



ONENESS

Buddhist Church of Florin



May 2023

Volume 5

The Brilliant Light from the Distant Past

Looking up at the night sky, we see countless stars shining. However, it is said that some of the stars have already disappeared tens of thousands of years ago. Still, its brilliance reaches here as fast as the speed of light. In other words, when we see the light of a star, the star no longer exists. It is strange that we can see something that no longer exists. Sometimes we can see invisible things, and other times we cannot see the obvious. The minds of people are invisible. In our daily lives, people are hurt by the words and actions of others. If you pretend to smile every day, it is hard to know your heart is hurt.

Shinran Shonin once said:

My eyes being hindered by blind passions, I cannot perceive the light that grasps me; Yet the great compassion, without tiring, Illumines me always. [Hymns of the Pure Land Masters 95 CWS P385]

We are all living with our eyes covered by colored glasses which, is called Blind Passion. The world seen through colored glasses seems to be a world that is convenient only for oneself. When we wear these colored glasses, we cannot see the light of Amida Buddha. Even so, the compassion of Amida Buddha never stops and it always illuminates us.

In our daily lives, we receive a lot of invisible kindness and concern. Even flowers do not bloom on their own power. We know that flowers need water, sunshine and soil. But there are other conditions as well. The flowers were not picked by children. No one walked on or trampled the flowers. When all these various conditions are met, it can finally bloom.

I can live a life today because the many types of invisible kindness and concern shown to me. We call this Okagesama which means thanks for the help that is invisible in the shadows. The word Okagesama comes from the word, shadow. [O] = Put it in front of words to show our respect. For example, Otōsan (father) or Okāsan (mother). [Kage] = Shadow, [Sama] = Mr./Ms. The word "Okagesama" expresses respect for the shadow that is difficult to see. I would like to pay attention to the many things that are out of sight and spend my days with a Nembutsu of gratitude.

In May, Gotan-E service is recognized and we rejoice in encountering Buddhism with the birth of Shinran Shonin. If Shinran Shonin was not born, I might not have encountered the teachings of Amida Buddha. Let's celebrate our founder, Shinran Shonin's, birthday. Namo Amida Butsu

In Gassho,
Rev. Imada

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

May Monthly Memorial (Shotsuki Hoyo) Service

The monthly memorial service for those who passed away during the month of May will be held on **Sunday, May 14, 2023 beginning at 10:00 am**. The persons who are noted in the Buddhist Church of Florin's (BCF) memorial records as having passed away in the month of May 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 relative, 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.

Fujii, Fusaye	05-21-1988	Omachi, Hisayo	05-19-2001
Fujii, Masao	05-13-1913	Onodera, Tatsue	05-04-1957
Fujii, Umeno	05-18-1968	Oyama, Ayako	05-04-1997
Fuwa, Kan	05-10-1974	Sakakibara, Hisaye	05-31-1918
Harada, Mitsuko	05-29-1918	Shiizaki, Sumako	05-23-1922
Hayashi, Saya	05-04-1920	Tahara, Shiro Albert	05-17-2012
Imahara, Minezo	05-11-1941	Tahara, Tsune	05-03-1997
Ito, Shigeharu	05-21-1931	Takeda, Baby Girl	05-28-2002
Ito, Shika	05-20-1952	Takehara, Kikuyo	05-28-1937
Kanenaga, Takashi	05-13-2019	Takehara, Shika	05-04-1906
Kawanishi, Fusa	05-08-1985	Takemoto, Takeo	05-18-1924
Kodama, Hidemo	05-15-1983	Takeoka, Masako	05-23-2000
Kohagura, Kano	05-14-1928	Takeoka, Yoshio	05-03-1942
Koyama, Sankichi	05-21-1918	Tamura, Shinjiro	05-01-1939
Kurata, Shizuka	05-03-1920	Tanaka, Wilbert Toshio	05-06-1996
Kurima, James Hayami	05-12-1977	Tange, Masato	05-16-1927
Lopez, Jeffrey	05-30-2015	Taniguchi,	05-29-1913
Matsumoto, Kikujiro	05-16-1942	Taniguchi, Baby	05-30-1938
Matsuoka, Iwakichi	05-09-1927	Tashima, Kihachi	05-30-1913
Mitsuyoshi, Yoshio	05-25-1993	Tonai, Raymond Hideharu	05-13-2016
Mizusaka, Teri Sumako	05-02-2014	Tsukamoto, Trisha	05-17-2005
Morioka, Fumiye	05-29-2002	Umemoto, Ryosuke	05-08-1931
Mukai, Sueno	05-07-1952	Yamada, Tamaki	05- -1945
Nakamura, Hoichi	05-10-1963	Yamada, Yotsuo	05-27-1928
Nakano, Itsu	05-03-1914	Yamamoto, Tokuzo	05-29-1915
Nakao, Jack	05-18-2015	Yamanaka, Fusaye	05-25-1958
Nakashima, Infant	05-30-1919	Yoshida, Bungo	05-14-1974
Oda, Matsumi	05-09-1988	Yoshihara, Iwa	05-26-1976
Oda, Tsune	05-10-1951	Yoshinaga, Kajiro	05-15-1966
Okamoto, Heisaburo	05-03-1946		

