



the Dharma

San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin
640 North 5th Street
San Jose, CA 95112
(408) 293-9292
Email: sjbc@sjbetsuin.org

Volume 69 | Issue 7 | July 2022

Betsuin Calendar of Events:

Family Service - HYBRID

LIMITED ONLINE RESERVATION FOR IN PERSON SERVICE

[Click Here to Register](#) or call Temple Office

Obon Festival
July 9th & 10th

Hatsubon Service
Saturday, July 16, 2022

Obon Service
July 17, 2022 @10:00am

OFFICE CLOSED

Monday, July 4, 2022

Summer

By: Rinban Gerald Sakamoto

The days of summer are upon us. Climate change has heated up the season. Temperatures continue to raise. Each summer is the hottest on record. As we continue to work to turn things around we try to live with a decreasing impact on our environment. Each of us has a part in this effort. Each of us can do something that will reduce greenhouse gases released into our atmosphere. If each of us reduces our meat consumption by 10% there will be an improvement in our atmosphere. Reducing a double patty burger to a single patty is a 50% reduction. Or instead of every week, have a burger every other week. That's a also 50% reduction. There are things each of us can do to help. Perhaps the most important is to be aware of how our choices affect the environment.

The Obon festival will return this summer. It has been three years since we last hosted this major Betsuin event. We have all grown three years older and much of what had been routine must be relearned. Some food and activity will not return this year. There are concerns about COVID and security. In some ways COVID is easier. More people are aware of how the disease is transmitted. We only need to practice the appropriate protocols. The security of those in attendance is more challenging. It is something new. We continue to give great attention to the planning of a festival that people can come to, have fun and be safe.

Buddhism reminds us that everything is constantly changing. Change is neither good or bad just a condition of existence. How we respond to change is often determined by who we are. Our preferences more often than not will decide what we do. The choice we make can be different if we consider how our preferences would influence the outcome. It is not easy to set aside what I want and consider what might be in the best interest of others. The ability to see beyond our self interest is a core Buddhist tenet. It is the practice of empathy. That ability is essential to build a community that is inclusive.

The Vision of the Betsuin is to be a place where: “We are striving to create an inclusive environment of unconditional acceptance, respect and gratitude where we honor the past, appreciate the present, build for the future, and learn to engage in a life of compassionate action.” The decisions of the Betsuin are guided by this vision statement.

When we have an important choice to make we can ask if our decision aligns with this statement. As we continue to adjust to the changes that have resulted from the pandemic and global warming there will be uncertainties about which direction we should take. When such moments occur we can return to this vision and be reminded of who we are, as a Sangha, as individuals.

Moon and Buddha

By: Rev. Etsuko Mikame

Recently, I came across a parable called "The Parable of the Moon" in a sutra called *Mahaparinirvana Sutra*. This sutra is said to be the last teaching of Sakyamuni Buddha before his death, and can be regarded as his last will and testament. Let me give you a brief idea of what the metaphor is about.

"The moon is seen as something that sets and rises, but in truth the moon is always in the sky, never appearing or disappearing. In the same way, Buddha also appears to be born and die, but by nature the Buddha is not a being that is born and dies. Rather, he enters nirvana in order to teach people that all things that rise must perish.

The moon appears to wax and wane, but in fact it is not waxing and waning, but is always round. I (Shakyamuni Buddha) was born as a human being, grew up, awakened to the truth, became Buddha, and am about to enter nirvana, just like the moon waxing and waning. In fact, however, Buddha is not waxing and waning, but always existing as Buddha. Just like the moon, Buddha only appears to wax and wane according to where people look.

The moon also appears in towns and villages, mountains and valleys, wells and ponds, and inside vases. The moon can be seen wherever people go. However, the moon seen anywhere is the same moon. The size of the moon itself is the same, although it appears in different sizes depending on one's point of view. In the same way, Buddha appears according to the way people are in the world, and he appears everywhere. I (Shakyamuni Buddha) am only one of them, but the Buddha in itself, like the moon, is always present and unchangeable."

By comparing the moon, which appears to rise and fall and wax and wane repeatedly, to the full moon, which is always present in the universe, the Buddha was telling his disciples that although he is born and dies as a human being, his existence as the Buddha itself is unchanging and universal. The Buddha here may be better understood as the essence of the Buddha and his teachings themselves, without any physical form. In other words, the moon may seem to have disappeared after Shakyamuni Buddha's death, but the essence of his teachings continues to exist, and we are encouraged to rely on his teachings. I personally would say that this leads to one of his famous messages which is regarded as his last will as well, "Make yourself a light and make my teachings (Dharma) your light."

This metaphor suddenly reminded me of a Japanese poem. The poem is, "If you miss me, you must recite Namu Amidabutsu, and I too must dwell within the six characters of Namu Amida Butsu." This poem is about a person who is about to die, telling his/her bereaved family that if they miss him/her, they should say "Namu Amidabutsu" and recite the Buddha's name, "Namu Amidabutsu," and that he/she will be there within those six characters. In this poem, the human form of the deceased person may have been lost in death, but the work of the person who became "Buddha" has reached us as we chant "Namu Amidabutsu" in Gassho.

When we lose a loved one, we can no longer feel their images and their presence. However, even though we cannot see their images, their presence, the things they gave us continue to remain and work in our lives. Just like the metaphor of the moon, the life of our important people who passed away continues to be here with us as a "Buddha", even though they may disappear from sight. I am sure that the words from the world of the Buddha, "Namu Amidabutsu," show us this invisible work.

During the Obon season, I am sure that many of you might have a chance to attend the Buddhist services and place your hands together to commemorate your important people and your ancestors. As you do so, please try to remember that the work of our loved one has reached our lives as a Buddha, like the invisible but surely present moon. I hope you will recite Namu Amida Butsu to say thank-you to Amida Buddha which embraces our loved ones and us in its wisdom and compassion.

Obon Manpower

By: Gloria Yamauchi and Ed Shikada

We need your help to prepare for Obon weekend! **We especially need volunteers on Sunday, July 3 – we want to construct as many booths as possible on our first Construction day.** The following major activities require LOTS of volunteers:

Date	Day	Time	Task	Comments
Jul 3	Sun	8:00am-12:00pm	Construction	Need 30 people. Meet in gym parking lot. Wear closed-toe shoes and bring gloves.
Jul 4	Mon	8:00am-11:00am	Construction	Need 30 people. Meet in gym parking lot. Wear closed-toe shoes and bring gloves.
Jul 5-8	Tue-Fri	5:30pm-8:30pm	Construction	Need 30 people each day. Meet in gym parking lot. Wear closed-toe shoes and bring gloves.
Jul 7	Thur	6:00pm-9:00pm	Chicken Cleaning	Need 90 people. Directions: Enter through the small gate between the temple garden and gym or through the 6 th St gate. High school age or older. Plenty of shears will be provided, but feel free to bring your favorite cutting tools for trimming and cutting board. Tie hair in ponytail and wear hat (or hat will be provided). Wear old comfortable shoes (shoes will get dirty). Mask required.
Jul 8	Fri	6:00pm-9:00pm	Beef skewering	Need lots of people! Meet in gym. Long hair must be tied back and secured (pony tail, baseball cap, head scarf). Mask required.

