

**REV. PATTI'S
CORNER
REV. PATTI OSHITA**



Welcome to the month of May! It's hard to believe we are going into the fifth month of the year. This month we are very fortunate to have Reverend Kosho Yukawa return to the Sacramento Betsuin as our Gotan-e speaker. As most of you know, Gotan-e is our annual service celebrating the birth of Shinran Shonin, the founder of our sect of Buddhism called Jodo Shinshu. Gotan-e Service will be held on Sunday, May 18, 9:30 a.m. (English) and 11:30 a.m. (Japanese).

When I think of Reverend Yukawa, I cannot help but smile and be thankful that both he and his wife, Michiko, came to Sacramento 17 years ago. It is very much because of Sensei and Michiko that I find myself here today sharing the Dharma in this capacity.

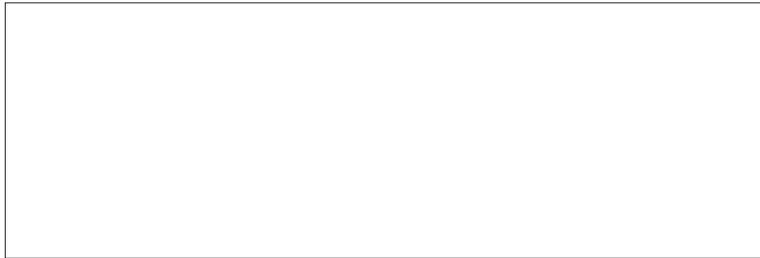
Reverend Yukawa began his career here at the Sacramento Betsuin in 1960. He and Michiko were also married here. They left the Betsuin in 1969. I felt so very fortunate when Reverend Yukawa and Michiko returned to the Sacramento Betsuin in 1998. Michiko was a wonderful role model and just great to be with. I watched and learned so much from her. The genuinely thoughtful ways she would be with people, her remarkable patience, the many extra touches she would do to make people always feel so welcome or to make something look

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

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SANGHA

**SACRAMENTO BUDDHIST CHURCH
VOLUME 51 NUMBER 5 - MAY 2014**

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REV. PATTI'S CORNER

(CONTINUED)

nice. I am forever grateful for her guidance and friendship. And I can honestly say that Michiko changed my life.

One evening, back in 2000, I was sitting in the Betsuin library with Michiko. Yukawa Sensei and RB were talking in the next room. It was then that I asked Michiko, "Now that Sensei is considering retirement, is there anything you feel you would like to do that you haven't had a chance to finish?" Without much hesitation, Michiko said, "There is one thing I wish I could have done." I asked her what that was. She said that her mother and her mother-in-law both had received Tokudo (first level of ordination) and she wished that she could have done the same. I looked at her and with a big smile I said, "Well, why don't you do it? If you want, we can study together and encourage each other; and it would be even more interesting and fun if we went through Tokudo together." I remember Yukawa Sensei walking in on this conversation and saying to Michiko, "I didn't know you wanted Tokudo!"

We soon formed a weekly study group with six students. In 2003, five of us went to Japan and joined the BCA group to receive Tokudo Ordination. In 2007, the four of us (Reverends Peter, Tim, Carol and I) returned to Japan to receive our Kyoshi Certification. Again, it is amazing to consider the many twists and turns that have created our lives.

Now, 11 years later, we are fortunate to be able to send Senseis Kelvin Mark and Keith Kato to Japan this November to receive their Tokudo Ordination. In the next few months, we will be studying and helping each other as they prepare for their journey.

We would like to thank the Legacy Endowment Fund (LEF) for financially supporting Senseis Kelvin and Keith with the expenses for the two-year correspondence course. Also the LEF has helped support our young Betsuin participants who have attended the Youth Advocacy Committee (YAC) summer retreats and conferences.

On Sunday, May 18 (Gotan-e morning), the minister assistants will be having a fried rice breakfast fundraiser. This will be for take-out only. Tickets will be available very soon! So everyone... let's all come out and let Senseis Kelvin and Keith know that the entire Betsuin is behind them in their quest for Tokudo... as we also welcome Reverend Yukawa back to the Sacramento Betsuin!

Until next month!

The April SBWA Board Meeting was held on Wednesday, April 2, 2014, with President Fusako Takahashi presiding.

DONATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Mae Kaneko	In Memory of John Kaneko	\$100
Family of Mary Takemoto	In Memory of Mary Takemoto	\$100
Mary Amemiya	In Memory of George Amemiya	\$100
Ken & Midori Ito	In Memory of George Amemiya	\$30
Ted & Mollie Oto	In Memory of George Amemiya	\$25
Heidi Sakazaki	In Memory of George Amemiya	\$30
Amy Ishimoto	In Memory of Chizuko Mary Sakaishi.....	\$25
Ken & Midori Ito	In Memory of Chizuko Mary Sakaishi.....	\$25
Wayne & Lynn Kurahara	In Memory of Chizuko Mary Sakaishi.....	\$25
Mitzie Muramoto	In Memory of Chizuko Mary Sakaishi.....	\$20
Bessie Ohnoki	In Memory of Chizuko Mary Sakaishi.....	\$20
Ted & Mollie Oto	In Memory of Chizuko Mary Sakaishi.....	\$25
Heidi Sakazaki	In Memory of Chizuko Mary Sakaishi.....	\$50
Fusako Takahashi	In Memory of Chizuko Mary Sakaishi.....	\$50
Helen Sekikawa	In Memory of Ted Sekikawa	\$100
Ted & Mollie Oto	In Memory of Ted Sekikawa	\$50
Heidi Sakazaki	In Memory of Ted Sekikawa	\$30
Peggy Okabayashi	Ojuzu Workshop	\$100

Thank you everyone for your generous donations to the SBWA.

