



ONENESS

Buddhist Church of Florin



December 2022

Volume 12

Hello everyone! It is already December. On Sunday, December 11th, the Bodhi Day and the Shotsuki service are scheduled at BCF. "Bodhi Day" can be translated into Chinese characters "成道会", it means "the road is made". It means that Buddha gained enlightenment. Shakya began practicing at the age of 29 and continued for 6 years. But no matter how hard he practiced, he didn't achieve enlightenment. He finally stopped practicing, sat under the Bodhi tree, and entered deep meditation quietly. Then on the morning of the 49th day, he gained enlightenment. That day is December 8th, so we will have Bodhi Day service in December.

Last month, when I went to my parents' house in Japan, I saw a Bodhi tree. The photos are at the bottom of this article. It's a small tree behind the statue of Shinran Shonin. This Bodhi tree was a gift I received from the president of ChuoBukkyoGakuin when I went to India in 2014. At that time, the seedlings were just about a foot short. Now the tree had grown taller than me and had changed from a green stem to a brown trunk. Although we can't see it, it probably has long roots already in the ground. The Bodhi tree is famous as a Buddha tree and its nuts are often used in making Onenju. Maybe I need to learn how to process nuts to make Onenju.

Also, the long tree that surrounds the temple is a 300-year-old pine tree. It was bombed during the war but is still alive. It has a total length of about 164 feet left and right from the central trunk. The branches cannot bear their own weight and are supported by many pillars. It reminded me that my life is also supported by many people. When I went to India, I heard that many people cut in line, but no one got angry. It was a teaching that we should forgive other people's troubles because we are also troublesome to others.

The word OKAGESAMA expresses that there is a lot of support by invisible people. KAGE means shadow. "O" is used before nouns to call them more politely. (Ocha/tea, Obachan/grandma, Onenju, etc.) "SAMA" is a respectful word that is put next to the name like "Mr/Mrs". The word OKAGESAMA expresses the importance of the shadows that are usually invisible. The Amida Buddha is also invisible, but always with us whenever we recite the Nembutsu. Namo Amida Butsu.

In Gassho,

Rev. Noritaka Imada

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



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

SUE SUZUKO NAKAHIRA

August 17, 1933 to October 29, 2022

Veteran's Recognition 11/13/22

L-R - Veterans with Dharma School kids

Brayden Fong, Kianna Nakaoka, Veterans: Ken Okabayashi & Kenny Kakutani, Kaori Okimura, Kylie Fujii & Kristin Fujii



Buddhist Church of Florin
FUNERAL AND MEMORIAL SERVICES

Funerals

The Buddhist Church of Florin is sharing Reverend Noritaka Imada's ministerial duties with the Buddhist Church of Lodi. Reverend Imada's schedule at the Buddhist Church of Florin is the 2nd and 4th weeks of the month, Thursday to Monday. In the event of a death in the family, please follow these guidelines.

For a Makuragyo service, contact Reverend Imada at (916) 383-1831 during the business hours of 9:00 am to 4:00 pm when Reverend Imada is scheduled at the Buddhist Church of Florin. If the church office is closed or Reverend Imada is at the Buddhist Church of Lodi, contact Reverend Imada at (209) 503-4514. When scheduling the Makuragyo service, please consider his travel time, especially late at night, as Reverend Imada and family live in Lodi.

The Buddhist Church of Florin is conducting in-person Funeral services at the Church with COVID protocols (i.e., mask, social distance, contact tracing, release of liability) to ensure the safety of our Church members and Minister. Currently, the Church is not able to offer any type of onsite dining (Otoki).

Funeral services will be conducted on the 2nd and 4th weeks of the month, Thursday to Monday when Reverend Imada is scheduled at the Buddhist Church of Florin. Please contact Reverend Imada to decide the date and time for the service.

The Buddhist Church of Florin's Funeral Committee can assist with the preparation and general arrangements for the funeral with the family. Please contact the Funeral Committee, Walter Menda at (916) 392-1896 or (916) 835-0281 (cell) or Dick Kadoya at (916) 764-5972 (cell) for assistance.

Orei guidelines:

- Orei to Reverend Noritaka Imada
- Orei to Buddhist Church of Florin

Perpetual Memorial Services (i.e., 49th day, 1st year, 3rd year, 7th year, etc.)

