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Back Row L-R: Leo Joslin (Retired MA), Leo Balambao (Retired MA), Rev. David Pating (Kyoshi), Camille Pating (BCA Certified MA), Matthew Stimson (Retired MA), Rev. Elaine Donlin (Tokudo),
Front Row L-R: Rev. Ronald Kobata (Retired BCSF Reverend), Rev. Melissa Opel, Bishop Marvin Harada, Rev. Keisuke Lee-Miyaki (Kyoshi)

“Yesterday is today, today is today, and tomorrow is today.” These words were first introduced to me by former Bishop Rev. Kodo Umezu. He had heard them from someone else and they stuck with him and they in turn have stuck with me.

Since the last issue of the Light of Dharma, the temple has been busy! We observed Bodhi Eve service, Jōdō-e (Bodhi Day), Joya-e (Year End Service), Shūshō-e (New Year’s Day Service), Hōonkō (Shinran Shonin’s passing) and the 125th Anniversary of the Buddhist Church of San Francisco.

In this way, we honored our past, present and future. It is easy to feel nostalgic for the way things used to be and to wish it had stayed the same, to prefer where the temple is now or to even have anxiety over the future. But this idea of “Yesterday is today, today is today, and tomorrow is today” reminds us of many Buddhist lessons; change or impermanence is always with us and we do not control anything beyond our actions. Because of this, we can

observe and honor these major services and milestones and remember that although we are beneficiaries of the past, today is the moment we are here for. What we do with our time and talents, the investment we make into our Nembutsu practice, and how we engage with each other, is what forms our past, present, and future; they are interconnected and do not function separately.

Many hearts, minds, and hands brought these celebrations together. We are incredibly grateful for the return of traditions, the formation of new ones, and more than anything, sharing our time and practice together. Our community is a special place and one where the Nembutsu will continue to be heard for generations to come and we could not have done this without every one of you. We hope you will all continue to enjoy and benefit from the BCSF community for many years to come as you walk your path in the grasp of Namo Amida Butsu.

Gassho,
~ Rev. Melissa Opel

BCSF GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2024 11:30 am
In-Person and via Zoom or phone

Agenda: 2023 Annual Report

- Approval of Feb 12, 2023 meeting minutes
- Reports from temple program organizations
- Review of 2023 BCSF financial statement
- Review of 2024 BCSF proposed budget
- Approval to operate in 2024 with less than (8) members



Message from Rev. Melissa Jo Shin Opel BCSF Resident Minister Remembrance of Shotsuki Hoyo

BCSF is so fortunate to be celebrating its 125th anniversary which occurred on September 1st, 2023.

Having been founded in 1898, the church has stood as both a refuge for those seeking the buddhadharma and as a center of community and culture. As a new minister here, I love hearing the stories of those who grew up in the church— the various places used for hiding while playing games, basketball in the gym, playing rock songs on the piano, and other types of mischievousness that come with the comfort of belonging to such a special place and calling it home. And carried within those stories are memories of loved ones who have long passed away.

One of the many ways we express remembrance is through the Shotsuki Hoyo monthly memorial service. The Shotsuki Hoyo memorial service is intended to be a comforting gathering to appreciate those who have crossed over to the Other Shore and to offer our gratitude through the burning of incense when their name is read aloud.

By remembering those who have been part of our own causes and conditions, we cherish our ongoing connection with them and continue to deepen our understanding of the Buddha's teachings. We acknowledge the embrace of Amida Buddha, the wisdom and compassion of the teachings, and the way in which our loved ones continue to guide us to the dharma, even in their physical absence.

The service itself is meant for family and friends to observe the memory of their loved one and to further interact and understand the dharma in our life through theirs. These monthly services are what falls between the memorial services that occur on the 1st, 3rd, 7th, 13th, 17th, 25th, 33rd, and 50-year observances. Although these are rooted in Buddhist cosmology, they can also be understood as the markers of our mourning, and the 50-year memorial signifies the conclusion of that cycle of services observed by the generations that lived closely with the deceased. It does not mean we do not miss our deceased relatives or do not want to remember them but your relationship has been transformed over the years.

By the 50-year memorial, we are able to smile when we think about their life and have come to understand the Buddhistic workings that have come to us through their support.

Because of this, beginning later this year, we will no longer be publishing and reading the names of those who have been gone over 50 years. In some ways, this is a practical change that needs to occur. Since we are 125 years old, our list is much longer than many other churches and we were once a hub for the Bay Area and responsible for the record-keeping of many. We are having difficulties conducting the service once a month, as many have stopped attending. On a spiritual level, Shinran tells us in the *Kudensho*, chapter 18, *“As you make your journey toward the Pure Land of Amida, gradually the darkness of your sorrow brightens, and certainly you will return to the virtue of the embracing light.”* (Jodo Shinshu Senten, Chushakuban, p. 907) In this way we are not meant to become stuck in grief. By acknowledging the end of the 50 years of mourning and *“returning to the virtue of the embracing light,”* we signify this by no longer observing the service.

Grief and mourning are different for everyone, however, and we would like to make space for those who feel they would still like to observe the monthly memorial service. To do so, you are encouraged to contact the office and let us know so we do not remove the name. I would also encourage those who would like their loved one to be remembered in perpetuity, to consider adding their name to the Eitaikyo (Perpetual Memorial Service) Registry.

