



ONENESS

Buddhist Church of Florin



July 2024

Volume 7

OBON



Hello everyone! Obon season is here. Obon is a day to remember our ancestors and Dharma friends who were born into the Pure Land. It is also a day to reconfirm and rejoice that we will someday meet again in the Pure Land.

At Jodo Shinshu temples in Hiroshima, Japan, if you visit the graves during the Obon season, you will find the graves colorfully decorated with paper decorations called Tōrō. Its origin dates back to the Edo period. According to one theory, when a mother loses a child, she makes colorful hand decorations and places them on the child's grave. In the picture above, you see the colorful Tōrōs, and a grave surrounded by pure white Tōrōs. The grave with the pure white Tōrōs signifies that it is that person's Hatsubon and was born into the Pure Land less than a year ago.

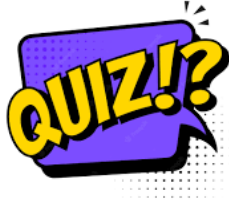
People who visit the graves write their names on a Tōrō so that the bereaved will know who visited the gravesite. When visiting the graves, we remember the deceased by cleaning the gravestone, offering flowers, and chanting sutras. The sutras are the teachings of the Buddha and are messages to all living people. Because, the Buddha's concern is for us, those who are living in this limited world, rather than those who have already been born into the Pure Land and became Buddhas.

During this Obon season, we remember those who were born into the Pure Land, and this gives us the opportunity to hear the teachings of Buddhism.

Japanese gravestones often have the words "KU E ISSHO" written on them, which means "We will meet again in one place." We are living a limited life and one day we will have to let go of everything and leave this world. But that is not the end because there is a place called the Pure Land where we can meet again. Knowing this, is the joy of Nembutsu followers.

The Gatha, Shinshu Shuka's lyrics express the joy of having encountered the teachings of the Nembutsu and gratitude for the infinite wisdom and compassion of Amida Buddha.

“Amida you speak to me in teachings profound!
What happiness you bring to me beyond all compare!
I truly seek to follow the way you’ve laid for us,
And gratefully rejoice in your infinite embrace.” Shinshu Anthem



Last month's quiz answers

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

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

The answer is KFC. I think this is because of the impact of the company's advertising which makes December a very busy season for KFC in Japan.

The next quiz

Which quintessentially Japanese dish originates from Portugal?

1. Sushi 2. Okonomiyaki 3. Ramen 4. Tempura

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



July Monthly Memorial (Shotsuki Hoyo) Service

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

Abe, James	07-02-2013	Onodera, Eiko	07-22-1991
Abe, Masatoshi	07-14-1991	Otani, Chieko Loretta	07-25-2020
Abe, Shotaro	07-30-1923	Otani, Masuno	07-21-1980
Baishiki, Stanley Ray	07-24-1986	Otani, Morizo	07-04-1967
Fukumoto, Jean Sakayo	07-01-1987	Oyama, Shigeo	07-03-1989
Furukawa, Fumiko	07-10-1916	Sadoyama, Matsu	07-15-1991
Furukawa, Shigeo	07-06-1952	Saigo, Fumiko	07-31-2000
Hamakawa, Edward	07-24-2004	Sentani, Baby	07-06-1911
Imahara, Mika	07-16-1940	Shiizaki, Toshie	07-09-1926
Kadokawa, Hideo	07-10-2012	Shimosaka, Yoshiaki	07-01-1936
Kanemoto, Tahei	07-23-1942	Shintaku, John	07-06-1963
Kato, Toshie	07-06-1958	Sonoda, Masaru	07-05-1950
Kawaji, Shunjiro	07-02-1941	Sugimoto, Chuichi	07-21-1981
Kawamoto, Chieko	07-13-1906	Sumida, Masato	07-11-1924
Kawamura, Takeo	07-17-1913	Takahashi, George Mitsuo	07-30-2001
Kawanishi, Yachiyo	07-20-1981	Takahashi, Sakae	07-29-1936
Kishaba, Masahiro	07-22-1947	Takeoka, Jane Hidemi	07-01-1950
Kishaba, Yasuhiro Mack	07-12-2000	Tamura,	07-08-1913
Kohagura, Shizu	07-23-1923	Tanaka, Barry Miles	07-19-2003
Kurima, Baby	07-20-1941	Tanaka, Tomokichi	07-20-1970
Kuroda, Hideo	07-22-2002	Taniguchi, Jack Daihachi	07-14-1967
Maeda, Rinzo	07-18-1936	Taniguchi, Jim Susumu	07-26-2004
Matsui, Yukiko	07-3-2021	Tsuda, Mitsuyo	07-27-1936
Matsumoto, Takara	07-23-1940	Tsukamoto, Mary	07-16-2006
Miyano, Kiyono	07-20-1998	Usami, Genjiro	07-26-1952
Mukai, Mitsuye	07-07-2017	Wakabayashi, Hideichi	07-06-1973
Nagao, Chizuru	07-17-1952	Yamamoto, Asako	07-16-1978
Nakagawa, Jim Shigeo	07-21-1987	Yamanaka, Tora	07-15-1975
Ohta, Komi	07-21-1992	Yamashita, Bradley	07-07-1988
Okasaki, Etsuko	07-05-2020		

