



San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin

San Jose, California



Member Temple of the Coast District of the Buddhist Churches of America

2003 Annual Report



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SECTION 1

Messages

Ministerial Message

Rinban Ohata

As the year 2003 comes to an end, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for all your cooperation and support for the successful continuance of Betsuin programs. I am most grateful to all the members who have devoted countless hours for the betterment of our Temple.

The success of Betsuin programs lies within each individual member's awareness of the Dharma and the joy in sharing it with others. I do hope that, with the full support of the members, friends come to our Betsuin to achieve this goal.

The Temple is the DOJO of the Buddha Dharma and *DOJO* means a place to find the way to perfection of one's self.

JI SHIN KYO NIN SHIN was the attitude of St. Shinran, which means, "first one must believe; only then can one share this belief with others." This should be the basic attitude for the followers of the Nembutsu.

The Dharma is true and real for each of us today only because it brings expression to a truth that is timeless, universal and constantly real. Like a mirror, the Dharma reflects a single, true message to anyone who looks into it. Yet, it can reveal itself in a completely different way to another person and still be equally true.

Through the reflections of the Dharma mirror, we can begin to appreciate the absolute uniqueness and value of each and every life. Hatred and intolerance for persons of different races, religions, gender, age, or opinion naturally begin to diminish. We begin to experience the truth of harmony and oneness, and realize that our lives are intricately tied to the lives of all others.

Let us make the effort to become good Buddhists and please encourage your children, grandchildren and friends to join our San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin.

In closing, I sincerely hope that this beautiful Temple, which was established through your true spirit of Dana, will echo in the Nembutsu of gratitude for years to come.

In Gassho,

Masanori Ohata
Rinban



Ministerial Message

Rev. Sakamoto

The past four years, since our last annual report, have brought many events to celebrate and contemplate. From world events to our Centennial celebration we are continually reminded of the truth of interdependency and how deeply connected we are to the world around us.

Jodo Shinshu was brought to this country more than a hundred years ago by Japanese immigrants who carried this great dharma in their hearts and minds. Although faced by seemingly insurmountable challenges the roots of Jodo Shinshu were firmly planted in the soil of America. In the generations that followed, through the guidance of many teachers, we continue to enjoy the vision of those early pioneers.

Our temple today continues the journey begun by Shinran Shonin who left Mt. Hiei in search of a path to bodhi for even the least capable person. We share Shinran's understanding in a broadening circle of dharma friends. Our participation in the greater community through activities including interfaith panels to food and clothing drives, from Dharma School to study classes, shares the heart of nembutsu with all.

In our Hondo, above the Onaijin, is a plaque that reads, "Kaihozo." These words are found in the Juseige, express the Bodhisattva Dharmakara's intent to share the dharma with all beings. Kaihozo, which translates, "to open the Dharma Storehouse," is our aspiration as well.

As we continue to walk a broadening path, we do so in gratitude, with the Nembutsu in our hearts and minds.

In Gassho,

Gerald Sakamoto



President's Message

Joyce Iwasaki

This moment in time is but a continuum of our existence and we have choices of how we are going to impact the health and well being of our environment. In our varied and busy lives, we share a common thread and that is the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin and all of its people and organizations.

As we acknowledged a year ago, during our Centennial in 2002 ~ we recognized that up to this point, our founding members, friends, and everyone since then have created an institution that was built to last. A big part of this ongoing success has to do with not losing sight of why we exist ~ from the very beginning and throughout our first 100 years ~ we adhered to our core value ~ our essence ~ of creating an environment of establishing a place where our Jodo Shinshu Teachings can be heard and shared in this place called San Jose, California.

If we understand this core value ~ then it becomes clear as to what decisions we need to make along the way to enhance our surroundings, to maintain our existence, and to embrace diversity so we can continue on this journey.

We've done a great job ~ we've established and maintained programs, activities and organizations, which continue to create this vibrant place.

So, with all the groundwork that has been put in place before us, this year, we began to meet the challenges and embrace opportunities for healthy changes for our future. We have seen us grow into an American Buddhist institution, which continues to appreciate our historical heritage. We recognize that we are ready to walk this broader path ~ that being American Buddhists ~ we are excited that our core value ~ that of the Dharma ~ can be shared with a broader and a greater diverse base of people.

This year has been a good time in our existence to take a look at our facilities master plan ~ to assess what was intended and analyze if we need to make adjustments, modifications, or proceed as planned. This year has been a perfect time to see how we can make our facilities meet our present and future needs. We are moving forward with this process.

Timing is also right to walk this broader path. We understand our common bond is our Jodo Shinshu Teachings and everyone with this core value must have that opportunity to grow and learn alongside of us.

As always, we must support and listen to the needs of our religious leaders ~ our ministers. Our spiritual leaders are focal and pivotal points to the health of our Betsuin. Their ideas and goals become our strengths.

So these three areas: review and move forth with our facilities master plan; embrace diversity in our Sangha; and support our ministers have been our focus this year.

We've begun to focus on these three key areas this year: reassessing our facilities master plan; embracing diversity and supporting the good works of our ministers; we can continue with this legacy which began 100 years ago.

Our vibrant Sangha is nourished through our Jodo Shinshu Teachings, which serves as our base for all our Betsuin activities.

In Gassho,

Joyce Iwasaki
San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin Board President



SECTION 2

Events and Awards (2002–2003)

San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin Centennial

Michael Jones, Centennial Chairman

In 2002, the temple celebrated its first one hundred years. The theme of the celebration was “Walking a Broader Path... the path is broader than you think.” The meaning of this theme is the acknowledgment that the Sangha of the temple is becoming more diverse and the needs of the Sangha are changing. The culmination of the three years of celebration was the weekend of September 14 and 15, 2002.

