



ONENESS

Buddhist Church of Florin



December 2025

Volume 12

Leaves on the River



One day while I was fishing, I saw a single leaf moving down the river. On the leaf, there was a small drop of water. That tiny drop stayed on the leaf as it slid across the surface of the river. Watching this simple scene reminded me of Amida's boat.

The Shakyamuni Buddha once picked up a handful of sand from the Ganges River and said: "Among the countless lives in this world, the number born as human beings is like this one handful." Then he showed the few grains left on his fingernail and said: "And the number of humans who encounter the Dharma is like these few grains."

To be born human and to hear the Dharma is extremely rare and precious. In our Three Treasures we say: "Hard is it to be born into human life, now we are living it. Hard is it to hear the Dharma, now we are able to hear it."

Shinran Shonin taught: "The path of self-power is hard like walking on land. The path of Other-Power is easy like traveling by boat on water."

Like the drop of water riding the leaf, we are gently carried by Amida's great compassion toward the Pure Land, not by our own effort, but through Other-Power.

To be alive today, in this same time and place, and to encounter one another and the Buddha-Dharma, this is a gift of countless causes and conditions.

When we look at the river, the leaf, and the flowing water, we can feel the quiet presence of the Buddha's teaching.

Namo Amida Butsu

In Gassho,

Rev. Noritaka Imada

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

Last month's quiz answer

In Japan, people say you can do almost anything at a convenience store.

But which of the following can you NOT do there?

- A. Pay your electricity bill
- B. Leave your pet for daycare
- C. Send a package

Answer: **B!** The only service that cannot be offered at convenience stores is B's "Leave your pet for daycare."

Next quiz

In Japan, how many times do temples ring the bell on New Year's Eve?

- A. 50 times
- B. 108 times
- C. 365 times

In Japan, Buddhist temples ring the bell ??? times on New Year's Eve.

It represents the ??? human desires or attachments that cause suffering.

Ring the bell symbolizes letting go of these burdens and starting the New Year fresh.

December Monthly Memorial (Shotsuki Hoyo) Service

The monthly memorial service for those who passed away during the month of December will be held on **Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.** The persons who are noted in the Buddhist Church of Florin's (BCF) memorial records as having passed away in the month of December 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 to make special memorial arrangements.

Please inform Lois Kashiwase of any corrections or additions to the list.

