



ONENESS

Buddhist Church of Florin



August 2024

Volume 8

HANASU

There are two Japanese verbs: 「話す (talk) 」 「放す (let go) 」

Both of these verbs are pronounced "HANASU". Talking and letting something go seem different, but they are actually connected. My friend, who is a counselor, said that "talking" to someone also means "letting go" of something inside of us. After we confide our worries to someone, we feel a little more at ease and have more space in our minds. If we can gain space in our minds, we may be able to receive new things and have the desire to try new things. It's just like when you have a lot of things in your hands, you can't receive anything. In this way, it seems that letting go is very important. In Buddhism, there is a word called "attachment," and it is the idea that you should let go.

There is a story about a person named Genza who is called a "Myo-ko-nin." ("Myo-ko-nin." is the name given to people who are happier than others to encounter Buddhism in their lives and live with the Nembutsu.) One of the "Myo-ko-nin" was a man called Genza who was a member of the Jodo Shinshu sect. Genza had a cow and walked with it. He had a lot of luggage in his hands. He also had some luggage on the cow's back. When Genza got tired of walking, he put everything he had in his hands on the cow's back. At that moment, when he saw the cow continue to walk without slowing down, he noticed something. The luggage that he felt was too heavy for a human being was nothing to the cow. At that moment, he realized the importance of relying on others and the limitations of self-reliance.

Buddha tells us that "attachment is something that should be let go," but our desire to not let go of our family, our house, our money, and everything else does not disappear. It may be important to learn that Our life is precious and wonderful because you are alive now, rather than worrying about losing the temporary illusions that surround you, because the treasures around you will one day be let go.

I have heard two interesting questions. If the question was, "Would you accept ten million dollars?" I think most people would have no reason to refuse. However, if the question was, "Would you accept ten million dollars if you could die tomorrow instead?", more people would not accept it. This means that tomorrow is worth more than ten million dollars. We are surrounded by many things we do not want to let go of, but we are blessed to receive the life that we do not want to let go of the most every day.

Last month's quiz answers

Which quintessentially Japanese dish actually originates from Portugal?

1. Sushi 2. Okonomiyaki 3. Ramen 4. Tempura

Answer: Tempura



The word tempura is said to come from the Portuguese word tempero, which means to cook.

There are other theories, such as that it comes from the Spanish word tempuro (temple). Or there is also a theory that it is a phonetic reading of Abura, which means oil, written as 天(Ama)麩(Fu/Pu)羅(La).

The next quiz



Gengō - Era names in Japan

A Japanese era name is a title used for numbering years in the Japanese calendar system. For example, 2018 was Heisei 30.

From the Meiji period onward, it became the rule to change era names only when a new emperor acceded to the throne. Until then, era names were often changed to drive away bad luck and to signal a fresh start after natural disasters. Your era name, and the era names of your parents and grandparents may all be different.

Let's try to sort the era names correctly in chronological order!

大正 (Taishō) 江戸 (Edo) 平成 (Heisei)
昭和 (Shōwa) 令和 (Reiwa) 明治 (Meiji)

In Gassho,

Rev. Noritaka Imada

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

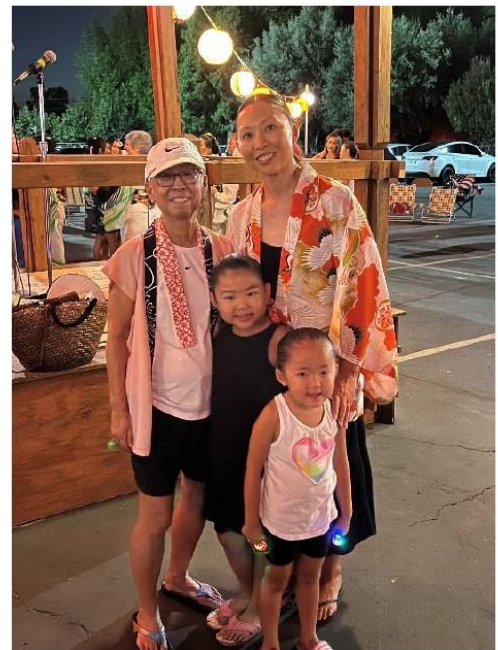
(916) 383-1831

Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrated Obon with us...whether you participated with Cultural Events/Demonstrations, danced, ate some delicious food, or just came and watched...thank you! Grateful for everyone behind the scenes who helped to make this event a big success! Big thanks to Lois Kashiwase who chaired this year's event.



