

1881 Pine St. San Francisco, CA 94109

(415) 776-3158

buddhistchurchofsanfrancisco.org

Welcome Rev. Melissa Opel



On March 14, The Rev. Marvin Harada, the Bishop of the Buddhist Churches of America, assigned the Rev. Melissa Opel as the new resident minister of the Buddhist Church of San Francisco effective June 1, 2023.

University, she worked in non-profit organizations as well as in business and finance. She has also been a guest lecturer at Whitworth University and a frequent panelist for a variety of conferences.

The BCSF Board of Directors has enjoyed getting to know her as we moved through the process of settling her as our new resident minister. We agree with Bishop Harada that she will serve our temple and sangha with compassion as she shares the Dharma with all aspects of our community.

Rev. Opel is from Spokane, Washington where she has been serving as the Kyoshi Minister’s Assistant at the Spokane Buddhist Temple. Rev. Opel began her journey into professional Jodo Shinshu ministry in 2016 when she began the Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course and became a Minister’s Assistant in 2017. She received Tokudo Ordination in 2019 and Kyoshi Certification in 2022. Having completed the certificate in Shin Buddhist Studies from the Institute of Buddhist Studies in 2020, she then proceeded to the Master of Divinity program and is anticipating graduation next year.

Rev. Opel was the guest speaker at the Sunday, March 19 Spring Ohigan service, which was attended by about 60 people in person and 15 via Zoom. Many people commented on how much they enjoyed her talk and chanting. After a sangha-cooked lunch, Leo Joslin Sensei facilitated a friendly “meet and greet” which gave sangha and minister a chance to get to know each other.

Rev. Opel brings a wealth of education and experience with her. After receiving her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Fine Arts from Eastern Washington

We look forward to welcoming Rev. Opel, her wife and three dogs at the end of May after they drive down from Spokane and settle into the third-floor minister’s apartment.



To the left: Rev. Keisuke Lee-Miyaki, Camille Pating Sensei, Rev. Dr. David Pating, Rev. Opel & Leo Joslin Sensei
Above: Toast to welcome Rev. Opel
Below: the Sangha with Rev. Opel after the luncheon



Message from Rev. Henry Toryo Adams

Supervising Minister for BCSF



Living an Honored Life

In the month of April we hold our Hanamatsuri Service celebrating the birth of Siddhartha Gautama 2,645 years ago in Lumbini, Nepal. One who diligently progresses on the path to Buddhahood over the course of many lifetimes is called a bodhisattva. *The Sutra on the Buddha of Immeasurable Life (The Larger Sutra)* provides the following description of a bodhisattva's birth in the lifetime in which they will attain awakening:

Immediately after [the bodhisattva's] birth from [his mother's] right side, he walked seven steps. A brilliant light shone from his body, illuminating all the ten quarters, and countless Buddha-lands shook with six kinds of tremors. He then said, "I shall become the supremely honored one in the world."

(The Three Pure Land Sutras: Volume II, pg. 5)

This description seems improbable from a modern scientific worldview, but these words are an expression of religious truth rather than scientific fact. Scientific facts are based on empirical observations, such as what we can see with our eyes, hear with our ears, or measure with our hands. From that perspective, this life begins the moment we are born with this body and ends at the moment of death. This way of viewing the world is limited by what can be measured.

Religious truth expresses the unseen reality that moves our hearts and minds. The truth taught by the Buddha arises from insight into the working of causes and conditions. For example, cherry blossoms bloom due to the causes and conditions, such as soil, rain, and sunlight. While it is possible to provide a scientific explanation for how flowers bloom, we cannot predict the precise day, hour, and minute when a certain blossom will open. This human life I receive has come to be through the flow of causes and conditions going back long before I was born. Moreover, this life of mine has continued down to the present moment thanks to the support

I receive from countless other lives including the plants and animals that nourish my body and the trees that give off oxygen for me to breathe.

An honored life is one that is an expression of this religious truth. Siddhartha's birth in this world was the culmination of countless lifetimes dedicated to seeking the path to awakening. The life he would lead settled on that path is expressed in the words, "I shall become the supremely honored one in the world." All of our lives have been sustained by countless causes and conditions, so we too have the potential to realize that honored life.