In the event of a family Memorial service, please follow these guidelines. Memorial services will be conducted on the 2nd and 4th weeks of the month, Thursday to Monday when Reverend Imada is scheduled at the Buddhist Church of Florin. To schedule a service date and time, please contact Reverend Imada at (916) 383-1831 during the business hours of 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

The Buddhist Church of Florin is conducting in-person Memorial services at the Church with COVID protocols (i.e., mask, social distance, contact tracing, release of liability) to ensure the safety of our Church members and Minister.

Orei guidelines:

- Orei to Reverend Noritaka Imada
- Orei to Buddhist Church of Florin

Please note that in-person services are subject to cancellation if County/Centers for Disease Control guidelines change or if it becomes too risky for the health and safety of our Church members and Minister to continue with indoor gatherings.

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 11, 2022 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 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 2022 is a special service year (see table) for a dearly departed relative, 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	Nishi, Shizuo	12-09-1963
Chono, Toshiharu	12-06-1931	Nishikawa, Agnes Yoshie	12-18-2016
Chono, Tsuya	12-04-1929	Nishikawa, George Tsutomu	12-21-2011
Fujii, Roy	12-06-1946	Noda, George	12-02-2001
Furukawa, Wakano	12-02-1981	Oda, Ritsu	12-20-1958
Fuwa, Riichi	12-19-2017	Ohta, Koume	12-23-1964
Hirohata, Kotaro	12-30-1952	Okigawa, Akizo	12-05-1919
Hiroshima, Ushi	12-12-1920	Sakaoka, Frank	12-17-1984
Inouye, Oscar Asao	12-07-1996	Sano, Masako	12-08-1956
Inouye, Shihei	12-16-1957	Sasada, Iwao Joe	12-09-1973
Ishikawa, Kantaro	12-20-1920	Sekiguchi, Fumio	12-28-1986
Ito, Eigo	12-29-1957	Senda, Shigeo	12-23-1924
Ito, Kazuo	12-27-1995	Shiidani, Seiji	12-25-1902
Iwata, Shozaburo	12-19-1920	Shimoda, Yoshio	12-22-1926
Kanemoto, Amy Emiko	12-10-2012	Sonoda, Thomas Tsugio	12-20-2016
Kanenaga, Tetsuo	12-13-1974	Sunahara, Kumeji	12-15-1960
Kato, Harumi	12-03-2000	Takeda, Jessie Sachiko	12-04-2018
Kodama, Isao	12-17-1928	Takeoka, Yoshi	12-08-1955
Kodama, Sumiye	12-20-1919	Taniguchi, Masao	12-28-1922
Kono, Allan	12-02-2005	Taniguchi, Takezo	12-16-1941
Kumamoto, Marcella	12-29-1989	Tokumura, Tomi	12-11-1968
Kurima, Tatsue	12-06-1924	Tomono, Akio	12-28-2001
Maruki, Satsu	12-12-1918	Tsukamoto, Bill Tadashi	12-07-2000
Maruki, Stillborn	12-11-1918	Tsukamoto, Masashi	12-29-1925
Matsui, Carole Teruko	12-10-2017	Tsukamoto, Yoshio	12-22-2010
Matsui, Jim	12-16-2012	Uno, Hiroko	12-25-1972
Miyao, George Yoshihiro, III	12-18-1969	Wakabayashi, Sumiko	12-31-1989
Miyoshi, Kikue	12-10-1919	Watanabe, Yuriko	12-24-2010
Murakami, Tatsuzo	12-08-1985	Yamamoto, Calvin Akio	12-28-2017
Nakao, Bob Goro	12-20-2005	Yamamura, Hyakutaro	12-24-1948
Nakao, Teruko Marion	12-09-2011	Yamanaka, Joe T	12-29-2000
Nakashima, Aileen Y.	12-25-2004	Yamaoka, Violet S	12-05-2003
Nakatani, Kikuyo	12-27-1990	Yasukawa, Mary	12-12-2009
Nakatani, Kinjiro	12-26-1957		

2022 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>
2021	1 st Year	1998	25 th Year
2020	3 rd Year	1990	33 rd Year
2016	7 th Year	1973	50 th Year
2010	13 th Year	1923	100 th Year
2006	17 th Year		

Buddhist Church of Florin In-Person Protocols for Services and Activities

Sunday, December 11th, December Shotsuki Hoyo; Bodhi Day and Family Service at 10:00 AM.

Saturday, December 31st, New Year's Eve Service at 7:00 PM.

Following the service BWA will be serving Toshikoshi Soba, traditional Japanese noodle bowl dish eaten on omisoka (New Year's Eve). This custom is to let go of hardship of the year because soba noodles are easily cut while eating.