Saturday, September 14, 2002 began with a Centennial Memorial Service to honor the people that have made the first one hundred years possible. Dr. Kenji Akahoshi chaired the service officiated by Rinban Shobo Ohata assisted by Reverence Kango Sakamoto. Both the Betsuin Choir, under the direction of Dr. Nancy Hikoyeda, and the Junior Choir under the direction of Mrs. Elaine Sugimoto-Jones, performed at the service. Reverend Jokai Abiko, and Rinban (retired) Junjo Tsumura delivered the dharma messages. Later that day, members gathered for a Fun Day at Baylands Park in Sunnyvale. The highlight of the day was the beautifully colored kites. The kites made by temple members under the watchful eye of Mr. Minoru Matsui, a visiting artisan from Japan.

Sunday September 15, 2002 was a day of color and pageantry. Beginning early in the morning, children gathered to dress in Chigo costumes in preparation for a parade through Japantown. After the parade, all who were present gathered in front of the Hondo for group pictures taken by Jim Nagareda.

The Centennial Commemorative Service followed the parade and pictures. The service was officiated by Bishop Hakubun Watanabe with assistance from Rinban Ohata and Reverend Sakamoto. Many of our past ministers also participated in the service, and Bishop Watanabe delivered the Dharma Message. Centennial Chairman, Michael Jones chaired the service, and both choirs performed. After the service, the Sangha gathered in the Gym for light refreshments and to view historical displays constructed under the direction of Art Kumada and the Archives Committee.

The weekend came to a close with a formal banquet held at San Jose’s Fairmont Hotel. Chaired by Mrs. Reiko Iwanaga and Mrs. Cindy Iwamura, this was a truly magnificent event. Mr. Robert Handa of KTVU Fox 2 served as the emcee. Reverend Tetsuo Unno delivered the keynote speech. There were performances by San Jose Taiko and by the Junior Choir. Several special presentations were made during the evening, including a special recognition of Mr. J. Benjamin Peckham whose family helped the temple and the Japanese community during the internment of World War II. Mr. Peckham’s grandson, Mr. James Peckham was on hand to receive the recognition.

The Centennial Celebration was made possible through the efforts of many people. We are grateful to everyone who worked so hard on the events, and to everyone who attended the festivities.

The final part of the Centennial is just being completed. The yearbook will be delivered to the temple in November 2003. One copy will be made available without cost to each member family. Several distribution dates will be announced.



2003 Scholarship Recipients

Adele Iwasaki

The Betsuin Scholarship Committee distributes, receives, reviews and awards the Betsuin scholarships to Betsuin members who are high school graduating seniors and college students.

The scholarship applications are distributed to the various Betsuin youth organizations starting at the beginning of January. Information is submitted to the January, February and March Dharma Newsletters. The scholarship deadline is set towards the end of March. Each applicant must have an immediate family member who is a current member of the Betsuin for at least one year. There is a high school application and a college application. The college student applicant can be an undergraduate student or graduate student of any level. The college student does not need to be a graduating senior.

Following the Baccalaureate Service, the Jr. YBA hosts the Baccalaureate Luncheon in the gym. The Baccalaureate Luncheon is for all graduating high school and college seniors, the scholarship recipients, and their families.

This year's Baccalaureate Service was held on Sunday, June 8, 2003.

2003 Active Scholarships Awarded

- San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin Scholarship (\$500) — *Stephanie Sakamoto*
- Masato and Chieno Kumada Memorial Scholarship (\$500) — *Kevin Low*
- San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin, Adult Buddhist Association Scholarship (\$500) — *Scott Ohara*
- Phil Matsumura Memorial Scholarship (\$500) — *Stuart Jones*

2003 Non-Active Scholarships

The following scholarships were not awarded this year due to a lack of applicants.

- James Takeo Hashimoto Memorial Scholarship (\$500)
- Ray and Lucy Matsumoto Scholarship (\$500)
- Ben and Kimie Sanematsu Memorial Scholarship (\$500)

This year's scholarship committee included:

- Adele Iwasaki
- Jacque Yamaguchi, Youth Department Chairperson
- Gail Sueki
- Roy Yamanouchi
- Dina Onishi
- Deborah Aso



2002–2003 Youth Awards

Jacqueline Yamaguchi, Youth Department Chairperson

Boy Scouts

Eagle Scout Recipient

Kevin Low

Sangha/Padma

Sangha Recipients

Eric Nakagawa
Doug Sakamoto
Mitchell Beutler
Jonathan Kamei

Jerry Knaack
Andrew Mason
Mark Matsuno
Reid Hironaga

Padma Recipients

Danielle Doi
Ellyson Matsui
Lindsay Matsushita

Kristie Parshall
Heather Ichinaga
Samantha Yoshihara

Junior Girl Scouts

Bronze Award Recipients

Jessica Savage
Ellen Umeda
Lindsay Wilson
Trisha Yamaichi

Nicole Yamamoto
Lindsay Yamauchi
Allison Yee

Wisteria Award Recipient

The Wisteria Award is national recognition by the Buddhist Churches of America administered by the BCA National Scouting Committee. Nominations are made to the committee. The Award recognizes adults who have demonstrated the highest level of dedication, commitment and self-sacrifice to the spiritual development for Jodo Shinshu Buddhist member of scouting, campfire and 4H groups.

Judy Nakano was awarded the Wisteria Award at the Girl Scout Sunday Service on March 12, 2000. She has devoted many years of service to both the Boy Scout and Girl Scout organizations. Mother of two Eagle Scouts, she has been a Cub Scout Den mother, Girl Scout leader at several levels, and plays an active role as Sr. Girl Scout Troop Leader for 782A and also Girl Scout Fund Treasurer. Judy assists scouts earning religious awards by acting as Padma Coordinator. She has attended all but two Nembutsu Camporees, and served as advisor to the Nembutsu Experience I.

