



ONENESS

Buddhist Church of Florin



April 2024

Volume 4

Hanamatsuri

Hanamatsuri is a Buddhist holiday that celebrates the birth of Shakyamuni Buddha. His birthday is said to be April 8th. The reason why it is called Hanamatsuri which means "the flower festival" comes from the scene when Buddha was born.

About 2,600 years ago, Shakyamuni Buddha was born as a prince in Kapila Castle in Northern India (present-day Nepal). His mother's name was Maya. When Maya gave birth, she tried to make it to Kurijo Castle, where she was born.



On her way from Kapila Castle to Kurijo Castle, she saw a flower garden called Lumbini Garden. Just as she arrived at the flower garden, Maya felt labor pains and there she gave birth to her son. On that day, April 8th, the flowers in Lumbini Garden were in full bloom. Because Shakyamuni Buddha was born among the many flowers, that day became known as the "Flower Festival" (Hanamatsuri). This is why the statue of the Baby Shakyamuni Buddha is surrounded by beautiful flowers.

On Hanamatsuri, we celebrate by pouring sweet tea on the statue of Baby Shakyamuni Buddha. This tradition comes from the fact that when Buddha was born in Lumbini Garden, sweet nectar rain fell from the sky.

If you look at a statue of Buddha, you will see that his right hand is pointing to the sky and his left hand is pointing to the earth. It is said that when the Buddha was born, he immediately walked seven steps, stopped, pointed to the sky with his right hand and the earth with his left hand and said, "TENJO TENGE YUIGA DOKUSON." If you look at the kanji, this means Tenjo (sky) Tenge (ground) Yui (just) ga (I) Doku (only) son (respected), or "above the sky, on the ground, only, I, alone, am precious." But Buddha was not trying to say, "I am the only one who is precious!" Rather, it is a teaching that says, "If you see the sky or the ground, there is only one individual in existence like you, me, and others. Every life is irreplaceable, so all lives are equally precious."

Buddha taught that among the many types of life, being born as a human being is extremely rare, and among these human beings, it is even rarer to encounter Buddhism. While feeling that joy, let's celebrate Buddha's birthday!

* Ah, hard to encounter, even in many lifetimes, is the decisive cause of birth, Amida's universal Vow! It is hard to realize, even in myriads of kalpas, pure shinjin that is true and real! If you should come to realize this practice and shinjin, rejoice at the conditions from the distant past that have brought it about.



Last month's quiz answers



There are two choices: Oyasumi and Ohayou. Which is the morning greeting?

The answer is Ohayou. It comes from the word Hayai, which means early.

Oyasumi is a greeting before going to bed. It comes from Yasumi, which means to rest.

The next quiz

What is the most common surname in Japan?

Tanaka, Suzuki, Sato, Toyota

In Gassho,

Rev. Noritaka Imada

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



April Monthly Memorial (Shotsuki Hoyo) Service

The monthly memorial service for those who passed away during the month of April will be held on **Sunday, April 14, 2024 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 April are listed below. If you have a homyo (Buddhist name) on a card please bring it with you for placement on the onaijin (altar) before the service. If the year 2024 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.

