

**REV. PATTI'S  
CORNER**

**REV. PATTI OSHITA**



**H**ello and welcome to the month of February! This month, we are very fortunate to have Reverend Harry Bridge from the Oakland Buddhist Temple as our guest speaker for Nirvana Day, which will be held on Sunday, February 9, 9:30 a.m. As many of you may remember, Reverend Bridge was the resident minister at the Lodi Temple when he first joined BCA. Please come and attend our Nirvana Day service, which will be followed by the Dharma School Open House in the kaikan. Come and see what our Dharma School students have been doing.

As many of you know, Nirvana Day is our annual memorial service for the historical Shakyamuni Buddha. It is amazing when we consider that it was almost 2,600 years ago that he began to teach what we call today the Buddha-Dharma, or Buddhism. Especially on Nirvana Day, we try to reflect on his life and appreciate again the remarkable clarity of the Dharma. On Nirvana Day especially, the famous last words of the Shakyamuni Buddha come to mind.

This is known as his final teaching of the Dharma.

Many of you know the story of the historical Shakyamuni Buddha. Born Prince Siddhartha Gautama of the Shakya Clan, son of King Suddodana and Queen Maya, he was raised surrounded by luxury. But the prince found that even with  
**(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)**

**Buddhist Church of Sacramento  
2401 Riverside Blvd.  
Sacramento, CA 95818**

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# SANGHA

**SACRAMENTO BUDDHIST CHURCH  
VOLUME 51 NUMBER 2 - FEBRUARY 2014**

**SACRAMENTO  
BETSUIN**

2401 Riverside Blvd.  
Sacramento, CA 95818  
(916) 446-0121  
(916) 446-1866 FAX  
betsuinoffice@gmail.com

Calendar .....	2	Dharma Education Award .....	8
Dieting for Dollars .....	3	Dharma School .....	8
SBWA .....	4	Save the Date: Buddhist Conference ...	9
Minister Assistants .....	5	Sports Committee .....	9
Choir Festival .....	6	Boy Scouts .....	9
Notes from the Office .....	6	Girl Scouts .....	10
New Sister Temple Exchange .....	6	Venture Crew .....	10
Spring Food Festival Pre-Sale .....	7	Calendar Photos .....	11
Food Festival Pre-Sale Order Form .....	7	Donations .....	11
Condolences .....	8	Ewaste Pickup Fundraiser .....	13

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

every amusing distraction and enjoyment, still he was not happy. At the age of 19 he was married to the beautiful Princess Yasodhara. Ten years later, the royal couple had a son. Siddhartha named his son Rahula. But still feeling deeply dissatisfied with his understanding of life, at the age of 29, Prince Siddhartha renounced his royal title and gave up the wealth and privileges of his position. Leaving behind all worldly possessions, he went off in search of genuine fulfillment.

For six years he was totally devoted to his search for truth. He studied and mastered the disciplines and teachings of his time. With single-minded effort to find the path to truth and wisdom, he focused himself completely to his search. Finally exhausted and weak from fasting, he knew that if he continued on this path, he would soon die, and still he was no closer to understanding the truth of life.

The legend of Siddhartha says that he gave up his fasting. He took nourishment and once refreshed, with profound determination, he sat with immovable purpose to gain insight into truth. He sat in meditation beneath a beautiful old Bodhi tree. And as the sun rose on the morning of December 8, his eyes opened as if for the first time. He came to clearly see and understand what we call today the Dharma. From that point, he was called the Buddha, meaning "One who is Awake."

He taught the Dharma for the next 45 years of his life. But finally, at the age of 80, while traveling from Rajagriha to Shravasti, he became ill. He lay down between two sala trees at a place called Kushinagara, and there he spoke his last words.

The last words of the Buddha, spoken almost 2,600 years ago, would be his final teaching of the Dharma. In his last moments, as his disciples cried, realizing that their beloved teacher was dying, the Buddha said to his disciples, "Make of yourself a light. Rely upon yourselves. Make the Dharma your light and let the Dharma be your guide. Be the master of your own mind. A man's mind may make him a Buddha... or make him a beast. My disciples, my end is approaching, our parting is near, but do not lament. Life is ever-changing. Realize that nothing is permanent. The true Buddha is not a human body. The true Buddha is enlightenment. A human body must die...but the wisdom of enlightenment will continue to exist in the Dharma. After my death, the Dharma shall be your teacher. Follow the Dharma."

