

**H**ello... and welcome to the month of November! The month begins with a highlight for the entire Betsuin, as we extend our most sincere "Congratulations!" to Sensei Keith Kato as he moves forward on his journey to receive Tokudo Ordination! Even as you read these words, Sensei Keith is in Kyoto, Japan, pursuing the achievement of this longtime goal and experiencing a rare taste of tradition as he continues his study of the Dharma. Many of you have been active supporters and contributors to Sensei Keith's journey that he began more than two years ago, with his "co-journeyman" Sensei Kelvin Mark, side-by-side... a shining example of "esprit d' corps"!

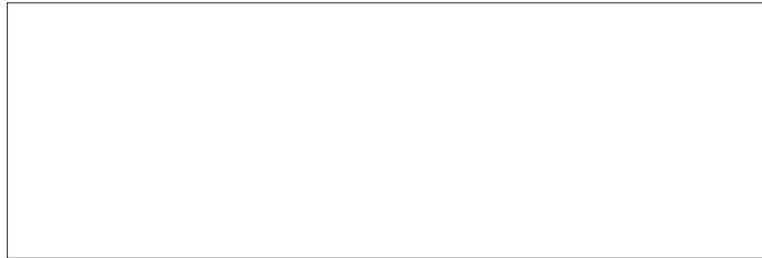
As I explained to those of you who joined us for service on October 12, the anticipation and excitement of this Dharma journey has become bittersweet for Sensei Keith, and for the rest of our "Team Betsuin" ministerial staff. Indeed, through your words and messages of concern, I know that the turn of events has deeply affected many of you, as well. I am writing to the sangha so that all of you will be aware of the events that have transpired, in the hopes of explaining the circumstances that have resulted in the Betsuin's Tokudo-bound senseis becoming a team of only one.

The last weekend of September was a busy one — Patti and I were in the Northwest as guests of the White River Temple in Seattle, for their Eshinni-Kakushinni Service; the third of three "mandatory" Tokudo Minister's  
**(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)**

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# SANGHA

**SACRAMENTO BUDDHIST CHURCH**  
**VOLUME 51 NUMBER 11 – NOVEMBER 2014**

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## RB'S CORNER

(CONTINUED)

Assistant Program (MAP) trainings was being held in Berkeley; and like so many of you with recently graduated high schoolers were experiencing, Sensei Kelvin's daughter, Lyndsie, was moving away to UC Irvine and "the dorms" for her first year of college. When Sensei Kelvin realized the conflict, he wrote to inform Bishop Umezu's advisors heading the Tokudo Program of his predicament, fully expecting to make up the weekend's coursework.

However, without any discussion by email or phone, Sensei Kelvin and I both received a letter informing us that he would not be allowed to move forward in November with Tokudo, due to his "lack of commitment." We were both in shock. Months of dedicated studying, planning, preparing... seemingly completely disregarded by the BCA leadership, as they handed down what I continue to believe is an overly harsh punishment. Please allow me to explain my feelings.

It is important to note that there is a two-year online course through the Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS) that is a requirement for any individual to be considered for Tokudo Ordination. On January 30 of this year, I attended the Bishop's Advisory Meeting where the list of Tokudo candidates was presented. MORE THAN 50% of the candidates on the list, APPROVED for Tokudo consideration, had not yet registered for the required two-year course — a course which Sensei Keith and Sensei Kelvin had ALREADY COMPLETED. When the discrepancy was brought up, Bishop Kodo Umezu and his advisors assured us that all the candidates were good, dedicated people and that they would "fulfill" that educational requirement "later."

The following month, February 2014, the Bishop sent an email memo indicating the essential requirements for Tokudo consideration that had initially been posted had now been amended. Individuals who had yet to complete the two-year online IBS course could still be considered.

I think many of you know me well enough by now to believe that I will always pick good people over rigid "process for the sake of process"! Upon seeing the Bishop's decision on this matter, I congratulated him and his advisors on being OPEN AND FLEXIBLE!

Fast forward seven months to our current situation and the denial of a hard-earned, heartfelt opportunity for Sensei Kelvin — a denial by the Bishop and the same group of advisors. My greatest disappointment is in the reason being stated for this rejection: "lack of commitment." All of us who know Sensei Kelvin know that his dedication and commitment to the Betsuin and the sangha have always been beyond reproach.

