



# ONENESS

**Buddhist Church of Florin**



July 2022

Volume 7

On this Memorial Day we pay tribute to all the US military personnel who have given the ultimate sacrifice while serving in the United States armed forces. As Jodo Shinshu Buddhists, we recognize that we are the beneficiaries of infinite sacrifices and as Americans, the product of the lives given by our nation's military. With this recognition, we pay forward our gratitude in part through our gatherings and our rituals, but more concretely and meaningful through our actions and how we live our lives.

With this debt of lives given to us, what kind of repayment is it for us to have nineteen children and two teachers gunned down? Did the freedom and protection these brave soldiers died for include those parents who will never be able to see their kids again? Is the country they laid their lives down for characterized by us feeling unsafe bringing our children to school? To say that the way our nation exists today is a waste of their effort would be an understatement.

As Jodo Shinshu Buddhists, we are compelled by the vast compassion of so many people: those we are close to us and those we may have never met, to live in a way that makes the world better. It starts with us, taking actions to make ourselves better, then hopefully our community, then maybe our country, and possibly the world. And our motivation comes from the realization that to *not* do our best to ensure the safety and well-being of all those around us would be to dishonor those countless sacrifices. So, in the spirit of the Nembutsu teaching, I humbly ask all of you to look at yourselves and ask what you are doing to contribute to a world where all beings are happy and well, and then ask yourself what more you can be doing.

Gassho,  
Rev. Matthew Hamasaki

## *Welcome*

### *Reverend Noritaka Imada, Michele and Emma*



We are excited to announce that Rev Noritaka Imada from Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple has accepted a transfer to Northern California District to become our resident minister. We will be sharing his ministerial services with the Buddhist Church of Lodi.

Rev Noritaka Imada was born in Hiroshima, Japan. Studied Buddhism at Otani University from 2009 to 2013. Then he attended Chuo Bukkyo Gakuin in 2013 to 2014 where he received his certification of Tokudo/Kyoshi. Studied English at Embassy English Long Beach after working as a Buddhist minister in the Jokyoji Buddhist Temple in Hiroshima. In 2018 he participated in the BCA IMOP (International Ministers Overseas Program). Worked as a temporary English guide staff at Tsukiji Hongwanji Buddhist Temple in Tokyo before being assigned to Tri-State/Denver Buddhist Temple in 2019 as BCA minister.

His favorite thing is to play the guitar. He told us that when he was playing his guitar on the streets in United States he had received tips but then they were stolen so he told himself his tips were donations.

He is married to Michele Tiemi who was born in Sao Paulo, Brazil, moved to Japan at the age of four. She speaks Japanese, Portuguese and English. She loves to dance and used to practice Belly dancing.

They have a three-year old daughter Emma who was born in Tokyo. She loves to play in the park and sing songs. She recently learned the ABC song. Loves to eat udon and anything sweet.



## OBON

I was fortunate enough to be able to participate in the Kaweah Delta Health Care District's Pink Tea Party to celebrate those whose lives have been touched by breast cancer. It was an Asian-themed event and I helped some Bon Odori dancers to put on a performance. A couple of days before we went, we had a practice session so that we could bring back to memory the dances that we would be performing. During this session, we were told the names of the dances that we would be doing, and the names did not sound familiar to me. Well, it isn't so much that it didn't sound familiar, but that when I heard the names, I couldn't picture in my mind what it was that the dances looked like.



Then, we began to dance. The music came on and we (really, just me) began to follow the teachers (everyone else) to sort of relearn the steps of each dance. After going through it one or two times, though, it seemed like my body remembered the steps of the dance even if my mind was unable to. Without thinking, I was able to follow the steps of the person in front of me in time with the music. I was delighted to have the feeling that I didn't have to start from scratch to learn the dances!

The reason I was able to recall the steps to the dances was, at least from my understanding, from what is known as “muscle memory”. According to Wikipedia, this is “when a movement is repeated over time, a long-term muscle memory is created for that task, eventually allowing it to be performed without conscious effort. This process decreases the need for attention and creates maximum efficiency within the motor and memory systems. Examples of muscle memory are found in many everyday activities that become automatic and improve with practice, such as riding a bicycle, typing on a keyboard, typing in a PIN, playing a musical instrument, martial arts or even dancing.”

