

What Should You Call Me? Reflections on Language

BY REVEREND HARRY GYOKYO BRIDGE

Language is a fundamental part of human existence. We often take it for granted, but language is always with us, coloring our perceptions of the world and ourselves. Buddhism says a lot about this, whether in the doctrine of the Two Truths, the Yogachara doctrine of “Mind-Only,” or even Shinran’s understanding of Nembutsu alone as “true and real.”

These are very difficult examples, and I won’t take them up here. Instead, I would like to look at an interesting set of terms that carry a lot of linguistic baggage: “reverend” and “sensei.” In the BCA we use both, but both are potentially problematic. Usually, “reverend” is used simply as a title – it’s what you call the minister. But if we think about what it really means – that this person should be revered or respected, or even that this person is reverent or respectful – we might question its use. Although traditionally the minister in BCA temples was viewed in this way, does it really fit Shinran’s vision? He didn’t see himself as better than others, stating in the Tannisho for example that “I do not have even a single disciple.” Instead, he saw himself

as a “fellow traveler/fellow practitioner” (ondobo/ondogyo). This reminds us that in Jodo Shinshu we are all equal in the eyes of Amida Buddha.

But is “sensei” any better? This is a traditional term of respect in Japanese society, used not only for ministers but also for doctors and teachers. In Chinese, it actually just means “mister.” So there is nothing intrinsically “ministerial” about it. It is actually an expression of respect, so in a way it is similar to “reverend.” Sometimes, we might like it better simply because it is in Japanese.

I personally am comfortable with both terms. I understand that we have been using these words for a long time, and people are comfortable with them. But it is also good sometimes to think about what words really mean, and ask questions about whether or not they accurately express what we are trying to say. Maybe there is a better term that ministers could be referred to as. One idea I had was “Dharma Messenger” – this is a loose translation of the Japanese term “kaikyoshi.” Whether or not it sounds good is another question! For myself, reflecting on these terms helps me

remember why I am a minister – not to be revered by others, not to be known as a teacher, but to help engage in the spread of the Buddha Dharma.

In gassho,
Rev. Harry Gyokyo Bridge ☸

IN THIS ISSUE

Minister’s Message	1
Temple Tidbits	2
Youth Exchange Trip to Japan	2
In Memoriam	2
Golf Tournament	2
Roof Renovations Campaign	3
Words From the Prez	3
Momiji Kai News	4
Dharma School News	5
Newsroom OBWA	5
A Cordial Welcome to All	6
Shotsuki Memorial Service	7
Calendar	

**TEMPLE
TID-BITS**

BCO Directories

Attention BCO members: please pick up your BCO 2011 DIRECTORIES in the church office before Monday, October 10th. Directories will be mailed to members on that Monday. Be sure to check your name, address and telephone numbers for accuracy. Call the office (510) 832-5988 to report changes or corrections. The church gives many thanks to **Maya Lawrence** and **Linda Minamoto** for preparing this year's directory.

Welcome and Farewell

Please welcome **Glen Yamamoto** as a new member of our church! We bid a fond farewell to members **Chiyo & Ben Nakaya** who have moved to live in Oregon with their family.

Wedding Congratulations

Congratulations to **Maya & Gary Lawrence** upon the marriage of their daughter **Kate** to **Anton Martinez**. The happy couple resides in Sacramento with their dog Eddie.

Halloween Party

Boo! Sunday, October 30th is BCO's annual Halloween Party. Please join our monsters, princesses, animals and mysterious big characters for a fun afternoon of games, treats, and a visit to the Haunted House if you dare! We need volunteers to serve lunch and help **Valerie** and **Tak Otsuka**

with the games and prizes. Don't be a scared-y cat!

Spare Change

Did you know that Buddhism is all about CHANGE? Contribute your spare change to support the Center for Buddhist Education, a project of the BCO Dharma School. Look for the big bottle in the church office. Thank you for your dana. ☸

**Youth Exchange Trip
to Japan**

BY PAUL NOGUCHI

At the end of July, BCA held the Young Buddhist International Cultural Study Exchange (YBICSE). Ten BCA members got the opportunity to travel to Japan for ten days, and experience what it's like to attend morning service, obon odori, stay with a host family and be a part of a YBA conference overseas at Hongwanji-ha in Kyoto!

We were able get a behind the stage tour of Hongwanji-ha, see Mt. Hiei, and even meet fellow Buddhists from Canada and South America.

