



ONENESS

Buddhist Church of Florin



September 2025

Volume 9

[Working Together]



September has arrived, and while the calendar says autumn is near, the days are still hot and bright. Yet even in the lingering summer heat, we begin to notice subtle changes, the angle of the sunlight, the slightly earlier sunsets, that remind us the seasons are shifting. This month also brings Ohigan, the autumn equinox, a time to reflect on the balance of day and night and to remember the boundless compassion of Amida Buddha.

Earlier this summer, I joined our church camping and met many members enjoying their time in different ways, some cooking, others fishing, playing guitar around the campfire, swimming in the lake, or playing card games. Each person had their own way of savoring the weekend, and together, it created a beautiful picture of community life.

The meals at camping were amazing, themed nights with Mexican food, prime rib, and even a Japanese night featuring sashimi and tempura. I have never been camping alone, but I imagine it would be quite challenging. Preparing so many dishes by myself would be impossible, and even if I could, there would be far too much to eat alone. At camping, because many people participated, we could share responsibilities, exchange recipes, and enjoy a rich variety of meals together.

This made me realize that while there are things we can accomplish on our own, there are also things that are only possible when we rely on others. Accepting that we cannot do everything by ourselves and learning to trust in the strength of others brought to mind the teaching of Tariki Hongan, the “Other Power” of Amida Buddha.

The Ohigan season is a fitting time to reflect on this. As the sun sets in the west, we are reminded of the “Other Shore”, the Pure Land, where all beings are embraced without discrimination. Shinran Shonin himself once sought to reach that shore through rigorous practices on Mt. Hiei, but finding no peace, he left the mountain. His encounter with Honen Shonin opened his heart to the Nembutsu path. He came to teach that the Nembutsu is not recited in order to be saved, but as an expression of gratitude from one who has already been saved.

The spirit of this teaching is beautifully expressed in the Ondokusan:

The great compassion of Amida Buddha, even a lifetime of effort could not repay this debt.

The kindness of our teachers and guides, even the deepest gratitude would not be enough.

May this Ohigan season, even in the warmth of late summer, be a time to appreciate the great compassion that sustains us, and to share that gratitude in our daily lives as Nembutsu. Namo Amida Butsu

【9月の法話】力を合わせて

9月になりました。暦の上では秋が近づいていますが、日中はまだ暑さと強い日差しが残っています。それでも、日差しの角度や少し早くなった夕暮れなど、季節の移ろいを感じさせる変化も現れ始めました。今月は秋のお彼岸を迎えます。昼と夜の長さがほぼ等しくなるこの時期は、自然の調和を思い、阿弥陀さまの限りない慈悲を偲ぶ良い機会です。

この夏、キャンプに参加しました。そこでは、料理をする人、釣りを楽しむ人、キャンプファイヤーを囲んでギターを弾く人、湖で泳ぐ人、カードゲームを楽しむ人など、それぞれの過ごし方を満喫している姿があり、みんなで作る温かな共同体の風景が広がっていました。

キャンプの食事はとても豪華で、メキシカン料理の日、プライムリブの日、日本料理の日には刺身や天ぷらまで並びました。私は一人でキャンプをしたことはありませんが、もし行ったらきっと大変だろうと想像します。あれほど多くの料理を一人で用意するのは不可能に近く、仮に作れても食べきれずに残ってしまうでしょう。しかし、大勢で集まれば役割を分担し、レシピを分かち合い、さまざまな料理と一緒に楽しむことができます。

この経験から、私たちは一人でもできることもあれば、一人では成し得ないこともあると気づかされました。自分の力だけではどうにもならないことを受け入れ、他の力に委ねていく大切さはまさに阿弥陀仏の「他力本願」の教えを思い起こさせます。

お彼岸の季節は、このことを深く味わうのにふさわしい時期です。西に沈む夕日を見ながら、「彼岸」、つまりお浄土、すべての人を包み込む仏さまの国を思います。親鸞聖人もまた、比叡山での厳しい修行によって自らの力で彼岸へ至ろうとしましたが、ついに道を見いだせず山を降りました。そして法然上人との出会いによって、お念仏の道に導かれました。親鸞聖人は、お念仏とは救われるために称えるのではなく、すでに救われている私がそのおかげに感謝して称えるものであると示してくださっています。