Sensei Kelvin did not "grow up" at the Betsuin, but through the years, he has served as Board President, Assistant Scoutmaster for Boy Scout Troop 50, co-founder of our Venture Crew 50 Scouting Program and our first Emergency Preparedness Coordinator. As a dedicated minister's assistant, he has served not only our own sangha, but also that of the Placer Buddhist Temple. He has juggled and doubled his surgical rotations to accommodate MAP training sessions and, most importantly, he and his wife, Cheryl, are doing an amazing job of raising two wonderful children.

I must note here that Sensei Kelvin has never once asked the Betsuin to become involved with this situation on his behalf. Though disappointed beyond words, he humbly accepted BCA's decision. Still, on October 15, President-Elect Gordon Nitta and Board of Trustees member Alan Wu met with Bishop Umezu and his advisors, for the purpose of better understanding the reason for BCA's denial and to, once again, put forth the tangible reasons for the Betsuin's support of Sensei Kelvin's Tokudo ordination.

I must admit that I still held out hope that reason and sensibility would have the chance to prevail. It is no secret that BCA is short-handed when it comes to trained ministers (note that our Team Betsuin serves not only our own temple, but those in Marysville and Placer as well). Sensei Kelvin's Tokudo ordination would not only strengthen the Sacramento Betsuin, but the entire Buddhist Churches of America.

Ultimately, Bishop Umezu is the one who is empowered to make the final decision regarding Sensei Kelvin's ability to move forward with his formal Dharma training. Although our Board of Trustees unanimously signed a letter of support that was hand-delivered to the Bishop, the Bishop's response was, "There will be no reversal of the decision."

I am sharing with all of you the details of what has happened so that Sensei Kelvin will not have to explain the circumstances over and over to our many supportive Dharma friends. Although some of BCA's leadership may judge that Sensei Kevin "lacks commitment," we know better. We can recognize true commitment when we see it and when we feel it. Sensei Kelvin, you and your family will always have our complete support and gratitude.



Rev. Bob Oshita  
428-9833



Rev. Patti Oshita  
428-9833



Sensei Koichi Mizushima  
424-7509

## RB'S CORNER (CONTINUED)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ROBBIE MIDZUNO

During this month that is traditionally known for giving thanks, I have confidence that our sangha will move forward from this deep disappointment and we will remember all that we have for which to be grateful. I am grateful for the dedication of Sensei Keith and Sensei Kelvin in their pursuit of Dharma wisdom and knowledge, and the graciousness by which they do so. Most assuredly, I extend my thanks to the members of our Team Betsuin, our Board of Trustees, our many Betsuin organizational leaders and all of you, our amazing Betsuin members, for your continued support and encouragement.

I hope everyone had a very fun and safe Halloween. It seems that time has traveled by so fast this past year and before we know it, Thanksgiving will be here. The busy holiday shopping days will arrive soon after that and then Christmas. These are the days families get together to give thanks and enjoy the holiday season. Also these are the same days we may need to reach out and help others that our less fortunate.

Several sangha members have asked me how my new job is coming along. My new job is great. I am a consultant for special projects and training at Nationwide Insurance Company and also the law enforcement liaison for Nationwide, working with law enforcement agencies from Minnesota and Iowa and all the states to the West, so basically all the Central and Western United States. So far, I have traveled to Ohio, Colorado, Texas, Nevada, Arizona, New Mexico and different parts of California. So to answer the question, I love my new job!

My new job involves traveling, which has taken me away from some of my church president duties, leaving the burden of my responsibilities to our President-Elect Gordon Nitta. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Gordon for all of his time, hard work and dedication to our Sacramento Betsuin. I would also like to thank the Executive Board and Board of Trustees for all your assistance during my absences.

The dictionary definition of presentation is the act of presenting something, prepare performance for audience. Do you think your presentation is important? A good presentation could be a matter of a "yes" answer and support instead of a "no" answer with no support. Do you think telling your parents, your spouse, your boss or upper management what you are going to do instead of asking is a good way to make a presentation? Probably not, because most of the time if you tell someone what you are going to do instead of asking if you can do it, the chances of them saying "yes" is less likely. Again it is the presentation. When you ask if you can do something instead of telling them what you are going to do, the answer would probably be "yes."

Here is an example of a presentation to your boss: "My friend got tickets to the Giants game, so I am taking tomorrow off." His answer to you could be, "Sorry, I cannot let you take time off." However, if you said, "My friend got tickets to the Giants game and I was hoping you could let me take tomorrow off," the answer would most likely be, "Sure and have fun enjoying the game."

