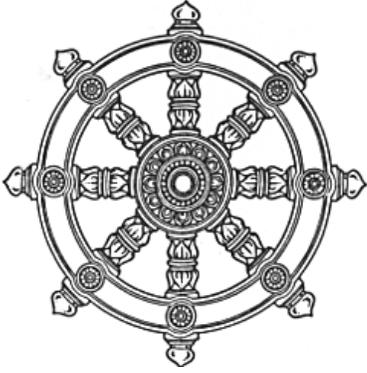


**REV. PATTI'S
CORNER
REV. PATTI OSHITA**



Welcome to the month of May! It's hard to believe how quickly the year 2015 is flying by! This month we are celebrating Gotan-e, the birthday of Shinran Shonin. Our guest speaker is a former minister of our Betsuin, Reverend Yoshihide Matsubayashi. And we look forward to welcoming Sensei and Mrs. Matsubayashi back to the Betsuin Sunday, May 17.

It's also hard to believe that more than 10 years have passed since we started planning and hosting the (now annual) one-week YAC Youth Retreat! And... this June, the BCA Youth Advocacy Committee (YAC) will be celebrating our 10th anniversary with a reunion of 10 years of YAC Retreaters from all around the country! We are planning a special weekend where we will bring together as many of our alumni participants and their families that are able to come.

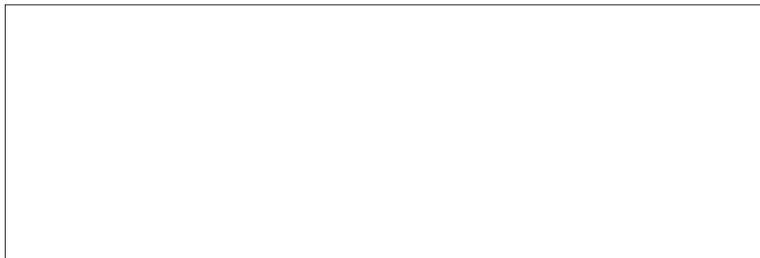
Then the very next month of July, we will be hosting the 11th year of summer retreats. It is hard to imagine that 135 participants have come through this program. Many are serving as Certified Minister Assistants, Temple Board of Trustees, Dharma School teachers, District YBA presidents, Jr. YBA advisors, and BCA committee members.

As I write this article, many of our helpers, like the sewing ladies under the leadership of Ellen Ito and Rachel Nagai, have begun sewing the retreat robes.
(CONTINUED ON PAGE 3)

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SANGHA

**SACRAMENTO BUDDHIST CHURCH
VOLUME 52 NUMBER 5 – MAY 2015**

**SACRAMENTO
BETSUIN**
2401 Riverside Blvd.
Sacramento, CA 95818
(916) 446-0121
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**REV. PATTI'S
CORNER**
(CONTINUED)

The ladies spend weeks working on our robes. A special thank you to Kazue Tanaka for donating a bolt of black fabric for the YAC robes. We are so fortunate to have these wonderful ladies!

It already looks to be a very full summer of activities. And... this summer, RB and I are planning to go to the happiest place on earth! Disneyland! I think the last time we were there was over 20 years ago? Yeah, it's been a long time. Although we have had opportunities to go, we just never set aside any time to spend there. When in Southern California, we would rather go shopping at the LA malls or spend a few hours at Marukai or J-town (Okay... I like to go shopping or to Marukai...).

I think it is clever for Disneyland to have the slogan of being the happiest place on earth! I remember when we were kids, we truly believed that with all of our heart. When we were a little older, it was still fun to spend a few days at Disneyland hanging out with friends. Even as adults, there are many who continue to truly enjoy their time there. For RB and myself, we've just not been able to make Disneyland a priority until this year.

As some of you may know, Disneyland opened on July 17, 1955. It was the only theme park designed and built under the direct supervision of Walt Disney.

Walt Disney came up with the concept of Disneyland after visiting various amusement parks with his daughters in the 1930s and 1940s. He initially envisioned building a tourist attraction adjacent to his studios in Burbank to entertain fans who wished to visit; however, he soon realized that the proposed site was too small. After hiring a consultant to help him determine an appropriate site for his project, Walt bought a 160-acre site near Anaheim in 1953. Construction began in 1954 and the park was unveiled during a special televised press event on July 17, 1955.

