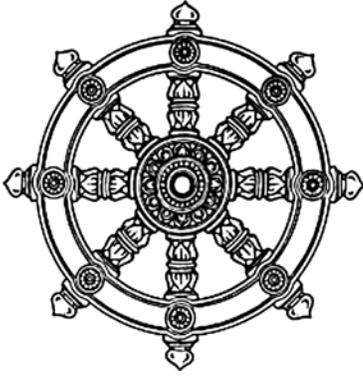


**Interim Rinban
& Supervising
Minister**

Rev. Marvin Harada



Shinran's Contribution to the World

In January our Hongwanji observes Ho-onko service, which commemorates the passing of Shinran Shonin, the founder of our tradition of Buddhism called Shin Buddhism, or Jodo Shinshu. In Sacramento, Ho-onko is observed in the fall.

At this point in time in the western world, very few know about Shinran Shonin. Other Buddhist figures like the Dalai Lama, Thich Nhat Hanh, and other contemporary Buddhist teachers are much more noteworthy. I think that as time goes on, that many more will come to deeply appreciate the contribution that Shin Buddhism makes to the religious and spiritual life of people.

If I were to describe in very simple terms, what is the essence of Shinran's contribution to the world, it would have to be his spirit of humility. Unlike other great Buddhists and teachers, Shinran Shonin never claims to be enlightened. But yet, when we look closely at his writings, his understanding of the Dharma was deep and profound.

If we regard enlightenment as an awakening experience in which the ego self is transcended, then from Shinran's humble perspective, how on earth could one ever claim to be enlightened? How could you ever say that you were enlightened without a "tinge" of ego in that statement. Maybe some Zen masters can sincerely claim to be

(Continued on page 3)

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SANGHA

Sacramento Buddhist Church Volume 56 Number 2 – February 2019

**Sacramento
Betsuin**
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(Continued)



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Resident Minister

Rev. Matt Hamasaki

enlightened, but to me, Shinran Shonin, in not stating that he is enlightened, shows the depth of his awakening.

I always explain in my talks that becoming humble and realizing your arrogance, occur at the same time. You can't "strive" to become humble. You can't think to yourself, "Well, I am going to work at it every day. I am going to try to become a more humble person every day, and by the end of the year, I will be a truly humble person." What if you made that attempt and felt a few months down the road, "Yeah, this is going pretty well. I am getting more and more humble. In fact, I think I am a really humble person now."

In reality, you aren't humble at all. You are the opposite. You are arrogant. You are arrogant thinking that you are humble. A humble person does not think of themselves as humble. A humble person sees themselves as arrogant, and that is what makes them humble. That is why becoming humble and realizing your arrogance occurs at the same time. In a similar manner, for Shinran Shonin, realizing the depth of his ego self is at the same time realizing that which goes beyond the ego self. That is why in his statements of his ego self, he is expressing his humble nature, which is the proof of his realization or awakening.

For example, here is a quotation from Shinran's poems, or wasans.

*Although I take refuge in the true Pure Land Way,
It is hard to have a true and sincere mind,
This self is false and insincere;
I completely lack a pure mind.*

—Collected Works of Shinran, p. 421.

In this poem, Shinran sees very clearly his ego self, his "unenlightened self." But in another poem he expresses the following:

*The person who attains shinjin and joy
Is taught to be equal to the Tathagatas.
Great shinjin is itself Buddha-nature;
Buddha-nature is none other than Tathagata.*

—Collected Works of Shinran, p. 351.

Shinjin is the heart and mind of the Buddha that Shinran Shonin comes to realize, awaken to, and receive in his own heart and mind. This heart and mind of the Buddha, shinjin, is equal to the Tathagatas (Buddhas). It is Buddha-nature. Here, Shinran Shonin expresses his heart and mind not as the ego self, but as the heart and mind of the Buddha.

This is the paradox of Buddhism, and especially Shin Buddhism. Awakening to one's ego self, is at the same time awakening to the heart and mind of the Buddha. To become humble means to realize your arrogance. To become enlightened means to realize how un-awakened you are.

It will take some time for the western world to appreciate the inherent paradox of the spiritual world of Shin Buddhism, as we in the West think in more logical, rational terms. Paradox is not a part of our culture and way of thought. But once we begin to appreciate the paradoxical nature of Buddhism, we can see a new world opening up to us.