Within Shin Buddhism, it is said that we have no “practice” besides saying the Nembutsu. This is in comparison to other forms of Buddhism which have many different practices in order to gain insight and eventually enlightenment. Instead of having a straightforward guide of what we need to do, Shin Buddhism's practice takes the form of the everyday tasks that we perform. Now, we have a choice: we can try to go through our lives trying to perform these tasks in line with the Teachings of the Buddha or we can perform these tasks in line with our self-centeredness. And the more we do one or the other, the less conscious effort it takes to do it, just like muscle memory. So hopefully we all choose to take action with the correct mindfulness so that over time we naturally live a life full of correct practice without having to put in any thought or effort.

Gassho,  
Rev. Matthew Hamasaki



## July Monthly Memorial (Shotsuki Hoyo) Service

The monthly memorial service for those who passed away during the month of July will be held on **Sunday, July 17, 2022 beginning at 11:30 am. The service will be conducted in-person by reservation.** The persons who are noted in the Buddhist Church of Florin's (BCF) memorial records as having passed away in the month of July are listed below. If you have a homyo (Buddhist name) on a card please bring it with you for placement on the onajjin (alter) before the service. If the year 2022 is a special service year (see table) for a dearly departed relative, please contact Reverend Matt Hamasaki, Buddhist Church of Sacramento 916-926-2221 to make special memorial arrangements. Please inform Lois Kashiwase of any corrections or additions to the list.

Abe, James	07-02-2013	Onodera, Eiko	07-22-1991
Abe, Masatoshi	07-14-1991	Otani, Chieko Loretta	07-25-2020
Abe, Shotaro	07-30-1923	Otani, Masuno	07-21-1980
Baishiki, Stanley Ray	07-24-1986	Otani, Morizo	07-04-1967
Fukumoto, Jean Sakayo	07-01-1987	Oyama, Shigeo	07-03-1989
Furukawa, Fumiko	07-10-1916	Sadoyama, Matsu	07-15-1991
Furukawa, Shigeo	07-06-1952	Saigo, Fumiko	07-31-2000
Hamakawa, Edward	07-24-2004	Sentani, Baby	07-06-1911
Imahara, Mika	07-16-1940	Shiizaki, Toshie	07-09-1926
Kadokawa, Hideo	07-10-2012	Shiizaki, Toshie	07-09-1926
Kanemoto, Tahei	07-23-1942	Shimosaka, Yoshiaki	07-01-1936
Kato, Toshie	07-06-1958	Shintaku, John	07-06-1963
Kawaji, Shunjiro	07-02-1941	Sonoda, Masaru	07-05-1950
Kawamoto, Chieko	07-13-1906	Sugimoto, Chuichi	07-21-1981
Kawamura, Takeo	07-17-1913	Sumida, Masato	07-11-1924
Kawanishi, Yachiyo	07-20-1981	Takahashi, George Mitsuo	07-30-2001
Kishaba, Masahiro	07-22-1947	Takahashi, Sakae	07-29-1936
Kishaba, Yasuhiro Mack	07-12-2000	Takeoka, Jane Hidemi	07-01-1950
Kohagura, Shizu	07-23-1923	Tamura,	07-08-1913
Kurima, Baby	07-20-1941	Tanaka, Barry Miles	07-19-2003
Kuroda, Hideo	07-22-2002	Tanaka, Tomokichi	07-20-1970
Maeda, Rinzo	07-18-1936	Taniguchi, Jack Daihachi	07-14-1967
Matsui, Yukiko	07-3-2021	Taniguchi, Jim Susumu	07-26-2004
Matsumoto, Takara	07-23-1940	Tsuda, Mitsuyo	07-27-1936
Miyano, Kiyono	07-20-1998	Tsukamoto, Mary	07-16-2006
Mukai, Mitsuye	07-07-2017	Usami, Genjiro	07-26-1952
Nagao, Chizuru	07-17-1952	Wakabayashi, Hideichi	07-06-1973
Nakagawa, Jim Shigeo	07-21-1987	Yamamoto, Asako	07-16-1978
Ohta, Komi	07-21-1992	Yamanaka, Tora	07-15-1975
Okasaki, Etsuko	07-05-2020	Yamashita, Bradley	07-07-1988

### 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 <sup>st</sup> Year	1998	25 <sup>th</sup> Year
2020	3 <sup>rd</sup> Year	1990	33 <sup>rd</sup> Year
2016	7 <sup>th</sup> Year	1973	50 <sup>th</sup> Year
2010	13 <sup>th</sup> Year	1923	100 <sup>th</sup> Year
2006	17 <sup>th</sup> Year		

## CONDOLENCES

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

NAMO AMIDA BUTSU

YURIKO TAKEOKA

May 16, 1923 to June 4, 2022

TSUGIO TOMONO

February 11, 1937 to June 4, 2022



# ***Buddhist Church of Florin***

## ***In-Person Service Protocols***

**Sunday, July 17, 2022**, July Shotsuki Hoyo, Obon, Hatsubon Service will be held **in the Hondo at 11:30 a.m.** (Zoom services will no longer be available.)

