

**H**ello Dear Betsuin Sangha Members! I will turn another year older this month. And as NaOmi Furukawa (with whom I share August 10 as a birthday) once wrote to me on "our" birthday years ago (when she was about 9 years old), "Congratulations on another trip around the sun!" I remember thinking, "How very clever of her to think of a birthday as marking the start of another trip around the sun." This month I will begin my 68th trip around the sun!

As many of you know, on July 31, Patti and I officially informed the Bishop of our plans to retire. Over a year ago, in May 2014, our president, Gordon Nitta, joined me in meeting with Bishop Umezu in San Francisco. At that time, I indicated to the Bishop of my plans, but he said that he does not need to know until one year before the retirement date. It was our hope to give the Bishop and BCA plenty of time to begin selecting candidates for the Betsuin to consider. Although the Bishop said that he cannot begin to officially offer any candidates until he receives my "one-year notice," we are confident that the Bishop has already been considering many candidates for my replacement.

There is no doubt in my mind that coming here to the Sacramento Betsuin has been one of the best two decisions I have ever made. The other "best decision" I ever made was to marry Patti. She has told me countless times, with words  
**(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)**

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# SANGHA

**SACRAMENTO BUDDHIST CHURCH**  
**VOLUME 52 NUMBER 8 - AUGUST 2015**

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**RB'S CORNER**  
 (CONTINUED)

unspoken, that she feels the same about me. I think it is only in looking back that we can really assess the karmic events of our lives. When we first came here in 1984, Patti and I hoped that our life here would be a good one. But now, looking back, we can honestly say that we had no idea just how meaningful our years serving the Sacramento Betsuin would be. I know that being with Patti... and with this Betsuin has been the fulfillment of my life.

As we assessed the very full calendar of the Betsuin, we realized there is never a good time to retire. But after careful consideration, we felt that the end of July would be best for the continuity of the many Betsuin programs. This would allow us to enjoy and fully complete one more Dharma School term with the Best Dharma School in the World! Retiring at the end of July will also allow us to help with one more YAC Summer Youth Retreat. And with this timeframe, we will be able to fully be a part of, what we feel to be the most meaningful service of the year, Obon-Hatsubon. July 31 is also just 10 days before my 68th birthday... and my big boss, Reverend Patti, felt that retiring at any other time would be much more disruptive to the flow of activity here at the Betsuin. Once again, she is right.

In our hearts, we have absolutely no doubt that we have enjoyed a meaningful life. My friends Ruby and Ralph Nishimi have said to me, "You were born to do what you do." I can think of no greater compliment. But Patti and I know that we are the fortunate ones. We have made so many lifetime friends here... and we have found meaning in each and every day. But we also know that as the pace of activity here has increased, I no longer have the energy I had 20... or even 10 years ago. So we have decided to retire while I still have my faculties about me to help transition in the next minister.

There is no doubt in my mind that Patti was also born to do what she does too. Especially after her first ordination in 2003, Reverend Patti has been the primary coordinator whenever we were asked by BCA to oversee our sister temples here in Northern California. And over the years, at one time or another, she has been coordinating our efforts to help the temples of Florin, Lodi, Walnut Grove, Marysville and Placer when they were without a minister. With the support of the Betsuin Sangha, the Board of Trustees and Team Betsuin, I feel she has also been able to bring our district together with events like the Northern California Chicken Throwdown. And when we celebrated the 10-year anniversary of the youth retreats this past June, we acknowledged that it was also her brainchild to host and develop the YAC Youth Retreat that has really helped to give our Betsuin national visibility. Reverend Patti and I have had a great run serving the Betsuin and representing the Dharma as the ministers of the Sacramento Betsuin.

I know that when I was being considered to become a minister here at the Betsuin, the Bishop at that time added a "disclaimer," adding, "But I wouldn't take him if I were you." So a huge thank you to the leaders of 31 years ago for taking a chance on me. Patti and I cannot even begin to count the hundreds and hundreds of people who have welcomed us into their lives with their kindness and support. But please know that for Reverend Patti and I, being with you all for the past 3+ decades has truly been the fulfillment of our lives.