Namuamidabutsu,

January has been quite a cold and rainy month! I hope everyone has been keeping dry, warm, and, more importantly, healthy. It is also the time of year when there seems to be some kind of bug going around.

Aware that this was common for around now, an article caught my eye for possibly a new remedy to combat coughing. This new miracle medicine? Chocolate!

Multiple stories on the internet pointed to the same conclusion claiming that chocolate has certain compounds that help soothe the throat when it melts as a person eats it that were more effective than cough syrup. I was so excited to hear this news! It meant that when I was sick, I had the perfect excuse to eat a sweet treat full of delicious chocolate. And it would be good for me!

However, as I furthered my research to the actual study that gave this information, I was quite disappointed to find that it was a fabrication. The study, done in the United Kingdom, had compared the results of a new chocolate-flavored medicine versus traditional cough syrup. In this study, it found that this new medicine — Unicough — was more effective at suppressing coughs and preventing sleep disruption. But when asked about the chocolate aspect, the doctor who authored the study said it was because

Resident Minister (Continued)

of an antihistamine that is present in many other medicines, such as Benadryl, rather than the chocolate in the medicine.

My own wish to eat something that I knew wasn't healthy for me clouded my judgment into falsely believing that it was good for me. We often have this impartial assessment in our lives, not always with food (although it happens a lot with me about food). We twist and bend words and ideas so that they reflect our inner desires instead of what they actually are. This is a result of our calculating mind, always trying to force the world to our will instead of seeing things as they truly are. It takes a great deal of effort to recognize that we are doing this and then to let go of our clouded perspective. But if we are able to achieve this, then we are able to understand better the lives around us as well as our own lives, and that understanding helps us live happier and (hopefully) healthier.

President's Message Stuart Ito

Are church membership levels confusing? So many options — first-time individual, first-time family, sustaining, Honorary, elimination of Honorary, sustaining individual, over 30 years old, under 30 years old, BCA member or non-member dues. Pay by check, pay by credit card, pay by recurring monthly credit card, pay by quarterly installments, pay online. And what is this new Kansha level? Some have asked "just tell me what I should do!" If you think all of this is confusing, just imagine what the office staff has to go through!

Over the years we have had many different ways to become a member. We have always tried to make it easy on our members by offering the old way and easing in the new ways, but sometimes simple is just better. We apologize for any confusion over membership and if you have questions, *please* call the office and we can explain it.

I would like to take a moment and explain the Kansha level. We started the Kansha level last year for those who wished to offer more than the standard sustaining membership level. Other temples also have added this premier membership level. We are extremely grateful to all those who have moved to this level of support and we continue to be amazed at the response to Kansha level once it is understood.

Before I served on the Board of Trustees, I never understood anything about how the church financed all the programs and activities. I never really gave it much thought. I saw all the donations in the SANGHA and always thought the church was doing just fine. When I joined the Board in 2015, I started to get a glimpse of how we managed our operations. Now that I am president, I'm gaining a much deeper appreciation of how important a secure financial foundation is to the current and future well-being of the temple. We offer so many programs and activities through a large array of organizations and without your help we would not be able to do that. Thank you.

I was speaking with an elder member the other day and she told me how her father would use his own funds when the church desperately needed it. I then thought about how my grandfather was a very large supporter of this church even though he lived a very modest life on the farm. I then came to realize that these folks were not all that unique—many of those who are no longer with us devoted countless hours, energy and personal pledges in order to build this temple for the next generation.

Many of the sangha members who came before us faced incredible hardships that the current generation can hardly even imagine. But those pioneers had the fortitude to build this Jodo Shinshu temple for us. Back then, many of us were the next generation. As I look around the temple now and see all the children, I cannot help but be reminded of when I was a kid running around this same place (mostly playing hide and seek near the koi pond and running across the concrete bridge). It makes me smile to see them now. They are the future leaders of this temple and I hope they can look back 50 years later and have just as fond memories as I (we) have.

Gassho.

Sangha Staff

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

Contributing Reporters

President Stuart Ito
SBWA Keiko Jean Kashiwada
Minister Assts Keith Kato
Legacy Fund Allan Hoshida
Dharma School Valerie Fong
Girl Scouts Kelli Aoki
Sports Cmte Alan Wu

Notes from the Office

2019 Membership Dues Payment

Annual Membership Renewal Forms were mailed in December to all individuals and families who were paid members in 2018. If you have not received yours, please contact the office so that we can remedy that right away! For our 2nd year, online credit card payment is available for both monthly and annual options.

