



ONENESS

Buddhist Church of Florin



September 2023

Volume 9

Hello everyone. September has come so quickly. It was August of 2022 that I arrived in California and the time seems to have flown by. In the United States, there are beautiful sunsets and many colors in the sky. Autumn is Ohigan season. Ohigan means “the other side of this island”. The opposite word of Higan is “Shigan”, meaning this island. Shigan is the world in which we currently live.

Nowadays, because of the advancements in science, everyone knows what a sunset is. However, people who lived a long time ago, didn't know why the sun shone so beautifully. Therefore, when they saw the sun setting in the west, they may have visualized the Pure Land. Even with the advancements of science, we still have the same life problems and worries/heart aches, as those who lived years ago. The human mind has not changed. That is why we need the light of Amida Buddha. Shinran Shonin mentioned the light of Amida Buddha in the Shoshinge sutra.

[Original] 普放無量無邊光 / fu ho mu ryo mu hen ko 無碍無對光炎王 / mu ge mu tai ko en no 清淨歡喜智慧光 /
sho jo kan gi chi e ko 不斷難思無稱光 / fu dan nan ji mu sho ko 超日月光照塵刹 / cho nichu gak-ko sho jin setsu 一
切群生蒙光照 / is-sai gun jo mu ko sho

[Translation] Everywhere the Buddha casts light immeasurable, boundless,
Unhindered, unequalled light-lord of all brilliance,
Pure light, joyful light, the light of wisdom,
Light constant, inconceivable, light beyond speaking,
Light surpassing sun and moon is sent forth, illumining countless worlds;
The multitude of beings all receive this radiance.

Shinran-Shonin identified 12 kinds of light. I feel he taught us that “Amida is a Buddha of light”. The warm light still arrives today from the far west. I guess it is the same warmth that Shinran-Shonin saw.

Gassho

Namo Amida Butsu

Rev. Noritaka Imada

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

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 24, 2023 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 2023 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.

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

2023 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>
2022	1 st Year	1999	25 th Year
2021	3 rd Year	1991	33 rd Year
2017	7 th Year	1974	50 th Year
2011	13 th Year	1924	100 th Year
2007	17 th Year		

Please join us on Sunday, September 24, 2023

**Fall Ohigan/September Shotsuki Hoyo and Family Service
Installation of Officers
Welcoming New BCF Members
Registration for Dharma School and JYBA**

Sunday, September 24, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

Officiant: Rev. Noritaka Imada

*There will be a luncheon following the church service and so in order to prepare enough for everyone, we ask that you please rsvp to florinbuddhist@gmail.com by **September 17, 2023**. Thank you!!*

Please note there will not be a service on Sunday, September 10, 2023, due to the BCF Food Fundraiser.

****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.



Cheryl Miles
Nadine Nouchi & Henry Lam
Ellen Griggs
Kyle & Debbie Inouye
Karyn Ariyasu-Ito
Michael Hutchinson
Daniel & Linda Menda
Erik & Katie Nishida
Derek Shimosaki
Tadashi Yuki & Keysten Saephan
Janice Shintaku
Wendell & Wanda Sonoda

Linda Nakojo-Jagger
Greg Crandall
Jeffery Hamamoto
Calvin Abe
Cindy DeGuzman
Dale Kuroda
Kat Moriyama-Liss & Don Liss
Ryan & Sabrina Okimura
Ryan Shimosaki
Frank Mouton
Michael Sonoda
Gary Takeuchi

Join the Buddhist Church of Florin in welcoming the new members of the church since the Covid lockdown.

A luncheon will be held after the Ohigan/Shotsuki service on September 24, 2023.

Please RSVP by September 17th to florinbuddhist@gmail.com to ensure we prepare enough food.

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

2023 Membership Dues

Thank you to the following members for their 2023 membership dues received in August:

Allen Fujii Frank Mouton (monthly) Dennis Nishikawa
Kenny & Louise Teranishi (semi-annual) 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 payment. 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.

