday, December 6 at 6:30 p.m.

Members with questions, please contact Sensei Koichi, bkmizu@gmail.com, (916) 446-0121.

**TALENT
SHOW:
DECEMBER 7**

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

2014 MEMBERSHIP

We need your help to complete the final reconciliation of membership dues for 2014. Invoices were mailed out in November. If you have any questions, please call Cindy in the Betsuin office, (916) 446-0121.

2015 MEMBERSHIP

If you have not already received your membership dues notice for 2015, it will be arriving shortly. Once again, the Board of Trustees has managed to maintain the temple's annual fees, so... there is **NO INCREASE** for 2015!

The Betsuin is transitioning to a new, more efficient and effective member-donor database, so please review the information we have on file for you and your family. Note any corrections when you return your form and **PLEASE** consider adding your email address to help facilitate an improved communication process with the temple. Thank you!

BETSUIN SCHEDULE: DECEMBER AND JANUARY

Tuesday, December 23: Closing at Noon

Wednesday, December 24 & Thursday, December 25 (Christmas): Closed

Wednesday, December 31 (Joya-E Service at 7 p.m.): Closing at Noon

Thursday, January 1 to Saturday, January 3 (Happy New Year!): Closed

(Shusho-E Service and Otoki, beginning at 9:30 a.m. on January 1)

Monday, January 19 (Martin Luther King Jr. Day): Closed

UNIQUE AND SPECIAL GIFTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

Looking for a unique and meaningful gift for the holidays? We have just received new o-nenjus by Hoseki Designs and you'll find them in the display case by the office front door. All handmade of semi-precious gemstones and other quality materials, they range in price from \$26.95 to \$58. Each comes with a decorated gift box or bag, so be sure to come by and check them out!

2014 BAZAAR T-SHIRTS

Did you miss your chance to purchase a Bazaar T-shirt this summer? Or maybe you're on the lookout for a great "stocking stuffer"? We have the T's available for sale in the office — \$15 at the Bazaar, **they are now priced at just \$10 each!** The Adult T is a black V-neck, with a beautiful Year of the Horse design by Laurie Yamada-Mori! It is available in Adult Men's sizes S–XL.

We also have the white Children's T (Allison Tanaka's blue fan design illustrated with small Bazaar "icons"), sizes Youth S–XL. Some quantities are more limited than others, so come by soon for the best selection.

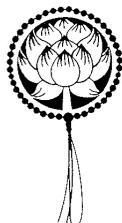
DROPPING SOMETHING OFF AT THE OFFICE?

We have been receiving a number of items (packages, envelopes, copies, binders, books!), and while we are happy to provide a convenient place for "mail" to move from one place to another, it is difficult for your items to find your recipient without identification!

If you are leaving something at the Betsuin office for someone else to pick up, **PLEASE BE SURE TO ATTACH A NOTE** indicating:

- Date of drop-off AND anticipated pick-up;
- Your name and phone number;
- Your recipient's name and phone number.

We will hold items until the anticipated pick-up date. After that, the office staff will contact you so that you can return to pick up your item(s).



*Condolences to
the Family of:*



Tadashi John Tanaka May 11, 1924 – October 28, 2014

**DHARMA
SCHOOL**
VALERIE FONG,
SUPERINTENDENT



DONATIONS

**BOY SCOUT
TROOP 50**
CAMERON LUTZ



Hello! Our featured class for the month of December is 2nd grade. We are happy to share this article written by our dedicated teachers, Bobby Tanaka and Jill Shebert:

The 2nd Grade Dharma School Class is off to a wonderful start in the 2014–2015 school year. The class is fortunate to have 23 bright and energetic students and two teaching assistants — Brandon Mark, a sophomore at Rio Americano High School, and Cameron Takeda, a senior at John F. Kennedy High School. Both Brandon and Cameron work very well with the kids and are appreciated by the teachers. Throughout the school year, the class will study the Four Grattitudes of Buddhism:

- Gratitude to our parents.
- Gratitude to all living things.
- Gratitude to our country.
- Gratitude to the Buddha, Dharma and Sangha or the Three Treasures.

Each Sunday, the students will have small projects to complete, and each project will incorporate one of the Four Grattitudes. Some of the projects have included constructing a multi-layer lotus flower, drawing ourselves and our pets, and completing worksheets such as My Story, My Handwriting, My Favorite Things, and Appreciating Our Pets.

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS

After the winter break, classes will be planning for our annual Open House, scheduled for Sunday, February 8, 2015, immediately following our Nirvana Day Service. Classes will not be held on February 8, but instead everyone is welcome to join us in the kaikan after service to see the creative projects the students have completed in their classrooms. Light refreshments will be served. We wish you and your family a memory-filled and happy holiday season!

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

Gladys Adachi	Fumi Keikoan	Eiichi Okamoto
Wendy Bartlett	Erin Komatsubara	Misa Oshiro
Cub Scout Pack 50	Jane Komure	Mrs. Ikuko Sakazaki
Sumi Hamamoto	Reiko Kurahara	Brooke & Evan Shimane
Midori Ito	Dr. Cheryl Lieu	Yaeko Tadamaru
Lori Itow	Emmie Makishima	Fusako Takahashi
Masami Iwasa	Cindy Tomita Nakagawa	Gerry Tsukiji
Terry Kagiya	Family of Tom Nakagawa	Haruo & Sueko Yamashita
Rosemary Kataoka	Aileen Nishio	

November was the third scouting month and was full of fun activities that Troop 50 participated in.

The Jimmie Yee Flag Ceremony was a success. We were pleasantly surprised with the great attendance at the event and hope to keep up the reputation Troop 50 holds.

