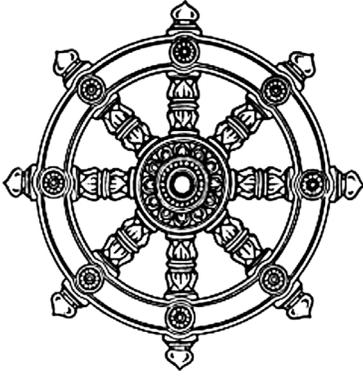


Rev. Dennis
Rev. Joshin Dennis
Fujimoto



Starting my new position at the beginning of August, I walked into the preparations for the 70th Annual Bazaar. Carrying a life of its own, and encouraged by members and friends, the grand event emerges like a sleeping giant. The gates open, and it's like everyone in all of Idaho is standing outside my office window, eating and laughing and eating and playing and eating. Welcome to Sacramento. The Betsuin Bazaar explodes each year in August, and I have been able to experience for the first time the week leading up to the event, the two days of action, and the meticulous tear down. It is kind of like the Big Bang Theory as a Sangha activity.

While the bazaar is the focus, in the background there is still the usual activity of pillow, memorial, and funeral services to prepare for and the upcoming events to plan for. Through all of this, many "Welcome to Sacramento" messages and words of support have come in to ease this period of transition. I would like to thank the Sangha members for their thoughts and encouragement to help me feel at home. Reverend Bob, Reverend Patti, the temple leaders, and the office staff have all done much to ease me into being a serviceable entity. The words "gradually" and "quickly" do not usually fit together, but they do describe the ongoing process of slapping me into shape so the temple can continue without hitch.

(Continued on page 3)

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SANGHA

Sacramento Buddhist Church
Volume 53 Number 9 - September 2016

Sacramento
Betsuin
 2401 Riverside Blvd.
 Sacramento, CA 95818
 (916) 446-0121
 (916) 446-1866 FAX
 betsuinoffice@gmail.com

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Rev. Dennis (Continued)

September brings many more encounters and meetings as the fall activities come to take place. At all of our Jodo Shinshu temples, it is the Sangha working together that displays the interdependence of life. We combine our efforts for the bazaar and the next events. In doing so, we reflect to others the meaning and the value of harmony. We remind ourselves of the bigger picture that we are a part of. Self and others... working together... eating together... playing together... stepping beyond our self-centered worlds to connect and reconnect to everything else that surrounds us.

This is what the Nembutsu practice is affording us. We ground our lives in reality. As we do so, we have the stability to deal with whatever is next and whatever comes at us to the best of our abilities. The Nembutsu teachings make sense. When we can see that, we want to be here to keep the temple and the teachings healthy and available to anyone and everyone.

I look forward to getting to know each of the members here. I hope it is soon that my team mate and wife, Sharmon, will be able to join me here and we can begin to make this our home. Each temple has its ways and procedures, and I ask for your patience as I get to know the ways of the Sacramento Betsuin. We'll see you at the temple.

Gassho,
Reverend Dennis

Minister Assistants Rev. Tim Castle

Welcome to the month of September! At the Betsuin, August has been a month filled with mixed emotions. We started the month with the activity and excitement of our 70th Bazaar, then a warm welcome to our new Rinban, Reverend Dennis Fujimoto, and then closed the month out as we helped Reverend Bob and Reverend Patti move out of their offices and into retirement.

With all of this happening in August, I will bury my head in the sand, pretend that change is not just around the corner, and I will simply share with you my thoughts of our recent 12th Youth Advocacy Committee (YAC) Youth Retreat... "YAC 12." Beginning on July 4, 21 exceptional young adults from California, Washington and Virginia gathered at the Sacramento Betsuin to step to the edges of their comfort levels... and then step right past those edges into great accomplishment.

