

**W**elcome to the month of March! When I think of March, I think of March Madness ... and the many basketball tournaments happening around the country and in our community.

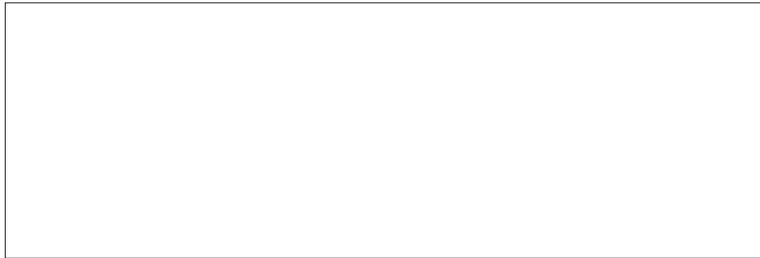
When I was growing up in Fowler, I tried to play basketball. My parents encouraged me to play for the Fowler Buddhist Temple team. We did not have an instructional basketball league, so for those of us completely oblivious to the game of basketball, we really didn't have a clue what we were supposed to be doing. I felt as if we were somehow just expected to step onto the court and instantly know how to play. Living on a farm, we didn't have any area near or around our house with a concrete or asphalt surface, so I grew up not really bouncing around a ball (of any kind). You can imagine that my dribbling skills were nonexistent. I don't even remember our team even having any practices. We just showed up at a gym, were given a jersey, and we were expected to play the game. Game day was our practice.

From my perspective, it seemed to me that most of my friends played pretty well. But I just never really seemed to understand what we should be doing. Again, from my perspective, I just felt that perhaps I was just physically challenged to play this sport. I do remember feeling that my mind was never sure what my body should be doing. Then the final humiliation came that  
**(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)**

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# SANGHA

**SACRAMENTO BUDDHIST CHURCH**  
**VOLUME 52 NUMBER 3 - MARCH 2015**

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Calendar .....	2	Sushi Social .....	8
SBWA .....	4	Girl Scouts .....	9
New Members .....	4	Boy Scouts .....	9
Tokudo Experience .....	5	Teriyaki Beef Sandwich Fundraiser .....	9
Legacy Endowment Fund Board .....	7	Dharma School .....	10
Condolences .....	7	Sports Committee .....	10
Notes from the Office .....	8	Donations .....	11

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

ended my basketball playing career. During a game, my coach was yelling at me even more than usual. Finally she took me out of the game. She must have been pretty frustrated, because she pulled me aside, and told me that perhaps basketball was not my sport. I recall feeling crushed because I wanted to continue to be with my friends and try to play basketball. But looking back, I must admit that I also felt relieved because the stress of trying to play was no longer there. I also wouldn't miss the coach yelling at me.

I was pleased that both my sister and brother excelled at playing basketball; actually, they both were good at sports in general. And fortunately, years later, when I was in my 20's, I found great enjoyment in playing volleyball. It didn't require bouncing a ball; and it was so much fun socializing with everyone while we played.

I realized that playing basketball was not my sport, but there are other activities that we might enjoy and actually do better. Although my volleyball days are now also long gone, I have found enjoyment occasionally golfing. Golf doesn't require bouncing a ball; and it is so much fun socializing while we play.

One of the most essential practices of Buddhism is self-reflection... to know ourselves. Sometimes we may find ourselves reflecting on events that happened decades ago, and realize that they have had an impact on our lives in so many ways, great and small. At the time we were living through those events, we may have felt them to be good or bad, happy or sad. But in looking back, I find that they were simply the experiences of my life. Nowadays, parents might be upset with a coach who told their child they lack the skills to play a sport. But looking back, for me, it was liberating to learn early on that I can't be great at everything I do. Knowing the reality of failure has also been an important part of shaping me into the person I am today.

Many of us have heard the story that Michael Jordan was cut from his high school basketball team. That rejection played a huge role in making him the (arguably) best basketball player that has ever played the game! My getting cut from the Fowler Buddhist Temple Basketball Team may not have motivated me to become an All Star Player. But it helped me to consider more deeply what things defined who I am. It would certainly not be basketball.

Buddhism teaches us that truly understanding ourselves is a lifelong process. Who we are at 5 years of age is very different than the person we are at 15 or 25. And that is why the exercise of self-reflection is so essential to Buddhism.