Over the years she has received other leadership awards including the Phyllis Jones Award by the Girl Scouts of Santa Clara County, and the Santa Clara County Human Relations Award. In addition to her active role in scouting, she is a long time member of the Dharma staff (over thirty-plus years), member of the Sangha Support committee for four years, member of the New Year Luncheon Committee, Media Center Volunteer and was a Sr. YBA advisor. Other community activities include helping as a library volunteer at her children's schools for 12 years.

We are very fortunate to have such a devoted and organized volunteer, and Sangha member.



Volunteer Recognition

Terry Oshidari, Chairperson

On Sunday, January 19, 2003, seventeen individuals were honored at the Hoonko service for their volunteer efforts for the Betsuin and its many affiliated organizations. Each recipient received a book written by Reverend Unno, *Bits Of Rubble Turn Into Gold*, as well as a recognition certificate. This year, couples where both spouses were recognized, received one book and a gift of chocolates. There were two sets of couples.

Christine Kawashima produced the certificate, and Robert Yoshikawa took the photos.

2002 Recipients and their respective nominating organizations:

- Adult Buddhist Association — *Hisako Ando*
- San Jose Betsuin Choir — *Allan Hikoyeda*
- San Jose Betsuin Dharma School — *Masaru Horiuchi*
- San Jose Betsuin Board of Directors — *Michael Jones*
- San Jose Betsuin Board of Directors — *Bud Mine*
- Cub Scout Pack 611 — *Brian Beutler*
- Boy Scout Troop 611 — *Martin and Jeanne Suzuki*
- Boy Scout Troop 611 — *Joel and Sally Takemoto*
- Betsuin Girl Scout Organization — *Cindy Kogura*
- Cadette Troop 404 — *Gail Matsumura*
- 2002 Centennial Committee — *Jeanne Nakano*
- 2002 Centennial Committee — *Judy Nakano*
- 2002 Centennial Committee — *Marlene Terasaki*
- Morgan Hill Howakai — *Takeshi Ota*
- Morgan Hill Dharma School — *Georgia Sakai*



SECTION 3

Annual Reports of Several Betsuin Service Organizations and Activities

“The San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin reaches out to all age groups and many different personal interests.”

Adult Service Organizations

Adult Buddhist Association

Art Kumada, President

Their mission and objective is to advance Jodo Shinshu Buddhism to Betsuin seniors. They celebrated their 50th Anniversary of the founding of the NBS/ABA on September 27, 2003. They are very active in religious and social activities, and are a sponsor of an annual \$500. Betsuin Scholarship.

Their fundraising activities range from an annual rummage sale in the church gym to assisting at the Obon bazaar.

On a district and BCA level they are a member of the Coast District ABA, and participated in the 1999 BCA Centennial by working on 50+ historical display panels that required a lot of research and planning by its members.

- *Total Members:* 150
- *President:* Art Kumada, 6 years served
- *President Elect:* Carol Sato, 6+ years served

Archives Committee

Bob Terasaki, Committee Member

The Archives Committee was asked to support two events this year. The first was ABA's 50th Anniversary held on September 27, 2003 and the Nembutsu Family Conference held on October 17th through 19th, 2003.

We were requested by the ABA members to provide two display boards with highlights of the past 50 years of ABA's existence at the Betsuin. This took the archives committee three meeting dates to complete the task.

We were requested by the Nembutsu Family Conference to provide one display board representing the San Jose Buddhist Betsuin. We were also requested to provide instructions to other Coast District Temples on how to put up a display. The committee with help from few sangha members delivered five display boards to the Marriott Hotel in downtown San Jose where the conference was held and returned the boards at the end of the conference to the Betsuin storage area. This took the archives committee four meeting dates to complete the task.

- *Chairman:* Art Kumada
- *Treasurer:* Henry Oda
- *Recording Secretary:* Marlene Terasaki
- *Members:* Bernice Ito, Bob Nakano, Fusaye Nakanishi, Robert Yoshikawa, Bob Terasaki

Annual Budget: \$1,200



Fujin-kai Buddhist Women's Association

Shiz Hanada, President

Their mission and objective is to: promote and cultivate appreciation of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist teachings; to propagate the Buddha Dharma; to participate in social welfare services in gratitude for the Amida Buddha's compassion, and to promote the betterment of our family, community, and church.

They have a total of 260 members, recruited 24 new members in 2003, attended three to four district temple meetings, and participated at the annual CDBWA Conference in March. At a BCA level they attended the FBWA conference held bi-annually, made annual donations to the Dharma School Fund, the Dana Fund, and the Sustaining Membership Program.

Their community involvement was extended to Yu-Ai Kai by making nishime for the Bonen Kai banquet, helping with the mochi-tsuki, and annual monetary donations. Annual donations are given to ten various organizations of the Temple. Many hours were spent making sushi and inari sushi for Obon.

Their fundraising activities involved selling of Chirashi/Botamochi in February and in April at the Nikkei Matsuri Festival, and at the Obon with two types of manju.

Hondo Restoration Committee

Bob Terasaki, Committee Chairman

The Centennial Onaijin Restoration Project Committee was formed from volunteers of the Betsuin Board of Directors in 1998. Rinban Ohata received permission from the Board to have an expert from Japan determine the condition of the Onaijin. Mr. Yoshihiro Ito, a Master Artisan of Buddhist Altar of Iwataya LTD. arrived December 7, 1998 and stayed 5 days to collect all the information to determine what was necessary to restore the Onaijin. The initial estimate was \$250,000.

The Committee met on September 30, 1999, to establish our goal. The committee's goals were to restore the present contents of the Onaijin to last another fifty to one hundred years and to purchase additional articles to make the Onaijin as complete as we can make it and finish before the Betsuin's Centennial Celebration in September, 2002. All of the work was planned so as to not disturb any of the regular Dharma lessons, funerals and memorial services.

