BUDDHIST CHURCH OF OAKLAND

NOVEMBER 2026

Busshin

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Reflections for the Gratitude Season

BY REV. HARRY GYOKYO BRIDGE

I RECENTLY SAW A SHORT VIDEO on Instagram about a fairly recent trend, "you don't owe anybody anything" (or was it "you don't owe nobody nothing?" I'll go with the former here.) It showed clips of a bunch of people – influencers? – espousing this idea, but then critiqued it. Unfortunately, the story disappeared so I can't find the video, so instead I dug around on the internet. I went into this thinking of the idea (shall we use the acronym YDOAA?) as negative. The video clips I saw presented what seemed to me a very self-centered, if not selfish, way to interact with others, and that's what the overall video seemed to be saying.

But as I have been saying recently in my Dharma Talks, "there are at least two sides to every story." It seems that YDOAA developed online in social media as a kind of self-care. For instance, some people may be "people pleasers," and though this can be a good thing, it can also be taken advantage of. It can be hard to set boundaries, so maybe the YDOAA idea could help in some situations.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

President's Message

BY STEVE TERUSAKI

AS WE ARE SOLIDLY INTO FALL, the balance of 2026 comes into greater focus. We all are asking the same questions, *"Where has 2026 gone?"* and *"How will I get everything done by the end of the year?"* In the next few days let's reflect on what has been memorable in 2026 and appreciate those moments. At the same time, let's identify what's most important to accomplish in the next 2-1/2 months --- not a laundry list, but a pared down list of "most important" things. Using that list will help us determine what to focus on and prioritize our time, effort, and resources. **With the right mindset and approach, we can accomplish tremendous things** before the ball drops for 2027.

Fall is a very busy time around BCO. BCO was represented by the Dharma School and the Board at J-Sei's Family Festival in Emeryville. The booth, which was at the front of the indoor area with other community organizations, provided the perfect opportunity to highlight our Dharma School and find new families who are interested in bringing their children to Oakland.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

IN THIS ISSUE

Minister's Message	**1 & 8**
President's Message	**1, 11 & 12**
Dharma School News	**2-3**
BCO Acknowledgements & Thank You's	**3**
December Busshin Deadline Info	**3**
125th Anniversary Celebration Update	**4**
Planned Giving to BCO	**4-5**
A Qualified Charitable Distribution	**5**
Keirokai Appreciation Service	**5**
Jr YBA See's Candy Fundraiser	**6-7**
Ashland Howakai	**8**
OBWA News	**9**
Why does the Japanese Man engage with them?	**9 & 10**
Special Web Links	**12**
Garden Power Tools	**12**
Make and Take Card Making Workshop Info	**12**
BCA Member Survey	**13-15**
November Shotsuki Service Info.	**16**
Donations	**17**
November 2026 Calendar	**18**
December 2026 Calendar	**19**

Dharma School News

BY MELYSSA MINAMOTO

IT IS WONDERFUL TO HAVE Dharma School back in session! We began preparing for the new school year with our annual *Issei Kaikan* clean-up and classroom preparation on August 30. Many thanks to **Joemy Ito-Gates, Samia Neishi, Barrie McClune, Mariko Minamoto, Megan Scott, Courtney Peagler, Micheala Hoffman, Janice Tanemura, Luis Fernandes, Melyssa Minamoto, Daniel and Mariana Bissonnette, Raelyn M., Tilda M., Toshi G.M., Fumiko P., Marshall P., Daniel T., Haru B.,** and **Solina B.** for helping to get our classrooms ready.

Our first Dharma School lessons began on September 13, when we introduced our theme for the year**: "We are *Namo Amida Butsu*."** The PreK–K class welcomed the children into the space by changing our shoes, sitting on the rug and learning everyone's names. We talked about our theme and the significance of the Bodhi leaf. In preparation for *Keirokai*, the children made beautiful Bodhi leaf rubbings to use on cards for *Keiro* members. It was a lovely way to begin the year by connecting our youngest students with our BCO elders.

The 1st–3rd grade class welcomed a new co-teacher, **Samia Neishi**, who will teach alongside **Joemy Ito-Gates** this year. The students connected during their community circle and made bright, colorful banners for BCO's 125th anniversary banquet.

The 4th–7th grade class enjoyed reconnecting with old friends and making new connections. After talking about what "*Namo Amida Butsu*" means to each of us, the students began creating community agreements to help guide their classroom and their relationships with one another throughout the year.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

BCO Acknowledgements & Thank You's

BY STEVE TERUSAKI

FOR EVERY HOST INDIVIDUAL who has to rummage through the garden closet to find all the items to clean the church grounds we have to give a BIG THANK YOU to **Norman Yoshida, HOST 9 Leader. Norman** scrubbed, reorganized & neatly stocked items in the garden closet so that it is now spacious, clean and organized.

Thank you to **Jon Takagaki** for cleaning the upstairs kitchenette drawers & cabinets. The drawers are clean, utensils washed and dried. Further, I would like to acknowledge **Ron Nomura** and **John Minamoto** for their continuing volunteer efforts to take care of general church maintenance.

Many thanks for the **HOST 9 group** chaired by **Norman Yoshida** for the month of September and to **HOST 10** group led by **Tricia Tamura-Li** for providing support to the many activities that are taking place in October.

Every month I also want to express our appreciation to each and every one of our dedicated volunteers for their work on many of the Church committees; for their help in managing the operations & maintenance of BCO. Many go unseen so we hope to bring their efforts to light through this column.

Gassho, Steve Terusaki ■

DEADLINE FOR DECEMBER 2026 BUSSHIN ARTICLES:

OCTOBER 23RD

Articles submitted after this date may not be printed.

SEND ARTICLES TO:

Joyce Yokomizo

email: joyce@yokomizo.com

You can also send articles to the church office.