It is said that the historical Shakyamuni Buddha would go off by himself every day for about 4 hours to meditate and reflect. He would, every day, make the effort to reflect and review... and reconnect with his humanity.

Reverend Bob has often said: "We who are living in this day and age, we are the most well-scheduled people that have ever lived." It's so true. When we think about the busy lives we live, we might think that it would be impossible to find 4 hours a day to disengage from all that we are doing and simply reflect and meditate... and reconnect with who we are.

But it is still a really excellent recommendation. It is a recommendation that comes from the Buddha himself. And although we may not find hours in the day to reflect on our own, we should still try to take time every day to remember what is really important in living our lives. Even if it is only for 10 or 15 minutes, we should try. It would be like a "power nap" that revives and revitalizes our outlook.

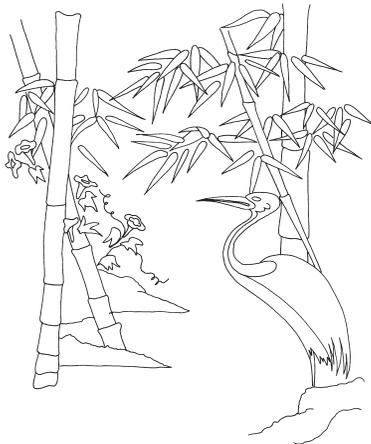
In taking moments to reflect and remember again what is really of value in living life, we can regain our perspectives... and be better prepared to make the decisions that shape our lives with clarity. One of my favorite quotes from legendary coach John Wooden is this: "Failure to prepare is preparing to fail." That is so true.

The Buddha might say, "Failure to self-reflect is preparing to make poor decisions." This too is so true.

So, please take this short and simple message with you into this month of March Madness. Let's make March a Reflective Month!



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BUDDHIST  
WOMEN'S  
ASSOCIATION**  
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Mutsuko Noguchi  
Helen Sakaishi  
Fusako Takahashi  
Faye Uyemura

The February SBWA Board meeting was held on Wednesday, February 4, 2015, with President Fusako Takahashi presiding.

**DONATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS**

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

Ellen Y. Shinfuku .....	In Memory of Masako Hamatani .....	\$100
The Sakaye Nishikawa Family .....	In Memory of Sakaye Nishikawa .....	\$100
Masako Fukuda .....	In Memory of Sakaye Nishikawa .....	\$25
Mollie Oto .....	In Memory of Sakaye Nishikawa .....	\$25
Hideko Heidi Sakazaki .....	In Memory of Sakaye Nishikawa .....	\$25
Tomi Tanaka .....	In Memory of Sakaye Nishikawa .....	\$25
Nancy Mutsuko Noguchi .....	In Memory of Helen Noguchi – 1st Year .....	\$50
Hideko Heidi Sakazaki .....	In Memory of Robert M. Manji .....	\$25
Fusako Takahashi .....	In Memory of Irene Tsujita .....	\$30
Mary Orite .....	Bonenkai Donation .....	\$20

**UPCOMING ACTIVITIES/EVENTS**

- **Spring Food Festival – March 7 and 8:** BWA ladies (and your family members): please come out on Saturday, March 7, from 7:30 a.m. to help prepare for the sushi making on Sunday, March 8. Please come out on Sunday morning, March 8, from 4 AM. Be sure to turn your clocks forward 1 hour on Saturday evening, as Daylight Savings starts on Sunday.

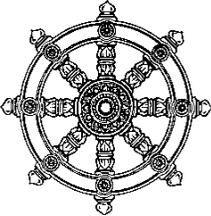
We need some rice cookers! Please contact Fusako Takahashi (390-4623) if you can help out.

Pick up your pre-sale orders on Sunday, March 8, in the kaikan from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. NOTE: A “limited” amount of food will be prepared for “walk-in” customers on March 8.

- **Crafts:** The next craft session will be on the third Friday — March 20 — at 1:30. Jane Nakagawa will be instructing the group on making greeting cards. Also, Shirley Kato is asking for donations of scrap pieces of Japanese print fabric for future projects. You may call Shirley Kato at 393-6887 for more details or to arrange to deliver the material.
- **Music Circus:** Virginia Uchida has reserved a block of 50 tickets for the June 11 performance of “My Fair Lady.” She will have more information on the cost of each ticket and dinner in the near future, along with a sign-up sheet on the Spring Food Festival prep days.
- **Angel Bin Donations:** Please continue to drop off clothing, shoes, belts or rags in the blue Angel Bin in our parking lot. The SBWA makes about \$170 per quarter!
- **New Shamojis:** Thank you to Lynn Kurahara for looking into someone who makes shamojis and getting them made already! Please remember to thoroughly dry these shamojis... and our wooden cutting boards... to avoid having mold form on them.
- **Picture Day Pot Luck:** President Fusako Takahashi is proposing a potluck luncheon in October put on by the SBWA Board. On that same day, we will have a photographer take a picture of the current SBWA Board, along with pictures of the SBWA officers, SBWA Advisory Committee, and possibly pictures of SBWA members. More details to follow.

