



San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin

San Jose, California



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

2004 Annual Report



Table of Contents

Section 1. Messages	1
Ministerial Message	1
President's Message	3
Section 2. Future of San Jose Buddhist Church	5
Section 3. Awards	7
2004 Scholarship Recipients	7
2003–2004 Youth Awards	8
Volunteer Recognition	8
San Jose Junior League Volunteer Recognition	9
Section 4. Annual Reports of Several Betsuin Service Organizations and Groups	11
Adult Service Organizations	11
Youth Organizations	14
Betsuin Activities	18
Section 5. Financial Facts	23
Section 6. Betsuin Operations	25
Religious Purpose	25
Temple Operations	26
Board of Directors	26
Board Members	26
Affiliations	27
Section 7. Community Involvement	29
Japantown Community Congress	29





SECTION 1

Messages

Rinban Masanori Ohata & Reverend Gerald Sakamoto

Ministerial Message

Everyday, the members and friends of our temple continue to learn, share and live a life of nembutsu. With this annual report, we once again take stock of where we are as a sangha; it is a retrospective report, but it is also a look at our future.

There are so many activities that fill our lives at the temple. Our youth programs which include Dharma School, Jr. Choir, YBA and Scouting, provide wonderful opportunities for preschoolers to young adults. Our activities bring people of all ages together from our most senior members to our youngest babies. The temple is a place to come and enjoy life in the nembutsu that brings us together. It is the nembutsu that is the life of this temple.

Throughout the year many visitors come to the temple. They are often drawn by the beauty and history of the hondo. They often arrive with many questions. Through dialogue and openness we are able to share our appreciation of the Buddha Dharma.

The primary purpose of our temple is to live and share the nembutsu. Through the dedicated work and contributions of many individuals, past and present, we are able to continue to share the nembutsu with others.

In remembrance of our ancestors and deceased members, and in gratitude to our member families, the Nokotsudo (columbarium) expansion was undertaken; it is scheduled to be completed this year. There will be a dedication service for the Nokotsudo early next year.

In closing, we hope that this temple, which was established through your true spirit of Dana, will echo in the nembutsu of gratitude through years to come.

In Gassho,

Masanori Ohata
Rinban

Gerald Sakamoto
Reverend



President's Message

Joyce Iwasaki

An Ending Means New Beginnings

My two terms as Betsuin President end as this Betsuin Annual Report is being produced. It is time for me to pass the baton ~ something I like doing when capable people are ready to step up, continue the momentum and run with various challenges and opportunities. I am confident our new Betsuin President and Officers as well as the Board Members and other Sangha leaders will continue to do due diligence and provide the leadership it takes to move our organization to greater heights.

Two years ago, when I started my first term as President ~ timing was right to focus on three issues: updating the Betsuin Facilities Master Plan, strengthening our Sangha by embracing diversity, and supporting our spiritual leaders with their vision and projects.

By the end of this year, Richard Tanaka, a Betsuin member and the architect working on our Facilities Master Plan, will have completed his report. Richard and Jim McClure, our Research and Planning VP, have dedicated their time and talents on this project. This report will help us identify what structures and spaces will best serve us in the future.

We understand our Jodo Shinshu Sect has an ethnic fabric which stems from the Hongwanji in Kyoto and know the importance of setting our solid footing here in the United States with that in mind. Now ~ after the first hundred years in this country ~ timing is perfect to walk a broader path which we stated during our Betsuin's Centennial. We understand that our common bond is our Jodo Shinshu Teachings and everyone who believes in this core value must have the same opportunity to grow and learn alongside each other. Our Sangha circle is expanding and how exciting this is!

We are also very fortunate to have religious scholars such as Rinban Ohata, Reverend Sakamoto, Reverend Tsumura, Reverend Nishimura, Reverend Ishiura, as well as having had Rinban Hojo, Rinban Tokunaga and so many others who have guided us along the path of the Buddha-Dharma. Both Rinban Ohata and Reverend Sakamoto's encouragement and leadership for our Centennial Celebration led to the improvements and renovations in the Hondo, the Onaijin and the Nokotsudo. As these projects were important to the ministers, they have become focal points for the Sangha.

Thank you for the opportunity and privilege to serve as Betsuin President. It was my pleasure working with the Betsuin Board of Directors who set policies, oversaw projects and programs, and offered guidance and leadership to ensure the best environment to embrace the Three Treasures, to share the joy of the Nembutsu, and for fellowship that naturally develops. Thank you to all Sangha members, family and friends who make the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin vibrant and an ever-lasting place.

In Gassho,

Joyce Iwasaki
San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin Board President



SECTION 2

Future of San Jose Buddhist Church

Reverend Sakamoto, Joyce Iwasaki, Jim McClure, Bob Terasaki

The Life of Nembutsu

For more than 700 years people have gathered to hear of and share in the life of Nembutsu. The life of Nembutsu is a Dharma path that leads to liberation through a life of deepening gratitude for the compassion of Amida Buddha. Our temple's primary activity is to illuminate and broaden this path for ourselves and others.

The temple provides opportunities for people to listen to the Dharma and deepen their appreciation of the Nembutsu through study classes, services and fellowship. Our temple also offers opportunities for people to manifest the dharma through many activities. From Dharma School and YBA food and clothes drives to Sangha Support and BWA community support activities, there is a growing willingness to express concern for others.

In our Hondo, above the Onaijin, hangs a plaque that reads "Kaihozo." This phrase comes from Juseige. It is Amida Buddha's vow to help everyone. And it is a reminder, for us too, to share what we enjoy in nembutsu.

The Organization

Buddhist Churches of America today is an organization of 100 Shin Buddhist temples, branch temples, fellowships and groups throughout the mainland United States with some active 55 ministers. Established as an overseas district of the Jodo Shinshu Honpa Hongwanji in Kyoto in 1899, this national organization continues to provide benefits to our San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin through its spiritual leaders and scholars, our assigned ministers, the relationship with the Institute of Buddhist Studies with its links to the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, CA., and to Ryukoku University in Japan.

Through the BCA, local temples are able to develop and expand programs such as the Dharma School, Buddhist Women's Association, the Young Buddhist Associations, as well as many others.

Operational expenses at this national level are generated by membership assessments. To sustain projects and programs, the BCA Campaign for Buddhism from 1982 - 1992 generated over \$11 million which dispersed more than \$7 million to support ministerial benefits and training, scholarships for ministerial candidates, ministerial research and propagation activities, education and outreach, Scouting and Campfire activities, Wheel of Dharma publication, IBS endowed chairs, and BCA Archives project. The balance today of this endowed fund is \$11.8 million.