Baishiki, Teruo	12-05-1995	Ohta, Koume	12-23-1964
Chono, Toshiharu	12-06-1931	Okigawa, Akizo	12-05-1919
Chono, Tsuya	12-04-1929	Sakaoka, Frank	12-17-1984
Fujii, Roy	12-06-1946	Sano, Masako	12-08-1956
Furukawa, Wakano	12-02-1981	Sasada, Iwao Joe	12-09-1973
Fuwa, Riichi	12-19-2017	Sekiguchi, Fumio	12-28-1986
Hirohata, Kotaro	12-30-1952	Senda, Shigeko	12-23-1924
Hiroshima, Ushi	12-12-1920	Shiidani, Seijiro	12-25-1902
Inouye, Oscar Asao	12-07-1996	Shimoda, Yoshio	12-22-1926
Inouye, Shihei	12-16-1957	Sonoda, Thomas Tsugio	12-20-2016
Ishikawa, Kantaro	12-20-1920	Sunahara, Kumeji	12-15-1960
Ito, Eigoro	12-29-1957	Takeda, Jessie Sachiko	12-04-2018
Ito, Kazuo	12-27-1995	Takeoka, Yoshi	12-08-1955
Iwata, Shozaburo	12-19-1920	Taniguchi, Masao	12-28-1922
Kanemoto, Amy Emiko	12-10-2012	Taniguchi, Takezo	12-16-1941
Kanenaga, Tetsuo	12-13-1974	Tokumura, Tomi	12-11-1968
Kato, Harumi	12-03-2000	Tomono, Akio	12-28-2001
Kodama, Isao	12-17-1928	Tsukamoto, Bill Tadashi	12-07-2000
Kodama, Sumiye	12-20-1919	Tsukamoto, Masashi	12-29-1925
Kono, Allan	12-02-2005	Tsukamoto, Yoshio	12-22-2010
Kumamoto, Marcella	12-29-1989	Uno, Hiroko	12-25-1972
Kurima, Tatsue	12-06-1924	Wakabayashi, Sumiko	12-31-1989
Kusama, Eugene	12-17-2020	Watanabe, Yuriko	12-24-2010
Maruki, Satsu	12-12-1918	Yamamoto, Calvin Akio	12-28-2017
Maruki, Stillborn	12-11-1918	Yamamura, Hyakutaro	12-24-1948
Matsui, Carole Teruko	12-10-2017	Yamanaka, Joe T	12-29-2000
Matsui, Jim	12-16-2012	Yamaoka, Violet Sumire	12-05-2003
Miyao, George Yoshihiro, III	12-18-1969	Yasukawa, Mary Kiyo	12-12-2009
Miyoshi, Kikue	12-10-1919		
Murakami, Tatsuzo	12-08-1985		
Nakao, Bob Goro	12-20-2005		
Nakao, Teruko Marion	12-09-2011		
Nakashima, Aileen Y.	12-25-2004		
Nakatani, Kikuyo	12-27-1990		
Nakatani, Kinjiro	12-26-1957		
Nishi, Shizuo	12-09-1963		
Nishida, Flora Tomiye	12-21-2024		
Nishikawa, Agnes Yoshie	12-18-2016		
Nishikawa, George Tsutomu	12-21-2011		
Noda, George	12-02-2001		
Oda, Ritsu	12-20-1958		

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		

Please Join Us!

December Shotsuki Hoyo; Bodhi Day & Family Service

Sunday, December 14, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.

RSVP by December 10, 2025

New Year's Eve Service

Wednesday, December 31, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

RSVP by December 28, 2025

New Year's Day Service

Thursday, January 1, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

Officiant: Rev. Noritaka Imada

There will be a light luncheon following the church service on

December 14th and Toshikoshi Soba will be served on December 31st

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 October/November:

Burt & Carol Yoshioka (monthly)

Tadashi Yuki (quarterly)

Please pay 2026 Membership Dues by January 31, 2026. Membership form on following page.

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

The Membership form is available on the website @buddhistchurchofflorin.org/membership/





BUDDHIST CHURCH OF FLORIN

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

2026 Membership Form

☐ New Member ☐ Annual Renewal ☐ Name/Address Change ☐ Other _____

Last Name First Name Middle Initial Date of Birth
Telephone #

Home Cell Email
Spouse/ Partner

Last Name First Name Middle Initial Date of Birth
Telephone #

Home Cell Email
Address

Street City State Zip Code

Children at home under age 25: (List last name if different than above)

<u>Last Name</u>	<u>First Name</u>	<u>Middle Initial</u>	<u>Date of Birth</u>		
_____	_____	_____	_____	☐ Son	☐ Daughter
_____	_____	_____	_____	☐ Son	☐ Daughter
_____	_____	_____	_____	☐ Son	☐ Daughter
_____	_____	_____	_____	☐ Son	☐ Daughter

This information will be published in the church directory.

Membership Dues (times 2 for couple/family):

New Member (1st year)	\$150 per adult; \$300 couple/family per year
New Member Ages 80 - 84 (1st year)	\$100 per person per year
New Member Ages 85 and over (1st year)	\$50 per person per year
Renewal Ages 25 - 30	\$100 per person; \$200 couple/family per year
Renewal Ages 31 - 79	\$280 per person; \$560 couple/family per year
Renewal Ages 80 - 84	\$190 per person per year
Renewal 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 2026. If joining mid-year, yearly dues are pro-rated for 2026.