You can sign up for one or more of the above shifts and MANY other shifts during Obon weekend using the following link:

<https://signup.com/go/ZoawJAF>

If you have any questions, please send an email to: sjobonfestival@hotmail.com or call.

Thank you for supporting the San Jose Obon Festival!

Gloria Yamauchi (408) 607-1934 and Ed Shikada
2022 Obon Committee Manpower Chairpersons

Japanese Article

By: Rec.Etsuko Mikame

文月だより



7月と言えばサンノゼ別院ではお盆が一大イベントです。パンデミックになってから初めての対面での開催になりそうです、私にとってはサンノゼ別院に来てからやと初めての対面でのお盆祭りなので、とてもワクワクしています。

アメリカではお盆は日系アメリカ人のコミュニティまたはお寺が主催して盆踊りやおいしい屋台のご飯などをみんなで楽しむ行事ですね。また、お寺にとっては一年間のお寺の運営資金を調達するための大切なイベントでもありますので、ご協力の程よろしく願っています！

浄土真宗では、お盆は別名「歓喜会」と言われていますが、お盆の由来はお釈迦様のお説きになった「盂蘭盆経」というお経が元となっています。お釈迦様のお弟子であった目連尊者の亡くなった母を餓鬼道という苦しみの世界から救出すお話が説かれています。そのお経によると、お釈迦様は目連尊者に安居(夏の僧侶の修行期間)の期間、お坊さんたちに食事を施すようにとアドバイスされました。それにより母は無事から餓鬼道から救われ、皆で踊るように喜んで(歓喜)したというお話です。その喜びの踊りが盆踊りの始まりと言われています。今年は、きつとやとみんなで集えることへの喜びもこもったダンスになるでしょうね。

仏教は「いま、ここ、この私」が聞かせて頂く教えます。誰かのために聞くというよりも、自分自身が聞きうなずいていく教えます。もともとは亡き方を偲ぶ中でその方が作ってくれた仏縁のおかげで、皆が集えています。その仲間と命終えたときに同じお浄土に仏様として生まれさせて頂く同じお救いを今ここで聞かせて頂くことを「よかつたね」と喜ぶところに浄土真宗でのお盆が歓喜会と呼ばれるの大きな意味があります。お盆の伝統を守り継いで、先に仏様へと生まれて往かれた大切な方々のおかげで私たちがこのお盆のご縁を頂いているのでした。そこには、阿弥陀様の「あなたもどうか苦しみを超えた世界、お浄土の世界に生まれてきてね」と全ての命に向けられた願いが込められています。二年ぶりに集まれることのできるご縁に、ここで一度皆さんとお盆に込められた願いや意味に立ち返り、仏様の前で「今ここで」大切な家族・仲間と共に仏様の願い、楽しい時間を分かち合えることを思いっきり喜ばせていただきますように。

日本語サービスのお知らせ

毎月第2日曜日、11時から日本語で仏様のお話を

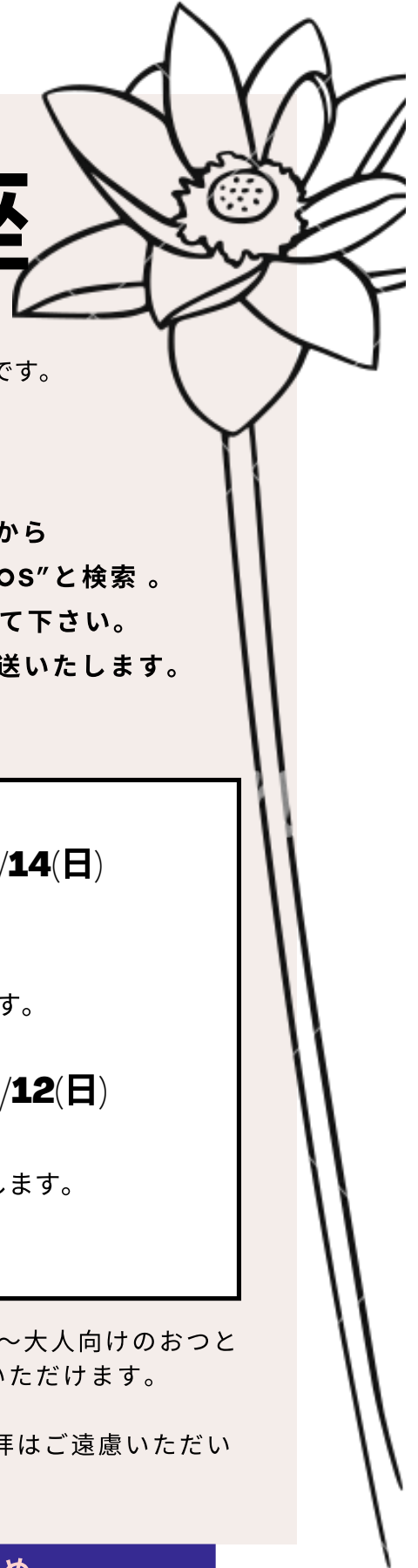
ユーチューブにて配信しています。

7月はお盆祭りため休座させて頂きます。

今回は8月14日(土)を予定しています。詳しくはお寺の

ホームページをご覧ください。

サンノゼ別院 日本語法座



日本語で仏さまのお話（ご法話）を聞けるご法座です。
易しい言葉で仏さまのお話をしていきます。
どなたでもお参りいただけます。

日時：毎月第2日曜日（毎月1回）朝11時から
視聴方法：1. YOUTUBEで“SJBETSUIN.VIDEOS”と検索。
2. 以下の日にちのビデオを選択して下さい。
英語の法座の後11時ごろから続けて放送いたします。



←QRコードはこちらです。

**2022年 5/8(日)・6/12(日)・8/14(日)
9/11(日)・10/9(日)
11/13(日)・12/11(日)**

*7月はお盆祭りの為、休座いたします。

**2023年 1/8(日)・2/12(日)・3/12(日)
4/9(日)・6/11(日)**

*5月はお寺の日本旅行の為、休座いたします。

・9: 30～子ども向けのおつとめ・法話（英語）/10: 10～大人向けのおつとめ・法話（英語）は毎週同じ YOUTUBEチャンネルでご覧いただけます。

*現在、コロナウイルス蔓延防止の為、お寺の本堂内での参拝はご遠慮いただいております。状況が変わり次第、ご案内いたします。

お問い合わせ：サンノゼ別院 みかめ
☎408-293-9292 ✉sjbc@sjbetsuin.org

President's Message

By: Steve Onishi

Amazing! July is finally here and what does that mean? Obon, of course. I hope that you all have heard that we will once again host an in-person Obon. As we emerge from the long pandemic, this year's Obon will be slightly different from what everyone has come to expect. Someone has termed it a "transitional Obon" as it will not be quite the same as past Obons. We will be missing a few of our normal food and game booths. However, the vast majority of activities will be back....food, games, Chidori Band, collegiate and San Jose Taiko, Buddhism 101 in the Hondo, and of course, Obon Odori. We are still looking for more volunteers so please see the link for volunteer signups later in this Dharma.

