



ONENESS

Buddhist Church of Florin



December 2023

Volume 12



This year has flown by! This is our last newsletter of 2023. I hope everyone had a great year.

The last service of the year is the New Year's Eve service on December 31st. This year, I am happy to ring the New Year's Eve bell together with all of you.

In the New Year's Eve service, we have a tradition of ringing the bell 108 times. The origin of this number, "108", is known as "the number of human blind passions." In Buddhism, this is how we arrive at 108: Humans have six senses: their eyes, ears, nose, tongue, body, and mind. After humans receive information, it is divided into 3 categories: good, normal, and bad. Then these categories are again divided into "clean and dirty". Adding these up, $6 \times 3 \times 2 = 36$. Since these things occur in the past, present, and future, we multiply the 36 by 3 to equal 108. This is the origin of the number 108. We ring the bell to recognize the number of different feelings (blind passions) we humans have.

Another reason for ringing the bell 108 times is "gratitude for the passing year" and "for the new year." I hope next year will be wonderful for all of you. I look forward to seeing you at the event in 2024!



木 (Tree) → 森 (Forest)
車 (Car) → 轟 (???)

The kanji "木(Ki)" has the meaning a tree. If "木 (Ki)" come together 3, it becomes one letter "森(Mori)", which means forest. So, what does it mean when the kanji "車 (Kuruma)" which means "a car" come together 3? The answer will be announced in the next newsletter.

Gassho
Namo Amida Butsu
Rev. Noritaka Imada

If you need to contact Rev. Imada, you can email him at: imadabca@gmail.com

December Monthly Memorial (Shotsuki Hoyo) Service

The monthly memorial service for those who passed away during the month of December will be held on **Sunday, December 10, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.** The persons who are noted in the Buddhist Church of Florin's (BCF) memorial records as having passed away in the month of December are listed below. If you have a homyo (Buddhist name) on a card, please bring it with you for placement on the onajin (altar) before the service. If the year 2023 is a special service year (see table) for a dearly departed love one, please contact Reverend Noritaka Imada, Buddhist Church of Florin at 916-383-1831 or email imadabca@gmail.com to make special memorial arrangements. Please inform Lois Kashiwase of any corrections or additions to the list.

Baishiki, Teruo	12-05-1995	Nishi, Shizuo	12-09-1963
Chono, Toshiharu	12-06-1931	Nishikawa, Agnes Yoshie	12-18-2016
Chono, Tsuya	12-04-1929	Nishikawa, George Tsutomu	12-21-2011
Fujii, Roy	12-06-1946	Noda, George	12-02-2001
Furukawa, Wakano	12-02-1981	Oda, Ritsu	12-20-1958
Fuwa, Riichi	12-19-2017	Ohta, Koume	12-23-1964
Hirohata, Kotaro	12-30-1952	Okigawa, Akizo	12-05-1919
Hiroshima, Ushi	12-12-1920	Sakaoka, Frank	12-17-1984
Inouye, Oscar Asao	12-07-1996	Sano, Masako	12-08-1956
Inouye, Shihei	12-16-1957	Sasada, Iwao Joe	12-09-1973
Ishikawa, Kantaro	12-20-1920	Sekiguchi, Fumio	12-28-1986
Ito, Eigo	12-29-1957	Senda, Shigeo	12-23-1924
Ito, Kazuo	12-27-1995	Shiidani, Seiji	12-25-1902
Iwata, Shozaburo	12-19-1920	Shimoda, Yoshio	12-22-1926
Kanemoto, Amy Emiko	12-10-2012	Sonoda, Thomas Tsugio	12-20-2016
Kanenaga, Tetsuo	12-13-1974	Sunahara, Kumeji	12-15-1960
Kato, Harumi	12-03-2000	Takeda, Jessie Sachiko	12-04-2018
Kodama, Isao	12-17-1928	Takeoka, Yoshi	12-08-1955
Kodama, Sumiye	12-20-1919	Taniguchi, Masao	12-28-1922
Kono, Allan	12-02-2005	Taniguchi, Takezo	12-16-1941
Kumamoto, Marcella	12-29-1989	Tokumura, Tomi	12-11-1968
Kurima, Tatsue	12-06-1924	Tomono, Akio	12-28-2001
Maruki, Satsu	12-12-1918	Tsukamoto, Bill Tadashi	12-07-2000
Maruki, Stillborn	12-11-1918	Tsukamoto, Masashi	12-29-1925
Matsui, Carole Teruko	12-10-2017	Tsukamoto, Yoshio	12-22-2010
Matsui, Jim	12-16-2012	Uno, Hiroko	12-25-1972
Miyao, George Yoshihiro, III	12-18-1969	Wakabayashi, Sumiko	12-31-1989
Miyoshi, Kikue	12-10-1919	Watanabe, Yuriko	12-24-2010
Murakami, Tatsuzo	12-08-1985	Yamamoto, Calvin Akio	12-28-2017
Nakao, Bob Goro	12-20-2005	Yamamura, Hyakutaro	12-24-1948
Nakao, Teruko Marion	12-09-2011	Yamanaka, Joe T	12-29-2000
Nakashima, Aileen Y.	12-25-2004	Yamaoka, Violet S	12-05-2003
Nakatani, Kikuyo	12-27-1990	Yasukawa, Mary	12-12-2009
Nakatani, Kinjiro	12-26-1957		

