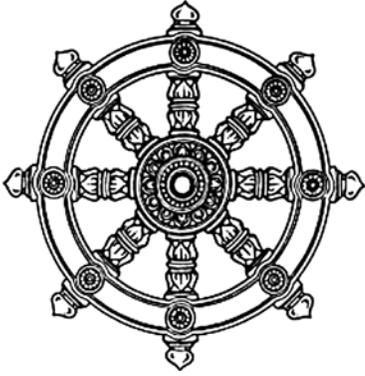


**Interim Rinban
& Supervising
Minister**
Rev. Marvin Harada



Making Shin Buddhism Relevant for Today (Part 2)

This month I would like to continue the topic of making Shin Buddhism relevant for today by discussing some additional key words and terms that might be a source of confusion for many, especially those who are new to Shin Buddhism.
[Editor's Note: See October 2018 SANGHA for Part 1.]

Faith vs. Shinjin — I used to try to avoid as much as possible “loaded” terms that have strong Judeo Christian connotations. One of those terms is “faith.” However, recently I have read a wonderful book by the American Buddhist author Sharon Salzberg titled, “Faith: Trusting Your Own Deepest Experience.” In her book she writes:
“Faith does not require a belief system, and is not necessarily connected to a deity or a God, though it doesn’t deny one. This faith is not a commodity we either have or don’t have—it is an inner quality that unfolds as we learn to trust our own deepest experience.”
p. xiv, “Faith,” by Sharon Salzberg.

Her book helped me to see that faith is not a word that I have to avoid, but that it has an important place in Buddhism and in how we express what is Buddhism.

I recall that my Sensei in Japan, Professor Shigaraki, used to explain faith in the following manner. Faith is like stepping into the ocean. In the beginning, the water

(Continued on page 3)

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Sacramento Buddhist Church
Volume 55 Number 12 - December 2018

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Interim Rinban & Supervising Minister

(Continued)



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Rev. Matt Hamasaki

is shallow, but as we walk deeper out into the ocean, the water becomes deeper and deeper, eventually becoming fathomless.

When we first begin on the path of Buddhism, our “faith” is like that; it is naturally shallow as we just “get our feet wet,” in terms of our learning and understanding. But as we continue on that journey of listening, learning, and reflecting, our faith deepens, our understanding deepens, our conviction deepens. If we really continue on that journey, then our “faith” evolves to what in Shin Buddhism we call “shinjin,” which is to receive the heart and mind of the Buddha as one with our heart and mind. It is to awaken to our true self, to know our truest heart, to encounter the fathomless world of the Dharma.

Evil in Shin Buddhism — Another loaded term is the word “evil,” which you will encounter as you begin to read Shin Buddhist literature. For people who come from a Western, Judeo Christian background, I know from experience in conducting study classes and discussions over the years, that this word really sets people off, or is a roadblock at the very least, to getting into the Shin Buddhist teachings. The word “evil” brings to mind people like Adolf Hitler, or Jeffrey Dahmer. How can Shinran Shonin see himself or we sentient beings as “evil” like those horrendous individuals?

The difficulty with this term is first to address morality and ethics in Buddhism. In the West, I think that people have the concept that religion = morality and ethics. While Buddhism has morality and ethics, it does not stop there, and goes deeper than morality and ethics. What does it mean to go deeper or beyond morality and ethics? It means that even a murderer on death row has the potential to transform their life and to become “awakened” in a Buddhist sense. Their crime as a murderer may not be lessened in a secular or societal sense, but in a “spiritual” sense, they could be more awakened and have a deeper understanding of Buddhism than a “moral, law-abiding citizen,” me, for example.

Adolf Hitler and Jeffrey Dahmer are two examples of individuals who committed horrific crimes in their lives. But from a Buddhist perspective, it is sad that they never met a teacher or teaching that directed them to a path of peace or understanding.

That is why Shinran Shonin feels that although he couldn’t kill even one person, given certain causes and conditions, he might end up killing hundreds or thousands. I always think of the American pilot who flew the B-29 bomber, the Enola Gay, that dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima. That pilot was trained to fly airplanes. He was trained to serve his country. When called for a special mission that might end the war, he accepted that mission. Little did he know the scope of death and destruction the atomic bomb would have on the city and people of Hiroshima.

