



Buddhist Churches of America
National Council Meeting
Annual Report
February 23-24, 2024
v.2



IN MEMORIUM

REVEREND TETSUNEN HIROTA
July 15, 1928 – March 6, 2023

REVEREND LaVERNE SASAKI
March 5, 1930 – March 31, 2023

REVEREND ENSEI NEKODA
November 12, 1919 – October 3, 2023

REVEREND DR. SEIGEN YAMAOKA
August 21, 1934 – December 15, 2023

The 2024 BCA Ministers Association & National Council Meetings
Hosted by the Northern California District of the BCA
February 16-17 & 23-25, 2024
is dedicated to Rev. Hirota, Rev. Sasaki, Rev. Nekoda and Rev. Dr. Yamaoka
with deepest reverence for his dedication and efforts
in spreading the Nembutsu teaching.

* * *

Gassho,
Buddhist Churches of America



IN RECOGNITION

The Buddhist Churches of America
is pleased to congratulate

REVEREND RONALD GUTEI MIYAMURA

on his retirement from the BCA Ministry

The BCA Ministers Association & National Council Meetings
Northern California District of the BCA - Sacramento, California
February 23-25, 2024

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Gassho,
Buddhist Churches of America

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February 23-24, 2024

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BUDDHIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA
 NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
 FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2024

Buddhist Church of Sacramento
 2401 Riverside Drive
 Sacramento, CA 95818

OPENING BUSINESS

10:15	Call to Order Nembutsu Recitation	Terri Omori, President Rev. Marvin Harada, Bishop
	Credentials Report	Glenn Inanaga, Vice President John Arima, Vice President
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Introduction of Guests ● Announcements / Meeting Procedures ● Robert's Rules of Order will be used to conduct the meeting unless otherwise specified ● Voting Stick Display: Delegates wishing to speak must display a voting stick. After being recognized, the speaker is required to use the microphones provided on the floor. All speakers are to identify themselves by name and temple/organization. Non-delegates may speak only when a voting stick is relinquished by an Official Delegate and after Official Delegates have spoken. Speaking time will be limited to 2 minutes; speakers may have the floor twice. ● Voting Procedures: Raise voting stick to be recognized as an Official Delegate. Compliance with simple majority and $\frac{2}{3}$ voting requirements will be based on the count of votes reported during the morning credentials report. ● Meeting Vice Chairperson: President-elect Steven Terusaki ● Meeting Parliamentarian: Tom Nishikawa 	Terri Omori
	Agenda changes and additions	All
	Approval of 2023 National Council Mtg Minutes	Darlene Bagshaw, Secretary

AGENDA

AGENDA (10:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.)

10 min.	A-1 Bishop's Report	Rev. Marvin Harada
10 min.	A-2 President's Report	Terri Omori, President
	Vote: Ratify 2nd Term for Bishop Marvin Harada	Terri Omori, President
	Vote: Ratify the 2024-2026 BCA Executive Committee Officers elections by the National Board	Terri Omori, President
10 min.	A-3 Ministers Association	Rev. Harry Gyokyo Bridge, Chair
5 min.	A-4 Center for Buddhist Education	Rev. Jerry Hirano, CBE Director
5 min.	A-5 Director of Operations	Gayle Noguchi, Director of Ops
5 min.	A-6 FY 2024 Financial Status	Kevin Arakaki, Controller
15 min.	E-2 Vision and Strategic Planning Mission Statement survey	John Arima, Chair
10 min.	Presentation	Glenn Inanaga, Vice President
30 minutes	A-10 Treasurer's Report A-10a Membership report E-3 Budget and Finance Committee VOTE: FY 2025 Budget	Jeff Matsuoka Chair
1 hour	LUNCH 12:10 - 1:10 p.m.	
10 min.	A-7 Institute of Buddhist Studies	Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto, President Dr. Scott Mitchell, Dean
10 min.	A-8 BCA Endowment Foundation	Charles Ozaki, President Hide Mizuno, Executive Director Michiko Inanaga, Development
5 min.	A-9 Jodo Shinshu International Office	Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara, Director
10 min.	T-1 Nominations of Directors-at-Large Vote to elect	Terri Omori, President
5 min.	B-1 BCA Facilities	Bob Matsueda, BCA Facilities Mgr.
5 min.	B-2 BCA Bookstore	Madeline Kubo, Bookstore Mgr.
5 min.	B3 Wheel of Dharma	Jon Kawamoto, Editor
5 min.	C-1 Federation of Buddhist Women's Assoc.	Janice Doi, President
5 min.	C-2 Federation of Dharma School Teachers Leagues	Koichi Sayano, President

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5 min.	C-3 Young Adult Buddhist Association (Cal YABA)	David Chin, President
5 min.	C-4 Sr. YBA Candidate Affiliated Organization	Koichi Mizushima, Advisor
15 min	Break	
10 min.	D-1 Bay District	Bradley Menda
10 min.	D-2 Central California District	Norman Ohtani
10 min.	D-3 Coast District	Linda Kadani
10 min.	D-4 Eastern District	Tammy Wetzel
10 min.	D-5 Mountain States District	Troy Watanabe
10 min.	D-6 Northern California District	Peggy Okabayashi
10 min.	D-7 Northwest District	Ken Garner
10 min.	D-8 Southern District	Jeannie Toshima
15 min.	E-1 By-Laws and Legal Vote on proposed changes to BCA By-Laws	Glenn Inanaga, Chair
	Announcements Vote to Recess Closing Gassho	Terri Omori, President Rev. Marvin Harada, Bishop

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BUDDHIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA
 NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
 FEBRUARY 23-24, 2024

Buddhist Church of Sacramento
 2401 Riverside Drive
 Sacramento, CA 95818

AGENDA
 Saturday, February 24, 2024
 10:15 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.

10:15 a.m.	Call to Order Announcements Credentials Report	Terri Omori, President Glenn Inanaga, Vice President John Arima, Vice President
5 min.	E-4 MA Pension & 403(b) Retirement	Dr. Kent Matsuda, Chair
5 min.	E-5 Hongwanji Overseas Mutual Benefit Prog	Gayle Noguchi, Director of Ops
5 min.	E-6 Propagation and Membership	Dr. Gary Mukai, Chair
5 min.	E-7 Student Financial Assistance Program	Tom Nishikawa, Chair
5 min.	E-8 Ministerial Affairs Committee	Glenn Kitasoe, Chair
5 min.	E-9 Joint Committee on Development	Steven Terusaki, Co-Chair Koichi Sayano, Co-Chair Michiko Inanaga, BCAEF
5 min.	E10-Archives and Historical Preservation	Sandy Saeki, Chair
10 min.	E-11 Social Welfare (show video)	Nadine Kakimoto, Vice Chair
5 min.	E-12 National Buddhist Cmte. on Scouting	Bobby Tanaka, Chair
5 min.	E-13 His Eminence Kosho Ohtani, Monshu Emeritus Special Temple Building Fund	Steve Terusaki, President-elect
5 min.	E-16 Communications Committee	Judy Kono, Chair
5 min.	E-17 Audit Committee	Harry Bergland, Chair
10 min.	E-18 Music Committee (Lantern Song)	Kemi Nakabayashi, Chair
5 min.	E-19 Real Estate Committee	Glenn Inanaga, Co-Chair Steve Terusaki, Co-Chair
5 min.	E-20 Art Committee	Rev. Dennis Fujimoto, Ministerial Advisor

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5 min.	F-1 Ad Hoc BCA 125th Anniversary	Terri Omori, Co-Chair Darlene Bagshaw, Co-Chair
5 min.	F-2 Ad Hoc Bloomquist	Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto Co-Chair Richard Stambul, Co-Chair
5 min.	F-3 Ad Hoc Film and Video Committee	Glen Tao, Chair
1 hour	LUNCH 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	
10 min.	Presentation to New Kaikyoshi Ministers	Rev. Marvin Harada , Bishop Tom Nishikawa Janice Doi, FBWA President

NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING UPDATES AND CLOSING

10 min.	NC-25 Bay District (virtual) Ministers Association meeting TBD Feb. 22, 2025 President's Town Hall / Workshops Feb. 28 - March 1, 2025 NCM March 2, 2025 BCA Eitaikyo Service	Bradley Menda
5 min.	NC-26 Northwest District (in-person) February 2026	Ken Garner
5 min.	NC-27 Southern District	Jeannie Toshima
5 min.	Vote to accept reports	Terri Omori, President
5 min.	Remarks from Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii representatives	Dr. Warren and Mrs. Claire Tamamoto, Derrick Inouye
5 min.	Remarks from Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada representatives	Greg and Gina Chor
5 min	Presentation to Guests	Terri Omori, Allan Yamashiro
5 min	Resolution of Appreciation Vote to adopt	Glenn Inanaga, Vice President
10 min	Announcements & Closing Remarks Vote to adjourn 2024 National Council Meeting Closing Gassho	Terri Omori, President Terri Omori, President Rev. Marvin Harada, Bishop

IBS Symposium at 3:00 p.m. in the Hondo

ROBERT'S RULES SUMMARY GUIDE

To Do This: (1)	You Say This:	May You Interrupt Speaker?	Must You Be Seconded?	Is the Motion Debatable?	Is the Motion Amendable?	What Vote Is Required?
Adjourn the meeting (before all business is complete)	"I move that we adjourn."	May not interrupt speaker	Must be seconded	Not debatable	Not amendable	Majority vote
Recess the meeting	"I move that we recess until..."	May not interrupt speaker	Must be seconded	Not debatable	Amendable	Majority vote
Complain about noise, room temperature, etc.	"Point of privilege."	May interrupt speaker	No second needed	Not debatable (2)	Not amendable	None (3)
Suspend further consideration of something	"I move we table it."	May not interrupt speaker	Must be seconded	Not debatable	Not amendable	Majority vote
End debate	"I move the previous question."	May not interrupt speaker	Must be seconded	Not debatable	Not amendable	Two-thirds vote
Postpone consideration of something	"I move we postpone this matter until..."	May not interrupt speaker	Must be seconded	Debatable	Amendable	Majority vote
Have something studied further	"I move we refer this matter to a committee."	May not interrupt speaker	Must be seconded	Debatable	Amendable	Majority vote
Amend a motion	"I move that this motion be amended by..."	May not interrupt speaker	Must be seconded	Debatable	Amendable	Majority vote
Introduce business (a primary motion)	"I move that..."	May not interrupt speaker	Must be seconded	Debatable	Amendable	Majority vote

Notes

1. These motions or points are listed in established order of precedence. When any one of them is pending, you may not introduce another that's listed below it. But you may introduce another that's listed above it
2. In this case, any resulting motion is debatable.
3. Chair decides

ROBERT'S RULES SUMMARY GUIDE (continued)

To Do This: (4)	You Say This:	May You Interrupt Speaker?	Must You Be Seconded?	Is the Motion Debatable?	Is the Motion Amendable?	What Vote Is Required?
Object to procedure or to a personal affront	"Point of order."	May interrupt the speaker	No second needed	Not debatable	Not amendable	None (3)
Request information	"Point of information."	If urgent, may interrupt speaker	No second needed	Not debatable	Not amendable	None
Ask for a vote by actual count to verify a voice count	"I call for a division of the house."	May not interrupt speaker (5)	No second needed	Not debatable	Not amendable	None unless someone objects (6)
Object to considering some undiplomatic or improper matter	"I object to consideration of this question."	May interrupt speaker	No second needed	Not debatable	Not amendable	Two-thirds vote required
Take up a matter previously tabled	"I move we take from the table..."	May not interrupt speaker	Must be seconded	Not debatable	Not amendable	Majority required
Reconsider something already disposed of	"I move we now (or later) reconsider our action relative to..."	May interrupt speaker	Must be seconded	Debatable if original motion is debatable	Not amendable	Majority required
Consider something out of its scheduled order	"I move we suspend the rules and consider..."	May not interrupt speaker	Must be seconded	Not debatable	Not amendable	Two-thirds vote required
Vote on a ruling by the chair	"I appeal the chair's decision."	May interrupt speaker	Must be seconded	Debatable	Not amendable	Majority in the negative required to reverse chair's decision

Notes

4. The motions, points and proposals have no established order of precedence. Any of them may be introduced at any time except when the meeting is considering one of the top three matters listed in the chart (motion to adjourn, motion to recess, point of privilege).

5. But division must be called for before another motion is started.
6. Then majority vote is required.

**BUDDHIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA
NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 24-25, 2023
Held Virtually on Zoom**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/988045019?pwd=aXhiWjZXak5jbGxnZC930QkNzZErdz09>

**Meeting ID: 988 045 0719 Passcode: BCAZOOM4U
or Dial +1-669-900-9128**

ALTERNATE MEETING SITE:
VISTA BUDDHIST TEMPLE
150 Cedar Road, Building B, Vista, CA 92083
Email: vbt@vbtemple.org / Phone: 760-941-8800 / Website: vbtemple.org

Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)

Friday February 24, 2023 10:01 AM to 3:19 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by President Terri Omori at 10:01 AM.

2. NEMBUTSU RECITATION

Nembutsu recitation was led by Rev. Marvin Harada (Bishop).

3. DISCLAIMER FOR VIRTUAL MEETING

Glenn Inanaga (BCA EC VP) reviewed the requirements for conducting a virtual National Council Meeting:

COVID-19 has challenged the operation of many of our temples as well as other non-profit organizations during these past 24 months. This includes the BCA and includes today's NCM which continues to be an example of why our logistics must be changed from in person meetings to electronic. Announcements for compliance with BCA By-laws and the California Corporations Code:

*BCA By-laws do not prohibit electronic meetings but also do not describe what will be required for an electronic meeting, therefore we defer to the California Corporations Code (CCC) standard provisions for an electronic meeting

*the CCC including among others 307A, 7211A and 9211A, allows for meetings to be held electronically and not just in-person.

*the BCA By-laws require prior notice of today's meeting with such notice being provided at least 30 days prior to today as part of the registration packet. The time, date and place of the meeting was previously announced during the December National Board Meeting and circulated prior to this meeting via email. The announcement also provided that this meeting would be held electronically and that a separate physical location would also be made available at the Vista Buddhist Temple, 150 Cedar Road Building B, Vista, CA. 92083. Thank you to Terri and Ford Omori for attending at this location to allow for this virtual meeting.

*In addition to all these preparations and notices, the CCC, including among others, sections 307A, 7211A, and 9211A, indicate that your presence today at this meeting either electronically or in person may be deemed a waiver of any required notices unless there is an objection. As a precaution to affirm the legitimacy of today's meeting, the BCA will be evoking this procedure. Glenn paused to ask for objections to this virtual meeting. All attendees have waived any requirements for notice of today's meeting and that we may continue electronically.

4. REVIEW OF VOTING PROCEDURE

Glenn Inanaga (BCA EC VP) reviewed voting procedures in the event unanimous consent cannot be achieved. Use of the voting tracker will be posted in the chat for access to the voting tracker. Attendees were cautioned to ensure their vote is on the proper line and column. Attendees will be grouped to access the voting tracker as limitations exist for the number of attendees populating the voting tracker. Welcomed all attendees to place question in the chat or use the raise hand function to address any Executive Committee (EC) member with questions on voting.

5. REVIEW OF ZOOM PROTOCOLS

Koichi Mizushima (BCA Staff) reviewed Zoom protocols. Please make sure your microphone is muted unless recognized for the floor. Meeting will be recorded for minutes and recordkeeping. If you do not wish to be recorded, please turn off your camera. Please be aware of your background and movements during the meeting. Please use the raise hand function in the reaction bar to be called upon for questions or discussion. Or, you may use the chat to enter questions or comments.

Steve Terusaki (BCA President Elect) requested attendees use the raise hand feature when requesting the floor to address the National Council. This will place all requests for the floor in sequential order.

6. REVIEW OF STANDING RULES

Terri Omori (BCA President) thanked Tom Nishikawa for the Standing Rules in the NCM packet. As noted by Koichi Mizushima (BCA Staff) and Steve Terusaki (BCA President Elect), please use the raise hand feature when you want to address the NCM. This is preferred over the chat as this will help create complete minutes. Looking to capture all comments to the NCM thus would like to streamline to verbal comments if possible. The timekeeper for the meeting is Glenn Inanaga (BCA EC VP). Each attendee addressing the NCM has a three-minute time limit. Glenn will monitor and inform the speaker when their time has expired.

7. CALL FOR CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

Terri Omori (BCA President) called for changes to the agenda.

*E-8 Ministerial Affairs Committee will be removed from the Consent Agenda and follow E-7 the Student Financial Assistance Program

*E-11 Social Welfare Committee will be removed from the Consent Agenda and follow E-9 Joint Committee on Development report

*Correction under the Consent Agenda Report C-1 Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations the President is Janice Doi

Terri requested any other submissions of which none were noted.

8. DELEGATE CREDENTIALS REPORT

Glenn Inanaga (BCA EC VP) reported 132 members in attendance with 155 expected thus have achieved quorum at 85% attendance. Glenn requested that if you need to leave the meeting, please uncheck the attendance box in the voting tracker.

9. 2022 NCM MINUTES

Darlene Bagshaw (BCA EC Secretary) presented the 2022 NCM minutes and requested corrections:

Steve Terusaki (BCA President Elect) noted:

Page 4 heading Center for Buddhist Education needs to be made in bold font.

Page 37 in IBS regarding funding of professorial chairs, need to reword as “to fully fund to 3 million dollars for each of the six professorial chairs (total of \$18 million to fully fund all chairs)

Page 41 regarding John Arima’s statement on BCA expense and review, the word “cited” should be changed to “stated”

MOTION: TO ACCEPT THE NCM 2022 MINUTES AS ADJUSTED.

**REV. GREGORY GIBBS (ARIZONA/PASADENA/SAN DIEGO)/GORDON AH-TYE (FRESNO)
M/S/P BY ACCLAMATION**

Darlene requested all attendees addressing the NCM to state their name and affiliation to this meeting for ease in minute recording.

10. A-1 BISHOP’S REPORT

Rev. Marvin Harada (BCA Bishop) introduced two of the newest BCA ministers: Rev. Todd Tsuchiya (Midwest) and Rev. Cindy Yasaki (White River). Welcomed, wished them well and thanked them for taking on full time status. After one year they will achieve Kaikyoshi status.

Recently traveled to the Eastern District. Visited Ekoji Buddhist Temple and conducted a kieshiki. Visited Seabrook Buddhist Temple where he conducted a seminar. Visited the New York Buddhist Temple conducted service and kieshiki for 30 people. Very impressed and thankful for all the East Coast temples for their efforts for outreach and temple growth.

Terri Omori (BCA President) thanked Rev. Harada for all he contributes to the BCA. Welcome to both Rev. Tsuchiya and Rev. Yasaki.

11. A-2 PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Terri Omori (BCA President) thanked everyone for the support given this past year. Terri introduced our guests in attendance:

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii: David Atchison and Wade Toyama

Thanked HHMH for their hospitality and invitation to attend their Giseikai (HHMH Kyodan meeting). BCA attendees were Terri and Ford Omori, and Darlene Bagshaw.

Jodo Shinshu Temples of Canada: Laura Sugimoto (Canada Kyodan President). Laura reported Bishop Tatsuya Aoki is currently in Japan.

Terri expressed her sincere appreciation to our lay leaders and volunteer leadership for their support. Thanked the BCA EC: Rev. Marvin Harada, Rev. Harry Bridge, Steve Terusaki, Glenn Inanaga, John Arima, Jeff Matsuoka, and Darlene Bagshaw. The EC team is very dedicated with monthly meetings involving the dedication of their time and efforts. Thank you to Tom Nishikawa for serving as the BCA Parliamentarian. Thank you to all the BCA committee chairs and their respective committees meeting via Zoom allowing Terri to attend all the meetings.

Thank you to the affiliated organization Presidents and their officers. Thank you to all our temple lay leadership. Deepest gratitude to all our ministers, our incredible staff, the Endowment Foundation, IBS and JSIO. Takes all of us working together to share Shinran Shonin's teachings and keeping the Dharma alive.

Regarding the Young Buddhist Editorial: shared that on October 12, 2022 the YBE Board members met with the BCA EC. At the December 3, 2022 NBM they announced they are no longer pursuing affiliated organization status with the BCA. The YBE has decided to take a different course. Terri read the letter sent to the BCA on November 28, 2022 noting they want to pursue an independent path. Thanked the BCA for all the support growing up with the temples. Looking toward the BCA and YBE working as independent organizations to support each other. Offered to provide any requested additional information. Terri expressed her appreciation for the YBE creating a space for young Buddhists to express their thoughts. Will work together in the future to share the Dharma. Wish them well as they move in their new direction.

12. F-1 AD HOC BCA 125TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

Terri Omori (BCA President) reported in 2024 the BCA will be observing their 125th anniversary. Committee has been assembled working with Rev. Marvin Harada and advisors Judy Kono and Rev. Michael Endo. Want to see the 125th milestone observed throughout 2024 with several events. Will start at the 2024 NCM to be hosted by the Northern California District. Hope the affiliated organizations plan a 125th event or inclusion in an annual event. The Music Committee is currently holding a music lyric contest among other plans. Will continue communication and an event calendar.

Rev. Marvin Harada (Bishop) looking to celebrate our 125-year history; our present and look to our future and how we see the impact of Shin Buddhism into the future and how this will be achieved through all our temples.

Terri requested feedback from committees and temples with plans for the 125th celebration. Need date, location, and type of event.

13. A-3 MINISTERS ASSOCIATION

Rev. Harry Bridge (MA Chairperson) reported the Ministers Association met on February 17, 2023. Voted on and approved the new Bishop's Selection Guidelines. Voted in favor of switching to the new guidelines once approved by the June National Board. The Bishop selection process began in April with district minister association submitting nominees. Also approved a new Ministerial Training and Development document. Will be sending to Judy Kono for inclusion in the BCA Guidebook. Changes bring more in line with current practices. The Summer Fuken will be hosted by the Central California District and will be held on August 17 & 18, 2023 online.

14. A-4 CENTER FOR BUDDHIST EDUCATION

Rev Jerry Hirano (CBE) thanked the BCA and all temples for support of the CBE. Many events are now available live but are produced in a hybrid format.

Last year's biggest project was to help with the Kyoshi Kyoshu. Now working on helping to train Tokudo candidates for December certification in Japan.

If districts need help with seminars, CBE can co-sponsor as done with Tri-States District. Please contact Rev. Hirano if interested.

Judy Kono and Koichi Mizushima are a large reason why CBE is very successful. Koichi Mizushima (BCA Staff) presented on the CBE youth programs. Thanked all ministers and temple leaders for supporting the Buddhist Youth Retreat (BYR) program. This is the sixth summer event. Thanked the JSC staff and EC for facilitating return to in person events. Shared a promotional video produced by Ellie Mizushima. This promotional video can be found on the CBE YouTube channel. Please share with your youth groups. If you are not receiving the BYR announcements, please reach out to Koichi via email at bkmizushima@BCAHQ.org. Summer announcements will be sent this weekend.

Gary Mukai (Fowler) asked how many Tokudo candidates will be traveling to Kyoto in December. Rev. Hirano believes there are 10 candidates, but this is handled by the JSIO and the Office of the Bishop.

Terri Omori (BCA President) thank Rev. Hirano, Judy, and Koichi for all they do to share Buddhist Education with all.

15. A-5 DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS REPORT

Gayle Noguchi (BCA Director of Operations) introduced Angela Bartolucci who started at the end of October 2022. She will serve as the BCA Administrative Assistant. She has done a fantastic job learning all the facets of BCA administrative duties. Thanked Angela for her great efforts.

Thanked all the BCA staff for their respective vital roles mentioned in the report. Gayle expressed her appreciation for everything each staff member contributes to BCA daily operations. Thanked Terri Omori (BCA President), Rev. Marvin Harada (Bishop) and the entire EC for their leadership and support.

Gordon Ah-Tye (Fresno) recently attended the BCA Leadership Workshop held earlier this month and encouraged all attendees to visit the JSC and stay overnight if possible. Expressed his appreciation for the leadership workshop acknowledging the BCA EC, Rev. Marvin Harada and Rev. Michael Endo for all their efforts. Allowed for greater appreciation for BCA leadership, and all the efforts of the BCA volunteers. Gayle noted how the staff and EC appreciates meeting and interacting with temple leaders.

Larry Hirahara (Salinas) asked what is Ori-gen. Gayle reported this corporation is a parent company to many insurance agencies working with the BCA. Our broker, Robin Shimasaki with Alliance 360 insurance company is part of the Ori-gen parent company. Working with Ori-gen allows for better ability to address the range of insurance needs by the BCA.

Terri Omori (BCA President) expressed her appreciation for all the work and coordination of efforts performed by Gayle.

16. A-6 FY 2023 FINANCIAL STATUS

Kevin Arakaki (BCA Controller) reported any questions on financial status can be emailed to him at karakaki@BCAHQ.org. Recent upgrades have been made to the accounting system. This allows many payments and invoices to be communicated electronically. Thanked all temples and their respective treasurers for support during this transition. Thanked Gayle Noguchi and Gregg Sera for all their support in the office throughout the year. Thanked Jeff Matsuoka, Terri Omori, and Rev. Marvin Harada for monthly meetings to help keep financial activities on track.

17. B-1 BCA FACILITES REPORT

Bob Matsueda (BCA Facilities Manager) noted any questions can be emailed to him. Please take a moment to read all the acknowledgements in his report. Appreciated Gordon Ah-Tye's comments earlier in the meeting and Koichi Mizushima's BYR promotional video as this brings to light how the JSC is such an important center. With Pam Matsuoka (BCA Facilities Assistant Manager), Bob works on contracts but this brought to light how important those efforts are for those who utilize the facility. Visitors from a Jodo Shinshu center in Brazil visited the JSC and attended a program and expressed their appreciation for the visit and desire to return to the JSC. The passion of the late Glenn Kameda comes through these types of encounters illustrating the importance and value of the JSC facility.

Terri Omori (BCA President) expressed her appreciation for all the Bob and Pam do for all three BCA properties.

18. B-2 BCA BOOKSTORE

Madeline Kubo (BCA Staff) reported the bookstore is operating at normal capacity. Please email if your temple or organization has any needs. One of this year's largest projects was the relocation of the bookstore to room 135 of the JSC. The bookstore now has its' own dedicated space. Madeline shared pictures of the current facility. Thanked all the BCA staff for patience and assistance during this transition.

This year during the month of May, the bookstore will be closed due to attendance of activities in Japan for the JSIO. Requested any needs be submitted early enough for her to address prior to her departure in May.

Gary Mukai (Fowler) inquired if the bookstore has the new book "The Dharma is Everywhere" by Rev. Bob and Rev. Patti Oshita. Madeline reported as not yet available but working with Rev. Patti Oshita to have stocked by the BCA Bookstore.

*******BREAK 11:04 AM TO 11:10 AM*******

19. B-3 WHEEL OF DHARMA

Jon Kawamoto (Wheel of Dharma Editor) noted to please refer to the report for specifics on articles and people of interest. Added that the Wheel of Dharma (WOD) depends upon your support for ideas and contributions. Please contact Jon with your ideas or for contributions at 510-386-7122 or via email at jkawamoto@bcahq.org. Amazed by our exceptional Sangha members. Thank you to Rev. Marvin Harada and Terri Omori for time, support, contributions, and valuable feedback. Thank you to all have contributed ideas, articles, and photos. Thank you to the crew, Japanese section editor Rev. Ryuta Furumoto and Rev. Michael Endo, and to designer Jeffrey Kimoto. Great contributions by Dennis Akizuki (San Jose Betsuin) and Ralph Honda (San Diego). Deepest gratitude for Sangha members for all their support.

Requested anyone who traveled to Kyoto for the trip in May, please send photos or contributions with goal to use for publication in the July issue.

Terri Omori thanked Jon for all his outreach and coverage.

20. A-7 INSTITUTE OF BUDDHIST STUDIES

Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto (President of the IBS) began by thanking all BCA support from Rev. Marvin Harada, all the ministers, Terri Omori, the Executive Committee, all the temple leaders and members for ongoing support, encouragement, and inspiration. Shared a slide showing the history of the IBS beginning in 1949, the year IBS was established as the BCA Buddhist Studies

Center through growth over the years with a return to Berkeley in 2006. Initial accreditation in 2020 and a full member school of the GTU in 2021. Currently have a 74-year history with 2024 being the 75th anniversary. Plan to celebrate this along with the BCA 125th anniversary.

Dr. Leroy Morishita (Chair of the IBS Board of Trustees) noted the honor of recognizing all who have come before us during the annual IBS Eitaikyo service. All support and financial donations have created the environment to develop the IBS to where it is today. Thanked the BCA for all the support over the years, and all individuals who have supported the IBS. Appreciated participation in the Dharma Forward Campaign which makes possible all the endowed chairs and student scholarships. Able to support all students with scholarships. Mission is to provide a graduate level education in the full breadth of the Buddhist tradition with specialized education supporting Pureland and contemporary Shin Buddhist studies, while advancing Jodo Shinshu Buddhist ministry and Buddhist chaplaincy.

Dr. Scott Mitchell (Dean of the IBS) noted the IBS offers a range of degree and certificate programs. Since mid 1980's have been affiliated with the GTU supporting their Master of Arts program. IBS programs: Master of Divinity, Master of Arts, Buddhist Studies, range of certificate programs many of which are approved to be offered fully online. Stackable curriculum which allows students to apply for and complete a certificate program and then use those units in support of a degree program. Shared enrollment numbers for all programs which are doing well and information showing substantial enrollment increase over the years. Much credit for enrollment attributed to online classes, full accreditation, and staff efforts to increase enrollment. Forty-two percent of students are pursuing either Jodo Shinshu studies or ministry for the BCA. In 2020 received full accreditation from WASC which was the end of a six-year process by the IBS faculty and staff. Thanked all IBS faculty and staff for their hard work to achieve full accreditation. This is a formal acknowledgement of the high quality of the IBS programs. Following full accreditation became a full member school of the GTU, the first non-Christian school. Allows access to many resources not previously available.

Rev. Matsumoto shared budget process. Hoping to increase faculty and staff. Thanked the BCA for the BCA budget allocation. IBS decreased allocation request by 2.5% over last year. Pleased to work with the BCA, BCA EF and Dharma Forward Campaign, along with the IBS annual giving program, the Friends of the IBS, hope to continue to generate funds for the future. Thank you to the FBWA and President Peggy Okabayashi for contributions to the Eshinni and Kakushinni Professorial Chair. IBS has an allocation committee to make decision regarding use of undesignated funds. In 2022 were able to create the position of Field Education Director as well as additional Office of Finance staff. Working on completing full funding of all six professorial chairs. In January of this year Dr. Paula Arai was appointed as faculty for Women in Buddhist Studies under the Eshinni/Kakushinni Professorial Chair. Will continue to expand scholarship program offerings. Continue to develop transformative graduate degree and certificate programs for all Buddhist ministers, chaplains, and scholars.

Tom Nishikawa (BCA Parliamentarian) inquired how many students are on track to become BCA ministers. Rev. Matsumoto noted the latest count is six students in the degree programs who have declared themselves as ministerial aspirants for the BCA and 16 students in the certificate program however the education course can vary. Ten are confirmed to be preparing for Tokudo ordination in December.

Steve Terusaki (BCA President Elect) added the efforts of Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto, Dr. Scott Mitchel and Leroy Morishita has moved IBS into a new realm with WASC accreditation and GTU membership. The IBS is in a significant position as a divinity school for Buddhism and a world class institution. Full funding of the professorial chairs will allow for a stable financial base to attract faculty needed to maintain the level of a premiere school for Buddhist education.

Gordon Ah-Tye (Fresno) congratulated the IBS for supporting and nurturing 8 new BCA ministers. Thanked the IBS faculty and staff for their focus on progressive growth and outcomes. Tom Nishikawa noted the JSC and IBS have developed outstanding programs to educate potential new ministers for the BCA.

Terri Omori (BCA President) thanked all the IBS presenters for their reports and efforts. Also acknowledged the efforts of all the IBS Board of Trustee members, many who are in attendance. Thanked the IBS for Buddhist Education, sharing the Dharma and nurturing new ministers for the BCA.

21. A-8 BCA ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION

Charles Ozaki (BCA EF President) thanked all who attended the Dharma Forward and EF workshops last week. The Dharma Forward Campaign (DFC) began at the 2019 NCM. The DFC is currently at 44% to target. The DFC supports the pillar of Education & Programs, Outreach & Technology, Ministerial Support & Scholarships and Facilities & Operations.

In 2020 COVID brought a financial crash but resulted in strong recovery by year's end. The EF growth fund showed a positive return of 20.3% in 2020. Extensive government subsidies in 2021 may have helped the market retain its strength but raised the concern of inflation. The EF growth fund returned a positive 10.3% in 2021. In 2022 the war in Ukraine and rise in interest rates by the Federal Reserve to battle inflation suppressed the financial market. The EF growth fund showed a negative 19.2% for 2022. The EF growth fund average annual return over a 10-year period is a positive 6.4% with the overall look back over the decades showing a positive return. Thus, investing in the market should be a long-term strategy.

As of December 31, 2022, the DFC has collected \$6.6 million of the \$15 million target. In looking to reach the target, need everyone to do something. Ensures the pillars are strong and will be able to support the Sangha. Requested attendees to log onto the Dharma Forward website.

Michiko Inanaga (BCA EF Director of Development) encouraged attendees to listen to the JCoD report for more DFC information. Expressed her appreciation for all those who attended the workshop. Will present a portion of the polling activities from the workshop to the JCoD report. Charles noted to please contact via email if any questions or comments.

Hide Mizuno (BCA EF Director) requested all attendees to donate to the Zaidan Fund before the end of the meeting.

Terri Omori (BCA President) thanked the EF for supporting all the temples and Sangha through all their efforts.

22. A-9 JODO SHINSHU INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara (JSIO) helped attendees better understand the purpose of JSIO as defining as the body which bridges the BCA, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii and the Jodo

Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada, South American Sanghas, European Sanghas and Asian Sanghas with the Hongwanji in Japan. Works to develop programs and activities to share the Jodo Shinshu teachings, bringing Shinran Shonin's voice to the world. Shared the Board of Directors, Officers, Office Staff and Advisory Committee. JSIO is led by President Rev. Kodo Umezu. There are currently ten ongoing programs: International Ministerial Orientation Program (IMOP) supporting kaikyoshi candidates from Japan, Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course (JSCC), Kaikyoshi continuing education, materials development, Website, JSCC Support and Development, networking with other religions, quarterly journal, publishing development, Buddhist Speaker's Bureau. The JSIO was formed in 2019 and has expanded to the mentioned programs. Due to limited staff request help from the members and ministers of all the Kyodans. Reviewed the various publications; *Gleanings* contains both Japanese and English, *Crossing Over*, quarterly journal. Thank you to all who have supported the JSIO and all related programs allowing for the spread of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism throughout the world. Carl Yanari (CBE Board) inquired if publications will be considered in languages other than English and Japanese. Rev. Kuwahara replied in the next fiscal year will begin some publications in Spanish with the help of Rev. Enrique Galvan from Spain and others fluent in Spanish. Will begin with short articles. Also considering Portuguese for members in Brazil. Terri Omori (BCA President) thanked the JSIO for keeping the kyodans and international Sangha connected.

Perry Yoshida (CD NCM Co-Chair) thanked the planning committee for all their hard work. Thanked all the delegates, attendees and ministers for their participation in this weekend's meetings. Reminder: the BCA Panda Express fundraiser today with proceeds going to the BCA. Also, visit the silent auction to benefits the Dharma Forward Campaign. All Coast District temples have created gift baskets on which to bid. Bidding will close on Saturday at 2 PM. Encouraged all to donate to the Zaidan Fund. Many gift card prizes donated by the Coast District Temples for the raffle wheel drawing.

*******LUNCH BREAK 12:02 PM TO 12:50 PM*******
GASSHO LED BY REV. HARRY BRIDGE (GICHO)

David Ward (CD NCM Committee) and Perry Yoshida (CD NCM Co-Chair) conducted the first spin for prizes:

McDonald's and Starbucks: Roger Suekama (Midwest)
\$50 Total Wine: Tom Nakagiri (Venice)

23. A-10 TREASURER'S REPORT / A-10A MEMBERSHIP REPORT/E-3 BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Jeff Matsuoka (BCA EC Treasurer) reviewed all aspects of his Treasurer's report. RE: BCA 403(b) Retirement Plan, Jeff noted the BCA match for BCA employees is 50% of the plan participant's contribution up to 6% of compensation but for BCA ministers the match has been changed to 50% of the plan participant's contribution up to \$3000 or \$250 per month regardless of salary.

RE: IBS Allocation, Jeff noted this is the fourth or fifth consecutive year of a decrease in the BCA budget allocation request.

RE: Capital Maintenance Budget, currently spreading out the replacement costs of facility components over their useful life. A reasonable schedule is created to estimate funds required to add to the Capital Maintenance Budget each fiscal year. Funds have been recently used for high priority maintenance issues such as: a new card security entry system for the JSC; replacement of the Octavia property roof. Jeff expressed his appreciation for the support of each temple.

RE: Temple Dues Assessment for FY 2024 budget, Jeff reported that the historical decrease in BCA membership as reported by the BCA census is 3%; this year the decrease is 4%. Total temple dues assessment includes BCA direct and youth memberships. Explained how temple membership is calculated for temple dues assessment—from the last 5 years, drop the highest and lowest, then average the remaining three years. From the total dollar amount required from membership assessment, the BCA direct individual and family memberships as well the youth membership funds are subtracted from the total figure for dues assessment prior to calculating temple contributions. Noted the temple dues assessment share has only increased by \$40K over last year. Largest expense is BCA payroll.

Roger Suekama (Midwest) inquired if the \$177.21 per member fee includes the capital maintenance fee as well. Jeff noted this is included with the figure presented.

Gayle Noguchi (BCA Staff/Director of Operations) noted clarification on the 403(b) match, this will apply to both BCA staff and ministers. Thus, there will only be one match calculation needed. Jeff thanked Gayle for the clarifications and will adjust going forward.

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE FY 2024 BUDGET AS PRESENTED.

CONNIE YAHATA (WEST LOS ANGELES) /REV. GREGORY GIBSS (PASADENA/ARIZONA/SAN DIEGO) M/S/P (TOTAL 128 DELEGATES VOTING)

120 YES 7 NO 1 ABSTAIN

Discussion:

Joe Gotchy (Seattle) observed on the overall budget, with temple membership decreasing, and a decrease in revenue funds, the temples are being asked to increase the amount sent to the BCA. Has any discussion occurred about why the BCA would increase the dues per member at the temple level when the temples do not have as much money as they may have had one to five years ago. Jeff replied this subject has been discussed at the BCA level. Steve Terusaki (BCA President Elect) added the BCA has been focused on diversifying revenue sources and bringing in new ways to generate revenue to help decrease any pressure on the temple to support the BCA budget. BCA strives to maintain the level of service and continuity in all efforts of programming to include supporting ministers and reasonable BCA staff wages. Noted this year was impacted by higher inflation and a decrease in the allocation from the BCA EF. Steve acknowledged Jeff and the Budget & Finance committee for controlling to only a \$40K increase in expected temple revenue. Reminded delegates of the added contributions from leases and generous donations from the Dana Program which directly supports the BCA budget. Expressed appreciation for local temple concern but noted the BCA is being very prudent and conscious

about the load placed on our temples. Try to minimize the impact to temples but need to realize the value of the many national programs designed to support the local temples. Joe expressed his appreciation for the explanations and level of concern put forth by Jeff and Steve. Tom Nishikawa (BCA Parliamentarian/SFAP Chair) explained how decades ago the method to calculate temple membership was moved from an exact number to the current formula explained by Jeff. Noted the current system is the fairest approach until a better system can be created.

Rev. Dennis Shinseki (Salinas/Monterey Peninsula/Watsonville) requested explanation of how achieving the goal of the Dharma Forward Campaign will affect the future budgets and local temple assessments. Steve Terusaki (BCA President Elect) explained the Dharma Forward effort is for the future of the BCA. The campaign is less about meeting the annual operating expenses of the BCA as this is the purpose of the Dana Program. Dharma Forward is a long-term view of how to set the BCA and IBS for future success and financial strength. The DFC looks at investing in new ways to create greater outreach, to better utilize technology, to better expand the reach of the Dharma, invest in our facilities for better long term benefits of the facilities and real estate we hold, an investment in Buddhist education/continuing education for ministers, and to support our ministers in ways we currently do not support. Support to the DFC is an investment in the future for how the Dharma will be available for future generations. Rev. Patti Usuki once commented what is important for the BCA and IBS is that the Dharma will always be there and that we can always be able to hear the teachings. Need to view how the Dharma is here and how we can ensure the propagation of hearing the teachings. Potentially the Dharma Forward funds can be placed in endowments to support programs and reduce pressure on the temple for support. The DFC organizational structure is in place to analyze how best to invest the funds to ensure future success.

Gordon Ah-Tye (Fresno) recalled being new to the NCM and having questions from the perspective of his temple but with experience noted how he has gained awareness of the efforts of Jeff and the Budget & Finance Committee to minimize impact to the temples. We are all aware of membership decline. With BCA payroll shown as the largest expense, encouraged all to visit the JSC to learn the value of each staff member and appreciate how each staff member is worth far beyond what they are paid. As Bishop spoke at the 2022 NCM, our focus must be on membership and how each temple must do all they can to show how Jodo Shinshu Buddhism is valuable and use this to enhance our membership. After four years of attending the NCM has great appreciation for how the budget is formulated while still understanding the business quandary faced by each temple and the BCA as well. Jeff thanked Gordon for his comments.

Terri Omori (BCA President) thanked all for their comments and responses. Called for the vote in the voting tracker.

Jeff added he is still seeking members for the Budget & Finance Committee from the following districts: Northwest, Central California, Northern California, and Mountain States. Would like all districts to have input into the budget. Thanked the committee for all their work on the FY 2024 budget. Thanked all the temple who paid dues in a timely manner.

Terri thanked Jeff for all his work over the past 10 years as BCA treasurer.

24. E-2 VISION & STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

John Arima (BCA EC VP/Vision & Strategic Planning Committee Chair) noted the report is not in the packet but will be placed in the final package. This committee was recently formed with the initial report presented at the December NBM. The next steps are:

- *form the committee membership and define the committee's charter
- *organize the process of collecting input across all of the BCA to document the shared values which will determine how to update the BCA's mission and vision reflecting current aspects (last updated 20+ years ago)
- *target project proposal on the visioning exercise by June 2023 National Board Meeting
- *update of BCA's Mission and Vision to include the widest and newest members of the Sangha will guide the content of the strategic plan

Committee Charter:

- *initial draft of the charter to be completed by March 17
- *draft will be sent for review and feed back to:
 - all district councils
 - all active affiliated organizations
 - all BCA committees
 - Ministers' Association
 - Endowment Foundation
 - Center for Buddhist Education
 - Institute of Buddhist Studies

*Target completion of charter is April 14

Committee Membership:

- *several people reached out to offer their support as committee members
 - the charter will be finalized so they can review it before committing to the committee
 - they will also have the opportunity to review and give input on the draft of the charter
- *target roster of committee complete by May 5 (seeking participation from every district and affiliated organization—need to truly understand the value of the BCA to develop an updated mission and vision)

Visioning Exercise:

- *to begin the process of understanding BCA stakeholders' shared values
 - contacting non-profit evaluation service providers and independent contractors (possible funding through the Dharma Forward Campaign to create long term value to the BCA)
 - defining scope of work to hold virtual workshops across all the BCA to:
 - >ensure all BCA stakeholder have input to define BCA's vision
 - >utilize those values to develop an updated vision for BCA

*target project proposal for a visioning exercise by June 2023 NBM

Update of BCA's Mission and Vision:

- *timing of update dependent on collection and analysis of data from the visioning exercise
- *target completion date will be determined once the full schedule of the visioning exercise is defined

Jeff Matsuoka (BCA Treasurer) commended John for his work. Related to the budget process as a strategic vision can help guide the budgeting process looking at the long term.

25. E-6 PROPAGATION AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Gary Mukai (Propagation and Membership Committee Chair) acknowledged *“Dharma is Everywhere”*, a book authored by Revs. Bob and Patti Oshita. Represents the propagation of Shin Buddhism. The Revs. Oshita’s served two years as the chaplains for the State Assembly opening sessions with a “moment of reflection” vs a prayer, and always ended with “Namo Amida Butsu, with kindness and gratitude beyond words”. The book is a collection of all their reflections given on the floor of the California legislature. Places Jodo Shinshu Buddhism as a main stream religion. Thanked both Rev. Oshita’s for all their efforts to propagate Buddhism. Gary reported on a project with the Yakima Buddhist Temple funded by the Bloomquist Estate funds. Took a temple with dwindling membership and assisted with efforts to stabilize. Thanked Rev. Katsuya Kusunoki, Rinban of the Seattle Betsuin, for allowing Rev. Rosalie May to assist Yakima Buddhist Temple with regular services and Buddhist education. The BCA TOSC has assisted with development of media communications. Program has been quite successful. Good participation at their weekly services and many additional visitors. Have restored their fundraising events.

Please join the committee presentation at the end of business on Saturday led by Rev. Dr. Kenji Akahoshi. Will report on attracting new members. Encouraged all temple leaders to attend and share/implement at their temple. One way to reduce dues is to increase membership. Informed the session of the 2022 NCM workshop on Managing Membership is available to view on the BCA website. Helps with media communication/presence and technology skills. New project to start is to develop a new website strictly for Shin Buddhist propagation titled “I am Buddhist”. Similar to OCBC’s website program “I am OCBC”. Will have membership testimonials on why a person has chosen the Shin Buddhist path. Will be working with TOSC to start this project.

Terri Omori (BCA President) thanked Gary and his committee for all their efforts.

26. E-7 STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Tom Nishikawa (SFAP Chair/BCA Parliamentarian) written report will be available but not included in the original packet. Reported has met with the BCA EC and BCA EF regarding management and control of the SFAP endowment funds. Agreement was to have the EF take over the management and control of the funds. Prior to this, the BCA EC must motion and pass this change. Secondly, Hide Mizuno (EF Director) will need information on existing corpus. Tom will provide to Hide. Hide has agreed to accept this responsibility. All donations will go to the EF (not the BCA) and the EF will manage the incoming donations. SFAP charter will also need to be updated with respect to handling and control. Lastly, all funds will need to be condensed to a singular fund. Tom is currently working on donor restrictions to consolidate funds. Currently only three parties have responded. May recruit Michiko Inanaga (EF Director of Development) for assistance contacting donors or descendants.

For the 2022-2023 academic year, four grants have been distributed to: Blake Handa (Fowler), Rev. CJ Dunford (Berkeley), Devon Matsumoto (Mtn. View) and Dr. Jean-Paul deGuzman (San Fernando Valley).

Fund supports IBS students as well as ministers for their continuing education.

Terri Omiri (BCA President) thanked Tom for his report.

27. E-8 MINISTERIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Glenn Kitaoe (MAC Chair) expressed his appreciation and gratitude to all temples and churches for taking care of BCA's most precious asset, our ministers. Due to temple operational changes, ministers were depending more on Zoom and non-person interactions which continues today. Thus, ministers have become more dependent upon the internet to share the Dharma. MAC would like to amend the guidelines to include cell phone service and high-speed internet. This will conform to guidelines from the Office of the Bishop. The motion was passed at the December NBM.

MOTION: TO AMEND THE MINISTERIAL SALARY GUIDELINES SO IT CORRESPONDS WITH THE OFFICE OF THE BISHOP'S GUIDELINES. REVISION OF THE BCA MINISTERIAL SALARY GUIDELINES TO ENSURE THAT TEMPLES DIRECTLY PAY, REIMBURSE OR INCREASE COMPENSATION FOR THE MINISTER TO COVER MOBILE PHONE EXPENSES AS WELL AS HIGH SPEED INTERNET AT HOME AND OFFICE. ENCOURAGE EACH TEMPLE TO WORK WITH THEIR MINISTER TO MINIMIZE THE TAXABLE IMPACT OF THIS GUIDELINE AND TO COMPLY WITH LOCAL/STATE LAWS WHICH MAY REQUIRE THE TEMPLE TO REIMBURSE MINISTERS FOR ALL OF THEIR EMPLOYMENT RELATED EXPENSES.

REV. CANDICE SHIBATA (STOCKTON/WALNUT GROVE) /REV. GREGORY GIBBS (PASADENA/ARIZONA/SAN DIEGO) M/S/P BY ACCLAMATION

Terri Omori (BCA President) thanked Glenn and his committee for taking care of our ministers.

28. E-9 JOINT COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT

Steve Terusaki (BCA President Elect/JCoD Co-Chair) reported the JCoD was established to form a collaborative approach on fundraising between the BCA, IBS and BCA EF. The lead is taken from the BCA EF, the prime driver of fundraising. JCoD has become the platform to coordinate asks for both BCA and IBS. Fundraising for the BCA began in 1924 with the initial Zaidan effort. In the late 1980's when the three sister corporations were formed, the BCA, IBS and EF. Three non-profit charitable organizations were created as, a religious non-profit, an educational institution non-profit and a charitable non-profit. After the 21st Century Campaign, reimagined a new campaign for development to include a new structure to plan fundraising. Screen shared pie chart of fundraising efforts for 2022; Dharma Forward constitutes 75%, Dana program 9% and Social Welfare 6%. Celeste Sterrett (Social Welfare Chair) is doing a great job at generating individual donations and movement of funds to important causes related to human suffering and injustice. Fundraising is an important piece of what BCA and IBS need to do. Great efforts by the JCoD and the DFC Pillar Coordinators, Dharma Forward Allocation Board in searching for the correct initiatives and evaluate to ensure the initiative meets the criteria for the expenditure of Dharma Forward dollars.

Michiko Inanaga (BCA EF Director of Development) provided information from financial analysis from 2018 by Junko Yamasaki (Intern Development Assistant), found check submission has decreased 53% which has helped with the efficiency and staff time in processing donations allowing for additional development work. Polls posted:

*How much have you contributed to Dharma Forward:

4% \$25K+ 1% \$10K+ 9%\$5K+ 15% \$1K+ 8% \$500+ 18% \$100+

Currently have raised \$6.6 million which is 45% to goal. Poll showed about 45% of attendees have not yet participated.

When the goal is met this means we will not need to worry about providing a steady source of income for IBS professors, ministers will have access to materials to keep ministering at their best, more robust communication, will have information/education/experiences that will allow us to inspire others and live in the Buddha Dharma.

*What resonated with you?

36% Education 4% Facilities \$35% Ministerial Support 2% Operations
13% Outreach 3% Scholarship 7% Technology

*Is the goal that resonated with you a short-, mid- or long-term goal?

13% Short Term 45% Mid Term 42% Long Term

Michiko noted short term projects can be funded, mid-term will create a program, will create a trajectory for long term future projects. Remember the goal is \$15 million. Need to continue to place energy into campaign education, targeted mailings, pledge commitments and recurring donations.

Steve announced the addition of a BCA EF Development Associate, Hitomi Kuwahara. She will be working with Michiko from the JSC. The BCA EF offices have relocated to the JSC. This allows for better networking creating a cohesive work environment. Two UC Berkeley students have been engaged to work part-time seasonal positions to assist with processing donations, Jin Lim (Fresno/Madera) and Ashley Maldin (OCBC).

Koichi Sayano is a Co-Chair of JCoD with a role of keeping the committee on track and moving forward. Dr. Patti Hiramoto and Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto join JCoD as the IBS members.

Looking towards 2024, the five-year target, aligning the Dharma Forward with many of the BCA 125th events and celebrations. Hope this will help us reach the goal. Thank you to Coast District with the creation of the silent auction to benefit the Dharma Forward Campaign. Michiko thanked the committee and all temples for creating and donating to the silent auction.

Thanked all the poll participants. Thanked Board members for taking the lead on donations.

Thanked Bay District for donating osaisen from the 800/850th celebration to the Dharma Forward.

Terri Omori (BCA President) thanked Steve and Michiko for their presentation.

29. E-11 SOCIAL WELFARE COMMITTEE

Celeste Sterrett (Social Welfare Chair) thanked President Terri Omori for allowing the Social Welfare committee to address the NCM. Last year two donations were designated to the efforts in Ukraine, \$20K to UNICEF and \$20K to Global Giving. The devastating earthquake in Turkey and Syria with 2 million in Southern Turkey refugee camps. Donations of \$10K to Global Giving and \$10K to Doctors Without Borders have been made for the earthquake disaster. Thanked all in attendance as this is only possible with direct donations to the SWC. Thanked the SWC members, BCA EC and Gregg Sera for quick attention to funding. Temples have reached out asking how they can help. Celeste noted on the same web link as Zaidan, you can also pull down and donate to the SWC. Temples can work on matching temple grants for up to and additional \$3K. Members of the SWC include; Nadine Kakimoto, Koichi Sayano, John Arima, Jeff Kawahara, Arleen Miya, Glenn Inanaga, Bradley Menda, Rick Oishi all serving as Directors at

Large, Darlene Bagshaw appointed to the committee and our ministerial advisors Rev. Gregory Gibbs and Rev. Yuki Sugahara. Also thanked Bishop Marvin Harada and BCA President Terri Omori.

Koichi Sayano presented a PowerPoint of past SWC grant recipients. For 2022, 443 individuals donated \$63,685. Examples of recipients: World Central Kitchen, Doctors Without Borders, UNICEF, Direct Relief (California flooding), Red Cross, Global Giving, Dorothy's Place, Bangladesh Buddhist Orphanage, Sacramento Betsuin Benefit for Ukraine. Find temple applications on the BCA resource page.

Steve Terusaki (BCA President Elect) inquired about the collaboration with Hawaii. Celeste noted future joint efforts may occur. Darlene Bagshaw (BCA EC Secretary) recognized Dave Atcheson is in attendance on behalf of the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii and is an active member of the HHMH Committee on Social Concerns. Dave placed a link in the chart on the previous workshop on environmental sustainability. Steve thanked Celeste for this collaborative effort.

Terri Omori (BCA President) thanked Celeste and her committee for all their efforts.

30. E-20 ART COMMITTEE

Rev. Dennis Fujimoto (BCA Art Committee Chair) thanked all the ministers and temple leaders for their support. Many temples have encouraged their local artists to contribute to the Art Committee exhibit. Many mediums. Participation from Dharma School students to professional artists. Hope to grow the exhibit and showcase their artistic talents. Often find many hidden talents and work to encourage them to participate. Creating dialog with artists who may even be potential temple members. Urged temple leaders to reach out and encourage artists in their communities to participate.

Koichi Mizushima (BCA Staff) noted Rev. Fujimoto is a very talented multimedia artist. Pointed out access to art displays on website. Featured the late Rev. Masanori Watanabe's artwork. Thanked Alex Tsukahara for all his assistance on the internet.

Terri Omori (BCA President) thanked Rev. Fujimoto for all the effort and report.

31. CONSENT AGENDA

Terri Omori (BCA President) called for questions or comments on the Consent Agenda.

Koichi Sayano (FDSTL) reported the next FDSTL Conference will be held at the end of April in Palo Alto. Registration placed in the chat. Please share with your Dharma School Teachers.

Rick Stambul (BCA Ad Hoc Bloomquist Committee) reported questions from those not familiar with the history of the Bloomquist account. Richard A Bloomquist created a handwritten will in 1987 stating no spouse or children thus he left all his property, real and personal, to the Buddhist Church for the purpose of creating English transcriptions of the Buddhist scriptures to be placed in public libraries. After vigorous litigation, the BCA recovered \$1.3 million to the IBS and BCA to put into effect Mr. Bloomquist's wishes. If any new funds are found, all would be given to the BCA. An additional asset of \$131K was discovered in a certificate which they are proceeding to secure. If any question, please email Rick Stambul. Thanked Terri for reinstatement of the committee.

Terri congratulated the BCA Music Committee on publication of their first newsletter.

MOTION: TO ACCEPT THE CONSENT AGENDA REPORTS AS SUBMITTED.

PAM TABATA (LOS ANGELES BETSUIN)/JERRY ISEDA (VENICE) M/S/P BY ACCLAMATION

32. VOTE TO RECESS

Terri Omori (BCA President) thanked all for attending and sharing during today's meetings. If anyone is interested in serving on a BCA committee, please contact Terri (email placed in chat). Reminded everyone the Saturday session check in will be at 8:30am, morning service will begin at 9am, and the meeting will reconvene at 10am. Tomorrow the meeting will begin with required harassment training, will include opportunity to network and have the Membership and Propagation presentation by Rev. Dr. Kenji Akahoshi. Tomorrow will include election of BCA Directors at Large. Three positions are available. Two endorsements have been received: Koichi Sayano (Southern District) and Darlene Bagshaw (Northern District). Floor will be open for nominations tomorrow. Thanked our guests from Hawaii and Canada for attending today.

MOTION: TO RECESS THE 2023 NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING UNTIL 10:00 AM SATURDAY FEBRUARY 25, 2023.

BILL TEAGUE (SAN DIEGO)/LUANN LEE (SAN DIEGO) M/S/P BY ACCLAMATION

33. RAFFLE

Perry Yoshida (CD NCM Co-Chair) and David Ward (CD NCM Committee) conducted a raffle to close the Friday session:

\$50 Uber Eats	Rev. Yuki Sugahara (Oregon/Sacramento)
\$50 Amazon	Rev. Kakei Nakagawa (Fresno)
\$50 Target	Julie Satake-Ryu (Mtn. View)
\$50 Starbucks	Rev. Dennis Fujimoto (Alameda)

Reminded everyone to participate in the Panda Express fundraiser tonight and the silent auction.

34. NEMBUTSU RECITATION

Nembutsu recitation was led by Rev. Marvin Harada (Bishop).

*******MEETING RECESSED UNTIL FEBRUARY 25, 2023 10AM*******

Saturday February 25, 2023 10:00 AM to 2:48 PM

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by President Terri Omori.

2. NEMBUTSU RECITATION

Nembutsu recitation was led by Rev. Marvin Harada (Bishop).

3. DELEGATE CREDENTIALS REPORT

Glenn Inanaga (BCA EC VP) reported on updated figures for the Friday session.

Attendance was 98% of expectation for a total of 154 of 157 delegates registered in attendance.

Update on statistics for the motion on the budget:

94.3% 133 yes

4.96% 7 no
0.71% 1 abstain

For Saturday we have achieved 97% of expected attendance with 152 of 157 delegated registered in attendance. For today will need 80 votes for quorum and 77 votes for a motion to pass today.

4. HARASSMENT TRAINING PRESENTED BY CAMILE PATING

Terri Omori (BCA President) announced the Harassment Training presentation led by Camille Pating. This is provided every two years. Thanked Camille for her expertise and offering this to all delegates. Camille introduced herself as an active member of the Buddhist Church of San Francisco and Dharma School teacher for 30 years. She has provided legal services to many BCA organizations over the years. She presented the required harassment training to the BCA leaders in attendance. Her session fulfills the requirement of training under California law for non-supervisors. If certification is required, you must sign in and certificates will be sent out after the NCM.

5. BREAKOUT SESSION / RECONVENE FOR SHARING RESULTS

Networking opportunity to meet and share “Why Jodo Shinshu?” “What benefit have you found while following the Shin Buddhist path?”

Terri Omori (BCA President) announced the breakout session to allow for networking of temple leaders. Attendees were randomly assigned. Terri assigned facilitators to each workshop. Terri hoped the breakout room allowed each attendee to discover something interesting and/or beneficial as well as either reconnected with someone or met someone new.

6. RAFFLE

Perry Yoshida (CD NCM Co-Chair) thanked those who supported the Panda Express fundraiser yesterday. Announced the silent auction goal for the fundraiser is \$1200 and the total is approaching the goal. Silent auction will be open until 2pm. Raffle conducted:
\$50 Amazon Gift Card Pamela Tabata (Los Angeles Betsuin)
Two more cards will be raffled after lunch.

*******LUNCH BREAK 12:01 PM TO 12:45 PM*******

GASSHO LED BY REV. HARRY BRIDGE (GICHO)

7. RAFFLE

Perry Yoshida (CD NCM Co-Chair) and Dave Ward (CD NCM Committee) reminded everyone the silent auction ends at 2pm. Raffle conducted:

\$50 Total Wine Candy Hayashi (Stockton)
\$50 Doordash Gordon Ah-Tye (Fresno)

8. T-1 DIRECTORS AT LARGE / VOTE TO ELECT

Terri Omori (BCA President) announced three Directors at Large positions will be voted upon. Bios submitted were screenshared. Koichi Sayano endorsed by Southern District, very active at the BCA level, currently serving as the FDSTL President.

Nomination of Koichi Sayano for Director at Large term beginning 2023.

LuAnn Lee (San Diego)/ Tom Nakagiri (Vince)

Second candidate, Darlene Bagshaw endorsed by Northern California District.

**Nomination of Darlene Bagshaw for Director at Large term beginning 2023.
Rev. Candice Shibata (Stockton/Walnut Grove)/ Charles Bagshaw (Stockton)**

Third candidate, Nadine Kakimoto endorsed by Southern District.

**Nomination of Nadine Kakimoto for Director at Large term beginning 2023.
Rev. Kory Quon (Venice)/Jeannie Toshima (Pasadena)**

Terri opened the floor for any other nominations. Those elected will serve a three-year term and become a member of the National Board, Social Welfare Committee and Joint Committee on Development. No further nominations were obtained.

MOTION: TO CLOSE NOMINATIONS FOR BCA DIRECTOR AT LARGE.

**ARLENE MIYA (GARDENA)/REV. GREGORY GIBBS (ARIZONA/PASADENA/SAN DIEGO) M/S/P
BY ACCLAMATION**

MOTION: TO ACCEPT THE THREE NOMINATED CANDIDATES AS A SLATE.

JERRY ISEDA (VENICE)/KAREN SUYAMA (SACBC) M/S/P BY ACCLAMATION

Terri thanked Celeste Sterrett for her years of service as a Director at Large and also serving as Chair of the Social Welfare Committee. Thanked Koichi Sayano and Nadine Kakimoto for continuing to serve the BCA as a Director at Large.

9. PROPAGATION AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE PRESENTATION

“GUIDE FOR ATTRACTING NEW MEMBERS”

Presenter: Rev. Dr. Kenji Akahoshi. Hand out and pamphlet template shared in email to delegates.

Terri Omori (BCA President) welcomed and thanked BCA Minister Emeritus Rev. Dr. Kenji Akahoshi for continuing to assist the BCA with his work on attracting new members. His presentation focused on increasing membership through steps to help attract new members. He shared ideas, handouts, and a pamphlet template.

10. WORD CLOUD

Terri Omori (BCA President) invited all attendees to participate in a Mentimeter word cloud as was intended to be conducted at the conclusion of the breakout session held earlier in the day. Top responses: gratitude, Sangha, community, compassion, and peace. Thanked the breakout room facilitators for supporting this portion of the meeting; BCA EC, DAL's and various other BCA leaders.

11. NCM 2024 NORTHERN DISTRICT

Allan Yamashiro (NC NCM Chair) announced the 2024 NCM will be held in person at the Sacramento Bestuin. Peggy Okabayashi is the committee Vice-Chair. When first started planning, discovered costs for hotels and facilities had skyrocketed creating scenario plagued with financial difficulties. Thanked the Sacramento Bestuin and their Sangha for stepping forward to host and all other district temples for helping to host this event. The activities will be held in virtual and in person formats. The workshops and Ministers' Association meetings will be held virtually on

February 15 and 16. The delegates meeting, IBS symposium and Eitaikyo service will be held in person in Sacramento on February 22 to 24. NC looks forward to seeing everyone in Sacramento. The theme is “Embracing the Dharma with Hope and Joy”. Logo is on the report designed by Diane Nishimura (Sacramento). Logo was inspired by the Wheel of Dharma, the Eightfold Noble Path, the Golden Chain, and the concepts of interconnectedness/oneness/gratitude/joy/love/compassion. Hope to see everyone in 2024. Tom Nishikawa (BCA Parliamentarian) inquired as to which portions will be hybrid. Allan clarified the activities from 2/22 to 2/24 will be in person. Terri Omori (BCA President) added the workshop and Minister’s Association meeting be online. To offer a hybrid meeting poses a difficult scenario for voting. Encouraged to plan on attending in person.

12. NCM 2025 BAY DISTRICT

Bradley Menda (Berkeley) reported Bay District is excited to host the 2025 NCM. Still in preliminary planning stages and will share more at the NBM.

13. NCM 2026 NORTHWEST DISTRICT

Leann Nishi-Wong (Seattle) announced Seattle will be hosting the NCM in conjunction with the Northwest District Conference. This will be a format similar to the 2019 NCM.

14. REMARKS BY HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII REPRESENTATIVES

Wade Toyama thanked everyone for allowing Dave and himself to attend the meeting. Interesting to see the differences in operations between the BCA and HHMH. Dave Atcheson expressed his appreciation to participate and noted how HHMH enjoyed having Terri Omori, Darlene Bagshaw and the Canada delegates join their Giseikai. Enjoyed the eye-opening value of joining a worldwide family of Jodo Shinshu practitioners vs just your own temple. Congratulated the CD NCM planning committee. All technology was executed very well and very successful. Lots of notes to take back; BCA Art exhibit, better understanding of the roles of the JSIO, JSC, CBE which will better help him connect with HHMH members, harassment training workshop with encouragement of looking at state laws, propagation, and membership workshop ideas. Inspired by BCA JAMS and the Music Committee (BCA and HHMH), concluded an accordion song recorded for HHMH elders.

15. REMARKS BY JODO SHINSHU BUDDHIST TEMPLES OF CANADA REPRESENTATIVES

Laura Sugimoto thanked everyone for welcoming her to the NCM. Over the past three years has attended many BCA and HHMH events. Much in common; growing temple membership, homeless encampments on temple grounds. Many notes from the NCM events. JSBTC has 11 temples and 1400 members. Largest challenge is getting volunteers to work on the National Board which inhibits the ability to develop national programs. JSBTC appreciates the ability to share in the work of the BCA and HHMH.

16. T-2 RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION

Glenn Inanaga (BCA VP/By-Laws Committee Chair) presented the resolution of appreciation:

BUDDHIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA
RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION
2023 NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

WHEREAS, the 2023 Buddhist Churches of America (“BCA”) National Council Meeting was successfully concluded through the efforts and contributions of many organizations and individuals; and

WHEREAS, the members in attendance during various sessions, held February 18 and 23 thru 26, 2023, express their appreciation to the following temples, organizations and individuals:

1. The Coast District Council of the Buddhist Churches of America; the National Conference Co-chairpersons Perry Yoshida and Linda Kadani; and to the many other temple members of the Coast District Council contributing to the success of this meeting;
2. The Coast District Council’s member temples: Guadalupe Buddhist Church, Monterey Peninsula Buddhist Temple, Mtn View Buddhist Temple, Buddhist Temple of Salinas, San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin, San Luis Obispo Buddhist Church and Watsonville Buddhist Temple; and their affiliated organizations;
3. The Coast District Ministerial Advisors: Rev. Naomi Nakano, Rev. Dennis Shinseki, Rev. Yushi Mukojima, Rev. Gerald Sakamoto, and Rev. Estuko Mikame;
4. Ministers for their participation in the services;
5. The National Headquarters and its staff whose efforts included the compilation of the BCA 2023 Annual Report;
6. Representatives from the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii and the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada for their participation;
7. The guests and boosters for their participation, and
8. The many other individuals, organizations, establishments and institutions for their generous support.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this “Resolution of Appreciation” be adopted by the delegates to this 2023 BCA National Council Meeting virtually held February 18 and 23 through 26, 2023.

17. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Koichi Mizushima (BCA Staff) announced the BCA Jams flyer has been placed in the chat. Also, the summer BYR will be held June 25 to July 1 at the JSC. Will be emailing all ministers and temple leaders information on BYR. If not receiving emails access his Google sheet through the link in the chat.

Perry Yoshida (CD NCM Co-Chair) thanked Terri Omori and Glenn for the resolution which will be shared with the CD NCM planning committee;

Registration	Gary Hongo (SLO)
Finance	Barbara Shingai, Tad Kato, Perry Yoshida (Watsonville)
Website	Mas Nishimura (San Jose)
Zoom Admin	Mas Nishimura (San Jose), John Arima (Mtn. View)
Raffle	Linda Kadani (Monterey), David Ward
Workshops	Steve Onishi (San Jose), Terri Omori (BCA) Camille Pating (BCSF)
Silent Auction	Tom Yamashita (Salinas)
Publicity	Peter Hester (Watsonville)
BCA Team	Terri Omori, Gayle Noguchi, Angela Bartolacci, Alex Tsukahara
BCA Minister	Rev. Marvin Harada, Rev. Michael Endo, Rev. Dennis Shinseki, Rev. Yushi Mukojima, Rev. Gerald Sakamoto, Rev. Estuko Mikame, Rev. Naomi Nakano
Guest Speaker	Rev. Todd Tsuchiya, Rev. Cindy Yasaki

Thank you to Terri Omori for all her guidance.

Silent Auction raised over \$1,222 for the Dharma Forward Campaign
All winners will be contacted, and the respective temples will ship.

