



# ONENESS

## Buddhist Church of Florin



June 2024

Volume 6

### The Samurai, Naozane Kumagai

Shinran Shonin was perhaps one of Honen Shonin's most documented disciples. I would like to share a story of one of Honen Shonin's other disciples this month. This disciple was a famous soldier named Naozane Kumagai who served the Genji Clan during the Heian period of Japanese history.

During the Genpei War, one of the enemy soldiers Naozane fought and killed was of the same age as his son. He was shocked and felt the impermanence of life. After that, he decided to become a Buddhist. Naozane asked Honen Shonin, "I killed a lot of people. But if it is possible, I would like to be born into the Pure Land. If I need to kill myself with a sword to be born into the Pure Land, I am determined to do that." Honen Shonin replied, "You don't have to kill yourself. Just recite the Nembutsu and you can be born into the Pure Land." It was at that moment Naozane encountered the Nembutsu teaching and became Honen Shonin's disciple. "Just recite the Nembutsu" was the answer from Honen Shonin and his Nembutsu teaching.

***"Although I am without shame and self-reproach. And lack a mind of truth and sincerity, Because the Name is directed by Amida, its virtues fill the ten quarters. " (Shinran Shonin - Wasan)***

In this finite world, with our unstoppable blind passion, we have nothing that will help us reach the Pure Land, but Amida Buddha is trying to help us. Reciting the Nembutsu is not a condition for reaching the Pure Land, but a means to express gratitude for Amida's work. There is no quota for how many times we have to recite the Nembutsu. We can recite it as much as we want every time we feel grateful.

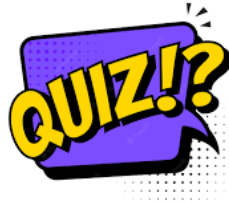
After meeting Honen Shonin, many people's lives changed and Shinran Shonin is also one of them. Shinran Shonin encountered a lot of people in his life, but in particular, his encounter with Honen Shonin seemed important to him. In Kyogyoshinsho, Shinran Shonin wrote about Honen Shonin. His words indicate that his encounter and separation from Honen Shonin were the greatest joy and greatest sadness of his life. Shinran Shonin writes in the last part of Kyogyoshinsho:

***" I have collected true words so that they may help others practice the way for birth. For my wish is that those who have attained birth may lead those who come after them and those who aspire for birth may follow their predecessors, thus following one after another endlessly and uninterruptedly until the boundless sea of birth and death is exhausted. " (Shinran Shonin - Kyogyoshinsho)***

As for the phrase "the boundless sea of birth and death," Shinran Shonin often compares Blind Passion with the Sea and Amida's Vow with the Ship. When Shinran Shonin met Honen Shonin and encountered the path of Nembutsu, he wanted to share the teachings of Nembutsu with people born in the future.

Blind passion constantly bubbles up in the heart, however the desire to be born in the Pure Land does not arise. Fortunately, that is proof that you are the target of Amida Buddha's vow.

***"The ocean of birth-and-death, of painful existence, has no bound; Only by the ship of Amida's universal Vow. Can we, who have long been drowning, Unfailingly be brought across it." (Shinran Shonin - Wasan)***



Last month's quiz answers

Tonkatsu and Tonkotsu are both Japanese cuisine names.

Tonkotsu [Pork-bone based soup ramen]    Tonkatsu [Pork cutlet]

"Ton" means pork, "Katsu" means cutlet, and "Kotsu" means bone. I often hear the word Tonkotsu Ramen, but I don't often hear the word Tonkatsu Ramen. They have similar pronunciations but different meanings. 🐱

#### The next quiz

What is the popular food to eat on Christmas eve in Japan?

1. KFC 🍗 2. McDonald's 🍔 3. Dunkin Donuts 🍩

In Gassho,

Rev. Noritaka Imada

If you need to contact Rev. Imada, you can email him at: [imadabca@gmail.com](mailto:imadabca@gmail.com)

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# BCF ELECTIONS

**Please make sure you return  
your election ballot and  
proposed change ballot no  
later than June 15<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.**

## June Monthly Memorial (Shotsuki Hoyo) Service

The monthly memorial service for those who passed away during the month of June will be held on **Sunday, June 9, 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 June 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](mailto:imadabca@gmail.com) to make special memorial arrangements. Please inform Lois Kashiwase of any corrections or additions to the list.

