



ONENESS

Buddhist Church of Florin

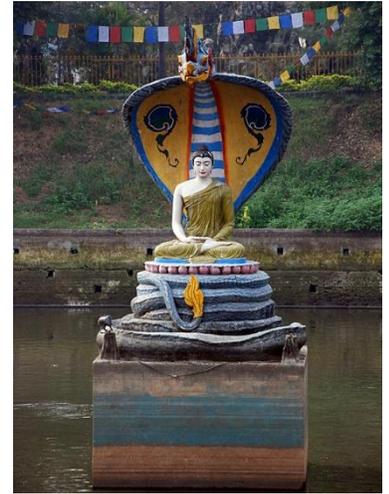


January 2024

Volume 1

Happy New Year! This year is the year of the dragon in terms of the zodiac. The zodiac animals include the mouse, cow, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep, monkey, bird, dog, and wild boar. A specific animal is determined by the year in which each person is born. I was born in the year of the sheep and my grandfather was also born in the year of the sheep. Since the cycle occurs every 12 years with 12 different types of animals, it is possible for people to be the same animal even if they are different in age.

In Buddhism, dragons are known as creatures that protect Buddhism. Dragon sculptures and paintings can be seen in temples. There are famous sculptures in India, the birthplace of Buddhism. When I went to India, I saw a statue of Shakyamuni Buddha and a naga (snake like being) in a pond. The photo is of a sculpture in the pond at Mahabodhi Temple in India. In the story of Mucilinda (a naga), Buddha was meditating under a Bodhi tree. Muchalinda lived there as well. Muchalinda realized the greatness of Buddha and he continued to silently watch over him. When a violent storm broke out, Muchalinda wrapped his body around the Buddha seven times and used it as an umbrella over his head, protecting him from the wind and rain for seven days. The story is that Muchalinda then took the form of a human and was converted to Buddha.



Shinran Shonin also says in his Wasan that the dragons protect those who recite the Nembutsu night and day.

When we say "Namu-amida-butsu,"
Nanda, Upananda, and the other great nagas,
Along with the countless naga-gods, revere
And protect us constantly, day and night.
[Shinran Shonin - Hymns of the Pure Land 103]



木 (Tree) → 森 (Forest)

車 (Car) → 轟 (???)

The answer to last month's quiz was "A loud sound echoes."

When the three kanji for "tree" come together, it means "forest," so if the three kanji for "car" come together, some people might have expected it to mean a traffic jam or a parking lot. However, this kanji was created based on the sound of many cars running.

This month's quiz is here.

水 + 馬 = ?

What does it mean when you combine the kanji "水", which means water, and "馬", which means horse?

In Gassho,

Rev. Noritaka Imada

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

January Monthly Memorial (Shotsuki Hoyo) Service

The monthly memorial service for those who passed away during the month of January will be held on **Sunday, January 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 January 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 loved ones, please contact Reverend Noritaka Imada, Buddhist Church of Florin at 916-383-1831 or email imadabca@gmail.com to make special memorial arrangements.