Beyond the festival itself, Obon is a time to remember the past. It is a time to remember family and friends that we may have lost. This year, the entire Japanese American community also lost a friend, Norm Mineta. It was very special that the motorcade bringing Norm back to San Jose stopped momentarily in front of the Hondo, as well as Wesley Methodist Church and the railroad crossing near 5th and Empire where he was boarded on a train headed to "camp". His leadership will be missed.

This year, July is also a time to look to the future. We have been working on a plan to replace the aging Education building with a completely new facility. This new facility will provide modern amenities to the Dharma School, Japanese Language School, Boy and Girl Scout organizations and especially to the Lotus Preschool. Plans have been announced at two presentations, one for the Sangha and one for the Japantown community at large. If you missed it, we will have an informational booth at Obon to allow you to see the plans. Of course, this will require significant capital funds and we hope that you will join us in this effort to provide a vibrant future for the Betsuin.

In Gassho,
Steve

EcoSangha Used Sock Drive:

Socks are one of the most discarded pieces of apparel -- eventually finding a forever home at landfills and contributing to the 1.2 billion tons of greenhouse gases that textile production releases into the atmosphere every year.

EcoSangha is collecting old (but **CLEAN**) socks -- all brands, colors, sizes, materials and conditions, are welcome.

The socks will be collected and mailed to Smartwool's Second Cut Material Return. They collect and deconstruct hard-to-recycle socks and turn them into new products such as dog beds—helping to reach sustainability and circularity goals, and to keep good materials out of landfills.

Please deposit socks in the collection bin in the Betsuin office. This will be an ongoing project.

Thanks to Denise Takao for suggesting this project to EcoSangha.

COVID-19 Updates

By: Randy Suzuki

The Betsuin is adhering to the following guidelines and capacity limits.

Office Hours & Guidelines

- Weekday Office Hours
 - Monday through Thursday 8:30am-5:00pm
 - Friday 8:30am-6:00pm
- Weekend Office Hours
 - Saturday and Sunday 8:30am-4:30pm
- Masks strongly encouraged.

Service/Ceremony Guidelines

- Family Service and Special holiday services return as hybrid services.
 - Limited online reservations for in person service beginning June 19, 2022. [Click here to reserve.](#)
- Offering in person Hondo (Temple) weddings, funerals and memorial services limited to:
 - 150 attendees plus officiating minister(s) beginning Jun 1, 2022
- Virtual memorial and funeral services are available or can supplement in person services.
- No contact receiving lines are recommended.
- Limited Otoki/Refreshments begin:
 - June 1, 2022 - maximum 150 attendees.

Nokotsudo

- The Nokotsudo is open to guests with key cards or fobs.
 - Appointments or advance notice are not necessary.

Facility Use for all Betsuin and Community Organizations

- Indoor or outdoor meetings or events allowed.
- Exercise and Sports can resume Jun 1, 2022.
- Contact the Betsuin office at facilities@sjbetsuin.org, or 408-293-9292 for availability, requirements, and capacity limitations.

Organization Events

- Follow Betsuin Covid safety requirements, recommendations, and capacity limitations
- Indoor and outdoor crowd management team is recommended
- Proof of Covid Vaccination or 72 hour negative Covid test recommended for volunteers and attendees

To schedule services, facility use or make appointments, office staff can be reached by email (sjbc@sjbetsuin.org) or by phone (408-293-9292). We're here to help as much as we can. If we're not able to answer your phone call, please leave us a message.

The re-opening committee is meeting monthly to review the current pandemic situation and our level of opening.

Organization Spotlight:

Lotus Preschool

By: Dennis Akizuki

Lotus Preschool blooms at the Betsuin

The lotus is one of the most important symbols in Buddhism, representing the peace and beauty of enlightenment.

At the center of the temple's altar is a statue of Amida Buddha standing on a blossoming lotus.

For the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin, the flower has also represented children, family and the future for more than three decades.

The flower that has been blooming in San Jose Japantown since 1986 is Lotus Preschool, one of the temple's most successful, important, and influential programs. Lotus has not only been a wonderful program that prepares children for school, but is a vital part of the Japantown community while introducing hundreds of children and families to the temple and Shin Buddhism.

"I loved dropping my kids off at Lotus and knowing they were going to have a fun day," said Moschel Kadokura, whose four children are Lotus graduates. "The projects they brought home were wonderful; some I still have today 30 years later. Everything from the art projects to the activities were so well planned and thought out. It was my kids' early exposure to Japantown, Buddhism, and culture—we were so lucky to have Lotus in our lives."

Her children fondly remember struggling to stay still during nap time, singing about fish with zoomy hands, and making salty ice cream in a plastic bag.

"I think about all the fun I had," one of them said when asked "What I remember about Lotus" for the program's 10th anniversary.

Another Lotus alum answered the anniversary question with "each activity leads to a new experience."

Courtney Fujikawa, whose older two children are grads and the third heading to kindergarten from the program, enrolled her children in Lotus to learn about Japanese culture, go to daily service and make new friends.

"What we actually joined was a community we hope to be a part of for a very long time," she said. "To this day Lotus teachers, staff and family are some of the very few people I let watch my kids. I really trust and cherish so much the relationships we have with them. Their love and care for my children are so genuine. It makes me so sad to grow out of Lotus preschool, but plan many visits when we are in Japantown."

Lotus opened in July 1, 1986 with eight students, with the goal of providing quality daycare featuring Japanese and other cultural experiences within a Buddhist framework. Harriet Kawamata and Sandy Sugie, who have been on the Lotus board from the beginning, remember how big of a challenge it was to start a new program at the temple, and how Lotus founder Lynne Yamaichi worked tirelessly to make it a reality, while warmly welcoming the help and participation of others who embraced her vision.