49er Game Pack for 2023 Season	Steve Terusaki
San Jose Obon Kit	Darlene Bagshaw
Freedom Meat Locker	David Ward
SLO Wine Basket	Rev. Harry Bridge

Monterey Delight Basket
Morgan Wine Trio
Guadalupe BBQ Kit

David Ward
Joe Bracco
Kenny Kusumoto

Thanked all the donors. Those desiring to donate but did not win, please donate through the BCA donation site.

Final raffle:

\$50 Home Depot Gift Card

Gary Mukai (Fowler)

\$50 Target Gift Card

Gayle Noguchi (BCA Staff)

\$25 Starbucks + \$25 McDonalds

Dr. Kent Matsuda (Enmanji)

Thanked the seven Coast District temples for donations to the raffle and silent auction.

Michiko Inanaga (BCA EF Director of Development) thanked everyone for participating in the Panda Express fundraiser. Please send pictures of your family enjoying the food to her email.

Koichi Mizushima (BCA Staff) announced the Eitaikyo service will be on the BCA YouTube channel. Click on the live screen. BCA Jams will follow the service. Rev. Marvin Harada noted a link is also on the BCA website under the National Council Meeting. Stream should start 30 minutes before service. Service participants will be the only participants on Zoom.

Terri Omori (BCA President) thanked Coast District planning committee led by Perry Yoshida and Linda Kadani, and ministers for all their hard work over the past two years. Thanked Mas Nishimura and John Arima for working all day behind the scenes as Zoom administrators each day programs were run on Zoom. Thanked the BCA EC for their part and support in the meetings. Thanked all workshop presenters and facilitators. Thanked everyone for joining and all you do for your temples and the BCA. Requested all attendees share their takeaways with their respective temples.

18. VOTE TO ADJOURN

MOTION: TO ADJOURN THE 2023 NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

**REV. DENNIS FUJIMOTO (ALAMEDA)/REV. GREGORY GIBBS (ARIZONA/PASADENA/SAN DIEGO)
M/S/P BY ACCLAMATION**

Terri Omori (BCA President) adjourned the 2023 NCM at 2:48 PM.

19. NEMBUTSU RECITATION

Closing Nembutsu recitation was led by Rev. Marvin Harada (Bishop).

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Bagshaw

BCA Executive Committee Secretary



2023 National Council Meeting (Feb) Registration and Voting Tracker https://tinyurl.com/2023NCM	FRI	SAT	Votes Remaining		Votes Remaining		Votes Remaining		Votes Remaining		Votes Remaining								
	Expected:	Expected:	8.44%	92.16%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%							
	157	157	Results:	141	Results:	12	Results:	0	Results:	0	Results:	0							
	Total:	Total:	94.33%	4.96%	0.71%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!							
		80 required for quorum	154	153	133	7	1	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

VOTING DELEGATES ONLY; NON-VOTING ATTENDEES ON NEXT TAB

98% 97%

Last Name	First Name	District	Temple	Role	Email	Present.	Present.	Issue #1: Approve the 2024 budget as recommended			I attended the Harrassment Prevention Training			Issue #3: Adjourn the meeting			Issue #4			Issue #5		
								Yes	No	Abstain	Yes	No	Abstain	Yes	No	Abstain	Yes	No	Abstain	Yes	No	Abstain
Adachi	Karen	Northern	Sacramento Betsuin	Lay 1	karenadachi1@gmail.com	X	X	X														
Adams	Rev. Henry	Bay	San Francisco	AM 1	henry.t.adams@gmail.com	x	x	x														
Adams	Rev. Henry	Bay	San Mateo	AM 1	henry.t.adams@gmail.com	x	x	x														
Ah-Tye	Gordon	Central	Fresno Betsuin	Lay 1	gahtyes@aol.com	X	X	X														
Ashida	Barton	Central	Fowler	Lay 2	b.ashida@sbcglobal.net	X	X	X														
Bagshaw	Charles	Northern	Stockton	Lay 2	ckbag001@yahoo.com	X	x	x														
Berve	Wayne	Mountain States	Tri-State / Denver	Lay 2	wayneberve@msn.com	x	x	x														
Bobrowicz	Michael	Bay	Palo Alto	Lay 2	mbobrowicz1955@gmail.com	x	x	x		x												
Bridge	Rev. Harry	Bay	Oakland	AM 1	revharry3@gmail.com	x	x	x		x												
Briones	Rev. William	Southern	Los Angeles Betsuin	AM 1	malik615@msn.com	x	x	x														
Briones	Rev. William	Southern	San Fernando Valley	AM 1	malik615@msn.com	x	x	x														
Chapman	Andrea	Eastern	Ekoji	Lay 1	AOAndreaChapman@gmail.com	x	x	x														
Chin	David	Bay	San Mateo	Lay 2	chindaids@gmail.com	x	x	x														
Dean	Andi	Mountain States	Longmont	Lay 2	dean.andi@icloud.com	x	x	x														
Doi	Janice	Affiliated Org	FBWA	Affiliated Org	janicedoi@gmail.com	x	x	x														
Donoho	Chad	Northwest	Spokane	Lay 1	bronzetiger23@yahoo.com	x	x	x														
Fujii	Eric	Northern	Florin	Lay 1	efujii52@gmail.com	x	x	x														
Fujii	Bryan	Southern	Oxnard	Lay 1	fujifolks@verizon.net	X	X	x														
Fujikawa	Thomas	Mountain States	Ogden	Lay 2	tfujii@comcast.net	x	x	x														
Fujimoto	Rev. Dennis	Bay	Alameda	AM 1	revdjoshin@gmail.com	x	x	x														
Fujimoto	Rev. Dennis	Bay	Enmanji	AM 1	revdjoshin@gmail.com	x	x	x														
Fukawa	Stan	Southern	Senshin	Lay 2	stanfukawa@gmail.com	x	x	x														
Furumoto	Bryan	Southern	Orange County	Lay 2	bryfurumoto@gmail.com	X	X	X		x												
Furumoto	Rev. Ryuta	Southern	Oxnard	AM 1	rontai48@gmail.com	x	x	x														
Furumoto	Rev. Ryuta	Southern	Senshin	AM 1	rontai48@gmail.com	x	x	x														
Gibbs	Rev. Gregory	Southern	Arizona	AM 1	gregorygibbs49@gmail.com	x	x	x		x												
Gibbs	Rev. Gregory	Southern	Pasadena	AM 1	gregorygibbs49@gmail.com	x	x	x		x												
Gibbs	Rev. Gregory	Southern	San Diego	AM 1	gregorygibbs49@gmail.com	x	x	x		x												
Gotchy	Joe	Northwest	Seattle Betsuin	Lay 2	josephgotchy@msn.com	X	X	X														
Hamasaki	Rev. Matthew	Northern	Placer	AM 1	revmatt@buddhistchurch.org	X	X	X														
Hamasaki	Rev. Matthew	Northern	Sacramento Betsuin	AM 1	revmatt@buddhistchurch.org	X	X	X														
Handa	Larry	Coast	San Jose Betsuin	Lay 2	president@sjbetsuin.org	x	x	x														
Hatakeyama	Lori	Southern	Pasadena	Lay 1	pasadenasangha@icloud.com	x	X	X														
Hayashi	Rev. Nari	Mountain States	Longmont	AM 1	trainspotting.sai21@gmail.com	X	X	X														
Hayashi	Candy	Northern	Stockton	Lay 1	candyyhayashi@hotmail.com	X	X	X														
Hayashi	Rev. Nari	Mountain States	Tri-State / Denver	AM 1	trainspotting.sai21@gmail.com	X	X	X														
Hirahara	Larry	Coast	Salinas	Lay 2	seedyguy@aol.com	X	X	X														
Hirano	Rev. Jerry	Northwest	Idaho-Oregon	AM 1	jkhirano@msn.com	x	x	x														
Hirano	Rev. Jerry	Mountain States	Ogden	AM 1	jkhirano@msn.com	x	x	x														
Hirano	Rev. Jerry	Mountain States	Salt Lake	AM 1	jkhirano@msn.com	x	x	x														
Hongo	Gary	Coast	San Luis Obispo	Lay 1	garyhongo711@gmail.com	x	x	x														
Hongo	Sandy	Coast	San Luis Obispo	Lay 2	shongo@surewest.net	x	x	x														
Humphrey	Lee	Coast	Guadalupe	Lay 1	nanookfhjh@gmail.com	x	x	x														
Imada	Rev. Noritaka	Northern	Florin	AM 1	noima341@gmail.com	x	x	x														
Imada	Rev. Noritaka	Northern	Lodi	AM 1	noima341@gmail.com	x	x	x														
Inaba	Gail	Eastern	New York	Lay 1		x	X	x														
Inge	John	Northwest	Tacoma	Lay 1	john@seaing.com		x			x												
Iseida	Jerry	Southern	Venice	Lay 1	GTICConn12@gmail.com	x	x	x														
Iseri	Mike	Northwest	Idaho-Oregon	Lay 2	mikeiseri@mtc.com	x	X															
Iwahara	Rev. John	Southern	Gardena	AM 1	otera.office@gardenabuddhistchurch	x	x	x														
Jacques	Susan	Eastern	Seabrook	Lay 1	sjacquespt@verizon.net	x	x	x														
Jacques	Miyje	Eastern	Seabrook	Lay 2	miyjejacques@gmail.com	x	x	x														
Justesen	Kliff	Central	Reedley	Lay 2	justkliff03@gmail.com	x	x	x														
Kadani	Linda	Coast	Monterey Peninsula	Lay 2	lmdkadinki@sbcglobal.net	x	x	x														

NCM MIN
2023



2023 National Council Meeting (Feb)
Registration and Voting Tracker
<https://tinyurl.com/2023NCM>

80 required for quorum

FRI		SAT		Votes Remaining 8.44%			Votes Remaining 92.16%			Votes Remaining 100.00%			Votes Remaining 100.00%			Votes Remaining 100.00%		
Expected:	Expected:	Results:			Results:			Results:			Results:			Results:				
157	157	94.33%	4.96%	0.71%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	
Total:	Total:	154	153	133	7	1	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

VOTING DELEGATES ONLY; NON-VOTING ATTENDEES ON NEXT TAB

98% 97%

Issue #1: Approve the 2024 budget as recommended I attended the Harrassment Prevention Training Issue #3: Adjourn the meeting

Last Name	First Name	District	Temple	Role	Email	Present.	Present.	Yes No Abstain			Yes No Abstain			Yes No Abstain			Issue #4			Issue #5		
Kashiwase	Lois	Northern	Florin	Lay 2	loiskash2@comcast.net	x	x	x														
Kato	Mariko	Eastern	New York	Lay 2	markrew@hotmail.com	x	x	x														
Kato	Tad	Coast	Watsonville	Lay 2	tad.joann.kato@gmail.com	x	x	x				x										
Kawasaki	Ken	Southern	Los Angeles Betsuin	Lay 2	uniqueplantrentals@gmail.com	x	x	x														
Kimata	Arlene	Bay	San Francisco	Lay 1	arlenekimata@aol.com	x	x	X														
Kobayashi	Gaylen	Southern	West Los Angeles	Lay 1	gaylen@gaylenkobayashi.com	X	X	x														
Koga	Mike	Mountain States	Ogden	Lay 1	Michael.koga@gmail.com	X	X															
Koga	Cheryl	Central	Parlier	Lay 2	clkoga@gmail.com	X	X	X														
Kono	Judy	Bay	Berkeley	Lay 2		X	x															
Kosai	Kendall	Northwest	White River	Lay 2	kkosai2@gmail.com	x	x	x				x										
Koyama	Rev. Dean	Bay	Palo Alto	AM 1	dkoyama@comcast.net	x	x	x														
Koyama	Rev. Tadao	Northwest	Tacoma	AM 1	revtadaok@gmail.com	x	x	x														
Kusumoto	Kenny	Coast	Watsonville	Lay 1	kennykusumoto@gmail.com	x	x	x														
Kusunoki	Rev. Katsuya	Northwest	Seattle Betsuin	AM 1	rev.kusunoki@seattlebetsuin.org	X	x	x														
Kusunoki	Rev. Katsuya	Northwest	Spokane	AM 1	rev.kusunoki@seattlebetsuin.org	X	x	x														
Kusunoki	Rev. Katsuya	Northwest	White River	AM 1	rev.kusunoki@seattlebetsuin.org	X	x	x														
Kuwahara	Rev. Kiyonobu	Bay	Berkeley	AM 1		X	X	X														
Kuwahara	Rev. Kiyonobu	Bay	Marin	AM 1		x	X	X														
Lee	LuAnn	Southern	San Diego	Lay 2	lulee7@cox.net	x	x	x														
Mann	Becky	Coast	Monterey Peninsula	Lay 1	tractorgirl@comcast.net	X	X	x														
Matsuda	Kent	Bay	Enmanji	Lay 2	kmm.matsuda@sbglobal.net	X	X	X														
Menda	Bradley	Bay	Berkeley	Lay 1	bymenda@hotmail.com	X	X	X														
Mikame	Rev. Etsuko	Coast	San Jose Betsuin	AM 2	e_mikame@sjbetsuin.org	x	x	x														
Miwa	Alan	Southern	Gardena	Lay 1	otera.office@gardenabuddhistchurr	X	X	X														
Miyaji	Rev. Takashi	Bay	Southern Alameda	AM 1	gishin.tmiyaji@gmail.com	X	X	x														
Miyamoto	Linda	Southern	San Fernando Valley	Lay 2	linda.miyamoto@yahoo.com	X	X	X														
Miyamura	Rev. Ron	Eastern	Ekoji	AM 1	rev.ron.mbt@gmail.com	x	x	x														
Miyamura	Rev. Ron	Eastern	Midwest	AM 1	rev.ron.mbt@gmail.com	x	x	x														
Miyamura	Rev. Ron	Eastern	New York	AM 1	rev.ron.mbt@gmail.com	x	x	x														
Miyamura	Rev. Ron	Eastern	Seabrook	AM 1	rev.ron.mbt@gmail.com	x	x	x														
Mori	Toshie	Central	Parlier	Lay 1	toshie_mori@verizon.net	X	x	x														
Mukai	Gary	Central	Fowler	Lay 1	gmukeye@comcast.net	X	x															
Mukojima	Rev. Yushi	Coast	Mountain View	AM 1	Nomisan_99@yahoo.com	x	x	x														
Murakami	Rev. Hibiki	Southern	Los Angeles Betsuin	AM 2	junkyoo@nishihongwanji-la.org	x	x	x														
Naito	Jane	Bay	Alameda	Lay 2	janenaito@me.com	x	x	x														
Nakagawa	Rev. Kakei	Central	Fowler	AM 1	senkyobo3@gmail.com	x	x					x										
Nakagawa	Rev. Kakei	Central	Fresno Betsuin	AM 1	senkyobo3@gmail.com	x	x					x										
Nakagawa	Rev. Kakei	Central	Parlier	AM 1	senkyobo3@gmail.com	x	x					x										
Nakagawa	Junko	Bay	Marin	Lay 1			X															
Nakagiri	Tom	Southern	Venice	Lay 2	tomn123@aol.com	x	x	x														
Nakahara	Craig	Northern	Walnut Grove	Lay 1	c.nak@sbglobal.net	X	x	x														
Nakano	Rev. Naomi	Coast	Guadalupe	AM 1	nomisan_99@yahoo.com	X		X														
Nakano	Rev. Naomi	Coast	San Luis Obispo	AM 1	nomisan_99@yahoo.com	X		X														
Nakashima	Kris	Southern	Arizona	Lay 2	krisnakashima@gmail.com		X															
Nakata	Rev. Kazuaki	Central	Fresno Betsuin	AM 2	rev.kaznakata@gmail.com	X	x					X										
Nakata	Rev. Kazuaki	Central	Reedley	AM 1	rev.kaznakata@gmail.com	X	x					X										
Nishi-Wong	Leanne	Northwest	Seattle Betsuin	Lay 1	chairperson@seattlebetsuin.org	X	X	X														
Nishida	Larry	Central	Reedley	Lay 1	Lvnishida@yahoo.com	X	X					x										
Nishimura	Ross	Southern	Gardena	Lay 2	otera.office@gardenabuddhistchurr	x	x	x														
O'Toole	Kara	Northwest	Tacoma	Lay 2	karylotoole@gmail.com																	
Okamoto	Carolyn	Central	Fresno Betsuin	Lay 2	okamcar@gmail.com	X	X	X														
Okazaki	Corey	Northern	Lodi	Lay 1	okazaco@icloud.com	x		x														
Omori	Ford	Southern	Vista	Lay 1	fordomori@gmail.com	X	x	x														
Onishi	Steve	Coast	San Jose Betsuin	Lay 1	skonishi@sjbetsuin.org	x	x	x														



2023 National Council Meeting (Feb) <i>Registration and Voting Tracker</i> https://tinyurl.com/2023NCM						FRI	SAT																
						Expected:	Expected:	<i>Votes Remaining</i>	8.44%		<i>Votes Remaining</i>	92.16%		<i>Votes Remaining</i>	100.00%		<i>Votes Remaining</i>	100.00%		<i>Votes Remaining</i>	100.00%		
					80 required for quorum	157	157	Results:	141			Results:	12			Results:	0			Results:	0		
						Total:	Total:	94.33%	4.96%	0.71%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
					154	153	133	7	1	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	

VOTING DELEGATES ONLY; NON-VOTING ATTENDEES ON NEXT TAB

Last Name	First Name	District	Temple	Role	Email	Present.	Present.	Issue #1: Approve the 2024 budget as recommended			I attended the Harrassment Prevention Training			Issue #3: Adjourn the meeting			Issue #4			Issue #5		
								Yes	No	Abstain	Yes	No	Abstain	Yes	No	Abstain	Yes	No	Abstain	Yes	No	Abstain
Ono	Diane	Bay	Enmanji	Lay 1	dono7@comcast.net	X	x															
Ozaki	Charles	Mountain States	Tri-State / Denver	Lay 1		X	X	X														
Pauls	Holly	Northern	Walnut Grove	Lay 2	hollypauls2@gmail.com	X	X	X														
Quock	Eric	Bay	Palo Alto	Lay 1	eric.quock@gmail.com	X	X	X														
Quon	Rev. Kory	Southern	Venice	AM 1	Sensei@vhbt.org	x	x															
Rearдон	Eric	Southern	San Fernando Valley	Lay 1	gibbergeist@gmail.com	x	x	X														
Reneau	Charles	Northwest	Oregon	Lay 1	charleyreneau@gmail.com	x	x	x														
Sakamoto	Rev. Gerald	Coast	San Jose Betsuin	AM 1	rinban@sjbetsuin.org	x	x	x														
Sakuma	Susan	Bay	San Francisco	Lay 2	stsakuma06@gmail.com	x	x		x													
Satake-Ryu	Julie	Coast	Mountain View	Lay 2	julie@satakenursery.com	x	x	x														
Sayano	Koichi	Affiliated Org	FDSTL	Affiliated Org	ksayano@earthlink.net	x	x	x														
Schlesinger	Ricky	Southern	Vista	Lay 2	rickyschlesinger@gmail.com	x	x	x														
Shibata	Rev. Candice	Northern	Stockton	AM 1	revshibata@gmail.com	X	X	X														
Shibata	Rev. Candice	Northern	Wainut Grove	AM 1	revshibata@gmail.com	X	X	X														
Shimoguchi	Jean	Coast	Mountain View	Lay 1	jean.shimoguchi@yahoo.com	X	X	X														
Shinseki	Rev. Dennis	Coast	Monterey Peninsula	AM 1	revhosei@gmail.com	x	x	x														
Shinseki	Rev. Dennis	Coast	Salinas	AM 1	revhosei@gmail.com	x	x	x														
Shinseki	Rev. Dennis	Coast	Watsonville	AM 1	revhosei@gmail.com	x	x	x														
Shintani	Howard	Bay	Alameda	Lay 1	howiegoldfish@gmail.com	x	x															
Spencer	Rev. Anne	Northwest	Idaho-Oregon	Lay 1	annespencerhd@gmail.com	X	x	x														
Sterrett	Celeste	Northwest	Spokane	Lay 2		x	x	x														
Suekama	Roger	Eastern	Midwest	Lay 2	rsuekama@aol.com	x	x	x		x												
Sugahara	Rev. Yuki	Northwest	Oregon	AM 1	ysobtport1and060117@gmail.com	x	x	x														
Sugiyama	Lynn	Southern	Arizona	Lay 1	Ungyo1@hotmail.com	x	X															
Suruki	Yuko	Bay	San Mateo	Lay 1	ysuruki@yahoo.com	x	X	x														
Suyama	Karen	Bay	Southern Alameda	Lay 2	karensuyama@gmail.com	X	X	x														
Swithers	Frank	Eastern	Ekoji	Lay 2	fswithers@cox.net	X	X	x														
Tabata	Pam	Southern	Los Angeles Betsuin	Lay 1	pammtabata@gmail.com	X	X	X														
Takata	Rev. Koho	Southern	West Los Angeles	AM 1	kohotakata@gmail.com	X	X	X														
Tanaka	Bobby	Northern	Sacramento Betsuin	Lay 2	betanaka@pacbell.net	X	X	X														
Tanioka	Jo Ann	Southern	Orange County	Lay 1	joanntanioka@gmail.com	x	X	x														
Teague	Bill	Southern	San Diego	Lay 1	btcomms@cox.net	x	x	x														
Terada	Keiju	Bay	Oakland	Lay 1	kju@att.net	X	X	X			x											
Thompson	Rev. Diana	Mountain States	Tri-State / Denver	AM 2	revthompson@tsdbt.org	x	x		x													
Tono	Jackie	Mountain States	Longmont	Lay 1	jjtonto2@gmail.com	x	x	x														
Toshima	Jeannie	Southern	Pasadena	Lay 2	jeannie_toshima@me.com	X	x	X														
Tsuchiya	Rev. Todd	Eastern	Midwest	AM 2	rev.todd.mbt@gmail.com	x	x	X														
Turner	Rev. Jon	Southern	Orange County	AM 2	rev.turner@orangecountybuddhist.org	X	X	X														
Turner	Rev. Jon	Southern	Vista	AM 1	rev.turner@orangecountybuddhist.org	X	X	X														
Unruhe	David	Northern	Placer	Lay 2	davidunruhe9@gmail.com	X	X	X														
Uyemura	Koichi	Southern	Senshin	Lay 1	koichiuyemura@yahoo.com	x	x															
Watanabe	Troy	Mountain States	Salt Lake	Lay 1		x	X															
Wondra	Rev. Dr. Mutsumi	Southern	Orange County	AM 1	rev.wondra@orangecountybuddhist.org	X	x	x			x											
Yahata	Connie	Southern	West Los Angeles	Lay 2	aznmom22@gmail.com	x	x	x														
Yamanaka	Valerie	Northwest	White River	Lay 1	Valerie.yumi@gmail.com	x	x															
Yamasaki	Kyle	Bay	Southern Alameda	Lay 1	dijamix@gmail.com	x	x	x														
Yamashiro	Rene	Northern	Placer	Lay 1	rsyamashiro1@gmail.com	x	X	x														
Yamashita	Tsutomu	Coast	Salinas	Lay 1	tomyama55@gmail.com	X	x	x														
Yasaki	Rev. Cyndi	Northwest	White River	AM 2		X	x															
Yoshida	Norman	Bay	Oakland	Lay 2	normyoshida@gmail.com	x	x	x														
		Coast	Guadalupe	Lay 2																		
		Central	Hanford	AM 1																		
		Central	Hanford	Lay 1																		
		Central	Hanford	Lay 2																		

NCM MIN 2023



2023 National Council Meeting (Feb)
 Registration and Voting Tracker
<https://tinyurl.com/2023NCM>

80 required for quorum

FRI	SAT	Votes Remaining 8.44%			Votes Remaining 92.16%			Votes Remaining 100.00%			Votes Remaining 100.00%			Votes Remaining 100.00%		
Expected:	Expected:	Results:			Results:			Results:			Results:			Results:		
157	157	94.33%	4.96%	0.71%	100.00%	0.00%	0.00%	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
Total:	Total:	133	7	1	12	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

VOTING DELEGATES ONLY; NON-VOTING ATTENDEES ON NEXT TAB

98% 97%

Issue #1: Approve the 2024 budget as recommended
 I attended the Harrassment Prevention Training
 Issue #3: Adjourn the meeting
 Issue #4
 Issue #5

Last Name	First Name	District	Temple	Role	Email	Present.	Present.	Yes	No	Abstain	Yes	No	Abstain	Yes	No	Abstain	Yes	No	Abstain	Yes	No	Abstain	
		Mountain States	Honeyville	AM 1																			
		Mountain States	Honeyville	Lay 1																			
		Mountain States	Honeyville	Lay 2																			
		Northern	Lodi	Lay 2																			
		Bay	Marin	Lay 2																			
		Northern	Marysville	AM 1																			
		Northern	Marysville	Lay 1																			
		Northern	Marysville	Lay 2																			
		Northwest	Oregon	Lay 2																			
		Southern	Oxnard	Lay 2																			
		Mountain States	Salt Lake	Lay 2																			
		Southern	Santa Barbara	AM 1																			
		Southern	Santa Barbara	Lay 1																			
		Southern	Santa Barbara	Lay 2																			
		Central	Visalia	AM 1																			
		Central	Visalia	Lay 1																			
		Central	Visalia	Lay 2																			
		Northwest	Yakima	AM 1																			
		Northwest	Yakima	Lay 1																			
		Northwest	Yakima	Lay 2																			

**BUDDHIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA
NATIONAL BOARD MEETING
JUNE 3, 2023 9:01 AM TO 12:18 PM**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81628715778?pwd=Y2JIRDdINS9JSkNjeFBWVninS-0Bdz09>

Meeting ID: 816 2871 5778 Passcode: 728338

Alternate Meeting site: Jodo Shinshu Center

2140 Durant Avenue Berkeley, CA 94704

Main phone: 510-809-1400 Website: buddhistchurchesofamerica.org

MINUTES (APPROVED)

Attendance: see attached attendance check-in list for voting and non-voting delegates in attendance.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order by President Terri Omori at 9:01 AM.

Announced the BCA Executive Committee gathered at the JSC. Using the SMART monitor purchased by the BCA.

2. REVIEW OF ZOOM PROTOCOLS

Koichi Mizushima announced meeting will be recorded for archival purposes thus if you do not wish your image or voice to be recorded remain with video off and muted. Best to view in speaker mode. Please remain muted unless presenting or speaking. If you would like to address the floor or have a question, please raise hand or place in chat. Presenters are asked to remove masks when speaking.

3. OPENING GASSHO

Nembutsu recitation led by Rev. Marvin Harada.

4. REVISIONS TO THE AGENDA

Terri Omori announced revisions to the agenda:

*A-4 will not require a vote as this body does not approve the CBE 5 year plan.

*E-19 Real Estate Committee will move from the Consent Agenda to the Regular Agenda.

*Correction of Adjournment at end of agenda should read "June 2023 NBM"

Terri requested any other revisions with no further requests.

5. QUORUM REPORT

June NBM 2023

Glenn Inanaga reported 45 voting delegates were expected with 35 checked in representing 78% participation. Quorum achieved. Additional 14 non-voting members checked in.

6. ELECTRONIC MEETING PROVISION

Glenn Inanaga (BCA EC VP and By-Laws committee chair) presented opening remarks regarding the electronic meeting format. COVID-19 has challenged many of our temples, as well as other religious and non-profit organizations, during the past few years. The BCA and this board meeting are no exception. To be in compliance with our By-Laws as well as the California Corporation Code (CCC):

*The BCA By-Laws do not prohibit electronic meetings nor describes what is required thus we rely upon the CCC for additional guidance.

*The CCC including among other sections 307A, 7211A and 9211A allow for meetings to be held electronically and not just in person

*The BCA By-Laws require prior notice of today's meeting, an alternate in-person meeting venue, and the time/date/place were announced and circulated prior to today's meeting via email. Appropriate announcements were made with the Jodo Shinshu Center designated as the alternate in-person meeting venue. The Jodo Shinshu Center is located at 2140 Durant Avenue Berkeley, CA 94704. Thanked the Executive Committee for being at the JSC today and making it possible for all others to participate from their own home or temple.

*The CCC states that your presence at today's meeting, in person, electronically or telephonically, may be deemed as a waiver of any required notices unless participant objects, meeting was paused to request objections by show of hands.

*No one objected to the waiver and quorum has been met thus the meeting may continue.

7. DECEMBER 2022 MEETING MINUTES

Darlene Bagshaw presented the December 2022 meeting minutes.

*Jon Kawamoto noted in his report he addressed his report to the National Council. This should be the December National Board. (Note this is not a correction to the minutes as this is a correction to the submitted report attached to the minutes)

*Kemi Nakabayashi noted Section 27 page 12 correction "...all the programs posted by the YBE..." should be "...all the programs hosted by the YBE..."

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS REVISED

LUANN LEE (SOUTHERN DISTRICT)/ARLEEN MIYA (BCA DAL) M/S/P BY ACCLAMATION

8. A-1 BISHOP

Rev. Marvin Harada apologized for missing the joint 800/850 celebration in Japan due to an illness. Will be traveling to Japan at the end of July for official confirmation as Bishop along with HHMH Rev.Toshiyuki Umitani at the Hongwanji.

A new BCA task force, Buddhism and Spiritual/Psychological Well Being, to be led by Gregg Krech (Nikon therapist). Many committee members have backgrounds in addressing mental health. Will connect Buddhism and mental health issues that are arising in our society, Sanghas and with our ministers. Will create a plan how BCA can create programs and projects at the local

temple/district/national levels for spiritual and psychological well-being. Will help keep Shin Buddhism connected to everyday issues.

Welcome two ministers: Rev. Diana Thompson to the Tri-State temple after a two year leave of absence to return at 75%. Rev. Melissa Opel as resident minister for the Buddhist Church of San Francisco.

Conducted a kieshiki for 12 individuals in May via Zoom for our BCA individual members.

Created a closer feeling of being a member of the BCA Sangha.

Terri Omori thanked Rev. Harada for his report and for all the outreach performed for the BCA.

9. A-2 PRESIDENT

Terri Omori thanked everyone for submitting reports in a timely fashion despite many traveling to Japan. Thanked all those who took the opportunity to travel to Japan resulting in the BCA being well represented. Thanked Darlene Bagshaw who traveled with Terri to Hawaii for their National Council meeting (Giseikai). Amazing experience to meet with fellow leaders from Hawaii and listen to their concerns and efforts in sharing the Dharma. Their delegation had many questions for our BCA representatives. Thank you to the BCA staff for all their efforts to keep operations moving smoothly with their hard work. Great communications with the BCA EC to provide excellent teamwork.

Dr. Kent Matsuda inquired about March 23 BCA EC motion regarding Koichi Mizushima's proposal to add an additional minister as to where the minister will be added. Terri clarified this as part of offering financial planning services for our BCA ministers and adding a minister to the trial of this service. Exploring if this service is of value to the ministers.

10. A-3 MINISTERS' ASSOCIATION

Rev. Harry Bridge reported the Ministers' Association met yesterday thus the report is not included in the packet. Highlights noted:

*Received update from Koichi Mizushima, BCA Ministerial Benefits Coordinator, on ministers' pension

*Approved benefits for Kyoshi during their first-year probation period. This applies to those who are assigned to a temple but do not achieve Kaikyoshi until completion of a first-year review. Desire is to provide the same benefits as granted to full Kaikyoshi. No changes to Kaikyoshi ministers relocating from Japan as they are already at full Kaikyoshi status thus already eligible for all benefits.

*The only candidate received for the Bishop's selection process is Rev. Marvin Harada to serve a second term. Joint selection committee will meet to confirm.

*BCA 125th and the ministers' summer Fuken—for 2024 the Fuken will be hosted by Bay District on August 30 & 31, 2024 prior to the 125th Commemorative Service to be held on September 1, 2024 at BCSF. This will allow for maximum participation by the BCA ministers.

*BCA MA Chair selection process will be during the 2023 summer Fuken. Installation of the new chair will be during the 2024 National Council Meeting. Term limit of two terms requires Rev. Bridge to step down.

*Summer Fuken 2023 will be hosted by Central California on August 17 & 18. Frontline challenge of propagation is the focus. Information will be sent to all ministers and temples. This

meeting is virtual. Temple will pay the \$50 registration fee whether or not their minister attends.

11. A-4 CENTER FOR BUDDHIST EDUCATION

Rev. Jerry Hirano thanked everyone for supporting the CBE programs. After shifting to full online for the pandemic, finding difficulty in changing to a hybrid setting. CBE wants to continue online programming. Refer to report for list of programs.

Note that no approval from this body is needed for the CBE 5-year plan. This was approved by the CBE Board of Governors.

CBE is conducting the training for both Tokudo and Kyoshi candidates. Currently preparing the Tokudo candidates who will be traveling to Japan in December. In 2024, a number of seminars are planned for the Kyoshi candidates. Hoping to hold certification at the JSC.

Area of expansion will focus on the crossing over seminar. Rev. Quirke Thornton noted CBE as a primary resource for Europe as the information is presented in English. Rev. Hirano will be attending and presenting at the 2023 Dusseldorf Shin European Conference seeking ways to expand services to help enhance the European Shin base. In the European Sangha, every member was of Christian faith, moved to Zen or Tibetan Buddhism, then came to the Shin Buddhism. Very different aspect vs BCA which is primarily composed of those who grew up with Shin Buddhism.

Koichi Mizushima currently oversees the Buddhist Youth Retreat programs. Next is scheduled for July. Koichi thanked all attendees for promoting the BYR programs. Meaningful to the youth when the support comes from the temple minister or president/leader. Appreciate the enthusiastic support of the programs. Currently 11 signed up for the next BYR. This will be the 6th BYR. To be held June 25 to July 1 at the JSC.

Rev. Hirano thanked the Dharma Forward program for supplementing travel expenses for the youth and minister's assistant program. Have been gathering information on cost of travel to submit for funding assistance as not all temples have the means to sponsor the MA's to attend CBE workshops.

Rev. Hirano thanked Judy Kono for all her hard work and support of the CBE along with her team of volunteers.

Terri Omori thanked Rev. Hirano and Koichi for all the fine work produced by the CBE team.

12. A-5 DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

Terri Omori announced Gayle Noguchi is unable to attend this meeting. Report will be given by Koichi Mizushima.

Koichi noted Gayle has been on leave recuperating from medical issues. Angela Bartolacci has been helping with daily tasks. Please refer to Gayle's report. Gayle requested Koichi convey the BCA staff is working hard supporting our ministers and all BCA programs as well. Currently Koichi, as the BCA Ministers' Benefits Coordinator, is working with a financial advisory firm to locate more financial guidance for our ministers to help manage funds and prepare for retirement. Firm is also helping evaluate our 403(b) program. Will be meeting with the BCA Executive Committee.

Gayle extended her appreciation for the BCA staff and BCA Executive Committee for their continued support.

Koichi extended invitation to the ministers to reach out to Koichi, Gayle or Angela for any areas where they can assist.

Terri thanked Koichi and Gayle for their collaborative efforts and always keeping in communication with Terri and the Executive Committee.

13. A-6 INTERIM FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Kevin Arakaki invited any questions to be sent to him via email. Kevin thanked Jeff Matsuoka, Terri Omori, Rev. Marvin Harada and Gayle Noguchi for their monthly meetings. Thank you to Gregg Sera for all his assistance in the office.

Steve Terusaki requested Kevin's opinion on our status with regards to all the financial reports. Noted there was a loss for the year which can be attributed to market losses. Kevin noted we have been fortunate with decreases in expenses due to use of virtual means. Additional income from the Bishop's parsonage and BCA HQ have been beneficial to the budget. Most losses are due to downturns in the market.

14. A-10/E-3 TREASURER

Jeff Matsuoka began with report A-10.

FY2025 budget is in the planning process, April 2024 to March 2025. Will be sending out requests to BCA departments, committees and affiliated organizations due back on Monday August 28, 2023. No carry over of funds. Encouraging committees to continue to meet virtually for cost savings but let Jeff know if any needs exist to meet in person to accommodate in the budget.

Vision and Long term planning encourages BCA departments and committees to look at finance beyond one year.

Budget and Finance will have 4 meetings for the year from August through November.

Preliminary budget will be presented at the December National Board meeting. Vacancies on this committee exist for some district and if interested in joining, please contact Jeff or Terri Omori. Welcome to Stuart Ito from the Northern District who recently joined this committee.

The JSC loan payment is due June 30, 2023. Amount is \$147,799.92. As of March 31, 2023, the outstanding loan balance is \$3,157,260.35. Loan payment is not part of the dues assessment.

Funds are taken from donations to the Debt Relief Fund and Reserve Funds. Thank you to all who have donated to the Debt Relief Fund.

BCA Financial review is conducted annually with funding budgeted at \$15K. However, this has fallen behind thus in consultation with the Audit Committee, FY2021 will be skipped and resume with FY2022. Contracted with audit firm to complete and expect to report on the review at the December National Board meeting.

BCA pension has a current fiscal budget allocating approximately \$130K to the program. In addition, the Legacy Benefit Pension plan is frozen. The budget allocates approximately \$85K to this program. Currently discussing this program with potential report at the December National Board meeting.

Thank you to BCA Staff, Kevin Arakaki (Controller), Gayle Noguchi (Director of Operations) and Gregg Sera (Accounts Payable). Thank you to the temples for continued timely payment of assessments on a regular basis.

Dr. Kent Matsuda (MA Pension/403(b) Committee) inquired if any funds from the Dharma Forward Campaign are anticipated towards the JSC loan. Jeff noted this would be helpful and there is a potential initiative in the works.

Rick Oishi (BCA DAL) inquired if there is an anticipated increase in temple dues. Jeff noted costs continue to rise as a long-term trend with a decrease in membership as a long-term trend.

Approximately 63% of the budget is derived from temple dues per the last budget. Encourage all NB members to suggest proposed solutions to any Executive Committee member as this is always a difficult issue. Steve Terusaki (BCA EC) added the Executive Committee addressed declining membership and as we place more focus on this, the National Board and National Council representatives will be asked to format their district reports to highlight temple membership numbers. Formatting reports will help provide a uniform reporting system and provide a better understanding of what occurs during the year. Will allow the Executive Committee to address temple concerns.

Question from the chat regarding consistency in how temples report membership. Jeff noted no check but take numbers as presented on good faith.

15. B-1 BCA FACILITIES

Terri Omori noted Bob Matsueda apologized for not being able to attend the meeting. Pam Matsuoka (Assistant Facilities Manager) reported on his behalf. Pam noted in the packet report is referred to as B-2 but is in fact report B-1. The Octavia roof project was completed as overseen by Bob. More programs are being attended at the JSC thus room scheduling is increasing.

Terri thanked Bob and Pam for overseeing large projects such as the Octavia building roof, the Octavia elevator modernization and the Octavia/BCSF stop addition. The elevator project has been completed with all necessary permits.

16. B-2 BCA BOOKSTORE

Madeline Kubo noted her report was labeled B-1 in the packet. Bookstore operations are back to normal after being closed for much of May. Please contact via email if you have any needs. Terri Omori inquired if the Commemorative 800/850th monto shiki sho is for sale. Madeline noted there is still some inventory remaining.

17. B-3 WHEEL OF DHARMA

Jon Kawamoto reported on an increase from the eight page newsletter to a 12 page newsletter. Generally two 12 page issues per year however only one 8 page newsletter the past year. For June anticipating a 16 page newsletter. Requesting stories and pictures from Kyoto trip. Expressed gratitude for increased coverage and participation from the BCA and Sangha members. Thanked Rev. Marvin Harada for his support of the expanded issues. Thanked Rev. Harada and Terri for their contributions, edits, story ideas and support. Thanked all in

attendance for their articles as the Wheel of Dharma is dependent upon the support and contributions of the Sangha. Please contact Jon via email.

Additional thanks to the Wheel of Dharma crew, Japanese section editors Rev. Ryuta Furumoto and Rev. Michael Endo and designer Jeff Kimoto. Deepest gratitude to the Sangha members for their kind words and support. Please keep on reading and following the Wheel of Dharma.

Terri thanked Jon for the great job and expansion of the publication.

*****BREAK 10:03 AM TO 10:15 AM*****

18. A-7 INSTITUTE OF BUDDHIST STUDIES

Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto, on behalf of everyone at IBS, thanked Rev. Marvin Harada, Rev. Harry Bridge and all the ministers of the BCA, BCA President Terri Omori and the Executive Committee, all the members of the National Board, all temple members, Gayle Noguchi and the BCA staff for constant support and guidance as the IBS continues to expand and improve.

Highlights to report:

*Spring enrollment—50 students, a decrease of 4 due to leaves and changes in educational direction

*Coming to the end of the faculty transition plan: as of December 31, 2022 Daijaku Kinst retired as the Buddhist Chaplaincy Coordinator; June 30, 2023 Dr. Richard Payne retired after serving for over 25 years, Bhante Simaliwala will retire this summer after over 45 year with the IBS, Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto will be retiring next year.

*New faculty: Dr. Paula Arai (Buddhist Women's studies), Dr. Nancy Lin (Hanyu Professor), Dr. Lili Chen (field education protocols working with Rev. Harry Bridge and Rev. Takashi Miyaji),

*Programs: faculty is not only busy teaching but also writing and speaking, Dr. Scott Mitchell recently published "The Making of American Buddhism" focusing on the Berkeley Bussei

Thank you to Rev. Jerry Hirano for CBE CE series on Shinjin.

Most IBS staff is working on a hybrid basis. Thank you to Karen Sugiyama for her work in the office.

IBS Dormitory will be undergoing a major renovation thanks to the generous donation from Larry Yamaoka of \$1.1 million in addition to providing expert guidance.

Other notable recent donations: \$150K from the Takeo Yuki charitable trust for the Yuki Chair, \$50K from the Takeo Yuki charitable trust for the Yuki Scholarship Fund.

BDK of Japan has agreed to give the IBS additional donations of \$75K per year for five years to support the Numata Professorial Chair. Upon completion of the five years will bring this chair to full funding.

Thank you to Charles Ozaki for spearheading communications and donations from the Tri-state area to bring the Tamai Professorial Chair to full funding.

The Friends of IBS letter was sent earlier this year. Very grateful for donations.

Working with IBS board, JCod, the Dharma Forward Campaign and the BCA Endowment Foundation.

FY 23-24 Budget of \$2,388,347.

In the process of hiring a senior accountant.

Terri Omori thanked the IBS staff and Board of Trustees. Terri viewed the graduation ceremony. Great to see program progress. Expressed gratitude to Larry Yamaoka for his donation and assistance with the dormitory renovations.

19. A-8 BCA ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION

Hide Mizuno noted assets and management have increased by \$2 million during January to April. Clarified minor typographical error as should be a positive number mainly due to the recovering market in section 1. Market has recovered by five to six percent by end of April. May figures will be reported to the board next week. Hitomi Kuwahara has filled the position of Development Associate to assist both Hide and Michiko Inanaga.

Steve Terusaki reminded everyone to donation to the Zaidan fund noting June NBM.

20. A-9 JODO SHINSHU INTERNATIONAL OFFICE

Terri Omori announced Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara was unable to attend this meeting.

Madeline Kubo placed the report in the chat. Thanked all the ministers and committee members for help with JSIO projects.

Will continue online seminars and lectures in both English and Japanese as well continuing the correspondence course.

IMOP program will continue starting in September.

Joint Pacific Seminar with CBE and IBS.

Recently completed the Japan study tour with 22 participants, mainly graduates of the correspondence course.

Next quarterly journal will be out later this month.

Compiling essays for a follow up to the Crossing Over book, focus will be on making the temple home. Contact the office if you have content or contributor suggestions.

Saturday June 17 will host an online discussion with the Bishops of each Kyodan, Bishop Harada, Bishop Matsumoto and Bishop Aoki on the "New Ryogemon".

21. E-1 BYLAWS/LEGAL

Glenn Inanaga reported on changes to the Bishop's Selection Guidelines acknowledging all those who worked on the update which began over two years ago. Glenn presented a clean draft highlighting updates:

*specific reference to this document not being a part of the by-laws, referenced only. Revision for today only needs a majority vote

*definitions made uniform throughout the document and corrected formatting.

*old document had a three candidate cap for each district, changed to reflect the new reality of shortages of ministers in the BCA

*clarified per minister association request: Candidates may have served as a kaikyoshi minister meaning retired ministers are eligible, does not include kyoshi ministers

*removed requirement that the candidates must be voted on by the district ministerial association, allowing district ministerial association chairperson to determine if a vote is necessary based on feedback

*modified each bishop nominee will present a written platform, not just list of qualification but to include goals they will have as Bishop, will help the general process

- *allow for electronic meeting and vote, not just in-person
 - *clarified process for the event of a tie, how to navigate plurality vote to get to three final candidates to present to the joint committee
 - *II section 1 changed the number of representatives to the joint selection committee to reflect the actual number of districts
 - *added language to clarify allowing for additional ministerial representatives if there is a potential lack of assigned ministers in the BCA, goal for the joint selection committee is to have an equal number of votes between the ministers and lay persons, adding flexibility to accommodate for a lack of assigned ministers
 - *thank you to Rick Stambul for providing changes to facilitate the meeting now allowing for the BCA President to preside and select other non-voting members who will not have a vote but to help with procedural, recording and parliamentary procedures, clarified the BCA Ministers' Association Chair is the Vice-Chair of the meeting
 - *added language II section 6 allows for substitution if a voting member or substitute cannot serve, this protects the integrity of the structure of the process
 - *III section 3 clarified quorum to include alternates if needed
 - *IV clarified how far back we have to go into this process if for some reason we do not have a final selection of Bishop elect, will help move the process more expeditiously the second time around
 - *IV section 2 added for an interim Bishop in the unlikely event we cannot finalize a selection within the given timeframe
- Terri noted a typographical error for II section 3 having a duplicate number should be II section 4. Section III similar adjustment with numerical errors.
- Linda Kadani (Coast District) inquired how nominations occur and how does a retired minister become nominated. Glenn noted this has not yet occurred, but a provision has been included. Districts are responsible for making all nominations thus the district would be identifying and nominating retired ministers desiring to serve as Bishop.
- Rev. Harry Bridge clarified that any minister with kaikyoshi experience may qualify for nominations, not just retired, may be from another Kyodan or from Japan. Noted the Minister's Association has approved immediate switch to this document if approved by this body today.

**MOTION: TO APPROVE THE REVISED BISHOP'S SELECTION GUIDELINES AS PRESENTED
RICK OISHI (BCA DAL)/LUANN LEE (SOUTHERN DISTRICT REP) M/S/P 33 OUT OF 36
VOTING DELEGATES (100% OF THOSE WHO VOTED)**

Terri thanked the committee consisting of both minister and lay. Thank you to Rev. Bridge for working with the ministers. Noted this year we will have a Bishop's selection meeting to go through the process. Each district will need a lay and minister representative plus alternates. Committee consists of 16 representatives. Terri requests all representative and alternate names by August 1, 2023. Will send email to district reps and Kyokucho. Selection meeting will be on Saturday September 30, 2023. More information will be forthcoming. The meeting logistics are still in discussion.

22. E-9 JOINT COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT

Steve Terusaki reported last meeting held with the JCoD was held last week.

Michiko Inanaga will email report E-9 to Angela Bartolucci for disbursement. Highlights:

*Donations received to EF year to date: \$492,966

*Donation breakdown: Dana Program from 2/1/23--\$57,171, mail out for Dana program done in May, 9K mailers sent, responses coming in; Social Welfare from 10/1/22--\$66,930; Dharma Forward Dashboard cumulative donations \$8,152,000, represent 54.35% to goal, expressed appreciation from members, temples, districts, supporters and leadership for their support and continued engagement, progress increase from last NBM is \$1.7 million, highlights to donations include \$1.1 million donation for IBS dormitory renovation, BCA initiatives and Yuki Chair/Scholarship, Dharma Forward General Account

*Thank you to Coast District for the NCM silent auction, all temples participated from Coast District for an enthusiastic silent auction

*Thank you to Bay District during their 800/850th celebration, donations of \$6,700, credit to the Bay District Ministers' Association and leaders for recommending osaisen and offering be contributed to the Dharma Forward Campaign

*Tamai Chair mailing by IBS at the beginning of March

*BCA Pillars are making progress towards pillar initiatives, applications to the Dharma Forward Allocation Board are coming through, pillars coordinating on efforts

*Included in packet are pillar coordinators and their goals for BCA initiatives

*Dharma Forward Allocation Board receives the applications for funding from the Dharma Forward funds, once approved by DFAB moves on to the Executive Committee, thank you to Ken Tanimoto for his leadership of the DFAB and service, Charlene Grinolds will be stepping up to take over the DFAB

*Allocations are listed in the report, many of which pertain to the 2019 NCM resolution initiatives

*Dashboard, Tamai Chair and other mailings attached to report

Terri Omori congratulated Michiko and Steve for eclipsing the 50% to goal mark in Dharma Forward fundraising efforts.

Steve noted results from NCM poll showed leadership from around the BCA only at a 43% participation rate. 56% of temple leaders have yet to support Dharma Forward. Encouraged all leaders at the NBM to support Dharma Forward and share their support with their district and local temple.

23. E-19 REAL ESTATE COMMITTEE

Glenn Inanaga noted no report in the packet. Shared recent information highlights:

*Thank you to Bob Matsueda and Pam Matsuoka (BCA staff) for excellent work on capital maintenance issues to include roof replacement on the Octavia property, repair and upgrade to Octavia property elevator to include a stop allowing for wheelchair access to the Buddhist Church of San Francisco

*Conversations continue regarding the lease of Octavia property space to JCYC, expressed interest in leasing additional space on the first floor, currently leasing all of the second floor and most of the third floor, requesting more than a majority of the first floor, in the process of

negotiating for JCYC to expand the lease and have JCYC self-maintain the property, from an economic perspective this will improve and reduce the cost expense of maintaining and occupying the Octavia property, not yet documented but wanted to share this update with the NBM, will result in additional income from the real estate committee as well as additional cost savings, BCA will remain responsible for the external structural elements of the Octavia property Steve Terusaki added how the elevator project has been benefitting from the proactive efforts on the members of the BCSF. Thank you to Susan Sakuma for her efforts to present BCSF goals. Shared use has been beneficial to both BCA and BCSF. Maintenance of the elevator will be a shared cost between BCA and BCSF. Helps control cost portion to the BCA. Glenn added BCA is consolidating operations as much as possible to the JSC and increase the utilization of the JSC. Creates efficiency and alignment and culture for the BCA staff. Allows concentration of efforts to Berkeley.

24. F-1 AD HOC BCA 125TH ANNIVERSARY

Terri Omori reported meeting with Rev. Marvin Harada, various committee and BCA groups. Good development on the 125th celebration activities. Will create a document with calendar schedule for distribution. Planning on a physical 2024 BCA calendar. February NCM will be in-person meeting with activities directed to the 125th. Archives Committee will be working on the 125 year history with emphasis on what has happened in the last 25 years. BCA Music committee reported on many projects to commemorate the 125th. September 1, 2024 the Bay District Ministers' Association is planning the special commemorative service in the morning. Planning a Joy-a-thon (telethon) for the same day in the afternoon led by Koichi Mizushima and Michiko Inanaga. Seeking engagement from everyone. Will be asking temple to share temple highlights. Program may include video clips, live interviews as well as the enthusiasm of our hosts, Koichi and Michiko. Will also highlight the Dharma Forward Campaign as the fundraising portion. Appreciate everyone's support for this program. Currently BCA Music Committee is developing new gathas from their lyric contest. Scouting program will be creating a patch program. Terri will be reaching out to districts for their various plans. The reason for a yearlong celebration is to allow everyone to acknowledge and appreciate the sacrifices made so we may receive the Dharma today. Looking for participation not only at the BCA level but also at the temple level. Federation of Dharma School Teachers' League is working on two projects for Dharma School students. Federation of Buddhist Women's Association is working on a project in conjunction with their 2024 FBWA Conference. CBE will have special programs. Beginning to see celebratory plans taking place. Please reach out to Terri or Darlene Bagshaw if you have any questions.

25. C-1 FEDERATION OF BUDDHIST WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Janice Doi shared how members of their organization attended the 800/850th and WBWC in Kyoto, Japan. All had a great time. Thank you to Karen Akahoshi for great representation of the

BCA. Will be submitting an article to the Wheel of Dharma to cover this event. Currently planning their first in-person convention in eight years.

Koichi Sayano inquired if the conference will be hybrid or in-person only. Janice clarified as in-person only.

Steve Terusaki shared a video clip from the WBWC performance of “Gassho From the Heart”. Steve thanked Kemi Nakabayashi, the BCA Music Committee, and gatha composer Donna Sasaki for a wonderful gatha. The WBWC performance was amazing receiving many wonderful comments from the other Kyodans.

26. C-2 FEDERATION OF DHARMA SCHOOL TEACHERS’ LEAGUE

Darlene Bagshaw announced many great applications from several districts were received for the 2024 Fred and Helen Nitta Scholarship with the committee selecting Elyse Fujii from Stockton as this year’s recipient. Elyse will be attending the University of California, Davis. An article will appear in the Wheel of Dharma.

Koichi Sayano noted the first hybrid FDSTL Conference was held last month at the Palo Alto Buddhist Temple. This is the first in-person gathering in four years. Eighty-five attended on site with an additional 50 attending on-line. Continuing a virtual portion allowed for those who could not travel to still be a part of the conference.

Terri Omori thanked Koichi for the additional information.

27. E-18 MUSIC COMMITTEE

Kemi Nakabayashi reported on the 125th anniversary project highlights:

*Music lyric contest: seven youth entries and unknown number of adult entries, deadline is tomorrow, commissioning two new gathas, two composers were contracted hopefully to start composing in July with completion by the end of the year, thank you to the FDSTL for promoting the contest and the many youth submissions, thank you for including the youth portion at the FDSTL Conference, once compositions are completed will begin the recording process for presentation in 2024

*Obon odori new song and dance being commissioned, working on details, Bombu Stories group will be working on this project (mentors include Nobuko Miyamoto, Rev. Mas Kodani and PJ Hirabayashi), this group has presented at Techno Buddha in the past, several BCA members are a part of this group

*Obon Odori/Taiko subcommittee presented the “What is Obon” webinar on March 21, 2023, plan is for a follow-up webinar in the fall to recap this year’s Obon season and highlight new odori, thank you to co-chairs Elyse Fujimoto and Tyler Moriguchi

*Thanked Steve Terusaki for creating and sharing the WBWC video, will follow-up with an article for the Wheel of Dharma, thanked Janice Doi for announcing the performance in Kyoto, Terri Omori thanked Kemi for arranging for representation from all eight districts.

28. E-20 ART COMMITTEE

Terri Omori announced the Art Committee is no longer Ad Hoc, now a standing committee chaired by Rev. Dennis Fujimoto.

Rev. Fujimoto reported looking forward to the third annual exhibit coming this fall. Added new committee members. Will be sharing art during the 2024 National Council Meeting. Looking forward to working with Kemi and the BCA Music Committee. Appreciation expressed for the enthusiastic participation from the Sangha bringing new people forward to share their art. Terri thanked Rev. Fujimoto for creating a space for members to express their artistry.

29. E-10 ARCHIVES AND HISTORICAL PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

Terri Omori thanked chair Sandy Saeki for all the time and effort given to this committee. Sandy noted no additions to the report. Thanked Robert Noguchi for all his help in relocating archival materials from San Francisco to Berkeley and for relocating all the AV materials to the upper floors of the JSC. With the help of Jane Naito, Billy and Sandy Saeki were able to review and prepare for potential submission to UCLA. UCLA fiscal year begins July 1st and working on discussions to set up for submissions.

Working with the 125th Anniversary Committee to locate needs from the Archive Committee. No formal plans yet. Goal is to complement other components rather than duplicate.

Rev. Marvin Harada inquired about materials in possession of the committee. Sandy clarified that the committee does not have items in their possession. Collection was donated to UCLA which gave UCLA ownership. Can view listing of items held by UCLA. Rev. Harada hoping the committee can assist with search for historical photos for the BCA calendar. Sandy noted if a specific request is made, they can contact UCLA with the specific request of the type of item and then may be able to view.

Kemi Nakabayashi expressed appreciation for Sandy's participation on the Music History Sub-Committee. Much overlap between this subcommittee and the Archive's Committee. Terri noted how many committees have overlap and how great it is to see this collaborative effort.

30. E-8 MINISTERIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Glenn Kitasoe noted the MAC committee advocates for our ministers. Working with Rev. Kenji Akahoshi on a Dharma Forward grant to assist our ministers. Koichi Mizushima is a great asset to our ministers assisting with their benefits, changes in benefits, changes of address, etc. Glenn expressed appreciation for Koichi's participation with the committee.

31. CONSENT AGENDA

Terri thanked all district representatives and committee chairs for their reports. Thanked all in attendance for their efforts to keep our Sanghas together. Thank you to all who were called upon to share.

MOTION: TO ACCEPT THE CONSENT AGENDA REPORTS

**CHERAL TSUCHIYA (EASTERN DISTRICT REP)/STEVE TERUSAKI (BCA EC) M/S/P BY
ACCLAMATION**

32. NCM FORMATTING POLL

Steve Terusaki introduced a poll to gather information on options for our National Council Meeting. Explanation that discussion has occurred with desire for in-person NCM. Northern California district will be doing so in 2024. Options: to have in-person every other year based upon election of Bishop, Minister's Association Board and Executive Committee and subsequent installation, virtual to acknowledge the financial burden upon districts/temples, neutral location with a BCA wide meeting committee. Noted that costs of rooms and hospitality have become quite expensive. Consider a neutral location such as Las Vegas in hope of securing lower costs for the rooms and hospitality. Las Vegas is just a sample of a possible neutral venue location. For virtual years consider a BCA wide committee.

Koichi Sayano reminded all of the issue with neutral locations without a temple is that all necessary items will need to be shipped. Becomes a logistical challenge.

Steve noted this is an exploratory exercise and thanked Koichi for his input. Noted this poll pertains to the NCM and not the NBM.

Koichi inquired if a hybrid format is a viable option. Glenn Inanaga responded the poll will give an idea of how this group feels about all the different options. Noted this is a straw poll format thus request each representative to apply to each of the three scenarios. To define "keep things the same" will keep the current rotation and allow the district to decide if in-person, virtual or hybrid. Straw poll only thus not a binding decision for the BCA. The Executive Committee is requesting representative input for future discussions on the organization of future NCMs. Poll designed for both voting and non-voting delegates to participate. Steve noted the poll is designed to guide future discussions.

Terri Omori requested NBM leaders to also ask this question of your district and temple leaders. Glenn added to please submit comments on these topics as well as the vote. Steve noted there are many other questions regarding logistics with each poll question. Any results from district discussion will be very helpful to the Executive Committee to help guide and plan future NCM. Rev. Marvin Harada, noted for 2024, cost reduction for hotel expenses by conducting all business and meals at the temple and only using the hotel for room accommodations.

Poll results:

*Would you be okay with alternating between an in-person NCM (hosted by a district) and a virtual NCM the other year

Voting members	Yes; 83.3%	No; 13.3%	Abstain; 3.3%
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Non-voting members	Yes; 6%	No; 1%	
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*Would you be okay with moving to an in-person NCM in a neutral territory like Las Vegas and organized by a special multi-district committee

Voting members	Yes; 72.0%	No; 28.0%	Abstain; 0%
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Non-voting members	Yes; 7%	No; 0%	Abstain; 0%
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*We would keep things the same

Voting members	Yes; 58.3%	No; 37.5%	Abstain; 7.7%
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Non-voting members	Yes; 6%	No; 0%	Abstain; 1%
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Glenn noted the results lean towards change however most would be okay if things were to remain the same.

33. NCM 2024 NORTHERN DISTRICT

Allan Yamashiro appreciated the conversation regarding possible change as the costs encountered during the 2024 planning presented a significant challenge. Change needs to be considered post-COVID.

Planning for 2024 is going well with committee meeting monthly. This will involve more effort by all the district temples due to preparation of the site and meals. The meeting schedule has been divided between virtual and in-person. Virtual component will be the Ministers' Association meeting and the workshops. Workshops being held virtually will allow for greater member participation. The in-person component will be the delegates meeting, IBS symposium and Eitaikyo Service. Location will be the Sacramento Betsuin.

NCM website population planned for June. Please check the BCANCM.org website, the same site used last year.

Early registration is expected to begin in October. Dates and brief outline included in this meeting packet.

Since this is the BCA 125th, looking forward to including some of the activities by the various committees as mentioned earlier in this meeting. Also planning a BCA wide silent auction which will wrap up during the NCM. Asking all district, BCA committees and affiliated organizations to consider donating to the silent auction. Proceeds will go to the Dharma Forward Campaign. Please contact Darlene Bagshaw at dbagshaw@bcahq.org with information. Darlene and Michiko Inanaga will work together to promote this auction. Seeking hand crafted and unique items or experiences from our Sangha members. Michiko expressed appreciation to the committee for setting up the auction to benefit Dharma Forward.

Koichi Sayano inquired if meeting will be on Zoom. Allan noted the meetings will not be on Zoom but the IBS Symposium and Eitaikyo Service will be broadcast. Koichi also inquired if committee chairs could deliver their report via Zoom. Terri Omori responded the EC has decided the format be in-person only to provide an opportunity for leaders go beyond providing a report but to also meet, share ideas and work together.

Dr. Kent Matsuda noted this format means the meeting location will not be where attendees will be staying, questioned if Sacramento has adequate parking. Has use of nearby parking been negotiated with the businesses? Allan noted this is in discussion. Allan also thanked Terri for her attendance and guidance in the planning process.

Hide Mizuno added this format was done in San Jose so knowledge can be shared. Inquired if the workshops will be virtual? Allan replied all workshops will be virtual. Hide requested time for an Endowment Foundation workshop. Terri requested notification if any other committee would like a workshop slot.

Kemi Nakabayashi inquired if the BCA Bookstore and Hongwanji Place will be present at the NCM. Allan noted space is available to work with those needing a place for displays. Madeline Kubo added the BCA Bookstore may have a few items to display but will primarily remain online for ordering.

34. NCM 2025 BAY DISTRICT

Bradley Menda announced the Bay District is happy to host the 2025 NCM. Will use the poll results and work with the EC in the format. More details will be announced at the December

NBM. Terri Omori asked if the committee has appointed a chair. Bradley noted they have not yet decided but for now he will serve as the point of contact.

35. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Glenn Inanaga shared the flyer for the Southern California performance of “Peace on Your Wings” hosted by JACCC in Little Tokyo. The cast is the performing group from Hawaii. This is a new cast of adults and children. The production was commissioned for the Hawaii Kyodan 125th anniversary. BCA, JACCC and the Keiro Senior Network Foundation have worked together to provide subsidized tickets to the performance. BCA temples are being given a discount code to purchase tickets which may be turned into a fundraiser for your temple. Tickets will be sold for \$35 each with a \$10 discount code. The \$10 differential can be used as a fundraiser or help defray group transportation costs. Flyer will be placed in the meeting folder. This cast will be traveling to next to Hiroshima. Jon Kawamoto added there will be an article on “Peace on Your Wings” in the July Wheel of Dharma.

Koichi Mizushima announced will be hosting a telethon with Michiko Inanaga. Will be broadcast live from the JSC. A formal ask will be coming for content about our BCA temples. Please submit video content on your temple, or an interview. Michiko added to search for those special people who have made valuable contributions to your temple.

36. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: TO ADJOURN THE JUNE NBM.

**REV. CANDICE SHIBATA (KYOKUCHO NORTHERN CAL)/LUANN LEE (SOUTHERN DISTRICT REP)
M/S/P BY ACCLAMATION**

Meeting adjourned by President Terri Omori at 12:18 PM.

Terri thanked everyone for attending and for their leadership. Thank you to Rev. Ron Miyamura who is attending his last NBM. Rev. Miyamura announced he will be retiring in November. Noted BCA has been a large part of his life. Acknowledged the BCA is in good hands with Terri and next with Steve Terusaki.

37. CLOSING GASSHO

Closing Gassho led by Rev. Harry Bridge.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Bagshaw

BCA Executive Committee Secretary

**BUDDHIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

SUMMARY OF MOTIONS FOR 2024 NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

March 23, 2023

MOTION: TO ACCEPT KOICHI MIZUSHIMA'S PROPOSAL WITH MODIFICATION OF ADDING AN ADDITIONAL MINISTER WHO IS WILLING TO PARTICIPATE (THUS TRIAL WILL BE TWO MINISTERS) AND NOT TO EXCEED \$1500 PER PERSON. THE CONSULTATION WILL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING STIPULATIONS: 1. KOICHI MIZUSHIMA MUST BE ALLOWED TO ATTEND ALL INTERACTIONS, 2. KOICHI MIZUSHIMA WILL REPORT BACK TO THE EC ON WHAT WAS LEARNED AND IF THE MINISTER PERCEIVED A VALUE. IF A TREND OR COMMONALITY EXISTS, IT WILL BE HIGHLIGHTED FOR EC CONSIDERATION.

GLENN INANAGA/STEVE TERUSAKI M/S/P

MOTION: TO MOVE THE SFAP FUNDS FROM THE BCA INTO THE BCA ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION AS PER STANDARD PRACTICE.

JOHN ARIMA/GLENN INANAGA M/S/P

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE DFAB RECOMMENDATION FOR ALLOCATION OF \$5K FROM THE DFC TO THE BCA MUSIC COMMITTEE FOR THE COMMISSION OF NOBUKO MIYAMOTO FOR THE MUSIC AND DANCE, KANGIE IN 2022. APPLICATION DATE 12/3/21.

GLENN INANAGA/JOHN ARIMA M/S/P

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE SOCIAL WELFARE COMMITTEE REQUEST FOR GRANT ALLOCATION AS FOLLOWS:

COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FOR MONTEREY COUNTY \$10,000

DARLENE BAGSHAW/JOHN ARIMA M/S/P

April 23, 2023

No recorded motions

August 13, 2023

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE RECOMMENDATION OF DONATING \$50K FROM THE BCA SOCIAL WELFARE COMMITTEE TO THE HONPA HONGWANJI MISSION OF HAWAII MAUI WILDFIRE RELIEF FUND.

STEVE TERUSAKI/REV. HARRY BRIDGE M/S/P

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE SOCIAL WELFARE COMMITTEE: (VIA EMAIL COMPLETED BY 7/5/23)

TEMPLE MATCHING GRANT - MOUNTAIN VIEW BUDDHIST TEMPLE - \$1,500 - THE 5&6TH GRADE DHARMA SCHOOL STUDENTS RAISED \$1,500 FOR GIFT CARDS GIVEN TO THE ALAS (AYUDANDO LATINOS A SONAR) AGENCY, HALF MOON BAY, TO DISTRIBUTE TO FARMWORKERS.. AN ADDITIONAL \$1500 WILL BE USED TO PURCHASE MORE GIFT CARDS FOR DISTRIBUTION

GENERAL GRANT - STOCKTON BUDDHIST WOMEN'S ASSOC IS REQUESTING A \$5,000 GRANT FOR THE CHILDREN'S HOME OF STOCKTON. FUNDS WILL BE USED FOR THE SHORT TERM RESIDENTIAL THERAPEUTIC PROGRAM AND THE CATALYST PROGRAM, ESTABLISHED TO HELP YOUTH TRANSITIONING OUT OF FOSTER CARE.

JEFF MATSUOKA/DARLENE BAGSHAW M/S/P

MOTION: TO ENGAGE FINANCIAL ADVISEMENT SERVICES WITH RETIREMENT DNA (AFTER RETIREMENT DNA PRESENTATION DURING DEBRIEF ON 7/6/23)

JEFF MATSUOKA/GLENN INANAGA. M/S/P BY UNANIMOUS CONSENT

MOTION: TO REQUEST THE ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION BEGIN THE PROCESS OF AMENDING THE MINISTERIAL SUPPORT ACCOUNT CHARTER TO ALLOW FULL ACCESS TO THE FUNDS.

STEVE TERUSAKI/DARLENE BAGSHAW M/S/P

September 24, 2023

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE REVISED BCA YOUTH PROTECTION POLICY AS AMMENDED IN TODAY'S MEETING.

GLENN INANAGA/STEVE TERUSAKI M/S/P

MOTION: TO APPROVE A REVISION TO THE ELIGIBILITY PERIOD FOR BCA GROUP BENEFITS BY HAVING SUCH BENEFITS BECOME EFFECTIVE ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE MONTH AFTER THE INITIAL 30 CALENDAR DAYS FROM THE DATE OF HIRE.

GLENN INANAGA/STEVE TERUSAKI M/S/P

MOTION: TO ACCEPT THE DFAB RECOMMENDATION FOR THE PROGRAM REQUESTED BY THE OUTREACH AND TECHNOLOGY PILLAR AS OUTLINED IN THE GRANT DOCUMENTATION IN THE GOOGLE DRIVE.

STEVE TERUSAKI/GLENN INANAGA M/S/P

November 12, 2023

MOTION: TO NOMINATE SUMI TANABE FOR THE BUDDHIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA LIFETIME SERVICE AWARD.

