



ONENESS

Buddhist Church of Florin



May 2024

Volume 5

Gotanye

Happy Spring! I hope you are all enjoying the beautiful weather.

Last month, HanaMatsuri was held, and we were surrounded by beautiful flowers and poured sweet tea on a statue of the baby Shakyamuni Buddha. We celebrated the birth of Buddha Shakyamuni and had a delicious potluck lunch. Thank you to everyone who made this service a success.



In the afternoon, Pickleball was held at the gym and about 10 people participated. We started with a light warm-up such as stretching our muscles, practiced, and played several games with different teams. I felt that everyone could enjoy it, including those with experience and beginners. We look forward to your participation.

Gōtanye, the birthday commemoration of Shinran Shonin, is scheduled for May 12th from 10am. Our founder, Shinran Shonin, was born on May 21, 1173. The Nishi Honganji Temple has held services on this day since 1874, calling it "Gōtanye."

Shinran Shonin was born in Kyoto. His father was Arinori Hino. One of Shinran Shonin's famous stories is about when he became a monk. This story takes place when Shinran Shonin was only 9 years old. He decided to become a Buddhist monk and went to a monk named Jien. However, by the time he arrived there, it was already night, so Jien said, "Tomorrow morning, I will hold the Tokudo ceremony for you." Tokudo is a ritual to become a monk.

However, Shinran Shonin replied, "I can't wait until tomorrow." Then he read the following poem:

"Asu Arito Omou Kokoro No Adazakura, Yowa Ni Arashi no Fukanu Monokaha"

The meaning of this poem is "Cherry blossoms may be blooming beautifully here tonight, but if you take it for granted that you'll be able to see them again tomorrow, a strong wind may blow in the middle of the night and blow them away."

He compared his life to cherry blossoms, expressing his feelings, "I don't know if I'll have a life tomorrow, so I want to live my life to the fullest."

Beautiful cherry blossoms were blooming at the Buddhist Church in Florin. The petals were starting to fall, and now you can see the green leaves. No matter how beautiful the cherry blossoms are, they must someday fall. And, the same goes for human life. This is the famous story in which, at just 9 years old, Shinran Shonin felt the impermanence of the world.

Last month's quiz answers



What is the most common surname in Japan?

"Tanaka, Suzuki, Sato, Toyota"

The most common surname in Japan is **Sato**. It is said that there are 2 million people with that last name. Suzuki seems to have the second most and Tanaka the fourth.



Tonkatsu and Tonkotsu are both Japanese cuisine names.

Please choose the English translation from 1 and 2 and fill in the blanks below.

Tonkotsu [_____]

Tonkatsu [_____]

1. Pork cutlet.
2. Pork-bone based soup ramen

In Gassho,

Rev. Noritaka Imada

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





BUDDHIST CHURCH OF FLORIN
P.O. BOX 292006, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95829-2006

April 15, 2024

Hello BCF Sangha:

I want to update you regarding Reverend Imada's status as our resident minister. We were anticipating that Reverend Imada would have to return to Japan in April to renew his Visa application. Together with the BCA Attorney and the Lodi Temple, we have made good progress on this matter and, as of now, he is going to remain in the country until at least September 2024. We are hopeful that efforts to retain Reverend Imada beyond that date will be successful.

Also, the BCF Oneness Newsletter has included articles featuring various BCF members. If you have someone you would like to nominate for a future "Sangha Insights" article, please let me know.

Lastly, I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the members that actively participate in the BCF by dedicating their time to maintaining the temple through physical labor, fundraising, serving and performing multiple functions on the Board and on committees, operating our Dharma School, etc.

We continue to draw on our limited resources and can always use more help with these efforts. Additionally, there are many other ways that you can support the temple: you can serve as 'greeter' for one Sunday service, or take a moment to check-in with our senior members to ensure they are doing well, or — simply join us at Sunday services.

I am asking each member to step up to honor the legacy that our Issei and Nisei built for us. Your help is essential to maintaining the health and viability of the BCF.

Eric Fujii, President
Buddhist Church of Florin

efujii52@gmail.com
916 955 1954

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 12, 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 May 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.

