

Hello... and welcome to the month of July! Watching our sangha in action continually gives me pause to reflect on what a wonderful community we have within our temple....

Last month, we enjoyed a very hectic, *very fun* and very successful Rummage Sale at the Betsuin. So many dedicated hands were required to make it a reality... truly a sight to behold! That same weekend, we brought the 2013–2014 Dharma School term to a close. As always, our year-end Dharma School service and picnic at the park were well-attended. We proudly recognized our Dharma School students for attendance achievements and our graduating seniors/ scholarship recipients as they move on to their exciting college adventures! Amazing to think that many of these young people were once sitting in those tiny wooden chairs in the Nursery classroom!

Also of significant note since last month, the Betsuin Board of Trustees offered Reverend Peter a generous gift, which he most gratefully accepted. Realizing the enormous pressure Reverend Peter has been shouldering — working full-time while at the same time trying to pack and prepare for his move to Orcas Island — the Betsuin provided the opportunity for Reverend Peter to be on leave until the end of August. Without the stress of work responsibilities and being on call, he can now devote himself completely to his transition into full
(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

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AB'S CORNER
 (CONTINUED)

retirement. This will also give him the freedom to visit family and see the sights of California before moving to Washington. In his own words, Reverend Peter shared his gratitude when he said, "They are really taking care of me." Again, this selfless gift of Dana on the part of our Board brings forth reflections of the kindness and caring of this wonderful community of ours. I am truly delighted to see the support of the Betsuin toward a retiring minister... for my retirement is on the horizon too....

Thank you, Reverend Peter, for giving this job "your all." And thank you to our Team Betsuin for stepping up to fill the void. It will most likely be more than a year before Bishop Umezu will be able to assign another minister to our temple. Until that time, our incredibly dedicated and caring Team of Assistants have all been gracious in taking on extra responsibilities in order to ensure the Betsuin is well taken care of... just as they continue to do for our sister temples in Marysville and Placer.

For the past 10 years, with the coming of every July, our Betsuin has hosted the Youth Advocacy Committee (YAC) Youth Retreat. We've had participants from every district in the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) and even one from the Hawaii Kyodan. To have reached the 10-year milestone is a great accomplishment... and a testimony to how meaningful these retreats have been.

I still remember when, near the end of 2003, the BCA Youth Advocacy Committee asked me if the Sacramento Betsuin would consider hosting a one-week YAC Retreat for high school-aged children from BCA temples around the country. My immediate response was to refuse the request. I told them that our Betsuin schedule is much too full to host a youth retreat for an entire week.

Coincidentally, only months before, Patti, Tim, Carol and Grace had returned from receiving their Tokudo Ordination in Kyoto. I mentioned to Patti that I had received this unusual request to host a week-long youth retreat. Patti shocked me when, without hesitation, she said, "We have to do it!" We next discussed this with our other Betsuin minister assistants — Tim, Carol, Grace and Koichi. To my surprise, they all agreed that it would be an excellent opportunity to create, what Patti called, a "mini-Tokudo" experience for the kids. Fortunately, I was outvoted.

Two months later, in February 2004, at the National Council Meeting in Fresno, I met with the YAC and presented Patti's retreat concept. They voted unanimously to accept her concept of a "mini-Tokudo" experience and gave us free rein to develop the program.

In July 2004, we sent our proposal to the YAC. One year later, in July 2005, we hosted the first-ever YAC Retreat. As 2005 began, our Betsuin still lacked the shower facilities needed to be able to host such a retreat. In March 2005, the Betsuin Fujinkai and Adult Buddhist Association (ABA) each donated \$4,000 toward building shower facilities for four in the Kaikan bathrooms. There were cost overruns and I remember at the Board meeting, ABA President Keith Kato said, "ABA would pay whatever is needed to make up the difference." That was leadership in action. The shower construction costs came to just under \$10,000, and the showers were completed just months before the retreat. Now our temple would be able to accommodate the event.

With the support of our Board of Trustees, our Buddhist Women's Association and ABA organizations, "the "sewing ladies" who made the "Retreat Robes," the amazing organizational and "Dharma" skills of our Team of Betsuin... and most essentially the incredible meals provided by our Courtyard Kitchen Crew... we are, this month, able to host the 10th Annual YAC Retreat. So, when you see our Year 10 YAC Youth Retreat participants during the week before Obon, please welcome them to the Best Temple in BCA! We have a sangha that has created and continues to nurture an extremely caring community!

Hope everyone is enjoying a wonderful summer!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
 ROBBIE MIDZUNO

Welcome to July. Summer has arrived and the heat is on. I hope you followed my June message and are staying cool and keeping hydrated. The Fourth of July will soon be here and as a friendly reminder, please be careful and drive safely through neighborhoods as there will be a lot of children as well as adults playing with fireworks in the streets.

Reverend Peter started his retirement on June 1, earlier than originally planned. He took this leave early to get ready for the move and take care of personal

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
(CONTINUED)

matters before he and Aileen leave for Orcas Island, WA. He was concerned about his commitments for services in the next few months; however, was informed that the minister assistants have already agreed to help out.

I would like to thank Reverend Bob and Reverend Patti for taking care of the Betsuin since Reverend Peter has departed. I also would like to thank the minister assistants for stepping up to help. We all really appreciate their selfless dedication and hard work.