Collins, Donna	04-16-2015	Morishige, Mitsuru	04-04-1916
Deguchi, Shoji	04-26-1933	Morita, Goro	04-04-1937
Fujii, Shigetaro	04-10-1935	Nagai, Fumie	04-16-1919
Fujikawa, Masami	04-27-1915	Nakagawa, Infant	04-25-1913
Fujiwara, Atsumu	04-26-1930	Nakano, Tsuyuko	04-25-1930
Fujiwara, Kiyoshi	04-26-1930	Nakashima, Percy Shotetsu	04-25-2004
Fujiwara, Koki	04-26-1930	Nakatani, Mamoru	04-06-1995
Fukushima, Hanako	04-10-1913	Ohta, Kotoshiro	04-20-1969
Furukawa, Cindy Miyeko	04-17-2023	Okamoto, Tadanao	04-28-2006
Furukawa, George Shigeto	04-26-2010	Okasaki, George Kunito	04-07-2007
Furukawa, Mary Matsuno	04-13-2010	Okimura, Misaye Doris	04-25-2016
Hamataka, Kaoru	04-22-1913	Oku, Tadao	04-22-1917
Hamataka, Yuriko	04-03-1928	Ouchida, Hiroharu	04-17-1986
Imahara, Chizuko	04-10-1932	Sakakihara, Mitsuzo	04-??-1942
Imahara, Haruko	04-20-1927	Sasaki, Kikuo	04-10-1940
Imahara, Thomas	04-02-1979	Senda, Iwao	04-08-1926
Inouye, Tokuji	04-01-1963	Shintaku, Sato	04-02-1938
Irikawa, Tajiro	04-28-1962	Sumida, Shozo	04-01-1920
Iwamura, Minoru	04-07-2006	Sumida, Yuki	04-14-1982
Kadotani, Tsunekichi	04-09-1958	Takata, Fusako	04-11-1923
Kajita, Mariko	04-20-2009	Takeoka, Mitsue	04-25-1987
Kakutani, Minoru	04-29-1999	Tanaka, Sekiyo	04-23-1919
Kanenaga, Eddie Kanji	04-23-2020	Tanigawa, Jane Haruko	04-29-2009
Kanenaga, Kazuko	04-04-1980	Taniguchi, Toshi	04-24-1957
Kato, Heizaburo	04-28-1959	Tanihara, Kisaku	04-27-1928
Kato, Hiroyuki	04-16-1942	Tanihara, Tamayo	04-09-1976
Kato, Masaharu	04-09-1975	Terminel, Margaret Ann	04-13-2005
Kawamoto, Stacey Kiyoko	04-22-2016	Tominaga, Tamotsu	04-11-1919
Kawanishi, Atsushi	04-04-1994	Tsuda, Hachihei	04-18-1957
Kozumi, Karoku	04-14-1966	Tsukamoto, Kaneichi	04-19-1985
Kuroda, Tomeno	04-22-1973	Tsukamoto, Michiye Arlene	04-28-2009
Maeda, Benkichi	04-21-1939	Uno, Hiromu	04-23-2004
Matsui, Tsuta	04-24-1990	Urokogata, Yoshikazu	04-21-1935
Matsui, Roy	04-11-2020	Yamamura, Kaneto	04-04-1973
Minamide, Koharu	04-20-1975	Yamanaka, Yoshimitsu	04-25-1985
Miyao, George Hiromu	04-21-2001	Yoshida, Suchiyo	04-05-1987
Miyata, Hikoichi	04-16-1922	Yoshimi, Yajuro	04-24-1941
Mizusaka, Iwao	04-14-1926	Yoshinaga, Kimiyo	04-17-1916

2024 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>
2023	1 st Year	2000	25 th Year
2022	3 rd Year	1992	33 rd Year
2018	7 th Year	1975	50 th Year
2012	13 th Year	1925	100 th Year
2008	17 th Year		

Join us for Sunday Service

HANAMATSURI and April Shotsuki Service
Sunday, April 14, 2024 at 10 a.m.

Hanamido Decorating on Saturday, April 13, 2024 at 6 pm.
Please donate flowers and come help decorate the Hanamido.
Light dinner will be provided.

FAMILY SERVICE
Sunday, April 28, 2024 at 10 a.m.

Services Officiated by: Rev. Noritaka Imada

There will be a potluck luncheon following the Hanamatsuri/Shotsuki Service on April 14, 2024. Following is the food assignment by last name: Main Dishes: A to N; Salads: O to T; Desserts: U to Z.

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.

SAVE THE DATE!!!
JULY 20, 2024!!!

“Obon, Obon, it’s Festival Day!”



Bring your family and friends and join us to experience:

Obon Odori
Japanese Culture Exhibits and Demonstrations
Delicious Food and Shave Ice

Obon Odori Practice: July 9-11, 16-18 at 7 pm

SANGHA INSIGHTS

By Elizabeth Fujii

Kathie Kishaba, a 16 year member of the BCF, met with me for a cup of coffee earlier this week. She told me about her background, her family, career, interests and the important volunteer work she does as a child advocate.

Along with 2 sisters and 3 brothers, Kathie was raised in Chico. The family also lived in Iowa and New York for brief periods while her father was on sabbatical from his position as Professor of Religious Studies at Chico State.

She met her husband of 32 years, Kelvin, when both were studying Business Management at UC Davis. They have two sons- Bradley (24) and Garrett (20) that both live in San Diego. Kathie and Kelvin currently reside in Davis.

Kathie began her career at the State of California Department of Water Resources. She retired with 32 years of service, achieving the rank of Deputy Director. For the last 5 years, Kathie has volunteered as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for children between the ages of 5-13 who have experienced abuse or neglect. In collaboration with child welfare professionals, educators and service providers, Kathie ensures that judges have the information they need to make the most well-informed decisions for each child.