Dharma School News

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

We also welcomed our 8th–12th grade students back for another year of Dharma School, which will include restarting the Jr. YBA this year. Jr. YBA members, led by **Toshiharu H.,** held their first meeting of the year to select officers and make plans for the coming year. We look forward to seeing the connections they will form among our community!

Our students thoroughly enjoyed the 125th Anniversary Dharma School Party with delicious food, face painting, shave-ice, cake and games! This celebration on the first day of Dharma School was made possible through the generosity of many members of our BCO community. We are grateful to the **BCO 125th Anniversary Banquet Committee, Peggy Takahashi, Barbara Lewis, June Masuyama, Jeff Suda, Host Group 9, Norman Yoshida, Robert Noguchi, Ron Nomura,** and the **BCO boys** for planning and providing lunch, games, and face painting. Thank you to **Brian Nagata** for the *onenju* gifts to students and to **June Masuyama** for the food donation. Finally, thank you to the **Dieste Yoshida family** for making and donating shave ice with delicious, homemade syrups for everyone!

Thank you also to **Doris Okano** for providing *Issei Kaikan* keys for our new teachers, and to **Ed & Mabel Minamoto** for their gift in support of Dharma School.

We are happy to welcome our new families to Dharma School this year: **Lan Giang & Tiffany Saechao,** with **Nolan and Marlan**; **Alex Hisaka & Tom Yee**, with **Akira**; and **Jared & Alina Nakashima**, with **Camden, Keira,** and **Cody**. We also welcome back the new families who joined us in the middle of last year: **Nikki Dinh & John Huynh**, with **Georgi** and **Ocean**; **Sandra Padilla,** with **Tony**; **Medha Garg & Joshua Conner**, with **Naija and Sahaana**; **Michaela Hoffman & Megan Parker,** with **Wixom** and **Domonique**; and **Renee Wang & Charles Guan**, with **Cohota**. We look forward to getting to know all of our families and sharing in the Dharma together.

Dharma School is planning an excursion to the Oakland Museum on Saturday, December 12th to view the new temporary exhibit, *BeHere/1942*: *A New Lens on the Japanese American Incarceration*, and explore the history of BCO's neighborhood, the experience of Oakland's Japanese American community, and its connections to the present. Several BCO Dharma School teachers, families, and sangha members collaborated on aspects of the exhibit.

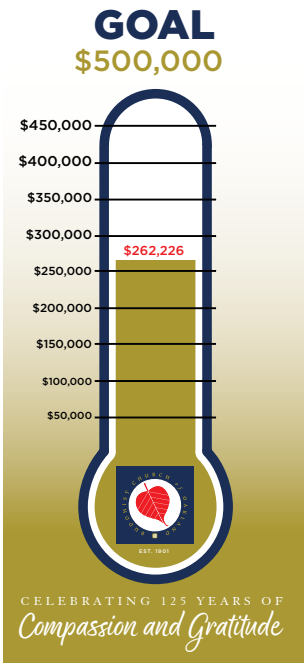
A Very Happy Birthday to **Kenta H., Twyla H., Cody N., Fumiko P., Tony P.-Z.,** and **Gil T.-F**.!

Please save the dates for upcoming Dharma School: ***October 11, October 25, November 22, December 6, and the December 12 excursion***. ■

125th Anniversary Celebration Update

BY PEGGY TAKAHASHI & JON TAKAGAKI

CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF
Compassion and Gratitude



125TH Fundraising (AUGUST 25, 2026 -SEPTEMBER 29, 2026)

We gratefully acknowledge and thank the following for their generous gifts and support of BCO's 125th anniversary fundraising campaign:

BCO Dharma School
Wellington Tong & Rodney Yuen
Karen Hashimoto
Christine & George (Shizuo) Kamita
Christopher & Roberta Lewis
In honor of Mits & Mikiye Nakashima & grandparents Kikutaro & Rev. Juko Nakashima.
Linda Minamoto
Wendy Oto Nacol & John Nacol
Mem of Donna Oto, Yoshio & Edith Oto, Howard & Kimi Worrell
Richard & Sandra Seiki
125th Anniversary Gift
Richard & Sandra Seiki
Onaijin Donation
Lillian Terada
Clifford & Donna Yokomizo

As you can see from the thermometer, we are making steady and wonderful progress toward our goal of $500,000. We are grateful for your generosity and support. While some of the 125th fundraising projects are completed, all the projects are not fully funded. If you haven't yet, please consider sending in your gift soon.

For information regarding the 125th fundraising campaign, please visit the BCO website at https://buddhistchurchofoakland.org, email the church office at officebco@gmail.com, or call the church office at 510-832-5988. ■

Planned Giving to the Buddhist Church of Oakland BY JON TAKAGAKI

THE 125TH COMMITTEE WISHES to extend our deepest appreciation to those who have donated their gifts toward the 125th fundraising campaign. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we are about halfway to our goal of $500,000 over the two-year campaign.

While some of the 125th fundraising projects (e.g., refurbishment of the altar, reupholstering of the pews, new HVAC, bathroom renovations) are completed or in progress, projects are not fully funded.

As we approach the end of 2026 and you haven't yet provided a gift, please consider a variety of gifting options, some of which may provide tax benefits. Please consult your tax advisor regarding any of these options.

- **Monetary Gifts** – gifts may be made by check, made out to the Buddhist Church of Oakland (please include "125th Anniversary" in the memo section of the check or gifts can be made online by visiting the BCO web site at https://buddhistchurchofoakland.org.
- **Giving from your IRA** – You can support BCO from your Individual Retirement Account. Anyone aged 70-1/2 or older is eligible to make a 100% tax-exempt donation from their traditional IRA to a qualified 501 (c)(3) charitable organization. This gift option is referred to as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD).
- **Employer Gift Programs** – please designate your annual workplace campaign gift to BCO and companies commonly have gift matching programs. Please consult your corporate giving department.
- **Planned Giving** – Planned giving designates a gift as part of an estate plan, naming now

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD)

THE BCO FINANCE COMMITTEE would like to remind you of a tax smart strategy for charitable giving, specifically geared to Sangha retirement-age individuals with IRAs. The strategy maximizes charitable giving while minimizing taxes.