Lastly, if you have discovered that your family member's name is no longer listed, please reach out as it means we do not have contact information for you. The names listed on the monthly Shotsuki Hoyo registry will be pulled from the families who receive Shotsuki Hoyo and Kaiki letters from the office; this is a matter of ensuring we are meeting each family's privacy. Our intention is not to exclude anyone from the Shotsuki Hoyo memorial service but to ensure we are serving our Jodo Shinshu community to the best of our abilities. As always, I am available if you or your family would like to talk.



Translation of Rev. Opel's message

by Rev. Keisuke Lee-Miyaki
BCSF Minister's Assistant

2023年9月1日、サンフランシスコ仏教会は創立125周年を迎えました。1898年の設立以来、仏法を求める人々のよりどころとして、またコミュニ

ティと文化の中心地として存在してきました。私は新しく赴任した開教使として、仏教会とともに育った人々の話を聞くのがとても好きです。かくれんぼやジムでのバスケットボール、ピアノでのロック演奏など、わんぱくないたずらっ子にはたまらない思い出。とびきり特別な場所にいるという安心感とホームと呼べる心地よさがあるからなのでしょう。そして、そのような話の中には、はるか昔に往生したかけがえのない人々との思い出も込められています。

祥月法要は、追悼の意を表す儀礼です。お浄土にすでに参られた方々を偲び、その名が読み上げられたら焼香を通して、感謝の気持ちを捧げる心安らぐ集いです。

自らのご縁や因果の一部であった方々を偲ぶことで、その人との大切なつながりを振り返り、仏の教えへの廻心を深めていくことができるでしょう。弥陀仏に抱かれ、かの智慧と慈悲を聞き、たとえその身が朽ちても、私たちを仏法へと導き続けてくれることを受け入れていく営みです。

祥月法要には、参列者がかけがえのない大切な故人との思い出を追想し、それを通じて私たちの人生と仏法が共に響き合い、受け入れていくという意味があります。1年、3年、7年、13年、17年、25年、33年、50年の節目に行われます。仏教の世界観に由来する慣習ですが、私たちにとっては弔いの時期の目印とすることもでき、50回忌は、故人とともに生きた世代が執り行ってきた回忌法要に区切りをつけることを意味します。故人を偲ばないわけでも、偲びたくなくなったわけでもありません。50回忌を迎える頃には、故人の生涯を思い浮かべては微笑むことができるよ

うになり、故人のおかげで仏教的なはたらきを感じるようになることでしょう。このような経緯から、本年末より、昨年に50回忌を迎えた方々のお名前の寺報への掲載、ならびに祥月法要での拝読をしないこととなりました。当仏教会は125年の歴史があり、その名簿は他の多くの寺社教会よりもはるかに長く、かつてはベイエリアの交流の中心地として多くの人々の記録管理を担っていました。多くの人々が参列できなくなったことで、月に一度の法要を行うこと自体が難しくなっています。親鸞聖人は『口伝鈔』第十八章で、「弥陀の浄土にまうでんにはと、こしらへおもむけば、闇冥の悲嘆やうやくに晴れて、摂取の光益になどか帰させらん」と説いています。(浄土真宗聖典『註釈版』p.907)このように、私たちは悲しみから抜け出せないではありません。50年間の哀悼が終わりを迎え「私たちを摂め取り、明るく照らす光のはたらきへ戻っていく」ことを受け入れていくことを表意するのです。

しかし、悲しみや弔いの形は人それぞれです。引き続き祥月法要で有縁の方のお名前を読み上げてほしいと思う方は、仏教会事務所までご連絡ください。また、大切な方を永代に偲びたいとお考えの方は、永代供養への登録もご検討ください。

最後に、50回忌前のご家族のお名前が寺報に載っていない場合は、当仏教会の側で遺族のご連絡先を把握できていないということですので、ぜひお知らせください。祥月法要のお名前は、サンフランシスコ仏教会から年回忌に関してのお知らせを受け、祥月法要を執り行ったご家族からの情報のみをもとに掲載されています。ご遺族のプライバシーに配慮するためです。この変更は、「祥月法要」から故人を取り除くのではなく、浄土真宗のコミュニティとして可能な限り、心のこもったお勤めを続けさせていただくためです。また、この件について、ご本人やご家族が開教使とお話をされたい場合は、いつでもご連絡ください。

February Shotsuki Hoyo Memorial Service - Sunday, February 4, 2024 at 10am.

Join us in person or call the BCSF office for the Zoom Link.