Lotus is a full-time, year-round preschool that currently is approved for 24 students and is located in the bottom floor of the Betsuin's Education Building, across the street from the temple. Since not all students attend full-time, there are more than 24 students in the program. The paid staff consists of Ms. Yamaichi (Director), three teachers, two teacher's aides and one office manager/teacher's aide. In addition to the five full-time and two part-time staff members, there are always volunteers involved with the students.

In addition to classroom activities, the children attend a short daily service in the Hondo with either Rinban Sakamoto or Rev. Mikame. Asian cultural lessons are incorporated in the daily curriculum. Lotus students make mochi for Oshogatsu (New Year's), fortune cookies for the Lunar New Year, and mame (beans) for Setsubun, and they enjoy seeing lion dancing, dressing up in yukatas and happi coats, and making – and eating – Asian food.

Lotus students are always a hit when they sing at church functions, the Yu-Ai Kai senior center, the Japanese American Museum of San Jose, and with San Jose Taiko's Halloween celebration.

Brought together by the preschool, the parents and grandparents also bond with one another. One mom started a Lotus Mom's Night Out so that the mothers could have a fun activity together. That inspired a Lotus Dad's Night Out and followed by a Lotus Grandmother's Night Out.

The program is so popular that some parents sign up their children during pregnancy to ensure enrollment. And the program is old enough that some alums have enrolled their children in Lotus.

Cindy Hsieh Kaneshiro's husband, Reid, was one of the eight original Lotus kids. In one of her many Facebook posts about the school, she noted that in addition to her husband, her older two children are Lotus graduates, and their youngest will start there soon.

"So, yes, I will be the ONLY non-Lotus grad in my family (can I get an honorary degree @lynneyamaichi ??). The Lotus teachers are like family to us. We've met some our best friends from Lotus, and the community we are actively part of stemmed in large part from Lotus. It's an incredibly special place."

Lotus has also been a bridge between past and current generations of temple members. People who have grown up in the temple, and may not have been active for years, have enrolled their children in the school. The program also attracts families who haven't had a previous connection to the Betsuin.

Many Lotus student and their families attend Sunday services and join Dharma School. The parents are involved in the Dharma School Parents organization, and many of the children also join other temple programs such as the Scout troops and the Junior Young Buddhist Association

"Lotus Preschool has been, since its beginning, a wonderful part of the Betsuin," Rinban Sakamoto said. "Throughout the years we have seen students learn and grow from their experience at Lotus."

Their participation and contributions, Rinban said, "has influenced the direction of the Betsuin."

That influence stems from the lotus that has blossomed for more than 35 years.

Organization Spotlight: Lotus Preschool

By: Dennis Akizuki



Dharma Center

Generations – Our Legacy

By: Dennis Akizuki

Vision: We are striving to create an inclusive environment of unconditional acceptance, respect and gratitude where we honor the past, appreciate the present, build for the future, and learn to engage in a life of compassionate action. As our Sangha and the community change and grow, the Betsuin is working to ensure our facilities are safe and environmentally friendly. The planned Dharma Center is crucial to fulfilling our vision and meeting the evolving needs of our community.

Name of planned new building: Dharma Center.

Purpose: Replace the more than 67-year-old, two-story Education Building, which is outdated, inadequate and has seismic safety issues.

Goal: Build a modern, safe and functional new home for Lotus Preschool, Japanese Language School, Dharma School and Scout groups that will also serve our Buddhist community and our Japantown for decades to come.

What will be in the project:

- Classrooms for Dharma School, Japanese Language School, Scouts and other temple and community groups
- Lotus Preschool -- Customized and upgraded, including two large classrooms, outdoor play area, office, kitchen and break room
- Library, with room for a research center and essential education assets
- Media and Conference Room for larger gatherings, community events, local programs, film showings, and private parties
- Multi-purpose room with capacity of about 120 people seated at tables, 257 in chairs and 360 standing, and with an attached kitchen
- Parking lot with 60 spaces (28 spaces in current lot)
- Safety and seismic compliance as required today
- Environmental initiatives that exceed today's requirements and will remain relevant for generations to come

New building size: 11,764 square feet (existing Education Building is 6,135 square feet), two stories.

Project cost: Approximately \$15 million

Fundraising: Fundraising campaign to officially start in September, but we already have more than \$6 million raised, including two unsolicited gifts totaling \$4 million. We want to engage the entire Sangha, our families and friends in this important campaign.

Construction schedule: Tentatively scheduled to start in late 2023 after completing the city planning process, with completion expected in 2024. The new Dharma Center will be constructed next to the existing building to minimize downtime for Lotus and the Betsuin activities during construction.

Environmentally friendly design: Construction will use a wood technology called mass timber in which wood is glued and pressed together to form panels that achieve a strength similar to steel and concrete, but with a reduced carbon footprint. The panels are brought to the construction site, where they can be installed faster than other building materials.



View of the Dharma Center from North 5th Street (Aedis Architects)



View of the Dharma Center, looking from about where the Education Building is located. (Aedis Architects)

Obon Odori

By: Reiko Iwanaga and Dennis Akizuki

Due to ongoing concerns about Covid 19, the Obon Odori committee has decided that we will limit practices to three (3) outdoor practices. We ask that masks be worn, even outdoors.

We suggest past practice videos and those online for additional resources.

Practice dates are 7:30 to 8:45 on:
June 23 - Thursday
June 27 - Monday
June 29 - Wednesday

At this point, the dances will include:

Obon no Uta (Uchiwa), *Shinshu Ondo* (marching in), *Pokemon Ondo*, *Janken Ondo*, *Shiawase Samba*, *Chidori Band Ondo* (Fan), *Ei Ja Nai Ka*, *Sukiyaki* (Kachi Kachi), *Tanko Bushi*, *Remember Me*, *Hinokuni Daiko* (Towel). Most of your favorites are included and we may be able to add a few more. Mas Nishimura will have links to past videos and Al Hironaga's practice dvds are also available.

As this year is the 90th anniversary of the Obon Odori being introduced in the United States by Rev. Yoshio Iwanaga, we may dance "*Bussei Koshinkyoku*" with his original choreography. There is a link from the recent BCA Obon webinar. It is an easy dance!

Dressers will not be available this year, due to the close contact that is necessary and can't be avoided. Please see the various how-to videos or consider wearing happi coats. Our social media sites will offer links to the various options for dances and dressing.

We are sorry for these changes, but we know you will understand that health concerns for everyone's safety is of primary importance. In whatever manner, we will still dance in joy and gratitude with the significance of Obon within us.

