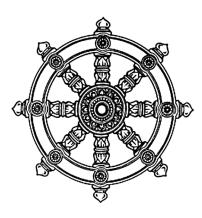
Resident Minister Rev. Matt Hamasaki



s we begin the new year, I feel like we are all looking forward: toward getting out of the pandemic, toward continuing our journey toward a new normalcy, toward a better, brighter future. While a lot of this is personal, of course we also have a vision for what our temples will look like. For us to have gotten so far, and to carry us into the next phase of our temple's success, it will take the collective efforts of many people with many different talents and expertise.

This is one of the great strengths of our community: to be able to draw upon a diverse group of people that can help with just about any job. One of the places that we (and myself especially) can use some extra help is with the ministerial responsibilities. There is a shortage of the number of ministers to the numbers of temples right now and many ministers are overseeing multiple temples. Fortunately, we have the minister's assistant programs where, under the guidance and supervision of a resident minister, people can learn and perform certain duties.

In my training to become minister, I was a minister's assistant at my home temple while I was attending the Institute of Buddhist Studies. Having or pursuing a graduate degree is not a requirement for being a minister's assistant; a deep respect for the teachings and a willingness to learn would be the qualities that a resident minister would look for in a person. I enjoyed my time as a minister's assistant as I was able to learn practical things about the temple, like how to set up the altar area and how to run a service. Just like anything else, it was intimidating at first, but with practice and the support of my

(Continued on page 2)

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

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SANGHA

Sacramento Buddhist Church Volume 59 Number 1 – January 2022

Sacramento Betsuin

2401 Riverside Blvd. Sacramento, CA 95818 (916) 446-0121 (916) 446-1866 FAX betsuinoffice@ buddhistchurch.org

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Resident Minister



Reverend Matt Hamasaki (916) 926-2221 RevMatt@buddhistchurch.org

President's Message Gordon L. Nitta

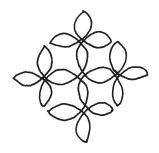
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Sacramento
Buddhist
Women's
Association
Barbara Nakatomi



teachers and peers, it became much more comfortable. And as I progressed, naturally I asked questions and had discussions with other minister's assistants, so I became more familiar with things like the names of pieces, Buddhist concepts, and why we do what we do. It felt more organic and stuck with me longer than if it had come from a lecture. And soon enough, I was entrusted to be able to run services on my own! I was even asked to answer questions from school groups that visited temples (which oftentimes asked me questions that I had to ask my supervising minister afterwards).

Either way, I would encourage anyone who feels like they would like to help the temple, enjoys learning about Buddhism, and has a reverence for Jodo Shinshu to inquire about becoming a minister's assistant. Probably the most frightening aspect of becoming a minister's assistant is the public speaking. However, being able to overcome the challenge can be personally rewarding, and hopefully also rewarding for those who are in attendance

I will make the caveat that since they are "minister's assistants," it is up to the resident minister's discretion as to who they would like to work with, but I hope this doesn't discourage anyone! It is an important responsibility and truly humbling experience to be able to serve the temple in such a meaningful way. Please let your temple leaders know, and if you're in a temple that I'm overseeing, let me know as well!

appy New Year, 2022! I hope all is well with you and your families. 2021 was another trying year for all of us, as we invested so much in our efforts to keep our families and community healthy — physically and mentally — from COVID's impact.

We will continue to monitor local and state guidelines and mandates, updating our COVID safety protocols as set forth by our Church Usage and Reopening Committees, as needed. Please know that proof of vaccination and mask wearing inside the Betsuin will continue to be our standards for the foreseeable future. Our New Year's resolution is: Do all that we can to keep our sangha safe as we move forward with the gradual opening of the temple's in-person activities.

I want to extend my deep gratitude to those members of our sangha who have attended Sunday dharma services and then contacted the temple when they found out that they had tested positive for COVID or had a close contact with someone who contracted the virus. Since reopening for Sunday services in mid-September, we have had two instances arise, one in November and one in December. Each time, we sent an email notification to those who asked to be contacted in case of a positive report being made (or if we have your contact information already on file and know that you attended the particular service).