BCSF has made changes to the way we generate our Shotsuki Hoyo list. If your loved ones name is missing, please contact the office. More information to follow. Gassho, Rev. Opel

Jeffrey Gordon Adachi
 Vivian Kiyoshi Akashi
 Satoko Akiya
 Robin Akemi Arakawa
 Mitsue Curameng
 Frank Hisashi Daijo
 Nobuji Fujimoto
 Kazuichi Fujisada
 Walter Wataru Hashimoto
 Kazuyoshi Hasui
 Kayo Hideshima
 Kimiko Higaki
 Denuemon Higashi
 Nobuo Hiramoto
 Sadakichiro Ihara
 Ono Imada
 Yoshinobu Imada
 Alice Fumiko Imamoto
 Katao Ishii
 Kimie Ishisaki
 Suketaro Kabumoto
 Kenjiro Kachu
 Robert Takahiro Kai
 Aiko Kajiyama
 Mikazu Kami
 Yuku Kanegawa

Minoru Katsuyama
 Mutsuo Kitagawa
 Natsue Kitagawa
 Louise Masuko Koike
 Mitsu Kojimoto
 Emiko Komatsu
 Takeo Kuno
 Tomoye Kuroda
 Keiko Kurotori
 Tetsuo Kurui
 Yasuko Kusano
 Klara Mieko Ma
 Itoe Masuda
 Jiyo Matsuba
 Iwakichi Matsuhara
 Molly Kotoko Michida
 Kenji Mihara
 William Yoshinosuke
 Mitsuda
 Shizue Miyasaki
 Ayako Mizono
 Yoshio Mizutani
 Kenneth Seiji
 Morioka
 Yoshiko Mukai
 Baby Murakami

Sadako Murakami
 Gail Yukie Murata
 Teruyo Nagahisa
 Yoshio Nakahigashi
 George Joji Nakano
 Kazama Nakao
 May Setsuko Nakao
 Satoyo Nakao
 Hatsue Narahara
 Shizuko Nimura
 Shigeichi Nishimoto
 Shizuyo Nishizaki
 Masano Nonaka
 Jack Shoji Nosaka
 Marilyn Naomi Nosaka
 Alice Miyoko Ochi
 Sono Okada
 Hirofumi Okamura
 George Koto Okazaki
 Paul Hiroshi Omai
 Masako Onishi
 Arthur Toshio Ono
 Kanemi Ono
 Takashi Ozawa
 Clifford Roy Sakae
 Yoji Sakaguchi

Sumio Sakita
 Joe Akira Sako
 Rev. Shintatsu Sanada
 Henry Shinsaburo Sano
 Dora Sato
 Gennosuke Sato
 Irving Katsumi Sato
 Samantha Sato La
 Seikichi Shibuta
 Shichitaro Shigyō
 Hikoharu Shimamoto
 Sachi Shimizu
 Yoshizo Shimosaka
 Frank Shuso Shintaku
 Masami Sugaya
 Mareo Takahashi
 Masao Takahashi
 Natsuko Takenaka
 Hoover Yoshisuke
 Takeoka
 Hatsuye Takesaki
 Miyeko Tanabe
 Mabel Takeko Tokugawa
 Shiteyo Tono
 Masame Tsuda

Sympathy

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

Akiko Yamagishi December 26, 2023

Elaine Tashima Weston January 21, 2024

Namo Amida Butsu Namō Amida Butsu Namō Amida Butsu

Acknowledgments for donations processed between December 13, 2023 and January 21, 2024. Thank you for your generous support of the BCSF. Continued on page 4.

JANUARY SHOTSUKI HOYO

Jean Fukunaga IMO: Bob Fukunaga
 Bernice & Tak Hamai IMO: Yukiko Alice Hamai
 Sakaye Kaye Higashi IMO: Ayano Higashi
 Keiko T Kakiuchi IMO: Akira and Kiyo Kakiuchi
 Kaye Kawamoto IMO: Yoshitomi Fukushima
 Sadako Kashiwagi IMO: Junichi Nimura
 Franklin & Yoko Lum IMO: Seiichi Nakai
 Stanley H Marubayashi IMO: Fred Marubayashi
 Shirley M Masada IMO: Masuichi Masada
 Tokue Masuoka IMO: Noburo Masuoka
 Lori Matoba IMO: Kimiye Ono
 Lori Matoba IMO: Sandi Matoba
 Nobuko Naganuma IMO: Iwaichi Naganuma
 Tazuko Naito IMO: Rev. Shozen Naito
 Bobby Nakata IMO: Seiji Nakata
 Ben Tsutomu Nanjo IMO: Motoko Nanjo
 Philip Nishimoto IMO: Clara Nishimoto
 Victor M Nonaka IMO: Shokichiro Nonaka
 Kumi Okamoto IMO: Minoru Okamoto
 Cindy Okazaki IMO: Tsuneyo Tanabe
 Dana Okazaki IMO: Tsuneyo Tanabe
 Steven Omori IMO: Eijiro Nagai
 Steven Omori IMO: Toki Omori
 Teresa Ono IMO: Kimiye Ono
 Teresa Ono IMO: Sandi Matoba
 Teresa Ono IMO: Edward Masuoka
 Liane Orlando IMO: Clarence Yamamoto
 Kayoko Sakaguchi IMO: Yasuye Sakaguchi
 Ellen Sawamura PhD IMO: George Sawamura
 George & Doris T Sasaki IMO: Minoru & Chizuko Arikawa
 Amy Shimamoto IMO: Herbert Tadashi Shimamoto
 Diana J Takeuchi IMO: Kazuko Takeuchi
 Setsuko J Tanaka IMO: Satsumi Tanaka
 Paula Tokugawa IMO: Noboru Taoka
 Paula Tokugawa IMO: George Tokugawa
 Masayoshi & Taeko Urayama IMO: Roy Shigeo Kunitake
 Leina Yamamoto IMO: Clarence Yamamoto
 Linda E & Jay Yamamura IMO: Mary Satomi