Thank you, Kiyo Tanaka, for sewing tissue covers and giving them "in appreciation" to the current 2014 SBWA Board members. They are beautiful! Each SBWA Board member admired your sewing skills and happily and gratefully placed the tissue holders in their purses. Thank you for thinking of us.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

FBWA Conference in Irvine, California: We are still waiting for the registration packets for this conference, which will be held on October 10-12, 2014. If you are interested in attending, please contact Virginia Uchida or Fusako Takahashi so that they can make copies for you once the packets arrive.

SACRAMENTO BUDDHIST WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
 KEIKO JEAN KASHIWADA



**SACRAMENTO
BUDDHIST
WOMEN'S
ASSOCIATION**
(CONTINUED)

BWA's Craft Booth – Shirley Kato: Thank you to Kiyo Tanaka, who is busy sewing aprons at home to donate to the Bazaar craft booth. Thank you to Sue Louie, who taught the group how to make knitted cowls on April 18. Shirley has many other ladies making craft items on their own and all of you will be recognized in the near future. Erika Rodea and Kathy Tanaka-Henry will be co-leading the May 16 craft class on May 16 at 1:30 p.m. They will be stamping tile coasters. Thank you everyone for making the Bazaar craft booth such a popular booth.

Fund-Raising Event: Tamale Making – October 25-26, 2014: Hiroko Tsuda is chairing the tamale-making event under the leadership of Mary Inouye. Twenty-five women and 11 men have already signed up. If you are interested in helping, please contact Hiroko Tsuda. This will be a **Pre-Sale Only Event** (a limited amount of tickets will be sold). More details to come. Save the date!

THANK YOU'S

- President Takahashi thanked everyone for helping at the Spring Food Festival. She noted that ABA promptly sent the SBWA a check for \$5,667, which is their equal share of the profit from this event. Thank you to everyone for making this a successful event. We hope to get the word out earlier next year and have order forms printed and in the SANGHA in January.
- Lynn Kurahara and Elaine Yoshikawa noticed that the number of udon bowls in the kitchen has been decreasing. They each purchased and donated 12 bowls to replenish our dwindling supply. Thank you, Lynn and Elaine!
- Thank you to Mary Inouye and Sueko Yamashita for donating dish towels to add to our dwindling supply.

The next SBWA meeting will be on Wednesday, May 7, 2014. I have asked Virginia Uchida to write my article for the SANGHA next month, since on May 7, I will be a passenger in a new Porsche on the Autobahn in Germany... traveling at speeds of 150 mph or more. I will be thinking of you, as well as watching the scenery in Germany whiz by.

**MINISTER
ASSISTANTS**
KOICHI MIZUSHIMA

I'm 41 years old. I still feel pretty energetic and young, but my body is telling me something quite different. I recently sprained my ankle pretty bad during a basketball game with the neighborhood kids. We were playing a leisurely game of 2-on-2, and I went up for a jump shot and came down hard on my ankle. I wish I could say I took a hard foul, but no one was even around me. And the moment I came down I couldn't even stand on my foot. It hurt pretty bad. But at least I made the shot right?

**OFFICE
MANAGER**

Cindy Kitade

That evening, I could still walk, but I took it easy and iced it very thoroughly. The swelling wasn't too bad, so things were looking pretty good. In all my years as a high school wrestler, I've never sustained an injury beyond a few bent fingers, so I figured this wasn't anything that I couldn't handle. But when I woke up the next morning and stepped out of bed, I was feeling the pain. I couldn't put any weight on it at all. It was very stiff and painful. After I made my way down stairs somehow, I was hopping around asking Ellie to help me get her breakfast and lunch ready for the day. I was hobbling around in pain. Clearly, I was in bad shape.

**VOLUNTEER
EXTRAORDINAIRE**

Tak Ito

Janet offered to stay home from work, but my pride would not allow that to happen. So onward I went and managed to drop Ellie off at school. After I came home, I looked at my entire house in a totally different light. What was once just a few steps up from the garage, was now a treacherous obstacle that I had to overcome. And to the architects that thought that whole multi-level floor plan was cool back in the '80s, you were wrong; it's not cool, it's a huge pain and inconvenience.