Note: A new link has been added for those who wish to make a one-time, non-recurring, full payment. You can go to the Betsuin website at www.buddhistchurch.org/membership to find quick links to the membership categories.

Betsuin Calendar

February Office Hours:

Monday, 2/18/19 - Betsuin CLOSED in observance of Presidents' Day

**Sacramento
Buddhist
Women's
Association**
Keiko Jean Kashiwada



**Minister
Assistants**
Keith Kato

Office Manager
Cindy Kitade

**Office Project
Coordinator**
Jennifer Nitta

Front Desk Staff
Kellie Morioka

Betsuin Office
(916) 446-0121

Sangha Helpers
Pati Futaba
Shiyoko Futaba
Sumiye Hamamoto
Yukiko Hashisaka
Ruth Hayashi
Sanaye Imajo
Mae Kaneko
Alice Kataoka
Dennis Sunahara
Lynn Sunahara
Fusako Takahashi
Virginia Uchida
Sandy Yuki

The January SBWA Board Meeting was held on Wednesday, January 9, 2019, with President Loleen Nakano presiding. Thank you to Lynn Kurahara for writing the majority of this article for me, as I was unable to attend the meeting.

Upcoming Events for 2019 – Save the Date!

- **Women of Jodo Shinshu Luncheon and Service: February 10**
The lunch will be at 12 noon with the service to follow at 1 p.m. Our guest speaker will be Reverend Anne Spencer from the Idaho-Oregon Buddhist Temple. Oto's will prepare the obento. Cost is \$10. Deadline for lunch sign-up is February 1.
- **Music Circus: Potential Date: June 30**
Virginia Uchida will be looking into this.
- **Sakura Matsuri Food & Shopping Faire: March 10, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.**
SBWA will be selling somen salad and three kinds of spam musubi — regular, rice with chopped up green tsukemono, and rice with red tsukemono. You must get all three to see how they taste! All these items will be listed on pre-order forms. Please encourage family and friends to pre-order because that will help to increase sales and promote the event.
- **Caregivers Conference: May 25**
The church with ACC as a partner is planning a one-day conference to discuss various caregiving responsibilities for seniors. Koichi Mizushima is heading up this project and working with ACC staff. Loleen Nakano, Eileen Otsuji, Gayle Kono and Lynn Kurahara have volunteered to be on the Steering Committee. More information will be forthcoming.
- **Leaves of My Heart by Lady Takeko Kujo**
The above book has been printed. If you are interested in a copy, please contact Loleen Nakano at (916) 424-1324.

Next SBWA Meeting

The next SBWA meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 6, 2019 starting at 5:45 p.m.

My Journey at the Betsuin

When I became a minister's assistant in July 2012, I was asked to start writing articles for the monthly SANGHA newsletter. My very first article was about reflections on my journey at this church. The original article included my issue with the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA). During my time as a minister's assistant for approximately 6½ years, I believe this experience has matured me in a "Buddhistic" way. With these new insights, I have rewritten the original article as it pertains to my issue with the BCA. This article begins in the year 2000 when I became president of this temple.

Of all the tasks and issues I have had to deal with, there was one issue that had haunted me for a long time. This was the controversial issue of the BCA methodology of assessing the annual dues to the BCA temples. Because our church did not feel the temple was getting a fair shake on what we were required to pay BCA, we withheld our annual dues. During the BCA National Conference, I made a proposal in a BCA Dues Assessment Workshop regarding how to reapportion the annual dues to the temples. This presentation created a firestorm. In the following month's WHEEL OF DHARMA newsletter, I was labeled "ignorant" for not understanding the true workings of the BCA and its temples. I felt betrayed by the BCA for being publicly called out on the carpet. Despite this "cloud over my head," I completed my duties to the best of my abilities. At the end of my one-year term, I was grateful for the support of the Board of Trustees, the affiliated and sponsored organizations, and most important, the sangha members. Because of all these people, the church had completed another successful year.

After becoming a minister's assistant, I completed the two-year Buddhist Education Correspondence Course in February 2014, and finally completed my Tokudo/Minister's Assistant training in Berkeley in October 2014 before travelling to Kyoto, Japan for my Tokudo. During the 12 years leading up to my making a commitment to becoming a minister's assistant, that incident in 2000 still deeply troubled me.