この心は『恩徳讃』にこう表されています。

阿弥陀如来の大悲の恩徳は、身を粉にしても報ずべし、心を尽くしても謝すべし。

この秋のお彼岸、たとえ晩夏の暑さの中であっても、私たちを支え続けてくださる阿弥陀仏の慈悲をあらためて味わい、その感謝を日々の暮らしの中でお念仏として表してまいりましょう。南無阿弥陀仏



In Gassho,

Rev. Noritaka Imada

If you need to contact Rev. Imada, you can email him at: imadabca@gmail.com (916) 383-1831

Meet members of the church



We're creating fun portraits for a future quiz! We will always get permission before publishing anyone's photo. If you're okay with having your likeness appear in the newsletter, please feel free to send me a photo of you, your friends, or your family!

imadabca@gmail.com



💡 Here is a picture of a little girl. Whose childhood photo do you think this is? She is one of our church members!

Last month's quiz answer



Your friend says "Otsukare!" after work. What do they mean?

- A) I'm sleepy! 😴
- B) Good job! You worked hard! 👍
- C) Let's drink! 🍷
- D) Let's go home! Take care! 🏠

The answer is B! It would be more polite to say OTSUKARE SAMA.

The next quiz



Which of the following is a national flower of Japan?

- A. Cherry Blossom (Sakura)
- B. Chrysanthemum (Kiku)
- C. Plum Blossom (Ume)
- D. Lotus (Hasu)

September Monthly Memorial (Shotsuki Hoyo) Service

The monthly memorial service for those who passed away during the month of September will be held on **Sunday, September 14, 2025 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 September 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 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 to make special memorial arrangements. Please inform Lois Kashiwase of any corrections or additions to the list.

Abe, Betty Sadako	09-07-2020	Nishi, Takei	09-29-1919
Aoki, Tokuhisa	09-28-1993	Nishida Sr., John Yoshio	09-04-2003
Asada, Fumio	09-11-1933	Nishimura, Haruto	09-25-1996
Baishiki, Eve Midori	09-02-2019	Oda, Tomitaro	09-21-1916
Fujii, Gladys	09-01-1990	Ohara, Misuye	09-13-1973
Fujii, Toku	09-01-1968	Otani, Edward Masayoshi	09-26-2019
Fujioka, Yoneko	09-01-2023	Saigo, Takeshi	09-21-1979
Furukawa, Eiji	09-05-1912	Sakai, Yasuke	09-23-1977
Furukawa, Yoshio	09-29-1917	Sasaki, Louis	09-18-2019
Furukawa, Yuki	09-28-1927	Seno, Baby	09-17-1923
Fuwa, Tane	09-04-2003	Shiizaki, Stillborn	09-05-1927
Hara, Tami	09-11-1917	Shimosaka, Chisako	09-18-1936
Ishigaki, Infant	09-09-1915	Tahara, Carol Naoko	09-27-2020
Ishigaki, Sadao	09-11-1989	Tahara, Mitsuo	09-01-1929
Ito, Eijiro	09-20-1933	Takahashi, Akio	09-29-1917
Kawashima, Matsutaro	09-07-1922	Takayama, Fumiko	09-28-1926
Kazuta, Umeno	09-10-1917	Takemori, Seiro	09-01-2002
Kitamura, Yoko	09-05-1999	Takeoka, Bobby	09-14-1925
Kumano, Jiro	09-29-1954	Takeoka, Jimmy	09-11-1921
Kurima, Koichi	09-24-1974	Takeoka, Tadashi	09-07-1999
Kurima, Tora	09-04-1974	Takeuchi, Tayeko	09-11-2014
Kushida, Kiyoshi	09-13-1914	Tanaka, Shizue	09-29-1969
Kushida, Takeji	09-04-1931	Taniguchi, Mitsuru	09-21-1924
Maruki, Makiko	09-08-1940	Terasaki, Kiyoshi	09-02-1923
Miyano, Jitsuo	09-26-1973	Tsukamoto, Karen Miyeko	09-14-2018
Nakajo, Masahiro	09-05-2020	Tsushima, Kenneth Kazuo	09-27-1988
Nakao, Herbert	09-30-1995	Yabumoto, Jimma	09-20-1996
Nakao, Roger	09-29-2021	Yamamoto, Tamehachi	09-21-1962
Nakashima, Satsue	09-14-1932	Yamato, Isamu	09-29-1927
Nekoda, Masae	09-24-1919	Yoshinaga, Hanna Hanako	09-02-1997
Nishi, Hisashi	09-01-1974	Yoshinaga, Toki	09-29-1977
Nishi, Kinuye	09-23-1920	Yubuta, Shinichi	09-29-1962
Nishi, Shinae	09-20-1925		