2023 Memorial Service Schedule

Please schedule a service if your loved ones passed away in the following years:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Service</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Service</u>
2022	1 st Year	1999	25 th Year
2021	3 rd Year	1991	33 rd Year
2017	7 th Year	1974	50 th Year
2011	13 th Year	1924	100 th Year
2007	17 th Year		

CONDOLENCES

The Buddhist Church of Florin extends its deepest sympathies and condolences to the family members of the loved one that left our midst to be with Amida Buddha.

NAMO AMIDA BUTSU

ALLEN FUJII

March 1, 1943 to October 22, 2023

Please join us for Sunday Service

**Bodhi Day; December Shotsuki Hoyo
and Family Service
Guest Speaker Rev. Etsuko Mikame
Sunday, December 10, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.**

**New Year's Eve Service
Sunday, December 31, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.**

*New Year's Day Service
Monday, January 1, 2024 at 10 a.m.*

Officiating Minister: Rev. Noritaka Imada

There will be a light luncheon following the church service and so in order to prepare enough for everyone, we ask that you please rsvp to florinbuddhist@gmail.com. Thank you!!

****The front gates may be locked 15 minutes after the start of scheduled services and/or activities. Thank you.**

In the event of a change, we will post the updates on our website, Facebook page and send out a message to our email list.

BODHI DAY SERVICE



The Bodhi Day Service is when Prince Siddhartha “awakened” from a life blinded by ignorance and was “reborn” into an enlightened life as Sakyamuni Buddha.

Siddhartha Gautama meditated under the Bodhi Tree (Tree of Enlightenment) and on the morning of the 49th day he became the Buddha, perfect in Wisdom and Compassion. This historic event took place on December 8th as the first faint light of day began to glow in the eastern sky. By his example, he showed us that it was possible for human beings to become a Buddha, which is a fully enlightened person. Therefore, we are in possession of this potentiality called Buddha-nature, which awakened and cultivated, will enable us to achieve supreme Wisdom and Compassion.

Please join us on Sunday, December 10, 2023, for the Bodhi Day Service and December Shotsuki Hoyo at 10:00 AM

Guest Speaker: Rev. Etsuko Mikame, San Jose Betsuin

Officiating Minister: Rev. Noritaka Imada.

NEW YEAR’S EVE SERVICE

Please join us for Omisoka (New Year’s Eve) Service on December 31, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

As customary at the New Year’s Eve Service, we will ring the Kansho 108 times to ring out 2023 and welcome the 2024 new year!

Following the service, our BWA ladies will be preparing Toshikoshi Soba the traditional Japanese noodle bowl dish eaten on omisoka (New Year’s Eve). The soba symbolizes “breaking off the old year.” Their thin, long shape is also synonymous with a long and healthy life.