“Evil” in Shin Buddhism is not just something of the moral and ethical level. This term is trying to point out our innate self-centeredness, our deep-rooted concern for ourselves above all else. Although I don’t kill anything other than an occasional ant or fly with my own hands in my everyday life, I kill every day because of the food that I eat. Someone killed a chicken for my fried chicken. Someone killed a steer for my hamburger or steak. Someone killed a fish for my sashimi. Who is there that is not committing “evil” in that sense in their everyday life? We all take life. In that sense, we are all “evil,” although we live moral, law-abiding, ethical lives.

Shinran Shonin encounters the great compassion of the Buddha as embracing all beings, even the most evil of persons, meaning, himself. He doesn’t think, “Oh, Amida saves even someone as bad as Jeffrey Dahmer.” He thinks, “Amida’s compassion reaches and embraces even a person as bad as me.”

Namuamidabutsu.

Within the ritual aspects of our form of Buddhism, Jodo Shinshu, also known as Shin Buddhism, we carry many cultural traditions taken from Japan, which is where our branch originated. One of the things that many of us are familiar with is the Japanese confection known as manju. I think all of us have seen the small round mounds up on the altar area as symbolic offerings to the Buddha to show our gratefulness for giving us the teachings. And I’m sure many of us have also tasted these tiny cakes for one reason or another because it is a custom passed down from the Japanese immigrants to become part of the culture here in America. It has always been present throughout my life, but I hadn’t given it second thought, so I began to look up the history of manju.

As it turns out, the concept of manju was brought to Japan from China. It originates from a bun called mantou, which has an interesting if not gruesome etymology. In the period of the Three Kingdoms in the third century, a chancellor of one of the states in China came across a river whilst leading his men back from a victory. Although they tried, they could not cross the river no matter what they did as the river was simply too

Resident Minister

(Continued)

tumultuous. A barbarian lord nearby told the chancellor that the barbarians sacrificed 49 of their own and threw their heads into the river in order to calm the deity that resided in it. Not wanting to lose any more lives, the chancellor told his men instead to make steamed buns filled with meat shaped like heads and throw those into the river. Following that, they were able to cross unharmed and the buns were called “barbarian’s head.” However, over time, characters with the same sound but different meaning eventually came into use, so it now literally means “steamed bread bun.”

In Japanese, the characters have the similar meaning with the Japanese pronunciation although the last character in both languages actually still means “head.” When these buns were brought to Japan, legend has it that Japanese priests who went to China brought them back in the 13th or 14th century. And since monks did not eat meat, they instead filled it with sweet bean paste. Its popularity spread and now they are common as souvenirs or gifts, and as such, are common as gifts to the Buddha.

While manju is delicious (to people who enjoy manju) it’s very difficult to eat many manju at once. Because of their sugary nature, they have an intense sweet taste and after a couple of them, one may get sick or an upset stomach. It wouldn’t do well as the main dish for a meal and serves well as a dessert or snack, just a small helping to complement food that is more nutritious and filling.

Within our lives, we have things and events that either make us happy or content. These two things may sound like the same and they are similar, but ultimately they are different. To do something very enjoyable is an intense emotion and is quite fleeting. To be content is a lasting feeling that is not as acute, but which still can be powerful. As Shin Buddhists, we are not taught to deny ourselves the pleasures of life. We shouldn’t stop trying to have fun experiences or buying nice things. But we are encouraged to realize that more than the rush that we get from having such things, it is important to have a content life. Just as we shouldn’t constantly be having manju for all meals of the day and instead should just be having a couple to go along with the meals, we should try to live in such a way in which we are content and find opportunities to have delectable experiences to complement such a life.

President’s Message

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Fusako Takahashi
Virginia Uchida
Faye Uyemura
Sandy Yuki
Elaine Yoshikawa

As the year ends, another begins.