However, the lessons learned during my time as a minister's assistant helped me to gain a different perspective on that event 18 years ago. It was my ego that got in the way... thinking that this was all about me. I was the only one thinking about what happened in 2000. Nobody else gave it a second thought... life just moved on for them. In being honest with myself in reflecting on what I went through, I realized that I had truly taken for granted all that was wonderful with our temple (our ministers, affiliated and sponsored organizations, temple activities/events, and the people). My failure was to not also realize the constant financial and human resources struggles that existed at the other temples... conditions that still exist today as temples struggle to become more vibrant and stay relevant within their communities. I was "ignorant" about the big picture regarding the survival of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in America.

Minister Assistants (Continued)

With this understanding of how beautiful our situation is here in Sacramento, I was able to forgive, make peace in my life, and with this peace of mind... make things right in my life. FORGIVENESS as defined in Webster's dictionary "allowed me to cease the feeling of resentment against a perceived act of wrong committed against me." While holding on to rage and anger during all those years, I finally realized that to my detriment, those feelings clouded my judgment, interrupted the positive flow of my life, and shifted attention away from the people and things that really mattered to me. My life was really about my family and friends and not about me or my insecurities. By making peace, I was able to release those poisons and truly end my cycle of suffering. I was able to heal from within and look forward/be proactive toward life rather than always looking backwards and being stuck in a negative mindset.

The essence of the Dharma is the understanding of impermanence where life, things, and situations are constantly changing and, more often than not, out of our control. Our lives are connected to all of this and as such, every experience in our lives will either be good or bad according to our own limited way of viewing things. However, each encounter will always be an opportunity for us to adjust, adapt, learn, and grow, allowing us to expand our capacity for understanding and compassion toward others. We must continue to move on with our lives and grow as an individual. I don't know what the future holds for Shin Buddhism in America, but I will savor and cherish my "never-to-be-repeated" experiences with the people and activities, both at our temple and in my life.

As Reverend Harada has said: "In Buddhism, normally we only see the world from our own self-centered viewpoint. No matter how much we might say about how we self-reflect, self-understand, have self-esteem and self-confidence, those are the 'self' that lives in the world of ignorance and delusion. It is the world of the 'self' that cannot truly see itself. When we are finally awakened to understand the teachings from the Buddhist world, we open up our hearts and minds to see another 'self' ... our true 'self' which is able to see the 'ego-self' and from that viewpoint, we can more easily refrain from our greed, anger, hatred, envy, jealousy, and ultimately overcome our ignorance."

Namo Amida Butsu.

Legacy Endowment Fund Allan Hoshida

おかげさま

Happy New Year 2019 and best wishes from the Legacy Endowment Fund Board!
Hope this finds all of you in good health.

2018 Summary of Legacy Endowment Fund Projects Approved/ Funded by the Legacy Board, totaling approximately \$33,000:

- Approved: Audio/video system improvements request for the Hondo, Little Chapel and Kaikan areas. This work includes a control center in the upper balcony, HDMI from pulpit, approximately 12 assisted listening devices (some have already been purchased by individuals), and wireless microphone packs. The Legacy Board wants to thank Stuart Ito and the AV Committee for showing initiative/leadership in implementing this worthy improvement project. Many of you have already seen most of these great improvements in the Hondo. Thank you, Stuart and AV Committee.
- Approved: Sacramento Betsuin Choir request for charter bus transportation to attend Betsuin Choir June 2019 Shin Buddhist Choir Festival at Mountain View Buddhist Church. Nine temple choir groups will be gathering and participating in this Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) choir festival. Myra Okasaki indicates pre-arranged bus transportation will hopefully encourage Sacramento sangha and family members to attend this event along with the choir members. So if any of you wish to attend and join the bus ride to this event, please let Myra or Betsuin office know.
- Approved: YAC Reunion request for three participants' registration fees. This very successful youth program for BCA has brought together youth leaders from throughout BCA for a one-week summer retreat plus subsequent annual reunions, in learning about the Dharma, meeting and learning about sangha kids from other parts of the country. Many have become leaders within their own temples after going through this program. Through thank you letters we have received from our Sacramento Betsuin kids who have attended in years past, these retreats/reunions have become life-altering positive experiences for many of the kids. We need to encourage more of this kind of positive activity, which brings diverse youth and future temple leaders together to have some meaningful/growth opportunities, and be able to continue on their dharma path.
- Approved: Betsuin Education Award request in support of graduating high school seniors. Many of our youth have volunteered and have been an integral part of our sangha community/activities throughout their young lives and we need to encourage as much positive participation/involvement in our youth. Our Betsuin over the years has been very fortunate to have had great youth programs, i.e. sports/basketball, Dharma School, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Jr. YBA, Sakura

Legacy Endowment Fund

(Continued)

Gakuen, etc., with lots of talented/experienced adult leaders providing thoughtful guidance and support. Thank you all for what you have done and continue to do for our youth and other temple families.