**BETSUIN
OFFICE**

446-0121

I took for granted the ability to just move across the room with ease. Now each painful step was a reminder of my carelessness. Getting from the family room to the kitchen was a journey that actually took time and patience now. I had to slow my steps and make each one count, because it hurt to walk. I had to plan everything out ahead of time. I made my breakfast, and made sure I had everything I needed before I went to the table. I made sure I had the phone near me in case of a call, and my cell phone was in my pocket as well. So many things had to be considered in my state of weakness.

**SANGHA
HELPERS**

Misao Abe
Shiyoko Futaba
Ruth Hayashi
Irene Hoshiko
Mae Kaneko
Alice Kataoka
Machiko Kimura
Yoshiko Morizawa
Mutsuko Noguchi
Faye Uyemura

And as I sat there feeling sorry for myself, I started to think about what millions of people have to deal with everyday. As a former business owner, I would always look at handicap accessibility laws as an inconvenience and unnecessary expense. I would think to myself, Why do we need to change things now; everything has been fine so far? Why should we have to go through all this trouble and expense for them?

MINISTER ASSISTANTS (CONTINUED)

LEGACY ENDOWMENT FUND TED YOSHIMURA

おかげさまで

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Sports Cmte	Alan Wu
Dharma School	Ken Furukawa

Until it happened to me. I now realized how difficult it was to walk 20 feet across a room without assistance. I realized how completely limited my functionality was when you take away my ability to walk normally. I felt as though I couldn't get anything done. I couldn't even venture out to the mailbox. For the first time I felt what it might be like to have a disability. But with one major difference. I knew that eventually my ankle would heal.

I think about the strength and resolve of people who have to deal with a disadvantage in life — whether it is physical, or mental, or social, or economic, or whatever. Everyone is created differently. Everyone is born to a different life. Some have more, some have less. But all of us must have compassion. Whether you think you got the short end of the stick or not, there is always someone worse off than you.

And while we go about our day complaining of the service representative who kept us on hold too long, or the store clerk who was clueless on how to solve our problem, or the co-worker who is a complete fool, let us remember that there are other people out there who have it much worse than we do. It's hard to be grateful for what we have, especially when we are suffering. But it is precisely in our time of suffering that it is most important that we look beyond what is right in front of us, and see all that we have to be grateful for.

SOME PERSPECTIVES

The members of our Legacy Endowment Fund Board (LEFB) take turns writing the SANGHA article. The last time I wrote (the November 2012 article), I mentioned that PSY who sings "Gangnam Style" had 424 million hits on YouTube. Just recently, at my grandkids' request, they wanted to listen to his song again. I was surprised to see PSY's hits are now at 1,940,313,345... almost 2 billion hits! It is amazing how the Internet has changed our lives. Is this impermanence or change working for the betterment of all?

Speaking of changes, I happened to read a recent newspaper article that said that there was a California legislative bill to restore affirmative action considerations for student college admission standards. It also has created much discussion among different minority groups as to its validity. The present status quo at our colleges and universities is the relatively high percentage of minority ethnicity versus past student demographics when the program was first initiated. We are becoming so multiethnic on every level of our society... including our sangha. In my opinion, this is really neat and a phenomenon to be embraced as we go into the future. What does this mean for Jodo Shinshu Buddhism? ... Only time will tell, but I feel very positive and that the LEFB, with our sangha's encouragement, will be there to support our future sangha generations.

LEFB NEWS

Reverend Patti has again been busy organizing and planning our many learning seminars. LEFB will be sponsoring the following upcoming lecture:

- May 29 at 7 p.m. "Let's Talk about Your Meds — Tips and Advice from your Friendly Pharmacist" by Denis Ishisaka, who is a member of our Board of Trustees and an excellent speaker.

We have received many favorable comments and responses to the wonderful events that Reverend Patti has coordinated to bring a variety of interesting topics for our sangha members and friends. Look for future announcements about upcoming lectures in the coming months.

RUMMAGE SALE FOR SATURDAY, JUNE 7

ALERT... ALERT... SPECIAL ALERT! You may already have heard the news. The Legacy Endowment Fund Board is having its Rummage Sale on Saturday, June 7. We didn't have it last year, as we decided to take a break. However, we are back in full swing this year.

If you have any useful old items that we could sell at our rummage sale, please save them for us and drop them off on Thursday, June 5 between 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Friday, June 6 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Note the times have changed from past years for our drop-off. If you want to purchase items, the actual hours for Saturday's sale are 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Boy Scouts Venture Crew 50 will be providing a thank you/complimentary teriyaki bento for Saturday's rummage sale volunteers. Bento lunches and snack bar items also will be for sale to the shopping public on Saturday.

If you also have the time, we really could use your help to work at the rummage sale. If so, please contact our main office at (916) 446-0121 or email me at tsyoshimura@sbcglobal.net.

**LEGACY
ENDOWMENT
FUND**
(CONTINUED)

**THURSDAY
NIGHT
MEDICAL
SERIES**

**ABA DANCE:
MAY 17**

**SAKURA
GAKUEN
JAPANESE
LANGUAGE
SCHOOL**
JOHN MCDONNELL



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.