She starts her days with daily Zumba classes, enjoys taking trips to Texas and Arizona to visit her sisters, and regularly flies to San Diego to see her sons. Kathie has traveled to Mexico and made two trips to Japan. A big fan of Korean dramas, she hopes to make a trip to South Korea in the near future.

Although we planned a brief meeting, our visit stretched out much longer. Kathie is absolutely lovely and I am so glad she gave us the opportunity to learn about her background and the very important work she is doing as a child advocate.



2024 Membership Dues

Thank you to the following members for their 2024 membership dues received in January/February:

Denise & Tyson Fong	Shirley Gee	Grace Hara
Kimiko & Mark Hayashida	Kat Moriyama-Liss	
Frank Mouton (monthly)	Wayne Mukai	
Eileen Nakahira & David Uyeno (monthly)		Bette Okamoto
Jean Okamoto	Joy Okamoto	Lloyd Okimura
Lori Thielen	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 donation. 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.

The Buddhist Church of Florin welcomes the following returning/new members:

Grace Hara Eileen Nakahira & David Uyeno

We look forward to seeing you at service and temple functions and hope the BCF will meet your religious and community desires.



Buddhist Church of Florin
Governing Board Meeting Highlights
March 14, 2024

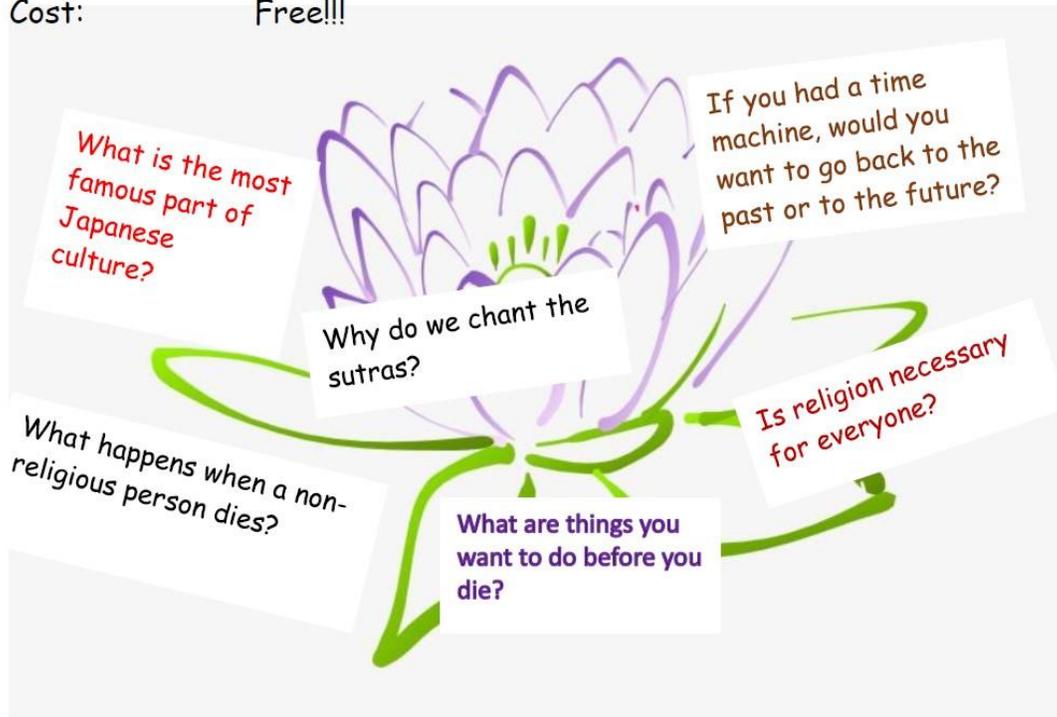
1. Each month a different toban Group provides greeters for the services that month. It's a great way for everyone to get to know each other. Group 1 will provide greeters for March services. Please be generous with your time when your Group Director-at-Large contacts you. And if you want to volunteer, contact your toban Group Director-at-Large. Group 1: Tyson Fong (tysonfong11@gmail.com, Elizabeth Fujii (eefujii@gmail.com). Group 2: Joy Okamoto (jokamoto64@hotmail.com), Peggy Okabayashi (sachieokaba@gmail.com). Group 3: Jan Takeuchi (jktakeuchi51@gmail.com), Walter Menda (wmenda@pacbell.net). Don't know your Group? Contact Margie Sunahara (mjsunahara@att.net).
2. Our BCF website development committee is moving quickly along to update the website and its infrastructure. Thanks to Tyson Fong, Jan Takeuchi, Gary Takeuchi, and Jonathan Okamoto. Jonathan generously offered hosting services and will donate the cost of domain registration. Our domain name will change from FlorinBuddhist.org to BuddhistChurchofFlorin.org. More to follow as the process continues.
3. Help is needed to gather information for the website. Affiliate organizations (Sacramento Kendo, Kyudo Kai, BWA, Dharma School, Jr YBA, athletic groups, etc.) are asked to provide a contact person who will be responsible for providing affiliate information and regular future updates to the website. If you belong to an affiliate organization, contact your board members to volunteer.
4. The gym floor is scheduled to be resurfaced on March 18. The gym will be closed for at least the following two weeks to allow the floor to dry.
5. BCF is hosting the district-wide Chicken Throwdown event. Temples in the district compete over who makes the best teriyaki chicken! It's a fun and tasty event! We need a coordinator. If you are interested, or would just like to help in anyway, please contact Eric Fujii (efujii52@gmail.com).
6. The National Council meeting was held at the Sacramento Betsuin February 23-25. Many compliments were received about how smoothly everything went and on all aspects of the conference from transportation to food to temple services. BCF was responsible for Saturday morning breakfast as well as the evening hospitality suite. Massive thanks to all those volunteers from BCF that made the event a huge success.
7. AEDs have been received. Installation sites are being finalized in the gym and hondo hallway or kitchen.
8. The time capsule was buried and the Board has decided that it should be opened at the 125th Anniversary of the BCF in 2044.