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 July Services

Hatsubon/Obon Cemetery Visitation

Saturday, July 13, 2024

Elder Creek at 9:00 a.m.

Sacramento Memorial at 9:30 a.m.

East Lawn at 10:30 a.m.

July Shotsuki Hoyo and Family Service

Sunday, July 14, 2024 at 10 a.m.

Hatsubon Obon Service

Saturday, July 20, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

Guest Speaker: Rev. Michael Endo

Buddhist Church of Oakland

Officiant: Rev. Noritaka Imada

****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.buddhistchurchofflorin.org

HATSUBON AND OBON SERVICE

OBON FESTIVITIES AND ODORI

JULY 20, 2024, SATURDAY

Hatsubon/Obon Service 3:00 PM

Please attend the Hatsubon/Obon Service in the Temple at 3 PM, followed the Obon Festivities

Obon Festivities 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM

Food: Snack Bar in the Temple's Courtyard serving delicious Food, Drinks and Shave Ice

50/50 Raffle Prize

Cultural Exhibits in the Multi-purpose Room

Mataro Kimekomi Dolls	BWA Boutique	Bonsai	Paper Crafts
Sacramento Hiroshima Nikkei Kinjinkai	Ikebana International		

Cultural Demonstrations in the YBA Hall

Florin Kyudo Kai-Japanese Archery
Sacramento Kendo Club-Japanese swordsmanship
Sacramento Taiko Dan-World renowned Japanese drumming performers

Obon Odori Dancing 7:00 PM

Everyone is invited to dance-Grandparents, parents, children and friends. Fun, fun for everyone.
Please attend the Obon Odori Workshop and Obon Odori practices (see below).

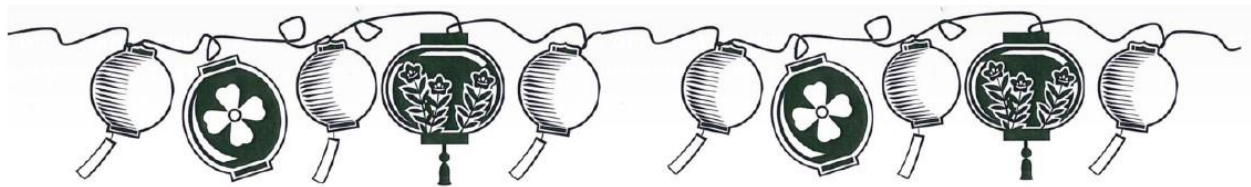
Obon Odori Workshop-July 18, Thursday, 5:30 PM in the Multi-purpose Rm

This workshop is co-sponsored by the Florin JACL and Buddhist Church of Florin. Learn about dance background, hand/dance movements, clothing, accessories, and obi tying. Everyone is invited to this educational workshop on the tradition of Obon Odori dancing. Dinner will be served.

Obon Odori Dancing Practices-7PM

Dust off your Kachi Kachi, Uchiwa (fan), Getas and attend the Obon Odori Practices on July 9-11 & 16-18.





FLORIN OBON DANCE WORKSHOP

Sponsored by the Florin Japanese American Citizens League and the Buddhist Church of Florin

Thursday, July 18, 2024 5:30 pm-7:00 pm
Buddhist Church of Florin
7235 Pritchard Road, Sacramento, CA 95828

Come and enjoy a light meal of hot dogs, salad & chips followed by an introduction on the significance of Obon at Buddhist temples. At this event, you will also learn about wearing the traditional yukata and the assorted items used during Obon dancing. After the workshop, participate in the Obon dance practice in the parking lot starting at 7:00 pm.

