



ONENESS

Buddhist Church of Florin



April 2023

Volume 4



On April 9th, Hanamatsuri is scheduled at the Buddhist Church of Florin. We will have a guest speaker, Sensei Koichi Mizushima from the Sacramento Betsuin. Hanamatsuri is a day to celebrate the birth of Shakyamuni Buddha. It is said that when Shakyamuni Buddha was born, the sky was delighted, sweet rain fell, the ground received the rain and beautiful flowers bloomed. This is the origin of the ritual of pouring sweet tea on the statue of the little Shakyamuni Buddha. We look forward to celebrating Shakyamuni Buddha's birthday with you.

The Sambujo that we always recite at the beginning of our service, is a request to "welcome Buddha to the Hondo". There is a part in the sutra that reads SANGE, which means to scatter flowers. Since ancient times, flowers have been one of the major donations in Buddhism.

In the Amida Kyo Sutra, it is said that the various colors of flowers are blooming dignifiedly, showing off their own colors in the Pure Land. No two flowers have the same color, but Amida Buddha's light reaches all flowers.

The depiction of the Pure Land written in Amida-kyō Sutra reads:

"Again, Shariputra, in that world there are lotus ponds whose shores are decorated with seven kinds of jewels. The ponds brim with waters of eight good qualities and the floor of the ponds are lined with sand of gold. The ponds are surrounded by steps on their four sides made of gold, silver, lapis lazuli, and crystal. Above, are pavilions lavishly adorned with the seven jewels of gold, silver, lapis lazuli, crystal, coral, red pearls, and agate. There are lotuses blooming in the ponds, and their flowers are as large as the wheel of a cart. The blue flowers emit a blue light; the yellow flowers emit a yellow light; the red flowers emit a red light; and the white flowers emit a white light. Each of the lotus flowers glows, weaving a harmonic scene while emitting a subtle fragrance. Shariputra, this land of Ultimate Bliss, is an ideal environment, so that whatever people lay their eyes upon will bring about awakening."

It is said that when people are born into the Pure Land, each person will be born from the lotus flower from the Pure Land's pond. The passage shared at the beginning tells about the lotus flowers that bloom in the Pure Land of Amida Buddha. The phrase "the blue flowers emit a blue light; the yellow flowers emit a yellow light..." tells us that each of us already have our own color that is shining. We can see that everyone is different and everyone is precious. Each person has their own previous life and it will not be compared to anyone else'. People may think that having something that is superior to others is a condition for living brilliantly. Everyone is desperately struggling to get something better than others. However, we all have strengths and weaknesses. All human beings have a finite existence. In the limited time we have, even if we look for something excellent in ourselves that no one else has, it is just a comparison. From the Buddha's point of view, everyone is at the same level and equal. The true meaning of shining brightly frees us from wanting to compare ourselves with others. We, who receive the warm light of Amida Buddha, are all equal and equally brilliant and wonderful.

Beams of light, thirty-six hundred Thousand billion in number, Shine brilliantly from within each flower; There is no place they do not reach. [Shinran Shonin]

Namo Amida Butsu
In Gassho,
Rev. Imada

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

April Monthly Memorial (Shotsuki Hoyo) Service

The monthly memorial service for those who passed away during the month of April will be held on **Sunday, April 9, 2023 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 April are listed below. If you have a homyo (Buddhist name) on a card please bring it with you for placement on the onajjin (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.

