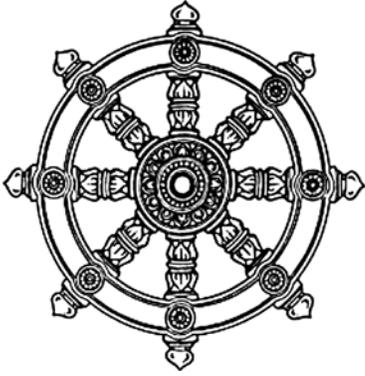


**Interim Rinban  
& Supervising  
Minister**

**Rev. Marvin Harada**



**The Shin Buddhist Way of Life**

**W**e often talk about Buddhism in terms of a teaching, doctrine, religion, and tradition. I would like to consider in this article, looking at Shin Buddhism as a way of life. Sometimes when I am interviewed by college students and visitors to the Orange County Buddhist Church, they often ask the question, "Is Buddhism a philosophy, a religion, or a way of life?" I think that we could answer this question by saying "yes" to all three. Buddhism has a deep and profound philosophy. It is a religion, in that it has a teaching, rituals, and traditions that other religions have. However, we could also describe Buddhism as a way of life, a way to live this precious thing that we call life.

**A Life of Listening to the Dharma**

The Shin Buddhist way of life is one of listening to the Dharma, from our earliest years to the end of our life. Listening to the Dharma can take different forms. As a child or adult, it can mean attending service and Dharma school or adult classes on Buddhism. Listening can mean attending a discussion class and hearing the comments or questions of others.

"Listening" also means to read books on Buddhism. We read, but as we read, we are "hearing" the words of that teacher expressed through words. In that sense, it is not

**(Continued on page 3)**

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# SANGHA

## **Sacramento Buddhist Church Volume 56 Number 8 - August 2019**

**Sacramento  
Betsuin**  
2401 Riverside Blvd.  
Sacramento, CA 95818  
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Sakura Gakuen Masako  
Thomas

just “study” to increase our knowledge of Buddhism, but it is “listening to the words of teachers.” In listening to the words of teachers, we come to receive the teachings from them.

As our “spiritual ear” is cultivated to listen, we begin to hear and encounter the teachings in a myriad of places and from all kinds of teachers. We might learn a profound spiritual “teaching” from a bartender, or a cab driver, or from a stranger that we are sitting next to on the airplane. Our teachers could be our pet cat or dog, or even someone that we have hated and despised in our life, but through “listening,” come to regard as teachers.

### A Life of Self-Reflection

Buddhism can be described as a life of self-reflection. Shakyamuni Buddha and all of the great teachers in the Buddhist tradition, reflected deeply into themselves. Shakyamuni Buddha’s insight and enlightenment as he meditated under the bodhi tree, was the culmination of six years of seeking and self-reflection. The great Zen Master Dogen said, “To study Buddhism is to study the self.” Self-reflection was the first and last step for him as a Buddhist. Shinran Shonin’s writings, while not always easy to read, must be looked at as an expression of his own deep introspection. In his writings he describes his own mind as being like “snakes and scorpions,” that is, deceiving, and sneaky to put it mildly.

### A Life of Insight and Realization

Based on a life of self-reflection, great insight and realization emerges for the life of a Buddhist. Our insights might vary from little insights, to other times, great realizations. You might notice for the first time, a radiant flower blooming as you walk to work, or you might realize what an arrogant and stubborn fool you have been for the past 50 years. Such insights and realizations do not come forth without first listening to the Dharma and reflecting on oneself, in light of the teachings.

This is why the metaphor of light and darkness is used so extensively in Buddhism. It is no wonder that the creators of Star Wars used this wonderful metaphor of the dark side and the force to make the Star Wars movies so captivating. It resonates with us because we have all sometimes lived in darkness, and sometimes have lived in radiant light. The unfolding of insight and realization in Shin Buddhism means that the light of the Dharma is breaking through the darkness of our ignorance, of our delusion. How could I have not seen this before, we ask ourselves? It was right in front of our eyes.