The name/names of those reporting are kept in confidence. The care and concern these individuals have for our sangha is evident in their willingness to share their status in a timely manner (in both cases, we were made aware the day of the positive test). I know we all hoped for complete and quick recoveries for them. I also want to thank everyone who has followed our masking and social distancing protocols — you are helping to protect yourself and others, and you are also making it possible for the Betsuin's Reopening Plan to move forward!

Sunday, January 9, 2022, 9 a.m., will be the Board of Trustees Installation Service. The elected officers and 10 2022 trustees will be sworn in during our Dharma Service to serve a three-year term. I look forward to having you join us in person or virtually to help welcome and thank these dedicated individuals who volunteer to serve our temple and sangha.

My very best to all of you in the new year!

appy New Year 2022 to all SBWA members and sangha! It's a time for reflection, for living in each moment and for looking ahead to all the things that we can become. In looking back, I reflect on all those who have touched my life through the years and this past year. I am grateful for the connection that we shared and the contributions we have made to each other's lives. The longer I live, the more I realize we are all connected to each other through each other. It's lasting interdependence.

In looking ahead, it's my wish to continue to live with kindness to others and a passion for living. Through this past year of continued pandemic, I've had a chance to realize my intention on focusing on being more kind and appreciating that I can focus on the small things that I was previously "too busy" to notice. Our lives are full of so much richness that can sometimes be taken for granted.

Like other families, the family gatherings we have enjoyed this year have been so extra special — occasions not lost in busy-ness. As we said goodbye to my mother, welcomed a beautiful baby, celebrated a beautiful wedding, and shared family dinners — all this and more time for appreciation.

While not actually "going to church," we fortunately have the Buddha-Dharma sermons and practices available through the technology of the expanded virtual services. (Thanks Technology Committee!)

Sacramento Buddhist Women's Association (Continued)

Adult Buddhist Association Jean Kashiwada ABA President

Sangha Staff

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

Contributing Reporters

President Gordon Nitta
SBWA Barbara
Nakatomi
Legacy Fund Allan Hoshida
ABA Jean
Kashiwada
Sakura Gakuen Masako

Thomas
Girl Scouts Gina Lourenco
Sports Cmte Alan Wu

It is my hope that we get to remain safe from the dreaded COVID diseases while we avail ourselves to more opportunity for connection outside of our cocoons without getting "too busy" to appreciate all the moments for gratitude and reflection.

I look forward to beginning in-person services and realize that is also subject to change. Hope to see you all soon!

Dear ABA Members and Friends,

appy Holidays to all of you! We hope that 2021 was a good year with lots of joy and happiness. It certainly was very challenging! Throughout the year, COVID-19 and other challenges of life did not offer smooth sailing; however, it was as Reverend Oshita used to describe, "a bumpy road" instead.

Nonetheless, there is much to be grateful for, as we were able to enjoy a few gettogethers with family and friends and enjoy a few activities and trips. Even ABA was able to have a few outdoor "in-person" meetings, rather than via Zoom. ABA was also able to help introduce and kick off a Senior Escort Service to provide assistance and a feeling of security for seniors wanting to get out.

In addition to the Escort Service, ABA sought to expand the ABA Scholarship Education Fund by helping Dharma School students save for college by making annual contributions to their 529 College Savings Accounts. In this way, the ABA Education Fund will be expanded to include the Scholarship Awards to graduating seniors, the Community Service Awards to graduating seniors, and now the 529 College Savings Account awards that will benefit all Betsuin Dharma School students. Past President Wayne Kurahara has volunteered to chair the 529 College Savings Account award and will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

This year, ABA was not able to host its Annual "Pupu Party" benefit for the ABA Scholarship Education Fund due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In lieu of the annual fundraiser, we are simply doing a 2021 ABA Scholarship Education Fundraiser on Facebook by making a personal appeal to ABA members and friends. Contributions may be made online or by sending your donations directly to the Buddhist Church of Sacramento at 2401 Riverside Boulevard, Sacramento, CA 95818. When making your donations directly to the Buddhist Church of Sacramento, please make a notation that it is for the ABA Scholarship Education Fund.