My point is if you have a good presentation, you will have a better chance they will either say yes or agree with your request. Just remember to start off with a good presentation.

It is helpful to know both sides before making comments. There have been some sangha members making comments on a given topic only knowing one side of the story or issue or sometimes not even having the correct information. Some of the comments are not warranted, so I would like to ask you to please make sure if you are going to confront someone, you have both sides of the story or issue and the correct information.

Thank you again to Reverend Bob, Reverend Patti, Sensei Koichi and our office manager, Cindy, for all their hard work and dedication in keeping the Sacramento Betsuin the best temple in the BCA.

I would like to welcome Jennifer Nitta, the newest addition to our office staff. She will be assisting us during the weekends in the front office.

As always, I wish to encourage you to come to me to discuss any ideas, issues or concerns related to our temple as I am always open to your comments. I hope to see you soon at the Betsuin, and at the Sunday Service.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I want to thank you all for your continued support, volunteerism and hard work.

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.



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



**MINISTER'S  
ASSISTANTS**  
REV. PATTI OSHITA

The September SBWA Board Meeting was held on Wednesday, October 1, 2014, with President Fusako Takahashi presiding.

**DONATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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

Clara T. Mark .....	Reverend Peter Inokoji-Kim's retirement .....	\$500
Alice Chieko Yagi .....	Reverend Peter Inokoji-Kim's retirement .....	\$25
Barbara Sakamoto .....	Special Donation .....	\$50
Virginia Uchida .....	Special Donation .....	\$50
Katherine Sato Family .....	In Memory of Katherine Sato .....	\$300
Emma Iwasaki .....	In Memory of Katherine Sato .....	\$20
Bessie S. Ohnoki .....	In Memory of Katherine Sato .....	\$20
Fujiye Sakamoto .....	In Memory of Miyo Iwata .....	\$500
Shiro & Nancy Fujioka .....	In Memory of Miyo Iwata .....	\$200
Ted Fujioka .....	In Memory of Miyo Iwata .....	\$20
Miyako Molly Kimura .....	In Memory of Lillian Ishii .....	\$25
Yamashita Family .....	In Memory of Blossom Ikemoto .....	\$50

**UPCOMING ACTIVITIES/EVENTS**

- 2015 WBWA Conference in Calgary, Canada (May 30–31, 2015): Deadline to sign up will be November 5, 2014 for the Sacramento BWA delegates. Contact Virginia Uchida. Registration is \$325 and is nonrefundable. It is, however, transferrable.
- Bonen-kai Service & Lunch: Mark your calendars – December 14, 2014. More information to follow. Cost will be \$15 for those age 80 and younger.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Remember to bring your clothing, shoes, belts, rags, and other items mentioned in last month's article to place in the BLUE ANGEL BIN in the church parking lot.

The next SBWA meeting will be on Wednesday, November 5, 2014: 6:45 p.m. service in the Hondo; 7 p.m. general meeting classroom; Board meeting to follow.

Welcome to the month of November! It's hard to believe that Thanksgiving is around the corner and 2014 has entered its 11th month! I think Thanksgiving is one of my most favorite holidays. It's a wonderful gathering of family and friends for no other reason than to just gratefully be together and share in a delicious turkey feast!

Thanksgiving is probably the most Buddhist of all of the American holidays. Although it began as a day remembering the first harvest of the Pilgrims, it has become a day where the entire nation takes time to come together with loved ones in appreciation for the many people who give meaning to our lives. As Buddhists, we are encouraged to make every day one of Thanksgiving. Every day is a day to be lived with gratitude.

During Thanksgiving, we are all encouraged to reflect upon our lives and take time to be grateful for all that we have. Life will never go exactly as we wish. Yet every day is a rare and special day, a day that will never come again. We often waste so much time complaining about things that don't go as we wish, instead of appreciating all that we have.



(From left) Richie Kawahata, Michi Mitani, Ron Kawahata, Ed Nakamoto and Reverend Patti Oshita.

This month, there are a lot of activities happening in our Northern District. On November 9, Bishop Umezu will be at the Placer Temple to officiate a Kieshiki ceremony followed by certifying four sangha members to become minister assistants (MA). For two and a half years, we had been trying to start a Minister Assistants Program at the Placer Temple, and our invitations have finally been answered. We are happy to announce that Richie Kawahata, Ron Kawahata, Michi Mitani and Ed Nakamoto will be part of this new program at Placer.