In October, we conducted elections for one-third of the members of the Board of Trustees whose term begins January 1, 2019 by mailing ballots to the sangha members. (Each year, 10 trustees are elected to a three-year term.) In November, the Board of Trustees approved the 2019 slate of officers. We are fortunate to have dedicated leaders working on behalf of the sangha who unselfishly volunteer their time and effort.

Board members elected to serve 2019–2021: *Karen Adachi, Mark Amioka, Valerie Fong, Roger Ikemoto, Cheryl Inouye, *Ron Ishimoto, Stuart Ito, Gordon Nitta, *Russell Oto, *Michael Watanabe.

**Denotes new Board of Trustees member. Note: 270 ballots submitted; 11 disqualified (voted for more than 10).*

Officers and Executive Committee, 2019: President Stuart Ito; President-Elect Gordon Nitta; Treasurer Cheryl Inouye; Secretary Carol Tamai, Auditors: Valerie Fong, Marty Sakata, Sandy Kataoka-Fong; Two Immediate Past Presidents: Brian Hatano, Kelvin Mark; Senior Advisors: Ted Yoshimura, Allan Hoshida.

General Membership Meeting

On October 21, the Board of Trustees held its annual General Membership Meeting after Dharma service. Here’s a summary of some of the topics covered.

- In January, we welcomed Reverend Matt Hamasaki as our new resident minister. Prior to Reverend Matt and his wife Michelle’s arrival, a dedicated team of volunteers headed by Gary Traganza renovated the parsonage. It had served as a rental for several years and was in need of a major facelift. Your generous donations that funded the project are much appreciated.
- Thanks to those of you who volunteered many hours that contributed to the success of the annual Bazaar, our biggest fundraiser of the year that also serves as a cultural exposition for the community and a reunion event to see old friends.
- This year, because of extra expenses and less income than previous years, the Betsuin will finish with a deficit. We are looking for ways to increase current income streams, such as increasing the profitability from the Bazaar, and find other fundraising activities.

Thanks to the crew that prepared fried rice obento for the General Meeting — Dale Louie, Barb & Steve Sasaki, Lesley & Denis Ishisaka, Sharon & Ken Siu and Sharon’s mother, Ken Okuhara, Kim & Marty Sakata.

Koichi Mizushima Named BCA CBE Youth Coordinator

The Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) Center for Buddhist Education (CBE) welcomed Koichi Mizushima as its new part-time youth coordinator. He served as the

President's Message

(Continued)



Sensei Koichi Mizushima

Jr. YBA advisor for the Betsuin for the last 16 years. Koichi brings with him many years of experience in working with young people and will work to help create and run youth programs for high school, college, and young adult ages.

We are fortunate that this position will not affect Koichi's duties at the Sacramento Betsuin as program coordinator and a minister assistant, since it involves only occasional time away from the temple. Congratulations, Koichi!

Chicken Throwdown

Florin Buddhist Church hosted the fifth annual Northern California District Council (NCDC) Chicken Throwdown on November 10, with Walnut Grove prevailing as the winning temple. Runners-up were Lodi and Placer. Florin won the People's Choice Award, followed by Marysville and Lodi. Judges were Lucy Hamai from the Berkeley temple, and Reverend Michael Endo and Judy Kono from BCA.

Thanks to our grillers, James and Mark Amioka, assisted by marinade chef Gordon Nitta; to Reiko Kurahara and Grace Hatano for preparing appetizers; and Tracy Amioka for making the potato salad.

Arigato Gozaimashita

After two years as Sacramento Betsuin president, I am completing my term at the end of December. It's been my honor to serve. I'm grateful for the advice and support by many people that was invaluable. In addition to being guided by the lessons I learned from my mom and dad, I was helped and supported by many temple leaders. I always strove to do my best, working with the Board to maintain the Betsuin's legacy of being an important place for many, serving the community with cultural and spiritual fulfillment.

I am grateful knowing that our future is in good hands with Reverend Matt Hamasaki as our resident minister and Reverend Marvin Harada serving as interim rinban. They, along with Team Betsuin — Reverends Tim and Carol Castle, Senseis Koichi Mizushima, Keith Kato, Kelvin Mark and Grace Hatano — continue to provide lessons in the Buddha-Dharma. Thank you.