If you plan to attend **please RSVP the number of people attending by Sunday, July 10, 2022** at [florinbuddhist@gmail.com](mailto:florinbuddhist@gmail.com). Please arrive early for check-in.

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We will continue to follow safety protocols for all in-person services. The changes are in effect starting May 1, 2022:

- Please arrive early to check in at the main entrance to the Hondo.
- Face masks must always be worn while indoors.
- Sanitize hands before entering the Hondo or other church facilities.
- Continue to practice social distancing.
- Proof of vaccination is **no** longer required.
- Services will be held in the Hondo with seating properly spaced apart. Families may be seated together in specified sections. Families with children 5 years old and younger will have special reserved seating areas.
- **No Service Book** will be provided (Please bring your own service book or one may be purchased from the church for \$5).
- During this time of COVID, the BCF is not able to offer any type of onsite dining.
- Due to capacity issues, we ask that you **RSVP the number of people attending by the Sunday prior to the service** to [florinbuddhist@gmail.com](mailto:florinbuddhist@gmail.com) if you plan to attend the service. We hope to see you soon!

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.

**Don't Forget to  
RSVP!**

**Buddhist Church of Florin**  
 Governing Board Meeting Highlights  
 Meeting Date: June 9, 2022

**Fundraiser, Eric Fujii** reported the BCF Golf Tournament at Teal Bend Golf Club on Thursday June 2<sup>nd</sup> was a tremendous success! Thank you to all the donors, golfers and everyone that came out to support the BCF golf tournament!

**Treasurer, Kathy Menda:** Affiliates were reminded the first quarterly reports for 2022 were due on April 30<sup>th</sup>.

**First Vice President, Margie Sunahara:** Continues to be responsible for use and security of the BCF facilities and grounds. Drafting Memorandum of Agreements and reviewing lease proposals for current copier machine that terms in July. Ballots for 2022-2024 Board of Directors will be sent out in June.

**BWA, Peggy Okabayashi: Congratulations to the BWA 2022-2024 Cabinet Elected.** BWA will be sponsoring Mrs. Isako Wasano's Kimekomi Doll Class beginning August 2022, classes to be held 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month. BWA Summer Camp will be held on August 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Jr. YBA, Ginny Syphax:** JYBA will be delivering Keiro Gift Bags in June and August. **“Lock-In”** on Saturday July 23, 2022 from 9 AM to 9 PM.

**Dharma School Scholarship, Ginny Syphax:** She reported they have two recipients this year and the scholarships will be presented at June 12<sup>th</sup> service.

**Kendo, Glenn Harada:** Congratulations to the Sacramento Kendo Club. They had 16 students attend the San Jose Tournament on Sunday May 22<sup>nd</sup> and they took 2 second place, 2 third place and 1 kanshoto (Fighting Spirit award).

**BEC, Judy Yuki: Scheduled In-Person Services** – Sunday July 17<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 am, Shotsuki, Hatsubon, Obon Service, guest speaker Rev Tadao Koyama; Sunday August 14<sup>th</sup>, 11:30 am, Shotsuki Service. All service require RSVP.

**Membership, Tim Tsukamoto:** New Member: Tadashi Yuki

**Activities, Sandy Okuno/Sharon Okamoto:** Thank you for organizing the take home lunch from L&L Hawaiian BBQ for Sunday, June 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Eric and Elizabeth Fujii** are on the ACC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee. BCF will be participating in the fundraiser on Saturday, September 17<sup>th</sup>, ACC Ohana Walkathon. Lois Kashiwase and Judy Yuki will chair this event.

Rev. Imada and his family will be visiting the Florin and Lodi Temples from Saturday June 11<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday June 14<sup>th</sup>. He will be our guest speaker on Sunday. Still no definite start date, but most likely will be here in August.



## GOLF TOURNAMENT

The Buddhist Church of Florin's 14th Annual Golf Tournament was held on June 2, 2022. A total of 119 golfers teed-off with an 8 AM shotgun start. Each golfer received a goody bag filled with lots of treats, including spam musubi donated by Mark Hayashida's L&L Hawaiian BBQ, Florin BWA home-made brownies, and lots of other items.

With the help of many volunteers, featured events included the Closest to the 9th Hole Competition, the Somen kiosk between the 9th and 10th holes, Beat the Black Jack Dealer to gain a yardage advantage, and the ever popular "Sake Cart".