What I always find interesting about the Buddha's last words is that even as he was dying, the Buddha was not concerned with himself. Instead, as long as he possibly could, he tried to instruct his students.

He remained Dharma-centered; even with his last breath, the Buddha was teaching us to open our eyes... and see clearly the truth of impermanence, the truth of change. This is the seed of wisdom

Walking the Dharma path, it is essential to truly understand the nature of ourselves. Only when we begin to know ourselves, only when (as he said in his last words) "when we master our minds," can we become Buddha (awakened).

Even with his last breath, he was teaching the essence of the Dharma to all around him. When we truly know that all things are impermanent and our lives are interdependent with others... we begin to understand that we cannot take for granted the gift of each day... the love of family, the companionship of friends.

How fortunate we are just to be able to see and hear; to talk and to be able to move around and walk; to have arms and hands to reach out and hug a friend. Buddhism encourages us to see that every day, rain or shine, every day is a good day.

Looking forward to seeing you on Nirvana Day, February 9, 2014!

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**DIETING FOR  
DOLLARS:  
FIRST CLASS  
FEBRUARY 3**

**C**ORRECTION: First class will be on Monday, February 3 at 6 p.m. Future dates/times will be decided that evening. The class dates listed in the January SANGHA were from last year. Our apologies for the confusion.

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



The January SBWA Board Meeting was held on Wednesday, January 8, with President Fusako Takahashi presiding. President Takahashi thanked Heidi Sakazaki and her Bylaws, Policies and Procedures Committee for conducting an orientation session for our new SBWA Board members, Barbara Nakatomi, Beverly Tanaka and Bette Wilson. Welcome, ladies! We look forward to your active participation on our Board.

**DONATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Kay Kato .....	In Memory of Frances Kondo .....	\$20
Marcia Matsuda .....	In Memory of Don Matsuda .....	\$300
Family of Mitsuye Mori .....	In Memory of Mitsuye Mori .....	\$100
Charles & Kay Sakamoto .....	Special Appreciation .....	\$50
SBWA Ukettes .....	Donation .....	\$50
Mary Tsukiji .....	Bonenkai .....	\$25

**BONENKAI THANK YOUS**

Thank you to Fusako Takahashi, Diane Muranaka and Mari Lynn Shimamoto, who co-chaired another successful Bonenkai luncheon. Many of the SBWA ladies donated more than one prize, which means that everyone went home with a prize! Thank you to the following ladies and men who helped out and donated their time and prizes.

**TABLE DECORATIONS**

Pat Yamamoto (all of the chrysanthemums from her garden)  
Greenery donations: Yoshiko Morisawa, Jean Ota and Sueko Yamashita  
Persimmons (kaki): Heidi Sakazaki  
Mandarins: Midori Ito

**7:30 A.M. TABLE DECORATING**

Ken Ito	Reiko Kurahara	Hiroko Tsuda
Midori Ito	Jane Nakagawa	Pat Yamamoto
Alice Kataoka	Joanne Nishimura	Sueko Yamashita
Utako Kimura	Jean Ota	Elaine Yoshikawa
Lynn Kurahara	Heidi Sakazaki	

**10:30 PREPARATION**

Meriko Hoshida	Jane Nakagawa	Heidi Sakazaki
Utako Kimura	Sandy Nishimura-Yee	Irene Takeda
Lynn Kurahara	Misa Oshiro	Sharon Yoshimura
Reiko Kurahara	Kay Sakamoto	

**CLEAN UP AFTER LUNCHEON**

ABA men (spouses of SBWA ladies - 15)	Utako Kimura	Reverend Patti Oshita
Meriko Hoshida	Lynn Kurahara	Kay Sakamoto
Lori Ito	Reiko Kurahara	Heidi Sakazaki
Keiko Jean Kashiwada	Jane Nakagawa	Irene Takeda
	Misa Oshiro	Elaine Yoshikawa