Banks are becoming stricter about how checks are made payable.

EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY, ALL checks to the temple must be made payable to Buddhist Church of Florin.

(Please do not make your checks payable to BCF, Florin Buddhist Church or any other format other than what is written above.)

The banks can charge BCF a fee for checks written in a different format. If your check is to be directed somewhere specific (such as BWA, Jr. YBA, a special service, memorial donation, fundraiser, etc.), that should be specified in the memo section of your check.



BUDDHIST CHURCH OF FLORIN

P.O. BOX 292006, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95829-2006

November 18, 2023

Dear BCF Sangha:

Early on the morning of November 17, 2023 the Church office was broken into and vandalized. The main damage included broken windows, the mail boxes were broken, and the vault was destroyed. Extra keys, a small amount of cash, and couple of laptops were stolen.

At this time repairs to the broken windows have started. A locksmith has begun rekeying the doors and will be re-coding the key fobs. Additionally, security will be on site from 6:00PM to 6:00 AM effective immediately and will continue as long as is needed. None of this should affect regular church activities.

Special thanks to Margie Sunahara, Lloyd Okimura, Gary Okamoto, and Walter Menda for cleaning-up the mess and putting things back in order.

If you have keys to the church or a key fob, contact Margie Sunahara at misunahara@att.net to receive a new one. In the meantime, I ask for your patience as we work through this situation.

Thank you,

Eric Fujii, President
Buddhist Church of Florin

SANGHA INSIGHTS

This month we are kicking off “Sangha Insights” featuring different BCF members. Our minister, Reverend Noritake Imada , kindly agreed to be the first to share a bit of his background, family, and varied interests with us. By Elizabeth Fujii



Rev. Noritaka Imada was born and raised in Hiroshima, Japan. His grandfather, grandmother, and father served as ministers in the Hiroshima Temple. He has a younger sister, is married and has a 5 year old daughter, Emma.

He resided and was educated in Kyoto. During a two-week trip to Nepal and India, he visited Buddha’s path to enlightenment. It was there that he decided to pursue a career as minister and began to focus on improving his English language skills.

While studying English, he moved to the city of Long Beach, California. Rev. Imada learned about BCA at the Los Angeles Betsuin and began his efforts to attain a ministry in the United States. After returning to Japan, he was assigned to the Tsukiji Buddhist Church (located adjacent to the famous fish market in

Tokyo) where he was able to utilize his language skills as an English language guide.

In 2019, Rev. Imada began his first assignment as BCA minister to the Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple where he served for 3 years. Currently, Rev. Imada oversees both the Buddhist Churches of Florin and Lodi.

Rev. Imada plays the guitar and often will accompany the Sangha during Sunday services. He plays beautifully, so it was surprising to learn that he picked-up the instrument around 10 years ago and is completely self-taught. When asked what kinds of music he likes, he said he enjoys Japanese music and then added “the Blues”. He told me that he used to play the Blues on his guitar with homeless on the streets in Los Angeles.

He enjoys some sports, including martial arts and kendo, and likes Munenori Kawasaki, a Japanese baseball shortstop who played with the Toronto Blue Jays and Chicago Cubs. Most importantly, he is actively working to transition from being a Denver Nuggets fan to a Sacramento Kings fan.

Lastly, Rev. Imada shared that he feels strongly in the power of Namu Amida Butsu and is proud to be a part of the rich history of the BCA and the Florin Temple.