A SMART GIVING STRATEGY

A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) is a powerful donation tool that benefits both the donor and the recipient. Anyone aged 70-1/2 or older is eligible to make a 100% tax-free donation from their traditional IRA to a qualified 501 (c)(3) charitable organization.

In addition, anyone aged 73 or older can use a QCD to satisfy their annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMD). Reducing your RMD saves you from paying taxes on the distribution, and can also reduce the annual premium surcharges you may pay for Medicare Parts B & D. A QCD lowers your taxable income, and at the same time is a great way to make a positive impact to your favorite charities and community.

Example: Your RMD for 2026 is $50,000. But you only need $30,000 for expenses. You decide to make a QCD donation of $20,000. The result is you owe taxes on only $30,000 of your RMD, because the $20,000 QCD is 100% non-taxable. Thus, your 2026 gross income is reduced by $20,000.

The Buddhist Church of Oakland is a qualified 501 (c)(3) charitable organization.

HOW IT WORKS

QCDs are direct transfers from your IRA to the charity. You'll need to contact your IRA custodian to initiate the transfer, and the donation will be sent directly to your chosen charity. It is worth noting that some financial institutions will instead cut a check, payable to the charity, and mail the check to you. You would in turn hand deliver or mail the check to the charity.

In 2026, the QCD maximum giving limit is $111,000.

Although QCDs are not taxable, they must be reported on your federal tax return. It is an easy process but please consult with your tax preparer or see IRS publication 590-B for more information. Lastly, QCDs are applicable regardless of whether you use the standard deduction or itemize on your tax return.

If you make a QCD contribution to BCO, please notify Doris and provide her your name and donation amount. This will help ensure your contribution is properly recorded, tracked and acknowledged. ■

Keirokai Senior Appreciation Service 2026

THIS YEAR WE WILL HONOR OUR KEIROKAI MEMBERS DURING OUR 125TH ANNIVERSARY SERVICE AND Banquet Celebration on S*aturday, October 17th.*

Did you turn 75 this year? If so, and if you would like to join Keirokai, please contact the office at 510-832-5988 or officebco@buddhistchurchofoakland.org - we would like to honor you at the 125th Service and Banquet. ■

Planned Giving to the Buddhist Church of Oakland CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

a beneficiary of your retirement account, will or trust, life insurance or retirement assets, brokerage accounts, real estate, and savings and checking accounts. Naming BCO as a beneficiary ensures we can meet your wishes and is an easy way to leave a meaningful to BCO.

Again, please be sure to consult your tax advisor for guidance on how to plan and structure any of these options.

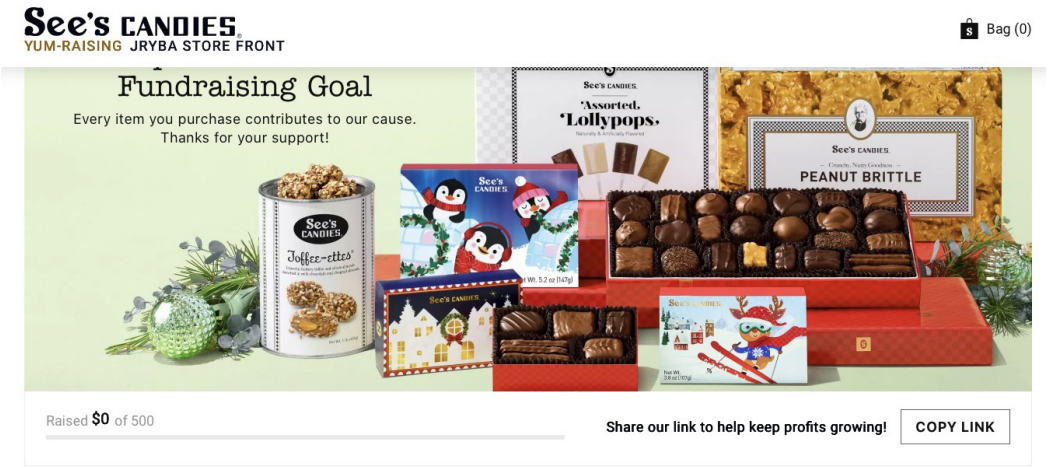
Your gifts of support for the fundraising campaign are vital to ensure our children, family members, and future generations have a place and a community to hear the Nembutsu and carry the Dharma forward. Your gifts, at any amount, make a real and long-lasting difference.

Thank you for your compassion and generosity. ■

Jr YBA See's Candy Fundraiser 2026

BY TOSHI HOLLINS

BCO'S JR YBA IS HAVING A SEE'S CANDY FUNDRAISER TO HELP THEM WITH FUTURE Jr YBA events like possible udon lunches/pancake breakfasts for the church and to help with other Jr YBA initiatives in the future. If you are in need of some holiday gifts and would like to purchase candy, please visit our fundraising shop: https://www.yumraising.com/store/winter-2026-jryba-store-front-2737/TosHol1395. Below and on the following page are the products that are available at the online shop. If you have any questions, please contact: toshihollins4@gmail.com or finnlomcnamara@gmail.com.



