

Light of Dharma

仏法の光

Published by the Buddhist Church of San Francisco

1881 Pine St. San Francisco, CA 94109

(415) 776-3158

buddhistchurchofsanfrancisco.org

Buddhist Church of San Francisco 2023 Obon Festival Honorees



With deep gratitude, we honor the Past and Present Members of the BCSF Fujinkai and BWA who selflessly donated their time and talent, and who are represented by Mrs. Tamiko Yasuhara.

For many years, Mrs. Yasuhara personally supported the BCSF, Fujinkai (Women's Association) and Buddhist Women's Association (BWA)

in so many ways. She is especially known for helping to create the unique tastes and recipes of BCSF food for Ginza Bazaar.

Mrs. Yasuhara sends her thanks to the BCSF for the beautiful flower bouquet and the Truefish gift basket containing her favorite fish. "I will think of BCSF as I enjoy the sashimi, saba, and unagi."



Message from Rev. Melissa Jo Shin Opel

BCSF Resident Minister

Don't forget to say "Thank you" & "I'm Sorry"

After the restrictions began getting lifted in Spokane and it was okay to eat out again, Becca and I were surprised at how the staff and servers were being treated when we went to restaurants—it was almost as if the lockdown had erased politeness from many people's skill sets. One day, Becca, myself and two other temple friends had finished eating and we were hanging out and having another drink. After we paid our check, the server came back, nearly in tears and said, "Thank you for being so nice to me- you don't know what it means." She went on to say how badly she was being treated by customers and our simple please, thank you and patience stood out in a way that showed her we cared about her as a human being. It made me sad to think she wasn't being treated kindly by most people. Becca and I both did not get to eat out often as kids so it is something we really enjoy doing and we tend to say thank you a lot when we do. I think we're both grateful for the experience and to be waited on. Additionally, we both worked some type of service industry job in our younger years and could still recall being treated as "less than" because somehow the work we were doing was not valued.

When I was sixteen, I worked at McDonald's and in one of just many situations I encountered, was a mother who was sitting at a table with her small child. The child was ripping up their cardboard happy meal box and throwing it on the floor. When the woman saw me in my uniform

with a broom, she told them to stop what they were doing. The kid looked at her, then at me and said, "Why? She gets paid to clean it up." The mother didn't say a word. Perhaps she was stunned or embarrassed but in that moment "I'm sorry" would've helped me be less angry over the way I was being treated.

Buddhism allows us to cultivate a deep awareness about ourselves and how we fit into this world. When we are grateful, we can say "thank you" and when we realize we hurt others, it is kind to say "I'm sorry." But we may not have that awareness in the moment and may feel too embarrassed to go back and thank someone for something they did or to apologize when we come to understand our role in hurting another. Families will go years without talking and hold onto grudges because no one wants to be the first to make amends. What time do we lose out on in this precious life when we continue on in this way? Amida Buddha embraces us just as we are, whether we say "thank you" or "I'm sorry" but as we come to understand the gift of this embrace, we can hope to feel it so deeply, we become more aware of how we treat others and try to be less hurtful so that they too can feel cared for. If we do this, we can all smile a little more and live our life in peace and community. Namu Amida Butsu.



Translation by Rev. Keisuke Lee-Miyaki

BCSF Minister's Assistant

「ありがとう」と「ごめんなさい」を忘れないこと

コロナ感染拡大に関する行動規制が解除され、スポカーンでふたたび外食ができるようになってから、レストランに行きました。ベッカと私、そしてお寺の友人2人で食事を終え、お支払いを済ませ、食後の1杯を楽しんでいた時のことです。サーバーの方が涙ぐみながらテーブルに戻ってきたのです。「気遣ってくれてありがとう。私にとってはめったにないことだったのよ」続けて、普段客からどんなにひどい扱いを受けているかについて語り始めました。「お願いします」「ありがとう」と言われること、そして単に「少し待ってもらおうこと」で、自らを一人の人間として対応してくれていると感じる、そのかけがえのなさをつらつらと述べたのです。この店員さんがほとんどの客から冷淡にあしらわれていると思うと、悲しくなりました。レストランスタッフとサーバーに対する客の横柄な態度にも驚きました。ロックダウンによって、あたかも礼節というものが消し去られたようでした。ベッカも私も、子どものころは外食するチャンスがあまりなかったし、外食はとびきり楽しいイベントなので、よく「ありがとう」と感謝の気持ちを伝えるようにしています。この外食するという経験そのものや、サービスを受容させてもらうことに感謝しているのだと思います。若い頃は2人ともサービス業に就いていたので、自分の業務が評価されず「劣った者」として扱われた辛さを、今でも思い返すことができます。