The committee also committed to expand the scope of the restoration to include the Gejin (seating area) as part of the Centennial Project and hereby renaming the project as the Centennial Hondo Restoration Project.

The committee took upon themselves to do the entire fund raising without the help from the Board of Directors. The pews and carpeting in the Gejin area was paid for by twenty two (22) donors whose names are placed on a plaque in back of the Hondo. The major (more than \$1000) donors are also placed on a plaque in back of the Hondo.

The project was completed on time and the income and expense report are listed on the following page.



Income

Eitaikyo Loan	\$150,000.00
Donations	411,996.31
Nokotsudo Donation*	<u>11,000.00</u>
Total	\$572,996.31

Expenses

Onaijin Cost	\$248,000.00
Gejin Cost	64,844.19
<i>Pews, carpets, and emergency door exit</i>	
Other Expenses	<u>50,278.14</u>
<i>Travel, lodging, and transportation</i>	
Total	\$363,122.33
Funds Available	\$209,873.98
Minus Eitaikyo	\$150,000.00
Net to Hondo Restoration	\$ 59,873.98

**This donation was made specifically for Nokotsudo Project.*

- *Project Leader:* Rinban Masanori Ohata
- *Assistant Project Leader:* Reverend Gerald Sakamoto
- *Committee Chairman:* Bob Terasaki
- *Members:* Greg Aso, Fran Imahara, Terry Oshidari, Alvin Hironaga, Robert Yoshikawa

San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin Choir

Dr. Nancy Hikoyeda, Choir Director

The San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin Choir is composed of over 35 people dedicated to spreading the Dharma through music. We have been in existence for over 52 years. We sing for the three major Jodo Shinshu services, Hoonko, Hanamatsuri, and Obon, and perform for both the English and Japanese services. All that is required is a love of music and a fun-loving nature, no auditions needed and all ages are welcome. We meet on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Betsuin Hondo.

During 2003, the Betsuin choir did the following:

- Performed at the Betsuin Hoonko, Hanamatsuri, and Obon English and Japanese Services.
- Recognized Allan Hikoyeda, Assistant Director, at the Betsuin Volunteer Recognition Service.
- Performed for All Buddhist Hanamatsuri observance and service at Andrew Hill High School on May 10, 2003.
- Manned the strawberry shortcake booth at the Betsuin's Obon Bazaar.



Sangha Support Committee

Jeanne Nakano, Treasurer

The Sangha Support Committee, a committee of the San Jose Board of Directors, was formed in 1994.

The goal of the Sangha Support Committee (also listed as SSC) is to provide support services and interventions to our Sangha families and its individual members.

The objective of the Sangha Support Committee:

1. To organize a resource pool to accommodate the support services.
2. To provide caregiver support, respite care, and visitation (telephone visitation, institution visitations or home visitations).
3. To provide transportation service to and from church.
4. To present education and health related educational materials.
5. To develop and provide health related educational materials.
6. To develop and provide support material for the services and interventions.

There are 17 members on the committee. Leadership positions have been held for three consecutive years. Chairpersons & Team Leaders serve on a monthly rotation; Secretary May Horio; Treasurer Jeanne Nakano; Education Chairs Karen Akahoshi and Marian Suhama; Kokoro Kai Chairs Mas Horiuchi, Lillian Kanzaki, and Betty Kinoshita. Messages/questions for the committee can be left at the Betsuin office. The Team Leader was assigned to follow up with requests for (1) get well card, (2) transportation to Betsuin activities, (3) information on caregiver support, (4) visitation from a minister.

The following education forums/workshops were presented:

Attendance in ()

- | | |
|---|------|
| 1. Line Dancing, January 12, 2003 | (45) |
| 2. Earthquake Preparedness, February 2, 2003 | (24) |
| 3. Taking Care of Elders with Memory Problems, March 16, 2003 | (67) |
| 4. Sushi Making, April 27, 2003 | (61) |
| 5. Funeral Procedures, September 28, 2003 | (34) |
| 6. Diabetes — How Sweet It Is, October 12, 2003 | (30) |
| 7. Creative Note Cards, November 16, 2003 | (28) |

The 3rd Annual Line Dancing is scheduled for January 11, 2004. Possible future forums are: youth etiquette, manju making, arthritis, CPR training. The weekly Tai Chi class, begun in January 2002, added a new beginner's class this year. The SSC Funeral Committee participated in the funeral Procedures workshop. Members of this subcommittee assist the ministers by helping those who request help with funeral procedures.

Community Involvement

The Nursing Home/Assisted Care Facility Visitation Program continued, as well as our collection of cell phones (Gift of Life) and eyeglasses (Gift of Sight). SSC member participated in the Yu-Ai Kai Caregivers Support Program. A new Sangha Crafters was formed to make blankets and scarves for various needy programs. SSC members will attend and assist at the Women's Health Forum, February 2003.

BCA Participation

SSC members participated in the Stanford Hospital Volunteer Lay Chaplaincy Program.



Youth Organizations

Betsuin Dharma School Junior Choir

Elaine Jones, Director

Our mission and objective is to share the Nembutsu through music; performance experience; rehearsal etiquette and having fun!

The choir is composed of 44 choir members, 29 families, under the skilled leadership for 9 years by Elaine Jones, Choir Director. We performed in the Betsuin's Centennial weekend celebration (Saturday, September 14, and Sunday, September 15, 2002) at the Memorial and Centennial Services, and also at the Centennial banquet. For the memorial service, the Jr. Choir joined the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin Choir for a joint performance of "Ondokusan II"; which was the first time in at least 10 years that both choirs performed together. At the banquet, we performed "When She Loved Me," and "Arigato," a collaboration with San Jose Taiko.