Buddhist Discussion Group

Rev. Imada will be discussing answers to questions you've always wondered about and different things to ponder!

When: 2nd Sundays beginning April 14, 2024
Where: Multipurpose Room
What Time: 1:00 PM
Cost: Free!!!



thank you

thank you

thank you

A big thank you to everyone who took time out of their busy lives and to help with the Annual Loco Moco Fried Rice Breakfast. Special thanks to Eric and Elizabeth Fujii who without hesitation, chairs this BCF fundraiser every year. They will be the first to say, "we have a great crew!" Thank you to all of you. Also, thank you to everyone who purchased a breakfast or two...maybe many more! Without your support, this would not have been a successful event.

thank you *thank you* *thank you*

**Buddhist Church of Florin Dharma School
News & Events- April 2024
“B.R.A.I.D.” – Building Respectful Awareness
& Inclusion through Dharma**

2024 Bay District Jr. YBA Conference Summary

Last weekend I had the privilege of attending the annual Jr. YBA Conference for the Bay District. This year's theme was Pokemon, and the organizers certainly went all out on that. From Pokemon-themed activities and decorations to the Dharma talk given by Reverend Devon Matsumoto that referenced the first Pokemon movie, it was clear that a lot of time, effort, and planning went into this event, and I'd first like to thank everyone involved for making it happen. The six workshops that explained the six paramitas were... not very forgettable, to say the least. Stumbling around in a dark room, trying to find gemstones with only a glow stick to see sure leaves an impression on what wisdom means.

On another note, this conference was also a time for socialization, and I was able to reconnect with some old friends from the Buddhist Youth Retreat last summer as well as meet some new ones in the groups (or as it was divided into regions). We all had a great time getting to know each other, and it eased the typical paralysis that usually prevents people from straying too far from their groups.



- ❖ *Flowers and Volunteers are needed for Hanamido Decorating on Saturday, April 13 6:00-8:00pm Light Dinner will be provided.*
- ❖ *Hanamatsuri/Shotsuki Service Sunday, April 14*

Upcoming Dharma School Topics

Please join us for some creative and interactive teachings



April 28: Right Endeavor
May 12: Right Livelihood
May 26: Right Mindfulness

BWA Dana Apr.



This month's Dana Project will support '24 Wellspring Women's Center by providing hygiene and personal items.

Wellspring Women's Center in Sacramento's Oak Park neighborhood, nurtures the innate goodness and personal self-esteem of women and their children. We serve nearly 200 women and children each weekday and offer four different programs: the Nutritious Meal Program, the Children's Corner Program, the Safety Net Services Program, and the Women's Wellness Program.