### A Life of Deep Meaning and Fulfillment

The result of a life of listening, reflecting, and realizing, is a life that always has meaning, is always fulfilling, no matter what happens in one’s life.

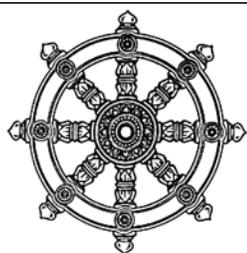
We all want to have meaningful and fulfilling lives, and we might find this at various stages of our life, but to our great disappointment, as life changes, sometimes our meaning and fulfillment of life disappears.

We might love our work and career. For thirty or more years, we go to work and find our life meaningful and fulfilling. But then we retire, and suddenly the meaning and fulfillment in life is gone. What am I living for now? What am I getting up in the morning for now? Just to play a round of golf or have lunch with fellow retirees? Where has my meaning of life gone?

When our children are young, we put everything into raising and caring for them. We take them to piano lessons, to baseball practice, to school, to birthday parties, and on and on. Then one day our little boy or girl grows up and goes off to college. After our last child has “left the nest,” we might find that our meaning in life is now gone.

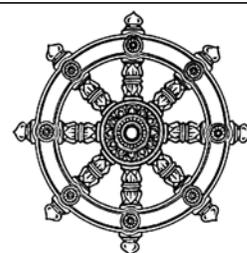
The Buddhist way of life based on listening, reflecting, and realization, never lacks meaning or fulfillment in life. It is the epitome of living a meaningful and fulfilling life.

Namuamidabutsu.



Welcome New Members

Erin Leight and  
Daryl Moore



## President's Message

Stuart Ito



(From left) Jenna Tokeshi, Kathi Omoto Goto, Linda Rickards Ito, Ashley Kimiye Wong, Sandy Kataoka-Fong, Robin Inaba Kim.

## Obon 2019

Another wonderful gathering of friends, families and newcomers to our Temple has passed. We danced to celebrate those people in our lives who came before us and had meaning in our lives. It is one of the most beautiful and meaningful of Buddhist services.

My parents had a tradition where friends and family would gather at their house. My Mom would prepare a great Japanese meal and the kids would hang out and play together in the yard before we all got dressed for Obon. It was especially hectic for the girls to get their kimonos just right before trying to fit into the car for the ride over to the Betsuin. The whole family (with the exception of my father) would come out to enjoy the festivities and dance. But why not Dad? I don't really know. He was not much of a dancer and was quite comfortable sitting at home until we all got back.

In June 2015, my mother passed away. Obon gathering at my "parents' house" now became a gathering at my "Dads' house." Things were different without Mom. It felt different.

For the first time in my life, my father came to Obon that year Mom passed. He wore a Happi coat. He danced.

When I danced this year, I also had Reverend Carol Castle and their entire family in my thoughts. Her passing continues to remind us of the fragile nature of life and how we should cherish each beautiful moment we have with our loved ones.

I would like to especially thank Reverend Bob and Reverend Patti for writing this special article and their heartfelt words.

Thirty-two years ago in July, Reverend Bob officiated at the wedding of Tim Castle and Carol Nagai in the beautiful Hondo of our Sacramento Betsuin. I remember it well, for I was the organist. Grace Hatano was their wedding coordinator and we were all young enough to feel that our lives were still unfolding and we all quietly wondered what the future would hold for us. We had no idea back then how close we would become. But in the past months, as Carol & Tim faced the most difficult of challenges, my heart ached for them, for we had become family. Being asked to write about Carol is an honor, an honor that I am writing with my tears.

During the past nine months, whenever we would visit, our conversations would immediately go to that place where we talked from our hearts. Her journey with cancer was filled with so many unknowns and yet through it all, Carol remained hopeful. She just wanted to have some better days, so she could spend quality time with Tim, Leann, Keri and her parents.