We had a lot of fun with our host families as well being able to go to a Karaoke lounge, bowling, and even an obutsudon factory.

I really enjoyed myself and someday hope to return to Japan. This was a great trip and I recommend it to other interested students! ☸

In Memoriam

The Buddhist Church of Oakland extends its deepest condolences to the family of the following members:

Masako Sakaki
August 1, 2011

Harvey Masao Kido
August 14, 2011

Chet Kantor
(Husband of Christine Kantor (Katayama))
July, 2011

May the family members find comfort and solace in the Nembutsu, Namu amida butsu.

Golf Tournament

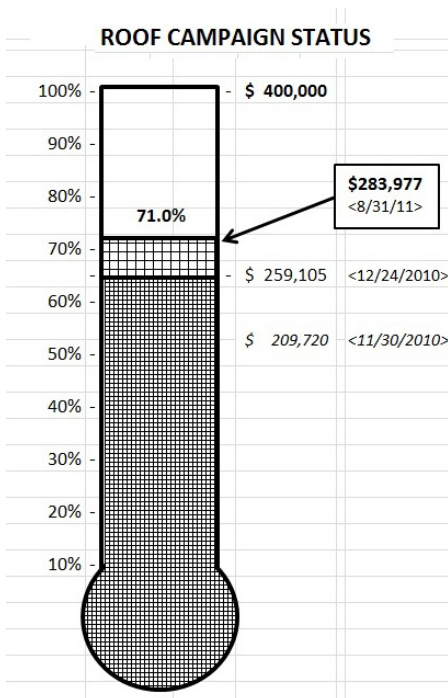
I'd like to invite you to our Annual BCO Golf Tournament on Oct. 3, Monday at the Sequoyah Country Club. If you don't golf, but would still like to participate, please volunteer to help or donate to the tourney. Of the proceeds, 25% will go toward the Japan tsunami and earthquake through the BCA.

You can volunteer by being hole-in-one witnesses, help with the raffle, or the registration desk. You can also join us for dinner. So contact the church office or me if you are interested in playing, donating or volunteering.

Keiju Terada
Tournament Committee
Cell: 832-754-9072 ☸

Roof Renovation Campaign Status

By STEVE TERUSAKI



Thank you to the many individuals who contributed to the 2011 Obon Memorial Lantern Tag program. This year the program generated \$2,150 in donations to the Roof Campaign. A special thank you goes to Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai America (BDK) and **Brian Nagata** in particular for the generous donation of red and white lanterns that graced the odori area. In addition to the Obon Memorial tag program, the Campaign received an additional \$300 in donations and payments on pledges. The total monies received for the Campaign now total \$283,977. We are at 71% of our goal of \$400,000. To the many that have made their donation, a heartfelt thank you; for those who haven't yet made a donation, please consider doing so in last quarter of 2011 so that

we can reduce the remaining \$116,023 of our campaign goal.

We want to acknowledge and thank the donors to the Obon Memorial Lantern Tag program and our new Campaign donors for the month of August who are listed below. A special thank you to all.

Obon Memorial Lantern Tag

Donors:

- Endo, Michael
- Fujimoto, Gloria
- Fukuman, Thomas, N.
- Furuta, Setsuko
- Gray, Lori
- Hashimoto Karen
- Hayashida, JoAnne
- Hiromoto, Mary
- Hiromoto, Mary & Shibata, Alice
- Hirota M/M Akira
- Hisaoka, Tadao & Patti
- Isono, Tomi
- Kano, Judy
- Kido, Rosalie
- Koda, Tama
- Koizumi, Jane, Alan, Karen, Gabrielle & Caeli
- Kuritsubo, Ruby
- Lawrence, Gary & Maya
- Naito, Shig & Namie
- Negoro, George & Dora
- Neishi Alice
- Neishi, Hideso & Dan
- Nomura, Ron & June
- Otsuka, Makoto, Mary & Family
- Sakaki, Judy
- Sakaue, Ron
- Sasaki, Digger & Agnes
- Shibata, Alice & Family
- Shimamoto, Mark & Tomita

- Shimoda, June
- Shinmoto, Shelley, Scott, Kendall & Kyle
- Takayama, Ellen
- Tanisawa, Ted & Susan
- Terusaki, Steve & Kathy
- Tsujimoto, Daisy
- Uota, I.
- Yamaguchi, Kisao
- Yamamoto, Nancy
- Yokomizo, Cliff, Donna, Joyce & Deni
- Yokomizo, Tom
- Yokoyama, George H.
- Yoshida, Fusae
- New Campaign Donors:**
- Ryugo, James 🌀

Words From the Prez

By JON TAKAGAKI

As the summer comes to a close, I find myself reflecting on the recent past, as well as what may be in store in the coming months. It felt like an appropriate time to share some of these reflections with you.