- Approved: Program development position annual support request. Currently Koichi Mizushima holds this position. I want to thank Koichi for all the things he has done over the years, i.e. lead/coordinate dharma education classes/seminars, minister assistance program support, Jr. YBA leader, Dharma School teacher, special events coordinator, guest speaker, etc. Koichi has been invaluable as our legacy contact at the office, meeting with potential donors to the Wall of Appreciation, offering advice and communication with the rest of the Legacy Board. Thank you, Koichi for all that you have done and continue to do for our sangha community.
- Approved: Annual Golf Tournament sponsor request. This is an annual fundraising fun golf event, led by Richard Kai and a small group/committee of temple leaders. As many of you are aware, we have experienced negative revenue to costs for the last number of years on general church operations. Collectively the Board of Trustees has determined that we all need to help support financially, to increase revenues and/or reduce costs in order to meet our annual temple obligations and not run a deficit each year. Thanks, Richard and Golf Committee.
- Approved: Betsuin website design and Betsuin brochure design updates request. Hopefully you all have been able to access and use the updated redesigned website and find it more user-friendly. Review and let us know your thoughts.
- Approved: Matching funds for American Red Cross California Wildfires Relief Fund request by Reverend Matt Hamasaki. We have received lots of sangha member support for this request initiated by Reverend Matt and the Legacy Board has recently sent out a matching check directly to the American Red Cross. It is important that we as sangha members do what we can to help/support neighboring communities/organizations that are experiencing difficulties/hardships. Thank you, Reverend Matt and to those that have donated to this relief fund.

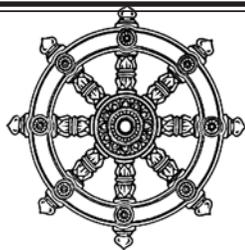
Wall of Appreciation Legacy Donations Received for 2018

- A Gift from Mary Satoko Inouye.
- In Loving Memory of Mary Satoko Inouye by Wong & Inouye Families.
- Hideko Heidi Sakazaki.
- In Loving Memory of James & April Adachi, Kameji & Yasuko Ikuma by Derrick & Glenda Adachi and Family, William & Tracie Yee and Family, Ron & Diane Adachi and Family.
- Keijiro & Tomo Nishimura and Family, by Ko & Judy Nishimura.
- In Loving Memory of Mickey H. Tanaka, Kiki Hamatani-Tanaka by Dick Iwamiya.
- In Memory of Yohei & Satsuki Kato by Emmie Makishima.
- In Loving Memory of Joe Makishima by Emmie, Joanne, Diane & Sherri.
- In Memory of Jim & Tamiko Kai, Ginger Lee by Richard and Pearl Kai.

The above donor names will be placed onto the Wall of Appreciation by early February 2019. Thank you for your support of the Buddhist Church of Sacramento Legacy Endowment Fund and historic Wall of Appreciation project.

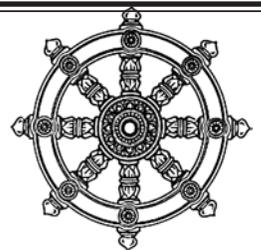
Due to your generous donations, the Legacy Endowment Fund will be able to consider many more future worthy projects.

Thank you, in gassho.



Welcome New Members

Stephen Brady
Zachary Hawthorne
Gregory Ito
Thomas Ito
Matthew Nitta
Jacie Shimosaka
Jordan Shimosaka



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



Michael Shintaku July 16, 1953 - November 30, 2018
Akiye Shimada..... March 28, 1927 - December 2, 2018
Toshiko Hasegawa December 11, 1933 - December 18, 2018
Frank Okuno September 9, 1926 - December 27, 2018
Bob Hiroshi Ariyasu May 6, 1924 - January 1, 2019
Art Hayashida..... September 15, 1930 - January 2, 2019
June Tsumura..... June 27, 1931 - January 9, 2019

2019 Betsuin Events



Check this space each month for updates!