As I have mentioned in past years' articles about the YAC retreats, these retreats offer the participants the opportunity to learn how to lead chanting, prepare the altar, ring the kansho, and to prepare and present a Dharma talk... all during an actual service. Besides services, there are many lectures, discussions, instructional sessions and oh, a ton of fun to be had.

How can all of this hard work and stress of trying new things be fun? When you are with your friends and Dharma Buddies, even the hard work, late nights, and yes, public speaking becomes fun. While at first our participants were nervous to be around people they had never met... that feeling only lasted a good hour or two. By the time our opening BBQ was being enjoyed, you would have thought these folks had known each other for years. Soon the nervousness of meeting new people was long gone, and the road to deep friendship was being laid. Because of this friendship, even the hard work of the week became full of unforgettable opportunities to have fun and be together.

After such a busy week, we are all exhausted, yet truly inspired and energized by the participants. The Dharma talks that they prepared and presented during services were thought-provoking, humorous, tear generating, revealing, and most important, honest. It would be an honor to have any one of this year's participants speak at any Sunday service.

A special recognition goes to our own Betsuin participants, Allison Tanaka, Sydney Takeda, Marissa Wong, and Cody Kuwahara. Although we have known all four of them for many years, it was truly special for us to work with them and watch them grow during this retreat.

It is said that the Historical Buddha stated: "By having a good friend, one will most likely attain their goal." Even so much more to attain if you make 21 new friends!

The ministers, minister assistants, YAC volunteers and many temple volunteers are all grateful to be a part of such a great program and to have been a part of 171 lives who have participated in the YAC program.

In Gassho,
Reverend Tim

P.S. A special note to Reverend Bob and Reverend Patti from the Betsuin Bench Mob (the minister assistants). You two have been the guiding force for our group for many years.



Rev. Joshin Dennis Fujimoto
416-0919



Sensei Koichi Mizushima
704-1493
bkmizu@gmail.com

Minister Assistants (Continued)

Legacy Endowment Fund Ruth Seo

おかげさま

Office Manager Cindy Kitade

Office Project Coordinator Jennifer Nitta

Betsuin Office 446-0121

Sangha Helpers
Misao Abe
Shiyoko Futaba
Sumiye Hamamoto
Yukiko Hashisaka
Ruth Hayashi
Irene Hoshiko
Sanaye Imajo
Mae Kaneko
Alice Kataoka
Mutsuko Noguchi
Helen Sakaishi
Fusako Takahashi
Virginia Uchida
Faye Uyemura

More importantly, you are dear friends and Dharma Buddies for Life. You have done so much for all of us and it seems inconceivable that you will not be around when we are at the Betsuin. Change is Truth. Change is Reality. But Change is Hard. At the same time we are so happy for the both of you!

We hope your retirement is filled with adventure, being able to sleep full nights without phone calls, and lots of time to be together and be with family.

And one last note to Patti: Buy Timmy Candy!

The Legacy Endowment Fund Board (LEFB) has had an extremely busy summer. On June 4, LEFB sponsored its sixth big Rummage Sale; June 11, presentation of commemorative plaque at the retirement party honoring Reverends Bob and Patti Oshita, and the unveiling of the Wall of Appreciation project; July 4–10, supporting Youth Advocacy Committee (YAC) youth participants; August 11, bazaar prep night thanking the Kitchen Crew; and August 23, supporting the Betsuin fundraiser golf tourney.

Those who attended the gala retirement celebration for Reverends Bob and Patti received an envelope containing information about the Wall of Appreciation project. LEFB commissioned the creation of the Wall of Appreciation as a symbol of gratitude to the Oshitas for their many years of leadership and service, and to all who have supported, nurtured, and worked to continue the legacy of the Sacramento Betsuin for future generations.

