



By Todd Fukuda

The 2009 year is coming to a close and the Vision and Preservation (V & P) Committee continues to “Harmoniously promote and preserve a thriving sangha” through trips, activities, lectures and services. Though it seems like our CCDC churches are barely sustaining congregations, the V & P committee has provided Shin Buddhist and those interested in Shin Buddhism activities to draw them to the Dharma and to the church.

Through 2009 the V & P Committee continued the combined services as we had in the past years. The first combined service was hosted by Visalia in December where the Fowler Choir sang beautifully and Rev. Rye gave a great Dharma talk where it was the first time for many of the non-Fresno members to hear Rev. Rye and learn about his awesome cat Gato. On February 1st, in which we call the Superbowl Service, The V & P Committee held its second combined service in Reedley where it was great to see a thriving dharma school present to listen to Chris Tange, Dr. Don Yoshimura and Dr. Gary Mukai speak of the most peculiar topic of “Dharma in the Movies,” and yes, we were finished by the kickoff of the Superbowl. And for this year the last service before given this report was held on May 2nd hosted by Fowler where Minister’s Assistant Jon Turner of Orange County gave a very informative dharma talk on how he and his family were drawn to Buddhism and how the church kept him active in the church, a talk everybody of the BCA should listen to. Of course I would be negligent in my reporting if I did not mention that after every service the tobas of each church provided snack foods which rivaled most Las Vegas buffets. As 2009 ends we have had great dharma speakers, great music and great food, so the V & P committee invites all those reading this to come and experience the V & P combined services.

One of the more popular ways we are trying to grow our active sangha is with great activities providing fellowship, laughs and a change of scenery. The V & P Committee hosts a yearly bus trip to new a place every year, well so far we haven’t had any repeats. This year the committee organized a trip to Los Angeles that was a day packed full of dharma, culture and shopping, yes ladies, SHOPPING. The day started at the LA Hampa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, then the group went to the Japanese-American National Museum and Japan Town, and finally the bus went to Marukai for shopping. The 2009 year was a year to bring back the midnight golf tournament in which golfers risked their pride and gave up their sight for a fun nite of golf, pizza and of course laughs. And for the committee the last major event was the Baby Boomers Conference hosted by the Fowler Church. At the conference Gordon AhTye provided his great musical talents, Rev. Bob Oshita gave a great Dharma talk during an opening service and held a group session about Dharma for Boomers, Curtis Koga held a session on nostalgia and Karen Sakata gave a session of caregivers. At the end of the Baby Boomers Conference a dinner luau gave nourishment for hours of dancing provided by Rick Ideta. The V & P committee hopes that

these activities brought new members, brought back old members and allowed all to have fun with the Dharma. Once again, if you are reading this and are intrigued, the V&P Committee invites you to join us in our activities.

As we hold services and provide activities we must also spread the Dharma. The V & P committee has supported many outside committee activities such as the movies Fowler showed, *The Cats Of Mirikitani* and *Toyo's Camera*, the CCDC Nembutsu Seminar, Rev. Rye's Buddhism classes, pizza and beer night at Gary Mukai's house, Curtis Koga's talk sessions at Parlier, Fresno Betuin's Spring and Fall Ohigan Lecture Series and the V & P committee provided funding for CCDC members to attend the Techno Buddha seminar at the Jodo Shinshu Center. The V & P committee participated in the Fresno City College Asian Fest providing literature, wristbands and a chance to ring the kansho to all those interested in our religion and culture. The V & P is proud of helping out the formation of the new CCYBA which was formerly the Ondogyo, in which we are providing something to those who are between college age and mid-late thirties. The Committee is proud to be able to help spread the Dharma across the valley by being active whenever and wherever our committee can.

The future of our committee includes the traditional V & P combined services in which we have already planned the December service with Rev. Marvin Harada in Fresno. The committee has confirmed our next bus trip will be an overnigher to San Jose to participate in the 750th service. And who knows what is going to be new for the V & P Committee, if you have any ideas let us know.

For the V & P Committee, 2009 has been very busy but at the same time it has been very productive toward our mission statement making everything worth the time and effort.