Over the years, as we watched Carol grow into the role of being mother to Leann and Keri, she somehow earned a couple of nicknames. She was known to us as "Mama Bear" — as in, "You don't mess with Mama Bear." Carol's main focus was her family, and Tim was the love of her life, as she was his. It is a given that "Mama Bear" would always "take care of business" — and Carol did. She was always one wanting to take care of others. I mention this only because in our conversations, she would often say that she did not want to be a burden to anyone. "Mama Bear" was a caregiver and unaccustomed to being the one receiving care.

But this was Carol. She was one who always thought of others. She would never say anything bad about people and instead she seemed to always find the good in people.

Carol never complained about the difficulties she went through during her all-too-short battle with cancer. She was always looking at the positives and her will to live was as great and strong as her love for her family. In every way, Carol was teaching her girls how to live life as best they can, loving every moment and every breath, until we can live no more. And I know when Leann and Keri are made to face difficult challenges in their lives, they will draw deeply from the life lessons they have learned from being with their Mom as she faced, head on, the reality of life's fragile nature.

It was around the year 2000 that we first started a chanting class with Reverend Yukawa and RB. Our group consisted of Grace Hatano, Michiko Yukawa, Tim & Carol and myself. This chanting class started when I realized in an earlier conversation with

## In Memory of Rev. Carol Castle

Rev. Patti Oshita &  
Rev. Bob Oshita

## In Memory of Rev. Carol Castle

(Continued)



*Rev. Carol Castle at a youth conference in 2012.*

Michiko that one of the wishes on her bucket list was to receive Tokudo ordination since her mother and mother-in-law both had received Tokudo.

So we started with just learning how to chant. This led to more serious studying. Through it all, Carol was probably the most eager student, for she was the one wanting to meet again and again. Almost every week we met and studied together and laughed together... and effortlessly we grew closer and closer.

In 2003, we all flew to Kyoto where we would experience 10 days of isolated training at Nishiyama Betsuin. This experience was on the verge of unbearable for Carol — not because the training was demanding (which it was), but because for the first time “Mama Bear” was away from her babies. Tim recalled how there were times when Carol was determined to just bust out, find a phone and call home to make sure her girls were okay. Needless to say, even more, our friendship just continued to deepen. Receiving Tokudo together was the real beginning of what we came to call “Team Betsuin.” Our Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) Bishop at that time, Socho Koshin Ogui, created a designation of Minister’s Assistants for those who had received Tokudo. He would later expand this to include those selected by their temple ministers who were dedicated to help maintain their temples.

Within months of returning, our Sacramento Betsuin Minister’s Assistants began a continuing education program we called Mapquest (Minister’s Assistants Program on a Quest to learn more). Socho Ogui felt this was a great idea and asked us to begin a BCA Mapquest Program. With his support, we organized this Mapquest Program for six years. In 2007, four years after receiving Tokudo, Carol, Tim and I returned to Kyoto to receive Kyoshi certification. She would now officially be called Reverend Carol Castle.

Team Betsuin would continue to grow to include Koichi Mizushima, Kelvin Mark and Keith Kato. At the time of our retirement in 2016, this group had become the established Team Betsuin. For that last 16 years Reverend Carol and Reverend Tim have always been right at the heart of our Team Betsuin.

One of the highlights of our accomplishments as Team Betsuin were the 13 years of running the YAC (Youth Advocacy Committee) week-long retreats that we hosted at our Betsuin. Together we all became a family of people we could trust and rely on.

Through it all, Carol remained a true friend and was my loving confidante, especially in the last few months. We shared our fears, our tears and gentle loving hugs I can feel even now. And ever positive, we shared our hopes and dreams for better days that would become better years we could all be together. During our last visit with Carol, she kept thanking us over and over. I had no idea that would be the last time I would see her.

Being able to say that Carol will forever be my friend, is an honor that will always be mine. There are no words to express how grateful I am for her friendship and her love. She is someone I will always hold close to my heart in Nembutsu gratitude.

