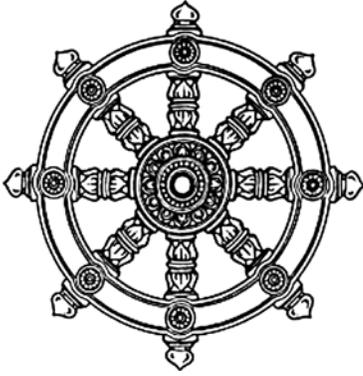


**Interim Rinban
& Supervising
Minister**
Rev. Marvin Harada



'Shallow' by Lady Gaga

Recently I gave a Dharma talk that was based on the recent popular song, "Shallow," composed by Lady Gaga. It received an Oscar for best song at the Academy of Awards this year. The song featured a duet with Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper, and was in their movie, "A Star is Born."

For the service, I asked Ellie Mizushima and her high school friend, Pete Sunseri, to sing the song as a duet. For those of you who were there, it was an amazing and memorable performance. I believe that you can watch it on the video of my talk on the Betsuin website.

When I first saw the video of Ellie and Pete singing at a local talent show, I looked up the lyrics to this song and found it to be very Buddhistic. I would like to share this song with you for my article for this month.

"Shallow" by Lady Gaga

*Tell me somethin' girl
Are you happy in this modern world?
Or do you need more?
Is there somethin' else you're searchin' for?*

(Continued on page 3)

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SANGHA

Sacramento Buddhist Church Volume 56 Number 6 - June 2019

**Sacramento
Betsuin**
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Interim Rinban & Supervising Minister

(Continued)



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We are all searching for something, but we don't know what we are searching for. We think we know what we are searching for — happiness, material wealth, the love of our life. But even if we find those things, we aren't fulfilled. This was the case with Shakyamuni Buddha. He had every material thing and social status that anyone could ever ask for. But yet, his life was not fulfilled. He was searching for something.

*I'm falling
In all the good times I find myself
Longin' for change
And in the bad times I fear myself*

Sometimes in life we fall into a funk, a depression. Even when things are going good in life, we might feel depressed for various reasons. Sometimes it can be caused by loss... the loss of a loved one or the loss of a job. With that depression brings fear. Fear of failure. Fear of greater loss. Fear that we might never get out of our funk or depression.

*Tell me somethin' boy
Aren't you tired tryin' to fill that void?
Or do you need more?
Ain't it hard keeping it so hardcore?*

We might also feel a sense of emptiness, a void, as if there is something missing in our life. We don't even know what it is we are missing. We just feel like there is a hole in our heart or a void in our life. We try to maintain an appearance that "everything is okay." We try to keep a stiff upper lip, to appear "hardcore," "tough," but others can see through it. They can see that we are not ourselves.

*(repeat of previous verse)
I'm falling
In all the good times I find myself
Longin' for change
And in the bad times I fear myself*

And in this final verse, I see the dramatic conclusion to this song.

*I'm off the deep end, watch as I dive in
I'll never meet the ground
Crash through the surface, where they can't hurt us
We're far from the shallow now*

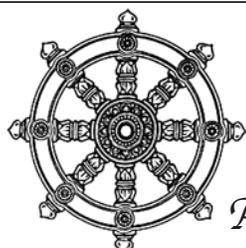
To go into the deep end means to go into the depths of the Dharma. We start out in the beginning in the shallow water. Our understanding is not yet mature or deep, so life presents many challenges to us. We have fear, we have depression, we have emptiness. But if we continue to listen to the Dharma, if we continue to seek and learn, without fail we will enter the depths of the ocean, the depths of the teaching. It is there that we find a teaching that fulfills the emptiness in our life. We find a teaching that alleviates all of our fears, whether it be the fear of failure, the fear of loss, or the fear of death; they are all transcended.

When we "dive in" to the depths of the Dharma, we "never meet the ground," meaning we have gone beyond a shallow understanding. We have touched the unfathomable depths of the Dharma. It is there that "nothing can hurt us." Nothing. Nothing in life is insurmountable. We live a dynamic life. We live a fulfilled life. We live a meaningful life. We live a fearless life.