GLENN INANAGA/REV. HARRY BRIDGE M/S/P

November 19, 2023

MOTION: TO DIRECT THE BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE TO INCREASE THE CURRENT RECOMMENDED DUES ASSESSMENT REVENUE AMOUNT TO \$6K ABOVE THE PREVIOUS FISCAL YEAR AMOUNT TO RESTORE THE FULL IBS BUDGET REQUEST AND MAKE OTHER ADJUSTMENTS TO BALANCE THE BUDGET.

GLENN INANAGA/STEVE TERUSAKI M/S/P

December 17, 2023

No recorded motions.

January 14, 2024

(Ratification of Online Vote)

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE SOCIAL WELFARE COMMITTEE GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS AS FOLLOWS FOR A TOTAL DISBURSEMENT OF \$16,500:

WATSONVILLE BUDDHIST TEMPLE (SALVATION ARMY MEALS)	\$4,500
FAMILY PROMISE (STOCKTON TEMPLE GRANT APPLICATION)	\$7,500
METTA CALANN (WALNUT GROVE BUDDHIST TEMPLE GRANT APP)	\$2,000
NORTH SIDE HOUSING (MIDWEST BUDDHIST TEMPLE GRANT APP)	\$2,500

JEFF MATSUOKA/REV. HARRY BRIDGE M/S/P

REPORT FROM THE OFFICE OF THE BISHOP
BCA Ministers Association Meeting February 16, 2024 (zoom)
BCA National Council Meeting February 23-24, 2024 (Buddhist Church of Sacramento)
“The Right Time is Now”
BCA Theme for 2024

MINISTERIAL ASSIGNMENTS

Rev. Diana Thompson returned to the BCA ministry and was assigned on a part-time basis to the Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple, effective February 15, 2023.

Rev. Melissa Opel, Minister’s Assistant for the Spokane Buddhist Temple, has been assigned to the Buddhist Church of San Francisco as a full-time Kyoshi minister, effective June 1 2023.

Rev. Kurt Rye was re-appointed as Kaikyoshi of the BCA and has been assigned to the New York Buddhist Church, Seabrook Buddhist Temple, and Ekoji Buddhist Temple, effective September 1, 2023.

Rev. Ronald Miyamura of the Midwest Buddhist Temple retired from the BCA ministry on October 31, 2023.

Rev. Todd Tsuchiya was appointed Kaikyoshi resident minister of the Midwest Buddhist Temple, effective November 1, 2023.

Rev. Katsuya, Kusunoki, supervising minister of the White River Buddhist Temple, concludes this assignment on October 31, 2023.

Rev. Cynthia Yasaki was appointed Kaikyoshi resident minister of the White River Buddhist Temple, effective November 1, 2023.

Rev. Mieko Majima, former minister of the Homba Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, has joined the BCA as a kaikyoshi minister. Rev. Majima was assigned to the BCA Office of the Bishop from January 1-31, 2024. Effective February 1, 2024, Rev. Majima has been assigned resident minister of the Buddhist Church of Fowler, Hanford Buddhist Church, Buddhist Church of Parlier, Reedley Buddhist Church and Visalia Buddhist Temple.

Rev. Kakei Nakagawa, Rinban of the Fresno Betsuin Buddhist Temple and resident minister of the Buddhist Church of Parlier and Buddhist Church of Fowler, has announced that he will retire from the BCA ministry on February 29, 2024.

Rev. Kazuaki Nakata, resident minister of the Hanford Buddhist Church, Reedley Buddhist Church, and Visalia Buddhist Temple, will conclude these assignments on January 31, 2024. Rev. Nakata has also been appointed Rinban of the Fresno Betsuin Buddhist Temple, effective March 1, 2024.

OBITUARY NOTICE

MRS. YUMIKO HOJO, wife of the late Rev. Ejitsu Hojo, BCA Minister Emeritus, passed away February 26, 2023 at the age of 101 in San Jose, California. Mrs. Hojo is survived by her son, Tetsu (Gail) Hojo (1463 E. Juana Avenue, San Leandro, CA, 94577).

Over the decades, Mrs. Hojo played a major role in the BCA's music history, forming choral groups, organizing choir tours to Southern California, the Pacific Northwest, Canada, and Hawaii, and composing a number of gathas which continue to be enjoyed today.

The funeral services for Mrs. Hojo was held on Thursday, April 20, 2023 at the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin, 640 N. 5th Street, San Jose, CA, 95112.

REV. TETSUNEN HERBERT HIROTA, BCA Minister Emeritus, passed away on March 6, 2023 in Gardena, California at the age of 94. Throughout his ministry in the BCA, Rev. Hirota served at the Oregon Buddhist Temple, Enmanji Buddhist Temple, Idaho-Oregon Buddhist Temple, Watsonville Buddhist Temple, and Pasadena Buddhist Temple.

Rev. Hirota is survived by his wife, Mrs. Sachiko Hirota (16831 Mayflower Circle, Gardena, CA, 90247), son, Dr. William (Emillie) Hirota, and daughter, Ayako (James) Hirano.

The funeral service for Rev. Hirota, co-officiated by the Buddhist Churches of America and the Pasadena Buddhist Temple was held on March 25, 2023 at the Pasadena Buddhist Temple.

Rev. LaVERNE SENYO SASAKI, BCA Minister Emeritus, passed away on March 31, 2023 in South San Francisco, California at the age of 93. Throughout his ministry in the BCA, Rev. Sasaki served at the Buddhist Church of Sacramento, Buddhist Church of Stockton, Mountain View Buddhist Temple, and Buddhist Church of San Francisco.

Rev. Sasaki is survived by his wife, Mrs. Helen Sasaki (2840 Evergreen Drive, San Bruno, CA, 94066), and children, Brian (Lorin) Sasaki, Sharon Sasaki (Robert Yamamoto), Stanton (Lisa) Sasaki, Ellen (Gus) Maseba, and Rina (Eric) Vignola.

The funeral service for Rev. Sasaki, co-officiated by the Buddhist Churches of America and the Mountain View Buddhist Temple was held on April 30, 2023 at the Mountain View Buddhist Temple.

MR. KIYOSHI NAITO, BCA past president (1988 & 1989) and Co-Chairman of the BCA's Centennial Celebration in 1999, passed away on May 31, 2023 at the age of 88. The funeral service for Mr. Naito was held at the Buddhist Church of San Francisco on Saturday, June 17, 2023. Mr. Naito is survived by his wife, Mrs. Tazuko Naito (1400 Geary Blvd., #2203, San Francisco, CA, 94109), and daughter, Jane Naito.

Rev. Dr. Seigen Yamaoka, BCA minister emeritus, passed away on December 15, 2023 in Seal Beach, California at the age of 89. A funeral service co-officiated by the Buddhist Churches of America and the Buddhist Church of Oakland was held on January 20, 2024 at the Buddhist Church of Oakland.

Throughout his ministry in the BCA, Rev. Dr. Yamaoka served as the resident minister of the Buddhist Church of Oakland and Buddhist Church of Stockton. He also served as Bishop of the Buddhist Churches of America and President of the Institute of Buddhist Studies.

Rev. Dr. Yamaoka is survived by his daughters, Jennifer Davis (Ryan Davis), residing at 17111 Newquist Lane, Huntington Beach, CA, 92649, and Stacy Yamaoka (Christopher Anderson).

Mr. George Teraoka, father of Mrs. Janet (Rev. Kodo) Umezu, passed away on December 26, 2023 in Fowler, California at the age of 102. Mr. Teraoka's funeral service was held on January 27, 2024 at the Buddhist Church of Fowler. In addition to Janet Umezu (805 Evergreen Avenue, San Leandro, CA, 94577), Mr. Teraoka is also survived by sons, Tom (Jenny) Teraoka, Steve (Marsha) Teraoka, Robert Teraoka, and daughter, Kathy (Doren) Lee.

NEW TASK FORCE CREATED

A new BCA task force on "Buddhism and Spiritual and Psychological Well-Being" has been created by President Terri Omori and myself. Chairing this new task force will be Greg Krech, well-known Naikan Therapist from the Todo Institute in Vermont. The new task force will help to create a strategy and programs at the local, district, and BCA level to begin to address how Buddhism can help people deal with the myriad of challenges in our spiritual and psychological life. Serving on this task force are DeeDee Just, from the Vista Buddhist Temple, Nancy Clifton-Hawkins from the Orange County Buddhist Church, Sydney Shiroyama from the Palo Alto Buddhist Temple, DJ Ida from the Tri-State Buddhist Temple, Lewis Shaw from the Longmont Buddhist Temple, and Morris Sullivan, from the Bright Dawn Dharma Center.

HONGWANJI-HA SOKYOKU ADMINISTRATION CHANGES

The Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha announced the following changes to the Sokyoku administrative governing body following a meeting of the Hongwanji General Assembly, effective June 1, 2023:

Governor General	Rev. Gyoshin Ikeda	池田 行信
Governor	Rev. Shoyu Ogino	荻野 昭裕
Governor	Rev. Shoshin Kumona	公文名正真
*Governor	Rev. Keisuke Miyoshi	三好 慶祐
*Vice-Governor	Rev. Shoshi Kato	加藤 尚史

(*The Governor and Vice-Governor in charge of the Overseas Propagation (International) Department.)

MAUI FIRE DISASTER RELIEF

The BCA took swift action to help with the devastating fires in Maui in full support of the Hompa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. The social welfare committee granted \$50,000 from the BCA Social Welfare fund, and the BCA made it possible for anyone to donate on the BCA website through Kindful. Information on how to donate directly to the Hawaii Kyodan was also shared with BCA temple leaders.

Statement regarding the Wildfires and Destruction in Maui, Hawaii

We are all watching in great sadness and horror, the loss of life and destruction of homes and communities in Maui, Hawaii, due to the devastating wildfires. Our thoughts go to all there who have lost loved ones, homes, businesses, temples and churches, and their community. What a tremendous loss for everyone.

I recall a story from the Jataka Tales in our Buddhist tradition. Once there was a huge forest fire and all of the animals in the forest were running away from the fire for safety. One little bird was flying into a lake, dipping its wings in water, then flying over the forest fire dropping little drops of water to fight the fire. Back and forth the little bird flew. The other animals shouted to the little bird, “What are you doing? You cannot put out the fire that way?!” The little bird shouted back, “I may not be able to stop the fire, but this is all that I can do. I must try.”

In the face of such devastation, we will all do what we can do, whether it is to contribute to the disaster relief, to share our encouragement, or for those in Maui, to begin to rebuild, one step at a time, doing what they can do.

Gassho,
Rev. Marvin Harada
Bishop
Buddhist Churches of America

SEATTLE BETSUIN BUDDHIST TEMPLE FIRE

The Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple suffered considerable fire and water damage due to an arsonist on December 31, 2023. A second fire reignited on January 2, 2024 as a result of smoldering remnants of the first fire, which caused further damage to the temple. The Seattle Betsuin is currently in the process of accessing the damage caused by these fires. You can find more detailed information and photos of the damage on the temple’s website:

www.seattlebetsuin.com

Your assistance and support of the Seattle Betsuin would be greatly appreciated. Donations can be made to the temple through the Seattle Betsuin Arson Restoration Fund by going to link: seattlebetsuin.org/fire

Contributions can also be made by check. Please make checks payable to SEATTLE BUDDHIST CHURCH and include “Arson Restoration Fund” in the memo line, and mail to: Seattle Buddhist Temple, 1427 S. Main Street, Seattle, WA, 98144.

2023 HAWAII STATE MINISTERS SEMINAR

The Hompa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii’s State Ministers Seminar was held via Zoom on June 6-8, 2023. Rev. Tadao Koyama of the Tacoma Buddhist Temple and Rev. Todd Tsuchiya of the Midwest Buddhist Temple represented the BCA at their seminar. Speakers for the seminar were BCA Bishop, Rev. Marvin Harada, and Rev. Shoukei Matsumoto of Tokyo, Japan (author of book, A MONKS GUIDE TO CLEAN HOUSE AND MIND).

TRIP TO JAPAN – Shinju Shiki Confirmation by the Gomonshu

I travelled to Japan for the first time since the pandemic from July 23 – August 2, 2023. On July 28, I received confirmation by the Gomonshu (*Shinjushiki*) along with the new Bishop from Hawaii, Bishop Toshiyuki Umitani. It was a most meaningful and solemn ceremony, with only the Gomonshu, new Governor General, Bishop Gyoshin Ikeda, Rev. Umitani and myself. It was held in the *Shiro Shoin* (White Chambers) within the Hongwanji. Rev. Michael Endo and my wife Gail accompanied me on the trip.

After the ceremony, Bishop Umitani and I had a 45-minute audience with the Gomonshu.

Over the course of the week that we were in Japan, we had numerous meetings and dinners with various Hongwanji officials. We had dinner with the new Somu and Fuku- Somu, Revs. Keisuke Miyoshi and Naofumi Kato, who are in charge of the overseas kyodans.

We also had an audience with Rev. Yuhiko Yasunaga, who did so much innovative work with Tsukiji Hongwanji, and is now trying to do the same with our Nishi Hongwanji. We had an audience with him for about one hour and we spoke in English. His English is excellent.

10 MEMBERS OF THE BCA TO JAPAN FOR TOKUDO ORDINATION

On December 6-16, 2023, 10 members of the BCA underwent training at the Nishiyama Betsuin and Training Center and received tokudo ordination at the Hongwanji in Kyoto, Japan. The group was accompanied by Bishop Marvin Harada, Rev. Michael Endo, Executive Assistant to the Bishop, and Rev. Katsuya Kusunoki, Rinban of the Seattle Betsuin. Those who received tokudo were:

Sterling Davenport – Vista Buddhist Temple
 JP deGuzman – San Fernando Valley Hongwanji Buddhist Temple
 Stacy Reardon – San Fernando Valley Hongwanji Buddhist Temple
 John Mullins – Berkeley Buddhist Temple/Las Vegas Buddhist Sangha
 Devon Matsumoto – Mountain View Buddhist Temple
 Michael Jones – San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin
 Igor Makasyuk – Palo Alto Buddhist Temple
 James Aoki – Salt Lake Buddhist Temple
 Geoffrey Russell – Sal Lake Buddhist Temple
 Blake Honda – Buddhist Church of Fowler/Berkeley Buddhist Temple

Throughout the 10-day training our BCA members, together with some 55 members from throughout Japan, endured a rigorous daily schedule. Each day began at 5am with cleaning duties, conducting or participation in services, lectures, discussions and tests, and ended at 11pm. The BCA members performed admirably and the instructors at Nishiyama Training Center were impressed by their preparation, memorization and recitation of difficult material in Japanese.

KYOSHI KYOSHU TRAINING & CERTIFICATION AT JODO SHINSHU CENTER

A Kyoshi Kyoshu training and certification will take place again at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley from October 30 – November 8, 2024. 7 members from the BCA and 3 members from Europe will be taking part in this Kyoshi Kyoshu.

KIESHIKI AFFIRMATION CEREMONY

The Kieshiki Affirmation Ceremony was conferred upon for members of the following BCA temples by Rev. Marvin Harada, Bishop:

Ekoji Buddhist Temple	January 8, 2023	13 members
New York Buddhist Church & Albany Buddhist Sangha	January 15, 2023	30 members
Longmont Buddhist Temple	April 23, 2023	8 members
BCA Individual Members & Berkeley Buddhist Temple (Zoom)	May 3, 2023	12 members
BYR Group @ Jodo Shinshu Center	July 1, 2023	13 members
Vista Buddhist Temple	July 16, 2023	1 member
Oregon Buddhist Temple	July 22, 2023	2 members
Buddhist Church of Lodi	October 1, 2023	1 member
Orange County Buddhist Church	October 15, 2023	1 member
Twin Cities Buddhist Association	October 28, 2023	20 members
Midwest Buddhist Temple	October 29, 2023	28 members
Salt Lake Buddhist Temple	November 5, 2023	9 members
Ogden Buddhist Temple	November 5, 2023	18 members
Arizona Buddhist Temple	November 19, 2023	18 members
Ekoji Buddhist Temple	January 7, 2024	10 members
Albany Buddhist Sangha	January 16, 2024	7 members

MINISTER'S ASSISTANT CERTIFICATION

The following members of the BCA were certified as a Minister's Assistants by Rev. Marvin Harada, Bishop of the BCA:

Amanda Gyofu Goodwin	Spokane Buddhist Temple	January 29, 2023
Arturo Gakushin Rubio	Buddhist Temple of San Diego	February 19, 2023
Sharon Kosen Sasaki	Buddhist Temple of San Diego	February 19, 2023
Yukari Kosen Williams	Buddhist Temple of San Diego	February 19, 2023
Eli Tenchiku Brown	Midwest Buddhist Temple	March 26, 2023
Sterling Shido Davenport	Vista Buddhist Temple	July 16, 2023
Teresa Kakusho Shimogawa	Orange County Buddhist Church	October 15, 2023
Debra Jikyo Ting	Twin Cities Buddhist Assn.	October 28, 2023
John Sokusho Digilio	Los Angeles Betsuin	November 26, 2023

Through this certification, Minister's Assistants are granted the privilege of conducting regular services, delivering messages, and carrying out other religious activities under the guidance of their resident or supervising minister.

LION'S ROAR BOARD

I have been asked to serve on the board of Lion's Roar, a popular Buddhist publication. At the first meeting I learned a lot about their publication and propagational efforts.

BUDDHAMAP APP

The BCA is a part of the International Buddhist Association of America (IBAA) and I serve on their board as well. Recently, the IBAA worked to create an app called "BuddhaMap" which shows every Buddhist center, church, or temple in the United States. It is a free app that anyone can download. All of our BCA churches and temples are listed on the BuddhaMap app.

PODCASTS NOW AVAILABLE

The BCA now has podcasts of my weekly Dial the Dharma recordings in English and Spanish, as well as Japanese recordings done by our ministers from Japan. Check it out on our BCA website, by clicking on “learn” then “podcasts.”

ONGOING PROGRAMS FROM OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

The following programs continue monthly as a way to reach out to more people and potential new members:

BCA Individual Members monthly Zoom Dharma Gathering
Texas sangha monthly Zoom Dharma gathering
Weekly English, Japanese, & Spanish Dial-the Dharma messages

BCA President's Report
BCA National Council Meeting
February 23-24, 2024

Shinran Shonin 800th & 850th Commemorative Services & World Buddhist Women's Convention:

Many of our BCA ministers and members attended the 850th anniversary of the birth of Shinran Shonin and the 800th anniversary of the founding of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism commemorative service on May 10, 2023. Following this milestone event, the World Buddhist Women's Convention was held. Acknowledgement to our BCA FBWA and BCA Music Committee for composing and sharing the beautiful song, *With Gassho From The Heart*. The BCA will acknowledge Shinran Shonin's 800th & 850th anniversaries in conjunction with BCA's 125th Anniversary commemorative service on September 1, 2024. We will have a triple celebration!

BCA 125th Anniversary:

This year marks 125 years of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in the continental United States. Rev. Harada, Bishop, has selected the BCA 2024 theme, *The Right Time is Now*, a quote by Rennyō Shonin. The right time is Now, for us to express deep gratitude to all those before us and the causes and conditions that have allowed us to receive the Dharma. The right time is Now, for all of us to ensure that Shinran Shonin teachings continue to be shared for future generations. We will kick off the celebration at the NCM banquet and continue the celebration throughout the year. As leaders, let us gather our members, our temple families, and as one Sangha let's celebrate together, share our wonderful tradition to many, and continue to move the Dharma forward.

BCA Executive Committee Retreat, June 2 & 3, 2023

The Executive Committee along with Gayle Noguchi, BCA Director of Operations, met at the Jodo Shinshu Center. Finally, we were able to meet in person and have in depth discussions regarding the welfare of BCA. We focused on two topics, Governance and BCA's Vision and Strategic Plan. The governance discussion developed a plan to improve efficacy with the day-to-day operations and improve communications and efficiency with our BCA Committees. Policies were implemented giving the Director of Operations the opportunity to make specific decisions especially regarding facility projects. For our BCA Committees a staff member is now part of their team. The staff member provides support to the committee as a resource and liaison. The staff member reports to Gayle on action items and discussion points.

To support the BCA Vision and Strategic Planning Committee the Executive Committee revisited the 2005 BCA Plan. This living document is in the BCA Guidebook. Discussion included if the mission and vision statements and the plan describe BCA today. The Executive Committee will work together with the VSP committee.

Both topics will continue to be developed. The Executive Committee held a follow up meeting on October 15 to continue discussions. They have continued meeting every other week since November with the Vision and Strategic Planning Committee. During the NCM your thoughts, input and participation will help the committee as they develop a mission and vision statement that will fit with our BCA today and as we look towards the future.

Bishop's Selection Committee, September 30, 2023

It was an honor to chair the Bishop's Selection Committee and to work together with Rev. Harry Bridge, BCA Minister's Association Chairperson, who served as the Vice Chairperson to the Bishop's Selection Committee. Rev. Bridge, Darlene Bagshaw, BCA Secretary and myself conducted the Zoom meeting from the Jodo Shinshu Center. The eight Districts of the BCA were represented by the following minister and lay representatives:

Bay: Rev. Takashi Miyaji, Bradley Menda
 Central Cal: Rev. Kazuaki Nakata, Norman Otani
 Coast: Rev. Dennis Shinseki, Linda Kadani
 Eastern: Rev. Ron Miyamura, Tammy Wetzel
 Mountain States: Rev. Nariaki Hayashi, Jackie Tono
 Northern Cal: Rev. Candice Shibata, Peggy Okabayashi
 Northwest: Rev. Katsuya Kusunoki, Leanne Nishi-Wong
 Southern: Rev. Koho Takata, Jeannie Toshima

Rev. Harada was nominated from the BCA Minister's Association. After an engaging question and answer session between the committee members and Rev. Harada a vote was taken. Rev. Marvin Harada was unanimously elected to serve a second term of four years (2024-2028). The vote was ratified at the December 2, 2023 BCA National Board Meeting.

BCA Staff In-Service, November 1, 2023

Gayle Noguchi coordinated a Staff In-Service at the Jodo s Center. This year's focus was on the core values as an employee of BCA. We are very fortunate to have a dedicated staff that goes above and beyond. They want to be here for BCA, and they support each other with mutual respect. There was also a Q&A session regarding the new governance structure and their role as a team member to the BCA committees.

BCA Film & Video Ad Hoc Committee

Through the recommendation of Rev. Harada, Bishop, the newest BCA Ad Hoc committee has been formed. Chaired by Mr. Glen Tao of the Los Angeles Hompa Hongwanji Temple, this committee is currently assisting with special projects for the BCA.

Candidate Affiliated Organization

It was approved at the December 2, 2023 National Board meeting to accept the request for the Sr. Young Buddhist Association to reestablish themselves at the national level. Sr YBA will be a candidate affiliated organization of the BCA for at least one year. During this time, the organization will develop their bylaws and charter. The Sr YBA will be for 18 – 24 year-olds.

Meetings (All Zoom unless noted):

Executive Committee: Mar 26, Apr 23, Aug 13, Sep 24, Oct 15, Nov 12, Dec 17, Jan 14

National Board Meetings: June 3, December 2

BCA Staff: Mar 8, Aug 9, Oct 11, Nov 1 (In-service), Dec 13, Feb 14

Rev. Harada & Gayle: Mar 13, Apr 10, Jul 10, Aug 14, Sep 11, Dec 11, Jan 8, Feb 12

Gayle: many phone calls and in person meetings when at the JSC

Treasurer's Team: Mar 13, Apr 10, June 12, Jul 10, Aug 14, Sep 11, Oct 9, Nov 13, Dec 11, Jan 8, Feb 12

Steven Terusaki, President-Elect: Mar 22, Oct 12, Feb 20 and phone calls

Darlene Bagshaw & BCA 125th Anniversary Committee: Mar 16 Jun 20, Aug 8, Aug 25, Oct 20, Oct 26

Celeste Sterrett, SWC: Mar 22, Aug 28, Sep 21

Gary Mukai, PMC: Sep 22

NCM 2023 Planning Committee Post Meeting Mar 16

NCM 2024 Planning Committee Meeting: Mar 15, Apr 19, May 17, Jun 21, Jul 19, Aug 16, Sep 27, Oct 25, Nov 15, Jan 17, Feb 15

BCA Minister's Benefits with Retirement DNA: Apr 18, Jun 19, Jul 6, Aug 31, Nov 15

Dharma Forward Pillar Coordinator: Mar 11, May 30, Aug 22, Oct 10, Dec 4

DFAB: Jul 20, Aug 10

Archives Committee: Apr 26, Jun 20, Oct 16, Nov 28
 Bylaws: Jun 29
 Finance & Budget: Aug 19, Sep 9, Oct 10, Nov 4, Nov 11, Nov 18, Jan 27
 Music Committee: Mar 10, Mar 16, Jun 16, Aug 19, Sep 6, Sep 20, Oct 18, Oct 23, Oct 28, Dec 6,
 Dec 14, Jan 4, Jan 20, Jan 22, Jan 30
 MAC: Apr 14, Oct 4, Oct 6
 JCoD: May 31, Aug 27, Nov 5
 Real Estate: Aug 7, Nov 15, Dec 19, Jan 16
 SWC: Apr 1, Jun 17, Aug 28, Sep 23, Nov 4, Feb 1
 Vision & Strategic Planning: Jun 29, Oct 28, Nov 18, Dec 9, Dec 23, Jan 13, Jan 27, Feb 10
 Buddhism, Spiritual & Psychological Well Being Task Force: Jun 26
 Ad Hoc Committee Bloomquist Education: emails Mar 7, Mar 28, Oct 3, Jan 10, Jan 24
 Ad Hoc Committee Film & Video: Dec 27, Dec 28, Dec 30, Jan 21, Jan 26, Feb 10

CBE Board of Governors: Jun 1, Nov 28
 BCA Endowment Foundation Board of Trustees: Jun 10, Sep 9, Nov 11 at JSC, Feb 10
 IBS Board of Trustees: Mar 14, May 31 (Hybrid) at JSC, Sep 8 (Hybrid) at JSC, Nov 10 at JSC, Feb
 12 (Hybrid)
 IBS Special Committee: Mar 21, May 31 (Hybrid) at JSC, Sep 8 (Hybrid) at JSC, Sep 26, Nov 10,
 Jan 26
 Bishop's Selection Committee Meeting: Sep 30 Hybrid
 World Jodo Shinshu Coordinating Council Meeting: Sep 30
 Dae Kim Project: Sep 27, Oct 17, Oct 31 (In person)
 Eagle Scout Project: Oct 19, Dec 13
 Gold Award Project Interview: Dec 8
 Soji Kashiwagi: Grateful Crane: Dec 21
 CBE Leaders Workshop Planning: Nov 3
 Women of BCA: Seminar Planning Jan 17, Jan 31, Feb 28

Events & Special Services:

Rev. Tetsuden Hirota Funeral Service, Mar 25
 Rev. LaVerne Sasaki Funeral Service, Apr 30 (Jeff Matsuoka attended on behalf of BCA)
 Rev. Ensei Nekoda Funeral Service, Nov 2
 Rev. Seigen Yamaoka Funeral Service, Jan 20, 2024
 IBS Commencement, May 19 via Zoom
 IBS Eitaikyo Service, Nov 9 at JSC
 Eastern District Council Meeting, Apr 15 via Zoom, Oct 7 via Zoom
 Northwest District Council Meeting: Sep 15 (Rev. Harada & Darlene Bagshaw attended)
 Southern District Council Meeting, May 26, Feb 9 via Zoom
 JSIO IMOP Student Discussion with Rev. Giei Sasaki: Sep 8 at JSC
 FBWA Delegates Meeting: Oct 21 via Zoom
 Chef's Table, Nov 10 at JSC
 CBE Temple Leaders Workshop, Feb 2-3, 2024 in person

Respectfully submitted,
 Gassho,

Terri Omori, President
 Buddhist Churches of America
 tomori@bcahq.org

CENTER FOR BUDDHIST EDUCATION (CBE) REPORT

BCA National Council Meeting

February 23, 2024

CBE ONLINE SEMINARS feature a broad range of speakers. These seminars explore the dharma from three broad perspectives: academic/doctrinal, popular culture, and practical applications. The seminars aim to inspire multigenerational sangha leaders, ministers, minister's assistants, members and the broader public to appreciate Shinran Shonin's teachings.

SEMINARS from Jan - Dec 2023

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Jan 28 | Winter Pacific Seminar at the Los Angeles Betsuin: <i>"HOPE" from Shinran's Perspective</i>
Speakers: Professor Jessica Main & Reverend Yasushi Kigoshi |
| Feb 4 | Temple Leadership Workshop - in-person and led by the BCA Ex. Committee (18 participants from 5 different Districts) |
| Mar 11 | CBE Living the Dharma Committee - <i>"Benefits of a Life of Gratitude: Benefits of Shin Buddhism"</i>
Part 1 Speaker: Rev. Kenji Akahoshi |
| Mar 18 | <i>"Shinjin"</i> Part 3 Speaker: Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto |
| May 6 | <i>"Shinjin"</i> Part 4 Speaker: Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto |
| May 13 | Buddhist Holidays Speaker: Rev. Jerry Hirano Youtube Premiere |
| May 26-27 | <i>Crossing Over</i> Seminar (hybrid) Speakers: Rev. Quirke-Thornton, Rev. Carmela Javellana-Hirano, Rev. Melissa Opel. Session about discovering Buddhism from other traditions |
| June 9-11 | <i>Yoga and Buddhism</i> Organized by Bob Matsueda Presenters: Rev. Bob Oshita - "Deep Connection", Hitomi Kuwahara - "Nantonaku Wagaru Yoga", Rev. Patti Oshita & Rick Kawamura - "Marketing & Temple Programs" |
| July 15 | CBE Living the Dharma Committee - <i>"Benefits of a Life of Gratitude: Benefits of Shin Buddhism"</i>
Part 2 Speakers: JP deGuzman <i>"I entered as a researcher & left as a Buddhist"</i> , Teresa Shimogawa <i>"I never intended on becoming a Buddhist... I was just the chauffeur"</i> , Sydney Shiroyama <i>"What I learned living with my Nisei Grandmother"</i> . |
| Aug 3 | CBE/IBS/JSIO Summer Pacific Seminar <i>"Women Liberating Buddhism"</i> speaker: Dr. Paula Arai |
| Oct 28 | CBE Living the Dharma Committee - <i>"Giving Back to the Community - Benefits of a Life of Gratitude: Benefits of Shin Buddhism"</i> Part 3 Speakers; Arturo Rubio <i>"Practicing Dana and the Act of Selfless Giving"</i> , Wes Mukoyama <i>"Stories of being a Jail Chaplain"</i> , Julie Watson and Gregg Bull <i>"How we give back to the Community"</i> . |

*All seminars are available on the CBE YouTube Channel at [CBE YouTube](#)

MAP (MINISTER'S ASSISTANT PROGRAM)

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|-------------|---|
| Jan 19 - 21 | Winter MAP/Tokudo Training Session 2 |
| Apr 20 - 22 | Spring MAP/Tokudo Training Session 3 |
| Jun 15 - 17 | Tokudo Aspirants Session 4 |
| July 20-22 | All MAP Session for Certified and Non-certified MAs |
| Dec 7- 9 | All MAP Session for Certified and Non-certified MAs |

2023 BYR (BCA YOUTH RETREAT) PROGRAMS

- Apr 29 CBE/Bay District Jr YBA Leaders Workshop:
CBE planned its first joint Jr YBA workshop event with the Bay District Jr YBA group. It was a wonderful one day event with 14 kids participating. We learned new leadership skills, and networked with other YBA kids in the district. We hope to continue this event with the Coast District members next year if they are interested.
- Jun 25 - Jul 1 The BYR Summer Program is still going strong finishing its 6th year, despite the pandemic. Over the past few years the pandemic has challenged us to reinvent the event, and find a way to continue on. And this summer proved to provide its own unique challenges as I tested positive on the first day of the week-long retreat. But with the help of the amazing BCA staff- Judy Kono, Michael Endo ,Rev Hirano, and student helpers Ellie Mizushima & Molly Maseba, we were able to still host the 14 attendees for this event! My gratitude to all of them can not be expressed. This is a testament to how important this program is for our youth. I look forward to next summer for another amazing program! Thank you all for continuing to support and promote this program.
- Nov 25-26 BYR & Friends Fall Reunion Event - This event was open to all high school and college age students. We had 14 total participants. It was a mix of past BYR participants, and a handful of first time attendees. It is always wonderful to be reunited with past students and to introduce new students to the program.
- Dec 15 - 17 BCA Sr YBA Event - This was one of the first BCA Sr YBA events held at the JSC in recent years. We had about 15 participants attend and the primary target was for college aged students. This event was student run, and they developed all of the workshops and activities. It was a wonderfully run event, and the students had a great time. I look forward to working with this group in the future. CBE is always here to provide support and assistance to our BCA Youth.

*Please make sure your contact information on my mailing list is up to date: [CONTACTS](#).

*To add any one, or make updates please contact Koichi at bkmizushima@bcahq.org.

SUPPORT/ASSISTANCE

March 25 BCA Music Committee's Obon Seminar

CBE BOARD OF GOVERNORS:

CHAIR: Ken Tanimoto (Watsonville Buddhist Temple)
VICE CHAIR: Carl Yanari (Palo Alto Buddhist Temple)
TREASURER: Rev. Koho Takata (West Los Angeles Buddhist Temple)
SECRETARY: Celeste Sterrett (Spokane Buddhist Temple)
BOARD MEMBERS: Rev. Yuki Sugahara (Oregon Buddhist Temple)
 Geoffrey Russell (Ogden Buddhist Temple)
 Rev. Melissa Opel (Buddhist Church of San Francisco)
EX-OFFICIO: Rev. Marvin Harada (BCA Bishop), Terri Omori (BCA President),
 Rev. Harry Bridge (Chair, Ministers Association), Dr. Leroy Morishita (Chair, IBS)

The CBE thanks everyone for their participation and generosity in supporting our programs and activities.

Submitted by

Rev. Jerry Hirano, CBE Director.

For more information visit: <https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/buddhist-education> Or email us: cbe@bcahq.org

Tentative CBE EVENTS CALENDAR 2024

as of 1/22/24

DEPT	DAY	DATE	AUDIENCE	LOCATION	EVENT
CBE/JSIO	Thu - Sat	1/25 - 1/27	Kyoshi Candidates	JSC	MAP - Kyoshi Training
CBE	Sat	1/27	Public	Gardena/ hybrid	Winter Pacific Seminar:
CBE	Fri-Sat	2/2-2/3	Temple Leaders	JSC	Temple Leaders Workshop
CBE (assists)	Sat	3/2	Public	Online	Bon Daiko Webinar
CBE	Thur-Sat	3/14-3/16	Minister Assistants	JSC	All MAP Session Reg link: https://forms.gle/vGqV3NBqrFnh8VV9
CBE	Thu-Sat	4/18-4/20	Kyoshi Candidates	JSC	MAP - Kyoshi Training
CBE	Sat	5/11	Public	JSC/Hybrid	Psychology of Shinjin
CBE	Fri-Sat	5/24-5/26	Public	JSC	Yoga Retreat
CBE	Thurs.	5/30	CBE Gov. Bd	Online	GB Meeting
CBE	Thu -Sat	6/6- 6/8	Kyoshi Candidates	JSC	MAP - Kyoshi Training
CBE	Sun - Sat	6/23- 6/29	High School Youths	JSC	BYR Summer Retreat
CBE/IBS/ JSIO	Fri-Sat	8/2 - 8/3	Public	JSC	Summer Pacific Seminar
CBE	Thu - Sat	8/15 - 8/17	Kyoshi Candidates	JSC	MAP - Kyoshi Training
BCA	Fri - Sat	8/30-8/31	Ministers	JSC	Fuken
CBE/BCA /DF	Fri - Sat	9/27-28	Public	JSC	Women of BCA
CBE	Fri - Sat	10/17-19	Minister Assistants	JSC	All MAP Session
CBE/JSIO	Wed-Fri	10/30 - 11/8	Kyoshi Candidates	JSC	KYOSHI - Certification
CBE	Fri-Sat	11/29-11/30	Youths	JSC	BYR Fall Reunion
CBE	Thurs	12/5	CBE Gov.Bd	Online	CBE Gov, Bd Mtg
CBE	Fr-Sun	12/13-12/15		JSC	CBE Event TBD

Buddhist Churches of America
National Council Meeting
February 23-24, 2024
Director of Operations Report
Respectfully submitted by Gayle Noguchi
Email: gnoguchi@bcahq.org
Mobile: 510-305-8835

As we commemorate BCA's 125th anniversary this year, it is both humbling and inspiring to gather together for the National Council Meeting at the Buddhist Church of Sacramento, the second-oldest temple in BCA, and to reflect on the courage, dedication, and perseverance of past generations. It is gratifying to serve as one of the 84,000 gates through which people encounter Shinran Shonin's Nembutsu teachings and discover a path that not only changes the trajectory of their lives, but also makes this world a better place for all. The film by Glen Tao shown at this year's Town Hall vividly expresses through just a handful of interviews what Jodo Shinshu has meant to thousands of Shin Buddhist followers in America throughout the decades. Without a doubt, we are facing formidable challenges, but together with our ministers, staff, lay leaders, members, and countless volunteers, we are creating a vibrant, sustainable, thriving BCA for the future. With gratitude, we embrace this responsibility, challenge, and opportunity.

The Executive Committee is committed to establishing strategies for success and setting the priorities, goals, and objectives of the organization. The Executive Committee is in the process of modifying the Director of Operations position to that of an Executive Director, responsible for achieving BCA's goals by organizing and mobilizing its operations. I look forward to working with each of you in this capacity.

Under the direction of the Executive Committee, we have reorganized the BCA operations to improve its efficiency and efficacy. We shall continuously monitor its success and make changes as needed.

The majority of Standing Committees now consist of:

- a Committee Chairperson,
- NEW: a Committee Vice Chair,
- One or more Ministerial advisors,
- Committee members who serve as subject matter experts, and
- NEW: a BCA Staff Liaison to provide support as deemed helpful such as keeping work on track and moving forward to completion.
- Ex-officio members (BCA President and Bishop)

Our ministers are our most valued resource. In support of their financial wellbeing and that of their families, BCA has engaged Retirement DNA to provide a variety of critical services. As a

first step, Rylen Yamamoto, Retirement DNA Managing Director, is presenting “The Basics of a 403(b)” for our ministers on Feb. 17th. Upon request, Retirement DNA is available to provide financial wellness education and private consulting for our ministers, helping ministers to create a plan that empowers them to reach their personal financial goals. This service is 100% free for the ministers.

BCA now has a 403(b) Plan oversight team that meets quarterly with Retirement DNA to monitor our retirement plan and optimize its value for our ministers and eligible employees.

We continue to draw on the expertise of third party administrator Elise Falk who helps us navigate the complexities of administering BCA’s defined benefit plan for our retiring and retired ministers and their widows.

The Jodo Shinshu Center (JSC) is now fully open and operating at an unprecedented level serving the needs of BCA as well as The Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS), Jodo Shinshu International Office (JSIO), BCA Endowment Foundation, and Ryukoku University. The JSC belongs to the BCA members and I encourage you to bring a group to visit the facility. Please consider holding a Leaders or Board Retreat at the JSC or giving your members who’ve never visited the JSC the chance to experience it. We welcome both one-day visits and longer overnight stays. The JSC calendar is quickly filling up for this year so please contact me as soon as possible if you’d like to explore this opportunity.

We are in the early stages of creating a Visitors Welcome Center at the JSC where all who come on site can learn about BCA. BCA youth attending programs will gain a sense of their role in carrying BCA’s legacy forward and shaping its future. As this project gets further along, we will be inviting JSC tenants to display information about their respective organizations in the Visitor Welcome Center to share who they are and what they do.

We are honored that Hongwanji-ha has once again authorized BCA to conduct Kyoshi Certification at the JSC this year. BCA has become a hub for training aspirants from all overseas districts who are pursuing ordination. It was groundbreaking two years ago when, for the first time in the history of Hongwanji-ha, Kyoshi Certification was conducted outside of Japan. We recognize that the overseas districts look to BCA for leadership in preparing for ordination.

Buddhist Education is at the heart of what we do. I am excited to share with you that the BCA Bookstore will be collaborating with CBE to enhance the experience of in-person programs at the JSC. The BCA Bookstore will open for scheduled hours during CBE events and a Guest Minister Resource will be available in the Bookstore to chat, to answer questions, and to make recommendations that support and inspire further learning and deeper engagement with Shin Buddhism.

Also, to better serve our BCA temples and members, we have formed a BCA Bookstore Advisory Committee. This Advisory Committee is composed of BCA ministers and members

who have retail bookstore and business experience. They will share their expertise by recommending best practices for efficient operations, and strategies for growth and success.

We are happy to welcome part-time Digital Content Assistant Stephanie Fong to our team. Stephanie joined the BCA staff on January 3rd. She is performing a broad range of duties in collaboration with the Communication Committee and Technology & Outreach Subcommittee (TOSC) to carry out BCA's communications and outreach strategy. We thank Alex Tsukahara for all his work and wish him well in his new job.

The headquarters elevator modernization has been completed. An additional stop was created to better serve the Buddhist Church of San Francisco's (BCSF) needs. Our thanks to BCSF for initiating and funding this additional elevator project and for their patience and cooperation during the elevator modernization.

Next month the Japanese Community Youth Council (JCYC) will expand their occupancy of the headquarters building to include a portion of the first floor, increasing their leased space to roughly 70% of the building. We are pleased to provide administrative office and meeting space for this vital nonprofit organization that enriches the lives of children from diverse communities in the San Francisco Bay Area.

I am also proud of the positive impact that BCA has had on local communities as well as around the globe through our Social Welfare Committee programs. The Social Welfare Committee continues to distribute funds to nonprofit organizations aiding those suffering from a deprivation of basic human needs. The temple Matching Grants, in many cases, double the financial impact of a temple's donation to a charitable organization in their local community. Social Welfare Disaster Relief Grants provide urgently needed financial support for those in crisis due to natural disasters such as the Maui fires of last year.

Last, I would like to express my enthusiasm that our Senior YBA age youth are pursuing Affiliated Organization status. I recently had the pleasure of meeting some of these impressive youth at a recent program they held at the JSC with Koichi Mizushima as their Advisor. Spend a little time with them and you can't help but feel hopeful about BCA's future.

These highlights are only a fraction of the many exciting things happening throughout BCA. I urge you to learn about all the major activities and accomplishments of the past year as shared in each Department, Committee, and Affiliated Organization report in this 2024 BCA Annual Report.

I'd like to thank our outstanding team of staff persons, President Terri Omori, Bishop Marvin Harada, the entire Executive Committee as well as our ministers, lay leaders and volunteers throughout BCA without whom these accomplishments would not have been possible.

Buddhist Churches of America Youth Protection Policy

Buddhist Churches of America (hereinafter “BCA”) prohibits and does not tolerate sexual, physical, or other forms of abuse or misconduct during any BCA organization-related activity. Those reasonably suspected or believed to have committed abuse will be reported to law enforcement authorities for criminal investigation and prosecution. No volunteer, board member, staff, or other person, regardless of his or her title or position, has the authority to commit or allow sexual, physical, or other forms of abuse.

A. OBJECTIVE

To protect youth from sexual, physical, and other forms of abuse while at BCA headquarters at 1710 Octavia St. San Francisco CA, at the BCA Jodo Shinshu Center at 2140 Durant Ave. Berkeley, CA, or at BCA sponsored events by (1) increasing awareness of our youth leaders, youth, and their families, (2) requiring the implementation of preventative measures, and (3) providing and acting upon an appropriate response plan. Such protection is intended to deter/protect through background screening, youth protection training, and providing guidance for responding to suspected abuse. To achieve these objectives, BCA has designated the Director of Operations to lead and coordinate its youth protection efforts.

B. SCOPE

All BCA employees and “Regular Volunteers” are subject to this BCA Youth Protection Policy. A “Regular Volunteer” is any person who is 18 years of age or older and who has direct contact with, or supervision of, children for more than 16 hours per month or 32 hours per year. The Center for Buddhist Education Youth Programs Coordinator shall provide the Director of Operations with the name, address, email, and phone number of any Regular Volunteer and will confirm the names of Regular Volunteers annually.

BCA will make every reasonable effort to have two authorized youth leaders present whenever administrators, employees, or volunteers are in contact with or supervising children.

C. BACKGROUND CHECKS

BCA employees and Regular Volunteers are required to have fingerprint-based background checks. Such background checks will search the California Department of Justice and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) national database for past and on-going criminal activity (i.e., not a one-time check). BCA has designated the Director of Operations as the Custodian of Records (COR) to oversee and manage the background checks. The COR shall be the primary point of contact for messages, notifications, and documentation with the California Department of Justice and other related agencies.

D. TRAINING

BCA Employees and Regular Volunteers are required to have appropriate Youth Protection Training every two years, or as otherwise determined by BCA. BCA will determine the appropriate youth training protection training. The Director of Operations will coordinate the compliance tracking process.

E. REPORTING OF ABUSE AND SUSPECTED ABUSE

BCA shall establish a BCA Board for Youth Protection composed of persons appointed by the Executive Committee. Allegations of abuse shall be promptly reported to the BCA Board for Youth Protection, Child Protective Services and/or appropriate law enforcement agencies. See Appendix A for contact information.

F. RESPONDING TO ABUSE AND SUSPECTED ABUSE

The BCA Board for Youth Protection shall ensure the timely reporting to law enforcement and/or Child Protective Services of all possible occurrences of abuse. BCA will cooperate fully with any criminal investigation conducted by law enforcement or other appropriate agencies. BCA will take every reasonable measure to ensure that those named as potential abusers will be suspended from their youth leadership activities during a criminal investigation conducted by law enforcement or appropriate agencies. The BCA Board for Youth Protection will discuss and act upon any criminal offenses reported to the Custodian of Record (COR) by the Department of Justice and will take corrective action as necessary. Corrective action may include discipline, suspension from youth activities, and termination of employment. Any information received by the COR and/or reviewed by the BCA Board for Youth Protection shall be treated with strict confidentiality.

G. ANTI-RETALIATION AND FALSE ALLEGATIONS

BCA prohibits retaliation against any employee or volunteer who lodges a good faith complaint of sexual, physical, or other forms of abuse or misconduct or who participates in any related investigation. Any instance of retaliatory conduct shall be investigated by the BCA Board for Youth Protection and may be considered grounds for disciplinary action, terminations of employment, or criminal prosecution. BCA prohibits making false or malicious misconduct allegations, as well as deliberately providing false information during an investigation. The appropriate response to a false accusation will be determined by the BCA Board for Youth Protection on a case-by-case basis, which may include criminal prosecution.

H. ORGANIZATION-SPECIFIC GUIDELINES

This document is intended to provide a consistent policy for BCA employees and volunteers with respect to youth protection on matters of abuse and suspected abuse.

I. SIGNED ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

BCA employees and Regular Volunteers will sign and agree to BCA's Youth Protection Policy prior to engaging in their designated role.

Appendix A Reporting Contact Information

Allegations of abuse shall be promptly reported to the BCA Board for Youth Protection and appropriate law enforcement agencies.

In addition to the BCA Board for Youth Protection, incidences and suspected incidences of child abuse or neglect may be reported confidentially by calling the Child Protective Services Hotline 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

For Berkeley: 510-259-1800 (Alameda County Department of Social Services)

For San Francisco: 800-856-5553 (San Francisco Human Services Agency)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF BCA YOUTH PROTECTION POLICY

I acknowledge that I received and read the BCA Youth Protection Policy. I understand that it is my responsibility to abide by all rules contained in the policy. I also understand how to report incidents of sexual, physical, or other forms of abuse as set forth in the policy, including retaliation against any volunteer exercising his or her rights under the policy. I agree to attend youth protection training every two years or earlier, as directed by BCA.

Signature _____ Date _____

Printed Name _____

AUTHORIZATION FOR BACKGROUND CHECK

I hereby authorize Buddhist Churches of America and its designated agents and representatives to conduct a Live Scan Fingerprint-Based Background Check for the position of volunteer or for employment, as applicable. I understand that the scope of this background check may include but is not limited to the following areas: current and previous residences and criminal history records from any criminal justice agency in any or all federal, state, county jurisdictions, driving records, birth records, and any other public records.

I further authorize any individual, company, firm, corporation, or public agency (including law enforcement agencies) to divulge any and all information, verbal or written, pertaining to me, to BCA or its agents. I authorize the complete release of any records or data pertaining to me which the individual, company, firm, corporation, or public agency may have, including information or data received from other sources.

I hereby release BCA and its agents, officials, representative, or assigned agencies, including officers, members of the Executive Committee, employees, or related personnel both individually and collectively, from any and all liability for damages of whatever kind, which may, at any time, result to me, my heirs, family, or associates because of compliance with this authorization and request to release.

Signature _____ Date _____

Printed Name _____

Parent / Guardian Consent (for minors under the age of 18 only):

By signing this form, I give my informed consent and authorization for BCA to perform a Live Scan Fingerprint-Based Background Check on my minor child. I understand that BCA shall maintain the confidentiality of the results of this background check on a strict need-to-know basis and in accordance with BCA’s Youth Protection Policy.

Parent / Guardian’s Signature _____ Date _____

Printed Name _____



Buddhist Churches of America
National Council Meeting
February 23 and 24, 2024

Interim Financial Statement
April 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023

National Headquarters
1710 Octavia Street, San Francisco, California 94109
Main (415) 776-5600 Facsimile (415) 771-6293

Jodo Shinshu Center
2140 Durant Avenue, Berkeley, California 94704
Main (510) 809-1400 Facsimile (510) 809-1442

Buddhist Churches of America

Statement of Position

Assets	9/30/2023	3/31/2023
Current assets		
Cash & cash equivalents	685,805	883,893
Investments	3,986,296	4,022,268
Accounts receivable	231,978	254,577
Bookstore inventory	78,473	96,320
Pre-paid, collateral & deposits	65,526	46,597
Total current assets	\$ 5,048,078	\$ 5,303,655
Fixed assets		
Buildings, property & equipment	22,750,861	22,596,827
Accumulated depreciation	(9,196,443)	(8,958,183)
Net fixed assets	\$ 13,554,418	\$ 13,638,643
Total assets	\$ 18,602,496	\$ 18,931,405
Liabilities & net assets		
Liabilities		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable	140,552	298,605
Advanced revenue	11,178	17,265
Accrued operating liability	132,349	233,984
Accrued interest liability	15,182	46,654
Custodial liability	1,349,646	1,363,383
Total current liabilities	\$ 1,648,907	\$ 1,959,892
Long term liabilities		
BCA Endowment Foundation mortgage IV	3,071,676	3,157,270
Pension obligation	2,310,577	2,310,577
Total long term liabilities	\$ 5,382,253	\$ 5,467,847
Total liabilities	\$ 7,031,160	\$ 7,427,739
Net assets		
Unrestricted	11,065,004	12,012,347
Restricted	449,556	414,609
Change in Net Assets	56,776	(923,290)
Total permanent restricted	\$ 11,571,336	\$ 11,503,666
Total liabilities & net assets	\$ 18,602,496	\$ 18,931,405

Buddhist Churches of America

Statement of Activity

A-6

April 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023

Ordinary revenue	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
General & administrative			
Dues assessments	974,102		974,102
General donations, programs & fees	21,401		21,401
BCA Endowment Foundation allocations	495,495		495,495
Net assets released from restriction	(14,935)	14,935	-
Total general & administrative	\$ 1,476,064	\$ 14,935	\$ 1,490,999
Bookstore			
Sales	18,859		18,859
Cost of goods sold	(23,029)		(23,029)
Total bookstore (gross)	\$ (4,171)	\$ -	\$ (4,171)
Center for Buddhist Education			
Program fees	16,735		16,735
BCA Endowment Foundation allocations	34,340		34,340
Total Center for Buddhist Education	\$ 51,075	\$ -	\$ 51,075
Facilities			
Headquarters Building	80,979		80,979
Bishop's Residence	41,400		41,400
Jodo Shinshu Center	15,233		15,233
	\$ 137,612	\$ -	\$ 137,612
Managed custodial receipts	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total ordinary revenue	\$ 1,660,580	\$ 14,935	\$ 1,675,515

Ordinary expense	Unrestricted	Restrcted	Total
General & administrative			
Payroll	566,655		566,655
Business	153,816		153,816
Programs	221,648		221,648
Allocations	188,505		188,505
Total general & administrative	\$ 1,130,623	\$ -	\$ 1,130,623
Bookstore	\$ 20,602		\$ 20,602
Center for Buddhist Education			
Payroll	67,328		67,328
Programs	19,678		19,678
Total Center for Buddhist Education	\$ 87,006	\$ -	\$ 87,006
Facilities			
Headquarters Building	27,400		27,400
Bishop's Residence	7,659		7,659
Jodo Shinshu Center	164,728		164,728
Cost allocations	(89,093)		(89,093)
Total facilities	\$ 110,694	\$ -	\$ 110,694
Pension	\$ -		\$ -
Managed custodial disbursement	\$ -		\$ -
Total ordinary expense	\$ 1,348,926	\$ -	\$ 1,348,926
Net ordinary revenue	\$ 311,654	\$ 14,935	\$ 326,589
Other revenue			
Investment gain (loss)	(10,687)	9,867	(820)
Interest income (expense)	(30,734)		(30,734)
Pension actuarial gain (loss)	-		-
Depreciation expense	(238,260)		(238,260)
Total other revenue	\$ (279,680)	\$ 9,867	\$ (269,813)
Change in net assets	\$ 31,974	\$ 24,802	\$ 56,776

Buddhist Churches of America

Statement of Cash Flow

April 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023

Change in net assets	\$	56,776
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to cash		
Cash flows from operating activities		
Depreciation expense		238,260
Decrease in accounts receivable		22,599
Decrease in inventory		17,846
Increase in pre-paid, collateral & deposits		(18,929)
Decrease in accounts payable		(158,054)
Decrease in advanced revenue		(6,087)
Decrease in accrued operating liability		(101,635)
Decrease in accrued interest liability		(31,472)
Decrease in custodial liability		(13,737)
Net cash used by operating activities	\$	(51,208)
Cash flows from investing activities		
Improvement and equipment purchases		(154,034)
Investment sales		35,973
Net cash used by investing activities	\$	(118,061)
Cash flows from financing activities		
Decrease in mortgage		(85,595)
Pension obligation		-
Net cash used by financing activities	\$	(85,595)
Net cash decrease for period	\$	(198,088)
Cash at beginning of period	\$	883,893
Cash at end of period	\$	685,805

Statement of Cash Flow calculated using indirect method

Buddhist Churches of America

Statement of Changes in Net Assets

April 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023

Revenues and support	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Unrestricted revenues	\$ 1,675,515	\$ -	\$ 1,675,515
Restricted contributions			
Student Financial Assistance Program			-
Investment gain (loss)		9,867	9,867
Net restricted contributions	\$ -	\$ 9,867	9,867
Assets released from restriction			
Student Financial Assistance Program	(14,935)	14,935	-
Net assets released from restriction	\$ (14,935)	\$ 14,935	\$ -
Net change in restricted assets	(14,935)	24,802	9,867
Depreciation, expenses and other gains/losses	\$ 1,628,606	\$ -	\$ 1,628,606
Changes in net assets	\$ 31,974	\$ 24,802	\$ 56,776

INSTITUTE OF BUDDHIST STUDIES
 SEMINARY AND GRADUATE SCHOOL
 ESTABLISHED 1949 & INCORPORATED 1969
 2140 DURANT AVENUE, BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94704 USA
 TELEPHONE: 510.809.1444 FACSIMILE: 510.809.1443

Report to the BCA National Council
 February 23, 2024 Meeting

I. Seminary and Graduate Studies

A. Degree and Certificate Programs

1. IBS has three Degree Programs: Master of Arts (M.A. - administered with GTU), Master of Divinity (M.Div.) and Master of Arts in Buddhist Studies (M.A.B.S.).
2. IBS also has eight Certificate Programs: Certificate in Shin Buddhist Studies, Certificate in Buddhist Chaplaincy, Certificate in Buddhism and Contemporary Psychology, Certificate in Theravada Buddhist Studies, Certificate in Soto Zen Buddhist Studies, an Online Certificates in Buddhist Studies, Shin Buddhist Studies, and Soto Zen Buddhist Studies.

B. AY23-24 Student Enrollment and Admissions

Enrollment numbers for spring 2024 are, as of this writing, tentative as registration remains open for the first two weeks of the semester. Nevertheless, we appear to be holding steady from the last few semesters with about 50 enrolled students across all programs.

Headcount	Fall 2023	Spring 2024
Master of Divinity	10	9
Master of Arts in Buddhist Studies	7	5
Master of Arts (GTU)	0	0
Certificate in Buddhist Studies	6	6
Certificate in Shin Buddhist Studies	18	16
Certificate in Soto Zen Buddhist Studies	6	10
Certificate in Theravada Buddhist Studies	0	0
Certificate in Buddhist Chaplaincy	1	3
Certificate in Buddhism and Psychology	0	0
Total	48	49

Headcount by program

C. Ministerial and Jōdo Shinshū Studies Program Activities

- There are currently a total of 33 students enrolled in Jōdo Shinshū studies programs being advised by Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji and Rev. Harry Bridge. Nine are in degree programs and the remainder are in the online Certificate in Shin Buddhist Studies.
- Of these, 16 are ministerial aspirants (e.g., are actively pursuing ordination as either minister's assistants or *kaikyoshi*)
- Seven IBS students recently participated in a *tokudo* ordination at Hongwanji-ha; and several of these students are currently participating in a *kyoshi* training session at the JSC.
- The Bay District is hosting the BCA's 125th Anniversary celebration at the San Francisco Buddhist Church on September 1, 2024. Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto will be the keynote speaker.
- Rev. Dr. Miyaji has been invited to speak at the Hawai'i Kyodan at their "triple celebration" event marking the 135th anniversary of the Hongwanji Mission in Hawai'i, the 850th anniversary of Shinran Shonin's birth, and the 800th anniversary of the founding of the Shin Buddhist tradition, on September 7, 2024.
- Rev. Bridge's tenure as chairperson of the Ministers Association ends following the BCA National Council Meeting.
- Rev. Bridge will be participating in the May We Gather pilgrimage event in March 2024; the event is organized, in part, by IBS alum Chenxing Han and Dr. Duncan Williams, and honors the Asian American women killed in a mass shooting in 2021.

D. Chaplaincy Program Activities

- Dr. Nanct Lin is currently advising seven students in the chaplaincy program, four of whom are in the M.Div. degree program. Several of the degree students took advantage of the stackable curriculum and began their studies at the IBS as certificate students.
- IBS launched its first "Introduction to Field Education" course with Dr. Lili Chen in the fall semester. The course had both chaplaincy and ministerial students enrolled. Students reported benefiting from the applied context and interactive nature. Dr. Chen is working on expanding the field education course for future offerings.
- Four IBS students are in the process of applying to top Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) programs in the Bay Area. One of our students has already been accepted to UC- Davis for a summer CPE internship.
- Several former students and colleagues contributed to the volume *Refuge in the Storm: Buddhist Voices in Crisis Care* edited by Nathan Michon, a GTU Ph.D graduate who studied under Drs. Payne and Kinst.

E. Faculty Activities

In addition to teaching and advising, the faculty continue to pursue their research and public service. Some items of note include:

- Dr. Nancy Lin attend the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion in November 2023 where she moderated a workshop session titled "Practices for transforming the real: language, imagination, and scholarly modes of engagement." This is part of a five-year seminar she co-chairs at the AAR, "Language, Poiesis, and Buddhist Experiments with the Possible."
- Dr. Lin completed six years of service to the AAR Tibetan and Himalayan Religions Unit in 2023.
- Dr. Mitchell also attended the annual AAR meeting in November wherein a panel was organized to discuss my book, *The Making of American Buddhism*. Featured speakers included Jane Iwamura, Michael Masatsugu, and Jeff Wilson. I also represented IBS at the annual Numata Chairs meeting hosted by the BDK Numata Foundation.
- Dr. Paula Arai discussed her *Little Book of Zen Healing* at an online Zen Peacemakers International event in November 2023.

- Dr. Arai has a forthcoming chapter on “Principles for a Women-Centered Hermeneutic: A Constructive Methodology” in *Women and Representation in Buddhist Asia: Innovative Pedagogies, Alternative Narratives, and Re-imagined Philosophies*, edited by Antoinette DeNapoli, Sujata Gadkar-Wilcox, and Kevin Taylor.
- Dr. Arai led a *Heart Sutra* Copying Workshop at Ocean Gate Zen Center in Santa Cruz in December.
- Dr. Arai co-organized and was a featured speaker at an a workshop hosted by the Soto Zen Buddhist Association titled “Homage to Our Buddhist Mothers” at the JSC in January. Her talk was titled “Bowling to Lotuses Blooming in the Mud: Gratitude as Agent for Change.”
- *The Oxford Handbook of American Buddhism*, which I am co-editing with Dr. Ann Gleig of Florida State University, is nearing completion and should be published by summer 2024. The volume contains essays by IBS faculty and alums.
- For several years, Dr. Richard Payne has been overseeing production of *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Buddhism*, a large-scale online project from Oxford University Press. A print volume of essential entries to the encyclopedia will be published in 2024 and includes several IBS faculty and alums.
- Dr. Lilu Chen, our Field Education Director, has a forthcoming book review of IBS alum Chenxing Han’s *one long listening* to be published in spring 2024 with the journal *Reflective Practice: Formation and Supervision in Ministry*.
- Dr. Lin, Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto, and current IBS student Josefina McAuliffe-Rocha were featured in a *Lion’s Roar* article, “*Wiser Learning*,” focused on Buddhist universities.

F. Accreditation

The next WSCUC site visit is scheduled for 2025. We will begin compiling the institutional report and related documents for the visit in 2024.

G. 75th Anniversary Events

1. IBS will celebrate its 75th anniversary in 2024. Staff is currently developing a dedicated website which includes a detailed history of the Institute, faculty, student, and alumni profiles, and other information. The website will be launched in February prior to the BCA National Council Meeting.
2. A formal celebration of the anniversary will be held on Thursday November 14, 2024, in conjunction with the IBS annual memorial service.

H. Other 2024 Events

- In January 2024, Dr. Arai coordinated with the Soto Zen Buddhist Association to host a workshop on Buddhist women’s leadership.
- IBS will host its annual symposium at the BCA National Council Meeting in Sacramento on Saturday February 23. The featured speaker will be myself, discussing my book *The Making of American Buddhism*, in conversation with Rev. Dr. Miyaji.
- In collaboration with Mark Blum and the UC Berkeley Center for Japan Studies, and supported by the Buddhist Ministry Working Group and the Numata Foundation, IBS will host an international workshop on Buddhist chaplaincy in March 2024. This event will bring together working chaplains and chaplaincy educators from both the US and Japan. It was originally scheduled to take place in March 2020 but was cancelled due to the pandemic.
- Following the chaplaincy workshop, IBS will host the Buddhist Ministry Working Group meeting which is being co-organized by Dr. Lin. The group is working towards ratifying its mission and vision statements, creating a website, and developing into a formal national nonprofit organization.
- Our annual Taitetsu Unno Memorial Lecture will be held on April 12 and feature Dr. Sharon Suh, professor of theology and religious studies at Seattle University. At that event, will also

honor a student with an award and celebrate the publication of *The Treatise on Doctrinal Distinctions of the Huayan One Vehicle*, a translation project originally begun by the late Rev. Dr. Unno.

I. Publications

1. *Pacific World Journal*

The 2023 volume of the *Pacific World Journal* is complete and has been posted on the PWJ website. A limited print-run has also been ordered for distribution to the BDK/Numata donors. Editorial committee chair, Dr. Natalie Quli, has already received several submissions for the 2024 volume which are going through our standard peer-review process.

2. *Pure Land Buddhist Studies Series*

There are no forthcoming volumes in the Pure Land Buddhist Studies series, jointly published by IBS and the University of Hawaii Press. Drs. Dennis Hirota and David Matsumoto's co-edited *Shinran and the Sutra of Immeasurable Life*, is still under consideration as the editors finalize the volume.

3. *Contemporary Issues in Buddhist Studies*

David Gardiner's monograph on Japanese Buddhist tantra is nearing completion and we expect it to be published in 2024. IBS alum and current Research Fellow Thomas Calobrisi is expected to submit a book proposal to the series within the year.

II. Administration

A. GTU Member School

1. IBS became a member school by the Graduate Theological Union in May 2021.
2. Since that time, our President, Dean, CFO, Registrar, Admissions Officer and Faculty have been meeting regularly with their GTU counterparts.

B. IBS Facilities and Workplace Issues

1. IBS continues to operate in a hybrid work environment. Some staff are working at the IBS office; others continue to work remotely from their homes. We are constantly monitoring, assessing, and refining this hybrid working environment.
2. The Office of Finance has completed its move from the faculty suite to Rooms 204 and 205 on the mezzanine level of the JSC.

C. IBS Dormitory

1. Architectural designs for the dorm repair are nearly complete. An application for a building permit will be submitted to the City of Berkeley within weeks.
2. Estimates are that, after the building permit is received, repairs to the dorm should take about nine months to complete.
3. IBS is sincerely grateful to Mr. Larry Yamaoka whose generous donation has allowed this repair to take place. Mr. Yamaoka has also been providing expert guidance to IBS throughout the entire process.
4. Tree removal. Three large trees have finally been removed from the IBS lot and the adjoining property belonging to the Alpha Gamma Omega fraternity.

D. WSCUC Accreditation Team

Dr. Matsumoto is serving as the chair of the reaffirmation team for the Academy for Jewish Religion California, Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA. Accreditation Visit to AJRC will take place from April 2 -5, 2024.

E. IT Environment

IT specialist Gordon Yee continues to support staff in areas of internet security, backup systems, storage, and hardware and software requirements in current work-at-home environment and the eventual move back to the JSC.

F. Human Resources Functions

1. Employee Performance Review Program
A new round of performance reviews is underway.
2. In addition, revisions are being made to two manuals:
 - a. Revised Staff Manual, based on consultation with Paychex.
 - b. New Workplace Safety Manual

G. RUBeC

1. Dr. Matsumoto supervises Ms. Junko Yamasaki, RUBeC Administrator, in the management of the RUBeC office and Ryūkoku BIE Program, which was reinstated this academic year.
2. Continuing to engage in budgetary negotiations with officials from the Center for the Promotion of Global Education (R-Globe) Office of Ryūkoku University.

H. Development Activities

1. Dr. Matsumoto is working with Ms. Karen Sugiyama, IBS Development Assistant, the IBS Communication & Outreach and Development Committee (ICOD) and the Joint Committee on Development (JCOD) in the area of fund-raising, and supporting the launch of the Dharma Forward Campaign.
2. As of December 31, 2023, IBS received 389 donations totaling \$2,558,494.00 (\$2,081,658.00 in direct receipts and \$476,836.00 from the DF Campaign).
3. Office of Development is initiating contact with major endowment donors, especially individuals and groups associated with the legacy professorial chair endowments.
4. On April 1, 2024 IBS will receive an \$11,000 “Women Leaders in Buddhism” grant from the Frederick Lenz Foundation to support for Dr. Paula Arai’s work on the theme of *Liberating Buddhist Women*.
5. BDK Japan has made a \$375,000 gift to IBS to support the Numata Chair.
6. System of Reporting and Accountability for charitable contributions received by or on behalf of IBS has been put into effect for all contributions received by IBS as part of the FIBS annual giving program, general donations, and the Dharma Forward Campaign undesignated donations.
7. The IBS Staff Marketing Team. The team is working to develop marketing collateral that will support strategies for student recruitment and fund-raising for IBS programs through the Dharma Forward Campaign.

I. Financial Activities

1. BCA Annual Allocation Issue
IBS has requested a BCA allocation in FY24-25 to IBS in the amount of \$377,009.22. This is the same amount as the BCA allocation in FY23-24.
2. FY24-25 Budget
 - Engaging in discussions with Ms. River Cullen, Director of Finance and Administration, and Dr. Mitchell, IBS Dean, to plan the FY2024-25 budget.
 - The proposed budget will be presented to the IBS Board of Trustees on February 12 for review and approval. This report to the BCANC will be updated on February 23, 2024.

J. Strategic Alliances

IBS is working with Ryūkoku University and Ōtani University on a variety of proposals that would strengthen the ability of IBS to coordinate its work with those educational institutions.

Respectfully submitted,

David Matsumoto, President

Scott Mitchell, Dean of Students and Faculty Affairs

January 31, 2024

BCA ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION

1. Growth of Assets Under Management

In 2023, the assets managed by BCA Endowment Foundation increased by \$4.9 million from \$39.2 million to \$44.1 million, mainly by investment gains and donation receipts. (provisional pre-audit figures, not including pledge receivable.)

	2022 (full year)	2023 (full year)
Increase from investment activities	(\$8,059,819)	\$5,859,794
Increase from general donations	\$1,438,178	\$1,900,890
Increase from custodial account contributions (net)	\$47,626	(\$1,060,288)
Decrease from disbursements (see below)	(\$1,699,293)	(\$1,363,882)
Decrease from expenses	(\$371,762)	(\$449,266)
Net increase (decrease) in assets	(\$8,645,070)	\$4,887,248

(Note) As we invest with a long-term horizon, seeking higher risk adjusted return, single year investment return would sometimes be negative. Investments should be viewed from a multi-year perspective.

