



SACRAMENTO DHARMA CENTER
BUDDHA'S WISDOM & COMPASSION IN COMMUNITY

Summer 2019 News

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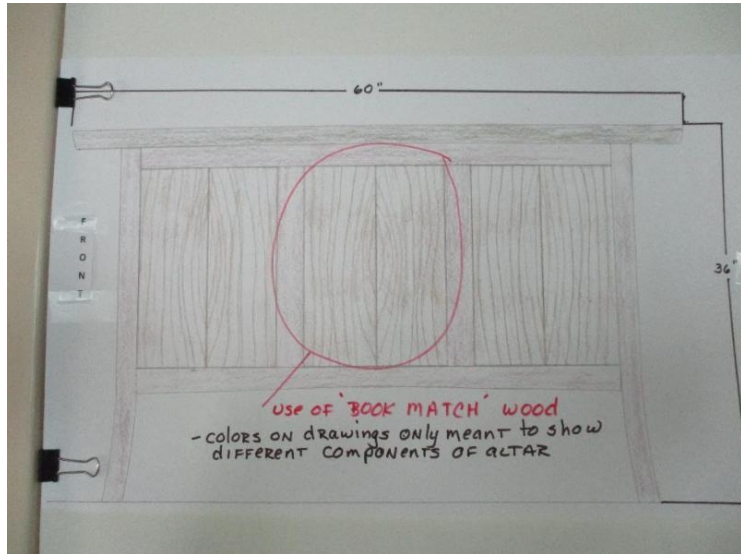
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Greetings!

The Dharma of an Altar



Design Detail of Front of Altar

For a clearer view, please see all the original drawings in the South Lobby

A message from the Altar Committee:

Almost from the first day the Sacramento Dharma Center (SDC) opened its doors, representatives of the three sanghas have been meeting to manifest a gift. This is a rather special gift, for it symbolizes our sanghas coming together into a permanent and historical home. The sanghas choose to symbolize our interdependence through gifting an altar and teacher table to the Dharma Center.

The South Lobby displays the Altar Committee's rendition of the altar. The Committee is working with a local custom woodcrafter, Robert Beauchamp, to

transform this rendition with native California wood.

The Altar Committee welcomes comments on this project. Come to our July 21st meeting at 5 p.m. in the boardroom at SDC. You can always leave a written comment at the display.

Additional Note: At the July 21st meeting, there will be a brief presentation and then the meeting will be opened up for comments. The meeting is open to everyone who wishes to comment on the plans for and cost of the proposed altar.

Did you know that The Dharma Center depends almost entirely on volunteers to clean, maintain, and staff the Center? Come to every last Sunday morning of the month for work day to help out. And for more information on volunteering, contact sacdharma.org

Thank You, Julia



Julia in the SDC library

Sacramento Dharma Center would like to give a deep bow to Julia Mullen for all her years of hard work on its behalf, including stints as secretary, vice president, and president. In March 2019 she left the board after over four years of service. Barbara Colton is now her very capable replacement as president.

Julia is a fun person, a fact that doesn't get in the way of her being a thorough and serious problem solver. She's always had a vision of the Center as a place to have fun, a clubhouse for those interested in the dharma. Her enthusiasm and eagerness still come through as she works to make the SDC library into a cool hangout.

Julia, whose home sangha is SBMG, was part of a second wave of volunteers who joined the board in late 2014 after the attempt to purchase a property on B Street fell through. After the board took stock, Julia helped develop a strategic plan and timeline to fulfill the goal of purchasing a shared center for the three sanghas. She was there for the many tours of prospective properties, the ultimately successful bid to purchase 3111 Wissemann Drive, and the long remodeling and permitting process. She played a lead role in the Envisioning process to develop plans for SDC's building and grounds.

As Julia explains it, she was “an accidental president.” She became vice president at the request of President Susan Orr, who just needed someone to “sign papers.” But as Susan began stepping back due to health problems in early 2018, Julia increasingly took on the role of acting president, until she was formally elected in March 2018.

When asked, she said that during her time as president, the most serious issue she faced was developing a policy governing the participation of registered sex offenders at SDC. On the other hand, the weirdest issue she faced as president was the episode of Dharma Cat—the attempt to trap the black and white resident of the grounds, only to mistakenly catch a raccoon and an orange cat, and then be castigated by a reader of the neighborhood news for feeding a feral cat.