In a spirit of *Okagesama*, humble gratitude to those who have made our temple a unique and vibrant center to share the Dharma, the Wall of Appreciation will include photographs of the church's deep history and cultural activities, and recognition of major donors to the church. The three central scrolls will illustrate the three major themes: *Honor the Past, Continue the Legacy, and Shape the Future*. Families and individuals who have previously made major contributions will have plaques on the wall. New donors wishing to be represented on the Wall of Appreciation for the unveiling in early 2017 must submit pledge forms by the end of December 2016. The Donor Form gives detailed information of the levels of giving, wording of donor acknowledgment, and designation of the donation. A follow-up mailing containing a brochure and detailed information for the Wall of Appreciation will be sent to all Betsuin member families in early September. Brochures also are available on the church display wall in the main hallway. We hope you will take this opportunity to support the Sacramento Buddhist Church by making a pledge for the Wall of Appreciation.

Supporting YAC Youth

Of the various projects that LEFB funds, supporting the youth of the YAC is one of the most rewarding and meaningful. This year, the Sacramento Betsuin sent four outstanding youth: **Cody Kurahara, Sydney Takeda, Allison Tanaka, and Marissa Wong**. Each of their reflections will be shared in subsequent monthly SANGHA newsletters. For this month, I have included excerpts from Marissa, Sydney and Cody, and Allison's full report.

Marissa Wong

The teen discussions were one of my favorite parts of this whole experience. I believe that it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for so many teenagers to gather and have the ability to be completely open and honest without fear of being judged. I think the discussions helped us become friends instantly, as we were able to achieve the closeness of friends who have known each other for ages, in a matter of days.

Sydney Takeda

After banner making and going over the rules for sleeping, curfew, shower times, etc., we had a late-night session with Sensei Koichi Mizushima that we called Teen Discussion. This session was one of the most inspiring activities I've ever partaken in, and I think it's one of the main factors in creating the bond between our entire 21-man group. By the end of the night, as everyone was winding down, taking showers, and chatting in the classroom, it was already apparent that we were becoming comfortable with each other and were getting along really well.

Cody Kurahara

My journey to YAC was fairly simple; I wasn't intimidated with traveling to a temple or the anxiety of a long flight—I was calm and comfortable at my home temple. When I first saw the other delegates, I was met with a feeling of respect and unrivaled compassion, a sensation that only few friends had ever given me. As I bonded with my 20 new brothers and sisters, my ego disappeared; I recognized that it doesn't matter where you come from, how cool you are, or how you look—being yourself is unique.

Allison Tanaka: Full Report: Experience of This Year's YAC Retreat

Coming into the retreat, I heard much about it because my brother had attended it three years

Legacy Endowment Fund

(Continued)

ago and some of my friends had told me about their experience, but I couldn't see myself actually going through the week-long retreat. At the time, it all seemed like too much, especially when there was going to be 21 people attending. I thought that it would be hard getting to know so many people because in previous years the group had been much smaller.

On the first day when I walked into the room to meet all the other YAC participants with the other Sacramento kids, I found myself being a little nervous even though I was just walking into a room of my own home temple. Immediately when I started talking to some of the kids, the vibe was very friendly. As more kids walked in, it got harder to learn everyone's name and to meet everyone, but that soon changed. When we got separated into our toban, I got to get to know the people in my group a little easier. The first day went by in a flash, but everyone got to bond with each other, especially while we lit fireworks and talked in teen discussion.

The days in the week quickly went by, and the long days seemed to be passing by in the blink of an eye. Each day, we woke up early, went through many services and classes, and then ended the day with a long teen discussion. It was really fun working with my toban to run the services in making sure each part was done well. For each service, there was a Dharma talk, and I enjoyed listening to what each person had to say. I definitely learned something from each and every Dharma talk that I heard because everyone had something amazing to share to all of us. When it was my turn to say my Dharma talk, I was nervous and knew it would not be as great as those who had gone before me. Before and after I said it, I was grateful to have many of my new friends supporting me by my side.