Time Flies When You're Having Fun!

It truly seems only yesterday that I participated in the Board officer installation service. **Linda** reminded me the service was in February! I just wanted to say that I am sincerely enjoying my role as BCO President. I'm still learning the ropes" and continue to ask for forgiveness when I don't address an item in a timely manner or just plain make a

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*Words from the Prez
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mistake. I wish to thank the Board and temple members for your patience and support.

It's been gratifying for me to meet temple members and families, many of whom have been part of the BCO community for many years, for generations in some instances. From these members and families, I have had the unique opportunity to learn about BCO's history and hear fascinating stories about our members. I've gained an appreciation and respect for the generations that came before us who shaped not only the culture and direction of our temple, but also who had significant influence in the communities in which we live today.

Return from Summer Break

Generally, late August and early September signify the return to school for our children. And, similarly, here at our temple, we resume sharing the teachings of the Buddha during Sunday services and Dharma School.

I wish to welcome everyone back from the summer break. The Dharma School administrators and teachers have been hard at work in planning for the upcoming school year and I know families and students will share in my excitement as the new school year unfolds.

Monthly Evening Services

Earlier this year, **Reverend Bridge** instituted monthly evening services on the second

Wednesday of the month. These evening sessions, intended for adults, begin at 7:00 pm. Following a short service and meditation, **Reverend Bridge** introduces a discussion topic and the attendees engage in an informal, open exchange of thoughts, questions, and ideas. The discussion typically finishes up between 8:30 – 9:00 pm. In September, the monthly evening service is on Wednesday, September 14; the next one will be on October 12.

I encourage each of you to consider attending these evening services and discussions. These evening services provide an additional venue and/or alternative to the Sunday Family Dharma Service and an opportunity to broaden one's understanding of the Dharma in a relaxed and informal setting. I find the conversations thought-provoking and stimulating. Please look for announcements in the Busshin or refer to the BCO website for additional information.

Nikkoland Bazaar and Obon

A temple member recently asked me if I'm glad that our annual Nikkoland Bazaar and Obon festival, are over. I hesitated a bit before responding because I have mixed feelings. Yes, I'm very aware that these events require our members and friends of the temple to dedicate their time and effort to ensure the continued success of these significant

temple, cultural, and community events. So, on one hand, there is a degree of "relief" that we don't have to plan, prepare, coordinate, and execute for another year.

On the other hand, the bazaar and Obon festival, are uplifting experiences for me. This may come across sounding a little strange but I feel great joy and inspiration from seeing the temple community come together to share in these traditions. When I see the dedication and commitment to excellence from all our volunteers, I feel privileged to be part of this community. I wish to extend my deepest gratitude to all those who help during Bazaar, Obon, and with all temple activities!

I look forward to meeting and talking with you over the coming weeks and months. Thanks for your continued support! ❀

Momiji Kai News

BY NANCY YAMAMOTO

After a busy Bazaar and Obon season, we are more or less into a more leisurely atmosphere. So, now we are making plans to take a relaxing ferry ride into San Francisco to eat and explore the atmosphere of the area in and around the Ferry Building on Thursday, September 15, 2011. The time and location to meet will be announced at a later time. **Jean Nakazono**, **Miyo Shigemoto** and **Fusae Yoshida** will be spearheading this outing. Hope everyone will be

able to attend.

Our next general meeting will be on Thursday September 1, 2011. Will see you all then.

A very generous donation has been received from the **Endo's** namely, **Clifford, Norman, Donald** and **Michael** in memory of parents, Chieko and Roy. Our sincere thank you for your thoughtfulness. ❀

 **Newsroom OBWA**
BY GAYLE NOGUCHI

We hope you've had an enjoyable summer! Thank you to everyone who assisted with the Obon preparations and pastry shop. We really appreciate your support!

Save the date: the Bay District BWA Conference will be held in conjunction with the Bay District Family Conference on Saturday, November 5th at the Southern Alameda County Buddhist Church. Registration information will be available soon.