As I have explained to our predominantly 9-year-old Metta-Padma students over the years, "Namo Amida Butsu is that level of gratitude where the words "thank you" would never be enough." When we feel gratitude so deep that all words are insufficient, we cannot help but place our palms together in gassho... and try to express our deepest gratitude with "Namo Amida Butsu...."

To all of our Sacramento Betsuin Sangha and beyond, please know that when we reflect on our years here with all of you, in our hearts, we will forever be in Gassho, forever feeling Gratitude beyond words for your friendship and kindness.

Itsumademo Yoroshiku Onegaishimasu!

Namo Amida Butsu...  
 RB & RPO

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**NO CHECK  
 CASHING AT  
 2015 BAZAAR**  
 SHERMAN IIDA  
 BAZAAR CHAIR

**C**ommencing with this year's Bazaar, a new policy will be implemented. There will be no check cashing service as we had provided in past years. Patrons may write a check to purchase food and other merchandise, but if they want cash, they must find an ATM or other option, such as getting cash back from a store purchase.

Thank you for your support of this new Bazaar policy.

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The May SBWA Board Meeting was held on Wednesday, July 1, with President Fusako Takahashi presiding.

**DONATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

Thank you to the following ladies and families for their generous donations to the SBWA:

Mitzie Muramoto .....	In Memory of Yaeko Muramoto .....	\$100
Koji & Keiko Nishimoto .....	13th Year Memorial for Mitsuko Nishimoto .....	\$100
Reiko Kurahara .....	In Memory of Robert Shimada .....	\$50
Shigeko Tanaka .....	Appreciation for Visitation by SBWA .....	\$30
Amy Tanaka .....	Appreciation for Visitation by SBWA .....	\$20

**UPCOMING ACTIVITIES/EVENTS  
CRAFT BOOTH - SHIRLEY KATO**

Thank you to Joanne Nishimura and Janis Furuta for leading the last craft class for the year. The group made beautiful embroidered beaded necklaces. A special thank you to Kathy Tanaka Henry for coordinating the craft class each month. All the items that were made will be for sale in the Bazaar craft booth.

Thank you to the following ladies for their donations and contribution to the craft booth this past month: Sally Hamatake, Judy Inaba, Carolyn Murai, Loleen Nakano, Misa Oshiro, Beverly Tanaka, Diane Muranaka, Jean Ota, Misao Abe, Sylvia Lau, Virginia Uchida, Amy Dote, Yaeko Tademaru, Terry Kagiya and Faye Sasaki.

Keiko Jean's note: Thank you to everyone who chaired the individual craft making sessions this past year and to others who donated items for the craft booth. Once again the SBWA Craft Booth will be a popular booth at the Bazaar! Thank you from the SBWA Board to Shirley Kato for overseeing the Craft Booth Committee.

**BAZAAR - SUSHI - LYNN KURAHARA**

REMINDER: Come out to help with the sushi ingredients preparation on Friday, and sushi making on Saturday and Sunday. Please come out on **Friday, August 7, from 6 a.m., Saturday, August 8, from 2 a.m., and Sunday, August 9, from 2 a.m.** to help make the sushi for the Bazaar. Bring an apron and something to cover your hair. Gloves will be provided. You will also be able to enjoy coffee, tea and donuts. Lunch will be provided on Friday, and breakfast will be provided on Saturday and Sunday for all workers!

Please invite the male members of your families and friends to help. We need their help, too!

The Nitta family will once again provide shuttle service on Saturday and Sunday, since it is dark when we start. Drive to the side door of the kaikan (in the alley). Gordon Nitta or one of his family members will follow you to your parking space and bring you back to the church and will drive you back to your car when you are finished with your shift. Please take advantage of this service — it is better to be safe!

Note from President Fusako Takahashi to the SBWA Board members: We will be cutting and boiling the age on Thursday, August 6, starting at 11 a.m. Please come out to help.