**There will be light refreshments following the services and so in order to prepare enough for everyone, we ask that you please rsvp to florinbuddhist@gmail.com. Thank you!!

We will continue to follow safety protocols for all in-person services and activities. (Updated 9/25/22)

- **No** longer need to provide proof of vaccination.
- Face masks must always be worn while indoors.
- Signing in is recommended before entering the Hondo or other church facilities.
- Use of hand sanitizers at BCF is recommended.
- Attend services or activities **only when you are healthy and free from symptoms**.
- Continue to practice social distancing.
- Services will be held in the Hondo with seating properly spaced apart.
- **No Service Book** will be provided (Please bring your own service book or one may be purchased from the church for \$5).

Please note that in-person services are subject to cancellation if county/CDC guidelines change or if it becomes too risky for the safety and health of our Sangha members to continue with indoor gatherings.

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.

BODHI DAY SERVICE

The Bodhi Day Service is when Prince Siddhartha "awakened" from a life blinded by ignorance and was "reborn" into an enlightened life as Sakyamuni Buddha.

Siddhartha Gautama meditated under the Bodhi Tree (Tree of Enlightenment) and became the Buddha, perfect in Wisdom and Compassion. This historic event took place on December 8th as the first faint light of day began to glow in the eastern sky. By his example, he showed us that it was possible for human beings to become a Buddha, which is a fully enlightened person. Therefore, we are in possession of this potentiality called Buddha-nature, which awakened and cultivated, will enable us to achieve supreme Wisdom and Compassion.

Please join us on Sunday, December 11, 2022, for the Bodhi Day Service and December Shotsuki Hoyo at 10:00 AM, with Rev. Noritaka Imada.

ONLINE PAYPAL DONATIONS

You can now make online donations/payments to the church by visiting our website at florinbuddhist.org and clicking on the "Donate" button near the bottom of the home page. This is a convenient, secure way to make online donations for osaisen, shotsuki, services, membership and special events.

Contact Kathy Menda at (916) 392-1896 or (916) 761-9469 if you have questions.



Buddhist Church of Florin Dharma School

News & Events

December 2022

“B.R.A.I.D.” – Building Respectful Awareness & Inclusion through Dharma

Summer Days

For once I can feel
The sun shining on my skin
Waves crash on the beach

Fall Days

Rain gently falls down
Droplets ripple in puddles
And rise up again

- ELLam

It was a wonderful feeling being able to gather once again. With a meal, that happened to be named perfectly, Friendship Soup. The sounds of happy chatter both young and aged brought joy to my heart. I now have a new appreciation for these simple times. We look forward to the many more gathering events.

Gassho,
Nadine Nouchi & ELLam

Upcoming Dharma School Events



- **November 27, 2022 Introduction of B.R.A.I.D
Immediately following service**
- **December 11, 2022 Bodhi Day Service**
- **December 31, 2022 New Year's Eve Service at 7:00pm
Ring the bell 108 times with Toshikoshi Soba (year-
crossing noodle)**

Buddhist Church of Florin
Governing Board Meeting Highlights
Meeting Date: November 10, 2022

1st Vice President: The Board approved Kyudo Kai (traditional Japanese Archery) to begin using the gym for equipment storage and training on November 11. Kyudo Kai representative Paula Yoshioka is considering starting a taiko group to perform at Obon Odori. The new janitorial service provided its first service at the beginning of November. The air conditioners were serviced.

BWA Report: Rev. Imada will officiate the Tsuitou Hoyo Memorial Service and Bonenkai on December 10. Obento boxes will be distributed after the service to those in attendance. BWA is purchasing new tables for the multi-purpose room. The November Dana projects included participation in the Run for to Feed the Hungry and preparing Christmas stockings for those in need. The rummage sale held November 5th grossed over \$3,800. Thank you to donors and all the workers that put on the well-organized event.

Dharma School/Jr. YBA: Dharma School students learned proper etiquette in the Hondo and prepared greeting cards to give to veterans at the Veteran's Day service. Future activities include learning about Bodhi Day and learning the Buddhist colors and reciting the Three Treasures. With the help of Jr. YBA, BCF Activities Committee and Dharma School Activities Committee, a Halloween Party was held on October 30th, attended by 73 children and adults. Thanks to the hard-working contributors!