After 20 years of dedicated service, Mrs. Futaba Wood retired as dean and teacher of the Sakura Gakuen Japanese Language School at its Promotion and Graduation Ceremony on Saturday, June 7. During her tenure, she taught class and led the highly successful Saturday children's program, which had an enrollment of 40 students this past spring. She also oversaw the popular Monday night adult program, which had an enrollment of 51 students. Due to Mrs. Wood's strong commitment and dedication to the Sakura Gakuen program, she is the first dean to be granted the title of "Dean Emeritus," which is a lifetime advisory position. In her retirement, she plans to continue to provide support at Sakura Gakuen Board meetings. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to personally thank Mrs. Futaba Wood for all her hard work and dedication for 20 years of service to the Sakura Gakuen.

On Saturday, June 21, the Sacramento Betsuin had a Choir Festival, "Let's Bring the 2014 Choir Festival to the Capital City." The participating choirs were from the following temples: San Francisco, Fresno, Mountain View, Palo Alto, San Jose, Sacramento Betsuin, and three individuals from Berkeley. There was a special recognition to Machiko Kimura, Sacramento Betsuin Choir founder and director for over 50 years, and to Alice Kurotori, Sacramento Buddhist Choir guest director and donor of the Yamaha parlor grand piano. There also was a dedication in memory of Mary Kawano Fong, alto, Sacramento Betsuin Choir, and to Frances Kondo, past Buddhist Women's Association president, Betsuin elder and choir supporter. Thank you to all the choir participants and volunteers for making this event such a success.

The SBC Rummage Sale held on June 7 was another success and I would like to thank all those who donated their items and volunteered their time working at the event.

My wife, Teri, and I were invited to the Betsuin's Sports Committee year-end dinner at the Pheasant Club in West Sacramento. We would like to thank you for the invitation, the delicious food and the lovely evening.

The Obon festival and the Bazaar will be here soon. I hope to see you out there for the set up for the Obon festival and the Bazaar and most of all to enjoy the Obon and Bazaar festivities. Thank you in advance for all of your help.

Again, I wish to encourage you to come to me to discuss any ideas, issues or concerns related to our temple as I am open to your comments. I hope to see you soon at the Betsuin or at the Sunday service. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I want to thank you all for your continued support and hard work on keeping the Sacramento Betsuin the best temple in the BCA.

The June SBWA Board Meeting was held on Wednesday, June 4, with President Fusako Takahashi presiding.

DONATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Thank you to the following people for their donations:

Mae Yoko Kaneko	49th Day for John Kaneko	\$50
Anne T. Akabori	In Memory of John Kaneko	\$25

Molly Kimura was presented with a letter of commendation from Rinban Bob Oshita on behalf of the Sacramento Buddhist Church and the SBWA in recognition of her 90th birthday. In the letter of commendation, she was recognized for her 50-plus years of active participation in the establishment and continuation of our annual Food and Cultural Bazaar, 30 years as Dharma School teacher, officiating the monthly Shotsuki Hoyo services in Japanese. Molly continues to teach the Ikenobo style of Japanese flower arrangement, of which she is one of the founding members. She served as our president in 2007 and on various committees as board member. She wrote a letter of gratitude to the SBWA for this recognition. We are honored to have a person with her stature in our membership.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

ANGEL BINS

Gayle Kono has organized the delivery of a BLUE Angel Bin. It has been placed

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



SACRAMENTO BUDDHIST WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION (CONTINUED)

in the church parking lot near the chicken cooking BBQ pits. Here is information on Angel Bins: Angel Bins is a socially responsible, for-profit recycling company that helps schools and other charitable organizations raise money through the recycling of everyday items. Angel Bins was created as a common-sense solution to an increasingly challenging problem of having an excess of clothing, shoes and other usable items. Angel Bins offers the solution of diverting unwanted items from landfills while, at the same time, helping nonprofits raise money for their programs. If you have some items you want to donate (that you aren't saving for the next Rummage Sale), feel free to put the items in the blue Angel Bin the next time you are at the Betsuin. We will make some money from your recycled goods!

BWA'S CRAFT BOOTH

Shirley Kato: Thank you to the following for their contribution to the craft booth: Sally Hamatake (sewed many aprons), Kelli Omoto Lee (donated jewelry holders), Elaine Yoshikawa (embroidered dish towels), and Harumi Hashimoto (donated material). Thank you to Joanne Nishimura and Janis Furuta for leading the June craft class in making tangle-free necklaces. The last craft class for the year will be "string art" led by Aileen Okimoto and Yvonne Ishimoto. The class will be held on July 18, 1:30 p.m., in the classrooms.

FBWA CONFERENCE - OCTOBER 10-12, 2014

The FBWA Conference theme is "Sharing Our Life Stories as Buddhists." The conference will be held at the Hotel Irvine Jamboree Center, Irvine, CA. The SBWA is supporting its members with \$50 of the registration fee (\$150). If you are interested in attending, please sign up on the green sign-up sheet under the conference poster located on the bulletin board in the church hallway. For additional information, please call Virginia: 421-3538 or Fusako 390-4623. You do not have to be a member to attend the conference.

OBON

The SBWA Board members hope to see all of you at Obon practices and at the Obon Odori on Saturday, July 12, and the Obon / Hatsubon services on Sunday, July 13. Read the church calendar for details on practice days and times, along with service information. Hiroko Tsuda and her crew of SBWA ladies will be at the left side overflow room of the Hondo to assist with dressing anyone who needs help. They will be there from 5 p.m. on Saturday, July 12.