*Following is the reflection that Reverend Patti Oshita, Assembly Chaplain, used to open the California State Assembly session on July 8.*

**P**lease join me in a moment of reflection. Five days ago, my dear friend Carol Castle lost her brief encounter with cancer. My husband officiated her wedding 32 years ago. Her husband, Tim, Carol and I were ordained together years ago. Carol was my confidante, and I always felt special when she or Tim would say, “We are family.”

She was made to let go of life on the 24th birthday of her youngest daughter, Keri. I’d like to read what Keri shared on that unforgettable day.

“July 3rd. A day to not only celebrate my first breath, but also to cherish my Mom’s last. I am so honored to share July 3rd with my Mom. Throughout her battle with cancer, she proved to be the most courageous person I have ever known. Her grace, determination and strength during the trials she faced will always be imprinted in my heart and mind. Mommy, I love you more than all the stars in the sky. Thank you for July 3rd. Thank you for your love. Thank you for you.”

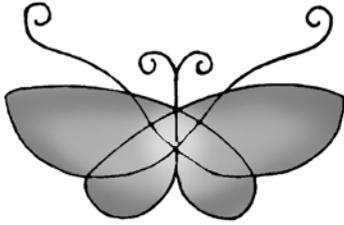
We have cried often together through these past days. I know that each person here knows well the depth of young Keri’s words. But as we said to her, “Our tears of sadness are also our tears of love. How fortunate you are to have been nurtured by such loving kindness.” For that she will be forever grateful. In living life, it is inevitable that we must know loss. But to know unconditional love, this may be the fulfillment of our lives.

Namo Amida Butsu – With Kindness and Gratitude Beyond Words.

## Reflection

Rev. Patti Oshita

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



**Legacy  
Endowment  
Fund**  
Pat McLafferty

おかげさま

**Call for  
Nominations  
for Candidates  
for Board of  
Trustees**

The SBWA held the July monthly Board Meeting on July 10 led by President Loleen Nakano.

**Donations**

Thank you to the ladies listed in the SBWA donations section at the end of the Sangha newsletter for generous donations to the SBWA. The SBWA sincerely appreciates your donations.

**Bazaar Craft Report/Shirley Kato**

In June we received several contributions for the Bazaar craft booth. Thank you to our two project leaders, Judy Inaba (fabric bracelets and ornaments) and Irene Takeda (rock painting), our generous donors Toshie Kobata (yukatas and other Japanese clothing) and Kathy Yamamoto (calligraphy set, norens, and craft materials), and our talented crafters Kathi Omoto (rice sack aprons) and Carolyn Murai (koden envelope sets).

**Upcoming Events for 2019**

**Buddhist Church Bazaar: August 10 and 11.** President Loleen Nakano is requesting your help on the following days and during the Bazaar weekend.

- August 9: Food Preparation – 8 a.m.
- August 10: Sushi/spam musubi making – 2 a.m.
- August 11: Sushi/spam musubi making – 2 a.m.
- August 12: Kitchen/Bazaar Cleanup – 9 a.m.

Please bring an apron and hair covering bonnet or net. Coffee, tea and pastry will be provided each day. Lunch will be provided on Friday, and breakfast will be provided on Saturday and Sunday. Come out and have fun. Bring your family members and friends!

**Next SBWA Meeting**

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

Before joining the Legacy Endowment Fund (LEF) Board, I served on the Betsuin Board of Trustees. This is a first opportunity to thank the members of the Board of Trustees for their warmth and support. The trustees approach their work with heartfelt sincerity and genuineness in guiding and managing the temple. It was an honor to serve among them.

Recently joining the LEF Board, I find the same commitment and sincerity. As I joined the LEF Board, I looked to the its stated purpose: To develop and enable the financial capability for a sustaining endowment fund that cultivates, promotes and sustains the Jodo Shinshu tradition in the Sacramento region.

The LEF Board is continuing to develop guidelines for receipt of gifts and giving personal attention to those who wish to make gifts. The LEF Board is also using the Wall of Appreciation to provide recognition to those individuals and families that wish to be acknowledged. The LEF Board owes a high duty of care to ensure that the funds are soundly invested and, as has been reported, the fund is healthy and growing, and its investment of funds has achieved strong results.