16歳の頃、マクドナルドで働いていたので、いろいろな場面に遭遇したものです。ある時、幼い子ども連れテーブルについていた母親がいました。その子はハッピーミールの包装紙を破いて床に投げつけていました。私がユニフォーム姿でほうきを持っているのを見て、母親は「もうやめなさい」とたしなめました。子どもは母親と私を交互に見て「どうして?この人は掃除するためにお金もらっ

てるんでしょ」と言いました。この発言に対し、母親は何も言わなかったのです。おそらく彼女はあっけにとられていたか、穴があったら入りたい気持ちだったのかもしれませんが、その時「ごめんなさい」と言ってくれさえすれば、私はこの仕打ちに対し多少なりとも怒りを抑えることができただろうとは思っています。

仏教では、自分自身について、そして自分がこの世界とどのように共存しているかについて、深い視野を培うことができます。感謝したときは「ありがとう」と伝え、他人を傷つけてしまったと気づいたときは「ごめんなさい」と言うのが、思いやりというものでしょう。しかし、その時すぐには気づくことができないので、誰かが自分のためにしてくれたことに対し、わざわざ戻って来て感謝の気持ちを伝えたり、他人を傷つけてしまったという自分の立場を理解したとき、謝罪の気持ちを述べたりすることが、恥ずかしくてできないかもしれません。ともすればある家族が何年も口をきかず、恨みを持ち続けるのは、誰もが一番最初に自らの態度・言動を省みたくないからなのでしょう。このようなことを続けていると、この貴重な人生でどんな時間を失うことになるのでしょうか。阿弥陀仏は、私たちが「ありがとう」と言おうが「ごめんなさい」と言おうが、ありのままの私たちを包み込んでくださいます。この慈悲を理解するようになると、それを一層深く感じられるようになります。さらには、他者への接し方を意識するようになり、相手も大切にされていると感じられるよう、傷つけないよう努めるようになることでしょう。そうすれば、私たちは皆、より笑顔の絶えない平和なコミュニティの中で日々の暮らしを送ることができるのです。南無阿弥陀仏。





Acknowledgments for donations processed between June 15 and August 15, 2023. Thank you for your generous support of the BCSF. continued on page 5

DONATIONS

Anonymous
 BCSF Girl Scout Troop 61901
 Committee of Atomic Bob Survivors in USA
 Yumi Hatta BCA Dana Donation
 Japanese Benevolent Society of CA
 Hiroshi F Kashiwagi
 Mitsuko Hirota
 Satsuki Morimoto
 Susan T Sakuma IHO: Sadako Kashiwagi's 90th birthday
 Shakyou Class
 BJ Soriano
 Keiko Wong

MEMORIALS

Sylvia Garcia & Anthony Mar IMO: James Kachiu
 Ernie Kawana IMO: Yukiko Kawana
 Gail Mikasa IMO: James Kachiu
 Tazuko & Jane Naito IMO: Kiyoshi Naito
 Dennis Nakamoto & Emily Okabe IMO: Kiyoshi Naito
 Yoshi Yao IMO: Kiyoshi Naito

OBON SERVICE

Yoko Arimoto
 Jack Dairiki
 Betty & Michael Fujimoto
 Sadako Kashiwagi
 Sakaye Higashi
 Ibuki Lee & Mitch Aoyagi
 Kumi Okamoto
 Shirley M Masada
 Jeff Matsuoka & Akemi Takagi
 Shirley Murakami
 Mark Okashima
 Susan T Sakuma
 Setsuko J Tanaka
 Ina Kikugawa Tao
 Min & Suzanne Yamada
 Jason Yasumoto



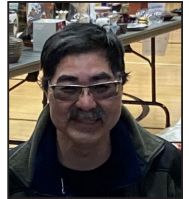
HATSUBON

Misaye Abiko IMO: Rev. Hiroshi Abiko
 Anonymous
 Anonymous IMO: Alan Tokugawa
 Elaine Donlin IMO: Rev. Hiroshi Abiko
 Joyce Oishi & Dii Lewis IMO: Rev. Hiroshi Abiko
 Takumi Matsuba IMO: Keiko Matsuba
 Florence Murata IMO: Yukio Murata
 Akira Shibata IMO: Shizuko Shibata
 Teruo Suzuki
 Gerald Tokugawa IMO: Alan Tokugawa
 Debby Wong IMO: Betty Tsugawa
 Cindy Yee IMO: Calvin Yee

BCSF MEMBERSHIP PLEDGE

Christopher Diani & Stephen McCallion
 Jean Fukunaga
 Laurie Higashi
 Mary Ishisaki
 Mitzi Kanbara & Bill Raymond
 Donna Kotake
 Joan & Jim Matsukuma
 Shirley Murakami
BECCA OPEL- New
 BJ Soriano
 Noriko Takikawa
JASON YASUMOTO- New