*In the shallow, shallow
In the shallow, shallow
In the shallow, shallow
We're far from the shallow now.*

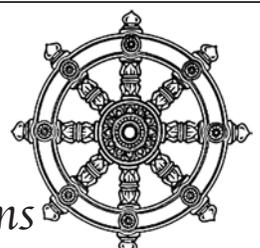
This is the kind of life that Shin Buddhism offers us.

This is the life of Namuamidabutsu.



Welcome New Members

Anthony & Keiko Williams



Resident Minister

Rev. Matt Hamasaki

It is playoff season, not just for the National Hockey League, but also for the National Basketball Association. One of the teams that made it far in the playoffs was the Houston Rockets. It is undeniable that they are a talented team, but recently they have been the subject of focus for another reason: they complain a lot.

This is not to say that other NBA teams don't complain. In fact, it's a quite common occurrence during a game to see one of the players disputing a call that a referee made. During these times, though, that is usually the end of it. With the Rockets, it is another story. The Rockets felt that officiating had been egregiously unfavorable to them to the point that they lost their series last year because of it. And the Rockets organization leaked a statement to the media stating its case with statistics that backed up its view that the Rockets would have won and probably gone on to win the championship. The sports media world collectively shook their heads at the lengths the organization would go to whine about how it lost. Almost fittingly this year, it lost in six.

Complaining is natural behavior for humans. It almost seems like a hobby or pastime for some people. But how effective is it to making our lives better? Looking from the Buddhist point of view, the root of complaining is at the heart of the first noble truth: "Life doesn't go our way." The Sanskrit word *dukkha*, which is often translated as "suffering," can also be translated as "unsatisfactoriness," which is exactly how we feel when we complain. We are not satisfied with how life is going and want it to be another way. And when it is not how we want; we feel a certain way that prompts us to express our displeasure. Now, this is not in and of itself a bad thing. It is important for us to recognize and understand our emotions and deal with them in a healthy way. But it can take a turn for the worse if we do not react to our emotions with a positive goal in mind.

For instance, if we complain because we need to vent and then move on, that's OK. If we need to complain so we can get constructive criticism that we pay attention to and put into action, that's all right. But if we complain with the intent to get someone else to do something for us to make our lives better, that is where we misstep. If we complain to compare ourselves to others to prove how much worse our lives are all the time, that is not productive. These types of complaints drag down the people around us and do nothing to ease our suffering. And, if we cannot complain in a way that is helpful, it is better to try to struggle with our unsatisfactoriness with our own self-reflection and respond in a restorative way — with gratitude. When we begin to see how wonderful other aspects of our lives are, we become more satisfied and, thus, happy with how things are going. We can stop complaining and enjoy life for what it is.

Inclusiveness in Jodo Shinshu. The Primal Vow. "Teaching for **all beings** to live a fulfilled life with the guidance of Amida Buddha." Inclusiveness is an inherent part of our teaching and always has been. On June 9, the Betsuin will for the first time participate in the 2019 Sacramento Pride Parade and will march from Southside Park to the Capitol Mall (Southside Park is a short walk from the Temple on 6th Street). Seattle Betsuin, Berkeley, New York and San Francisco temples have all participated in their respective parades. This will be a great community event and an opportunity to for us to promote Buddhism. If you would like to consider marching with us, please email betsuin.pride@gmail.com and we will email you a packet of information. We have slots for only 50 participants and there is no fee to march. Hope to see you there!

Buddhism and Technology

When I taught Dharma School, one of my main themes was "change" and how to embrace it as a fundamental truth of life. The rapid and relentless pace of technological change impacts our daily lives like never before. The younger generation has never opened an encyclopedia, typed on a typewriter, or used a dial on a telephone. Those born this year might never drive a car since self-driving cars may become the norm.