**New Year’s Food Workshop:** Lynn Kurahara suggested that we do a workshop on how to make traditional New Year’s food. We are looking at a possible day in November. More details to follow.

The next SBWA meeting will be on Wednesday, March 4, starting with a service at 6 p.m., followed by our monthly meeting.

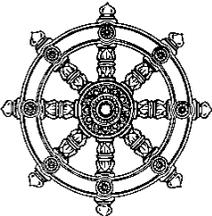


Welcome New Members

Robert Nault

Sylvia & Steven Higa

Brian & Jaime Collard & Family



## TOKUDO EXPERIENCE

SENSEI KEITH KATO

This article is about my Tokudo experience in Kyoto, Japan. After many months of study and preparation for Tokudo, which included three training sessions at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley, 12 Americans and one Canadian flew to Japan on October 31, Halloween Day. In order to overcome my anxiety, I kept saying to myself... you are fortunate to be one of the chosen few, so relax and enjoy this experience of a lifetime. We were so happy to finally land in Osaka after a 12-hour flight from San Francisco to the Kansai Airport. Our journey began on a precarious note. As our group went through immigration, Robert Gabunco from Canada was questioned as to why he was here in Japan and the authorities inspected his luggage. To add insult to injury, after Robert came out of the secured area, another plainclothes security person questioned him again as to what his business was in Japan. The only thing we could think of as to why this happened was Robert was wearing a Navy hat, which I guess made him look suspicious to the airport authorities.

We then drove in two vans from Osaka to Kyoto for 1 1/2 hours. Because I get carsick easily, the drive was torture. We finally arrived at the Hongwanji International Center... our first stop to allow us to get acclimated to life in Japan. Thank goodness it was nighttime so that no one could see me hunched over in the bushes puking my guts out... what a welcome to Japan. The international center is a four-story building with no elevators. Within the first hour there, one lady in our group badly sprained her ankle because of a misstep on the stairways. We did not know if she could continue on for Tokudo, but thank goodness she was able to get around after a few days. For those of us who roomed on the third and fourth floors, it was a workout having to go up and down the stairs several times a day. After a few days of this and eating vegetarian meals, I had already lost a few pounds.

On November 4, we were transported to the compound called the Nishiyama Training Center, which would be our home for the next 11 days. My Team Betsuin mates had warned me that the training would be tough. Little did I know what boot camp was Hongwanji-style. After the registration, orientation and settling into our dorm-like rooms, we sat through the first of 16 lectures to be given during our stay. Each lecture took approximately 2-3 hours, and on several days there were two lectures: one in the morning after breakfast and one in the afternoon after lunch. The lectures covered, among other things: basic ritual and etiquette, chanting, significance of Tokudo, religion, funeral service, and teaching of Buddhism/Jodo Shinshu. Because of the physical and mental stress, there were several afternoon sessions where I thought I would pass out in the afternoon because of the rigorous schedule. Drinking the Japanese-brand coffee "Boss" saved me on many afternoons.

A typical day began at 5 a.m. when I would get up to clean myself and dress. At 5:50 a.m. until 6:10 a.m., our group was responsible for cleaning up and getting ready the Taimensho Hall or "audience" hall (which also doubled as our classroom) and the adjacent bathrooms and hallways. After that, we met for 20 minutes as a group with our advisor and translator (Reverend Kuwahara from Berkeley) to go over the current day's activities and with one of the Nishiyama senseis to go over any previous day's issues and situations that may have caused any problems.