- February 3, 2019 Scout Sunday
- February 9, 2019 Jr. YBA Spaghetti Feed
- February 10, 2019 Nirvana Day; Dharma School Open House
Women of Jodo Shinshu Luncheon/Service
- March 2-3, 2019 Betsuin Basketball Tournament
- March 10, 2019 Sakura Matsuri Food & Craft Faire
- March 24, 2019 Spring Ohigan
- April 14, 2019 Hanamatsuri
- May 19, 2019..... Gotan-E
- July 13, 2019 Bon Odori
- July 14, 2019 Hatsubon/Obon
- August 10-11, 2019..... 73rd Annual Bazaar
- August 12, 2019 Bazaar Clean-up
- September 22, 2019..... Fall Ohigan
- October 13, 2019 Eitaikyo; Cub Scout Pancake Breakfast
- October 26, 2019 Annual Halloween Party/Haunted House
- November 10, 2019..... Ho-onko
- December 8, 2019..... Bodhi Day
- December 31, 2019..... Joya-E

Girl Scout Troop 569
Kelli Aoki



What time is it? It's Cookie Time! Girl Scout Troop 569 kicked off this year's cookie season with its first Cookie Rally. Approximately 75 girls attended this event where they learned about safe cookie selling, tasted cookies, and created posters and crafts for this year's cookie time!

Cookie pre-orders are being collected now until cookies arrive on February 16. Cookies are still \$5 per box.

Please contact the church if you need to place an order and support Troop 569! Thank you for your continued support!

Brownies 2 completed their third annual drive. They collected coloring books and crayons to donate to a children's medical clinic.

Juniors 1 and Brownies 1 went Christmas caroling at ACC this past Christmas season. The girls sang to their hearts' content while bringing Christmas joy to the seniors.

Happy New Year from Girl Scout Troop 569!

SACRAMENTO JR YBA

Spaghetti Dinner



Saturday
Feb 9th, 2019
6:00pm

Group reservations MUST be made in advance

Email: matthewn22@gmail.com

MENU:

Salad
 Spaghetti
 Bread
 Desserts

TICKET PRICES:

\$12 regular
 \$8 Kids (10 & under)
 Payable to: "Sacramento JYBA"

Questions? Email (matthewn22@gmail.com)

Buddhist Church of Sacramento 2401 Riverside Blvd, 95818
 www.buddhistchurch.org (916) 446-0121

BUDDHIST EDUCATION CLASS

"Learning From Great Buddhists In Our Tradition: pt II"

WHEN
Sunday
February 17, 2019
11:30am - 12:30pm

WHERE
Buddhist Church
Of Sacramento
2401 RIVERSIDE BLVD 95818

FREE CLASS
Register in the office.
Or Call (916) 446-0121



Reverend Marvin Harada is the resident minister at the Orange County Buddhist Church since 1986.

He also serves as the Co-Director for the Center of Buddhist Education, under the BCA. And also oversees the Vista Buddhist Temple.

He is currently the Interim Rinban at the Buddhist Church of Sacramento .



College Big Band Jazz Concert

Musicians from Niigata, Japan
 Sunday, February 24, 2019

FREE

Sacramento Buddhist Church
2401 Riverside Blvd., 95818

11:30 a.m. in Kaikan
Right After Dharma School Class

A wonderful group of high school and college age musicians from Niigata, Japan will be visiting us to perform.

Sacramento Adult Buddhist Association Presents 6th Oldies-But-Goodies Dance



Mark your calendar for the Fantabulous 6th Oldies-But-Goodies Dance hosted by the Adult Buddhist Association on Saturday, March 23, 2019, 7 p.m.-11 p.m., at the Buddhist Church of Sacramento, 2401 Riverside Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95818. Music to be provided by Disc Jockey Don Kazama, who will cater to our eras of the '50s, '60s and '70s. Pupus and hosted refreshments will be provided. Tickets have been increased to \$15 per person, by popular demand.