Governing Board Meeting Highlights **August 10, 2023**

1. Obon Odori was a success! A big thank you to the many volunteers who worked on planning, food preparation, setup, event day activities (raffles, shaved ice, snack bar, demonstrations to name of few) and cleanup. A special thank you to Walt Menda for chairing the event!
2. BWA: 110 packages of inari sushi were made by BWA members for Obon. All the proceeds were donated to the temple. The Obon Boutique was well received. A Shibori Tie-Dye workshop will be held in late September.
3. Kyudo Kai Florin had a special visit by Sensei Ai Oyama who travelled from the Hawaii Kyudo Kai to participate in the KKF demonstration during Obon.
4. Dharma School is looking for assistants and teachers for the upcoming term. All assistance is appreciated. Contact Lois Kashiwase (loiskash2@comcast.net) or Jennifer Kubo (kubojm86@gmail.com).
5. Thank you to Dharma School for generously providing funds for the purchase of new blinds for the parsonage that will be installed the week of August 15.
6. The Joint Celebration service to commemorate the founding of Jodo Shinshu and the birthday of Shiran Shonin will be held at Sacramento Betsuin on October 8th. The service will be both in person and online. Look out for the flyer for signups. It's important that you RSVP, especially if you plan to attend the in-person service so organizers can properly plan. RSVP to florinbuddhist@gmail.com
7. A New Member event will be held on September 24 to welcome the members who joined during the past three years since BCF has not been able to have a proper welcome event due to Covid. A social will follow the service.
8. BCF will host a Chicken Throw Down contest. This is a district-wide event and the NCDC will be working out details with BCF. If you wish to volunteer to help organize this fun, social event, please contact Eric Fujii (efujii52@gmail.com).
9. BCF is purchasing additional security cameras to provide better coverage of the parsonage.
10. The Board voted to move forward with setting up a cashless payment method for events. Details are being worked out.
11. The Board is looking into the purchase of AEDs (automatic electronic defibrillators) for the gym and temple with the assistance of Kendo. Since CPR goes along with the use of the AED, the Board is also researching opportunities for CPR training for our Sangha.

Formal Apology from the Attorney General's Office

The California Attorney General's Office issued a formal apology in the incarceration and dispossession of Japanese Americans during and after World War II. The apology was issued in observance of the 35th anniversary of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988, which granted reparations to Japanese Americans who had been wrongly incarcerated by the United States Government during World War II and to "discourage the occurrence of similar injustices and violations of civil liberties in the future". The apology acknowledges the Attorney General Office's past complicity in the unjust deprivation of Japanese Americans' civil rights and civil liberties during and after World War II.

The Attorney General Office's apology as well as its commitment to defend the civil rights and liberties of all citizens and residents of California is even more relevant today as xenophobia, hate and intolerance is leading to a revival of the Alien Land Law in several states.

The Florin JACL was the lead organization in obtaining this apology. Please see the following Apology letter by California Attorney General Rob Bonta.



CALIFORNIA ATTORNEY GENERAL

ROB BONTA

August 10, 2023

Attorney General Rob Bonta Issues Historic Statement and Apology Acknowledging the Complicity of the California Attorney General's Office in the Incarceration and Dispossession of Japanese Americans During World War II

Today, the California Attorney General's Office publicly acknowledges and apologizes to Americans of Japanese ancestry for the Office's role in the unjust deprivation of Japanese Americans' civil rights and civil liberties during World War II. As the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 recognizes, "a grave injustice" was done to citizens and residents of Japanese ancestry and the relocation and incarceration of these civilians was "motivated largely by racial prejudice, wartime hysteria, and a failure of political leadership."¹

In 1942, California Attorney General Earl Warren testified before Congress in support of Executive Order 9066, which authorized the forced removal and incarceration of Japanese Americans. In his testimony, Attorney General Warren assailed the loyalty of Japanese Americans, using unfounded speculation characterized as "evidence" to justify not only the arbitrary incarceration of some 120,000 Japanese Americans—including children—but also the use of the California Alien Land Law to take possession of agricultural land owned by Japanese American families. The California Alien Land Law of 1913 prohibited Asian immigrants from purchasing or leasing land, until 1952 when the California Supreme Court held the law violated the Fourteenth Amendment.

