



KARMA

A publication of the BUDDHIST CHURCH OF STOCKTON

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March, 2019

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Spring Higan-E – Sunday, March 17th, at 10:00 a.m.

Our temple's annual Spring Ohigan Service will be held on Sunday, March 17th, at 10:00 a.m. Jodo Shinshu Buddhists observe Higan-E twice a year – during the Spring & Fall Equinox when days and nights are of equal length. This is the time to reflect on the harmony of nature and devote ourselves to the realization of this harmony in our everyday lives.

Our guest speaker will be Reverend William Masuda, BCA Minister Emeritus.

Invitations have been mailed out for this service which includes a convenient envelope for your Dana offering.

We encourage everyone to attend this service as well as all of our other special services throughout the year.

The Stockton Buddhist Women's Association will also be having a Sushi Sale on Ohigan Sunday, so be sure to purchase your pre-order tickets early. Please see flyer attached to this Karma for more details.

KARMA is a monthly publication of the BUDDHIST CHURCH OF STOCKTON, 2820 Shimizu Dr., Stockton, CA 95203.

There is no subscription charge to members & friends of the temple, but donations are welcome and appreciated.

Minister's Corner

By: Reverend Yukiko Motoyoshi

It is said that we human beings are a lump of avarice. We do have limitless desires. From the moment we awake in the morning till we fall asleep, one desire comes after another in our minds like a spring water. When these desires are not fulfilled, suffering and pain starts. For an example, we all want to be healthy. Unfortunately, we do get sick. We often say, "I cannot be sick because I still have to do this and that. Why me? Why now?" Suffering starts.

So, all desires are bad? Yes, we want to be healthy, we want to remain young, we want to live longer, we want to be with our loved ones and so forth. Do all these desires definitely turn into suffering and pain? Our desires are not all about us. We do want to help others in need. All these are causes for our suffering and pain?

Desires become suffering and pain when those very desires are based on self-centeredness and we cling to them. Let me give you an example.

Let's suppose that we wish to help a person. It is a noble desire, isn't it? However, if the person rejects or won't acknowledge our well wishes, we may be hurt or become angry. "My good thought/behavior should be recognized." "How dare you reject my good wish!" The noble desire becomes a self-centered desire. And, by clinging to that desire to be fulfilled, it becomes a great pain.

What about our basic desires like health and longevity? It is very natural for us to be healthy and live longer. In order to live healthy and longer, we watch our diet and engage in exercises. Neglecting one's body and life is not appreciative of his/her existence. We are here and we are what we are because of sacrifices of countless living and non-living beings. We must not waste such precious existences. Hence, we must take good care of our bodies and lives. However, these basic desires can turn into suffering and pain when we cling to them. "I should be healthy." "I should not die."

Amida Buddha's Wisdom Light illuminates our minds. Through this Light, we are able to see the true nature of our desires. And, Amida

**Spring Forward!
SUNDAY, MARCH 10th,
AT 2:00 A.M.**



**Don't forget to set your clocks
forward one hour!**

Buddha's boundless Compassion gives us courage and strength to accept our true nature even how painful and shameful it is. Being able to see and accept one's true nature, we are able to understand and emphasize the pain and suffering of others. And, of course, we will be most tolerant and kind to others' faults.

President's Message

By: Darlene Bagshaw

Happy almost Spring! It is difficult to fathom we are almost to the beginning of the Spring season. Soon our temple grounds will be dotted with beautiful cherry blossoms. I remember how Reverend Hasegawa took so many eloquent photographs of our fragile blossoms. Someday we will have to ask him to share his delightful Stockton cherry blossom photo collection.

Shortly, Charlie and I will travel to Phoenix for the BCA National Council Meeting. I believe the most emotional topic will be the discussion and consequent vote of what the BCA should do with our current BCA headquarters and Bishop's residence. Both are in dire need of repairs which have been postponed so budgeted funds could be placed in areas of more immediate need. Many scenarios exist from starting a fundraising campaign to the extreme of selling both properties "as is". Watch next month's article for the conclusion plus other highlights from Phoenix.

I am assuming all of you have heard about the sudden illness that incapacitated Rev. Carol Himaka while she was serving the Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church. Rev. Motoyoshi was able to see her in San Diego and we were glad to

hear she has made good progress since last November, now able to talk a bit. On behalf of the Sangha we have sent her a get-well gift to help with her recovery. If you would like to send a personal gift, please contact Rev. Motoyoshi or myself.