On that day, when Walt Disney swung open the doors to his very own theme park, at the dedication he said, "To all who come to this happy place... Welcome... Disneyland is your land. Here age relives fond memories of the past, and here youth may savor the challenge and promise of the future. Disneyland is dedicated to the ideals, the dreams, and the hard facts that have created America, with the hope that it will be a source of joy and inspiration to all the world."

I think we all love Disneyland because it embodies our hope and dream to live a happy and enjoyable life.

In a way, the words of Walt Disney, as he opened Disneyland, also paraphrases the deepest wish that every parent silently has the moment their child is born. It's interesting that both Shinran Shonin and Prince Siddhartha (who became the Shakyamuni Buddha), both lost their mothers very early in their lives. But it is very easy to imagine them both holding their newborn infants:

"Welcome to the world... Welcome to your life! May your life become filled with fond memories. And while you grow, may you rise to every challenge and create a wonderful, meaningful future and fulfill your potential. Dedicate your life to the ideals, the dreams, and the reality that have created the world around you. It is our deepest hope that you will live to become a source of joy and inspiration to all the world."

I feel that this would be the silent wish that every new mom and dad would be hoping for their newborn child. As we come together to observe both Gotane... and our Parents' Day Service (on Mother's Day Sunday), let us try to feel our parents' deepest wish for each of us... as we remember them throughout the month of May.

See you Sunday!

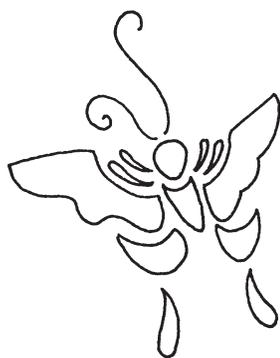
The month of May 2015 is upon us. "THE SEARCH" The Betsuin Executive Committee decided to take a proactive approach in finding Reverend Bob's successor. Rather than being passive, hoping our wish list would be promising, we put together a preferred list of ministers. We ranked them by their philosophies being compatible with ours. Soon we'll again meet with Bishop Umezu to discuss who will be the best fit for us. We have only 14 months until Rinban Bob retires. I'm sure it is understood that an overlap between Rinban Bob and the new minister will be the only solution to assure a smooth transition.

"OUT WITH THE OLD" I'm hoping that you've attended Sunday service regularly this 2015 year. If you haven't been at service in a while, come on back;

**PRESIDENT'S
MESSAGE**
GORDON NITTA

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
(CONTINUED)

SACRAMENTO BUDDHIST WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION
KEIKO JEAN KASHIWADA



OFFICE MANAGER
Cindy Kitade

OFFICE PROJECT COORDINATOR
Jennifer Nitta

BETSUIN OFFICE
446-0121

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Mary Amemiya
Sumiye Hamamoto
Ruth Hayashi
Irene Hoshiko
Sanaye Imajo
Miyuki Inenaga
Mae Kaneko
Alice Kataoka
Yoshiko Morizawa
Mutsuko Noguchi
Helen Sakaishi
Fusako Takahashi
Faye Uyemura

check progress out. The Temple continues to be the most active in the BCA and to add to it, we have put your membership and donation dollars to make necessary changes, either replacing or giving a face lift to broken down structures and equipment. The demolition and construction has been adding to the constant activity in and around the Temple.

Thank you for your patience with the added congestion created by construction. Thank you also for your patience and understanding in our shortage of ministers at our Temple while we wait for the minister succession progress and knowing that our minister assistants are covering the shortages of ministers in our Northern California District's sister temples.

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

DONATIONS AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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

Yaeko Tademaru In Memory of Junichi Yamamoto \$50
Lynn Sunahara In Appreciation (new member) \$15

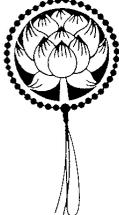
Thank you to Jennifer Nitta for creating the great bulletin boards for each of the temple organizations. Please check out the SBWA's bulletin board for pictures taken at the recent Onaijin no Omigaki (cleaning and polishing of the altar).