The next SBWA meeting will be on Wednesday, July 2. Until next month....

MINISTER ASSISTANTS KEITH KATO

Ever since I became a Buddhist and especially after becoming a minister assistant (MA) in July 2012, there has been one subject that has intrigued me... "Enlightenment." During the fall of 2012 after I became an MA, Sandy Tokunaga from the Sacramento Buddhist Church did an interview with me about becoming a minister assistant and her last question was: "What is Enlightenment?" I gave her my answer, but afterwards realized that I was not really prepared to answer that question. I am sure that many of you have wondered if we would ever become enlightened during our lifetime on Earth and what it could possibly mean in our lives.

After completing this past February the two-year Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course given by the Buddhist Churches of America Continuing Education Program, I know that I am now better prepared to answer that question. While doing my monthly assignments, I discovered a very good definition of the word "enlightenment" within the Buddhist context; it reads as follows: "The root of suffering is ignorance that blinds man's perception of life as it is. The goal of Buddhism is to transform this ignorance into wisdom that sees things, including the self, as they truly are. The realization of wisdom is enlightenment, the attainment of Buddhahood." If the goal of Buddhism is to transform ignorance into wisdom, the obvious question for me is: "What is THIS wisdom?"

In order to get a handle on this concept of "wisdom," I went back to the time of Sakyamuni Buddha over 2,600 years ago. It was said that when Sakyamuni Buddha became "enlightened," he had "awakened" and "clearly saw and understood" how things truly are. I then asked myself what does the phrase "how things truly are" really mean? In seeking the answer, I went back to the very first sharing of the Dharma by the historical Sakyamuni Buddha to his five disciples. Among those original teachings, Sakyamuni Buddha taught the Four Noble Truths, which continues to be the central doctrine of the Buddhist religion. So let me share the Four Noble Truths with you to help with trying to understand "wisdom" and "enlightenment":

- The FIRST noble truth is life is suffering, stress, anxiety... such as physical and mental suffering associated with birth, growing up, becoming old,



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getting ill, and eventually dying. When Reverend Bob teaches the first noble truth to his Metta/Padma class of 9 and 10 year olds, he summarizes by saying "Life is Tough." Everything is impermanent and constantly changing, so that we have to adjust to all those changes. I think you will agree that our lives have been made more difficult due to life's many changes and surprises.

- The SECOND noble truth is the causes for suffering are selfishness, greed, and ignorance... not understanding the true nature of reality. As Reverend Bob has said to his Metta/Padma students, "Life is Tough" because we are selfish and greedily want everything to go our way. When we don't get our way, we become angry and unhappy, resulting in suffering.
- The THIRD noble truth per Reverend Bob's message to his Metta/Padma class is in order to overcome this state of suffering and not make life so tough... don't be so darn selfish by thinking only of yourself. In other words, think of and do things for others who are dependent upon your compassion and kindness.
- And the FOURTH and final noble truth is to follow the path to eliminate those causes for suffering which according to the teaching... is to follow the "Noble Eightfold Path" (which I will save for another article).

If we really think about it, virtually all the problems of our world of approximately 6 billion people are rooted in Selfishness, Greed, Anger, and Hatred. When we begin to live NOT being self-centered and thinking only of ourselves, our Dharma Eyes of Awareness will begin to open to "see things as they truly are." When we begin to live with our Dharma Eyes open, we will find new meaning and peace in our lives. Does this mean once we have opened our Dharma Eyes that we will be enlightened from that point on for the rest of our lives? Sadly, the answer is "NO." Human nature as it is, we human beings will always be susceptible to the constant forces of greed to satisfy our appetite for power, position, prestige, materials and wealth. While trying to obtain these goals, these efforts will usually result in anger and hatred within ourselves and toward others when things don't go our way. However, when we accept in our hearts and minds AND live guided by the teachings of the Dharma, we can then experience more moments of "wisdom" and "enlightenment" to lessen the sufferings during our lifetime.

With our Dharma Eyes open, we can begin to live our lives clearly aware that the entire world continues to evolve and change from moment to moment. That awareness will transform us in how and what we think, say and behave... hopefully for the better as we deal with the continuing evolution of ourselves and mankind. Knowing that everything is impermanent, we will begin to live our lives not taking anything or anyone for granted. With our thoughts, words and actions, we can express how much we truly appreciate the people we care for and how grateful we are for all the people we come in contact with who truly bring special meaning to our lives. This awareness will also benefit us in embracing the naturalness of sadness when all of us have to know aging, illness and death. But by the same token, when times are good, we can thoroughly embrace and enjoy each moment of happiness... living fully in the moment knowing that "that moment" is fleeting in nature.

In reflecting upon the first 60 years of my life and with the knowledge I have gained from the correspondence course along with listening to the many dharma messages given by many ministers, I feel that I have opened my Dharma Eyes a few times to experience those moments of "wisdom" and "enlightenment." I wanted to share a few of those moments with you and I think that some, if not all of you, may also have experienced similar moments of "wisdom" and "enlightenment."