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 st Year	2001	25 th Year
2023	3 rd Year	1993	33 rd Year
2019	7 th Year	1976	50 th Year
2013	13 th Year	1926	100 th Year
2009	17 th Year		

Join us for September Services

Fall Ohigan/September Shotsukí Hoyo & Family Service
Welcoming New BCF Members &
Registration for Dharma School and JYBA
Sunday, September 14, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

Keiro Appreciation and Family Service
Sunday, September 28, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

Officiant: Rev. Noritaka Imada

There will be a luncheon following the services 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.**

In the event of a change, we will post the updates on our website at buddhistchurchofflorin.org; Facebook page and send out a message to our email list.

2025 Membership Dues

Thank you to the following members for their 2025 membership dues received in June/July:

Miki Askanas (semi-annual) Cindy DeGuzman Burt & Carol Yoshioka (monthly)

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

Membership form available on the website [@buddhistchurchofflorin.org/membership/](http://buddhistchurchofflorin.org/membership/)

No directory changes.



Join the Buddhist Church of Florin in welcoming the new members of the church at the Welcome Luncheon on September 14, 2025.

Kay Freeman

Darrell Matsuda

Debra Sasamoto

Meghan Kuroda

Bill Okuno

Clifford & Bettie Tsuda

If I have inadvertently missed a new member, please let me know at s.takeda@comcast.net or 916-837-5699.

Please RSVP by September 10th to florinbuddhist@gmail.com.

Buddhist Church of Florin
Governing Board Meeting Highlights
August 14, 2025

- A huge thank you to everyone for the marvelous Obon Celebration, especially Lois Kashiwase for leading the effort! Sensei estimated there were about 150 dancers and an additional 150 spectators at the event. See our website for photos and videos.
 - Keiro appreciation/luncheon on Sept 28th.
 - Celebrate the kitchen remodel 14th.
 - Check the temple website for updated information on BCF Organizations (BWA, Dharma School, Kendo, Kyudo Kai, etc.) and to find information about services, events, fundraisers and how to donate.
 - See the **Events** tab regularly for activities at our temple, other local temples and community events, as well as BCA activities and announcements. There's a lot going on!
 - Please bookmark our temple website: BuddhistChurchOfFlorin.org. Be sure you have the right website if you are doing a search in your browser. **BEWARE, the old website no longer belongs to us and does not conduct legitimate business for the temple.**
 - BCF is a sponsor of the BCA Center for Buddhist Education Yoga Retreat to be held at the Hard Rock Casino in Wheatland on September 26-28, 2025. See the BCA CBE website (BuddhistChurchesOfAmerica.org/CBE) for more information.
 - The parking lot will be re-slurried and there will be some electrical upgrades happening in the near future.
 - The 2026 Master Calendar will be posted in the newsletter and on our website.
 - Read your Wheel of Dharma for the latest BCA news.
-



Buddhist Church of Florin Dharma School
News & Events- September 2025
“B.R.A.I.D.” – Building Respectful Awareness

Take Away from Dharma Talk

The concept of time and the ways that we interact with it is a gift that, I must admit, I take for granted often. Every little moment that we exist in is one new memory that is waiting to be formed, an event that we may experience with loved ones, and a new story that is eager to be written. The short film “The House of Small Cubes” illustrates this idea, where an old man reminisces about his life as he literally dives deeper into the old bones of his house. Watching this film gave me a sense of the fragility of time and the value of it, where our interactions with those around us carves out a little place in our hearts for them. We must take into our own hands the time we are gifted with, to strive to use it to help others and make sure that every interaction with the people around us is one that we can look upon fondly.