Fundraising included Tupperware and See's Candies sales, two Saimin lunches, the annual recital/luncheon, Obon Odori Practice refreshment sales, BCA Bookstores sales, and hapi coats.

The annual recital premiered a musical entitled, "Scrooge's Change of Heart," which was loosely based on Dickens' "The Christmas Carol." Choir members and parents enjoyed putting their "hearts" together for this production, which included spotlights, props and sound systems. Six graduating seniors were honored, whose combined years of membership totaled approximately 50 years. This year's program was professionally videotaped for our temple's media center and archives.

The active fundraising during the years helped with expenses for the group's Hawaii performance tour (July 25–August 1, 2003) at the islands of Oahu and Hawaii. Our families were treated like royalty at the Obon festival at Pearl City Hongwanji Mission, and the performances at the Hawaii Betsuin, Hilo Betsuin, and Kona Hongwanji Mission. The whole group was adorned by handmade leis at all three temples, along with plenty of delicious food. A special performance at the Hilo Betsuin brought their choir and ours together for a special farewell song. All performances went very well! Our deep gratitude goes to all the ministers and representatives in Hawaii for their coordination efforts.

- *District Participation:* Three choir members participated in the Dharma School group effort at the Nembutsu Family Conference held in October 2003.
- *Committee:* The choir's governing body is the Parent Advisory Committee, comprised of 10 choir parents.
- *Treasurer:* Nolan Sakuma

Estimated Annual Budget: \$45,325, of which \$3,500 was budgeted through the church budget.

(Note: The large amount of \$45,325, is due to the group's Hawaii trip during the summer of 2003. Most of the trip budget came from fundraising over a four year period of time.)

San Jose Junior YBA

Michael Jones, Advisor

The Young Buddhist Association (YBA) serves the youth of the church as a religious, social and community service organization. The Junior YBA is for children of high school age. The group meets one or more times per month for services, social events, activities and sporting events. San Jose's Jr. YBA typically has about 50 members and is led by a cabinet with 13 leadership positions.

The Jr. YBA is also part of the Western Young Buddhist League (WYBL). At this time, the WYBL is the de-facto youth organization of BCA. The WYBL conducts 2 or 3 conferences per year involving Jr. YBA, Sr. YBA, and some Young Adult Buddhist Association (YABA) chapters.



San Jose's YBA chapter is one of the most active in WYBL. Our members have served on the WYBL cabinet in several positions. Most recently, Scott Tsukamoto (San Jose Sr. YBA) served as WYBL president for 2002–2003, and Stuart Jones (San Jose Jr. YBA when elected) serves as the 2003–2004 president.

During the 2002–2003 year, Stuart Jones was the president of San Jose Jr. YBA. The group participated in many events. In addition to attending the Clovis Volleyball Mixer, the Central Cal Jr. YBA Conference, and the WYBL Leadership Conference, San Jose played a leadership role in Coast District's efforts to host the 2003 WYBL Conference. The group also co-sponsored a Substance Abuse Seminar. The year was capped off with the Big Trip to Lake Tahoe.

Lindsay Yamamoto is the 2003–2004 president for the Jr. YBA. Lindsay and her cabinet have already been active with a very well attended Substance Abuse Seminar (co-sponsored with the Dharma School), the Clovis Volleyball Mixer, the Nembutsu Family Conference, and the Central Cal Conference.

The group maintains several pages on the church website. Information about the group, their annual calendar, and pictures from past events can be found at http://www.sjbetsuin.com/what%20pages/jr_yba.html.

Betsuin Youth Department

Jacqueline Yamaguchi, Youth Department Chairperson

Award Recipients

See Section 2, Events and Awards, for the following:

- Boy Scout Awards
- Sangha/Padma Awards
- Junior Girl Scout Awards
- Scholarships Recipients

Ski Trip

Ski trip was cancelled for lack of interest.

Obon

Decided to continue to use original time assignments for table service, discovered that new scheduling was too late to assign.

Cemetery Clean-up

Flower expenses have increased. Budget for flowers has been increased to \$400. from the Youth Department.

Lotus Preschool

Lynne S. Yamaichi, Director

Lotus Preschool started its 17th year and continues with the support from the Lotus Preschool Board of Directors: Dr. Kenji Akahoshi, Harriet Kawamata, Betty Nishi, Tom Onishi, Art Osaki, and Sandy Sugie. Our staff consists of two teachers: Julie Endo and Brian Handa, and two aides: Cindy Aragai and Michael Tsutsumi; and Director Lynne Yamaichi. During the summers we are fortunate to have Jason Handa and Danielle Nakamatsu return as teacher's aides. Currently we have 13 full time children and 21 part-time children.



Everyday at 10:00 a.m. the children go to omairi in the hondo. The children learn how to behave in the hondo. Rinban Ohata and Sakamoto Sensei have taught the children to oshoko during the sutra chanting, gassho, bow, The Golden Chain, and many songs including their favorite, “Fly Fly.” Attending omairi is a highlight of the day!

With the academic demands in elementary school, Lotus is trying to better prepare the children. Our program is developmentally based, but we are trying to stress more academics in a multi-sensory way while still having fun! One way Lotus has done this is to provide an Alphabet Homework folder to be worked on with their parents. This gives the parents and insight of how well their child is mastering the alphabet. The Alphabet Homework not only includes learning the alphabet and necessary pre-kindergarten skills and concepts, but also teaches the Japanese culture. Improvements have been made to last year’s folder and hopefully the children and parents will benefit this year.