To ensure there is plenty of room and food, the event will be limited to 50 attendees. Please RSVP if you are planning to attend; walk-ins will not be accepted. Please email Jenny Takahashi jmtakahashi@me.com with your name and the names of friends or family members attending with you.

Buddhist Church of Florin Obon Festival July 20, 2024



- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm | Cultural Exhibits and Demonstrations: Kendo, BWA Boutique, Ikebana (Japanese flower arranging), Origami, Kimekomi Dolls, Kyudo (Japanese archery), Hiroshima Kenjin kai, Bonsai |
| 6:30 pm | Sacramento Taiko Dan |
| 7:00 pm | Obon Odori |

2024 Membership Dues

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

Nelson Chan	Jackie Chinn	Cindy DeGuzman
Randell Iwasaki	Stephanie Kuroda	Mike & Carol Kusama
Collen Lopez	Frank Mouton (monthly)	Steve & Lorraine Otani
Eileen Nakahira & David Uyeno (monthly)		Tosh Yamamoto
Frank Yamanaka	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.



Thank
You

Buddhist Church of Florin
Governing Board Meeting Highlights

June 12, 2024

1. Sacramento Kendo will be hosting a tournament in the gym on Sunday, June 23rd. Opening ceremony begins at 9:00 am. Everyone is welcome to come watch the tournament. Contact Glenn Harada (gcstharada@yahoo.com) for more information.
2. **SAVE THE DATE:** Obon Festival is July 20. Service will be at 3 pm with Guest Speaker Rev. Michael Endo from the Buddhist Church of Oakland. Obon Odori practice will be July 9, 10, 11 & 16, 17, 18 at 7 pm. There will be cultural exhibits and demonstrations. See this newsletter for more details about the activities and Obon Dance practice. A lot of hands are needed for a successful event. Please volunteer by contacting Lois Kashiwase (loiskash2@comcast.net).
3. The BWA completed the 2024-2026 Election Process. The new Board will be seated in September. Congratulations to Peggy Okabayashi (President), Kathy Menda (Vice-President), Shirley Gee (Recording Secretary), Margie Sunahara (Treasurer), Jan Takeuchi & Jennifer Kubo (Corresponding Secretaries); Judy Shimizu (Membership Chair), Lois Kashiwase (Religious/BEC Representative), Liz Kono (Auditor), Sharon Arase (Health & Welfare), Sharon Okamoto & Sandy Okuno (Fundraising Co-Chairs), Carol Kusama (Historian) and Hiroko Saigo and Lois Tanaka (Komon).
4. The Golf Tournament held June 6th was a tremendous success. We appreciate the contributions of the participants and volunteers. There were many enthusiastic comments about the food, goodie bags, prizes and fun activities held along the course. Special thank you to Rev. Imada, Rev. Yuki and Rev. Candace for joining the fun!
5. The Eagle Scout project to add a dry pond, path and lanterns that was schedule for late May will happen in August 3-4 & 17-18.
6. Have you paid your 2024 membership dues? If not, please send in as soon as possible. You may direct questions to Membership Chair, Susan Takeda (s.takeda@comcast.net). Updated directories to distributed soon.





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

Dharma Lesson Learned

About a year ago, I had the honor of winning BCA's gatha lyric contest. This gave me the opportunity to work with renowned composer Francis Wong in turning my lyrics into a song that celebrated BCA's 125th year anniversary. Through the cooperation of many parties, we were able to create the song "Storms and Peace." Though it took a while, we recently finished recording the score and lyrics, however, none of this would have been possible with just one person. I alone could not have created the score or given it the mixed Hawaiian/jazzy flair that it has, just as none of us can go through life alone. We cannot survive alone. We must stand together. We must support one another.

- Skylar Lam

Upcoming Dharma Event

Dharma School 4th of July Potluck Dinner & Fireworks @ 6:30pm

You are welcome to bring a dish or snack and fireworks to share (optional)

Hotdogs, salad, chips, and more will be provided



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

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 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!

July BWA Dana Project

The ASI Food Pantry exists to provide food and basic necessities at no cost to Sac State students facing financial hardships and limited access to food.