Andersen, Jeanne Hanae	06-21-2019	Nishi, Eiko	06-23-1968
Baishiki, Midori Barbara	06-01-2016	Nishida, Shinichi	06-25-1936
Baishiki, Sadao	06-12-2011	Nishida, Tsuneo	06-14-1920
Baishiki, Toichi	06-20-1952	Nishikawa, Yukuno	06-21-1975
Chano, Masajiro	06-27-1904	Noda, Chiyo	06-03-1976
Collins, Roy	06-03-2014	Noda, Fred Nobuyuki	06-20-1986
Fujii, Kengo	06-07-1920	Ohmoto, Yasugoro	06-22-1914
Fujii, Sallie Chisato	06-12-1985	Okamoto, Bill Takeshi	06-22-1995
Furukawa, Ben	06-06-1989	Okamoto, Tom	06-20-2016
Furukawa, Myrtle Natsuye	06-20-2011	Sakaoka, Shunjiro	06-15-1949
Hamataka, Eimatsu	06-12-1971	Sato, Shimajiro	06-08-1972
Hirakawa, Jun	06-15-1935	Sawai, Tsuru	06-15-1935
Idemoto, Takezo	06-09-1916	Stillborn,	06-25-1923
Isa, Toshi	06-30-1919	Sumida, Hiro	06-14-1959
Ishimoto, Ise	06-20-1906	Tahara, Hatsuko	06-26-2006
Ito, Isao	06-07-1979	Takeda, Baby Girl	06-07-2002
Ito, Shizuko	06-25-1993	Takeda, Tadao	06-21-1934
Kadoya, Ed Tokio	06-03-1985	Takehara, Tami	06-04-1963
Kadoya, Jerry Masaru	06-27-1976	Takemoto, Kumajiro	06-26-1935
Kawamoto,	06-13-1910	Takeoka, Frank	06-13-1932
Kawasaki, Kazuo	06-06-1938	Takeoka, Yuriko	06-04-2022
Kawashima, Yakuye	06-05-1921	Taniguchi, Matahachi	06-06-1927
Kobayashi, Zennosuke	06-04-1917	Taniguchi, Takeko	06-29-2020
Koyama, Fumiko	06-21-1926	Wood, Kaye	06-25-2021
Kumamoto, George	06-03-1979	Yamada,	06- -1916
Kurima, Toyoki	06-22-1942	Yamamoto, Gary Russell	06-20-2012
Lee, Kingsley Ken	06-01-2020	Yanagishita, Shuzo (stillborn)	06-25-1923
Matsusaki, Iwakichi	06-28-1950	Yoshinaga, Haruye	06-23-1943
Muranaka, Sally Shizuko	06-22-2014	Yoshinaga, Iwako	06-17-1972
Nakao, Joe	06-17-1992	Yubuta, Shigeichi	06-18-1962

### 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 <sup>st</sup> Year	2000	25 <sup>th</sup> Year
2022	3 <sup>rd</sup> Year	1992	33 <sup>rd</sup> Year
2018	7 <sup>th</sup> Year	1975	50 <sup>th</sup> Year
2012	13 <sup>th</sup> Year	1925	100 <sup>th</sup> Year
2008	17 <sup>th</sup> Year		

# ***Join us for Sunday Service***

**June Shotsuki Hoyo and Family Service  
Celebrating Dharma School Graduates and Fathers  
June 9, 2024 at 10 a.m.**

***Officiant: Rev. Noritaka Imada***

*There will be a Potluck Luncheon following the service.*

***Food assignment by last name:***

***Main Dishes: A to N***

***Salads: O to T***

***Desserts: U to Z***

*Please rsvp to [florinbuddhist@gmail.com](mailto: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.