Assuming the position of president on January 1 will be Stuart Ito. Stuart and his parents — and now his own family — have been longtime members of the Betsuin. He participated in Dharma School (both as a student and teacher), Boy Scouts, baseball, Sakura Gakuen and Jr. YBA. This year, he headed the Technology Committee, which raised funds to purchase the monitors in the Hondo and install audio upgrades. I know the Betsuin will continue to be successful with his leadership.

At the beginning of my term, and again recently, I contemplated the remarkable accomplishment of the Betsuin's second president, Inokichi Tsuda, who served 21 years from 1907–1927. Jodo Shinshu Buddhism was introduced from Japan to America just a few years prior to his term. With the overwhelming anti-Asian sentiment of that period, I wondered how difficult it must have been establishing the temple in Sacramento.

I mentioned Tsuda-san in a previous SANGHA message as someone who must have endured great hardship and prejudice, yet persevered. He dedicated himself to the success of the temple for more than two decades. Difficult to fathom that level of dedication; his long legacy is one to admire, one that serves as an inspiration to all of us. To Tsuda-san and all our past leaders who laid the foundation for us, we owe a debt of gratitude beyond words.

To the sangha and Board of Trustees, ministers and minister assistants, office staff and Bob Chavez, thank you for your support, kindness and words of encouragement. You inspired me to strive for excellence, to do more and to do better as we worked together on behalf of the temple. Namō Amida Butsu.

I regret to inform you that the annual Sacramento Betsuin calendar has ceased publication. I know many of you enjoyed seeing photos of the year's activities, your friends and even yourself. We are looking at alternate ways of presenting a year-end compilation of photos. The reason for discontinuing the calendar is to alleviate confusion. The numerous events at the church sometimes required shuffling dates and/or times. As a result, the calendar printed months ahead of time had out-of-date, erroneous information.

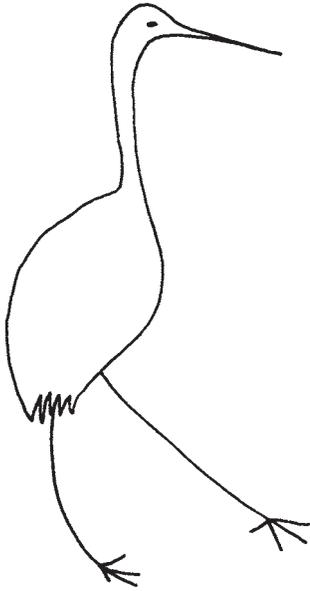
For up-to-date information on church activities, please refer to the calendar in the monthly SANGHA newsletter and even better, the calendar on our website, www.BuddhistChurch.org.

Thank you to Diane Shimosaka, Cliff Adams, and Ann Amioka for their many years of creating the calendar.

Annual Calendar

Brian Hatano

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



**Minister
Assistants**
Koichi Mizushima

We began our monthly SBWA Board meeting with another inspirational message by Reverend Matt Hamasaki. It is always nice to begin each meeting with his uplifting messages and encouragement to becoming active members of the SBWA and the temple.

We had a short presentation by Board President-Elect Stuart Ito, who asked the SBWA to provide him with suggestions on new programs for our temple and any changes that we would like made. If any of you who read this message have ideas, please email or write down your suggestions and leave them in the temple office for Stuart.

SBWA Events

- **Hoonko – November 11:** Thank you to the SBWA ladies who came out on Saturday and Sunday to prepare the spam and bacon fried rice for Hoonko. Thank you to Elaine Yoshikawa for chairing this event, Marty Matsuda for washing the rice, Wayne Kurahara and Stephen Kashiwada for helping us, to Mollie Oto and Oto's Marketplace for donating the rice, and to Reiko Kurahara for setting up the refreshments. The congregation enjoyed this different otoki item this year.
- **Tsuito Hoyo Service and Bonenkai – December 9:** Invitations have been sent to everyone. If you would like to donate a door prize, please take it to the Kaikan stage before the morning service on Sunday, December 9, and sign your name on the gift donation sheet. Please make an effort to attend the Tsuito Hoyo Service at noon, especially new members and SBWA Cabinet officers. Then, we look forward to seeing you at the luncheon. It should be another fun Bonenkai party!