The training center has very high standards of conduct; the Nishiyama senseis were watching us with eagle eyes to make sure everyone was doing the tasks the Hongwanji way. Examples included: 1) being reminded to have our slippers situated the correct way in the hallway when not being used in order to pay proper respect to the slippers that supported us during the day; and 2) making sure we were properly dressed at all times during all waking moments. Every day we attended morning services at 7 a.m., evening services at 4:30 p.m., and bedtime services at 7:30 p.m. Each group — there were six groups in total — was responsible for conducting several services. Our group was responsible for conducting three services. Whenever we sat in the hondo, we were required to sit with our backs straight. The service would typically last one hour because the Nishiyama senseis were critiquing the group conducting the service. This meant stopping every time someone made a mistake during the chanting. To our shock, much like a drill sergeant yelling at the recruits, the senseis were screaming at the individuals, with many of the participants 60 and older. Despite being taken aback and really feeling sorry for these people, we were told that this was the Hongwanji way. After the third day, I was taking Aleve for the duration of my stay in order to relieve my backache.

During breakfast, lunch and dinner, we were required to set up our cafeteria-like table with all the dishes laid out for everyone in our group before we ate. We could not eat until approximately all 80 of us were there, properly dressed and accounted for. Unfortunately, I held up a lunch session because I had forgotten my *wagesa* in the cafeteria. The *wagesa* is what we wear around the neck. It was a very humbling experience. We ate in silence during the 10 minutes given to us for each meal. I suspect the quiet allowed us to appreciate the food we ate and clear our cluttered minds.



Rev. Bob Oshita  
428-9833



Rev. Patti Oshita  
428-9833



Sensei Koichi Mizushima  
424-7509  
bkmizu@gmail.com

## TOKUDO EXPERIENCE

(CONTINUED)

We had to dress in proper attire depending on what function we attended. And we had to make sure the robes not worn or accessories not used were properly folded and placed in our "personal robe" boxes. Nishiyama senseis made daily inspections of our boxes, and if your box did not meet their standards, you were identified by group number/box number during the mealtime and asked to redo your box. At the end of each day, we had a hot Japanese bath and went to sleep at 10:30 p.m. I never fully appreciated how a Japanese-style bath could relieve your body until undergoing the Tokudo training.

During our free time in the evenings after the bedtime services, we studied for and took the seven-part exam called *kadai*. As I had mentioned in a prior dharma talk, the *kadai* included:

- memorizing and correctly pronouncing in Japanese the various hymns by Shinran Shonin, our founder;
- correctly pronouncing in Japanese the *Gobunsho*, which are letters from Rennyō Shonin;
- knowing the altar adornments on the *onaijin* and the proper forms of *oshoko* (or incense offering);
- correctly folding the robe and *gojo-gesa*.

Also, we were required to take two written tests... one BEFORE we started the lectures so that the training center could see what we knew going in, and one AFTER we completed all the lectures so that the training center could see how we progressed. I am happy to report that all 13 of us successfully passed the *kadai* and two written tests. However during this ordeal, one person in our group unfortunately suffered a mental meltdown, but to her credit, she persevered and eventually passed.

After completing the *kadai*, we then participated in the Tokudo Ordination Ceremony conducted by Otani Kojun-sama, the newly installed 25th *monshu* at the Goeido (Founder's Hall) in the spectacular Nishi Hongwanji complex. For me, this was the highlight of our trip. The Tokudo group went through four rehearsals for the Tokudo Ordination so that we would be mindful in doing it correctly, and more important, not embarrass the Nishiyama Training Center. To our collective relief, the ceremony concluded without any hitch. However, we froze due to the chilly night air in the Founder's Hall.

Next morning, we were treated to a delicious breakfast in the inner chambers of the Nishi Hongwanji, where Hideyoshi Toyotomi, the first ruler to control all of Japan during the late 1500s, greeted special guests. The food was served in black-and-red lacquered dishes and plates as part of the exquisite place setting valued at \$1,000.

After the breakfast, we paid a visit to Meichodo Hall at the Otani Mausoleum, which is the final resting place for Shinran Shonin's ashes. Erected along both sides of the Meichodo Hall are the gravesites of successive Hongwanji *monshus* and their wives. We were all profoundly moved as we stood on the sacred grounds of our founder, Shinran Shonin.

After going through all this and reflecting back, there were four things I had taken away from my Tokudo experience:

- As one wise person told me, what you get out of an experience is dependent upon how much effort you put into it... therefore, the more difficult the effort, the more rewarding the achievement.
- Have a greater appreciation of the Nishi Hongwanji and Shin Buddhism and the roles they play in the Buddha-Dharma of a) wisdom or impermanence... as it relates to the teaching of enjoying every moment of our ever-fleeting lives, and b) compassion or interdependence... as it relates to people who have and things which have always supported us throughout our lives;
- Have a deeper awareness of just how wonderful our way of life is in America... so let us stop complaining and not take our lifestyles for granted; and finally...
- To not have fear and be open-minded in experiencing things outside our comfort zone to enhance the quality of life so that we will have no regrets later in life in order to live a life well-lived.

