

CHOP SUEY

As we approach summer, we end the month of May observing Memorial Day by recognizing those who have given unselfishly for others. This edition of "Chop Suey" briefly highlights ongoing activities, pay homage to those who served our country, recognize two important people and end with a parable of common reality.

Japan Earthquake and Tsunami Relief Fund

On April 21st, Placer Buddhist Church (PBC) turned in \$24,000 to Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) in support of the Japanese victims of the March 11 earthquake and tsunami. BCA has collected \$949,000 from all of its temples and will continue doing so through August 31st. Thank you to all who have donated to this cause.

8th Annual PBC Golf Tournament

This year's golf tournament was a resounding success with 161 players teeing it up at Lincoln Hills Golf Club. As usual the banquet following the event served up great food and drink, an upbeat Taiko performance and lots of raffle prizes. Next year's event will be a special one tying it with PBC's 110 year anniversary. We hope to have as a special guest, Reverend Torimi, who started the annual golf tournament. See the separate article about the golf tournament in this bulletin.

Relay for Life

PBC's participation in Loomis' first Relay for Life was a heart warming experience for our members who participated in this event sponsored by the American Cancer Society. Through the leadership of Helene Nakamura, Glen Matsuoka and Rene' Yamashiro, PBC's participants raised over \$3,000 for this worthy event. A special thank you to the 45+ walkers who participated.

Reno Howakai

Last month was my first experience making the trek to Reno attending the service held for Jodo Shinshu members in that area. The beautiful temple now used for its monthly services has wonderful acoustics and a convenient basement for its activities. We were treated to delicious food and refreshments by its members after the service. Of course, the pit stop at the Peppermill Casino was a necessity which eased the "white knuckle" drive home through rain and fog. If you have not participated in a Reno Howakai trip, it is truly a rewarding experience.

Harmonicoots Concert

"Gabriel, come blow your horn!" Sixty senior citizens including temple members Rev. Aoyama, Bob Takemoto and Julie Iso gave an enjoyable performance playing their harmonicas to familiar tunes. Attendees were even singing along and dancing to their music. If you get a chance next year, see them perform at Sun City Roseville.

"Duty, Honor, Country"

These words, spoken by the late General Douglas MacArthur during a commencement ceremony at the U.S. Military Academy, symbolize the ideals binding our military officers. However, I believe all soldiers who have given their lives for our country in time of war were committed to this belief, regardless of rank. This is especially true for our Nisei who served in the 442nd Regimental Combat Team and the 100th Infantry Battalion during World War II as they proved their loyalty to our country. So, come Monday, May 30th when we observe Memorial Day, please pause for a moment from your busy schedule to honor those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice for us.

Gravesite Beautification

Also associated with Memorial Day is gravesite beautification by our Dharma School students and parents at the Newcastle Cemetery. Please join them on Sunday, May 29th (around 11:30 AM) as they spruce up the graves of Japanese community members. Flowers are greatly appreciated.

"Onolicious"

Sushi, nishime, kimpira gobo and other delicious Japanese traditional foods – wouldn't it be great if you knew how to prepare them at home? Our BWAi members will be exploring the idea of having classes/demonstrations in preparing these foods as an effort not only to stir interest but to preserve this important tradition. Hopefully, you'll hear more on this topic soon.

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Kitchen Queen

Have you ever been in our kitchen around bazaar time or at our New Year's Party? With many workers scurrying around preparing all the tasty food, there is one constant – someone we call the “kitchen queen.” As long as many of us can remember, “Spring” Yamamoto has been in the kitchen directing others as we gear for these big events. She is always there from the wee hours of morning to clean-up, making sure that the vegetables are cut correctly, the rice flavored to perfection, the food presented beautifully and of course, nothing left to chance. The kitchen would be amiss without Spring's presence. To insure that Spring's expertise is not lost as she “slowly” retires from her position, Martha Kubo has assumed the role of Kitchen Princess – learning from the master and hopefully documenting important recipes. Anyone know why the nickname “Spring?”

Jedi Master

Former PBC president, chief rice cooker, head of our grounds committee, cherry tree grove caretaker.....these are some of the responsibilities that Nob Hamasaki has undertaken while an active member of our sangha. Like a true master technician, he has carefully instructed those who are assuming his duties (including myself) on correctly performing the tasks on hand. Even at age 90 Nob's presence is still visible at bazaar time. He can be seen riding the lawn mower, covered with dust and dirt, with strands of dried grass covering his head like a new crop of hair -- truly a sight to see! Nob, you can relax and enjoy the fruits of your labor because you have left your duties in good hands.

I hope that you enjoyed reading this edition of “Chop Suey.” Thank you.

Gary Hongo