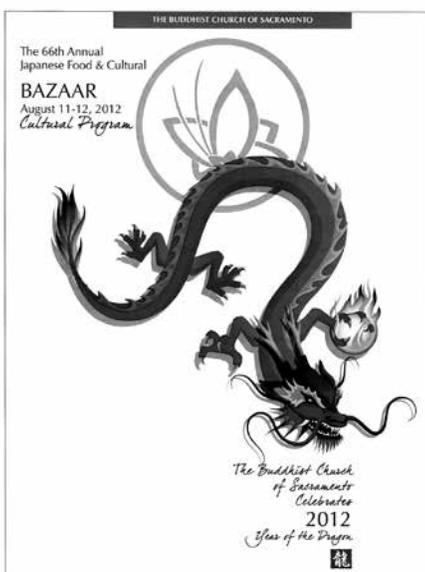
Can the teaching of Buddhism adapt to our fast-paced lives? On our website we have a link to "Everyday Buddhist" online classes. In addition to paid courses, there are free courses, such as "Become Happy," "Presuppositions of Buddhism," and "Buddhism is not what you think." This is a great way for anyone with internet access to relax and enjoy the Dharma at their leisure. Of course, learning from an online class is not the same as being in a real class with other people who ask questions and interact. We host a free monthly Buddhist Study Class (June 10 at 6 p.m.–7 p.m. is the next one) and are currently studying the *Juseige*. Since we chant it often during service, it is great to get a deeper understanding of its significance. Come join us!

Printed Bazaar Program for 2019

Do you remember when we used to have a printed Bazaar program? They were beautifully designed full-size programs with articles highlighting sangha members, along with both personal and business advertisements. We are bringing it back again this year. Please go to our website at www.buddhistchurch.org to find out how to place an ad and support the temple at the same time. Betsuin members receive a 50% discount!

President's Message

Stuart Ito



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



**Legacy
Endowment
Fund**
Ted Yoshimura

おかげさま

The SBWA held its May monthly board meeting on May 1, led by President Loleen Nakano. Thank you, Reverend Matt Hamasaki, for conducting the short service in the Hondo before our meeting. Thank you to everyone who made generous donations to support our organization. (See donations section at the end of the newsletter for listing.)

**"Then They Came for Me" Exhibit in San Francisco
(Exhibit of the incarceration of Japanese Americans)**

President Loleen Nakano thanked Wayne Kurahara and Stephen Kashiwada for driving on April 24 to the Presidio then to Emeryville for lunch. This exhibit is very well done and will be at the Presidio until May 27. It is open only on Wednesdays to Sundays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is free. The SBWA ladies who walked through the history of this multimedia exhibition were: Lynn Kurahara, Jean Kashiwada, Nancy Hashimoto, Virginia Uchida, Lori Itow, Loleen Nakano, Alice Kataoka, Ruth Hayashi, and Mae Kaneko. If you go, make it a point to also tour the Presidio Officers' Club. There are docents who kindly provide more information and answer any of your questions.

Bazaar Craft Report - Shirley Kato

Thank you to the talented Betsuin members who led and/or coordinated our Bazaar craft projects in March and April: Judy Inaba and Meriko Hoshida (embroidered dishtowel designs), Irene Takeda (potting of succulents), Nancy Hashimoto (iris fold cards), Eva Kawada (knitted button neck scarf), and Marsha Tagawa (Japanese print Post-it note covers). Also, we received generous donations of craft materials or items from Beverly Tanaka and Kelli Omoto Lee (origami paper), Irene Takeda (plants), Reiko Kurahara (various kitchen items), Marsha Tagawa (tissue covers, pin cushions, and a casserole cover), and Tessie Goi (crocheted lap blankets).

Upcoming Events

- Buddhist Church Bazaar – August 10–11. President Loleen Nakano will be requesting your help again.

Next SBWA Meeting

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

Some Perspectives

Imagine the Dalai Lama, the head of Tibetan Buddhism and also generally recognized as the face of Buddhism throughout the world, is now 83 years old and has been exiled for 60 years. He was born Lhamo Thondup and was identified as the 14th incarnation of the Dalai Lama at just the age of 2 years old. It is said that he had a lonely childhood, rarely seeing his parents and having no contact with peers of his own age.

Who will be the 15th incarnation? Supposedly there is a struggle with the China Communist Party as it has a strong desire to name a Dalai Lama for the 244 million Buddhists in China. However, the understanding is that the party's motive is more for political legitimization. Do you think it's possible to integrate the party's politics and Buddhism for a positive result?