MC: Nancy Hashimoto

**RAFFLE PRIZE DONORS (PER SIGN-IN LIST)**

Gladys Adachi	Carol Kudow	SBWA (4 gifts)
Junko Egi	Lynn Kurahara	May Shimada
Shiyoko Futaba	Reiko Kurahara	Mari Lynn Shimamoto
Naomi Hamamoto	Bernice Kusunoki	Alice Shimizu
Hiroko Hayashi	Phil and Jenny Law	Fusako Takahashi
Teruko Hirakida	Yoshiko Morisawa	Marlene Takeoka
Katsuko Hirota	Mitzie Muramoto	Bev Tanaka
Meriko Hoshida	Diane Muranaka	Donna Tanaka
Irene Hoshiko	Jane Nakagawa	Kathy Tanaka Henry
Miyuki Inenaga	Lolen Nakano	Shigeo Tanaka
Reverend Peter Inokoji-Kim	Keiko Nishimoto	Tomi Tanaka
Mary Inouye	Joanne Nishimura	Hiroko Tsuda
Lillian Ishii	Gordon Nitta	Gerry Tsukiji
Amy Ishimoto	Jennifer Nitta	Virginia Uchida
Ellen Ito	Nancy Noguchi	Chieko Yagi
Midori Ito	Aileen Okimoto	Satsuki Yamamoto
Tak Ito	Teruko Ono	Elaine Yoshikawa
Lori Itow	Mary Orite	Sharon Yoshimura
Miyo Iwata	Rinban Bob Oshita	
Keiko Jean Kashiwada	Reverend Patti Oshita	<b>Businesses</b>
Alice Kataoka	Jean Ota	Matsuda Nursery (Marcia Matsuda)
Kaye Kato	Emily T. Raisner	Mahoroba Japanese Bakery
Shirley Kato	Chizuko Sakaishi	North American Foods (Harley Inaba)
Molly Kimura	Kay Sakamoto	Oto's Japan Foods
Utako Kimura	Heidi Sakazaki	
Mieko Kono	Ikuko Sakazaki	

**UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2014**

- **Eshinniko, Kakushinniko and the Late Lady Yoshiko Ohtani Memorial Service - February 9:** Reverend Harry Bridge of the Oakland Buddhist Temple will be our guest speaker. If you would like to purchase an obento

**OFFICE  
MANAGER**  
Cindy Kitade

**VOLUNTEER  
EXTRAORDINAIRE**  
Tak Ito

**BETSUIN  
OFFICE**  
446-0121

**SANGHA  
HELPERS**  
Misao Abe  
Keri Castle  
Shiyoko Futaba  
Ruth Hayashi  
Irene Hoshiko  
Sanaye Imajo  
Miyoko Iwata  
Alice Kataoka  
Cindy Kitade  
Jared Kitade  
Mutsuko Noguchi  
Teruko Ono  
Bryan Yamamoto

## SACRAMENTO BUDDHIST WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION (CONTINUED)

lunch, the cost will be \$8.50. Deadline to sign up will be Monday, February 3. The classrooms will be set up for lunch at noon, followed by the service at 1 p.m. If you sign up and pay for your obento at the church office, please indicate that it is for the "SBWA Eshinniko luncheon." Make your check payable to the SBWA (Sacramento Buddhist Women's Association). You should have been contacted by your telephone tree leader in January. If for some reason you were not contacted, please inform President Fusako Takahashi of your correct address and phone number.

- **SBWA Craft Booth** – Jane Komure will be chairing the first craft-making session on Friday, February 21, from around 1:30 p.m. (right after Tanoshimikai) in Classroom 1. She will be instructing the group on making knitted dish cloths. Please bring knitting needles.
- **Spring Food Festival – March 8 and 9:** Plans are in the works for our next "Pre-Sale Only" Spring Food Festival, sponsored by ABA and the SBWA. Announcements will be made during Dharma School services in February and sale tables set up in the courtyard during the month of February. An order form appears in this month's SANGHA. Thank you to Virginia Uchida and Midori Ito for co-chairing this activity for the SBWA again. Please take order forms to your neighbors and friends, especially those who are not members of our church. We want to increase our sales.

The next SBWA meeting will be on Wednesday, February 5, 2014.