FEBRUARY SHOTSUKI HOYO

Sadako Kashiwagi IMO: Shizuko Nimura
 Victor M Nonaka IMO: Masano Nonaka

MARCH SHOTSUKI HOYO

Victor M Nonaka IMO: Hideo Sato

APRIL SHOTSUKI HOYO

Victor M Nonaka IMO: Eddie Masayoshi Nonaka
 Victor M Nonaka IMO: John Isao Nonaka

JUNE SHOTSUKI HOYO

Victor M Nonaka IMO: Sumako Nonaka

JULY SHOTSUKI HOYO

Victor M Nonaka IMO: Kayoko Sato

AUGUST SHOTSUKI HOYO

Paul S Fujii IMO: Natsuye Fujii
 Cheryl Tanaka IMO: Makoto Tanaka

SEPTEMBER SHOTSUKI HOYO

Paul S Fujii IMO: Charles Fujii

DECEMBER SHOTSUKI HOYO

Jack Dairiki IMO: Dairiki family members
 Michael & Betty Fujimoto IMO: Mikio Fujimoto
 Chiyeko Kimura IMO: Yoshinobu Ikeda
 Kazuko Kobara IMO: Rev. Seiji Kobara
 Merry C Nishimura IMO: Frank Nishimura
 Karen Ono IMO: Mitsue Ono
 Rick Sakuda IMO: Stanley Shouji Sakuda
 Caroline Satoda IMO: Yonekazu Satoda
 Daisy Satoda IMO: Yone Satoda
 Osamu & Tsuruko Sekino IMO: K. Sekino
 Diana J Takeuchi IMO: Dennis Takeuchi
 Liane Yasumoto IMO: Chitose Yasumoto

BCSF Scout Troop 29
Crab and Pasta Feast
 Saturday February 3, 2024
 phone 415 379-0188 for tickets

Acknowledgments for donations processed between December 13, 2023 and January 21, 2024. Thank you for your generous support of the BCSF. Continued from page 43.

DONATIONS

Anonymous- appreciation for New Year's soba
 Anonymous - Osaisen
 Jack Dairiki
 Mitsuko Hirota
 Sadako Kashiwagi
 Ben Tsutomu Nanjo
 Becca Opel - Joya-e celebration
 Tomiye Sumner
 Noriko Takikawa
 Keith Uyeda
 Liane Yasumoto
 Charlene M Yoritsune In appreciation4



125th ANNIVERSARY

Edward M & Ayako Y Nishimoto
 Ricky & Glenda Okamura

EITAIKYO

Grace, Colin, Wilfred Lim & Susan Sakuma

MEMORIALS

Janet E & Atlas H Arakawa IMO: Robin Arakawa
 Yoko Arimoto IMO: Randall K Arimoto
 Yvonne Chen IMO: Dean Hedani
 Julie Yumi Hatta & Francis Wong IMO: Dean Hedani
 Denise Hayamizu-Wong IMO: Dean Hedani
 Hedani, Choy, Spalding & Salvagione, LLP
 IMO: Dean Hedani
 Barbara Hedani-Morishita & Leroy Morishita
 IMO: Dean Hedani
 Byron Ho IMO: Dean Hedani
 Harley & Judy Inaba IMO: Dean Hedani
 Shelley & Paul Iwamasa & family IMO: Dean Hedani
 David & Kaori Suzie Kamita IMO: Donna Kamita
 Anna Li IMO: Dean Hedani
 Patricia Louie & Wellington Wong IMO: Dean Hedani
 Bob & Lynne Meyers & family IMO: Dean Hedani
 Jeffrey & Sandy Mori IMO: Dean Hedani
 Grace Nishikawa IMO: Dean Hedani
 Steve & Linda Sekino Omori IMO: Dean Hedani
 Donna Ong-Kimura IMO: Dean Hedani
 Miriam Perlson-Cohn IMO: Dean Hedani
 Dennis & Susie Sato IMO: David Shida
 Violet M Tanaka IMO: Mrs. Shinako Wada
 Amy E Teragawa IMO: Dean Hedani
 Tomioka Family IMO: Dean Hedani
 Liane Yasumoto IMO: Dean Hedani
 Liane Yasumoto IMO: Kazue Ihara, 1 year memorial
 Liane Yasumoto IMO: Kahn Yamada

HO-ONKO SERVICE

Rev. Marvin Harada- and for 125th Anniversary
 Sakaye Kaye Higashi- and for 125th Anniversary
 Kumi Okamoto
 Yoko Sumida
 Minoru & Suzanne Yamada