The Vision

At this time, the dawn of the 21st Century, the BCA leadership sees the need to reaffirm and refine the core mission of promoting the Buddha, Dharma and Sangha as well as to create Jodo Shinshu Buddhism as a major religious tradition in America and know that bold efforts need to be established to realize these goals.

In 2002, BCA launched a comprehensive plan to create a \$30 million endowment to establish a healthy base for our future. Portions of this endowment will go towards the Jodo Shinshu Center located in



Berkeley which will house IBS as well as serve as the location of the Center for Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Studies which will provide ministerial and lay training, seminars and activities. Other components of this endowment include ministerial benefits, expansion and outreach projects, establishment of a stronger youth focus under the leadership of a Youth Director, and the creation of cooperative and financial assistance programs for local temples and Sanghas.

The BCA leadership as well as major donors has already established a financial base for this campaign to move forward. In 2005, every member of every Sangha will have the opportunity to make his or her investment into the future and strength of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in America.

The Master Plan

On January 19, 2004, the Betsuin contracted with Richard Tanaka, AIA, to develop a master plan for the Temple facilities.

The scope of this contract is four-fold and is scheduled to be finished by January 2005.

Phase One was Information Gathering. Meetings were held with all the user groups of our facilities and the leadership of the Sangha. This phase was also used to gather in one place all the existing plans of the Temple property.

Phase Two was designed to distill and process the information gathered in Phase One into a coherent Program Statement.

Phase Three was used to develop a design based on the Program Statement. This design was on display on the Hondo porch during Obon. It is important to note that the design shown is by no means final, what was displayed was a concept drawing only. It's intent was only to show the Sangha a rough idea of what they had been telling Richard during all those meetings.

Once the Sangha agrees on a final design, the Final Phase will give us the documentation necessary to approach the city for any approvals needed.

Based on the input received and the need to make the Annex and Education Building earthquake resistant, Richard's recommendations are to replace both buildings with one new combined structure located in the same location as the present Annex. There are multiple benefits to this layout. With all our buildings on the same side of the street, safety will improve. There will not be the back and forth crossing of Fifth Street. You will only cross the street when you leave and return to your car. Secondly, all our parking will be consolidated on one lot encompassing all our property between Fourth Street and Fifth Street. Lastly, eaving all the property between Fifth Street and Fourth Street open will keep the most land available for the next generation of Sangha members to develop as they need. Richard is currently working on the engineering studies to develop the costs associated with the proposed project.

One of the more immediate projects you can see taking form today is the Nokotsudo. Started in 1990 with a gift from Ray and Lucy Matsumoto, the Nokotsudo has been a special and integral part of our temple as it serves the Sangha by providing a place for the cremains of family members and friends. In the initial construction the storage room in back of the hondo was converted into the Nokotsudo. Then in late 1999 a second gift was received from the Matsumoto's and additional niches were added. This year the Ministers received permission from the Betsuin Board of Directors to move and expand the Nokotsudo into the old office area. The renovation of the old office space into the Nokotsudo is on schedule and expected to be completed around New Year day. The Nokotsudo Project Committee is made up of the following members, Rinban Ohata, Reverend Sakamoto, Bob Idemoto, Tom Onishi, Greg Aso, Ed Morimoto, Bob and Marlene Terasaki, and Jim Yoshiyama.



SECTION 3

Awards (2003–2004)

2004 Scholarship Recipients

Jacqueline Yamaguchi

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 13, 2004, with guest speaker Nancy Hikoyeda, PHD.

2004 Active Scholarships Awarded

- San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin Scholarship — Janet M. Hiroshima, Erin Y. Imai, Nicole K. Sakuma
- Masato and Chieno Kumada Memorial Scholarship — Lesley T. Makishima
- San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin, Adult Buddhist Association Scholarship — John W.G. Egan
- James Takeo Hashimoto Memorial Scholarship — Tracie T. Kogura
- Phil Matsumura Memorial Scholarship — Corey S. Utsurogi
- Ben and Kimie Sanematsu Memorial Scholarship — Kevin M. Yamaguchi

New Scholarship Awarded

- Sadao Sakai Memorial Scholarship — Dorene A. Yamaguchi

2004 Non-Active Scholarship

The Ray and Lucy Matsumoto scholarship was not awarded this year due to a lack of applicants.



2003–2004 Youth Awards

Jacqueline Yamaguchi, Youth Department Chairperson

Recognition Award

Brownie Leader Leslie Kitazumi

Cub Scout Troop 611 *(Made Quality Unit for 2004)*

Metta Award Recipients Eric Amemiya Landon Hirasawa
Michael Honda Kevin Ishikawa
Ryo Kitagawa Ryan Osako

Boy Scout Troop 611

Eagle Scout Recipients for November 1, 2003 Stuart S. Jones Brian T. Matsuno
Ryan J. Najima Kyle S. Sasaki

Eagle Scout Recipient for March 27, 2004
Aron Mitsunaga

Sangha/Padma/Dharma

Sangha Recipients Kyle Higashidani Branden Hirasawa
Kirk Hiroshima Jason Kusumoto
Jeff Takemoto Jeff Suzuki

Padma Recipient Jessica Randall

Dharma Recipients Jeffery Handa Jimi Kogura

Brownie Troop 1052

Brownie Padma Recipients Danielle Kitagawa Marissa Kitazumi
Erin Mukai Mei Suzuki
Kelly Tan Anna Nakayama

Volunteer Recognition

Terry Oshidari, Chairperson

On Sunday, January 18, 2004, the 7th annual volunteer recognition program acknowledged 14 individuals for their unselfish volunteer work for their respective nominating organizations. This program was established in 1996 to honor our “unsung heroes” in the various groups at the Temple. There were 12 organizations that submitted their nominees for this honor.

Each recipient received a certificate of merit and received a copy of one of two books: twelve received NATURALNESS by Kenryo Kanamatsu and two received THE HEART OF THE BUDDHA-DHARMA: following the Jodo Shinshu Path by Kenryu T. Tsuji, the first Japanese American Bishop of the Buddhist Churches of America. As established last year, a recipient couple receives one book and a small box of candy instead of two books.



Special thank you to Robert Yoshikawa for producing the beautiful certificates awarded to the honorees. Also, an appreciative acknowledgement to Tom Oshidari for again serving as the “official photographer.”