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	1924t	100 th Year
2007	17 th Year		

Join us for Sunday Services

**Gotanye and May Shotsuki Hoyo Service
Mother's Day
May 14, 2023 at 10 a.m.**

**Memorial Day and Family Service
May 28, 2023 at 10 a.m.**

**Memorial Day Cemetery Visitations
Monday, May 29, 2023
Elder Creek at 9:00 a.m.
Sacramento Memorial at 9:30 a.m.
East Lawn at 10:30 a.m.**

**June Shotsuki Hoyo and Family Service
Graduation and Father's Day
June 11, 2023 at 10 a.m.**

Officiant: Rev. Noritaka Imada

****There will be light refreshments following the church services and so in order to prepare enough for everyone, we ask that you please RSVP to florinbuddhist@gmail.com. Thank you!!**

Please note that in-person services are subject to cancellation if county/CDC guidelines change or if it becomes too risky for the safety and health of our Sangha members to continue with indoor gatherings. 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.

Buddhist Church of Florin
Governing Board Meeting Highlights
April 13, 2023

1. The BCF Treasurer has submitted her resignation. The Executive Committee plans to divide up the job into smaller tasks. Once the tasks have been defined, the Executive Committee will communicate the description of those tasks. If you have any interest in helping with this vital position, please contact Eric Fujii (efujii52@gmail.com).
2. The Jr. YBA is leading a joint effort with temple members and affiliates to paint the interior of the parsonage. A JYBA family will be donating the supplies. If you are willing to help on this project, please contact Ginny Syphax (gyamisyphax@gmail.com). Details to follow.
3. Thank you to the BWA members who cleaned the vases, obuppan chalices and incense burners on the Onaijin in preparation for Hanamatsuri.
4. On May 10th, BWA members will be attending the 850th anniversary celebration of the birth of Shinran Shonin and the 800th anniversary of the establishment of the Jodo Shinshu teaching to be held in Kyoto. They will also be attending the 17th World Buddhist Women's Convention that follows on the 11th and 12th.
5. Dharma School thanked Walter Menda for his interactive presentation on Spring Ohigan and the Six Paramitas.
6. Jr. YBA will have their Annual Lock-in fundraiser on May 28th. They will be making signs for Obon and laminating Our Pledge for the pews. Please see the April or May Oneness newsletter to donate towards this fundraiser or contact Ginny Syphax (gyamisyphax@gmail.com).
7. The Golf Tournament will be held June 1st at Teal Bend Golf Club. Signups are due by May 24. See the April Oneness for the entry form or contact Eric Fujii (efujii52@gmail.com).
8. Liaisons (Peggy O., Lois K., and Eric F.) to the NCDC received Harassment Training at the February meeting. The training was suggested for temple leadership and will be offered to the BCF Governing Board.
9. 1st Vice President, Margie S. attended an online seminar on 'Safety and Security in Houses of Worship'. Following her report, the Board concluded that the BCF has suitable security.
10. Lotus Club now has a golf cart to help with tasks thanks to the generosity of Wendell Sonoda.
11. BCA Music Committee and Federation of Dharma School Teachers' League are sponsoring a Gatha Lyric Writing Contest in commemoration of the 125th Anniversary of Buddhist Churches of America. Two separate age-based categories; \$500 for each category due by June 4, 2023.
12. Obon Odori has been rescheduled to July 15 at 7 pm. The Hatsubon service will be at 3 pm and in between there will be cultural events such as kendo and kyudo kai (Japanese archery) demonstrations. To volunteer contact Walter Menda (wmenda@pacbell.net). Please be generous with your time. This will be the first Obon Festival in three years!
13. Services in Japanese will start on the 4th Sunday at 11:15 am in the Nokotsudo, following the regular service.