For office use:	Date:	Amt Pd	Ck No.	Cash	Rec'd by:	Entered
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Buddhist Church of Florin Dharma School
 News & Events- December 2025
 "B.R.A.I.D." – Building Respectful Awareness

Thanksgiving

With the fast approach of Thanksgiving, we are beginning to reminisce on the meaning of gratitude, both for the people around us and the circumstances of our lives. Thanksgiving had an emphasis on the sustenance part of our existence, so it stands to reason that an analysis of the phrase 'itadakimasu' is in order. Itadakimasu is the Japanese word that roughly means 'to receive,' and is used to indicate that the person who you received the gift from is of a higher social status. By saying this word before a meal, it reminds us of the great lengths that the food we eat had to go through to get to our plates. No one can be an island, and 'itadakimasu' is a reminder of all of the farmers, truck drivers, and grocery workers who had a hand in getting the food to our tables.

-Skylar Lam

Upcoming Dharma Lesson/Activities

December 7	JrYBA/DS fundraiser- Steak Sandwich and Udon Fundraiser
December 14, 2025	Prep for Hoonko Service- Calligraphy Activity
2026	Game Day and mini Undokai TBA
2026	Fieldtrip to Lodi Buddhist Church TBA



Dec. '25 BWA Dana Project

Urgent Need

- Gift Cards (McDonalds, Raley's, Walmart, etc.)
- A set of stretch/knit hat and gloves
- Disposable razors
- A pair of shoelaces
- Travel-sized toiletries
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Playing cards

Gift cards may be ordered through BCF Scrip/Ann T. for our annual Loaves & Fishes holiday stocking project



Let's fill those stockings to the brim.

Stocking stuffing will take place around the end of Nov. with distribution in early Dec.

Nov.-Dec. Fundraisers

 norwex



Norwex
fundraiser

Nov. 17-20

Norwex is known for eco-friendly, chemical-free cleaning and personal care products.

Check out the Norwex website. If anything "catches your fancy," contact Kathy Menda so that BWA might receive a portion of the proceeds.

A different type of upcoming holiday gift giving (??)



Card
Making
Workshop



Dec. 10 (Wed.)
10 am-12 pm

Contact: Jennifer Kubo

Portion of
any
purchases
going to
BWA

Tsuitou Hoyo Service & Year-End Party **Dec. 13 (Sat)**

Members: Did you send in your order form for a complimentary bento for those attending? [Postmarked by Nov. 22]



LOTUS Harvesting the Persimmons



MUST BE FALL

The church grounds are showing signs of fall colors on the trees and on the ground. The persimmons have been harvested for four weeks and counting. The LOTUS Garden is producing fewer vegetables.

Danny & Linda Menda have returned to Sacramento for a couple of months. They have spent their Thursdays as part of the LOTUS team. Another note: Thanks, Linda & Eric for contributing part of your winnings towards LOTUS lunch at Yum.



While we're at it: Thanks also to Darrel, Gary, & JoAnn for sharing their winnings and treating members to lunch at Osaka.