Fuji, Chiyoko	01-29-1926	Nakamura, Hatsue	01-13-1938
Fujii, Minoru Richard	01-15-1998	Nakano, Seizo	01-22-1923
Fujiwara, Ichiro	01-19-1941	Nakashima, Chiyono	01-20-1929
Fukushima, Morio	01-08-1920	Negi, Eiju	01-23-1917
Furukawa, Hoichi	01-17-1968	Nishi, Beatrice Yaeka	01-21-2002
Hamataka, Toshio	01-22-2001	Nishi, Tamayo	01-29-1975
Hara, Yoshino	01-08-1919	Nishikawa, Phillip Takeshi	01-12-2016
Hirohata, Toku	01-30-1952	Oda, Toraiichi	01-17-1957
Hiroshima, Infant	01-19-1915	Okamoto, Fumie	01-12-2010
Ikezaki, Suteichi	01-08-1955	Okimura, Kay Keiso	01-11-2012
Ishigaki, Hatsuo	01-22-1926	Okimura, Lucille Hironaka	01-10-1983
Iwamura, Hatsuye	01-20-2005	Okimura, Sadatoshi	01-18-1913
Kadokawa, Hide	01-17-1919	Okimura, Shigenobu	01-30-2019
Kadokawa, Kazo	01-07-1926	Onodera, Masami	01-03-1974
Kadokawa, Stillborn	01-15-1919	Otani, William Minoru	01-22-1987
Kadoya, Fusaye	01-14-2011	Sakamoto, Ayako Barbara	01-18-2014
Kanemoto, Dai	01-14-1986	Sakaoka, Hideo	01-18-1960
Kawamoto, Keichi	01-05-2009	Sako, Hisayo	01-04-1929
Kawamoto, Ted Yoshito	01-04-2014	Sasai, Masuzo	01-12-1942
Kawamoto, Yukio	01-20-1933	Sumida, Fujie	01-27-1919
Kawanishi, Karen	01-01-1970	Takehara, Hitoshi	01-18-1958
Kishaba, Kame	01-09-1981	Takehara, Kikumatsu	01-14-1948
Kodama, Masaichi	01-11-1957	Takeoka, Akemi	01-01-1976
Koyanagi, Yataro	01-02-1905	Takeoka, Hideyuki	01-01-1976
Kozumi, Alice Oda	01-06-1997	Takeoka, Kaoru	01-01-1976
Kozumi, Masahiro	01-07-2008	Tambara, Tomi	01-25-1919
Kumano, Ei	01-23-1963	Tanabe, Yoshio	01-17-1921
Kunugi, Teruichi	01-25-1911	Tanaka, George Tatsuto	01-12-2009
Kurima, Jitsuo	01-24-1920	Tanaka, Masaji (Baby)	01-13-1928
Kurima, Mikio	01-26-1920	Tanigawa, Sadaichi	01-06-1971
Kurima, Shizue	01-30-1910	Taniguchi, Koichi	01-01-1938
Kurima, Toshio	01-19-1911	Teranishi, Shigezo	01-18-1915
Maeda, Osamu	01-08-1932	Tokumura, Harry Hideo	01-05-2005
Maruki, Matsutaro	01-17-1917	Tokumura, Kurakichi	01-05-1958
Maruki, Yukiko	01-26-1941	Tomono, Isaburo	01-20-1959
Masuda, Zengo	01-08-1940	Toye, Misuno	01-14-1941
Matsui, Mitsue	01-08-1928	Toye, Uichi	01-12-1976
Menda, Arthur Shiro	01-27-2017	Tsukamoto, Hatsu	01-27-1970
Miyao, Jitsue	01-30-1911	Tsukamoto, Kanekichi	01-10-1955
Miyao, Masaye	01-11-2012	Wakabayashi, Tazuko	01-06-1975
Mukai, Infant	01-19-1916	Yamamoto, Hisano	01-28-1919
Muranaka, Sam	01-10-2007	Yamato, Tsutomu	01-05-1927
Nakagawa, Kaichi	01-31-1935	Yasukawa, Inosuke	01-27-1937
Nakagawa, Sumi	01-25-1973	Yasukawa, Tomo	01-07-1968
Nakahira, Tsutomu Ben	01-13-2002	Yumura, Stillborn	01-20-1920

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	1999	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

New Year's Day Service

Monday, January 1, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

**Ho-Onko Service, January Shotsuki Hoyo
BCF Awards, General Meeting and New Year's Party
Sunday, January 14, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.**

*Nirvana Day and Family Service
Sunday, January 28, 2024 at 10 a.m.*

Officiant: Rev. Noritaka Imada

There will be a light luncheon 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!!