EWASTE DONORS TO LEFB

Just a reminder, LEFB has a Legacy Endowment Fund e-Waste Program. Thank you very much for past donations.

The LEFB thanks and acknowledges generous donations to the e-waste program from the following: Brian Hatano, Sam & Gladys Adachi, Keiko Sawada, Carolyn Nagata, Hachi Kawakami.

Any individual or businesses that would like to schedule a free pick-up at your home or office, please call (800) 317-3112 or go to www.eWaste4good.com. Remember to specify that you wish your donations to go to the Sacramento Buddhist Church Legacy Fund.

Sign up in the temple office! Questions? Please contact Reverend Patti at revpattibetsuin@gmail.com.

May 29, 7 p.m. – Classrooms

Let's Talk about Your Meds — Tips and Advice from Your Friendly Pharmacist with Dr. Denis Ishisaka.

Don't miss out on the fun! ABA is hosting a dance, "Just Like Ol' Times," on Saturday, May 17, 8 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. at the Sacramento Buddhist Church. Music will be from the '50s through the '80s with line dancing. Tickets are \$10 per person in advance; \$13 at the door. Refreshments will be available.

To purchase tickets, contact Willie Hayashida at 2TalkStory@att.net.

May 5, Kodomo No Hi, Children's Day, is a celebration of kids. This year, the school will hold its 2nd Annual Onigiri Fundraiser on Sunday, May 4. Made by students and families of the Saturday youth school, beautiful O-hina sets and carp-styled Spam musubi along with bake sale items are on the menu that morning after service (10:30 a.m.–12 noon). The proceeds will fund the school's many enrichment activities as well as basic operating costs.

In January, the Saturday youth students were treated to mochi, and Kanto and Kansai versions of *o-zōni*, practiced *shodō* skills as they wrote appropriate New Year's kanji. The adult students were treated to an evening of vibrant culture courtesy of Placer Ume Taiko. As part of the spring speech contest of youth student-written speeches about Japanese culture, students and guests were treated to *sakura mochi* from Osaka-ya and a selection of Japanese sodas.

Last month, an all-day field trip to San Francisco's Cherry Blossom Festival was enjoyed by Saturday students. As we have a growing number of new families who are not heritage learners, the trip to SF's *Nihonmachi* was a new experience with all the sights, sounds, smells and flavors. It was fun to watch the excitement grow on the faces of our new students. The trip also provides a practical lesson in using their language skills. Please support the school and its mission to promote an appreciation of Japanese culture and language with your contributions to our fundraisers (onigiri in spring and ramen in late fall).

You may see students muttering in Japanese or thumbing through flashcards this month as they prepare for the final exam on all they have mastered this year at Sakura Gakuen. This year, there may be at least three graduates from the school. This is a major accomplishment demonstrating an eight-year commitment to learning Japanese and devoting their Saturdays to another day of school. These students do not need luck to pass their final exam; they just need much-deserved admiration from us all.

School will begin September 8 for the Monday Adult classes with enrollment on August 18 (6 p.m.–7 p.m.). The Saturday classes begin on September 6 with in-person early enrollment on the morning of August 23 (9 a.m.–11 a.m.). For the latest information on class offerings and enrollment, see the school website at <http://sakuragakuen.org>.

The school will have a booth at the Pacific Rim Festival this month, May 18, in Old Sacramento, and also at the SacAnime convention over Labor Day weekend. Drop by and say hello. Meet our teachers and enthusiastic student volunteers at these events. For more details watch our website announcements and news.

**CHOIR
FESTIVAL:
JUNE 21**

In early 2011, we received an invitation to a Choir Festival from the Buddhist Church of San Francisco Choir. Not knowing how we would sound compared to other choirs, we prepared ourselves for the challenge. In June 2012, we donned our happi coats and traveled to San Francisco on a charter bus, both made possible by the monetary support of the Legacy Endowment Fund Board. Joining us were our own fan club consisting of the beautiful ladies of the Sacramento Buddhist Women's Association (SBWA) and a few handsome men. The 2012 festival was a great opportunity to meet new people who love to sing and enabled us listen to their musical interpretations.

While in San Francisco, Reverend Ron Kobata posed a friendly gesture to us to host the next Choir Festival. *So here we are!* On Saturday, June 21, 2014, less than two months away, we are hosting a Choir Festival at our temple. If you would like to listen to us and the choirs from Fresno, Mountain View, Palo Alto, San Francisco and San Jose, please come to the Hondo from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. to hear the individual choirs and the mass choir presentation. There is no admission fee.

We want to express our heartfelt thank you the following people for their most generous donation to our Choir: Minnie Iseri: Special Donation; George Kashiwagi: In Appreciation and For His Recovery; Janice Morikawa: Special Donation; Ruth Seo: In Memory of Annie Nakashima; Family of Chizuko Sakaishi: Orei.