JoAnn Kusaka

Sharon Okamoto

Ken Okabayashi

Dan/Linda Menda

Tomio Ito

Mits Yamamoto

Head food preparer

Provides weekly desserts

Takemori watermelon

Hawaiian cookies

Containers

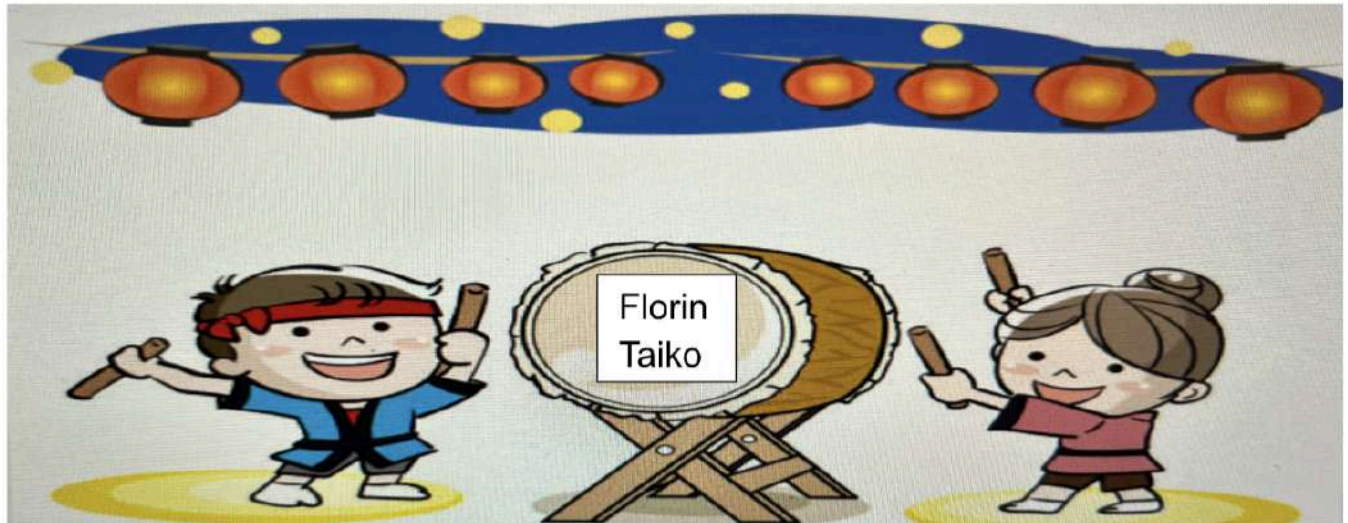
Wood carvings for all LOTUS members



New ones



Previous one



BCF announces the start of a fun taiko class!! Open to members and non- members. Family participants encouraged!!

❖ Starting February 6, 2026 every Friday from 5:15-6:15

❖ Monthly Cost:

Individual member \$20; family member rate \$40

Individual non-member \$30; family non-member rate \$60

❖ Sign up deadline: January 9, 2026.

Questions? Please call Paula (808) 489-1116, Jennifer (916) 806-4315 or Peggy (916) 212-9829



CPR / AED Training

**CPR/AED Training January 10, 2026, 10am - 1:30pm
in BCF Multipurpose Room**

**The Buddhist Church of Florin is sponsoring CPR and AED training
by the American Red Cross for the Sangha and its affiliates.**

**Why become CPR/AED certified? CPR/AED trains you to respond to
breathing and cardiac emergencies, injuries and sudden illness. At
the completion of the training you will receive a 2-year certification
and training materials.**

Who provides the training? An American Red Cross instructor.

**Who may participate? Up to 20 Buddhist Church of Florin members
and a representative from an affiliated organization.**

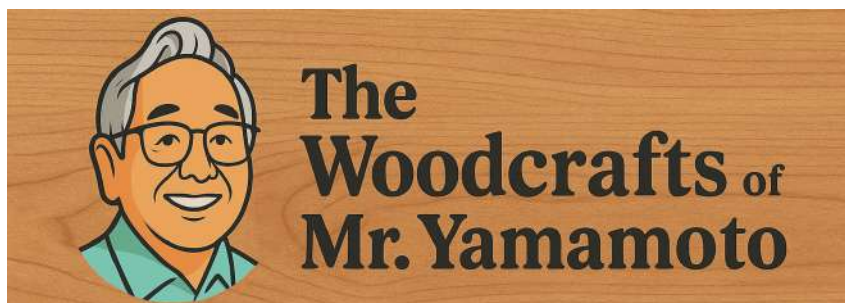
**Where will it be? The Red Cross trainer will conduct training at the
Buddhist Church of Florin.**

**When will it be? Unfortunately the date and time have not been
scheduled yet. However, based on the Red Cross instructor's
availability we will request the training to be on an upcoming
Saturday.**

**How do I sign-up? Contact Glenn Fujii to reserve your spot or for
general questions:**

Phone (916) 834 - 4874

email: gmfujii21@yahoo.com



Gold fish



This month, we are happy to introduce a beautiful woodcraft by Mr. Yamamoto: Goldfish.