****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.

Dear Sangha:

Happy New Year! I want to update you on a few matters of interest:

- I previously notified you that Reverend Imada would likely have to return to Japan to renew his visa. That timeline has changed. Recently, we learned that Reverend Imada will be able to stay with us through the end of July 2024. Therefore, BCF will coordinate with the Buddhist Church of Sacramento to provide coverage of our ministerial needs starting in August 2024.
- You may notice that “No Parking” signs have been posted outside of the BCF gates. This is being done to ensure cars are not blocking access to the grounds.
- A leaky sink in the church kitchen was recently repaired by Lloyd Okimura, but the kitchen is still in need of multiple upgrades. We are in the process of obtaining estimates to remodel and bring the kitchen up to food preparation standards.
- Repairs are currently underway following the recent break-in and burglary of the church office. Additional motion detectors have been installed in the office to enhance overall security.

My best to you and your families in 2024.

In Gassho,

Eric Fujii, President
Buddhist Church of Florin



SANGHA INSIGHTS

By Elizabeth Fujii



I recently rode my Vespa to a local coffee house in East Sacramento to meet with BCF and BWA member, Carol Kusama. I have only interacted occasionally with Carol at various church functions so I was looking forward to the opportunity to get to know more about her and her very interesting background.

Carol was born in Germany to an Austrian mother and an American father (from Wisconsin) who was in the army. Prior to moving to Sacramento in 2019, Carol lived in San Antonio, Texas and Los Angeles, California with her husband of 28 years, Mike, whom she met in Atlantic City while both were working in television - Mike as a Tech Supervisor, and Carol in Electronic Graphics. They are the proud parents of two adorable dachshunds, Gabby Hayes and Lulu.

Through her work, she has covered sporting events from boxing matches to poker tournaments to the Olympics in countries all over the world, including the Dominican Republic, Japan, Monaco, Italy, Canada, Mexico, France, Australia, England, and Turkey. In 1992 Carol earned an Emmy for her work in Graphics with the Oakland Athletics - an impressive achievement!

Carol has also traveled to Greece, Portugal, the Czech Republic, Germany and Austria. An active member of the BWA and a volunteer at various BCF fundraisers, Carol has been to Japan three times. During one of her visits to Japan she got to meet Mike's family and, on her most recent visit, she attended the Buddhist Women's Conference in Kyoto.

2023 Membership Dues

Thank you to the following members for their 2023 membership dues received in November & December:

Frank Mouton (monthly) Tracy & Jarret Yee
Burt & Carol Yoshioka (monthly)

2024 Membership Dues

Thank you to the following members for their 2024 membership dues received in December:

Harvey Kadoya	Greg & Kelli Menda	Kathy & Walt Menda
Cheryl Miles	Ron & Judy Shimizu	Kris Takeda-Miller
Toyo Tsukamoto	Linda Yamashita	Tracy & Jarret Yee

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.

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

Tracy & Jarret Yee

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

2024 MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

Last Name	First Name	Middle Initial	Birthdate
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Telephone # _____

Home	Cell	Email
------	------	-------

Spouse _____

Last Name	First Name	Middle Initial	Birthdate
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Telephone # _____

Cell	Email
------	-------

Address _____

Street	City	State	Zip Code
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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 _____
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Buddhist Church of Florin
Governing Board Meeting Highlights
December 13, 2023

