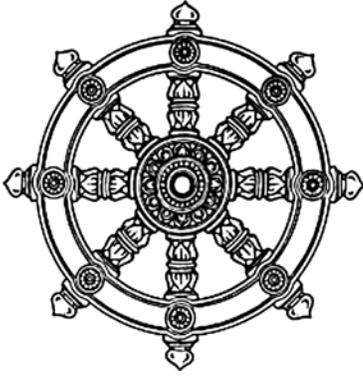


**Interim Rinban
& Supervising
Minister**

Rev. Marvin Harada



From Generation to Generation: The Life of the Monarch Butterfly

Recently the Vista Buddhist Temple held a most innovative and creative Buddhist event — a Buddhist gathering inviting speakers from three Buddhist traditions. The Venerable Karma Lekshe Tsomo spoke from a Tibetan Buddhist perspective. Kenley Neufeld, a Dharma teacher in Thich Nhat Hanh’s Plum Village tradition, spoke from that perspective, and I spoke from the Shin Buddhist perspective. I thoroughly enjoyed listening to the other speakers but would like to share a part of Kenley Neufeld’s talk which most impressed me.

He talked about “navigation,” meaning, finding your direction in life, and in so doing, shared about the migratory flight of the monarch butterfly. We all have seen monarch butterflies, but I never knew about their amazing life and migration. Monarch butterflies begin their migration from Mexico and parts of Southern California, where it is warm. They begin their journey around February or March, and head to the north into the U.S and even as far north as Canada. They lay their eggs there and caterpillars are born that transform into butterflies which then begin the journey back to the south. It takes *three more generations* of butterflies to complete the journey back to Mexico or California. Although the now fourth generation of butterfly has never been to their “home” in Mexico, somehow, they know where to go. Not only do they know where to go, they even return to the *same tree* as their ancestors.

(Continued on page 3)

**Buddhist Church of Sacramento
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SANGHA

**Sacramento Buddhist Church
Volume 56 Number 12 - December 2019**

**Sacramento
Betsuin**
2401 Riverside Blvd.
Sacramento, CA 95818
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Interim Rinban & Supervising Minister

(Continued)



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Mnhamasaki@gmail.com



President Stuart Ito
stito1@gmail.com

Resident Minister Rev. Matt Hamasaki

We have our physical ancestors, like our parents, our grandparents, and our great grandparents. Without them, we would not have our physical lives. We would not have been born into this world.

We also have our spiritual ancestors, our predecessors in the Buddhist tradition. Our spiritual ancestors go all the way back to Shakyamuni Buddha, from his first followers, to the early sangha, to the spread and development of Buddhism from India, to China, to Korea, to Japan, and throughout the Asian continent. Our early Japanese immigrants to this country, like my own grandparents, were both our physical ancestors and also our spiritual ancestors, in that they brought their Shin Buddhist faith and the Nembutsu with them as they immigrated to this country.

The monarch butterflies amazingly transmit something to their offspring enabling them to know where to go, where to fly. Four generations are required to make the one circuit from the south to the north, and back again to Mexico. The butterfly finally arrives, reaching a destination that it has never been to before. Talk about natural GPS; puts our computers and cell phone GPS to shame. Nature had it all figured out for perhaps thousands of years.

The monarch butterflies know the destination of their life, the direction of their life. Each generation plays its role in ensuring that their species continues, from traveling from the south to the north, and then back to the south again.

Our spiritual ancestors also know of our direction and destination of life. They have been leading us in that direction since the time of the Buddha. They have all led a life headed toward truth, headed toward enlightenment. They handed down to future generations, spiritually, the innate importance, the innate value of the Dharma. If we have been led to the path of the Buddha-Dharma, it is because we have encountered a spiritual guide, a spiritual mentor, in the form of a real person, or perhaps in the form of an author of a book on Buddhism, or in the form of a life crisis that led us to encounter the Dharma. However we have come to this path, now that we are on it, we all are being led by our spiritual predecessors, previous generations of monarch butterfly spiritualists, those who have transmitted the Dharma to us, as we make our own journey of life to truth.