The delicate cut-out carving shows the gentle movement of the fish and the flowing shape of water plants. Even though it is made from warm, solid wood, the artwork has a light and peaceful feeling, almost like water itself. Goldfish have been loved in Japan for a long time.

They remind many people of summer festivals, childhood memories, and quiet nights sitting by the pond.

A goldfish's life is not very long, usually about 5 to 10 years.

They swim with all their energy, simply living in this moment.

Watching them can remind us how precious each moment of life truly is.

In Buddhism, we learn the teaching of Impermanence, that everything changes, and nothing stays the same.

The flowing water around the goldfish, the growth rings inside the wood, and the time in our own lives, all are always moving.

Because time is always passing, every day becomes a gift we should appreciate.

Mr. Yamamoto's goldfish is not only a decoration. It is a quiet message that invites us to slow down, breathe deeply, and remember to treasure this moment.

When you look closely at this woodcraft, its details, its warmth, and the care in every cut, you may feel a gentle peace inside, like calm water on a still morning.

Please enjoy this wonderful work of art. May it bring calmness, gratitude, and a moment of reflection to your day.



JOIN OUR

JAPANESE STUDY CLASS

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

UPDATE: LML has added five more teens. Thank you for considering to donate. If you are picking up your steak sandwich/udon order on Dec. 7, we will have a collection jar at the drive thru.



Jr. YBA is having a fundraiser to help assist Love my Life, Inc., a local nonprofit organization. Love My Life organizes community events, supports groups and youth leadership workshops to strengthen social connections and promote a sense of belonging.

This year, the founder of Love My Life, Mrs. Kowjuana Kirkland, met these five homeless teens who need our help. Two were abandoned by their families. One was kicked out of her home because her Mom's boyfriend was "looking at her." One was a foster child, kicked out because the foster Mom said, "this is a business!" The last teen has been on the streets most of her life. She was sold to her mother's friend for drugs. There are a lot more teens on the streets, but these five stood out to Mrs. Kirkland. Despite their circumstances, they were all grateful for the human connection she had made with them.

At this time, Love My Life is looking for monetary donations. Last year, she reached out to Ginny but it was too short of a deadline for BCF's Jr. YBA to do any collection, so Ginny made a large donation herself. Mrs. Kirkland reached out to Ginny again and this year, BCF's Jr. YBA decided to support this worthy cause. We are asking for monetary donations. If you would like to support this fundraiser, JYBA would appreciate it. No donation is too small. Love My Life will be purchasing the necessary items these teens need and have a small holiday celebration for them.

If you would to help support this cause, here's how:

- **Please make your check payable to Buddhist Church of Florin JYBA**
- Send it to (**deadline 12/7/25**):

Ginny Yamamoto Syphax
3318 Yosemite Park Way
Elk Grove, CA 95758

Thank you for your consideration.

Love My Life's Mission Statement:

"Love My Life, Inc. is a dedicated organization committed to bridging gaps in literacy, social, economic, and health inequities within underserved communities. Our core values are **Inclusion, Empowerment, Compassion** and **Community.**"