At this time, the LEF Board has initiated an inquiry into what can be done to ensure that the funds entrusted to it are invested in a manner that is consistent with Buddhist principles and values. The concern is that the funds given to the endowment fund are used to further the values espoused in the dharma. As noted above, this is aligned with the purpose of the endowment fund. Besides supporting programs, projects and scholarships, this is another way to fulfill our mission.

I am sure if we discussed several types of business at a LEF Board meeting or any meeting of sangha members, we would have differing opinions about which ones are more aligned with Buddhist values than others. Assessing this alignment with Buddhist values is not a simple matter to determine. However difficult, I don't think it is optional. We owe no less to our donors.

The LEF investment advisor is now performing a review at the board's request and is scheduling at least one presentation to the LEF Board to explore how it might align its investment policy and practice to promote the dharma — or at least not be anathema to those values and principles we hold as the truth of this life.

The Nomination Committee is accepting nominations for candidates for the Board of Trustees for the Sacramento Buddhist Church for the 2020–2022 term. If you or someone you know would like to be placed on the ballot for the upcoming election of officers, please contact Barbara Nakatomi, (916) 813-5440, or Gayle Kono, [gayle\\_kono@yahoo.com](mailto:gayle_kono@yahoo.com), for a nomination form.

Forms must be completed and submitted by August 20, 2019. Thank you.

**10th Annual Sacramento Buddhist Church Golf Tournament**  
Richard Kai

The window to submit your entry form and/or donation to the 10th Annual SBC Golf Tournament is scheduled to close on August 12; HOWEVER, the door is still ajar to enable the "last minute" shoppers to get involved with this year's fundraiser. We will not shut out those who want to be actively involved with the fun-filled event of the summer (with the exception of Obon and Bazaar) nor close the In Memory Of donations to the Betsuin's next best outdoor fundraising event.

Sangha members and friends of the Betsuin can use the In Memory Of donation form to bring back the names of those who have passed or to celebrate the joy of life. The committee will post signage at the golf course to recognize the event's gold, silver and bronze level tee box sponsors and to honor each In Memory Of donation. The event sponsors and raffle prize donors will be printed in the tournament program as an acknowledgment of the committee's appreciation of your support. Please take the time to make your donation to the golf tournament before it's too late.



**10<sup>th</sup> 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 committee expresses its gratitude to the J. Morey Company, Inc., and Carol Takasugi (the temple’s insurance broker) for the generous donation of \$5,000 for a Hole-In-One (HIO — without mulligan) recorded by a golfer at the designated Par 3 during the course of the tournament. This is the fourth year J. Morey Company has sponsored the HIO prize. Tournament players with a nonprofessional status are eligible to win this cash prize. J. Morey is offering an assortment of merchandise prizes for an HIO recorded on the three other Par 3s.

In addition, golfers will receive a “bounce back” certificate that entitles them to a complimentary round of golf at Teal Bend following the tournament play (some restrictions apply). The bounce back certificate is included as part of your entry fee.

The temple’s “iron chefs” will be cooking their favorite luncheon menu items for the golf tournament. Many of our sangha members have feasted on the menus prepared by these chefs at other temple-sponsored events. They have each earned the reputation of preparing meals that are described as “most delish.” We appreciate the time each of them has taken from their regular paying jobs to prepare the menu items for our tournament players and guests.



**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.

**\$500 – Silver Sponsorship:**

Includes Tee Box Sign recognition, two 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.

**\$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

## 10th Annual Sacramento Buddhist Church Golf Tournament (Continued)

Information fact sheets about the golf tournament, sponsorship levels, tournament format and scoring, along with the tournament entry form can be downloaded from the temple website at [www.buddhistchurch.com](http://www.buddhistchurch.com). Entry and sponsor / donor forms are included in the SANGHA newsletter.