Buddhist Education Classes

We have had some fantastic Legacy Endowment Fund Board-sponsored educational seminars. The last seminar was on May 19 with Reverend William Masuda, Buddhist Churches of America minister emeritus. The next class is scheduled for June 9 by Reverend Marvin Harada. Please look on the website to see announcements for future seminars.

Legacy Endowment Fund Board Funding

Recently the LEFB has funded the following two events:

- Sacramento Betsuin Choir for bus transportation to the annual 2019 Shin Buddhist Choir Festival to be held this year at the Mountain View Buddhist Temple on June 8. The biennial choir festival brings together 10 to 12 choirs who share their unique styles in Buddhist and other inspirational music.
- DANA Leadership and Life Skills Retreat to be held June 29–July 5, 2019 at the Mountain View Buddhist Temple. This retreat is hosted by the College Young Buddhist Association (CYBA) and is for high school age students to educate and prepare them for life beyond high school through Buddhist principles and teachings.

The leaders of the CYBA are made up mostly of past Youth Advocacy Committee (YAC) Summer Retreat participants. The initial YAC programs started in Sacramento more than 13 years ago and prospered at our temple under the leadership of Reverend Bob and Reverend Patti Oshita. It was a very successful program. The CYBA, in my mind, at least, is an extension of this very successful program that started and was held at our temple. This program has inspired and changed the lives of the many participants. What could exemplify the value of these retreats to note that our very own Reverend Matt Hamasaki was a product of the YAC program? Reverend Matt and some others from our temple will also be assisting with this DANA Leadership and Life Skills Retreat.

Buddhist Churches of America Update

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Helen Sakaishi
Lynn Sunahara
Faye Uyemura
Elaine Yoshikawa
Sandy Yuki

Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About Your Obutsudan (Home Altars)
A Class with Reverend Matt Hamasaki
Saturday, July 13,
5 p.m.-5:30 p.m.,
Classrooms 1 & 4



Hello everyone. My part-time work as the youth coordinator with the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) has been going very well. It has been a pleasure working with the ministers and BCA staff who dedicate so much of their time, energy, and spirit to share the Dharma in America.

Part of my job requires me to travel to various events. The last flight I took, I was seated next to a woman, who was enjoying the snack they give us on the plane. Her tray table was down, and she had accumulated a small pile of crumbs that she neatly swept into a pile with her hands. And as they announced over the loudspeaker to put our tray tables in the upright position, in a single motion, she swept her neat little pile right on the ground next to her.

I was mortified! Why would she do such a thing? Why didn't she sweep it in her empty beverage cup? Why did she not use her napkin? Why just sweep it off to the side like that so no one would see it? Who was going to clean that up?

But this is something many of us do in our lives, isn't it? We try to make sure that the part of our lives that is exposed to the world looks tidy and neat... but we don't deal with the real issue and properly resolve it. Instead we just sweep it to the side to deal with later. How many of us have a spare bedroom in the house that is just full of junk? Or a small room under the stairs that everything gets thrown into when guests come over? Or a garage filled to the ceiling with old boxes, so we can't even park our cars in there?

While we may be able to sweep the small issues in our lives to the side, what about the larger issues in our lives? What about our goals and dream? Or discovering our true sense of purpose? And what about our happiness? These are not small "crumbs" in our lives that we can just sweep off to the side and forget about.

In Buddhism, we are taught that the source of all the discomfort in our lives stems from our blind desires. And the way to be happy is to rid ourselves of these desires. But I was thinking, what if instead of just getting rid of those desires, we actually fulfilled some of them?

When I was younger... there was nothing I loved more than sports cars. I subscribed to every issue of Road & Track, and MotorTrend magazine. And as I got older, I was able to get some of those cars that I read about in those magazines. And although I fully realized that material things alone cannot bring true happiness, achieving those goals did bring me happiness at the time.

And now that I am older, my responsibilities have changed, and my priorities have changed. I no longer have the Toyota Supra Twin Turbo... but I do have a fantastic Honda Odyssey minivan that I can drive all the Jr. Young Buddhist Association (JYBA) kids around in! My fulfillment today came from realizing some of those dreams when I was younger.

Desire is not good or bad. Buddhism does not tell us to not desire anything. But it does teach us to understand its place in our life. It's OK to want things. You should want to be successful. You should want to set goals for yourself. You should want more for you family. But you just need to understand that suffering in your life comes from wanting things.