-Skylar Lam

Upcoming Dharma Lesson/Activities

Sept.14, 2025	Basketball Instructional Clinic (ages 4-8 years old) 11:00-12:30am
Sept. 28, 2025	Basketball Instructional Clinic (ages 4-8 years old) 11:00am-12:30pm
Oct. 26, 2025	Halloween Party 11:00am-1:00pm
	Basketball Instructional Clinic (ages 4-8 years old) 1:00-2:30pm
TBA 2026	Field trip to Buddhist Church of Lodi and Science Museum
TBA 2026	Game Day and mini Undokai





SAVE THE DATES!

Basketball Clinic

Ages 4 to 8 years old

Bring your kids out for 1.5 hours to learn basic skills of basketball. No experience needed. Bring a water bottle, dress appropriately, and wear appropriate shoes.

Sunday, August 24th: 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM

Sunday, September 14th: 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM

Sunday, September 28th: after service (11:00 AM to 12:30 PM)

Sunday, October 26th: after the Halloween get together (1:00 PM to 2:30 PM)

For more information, please contact Kimiko Yamamoto Hayashida (kimikoyamamoto11@yahoo.com)



Sept. '25 BWA Dana Project



About Wellspring

Providing respite and services based on "hospitality with dignity and love" since 1987.

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.

Nutritious Meals Program

- Tea (herbal, black, green)
- Honey
- Fruit Juice
- Cream Cheese
- Yogurt (bulk or cups)
- Olive or Canola Oil
- Ground Coffee
- Sugar/Sweetener Packets, coffee stirrers,

Creamer

- Jams/Jellies
- Oatmeal (bulk or packets)
- Cereal (low sugar)
- Plastic/ Compostable Utensils
- Paper Towels
- Toilet Paper



BWA's Summer Camp 8/13/25

- ✚ Radio Taiso
- ✚ Greeting cards
- ✚ Bird Feeder
- ✚ Spring rolls
- ✚ Beeswax wraps
- ✚ Succulent planting

August '25 BWA Dana Project



ASSOCIATED STUDENTS, INC.
SACRAMENTO STATE



SACRAMENTO
Food Bank & Family SERVICES



ASI FOOD PANTRY HOURS
Summer 2025

The Sacramento State students with financial hardships and low food security.
University Union 12-48

Requesting \$\$ for BWA's August Dana Project. BWA will then send a check to the CSUS ASI Food Pantry.

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.



LOTUS News

W. Land Park Pond 7-'22

Sept. '25 issue

[Aug. 2025]

Mendas Bid Farewell Until Mid-October



Linda & Dan Menda worked as part of LOTUS on Thursday AM, helped with Obon food prep on Thursday afternoon, then on Saturday morning as part of the Obon manpower prep, all prior to their Sunday departure back to their home in Hawaii.

Thanks, Darrell, for the delicious chili. Lunch selection included chili over rice, chili over wieners, or chili hot dogs prepared by Joann. Salad included veggies from the garden.



LOTUS Members Help With Obon Food Preparation (Thurs. afternoon)

Right: LOTUS members cartoonized by Rev. Imada.
(See Rev. Imada?)



Above: Thanks Walt and JoAnn (way in the back) for treating members to lunch at Osaka. (NBA Finals pool).

JoAnn Kusaka

Sharon Okamoto

Janet Sonoda

Ken Okabayashi

Darrell Matsuda

Margie Sunahara

Head food preparer

Provides weekly desserts

Manju

Corn from Takemori Farms

Chilli for lunch

Cucumber koko





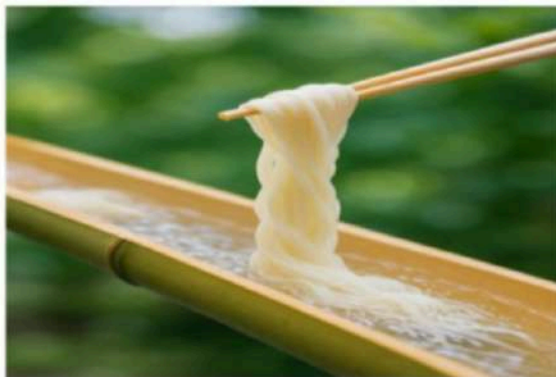
JOIN OUR

JAPANESE STUDY CLASS

Every 4th Thursday
7PM - 8PM
at Buddhist Church of Florin

Cooking Class

Sunday, September 14, 1:00 PM
At BCF



Nagashi Somen (Flowing Somen Noodles)

Nagashi Somen is a unique Japanese summer tradition where thin wheat noodles flow down a bamboo flume with cold water, and participants catch them with chopsticks.