Collins, Donna	04-16-2015	Morita, Goro	04-04-1937
Deguchi, Shoji	04-26-1933	Nagai, Fumie	04-16-1919
Fujii, Shigetaro	04-10-1935	Nakagawa, Infant	04-25-1913
Fujikawa, Masami	04-27-1915	Nakano, Tsuyuko	04-25-1930
Fujiwara, Atsumu	04-26-1930	Nakashima, Percy Shotetsu	04-25-2004
Fujiwara, Kiyoshi	04-26-1930	Nakatani, Mamoru	04-06-1995
Fujiwara, Koki	04-26-1930	Ohta, Kotoshiro	04-20-1969
Fukushima, Hanako	04-10-1913	Okamoto, Tadanao	04-28-2006
Furukawa, George Shigeto	04-26-2010	Okasaki, George Kunito	04-07-2007
Furukawa, Mary Matsuno	04-13-2010	Okimura, Misaye Doris	04-25-2016
Hamataka, Kaoru	04-22-1913	Oku, Tadao	04-22-1917
Hamataka, Yuriko	04-03-1928	Ouchida, Hiroharu	04-17-1986
Imahara, Chizuko	04-10-1932	Sakakihara, Mitsuzo	04-??-1942
Imahara, Haruko	04-20-1927	Sasaki, Kikuo	04-10-1940
Imahara, Thomas	04-02-1979	Senda, Iwao	04-08-1926
Inouye, Tokuji	04-01-1963	Shintaku, Sato	04-02-1938
Irikawa, Tajiro	04-28-1962	Sumida, Shozo	04-01-1920
Iwamura, Minoru	04-07-2006	Sumida, Yuki	04-14-1982
Kadoya, Tsunekichi	04-09-1958	Takata, Fusako	04-11-1923
Kajita, Mariko	04-20-2009	Takeoka, Mitsue	04-25-1987
Kakutani, Minoru	04-29-1999	Tanaka, Sekiyo	04-23-1919
Kanenaga, Eddie Kanji	04-23-2020	Tanigawa, Jane Haruko	04-29-2009
Kanenaga, Kazuko	04-04-1980	Taniguchi, Toshi	04-24-1957
Kato, Heizaburo	04-28-1959	Tanihara, Kisaku	04-27-1928
Kato, Hiroyuki	04-16-1942	Tanihara, Tamayo	04-09-1976
Kato, Masaharu	04-09-1975	Terminel, Margaret Ann	04-13-2005
Kawamoto, Stacey Kiyoko	04-22-2016	Tominaga, Tamotsu	04-11-1919
Kawanishi, Atsushi	04-04-1994	Tsuda, Hachihei	04-18-1957
Kozumi, Karoku	04-14-1966	Tsukamoto, Kaneichi	04-19-1985
Kuroda, Tomeno	04-22-1973	Tsukamoto, Michiye Arlene	04-28-2009
Maeda, Benkichi	04-21-1939	Uno, Hiromu	04-23-2004
Matsui, Tsuta	04-24-1990	Urokogata, Yoshikazu	04-21-1935
Matsui, Roy	04-11-2020	Yamamura, Kaneto	04-04-1973
Minamide, Koharu	04-20-1975	Yamanaka, Yoshimitsu	04-25-1985
Miyao, George Hiromu	04-21-2001	Yoshida, Suchiyo	04-05-1987
Miyata, Hikoichi	04-16-1922	Yoshimi, Yajuro	04-24-1941
Mizusaka, Iwao	04-14-1926	Yoshinaga, Kimiyo	04-17-1916
Morishige, Mitsuru	04-04-1916		

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	1924t	100 th Year
2007	17 th Year		

Join us for April Services

Hanamatsuri and April Shotsuki Hoyo Service
Sunday, April 9, 2023 at 10 a.m.
Guest Speaker: Sensei Koichi Mizushima
Buddhist Church Sacramento

Family Service
Sunday, April 23, 2023 at 10 a.m.

Officiant: Rev. Noritaka Imada

**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 3/1/2023)

- **No** vaccination requirement.
- **Masks are highly recommended for all indoor activities.**
- Sign in sheet is recommended for contact tracing (to be notified if someone tests positive.)
- Sanitize hands before entering the Hondo or other church facilities.
- Attend services or activities **only when you are healthy and free from symptoms.**

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.

Hanamatsuri (Buddha's Birthday)

Some of text on this page comes from a pamphlet published by the Northwest Ministerial Association, Buddhist Churches of America.