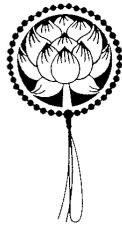
- **In thinking back to my younger years**, I realized that although our family was not "materially" rich, we were "spiritually and emotionally" rich because of the priceless love and compassion given to me by my parents, which established a solid foundation from which to grow up and hopefully, become a worthy human being. Without really realizing it, I have used those experiences to help guide me in bringing up my family.
- **While being a father**, I realized the many sacrifices my parents made such as my dad suffering asthma while continuing to work in cold/damp conditions in order to be employed and gasping for air because asthma was robbing him of his breath AND my mom suffering painful arthritis in both her hands and fingers because she was a key data operator key-punching cards for over 25 years... all these sacrifices made for the children in order to provide us with a safe home, warm bed, delicious food, clean clothing, and educational opportunities in order for us to have a better life than they did... and from those sacrifices, guiding me to know what is important in order to provide my two sons a better life than their grandparents and parents. I know that the only way to properly thank my parents is to give the same love and support to my family.

MINISTER ASSISTANTS
(CONTINUED)

- **During my almost 34 years of marriage**, I have said and done many stupid things which have resulted in me being on the receiving end of many frigid stares from my wife. Despite these looks, I have realized how fortunate I am to live a balanced, comfortable, rewarding, and most important, a very happy life with the love and support of my wife. In addition, I am so lucky to receive and experience the kindness and friendship shown to me from many dear friends. The only way to reciprocate is to return the same kindness and friendship to my friends.
- **AND finally, truly appreciating being alive** at this moment in time, living the life of O-Nembutsu... a life of gratitude for all things, experiences and people (such as family, friends, acquaintances and even perceived foes) which have made my life truly special. As Reverend Bob has so eloquently stated, "striving to make each day perfect despite the bumps on the road to life." And as I had responded to Sandy Tokunaga's question about enlightenment, being here at the Sacramento Betsuin, with its many events/activities and all the truly wonderful people, including my extended family from Team Betsuin... all of whom I can never really thank enough for the gift of helping me along my journey on the O-Nembutsu path.

I conclude my article by saying: "Let us try even more to appreciate our wonderful Dharma tradition that encourages us to open our eyes, hearts and minds in order to 'see things as they truly are.' And when our Dharma Eyes, Hearts and Minds are open, begin and continue to live with the ever-deepening gratitude we call O-Nembutsu."

Namo Amida Butsu, Namu Amida Butsu, Namu Amida Butsu.



Condolences to the Families of:



- Kumiko "Kay" Noda September 3, 1918 – May 20, 2014*
- Hideko Nishi July 31, 1920 – May 20, 2014*
- Lillian Isako Kushida May 2, 1928 – May 27, 2014*
- Tom Tsutomu Shimizu November 21, 1923 – June 1, 2014*
- Yoshio Noguchi June 27, 1933 – June 9, 2014*

LEGACY ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD
KEN FURUKAWA

おかげさま

As we approach the end of June, we enter the summer months of July and August, busy months for the Betsuin as we prepare and host the annual Obon Odori and observance, Obon services, and of course our two-day Bazaar! Many of you will be working various jobs during those events, ranging from construction, food service, stocking, sales, financial services, and environmental services (like the way it is all phrased?). There is no way the Betsuin community can have such events without the selfless service of you in all these capacities. The experiences, personal relationships, and dedication to the temple are the drivers for most of us...and keep us coming back for more every year. That is what great community and memories are made of.

Your Legacy Endowment Fund continues to grow due to your selfless giving, and is ready to fund and support multiple projects in and for the Betsuin, all with an aim to further the wonderful teachings of Jodo Shinshu. To date the Fund has supported programs and projects across a wide spectrum of activities and audiences:

- Ministerial staff and assistants education and professional development programs, in the forms of tuition assistance and underwriting development funding.
- Youth Advocacy Council registration and tuition assistance, and program underwriting.
- Public service and education programs underwriting.
- Choir and other program support.

In these ways the Fund helps enhance the delivery of Jodo Shinshu education at the Betsuin and beyond. We look forward to helping you and your organization develop, grow, and enhance the Betsuin community, and deliver the message of Jodo Shinshu to the Sacramento and Northern California communities! Please discuss your ideas with a member of the Legacy Endowment Fund Board!

RUMMAGE SALE
RUTH SEO AND
JOYCE SAHARA

Thank you to all for an incredible rummage sale! Thank you to all our church members and friends for your help and wonderful donations that came in on Thursday and Friday, June 5-6. Our volunteers were kept busy for two whole days sorting, packaging and displaying the goods. Putting on a rummage sale is no easy task. It takes many volunteers, but we always get eager and energetic help each time we have our rummage sale. Our volunteer count was approx. 109 on Thursday, 129 on Friday, and nearly 200 on Saturday.

Half of the fun in being a volunteer is working together and sharing time during lunch with our friends, old and new. Thanks to Reiko, Gladys and crew; they fed our hungry volunteers again. Then there is shopping for bargains! As our volunteers are working, they may spot a treasure that was waiting just for them. At the end of the two-day prep time, our volunteers bought nearly \$3,000 worth of others people's donations! Now, that's fun, crazy and amazing!

The other half of the rummage sale excitement comes from seeing a bare kaikan and courtyard emerge into this wonderful shopping mall. Each of our department chairs and their volunteers create special and attractive displays. No wonder our customers enter with comments like, "Wow, this is unbelievable!" "The staff here is wonderful, so friendly and helpful!" "We've been to garage sales all over this morning... we couldn't get a deal anywhere but here, and everything is so clean!" "A dollar? Really? I love it!" (Then kissed the attachè case.) "This is a win-win... You clean out your closets, we get great deals! And the church makes some money." And "The people at this church work very well together!"