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

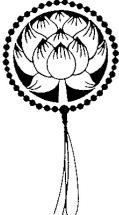
- **Buddhist Church of Sacramento Organization Open House:** Sunday, May 3, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Lynn Kurahara stated that she will represent the SBWA at a table with ABA. She and Wayne will be representing ABA at this Open House and will also answer questions about the SBWA. Elaine Yoshikawa, Gayle Kono and Virginia Uchida will also help.
- **Music Circus:** Virginia Uchida has a block of 50 tickets for the June 11 performance of My Fair Lady. Virginia will be in touch with those of you who have signed up. There are about 6-8 tickets still available.
- **Craft Booth:** Shirley Kato - The May craft class will be held on Friday, May 15, 1:30 p.m., in Classroom 1. Kathy Tanaka Henry and Sue Louie will lead the group in making iris fold cards.

Thank you to ALL the members who have been working hard these past few months making items for this year's Bazaar craft booth. Thank you to the following ladies who have donated items or craft materials, and/or lead one of the craft classes: Gladys Adachi, Sherry Fujii, Tessie Goi, Sally Hamatake, Nancy Hashimoto, Judy Inaba, Yvonne Ishimoto, Jane Komure, Reiko Kurahara, Jane Nakagawa, Helen Sekikawa, Gloria Smith, Kathy Tanaka Henry, Fusako Takahashi, Jenny Takahashi, Irene Takeda, Beverly Tanaka, Kazue Tanaka, Kiyo Tanaka, Kathy Yamamoto, Colleen Warner, Sueko Yamashita, and Sandy Yuki.

The next SBWA meeting will be held on Wednesday, May 6, starting with a service at 6:45 p.m., followed by our monthly meeting.



*Condolences to
the Families of:*



Grace Miyamoto August 11, 1931 - March 26, 2015

Robert Shimada September 15, 1925 - April 16, 2015

Emiko Imai November 26, 1922 - April 18, 2015

Tazu Betty Kobata September 17, 1932 - April 18, 2015

Ted Hiroshi Tahara February 1, 1947 - April 18, 2015

**MINISTER
ASSISTANTS**
REV. TIM CASTLE

Greetings everyone! While normally a “welcome to spring” would be in order, it seems that this year spring came early and by the first week in April my allergies were in full “May-mode,” so I will simply say, welcome to May!

Now in the last article I wrote back in September, I spoke about trash and the need for all of us to lighten our loads a little bit and empty out our trash... trash being all of the things that we carry around. Some of this trash is literal and easy to toss out... and some of it may be very difficult to get rid of, and that is all the emotional trash and baggage that we carry around. Either way, I believe that Buddhism shows us the way to empty our trash.

This month I am going to move far away from trash, and catch up on living a life of (showing) gratitude. Living a life of gratitude often means simply saying “Thank you.” Sometimes the thank you is for a big thing, and often said to people practicing one of our most basic Buddhist teachings, the practice of selfless giving, or the first of the Six Paramitas, Dana (selfless giving).

For years, or as son Wayne Inouye says, “decades,” Marysville Sangha member George Inouye has donated so much of his time and efforts into making sure the Dharma could be heard in Marysville. And when I say heard, I literally mean heard, as George is the man behind the sound system in Marysville. Whether it was the microphone system in the Hondo, hooking up dharma talks and the video feed of memorial services into the kitchen and social hall, or making sure our parking lot had plenty of Obon Odori tunes to dance to, George’s fingerprints are all over the wires and equipment that made up our system.

As with everything that surrounds us, change does indeed mean that equipment gets older and more difficult to repair, and our sound equipment was truly another sign of impermanence. Hearing that our sound system was beginning to show its age and lacked the ability to perform its most basic function... to amplify sounds... George unselfishly did what any good father would do and called his son Wayne to make it happen. This call led to another real-life example of another of our most basic teachings, interdependence. A call from Marysville to Corona del Mar led to a call to the Inouyes’ longtime friend in Fresno, Don Otomo. All of a sudden, our temple in Marysville was the center of a statewide focus on the modernization of our sound system.