Sharing a building with three sanghas with three traditions is the greatest challenge facing SDC, according to Julia. “How do we reconcile the needs of our different sanghas? That is our challenge, and it will always be a challenge.” Coming from a very large family, she has insight into the dynamics of living and getting along together. “Like any family, we have our disfunctions.” But, she adds, “the Dharma Center has an incredibly bright and beautiful present that should carry into the future—and it’s a great place to play.”

What is next for her? She will continue to be involved as facilitator of the altar committee and as a volunteer at the SDC library. She feels that volunteerism is “an essential food for the soul” and also hopes to find a program in the community where she can read to children.

SDC Board Meetings

Meetings of the Sacramento Dharma Center Board of Directors are open to the public and usually take place on the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at SDC (The July 2019 meeting will take place on July 31st).

There are several ways to give input to the SDC Board—Contact your sangha’s board, contact an SDC board member, or sign up to address the SDC Board. To sign up for a three-minute speaking slot at a meeting of the SDC Board, please contact us at least 24 hours before the meeting at sacdharma.org, or get in touch with any SDC board member.

Sacramento Dharma Center Directors are: Barbara Colton (SIM), Bob Jenne (SIM), Joe Countryman (SBMG), Kenny Bender (VSZS), Larry Smith (VSZS), Angela Scarlett (At-Large), Sue Taylor (At-Large), and Diane Wilde (At-Large). SIM=Sacramento Insight Meditation, SBMG=Sacramento Buddhist Meditation Group, VSZS=Valley Streams Zen Sangha

Rummage Sale Success



Vicki, an unidentified guitar player, and Linda at sale

The rummage sale on June 15, 2019 was a big success, earning \$1,289! Thanks to everyone who donated items for the sale and to volunteers Kathy, Karen, Jerry, Kenny (and sons), Joette, Jaana, Vicki, John, Valerie, and Trish. And a big, big hand to Supreme Rummage Sale Leader Linda Dekker for making it all happen.

Join the Sustaining Circle today and support our mission to provide a home for meditation and Buddha's teachings, welcoming everyone who seeks to end suffering and live in harmony.

[Contribute](#)

Inside and Outside



Our newest raised-bed garden boxes.

Lots of improvements are happening inside and outside at SDC:

Raised Beds—Four custom-built redwood garden boxes are now in place in the backyard--and one already has flowers growing. Recently a drip irrigation system was installed for efficient, automatic watering. In the coming months, boards will be added to the top edges of the garden boxes so people can sit while gardening or resting.

South Lobby Redesign—Plans for new shoe racks that double as benches have been approved and work will start soon. Woodworking will be generously donated by carpenter Steve White.

Audio Improvements—A better clip-on (lavalier) microphone for the Meditation Hall is being tested out. Also, a fourth speaker was added to the rear/north side of the room to eliminate acoustic dead spots. Plus, a new box is being installed behind the wall to be able to connect a wired microphone closer to the altar.

Library Shelves—Custom wooden shelves held up by metal brackets that attach directly into the brick wall of the library are in place. SDC's vast collection of Buddhist books is in the process of being taken out of storage and reshelved.

Poetry Corner

At the June 10th Valley Streams Zen Sangha meeting, attendees were invited to write a poem, in the haiku style, about a delight that they had experienced in their daily life. This practice was inspired by a book by Ross Gay called The Book of Delights. The following is a shortened version of the linked poem that was produced. Thanks to Linda Dekker for guiding the writing session.

Tea cup waiting every morning.
The sound of spoon on fired clay,
grateful for another day.

Wind chimes in the east side,
tree rustles jasmine.
Sun through window slats,
awake on the cushion.

Humming bird helicopter wings,
Now you see me,
now you gone.

Old friends are the best,
let's get together soon.
We're still the same yet different.

Night drive
Stand outside, calling,
wait, listen,
one meowing running two, three, four...
five.
Welcome home.

Aphorisms by Millard Votteri

A most opportune moment for insight is
during moments of frustration.

Please keep in mind
the day has 24
perishable hours

[Visit our Website](#)

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