# Buddhist Church of Florin

## OBON *Festival*



**Saturday, July 20, 2024**

Hatsubon/Nokotsudo Service	3 pm
Exhibits & Demonstrations	4 pm – 7 pm
Snack Bar	4 pm – 7 pm
Sacramento Taiko Dan	6:30 pm
Obon Odori	7 pm

**Obon Odori Practice: July 9 – 11 & 16 – 18 at 7 pm**

### ***Florin Obon Workshop***

***July 18 from 5:30 pm***

***Sponsored by Florin JACL and Buddhist Church of Florin***

7235 Pritchard Road, Sacramento, CA 95828  
Visit [www.florinbuddhist.org](http://www.florinbuddhist.org)



**JUNE 3, 2024**

MON AFTER NATIONAL BOARD MEETING

**CODE: 921813**



ORDER VIA APP AND ONLINE

**ORDER.PANDAEXPRESS.COM**

PROCEEDS GO TO DHARMA FORWARD

S U P P O R T   B C A   A N D   I B S

## 2024 Membership Dues

Thank you to the following members for their 2024 membership dues received in March/April/May:

Ellen Griggs	Larry Ito	Kenny & Cindy Kakutani
Gordan & Donna Kunisaki	Scott Louie & Diane Enomoto	
Esther Matsumoto	Frank Mouton (monthly)	Katherine Oda
Gary Takeuchi	Eileen Nakahira & David Uyeno (monthly)	
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](mailto:s.takeda@comcast.net).

If you know someone interested in joining us, please refer them to [florinbuddhist.org](http://florinbuddhist.org) for more information & the BCF membership form.

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

***Katherine Oda***

***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**  
May 9, 2024

1. Many thanks to Lotus Club's Gary O., Ben K., Greg C., Harvey K., Walter M. and Lon T. who received the shipment of new chairs donated by the BWA for the multipurpose room. They went above and beyond moving the chairs to the chicken pit and later moving them from there to the multipurpose room. Thank you to Margie S. for cleaning and placing the chairs.
2. Progress continues with our BCF website refresh. Thanks to Tyson Fong, Jan Takeuchi, Gary Takeuchi, and Jonathan Okamoto. They have been diligently re-creating and moving current web pages to the new domain and creating ordering and payment functionality. More to follow as the process continues.
3. Pickleball will meet every Sunday at 1 pm unless there is a conflicting event scheduled for the space.
4. Sacramento Kendo will be hosting a tournament in the gym on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Contact Glenn Harada (gcstharada@yahoo.com) for more information. All are welcome to watch.
5. The Board has considered the candidate pool for the upcoming elections. Since the pool is small and people may be unwilling to serve if elected, the Board has decided to merge the 3 toban groups to one and change directors at large to two (for the entire group). Many of the existing Board members have agreed to serve a second term, with the idea that newly elected members will be mentored by the current Board member to learn about the duties and responsibilities. (See the article in this newsletter).
6. BCF is hosting the district-wide Chicken Throwdown event. The event, to be held next spring, will put temples in the district against each other over who makes the best teriyaki chicken! Walnut Grove currently holds the perpetual trophy. The event is a fundraiser for the Northern California District Council and proceeds are used to fund the education program. Contact Elizabeth Fujii (eefujii@gmail.com) if you'd like to help with this fun and tasty event. Let's unseat Walnut Grove!!
7. **SAVE THE DATE:** Obon Festival on July 20. Service will be at 3 pm with Guest Speaker Rev. Michael Endo of the Buddhist Church of Oakland. Obon Odori practice will be July 9, 10, 11 & 16, 17, 18 at 7 pm. Cultural exhibits and demonstrations are planned. Lots of hands are needed for a successful event. Please volunteer by contacting Lois Kashiwase (loiskash2@comcast.net).
8. Have you paid your 2024 membership dues? If not, please send in as soon as possible. Questions may be directed to Membership Chair, Susan Takeda (s.takeda@comcast.net).
9. Thank you to Lloyd Okimura for continuing to take on the task of minor facilities repair. The list seems endless, and we appreciate his persistence!