This past December, with some help from some of the Marysville members, a new system was installed in the Hondo! Phase II will happen in the near future as new speakers will be added in the Hondo and throughout the temple buildings. With the combined efforts and giving of George and Wayne Inouye and Don Otomo, the amplified ringing of the kansho is a bit clearer, our dharma talks are a bit louder and easier to hear, and we can stop crossing our fingers during service, hoping that the podium microphone will last through the entire memorial or Sunday service.

While the names may not be the same and the deeds may differ, every temple, if it is fortunate, has a George, a Wayne, and a Don — people who step up and offer their time, their hard work, their sacrifice, and the generosity of their donations. All of this done, with no thought for themselves, but simply seeing a need and selflessly giving to get the job done.

If you regularly come to service in Marysville, you already know that I like to give homework during Sunday services. Today’s article will be the same! As usual, it is EASY homework. After you read this article, think about the people at your temple who give selflessly. Think about the big things that happen due to someone’s efforts... think about the small things that happen due to someone’s efforts. What are their names? Whose efforts have left impressions (fingerprints) on your temple? While most like to fly under the radar, I bet they would all appreciate your acknowledgement, a smile, and simply saying “Thank you!”

To George, Wayne, and Don: Thank you for your efforts in helping the Marysville Buddhist Church!



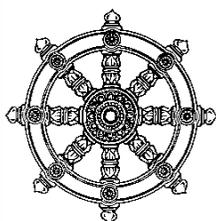
Rev. Bob Oshita
428-9833



Rev. Patti Oshita
428-9833

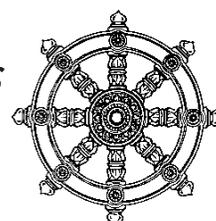


Sensei Koichi Mizushima
704-1493
bkmizu@gmail.com



Welcome New Members

*Hideko Neches
Kathryn Shigaki*



**LEGACY
ENDOWMENT
FUND**
ALLAN M. HOSHIDA
2015 LEGACY
ENDOWMENT FUND
BOARD CHAIR

おかげさま

A number of years ago our former Rinban, Reverend Yukawa, and temple leaders recognized a need to look toward the future and created the concept for the Legacy Endowment Fund (LEF) to help sustain the Jodo Shinshu tradition here in Sacramento. The mission of the Legacy Endowment Fund is to Honor our Past, Continue the Legacy and Shape the Future for the Sacramento Betsuin.

Since 2007, the LEF Board has slowly been able to grow and nurture this fund through the generous support of our sangha members and friends. Our fund is managed according to the investment policy overseen by investment professionals and Legacy Board. The endowment fund is a long-term investment in which the principal (donations) will stay in the fund untouched and continue to grow. Our immediate goal is to reach \$5 million in total principal assets (currently at about \$2.4 million). With this amount, we will be able to use interest/dividends and ongoing fundraisers to help support financially more programs/projects that may not be possible just through the general operating funds.

Due to your generous contributions, the LEF has been able to help support in the last few years the following:

- **Minister assistants continuing education** at the Jodo Shinshu Center and Kyoto, Japan: We all recognize and thank Rinban Bob Oshita, Reverend Patti Oshita, Reverends Carol and Tim Castle, and Senseis Grace Hatano, Koichi Mizushima, Kelvin Mark and Keith Kato for their contributions to not only our temple but also to the other Northern California temples in Florin, Placer, Lodi, Walnut Grove and Marysville. LEF encourages support of MAs and others wanting to pursue continuing educational programs and giving back to our sangha in a meaningful way.
- **The annual BCA YAC Youth Advocacy Summer Retreat** held here at the Betsuin, this summer will be celebrating its 11th anniversary: Through Rinban Bob, Reverend Patti and minister assistants' leadership and with strong support from our sangha members, many youths representing temples from throughout the United States have had the opportunity to bond and learn about Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. This past year our temple had three youths selected to participate: Lyndsie Mark, Haley Arakaki and Ty Coloma. All of these young folks have noted, through their thank you letters/reflections, that this one-week opportunity, plus follow-up reunion retreats, has been such a positive, life-altering experience in their young lives. I have no doubt that they will continue to serve and be our future sangha community leaders in the years ahead.
- **Special events/programs bringing the sangha community together:** Nisei Appreciation Luncheon, Medical Lecture Seminar series, Rummage Sale fundraisers, Chicken Throwdown friendly competition between Northern California temples, Wine Tasting and Sushi Making Evenings, etc. (many events led by Reverend Patti and/or Sensei Koichi) are all programs sponsored by or supported by the Legacy Endowment Fund for the benefit of our members and friends. Please sign up and attend any future events that may be of interest to you and let us know specific programs/events you and your family definitely want to continue having.