Breakdown of disbursements:

		2022 (full year)	2023 (full year)
BCA	Program and operating expenses	\$752,913	\$591,545
BCA	Debt service and prepayment	\$159,684	\$147,800
BCA	Dana Temple Share	\$14,195	\$5,977
IBS	Chairs and operating expenses	\$772,500	\$618,560

2. Investment Performance

	BCA Portfolio		Growth		Growth & Income		Income	
	Fund Return	Bench mark	Fund Return	Bench mark	Fund Return	Bench mark	Fund Return	Bench mark
2013			19.2%	17.1%	8.6% (1)	7.0%	3.0% (2)	2.4%
2014	1.3% (3)	2.3%	4.6%	4.4%	3.9%	4.9%	3.4%	3.7%
2015	-0.4%	-0.1%	-3.0%	-2.5%	-1.9%	-1.5%	0.1%	1.0%
2016	5.0%	5.3%	6.9%	6.3%	6.5%	5.3%	4.5%	2.7%
2017	13.2%	13.0%	16.8%	15.5%	13.1%	11.7%	5.9%	4.3%
2018	-4.8%	-5.0%	-8.0%	-7.5%	-5.4%	-4.9%	-1.0%	-0.1%
2019	14.9%	15.4%	19.8%	20.1%	16.3%	16.5%	9.4%	8.6%
2020	15.1%	14.5%	20.3%	14.4%	15.3%	12.4%	7.8%	7.0%
2021	10.2%	13.0%	10.3%	13.2%	7.4%	8.0%	1.5%	0.6%
2022	-14.5%	-12.0%	-19.2%	-17.0%	-15.5%	-15.5%	-9.9%	-10.3%
2023	13.5%	14.7%	17.0%	17.7%	14.0%	13.4%	8.2%	6.8%
Annualized return since inception	5.0%	5.5%	7.2%	7.0%	5.3%	4.9%	2.3%	3.0%

Notes: (1) Return after the creation of the Growth & Income fund in April 2013.

(2) Return after the creation of the Income Fund in July 2013.

(3) Return after the creation of the BCA Portfolio in March 2014.

(4) Growth B – 4th Quarter 2017 to 4Q 2020 only. In January 2021, Growth B was merged to Growth A, which is now called Growth.

These returns include Angeles' advisory fee but do not include the management fee covering BCA Endowment's administrative expenses.

3. Asset Allocation

Asset Allocation (10/31/23)	BCA Loan	Global Equity	Fixed Income	Private Equity/Real Assets	Target Return
BCA Portfolio	29%	66%		5%	4%+CPI(1)
Growth		75%	19%	6%	5%+CPI
Growth & Income		50%	50%		3%+CPI
Income		10%	90%		(2)

(1) Variable target based on current weight of the BCA Loan.

(2) Maintain a portfolio that emphasizes capital preservation. The portfolio's objective is to minimize but not eliminate equity market risk and to generate higher returns than offered by money market investments.

4. ESG ¹

BCA Endowment Foundation (BCAEF) Board of Directors and its investment advisor, Angeles Investments, are focusing more on ESG that stands for Environmental, Social, and Governance.

1 Environmental (e.g., greenhouse gas emissions, air quality, energy/water/fuel/waste management, etc.), Social (e.g., human rights and community relations, data security, fair disclosure, labeling and marketing, healthcare access and affordability, diversity and inclusion) and Governance (e.g., diversity of boards and personnel, shareholder rights, business ethics & transparency, systemic risk management) factors are non-financial factors that some investors believe can have a material financial impact on corporate behavior.

Zaidan donation:

Please go to: <https://bca.kindful.com/> and complete your National Board Zaidan donation or, less preferably, send a check payable to "BCA Endowment" to 2140 Durant Ave., Berkeley, CA 94704 (please note "BCA National Board Zaidan").

Change of Mailing Address:

BCAEF's mailing address has changed to 2140 Durant Ave., Berkeley, CA 94704

For all donations by check, please make sure to make it payable to "**BCA Endowment Foundation**". Note your donation designation (Dharma Forward, Dana, Social Welfare, etc) in the memo section at bottom left.

Contacts: BCA Endowment Foundation, 2140 Durant Ave., Berkeley, CA 94704

Hideaki Mizuno, Executive Director Tel: (415) 776-5068; Email: hmizuno@bcahq.org

Michiko Inanaga, Development Director Tel. (415) 651-5164; Email minanaga@bcahq.org

Hitomi Kuwahara, Development Associate Tel: (415) 776-5650 (ext. 1311); Email: hkuwahara@bcahq.org

BCA Endowment Foundation Annual Report 2023

1. A Letter from the BCA Endowment Foundation Board President

Dear BCA Sangha Members and Friends

Remembrance and Dharma Forward

With deep appreciation and gratitude, we note the passing of Reverend Doctor Seigen Yamaoka. Reverend Yamaoka's presence and wise and insightful words were a comfort to many people throughout his ministry. Reverend Yamaoka was a great supporter of the efforts to provide for Buddhist Churches of America members education, ministers' education through the Institute of Buddhist Studies and ministers' retirement support.

Reverend Yamaoka understood how people valued Jodo Shinshu Buddhist teachings and helped them to share and propagate the teachings with others through their personal and financial support. The teachings are needed in the world more than ever today. Reverend Yamaoka supported the program goals and the finance needs of the BCA and IBS since the time that he served as Bishop through the Dharma Forward Campaign. So many people have been touched by Reverend Yamaoka, we are thankful to him for all that he has done for us and we also thank his family for sharing him with us for so many years.

2023 BCA Endowment Foundation Results

The Endowment Foundation manages the investments for the BCA, IBS and 26 affiliated organizations.

This past year the Endowment Growth Fund showed a return of +17.0%, which compares to a return of -19.2% in 2022, of +10.3% in 2021 and of +20.3% in 2020. The investment market over the past four years reflects the financial crash and extraordinary recovery brought on by Covid 19, the extensive government subsidies that supported people and the economy and brought on inflation, the war in Ukraine creating uncertainty, the government interest rate hikes to fight inflation and the indication that inflation is being tamed.

Investments increased by \$5,859,794 in 2023 compared to a decrease of \$8,059,819 in 2022. \$1,363,882 was disbursed BCA and IBS programs in 2023. Total assets managed by the Endowment increased from \$39.2 million to \$44.1 million. The market continues to have its ups and downs and the average annual return for the Growth Fund has been 5.7% over the past 10 years. Investing in equities such as in the Growth Fund should be part of a longer multi-year strategy that can accommodate a potential loss along with gains.

As of December 31, 2023, the Dharma Forward campaign has collected \$9.7 million of the \$15 million target which is 65% toward the goal. Please consider adding your personal support for assuring that Jodo Shinshu Buddhist teachings will always be available to us and to others by contributing to Dharma Forward. If you need any assistance, please contact Michiko Inanaga, Director of Development at the BCA Endowment Foundation at minanaga@bcahq.org or (415) 651-5164

In Gassho,

Charles Ozaki

President BCA Endowment Foundation



Buddhist Churches of America Endowment Foundation - BCA Fund

As of December 31, 2023

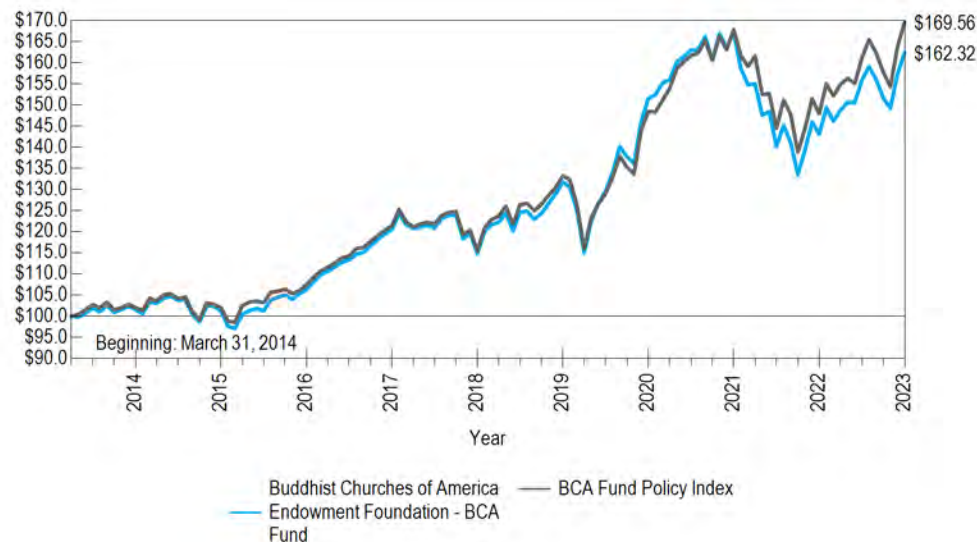
Investment Performance Summary



	Last Month	One Year	Three Years	Five Years	Inception 3/4/14
Beginning Market Value	\$10,312,448	\$9,455,596	\$9,544,245	\$7,857,493	\$0
Fees	\$0	-\$20,906	-\$65,922	-\$97,213	-\$169,417
Net Cash Flow	\$2,668	-\$91,216	\$408,542	-\$254,313	\$6,463,872
Net Investment Change	\$323,456	\$1,274,193	\$685,785	\$3,035,392	\$4,174,700
Ending Market Value	\$10,638,572	\$10,638,572	\$10,638,572	\$10,638,572	\$10,638,572

	1 Mo	1 Yr	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	Inception	Inception Date
Buddhist Churches of America Endowment Foundation - BCA Fund	3.14%	13.47%	2.34%	7.20%	5.03%	03/04/14
<i>BCA Fund Policy Index</i>	<i>3.51%</i>	<i>14.68%</i>	<i>4.55%</i>	<i>8.01%</i>	<i>5.54%</i>	

Growth of a Dollar



Asset Allocation vs. Target

	Current	%	Target	Percent Variance
Total Global Equity	\$6,983,678	65.6%	55.0%	10.6%
Total Private Equity	\$444,697	4.2%	10.0%	-5.8%
Total Private Real Assets	\$111,938	1.1%	5.0%	-3.9%
Total Fixed Income	\$3,072,035	28.9%	30.0%	-1.1%
Total Cash & Equivalents	\$26,225	0.2%	0.0%	0.2%
Total	\$10,638,572	100.0%	100.0%	

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Buddhist Churches of America Endowment Foundation - BCA Fund

As of December 31, 2023

Account Performance



	Value	Weight	1 Mo	1 Yr	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	Inception	Inception Date
Buddhist Churches of America Endowment Foundation - BCA Fund	\$10,638,572	100.0%	3.1%	13.5%	2.3%	7.2%	5.0%	03/04/14
<i>BCA Fund Policy Index</i>			3.5%	14.7%	4.5%	8.0%	5.5%	
Total Global Equity	\$6,983,678	65.6%	4.8%	20.8%	2.9%	11.4%	7.7%	03/04/14
<i>MSCI ACWI IMI Net USD</i>			5.2%	21.6%	5.5%	11.5%	7.8%	
Angeles Global Equity Opportunities Fund	\$4,828,222	45.4%	4.8%	20.5%	2.7%	11.5%	10.4%	04/01/16
<i>MSCI ACWI IMI Net USD</i>			5.2%	21.6%	5.5%	11.5%	9.9%	
Vanguard 500 Index Adm	\$1,335,286	12.6%	4.5%	26.2%	9.9%	15.6%	12.8%	04/26/17
<i>S&P 500</i>			4.5%	26.3%	10.0%	15.7%	12.9%	
Vanguard Total Intl Stock Index Adm	\$798,330	7.5%	4.9%	15.3%	1.6%	--	5.0%	04/30/19
<i>FTSE Global All Cap ex US</i>			5.2%	16.2%	2.2%	--	5.5%	
Vanguard S&P 500 ETF	\$21,840	0.2%	4.6%	--	--	--	12.7%	06/07/23
<i>S&P 500 TR USD</i>			4.5%	--	--	--	12.3%	
Total Private Equity	\$444,697	4.2%	0.0%	5.0%	--	--	11.3%	09/01/21
Angeles Private Markets Fund 4	\$289,721	2.7%	0.0%	6.8%	--	--	11.3%	10/15/21
Angeles Private Markets Fund 5	\$53,741	0.5%	0.0%	2.7%	--	--	160.9%	06/29/22
Angeles Direct Equity Fund 1	\$67,130	0.6%	0.0%	0.7%	--	--	0.6%	06/29/22
Angeles Direct Equity Fund 2	\$34,105	0.3%	0.0%	--	--	--	-3.9%	07/05/23
Total Private Real Assets	\$111,938	1.1%	0.0%	-5.3%	--	--	-44.3%	09/27/22
Angeles Real Assets Fund 1	\$111,938	1.1%	0.0%	-5.3%	--	--	-44.3%	09/27/22
Total Fixed Income	\$3,072,035	28.9%	0.2%	2.1%	2.0%	1.9%	1.9%	03/04/14
BCA Fund Loan	\$3,072,035	28.9%	0.2%	2.1%	2.0%	1.9%	1.9%	03/05/14
<i>Annual Interest Rate of BCA Loan</i>			0.2%	2.1%	2.0%	1.9%	1.9%	
Total Cash & Equivalents	\$26,225	0.2%						
Schwab Money Market	\$26,225	0.2%						

Buddhist Churches of America Endowment Foundation - BCA Fund

As of December 31, 2023

Footnotes



Benchmark History

Buddhist Churches of America Endowment Foundation - BCA Fund

10/1/2023	Present	MSCI ACWI IMI Net USD 66% / Total Private Equity 4% / BCA Fund Loan 30%
7/1/2023	9/30/2023	MSCI ACWI IMI Net USD 68% / Total Private Equity 2% / BCA Fund Loan 30%
2/1/2023	6/30/2023	MSCI ACWI IMI Net USD 66% / Total Private Equity 2% / BCA Fund Loan 32%
6/1/2022	1/31/2023	MSCI ACWI IMI Net USD 64% / Total Private Equity 2% / BCA Fund Loan 34%
9/1/2021	5/31/2022	MSCI ACWI IMI Net USD 71% / BCA Fund Loan 29%
1/1/2021	8/31/2021	MSCI ACWI IMI Net USD 69% / BCA Fund Loan 31%
8/1/2020	12/31/2020	MSCI ACWI IMI Net USD 61% / BCA Fund Loan 39%
1/1/2018	7/31/2020	MSCI ACWI IMI Net USD 57% / BCA Fund Loan 43%
10/1/2016	12/31/2017	MSCI ACWI IMI Net USD 53% / BCA Fund Loan 47%
3/4/2014	9/30/2016	MSCI ACWI IMI Net USD 51% / BCA Fund Loan 49%

Angeles Global Equity Opportunities Fund market value and return are based on underlying manager estimates.

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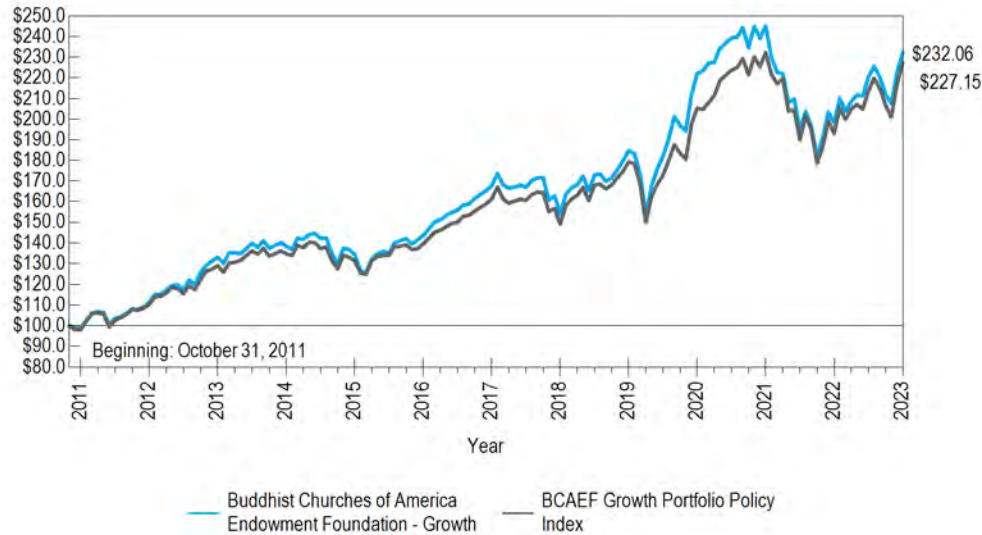
Buddhist Churches of America Endowment Foundation - Growth

As of December 31, 2023

Investment Performance Summary

	1 Mo	1 Yr	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	10 Yrs	Inception	Inception Date
Buddhist Churches of America Endowment Foundation - Growth	4.30%	16.99%	1.49%	8.53%	5.73%	7.16%	11/01/11
<i>BCAEF Growth Portfolio Policy Index</i>	4.75%	17.67%	3.43%	8.78%	5.84%	6.98%	

Growth of a Dollar



Asset Allocation vs. Target

	Current	Target	Percent Variance
Total Global Equity	75.4%	65.0%	10.4%
Total Private Equity	4.5%	10.0%	-5.5%
Total Private Real Assets	1.0%	5.0%	-4.0%
Total Fixed Income	19.0%	20.0%	-1.0%
Total Cash & Equivalents	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	

Angeles Investment Advisors, LLC attests the information contained herein has been prepared from sources believed reliable but is not guaranteed by us as to its timeliness or accuracy, and is not a complete summary or statement of all available data. We urge you to compare the account information we present to the information provided on your monthly/quarterly custodian statements and notify us of any discrepancies. This data is intended solely for our clients, is for informational purposes only, may not be publicly disclosed or distributed without our prior written consent, and should not be construed as a research report, a recommendation, or an offer to buy or sell any security referred to herein. Opinions expressed herein are subject to change without notice.

Buddhist Churches of America Endowment Foundation - Growth

As of December 31, 2023

Account Performance



	Weight	1 Mo	1 Yr	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	10 Yrs	Inception	Inception Date
Buddhist Churches of America Endowment Foundation - Growth	100.0%	4.3%	17.0%	1.5%	8.5%	5.7%	7.2%	11/01/11
<i>BCAEF Growth Portfolio Policy Index</i>		4.8%	17.7%	3.4%	8.8%	5.8%	7.0%	
Total Global Equity	75.4%	4.8%	20.9%	2.8%	11.4%	7.8%	9.7%	11/01/11
<i>MSCI ACWI IMI Net USD</i>		5.2%	21.6%	5.5%	11.5%	7.8%	9.3%	
Angeles Global Equity Opportunities Fund	52.6%	4.8%	20.5%	2.7%	11.5%	--	10.4%	04/01/16
<i>MSCI ACWI IMI Net USD</i>		5.2%	21.6%	5.5%	11.5%	--	9.9%	
Vanguard 500 Index Adm	12.4%	4.5%	26.2%	9.9%	15.6%	--	12.7%	04/27/17
<i>S&P 500</i>		4.5%	26.3%	10.0%	15.7%	--	12.9%	
Vanguard Total Intl Stock Index Adm	8.1%	4.9%	15.3%	1.7%	--	--	4.8%	04/29/19
<i>FTSE Global All Cap ex US</i>		5.2%	16.2%	2.2%	--	--	5.5%	
Vanguard S&P 500 ETF	1.6%	4.6%	26.2%	--	--	--	22.1%	10/04/22
<i>S&P 500</i>		4.5%	26.3%	--	--	--	22.3%	
Vanguard Total Intl Stock ETF	0.7%	4.6%	15.4%	--	--	--	19.6%	10/04/22
<i>FTSE Global All Cap ex US</i>		5.2%	16.2%	--	--	--	21.5%	
Total Private Equity	4.5%	0.0%	4.6%	--	--	--	10.8%	09/01/21
Angeles Private Markets Fund 4	2.6%	0.0%	6.8%	--	--	--	11.3%	09/30/21
Angeles Private Markets Fund 5	0.3%	0.0%	2.7%	--	--	--	160.9%	06/29/22
Angeles Direct Equity Fund 1	1.0%	0.0%	0.7%	--	--	--	0.6%	06/29/22
Angeles Direct Equity Fund 2	0.5%	0.0%	--	--	--	--	-3.9%	07/05/23
Total Private Real Assets	1.0%	0.0%	-5.3%	--	--	--	-44.3%	09/27/22
Angeles Real Assets Fund 1	1.0%	0.0%	-5.3%	--	--	--	-44.3%	09/27/22
Total Fixed Income	19.0%	3.6%	8.3%	-0.8%	2.7%	3.0%	3.1%	11/01/11
<i>BCAEF Growth Fixed Income Benchmark</i>		3.8%	5.5%	-3.3%	1.1%	1.7%	1.8%	
Baird Core Plus Bond Instl	5.6%	3.9%	6.9%	-2.7%	2.0%	--	1.9%	04/19/16
<i>Bloomberg US Aggregate TR</i>		3.8%	5.5%	-3.3%	1.1%	--	1.1%	
Dodge & Cox Income	5.6%	4.1%	7.7%	-1.7%	2.7%	--	2.5%	12/08/14
<i>Bloomberg US Aggregate TR</i>		3.8%	5.5%	-3.3%	1.1%	--	1.4%	
PIMCO Income Instl	7.8%	3.1%	9.3%	1.1%	3.4%	4.4%	4.7%	10/08/12
<i>Bloomberg US Aggregate TR</i>		3.8%	5.5%	-3.3%	1.1%	1.8%	1.5%	
Total Cash & Equivalents	0.1%							
Schwab Bank Sweep	0.1%							

Buddhist Churches of America Endowment Foundation - Growth

As of December 31, 2023

Footnotes



Benchmark History

Buddhist Churches of America Endowment Foundation - Growth		
6/1/2023	Present	76% MSCI ACWI IMI Net USD / 4% Total Private Equity / 20% Bloomberg US Aggregate TR
6/1/2022	5/31/2023	78% MSCI ACWI IMI Net USD / 2% Total Private Equity / 20% Bloomberg US Aggregate TR
9/1/2021	5/31/2022	80% MSCI ACWI IMI Net USD / 20% Bloomberg US Aggregate TR
1/1/2021	8/31/2021	75% MSCI ACWI IMI Net USD / 25% Bloomberg US Aggregate TR
10/1/2019	12/31/2020	70% MSCI ACWI IMI Net USD / 20% Bloomberg US Aggregate TR / 10% HFRI Fund of Funds Index
11/1/2018	9/30/2019	65% MSCI ACWI IMI Net USD / 15% Bloomberg US Aggregate TR / 20% HFRI Fund of Funds Index
6/1/2018	10/31/2018	60% MSCI ACWI IMI Net USD / 15% Bloomberg US Aggregate TR / 20% HFRI Fund of Funds Index / 5% BCAEF Growth Portfolio A Real Asset Benchmark
9/1/2015	5/31/2018	57% MSCI ACWI IMI Net USD / 15% Bloomberg US Aggregate TR / 20% HFRI Fund of Funds Index / 8% BCAEF Growth Portfolio A Real Asset Benchmark
4/1/2014	8/31/2015	65% MSCI ACWI IMI Net USD / 20% Bloomberg US Aggregate TR / 10% HFRI Fund of Funds Index / 5% BCAEF Growth Portfolio A Real Asset Benchmark
3/6/2014	3/31/2014	65% MSCI ACWI IMI Net USD / 20% BCAEF Growth Fixed Income Benchmark / 10% FTSE T-Bill 3 Months TR / 5% BCAEF Growth Portfolio A Real Asset Benchmark
4/1/2013	3/5/2014	70% MSCI ACWI IMI Net USD / 25% BCAEF Growth Fixed Income Benchmark / 5% BCAEF Growth Portfolio A Real Asset Benchmark
11/1/2011	3/31/2013	65% MSCI ACWI IMI Net USD / 30% BCAEF Growth Fixed Income Benchmark / 5% BCAEF Growth Portfolio A Real Asset Benchmark
Total Global Equity		
11/1/2011	Present	MSCI ACWI IMI Net USD
Total Fixed Income		
3/6/2014	Present	Bloomberg US Aggregate TR
2/5/2014	3/5/2014	54% BCA Growth Loan / 46% Bloomberg US Aggregate TR
10/10/2013	2/4/2014	53% BCA Growth Loan / 47% Bloomberg US Aggregate TR
6/1/2013	10/9/2013	68% BCA Growth Loan / 32% Bloomberg US Aggregate TR
4/1/2013	5/31/2013	65% BCA Growth Loan / 35% Bloomberg US Aggregate TR
3/1/2013	3/31/2013	77% BCA Growth Loan / 23% Bloomberg US Aggregate TR
3/1/2012	2/28/2013	68% BCA Growth Loan / 32% Bloomberg US Aggregate TR
11/1/2011	2/29/2012	60% BCA Growth Loan / 40% Bloomberg US Aggregate TR

Angeles Global Equity Opportunities Fund market values and returns are based on most recent month estimate.

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Buddhist Churches of America Endowment Foundation - Growth & Income

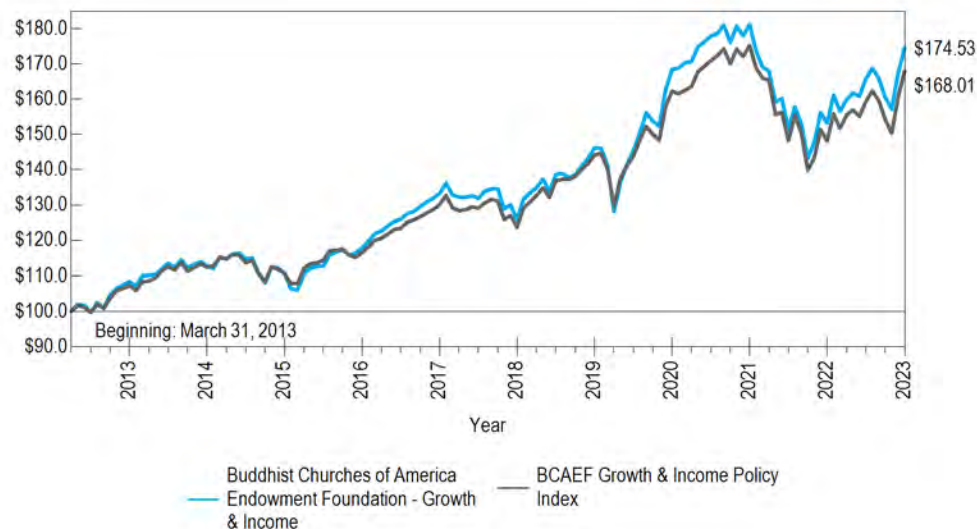
As of December 31, 2023

Investment Performance Summary



	1 Mo	1 Yr	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	10 Yrs	Inception	Inception Date
Buddhist Churches of America Endowment Foundation - Growth & Income	4.21%	13.95%	1.19%	6.74%	4.88%	5.32%	04/01/13
<i>BCAEF Growth & Income Policy Index</i>	4.54%	13.41%	1.17%	6.32%	4.59%	4.94%	

Growth of a Dollar



Asset Allocation vs. Target

	Current	Target	Percent Variance
Total Global Equity	50.4%	50.0%	0.4%
Total Fixed Income	49.6%	50.0%	-0.4%
Total Cash & Equivalents	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	

Angeles Investment Advisors, LLC attests the information contained herein has been prepared from sources believed reliable but is not guaranteed by us as to its timeliness or accuracy, and is not a complete summary or statement of all available data. We urge you to compare the account information we present to the information provided on your monthly/quarterly custodian statements and notify us of any discrepancies. This data is intended solely for our clients, is for informational purposes only, may not be publicly disclosed or distributed without our prior written consent, and should not be construed as a research report, a recommendation, or an offer to buy or sell any security referred to herein. Opinions expressed herein are subject to change without notice.

Buddhist Churches of America Endowment Foundation - Growth & Income

As of December 31, 2023

Account Performance



	Weight	1 Mo	1 Yr	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	10 Yrs	Inception	Inception Date
Buddhist Churches of America Endowment Foundation - Growth & Income	100.0%	4.2%	13.9%	1.2%	6.7%	4.9%	5.3%	04/01/13
<i>BCAEF Growth & Income Policy Index</i>		4.5%	13.4%	1.2%	6.3%	4.6%	4.9%	
Total Global Equity	50.4%	4.8%	20.7%	3.6%	11.4%	7.8%	9.0%	04/01/13
<i>MSCI ACWI IMI Net USD</i>		5.2%	21.6%	5.5%	11.5%	7.8%	8.7%	
Angeles Global Equity Opportunities Fund	35.9%	4.8%	20.5%	2.7%	11.5%	--	10.2%	06/01/16
<i>MSCI ACWI IMI Net USD</i>		5.2%	21.6%	5.5%	11.5%	--	9.8%	
Vanguard 500 Index Adm	8.9%	4.5%	26.2%	9.9%	15.6%	--	12.8%	04/26/17
<i>S&P 500</i>		4.5%	26.3%	10.0%	15.7%	--	12.9%	
Vanguard Total Intl Stock Index Adm	5.6%	4.9%	15.3%	1.7%	7.3%	--	5.1%	04/26/17
<i>FTSE Global All Cap ex US</i>		5.2%	16.2%	2.2%	7.8%	--	5.6%	
Total Fixed Income	49.6%	3.7%	8.1%	-0.9%	2.7%	3.0%	2.8%	03/31/13
<i>BCAEF Growth & Income Fixed Income Benchmark</i>		3.8%	5.5%	-3.3%	1.1%	1.7%	1.6%	
Baird Core Plus Bond Instl	14.7%	3.9%	6.9%	-2.7%	2.0%	--	1.9%	04/19/16
<i>Bloomberg US Aggregate TR</i>		3.8%	5.5%	-3.3%	1.1%	--	1.1%	
Dodge & Cox Income	14.8%	4.1%	7.7%	-1.7%	2.7%	--	2.5%	12/08/14
<i>Bloomberg US Aggregate TR</i>		3.8%	5.5%	-3.3%	1.1%	--	1.4%	
PIMCO Income Instl	20.0%	3.1%	9.3%	1.1%	3.4%	4.4%	4.3%	04/02/13
<i>Bloomberg US Aggregate TR</i>		3.8%	5.5%	-3.3%	1.1%	1.8%	1.5%	
Total Cash & Equivalents	0.0%							
Schwab Bank Sweep	0.0%							

Buddhist Churches of America Endowment Foundation - Growth & Income

As of December 31, 2023

Footnotes



Benchmark History

Buddhist Churches of America Endowment Foundation - Growth & Income		
1/1/2021	Present	50% MSCI ACWI IMI Net USD / 50% BCAEF Growth Fixed Income Benchmark
11/1/2018	12/31/2020	45% MSCI ACWI IMI Net USD / 10% HFRI Fund of Funds Index / 45% BCAEF Growth Fixed Income Benchmark
9/1/2015	10/31/2018	40% MSCI ACWI IMI Net USD / 10% HFRI Fund of Funds Index / 45% BCAEF Growth Fixed Income Benchmark / 5% BCAEF Growth & Income Real Asset Benchmark
4/1/2013	8/31/2015	45% MSCI ACWI IMI Net USD / 50% BCAEF Growth Fixed Income Benchmark / 5% BCAEF Growth & Income Real Asset Benchmark
Total Global Equity		
4/1/2013	Present	MSCI ACWI IMI Net USD
Total Fixed Income		
3/8/2014	Present	Bloomberg US Aggregate TR
2/6/2014	3/7/2014	45% BCA Growth & Income Loan / 55% Bloomberg US Aggregate TR
12/19/2013	2/5/2014	46% BCA Growth & Income Loan / 54% Bloomberg US Aggregate TR
10/10/2013	12/18/2013	50% BCA Growth & Income Loan / 50% Bloomberg US Aggregate TR
7/1/2013	10/9/2013	30% BCA Growth & Income Loan / 70% Bloomberg US Aggregate TR
3/31/2013	6/30/2013	39% BCA Growth & Income Loan / 61% Bloomberg US Aggregate TR

Angeles Global Equity Opportunities Fund market values and returns are based on most recent month estimate.

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Buddhist Churches of America Endowment Foundation - Income

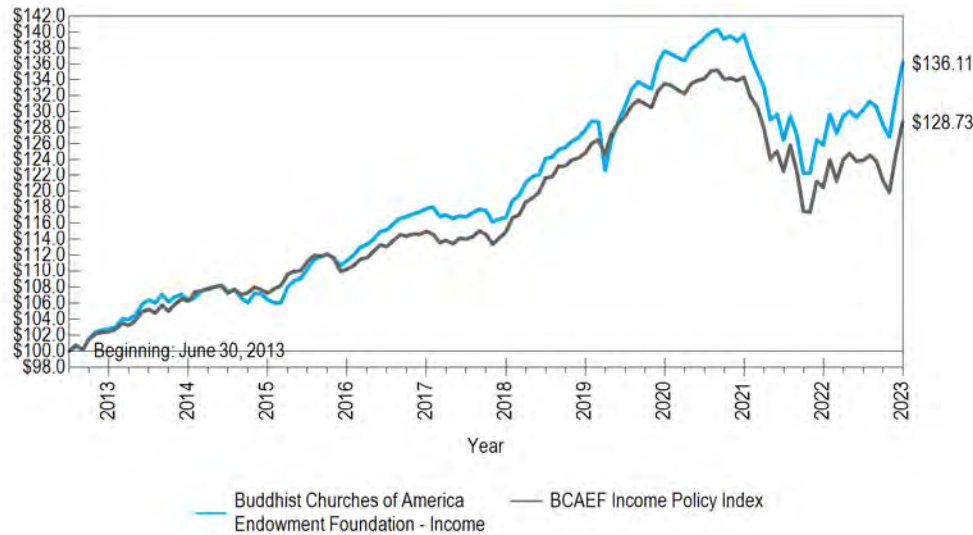
As of December 31, 2023

Investment Performance Summary



	1 Mo	1 Yr	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	Inception	Inception Date
Buddhist Churches of America Endowment Foundation - Income	3.21%	8.18%	-0.36%	3.13%	2.98%	07/01/13
<i>BCAEF Income Policy Index</i>	3.19%	6.83%	-1.21%	2.31%	2.43%	

Growth of a Dollar



Asset Allocation vs. Target

	Current	Target	Percent Variance
Total Global Equity	10.1%	10.0%	0.1%
Total Fixed Income	89.8%	90.0%	-0.2%
Total Cash & Equivalents	0.1%	0.0%	0.1%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	

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Buddhist Churches of America Endowment Foundation - Income

As of December 31, 2023

Account Performance



	Weight	1 Mo	1 Yr	3 Yrs	5 Yrs	Inception	Inception Date
Buddhist Churches of America Endowment Foundation - Income	100.0%	3.2%	8.2%	-0.4%	3.1%	3.0%	07/01/13
<i>BCAEF Income Policy Index</i>		3.2%	6.8%	-1.2%	2.3%	2.4%	
Total Global Equity	10.1%	5.5%	22.1%	5.7%	11.9%	9.0%	07/01/13
<i>BCAEF Income Equity Benchmark</i>		5.2%	22.2%	6.0%	12.0%	9.5%	
Vanguard Emerging Markets Stock Index Adm	1.1%	3.0%	8.8%	-3.4%	4.6%	3.6%	02/21/17
<i>FTSE Emerging Markets</i>		3.6%	9.1%	-3.2%	4.8%	4.3%	
Vanguard Developed Markets Index Adm	2.5%	5.7%	17.7%	3.5%	8.4%	6.4%	02/21/17
<i>FTSE Developed ex North America NR</i>		5.4%	18.4%	3.3%	7.3%	6.0%	
Vanguard Total Stock Market Index Adm	6.6%	5.8%	26.5%	8.6%	15.1%	12.2%	02/21/17
<i>CRSP US Total Market TR USD</i>		5.3%	26.0%	8.4%	15.1%	12.2%	
Total Fixed Income	89.8%	3.0%	7.1%	-0.7%	2.5%	2.6%	07/01/13
<i>BCAEF Income Fixed Income Benchmark</i>		3.0%	5.2%	-2.1%	1.1%	1.6%	
Baird Core Plus Bond Instl	24.7%	3.9%	6.9%	-2.7%	2.0%	1.9%	04/19/16
<i>Bloomberg US Aggregate TR</i>		3.8%	5.5%	-3.3%	1.1%	1.1%	
Baird Short-Term Bond Instl	29.4%	1.3%	5.7%	0.5%	2.0%	1.8%	07/01/13
<i>Bloomberg US Govt/Credit 1-3 Yr. TR</i>		1.2%	4.6%	0.1%	1.5%	1.3%	
Dodge & Cox Income	19.4%	4.1%	7.7%	-1.7%	2.7%	2.4%	01/14/15
<i>Bloomberg US Aggregate TR</i>		3.8%	5.5%	-3.3%	1.1%	1.2%	
PIMCO Income Instl	16.2%	3.1%	9.3%	1.1%	3.4%	4.5%	07/01/13
<i>Bloomberg US Aggregate TR</i>		3.8%	5.5%	-3.3%	1.1%	1.8%	
Total Cash & Equivalents	0.1%						
Schwab Bank Sweep	0.1%						

Buddhist Churches of America Endowment Foundation - Income

As of December 31, 2023

Footnotes

Benchmark History

Buddhist Churches of America Endowment Foundation - Income

7/1/2013 Present BCAEF Income Equity Benchmark 10% / 90% BCAEF Income Fixed Income Benchmark

Total Global Equity

10/1/2016 Present FTSE Global All Cap TR USD

7/1/2013 9/30/2016 FTSE Global All Cap TR USD 75% / 25% ICE BofA All US Convertibles TR

Total Fixed Income

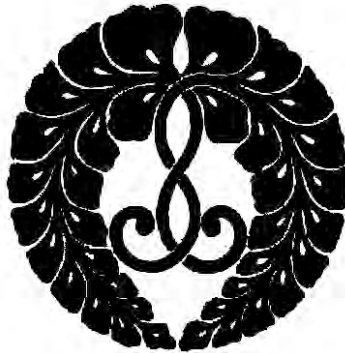
3/7/2014 Present Bloomberg US Int TR

12/2/2013 3/6/2014 46% Bloomberg US Int TR / 54% BCA Income Loan

10/11/2013 12/1/2013 49% Bloomberg US Int TR / 51% BCA Income Loan

7/1/2013 10/10/2013 78% Bloomberg US Int TR / 22% BCA Income Loan

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BUDDHIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

YEARS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022 and 2021

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Directors
Buddhist Churches of America Endowment Foundation
San Francisco, California

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Buddhist Churches of America Endowment Foundation (a nonprofit organization), which comprise the statements of financial position as of December 31, 2022 and 2021, and the related statements of activities, functional expenses, and cash flows for the years then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Buddhist Churches of America Endowment Foundation as of December 31, 2022 and 2021, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the years then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of Buddhist Churches of America Endowment Foundation and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Buddhist Churches of America Endowment Foundation's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.



Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of Buddhist Churches of America Endowment Foundation's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about Buddhist Churches of America Endowment Foundation's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.



November 16, 2023

BUDDHIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Assets

	December 31,	
	2022	2021
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 358,486	\$ 579,812
Pledges receivable	115,135	146,496
Note receivable, related party	85,595	84,233
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total current assets	559,216	810,541
Pledge receivable, long term, net of discount of \$22,615 and \$17,709	174,009	248,500
Note receivable, related party - long term	3,102,768	3,200,671
Investments	35,638,149	43,963,222
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<u>\$ 39,474,142</u>	<u>\$ 48,222,934</u>

Liabilities and Net Assets

Current liabilities:		
Accrued expenses	\$ 14,433	\$ 11,629
Agency funds, long term	19,916,251	24,058,627
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total liabilities	19,930,684	24,070,256
Net assets:		
Without donor restrictions:		
Undesignated	2,673,016	3,280,742
Board designated	873,614	1,184,835
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total net assets without donor restrictions	3,546,630	4,465,577
With donor restrictions	15,996,828	19,687,101
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total net assets	19,543,458	24,152,678
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<u>\$ 39,474,142</u>	<u>\$ 48,222,934</u>

BUDDHIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION
STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES

Year Ended December 31,

	2022		2021			
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Contributions	\$ 821,653	\$ 515,804	\$ 1,337,457	\$ 694,123	\$ 298,845	\$ 992,968
Net investment (loss) income	(674,781)	(3,299,946)	(3,974,727)	284,873	1,897,000	2,181,873
Management fees	104,012	-	104,012	124,142	-	124,142
Net assets released from restrictions	906,131	(906,131)	-	991,319	(991,319)	-
Total revenue	<u>1,157,015</u>	<u>(3,690,273)</u>	<u>(2,533,258)</u>	<u>2,094,457</u>	<u>1,204,526</u>	<u>3,298,983</u>
Expenses:						
Program services	1,699,293	-	1,699,293	1,136,895	-	1,136,895
Management and general	213,742	-	213,742	362,991	-	362,991
Fundraising	162,927	-	162,927	43,829	-	43,829
Total expenses	<u>2,075,962</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,075,962</u>	<u>1,543,715</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,543,715</u>
Change in net assets	(918,947)	(3,690,273)	(4,609,220)	550,742	1,204,526	1,755,268
Net assets, beginning of year	4,465,577	19,687,101	24,152,678	3,914,835	18,482,575	22,397,410
Net assets, end of year	<u>\$ 3,546,630</u>	<u>\$ 15,996,828</u>	<u>\$ 19,543,458</u>	<u>\$ 4,465,577</u>	<u>\$ 19,687,101</u>	<u>\$ 24,152,678</u>

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

BUDDHIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION
STATEMENTS OF FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

	2022			2021				
	Program Services	Management and General	Fundraising	Total	Program Services	Management and General	Fundraising	Total
Grants awarded	\$ 1,699,293	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,699,293	\$ 1,136,895	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,136,895
Salaries and related expenses	-	156,654	148,331	304,985	-	277,609	25,009	302,618
Professional fees	-	34,984	-	34,984	-	66,153	-	66,153
Postage and printing	-	-	14,596	14,596	-	2,221	18,820	21,041
Occupancy	-	9,468	-	9,468	-	9,468	-	9,468
Supplies	-	7,377	-	7,377	-	1,927	-	1,927
Miscellaneous	-	2,704	-	2,704	-	2,021	-	2,021
Insurance	-	2,117	-	2,117	-	2,117	-	2,117
Travel	-	438	-	438	-	1,475	-	1,475
Total expenses	\$ 1,699,293	\$ 213,742	\$ 162,927	\$ 2,075,962	\$ 1,136,895	\$ 362,991	\$ 43,829	\$ 1,543,715

See accompanying independent auditor's report and notes to financial statements.

STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

	Year Ended December 31,	
	2022	2021
Cash flows from operating activities:		
Change in net assets	\$ (4,609,220)	\$ 1,755,268
Adjustments to reconcile change in net assets to net cash (used in) provided by operating activities:		
Realized and unrealized losses (gains) on investments	3,974,727	(2,181,873)
Accrued interest on note receivable from related party	(31,103)	(64,895)
Contribution restricted for endowment	(510,839)	(134,455)
Investment earnings restricted for endowment	-	(430,833)
Changes in operating assets and liabilities:		
Pledges receivable	105,852	1,136,525
Accrued expenses	2,804	543
Net cash (used in) provided by operating activities	(1,067,779)	80,280
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Repayment of note receivable, related party	127,644	148,314
Proceeds from sale of investments	5,846,638	7,535,736
Purchase of investments	(5,638,668)	(8,018,275)
Net cash provided by (used in) investing activities	335,614	(334,225)
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Contribution restricted for endowment	510,839	430,833
Investment earnings restricted for endowment	-	134,455
Net cash provided by financing activities	510,839	565,288
Net (decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents	(221,326)	311,343
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	579,812	268,469
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$ 358,486	\$ 579,812

BUDDHIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2022 and 2021

Note 1 - Nature of operations

The Buddhist Churches of America Endowment Foundation (the "Foundation") was founded in 1929. The mission of the Foundation is to raise and manage funds to secure a sound financial base for Buddhist Churches of America to propagate Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in America. The Foundation is entrusted with the management of monies and property held in trust for designated and undesignated purposes by the donors to benefit the Buddhist Churches of America. Toward this goal, the Foundation promotes Buddhist studies by funding professorial chairs, scholarships, and other educational programs and provides support to Jodo Shinshu ministers in America.

A significant portion of the Foundation's net assets must be used to support programs of the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) and the Institute for Buddhist Studies (IBS), separate not-for-profit organizations. These financial statements present the financial position and activities of the Foundation only and do not include the activities or net assets of BCA or IBS.

Note 2 - Summary of significant accounting policies

Basis of presentation

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP).

Financial statement presentation

Under GAAP, the Foundation is required to report information regarding its financial position and activities according to two classes of net assets: without donor restrictions and with donor restrictions. Descriptions of the two net asset categories and the types of transactions affecting each category are as follows:

Without donor restrictions - these net assets represent resources over which the Foundation has discretionary control and that are not restricted by donor-imposed stipulations. Investment earnings from the Board designated endowment assets are classified within the net assets without donor restrictions category.

With donor restrictions - these net assets represent resources restricted in perpetuity or restricted by donors for a specific purpose that will be met either by actions of the Foundation or the passage of time. When a donor restriction expires, that is, when a stipulated purpose is accomplished, net assets with donor restrictions are reclassified to net assets without donor restrictions and reported in the statement of activities.

Endowment funds

The Board of Directors of the Foundation has interpreted the State Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (SPMIFA) as requiring the preservation of the fair value of the original gift as of the gift date of the donor-restricted endowment funds absent explicit donor stipulations to the contrary. As a result of this interpretation, the Foundation classifies as net assets with donor restrictions (a) the original value of the gift, (b) the original value of the subsequent gifts to the donor endowment funds, and (c) accumulations to the donor endowment made in accordance with the direction of the applicable donor gift instrument at the time the accumulation is added to the fund. The remaining portion of the donor-restricted endowment that is not classified as permanent in nature is classified as temporary until those amounts are appropriated for expenditure by the Foundation. Once appropriated, these amounts are classified as net assets without donor restrictions.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2022 and 2021

Note 2 - Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)**Endowment funds (continued)***Investment and spending policy*

The Foundation has adopted an investment and spending policy to guide the management of the Foundation's investment funds portfolio. The objective of the investment policy is to preserve the capital and to produce a total investment rate of return over the long-term period, defined as 5 years or more, which exceeds a rate of inflation by at least 3%-5% depending on the investment portfolio. The investment assets are allocated based on the consideration of the historical and expected long-term capital market risks, future economic conditions including inflation and interest rate level, financial conditions, and spending needs of the Foundation. The investment spending rate is approved annually by the Board of Directors, unless otherwise restricted or limited by the donors, and is calculated as a percentage of the average net asset value of the funds during the preceding three years. The approved spending rate was limited to 4% and 5% depending on the endowment fund during the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021.

The investment strategy is to invest in a sufficient number of different types of financial instruments to minimize the volatility of the total portfolio, reduce the overall risk and improve performance over time.

Funds with deficiencies

From time to time, the fair value of assets associated with individual donor restricted endowment funds may fall below the level that the donor requires the Foundation to retain as a fund of perpetual duration (underwater endowment). The Foundation has interpreted UPMIFA to permit spending from underwater endowments in accordance with prudent measures required under law. The Foundation had three underwater endowment funds at December 31, 2022. The total original value of the gifts totaled \$3,686,274. The fair value of these endowment funds was \$3,340,952 at December 31, 2022, resulting in a deficiency of \$345,322 at year end. These deficiencies resulted from unfavorable market fluctuations. The Foundation had no underwater endowments at December 31, 2021.

The Foundation restricts the spending from underwater endowment funds until the value of the corpus is restored to the original gift value unless otherwise precluded by donor intent or relevant laws and regulations.

Use of estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Significant estimates used in preparing these financial statements include the allowance for pledges receivable, the fair value of investments, functional expense allocations, allocation of investment income to endowments, and revenue recognition. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents consist of balances on hand and on deposit in banks and other financial institutions. The Foundation considers all highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less on the date of purchase to be cash equivalents.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2022 and 2021

Note 2 - Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)**Pledges receivable**

Pledges receivable consist of unconditional promises to give made by donors. Contributions are recorded at their fair value at the date of the contribution by discounting the estimated future cash flows to their present value. Management estimates all pledges receivable are collectible at December 31, 2022 and 2021 and therefore no allowance was recorded.

Investments

Investments in marketable securities with readily determinable fair values are reported at their fair values in the statements of financial position and include investments in equity securities. Non-marketable investments consist of private investment funds and real estate. These investments are subject to restrictions on capital withdrawals and redemptions and may include gate provisions. Non-marketable investments are valued at fair value based on the net asset value ("NAV") as reported by the fund manager or general partner in accordance with the practical expedient methodology permitted under GAAP. See Note 6 for a discussion of fair value measurements.

Realized and unrealized gains and losses are reflected as increases or decrease in net assets without donor restriction unless their use has been restricted by donors. Net investment income or loss is reported in the statements of activities and consists of interest and dividend income, realized and unrealized capital gains and losses, less investment expenses. The Foundation's permanent endowment funds and the related earnings are invested in private investment funds, equity securities, and a note receivable (see Note 7).

Revenue recognition - contributions*Contributions*

Revenue and support that is restricted by the donor is reported as an increase in net assets without donor restrictions if the restriction expires or is fulfilled by actions of the Foundation in the reporting period in which the revenue and support is recognized. All other donor-restricted revenue and support is reported as an increase in net assets with donor restrictions depending on the nature of the restriction. When a restriction expires or is fulfilled by actions of the Foundation, net assets with donor restrictions are released to net assets without donor restrictions.

Unconditional contributions expected to be collected within one year are reported at their net realizable value. Unconditional contributions expected to be collected in future years are initially reported at fair value determined using the discounted present value of estimated future cash flows technique. The resulting discount is amortized and reported as contribution revenue.

Conditional contributions depend on the occurrence of a specified future and uncertain event to bind the potential donor, and are recognized as assets and revenue when the conditions are substantially met and the contributions become unconditional. As of December 31, 2022 and 2021, there were no conditional contributions.

Revenue recognition - contracts with customers

The Foundation adopted Accounting Standards Codification Topic 606, Revenue from Contracts with Customers (ASC 606) and all the related amendments.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2022 and 2021

Note 2 - Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)**Revenue recognition - contracts with customers (continued)**

The Foundation's revenue consists of management fees charged for management and administrative services of custodial accounts held and invested by the Foundation for individual temples. Management fees are calculated based on a percentage of net asset value determined at the end of a quarter based on the terms stated in the contract with each customer. Services provided are considered satisfied over time as the customer simultaneously receives and consumes the benefits. Management fees revenue for the year ended December 31, 2022 and 2021 amounted to \$104,012 and \$124,142.

Allocation of investment income

Earnings on endowment funds are available for restricted use as specified by donors. Investment earnings are allocated to each fund monthly based on the weighted value of each fund to the total investment portfolio. Investment earnings and losses are recorded as net assets with donor restriction until they are appropriated for expenditure. A portion of earnings is transferred periodically from net assets with donor restriction to net assets without donor restriction to provide funds to support the Foundation's mission.

Fair value

The Organization has adopted fair value accounting guidance for all applicable assets and liabilities to define fair value, establish a framework for measuring fair value, and enhance fair value measurement disclosure.

Tax-exempt status

The Foundation is considered to be a public charity and is exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The Foundation is exempt from state tax under State of California Revenue and Taxation Code Section 23701(d). Accordingly, no provision for income taxes or related credits is included in these financial statements. The Foundation is not a private foundation under Section 509(a)(i) and 170(b)(a)(vi) of the Internal Revenue Code. Only unrelated business income is subject to federal and state income tax. Some of the Foundation's investment income is earned through private equity funds. A portion of the income passed through to the Organization from these funds may be considered unrelated business income. The resulting income tax payable is immaterial and no provision for income taxes has been made in the accompanying financial statements.

The Foundation has adopted the accounting standard related to uncertainties in income taxes. The Foundation evaluates uncertain tax positions through its review of the source of revenue to identify unrelated business income and certain other matters, including those which may affect its tax exempt status. Management believes their estimates related to income tax uncertainties are appropriate based on the current facts and circumstances.

The Foundation's federal Returns of Foundation Exempt from Income Tax (Form 990) for years ended December 31, 2020 and after are subject to examination by the IRS, generally for three years after they are filed. The Foundation's state returns (Form 199) for the years ended December 31, 2019 and after could be subject to examination by state (California) taxing authorities, generally for four years after they are filed.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2022 and 2021

Note 2 - Summary of significant accounting policies (continued)**Allocation of functional expenses**

The costs of providing the various program and management and general services have been summarized on a functional basis in the statement of activities. The statement of functional expenses presents the natural classification detail of expenses by function. Accordingly, certain costs have been allocated among the programs and supporting services benefited. Costs identified with a specific program are charged as direct costs to the applicable program. Indirect costs of various programs or services have been allocated among the programs or services benefited based on personnel time.

New accounting pronouncements - not yet adopted

In 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-13, Financial Instruments-Credit Losses. The standard requires a financial asset (including trade receivables) measured at amortized cost basis to be presented at the net amount expected to be collected. Thus, the statement of financial position will reflect the measurement of credit losses for newly recognized financial assets as well as the expected increases or decreases of expected credit losses that have taken place during the period. This standard will be effective for the year beginning January 1, 2023. The Foundation is currently in the process of evaluating the impact of adoption of this ASU on its financial statements.

Other accounting pronouncements that have been enacted but not yet implemented are not expected to have a material impact on the Foundation's financial statements.

Subsequent events

The Foundation has evaluated subsequent events through November 16, 2023, which is the date these financial statements were available to be issued.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2022 and 2021

Note 3 - Liquidity and availability of resources

The following table reflects the Foundation's financial assets as of December 31, 2022 and 2021, reduced by amounts not available for general expenditure within one year from this date. Financial assets are considered to be unavailable when illiquid or not readily convertible to cash within one year.

Financial assets available to meet cash needs for general expenditures within one year as of December 31, 2022 and 2021 are as follows:

	December 31,	
	2022	2021
Financial assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 358,486	\$ 579,812
Pledges receivable	289,144	394,996
Investments	35,638,149	43,963,222
 Total financial assets	 36,285,779	 44,938,030
 Less: Financial assets not available within one year:		
Pledges receivable	(174,009)	(248,500)
Investments - agency funds	(19,916,251)	(24,058,627)
Investments - donor endowment and accumulated earnings	(14,942,680)	(18,397,671)
	(35,032,940)	(42,704,798)
 Total financial assets available within one year	 1,252,839	 2,233,232
 Liquidity resources:		
Amounts unavailable to management without Board approval	(873,614)	(1,184,835)
 Add:		
Accumulated endowment earnings subject to appropriation within one year	850,000	850,000
 Total financial assets and liquidity resources available to management for general expenditures within one year	 \$ 1,229,225	 \$ 1,898,397

As part of its liquidity management, the Foundation structures its financial assets to be available for regular rebalancing redemptions that align with the timing of grant disbursements.

BUDDHIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA ENDOWMENT FOUNDATION

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2022 and 2021

Note 4 - Pledges receivable

Pledges receivable consist of contributions raised during the Foundation's campaign. The fair value was determined using the estimated future cash flows and discounted to the present value. The future collections of pledges receivable are as follows:

For the Years Ending <u>December 31,</u>	<u>Amount</u>
2023	\$ 115,135
2024	93,385
2025	92,239
2026	<u>11,000</u>
	311,759
Less: unamortized discount to present value	<u>(22,615)</u>
Net pledges receivable	<u><u>\$ 289,144</u></u>

Note 5 - Investments

Investments are held at Charles Schwab and with private equity funds. Investments consisted of the following and are stated at fair market value:

	<u>December 31,</u>	
	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Charles Schwab:		
Bond mutual funds	\$ 9,380,864	\$ 10,879,924
Equity mutual funds	2,768,291	2,583,099
Exchange traded funds	1,329,330	178,135
Real estate	2,400	2,400
Private equity funds:		
Angeles Global Equity Opportunities fund	20,926,979	29,945,381
Angeles Private Market fund 4	696,070	374,283
Angeles Private Market fund 5	102,356	-
Angeles Direct Market fund 1	237,999	-
Angeles Real Assets 1	<u>193,860</u>	<u>-</u>
Total investments	<u><u>\$ 35,638,149</u></u>	<u><u>\$ 43,963,222</u></u>

The investment loss of \$3,974,727 and the investment income of \$2,181,873 are presented net of investment fees.

The Foundation holds and manages investments in separate accounts for unrelated entities. The funds are invested in mutual funds and private equity investments (see Note 9). The Foundation has a fiduciary responsibility to the entities to which the funds belong.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2022 and 2021

Note 5 - Investments (continued)

Investment transactions are recorded based on a trade date basis or the effective date of the subscription or redemption of investments. Net realized gains and losses on securities and investments in investee funds are determined on a first-in, first-out basis on the specific identification method. Dividends are recorded on an ex-dividend rate and the interest is recognized on an accrual basis. Distributions and redemptions are recorded in accordance with the character of the transactions as designated by the fund manager or as determined by the general partner of the fund.

Note 6 - Fair value measurements

The framework for measuring fair value provides a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3). The asset or liability's fair value measurement level within the fair value hierarchy is based on the lowest level of any input that is significant to the fair value measurement. Valuation techniques maximize the use of relevant observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs. The inputs and the methodology used for valuing the financial instruments do not necessarily correspond to the risks associated with investing in those instruments. The three levels of the fair value hierarchy under FASB ASC 820 are described as follows:

- Level 1 - Observable inputs that reflect quoted prices (unadjusted) for identical assets or liabilities in active markets.
- Level 2 - Includes other observable inputs, not included in Level 1, that are directly or indirectly observable in the marketplace for substantially the full term of the financial instrument.
- Level 3 - Unobservable inputs which are supported by little or no market activity.

The Foundation uses the practical expedient to determine the fair value for some of its investments, which permits the use of Net Asset Value (NAV) without adjustment under certain circumstances. Investments that are measured at fair value using the net asset value per share (or its equivalent) as a practical expedient have not been categorized in the fair value hierarchy. The fair value amounts presented in the table below allow reconciliation of the fair value hierarchy to the amounts presented in the statements of financial position.

The private equity funds were formed for the purpose of achieving risk-adjusted returns versus its benchmark index by investing assets with a group of independent investment managers primarily pursuing public equity strategies, private equity, private debt and real estate strategies. The fair value of investments in investee funds is obtained by the fund administrator as a practical expedient and is based on the ownership interest in the contributed capital to which a proportionate share of net assets is attributed. The fair value of the securities held by funds is generally based on the quoted market price, broker or dealer quotation or alternative price sources. The securities are valued at the last trade price as reported by the U.S. securities exchange on the measurement date. If no trade price is reported on the measurement date, the securities are valued at the current bid price at the close of business on the measurement date. The investment manager does not adjust the quoted price of such investment instruments.

Due to the inherent uncertainty of the valuation of the fund and its underlying investments, the recorded value may differ from the value that would have been used had a readily traded market existed for these investments, and the difference could be material.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2022 and 2021

Note 6 - Fair value measurements (continued)

The Foundation holds real estate for investment that consists of a donated parcel of land originally recorded at its appraised value at the time of donation. Such investment is classified as Level 3. The Foundation reviews the valuation of its long-lived assets whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate the carrying amount of any asset may not be recoverable and an impairment loss, measured based on projected discounted cash flows, is recorded. No impairment loss was recognized on real estate for investment in 2022 or 2021. There have been no changes in the methodologies used at December 31, 2022.

The following tables set forth by level, within the fair value hierarchy, the Foundation's assets at fair value at December 31, 2022 and 2021, including \$19,916,251 and \$24,058,627, respectively, of funds held for others:

	Assets at Fair Value as of December 31, 2022			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Investments:				
Bond mutual funds	\$ 9,380,864	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,380,864
Equity mutual funds	2,768,291	-	-	2,768,291
Exchange traded funds	1,329,330	-	-	1,329,330
Real estate	-	-	2,400	2,400
Private equity funds measured at net asset value (NAV)	-	-	-	22,157,264
Total investments	\$13,478,485	\$ -	\$ 2,400	\$ 35,638,149

	Assets at Fair Value as of December 31, 2021			
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Investments:				
Bond mutual funds	\$10,879,924	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,879,924
Equity mutual funds	2,583,099	-	-	2,583,099
Exchange traded funds	178,135	-	-	178,135
Real estate	-	-	2,400	2,400
Private equity funds measured at net asset value (NAV)	-	-	-	30,319,664
Total investments	\$13,641,158	\$ -	\$ 2,400	\$ 43,963,222

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2022 and 2021

Note 6 - Fair value measurements (continued)

Investments valued using NAV as a practical expedient are as follows:

	<u>Fair Value as of December 31, 2022</u>	<u>Unfunded Commitments</u>	<u>Redemption Frequency</u>	<u>Redemption Notice Period</u>
Private equity funds	\$ 22,157,264	\$ 5,933,440	Monthly	30 days
	<u>Fair Value as of December 31, 2021</u>	<u>Unfunded Commitments</u>	<u>Redemption Frequency</u>	<u>Redemption Notice Period</u>
Private equity funds	\$ 30,319,664	\$ 1,852,609	Monthly and quarterly	30-45 days

Note 7 - Note receivable, related party

In May 2007, the Foundation advanced \$2,300,000 to BCA for an interest-bearing note receivable. The note was increased by an additional \$1,200,000 in February 2008. The note was advanced from BCA campaign assets and is secured by the BCA headquarters and another real estate holding. In July 2009, the interest rate on both advances was changed from the original 5% annual rate to 2.5%. The maturity of the note was changed to June 30, 2014. In October 2013, the Foundation advanced an additional \$500,000 to BCA for an interest-bearing note receivable, with substantially the same terms and conditions as the prior two advances. The principal balance, plus interest at 2.5% per annum, was due and payable on June 30, 2014.

In June 2014, the Foundation issued a new note receivable to cancel and replace its existing three advances to BCA. The new note receivable issued has a principal balance of \$4,000,000 and bears interest at 1.75% per annum. The note is secured by a deed of trust on BCA headquarters and another real estate holding. Required payments of principal and interest are due annually based on an amortization term of forty equal principal and interest payments.

In July 2020, the Foundation amended the note receivable with BCA. The interest rate was changed to 1.97% and the maturity date was extended to July 2050. Required payments of principal and interest are due annually based on an amortization term of thirty equal principal and interest payments. The Foundation recognized \$63,143 and \$65,708 of interest income related to the note in 2022 and 2021, respectively. The outstanding balance of \$3,188,363 at December 31, 2022 consisted of \$3,157,260 of the principal amount and \$31,103 of accrued interest. The outstanding balance of \$3,284,904 at December 31, 2021 consisted of \$3,252,863 of the principal amount and \$32,041 of accrued interest.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2022 and 2021

Note 7 - Note receivable, related party (continued)

Future minimum principal and accrued interest payments required under the note receivable for the years ending December 31, are as follows:

For the Years Ending
December 31,

2023	\$ 85,595
2024	87,281
2025	89,000
2026	90,754
2027	92,541
Thereafter	<u>2,743,192</u>
 Total	 <u>\$ 3,188,363</u>

Note 8 - Endowment assets

The table below presents a reconciliation of the endowment assets for the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021:

	<u>Without Donor Restrictions</u>	<u>With Donor Restrictions</u>	<u>Total</u>
Balance, January 1, 2021	\$ 1,186,991	\$ 17,217,094	\$ 18,404,085
Net appreciation	47,350	1,842,867	1,890,217
Contributions	-	134,455	134,455
Appropriation for expenditures	<u>(49,506)</u>	<u>(796,745)</u>	<u>(846,251)</u>
Balance, December 31, 2021	1,184,835	18,397,671	19,582,506
Net depreciation	(240,764)	(3,142,348)	(3,383,112)
Contributions	-	510,839	510,839
Designation reclassification (see Note 10)	-	50,000	50,000
Appropriation for expenditures	<u>(70,457)</u>	<u>(873,482)</u>	<u>(943,939)</u>
Balance, December 31, 2022	<u>\$ 873,614</u>	<u>\$ 14,942,680</u>	<u>\$ 15,816,294</u>

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2022 and 2021

Note 8 - Endowment assets (continued)

Included in the net appreciation of endowment investment during the year ended December 31, 2021 is \$430,833 of investment earnings that were restricted by the donor as permanently restricted net assets if not allocated by the Board of Directors at the end of each annual distribution allocation period. The Foundation has not reclassified any investment earnings into the permanent endowment during the year ended December 31, 2022. The Foundation has endowment assets designated by the Board of Directors for specific programs. For the years ended December 31, 2022 and 2021, net assets without donor restrictions of \$873,614 and \$1,184,835, respectively, were designated by the Board of Directors. The Foundation's Board of Directors authorized the investment of a portion of the endowment in a note receivable secured by a deed of trust on real property (see Note 7).

Note 9 - Funds held for others

The Foundation holds cash and investments in separate accounts which are pooled with the Foundation's endowment investment assets for investment management purposes. Funds consisted of the following:

	December 31,	
	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Investments - private equity funds	\$ 10,193,363	\$ 13,609,736
Investments - mutual funds and exchange traded funds	9,722,888	10,223,891
Cash and cash equivalents	<u>-</u>	<u>225,000</u>
	<u>\$ 19,916,251</u>	<u>\$ 24,058,627</u>

During the year ended December 31, 2022, the Foundation received \$578,193 in additional funds from the temples and other affiliated entities and distributed \$634,548, net of management fees. The investment loss related to these funds totaled \$4,086,021. During the year ended December 31, 2021, the Foundation received \$2,360,079 of additional funds and distributed \$1,087,492, net of management fees. The investment income related to these funds totaled \$1,761,844. The investment earnings are reflected as a reduction to the Agency funds on the statements of financial position.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2022 and 2021

Note 10 - Net assets with donor restrictions

Net assets with donor restrictions consisted of the following:

	December 31,	
	2022	2021
Pledges receivable	\$ 174,009	\$ 248,500
Contributions designated for specific program	880,139	1,040,930
Unappropriated earnings on donor endowment	1,453,526	5,469,356
Permanently restricted endowment funds	13,489,154	12,928,315
	\$ 15,996,828	\$ 19,687,101

Endowment earnings may be used to defray costs of general operations unless restricted for a specific purpose. Donor-imposed restrictions on certain permanent endowment funds require investment income not currently expended to be added to the permanent funds. Included in the underwater endowment funds at December 31, 2022 is one endowment fund with a deficiency of \$325,328 which was caused by current year investment losses on the previously added unspent investment earnings to the original corpus.

At December 31, 2022 and 2021, permanently restricted funds consisted of the following:

	December 31,	
	2022	2021
Professional chairs	\$ 7,352,657	\$ 6,794,195
Ministerial support	2,635,009	2,635,009
Education programs	2,168,548	2,168,498
IBS and BCA general and administrative	486,861	484,534
Zaidan fund	500,000	500,000
Membership development	265,980	265,980
Scholarships	80,099	80,099
	\$ 13,489,154	\$ 12,928,315

During the year ended December 31, 2022, one of the Foundation's donors modified the original pledge intent and restricted \$50,000 of a previously recognized unrestricted contribution to endowment. The change in the designation is reflected above as an increase in the permanently restricted funds within the professional chairs endowment fund.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2022 and 2021

Note 10 - Net assets with donor restrictions (continued)

At December 31, 2022 and 2021, the net assets with time and purpose restrictions consisted of the following:

	December 31,	
	2022	2021
Professional chairs	\$ 773,616	\$ 3,236,008
IBS and BCA general and administrative	354,489	1,029,983
Zaiden fund	304,864	430,715
Jodo Shinshu Center	241,672	200,080
Ministerial support	205,125	388,982
Scholarships	186,486	236,604
Publications	154,982	190,410
Education programs	64,571	672,845
IBS facilities and programs	47,860	124,659
Available for unrestricted use upon expiration of time restrictions	174,009	248,500
	<u>\$ 2,507,674</u>	<u>\$ 6,758,786</u>

Note 11 - Employee benefit plan

The Foundation has a defined contribution 403(b) plan under which eligible employees may contribute a portion of their compensation to the plan, subject to the limitations under the Code. The Foundation contributed \$14,720 and \$7,240 to the plan in 2022 and 2021, respectively.

Note 12 - Concentrations, risks and uncertainties

The Foundation maintains its cash and cash equivalents with high credit quality financial institutions which, at times, may be in excess of Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation insurance limits. The Foundation has not experienced any losses in such accounts and management believes it is not exposed to any significant credit risk with its cash accounts.

The Foundation invests in various investment securities and private equity funds. Investments are exposed to various risks such as interest rate, market, and credit risks. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities and private equity funds, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect the Foundation's account balances and the amounts reported in the statements of financial position.

The Foundation is subject to other possible claims and lawsuits that may arise in the ordinary course of business activities. It is the opinion of management that the disposition or ultimate resolution of such claims and lawsuits will not have a material adverse effect on the financial position, changes in net assets, and cash flows of the Foundation.

