

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- 2024 Calendar of Services

OCTOBER

10/1/23 10 am Youth service
 11 am- 12 pm Back to School meeting
 RSVP for lunch
 10/8/23 10 am Shotsuki Hoyo Monthly Memorial
 10/15/23 10 am BCSF Eitaikyo Service
 Perpetual Sutra Chanting
 10/22/23 9:30 am - 12 pm Temple clean up
 NO SERVICE
 10/29/23 10 am- Sangha service



NOVEMBER

11/5/23 10 am YAO service
 11: 00 am Jr. YBA Pancake Breakfast
 11/12/23 10 am Shotsuki Hoyo Monthly Memorial
 11/19/23 10 am BWA hosted
 Eshinni & Kakushinni service
 11/26/23 Candle dipping in the garage
 NO SERVICE



DECEMBER

12/1/23 7 pm Bodhi Eve service
 5:30 pm Potluck
 12/3/23 10 am Bodhi Day service
 12/10/23 10 am Shotsuki Hoyo Monthly Memorial
 12/17/23 10 am Sangha service
 12/24/23 NO SERVICE
 12/31/23 7 pm Joya-E/ New Year's Eve service



JANUARY

1/1/24 10 am Shusho-E/New Year's Day service
 1/7/24 10 am Sangha service
 1/14/24 10 am Shotsuki Hoyo Monthly Memorial
 1/21/24 10 am Ho-Onko/ Shinran Shonin memorial
 12 pm party in the gym RSVP
 1/28/24 10 am Sangha service



FEBRUARY

2/4/24 10 am Shotsuki Hoyo Monthly Memorial
 2/11/24 10 am Scout Sunday & Sangha service
 2/16/24 National Council meeting
 2/18/24 10 am Nirvana Day/
 Shakyamuni Buddha's death
 2/25/24 10 am BCA Eitaikyo service via Zoom



MARCH

3/3/24 10 am Sangha service
 3/10/24 10 am Shotsuki Hoyo Monthly Memorial
 3/17/24 10 am Spring Ohigan/ spring equinox
 11:30 am Saha Film festival
 3/24/24 10 am Lady Kujo service
 3/31/24 10 am Sangha service



APRIL

4/6/24 10 am decorate hanamido flower altar
 4/7/24 10 am Hanamatsuri/
 Shakyamuni Buddha's birth
 4/14/24 10 am Shotsuki Hoyo Monthly Memorial
 4/21/24 10 am- Sangha service
 4/28/24 10 am Sangha service



MAY

5/5/24 10 am Gotan-E/ Shinran Shonin's birthday
 5/12/24 10 am Shotsuki Hoyo Monthly Memorial
 5/19/24 10 am Sangha service
 5/26/24 10 am NO SERVICE
 5/27/24 11 am JARF/ Jikeikai memorial service



JUNE

6/2/24 10 am Pride service
 6/7/24 7 pm YAO Graduation service
 6/9/24 10 am Shotsuki Hoyo Monthly Memorial
 6/16/24 10 am Sangha service
 6/23/24 10 am Sangha service
 6/30/24 10 am Sangha service



JULY

7/7/24 NO SERVICE
 7/14/24 10 am Hatsubon & Obon service honoring
 loved ones who have passed
 7/21/24 1 pm Obon Odori
 7/28/24 10 am Sangha service



AUGUST

8/4/24 10 am Atomic Bomb remembrance
 8/11/24 10 am Shotsuki Hoyo Monthly Memorial
 8/18/24 10 am Bishops' memorial service
 8/25/24 10 am Sangha service



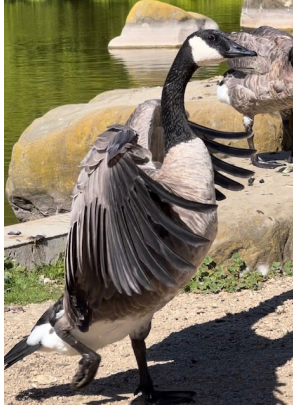
SEPTEMBER So far....

9/1/24 10 am BCA 125th anniversary service



Message from Rev. Melissa Jo Shin Opel

BCSF Resident Minister



“Pain cracks us open. It breaks us. But in the breaking, there is a new kind of wholeness that emerges. From my brokenness, a new, beautiful mantra emerged: weeds bring yellow birds.”