Please share this short note with your family and friends. If you are on Facebook, please "like" and "share" the fundraiser posts. I would like to thank ABA Past President Wayne Kurahara for chairing this fundraiser and posting the details on Facebook. He has provided this link to the Facebook Fundraiser: https://www.facebook.com/donate/441418994035135/10220876964854221/

At this time, I would like to thank my current ABA officers for their support. We are hoping 2022 will be a much better one for all of us. On behalf of the ABA Board, thank you for supporting ABA!

et your goal to learn or improve your Japanese in 2022! Registration is now open for spring semester 2022. Both Saturday youth and Monday adult classes are virtual Zoom classes.

The discount price for church members continues to be \$150 per class. Please check our Sakura Gakuen website for the details: *https://sakuragakuen.org*.

Contact by email:

- Saturday Youth Dean at tomomi.sakuragakuen@gmail.com.
- Monday Adult Classes Dean at thomas@sakuragakuen.org.

raditionally, 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	2021 Memorial	Year of Death	2021 Memorial
2021	1 year	1998	25 year
2020	3 year	1990	33 year
2016	7 year	1973	50 year
2010	13 year	1923	100 year
2006	17 year		·



Condolences to the Family Of



Yoshiko Morisawa.....December 15, 1926-November 28, 2021

Sakura Gakuen Masako Thomas Adult Class Dean



2022 Family Memorial Service Schedule

Legacy Endowment Fund

Allan Hoshida



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: Sangha@buddhistchurch.org with a cc to: betsuinoffice@buddhistchurch.org and inform the church office at (916) 446-0121. Please include the author's name. Thank you.

appy New Year 2022 and best wishes from the Legacy Endowment Fund Board! Hope this finds all of you in good health. With COVID vaccines/boosters now available, the temple leaders/usage committee have been monitoring the health directives and slowly/gradually opening up our church facilities for services, family memorials and gatherings, so this is providing hope and encouragement for the new year. Please observe all requested vaccine safeguards, latest health directives, proper protocols/masks/social distancing, etc., while visiting the temple facilities and please stay safe and healthy.

I would like to thank the following sangha volunteer members for their leadership and guidance for calendar year 2021 in service to the Legacy Endowment Fund Board (LEFB):

Chairperson: Allan Hoshida Treasurer: Greg Matayoshi Secretary: Sandy Tokunaga

LEFB Members: Ruth Seo, Ted Yoshimura, Pat McLafferty, Gayle Kono

Betsuin Past President: Stuart Ito Betsuin President: Gordon Nitta Betsuin President-Elect: Karen Adachi Resident Minister: Reverend Matt Hamasaki

Annual Applicant(s) Report

2021 Summary of Legacy Endowment Fund projects approved / funded by the Legacy Board, totaling approximately \$30,113.64:

- Approved: publication costs for temple member individual Seiten Service Books. Thank you to Reverend Matt, Reverend Patti/Reverend Bob, Reverend Tim, Minister Assistants for initiating/planning/coordinating this personal dharma book provided to each of our temple members and their families. Especially during the pandemic, this service book has been a great resource to have and be able to refer to at any time.
- Approved: Buddhist Church of Sacramento Telethon Legacy Fund Financial
 Donation to help support fundraising effort by the whole Betsuin temple community.
- Approved: Purchase of AV Equipment (audio, video, laptop computer and software) to host 2021 75th Anniversary Bazaar At Home Edition livestream event on August 14, 2021, as well as future livestream or recorded events at the Betsuin. Thank you to AV Chair Stuart Ito, Telethon Co-Chairs Karen Adachi and Koichi Mizushima, and the entire telethon fundraising committee for a very successful Bazaar At Home Edition to help raise funds in place of our canceled annual Food and Cultural Bazaar.
- Approved: Sacramento Buddhist Church Annual 2021 Golf Tournament Fundraising event: Gold sponsorship.
- Approved: Donation to Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple/Los Angeles, in support/encouragement after arson damage to their temple facilities.
- Approved: Funding request for Reverend Matt Hamasaki robes/garment purchase.
- Approved Betsuin Choir masks and lamp purchase (note: this funding made possible due to special donation specifying support for the Betsuin music program).