Let us always be mindful that life is impermanent and constantly changing. Three months have passed and my Tokudo experience now seems like a dream. I could not have done all this on my own efforts. I realize that I have always been dependent upon so many people who have encouraged me and helped me, not just for Tokudo, but throughout my life's journey.

Though words are grossly inadequate... from my Dharma heart to all of those organizations and people (especially Reverend Bob and Reverend Patti) who have supported me during my Tokudo journey, I share my deepest gratitude by saying "thank you so very much."

In gassho.

## SANGHA STAFF

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Editor (Japanese) Katsuko  
Hirota

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Dharma School	Valerie Fong
Boy Scouts	Cameron Lutz
Girl Scouts	Valerie Fong
Sports Cmte	Alan Wu

**LEGACY  
ENDOWMENT  
FUND BOARD**  
RUTH SEO

おかげさま

With the start of 2015, several changes occurred for the Legacy Endowment Fund Board (LEFB). Most notable is the departure of longtime board members Valerie Fong, Ken Furukawa and Mark Umeda, and the addition of new board member Martin Tokunaga.

Valerie Fong and Mark Umeda served on the original Endowment Fund Committee organized by Reverend Yukawa in 2000. Valerie’s meticulous record keeping and note taking resulted in her serving the LEFB many years as secretary in addition to the many other roles she fulfilled. At her final meeting in December, she presented a historical binder covering the years 2002–2014, documenting all the work done by LEFB. It is a valuable resource that will help the board now and in the future.

As a lawyer, Mark Umeda provided valuable legal and policy advice during his long tenure. He also presented workshops, managed donations and bequests to the Endowment Fund, and helped get the fund on a stable financial footing.

Dr. Ken Furukawa provided much insight from his perspective as a long-serving Dharma School superintendent. He developed the funding request and evaluation form that helps document the funding of various projects and programs for which LEFB provides monetary support. A huge thank you to Valerie, Mark and Ken for many years of dedicated service to the LEFB.

A hearty welcome to the newest board member, Martin Tokunaga. A UC Berkeley graduate, Marty earned his M.B.A. and his C.P.A. license and owns his own business, JKR Consulting Company. A native Sacramentan, he and his wife, Karen, have three daughters who participated at the Betsuin during their youth. His sister, Lisa Taira, continues the family business, Kiyō’s Floral Design, which has been in operation for more than 39 years.

Along with Martin, the Board of Trustees approved the other members of the Legacy Endowment Fund Board: Allan Hoshida, chairman; Ted Yoshimura, Sandy Tokunaga, Ruth Seo, Kelvin Mark, Joyce Sahara and Gordon Nitta.

The generous support from church and community members has made it possible to fund projects that meet one or more of the following objectives:

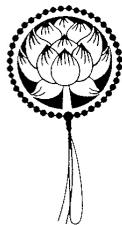
- Directly further propagation of Jodo Shinshu Buddhist teachings;
- Benefit the Betsuin’s efforts to propagate Jodo Shinshu Buddhist teachings;
- Meets one or more of the LEFB-supported needs: educational programs/ scholarships; master planning/ major improvements; eitaikyo.

Funding application forms are available on the church bulletin board in the main hallway. Completed applications may be submitted to the office.

For more than a hundred years, the Buddhist Church of Sacramento has been the physical and spiritual heart of the Buddhist community. Contributions to the Legacy Endowment Fund will help sustain the temple now and for generations to come. Your continued support is very much appreciated.

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.