BECCA OPEL



JASON YASUMOTO

LIGHT OF DHARMA DONATION

Agnes & Dick Sasaki

APRIL SHOTSUKI HOYO

Tsuruko Nakamura IMO: Kaname Nakamura (3rd yr)

JUNE SHOTSUKI HOYO

Robert & Diane Matsumura IMO: Chisono Kawamoto
 Robert & Diane Matsumura IMO: Sadaichi Kawamoto
 Nancy Shimosaka McBride IMO: Tora Oura
 Hope Fumi McIrvn IMO: Tadashi Hanyu
 Linda Oshita IMO: Gihei Komiyama
 Linda Oshita IMO: Kiyo Komiyama
 Joyce Satow IMO: Midori Satow
 Kate G. Thiel IMO: Setsuko M. Games



Acknowledgments for donations processed between June 15 and August 15, 2023.

Thank you for your generous support of the BCSF. continued from page 4

JULY SHOTSUKI HOYO

Leslie Alexander IMO: Chitose Moriuchi
 Hatta, Julie IMO: Carrie Hatta
 Hatta, Julie IMO: Jane Matano Hatta
 Hatta, Julie IMO: Kayo Hatta
 Steve Inouye IMO: Nancy Michiko Inouye
 Keiko T Kakiuchi IMO: John Masao Kakiuchi
 Harumi Kishida IMO: Yuku Ouye
 Daniel Kunihara IMO: Kenji Kunihara
 Yoko Maeda IMO: Seikichi "Curly" Maeda
 Steven Mihara IMO: Yoshio Mihara
 Julie Nakatani IMO: Kinko Saiki
 Joyce Satow IMO: Roy Akira Satow
 Joyce Satow IMO: Sentaro Satow
 Linda Sekino Omori IMO: Raku Sekino
 Linda Sekino Omori IMO: Takaji Sekino
 Hiko & Susan Shimamoto IMO: Hikoichi Shimamoto
 Karen Shimamoto IMO: Judy Shimamoto
 Karen Shimamoto IMO: Shoji Shimamoto
 Toshio Ono IMO: Nancy Yamamoto
 Gary Sada
 Kayoko Sakaguchi IMO: Kingo Sakaguchi
 Randall Shigio IMO: Toshiko Shigio
 Cheryl Tanaka IMO: Haruko Tanaka
 Setsuko J Tanaka IMO: Tokushiro Maeda
 Joanne Kiyoko Tohei IMO: Judy Itsuko Shimamoto
 Joanne Kiyoko Tohei IMO: Hikoichi Shimamoto
 Joanne Kiyoko Tohei IMO: Shoji Shimamoto

AUGUST SHOTSUKI HOYO

Sylvia & William Corrigan IMO: Kozo Fukagai
 Sylvia & William Corrigan IMO: Mitsue Fukagai
 Miles Hamada & Lorraine Lowe IMO: Wallace Hamada
 Nancy Higashi IMO: Toshio Higashi
 Sumie Hayashi IMO: Midori Mukai
 Suzue Ichinose IMO: Hideo Ichinose
 Mary F Ishisaki IMO: Ben Ishisaki
 Karen Kagehiro IMO: Michael Kagehiro
 Ronald Kagehiro IMO: Nenichi & Haruko Doi
 Ronald Kagehiro IMO: Michael Kagehiro
 Amy Kimura IMO: Shigeyuki Terada
 Robert Matsumura IMO: Wynn Masaru Matsumura
 Jeff Matsuoka & Akemi Takagi IMO: Sangoro Matsuoka
 Nancy Shimosaka McBride IMO: Masashi Shimosaka
 Linda Nakamura IMO: Emiko Nakamura
 Bobby Nakata IMO: Kikuyo Nakata
 Gloria E Nomura IMO: Todd Kazumori Shinto
 Junko Ono IMO: Sam Masami Ono
 Osamu Sekino IMO: Akihiko Inomata
 Linda Sekino Omori IMO: Isamu Sam Sekino
 Linda Sekino Omori IMO: Yoshiye Sekino
 Randy & Bonz Otsuki IMO: Haruko & Nenichi Doi
 Randy & Bonz Otsuki IMO: Michael Kagehiro
 Nancy F Ozaki IMO: Toshiyo Ozaki
 Dennis & Susie Sato IMO: Morio Shida
 Karen Shimamoto IMO: Kay Kazue Harada
 Mary M Tono IMO: Matsuhei Tono
 Evelyn Yamamoto IMO: Robert Toshimi Kato

SEPTEMBER SHOTSUKI HOYO

Tsuruko Nakamura IMO: Giichi Nakamura (50th yr)
 Don Allen M Yamate IMO: Virginia "Ginny" Poon Yamate
 Yoko Yoshii IMO Iwao Yoshii (13th yr)



Sympathy

The Buddhist Church of San Francisco offers condolences to the family and friends of the late

Lorraine (Lori) Suzuki, June 6, 2023

Marjorie Fletcher, July 2, 2023

Her memorial service will be held on Sunday, October 8 at 1 pm at the Japanese Community Center of Northern California

Robert Masuda, July 16, 2023

Namo Amida Butsu Namu Amida Butsu Namu Amida Butsu

Thank you to the volunteers who helped during the busy month of July!