In Harmony and Gassho,
Sacramento Betsuin Choir

**CHEER ON
KOICHI AND
ELLIE AND
SUPPORT A
GREAT
CAUSE
SHARON ITO**

When Koichi Mizushima and his 9-year-old daughter, Ellie, take the stage at the Crest Theatre, their duet will be a song of love and a message of hope for women and children in crisis. The Mizushimas are among the featured performers at a gala for My Sister's House, "Change... A New Beginning," on Monday, May 19, at the historic downtown Sacramento theater.

Koichi and Ellie will perform, "New Soul," by Yael Naim. Gala producer Sanford Marshall says he picked the song because it "celebrates the spirit of optimism and encourages the individual to look at life with fresh eyes."

"Sometimes we have to use this skill to help us get out of circumstances we need to change," says Marshall, and adds that "for many women in abusive relationships they need the courage to pick up and start again." Marshall believes he has found the right song in "New Soul," and the right performers in Koichi and Ellie. "I like the symbolism of a father and daughter singing this together because we know how important the role of a father is in shaping what young ladies look for in their future partners."

Koichi says he recognizes "the world can sometimes be a place that is beyond our control or understanding, so as a parent we do our very best to raise our children with an awareness to try and overcome the challenges that will inevitably cross their paths." He says he explained the mission of My Sister's House to Ellie, and in seeing his involvement with volunteer organizations and the temple, she has "a core understanding about the importance of community service."

Proceeds from the gala will help My Sister's House operate two emergency shelters, a 24/7 multilingual crisis line and a work readiness program for survivors of all backgrounds.

Koichi and Ellie will soon begin rehearsing with a celebrity cast that includes former NFL star Rick Jennings, State Personnel Board member Maeley Tom, Sacramento Police Chief Sam Somers and West Sacramento Mayor Christopher Cabaldon. Koichi says he and Ellie have been singing together since she was a toddler, and through their performance he hopes to deliver a heartfelt message. "As a father, there is nothing more important than creating a safe world for all of our sons and daughters."

The My Sister's House Gala takes place on Monday, May 19, at 5 p.m. with a reception at The Social Club located at 1100 K Street in Sacramento. The stage show begins at 7 p.m. across the street at the Crest Theatre at 1013 K Street.

Tickets for the reception and show are \$100 each, and tickets for the show only are \$50. For tickets and information, call Sharon Ito at (916) 996-0506, or sharonito10@gmail.com, or Erin Komatsubara at (916) 616-3746, or Monku48@aol.com, or visit www.my-sisters-house.org.



Rev. Bob Oshita
428-9833



Rev. Peter Inokoji-Kim
446-4988

**YOUNG
LEADERS
TODAY
CONFERENCE**
NATALIE OKUHARA

Three years ago, I moved away from the Sacramento Betsuin and my home to attend college in Southern California. College has been an amazing growth experience, but I am often so busy and focused on my studies that, unfortunately, Sunday mornings are now spent catching up on sleep rather than attending church service. Although attending service every Sunday is no longer routine for me, it is always refreshing when something comes along and reconnects me with the Betsuin.

In early March 2014, I had the privilege of attending the Young Leaders Today (YLT) conference in Seattle. Each year, the YLT conference brings together young Buddhists from throughout the country and Canada to share in what it means to be a Buddhist and a leader. Through the conference, I made several new friends and learned new things through fun icebreakers (KNex speed-racing competition, anyone?), interesting group discussions, and creative leadership workshops. The YLT conference allowed me to reflect on my ties to the Sacramento Betsuin and the many opportunities the Betsuin has provided me throughout my life. The teachings instilled in me from being a part of the Betsuin have helped me to understand my responsibilities as a leader in our Buddhist sangha and the greater community.

The YLT conference also coincided with the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) Ministers' Meeting and National Council Meeting. With my YLT friends, I attended the morning opening service and the closing Eitaikyo service. I was especially delighted to see familiar faces from the Sacramento Betsuin, including Reverend Patti, Rinban Bob, and Mr. Hiromoto, for whose sixth grade Dharma School class I was a teacher's assistant for three years. In addition to service, I enjoyed the evening banquet, which included a tasty dinner and dessert.



Teryn Hara and Natalie Okuhara

But perhaps even more of a treat was the talent show that concluded the conference. During the talent show, I shared in the laughter and enjoyment of watching the reverends sing the "Day-O" song, my YLT friends perform songs and dance routines, Socho Umezu performing "Sukiyaki," and seeing the good-natured camaraderie between the reverends from all over the country. Being together with fellow Buddhists in a cheerful atmosphere brought nostalgic feelings reminiscent of being home at the Betsuin and I cherished that feeling throughout the conference.

On behalf of Teryn Hara, Matt Nitta and myself, I would like to thank the Sacramento Betsuin and the Legacy Endowment Fund Board for funding our wonderful YLT 2014 experience. I am very thankful for this enriching opportunity to delve deeper into the dharma with new friends and new memories. Furthermore, I am deeply grateful for everything I learned while growing up with the Sacramento Betsuin, for it has played a pivotal role in shaping me into the leader and individual that I am today. Thank you!