To put it in more specific terms, I think of my mentors in my life, like Professor Shigaraki, whom I studied under at Ryukoku University. His dynamic spirit of living the Nembutsu, even amidst criticism of his non-traditional interpretation and view of Shin Buddhism, continues to give me direction and inspiration in my life. Writings by great Shin Buddhists like Reverend Haya Akegarasu, who lived and died decades ago, enable me to conduct my study class on the Larger Sutra that has continued for over 10 years now. Through their teachings, through their writings, I continue to be able to know the right direction of the spiritual path. I am guided in the direction that leads to finding one's "true home," one's ultimate destination of life, like the monarch butterfly that flies toward a place that it has never seen or been to before.

Maybe, just maybe in my life as a minister, I too can be like a monarch butterfly and do my part to contribute to the migration of countless people in this English-speaking world who have encountered the Dharma, who have encountered the Nembutsu, and to guide them along this journey of the path to truth and Buddhahood.

Namuamidabutsu.

Read it before you need! As of writing this, I am preparing to go to Japan. At the time you are reading this, I will already have been back and probably told you of my travels, but I wanted to give the context of what I am doing now. I am preparing and packing hours before I have to leave even though this trip has been planned for quite some time. This is the description of "procrastination," but I'm sure everyone didn't need an example because we all (well, most of us) procrastinate quite frequently. At least I know that for myself, I continue to procrastinate even though I know it's not good for me and I end up stressing out. It also must not have been good for anyone dating back to our ancestors, and yet it still is prevalent to this day. So if it is not beneficial in any way, how come it is so deeply rooted in our society?

I think that part of it is that there are things in our lives that we don't necessarily want to do, even if they are things that we need to do, and so we put them off until later. We don't want to deal with the boring or tedious or uncomfortable issue, so instead of doing what is inevitable, we push it away — far enough so it is out of our sight and live a life that is without such difficulties — that is, until it pops out again, only this time much closer to the deadline so we are underprepared and frazzled.

Buddhism teaches us that such is the nature of humans, and until we stop denying the reality of our lives, we are doomed to repeatedly suffer. The First Noble Truth is that life will have times that are not so fun. But we try to turn our heads and close our eyes

Resident Minister
(Continued)

President's Message
Stuart Ito

Office Manager
Cindy Kitade

Office Project Coordinator
Jennifer Nitta

Front Office Coordinator
Mika Matayoshi

Front Desk Staff
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Sanaye Imajo
Yvonne Ishimoto
Mae Kaneko
Jane Komure
Mutsuko Noguchi
Helen Sakaishi
Lynn Sunahara
Virginia Uchida
Faye Uyemura

until we can avoid it no longer, and by then it's too late. However, if we recognize this truth and accept it, it's easier to confront it and get on with the difficult things so we can prepare and accomplish accordingly. Of course, it is much easier said than done, as I am evidence of still procrastinating. Hopefully, though it will get through to me and I hope all of you can learn from my constant mistakes so you don't have to make them!

Hello Everyone. On Sunday October 20 we held a General Meeting in the Hondo after service. This annual meeting is required by the bylaws and is held to update the members on the state of the temple. Thank you to all who attended and thank you to Marty Sakata's crew who prepared the delicious fried rice that was served after the meeting.

General Meeting Summary
Membership

I showed several slides that depicted the long-term trend of membership decline in the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) and in our Northern California district. The good news is that our temple reversed the trend this year and added members in 2019.

	2015	2016	2017	2018
BCA Membership (National)	13,554	12,865	12,721	12,014
Members Lost	-	-689	-144	-707

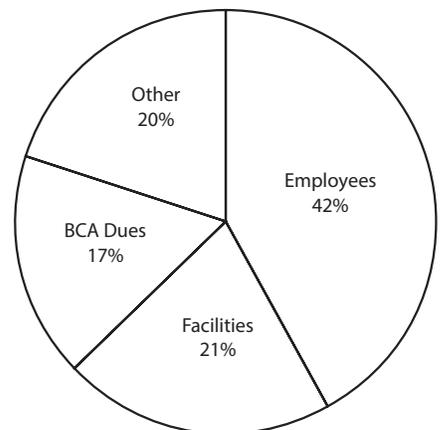
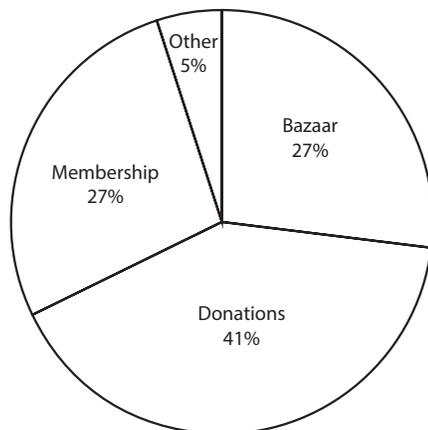
	2016	2017	2018	2019
Sacramento Membership	775	741	662	696