ALOHA BENTO

Misaye Abiko
 Chris Diani
 Francisco Estrada
 Keming (Alex) Gao
 Steve Hendricks
 Irene Hirota
 Kayla Ikuma
 Arlene Kimata
 Gary Kitahata
 Kenneth Kitahata
 Donna Kotake
 Leena Lamm
 Alison Lee
 Gloria Lee
 Grace Lim
 Wilfred Lim
 Timothy Liu
 Elaine Low
 Kalisa L.
 Janet Low
 Jonathan Low
 Talia L.
 Diane Matsumura
 Kelli Matsumura
 Sara Matsumura

Steve McCallion
 Lori Murakami
 Grace Nishikawa
 Becca Opel
 Rev. Melissa Opel
 Ayesha Rashid
 Nancy Roth
 Marcie Sada
 Susan Sakuma
 Taiyo Scanlon-Kimura
 Sathya Seigel
 Linda Sekino
 Raeden Serafino
 Chiemi Silver
 Nanayo Silver
 BJ Soriano
 Yuka Sugino
 Erika Tamura
 Tiffany Tamura
 Randall Terry
 Estella Weiss
 Michael Weiss
 Suzanne Yamada
 Sandy Yamakishi
 Amy Zou



YAO - HOT DOGS, & WATER

Alice Akiyama
 Amanda Dong
 Alyssa Ikuma
 Kayla Ikuma

Callie Kotake
 Yunice Kotake
 Angie Lau
 Lisa Moi
 Erika Tamura



BON ODORI TEACHERS 2023

Mrs. Yoshiko Fujimoto
 Grace Fujimoto
 Grace Lim
 Melanie Look
 Aaron Lum
 Kalisa L.
 Talia L.
 Ruby Okamura
 Chiemi Silver
 Hitomi Silver
 Nobumi Silver

Kylie T.
 At the practices:
 Announcer Judy Akiyama
 Music - Keith Kojimoto
 Snacks- Linda Sawamoto,
 Kevin Yoza, Judy Akiyama, Glynis Nakahara, Nanayo Silver & Chelsea Arita



OCTAVIA STREET

Keith Uyeda-Yagura
 Co Chair
 Doug Dorn- Yagura-
 Co Chair
 Miles Hamada-
 Street Supervisor
 Richard Okiuye-
 Audio Chair
 Eric Akiyama
 Hayden Chun
 ENSOHZA
 Francisco Estrada
 EVERYTHING AUDIO
 VISUAL
 Betty Fujimoto (first
 aid)
 JITEN DAIKO
 Lei Kim-Lau

Lorraine Lowe
 Michelle Luke
 Scott Marlow
 Jeff Matsuoka
 Ian Ngo
 Teresa Ono
 Megan Otani
 Mike Otani
 William Otani
 David Pating (first
 aid)
 Stephen Tam
 Mikey Tong
 Kristina Hamada
 Wong
 Elaine Yamamoto
 Jason Yasumoto
 Kevin Yoza



Thank you to the volunteers who helped during the busy month of July!

DHARMA SCHOOL- UME MUSUBIS, SKEWERS & GAME

Amanda Hing Hernandez
Camille H.
Maseo H.
Erin Inouye
Alan Shimoide



MISO BUTTER CORN

Chris Diani
Yumi Hatta
Al Lee
Karen Lee
Nicole Lee
Trang Li
Steve McCallion
Rev. Melissa Opel
Becca Opel
Rev. David Pating
Anna Pating



SOKO GAKUEN BAKED GOODS THANK YOU TO DONORS OF BAKED GOODS

Yuka Higashino
Keith Kojimoto
Karen Marek
Mari Ota
Jesse Owen
Y. M. Shimazu



Office, Publicity,
Photography, Video,
Social Media, Finance,
Small Bites Cashiers,
Religious service &
Temple tours
Ruth Dixon
Arlene Kimata
Keisuke Lee-Miyaki
Jeff Matsuoka
NICHI BEI NEWS
Richard Okiuye

Teresa Ono
Rev. Melissa Opel
Camille Pating Sensei
Rev. David Pating
Raeden Serafino
Sheryl Serafino
Kian S.
Miles S.
Hitomi Silver
BJ Soriano
Ryan Takemiya
Kevin Yoza