- Steve Leder, *More Beautiful Than Before: How Suffering Transforms Us*

When we first arrived in San Francisco, one of the things that has taken the most time to get used to are all the stairs in the temple and leading up to our apartment. For the most part we’ve adjusted—we get a little cardio in each time we leave and come back, as well as stretching our legs multiple times a day to take the dogs out. One of the downfalls of the stairs however, began with a sharp pain in my left knee early into our arrival. I decided to get it checked out by my new doctor and she thought it could be a few different things and prescribed a medicated cream and some PT exercises to strengthen the muscles around it. Fast forward to a set of friends visiting recently. We headed to the Botanical Gardens to explore and walk around and after an hour or so of popping in and out of different sections and taking too many pictures, I decided to sit by the pond while everyone else kept walking through the gardens. As I was sitting and just being still, enjoying the sounds of nature, six geese floated near me and did what geese do. They bathed and dove down in the water, picked for food and cleaned themselves. One particular goose seemed to enjoy rolling over on its back and it was amusing to watch it try and right itself from the upside down position. Shortly after, five more geese came and began their time relaxing in the water. I was enjoying being an observer, staying still and quiet, not wanting to disturb them. The only time I picked up my phone was to snap a picture or take a short video of their shaking and squawking. As time ticked away, the geese were ready to move on and instead of avoiding me, all eleven geese began exiting the pond, just an arms length away. I held very still not realizing how used to people these geese were; they were so close I felt some stress about whether they would take a nibble at me or try and chase me away if I made any movements. One-by-one, each goose waddled by, some shaking the water off, some seemingly unaware of me and one who stared just a little too long for my liking. After they left, I noticed some turtles sunbathing on the rocks and I relaxed into my bench and soaked up some sun—45 minutes had passed by the time my wife and friends came back and sat next to me. It was a rejuvenating time.

Looking back, I feel grateful for my achy knee. If it had not started to bother me a bit and I had I not listened to my body, I would not have had this sacred time to myself. I wish I could take credit for making this connection but it wasn’t until I started reading Steve

Leder’s book, *More Beautiful Than Before* that gratitude for my knee came up—up until then I had just enjoyed the quietude. I wrote in the margin next to where the above quote comes from, my own version of “weeds bring yellow flowers.” Instead, I wrote, “Achy knees bring geese.” And as I write this, I re-think my mantra and would shift it to say, “achy knees bring peace.”



As we get older and our bodies begin to change, old injuries from sports, accidents, or genetics, amongst many possibilities, remind us how we should have been a little more gentle on ourselves and how we are in the nature to grow old and have things go from being in perfect working order one day, to limping a bit the next. Jokes I heard my parents and grandparents make about aging when I was a child are starting to make sense. And of course, unexpected illness or accidents can happen at anytime and change our lives. It is in these moments we grapple with the way things used to be and how they are now. We can get stuck wishing we could rewind and experience what we consider to be a better time but we do it at the cost of repeating the same mistake and not appreciating who we are right now.

Shinran states, ***“Even when the world is filled with a great fire/Pass through it and seek to hear the dharma/Then you will unflinchingly become a world-honored one/And free all beings from birth, aging, and death.”*** (CWS, p.17). I have often used this passage in many a dharma talk and I realize, I always speak of the “great fire” as something external, happening to me or an obstacle placed in my way but if I really reflect on the greatest fire I must pass through, it is my own mind. Not every moment we have is a huge “a-ha” moment that will change the course of our lives but each moment of our life is an opportunity to hear the dharma. When we reflect and make connections in our experiences, we give the opportunity for the dharma to come into clearer focus. The smoke and flames from our internal fire, our ego, blind us to the opportunity to see things for how they truly are and it almost left me missing how my achy knee brought peace and an opportunity to hear the dharma in my life in a new and different way. This time I needed an external prompt to reflect on a deeper moment, a more significant experience than I originally encountered- this is one of the reasons listening to others share the dharma is so helpful in our life- it allows us to reflect in a new way, through a different lens. As we continue to engage with the dharma, to walk through our own fire, we will have clear snapshots that help us deepen our gratitude and find thankfulness, even in the hard moments. What are your weeds that bring flowers or your achy knees that bring peace? Let’s clear the smoke and see for ourselves.

Acknowledgments for donations processed between August 15 and September 15, 2023.
Thank you for your generous support of the BCSF.

