



# ONENESS

**Buddhist Church of Florin**



March 2024

Volume 3

Hello March! Spring is almost here.

Spring cannot be seen with our eyes, but we can feel it approaching from the fact that the temperature is getting warmer, spring flowers are blooming and many other things.

In this world, there are things that can be seen and things that cannot be seen. For example, we can see buildings, cars, televisions, and people. But we cannot see our heart, love, trust, and warmth. The Nembutsu that comes out of our mouths is also invisible to the eye. It is said that the Buddha appeared in the form of a voice.

In Gobunsho, Rennyo Shonin mentions the Nembutsu and Shinran Shonin's teachings. It describes the importance of reciting the Nembutsu with a feeling of gratitude, realizing that instead of trying to reach enlightenment on your own, you can only reach it through the power of Amida Buddha.



March is a good opportunity to remember Rennyo Shonin because his date of death is March 25, 1499. When I saw this picture of him, I remembered that there was something black on the side of his face. It looked like an unshaven part of his beard. The story behind this picture is an interesting one that I'd like to share with you.

It is said that Rennyo Shonin did not shave his beard himself every day. He had his disciples shave it for him. However, since Rennyo Shonin was constantly reciting the Nembutsu with his mouth, the disciples had to be very careful when they shaved his beard. There were no electric razors and no T-shaped razors like there are today. If the disciples made the slightest mistake, they would cut his face. His disciples were cautious, so one day he asked Rennyo Shonin, "Would you please stop reciting the Nembutsu while I shave?" In response, Rennyo Shonin seems to have replied, "This is not me reciting the Nembutsu, but my mouth is reciting it on its own due to Amida Buddha's work. Therefore, there is nothing I can do about it." Since there was nothing that could be done, the disciple continued to shave Rennyo Shonin's beard carefully every day.

To convey this story, the pictures of Rennyo Shonin that we place on the altars depicts his beard unshaven on his cheek.



# 熊猫

The answer to last month's quiz was "A panda."

When the kanji "熊", which means bear, and "猫", which means cat combine, it means a panda.

## The next quiz

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



In Gassho,

Rev. Noritaka Imada

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



## March Monthly Memorial (Shotsuki Hoyo) Service

The monthly memorial service for those who passed away during the month of March will be held on **Sunday, March 10, 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 March 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.

Fujii, George	03-08-1989	Nagaishi, Michi	03-24-1915
Fujii, Motosuke	03-18-1951	Nakao, Shinayo	03-16-1963
Fujii, Shinichi	03-29-1906	Nakashima, Kimi	03-10-1980
Fujioka, Joe Goichi	03-06-2016	Nakashima, Thomas Akira	03-17-1984
Hamamoto, Kazuo Harry	03-28-2002	Nakayama, Matsutaro	03-20-1932
Hamamoto, Yoneko	03-31-1995	Nekoda, Baby	03-03-1921
Hamataka, Yasue	03-24-1922	Nishimoto, Tamakichi	03-02-1952
Hayashida, Fusa	03-31-1943	Nobuso, Saka	03-02-1971
Hayashida, Yauemon	03-04-1913	Oda, Nobuyuki Robert	03-17-2019
Hudgens, Robert	03-10-1982	Okimura, Sadaichi	03-06-1971
Imahara, Mitsue	03-28-1974	Okimura, Samuel	03-04-2004
Inouye, Misao	03-12-1932	Otani, Mitsuno	03-02-1970
Kato, Natsuyo	03-22-1944	Oyama, Evelyn Kyoko	03-02-2021
Kawanishi, Emi	03-31-1932	Sakiyabu, Umeno	03-??-1910
Kishimoto, Bun	03-18-1988	Sasai, Toshimi	03-11-1988
Kitayama, Akira	03-12-1928	Sawada, Aiko	03-10-1941
Koyanagi, Mitsuo	03-26-1939	Sumida, Nancy Fusako	03-13-2023
Kuroda, Lillian Yuriko	03-16-2004	Sumida, Tom	03-25-2009
Kushida, Infant	03-17-1913	Sumiyama, Shimataro	03-22-1947
Kuwabara, Takashi	03-08-1918	Tachibana, Kaoru Bob	03-17-2014
Maruki, Ayako	03-15-1921	Tahara, Kumakichi	03-09-1957
Masuda, Yoshio	03-28-1947	Takemori, Masaki	03-07-2016
Mitsuyoshi, Sekino	03-18-1971	Tanigawa, Fred Shiego	03-01-2009
Miyamura, Eikichi	03-20-1933	Tsunekawa, Andy Koichi	03-27-2014
Miyao, Yai	03-08-1972	Ueki, Toshio	03-08-1921
Miyata, Tomie	03-23-1923	Usami, Yone	03-12-1963
Mizoguchi, Isamu	03-25-1917	Watanabe, Minoru	03-22-2009
Mizukami, Kiyoshi T.	03-01-2001	Yamada, Chuzo	03-22-1919
Muranaka, Shinichi	03-05-1954	Yoshida, Hidesaburo	03-29-1935
Murata, Kazuo	03-23-1932	Yoshinaga, Fusaye	03-20-1946
Nagai, Masuo	03-10-1915	Zenimura, Nisuke	03-07-1912