Following is a list of the honorees for 2003 and the person filling out the nomination form for their respective nominating organizations:

- *Ed Amemiya* — nominated by Art Shinagawa for Cub Scout Pack 611
- *Jane Asanuma* — nominated by Steven Ichinaga for San Jose Betsuin Board of Directors
- *Deborah Aso* — nominated by Elaine Jones for San Jose Betsuin Junior Choir
- *Clara Ike* — nominated by Nancy Hikoyeda for San Jose Betsuin Choir
- *Kimi Kino* — nominated by Nancy Hikoyeda for San Jose Betsuin Choir
- *Brad and Leslie Kitazumi* — nominated by Lynne Yamaichi for Lotus Preschool
- *Leslie Kitazumi* — nominated by Alison Lee for Brownie Troop 1052
- *Harry Mikami* — nominated by Riuji Hanamoto for Morgan Hill Howakai
- *Yasuyo Niimoto* — nominated by Kaye Masatani for Buddhist Women’s Association
- *Naomi Oda* — nominated by Marvin Aoki for San Jose Betsuin Dharma School
- *Alice Taguma* — nominated by Jim McClure for Japanese Language School
- *Dexter Tahara* — nominated by Arthur Shinagawa for Tiger Cub Pack 611
- *Bob Terasaki* — nominated by Steven Ichinaga for San Jose Betsuin Board of Directors
- *Helen Uchimura* — nominated by Art Kumada for Adult Buddhist Association

Financial Report:

Books from Buddhist Book Store	\$151.33
Photo processing	8.65
Photo processing and supplies \tab	<u>13.44</u>
Total	\$173.42

Other costs were incurred but receipts were lost so true costs were closer to \$190.00.

San Jose Junior League Volunteer Recognition

Terry Oshidari, Chairperson

On Monday, April 5, 2004, the Junior League of San Jose hosted the 35th Annual Volunteer Recognition Luncheon, “Honoring Community Spirit,” at the Santa Clara Marriott. The luncheon of over 700 attendees celebrates and honors the efforts of the community’s most active and dedicated volunteers. San Jose Betsuin submitted two nominees for their outstanding contributions to the community and the temple. Usually two nominees are submitted every other year.

Bob Terasaki received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Junior League for his many leadership roles on various committees such as the Onaijin Restoration, Nokotsudo, Centennial, Coast District Nembutsu Conference, Obon/Bazaar, and Facilities Usage and Maintenance.

Kenji Akahoshi, D.D.S., received the prestigious Crystal Bowl Award. He was one of only 19 recipients of the special etched Tiffany & Co. crystal bowl. The recognition was for his continuous efforts in education of Buddhist principles and for helping others to see their lives through a Buddhist perspective. He has been an active board member of the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin for over 25 years, serving as temple president at one time. He has been the vice-president of Buddhist Education for many years but is now



on hiatus and has elected to go back to school to work on a masters degree in transpersonal psychology. He was honored for establishing the Nembutsu Journey program for teens and for organizing an adult “retreat” program to explore how to make Buddhism relevant to our way of life today.

He also contributes his resources and knowledge as a lay chaplain at the Santa Clara County Juvenile Hall.

Attending the luncheon with the two recipients were their families and friends. Additionally, Reverend Sakamoto and President Joyce Iwasaki were present.

- *Financial Report*

8 attendees paid by SJBCB @ \$25.00/ person = \$200.00

- *Photos are donated*

No other costs are incurred since all other attendees pay for their own lunch.

The temple pays for four (4) places per recipient and for the ministers if they wish to attend.



SECTION 4

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

Carol Sato, President

The San Jose Betsuin ABA met on Saturday, October 2, 2004 for the regularly scheduled Service and Meeting. We did not have a minister. Religious Chair Janice Terakawa led the sutra chanting and gave her little talk on communicating, compassionate and friendly persona to all, especially new persons who attend the service.

The fall Reno overnight trip was on October 3/4, 2004. Hopefully there were a lot of lucky winners.

The C.D. Nembutsu Family Conference was discussed and our members were encouraged to attend.

San Jose Betsuin ABA has become very diversified, especially with the younger members willing to take on new challenges. Jacque Yamaguchi volunteered to chair a Creative Competition Event. Both San Jose and Morgan Hill Dharma Schools will be notified and invited to participate in this event. Criteria are as follows: Wake up your creative talents and create a short story, a poem, a special photo, art work or even a song. The topic for the project must depict a specific theme selected by the Adult Buddhist Association.

THEME: BUDDHISM IN ACTION
“LIVING THE DHARMA”

The deadline for all entries is January 31, 2005 (further information concerning this can be received by contacting an ABA member). This was one of the requests voiced at the last National BCA Conference. It sparked an idea suggested by Carol Sato of our ABA. Hope we will entice a lot of young Dharma School talent.

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

- *President:* Carol Sato
- *Vice President:* Jacqueline Yamaguchi
- *Recording Secretary:* Helen Uchimura
- *Corresponding Secretary:* Janice Terakawa
- *Treasurer:* Don Uyeda
- *Religious Chairperson:* Janice Terakawa
- *Activities Chairpersons:* Ted & Kimi Kino, Robert & Phyllis Yoshikawa
- *Social Chairpersons:* Sadako Ikeda, Hedio Kumada, Yoko Uyeda
- *Publicity:* Art Kumada
- *Historian:* Hisako Ando
- *Advisor:* Rinban Masanori Ohata



- *Welfare Chairpersons:* Mollie Nakasaki, Alyce Morita
- *Parliamentarian & Member-at-Large:* Sus Ikeda

Archives Committee

Bob Terasaki, Committee Member

Purpose: The purpose of the Archives Committee is to collect, catalog and preserve the history of the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin.

Membership: Membership in the Archives Committee is open to Sangha members recommended by a standing Committee member and approved by a majority of the Committee. Current Committee members are: Bernice Ito, Mas Horiuchi, Art Kumada, Fusaye Nakanishi, Bob Nakano, Henry Oda, Bob Terasaki, and Marlene Terasaki.

The 2003-2004 year was marked by two major events for the Committee. The first was the sudden passing of one of its earliest members, Robert Yoshikawa. Robert was instrumental in bringing technology into the Archives through the medium of video taping. He also began work on creating a computer database to catalog all the material collected by the Committee. His expertise, helpfulness and friendship is greatly missed by the members.