Reverend Matt had been thinking of holding a class about the Obutsudan, the meaning, the care, the practices related, and Obon Season seems like the perfect time to do so! Whether you have questions about your own Obutsudan or you are just curious and looking to learn something new, please join him for this informative class Bon Odori evening.

Oftentimes, when families are going through a loved one's belongings, or are downsizing themselves, they find an Obutsudan that needs a good home. We are very fortunate to have families turn to the Betsuin as a place that can provide assistance. In recent years, we have received a number of Obutsudans and would like to be able to offer them to our sangha members. Along with learning about the home altar, attendees who choose to will have the opportunity to add their name to an appointment list to view the Obutsudans the Betsuin currently has available. We hope that many will find a good home with our class participants!

Another question we are asked is what can be done with an Obutsudan that is too old or damaged and is no longer usable. Those, too, can be brought to the Betsuin, to be retired by the ministerial staff in a special ceremony.

To register for the Obutsudan class, please call the Betsuin Office, (916) 446-0121, or email us at SacBetsuinEvent@gmail.com. We look forward to seeing you Bon Odori night!

Notes from the Office

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.

Lost and Found

Glasses, keys, ojuzus, hats — ARE YOU MISSING YOURS? Or do you know someone who is? Please come to the Betsuin Office to see if your "special something" might be waiting for you to pick it up from our collection! Anything left at the end of June will be donated, recycled or... sent to the dumpster.

Change of Address? Placing a Hold on Your Mail?

This is a good time for a reminder to be sure to let us know of any address changes, even if it is just your apartment number! If you are planning to be away OR not accepting mail for any length of time, please let us know that, as well. Every newsletter that is returned to the Betsuin as "undeliverable" can cost up to 70 cents in postage due. Thank you!

Donation Acknowledgments & Routing Payments Correctly

If you notice that your donation is missing from the listing in the SANGHA: Please note that contributions received by the 15th of each month are included in the very next edition of the SANGHA. Donations received from the 16th and later will appear in the month-after-next's issue. Examples:

- Donations received between 4/16 – 5/15/2019 will be acknowledged in the June 2019 issue.
- Donations received between 5/16 – 6/15/2019 will be acknowledged in the July 2019 issue.

We do our very best to list each and every contribution just as you request, so if you see an error, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE IMMEDIATELY. The sooner we know, the sooner we can publish a correction. No need to "feel bad" about making an inquiry—it is a high priority for us to ensure that the monthly listing is accurate. By bringing any discrepancies to our attention, you are helping us keep our records in order.

For CASH donations, it is extremely important to include your name, address and how you would like your contribution acknowledged. If you do not see your cash donation listed in the SANGHA, please check the "Anonymous" donations. If you contact the office, a correction can be published in the very next SANGHA issue.

Also, please be sure to indicate the reason for your payment on your check's memo line or on your envelope itself (this applies to items you would like routed to an event or a specific organization). Examples: "3rd Year for..." "Birthday" "In Memory of..." "Technology Fund" "Shotsuki Hoyo" "Legacy Endowment" "Pre-order for..." "Nokotsudo" "Golf Tournament" "SBWA" "Sports" "ABA" etc.

Again, we try our best to capture your sentiments and requests, so these notations are a HUGE help! When an honoree's name is missing, it can be a challenge to identify your wishes correctly. Thank you!

Betsuin Calendar – June Dates

- Sunday, 6/2/19
Betsuin Office open 9:00-11:00 a.m.
9:30 a.m. - End-of-Dharma School Year & Awards Service
11 a.m. – 2 p.m. - 2nd Annual Friends & Families Picnic at Marriott Park!
- Sunday, 6/9/19
9:30 a.m. – Summer Sangha Services Begin (Sundays, through 8/4/19)
10:45 a.m. - Shotsuki Hoyo Memorial Service

2019 Obon Practice Schedule



First Week

Monday, July 1; Tuesday, July 2; Wednesday, July 3

7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Thursday, July 4 – HOLIDAY – NO PRACTICE

Second Week

Monday, July 8; Tuesday, July 9; Wednesday July 10

7 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Thursday, July 11

7 p.m. – 8:15 p.m.