These and many more projects/programs in the future will be supported through our LEF Board. Thank you all for your generous donations/contributions in time, energy and financial support and for being stewards of a wonderful Jodo Shinshu tradition. Our hope is for the Legacy Endowment Fund to help support enriching programs to benefit our Sacramento sangha community for many generations to come.

If there are any questions regarding estate planning, year-end tax advantaged donations, living trusts, remembrances, etc., please contact the office or any of the LEF Board members and someone will get back to you.

In Gassho and with Okagesama.

(Buddhist Church of Sacramento tax exempt #941243674)

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Editor (Japanese) Katsuko
Hirota

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Boy Scouts	Cameron Lutz
Sports Cmte	Alan Wu
Maintenance	Gary Traganza

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.

NOTES FROM THE OFFICE

DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR QUARTERLY DONATION STATEMENT?

The implementation of our new member/donor database has been progressing steadily and with it, our ability to track membership dues and donations more efficiently is also improving. Last month, for the first time, we were able to provide members with a long-awaited benefit: **an individualized Quarterly Statement of their donations to the Sacramento Betsuin.**

Our process for acknowledging donations will include the following:

- Continued listing in the monthly SANGHA newsletter for all donations received by the 15th of the month (unless anonymity is requested).
- Quarterly Statement of Contributions for Betsuin Members (April, July, October).
- Individual acknowledgement letter for donations of \$250 or more.
- Individual acknowledgement letter for donations made by non-members.
- Individual acknowledgement letter for donations made to the Legacy Endowment Fund.
- Annual Contribution Summary Statement for ALL DONORS, members and non-members (January).
- Family notification of memoriams received (donors' names and amount).

We hope you found the quarterly statements helpful! **Since this was our inaugural effort, please review your statement carefully.** Should you notice that your contributions have not been acknowledged properly, please contact the Betsuin office so that we can remedy any discrepancies.

CALENDAR REMINDERS AND CHANGES

- Sunday, 5/17, 9:30 a.m. – Gotan-e Service; 11:30 a.m.— Japanese Service. Special Guest Speaker: Reverend Emeritus Yoshihide Matsubayashi
- Memorial Day – Monday, 5/25 – Betsuin Office open from 9 a.m.–1 p.m.
- Canceled: Sunday, 5/31 – Matsuyama Scout Exchange Fried Rice Breakfast

MEMORIAL WEEKEND CEMETERY SERVICES

Sunday, 5/24, 4 p.m. – Vacaville
 Sunday, 5/24, 5 p.m. – Suisun
 Monday, 5/25, 9 a.m.– Oddfellows
 Monday, 5/25, 10 a.m. – Sac Memorial
 Monday, 5/25, 11 a.m. – East Lawn
 Monday, 5/25, 12 noon – Nokotsudo

NEW HALLWAY BULLETIN BOARDS!

Have you noticed that information in the main hallway has been getting more and more organized? And that the photographs of Betsuin activities are updated more frequently? Next time you're here, please take a look around because resources are on display for events:

- At the Betsuin
- Sponsored by our Visionary Programs
- Around the Buddhist Churches of America
- In the Community

... and you can't beat the photos of all the fun things our members and friends are up to these days! If you would like a flyer or photograph posted, please bring it by the office and we'll take care of it.

LOST & FOUND

Precious treasures are starting to pile-up in the Betsuin office. Are you (or someone you know) missing a pair of child's prescription glasses or a pair of women's prescription sunglasses? Have you been missing your special ojuzu? We'd love for these items to find their way back home, so come by to see if something belonging to you has been waiting for you here!