Fujii, Fusaye	05-21-1988	Okamoto, Heisaburo	05-03-1946
Fujii, Masao	05-13-1913	Omachi, Hisayo	05-19-2001
Fujii, Umeno	05-18-1968	Onodera, Tatsue	05-04-1957
Furukawa, Randy Masami	05-09-2023	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

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 May Services

**GOTANYE, May Shotsuki Hoyo Service
and Mother's Day,
Sunday, May 12, 2024 at 10 a.m.
Guest Speaker: Rev. Matt Hamasaki
Buddhist Church of Sacramento**

**Memorial Day and Family Service
Sunday, May 26, 2024 at 10 a.m.**

**Memorial Day Cemetery Visitations
Monday, May 27, 2024
Elder Creek at 9:00 a.m.
Sacramento Memorial at 9:30 a.m.
East Lawn at 10:30 a.m.**

Officiant: Rev. Noritaka Imada

There will be a light luncheon following the May 12th church service 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.

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



I decided to interview Ken Okabayashi for this month's Sangha Insights and, of course, I knew exactly where I would find him - at the BCF temple where he spends much of his time attending to various repairs and handling other maintenance projects. Ken immediately picked up my dog, Kimo, and petted him gently while he told me about his family, his military service, and his career as an electrician.

Ken's father, a farmer in Sacramento, was an Issei and his mother a Kibei. During the war, his parents and two older brothers were interned at Tule Lake. A third brother was born in camp, and Ken, the youngest child, was born after the family returned to Sacramento. From 1954 to 1963, his family resided in a hotel that Ken's mother ran, located on 7th and K Streets in Sacramento's Japan Town where the Golden1 Arena now stands.

In September of 1966, Ken was drafted into the Army and was trained as a combat medic. He served in Vietnam for 12 months and was later stationed at a clinic in Oakland. He subsequently joined the National Guard, attended officer candidate school and retired after 24 years in the military with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He then embarked on a new career as an Electrician Apprentice, moved on to a position as a Union Electrician, and transitioned to a State job with the Department of Corrections where he worked for 25 years as an Electrician and as an instructor for inmates.

Ken and his wife, Peggy, have been married for 53 years. They have one son, Whitney, who is married to Sharon. Both Ken and Peggy participate in Florin Kyudo Kai. In the military, he spent some time in Guam and the Philippines and he has visited Japan several times. Someday he hopes to visit Europe.

When we first sat down together, Ken told me several times that there wasn't much to share about his life. I realized quickly that was not true. While he is understated and humble when talking about himself, Ken has an interesting and impressive background centered around service to others. As a Military Veteran, we owe Ken our gratitude, and for all of his volunteer work for the BCF, we owe him our appreciation. Thank you Ken!



2024 Membership Dues

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

Calvin Abe
Frank Mouton (monthly)
Janet Sumida
Debra Yamamoto

Greg Crandall
Diane Nakao
Eileen Nakahira & David Uyeno (monthly)
Burt & Carol Yoshioka (monthly)

Kelvin & Kathie Kishaba
Sandy Okuno

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.



Buddhist Church of Florin
Governing Board Meeting Highlights
April 10, 2024

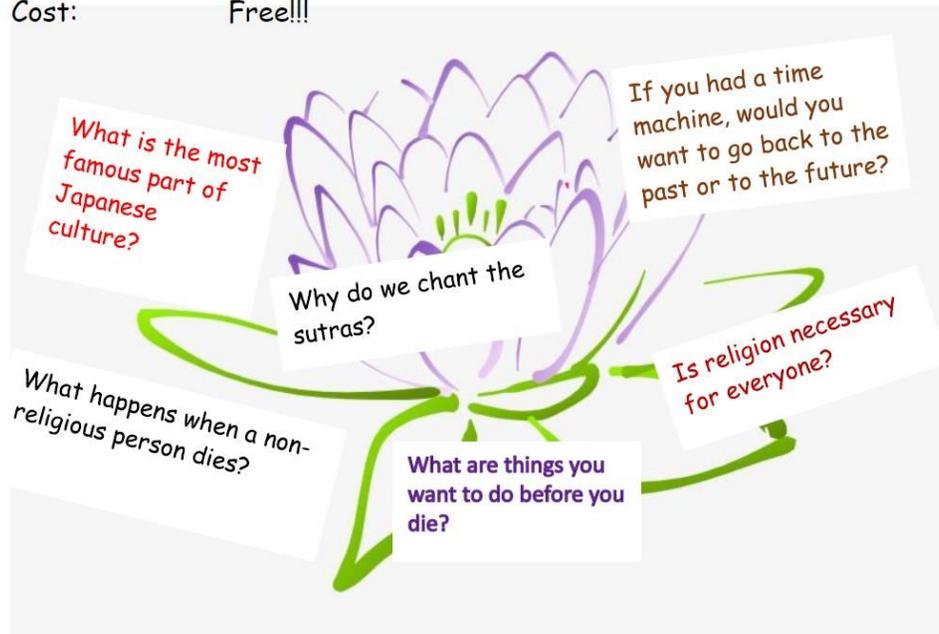
1. Our BCF website development committee is moving quickly along to update the website and its infrastructure. Thanks to Tyson Fong, Jan Takeuchi, Gary Takeuchi, and Jonathan Okamoto. Our domain name will change from FlorinBuddhist.org to BuddhistChurchofFlorin.org. The goal for April is to gather information and field test the webpages. In May, the committee will begin preparing and testing the ability for online ordering. More to follow as the process continues.
2. The gym floor refurbishment is complete. It looks amazing and now has the added functionality of three pickleball courts.
3. A new Eagle Scout project proposed by Finley Morris was approved that will bring a new look to the gravel on the southside by the parking lot. Work is expected to begin in May, so look for the results of the beautification at the end of May!
4. 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! Thank you to Elizabeth Fujii who graciously volunteered to lead the event. She is currently gathering information and a committee (Eric F., Kathie Kishaba and Monica Vazquez). Next step is to contact other temples in the district and try to set a date. The event is a fundraiser for the Northern California District Council and proceeds are used to fund the education program.
5. Plans are ramping up for the Obon Festival being held 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).
6. Thank you to everyone who participated in the Jr. YBA fundraiser at Panda Express! It was such a success that a second event is scheduled for August 16.
7. Dharma School usually hosts Mother's Day and Father's Day luncheons. Assistance is urgently needed to continue this tradition. Contact Lois Kashiwase (loiskash2@comcast.net) or Jennifer Kubo (kubojm86@gmail.com).
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 accomplishing several days of minor repairs to facilities. Thanks also to Ron Shimizu for repairing the lanterns that were blown down in the February windstorm.