Wall of Appreciation donations received for 2021:

- Paul and Nancy Helman
- In Gratitude to Our Ancestors: Brian, Cynthia, Cirby & Bryson Hatano
- Nishijima Family: In Memory of Shuzo Kumano Kanji Shiz; Love, Jane, Bonnie, Dan,
- Curtis, Emily & Kyle Ishii, Trenton & Krystal Tanioka
- Jerry & Sandy Tokunaga
- Keith, Karen & Kyle Adachi
- In Memory of Sam Isamu Ito
- Legacy Endowment Fund Board
- Bill Yamasaki
- Steve and Janice Muraki
- Kristy Ishihara
- Kelvin Mark & Cheryl Lieu
- Nobie and Marie Taketa
- Anonymous

The above donor list/nameplates are being finalized and will be placed onto the Wall of Appreciation by early February 2022. Thank you for your support of the Buddhist Church of Sacramento/Legacy Endowment Fund and historic Wall of Appreciation project. Due to many generous donations, the Legacy Endowment Fund will be able to fund many more future worthy projects.

If you/your family wish to donate to the Wall of Appreciation, please fill out the Wall of Appreciation Donor Form and send it to the church office.

Finally, if there are any projects/proposals you and/or your organization may wish to be considered for future legacy funding and which meet the criteria established by the LEFB, please fill out/sign and send into the church office the Legacy Endowment Request for Funding Form.

Thank you and take care. Let us know how the Legacy Endowment Fund Board can help/support you and your family.

Thursday Night Health & Wellness



oin us for these friendly, informative sessions. Ask questions and learn about steps you can take to ensure a healthy and happy life for yourself and those around you!

Please sign up at *BetsuinPrograms@buddhistchurch.org*Buddhist Church of Sacramento, 2401 Riverside Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95818-2233

Dancefit with Jules Introduction to Latin, hip hop, cardio routines with full body toning exercises for all ages! Thursday, January 20, 2022 – 6:30 p.m.



Julie Honda-Tsuye Dancefit Instructor



When Is It Time to Get a Hearing Aid?

Understanding hearing, hearing loss, and how hearing aids work

Thursday, February 18, 2022 - 6:30 p.m.



Tod Borges Hearing Aid Dispenser

Weekly Yoga Via Zoom

Interested in learning something new?

The Yoga for Health class is designed for any age and physical condition.

Join us for weekly yoga classes with Bob Matsueda via Zoom every Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. starting again January 5, 2022.

For more information and Zoom link, contact *betsuinprograms@ buddhistchurch.org*.



Introduction to Buddhism

Introduction to Buddhism With Reverend Matt Hamasaki



Third Monday of Each Month
7 p.m. via Zoom
January 17,
February 21, March 21

Please RSVP to BetsuinPrograms@buddhistchurch.org

Cirl Scout
Troop 569
Cina Lourenco



It's hard to believe December is already past! Troop 569 continues to find creative, fun, and safe ways to meet. Cadettes 1 got together in December to plan a community service project related to the problem of food insecurity being experienced by many families. Vaccinations and masks are allowing troops to have more flexibility to gather in person and indoors in small numbers.

So, half the troop met by the warm, cozy fireplace on a particularly rainy and blustery day and then enjoyed baking and decorating gingerbread cookies together. Several other scouts joined via Zoom, making for an interesting hybrid meeting. Fun and productive!

Heather Koike from Cadettes 1 has been busy building a Free Library box for her Silver Award project. She selected Roberts Family Development Center in Del Paso Heights as the agency where she will install the Free Library box. She has been learning woodworking from troop parent Ramon Reyes. Heather's plan is to install the Free Library box in the center's Computer Café to benefit youth. Great job Heather!

The Cadettes 3 scouts have been learning about outdoor preparedness for a camping trip, including meal planning, making a camping supplies list and having a discussion about inclement weather. As a fun project, the girls made origami butterfly ornaments and enjoyed hot chocolate to celebrate the holidays.