Notes to Financial Statements

December 31, 2022 and 2021

Note 13 - Reclassification

Certain reclassifications have been made to the December 31, 2021 financial statements to conform to the December 31, 2022 financial statement presentation, having no effect on the previously reported change in net assets.

Jodo Shinshu International Office (JSIO)
Report to the National Council
February 2024

Over the course of last year, JSIO has carried and supported various programs including:

- English Online Discussions: Ritual & Services Series for Ministers and MAs
- Japanese Online Lectures
- Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course (JSCC), including monthly online book club for current and waitlisted students
- JSCC August Workshop (August 4-6) – hybrid event held in conjunction with IBS and CBE’s Pacific Seminar
- Study Tour to Japan with current and graduated students from the Correspondence Course for the Joint Celebration held at Hongwanji
- *Gleanings on the Pure Land, Vol. 2* was published in July
- International Ministerial Orientation Program (IMOP) – Rev. Giei Sasaki joined us for a one-month session to learn about ministry in the U.S.
- *Jodo Shinshu International* was published on schedule in December.
- Support for the 11 candidates (10 from BCA and 1 from Hawaii) of the Tokudo Ordination at the Hongwanji in December

Here are some of the publications and activities that can be expected in the upcoming year:

- *Gleanings on the Pure Land, Vol. 3* and *Making the Temple Home* (follow up to *Crossing Over*) to be published soon.
- The next issue of *Jodo Shinshu International* will be released in March.
- Regular programs like the JSCC, book club, and IMOP will continue.
- Preparations are being made for Kyoshi Kyoshu to be held at the JSC in November.

Our website is available at www.jsinternational.org

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara
kkuwahara@jsinternational.org

Highlights of 2023

Jodo Shinshu International Office



MAY

JSIO Japan Study Tour (Above Left)

A group of both current and graduated students from the Correspondence Course joined us in a 10-day trip to Japan to celebrate the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth and the 800th Anniversary of the Founding of Jodo Shinshu. In addition to visiting Hongwanji, we also visited important sites in Shinran Shonin's life.

JUNE

Three Bishops Online Discussion "New Ryogemon"

Rev. Marvin Harada of Buddhist Churches of America, Rev. Eric Matsumoto of Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii, and Rev. Tatsuya Aoki of Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada shared their thoughts and reflections of the new Ryogemon, "Gratitude for the Jodo Shinshu Teaching."



AUGUST

International Ministerial Orientation Program (IMOP) (Above Right)

Rev. Giei Sasaki joined us to learn about Jodo Shinshu ministry in the United States. He participated in lectures and seminars, visited various temples, and gave Dharma messages over the course of the program.

SEPTEMBER

Panel Discussion "Religious Perspectives on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) No. 5 - Gender Equality"

Prof. Ameena Jandali, Rev. Motoe Yamada Foor, and Dr. Jeff Wilson joined us at the Jodo Shinshu Center to share their perspectives on the topic of gender equality through the teachings of Islam, Christianity, and Buddhism.

Publications

Gleanings on the Pure Land Volume 2

This year we published the second volume of short messages written by eminent Jodo Shinshu ministers and scholars elaborating on the meaning of Dharma quotes.



Jodo Shinshu International

JSIO's quarterly journal features articles by Buddhist scholars, reflections by sangha members, and Dharma essays by ministers. View past issues via the QR code to the right.





JSIO Japan Study Tour

Greetings,

On behalf of Jodo Shinshu International Office, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to you for your support and guidance throughout the year 2023.

JSIO was organized to share Amida Buddha's Wish with the world by offering educational programs, special events, and publications for all people, beyond geographical boundaries.

The essence of Buddha is that of untiring Compassion based on Wisdom. From the eyes of Buddha, we live our lives based on our limited love and knowledge without being aware of our true karmic conditions. Therefore, out of deep sorrow, Buddha appears in the form of a strong command that urges each of us to take refuge in (Namo) its Infinite Wisdom and Compassion (Amida Buddha).

I firmly believe that the world is waiting for Shinran Shonin today more than ever. The Pure Land Teaching that he appreciated brings Buddha's Light to all walks of people. It eradicates the darkness of the world and brings fulfillment to those who hear the Compassionate Call from the Realm of Peace and Equality.

Let us continue to deepen our appreciation of the Jodo Shinshu teaching. I would like to ask for your continued support for the coming year. May you continue to live your life within the Compassionate Light of Wisdom.

Namo Amida Butsu,

Rev. Kodo Umezu
JSIO President

Support our programs

Donate by mail:

JSIO
2140 Durant Avenue,
Berkeley CA 94704

Donate online:

www.jsinternational.org
or scan the QR Code below.



Jodo Shinshu International Office

**Treasurer's Report
BCA National Board Meeting
February 23, 2024**

BCA Dana Program

As of January 31, 2024, \$106,000 was contributed through this program. Donations directly go toward funding the BCA FY 2025 (April 1, 2024 – March 31, 2025) budget.

BCA Endowment Foundation Support

The BCA Endowment Foundation allocation for the FY 2025 budget is \$323,697. This represents an increase of \$36,646 from last year's allocation. This amount goes to support CBE, the BCA Archives and the Ministerial Pension fund.

Jodo Shinshu Center (JSC) Loan

The annual minimum loan payment of \$147,799.92 was paid to the BCA Endowment Foundation on June 30, 2023. Of this amount \$62,205.30 is interest on the loan, with the remaining \$85,594.62 applied toward paying down the principal. The outstanding loan balance is \$3,072,034.93. The loan is not paid out of dues assessments but is funded through BCA reserve funds and donations to debt relief.

BCA Financial Review

The FY 2025 budget includes \$15,000 to perform a financial review of BCA accounting records by an independent Certified Public Accountant firm. Work on the FY 2022 audit has been completed by BCA staff; we are awaiting certification of from the audit firm.

BCA 403(b) Retirement Plan

The BCA 403(b) retirement plan is available to all active full time BCA Ministers and staff. The BCA will match 50% of all salary deferred contributions up to a total amount of \$3,000.00 per calendar year. The FY 2025 budget allocates \$133,472 for this program. The BCA also makes a one-time Employer contribution to all full time active BCA ministers based on a percentage calculated from the BCA Minister's Mutual Benefit Fund.

BCA Legacy Pension Plan

The legacy defined benefit retirement plan continues to service retired ministers and their widows who are enrolled in this plan. The FY 2025 budget plans to contribute \$95,048 to this program.

Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS) allocation

The IBS requested an allocation of \$377,009 from the BCA for the FY 2025 budget, which is the same amount requested from last fiscal year.

BCA Leased Properties

The BCA Bishops' Parsonage and nearly all of the BCA Headquarters Building are now being leased to outside parties. The combined income generated from leased properties is projected to contribute about \$265,000 to the FY 2025 budget.

BCA Individual Members

The BCA Individual Member program has 63 active members. The purpose of this program is to offer membership benefits to those who do not reside near an existing BCA temple. Dues are \$160 for an individual member, and \$250 for a family (2 or more people). Since individual members are not members of BCA temples, the total dues collected from them (as of December 31, 2023) will be deducted from the total dues' contribution to the BCA budget. The resulting difference will then be divided by the total BCA temple-based membership count to determine the per-member dues assessment.

BCA Youth Members

A resolution to establish a BCA Youth membership category was passed at the Feb. 2021 National Council Meeting. The purpose of this program is to incentivize prospective members who are 30 years of age or younger. BCA dues are \$50/youth member. During the annual BCA census, in addition to reporting temple membership numbers, temples are also asked to report the number of youth members. Dues for BCA Individual Members not affiliated with a temple who are 30 years or younger will also be assessed \$50/member. The total dues collected from youth membership (as of December 31, 2023) will be deducted from the total dues' contribution to the BCA budget in a manner analogous to that applied for BCA Individual Members. In 2023, there were 147 BCA youth members.

BCA Capital Maintenance Budget

At the 2019 BCA National Council meeting held in Phoenix, the body endorsed point 3 of the BCA Strategic and Financial Planning Committee that directs "the BCA Finance & Budget Committee make maintenance of the BCA properties a yearly budget item that cannot be eliminated and would reasonably meet the yearly needs. This proposal is intended to discourage viewing the maintenance budget as an item that could be reduced to reinforce shortfalls in other areas of the BCA budget." An annual review of the maintenance needs of BCA-owned properties was undertaken with input solicited from BCA building maintenance staff. Excluded from the list are major repair projects (e.g., BCA HQ Elevator modernization) that are being addressed through the Dharma Forward capital campaign. Based on this analysis, the total capital maintenance assessment is \$123,997.35 (increase of \$1,881.35 from last fiscal year). Below is a breakdown by facility:

Facility	Maintenance provision
Jodo Shinshu Center	\$ 77,547.35
BCA Headquarters	\$ 35,950.00
Parsonage	\$ 10,500.00

The most pressing current maintenance need is replacing six HVAC units at the JSC, which will cost approximately \$222,000. These units are planned to be installed in the middle of 2024.

Completed projects in 2023 include the roof repair of the BCA Headquarters building, and the replacement of the security/card key system at JSC.

Temple Dues Assessment

For FY 2025 (April 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025) the total temple dues contribution to the BCA budget is \$1,940,090. According to the BCA census, last year's membership count is 10,586 members. The per-member dues assessment is \$183.27/member, 3.4% dues increase from last year.

- 3.5% Cost-of-living allowance for BCA employees.
- Additional projected revenue from rental of 1st floor of BCA Headquarters.
- Includes Capital Building Maintenance fund assessment
- Funds for BCA 125th Anniversary celebration

BCA Budget & Finance Committee

There are still vacant seats on the committee for the following districts: Northwest, Central California, Eastern and Mountain. Please contact me or President Omori if you know someone who would be interested in serving on the committee.

Thank you to Rev. Henry Adams for his long service on the committee as the BCA Ministerial Association representative.

BCA Census

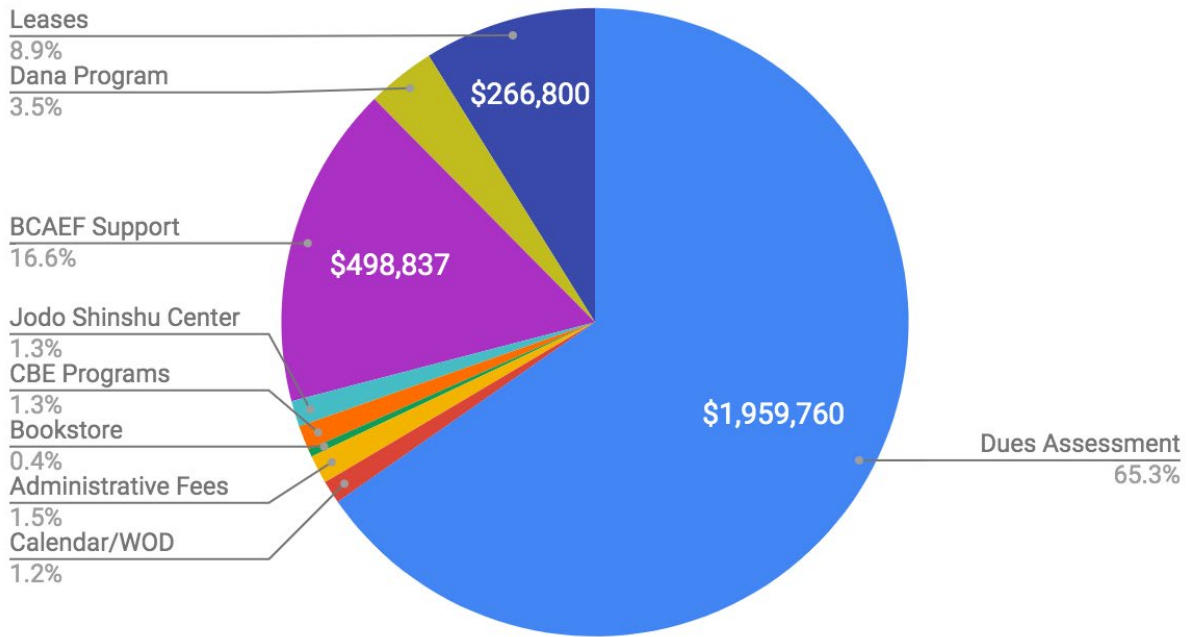
The temple membership census takes place in January every year. However, starting with this year, the census will take place in September rather than in January. This will allow a consistent BCA dues assessment figure to be presented at the National Board and National Council meetings.

In Gassho,
 Jeffery S. Matsuoka
 BCA Treasurer
jmatsuoka@bcahq.org

BCA Budget & Finance Committee

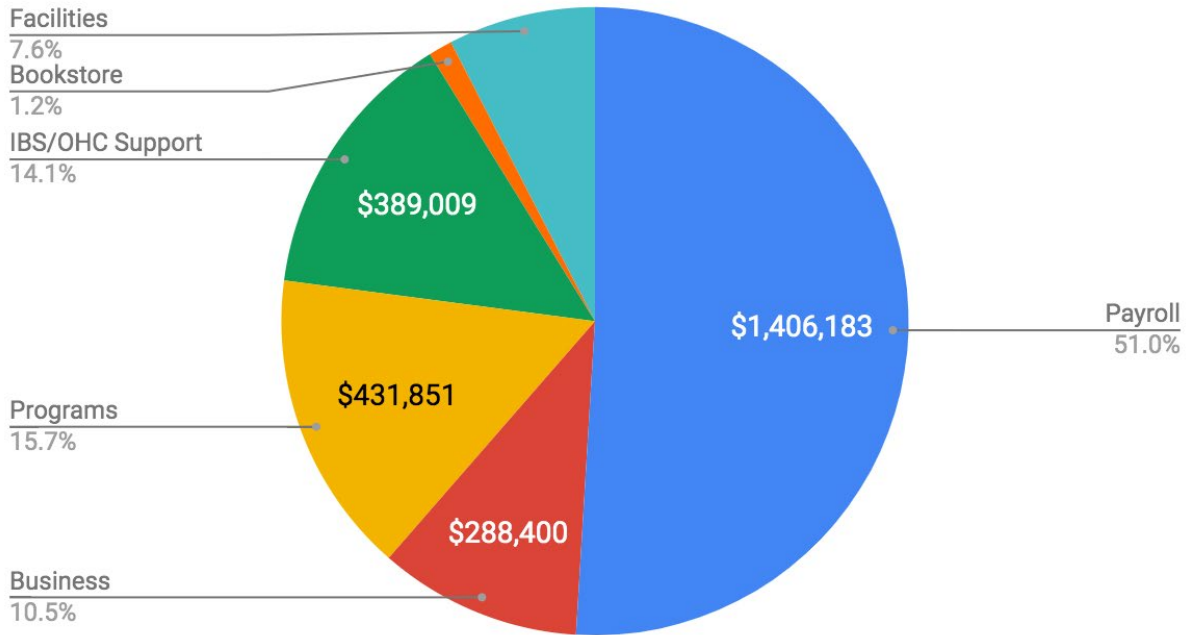
Jeffery S. Matsuoka, Chair	John Arima, Coast District
Rick Oishi, Southern District	Bradley Menda, Bay District
Stuart Ito, Northern District	
Rev. Henry Adams, BCA Ministerial Association	
Terri Omori, Ex-Officio	Bishop Marvin Harada, Ex-officio
Gayle Noguchi, BCA Exec. Dir (staff)	Kevin Arakaki, BCA Controller (staff)

BCA Revenues FY 2025



Dues Assessment	\$ 1,959,760
Calendar/Wheel of Dharma	\$ 35,500
Administrative Fees	\$ 44,200
Bookstore (net)	\$ 11,500
CBE Programs	\$ 38,000
Jodo Shinshu Center	\$ 40,000
BCAEF Support	\$ 498,837
Dana Program	\$ 106,000
Leases	\$ 266,800
TOTAL	\$ 3,000,597

BCA Expenses FY 2025



Payroll	\$ 1,406,183
Business	\$ 288,400
Programs	\$ 431,851
IBS/OHC Support	\$ 389,009
Bookstore	\$ 33,792
Facilities	\$ 209,773
TOTAL	\$ 2,759,008

Buddhist Churches of America

Activity Budget

April 1, 2024 through March 31, 2025

Ordinary Revenue

General & Administrative	
Dues Assessment	1,959,760
Programs and Fundraising	35,500
Administrative Fees	44,200
BCAEF Support	417,353
Bookstore	
Sales	23,000
Cost of Goods Sold	(11,500)
Center for Buddhist Education	
Program Registration	38,000
BCAEF Support	187,484
Jodo Shinshu Center	40,000
Leases	266,800
	Total Ordinary Revenue
	3,000,597

Ordinary Expense

General & Administrative	
Payroll	1,219,163
Business	288,400
Programs	363,851
Allocation	389,009
Bookstore	33,792
Center for Buddhist Education	
Payroll	187,020
Programs	68,000
Facilities	
National Headquarters	53,652
Bishops' Residence	21,468
Jodo Shinshu Center	300,300
Space Allocations	(165,647)
Pension	
	Total Ordinary Expense
	2,759,008

Net Ordinary Revenue	<u>241,588</u>
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BCA Building Maintenance Budget - Jodo Shinshu Center (Berkeley, CA)						Base Year 2020			
Item #	Project	Description	Time-line	Cost	Useful life	Annual Cost	Comments		
101	Exterior Cladding	Paint	2026	\$ 50,000.00	6	\$8,333.33	Paint walls and wood		
102	Flooring	All floors	2036	\$ 75,000.00	16	\$4,687.50	Vinyl tiles		
103	Interior Finishes	Paint	2030	\$ 45,000.00	10	\$4,500.00	Hallways, Reception Lounge, KODO, Conference Room, Dining Room		
104	Roof	Replace built-up roofing	2031	\$ 40,000.00	11	\$3,636.36	Installed 2006		
106	Elevator	Motor, electronic and controls	2031	\$ 100,000.00	11	\$9,090.91	Upgrade, industry standards and code		
107	HVAC	Replace 6 units	2024	\$ 222,000.00	10	\$22,200.00	Replace 6 units in 2024		
107	HVAC	Replace 1 unit	2043	\$ 37,000.00	20	\$1,850.00	Installed 2023		
107	HVAC	Filtration system	2024	\$ -	6	\$0.00	Dharma Forward grant request		
108	Plumbing	Tankless water heater	2028	\$ 20,000.00	10	\$2,000.00	Two units installed 2018		
108	Mechanical	Boiler (radiant heat)	2031	\$ 12,000.00	11	\$1,090.91	Original w/periodic maintenance		
109	Electrical	Lights	2026	\$ 30,000.00	6	\$5,000.00	LED's Installed 2016/2017		
110	Security System	Upgrade cardkey/camera	2038	\$ 60,000.00	7	\$6,000.00	Completed in 2023		
111	Carpeting	Interior	2026	\$ 31,950.00	6	\$5,325.00	10,000 sq ft		
112	Exterior Cladding/Wooden Gate	Façade	2030	\$ 35,000.00	10	\$3,500.00			
113	Parking Lot	Elevator Scavenger pump	2038	\$ 5,000.00	15	\$333.33	Completed in 2023		
114	Furniture	Guest room beds, furniture, applia	2026	\$ 70,000.00	6	\$11,666.67	Phased in next 3 years		
						\$77,547.35			
BCA Building Maintenance Budget - BCA Headquarters (San Francisco, CA)									
Item #	Project	Description	Time-line	Cost	Useful life	Annual Cost	Comments		
201	Exterior Cladding	Painting	2026	\$ 40,000.00	6	\$6,666.67			
201	Garage Drs, Stairs Etc	Painting	2026	\$ 12,000.00	6	\$2,000.00			
202	Carpets	1st/3rd floors	2032	\$ 40,000.00	12	\$3,333.33			
202	Interior Walls	Painting	2024	\$ 26,000.00	4	\$6,500.00			
203	HVAC	New: 2018	2045	\$ 80,000.00	25	\$3,200.00	New units installed in 2018		
206	Plumbing	Bathroom toilets/wash basin	2032	\$ 25,000.00	12	\$2,083.33	Original - Flooring/Fixtures		
207	Roof	Replace built-up roofing	2043	\$ 60,000.00	20	\$3,000.00	Replaced in 2023		
208	Electrical	Electrical	2040	\$ 50,000.00	20	\$2,500.00			
209	Elevator	Modernize elevator	2050	\$ 200,000.00	30	\$6,666.67	Completed from Dharma Forward		
						\$35,950.00			
BCA Building Maintenance Budget - Bishops' Parsonage (Belmont, CA)									
Item #	Project	Description	Time-line	Cost	Useful life	Annual Cost	Comments		
304	Exterior house	Paint	2028	\$ 15,000.00	8	\$1,875.00	Last paint unknown		
305	Roof	Replace Roofing	2030	\$ 30,000.00	10	\$3,000.00	Installed in 2020		
306	Interior house	Paint	2028	\$ 10,000.00	8	\$1,250.00	Touch up: Apr. New Bishop		
306	Interior house	Flooring	2028	\$ 15,000.00	8	\$1,875.00	Touch up: Apr. New Bishop		
307	Carpets	Carpet/Hardwood Floor	2028	\$ 10,000.00	8	\$1,250.00	Touch up: Apr. New Bishop		
308	Window coverings	Interior - shades,shoji screen	2028	\$ 10,000.00	8	\$1,250.00	Touch up: Apr. New Bishop		
						\$10,500.00			
					TOTAL	\$123,997.35			

Treasurer's Team Meeting - Feb. 12, 2024 4pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84475693001?pwd=TjVFb0FaOHd0Qm1BbVkvQVFvbWNZUT09>

1. Opening Gassho
2. A/R Report

	Current	1 - 30	31 - 60	61 - 90	91 and over	Total
Longmont Buddhist Temple	383.95	383.95	383.95	383.95		1,535.80
Placer Buddhist Church	2,613.79				2,361.53	4,975.32
Sacramento, Buddhist Church of	10,625.24		10,625.24			21,250.48
Salt Lake Buddhist Temple					1,724.62	1,724.62
San Francisco, Buddhist Church of	2,672.86	2,672.86			3,778.00	9,123.72
Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Church	6,134.74				6,134.74	12,269.48
Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple	4,931.65	100.00	100.00	4,931.65	200.00	10,263.30
Visalia Buddhist Church	723.60	723.60	723.60	723.60	12,158.36	15,052.76
TOTAL	\$155,296.58	\$36,569.57	-\$ 1,771.60	\$5,983.70	\$26,357.25	\$ 222,435.50

[Longmont](#) Buddhist Temple - reminders sent - Jeff M. will follow up

[Placer](#) Buddhist Church - reminders sent - Terri will follow up

[Sacramento](#), Buddhist Church of - reminders sent

[Salt Lake](#) Buddhist Temple - reminders sent - Jeff M. will follow up

[Seattle](#) Betsuin Buddhist Church - already in contact

[Tri-State/Denver](#) Buddhist Temple - Invoice reissued due to disputed payment. Zak to send in 403(b) form

Midwest BT - Review invoice payments re 403(b)

3. [FY2024 Quarter 3 Draft P&L vs actual](#)
4. 403(b)/Pension report - Koichi Mizushima
 - a. Franklin Templeton converted to PCS Retirement, LLC | Aspire Financial Services, LLC
5. BCA FY 2025 budget
 - a. Temple census complete
 - b. Seek approval from BCA Nat'l Council Meeting
6. Finance & Budget committee meeting Jan. 27
 - a. Music Committee, BCA Bookstore, Wheel of Dharma presented
 - b. Gayle shared vision of increasing bookstore sales.
 - c. From WOD discussion, need to get more detailed readership demographic information.
 - d. Asked the committee about their budget to actual report preferences.

- e. Question arose about who has the responsibility to monitor organizational financial condition given more timely budget to actual reports. Also suggestions to inform committees/departments in the new budget cycle how much of their approved budget was spent in the previous fiscal year.
7. Financial review update - Audit committee discussion
 8. Dana Fund
 - a. Darlene asked for areas in budget that can be highlighted for raising funds
 - b. Could target critical areas (e.g., funding the annual JSC loan payment, pension liability, etc.)
 - c. At May meeting, requested a list of priorities for Dana fund ask for next year.
 - d. Fundraising priorities - JSC 20th Anniversary in 2026.
 9. Ohtani Building fund - replenishment
 10. Next meeting - Monday, March 11, 2024 4pm
 11. Closing Gassho

NCM FACILITIES REPORT- February, 2024
Submitted by Bob Matsueda

Introduction-

Thank you to all of the temples and members of the BCA for continuing to support all facilities. Thank you to Pam Matsuoka for her hard work on facilities, and for being the point of contact for scheduling and reservations for events and hotel rooms. The JSC has had unprecedented non-stop use of hotel rooms, classrooms, Kodo, kitchen, community room and lobby for a wide range of events in 2023. Special thanks to Pam Matsuoka for scheduling, coordinating and organizing all of the events; along with Judy Kono and Rev. Michael Endo.

pmatsuoka@bcahq.org

Thanks for the continued support and guidance from Gayle Noguchi (Director of Operations); Kevin Arakaki and Gregg Sera (Finance); Budget and Finance Committee; Real Estate Committee; Pillar Coordinators (Dharma Forward Facilities); Dharma Forward Committee; the Executive Committee; Terri Omori (BCA President) and Bishop Marvin Harada.

Although there are many people involved in supporting facilities, I would like to extend appreciation to Darlene Bagshaw for continuously donating Covid Test kits to the JSC; Sady Hayashida (architect for JSC) helping us with all permits; Terrie Masuda (Realtor and Property Manager of 37 Waterloo Ct); Robert Noguchi for volunteering to organize facilities at HQ and the JSC; and Angela Bartolacci (BCA Admin Assistant).

37 WATERLOO CT., BELMONT (former parsonage)

Tenants have extended their lease till June, 2024 with rent increasing to \$6950/month.

1710 OCTAVIA ST., SF- BCA HQ

New roof project completed. HVAC units on the roof are also waterproofed/sealed.

New camera system with updated software installed. (2 cameras)

HQ Property Manager hired- Julie Kono. She is part of Okamoto Realty and her office is in Japan Town near HQ. She will respond to fire and burglar alarm calls, and interface with tenants JCYC for maintenance issues. She will report all maintenance issues to Bob Matsueda, who will still oversee expenses, maintenance and construction projects.

JCYC will lease ½ of the first floor starting March 1st, 2024. BCA accounting and JSIO office will occupy the other half of the floor. There will be an amendment to their existing lease to increase rental fees.

BCA will have the Stupa on the roof of Buddhist Church of SF painted due to wear and weather fading. This is owned by BCA

BCA will contribute to BCSF's upgraded camera/security system that covers the Stupa, Onaijin and common areas ie BCA property on BCSF's site.

JODO SHINSHU CENTER (JSC)

6 HVAC units on the roof are scheduled to be replaced in summer of 2024.

Filtration/ionization system will be installed with new HVAC units as the highest protection against Covid, bacteria/virus, smoke etc. inside the building.

Final approval of the parking lot waterproofing project was approved and will commence in Spring, 2024.

Commercial solar parking lot lights (5) will be installed with an ETA of completion in April, 2024.

Gassho,
Bob Matsueda

BCA Bookstore
Report to the National Council
February 2024

The bookstore continues to serve temples/churches, the Institute of Buddhist Studies, and the general public through online sales. The bookstore may also be open for limited hours during scheduled events at the Jodo Shinshu Center for those involved in activities.

Ongoing Activities:

- Inventory Management: purchasing/receiving, product merchandising
- Maintaining, updating, and operating the online store
- Taking temple requests and bulk orders via email and Paypal
- Administering the Facebook page
- Occasionally contributing to the Wheel of Dharma and BCA Connect
- BCA Inmate Outreach Program - responding to requests for information on Buddhism from incarcerated individuals

Respectfully submitted,
Madeline Kubo
BCA Bookstore Manager

Jan. 28, 2024

To: BCA National Council

Re: BCA Administrative Reports No. B-3

From: Jon Kawamoto, Editor, Wheel of Dharma

Greetings to everyone at the BCA National Council meeting. It's so nice to see so many familiar faces — and to meet face to face with so many of you that I've met on Zoom meetings and via emails and texts.

Thank you for this opportunity to share an update on the Wheel of Dharma.

I'll make this brief: This past year was an exceptional year. But every year in a notable year in the BCA.

It marked a full return to normalcy after the pandemic — with in-person conferences, meetings and events. Record crowds were reported at BCA temples and churches for the Obon season.

In May, the 17th World Buddhist Women's Convention was held in Kyoto, Japan, along with the joint celebrations of the 850th anniversary of Shinran Shonin's birth and the 800th anniversary of the establishment of the Jodo Shinshu teaching.

The BCA's various districts held their own special joint celebration services throughout the year.

We also reported on the Maui wildfires that devastated the Lahaina Hongwanji Mission and noted the BCA's efforts to aid the temple and the Hawaii Kyodan.

Apart from the stories, we were able to maintain our monthly print schedule — an accomplishment in itself because we went through three different printers after November.

Our longstanding printer went out of business in October after 51 years. We had the Wheel of Dharma printed by a succession of printers — with an assortment of problems and issues — until we were able to find a great printer in January.

We have also been in discussion with the BCA Finance and Budget Committee on ways to reduce the rising expenses of printing and postage. And we hope to come up with a plan over the coming years to address these concerns.

I want to thank Bishop Rev. Marvin Harada and President Terri Omori for their time, columns, feedback, and support.

I look forward to working with new BCA President Steve Terusaki and I want to congratulate Terri for all of her incredibly hard work and being a true trailblazer — the first woman BCA president.

I also want to thank all of you in the BCA who've contributed articles, photos and feedback.

Thank you to the Wheel of Dharma crew — Japanese Section Editor Rev. Ryuta Furumoto, Rev. Michael Endo and designer Jeffrey Kimoto.

My deepest gratitude goes to the Sangha members for all of their kind words of support. We hope you keep reading — and keep supporting — the Wheel of Dharma. NamōAmidaButsu.



Buddhist Churches of America

Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations

米 国 仏 教 団 婦 人 会 連 盟

Report to National Board Meeting

February 23, 2024

Summary of Activities

Representatives' Meeting:

On October 21, 2023, the BCA FBWA held its annual Representatives' meeting virtually. We thank Bishop Harada and Terri Omori for attending and sharing their thoughts.

We noted the passing of Jeanette Arakawa, who served as Secretary General for two and half terms and served as Co-Chair of the 16th WBWC held in San Francisco in 2019. Jeanette was passionate in her support for FBWA. We will miss her.

The key decisions made were that BCA FBWA would host the 19th World Buddhist Women's Convention. Since Canada has declined the opportunity to host the 19th WBWC in 2031, BCA FBWA had been asked if we would be willing to host the 2031 convention. We voted to accept the responsibility.

We thank Janet Umezu for serving one term as Secretary General. Bryce Cape of San Luis Obispo BWA was elected Secretary General for the term beginning January 1, 2024.

Northwest District stated that they would not be able to host the FBWA Conference for the term of 2027-2028, therefore, Central District was alerted that they would serve following the Southern District, as they are next in the rotation. Northwest is not part of the current rotation as stated in the bylaws.

Exchange Student Program:

Japan has elected to suspend sending Japanese students to the United States. Japan will continue to welcome students from the overseas districts to Japan. However, they have requested that the program be delayed to 2024 due to covid concerns. The program procedures for overseas districts will remain the same. Coast District has started to work on a screening process to select two students to go to Japan in 2024. The schedule has been provided to us by Hongwanji Soshiki Kyoka-bu Department in charge of the Fujinkai.

The 47th BCA Federation of Buddhist Women's Conference:

The Coast District Buddhist Women's League is hosting the next FBWA National Conference, which is scheduled for October 4-6, 2024, in San Jose California. The event will be held at the San Jose Doubletree by Hilton Hotel and the San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin. The theme is "Ichigo, Ichie ~ Each Precious Moment, A Precious Treasure". The English keynote speaker will be Colleen Hanabusa, former Congresswoman from Hawaii and the Japanese keynote speaker will be Rev. Yukiko Motoyoshi (Retired). The Committee is planning several interesting workshops. To keep costs down, the committee is fundraising. Opportunities for sponsorship are attached. There is a conference website that will be updated as we progress. The website is <https://fbwaconference.org>

Women of the BCA Project:

The FBWA hopes to collaborate with Sharon Sasaki and Michiko Inanaga, on a presentation on the Women of the BCA. A tentative date of September 28, 2024 has been selected for the one day program, to be held at the Jodo Shinshu Center.

2031 World Buddhist Women's Convention

Following FBWA's decision to accept the responsibility for the 2031 WBWC, a Steering Committee has been formed for initial discussion. A World cabinet slate will be nominated for election at the 2024 Representatives' meeting. Bishop Harada will lead a fact-finding trip for possible venues. The venue for the WBWC will be determined by the steering committee.

Upcoming Events:

2024: 47th FBWA National Conference, Coast District, Doubletree Hotel San Jose, October 4-6, 2024
 2025: FBWA Representatives' Meeting, Southern District
 2026: 48th FBWA National Conference, Southern District
 2027: 18" World Buddhist Women's Convention, Honolulu, Hawaii, September 11-12, 2027
 2027-2028: Central District FBWA Cabinet/Conference
 2031: 19th World Buddhist Women's Convention, TBD, BCA

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Doi
 BCA FBWA President 2023-2024

一期一会



Coast District Buddhist Women's League
invites you to join us for the

47th BCA FBWA Conference

ICHI GO ICHI E

Each precious moment
a perfect treasure

October 4-6, 2024
San Jose DoubleTree Hotel

<https://fbwaconference.org>





Dear Friends of BWA,

After an 8-year hiatus, the Buddhist Women's Association chapters of the Coast District will be hosting, in person, the 47th BCA Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations (FBWA) 2024 Conference on October 4 – 6, in San Jose, CA. We are expecting BWA members from all over the United States to attend. We are working hard to present a wonderful and meaningful experience for our attendees, but our enthusiasm is limited by the costs of hosting this event. In our efforts to keep the registration fee reasonable for attendees to encourage attendance, we are asking for sponsors and donors to support the various entities involved in every conference. The list is long, but our membership and supporters are many.

In the long history of the BCA, the BWA has provided the essential support for each temple or church's long existence and success. We hope you will remember their contributions and use this opportunity to show your appreciation.

Please review the sponsor opportunities and join us – as individuals, groups, organizations, churches, and temples or in any creative way. Your sponsorship will contribute to making this Conference a most meaningful, once in a lifetime event. All sponsors/donors will be acknowledged in the program booklet and in many other ways. If there should be an excess of sponsorships/donors in an area, please understand that we will respectfully use the funds where needed. Sponsorship confirmation must be received by April 1, 2024 to meet print deadlines.

The 2024 conference committee would be very grateful for your support. Most especially, the attendees will appreciate and enjoy the amenities that you will help to provide.

Thank you for your consideration on becoming a sponsor and supporter of the FBWA members and the 47th BCA FBWA Conference. Your donation will be an acknowledgment of your appreciation of the contributions of the Federation of Buddhist Women's Association.

In Gassho,
Reiko Iwanaga
Sponsorship Chair
atyrequest@gmail.com
408-209-1747



FBWA Sponsorship Opportunities

Join us in support of the 47th BCA FBWA Conference

Please check box(es) for your sponsorship

- Conference Sponsor - \$5000**
 - Listed as Conference Sponsor in all material, media, at event
 - Recognition during banquet
 - 1 full page ad

- Workshops - \$1000/2 workshops, \$500/1 workshop**
See back for list of workshops with descriptions
 - Included with individual Workshop Information
 - Listed in printed program
 - Signage and recognition at workshop site

- Break Refreshments for 2 breaks - \$5000/break**
Provides food/drink for session breaks; can be shared with multiple donors
 - We welcome donations of any amount to reach these totals!
 - All donors listed in printed program
 - Signage at break sites

- Banquet No-Host Bartender - \$1000**
 - Listed in printed program
 - Signage at bar during the evening

- Welcome Goodie Bag Contents - \$300**
Water, tea, pens, snacks, wipes, etc.
 - Listed in printed program
 - Listed in goodie bag donor sheet

- First Aid Station - \$150**
 - Listed in printed program
 - Signage at First Aid Station

- Ichi go Ichi e Donor**
General donations of any amount are Precious Treasures!
 - Listed in printed program - may include 'In Memory of' or 'In Honor of' message
 - Provides support of breaks, workshops, other needs

Note: Print Deadline is April 1, 2024. Must receive confirmation by this date for inclusion in the printed program.

Thank you very much for your sponsorship. We appreciate your support of the BCA FBWA Conference

Donor: _____
Temple/Organization/Affiliate/Individual; as it should be listed in the program

Contact: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Sponsorship/Donation: _____
List title of sponsorship/donation here. Include sponsorship choices. (Ex: break, bartender, description of goodie bag item such as snacks, tea, water, etc.)

Workshops: See descriptions on back. Check box(es) for preferred workshop sponsorship.

- Dr. Arai #1
- Dr. Arai #2

- Soul Line Dancing
- Japanese Mompo

LGBTQ+ Community

Total sponsorship/donation amount: _____

Please return this form with checks payable to FBWA. Note 'FBWA Sponsor' on the memo line.

Note: Print Deadline is April 1, 2024. Must receive confirmation by this date for inclusion in the printed program.

Mail to: FBWA Sponsor Chair, San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin, 640 N. 5th Street, San Jose, CA 95112

For questions or more information, contact Reiko Iwanaga at atyrequest@gmail.com



47th BCA FBWA Conference Workshop Summaries

Dr. Arai's Two Workshops

Primary Sponsor: Sumi Tanabe

Session I: Liberating Buddhist Women: Drinking from Wells of Wisdom and Compassion

Supporting Sponsor: TBD

To shine a fresh perspective on women's contributions to the Buddhist tradition, this presentation breathes life into the historical record and affirms teachings and practices that liberate women from negative views and see women as whole persons.

Session II: Liberating Buddhist Women: Empowering Each Other

Supporting Sponsor: TBD

Inspired by women's engagement with Buddhist practices and teachings, we will reflect on how each of us, regardless of gender orientation, can wield liberating power in our lives by applying eight principles of liberating activity.

Open Doors and Open Minds: The Future of the Buddhist Sangha

Sponsor: Glenn & Michiko Inanaga

A panel will focus on how to grow our Sanghas and spread the Dharma. Discussion will cover Technology, Buddhist Education, Engaged Dharma, and a Welcoming Culture to plant the seeds that will grow into increased membership and more engaged members in the Buddhist Sangha of the future.

Community Service Project – Card Making

Sponsor: Mountain View Buddhist Temple BWA

Expand your card making skills while supporting two local medical housing facilities: Ronald McDonald House at Stanford and JW House in Sunnyvale.

Soul Line Dancing Workshop

Sponsor: TBD

This workshop, presented by Juanita Croft, Soul Line Dancing instructor at Stanford University and community centers, is for anyone wanting to learn "classic & basic" Soul Line Dances. Exercise the body and mind while having fun moving with the music.

The Art of Modern Lettering

Sponsor: Ray Matsumoto

Learn from Nicole Miyuki Santo that modern lettering is the freedom to express oneself and experiment. You will create a small-framed lettering work of Namo Amida Butsu or Ichi go Ichi e.

Japanese Mompo – Dharma Talk

Sponsors: TBD

Rev. Yushi Mukojima, resident minister of the Mountain View Buddhist Temple, will conduct the Japanese Mompo session based on the conference theme of *Ichi go Ichi e*.

English Mompo – Dharma Talk

Sponsors: Charles & Darlene Bagshaw

Rev. Yukiko Motoyoshi, retired minister, will expand on her keynote address on the theme of *Ichi go Ichi e*.

LGBTQ+ Community Workshop

Primary Sponsors: Tom & Greer Nishikawa

Supporting Sponsor: Eastern District BWA

Supporting Sponsor: TBD

Perspective from two members of the BCA and the LGBTQ+ community will enhance a panel discussing finding space, strength, and comfort for persons of the LGBTQ+ community who are members of Jodo Shinshu.

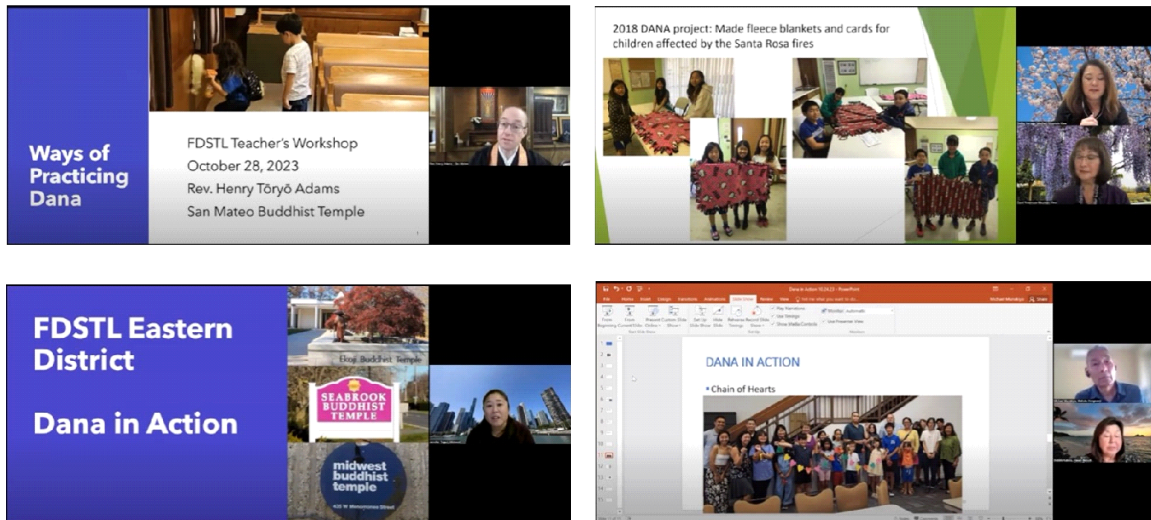
**BCA FEDERATION OF DHARMA SCHOOL TEACHERS' LEAGUES
NATIONAL BOARD REPORT, FEBRUARY 2024**

ORGANIZATION: Federation of Dharma School Teachers' Leagues (FDSTL)
 REPORT NO.:
 CONTACT: Koichi Sayano
 c/o L.A. Hompa Hongwanji Betsuin Dharma School Teachers
 815 E. 1st St., Los Angeles, CA 90012-4034
 (213) 442-4675; ksayano@earthlink.net

ACTIVITY REPORT (Feb. 2023 – Feb. 2023)

Dana in Action Workshop

FDSTL Education Committee hosted a virtual workshop “Dana in Action” on October 28, 2023. The workshop presented projects that Dharma Schools and students have undertaken to benefit their local communities. It also included an update on projects that were initiated in Hawaii in response to the Lahaina fires over the summer.



Virtual workshop held on October 28, with presentations from Rev. Adams, Coast District, Eastern District, and Hawaii on the wildfire relief efforts.

Also in response to the recent Lahaina wildfires, a number of Dharma Schools have reached out to their counterparts at Lahaina. Fundraising drives, cards and support letters, and other activities student to student outreach have been initiated by multiple chapters.

2024 FDSTL Conference

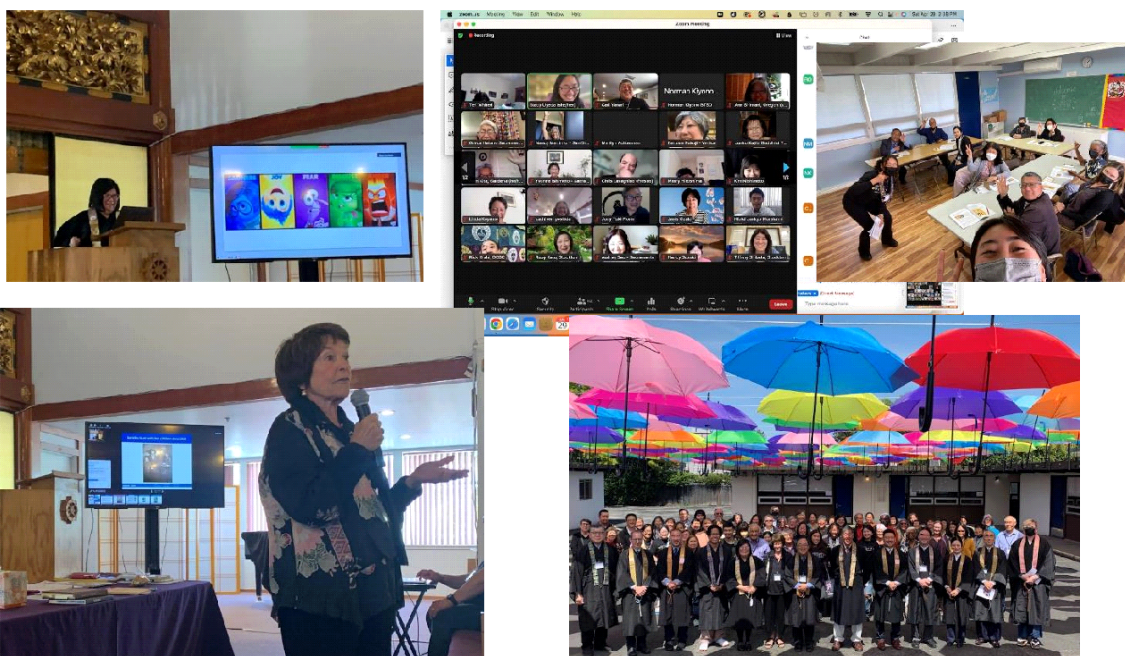
Final planning is underway for the 2024 FDSTL Conference, which will be hosted by Coast District Dharma School Teachers' League and to be held at Mountain View

Buddhist Temple on April 27-28, 2024. Dr. Paula Arai, the new faculty member at IBS, will be the keynote speaker. It will be mostly in-person with limited virtual participation available. We will be extending complimentary registration to all Maui Dharma School Teachers in addition to the official Hawaii Dharma School Teachers representatives.

2023 FDSTL Conference

The 72nd FDSTL Conference was held in-person and online on April 29-30, 2023 at the Palo Alto Buddhist Temple, hosted by Bay District. This was the first post-pandemic in-person conference and the lessons learned from this conference will be dissected to serve as the model for future conference planning. The theme was “Inside Out Buddhism”, focusing on Buddhist emotions and based on the movie of the same title. Keynote speaker was Rev. Candice Shibata of Stockton Buddhist Church.

Special guest at the conference was Trinidad Hunt, granddaughter of Dorothy Hunt of Hawaii who wrote the “Golden Chain” that has been used regularly in our services. Her grandparents were active in the Hompa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii pre-World War II.



Scenes from the 2023 FDSTL Conference, held both in-person and online on April 29, 2023.

Student submittals for the gatha lyrics contest were displayed at the conference with judging by the conference attendees.

FDSTL also congratulates the 2023 service recognition award recipients:

Bishop’s 10 Year Awards: Ellen Crane and Sallie Swan, Orange County Buddhist Church; Imogene Imada, Gardena Buddhist Church; and Doreen Suruki and Yuko Suruki, San Mateo Buddhist Temple.

FDSTL 25 Year Recognition: Robert Ronne Gardena Buddhist Church; Carol Yonemura, Mountain View Buddhist Temple.

FDSTL 50 Year Recognition: Grace Hatano, Buddhist Church of Sacramento Betsuin

Nitta Scholarship

The 2024 Nitta Scholarship application process will be starting. Some changes have been implemented to accommodate students without local Jr. YBA chapters so that their applications can be fully considered alongside students who have access to Jr. YBA programs. Participation in BCA/CBE youth programs is one of the alternates available.

Note that the application deadline will be moved up to March 31 to provide sufficient time to process awards so they can be made at graduation services in June before the recipients move on to college or other post-graduate endeavours.

Educational Activities Funds

FDSTL acknowledges substantial support for its educational programs from the following organizations and entities:

BCA Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations for financial support of the Education Fund;

Dharma School Students, Parents, and Supporters throughout BCA for the annual My Offering Fund drive;

Temples and the Sangha for the 2nd Sunday in October osaisen that is dedicated to the Bishop's Project Fund.

My Offering and Bishop's Project fundraising has been conducted through mail, e-mail, or other direct solicitations during this pandemic. The above education funds have supported speakers for FDSTL's conferences and workshops. The My Offering Fund also supports the Koromo awards to the new Kaikyoshi ministers entering BCA.

Commemorative Monto Shikisho for BCA 125th Anniversary

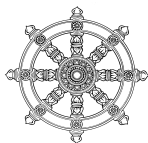
FDSTL Education Committee has developed a commemorative Monto Shikisho for the BCA 125th Anniversary that will be available to all the Dharma Schools. It will be available at the 2024 FDSTL Conference in April.



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

The FDSTL Conference will be held at Mountain View on April 27, 2024. Planning has started for the 2025 Conference in Southern District.

Dharma Schools have been asked to submit videos and other content for the BCA 125th Anniversary program in September.



District Report

Bay District Council of the BCA

Buddhist Temple of Alameda Buddhist Church of Oakland
 Berkeley Buddhist Temple Palo Alto Buddhist Temple
 Enmanji Buddhist Temple Buddhist Church of San Francisco
 Buddhist Temple of Marin San Mateo Buddhist Temple
 Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church



**BCA Bay
Council**

BCA National Council Meeting February 23-24, 2024

Submitted by: Keiju Terada, Bay District Council President
Email: kju@att.net

2024 Bay District Council Officers

- President: Keiju Terada, Buddhist Church of Oakland
- 1st Vice President: Eric Quock, Palo Alto Buddhist Temple
- 2nd Vice President: Kevin Yoza, Buddhist Church of San Francisco

District-wide Events

- Joint Service of the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth & the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of Jodo Shinshu Teachings, March 12, 2023 at the Palo Alto Buddhist Temple.
- Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival Outreach Event. Bay district temples hosted an information/outreach booth over the course of two weekends in April 2023 at the Cherry Blossom Festival in San Francisco's Japantown. The booth was staffed by ministers and volunteers from temples throughout the Bay District.
- Federation of Dharma School Teachers' League Conference. The Bay District Dharma School Teachers' League hosted this year's conference. The conference was a hybrid event with onsite activities taking place at the Palo Alto Buddhist Temple.
- Bay District Buddhist Women's League will be held a conference on May 18, 2024 at the Enmanji Buddhist Temple.

Temple Updates

Buddhist Temple of Alameda

- In March 2023, we had a successful Chicken Teriyaki Obento sale.
- In April, we participated in the Bay District booth at the Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival.
- In April, after our Hanamatsuri service we had our first otoki luncheon since the pandemic.
- Japanese Hidden Treasures Sale on June 3 & 4.
- Vacationland Carnival and Bazaar on June 26.
- Obon Odori in July

- BEC Classes were held on Oct. 5, 12, 19, and 26.
- Obento sale was on Oct. 21 with proceeds to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii's Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief Fund and Hawaii Community Foundation's Maui Strong Fund.
- Bodhi Day Service and BTOA Annual Meeting on Dec. 10.
- Dharma School & Family Service (guest speaker Rev. Landon Yamaoka) on Dec. 17.
- All Being Memorial Service (guest speaker Amy Tomine) on Jan. 14, 2024.
- New Year's Party on Jan. 21.
- Hidden Treasures (Japanese Goods) Sale will be held on March 23 – 24.

Berkeley Buddhist Temple

- Satsuki bazaar was on May 21.
- Odori in July.
- Welcomed Rev CJ Dunford added as assistant minister.
- Book talk by Scott Mitchell on new book "Making of American Buddhism" that was based on Berkeley YBA on June 18.
- In 2023 the temple will have an increased focus on community engagement/representation within our local community, with targeted events for college-age individuals and young adults. A new half-time paid individual will oversee this body of work.

Enmanji Buddhist Temple

- Open for Sunday Service – in-person and virtual options. Monthly Shotsuki Hoyo services on 1st Sunday. Buddhist special services held throughout the year were held with guest speakers.
- Obon on July 15, 2023 with Ensohza and Sonoma County Taiko; and udon sale.
- Ho-on-ko Service with Guest speaker, Koichi Mizushima, MA of Sacramento Betsuin & BCA Youth Coordinator on Nov. 19.
- Bodhi Day Service with Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji, SACBC, IBS Shin Buddhist Studies core faculty on Dec. 10.
- Mochitsuki on Dec. 16.
- New Year's Eve Service, Joya-e, outdoor bell ringing out the 108 poisons with Darryl Yagi, honorary MA on Dec. 31.
- New Year's Day Service with Rev. Elaine Donlin, MA, BC San Francisco on Jan. 1, 2024.
- Nirvana Day service with Rev. Dean Koyama, PABT on Feb. 11.

Buddhist Temple of Marin

- Open for Sunday Service – in-person and virtual options.

Buddhist Church of Oakland

- Volunteering at the info booth at the SF Cherry Blossom Festival during April 15, 16 and 22.
- Dharma School toured the 442nd/M.I.S. Exhibit on the USS Hornet, hosted by the Friends and Family of Nisei Veterans, May 6.
- Buddhist Church of Oakland Annual General Meeting, Feb. 5.
- Volunteered at J-Sei (community organization for Asian seniors) Annual Crab Feed, Feb. 26.

- Display of LGBTQ+ flag in front of temple for Pride Month on June 1.
- Graduation service with certificates presented to high school and college graduates on June 4.
- Bazaar on June 17.
- Obon on Aug. 5 and Obon Service on Aug. 6
- Ohigan Service on Sept. 17.
- OBWA Make & Take Card-Making Workshop on Sept. 17.
- Study Class on Sept. 17
- BCO Golf Fun Day @ Berkeley Country Club on Sept. 25. In Memory of Mary Hiromoto.
- Esshini/Kakushini/Lady Ohtani Memorial Service on Oct. 8.
- “Your Name” Special Anime Watch Party & Discussion on Oct. 14.
- Keirokai Senior Appreciation Service on Oct. 15.
- Dharma Chat on Oct. 22.
- “Sherry Hirota Way” Street Naming Ceremony on Oct. 25.
- Dharma School Halloween Service and Party on Oct. 29.
- Mochitsuki fundraising on Dec. 10.
- Study Class on Jan. 10, 2024.
- Cease Fire Banner Raising by Dharma School on Jan. 28.
- “Haruko Obata: Life of Flowers” presentation on Jan. 28.

Palo Alto Buddhist Temple

- Besides the temple being open for hybrid services, gym activities including taiko, basketball and judo have resumed. Our Tomonikai senior activities group has partially resumed.
- Improvements to the parsonage were completed. Improvements were made to the security system to cover all the buildings.
- “Umbrella Awning” installed in the open area between the gym and classrooms.
- PABT hosted the 850/800th Bay District observance in March and the 2023 FDSTL Conference in April.
- Bazaar (Aug. 5) & Obon (Aug. 6).
- “GoodCARma” Car & Bonsai Show held on September 23.
- Eitaikyo Service and Dharma School Baked Potato Social on Nov. 12.
- Mochitsuki on Dec. 17.
- Tri-Temple (Palo Alto, San Mateo, and Mt. View) Crab Feed fundraiser on Jan. 13, 2024

Buddhist Church of San Francisco

- Sunday Services led by Rev. Melissa Opel; holding monthly Japanese language services by Rev. Keisuke Lee-Miyaki; “Mindful Meditation” sessions held weekly by Leo Joslin sensei.
- BCSF Book Club is actively meeting.
- Participation in Northern California Cherry Blossom Festival with other Bay District temples in San Francisco during April 2023.
- Rev. Opel was welcomed as the new Resident Minister on June 1.
- Gotane and Graduation Service honored Jr. YBA graduates on May 7.

- Sangha members joined the Japanese and Japanese American community for the annual Memorial Day Service at the Japanese Cemetery in Colma on May 29, hosted by Japanese Benevolent Society of California with support of the Japanese American Religious Federation.
- BCSF Sangha members joined the Japantown and LGBTQ community for the Progressive Pride Flag Raising Ceremony at the Japantown Peace Plaza on June 4
- YAO Graduation Service on June 9, honoring all high school graduates that participated in YAO basketball, Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts.
- Annual LGBTQ+ Pride Service by the LGBTQ+ Group on June 25.
- Aloha BBQ Chicken Bento fundraiser on July 15.
- Obon and Hatsuobon Service on July 16. Bon Odori on July 23.
- “Intro to Buddhism” class on July 30 and Aug. 6.
- Family Treasures Marketplace, Kimono Sale, and BWA Boutique on July 29 and 30.
- Participated in Placer Buddhist Church Obon on Aug. 5.
- Held annual Hiroshima and Nagasaki Memorial Service on Aug. 6.
- Sangha members and bon odori teaches joined KOHO for BonPOP on Aug. 26 at the Japantown Peace Plaza.
- Fall Ohigan service on Sept. 15, followed by viewing of documentary, “Ganbaro: The Fight for the Final Four Blocks”.
- Wagashi/Japanese confection class on Sept. 10.
- Sangha members participated in JARF Curry Cook-Off at Christ United Presbyterian Church in Japantown on Oct. 21. First cook-off since 2019.
- Jr. YBA hosted Halloween Party for Dharma School students on Oct. 29.
- Jr. YBA held the Pancake Breakfast on Nov. 3; first one since 2019.
- A “Bodhi Eve Service” was held with Dii Lewis and Tony Hale of the Berkeley Buddhist Temple performing and leading us in sing-along of “Lean on Me” and “The Bodhi Tree”. The service was preceded by craft activities and a potluck in the social hall, held on Dec. 2.
- New Year's Eve Joya-e Service was held on Dec. 31 as Sangha members prepared and served toshikoshi soba.
- New Year's Day Service on Jan. 1, 2024 with BCA Bishop Rev. Marving Harada via Zoom from his mother's home in Idaho.
- BCSF's 125th Anniversary on Jan. 21.

San Mateo Buddhist Temple

- Participated in the Tri-Temple Crab Feed Fundraiser with Mt. View Buddhist Temple and held a Palo Alto Buddhist Temple on Jan. 13, 2023.
- Parent's Day Brunch hosted by the Jr. YBA on May 14.
- Bazaar held on June 24 – 25.
- Temple Picnic on July 30.
- Obon Odori on Aug. 12 and Obon Service on Aug. 13.
- Nembutsu Seminar on Feb. 10, 2024.

Southern Alameda County Buddhist Temple

- Resumed some in-person events including: Keirokai, mochitsuki, and a “Forever Young Reunion Resumed Dance Party” fundraiser.
- Renovation of restrooms in hondo.
- Continuing weekly bento sales fundraiser from Island Grinds.
- Reunion dances in January and April 2023.
- First bazaar since 2019 held on July 15 and 16..
- Obon held on August 12.
- Appreciation luncheon for Sangha members on Sept. 24.
- BWA Rummage Sale opened to public on Oct. 7 & 8.
- Fall Seminar with Rev. Etsuko Mikame of San Jose Buddhist Betsuin.
- Fall Ohigan Service with guest speaker, Rev. Etsuko Mikame.
- Obake Jams Fundraiser Dance on Oct. 28.
- Dharma School hosted annual Keirokai luncheon on Nov. 5.
- Jr. YBA attended Central California Jr YBA Conference at Fresno Betsuin on Nov. 11.
- Mochitsuki demonstration and tasting after Bodhi Day Service on Dec. 3
- Ho-On-Ko Service observed with otoki luncheon on Jan. 14, 2024.

Bay District Buddhist Women’s League

- BDBWL Conference to be held at Enmanji Buddhist Temple on May 18, 2024
- Federation BWA Conference to be at San Jose Betsuin on Oct. 4 – 6, 2024.

Bay District Jr. YBA

- Leadership workshop at JCS on 4/29/23.
- Volleyball mixer at SACBC on 5/27.
- Collecting Bay District Code of Ethics Due 12/3/23
- Completing chapter directories (online) Bay District Directory
- Attended Central California Jr. YBA Conference, 11/11/23.
- Winter Activity will be hosted by Berkeley Ohtani Jr. YBA after BD Jr. YBA meeting on Feb. 4, 2024.
- Bay District Jr. YBA Conference to be held at Palo Alto Buddhist Temple on March 16. Theme - “Six Pokémitas: Training you and your Pokémon”.

Bay District Dharma School Teachers’ League

- Hosted the Federation DSTL Conference at Palo Alto Buddhist Temple on April 29, 2023.
- District activities are in the planning stages for this winter/spring.

Bay District Ministers Association

- Hosted the 850/800 Bay District Service @ Palo Alto Buddhist Temple on March 12, 2023.
- Participated in Federation of Dharma School Teachers’ League Conference at Palo Alto Buddhist Temple on April 28 – 30.
- Japan - Hongwanji’s Observance of the 850/800 Celebration Services in May of 2023 Service and Tour Reviews.
- BCA Fuken to be hosted by BDMA at JSC on Aug. 30 – 31, 2024.

- BDMA will assist with service plans for the BCA 125th Anniversary Service for Sept. 1, 2024.
- BDMA planning meetings for the BCA National Council Meeting in 2025.

Upcoming Events:

- Planning Bay District Scholarship
- Bay District Conference 2024, Saturday, March 16, 2024, hosted at Palo Alto Buddhist Temple
- Bay District Volleyball 2024, May 27 & 28, 2024

Central California District Report

BCA National Council Meeting

February 23 -24, 2024

Fresno, Hanford, Parlier, Reedley, Visalia, [Fowler]

Submitted by: Norman Otani, CCDC BCA President

Email: norman.otani@gmail.com

Buddhist Education Committee

The Central California Buddhist Education Committee reported that in 2024, the CCMAP seminars will be held via zoom on February 4, May 28, and August 7, with Dr. Mutsumi Wondra speaking on the topics: “Essence of Shinran Shonin’s Teachings 1-2 & 3.”

BWA

The Central California Buddhist Women’s League will be have their conference on March 17, 2024 , hosted by the Reedley Buddhist Church; the theme of the conference is “Life is like a Box of Chocolates.”

CC Jr. YBA

The Central California Jr. YBA will be participating in the March 2024, Bay District Jr. YBA conference.

Ministerial Association

The Central California Buddhist Ministerial Association announced that Rev. Kakei Nakagawa, Rinban of Fresno Betsuin Buddhist Temple will retire from the BCA ministry as Kaikyoshi on February 29, 2024. Also, effective February 1, 2024, Rev. Mieko Majima, kaikyoshi minister, has been assigned to serve the Central California District Council BCA Hub-system.

Temples

■ Fresno

Fresno has decided, starting in January 2024, to have a once-a-month Friends & Family Lay Service to restart Dharma School students and family participation in the conducting of the morning temple service; this will provide a opportunity to reintroduce the Religious Chair Coordinator, and a Refreshment Toban Coordinator.

■ Parlier

In 2024, Parlier held a Ho-Onko Service on January 28, 2024, with BCA Bishop Rev. Marvin Harada, as guest speaker; additional services will be held on: February 18, Nirvana Day; March 24, Spring Ohigan; and, April 14, Hanamatsuri.

■ Reedley

In 2024, Reedley, on January 14, held a combined Ho-Onko service with their monthly memorial service and Family Dharma service; an additional service will be held on: February 11, combined monthly memorial service and Family Dharma service.

■ Fowler

On November 1, 2023, the Fowler Buddhist Church sent a letter to each of the Central California District temples, informing that a temporary leave of absence would be taken immediately, from the Central California District; since that date, the Office of the BCA Bishop has provided supervision for the Fowler Buddhist Church. No further update is available.

COAST DISTRICT REPORT

All Coast District temples are continuing to hold services and in house events with Covid protocols in place. Some temples continue to livestream their services as well.

Below are the reports from each of the Coast District Temples.

Buddhist Temple of Salinas

In October the Salinas Temple held a tri-tip fundraiser that was quite successful. Their annual Keirokai event ended a well attended event. Bento lunch along with entertainment was provided. During the event a professional photographer was there to take pictures of the attendees and their families. Attendees were then able to purchase the photos. The temple's 100th Anniversary planning is forging ahead. Joya-e and Shusho-e Services were held with quite a few people attending. Anniversary celebration will be in October. Obon has been set for July 28th.

Guadalupe Buddhist Church

The first and third Sunday of each month, GBC has in-person service. On the third Sunday, the temple is offering a light lunch for the sangha. There will be a spring rummage sale, date yet to be determined. Obon has been set for July 30th.

Monterey Peninsula Buddhist Temple

Weekly services are being held with MA's rotating duties and with Rev. Shinseki presiding over Shotsuki-Hoyo and special services. In December, the temple held its first public memorial service since Covid. Previous to this, memorial services were limited to family and relatives only. Joya -e Service and Shusho-e were held. Service On March 9th, a Tri-Temple (Monterey, Watsonville and Salinas temple) seminar will be held in Monterey at 11:00. Guest speaker will be Dr. Rev. David Matsumoto. Topic: Becoming Jodoshinshu. This is open to the public. Obon has been set for July 14th.

Mountain View Buddhist Temple

In September, Fall Ohigan guest speaker was Rev. Gigi Sasaki from Japan. There was a Sangha Day Picnic with numerous activities and a Dharma School Halloween Parade. In October, Rev. Kuwahara was a guest speaker for the ABA Memorial Service. Funeral for Rev. E. Nekoda was held. Eitaikyo Service held with Rev. K. Akahoshi as speaker and a Keira Kai luncheon was also held, in November. In December numerous fundraisers were held by BWA and Dharma School. The Girl Scouts' are collecting used crayons to be melted and to create new crayons for children's hospitals. Joya-e Service held. Shusho-e service was held. Rev. Ken Tanaka was a seminar speaker and for the Hoonko Service. Rev. K. Akahoshi was BWA speaker. Cabinet installation held. ABA is presenting "Life Skills to the YBA. Topics include "How to tie a tie", "How to set a proper table" and "How to BBQ".

San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin

“Arigato Reiko!” was held in November to honor Reiko Iwanaga for 25 years of being the lead Obon Odori instructor. Co-sponsored and participated in the first San Jose Japantown Curry Cookoff. Following events from November to Janaury were: Eshinniko/Kakushinni service, BWA Bonen Kai luncheon, Bodhi Day Service, Hoya-E Service, New Year’s Day Service, Hoonko Service with Dr. T. Miyaji as speaker. A New Year’s in person luncheon was held for the first time in four years. Save the Date: April 29, 2024. Betsuin Golf Tournament. Work with immigration attorney continuing to obtain a visa for Rev. Mikame.

San Luis Obispo

Weekly Sunday services are being held with coffee/tea social following the service. Prior to services a silent meditation and Qi Gong is held. A “Dharma Study” meets twice a month after social to discuss a book in depth. Book being discussed is River of Fire, River of Water. In October a “Sport’s Day” for children and adults was held. Meals whether potluck or prepared usually followed special services such as Eitaikyo, General Membership Meeting, Omigaki and New Year’s service.

Watsonville Buddhist Temple

Weekly services are being held. Mochi tsuki was held with electricity, this year! Joya-e Service was held. Board Installation was held along with Shotsuki-Hoya and Hoonko along with a New Year’s Appreciation luncheon.

Side note: Rev. Hosei (Dennis/Jay) Shinseki has announced his retirement. He is resident minister of Monterey, Salinas, and Watsonville. His resignation is effective at the end of July 2024.

**Eastern District Council (EDC)
National Council Report**

The Eastern District conducted their first hybrid (in-person & virtual) meeting since 2019 at Ekoji Buddhist Temple on April 15, 2023. The meeting was well attended and incredibly productive. After the business agenda the in-person group gathered for dinner and to celebrate the pending retirement of Rev. Ron Miyamura.

At this EDC meeting it was decided that the Eastern District would host their first book club. The book selected was '*A Tale for the Time Being*' by Ruth Ozeki. In August of 2023, thirty-nine (39) people joined the author Ruth Ozeki for a ninety-minute book discussion. It was a lovely time as Ms. Ozeki talked about the creation of the book, how it had several Buddhist overtones and how her family was interwoven into the narrative.

In October the EDC meet again, this time in a virtual format. The duration of this meeting was shorter but equally productive. A big decision from this meeting was to begin planning the Eastern Buddhist League (EBL) 2024 gathering. The Eastern District is currently planning a hybrid EBL to be held at Ekoji Buddhist Temple with the theme, '*Gratitude is Timeliness*'. The dates are October 19th – 21st, 2024. The Eastern District will also use this event to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the Buddhist Churches of America. Save the dates are getting ready to be sent out and all are welcome to join the Eastern District in Fairfax Station, Virginia.

The next EDC meeting will be a hybrid meeting conducted at the Midwest Buddhist Temple in Chicago on April 20, 2024.

One of the biggest events for the Eastern District was the retirement of Rev. Ron Miyamura. His retirement was celebrated in October. Rev. Kurt Rye has come back to the East as the resident minister at New York Buddhist Church and will act as the supervising minister for Seabrook Buddhist Temple and Ekoji Buddhist Temple.

New York Buddhist Church - Through August 2023, under the supervision of Rev. Ron Miyamura, Tokudo MAs, Gary Shobo Jaskula, Cheryl Joko Ikemiya and Isabelle Shoko Bernard have been continuing to conduct regular in person Sunday services; and virtually, weekly meditation sessions and thrice-monthly Dharma lessons and conversations, including a discussion group, Buddha goes to the Movies where participants discuss Buddhist themes in a particular film that they have watched. The Albany Sangha continues to meet regularly with Rev. Gary Jaskula leading the group with the assistance of Minister's Assistant Aaron Proffitt. NYCB also continues to live stream Sunday Services on You Tube and its Facebook page.