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 to everyone who assisted with our Hanamatsuri service. Whether you helped decorating the Hanamido, attended service, brought a delicious dish for the potluck luncheon, helped clean up or made a donation, BCF THANKS YOU! We appreciate every little or big thing you do for BCF.

thank you



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

Hanamatsuri

Hanamatsuri, also called the festival of flowers, is a celebration of Shakyamuni Buddha’s birth. The service included the reading of the names of those who passed before us, and a Dharma talk by Reverend Imada. The talk focused on how everyone is different, and how comparisons can’t be made when one’s experiences and ideals are different from another. Sure, we might all be genetically similar, but life’s path for us is fundamentally different. The main takeaway that I seized was that just because one cannot fly does not mean that one cannot swim.

- Skylar Lam

Upcoming Dharma School Topics

Please join us for some creative and interactive teachings



May 12: Right Livelihood

May 26: Right Mindfulness

Jr. YBA

Jr. YBA would like to thank each and every one of you who purchase a meal at our Panda Express fundraiser. It was so successful; we have scheduled another one on August 16, 2024! Arigato gozimasu!



May BWA Dana Project



SACRAMENTO
LOAVES & FISHES

Requesting:

Bottled Water

AN OASIS FOR ADULTS & CHILDREN

EXPERIENCING
HOMELESSNESS



SACRAMENTO
LOAVES & FISHES

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



April BWA Dana Project

Wellspring

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

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.

LOTUS News

Learning Oriental Trimming

May '24 issue

[March-April 2024]

Land Park Pond 7-'22

Yearly Spring Blossoms Group Pic



(L): LOTUS ladies
(R) Cherry tree full view



ALL HANDS ON DECK

LOTUS Garden Prep

Just about all LOTUS members had a hand in preparing the garden area.



Ben



Greg



Harvey

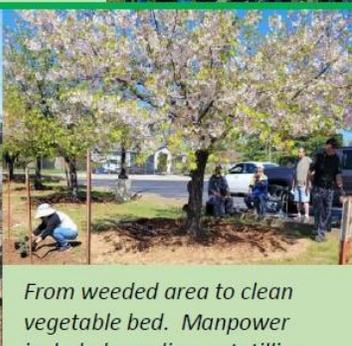


Tomio



George

Not all who helped are pictured



From weeded area to clean vegetable bed. Manpower included weeding, rototilling w/compost, building water-drainage ditch, erecting trellises, then planting.



ARIGATO

Eric Fujii

Chili burger & fixins'

[Thanks, Eric, for preparing lunch while the LOTUS ladies & family were in AZ]

Lloyd Okimura

Corn beef & cabbage, tsukemono

Ginny Syphax

Peanut butter mousse pie

Mary Otani

LOTUS donation

Sharon Okamoto

Weekly dessert

JoAnn Kusaka

Weekly lunch





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