It's almost cookie time! Troop 569 Girl Scouts will begin taking online and in-person cookie orders in January.

If you missed out on the new cookie flavor, Toast Yay, that was introduced last year, here's your chance to try the yummy French toast-inspired cookie dipped in delicious icing!

This year we have a new cookie flavor called "Adventurefuls Brownies."

Cookie grams will be available to order and have delivered to your special friend. Thank you in advance for supporting our cookie efforts!

We are so proud of all our scouts for their dedication and for making such a positive impact in our community.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy new year!

It's Girl Scout Cookie Time!

ookies are arriving the end of February! We will be taking pre-orders starting January 9, 2022. Save the date, February 27 (following service) for our Troop 569 cookie pick up and sale.

Try the new cookie flavor called "Adventurefuls Brownie." Returning are the Toast

Yay!, Peanut Butter Patties, Caramel Delights, Peanut Butter Sandwich, Lemonade, Shortbread and Thin Mints.

Cookies are \$5 a box. Cookie-grams will be available (to order and get delivered to your special friend).

Please contact Leslie Kaneko at 569cookies@gmail.com for more information.

Stay tuned to order from Troop 569 Girl Scouts and/or order directly from Troop 569.



Alan Wu



appy 2022 everybody! Greetings and salutations to one and to all. Cheers to the beginning of a new year, and the promise... potential... or hope for better times ahead? Better times ahead referring to the global health aspect.

This is the second holiday season of the new world order of being very careful when it comes to social gatherings. Naturally, or traditionally, the holiday season is defined by the many gatherings with family and friends, which completely contradicts the formula for getting US out of this predicament.

Last year WE were in the middle of spike without vaccinations, and this year WE are in the middle of a spike with vaccinations. True, true, last year is somewhat different from this year, but nonetheless, here WE are...having to re-impose the mandate to wear masks. Perhaps the mandate should not have been lifted in the first place? Is it one step forward, and two steps back, or two steps forward and one step back? Maybe it is the left foot taking many steps while the right foot is stuck to the floor. Thus, WE end up going in circles!

Of course, the solution is not simple nor easy. In fact, when the experts talk about it, "It's all Greek to me." Speaking of which, are WE all brushed up on our Greek alphabet? You got your Deltas, your Lambdas, and your Omicrons making the news, right? The scientists are going down the Greek alphabet in order as they discover new variants of any significance. Do you wonder where they will go after they use Omega, the last letter in the Greek alphabet?

Well, many of you "old" ... oops, strike that. Many of you "longtime" visitors to this little corner of our world should remember that the warning was issued some time back, that if you were not careful, you may learn something here in this little corner of our little corner of our world.

So, fasten your seat belts and hang on:

Here is the Greek alphabet, in order: Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta, Epsilon, Zeta, Eta, Theta, Iota, Kappa, Lambda, Mu, Nu, Xi, Omicron, Pi, Rho, Sigma, Tau, Upsilon, Phi, Chi, Psi, and Omega.

You will notice that there are 24 letters and that their names are much more, shall we say, artistic than: A, B, C, D, and so on, and so forth.

Pi (π) would be the most common Greek letter, for we all learned in grade school that Pi is the mathematical constant to get the circumference of a circle...remember? We learned that Pi is squared, but again, "It's all Greek to me," because in my mom's kitchen, pies are round.

As we grew older, we were exposed to the other Greek letters, which are commonly used to name fraternities and sororities. Everyone knows the famous Omega Theta Pi, and Delta Tau Chi fraternities...right? How about Alpha Beta, or Lambda Lambda Lambda? Does that ring any bells? Yes, it is true, Alpha Beta was or is a grocery store chain, but we are talking college frats here. Maybe you know Lambda Lambda by its colloquial name, the Tri-Lambs. Nothing, yet?

Sorry to digress. Now that you know the Greek alphabet, do you think it is a pretty safe bet that there will be many more variants than Greek letters? Maybe they will circle back and start at the beginning again, but there cannot be two alphas. Just like dogs; there cannot be two alpha dogs; one must be vanquished. Maybe they will call it Beta2, or Gamma2, or BetaBeta, or GammaGamma...just a thought.