**YOUNG
LEADERS
TODAY
CONFERENCE**
TERYN HARA

On February 28, 2014, after touring Seattle, Washington, we arrived at the Bellevue Westin Hotel for the sixth annual Young Leaders Today (YLT) Conference hosted by the Youth Advocacy Committee (YAC). I was greeted by many familiar faces from past YAC events, and also a few unfamiliar faces.

YLT brings together the leaders of "today" who are involved and interested in leading activities within the temples and their districts. Attendees included Youth Minister Assistants, Southern District Senior YBA, College YBA Leaders, Seattle Senior YBA at University of Washington, and Utah YBA.

We began the YLT program that evening with an ice breaker that gave the participants the chance to get to know each other through team building. Afterwards, we were introduced to Sensei Joanne Yuasa, from Canada. She shared her heartfelt story of how she became introduced to Buddhism and her path as a follower of the Dharma. YLT continued on Saturday with more icebreakers, guest speakers Reverend Kojo Kaikihara of Tacoma Buddhist Temple and Reverend Kurt Rye of Ekoji Buddhist Temple, and a leadership workshop led by YAC's Keith Sawada. Similarly to Sensei Yuasa, Reverend Kaikihara and Reverend Rye also shared their dharma paths. They discussed their lives outside of the temple. Reverend Kaikihara shared with us his love for the game of billiards. Reverend Rye shared about his profession working with long-term mental patients. Although both Reverend Kaikihara and Reverend Rye participate in activities outside of the temple, they still find themselves connecting their lives to the teachings of the Buddha.

**YOUNG
LEADERS
TODAY
CONFERENCE**
(CONTINUED)

The leadership workshops allowed us leaders of “today” to challenge ourselves and think about the kind of leader we are now, and the leader we want to become. We participated in a number of leadership activities and challenges in which we were given no right or wrong answer, but instead given the opportunity to discuss what had happened and why.

YLT is always a great experience in which I learn more about who I am as a Buddhist, a leader, and the person I want to become. Sensei Yuasa, Reverend Kaikihara, and Reverend Rye shared their personal stories and experiences. While they reflected on their lives as Buddhists, it also allowed me to reflect on my own life and how I can apply Buddhism to my everyday life as a college student, member of Southern District Senior YBA, Youth Minister Assistant, and leader of “today.” Being a leader is about more than just doing the expected; it is about doing the unexpected. It is about venturing into new territory to create something or do something that has never been done before. Being a leader is about finding ways to gather people to achieve a common goal. YLT challenges us all to become better leaders. We are not to dwell on past leadership mistakes, or get caught up in becoming the leaders of the future; we are to focus on the fact that we are the leaders of “today.” We were not invited necessarily to participate in YLT because we are likely to become board members or reverends, but because we are the leaders of “today” —not yesterday, tomorrow, or in the future, but today.

I would like to thank the Legacy Endowment Fund Board for its financial support and its continuous support of YAC. It is through YAC that I have received the opportunity to participate in the YAC summer retreat, become a youth minister assistant, and participate in events such as YLT. I am grateful for all of these opportunities and the wonderful experiences I have shared with other young Buddhists. It would not have been possible without the Legacy Endowment Fund’s investment and continuous support.

**MAINTENANCE
REPORT**
GARY TRAGANZA

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

- Bruce Muramoto and I installed a new 4’ fluorescent light over the stove in the outdoor kitchen and two 4’ fluorescent lights in the middle kitchen. It’s much brighter now!
- Brian Onodera installed a quick-release gas line for the new stove in the outdoor kitchen. The stove can now be moved to clean the floor under it. Brian also replaced a leaking gasket on one of the urinals in the main building.
- How do you dispose of an old 1,300-pound stove? Why you call Mike Dishno, of course. He single-handedly dismantled the behemoth, loaded it onto his trailer and took it to a recycler. He claims he loaded it with one hand behind his back (?). Not sure I believe that part, Mike, but thank you just the same — 1,300 pounds. WOW! Way to go, Mike. The following week he also disposed of an old washing machine.
- Someone tripped on the uneven paving bricks in front of the double doors leading into the hallway from the courtyard. Tomio Masaki, John Itagaki, Max Hamamoto and Mike Nagai corrected the problem by re-leveling that area. We owe them a big thank you. It’s quite possible someone could have been seriously injured tripping and falling on such a hard surface.
- After a couple of bids, the temple chose Brian Onodera to install an on-demand water heater for the main building. The big advantage — you never run out of hot water and you only heat the water you are going to use. I was with Brian for a few hours and I can honestly say he is a real craftsman. He pays great attention to every detail. Thank you for such great work, Brian.
- And finally, thanks are in order to the following people for setting up the stage extension for the Hanamatsuri play: Sam Adachi, Robert Ito, Tomio Masaki, Wil Nishina, Eiichi Okamoto, Akio Seo and Wayne Kurahara.

Thanks, guys.