**ANGEL BIN**

Don't forget that the SBWA makes money from the donations of shoes, belts, and sheets. Please donate often to the blue bin in the church lot.

No meeting in August due to Bazaar preparation. The next SBWA meeting will be held on **Wednesday, September 9** (not the normal first Wednesday, September 2), starting with a service at 6:45 p.m., followed by our monthly meeting.

See you at the Bazaar preparation days and during the Bazaar! Let's all help out!

*Congratulations  
Newlyweds*



*Chris Healy & Lauda Villegas ..... July 19, 2015*

## MINISTER ASSISTANTS MESSAGE

BRIAN HATANO

Time slides by as steadily and incessantly as grains of sand cascading in an hourglass. The passage of time is as relentless as the waves crashing on the shore. Never stopping. Never slowing down.

The fundamental truth of Buddhism, "Life is impermanent," is ingrained in us as we attend Sunday School, learn from RB in Metta and Padma classes for scouts, and hear in the weekly Dharma messages.

We celebrate, commiserate and contemplate the world around us as we journey through life and note the many changes. Like many of you, being mindful of the teachings of the Buddha has provided me perspective and solace during these times.

Recalling the year that has passed, I am awestruck by the many monumental achievements that occurred.

Greatness was witnessed in many sports: The Giants won their third(!) World Series in the past five years; the Warriors won an NBA championship for the first time since '74; and American Pharoah won horse racing's Triple Crown, the first time since '78. All major accomplishments that could not have been predicted to occur in the same year.

On a personal note, in the spring, my son Bryson graduated from Sac State seven years after graduating from high school. He worked long and hard to earn his Communications Studies degree. My family proudly savored the moment when he walked across the stage to receive his diploma.

On June 30, I completed my one-year term serving as District Governor leading 181 Toastmasters clubs and 3,000+ members in Northern California/Northern Nevada. It was a great experience that took me to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia for the international convention and to Japan where I spoke at the Shinegawa Toastmasters Club. Truly a highlight for a lifetime.

Along with the celebratory moments came somber times. *Such is life.*

In December, after 40 years working for the same company, I retired, although not entirely by my decision. It was bittersweet leaving the company after my position was eliminated. Buddhism teaches us that life is always changing, that nothing stays the same.

That fundamental truth gave me the courage to seize the opportunity to pursue a new career path. Today I am far better off than a year ago when I was notified that my employment would end a few months later. I am grateful that I was able to take advantage of the situation and end up in a better place.

This past month, my family experienced both the loss of a loved one and saw in another how time and age takes its toll. Those life events caused each of us to contemplate our own mortality and the frailty of human existence. As we have learned: *Life is imperfect; there is always suffering.*

All occurred in the last 12 months.

What the next 12 months will reveal — even the next month or day — is unknown. I do know I'm better prepared to deal with the changes that will inevitably come my way, and endure the suffering that is part of life, thanks to lessons learned at the Betsuin since I started attending Sunday School as a child in the early '60s.

Time will never stop or even slow down, but I often take pause. With gratitude, in good times and bad, I recite "Namo Amida Butsu." What we choose to do with the precious, limited time we are allotted on this Earth is up to each of us. I choose to enjoy each day for itself and appreciate my existence.

In Gassho.

*(Brian is the son of Minister Assistant Grace Hatano and a member of the Betsuin Board of Trustees.)*



Rev. Bob Oshita  
428-9833



Rev. Patti Oshita  
428-9833



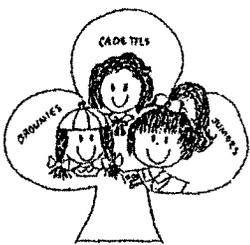
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**LEGACY  
ENDOWMENT  
FUND**  
SANDY SUMIDA  
TOKUNAGA

おかげさま

**GIRL SCOUTS**  
STACY ITAGAKI



**BOY SCOUT  
TROOP 50**  
CAMERON LUTZ



**NASA'S NEW HORIZONS SPACECRAFT MISSION TO PLUTO, 2015 VS. FIRST BUDDHIST MINISTERS TO CALIFORNIA, 1899**

The Buddhist Church of Sacramento was established in December 1899 with the arrival of the first Buddhist ministers, Reverend Shuye Sonoda and Reverend Kakuryo Nishijima in California. A month-long, 5,100+-mile journey by sea brought these stalwart ministers to San Francisco, a bustling city with gas lighting, basic plumbing, paved and cobblestoned streets, horses, carriages, a few early automobiles, railroads, early telephones and fans for air conditioning. To come to Sacramento, the ministers traveled by railroad or horse-drawn carriage, a journey that took more than a day.