Obon Night: Saturday, July 13, 2019

7 p.m.

Questions? Please contact Donna Wong, hbd2550@aol.com

10th Annual Sacramento Buddhist Church Golf Tournament
Richard Kai

The Board of Trustees invites its sangha members and families, as well as friends of the Betsuin, to participate in the upcoming 10th Annual Sacramento Buddhist Church (SBC) Golf Tournament, scheduled for play at the Teal Bend Golf Course on Wednesday, August 21, 2019. This event is a major fundraising activity organized by the Fundraising Committee of the SBC.

The tournament offers several options for the players and event sponsors to donate toward the SBC fundraiser. Those who donate at the Gold Sponsor level will receive four complimentary entry fees to play in the tournament; Silver and Bronze sponsorships include two and one complimentary entry fee(s), respectively. Signage recognizing each donor and the sponsorship level will be displayed on the teeing grounds of selected holes.



10th Annual Sacramento Buddhist Church Golf Tournament

Wednesday, August 21, 2019

Teal Bend Golf Course, 7200 Garden Highway
Sacramento, California, 95837

Schedule: Wednesday, August 21, 2019
6:30-7:15am Registration
7:30am Shotgun Start
2:00pm Lunch, Awards and Raffle
Sacramento Buddhist Church
2401 Riverside Blvd.
Sacramento, CA 95831

Register By: August 12, 2019
Shamble format with Blind Draw for Teams
Bounce Back Certificate
Team Prizes
Closest-to-Pin Prizes
Raffle Prizes
Entry fee based on sponsorship level or \$125 per player (includes golf, cart, lunch and refreshments)

Player Info:

#1.	Name:	Index:	Or Handicap	Sponsor Level*
	Email:	Phone	: Jacket Size	Gender M / F
#2.	Name:	Index:	Or Handicap	Sponsor Level*
	Email:	Phone	: Jacket Size	Gender M / F
#3.	Name:	Index:	Or Handicap	Sponsor Level*
	Email:	Phone	: Jacket Size	Gender M / F
#4.	Name:	Index:	Or Handicap	Sponsor Level*
	Email:	Phone	: Jacket Size	Gender M / F

***Sponsor and Entry Options:**

- G) Gold Level Entry (includes four complimentary entry fees) \$1000
- S) Silver Level Entry (includes two complimentary entry fees) \$ 500
- B) Bronze Level Entry (includes one complimentary entry fee) \$ 250
- I) In Memory Of, Individual and/or Group Sponsor \$ 125
- SE) Single Entry Number of Golfers: _____ \$125 each \$ _____

Guest Lunch Number of Guests: _____ \$20 each \$ _____

Total Entry Fee (Including sponsor and single-entry fees and guest lunches) \$ _____

Pay by Check **Payable to Sacramento Buddhist Church**
2401 Riverside Boulevard
Sacramento, California 95818

Deadline: August 12, 2019
Fed Tax ID: 94-1243674

10th Annual Sacramento Buddhist Church Golf Tournament
(Continued)

The number of players for this event is limited and the golf committee anticipates a full field of golfers, so be sure to submit your entry form as soon as possible. We look forward to another fun tournament and delicious luncheon for all those who participate and support this fundraising event. The funds raised by this event have been used in whole or in part for the following projects:

- 2018 – Reserved in the Capital Improvement Account for future projects
- 2017 – Dorset House remodeling project.
- 2016 – Parking lot electric entry and exit gate project.
- 2015 – North and east perimeter parking lot fence replacement project.
- 2014 – HVAC replacement project.

Information about the golf tournament, sponsorship levels, playing format and donation and tournament entry forms are enclosed within this monthly SANGHA newsletter. These forms are also available on the Betsuin’s website at *buddhistchurch.com*.

Questions and/or comments about the fundraising event can be sent via email to the golf committee at *sacbetsuingolf@yahoo.com*. The temple office staff can provide general information about the event.



Sponsorship and Donation Form

Sponsorship Levels

\$1000 – Gold Sponsorship:

Includes Tee Box Sign recognition, four complimentary tournament entry fees, golf cart, lunch and refreshments and tee prizes.