In August, Rev. Kurt Rye arrived at NYBC as its new resident minister and will also serve as the supervising minister of Ekoji and Seabrook Buddhist Temples.

NYBC opened its three guestrooms to friends and family of the greater BCA community this summer and are beginning to host guests from Japan and other BCA temples. Information about the guestrooms can be obtained by emailing nybcstay@gmail.com.

Seabrook Buddhist – welcomed Rev. Rye as their new Supervising Minister in August 2023. Seabrook was excited to welcome back Rev. Rye to the Sangha. Long awaited kitchen renovation are almost complete which will allow the Temple to soon begin conducting food related fundraisers as well as using for cooking treats for fellowship gathering after services. Temple membership has been sustained over the pandemic with small growth also being seen.

Ekoji Buddhist Temple – Continues to work on facility upgrades including the temple’s audio-visual equipment, remodeling the kitchen to bring it to the status of a commercial kitchen, upgrading the parking lot lights to LED and installing a new timer. Ekoji also continues to excel in the development of hybrid programming with the development of an *Introduction to Buddhism Course* and a *Hybrid Exploring Shin Buddhism Course*.

Over the past year Rev. Kurt Rye has gone from being the Temple’s part-time virtual minister to being the supervising minister. 2023 saw a successful Obon with over 1,200 tickets sold and fun had by all.

Midwest Buddhist Temple – On November 2, 2023, Rev. Ron Miyamura retired after a 50 year ministerial career. MBT was grateful to have had Rev. Ron’s leadership for these many years and will always honor him for his major role in the history of our temple. Over Rev. Ron’s many years his influence and presence has been widely felt through his work with BCA Eastern District temples including the Twin Cities Buddhist Association (TCBA), Cleveland Buddhist Temple, New York Buddhist Temple, Ekoji Buddhist Church and Seabrook Buddhist Temple.

Rev. Todd Tsuchiya became the Resident Minister of the Midwest Buddhist Temple in November 2023.

The Temple continues to move forward with services and activities.

Cleveland Buddhist Temple - The Cleveland Buddhist Temple celebrated its 78th Anniversary in 2023. Approximately 20 people shared in this special service, the coffee/cake celebration and nearly most stayed for the study group. Those attending the service in the past few years were new to Buddhism and the makeup was not stable. The significant trend is the number of those who continue to return is increasing.

While the Temple no longer have Japanese Americans attending, the sangha is diverse, including people from other countries in Asia. Our “come as you are” is a fact at the CBT with representatives from the demographics used to define diversity in our culture.

We are grateful for the support of Rev. Ron Miyamura, the EDC and the BCA for providing the CBT with the foundation and resources to continue the spread of Shin Buddhism in NE Ohio.

Respectfully submitted and In Gassho
 Tammy Wetzal
 EDC President

Northern California District Council

Buddhist Church of Florin	Buddhist Church of Lodi
Placer Buddhist Church	Marysville Buddhist Church
Buddhist Church of Sacramento	Buddhist Church of Stockton
Walnut Grove Buddhist Church	

BCA National Council Meeting Report February 23-24, 2024

Northern California District (NCD) Status

The Northern California District temples/churches are all conducting in-person services and affiliated organizations have resumed their normal activities. Several Churches are offering a hybrid level of service, conducting both in-person and Zoom, Facebook Live, or YouTube services. Dharma School classes have resumed for churches that have Dharma School aged children.

The highlight of 2023 was the Joint Celebration at the Sacramento Betsuin commemorating the founding of the Jodo Shinshu Teachings and the birthday of Shinran Shonin held on October 8, 2023.

Activities surrounding the planning for the 2024 BCA National Council Meeting was the primary focus for the NCD during 2023. All 7 churches/temples actively participated in planning the first in-person BCA NCM since the Covid pandemic. The challenge has been to provide the same level of services/amenities to the delegates that they would have had access to at a hotel. Holding the NCM at the Sacramento Betsuin has inherent limitations; however, the Betsuin and NCD have met those challenges, and the 20-24 BCA NCM will be one to remember.

The 202 Northern California District Council Cabinet (NCDC) was installed during the January NCDC meeting. The NCDC Cabinet consist of:

President	Peggy Okabayashi	Buddhist Church of Marysville
Vice President	Lois Kashiwase	Buddhist Church of Marysville
Secretary	Terrie Matsumoto	Buddhist Church of Marysville
Treasurer	Walter Menda	Buddhist Church of Florin

Successes During 2023:

1. Church Boards continued to meet regularly via Zoom or in-person.
2. Drive-through and in-person fundraising activities have been successful.
3. Outreach activities to maintain contact with aging sangha members such as in-home visitations, gift baskets, phone calls, meals, cards and letters as well as sharing Buddhist publications.
4. Affiliated organizations and church activities have resumed such cultural programs and Buddhism classes, meals/light refreshments after services, Dana project to support the local community, etc.

Challenges:

1. Membership continues to decline with an aging Sangha and Dharma School aged children not returning to Dharma School.
2. While there is interest in the churches and programs from the community, there is not a consistent Buddhist program to attract new members.
3. The shortage of ministers has put a strain on the existing ministers, and they are struggling to keep up with the high demands on their time.

4. Maintaining secure facilities and grounds – Northern California churches experienced break-ins, and vandalism.
5. Maintenance and repairs - Aging facilities require temples to implement long range planning and funding strategies to create some realistic and workable plans for sustaining the temples/churches.
6. Website and online payment system – many of the smaller NC temples lack the technical capability to update/maintain their webpages or to develop online payment systems.

Opportunities:

1. Increase use of digital media to connect with church members and the broader community. Smaller temples often lack the tech support needed to keep current with technology.
2. Place more focus and energy on providing Buddhist educational programs, diverse cultural and social programs and less focus on the constant need to fundraise.

How can BCA support the Northern California District Temples/Churches?

1. The BCA can support all temples by engaging in initiatives and efficiencies that will stabilize or prevent the increase in the annual dues assessed to each temple/church.

Northern California District Churches Highlights:

Buddhist Church of Florin:

In November 2023, Florin Church was burglarized and vandalized. The Florin Board is looking into online payment systems and updating their website to accept online payments. Florin continues to hold bi-weekly services and provides after-service refreshments to give the Sangha members the opportunity to interact. All fundraisers continue to be held as pre-order drive through events, which require less manpower. Revitalized Florin's cultural and social programs/activities to bring people back to the church such as Japanese Doll class, volleyball, Kyudo Club, Japanese language class, and family camping in the Sierra's.

Buddhist Church of Lodi:

Lodi successfully resumed their October Teriyaki Chicken sale and held a successful Japanese Collectibles sale in December. The ongoing challenge has been the need to expand food safety training and certifications to satisfy the County requirements. Lodi continues to hold biweekly services.

Marysville Buddhist Church

Marysville continues to hold services twice a month on the 1st and 3rd Sundays. Rev. Tim Castle announced his retirement and officiated his last service on December 31, 2023. Marysville's main challenge is the aging and declining Sangha which has brought volunteerism to a critical low. While their overall finances are stable, the lack of events, fundraising opportunities and affiliated organizations choosing not to return to in-person meetings and events will impact the finances and vitality of the church. Temple security, technology upgrades and website updates to accept online payments are all being pursued for 2024.

Placer Buddhist Church

Reverends Yuki Sugahara and Matt Hamasaki alternate office days at Placer and offer classes on their office days such as tai chi and a Buddhist study group. On a recent field trip to visit the JSC, Placer members were treated to lunch prepared by Bishop Harada. Placer held a luau to raise funds for the Lahaina temple and raised \$15,000. In 2023, Placer suffered 2 break-ins prompting them to update their security system and implement stronger security measures. Placer is focusing on moving more donations and payments online and encouraging their members to use the payment system.

Buddhist Church of Sacramento

Sacramento's greatest challenge is bringing people back to the Temple as well as bringing in new members. They are trying new and different ways to encourage more participation. 2023 saw many successful fundraising events such as rummage sale in June, the 77th Annual Bazaar in August and Lahaina Kushiyaki Bento Fundraiser in September. Sacramento also hosted the 850th/800th Anniversary Celebration service in October. Major issue for Sacramento is the problem caused by homeless encampments around the Temple area and limited parking. Recently a fence was vandalized, and their scout trailer was broken into, and items were stolen.

In 2024, Sacramento will be focusing on their 125th Anniversary activities in which they will celebrate their history, but also to look to the future through community outreach and membership drives.

Buddhist Church of Stockton

Membership numbers continue to decline. Attendance at weekly services is minimal. Regular Sunday services have very few Dharma School students or adults in attendance. Zoom participants have greatly diminished as well. With this decreased attendance, the concern about putting on a large fundraiser effort has become a bigger concern. Stockton is searching for easy, no-manpower types of fundraisers.

In October, their Office Manager was threatened by an aggressive unstable man. In response to this workplace violence, Stockton created a Safety and Security Committee to develop the temple safety plan.

Walnut Grove Buddhist Church

In-person services are well attended, and the adult study class continues once a month. Several community members have joined the group. Walnut Grove continues their Senior Bento delivery program every 1-2 months. Their AV Committee continues to work on updating their audio system. They now have stable internet. Progress is being made on their Strategic Plan.

Like many temples, an aging sangha has tightened the availability of volunteers for fundraising events. Lack of sustainable fundraising events, increased costs to maintain the temple, utilities and internet use are threats to the sustainability of the temple.

In Gassho,

Peggy Okabayashi
President, Northern California District Council

NORTHWEST DISTRICT REPORT TO NATIONAL COUNCIL FEBRUARY 2024

Idaho-Oregon Buddhist Temple B Submitted by Mike Iseri

Repair and restoration of the temple continues. HVAC is complete for most of the building and just waiting for completion of ducting in the kitchen. The kitchen and two storage rooms are basically the only rooms which remain unusable. Storage rooms should be in order soon. We're waiting for completion of the range hoods in the kitchen along with delivery of sinks, counters and appliances.

Our service schedule remains one zoom and one hybrid each month

Takeout lunches (in lieu of otoki after special services) still happens periodically. These have been important to maintain contact with the Sangha and for the income they provide. Japan Nite Obon Festival was celebrated at Four Rivers Cultural Center in the garden on July 15. It was far too hot for our taiko performers. After discussion, the board decided to move next year's Obon earlier and to remain outside in the garden. The atmosphere in the garden is much better than inside. We had the benefit of a 40'x80' tent for the majority of our guests to sit under. We have held the event indoors before and were forced outside due to a summer long exhibit at the cultural center. We found that it's much easier to social distance outside for those that choose to do so. Inside, it's rather impossible because it's too crowded. Food was contracted out to Matsy's Catering, the exclusive caterer for the cultural center. Owner Larry Matsumura is a temple member. Profits are limited for this event, but its value is in the outreach and public event aspects.

We can't thank people enough for their support throughout the process of repairing the temple. Thank you very much!

Oregon Buddhist Temple – Submitted by Cathy Yarne

In June 2023, Rev. Yuki Sugahara was appointed Rimban to the Sacramento Betsuin. Rev. Tadao Koyama, resident minister of the Tacoma Buddhist Temple was appointed as our Supervising Minister. Once a month, Rev. Koyama conducts a service and adult discussion. The Buddhist Education Committee plans and organizes the weekly services and bi-weekly Dharma Exchange/adult discussions. Guest Ministers have included: Retired minister Rev. Dr. Kenji Akahoshi, Rev. Ann Spencer of Idaho-Oregon and retired minister, Rev. Ron Kobata. COMMENT: The loss of a full-time minister is challenging. This situation requires more effort from our volunteers, particularly our Minister Assistants who have full time jobs.

The OBT Library was renamed the Osaki Library to honor Etsu Osaki and the late Herb Osaki. Herb Osaki served as a past President of our temple and past President of BCA. Etsuko Osaki is currently one of our minister assistants and has been a leader of the dharma school program, Buddhist Education Committee and OBWA past President

OBT has been updating the audio visual technology in the Hondo. We have redesigned the audio system throughout the temple and have included two monitors in the Hondo. OBT continues to offer all services and adult discussions on-line.

OBT completed two costly projects in 2023. A new roof was installed on the annex and temple. A metal fence was installed (on the street side) to increase security and protect the property.

Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple B Submitted by Leanne Nishi-Wong

On the evening of December 31, 2023, a person entered the Seattle Betsuin and started a fire in a downstairs storage area. The Seattle Fire Department extinguished the fire. The next day, the fire re-ignited causing another call to the fire department. Fortunately, nobody was hurt in these incidents, although there was significant damage to the building and the irretrievable loss of some historical records. The arsonist, who did not have prior relationship to the temple or BCA, was apprehended and is in custody. The Hondo and O-naijin area suffered extensive smoke damage. Items on the o-naijin will be sent to specialists in Japan for restoration.

The 2024 Hoonko seminar which involved the 3 temples in the greater Seattle area was scheduled for Saturday January 13 in the Seattle Betsuin was moved to the White River temple and was held.

Tacoma Buddhist Temple B Submitted by John Inge

Tacoma Buddhist Temple was the host for 2023 NW District convention, AFrom Chaos to Compassion@, September 15 - 17 at the South Center DoubleTree Hotel in Tukwilla. Reverend Dean Koyama.

The temple has also been active in creating and defining its emergency procedures for fire and earthquakes. We tested these procedures by conducting our first practice evacuation drills with the sangha. In addition, we are in the process of planning for a capital campaign, to help fund facility improvements needed for increasing temple security and safety.

White River Buddhist Temple B Submitted by Kendall Kosai

This past Summer, White River hosted its first in-person Bon Odori since the beginning of the pandemic. Attendance was noticeably higher and was generally well promoted in the Auburn community. In general, revenue increased because of higher attendance. The Temple sees the event having several benefits beyond being a fundraiser B including strengthening ties to the community.

The Temple continues to engage in community-focused events, including hosting a Blood Drive in partnership with Bloodworks Northwest, community litter pick ups (Adopt-A-Street), and has hosted a COVID-19 booster clinic.

We have removed the mandatory masking requirement and in-person events have generally returned to normal. However, the Board continues to monitor the situation and will make adjustments as needed.

Rev. Cyndi continues to acclimate to her new Temple and has been meeting with local leaders and engaging in interfaith activities. The Temple also has a number of individuals in the process of becoming Minister Assistants. Each week, the Temple continues to live-stream its Sunday services on Youtube.

Yakima Buddhist Church B Submitted by Lon Inaba

Our Temple has been actively participating in the Bishop Harada's pilot project with the BCA Propagation and Membership committee. We have our website up and running, a Facebook page, monitors, and cameras for hybrid services, and Sensei Rosalie May has been assigned to our temple, as our resident minister. She has been attending services every other Sunday since April. With her new 4-wd vehicle to travel safely over the mountain passes, she fits right in with the local ag community. She has begun to offer AIntro to Buddhism classes@ on the Saturday evening before her Sunday Service and they have been fairly well attended. We have traditionally taken summers off in past years but with a few new faces and with Sensei Rosalie, we have been holding summer services twice each month until September when we will have regular weekly services with visits from Sensei Rosalie twice each month.

We are continually seeing new faces at the regular services at the temple as well as on Zoom. Our attendance at the services has blossomed from the 6-12 attendees before the project to 10-20 since the project has begun. Many people have learned about us on either the website or the Facebook page. We have a very welcoming Sangha, and I am sure that our delicious fellowship snack has also helped to welcome our visitors. With Sensei Rosalie to answer questions, we have more depth to our explanations of the teachings. The occasional visitors are coming more regularly, and we hope to gain new membership over time. Most of the new attendees are coming from the Catholic faith. We have seen couples, siblings, and new families coming to visit us. We see new Hispanic, Caucasian, Native, and Asian faces in attendance at our services. We have had good financial support from our Sangha members to cover our financial obligations of the program. I believe that the greatest change has been in the attitude of some of our longtime members.

Our 60th Annual Sukiyaki Dinner after two years without was held in May instead of March. We had limited seating inside and outside seating as well. We implemented a new drive-thru takeout system that worked out quite well. Our regular takeout lines were expanded with added covid precautions to protect the volunteers. We had great support from our next-door neighbors at the Filipino Hall and closed off the street for vendor tables, Taiko drumming, and music performances. Our attendance was down to around 1,000 guests from our usual 1,400-1,500 but our finances came out better than expected with added donations. I sense a lot more optimism on the future of the Temple and Jodo Shinshu in the Yakima Valley from our membership.

Our Japanese Pioneer Garden Project at Tahoma Cemetery in conjunction with the Yakima Japanese Bochi has progressed and is nearing completion after over 10 years of work. We offered a tour of the garden project in conjunction with the opening of a permanent Japanese pioneer exhibit at the Yakima Valley Museum. We toured guests from the event through the temple and Kaikan and are contemplating historic status designation of our site. We have completed the installation of security doors and windows, security fencing, and motorized gates around the perimeter of the property. The design of our security improvements has not detracted from the welcoming nature of our beautiful grounds but have enhanced the look with Asian styling as well as provide for added security of the building. With the site secured, we have redone the sprinkler system, pruned tall trees, and added to the landscaping on the temple garden. We installed a new air conditioning system in the temple, and we are preparing to paint the temple and parsonage later this month. We all should be proud of what we have done with our limited but hardworking members of the group.

Due to our work to tell the stories of the Japanese American experience in the Yakima Valley as well as our efforts to preserve and protect the Buddhist Temple and its grounds, we were awarded a grant from the Group Health Foundation of \$75,000 to help us in our efforts. Total improvements to the facilities will cost over \$100,000. We have depleted our reserves over the last few years, but we will be soliciting donations to help to bring up our reserves. Our facility is looking as good as it ever has, the site is secure, and we are hoping it will help to attract new followers. We look forward to building up our congregation with a Jodo Shinshu temple that is more relevant to the community that we serve. Despite our size, we hope to serve as a positive example for others in the community.

We are thankful for the support of the BCA Propagation and Membership Committee, Bishop Harada, Sensei Rosalie and all of our loyal Sangha members.

NWYBL B Submitted by Grace Tazuma

Seattle Betsuin=s Jr. YBA hosted the annual NW District Summer Retreat on July 22-23. Twelve students from the Seattle and Tacoma Temples participated in the overnight event. The retreat kicked off Friday evening with opening service lead by Rev. Kusunoki. After dinner, the students enjoyed icebreakers and team building activities. Saturday started with an early morning service. Students chanted in the onaijin, a first for many of them. After breakfast, Rev. Matt May shared some history on the onenju and students had the opportunity to design and make their own onenju. For their community service activity, students cleaned up Wisteria Park. Other Saturday activities included a taiko workshop taught by Donna Zumoto and group song & performances. On Saturday evening the group attended the White River Obon. After service, they assisted with the children=s lantern parade and several volunteered in the food booths. After a 3 year pause on this annual summer overnight event due to the pandemic, it was nice to have the youth come together for a weekend at the temple.



SOUTHERN DISTRICT COUNCIL of the BUDDHIST CHURCHES of AMERICA (SDCBCA)

Temples

Arizona	Pasadena	Venice
Gardena	San Diego	Vista
Los Angeles Betsuin	San Fernando	West Los Angeles
Orange County	Santa Barbara	
Oxnard	Senshin	

Leagues

Buddhist Women's Assoc. (BWA)
Adult Buddhist (ABA)
Young Buddhist (YBA)
Dharma School Teachers (SDDSTL)
Junior Young Buddhist (JrYBA)

Southern District Report for National Council Meeting February 23, 2024

Southern District Chapter officers for 2024 will be:

Chair:	LuAnn Lee, Buddhist Temple of San Diego
Chair Elect:	Kris Nakashima, Arizona Buddhist Temple
Vice Chair:	Joy Aoyama, OCBC
Treasurer:	Mick Kubota, Vista Buddhist Temple
Secretary:	Ann Ong, Buddhist Temple of San Diego
Past Chair:	Jeannie Toshima, Pasadena Buddhist Temple
Advisors:	Billy Saeki, Venice Buddhist Temple Terri Omori, Vista Buddhist Temple
Kyokucho:	Rev. John Iwohara, Gardena

They were elected at the November SDC meeting. Installation will take place at the first Quarterly meeting via ZOOM on February 9th.

The Southern District chapters have all come back for service (hybrid/inperson). Santa Barbara meets once a month with Rev. Emeritis Fumi Usuki. Many are now having in-person only services with selected services provided as hybrid to entice sanghas to return to the Temples. Many are searching for ways to encourage more in-person attendance (including providing food).

Pasadena and Oxnard co-chaired the **So. District Buddhist Conference** "Gratitude: The Opening Gate to the Nembutsu Path" on October 14, 2023. 92 attended in person and there were 59 who attended virtually. The Keynote speakers were: Rev. Kenji Akahoshi in English and Rev. Nobuo Miyaji in Japanese. Karen Akahoshi added to the English session via a recorded message and we had a Dharmathon featuring Rev. Murakami, Rev. Takata and Rev. Wondra. Bishop Harada presided over the service and shared a Dharma message with all attendees. <https://2023sodistbuddhistconf.weebly.com/>

2023 Obon Highlights:

- Almost everyone had an in-person Obon. Oxnard did not due to construction, they will be back next year.
- A few (like Pasadena) held it only one day instead of the pre-covid, 2 days.
- All temples that had Obon festivals reported **lots** of dancers.

Temple Security/Preparation for Active Shooter or Natural disaster?

A few temples have committees in charge of "security".

Most responses indicated that they make sure the doors are secure, they keep track of attendees, have security cameras, some have hired security personnel, have fire extinguishers checked annually, attended the Keiro meeting for organizations to plan for emergencies, had window glazing installed, and updated their disaster kits. OCBC has an *Emergency Response Team* that meets regularly, it is suggested you contact OCBC for more information (they also have their dharma school and sangha practice emergency drills).

If nothing has been done at your sites, it is something to think about and to share with your sangha and organizations.

Sharing Success Stories and Events:

- ARIZONA – holding activities and events to help keep members engaged (movie nights, proposed field trips). 90th Anniversary event was held November 18 & 19, 2023.
- GARDENA – Returned to first full Summer Wisteria Chu-Gakko. Have held Bingo, Bento and Silent Auction event. Tried a movie night. Have installed cameras on the grounds. Reintroducing the “Pay it Forward” event. Newly formed YABA is bringing in new members.
- LA BETSUIN – Organizations have stepped up and helped fund upgrades to Kaikan kitchen, replace refrigerators and freezer and equipment for mailings. Have held an online auction to raise funds for the Maui disaster, conducted a flu shot clinic. They will have the ABA Sonics perform at their Oseibo Taikai.
- OCBC – Obon, upcoming OCBC Orientation Fair, OCBC Picnic, Project Kokoro Family Day, Wine Tasting fundraiser, PickleBall tournament.
- OXNARD – Golf tournament Sept 24th. Major fundraiser.
- PASADENA – We have moved to in-person only services, but still conduct selected services hybrid. Rev. Gibb’s messages are being recorded to place on the Temple’s webpage. Applied for a Cal OES Nonprofit Security Grant to provide funding for installing and updating security equipment on the grounds.
- SAN DIEGO – In July, filled a bus with Vista to go see Peace on Your Wings, JANM and then to attend the Gardena Obon. Taiko group has conducted outreach workshops. Buddhism 123 discussion groups are doing well. Had a person from Homeland Security present at a board meeting and doing a temple assessment of types of training to hold. Working on a strategic plan, creating a mission plan and pillars to focus on. 2026 will be BTSC’s centennial.
- SAN FERNANDO – Obon was a success. Conducting hybrid services every Sunday.
- SENSIN – JR YBA Visited Kyoto and Tokyo and performed taiko at a local Obon in Japan. Had a fundraiser for Rev. Hironaka and his family in Maui, celebrated Rev. Furumoto’s 10th anniversary at Sensin. Will be having mochitsuki and a Winter Youth Program.
- VENICE – Obon was by far the biggest success story this year. But they have held a rummage and silent auction to send donations to Maui. Conducted a Veteran’s Day service (1st time). Will be making mochi to sell.
- VISTA – BWA has sponsored several Sangha Share events to encourage membership, these included outings. Went with BTSD in July to see Peace on Your Wings and attended the Gardena Obon. Attendance at services have been increasing. They include all new guests to leave their email so they can be added to their online database (MailChimp). Had the local Sheriff’s Task Force Team to assess the Temple grounds.
- WEST LA – They have been events with the community: Interfaith Memorial Day Service and Interfaith/Community Children’s Day Festival. They are hosting the Japanese Institute of Sawtelle and their organizations while the JIS is being renovated. Have tried Dharma Café (serving tea/coffee on the front lawn for neighbors and passers-by. Mochistuki and New Year party are being planned.

Based on survey of SD Chapters. We will continue to hold the SD Council meetings via ZOOM next year. SDC Meeting attendance has been almost 100% using ZOOM as the meeting platform.

In the works for the rest of the year:

- Would like to work on creating a system to keep all SDC documents in one place. Looking into some sort of Cloud storage that can be accessed by the SDC Board and Chapter leaders. Would also like to create a SDC Website, similar to the SDBWA website.

Gassho

Jeannie Toshima

2023 SDC Chair - 2024 Past Chair



Buddhist Churches of America

Bylaws & Legal Committee

1710 Octavia Street, San Francisco, California 94109

COMMITTEE REPORT FOR 2024 BCA NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING February 23-24, 2024

Committee Members: Glenn INANAGA (Chair), Joy AOYAMA, Joy ASO, Gary MUKAI, Howard NAKAGIRI, Rev. Gregory GIBBS, Rev. Dean KOYAMA, Terri OMORI (ex-officio), and Rev. Marvin HARADA (ex-officio)

I. BACKGROUND / OBJECTIVE

The Buddhist Churches of America (the “BCA”) Bylaws & Legal Committee (the “Committee”) met to discuss the merits of potential changes to the Bylaws of the BCA (the “Bylaws”). This report summarizes the work and progress of the Committee since the previous National Council Meeting.

II. NEW BUSINESS

The Committee reviewed the following changes to the Bylaws for approval by the National Board of the BCA:

1. Expansion of the Eligibility of Candidates for National Office (Issue 2023-01).

Question Presented: Should the BCA expand the eligibility of candidates for National Office to include Committee Chairs and former National Officers (in addition to Directors-at-Large and District Council Representatives, currently)?

Recommendation: APPROVAL by the BCA National Board for presentation and adoption at the 2024 BCA National Council Meeting.

Proposal: By voting “Yes” the following modifications will be made to the indicated sections of the BCA Bylaws (Article VII, Section A. 2.):

a. The six (6) National Officers will be elected by the National Board from ~~the~~ Directors-at-Large-, BCA Committee Chairs (and ~~the~~Co-Chairs), District Council representatives to the National Board at its December meeting, and individuals who are currently or previously serving National Officers, in each odd numbered year of such December meeting, each of whom will serve for a term of two (2) years or until their successors are elected.

(1). The person elected as President-elect will become the President without further election upon the expiration of the two-year term of the incumbent President.

(2). The terms of the National Officers and the Chairperson of the Ministers Association will commence upon their installation at the conclusion of the first National Council session following their election.

(3). Persons elected to serve as a National Officer will continue to serve concurrently as a BCA Committee Chair (or Co-Chair), Director-at-Large or District Council representative for the term for which they were elected or appointed.

Issues to Consider for the Question Presented:

YES, increasing the number of eligible candidates for national office potentially increases the diversity and quality of candidates.

YES, with a potential decrease in participation by District Council Representatives at National Board Meetings, the overall number of potential candidates will fall unless the pool is increased.

YES, a former National Officer is qualified and should be eligible to run again for the same or other national office, even if they are not a District Council Representative nor a Director-at Large.

NO, District Council Representatives and Directors-at-Large represent an indirect popular mandate as they are often selected by a larger pool of Member Temples and Churches.

Discussion: The Committee discussed the merits and clarified how District Representatives were chosen and how the trend of vacancies for that role seemed to be increasing. The Committee also discussed how this issue had been originated by the Executive Committee and requested to be reviewed by the Committee. A clarification was made that if a BCA Committee had 2 chairs (or co-chairs), that such a reference to co-chairs should be added to the document.

Vote: Motion to approve Issue 2023-01 for recommendation to the National Board and the National Council to amend the Bylaws and ratification of same. (Rev. G. Gibbs / J. Aso – Unanimous Approval)

2. Allowing Electronic (Hybrid or Online) National Board and National Council Meetings (Issue 2023-02).

Question Presented: Should the BCA allow for National Board and National Council Meetings to be held electronically (hybrid or online) through Zoom or other similar platforms?

Recommendation: APPROVAL by the BCA National Board for presentation and adoption at the 2024 BCA National Council Meeting.

Proposal: By voting “Yes” the following modifications will be made to the indicated sections of the BCA Bylaws (Article VII, Section C. & Article VIII, Section D.):

C. Meetings of the National Board

1. Regular meetings of the National Board will be held twice each year ~~one of which will be in December at BCA’s Principal Office or~~ at any ~~other~~ place designated by the National Board ~~or electronically~~. The regular meeting held in December of every odd numbered year will elect the National Officers of the National Organization in addition to conducting other business.

2. Special meetings of the National Board may be called by the BCA President or at the request of at least twelve (12) members of the National Board ~~at any place designated by the BCA President or electronically~~.

3. Twenty (20) members of the National Board will constitute a quorum for a meeting. ~~Attendance by a member of the National Board at such meeting shall be deemed waiver of any right to dispute proper notice of such meeting, unless such member presents such dispute at such meeting.~~

D. Annual Meeting of the National Council

1. The annual General Meeting of the National Council will be held during the months of ~~February and/or March~~. The exact days ~~and place~~ of the meeting will be set by the National Board and notices of such ~~meetings~~ will be ~~made at least thirty (30) days~~ sent prior to the dates of ~~the~~ such meeting.

2. The annual General Meeting ~~place will be~~ may be held electronically as determined by the National ~~Council~~ Board.

3. Special meetings of the National Council may be called by the National Board, ~~held electronically or in a physical location~~, and notice of such meetings will be made at least thirty (30) days prior to the dates of the meetings.

4. A simple majority of the Official Delegates registered pursuant to Article VIII, ~~National Council~~, Section B.3. herein will constitute a quorum for a meeting. ~~Attendance by Official Delegates at such meeting shall be deemed waiver of any right to dispute proper notice of such meeting, unless an Official Delegate presents such dispute at such meeting.~~

Issues to Consider for the Question Presented:

YES, as demonstrated during the Covid pandemic, there are uncontrollable events which may prevent travel by meeting attendees so an electronic option would allow for business continuity.

YES, electronic meetings allow for both a reduction in travel expenses for the BCA and for Districts which typically reimburse the travel for meeting attendees.

YES, electronic meetings may allow for attendees who are ill or have disability or access issues to participate more easily.

NO, in-person meetings are important to encourage social engagement and organizational culture and allowing for electronic meetings will deter in-person meetings from occurring.

Discussion: The Committee discussed the merits and clarified that this issue had been originated by the Committee Chair based on the repetitive disclosures required at the start of every electronic National Board and National Council Meeting since the Bylaws were silent on the issue. The Committee discussed whether the 30-day notice requirement should be removed or not, and whether National Board meetings were more efficient electronically and that social engagement and organizational culture may be more appropriate for National Council meetings.

Vote: Motion to approve Issue 2023-02 for recommendation to the National Board and the National Council to amend the Bylaws and ratification of same. (Rev. G. Gibbs / J. Aoyama – Unanimous Approval).

III. CONCLUSION

The Committee appreciates the dedication and efforts of its members and for the continuing support of the members of the Executive Committee and National Board. The Committee takes its responsibility to the BCA very seriously and welcomes any questions regarding the strategy and this Committee Report at any time.

In gassho,

Glenn Inanaga
ginanaga@bcahq.org

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE BCA BYLAWS
TO BE VOTED ON AT THE
2024 BCA NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
February 23-24, 2024**

ORGANIZATION NAME: BCA Bylaws / Legal Committee

ASSIGNED BCA REPORT #: E1

PRIMARY CONTACT INDIVIDUAL: Glenn T. Inanaga, Chair – BCA Bylaws / Legal Committee
3181 Oak Grove Road, Rossmoor, California 90720
Inanaga@gmail.com
Mobile: 213-864-3538

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to Article VIII, Section F of the Bylaws of the Buddhist Churches of America (“BCA”), all BCA Member Temples and Churches are hereby notified of proposed changes to the BCA Bylaws to be discussed and voted upon at the February 23-24, 2024, BCA National Council Meeting in Sacramento, California, as set forth in Assigned Report #E1 of the BCA Bylaws / Legal Committee to the National Board and National Council.

VOTING MATTERS / ACTION ITEMS

2023-01	Expansion of the Eligibility of Candidates for National Office	Approved
2023-02	Allowing Electronic (Hybrid or Online) National Board and National Council Meetings (Issue 2023-02)	Approved

BCA Bylaws / Legal Committee:

Glenn T. Inanaga, Chairperson
Joy Aoyama, Member (Lay)
Joy Aso, Member (Lay)
Rev. Gregory Gibbs, Member (Ministerial)
Rev. Dean Koyama, Member (Ministerial)
Gary Mukai, Member (Lay)
Howard Nakagiri, Member (Lay)
Terri Omori, BCA President (Ex-Officio)
Rev. Marvin Harada, Bishop of the BCA (Ex-Officio)

BCA Ministers' Closed Pension Plan and 403(b) Plan
Report to the BCA National Council Meeting

February 23-24, 2024

Retirement DNA is the name of the company that is contracted with the BCA to provide ministers with financial advice about ministers' retirement plans. Members of Retirement DNA are available to discuss with any minister their plans for retirement income. The financial advisors from Retirement DNA can go over the ministers' portfolio and make suggestions about asset allocation. They can also inform ministers how Medicare works and what their Social Security benefits would be. Please contact Koichi Mizushima to set up a meeting with a Retirement DNA representative.

In November, 2023, members of the BCA Ministers' Closed Pension Plan and 403(b) Plan met with representatives from the BCA Executive Committee and the BCA Endowment Committee. Necessary changes to the charter of the Closed BCA Ministers' Pension Plan were discussed. Further meetings will take place so that all beneficiaries of the Closed Pension Plan will receive the anticipated benefits from the Closed Pension Plan so long as any beneficiary is living.

Submitted in Gassho,

Kent Matsuda

Chair

PROPAGATION AND MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

BCA National Council Meeting

February 23-24, 2024

Committee Members: Chair, Gary Mukai, Lon Inaba, Charlene Grinolds, Celeste Sterrett, Sensei Kenji Akahoshi, Ron Gee

Minister Advisors: Rev. Matthew Hamasaki, Rev. Yuki Sugahara

Ex-Officio: Bishop Marvin Harada, President Terri Omori, DOO Gayle Noguchi, BCA Liaison Angela Bartolacci

P&MC Sponsored National Council Meeting Workshop – February 17, 2024

Rev. Kenji Akahoshi will present a workshop entitled “Growing Sanghas Program”. Membership is a major concern for the BCA and its churches and temples. Rev. Dr. Akahoshi will share his perspective to the probable causes and challenges affecting this dilemma as well as present a support plan for churches and temples that would like guidance to implement the *Attracting New Members* program.

Any temples interesting in starting or enhancing their membership development program can request participation in this program and receive immediate help in putting a plan in place. Initially Rev. Akahoshi can accept the first 3 or 4 temples that express their desire to participate.

Yakima Buddhist Temple Pilot Project (YBTPP)

1. Rev. Rosalie May was assigned to provide religious support for the YBT by Rev. Kusunoki of the Seattle Betsuin.
2. Rev. Rosalie offers regular Buddhist education classes and conducts Sunday services
3. BCA Communication Committee helped with new Website
4. Temple has gained a new family as members, and has had many more visitors than before. Temple hopes to attract Native American and Hispanic families in the area.
5. Temple has been awarded grants to improve facilities
6. There is renewed interest in starting a Taiko Drum group again.
7. Spring, 2024 will be assessment of the two-year project. Pres. Lon Inaba will meet with Rev. Kusunoki to quantify benefits received. Report to be presented at June, 2024 NBM

“I am a Buddhist” Website Project

Ron Gee has proposed that BCA develop a separate website that will appeal to people interested in becoming a Buddhist. Website will have testimonials from people that have recently joined the Shin Buddhist community and from those born into the religion, and have links to other Buddhist websites. Ron will work with the BCA staff to follow through on that concept.

Dae Kim’s Membership Survey

There will be a change in direction of what will be studied. There is a need to get a true and up-to-date demographic profile of BCA membership. New questions for this survey are being developed by Dae, with help from the Executive Committee, Technology and Outreach Committee, and Propagation and Membership Committee.

After the new survey is produced, the success of this program will depend on the effective distribution of the survey and collection of survey responses. The P&MC will help with the process of distribution and encourage survey responses.

Bishop's Report on Propagation and Membership

1. Bishop continues to give remote Dharma talks to "Individual Members" the first Monday of every month. There are currently 53 individual members
2. Texas Sangha receives Dharma messages on the last Wednesday of the month
3. The Las Vegas Sangha receives BCA sponsored on the 2nd and 4th Sundays and have in-house services from 5 MA's and one Tokudo MA.
4. Dial-The-Dharma continues to be available at (800) 817-7918. Dharma messages are changed once-a-week, and are available in English, Japanese, and Spanish.
5. Dharma message project for under-30 members are being developed.

MINISTERIAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE(MAC)
NATIONAL COUNCIL MAC REPORT FEBRUARY 2024

MAC Committee Members

Lay Members: Chair Glenn Kitasoe, John Arima, Steve Terusaki, Dennis Yamashita

Ministers: Rev. Harry Bridge, Rev. Etsuko Mikame, Rev. Yushi Mukojima, Rev. Candice Shibata,

Advisors: Bishop Marvin Harada, Gicho Harry Bridge, Rev. Kenji Akahoshi

MAC REPORT

- A) Rev Akahoshi wants to help Ministers with their wants and needs. Looking to Ministers Association for guidance. Asking Kokuchos from each district what their Ministers have questions about; health, finances, retirement. Recommend to use Ministerial Association Meeting at National Council in 2024 and Fuken where most Ministers attend in person in August 2024.
- B) Koichi Mizushima will take MAC ideas collaborate with other committees. Utilize ideas so be more connected.
- C) Temples make sure to use BCA guidebook for responsibilities and guidance for taking care of Ministers. Also refer to Ministers Guidelines for proper compensation and benefits. Make sure Ministers are well taken care of, allow them their time off so they are well rested, be flexible with their time. Most ministers are really on 24hrs 7 days a week, even on their days

off, so allow them time to recuperate. Makes for happier, healthier Minister. Allowing Ministers to have guest speakers also allows Minister to have break, or evening allowing Ministers assistants to do dharma talks gives a break. Kyoshi Ministers are now getting benefits, don't have to wait for 1 year.

- D) Koichi setting up Ministerial survey with Office of Bishop
- E) CBE and JSIO both providing workshops and presentations for helping Ministers with dharma talks, physical and mental health.
- F) MAC filling out application for Dharma Forward monies for Ministers
- G) MAC Virtual Workshop at 2024 National Council Financial Workshop by Retirement DNA our financial advisor. Rylan Yamamoto is our advisor will have introduction workshop and question and answer session.

MINISTERS BENEFITS UPDATED 2024

A) **SOCIAL SECURITY** : IF MINISTER IS EMPLOYEE THIS IS PAID FOR, IF INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR THEN TEMPLE PAYS 50%. TEMPLES THAT HAVE MINISTER AS EMPLOYEE ESPECIALLY IN CALIFORNIA THEY CAN EASILY BE PUT ON SDI.

B) **403B** :TEMPLE HELPS WITH FUNDING, PROVIDE \$4,000 ANNUALLY

C) **HOUSING EQUITY**: TEMPLE PROVIDES \$300/ MONTH TOWARDS A HOUSING EQUITY FUND

D) **HOUSING ALLOWANCE**: OPTIONAL NEGOTIATED BETWEEN TEMPLE AND MINISTER TO ASSIST WITH HOME MORTGAGE PAYMENT

E) **MEDICAL/DENTAL**: TEMPLE PROVIDES FOR SPOUSE AND CHILDREN UNDER 26 YEARS OF AGE.

F) **AUTO ALLOWANCE**: TEMPLE PROVIDES CAR WITH OPERATING EXPENSES OR PROVIDE PERSONAL CAR USE ALLOWANCE OF \$700.

G) **TERM LIFE INSURANCE**: BCA PROVIDES \$50,000, TEMPLES SHOULD ALSO PROVIDE FROM \$100,000 AND UP

H) **PERSONAL PROPERTY INSURANCE**: TEMPLE TO PROVIDE INSURANCE COVERAGE.

I) **SICK LEAVE:** BCA/TEMPLE GUIDE BOOK

J) **MATERNITY LEAVE :** LOOK AT STATE STATUES

CALIF. SDI GET 8 TO 10 WEEKS MATERNITY LEAVE

K) **FAMILY LEAVE;** LOOK AT STATE STATUES.

CALIFORNIA HAS IT PART OF SDI COVERAGE READ BELOW.

L) **STATE DISABILITY INSURANCE :ELECTIVE
CHECK YOUR STATE FOR SDI COVERAGE**

California State Disability Insurance (SDI) is a partial wage- replacement insurance plan for California workers. The SDI program is state-mandated and funded through employee payroll deductions. Workers covered by SDI have two benefits available to them: Disability Insurance (DI) and Paid Family Leave (PFL)

**WITH CALIF. SDI GET 8 TO 10 WEEKS
MATERNITY**

39 TO 52 WEEKS DISABILITY COVERAGE

6 WEEKS FAMILY LEAVE WITH CALIF. SDI

**INFORMATION FOR CALIFORNIA WAS SENT
OUT TO ALL TEMPLE PRESIDENTS**

M) VACATION: 1 TO 5 YRS 2 WEEKS, 6 TO 15 YRS 3 WEEKS, 15 YRS PLUS 5 WEEKS

N) DAYS OFF/WEEK: 2 DAYS

O) OSEIBO (YR END APPRECIATION GIFT): 1 MONTH SALARY

P) CELL PHONE

Q) HIGH SPEED INTERNET AT HOME AND OFFICE

R) SUGGEST HOME OWNERS POLICY OR RENTERS INSURANCE

S) SUGGEST HOME ALARM SYSTEM

BCA Endowment Foundation Development Report

BCA National Council Meeting 2024, Sacramento – Feb. 23 & 24

DONATIONS RECEIVED

at Endowment Foundation (Jan. 1- Dec. 31, 2023)

TOTAL DONATIONS	<u>1,894,290</u>
BCA	<u>473,031</u>
Bishop's Expansion	650
CBE Donation	20,728
Dana Program	112,972
Dharma Forward (BCA Initiatives)	254,297
Dharma Forward (Debt Relief)	14,400
FBA Legacy(Wheel of Dharma)	1,050
Jodo Shinshu Center (Facilities)	30,379
Ministerial Support	12,500
Music	9,540
WABL Koromo	3,000
Zaidan	13,514
IBS	<u>962,385</u>
Dharma Forward (IBS Eshinni-Kakushinni Chair)	34,349
Dharma Forward (Legacy Chairs)	899,780
Dharma Forward (IBS Programs)	28,256
DF GENERAL	
Dharma Forward (General)	<u>251,833</u>
50% is	<u>125,917</u>
PASS THROUGH	<u>207,042</u>
Social Welfare	87,847
Disaster Relief	118,495
BCA Jams 2023	700

DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW

The Development Office has had a strong year of overall donations for both BCA and IBS held funds. We realized a 47% (\$614,210) increase over last year. Several large donations (ranging from \$50,000 to \$500,000), the additional pass-through collection of disaster relief money to Maui, and maintenance of a regular schedule of giving opportunities, have contributed to this increase.

The Dharma Forward campaign continues to make progress toward the goals of BCA and IBS to grow, support, sustain - ministerial pipeline and training, temple leadership, system wide available education, outreach towards current and newcomers, and to keep a safe and vibrant place to gather.

The campaign has reached 63% to goal of \$15 million. A large portion of the funds towards IBS Endowments for professorial chairs. Donors continue to learn about the campaign and leadership at all levels. We have a collaborative joint campaign with

dual leadership structures and accountability processes. Together, the plan is to push strong through Dec. 2025 to achieve the remainder of the goal.

The Development office goals for this year include a more robust understanding of where we can expand our donor reach. The remaining gap will be addressed through donor recruitment, retention, upgrades and to increase available legacy giving information for long term fundraising.

We continue working in collaboration with programs to ensure that their funding needs are met.

We acknowledge the great loss of a long-time development-minded leader Rev. Seigen Yamaoka whose efforts not only supported the founding of the Endowment Foundation but his tireless support of the office and of me personally will be greatly missed.

*We also **THANK** our Board of Directors, JCOD leadership for bi-weekly meetings, JCOD members, DFAB members, and Dharma Forward Pillars for their discussions, ideas, and passion for not just their areas but in sharing the Dharma. Thank you to all who continues to support Panda Fundraisers, to those that put together and support opportunities such as the Silent Auction and Chef's Table, and to those giving*

of their time and resources to support the BCA and IBS missions through fundraising. This year as Lahaina Hongwanji faced tremendous loss and tragedy BCA members rallied and pooled together over \$118,000 for recovery efforts that BCAEF Development office was honored to process. We are Ohana and supporting each other across the waters.

THE NUMBERS

DHARMA FORWARD (Jan. 1 – Dec. 31, 2023) - \$3,155,176 *includes BCAEF and IBS Donations

- Pledge reminders – Aug, 2023
- Mailing – Jan. 20, 2024
- [Dharma Forward Dashboard](#) included through Dec. 31, 2023 = \$9,561,330 / 63.74%
- Breakdown by major areas for 2023

Dharma Forward Donations	Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2023
General	\$251,833.19
BCA	\$362,848.56
IBS	\$2,540,494.00

- Outstanding pledges: \$208,078
- Event Update - Chef's Table net = \$6,949.36 Thank you to the sponsors and to all the volunteer and staff support that made a memorable event!

Successes:

- IBS has successfully supported a major need of dorm renovation through a single donor.
- Legacy chairs continue to be funded by donors that are close to the cause.
- BCA systems and communication lines are in place to better support discussions on best practices and to execute those practices. We are also able to respond more thoroughly to inquiries.
- BCA pillars continue to be motivated to support the identification of projects that support long term thinking.
- BCA DFAB and Executive Committee can approve an application within 60 days (usually sooner).
- Donors continue to respond to requests for funding. We have received very few complaints.

Opportunities:

- Integrate ideas earlier to the wider network.
- Increase rates at which projects can be identified and developed by infusing BCA committee information into the pillar structure earlier and more intentionally.

Campaign Usage: This past year the following were approved

- BCA usage for ministerial support –BCA Tokudo participants \$20,000
- Japan study (minister to be) - \$7,500
- Website Refresh projects – \$25,000
- IBS disbursements to Professorial Chairs

Reminder: The Dharma Forward Pillars (Education & Programs, Outreach & Technology, Ministerial Support & Scholarships and Facilities & Operations) designed to ensure the growth of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in alignment with the BCA Mission. Goals and Objectives and Contact information for Pillars can be found in the attachments and BCA Directory.

DANA PROGRAM (2/1/2023 – 1/31/23) - \$106,000

- *Mailing – May 5, 2023*
- *Dana program continues to provide support for the annual operating budget.*
- *It is advantageous to all members to support the Dana program to ensure annually utilized education programming by the BCA.*
- *These gifts influence temple assessment value.*
- *A program lead could help ensure annual focus on promotion and directional decisions of the BCA’s annual giving program.*

SOCIAL WELFARE PROGRAM (10/1/23 – 1/31/24) - \$83,026.88

- *Mailing - Oct 15, 2023*
- *Detailed report given by Social Welfare Committee*

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITY

- *Tamai Chair Mailing – April 1, 2023*
- *Chef’s Table – Nov. 10, 2023*
- *Bishop’s New Year Greeting – Dec, 2023. We thank Ms. Elaine Tsumura of Tri State Denver Temple for the use of her artwork.*

DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY CALENDAR 2024

JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN
DF New Year Update Letter	-Panda Fundraiser -NCM workshop -NCM Silent Auction		Dana Letter	FIBS Letter	Panda Fundraiser
JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
	-Donor Appreciation -Pledge reminders	[BCA Founders Day] -BCA Telethon -Women of the BCA seminar (grant)	Social Welfare Letter	FIBS Letter [IBS 75th Anniv]	Panda Fundraiser

DONOR DEVELOPMENT

- *Donor strategies continue to be heavily mail based and gratefully have been successful.*
- *The BCAEF Fundraising plan includes areas of **donor acquisition, donor retention, donor upgrades** and Structural Plans of programs, appreciation, and people support.*
- *Efforts drive toward Founding Day and the Telethon to help determine success of the campaign. Please help support this effort by submitting video segments showcasing the uniqueness of your temple.*
- *Legacy Giving Brochure project to engage current donors of a certain stage in life to legacy giving and the importance of planning for the future. Gifts do not need to be tremendous property or assets to make a difference.*
- *Other areas of effort will include:*
 - *Find support for legacy gifts.*

- Find and develop communication strategies and partners for more effective updating (i.e. video) Including development of a donation menu.
- Be ready to help onboard committee members, as additional support is found.

UPCOMING FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITIES / PROJECTS

Leaders: Please share and support

- **NCM Silent Auction** – closes Feb. 24 - Thanks to Northern District Council, Darlene Bagshaw, and Jerry Iseda for their efforts!
- **Panda Fundraiser** – June 2024
- **125th BCA TeleThon**, Sept 1, 2024 in conjunction with Founding Day service (led by Bay District). Thanks to 125th Celebration committee, Koichi Mizushima and Kelly Gartman.
 - Requested 3-5 min. video showcasing temple uniqueness, programs, flavor, etc.
 - Great time to share BCA committee and other areas and stories as well.
 - *Submissions requested by July 15, 2024.*
- **Women of the BCA**, Sept 28, 2024 as a result of the Hemera Foundation grant. Thanks to the 125th Celebration committee and those that have joined this seminar committee, Sharon Sasaki, Sumi Tanabe, Rev. Laverne Imori, Sara Perrott, and future members.

-Report respectfully prepared by Michiko Miyaji Inanaga
BCAEF. Director of Development

Donations, including Zaidan can be made online @ <http://bca.kindful.com>
[Donation Form](#) for Dharma Forward Gifts

Buddhist Churches of America Endowment Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Tax ID# 94-2857583. BCAEF manages endowments, temple investment accounts, and provides fundraising support for the BCA and the Institute of Buddhist Studies.

SILENT AUCTION
for **Dharma Forward**

Proceeds benefit Dharma Forward (General) BCA and IBS' campaign to ensure the future of Jodo Shinshu in America

Launches Feb. 1, 2024
Bid anytime, anywhere until **Feb 24, 2024 @ 7PM**

Winners are encouraged to make arrangements for pick up at NCM or with someone who is attending in person at the Buddhist Church of Sacramento.

32AUCTIONS.COM/DHARMAFORWARD

Brought to you by members of the 2024 BCA National Council Planning Committee and by Northern California District Council



MAILING SAMPLES



DEAR TRI-STATE DENVER BUDDHIST TEMPLES SANGHA MEMBERS AND FRIENDS,

Our Sangha has been continually nurtured by Reverend Yoshitaka Tamai's transmission of the Dharma and we have received tremendous insight to see ways forward. We too have the opportunity to ensure that the Jodo Shinshu teachings continue to be available to all, with our contributions to the legacy that have come before.



Rev. Tamai served the members of the Tri-State and Denver Buddhist Temples and the Japanese American community in the Rocky Mountain region for 53 years, before his passing in 1983. Like Siddhartha Gautama, who left his family, was transformed, became the Buddha, and spread the Dharma in Nepal and India; Rev. Tamai left his family in Japan in order to share the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist teachings with the people of the Tri-State area. Rev. Tamai's ministry spanned many challenging years for the community. It was a time when Japanese Americans were overcoming social and political barriers to establish homes and earn livings after having been forced to exist without freedom during the World War II years. Many Sangha members echo sentiments such as,

"Rev. Tamai was very instrumental in my remaining a Temple member throughout my life and propagating in the Jodo Shinshu faith."
-Miyuki Gogins, current member of TSDBT

The first generation of American Jodo Shinshu followers started sanghas and invited ministers from Japan to help establish temples. They held onto their religion even under the strains of World War II incarceration. The second generation sangha members built new temples and sanghas. Some even became the first American-born ministers educated at the Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS).

It was with our understanding of the ongoing need for the guidance of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist teachings in America that our Sangha established an endowment for the **Reverend Yoshitaka Tamai Professorial Chair** at the IBS in Berkeley, California in 1986. The endowment provides a permanent source of funding for the professor named but also speaks to the importance of the Chairs area of focus. In the spirit of Rev. Tamai in continuing to nurture students of Buddhism and to educate new ministers, the Tamai Chair focuses on Buddhism in the West, Buddhist modernism and media studies. Dr. Scott Mitchell, Dean of the IBS is the current named Chair and will be publishing a book focused on the central role played by Japanese American Jodo Shinshu Buddhists in creating what we now think of as American Buddhism.

The Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) and the IBS have joined forces in the Dharma Forward Campaign to raise the funds needed to ensure the future of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in America. They set a financial goal for the campaign of \$15 million. One of the campaign objectives is to build each of the IBS Professorial Chair endowments, including the Tamai Chair, to a minimum of \$3 million. At this writing, Dharma Forward has reached 44% of its overall goal.

To support this effort, the TSDBT Board sent \$20,000 from the Temple Legacy Fund to the Dharma Forward campaign to add to the Tamai Chair endowment fund.

Please consider joining with us in donating to the Dharma Forward Campaign and designating your contribution for the Reverend Yoshitaka Tamai Professorial Chair and for any of the other campaign needs.

In Gassho,



Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto
IBS President

Reverend Marvin Harada
Bishop BCA

Chad Nitta
TSDBT President

TO MAKE AN OFFERING ONLINE:
bca.kindful.com
On the website, select campaign "Dharma Forward (IBS Legacy Chairs)"
Include Tamai Chair in the notes.

TO MAKE AN OFFERING BY MAIL:
Return form & check payable to:
BCA Endowment Foundation 2140 Durant Ave, Berkeley, CA 94704

Total Gift Amount \$ _____ TAMAI CHAIR
Make it a pledge! Gift amount per year \$ _____ for 1, 2, 3, years (please circle one)
Make it a recurring gift. (a representative will contact you) ELIGIBLE # _____

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY, ST ZIP: _____
E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____
TEMPLE AFFILIATION 所属寺院 _____

Thank you for your donation to the Tamai Chair Fund!
玉井チエアファンドへのご寄付ありがとうございます。



\$280,000+ Support given in 2022 and 2023

Committee Directed Grants – to agencies as varied as World Central Kitchen, American Red Cross, UNICEF, Doctors without Borders, Direct Relief, Gary Sinese Foundation, Trevor Project, Community Foundation of Monterey County and Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

Temple Matching Grants – Auburn Food Bank, ALAS, Portland State Food Pantry, Delta Humane Society, Ukraine Heritage Club, UNICEF, Alameda Community Food Bank, Building Futures

Temple General Grants – SLO Children's Breakfast Bag Program, Children's Home of Stockton, Open Heart Kitchen, Dorothy's Place, Watsonville Buddhist Temple, Stockton Shelter for Homeless, Sarah's Circle

Dear BCA Members and Friends,

Chagisamade because of you our BCA Social Welfare Committee will be able to continue the vital mission of providing aid to those suffering from deprivation of basic human needs.

We are so grateful to have been in the position to quickly send a committee grant of \$50,000 to Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii in the wake of the devastating fires on Maui. And through the heartfelt outpouring by our Sangha to the BCA Maui Relief Fund an additional \$100,000+ will be sent at the end of October.

As so many of our fellow traveler's face housing and food shortages, health issues, natural disasters, the crisis of war, it may become overwhelming. But, **because of you, your unlimited generosity and boundless empathy**, we can spread compassion and make an immense difference in our world. Compassion should not end at our doorstep but spread to all corners of our society. There is still much more to accomplish and to continue supporting agencies making a difference, we humbly ask for your donation to our Social Welfare Fund.

buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/social-welfare-fund

社会福祉キャンペーンへの寄付のお願い

今年も例年のように社会福祉キャンペーンへの寄付のお願いをすることになりました。お念仏を感謝の声にかえるこの企画により、昨年までに英語欄にみられるように様々な地域、団体に皆様からの寄付を送らせていただくことができました。本当にありがとうございます。私たちはマウイ島の壊滅的な火災の後、社会福祉委員会からの義援金50,000ドルを本派本願寺ハワイ別院へと迅速に送ることができました。さらに10月末には、BCAマウイ救済基金に寄せられた皆様からの多大な義援金100,000ドルを本派本願寺ハワイ別院に送金する予定です。これらもひとえに皆様からの継続的な支援のお陰です。引き続き、皆様からの貴重な寄付は有益な施設や団体に寄付されます。どうか今年もよろしくお願ひ申し上げます。

GASSHO 合掌,
Rev. Marvin Harada Bishop
Terri Omori BCA President
Celeste Sterrett Social Welfare Chair

TO MAKE AN OFFERING ONLINE: buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/giving
By creating an account you can track or adjust your recurring donation schedule and print your giving history.



USE THE QR CODE TO MAKE AN IMPACT TODAY!

TO MAKE AN OFFERING BY MAIL: Return form & check payable to:
BCA Endowment Foundation
2140 Durant Ave, Berkeley, CA 94704

RETURN STUB AND CHECK PAYABLE TO BCAF-----

Circle one: \$1000 \$500 \$150 \$50 \$ _____
Make it recurring every: ___ m onth ___ 3 months ___ 6 months ___ one time

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY, ST ZIP: _____ PHONE: _____
E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____
TEMPLE AFFILIATION 所属寺院 _____

Thank you for your generous donation to the Social Welfare Fund!
ソーシャルウェルフェアファンドへのご寄付ありがとうございます。

Dana Program

SUPPORT BCA PROGRAMS



Join us in supporting the Buddhist Churches of America!

What's the Dana Program?

The Dana Program is an annual giving program to support the Buddhist Churches of America. Your donations support the operating budget in offering Dharma activities, connect our Sangha of all ages, and educate our dedicated ministers and members through hundreds of hours of activities and programs.



Educate

We **EDUCATE** the public about Jodo Shinshu Buddhism

- Center for Buddhist Education seminars for all
- Annual workshops
- Conferences and special events
- Youth programs



Connect

We **CONNECT** temples through BCA member events and seminars

- Virtual services and Dharma talks
- Connecting sangha members and temples from coast to coast
- Youth retreats and exchanges
- Hosting Japanese and international speakers



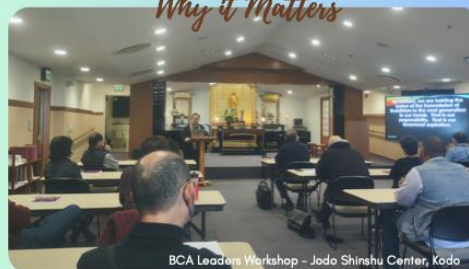
Enrich

We **ENRICH** Shin Buddhist ministry with comprehensive training

- Ministers Assistant Program
- Tokudo and Kyoshi ordination training
- Ministerial continuing education
- Preserving while innovating on historic traditions dating back 2,500 years

www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org - donate@bcahq.org - (415) 776-5650 x1312

Why it Matters



BCA Leaders Workshop - Jodo Shinshu Center, Kodo

Your generous giving helps each year!

Annual programs at the BCA have been made possible largely by dues from each of the BCA member temples. Annual gifts through the Dana Program have become an important additional source of support to fund the activities of the BCA. Through your giving BCA is able to maintain and grow the important offerings direct to the community and through our temples and districts.

Please join us as BCA continues its charge to Educate, Connect, and Enrich a life of gratitude. The 800 year legacy of Shin Buddhism and the over 2,500 years of the Buddhist teachings come alive in our connections and actions.

Your Dana Program contribution is one way of ensuring another possible 800+ years to come.

Thank you for your support!

buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/giving

"Find a group of people who challenge and inspire you, spend a lot of time with them, and it will change your life."

-AMY POEHLER

BCA Endowment Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit charitable organization, EIN: 94-2857585, 1710 Octavia St., San Francisco CA 94109

April 2023



Dear Friend in Dharma,

Brought to us over the last 2,500 years, generations of Sangha have been connected through the Nembutsu. Dana is an opportunity to express appreciation as we have the chance to "see" ourselves and the world more authentically.

Tethered by the Dharma, BCA and the Dana program create opportunities for an ever evolving robust network. Showing support of one another through combining the synergies of our temples, affiliated organizations, programs and initiatives, we ensure that the Nembutsu teaching continues to grow in the United States.

Your gift to the Dana Program keeps the path to Buddha, Dharma and Sangha accessible.

Please consider a gift to the Dana Program today! Make it a recurring gift to impact on an ongoing basis!

In Gassho,

Bishop Marvin Harada
Bishop Marvin Harada

BCA President Terri Omari
BCA President Terri Omari

and the BCA members of the Joint Committee on Development

TO MAKE AN OFFERING ONLINE: bca.kindful.com

On the website, select campaign "Dana Program"

TO MAKE AN OFFERING BY MAIL:

Return form & **check payable to:**

BCA Endowment Foundation 2140 Durant Ave, Berkeley, CA 94704

Total Gift Amount: \$ _____ DANA PROGRAM

Circle one: \$1,500 \$1,000 \$500 \$250 \$100

Make it a recurring gift: month 3 months 6 months one time

(A representative will contact you) PHONE#:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, ST, ZIP _____

PHONE NUMBER _____

TEMPLE AFFILIATION 所属寺院 _____

Thank you for your donation to the Dana Program! ご寄付ありがとうございます。
Questions? donate@bcahq.org or (415) 776-5650 x1312



BCA INSTITUTE OF BUDDHIST STUDIES

'24 Dharma Forward

JANUARY, 2024

Happy New Year, Dharma Friends!

In 2024 we will mark the 125th year of the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) and the 75th year of the Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS). We honor those that have worked tirelessly to provide the foundations we have now, such as the late Rev. Seigen Yamaoka. He was a committed leader and supporter of the Dharma and provided everyday insights toward journeying on a path of Nembutsu. Let us honor his legacy and commitment by reminding ourselves each day of the strength and compassion of living a life of Nembutsu.

"The Right Time is Now" is the theme of the BCA for 2024. We are so grateful of those who are taking the time, right now, to grow their Nembutsu paths and work towards the future of the Dharma:

- 10 aspirants ordained as Tokudo level ministers in Kyoto, Japan (2023).
- 18 students progressing towards their Certificate in Shin Buddhist Studies at IBS.
- 10 more students advancing toward a Master of Divinity at IBS.
- 9 Ministers' Assistants recognized by the Office of the Bishop.
- Thousands listen to Dharma messages through the BCA Center for Buddhist Education (CBE)

BCA and IBS are committed to providing pathways to ordination and learning for ministers, candidates, and lay leadership. Thanks to our Sanghas who help each other spark interest in ministerial aspirants and support their development. Supporting available pathways to learning, leadership, and community for ministerial aspirants, we do our part to advance the Nembutsu.



Photo provided by Rev. Michael Tada
10 BCA members successfully receiving Tokudo ordination from the Hongwanji-ho.

When Dharma Forward started it was simply a fundraising campaign - \$15 million dollars to support the BCA and IBS activities with the future in mind. Today, Dharma Forward is providing

Total Raised
as of Nov. 2023
Thanks to generous dana the campaign has raised
\$9,125,271.42

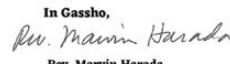




<https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/dharma-forward>


structure for that future. By focusing and inspiring BCA's vision and leadership, we created pillars - Education & Programs, Ministerial Support & Scholarship, Outreach & Technology, Facilities & Operations - that focus on planning and successful implementation.

While tremendous progress has been made, we are definitely not finished! Please support these efforts, including by volunteering on a BCA committee, sharing your experience of the Nembutsu with others, and financial support. If you find that the Dharma has been an important part of your life or you feel the Dharma could have a positive connection and impact to today's challenges, please share your gratitude and support the campaign.

The BCA continues to prioritize and advocate for the Dharma and the Nembutsu - an authentic approach to life and a gratitude and hope that others might also experience and hear the same.

In Gassho,

Rev. Marvin Harada
 BCA Bishop



Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto
 IBS President


Terri Omori
 BCA President

For questions or to make a gift, please contact Michiko Inanaga at minanaga@bcahq.org or (415) 651-5164

Thank you for your generous donation to BCA and IBS!
 BCA と IBSへのご寄付をありがとうございます。

TO MAKE AN OFFERING ONLINE:



USE THE QR CODE TO MAKE AN IMPACT TODAY!

buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/giving
 By creating an account you can track or adjust your recurring donation schedule and print your giving history.

TO MAKE AN OFFERING BY MAIL:

Return form & check payable to:
BCA Endowment Foundation
 2140 Durant Ave. Berkeley, CA 94704

----- RETURN STUB AND CHECK PAYABLE TO BCAF -----

Circle one: \$100 \$250 \$500 \$1000 \$ _____

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, ST, ZIP: _____ PHONE: _____


E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

TEMPLE AFFILIATION 所属寺院: _____


GIFT In Memory/Honor of: _____

We gratefully accept matching gifts from your employer or direct payment through your bank to BCA Endowment Foundation. Please advise hmlzuno@bcahq.org of any stock donations so that we may properly credit your donations.


Happy New Year 2024 Cardv2.pdf




1



2



3



4



SUPPORT BCA AND IBS

PANDA FUNDRAISER
 JUNE 2, 2023, FRI
 CODE: 914467

Dharma Forward

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EAT FOR BCA AND IBS

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 FEB 16 2024, FRI
 CODE: 920487

Dharma Forward

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DECEMBER 1, 2023
 FRI BEFORE NATIONAL BOARD MEETING
CODE: 915657

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PANDA EXPRESS
CHINESE KITCHEN

Dharma Forward

**ORDER VIA APP AND ONLINE
 ORDER.PANDAEXPRESS.COM
 PROCEEDS GO TO DHARMA FORWARD**

SUPPORT BCA AND IBS

CONTACT: MICHIKO INANAGA

minanaga@bcahq.org

Dharma Forward Pillars		
PILLAR	Education	
Coordinator	Carl Yanari, Palo Alto	yanari@aol.com
	Jim Pollard, OCBC	jmsedpoll@gmail.com
EC Liaison	Darlene Bagshaw	dbagshaw@bcahq.org
Facilities & Operations		
	Bradley Menda, Berkeley	bmenda@mac.com
	John Arima, Mtn. View	jarima@bcahq.org
	Glenn Inanaga	ginanaga@bcahq.org
Outreach & Technology		
	outreach	
	Rick Kawamura, Palo Alto	rick.kawamura@gmail.com
	Bishop Harada	mharada@bcahq.org
	technology	
	Brad Ito, Gardena	ito.brad@gmail.com
	Jeff Matsuoka	jmatsuoka@bcahq.org
Scholarship & Ministerial Support		
	scholarships	
	Dr. Lisa Tsuchitani, San Jose	lisa.tsuchitani@gmail.com
	Rev. Bridge	hbridge@bcahq.org
	ministerial support	
	Rev. Akahoshi, retired minister	kenjiakahoshi@gmail.com
	Steve Terusaki	sterusaki@bcahq.org
Dharma Forward Allocation Board [DFAB]		
Chair	Charlene Grinolds, White River Buddhist Temple	chargrinolds@gmail.com
Members	Erick Ishii, Ekoji	
	Bradley Menda, Berkeley	
	Terri Omori, Vista	
	Rev. Candice Shibata, Stockton	

As of Feb. 2024

Dharma Forward Pillar Goals and Objectives

Ministerial Support

Goal: Nurture and develop effective ministers.

1. Inspire potential ministers for the future
2. Build a relationship with the minister and support their wellness
3. Professional development
4. Communicate the benefits of a ministerial life
5. Clearly communicate how to become a minister and what the job, lifestyle entails
6. Candidate development

Scholarships

Goal: Ample financial support for prospective students and continuing education for ministers.

1. Understand current funds
2. Understand current needs
3. Where do they align, where are there gaps. (Deepen the framework)
4. Collaboration and clarity between lay education, certification, to academic professional education.
5. Highlight stories and ways to promote ministerial aspirations for BCA

Education

Goal: Develop pathways to listen, learn and study the Shin Buddhist teachings.

1. Develop engaging Dharma content, programs, learning materials, for various levels of understanding
 2. Encourage participation in learning pathways
 3. Support temples as they create local education programs
- ∇ IBS - graduate level students
 - ∇ CBE – lay, ministers, ministers assistants
 - ∇ FDSTL – preschool to high school students
 - ∇ Other lay study programs such as the Correspondence Course, Everyday Buddhist, etc.

Outreach

Goal: Enhance visibility of BCA and make accessible the Shin Buddhist teaching.