The second major event for the Committee was the move from the old office building to Room 4 in the Annex building. This entailed many hours of volunteer help to pack and haul boxes and furniture up to the second floor. The Committee wishes to thank the following for their Dana in moving the Archives to its new home: Boy Scouts, Greg Aso, George Hanada, Danny Itatani, Ed Morimoto, and Tom Onishi.

San Jose Buddhist Women's Association

Shiz Hanada, President

- **Short Description of Group:** A women's organization to promote betterment of our family, community and church.
- **Number of members on roster:** Approximately 250 members
- **2004 goals, objectives, etc.:** To serve the needs of the Temple when asked, serve the community and enjoy the camaraderie of women.
- **2004 activities and accomplishments:** Had three successful fundraisers, made sushi to sell at Obon with the profits turned over to the Betsuin. Prepared food for otoki. Made lunches two separate times for the Wilson House and also gave monetary donation. Made and served lunch to the volunteers who helped us with the fundraisers. Bus was hired to take members to the CDBWA Conference in Watsonville. Will be attending the Nembutsu Convention in Mountain View. Took a two-day trip to Reno. Will be serving refreshment for the CD Council in November
- **2004 highlights:** All the things we did were special
- **Some key people who contributed to the success of activities and accomplishments:**
Cooking is a very vital part of our organization; and without Mrs. Yasuyo Niimoto, it would be a very difficult task. Mrs. Hideko Mayeda did a superb job as her assistant. Mrs. Alice Santo was our lunch-making leader for the Wilson House projects. Ms. Joyce Kobata was in charge of the manju-making. She also provides and takes care of all the floral arrangements and pieces. Mrs. Irene Hirota was always there for support. Mrs. Tomoko Ohata, our advisor, was always there, also. There are many others who answered our call for assistance without hesitation.
- **Upcoming plans for 2005:** The fundraisers will happen again next year. Our group will be hosting the CDBWA in March. This is an all day affair. The national FDBWA will be held in Fresno in October.



San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin Choir

Dr. Nancy Hikoyeda, Choir Director

The San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin Choir is composed of over 30 members dedicated to spreading the Dharma through music. The Choir has been an inspiration to the Betsuin Sangha for over 54 years. The chorus sings for both the English and Japanese services on Hoonko, Hanamatsuri, and Obon observances. The only requirement to join is a love of music and a fun-loving nature. No auditions are needed and all ages are welcome. Rehearsals are on Tuesday evenings from 7 to 8 pm in the Betsuin Hondo.

In January, 2004, the Choir's nominees for the Betsuin Volunteer Recognition were Kimi Kino and Clara Ike for their leadership and commitment to the choir's organizational duties and social activities.

In July, the Choir washed, sliced, assembled, and sold strawberry shortcake at the annual Betsuin Bazaar.

In addition to the major Betsuin services, the Choir was invited to sing for the Eitaikyo Service at the Berkeley Buddhist Temple on 10/3/04.

Sangha Support Committee

Terry Oshidari, 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 16 members on the committee. Leadership positions have been held for four 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.

As of September 1, 2004 Emi Tsutsumi has assumed the position of Secretary and Terry Oshidari is now the Treasurer. All other positions remain the same.

The following education forums/workshops were presented:

Attendance in ()

1. Funeral Protocol, September 27, 2003 (30)
- Panel with Allan Hikoyeda, Bob Idemoto, Louise Hayamizu,
Reverend Sakamoto.
Moderator: Sumi Tanabe
2. Diabetes, How Sweet It Is, October 12, 2003 (28)



- Shelly Barber from the Diabetes Society
- 3. Creative Note cards November 15, 2003 (24)
 - Joyce Oyama
- 4. Line Dancing, January 11, 2004 (60)
 - Bev Terra and Phyllis Yoshikawa
- 5. Art Sculpture, March 28, 2004. Ken Matsuno (30)
- 6. Arthritis Workshop, April 25, 2004. Dr. Barry Shibuya (30)
- 7. Women in Religion, May 22, 2004. National Conference for Community and Justice (50)

The fourth annual Line Dancing is scheduled for January 9, 2005. Tai Chi classes continue with a beginners and an intermediate class ongoing. Future forum plans include Osteoporosis Workshop, "Best Bones." 10/17/04; Mushi Manju Workshop 11/21/04; Line dancing 1/9/05; Health Trust/Seasons of Life Women's Health Conference 3/19/05. Other workshops being planned are Acupuncture, Meditation, Yoga, Kimono Dressing and Tsukemono Making.

Community Involvement

The Nursing Home/Assisted Care Facility Visitation Program continues as well as our collection of cell phones (Gift of Life) and eyeglasses (Gift of Sight), and toiletry item collection (abused women shelter). Two meals were prepared for The Bill Wilson center when they lost their kitchen due to a fire. Sangha Crafters continues very successfully to make blankets, scarves, caps, toiletry bags, bibs, pillows. This special program has become an intergenerational activity with training sessions for the Girl Scout programs. SSC member will again attend and assist at the HeathTrust/Seasons of Life Women's Health Conference in March, 2005.

Our special outreach project was the "Women in Religion" conference held at our temple as the third of four religions being studied for this year. Earlier in the year there were programs on Judaism and Islam, and Catholicism will follow us in October. The National Conference for Community and Justice is sponsoring these events to build bridges of understanding. These programs will continue in 2005-06 with visits to various religious communities and cultural institutions.

BCA Participation

SSC members continue to participate in the Stanford Hospital Volunteer Lay Chaplaincy Program.

Youth Organizations

Betsuin Dharma School Junior Choir

Elaine Jones, Director

- **Description of group:** Comprised of registered Dharma School students in grade 4-12, with no audition process. Everyone is welcomed! Staff includes director, two rehearsal assistants, ukulele teacher, BCA Bookstore chairperson. The choir's governing body is the Parent Advisory Committee, comprised of 8 choir parents. The one officer position is the Treasurer.
- **Make up of group:** The group had a total of 30 members with 22 families. 2 members were graduating seniors who both had 10 years of choir membership.
- **2004 goals and objectives:** Sharing the Nembutsu through music; performance experience; rehearsal etiquette; having fun! 2004 goals included two service performances (Bodhi Day and Hanamatsuri) and one recital performance.
- **2004 activities and accomplishments:** Besides meeting our performance goals, the group performed at the Northern California Ukulele Festival in Hayward, CA, and also San Jose Japantown's Nikkei



Matsuri Festival in May. From our 2003 summer trip to the Hilo, Hawaii Betsuin, many choir members were influenced by the sound of the ukulele and had requested that they be able to learn the instrument. We were fortunate to have one of our own Dharma School teachers, Mr. Curtis Takahashi, an accomplished musician, agree to teach the ukulele to our choir group. Mrs. Cyndi Sakuma also stepped forward to teach hula to 10 girls for one of the numbers for our annual recital.