Next SBWA Meeting

The next SBWA Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 5, 2018, starting at 5:45 p.m. in the Hondo for a short service by Reverend Matt Hamasaki, followed by the meeting in classrooms 1 and 4.

It's hard to believe that December is already here. It has been unusually warm here in Sacramento for so long, that I think most of us welcome the cooler weather. As we start to gear up for the holiday season, we all tend to get a little busier at this time of year. But I hope everyone can take a moment, and remember what is truly important about this time, and not get too stressed out.

I was driving on the freeway the other day, and all of a sudden, I was caught in what seemed like a dust storm. There was debris everywhere in the air, and it looked like something had exploded! It was actually so bad that it was starting to impair my vision of the road ahead. I kept my course, thinking that it would eventually dissipate, but things were not improving. I kept wondering what could have caused all this debris.

And there it was. A few car lengths ahead, I saw the giant truck transporting large bales of hay. And as I started to pass the truck, my path eventually started to clear up. And within moments, the road ahead of me was completely clear and there was no evidence that anything was out of the ordinary.

Isn't it interesting that even though we are all traveling on the same path at the same time, we are all experiencing different things. This is just like our lives. Although we attend the same schools, or live in the same neighborhoods, or even work at the same jobs, our life experiences are all completely different.

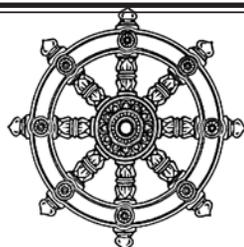
It is important for us to remind ourselves that we are not always aware of what everyone else is going through at any given moment. We often think only about our own "road," and do not take the time to think about what other people are experiencing. So let us remind ourselves that although we may be experiencing the world in a certain way, that doesn't mean everyone else is seeing it the same way we are. Let us make the effort to reach out and understand each other better, and share our different views and understandings, so we can all live together in harmony. If we make the effort to think more about others, and not just ourselves, we can live a better life of caring and understanding.

Sangha Staff

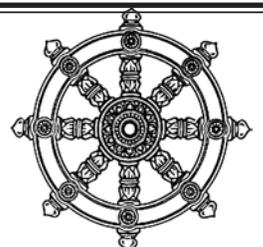
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Mizushima
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Dharma School Valerie Fong
Girl Scouts Corlene Goi
Sports Cmte Alan Wu



Welcome New Members



*Ron & Shaira Shintaku
Michael Shintaku*

**Legacy
Endowment
Fund**
Ruth Seo

おかげさま

One of my greatest joys as a retired teacher is meeting a former student whose greeting is, "Do you remember me?" Sometimes the voice is a clue, but as 15 years have passed since my classroom days, I usually stall, peering into the adult face trying to recognize the youth of years gone by. Surprisingly, once the person says his or her name, recognition of their young face occurs. As I get an update of his or her life journeys since elementary, middle or Dharma School, I am filled with pride and happiness because I feel, as many teachers do, that my students are always "one of my kids." We share the joys of their successes and sadness of disappointments. Recently, after reconnecting with a student who approached me asking, "Do you remember me?" I was overcome with an overwhelming appreciation for having had the opportunity to work with so many wonderful students who are now passing on their knowledge and talents to enrich the world. The truth of interconnectedness and interdependence in our Jodo Shinshu tradition teaches us the importance of being mindful of our words and actions as their consequences reach far and are long lasting, and to be thankful for the many people who bring joy and meaningfulness into our lives.

Buddhist Education Class

"Attachment, Love and Loss: A Shin Perspective of Grief" is the topic for the next Buddhist Education Class on Sunday, December 2, from 11:30-1 p.m. Reverend Candice Shibata of the Florin Buddhist Church is the featured presenter. With a master's degree in psychology and experience as a therapist working with children, she is well qualified on this topic. Register at the office or drop in for the class. \$10 donation.

