



ONENESS

Buddhist Church of Florin



July 2023

Volume 7

Summer is here and it's Obon season. In Hiroshima, Japan, the cemetery turns colorful during the Obon season. Please see attached photos. Visitors to the cemetery write their names on paper lanterns and place them around the grave to let their families know that they have visited.

The original word for Obon is "Urabon-e", from the Sanskrit word "Ullambana".

The story about the origin of Obon is about a disciple of Shakyamuni Buddha, Maudgalyayana or Mokuren. Shakyamuni Buddha and his disciples had supernatural powers. Among them, Mokuren's power were stronger than others.

This story is about when Mokuren's mother passed away. Mokuren used his supernatural power when he saw his mother in the suffering world. However, he didn't realize that many other people were also suffering the same time as his mother was. If we focus too much on our family or friends, sometimes we lose sight of other people.

For example, if we found people drowning in the ocean, and if some of them were our family or friends, we would likely try to help our family or friends first. But what about Amida Buddha? Amida Buddha would start to help the person who is the most likely to drown. This is the compassion of nondiscrimination. After Mokuren followed the advice of Shakyamuni Buddha, his mother's suffering was gone. This story of Mokuren and his mother is said to be the origin of the Obon service.

The Buddhist Church of Florin is having a Hatsubon/Obon Service on July 15th. We hope to see you at the temple.

Gassho,
Namo Amida Butsu
Rev. Imada

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



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 9, 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 July 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 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, 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	Shimosaka, Yoshiaki	07-01-1936
Kanemoto, Tahei	07-23-1942	Shintaku, John	07-06-1963
Kato, Toshie	07-06-1958	Sonoda, Masaru	07-05-1950
Kawaji, Shunjiro	07-02-1941	Sugimoto, Chuichi	07-21-1981
Kawamoto, Chieko	07-13-1906	Sumida, Masato	07-11-1924
Kawamura, Takeo	07-17-1913	Takahashi, George Mitsuo	07-30-2001
Kawanishi, Yachiyo	07-20-1981	Takahashi, Sakae	07-29-1936
Kishaba, Masahiro	07-22-1947	Takeoka, Jane Hidemi	07-01-1950
Kishaba, Yasuhiro Mack	07-12-2000	Tamura,	07-08-1913
Kohagura, Shizu	07-23-1923	Tanaka, Barry Miles	07-19-2003
Kurima, Baby	07-20-1941	Tanaka, Tomokichi	07-20-1970
Kuroda, Hideo	07-22-2002	Taniguchi, Jack Daihachi	07-14-1967
Maeda, Rinzo	07-18-1936	Taniguchi, Jim Susumu	07-26-2004
Matsui, Yukiko	07-3-2021	Tsuda, Mitsuyo	07-27-1936
Matsumoto, Takara	07-23-1940	Tsukamoto, Mary	07-16-2006
Miyano, Kiyono	07-20-1998	Usami, Genjiro	07-26-1952
Mukai, Mitsuye	07-07-2017	Wakabayashi, Hideichi	07-06-1973
Nagao, Chizuru	07-17-1952	Yamamoto, Asako	07-16-1978
Nakagawa, Jim Shigeo	07-21-1987	Yamanaka, Tora	07-15-1975
Ohta, Komi	07-21-1992	Yamashita, Bradley	07-07-1988
Okasaki, Etsuko	07-05-2020		

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		

Join us for July Services

**July Shotsuki Hoyo and Family Service
Sunday, July 9, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.**

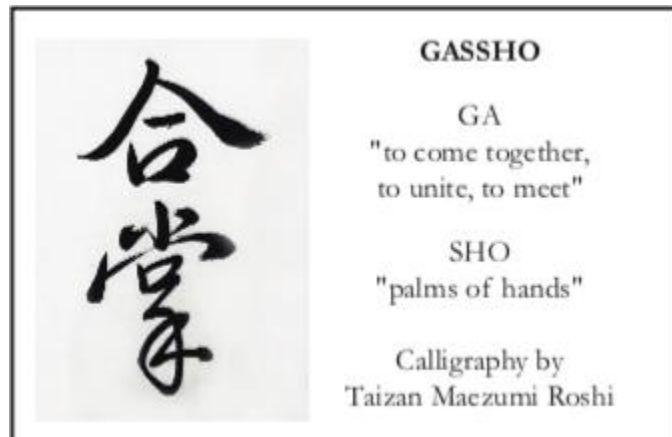
**Hatsubon Obon Service
Saturday, July 15, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.**

Officiant: Rev. Noritaka Imada

**Hatsubon Obon Cemetery Visitations
Saturday, July 8, 2023
Elder Creek at 9:00 a.m.
Sacramento Memorial Lawn at 9:30 a.m.
East Lawn Memorial Park at 10:30 a.m.**

****For everyone's safety, the front gate will be locked 15 minutes after the start of scheduled services and/or activities. Thank you.**

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.