Winners of this year's Blind Draw received rounds of golf, gift cards, and one lucky winner received a gift basket.



Getting ready...6 AM





# 7 AM Check in ... 8 AM Let's play golf!

















Shots anyone?



Oh, thanks!



Wow! Kimo can drive!



Delicious!

Somen crew...



Closest to the hole helpers







**Buddhist Church of Florin Dharma School**  
**News & Events**  
**July 2022**  
**“B.R.A.I.D.” – Building Respectful Awareness**  
**& Inclusion through Dharma**

“One hand is considered the unclean, or dirty hand, and the other is the clean and pure one. But we place both of these hands together in *gassho*.” That was one of the things that stood out to me during the June 12th service. To unify the entirety of ourselves. The good and the not so great, the truths and the lie, and the parts of ourselves that we might not want to think about and what we portray. But what exactly does this really mean? If we want to think about this in a logical way, it means being ourselves. If we want to dive deeper, it might mean to accept who we are, and realizing that while we might not be able to change the whole of ourselves, we can still strive to become a better version. Updating to *Ourself 2.0*, in a sense. And while utilizing that update, we can also strive to help others realize how to get that software, and how to become better people. To others, and to themselves.

Gassho,  
 Ella Lam

**Have a wonderful summer!**

**Congratulations to the Dharma School Scholarships Recipients!**





## Congratulations to our new Eagle Scouts!

Devin Imai and Garrett Kishaba



**Congratulations to our 2022 High Graduates!**

**Garrett Kishaba, Baylee Fong and Devin Imai**

## There Will Be Sad and Happier Times

-Randall Ishida

Funerals and memorials are solemn occasions. Sometimes it is a time to let go. We must remember how the person lived and not how they passed.

At a gathering such as this, it also can be a time to reconnect and rejoice the memories that are cherished still in our hearts. It is a time to reminisce with those that we have not seen in a long time. The person who passed brought us closer and a comradeship to those that gathered at the ceremony.

If we follow the many traditional activities one has bestowed upon us, then their legacy will live a lifetime.

Obon is a Buddhist holiday that is another time to get together and renew our friendship. Obon, also known as Bon Festival, is an event that takes place over the course of several days commemorating and honoring ancestors. Obon centers around a belief that the spirits and souls of loved ones and dead ancestors come back and visit.

Because of the church reopening since this pandemic, we need to reconnect with people we have not seen or heard from before we learn of their passing and not after. Friendships last forever.

# JR. YBA

## Lock-in Fundraiser

Jr. YBA is having a "Lock-In" Fundraiser on July 23, 2022 from 9 AM to 9 PM. In past years, we did Awake-a-thons, changing it up a little this year.

At this time, we are asking Sangha and friends for donations for this fundraiser. All donations will be donated back to BCF (to supplement BCF's drive through food fundraisers). If you would like to donate, please complete the form below and mail it to:

FBC - Jr. YBA  
c/o Ginny Yamamoto-Syphax  
3318 Yosemite Park Way  
Elk Grove, CA 95758-4662



\*\*\*\*\*

I would like to support FBC-JYBA in their fundraising efforts for Buddhist Church of Florin.

Enclosed is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for your fundraiser. My check is made payable to **FBC-JYBA**.

Yes, I would like a donation receipt sent to me

No, It's okay, I'll use my check as a donation receipt.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_



May June News  
July 2021

# BWA News

## THANK YOU/ARIGATO

Connie Yee in memory of Rose Ito

Donna Kunisaki, Sharon Okamoto, Alice Okimura, Judy Shimizu, Louise Teranishi – Dana Project donations and gift cards.

## DANA – Cultivating Generosity

June Dana Project

Sacramento Children's Home Residential Program Clothing/ personal items Will deliver June Dana Project to SCH. Thank you for all donations.

July Dana Project

Toilet paper drive for Loaves & Fishes

School supplies for Meadowview Family Resource center

August Dana Project - Food Drive for Sacramento State Food Pantry

Please bring donations to the church YBA Hall during (Lotus Club) Thursday mornings.

## CELEBRATION

Happy June birthday Jayne Yamamoto and Myrna Hitomi!

## ACTIVITIES

BWA bakers provided 12 dozen brownies for the church golf tournament.