Now looking back at the retreat, I am not only blown away by the many things I learned, but happy that I got a chance to meet so many talented and charismatic people. The participants, ministers, and the YAC committee all made the whole retreat absolutely amazing, and I would never take back this experience. The retreat would have not been the same without any single person that was a part of it. I am so grateful that I had gotten the chance to attend this YAC retreat because I got to learn so much about the Dharma, my new friends, and also myself. This experience was unlike any other, and I will treasure each and every moment of the very meaningful week.

Sakura Gakuen

Aileen Niizawa Morris



Thank you to all those who supported the 70th Annual Bazaar last month! Our gakko enjoyed volunteering in the Ginza gift booth, while taking in the festivities and eating so much oishii food! It was a wonderful weekend of culture and fun.

As students are back in school and autumn is nearly upon us, Sakura Gakuen's Youth and Adult Programs will also be starting soon. It's not too late to register! Registration and classes for both programs will be held in the annex classrooms.

Our Youth Program offers classes from Kinder to Advanced, ages 4–17 (or high school senior). Reading, writing and conversation are taught in a fun and engaging environment. Cultural events, Japanese cooking, and Shuji / calligraphy are also part of the curriculum.

Registration and first day of classes for Youth Program

Saturday, September 10, 8:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m. – Saturday Classes

Kinder classes are 1½ hours and start at 9 a.m. (Intro) or 10:30 a.m. (2nd year).

Intro–Advanced classes are from 9 a.m.–Noon.

The fall semester will be from Saturday, September 10–Saturday, January 21.

If you have any questions regarding the Youth Program, please contact Aileen Niizawa Morris: aileen.niimo@gmail.com.

Registration and first day of classes for Adult Program

Want to learn to speak Japanese or improve your conversation skills? Now is the time! Join us on the first day of class: Monday evening, September 12.

Classes range from Beginning to Advanced – Monday evening classes.

Buddhist Church of Sacramento members receive a 20% tuition discount.

The fall semester will be from Saturday, September 12–Saturday, January 23.

Please contact Masako Thomas Sensei regarding registration times: thomas@sakuragakuen.org.

For more information about classes, registration and fees, visit: www.sakuragakuen.org.



Dharma School News
Valerie Fong



Welcome to the month of September! Dharma School is ready for the start of the new term and we look forward to seeing everyone on Sunday, September 11 — the first day of the 2016–2017 year. Before we share important dates and upcoming activities, let’s take a moment to mention a few other things.

On Thursday, August 11, we had a *Surprise Appreciation Potluck* to celebrate the amazing Courtyard Crew, who works tirelessly to prepare delicious lunch refreshments each Sunday for everyone and so much more. The warm environment created when sharing a meal with our Sangha members and guests goes a long way to encourage a sense of fellowship and community. “Thank you!” Courtyard Crew!

Also, a huge heart-felt “thank you!” to the teachers, TAs, and our Dharma School families for coming out to help with outdoor bussing in the eating area for our successful 70th Annual Bazaar! Special “thanks” to 4th grade teacher Sandy Yuki for helping to tighten up the steps to keep the eating area clean and tidy.

Important Dates

Next are important dates to mark on your calendars as we begin another Dharma School year.

- **Sunday, September 11, 2016:** First day of the new term with registration and Grandparents’ Day activities immediately following service in the Kaikan. Registration for all grades will be handled in the Kaikan. For those unable to attend this first service, registration will continue in the classrooms on the following Sunday.
- **Sunday, September 18, 2016:** Fall Ohigan Service.

Urgent Request for Teaching Assistants (TAs) and Teachers:

Change is everywhere and certainly evident with the graduation of the high school TAs. There are several classrooms in need of qualified TAs ready to step up to help our teachers and students.

Students entering the 9th grade (high school freshman) or a higher grade by September 2016, and who are looking for an opportunity to work with Dharma School students and their teachers, becoming a TA might be for you. Interested students are encouraged to submit a personal essay that includes responses to the following:

- The reasons you would like to become a Dharma School TA;
- List of skills, experiences and qualities that you possess and bring to the classroom; and
- Any additional information about yourself that demonstrates your readiness to be selected as a TA.