Obon Dancing • Cultural Exhibits • Martial Arts • Food • Fun

Buddhist Church of Florin

OBON

festival

Saturday, July 15, 2023

Hatsubon/Nokotsudo Service	3 pm
Exhibits & Demonstrations	4 pm - 7 pm
Snack Bar	4 pm - 8 pm
Sacramento Taiko Dan	6:30 pm
Obon Odori	7 pm

Obon Odori Practice: July 5 & 6, 11-13 at 7 pm

Florin Obon Workshop

July 13 from 5:30 pm

Sponsored by Florin JACL and Buddhist Church of Florin

7235 Pritchard Road, Sacramento, CA 95828

Visit www.florinbuddhist.org

“IN-PERSON”

BUDDHIST CHURCH OF FLORIN

**“IN-PERSON”
HATSUBON AND OBON SERVICE
OBON FESTIVITIES AND DANCING**

JULY 15, 2023, SATURDAY

Hatsubon/Obon Service (3:00 PM)

Please attend the Hatsubon/Obon Service in the Temple at 3 PM, followed by Obon Festivities. It is the first “In-person” Obon Festivities and Obon Odori in three years!!!

Obon Festivities (4:00 PM to 7:00 PM)

Food: Snack Bar in the Temple’s Courtyard serving delicious Food, Drinks and Shave Ice

50/50 Raffle Prize

Cultural Exhibits (in Multi-purpose Room)

4:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Mataro Kimekomi Dolls

Ikebana International

Paper Crafts

BWA Boutique

Florin JACL

Sacramento Hiroshima Nikkeijinkai

Cultural Demonstrations (in YBA Hall):

Kyudo Kai of Florin-Japanese archery

5:00 PM

Sacramento Kendo Club-Japanese swordsmanship

5:45 PM

Sacramento Taiko Dan

6:30 PM

World-renowned Japanese drumming performers

Obon Odori Dancing 7:00 PM

Everyone is invited to dance-Grandparents, parents, children, and friends. Fun, fun for everyone. Please attend the Obon Odori Workshop and Obon Odori practices (see below).

Obon Odori Workshop-July 13, Thursday, 5:30 PM (Multi-purpose Room)

If you reserved your spot, you'll learn about dance background, hand/dance movements, clothing, accessories, and obi tying. Unfortunately, the maximum capacity has been reached. This workshop is co-sponsored by the Florin Dharma School and Florin JACL.

Obon Odori Dancing Practices- July 5 & 6 and July 11, 12 & 13, 7:00 PM

Dust off your Kachi Kachi, Uchiwa (fan), Getas and attend the Obon Odori Practices.