- **2004 highlights:** Our annual recital/luncheon, which included the play, “Monkutare Finds the Aloha Spirit,” written by choir parent Dennis Akizuki. The play incorporated memories from the choir’s Summer 2003 tour of Oahu and the Big Island. Tyler Louie (Monkutare), Stacie Sakuma (Friend) and Conor McClure (Local boy) played the starring roles, accompanied by 19 choir members playing ukulele on several numbers. Emily Mukai accompanied on keyboard the remainder of the pieces. The play was enhanced by several artistic props designed by choir parents, including a moving “wave,” which Tyler Louie mastered very well. Spotlights were also featured, along with the delicious food and numerous auction items provided by the choir families. The event was professionally videotaped and photographed, providing for our Betsuin’s archives and media center for future use. Also, the choir’s performance at the Northern California Ukulele Festival was indeed a highlight, giving the choir members an opportunity to perform for a totally different audience.
- **Key people:** Many thanks go out to rehearsal assistants Phyllis Sugimoto, Deborah Aso (Volunteer Recognition recipient for 2003), Ukulele instructor Curtis Takahashi, BCA Bookstore Chairperson Karen Mason, Treasurer Nolan Sakuma, the Parent Advisory Committee, and all the choir families for their involvement and commitment to our group.
- **Upcoming plans for 2005:** The choir families have voted on taking a performance tour for summer 2005. We will be having intense fundraising this year to attempt to defray some of the travel expenses for our choir members. This year we have 14 seniors who will be graduating, most of whom have a perfect 10 years of choir membership. The annual recital is scheduled for Saturday, April 16, 2005.

San Jose Junior YBA

Leslie Akizuki and Julie Katashima, YBA Publicity

- *Contact Person for Jr. YBA:* Eric Nakagawa
- *Description of YBA:* High school students involved in community service and social activities.
- *Make up of the group:* Age range: 14-18
- *Number of members:* 50

The San Jose Jr. YBA (Young Buddhist Association) consists of high school students, grades nine through twelve. Each year, San Jose Jr. YBA holds numerous fundraising events and participates in many community service activities as well as church conferences. This is a wonderful way for young teenagers to learn about about the Buddhist religion through social activities. It is also a great way to meet many other high school students from the different temples in different cities within California.

The 2003-2004 Jr. YBA season was a huge success thanks to all of the past cabinet members whose hard work and dedication are greatly appreciated. The following members for the 2003-2004 cabinet were as follows: President-Lindsay Yamamoto, Vice President-Corey Utsurogi, Activities-Allyson Yabumoto and Lesley Makishima, Recording Secretaries-Amy Sugai and Janet Hiroshima, Treasurer-Eric Nakagawa, Religious-Emily Mukai, Membership-Dana Patton, Fundraising-Stephanie Yamamoto and Jeff Handa, Community Service-Nicole Sakuma and Doug Sakamoto, Sports-Lindsay Matsushita and Reid Hironaga, Publicity-Erin Imai and Kyle Higashidani, and Historian-Corey Fujioka. Also all of the parent supervisors worked extremely hard last year making sure everything ran smoothly. YBA appreciates all of their dedication as well.



One of the first major events that takes place each year is the Central Cal Jr. YBA Conference held in Fresno. Last year many attended since this is one of the more popular conferences to go participate in. San Jose performed a dance routine for the conference talent show, which was choreographed by Dana Patton. The participants performed to a remix of the song "Take Me Out to the Ball Game" and wore different colored baseball shirts. After many hours of practice and hard work, everyone did very well and the dance routine was great! Following the dinner and talent show was a dance, which was a great time to meet new people from the different chapters of YBA. Overall the conference went extremely well and was a lot of fun. During November, San Jose Jr. YBA held a sleepover in the gym and there was a huge turnout because many of the new members attended. It was a fun filled night of volleyball, broomball and just spending quality time with friends. In February, Jr. YBA held their annual Spaghetti Dinner. This event is YBA's largest fundraiser and everyone participated in this activity. After many hours spent in the kitchen cooking, the food turned out delicious. All of the members did an awesome job of preparing the spaghetti, bread, salad, and dessert.

During the summer the Mountain States Jr. YBA held their Sunshine Tour, which consisted of about 25 Jr. YBA members and 3-8 adult chaperones. They visited San Jose on July 16,17, and 18, 2004. On Friday, July 16, a fun evening was planned and everyone played numerous "name" games as well as ice breakers such as "amoeba tag" and "the winds are blowing." It was a huge success and everyone had a lot of fun thanks to Allyson Yabumoto and Lesley Makishima who organized the activities. On Saturday, July 17, the Sunshine Tour participants attended the Mountain View Obon. Later that night there was a sleepover at the gym in which many of the kids teamed up and played basketball and volleyball. Mrs. Sue McClure and Mr. Michael Jones were in charge of the event and they made sure everyone had a wonderful time. Some of the brave families that hosted the mountain state members were the Makishima's, the Sakuma's, the Jones', the Fujioka's, the McClure's, the Handa's, and the Ichinaga's. All of their hard work and dedication were greatly appreciated.

Overall the 2003-2004 season of Jr. YBA was a blast and many new members joined. The graduating seniors for the class of 2004 were Lesley Makishima, Erin Imai, Allyson Yabumoto, Nicole Sakuma, Corey Utsurogi, Janet Hiroshima and Lindsay Yamamoto. All of their hard work that they put into Jr. YBA is greatly appreciated. We hope they are all having fun in college and we all look forward to another great year of San Jose Jr. YBA.

This upcoming 2004-2005 year of Jr. YBA promises to be fun and educational for all of its members. The incoming cabinet for this year is: President- Eric Nakagawa, Vice President - Stacey Ohara, Activities - Jessica Randall and Jerry Knaack, Treasurer - Reid Hironaga, Recording Secretaries - Dana Patton and Amy Sugai, Religious - Corey Fujioka and Lizzie Jones, Membership - Tiffany Louie, Fundraising - Lindsay Matsushita and Stephanie Yamamoto, Community Service - Doug Sakamoto and Kirk Hiroshima, Sports - Mitchell Beutler and Jason Kusumoto, Historian - Jeff Honda and Andrew Mason, and Publicity - Julie Katashima and Leslie Akizuki. The aforementioned names are committed to ensuring that this year is memorable and fun.