How, then, are we to lead an honored life? There are many goals that we can strive for during this lifetime. One might seek a life of comfort and pleasure, or work to accumulate wealth, fame, or power and influence. Looking once again to the description we find in *The Larger Sutra* of the life of one settled on the path of the Buddha, we find the following words: "Without being asked, they gave the Dharma to the multitude of beings . . . They looked upon all sentient beings as their own selves." (*The Three Pure Land Sutras: Volume II, pg. 10*) Here we see that the honored life of a Buddha is not one dedicated to attaining pleasures, wealth, fame, or power. It is a life dedicated to compassionately helping others.

After realizing awakening seated under the Bodhi Tree at age 35, Siddhartha dedicated the rest of his life to teaching the path to liberation from suffering. From that time, down to the present he has been revered as Sakyamuni Buddha, the Awakened One, Sage of the Sakya Clan. His teachings have provided the strength and clarity needed to face great challenges for people of all walks of life through the generations. Those teachings show us the way to realize the honored life of awakening for ourselves. Namo Amida Butsu



Welcome to BCSF New Member Timothy X. Liu

Tim is the first BCSF member to sign up with BCA's Youth Membership program for age 30 and under.



Message from Rev. Henry Toryo Adams

Supervising Minister for BCSF



この人生の尊さに気づく

4月は花まつりの法要をお勤めします。花まつりというのは、2,645年前にネパールにあるルンビニーの花園でお生まれになったゴータマ・シダッタのご誕生をお祝いする日です。仏陀になることを目指し何回も生まれ変わり、ずっと修行してこられた人を菩薩と言います。この仏陀になれる菩薩の誕生については『仏説無量寿経』に次のように述べられています。

右の脇から生れて七歩歩き、その身は光明に輝いて、ひろくすべての世界を照らし、数限りない仏の国土はさまざまに震動する。そこで、菩薩自身が声高らかに、「わたしこそは、この世においてこの上なく尊いものとなるであろう」と述べるのである。

現代人の科学的な考え方から見ると、このような生まれ方は不可能であろうと思われるかもしれませんが、この話は化学的な現実よりも宗教的な真実を表しています。

科学的な現実とは目で見えるもの、耳で聞こえるもの、手で触るものなど物理的に計られるものに基づいています。その見方からすると、私の命はこの体から生まれた時に始まり、死ぬ時に終わるとなり、その考え方は計り知られるものに限定されている。

宗教的な真実というのは目で見えない私たちの心を動かすものを示します。そして仏陀が説かれた真実は因縁によって成立しています。例えば桜の花は土、雨、太陽などという因縁によって開花します。花が咲くことは確かに科学によってある程度説明ができますが、どの花が何月何日の何時何分に咲くことは予想できません。また、人の人生はお父さんとお母さんの出会い、祖父母の出会いよりもはるか昔の因縁によっていただいています。そして、私たちの命が続いているのも日頃口にしている植物や動物、そ

して吸い入れる酸素を作る木々などの多くの命の支えのおかげなのです。

また、尊い命も宗教的な真実と言えます。生まれたばかりのシダッタの人生は計り知れない多くの生まれを経て求道してこられた因縁の結果であったため、まさに尊い命でありました。その尊さは「わたしこそは、この世においてこの上なく尊いものとなるであろう」という言葉に表れています。全ての人も数多くの因縁によって人間としての生まれをいただいているので、皆それぞれの命もとても尊いものなのです。

では、色々な命や多くの人々の支えをいただく尊いわたしの命は何のために生きていけば良いのでしょうか。楽に過ごすこと、財産を集めること、有名になること、権力を得ること、人生の目標は様々ありますが、仏陀の生涯にこれを尋ねますと、『仏説無量寿経』の中にこの言葉があります。「すすんで人々に尊い教えを説き与えることは、親孝行な子が父母を敬愛するようである。まるで自分自身を見るように、さまざまな人々を見るのである。」この言葉から分かるように、尊い命は自分の楽、裕福、名称、権力のためではなく、人々を助けあう人生こそ尊いものなのです。

シダッタは35歳の時に菩提樹の下で悟りを開き、人生の残り45年間の間、人々が苦しみから解脱できる道を広く説かれ、多くの人々をお救いになったので、釈迦牟尼仏陀(釈迦族の聖者)と敬称されるようになりました。釈尊が説かれた教えは代々迷いの世界に苦しむ人々を極楽へと導く灯火となっています。その教えを聞くことによって、私たちもこの人生の尊さに気づくことができるのです。