*Condolences to  
the Families of:*



- Tom Masami Nakagawa ..... August 7, 1934 - January 17, 2015*  
*Jerry Matsumura ..... December 26, 1952 - January 23, 2015*  
*Masashi Tokunaga ..... April 26, 1931 - January 28, 2015*  
*Junichi Yamamoto ..... January 29, 1921 - January 28, 2015*  
*Donald Ishii ..... September 2, 1915 - February 3, 2015*  
*Yoshiko Tamai ..... September 24, 1929 - February 11, 2015*  
*Tamiji "Tom" Kitagawa ..... August 28, 1923 - February 13, 2015*

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## NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

### ARE YOU SENDING IN A PAYMENT TO THE BETSUIN OFFICE?

**W**e receive a good deal of mail, Monday through Saturday at the Betsuin, and that mail includes letters and payments for ABA, SBWA/ Fujinkai, Scout organizations, Sports Program, Dharma School, Jr. YBA, College YBA, and more! If you are sending something to the Betsuin's mailing address, please be sure to note **ON THE OUTSIDE OF THE ENVELOPE** to whom you would like your mail routed. Some examples: Membership, Spring Food Festival, Golf Tournament or even the organization's name. Your simple notations will help to ensure that your mail gets to the intended recipient in a timely manner!

### CORRECTION NEEDED FOR DONATION LISTING?

Please accept a HUGE apology from the Betsuin Office for our error in the February SANGHA donation listing. An entire spreadsheet was inadvertently missed when collating the listing for last month and those corrections can be found in this issue.

If you should ever notice that a donation you made has not been acknowledged in the SANGHA, please do not hesitate to contact the office. The sooner we know about the possible error, the sooner we can research/resolve the issue.

Please remember that donations received by the 15th of each month will be included in the next mailed issue; anything received on the 16th and after will be included in the issue of the SANGHA that will be published an additional month later. For instance, donations received by March 15 will be included in the April SANGHA; donations received after March 15 will be listed in the May SANGHA.

### ONLINE BETSUIN CALENDAR

*(<http://buddhistchurch.com/calendar/calendar.htm>)*

For those of you who frequent the temple's website, the online calendar has been updated through the end of 2015. Please check out the upcoming events! If your organization needs to schedule an event, please contact the Betsuin Office at *BetsuinRoomRequest@gmail.com*.

### SECURITY SYSTEM USAGE - THANK YOU!

Many thanks for your patience and understanding as we continue to figure out the best way to provide secure, after-hours access to the main building. All of the possible solutions you have brought to our attention have been passed along to the Board of Trustees — ideas are always welcome! For now, we have been handling access by implementing the following procedures for evening meetings and basketball practices:

- If the staff and ministers will be out of the office in the evening, a sign is posted on the double doors with notification of the timeframes when the courtyard doors will be unlocked for entry. This will generally be from 10 minutes prior to the start of your meeting/practice, until 10 minutes after.
- Outside of the posted parameters, we are asking you to call someone in your group who is already inside the building so that they can come to open the door for you.
- If you cannot contact your group, the sign lists Bob Chavez's cell phone # as the next resource.
- Please note that the hallway door to Quinn Avenue (the alley) is never left unlocked for evening access. Everyone is **HIGHLY ENCOURAGED** to park in the main parking lot.
- The courtyard doors should **NEVER** be propped open and left unattended.

Thank you again for your support in following these procedures to help keep the Betsuin and our sangha safe!

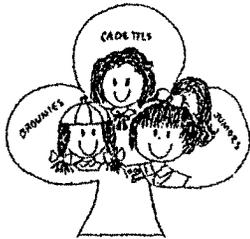
# SUSHI SOCIAL

**THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2015  
6:30 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.  
CLASSROOMS 1 & 2**

**\$10 PRE REGISTRATION REQUIRED**

**INSTRUCTIONAL SESSION ON HOW TO MAKE SUSHI.  
THEN MAKE AND EAT YOUR OWN ROLLS!**

**GIRL SCOUTS**  
VALERIE FONG



**CADETTES 4**

**C**adettes 4 attended the Take a Stand, Lend a Hand event at the Sacramento Asian Sports Foundation. The event started off with a delicious teriyaki chicken bento box and a variety of homemade baked items that were for sale. The troop entered their names in the Strive for Strength raffle.

Lisa Ford Berry, founder of B.R.A.V.E. (Bullies Really Are Violating Everyone) Society, a local peer abuse and bullying awareness nonprofit organization, gave a presentation on how bullying touches many lives. She shared a personal story of how her 17-year-old son committed suicide due to the bullying he encountered in high school. The movie "Bully" was shown. After the movie, the girls had a powerful discussion about what to do if they are bullied and to lend a hand when they see someone getting bullied. The event was a very educational experience for the troop!

**SENIORS 2**

Seniors 2 are currently working on the requirements for the Bridge to Ambassador Girl Scouts patch. They organized a "round table" meeting and invited Ambassadors 3 to share their experiences as Ambassadors.