Buddhist Church of Florin
Governing Board Meeting Highlights
May/June 2023

1. The BCF has appointed Janice Shintaku-Enkoji to the Treasurer's position effective June 1, 2023. She will be assisted on an as-needed basis by Jan Takeuchi. Dick Kadoya will assist with financial reporting. The Governing Board is grateful to Janice for stepping into this important position. The Board is also deeply indebted to past-Treasurer, Kathy Menda for the untold volunteer hours that she has put toward the many tasks involved in keeping BCF accounts.
2. Obon Odori will be July 15 at 7 pm. The Hatsubon service will be at 3 pm and in between there will be food and cultural events such as kendo and kyudo kai (Japanese archery) demonstrations and a taiko drum performance. See this newsletter for schedule details. To volunteer contact Walter Menda (wmenda@pacbell.net). Help is especially needed in the snack bar. Contact Sandy Okuno (whocares13@comcast.net) or Sharon Okamoto (sharon@okamoto.com). Please be generous with your time. This will be the first Obon Festival in three years!
3. The parsonage roof has been replaced. Most of the cost was covered by insurance.
4. A security breach occurred on Sunday, May 14 that may warrant closing the gates at a reasonable time after service begins. Sangha will be informed of any changes to current protocols.
5. Peggy O. reported that the Northern California District Council (NCDC) is resuming district-wide activities to promote interaction among temples. The Board has decided that BCF will host a Chicken Throw Down contest like one held pre-Covid. It is tentatively scheduled for November 2024. If you wish to volunteer to help organize this fun, social event, please contact Eric Fujii (efujii52@gmail.com).
6. Congratulations went out to Skylar Lam (daughter of Nadine Nouchi and Henry Lam) who received a BCA grant for registration to attend the BCA Youth Retreat at the Jodo Shinshu Center on June 25-July 1, 2023.
7. The Board congratulated Sacramento Kendo member Aileen Niizawa for attaining fourth-dan level and welcomes Anthony Huynh, a fourth-dan level sensei who recently moved to Sacramento.
8. BWA will hold Summer Camp on August 8. Details to follow.
9. Dharma School thanks Peggy Okabayashi and the BWA for their inspiring and interactive presentation on The Golden Chain of Love for Hanamatsuri. Dharma School enrollment for 2022-23 was 15.
10. Jr. YBA Annual Lock-in fundraiser has been postponed. Please see this newsletter to donate or contact Ginny Syphax (gyamisyphax@gmail.com).
11. The Golf Tournament held June 1st at Teal Bend Golf Club was a huge success. There were 102 golfers and the event net over \$10,000. Special thank you to volunteers that made the event both fun and prosperous!

Membership

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

Randy & Cindy Furukawa
John & Ailene Nishida (semi-annual)
Janice Shintaku

Norma Nakata
Andy Noguchi & Twila Tomita
Burt & Carol Yoshioka (monthly)

The Buddhist Church of Florin welcomes the following new member:

Janice Shintaku

We look forward to seeing you at service and temple functions and hope the BCF will meet your religious and community desires.

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.

Dharma School Summer Activities

July 4, 2023 -

7:30 PM 4th of July fireworks (parking lot) – you're welcome to bring a snack to share (optional)

July 20-23, 2023 –

DS Annual Camping trip at Donner Lake – interested, contact Kenny Teranishi kteranishi@juno.com or (916) 717-0297

Congratulations Mr. & Mrs. Alex Takeda!
4-22-23



Buddhist Church of Florin

Kikuyo and Kinjiro Nakatani Scholarship Recipients

The Buddhist Church of Florin is proud to announce the recipients of the Kikuyo and Kinjiro Nakatani scholarships awarded for the 2023-24 school term. These students are actively involved at church, school and the community. Congratulations to all these outstanding individuals.

Senior High School Scholarship Recipient

Alyssa Okimura is the recipient of the \$5,000 scholarship

Alyssa is graduating from Cosumnes Oaks High School, where she excelled as a scholar with a 4.0 grade point average; playing soccer at school and for her competitive club soccer team. She is a member of the National Honors Society and the Medical Pathway organization at school. She is a Jr. YBA officer and participates at church activities and fundraisers.

Alyssa will be attending Clarke University in Iowa, on a soccer scholarship and will major in Nursing.

Alyssa is the daughter of church members, Ryan and Sabrina Okimura and granddaughter of Alice and the late, Ron Okimura.

In her scholarship essay, Alyssa wrote, “Through all the opportunities I’ve earned from being a part of the JYBA and being a Dharma School student, I have gained the sense of fulfillment in helping others, and learned the importance of community outside of school and family. For instance, I am a part of multiple extracurricular activities, and volunteering is not something I can always fit into my schedule. When I became more involved in the church, the feeling of being a positive impact on others, no matter how small it may be, gave me a sense of purpose that being a part of a sports team, or academic clubs never gave me. Spending time with the other JYBA members, and helping around during events, not only made me feel accomplished with what I am doing to improve my community, but also helped me build relationships I would otherwise not have. To add on from that, through my involvement as a Buddhist youth, I was able to be a part of a new community. Having something in common with other teenagers close to my age was something I have never been able to do through school and sports. Having a sense of community with other people who share the same backgrounds and passions, is something that can make a person feel valued, heard, and belonging. Although I am a part of many sports and clubs, having common ground and sharing something you are devoted to is an important thing to have. In conclusion, being a Buddhist youth has influenced and affected my life in many ways. I have gained a newfound satisfaction in helping others, and was able to be involved in a community I can admire and cherish.”