2022 Giving In Gratitude

By: Janice Oda

Obon. We are so very excited to be returning to our traditional Obon Festival this year! With so much time to reflect over the past two years, the importance of our community, friends and traditions that connect us is almost overwhelming. As we slowly return to seeing our friends, enjoying our favorite activities and reconnecting with our lives, the feeling of 'community' is once again changing. Yes, we adapted to the pandemic and learned new ways to hold onto each other, but today we are starting a new chapter and adapting once again, back to our time-honored traditions...together. **Grateful.**

Obon is a time to remember and honor those who have provided us with a strong and lasting foundation. And as we emerge from this historically challenging time, we acknowledge that much of our own courage, strength and compassion are rooted within our families, friends and loved ones. We celebrate our ancestors and our community.

Giving In Gratitude has become an important and sincere expression of our gratitude for our past and the Betsuin. Our Obon Festival might be smaller in scope this year but the essence and energy remains the same. We are grateful and recognize the significant role of the Betsuin and Sangha in our lives. In the spirit of Obon and with gratitude, we hope you find this way of giving both meaningful and valuable.

More details are provided on the flyer included in this newsletter. We thank you for considering the Betsuin in your giving decisions - **with so much gratitude.**

Hojo Tokunaga Chair Endowment

By: Rinban Gerald Sakamoto

Reverend Ejitsu Hojo and Reverend Kyoshiro Tokunaga are two of our most beloved ministers of the Betsuin. Many of you may too young remember either of these sensei. Their work, however, has had a great impact on what we enjoy at our temple today.

We honored these two ministers by establishing a professorial chair at the Institute of Buddhist Studies. The endowment that supports the chair has not reached its full capacity. We ask for your help to reach that goal.

Recently, two gifts of \$25,000 each, were pledged to the chair. There is nearly a million dollars already in the endowment but that is still far from the three million dollars that are necessary to fully fund the chair.

Please consider a gift to this wonderful project that honors the work of two remarkable ministers and prepares students for a career in the ministry.

Buddhist Women's Association

By: Barbara Sasaki

Karen Hironaga, Social Welfare Co-Chair sent 2 cards this past month. We hope these people are feeling better and that the cards added to their day.

BWA would like to thank those that donated so generously to the organization:

1. Lynda Ichinaga for the 2023 World Conference in Kyoto, Japan
2. Barbara Sasaki giving thanks for the koden

Jr. YBA

By: Kaylee Okamoto

Our cabinet elections were held this month. Congratulations to all our new and returning cabinet members. We also hope if anyone would like to join Jr. YBA, please contact us and let us know!

We're also drawing near to our big trip this year, as we prepare to go to Disneyland in June. We are all very excited!

Congratulations to the class of 2022 as they graduate and continue on into college.

Hope everybody is having a wonderful summer so far!

2022 San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin Baccalaureate Service

By: **Larry Handa**

The 2022 SJ Betsuin Baccalaureate Service was held on Sunday, June 5th, in the hondo. The service was officiated by Rinban Sakamoto and Reverend Mikame and it was the first service in over two years that took place with members of the Sangha in limited attendance (just the graduates and their families).

Our guest speaker was Ryan Ichinaga, who did an excellent job in connecting lessons he learned in Dharma School and Boy Scouts to his life as a young adult. 24 high school students were presented with certificates of congratulation from the BCA and 6 scholarships were awarded.



San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin Scholarships: Alison Aochi and Jennifer Takao

San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin ABA Scholarship: Reid Ikeda

San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin BWA Lady Kujo Scholarship: Emily Nakashima

Shizue and Sadao Sakai Memorial Scholarship: Hailey Hashiguchi

Robbie Yamada Memorial Scholarship: Ashley Hashiguchi



Mika Ando, Tyler Ando, Alison Aochi, Cody Chen, Simone Fong, Lauren Gotuaco, Ashley Hashiguchi, Hailey Hashiguchi, Marcus Ikeda, Reid Ikeda, Tyler Matsumoto, Rina Mok, Emily Nakashima, Jordan Pascual, Marissa Ping, Sean Sakae, Nate Shimada, Kalena Sorakubo, Ryan Sung, Jennifer Takao, Dylan Uyeda, Mikayla Yamatake, Summer Yokota and Cassidy Yoneda

Betsuin Choir

By: Nancy Hikoyeda

The San Jose Betsuin Choir is composed of amateur adult singers who wish to spread the Dharma teachings through music. If you love to sing, have a sense of humor, like to eat good food, and make lasting friendships, you are invited to join our choir family. Sopranos, altos, tenors and basses are welcome - no auditions needed.

Ordinarily, the choir performs for the Hoonko, Hanamatsuri, and Obon services and some other events during the year. (In the past, we have also had a strawberry shortcake booth at the annual Obon/Bazaar.) Due to Covid restrictions, we have not been able to meet in person, but have had weekly virtual meetings via Zoom. During this time, the Choir has made videos of traditional, favorite gathas which have been played during the virtual Sunday Dharma service and other events. (You can view these videos on the SJ Betsuin's YouTube channel.) We are currently learning "Memories" a popular song about loss and hope for the future and "Nori no Miyama" a very old Japanese gatha describing cherry blossoms and nightingales on Dharma mountain.

We hope you will join us when we resume in-person practices, however, the virtual rehearsals are open to all.

Day/Time: Tuesday evenings, 6:55pm to 8:00pm

Place: Virtual practices via Zoom. Please contact Paul Endo (415) 730-3395 or Michael Yoshihara (408) 712-9259 or email at sjbetsuinchoir@gmail.com to obtain a link for the Zoom rehearsals.

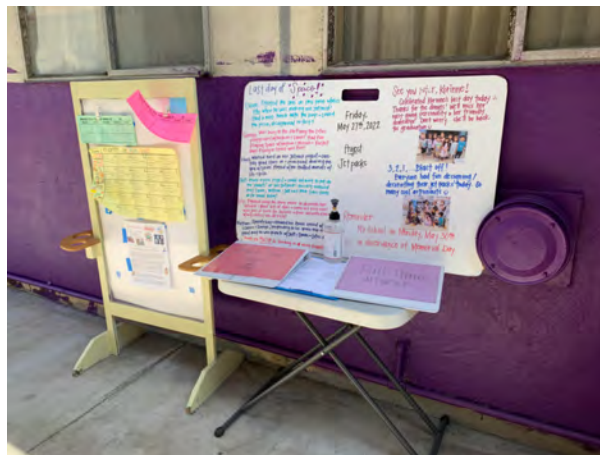
Note: We will take a summer break from July 19 through September 6 (practice resume on September 13)

We are optimistically looking forward to in-person rehearsals again in the not-to-distant future. We will make every effort to keep you informed when live practices resume. In the meantime, join us via Zoom!