Northern California Temples	2018 Members
Sacramento	662
Florin	128
Stockton	388
Placer	221
Lodi	160
Walnut Grove	77
Marysville	30

About 90% of our dues-paying members are over 50 years old. Of those over 50, about half are over 80 years old. In 2020, one of our goals is to recruit membership from those that participate in the various activities and organizations but are not temple members. Please help us by encouraging your family and friends to join and support us.

Temple Finances

The pie charts below show the sources of our income and how we spend our funds.



Are we sustaining our temple with our membership dues and donations? The simple answer is no. For the last several years we have run a deficit. That is, we have spent more than we have taken in and have had to use our reserves to fund our operations. We have been focusing in 2019 to improve and will continue that effort in 2020. Don't be surprised if we add a fundraiser or two to help!

You can see why temple membership dues and donations are so important to sustaining the temple.

In summary, although we have some financial difficulties, we have many good things happening that we should be proud of. Reverend Matt has many new ideas of how we can improve our temple and add to the vitality we have today. We have a lot to be grateful for!

BCA Bishop Election

There are three nominees for BCA Bishop: Reverend Marvin Harada (Orange County), Reverend Ron Kobata (San Francisco), and Reverend Dr. Toshikazu Kenjitsu Nakagaki. The vote will take place on December 5, 2020.

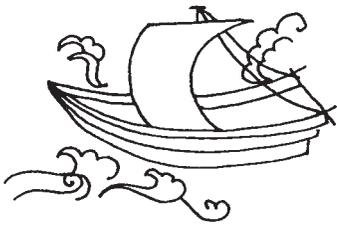
New Email Address for SANGHA Submissions

Starting immediately, all submissions to the SANGHA editor will need to be sent to SBCSangha@gmail.com, instead of the previous lanset.com address. Two older computers have been replaced by ones which have difficulties receiving lanset email.

Please also continue to send submissions to the Buddhist Church office by cc'ing betsuinoffice@gmail.com with all submissions. It is helpful to send photos and other artwork as separate attachments to the emails, and not embedded within the text copy in ensure the highest quality in the reproduction of the art.

Thank you for your understanding.

Sacramento Buddhist Women's Association Keiko Jean Kashiwada



Legacy Endowment Fund Gregory Matayoshi

おかげさま

The SBWA held its monthly meeting on Wednesday, November 6, led by President Loleen Nakano.

The SBWA gratefully appreciates the generous donations from the members and organizations listed in the "Donations" section at the end of the SANGHA newsletter.

Upcoming Services & Events

- **Tsuito Hoyo Service and SBWA Bonenkai Service and Luncheon:** December 8 Service begins at 12 noon, followed by the SBWA General Meeting and the banquet. For the Bonenkai banquet, please enter through the Nokotsudo hallway. Guest speaker is Reverend Kodo Umezu, Bishop of the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA). Banquet entertainment by Merv Maruyama. Please donate a raffle prize in the \$10-\$15 price range so that everyone may leave with a prize!
- **Sacramento Betsuin Sports Program Mochi Tsuki:** December 14. Please come out to help.
- **Membership drive:** Please ask your friends to join the SBWA. Dues are only \$10. The SBWA Board members hope to plan more fun activities in 2020. Suggestions of activities are always welcomed.

Next SBWA Meeting

The next SBWA meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 4, with service starting at 5:45 p.m.

Happy Holidays to everyone. I truly enjoy this time of year as the weather finally cools down, we begin to enjoy the season and can be thankful for all the events of the past year.