Both the children and seniors enjoy monthly visits to Yu-Ai Kai. Last year we were fortunate to have Nancy Hikoyeda, PhD of San Jose State University’s Department of Gerontology be an advisor to a Master’s candidate who studied the relationship of the lotus Preschool children and the Yu-Ai Kai seniors. Her recommendations for our visits were to have more direct interactions with the two groups. When planning for a visit, we take all her suggestions into consideration. San Jose State University Department of Nursing also returned to have the nursing students practice their clinical skills with the children. The children look forward to their visits to play games and learn new skills.

Lotus was involved with our community by participating in the Yu-Ai Kai’s Keiro Kai celebration, West Valley JACL Daruma Festival, and singing Halloween songs at Fuji Towers and Yu-Ai Kai. The children wear their Lotus Happi coats and sing their Japanese songs at these events.

Parent participation and generosity is very much appreciated. With our parent drivers, we were able to go on monthly field trips. Parent support has helped with our computers for the children and office, providing refreshment and help for the holiday events and graduation picnic, donating field trips and much more. Parent support has been tremendous.

As we begin a new year, we are enjoying the new painting job that Marvin Aoki and his many volunteers completed this summer. Thank you to Karen Akahoshi for the fantastic color scheme! We love it!

Betsuin Activities

Annual Betsuin Clean-Up

Steve Ichinaga, Betsuin Clean-up Chairman

This year’s Annual Betsuin Clean-Up was on July 21–July 25, but got off to a late start. Posting a sign on the bulletin board asking for volunteers and contacting group leaders by e-mail or regular mail produced enough manpower to complete this year’s clean-up. Even though the junior choir left for Hawaii during the week, several members came to help on Monday, before leaving on their trip. For the first time ever, the Japanese Language School paid an outside janitorial service to clean the cottage for their group.



The attendance numbers were as follows:

- Board of Directors: 5
- Cub Scout Troop 611: 12
- Boy Scout Troop 611: 31
- Kendo: 22
- Brownie Troop 1052: 24
- Junior Girl Scout Troop 260: 32
- Cadette Troop 404: 12
- Senior Girl Scout Troop 782: 13
- Fujinkai: 11
- DSPO: 18
- Judo Club: 11
- CYS: 15
- Junior YBA: 18
- ABA: 11

I would like to thank all of the groups that arrived on their assigned nights and did more than their assigned tasks. A special thanks to the scouting groups, who help the Board to complete their two days of assigned tasks.

Japanese Language School

Jim McClure, President of Parent Association

Our mission and objective is to teach Japanese language and culture, to adults and school age children. The school follows the Public School calendar, and start in September. The classes are every Saturday from 9:00 a.m. until noon, and there are 85 students.

During the year, the students will celebrate Mochi-tsuki, Boy's Day, Girl's Day, and Mame Maki. There is a speech contest in the spring; the winners from our school go to San Francisco to compete in the Bay Area contest. Last year several of our students came home with prizes. Typically we have one music event per year. Last year the students were taught a dance for Obon.

As a way of community involvement, the Parents Association staffed the gyoza booth at Obon. For our fundraising efforts, the Parents Association made and sold obentos several time during the school year. They also staffed the spam musubi booth at Nikkei Matsuri. The funds from these events help support the teachers, and buy extra materials for the classrooms.

- *President:* Jim McClure, 4 years served
- *Treasurer and Web Master:* Alice Taguma, 3 years served
- *Secretary of Parents Association:* Susan Ishijima, 6 months served
- *Office Administrator:* Natsu Niizawa, 5 years served

Estimated Budget: \$22,000



Obon 2003

Jim McClure, Obon Chairman

This year's gross was \$204,531.00. This includes the proceeds from the Raffle, which was \$19,000.00. That represents our second best Obon ever in terms of revenue. This appears to be a direct reflection of the economy. Anecdotal evidence from other Obon Festivals seems to indicate a drop everywhere.

We had problems with several food items this year. There were issues with the udon noodles on Saturday. There were complaints about the small size of the strawberries. Some of the chicken legs were over cooked.

There were several "good news/bad news" items this year. Although we made money, we have lots of adult size T-shirts for sale. The good news is we had items to put in the "goodie bags" for the Nembutsu Conference.

The Flower booth was moved to a bigger location. Sales were down because of it. I have several options for next year.

The Bingo Tent will definitely be back next year. We had great turnout Sunday night for Deconstruction. Thank you, we were done by 10:30. Using the screened in area in front of the pantry for rice cooling Saturday night was a great idea. I just don't remember who came up with it. I know it wasn't me.

A shared *thank you* from everyone who shared them with me, and to all those who helped out.

FINALLY

There are multiple chairpersons who want to retire. I cannot, and will not do this alone. I have already assisted in multiple areas where there is no chairperson or the chairperson is trying to retire. Responsibility does not delegate up it delegates down. If people do not step up there will be a significantly smaller Obon next year.