Christmas Sleigh Tin
$46.00
ADD TO BAG

Tidings of Joy Box
$12.00
ADD TO BAG

Skiing Reindeer Box
$12.00
ADD TO BAG

Merry Penguins Box
$14.25
ADD TO BAG

Jolly Polar Bear Box
$15.50
ADD TO BAG

Assorted Chocolates
$34.00 | 1 lb
ADD TO BAG

2 layers of chocolate
Assorted Chocolates
$65.00 | 2 lb
ADD TO BAG

Nuts & Chews
$34.00 | 1 lb
ADD TO BAG

2 layers of chocolate
Nuts & Chews
$65.00 | 2 lb

Milk Chocolates
$34.00

Dark Chocolates
$34.00

Toffee-ettes®
$34.00

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Jr YBA See's Candy Fundraiser 2026

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See's CANDIES
YUM-RAISING JRYBA STORE FRONT

Bag (0)

Truffles
$37.50
ADD TO BAG

Silver Assorted
$19.25
ADD TO BAG

Hanukkah Peanut Brittle
$34.50
ADD TO BAG

Hanukkah Assorted Lollypops
$34.50
ADD TO BAG

Peanut Brittle
$34.50 | 1 lb 8 oz
ADD TO BAG

Assorted Lollypops
$34.50
ADD TO BAG

Milk Chocolate Footballs
$12.00
ADD TO BAG

Assorted Peppermints
$17.00
ADD TO BAG

Assorted Molasses Chips
$19.00
ADD TO BAG

See's Awesome® Peanut Brittle Bars
$30.00
ADD TO BAG

$25 Gift Card
$25.00
ADD TO BAG

$10 Gift Card Pack
$200.00
ADD TO BAG

Very Big Mug
$12.50

Candy Keeper Tote
$5.00

See's Tote
$3.00

OUT OF STOCK

See's Awesome® Nut & Chew Bars
$30.00

Ashland Howakai

BY LYNNE NEISHI

DUE TO THE PANDEMIC, ASHLAND Howakai had to stop in person services. Howakai has returned with an Ohigan service held at the Eden Township Community Center on September 20th. **Rev. Bridge** led the group in the chanting of *Juseige.* Then he talked about the line *"Sei fu jo sho gaku"* in *Juseige*. That is the only line mentioned three times and the rhythm is different. The Ashland Howakai has a long-standing reputation for the delicious potlucks following the service. This one was no exception!! Great food and great conversations!

Thank you to the following donors: **Anonymous, Harry Bergland/ June Masuyama, Carl Gutekunst/ Robbin Kawabata, Gordy Ide, Alice Neishi, Lynne Neishi, Gary/Anne Tominaga, Louise Utsurogi.**

The Ashland Howaki began meeting again in 2026! We will start meeting again in 2027! If you are interested in attending future services, please contact the church office with your email address. ■

Reflections for the Gratitude Season CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Unfortunately, though, social media tends to spit things out in short bursts intended to get attention rather than to truly help. "You don't owe anybody anything" can easily turn into an overemphasis on individualism and lack of accountability.

Rather than criticize the people expressing the YDOAA attitude, I would like to look at it from a Buddhist point of view. First, I would apply the Middle Way. YDOAA is not an absolute dogma to be applied in every situation. Instead, on reflection, one may find that it helps in a certain way and apply it, but not carry it as a "way of life" in and of itself.

Second, the teaching of interconnectedness says that nothing exists in and of itself. This goes all the way from subatomic particles to people, to societies, to outer space. Thinking in this way, we find that instead of being separate individuals, we are actually individuals linked to other individuals, only able to live because of others. Isn't that what the Three Treasures means when it encourages us to be "units in true accord"?

Finally, when we find this in our lives, we experience gratitude. On one level, we can experience gratitude for the things that people – known and unknown – do for us. But ultimately, our gratitude goes to the Buddhas: Shakyamuni for the various teachings he propounded, and Amida for their unconditional compassion.

I stated earlier that "you don't owe anybody anything" should not be treated as dogma, something to cling to regardless of the situation. The Buddha's teachings are similar – they aren't rules to apply in all situations, they call for thoughtful reflection rather than mechanical application. But maybe this time of year – the beginning of what I have been calling the "Gratitude Season" – is a good time to reflect on the teachings with the Nembutsu in our hearts. ■

OBWA News

BY PEGGY TAKAHASHI

OUR FALL CARD WORKSHOP AND Hanko Sale Event will be after service around ***11:15 a.m. on November 1***. The Hanko Sale is a great time to stock up for the holidays. Get new ideas for cards at the workshop, too! Registration is limited, please contact **Patti Hisaoka**, pfujihisa@gmail.com, or **Carol Thunen**, carol@thunen.org to register. OBWA will send out more information via email to everyone in October.

The Bay District Buddhist Women's League met on Saturday, September 19. We discussed ways in which Bay District member temples and churches can help each other. How Bay District members can help organize conferences together and not rely on one church or temple to organize them. It was noted that this is a model that Junior YBA uses for their conferences, and it seems to work. This model allows members from different temples and churches to form relationships by working together. This model also helps avoid member burnout. This is something we will be discussing at our next ***OBWA meeting on November 8***.

Mark your calendars, ***OBWA's Holiday Gift Boutique, on December 13***, is right around the corner. We'll need cards (always a hit) and other homemade and handmade goods such as sewn and knitted items. For this event, we're allowed to bring homemade, non-perishable edible goodies such as cookies, granola, candy, etc. to sell as well. Crafters, get your game on!

DUES REMINDER

Thank you to everyone who paid their 2026 OBWA dues. If you haven't, this is a gentle reminder to please submit your annual $25 dues to **Judy Kano.**

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

2026 OBWA MEETING DATES

November 8: (last meeting of 2026)

All meetings are on Sunday after church service ~11:30 a.m. and held over a potluck lunch.

SAVE THE DATE

OBWA's annual Bonnenkai "End-of-year" luncheon will be on December 6 after Bodhi Day service. Please keep an eye out for your invitation in the mail.

World Buddhist Women's Conference (WBWC) will be held in ***Hawaii from September 11 – 12, 2027.*** If you are interested in attending, please contact **Kathy Terusaki**.

The ***2031 WBWC*** will be in ***Las Vegas*** in ***Fall 2031 midweek***. This conference will be organized by an ad hoc committee consisting of members from different districts. If you have ideas for a theme, please contact **Patti Hisaoka** at pfujihisa@gmail.com.

Please remember to make checks out to "Buddhist Church of Oakland – OBWA" to ensure funds are correctly allocated. ■

Why does the Japanese man engage them?