Lotus Preschool

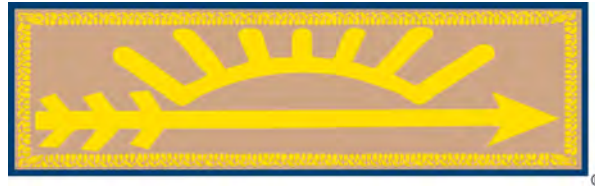
By: Lynne Yamaichi

In May, the Lion Cubs of Pack of 611 gathered at Lotus Preschool for a painting project. The Lotus parents use the playground gate to pick up their children, so the Lion Cubs wanted to fix it up. They painted the wall purple to make the area cheerful! These kindergarteners did an amazing job in 15 minutes! The scouts completed a requirement to participate in an activity that demonstrates service to others from the "Animal Kingdom" Adventure. Lotus Preschool is thankful to the Lion Cubs for a job well done! We are grateful for Cubmaster, Wes Tao, who has been leading the Lion den in organizing this project.



Cub Scout Pack 611 - Arrow of Light

By Wes Tao



Congratulations!

The following scouts from Pack 611 completed the requirements for the Arrow of Light, the highest rank in Cub Scouts

Logan Chavez	Elliot King	Ethan Nguyen
Trevor Fujimoto-Dilger	Ryan Lou	Marcus Sakurai
Finn Haney	Sato Murillo	Aaden Timbol
Nicholas Jung	Brandon Nagatani	Benjamin Wehrle
Landen Kanazawa	Devin Nguyen	Reynan Yang

On May 20, the graduating scouts from Dens 4 and 5 were honored with an Arrow of Light Ceremony at the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin. The Arrow of Light award is the highest Cub Scout award available. The award goes to Cub Scouts who have completed the Webelos rank and prepares them to become members of a Scouts BSA troop.

The Pack had its annual Scout Olympics and Bridging Ceremony event at Baylands Park on June 4th. The day concluded with two bridging ceremonies. The Lions bridged over to the Tiger Rank. The Arrow of Light scouts bridged over to their respective troop.

Thank You to the outgoing leaders from Dens 4 and 5 for their many years of commitment and dedication to Pack 611. **Sean Haney, Chris Jung, Brian Nagatani, David Sakurai, and Connor Wong (Den Chief)**. Congratulations to all the graduating scouts. Good luck in your next journey after Cub Scouts!



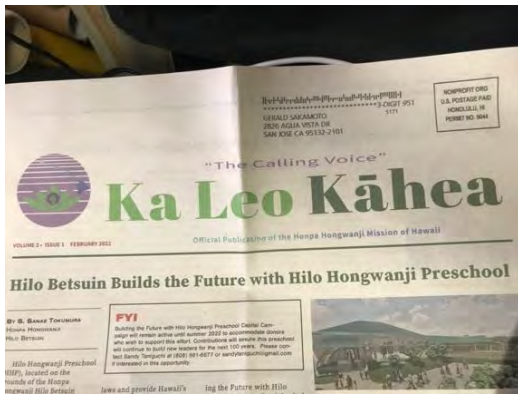
First Row: Elliot King, Marcus Sakurai, Benjamin Wehrle, Trevor Fujimoto-Dilger, Logan Chavez
Second Row: Reynan Yang, Finn Haney, Sato Murillo, Landen Kanazawa, Devin Nguyen
Third Row: Brandon Nagatani, Ethan Nguyen, Nicholas Jung, Ryan Lou, Aaden Timbol



EcoSangha: EcoTip In Memory of Stan Kawamata

By: Harriett Kawamata

Stan was an appreciator of nature and loved the beautiful yellow flowers of the Oxalis plant that covered our yard. (I made the mistake of thinking we should pull these “weeds” and Stan explained why I shouldn't). You see the Oxalis attracts honeybees, bumblebees and butterflies. They are full of nectar which give sustenance to these pollinators. The bees and butterflies do not spread the Oxalis as it is a plant that does not seed. The soil beneath the Oxalis is enriched with phosphorus. There are a couple of other good things about this plant like it being a food which attracts animals that are part of the food chain and the children next door loves sucking on the sour stems. Thank you for all I learned from you, Stanley.



Aloha Club

By: Kathy Sakamoto

‘A ‘ohe hana nui ke alu ‘ia

*‘No task is too big when done together by all.’
(‘Olelo no ‘eau-Hawaiian Proverbs)*

Aloha! E komo mai!

The first Christian missionaries to Hawaii are documented to have arrived and settled in 1820. In 1839 Kamehameha III issued an “Edit of Tolerance” which eventually led to the establishment of St. Andrews Cathedral. Native Hawaiian religion is polytheistic, meaning that there are several, many, gods, goddesses, beings, each of whom have served several functions.

The “main” god is Kāne who created everything and all of the other gods. Kanaloa is the god of the ocean and created to be the opposite of Kāne (light, illumination). Kū is the god of war, and takes eight months of the year. This is when the Hawaiian chiefs would strive to gain more land for their people which caused war and fighting. Lono is the god of peace, productivity and begins with the sighting of the Pleiades (seven sisters) usually visible from late October through the beginning of April in the Northern Hemisphere. If you think about the Shinto religion you may find parallels to the gods, the worship and the belief in all things having an essence or spirit.

Hula dancing is reverential at times, but also reflects the happiness of the people and the Hawaiian god which supports hula is Lono as one might expect. The four months of Lono are known as the *Makahiki* season. War is forbidden. Sun, Wind, and Rain, replenish and nurture the land. The games, dancing, and feasting were thought to ready and train warriors for battle.

The ‘akua’ or ‘gods’ that are referred to in Hawaiian chants and songs, are those gods. But ‘akua’ can also mean the one god of Christianity or even the Jewish god or maybe the muslim god. There is no word for ‘Amida’ in Hawaiian that I know of. Yet, the aloha and akua are not dissimilar or unfamiliar. The culture of Hawai‘i is dependent upon the interdependency and gratitude of humans for all things. For humans being a part of the world, some things suffer. This means that humans must be dependent upon the sacrifice of other parts of the relationships they live within. Without any rain, sun, or wind, without the land (āina) there is no life (for humans). Without the sea, there is no life (for humans). Therefore, we appreciate and give thanks.

Aloha,

Kathy

Qigong

By: Jeanne Nakano

Qigong instructor Masanori Naito is continuing with Zoom classes for the months of June & July, 2022. Please note: Masa WILL teach his Qigong class on Monday, July 4th.