Besides all the bargains waiting for our customers on June 7, the Venture Crew, headed by Kelvin Mark, arrived at 4 a.m. to prepare fried rice and eggs as a fundraiser and a special complimentary bento lunch for all the volunteer workers as a service project. They also served iced coffee and Thai tea. You'll have to try some at the church Bazaar in August.

Once the sale day got started, there was this hustle and bustle everywhere. It was great to see happy shoppers with big smiles on their faces. They seemed to enjoy our "blue bag specials" and others created by the various departments, since their arms were full of bagged bargains.

When the sale officially ended at 2 p.m., the big charity trucks arrived and all our leftovers were loaded onto them. United Cerebral Palsy and Saint Johns are the two big groups that welcome our donations. The rummage sale also supports smaller organizations in need of books, clothing and various items. When all was calculated, our gross income was more than \$12,000. Now, that's incredible!

We did receive so much support from everyone, but we would also like to acknowledge Afilliate, Inc., where Sandy Tokunaga works. Her company provided all the paper for our posters and flyers, and provided much of the pricing dots used this year. They also provided the lamination on all of our new yellow signs. We thank them very much for their kind and generous support, as they have done in the past.

The rummage sale raises funds for the Legacy Endowment Fund, which supports many worthy church projects. To have so many people pitch in to make it such a success truly shows what can be done with hard work, talent and selfless giving. We sincerely appreciate your help in making the 2014 LEFB Rummage Sale one of the best ever.

The Betsuin would welcome your creations for the pastry booths at the Bazaar. We are asking for pastries that do NOT require any refrigeration. The pastry booth is a popular stop for Bazaar patrons who want a taste of something sweet to finish off their Bazaar meal.

Please deliver your pastry donations to the indoor pastry booth in the kaikan during the Bazaar, August 9 and 10. Thank you!

Special service years are listed below. If you have a family member or relative who passed away in these years and would like to make arrangements for a memorial service, please contact the office.

Year	Service	Year	Service	Year	Service
2013	1st year	2002	13th year	1982	33rd year
2012	3rd year	1998	17th year	1965	50th year
2008	7th year	1990	25th year	1915	100th year

ATTENTION BAKERS & PASTRY CHEFS!
PASTRY BOOTH DONATIONS

2014 MEMORIAL SERVICE SCHEDULE

**NOTES FROM
THE OFFICE**
**2014 OBON/HATSUBON SERVICE
(FIRST OBON MEMORIAL) - JULY 13, 2014**

The Obon/Hatsubon Service is a special observance held in memory of those loved ones who have passed away within the last year. As part of our service, the names of those we have recently lost will be called. At that time, family and friends are welcome to come forward to oshoko and offer incense in remembrance. In June, letters of invitation were sent to families who have experienced such a loss since our 2013 Hatsubon Service.

If you have had a loved one pass away since last July, but the service was not arranged with the Sacramento Betsuin, you and your family can still be included in this special memorial observance. Please contact the Betsuin office (446-0121) if you would like the name of your loved one to be called during the Hatsubon service.

Two services will be held on Sunday, July 13, 2014: one in English at 9:30 a.m., and one in Japanese at 1:30 p.m. For both services, our special guest speaker will be the Bishop of the Buddhist Churches of America, Reverend Kodo Umezu.

GETTING YOUR MAIL TO WHERE YOU WANT IT TO GO!

Another reminder that the Betsuin office is the "sorting station" for mail that comes to the temple, as well as for all of our sponsored and affiliated organizations (ABA, SBWA, Sports, Scouts, Sakura Gakuen, Jr. YBA, etc.) — even mail for Special Events. Whenever you drop an envelope into the mail and it is heading for the Betsuin, be sure to make a notation **ON THE OUTER ENVELOPE** for where you intend that piece of mail to be delivered.

Examples: If your mail is for the Golf Tournament, please write "Golf Tournament" on the envelope; if it is for a Fujinkai event, please write "SBWA"; if it is a basketball registration, be sure you have noted "Sports Program" on the outside. Your help with this labeling will go a long way in assisting our staff in making sure your mail is routed correctly.

CORRECTION TO BETSUIN CALENDAR

Please note that in November, although Veteran's Day falls on a Tuesday, **the Betsuin will be closed on Monday, November 10, 2014**, in observance of this special day to honor our veterans.

Venture Crew 50 participated in the LEFB Rummage Sale by providing lunch support for our wonderful team of volunteers. President Nathan Lowe led us on the teriyaki grill. Ryan Chang and Steven Tanaka led the rice cooking. Savannah Gonsales, Adam Shintaku, Corey Yee, and Diego Gonsales of Troop 259 were in charge of our test-marketed Thai iced tea and Thai iced coffee. Ryan Ito, Matthew Ng, Lyndsie Mark and Kenji Bennett were our go-to people to handle everything in between.

Under the guidance of Mr. Bobby Tanaka we learned how to make California roll. Dr. Cheryl Lieu guided us on slicing technique and presentation. Mr. Bennett cooked our fried rice. Special thanks go out to Mr. and Mrs. Harley Inaba of North American Foods for gifting us rice to serve and Reiko and Crew for sharing the outdoor cooking space.