MEMBERSHIP

Misaye Abiko
 Janet E & Atlas H Arakawa
 Akiko & Thom Arikawa
 John Bansavich & Matthew Stimson
 Jack Dairiki
 Doug Dorn
 Betty K Fujimoto
 Allan Y Fukumoto
 Amy Hanamoto
 Glen & Reiko Hatakeyama
 Julie Yumi Hatta & Francis Wong
 Ryutaro & Irene Michi Hirota
 Masahiko & Kazuye Ikuma
 Mitzi Kanbara & Bill Raymond
 Russell & Harumi Kishida
 Kazuko Kobara
 Keith & Priscilla Kojimoto
 Donna L Kotake
 Ibuki H Lee & Michio Aoyagi
 Junko N & Arnold K Low
 Yoko Maeda
 Stephen McCallion & Christopher Diani
 Tara Mochizuki & Jeff Chu
 Tazuko Naito
 Ricky & Glenda Okamura
 Linda J Ono
 Takaye N Sako
 Susan Sakuma & Wilfred Lim
 Joyce A Satow
 Randall Shigio & Linda Tatehara Shigio
 Dr Y M Shimazu
 Sumi I Suda
 Noriko Takikawa
 Violet M Tanaka
 Minoru & Suzanne Yamada
 Shinya Yamaguchi
 Shinji & Yoshi Yao
 Cindy Yee
 Benjamin & Miyeko Yoshikawa
 Akemi Yoshimoto
 Kevin Yoza

BCSF OBON SURVEY

December 12, 2023

Dear BCSF Sangha:

It may seem early, but the time to plan for the 2024 Obon Festival is NOW!

For two years, we have had an abridged, smaller version of the traditional, two-day Bon Odori and Ginza Bazaar we had before pandemic.

For the 2024 celebration, we want to know what kind of festival YOU would like to have.

An equally important consideration is whether we have enough Volunteer Power to do what we want to do.

Survey Questions

Please return to: BCSF Obon Festival committee, 1881 Pine Street, SF 94109 or BCSFObon@gmail.com

1. How should we schedule Bon Odori (dancing on Octavia St.) and Ginza Bazaar (food/games)?

___ Pre-pandemic model: Odori and traditional, 2-day Bazaar, all in one weekend

___ Separate weekends: Odori on one day and a 2-day Bazaar

___ All in one day: Odori and a smaller, abridged Food Event (e.g., Small Bites)

Other:

2. What do you like about Bon Odori (dancing)?

What

would you change?

RANK the items from 1-most favorite to 4-least favorite.

Tell us what you like and/or changes you'd like to see.

___ Music _____

___ Dancing _____

___ Dressing in traditional kimono or hapi coat

___ Dance practices in the gym _____

Should we:

Continue with the abridged, smaller version? OR

Return to pre-pandemic, 2-day festival? OR

Something in-between?

Please send your feedback! We want to hear what you have to say because you are the engine that makes all things possible!

Gassho,

Nanayo Silver, Ginza Bazaar Food Committee

3. When time of day should Bon Odori be held?

___ Keep on Sunday. What time? At 1 pm or _____ time.

___ Move to Saturday. What time? At 1 pm or _____ time.

4. What did you like about the pre-pandemic, 2-day Ginza Bazaar?

RANK the items from 1-most favorite to 6-least favorite.

Tell us what you like, changes you'd like, or things you miss and wish we had.

___ Food: _____

___ Bingo: _____

___ Children's games: _____

___ Silent Auction in person or online _____

___ Rummage Sale, Kimono Sale _____

___ Other _____

5. Can you volunteer to help with the Bon Odori and/or Ginza Bazaar in July 2024?

Yes, I can help with

My name and contact info:



Thank you to all of the many people who helped make the BCSF HoOnko and 125th Anniversary celebration such a success! We couldn't have done it without you.

HoOnko Service

Becca Opel- Onaijin setup with Rev. Opel
 Rev. Harada & Rev. Kobata for traveling to be with us!
 Choir- Misaye Abiko, Betty & Michael Fujimoto, Choir members
 MAs- Rev. Lee-Miyaki, Rev. Donlin, Rev. Pating, Camille Pating
 Retired MAs- Leo Balambao, Leo Joslin, Matthew Stimson
 Service Chair- Amanda Hing Hernandez

Bento packers, distributors, deliverers

Akiko & Thom Arikawa
 Jean Fukunaga
 Kenjo Hatta-Wong
 Kimata-Kitahata family
 Donna Kotake
 Leena Lamm
 Wilfred Lim
 Karen Marek
 Richard Okiuye
 Teresa Ono
 Susan Sakuma
 Sai Seigel
 Silver family: Nanayo, Hitomi, Chiemi
 Mikey Tong

Gym Program, Stage

Chiemi Silver - emcee
 Richard Okiuye - stage manager
 Ruben Salis Events & Productions
 Jiten Daiko

Cake, Sake, Tea Assistance:

Doug Dorn- Sake coordinator
 Yumi Hatta, Megumi Hatta-Wong
 Yume H
 Emi H
 Stephanie Ichinose & family
 Lindsi Kimizuka Leon
 Emily Land & family
 Grace Nishikawa
 Phoebe S
 Sheryl Serafino & family
 Lynn Taniguchi & family

Set up/Clean up, Slide Show, A/V, Photos, Leis, Office

BJ Soriano - invitation & program design
 Doug Dorn - help with many things
 Becca Opel- help with many things
 Lei makers- Susan, Nanayo, Chiemi, Nobumi
 Nobumi Silver - slide show
 Grace Lim - photo colorizing
 YAO Taisho 7 - gym set up
 Kevin Yoza - photography, event planning
 Hitomi Silver - photography
 Sheryl Serafino & Francisco Estrada office, facilities
 Everyone who sent in photos for the slide show
 Everyone who helped clean up