Activities: A light refreshment social following the service continues to be popular. Following the November 13th service, Friendship Soup was served. The Activities Committee provided lunch for the Dharma School Halloween Party. Scrip sales earned \$545 in the last quarter.

Fundraisers: The Superbowl Food Bazaar will be held on February 12, 2023.

Youth Protection: Lois Kashiwase will send out reminders to BCF affiliates to comply with California Law AB506. All individuals over eighteen who meet the compliance requirements must be certified by January 1, 2023.

Temple Reopening: Recommendations are being prepared for resuming all temple activities in January.

Liaison Committee: A survey has been prepared to facilitate the Sangha giving feedback on programs and activities. Surveys will be mailed to members by the Directors-At-Large.

Directors-At-Large: Be on the lookout for emails from your Group's Directors-At-Large. The emails contain important information about temple happenings. Please contact your Directors-At-Large with any comments, suggestions, questions, or concerns.

Long Range Facilities Planning: The Committee is obtaining estimates for possible replacement of the perimeter fencing to provide better security for the facility. The church sewage system was added to the list of priorities.

Membership: Updated directory coming your way soon!

2022 Membership Dues

The Buddhist Church of Florin thanks the following members who have paid their 2022 membership dues:

Masako Tomono

Burt Yoshioka (monthly)

Please direct membership questions to Susan Takeda at s.takeda@comcast.net

Buddhist Church of Florin Membership

It's getting to that time of year again! Your 2023 BCF membership dues are payable by January 31, 2023. We are requesting EVERYONE complete a membership form. The 2023 membership form (also enclosed in this newsletter) can be found on our website at www.florinbuddhist.org, at the temple or from Susan Takeda (email s.takeda@comcast.net).

Please mail the membership form and your check to:

Buddhist Church of Florin (Attn: Membership)

P.O. Box 292006

Sacramento, CA 95829

If you are paying your dues via PayPal, please complete membership form, check the PayPal box and send the form to BCF.

Please direct membership questions to Susan Takeda.

BUDDHIST CHURCH OF FLORIN

PO BOX 292006

SACRAMENTO, CA 95829

2023 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

 Son Daughter
 Son Daughter
 Son Daughter
 Son 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)
Check if paying via PayPal: _____

Comments: _____

MEMBER'S SIGNATURE: _____

Membership dues are payable/due in January 2023. If joining mid-year, yearly dues are pro-rated for 2023.

For office use: Date: _____ Amt Pd _____ Ck No. _____ Cash _____ Rec'd by: _____ Entered _____

Thank you to everyone who helped make our Halloween party a fun event. The planning committee (Ginny, Kris, Jennifer F., & Denise F.), BCF activities committee (Sharon O. & Sandy), cooking crew (Gary O. and Lloyd). Also, thanks to Walter for conducting the hay ride, Eric F. who brought some yummy chili and the Jr. YBA kids (Kianna, Julia, Brayden and Ella) who helped the kids with the scavenger hunt/pinata/musical chairs/cookie decorating/coloring table. Seventy-three children and adults attended. Lots of activities for the kids...musical chairs, pinata, cookie decorating, trunk or treat, hay ride, scavenger hunt, and coloring table, plus yummy food!



Buddhist Church of Florin
Kikuyo and Kinjiro Nakatani Scholarships 2023-2024

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 multiple scholarships.

Graduating high school students who will be attending full time and/or students attending an accredited college, university or vocational school full time in 2023-2024 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:

- Active involvement 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 Chairperson, Walter Menda, or Florin Dharma School Superintendent and YBA advisors in January 2023.

Application Deadline: Applications must be received by the Nakatani Scholarship Chairperson by midnight, April 1, 2023.

Buddhist Church of Florin
Kikuyo and Kinjiro Nakatani Public School Teacher Grant
\$1,500

Public school education is the foundation for a harmonious and prosperous society. Unfortunately, public school teachers pay for classroom supplies and educational material with their own money because of school budget cuts. The Buddhist Church of Florin supports public school teachers by offering a \$1,500 grant for classroom supplies and education materials; and if necessary, for Personal Protection supplies and equipment.

To be eligible for the Kikuyo and Kinjiro Nakatani Public School Teacher Grant, you must be a full-time public school teacher in Kindergarten through 12th grade; and a member of the Buddhist Church of Florin (church membership dues are paid and current).

Applications are accepted on an ongoing basis. Contact Walter Menda for a Kikuyo and Kinjiro Nakatani Public School Teacher Grant Application at (916) 392-1896 or wmenda@pacbell.net.