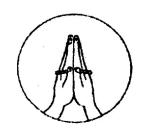
Sorry to digress once again. Now on to sports: the Kings are the Kings; no one knew what to expect from the 49ers this season; the Warriors look like they are on their way to a deep playoff run; and we don't talk Raiders anymore since they are no longer NorCal... just kidding, RaiderNation.

Getting back to those frat houses, would Faber College help? How about Adams College? Those memory cells working yet?

How we got here, or why we got here is still a mystery, but we hope everyone has a wonderful and safe New Year!



サンガ





~1月の予定~ 1月 1日 9時 修正会 1月 9日 10時 祥月法要

お問い合わせは別院事務所【916】446-0121

理事長のメッセージ

新田ゴードン

明けましておめでとうございます。皆様はご家族ともにお元気にお過ごしの事と思います。2021年はCovid-19の影響で家族やコミュニテイの健康-体力と精神力-を保つために大変な努力が必要でした。

別院では引き続いて州政府やカウンテイの規制を 監視しながら、必要に応じて別院の再開委員会が 設定した安全対策を更新しております。当分の間 別院内では常時マスク着用が義務付けられていま す。私達の新年の抱負は「メンバーの安全を保ち ながら徐々に再開を目標に前進する」です。

日曜サービスに参加されたあとで Covid-19 のテストをした結果陽性だった、或いは感染者と濃厚接触した、とのことを別院に報告したメンバーの方に深くお礼を申し上げます。9月半ばより日曜サービスを再開して以来、二つのケースがありました。一つは11月、もう一つは12月です。その度に、サービスに参加された人達にEメールで通知致しました。

感染或いは濃厚接触したとの報告をした人の名前は公表致しません。直ちに報告されたことは他のメンバーへの気遣いの証拠に基づいていると思います。(両ケースとも陽性結果の出たテスト日を知らして頂いています)1日も早く快復されることを望んでいます。又、マスク着用やソシアルデイスタンスを守って下さる皆様に感謝しています。皆様はお互いの安全を守るためばかりでなく別院の再開に向けて協力していることになります。

2022年1月9日(日)午前9時に別院理事の就任式を行います。選出された役員と10人の理事が3年の任期を果たすために就任いたします。別院とそのメンバーのために貢献してくれるこの人達に感謝を表すためにもどうぞ直接かオンラインで参加されるようお願いいたします。

今年もどうぞよろしくお願いします。

新年のメッセージ

中富バーバラ前会長

皆様、新年明けましておめでとうございます。今 こそ前向きに全てに可能性を見出して生きること を考える時です。

振り返ってみますと、今まで長い年月の間に多くの人々とのご縁があり、お互いを助け合いながら生きてきたことを有難く感じます。長く生きているとそれだけ多くの方々とのご縁により生かされてきたことに気づくようになりました。これは我々がいつまでも生かされているということです。

この先、引き続いて人に親切にして生きること、 そして情熱を持って生きることが私の希望です。 このパンデミックの間に、今まで気の付かなかっ た小さい事、いつも忙しいから注意を払わなかっ たことに優しくなり、感謝することが出来るよう になりました。私達の生活はあまりにも満ち足り 過ぎてそれが当たり前と思っていることが多くあ ります。

他の家族もそうですが、この1年の間は家族が集まることは殊に特別なものでした。私は母に別れを告げましたが、同時に美しい赤ちゃんを迎え、素晴らしい結婚式を祝い、そして家族が揃ってデイナーを楽しんだことなど全てに感謝の気持ちでいっぱいです。

実際にお寺に行かなくてもお説教やサービスはテクノロジーのお陰でオンラインを通してすることが出来ます。 (テクノロジー委員会に感謝)

コロナ禍にあって安全を確保しながら、外部との 接触の機会に遇えるよう、又、忙しくても感謝し 反省する時間を持ちたいものです。

In-Person サービスが始まるのを楽しみにしていますが、これも又いつ変更になるか分かりません。

早く皆様とお会いできますように! 合掌