One of the great enjoyments of working with the Legacy Endowment Board is hearing from the participants in the programs we have been able to fund through our grants and scholarships. In the last few months, the Legacy Fund has been able to sponsor the July Buddhist Youth Retreat in Berkeley and a youth conference in Denver, Colorado.

I would like to share with everyone some of the Betsuin students' feedback on their experiences:

This summer, I had the opportunity and privilege to attend the Buddhist Youth Retreat (BYR) at the Jodo Shinshu Center for Buddhist Education in Berkeley. This retreat was an amazing experience, and the wealth of information and education we received was invaluable. The week was filled with in-depth classes on Buddhism, Jodo Shinshu, Buddhist history, chanting, and more. On top of the classes, we were able to hear sermons from many different reverends and even the president of the BCA, Rick Stanbul. Reverend Hatanaka also taught us all about how to conduct a service: how to ring the kansho, how to chant, and how to prepare the Onaijin. The knowledge I gained from this BYR experience helped me connect more with Buddhism and I gained a newfound respect for our religion and community. Besides classes and dharma talks, some of my favorite parts of the retreat included being able to meet new people and create friendships that will last a lifetime. Everyone there was so supportive of each other, and it was nice to be surrounded by people who were all motivated toward the same goal of learning more about Buddhism. Without our phones for the week, we could really be present and in the moment with each other. We could immerse ourselves in our studies and really listen to others carefully. BYR is definitely one of the most positive experiences I've ever had and I hope to continue learning more about Buddhism.

From the Denver retreat we received the following:

Thank you for supporting students who attend the Buddhist Youth Retreat. Last year's week-long conference in Berkeley was an amazing, educational, moving, and motivating Buddhist experience where we made lifelong friendships. Our reunion

Legacy Endowment Fund (Continued)

Sangha Staff

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

Contributing Reporters

President Stuart Ito
SBWA Keiko Jean Kashiwada
Legacy Fund Gregory Matayoshi
Sakura Gakuen Masako Thomas
Girl Scouts Jan Hoshida
Dharma School Valerie Fong
Sports Cmte Alan Wu

weekend in Denver this summer was a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with each other as a group again. We each had experienced so much over the past year, and we were able to share how Buddhist teachings shape how we go through our life experiences. Many of us are graduating seniors, so we shared our experiences about college choices, challenges, and opportunities. We also were able to discuss the future and how we want to continue being active in temple activities wherever we are studying or working. We had talks with Sensei Koichi, Reverend Matt, Reverend Hirano (Salt Lake City Buddhist Temple), Sensei Carmela (Salt Lake City Buddhist Temple), Reverend Katie (Denver Buddhist Temple) and Reverend Diana (Denver Buddhist Temple). And, parents of four of the BYR participants from Denver were so gracious as to drive us to see the beautiful Flat Irons for a nice hike in Boulder and stroll around the lively Pearl Street Mall. And, I have to mention the amazing food that the Sangha members so warmly and kindly provided. Experiencing a temple outside of California was also very interesting; Sakura Square (a block in downtown Denver that acts as a Japantown) is very important to them culturally and historically, and the temple is a comfortable place for many people of other religions.

Thank you again for supporting these types of retreats. This group is definitely committed to learning more about Jodo Shinshu teachings and also committed to continuing to make their communities a better place for everyone. One friend wanted to start a fundraiser to help youth from smaller temples attend these types of events. We feel that we have benefitted so much from being able to connect with others from all over the western region, and we would like to be able to help others do the same. We hope to encourage and support each other's endeavors in the years to come and are grateful that BYR has brought us together.

The Legacy Endowment Fund Board's mission is to promote the Jodo Shinshu tradition and provide funding assistance for educational events and activities for the sangha. If you have an upcoming event or a project you feel will help promote the Jodo Shinshu tradition in Sacramento, please submit a funding request to the Board.

2020 Membership Dues Payment

Annual Membership Renewal Forms were mailed in November to all individuals and families who were paid members in 2019. If you have not received yours, please contact the office so that we can remedy that right away!

For our third year, online credit card payment is available for both monthly and annual options.

You can go to the Betsuin website at www.buddhistchurch.org/membership to find quick links to the membership categories.