1. Repairs, replacements, and additions to the church office are being done to recover from the mid-November break in. Windows and mailboxes are being repaired. New blinds have been ordered and the Board is working on a solution for a new safe. Locks have been re-keyed, and fobs are being reprogrammed. Additional alarm sensors have been installed. Huge thanks to Margie S., Lloyd O., Gary O., and Walter M. for cleaning up and conducting repairs. A special thanks to Lloyd O. for always volunteering to be on site for any of the repair work. Fortunately, the mail had been picked up by BCF and affiliates, so to date, we are not aware of any missing checks. Cash funds that were being collected by a JYBA member for a Girl Scout toy drive were taken. However, generous donations from Paula Yoshioka and Elizabeth Fujii have replaced those stolen funds. Many other donations have been collected also.
2. No Parking signage is being added to all gates to prevent blockage when people are on site, especially Rev. Imada who is now in residence.
3. Beginning in January, greeters for the services will be chosen from one of our 3 toban Groups. Each month a different Group will provide greeters. It's a great way for everyone to get to know each other. So please be generous with your time when your Group Director-at-Large contacts you.
4. BCF is moving toward improving our website, particularly to include the ability to order and pay online during our fundraisers. If you have expertise and would like to help, please contact Eric Fujii (efujii52@gmail.com)
5. A class sponsored by BCF for Red Cross CPR training is being held in January. The class is currently full, but if you are interested in being trained, please contact Glenn Fujii (gmfujii21@yahoo.com). If there is enough interest, BCF may sponsor another session on another date.
6. New tables for the gym have arrived! If you have suggestions for disposition of the old tables, please let Eric know (efujii52@gmail.com).
7. The Board decided that BCF Awards will be made every other year, instead of each year.
8. Rev. Imada's next Japanese language class will be January 28.
9. Ben Uyeno's Eagle Scout project to clean, repair, and the paint the outdoor kitchen is complete. A big thank you to Ben and his troop and Kenny T. who acted as the BCF liaison and provided guidance and assistance throughout the project.
10. The BWA's Tsuitou Hoyo Service and Bonenkai were well-attended, and all enjoyed the food and prizes and the dharma talk by guest speaker Rev. Etsuko Mikame from the San Jose Betsuin.
11. Repairs have been made to the leaking sink in the Hondo kitchen. A committee is proceeding with getting estimates to replace damaged cabinets and getting an idea about potential costs for a larger scope remodel.
12. The script rebate for 2023 was more than \$2,000. Thank you to everyone who purchased scrip and to Ann T. for skillfully managing it all!

Jr. YBA/Dharma School Steak Sandwich/Chinese Chicken Salad Fundraiser December 3, 2023

Thank you to everyone who supported this fundraiser. Whether you helped on site or made a purchase. We appreciate all of you! It was a success! Thank you!



Not everyone who helped is pictured. Missing from pictures, but very helpful: Kenny Okabayashi, Kenny Teranishi, Greg Crandell, Eric Fujii, Glenn Fujii, Margie Sunahara, & Erik Nishida. (apologies if your name is missed) Special thank you to Ann and Lon Tsukamoto & Ginny Syphax who did the coordinating, purchasing, order inputting, financials and more!

**Thank You
So Much**



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

I want to start out with a thank you to everyone who donated to the toy drive, whether it was through physical toys or money, as we had enough to donate to two places. When going to our first destination, UC Davis Children's Hospital, we were able to donate a vast number of toys to the hospital. This year it was a bit different, as the doctors had time to allow us to check out other rooms other than the pediatric department. We were allowed to view the immediate trauma care rooms (I forgot their actual name, don't mind me), and got to learn some very interesting things about the new methods that doctors have been using to treat trauma patients. Once again, this yearly traditional scout event was made possible this time by your donations. You all exemplified what Buddha teaches “The greatest gift is the act of giving itself.”



- Skylar Lam



Upcoming Dharma Activities

- January 1 New Year Day Service at 10:00 am.
- January 14 HoOnko/Shotsuki, BCF Awards & General Meeting and New Year Party
- January 28 Nirvana Day/Family Service. JACL Mochi Madness

Upcoming Dharma School Topics

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

BWA

Jan. '24 Dana Project



SPCA Towel & Blanket Drive

BLANKET DONATIONS

HAPPILY ACCEPT

- Fleece
- Single Layer Blankets (Cotton, Wool)
- Small Cat Beds
- Small Dog Beds

CAN NO LONGER ACCEPT

- Comforters/Stuffed Blankets
- Woven/Knit/Crochet
- Thick/Heavy
- Double layer
- Felt/Velvet

Thank you for your support!

1,200 = 718

Our Wishlist - Sacramento SPCA [Visit >](#)

No space in your linen closet? How about cleaning out any unused towels or blankets for a worthy cause -- Animals at the Sacramento SPCA.

Blanket Drive!