University, College and Vocational School Recipients

Devon Akiyama is the recipient of the \$5,000 scholarship

Devon attends the University of California, Berkeley. He maintains a 3.7 grade point average, and is a member of the Nikkei Student Union, organizing and directing programs for its members. He regularly attends Sunday

services at the Berkeley Buddhist Temple, where he volunteers and recruits other college students to attend services and activities. Devon is majoring in Political Economics, championing social justice for all; and a minor in History.



In his essay, Devon wrote, “Buddhism, to me, means community. Sunday temple is a place where I am comfortable, embraced by friendly and welcoming people who share the same outlook on life that I do. Whenever I think of Buddhism, I imagine energetic friends, delicious foods, and lively conversations with friends about how to respond to the troubles of our lives. I have experienced this Buddhist community all throughout my life, and it continues to inspire my ambition to engage our Jodo Shinshu principles daily. Firstly, our Sangha at the Buddhist Church of Florin gave me such a great introduction to Buddhism. I remember presenting a farewell speech for Sensei Yuki Sugahara and seeing the entire gym filled with people who wanted to offer him their well wishes.

Everyone at that ceremony represented some aspect of community that had influenced my childhood. Coaches and friends from Church league basketball, teachers who had shared Buddhist principles and history at Dharma School, as well as those who helped me discover outdoor adventures on the Donner camping trips. All those early experiences made Buddhism feel familiar and comfortable to me, and that is a trend that continues to this day.

Recently, the Berkeley Buddhist Temple (BBT) helped me realize how much of a difference this community really makes. At Sunday services, I have had the opportunity to talk to many newly joined churchgoers, who represent widely diverse backgrounds and who came upon Buddhism for many varying reasons. I have talked with people who were raised Catholic or even within other Buddhist sects, and they all discuss the idea of fear and restrictions being associated with their idea of religion. In contrast, they are pleasantly surprised by the tight-knit community at BBT and the comfort it brings. These family bonds across Jodo Shinshu Buddhism are something that I have always taken for granted because it has been a constant element at every Sunday service. But this fundamental aspect of Buddhism, the Sangha itself, is the most meaningful aspect of Buddhism to me. Whether it means discussing Buddhist lifestyles with my fellow Buddhist Youth Retreat members, sharing great food and conversation with friends at BBT, or seeing the difference that Church attendance makes for my friends, the Sangha is ultimately what Buddhism means to me. The reason why Buddhism is special and makes that personal connection for me is having that shared community who will always be there for us.”

Bryan Yoshioka is the recipient of the \$3,000 scholarship

Bryan attends California State University, Monterey Bay. He maintains a 3.8 grade point average and is a certified scuba diver and competitive swimmer. Bryan is majoring in Marine Sciences and will be volunteering at the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

Bryan is the son of church members, Burt and Carol Yoshioka.

In his essay, Bryan wrote, “To me Buddhism is like practicing forgiveness to others and showing more mercy to other living things. For the first piece on how it is practicing forgiveness, I mainly remember how showing hatred and holding grudges were not a promoted way of life when practicing Buddhism. Mainly how I remember that is when I attended church sessions, it was like we were trying to remain at peace with others and ourselves, there was no conflict with other people. That’s what I felt at least sometimes. For the second part of how Buddhism is like showing more mercy to others, I just mainly remember how one time on a camping trip we would catch crawdads at a nearby pond, though I would want to release them, and I was told that it aligned with Buddhism in a way. I don’t know why this moment stuck with me more than the actual teachings, it just did.



Buddhism is meaningful to me because it is part of my own childhood, being taught Buddhism that is. But also, I think it influenced me to not be as aggressive to other people, to show a softer side instead. I also think it is meaningful because it involves the concept of karma in a way. I remember karma being something that helps balance out what people do and for the longest time I followed that logic of how when we do something good, we get something good and vice versa. This kind of thinking helped me decide more of my actions and how I wanted to treat other people. To summarize what I have said, Buddhism is meaningful to me because it helped me learn to be less aggressive with other people.”

Congratulations to our 2023-24 Kikuyo and Kinjiro Nakatani Scholarship recipients, Alyssa Okimura, Devon Akiyama, and Bryan Yoshioka.

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 based on their commitment to church, community and school, academic achievement, personal character, written essays and in-person interviews. The students must be or have been enrolled in the Buddhist Church of Florin’s Dharma School to be eligible for the scholarships.