Completed personal essays should include the student’s name, contact phone number and email address. Written personal essays should be submitted in an envelope addressed to Valerie Fong, Dharma School Superintendent; and delivered to the Dharma School mail slot in the church office. After the personal essays are reviewed, students will be notified by the Dharma School Superintendent regarding placements. Students may indicate classroom placement preferences; however, TAs will be assigned where most needed.

Teachers Needed

We are looking for adults willing to co-teach Dharma School. For those classes with one teacher, parents may be asked to help cover the class if the teacher has a planned or unexpected absence. Being a Dharma School teacher is an opportunity to work with our students and is a very rewarding experience. If you are interested, please stop by the church office and leave a message for Valerie Fong.

See you next month!

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

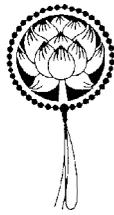
When sending articles by email, please send email to: **vibrocount@lanset.com** with a **cc to: betsuinoffice@gmail.com** and inform the church office at 446-0121. Please include the author’s name. Thank you.

Sangha Staff

Editor (English) Cliff Adams
Editor (Japanese) Katsuko Hirota

Contributing Reporters

SBWA Keiko Jean
Kashiwada
Minister Assts Tim Castle
Endowment Ruth Seo
Dharma School Valerie Fong
Sports Alan Wu
Boy Scouts Brandon La
Girl Scouts May Masunaga
Sakura Gakuen Aileen Niizawa
Morris



*Condolences to
the Families Of*



Marjorie Lloyd.....March 10, 1957 - July 15, 2016

Sakaye MiyamaJune 22, 1923 - July 24, 2016

Lynette Tanaka.....May 30, 1949 - July 30, 2016

Anne KuboApril 25, 1920 - August 4, 2016

Jeanne FujitaniJune 28, 1930 - August 10, 2016

Kinya Noguchi.....November 16, 1927 - August 18, 2016

Boy Scouts

Brandon La



This past month, Troop 50 did a lot of camping before the school year starts.

To start it off, on Friday, July 15, the troop helped out at the Buddhist Church by pulling out all of the equipment needed to start constructing the bazaar. We had so many people come and help that the troop finished bringing everything out before it was 9:00.

Next, on Sunday, July 17, Troop 50 headed out to Camp Winton to spend the week earning merit badges and having fun in the sun. Troop 50 had lots of fun kayaking on the lake, roasting marshmallows, and singing camp songs! Many of the scouts agreed that going to Camp Winton was lots of fun and better than staying at home.

After the summer camp, on July 30 the troop did a map and compass course. The scouts went in small groups and used their orienteering skills to find out where the checkpoints on the map are. By the end of the course, all the scouts were able to successfully navigate using map and compass and be able to teach it to anyone that does not know how to.

On August 4, Troop 50 went camping to DL Bliss with the Japanese exchange scouts so that they can experience camping in America. It gave Troop 50 a wonderful opportunity to interact with the Japanese scouts and learn what it is like to live in Japan.

On August 12, the troop helped set up for the 70th Annual Bazaar. We set up the tables and chairs for the Bazaar. At the end of the meeting, we had our senior patrol leader election to see who will be our next senior patrol leader.

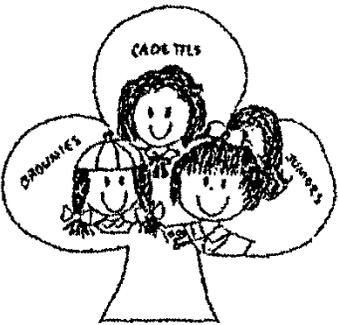
On August 13, the 70th Annual Bazaar was held. The troop helped out with various tasks, such as garbage duty, bussing tables, boxing chicken, cooking chicken, and selling food. This year we had various booths, such as the hot dogs, teriyaki burgers, teriyaki chicken, tempura, pastries, and game booths.