### 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		

## CONDOLENCES

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

NAMO AMIDA BUTSU

AMY ODA

February 11, 1927 to February 13, 2024

TOYOKO TSUKAMOTO

December 6, 1925 to February 20, 2024

## *Join us for Sunday Service*

*Spring Ohigan, March Shotsuki and  
Family Service  
Sunday, March 10, 2024 at 10 a.m.*

*Rennyō Shonin Memorial and  
Family Service  
Sunday, March 25, 2024 at 10 a.m.*

*Officiant: Rev. Noritaka Imada*

*Following the March 10<sup>th</sup> service, there will be a light lunch following the church service and so in order to prepare enough for everyone, we ask that you 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.

## SANGHA INSIGHTS

*By Elizabeth Fujii*



This morning our “Oneness” editor contacted me to ask about submitting this month’s article. If you have suggestions for who should be in a future article, please let me know. Meanwhile, I had a request a couple of months ago to feature BCF President, Eric Fujii.

Eric was born in Sacramento. He was raised in Florin with his parents Ted and Sally, and brothers Russ and Wesley. A life-long BCF member, Eric, has been friends with Walt Menda and Lloyd Okimura since they were children (... a *really* long time!) Eric’s son, Glenn, daughter-in-law Jennifer, and granddaughters Kylie and Kristen are also BCF members.

He worked at the State of California for 38 years, retiring in 2010 as Deputy Director of Administration, Department of Social Services. Currently, Eric resides with his wife, Elizabeth, and puppy, Kimo, in East Sacramento.

If you have spent time around him, you know that Eric enjoys eating. Really, *really* enjoys eating. He is an authority on restaurants he likes. He even maintains comprehensive lists of favorite places he has eaten at, favorite dishes, and the quantity of food served. He also enjoys playing golf, usually two times per week, especially because it includes after-golf lunch with friends.

Eric is serving in his second year as BCF President. He is active in church fundraising efforts, including the Annual BCF Golf Tournament, and the yearly Loco Moco Breakfast and Prime Rib Dinner.

## 2024 Membership Dues

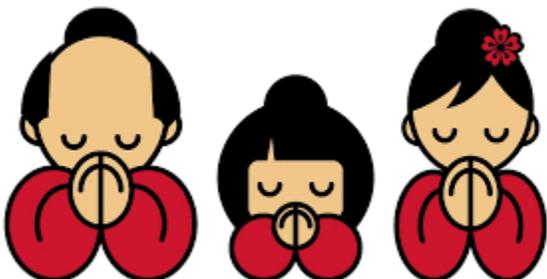
Thank you to the following members for their 2024 membership dues received in January:

Eric & Elizabeth Fujii	Jeffery Hamamoto	JoyAnne Hamamoto
Tomio Ito	Dick & Sally Kadoya	Liz Kono
Ben & JoAnn Kusaka	Daniel & Linda Menda	George & Judie Miyao
Frank Mouton (monthly)	Kimi Munekawa	
Tom Nakashima & Susan Sarinas		Alan & Rugy Nakano
Irene & Keith Nakaoka	Norma Nakata	Erik & Katie Nishida
Flora Nishida	Andy Noguchi & Twila Tomita	
Nadine Nouchi & Henry Lam	Tom & Nancy Oda	Ken & Peggy Okabayashi
Alfred & Yvonne Onodera	Hiroko Saigo	Craig & Diana Shijo
Janice Shintaku	Janet Sonoda	Michael Sonoda
Margie Sunahara	Shig Tahara	Jan Takeuchi
Kenny & Louise Teranishi (semi-annual)		Rick & Sheryl Tokunaga
Lon & Ann Tsukamoto	Ginny Yamamoto-Syphax	Mits Yamamoto
Sharon Yamamoto	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.**





Buddhist Church of Florin  
**Governing Board Meeting Highlights**  
February 8, 2024

1. Orei guidelines for use of facilities multipurpose room, kitchen, gym, etc., by members or non-members have been updated and approved by BCF.
2. 2024 Membership dues are due now. Please submit your form and payment (form in this newsletter). Thanks to those that have already completed their membership renewal.
3. 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](mailto:mjsunahara@att.net)).
4. Thank you to Ginny Syphax for the generous donation of postage stamps for newsletter and administrative uses!
5. Improvements to BCF website are continuing. The BCA program that would have provided assistance was found to be too restrictive, thus this project will move forward with BCF volunteers. If you would like to help or have expertise in web development, contact Jan Takeuchi ([jktakeuchi51@att.net](mailto:jktakeuchi51@att.net)) or Tyson Fong (tysonfong11@gmail.com).
6. The gym floor is expected to be resurfaced in March. The job will include the addition of pickleball court lines to the existing basketball and volleyball court lines.
7. Maintenance continues in the main building: Floors will be stripped and waxed. Carpets cleaned in hondo and carpets cleaned and repaired in the main building.
8. Tables in gym have been replaced with new ones donated by BWA. New chairs for the multipurpose room have been ordered.