During and immediately after World War II, this Office instituted over 70 escheat actions under the Alien Land Law to seize land owned by families of Japanese descent.² In 1943, California Attorney General Robert Kenny created an "alien land unit" within the Office, which filed escheat cases against Japanese American families that were locked away in War Relocation Authority camps. In 1945, the Attorney General's Office received a \$200,000 grant from the Legislature to investigate and prosecute more Alien Land Law cases as Japanese Americans began to return to California to find their homes had been burned down. As the California Supreme Court ultimately recognized in 1952, the "real purpose" of the Alien Land Law "was the elimination of competition by [foreign-born] Japanese in farming California land" and the basis for the legislation was "race undesirability."³

In 1944, this Office joined the states of Washington and Oregon in submitting an amicus brief in the US Supreme Court in the *Korematsu v. United States* case, supporting the imprisonment of Fred Korematsu despite the lack of any evidence that he posed a security threat. The amicus brief argued, "it was reasonable for the military commander to meet the danger threatened from the unidentified disloyal members of the group by excluding the group as a whole"

¹ Civil Liberties Act of 1987, Section 2 – Statement of the Congress, PL 100–383 (HR 442), PL 100–383, August 10, 1988, 102 Stat 903, available at <<https://www.congress.gov/bill/100th-congress/house-bill/442/text>>.

² See *Oyama v. California* (1948) 332 U.S. 633, 661–662.

³ *Fujii v. State* (1952) 38 Cal.2d 718, 735.

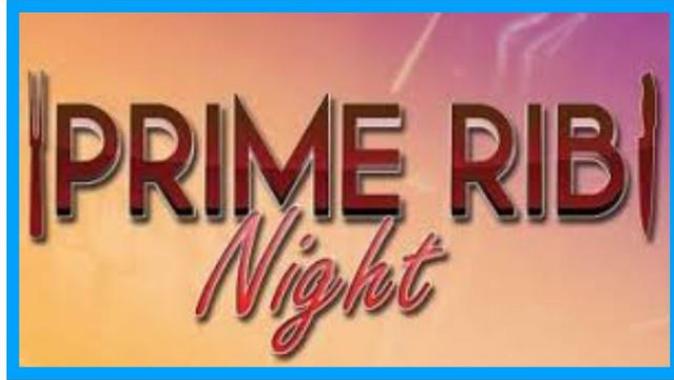
because the military lacked “an adequate test of loyalty.” We recognize today that this was unequivocally incorrect.

During times when some seek to fan the flames of xenophobia, hate, and intolerance, it is not enough to simply refrain from throwing stones. As Martin Luther King, Jr. once said: “*A time comes when silence is betrayal.*” The modern revival of Alien Land Laws in several states and the resurgence of anti-Asian hate across our country present such a moment. In the past, this Office used legal tools to deprive a generation of Japanese Californians of their liberty and financial security. But, just as Earl Warren came to recognize it was wrong to advocate for Executive Order 9066,⁴ the California Attorney General’s Office can and must share with the country its regret and error in utilizing the Alien Land Law as an instrument of racial discrimination.

As Attorney General of California, I am committed to defending the civil rights and civil liberties of all citizens and residents of California. This includes confronting past errors at a time when racism, fear, and xenophobia once again threatens to assault the fundamental freedoms and rights we all share. With deep regret for the actions of this Office that contributed to the suffering of Japanese Americans during that era, I offer this sincere apology and re-commit this Office to the equal protection of the life, liberty, and property of all Americans.

⁴ See Sumi Cho, Redeeming Whiteness in the Shadow of Internment: Earl Warren, Brown, and A Theory of Racial Redemption, 40 B.C. L. Rev. 73, 125–26 (1998) (“Although he refused to issue a public apology during his lifetime, Warren admitted in his memoirs: ‘I have since deeply regretted the removal order and my own testimony advocating it, because it was not in keeping with our American concept of freedom and the rights of citizens. It demonstrates the cruelty of war when fear, get-tough military psychology, propaganda, and racial antagonism combine with one’s responsibility for public security to produce such acts.’”).