## MINISTER ASSISTANTS REV. CAROL CASTLE



Rev. Bob Oshita  
428-9833



Rev. Peter Inokoji-Kim  
446-4988

## SANGHA STAFF

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

## CONTRIBUTING REPORTERS

SBWA	Keiko Jean Kashiwada
Minister Assts	Carol Castle
Girl Scouts	Corlene Goi
Boy Scouts	Zac Chang
Venture Crew	Kenji Bennett
Dharma Award	Ken Furukawa
Dharma School	Ken Furukawa
Food Festival	Wayne Kurahara
Sports Cmte	Alan Wu
Calendar Photos	Cliff Adams
Sister Temple	Wayne Kurahara

On our recent trek to Disneyland, we found a really cool jigsaw puzzle with a cartoon drawing of the entire park. The puzzle is 1,000 pieces and is essentially a birds-eye view with everything from the main entrance and the monorail to all the different restaurants, shops, rides and attractions, and of course, the different characters, including Mickey Mouse himself. It's all there!

Being big fans of the park and also big fans of puzzles, we couldn't wait to get started! There's something about sitting down to a giant pile of tiny, oddly shaped pieces and trying to figure out where each one fits into the big picture. Some folks say that puzzles are too much work, or that they don't have the patience it takes. But, leave a puzzle on the table and even the biggest "hater" can't seem to resist adding a piece or two. Those who like puzzles each have their own style and approach. Some are very organized and methodical — separating pieces by color, pattern or shape, and then starting on the edges and filling in the middle. Others just jump in without a plan, looking for pieces and putting them together. Some search for the right piece, examining each one before placing it down, and others try piece after piece until they find the right one (aka, the trial-and-error method). And finally, there are those who try to make the pieces fit, even if they're not in the right spot!

As I was working on the puzzle the other day, my mind began to wander and it occurred to me that life is kind of like doing a puzzle without being able to look at the picture on the box. All the different aspects of our lives — the things that happen to us and all that we encounter — are like pieces of a giant puzzle shaping who we are and adding to the big picture. Sometimes the pieces fall right into place and make perfect sense, and other times they don't. Sometimes we come across a piece that we're not quite sure what to do with and we need to set it aside for later. And sometimes, when we're convinced that there must be a piece missing, what we've been searching for suddenly appears.

In life, just like doing a puzzle without the picture on the box, sometimes it's hard to know how all the pieces fit together in the big scheme of things. Every piece is important and has something to teach us. Some make us stronger and wiser... some teach us to be more patient and caring... and others remind us to be humble and kind. We just may not see it right off the bat. Fortunately, Reverend Bob and Reverend Yukawa have taught us that we need only to open our dharma eyes to truly see what we have not seen before. By viewing our lives with clarity — remembering that the all things are ever-changing and that every aspect of our lives is part of the bigger picture — what once seemed random and disjointed takes on new meaning, and what we were unable to see before becomes a little clearer. With this in mind, if we can appreciate deeply all that makes our lives possible and embrace the many lessons there are to be learned, then hopefully, when the day comes and our puzzle is finally complete, what we'll find is an image of a beautiful and satisfying life that we are grateful to have lived.

In Gassho.

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**CHOIR  
FESTIVAL:  
JUNE 21**

**D**etails... details... and more details are what the members of the choir are attending to as we plan the 2014 Choir Festival calendared for Saturday, June 21 at our temple. The committee wants to ensure a well-organized event when we host choirs from Fresno, Mountain View, Palo Alto, San Francisco, and San Jose.

We express our sincere appreciation to our recent donors for their generous donations:

- George & Amiko Kashiwagi
- Teri Orite
- Tanoshimikai

We also welcome two members from the Placer temple who will be joining our alto section: Tomoko Matsuda and Kaz Yoshida.

It's not too late if you're interested in singing and making new friends. We practice most Sundays after Dharma School service in Classroom 5 in the annex building. Just listen and you'll find us!

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**NOTES FROM  
THE OFFICE**
**VALENTINE'S DAY GIFTS**

**L**ooking for something unique for someone special? Come in and check out the beautiful wrist ojuzus in the glass case outside of the office! We have some beautiful crystal Onenju from Hoseki Designs and they all come with a decorated gift box — a great idea for Valentine's Day!

**DONATION ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Did you notice that your donation was missing from the listing in the SANGHA? We do our very best to get each and every contribution listed just as you request, but if you see an error OR if you don't see your donation listed at all, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE IMMEDIATELY. The sooner we know, the sooner we can publish a correction. No need to "feel bad" about making an inquiry — it's a high priority for the office to ensure that the monthly listing is accurate. By letting us know of any discrepancies, you are helping us keep our records in order. Thank you!