**VENTURE
CREW 50**



Venture Crew 50 would like to extend deepest thanks to our sangha for coming out to recognize Hanamatsuri Service on Sunday, April 13, 2014, and for helping to support our 2nd Annual Corned Beef Hash Breakfast. Can you believe that our Crew of 11 active youth members helped to serve up 700 fresh eggs, 150 pounds of freshly prepared corned beef, 100 pounds of russet spuds, 20 pounds of onions, 55 pounds of rice, 8 gallons of fresh orange juice, 3 gallons of Peet’s coffee, and 2 gallons of green tea? Mmm, gochisosama!

Your support helps to fund our co-ed advanced scouting program, which is open to young adults ages 14–20 years–old. Your contributions also play a major role in supporting Crew 50 Eagle Scout projects that serve to enrich our community. Special thanks go out to Crew President Nathan Lowe, and VPs Steven Tanaka and Matthew Ng for spearheading this year’s effort.

**VENTURE
CREW 50**
(CONTINUED)

Our next project will be providing complimentary chicken teriyaki bento box lunches for all registered volunteers staffing the 5th Annual Betsuin Rummage Sale, to be held on Saturday, June 7, 2014, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. We will offer concession stand fare to our shopping public, including a limited number of bento boxes. Just let a Crew member know if you'd like us to save a bento for you. If you liked our corned beef, you'll love our chicken teri!

Thank you again for supporting our youth scouting program.

**SPORTS
COMMITTEE**
ALAN WU


Hello there, sports fans, a warm and sunny disposition for you to welcome in the month of May for 2014! The dust has settled from the real NCAA March Madness, which trickles into the month of April, but oh well; and what a March Madness it was with UConn the No. 1 seed meeting up against Notre Dame, another No. 1 seed... But wait, was that the game you remember? Probably not, because it was the championship game of the NCAA Women's Tournament. The championship game between UConn and Kentucky is the game that everyone remembers, and in case you did not notice, UConn is the National Champion for BOTH men and women.

With the aforementioned dust being settled now, how is your hay fever this spring? With the lack of rain that we experienced this winter, it will be a very long dry season with lots of pollen in the air.

Getting back to our neck of the woods, and our very own little madness of March, here are the results from the Sacramento Japanese United Methodist Church (SJUMC) Tournament:

B DIVISION

B1 Boys: 3rd

B2 Boys played in the Fellowship game

C DIVISION
Boys

C1 Boys played for consolation in Gold

C2 Boys played for consolation in Bronze

Girls

C/B Girls went 1 and 2

D DIVISION
Boys

D1 Boys (Thunder): 2nd, 26-28

D2 Boys (Hurricanes): 4th, 21-22

E1 lost all 3 games playing in D Division

Girls

D1 Girls: 4th

E DIVISION
Boys

E2 Boys: 6th

E3 Boys won Fellowship

Girls

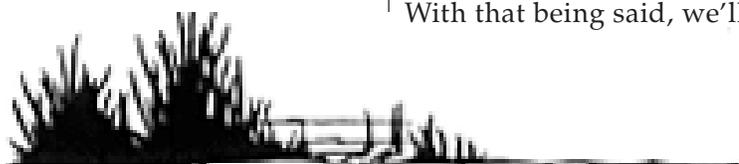
E1 Girls (Saints) won Championship

E2 Girls (Fireballs) won Fellowship

The last tournament some of our teams will participate in this season will be the Central Cal Cobra tournament in Fresno during Father's Day weekend. This tournament is a fan favorite with the Saturday night event being held at Blackbeard's Family Entertainment Center, where families go for: water slides, mini-golf, carnival rides, bumper cars, bumper boats, arcade, batting cages and more... is it any wonder why this tournament is a fan favorite?

In order to take advantage of some of the fall tournaments that we typically miss due to the fact that our teams are not yet formed and not ready to play in the fall; we are having early registration this month — yes, during the month of May 2014. We will attempt to form our teams early so that they will be all primed and ready for action to participate in the fall tournaments, so get prepared and watch for our registration tables in the courtyard on Sundays in May.

With that being said, we'll see you next month.



DHARMA SCHOOL KEN FURUKAWA



Hi everyone and welcome to May! My, the year flies by, and April was no exception. With the warming of the weather came Hanamatsuri! We had a very special guest speaker, Reverend Peter Hata (of "Hiroshima" fame)! His Dharma talk focused on the First Dharma Talk by Gautama Buddha, and was presented in a very friendly and easily understood manner, for both our younger children, and adults. He also spent some time explaining the symbolism of the Hanamido (flower shrine) and the act of Kanbutsu. As with prior years, the Hanamido was beautifully arranged by the Roger Ikemoto family and Carolyn Murata as representatives for the 8th grade class. Again I want to thank the Taira family of Kiyō's Floral Design for the generous flower donation for the Hanamido.

Another imaginative and entertaining, as well as thought-provoking, play was performed by a talented troupe of actors, voice actors, and stage hands.

"Monsters, Inc.: The Next Generation" was an exploration into laughter, being yourself, and the power and energy developed by such understanding. Cliff Adams and Ann Amioka put together another blockbuster with the aid of director Gillian Ohta. Of course there was a large cast, stage crew, and many others who contributed so much to make this play so successful. Just to give an idea, the play program included a full page of special thanks to many people who supported the efforts of the play and service. Well-deserved recognition!