Women's Wellness/ Safety Net Services

- Menstrual Pads
- Travel-sized Toiletries: soap, shampoo, conditioner, lotion
- Toothbrushes and Toothpaste
- Deodorant
- Small tissue packets
- Adult Pull-up Diapers
- Bed Pads
- New women's Underwear
- Grocery Gift Cards/ Gas Cards \$10-\$20
- New Sweat Pants Size L - XXL



PANCREATIC
CANCER
ACTION
NETWORK

PanCAN PURPLESTRIDE SACRAMENTO 2024

April 27 (Saturday)
River Walk Park (West Sac)

REGISTER & donate \$50 for a T-shirt & to walk OR just DONATE to TEAM TOKE.

TEAM **DONATE**
TEAM TOKE **REGISTER**



In honor of BCF, BWA member and cancer survivor **SHERYL TOKUNAGA**, BWA is helping to spread the word to donate/walk for the Pancreatic Cancer (PanCAN) **PURPLESTRIDE.**

JOIN THIS TEAM

TEAM TOKE

BWA March Dana Project

Much thanks for the monetary donations on behalf of the Elk Grove Food Bank.



Elk Grove Food Bank Services

[Learn more](#) [Message](#)



BWA Feb. Dana Project



Numerous bags/boxes of clothing and housewares were delivered by Pres. Peggy to WeaveWorks.

LOTUS News

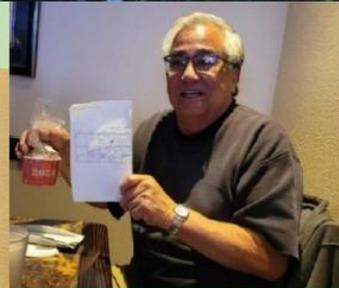
Learning Oriental Trimming

April '24 issue

[Feb/March, 2024]

Land Park Pond 7-'22

LOTUS Lunch at Osaka's



Thanks Lloyd

The LOTUS group had lunch at Osaka Sushi in Feb. courtesy of Lloyd O. who won the LOTUS Super Bowl pool. Tomio set up so the winner would provide lunch.



LOTUS Celebrates 12 Years

Rev. Sugahara & family & Rev. Shibata return to Florin to celebrate LOTUS'S 12th year anniversary on March 14.

- Judie Miyao** Chinese pastries assortment
Namiko Sugahara Mini cheesecake
Jean/Joy Okamoto Monetary donation





A Japanese study class by Rev. Imada is scheduled for the fourth Sunday of each month at noon.

If you bring something from your home with Japanese written on it, we can try to translate it. If there is anything else you would like to do in class, please contact Rev. Imada. We look forward to hearing your ideas!

クラスで会いましょう！



Buddhist Church of Florin

florinbuddhist.org

Spring Food Fundraiser

Sunday, May 5, 2024 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

To Order:

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

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

Pick up your order on May 5th, 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	
Chinese Chicken Salad		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	

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Name (Print)	
Address	
City	Zip
Contact Number (required)	
Email Address	



FUNDRAISER

BUDDHIST CHURCH OF FLORIN GOLF TOURNAMENT

Includes 18 holes of GOLF, CART, RANGE BALLS, MULLIGANS,
MIRACLE PUTT, SNACK GOODIE BAG, SOMEN & SAKE!

WHEN: Thursday - June 6, 2024 **WHERE:** Teal Bend Golf Club
8:00AM Shotgun (Check-in starts at 7:00AM)

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT must be received by MAY 28th, 2024

A)	WHO IS GOLFING?	
#1		\$95.00
#2		\$95.00
#3		\$95.00
#4		\$95.00
OPTIONAL Donation:		\$
Total Payment:		\$

B) YOUR GROUP'S CONTACT INFO (email & phone number of one group member):

C) MAIL YOUR REGISTRATION to E.Fujii 325 34th Street, Sacramento 95816 (mail or drop in door mail slot. **DO NOT** mail to the church) **Must be received by 5/28/2024**

D) CHOOSE PAYMENT METHOD

- 1) Make check payable to **Buddhist Church of Florin** -or-
- 2) VENMO one total payment for your group to: @Elizabeth-Fujii-3

E) NEED TO KNOW

- Format: Individual play 2-person Blind-Draw
- Single players & twosomes are welcome; will be matched with other players.
- Need more info? Contact Eric Fujii at efujii52@gmail.com or cell (916) 955 1954