All totaled, our small but mighty crew served 157 volunteers a delicious teriyaki chicken-California roll lunch. Our iced beverages passed the test, so we will look forward to serving these iced drinks, including iced mochas, chai tea, and boba at the 2014 Bazaar. Thank you for the opportunity to learn and to serve.

Our Honor Guard Butterfly memorial service project, June 21, with the Aseracare Hospice of Stockton was a big success. Just now, we have returned home from our inaugural four-day camp on Santa Rosa Island, which is off the coast of Ventura, California. Can you imagine that about 20,000 years ago the Channel Islands were part of the California coast? Talk about impermanence and interdependence! This area was home to the Chumash Native Americans. Mr. Richard Odagawa, chairman of the BCA Committee on Scouting, guided us on this unique camp, where we enjoyed the entire island to ourselves and caught ocean fish on fishing rods that we built. We prepared fresh surf perch for our meals. Now we know how to prepare sashimi, poki, yakitori-grilled, and deep fried perch. Oishii!

We would like to welcome new Venture Crew members: Sarah Nguyen and Eagle Scouts Albert Liu and Justin Nguyen. Please visit the iced beverage booth at this year's Bazaar. Thank you for your support.

**VENTURE
CREW 50
BRANDON MARK,
LIFE SCOUT**


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.

BOY SCOUTS
ZAC CHANG


On May 2, the troop had its monthly Green Bar to discuss the upcoming summer plans. Summer plans for the troop include summer camp as well as numerous camp outs with the upcoming new lineup of fresh boy scouts due this month.

On May 11, the troop held its Mother's Day Fundraiser, the chocolate-covered strawberry fundraiser. The fundraiser was a huge success as people from all over the church flocked to purchase a special treat for that special mother or grandmother in the family.

Friday, May 23, the troop had a Court of Honor as well as a talent show put on by the scouts. For rank advancements, there were five tenderfoot, three 2nd class, one 1st class, four star and life, and two Eagle Scout advancements. Well done Troop 50. The two recipients for the Eagle Scout award are Andrew Ong and Justin Nguyen. Three Patrols were awarded the National Honor Patrol Award. Afterwards, scouts from each patrol performed in a talent show for entertainment.

On Saturday, May 23, Troop 50 had its annual iron chef. Each patrol cooked a dish with a themed ingredient in a competition to see who can cook the best dish.

June 7 was the annual Walnut Grove Buddhist Church Bazaar Pullout. Scouts are encouraged to attend this fun service project. Friday, June 13 there was a troop meeting that was mandatory for all scouts going on the rifle shooting outing on the June 14. From June 20 through 22, there was an outing for Troop 50 and the new smurf scouts. Finally, on June 27 there was a troop meeting and a Green Bar meeting for all leadership.

PATROL REPORTS

- Thomas Ito: Patrol Meetings: N/A. Troop Activity: 5/23 Troop Meeting, 5/24 Iron Chef.
- Corey Tanaka: Patrol Meetings: N/A. Troop Activity: Troop Meeting 5/23, Iron Chef 5/24.
- Greg Ito: Patrol Meeting: N/A. Troop Meeting 5/23, Iron Chef 5/24.
- Cameron Kochi: Troop Meeting 5/23, Iron Chef 5/24.
- Chris Oto: Troop Meeting 5/23, Iron Chef 5/24.
- Cameron Lutz: Troop Meeting 5/23, Iron Chef 5/24.
- Aaron Kitade: Troop Meeting 5/23, Iron Chef 5/24.

GIRL SCOUTS
TAMI TOMLINSON


Brownies 3 had a busy past several months. In March, the troop went to Camp Flemming (near Placerville) for a two-night camping trip. The girls went on a hike, earned a journey badge, had a campfire and ate s'mores, and met many other scouts from throughout the Central Valley region. In April, the girls worked on two service projects. The first was for Project Linus where they made and donated fleece blankets. The second was for the Robbie Waters Library called "Kindness Bonding." The girls made inspiring notes like "You're a Good Reader," "You Picked a Great Book" and "Reading is Fun!" to insert in books for other young readers to find. The end-of-the-year swim party and BBQ was held in June and was a great way to start off the summer. It was another successful scouting year! Thank you to all the parents and grandparents for their time and support!

On April 25, **Cadettes 2 and 3** hosted an outdoor cooking event for Juniors 1 as part of the bridging requirements for these three troops. Using the outdoor courtyard at the church, the girls had fun preparing dinner and dessert as if we were camping in the wilderness! Using camp stoves and box ovens (no kitchen), the girls cooked a yummy spaghetti dinner with fruit salad, warm garlic bread and desserts, which included hand shaken ice cream and hot piping donuts! While it was cold and wet outside, just like camping in the great outdoors, one cannot fully predict the weather, so you forge ahead as planned, just with a little rain! Everyone had a great time! Thank you to all the leadership who supported the event!

Cadettes 5 ended our year by walking together in the Komen Race for A Cure. It was fun to walk, bond, and see our community rise up to support the cause and raise awareness for breast cancer. We will also celebrate the end of another scouting year with a pool party. Thank you to the Cadette 5 families for another great year!