Speakers

Rev. Marvin Harada
 Jeff Matsuoka
 Suzanne & Minoru Yamada
 Teresa Ono
 David Kamita
 David Pating
 Keith Kojimoto
 &
 Toastmakers:
 BWA - Elaine Donlin
 Choir - John Bansavich
 Dharma School - Camille Pating
 Girl Scouts - Janet Low
 Jiten Daiko - Kevin Chen
 Jr. YBA - Yume H, Emi H
 Ministerial Team - Rev. Keisuke Lee-Miyaki
 Soko Gakuen - Yoshimitsu Shimazu
 Troop 29- Michael Otani
 YAO- Erika Tamura/ Teresa Ono



HoOnko service and 125th Anniversary celebration



BCSF News- Board Highlights

Highlights of December 17, 2023 Meeting

Appreciation to Dean Hedani who passed on Nov. 7, and former volunteer financial team: Janet Arakawa, Tokuji Hedani, Mits Kojimoto, Ed Nishimoto, and George Oshima for their many years of keeping the books for BCSF.

Finances: As of December 9, finances are positive. But no excess for bonuses for the paid staff as there was last year. Oseibo collection will be distributed after Jan. 21 Hoonko.

Computers: Will Che is installing both a PC and Mac (better graphics chip) for the office.

National Council Meeting in Sacramento, Feb. 23-24. Arlene, Kevin, Nanayo to attend for BCSF.

Bay District mtg. Jan 18. Kevin is 2nd VP.

BCSF board election for 2024: Former board presidents Jeff Matsuoka and Sandy Yamakishi counted 50 ballots after service. Kevin Yoza was reelected to the board of directors for a 2-year term.

Highlights of January 14, 2024 meeting

Appreciations to the 2023 Board. Appreciations to all who helped with Dean Hedani's funeral service on Dec. 29.

Welcome to 2024 Board: Doug Dorn, Arlene Kimata, Nanayo Silver in second year of a two-year term, and newly reelected Kevin Yoza to a two-year term.

Motion to appoint Amanda Hing Hernandez to a one-year term was unanimously passed.

Election of the Board officers: Motion passed to accept the slate of President-Arlene Kimata, Vice President of Programs-Nanayo Silver, Secretary-Amanda Hing Hernandez, Treasurer-Kevin Yoza.

Rev. Opel reported that Nishi Hongwangi has requested that the 850th birthday of Shinran Shonin/800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu tradition also be celebrated at the September 1, 2024 BCA 125th anniversary and Ministers' Fukien.

Shotsuki Hoyo: Rev. Opel will ask the Shotsuki Hoyo families if they want their loved one's names read after 50 years has passed.

Rev. Opel is elected Co-Treasurer of Japanese American Religious Federation (JARF), serving with Rev. Grace Suzuki.

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING and Hot Dog Luncheon FEBRUARY 18, 11:30 AM. Membership will be asked to approve board to operate with less than eight members required by the BCSF Bylaws.

BCSF reported 173 members to BCA for the annual assessment calculation.

Board approved \$15,000 to be taken from the BCSF investment fund to hire a Japanese-speaking minister for a six-month period beginning February.

Obon 2024. Nanayo sending survey re Obon food fundraiser and Bon Odori. Bon Odori is tentatively set for July 28.

Calling all BCSF Program Group Leaders

* Next Program Group monthly meeting is Tuesday Feb 13 at 7 p.m. *

BWA, Choir, Dharma School, Girl Scouts, Jiten Daiko, Pack 29, Troop 29, Soko Gakuen, YAO, Ministerial Team, BCSF Board

Highlights from Jan. 9, 2024 Program Group Meeting:

Jan. 21 Hoonko/125 Anniversary program in the gym. Program Groups to offer a toast & send photos of your group's activities. Helpers needed to distribute bento.

Calendar: Reviewed dates for second half of 2023-4. Send Rev. Opel your program's dates already scheduled for 2024-25.

Livescan: Reminder from Tara to get scans done by end of January.

BCSF News

Volunteers Needed for Winter Shelter Meal Prep & Serving:

Please join BCSF friends for our annual participation in the SFIC Winter Shelter Meal Program, feeding hearty hot meals to our neighbors without homes.



3 Shifts Available:
Sun. 2/18 (11:30 - 2:30 pm)
meal prep at BCSF

Mon. 2/19 (5:30- 7:30 pm)
serving*

Tues. 2/27 (5:50- 7:30 pm)
serving*

*We'll be serving at the First Unitarian Universalist Church at 1187 Franklin near Geary

Please email Rev. Elaine Donlin at edonlin1@yahoo.com if you can volunteer for a shift.

Impermanence is a part of life

Taking big or small steps to help you and your family prepare for the end of life

Sunday, March 17 ~ 12 - 2:00 pm

Berkeley Buddhist Temple
2121 Channing Way Berkeley, CA

For more information:
info@berkeleybuddhisttemple.org

Neighborhood Clean Up

Sat., February 10 at Noon

Our neighbor Trinity-St. Peters Church at 1620 Gough Street (with the red doors)

does a monthly cleanup that includes BCSF's Austin Street area.

All equipment is provided.

BBQ afterward, weather permitting.