December 2025

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1 Rev. Imada 9AM-4PM	2	3	4	5	6
7 JYBA/DS Steak Sandwich/Odon Fundraiser No Service	8 7:30 PM BWA Mtg (zoom)	9	10 10AM BWA Crafts	11 8AM Lotus Club Rev. Imada 9AM-4PM 7:30 BCF Board Mtg	12 Rev. Imada 9AM-4PM	13 BWA Tsuito Hoyo/Bonenkai Service at 11am
14 Bodhi Day & Shotsuki Service at 10am	15 Rev. Imada 9AM-4PM	16	17 10AM BWA Social	18 8AM Lotus Club	19	20 9 AM-4PM Kimekomi Workshop
21 No Service	22	23	24	25 8AM Lotus Club Rev. Imada 9AM-4PM Japanese Class 7pm	26 Rev. Imada 9AM-4PM	27
28 No Service	29 Rev. Imada 9AM-4PM	30	31 New Year's Eve Service at 7pm			

N O T E S

On going events:

Sacramento Kendo, Tuesdays/Fridays at 7:30PM Kyudo Kai, Fridays at 6:30PM Men's Basketball, Tuesdays/Thursdays at 8:00PM. Pickle Ball, 1th and 3rd Sunday(9AM). 2nd & 4th Sunday (1PM)

BUDDHIST CHURCH OF FLORIN					
2026 MASTER CALENDAR					
JANUARY			FEBRUARY		
1	Thu	NEW YEAR'S DAY SVC	1	Sun	DS Meeting
4	Sun	DS Meeting	5-7		Super Bowl Bazaar Prep
8	Thu	BCF Board Meeting	8	Sun	SUPER BOWL BAZAAR
11	Sun	HOONKO SVC/Shotsuki/NY Party	9	Mon	BWA Meeting
12	Mon	BWA Meeting	11	Wed	BWA Crafts
14	Wed	BWA Crafts	12	Thu	BCF Board Meeting
17	Sat	Kimekomi Dollmaking Class	12-15		BCA Nat'l Council Mtg in Seattle
21	Sat	BWA Social	18	Wed	BWA Social
22	Thu	Japanese Language Class	21	Sat	Kimekomi Dollmaking Class
25	Sun	Family Svc/Japanese Cooking	22	Sun	NIRVANA DAY/Shotsuki/Fam Svc/Japanese Cooking
			23	Mon	BEC Meeting
MARCH			26	Thu	Japanese Language Class
1	Sun	DS Meeting			
5-6		Loco Moco Breakfast Prep	APRIL		
7	Sat	LOCO MOCO BREAKFAST	8	Wed	BWA Crafts
8	Sun	SPRING OHIGAN/Shotsuki Svc	9	Thu	BCF Board Meeting
9	Mon	BWA Meeting	11	Sat	Hanamido Decorating
11	Wed	BWA Crafts	12	Sun	HANAMATSURI/Shotsuki
12	Thu	BCF Board Meeting	13	Mon	BWA Meeting
18	Wed	BWA Social	15	Wed	BWA Social
21	Sat	Kimekomi Dollmaking Class	18	Sat	Kimekomi Dollmaking Class
22	Sun	Ladies of JS Svc/Family Service	23	Thu	Japanese Language Class
26	Thu	Japanese Language Class	24-26		Florin JACL Manzanar Parking
29	Sun	RENNYO SHONIN/Family Svc/Japanese Cooking	25	Sat	Florin AC Prime Rib Dinner
			26	Sun	Family Service/Japanese Cooking
MAY			27	Mon	BEC Meeting
3	Sun	DS Meeting			
10	Sun	GOTANYE/Shotsuki/Mothers' Day/Hatsumairi	JUNE		
11	Mon	BWA Meeting	4	Thu	Golf Tournament
13	Wed	BWA Crafts	8	Mon	BWA Meeting
14	Thu	BCF Board Meeting	10	Wed	BWA Crafts
16	Sat	Kimekomi Dollmaking Class	11	Thu	BCF Board Meeting
20	Wed	BWA Social	14	Sun	Shotsuki/Graduation/Father's Day
24	Sun	Family Service/Japanese Cooking	17	Wed	BWA Social
25	Mon	Memorial Day Cemetery Visitations	20	Sat	Kimekomi Dollmaking Class
28	Thu	Japanese Language Class	22	Mon	BEC Meeting
			25	Thu	Japanese Language Class

