

Betsuin Board Bullets
June 07, 2012 Betsuin Board of Directors Meeting
by Joyce Iwasaki

The intent of the Betsuin Board Bullets is to highlight Board actions, decisions, special events and projects. Please contact the Betsuin board officers, directors, or the ministers for more details on any item.

Guest attending the Board Meeting: Casey Ching
 Jim McClure
 Cara Miyasaki
 Ed Nodohara

o **Correspondence**

The Nikkei Matsuri Committee sent a thank you letter along with a \$1500 donation for the use of the Betsuin facilities for the 2012 Nikkei Matsuri Festival.

o **Boy Scout Eagle Project Proposal Presentation**

Boy Scout Troop 611 member, Casey Ching, presented his Eagle Project proposal of the restoration of approximately 156 linear of existing fence which borders the north and east property lines. Casey presented the scope of the project plan which included a timeline, cost, project team and work force, and materials income sources. The estimated total cost is \$1953. Casey requests approval of the project and an agreement that Betsuin pay half of the project cost.

Board vote occurs after quorum is established.

o **Decisions/Resolutions Pending Due to a Lack of a Quorum**

Approval of the May 2012 Board Meeting minutes.

Approval of the Eagle Project Proposal.

Approval of the carpet replacement for the front stairs leading into the hondo.

Approval of installing a hard surface around the barbecue area on the 6th Street property.

o **Tule Lake Committee Request**

The Tule Lake Pilgrimage is scheduled for June 30 – July 03, 2012. The Tule Lake Committee requests the usage of approximately 25 parking spaces closest to Fourth Street in the west parking lot for its participants. The board agreed to this request but also encouraged the participants to carpool or to be dropped off since there is an Obon practice scheduled on July 2nd.

o **Recent Bequests**

The sale of the Fujimoto Property is complete. The Betsuin received \$331,593.00 from that sale which has been designated for the Building Fund.

The Betsuin received \$3943.00 from the Frank Tanizaki (who was a member of the Gilroy Howakai) life insurance policy.

- **Carpet Repair for the Front Stairs Leading into the Hondo**

The carpet on the stairs leading into the hondo needs to be replaced. Greg Aso provided an estimate for this project. The Adult Buddhist Association offered to help fund this project and the BWA is willing to provide funds as well.

Board vote on the project and allocation of funds occur after a quorum is established.

- **Hard Surface Proposal for the Barbecue Area on the 6th Street Property**

The ground surface around the barbecue area on the 6th Street property should be surfaced with either concrete or asphalt for safety reasons. The current surface is dirt with weed growth. Jim McClure presented a proposal to go forth with installing a hard surface. He presented one bid (from Ted Gonzales LIC 399961) for either asphalt or concrete. The Board asked Jim to submit a second competitive bid before making a decision. Jim will provide additional information to the Board which will be shared online. Ideally, with enough information, a decision can be made prior to Obon with work completed by Obon. If not, the weeds will be cut down for a safe cooking area during Obon

Board vote on the project and allocation of funds occur after a quorum is established.

- **Infrastructure Committee**

During the May 3rd Board meeting, the Board requested the Infrastructure Committee to provide additional information. One of the requests was to provide the current estimated value of Betsuin-owned real estate. Sangha member, Michael Yoshihara, provided that information which was passed out during this meeting.

Janice Doi has contacted the City of San Jose permitting department about securing demolition permits for the 4th Street buildings. To reopen this request, the Betsuin anticipates spending less than \$2000.00 which will help us know the current status of demolition.

- **Finance Committee**

The Finance Committee is studying the history of Betsuin property tax payments to the County of Santa Clara. The history of payment compliance indicates that some of the Betsuin's parcels may be incorrectly classified. If this is the case, some parcels may be eligible for re-classification and possible refunds may occur.

- **Ministers' Report**

Rinban Fujimoto and Rev Sakamoto along with six other BCA ministers recently attended a session at the Jodo Shinshu Center with Governor-General Tachibana and Rev Kiribayashi (who is head of the International Department) from Hongwanji. All BCA ministers were invited to this meeting with the intent of sharing some of the organizational changes that are being planned for the Hongwanji.

The Betsuin, in conjunction with the BCA Center for Buddhist Education, took part in a public lecture and dharma talk series which was scheduled in five cities in California and Colorado from June 3 – 10, 2012. The lecture series featured Reverend Sonam Wangi Bhutia, Chief Priest, Kathmandu Hongwanji, Nepal. Reverend Sonam spoke at the 2:00 Betsuin service followed by a public lecture at 3:30 in the Board Room. Listeners from our sangha as well as surrounding areas filled the room to learn about

Reverend Sonam's journey from the age of three as a Tibetan Buddhist monk to his present Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji practice and sangha in Nepal and surrounding areas.

Summer Family Service schedule begins on June 17th. And will end when Dharma School begins on September 9th. The Japanese dharma talk will be at 9:30 followed by a joint service and will continue with the English dharma talk at 10:00.

Obon service is on July 22nd at 10:00 am with Reverend David Matsumoto as the guest speaker. Hatsubon Service is on July 21st at 5:00 pm.

