



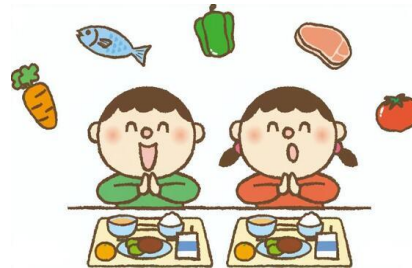
# ONENESS

**Buddhist Church of Florin**



March 2025

Volume 3



Hi everyone, March has come. This month, we have the Spring Ohigan Service. Spring has arrived, but there are still some cold days, so please take care of your health. Last month I caught a cold. It reminded me of the words of Saichi Asahara (1850-1932):

I've caught a cold. It's a cold of Dharma.  
I can't stop coughing. It's a cough of Nembutsu.

Saichi Asahara is a Myokonin. Myokonin is a term used to refer to people who follow the teachings of Jodo Shinshu, and who were especially grateful for the Nembutsu in their daily lives. He encountered the Nembutsu and was delighted that the Nembutsu flowed out of him unintentionally, like a cough when you have a cold.

Reading his words and stories, it seems that he was more self-reflecting than most people and had a sense of gratitude for life and the Buddha. It is important to have a sense of gratitude in your daily life like he did.

The word "Itadakimasu" used before a meal comes from the verb "Itadaku," which is a polite way of saying "Morau," which means to receive. And in Japanese, the top of one's head or the top of a mountain is called Itadaki. So, it is possible that the origin of "Itadakimasu" comes from people holding something they received above their heads to show gratitude.

Although we Gassho and say Itadakimasu before meals, sometimes I forget to Gassho when eating at home or elsewhere. However, even if I forget or if I'm in the middle of eating, I think it's important to remember to be grateful for the food and the people who made the meal possible.

## Last month's quiz answer



What does this kanji mean?



1. Tetris
2. Bumpy
3. Blocks
4. To fit

Answer: Bumpy

This looks like a symbol, but it's a kanji character. It's pronounced "Deko Boko." If you change the order of the kanji characters to make it "凹凸," it becomes pronounced "Ou Totsu." It means that the surface has bumps and is not flat.

## The next quiz



Shoulder is "Kata" in Japanese. Stiffness is also "Kata" in Japanese.

Try to guess what the following sentences mean:

**Kata Katakatta Kara Katta Katatataki, Kata Tatakinikukatta.**

In Gassho,

Rev. Noritaka Imada

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

(916) 383-1831



## 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 9, 2025 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 2025 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](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

### 2025 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>
2024	1 <sup>st</sup> Year	2001	25 <sup>th</sup> Year
2023	3 <sup>rd</sup> Year	1993	33 <sup>rd</sup> Year
2019	7 <sup>th</sup> Year	1976	50 <sup>th</sup> Year
2013	13 <sup>th</sup> Year	1926	100 <sup>th</sup> Year
2009	17 <sup>th</sup> Year		

## CONDOLENCES

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

NAMO AMIDA BUTSU

JANET KURODA

June 16, 1936 to February 2, 2025



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

**Spring Ohigan, March Shotsuki and  
*Family Service*  
Sunday, March 9, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.**

**Rennyō Shonin Memorial  
*Family Service*  
Sunday, March 23, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.**

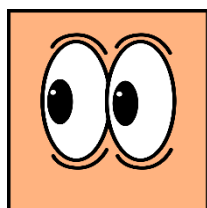
**Family Service  
March 30, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.**

**Services Officiated by: 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.

# **See you on Sunday!!!**



## SANGHA INSIGHTS

*By Elizabeth Fujii*



When I arrived at Mitsuo (“Mits”) Yamamoto’s home he greeted me with his signature humor by saying “boy, you’ve gotten to the bottom of the barrel if you’re interviewing me!”

Over the next couple of hours I was taken on a wonderful journey through his memories, friendships, and adventures - making this one of the most interesting and enjoyable “Sangha Insights” for me.

Born in Sacramento on February 25, 1926, Mits celebrates his 99th birthday this month. His parents, Tamehachi and Asako Yamamoto, emigrated from Japan and worked as farmers in Sacramento and, eventually, in Elk Grove raising strawberries where

Mits’ parents would find him asleep in the cool strawberry ditches.

He was in high school in Elk Grove, at the age of 16, when “life changed drastically.” Mits’ family was sent to the Fresno Assembly Center and, approximately 4 months later in October 1942, to the Jerome War Relocation Center where he was the first graduating class in camp (Denson High School). He worked various jobs outside of camp, some in cities far away from “home” like Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston, New Jersey, and Florida.