JULY			AUGUST		
4	Sat	DS Potluck & Fireworks	2	Sun	DS Meeting
5	Sun	DS Meeting	9	Sun	Shotsuki/Family Service
7-9, 14-16		Obon Odori Practice	11	Tue	BWA Summer Camp Prep
8	Wed	BWA Crafts	12	Wed	BWA Summer Camp
9	Thu	BCF Board Meeting	13	Thu	BCF Board Meeting
11	Sat	Obon Cemetery Visitations	15	Sat	Kimekomi Doll Workshop
12	Sun	Shotsuki/Family Service	24	Mon	BEC Meeting
13	Mon	BWA Meeting	27	Thu	Japanese Language Class
15	Wed	BWA Social			
16	Thu	Florin JACL Obon Odori Workshop			
18	Sat	HATSUBON/OBON/Nokotsudo			
23-26		Church Camping Trip/Cooking Class			
SEPTEMBER			OCTOBER		
6	Sun	DS Meeting	3	Sat	Florin AC Spaghetti Feed
9	Wed	BWA Crafts	4	Sun	DS Meeting/Cooking Class
10	Thu	BCF Board Meeting	8	Thu	BCF Board Meeting
10-12		Fall Bazaar Prep	11	Sun	Shotsuki/Family Service
13	Sun	Fall Food Bazaar	12	Mon	BWA Meeting
16	Wed	BWA Social	14-29		BCF Japan Trip
19	Sat	Kimekomi Dollmaking Class	17	Sat	Florin JACL Scholarship Fundraiser
24	Thu	Japanese Language Class	17	Sat	Kimekomi Dollmaking Class
27	Sun	FALL OHIGAN /Shotsuki/Keiro Apprec	25	Sun	Family Svc/DS Halloween Party
			26	Mon	BEC Meeting
NOVEMBER			DECEMBER		
1	Sun	DS Meeting	5	Sat	JYBA & DS Fundraiser Prep
6	Fri	Prime Rib Dinner Prep	6	Sun	JYBA&DS Fundraiser
7	Sat	PRIME RIB DINNER	9	Wed	BWA Crafts
8	Sun	Shotsuki/Veterans/Family Service	10	Thu	BCF Board Meeting
9	Mon	BWA Meeting	12	Sat	BWA Tsuito Hoyo/Bonenkai
11-13		BWA Rummage Sale Prep	13	Sun	BODHI DAY /Shotsuki
12	Thu	BCF Board Meeting	14	Mon	BWA Meeting
14	Sat	BWA Rummage Sale	16	Wed	BWA Social
18	Wed	BWA Social	19	Sat	Kimekomi Dollmaking Class
21	Sat	Kimekomi Dollmaking Class	31	Thu	New Year's Eve Service
22	Sun	EITAIKYO/PET MEMORIAL /Family Service			
Weekly Scheduled Activities:					
Sun	Pickleball 9am or 1pm		Thu	Lotus Gardening 8am	
Tue & Fri	Sac Kendo Club 7pm		Fri	Kyudo Kai Club 6:30pm	
Tue & Thu	Adult Basketball 8pm		Fri	Family Taiko 5:15pm	

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IN THIS ISSUE:

REV. IMADA'S MESSAGE	1-2
SHOTSUKI NAME / SERVICES	3-4
DONATIONS	5-6
MEMBERSHIP	7-8
DHARMA SCHOOL	9
BWA	10
LOTUS CLUB	11
TAIKO CLASS	12
CPR/AED TRAINING	13
THE WOODCRAFTS OF MR. YAMAMOTO	14
JAPANESE CLASS	15
JYBA FUNDRAISE	16
DECEMBER/JANUARY CALENDARS	17-18
2026 MASTER CALENDAR	19-21