Notes from the Office

We encourage all activity organizers and groups at the Sacramento Buddhist Church to submit articles and artwork to each month's SANGHA newsletter.

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: SBCSangha@gmail.com with a cc to: betsuinoffice@gmail.com and inform the church office at (916) 446-0121. Please include the author's name.

Annual Giving Reports

For several years, the Betsuin automatically distributed Annual Giving Reports. Initially, reports were sent to all donors; in subsequent years, reports were sent only to members (nonmember donations are acknowledged with individual donation letters).

Each year, we received valuable feedback from you that helped to inform our procedure. In 2018, we learned that while the report is helpful, many of you:

- Track your own donations through your personal banking application.
- Donate directly to various Betsuin organizations and events and those contributions are not included in the Annual Giving Report (because each organization or committee tracks its own finances and acknowledgments separately).

As we did last year for 2018 contributions, your individual Annual Giving Report for donations made in 2019 will be available by request.

To make a request, please send an email to: BetsuinGivingReport@gmail.com. You can also call the office at (916) 446-0121, and provide your name and mailing address (including your zip code). Please allow 7 business days from the acknowledgment of your request for processing.

Betsuin Calendar

- **Sunday, 12/8/2019**
9:30 a.m.: Bodhi Day Family Service
Special Guest Speaker: Rev. Kodo Umezu, Bishop of BCA
Dharma School classes will follow.
- 10:45 a.m.: Kieshiki (Sarana) Affirmation Ceremony
- 12 noon: Shotsuki Hoyo Memorial Service
Combined with SBWA's Tsuito Hoyo Memorial Service

Notes from the Office
(Continued)

- **Sunday, 12/15/2019:** Installation of Officers
- **Tuesday, 12/31/2019, 7 p.m.:** Joya-E Service
- **Wednesday, 1/1/2020, 9:30 a.m.:** Shusho-E Service
Otoki to follow — Please bring a dish to share!

December: Office Holiday Hours

- Sunday, 12/1/2019: Betsuin Closed
- Sunday, 12/22/2019: Betsuin Closed
- Monday, 12/23/2019: Betsuin Open 9 a.m.–12 noon
- Tuesday, 12/24/2019: Betsuin Closed
- Wednesday, 12/25/2019: Betsuin Closed – Merry Christmas!
- Sunday, 12/29/2019: Betsuin Closed
- Tuesday, 12/31/2019: Betsuin Open 9 a.m.–12 noon

January: Office Holiday Hours

- Wednesday, 1/1/2020: Betsuin Closed after Morning Otoki – Happy New Year!
- Thursday, 1/2/2020: Betsuin Closed
- Friday, 1/3/2020: Betsuin Closed

Lost and Found

Please stop by the office if you are missing your ojuzu, your keys, glasses... or if you are missing a jacket or sweatshirt, be sure to check the stage in the Kaikan. Everything will be here only until the end of December!

Sakura Gakuen Adult Class
Masako Thomas



We are open for early registration for the spring semester. The first day of the semester is February 3, 2020, and the last day is June 8, 2020. Our introductory Beginner Level 1 class will prepare you to enjoy more during your trip to Japan. Perhaps cherry viewing in the spring, or Tokyo Olympics? We will offer beginner to advanced classes, including a kanji class at Japanese Language Proficiency Test Level N4.

We offer our church members 20% tuition discount. For details, please check the Sakura Gakuen website, <https://sakuragakuen.org>.

Contact Mrs. Thomas for adult classes at Thomas@sakuragakuen.org.

Personal and Shopping Safety During the Holidays

Personal and Shopping Safety During the Holidays
Tuesday, December 3, 6 p.m.
in Betsuin Classrooms 1 and 4

Join us for this important and informative session with the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office. Have your questions answered and learn how to stay safe during the busy month ahead!

Please sign up in the Temple Office, (916) 446-0121, or at: BetsuinPrograms@gmail.com.
Buddhist Church of Sacramento, 2401 Riverside Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95818-2233

2019 Family Memorial Service Schedule

Traditionally, family memorial services are held for loved ones on designated anniversaries. These are precious occasions to honor the treasured memories of our beloved ones and to realize how fortunate we are to be embraced by Amida Buddha's light of wisdom and life of compassion.