Mits and his wife, Jayne, were married over 70 years. Together, they raised four children (Diane, Gary and Ginny and Glenna). His family has now grown to include 5 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandchild. He enjoyed traveling, visiting Japan “many times”, Singapore, China, Australia, Thailand, Washington DC, US National Parks, Niagara Falls, New York (including lunch on the 107th floor of the Twin Towers), and Florida (where he watched the launch of the Columbia Space Shuttle while on a cruise).

In 1988, Mits retired from Campbell’s with 39 years of service. Since then, he has written a memoir of his life, and in 1990 he developed a passion for woodworking. He has made toy trains, wood plaques, and inspirational messages gifted to family, and friends, and even for the Sacramento Kings! He has gifted Dharma Wheels which are now hanging all over the world at many US temples, the Nishi Hongwangi in Kyoto, and one was even given to the Dalai Lama in India!

If you were to visit Mits at his house, you would most likely leave with one of his crafted woodworks, like the one he gave me with his motto “Make Someone Smile Everyday”. Thank you Mits for sharing your life’s story and for making me smile! Have a Happy, Healthy, and Fabulous birthday!



## 2025 Membership Dues

Thank you to the following members for their 2025 membership dues received in January/February:

George & Merri Akiyama	Miki Askanas (semi-annual)	
Karen Cairal	Kay Freeman	Eric & Elizabeth Fujii
Ellen Griggs	Jeffery Hamamoto	Joy Anne Hamamoto
Louis Hannigan	Grace Hara	Mark & Kimiko Hayashida
Yukie Hoffman (semi-annual)		Tomio Ito
Lois & Paul Kashiwase	Liz Kono	Steve & Jennifer Kubo
Dale Kuroda	Janet Kuroda	Meghan Kuroda
Stephanie Kuroda	Daniel & Linda Menda	Greg & Kelli Menda
Cheryl Miles	George & Judie Miyao	Wayne Mukai
Kimi Munekawa	Tom Nakashima & Susan	Sarinas
Eileen Nakahira & David Uyeno (semi-annual)		Alan & Ruby Nakano
Diane Nakao	Keith & Irene Nakaoka	Norma Nakata
Erik & Katie Nishida	Nadine Nouchi & Henry Lam	
Tom & Nancy Oda	Jean Okamoto	Joy Okamoto
Sandy & Bill Okuno	Alfred & Yvonne Onodera	Mary Otani
Craig & Diana Shijo	Shig Tahara	Kris Takeda-Miller
Gary Takeuchi	Jan Takeuchi	Lois Tanaka
Kenny & Louise Teranishi	Lori Thielen	Rick & Sheryl Tokunaga
Sandy Tsunekawa	Mits Yamamoto	Linda Yamashita
Burt & Carol Yoshioka (monthly)		Larry & Judy Yuki (semi-annual)

***2025 membership dues were due on January 31, 2025.***

Please direct membership questions to Susan Takeda at (916) 837-5699 or [s.takeda@comcast.net](mailto:s.takeda@comcast.net).

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

***Kay Freeman***

***Meghan Kuroda***

***Bill Okuno***

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

**2025 MEMBERSHIP FORM**

**New Member**     **Name/Address Change**     **Annual Renewal**     **Other** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name                      First Name                      Middle Initial                      Birthdate  
**Telephone #**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home                                      Cell                                      **Email**  
**Spouse**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name                      First Name                      Middle Initial                      Birthdate  
**Telephone #**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cell                                      **Email**  
**Address**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street                                      City                                      State                      Zip Code

**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 2025. If joining mid-year, yearly dues are pro-rated for 2025.

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**  
February 13, 2025

1. The Hondo kitchen remodel project begins February 17 and is expected to last for 6 weeks. The Board thanks the BWA, Dharma School, Jr. YBA, LOTUS, Sacramento Kendo Dojo, Kyudo Kai and various individuals for their generous contributions to the project.
2. The BCF is conducting additional fundraising for the kitchen remodel. Members may purchase pavers like the ones at the entrance to the Hondo. Information is in this newsletter.
3. Sensei Imada's first Japanese cooking class is February 23<sup>rd</sup>. The next class will likely be in April due to the kitchen remodel.
4. Thank you to everyone who contributed to the success of the Super Bowl Food Bazaar!
5. Kyudo Kai is planning a 6-week summer camp for children 13 years and older. Keep an eye out for more information.
6. The Dharma School curriculum for 2025 is now set and a slate of fun activities is coming up. If you know of a family with Dharma School-aged children (pre-K through high school), please invite them to contact Judi Yuki ([jhmyuki@gmail.com](mailto:jhmyuki@gmail.com)) for more information.
7. Please remember to renew your membership. Membership forms can be found in this newsletter and on our website ([BuddhistChurchOfFlorin.org](http://BuddhistChurchOfFlorin.org)). Thank you to those who have already renewed.
8. The Board is looking for someone to prepare the Oneness Newsletter. If you are interested in publications, publishing software, or are just good with computers, please contact Margie Sunahara ([mjsunahara@att.net](mailto:mjsunahara@att.net)).
9. There is a road improvement project along Florin Rd from Franklin Blvd to Power Inn Rd from November 2024 to September 2025. Please be mindful that you may need to consider alternate routes to temple at some times.