SUBMITTED BY
ACCEPT INTERNATIONAL

BCO IS PLEASE TO CO-SPONSOR, together with J-Sei, an online Documentary Screening: Understanding Realities of Armed Conflict Resolution.

For more than 15 years, Accept International has worked in conflict-affected countries and regions. At this event, we will screen the short documentary "Why does the Japanese man engage them?" which follows our work with individuals engaged in armed conflict in Somalia. We will also briefly introduce the challenges we address, our approach, and our recent activities.

ABOUT ACCEPT INTERNATIONAL

Accept International is a Japan-based international NGO working in conflict zones such as Somalia and Yemen as well as in conflict-affected regions of Kenya, Indonesia, and Colombia. We accept and empower individuals who have disengaged from non-state armed groups, supporting their rehabilitation, reintegration into society, and contributing to reconciliation and sustainable peace. In 2025, we established Accept International USA in Texas to expand our work from the United States.

Please join us on **November 8 at 5 pm** for this on line documentary screening of our efforts to create a more peaceful world by filling out this registration form and receive a link to the zoom session. After the screening, there will be a question and answer session, and Accept International staff will facilitate a discussion among participants and provide information to those interested in contributing to their efforts as volunteers or donors.

Event Registration: https://accept-int.org/en/2026-11-08-form ■

ACCEPT INTERNATIONAL
認定NPO法人アクセプト・インターナショナル

A FILM SCREENING

Why does the Japanese Man Engage Them?

A documentary on Yosuke Nagai and his work with Accept International

Sunday, November 8th
5:00 pm PST

RSVP for ZOOM link

For more than 15 years, Accept International has worked in conflict-affected countries and regions.

For more information
https://tinyurl.com/AcceptIntl-Nov08

Co-sponsored by
J-sei and the Buddhist Church of Oakland

President's Message CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

It was time to reconnect with many in the community and highlight our 125 years as an institution in the City of Oakland and the broader East Bay with an invitation to "Come as You Are" to hear the Jodo Shinshu teachings. Thank you to **Jun Hamamoto** and **Joemy Ito-Gates** for organizing the table.

Later in the fall on Sunday, November 8 at 5:00pm PST, BCO and J-Sei are co-sponsoring the on-line screening of a documentary on Yosuke Nagai and his work with Accept International. Nagai is the founder and director of Accept International, a Japanese NGO (non-governmental organization) working in conflict-affected areas around the globe empowering individuals and contributing to reconciliation and sustainable peace. Please see the flyer on this event in this month's Busshin. Special thanks to **Warwick Liang** for bringing this forward to co-sponsor the event with J-Sei.

On a beautiful Bay Area fall day at the end of September, the 39th Annual BCO Golf Fun Day was held at the Berkeley Country Club, high in the El Cerrito Hills. The organizing committee led by **Keiju Terada** worked long and hard and their efforts paid off in a well-run and enjoyable day of golf for all who participated. Many thanks to the many volunteers who came to help, to the sponsors and donors who supported the event, and to the staff at the Berkeley Country Club who provided seamless support.

On Saturday, October 17th, the two-year long preparations for the 125th Anniversary culminate with the Anniversary Service and banquet celebration at the Asian Cultural Center. A special thank you to **Peggy Takahashi** for her leadership as chairperson for the event; and to all the committee chairs who have put in many hours to plan, prepare and execute in the success of this celebration.

125 years of history in Oakland is a statement of the tenacity and perseverance of the pioneering families that set the foundation for what we have today. I was reminded that the very first president of the Buddhist Church of Oakland was **Mr. Jitsuo Tani** in 1926 and again in 1940 just before the forced incarceration of Japanese Americans during WWII. He is the maternal grandfather of **Joyce, Clifford** and **Denise Yokomizo** and Issei scion of the Tani Family. Our early pioneers were the grandfathers and great-grandfathers of the Tani, Yokomizo and Nakashima families whose descendants are still prominent and active members of our Sangha today – a remarkable legacy that they have left for their families and the Sangha that is the Buddhist Church of Oakland.

October is also Halloween. We are looking forward to another Halloween festival at the Church with fun & games and a "spooky" theme. I enjoy seeing the creativity of our youngest (and older) Sangha members in the Halloween costumes that they come up with.

With November we turn our attention to *Eitaikyo*. *Eitaikyo* is the Perpetual Memorial Service where we honor those dedicated Sangha members who have passed and are named on the Perpetual Memorial Scrolls that are displayed for this annual Memorial Service. *Eitaikyo* is also a time to rededicate our commitment to the perpetual chanting of the sutras here in Oakland. Donations received at this service are earmarked for Oakland's *Eitaikyo* Fund. The *Eitaikyo* Fund supports the maintenance and upkeep of our most treasured parts of the temple: the *O-naijin* (the altar area) and *Ge-jin* (the *Hondo*) where Sangha members come to listen to the dharma.

This year we are greatly appreciative of the efforts undertaken by the 125th Anniversary Committee to restore parts of the *O-naijin*; and refurbish the pews, lighting, sound system, new carpeting and painting in the *Ge-jin* – plus air-conditioning in the *Hondo* and the Little Chapel. The efforts are a direct result of your generosity in the fundraising efforts for the 125th Anniversary, and the use of the *Eitaikyo* Fund to support the upkeep of these treasured spaces.

Improvements and refurbishments will continue as we look toward projects that are necessary for the maintenance and upkeep of our facilities. The next big effort will be renovation of bathrooms, both on the ground floor, but also on the second floor to provide an ADA-accessible bathroom on that floor. These projects rest on our continued request to support the 125th Anniversary Fundraising Campaign that continues through 2027.

November and December also offer the opportunity to visit the exhibit, **Be Here / 1942** now open at the Oakland Museum of California (OMCA). There will be two Sundays (one in November and on December 12) when members of BC Oakland will be in the gallery being an in-person resource to connect the exhibit to individuals who are camp survivors; or who were recorded and part of the display in the exhibit.