DONATIONS

Anonymous
Mark Okashima
Becca Opel

BCSF PLEDGE MEMBERSHIPS

STEVEN HENDRIX & ERIN INOUYE- New Members

MEMORIALS

Frank Chong IMO: James Kachiu
Tadashi Kasahara IMO: Robert Masuda
Harumi Kishida IMO: Robert Masuda
James & Michiko Masuda IMO: Robert Masuda
Ross Masuda IMO: Robert Masuda
Yoko Maeda IMO: Robert Masuda
Toshio Mitsuda IMO: Robert Masuda
Allen & Patricia Okamoto IMO: Robert Masuda
Ricky & Glenda Okamura IMO: Lorraine Suzuki
Teresa Ono IMO: Lorraine Suzuki
Jerry & Eleanor Osumi IMO: Robert Masuda
David & Cindi H Sasaki IMO: Robert Masuda
Robert Sakai IMO: Robert Masuda
Dennis & Susie Sato IMO: Robert Masuda
Ken & Helen Sato IMO: Robert Masuda
Hiko & Susan Shimamoto IMO: Robert Masuda
Joi Suzuki & Chris Ninomoto IMO: Lorraine Suzuki
Craig Takeda & Laura Higashi IMO: Robert Masuda
Tony & Jennifer Tam IMO: Robert Masuda
Naoaki & Nancy Uyemura IMO: Robert Masuda
Anna & Wayne Yamaguchi IMO: Robert Masuda
Shinji & Yoshi Yao IMO: Robert Masuda
Cindy Yee IMO: Calvin Yee
Arthur & Yoshiko Yoshihara IMO Robert Masuda

LIGHT OF DHARMA DONATION

Elaine E Weston

OBON SERVICE

Hanako Fujimoto
Sadako Kashiwagi
Yumi Hatta

HATSUBON

Helen Sasaki IMO: Rev. LaVerne Sasaki

FALL OHIGAN

Sakaye Higashi
Kumi Okamoto

JUNE SHOTSUKI HOYO

Kuniko Naito IMO: Sam Shizuo Naito

JULY SHOTSUKI HOYO

Gail Keikoan IMO: Takeshi Mizota

AUGUST SHOTSUKI HOYO

Allan & Legaya Kaufman IMO: Masako Landicho
Chiyeko Kimura IMO: Shizuye Ikeda
Rev. Ronald Kobata IMO: Harue Kobata
Rev. Ronald Kobata IMO: Tsugiko Okamoto
Junko & Arnold Low IMO: Tokie Nerio
Lori Matoba IMO: Guy Ono
Lori Matoba IMO: Lynda Ono Unger
Teresa Ono IMO: Guy Ono
Teresa Ono IMO: Sam Masami Ono
Teresa Ono IMO: Lynda Ono Unger
Sally Oshita IMO: Aiko Oshita
Yoko Sumida IMO: Tatsuo Sumida
Setsuko J Tanaka IMO: Sasaichi Tanaka
Shizue Tanaka IMO: Shigeo Tanaka
Chiyeko Tsuchitani IMO: Kiku Tsuchitani
Peggy Tsujimoto IMO: Fred Hiroshi Tsujimoto
Soko Ushijima IMO: Tokiko Ushijima
JoAnn Ono Wong IMO: Guy Ono
JoAnn Ono Wong IMO Lynda Ono Unger

SEPTEMBER SHOTSUKI HOYO

Leslie Alexander IMO: Tetsuo Moriuchi
Carrie Fudenna IMO: Lois Yonemoto
Sumie Hayashi IMO: Mark Mukai
Mitsuko Hirota IMO: Masayuki Frank Hirota
Mitsuko Hirota IMO: Namio Ben Yasumoto
Janet J Kashiwada IMO: Susie Nakano
Kio Lance IMO: Mary Shikaura Arrington
Jeffery Matsuoka & Akemi Takagi IMO: Kiyoka Matsuoka
Wayne Matsuoka IMO: Kiyoka Matsuoka
Karen Nagareda IMO: Tokuichi Kuruma
Cindy Nakamoto IMO: Jitsuzo Nakamoto
K. Karl Nakamura IMO: Giichi Nakamura
Bobby Nakata IMO: Evelyn Kishiko Nakata
Barbara T Noguchi IMO: Fusaye Noguchi
Becca Opel
Hiroko Ono IMO: Eiko Ono
Sumiko Sakashita IMO: Eiji Sakashita
Dennis & Susie Sato IMO: Hiroko Shida
Shigetaka Suzuki IMO: Fumiko Suzuki
Yoshinori & Kyoko Takenaka IMO: Shina Takenaka
Clint & Nikki Taura IMO: Chiyoe Taura
Shin Taura IMO: Chiyoe Taura
Emi R Uyehara IMO: Chisako Uyehara
Akemi Yoshimoto IMO: Masajiro Koyama