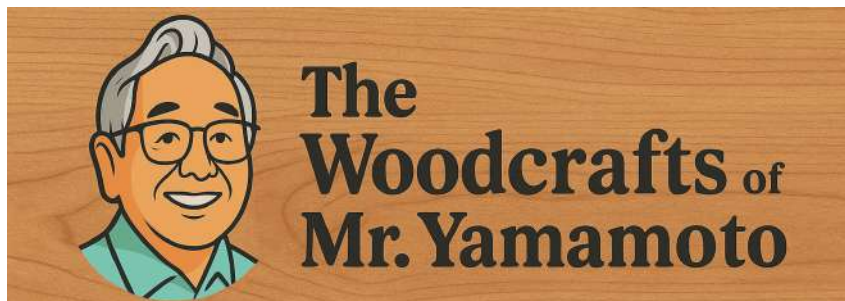
We will also introduce a special recipe:

Garlic Bacon Avocado Somen

Register Now: imadabca@gmail.com

To prepare enough ingredients, please RSVP.
Just bring your apron — donations are welcome!





We would like to introduce a wooden craft piece created by Mr. Yamamoto. Carved carefully into the warm grain of the wood are the words, “Ko wo motte shiru oya no on.” This phrase is most often understood to mean that one recognizes the value of parental love after becoming a parent oneself. Yet in Buddhism, the meaning of “parent” extends far beyond blood relations. In the teaching of Jōdo Shinshū, Amida Buddha is described as the true Parent who embraces each of us without condition. Amida’s compassion is boundless and impartial, regarding all beings as if each were the one and only child. This spirit is expressed in the phrase Isshiji.”

Thus, this expression also becomes a reminder that every one of us is already embraced by Amida’s great compassion. Amida’s gaze makes no distinction, cherishing me, cherishing you, cherishing all beings as precious and beloved children.

Mr. Yamamoto’s work, therefore, is more than an inscription of words. It reflects the ever-present working of the Buddha’s compassion that supports our very lives. To hold this piece in one’s hands is to feel not only the warmth of the wood, but also the gentle assurance that we are already embraced.



子を持つて知る 親の恩

Ko wo motte shiru oya no on.

Kitchen Remodel Project Completed

Have you seen our beautiful upgraded commercial-grade kitchen with two ranges and hoods, three stainless steel sinks, stainless steel countertops, shelving, and new LED lighting? The total cost of this project was \$107,572. The generosity of the following contributed \$74,700 with the balance coming from the Building and Maintenance funds:

Dharma School

Florin BWA

Jr. YBA

Kyudo Kai of Florin

LOTUS Club

Sacramento Kendo Dojo

Jackie Chinn

Tomio Ito

Harvey Kadoya

Paul & Lois Kashiwase

Liz Kono

Ben & Jo Ann Kusaka

Darrell Matsuda

Lester & Diane Nakao

Irene Nakaoka

Andy Noguchi & Twila Tomita

Tom Oda

Ken & Peggy Okabayashi

Gary & Sharon Okamoto

Jean Okamoto

Joy Okamoto

Michael & Jan Okimura

Mary Otani

Margie Sunahara

Ginny Syphax

Gary Takeuchi

Jan Takeuchi

Lon & Ann Tsukamoto

Special appreciation goes to KW Construction (Contractor), Sharon Okamoto, Lon and Ann Tsukamoto (Project Coordinators), Janice Shintaku (Finance), and Margie Sunahara (Brick Paver Fundraising Coordinator). See if you can find the 11 new brick pavers in front of the Hondo.