Buddhist Church of Florin



Saturday October 7, 2023 * Pick-Up 3-5PM

Curbside Pick-Up Dinner
Prime Rib, Gravy, Rice, Veggies

HOW TO PLACE YOUR ORDER:

- 1) Complete ORDER FORM and below
2) Make out CHECK to Buddhist Church of Florin
3) Submit ORDER FORM & CHECK
4) Pick up your order on Saturday October 7th

Form with fields: YOUR NAME?, HOW MANY ORDERS?, YOUR PHONE NUMBER, please?, TOTAL DUE: and a note about end cuts.

Need more information? Contact E Fujii (916) 955 1954 or email efujii52@gmail.com

Thank you for your consideration.

Lahaina Hongwangi Mission Temple Fire Relief Fundraiser

Our sister temple, Lahaina Hongwangi Mission Temple (LHMT) was destroyed by the horrific Maui winds on August 8, 2023. LHMT is considered historical in Lahaina. The present structure was built in 1911. Along with LHMT, the Lahaina area is completely destroyed. However, we are very happy to announce, Rev. Ai Hironaka and his family are safe.

At this time, BCF's Jr. YBA is collecting monetary donations for LHMT. 100% of your donation will be donated to LHMT. BCF JYBA will be collecting donations until October 31, 2023. If you would like to donate, please send a check (payable to Florin YBA) to:

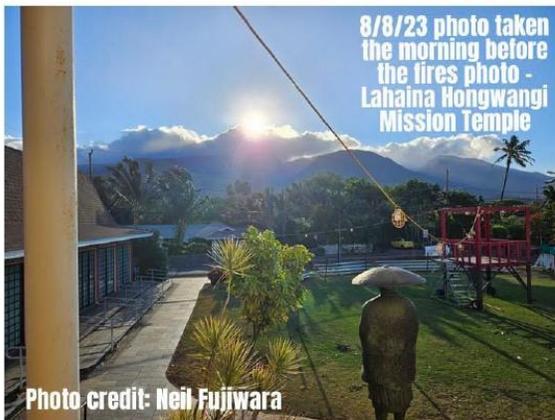
Ginny Yamamoto-Syphax
c/o BCF Jr. YBA
3318 Yosemite Park Way
Elk Grove, CA 95758

For safety issues, please **do not** write on the outside of your envelope LHMT Fire Relief Fundraiser.

Donor's name: _____

Donation Amount: \$_____

Thank you in advance for your generous donations.



...Later that day on 8/8/23



\$2,000

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 \$2,000 grant for classroom supplies, education materials and educational field trips.

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).

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 2023 Church Membership Form at (916) 392-1896 or wmenda@pacbell.net.

Please complete the Kikuyo and Kinjiro Nakatani Public School Teacher Grant Application and email to Walter Menda. Applications are being accepted on an ongoing basis.

Kikuyo and Kinjiro Nakatani Public School Teacher Grant Application

Name:

Address:

Telephone Number and E-mail Address:

Member of Buddhist Church of Florin (Yes/No):

Name of School:

School District:

Grade:

Teaching Credential (Yes/No):

School Term (i.e., September 2023 to June 2024):

How I plan to spend the \$2,000 grant:

I certify that I have provided complete and accurate information to the items on this application. I fully understand that any misrepresentation of information may revoke any right to a grant.

Signature of Applicant

Date

BWA Sept. Dana Project



Women's Wellness Program

The Women's Wellness Program enhances the well-being of our guests and community through the provision of social work services and by creating opportunities for healing, community development, empowerment, creativity, and fun.



REQUESTING:
Hygiene & personal items

Aug. Dana Project



ASSOCIATED STUDENTS, INC.
SACRAMENTO STATE

Still ACCEPTING:
Non-perishable items



ASI Food Pantry

- Non-perishable items, menstrual products, and toiletries.
- Students like low-sodium, low-sugar, low-processed items.



Collection Dates:	Sept. Thurs [LOTUS days]	(9 a.m. - 12 p.m.)
BCF Gym	Sept. 24 Shotsuki Service	Before/After Service



BWA Summer Camp 8/8/23

Twenty-five BWA ladies enjoyed a fun-filled day of crafts and activities on Aug. 8. [Note the finished projects in the photo.]