GYM SET UP

Lindsay Kimizuka- Leon
Susan Sakuma
Elaine Yamamoto
Jason Yasumoto
Kevin Yoza

GYM CLEANUP

Alyssa Ikuma
Kayla Ikuma
Grace Lim
Teresa Ono

Susan Sakuma
Erika Tamura
Kevin Yoza



BCSF BOARD- IMPOSSIBLE CURRY, CHICKEN DONBURI, THAI TEAS

Misaye Abiko
John Bansavitch
Tyler Harris
Yumi Hatta
Kayla Ikuma
Adialuz Kimizuka-Leon
Lindsay Kimizuka-Leon
Mitzi K
Arlene Kimata
Gary Kitahata
Kenneth Kitahata
Leena Lamm
Grace Lee
Karen Lee
Nicole Lee

Trang Li
Grace Lim
Wilfred Lim
Timothy Liu
Kacey Nakashima
Vicky Perry
Marcie Sada
Susan Sakuma
Charlotte S.
Sai Seigel
Nanayo Silver
Stephanie Kwan Speaks
Linda Sekino
Brian Tom
Olivia Vasquez
Sandy Yamakishi
Yoshi Yao
Elle



Thank you to the volunteers who helped during the busy month of July!

JrYBA - SPAM MUSUBI
 Elle A.
 Misaye Abiko
 John Bansavitch
 Emi H.
 Yume H.
 Kyan I.
 Mika I.
 Stephanie Ichinose

Kacey Nakashima
 Phoebe S.
 Marcie Sada
 Sai Seigel
 Kian S.
 Miles S.
 Sheryl Serafino
 Lori Wakil
 Yoshi Yao



BWA & CHOIR- YAKI MANJU
 Misaye Abiko
 Betty Fujimoto
 Jean Fukunaga
 Harumi Kishida
 Grace Lim
 Elaine Low
 Junko Low
 Yoko Maeda
 Tara Mochizuki

Ayako Nishimoto
 Kathy Nomura
 Yukiko Oka
 Linda Ono
 Susan Sakuma
 Nanayo Silver
 Nobumi Silver
 Yasuko Wooster
 Suzanne Yamada
 Sandy Yamakishi
 Yoshi Yao



GIRL SCOUTS FURIKAKE POPCORN
 Janet Low
 Kalisa L.
 Talia L.
 Jenny Tam
 Kylie T.
 Daisy Troop



BWA BOUTIQUE, KIMONO SALE, FAMILY TREASURES
SPECIAL THANK YOU TO DONORS OF ITEMS
 Misaye Abiko
 Chelsea Arita
 John Bansavitch
 Kevin Chen
 Alice Chau
 Elaine Donlin
 Doug Dorn
 Jean Fukunaga
 Yumi Hatta
 Satsuki Ina
 Mary Ishisaki
 Harumi Kishida
 Kathleen Kelly
 Keith Kojimoto
 Priscilla Kojimoto
 Leena Lamm
 Angie Lau
 Trang Li
 Grace Lim
 Junko Low
 Jeff Matsuoka

Keisuke Lee-Miyaki
 Elizabeth Mochizuki
 Tara Mochizuki
 Barbara Mow
 Ayako Nishimoto
 Kathy Nomura
 Richard Okiuye
 Linda Ono
 Yukiko Oka
 Susan Sakuma
 Charlotte S.
 Phoebe S.
 Sai Seigel
 Kian S.
 Miles S.
 Raeden Serafino
 Sheryl Serafino
 Matthew Stimson
 Mikey Tong
 Lynn Tran
 Estella Weiss
 Michael Weiss
 Sandy Yamakishi
 Elaine Yamamoto
 Jason Yasumoto
 Yoshi Yao
 Kevin Yoza



BCSF News

Jiten Daiko was especially excited for our taiko students to perform a piece at the 2023 Obon Festival in July. We again enjoyed collaborating with Ensohza for the Obon dance songs Fukushima Ondo and Ei Ja Nai Ka. Many thanks to BCSF for organizing this event!

In August, Jiten Daiko hosted an experimental concert “Fizzy Fragments” in the BCSF gym. The program

consisted entirely of pieces written & performed by Jiten Daiko members and was warmly received by many friends. We ended our season by performing at the CANE anniversary.

In gassho,
Taiyo Scanlon-Kimura and Kevin Chen,
Jiten Daiko Liaisons to BCSF



BCSF Road Trip to Placer Buddhist Church was a fun, beautiful night of lively dancing in 97-degrees at 7pm. Brandon Unruhe (smiling in photo) says hello to all!



BCSF Sangha joined 200+ enthusiastic guests at “Celebrating Activism & Community!”, the 50th Anniversary of the Committee Against Nihonmachi Evictions (CANE) on Saturday, August 19 at the JCCNC. The organizing committee included BCSF members Donna Kotake and program MC Joyce Nakamura. BCSF’s Jiten Daiko opened the program that recognized the achievements of the movement that opposed the SF Redevelopment Agency evictions and demolitions in Japantown in the 1970s.