2023 Membership Dues

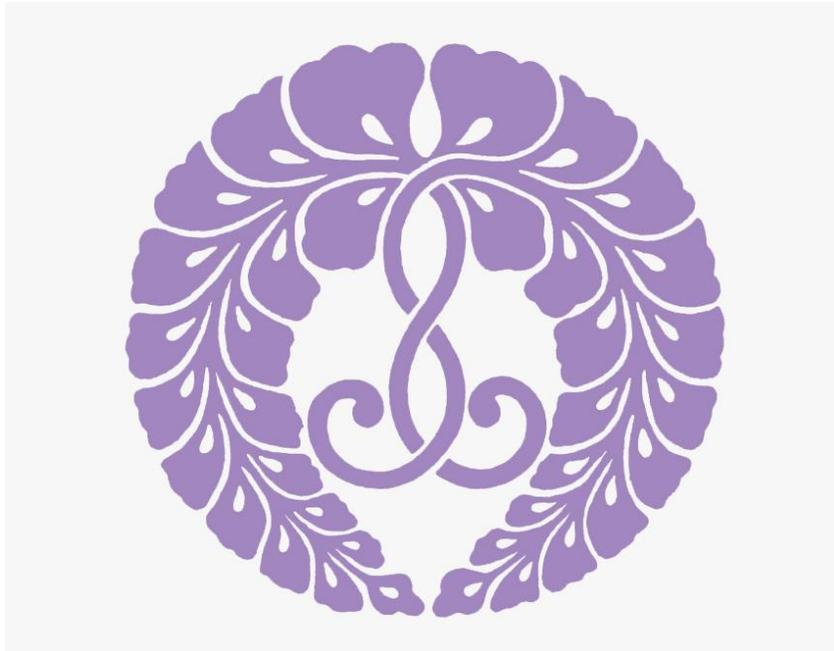
Thank you to the following members for their 2023 membership dues received in October:

Frank Mouton (monthly) Masako Tomono
Burt & Carol Yoshioka (monthly)

Thank you to all temple members who have paid their membership dues, your support is greatly appreciated and helps with the day-to-day operations of the temple. A reminder to those who have not yet submitted their dues payment. We would appreciate your payment as soon as possible.

Please direct membership questions to Susan Takeda at (916) 837-5699 or s.takeda@comcast.net.

If you know someone interested in joining us, please refer them to florinbuddhist.org for more information & the BCF membership form.



2024 MEMBERSHIP FORM

New Member **Name/Adress Change** **Annual Renewal** **Other** _____

_____ Last Name First Name Middle Initial Birthdate
Telephone #

_____ Home Cell **Email**
Spouse

_____ Last Name First Name Middle Initial Birthdate
Telephone #

_____ Cell **Email**
Address

_____ Street City State Zip Code

Children at home under age 25: (List last name if different than above)

_____ Last Name	_____ First Name	_____ Middle Initial	_____ Birthdate	<input type="checkbox"/> Son	<input type="checkbox"/> Daughter
_____	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Son	<input type="checkbox"/> Daughter
_____	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Son	<input type="checkbox"/> Daughter
_____	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Son	<input type="checkbox"/> Daughter

This information will be published in the church directory.

Membership Dues:

- New Member (1st year) \$150 per adult /\$300 couple/family
- New Member Ages 80 - 84 (1st year) \$100 per adult
- New Member Ages 85 and over (1st year) \$ 50 per adult
- Ages 25 - 30 \$100 per person per year
- Ages 31 - 79 \$280 per person per year/\$560 couple/family
- Ages 80 - 84 \$190 per person per year
- Ages 85 or older \$100 per person per year

Check Payment Preference: ___ Annual ___ Semi-Annual ___ Quarterly ___ Monthly (10 payments)

Checks must be made out to BUDDHIST CHURCH OF FLORIN or the bank will return the check.

Check if paying via PayPal: _____ (make sure you put in the PayPal notes, payment is for "membership dues")

Comments: _____

MEMBER'S SIGNATURE: _____

Membership dues are payable/due in January 2024. If joining mid-year, yearly dues are pro-rated for 2024.