- Walking group – first Wednesday of the month. Contact Sandy Okuno for more information.
- BWA 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday Movie – 10:00 AM to Noon.
- BWA Social - Card Playing 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the Month, 10:00 AM to Noon.
- Summer Camp – Tuesday, August 9, 2022. Contact Sandy Okuno to sign up.
- Kimekomi doll class – 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month. First class August 20, 2022.
- 46th BCA FBWA Virtual Conference, October 14-16, 2022. Contact Kathy Menda to register.
- Rummage sale – Saturday, November 5, 2022.

\*\* COVID safety protocols will be enforced for and during all on-site activities . Safety first!



# BWA July 2022 Dana Projects



**Loaves & Fishes**  
Homeless Survival Services  
Since 1983

Requesting:

## Toilet Paper Drive



The Sacramento Children's Home operates three Family Resource Centers (FRCs) that are community-based *and proven services at no cost*. Our programs provide:

- Intervention Services
- Court Approved Parenting Education
- Home Visitation
- Engagement Services
- School Readiness

Requesting: **School Supplies**



**Meadowview Family Resource**

## June Dana Projects (Last call)

Requesting:

## Clothing & personal items (See June Oneness for list)

Collection Dates: July Thurs [LOTUS days] (9 a.m. - 1 p.m.)  
BCF Gym July 28 [Last THURS] (9 a.m. - 1 p.m.)

Call Sandy Okuno for questions



July '22 issue] May-June 2022 News  
**LOTUS News**  
 Learning-Oriental Trimming ... Land Park Pond 7-'20

Lunch/  
 dessert  
 delights

**LOTUS  
 GARDEN**



Sharon O.- Pie a la mode



Year-round compost piles tended by Kenny

Shishito pepper plants started w/seeds Sharon O Early March



Garden prepping—rototilling Ben K



Never ending hoeing/weeding. Ben K here but also Greg, Lloyd...



Ginny S .Pine-apple upside down cake



Planting into soil; March 28 Sharon O who started w/seeds



Early March Tending to garden May 26 Sharon O



Joann K Eggplants for spicy eggplants w/chicken recipe



Gary O – installed post, tomato fence, irrigation system Lloyd O/Gary O inspecting irrigation system May 26



Harvey K visited (w/Ron S.)

Just about ready for harvesting 6/9/22



Jan T Strawberry-yogurt pops



Eggplant | Tomatoes | Uri

**LUNCH FIXIN'S**

(May-June)

**JoAnn Kusaka**

Weekly AM snacks as well as weekly homemade takuwan, other koko

**JoAnn Kusaka**

Prepared beef/gravy; taco casserole

**Jan Takeuchi**

Strawberry popsicles (natural)

**Sharon Okamoto**

Hawaiian pineapple cake, lemon cream cake

**Ginny Syphax**

Pineapple upside down cake

**Jeanne Nakamura**

Takuwan

**Food Bazaar Comm**

Chicken, curry, cabbage

**Peggy Okabayashi**

BD lunch: Chicken dish/slow cooked spareribs/BD cookies

**Harvey Kadoya**

Box of lemons



Lemons courtesy of Harvey K



Join us for the ACC 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## *Ohana Walk*

**September 17, 2022, 9 AM - 1 PM**  
**Greenhaven-Pocket Canal Walkway near ACC Senior Services**

Ohana is Hawaiian for "family."

The ACC 50th Anniversary Ohana Walk is an all-age and community-wide walkathon that will be held on September 17th at the Greenhaven-Pocket Canal Walkway followed by a picnic at the ACC campus. It will feature some friendly competition and include an Ohana T-shirt, lots of prizes, complimentary items, and a picnic lunch at the ACC Campus for all registered walkers.

In celebration of ACC's 50th Anniversary, the event seeks to include everyone young and old as well as our sister non-profit charitable organizations and churches serving the Sacramento region.

The entire walking route is 2.5 miles end-to-end, with six checkpoints spaced 1/2 mile apart. You can choose where to start and end. You can also form your own team! Donors may sponsor a walker for a flat amount or in half-mile increments, measured in "checkpoints."

Join us for a morning of fun and fitness!

- Adults 20-79 years old, \$35
- Youth 9-19 years old, \$15
- Keiki and Super Seniors, 8 and under and 80+ years old, FREE

To learn more, visit our event page at [accsv.org/ohana](https://accsv.org/ohana) or contact Wayne Kurahara at [kurahara@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kurahara@sbcglobal.net).



## Buddhist Church of Florin Kikuyo and Kinjiro Nakatani Scholarship Recipients

The Buddhist Church of Florin is proud to announce the recipients of the 2022-23 Kikuyo and Kinjiro Nakatani scholarships. These students are actively involved at church, school and the community. Congratulations to all these outstanding individuals.

### SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

#### **Garrett Kishaba is the recipient of the \$7,000 scholarship**

Garrett is graduating from Davis Senior High School, where he excelled as a scholar with a 4.3 grade point average; volunteering at school, performing in the orchestra and golfing on the Varsity Golf team. He volunteers in the community and regularly participates at church activities and fundraisers, including serving as YBA President. He is an Eagle Scout who painted the exterior wall and doors of the church's YBA Hall for his Eagle Scout project. Garrett will be attending San Diego State University, majoring in Business Administration. Garrett is the son of church members, Kelvin and Kathie Kishaba.



In his scholarship essay, Garrett wrote, “Growing up at the Buddhist Church of Florin since Kindergarten, I will always remember the closing remarks of the Dharma message, followed by the reading of “On White Ashes.” When I was younger, I was blind to the meaning and importance of this text, but as I have matured, the words of Rennyo Shonin have opened my eyes to the precious gift of life. The unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic has proven to me that my future is always untold. My future can hold traumatic events along with small affairs, but I have learned and accepted that death is inevitable through the words of Rennyo Shonin. Death can be very scary, saddening and painful. When a loved-one has passed we tend to focus on their absence, rather than the time we have spent with them. “On White Ashes” has educated me on the inevitability of death, but Rennyo Shonin’s words have also taught me to value the time I have left on Earth, as well as others in the Sangha. I have been very fortunate to be a part of a loving Sangha and to make memories with them. Although my immature and younger self enjoyed times without holding true meaning to those heart-warming memories, my awakened self has reflected on those memories and has added value to the fond times that make up my childhood. I will continue to value the time I have left on this planet, as I meet new friends and families in the next chapter of my life and in the chapters that follow.”



**Baylee Fong is the recipient of the \$5,000 scholarship**

Baylee is graduating from Laguna Creek High School, where she excelled as a scholar with a 4.2 grade point average; volunteering at school as Editor of the Yearbook; and playing on the Varsity Golf team and championship Varsity Basketball team. She volunteers in the community; and regularly participates at church activities and fundraisers, including serving as an Officer in the YBA.

Baylee will be attending CSU, Fullerton, majoring in Business.

Baylee is the daughter of church members, Tyson and Denise Fong and granddaughter of Bette Okamoto.

In her essay,

Baylee wrote, “Throughout the years attending the Buddhist Church of Florin, Buddhism has taught me how to become a better student, friend, teammate, daughter, and sister. In the 3rd grade, I began to attend the Buddhist Church of Florin as I started to play church basketball. One thing from church that I remember and memorized by heart even till this day is the Golden Chain. Just a few weeks ago, I was informed with heartbreaking news that one of my classmates had attempted suicide. I felt confused, angry, sad, and hopeless because this was something very personal and hit home for me. At the age of 14, I was bullied and constantly had suicidal thoughts looking for ways to end my suffering. I was fortunate enough to have such a strong support system that could give me the resources to help me find a way out of my situation and to become mentally stronger.

The night that I was told about what had happened to my peer, I sat in my bedroom remembering how valuable and precious each of our lives are. Although the reason for their attempt was not revealed, the two things that came to my mind were “try to be kind and gentle to every living thing and protect all who are weaker than myself” and “to say pure and beautiful words”. As a person that was once affected by someone’s negative comments, I understood how one’s words and actions can directly impact another. Because of my own experiences, I actively apply those teachings into my daily life by being open-minded, caring, empathetic, and optimistic towards others. While my childhood is nearing an end, my adulthood is beginning and opening up a new journey of challenges. With those new challenges, I will forever remind myself of the words of the Golden Chain.”

## University, College and Vocational School Recipient

### Devon Akiyama is the recipient of the \$7,000 scholarship

Devon attends the University of California, Berkeley. He maintains a 3.6 grade point average, volunteering at school organizations and providing service in the community. He attends Sunday services at the Berkeley Buddhist Temple.

Devon is majoring in Political Economics, championing social justice for all; and a minor in History.



Devon is the son of church members, George and Merri Akiyama.

In his essay, Devon wrote, “Buddhism has always played a significant role in my life. When I was younger, Buddhism provided a deeper connection to my heritage, culture, and community; but only now as a college student do I realize how much Buddhism affects my daily life.

When first starting at UC Berkeley, I was enjoying the perfect “college experience” that everyone talks about. I was making new friends, engaging with passionate teachers, and exploring a lively university environment. Yet, even with the idyllic first semester, it felt like something was missing. There was a feeling of disconnect from the cultural element of Buddhism which had always been a large part of my life growing up.