OCTOBER SHOTSUKI HOYO

Frank S & Midori Saito IMO: Nakayo Saito

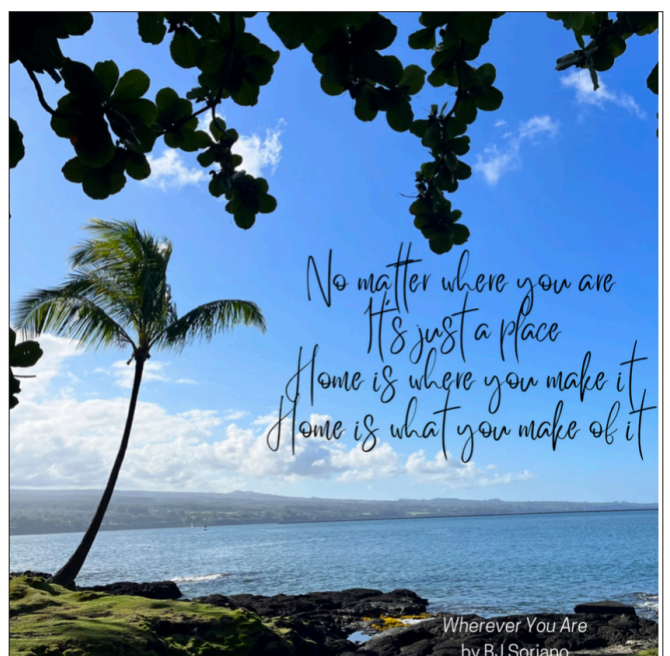
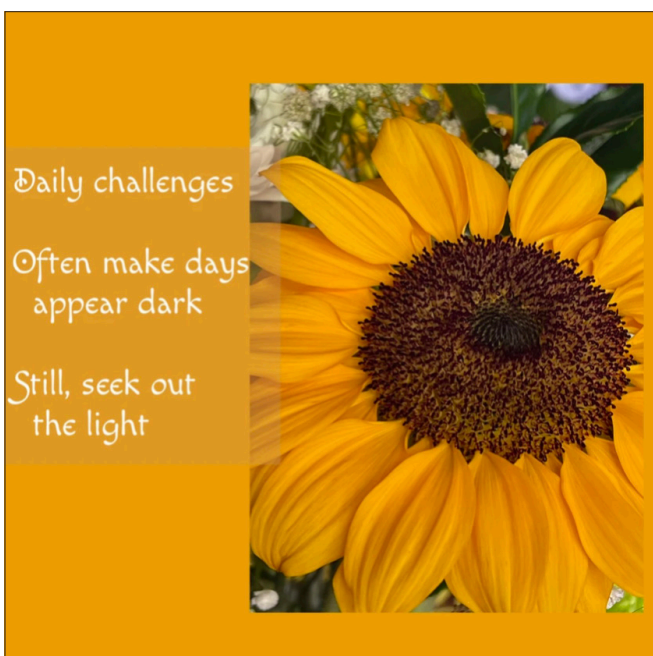
BCA Virtual Art Exhibit 2023 is open for online visits

<http://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/bca-art-exhibit-2023>

Artwork by BCSF members
Matthew Stimson (at R) and
BJ Soriano (p. 4) are
included in the 2023 exhibit.

Thank you Matthew and BJ for sharing your
beautiful work.





by BJ Soriano

BCSF News



Annual Youth Service & Back-to-School Meeting

Sunday, October 1
10:00 AM - 12:00 Noon
 followed by a
HOT DOG LUNCH for EVERYONE
(Adults and Youth!)
Lunch served at 12 noon

RSVP FOR HOT DOG LUNCH BY FRIDAY, 9/29 BY CALLING THE BCSF OFFICE AT (415)776-3158 OR GO TO: <https://signup.com/go/RPRosVb>



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. -- October 10, November 14, December 12.**

New Program Board Strengthens BCSF Connections

Program Board Highlights - Sept. 12 Meeting

Attended by BWA, Choir, Girl Scouts, Jiten Daiko, Jr. YBA, Troop 29, Rev. Opel, BCSF board members, AB 506 administrator Tara Mochizuki.

Rev. Opel reviewed the 2023-24 Calendar of services and events.

She will discuss the Affiliate Agreements with program groups before issuing the document (page 2 only) that needs to be signed. Page 1 is on hold until further review.

October 1 from 10-12 pm is the annual Youth Service and Back-to-School meeting for youth group families. All service attenders (youth and

adults) are invited to a hot dog lunch at Noon, following the service and meeting. RSVP for lunch by Sept 29.

Reminders:

- * Each group should sign up with Jean Fukunaga or Junko Low for your one Sunday Toban/ volunteer duty for Sunday service refreshments
- * Clear the bulletin boards by Sept. 30. Kevin Yoza has a new layout for all groups to have display space.
- * October 22 is temple clean up day. Troop 29 can haul items down to the daruma garage at a later date if groups mark heavy or bulky items they need help with.
- * Your leaders and families can keep in touch with BCSF activities by signing up to receive the monthly Light of Dharma, Friday emails, monthly Program Board agendas.