Hanamatsuri, literally means “Flower Festival.” It is celebrated on April 8, commemorating the birth of Siddhartha Gautama. Siddhartha became enlightened as Shakyamuni Buddha, marking the release of sentient beings from suffering and sorrow.

According to our tradition, the historical Buddha, Sakyamuni, was born in Lumbini Garden in Nepal on April 8, 566 B. C. He was born the son of King Suddohana and Queen Maya. There are many flowery descriptions of the scene at his birth, including celestial birds singing beautiful songs, beautiful flowers, and a sweet gentle rain bathing the baby Buddha. It is not necessarily the beauty of the flowers, the sounds of the celestial birds nor the sweet gentle rain that fell, but the vibrant fact that on this day was born the greatest of sentient beings who became the Enlightened One, the Buddha.

During the Hanamatsuri Service a flower shrine, known as Hanamido, is set up in front of the main shrine as a symbol of Lumbini Garden. A statuette of the infant Buddha is placed in the shrine and the congregation offer flowers and pours sweet tea over the statuette. According to the ancient legend, the universe was filled with joyful music, flowers bloomed in full glory and the heavens were overjoyed with the birth causing a sweet rain to bathe the infant.

Please Join Us!!

Saturday, April 8, 2023 at 6:00 PM the Hanamido will be decorated in the Hondo. If you have flowers to share from your garden, please bring them to the church that evening to be included in the decorations and floral arrangements.

Sunday, April 9, 2023 at 10:00 AM, Hanamatsuri and April Shotsuki Service. Guest Speaker Sensei Koichi Mizushima, Buddhist Church of Sacramento.

1. Dharma School Field Trip - Dharma School is sponsoring a field trip on Sunday, April 16, 2023, to attend the Berkeley Buddhist Temple Sunday Service; tour the Jodo Shinshu Center and then visit UC Berkeley Campus. Application deadline is April 1, 2023. Everyone is welcome; contact Lois Kashiwase (loiskash2@comcast.net) for an application form.
2. BCA Music Committee and Federation of Dharma School Teachers' League are sponsoring a Gatha Lyric Writing Contest in commemoration of the 125th Anniversary of Buddhist Churches of America. There are two separate age-based categories; \$500 for each category due by June 4, 2023.
3. Obon Odori has been rescheduled to July 15 at 7 pm due to a conflict with the Sacramento Betsuin's Obon Odori. The Hatsubon service will be at 3 pm and in between there will be cultural events such as kendo and kyudo kai (Japanese archery) demonstrations. There will also be a Obon workshop. To volunteer contact Walter Menda (wmenda@pacbell.net). Please be generous with your time. This will be the first Obon Festival in three years!
4. Services in Japanese will start on the 4th Sunday at 11:15 am in the Nokotsudo, following the regular service.
5. BWA members will be helping Dharma School students to prepare a presentation on the Golden Chain for the Hanamatsuri service.
6. Super Bowl Food Bazaar held on February 12 was very successful, netting over \$9,000. Thank you to all the hardworking volunteers and hungry customers!
7. Roof shingles were found to be missing from the parsonage due to the recent weather. The Board is looking into whether insurance will help with replacement.
8. BWA has donated 25 tables for the MPR to be delivered on March 13.
9. Thanks to Lloyd, Gary, Greg, and Lotus Club members for the many facilities maintenance tasks completed in February. This included overseeing maintenance of the HVAC system, preparing the multipurpose room and hallway for new blind installation, cleaning up the remnants of the rummage sale and cleaning and organizing the BBQ storage area.

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

NANCY FUSAKO SUMIDA
February 13, 1928 to March 13, 2023

2023 Membership Dues

Thank you to the following members for their 2023 Membership dues received in February.

Karyn Ariyasu-Ito	Kimiko & Mark Hayashida	Colleen Lopez
George & Judie Miyao	Frank Mouton (monthly)	Wayne Mukai
Diane Nakao	Erik & Katie Nishida (semi-annual)	
Amy Oda	Stephanie Shijo	Janet Sumida
Ginny Yamamoto-Syphax	Burt & Carol Yoshioka (monthly)	

Reminder:

Membership dues are due on January 31 of each calendar year.