Free Seminar

Leaving a Legacy: Making the Most of Your Charitable Donation: This free seminar on Sunday, December 9, at 11:15 a.m. in classrooms 1 and 4, will discuss charitable giving, trusts and wills, stocks/bonds/IRAs and other ways to donate. With 2018 drawing to a close, this workshop can be helpful in preparing the end-of-year financial plans.

Thank You, Allan Hoshida

Special thanks to Allan Hoshida, who has served as chairperson of the Legacy Endowment Fund Board for the last two years, and as a committee member for many years. Allan's leadership guided us through the creation of the Wall of Appreciation, as well as numerous other projects over the years.

Thanks, also to Sandy Tokunaga, secretary of the board, Greg Matayoshi, treasurer, and committee members Ted Yoshimura, Koichi Mizushima, Brian Hatano, and Gordon Nitta. It has been a pleasure working with this group.

Happy Holidays and Best Wishes for 2019.

**Sacramento
Betsuin Wall of
Appreciation**
Koichi Mizushima

In 2014 the Legacy Endowment Fund Board began planning a project that could express our deep appreciation for the Sacramento Buddhist Church, and all the people who have been a part of its 100+ year history. And after many months of discussion and research, the board agreed to contract with the San Francisco-based firm nddCreative to help design and develop this project. After many months of collaboration and brainstorming, the group came up with the idea for the Wall of Appreciation (WOA).

The location of the WOA was carefully chosen to be in the hallway next to the Main Hondo directly across from the outdoor garden. We searched through old albums, and asked members to submit photos to the committee. These photos became the inspiration behind the design. The photographs are representations of the theme — honoring the past, appreciating the present, and planning for the future. The completed project was unveiled in February 2017. At present we have almost 100 donors who have contributed to this deeply meaningful project.

We deeply appreciate all the people who have donated to the WOA. Donors are able to create a personalized nameplate that will become a permanent part of the wall. Donors may designate their funds to go to the Temple's General Fund, or the Legacy Fund. All the donations help sustain the Sacramento Betsuin's mission to share the Dharma and be a vibrant part of the Sacramento community. The Betsuin is such an important place to so many people, and none of it would ever be possible without the countless supporters and volunteers.

This project was initially created to show our appreciation for the Sacramento Betsuin. But as I witness the generosity, support, and love shown by the countless supporters, I am humbled by their dana spirit. The WOA is the physical manifestation of the Three Treasures — the Buddha, the Dharma and the Sangha. All are equally important. One cannot exist without the other. And I have the deepest feeling of gratitude to be a part of this amazing tradition.

If you are interested in becoming a Wall of Appreciation donor, please contact the office for a donation form. If you have any questions, please contact Koichi Mizushima: bkmizu@gmail.com or schedule an appointment. I look forward to your visit, and thank you for all that you do.

Notes from the Office

Thank You for the New Shelving

Endless thanks to James and Mark Amioka for donating materials and James' HOURS of workmanship to install new storage shelving for the Betsuin office! This has been a longtime wish-listed item and now that it's complete, we have huge hopes of getting ourselves... ORGANIZED! Thank you, James and Mark, for your generosity!

Lost and Found

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

Reminder: New Betsuin Hours Began November 24!

Earlier this summer during one of the busiest times of the year for the Betsuin, we conducted an extensive five-week timestudy in the office. After much discussion of the findings, the Executive Board made the decision to reduce the public hours of the operation. Our new office hours will NOT affect the scheduling of funerals or memorial services for families.

Betsuin Office Hours are now:

Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Saturday & Sunday, 9 a.m.-2 p.m.

'Temporarily Away' Post Office Notifications

Our returned mail had been at an all-time low for months, but recently, we have experienced an uptick. Returned newsletters can cost the Betsuin anywhere from .50-.92 each! If you know that you will be away OR if you have moved and have a new address, please be sure to notify the Betsuin office.

Betsuin Calendar

Sunday, 12/9: 12 noon: Shotsuki Hoyo Memorial Service
Sunday, 12/16: Installation of Officers
Sunday, 12/31, 7 p.m.: Joya-E Service
Monday, 1/1/19, 9:30 a.m.: Shusho-E Service
Otoki to follow. Please bring a dish to share!