BCSF News

BWA Attends SF Giants Game

by Jean Fukunaga

Sixteen Buddhist Women’s Association (BWA) members and guests attended the SF Giants game against the Atlanta Braves on Saturday, 8/26/2023. The weather was perfect even though the SF Giants lost. Everyone had a wonderful time. “Hello BCSF-BWA!” appeared on the SF Giants scoreboard much to the BWA’s delight.



After the Japanese service on September 10, wagashi master Ms. Teiko Sannomiya led a class in making Wagashi Nerikiri, the Japanese art of molding beautiful confections out of sweet white bean paste. Sannomiya

Sensei learned the art from her late father who worked for 45 years at Hanazono Manju in Japan. She is active in flower arranging and tea ceremony events in the Bay Area.

Fun time and good food at the August 20 Obon Volunteer Appreciation lunch.



Bon Pop August 26th at the Japantown Peace Plaza.



To the left, Kevin Chen Below, Kimiko Shiro, former Summer Dharma School student and granddaughter of Chiz Shiro, with Nanayo Silver.



BCSF News



Thank you to BJ Soriano for updating the photo wall outside the BCSF office with NEW PHOTOS and for rearranging the photos of past ministers and board presidents in chronological order.



Fall Ohigan & "Ganbaro!" Film

After the Sept. 10 Fall Ohigan service, BCSF's Saha Film series presented Boku Kodama's "Ganbaro!" in its first public showing about CANE's organizing against Nihonmachi evictions in the 1970s. BCSF members Jeff Matsuoka, Joyce Nakamura and Yumi Hatta (shown with Boku, 2nd from L) were CANE organizers and supporters.



BCSF Youth Rising:

Jr. YBA

Congratulations to the newly elected Jr. YBA officers for 2023-24 who were sworn in during the Fall Ohigan service on September 10.

17th Annual Japanese American Religious Federation Curry Cook-Off

All-You-Can-Eat!



October 21, 2023 (Saturday)
Dine in Only: 4:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Christ United Methodist Church (CUPC)
1700 Sutter St, San Francisco, CA 94115

\$15 Suggested Donation

If you would like to be a **contestant and enter** your curry in the competition, please use this QR Code below or contact: Rev. Rodney Yano (415) 517-1214, ryano@konkosf.org

- Curry Categories:**
- General or Vegetarian
- Prizes for the winners!**
- 1st Place People's Choice - \$100
 - 2nd Place People's Choice - \$50
 - 3rd Place People's Choice - \$30
 - Judge's Choice - \$100

*Each Curry Contestant will receive \$30 to help with curry expenses.

This year's beneficiary will be KOHO <https://kohosf.org/>
They are the organizers for BonPop <https://kohosf.org/events/bonpop>

To order tickets, use QR Code below or email Rev. Elaine Donlin at donlin1@yahoo.com



JAPANESE AMERICAN RELIGIOUS FEDERATION MEMBER CHURCHES:
Buddhist Church of San Francisco - Christ Episcopal Church - Christ United Presbyterian Church - Hokkeshu Buddhist Church - Konkō-Kyō Church of San Francisco - Nichiren Buddhist Church - Pine United Methodist Church - Rissho Kosei-kai Buddhist Center - St. Benedict Parish at St. Francis Xavier Church - SF Japanese Seventh-day Adventist Church - Sokoji, Soto Mission of San Francisco - Tenrikyo America West Church.

JOIN THE BCSF CHOIR

IN MAKING MAGICAL, MARVELOUS MUSIC FOR OUR SANGHA

For more information, call:
Misaye Abiko
(415)285-5444 or (415)676-1931

Choir practices resume on October 8 at 11:20 a.m. in the Hondo.

We are preparing for special services in January (Hoonko), April (Hanamatsuri), July (Obon), September 1, 2024 (BCA 125 Anniversary and Founder's Day). Singers and instrumentalists of all ages and voice ranges are invited to join!

BCSF Youth Rising: Troop 29 Trip to Japan Reprinted from Hongwanji Journal, July 20, 2023, p. 8

Blackened cleaning rag turned happy memories Buddhist Church of San Francisco scouts take part in volunteer cleaning

On June 30, a foreign youth group was among Hongwanji's Nembutsu Hoshidan* clean-up groups cleaning the Amidado (Hall of Amida Buddha). The group of a total of 28 middle and high school students and their leaders from the Buddhist Church of San Francisco Boy Scouts troop 29 (California, USA) arrived in Japan on June 29 for a two-week "Japan Study Tour." The group visited Hongwanji and participated in the Hoshidan cleaning activities which included six local groups.