Hawaii Kyodan News

August 11, 2023

We are all watching in great sadness and horror, the loss of life and destruction of homes and communities in Maui, Hawaii, due to the devastating wildfires. Our thoughts go to all there who have lost loved ones, homes, businesses, temples and churches, and their community. What a tremendous loss for everyone.

I recall a story from the Jataka Tales in our Buddhist tradition. Once there was a huge forest fire and all of the animals in the forest were running away from the fire for safety. One little bird was flying into a lake, dipping its wings in water, then flying over the forest fire dropping little drops of water to fight the fire. Back and forth the little bird flew. The other animals shouted to the little bird, "What are you doing? You cannot put out the fire

that way?!" The little bird shouted back, "I may not be able to stop the fire, but this is all that I can do. I must try."

In the face of such devastation, we will all do what we can do, whether it is to contribute to the disaster relief, to share our encouragement, or for those in Maui, to begin to rebuild, one step at a time, doing what they can do.

Gassho,

Rev. Marvin Harada

Bishop

Buddhist Churches of America

donation links

<https://bca.kindful.com/>

<https://hongwanjihawaii.com/blog/2023/08/09/fire-updates/>



HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII

STATE HEADQUARTERS

1727 PALI HIGHWAY ■ HONOLULU, HI 96813 ■ PH: (808) 522-9200 ■ FAX: (808) 522-9209

www.hongwanjihawaii.com

August 10, 2023

Dear Dharma Friends,

We have been watching in disbelief the tremendous destruction caused by the recent wildfires on Maui. The loss of life, livelihood, and property has been devastating. Lahaina Hongwanji and its Sangha were directly affected by the fires. The temple, columbarium, classroom building, and minister's residence were completely destroyed in the horrific fires that devastated historic Lahaina town. Many temple members were forced to evacuate, and many homes were burnt to the ground. Our hearts go out to all who have been impacted by this disaster. As residents and our fellow Sangha members begin the process of rebuilding and healing, Hawaii Kyodan is committed to supporting relief efforts on Maui.

In the spirit of compassionate action, we have established the **MAUI WILDFIRE DISASTER RELIEF FUND**. You can donate in the following ways:

1. Online at www.hongwanjihawaii.com by clicking on the "Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief" button under the "Donate" tab.
2. Through GoFundMe at the following link: <https://gofund.me/ff77a520>
3. Check and cash donations can be sent directly to Hawaii Kyodan Headquarters. Please make check payable to HHMH and in the memo line designate "Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief" to ensure proper credit.

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii
1727 Pali Highway
Honolulu, HI 96813

All donations collected will go to support Lahaina Hongwanji and relief efforts on Maui. The Office of the Bishop and Committee on Social Concerns will prioritize addressing the immediate and short-term needs of temple families displaced by the fires and supporting the greater community as it rebuilds. The Committee will select reputable relief agencies and organizations to support in order to ensure our donations will directly aid those impacted by this disaster. Updates will be shared on our website at www.hongwanjihawaii.com.

Mahalo for your generosity and support during this time of tragedy.

In Gassho,

Rev. Toshiyuki Umitani
Bishop

Dr. Warren Tamamoto
President

Rev. Blayne Higa, Chair
Committee on Social Concerns

Calling all BCSF Leaders:

BWA, Choir, Dharma School, Girl Scouts, Jiten Daiko, Jr. YBA, Pack 29, Troop 29, Soko Gakuen, YAO, Ministerial team, BCSF Board

Your attendance at monthly **Program Group** Meetings is crucial to building a stronger BCSF that benefits us all. **Please mark your calendars for second Tuesdays at 7 p.m. -- Sept. 12, October 10, November 14, December 12.**

New Program Board Strengthens BCSF Connections

Since May, BCSF program groups have gathered every month to collaborate on activities that benefit the larger BCSF community.

In July, program groups showed up to support the hectic but fun Obon Festival. For a second year, groups hosted "Small Bites" tables in the gym on Bon Odori day to offer yummy treats. Many program

group members also volunteered individually for Aloha Chicken Bento fundraiser, yagura dance platform set up on Octavia St., and Family Treasures Marketplace.

Beginning in September, youth program groups will focus on back-to-school recruitment activities. Throughout the year, the meetings will help adult and youth groups, ministers and the board to strengthen our connections and build a better BCSF.

Youth Rising- Girl Scout Ambassador 12 by Kylie T.

When I was a Girl Scout Brownie, I went to the Buddhist Church to learn about Obon, its origins, & dances so I could earn the BCA Bon Odori patch. Since then, I've attended many Obon festivals & practices, first as a participant & now as a dance teacher. In July, I was happy to teach dances to the younger Girl Scouts when Rev. Opel came for an Obon lesson.