DHARMA SCHOOL

KEN FURUKAWA



Welcome to summer! Yes the Dharma School term ended with the Picnic Service June 8 at William Land Regional Park, and it was a fun and meaningful event. As always, a big “shout out” for Reiko Kurahara, Gladys Adachi, and the Dharma Courtyard Kitchen Crew! After all, what is a picnic service without a picnic? As always, the crew came through with more good food than can be eaten by everyone in attendance. Although an informal event, this service is great way for our families to intimately connect with our teachers, ministerial staff and Rinban, and the many people who make this Dharma School the “best in BCA”! As you and your family immerse yourselves in summer fun and activities, please remember that the Dharma School program is a great way for your children to “center” themselves in our hustle-and-bustle environment. Realizing that, please think about inviting other family members, family friends, and acquaintances to attend a few services and classes next term! The dharma is for sharing.

As part of the many recognitions for students during the service, a special presentation was made to our Dharma Education Award recipients by Shirley Sekeres, representing the Board of Trustees Education Committee. These students applied for the award, and were recognized for their participation and service during their attendance in the Dharma School program. The nine recipients were highlighted last month in the SANGHA. Other recognitions included our impressive list of 15 perfect attendance students:

- 1st year: Chase Gill
- 2nd year: Nyack Emery, Ben Yeargain
- 3rd year: Mari Gellerman, Raven Gellerman, Lyndsie Mark
- 4th year: Blake Kochi, Jacie Shimosaka
- 6th year: Derek Kochi
- 7th year: Jordan Shimosaka, Miya Ikemoto
- 11th year: Allison Tanaka, Steven Tanaka, Stacey Lee
- 13th year: Jamie Adachi

PARENTS AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Upcoming events for the summer (July and August) are just around the corner:

- Obon Odori is the evening of Saturday, July 12.
- Obon/Hatsubon service is Sunday morning, July 13.
- Bazaar is August 9 and 10.

Please remember that Dharma School is responsible for outdoor eating area morning setup, table bussing, Saturday evening cleanup, and help with Sunday night cleanup and moving tables and chairs. Please check your class emails for messages concerning the class shift.

- Bazaar cleanup August 11.

Any and all help is appreciated to help with final cleanup the day after Bazaar!

Dharma School teachers are WANTED! Please think about it! We are not asking for a commitment for every Sunday, and we will work with your ability and desire to help. For further information, please contact Valerie Fong. If you do not have her email, then please leave a message at the church office! Here is an aside I learned only recently from my now-adult children... they pay attention to our actions and deeds more than our words, and the positive aspects of volunteering and service really do make a lasting impact!

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

Sam & Gladys Adachi
 Stan & Barbara Chan
 Nancy Hashimoto
 Grace Hatano
 Esther Hokama
 Harley & Judy Inaba
 Tak Ito
 Rosemary Kataoka

Shig Kihara Family
 Emiko Kimura
 Utako Kimura
 Lynn Kurahara
 Reiko Kurahara
 Bruce Kushida
 Rachel Nagai

Barbara Nakatomi
 Harry Noguchi
 Mary Orite
 Russell Oto
 Gary Traganza
 Haruo & Sueko Yamashita
 Debbie Yokota

SPORTS COMMITTEE

ALAN WU



Hear ye, hear ye... it is with great astonishment that we welcome you to the second half of the 2014 year. The forthcoming demise of the first half was alluded to at our last encounter, but it never seems to be real until the time it materializes. The arrival of the second half of the year has us stupefied; however we look forward to this second half of the year that is filled with activities galore. For many of us, we have grown up with all these activities, but it always appears more ominous when stepping back and looking at the list.

During the waning days of June the parking lot is transformed into a gathering place where the tent, the lights and the stage are raised, put up and assembled, then there are about eight days of Obon practice with light snacks and shave

SPORTS COMMITTEE

(CONTINUED)

ice on sale, the Bon Odori, the Obon/Hatsubon Service, the Bazaar equipment pull out, the two days of Bazaar construction, the two days prior to Bazaar for food prep, the two days of the Bazaar, and the day after cleanup. Once the Bazaar is packed up for the year, all attention is then focused on the beginning of the new Dharma School year, which also coincides with the influx of scouting activities, and that is just the first quarter of the second half.

The list of activities is daunting, but because our sangha and sports families are as gregarious as they are, all come together at our gathering place and ensure that all the activities reach their successful objective.

As sports families, we have an additional activity/task at hand. It is now time for us to collect all our uniforms, basketballs, and bags so our equipment managers can take inventory and prepare for the upcoming season, which is just around the corner.

Please prepare the uniforms for storage and return them to your coordinator. By extending the life of our uniforms, we keep the costs of the program as low as possible for our sports families, so help us help you and follow these steps to properly return the uniforms:

1. Uniforms must be clean and completely dry before being bagged (please remember to hang dry the uniforms).
2. Bagging Instructions:
 - a. Adult Size Uniforms – 2 gallon clear zipper-type baggie
 - b. Youth Size Uniforms – 1 gallon clear zipper-type baggie
 - c. Bag the uniform so that the red jersey # shows at the top, the shorts are in the middle, and the black jersey # shows at the bottom.
3. Write the size of the jersey on the outside of the baggie as follows: YM, YL, AS, AM, AL, AXL, AXXL.
4. Place each team's uniforms in a separate big clean bag and mark it as follows:
 - a. Division (I League, Lil' Hoopers, or B-E Division)
 - b. Boys or Girls
 - c. Team Number
 - d. Coach's Name
 - e. Team Name
 - f. Number of uniforms in the bag

We could always use more help to deconstruct the Bazaar on August 10, the Monday after, so please check your calendars and help with the restoration of the church back to its normal status with a full-functioning parking lot.