December Holiday Office Hours

Sunday, 12/23: Betsuin open 9 a.m.-12 noon
Monday, 12/24: Betsuin CLOSED
Tuesday, 12/25: Betsuin CLOSED — Merry Christmas!
Monday, 12/31: Betsuin open 9 a.m.-12 noon

January Holiday Office Hours

Tuesday, 1/1/19: Betsuin CLOSED after Otoki — Happy New Year!
Wednesday, 1/2/19 - Betsuin CLOSED
Thursday, 1/3/19 - Betsuin CLOSED

2018 Family Memorial Service Schedule

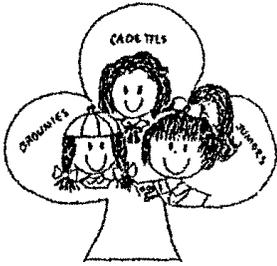
Traditionally, family memorial services are held for loved ones on designated anniversaries. These are precious occasions to honor the treasured memories of our beloved ones and to realize how fortunate we are to be embraced by Amida Buddha's light of wisdom and life of compassion.

Table with 4 columns: Year of Death, 2018 Memorial, Year of Death, 2018 Memorial. Rows include years 2017, 2016, 2012, 2006, 2002 and 1994, 1986, 1969, 1919 with corresponding memorial years.

Condolences to the Families Of Ine Mayeda.....September 9, 1932-November 8, 2018. Includes decorative lotus flower icons.



Girl Scout Troop 569 Corlene Goi



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.

The Investiture and Rededication Ceremony was held on Friday, November 3. Girl Scout Troop 569 welcomes Daisies 1: Haley Eldridge, Mia Schlenker, Sierra Whittaker; Daisies 2: Ella Frink, Nora Moss; Brownies 3: Hana Zhu; and Juniors 1: Lily Agraan.

Congratulations to **Bronze Award** recipients: Sophia Jackson, Kiara Lustig, Kacie Shinmoto, Remy Tanamachi, Kaylee Wong, Gracyn Yee; **Silver Award** recipients: Emi Brennan, Raven Gellerman, Isabella Kim, and Ellie Mizushima.

In November, **Ambassadors 1** participated in their last Investiture Ceremony. The troop was also grateful to host Wayne Kitade, retired captain of the Elk Grove Police Department, who discussed personal safety and interviewing skills.

In September, **Seniors 1** took an exciting trip to Monterey and slept over at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. After eating at Bubba Gumps, they headed inside the aquarium with their pillows and blankets. They changed into their pj's and had the opportunity to explore the aquarium. When they were done, everyone set up camp in the Open Sea Exhibit and watched the sea turtles, sharks, manta rays, and schools of fish as the seniors grew tired and eventually fell asleep.

After a good night's rest, they packed themselves up and reloaded the car. Before leaving, the seniors walked down Cannery Row, shopping around the local stores and making good memories with their Girl Scout sisters.

After leaving Monterey, they made a quick pit stop at Pizza My Heart and hung out at a beach in Pacific Grove. They all had smiles on their faces as they ran through the water and walked along the shore. The seniors finally headed home, tired yet fulfilled, after a fun weekend in Monterey.

A special thank you to Janet Kawamoto and Kristi Morioka for driving and coordinating this exciting Monterey sleepover excursion!

Well there is no avoiding it; it seems as though winter has finally arrived. It seemed to have happened overnight. We were enjoying the moderate temperatures that were hovering around the high 70's and even getting up to 80 with the evenings only going down to the mid-50's — then, boom... the high became the 60's and the lows dropped to the 30's, so now the calendar truly matches the air outside.

Speaking of the air outside, the warm weather may have contributed to one of the worst fires Northern California has seen, which produced unhealthy and hazardous air.

One day Northern California had the worst air quality in the entire world! Yes, the entire world — which includes countries that do not have environmental programs in place to promote clean air and allow their factories and automobiles to spew out all kinds of junk into the air, and we had worse?... more worse?... the worst?... the most bad?... you know, we had the dirtiest air of the whole planet.