Rev. Opel explained the story of Obon. One of Buddha's disciples, Mogallana, used his powers to look upon his deceased mother to see if she was well & was upset to see that she had fallen into the Realm of the Hungry Ghosts. He asked the Buddha for help to get his mother out & was instructed to feed the monks in his town. Mogallana did this & in turn, his mother was released from the Realm. He was so happy that he danced for joy. This is how Obon originated, with people dancing to celebrate their ancestors who have passed on.

Next, Bon Odori teachers Talia, Kalisa, Nobumi and I explained the implements used while dancing, like the sensu (folding fan), kachi kachi (wooden castanets), tenugui (towel), and uchiwa (round fan). The girls enjoyed experimenting with how to use each one. Then we started teaching Tanko Bushi, a hand dance that emulates coal miners. We practiced in a circle & I was impressed that they all picked up the moves very quickly & enjoyed dancing together. Next was Fukushima Ondo, which is also a hand dance but is a bit harder than Tanko Bushi. We practiced the moves, had dinner together, then we all went to the gym for the church odori practice with everyone else.

It was so nice to see some of the girls out there on Octavia Street on Bon Odori day!



BCSF News

10 Minute Rule to keep BCSF secure

If your group unlocks the Austin St. or Kitchen Doors to let your group enter the building, RE-LOCK THE DOOR 10 MIN. after your start time. Please do not leave the doors unlocked and unmonitored for your entire meeting.

Please consider: ***“Would I leave this door unlocked if it was the front door at my house?”***

Please report incidents to the BCSF office so we can know whether to increase security procedures.

Is there any interest in riding a bus from BCSF to Graton Resort and Casino in Rohnert Park?

We would leave BCSF at 10 am and return by 3 pm. The cost of the bus ride would be shared by all who ride. There is a pool and spa for those who don't want to gamble.

If you are interested, please: email BCSFBento@gmail.com or leave a message with the BCSF office.

BCSF Voices - We welcome letters from “Light of Dharma” readers to express viewpoints & share information about issues that affect our BCSF Sangha.

Editor's note: Here is the full text of Emily Murase's letter, an excerpt of which appeared in SFChronicle.com, August 21. The issue of low-wage work is not new to many Sangha members whose family members were domestic workers or laborers with few benefits or job security.

"Don't forget to tip the housekeepers"

Soleil Ho's opinion piece on tipping at coffee houses (Opinion, Aug. 12, "Tipping \$0 for Coffee?") exposes the economic challenges baristas face due to non-tipping customers. She points out that this could be because "the work might seem easy." What about low-wage earners whose work is not visible at all? When was the last time you tipped housekeeping staff?

Hotel housekeeping staff are typically immigrant women who also work as primary caregivers to dependent children and/or elderly relatives.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the hospitality industry in the San Francisco Bay Area employs 10,970 people who earn an average of \$47,680 annually or \$22.92 an hour.

Yet, the Self-Sufficiency Standard published by the California Department of Health Care Services for a single parent of two young children in San Francisco

is \$147,388, far beyond the median income of hotel housekeeping staff.

Only about 30% of hotel guests leave a gratuity for housekeeping staff according to 2017 research on tipping by Professor Shane Blum of Texas Tech University. No doubt this percentage has declined precipitously as we as a society have moved away from carrying any cash at all. Plus, how many of us carry \$5 and \$10 bills? Before an out-of-town trip, I have to visit a bank to secure a stash of bills in denominations smaller than \$20 for tipping.

To remedy what I suspect is a severe drop in tipping income for hotel housekeepers, I urge the hospitality industry to create QR codes and other means to tip housekeepers and other deserving hotel staff for guests who prefer modern, non-cash ways to pay for things, namely using their credit/debit cards. And next time you are on the road, don't forget to tip the invisible but nevertheless hard-working housekeeping staff. They deserve it.

~ Emily Murase

Emily Murase, Ph.D., is the Executive Director of the Japantown Task Force, Inc. She had the pleasure of leading Girl Scout Troops 3130 and 31259 for 12+ years with her two daughters Junko and Izumi. She is also an Ardenette alum (star benchwarmer) and participated in the BCSF Explorer Scouts in high school. As a BCSF volunteer, she only had to clean the oil vats once and considers her bingo-calling days the zenith.

BCSF Board Highlights from July 16, 2023

Rev. Opel is busy conducting memorial services, visiting Kokoro, attending JARF meetings with Jeff Matsuoka & Rev. Donlin (not to mention showing an amazing memory for people's names and faces!).

Financial Report - Jeff said June and July are interim periods. The August & September reports will be crucial to get a better read on where we are with the annual budget. So far, we are in good shape.