南無阿弥陀仏

Japanese Services led by Rev. Keisuke Lee-Miyaki

In person or via Zoom



日本語法座
宮木先生の法話、下記日曜日の午後1時から
4月9日, 5月14日, 6月11日

Japanese Language Dharma Service, 1 p.m.
APRIL 9, MAY 14, JUNE 11

Rev. Keisuke's March 26 Dharma Talk

「攝取不捨(せっしゅふしゃ):ものの逃ぐるを追え取る」という言葉があります。いつでもどこでもはたらく阿弥陀仏の光を表します。具体的にはどういう意味なのでしょう?今夏、私の父は75歳にて往生の素懐を遂げました。その時、私が見聞きした父の姿や言葉から感じたことを振り返りながら、「攝取不捨」とはどういうことか一緒に考えてみましょう。

In Shin Buddhism, there is a phrase, "Sesshu-Fusha," which means, "Once grasped, one is never abandoned." It represents the light of Amitabha Buddha that works anytime and anywhere. What does it mean exactly? This summer, my father passed away at the age of 75. Let us reflect on what I saw, heard, and felt from my father's last moment and words at that time, and let's think together about what it means to "Amitabha Buddha's Grasp."



Mindful Reflections

by Leo Joslin, BCSF Minister's Assistant & Facilitator of Mindful Meditation, held via Zoom every Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.



I feel very blessed to have been able to attend the Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS). The certificate program I enrolled in was equivalent to one year

of full-time graduate study. I spread it out over four years. The coursework was rigorous and challenging, but very rewarding. I deeply appreciated the classes, professors, and students, because they truly enriched my life.

Around the time I started the program, Monshu Ohtani Kojun, our head priest, introduced “Our Pledge,” four short verses that spoke to my heart. In retrospect, I believe that this simple pledge is just as profound as anything I learned at IBS. The reasons for this become clearer when we look closely at each verse. The first verse of our pledge reads as follows:

Breaking out of my shell

***I will share a warm smile and speak gentle words
Just like the kind Buddha.***

The truth behind this first verse works on multiple levels. We can see the shell as being a metaphor for our egos. I am reminded that, ultimately, my ego self is something to be broken down and let go of, because it is an obstacle to the Truth. Furthermore, the image arises of a mother hen pecking at the shell to assist the struggling baby chick. The new life form that emerges is dependent upon Other Power, and we are reminded of our own relationship with Amida Buddha. When we say the Nembutsu, we take refuge in Amida. We are saying “I am one with Amida.” We’re like the baby chick breaking out of its shell, looking into the eyes of its mother, and moved toward sharing Amida’s compassion with others. The next verse goes as follows:

Not becoming lost in my greed, anger and ignorance

***I shall think and act with an open-mind
Just like the calm and peaceful Buddha.***

We are reminded here that we are bonbu, ordinary beings with minds that are obstructed by blind passions. We risk becoming lost in the three poisons, and losing our way. With mindfulness we can learn to

settle our minds so that our greed, anger and ignorance to do not take us over. With clear and open minds, we are able to remember the Buddha, and hear the Dharma. The third verse goes as follows:

Not putting myself first

***I will share in the joy and sadness of others
Just like the compassionate Buddha.***

Here we are reminded of our interrelatedness and interdependence. We are also remembering the compassion that pervades the universe. We are moved to support each other and our Sangha, doing so with gentleheartedness that arises naturally, spontaneously. Finally, the last verse reads: Realizing the gift of life I have received I shall strive to live each day to its fullest Like the Buddha who tirelessly works to liberate all

With this final verse, we set the compass of our hearts. Saying the Nembutsu, we awaken to the truth and realize that we have received a gift. Upon this realization, gratitude arises, and we cannot help but say Namo Amida Butsu. In fact, the verses above are encapsulated in Namo Amida Butsu. When we follow this pledge, we are living the Nembutsu.

Shinran wrote, “Namo Amida Butsu...is the Name of the Vow embodying great love and great compassion” (CWS p.452). This pledge points toward this Love and Compassion, powerful energies that flow deeply throughout the universe and our lives. And so while I value what I learned at IBS, and encourage others to consider taking classes, what speaks most deeply to my heart is this simple pledge. Acting in accordance with it can work toward actualizing the message of the Buddha in the world. As stated by Monshu Ohtani Kojun, “*our efforts of trying to be in accord with the Buddha’s wish is the first step toward realization of a society in which everyone can live life spiritually fulfilled.*”¹ I agree that such effort is essential as we walk our spiritual paths. Namo Amida Butsu.