Also on Saturday, November 22, we will be having our second Northern California District Bazaar Teriyaki Chicken Throwdown at the Sacramento Betsuin. Seven temples (Florin, Lodi, Marysville, Placer, Stockton, Walnut Grove, Sacramento) will be competing for the trophy that the Buddhist Church of Stockton won last year.

At the throwdown last year, it was interesting to see the various styles that our NC grill masters used to achieve their perfect barbeque teriyaki chicken. Some

**MINISTER'S ASSISTANTS**  
(CONTINUED)

used foil reflectors, some cooked on low heat, a few covered the chicken with foil, one temple grilled, marinated and double-grilled its chicken while another sprayed on extra sauce. We saw that each temple was firmly committed to its method, believing its will be the best. With every NC district temple participating, we are looking forward to see who the winner will be for this year's competition.

In Buddhism, the fourth of the Six Paramitas is the Virya Paramita or the perfection of effort. There is no doubt that a lot of effort is going into planning this event... the many grillers, the people selling the tickets, temple members making the food, etc.

Although it is certainly nice to win this competition, what is really important is just enjoying an afternoon of friendship, good-natured bantering... and the warm camaraderie of NC friends just hanging out together! What better way to spend a day. Looking forward to a deliciously fun and meaningfully bonding event!

Thank you all for your continued support!

**LEGACY ENDOWMENT FUND**  
ALLAN M. HOSHIDA

おかげさま

**OKAGESAMA**

In my many years of involvement here at our temple, I have noticed that there are so many individuals/families that give of their time, effort, resources for the benefit of others.

Whether in cub scouts, boy and girl scouts, sports program, ABA, BWA, Board of Trustees, Dharma School, Jr. YBA, choir, minister assistants and YAC (Youth Advocacy Committee) program, Legacy Endowment Fund, seniors, annual Food Bazaar or Spring Food Festival, weekly or special events, etc., it is the strong volunteer spirit of our sangha that truly resonates throughout our temple and numerous organizations/activities.

And in so many ways, it is this spirit of everyone working together for the common good beyond just themselves, that makes it so enjoyable and fulfilling to be a part of this wonderful community.

Within the Legacy Endowment Fund brochure is the concept description of Okagesama as written by Reverend Bob that I would like to share with you:

"One quiet afternoon, I asked Reverend Yukawa what he felt to be the essence of Buddhism. He thought momentarily, then said, "It is the feeling of *okagesama*." This expression literally means, "Because I live within the great shade of many people, I am fine." It is acknowledging that we are able to live this moment and enjoy so much in our lives because of the efforts of so many people. We live within the "great shade" or "*okage*" of their lives.

The countless activities of the Betsuin over the last 115 years have created the temple and Dharma community that we have today. Programs for youth, adults and families provide opportunities to make lifelong friends, share our lives with many families and reinforce the life-shaping values of a deep and meaningful religious tradition. It is a vital dimension of our lives worthy of support. Contributing to the Legacy Endowment Fund will help sustain the Sacramento Betsuin now and for generations to come.

Today, because of the effort/support of so many people, we have a thriving sangha community, with meaningful life-enriching programs and activities.

The Betsuin Board of Trustees, ministers, staff and members are all here to help in any way we can and to provide whatever support that is needed. Thanks to each of you for continuing this legacy of providing shade for so many other people.

Thank you also to the many individuals/families/friends that continue to support our Legacy Endowment Fund. It is the over-all, long-term intent and objective of the Legacy Fund Board to grow the fund so that we may *Honor the Past, Continue the Legacy and help Shape our Betsuin now and into the future.*

In Gassho and Okagesama.

**SANGHA STAFF**

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Editor (Japanese) Katsuko Hirota

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SBWA	Keiko Jean Kashiwada
Minister Assts	Patti Oshita
Endowment	Allan Hoshida
Dharma School	Valerie Fong
Boy Scouts	Cameron Lutz
Sports Cmte	Alan Wu

*Congratulations*

*Newlyweds*



*John Willett & Erica Shima .....October 18, 2014*

## NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

### WHERE'S TAK?

Some of you know the answer to this question because you've already found our own Tak Ito in her new work digs: at the Asian Community Center (ACC) administration building in Greenhaven! After Tak's "official" retirement from the Betsuin and months of part-time volunteering in the office, she decided it was time to look for "something to do" a little closer to home. Well... it didn't take her very long! ACC hired Tak a few months ago and she can be found helping out on Wednesday and Friday mornings — and she gets a big kick out of people coming in, seeing her "out of context" and then exclaiming, "What are *you* doing HERE?!" Feel free to stop by and say "hello." Tak would love to see you. Still a frequent visitor to the Office, you might run into Tak right here, if you're lucky!