Throughout the year, the Jr. YBA attends various conferences and Volleyball tournaments that enables the kids to meet new people and learn more about Buddhism. The first and most popular conference is coming up next month, hosted by the Central California YBAs. This year's theme is "Buddhism: is it in you?" The other popular conferences are the WYBL leadership conference, which will be held this year in San Jose on January 14th - 16th followed by the WYBL conference hosted by Sacramento in March.

At the conferences, kids participate in icebreakers to get to know each other and workshops to learn more about the teachings of the Buddha. At night there are usually dances, get together or banquets to let loose and have fun. Another social activity that San Jose Jr. YBA participates in each year is the Bay District Volleyball tournament. Each participating YBA sends a limitless number of teams to the tournament and they play against each other. This year the tournament will be held on May 28th-29th.



Aside from social activities, the Jr. YBA also participates in a variety of community service activities. When filling out the membership form each year, YBAers also sign up for community service events. The YBA will help out at the Yu Ai Kai Mochitsuki, New Years Decoration, Fuji Tower Bingo Night Friday, March 18th, Hanamido decorations for Hanamatsuri, Church cleanup next July, and the Baccalaureate Luncheon for the seniors which will be on June 12th. Jr. YBA also hosts the spaghetti dinner each year. It is our one big fundraiser and this year it will be held on Saturday, February 5th. We serve hundreds of spaghetti dinner plates each year and YBAers are in charge of planning and making sure the dinner goes smoothly. Aside from spaghetti dinner, we will also raise money this year by holding our annual bake sales on Bodhi Day and Hanamatsuri. YBA also will be in charge of the Color Spot and Dime toss at next year's obon. The kids will take turns working shifts.

Jr. YBA has a long proud tradition of serving many generations of young Buddhists. Some of our parents and grandparents were active members when they were our age. We feel an obligation to keep the organization healthy and meaningful for all its members. Jr. YBA is fun and it's a great way to meet people from other temples. We participate in Jr. YBA to not only make new friends, but to learn about the dharma and how to grow as young Buddhists.

Betsuin Youth Department

Jacqueline Yamaguchi, Youth Department Chairperson

Award Recipients

See Section 3, for the following Awards:

- Scholarships
- Recognition Award
- Sangha/Padma Awards
- Cub Scout Pack 611 Awards
- Boy Scout Troop 611 Awards
- Brownie Troop 1052

Boy Scout Troop 611

Plans have begun for National Jamboree — Virginia 2005

Venture Scouts

Boys and Girls ages 14-21, meetings held Wednesday evenings with Ron Tanizawa as their advisor.

Brownie Troop 1052

Sleep over in gym - 35 girls attended, 1st and 3rd grades

Girl Scouts

Held a workshop for college bound seniors and anyone interested in college preparation. The organizer was Laurie Matsushita. The workshop committee also invited members of the Wesley Methodist Church to attend. The workshops were lead by Joey Makishima, Gerry Watanabe, and Dorene Yamaguchi— she shared some opportunities offered on campus and what lies after college life with traveling abroad with the JET organization. Because of the Junior Choir dress rehearsal attendance was lower than expected.

Obon

Manpower list for all scouts have modified the list to the Girl Scouts' format. It was found that this list was more organized, and using one format would be better than three different ones.



Cemetery Clean-up

Flower expenses are very high, so, the budget for flowers has been increased again to \$500.00 from the Youth Department to help de-fray the organizational costs.

Lotus Preschool

Lynne S. Yamaichi, Director

Lotus Preschool started its 18th 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 Aragaki and Brian Tamekuni; and Director Lynne Yamaichi. During the summers we are fortunate to have Jason Handa and Danielle Nakamatsu, Lesley Makishima and Erin Imai return as teacher's aides. Currently we have 9 full time children and 29 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, how to bow, The Golden Chain, and many songs including their favorite, "Fly Fly," and how to count in Japanese.

The children are enjoying their newly painted outdoor tables and benches. Kristi Imai has refurbished them this past summer for her Girl Scout Silver Award project. Trisha Yamaichi is working on her Silver Award project. She is working with Lotus to coordinate a tile painting project to be placed in the Ikoi no Ba, resting place that will be located on 5th Street in front of the cottage. Lotus appreciates scouts who lend a hand to help!

We continue to have fun learning!

Betsuin Activities

Annual Betsuin Clean-Up

Janice Terakawa, Betsuin Clean-up Chairman

This year's Annual Betsuin Clean-Up was on Monday, July 19 through Friday, July 23. Thanks to the wonderful cooperation and coordination by the contact person(s) for each organization, there was a record turnout with cleaning duties completed well before 9 p.m. on many of the evenings! This can also be attributed to the fact that in the true spirit of cooperation, those groups finishing early cheerfully pitched in to help those who were still busy in their assigned areas!

On behalf of ABA, the chair of this year's Betsuin Clean-Up, a heartfelt thank you is extended to the following organizations.

The attendance numbers were as follows:

- Board of Directors: 8
- Boy Scout Troop 611: 38
- Brownie Troop 1052: 31
- Cub Scout Troop 611: 20
- Cadette Troop 404: 24
- CYS: 8
- DSPO: 30
- Judo Club: 38



- Junior Girl Scout Troop 260: 28
- Junior YBA: 19
- Kendo: 26
- Senior Girl Scout Troop 782: 18
- ABA: 13

The BWA (formerly Fujinkai) got off to an early start in their clean-up assignment to accommodate the construction schedule of the new Nokotsudo. In addition, they were responsible for the painstaking “Omigaki” project. The glistening ornaments in the Onaijin are a result of hours of polishing by these most unselfish, unassuming and hard working ladies!

Thanks are also in order to the Betsuin Office staff - Judy Nakano, Jeanne Nakano, and Randy Suzuki as well as Greg Aso - VP, Property Management. Your guidance and assistance were greatly appreciated!

So, once again a big “Domo Arigato Gozaimashita” to everyone who contributed their time and energy to this project! It was only with the hard work and dedication of all those involved that the 2004 Betsuin Clean-up was such a big success!