SECTION 4

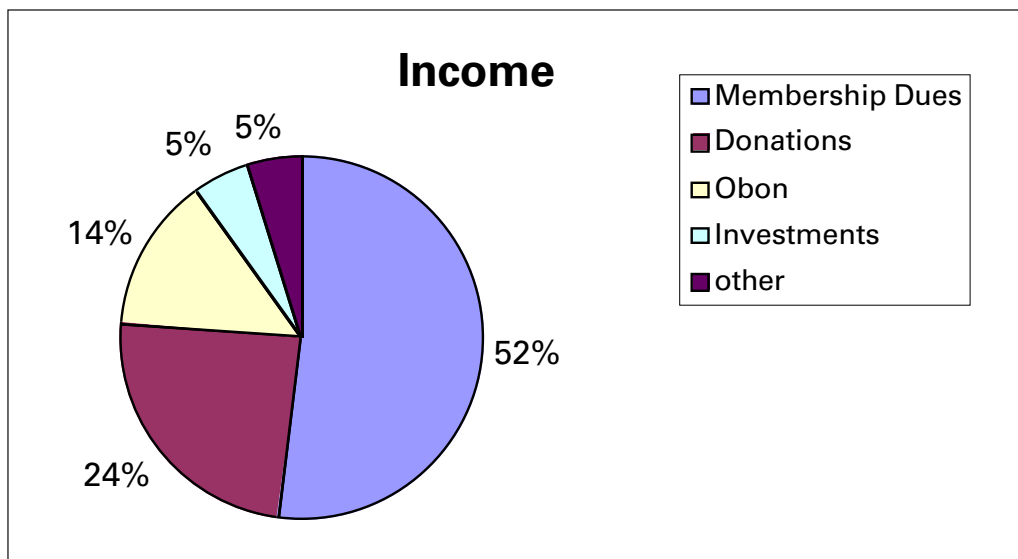
Financial Facts

San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin Finances

The San Jose Buddhist Church has a membership of approximately 1100 families at last count. A member is a registered individual or family residing at one address and paying minimum annual dues.

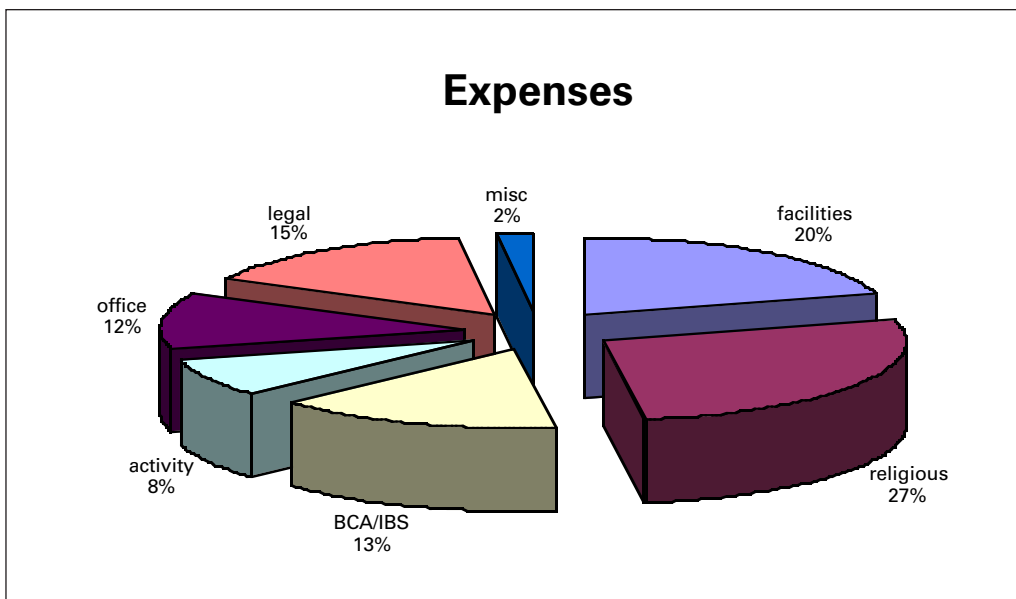
As with any large organization, the San Jose Betsuin has a significant budget. With many buildings to maintain, publications to produce, and full time staff of ministers and others, the Temple relies heavily on the regular contributions of the members. A breakdown of the sources and uses of funds follows. Note that the members provide most of the funding directly.

In the two graphs that follow, we show the origin of funds coming into the Temple and the use of these funds. Significant sources of funding for the Temple include membership dues, which provide \$0.52 of each dollar coming into the Temple. Donations from services, events, and general interests provide \$0.24 of each dollar. Temple investments provide \$0.05 of each dollar. The Obon, as a single event provides \$0.14 of each dollar funding Temple activities. It should be noted that the Obon proceeds are used primarily for capital improvements of buildings and facilities.





As for Temple expenses, the majority of the expense, \$0.27 of each dollar goes to religious expenses, such as salaries, special services, BCA Conference, etc. Another \$0.20 of each dollar is used to keep up our Temple facilities, \$0.12 of each dollar goes to staff salaries and office administration for telephone, equipment repairs, etc. Approximately \$0.15 of each dollar goes towards our legal needs, such as insurance, property tax, etc. \$0.08 of each dollar goes to funding various activities, and in order to fund the nationwide efforts to sustain and promote Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, \$0.13 of each dollar expended by the San Jose Betsuin is sent to the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) and Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS), as a per-Temple-member assessment. All told, it's approximately \$60 per member, per year to fund the BCA.





SECTION 5

Betsuin Operations

As with any organization, the San Jose Betsuin have several groups that work together to execute the purpose and operate the processes. The information below should be helpful in understanding the operations of the Betsuin.

Minister Orientation

Newly assigned ministers to the Buddhist Churches of America's temples undergo a brief orientation prior to assignment. Experiences of the new ministers can vary considerably. Some ministers have good English skills, while others are just becoming familiar with the language. Some ministers are from temple families, others are from lay families. As a minister enters into life as a Kaikyoshi, mentoring by a senior minister is very helpful.

The San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin, under the guidance of Rinban Ohata, received five ministers into its orientation program. Reverend Fumiaki Usuki arrived June 16, 2001 and was assigned to the Los Angeles Hongwanji Buddhist Temple on August 15, 2001. Reverend Yushi Mukojima arrived on February 1, 2002 and was assigned to the Seabrook Buddhist Temple on March 4, 2002. On March 21, 2002 Reverend Koken Torimi entered our orientation program and was assigned to the Placer Buddhist Church on April 29, 2002. Reverend Yasunori Teruoka was our fourth orientation minister, he arrived on November 26, 2002 and assumed his assignment at the Tristate/Denver Buddhist Church on December 26, 2002. The last minister we received arrived on December 24, 2002. Having completed his orientation, Reverend Masayuki Fukuma was assigned to the Tacoma Buddhist Temple on January 21, 2003.