Donning the troop t-shirt and the trademark Hoshidan sash (see photo), although it was the first time cleaning using a Japanese zokin rag for most of them, carefully watching the movements of their Japanese counterparts, they diligently wiped down the tatami mats, the exposed veranda surrounding the temple structures, and the connecting corridors. Being approached by local participants asking "Is this your first time to Japan?" "Did your grandfathers and grandmothers emigrate from Japan?" a Japanese speaking scout was seen responding to their curiosity with a friendly smile.

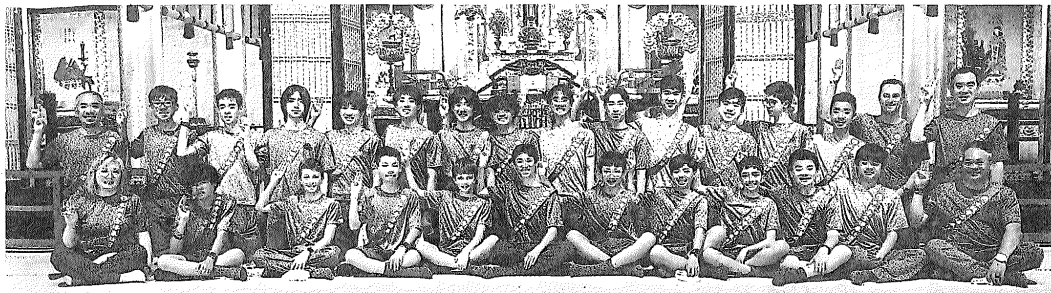
Evan Noah (17) commented "This is my first time in Japan. As I wiped down the corridor of the Amidado Hall with all my might, my cloth turned black. Being able to also interact with the Japanese people, I have made happy memories. I would like to clean the temple again." with a smile. Noah's father and chaperone, Dennis, shared "I was surprised that so many people gathered from all over Japan to beautify Hongwanji. The next time we come to Hongwanji and take part in the cleaning, I would like to arrange for translations so that others can get to know us and to better our interaction with everyone."

Following the cleaning activities, the group toured the Shoin chambers, Hiunkaku pavilion, and Karamon gate. In addition to Hongwanji, the delegation visited Hiroshima for a study on peace, climbed Mt. Fuji, and conducted international exchange with Japanese scouts.

In addition to the troop's visits to Japan every four years to participate in the Nippon Scout Jamboree, beginning in 2017, a study tour with its main purpose being a visit to Hongwanji to volunteer and clean the grounds has been conducted. A second tour was planned but postponed for two years due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Nembutsu Hoshidan: A program inviting Jodo Shinshu members to visit the Hongwanji and volunteer their services to clean various parts of the Hongwanji complex.

ニュース



阿弥陀堂を清掃する念仏奉仕団の中に6月30日、外国人の青年グループが。彼らは「日本研修ツアー」として6月29日から約2週間、米国カリフォルニア州から来日した北米開教区・サンフランシスコ仏教会ボーイスカウト29団の中高生と引率者ら28人。一行は本山に参拝し、日本の6団体が参加していた念仏奉仕団の清掃活動に加わった。

おそろいのTシャツに奉仕団のトレードマークである

「たすき、をかけて参加。ほとんどが雑巾がけは初めての様子だったが、日本の奉仕団の人たちの動きを観察しながら外陣の畳や濡れ縁、渡り廊下を熱心に拭き掃除(写真)。奉仕団の人たちの「日本は初めて?」「おじいさんやおばあさんは日本からの移民?」などの質問に、日本語のわかるメンバーが笑顔で答える姿もあった。

エバン・ノアさん(17)は「日本は初めて。阿弥陀堂の廊下を力いっぱい拭くと雑巾が真っ黒になった。日本人たちと交流できたし、楽しい思い出ができた。またお寺の掃除がしたい」とニコリ。ノアさんの父で引率者のデニスさんは「日本の各地から本願寺を美しくするために、こんなに多くの人たちが集まってることに驚いた。次に参拝して清掃する時は、私たちのことを知ってもらい、より親んでもらえるように通訳の工夫をしたい」と話していた。一行は清掃奉仕に続いて書院や飛雲閣、唐門を見学。この後、広島平和学習、富士登山、日本のスカウトとの交流などで2週間を過ごした。

同団はスカウト日本ジャンボリーに参加するため、4年ごとに来日しているが、2017年からはジャンボリーとは別に本山への参拝を主とした「研修ツアー」を実施し、この年も奉仕団の清掃奉仕に参加。2回目のツアーは新型コロナウイルスで2年延期となっていた。

BCSF News: 2023-24 Annual Membership Pledge Form

Dear BCSF Members:

We are grateful for your continued generosity that has made the move to a membership Pledge system a success. You can now choose the amount to donate for BCSF membership to better fit your personal situation. If you have questions, please contact the BCSF office so we can assist you.