Japanese Language School

Jim McClure, President of Parent Association

The school year was very successful. We ended the year with 96 students. There were two high school graduates. We are running seven classes for children and one for adults. The children’s classes are divided into three beginning level classes, three intermediate classes and one advanced. Placement in any class is dependent on an interview with the teachers. The students are placed according to age and ability. The advanced class is for high school age students. The adult class actually started out as two classes; one for beginners and one for returning students. By January, enough of the beginning adults had dropped out that we consolidated the classes into one. This tends to happen every year. People start the class with every intention of continuing but life gets in the way.

Tuition for the school year is \$350.00. Income for the school year was \$28,435. Costs to run the school were about \$24,651. This number is approximate due to the fact that the schools cost run from September to June & the Temple’s Fiscal Year is from November to October. Regardless, the school is in the black.

For this school year, I imposed a \$5.00 surcharge for those who pay monthly. This was an attempt to get more people to pay up front for two reasons: lessen the bookkeeping burden on staff and to insure I don’t have to chase down people in the Spring. Well, it worked. As of the end of September, tuition payments total \$22,220 with an enrollment of 92 students. We are off to a great start



Obon 2003

Jim McClure, Obon Chairman

Obon seems so long ago already. It seems weird writing about it at the end of October. The festival was two and one half months ago.

The Numbers

This year's gross was \$184,511.00. That represents an \$1020 drop from last year but still our third best Obon ever in terms of revenue. These numbers do not include the Raffle proceeds. Raffle was \$19,000 or the same as last year. I still want to break \$200,00 on the Festival without the raffle proceeds! I am very satisfied with the numbers considering how slow it was on Saturday afternoon. I thought it might be interesting to share with you the breakdown of some of the numbers. What follows is a select list of booths listing the cost of their product as a percentage of the booths gross profits or in some cases percentage of the events gross.

Percent of booth's gross

All food booths combined	37%	I don't have the info to break out each one.
Beer	10%	It's free.
Raffle	7%	This does not include the cost of the prizes.
Bingo	50%	This includes the cost of the tent.
Games	62%	This is what's called a "Loss Leader".
T-shirts	65%	This number would be lower if more were bought.

Percent of Festival gross

Construction	5%	I thought it would be higher.
Advertising	3%	It takes money to make money.

These percentages don't reflect actual profit. Obviously, some booths bring in a lot more than others. I was just looking at the figures to see if there was a way to increase profit.

Obviously, the more we make and the less we spend, the lower these percentages are. That is our goal.

Problems

- The refrigerator with the Teriyaki chicken cost \$4500 to repair but was worth it except for when someone accidentally turned the thermostat up to 80 degrees!! Otherwise, it held its temperature all weekend.
- The white refrigerator was replaced by a rental truck. It cost \$1100. Unfortunately, I didn't get the Tempura vegetables into it right away and we lost some of the zucchinis. We also had fewer tables because of the size of the truck. These items will be taken care of for next year. Greg Aso helped me put out more tables Sunday morning. You may have noticed them on the sidewalk behind the game booths. There were some "standing only" tables in the parking lot.
- Although we made money, we have all adult size T-shirts for sale from small to sumo size.
- Some of the booths did not get all of their food supply orders. Bob Terasaki is helping me correct that problem.
- Even though the meat was thicker, some of it was falling off the skewers. We have to monitor our younger volunteers.
- The Board did not pick up the prizes for Bingo.
- We still have some issues to solve with the Health Department.
- We had two bounced checks. I'm sure those will be made good.



Pulses

- Our new Advertising chair, Lori Tokunaga, did a great job.
- There was a 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 is a small plus for that crew.
- It helped that we used the Gordon Biersch trailer to store our products overnight.
- I moved the Flower booth back to its original location and we made more money.
- The new location of bleachers kept the sun out of peoples eyes.
- The new slurpee like drink did well at the Root Beer Float booth.
- Imagawa yaki sold more items than ever.
- We had many new faces on the forklifts this year. Thank you everyone.
- Ei ja nai ka! Did you like the new dance? Thank you PJ & Reiko.
- 741 DANCERS on the street Saturday night!

A shared thank you from everyone to who shared them with me to all those who helped out. There are over 100 names on the list besides mine.

There are numerous little issues that came up that weekend or were brought up at the Critique meeting. I just didn't feel we had the room to list them all but don't worry, I'll address them.

Thanks to Terry & Iris Lou for stepping up and taking over Supply Ordering & Table Service. You both did a great job. Thanks to Randy Shingai for filling in for Nob Araki at the Chicken BBQ pit. I was afraid we wouldn't have chicken at all this year.

Finally

There are multiple people who want to retire. I can not 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 may be commercial food vendors instead of us doing the cooking. I know that would please some of you but the percentages at the beginning of this article would change drastically since the food booths represent 73% of our gross sales.



SECTION 5

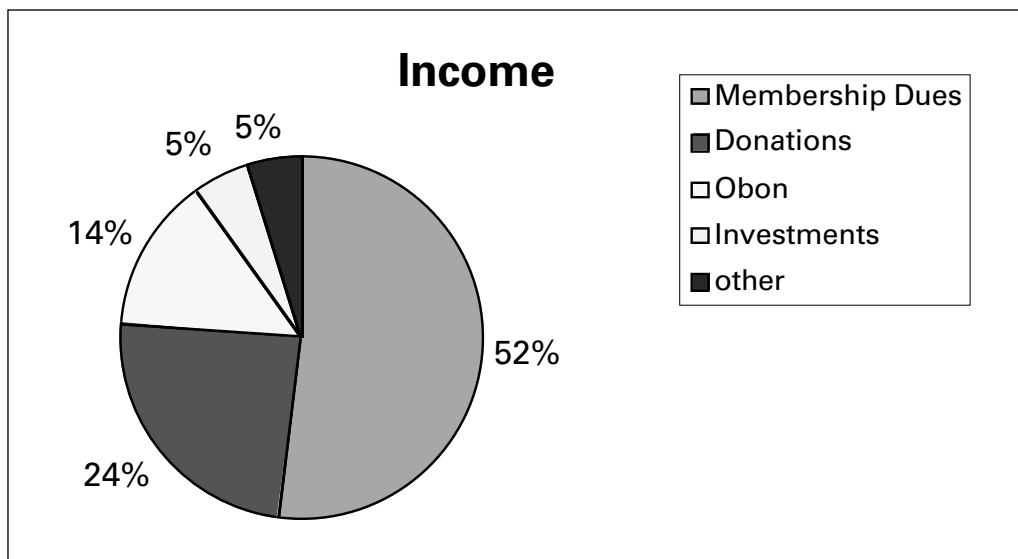
Financial Facts

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.