**SPECIAL
EVENTS IN
MAY**
 SPONSORED BY
 LEGACY
 ENDOWMENT FUND

Financial Planning Session with Derek Seo, CFP, Ameriprise Financial, Wednesday, May 13, 7 p.m., Classroom 15. How to plan for your financial future:

- Saving for retirement
- How to pay for college
- Charitable giving

Introduction to Ukulele for Beginners with Brandon Muranaka, Sunday, May 17, 11:15 a.m., Classroom 12. Class size is limited; sign up in the office

Bingo Night, Friday, May 29, 7 p.m., Classrooms 1 & 4. \$5 Registration.

Please register for these events in the Betsuin office or email Koichi Mizushima: bkmizu@gmail.com

**RESOLVING
LIFE'S
PROBLEMS
THROUGH
BUDDHISM**

**CONVERSATIONS ON SHIN BUDDHISM
IN YOUR DAILY LIFE**

GUEST SPEAKER: REVEREND MARVIN HARADA

Reverend Marvin Harada was raised in Eastern Oregon. He is a graduate of the University of Oregon, the Institute of Buddhist Studies, and Ryukoku University. He has been serving at the Orange County Buddhist Church (OCBC) for the past 28 years, and in 2012 became the co-director of the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) Center for Buddhist Education (CBE).

Reverend Harada worked to establish the Buddhist Education Center at the OCBC, which has offered a variety of classes on Buddhism and Jodo Shinshu for the past 15 years. He is the author of *Discovering Buddhism in Everyday Life*, a collection of his essays over his first 25 years of ministry.

**MONDAY EVENINGS
7 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.**

June 1
Matters of Life & Death

July 6
Relationship Issues

August 3
Buddhism at Work

September 14
Self-Esteem



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NEW EARTH MARKET**
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Marysville and BCA Center for
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msvlebc@gmail.com – (530) 743-6426



**HATSUMAIRI
INFANT
PRESENTATION
SERVICE**



Hatsumairi literally means “first service” and represents the first opportunity for parents or grandparents to bring infants who were born during the previous year to our Temple. Not only are the children introduced to the sangha; they are introduced to the Dharma traditions for the first time.

**APPLICATION FORM
INFANT PRESENTATION SERVICE - HATSUMAIRI
SUNDAY, MAY 17, 2015**

Name of Child _____
(Last) (First) (Middle)

Child’s name in Japanese _____ (If known)

Birthdate _____ Boy Girl

Parent (Father) _____

Parent (Mother) _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Please complete and submit to the Betsuin Office by Sunday, May 10. Thank you!

MAINTENANCE REPORT

GARY TRAGANZA

Wow, lots of big changes recently at our temple. In the last few months, we had a heater and “air conditioner” installed for the kaikan. That’s right, for the first time ever, our kaikan will be much cooler during the hot summer months. Also, we had our six oldest HVACs replaced. The old units were breaking down regularly. Getting parts was becoming an issue. At 34 years old, they were way past due to be replaced. The newer units are so much more energy efficient, their savings will more than offset the additional electricity to run the air conditioner for the kaikan. Replacing the six older HVACs was in the neighborhood of \$72,000, while the new unit for the kaikan with duct work, permits, fees for the crane, etc. was about \$90,000. Expenses like these are paid for with our “Capital Improvement Fund.” Each month, \$2,000 is added to that account to pay for these large ticket items. Periodically, the Board of Trustees takes a close look at predictable long-term expenses such as HVACs, parking lot resurfacing, security needs, floors, carpeting, roofs, etc. By looking ahead and budgeting accordingly, we make sure that the money is there when needed.

We have probably been wondering where our trellis went. Over the past few years, we noticed that the structural integrity was seriously deteriorating in many places. A “Trellis Committee” was established with Ted Yoshimura at the head. Various options were closely examined, and after many meetings, our committee decided that a metal shade structure would best suit our purposes. The new structure with cost-cutting LED lighting and improvements for food safety during Bazaar will cost about \$100,000. Over three Saturdays, a large group of temple volunteers removed all the electrical and demolished the trellis, saving the temple about \$12,000. Construction of the new structure will begin the first or second week of April, as soon as the city signs the permits. Next month, I’ll report more about the process, the people involved, and various improvements.