### WELCOME TO OUR NEW OFFICE PROJECT COORDINATOR!

We are SO fortunate to be able to share the news that Jennifer Nitta has joined our Team Betsuin Office Staff! No... Jennifer hasn't retired (WAY too young!); she is coming on board to help provide office coverage on some Fridays and weekends. More important, she will be helping us move some projects forward that have been on our Wish List for quite some time. As an active, longtime temple member, Jennifer's involvement with many of our sponsored and affiliated organizations (Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Dharma School, Sports Program, Jr. YBA, YAC) makes her a valuable resource and a wonderful addition to the staff. Add to that, she is friendly, helpful, positive and FUN. Yes, we are feeling fortunate! Next time you are in the office or have a reason to call, please introduce yourself if Jennifer is at the front desk!

### UNIQUE & SPECIAL GIFTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

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

### 2014 BAZAAR T-SHIRTS

Did you miss your chance to purchase a Bazaar T-shirt this summer? Or maybe you're on the lookout for a great "stocking stuffer"? We have the T's available for sale in the office — \$15 at Bazaar, **they are now priced at just \$10 each!** The Adult T is a black V-neck, with a beautiful Year of the Horse design by Laurie Yamada-Mori! It is available in Adult Men's sizes S–XL. We also have the white Children's T (blue fan design illustrated with small Bazaar "icons"), sizes Youth S–XL. Some quantities are more limited than others, so come by soon for the best selection.

### DROPPING SOMETHING OFF AT THE OFFICE?

We have been receiving a number of items (packages, envelopes, copies, binders, books...!), and while we are happy to provide a convenient place for "mail" to move from one place to another, it is difficult for your items to find your recipient without identification! If you are leaving something at the Betsuin Office for someone else to pick up, **PLEASE BE SURE TO ATTACH A NOTE** indicating:

- **Date of drop-off AND anticipated pick-up;**
- **YOUR NAME AND PHONE NUMBER;**
- **Your RECIPIENT'S NAME AND PHONE NUMBER.**

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

### LOST & FOUND

There are a few long-held items that even we could not pass along the donation line. If you are missing one of these items (or know someone else who might be), please come to the office to see if it belongs to you:

- Small frame with a black & white baby photo labeled "Davey, Jr."
- Men's Van Heusen pullover sweater
- Women's Croft & Barrow cardigan
- Pocket water bottle with a California Family Fitness card



We have also placed all the lost-and-found glasses in a small basket on the table by the front window. If you have been missing yours *for quite a while*, you might want to check it out!

### OFFICE MANAGER

Cindy Kitade

### OFFICE PROJECT COORDINATOR

Jennifer Nitta

### BETSUIN OFFICE

446-0121

### SANGHA HELPERS

Misao Abe  
Mary Amemiya  
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Miyuki Inenaga  
Mae Kaneko  
Alice Kataoka  
Yoshiko Morizawa  
Mitzie Muramoto  
Faye Uyemura

## NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

(CONTINUED)

### NOVEMBER, DECEMBER & JANUARY CORRECTIONS TO BETSUIN CALENDAR

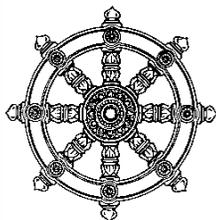
Sunday, 11/9 - Cub Scout Pack 50's Annual Pancake Breakfast  
Monday, 11/10 - CLOSED in observance of Veteran's Day

#### BETSUIN CLOSED

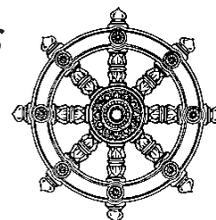
Monday, 11/10 - Veteran's Day  
Thursday, 11/27 & Friday, 11/28 - Thanksgiving  
Wednesday, 12/24 & Thursday, 12/25 - Christmas  
Thursday, 1/1 - Saturday, 1/3/15 - Happy New Year!  
(Shusho-E Service & Otoki, beginning at 9:30 a.m., on January 1)  
Monday, 1/19/15 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

#### BETSUIN CLOSING AT 12 NOON:

Wednesday, 11/26  
Tuesday, 12/23  
Wednesday, 12/31 (Joya-E Service at 7 p.m.!)