Religious Purpose

Ministers

Rinban Masanori Shobo Ohata
Reverend Gerald Sakamoto

Services

Regular Services — Fall through Spring Schedule

Dharma School Service	Sunday	9:30 a.m.–10:00 a.m.
Adult Service	Sunday	10:10 a.m.–11:00 a.m.
Japanese Language Service	Sunday	1:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m.



Special Services and Events (2002–2003)

January 1	Shusho-E (New Year's Day Service)
January 19	Goshoki Hoonko (Shinran Shonin's Memorial Service)
February 9	Boy Scout Sunday
February 16	Nehan-E (Nirvana Day)
February 17–23	BCA National Council, Los Angeles
March 16	Girl Scout Sunday
March 23	Shunki Higan-E (Spring O-Higan)
April 13	Kanbutsu-E (Hanamatsuri — Flower Festival)
May 18	Shusho Gotan-E
May 26	Memorial Day Service (Oak Hill)
June 8	Baccalaureate Service
June 15	Dharma School Teachers' Appreciation Day
July 12–13	Obon Festival
July 20	Obon/Hatsubon Memorial Service
September 14	Shuki Higan-E (Autumn O-Higan)
October 12	BCA Founding Day/Late Bishops' Memorial Service
October 17–19	Coast District Nembutsu Family Convention, San Jose Marriott
November 16	Eitaikyo (Perpetual Memorial Service)
December 7	Jodo-E (Bodhi Day — Enlightenment Day)
December 31	Joya-E (New Year's Eve Service)

Temple Operations

Office

640 North Fifth Street
San Jose, CA 95112
(408) 293-9292
(408) 293-0433 Fax

www.sjbetsuin.com
sjbc@sjbetsuin.com

Betsuin Office Committee

Glenn Kurimoto, Human Resources Chairman

Marlene Terasaki, after many years of service to the Betsuin as the Office Manager, informed us that as of June 2003 she would have to reduce her role and hours worked. Subsequently, the Betsuin hired Randy Suzuki in July 2003 as an Administrative Assistant. Randy graduated from San Jose State University with a degree in Business Administration. He has had a long association with the Betsuin, most recently as a member of the weekend office staff. With training and experience, we look forward to Randy assuming greater responsibility in the office.

- *Office Manager:* Randy Suzuki
- *Staff:* Judy Nakano, Jeanne Nakano, Marlene Terasaki, Lee Uyeda
- *Weekend Staff Office Manager:* Adele Iwasaki
- *Staff:* Kevin Yamaguchi, Eleanor Sakamoto, Nick Hirano, Deborah Aso, Derek Kurimoto, Ted Nakano



Board of Directors

- *President:* Joyce Iwasaki
- *Vice President of Finance:* Bud Mine
- *Vice President of Research and Planning:* Jim McClure
- *Vice President of Membership:* Roy Yamanouchi
- *Vice President of Facilities:* Greg Aso
- *Vice President of Youth:* Jacque Yamaguchi
- *Vice President of Education:* Kenji Akahoshi
- *Historian:* Art Kumada

Board Members

Terms Expire 2003

Kenji Akahoshi
Jane Asanuma
Bob Idemoto
Adele Iwasaki
Chris Kawashima
Glenn Kurimoto
Henry Louie
Jeanne Nakano
Ted Nakano
Steve Sakai
Carol Sato
Janice Terakawa
Lydia Uchida-Sakai
Robert Yoshikawa

Terms Expire 2004

Noboru Araki
Greg Aso
Cindy Iwamura
Tom Nishikawa
Terry Oshidari
Gail Sueki
Sumi Tanabe
Bob Terasaki
Jacque Yamaguchi
Roy Yamanouchi

Terms Expire 2005

Marvin Aoki
May Horio
Mas Horiuchi
Steve Ichinaga
Joyce Iwasaki
Michael Jones
Art Kumada
Bud Mine
Phyllis Sugimoto



Affiliations

Morgan Hill and Gilroy Howakai

A “Howakai” is a neighborhood Dharma study group. In southern Santa Clara County, members of San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin have formed a local Howakai in Morgan Hill and Gilroy. Regular services and Dharma School classes are held in both locations with the assistance of the San Jose Ministerial staff.

Morgan Hill Temple Project

The San Jose Betsuin owns a parcel of land in Morgan Hill that was donated many years ago by members of the Morgan Hill Buddhist families. Over the years, several buildings have been erected on the property and these facilities are used for services, Dharma School and community events. The buildings and their maintenance have been financed through the efforts and donations of members and the community of Morgan Hill.

In 1998, the Morgan Hill Buddhist Building Board, a committee of the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin, began a process to become recognized as a temple within the BCA. The Rinban of San Jose Betsuin and the San Jose Betsuin Board of Directors are sponsoring this effort. This process can be involved and lengthy as the Morgan Hill group discovers and meets the requirements of the BCA. As the sponsoring organization, San Jose Betsuin will remain intimately involved with this process. It is the intention of the Board of Directors of San Jose Betsuin to relinquish the ownership of the property and buildings in Morgan Hill to the new temple as soon as it is officially recognized by the BCA. Under the rules of the BCA, should the Morgan Hill Temple ever become financially insolvent, or dissolve for any other reason, all properties and assets of the Temple revert to the BCA.

The effort to have the Morgan Hill entity recognized as a separate temple within the BCA and the Coast District continues. The group has applied for non-profit status and they are taking all of the necessary legal steps to accomplish their goal. In November of 1999, the BCA Coast District Board of Directors officially recognized the Morgan Hill effort and voted to support the on-going process. The San Jose Betsuin President, Board of Directors, and Ministers continue to support the effort in any way possible.



San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin
www.sjbetsuin.com