Year of Death	2019 Memorial	Year of Death	2019 Memorial
2018	1 year	1995	25 year
2017	3 year	1987	33 year
2013	7 year	1970	50 year
2007	13 year	1920	100 year
2003	17 year		



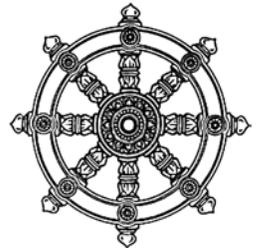
Condolences to the Families Of



Patricia Kikuno Namba.. October 22, 1920 - September 2, 2019
Doreen KimuraAugust 24, 1951 - September 11, 2019
Miyoko Kate Shirasago... February 24, 1933 - October 27, 2019
Misao Abe..... November 16, 1925 - November 14, 2019



Welcome New Members



Leslie & Jan Hoshida
Cynthia Castle Martin
Johnny Tran & Jenny Cuong

Sakura Matsuri 3rd Annual Food & Shopping Faire

Sacramento Betsuin Sakura Matsuri 3rd Annual Food & Shopping Faire

Save the date! The 3rd Annual Sakura Matsuri Food & Shopping Faire will be held on Sunday, March 15, 2020 (Food Faire: 10:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.; Shopping Faire: 10 a.m.–3 p.m.).

The Faire will feature a variety of food booths sponsored by various Betsuin-affiliated and -sponsored organizations, as well as commercial products, services, and craft items sold by individual vendors and organizations.

For vendor applications or more information about the vendor / organization booths, please contact Karen Adachi at (916) 801-3721 or karenadachi@aol.com. Application forms will also be posted on the church website.

Sports Committee Alan Wu



Greetings everyone! We certainly hope you have had a wonderful 2019. It is December again? And doesn't it seem like just a mere 12 months ago, it was December again?

Yes, December, like all the other months has a habit of showing up and reappearing on a regular basis, but somehow, December just seems to show up more sooner than the other months. It seems like December comes around every 11 months... right? While April seems like a month that takes a long time to come around, maybe April takes 13 months to reappear... yes, that must be the answer!

We all know that there are 365 days in a year and every 4 years there are 366, and by the way, this coming year, 2020, there will be 366 days in the year, so don't forget to adjust your watch! But either way, there are a finite number of days in the year, and conversely, there are an infinite number of days of our lives. As the famous catch phrase goes: Like sands through the hourglass, so are the *Days of Our Lives*.

Can the days of our lives be assigned a finite number? As Rennyō said: "...whether I go before you, or you go before me, who is to know?" As rumor has it, the days of our lives are numbered, meaning there have been a finite number assigned. So, after 13,735-plus episodes, and since 1965, the daytime soap opera the *Days of Our Lives* will be no longer be on TV. Well, the actual wording used is that the show production will be on indefinite hiatus. So whatever that means, it sounds like the result is the same. Their days are numbered!

How did we get on this topic? Well as usual, nobody really knows, but it brings the point that since the days of our lives are not infinite, we need to live each day to its fullest.

Which brings us to the next point that the days of December are going to be full just because, we will need or should take time to pause and reflect for just a minute or two, and then resume with the hustle and bustle.

One such full day will be our annual Mochitsuki on the 12th day of December. Please be sure to work your assigned shift. Your participation in making our mochi will be greatly needed and appreciated and will definitely make this fundraiser a success.

Sports Committee
(Continued)

To add to the December laundry list of things to do, the 2019–2020 Northern California Church League (NCCL) basketball season begins and our families are busy with those game schedules and continued practices. Be sure to get your schedule of the game times and locations.

So, as you go through the days of your lives in December, please have a safe and sane holiday season, enjoy it to the fullest, and we'll see you again next year.