**PRESIDENT'S DAY: FEBRUARY 17**

Please note that the Betsuin will be closed on Monday, February 17, in observance of President's Day.

**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.

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**A NEW  
SISTER  
TEMPLE  
EXCHANGE  
WAYNE KURAHARA**

**A**BA is working on the establishment of a Sister Temple Exchange Program modeled after the Sister City Exchange Program between Sacramento and Matsuyama. This exchange program may kick off as early as this summer when we host visitors from the Vancouver Buddhist Temple. More detailed information regarding this program is being developed at this time. Even though we are just beginning to put together a Proposed Sister Temple Exchange Agreement, we are seeking prospective participants who are interested in hosting and/or visiting Vancouver Buddhist Temple.

If you are interested, please provide us the following information to [kurahara@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kurahara@sbcglobal.net). There is absolutely no commitment at this time as we are simply trying to ascertain interest in the program.

Family Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Check A, B and/or C.

- A. I and/or my family have youth (ages 16-22) who are potentially interested in participating.
- B. I and/or my family are interested in hosting visiting temple youth and/or members.
- C. I and/or my family are interested in visiting the sister temple.

**SPRING FOOD FESTIVAL  
PRE-SALE ONLY**  
WAYNE KURAHARA



What is shioyaki? It means “**salt-grilled.**” If you have not had it, you are missing out on an old traditional style of Japanese cooking that truly enhances the natural taste of the grilled food. This year, the Adult Buddhist Association (ABA) and Sacramento Buddhist Women’s Association (SBWA) will be presenting **shioyaki chicken**, along with combination sushi, maki (uncut) sushi, age sushi, chirashi, udon, Spam musubi, cabbage salad, and teriyaki sandwich at the Spring Food Festival. The shioyaki chicken has replaced the teriyaki chicken and become one of the featured items at the Spring Food Festival. At the summer Bazaar and at most other Japanese food and cultural events, teriyaki chicken is still a very popular item. But for the Spring Food Festival, ABA and SBWA offer shioyaki chicken instead. It entails salting the chicken overnight with a special blend of salts and seasoning, then grilling the chicken over a super-hot bed of charcoal. With this style of cooking, the true chicken flavor/taste is enhanced and thus the chicken is delicious “just the way it is” without teriyaki seasoning. Try it out and see if you like it.

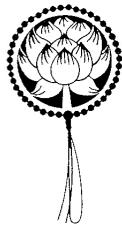
The Spring Food Festival will be held on March 9 at the Sacramento Buddhist Church located at 2401 Riverside Blvd., Sacramento CA 95818. For information concerning this event, please visit the Sacramento Buddhist Church website at [www.buddhistchurch.com](http://www.buddhistchurch.com).

This year, we will once again be doing a pre-sale of all food items. Please take time to copy the order form and submit your orders at one of the February Sundays prior to the event. Orders may also be submitted to the church office.

We anticipate an early sell-out so please get your orders in quickly—no later than February 23. Using the attached order form (you may make copies or download copies from our website [www.buddhistchurch.com](http://www.buddhistchurch.com)), fill out both sides, send in the “right side” with your check made out to ABA and keep the left side as a reminder to pick up your order. Orders may be turned in to the church office or given to ABA or SBWA members. All of the food items will be prepared fresh in the church kitchen by SBWA and ABA members on the day of the event. The Girl Scouts will also host a pastry table, so you can pick up some dessert items.

On March 9, come by the Betsuin and pick up your order between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. All purchased food items will be carefully packaged and ready to eat. Of course, some of the foods are best when reheated. In the comfort of your home while watching the Kings play and in the company of family and friends, enjoy some really delicious Japanese home-style cooked foods with the “aji” (flavor and taste) that you can get only here.