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

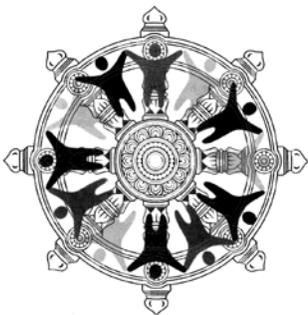
## Remember: Baked Goods for Bazaar

**C**alling all members: Please remember your donations to the Bazaar pastry booth. Looking for whole cakes/pies, cookies, Rice Krispies treats, cupcakes, brownies. No refrigerated items, please.

Please deliver your baked goods to the pastry booth in the back of the kaikan on August 10 or August 11. Your efforts are much appreciated!

## Sacramento Betsuin Choir Festival Report

2019 SHIN BUDDHIST CHOIR FESTIVAL



### IN JOYFUL NEMBUTSU

June 8, 2019  
8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Mountain View Buddhist Temple  
575 North Shoreline Blvd.  
Mountain View, CA 94043

**A**t approximately 6:30 a.m. on June 8, 16 Betsuin Choir members and 15 guests traveled by charter bus funded by the Legacy Endowment Fund to the 2019 Shin Buddhist Choir Festival, "In Joyful Nembutsu," at the Mountain View Buddhist Temple. Five additional choir members and two guests met us in Mountain View for a total of 22 choir members and 17 guests from Sacramento who attended the festival.

The following choirs participated in the festival: Berkeley Buddhist Temple; Mountain View Buddhist Temple; Palo Alto Buddhist Temple; Buddhist Church of Sacramento; Buddhist Church of San Francisco; San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin; Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church.

After registration and coffee social, the morning began with an opening service led by Mountain View's resident minister, Reverend Yushi Mukojima, who tied the concept of different individual voices joining together in harmony to the Buddhist themes of harmony in the world despite individual differences. It was a moving experience to chant the sutra with such a large group of participants.

Following the service, Dr. Stephen Sano, professor of music and director of choral studies at Stanford University, led a very informative and productive warm-up with all choirs. We hope to incorporate the information he provided in our choir practices. There were additional inter-choir activities, followed by a mass choir rehearsal.

After lunch and socializing with choir members and guests from other temples, the individual choir performances were presented. Midway through the individual choir performance, the Sacramento Betsuin Choir, under the direction of Rod Nishikawa,

presented its numbers, "Gaman" from the Broadway musical "Allegiance" and "Like an Eagle," accompanied by Myra Okasaki. Karen Adachi introduced our first number and dedicated it to all members of the audience who had been incarcerated during World War II. Our numbers were quite well-received.

All of the choirs did a wonderful job of presenting their numbers, which ranged from songs done in English and some sung in Japanese. All numbers carried a spiritual message that deeply furthered our appreciation of the Nembutsu teachings.

After the individual choir performances, all choirs joined as one choir to sing "Arigatou," "Ondokusan II" and "Welcome

to San Francisco." The last number will be sung at the opening and closing services of the Buddhist Women's Conference in San Francisco over the Labor Day weekend. Again, singing as one choir with so many others from Northern California was an enriching experience for our choir members.

Following the mass choir performances, we boarded the bus and headed back to Sacramento, arriving around 6:30 p.m. Please accept our deepest gratitude to the Legacy Endowment Fund Committee for funding the charter bus expense to attend this festival. This enabled us to travel to the festival as a large group and further our cohesion in order to express our gratitude to the Nembutsu teaching with one voice.



**Sakura Gakuen  
Adult Class**  
Masako Thomas  
Adult Class Dean



**Notes from the  
Office**

**Office Manager**  
Cindy Kitade

**Office Project  
Coordinator**  
Jennifer Nitta

**Front Office  
Coordinator**  
Mika Matayoshi

**Front Desk Staff**  
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Helen Sakaishi  
Lynn Sunahara  
Marlene Takeoka  
Virginia Uchida  
Faye Uyemura  
Elaine Yoshikawa  
Sandy Yuki

**Sports  
Committee**  
Alan Wu



**F**all semester orientation and registration will be held on Monday, August 26 at 6 p.m. in an annex classroom. The semester will start on Monday, September 9 and will end in January 2010.