SACRAMENTO BETSUIN SPORTS PROGRAM

MOCHI TSUKI

FINAL DAY TO PRE-ORDER: FRIDAY, 12/6/19

PICK UP:	<u>SAT, DEC 14, 2019, 12:00 - 2:00 P.M.</u> or Sun, Dec 15, 2019, 9:00-11:00 a.m.
WHERE:	Sacramento Buddhist Church Kaikan/Gym
Pre-Order Cost thru 12/6:	\$5.00/pound and \$6.00/Okasane Set
Cost after 12/6/19:	\$6.00/pound and \$8.00/Okasane Set

Please make checks payable to: **Sacramento Betsuin Sports Program**

Drop-off or mail to:

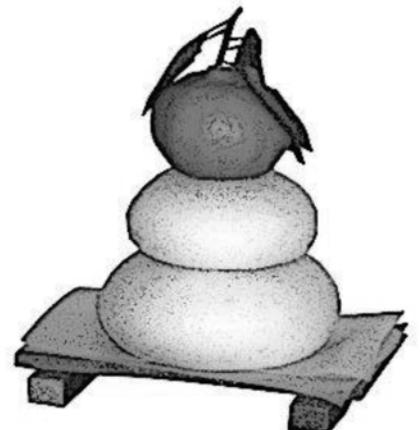
Buddhist Church of Sacramento
2401 Riverside Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95818-2233

PLEASE WRITE "MOCHI ORDER" ON YOUR ENVELOPE!!!



Name:		
Address:		
Phone:		
E-mail Address:		
	Quantity	Cost
# of 1 lb. trays:		\$
# of 2 lb. trays:		\$
# of Okasane Sets:		\$
Total:		\$
<input type="checkbox"/> Cash	Pick-up:	<input type="checkbox"/> Saturday
<input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____		<input type="checkbox"/> Sunday

MOCHI ORDER



Dharma School News

Valerie Fong,
Superintendent



Happy December to everyone! Dharma School is moving along and it's hard to believe that three months of the term have come and gone.

On November 10, we welcomed 22 new students to Dharma School. Our New Student Recognition was part of the annual Hoonko Service. Our current enrollment is now 190 students. Thank you to all for your support of our students, teacher assistants and teachers.

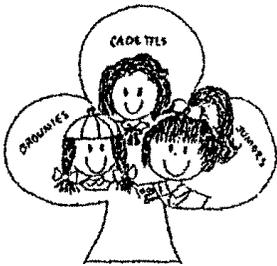
A happy and safe holiday season to you and your family! With gassho.

Donations

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

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| Daughter of Carole Fukumoto | Grace Kotani | Sacramento Buddhist |
| Brian Hatano | Cathy Lemelin | Women's Association |
| Staurt Ito | Mitzi Muramoto | Board |
| Utako Kimura | Rachel Nagai | Heidi Sakazaki |
| Rosemary Kitaoka | Noreen Nagao | Emi Watanabe |
| Jane Komure | Oto's Marketplace | |

Girl Scout Troop 569
Jan Hoshida



Girl Scout Gold Award Recipients

Two Girl Scouts from Ambassadors 1 earned their Gold Award, one of the highest awards a Girl Scout can attain:

Jade Cheng, a senior at Kennedy High School, followed her passion for reading and built a Free Little Library for Oak Ridge Elementary School in Oak Park. Many school districts are having to close libraries, so Jade wanted to provide unlimited access to donated books for these students. It is sustained by the "give a book / take a book" philosophy.

Casandra Lee, a senior at Kennedy High School, worked with My Sister's House. She built a library and reading area for children affected by domestic abuse. The space is a safe and fun area for kids to use while their mothers receive services at My Sister's House. The library, education material and permanent book drive at My Sister's House will benefit kids for years to come.

Congratulations to Jade and Casandra!

Tsuru Fold-In

The Tsuru Fold-In on October 20 was a successful event held at the Sacramento Buddhist Church by Girl Scout Troop 569. Heather Koike, Jennifer Goi and Piper Montano publicized the event by making weekly announcements at Sunday service.

The event drew more than 60 Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and church members who learned how to fold the tsuru, which took 17 folding steps. Participants were as young as 4 years old and up to 90 years old!

They folded a total of 1,680 tsurus. The Girl Scouts carefully strung 40 cranes together on each strand of embroidery thread. The Girl Scout Troop 569 is sending 42 strands of tsuru to the National Pilgrimage to Close the Camps.