<p><b>Sacramento Buddhist Church</b>  <b>Spring Food Sale, Pre-Sale Only</b>  <b>Order before February 23, 2014</b>  <b>Pick up on Sunday, March 9, 2014</b>  <b>11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.</b>  <b>2401 Riverside Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95818</b>  <b>(916) 446-0121</b></p>	<p><b>SACRAMENTO BUDDHIST CHURCH</b>  <b>SPRING FOOD SALE PRESALE ONLY</b>  <b>Order before February 23, 2014    Pick up on March 9, 2014</b></p> <p><b>Last Name:</b> _____  <b>First Name:</b> _____  <b>Phone:</b> _____  <b>E-mail:</b> _____</p>
<p>Shioyaki Chicken (half) _____ @ \$7.00 = \$ _____                  Combination Sushi: _____ @ \$6.00 = \$ _____                  Maki (Uncut) Sushi: _____ @ \$7.00 = \$ _____                  Age Sushi: _____ @ \$6.00 = \$ _____                  Chirashi: _____ @ \$5.00 = \$ _____                  Udon: _____ @ \$6.00 = \$ _____                  Spam Musubi: _____ @ \$1.50 = \$ _____                  Cabbage Salad: _____ @ \$3.00 = \$ _____</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Total \$ _____</p>	<p>Shioyaki Chicken (half): _____ @ \$7.00 = \$ _____                  Combination Sushi: _____ @ \$6.00 = \$ _____                  Maki (Uncut) Sushi: _____ @ \$7.00 = \$ _____                  Age Sushi: _____ @ \$6.00 = \$ _____                  Chirashi: _____ @ \$5.00 = \$ _____                  Udon: _____ @ \$6.00 = \$ _____                  Spam Musubi: _____ @ \$1.50 = \$ _____                  Cabbage Salad: _____ @ \$3.00 = \$ _____</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Total \$ _____</p>
<p><b>Please keep this side.</b> Order and pay by mail.                  Additional order forms are available at:  <a href="http://www.buddhistchurch.com">www.buddhistchurch.com</a>                  Thank you for your order and your support</p>	<p>Please send your check payable to <u>ABA</u> with this part of the order form to Sacramento Buddhist Church, 2401 Riverside Blvd. Sacramento, CA 95818 <b>before Sunday, February 23, 2014.</b></p>



*Condolences to  
the Families of:*



*Helen Noguchi..... June 30, 1929 - January 11, 2014*  
*Ikuko Honda ..... November 21, 1930 - January 13, 2014*  
*Bernice Omoto ..... December 8, 1919 - January 13, 2014*

**DHARMA  
EDUCATION  
AWARD 2014**

**D**ear High School Senior:

You are invited to apply for the Buddhist Church of Sacramento (BCS) Dharma Education Award. This award is available to high school seniors who are children or other dependents of church members. It recognizes long-term membership in the Dharma School and other BCS-sponsored or -affiliated organizations.

The Board of Trustees award is based on a competitive process that includes an application, a personal statement, an essay, and a formal interview.

Detailed instructions and the application materials are available on the BCS website [www.buddhistchurch.com](http://www.buddhistchurch.com) and on the Dharma School page. The complete application packet must be received by the BCS office and filed in the Dharma School mail slot before close of business on Sunday, March 16. (Spring Ohigan).

In Gassho,  
Ken Furukawa

**DHARMA  
SCHOOL  
KEN FURUKAWA**



**W**elcome to February! Although I usually don't wish for bad weather during winter, we can really use it. Funny how that works, never really satisfied with the way things are at the moment. I, along with most people I know, want the world to be the way we want and think it should be. Of course that is silly, and it is always changing on top of that. So I should be satisfied with life as it is, and enjoy my time here and now. Hard to do, but I keep trying.

Scout Sunday is February 2, and this is a Sunday without classes after service. Look for the attendance sheets on your way into service!

In memory of Gautama Buddha, we have Nirvana Day coming up on Sunday, February 9 along with our Open House in the kaikan. Take this opportunity to see what the Dharma School students are up to these days! Visit teachers and ask questions!

Enjoy the weather, whatever it may be!