Classes are offered Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays & Saturdays from 9:30 - 11:00 AM. His fee is \$5. per person, per class. You can pay through his PayPal link or with a check to his Union City address. His classes are available to anyone who wishes to try Qigong to enjoy its benefits. PayPal payments directly to: mnaito010@yahoo.co.jp or kikoh4000@sbcglobal.net or mail to: Masanori Naito, 33721 10th Street, Union City, CA 94587

Questions about Qigong movements can be directed to the instructor Masa Naito, kikoh4000@sbcglobal.net. Other questions or concerns can be forwarded to Jeanne Nakano, nakanojeanne@gmail.com

Topic: Qigong Class June - July

Time: Jun 1, 2022 09:30 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Every week on Wed, Mon, Fri, Sat, until Jul 30, 2022, 35 occurrence(s)

Jul 1, 2022 09:30 AM

Jul 2, 2022 09:30 AM

Jul 4, 2022 09:30 AM

Jul 6, 2022 09:30 AM

Jul 8, 2022 09:30 AM

Jul 9, 2022 09:30 AM

Jul 11, 2022 09:30 AM

Jul 13, 2022 09:30 AM

Jul 15, 2022 09:30 AM

Jul 16, 2022 09:30 AM

Jul 18, 2022 09:30 AM

Jul 20, 2022 09:30 AM

Jul 22, 2022 09:30 AM

Jul 23, 2022 09:30 AM

Jul 25, 2022 09:30 AM

Jul 27, 2022 09:30 AM

Jul 29, 2022 09:30 AM

Jul 30, 2022 09:30 AM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Weekly: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/tZEkd-GsqzsqE9RLq8btIfVnRyPCHtVN_fn7/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGtpzsiHtGVsBCHRpwMHYigWejwmGJfj_pvsA69ATR6ZDX4BPtyEZprJvby

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85908450090?pwd=YTA0c1dMTGdqWXM1K3hQaZlNznZuUT09>

Meeting ID: 859 0845 0090

Passcode: 723021

Pledges

Pledges received May 21, 2022 to June 17, 2022

Gino and Elaine Abad

Hideo and Mary Harada

Jean Hiraishi

Kelly and Joyce Katsuyama

Rose Kinaga

Tom and Florence Kodama

Kaye Masatani

Kenneth and Nancy Matsuura

Ellen Miyatake

Naomi Oda

Masakazu and Keiko Ota

Nolan and Cynthia Sakuma

Brian Santo

Kiyoshi and Linda Shintani

Gordon Durand and Kelly Takemoto

Mary Wakatsuki

Elinor Yokoi

Yoshiye Yokoi

Meriko Yonemoto

Donations

The San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin gratefully acknowledges your generous support.
May 21, 2022 to June 17, 2022

Donation

Anonymous(\$5.17)
Bonnie Kurimoto-Kobayashi(\$25)
Gordon Durand and Kelly Takemoto -Apple
Match(\$400)
Hifu and Shirley Kodani(\$120)

*In Appreciation of Jim McClure, Mike Mori,
Ken Kamei and Bill Nakamura
Nikkei Matsuri Foundation, Inc. (\$500)*

*In appreciation for supporting the Minister
Assistant Program throughout the Jodo Shinshu
Correspondence Course for Michael Jones and
Dennis Akizuki
Dennis Akizuki(\$100)*

Funeral

*In Memory of Jeffrey Doi
Allan and Nancy Hikoyeda(\$30)*

*In Memory of George Handa
Ken and Jayne Tan(\$50)
Glenn Tsutsumi(\$30)
Rose Kinaga(\$50)
Joanne Akizuki and Ron Sugiyama(\$50)*

*In Memory of Judy Nakano
Glenn Tsutsumi(\$30)
Joanne Akizuki and Ron Sugiyama(\$20)
Warren Iwamura(\$30)
Judy Niizawa(\$50)*

*In Memory of Laurie Nakamura
The Family of Laurie Nakamura(\$300)*

*In Memory of Sakae Alice Takagi
The Family of Sakae Alice Takagi(\$500)*

*In Memory of Amy Yoshihara
Shizuka Hanada(\$50)*

*In Memory of Min Ikeda
Howard and Celeste Kitagawa(\$50)
Yosh and Dorothy Sato(\$25)*

*In Memory of Atsuko Jean Kawasaki
The Kawasaki Family(\$100)
In Memory of Mitsuye Nakao
Kaye Masatani(\$50)
Ed and Sachi Urata(\$25)
Julie and Sarah Nakao(\$700)
Theresa Wendler(\$300)
Iyoko Katsuyoshi(\$4,000)
Edna Yoshino(\$20)
Barbara Tanaka(\$40)
Diane Kawamura(\$20)
Doris Wong(20)
Marie Gruber(\$100)
The Family of Mitsuye Nakao(\$25)*

*In Memory of Georgia Nakano
Masamichi Nakano(\$400)
Kaye Masatani(\$50)
Allan and Nancy Hikoyeda(\$25)
May Takata(\$20)*

*In Memory of Kimiko Akizuki
Howard and Celeste Kitagawa(\$50)
Rose Kinaga(\$50)*

*In Memory of Hiroshi Ando
The Family of Hiroshi Ando(\$500)
May Takata(\$30)*

*In Memory of Glenn Iida
The Family of Glenn Iida(\$2,000)
Karen Schirle(\$25)
Virginia Scott(\$100)
Dan Hunter(\$100)
Shizuka Hanada(\$30)
Gordy and Linda Joo(\$25)
June Yokoyama Otaguro and Family(\$40)
Ron Kaida(\$25)*

Memorial Service

In Memory of Fred Shiraki

Fumi Suyeishi(\$25)

Ernie and Toyo Inouye(\$50)

Janice Shiraki(\$500)

In Memory of Georgia Nakano

Masamichi Nakano(\$375)

In Memory of Yukio Ogawa

Yoneko Ogawa(\$100)

In Memory of Dorothy Hatai

Cynthia Martini(\$100)

Carrie Sakamoto(\$25)

Anonymous(\$20)

In Memory of Mitsuye Nakao

Iyoko Katsuyoshi(\$100)

In Memory of Sakae Alice Takagi

The Family of Sakae Alice Takagi(\$200)

In Memory of Haru Nishimura

Ko Nishimura(\$1,000)

In Memory of Diane Shiraiishi

Keith and Jackie Kawate(\$100)

Memorials

In Memory of Diane Kono

Jim Kono(\$100)

In Memory of Stan Kawamata

Art and Jolene Osaki(\$25)

Julie Hubbard(\$25)

Warren Iwamura(\$100)

Ernie and Toyo Inouye(\$50)

In Memory of Mitsugi Hane

The Mitsugi Hane Family(\$500)

Kathy and Yukio Yoshikawa(\$25)

Grace Yamakawa(\$200)

In Memory of Claire Shiraki

Fumi Suyeishi(\$40)

Ernie and Toyo Inouye(\$50)

In Memory of Joyce Morihiro

Fumi Suyeishi(\$20)

Kaye Masatani(\$25)

Warren Iwamura(\$100)

Lloyd and Elaine Ando(\$50)

In Memory of David Adams

Karen and Steve Akimoto(private)

In Memory of George Yamashita

Hiroko Yamashita and Family (\$500)