*Welcome New Members*



*Gail Keikoan*

*Pauline Sakai*

*Tristan Brown & Mary McCune*

*Alison & Aaron Dill*

### ANNUAL CRAB FEED

NICK SHEBERT



### BOY SCOUT TROOP 50

CAMERON LUTZ



**H**ello members: Troop 50's annual Crab Feed will be held on Saturday, January 17, 2015 at the Buddhist Church Kaikan. Seating will begin at 4:30 p.m. and dinner will be served promptly at 5:30 p.m.

You may request tickets from the Buddhist Church office or speak to any Troop 50 Boy Scout who would happily sell you a ticket. The tickets are \$45. Dinner includes all-you-can-eat salad, bread, savory pasta, Dungeness crab and dessert. You may also place a "to go" order and dinner will be packaged for you to take out.

Checks can be made payable to "Boy Scouts Troop 50." If you need further information, please contact Kay Fong at 628-5224. Thank you for all your support.

**W**ith the tenth calendar month, Troop 50 is getting started with its outings and activities. October is, of course, when Troop 50 plans, designs, constructs and puts on the annual haunted house with the Sacramento Buddhist Church's Halloween Party.

Before all that fun, Troop 50 went in pursuit of Mount Tamalpais on the weekend of October 17-19. This backpacking adventure replaced Troop 50's annual Mount Diablo outing. Mount Tamalpais is the largest mountain you can see from the Bay Area and Troop 50 hasn't ventured there in at least a decade. They were aiming to complete a 1,000-foot climb.

Now, let's get back to the haunted house. The Haunted House was held on October 24 and 25. There were family fun scares and frights for kids of all ages. For the October 24 troop meeting, Troop 50 was in the annex and classrooms until the late hours of the day constructing the haunted house Justin Shebert supervised and designed.

On the morning of October 25, Troop 50 volunteers provided assistance to the My Sister's House Fun Run, handing out water and cheering the participants on as they ran/walked. My Sister's House is the first and only nonprofit organization to specifically identify and address the unique needs of women and children impacted by domestic violence in the Central Valley's highly diverse Asian and Pacific Islander community.

On November 7 and 8, we will host an over-nighter at Rocknasium, an indoor climbing facility in Davis, California. We will be renting out the gym for a night, so scouts are free to run about and climb as they fancy. The climbing merit badge will also be offered to those interested, of which one can start and complete in the duration of the night.

Troop meetings were scheduled for October 10 and 24, with Greenbar on October 24. The troop meeting and Greenbar will be November 14.

**DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS**  
**VALERIE FONG, SUPERINTENDENT**



**H**ello everyone! Our featured class for the month of November is the combined Nursery I and Nursery II class taught by Aileen Niizawa Morris, Nursery I, and Diane Shimosaka, Nursery II.

As Nursery teachers, we get to witness the variations of how our young students enter the classroom. Some students enter eagerly, some hesitate, and some are just silly and energetic. But mostly, on their way to and from class, they hold the hand of a parent, grandparent or guardian for physical and emotional support and guidance. As these young children grow older, they will no longer hold our hands, but they will rely on what they have learned from us. With this idea of impermanence, one of our wonderful TAs (and Diane’s Nursery II student from 2003–2004), Alex Ng, wrote the following about Thanksgiving and Buddhism.

**THANKSGIVING AND BUDDHISM**

Thanksgiving is a time set aside each year for family and friends to get together, and give thanks for our relationships. Sometimes we become so busy with work, school, sports and other activities, we forget the real purpose of this holiday. The huge feast, including succulent turkey or honey-glazed ham, is not what is most important. All we really need is friends and family. It is an occasion to celebrate being together.

Recently, both of my grandmothers passed away. They were wonderful women, who I loved dearly. It was devastating and hard to cope with the loss of these two important people in my life. These events gave me insight into the impermanence of our lives — that life is always changing and nothing stays the same forever. We must try our best to live each day to its fullest and to cherish the people who are in our lives. I am thankful for how my grandmothers shaped me as a person and grateful that they were a part of my life.

So as Thanksgiving rolls around, I hope that you are able to spend time with family and friends, and recollect great memories about those you love.