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



Buddhist Church of Florin Dharma School
News & Events
April 2023
“B.R.A.I.D.” – Building Respectful Awareness
& Inclusion through Dharma

Impermanence

Raindrops make ripples
If only for a moment
Then they fade away
-Skylar Lam

Like our weather of late, impermanence abounds. Although we find comfort in permanence, it is impermanence that guides our lives. The fact that everything changes can also bring joy and hope like the change of seasons or our personal growth. We hope you find the joy and hope in impermanence.

Gassho,
Nadine & Sky

Upcoming Dharma Events

Please come and join us for some fun activities while learning Dharma lessons.

- **April 8, Hanamido Decorating April 9, Hanamatsuri Service, Dharma School Presentation**
- **April 16, Field trip to attend Berkeley Buddhist Temple Sunday Service; tour the Jodo Shinshu Center (JSC) and then visit UC Berkeley Campus.**
- **April 23, Make a Mother's Day Gift**
- **May 14, Mother's Day, Gotanye Presentation & Activity - May 28, Make a Father's Day Gift**
- **June 11, Father's Day, Dharma Graduation Celebration**



Upcoming Fundraisers

- **Jamba Juice Gift Cards (\$10 card/6 uses per card, buy one/get one free) more information see Denise Okamoto-Fong or Jennifer Kubo**
- **May 28, 2023 - JYBA Lock-in Fundraiser 9am-9pm**
- **July 27-30, 2023 - Dharma School Camping**
- **December 3, 2023 - JYBA & D\$ Steak Sandwich/Udon Fundraiser**

JR. YBA

Lock-in Fundraiser

Jr. YBA is having a "Lock-In" Fundraiser on May 28, 2023 from 9 AM to 9 PM.

At this time, we are asking Sangha and friends for donations for this fundraiser. This year, all donations will be retained by Jr. YBA. Donations will be used to fund various Jr. YBA activities in 2023. 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 the Florin Jr. YBA in their fundraising efforts for Florin Jr. YBA.

Enclosed is \$ _____ for your fundraiser. My check is made payable to

FBC-Jr. YBA.

___ 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: _____

BCA Buddhist Bookstore

The Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) Buddhist Bookstore at the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley sells Buddhist books, jewelry and accessories, incense, Obutsudans, and ritual implements such as Obutsudan components, Ojuzu/Onenju and Monto Shikisho (Okesa). All sale orders are on-line. Madeline Kubo, alumni of the Buddhist Church of Florin's (BCF) Dharma School/YBA, is the Manager of the BCA Buddhist Bookstore.

BCF members have a one-time opportunity to order items on-line and not pay additional shipping costs. You can pick up your orders in-person at the Jodo Shinshu Center on April 16, 2023, during the Dharma School Field Trip to Berkeley. If you are not going on the field trip, your order will be picked up and delivered to you.

See the BCA Buddhist Bookstore Catalog at bcabookstore.mybigcommerce.com. Use the coupon code: FlorinVisit, when ordering on-line. Don't miss this one-time opportunity!

Please contact Walter Menda, if you have questions.

Dharma School Scholarship for Seniors in High School

The application for qualifications and requirements was emailed to our registered Dharma School high school seniors. If you did not receive the email and you are a registered Dharma School student, please contact the scholarship chairperson, Ginny Yamamoto Syphax at gyamisyphax@gmail.com for the application.

Applications are due May 15, 2023.

Kyudo Kai of Florin



From L-R (standing): Carol Renix Yoshioka, Elsa Renix, Peggy Okabayashi, Ken Okabayashi, George Yamashita

From L-R (sitting): Liz Hiers, Chris O'Neal, Paula Yoshioka, Lois Kashiwase

Kyudo, an ancient martial art of Japan is now being taught at the Buddhist Church of Florin (BCF). Approved by the BCF board in the spring of 2022, the first class of the Kyudo Kai of Florin (KKF) started in November of 2022. KKF is a non-profit organization that strives to provide education, training and cultural awareness of kyudo in the Florin community.