Help keep the shelter dogs warm ❤️

Give the **gift of Warmth**

Towel & Blanket Donation Drive
Nov. 26-Dec. 10

BWA Dec. Dana Project

"Stuff a Stocking, Warm a Heart"

40th Anniversary SACRAMENTO **LOAVES & FISHES**
Handless 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



Nearly 100 stockings were "filled to the brim" for the "Stuff a Stocking..." Drive.

Tsuitou Service/Bonenkai Party Dec. 9, 2023



Guest speaker *Rev. Etsuko Mikame, San Jose Betsuin*



Chairperson *Sandy Okuno* with lots of bingo and raffle prizes

Welcome Back

Mike K. & Tomio I.



Tomio Ito returns. After working near the garden area during the AM, Tomio enjoyed a specialty donut brought by **Ginny S.** Also given to LOTUS that day were **Eric's F's** lemons, **Peggy's** persimmon cookies, & **Jennifer's** dried persimmons. Birthday guy, **Ben Kusaka**, & others enjoyed birthday cupcakes baked by **Sharon O.**



ARIGATO

Peggy O.	<i>Persimmon cookies</i>
Ginny S	<i>Specialty donuts</i>
Eric F	<i>Lemons</i>
Jennifer K	<i>Dried persimmons</i>
Sharon O	<i>Birthday cupcakes</i>
JoAnn K	<i>Fudge</i>



Mike Kusama has returned working inside (the hondo) & out. One of Mike's duties is cleaning the onaijin before each monthly Shotsuki service. Outside duties have included cleaning up & light pruning.

Boy Scout Project

Mini Renovation of Outside Kitchen



LOTUS early birds (minus 2 [Greg/Gary] who disappeared when the camera appeared) check out the newly renovated outside kitchen. The kitchen is the staging area of the LOTUS guys during early Thurs. mornings. The mini renovation was the Eagle Scout project of **Ben Uyeno**, grandson of the late **Ben and Sue Nakahira**.

Buddhist Church of Florin

Kikuyo and Kinjiro Nakatani Public School Teacher Grant Recipient

Tracy Yee is a recipient of a Kikuyo and Kinjiro Nakatani Public School Teacher Grant in the amount of \$2,000. Tracy teaches 1st grade at Charles Mack Elementary School in the Elk Grove Unified School District. With the grant award, she plans to purchase essential classroom supplies-paper, glue sticks, pencils etc., books for her classroom library, plus field trips and snacks for her students.

Tracy, husband Jarret, and daughters, Mia and Emi are church members. Tracy is the daughter of Rick and Sheryl Tokunaga.

Congratulations to our dedicated public school teacher, Tracy!

The Kikuyo and Kinjiro Nakatani Public School Teacher Grants are available to church members who teach in public schools. Grant applications are being accepted for the 2023-24 school term. For more information regarding this grant program, please contact Walter Menda.



Eileen Nakahira

Scout project. With the help of his

Buddhist Church of Florin

Kikuyo and Kinjiro Nakatani Scholarships 2024-2025

The Buddhist Church of Florin's Kikuyo and Kinjiro Nakatani Scholarship program offers academic financial assistance to our church members' high school and college students with multiple scholarships.

Graduating high school students who will be attending full time and/or students attending an accredited college, university or vocational school full time in 2024-2025 may apply for the scholarships. The student's parent(s) or student must be a member of the Buddhist Church of Florin to be eligible for the scholarships.

The evaluation criteria will be:

- Participation in church, community and school activities
- Scholastic achievement
- Essay
- In-person interview

Church Member Parents-Please encourage your children to apply for the Buddhist Church of Florin's Kikuyo and Kinjiro Nakatani Scholarships. Applications will be available from the Nakatani Scholarship Chairperson, Walter Menda, or Florin Dharma School Superintendent and Jr. YBA advisors in January 2024.

Application Deadline: Applications must be received by the Nakatani Scholarship Chairperson by midnight, April 1, 2024.