DF Pillar Goals and Objectives – MHMiv2

1. Develop a messaging and marketing strategy for the BCA
2. Promote accessible pathways to understanding the Dharma
3. Create engagement opportunities
4. Increase membership and effectively retain current sangha members
5. Create a sense of community (among BCA temples, among Jodo Shinshu Buddhists)
6. Share the messaging with temples
7. Be a conduit for underserved and unserved regions of the nation

Technology

Goal: Develop technological strategies to support outreach and Sangha engagement

1. Extend opportunities to share the Dharma by staying reasonably together with current technology
2. Invest in platforms to easily share BCA messaging strategy to the wider public
3. Support member temples to access available content
4. Increase available communication among districts

Facilities

Goal: Enhance BCA operations through effective property management.

1. Develop and implement long term strategies for properties
2. Evaluate enhancement and leasing opportunities
3. Keep ahead of maintenance issues and plan accordingly
4. Manage property risk

Operations

Goal: Have a strong administrative team to operate the national organization and to support ministers, districts, and the larger Jodo Shinshu community.

1. Oversee support of HR and corporate functions for ministers
2. Develop and manage an effective strategy to support BCA core functions while being fiscally responsible
3. Enhance collaboration among temples and districts

COLLABORATION: Committees and structures, BCA/EF/IBS Staff, Bishops Office, Districts, Temples

DF Pillar Goals and Objectives – MHMiv2

2024 BCA National Council Meeting Report

BCA Archives-Historic Preservation Committee

Chair: Sandy Saeki saeki@ca.rr.com cell:310-612-6219

Vice-Chair: Jane Naito janenaito@me.com cell:415-378-1100

Members: Rev. W. Briones, Rev. K. Quon, Rev. Michael Endo, JP deGuzman, Emiko Katsumoto, Eiko Masuyama, Cynthia Mee, Dona Mitoma

Summary of 2023 Activities:

We welcomed the addition of two new committee members: Emiko Katsumoto (Berkeley), Cynthia Mee (Midwest). As a move to improve communications and governance, all BCA committees have a vice-chair and a BCA staff team member, Jane Naito (Alameda) and Rev. Michael Endo, respectively.

Our committee received final versions of documents on permission to access and use BCA materials from Jonathan Kirsch, Copyright, Trademark, and Publishing Law attorney.

Current Activities:

In support of the upcoming BCA 125th Anniversary commemoration, our committee is involved in several projects. Two members of our committee, JP deGuzman and Cynthia Mee, are writing articles on their experiences as minister assistants. We are expanding the directories published in the BCA 100th Anniversary commemorative book, which will be utilized by BCA as part of the momentous occasion as there will not be a celebratory hard copy publication. We are providing financial support for the development of a Grateful Crane commemorative performance.

UCLA has begun to further identify archival photographs and other audio-visual materials and has set up a link for our committee members to assist with this project online.

A review and inventory of stored archival materials at Jodo Shinshu Center (JSC) was conducted in April; six containers of items were transported to Southern California for potential donation to UCLA Library. Additionally pending are a few boxes of archival materials that were overlooked during the original transfer of materials from the Japanese American National Museum (JANM) as well as a smaller number of items received from individual donations. These items are currently under review by UCLA Library for transfer in the current university fiscal year, ending June 30, 2024.

Announcements:

Our committee is available for resource and financial assistance to temples/churches interested in developing or expanding their own archival collections. Please send inquiries to Sandy Saeki, saeki@ca.rr.com.

The BCA Archives-Historic Preservation grant application and cover letter are posted on the following two online sites:

BCA website

<https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/links/>

Click on *Who We Are* (at top of home page), use drop down menu to select *BCA Resources*, scroll down to application link.

Online submission site

<https://forms.gle/gJ69BFQVG7uPWoo9>

If temples/churches are unable to preserve their historical materials, we encourage considering donation of these items to either a local institution (e.g. museum, library, school, historical society) or the BCA collection at UCLA. The UCLA Library is particularly interested in paper documents, audio visual materials and other electronically preserved items.

If interested in gifting archival materials, please submit a general description list to our committee, in care of Sandy Saeki, saeki@ca.rr.com. We will forward the information to the university staff or other facilities for consideration and assist with communications for transfer of materials.

The BCA collection at UCLA may be viewed at Online Archives of America, selecting UCLA and then Buddhist Churches of America. To request access, go to & follow instructions for access requests at: <https://www.library.ucla.edu/location/library-special-collections>

Submitted 01.23.2024_sjs



Grants Awarded in 2023

Temple Matching Grant – Auburn Food Bank – White River Buddhist Temple - \$3,000

ALAS – Mtn View Buddhist Temple - \$1,500

General Grant – Children’s Breakfast Bag Program – San Luis Obispo - \$20,000

Childrens Home of Stockton – Buddhist Church of Stockton - \$5,000

Metta Calana – Walnut Grove Buddhist Church - \$2,000

Watsonville Buddhist Temple (Salvation Army Meals) - \$4,500

Family Promise of San Joaquin Co – Buddhist Church of Stockton - \$7,500

Northside Housing – Midwest Buddhist Temple - \$2,500

Committee Directed Grants – Doctors Without Borders - \$10,000 – Turkey/Syria

Global Giving - \$10,000 – Turkey/Syria

Direct Relief - \$10,000 – CA Flood Relief

Community Foundation of Monterey Co. - \$10,000 – Flood Relief

American Red Cross - \$10,000 – Tornado Relief

Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii - \$50,000

Committee Members

- Term ending 2024 – John Arima, Jeff Kawahara, Arleen Miya
- Term ending 2025 – Glenn Inanaga , Bradley Menda, Rick Oishi
- Term ending 2026 - Nadine Kakimoto, Koichi Sayano, Darlene Bagshaw
- Ministerial Advisors – Rev Gregory Gibbs, Rev Yuki Sugahara
- Ex-officio – Rev Marvin Harada, Bishop, Terri Omori, President
- Accounting – Gregg Sera

Grant Applications can be found at:

[BCA Resources](#) | [BCA \(buddhistchurchesofamerica.org\)](http://BCA(buddhistchurchesofamerica.org)) or request from socialwelfare@bcahq.org

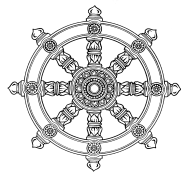
The Social Welfare Fund is entirely funded with donations. We do not receive any funds from any of the other BCA campaigns and we do not receive funding from dues from temples paid to the BCA.

Submitted by

Celeste Sterrett

Social Welfare Committee - Chair, Co-Chair- Nadine Kakimoto

**We can't do everything,
but we can do something!**



BUDDHIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA National Buddhist Committee on Scouting

Girl Scouts * Boy Scouts * Camp Fire
www.bcascouting.org

2024 Annual Committee Report

1. Total Awards presented (58):

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Sangha.....10 ● Metta.....28 ● Metta Online.....0 ● Bodhi Award0 ● Dharma Award0 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Padma - Senior.....3 ● Padma - Cadette.....3 ● Padma - Junior.....4 ● Padma - Brownie.....10 ● Karuna.....0
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2. Committee Report:
 - Attended BCA Temple Leader Workshop (2/2-3)
 - Attended BCA National Council Virtual Meeting (3/23-24)

3. Committee Members:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Rev. Kaz Nakata ● Rev. Matt Hamasaki ● Richard Odagawa ● Patti Oshita ● Victor Iwamura ● Gordon Nitta ● Robert Tanaka ● Reiko Iwanaga ● Tara Mochizuki ● Jason Yokoyama ● Mark Arima ● Truc Vo 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advisor, Los Angeles Betsuin - Advisor, Sacramento Betsuin - Southern District - Northern Cal District - Bay District - Northern Cal District - Northern Cal District - Coast District - Bay District - Northwest District - Southern District - Eastern District
---	--

Respectfully submitted,

In Gassho,

Robert Tanaka

Robert Tanaka, Chair

National Buddhist Committee on Scouting



Buddhist Churches of America
2024 NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
His Eminence Kosho Ohtani Building Fund Report
February 23-24, 2024

Committee Members:

Steven Terusaki (chair)	BCA President-Elect, BC Oakland
Glenn Inanaga	BCA VP, Orange Co. BC
John Arima	BCA VP, Mountain View BT

Ex Officio

Terri Omori	BCA President
Rev. Marvin Harada	Bishop

BACKGROUND

This special fund was created through a gift from Kosho Ohtani, Monshu Emeritus received in 1995. The original amount of this generous donation was \$500,000. The money was to be loaned to temples so that they could make repairs to their physical plant, remodel, expand, or retire a debt in connection with their temple property. During Campaign BCA – The 21st Century, the money had been used for BCA’s general obligations. The last and only outstanding loan made from this Fund was for \$20,000 to the Seabrook Buddhist Temple before 2021.

The previous committee met on October 25, 2020 to review the committee charter. Dr. Kent Matsuda, BCA President at the time shared the history of this committee and how the funds assisted many BCA churches/temples. As previously reported, in May of 2018 the Executive Committee of the BCA voted to indefinitely suspend the operations of this fund.

The committee under new chair leadership of the incoming President-elect, Glenn Inanaga will put in place a way to replenish the funds in order to once again support our temples.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven H. Terusaki, Chair

s.terusaki@bcahq.org

BCA Communications Committee Report
National Council Meeting
February 23, 2024

BCA Communications Committee
 Primary Contact: Judy Kono, Chair
 E-mail address: jkono@bcahq.org
 Phone: (510) 541-8119

The **BCA Resources section** is listed under the “Who We Are” tab on the BCA website.

The password for the BCA Leadership material is **Sh1nr@nSh0n1n**

This section includes - the BCA Directory, BCA 2022 Guidebook, NC/NB reports, Town Hall videos and 5 TOSC seminar videos - *How to Utilize social Media at your Temples, How to Livestream Your Temple Services, Marketing Your Temple, Video & Content Marketing, & Website Building Workshop*

1. **BCA Digital Content Assistant.** Stephanie Fong was hired to be our new part-time Digital Content Assistant. Along with her other duties, her main focus will be to maintain and add new content to the BCA website, BCA Connect and Instagram.
2. **Assist with updating Temple/Church websites** Alex Tsukahara (Former BCA Digital Content Assistant) will be assisting temples update/build their websites. Based on the work he's done for three temples thus far; he estimates it will cost each temple about \$5000 for a basic web page. The TOSC team submitted a request and were granted \$25,000 from Dharma Forward to help defray a portion of the cost for 10 temples. On Jan 10, 2024 an email was sent to all temples/churches about this project. We received nine inquiries about the program. Four temples decided it wasn't a good fit, and of the remaining five, 2 are a good fit and approved, and 3 are still reviewing if it's the right program for them. Please take a look at Vista (<https://www.vbtemple.org/>) or Yakima (<https://www.yakimabuddhistchurch.org/>) as examples of how we can refresh your website. If you are interested in working with us to get you a fresh, updated-looking website that is attractive to anyone who visits your site, please reply to Judy Kono, BCA Communications Committee Chair at jkono@bcahq.org

Other Projects:

1. **Technology Outreach Subcommittee (TOSC)** Co-chairs: Rick Kawamura & Brad Ito
 - a) **Instagram** is popular with the 18–35-year-old age group, so we've been running some tests to see if we can increase followers and engage more of the younger generations with different types of Instagram posts and messages. We are seeing some positive changes in small amounts and are learning more about what works and what doesn't. So there's been some good progress and will help us as well prepare to use Instagram as part of our larger strategy.
 - b) **Other Project** - Rick is also heading the DF Outreach pillar and has been using the TOSC meeting to help brainstorm and bounce ideas off the TOSC team. The ideas Rick is considering is a higher-level strategy to which social media (Instagram and Facebook) as well as the website would then support. We have considered making changes to the website, the navigation, as well as highlighting certain assets like Dial the Dharma. One of the challenges is once a higher-level strategy is decided, then which types of future hires should be made?

2. 2024 BCA Calendar

The 2024 Calendars were mailed out to the temples who placed an order. The Calendar is also posted on the BCA website homepage.

Communications Committee and Technology Outreach Subcommittee:

Rev. Harry Bridge, Rev. Kiyu Kuwahara, Rev. John Turner, Brad Ito, Rick Kawamura, Andi Dean, Judy Kono, Koichi Mizushima, John Mullins, Tyler Moriguchi, Alex Tsukahara, Carl Yanari, Jon Kawamoto

Ex-Officio: Rev. Marvin Harada, Bishop, Terri Omori, BCA President

2022 BCA Guidebook At-a-Glance

1. **BCA: The Organization**

- Brief history, Mission Statement, BCA master plan
- BCA Goals & Strategies chart, structure of the BCA
- BCA committees, affiliated organizations, Hongwanji & Overseas Districts
- Tax ID information, Articles of Incorporation
- BCA meeting expense chart, reimbursement forms.

2. **Working with your Minister and Temple**

- Minister's benefit package, Pension Plan, Temple Minister Affairs Committee
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) explanation and content
- Guidelines for active, supervising and retired ministers

3. **BCA Programs Available to Members**

- Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS) programs, Center for Buddhist Education (CBE) seminars
- Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course (JSCC), Minister's Assistant Program (MAP)
- Scouting - Campfire programs, Hongwanji International Youth Exchange

4. **Honoring those in your temple**

- BCA Awards and Recognition – Ministers, lay members, high school/college graduation, 100th Birthday, Posthumous Recognition -Ingo, Dharma School, Scouting -Campfire

5. **Financial Assistance for Members, Temples and the Community**

- Grants, Loans, Student Financial Assistance, Scholarships, Social Welfare

6. **Funding and Financing of the BCA**

- Annual budget, source of income and expenditures, description of funding sources

7. **Organizational Bylaws and Guidelines**

- Bylaws - BCA, Center for Buddhist Education (CBE). Endowment Foundation (EF), Federation of Buddhist Women's league (FBWA), Federation of Dharma School Teacher's League (FDSTL), Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS), Ministers Association (MA) , California Young Adult Buddhist Association (CAL-YABA)
- Policies - Harassment, BCA Trademarks
- Guidelines - Director-at-large, District Representative, Bishop Selection and Duties, Establishment and Dissolution of temples
- Memorandum of Understanding

8. **Resources**

- Contact information for BCA, JSC, Bookstore, CBE, EF, IBS, JSIO, Temples, Fellowships, Sanghas, and International Jodo Shinshu Temples.

9. **Glossary and Key Abbreviations**

BCA Temple Website Refresh Introduction

Rick Kawamura, Technology Outreach Subcommittee (TOSC), Co-chair

Welcome! As you think about a website refresh , we wanted to share some details and suggestions about participation in the program.

Web Platform:

- Many BCA temple websites are outdated platforms that make it hard to edit and update the website. This also makes it hard to create a beautiful website that looks modern and is appealing and easy to navigate for your visitors.
 - Our BCA website, along with Yakima, Vista, and many others are hosted on wix.com, a modern, easy to use web platform that looks great on any web browser or mobile phone. All websites through this program will be hosted on wix.com, and will use the same template that you see on the BCA, Vista and Yakima websites

Target Audience:

- One of the main purposes of a website is to clearly explain and appeal to a target audience to get them to take a specific action.
- One common problem is that the website chooses their target audience as their current members, and so the language is hard to understand and doesn't resonate with new potential members.
 - Consider the difference:
 - Next week's service is canceled. We will reconvene the following Sunday at 10am
 - Everyone is welcome at our temple. We hope you'll enjoy learning, living, and experiencing the teachings of the Buddha together with our members to make compassion, kindness, and selflessness a bigger part of all our lives.
- A better approach and great benefit of having a website is to target new members. And so the language on the website should focus more on "why join our temple" where the implied desired action is to come visit the temple.

Messaging:

- Effectiveness in appealing to your target audience (new potential members) is all about the message you create
- It's a good idea to have a common or target persona in mind. Depending on what you choose will determine your messaging. Consider these target personas:
 - A young family moves to your neighborhood and is looking for a Buddhist Temple where they can raise their children. What do you think they are looking for?
 - Dharma school with other families with kids the same age?
 - Activities for their children - martial arts, taiko, summer programs, Jr YBA, basketball, etc.?
 - Safe environment
 - A single professional near your temple is looking for a Buddhist Temple and searches on Google, Yelp, or NextDoor. What is important to this person?
 - A highschool student is looking to do research on Buddhism and searches for "Buddhist Temple near me"

- A local university student who grew up at a Buddhist temple is looking for a nearby temple to attend services and meet local families. What is important to this person
- In each of these cases they might search online and find not only JodoShinshu results, but also other sects of Buddhism. So they will have a choice where they want to visit, and they'll base their choice on what they see on your website - photos and messaging.
- Photos play a very important part in defining what your temple is about - is there diversity? Do they look "happy"? Does your temple portray a welcoming, friendly environment?
- It's up to you to decide who your target audience is and how you want to appeal to them.
- Here are a few examples that our team has created and are happy to share with you. These examples attempt to appeal to "what our temple is about" and "if you come visit, what the experience and teachings will help you achieve, improve, or become".

LIVING A LIFE OF GRATITUDE

Everyone is welcome at our temple. We hope you'll enjoy learning, living, and experiencing the teachings of the Buddha together with our members to make compassion, kindness, and selflessness a bigger part of all our lives.

○

LIVE A HAPPIER MORE FULFILLING LIFE

Learn to awaken yourself to your inner potential. Realize the power of self to control your emotions and discover the cause of suffering and how to lead a more balanced, happy life everyday.

○

ENJOY WITH YOUR WHOLE FAMILY

Our members represent four, even five generations of families. We recently held a 90th anniversary celebration where the theme was "A Special Place".

Our Dharma School teaches our children to live a life of compassion and selflessness (vs. selfishness), be kind to others, and to respect others and all beings.

You'll find that whether young or old, the temple spirit can be felt through the Sangha (our members) who embody the Dharma (Buddhist teachings) in everything we do, from our services to the volunteer and outreach work we do.

○

DHARMA SCHOOL

Our Dharma school strives to enrich our K-12 children with Buddhist values - compassion and kindness to others, selflessness instead of selfishness, respect others and all beings, and to be responsible for oneself and not blame others.

○

- This one on Dharma school in particular focuses on more of a mission or goal for our K-12 students.
- Too often a temple will have a picture of the teachers and officers, rather than of the children and the classroom. You'll need to decide what type of message you want on your website.
- Similarly for your About Us page:
 - Too often, temples write about the history of the temple. But depending on your target audience, it might be better to focus on your mission or what they'll get out of being a member at your temple

“Competition”:

- It might be interesting for you to google “Buddhist temples near me” and see what you find. Compare that to what you'd like your website to look like. Then compare that to how your target audience will perceive your temple?
- Examples of results to searching “Buddhist temple near me”:



News

- We are delighted to share this [advice from His Holiness the Dalai Lama](#) regarding the swift return of [Lama Zopa Rinpoche's](#) reincarnation. Join the IMI sangha in a [continual recitation of Chanting the Names of Manjushri \(Jampal Tshan Jo\)](#) for the quick and auspicious return of Lama Zopa Rinpoche — an activity where all students of Rinpoche worldwide can participate!

Special Events

Introduction to Mindfulness Course with Ven. Katy Cole **in person and online** Saturdays, 1/6–2/10 1:30pm–3:30pm PST **no session on 1/20**



Medicine Buddha Puja with Ven. Angie Muir **in person** Sunday, 1/28 2:00pm–3:00pm PST



Becoming Your Own Therapist — What We Can and Cannot Control with Geshe Tashi Dhondup **in person and online** Friday, 3/1 7:00pm–8:30pm PST



Weekend Meditation Retreat Mind's Projection and How Thoughts Shape Our Reality with Scott Tusa **in person and online** Saturday and Sunday



Essence of Tibetan Buddhism with Ven. Angie Muir **online** Tuesdays, 2/13–3/12 7:00pm–8:45pm PST



The Six Perfections with Geshe Tashi Dhondup **in person and online** Saturday, 3/2 and Sunday, 3/3 10:00am–1:00pm PST



Half-day Meditation

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-

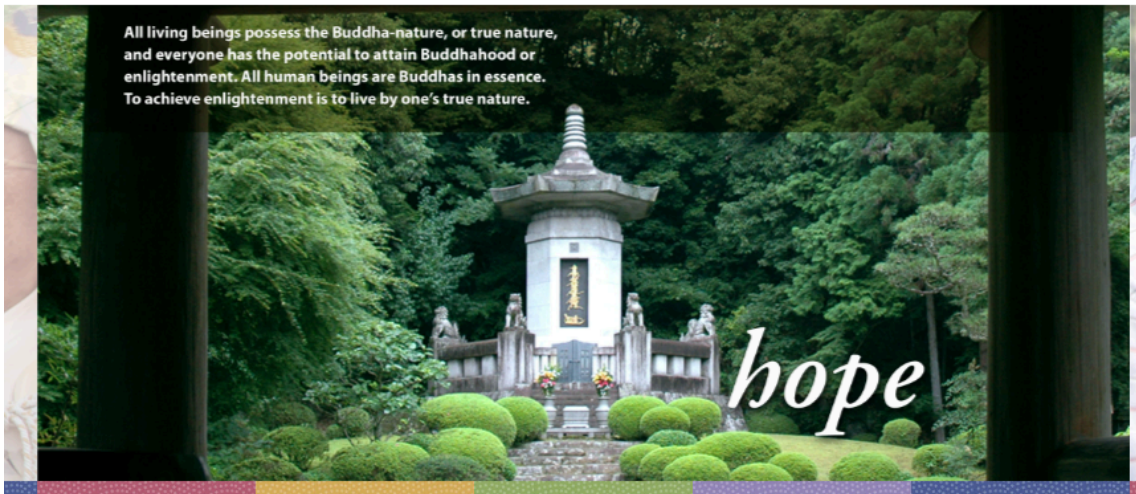


Welcome to Buddhi Vihara

"I teach about suffering and the way to end it"
-The Buddha



Buddham Saranam Gachchami



TEACHINGS / BUDDHISM / TEMPLES / NEWS / 

Welcome to Nichiren Shu

Nichiren Shu Buddhism is both a deep, spiritual practice and a way of living. One can spend a lifetime exploring the depths and nuances of the tradition. However, it's also an immediate practice that powerfully engages each individual right from the start and gives each person a sense of connection to a wider community and a new way of thinking about life itself.

Our Founder, Nichiren Shonin, developed a practice that centers on the teachings of the Lotus Sutra and makes it possible for people to connect with its teachings and get on a path to revealing their true Buddha nature.

Activities



Announcement

2023.12.03

Nichiren Shu News 259



Announcement

2023.10.10

Nichiren Shu News 258

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- As a comparison, this is how OCBC and PABT use photos:



Connect to the Three Treasures

At OCBC, one truly experiences the 3 Treasures; Buddha, Dharma, Sangha. OCBC is where the Sangha (Buddhist Community) gathers to listen to the Dharma (Buddhist Teachings).



Experience OCBC's Culture

OCBC's culture is deeply rooted in our temple founders' values and traditions, such as cooperation, teamwork, and deep respect for others. Today, our diverse Sangha embodies these values, cultivating a welcoming and thriving environment.



Where Community Comes Together

The temple was originally built to support the Japanese American community and remains a center of Shin Buddhist life. OCBC supports youth and adult religious, non-religious, and cultural organizations.

-
-



EXPERIENCE THE DHARMA THROUGH ACTIVITIES

We have several groups and activities for our community to experience and practice the Dharma together. We offer: Dharma School (K-12), Youth Group, Sangha Sessions (discussion group after service), Buddhist Study Group, Book Club, Taiji-Japanese (Jume), Bonsai Club, Senior Luncheon, Akiko, Aoki, Kendo, Summer Culture School for kids, Buddhist Women's Association, Yawako, Choir, Meditation, and Yoga, as well as many other events.

ENJOY WITH YOUR WHOLE FAMILY

Our members represent four, even five generations of families. We recently held a 50th anniversary celebration where the theme was "A Special Place". Our Dharma School teaches our children to live a life of compassion and selflessness (ie. selflessness, kindness to others, and to respect others and all beings). You'll find that whether young or old, the temple spirit can be felt through the Sangha (our members) who embody the Dharma (Buddhist teachings) in everything we do, from our services to the volunteer and outreach work we do.



CELEBRATE AND SHARE TOGETHER

Our biggest event of the year is our annual Obon Festival, where the whole temple comes together to host our biggest celebration and fundraiser of the year. Thousands of friends and neighbors join us for food, games, dancing, exhibits, and educational Buddhist sessions the first weekend of August. If you have a talent for baking, cooking, dancing, or simply enjoy Japanese culture, you'll love being a part of our summer fun.



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How to apply for this program and/or for more information:

Please contact Judy Kono: jkono@bcahq.org and Rick Kawamura: rick.kawamura@gmail.com

AUDIT COMMITTEE**REPORT FOR THE MARCH 2024 NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING**

The BCA National Council issued a mandate in 2009 to have an audit of the BCA accounting records performed by an independent Certified Public Accountant. The Audit Committee selected the firm of DZH Phillips to perform the audit for our fiscal year ending March 31, 2015. That first audit report was officially presented to the National Council at its 2016 meeting. The audit reports for the years ending March 31, 2015, 2016, and 2017 are available for inspection at BCA Headquarters.

The BCA Executive Committee approved the Audit Committee's recommendation to step down from an audit to a review for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2018. The review reports for the years ended March 31, 2018, 2019, and 2020 are available for inspection at BCA Headquarters. As of the date of this report, the financial statements for the year ended March 31, 2022, are being reviewed by Baker Tilly, our independent accountants.

This committee is evaluating its relationship with Baker Tilly, the successor to DZH Philips and Squar Milner, in order to ensure that the financial review meets the needs of BCA.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry Bergland
Chair
bzhcpas@bzhcpas.com

Jeff Matsuoka	jmatsuoka@bcahq.org
Ron Murakami	ron.murakami@comcast.net
Rev. Henry Adams	henry.t.adams@gmail.com

BCA Music Committee Report
 prepared for the BCA National Council Meeting on February 23-24, 2024
 submitted by Kemi Nakabayashi bcamusic@bcahq.org

Highlights from BCA Music Committee:

The accomplishments and plans of the Music Committee are focused on the BCA 125th anniversary year. As we strive to be self-sustaining through sponsorship donations for specific projects and unrestricted donations, we greatly appreciated the significant donation in 2023 from the estate of Yumiko Hojo. This donation made possible the sound recording and videography for the “Lantern Song” bon odori song and dance commission to supplement the approved BCA budget allocation for the commission of the Bonbu Stories group. At the BCA NCM, Bonbu Stories with the BCA Music Committee plans to premiere the final music video that includes the video submissions from various BCA temple bon odori celebrations. The “Creation of Lantern Song” recorded webinar from last October, the “Lantern Song” dance tutorial video, and the lyric video to the dance can be found on the BCA Music YouTube channel: [Buddhist Churches Of America Music - YouTube](#) “Lantern Song” bon odori and “Kangie” by Nobuko Miyamoto were commissioned by the BCA Music Committee and financially supported by BCA and BCA Dharma Forward funding. BCA Music Committee advocates that they deserve full recognition for this BCA 125th anniversary bon odori season and encourages from the ministerial and temple leadership level that you work with your bon odori instructors in 2024 to celebrate the BCA 125th anniversary by including these dances.

The **BCA Music webpage** [Music | BCA](#) now features gatha audio recordings with lyrics written by the late Rev. Dr. Seigen H. Yamaoka. Please also note the publicity flier posted for the upcoming Bon Daiko webinar on 3/2/2024 with registration information. The featured presenters are Kinnara Taiko, Maui Taiko, Tiffany Tamaribuchi, and Isaku Kageyama, as well as PJ and Roy Hirabayashi presenting a tribute to the late Rev. Hiroshi Abiko. The webinar is anticipated to be engaging for non-taiko players and participants of all ages. The latest issue of the **BCA Music Newsletter** is slated to be posted this month with feature articles on Palo Alto Buddhist Temple and the Northwest District Joint Hoonko Service. The **featured gatha video** will be updated after the premiere of the “Lantern Song” music video. Currently the lead videos on the BCA Music YouTube channel playlist are two renditions of “Shinran Sama” by Rev. Yuki Sugahara and Rev. Harry Bridge.

Gatha Lyric Writing Contest and Composer Commissions: For the BCA Eitaikyo Service on Sunday, February 25, presented in hybrid format, we are grateful that the Sacramento Betsuin choir has been rehearsing “Amida’s Light” for the premiere debut of this new gatha commission by Shinji Eshima, set to lyrics of Gayle M. Kono of Sacramento Betsuin. Please read more about Shinji Eshima in the article written by Dennis Yamashita in the February issue of the BCA [Wheel of Dharma \(WoD\)](#). The other gatha commission by composer Francis Wong of “Storms and Peace” by the youth lyricist winner Skylar Lam from Florin BT is still developing as work-in-progress.

The FBWA Music Project: The final video production created by Marissa M. Wong (Seattle Betsuin) of “With Gassho from the Heart” was presented in Kyoto with stage performers singing or providing sign language, representing all BCA districts. The details were described on page 7 in the June, 2023 Issue of the [WoD](#) https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/files/ugd/458b11_fe9b326f97ed422b8038f5b933adee55.pdf Thanks to Steve Terusaki for photo and video documentation of the performance including capturing Lady Ruzumi Ohtani looking on in the lower right corner. We received many compliments for the BCA kyodan presentation including from ministers and delegates from Japan. BCA FBWA secretary general Peggy Okabayashi also received compliments from Lady Ohtani. Here is the link to the repository: [FBWA Music Project | BCA](#)

Northwest District (NWD) joint Hoonko Service - The Seattle Gagaku Group, through the leadership of the NWD ministers to relocate the service to White River Buddhist Temple after the Seattle Betsuin arson fire and overcome obstacles of the winter weather forecast, presented *Shuso Sango Saho* (Music Service *Shoshinge* with *Wasan* and *Nembutsu*) on January 14, possibly the first time outside of Japan performed live with gagaku musicians. Articles describing the weekend Hoonko events are in the [WoD](#) February issue and the BCA Music Committee Newsletter.

BCA Music Governance

Chairperson: Kemi Nakabayashi (Seattle Betsuin) Vice-Chairperson: Donna Sasaki (Tacoma BT)

Ministerial Advisors: Rev. Katsuya Kusunoki, (Seattle Betsuin) and Rev. Tadao Koyama (Tacoma BT)

Ex-officio Ministers: Rev. Marvin Harada (BCA Bishop) and Rev. Henry Adams (incoming Chairperson BCA Ministerial Association, BCSF/San Mateo BT)

New Buddhist Music subcommittee volunteer ministerial advisor: Rev. Cyndi Yasaki (White River BT)

Bon Odori Taiko subcommittee volunteer ministerial advisors: Rev. Todd Tsuchiya (Midwest BT) and BCA Rev. Emeritus Ron Miyamura

BCA Staff Liaison: Pam Matsuoka

BCA Music Cabinet: Kemi Nakabayashi, Donna Sasaki, Darlene Bagshaw (Stockton BT), Leanne Nishi-Wong (Seattle Betsuin), Terri Omori (Vista BT/ex officio), Steve Terusaki (BC Oakland, BCA Executive Committee Liaison), Michael Yoshihara (San Jose Betsuin)

BCA Music Newsletter team:

- Content coordinators and contributors Cynthia Mee (Midwest BT) and Amy Peterson (Oregon BT)
- Chairperson's column: Kemi Nakabayashi (Seattle Betsuin)
- Editorial Advisor Dennis Akizuki (San Jose Betsuin)
- Newsletter Layout by Pam Matsuoka (BCA staff/Berkeley BT)

BCA Music Executive Board consists of subcommittee chairpersons, BCA district representatives, and ex-officio members). Updated subcommittee chairpersons are listed below:

- Bon Odori/Taiko Co-Chairpersons: Christine Kubo (Cortez Howakai/BC of Stockton) with Reiko Iwanaga (San Jose Betsuin and for the American Bon Consortium)
- Gagaku Co-Chairpersons: David Ushijima (Berkeley BT) and Dennis Yamashita (Seattle Betsuin)
- New Buddhist Music Co-Chairpersons: Donna Sasaki (Tacoma BT) and Karen Mukai (Fowler BT)
- Service Music Co-Chairpersons: Misaye Abiko (BCSF) and Betty Fujimoto (BCSF) with Karen Suyama (SACBC) to continue after Founding Day Service 9/1/2024 through BCA NCM 2025 hosted by Bay District.

Note: Service Music plan for BCA NCM is Music Committee contacts paired with Technical Support contacts

- NCM 2024 (Northern Cal District): Myra Okasaki (Sacramento) and Kemi Nakabayashi (BCA Music chairperson) with Koichi Mizushima (Sacramento)
- NCM 2025 (Bay District): Karen Suyama (SACBC) with Carl Yanari (PABT)
- NCM 2025 (Northwest District): Donna Sasaki and Kemi Nakabayashi with NCM co-chairs from Seattle Betsuin Alex Sakamoto and Marissa M. Wong

BCA Music Subcommittees: Some overlapping projects with appreciation for collaboration of the Music History subcommittee with BCA Archives Committee and the American Bon Consortium for the BCA 125th anniversary.

1. **Sutra** – Rev. Katsuya Kusunoki with Rev. Tadao Koyama. For the purpose of the Music Committee this subcommittee pertains only to Music Service Sutras. The **Shuso Sango Saho** presentation as reported in the Highlights is notable. These ministers also oversee the content of the separate BCA website Chanting webpage [Chanting | BCA](#).

2. **Service Music**: Ministerial advisor is Rev. Tadao Koyama. The updated leadership structure as outlined above was developed to oversee live and virtual project planning for the NCM each year and the BCA Founding Day Service on September 1, 2024 at BCSF with hybrid online format. Pre-recorded gatha videos are planned for presentation at the Founding Day Service and other occasions. We appreciate Rev. Dennis Fujimoto's recent attendance at this subcommittee's meetings for updates and guidance of the Bay District ministers' plans for Founding Day service. The development of the online Buddhist Music Library has been on hold awaiting BCA direction for storage and sharing. In the meantime, the focus has been to increase the gatha video offerings of the gatha playlist of the BCA Music YouTube channel

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUP6bBfcX20CkMYqa3iew-l-s0RBjnvW0>

3. **Gagaku** – David Ushijima is working directly with the Bay District Ministers to coordinate gagaku for the Founding Day Service at BCSF. Along with Dennis Yamashita and our ministerial advisors, a joint gagaku retreat to include Kinnara Gagaku (Senshin BT), Northern Cal, and Seattle Gagaku Groups is under consideration.

4. **New Buddhist Music** – Completion of the FBWA Music project was accomplished as described in the Highlights. Ongoing independent and group work continues on new compositions, some which have developed from the BCA 125th anniversary gatha lyric writing contest. Audio recording and video production for new compositions which have not been designated in other budgeted projects will be included in the BCA Music wish-list for sponsorship donations in order to present new music during the BCA 125th anniversary year and beyond.

5. **Vocal Music** – Paul Endo (San Jose Betsuin) has facilitated ongoing discussion among choir representatives across BCA, especially with updates on safe Covid protocols. Many temple singing groups have resumed in-person rehearsals in the past year. Many Vocal Music subcommittee members also serve on the Service Music subcommittee and/or the New Buddhist Music subcommittee as there is significant overlap.

6. **Instrumental Music** – Proposed structure is categorizing instrumental music for gathas and for bon odori, though no formal subcommittee formed. One project includes both categories as the San Jose Chidori Band recording project consists of a new arrangement of “Shinshu Shuka” and three new recordings of bon odori songs (“1+1 Ondo”, Oyama Ondo” and “Ochatsumi Ondo”). The other project is a video project by drummer Akira Tana’s group Otonowa of the band’s existing arrangement of “Nembutsu” by Chizu Iwanaga. These two projects have both been fully funded from individual sponsorship donations. Piano/instrumental gatha recordings were provided on request to Glen Tao, the chairperson of the new BCA Ad Hoc Film and Video Committee for BCA 125th anniversary productions.

7. **Music History** – Zoom meetings resumed in 9/2023 while individuals have been working on independent projects. Hawaii Music Committee (HMC) chairperson Francis Okano with Wendie Yumori joined the meeting on 10/9/2023 as the first official collaborative meeting with a successful dialogue at the invitation of this subcommittee. HMC activity includes work on a new edition of Praises to the Buddha gatha book. The recent flier received is included with this report for details on pre-ordering copies for the publication later this fall.

Wynn Kiyama continues his project on the early history of bon odori and bon daiko at temples across BCA. BCA temple choir history and a gatha timeline project are in need of additional collaborative volunteer support. .

8. **Bon Odori/Taiko** – Upcoming webinar on 3/2/2024 co-sponsored by CBE “Keeping the Beat: A Bon Daiko (obon drumming) webinar with Kinnara Taiko, Maui Taiko, Tiffany Tamaribuchi, and Isaku Kageyama. PJ and Roy Hirabayashi will also present a tribute to the late Rev. Hiroshi Abiko. See flier for registration. This subcommittee has also been responsible for the Bonbu Stories “Lantern Song” Project commission and has worked to update the BCA “Obon: Gathering of Joy” webpage [Obon: Gathering of Joy | BCA](#), and will continue to review the Bon Odori video playlist of the BCA Music YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLUP6bBfcX20Dyyp25Ms6ulgfXovvkuOld>

9. **Technical Support** – Koichi Mizushima assisted significantly during the transition of the BCA digital content assistant position. We welcome Stephanie Fong who is now implementing the updates for the BCA Music and “Obon: Gathering of Joy” web pages. BCA Music YouTube channel administrators are Koichi Mizushima, Tyler Moriguchi, and Alex Sakamoto. Collaborative effort for live and virtual event planning for service music elements and other projects is highly dependent on the assistance of BCA TOSC and our Music Committee tech experts. Video editing work is greatly appreciated as BCA Music is not able to pay market rate for video editing with funding obtained for videography reserved for special projects.

10. **Copyright and Publications** – Preliminary vetting to hire an intellectual property (IP) attorney for BCA Music Committee legal advice on IP topics was recently initiated, awaiting final steps at the BCA Executive Team level. A webinar and/or reference document on copyright best practices is planned, once the IP attorney has been secured and legal advice received. Music Committee members continue to contribute articles to the BCA Wheel of Dharma.

The **Music Category of BCA Connect** <https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/bca-connect/categories/music> includes from 2023 the entire series of articles by Wynn Kiyama “50+ Years in the Dance Circle” about extraordinary bon odori instructors who taught at BCA temples for 50 years or more, published in the April-September 2023 issues of WoD and to resume this spring. Prior to the current **BCA Music Newsletter**, the second issue was posted on the BCA Music webpage in October, 2023 and featured Oregon BT as the highlighted temple.

11. **Performances and Community Outreach** - BCA 125th anniversary event planning includes music-related projects not under the direct development and responsibility of the BCA Music Committee but with awareness in order to support with publicity and any other relevant aspects.

- Grateful Crane production of the Hlstory of BCA as requested by Rev. Harada

- Techno Hoyō - Rev. Gyosen Asakura touring NY, So Cal, and the Bay Area. Rev. Harada, Chiemi Onikura-Bly, Terri Omori, and others are working on plans for September 2024.
- American Bon Consortium: Dates and venues for the public bon dance and exhibit are now confirmed. On Sunday, September 8, 2024, 1 - 3 pm, the Yerba Buena Gardens Festival (<https://ybgfestival.org/events/>) will present "American Bon Dancing." Program will feature the new BCA Music Committee Bon dance commissions, "Kangie" and "Lantern Song", as well as traditional and contemporary favorites coordinated by Reiko Iwanaga. Performers include Ensohza, PJ Hirabayashi, Nobuko Miyamoto, Bombu Stories, and SJ Taiko (invited). From July 1 to September 30th, the National Japanese American Historical Society Peace Gallery (<https://www.njahs.org/japantown-peace-gallery/>) will present American Bon Odori exhibition, panels and workshops curated by Wynn Kiyama, PhD, (<https://exhibits.library.pdx.edu/exhibits/show/obondancing/1940-1950.html>) supplemented with content on BCA 's 125th anniversary. Jane Naito from the BCA Archive Committee will work with Wynn as assistant curator. Workshops and panels will also take place. Check NJAHS website (<https://www.njahs.org/exhibits/>) for final schedules.

BCA Music Committee Finance:

- BCA Music Committee is deeply grateful to the donors who have generously acknowledged our Music Committee efforts. The donations have supported our past projects and are making current and future projects possible. The list of donors for 2023 are acknowledged in the BCA Music Newsletter February 2023 issue.
- Some of the latest BCA Music Projects have been conceived and fully funded by sponsorship donations. We would appreciate your spreading the information of our "wish list" of sponsorship projects posted on the BCA Music web page [Music | BCA](#) as well as our openness to working with individuals to develop specific new sponsored Music Committee projects for our Music Cabinet review and approval as we proceed through 2024 and into 2025.

Respectfully submitted in gassho,
Kemi Nakabayashi, BCA Music Committee chairperson



Buddhist Churches of America®
MUSIC

BCA Music Committee

NEWSLETTER • FEBRUARY 2024

NW District Hoonko Weekend

By Amy Peterson,
Oregon Buddhist Temple

On January 13-14, I attended the NW District Hoonko seminar and service at the White River Buddhist Temple (WRBT). The previous District events were during Covid, and the Seattle Betsuin made them available via YouTube, live-streamed and recorded to view it at anytime.

This seminar and service were special because not only was it a memorial service for Shinran Shonin, it may have been the first time outside of Japan that gagaku, the musical instruments that originally came to Japan from China, performed the potential historic *Shuso Sango Saho* (Music Service *Shoshinge* with *Wasan* and *Nembutsu*) with live musicians at such an auspicious ceremony. Outside of Japan the gagaku music is seldom live. The guest speaker for the Seminar was Rev. Yoshimichi Ouchi from the Toronto Buddhist Temple in Canada. Fortunately for the District, Rev. Katsuya Kusunoki (Rinban of Seattle Betsuin), Rev. Tadao Koyama (Tacoma) and Rev. Ouchi (Toronto) all attended the same program at the ritual and chanting school, Gonshikishidōsho in Japan to be certified in chanting which included learning about gagaku and selecting an instrument to specialize in.

I was able to hear this music, played during chanting at the 800th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin in Kyoto last May. There you could hardly see any of the gagaku, while in White River you were so close that while you might not be able to see the instrument being played you could hear it clearly.

Rev. Kusunoki selected as his instrument the **Shō**, or Hōshō (Phoenix Bird Sho) which has 17 small bamboo pipes that are positioned in a bowl-shaped section with a mouth-piece. This resembles the folded wings of the Phoenix, or Bird of the Pure Land. Fifteen of the pipes have metal vibrators or reeds. In order to produce the desired sounds and tones one needs to place their fingers over the small holes at the bottom of each pipe. It can produce a single note or a harmony of chords. In order to keep the instrument in tune, the reeds



Rev. Kusunoki (sho), Rev. Ouchi (hichiriki), Dennis Yamashita (ryuteki), Rev. Koyama (hichiriki - hidden) with Marcia Takamura (percussion) and Esther Sugai (ryuteki) seated behind them (photo by Amy Peterson)



BCA Music Chairperson's Message

By Kemi Nakabayashi

The BCA 125th anniversary year has arrived! The BCA Music Committee has been thinking ahead to this momentous year with a number of projects started in 2023 and others still being developed.

The first completed new composition from the gatha lyric writing contest and composer commission will debut later this month as part of the BCA National Council Meeting in Sacramento. We are delighted to announce that the Sacramento Betsuin choir has been learning "Amida's Light", composed by Shinji Eshima to the lyrics written by Sacramento Betsuin member Gayle M. Kono. The premiere is slated for the hybrid BCA Eitaikyo service on Sunday, February 25. Please learn more from Dennis Yamashita about Shinji Eshima in the article on page 5 of the February issue of the BCA *Wheel of Dharma*: <https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/wheel-of-dharma>. Other compositions from the contest are in various stages of creative development. Francis Wong has been working with Skylar Lam on "Storms and Peace". Donna Sasaki has been working with the Seattle Betsuin High

NW District Hoonko (from page 1)



Shuso Sango Saho presented at White River Buddhist Temple for the joint Northwest District Hoonko service on January 14, 2024 (courtesy of Joe Gotchy)

must be kept dry, and therefore Rev. Kusunoki keeps a small heater nearby to heat the Shô.

Rev. Ouchi played the double reed, bamboo instrument called **Hichiriki**, about 18 cm long with 7 finger holes on the front of the flute and two on the back side. This is the dominant sound in gagaku. The reed is made from pressed river reed. He was joined by Mika Semke. One trick to playing this instrument is keeping the reed wet and warm. Rev. Ouchi had a cup of water nearby to keep the reed hydrated and ready to be played.

The third one, a bamboo flute, **Ryuteki** was played by Rev. Tadao Koyama. He says it was the easiest to learn. But this instrument, along with the Hichiriki, plays the main melody. He was joined by a couple members of the Seattle Betsuin, Dennis Yamashita and Esther Sugai.

Kemi Nakabayashi had the special challenge of playing the electric keyboard tuned to match the gagaku instruments at 430 Hz instead of 440 Hz, sometimes leading with the music and at other times blending them together and even singing. The hidden part was putting together a choir remotely and hopefully some actually showing up in person during a cold snap with temperatures in the 20's. While an electric piano is not one of the traditional instruments,



Northwest District Singers leading the **Shuso Sango Saho Wasan**, **Nembutsu**, and **Ondokusan** eko (courtesy of Joe Gotchy)

it tied the groups together. The singers practiced in advance, and then the entire piece on Saturday and in the end it all came together.

Seattle Gagaku Group also provided some taiko drummers playing some additional instruments. Although I wasn't familiar with some of the instruments, sometimes I'd hear a familiar sound and at others I'd hear an interesting percussion sound. Percussion musicians were Esther along with Ann Ishimaru and Marcia Takamura.

I'm waiting until I repair my grandmother's Biwa, then I might consider practicing with the group. I hope you'll check out the YouTube videos so you can immerse yourself in the sounds of ancient music previously only heard by aristocrats and monks.

Saturday Workshops:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bz-D-4rijOM>

Sunday Service:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t-qDoEV25Vc>

For more information about the White River Buddhist Temple:

<https://www.wrbt.org>

Basic gagaku info can be found at:

<https://gagaku.stanford.edu/en/>

Current Sponsorship Opportunities

Bon Daiko webinar on 3/2/2024 to support the honorariums of the presenters Kinnara Taiko, Maui Taiko, Tiffany Tamari-buchi, Isaku Kageyama, and PJ and Roy Hirabayashi.

Gatha recording projects: Some of these gathas are new original compositions developed from the additional gatha lyric contestant entries with the goal of being able to present and teach the music through an available recording and lyric video.

The Making of Kangie, a documentary video project: Additional descriptive videography and video editing of existing footage from the recording session of Nobuko Miyamoto's bon odori song "Kangie".

For additional information please see the Music Sponsorship Opportunities on the BCA Music webpage **Music | BCA**

To confirm specific details and recognize sponsorship donations, please contact BCA Music chairperson Kemi Nakabayashi at bcamusic@bcahq.org

We are otherwise deeply grateful for unrestricted donations to BCA Music Committee Endowment Foundation to support our current and future projects. Unrestricted donations may include a special dedication and can be made online through **BCA Endowment Foundation/Kindful** using the dropdown to select "Music" from "Select a campaign" options.

- Kemi Nakabayashi & Donna Sasaki

Chairperson's Message *(from page 1)*



Shinji Eshima visiting Seattle Betsuin in May, 2018, pictured with Mas Tamekuni, leader of the Seattle Betsuin Ukulele Band. (photo by Kemi Nakabayashi)

School Dharma School class to set the youth honorable mention lyrics to music. We also anticipate a new obon gatha through the creative pairing of dii Lewis with Kerry Wong to her lyrics "Obon, Dancing under the Lights". Other contest lyric entries are being paired up with volunteer composers on the BCA Music Committee to complete new music as well.

Since the Bonbu Stories premiered the new bon odori song and dance commission for the BCA 125th anniversary "Lantern Song" through the webinar last October, a recently completed music video that includes footage submitted by BCA temples debuts this month as well. The group also plans "Lantern Song" workshops to teach the song and dance – watch for upcoming announcements of dates, times, and locations.

The featured temple for this issue of the Music Newsletter is the Palo Alto Buddhist Temple (PABT). Our content coordinators and contributing writers chose to highlight the PABT Sing-Along as well as offer a memorial tribute to Tyler Montgomery, the phenomenally talented young PABT teacher and performer who passed away unexpectedly last October. Amy Peterson has collected memories and photos to share. Please note that one of the Bonbu Stories members is Sydney Shiroyama, also from PABT, who has shared information on the Rhythmic Flow Taiko program now offered online on Wednesday afternoons.

The Bon Odori Taiko subcommittee has also developed an interesting webinar on Bon Daiko scheduled for Saturday, March 2, at 10 am Pacific Time. In

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addition to the well-known presenters, this webinar will also feature a tribute to the late Rev. Hiroshi Abiko. Please see the flier for details on "Keeping the Beat" with the registration link.

Our Service Music Subcommittee co-chairpersons Misaye Abiko and Betty Fujimoto are working hard on the service music content of the BCA Founding Day Service at Buddhist Church of San Francisco on September 1, 2024 which will also be offered as a hybrid format. Please also mark the date of Sunday, September 8 if you might be in San Francisco to attend the public bon odori at Yerba Buena Gardens, the first one since the successful event in 2019 after the World Buddhist Women's Conference nearby that year. There will be more special anniversary year plans so keep an eye out for announcements in the Wheel of Dharma or in our next BCA Music Newsletter issue.

Recently, a very special Northwest District joint Hoonko program took place on January 13-14 at White River Buddhist Temple (WRBT). Minister assistant Sara Perrott from WRBT has written an article for the BCA *Wheel of Dharma*. However, Amy Peterson has also provided an informative article on the gagaku presentation of *Shuso Sango Saho* (Music Service Shoshinge) in this newsletter. Please also note the details of the flier received from the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii announcing the plan to publish and sell the 5th edition of *Praises of the Buddha* gatha book.

Lastly, we acknowledge the generous donations to the BCA Music Committee received in 2023. If you have enjoyed listening to the gathas on the BCA Music web page or in online services, please consider donating to the BCA Music Committee through the Music option on the Kindful link: <https://bca.kindful.com/> We also welcome sponsorship donations for BCA 125th anniversary year events and projects. If you wish to direct sponsorship to a specific event or project, we have prepared a "wish list" announcement on the BCA Music webpage: <https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/music>

I am happy to confirm with anyone interested how to designate the donation if you prefer rather than for unrestricted use for our future BCA Music projects.



Donations to the BCA Music Committee, January 1 to December 31, 2023:

Federation of Dharma School Teachers League (Bishop's Project sponsorship for the youth gatha lyric contest and commission)
 Taiko Ventures (sponsorship for the "What is Obon?" webinar)
 Watsonville Buddhist Temple (Coast District National Council Meeting committee in appreciation of NCM service gatha videos)
 Irene Goto
 Charles & Darlene Bagshaw (in memory of Kenji Torigoe)
 Allan & Nancy Hikoyeda (in memory of Yumiko Hojo)
 Trustee of the estate of Yumiko Hojo
 Tyler Moriguchi & Thy Pham
 Kemi Nakabayashi & Jim Norton
 Ford & Terri Omori
 Elinor Yokoi
 Victoria Zhang

BCA MUSIC NEWSLETTER

Dennis Akizuki, editorial advisor
 Pam Matsuoka, graphic layout
 Cynthia Mee, content coordinator and contributor
 Amy Peterson, content coordinator and contributor
 Yoko Yanari, graphic artist consultant
 Kemi Nakabayashi,
 BCA Music chairperson
 bcamusic@bcahq.org

Palo Alto's Music Flows Through the BCA

By Amy Peterson



Gary Sakamoto, DJ Extraordinaire

Sing-Along with Gary

Palo Alto Buddhist Temple (PABT) must have music blowing and flowing in the trees, through the Hondo and all around the grounds. PABT music experiences have created an oasis for many Sangha members prior to and expanded during the Covid shut down. The Board members, Rev. Dean Koyama, and their musically talented Sangha members not only found a way to keep their music connection active during Covid, through Zoom meetings, but they also shared it with the rest of the BCA.

Somehow I found this music oasis connection with Gary Sakamoto, who leads a Zoom Sing-Along on Thursday evenings. A variety of people join Gary on Thursday nights including Mrs. Etsuko Yano who celebrated her 101st Birthday this past year during our weekly Sing-Along. Other Sing-Along participants include Sangha members from Palo Alto, South to San Diego, East to Colorado and the Midwest, and North to Portland and Seattle and sometimes even from Japan. My grandkids have even been seen on Zoom dancing to the music and pets have been known to photobomb or dance to the music.

Participants are encouraged to send suggestions to Gary who then designs a program to teach, entertain, and also for us to sing along. When I started attending the Sing-Along, Gary was going through the year's top 10 songs. We go through the holiday songs, rising stars both here and in Japan, local musicians; especially temple members and music from the temples in-

cluding newly released gathas performed at Conferences like World Buddhist Women's Association this year in Kyoto where "Gassho from the Heart" (lyrics by Rene Maruyama and music by Donna Sasaki) was performed and introduced to BCA members.

Other contributions include private recordings that include Sing-Along participants, jokes and trivia to fill in the set up time. Cynthia Mee even sent Eric Quock a joke book to up his game.

I am hoping this will continue for as long as Gary, PABT, and the other members participate.

Participant comments:

Aiko Yamamoto describes the following: "Gary Sakamoto - PABT Wednesday Sing-Along, providing Temple senior group with his talent, plus Thursday night Sing Along = 'disk jockey extraordinaire'. His time and research results in fun, informative nights." Aiko calls



Erick Quock
Master of Comic
Relief & Trivia

"Eric Quock - Our 'comic relief' throughout the years, audience moan & groan reactions to his jokes."

"Thank you Gary for all the time and effort you put into the sing-along each week! I feel we have a wonderful Thursday night family that I look

forward to seeing every week! I love all the new groups and singers that you introduce us to with so many interesting and fun facts and old favorites too. I'm singing loudly and so appreciate the mute button! Wishing everyone a happy and healthy 2024! Thank you, Gary, for all your support to the Palo Alto Temple!" –Dean and Linda
"Thank you Gary for all the work you do to give us a fantastic Thursday of a variety of songs. I look forward to it each week. Palo Alto has a great Sangha!" –Marlene

"I look forward to Thursday evenings and seeing my Sing-Along friends and

learning whatever Gary has prepared – various aspects of music unknown to me and listening/singing to music that take me back in time. Thanks, Gary."

– Cynthia Mee

"I was a late-joiner to the group, but would also like to thank Gary for continuing to make Thursday evenings so enjoyable!!!" –Jim



I, and many others, hope Thursday Night Sing-Alongs will continue for years to come and that Gary will continue to create interesting programs, and PABT members and others members continue to contribute their ideas, and laugh together. (If you want to join us some time just Join Zoom Meeting Thursday night 7:00 PT, check the PABT website <https://www.pabt.org/announcements>)

Tyler Montgomery

Through the Sing-Along I was introduced to Tyler Montgomery, a multi-talented young man at PABT. Tyler loved music and helped temple members, mostly senior women, to play the ukulele. Again PABT supported the ukulele classes using its Zoom account to bring the ukulele people together.

Unfortunately, Tyler Montgomery suddenly departed this life due to an aortic aneurysm on October 28, 2023, at the age of 34.

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/legacymembers/tyler-montgomery-obituary?id=53617673>

To summarize his obituary he learned to play the saxophone while a young boy. It appears his passion for music blossomed at a young age. Tyler learned other instruments making friends along the way. He learned the guitar, piano, ukulele, drums and vocals. At age 13, Tyler co-founded the band Bad Karma, which continued as a jazz and classic rock group for over two decades. He also founded his high school band, The Doppler Effect, winning a Battle of the Bands at UC Berkeley.

Tyler attended PABT along with his parents Wayne and Denise, brother Wes and sister Kristin. Tyler spent years volunteering at the Palo Alto Buddhist Temple. He taught Dharma School and

(continued on page 5)

Montgomery (from page 4)

gave ukulele lessons to church seniors.

I took the ukulele class and was very bad at remembering the correct time for the class. I usually signed on late. I didn't have all of the music and although we never met, he was so supportive, sending me the sheet music and giving suggestions on how I could catch up.

Kemi Nakabayashi, chairperson of the BCA Music Committee, grew up with PABT as her home temple and considers herself fortunate that the PABT choir included her as an honorary member when

they practiced and participated in the Choir Fests in Sacramento and Mountain View. She reports that Tyler assisted Alice Fukushima and Amy Yoshida with conducting duties and instrumental accompaniment.

Alice and Amy clarify, "Tyler sang with our choir in his early Dharma School years but eventually he became one of our musical accompanists. He started out playing guitar but evolved by deciding whatever instrument he felt was needed, so though primarily he played guitar, sometimes he'd play drums, another time it was saxophone, and other times it was ukulele. He knew no limits, even filling in as choir director whenever asked. We always got the best from Tyler. He knew no other way."

At the PABT on August 5-6, 2023, Bad Karma gave their always well received bon odori weekend performance. Tyler also participated in bon taiko for the dancing. Kemi is grateful for the chance to have seen Tyler then and to personally thank him for teaching her ukulele through the pandemic over Zoom. Kemi recalls "Auld Lang Syne" was taught at what would be the last Zoom ukulele class in October. Tyler had agreed to perform at the PABT Bonenkai year-end luncheon for seniors in December. Joan **219** how, organizer of the Zoom



Tyler Montgomery at the PABT Good CARma Car Show on September 23, 2023 (courtesy of Sue Luttner)

ukulele class, then asked Aiko Yamamoto to contact PABT ukulele players to request they perform at Bonenkai per Tyler's wishes. This was previous to his passing. Subsequently Aiko was able to recruit all past players in honor of Tyler, saying, "Everyone I called agreed to play. There was not one person that declined." Ultimately, the group presented "Auld Lang Syne" at the event. Aiko relates "It was a tribute for Tyler's teachings and as a person to play in his memory. We will

miss him!"

The remaining members of Bad Karma performed at Tyler's memorial service with a beautiful rendition of Queen's "No One But You".

Tyler was a valuable music contributor to BCA. Even though I never met Tyler in person, only via Zoom, he touched my life in many ways. As the song reminds us, "Only the Good Die Young."

Cynthia Mee says, "Life events and people are interconnected. The music blowing from the Palo Alto Buddhist Temple trees connects us wherever we are, whether we are young or old, whether we sing and/or play the ukulele or just enjoy listening. Music is an important part of our temples, sanghas, and friendships."

We can thank Bishop Harada for encouraging music to be a vital part of BCA, to Kemi Nakabayashi for her leadership of the BCA Music Committees, and to sangha members like Gary and Tyler for their open arms like the Buddha.

Tyler's death is a reminder of how precious life is and not to take it for granted. I will remember him in Gassho whenever I hear a ukulele.

Namu Amida Butsu.

2024 NEW CLASSES
6-WEEK SESSIONS

2/21, 2/28,
3/6, 3/13,
3/20, 3/27
3PM-4PM
ON ZOOM



REGISTER NOW AT
WWW.RHYTHMICFLOWTAIKO.ORG



Rhythmic Flow Taiko starts on February 21st

Submitted by Sydney Shiroyama

Rhythmic Flow Taiko is a virtual taiko class designed to promote physical, cognitive, and social engagement for older adults. The class was created in 2020 by Sydney Shiroyama (Occupational Therapist), Vivian Lee (Physical Therapist), and Yeeman "ManMan" Mui (taiko artist and educator) after they recognized the therapeutic potential of taiko for people with Parkinson's Disease. By practicing taiko, participants engage in large amplitude movements, full extensions, trunk rotation, variation of volume and tempo, forceful vocalizations, and cognitive challenges.

While the class was originally designed for people with Parkinson's Disease, it has proven to be fun and beneficial for a wide range of participants. Everyone is welcome to participate! The classes will be held on zoom on Wednesdays from 3-4 p.m.; Pacific Time. There will be a six week session that starts on February 21 (class dates: 2/21, 2/28, 3/6, 3/13, 3/20, and 3/27). No experience is necessary and participants can use materials from their home, such as a pillow for a drum surface and wooden spoons as drumsticks.

You can register at
RhythmicFlowTaiko.org

If you have questions or concerns, email
RhythmicFlowTaiko@gmail.com

Keeping the Beat:

A Bon Daiko Webinar Featuring Kinnara Taiko, Maui Taiko, Tiffany Tamaribuchi, and Isaku Kageyama



Tiffany Tamaribuchi



Isaku Kageyama

The "Keeping the Beat" webinar will feature a panel discussion on Bon Daiko (Obon drumming) with Kinnara Taiko, Maui Taiko, Tiffany Tamaribuchi, and Isaku Kageyama. The webinar will include a short history of Bon Daiko and a tribute to Reverend Hiroshi Abiko. Developed by the BCA Music Bon Odori/Taiko Subcommittee and co-sponsored by the Center for Buddhist Education.

Saturday, March 2, 2024
10:00 - 11:15 a.m. (PST)



Kinnara Taiko



Maui Taiko



Registration: <https://bit.ly/bondaikowebinar>



New Gatha Book Coming!

The 2024 Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii (HHMH) Triple Celebration theme is **“Sharing the Joy of Nembutsu Together: Our Living Heart of Gratitude.”** As music enhances the joy of hearing the Nembutsu Teachings, HHMH is most pleased to announce the publication of the **5th edition of Praises of the Buddha** to commemorate the **Triple Celebration** in September 2024. This volume replaces the 4th edition (1990) but will retain many beloved gathas in Japanese and English and will add many beautiful gathas that reflect the creative efforts of HHMH members in Hawaii.



- Half of the gathas in the **5th edition Praises of the Buddha** are new to this gatha book. Included in the total of 152 gathas are 54 English and 22 Japanese favorites from the 4th edition (1990), 38 wonderful English gathas composed by members of HHMH temples, and 38 appealing English renditions of Japanese gathas produced by the Translation Subcommittee of the HHMH Music Committee.
- The page dimensions have been increased to 7" X 9" to encourage larger font size whenever possible and thus, increased readability. The book will be a soft cover volume, approximately 225 pages, and is expected to be priced at about \$15 per copy.
- If your BCA temple is anticipating purchasing copies in bulk (over 25), please e-mail us at hqbooks@honpahi.org by **April 30, 2024** and let us know of your interest so that sufficient copies may be printed to meet your need. Single copy purchases by individuals may be made from the HHMH Bookstore once the books become available toward the end of this year.



BCA Music Committee Sponsorship Wish List

Background: The BCA Music Committee was organized in 2020 and has 11 subcommittees with members across all BCA districts spending volunteer time to discuss and develop a variety of projects. Recent projects have been funded by an approved Dharma Forward grant, organizational sponsorships from the BCA Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations (FBWA) and the Federation of Dharma School Teachers League (FDSTL), and donations to the Music Committee Endowment Foundation account.

- Dharma Forward grant application by the BCA Music Committee for the commission of Nobuko Miyamoto's Bon Odori song and dance **"Kangie"**.
- BCA FBWA for the FBWA Music Project, developed for the BCA kyodan presentation at the World Buddhist Women's conference in Kyoto in May, 2023 to create the original composition **"With Gassho from the Heart"** and video production.
- FDSTL Bishop's Project Fund for the youth category of the gatha lyric writing contest and composer commission of **"Storms and Peace"**.
- For the commission of the Bonbu Stories group, the audio recording and video production of **"Lantern Song"** Bon Odori were made possible by the unrestricted donation from the estate of Yumiko Hojo to supplement the approved Music Committee budget request to BCA.

Current New Music Projects Already Sponsored:

- **San Jose Chidori Band Recording Project:** New arrangement and recording of **"Shinshu Shuka"** and new recordings of **"1+1 Ondo"**, **"Oyama Ondo"** and **"Ochatsumi Ondo"** funded by individual sponsorship.
- **Otonowa Video Project:** Video production of **"Nembutsu"** by Chizu Iwanaga created and performed by drummer Akira Tana's band Otonowa, funded by individual sponsorship.

Current Sponsorship Opportunities:

- **Bon Daiko webinar on 3/2/2024:** Of the \$1,000 to support the honorariums of the presenters Kinnara Taiko, Maui Taiko, Tiffany Tamaribuchi, Isaku Kageyama, and PJ and Roy Hirabayashi, the current remaining balance is \$700. Seven sponsorship donations of \$100 are requested.
- **Gatha recording projects:** There are various sponsorship levels starting at \$50 to enable recording artists to prepare the audio recording with sound engineering and video production costs. The immediate projects would be for recording new compositions, but upon request new recordings of favorite gathas can also be considered. Please contact BCA Music chairperson Kemi Nakabayashi at bcamusic@bcahq.org for additional information.
- **"The Making of "Kangie" ", a documentary video project:** Additional descriptive videography and video editing of existing footage from the recording session of Nobuko Miyamoto's Bon Odori song **"Kangie"**, amount TBD.

The BCA Music Committee is also open to any suggestions for new project development with sponsorship. For additional information and to confirm specific details and recognize sponsorship donations, please contact BCA Music chairperson Kemi Nakabayashi at bcamusic@bcahq.org.

We are otherwise deeply grateful for unrestricted donations to the BCA Music Committee Endowment Foundation to support our current and future projects. Unrestricted donations may include a special dedication and can be made online through [Buddhist Churches of America Endowment Foundation](https://www.bcahq.org/donations) | [Kindful](#) using the dropdown to select "Music" from "Select a campaign" options.

Save these Dates!

AMERICAN BON DANCING: IN JOY, REMEMBRANCE, GRATITUDE

- **INVITATION TO JUST DANCE!**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2024, 1-3 PM

Yerba Buena Gardens
Mission Street btwn 3rd/4th Sts. San Francisco

Learn new dances celebrating the 125th Anniversary of the Buddhist Churches of America:

- "Kangie" by Nobuko Miyamoto
- "Lantern Song" by Bonbu Stories

Plus, new & traditional works:

- "Ei Ja Nai Ka" by PJ Hirabayashi
- San Jose Taiko (invited)
- Ensohza folk music ensemble

PRESENTED BY YERBA BUENA GARDENS FESTIVAL

- **EXHIBIT & WORKSHOPS**

JULY 1 - SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

**NJAHS PEACE GALLERY
1684 POST ST. SF JAPANTOWN**

GALLERY HOURS: MON. - FRI., 12 NOON - 5 PM

SATURDAY WORKSHOPS: 1-2 PM
7/6, 8/3 & 9/7 Details TBA

"**American Bon Odori: In Joy & Remembrance**" is a multimedia exhibit curated by Wynn Kiyama, Ph.D. and Jane Naito on the history of Obon dancing in the continental U.S.--from the 1930s to the present, as the Buddhist Churches of America celebrates its 125th anniversary.

PRESENTED BY NATIONAL JAPANESE AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY (NJAHS)



All programs coordinated by American Bon Consortium in partnership with Yerba Buena Gardens Festival, National Japanese American Historical Society and BCA Music and Archives Committees. Photos: Mark Shigenaga

Major funding provided by The Henri & Tomoye Takahashi Charitable Foundation



Buddhist Churches of America
NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING
Real Estate Committee Report
February 12, 2024

Committee Members:

Steven Terusaki (co-chair)	BCA President-Elect, BC Oakland
Glenn Inanaga (co-chair)	BCA VP, Orange Co. BC
Jeffery Matsuoka	BCA Treasurer, BC San Francisco
Susan Sakuma	BC San Francisco
Robert Matsueda	BCA Facilities Manager

Ex Officio

Terri Omori	BCA President
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I. BACKGROUND / PURPOSE

The BCA Real Estate Committee (the “**Committee**”) became a standing committee of the BCA in 2023 and follows the mission of the Ad Hoc Real Estate Committee to review, recommend and implement a comprehensive real estate strategy to maximize the income, utilization, and value of the BCA’s real estate assets. Specific objectives include:

- (i) diversify the BCA’s income sources
- (ii) preserve long-term appreciation and value of BCA properties
- (iii) reduce the operating expenses and overhead costs of the BCA properties

II. COMMITTEE UPDATES

Since August, the Committee has been meeting monthly via zoom. The Committee works collaboratively with BCA Facilities to ensure that projects are vetted, and key decisions are made to ensure that work can continue without delay. A list of Action Items is generated from each meeting and reviewed for action and completion at each meeting.

In August, the Committee welcomed Susan Sakuma as a non-voting member. Susan is a member of the BC San Francisco brings her expertise as a licensed architect to the Committee.

Following on policy governance efforts to increase the effectiveness of BCA, all BCA Committees now include a dedicated BCA staff person to complement the volunteer members of the Committees. The BCA Staff person attached to the Real Estate Committee is Bob Matsueda. Bob is an integral part of every Committee meeting where his input and knowledge of facilities issues has been a tremendous asset for critical decision-making of the Committee.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS SINCE DEC NBM:

- See Report B-1 from BCA Facilities Manager regarding Facilities updates for both current and future projects.
- Space allocation analysis on the JSC was completed with the assistance of Susan Sakuma. Final allocations are to be determined for each of the organizations located at the JSC that inform the cost-sharing arrangements with the BCA.