**We are looking for flower donations for the Hanamido. Please bring them on April 12 at 6 pm. Thank you!**

Please join Dharma School on Saturday, April 12, 2025 at 6 PM decorate the Hanamido for BCF's Hanamatsuri service the following day.

Coming on April 12? Please plan on joining us for a pizza/salad dinner.

# March '25 BWA Dana Project



Wellspring



Collecting  
hygiene  
items for  
Wellspring  
Women's  
Center

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.

## February BWA Lady Kujo Dana Project

16 Pasadena  
Buddhist Temple  
members & other  
BCA members  
have lost their  
homes to the  
LA wildfires.

CALIFORNIA  
WILDFIRES

Checks payable  
to:

Buddhist  
Church of  
Florin BWA

### **STILL ACCEPTING LADY KUJO/BCA WILDFIRE RELIEF DONATIONS**

The Southern California Wildfire Relief fund has been established by BCA's Social Welfare Committee to accept donations for Pasadena Buddhist Temple members and other BCA members identified as affected by the LA wildfires. February donations to Florin's BWA Lady Kujo Dana Project will go towards that fund --A nice tribute to Lady Kujo who dedicated her life to helping others in need.

## LOTUS Celebrates Rev. Imada's birthday



Thanks Sharon O. for the  
birthday cupcakes



## Winter Pruning of Maples Back in December

Do you see Harvey behind the  
maple tree with Ron?

Ron provided final tips to Harvey  
& Jan regarding pruning before  
his retirement.

Of course (not photographed) are  
the rest of the LOTUS members  
out & about around the temple  
grounds on that cold, dreary day.

*JoAnn Kusaka*

*Sharon Okamoto*

*Tomio Ito*

*Harvey Kadoya*

*Head food preparer*

*Lunch/dessert—end of Jan-beg. of Feb.*

*Morning treats/donation of "to go" boxes*

*Lemons*



## Buddhist Church of Florin

### Kikuyo and Kinjiro Nakatani Scholarships 2025-2026

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 seven 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 \$2,500 scholarship, a \$1,500 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 2025-2026 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 Committee, Walter Menda, or Florin Dharma School Superintendent and YBA advisors in January 2025.

**Application Deadline: Applications must be received by the Nakatani Scholarship Committee, Walter Menda, by midnight, April 1, 2025.**





## **BUDDHIST CHURCH OF FLORIN**

**P.O. BOX 292006, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95829-2006**

### **SUPPORT OUR 2025 KITCHEN REMODEL PROJECT**

Order your brick paver today or you can make a donation.

Each brick paver is \$2,500 and it will have the wisteria with up to 4 lines of your personal message centered horizontally and vertically.

Order before May 31, 2025. The order form is available on our website at: [www.buddhistchurchofflorin.org](http://www.buddhistchurchofflorin.org).

#### **SAMPLE**



Share this information with families and friends who may wish to have a commemorative brick.

Leave a legacy and preserve the Buddhist Church of Florin as a vibrant community center for the future!

If you have any questions, contact the Buddhist Church of Florin at: [buddhistchurchofflorin.org](http://buddhistchurchofflorin.org) or (916) 383-1831.





Join us in supporting

# Sheryl Tokunaga

Sheryl is currently battling pancreatic cancer and we need your help!

Team Toke will be walking in the Pancan Purplestride on Saturday, April 26 in honor of Sheryl. We came in 2<sup>nd</sup> place last year in Sacramento, for fundraising. This year we are striving to be #1! But we can't do it without you.

Click (or copy/paste) on the link below to check out our team's website to donate and/or join our team and walk with us!

[https://secure.pancan.org/site/TR/PurpleStride/PurpleStride?team\\_id=60369&pq=team&fr\\_id=2975](https://secure.pancan.org/site/TR/PurpleStride/PurpleStride?team_id=60369&pq=team&fr_id=2975)

We appreciate all your support!

-The Tokunaga/Yee Family