Finally, there is a letter of request from **Gayle Noguchi** as Executive Director for the BCA to collect feedback and information from members of BCA's local temples & churches. Please complete the survey. Your input is valuable to the future direction of our temples collectively as the BCA. Paper copies

CONTINUED TO PAGE 12

Special Web Links

BUDDHIST CHURCH OF OAKLAND WEBSITE
http://www.buddhistchurchofoakland.org/

ONLINE SERVICES AND DHARMA TALKS
https://www.youtube.com/c/buddhistchurchofoakland/

BCA SERVICE BOOK
https://buddhistchurchofoakland.org/servicebook/

REV. BRIDGE
twitter.com/gyokyo facebook.com/gyokyo48
instagram.com/gyokyo48/

Garden Power Tools

BY JEFF SUDA

I'M GIVING AWAY THE FOLLOWING, JUST PICK UP IN Moraga to any church member:

1. Honda Gas Powered Walk Behind Mid Tine Rototiller
2. Toro Gas Powered 21" Push Lawn Mower
3. Commercial Grade Gas Powered Lawn Edger with Steel Blade, I believe it's a Power Bilt.

Interested parties, please contact me:
Jeffrey Suda
sudajeff@yahoo.com ■

President's Message

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

of the survey can be provided in a .pdf format upon request to the Church Office.

As I stated at the beginning of this message, let's reflect on what has been memorable in 2026 and appreciate those moments; and identify what's most important to accomplish in the next 2-1/2 months. With the right mindset and approach, we can accomplish tremendous things before the crystal ball drops in Times Square signaling the arrival of 2027. ■

Oakland Buddhist Women's Association

Make & Take Cardmaking Workshop*

Sunday, November 1, 11:30 am in the Social Hall

Plus Hanko Design Product Show & Sale

*** We will provide all supplies and materials so that each participant will be able to make two handmade cards to keep.**

Space is limited! Sign up early by e-mailing carol@thunen.org or using the sign-up sheet at church.

BCA Member Survey: *We want to hear your thoughts*

WE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE YOU TO PARTICIPATE IN A BRIEF survey to share your thoughts and perspectives regarding the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA). The purpose of this survey is to better understand awareness of BCA programs and services, along with your perception of the value BCA provides to local temples and sangha members, and opportunities to strengthen communication and engagement.

Scan the QR Code to Complete Survey

Your feedback is important and will help guide future efforts to support temples, ministers, and sangha members across our organization.

We invite you to complete this anonymous online survey using the link below. We expect the survey will take approximately 5 minutes to complete.

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts and help shape the future of our Buddhist community.

In Gassho,
Gayle Noguchi
Executive Director
Buddhist Churches of America ■

We invite you to share your perspective to help guide the future of our temple and our broader Buddhist community. Your responses will remain confidential and will help us better serve our sangha for generations to come. This short survey will take about 3 minutes.

1. How familiar are you with the programs and functions of the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA)?

- ◯ Very familiar
- ◯ Somewhat familiar
- ◯ Not so familiar
- ◯ Not at all familiar

2. How important are the following functions of the BCA to you?

(Scale: Very important / Somewhat important / Neutral / Not very important / Not at all important)

	Very Important	Somewhat important	Neutral	Not very important	Not at all important
Providing minister and ministerial education	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Supporting temples for continued sustainability and viability	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Growing Shin Buddhism membership in North America	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯
Providing leadership for defining the value of Shin Buddhism	◯	◯	◯	◯	◯

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

 CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

3. How well do you feel the BCA is currently delivering these functions?

(Scale: Excellent / Good / Fair / Poor / Unsure)

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Unsure
Providing minister and ministerial education	○	○	○	○	○
Supporting temples for continued sustainability and viability	○	○	○	○	○
Growing Shin Buddhism membership in North America	○	○	○	○	○
Providing leadership for defining the value of Shin Buddhism	○	○	○	○	○

4. Beyond your local temple, do you feel personally connected to the broader BCA community?

- ○ Strongly connected
- ○ Somewhat connected
- ○ Not very connected
- ○ Not at all connected

5. If you receive communications from the BCA (print or digital), please rate your agreement with these statements:

(Scale: Strongly Agree / Somewhat Agree / Somewhat Disagree / Strongly Disagree / N/A - Do not receive)

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	N/A - Do not receive
Relevant: The information matches my interests and concerns.	○	○	○	○	○
Meaningful: The content deepens my appreciation of the BCA's contributions.	○	○	○	○	○
Motivating: The updates encouraged me to get involved, take action, or donate.	○	○	○	○	○

CONTINUED ON PAGE 15

 CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

6. The Wheel of Dharma is the monthly newspaper sent to members from the BCA. How often do you read it?

- ◯ Every issue
- ◯ Occasionally
- ◯ Rarely
- ◯ Never

7. What motivates you to be a member or friend of your temple?

(Select one)

- ☐ I was raised in the Buddhist tradition / family tradition
- ☐ Spiritual growth and Buddhist teachings
- ☐ Being part of a community, connecting with others
- ☐ A way to connect with Japanese culture
- ☐ Interest in non-religious activities (taiko, events, scouts, etc.)

8. We'd like to know more about you. Please check the box that describes you:

- ☐ 18-29 years old
- ☐ 30-45 years old
- ☐ 46-65 years old
- ☐ 65+ years old

9. What temple are you a member of or consider as your home temple:

10. What is the single biggest challenge or opportunity you see for the BCA in the next 5 to 10 years.

2026 November Shotsuki Memorial Service

The November Shotsuki Monthly Memorial & Adult Dharma Service will be held on Sunday, November 1, 2026, in-person & online at 10:00 AM.

Family and friends are invited to attend or view this monthly memorial service for those listed below. If any errors appear, please direct them to the church office at at (510) 832-5988 or officebco@gmail.com at your earliest convenience.