Please join us for our OBWA meeting on Sunday, October 2nd at 9 a.m. Hope to see you! ❀

DHARMA SCHOOL NEWS...

BY JANET UMEZU

Summer seemed to come and go. The first Family Dharma Service for the 2011-2012 year, as well as a celebration for the August and September birthdays, was September 11. It was good to

once again listen to the Dharma stories of **Rev. Bridge** and of course, all enjoyed the Welcome Back to Dharma School hot dog luncheon. It was a great day to get reacquainted with friends, parents and teachers since the summer break.

The Annual Dharma School Teacher's Seminar and meeting was held on August 28. The focus of this seminar was awareness of bullying/harassment and what can one do about it. A Video Program devoted to awareness of school bullying called LETS GET REAL was shown with discussion following. It proved to be a very interesting topic.

It is with great sadness that we report that Mrs. Masako Sakaki passed away on August 1, 2011. Our condolences go to the Sakaki Family. Masako had been a Dharma School teacher at the Oakland Church and taught First, Second and Third grades. Masako and her husband Ted created a simple Obutsudan, which the students could make with kamaboko boards. I'm sure there are many former Dharma School students who still have their homemade Obutsudan. The pattern created by Masako & Ted is still used in the classroom today. Masako retired in June, 2003 after teaching Dharma School for 43 years. Although in ill health for the past year and a half, Masako tried to

attend Dharma Service as much as possible, always sitting in Row 5 on the right hand side. Thank you Masako for your dedication to your students and to the Dharma. Your gentle spirit will be greatly missed.

If any one would like to assist or teach in the classroom, please contact **Maya Lawrence** or one of the teachers. Your assistance would be greatly welcomed and appreciated.

Dharma School would like to gratefully acknowledge the following donors:

Mr. & Mrs. Steve Chung
– **Collin's** Birthday

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Aisawa
– **Samantha's** Graduation

Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Aisawa
– **Hannah's** Birthday

Because of your kindness, the Dharma School is able to continue its programs.



A very happy birthday to **Miya Li, Paul Noguchi, James Toyofuku,**

Brittany Nakamura and **Cameron Owoc**, who were born in the month of October. Birthday Sunday will be celebrated on October 2. We hope to see you.

Lastly, please save the date – October 30, 2011 for our Annual Halloween Party. ❀



A Cordial Welcome to All!!

The Buddhist Church of Oakland Dharma School is starting up for the 2011-2012 year, and we extend our most cordial welcome to you.

Our first service will be September 11, at 10:00 am. We have welcome coffee/juice and coffee cake/bagels available at 9:15 am before the service. It's a time when folks can chat with other members and catch up on news.

Our service, officiated by Rev. Harry Bridge, starts at 10:00. Rev. Bridge is a young and energetic minister who tailors his Dharma Talks to the Dharma School children. At 10:30, the Dharma School students go to their classes. For the first Sunday, we spend a few minutes in a "welcome back activity" for all the Dharma School families before the students go to class.

We provide classes for preschool (ages 3 to 5), but toddlers are welcome to play in the preschool room. Our classes are broken into kindergarten/first, second/third, fourth/fifth, middle school and High School classes. Classes are dismissed usually around 11:30 am.

For our first Sunday, the Dharma School is also providing lunch – hot dogs!

The Dharma School is devoted to providing a relaxed, enjoyable introduction to Shin Buddhism, its teachings and its practices. Our teachers dedicate their time to developing lessons, crafts, and experiences that we hope build a foundation for a Buddhist life. Some activities that are in addition to learning the teachings of the Buddha include:

- Our annual Halloween Party, haunted house and lunch
- Community Excursion – this year we hope to sponsor a visit to the California Academy of Sciences
- Mochi Tsuki – the whole church gather to make mochi in December
- Family Activity in the Spring – this year we are making sushi!
- Hanamatsuri Play
- Our Bazaar with two days of games and food open to the community on Father's Day
- Church Picnic in July
- Obon dancing in August

We would love to see you and hope you are able to join us. Please call me if you have any questions.

Gassho,

Maya Lawrence
Superintendent
Buddhist Church of Oakland Dharma School
maya.lawrence@comcast.net
925-283-2841

October Shotsuki Memorial Service

Service: Sunday, October 2, 2011 at 10:45 a.m.