- o **Membership Committee**

The committee will provide information and materials during Obon practice which will emphasize the significance of Obon.

The committee will have a membership and information booth during Obon weekend.

The committee is committed to keeping sight of our mission to share the teachings of Jodo Shinshu which may not necessarily mean a focus on increasing the "official" membership numbers. Jodo Shinshu offers a way to make individual lives meaningful by embracing the efforts of all who have supported each of us. By becoming a part of the sangha, it gives each of us a greater chance of listening to the dharma and sharing the teachings.

- o **Jr YBA**

A bowling activity at Fourth Street Bowl to encourage new members is set for June 21st. The group will then head over to Obon practice.

The group will participate in Church Clean Up on July 25th.

- o **Communications Committee**

The Communications Committee is offering posting tutorials to organizations wishing to post their information directly on the Betsuin website. Organizations should identify a specific web posting person who should contact either Roy Batchelor (roy@monkeybots.com) or Roy Yamanouchi (ryamnouchi@sbcglobal.net) for posting instructions and technical support.

Organizations can also send their information to either Roy Batchelor or Roy Yamanouchi for posting as well.

- o **Dharma School**

Three Betsuin Dharma School teachers completed significant milestones in the 2011-2012 school year:

Naomi Oda ~ 30 years of teaching
Donna Busse ~ 30 years of teaching
Mas Horiuchi ~ 25 years of teaching

The Betsuin Board acknowledges the dedication of the 26 teachers who provided dharma nourishment to its students. Thank you to teachers Lisa Kobayashi, Nancy Aochi, Emi Tsutsumi, Mike Mizota, Arlene Mori, Alan Kondo, Julie Sueyoshi, Kimberly

Fukuyama, Naomi Oda, Diana Yamanouchi, Julie Saigusa, Nancy Stainton, Lynda Ichinaga, Michael Handa, Sara Kusumoto, Cathy Pike, Donna Busse, Patti Kaneda, Donna Fujii-Lum, Kevin Kitagawa, Mas Horiuchi, Dave Pascal, Mas Nishimura, Apala Egan, Ed Nodohara, Marvin Aoki.

- o **Facilities Usage Request**

Michael Yoshihara, sangha member and member of the Chidori Band, submitted a long-term facilities use request to Sarah Sakamoto, the office facilities coordinator, for usage of the first floor of the 6th Street building. Todd Tsudama, Board member, will review this request and then will present this to the Board.

- o **Board Recruitment/Development Committee**

The 2012 Leadership Reception will be held on Thursday, November 9th in the multipurpose room. This event will be funded by sponsors.

The Priority Setting Meeting will take place during the November 1st Board meeting.

- o **EcoSangha Committee**

The athletic shoe recycling drive, in coordination with the Nike Reuse-A-Shoe Program, continues. After the next 500 pairs are collected, they will be sent to the Nike facility where various shoe parts are ground up to make padding for athletic tracks, athletic fields, and indoor gyms. Please drop off shoes at the Betsuin Office.

- o **Dana Club**

The Dana Club continues to help with food sorting at the Second Harvest Food Bank. Sixteen Club members helped on April 11th and a second session was held on June 13th at the new Cypress Center on North First Street in San Jose.

- o **Garden Committee**

The Betsuin expresses its appreciation to the Betsuin Bonsai Club for their annual clearing and trimming of plants in the Betsuin garden. The Bonsai Club will do so on June 23rd this year. The mild winter and early spring weather has caused a growth spurt in the garden plants and much weeding, pruning, and trimming is needed. The Bonsai Club has been cleaning the garden annually just before Obon for many years now.

- o **New Video Projector**

The new recently purchased 5200 lumen Epson Pro F5950 projector was used for the showing of "Great Grandfather's Drum" on May 27th. It was also used at the Betsuin Golf Tournament banquet (in the annex) on June 4th.

- o **Coast District/Buddhist Churches of America Report**

Coast District

The Coast District Council meeting was held on May 23rd in San Jose. Some San Jose BWA members provided the attendees with an ample and delicious udon dinner with side dishes as well as dessert. Cooking crew for that evening included: Diane Fujioka, Mrs Fujimoto, Shiz Hanada, Tomi Imokawa, Linda Iwasaki, Hiroko Kuwano, Arline Miyasaki, Alyce Morita, Asako Tamekuni, Naomi Oda, Shizuko Nakao, Jane Takagi, Alice Tanaka, Marlene Terasaki, Emi Tsutsumi, and Lee Uyeda. The CD representatives appreciated the time, talents and efforts of this group.

Gary Omori from the Salinas Temple took over as CD President since Jeff Morton of the Monterey Temple moved out of the area.

The CD YBA plans to have a Winter Youth Retreat at the end of 2012. The CD YBA Conference is scheduled for March 16, 2013 in San Jose.

Gary Omori will set up an online CD calendar which will highlight CD activities.

Buddhist Churches of America (BCA)

The National Board Meeting was held in San Francisco on June 2nd. Among the issues that will go forth to the 2013 National Council Meeting are: proportional voting, proxy voting policy, and the coordinated fundraising concept.

Some of the San Jose sangha attended the Bishop's Accession Ceremony and Dinner on June 2nd which was held in San Francisco.