Kyudo means "way of the bow" and is considered to be one of the oldest traditional martial arts in Japan. The earliest known development of Japanese archery dates back to 7,000 BC.

Rich with history, kyudo has evolved in its use from early period hunting, to weapons of war to ceremonial purposes. Although not a religion, kyudo was influenced by two major schools of religious thought: Shinto and Chinese Zen.

Modern Kyudo is not simply viewed as a means to shoot at a target; but rather, the focus is to develop the inner spirit, respect for others and harmony in the learning environment.



The KKF mon was designed to recognize kyudo in the Florin community. Created by Sacramento graphic designer, Doreen Hosokawa, the strawberry leaves serve to remember the Japanese immigrants who settled in Florin to farm. In addition, there are 5 arrows that each represent the Buddhist Church of Florin, Kyudo Kai of Florin, Hawaii Kyudo Kai (our sister organization), our Japanese ancestors and the future cultural legacy that kyudo will bring to the Florin community. Pictured (below left) is Ai Oyama Sensei of HKK who provides remote instruction and advice to KKF.



Ai Oyama Sensei, HKK





Look
for us!

Kyudo
demo

Obon-
July 8th

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



Thank you to everyone who purchased or helped out with our annual Loco Moco fundraiser. Please know, we appreciate you and you have made a difference with your support to the Buddhist Church of Florin. Thank you!



BUDDHIST CHURCH OF FLORIN GOLF TOURNAMENT

Includes A FUN DAY OF GOLF, CART, RANGE BALLS,
MULLIGANS, MIRACLE PUTT, & SNACK GOODIE BAG

WHEN: Thursday - **June 1, 2023** **WHERE:** Teal Bend Golf Club
8:00AM Shotgun (Check-in starts at 7:00AM)

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT DUE MAY 24th, 2023

A)	<u>WHO IS GOLFING?</u>	
#1		\$95
#2		\$95
#3		\$95
#4		\$95
	<i>Optional Donation</i>	\$
	Total Payment Due:	\$

B) GROUP'S EMAIL ADDRESS to provide your team with tournament info:

C) PAYMENT DUE DATE 5/24/2023

- Make check payable to: Buddhist Church of Florin
- Mail to: E.Fujii 325 34th Street, Sacramento 95816 (You can also hand deliver and drop in door mail slot. **DO NOT** mail to the church)

D) NEED TO KNOW

- MUST register/pay by due date of 5/24/2023
- Format: Individual play 2-person Blind-Draw
- This tournament will NOT include dinner
- Need more info? Contact Eric Fujii at efujii52@gmail.com or cell (916) 955 1954

Buddhist Church of Florin

florinbuddhist.org

Spring Food Fundraiser

Sunday, April 30, 2023 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

To Order:

1. Return your order form with payment
2. Orders **MUST** be postmarked by **April 12, 2023**
3. Make check payable to: **BUDDHIST CHURCH OF FLORIN**
4. Mail check and order form to:

Buddhist Church of Florin
 Spring Food Fundraiser
P. O. Box 292006
Sacramento, CA 95829

Pick up your order on April 30th, 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, edamame, rice, pickled vegetable, sliced oranges)		x \$18.00	
Chinese Chicken Salad		x \$6.00	
Udon		x \$6.00	
TOTAL ENCLOSED			

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

2-27-23

Buddhist Church of Florin

florinbuddhist.org

Spring Food Fundraiser

Sunday, April 30, 2023 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

To Order:

1. Return your order form with payment
2. Orders **MUST** be postmarked by **April 12, 2023**
3. Make check payable to: **BUDDHIST CHURCH OF FLORIN**
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Chinese Chicken Salad		x \$6.00	
Udon		x \$6.00	
TOTAL ENCLOSED			

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

2-27-23