Several topics were discussed with the Ambassadors and their thoughtful responses will help Seniors 2 to prepare for this next level of scouting. We thank Ambassadors 3 for their time and assistance on this important next step.

**BOY SCOUTS**  
CAMERON LUTZ



**T**roop 50 had another successful month full of fun activities and events. On February 13, we had a troop meeting where we all constructed marshmallow shooters and competed for a bag of chocolates. The PVC pipes and other supplies were provided by Mr. Sakata and we are all really appreciative of his generosity. Later that night, we also underwent cleaning up the classrooms in temple cleanup with all hands on deck to sanitize desktops and windows.

On Saturday, February 21, those who signed up headed to San Francisco and visited the Bay Model Visitor Center where, on display, there was a fully functional hydraulic model of San Francisco Bay and the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta System. This educational exhibition is made possible by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The mid-year planning meeting is where Troop 50's leadership gathers to discuss upcoming events and the state of the troop. We discuss and present ideas put forth by scouts and try our best to implement them into our troop's activities. That event took place on February 22. A Greenbar and troop meeting took place on February 27. From March 20-22, Troop 50 will join with Pack 50's Webelos on an outing to Lake Camanche.

**TERIYAKI  
BEEF  
SANDWICH  
FUNDRAISER**

**D**uring the Spring Food Festival on March 8, the Boy Scout Troop 50 Matsuyama/Sacramento Scout Exchange Program will be selling teriyaki beef sandwiches. Pre-order forms are available on the bulletin board in the Betsuin's main hallway, or use the form below. Pick up sandwiches on March 8 between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Pre-Order Deadline: Sunday, March 1.  
Questions? Please contact Stacey at [deko99@sbcglobal.net](mailto:deko99@sbcglobal.net)

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First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Quantity: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$7.00 each

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PRE-ORDER \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to: BOY SCOUT TROOP 50  
Buddhist Church of Sacramento  
2401 Riverside Blvd.  
Sacramento, CA 95818-2233  
Attn: Matsuyama Exchange

**DHARMA  
SCHOOL  
NEWS**  
VALERIE FONG



**H**ello everyone! For the month of March, we are happy to shine a spotlight on our wonderful 3rd grade Dharma School class. Our 3rd graders are in good hands with our experienced and capable teachers — Harley and Judy Inaba, Yvonne Ishimoto, and their TAs.

Happy Spring Greetings from the fun 3rd Grade Dharma School class!

It is a pleasure to share with you that, throughout the Dharma School term, our 3rd graders enjoy engaging lessons and activities focused on exploring our Betsuin and gaining an understanding about annual Jodo Shinshu special services. A sampling of our lessons include free-hand drawings of our temple entrance; investigating the Hondo altar; creating miniature clay replicas of pets for Pet Memorial Sunday; origami and pop-up art projects, as well as crossword and word search puzzles in observance of Hoonko, Bodhi Day, Nirvana Day and Hanamatsuri; Buddha Bingo games; "Buddha Buck" shopping; and, Ochigo nobility processional during Gotan-e service.

Lessons planned, prepared and taught by our terrific teachers assistants have highlighted the importance of gratitude and encouraged an appreciation of the Buddha, Dharma and Sangha. Our 3rd graders are interested, attentive, involved, happy and wonderful young students of our Sacramento Betsuin Dharma School program.

—From the 3rd Grade Class

**DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS**

Thank you to everyone who participated in our annual Open House on Sunday, February 8, in the Kaikan. The class displays looked wonderful. And, a special "thank you" to our Dharma School families who came in early to help with set-up and stayed after to put away the carpet deck.

Coming up soon is our annual Hanamatsuri play. This year's play, "Pete the Cat," will be held on Sunday, April 12 after Dharma Service. We look forward to seeing you there to enjoy the creative talents of our Dharma School students.

**DONATIONS**

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

ABA	Alice Kataoka	Eileen Namba
Gladys Adachi	Gail Keikoan	Eleanor Nobuye
Boy Scout Troop 50	Shig & Sachi Kihara	Kinya Noguchi
Max & Sumie Hamamoto	Machiko Kimura	Mary Orite
Naomi Hamamoto	Rosemary Kitaoka	Sam Orite
Nancy Hash	Michiko Kubo	Oto's Marketplace
Brian Hatano	Ron Kubo	Scouts
Minnie Iseri	Reiko Kurahara	Yaeko Tademaru
Marlene & John Itagaki	Emi Makishima	Sandy & Jerry Tokunaga
Midori Ito	Arleen Mataga	Junichi Yamamoto Family
Tak Ito	Kathy Matsumura Green	
Jr. YBA	Rachel Nagai	

**SPORTS  
COMMITTEE**  
ALAN WU



**H**appy March Greetings to you! This month's disclaimer: The term "old" by no means refers to a person's age; it merely refers to the amount of time. For example: "They are an old friend of the family." Means they have been a friend to the family for a long amount of time. Okay, now that that has been disclaimed....