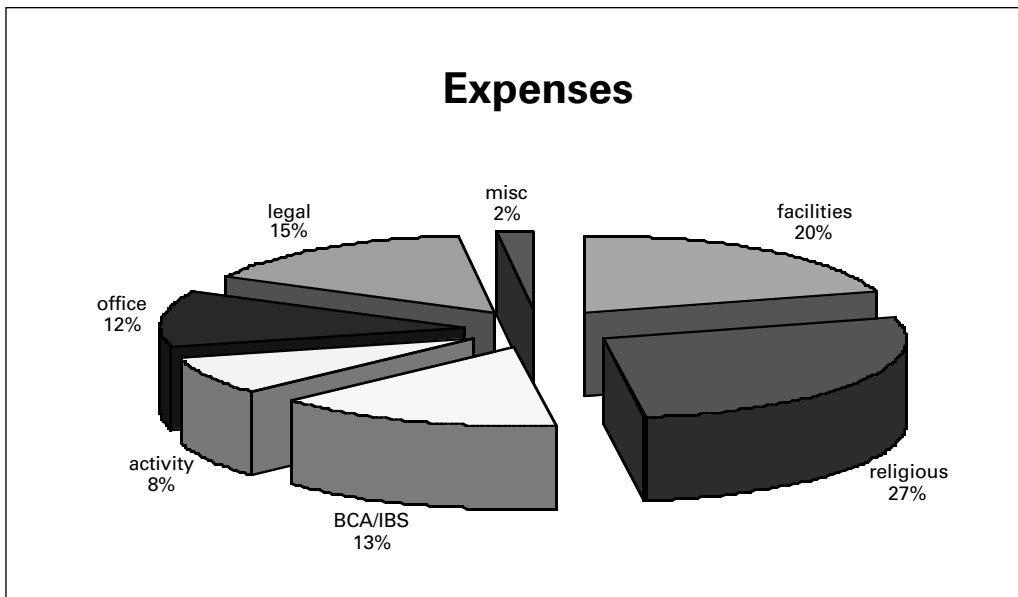
As with any large organization, the San Jose Betsuin has a significant budget. With many buildings to maintain, publications to produce, and full time staff of ministers and others, the Temple relies heavily on the regular contributions of the members. A breakdown of the sources and uses of funds follows. 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 6

Betsuin Operations

As with any organization, the San Jose Betsuin has 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.

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 (September 2004 - December 2005)

September 19, 2004	Ohigan Service
October 10, 2004	Nembutsu Family Convention, Mountain View Buddhist Temple
October 24, 2004	BCA Founding Day/Late Bishop's Memorial
November 14, 2004	Eitaikyo (Perpetual Memorial Service)
December 5, 2004	Bodhi Day Service
December 31, 2004	Joya E
January 1, 2005	Shusho E Service
January 16, 2005	Hoonko Service/Installation of officers; New Year Luncheon
February 6, 2005	Boy Scout Sunday
February 13, 2005	Nirvana Day
February 22 - 27, 2005	BCA Ministers' Association and National Council meetings, SJ
March 13, 2005	Girl Scout Sunday
March 20, 2005	Spring Ohigan Service
April 10, 2005	Hanamatsuri
May 22, 2005	Gotan E Service
May 30, 2005	Memorial Day Service (Oak Hill Memorial Park)
June 12, 2005	Baccalaureate Service
June 19, 2005	Teachers' Appreciation/Dharma School ends
July 9 - 10	Obon 2005
July 17, 2005	Obon/Hatsubon Service
September 18, 2005	Ohigan Service
October 23, 2005	BCA Founding Day/Late Bishop's Memorial
November 13, 2005	Eitaikyo (Perpetual Memorial Service)



December 11, 2005
December 31, 2005

Bodhi Day Service
Joya E

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

The staffing and operations of the office were much the same as they were for the previous year. Randy Suzuki and Marlene Terasaki lead our operations. Judy Nakano and Jeanne Nakano continue as part time employees. Also, Lee Uyeda and Natsu Niizawa consistently help as volunteers. We appreciate the dedication and competence of this staff.

After many years of service, Adele Iwasaki has recently stepped back from her role as coordinator and member of the Weekend Office Staff. We thank Adele for the fine job she has done for so long.

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 & Curtis Takahashi
- *Historian*: Art Kumada

Board Members

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

Terms Expire 2006

Jane Asanuma
Bob Idemoto
Glenn Kurimoto
Henry Louie
Greer Nishikawa
Steve Sakai
Carol Sato
Curtis Takahashi
Lydia Uchida-Sakai



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.



SECTION 7

Community Involvement

Japantown Community Congress

Jim McClure

The Community Congress has been busy on many fronts. The first visible sign of our activity is the signs directing people into Japantown. You'll see the purple and green signs pointing the way from blocks away. The intent is to post signs all the way back and onto the freeways.

The next visible activity will take place this winter. Iko no ba (resting-places) are being planned for a number of locations in J-town. They are designed for people to sit and rest as they walk through town. The most obvious users will be the senior citizens who live in the area. The funding came from a grant targeting seniors. The first five are slated for installation in 2005. The Betsuin will be hosting two of them. There will be one in front of the little cottage between the sidewalk and the curb. The designers have been talking with Lotus Pre-School about contributing to the design. The other one will be in front of the Temple office, again between the curb and the sidewalk. The sites will have benches, a tree, a stone element and a decorative element.

The next and most visible result of our work will be the Landmark piece slated to be at Fifth and Jackson. After a long selection process, (facilitated by the Redevelopment Agency) a landscape architecture firm was selected and has held three open meetings with the Japantown community to gather input as to how this thing should look. The initial direction was taken from the Town Hall meetings over the last two years.

The last and invisible activity is the just completed Historic Survey of J-town. Bill Sugaya, an architect from San Francisco who does a lot of work with historical buildings, was hired to do the survey. The results were mixed. Although there are not enough historic buildings left for Japantown to qualify for historic district status there was one ray of hope. There is a concept called Traditional Cultural Property. The basic definition is a place that plays an important role in the cultural practices and or beliefs of a living community. This was originally created to protect Native American sites; it seems that Japantown meets all the criteria but this will take a more intensive survey.

The reason for all this activity is simple. Recognition, especially on the Federal level, means an access to funds to continue our mission of preserving Japantown. For the record, San Jose, San Francisco and Los Angeles are the only Japantowns left in the country. Before WW II there were over forty in California.



San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin
www.sjbetsuin.com