¹ Jodoshinshu.faith, “Our Pledge’ from the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha”, <https://jodoshinshu.faith/our-pledge-from-the-jodo-shinshu-hongwanji-ha/>



BCSF BWA Bake Sale Sunday, April 2

after the Hanamatsuri Service.

Enjoy a variety of delicious desserts baked by BWA members.

Thank you for your support.

Acknowledgments for donations processed between February 15 and March 15, 2023.

Thank you for your generous support of the BCSF.

DONATIONS

Anonymous
BCSF Girl Scout Troop 32678
Kathleen Lilienstein
Kyle Matsumoto Burch & Kyle Lye
Michael & Estella Weiss

MEMORIALS

Hiroshi F Kashiwagi IMO: Raymond Horiuchi
Kiyoshi & Tazuko Naito

IN APPRECIATION

Leslie & Donna Ishii to Dharma School for
Brady & Parker

MEMBERSHIP

Timothy Xitao Liu
Joan & Hitoshi Matsukuma
Linda Saruwatari Ono
Sai Seigel & Cole Westbrook
Lynn Taniguchi
Sandra Yamakishi
Dick Yamamoto
Elaine Yamamoto
Shinji & Yoshi Yao
Benjamin & Miyeko Yoshikawa



NIRVANA DAY

Anonymous

850/ 800 BAY DISTRICT SERVICE

Minoru & Suzanne Yamada

SPRING OHIGAN

Anonymous
Sumie Hayashi
Kiyoshi & Tazuko Naito
Kumi Okamoto
Yoko Sumida
Minoru & Suzanne Yamada

JANUARY SHOTSUKI HOYO

Tak & Bernice Hamai IMO: Alice Yukiko Hamai
Keith & Priscilla Kojimoto IMO: Kusujiro Kojimoto
Leina Yamamoto IMO: Clarence Yamamoto
Liane Yamamoto-Orlando IMO: Clarence Yamamoto

FEBRUARY SHOTSUKI HOYO

Ronald Kobata IMO: Shigeyo Nishizaki
Keith & Priscilla Kojimoto IMO: Mitsu Kojimoto
Steven Mihara IMO: Kenji Mihara
Edward Nagayama IMO: Ruth Satoko Nagayama
Hiroshi & Reiko Takahashi IMO: Mareo Takahashi
Hiroshi & Reiko Takahashi IMO: Masao Takahashi
Leina Yamamoto IMO: Grace Yamamoto
Liane Yamamoto-Orlando IMO: Grace Yamamoto
Shinji & Yoshi Yao IMO: Yoshio Yao

MARCH SHOTSUKI HOYO

Philip Ashizawa IMO: Mas Ashizawa
Philip Ashizawa IMO: Naka Ashizawa
Yoshiko Ashizawa IMO: Ryohei Roy Ashizawa
Kaori Ikeda & Cameron Chun IMO: George Ikeda
Karen M Graham IMO: Howard Ito
Sumie Hayashi IMO: Teruo Mukai
Mitsuko Hirota IMO: Kazuko Yasutomo
Kenneth K Ina IMO: Shizuko Ina
Dr. Michael & Vickie Ina IMO: Shizuko Ina
Satsuki Ina IMO: Shizuko Ina
James Kachiu IMO: Yoshiko Kachu
Makoto Kachiu IMO: Yoshiko Kachu
Michael & Karen Kagehiro IMO: Setsuko Kagehiro
Ronald Kagehiro IMO: Setsuko Kagehiro
Alex Kami IMO: Taeko Kami
Gail Keikoan IMO: Asaye Mizota
Amy Kimura IMO: Saka Tomura
Harumi & Russell Kishida IMO: Henry Nakao
Ronald Kobata IMO: Hiroshi Kobata
Paul & Tram Koike IMO: Mary Koike
Keith & Priscilla Kojimoto IMO: Yoneo Kojimoto
Junko N Low IMO: Toyo Nerio
Hope F Mclrvin IMO: Nobu Hanyu
Frank E Morimoto IMO: Chiyeko Morimoto
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Karen Kuruma Nagareda IMO: Emiko Kuruma
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Katherine Nomura IMO: Misao Shimoda
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Takiko Yamamoto IMO: Kazue Yamamoto
Shinji & Yoshi Yao IMO: Yutaka Yao