How to become a member of the Buddhist Church of Florin? If you are married, please join under the couple/family category or if single, the adult single category. Contact Walter Menda for a Church Membership Form.

BWA Dec. 2022 Dana Projects



Christmas Stocking Drive
Stuff a Stocking, Warm a Heart



Nov. Dana Project

Run to Feed The HUNGRY

Nov. 24, 2022

(Thanksgiving Day) or

Dec. 7 w/Sangha Walk Gr.

Register for run/walk or donate through BWA to **Run to Feed the Hungry**

(Sacramento Food Bank & Family Services)

Sangha Walkers:

Dec. 7, 9 a.m.

Greenhaven Greenbelt

A safe haven for Asian Pacific Islander Women and Children
My Sister's House

ADOPT
A FAMILY
for the holidays

Adopt a Family
Holiday Giving

REQUEST: Monetary
donations/gift cards for
2 Adopt-a-Families.

Two separate projects:

- 1) Loaves & Fishes Stocking Drive
- 2) My Sister's House Adopt-a-Family



Tsuitou Hoyo Memorial Service

Bonenkaí: BWA Members Bento Pickup

Dec. 10 (Sat.) [Note the Date/2nd Sat.]

11 a.m.



PERSIMMONS



Lloyd Okimura



Gary Okamoto
Mike Okamoto

It took three LOTUS days to harvest the 2 persimmon trees thanks to Lloyd, Gary, Mike, Ron, & Jan (just a couple of hrs.). [Jan & Ron not pictured].

(Pics by Sharon O)



One LOTUS day's worth of picking



Hawaiian treats from Paula Yoshioka of the newly formed Florin Kyodo Kai (Japanese Archery) for LOTUS's help with equipment unloading.



Cookie treats from Nick Takeda (George's grandson) who is attending culinary school.



Lasagna soup
Chicken



Ginny Syphax
Jeanne Nakamura

Chili



Eric Fujii

LUNCH FIXIN'S (Oct.-Nov.)



JoAnn Kusaka

Weekly AM snacks. Broccoli salad, mac salad, fried rice w/prime rib, hot dogs-corn muffins w/Eric's chili, sukiyaki Pumpkin roll

**Jan Takeuchi/
Sharon Okamoto**

Chicken salad sandwich, pumpkin cake, mango jello

**Okabayashis/
Takemori Farms**

Picking up kabocha for each LOTUS member from Takemori Farms

Betty Okimura

Apple cake

Yukie Hoffman

Sushi, Calif. & cucumber rolls, gobo salad, egg salad

Rev. Imada

Spicy teriyaki chicken, layered rice dish

Buddhist Church of Florin

florinbuddhist.org

Super Bowl Food Fundraiser

Sunday, February 12, 2023 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

To Order:

1. Return your order form with payment
2. Orders **MUST** be postmarked by January 23, 2023
3. Make check payable to: **BUDDHIST CHURCH OF FLORIN**
4. Mail check and order form to:

Buddhist Church of Florin

Super Bowl Food Fundraiser

P. O. Box 292006

Sacramento, CA 95829

Pick up your order on February 12th, between 11:00 AM -1:00 PM

7235 Pritchard Road, Sacramento, 95828

Prepaid contactless drive thru pick up only

Email or phone orders will **not** be accepted

ITEM	QTY	UNIT COST	TOTAL
Chicken Plate (½ teriyaki chicken, vegetable, rice, pickled vegetable, sliced oranges)		x \$18.00	
Chicken Curry Rice		x \$6.00	
Udon		x \$6.00	
TOTAL ENCLOSED			

Name (Print)	
Address	
City	Zip
Contact Number (required)	
Email Address	

Buddhist Church of Florin

florinbuddhist.org

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Buddhist Church of Florin

Super Bowl Food Fundraiser

P. O. Box 292006

Sacramento, CA 95829

Pick up your order on February 12th, between 11:00 AM -1:00 PM

7235 Pritchard Road, Sacramento, 95828

Prepaid contactless drive thru pick up only

Email or phone orders will **not** be accepted

ITEM	QTY	UNIT COST	TOTAL
Chicken Plate (½ teriyaki chicken, vegetable, rice, pickled vegetable, sliced oranges)		x \$18.00	
Chicken Curry Rice		x \$6.00	
Udon		x \$6.00	
TOTAL ENCLOSED			

Name (Print)	
Address	
City	Zip
Contact Number (required)	
Email Address	