**DONATIONS**

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

- |                 |                          |               |
|-----------------|--------------------------|---------------|
| ABA             | Ed & Janet Mizutani      | Dale Louie    |
| Misao Abe       | Barbara Nakatomi         | Glen Kumamoto |
| Gladys Adachi   | Kayla Nodohara - Jr. YBA | Glenn Noguchi |
| Mickey Bennett  | Mary Orite               | Brian Okamoto |
| Nancy Hashimoto | Sam Orite                | Ron Ong       |
| Tak Ito         | Dana Sugimoto            | Ken Okuhara   |
| Alice Kataoka   | Fusako Takahashi         | Marty Sakata  |
| Machiko Kimura  | Tadashi & Kazue Tanaka   | Steve Sasaki  |
| Gayle Kono      | Ray Yamamoto             | Ken Siu       |
| Lynn Kurahara   | Families of:             | Alan Wu       |
| Reiko Kurahara  | Keith Adachi             | David Yasuda  |
|                 | Denis Ishisaka           |               |



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**SAVE THE DATE:  
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA  
BUDDHIST CONFERENCE**  
SAT., APRIL 19, 2014

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**SPORTS COMMITTEE**  
ALAN WU



### “SWITCH ON”

**W**hat better way would there be than to begin the new year by deepening your understanding and furthering an appreciation of Amida? “Switch On” is the dream theme for the April 19, 2014 Northern California Buddhist Conference. This one-day event featuring exceptional speakers, live music and great food will illuminate your senses and enlighten your grasp of “the true and real Light.” The Buddhist Church of Stockton will play host to this special day beginning at 9 a.m. and ending with a farewell tea and entertainment at 2:30 p.m. Details to follow soon with registration information. Hope you can join us!

**N**ow that it is February, we hope you all have had a chance to settle back into your normal way of life without all the hustle and bustle of the holiday season and perhaps the crab season!? It is getting more and more common nowadays that some family and friend holiday “get togethers” and even the company holiday party are being pushed out to January just because there is not enough time in December; add in the fact that Thanksgiving this year was a week later than the norm, which just threw the whole kit and caboodle out of whack, and it seemed like we were missing a week. As we know, time presses on with relentless persistence, and so shall we, and pretty soon before you realize it, we will be in the throes of the next holiday season... Are you ready?

Now it is time we got back to what we are here for; and being that it is February, the basketball league will be winding down and will end in a couple of weeks. These league games must be completed by the end of February to make way for the madness of March basketball tournaments.

The madness of March is the series of three basketball tournaments being held in Sacramento. The first tournament of March will be our 43rd Annual tournament on March 1 and 2. A complete list of the gym locations will be published in the next SANGHA. This year we have 126 teams registered that will play on 16 different courts in and about the Sacramento area... Are you ready?

The next two tournaments of March will be the SJUMC tournament on March 15 and 16, to be followed by the SASF tournament on March 21, 22 and 23.

Our tournament and the SJUMC tournament are for church teams only, and the SASF tournament has both church and club divisions. The SASF tournament marks the last church team tournament and also marks the beginning of the springtime club team tournaments. Did you know that there is a club team tournament on virtually every weekend starting from the SASF weekend until Father’s Day weekend?... Are you ready?

One final note on our last mochi tsuki: we want to acknowledge the BWA for their tireless, continued support for this event over the years. This year we would like to especially thank: Fusako Takahashi, Gladys Adachi, Heidi Sakagaki, Jean Ota, Lynn Kurahara, Meriko Hoshida, Midori Ito, Reiko Kurahara, Sachi Sawada, Shigeko Tanaka, Sueko Yamashita, Teiko Matsuo, Terry Kagiya and Uta Kimura for braving the coldness and the darkness of that early December Saturday morning to help us with our little mochi project. All your effort and assistance is greatly appreciated this year and every year.

The next time we meet, it will be the madness of March... Are you ready?

**T**he new year has started and so has Troop 50. From December 20–21, the troop hosted its annual church overnigher. The boys split off into groups and gathered gifts from around the mall and created a gift basket to be donated to charity for Christmas.

On January 11, the troop had its first court of honor for the year. In addition, some of the patrols performed skits for the troop and adults as entertainment for the night. )Over the next 30 days, the troop slowly crawled back into gear. On January 18, the troop had its annual Crab Feed. This is the troop’s main fundraiser.

January 31 was the annual Scout Sunday practice. February 2 is Scout Sunday. This event is to commemorate all the scouting groups affiliated with the Buddhist Church.

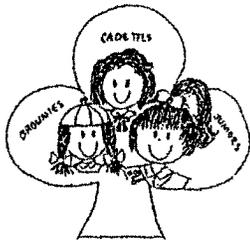
On February 1, the troop will be having a family bowling night instead of a family ski outing because of the low amounts of snow in the Sierras. On February 16, the greenbar will reconvene for its mid-year review.