On August 15 we helped clean up the bazaar. On August 21, the new greenbar of 2016 took some training and planning for the first half of the new scouting year.

On September 9 the troop will have a troop meeting introducing the new senior patrol leader and patrols for the scouting year. We will also have a court of honor giving out the merit badges the scouts earned over the summer. Finally on September 14, we will be doing den chief interviews for our future den chief for Pack 50.

Girl Scouts

May Masunaga



Girl Scout Troop 569-26 participated in the Juniors bridging ceremony at Golden Gate Bridge where they joined with more than 4,000 girl scouts, some from across the country.

Pippa Montano with Girl Scout Troop 569-26 earned her Bronze Award in June. She received more than \$500 in cash donations from the Sangha which she used to fill a requested list of donation items for teenagers and tweens recovering from surgery at UC Davis Children's Hospital.

In the fall, Girl Scout Troops 569-26 and 569-30 will merge into one troop so that parents in both troops can share resources.

Seniors 2 were busy enjoying their summer break... summer school, training for volleyball, riding horses at the California State Fair, traveling, summer reading, training for basketball, volunteering...all while finishing up their Harvest Award. This was their last requirement before embarking as Ambassadors and starting on their Gold Award projects. Wish them luck!

Thanks to everyone who came to visit all of the Girl Scouts at the indoor pastry booth during the Bazaar! Your donation of non-perishable baked goods was much appreciated and another great way to support our church.

Ambassadors 1 took their Senior Trip to Santa Cruz where they visited the Boardwalk, Capitola, pampered themselves with pedicures and manicures, and bonded over popcorn and scary movies. Naturally, shopping and eating also played a big part in the four days. It was a great way to end their girl scout experience before heading off to college.



Camp Report

Alan Wu



Dear Mommy and Daddy,

How are you? I am fine. Wish you were here at summer camp too. It's pretty cool here at camp. They gave us all new clothes to wear and they all match! We get to wear this orange thing called a jumpsuit, and then they gave us all a bag and stick to pick up things off the ground, so we go around outside picking stuff up all day long. It's pretty fun!

But then everyone started complaining about the swine flu, and the West Nile virus, and the Zika virus, something called H1N1 and H5N1, but some called it the Bird Flu, and the ozone hole, and why Jonny can't read.. I don't even know who Jonny is. Because of all these complaints, the camp guides seemed to get mad, and told us all that we are now confined to stay inside the barracks.. I think someone called it a lockdown, but I don't know.

This lockdown thing is pretty fun too! Now we get to sit around and watch the Olympics. I guess watching the Olympics is the sports part of this summer sports camp. It is pretty cool. We get to stay inside and not get hot and sweaty outside. I especially like watching the table tennis matches. At first I did not know what table tennis was, but then when I saw it, I said ahhh, that's just ping pong. But I guess when you play ping pong at the Olympics, you can't call it ping pong, you have to call it something fancy like table tennis.

Then we all got kinda mad when the basketball team almost lost their games and had to win with last-second shots from Klay Thompson, but I guess they got scolded and played pretty good against Serbia.

Speaking of basketball, I was told to remind you that we need to go to church every Sunday in September because the first 2 Sundays are Extra Credit days, and all the Sundays are registration days, so you better not forget to register me for the next basketball season. I think we will need those extra credit days when you are too tired to get up and bring me to church; but also remember that I need to have 60% attendance to play basketball.

So remember, we need to go to church every Sunday in September to get the 2 extra credits and to register for basketball, AND maintain a 60% attendance throughout the whole Dharma School year.

There are other things going on like the bowling league and the hula classes, so let's make sure to check those out too in the courtyard.

I guess I will see you soon. I can't write any more because my hand is cramping up. It is very hard to write with this 2-inch long pencil they give everyone. They say it is for our own safety that the pencils are not too long... I don't understand why, but anyway, don't forget to pick me up when camp is over.

Bye.