—Alex Ng

**DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS**

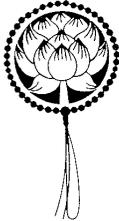
On October 12, we held our first emergency drill for the Dharma School term. Other than a few minor and fixable issues, the drill went very smoothly. We would like to thank our emergency drill coordinator, Sherman Iida, and the security team, which included David Gellerman, Denis Ishisaka and Ted Yoshimura, for their guidance and support for this important activity.

Thank you to our parents and families for keeping the hallways in the annex and the main building clear during class each Sunday. Doing so helps to ensure the safest environment for our students and teachers during future drills and in the event of a real emergency.

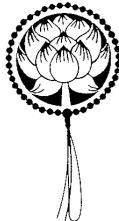
**DONATIONS**

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

- |                           |                   |                             |
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| ABA Off Broadway Dance    | Rosemary Kataoka  | Barbara Nakatomi            |
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| Family of Masako Hamatani | Molly Kimura      | Oto’s Marketplace - Russell |
| Nancy Hashimoto           | Utako Kimura      | Oto                         |
| Ruth Hayashi              | Reiko Kurahara    | Sachi Sawada                |
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*Condolences to  
the Families of:*



*Yone Akiyama.....November 24, 1924 – August 15, 2014*

*Masako Hamatani..... January 18, 1922 – August 18, 2014*

*Eleanor Kazue Saika .....April 15, 1940 – September 30, 2014*

*Dorothy Teruko Nakagawa..... January 24, 1941 – Oct. 19, 2014*

**SPORTS COMMITTEE**  
ALAN WU



**W**elcome to the November 2014 edition of the SANGHA Sports article. We hope you enjoyed our October guest speaker. (Do you remember who it was?) For this month, we are honored and privileged to have this universally renowned speaker with us this month. Try to follow along. So, without any further ado:

*Hello everyone, great to be here with you, it is. Yeesssssss. Asked to say a few words about a few things, I was. Hmmmmmmm. Still time to sign up for the hula class, there is. Herh herh herh. Although started, the bowling has, go to Land Park Lanes on Freeport Boulevard at 1 p.m. on Sundays and join us for all the fun, you can. Yes, hmmm.*

*Completed, the basketball signups are, but to play if your child still wants, every effort to find a team for them, we make. Remember, maintain an attendance percentage of 60% or higher to be in good standing and eligible to participate in the league and tournament games, all players must. Hmmmmmmm. Based on a 12-month rolling calendar, attendance is. So, for November 2014, calculating the attendance, used attendance records from November 2013 to October 2014 are. Yeesssssss. Because of the rolling calendar, very very important to maintain good attendance all the way to the end-of-year picnic, it is. Herh herh herh. Players below 60%, play in the tournaments, **cannot**. To help with attendance, four extra credit days, have we. Yeesssssss. Two extra credit days the first two Sundays in September, we had, the next one is on December 31, and the last one on January 1. Of the September extra credit days we hope you took advantage. Now, for the last two mark your calendars. Hmmmmmmm. Pretty easy to stay above 60%, it is!*

*To your questions attend the Parent Meeting on November 2 after service for answers and explanations. After the Parent Meeting, have the mochi tsuki sign ups, we will. On December 13 this year, mochi tsuki is. This SANGHA find the order form in.*

*Out, our tournament invitations are, so to submit their teams tell all your friends. On March 7-8, our tournament is, 2015. November 30, registration deadline is. For all information see website. Yeesssssss. Hmmmmmmm. About all I have for you today that is. Me as your guest speaker I thank you for having.*

We hoped you did follow along, because as you know, our guest speaker would say: "Try not. Do or do not! There is no try."



**SACRAMENTO BETSUIN  
SPORTS COMMITTEE**

**MOCHI TSUKI**

**Pick Up:**

**Saturday, December 13, 2014, 11:30-2:00 pm  
or Sunday, December 14, 2014, 9:00-11:00 am**

**We will be selling only at the church this year!**

**Where: Sacramento Buddhist Church Kaikan**

**Deadline for Orders: December 7, 2014**

**Cost: \$4/pound or \$6/Kasane Set**

*Please submit orders and make checks payable to:  
Sacramento Betsuin Sports Committee  
c/o Sacramento Buddhist Church  
2401 Riverside Blvd.  
Sacramento, CA 95818*

**MOCHI ORDER**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Lb(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Kasane Set(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Total Cost \$ \_\_\_\_\_  Cash  Check # \_\_\_\_\_

Pick Up:  Saturday  Sunday