Because of the poor air, businesses closed down, schools closed, and we even canceled a Sunday service to help keep people inside and lessen the need to go outside. Breathing masks were distributed at fire stations and elsewhere, and we all got an education of what a mask with an N95 particulate rating means.

Hopefully the worst has passed, and hopefully you wore a mask outside; the air had all kinds of nasty stuff in it. AND Remember, Only You Can Prevent Forest Fires!

What is ahead of us is our annual Mochi Tsuki. This year the Mochi Tsuki date is December 15, beginning around 4:30 a.m. By now all our sports families should be aware of the work shift assignments and if you do not, please contact your team mom.

[Reservation form to order mochi is on page 11 of this issue of the SANGHA.]

What is going on right now is the NCCL (Northern California Church League) basketball. We have had a couple weeks' worth of games now, and it all looks good.

What is a constant: the attendance requirement, so we all hope you have been attending Dharma School class and service.

What is coming up are attendance extra credit days. Not just one extra credit is coming up, but two, yes, two extra credit opportunities await you for your easy picking.

Just show up and attend the New Year's Eve service on December 31 and you will get 1 extra credit for attendance. You will also get to ring the kanzo!

Sports Committee
(Continued)

Just show up for the New Year's Day service on January 1, and you will get 1 extra credit for attendance. Afterwards you may have the chance to have a new year's toast with the reverends.

Nothing could be easier to pick up extra credit!

Stay safe and be kind to your lungs... they're the only two you have!



SACRAMENTO BETSUIN SPORTS PROGRAM

MOCHI TSUKI

FINAL DAY TO PRE-ORDER: FRIDAY, 12/7/18

| | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| PICK UP: | <u>SAT, DEC 15, 2018, 12:00 - 2:00 P.M.</u> or Sun, Dec 16, 2018, 9:00-11:00 a.m. |
| WHERE: | Sacramento Buddhist Church Kaikan/Gym |
| Pre-Order Cost thru 12/7: | \$5.00/pound and \$6.00/Okasane Set |
| Cost after 12/7/18: | \$6.00/pound and \$8.00/Okasane Set |

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

Drop-off or mail to:

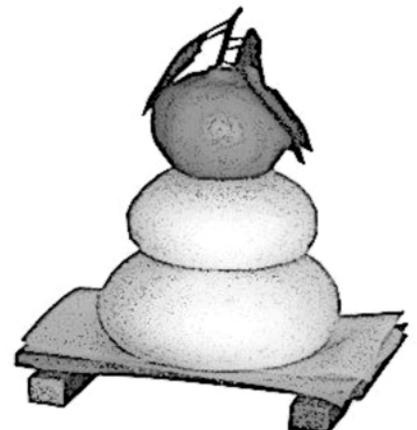
Buddhist Church of Sacramento
2401 Riverside Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95818-2233

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



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

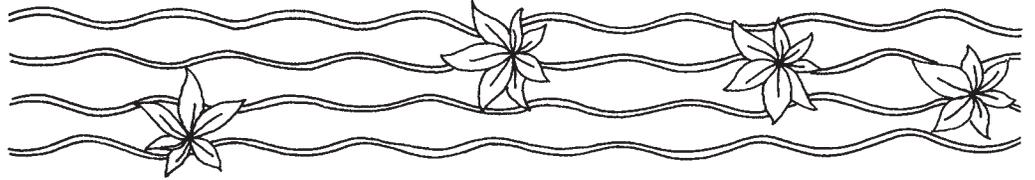
MOCHI ORDER



Shotsuki Hoyo Monthly Memorial Service

On the first or second Sunday of every month, usually at 11:30 a.m. in the Main Hondo, we observe a special memorial service known as Shotsuki Hoyo. This service is dedicated as a time to remember and express gratitude for our family members and friends who have passed away during the month of the year in which the service is held.

Please join us for our next Shotsuki Hoyo Memorial Service, scheduled for noon on December 9. Come to the office beforehand to provide your loved one's name to be included in the service by the minister. If you have a Homyo card for your loved one(s), you are welcome to bring it to service to be placed on the onaijin.



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Where Does Your Donation Go?

Brian Hatano, President

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.