Sermon by Reverend Harry Gyokyo Bridge

Family and friends are invited to attend this monthly memorial service for those listed below. If any errors appear in the list below, please notify the church office at (510) 832-5988 at your earliest convenience. For next month's Shotsuki Service, please check the Busshin calendar.

Mrs. Maya Aikawa	Mrs. Teiko Kido	Mrs. Sueno Oki
Mr. Charles S. Ajari	Mr. Takashi Kimoto	Mrs. Fujie Oniki
Mrs. Kane Aochi	Ms. Setsuko Kimura	Mr. Ted Hitoshige Sakaki
Mr. Shigeru Asakura	Mrs. Shige Kisanuki	Mr. Kumamashichi Sakamoto
Mrs. Kane Baba	Mr. Kokichi Kiya	Mrs. Kikue Sameshima
Mr. Takashi Baba	Mr. Tameji Kobori	Mrs. Hisa Sasaki
Mrs. Ichi Chiyoda	Mrs. Yoshiye Kume	Mrs. Tomiye Satake
Mr. Hachiro Endo	Mr. Karoku Kuramoto	Mr. Hidemi Seiji
Mr. Heitaro Fujii	Mrs. Tamayo Kuramoto	Mrs. Tomiye Seta
Mrs. Kikuno Fujii	Mr. Yoshimitsu Kuramoto	Mrs. Yasumatsu Shigaya
Mr. Fred Fujii: 17th year	Mrs. Tama Kuritsubo	Mr. Harvey Shinomoto
Mr. Rikizo Fujinami	Mrs. Tamae Kurotori	Mr. George S. Takahashi
Mrs. Marie Miyako Fujino	Mr. Shoroku Kuwahara	Mrs. Tame Takahashi
Mr. William Furuta: 25th year	Mrs. Sachi Masuyama	Mr. Shinobu Tani
Mr. Miyao Harada	Mr. Gary Matsumoto	Mr. Masayuki Terada
Mr. Sunao Harada	Mrs. Misty Minamihara	Mr. Loren Teramura
Mr. Katsuji Harano: 7th year	Mrs. Tomiko Minamoto	Mr. Eiya Ugai
Mrs. Seki Hayashi	Miss Yuki Minamoto	Mrs. Misao Watanabe
Mrs. Saki Hirao	Mr. Tomijiro Miyagawa	Mr. Wataru Watanabe: 13th year
Mr. Horizo Horimoto	Rimban Shoki Mohri: 1st year	Mrs. Ruth Miyoko Wong
Mrs. Kiyoko Idehara	Mrs. Kazue Mori	Mrs. Dai Yamabe
Mr. Jukiji Igaki	Mr. Gene Tatsuo Moriki	Baby Yamamoto
Mr. Tomenosuke Inouchi	Mrs. Taki Nagafuji	Mrs. Miyuki Lois Yamamoto
Mrs. Fusayo Inouye	Mr. Kohachi Nakao	Mrs. Tatsuyo Yamamoto
Mr. Shokichi Isono	Mrs. Satsuki Nakao	Mrs. Chizuko Yamanaka
Mr. Seitaro Iwamoto	Rev. Juko Nakashima	Mrs. Michi Yamane
Mr. Jitsugo Iwata	Mrs. Tsuneno Nakatani	Mr. Kuhachiro Yamaoka
Mrs. Yuki Kamano	Mr. Torataro Nakayama	Mrs. Tsuya Yamashita
Mrs. Tatsumi Kanada	Mr. Yaichi Nakazono	Mr. Choshiro Yokoyama: 50th year
Mr. Seiso Kanesaki: 17th year	Mr. Alan Neishi: 7th year	Mrs. Yoshino Yokoyama
Mr. Shonosuke Kato	Mr. Tsunekichi Niizawa	Mrs. Ino Yoshida
Mrs. Hatsu Kawabe	Mrs. Toshiko Ninomiya	Mrs. Misa Yoshida
Mr. Tokichi Kawamoto	Mr. Sam Hoyo Noma	Mr. Yozo Yoshida
Mr. Shuichi Kawoka	Mr. Seizo Nomura	Mrs. Grace Yoshioka
Mr. Ichiro Kayatani	Mrs. Tamayo Norimoto	Mr. Shosaburo Yoshioka
Mr. John Kido	Mrs. Miyeko Okamoto	
Mr. Meiji Kido	Mrs. Sei Okawa	