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 for your children to be eligible for these scholarships.

Acknowledgments from the 2023-24 Kikuyo and Kinjiro Nakatani Scholarship recipients:

I am honored to be the recipient of the 2023 Nakatani scholarship! A big thank you to the Buddhist Church of Florin for giving me this great opportunity to help further my education. I will be attending Clarke University in Iowa this Fall, in which I have been accepted into their direct admit nursing program and will also be playing on the women's soccer team! I will use this generous scholarship to help cover a portion of my tuition.

Sincerely,
Alyssa Okimura

Buddhism serves as a guide into how to act within the world around you. One of the key points of Buddhism is interconnectedness and the importance of truly understanding how your actions can affect others as well as how others can have an effect on you. In this way, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the guiding influences that the Buddhist Church of Florin and its Sangha have shared with me. Throughout my childhood, the Sangha modelled behaviors and values that created an environment in which I always felt comfortable and at home. And now, the examples set by the Sangha serve as inspiration for my future interactions with others. I am truly grateful for everything that the Florin community has done, and I will continue doing my best to extend that sense of love and acceptance within the growing Buddhist Community.

The generous support of the Kikuyo and Kinjiro Nakatani Scholarship will be applied towards tuition and textbooks and will enable me to direct my time and attention towards my academic endeavors. 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 Executive team of Berkeley's Nikkei Student Union as External Vice President and will also be working as a Consultant at Berkeley's 180 Degrees Consulting.

Furthermore, to maintain the connection to my Jodo Shinshu roots, I hope to continue and increase my involvement with the Berkeley Buddhist Temple by creating more collaborative opportunities to link students with Buddhism.

In Gassho,
Devon Akiyama

My name is Bryan Yoshioka. I would like to thank the Buddhist Church of Florin for awarding me with the Kikuyo and Kinjiro Nakatani scholarship. I am a college student at California State University, Monterey Bay and I have just completed my first full year of college. This scholarship will help me in my next year of college where my major is Marine Science. This upcoming academic year I plan to be taking Introduction to Oceanography and classes of Physics and Chemistry. Also, I hope to volunteer at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. I will be using this scholarship to help make payments for tuition and housing.

Again, I would like to thank the Buddhist Church of Florin for the Kikuyo and Kinjiro Nakatani scholarship.

Sincerely,
Bryan Yoshioka

BWA

July Dana Project

REQUESTING:

School Supplies

**MUSTARD
SEED
SCHOOL**



**SACRAMENTO
LOAVES & FISHES**



Each month, thousands of students throughout the Sacramento region experience homelessness. Mustard Seed School, a program of Loaves & Fishes, is a free private school for children ages 3-15 years-old who are currently homeless.

Mustard Seed School provides a safe space for children while their parents access other services on the Loaves & Fishes campus. These services include breakfast and lunch meals, mental health services, housing information, showers, and various other survival services.

Mustard Seed School also provides students with snacks, lunches, school supplies, and anything else they may need during the school day.

June Dana Project

Still REQUESTING:

Toilet Paper



Wellspring Women's Center nurtures the innate goodness and personal self-esteem of women and their children. Since 1987, our drop-in Center has provided respite and services based on "hospitality with dignity and love. Wellspring serves nearly 200 women and children each weekday and offers four different programs: Nutritious Meal Program, Children's Corner Program, Safety Net Services Program, and the Women's Wellness Program.



Collection Dates:

BCF Gym

July Thurs [LOTUS days]

July 15

BCF Obon service

(9 a.m. - 12 p.m.)

Before/after 3 p.m.

**Nishi Hongwanji,
Kyoto**

[Mother Temple]



NCBWC Group

Joint Celebration ...

Nishi Hongwanji, Kyoto

May 10, 2023

The NC (Northern Calif) group coordinated by Peggy Okabayashi included **Florin**, **BC Stockton** (w/Rev. Shibata), & **BC Sacramento**. Also included were Rev. Michael **Endo** (BCA Office of the Bishop) & **Janet Umezu** (wife of former Bishop Umezu).



親鸞聖人御誕生850年 立教開宗800年慶讃法要 参拝記念

Thank you to everyone who help make the BCF Golf Tournament a success! We appreciate all of you; golfers, donors, BCF crew, and Teal Bend Golf Course. Hope to see everyone next year!



FUN WITH FRIENDS!

(more pictures on the BCF website: florinbuddhist.org)