APRIL SHOTSUKI HOYO

Janet T Takahashi IMO: Mabel Shizuko Takahashi
Paul & Tram Koike IMO: Kay Koike

BCSF News

All invited to the Appreciation Service

for the Ministers, Staff and Volunteers who helped BCSF through 2020-22
Sunday, April 30, 10 a.m. In Person and via Zoom



with Guest Speaker, Trinidad Hunt

and then after,

Notice of General Membership Meeting

Sunday, April 30, 1 p.m. in the BCSF Social Hall and via Zoom

Agenda

1. Review the projected building maintenance and repair projections for 2023-24.
2. Allow the 2023 board to approve transactions of \$5,000 or more to enable timely action for regular and emergency matters.
3. Clarify the minister hiring clause in Bylaws Sect. 5 (D). Replace “minister” with “Resident Minister.”
New wording: “Recommend employment or release of the RESIDENT minister of BCSF.”

If you have other business to add to the agenda, please contact the BCSF office or a Board member by April 23 (7 days prior to the scheduled meeting).

Attention BCSF “Light of Dharma” Readers

Many Light of Dharma readers prefer to receive BCSF’s monthly newsletter in print via USPS mail and we are happy to continue this service.

Thank You to BCSF members. Your BCSF membership dues covers the cost of printing and mailing the newsletters.

If you are not a BCSF member, please consider a voluntary donation for a 1-year subscription.

Prefer email? You can receive the newsletter through the weekly Friday emails.
BCSF strives to be an Eco-Sangha. Let’s save paper and postage!

===== cut here & mail to BCSF 1881 Pine St, SF CA 94109 =====

Select all that apply.

Suggested donation of \$15 for Non-Members to receive 1 year of printed/mailed Light of Dharma newsletters.

Send me the newsletter by email. My email: _____

Remove me from the list of printed/mailed newsletters.

Name _____ Address _____

BCSF News

Day of Remembrance February 19, 2023



850/ 800 service to Palo Alto Buddhist Temple, March 12th bus trip



Congratulations to Rev. Keisuke, shown here with his husband, TJ Lee-Miyaki, as the new supervisor for the volunteer hospital chaplaincy program at Zuckerberg San Francisco General.



BCSF Voices

We welcome letters from "Light of Dharma" readers to express viewpoints and share information about issues that affect our BCSF Sangha.

March 24, 2023

Dear BCSF Sangha,

I am participating in the Multifaith Solidarity Fast During April 2-8, 2023. For more information and registration: <https://bit.ly/MultifaithSolidarityFast>

I choose to fast with compassion and in solidarity with those incarcerated in immigration detention facilities at Mesa Verde (Bakersfield, CA) and Golden State Annex (McFarland, CA) who are protesting the dehumanizing and unjust conditions of immigrant detention.

In Buddhism, fasting is to practice self-control and to gain a healthier mindset. Buddhist monastics who adopt the practice of fasting from noon to dawn (about 18 hours) and do so by and large to purify their bodies and to clarify their thoughts.

During my fast, I want to practice mindfulness meditation and be mindful throughout the day. I do this in the spirit of empathy and oneness with the suffering and hope for liberation for those incarcerated.

In gassho,

Joyce Nakamura,
San Francisco
nakamurajoyce@yahoo.com

**MULTIFAITH
SOLIDARITY FAST**

April 2-8, 2023

In support of immigrant hunger strikers in ICE detention facilities calling for dignity, respect, and immediate release.



Learn More & Register: bit.ly/MultifaithSolidarityFast



Andrea Miller (at right), Lion's Roar Editor, visited the Buddhist Church of San Francisco with Leo Joslin Sensei (middle) & Rev. Keisuke Lee-Miyaki (at left) on Tuesday, March 7, 2023.

Bay District Cherry Blossom Festival Booth: April 8, 9 & 15 Sign Up slots still open

Share the sangha joy! Sign up for our info booth, shared with the other 7 Bay District temples. The popular 'dharma wheel' will be



featured. Festival visitors will be invited to learn about

Buddhism, our temple activities, and spin the dharma wheel for a mindful pause, gratitude and joy!

A fun way and engaging way to promote the many programs at our temples. Also meet other Bay District members during your shift.

Sat. 4/8: 10-12pm, 12-2pm
Sun. 4/9: 10-12pm, 2-4pm, 4-6pm
Sat. 4/15: 10-12pm, 12-2pm

We will especially appreciate it if you can take two back-to-back 2hr. shifts. Sign up with the BCSF office: 415-776-3158 or bcsfoffice@gmail.com.