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



- ❖ *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*
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### Upcoming Dharma School Topics

Please join us for some creative and interactive teachings



March 10: Right Speech  
March 24: Right Meditation  
April 28: Right Endeavor  
May 12: Right Livelihood  
May 26: Right Mindfulness

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# FUNDRAISER FOR: Buddhist Church of Florin Jr. YBA



## VIRTUAL COMMUNITY FUNDRAISERS

### When

**Friday, March 22, 2024**

Place your order for pickup or delivery on Friday, March 22 !

### Where

**Available at Panda Express locations nationwide**

### How

**Online orders only**

Apply code **921788** in the Fundraiser Code box during online checkout at [www.pandaexpress.com](http://www.pandaexpress.com) or <https://bit.ly/48t50Dv> (click on the "Order" button) or scan this QR code:



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

If you do not have a local Panda Express near you but would like to make a donation to Jr. YBA, you can! Make your **check payable to Buddhist Church of Florin** (put Jr. YBA in the memo of your check) and **send it to BCF Jr. YBA, P.O. Box 292006, Sacramento, CA 95829.**

**Thank you for your support!**

# BWA Dana Mar. '24



The March Dana Project is once again supporting the Elk Grove Food Bank Services. This year, however, we would like to contribute monetarily as opposed to providing goods. The food bank can then focus on bulk purchasing of needed items.



Elk Grove Food Bank Services

If you would like to participate, you may do so by submitting a donation to the BWA who will then send a check to the Elk Grove Food Bank. You will receive an end-of-year donation acknowledgment from BCF in Jan., '25 for the year 2024.

Check payable to **Buddhist Church of Florin**. (Notation: BWA EG Food Bank)

**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

**TEAM TOKE**

**DONATE 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 Feb. Dana Project



## Used Clothing & Housewares

All donations of used clothing and housewares are accepted at WEAVEWorks. WEAVE clients receive vouchers enabling them to shop for the specific sizes and items they need. WEAVE can NOT accept donations of used clothing or housewares at its business offices.

For February's Lady Kujo's Dana Project we will be supporting WEAVE by donating to WEAVE-Works Recycled Fashion, a thrift store. At this time, they are accepting lightly used clothing and housewares. Any donation drop-offs may be left in the MPR.

## STORM DAMAGE CLEAN UP/ WELCOME BACK RON

Most recent storm damage: **One lantern down.** This once-lighted lantern is shown here being dismantled—to be renewed once again but not lighted. (**Ken O, Harvey K,** and “good to see” **Ron S**). Ron recalls having all the lanterns lit during funerals at one time.



## New Years Lunch

**JoAnn** prepared steamed striped bass, kabocha and umami in January.

January: Fish caught by **Gary O**;  
Prepared by **JoAnn K**

February birthday boy: **Gary O**  
Birthday cupcakes: **Sharon O**

## Theft/Vandalism Clean-Up

**Ken O** (again) working on boarding up/taking down window boarding and cleaning new replacement windows with **Margie Sunahara**, BCF 1<sup>st</sup> VP.



# ARIGATO



- Ginny Syphax** Provided entire lunch on 1/25 for LOTUS (lasagna soup & fixin's)
- Gary Okamoto** Striped bass, oranges
- Tomio Ito** Breakfast snacks
- Craig Shijo** Chinese tamales
- LOTUS ladies** Lunar New Year treats



## 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 six scholarships:

- A \$5,000 scholarship and a \$3,000 scholarship to graduating senior high school students; and
- A \$5,000 scholarship, a \$3,000 scholarship, a \$2,000 scholarship and a \$1,000 scholarship to students attending a university, college or vocational school.

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 YBA advisors in January 2024.

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



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！



5-Minute  
Dharma  
Message



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Some of past recordings:

## **DHARMA REALM**

An occasional podcast conversation between Harry Gyokyo Bridge, resident minister of the Buddhist Church of Oakland, and Scott Mitchell, Dean of the Institute of Buddhist Studies, about Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, Buddhism in the modern world, pop-culture, music, sci-fi, and how all those things are related.

## **NO DOUBT**

No Doubt will look at current events, people, and language from a Shin Buddhist (Jodo Shinshu) perspective, as well as topics that address doctrinal issues of this tradition.

Hosted by Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji.

## **WELCOME MATTS**

Reverend Matt Hamasaki and 'Regular' Matt Nitta talk about Buddhism, pop culture, and anything else in life that comes up!

And more!!! [Check it out!](#)