We will offer introductory, beginner, intermediate and advanced conversation; basic kanji (second semester); and Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) preparation classes.

Please check our website for details, [www.sakuragakuen.org](http://www.sakuragakuen.org). If you prefer, you may register by mail before the orientation day. We offer the church members a 20% tuition discount. Contact me at [thomas@sakuragakuen.org](mailto:thomas@sakuragakuen.org).

**Bazaar Raffle Tickets**

**B**azaar raffle tickets have been mailed! If you have not received yours and would like to help the Betsuin with our annual ticket sales, please contact the office. If you have sold yours (thank you!) and need more, again, please call the office and we will arrange to take care of your raffle ticket needs!

**Bazaar Time - Temporary Main Entrance**

Please note that Bazaar construction began on July 19, so for safety reasons, the temporary main entrance from now through Bazaar weekend will be the side door on Quinn Avenue (the Alley). Just ring the doorbell during regular hours and the office staff will unlock the door for you.

**Betsuin - Deep-Cleaning Season**

The weeks following Bazaar are the only time of year when large cleaning jobs can be scheduled for the Betsuin. This is because for all the other weeks of the year, there is so much activity! CarpetDeck, carpets and seat cushions in both hondos, stairwells and the Nokotsudo, floors throughout the Main Building and the Annex...ALL are deep-cleaned to get ready for the start of a new Dharma School year! Your understanding and flexibility are greatly appreciated as we work to minimize the impact on regularly scheduled classes and meetings.

**Classes/Meetings - Taking a Summer Break?**

Many thanks to the groups that have already let us know about room reservation cancellations. If you have a recurring meeting on the Betsuin calendar and are planning to take any kind of break over the next month, please inform the office. Your input will help a great deal in our effort to coordinate the deep-cleaning activities mentioned above, as well as the scheduling of the security doors and air conditioning.

**Thanksgiving Holiday - Change in Betsuin Schedule**

Beginning this year, the Betsuin will not be having Dharma School Family Service on the Sunday of Thanksgiving weekend, so the Betsuin will be closed. Our office hours will be:

- Wednesday, 11/27/19: 9 a.m.–12 noon
- Thursday, 11/28/19: CLOSED
- Friday, 11/29/19: CLOSED
- Saturday, 11/30/19: 9 a.m.– 1 p.m.
- Sunday, 12/1/19: CLOSED

**Moving?**

Have you recently moved or are you planning to relocate in the near future? Please be sure to email or call the Betsuin office to let us know! We will change your contact info in our files promptly so that you won't miss a newsletter or special mailing. Informing us ahead of time also saves the Betsuin the "Return to Sender - Postage Due."

**Upcoming Dates**

- Sunday, 8/4/19, 11:30 a.m.: Shotsuki Hoyo Memorial Service
- Monday, 8/19/19–Saturday, 8/31/19:  
Betsuin closes at 4 p.m., Monday–Friday, and at 2 p.m. on Saturday–Sunday
- Sundays, 8/18, 8/25, 9/1/19: No Sangha Service
- Sunday, 9/1/19, and Monday, 9/2/19: Betsuin closed, in observance of Labor Day

**N**ow that it is August, are we over the hump and heading downstream? Downstream to what is the question. Wednesday is considered the hump day of the week, would June–July be the hump months of the year? Now that we are over the hump, let's say it is August 1st. Is it now the proper time to mention that we only have 145 more [holiday] shopping days left? Would that be wrong? Is it too soon? I have a skeptical hunch that the Madison Avenue (in New York) experts are just about ready to bust out all the holiday garb and trimmings.

Even though that circus of events is still 145 days away, let's pull back and look at the August events that we should not forget. How could one forget: National Ice Cream Sandwich Day on the 2nd; National Mustard and National Watermelon Day on the 3rd

## Sports Committee

(Continued)

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.