May Dharma School events include:

Fire Drill	May 4
Gotan-e	May 18
Temple Clean-Up	May 25

(the last Dharma School service of this term!)

FUTURE EVENTS:

June 8: Dharma School picnic service will be at William Land Regional Park!

July 13: Walnut Grove Buddhist Church is sponsoring a youth retreat for 6th–8th graders (incoming 7th–9th). This all-day event will include several fun activities! Please see the flyer and registration packets on the bulletin boards at the Betsuin! Registration is only \$10!

DONATIONS

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

6th Grade Dharma Class
Asian Community Center Meals on Wheels
Gladys Adachi
Betsuin Sports Program
Max & Sumi Hamamoto
Nancy Hashimoto
Esther Hokama
Gladys Irokawa
Minnie Iseri
Lori Itow
Mae Kaneko
Rosemary Kataoka
Gail Keikoan
Rosemary Kitaoka
Ben & Grace Kotani
Reiko Kurahara
Wayne Kurahara

Buddhist Youth & Japanese Cultural Retreat

When: July 13, 2014 (9am-8pm)

Where: Walnut Grove Buddhist Church

Who: Incoming 7th-9th Graders

Attention Buddhist Youth! Come attend a fun retreat designed to inform and engage young Buddhists in Japanese culture and give them a deeper understanding of Buddhism!

Activities include:

- Ojuzi-making!
- Martial Arts taught by instructors
- Interactive games and discussions
- Application of Buddhism into your daily life

Ask your Dharma School Superintendent/Teacher for registration packet!

Registration Fee only \$10!

Step 1: Save the Date

Step 2: Fill out registration packet

Step 3: Mail Application

Questions or concerns? Youth Contact: Rhythic Nishi at laytheke@gmail.com or (916) 964-5864
Adult Contact: Sharon Yokoi at ayyokoi@comcast.net or (510) 220-5368

Sylvia Lau
Emmie Makishima
Drs. Kelvin Mark & Cheryl Liu
Barbara Nakatomi
Eleanor Nobuye
Aileen Okamoto
Mary Orite
Sam Orite
Jean Ota

Russell Oto/Oto's Marketplace
Shuny Sagara Family
Peggy Sagara Fong
Sachi Sawada
Aki Shimada
Kathryn Shimane
Fusako Takahashi
Kiyō Tanaka
Shige Tanaka
Haruo & Sueko Yamashita

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS!

Are you a high school senior or a college student? Are you a good ambassador for the Betsuin? If you like to help people, are friendly, detail-oriented, professional in your demeanor, have good computer skills and are looking for a part-time job, consider applying for a Student Assistant position in the Betsuin office! We are currently accepting applications for summer 2014 (and beyond). Please stop by the office to pick-up an application!

LOST AND FOUND

If you are missing keys, a jacket, hat, glasses, photos, books, journal, a BRAND NEW 2014 BETSUIN BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT SWEATSHIRT — or numerous other PERSONAL TREASURES — and you have not yet checked the Betsuin's Lost & Found, please do so before the Annual Rummage Sale in June! **Anything still here in the office on JUNE 4 will be donated (well... maybe not the keys...)!**

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.

S A C R A M E N T O B U D D H I S T C H U R C H



SALE DATE: Saturday, June 7, 2014, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sacramento Buddhist Church Kaikan

2401 Riverside Blvd., Sacramento, CA

DONATION DROP OFF DATES: June 5th, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

June 6th, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

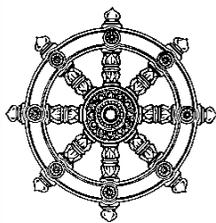
USABLE ITEMS NEEDED: Clothing, accessories, jewelry, specialty items, shoes, purses, housewares, glassware, toys, games, sports equipment, seasonal items, books, tools, electronics, small appliances in working condition, furniture in good repair, laptops, computers, monitors, cell phones, ink cartridges and smaller TVs.

ITEMS WE CANNOT ACCEPT: Mattresses, large appliances, baby cribs, carseats or baby items with expiration dates.

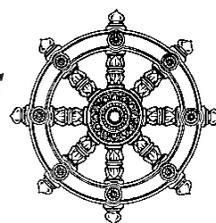
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: Sorting, organizing, selling, cashiering, monitoring, traffic control, security, and loads of other skills. **Volunteers that want to have a fun time and find great treasures! Sign up in the Church office!**

INFORMATION: (916) 446-0121

L E G A C Y E N D O W M E N T B E N E F I T



Welcome New Members

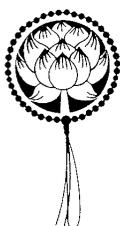


*Clayton Hess
Mary Parker*

2014 MEMORIAL SERVICE SCHEDULE

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



Condolences to the Families of:



Michael Yamamoto February 23, 1952 – March 5, 2014
Saiko Amioka October 20, 1917 – March 20, 2014