For the not-old families to the Sports Program, the month of March historically is tournament month for the Sacramento area. This year, the month of March brings two full weekends of church basketball. Our 44th Annual Basketball Tournament being held on March 7-8 kick starts the ball rolling, as usual. Our tournament is always on the first full weekend of March and is followed by our old friends at the Sacramento Japanese United Methodist Church, otherwise known as SJUMC. This year the SJUMC tournament will be held on March 20-22. So, get your running shoes on and be prepared for two full weekends of basketball.

By the way, make sure to go to our tournament on March 7-8 with big appetites for our families are preparing excellent menus at each gym's concession stand!

For our old friends of the program, March 2015 will be a little less hectic, for this year will be the first year in more than 20 years that there will be no Sacramento Asian Sports Foundation Tournament. It seemed like forever that our old friends at SASF held their tournament on the fourth weekend of March each and every year and added yet another full weekend of basketball to March.

**SPORTS COMMITTEE**  
ALAN WU

And, to take it one more step further, our old old friends of the program can remember just a couple of years ago when the SJUMC tournament occupied two weekends in March and produced two full weekends of basketball. Their first weekend had the younger kids playing in E and D divisions, while during their second weekend they hosted the upper C and B divisions. Nowadays, they have all divisions playing on one weekend. So, our old old friends remember how March was really full of madness with four full weekends of basketball!

The demise of the SASF tournament and the shrinking of the SJUMC tournament could be the result of the economy, the expanding interests of the kids, global warming, the number of kids in general, the ozone hole, or El Niño, BUT whatever the reason, our sangha understands that change happens, it is inevitable, you cannot get away from it, so take it as it comes, moment by moment.

So, where do you go to see our kids and your kids play basketball? Here are the locations for our tournament on March 7-8:

Division	Location	Address
B Boys (Black)	SASF	9040 High Tech Court, 95758
B Boys (Red)	J.F. Kennedy High School (Main)	6715 Gloria Drive, 95831
C Boys (White)	SASF	9040 High Tech Court, 95758
C Boys (Red)	Luther Burbank High School (Main)	3500 Florin Road, 95823
C Boys (Black)	Hiram Johnson High School (Main)	6879 14th Avenue, 95820
C Girls (Black)	Rosemont High School (Main)	9594 Kiefer Blvd., 95827
D Boys (Gold)	C.K. McClatchy High School (Main)	3066 Freeport Blvd., 95818
D Boys (Black)	West Campus High School	5022 58th Street, 95820
D Boys (Purple)	J.F. Kennedy High School (Both)	6715 Gloria Drive, 95831
D Boys (Red)	Sam Brannan Middle School	5301 Elmer Way, 95822
D Boys (White)	Luther Burbank High School (Aux)	3500 Florin Road, 95823
D Girls (Red)	Sutter Middle School	3150 I Street, 95816
D Girls (Purple)	Leonardo Da Vinci School K-8	4701 Joaquin Way, 95822
E Boys (Black)	Rosemont High School (Aux)	9594 Kiefer Blvd., 95827
E Boys (Lower)	Genevieve Didion K-8 School	6490 Harmon Drive, 95831
E Girls (Upper)	Hiram Johnson High School (Aux)	6879 14th Avenue, 95820
E Girls (Lower)	<b>Saturday only</b> - Florin Buddhist Church	7235 Pritchard Road, 95828
E Girls (Lower)	<b>Sunday</b> - J.F. Kennedy High School (Aux)	6715 Gloria Drive, 95831

Now you know where to see your kids, grandkids, nieces, nephews and old friends play some good old fashion basketball and also partake in some good old fashion home cookin'! Each gym location will have a concession stand to satisfy your every craving.

After a full Saturday of basketball, please come join us at our Family Social at the Sacramento Betsuin at 2401 Riverside Boulevard, 95818 from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Enjoy our tournament.