By visiting the Berkeley Buddhist Temple (BBT) and attending the in-person services, I discovered pieces that were missing from my college life. Listening to the weekly Dharma messages, I found connection in a familiar environment. Reminding me of my home temple and the Florin Sangha, the BBT has given me a sense of comfort within a completely new world. Furthermore, attending services has helped me realize the Eightfold Path and the support it continues to offer me.

Firstly, I utilize Right Mindfulness to nurture my mental health. Especially under the stress of remaining competitive, mindfulness has really helped me to recenter my attitude towards work. Sometimes just taking a break to reset and recognize the impermanence of each situation has been incredibly beneficial towards reducing anxiety.

Next, I use Right Action to support important topics and offer help to those in need. I am a staff member in the campus Nikkei Student Union, which recently hosted a Day of Remembrance to



commemorate the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Executive Order 9066 and the internment of Japanese Americans. The event helped to draw attention to the continued oppression of American citizens, with Muslim and Latinx Americans speaking about their own encounters with unjust imprisonment like that endured by our ancestors.

Overall, leaning on Buddhism in college has greatly influenced the way I lead my daily life. Not only has it helped me engage in a more intentional and satisfying lifestyle, but it also guides me to think of others in our interconnected world. Buddhism has always been an integral part of my childhood and has helped establish who I am; but now more than ever, it sustains and guides me in becoming who I want to be and what I want to accomplish.”

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Congratulations to our 2022-23 Kikuyo and Kinjiro Nakatani Scholarship recipients, Garrett Kishaba, Baylee Fong and Devon Akiyama.

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The Kikuyo and Kinjiro Nakatani Scholarship program was established in the memory of Kikuyo and Kinjiro Nakatani. The Kikuyo and Kinjiro Nakatani Scholarships provide annual academic financial assistance to graduating high school seniors and university, college or vocational school students. Students are evaluated on the basis of their commitment to church, community and school, academic achievement, personal character, written essays and in-person interviews.

The Buddhist Church of Florin encourages church members’ children who are graduating high school or attending a university, college or vocational school to apply for these scholarships.

If you are not members of the Buddhist Church of Florin, join the church and your children will be eligible for these scholarships.

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Acknowledgments from the 2022-23 Kikuyo and Kinjiro Nakatani Scholarship recipients:

Dear Buddhist Church of Florin:

I offer my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to the Buddhist Church of Florin for providing me with this year’s Kikuyo and Kinjiro Nakatani Scholarship. I am very grateful for this generous financial award which will enable me to pursue a degree in Business Administration from San Diego State University starting this Fall. I plan to use the scholarship to cover my first semester tuition expenses. The Buddhist Church of Florin has been so welcoming ever since my family

and I stepped through the Hondo for the first time. The Sangha has provided me with many amazing opportunities and memories that will stay with me throughout my life, and I cannot thank everyone enough for how much they have supported me. All the enlightening Sunday services, fulfilling cultural events, and meaningful connections I have formed are positive impacts that I will carry with me as I start this new chapter. Going forward, I will always try to keep my link bright and strong.

With sincere gratitude,  
Garrett Kishaba  
Florin Buddhist Church,

For those that do not know who I am, my name is Baylee Fong. I've been a part of the church for as long as I can remember from learning how to dribble a basketball in the gym to begging my mom for money to get another shaved ice at Obon. Many of the members have known me since I was a baby and just last month, I graduated from Laguna Creek High School and will be majoring in Business at Cal State Fullerton in the Fall. I would like to thank the Florin Buddhist Church, not only for the opportunity to apply for the Nakatani Scholarship but for everything they have done for me in the last 10 years. Words cannot truly describe how grateful I am for each and every member because you all helped shape who I am today. A special thank you to Mr. Menda and Mrs. Takeuchi for taking the time out of their busy lives to interview me for the Nakatani scholarship. I was very nervous at the beginning of the interview, but as we started to talk it felt like a casual conversation and midway through, I had to remind myself that this was an interview for a scholarship. So, thank you again. With this scholarship money, I know my parents would like me to say it's going towards my tuition. Don't get me wrong, some will be going towards that, but in reality, it will most likely be going towards my dining dollars since Fullerton has food trucks on campus every day and my mom only got me the 5-day meal plan. Sorry Mom and Dad for breaking the news to you this way.

Once again, thank you to Florin Buddhist Church for this scholarship but most importantly thank you for being my second family.