BCA TEMPLES OF THE NORTHERN DISTRICT PRESENT

YOGA AND BUDDHISM COMMUNITY GATHERING

Workshops and discussions on Yoga and Buddhism

Friday, Sept. 26 - Sunday, Sept. 28, 2025

Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Sacramento



Bob Matsueda
Yoga and Wellness
Instructor, Yoga Therapist,
Government of India,
Ministry of AYUSH



**Rev. Bob Oshita &
Rev. Patti Oshita**
BCA Ministers (Retired)
Co-authors, *Dharma
Is Everywhere*

Rev. Yuki Sugahara
Rimban
Buddhist Church of
Sacramento &
Northern District



Rev. Noritaka Imada
Minister, Buddhist
Church of Florin &
Buddhist Church of Lodi

Everyone is invited – any age and physical condition.

No experience or mats are necessary.

REGISTRATION IS LIMITED

FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED

Information and sign up, please email Rev. Patti Oshita
pattioshita100@gmail.com

Sponsored by: **Buddhist Church of Florin • Buddhist Church of Marysville
Placer Buddhist Church • Buddhist Church of Sacramento • Buddhist Church of Stockton
Walnut Grove Buddhist Church • Buddhist Church of Lodi
Buddhist Churches of America • Center for Buddhist Education
BCA Endowment Foundation's Dharma Forward Program**



SACRAMENTO
AT FIRE MOUNTAIN

*** We are not endorsing gambling, but we appreciate the
venue for the accommodations for this event.

Florin 2025 Fall Class

-----Kamigamo Style - Mataro Kimekomi Dolls-----

***** Wasano Class – Florin Buddhist Church *****

Revised dates 2025 Fall - Class Schedule**

Class 1, **September 21, 2025 (Sunday)**

Class 2, October 18, 2025

Class 3, **November 15, 2025**

Class 4, December 20, 2025

Class 5, **January 17, 2026**

***** Trip op Japan is scheduled from October 25 to November 10, 2025*****.

Please indicate which class you want to register: **AM 9:00am - 12:00pm**
PM 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

----- Class dates are subject to be changed due to Florin Buddhist Temple activities. -----

With **Location:** Florin Buddhist Church
7235 Prichard Rd.
Sacramento, CA 95828

Registration Fee:** 15 hours AM session **\$60.00 non-Florin Church member**
15 hours AM session **\$50.00 Florin Church member**
AM & PM Sessions **\$100.00 Non-Church member**
AM & PM Sessions **\$80.00 Florin Church member**

****Cost of lab fee (doll kits/tools) collected at each purchase**

For further information, please contact: Ms. Masanori (Isako) Wasano: (408) 203-1305
email: nocalmataromiyabikai@gmail.com

----- DETACH AND RETURN WITH REGISTRATION FEE-----

Florin-Saturday Mataro Kimekomi Doll Class Registration (September 21, 2025 – January 17, 2026)

A. Send registration form and fee to: _____ Date: _____
Isako Wasano
P.O. Box 28
Rescue, CA 95762-9998

----- Please remit check payable to Isako Wasano -----

B. **Your Name:** _____ AM Class () PM Class ()

a. Address: _____

b. Phone: _____ Email Address: _____

c. Method of Payment: Check # _____ \$ _____ Cash \$ _____

All class registers consider to contribute to Florin BWA who sponsors our Kimekomi Doll Classes. The annual due \$12.00 payable to **"Buddhist Church of Florin - BWA"** for 2026.

Method of Payment: Check # _____ \$12.00 Cash \$12.00

Wasano Class – Florin Buddhist Church
Information on this registration is strictly used for Wasano Class record and communication purpose.

Buddhist Church of Florin
7235 Pritchard Road
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 292006
Sacramento, CA 95829-2006
Phone: 916-383-1831
Website: www.buddhistchurchofflorin.org

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

IN THIS ISSUE:

REV. IMADA'S MESSAGE	1-3
SHOTSUKI/2025 MEMORIAL SERVICE SCHEDULE	4
MONTHLY SERVICES	5
MEMBERSHIP / BOARD HIGHLIGHTS	6-7
DHARMA SCHOOL	8-9
BWA	10
LOTUS CLUB	11
SENSEI'S JAPANESE CLASS	12
COOKING CLASS	13
THE WOODCRAFTS OF MR. YAMAMOTO	14
KITCHEN REMODEL	15
YOGA RETREAT	16
2025 FALL KIMEKOMI CLASS REGISTRATION	17
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER CALENDARS	18-19