With gratitude for your support of our temple,
BCSF Board of Directors

2023- 2024 BUDDHIST CHURCH OF SAN FRANCISCO

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP PLEDGE FORM

Information is for internal BCSF use. Exception: we may share your mailing address with BCA for subscription to the national newsletter.



What is a Membership Pledge?

It is a commitment to be a Member of the BCSF. Your Pledge amount is open-ended for you to choose the donation amount that best fits your circumstances. Your Pledge is payable in one or more payments over 12 months. Your Pledge amount remains confidential.

How much is a Membership Pledge?

A Pledge of \$200 or more gives you membership in both BCSF and the national Buddhist Churches of America (BCA). BCSF forwards an annual per-member assessment to BCA (in 2023, \$177 per member). The remaining portion of your Pledge is used for the stewardship of BCSF operations and programs

Membership Pledge Guidelines - suggested amounts

Please know that BCSF very much appreciates your Dana (gift), no matter the amount. As a guideline to determine your personal Membership Pledge amount, we suggest 1% of family gross income as a starting point.

Family Income	Annual 1% Dana Pledge	Semi-Annually
\$ 20,000	\$ 200	\$ 100
\$ 60,000	\$ 600	\$ 300
\$ 100,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 500

Young Adult Membership for ages 18-30: \$60 per year

Benefits of BCSF Membership

- * Flexible membership year. Your 12-month pledge period starts when you submit this pledge form. Do you want a renewal reminder? Y / N
- * How do you want to receive the monthly BCSF Light of Dharma newsletter?
By MAIL / By EMAIL / None
- * One vote per member, Two votes for couples, at membership meetings and Board of Directors elections.
- * Complimentary Bento (one for single, two for couples) at the New Year Luncheon on January 21, 2024.
- * Reduced rates for renting BCSF facilities. Complimentary 2024 BCA Calendar, a \$5 value. Other membership benefits to come!
- * An annual pledge of \$200 or more gives an automatic membership with the national Buddhist Churches of America and subscription to the Wheel of Dharma newsletter.

Main Contact

First Name Middle Name Last Name

Mailing Address:

City: State: Zip:

Preferred Phone Number: E-Mail:

Spouse/Partner (if desired to be a member)

First Name Middle Name Last Name

Mailing Address: (If different)

City: State: Zip:

Preferred Phone Number: E-Mail:

My Membership Pledge for 20____

I/we wish to contribute \$ _____ as my/our Annual Membership Pledge.

Payment Frequency (circle one): One time Semi-annually in 2 equal payments.

If paying by check, please make payable to BCSF. Mail to BCSF, 1881 Pine St, San Francisco CA 94109.

If paying with credit card: I am the owner of this credit card and authorize the Buddhist Church of San Francisco to charge my account as stated on this form.

Cardholder name: _____ Billing Address: _____

Credit Card No. _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Exp date ____/____/____ 3-digit Security Code _____

Cardholder signature _____ Date: _____

BCSF News

Keep Our Building Secure!

September 8: The apartment exit door on Austin St. was broken into, but thankfully, no injury to anyone and no other property damage. The camera on Austin St. captured images of the break-in. Thank you to Doug Dorn for quickly sealing up the broken door.

September 20: Camera footage showed mailboxes on Austin St. were broken into by the same person who broke into them last month.

RE-LOCK the Austin St. or Kitchen doors 10 MINUTES after your start time. Do not leave doors unlocked and unmonitored. **Consider: "Would I leave this door unlocked if it was the front door at my house?"**

If you need immediate assistance, call 911 first. Do not hesitate to call for help.

Report all incidents -- minor or not -- immediately to Rev. Opel at 415-439-0516. Text is OK to report small issues. She will determine the appropriate action to take and notify the appropriate BCSF people. If you lose your Fob, report immediately to Rev. Opel or the BCSF office so we can shut it off.

Eight Board Seats Available for 2024

Calling all BCSF members -- we need YOU to join a dedicated group of BCSF members to guide BCSF into the future! The temple is shaking off the pandemic shutdown with new energy and plenty of volunteer spirit. Now is a great time to join a board that needs creative, committed people who can help choose the best options to serve our diverse sangha.