PRESENTING:

Francis Wong & Michael Jamanis in Concert

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2024
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM
BUDDHIST CHURCH OF SAN FRANCISCO
1881 PINE STREET (AT OCTAVIA)
FREE ADMISSION

Saxophonist/composer Francis Wong (pictured left) of San Francisco and visiting violinist Michael Jamanis of Lancaster, PA will give a special concert

The concert will feature solo and duo works for saxophone and violin composed and arranged by Wong as well as impromptu improvised pieces. Wong's works are known to share family stories and community histories.

Also included will be arrangements of gathas *Ondokusan* and *Seiyo* for solo violin.

THE FRED AND HELEN NITTA SCHOLARSHIP



The Fred and Helen Nitta Scholarship was established with a generous donation of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Nitta of Watsonville, California to commemorate their twenty-fifth anniversary in 1964. This award is to honor and give recognition to an outstanding Buddhist youth.

For Graduating Seniors with 2 years of participation in a temple activity.

Deadline: March 31, 2024

<https://sites.google.com/view/nitta-scholarship>

Youth Rising - Daisies, Brownies & Girl Scouts

The Girl Scouts have been busy in 2023! Troop 61522 expanded to include Daisies (1st graders) in addition to the Juniors (4th graders). In 2023, the Juniors (14 total) learned how to make different kinds of jewelry, practiced saving energy by making their own paper and generating energy by making a lime battery and windmills. They earned the Jeweler and Energize badges. The Daisies (7 total) earned 3 petal badges: Lupe: Honest & Fair, Sunny: Friendly & Helpful and Zinni: Considerate & Caring. The Daisies and Juniors also went ice skating and were awarded their badges at a recent holiday party.

Brownie Troop 61901 welcomed two new Scouts, so we now have a total of 11 girls in 2nd grade. One of the Girl Scout dads is an avid fisherman so he took the girls on a fun fishing outing at Torpedo Wharf. No fish were caught, but a handful of crabs were hooked! Our troop did a beach clean up at Ocean Beach, which also helped them earn their Outdoor Adventurer badge. In November, the Brownies learned about the importance of water and the environment at an event hosted by the SF Service Unit. Girls earned their first Journey which was called the Wonders of Water. In December, we had a holiday party which included dinner, a book gift exchange, and crafts. The girls decided to donate



needed items to the SPCA as one of their service projects. We are gearing up for Cookie season which is right around the corner!

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Girl Scout cookie season is from February 11 - March 17!

Three ways to buy cookies:

1. Cookie booth at BCSF after Sunday service on 2/11 & 3/17.
2. Cookie booth at the Sequoias SF (Sunday, 2/25 11am-2pm)
3. Email troop61522@gmail.com or call Audrey Malong at 415-225-8383.

All cookies are \$6.

You can pay by cash or check (made payable to "Girl Scout Troop 61522").

Youth Rising - Scouts T29

Myles McCabe's Eagle Scout Project

by Hayden C., T29 Historian

On October 7, 2023, Myles, 18 scouts and four T29 adult leaders met to remove non-native plants, plant new Bay Area native plants, and repurpose lumber for seating areas, all located in a large 15 by 30-yard project area at Heron's Head Park.

Removing the invasive plants and any other weeds that had overrun the land was the most time-consuming aspect of the project. The undergrowth contained spikes and the scouts had to be careful to uproot only the invasive plants. The younger scouts came across a rock of reinforced cement and a steel beam stuck in the ground. The scouts became fixated on the rock and spent time digging around it in hopes of removing it, while forgetting their assigned task of raking the soil. After a while, Myles told the scouts to get back to the main task at hand and leave the rock since there was nothing that could be done about it.



A Glimpse into the Eagle Scout Process

By Michael Otani, T29 Committee Chair

Life Scout Myles McCabe unanimously passed his Golden Gate District's Eagle Board of Review in December 2023. This review is the last step for a Life Scout to take before earning the Eagle Scout rank, the highest rank in the Scouts BSA program achieved by only four percent of Scouts. Myles' Eagle Scout Board of Review consisted of Mr. Phillips, Mr. Chen, Mr. Wiener and Mr. Lim, all Eagle Scouts themselves and who are now serving in adult leadership positions within the Scouting world.

I usually don't go into this level of written detail for these Eagle Boards. Still, I was so impressed with Myles' journey and reflection that sharing his T29 experience with the T29 community would be valuable. Here are some highlights.

The board discussed his Eagle project: Myles described how Scouts tried to remove a large rock

Myles split up the scouts into two groups to maximize the time. One group moved large pieces of driftwood to be repurposed into seating areas along the seashore. It was a challenging job because the wood was heavy. The second group watched a demonstration by a gardener on how to transfer plants from pot to soil before digging holes for the plants and planting them.

Myles did a great job leading the event and overcoming problems that hindered the project. He showed what it meant to be a leader by directing 18 scouts varying in age and rank and executing a carefully planned project that took many months to form. Over 300 pounds of weeds and invasive plants were uprooted, 15 new plants planted, and three large driftwood pieces formed into new seating areas. What was accomplished by T29 with Myles' leadership, our former Senior Patrol Leader, was an amazing feat that showed what can be achieved through scouting.

from the planting area. He finally said, "Drop the rock. It's OK to move on." The lesson: sometimes you must move on and drop the rock.

Myles' troop leadership involved planning and communicating with others to set them up for success. He knew former patrol leaders had pride in their old patrols so enlisted them to help out and lead their former patrols when needed.