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

During the last Dharma School session, I taught the participants a lesson on Right Effort, using the example of passing on family traditions with the help of a book, *The Mochi Makers* by Sharon Fujimoto-Johnson. We discussed the importance of striving to do the right and moral thing not just for ourselves, but for all of those who follow in our footsteps and those who are caught in the wake of our actions. We reflected upon what we have done in the past to make a positive impact on our present and future selves, as well as the people around us. Furthermore, we discussed what we could do going forth from this session, how many more activities we can do to touch the lives around us and change them for the better. Or at the very least, leave memories of ourselves that can continue to light up others when needed.

- Skylar Lam

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### Upcoming Dharma School Events



Please join us for the following end of the year event.

June 9: Graduation



## Jr. YBA Panda Express Fundraiser



**When:**

**Friday, August 16, 2024**

Place your order for pickup or delivery on Friday, August 16, 2024

**Place your order online only at :**

[www.pandaexpress.com](http://www.pandaexpress.com)

**Available at Panda Express locations nationwide**

**How:**

**Online orders only**

Apply code **921789** in the Fundraiser Code box during online checkout at [www.pandaexpress.com](http://www.pandaexpress.com) or via App

28% of sales will be donated to: Buddhist Church of Florin Jr. YBA

**SHARE WITH YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS IN THE USA!**

Thank you for supporting our fundraiser!



# June BWA Dana Project



**Start of collection for toiletries or check donation to purchase bulk stocking stuffers for December distribution.**



With rummage sale proceeds, these new tables were donated and placed in the MPR in 2022. Nearly 100 new heavy-duty chairs purchased with the 2023 BWA rummage sale proceeds finally arrived in early April. (backordered).



## Research

Kathy Menda  
Judy Shimizu

## Ordering Movers

Ben Kusaka  
Walt Menda

Kathy Menda  
Gary Okamoto  
Greg Crandell  
Harvey Kadoya  
Lon Tsukamoto  
Margie Sunahara

## Setup



**May BWA  
Dana Project**



Requesting:  
Bottled Water



# LOTUS News

Learning Oriental Trimming ...

June '24

[April-May 2024]

Land Park Pond 7-'22

## LOTUS – Spring Tasks

*Recycled cans & bottles*  
*Planted vegetable plants*  
*Pruned pine & maple trees*  
*Cleaned up damage caused by storm*  
*Replaced tree*  
*Weed control*  
*Helped move nearly 100 chairs to the MPR*

## Vegetable Garden *Loving the Sun*



Ron S & Lloyd O  
replaced a tree  
with a new one.

*Abigato*

*Ginny Syphax*  
*Tom & Nancy Oda*  
*JoAnn Kusaka*  
*Sharon Okamoto*  
*Tomio Ito*

*Peanut butter mousse & strawberry pies*  
*LOTUS donation*  
*Weekly lunch*  
*Weekly dessert*  
*Weekly donuts*





Two New Defibrillators Within BCF Facilities  
— one in the kitchen, the other in the gym

**BWA** purchased new **MPR-gym tables** (during past 2 yrs.) and these new heavy-duty MPR chairs last year (which just arrived).

Thanks to LOTUS members including Lon T. who transported the chairs to the MPR and Margie S. who cleaned and set them up.

The older chairs and tables pictured below are available for **FREE**. You just need to be able to haul away.



Photo by Sharon Okamoto

## Red Cross CPR Training [Adult and Pediatric CPR/AED] & New AEDs within facilities.

Seventeen BCF members went through CPR training and received CPR certification. The training included the use of AEDs. Each participant completed online and an in-person skills session in early January at the church.

Thanks to **Glenn Fujii**, BCF Research Chair who coordinated this activity, **Peggy Okabayashi** for the original AED request, **Lon Tsukamoto** who researched and purchased the AEDs, and **Kenny Okabayashi** for installing.



**Sundays  
1 pm**

Free for BCF members

**PICKLEBALL**