In comparison, NASA's New Horizon spacecraft, about the size of a baby grand piano, launched in 2006 with the most powerful rocket engine produced, the Atlas V, accomplished a flyby of our moon in 9 hours. Its final mission, to do a flyby and research the farthest planet in our solar system, Pluto: a 9-year, 3 billion-mile journey.

Our intrepid Buddhist ministers' mission: bring the Dharma to the thriving Japanese community in California. As immigrants gathered for the first services in Sacramento, can you imagine what the ministers looked upon: a sangha of mostly young men, brave young women, families and their children ready to hear and live the teachings of the Buddha?

Today, 116 years later, Sacramento's Buddhist Church is now one of the strongest temples in the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA). From those first services in 1899, many pioneering families and following generations laid the cultural, spiritual and financial foundation for what we now are so fortunate to enjoy: a flourishing, diverse sangha, enriching cultural and educational programs and a ministerial program that supports many temples in our area.

In July, we observed one of our most meaningful religious traditions, Hatsubon Memorial Service. Our temple's pews filled with families remembering and honoring their recently lost loved ones and coming together as a community. Youth Advocacy Committee (YAC) retreat attendees filled the first pews, their young voices resonating with ministers as they chanted sutras. For those early ministers: mission accomplished.

Your Legacy Endowment Fund's ongoing mission: to continue to build and support our temple to ensure it remains the physical and vibrant spiritual heart for our sangha today and into the future.

Cadettes 4 ended their Girl Scout year with an end-of-year movie, dinner, swimming, and sleepover party. First, they watched the amazing movie Tomorrowland. Then, 18 of us enjoyed dinner at BJ's restaurant. We had a two-hour table limit at BJ's and we were there the full two hours, enjoying each other's company. Next, we went swimming, played ping pong, and watched more movies at our leader's house. Lastly, most of the girls went to sleep around 1 a.m., while others chatted into the wee hours of the morning. Breakfast was brought over in the morning by fearless leader Janet! It was a fun day and night filled with good food, laughter, sisterhood, and great conversation.

Cadettes 2 celebrated the end of their Girl Scout year with a fun day at K1 Go Kart Racing and snacks at Yogurtland. Watch out ... in three years, these girls could be on the road! This scout year, they completed their aMAZE Journey and will soon begin work on their Silver Awards. Thanks for another great year, Cadettes 2!

Troop 50 was kept very busy this July in preparation for the Bazaar and other projects. Pulling out the supplies and structures for the Bazaar on July 17 was the highlight of the troop's participation in getting ready for the church's biggest fundraiser.

On July 23, a select group of scouts within the troop ventured to Japan for three weeks as part of the Matsuyama Scout Exchange Program. They toured major cities around the island nation as well as home-staying with scouts in Matsuyama. Wish them a safe trip!

Troop 50 scouts will be also helping with the Bazaar, working various jobs both days of the event. Scouts will also be backpacking on Point Reyes from August 23 to 25 and intend to enjoy all the experiences that are paired with such a trip.

**DHARMA  
SCHOOL  
NEWS**  
VALERIE FONG



**H**ello everyone! Summer is half over already and we hope you are enjoying special time with your family and friends. Although we are not holding regular weekly Dharma School classes, our sangha is still very busy with our usual summer events.

We would like to thank our Dharma School families for their willingness to help with outdoor busing during Bazaar, which will be Saturday, August 8, and Sunday, August 9. Your help in keeping the grounds clean and tidy is greatly appreciated. A special "thank you" to Carol Tamai and Harley Inaba for taking the lead for our busing duties.