Sincerely,  
Baylee Fong

Buddhist Church of Florin,

Buddhism has always played a significant role in my life. When I was younger, Buddhism provided a deeper connection to my heritage, culture, and community; and now as a college student, Buddhism continues to guide my interpersonal relationships and strengthens my emotional and spiritual wellbeing. I am truly grateful for the impact that Buddhism has had on my life as well as the steadfast support from the Buddhist Church of Florin and its Sangha members.



The Kikuyo and Kinjiro Nakatani Scholarship will be applied towards tuition and textbooks while allowing me the opportunity to focus on my academic pursuits. I am currently attending the University of California at Berkeley with a major in Political Economics and a minor in History. For the upcoming year, I will be serving on the CORE team of Berkeley's Nikkei Student Union as a Social Chairperson and will also be working as a Resident Assistant in student housing. Additionally, to maintain the connection to my Jodo Shinshu roots, I hope to continue and increase my involvement with the Berkeley Buddhist Temple.

In Gassho,  
Devon Akiyama

## **CONGRATULATIONS SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS!**



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).

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 2022 Church Membership Form at (916) 392-1896 or [wmenda@pacbell.net](mailto: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.




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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 2022 to June 2023):

How I plan to spend the \$1,500 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



If you haven't designated Buddhist Church of Florin as your charitable organization, please do...free money to BCF! Thank you!



## Make a Free Donation to the Church? As Easy as 1, 2, 3, 4. 5

### IF YOU SHOP ON AMAZON, YOUR PURCHASES CAN EARN \$\$\$ FOR THE BUDDHIST CHURCH OF FLORIN!

The **Buddhist Church of Florin (BCF)** has joined a neat new program, **AmazonSmile**, an easy way to support the Church every time you shop, at no extra cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you find the same low prices, selection and easy shopping, while Amazon donates ½% of the purchase to the Buddhist Church of Florin.

#### HERE'S HOW IN 5 EASY STEPS:

1. Go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) on an internet computer
2. Sign in (email address or mobile phone) in the field.
3. Enter your Amazon Password in the field.
4. Select Buddhist Church of Florin – type in “Florin” to find it
5. Start shopping

If you're not an Amazon member yet, first click on “Create an Account”, follow instructions, and select Buddhist Church of Florin.

#### AMAZON SMILE PROGRAM INFORMATION:

- **How do I shop at AmazonSmile?**  
To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to shop at AmazonSmile.
- **Which products on AmazonSmile are eligible for charitable donations?**  
Millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages.
- **Can I use my existing Amazon.com account on AmazonSmile?**  
Yes, you use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile. Your shopping cart, Wish List, wedding, and other account settings are also the same.

# GIFT CARD FUNDRAISER

Purchase gift cards for yourself, family or friends and Buddhist Church of Florin (BCF) will receive a percentage of the sale. Don't forget gifts for birthdays, graduations, baby showers, or anniversaries. For a complete list of gift cards offered, go to [shopwithscrip.com](http://shopwithscrip.com). You can place your order online (**BCF's enrollment code is 2481168D38LL7**) or you can contact Ann Tsukamoto at 916-683-3401 or email [awtsukamoto@comcast.net](mailto:awtsukamoto@comcast.net) to place your order and make arrangements to pick up your order at her house in Elk Grove.

## NEXT ORDER DUE DATES: (mark your calendars!)

If you want to place an order,

**your order must be received by Ann  
by 12 PM on the following dates:**

**July 3, 2022**

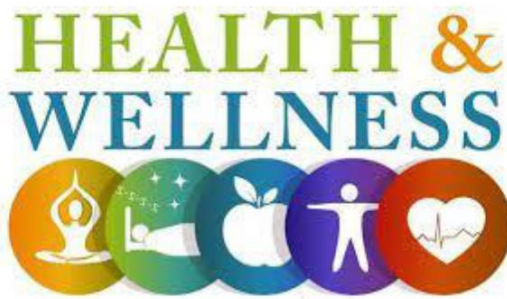
**August 7, 2022**

Your order will arrive at Ann's house for pick up the following week.



**You can also call Ann to see what gift cards she has in stock,  
available now (call her at 916-683-3401).**





Thursday Night  
Series

Thursday,

July 7, 2022, 6:30 pm

**“Embrace getting older by  
understanding your body better  
(Balance, Stretching, Moving)”**



**Kyle Tsuye, MSPT, ATC, CSCS  
Physical Therapist**

Buddhist Church of Sacramento, 2401 Riverside Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95818-2233

Please sign-up at  
[BetsuinPrograms@buddhistchurch.org](mailto:BetsuinPrograms@buddhistchurch.org)