BCSF Board Meeting Highlights - February 26, 2023

BCSF member Gary Kitahata, a retired public finance consultant for municipalities, informed the board on options to invest excess funds in our checking account for 3-6-12 months. The board will consider action at the next meeting.

The BCA National Council held workshops on Feb. 18 and a business meeting on Feb. 24-25. The BCA per-member temple dues assessment is \$177.21/member for FY 2024 for April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024.

No financial report. Will be presented at the next meeting.

Temple and community events need BCSF volunteers! Sunday service refreshments: Two-person teams to prepare and serve snacks after the service.

April 1: decorate the Hanamido-Baby Buddha's altar
April 2: Hanamatsuri-Buddha's Birthday; lasagna lunch after service

April 8, 9, 15, 16: Cherry Blossom Festival. March in the parade on 4/16

July 16: Obon/Hatsubon service; July 23 - Bon Odori on Octavia St.

Eco-Sangha practices will be reinstated. Contact Doug or Melissa at the office.

BCSF News



BCSF Daisy Troop 61901 & Brownie Troop 61522 In-Person Girl Scout Cookie Sale



Daisy Troop 61901
Sunday, April 2, 2023
9:30am - 12:30pm
Hanamatsuri Service
BCSF (Inside Lobby)



Brownie Troop 61522
Saturday, April 8, 2023
3:00pm - 6:00pm
Corner of 9th & Irving
Inner Sunset



Adventurefuls
 Brownie-inspired cookies topped caramel flavored crème & a hint of sea salt



S'mores
 Crunchy graham sandwich cookies with chocolate & marshmallow filling



Thin Mints
 Crisp, chocolate cookies dipped in a delicious mint chocolaty coating



Do-Si-Dos
 Crunchy oatmeal sandwich cookies with peanut butter filling



Samoas
 Crisp cookies with caramel, coconut, & chocolaty stripes



Toffee-tastic
 Gluten free! Rich, buttery cookies with sweet, crunchy toffee bits



Lemon-Ups
 Crispy lemon cookies baked with inspiring messages



Tagalongs
 Crispy cookies layered with peanut butter and covered with a chocolaty coating



Trefoils
 Iconic shortbread cookies inspired by the original Girl Scout cookie recipe



Much appreciation to Brownie Girl Scout Troop 61522 and their families, who set up an additional Hinamatsuri display on Saturday, February 25, 2023

Sangha Member Mitzi Kanbara donated the Hinamatsuri display she had received as a gift from her grandfather. The set was made by the Kyugetsu Doll Company.

Furniture Rummage Sale for pick up NOW

Take your pick:

1. Japanese kitchen cabinet 12" deep x 47" high x 24" wide, light wood
2. Small table 36" x 36" x 29" high, dark wood
3. TV stand 19" deep x 32" high x 35" wide, dark wood
4. Dresser (5) drawers 20" deep x 51" high x 42" wide, reddish wood
5. Dresser- 20" deep x 33" high x 75" wide, reddish wood
6. Side board- 55" long x 15" deep x 30" high, dark wood
7. Coffee table- 48" long x 24" wide x 20" high, dark wood

Contact the BCSF office at 415 776-3158 and leave a message or email to bcsfoffice@gmail.com.

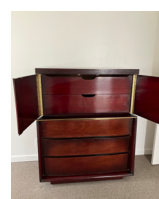
First come first served- make an appointment to pick up your choice of furniture. Name your price, donations gladly accepted.



Item 1
Japanese kitchen cabinet



Item 2
Square table



Item 4
Dresser (5) drawers reddish wood

Welcome!

The Buddhist Church of San Francisco welcomes all those who wish to learn about the boundless wisdom and compassion that is Amida Buddha without regard to race, religion, sex, national origin, age, sexual orientation, or gender identity/expression.



Buddhist Church of San Francisco Mission Statement

The purpose of the Buddhist Church of San Francisco (BCSF) is to maintain a temple and to establish a Buddhist community of the Jodo Shinshu faith in San Francisco, CA. Building on our profound legacy as a Jodo Shinshu spiritual center, we strive to awaken within us the compassion and wisdom of the Buddha Dharma. BCSF endeavors to share the teaching of the Buddha with all those who seek the knowledge and the truth of the Buddha Dharma, to promote our Sangha (community); and to provide for the general welfare and services to guide the activities which strengthen our faith in the Buddha and advance our learning in the Dharma.