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**BOY SCOUTS**  
ZAC CHANG



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**GIRL SCOUTS**  
CORLENE GOI


**B**rownies 2 was invited to Juniors 56925's festive art gallery last December for a bridging requirement. The talented Junior artists showcased four categories of artwork that included a bowl of fruit, portrait of a fellow scout, tall buildings, and logo art. It was an exciting experience for the Brownies to walk into a classroom turned art gallery, hang out with Junior scouts, enjoy snacks and drinks, and catch a glimpse of what Juniors can do. Thank you, Junior artists of 56925!

**Brownies 1** has been working toward earning their Fair Play badge as well as finishing up the "It's Your World - Change It!" journey. They also participated in the Food, Finance and Fun council event in January in order to work toward the financial literacy awards. The girls are really enjoying their final year as Brownies and looking forward to more events and projects in the spring.

**Juniors 1** celebrated their holiday party at the Northern California Swimstitute. The girls enjoyed an afternoon of swimming, pizza, chips, holiday candies, and a Secret Santa gift exchange. It was a day filled with laughter and fun!

In December, **Cadettes 3** braved the cold and held their annual holiday party outing in Elk Grove with dinner at Osaka Sushi, a Secret Santa exchange, followed by the movie "Frozen." The girls all enjoyed each other's company and had a great time together! For January, the girls are working on two badges simultaneously, Comic Artist and Book Artist. The girls are working in teams and will be producing their very own comic book, in Cadettes 3 style. Being in eighth grade, playing sports, being active in other interests, exploring high school options, as well as scouting activities have kept everyone busy!

The **Seniors 6** have had a busy fall and early winter. In November, the girls visited Petroglyph in Roseville and created their own ceramic masterpiece. We have many artists in our group! Afterwards, the girls and their parents enjoyed a delicious lunch at Macaroni Grill. To begin the holiday season, the Seniors 6 dressed in elegant apparel and met at Paul Martin's American Grill for a wonderful lunch and gift exchange. It was a special time for the parents, too.

Seniors 6 also had the opportunity to volunteer at the Parkview Church's 2nd Annual Seafood Feast event. They wore black tops and served food to the guests. This event was an exciting community service activity!

The girls are well on their way to completing the requirements for the journey Mission: Sisterhood. This journey has helped the girls to learn about creating lasting friendships and making new friends from diverse backgrounds through fun projects.

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**VENTURE CREW 50**  
KENJI BENNETT


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.

**W**e are now into 2014, and this year, Venture Crew 50 is as active as ever. Before the end of 2013, the Venture crew held a year-end dinner. Each crew member brought a dish for a potluck meal that was enjoyed by the crew and their families. That night, two of the crew members decided to do a polar bear dive and plunged into a freezing pool to cool off.

From January 2 to January 5, the Venture Crew traveled down to Los Angeles. Before departing, the Crew assisted Crew member Lyndsie Mark in her Girl Scout Gold Award project by putting together care packages for hospitalized children. The Crew left for LA at 1 a.m. January 2, arriving 8 hours later in time to visit Disneyland for the day. For both January 2 and 3, the Venture Crew had a blast at Disneyland and California Adventure, riding all of the best rides, watching the fireworks and World of Color, and even stopping in Downtown Disney to watch Frozen. On January 4, the Crew visited the La Brea Tar Pits, where many now-extinct animals were caught in the tar, fossilized and preserved, and are now being dug back up and studied. Afterwards, we drove to the Los Angeles Buddhist Church, where we stayed the night, and ate lunch at nearby Little Tokyo. That night, we were treated to a delicious family-style Chinese dinner by the grandparents of two of the Venture Crew members. The morning of January 5, the Crew attended the Los Angeles Buddhist Church service, then returned home.

We have many trips planned for this upcoming year, including a backpacking trip to Round Lake, day hikes, and a trip to San Francisco, as well as many fundraisers and service projects. For the long term, the possibilities are endless. Crew members have expressed interest in possibilities such as trips to Hawaii or London. Another upcoming trip is to Santa Rosa Island in June 2014. This will be a multi-day camping and fishing trip led by Richard Odagawa, chairman of the Buddhist Churches of America Boy Scout program. Santa Rosa is an island in the Channel Island Chain off the coast of Ventura, California. Are there any youths ages 14 to 20 interested in learning more about such a trip?