As I have mentioned in the past, our budget for 2019 is very tight. I am happy to inform you that the board entertained a presentation on solar power and we are hoping to be able to add this to our facilities. Every dime we can save in any area will not only help us stay on budget but perhaps free up funds for very needed repairs around our temple. Keep your eyes open! Please be mindful of the facilities you may use and report any needed repairs to the office. Thank you for helping to keep our facilities bright and strong for future generations!

*In Gassho,
Darlene Bagshaw*

Sincere Condolences...

We extend our sincere condolences to the family & relatives of the late:

MR. RANDY SHIBA, of Linden, who passed away on January 25, 2019. A private memorial service was held at the temple on February 1, 2019.



May wonderful memories of your loved one and the support of your family and friends bring you much comfort and peace in the days ahead.

Namo Amida Butsu

KARMA deadline for the April 2019 issue is: Friday, March 15th

*Please email all articles and/or information to:
rubykato@yahoo.com*

BAZAAR! BAZAAR! BAZAAR!

Believe it or not, our temple's 2019 Obon/Bazaar is only 5 months away!

Saturday & Sunday, August 3 & 4

Charles Bagshaw, V.P. of Special Events and Bazaar Co-Chairs: Derek Uyemura & Keith Neishi are asking for EVERYONE'S support again this year. The Bazaar planning meeting dates are listed below with our kick-off meeting in just a few weeks.

Booth chairpersons are asked to attend all meetings or send a representative. If you are interested in volunteering for the bazaar in any capacity or have some new ideas, suggestions or comments that you would like to share, we'd love to hear from you. You are welcome to join us at the meetings!

2019 Bazaar Meetings

Bazaar Kick-off Meeting:
Thursday, March 14th

Thursday, May 9th
Thursday, June 13th
Thursday, July 11th

**Meetings will be held at 6:30pm
in the Mini-Chapel.**

Home & Hospital Visitation Saturday, April 13, 2019

The Buddhist Church of Stockton's Annual Home & Hospital Visitation is scheduled for Saturday, April 13th.

Each year, a delicious osushi bento is delivered to our temple friends in the community who are, or have been ill, or homebound.

If you know of an individual who would appreciate a visit, please let us know by calling the church office **(209) 466-6701 by April 1st**.

Thank you!

SBWA News

Stockton Buddhist Women's Assn.

Welcome new members, Lexi Fujii, Janie Mitsuhashi and Mike Shibata. Also, welcome back, Miyo Tominaga!

SBWA gratefully acknowledges a donation from Kimi Ishihara, in memory of her late husband Mas. Thank you very much!

SBWA will be donating \$5,000 from the cookbook fund to the Buddhist Church of Stockton for the 50th Anniversary of the Shimizu Drive site fundraiser.

Cookbooks are still available for purchase for \$25.00 from Sachi Yenokida or the church office.

Thank you very much to members and others for their help in cleaning different parts of the Hondo and two temple kitchens on January 19th. For the upcoming 50th Anniversary celebration, two additional cleaning sessions are scheduled on Saturdays, May 18th, to clean niches and inside windows; and June 15th, to clean the kitchens, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on both days.

SBWA will have a Spring Ohigan Sushi Sale on March 17th. Sushi (4 Maki and 3 Inari) will be sold for \$8.00 with a deadline of March 10th for pre-orders only. Tickets may be purchased from any SBWA member or the temple office.

SBWA Dana Day Service and Membership Luncheon will be held on March 31st, from 11:30 a.m. Our guest speaker will be Mrs. Peggy Okabayashi from the Florin Buddhist Church. The menu consisting of Tri-Tip, Chicken Marsala, Ravioli, Salad, and Ciabatta bread, will be catered by Angelina's. The cost of lunch for members is \$10.00 and free for members 80 & over. New members will be our special guests.

The 2019 membership dues for members under 80 is \$10 each, and for members 80 and over, \$5 each. Everyone, females and males, is invited to become SBWA members as SBWA by-laws are being changed to accept male members.

Everyone, not just women, is invited to attend the 16th World BWA Convention at the Marriott Grand Marquis Hotel in San Francisco on August 30 to September 1, 2019. Rev. Yukiko Motoyoshi is one of the guest speakers. Fourteen people from the Buddhist Church of Stockton have already sent in their registration forms. Registration is ongoing, but the earlier your registration is sent in, the better chance of getting your workshop choices. Please contact Vivian Fujii or the temple office for more information and registration forms.