The Rocknasium climbing overnighter was also a exciting event for the attendees. Scouts got to climb all night long and some even got the climbing merit badge under their belt. Merit badge participants learned the basics of climbing and bouldering such as belaying, rappelling and knots.

Coming up in the days ahead is the annual Troop 50 End-of-Year Dinner on December 5. Scouts and their families are welcome to join and have a great meal and a show with Troop 50 patrols providing humorous entertainment. We are hosting this event to celebrate the hard work and achievements of the scouts in 2014.

Troop 50 is also anticipating our annual Scavenger Hunt/Overnighter. This event calls for each patrol to be dispatched into Old Sacramento, where they will hunt for clues and landmarks to accumulate enough points to win the grand prize. After all that fun, we will spend the night at the Sacramento Buddhist Church, where there will be video games, sports and food (lots of food). Contrary to the name, scouts rarely ever sleep because of constant fun every minute.

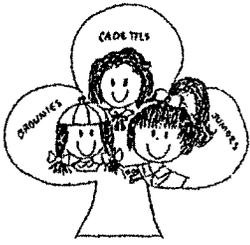
PATROL LEADER REPORTS

Cameron Chang (Magikarp): Patrol Meetings: 10/10, Patrol Outing: 11/22–11/23.

Eric Ngo (Pending): Patrol Meetings: 11/2.

Chad Wong (Big Foot Patrol): Patrol Meetings: 11/9, Patrol Outing: 11/28–11/29.

Brendan Noguchi (Sharknado): Patrol Meetings: 11/14, Patrol Outing: 11/23–11/24.

GIRL SCOUTS
 MAY MASUNAGA


SPORTS COMMITTEE
 ALAN WU


Girl Scout Troop 569 welcomed new girls into scouting and celebrated current girl scouts' commitment to scouting in its annual Investiture/Rededication ceremony held November 7. Thank you to all girls, leaders, families, friends and FOG Street for attending.

Daisy Troop 2 will be participating in the Christmas Stocking Drive with the Loaves & Fishes. They will also be participating in the Holiday Giving Program with the Sacramento Children's Home for the month of December.

Juniors 2 is working on the Amuse Journey and has recently completed the Simple Meals badge. They also attended the California Girls service unit event in November. Our girls are really looking forward to working with an older Cadette group this year to do more community service.

Ambassadors 2 is working on developing their Gold Awards and will be volunteering for the Sacramento Asian Sports Foundation (SASF) crab feed in November as part of their community service.

Happy Happy Holidays Everybody! For those needing a reminder, there are only approximately 24 more shopping days left. Of course your number will vary depending on when you actually sit down, relax and read your monthly SANGHA newsletter. Who knows, because it is the holiday season with all its hustle and bustle, one may never be able to sit down, relax and read this month's SANGHA until next month and next year!

But yes, the holiday fracas has befallen us once again as it does every year, but as with all things in our world, this year happened with a slight change. As we know, change is inevitable; did you notice the change this year? Yes, this year, some of the big big national chain stores made the change and decided to bring out the holiday merchandise in early early October! Yes, even before Halloween, and yes, for us in the Sacramento area, we were exposed to all the holiday trimmings in early October while the temperature outside was still in the upper 80s and even the low 90s! Somehow, that just ain't right! Oh well, whaddaya gonna do? There really is not too much we can do when stuff happens that is out of our control.

However, here are some items of stuff that we can do: Basketball league games begin on December 6 for the E Division, with the majority of games being played at the Buddhist Church of Florin at 7235 Pritchard Road, 95828. For the D, C and B Divisions, these games will begin on Sunday, December 7, at Kennedy High, or McClatchy High, or SASF, just to name a few. Be sure to confirm with your team mom or coach for game location. As per usual, the final final game schedule was still being tweaked and will be distributed when the tweaking is done (which "should" be before December 5!). Keep a lookout!

Remember, December 7 is the very last day to order your mochi for this year. When it's gone, it's gone for a whole year. Use the order form found in this month's SANGHA or last month's SANGHA, if you still have it.

Mochitsuki is on December 13, so please remember what shift you signed up for! Remember, you signed up at church after our parent meeting? Again, please consult with your team mom for your work assignments.

Then, due to the December holidays, the basketball league will take a two-week break. There will be No Games on the weekends of December 20-21, and December 27-28. Please enjoy the holidays and be safe.

FYI: The church office is CLOSED on December 24-25, 2014.

Enjoy the holidays, BUT remember and do not forget about the last 2 extra credit days! Attend our New Year's Eve Service on December 31 at 7 p.m. for that extra credit day, and then attend the New Year's Day Service on January 1, 2015 at 9:30 a.m. for the last extra credit day. And just like that, you will have 2 extra credit days to give you a little cushion for when you might need an attendance boost. Remember, if a player's attendance drops below 60%, that player is ineligible to play in any games, which includes league and tournaments. So, it may be considered a heavy price to pay to have poor attendance.

FYI: The church office is CLOSED on January 1-3, 2015.

After the two-week break, games will resume the first weekend of January 2015. So, Saturday, January 3, 2015, the E Division will resume, and on Sunday, January 4, 2015, the D, C and B Divisions will resume.

And that should bring us back to the next new installment of the first SANGHA newsletter for 2015 and maybe, just maybe, we will resume with our guest speaker series; we are waiting to hear back from potential speakers. See ya then.



**SACRAMENTO BETSUIN
SPORTS COMMITTEE**

MOCHI TSUKI

Pick Up:

**Saturday, December 13, 2014, 11:30-2:00 pm
or Sunday, December 14, 2014, 9:00-11:00 am
We will be selling only at the church this year!**

Where: Sacramento Buddhist Church Kaikan

Deadline for Orders: December 7, 2014

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