Mr. Isaburo Adachi
Mr. Shikanosuke Ajari
Mr. Joe Akiyama
Mrs. Tomoye Aoki-Johnson
Mrs. Fumiye Endo
Mrs. Nao Endo
Mr. Katsumi Fujii
Mrs. Yuki Fujii
Mrs. Nancy Louie Fujikawa
Mrs. Shitoyo Fujinami
Rev. Masami Fujitani
Mr. Toshio Fukuda
Miss Chieko Furuta
Mr. Larry Furuta – *17th year*
Mrs. Sumiye Hiramoto Gluck
Mr. Rihachi Goto
Mrs. Katsu Harada
Mrs. Miyako Hatakeyama
Mr. Tom Hayashida
Mr. Claude Melvin Hess – *7th year*
Mrs. Judie Hirabayashi
Mr. Mitsuru Hirai
Mr. Mamoru Hirota
Mr. Masakichi Hirota
Mrs. Kikuno Honda
Mr. Tokuzo Honda
Mrs. Kotoshi Hori
Mrs. Fusano Horimoto
Mrs. Mae Hatsuko Hoshi
Mr. Masaru Ide
Mr. Leo Ryotaro Ikeda
Mrs. Kimie Ikemoto
Mr. Kenji Kamada – *7th year*
Mr. Akira Kanagaki
Mrs. Chiyo Kaneko
Mr. Haruto Kaneko
Mrs. Miharu Kaneko
Mrs. Ida Kanesaki
Mr. Hyosuke Kawahata
Mrs. Harue Kihara – *25th year*
Mr. Gunichi Kimura
Mrs. Seki Komoda
Mr. Kiyoshi Kuritsubo
Mr. Torasaburo Masuda
Mr. Vernon Matsui
Mrs. Kimiko Messenzehl
Mrs. Grace Misaki
Mrs. Tori Misumi
Mr. Chikamitsu Mitsuda
Mr. Roger Miyasaki
Mr. Hanzo Miyazaki
Mr. Kikuo Mizuhara
Mr. Ichihei Mizusaki
Mr. George Mori – *17th year*
Mr. Jotaro Mori
Mr. Hitoshi Greg Morimoto
Mrs. Setsuko Shirley Morimoto
Mr. Ray Yoshiro Morishita
Mr. Rokuzo Morishita
Mr. William Muranishi
Mr. Katsutaro Nagao
Miss Tokie Najima
Mrs. Mitsuko Nakagawa
Mr. Roy Nakagawa
Mr. Shotaro Nakamura
Mr. Saichi Nakao
Mr. Utaka Nakao
Mrs. Tomiko Nakatani – *17th year*
Mrs. Chiyoko Nakaya – *1st year*
Mrs. Hideko Nakazono
Mr. Akira Narasaki
Mrs. Ruth Narasaki
Mr. Yoshio Negi
Mrs. Yuriko Niizawa
Mrs. Shizuko Nishio
Mrs. Chiyono Nomiyama
Mr. Fukuju Nomiyama
Mrs. Masano Nomiyama
Mrs. Matsuno Nomiyama
Mr. Mitsuru Nomiyama
Mr. Chiyomatsu Nomura
Mr. Fred Nomura
Miss Irene Nomura
Mrs. Masae Nomura
Mr. Genkichi Ogi
Mr. Kansuke Ogi
Mrs. Mine Ogi
Mr. Shingo Ogihara
Mr. Jitsuo Ohara
Mr. Keisaburo Oka
Mrs. Vicki Okamoto
Mr. Kiyoshi Okemoto
Mr. Yoshitaka Oniki
Mr. Katsujiro Onizuka
Mr. Raymond Otake – *13th year*
Mrs. Kusue Saika
Mrs. Haruye Sakamoto
Mrs. Hiroko Sakamoto
Mrs. Su'e Sakamoto
Mr. Masaji Sato
Mr. Yoshimatsu Seta
Baby Shibata
Mr. Harry Shibata – *17th year*
Mr. James Shimamura
Mr. Gene Siu
Ms. Kelly Ka Lai Siu
Mr. Shunyo Soda
Mr. Torataro Sumimoto
Mr. Kenji Suyetsugu
Mrs. Sumi Tajiri
Mrs. Kazumi Takahashi
Mr. Fukutaro Takashima
Mrs. Nakae Takashima
Mr. Shinobu Takeshima
Mrs. Sumiko Takeshima – *50th year*
Mr. Kazuma Takata
Mrs. Tulie Takeuchi
Mr. Hideo Tamori
Mr. Ben Tamura
Mr. Ichijiro Tanaka
Mr. Shizuo Tanaka
Mrs. Ren Tanaka
Mrs. Tameyo Tanaka – *25th year*
Mr. Takeso Taniguchi – *33rd year*
Mrs. Tora Taniguchi
Mr. Masateru Terada
Mrs. Kasumi Toji
Mrs. Mary Tonai
Mr. Genjuro Tsujimoto
Mr. Yoshikusu Tsujimoto
Mr. David Uemura
Mrs. Konoye Utsurogi
Mr. Tom Utsurogi
Mr. Sho Wakabayashi
Mr. Sam Watahara
Mr. Goichiro Watanabe
Mrs. Tokiye Watanabe
Ms. Susan Wong
Mrs. Akiye Yamabe
Mrs. Koito Yamamoto
Mr. Kaoru Yamamoto
Mrs. Nancy Yamamoto
Mrs. Yoshi Yamaoka
Mrs. Tsuru Yamashita
Mrs. Clara Yokoyama
Grandmother Yoshioka
Mrs. Setsuko Yoshisato – *7th year*

Donations

BCO would like to acknowledge the donations from our members and friends. We are very grateful and appreciative of your continued generosity and kindness. Thank you!