Purchase your tickets from: Jean Kashiwada, (916) 392-0958 / jeankash@aol.com; Martha Kushida, (916) 393-3093 / dockush6@sbcglobal.net; Carolyn Murata, (916) 939-0667 / ccmurata@gmail.com; Wayne Kurahara, (916) 392-3022 / kurahara@sbcglobal.net; Curtis Ishii, (916) 329-8080 / curtisishii@comcast.net; George Kashiwagi, (916) 363-5941 / georgegkashiwagi@yahoo.com; Virginia Uchida, (916) 421-3538 / Uchida9@comcast.net; Grace Hatano, (916) 451-7520 / bghat1@sbcglobal.net; Karen Adachi, (916) 392-3206 / karenadachi@aol.com; Irene Takeda, (916) 393-9560 / itakeda@comcast.net; Misa Oshiro, (916) 427-5059 / cmkoshiro3@msn.com; Bob Nishimoto, (916) 422-9415 / BNish@sbcglobal.net; Tosh Ohara, (916) 248-6012 / toap@sbcglobal.net; John/Elaine Yoshikawa, (916) 383-4755 / spyron@aol.com.

They can also place your ticket(s) at "Will Call" at the church to be retrieved on the day of the dance. You can pay for your tickets through one of our members, pay at the time of the dance, or submit payment to the church office: Sacramento Buddhist Church, 2401 Riverside Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95818, Attn: ABA 3/23 Dance. **Please let one of us know you'll be attending for head count purposes.** If you have 8 or more people in your group and want to reserve a table, let us know. Invite your friends and family.

Dharma School News

Valerie Fong, Superintendent



Donations

Hello everyone! Happy February! Just a few "save the date" events coming up. On February 10, Dharma School will have our Open House immediately following Nirvana Day Service. Please join us in the Kaikan to see the projects that the students have been working on since the start of the term. Refreshments will be served.

Dharma School will be participating in the 2nd Annual Sakura Matsuri Shopping and Food Faire on March 10. We will be selling teriyaki sauce.

Looking ahead, Hanamatsuri Service will be on April 14. Plans are already underway for this year's fun and exciting play that will be presented after Hanamatsuri Service.

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

Adult Buddhist Association
Karyn Ariyasu Ito & Family
Boy Scout Troop 50

Stan & Barbara Chan
Esther Hokama
Gail Keikoan
Sachi & Shig Kihara
Rosemary Kitaoka

Wayne & Lynn Kurahara
Jerry & Sandy Tokunaga
Emi Watanabe
Amy Wong
Karen Yamamoto

SAKURA MATSURI
FOOD & SHOPPING FAIRE

SUNDAY 03/10/19 10am-3pm

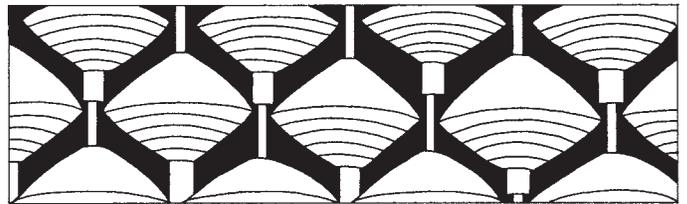
The 2nd Annual Sakura Matsuri Food & Vendor Faire will be held at the Sacramento Buddhist Church 2401 Riverside Blvd 95818. There is no entry fee to attend.

Come by and shop for your favorite commercial products, crafts, & enjoy some great food! It's a wonderful event for the entire family.

For more information please contact:

Karen Adachi at (916) 801-3721
karenadachi@aol.com
Koichi Mizushima (916) 446-0121
bkmizu@gmail.com

Buddhist Church of Sacramento
2401 Riverside Blvd. 95818 (916) 446-0121



CHURCH OFFICE COPY

SAKURA MATSURI FOOD & VENDOR FAIRE

Teriyaki Sandwich Pre-Order Form

Sacramento Buddhist Church, 2401 Riverside Blvd, 95818

Order Deadline: Feb 24, 2019

Pick up SUN, March 10, 2019 from 10:30am - 1:00pm

Teriyaki Sandwich # _____ x \$7.00 Total \$ _____

Checks payable to "Troop 50 Boy Scouts"

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

CUSTOMER COPY

Teriyaki Sandwich # _____ x \$7.00 Total \$ _____

Pick up at Buddhist Church 3/10/19 from 10:30am - 1:00pm

CHURCH OFFICE COPY

SAKURA MATSURI

Pre-Order Form

Sacramento Buddhist Church
2401 Riverside Blvd, 95818

Order Deadline: Feb 24, 2019

Pick up SUN, March 10, 2019 from 10:30am - 1:00pm

SESAME CHICKEN	# _____ x \$10	\$ _____
BENTO BOX	# _____ x \$5	\$ _____
SOMEN SALAD	# _____ x \$5	\$ _____
SPAM MUSUBI		
RED	# _____ x \$3	\$ _____
GREEN	# _____ x \$3	\$ _____
WHITE	# _____ x \$3	\$ _____
GRAND TOTAL		\$ _____