After the Bazaar, there will be about a month left of our summer break and soon we will be back with regular Dharma School services and class. We are grateful for those who have agreed to stay on as teachers and also those who will continue in their positions on our Dharma School Cabinet. We look forward to welcoming a few new folks to our team, too.

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

Gladys Adachi	Utako Kimura	Yoshiko Pat Okamoto & Family
Ken Furukawa & Leilani Ito	Reiko Kurahara	Mary Orite
Nancy Hashimoto	Janet & Ed Mizutani	Sam Orite
Steve Hiromoto	Loleen & Wayne Nakano (In Memory of Robert Shimada)	Oto's Marketplace
Randall Ishida	Barbara Nakatomi	Tanner Sasaki
David & Dina Ito	Richard Okamoto & Family	Emi & Louie Watanabe
Sam Ito & Family		Haruo & Sueko Yamashita
Stuart & Linda Ito		

**SPORTS  
COMMITTEE**  
ALAN WU



**H**ot summer August greetings to you! Just how hot this August will be remains to be seen, but as "Sacramentans," we know August is usually hot, hot, hot! However, we must be reminded that the past couple of years the Augusts have been rather gentle to us, especially during the second week of August. We always tend to remember the weekends when it is scorching hot for our Annual Bazaar. We all remember back in 2012 when it was 105 degrees! Right? And how can anyone forget that in 1996 it reached a blistering 109 degrees! Yes?

So, let us all think pure and beautiful thoughts for a not-too-hot and a not-too-rainy Bazaar weekend for 2015. You may laugh at the rainy part, but it was only a couple of weeks ago when Los Angeles had flash floods and part of Interstate 10 was closed due to the road being washed away from all that water. As the song says: "It never rains in Southern California...." And to add to the lyric: especially in July! And to add one more: enough rain to flood!

Weather-wise, it is getting very strange around here with the humidity going up, and the rain coming down; yes it rained here the week of Obon (and that is why we put a plastic cover on our Obon and Bazaar stages). Although the rain was scattered, the rain was hard enough in areas to completely wet the streets and you would have gotten a good soaking if you were out in the middle of it.

We are known, in fact we are famous for our summers of hot dry heat with brown hillsides and vistas; so what gives with this strange weather? Maybe it is the El Niño, or the La Niña? But even those weather patterns are changing. So, only answer it can be is the hole in the ozone that Al Gore discovered!

Now that we have solved the acclimatization of global conundrums in correlation to biodiversity, glacial calving, deforestation, ocean acidification and stratification, the whooping crane and snail darter, we can move on to the real important business at hand....

If you have not been given your Bazaar work schedule for August 6, 8, 9 or 10, be on the lookout for it. Please make sure to complete your shift work. It is a complex and coordinated effort amongst all the people and organizations of the church to make sure all aspects of the Bazaar are covered.

Please make an extra effort to join us for Reverend Bob's birthday on Monday, August 10, starting at 7 a.m. While we are celebrating Reverend Bob, we will also perform Bazaar deconstruction where it is always an adventure and full of entertainment. Everyone's assistance will be greatly appreciated!

Then get ready for the new Dharma School term in September and be sure to take advantage of the two extra credit days!

Let's get through Bazaar 2015 first! See you then!

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 email, please send email 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.

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**SIXTH  
ANNUAL SBC  
GOLF  
TOURNAMENT**  
RICHARD KAI



**GOLF  
SPONSORSHIP:  
LAST CHANCE**

The window closed as of August 1 to submit your entry form and/or donation to the SBC Sixth Annual Golf Tournament. HOWEVER, the door is still ajar to enable the “last-minute” shoppers to get involved with this year’s fundraiser. The Special Events Committee would not shut out those who want to be involved with most fun-filled event of the summer (with the exception of the Obon and Bazaar), nor close the register for the “In Memory Of” donations to the Betsuin’s next-best outdoor fundraising event (again, not to put the golf tournament in front of the Bazaar).