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Booker, Robin
Chang, Kashima, Kevin & Sara
Chung, Lynn & Steve
Kamita, Christine & George
Toyofuku, Donald & Yurika

OBWA

Terusaki, Kathy & Steve

OHIGAN

Minamoto, John
Takahashi, Lamont, Peggy & Alan

GENERAL DONATIONS

Aoki, Miho
General Donation
Christopher & Roberta
Nakashima/Masuyama Fund
Miyamoto, Mills, Jarred & Janis
Pop Up Tent
Takahashi, Lamont, Peggy & Alan
Osaisen

MEMORIALS

Fukuman, Thomas
Esther Nagao - 1st year
Matsushino Family
In memory of Darlene Matsushino

SHOTSUKI

Chan, Katherine
Cyr, Gerald
Mem of Gloria T. Bucol
Fujimoto, Kayoko
September Shotsuki
Fukuman, Thomas
Mem of Esther Nagao - 1st year
Hashimoto, Karen
Mem of Ruth Shigematsu Kosut - 25th year
Hirota, Dennis
November Shotsuki
Hoshide Family, Norma
Mem of Ito Nishimoto
Kaneshige, Don & Clare
Mem of Masuji Idehara
Kano, Betty
Mem of Elsie Ogata
Kaplan, Gay & Harvey
Mem of Toshiro Minamoto
Kaplan, Gay & Harvey
Mem of Kaoru Umeki
Katayama, Christine, Dennis & Lyn
Mem of Harry Katayama
Kawaguchi, Scott
Mem of Alan Neishi
Kawaguchi, Scott
Mem of Gary Matsumoto
Kawata, Jean
Mem of Setsuko Furuta
Kido, Robert & Teri
Minamoto, Edwin & Mabel
Mem of Toshiro Minamoto
Minamoto, John
Mem of Toshiro Minamoto
Minamoto, John
Mem of Kaoru Umeki
Minamoto, Linda
Mem of Toshiro Minamoto
Mitsuda, Ken & Jane
Mem of Toshio Mitsuda
Mitsuda, Mary Hatsuko
Mem of Toshio Mitsuda - 33rd year
Mori Sam & Helen
Mem of Satsuki Abe
Neishi, Lynne
Mem of Alan Neishi, Moe Neishi
Okano, Doris
Mem of George Richard Okano
Okano, Susan
Mem of George Richard Okano
Ozawa, Ed & Lucy
Sekigahama, Janet
Mem of Yuzuchi Hashimoto, Robert Sekigahama
Shigematsu, Diane
Mem of Ruth Shigematsui Kosut - 25th year
Shimamura, Sachiko
Mem of Shigeru Shimamura
Tamori, Bob
Mem of Rowena Nakagawa
Tani, Ed
Mem of Matsuye Tani - 7th year
Taniguchi Family , Gary & Teresa
Mem of Marie Taniguchi
Umeki Greenside, Donna & Mark
Mem of Kaoru Umeki, Spencer Umeki
Umeki Greenside, Donna & Mark
Mem of Tomiko Minamoto, Toshiro Minamoto, Yuki Minamoto
Wilson, Naomi
Wong, Nancy & Roger
Mem of Masako Sakaki
Yamamoto, Bruce & Cindy
Mem of Nancy Yamamoto
Yokomizo Family, Sally
Mem of Shichiro Yokomizo

NOVEMBER 2026

HOST 11: LYMAN HOLLINS

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
01 10:00 am Shotsuki Memorial Service In person & online 11:15 am OBWA Card Workshop & Hanko Sale	**02**	**03**	**04** 7:00 pm Board of Directors Meeting	**05** 10:00 am Momijikai 10:00 am REACH West Issei Kaikan 6:30 pm Japanese Language School	**06**	**07** 9:30 am Japanese Language School
08 10:00 am Dharma Family Service In person & online 11:30 am OBWA Meeting	**09**	**10**	**11**	**12** 10:00 am REACH West Issei Kaikan 11:00 am Concord Howakai 6:30 pm Japanese Language School	**13**	**14** 9:30 am Japanese Language School 1:00 pm Ikebana Issei Kaikan
15 10:00 am Eitaikyo Service In person & online 11:15 am Otoki Lunch	**16**	**17** 7:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting	**18** 7:00 pm FOMC Meeting (Facilities Operations & Maintenance Committee)	**19** 10:00 am Momijikai 10:00 am REACH West Issei Kaikan 6:30 pm Japanese Language School	**20** Busshin Articles Due	**21** 9:30 am Japanese Language School 1:00 pm Study Class
22 10:00 am Dharma School Service In person & online	**23**	**24**	**25**	**26** Thanksgiving Holiday Office Closed	**27** Thanksgiving Holiday Office Closed	**28** No Japanese Language School
29 No Service	**30**					

DECEMBER 2026

HOST 1: GARY TOMINAGA

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		01	**02**	**03**	**04**	**05**
			7:00 pm Board of Directors Meeting	10:00 am Momijikai 10:00 am REACH West Issei Kaikan 6:30 pm Japanese Language School		9:30 am Japanese Language School
06	**07**	**08**	**09**	**10**	**11**	**12**
10:00 am Bodhi Day Service In person & online 10:45 am Shotsuki Memorial Service In person & online OBWA Bonenkai Luncheon				10:00 am REACH West Issei Kaikan 6:30 pm Japanese Language School		9:30 am Japanese Language School 1:00 pm Ikebana Issei kaikan
13	**14**	**15**	**16**	**17**	**18**	**19**
Mochitsuki Holiday Boutique		7:00 pm Finance Committee Meeting 7:00 PM	7:00 pm FOMC Meeting (Facilities Operations & Maintenance Committee)	10:00 am REACH West Issei Kaikan 6:30 pm Japanese Language School		9:30 am Japanese Language School
20	**21**	**22**	**23**	**24**	**25**	**26**
No Service				10:00 am REACH West Issei Kaikan	Holiday Office Closed	
27	**28**	**29**	**30**	**31**		
No Service				2:00 pm New Year's Eve Service		