To qualify for a Board seat for a two-year term (January 2024 through December 2026), you need to have been a BCSF member for at least one year. Do you enjoy talking and working with sangha members about what's on their minds? Are you open to trying new ways to operate our 125-year-old temple so we can continue to spread Jodo Shinshu teachings? JOIN US!

Each board member generously shares their talents to benefit the sangha. You will be rewarded with a sense of accomplishment as we all work together to benefit the sangha. Yes, meetings can be long

but the camaraderie between board members will help make the time you spend on board business very worthwhile.

The Board has a total of eleven board seats. Eight board seats must be filled for the board to make decisions about expenditures over \$5000 and without General Membership approval. Three current board members -- Arlene Kimata, Nanayo Silver and Doug Dorn -- will continue their two-year terms into 2024. Kevin Yoza and Melissa Angel end their terms in December 2023.

Board candidates must submit a statement in November saying why they want to be on the board and what they hope to accomplish. Ballots will be mailed to members in late November and results announced in December. Interested members should contact a current board member to inquire further.

Please consider stepping forward to fill this important role. We urgently need committed BCSF members to ensure the best for BCSF. Namo Amida Butsu.

BCSF Board Highlights from Sept. 10, 2023

A closed session to discuss personnel issues preceded the board meeting.

Rev. Opel compiled a 2023-2024 calendar of services. She meets monthly with Minister's Assistants Rev. Keisuke, Rev. Elaine, Rev. David and Camille Sensei. She is meeting with youth program group leaders as they plan activities for

the new school year. In addition to Resident Minister duties at BCSF, she will meet monthly with The Sequoias retirement community residents.

Financial report - Jeff Matsuoka said finances are Green. Initial Obon fundraising results appear to be higher than 2022.

Many upcoming events including Oct. 22 temple clean up, the first in three years!

BCSF Building News

1. Nokotsudo & office ceilings will be repaired. The new parapet roofing has been completed so hopefully the leaking from the roof is patched. New metal doors will be installed at the apartment exit door and door from the Hondo to the roof.

2. The upstairs/ downstairs stoves and floors will be professionally cleaned prior to the October church clean up.

3. Future: Training on how to turn on the pilot light of the downstairs kitchen stove will be scheduled. New metal shelf to replace damaged shelf in the BWA closet.

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.

Photos and Credits:

page 3: LoD mailing by Arlene Kimata
page 6: BWA/ Giants sign by Hiromi Kishida; manju class by Kevin Yoza & Arlene Kimata; social hour by Chelsea Arita; Bon Pop by Arlene Kimata
page 7: BJ Soriano by Arlene Kimata
Jr. YBA and CANE filming by Kevin Yoza
page 11: BCSF by Kevin Yoza
page 12: BCSF by Kevin Yoza

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.



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
415-776-3158
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

MAUI WILDFIRE DISASTER RELIEF FUND

<https://bca.kindful.com>

<https://hongwanjihawaii.com>

<https://hawaiipeoplesfund.org>

To offer any donations to the people of Maui, please click on any of the links above to make a monetary donation.

Note: There is a direct GoFundMe account set up for Rev. Ai Hironaka of Lahaina Hongwanji. He and his family, in particular, lost everything in the fire. Click on the link below to make a direct donation to him and his family

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-support-rev-ai-hironaka-and-his-family>

Thank you for your support!



*The next BCSF Japanese language service will be held on
Sunday October 8 at 1 pm led by
Rev. Keisuke Lee-Miyaki*

10月8日は午後1時より、祥月法要をお勤めいたします。
お誘いあわせの上、お参りください。

JOIN US

ON SUNDAY OCTOBER 22 From 9:30 AM - 12 NOON

for CHURCH CLEANUP!

lunch served after



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

- October 1** -10 a.m. Youth Service,
Back-to-School Meeting, Hot Dog
lunch
- 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/ Perpetual Sutra Chanting
- October 22**- 9:30 a.m. NO SERVICE
CHURCH CLEAN UP
- October 29**- 10 a.m. Sangha Service



- November 5** -10 a.m. YAO Service
11:00 am Jr. YBA Pancake Breakfast
- November 12** - 10 a.m. Shotsuki Hoyo
Monthly Memorial Service
- November 12**- 1 p.m. Japanese Service
- November 19** - 10 a.m. Service
- November 26** - 10 a.m. NO 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.

October 10, 7 p.m., Join In Person in Social
Hall or via Zoom

BCSF Board of Directors
October 15- 1 p.m. regular board meeting
Mindful Meditation meets every Wed., 6:30
p.m. (Zoom) October : 4, 11, 18, 25