In Memory of Polly Sakamoto

Craig Sakamoto(\$100)

In Memory of Melvin Mah and

Mary Arii Mah

Donald and Julie Mah(\$50)

In Memory of Shig Tokiwa

Warren Iwamura(\$50)

In Memory of Kurato Shimada

Ernie and Toyo Inouye(\$30)

In Memory of Harry Kotsubo

Ernie and Toyo Inouye(\$25)

In Memory of Mitsuye Nakao

Iyoko Katsuyoshi(\$35)

In Memory of Stan Kakunami

Yosh and Dorothy Sato(\$25)

In Memory of Kajiu Takata

May Takata(\$100)

In Memory of Masakichi Takata

May Takata(\$100)

Special Services

Infant Presentation

In Honor of Lily Chang

Erin and Frank Chang(\$50)

Dan and Sandy Imai(\$50)

Memorial Day Service

Gilroy Japanese Community Church(\$200)

Hatsubon

In Memory of George Hanada

Yosh and Dorothy Sato(\$25)

Julie Handa(\$100)

In Memory of Judy Nakano

Yosh and Dorothy Sato(\$25)

In Memory of Perry Dobashi

Yosh and Dorothy Sato(\$25)

In Memory of Nobu Iwasa

Yosh and Dorothy Sato(\$25)

In Memory of Harvey Okada

Yosh and Dorothy Sato(\$25)

Obon

Matthew Ogawa(\$10,055.92)

Edward and Phoebe Morimoto(\$100)

Scholarships

In Honor of the Robbie Yamada Memorial Scholarship

Patricia Yamada(\$500)

Generations Capital Campaign

Kyle and Charlene Hama(\$200)

Kyle and Charlene Hama - Intel Match(\$200)

Michie Kimizuka(private)

Generations Pickers(\$40)

In Memory of Joyce Morihiro

Nozomu and Stella Iwasaki(\$30)

In Memory of Derrick Ando

Patti, Kory and Ken Kaneda(\$50)

In Memory of James Yamakawa

Grace Yamakawa(\$10,000)

In Memory of Judy Nakano

Ruth and Steve Kurimoto(\$50)

In Memory of Stan Kawamata

Stella and Nozomu Iwasaki(\$30)

*In Memory of Sunato and Toshiye Taniguchi
and Arthur Tanabe*

Richard and Carol Taniguchi(\$1,000)

Join Cub Scouts!



OPEN HOUSE

Interested in Cub Scouting? Parents and prospective scouts are invited to attend Pack 611's information and join event. There will be fun activities for the kids to participate in. The Pack is open to youth K - 5th grade.

Date: Tuesday, August 23, 2022

Time: 6:30 - 7:30 pm

**Place: San Jose Buddhist Church Annex
632 N 5th St, San Jose, CA 95112**



Learn more and register @
<https://bit.ly/3mXDCs7>

Questions? Email: pack611@sjbetsuin.org





Hello Incoming Kindergarten Girls & Parents!

Are you interested in learning more
about the San Jose Betsuin Girl Scouts?

The current Kindergarten Daisy Troop
invites interested girls and their parents
to learn more about what it means
to be a Daisy, how meetings run, parent
involvement, and how to join the Betsuin
Girl Scouts next year!

For access to our recorded info session
or for any questions, email
Courtney Fujikawa and Aly Olivera
at gs61331.2034@sjbetsuin.org





GIVING IN GRATITUDE

San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin



A Time To Remember and Honor

Obon is a time to remember and honor those who have helped to shape our journeys - providing us with the means to become all that we can be. Especially during these challenging times, we must acknowledge that much of our own courage, strength and compassion are rooted within our families and loved ones. At Obon, we remember our ancestors and express our gratitude.

The San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin is re-opening to celebrate Obon with our traditional community Festival on July 9 and 10. This event brings the community together and reminds us of the connections we all share - our interdependence and the strength we embody - together.

Give In Gratitude

Obon is our time to reflect on all that we have and to give in gratitude. In the spirit of Obon, we hope you find this way of giving both meaningful and valuable. You may choose to donate **In Memory Of** (remembering a loved one), **In Honor Of** (recognizing a special person/group) or with **any sentiment** you choose. **Please join together in commemorating Obon.**

You may donate **Online** (credit card; use the URL below or QR code),
by **Mail** (check; use form below) or **In-Person** (check or credit card)



Visit gofundme.com/f/2022-GivingInGratitude

Donor name _____

Phone _____ Email _____

In memory of _____
Name(s) and optional message

In honor of _____
Name(s) and optional message

Donor message _____

Amount _____
enclose check made payable to San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin
mail to: San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin, 640 N. 5th Street, San Jose, CA 95112

For more information or questions
Email: sjbc@sjbetsuin.org Call: (408) 293-9292

July 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Family Service	4 OFFICE CLOSED	5	6	7	8	9 Obon Festival
10 Obon Festival	11	12	13	14	15	16 All Scout Cemetery Clean up Hatsubon
17 Obon Service	18 Church Clean Up	19 Church Clean Up	20 Church Clean Up	21 Church Clean Up	22 Church Clean Up	23
24 Family Service	25	26	27	28	29	30
31 Family Service						

Upcoming Services:

Saturday, July 16, 2022 – Hatsuon

Sunday July 17, 2022 – Obon Service @ 10:00am
Please RSVP [here](#) to attend in person.

Funeral and Memorial Service

If you need to schedule a service please call the temple office at (408) 293-9292. Due to COVID-19 we are limiting services to 150 people in the hondo. Masks will be required at all times.

Nokotsudo Hours

Monday thru Friday 9:00am to 4:30pm
Saturday and Sunday: 9:00am to 4:00pm

Japanese Telephone Dharma Message

The San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin is now offering a Japanese Dharma Message using your telephone. To listen to the message, you will need to call (408) 293-9292.

If you call between the hours of 8:30am to 5:00pm the Betsuin office staff will have to transfer you to the extension to listen to the Dharma Message.

If you call after 5:00pm, follow the message prompts and select the appropriate number to get you to the Japanese Dharma message.

2022 Memorial Service Schedule

Please schedule a service if your loved ones passed away in the following years:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Service</u>
2021	1 st Year
2020	3 rd annual
2016	7 th annual
2010	13 th annual
2006	17 th annual
1998	25 th annual
1990	33 rd annual
1973	50 th annual
1923	100 th annual

San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin

640 North 5th Street

San Jose, CA 95112

Phone: (408) 293-9292

Fax: (408) 293-0433

Email: sjbc@sjbetsuin.org

Website: www.sjbetsuin.org

Office Hours:

Monday thru Thursday: 8:30am to 5:00pm

Friday: 8:30am to 6:00pm

Saturday and Sunday: 8:30am to 4:30pm