When asked "What Merit Badge best prepared you for Adulthood?", Myles said Personal Management was a wake-up call. While researching taxes and insurance for the badge, he realized "Whoa, I'm old now." He began listening to his dad talk about his work without dozing off.

The board asked Myles what the 13th point for the scout law (knowing there are only 12). Myles said Timely since being prepared is being on time and bringing his whole self. This impressed the board to think that as an 18-year-old.

Congratulations Myles! Your service to the community, thoughtful answers, insights, and stories made us all proud.

BCSF/BWA News

EcoSangha Green Idea #3

Electric Vehicle Charging: The future is bidirectional

Instead of burning gasoline or diesel as combustion engines do, electric vehicles (EVs) use electricity to power their motors. EVs can be charged by plugging them into an outlet, just as you would a cell phone or laptop. This type of charging is unidirectional: the electricity flows in one direction, from the power grid to the battery of the item being charged.

But unlike most smaller devices, EVs have a lot of battery capacity and can potentially use some of the energy stored in their batteries to meet external power needs, a process called bidirectional charging, in which electricity can flow both ways. The energy stored in an EV's battery can be used to power something near where the vehicle is located—say, a circular saw at a construction site or a coffee maker when you're camping....

Or the electricity could potentially be sent from the vehicle back to the grid, a process sometimes abbreviated as "V2G" [Vehicle to Grid].

Besides convenience, bidirectional charging could provide backup power in the event of a power outage. Instead of buying a stationary battery or diesel generator, EV owners with bidirectional charging capabilities could use their EV's to power their refrigerator, or their entire home during emergencies.

A handful of [EV] models have some sort of bidirectional capability [Ford F-150 Lightning, Genesis, Hyundai, Kia, MG, Nissan Leaf, Volkswagen], most commonly the ability to power a device from an outlet on the vehicle...An increasing number of automakers are seeing the value of providing this capability, but the market needs a nudge (through policies, regulations, and/or incentives) to ensure widespread access.

Excerpt from Claudia Ward-de Leon's article in Catalyst, Fall 2023, the magazine of the Union of Concerned Scientists



Gatha Singers:
Misaye Abiko,
Michael Fujimoto,
Betty Fujimoto,
Yukiko Oka,
& Yoshi Yao

LOST & FOUND

Please claim by March 31, 2024



MAY WE GATHER 2024

A National Buddhist Pilgrimage for
Asian American Ancestors

Saturday, March 16 in Antioch CA ~ 12-5 p.m.

No cost to register or attend.

In-person attendance limited to 350.
Livestream will be available.



Why Antioch?
See the explanation
at
maywegather.org/2024-pilgrimage-details

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 1: Reverends and Minister Assistants by Kevin Yoza
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page 5: by Hitomi Silver
page 8: by Kevin Yoza
page 9: courtesy of Sangha Members
page 12: Brownies courtesy of Brownies

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. David Pating (Kyoshi)

Rev. Elaine Donlin (Tokudo)

Camille Pating (BCA Certified MA)

Jack Dairiki (Honorary)

2024 BCSF Board of Directors

Doug Dorn

Amanda Hing Hernandez

Arlene Kimata

Nanayo Silver

Kevin Yoza

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. Melissa Opel, Rev. Elaine Donlin,

Rev. Keisuke Lee-Miyaki, Arlene Kimata,

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

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___ Send me the newsletter by email. My email: _____.

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Name _____ Address _____

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



February 18 11:30 am
General Membership meeting & hot dog lunch

Buddhist Church of San Francisco
1881 Pine Street
San Francisco, CA 94109
415-776-3158 bcsfoffice@gmail.com



Light of Dharma

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February and March Dates

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

Sun Feb. 4: 10am Shotsuki Hoyo Monthly Memorial Service

Sun Feb. 11: 10am Scout Sangha Service

1pm Japanese Language Service

Sun Feb. 18: 10am Nirvana Day

Sun Feb. 25: No in-person service. National Conference Eitaikyo
service will be live-streamed at BCSF, 10 am

Sun Mar. 3: 10am Pet Memorial and Dharma Teacher's Memorial

Sun Mar. 10: 10am Shotsuki Hoyo Memorial Service

1pm Japanese Language Service

Sun Mar. 17: 10am Spring Ohigan/Saha Film

Sun Mar. 24: 10am Lady Kujo Service

Sun Mar. 31: 10am Sangha Service

Program Group monthly meeting Feb 13, 7pm

For BCSF leaders: BWA, Choir, Dharma School, Girl Scouts, Jiten Daiko,
Jr. YBA, Pack 29, Troop 29, Soko Gakuen, YAO, Ministerial team, BCSF
Board. Join In Person in Social Hall or via Zoom.

BCSF Board of Directors: Sun. Feb 11, 1 pm

Annual General Membership meeting: Sun. Feb 18, 11:30 am

Mindful Meditation meets every Wednesday, 6:30pm (Zoom)

Feb. 7, 14, 21, 28

日本語の法要

2月11日(日) 3月10日(日) 午後1時から

法話: 宮木リー啓輔先生

JAPANESE LANGUAGE SERVICE

SUNDAY @ 1PM

FEB 11

MAR 10



LED BY
REV. KEISUKE LEE-MIYAKI