Checks payable to "ABA"

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

Mail to: Sacramento Buddhist Church
ATTN: ABA Sakura Matsuri
2401 Riverside Blvd, Sacramento, CA 95818

CUSTOMER COPY

SAKURA MATSURI

Pre-Order Form

Sacramento Buddhist Church
2401 Riverside Blvd, 95818
916-446-0121

Pick up SUN, March 10, 2019 from 10:30am - 1:00pm

SESAME CHICKEN	# _____ x \$10	\$ _____
BENTO BOX	# _____ x \$5	\$ _____
SOMEN SALAD	# _____ x \$5	\$ _____
SPAM MUSUBI		
RED	# _____ x \$3	\$ _____
GREEN	# _____ x \$3	\$ _____
WHITE	# _____ x \$3	\$ _____
GRAND TOTAL		\$ _____

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

Additional forms on
www.buddhistchurch.org

**Sports
Committee**
Alan Wu



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.

**Support the
Betsuin through
Amazon Smile**

Well, hi there! It is good to see you. Thank you for dropping in. Now that it is February 2019, it is time to say Happy New Year! No, not happy new year for 2019, but happy new year 4716. Actually, it is still 4715 until February 5, but it is close enough to extend celebratory greetings to one and all. What's that? Oh, I am glad you asked. The year 4716 refers to the year of the Chinese lunar calendar, which has been traced back to 2637 BCE. For those like me, BCE means Before Current Era, which is the same as B.C. On a side note, when did we stop using the terms BC and AD? Did someone complain and got it changed to BCE? I scratch my head. But I digress.

So, the current era begins at year 1 in the Gregorian calendar, which we use today and have been for nearly 2019 years. So if you add 2637 to 2019, you get 4656, which is not equal to 4716, but kind of close. It's only kind of close because the lunar year ranges from 353–55 days. As the name implies, the lunar calendar is based on the moon — the phases of the moon, to be specific. There is no calendar system devised by man that is precise and exact to delineate the movements of the Earth and moon. The Gregorian calendar is close, but every four years it comes up short by almost one day, so that is the reason why we have leap year and February has 29 days. The lunar calendar is based on the new moon, and if there are 13 new moons in a year, then a 13th month is added, making it a leap year, which occurs approximately every three years, making the leap year 383–385 days long. Are you sorry you asked? Anyway, we hope you learned something today, as useful as it may or may not be. And by the way: Gung Hay Fat Choy!

Getting to the NCCL (Northern California Church League) in the common era, league games will be finishing up by the end of the Gregorian February, with our annual tournament on March 2–3, and the SJUMC (Sacramento Japanese United Methodist Church) tournament happening on March 16–17, which is also a Gregorian month. So be on the lookout for tournament locations and schedules and make sure to swing by our gym concession stands for some common era eat and drink. They historically have been crowd pleasers.

Please be reminded that attendance is continually being accounted until the Gregorian month of June, the end of Dharma School. So keep attending both Dharma Service and Dharma Class until the end of school to keep your percentage up in the green zone (better than 60%), and stay eligible to play next season, around the 9th or 10th new moon. Yes, this year's attendance is used to determine eligibility for next year, in case you forgot.

By the way, year 4716 is the Year of the Boar, the last year of the 12-year cycle. If you were born in the Year of the Boar, it often is said that the Boar is:

- Mild and a lucky animal representing carefree fun, good fortune and wealth.
- Personality traits of the people born under the sign of the Boar are happy, easygoing, honest, trusting, educated, sincere and brave.
- The possible dark sides of Boar people are stubbornness, naive, over-reliant, self-indulgent, easy to anger and materialistic.
- They sometimes are regarded as being lazy.

By another way, in case you didn't know, (because I did not know):

February 5 is when the Year of the Boar Air Jordan 12 (\$250) and Air Jordan 33 (\$175) will launch and be available for mass consumption, and Nike has a shoe called Air Force 1 Low Chinese New Year 2019.

I must live under a rock not to know that there are Chinese New Year shoes!

See you again in one new moon.

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

- Go to: smile.amazon.com.
- Log in or create a new account.
- Select "Buddhist Church of Sacramento" in the charity search box.
- Bookmark it, and shop away!

It doesn't cost you anything and the temple gets a small percentage of all qualified purchases.