**Note from the Editor: Our apologies for listing the 2019 Officers of Affiliated Organizations for SBWA as: Sergeant-At-Arms – June Shibata, in the February Karma. Should read: June Shiba.*

ABA News

Adult Buddhist Association

Thank you to Frank Yagi, Henry & Alice Hirata, Meggie Kitagawa, May Saiki, and Mike Shibata for preparing the delicious ham dinner for our February 20th ABA dinner meeting!

ABA's Annual Membership Dinner will be held on Wednesday, March 20th, 6:00 p.m. at China Palace Restaurant. The cost is \$25 per person and the reservation deadline is March 13th. This year's entertainment will be the singing group, "Class of '72". Invitation flyers were distributed at the February 20th ABA meeting. Those who were not at the meeting will receive their invitation and information in the mail.

New members are welcome to join! Dues are \$20 per person and dinner meetings are generally held on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. in the Mini-Chapel. If you are interested in joining ABA, please contact Delores Matsumura or any ABA member.

Dharma School

March birthdays will be celebrated on March 3rd, followed by the March Shotsuki Service. Cupcakes will be provided by Class 5-6. The Dharma Class is also scheduled for a presentation on March 3rd.

Don't forget to set your clocks ahead 1 hour before you go to sleep on March 9th. You don't want to miss church on March 10th. ☺ The temple's Spring Ohigan Service will be on March 17th.

Coffee Hour will be on March 3rd, 10th, 24th, and 31st. Please join us for coffee, treats, and conversation while you wait for your students to

be dismissed from their Dharma School classes.

Thank you very much to Kimi Ishihara for her \$30.00 donation in memory of her late husband Mas Ishihara. We are deeply sorry for your loss. He will definitely be missed.

Tomo No Kai

Japanese Community Senior Citizens

Our first meeting of the year was held on February 10, 2019. As usual, a delicious lunch was created by Motoe Takahashi and her kitchen crew. Also, thank you to Delores Matsumura for providing the Valentine-themed decorations and birthday gifts.

It was nice to see & greet everyone as well as a few new members. We extend a warm welcome to Chieko Nomura, Mike Matsumura and Joan Hirose! We are still accepting more new members...

The more, the merrier!

To aid with the fundraiser for the temple's 50th Anniversary event in June, Tomo No Kai, as well as other organizations, will be making a donation to help support the planned projects.

Speaking of donations, we have had many donations ourselves from some of our members. We would like to thank the following for their kindness and generosity:

Donations:

Kimiko Okubo – Box of lemons from her garden;

Karen Morisaki – See's Candy Gift Card.

Special Donations:

Kimiko Ishihara (in memory of her late husband, Mas); Sonoe Motoyoshi; Carl Yamada; and Sid Yamada.

Bingo Donations:

Joann Otani, Hanae Watanabe, and Karen Morisaki.

Birthday Donations:

Marlene Hamilton & Wayne Morisaki.

YABA

Young Adult Buddhist Association

YABA will have its Annual Membership Luncheon on Sunday, March 24th, at 11:30 a.m., in the Mini-Chapel. Membership dues are only \$15 per year. Temple members are encouraged to join and participate in the many YABA-sponsored activities. The luncheon will be catered by Angelina's.

The next YABA fundraiser will be a DeVinci's Pasta Dinner on **Saturday, May 4th***. Tickets will be \$12 and will allow you to pick up your dinner at any of the four DeVinci's locations (Lodi, Linden & 2 in Stockton). Tickets will go on sale in March.

Pizza Game Night, a YABA tradition, will be held on Saturday, June 8th, so be sure to mark your calendars! Pizza, salads, desserts and many games (with Bingo topping the list) will be available to all who attend, SO PLEASE SAVE THE DATE...AND, IT'S ALL **FREE!**

In gassho,

Fred Pocaroba, V.P.

**Note from the Editor: Apologies for listing the incorrect date as Sunday, May 5th in the February Karma. The correct date for YABA's DeVinci's Pasta Dinner is Saturday, May 4, 2019.*

Buddhist Church of Stockton Scholarship Applications

Scholarship applications for the 2019 Buddhist Church of Stockton Scholarship Program will be available from the church office on **March 3rd**.

We are very grateful to the many scholarship sponsors (individuals and organizations) for making the scholarship program possible.

We encourage all eligible students (high school & college) to submit an application along with the requested paperwork by:

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE

SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2019, 11:00 AM.