Hanamatsuri 2023



Thank you to everyone who came Saturday night to decorate the Hanamido. Also, thank you to everyone who participated in the fun Golden Chain activity during service with the Dharma School kids. Special thanks to Peggy Okabayashi who planned this Golden Chain activity. Last but not least, thank you Sensei Koichi for being our Guest Speaker.



2023 Membership Dues

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

Jackie Chinn	Greg Crandall	Tyson & Denise Fong
Randell Iwasaki	Michael & Carol Kusama	Gordon & Donna Kunisaki
Scott Louie & Diane Enomoto		Esther Matsumoto
Frank Mouton (monthly)	Bette Okamoto	Roy Sumida
Burt & Carol Yoshioka (monthly)		

Reminder:

Membership dues are due on January 31 of each calendar year.

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



MEMBERSHIP OPENINGS AT THE KYUDO KAI OF FLORIN!

- ▶ Learn Japanese modern kyudo (way of the bow) in a safe environment
- ▶ Accepting a limited number of new members: ages 16+
- ▶ Friday evenings from 7:00-9:00 pm
- ▶ Buddhist Church of Florin: 7235 Pritchard Road, Sacramento, 95828
- ▶ Monthly dues: \$40
- ▶ If interested, please call Paula Yoshioka (808) 489-1116

Kyudo Kai of Florin, Inc. is a fully insured, non-profit 501c3.





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



Berkeley Fieldtrip



Upcoming Dharma Events

Please come and join us for some fun activities while learning Dharma lessons.

- **May 14, Mother's Day, Gotanye Presentation & Activity - May 28, Make a Father's Day Gift**
- **June 11, Father's Day, Dharma Graduation Celebration**

Upcoming DŚ/JYBA Fundraisers

- **Jamba Juice Gift Cards (\$10/6 drinks) more information to come**
- **May 28, JYBA Lock-in Fundraiser 9am-9pm**
- **December 3, JYBA & DŚ Steak Sandwich/Udon Fundraiser**



JR. YBA

Lock-in Fundraiser

Jr. YBA is having a "Lock-In" Fundraiser on May 28, 2023 from 9 AM to 9 PM.

At this time, we are asking Sangha and friends for donations for this fundraiser. This year, all donations will be retained by Jr. YBA. Donations will be used to fund various Jr. YBA activities in 2023. If you would like to donate, please complete the form below and mail it to:

FBC - Jr. YBA
c/o Ginny Yamamoto-Syphax
3318 Yosemite Park Way
Elk Grove, CA 95758-4662



I would like to support the Florin Jr. YBA in their fundraising efforts for Florin Jr. YBA.

Enclosed is \$ _____ for your fundraiser. My check is made payable to

FBC-Jr. YBA.

___ Yes, I would like a donation receipt sent to me

___ No, It's okay, I'll use my check as a donation receipt.



Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip code: _____

SAVE THE DATE!!!