Requesting: Non-perishable food & toiletry donations or checks for

2024-2026 BWA Officers

President Peggy Okabayashi
V. President Kathleen Menda
R. Secretary Shirley Gee
Treasurer Margie Sunahara
Past President Peggy Okabayashi

Membership Judy Shimizu
Auditor Liz Kono
Historian Carol Porter Kusama
Komons Hiroko Saigo
 Lois Tanaka

Co-C. Secretaries Jan Takeuchi
 Jennifer Kubo
Religious/BEC rep Lois Kashiwase
Health/Welfare Sharon Arase
Co-Chairs Sandy Okuno
 Sharon Okamoto
**Fundraising/
Activities**
Committee Louise Teranishi
 Ann Tsukamoto
 Jeanne Nakamura



June BWA Dana Project

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

LOTUS News

Learning Oriental Trimming

July '24 issue

[June 2024 recap]

Land Park Pond 7-'22



Harvey K. single-handedly cut down then discarded invasive bamboo.



First crop from the garden.

MENDAs (from Hawaii)
Danny & Linda Menda (BCF members) when living in Sacramento participate in BCF activities including LOTUS, golf tournament, pickleball...



LOTUS lunch has included veggies from the garden—roasted nasubi, sunomono... Uri, soon-to-be tsukemono, is being cured. (2 yrs)



ありがとう

ありがとう

ありがとう

*Dan & Linda Menda
Ginny Syphax
JoAnn Kusaka
Sharon Okamoto
Tomio Ito
BWA*

*Big Island cookies
Baskets of strawberries for LOTUS members
Weekly lunch
Weekly dessert
Weekly donuts
Orei for helping to unload/move chairs*



50-50



Check in



Hospitality/(Sake) Cart



"Closest to the pin" measurers



Measuring for "closest to the pin"



Blackjack table



3 NC Ministers



Eric Fujii, tournament co-chair



Closest to the hole/ Beer stop



Somen & snack tent



Winners!



Sake cart



Somen/snack table



Thank you to everyone who supported this successful golf tournament!

Florin Golf Tournament

6/6/24

Eric thanks golfers, 3 ministers including Rev. Imada, and the many volunteer helpers.



Our new BCF website
has launched!
Check it out!

<https://www.buddhistchurchofflorin.org>

*Hover over the link above then follow directions/skip verification if
necessary*

*You might not be able to use your search engine (Google, etc.)
to locate the new URL (web address) until after July 1.*

A HUGE thank you goes to the website committee,
Gary Takeuchi, web developer Tyson Fong
Jonathan Okamoto Jan Takeuchi

BCF appreciates all the hard work and time put into
this project.

Online payments (via the website) of membership, donations and
subscriptions will be available soon.

Kyudo Kai Florin Demonstration

Saturday, July 20, 2024, 5 PM

During Buddhist Church of Florin Obon Festival



Live demonstration of kyudo
performed by members of Kyudo
Kai of Florin.

New members can join the club with
no previous archery experience and
all equipment and instruction is
provided. Monthly club dues are
\$40. Limited new member openings.
Contact Paula at
kyudokaiFlorin@yahoo.com



7235 Pritchard Road, Sacramento, CA

SANGHA INSIGHTS

By: Elizabeth Fujii



Sandy Okuno was born and raised in Sacramento. She attended McClatchy High School and Sac City College. She and her husband, Bill, have been married for 31 years and 10 years ago, she retired with 34 years of service from Bel Air.

Her mother, Lois Tanaka, is a long-time BCF member and Sandy has carried forward a commitment to the BCF through her active participation and support of BCF and BWA fundraisers and activities.

As a young girl, Sandy played Florin basketball and she is now an avid pickleball player at SASF. Based on her experience, she believes sports are a great way to engage members of all ages in church activities.

Toward that end, she spearheaded a recent effort to incorporate lines for three pickleball courts in the Florin gym when the floors were being refurbished. Her motivation being to create a welcome space for everyone to have fun while getting some exercise. Dates and times of play can be found on the church calendar. During the Summer months when church services are suspended, pickleball courts are open at 9:30 AM on Sundays (when a church service is scheduled pickleball starts at 1:00 PM) and Sandy encourages everyone to come out to play. There is no charge for BCF members, and non-members are also welcome to play for a \$5 donation. Paddles, balls, and simple instruction are available.

Sandy has visited Japan, and looks forward to traveling to Europe one day. She and Bill have enjoyed hiking Vernal and Nevada Falls in Yosemite and fishing for Mahi Mahi in Hawaii. She also told me about a memorable trip she and a group of 12 BCF ladies took to Las Vegas. To celebrate her mother's 88th birthday they took her to see the "Thunder from Down Under" where mom was invited on stage. Sandy stopped short of sharing any further details...guess "what happens in Vegas stays in Vegas."