Scholarships will be awarded at the Annual Graduation & Awards Service, Sunday, June 9, 2019.

Dana Acknowledgements

Our sincere appreciation to the following for their help or donation of goods to the church:

- **Bev Hotta & Ruby Kato** helped prepare the February *Karma* for mailing;
- **Michiko Oye** donated a meat slicer for the kitchen;
- **May Saiki and Frank & Hiro Yagi** helped prepare the Nirvana Day invitation letters for mailing;
- **Frank & Hiro Yagi** folded the programs and acknowledgement cards for the memorial service for the late Mr. Randy Shiba;
- **Frank & Hiro Yagi** donates fruits and/or vegetables each week for the Friday lunches;
- **Carl & Sid Yamada** donated a potato slicer, daikon cutter, and butcher saw for the kitchen.

And we truly appreciate....

- **Tad Shibata** for his help in so many ways;
- **Frank & Hiro Yagi and May Saiki** for their help in the office, and to **Mary Itaya** for her help as needed;
- **Ruby Kato** for typing the last issue of the *Karma*;
- **George Kitagawa, Jim Yasuda, Calvin Matsumoto, Ken Yamashita, Brian Yenokida & George Yonemura** for their weekly garden work, taking out the trash & other assistance;
- **Tad Shibata & Cathy Fujimori** for gardening work on the weekends;
- **Dorothy Uyeda, Michiko Higashi, Kimiko Ishihara, Sandra Kano, Akiko Payne, Fumiko Wakabayashi, Helen Hori, Kay Freeman and Vivian Fujii** for weekly altar beautification;
- **Jean Terashita** for her help in cleaning the office;
- **June Shiba & Sachi Yenokida** for preparing lunch for the Friday volunteers; and **June Peters, Peggy Martin & Aiko Yagi** for helping out in the kitchen as needed; and
- **Darlene Bagshaw** for playing the organ for temple services and occasions as requested; **Cathy Fujimori** for playing piano for temple services as requested; and **Alex Sakata** for playing the organ when available/home from college.

Okagesama-de!

Sarana Affirmation Ceremony
Sunday, June 23, 2019

Applications are still being accepted for the Sarana Affirmation Ceremony to be held in conjunction with the 50th Anniversary celebration on Sunday, June 23, 2019. This special ceremony will be officiated by the Rev. Kodo Umezu, Bishop of the Buddhist Churches of America.

Members and friends of our Sangha and/or their children are welcome to apply and participate in this special ceremony to receive their Buddhist name. Application fee is \$50 per person (*correction from the \$60 previously announced*).

Please contact Rev. Motoyoshi by March 31, 2019.

SBWA Sushi Sale
Sunday, March 17, 2019

*The 7-pc. Bento will include:
4 Maki Sushi & 3 Inari Sushi for*
\$8.00

Limited quantities will be available on 3/17, so please purchase your tickets in advance from the church office, Aiko Yagi, Joyce Tsutsumi or Ruby Kato.

YBA's Annual Tri-Tip Dinner
Saturday, March 23rd
5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

*Tickets are **\$10 for adults & \$5 for kids 10 and under.***

*Dinner includes:
Tri-Tip, Green Salad, Rice, Asparagus,
French Bread, Dessert & Beverage.
(Dine in or Take Out)*

Tickets are available from any YBA member, or can be purchased at church on Sundays.

*Raffle prizes will be available.
Drawings to be held during dinner.*

Please support YBA!

Walnut Meat for Sale



Mabel & Kiyoshi Morodomi have picked and cracked walnuts to sell for the church for \$7.00/lb.

If you would like to purchase some, please contact the Church office (209) 466-6701.

Proceeds will go toward the 50th Anniversary Fundraiser.

Buddhist Church of Stockton
Golf Tournament & Prime Rib Dinner
Saturday, June 22, 2019

Registration & Sponsorship forms are attached to this KARMA.

Dinner only is \$35.00.

Donation of Dog Grooming Services

Temple member, Catalina Estrada (who is a certified pet groomer) is offering limited dog grooming services at your home for \$20. Services include trimming nails; cleaning ears, eyes and glands; teeth brushing; & minor trimming (no bath). All proceeds will be donated to the 50th Anniversary fundraiser.

You may contact the Church office (209) 466-6701.

Kimekomi Doll Making Classes

The Spring Mataro Kimekomi Doll Making Classes are held on the 2nd Saturday of each month. If you would like to register or get more information, please contact:

Church office (209) 466-6701.