For office use: Date: _____ Amt Pd _____ Ck No. _____ Cash _____ Rec'd by: _____ Entered _____

Buddhist Church of Florin
Governing Board Meeting Highlights
November 12, 2023

1. Banks are becoming stricter about how checks are made payable. **Please note that any checks to the temple must be made payable to Buddhist Church of Florin.** The bank can charge BCF a fee for checks written in a different format. If your check is to be directed somewhere specific (such as BWA, a special service, memorial donation, fundraiser, etc.), that should be specified in the Memo section.
2. A BCF-sponsored CPR training session will be held for members Saturday, January 13 at 11 am. Contact Glenn Fujii (gmfujii21@yahoo.com) if interested. We are encouraging representatives of the groups that use BCF facilities to participate in the training.
3. Member profiles will be a new item in the newsletter. Its purpose is to learn more about our diverse membership (including our youth members!) If you'd like to suggest someone to feature, contact Eric Fujii (efujii52@gmail.com). Watch for our first article – We'll learn more about Rev. Imada!
4. A backup person is still needed to assist with newsletter preparation on occasion. If you'd like to help, please contact Ginny (gyamisiphax@gmail.com) or Eric Fujii (efujii52@gmail.com).
5. The Board is going ahead with the purchase of 2 AED units (one to cover the Hondo and one for the gym). Once received (in 4-6 months), a training session will be held. Watch the newsletter for more information.
6. Rev. Imada's next Japanese language course will meet November 26 at 2 pm.
7. The BWA Rummage Sale was a great success. Some of the proceeds will go toward the purchase of new chairs for the multipurpose room. Thank you to all volunteers, donors and customers!
8. BWA will have its Tsuitou Hoyo service and Bonenkai on December 9. Rev. Etsuko Mikame will be the guest speaker.
9. The Dharma School Halloween Party was a 'sweet' and fun day for our children. Thanks to our Sangha who donated time, ideas, materials, and sweets!!
10. The Dharma School curriculum for this year is centered around the Eightfold Noble Path. Students will discuss and journal how the Eightfold Noble Path can be incorporated into their daily lives. Help is always welcome. Contact Jennifer Kubo (kubojm86@gmail.com).
11. The Board is looking into updating the Hondo kitchen.

Jr. YBA/Dharma School Halloween Party 10/29/23

Thank you for everyone who planned, helped and participated. As you can see, it was a fun, successful event.



Spider cookies, Halloween magnets, hayrides, pinata, hot dogs/chili/salads for lunch, and a special Halloween bracelet/necklace activity, supplies donated by Peggy Okakabayshi. Thank you Peggy! We can't forget everyone who decorated their trunks for Trunk or Treat and passed out lots of candy (then we sent the kids home haha!).

Thank you everyone!!!



Buddhist Church of Florin Dharma School
News & Events- December 2023
“B.R.A.I.D.” – Building Respectful Awareness
& Inclusion through Dharma

Wind Whisper

Whisper in the wind,
Any of your great secrets
That fall to the ground.

- Skylar Lam

Upcoming Dharma Activities

Sunday, December 3 DS/JYBA Fundraiser Drive Thru (steak sandwich and salad)

Sunday, December 10 Bodhi Day, special luncheon

Upcoming Dharma School Topics

January: Right Speech
February: Right Conduct
March: Right Livelihood
April: Right Endeavor
May: Right Mindfulness
June: Right Meditation

Buddhist Church of Florin

Jr. YBA 2023-2024

Executive Board

President – Brayden Fong

Vice President – Julia Okimura

Treasurer – Skyler Lam

Recording Secretary – Evan Fujii-Sisler

Corresponding Secretary – Evan Fujii-Sisler

Historian – Kianna Nakaoka

Religious – Brayden Fong

Activities – Skyler Lam & Kianna Nakaoka



L-R Sensei Imada, Brayden Fong, Julia Okimura, Skyler Lam, Kianna Nakaoka (missing Evan Fujii-Sisler)

BWA

Dec. Dana Project

“Stuff a
stocking,
Warm a Heart”



SACRAMENTO LOAVES & FISHES

Homeless Survival Services Since 1983

CHRISTMAS STOCKING DONATIONS NEEDED

Stuff a Stocking, Warm a Heart

Christmas stocking, about 14-16 inches long and 6-8 inches wide, and stuffed with the following items:

- \$5-10 Gift card (McDonald's, Target, Safeway, Starbucks)
- One set of stretch or knit hat and gloves
- Disposable razors
- A pair of shoelaces
- Chapstick
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Hand Sanitizer
- Travel size toiletry items



BWA

 Nov. Dana Project

The largest Thanksgiving Day fun run in the country

November 23, 2023

As of 11/14/23, eleven supporters signed up to be a part of BCF's-BWA team.