July 15, 2023!!!

**“Obon, Obon, it’s festival time!”
We are back to in-person Obon festivities!
Details will be in our June newsletter.**



A big thank you to Girl Scout Troop #56942. This troop donated to our quiet room in the Hondo, toys, coloring books, coloring pencils and reading books. Thank you for your kind generosity to our church. The kids will love them!



Church member, Kristin Fujii (daughter of Glenn and Jennifer Fujii/granddaughter of Eric Fujii and Margie Sunahara), is a Girl Scout from Troop #56942. Thank you Kristin!

BWA May Dana Project



**LAO FAMILY
COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT**

Requesting:

Diapers – All sizes



LAO Family Community Development is a partner agency of the Sacramento Food Bank and Family Services. In 2020, The LAO Family Community Development provided services to 31,000+ low-income individuals from 40+ ethnic groups in 35+ languages. There are offices in three California cities including two in Sacramento. Our *DIAPERS* Dana Project will be delivered to the one in South Sacramento.

April Dana Project



Still requesting:

**Gently used clothing,
shoes, jewelry . . .**

High-quality, gently used and new merchandise can be donated to this upscale Discovery Shop. Every purchase supports the American Cancer Society mission.

Collection Dates:
BCF Gym

May Thurs [LOTUS days]
May 14 & 28 BCF services

(9 a.m. - 1 p.m.)
10 a.m.

New Cart for LOTUS



Wendell Sonoda & Ron Shimizu are good friends.



Wanda & Wendell Sonoda donated this cart to LOTUS. Wendell has donated numerous plants/trees to the temple as well.

Front: JoAnn K, Sensei Imada, Ben K.
Back: Ken O, Gary O, Mike K, Darryl M, Lloyd O, Eric F, Ron S
[Not pictured: Sharon O (took pic); Jan T (vaca), Greg C (hidden—Do you see where?) George M, Walt M]



Yearly Spring Group Photo Shoot

Front row: JoAnn Kusaka, Sharon Okamoto, Linda Menda, Dan Menda, Walt Menda, Ken Okabayashi
2nd row: Jan Takeuchi, Ben Kusaka, George Miyao, Lloyd Okimura, Ron Shimizu
Back row: Gary Okamoto, Greg Crandell

We've grown. **Linda and Daniel Menda** [★] (related to JoAnn/Ben, Sharon/Gary and Walt/Kathy) came out in March & April to help with gardening tasks. Their main home is in Hawaii but also live part time in Sacramento and will be here until the end of April. The Mendas are BCF members.

Mike Kakutani, BtW, travels one hour from Winters to help with LOTUS each week.



BUDDHIST CHURCH OF FLORIN GOLF TOURNAMENT

Includes A FUN DAY OF GOLF, CART, RANGE BALLS,
MULLIGANS, MIRACLE PUTT, & SNACK GOODIE BAG

WHEN: Thursday - **June 1, 2023** **WHERE:** Teal Bend Golf Club
8:00AM Shotgun (Check-in starts at 7:00AM)

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT DUE MAY 24th, 2023

A)	<u>WHO IS GOLFING?</u>	
#1		\$95
#2		\$95
#3		\$95
#4		\$95
	<i>Optional Donation</i>	\$
	Total Payment Due:	\$

B) GROUP'S EMAIL ADDRESS to provide your team with tournament info:

C) PAYMENT DUE DATE 5/24/2023

- Make check payable to: Buddhist Church of Florin
- Mail to: E.Fujii 325 34th Street, Sacramento 95816 (You can also hand deliver and drop in door mail slot. **DO NOT** mail to the church)

D) NEED TO KNOW

- MUST register/pay by due date of 5/24/2023
- Format: Individual play 2-person Blind-Draw
- This tournament will NOT include dinner
- Need more info? Contact Eric Fujii at efujii52@gmail.com or cell (916) 955 1954