October 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
						1 9:00 a.m. Nippongo Gakuen	
2 9:00 a.m. OBWA Meeting 10:00 a.m. Family Dharma Service 10:45 a.m. Shotsuki Service	3 BCO Golf Tournament 1:00 p.m. Line Dance 7:30 p.m. Karaoke <table border="1" data-bbox="305 741 477 810"> <tr> <td>Busshin Articles Due</td> </tr> </table>	Busshin Articles Due	4 6:00 p.m. OBWA Nominating Committee	5 7:00 p.m. Board Meeting	6 10:00 a.m. Momiji Kai 6:30 p.m. Adult Gakuen	7 1:00-4:00 p.m. Bingo Prep	8 9:00 a.m. Nippongo Gakuen 2:00 p.m. Ikebana 1:00-4:00 p.m. Hiroshima Kenjinkai Bingo BCA FBWA Delegates meeting in San Jose
Busshin Articles Due							
9 10:00 a.m. Family Dharma Service 10:45 a.m. OBWA Eshinni, Kakushinni, Lady Yoshiko Ohtani Memorial Service	10 10:00 a.m. Wanto Shodo Kai 1:00 p.m. Line Dance 7:30 p.m. Karaoke	11 7:30 p.m. EBYAL	12 6:00 p.m. BCO Nominating Committee	13 6:30 p.m. Adult Gakuen 7:00 p.m. Concord Howakai	14	15 9:00 a.m. Nippongo Gakuen	
16 10:00 a.m. Family Dharma Service, Keirokai Keirokai Luncheon 6:00 p.m. Ashland Howakai <table border="1" data-bbox="110 1339 272 1388"> <tr> <td>Busshin Collated by the Dharma School</td> </tr> </table>	Busshin Collated by the Dharma School	17 1:00 p.m. Line Dance 7:30 p.m. Karaoke	18 7:00 p.m. Oakland Fukuoka Sister City Mtg	19 7:00 p.m. Dharma Service & Discussion	20 10:00 a.m. Momiji Kai 6:30 p.m. Adult Gakuen	21	22 9:00 a.m. Nippongo Gakuen
Busshin Collated by the Dharma School							
23 10:00 a.m. Family Dharma Service	24 10:00 a.m. Wanto Shodo Kai 1:00 p.m. Line Dance 7:30 p.m. Karaoke	25 7:30 p.m. EBYAL	26	27	28	29 9:00 a.m. Nippongo Gakuen Jr YBA Halloween Construction and Sleepover	
30 10:00 a.m. Family Dharma Service Halloween Party	31						

November 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Busshin Articles Due	2 7:00 p.m. Board Meeting	3 10:00 a.m. Momiji Kai 6:30 p.m. Adult Gakuen	4 12:30 p.m. Hiroshima Board Meeting: Issei Kai Kan	5 8:30 a.m. BD Family Conference & BD Women's League Conference (SACBC) 9:00 a.m. Nippongo Gakuen
6 9:00 a.m. OBWA Meeting 10:00 a.m. Family Dharma Service 10:45 a.m. Shotsuki Service	7 1:00 p.m. Line Dance 7:30 p.m. Karaoke	8 7:30 p.m. EBYAL	9 7:00 p.m. Dharma Service & Discussion	10 6:30 p.m. Adult Gakuen 7:00 p.m. Concord Howakai	11 Board Election Ballots Due	12 9:00 a.m. Nippongo Gakuen
13 10:00 a.m. Eitai-kyo Service Otoki B 2:00 p.m. Kagoshima Kenjinkai: Issei Kai Kan Busshin Collated by the OBWA	14 10:00 a.m. Wanto Shodo Kai 1:00 p.m. Line Dance 7:30 p.m. Karaoke	15 7:00 p.m. Oakland Fukuoka Sister City Mtg	16	17 6:30 p.m. Adult Gakuen 7:00 p.m. BD Council: Alameda	18	19 9:00 a.m. Nippongo Gakuen
20 10:00 a.m. Dharma School Excursion 6:00 p.m. Ashland Howakai	21 1:00 p.m. Line Dance 7:30 p.m. Karaoke	22	23	24 Thanksgiving: Office Closed	25 Office Closed	26 No Nippongo Gakuen
27 10:00 a.m. Family Dharma Service 10:45 a.m. Adult Study	28 10:00 a.m. Wanto Shodo Kai 1:00 p.m. Line Dance 7:30 p.m. Karaoke	29 7:00 p.m. Youth Club/ EBYAL	30			