Followed by a closed session to discuss legal and personnel issues.

BCSF Building News

1. Two recent break ins to the main garage and to the mailboxes. Nothing was stolen. Images were captured on the camera mounted in the garage and at Austin Street.
2. An additional layer of roofing was installed on the parapets in August. The rain damaged ceilings in the office and

Nokotsudo will be repaired.

3. Future: Training on how to turn on the pilot light of the downstairs kitchen stove will be scheduled. New door to be installed at the roof to replace the existing door. New metal shelf to replace damaged shelf in the BWA closet. WiFi wiring for Office, Social Hall, Hondo, and Education building to start soon.

Published monthly by the
Buddhist Church of San Francisco.

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: Photos by Hitomi Silver, Arlene Kimata & Kevin Yoza. Mrs. Yasuhara by Sheryl Serafino
- page 3: Obon service by Kevin Yoza
- page 4: Obon sights by Hitomi Silver
- page 5: Obon sights by Sheryl Serafino & Hitomi Silver
- page 6, 7: Photos by Hitomi Silver, Arlene Kimata & Kevin Yoza
- page 8: Photos by Arlene Kimata & Kevin Yoza
- page 9: Photos by Arlene Kimata, Hitomi Silver, Kevin Yoza, Jiten Daiko & Mark Shigenaga
- page 11: Courtesy of Girls Scout Troop # 62198
- page 13: BCSF by Kevin Yoza



Resident Minister

Rev. Melissa Opel

Minister's Assistants

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

2023 BCSF Board of Directors

- President
Arlene Kimata
- Vice President of Programs
Nanayo Silver
- Treasurer
Kevin Yoza
- Secretary
Susan Sakuma
- Melissa Angel
- Doug Dorn

BCSF Office Manager

Sheryl Serafino
bcsfoffice@gmail.com
415-776-3159
In Office on T, W, F;
Remote on M, Th

Light of Dharma committee:

Rev. Elaine Donlin, Arlene Kimata,
Rev. Keisuke Lee-Miyaki,
Susan Sakuma, BJ Soriano

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

Visit us at:

- Website: Buddhistchurchofsanfrancisco.org
- Our URL for YouTube: www.youtube.com/buddhistchurchofsanfrancisco
- FaceBook: Buddhist Church of San Francisco
- Instagram: [BuddhistChurchofSanFrancisco](https://www.instagram.com/BuddhistChurchofSanFrancisco)
- Twitter: twitter.com/bcsfsangha

Thank You "Light of Dharma" readers who sent subscription donations!

If you are a BCSF member, THANK YOU for your membership which covers the cost of printing and mailing the monthly newsletter.

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

----- cut here and 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: _____.

I do not need the mailed newsletter. Remove me from the mail list.

Name _____ Address _____



*The next BCSF Japanese language service will be held on
Sunday September 10 at 1 pm led by
Rev. Keisuke Lee-Miyaki*

9月10日祥月法要のお勤め後、
三野宮貞子先生による和菓子練り切り教室を開催いたします。
(日本語のみ)

BCA Buddhist Churches of America
3RD ANNUAL
VIRTUAL ART EXHIBIT

Please share your art in this wonderful exhibit showcasing the talent of our BCA Sangha community

SEPT 17, 2023
buddhistchurchesofamerica.org

SUBMISSION & INFO:
[HTTPS://TINYURL.COM/ARTBCA](https://tinyurl.com/artbca)

September & October Dates

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

- September 3** - NO SERVICE-LABOR DAY
- September 10** - 10 a.m. Shotsuki Hoyo Monthly Memorial Service
- September 10**- 1 p.m. Japanese Service
- September 17** - 10 a.m. Fall Ohigan Service
- Saturday September 23** - 5 p.m. Metta service Zoom, with Rev. Donlin
- September 24**- 10 a.m. Sangha Service



- October 1** -10 a.m. Youth Service
- October 8** - 10 a.m. Shotsuki Hoyo Monthly Memorial Service
- October 8**- 1 p.m. Japanese Service
- October 15** - 10 a.m. BCSF Eitaikyo Service
- October 22**- 10 a.m. Sangha Service
- Saturday October 28**-5 p.m. Metta Service Zoom, with Rev. Donlin
- October 29**- 10 a.m. Sangha Service

Program Group monthly meeting for BCSF leaders: BWA, Choir, Dharma School, Girl Scouts, Jiten Daiko, Jr. YBA, Pack 29, Troop 29, Soko Gakuen, YAO, Ministerial team, BCSF Board.

September 12, 7 p.m., Join In Person in Social Hall or via Zoom

BCSF Board of Directors
September 10- 1 p.m. regular board meeting

Mindful Meditation meets every Wed., 6:30 p.m. (Zoom) **September : 6, 13, 20, 27**