Photos and Credits:

- page 1: Welcome Rev. Opel by Doug Dorn & Kevin Yoza;
- page 2: Tim Liu by Kevin Yoza
- page 3: Courtesy of Rev. Keisuke Lee-Miyaki
- page 5: Gassho by Mark Shigenaga
- page 7: Day of Remembrance, 850/ 800, & TJ & Keisuke Lee-Miyaki by Kevin Yoza
- page 8: TJ & Keisuke Lee-Miyaki; Stupa by Kevin Yoza
- page 9: Hinamatsuri set up by Brownies & Families by Kevin Yoza, Apt 3 furniture by Susan Sakuma
- page 11: Baby Buddha by Hitomi Silver

Supervising Minister

Rev. Henry Adams

Minister's Assistants

- Rev. Keisuke Lee-Miyaki (Kyoshi)
- Rev. Dr. David Pating (Kyoshi)
- Rev. Elaine Donlin (Tokudo)
- Jack Dairiki (Honorary)
- Leo Joslin
- Camille Pating

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BCSF Office Manager

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Rev. Keisuke Lee-Miyaki,
Susan Sakuma, BJ Soriano



Light of Dharma

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The views expressed in this newsletter reflect the opinions of contributors and not necessarily of the Buddhist Church of San Francisco.

We apologize for any errors or omissions.
Please notify us of corrections and send your comments to:

Email: bcsfoffice@gmail.com
Phone: (415) 776-3158
Mail: Light of Dharma,
Buddhist Church of San Francisco,
1881 Pine St. San Francisco CA 94109

April & May Dates

All Sunday services are in person
and Livestream/Zoom.
Check BCSF's YouTube channel for
Sunday service postings.

April 1 - 9 a.m All hands needed to decorate the Hanamido, a floral altar with a baby Buddha statue. At the Hanamatsuri service on April 2, service attendees pour sweet tea over the figure to represent the sweet rain that fell when Siddhartha was born.

April 2 - 10 a.m. Hanamatsuri Buddha's birthday service and celebration

April 9- 10 a.m. Shotsuki Hoyo Monthly Memorial

April 9- 1 p.m. Japanese Service

April 16 - 10 a.m. Sangha Service

April 23- 10 a.m. Sangha Service

Saturday April 29- 5 p.m. Metta Service

Dharma talk by Rev. Elaine Donlin

April 30- 10 a.m. Sangha Service with Guest Speaker-
Trinidad Hunt

May 7 -10 a.m. Gotan-e/ Shinran's birthday with
Buddhist Padma/ Sangha/ Dharma award student
speakers

May 14 - 10 a.m. Shotsuki Hoyo Monthly Memorial

May 14- 1 p.m.- Japanese Service

May 21-10 a.m. Sangha Service

May 28- 10 a.m. Sangha Service

BCSF Board of Directors

April TBD - 2 p.m. regular board meeting

Mindful Meditation meets every Wed., 6:30 p.m.

(Zoom) April 5, 12, 19, 26

Light of Dharma

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NORTHERN CALIFORNIA CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

APRIL 8, 9, 15, 16

BAY DISTRICT INFO BOOTH 4/8, 9, 15

Need Volunteers

Have fun distributing brochures and
spinning the Dharma Wheel

We appreciate your taking TWO back-to-back 2hr shifts

Sat. 4/8: 10am-12pm, 12-2pm

Sun. 4/9: 10am-12pm, 2-4pm, 4-6pm

Sat. 4/15: 10am-12pm, 12-2pm

E-mail bcsfoffice@gmail.com

GAME BOOTH 4/8, 9, 15

Hosted by BCSF Jr. YBA in the Children's Area

FESTIVAL PARADE 4/16 1:00pm

Two points of joining parade:

Civic Center/SF City Hall- Gather by 12:30pm

Sequoia Senior Center

(Post, between Gough & Laguna Streets)

Gather by 2:00pm

Questions: Call Richard Okiuye @ (415)637-2276
or e-mail richard@leftwichevents.com



Save the Dates

Hanamatsuri- celebration of the birth of
Shakyamuni Buddha
April 2, 2023 at 10 am

Obon/ Hatsuobon service
Sunday July 16, 2023
Bon Odori on Octavia Street!
Sunday July 23, 2023