As a kinda-sorta related sports announcement, the annual church golf tournament fundraiser is on August 20 this year at Teal Bend. The tournament format is a modified-bell curve-derivative-best ball-you don't need to be a good golfer to win format where everyone has a lot of fun, AND, you get a delicious bento lunch too. See the flyer in this SANGHA or see the bulletin board in the church hallway or go to the church website for more information. Until our next encounter.

The Board of Trustees invites sangha members and families as well as friends of the Betsuin to participate in the 5th Annual SBC Golf Tournament, scheduled for play at the Teal Bend Golf Course on Wednesday, August 20, 2014. This event is a major fundraising activity organized by the Special Events Committee of the Sacramento Buddhist Church (SBC). A bento lunch prepared by Reiko and Gladys Kitchen will be served by members of the tournament committee to the players and their guests in the kaikan immediately following completion of play.

The tournament offers several options for the players and event sponsors to make donations to the SBC, including three sponsorship levels that consist of complimentary entry fee(s) to the tournament.

- Gold Sponsors receive an embroidered pin flag bearing the name of the company or persons contributing to the donation, along with four complimentary tournament entry fees.
- Silver and Bronze sponsorships include two and one complimentary entry fee, respectively.
- Tee box signage on selected holes will bear the names of those who sponsor a "tee box."

The SBC Golf Committee welcomes and appreciates your monetary donations or contribution of prizes to the raffle that will be held during the luncheon at the kaikan.

The number of players for this event is limited and the golf committee anticipates a full field of golfers, so be sure to submit your entry form as soon

5TH ANNUAL SBC GOLF TOURNAMENT

RICHARD KAI



**5TH ANNUAL
SBC GOLF
TOURNAMENT
(CONTINUED)**

**2014
BUDDHIST
CHURCH
GOLF
INVITATION
LETTER**



**2014
BUDDHIST
CHURCH
GOLF
TOURNAMENT
SPONSORSHIP
AND
DONATIONS**



as possible. We look forward to another fun tournament and delicious luncheon for all those who participate and support this fundraising event. Information fact sheets about the golf tournament, sponsorship levels, its format and scoring, along with the tournament entry form are enclosed within the monthly SANGHA newsletter. Copies also can be downloaded from the temple's website at www.buddhistchurch.com. Questions and/or comments about the fundraising event can be sent via email to the golf committee at sacbetsuingolf@yahoo.com. The temple office staff can provide general information about the event.

Dear Friends and Supporters of the Sacramento Buddhist Church: You are cordially invited to participate in the 5th Annual Sacramento Buddhist Church Golf Tournament at the Teal Bend Golf Course scheduled for August 20, 2014. Tee times for the event are limited, so be sure to sign up and submit your application as soon as possible.

The tournament entry of \$125 per golfer includes a round of golf and cart, morning pastries and coffee, on-course refreshments, tee prizes, bento box lunch and donation to the Sacramento Buddhist Church (SBC). The luncheon will be held in the multipurpose room following the completion of play at the SBC. The luncheon is open to the player's family and non-golfing friends.

The tournament will be played under the modified scramble format (referred to as shamble) similar to last year's event. After each golfer tees a ball into play, the group selects the spot from one of the teed balls to play their second shot (scramble), and continues under individual stroke-play conditions until they have finished the hole. The tournament committee will conduct a random "blind draw" from the field of players to form four-person teams for tournament prize fund awarding purposes. There will be individual prizes for hole-in-one and closest-to-the-pin contests in addition to the team event.

Please contact the SBC tournament committee at sacbetsuingolf@yahoo.com if you have any questions about tournament play, entry forms, sponsorship or wish to make a donation to the event or the Sacramento Buddhist Church. Sponsorship and Donation Form and Entry Form are included in this SANGHA and available at the SBC website at www.buddhistchurch.com.

SPONSORSHIP LEVELS

- \$1000 – Gold Sponsorship**
Includes an embroidered Hole Flag, 4 complimentary entry fees, cart, and tee prizes.
- \$500 – Silver Sponsorship**
Includes a Tee Box Sign, 2 complimentary entry fees, cart, and tee prizes.
- \$250 – Bronze Sponsorship**
Includes a Tee Box Sign, one complimentary entry fee, cart, and tee prize.
- \$125 – Individual/Group Tee Box Sponsorship (entry fee NOT included)**
Includes a Tee Box Sign

SUGGESTED MONETARY AND/OR IN-KIND DONATIONS

- Tee Prizes**
Golf tees, golf balls, ball markers, divot repair, golf apparel, etc.
- Raffle Prizes**
Golf clubs, head covers, golf apparel, dry goods, food items, restaurant gift certificates, etc.
- Snack/Dinner Items**
Miscellaneous snack or food items,
- Cash**
To be used to offset the cost of tee prizes, raffle prizes, or other expenses.

Date ___/___/___
Deadline: August 1, 2014 Fed Tax ID 94-1243674

Sponsorship:
I/We would like to be a sponsor in the amount of \$ _____
Please provide information regarding your flag or tee box sign. Send art work, business card or personalized message via e-mail to sacbetsuingolf@yahoo.com

Donation:
I/We would like to make a donation of _____

Sponsor/Donor Name _____

Contact Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State ____ Zip: _____

Please turn in or mail to:
Sacramento Buddhist Church,
2401 Riverside Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95818