(these are two separate events; putting mustard on watermelon is not on the bucket list), the ever-popular National Rice Pudding Day on the 9th, and National Trail Mix Day on the 31st, just to name a few.

There are many more in August, but the one that stands out above the rest is the International Left-Hander's Day. Yes, this is an international event, which makes it practically a global affair. People around the world come together to celebrate all that is left-handed. So, on August 13th, help us celebrate Left Handed Day and take a Lefty out to: lunch, dinner, or a tropical island. Since Lefties make up about 10% of the population, consider yourself in rare company when you are with a Lefty! It's a well-known fact that the Lefty is discriminated against everywhere because the world caters to the right-handed, and the Lefty is left to adapt, persevere, and conquer the right-hand bias. Back in kindergarten, there were no left-handed scissors; the teacher would have one pair, but cannot find them; and in later years, there were never any left-handed desks. All the desks had a nice piece of smooth polished Formica that extended all the way to the chair back which gave the right elbow a very comfortable place to rest, thus contributing to a more pleasant learning environment.

Remember, all the top psychologists say: Right-handed people operate in the left side of the brain. Left-handed people use the right side. Therefore, only left-handed people are in their right mind.

Here are people whom you may have heard about who happen to be Lefties: Julius Caesar, Aristotle, Alexander the Great, Mahatma Gandhi, Queen Elizabeth II, Prince Charles, Harry S. Truman, John F. Kennedy, Ronald Reagan, and Barack Obama, just to name a few.

Lefties are such a rare breed and so often misunderstood that they once were thought of as being a witch or warlock; there is even a clinical term that deals with the Lefty: *sinistrophobia*, which is the fear of left-handedness or things on the left side. (Are we sure that this does not apply politically, or does it? Sorry, strike that...must maintain the separation of church and state!)

As rare as Lefties are, there is one place where Lefties are a big deal and not only are in the majority, but they make up 100% of the population — in Left Hand, West Virginia, because everyone is a Left Hander in Left Hand, West Virginia. How about that!

Well, the biggest deal in these parts is our annual Bazaar, this year being held on August 10 and 11. All our sports families should have their shift assignments. Please make sure to show up on time and help us make this year's Bazaar the best one ever. As with Thanksgiving, we should not only be thankful on the fourth Thursday of November, but on every day of the year. Likewise, we should celebrate the Lefties, not only on August 13th, but on every day of the year, because Lefties have rights!

And one more thing from some unknown scholar, soothsayer, and as wise as all the owls in the universe: "Everyone is born right-handed. Only the greatest overcome it."

You were warned that you might learn something here! See you next time.

## Dharma School

Valerie Fong  
Superintendent



**H**ello Everyone! We hope you are enjoying your summer!

### Bazaar and Outdoor Bussing

The month of August is all about the Bazaar. "Thank you" in advance to those families who have signed up to help with outdoor bussing during the shift assigned to each class. We can always use more help and welcome adults, older students, and adults with younger students to join us.

### Become a Teacher Assistant!

Students who are interested in being considered for a teacher assistant (TA) position are encouraged to submit a personal statement. Instructions for preparing a personal statement, plus the attendance and classroom requirements for this position, are available in the church office. Placements will be based on the completeness of the personal statement and the needs of our teachers and classes.

See you at the Bazaar!

### Donations

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

Valerie Fong	Phil & Jenny Law	Sachi Sawada
Brian & Cindy Hatano	Sacramento Buddhist	Emil Watanabe
Grace Hatano	Women's Association	
Fumie Keikoan	Board	
Gail Keikoan		

**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*



- Gilbert Matsumoto ..... December 20, 1933 - May 19, 2019*
- Clara Tamae Hayashi ..... May 9, 1930 - June 12, 2019*
- Hatsuye "Hatts" Sumida ..... February 23, 1924 - June 23, 2019*
- Juichi "Jay" Ikuta ..... June 23, 1916 - June 25, 2019*
- Carol Castle ..... February 16, 1965 - July 3, 2019*

**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
- Eitaikyo: 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.

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