

San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin

2024 Annual Report
November 2023-October 2024



Mission Statement

Be a community of peace, happiness and understanding by sharing and practicing Buddhist teachings.



Vision Statement

We are striving to create an inclusive environment of unconditional acceptance, respect and gratitude where we honor the past, appreciate the present, build for the future, and learn to engage in a life of compassionate action.



San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin
640 North 5th Street
San Jose, CA 95112
501(c)(3) non-profit organization • Tax ID 94-1658611



Summary

The San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin (SJBCB) made great strides in resuming in-person activities that had been on hiatus or curtailed since early 2020 due to the COVID outbreak. Resumption of social gatherings and celebrations - such as the New Year's luncheon and Keiro Kai - and the introduction of new activities (weekly pickleball sessions) emphasized the importance of the SJBCB to church members and the local community. New friendships were made and old friendships strengthened as the SJBCB supported not only its own Sangha but also those encountering unexpected hardships (temples in Lahaina, HI; Seattle, WA; and Watsonville, CA).

2025 promises to be an exciting and busy year as momentum for the new Dharma Center grows. We are planning to break ground in late-2025! The Dharma Center is a new 11,000 sq-ft, state-of-the-art, two-story building that will replace the existing Education building. The building will provide more facility space and serve as a new home to the Lotus Preschool, Dharma School, and Japanese Language School. The Dharma Center is expected to rejuvenate the landscape of San Jose Japantown.

The SJBCB Board of Directors continues to evaluate new strategies to insure solvency of the temple well into the future.

This report includes:

- Key 2024 activities and events
- Dharma Center status and plans
- Financial summary and expectations for 2025

- List of Board members, ministers, office staff, and consultants

Highlights from Nov 2023 - Oct 2024

- We celebrated and honored Reiko Iwanaga for her 25+ years as lead Obon Odori instructor.
- New Year's Day luncheon - first one in 4 years!
- Super Bowl Party - first one in 5 years!
- Buddhist Women's Association (BWA) delivered 4 carloads of food to the San Jose State Student Food Pantry.
- After a 4-year break, BWA resumed their Botamochi and Chirashi fundraiser.
- Our inaugural One Sangha lunch was such a big success, we decided to have two every year from now on.
- Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) National Council Meeting met in person for the first time in 4 years. Our own Sumi Tanabe was awarded the BCA Lifetime Achievement Award! Sumi is only the 5th person - and the first woman - to have received this award. Congratulations Sumi!
- We hosted several fundraisers and sent funds to the Lahaina Hongwanji.
- Our Coast District BWA members did an outstanding job coordinating and hosting the BCA Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations Conference in San Jose.
- We celebrated Sumi Tanabe's many accomplishments at a special lunch, attended by many whom she has mentored and inspired.

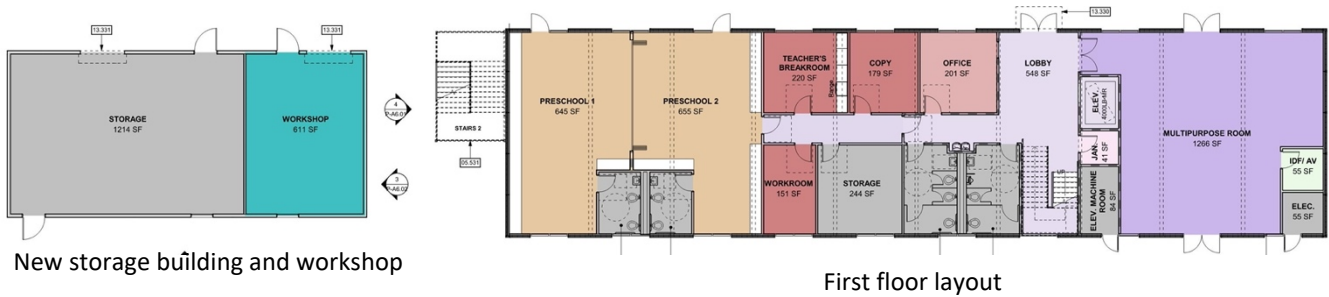


Highlights from 2024 (continued)

- We teamed with Yu Ai Kai, Wesley United Methodist Church, and Nikkei Matsuri Foundation to host a community Keiro Kai for 250+ people.
- We hosted 3 Techno Hoyo services, sponsored by the BCA and led by a guest minister from Japan. The services comprised chanting to electronic beats and stunning light displays in a darkened Hondo.
- Our Junior YBA membership continued to grow and is now the largest Jr.YBA in the BCA. We were the largest group to attend the Central Coast Conference.
- Our Scouting groups hosted fundraisers for their trips/activities (e.g., Maui trip, Thinking Day) while supporting many church events - thank you Scouts!
- Attendance at Lotus Pre-School and Japanese Language School returned nearly to pre-COVID levels.
- For the first time, we expanded our Obon Festival space to include Jackson Street in order to be more inclusive of Japantown businesses. We had over 2700 dancers during the weekend - a new record!

Dharma Center - Plans for 2025

Since approximately 2010, plans have evolved to replace the aging Education Building. The new \$16M, 11,000 sq-ft building, known as the Dharma Center, will contain a multi-purpose room, library/media center, conference room, and outdoor space adjacent to the building. Fundraising for the Dharma Center began in earnest in 2020 and continued through the building approval process with the City of San Jose. With approximately \$11M raised to date from generous donors and many fundraisers by SJBCB organizations, aggressive fundraising in 2025 is needed to close the \$5M gap. Ground breaking is expected in late-2025.