Thanks to team members & other donors for this effort in helping to “Feed the Hungry” and participating in November’s Dana Project.

BWA Rummage Sale



Many thanks to donors, work helpers, & supporters of the 2023 BWA Rummage Sale.

Sales proceeds will go towards the purchase of new white chairs for the MPR, matching the new white tables from last year's proceeds.

Welcome Back

Harvey K. & Mike K.

Harvey Kadoya has been busy since returning to LOTUS. He has helped prune the pines with Ben, picked persimmons, and helped to install the new rummage sale sign.

Mike Kusama will be featured next month.



Ben & Harvey

Harvey, Ken, Ben & Lloyd helped install the new rummage sale feather flag signs.



Gary O. shown here picking the persimmons.



Final meal with this year's crop.

Sharon O. harvested the last of the garden nasubi with sister **JoAnn K.** who prepared for lunch including removing the skin for easier consumption.



ARIGATO

Okabayashis [For all LOTUS members: umeboshi, cured olives, shishito peppers; picked up Takemori Farms butternut, kabocha ...

Tomio Ito Monetary donation

Buddhist Church of Florin

florinbuddhist.org

SuperBowl Food Fundraiser

Sunday, February 11, 2024 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

To Order:

1. Return your order form **with** payment
2. Orders **MUST** be postmarked by **January 19, 2024**
3. Make check payable to: **BUDDHIST CHURCH OF FLORIN**
4. Mail check and order form to:

**Buddhist Church of Florin
SuperBowl Food Fundraiser
P. O. Box 292006
Sacramento, CA 95829**

Pick up your order on February 11th, between 11:00 AM -1:00 PM
7235 Pritchard Road, Sacramento, 95828

Prepaid contactless drive thru pick up only
Email or phone orders will **not** be accepted

ITEM	QTY	UNIT COST	TOTAL
Chicken Plate (½ teriyaki chicken, vegetable, rice, pickled vegetable, sliced oranges)		x \$19.00	
Curry Rice		x \$7.00	
Udon (Fresh udon; cooking instructions will be provided)		x \$7.00	
TOTAL ENCLOSED			

Name (Print)

Address

City

Zip

Contact Number (required)

Email Address

Buddhist Church of Florin

florinbuddhist.org

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TOTAL ENCLOSED			

Name (Print)

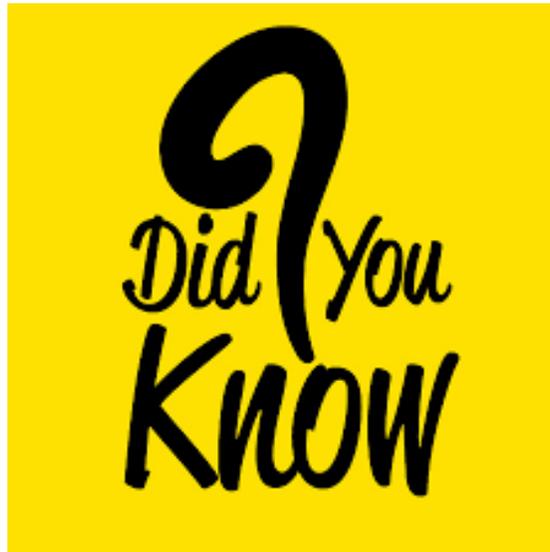
Address

City

Zip

Contact Number (required)

Email Address



Did you know?

There's a lot of information on the Buddhist Church of Florin's website...you can access 24/7! [Website: florinbuddhist.org](http://florinbuddhist.org)

- Upcoming activities
- Fundraiser forms
- Nakatani Scholarship information
- Past newsletters (from September 2022 to current)
- Calendars
- You can donate directly to BCF...there's a link to click on!
- And more! Go check it out!