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	

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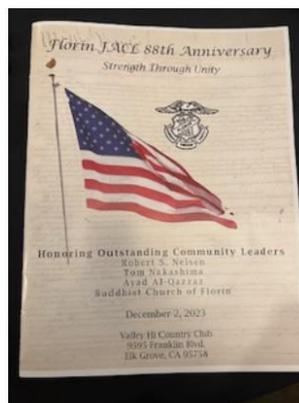
ITEM	QTY	UNIT COST	TOTAL
Chicken Plate (½ teriyaki chicken, vegetable, rice, pickled vegetable, sliced oranges)		x \$19.00	
Curry Rice		x \$7.00	
Udon (Fresh udon; cooking instructions will be provided)		x \$7.00	
TOTAL ENCLOSED			

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

In addition to receiving this award, the Florin JACL did a very nice, extensive slide show regarding Buddhist Church of Florin's history as a temple. It's twenty-four (24) pages long. If you are interested in seeing this document, go to florinbuddhist.org.

"HONORING OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY LEADERS"

The Buddhist Church of Florin was one of three award recipients at the Florin JACL's 88th Anniversary Celebration which was held on December 2, 2023 at Valley High Country Club.



Eric Fujii, BCF President accepting the award



Eric Fujii, BCF President
Andy & Twila Noguchi



Left to Right:
Marielle Tsukamoto, presenter.
Robert Nelsen, Tom Nakashima, Eric Fujii,



BCF Attendees, Left to Right:
Shirley Gee, Jennifer Kubo, Margie Sunahara,
Jan Takeuchi, Elizabeth Fujii, Lon Tsukamoto,
Ann Tsukamoto, Eric Fujii

Community Spirit and Service Award

Buddhist Church of Florin - A Pillar, Center, and Anchor for the Community

By Andy Noguchi and Twila Tomita

In 1919, the 97 Japanese American pioneers who founded the Buddhist Church of Florin among the strawberry and tokay grape farms would have been astounded it is still going strong 104 years later! Today, the Buddhist Church of Florin is a crucial pillar, center, and anchor for the Florin community.

It has provided vital support, been a central gathering point and a community mainstay. Especially after the unjust confinement of Japanese Americans in WWII concentration camps and their dispersal, the church has been the glue connecting, reviving, and helping the community to flourish.

The Buddhist Church of Florin's mission is to share the wisdom and compassion of the Buddhist teachings and practices with the greater community. It's part of the Buddhist Churches of America, the oldest and largest Buddhist organization in the West and belongs to the Shin or True Pure Land sect.

The church has blossomed into a respected Buddhist center with church services, children's Sunday Dharma School, Buddhist study classes, active Buddhist Women's Association, and the hugely-popular Summer Obon Festival, which honors those who have passed away. It always welcomes new members and the Next Generation.

Over the decades, it has greatly strengthened the community by developing diverse programs, reaching out broadly, and forging partnerships. These have included:

Cultural Programs: Japanese Language classes since the 1920s, continuing with a class by Reverend Noritaka Imada. Obon dance and festival since 1933 and New Year's Mochi rice cake making. Sponsoring martial arts since the 1980s with Kendo, Judo, and now Kyudo kai archery. Taiko drumming begun in the 1990s

Sports Programs: Youth Basketball program, golf tournaments, adult volleyball, and even pickleball today.

Community Programs: Japanese food bazaars, Florin Community Reunions in the 1980s, and senior lunch programs from the 2000s.

Programs in Partnership with the Florin JACL: Time of Remembrance events for 20 years from the 1980s, Manzanar Pilgrimage since 2006, Obon Dance and Mochi Madness Workshops since 2008.



The Buddhist Church of Florin Obon Festival honors loved ones who have passed. Pictured there in 2008 are 4 generations of the Ai Tanaka, Judie Miyao, Cheryl Miles, and Michelle Takeda families. (Photo by Ace Blakkolb)

- **Buddhist Church of Florin is located at:** 7235 Pritchard Rd, Sacramento, CA 95828 916-383-1831
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