The “In Memory Of” donation does not require your attendance at the event. Sangha members and friends of the Betsuin can use the form below to bring forward the sentimental memories of those who have passed or to celebrate the joy of life as well. One donor used the “In Memory Of” donation to wish a Happy Birthday for a participant in the event. The committee will prepare signage for gold, silver and bronze level tee box sponsors and “In Memory Of” donations for recognition at the golf course, within the program of activities, and at the luncheon. Please take the time to make your donation to the golf tournament before it’s too late.

Information fact sheets about the golf tournament, sponsorship levels, its format and scoring, along with the tournament entry form can be downloaded from the temple’s website at [www.buddhistchurch.com](http://www.buddhistchurch.com). Questions and/or comments about the fundraising event can be sent via email to the golf committee at [sacbetsuingolf@yahoo.com](mailto:sacbetsuingolf@yahoo.com). The temple office staff can provide general information about the event.

## Sponsorship Levels

### **\$1000 – Gold Sponsorship:**

Includes Tee Box Sign recognition, four complimentary tournament entry fees, golf cart, and tee prizes.

### **\$250 – Bronze Sponsorship:**

Includes Tee Box Sign recognition, one complimentary tournament entry fee, golf cart, and tee prizes.

### **\$500 – Silver Sponsorship:**

Includes Tee Box Sign recognition, two complimentary tournament entry fees, golf cart, and tee prizes.

**\$125 – In Memory Of, Individual and/or Group Sponsorship** includes Tee Box Sign recognition.

## Suggested Monetary and/or In-Kind Donations

### **Check-In Tee Prizes**

Golf tees, golf balls, ball markers divot repair, golf apparel, etc.

### **Snack/Dinner Items**

Miscellaneous drinks, snacks or food items.

### **Luncheon Raffle Prizes**

Golf clubs, head covers, golf apparel, dry goods, food items, restaurant gift certificates, etc.

### **Cash**

To be used to offset the cost of check-in tee prizes, luncheon raffle prizes, or other related expenses.

**Date:** \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

**Deadline:** August 1, 2015

**Fed Tax ID:** 94-1243674

**Sponsorship:** I/We would like to be a sponsor in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (please indicate):

Gold Sponsor

Silver Sponsor

Bronze Sponsor

In Memory Of, Individual and/or Group: Names\_\_\_\_\_

**Raffle Prize/Donation:** I/We would like to make a donation of \_\_\_\_\_

**Sponsor/Donor Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_ **City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Return to:** SBC Golf Tournament, 2401 Riverside Blvd., Sacramento, CA, 95818  
916-446-0121

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**NOTES FROM  
THE OFFICE**
**QUARTERLY DONATION SUMMARIES**

**A**pologies from the Office for the delay in sending out your Donation Summaries for the second quarter of 2015. Please be on the look out for them later this month, AFTER BAZAAR!

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS? AWAY ON VACATION?**

Please let us know if these circumstances apply to you, especially if they affect your mail delivery service! Returned SANGHA newsletters and other correspondence have been on the rise for the last few months. Please help us with our general office efficiency by letting us know to reroute or hold your Betsuin mail. Thank you!

## INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING to Work at the Betsuin's 69th Annual Bazaar?

**Do you have any family or friends who would like to be part  
of the action that makes everything GO?**

**We always welcome AND APPRECIATE extra helping hands!**

**Shifts available:**

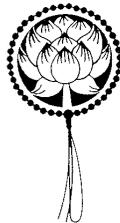
**From Thursday, 8/6/15, through Monday, 8/10/15.**

**Anywhere from 2:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.!**

**2 hours, 3 hours, 4 hours... or more!**

**Community service hours can be signed off for students!**

**Email: [SBTPeoplePower@gmail.com](mailto:SBTPeoplePower@gmail.com) today!**



*Condolences to  
the Families of:*



*Susie Hatano Okamoto ..... January 4, 1939 – June 19, 2015*

*Tetsuo Okamoto ..... March 29, 1921 – June 23, 2015*