- Succulent potting
- Teacup wind chime
- Jeweled garden stake
- Greeting card
- Washi paper rock
- Pickle ball playing

LOTUS Vegetable Garden



July-Aug Crops

Sharon & Gary O.

were busy harvesting the LOTUS garden vegetables on both Mondays & Thursdays in July & Aug. since the crop was so bountiful.



With the freshly picked vegetables each week, **JoAnn K** prepared LOTUS lunches. With the **nasubi**, eggplants were grilled and doused with miso sauce; a spicy eggplant & chicken dish as well as a stir-fried dish were made with them. The **tomatoes** were used to make Pico de Gallo; a new batch of koko was made with the **uri**; and with the **cucumbers** namasu, cucumber kimchi and tomatoes-cucumbers & red onion salad were enjoyed by all. Extra vegetables were given to LOTUS members each week.



Ann T: Ann's **Chashu** sauce donated to LOTUS and sold during Obon.

Ginny S: Provided sweet farm-fresh **strawberries** one day & made a strawberry **trifle** another day.

Kenny O: Picked up Takemori **watermelon**, **corn**, and **Crenshaw** melon for members.

A big thank you also to **Mrs. Okamoto** for her new batch of homemade **blueberry**, **strawberry**, and **pomegranate jams**. Also donated were 8 additional jars of **fukujinzuke**. **If interested in purchasing any of the above items, contact Sharon Okimoto.**

Thank you **BWA** for selling the items during Obon as part of the BWA boutique.



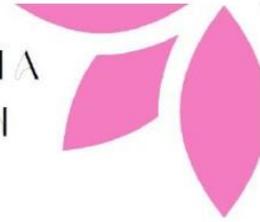
Sacramento Kendo Club

- On June 29 to July 2, 2023, the Sacramento Kendo Club had 3 members compete in the United States National Kendo Tournament held in Detroit, Michigan. The tournament was held at Oakland University outside of Detroit in an NCAA facility.
- Participating Sacramento Kendo Club members:
 - Aileen Niizawa Sensei-Women's Division
 - Rei Otose-Women's Division
 - William Lee-Mudansha Division (Non-Degree)
- The 3-day tournament comprised of the very best in the United States.
- William Lee received a Top 8 finish in his division.
- Head Coach for Northern California Kendo Federation- Glenn Harada
- The Federation results-
 - Best 8:
 - Jr Youth Individuals: Yuta Onitsuka, Issey Lancelot
 - Sr Youth Girl: Yuka Onitsuka
 - Men's: Manabu Uto
 - Women's: Emi Ichimura
 - Mudansha: Will Lee, Justin Nam
 - 3rd place:
 - Mudansha: Cameron Perry
 - Senior Women's: Miyung Kang
 - 2nd place:
 - Seniors Team (Eitoku, Park san, Ichimura, Tokunaga)
 - 1st place
 - Senior Women's: Akiyo Kawamura
 - Jr Youth Boys Team (Issey, Victor, Lucas, Aaron, Yuta)



If you plan on attending this joint service, PLEASE RVSP to florinbuddhist@gmail.com by September 23, 2023. We have been asked to provide a head count for lunch. Thank you!

THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
MINISTERS' ASSOCIATION



WELCOMES YOU TO ATTEND



THE 850TH & 800TH JOINT CELEBRATION SERVICE

To commemorate the 850th birthday of Shinran Shonin and the 800th anniversary of the establishment of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, all Northern California District temples are cordially invited to attend this joint service on October 8, 2023 at 10:00 AM at the Buddhist Church of Sacramento.

We are honored to have Rev. Marvin Harada, Bishop of BCA, and Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto, President of the Institute of Buddhist Studies, as our guest speaker.

Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. Registration is not required, but a temple headcount is greatly appreciated.



Sunday, October 8, 2023 @ 10:00 AM | Buddhist Church of Sacramento | In-Person & Livestream
2401 Riverside Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95818
916-446-0121
www.buddhistchurch.org