\$250 – Bronze Sponsorship:

Includes Tee Box Sign recognition, one complimentary tournament entry fee, golf cart, lunch and refreshments and tee prizes.

\$500 – Silver Sponsorship:

Includes Tee Box Sign recognition, two complimentary tournament entry fees, golf cart, lunch and refreshments and tee prizes.

\$125 – In Memory Of, Individual and/or Group Sponsorship includes Tee Box Sign recognition.

Suggested Monetary and/or In-Kind Donations

Check-In Tee Prizes

Golf tees, golf balls, ball markers divot repair, golf apparel, etc.

Snack/Dinner Items

Miscellaneous refreshments, snacks or food items.

Luncheon Raffle Prizes

Golf clubs, head covers, golf apparel, dry goods, food items, restaurant gift certificates, etc.

Cash

Used to offset the cost of check-in tee prizes, luncheon raffle prizes or other related expenses.

Date: ____/____/____

Deadline: August 12, 2019

Fed Tax ID: 94-1243674

Sponsorship: I/We would like to be a sponsor in the amount of \$_____ (please indicate):

Gold Sponsor Silver Sponsor Bronze Sponsor

In Memory Of, Individual and/or Group: Names _____

Raffle Prize/Donation: I/We would like to make a donation of _____

Sponsor/Donor Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____ **City:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Return to: SBC Golf Tournament, 2401 Riverside Blvd., Sacramento, CA, 95818
916-446-0121

Sports Committee
Alan Wu



Welcome to June 2019. What is the first thing that pops into your head when June comes rolling around? In the days of yore, you know, the olden days, it was always the end of school. Yep, school always ended in June, thus signaling the beginning of summer and always started the day after Labor Day, which indicated the end of summer; you could set your watch to it.

Well, nowadays, schools don't always end in June or start the Tuesday after Labor Day like before; many of them end in May, and some don't even end at all depending on the track. So, nowadays, what is the steadfast go-to that always happens in June? The answer is, of course, Flag Day. Right!?

The much-celebrated national holiday of Flag Day, in California, is celebrated as an observance where everyday life goes uninterrupted on June 14 each year, meaning it is business as usual like any other week day and people put their flag on display. While in other places like Pennsylvania, it is celebrated as a legal holiday — which makes sense since Flag Day commemorates the raising of the flag of the United States of America for the first time: "On June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress replaced the British symbols of the Grand Union flag with a new design featuring 13 white stars in a circle on a field of blue and 13 red and white stripes — one for each state." This first flag of the United States of America is believed to have been sewn by Betsy Ross, who was the official flag maker for the Pennsylvania Navy, which may be the reason Pennsylvania celebrates Flag Day as a legal holiday. Coincidentally, the U.S. Army celebrates its birthday on June 14.

But would Flag Day be the first thing that pops into your head? Probably not. So that must mean that Father's Day is the front-runner. And what is Father's Day? Is it merely a clever marketing device created by the greeting card companies to brainwash people into buying more greeting cards? Perhaps. It was officially recognized as a holiday on every third Sunday in June in 1972 by President Richard Nixon, but has roots going back to 1908 when a memorial was held for a large group of men — undoubtedly many were fathers — that were killed in a mining accident in West Virginia.

Sonora Smart Dodd was also very influential in the establishment of Father's Day, for she and her five siblings were raised by her father alone after the death of her mother, which was probably very uncommon in the days of late 1800s to the early 1900s because back then, men were men and didn't have time to mess around with child rearing unless it dealt with a switch out in the woodshed. Being inspired by Anna Jarvis and her quest to get Mother's Day recognized, Sonora persevered and the first Father's Day was held in June 1910.

It is probably very understandable that Father's Day is probably more popular and celebrated to a greater extent than Flag Day because it is probably safe to say that there are probably more fathers in each household than American flags...this is neither good nor bad; it is just reality, probably.

We hope you kept your Dharma Service and Class attendance up above 60%, because in case you forgot, it will count for the next season coming up in September; and do not forget that September also holds one, probably two, Extra Credit opportunities, so make sure to attend to reap those free unadulterated gratis benefits.

If you remember, earlier this year a warning was issued that if you are not careful, you may learn something here, or you may not.

We'll see you next month, probably.

Dharma School Donations



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