On to regular business. Recently, the following members performed maintenance on the Betsuin’s facilities. The sangha is sincerely appreciative to the following members for volunteering their time, expertise and hard efforts.

- Under the expert tutelage of Spenser Wong, Bobby Tanaka, Roger Ito and I moved the electrical conduit for the annex HVACs from atop the trellis by the courtyard doors to the roof. It was necessary because all wood will be torn down to make room for the new metal roof structure.
- Gordon Nitta and I, with assistance from Alan Wu, spent quite a bit of time in the crawl space above the North-South hallway, removing and moving old duct work, adding lights and boarding up old holes. Anyone who has worked up there adding security camera or Internet wiring knows just what a mess it was. In the future, it will be much easier to work up there. Also, because that space is part of the return air system for the HVACs, we vacuumed out the whole area — the circulating air will be a little cleaner now.
- Sam Adachi worked with Eiichi Okamoto and Tomio Masaki in construction of the new stage extension for the Hanamatsuri play, replacing all of the legs and some of the platform pieces.

Speaking of volunteers, our beloved temple is starting to show her age. This year our building will be 58 years old and just like our aging bodies, things break down more often. We really need new people to help with the general upkeep. We are looking for people to assist the “maintenance department” with basic painting, plumbing, electrical, and general maintenance. Could be anything from getting the swamp coolers ready for summer, cleaning out gutters, touch-up painting, replacing damaged sprinkler heads or any number of things. If you would like to join our merry band of volunteers, please contact me, Gary Traganza, at (916) 213-7826. No matter what we are doing, we usually manage to have fun along the way.

On a final note. I have stated many times, we are fortunate to have so many Eagle Scout candidates choose to complete their community project at our temple. In April, Cory Tanaka and his volunteers refinished the cabinets and their doors in the upstairs annex. They pulled the doors, cleaned them and the cabinets with TSP, sanded all the wood, and applied a coat of polyurethane. The next morning, they again lightly sanded all the surfaces and applied the final coat. Cory thank you. The cabinets look so much better now — almost like new.



**DHARMA
SCHOOL
NEWS**
VALERIE FONG



Hello everyone. First, we want to thank the amazing Cliff Adams and Ann Amioka, advisers for this year's Hanamatsuri play, Pete the Cat, and their talented wonderful student directors, cast and crew for creating yet another fantastic play! And to all of our participating Dharma School teachers, TAs, students, and parents: Bravo! Great job!

This month we are happy to shine our spotlight on one of our 6th grade teachers, Stephen Hiromoto. He has been a teacher for many years and we are grateful for his service. Below is an article written by Mr. Hiromoto that we know you will enjoy!

Greetings from the 6th grade! For the past 15 years, it has been my pleasure to serve as your 6th grade Dharma School teacher. Similar to the teacher staff shortage we are faced with today, there were none available for my daughter's class back then. The parents were "volunteered" to take turns in presenting lesson plans. Several of us parents must have enjoyed the experience as we stayed on beyond that initial year. As for me, it transpired into a tremendous opportunity to learn about Buddhism, as well as develop a finer appreciation of our Temple.

The 6th grade curriculum is unique in that the 11 year olds already have a basic grasp of the fundamentals. According to the Federation of Dharma School Teachers handbook, the students should further their understanding of the spread of Buddhism throughout the various Asian countries, learn about their unique alterations to fit their people, and recognize the contributions these cultures made to how we accept the ideals here today. Various methods of lesson presentations, such as, lectures, visual media and games, are used weekly. Not to waste our important resources, our parents do a fine job in preparing and discussing foods from India, China, Korea, Japan and Hawaii on our "party days." Special emphasis is placed on the contributions of Japanese culture. Certified guest speakers introduce the students to the Noh play, tea ceremony, calligraphy, and Ikebana flower arranging.

Author and story teller Kiyoko Sato comes in each year to give her first-hand account of her World War II internment experience. Are the students listening and comprehending? One year immediately following an Ikebana lesson, a student proclaimed, "Now I know how to arrange the flowers when we go to the cemetery!"

My ultimate reward is watching the students begin the year as children, but leaving 6th grade as young adults. My hope is that there was something from this class that they will carry throughout their Dharma lives. I'd like to express "thanks" to our teaching staff, including our hard-working TAs, for their great work.