The Phase II Building Committee (focused on interfacing with the architect, builders, and city), the Fund Development Committee (focused on fundraising, high-level strategy), and the Marketing/Communication Committee (focused on outreach to the Sangha and community) have a number of activities and tasks planned for 2025, including:

- Re-vamping the Dharma Center website
- Briefing community organizations on the role of the Dharma Center as a community center
- Hosting and leveraging events to raise awareness - and funds - for the Dharma Center

Completing the Dharma Center requires the immediate support of the entire Sangha. Your donation to the Dharma Center is an investment in the long-term viability of the SJBCB. Please help us reach the finish line by donating now.

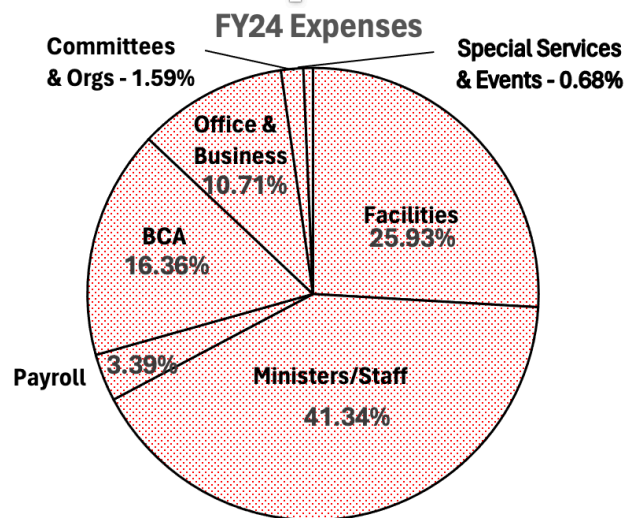
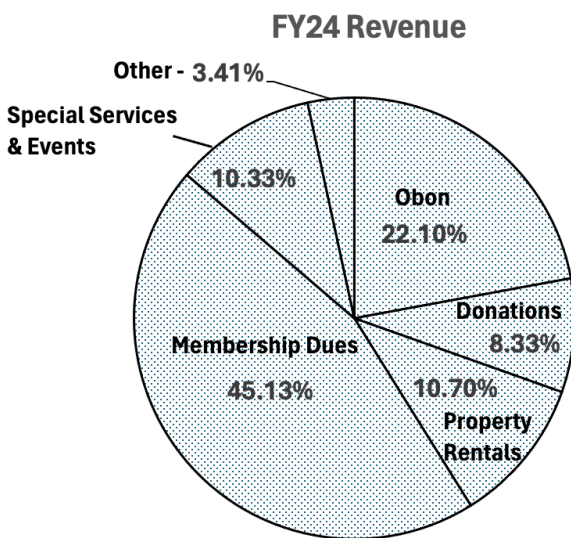
Financial Summary and Plans for 2025

In FY24, total revenue was approximately \$785.5K and total expenses were approximately \$975.3K, leaving a deficit of roughly \$189.8K which was balanced using budget reserves. The sources for revenue and expenses are shown in the unaudited charts below. Increased compensation to payroll, refrigeration repairs, and other one-time maintenance costs contributed to the deficit.

Revenue streams and expenses for FY25 are being reviewed. Obon revenue is

expected to increase in FY25. Outreach efforts to increase the number of dues-paying members is already underway. Membership dues will increase by 8.3% - the first increase in over 10 years. Rental fees for temple facilities and properties will increase modestly.

Additional strategies are being developed by the Board of Directors to balance future budgets through increased revenue and reduced spending, and to build reserves to cover future capital outlays.



We are SJCB – Working together to help others



Executive Board

Larry Handa President
 Paul Endo VP - Finance
 Kevin Kitagawa VP - Communication
 Mas Nishimura VP - Programs
 Steve Onishi VP - Operations

Office Staff

Randy Suzuki Office Manager
 Deborah Aso Facility Coordinator
 Diane Fujioka Bookkeeper
 Cindy Aragaki Clerical Assistant
 Kelvin Kamachi Night Security

Board Members

Karen Akimoto Cathy Pike
 Dennis Akizuki David Tsukimura
 Janice Doi Lisa Tsuchitani
 Amy Lin Furukawa Lisa Usuki
 Joyce Iwasaki Jacque Yamaguchi
 Mae Kawamoto Gloria Yamauchi
 Edward Nodohara

Weekend Staff

Doris Hong Richard Shinagawa
 WOS Supervisor
 Eric Ching Robin Shinagawa
 Hunter Masamitsu Hitomi Kohno
 (Seasonal)
 Kimi Nakajima

Consultants

Mitch Beutler Website
 Michael Charney Spectrum PMG
 Dharma Center Project
 Management
 Derek Fujikawa Fujikawa & Associate
 Payroll Tax Assistance
 Matt Fukuchi getFIT InfoTech
 IT Support
 Dean Osaki Osaki Consulting
 Group
 Fundraising Consultant
 Gene Takagi New Law Group
 Legal Affairs

Komon (Senior Advisors) Members

Shiz Hanada Ray Matsumoto
 Allan Hikoyeda Georgia Sakai
 Al Hironaga Sumi Tanabe
 Sus Ikeda Bob Terasaki

Ministerial Staff

Rinban Minister's Assistant
 Gerald Sakamoto Reverend
 Michael Jones
 Reverend Minister's Assistant
 Etsuko Mikame Dennis Akizuki
 Minister's Assistant
 Sumi Tanabe

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