Next year's pilgrimage is historic for people of Japanese ancestry to heal their own inter-generational wounds by standing in solidarity with immigrants and all people of color being targeted by policies of hatred and fear so reminiscent of our past.

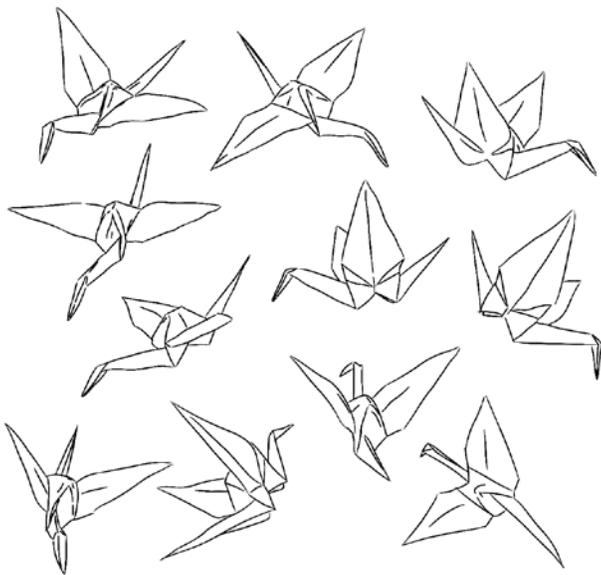
Representing wings of hope, Tsuru for Solidarity is bringing 125,000 paper cranes to hang on the White House fence, one for each Japanese American and Japanese Latin American incarcerated in American concentration camps during World War II.

The National Pilgrimage to Close the Camps is being held in Washington, D.C. on June 5-7, 2020.

Tsuru means crane in Japanese and symbolizes peace, compassion, hope, and healing.

Kick Off of the Final Year for Ambassadors 1

Ambassadors 1 kicked off the new scout year, their last scout year, working together in an Escape Room. They escaped with 7:21 remaining by communicating and collaborating to solve numerous puzzles and codes. It was a great way to start our final year of Girl Scouts!



**Boy Scout
Troop 50
Annual
All-You-Can-Eat
Crab Feed**



Boy Scout Troop 50 Crab Feed 2020

Crab

Salad Pasta
Ice Cream Raffle Prizes
50/50 Last Man Standing

Saturday, January 18, 2020
Doors Open at 4:30 p.m.
Dinner Served at 5:30 p.m.

Sacramento Buddhist Church
2401 Riverside Blvd.
Sacramento, CA 95818

Tickets: \$60 per person

For tickets, please contact any Troop 50 Boy Scout or
the Sacramento Buddhist Church Office, (916) 446-0121,
Amie Ichio at (415) 613-8951, or Cindi Lu at (916) 607-1168.

Thank you in advance for your support!

Where Does Your Donation Go?

Brian Hatano

When you donate to the Buddhist Church of Sacramento, your tax-deductible contribution helps support the operation, maintenance and many programs of the temple. Likewise, your membership dues and income generated from our annual Bazaar in August help sustain the church throughout the year.

Donations to the temple are placed in the General Operating Fund. In addition to the General Fund, you may direct your donations to the church to benefit one of our many programs, such as Scouts, Dharma School, ABA, SBWA, Minister Assistants, or for a capital expenditure project.

You may also contribute to the Legacy Endowment Fund, which is a long-term investment in which the principal remains untouched — only the interest generated is used. The fund is managed by financial professionals and the LEF Board. Contributions to the fund help fulfill these needs in a timely manner without undertaking major fundraising or depleting general operating funds.

Specific needs include:

- Educational programs/scholarships for members, ministers, ministerial candidates plus perpetual or periodic scholarships
- Eitaikyō: Renovation and general maintenance of the temple shrine.

Of course, cash and checks are greatly appreciated, but your donations can be in the form of automobiles, and of distributions from IRAs, stocks and bonds. We also can take credit cards in the office. Click on the Amazon Smile logo on our website to enable the Betsuin to get a commission on your purchases on Amazon.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Buddhist Church of Sacramento. Because of your generosity, we have a vibrant and active Sangha — one of the largest in the Buddhist Churches of America organization. Our rich legacy began with our founding in 1899, with the mission to sustain the temple for the present and generations to come.