In Gassho,
Stephen Hiromoto, Teacher
6th Grade Class

DONATIONS

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

Gladys Adachi	Mae Kaneko	Yukie Okasaki
Mickey Bennett	Rosemary Kitaoka	Mary Orite
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Barbara Chan	Grace Miyamoto	Kiyoko Tanaka
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BOY SCOUTS
CAMERON LUTZ



April is gone and Troop 50 has been kept busy for the entire month with a plethora of interactive events for the scouts. From Scout Expo to Iron Chef, our scouts have a blast at any and all events we put on.

Scout Expo was on April 17-19 at Beale Air Force Base and was a huge success with Troop 50 leading the charge with the opening flag ceremony. It was a great honor to organize such a performance, which went off without a hitch.

Another major event in April was Troop 50's annual Iron Chef Competition. Each patrol engaged in a high-stakes food competition on April 25 at William Land Park. The level of experience and skill displayed at this event was truly reflected in the dishes each patrol prepared.

Troop meetings were scheduled for April 10 and April 24 with Greenbar on April 24 at which we discussed troop status and upcoming events.

SPORTS COMMITTEE

ALAN WU



Happy May everyone. Since much of the sports bedlam has simmered down a bit, we can take a look at what actually happened during the madness and mayhem. So sit back, relax and listen to a couple of college basketball stories, one of which you have probably already heard, and one that you may not have heard already.

Well, on the big stage of the college basketball scene, which is known as the NCAA Tournament; the numero uno, the No. 1 team in the nation was the University of Kentucky Wildcats, who were the undisputed favorite, not only to win the tournament, but be the first team to go undefeated; however, the Wisconsin Badgers had other plans for Kentucky, like sending them home early. On the other side of the bracket, it was the No. 7 seed, Michigan State Spartans, that had a great tournament by first beating the No. 2 seed, Virginia, and then the No. 3 seed, Oklahoma, to get the opportunity to beat the No. 1 seed, Duke; but the Duke Blue Devils were too much for the Spartans. As most of you know, Duke went on to beat Wisconsin and win the national title with three freshmen starters. And as Reverend Bob has said, a unique characteristic with sports is that it is truly in the now, it happens live right before your eyes, with no dress rehearsals or "do overs."

Now on a little stage of college basketball, the newest UC campus resides in sunny Merced, California, and its women's basketball program is only 3 years young. Now, UC Merced without a huge trophy case or big name coach, naturally found it difficult to draw the necessary talent to field a competitive team. The first year they won only three games, and the second season they won four games. However, this year, season three, the pieces fell together and the women's basketball team finished above 500 with 14 wins and qualified to play in the post-season playoffs for the first time in school history. As the icing on the cake, they beat their perpetual nemesis, Menlo College, in the tournament and ended up winning the conference title. By winning the conference title, Merced was given an automatic berth in the national tournament in Sioux City, Iowa. As it turned out, Merced was matched up against the No. 1 team in the tournament and that team eventually went on to win the national title.

It was a quick taste of the national spotlight, but what an experience it was for these young women just to be there; it is kinda sorta a cliché, but nonetheless, still an awesome experience. In the Midwest, they take their basketball very seriously, especially college, and many of the locals had read up or heard of UC Merced and how it was only a 3-year-old team and how fantastic it was for them to make it to Sioux City. Even though Merced got eliminated early in the national tournament, these young women not only have that experience to take with them for the rest of their lives, but also, in the usual basketball tradition, after winning the conference title, they each climbed up an 8-foot ladder and cut down a piece of the net, which they can all hold in their hand while recounting this amazing story to their children and grandchildren.

Again, sports is in the now; the games need to be played because anything can happen on any given day at any time and even though they may not realize it, athletes are very "Buddhistic" in that while engaged in the sporting competition, they live each moment in the moment, by the moment, until it is over.

Now on an even littler stage, like the size of our courtyard: please join us on May 3 out in our courtyard for Organization Day. Stop by the Sports Program booth and register for the next basketball season. By registering on May 3, you will qualify for the Early Bird Special.