- Completed an agreement with BC San Francisco for shared maintenance expenses for the newly renovated elevator providing barrier-free access to the Hondo level of BC San Francisco.
- Currently in final discussions on leasing additional space at 1710 Octavia Street (BCA HQ) to JCYC. Occupancy expected in Q1 2024.
- Provided recommendations to Jeff Matsuoka and the Budget & Finance Committee on the 2024 Capital Maintenance Budget to replenish the cash balance of the fund resulting from the approved expenditure for the six (6) HVAC units at the JSC.
- Resolving the process issues related to replenishment of monies to the BCA General Fund for facilities expenditures (notably for renovation of the BCA Parsonage/Waterloo Property) from Dharma Forward monies currently held by the Endowment Foundation.
- The Stupa atop BC San Francisco is being painted. Further, the cost and maintenance for increased security cameras on the roof, in the BCSF Hondo and entries are being shared between BCA and BCSF.

III. CONCLUSION

The Committee thanks the efforts of Gayle Noguchi, Bob Matsueda and all BCA Staff who have been supportive of efforts of the new governance approach to BCA operations.

The Committee also wishes to acknowledge the work of Susan Sakuma and BC San Francisco for stepping forward to implement the renovation of the BCAHQ elevator. Their proactive involvement created a win-win for both BC San Francisco and BCA and a long-standing benefit for both parties.

Finally, the Committee would like to express our appreciation for the continued support of the BCA Executive Committee and the National Board. We look for that support to manifest itself in long-term value to BCA.

Respectfully submitted with gassho,

Steven H. Terusaki, co-chair

s.terusaki@bcahq.org

Glenn Inanaga, co-chair

ginanaga@bcahq.org

2024 BCANC ART COMMITTEE REPORT

BCA National Council Meeting February 23-24, 2024

The third edition of the BCA Virtual Art Exhibit was opened this past fall. We have an increase in the number of artists who have contributed their works, an increase in the mediums displayed, and an increase in viewership. Artists from youthful dabblers to seasoned professionals with decades of gallery exhibits share their works side by side. Beyond talent and beauty, the artists can reveal an expression of their spirit and expansive dialogue of self and other.

This past year, the Art Committee was also able to work in conjunction with the Northern California Chapter of the Ohara School of Ikebana in their flower display over the weekend of October 14 & 15 at the Jodo Shinshu Center. This current weekend, a few of the virtual artists are showing their works in a live exhibit during the BCANC meetings at the Sacramento Betsuin.

Upcoming in March and April, more of our virtual artists will display their works in a live exhibit at the Rhythmix Cultural Works gallery in Alameda. The committee is also working in conjunction with the Buddhist Temple of Alameda and Rhythmix to present the documentary film, "Carving the Divine" on April 21 at the Rhythmix Theater in Alameda. The film reveals the centuries-old master-disciple relationship of the artisans and craftsmen who dedicate their lives to create the wooden Buddhist sculptures and images that adorn Buddhist temples throughout Japan. Filmmaker Yujiro Seki will join us on ZOOM from Japan to participate in a Q&A session at the end of the film. Please look for the ads and flyers to these events to support these Art Committee efforts.

We look to our temple ministers and leaders to encourage promotion and participation in our virtual and live exhibits. Appreciation and growth continues as our temple leaders become aware of the potential to welcome and showcase the talents of our Sangha members. We have also been heartened by the possibilities to expand our Sangha by including those who enjoy and appreciate artistic spiritual expression.

The committee is very appreciative of the BCA leadership in general and the Wheel of Dharma in particular for their support, promotion and exposure to grow this new avenue of Dharma expression.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Dennis Fujimoto
revdjoshin@gmail.com
Koichi Mizushima
bkmizushima@bcahq.org

Ad Hoc BCA 125th Anniversary Committee Report
BCA National Council Meeting
February 23-24, 2024

September 1, 2024 marks the 125th Anniversary of the Buddhist Churches of America. To commemorate this milestone there will be various activities and events. In addition to what is reported, it is hoped that district, churches and temples, affiliated organizations, and committees will also add to the celebration. We would like to have our entire BCA Sangha a part of the celebration.

Events and projects in the works that share the historical aspect of BCA as well as the present and beyond.

BCA Ministers' Association and National Council Meeting February 23 & 24, 2024

- Grateful Crane Preview show on BCA's History
- Premiere of the Music Committee's Song Lyric Contest Composition – Adult Division During the BCA National Eitaikyo Service

BCA 125th Anniversary Commemorative Service, September 1, 2024, 10 a.m.

- At the Buddhist Church of San Francisco
- Service will be live streamed
- In person will be by invitation
- Premiere of the Music Committee's Song Lyric Contest Composition – Youth Division
- Will also commemorate the 800th Anniversary of Jodo Shinshu & 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's birth.

BCA 125th Anniversary Telethon Celebration, September 1, 2024 following the service

- Presented by Michiko Inanaga and Koichi Mizushima
- Supported by the BCA Churches and Temples with video footage
- Will also acknowledge the 75th Anniversary of the Institute of Buddhist Studies
- Will fundraise to benefit the Dharma Forward Campaign

Obon Season June – August 2024

- Let us all dance to the Lantern Song, composed by Bombu Stories in commemoration of BCA's 125th Anniversary.

American Bon Consortium & BCA Collaboration Bon Odori Gathering

- September 8, 2024
- Location Yerba Buena Gardens. San Francisco
- History of American Bon Odori exhibit curated by Wynn Kiyama, PhD at the National Japanese American Historical Society Japantown Peace Gallery, San Francisco, CA , July 1-September 30, 2024

Techno Hoyo Presentation September at various venues

- Rev. Gyosen Asakura, from Japan, uses music and a light show when chanting the Sutra.
- Rev. Chiemi Bly (Twin Cities Sangha) is working on a possible tour for BCA

Check out this innovative way of sharing the Dharma <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zx7IL0DG0PU>

FDSTL Montoshikisho

A commemorative 125th BCA Anniversary montoshikisho will be available for Dharma School students, teachers and ministers

FBWA Conference October 4-6 Grateful Crane Project – BCA's 125th History Show

- Bishop Rev. Marvin Harada is working together with Soji Kashiwagi

Women of the BCA Project

- Monthly Articles in the Wheel of Dharma to educate and bring awareness of BCA Women who have contributed to its history.
- Women of the BCA Seminar, September
- Project Coordinator, Michiko Inanaga
- Project Chairperson, Sharon Sasaki (Buddhist Temple of San Diego)
- Project stems from a grant opportunity through the Frederick P. Lenz Foundation for American Buddhism based on their 2024 theme, Women Leaders in Buddhism and the Hemera Foundation

Southern District Buddhist Conference October 19

- Annual gathering for the Sangha of the Southern District Buddhist Temples
- Hosted by the members of the Buddhist Temple of San Diego

If your church, temple, organization, or committee is planning a commemorative activity or event please email tomori@bcahq.org. We will add it to the schedule.

Respectfully submitted,
Gassho,

Darlene Bagshaw & Terri Omori
BCA 125th Anniversary Committee Co-Chairpersons

Rev. Marvin Harada, Bishop
Judy Kono, Advisor
Rev. Michael Endo, Advisor

BCA 125th Anniversary Events

Date	Time	Activity	Event	Location	Organizer(s)
2/24/2024	7:00 p.m.	Grateful Crane Performance	BCA NCM Banquet	Sacramento Betsuin	Rev. Harada, Soji Kashiwagi
2/25/2024	10:00 a.m.	Lyric Contest Gatha Debut	BCA National Eitaiyo Service	Hybrid - Sacramento Betsuin	Kemi Nakabayashi
4/27/2024		DS Monto Shikisho Sales	FDSTL Conference	Mountain View Buddhist Temple	FDSTL Cabinet
Jun-Aug		125th Bon Odori -Bonbu Stories Lantern Song	Temple Obon Festivals	BCA Temples	Kemi Nakabayashi,
9/1/2024	10:00 a.m.	Founding Day Service	BCA 125th Anniversary Shinran Shonin 800/850	Hybrid - BC of San Francisco	Rev. Harada, BDMA, Judy Kono , Terri Omori
9/1/2024	11:30 a.m.	125th Telethon	BCA 125th Celebration & Dharma Forward	JSC	Michiko Inanaga, Koichi Mizushima
9/8/2024	1:00 p.m.	Public Bon Odori	American Bon Consortium	Yerba Buena Gardens (SF)	Yumi Hatta, Reiko Iwanaga, Wynn Kiyama
9/8/2024	TBD	Techno Hoyo - Rev. Gyosen Asakura		New York Buddhist Church	Rev. Harada, Chiemi Onikura-Bly
9/11/2024	TBD	Techno Hoyo - Rev. Gyosen Asakura		New York Venue	Rev. Harada, Chiemi Onikura-Bly
9/14/2024	TBD	Techno Hoyo - Rev. Gyosen Asakura		USC	Rev. Harada, Chiemi Onikura-Bly
9/15/2024	TBD	Techno Hoyo - Rev. Gyosen Asakura		Los Angeles Betsuin	Rev. Harada, Chiemi Onikura-Bly
9/28/2024	TBD	Women of the BCA Seminar		JSC	Michiko Inanaga, Sharon Sasaki
10/5/2024	TBD	Grateful Crane Performance	FBWA Conference Banquet	San Jose	Rev. Harada, Soji Kashiwagi
10/19/2024	TBD	Southern District BCA 125th Celebration	Southern District Buddhist Conference	Buddhist Temple of San Diego	Terri Omori, LuAnn Lee, Ralph Honda
Monthly		Women of the BCA Special Series Articles		Wheel of Dharma	Sharon Sasaki, Michiko Inanaga
					*



**Report to the National Council
of the
Buddhist Churches of America®
from the
BCA *Ad Hoc* Committee re: Estate of Richard A. Bloomquist 2022+
February 23---24, 2024**

This Report concerns BCA's discovery of additional cash assets in the gross sum of \$131,094.08 belonging to the Estate of Richard A. Bloomquist. Our committee requested that the California State Controller's Office release all these funds to BCA. I am pleased to report that BCA received these funds at the beginning of January 2024. A copy of the check received by BCA appears immediately following this Report.

As agreed by BCA and IBS (The Institute of Buddhist Studies) the net funds will be divided equally between BCA and IBS as follows:

Gross Proceeds	\$131,094.08
Legal Fees & Costs	<u>(\$2,618.00)</u>
Net Proceeds	\$128,476.08
Distribution to BCA	\$ 64,238.04
Distribution to IBS	\$ 64,238.04

All these funds have now been distributed.

Several years ago, the substantial proceeds from the Estate of Richard Allen Bloomquist were distributed to BCA and to IBS after vigorously contested litigation before the San Diego Superior Court which began with the filing of BCA's Petition in 2016 and its conclusion in 2021.

When I last reported this latest discovery of \$131,094.08 in additional assets to the BCA National Board and to the BCA National Council in 2023, I was asked to provide more details about the extraordinary history of BCA's success in recovering substantial assets from the Estate of Richard A. Bloomquist. Therefore, this Report provides sufficient details of this history so that BCA members who were not aware of this matter when it first started in 2016 might fully appreciate this extraordinary saga. More than that, the legal theories resulting in BCA's success in recovering these assets were grounded in BCA's history in the United States starting in the early years of the 20th Century.

It must be noted that it was only with the indispensable and full-throated support to pursue these funds (rather a long-shot at the time!) from Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto, President of The Institute of Buddhist Studies, and Mr. Rich Edler (deceased), then Chair of the IBS Board of Trustees, and following years of hard-fought litigation, that we were successful.

Following this Report are documents explaining the legal analysis and arguments BCA made to the Court. We recommend you peruse these documents to best understand how BCA's history was instrumental to our success.

Please find the following documents starting on page 4 of this Report:

1. Gross check from the California State Controller's Office of the State of California in the total sum of \$131,094.08
2. Report including the legal and religious analysis of the Bloomquist Will to the BCA National Board dated December 3, 2016.
3. First Amended Petition to the court to Determine Distribution of the Estate Assets.
4. (Final) Report to the BCA National Board dated June 5, 2021.
5. Memorandum of Understanding between BCA and IBS dated August 16, 2019.

Abbreviated Financial History of Bloomquist Case. BCA and IBS prevailed in contested litigation before the San Diego Superior Court. As a result, BCA successfully recovered the total sum of **\$1,339,349.69** from the Bloomquist Estate.

1. Of that amount, BCA transferred **\$125,000** to a newly created endowment, namely, the "BCA Executive Committee Bloomquist Educational Endowment." This endowment is managed by the BCA Endowment Foundation and its interest income is subject to direct oversight and use by the BCA Executive Committee. The additional funds of \$64,238.04 are being added to this endowment to best comply with the directives of the holographic will of Richard Allen Bloomquist.
2. In accord with the Memorandum of Understanding between BCA and IBS executed on August 16, 2019 (a copy of which follows this Report) and approved by the BCA National Board and the BCA National Council, IBS received the sum of **\$1,214,349.69** dedicated to specific educational purposes as directed by the Will of the decedent, Richard A. Bloomquist.

As I attend the IBS Annual Memorial Service each year, I am grateful to hear the name, “Richard A. Bloomquist,” announced together with those others friends and leaders being remembered and honored for their contributions to IBS, financial and otherwise. It is only right and proper that Mr. Bloomquist be so honored.

Recent Discovery of Additional Assets. The Settlement Agreement entered into by BCA and the party opposing BCA’s claims before the Court includes a highly significant provision providing BCA with the exclusive legal right to any and all additional estate assets that might be subsequently discovered. Of course, we had no clue any further assets even existed.

It is with great pleasure that I previously advised you we discovered the existence of such additional assets.

BCA learned that there was \$131,094.08 in “additional assets” held in favor of the beneficiary to the Estate of Richard A. Bloomquist and controlled by the California State Controller’s Office. That beneficiary is the Buddhist Churches of America®. After some significant effort, BCA received these additional assets in January of 2024.

BCA President, Terri Omori, and BCA Bishop Marvin Harada, together with the BCA Executive Committee, previously confirmed the creation of this *Ad Hoc* committee to proceed ahead with the recovery of these additional assets. President Omori may wish to disband this committee as our work has now been completed.

BCA and IBS agreed to divide all net assets on a 50-50 basis. The total sum of \$128,476.08 was therefore disbursed in honor of the decedent, Richard Allen Bloomquist, one-half or \$64,238.04 to BCA and one-half or \$64,238.04 to IBS.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard A. Stambul, Chair
BCA *Ad Hoc* Bloomquist Committee 2022+
Buddhist Churches of America®

cc: **Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto, President**
The Institute of Buddhist Studies, and
Member of the BCA *Ad Hoc* Bloomquist
Committee 2022+



Report to BCA National Board
Re: Bloomquist Probate
 December 3, 2016

The Bloomquist matter concerns a man who died leaving a will in which he made a gift of his entire estate to the “Buddhist Church.” The Will fails to specify to which entity the words, “Buddhist Church” refers. The BCA President and the Executive Committee asked me to oversee this matter on behalf of BCA and to determine if a claim to the assets in the estate might be successful.

Bloomquist Will. Richard Allen Bloomquist died on May 19, 2014 leaving no children or immediate relatives. Initially, it was believed that Mr. Bloomquist died intestate (without any Will). However, after investigating Bloomquist’s personal effects the Deputy Public Administrator for San Diego County discovered a holographic (handwritten) Will that was written by Bloomquist almost 30 years ago, and dated April 26, 1987. A copy of the handwritten Will follows this report.

The Administrator contacted BCA in August of 2016 advising BCA of the existence of the Will and of the estate. Bloomquist’s Will leaves all his property, real and personal, to the “Buddhist Church.” The Administrator’s records reveal that the Estate consists of assets in the total sum of \$1,475,000.00 consisting of cash and real estate.

Probate Claim by BCA. Initially, BCA felt it could not legally establish that the reference to the “Buddhist Church” referred only to BCA and was not going to pursue the assets. Further consideration resulted in the belief that the gift most likely referred only to BCA, and that BCA should file a claim.

At my request, Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto of IBS and I formed a committee of two and began building a case from which to file a legal claim to the assets in the Bloomquist estate. After substantial effort and investigation, we concluded that the Bloomquist Will refers only to BCA. We are hopeful of eventual success. BCA retained the services of a probate attorney who has opened a probate proceeding on behalf of BCA making a claim to the estate’s assets. A probate proceeding is a court action in which evidence is received with provisions for due process and a legal determination is made as to whom an estate’s assets should be awarded under the terms of a Will.

For those of you who want more details please find a copy of the Will, an Analysis of the Will, and an Examination of its terms all of which follows this Report.

Respectfully submitted,
 Richard A. Stambul, President-Elect
 Buddhist Churches of America

Will of Richard A. Bloomquist

I, Richard A. Bloomquist, a resident of San Diego County, California, declare that this is my will.

First: I revoke any wills and codicils that I have previously made.

Second: I have never been married and of course have no children.

Third: I leave all my property, real and personal, to the Buddhist Church for the following purpose only: that English translations of portions of the Buddhist Scriptures may be printed and placed in public libraries throughout the United States of America. By "portions of the Buddhist Scriptures," I mean only those parts which consist largely of words attributed to the historical Buddha (Gautama), who lived from approximately 563 to 483 B.C.

Fourth: I nominate Security Pacific National Bank as executor of this will, to serve without bond.

I subscribe my name to this will this twenty-sixth day of April, 1987, at Alpine, California.

Richard A. Bloomquist

ANALYSIS OF BLOOMQUIST WILL WITH HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

November 3, 2016

“...TO THE BUDDHIST CHURCH...”

The Testator’s nomination of the “Buddhist Church” (“BC”) as his sole beneficiary can only reasonably refer to the Buddhist Churches of America (“BCA”), a California non-profit religious corporation which is composed of sixty (60) churches located throughout the continental United States.

A. BACKGROUND FACTS FROM WHICH TO UNDERSTAND TESTATOR’S BEQUEST TO THE “BUDDHIST CHURCH.”

1. Use of the word, “Church,” in connection with any Buddhist organization in the United States is extremely unusual. This is because most every Buddhist organization in the U.S. beginning in the 19th century (when the first Buddhists came to our shores) through today refers to themselves as a Buddhist Temple and not a Buddhist Church. The only major exception to this observation in terms of size, membership, and years in existence, is the Petitioner, namely, Buddhist Churches of America, a California non-profit religious corporation (sometimes, “BCA”). Petitioner, Buddhist Churches of America, is the oldest, and largest Buddhist religious organization with a continuous presence in the United States. BCA was incorporated more than 72 years ago on May 2, 1944. Prior to its incorporation BCA was an unincorporated religious association known as the Buddhist Mission of North America which began its existence in 1898 in San Francisco with the arrival of several Buddhist Ministers from Japan. Most of its congregations were known as and used the name, “Buddhist Church.”

a. BCA’s congregations have used the name, “Buddhist Church,” during most of its 118 year history in the U.S. Attached are true and correct copies of a directory of BCA’s congregations or “Churches” throughout the U.S. in 1919; and a second directory from 1940. Most of BCA’s congregations were named, “Buddhist Church” and not “Buddhist Temple.” It was believed by BCA’s Buddhist Priests in the early 1900's that reference to a “Buddhist Church” was more acceptable to Americans of that time than “Buddhist Temple.” For example, some of BCA’s congregations are named today as follows: New York Buddhist Church, Visalia Buddhist Church, Arizona Buddhist Church, Gardena Buddhist Church, Orange County Buddhist Church, Oxnard Buddhist Church, Santa Barbara Buddhist Church, and more.

b. The reference to “Buddhist Church” first began in the very early 1900's because virtually all of BCA’s members were then of Japanese descent. In the early 1900's there were a number of federal and state laws that made ownership of real property by persons of Japanese or “Asian” descent illegal. Some of these laws were referred to as the infamous “Alien Land Laws.”

(i.) “‘Alien Land Laws’ were a series of legislative attempts to discourage Asian and other “non-desirable” immigrants from settling permanently in U.S. states and territories by limiting their ability to own land and property. Because the Naturalization Act of 1870 had extended citizenship rights only to African Americans but not other ethnic groups, these laws relied on coded language excluding “aliens ineligible for citizenship” to prohibit primarily Chinese and Japanese immigrants from becoming landowners without explicitly naming any racial group. Various alien land laws existed in over a dozen states before they were ruled unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1952. *Fujii v. California (1952)*; *Masaoka v. California (1952)*. Like other discriminatory measures aimed at preventing minorities from establishing homes and businesses in certain areas, such as redlining and restrictive covenants, many alien land laws remained technically in effect, forgotten or ignored, for many years after enforcement of the laws fell out of practice.” Wikipedia, Alien Land Laws (2016)

(ii.) Such discrimination against the Japanese and Japanese-American population in the U.S., especially on the west coast, was rampant. This *de facto* and *de jure* discrimination culminated in the incarceration of virtually the entire Japanese-American population in the U.S., most of whom were American citizens, into detention or concentration camps immediately following the attack on Pearl Harbor. The U.S. Supreme Court has since repudiated these unconstitutional laws inclusive of the mass detention order. On August 10, 1988, President Reagan signed a formal apology on behalf of the United States to the approximately 120,000 Japanese-Americans who were incarcerated under this unconstitutional order.

c. Early BCA or Shin Buddhist pioneers at the beginning of the 20th century believed that use of the word, “Church,” rather than the reference to “Temple,” in connection with Buddhist congregations would be safer for its parishioners. These families feared for their physical safety. Naturally, the safety of their children was of paramount concern to Japanese-American mothers and fathers who then made their homes in this country. For these reasons, virtually all of BCA’s congregations in the U.S. used the reference to “Buddhist Church” for safety.

d. An internet search reveals that there are virtually no Buddhist religious groups or congregations in the U.S. of any size or duration that used or now use the moniker, “Church,” in connection with their name except for the Buddhist Churches of America and its members.

2. Petitioner, Buddhist Churches of America, is the oldest, and largest Buddhist religious organization in the U.S. It began in 1898 when the first Buddhist Priests were requested by residents of the San Francisco Bay Area in California to be sent from Japan, namely, from BCA’s mother temple, Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha Buddhist Temple located in Kyoto, Japan. The Buddhist Churches of America and its predecessor has been continuously present in the United States from 1898 through the present date.

3. Today, BCA has about 16,000 active members in the United States all of whom are members of one of BCA's sixty (60) Buddhist Churches.

4. Many of BCA's congregations and "Churches" have more recently (mostly since the 1990's) changed the name of their congregations from "Church" to "Temple." However, only BCA has more than a 118 year old history of exclusively using the name, "Buddhist Church" as the name of their assemblages. Currently, many of BCA's congregations continue today to use the words "Buddhist Church" as their name. (See Section A-1-a above).

5. More Information regarding the Buddhist Churches of America is publically available at its website at www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org A listing of all of BCA's member churches and temples can be found at this website. From the home page find a drop down menu entitled, "Temples/Churches" and select "Temple Church by District."

6. To the best of our knowledge, BCA, with its 118 year old history, and a continuous presence in the U.S. is the **only** Buddhist organization in the U.S. of any size or duration which uses the words, Buddhist Church(es), as part of its name.

7. The reference to "Buddhist Church" in the decedent's Will must Therefore be only to the Petitioner, Buddhist Churches of America, a California non-profit religious corporation.

B. EXPLANATION OF REFERENCES IN TESTATOR'S HOLOGRAPHIC WILL THAT REQUIRE EXPLANATION TO APPRECIATE THE TESTATOR'S INTENT

1. "Buddhist Scriptures"

The Testator's Will refers to "Buddhist Scriptures." There is no such thing as Buddhist Scriptures in the sense that Christianity or Judaism might make to the old or new testaments, or that Islam has to the Koran. There is only commentary, academic exegesis and investigation as to exactly what the Buddha talked about.

2. "...the historical Buddha (Gautama), who lived from approximately 563 to 483 B.C."

The Will refers to the "...historical Buddha (Gautama)..." who is also known today as Shakyamuni Buddha and as Siddhartha Gautama who was a real person, and is believed to have been born in Nepal around 563 b.c.e. (the "Buddha").

3. “...those parts which consist largely of words attributed to the historical Buddha...”

There is nothing extant that was written by the Buddha. It was 100’s of years after the Buddha’s death before anything was written in any language consisting of “words attributed to the historical Buddha...” as stated in the Will.

Therefore, all “words attributed to the historical Buddha...” must consist of commentary, comments, exegesis, and works by academics, religious leaders, and laymen as to what they believed was said or thought to have been said by the Buddha.

4. An analogy can be drawn from Christianity to best explain Testator’s intent. The analogy is needed because Buddhism is not well known in the US and the Court may benefit from this explanation. Assume a hypothetical example: that a Testator’s bequest in a holographic will was to leave all property to the “Baptist Church” to consist “largely of words attributed to the historical...” Jesus. It is well known in the West that nothing ever written by Jesus is extant. Such a bequest would have to be understood to include the writings of Baptist Ministers, academics, and religious leaders about Jesus in the form of commentary, exegesis, and explanation of the sayings and beliefs of Jesus Christ. Since nothing was written by Jesus, only academic inquiry and writings about the teachings of Jesus is available.

- a. Most significant, only Baptist interpretations and writings would be consistent with the hypothetical decedent making a bequest to the “Baptist Church.” It would stretch credulity to the breaking point if a bequest to the “Baptist Church” should include writings from a different religious order, for example, a Methodist or Catholic perspective.

- b. Such is the same with respect to the Testator’s bequest to the “Buddhist Church” which can only refer to Buddhism or Pure Land Buddhism as practiced in the United States by the Buddhist Churches of America (Petitioner) and its member churches since 1898.

- C. The Court should clarify the Testator’s bequest by ordering that his intent was and is to spread the word of the historical Buddha, a real person, through the eyes of the Buddhist Church of America, and to include commentary, exegesis, and discussion of the Buddha’s sayings, teachings, commentary, and the like from a Shin Buddhist perspective.

Richard A. Stambul, President-Elect
Buddhist Churches of America
November 3, 2016

**An Explanation of Key Expressions in the Testator’s Holographic Will
From the Perspective of Buddhist History and Core Doctrine**

1. “Portions of the Buddhist scriptures”

In modern Buddhist scholarship the word “scriptures” is frequently used to designate the entirety of the three-fold Buddhist canon (*tripitaka*), which is made up of expositions or sermons said to represent records of the historical Buddha’s teaching (*sutras*), commentaries on Buddhist doctrine and rules of conduct for Buddhist followers. Each of those categories consists of texts produced over the course of nearly 2,500 years and in a number of geographic locations. Buddhist scriptures would include, for instance, (1) Hinayana texts written in Sanskrit (an ancient Indian language) or Pali (a language from the Indian subcontinent), (2) Mahayana texts written in Sanskrit, Uyghur, Khotanese or Gandhari (languages of Central Asia), Chinese (in dialects from the early Han through the Song dynasties), Korean, Japanese, Vietnamese and other languages, and (3) tantric texts written in Japanese, Tibet and Nepalese.

2. “Only those parts that consist largely of words attributed to the historical Buddha (Gautama) who lived from approximately 563 to 483 B.C.”

a. “Parts that consist largely of”

Throughout history and today as well, there have existed hundreds of Buddhist traditions. Although the many Buddhist traditions (Modern scholarship tends to prefer use of the words “tradition” or “school” rather than “sect.”) differ in terms of their foundational scriptures, practices and lifestyles, as well as languages, cultures and histories, they hold in common their reverence for the historical Buddha (see below) and are grounded in primary teachings of that Buddha.

Shin Buddhism (Jōdo Shinshū) is a major Buddhist tradition presently active in many countries around the world. One of its largest denominations is the Jōdo Shinshū Hongwanji-ha, which is based in Kyoto, Japan. The Buddhist Churches of America is the organizational district of the Hongwanji in the continental United States. The Shin Buddhist tradition arose in Japan during the Kamakura period (1185-1333). As a school of Mahayana Buddhism, it is grounded upon the historical Buddha’s teaching that there is a way through which all sentient beings can realize enlightenment. For Shinran (1173-1262),

its founder, Shin Buddhism represented a return to the spirit, vision and hope embodied in the Buddha's teaching.

b. “Words attributed to”

Historians agree that the historical Buddha did not leave any written texts. He likely presented his teachings orally in a regional dialect, Magadhi Prakrit, a language spoken in the ancient Magadha kingdom in northeastern India in the seventh and sixth centuries, B.C.E. According to historical records, centuries passed before any Buddhist scriptures were reduced to writing. Instead, the Buddhist teachings were transmitted orally during its early development. Hence, there is no evidence that any extant Buddhist text represents the actual spoken or written words of the historical Buddha, and therefore every scripture in the Buddhist canon constitutes “words attributed to” the historical Buddha.

The Shin Buddhist tradition accepts three Mahayana sutras as foundational. They are: (1) *Bussetsu muryōjukyō* (The Sutra of Immeasurable Life, expounded by Shakyamuni Buddha), (2) *Bussetsu Kanmuryōjukyō* (The Sutra of Contemplation on the Buddha of Immeasurable Life, expounded by Shakyamuni Buddha), and (3) *Bussetsu Amidakyō* (The Sutra on Amida Buddha, expounded by Shakyamuni Buddha). In other words, all three foundational sutras in the Shin tradition are “words attributed to the historical Buddha,” Shakyamuni Gautama. Moreover, the Shin tradition also draws from the teachings of other sutras, such as the Nirvana Sutra and Garland Sutra, that complement the earlier three sutras. Each of those and other sutras upon which the Shin teaching is based elucidate the important features of the Buddha's teaching, including the human state of suffering and the cause of suffering, the path to liberation from suffering, the aspiration for enlightenment (Bodhi mind), interdependence, karma, the attainment of wisdom and compassion, and merit transference. That is to say, the teaching of the Shin Buddhist tradition embraces the breadth and depth of the teaching and “words attributed to the historical Buddha.”

In addition, each of the hundreds of commentaries in the tradition, whether composed in India, China, Korea or Japan, is a text that is intended to interpret and explain those and other sutras. Shinran expresses particular reverence for the historical Buddha in his magnum opus, *Kyōgyōshinshō* (Passages Revealing the True Teaching, Practice and Realization of the Pure Land Way), in which he explains that the “true and real teaching of Shakyamuni Buddha is the Sutra of Immeasurable Life.

Moreover, according to the perspective described above, “words attributed to the historical Buddha (Gautama),” should also refer to any Buddhist text translated into a modern Western language, as well as any contemporary commentary, interpretation or exegesis of a Buddhist scripture within any of the current schools of Buddhism, including Shin Buddhism.

c. “The historical Buddha (Gautama) who lived from approximately 563 to 483 B.C.”

The notion of “Buddha” is quite nuanced in Buddhism. “Buddha” means “one who has awakened enlightenment (“*Bodhi*”).” That awakening (or “Buddhahood”) is said to manifest (or embody) three aspects or dimensions. They are:

- “Dharma-body” (*Dharma-kāya*). This refers to supreme nirvana or enlightenment, to which a Buddha awakens. Other expressions for this dimension of Buddhahood include suchness, oneness, or emptiness.
- “Fulfilled-body” (*Sambhoga-kāya*). This refers to Buddhahood realized by bodhisattvas, who have perfected their vows and practices.
- “Transformed-body” (*Nirmana-kāya*). This refers to an historical Buddha, or, one who has awakened Bodhi in historical reality.

Shin Buddhism accepts this nuanced perspective on “Buddha.” Thus, “transformed-body” is the “historical Buddha,” the Buddha who lived in northeastern India during the sixth and fifth centuries B.C.E. That Buddha is known as Gautama Buddha, Shakyamuni Buddha or Siddhartha Gautama. All three names refer to the same person.

The larger point is that Shin Buddhists revere all three aspects of Buddhahood. The historical (Gautama or Shakyamuni) Buddha realized enlightenment (“Dharma-body”) and taught of the “fulfilled body” (Amida Buddha, or perfected wisdom and compassion), which sets out the way in which all sentient beings can also attain Buddhahood. Moreover, for Shinran, Gautama Buddha himself manifested the wisdom and compassion of enlightenment and was, in effect, not distinct from Amida Buddha. In sum, the Shin Buddhist tradition fully embraces the teaching attributed to the historical Buddha, Shakyamuni Gautama, as it reveals the significance of the “fulfilled-body” (Amida Buddha) and “Dharma-body” (supreme nirvana).

The Institute of Buddhist Studies

The Institute of Buddhist Studies is a seminary and graduate school established by and closely associated with the Buddhist Churches of America since its inception in 1949 as the Buddhist Study Center in Berkeley, California. In 1966 that Center was incorporated as the Institute of Buddhist Studies and shortly thereafter it received a license from the State of California to operate as a seminary and graduate school. In 1985, it became affiliated with the Graduate Theological Union, a consortium of seminaries based in Berkeley.

IBS offers three Masters degrees, as well as four certificate programs. In addition to providing ministerial and chaplaincy education, the mission of IBS is:

To provide graduate level education in the full breadth of the Buddhist tradition with specialized education supporting Pure Land and contemporary Shin Buddhist Studies and advancing Jodo Shinshu Buddhist ministry.

IBS Mission Statement
May 2015

IBS is deeply engaged in providing education in and conducting research, translation, commentary and interpretation of all Buddhist teachings, while maintaining a focused study of Shin Buddhist thought. The IBS website (<http://www.shin-ibs.edu>) offers a detailed look at the breadth and diversity of classes, as well as articles and publications that have been produced for many decades by IBS. In addition, the institute's journal, the *Pacific World*, contains articles, translations and reviews that reflect the depth and breadth of the Buddhist scholarship.

Free distribution of IBS scholarly work

IBS makes much of its scholarly work available to libraries, institutions of higher learning, religious institutions and individuals without charge. The IBS website, mentioned above, offers articles, papers and recorded lectures to the public for free. In addition, *The Pacific World* has long been distributed without charge to a variety of schools, libraries, religious groups, and individuals throughout the world. (See: <http://www.shin-ibs.edu/publications/pacific-world/>.)

Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto
Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs
Institute of Buddhist Studies

November 2, 2016

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6

7
8 SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
9 IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO

10 Estate of) CASE NO. 37-2014-00021534-PR-LA-CTL
11) ROA# _____
12 RICHARD A. BLOOMQUIST,)
13) FIRST AMENDED PETITION TO
Deceased.) DETERMINE ENTITLEMENT TO
14) DISTRIBUTION OF ESTATE [Probate Code
15) section 11700]
16) [IMAGED]

17 TO THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, IN AND FOR THE
18 COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO:

19 Petitioner, BUDDHIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA (“Petitioner” or “BCA”), hereby
20 presents to the court its first amended petition to determine entitlement to distribution of the
21 estate of the decedent, RICHARD A. BLOOMQUIST, and alleges as follows:

22 1. RICHARD A. BLOOMQUIST (the “Decedent”), died on June 30, 2014, a
23 resident of San Diego County, California, leaving real and personal property to be administered
24 in said county.

25 2. Initially, it was thought that the Decedent had died intestate. The Public
26 Administrator was appointed as the administrator of the Decedent’s estate on August 12, 2014.

27 3. In 2016, while reviewing the Decedent’s records, the Public Administrator’s
28 agents discovered a holographic instrument dated April 26, 1987, entitled “Will of Richard A.

1 Bloomquist” (the “Will”). A copy of the holographic Will is attached hereto as Exhibit “A”, and
2 a type-written copy of the Will is attached hereto as Exhibit “B”. The Will expresses the
3 Decedent’s intention that his estate be distributed to the “Buddhist Church”, to be used solely for
4 the dissemination of the teachings of the historic Buddha.

5 4. On August 24, 2016, Petitioner filed herein a petition seeking to admit the Will to
6 probate, alleging that BCA was the intended devisee under the Will. The Decedent’s only
7 apparent intestate heir, DIANE HUSTED, filed a demurrer to that petition. The demurrer was
8 overruled, however, and no contest of the Will was presented. The Will was then admitted to
9 probate by a minute order dated February 28, 2017.

10 5. The dispositive provisions of the Will read as follows:

11 “Third: I leave all my property, real and personal, to the Buddhist
12 Church for the following purpose only: that English translations of portions of
13 the Buddhist Scriptures may be printed and placed in public libraries
14 throughout the United States of America. By “portions of the Buddhist
15 Scriptures,” I mean only those parts which consist largely of words attributed to
16 the historical Buddha (Gautama), who lived from approximately 563 to 483
17 B.C.”

18 6. The interpretation of the Will raises a question of construction of its terms. In
19 construing a testamentary instrument, it is axiomatic that the “intention of the transferor as
20 expressed in the instrument controls the dispositions made in the instrument.” (Probate Code
21 section 21102(a); see also Probate Code section 21101.) “The paramount rule in the construction
22 of wills, to which all other rules must yield, is that a will is to be construed according to the
23 intention of the testator as expressed therein, and this intention must be given effect as far as
24 possible.” (*Estate of Verdisson* (1992) 4 Cal.App.4th 1127, 1135).

25 7. “The words of an instrument are to be given their ordinary and grammatical
26 meaning unless the intention to use them in another sense is clear and their intended meaning can
27 be ascertained.” (Probate Code section 21122). More specifically, when interpreting a will:
28 “The words of an instrument are to receive an interpretation that will give every expression some
effect, rather than one that will render any of the expressions inoperative. Preference is to be
given to an interpretation of an instrument that will prevent intestacy or failure of a transfer,
rather than one that will result in an intestacy or failure of a transfer.” (Probate Code section

1 21120, emphasis added). The statute reflects “the strongly favored policy of the law that will
 2 will be construed in a manner that avoids intestacy.” (*In re Estate of Goyetee* (2004) 123
 3 Cal.App.4th 67, 74).

4 8. Petitioner BCA is informed and believes that it is the intended devisee under the
 5 Will. In all events, an interpretation of the Will that substantially carries out the expressed terms
 6 of the Will must be preferred over an interpretation that results in intestacy. The purposes to be
 7 served by the Will are consistent with the mission and objectives of BCA. BCA is both willing
 8 to carry out, and capable of carrying out, the Decedent’s expressed wishes. If BCA is not the
 9 specific entity the Decedent intended to benefit by his Will, BCA is an appropriate charitable
 10 institution that may be substituted for the “Buddhist Church,” to serve as trustee of the charitable
 11 trust created under the Will, and charged with carrying out the terms of the Will.

12 **PETITIONER AS NAMED DEVISEE**

13 9. BCA is organized as a California non-profit religious corporation. It is the oldest
 14 and largest Buddhist religious organization with a continuous presence in the United States.
 15 BCA was incorporated more than 72 years ago, on May 2, 1944. Prior to its incorporation, BCA
 16 was an unincorporated religious association known as the Buddhist Mission of North America. It
 17 began its existence in 1898 in San Francisco with the arrival of several Buddhist ministers from
 18 BCA’s mother temple, Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha Buddhist Temple, located in Kyoto, Japan.
 19 Most of BCA’s congregations were originally known as, and used the name, “Buddhist Church.”

20 10. Use of the word “Church,” in connection with any Buddhist organization in the
 21 United States, is extremely unusual. Most Buddhist organizations or congregations in the United
 22 States, beginning in the 19th century (when the first Buddhist missionaries came to the United
 23 States) through today, refer to themselves as a Buddhist *Temple*, and not a Buddhist *Church*. The
 24 only significant exception to this rule, in terms of an institution with a nation-wide affiliation of
 25 Buddhist congregations, having a sizable membership, and a history that covers more than a
 26 century of existence in the United States, is BCA.

27 11. BCA’s congregations have used the name “Buddhist *Church*” during most of the
 28 organization’s 118 year history in the United States. It was believed by BCA’s Buddhist

1 ministers in the early 1900's that reference to a "Buddhist Church" was more acceptable to
2 Americans of that time than "Buddhist Temple." There was also, however, a very significant
3 safety concern that contributed to this view.

4 12. In the early 1900's there were a number of federal and state laws that made
5 ownership of real property by persons of Japanese or "Asian" descent illegal. These laws were
6 referred to as the infamous "Alien Land Laws," a series of legislative attempts to
7 discourage Asian and other "non-desirable" immigrants from settling permanently in states and
8 territories throughout the United States, by limiting their ability to own land and property.
9 Although the Naturalization Act of 1870 had extended citizenship rights to African Americans
10 (but not other ethnic groups), the Alien Land Laws continued to use coded language (i.e., "aliens
11 ineligible for citizenship") to prohibit primarily Chinese and Japanese immigrants from
12 becoming landowners, without explicitly naming any racial or ethnic group. Various alien land
13 laws existed in over a dozen states before they were ruled unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme
14 Court in 1952.

15 13. In the early 20th century, virtually all of BCA's members were of Japanese
16 descent. Faced with the racially charged environment described above, early BCA and Shin
17 Buddhist pioneers in the United States believed that use of the word "Church," rather than
18 reference to a "Temple," in connection with Buddhist congregations, was safer for its members,
19 many of whom feared for their physical safety. With the safety of their children being of
20 paramount concern to Japanese-American mothers and fathers who then made their homes in this
21 country, virtually all of BCA's congregations in the U.S. in the early 1900's identified themselves
22 as a "Buddhist Church", rather than a Buddhist "Temple".

23 14. Although some BCA congregations have modified their names to become
24 "Temples", many of BCA's congregations continue to use the name "Buddhist Church",
25 including as examples: New York Buddhist Church, Visalia Buddhist Church, Arizona Buddhist
26 Church, Gardena Buddhist Church, Orange County Buddhist Church, Oxnard Buddhist Church,
27 Santa Barbara Buddhist Church, and more. In San Diego County, the local congregation,
28

1 affiliated with BCA for more than 75 years, also originally called itself the “San Diego Buddhist
2 Church”.

3 15. Today, BCA has about 16,000 active members in the U.S., all of whom are
4 members of one of BCA’s sixty (60) Buddhist congregations.

5 16. There are many Buddhist “traditions”, or schools of thought. Although the many
6 traditions differ in terms of foundational scriptures, practices, and lifestyles, as well as languages,
7 cultures, and histories, they hold in common their reverence for the historical Buddha, and are
8 grounded in the primary teachings of that Buddha. This historical Buddha lived in northeastern
9 India during the sixth and fifth centuries B.C.E., and is also known as Gautama Buddha,
10 Shakyamuni Buddha, or Siddhartha Gautama.

11 17. “Buddhist scriptures” include (1) Hinayana, (2) Mayahana, and (3) tantric texts
12 written over the course of many centuries in a range of Indian, East Asian, and South Asian
13 languages. Since there is no evidence that any extant Buddhist text represents the actual spoken
14 or written words of the historical Buddha, virtually every scripture in the Buddhist canon
15 constitutes “words attributed to the historical Buddha (Gautama)”. The vast majority of the
16 Buddhist scriptures today remain untranslated, unedited, and unpublished.

17 18. BCA is identified with the “Shin Buddhism” tradition, which arose in Japan in the
18 12th to 14th century. The Shin Buddhist tradition accepts three “sutras” (based on oral
19 transmissions of the historical Buddha’s teachings) as foundational: The Sutra of Immeasurable
20 Life; The Sutra of Contemplation on the Buddha of Immeasurable Life; and the Sutra on Amida
21 Buddha. All three foundational sutras in the Shin tradition are “words attributed to the historical
22 Buddha.”

23 19. With this background, BCA is informed and believes that it is the intended
24 “devisee” under the Decedent’s Will. (See Probate Code sections 32 and 34, identifying a
25 devisee as “a person designated in a will to receive a devise” of real or personal property.) BCA
26 is uniquely situated as an American “Buddhist Church” institution the mission of which is
27 consistent with the Decedent’s direction that his estate be used for the translation and
28 dissemination of Buddhist teachings in public libraries in the U.S.

1 20. BCA has the capability to carry out the express terms of the Will. Throughout its
 2 nearly 120-year history, BCA has emphasized the dissemination of English-language Buddhist
 3 education materials. During the first half of the 20th Century BCA oversaw the creation of
 4 English Sunday School programs, as well as English-language journals that addressed a range of
 5 Buddhist doctrines. After the Second World War, BCA established the Bureau of Education
 6 (later the Department of Buddhist Education), which distributed materials on a wide variety of
 7 Buddhist teachings and topics to Buddhist churches, schools and libraries at no cost.

8 21. BCA also has a strong affiliation with the INSTITUTE OF BUDDHIST
 9 STUDIES (“IBS”). IBS has long been a vital part of BCA’s English-language educational
 10 programs. IBS is an affiliate of the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California.

11 22. IBS is deeply engaged in providing education in, and conducting scholarly
 12 research, translation, commentary and interpretation of, all Buddhist scriptures, while
 13 maintaining a focused study of Shin Buddhist thought. IBS has a long-standing and active
 14 publication programming (including but not limited to the following current publications: (1) *The*
 15 *Pacific World: Journal of the Institute of Buddhist Studies*, (2) *The Pure Land: Journal of the*
 16 *International Association of Shin Buddhist Studies*, (3) *Journal of Buddhist Literature*, and (4)
 17 *The Buddhist Forum*). BCA, partnering with its educational arm IBS, and with the assistance of
 18 the bequest made under the Decedent’s Will, can offer to libraries throughout the U.S. English
 19 translations and interpretations of portions of Buddhist scriptures consisting largely of words
 20 attributed to this historical Buddha.

21 **PETITIONER AS SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE OF CHARITABLE TRUST**

22 23. Alternatively, even if not the intended devisee under the Will, BCA is an
 23 institution with charitable purposes and capabilities so closely aligned with the expressed
 24 intentions and charitable purposes of the testator as to be an institution that should be appointed
 25 to carry out the charitable trust described in the Will.

26 24. A “charitable” trust or gift is one that has the purpose of “promoting the welfare
 27 of mankind at large, or of a community, or of some class forming a part of it, indefinite as to
 28

1 numbers and individuals.” (*People ex rel. Ellert v. Cogswell* (1896) 113 Cal. 129, 138.) A
2 charitable purpose may include (as here) efforts that “seek to spread religion or piety”. (*Ibid.*)

3 25. “The test of a charitable trust is that it subjects ‘the person by whom the property
4 is held to equitable duties to deal with the property for a charitable purpose.’” (*Estate of*
5 *Faulkner* (1954) 128 Cal.App.2d 575, 578.) That is true here, where the specific purposes for
6 which the charitable bequest is to be held and administered are expressed in the Will.

7 26. If a bequest identifies a charitable purpose, a charitable trust is created even if a
8 trustee is not named, and words expressing the terms of a trust are not used. In such cases the
9 Court will appoint a trustee to carry out the purpose of the trust. (*Ibid.*) BCA should be
10 appointed as such in this case.

11 CY PRES DOCTRINE

12 27. “Courts look with favor upon all attempted charitable donations, and will
13 endeavor to carry them into effect if it can be done consistently with the rules of law. A bequest
14 intended as a charity is not void, and there is no authority to construe it to be legally void, if it
15 can possibly be made good.” (*Estate of Tarrant* (1951) 38 Cal.2d 42, 46; see also *Estate of Gatlin*
16 (1971) 16 Cal.App.3d 644, 650, and cases cited therein.) Thus, as here, when a will expresses a
17 charitable intent, even when the charitable institution to be benefitted is not identified with
18 certainty, or does not even exist, courts will invoke the power of *cy pres* to direct the gift to an
19 appropriate institution capable of carrying out the testator’s intention. (*Ibid.*; see also *Estate of*
20 *Lamb* (1971) 19 Cal.App.3d 859, 867.) BCA is that “appropriate institution capable of carrying
21 out the testator’s intentions”.

22 28. Where the original charitable purpose of a charitable trust cannot be fulfilled, a
23 court has broad power under the *cy pres* doctrine to apply the trust property to related charitable
24 purposes. Here, by application of the *cy pres* doctrine, the charitable trust described in the Will
25 does not fail, even if it becomes impossible or impracticable to carry out as expressly provided.
26 The Will expresses a general charitable intent to make Buddhist Scriptures widely available in
27 public libraries in the U.S. Under these circumstances, the court is bound to direct a disposition
28

1 of the Decedent's property to some related purpose in order to carry out the trustor's intention as
2 nearly as possible, as opposed to allowing the Decedent's estate to pass by intestacy.

3 29. The devise set forth in the Decedent's Will can be carried into effect by BCA.
4 BCA has the capacity to carry out the express terms of the charitable trust described in the Will.
5 To the extent necessary, the doctrine of cy pres should be applied, and BCA should be
6 determined to be entitled to distribution of the Decedent's estate, subject to the duty to carry out
7 the express terms of the Will.

8 MODIFICATION OF CHARITABLE TRUST

9 30. In addition to the application of the cy pres doctrine, BCA can be recognized as
10 the trustee of the charitable trust created under the Will (and hence the devisee under the Will) by
11 exercise of the court's equitable power to modify the terms of a trust to carry out the intentions
12 of the Decedent. This authority is broader than that provided under the cy pres doctrine, and
13 applies to both charitable and private trusts.

14 31. Here, if the court was to determine that the bequest described in the Will fails for
15 any reason, due to some narrow adherence to the perceived restrictions of the Will, the
16 educational and religious benefits the Decedent desired to confer under his Will would be utterly
17 defeated. Intestacy could result. To avoid such a result, which is not favored under the law, the
18 court must modify the terms of the charitable trust to substantially carry out the intention of the
19 Decedent. This power is recognized under the common law, and echoed by statute (Probate
20 Code section 15409).

21 32. As necessary to carry out the purposes set forth in the Will, the court should
22 modify the terms of the charitable trust described therein. Such modification should recognize
23 BCA as trustee of the charitable trust, in view of its status as a "Buddhist Church" organization
24 with purposes and capabilities consistent with the purposes of the charitable trust.

25 33. Husted can only prevail if the charitable purpose of the Will is *completely*
26 *disregarded*, and an intestacy is declared. As alleged above, statutory and common law
27 principles regarding the administration of charitable bequests will not permit such a result.
28 Based upon the foregoing, distribution by intestate succession is an unjust and therefore untenable

1 result. The Decedent's estate should be distributed to BCA, as either the intended devisee or as a
 2 suitable institution to carry out the charitable purposes expressed in the Will.

3 34. Advance Inheritance, LLC has requested special notice, through their counsel
 4 James L. Leestma. The names and addresses of other persons who may be entitled to notice of
 5 the hearing of this petition, together with other parties who have previously received notice in
 6 this proceeding, are as follows:

7 B. George Seikaly, Esq.
 San Diego County Counsel
 8 1600 Pacific Highway, Room 355
 San Diego, CA 92101

San Diego County Public Administrator
 5560 Overland, Suite 130
 San Diego, CA 92123

9 John F. Eyrich, Esq.
 10 Counsel for Diane Husted
 11 1111 Santa Monica Boulevard, Suite 1840
 Los Angeles, CA 90025-3352

Diane Husted
 9853 Weeping Willow Drive
 Stockton, CA 95209

12 State of California
 Office of the Attorney General
 13 Charitable Trust Section
 1300 "I" Street
 14 Sacramento, CA 95814-2919

James L. Leestma, Esq.
 Counsel for Advance Inheritance, LLC
 7301 Topanga Canyon Blvd., Suite 102
 Canoga Park, CA 91303

15 NOW, THEREFORE, Petitioner requests that the court enter its order, judgment and
 16 decree determining as follows:

17 1. Petitioner Buddhist Churches of America, a California non-profit religious
 18 corporation, is the sole devisee under the Decedent's will, and is exclusively entitled to
 19 distribution of any and all property of the Decedent's estate remaining on hand for distribution at
 20 the conclusion of the administration of this proceeding; or

21 2. Alternatively, the court in the exercise its equitable power under the doctrine of cy
 22 pres, determines that although there is no single "Buddhist Church" as referenced in the
 23 Decedent's Will, Petitioner Buddhist Churches of America, a California non-profit religious
 24 corporation, is an appropriate institution willing and capable of carrying out the Decedent's
 25 charitable intention as expressed in the Will, and is therefore exclusively entitled to
 26 distribution of any and all property of the Decedent's estate remaining on hand for distribution at
 27 the conclusion of the administration of this proceeding; or
 28

1 3. Alternatively, the court in the exercise its equitable power to modify the charitable
2 trust created under the terms of the Decedent’s Will, orders the modification of paragraph “Third”
3 to state as follows:

4 “Third: I leave all my property, real and personal, to ~~the Buddhist~~
5 Church Buddhist Churches of America, a California non-profit religious
6 corporation for the following purpose only: that English translations of
7 portions of the Buddhist Scriptures may be printed and placed in public
8 libraries throughout the United States of America. By “portions of the
9 Buddhist Scriptures,” I mean only those parts which consist largely of words
10 attributed to the historical Buddha (Gautama), who lived from approximately
11 563 to 483 B.C.”

9 And, accordingly, Petitioner Buddhist Churches of America, a California non-profit religious
10 corporation, is the sole trustee of the charitable trust created under the Decedent’s will, and is
11 exclusively entitled to distribution of any and all property of the Decedent’s estate remaining on
12 hand for distribution at the conclusion of the administration of this proceeding.

13 4. Such other and further relief as the Court considers just and proper is granted.

14 Respectfully presented on this ____ day of February, 2019.

15 BEAMER, LAUTH, STEINLEY & BOND, LLP
16

17
18 By: _____
19 STEPHEN A. BOND
20 Attorneys for Petitioner,
21 BUDDHIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA
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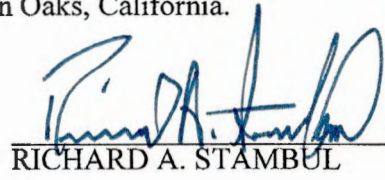
VERIFICATION

I, RICHARD A. STAMBUL, declare as follows:

I am the President of BUDDHIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA, petitioner in the above-entitled matter, and I am authorized to make this verification on its behalf. I have read the foregoing petition and know its contents, which are true of my own knowledge, except as to the matters that are stated on information and belief, and as to those matters, I believe them to be true.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on February 7, 2019, at Sherman Oaks, California.


RICHARD A. STAMBUL



Final Report to the BCA National Board
Ad Hoc BCA Committee re: Estate of Richard A. Bloomquist
June 5, 2021

This is the final Report regarding BCA's claims to the Estate of Richard A. Bloomquist.

In addition to the funds under control of the San Diego County Superior Court, BCA filed a Claim for funds being held by the California Secretary of State for the benefit of the decedent, Richard A. Bloomquist. Our Claim was granted and in May of 2021, the sum of \$54,335.70 previously held by the California Secretary of State was delivered into the Clients' Trust Account maintained by BCA's attorneys for the benefit of BCA. Following this Report is the final Invoice dated April 30, 2021 from BCA's (Bloomquist) attorneys. It details the final payment of outstanding legal fees, application of a prior credit balance, and BCA's final (credit) balance in the total sum of \$55,820.09.

On May 17, 2021, \$55,820.09 was wired at our direction from the Attorneys' Clients' Trust Account to BCA's Bloomquist account at California Bank & Trust in San Francisco, California.

On May 20, 2021, based on the written Memorandum of Understanding between BCA and IBS regarding the Bloomquist funds, a copy of which follows this Report, the sum of \$55,820.09 plus a prior credit balance of \$2016.00 less the bank charge of \$35.00 for the total sum of \$57,801.09 was wired to The IBS.

Final Accounting Recap.: The sum of \$1,156,548.60 plus \$57,801.09 for the total sum of **\$1,214,349.69** will have been distributed to IBS from the Bloomquist Estate's assets. In addition, on May 19, 2019, the total sum of **\$125,000.00** was distributed to the BCA Endowment Foundation to create the BCA Executive Committee Bloomquist Educational Endowment. In all, BCA realized the total sum of **\$1,339,349.69** from the Bloomquist Estate. The goal of all these distributions was intended to honor the wishes of the decedent, Richard A. Bloomquist.

This closes the Bloomquist matter and the *Ad Hoc* Bloomquist Committee requests the BCA President dissolve the Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
 Rev. Dr. David Ryoe Matsumoto, Co-Chair
 Richard A. Stambul, Co-Chair
Ad Hoc Bloomquist Committee
 Buddhist Churches of America®

INSTITUTE OF BUDDHIST STUDIES

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

Name of the Funds: IBS Bloomquist Educational Endowment (Fund A) and
 IBS Bloomquist Educational Operations Fund (Fund B)
 Donor: BCA Executive Committee from the Estate of Richard A. Bloomquist
 Date Established: August 16, 2019
 Initial Donation: \$418,488
 Irrevocable: Fund A and Fund B
 Corpus Restricted: Fund A

I. Background and Purpose

- A. The purpose of both Fund A and Fund B is to support Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS) educational programs and activities focused on making the teachings of the historical Buddha and exegesis of those teachings available to scholars and the public throughout the United States.
- B. Fund A: \$318,488 from the initial donation, also referred to as the preliminary distribution, any subsequent donations from the BCA Executive Committee of proceeds received from the Estate of Richard A. Bloomquist, and any other donations will constitute the corpus of the IBS Bloomquist Educational Endowment (Fund A).
- C. Fund B: \$100,000 from the initial donation will be designated as the IBS Bloomquist Educational Operations Fund (Fund B). This Fund will be non-endowed; it will have no permanent principal balance and will be immediately available for distribution in accordance with the terms of this Memorandum.

II. Fund Administrator

- A. The IBS Board of Trustees will be responsible for the administration of Funds A and B.
- B. IBS will (a) make requests for the disbursement of monies from the BCA Endowment Foundation within the guidelines established by the Fund Managers; (b) receive allocated funds, maintaining clear and concise account of the funds, and (c) use the funds in accordance with the original intent of Richard A. Bloomquist.

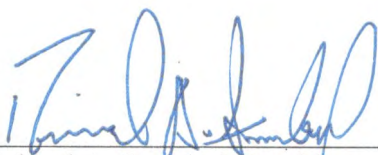
III. Distributions from the Funds

- A. IBS Bloomquist Educational Endowment (Fund A)
 1. Distributions from Fund A will be based on IBS investment guidelines for restricted custodial endowment funds managed by the BCA Endowment Foundation.
 - a. Only the income of Fund A and no part of the principal or appreciation (realized or unrealized) of Fund A can be distributed to further the purpose of the Fund.
 - b. Any undistributed income shall be added to the principal of Fund A.
 2. The IBS Bloomquist Educational Funds Committee, comprising the IBS President, Dean and a member of the core IBS Faculty, shall determine the IBS program(s) that will receive financial support and the amount of monies to be distributed from the Fund in accordance with IBS policies and guidelines.


- B. IBS Bloomquist Educational Operations Fund (Non-endowed Fund B)
 - 1. Distributions from Fund B will be determined by the IBS Bloomquist Educational Funds Committee, in consultation with the Director of Finance.
 - a. The Committee shall determine the IBS program(s) that will receive financial support and the amount of monies to be distributed in order to further the purpose of the Fund.
 - b. Any amount of the income, principal and appreciation of Fund B may be distributed upon the request of the Committee.
 - c. Any undistributed income shall be added to the principal of Fund B.
 - C. The Committee will act with prudence and report its activities to the Investment and Finance Committee of the Board of Trustees and to the BCA President at least annually or more frequently upon request.
 - D. The Board of Trustees may convert Fund B to an endowed fund at any time.

IV. Fund Manager

- A. BCA Endowment Foundation Board of Directors will be responsible for investing the assets of Funds A and B as custodial funds and may, at their discretion, employ a professional investment firm to advise them or invest the assets for them.
- B. Fund Management includes (a) investing the Funds' assets; (b) reporting on the Funds' income/gain/loss, growth and disbursements; (c) determining fund availability in accordance with principles of fiduciary responsibility; and (d) disbursing funds upon the Fund Administrator's request.



Richard A. Stambul, President
Buddhist Churches of America



David R. Matsumoto, President
Institute of Buddhist Studies

AUGUST 16, 2019
Date

August 16, 2019
Date

New BCA Ad Hoc Film and Video Committee

Chair: Glen Tao

Committee: TBA

Projects

BCA 125th Anniversary Video Projects

Project #1 – Creation of a forty-five (45) minute video presentation for the National Council Meeting Virtual Town Hall on February 17, 2024

Activities:

Dec 1 to Dec 31, 2023 – Conducted eighty-one (81) interviews, began , submitted video edits

Jan 1 to Jan 31, 2024 – Conducted five (5) interviews, completed all video edits

Locations: Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, Orange County Buddhist Temple, Gardena Buddhist Church, West Los Angeles Buddhist Temple, Senshin Buddhist Temple, Vista Buddhist Temple, and two private residences

Total Edited Footage of 86 Interviews for Archives: 5 hours, 55 minutes

Total Potential Edited Footage for Project #1: 1 hour, 55 minutes

Total Actual Edited Footage for Project #1: 44 minutes

Finished Product, (including Titles and Music): 45 minutes

Completion Date: January 30, 2024

Project #2 – Creation of a fifteen (15) minute video presentation for the BCA 125th Anniversary Service on September 1, 2024

Objective: To create a commemorative video presentation using archived footage of the original interviews, a polished version with music.

New BCA Ad Hoc Film and Video Committee

Financial Report

Beginning Balance as of December 1, 2023		\$0.00
INCOME (Pending)	\$0.00	
EXPENSES (Out of Pocket):		
CFExpress Type B Memory Card 512 GB	\$186.99	
Portable External Hard Drive 4 TB	\$133.06	
USB 3.0 Flash Drive 64 GB (4 x \$16.47)	\$65.88	
USB 3.0 Flash Drive 16 GB (5-Pack)	\$26.38	
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$412.31	
Ending Balance as of January 31, 2024		minus \$412.31

Respectfully submitted,
Glen Tao, Ad Hoc Committee Chair

BCA NCM 2025 Report – Bay District
February 8, 2024

The Bay District is pleased to host the 2025 BCA National Council Meeting next year. The event will be 100% virtual.

High Level Schedule of Events

- 2/21/2025 to 2/22/2025: Ministers Association Meeting
- 2/22/2025: Townhall and Workshops
- 2/28/2025 to 3/1/2025: National Council Meeting
- 3/2/2025: BCA Eitaikyo Service and Afternoon Closing Program
- TBD: IBS Symposium

Conference theme: A Promise Shared

Conference logo:



Registration details and a detailed schedule of events will be distributed this summer.

2026 BCA National Council Meeting / Northwest District Convention Report

The Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple/Northwest District is in the initial stages of planning the combined National Council Meeting and Northwest District Convention. The tentative event dates selected are February 13th – February 15th, 2026. These dates are subject to change based on various factors, including venue availability and potential unforeseen circumstances. However, confirmation of the finalized dates will be shared as soon as possible.

We look forward to welcoming you all in the Northwest soon.

Respectfully Submitted:

Alex Sakamoto and Marissa Wong, Event Co-Chairs



Peggy Okabayashi

9078 Clydesdale Court, Elk Grove, California 95624

Objective

Buddhist Churches of America, Director-at-Large

Background

As a youth, I attended the Buddhist Church of Marysville, where I was active in Sunday School, YBA, girls' basketball and Japanese Language School. However, like many young people I went away to college and did not participate in church until well into my 50's. My interest in the programs and activities of the Florin Buddhist Women's Association brought me back to Jodo Shinshu Buddhism.

Professional

Career California State employee from 1969-2012, holding various analytical, management and executive positions. Served as the Assistant Secretary for Public Safety, Victim Services, Emergency Management and Administrative Programs for the California Emergency Management Agency under Governors Schwarzenegger and Brown, overseeing activities of 230 employees, seventeen programs and managing a \$1.3 billion budget. Served as the California Governor's Office representative on the National Criminal Justice Association Advisory Council located in Washington, D.C., focusing on policy initiatives and legislation.

Non-Professional

National Level

President, Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations
 Secretary General, Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations
 Institute of Buddhist Studies Board of Trustees
 2019 World Buddhist Women's Convention Planning Committee

District Level

President, Northern California District Council
 Vice President, Northern California District Council
 Board Member, Northern California District Council
 President, Northern California Buddhist Women's Association
 Vice-chair, 2024 BCA National Council Meeting Steering Committee

Temple Level

President, Buddhist Church of Florin
 Governing Board Member, Buddhist Church of Florin
 President, Florin Buddhist Women's Association
 Historian, Buddhist Church of Florin and BWA
 Chair, Nokotsudo Committee
 Treasurer, Eitaikyo Committee/Fund
 100th Anniversary Committee
 Buddhist Education Committee



The Buddhist Church of Stockton

A Jodo Shinshu Temple

2820 Shimizu Drive
 Stockton, California 95203
 Phone: (209) 466-6701
 buddhist@sbcglobal.net

Mrs. Terri Omori
 BCA President
 Buddhist Churches of America
 2140 Durant Ave.
 Berkeley, CA 94704

Dear Mrs. Omori,

It is my honor to write this letter in support of Mrs. Peggy Okabayashi's nomination for the BCA Director-at-Large position. It has been a pleasure collaborating with Peggy in various capacities since my assignment at the Buddhist Church of Florin from 2018-2020 and we continue to have a warm personal and professional relationship.

As a former president of the Buddhist Church of Florin, Peggy's leadership qualities included positivity, strategic thinking and planning, ability to carry out established goals, dependability, and reliability, all while keeping the Buddha-Dharma in the forefront. Peggy's dedication to the Buddha-Dharma is demonstrated through her involvement with, but not limited to, the Buddhist Church of Florin, Northern California District Council, Northern California Buddhist Women's Association, and the Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations.

Peggy also understands and supports the important relationship and collaboration between the Buddhist Churches of America and the Institute of Buddhist Studies. She recognizes the value of graduate level Buddhist education offered at the Institute of Buddhist Studies as a seminary school for aspiring ministers, while also being an educational institution providing opportunities to share Jodo Shinshu Buddhism with the world. Peggy's support of the Institute of Buddhist Studies is evident in her commitment to serve as a current IBS Board of Trustees member.

Thank you in advance for your kind consideration and I truly appreciate the opportunity to support Peggy's nomination for Director-at-Large.

In Gassho,

Candice Shibata

Rev. Candice Shibata

Arleen Miya

Candidate for Director-At-Large



BCA Involvement

- 2019 NCM Co-Chairperson
- BCA Director-At-Large 2018-2024
- BCA Joint Development Committee – 2022 – Present
- Southern District Council Rep to the BCA Board – 2015-2017
- Southern District Council Chairperson – 2016
- Southern District Dharma School Teacher League President 2021 – Present
- Southern District Buddhist Education Committee 2012 - Present

Temple Involvement

- Member of Gardena Buddhist Church 1998
- Dharma School Superintendent – 2006, 2019-Present
- Dharma School Teacher – 1997-Present
- Jr YBA Advisor – 1996- 2003
- Board Member – 2000-Present
- Board Chair – 2011 – 2015
- Temple Advisor – 2016 - Present

Professional

- Payroll/HR Manager –Retired

Family

Children – Gerald and Amy Kato – Brenden (16) and Garrett (11)
 Rev. Kory Quon and Kimberly – Derek (11) and Kaci (8)
 Alan and Lauren Miya – Kenzi (3 Yrs)



Pasadena Buddhist Temple

1993 Glen Avenue • Pasadena, CA 91103
Rev. Gregory Gibbs, Resident Minister
<https://Pasadena Buddhist Temple.org>

February 4, 2024

Dear BCA National Board Officers and Nomination Committee,

I would like to nominate **Mrs. Arlene Miya** for Director at Large to the BCA National Board. I have spoken with Arleen and she has agreed to be a candidate for the BCA Director-At-Large position.

Arlen Miya is a (very) active member of the Gardena Buddhist Church and Southern District Council. Arleen has served as a DAL for the BCA National Board since 2018, has been on the BCA Joint Development Committee since 2022. She is currently the President of the Southern District Dharma School Teacher's League and on the Southern District Buddhist Education Committee. I feel Mrs. Miya has been dutiful as a DAL and in her other responsibilities and would be an asset to the BCA National Board.

Gassho,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeannie Toshima". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jeannie Toshima
Pasadena Buddhist Temple

**BUDDHIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA
RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION
2024 BCA MINISTERS' ASSOCIATION
AND NATIONAL COUNCIL
MEETINGS**

WHEREAS, the 2024 Buddhist Churches of America (“BCA”) Ministers’ Association and National Council Meetings were successfully concluded through the efforts and contributions of many organizations and individuals; and

WHEREAS, the members in attendance during various sessions, held on February 16, 17, 23 through 25, 2024, express their appreciation to the following temples, organizations and individuals:

1. The Northern California District Council of the Buddhist Churches of America; the National Conference Chairperson Allan Yamashiro; and to the many other temple members of the Northern California District Council contributing to the success of this meeting;
2. The Northern California District Council’s member temples: Buddhist Church of Florin, Buddhist Church of Lodi, Buddhist Church of Marysville, Placer Buddhist Church, Buddhist Church of Sacramento, Buddhist Church of Stockton, Walnut Grove Buddhist Church, and their affiliated organizations;
3. The Northern California District Ministerial Advisors: Rev. Candice Shibata, Rev. Matt Hamasaki, Rev. Yuki Sugahara, and Rev. Noritaka Imada;
4. Ministers for their participation in the services;
5. The National Headquarters and its staff whose efforts included the compilation of the BCA 2023 Annual Report;
6. Representatives from the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii and the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada for their participation;
7. The guests and boosters for their participation, and
8. The many other individuals, organizations, establishments, and institutions for their generous support.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that this “Resolution of Appreciation” be adopted by the delegates to this 2024 BCA Ministers’ Association and National Council Meetings held on February 16, 17 and 23 through 25, 2024.