Good friends, good times...Obon, Obon it's festival time! Thank you Rev. Michael Endo from Oakland Buddhist Temple for being our guest speaker. (pictured with Ginny Yamamoto Syphax, Mits Yamamoto & Sensei Imada)





*Thank you EVERYONE for
making our
2024 Obon Festival a success!
Memories made!*



BUDDHIST CHURCH OF FLORIN

P.O. BOX 292006, SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95829-2006

July 24, 2024

Dear Sangha,

Our temple has historically been a gathering place for our Sangha and I'm happy to see that we are continuing that tradition by providing a variety of activities for all to enjoy. Have you looked at our church calendar lately? There is lots to choose from: Sensei Imada leads a Buddhist discussion group and monthly Japanese study classes. If you're interested in gardening, the Lotus Club meets on Thursdays. Our BWA hosts many social and craft-making events. And, if you are into sports or would just like to be more active, we have pickleball and volleyball, or you can join kyudo kai, and kendo. I encourage you to join us!

I'd also like to update you on the following:

- BCF Board:** In May I provided you information regarding proposed changes to our BCF Constitution and Bylaws related to 1) the August election of the BCF Governing Board; 2) the reduction of the number of Sangha Groups from 3 to 1; and 3) a corresponding reduction in the number of Sangha Representatives (eg Directors' At Large) from 6 to 2. The Sangha was asked to vote on these proposals which were put forward to address the limited resources available to fill our BCF positions. Thank you to those of you who voiced your opinions and submitted your vote. The overwhelming majority voted to move forward with the proposals and we are in the process of filling the BCF Board positions at this time. Also, based on input provided by our members, the number of Sangha Groups and Representatives will only be reduced from 3 to 1, with 2 Sangha Representatives acting as liaisons between the Sangha and the Board. An announcement regarding our new Board Mentees will be forthcoming.
- BCF Website:** On June 30, 2024 our new Website (buddhistchurchofflorin.org) went LIVE! Along with a new web address, the new site provides increased functionality, including the ability to submit orders and payments online for our various fundraisers. While orders and payments will continue to be accepted "the old fashioned way", the online system will help move the BCF towards providing greater access and service to all users. The September Food Bazaar is first to launch the new system. Membership dues and donations can also be made on the Website. We have been talking about updating our Website for years and we finally did it! A huge thanks to Gary Takeuchi, Jan Takeuchi and their team for making this a reality for the BCF.
- Reverend Imada Status:** In partnership with the BCA, we continue to work to extend his work visa with the ultimate goal of obtaining a permanent solution. At this point, Reverend Imada will be able to remain with us into September 2024.

In Gassho,

Eric Fujii, President
Buddhist Church of Florin

August Monthly Memorial (Shotsuki Hoyo) Service

The monthly memorial service for those who passed away during the month of August will be held on **Sunday, August 11, 2024, beginning at 10:00 am.** The persons who are noted in the Buddhist Church of Florin (BCF) memorial records as having passed away in the month of August 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 2024 is a special service year (see table) for a dearly departed love one, please contact Reverend Noritaka Imada, Buddhist Church of Florin 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, Hiroshi	08-25-1917	Nakashima, Yasuke	08-10-1918
Asano, Yoshiro	08-10-1910	Nishiguchi, Toshiyuki	08-19-1923
Baishiki, Tsune	08-07-1943	Nobuso, Seishiro	08-09-1975
Fujii, Keiji	08-27-1939	Okamoto, Fusano	08-22-1970
Fujimoto, Satono	08-21-1918	Okazaki, Baby	08- -1939
Fukagawa, Chester Kiyoshi	08-01-2001	Okimura, Alice	08-10-2009
Fuwa, Rikizo	08-26-1936	Ono, Miyokichi	08-27-1911
Fuwa, Warren Hitoshi	08-28-1996	Otani, Robert Alan	08-06-2011
Hamataka, Sue Yoshiko	08-12-2002	Saigo, Toshiaki	08-05-1976
Haramoto, Manzo	08-16-1939	Sako, Morito	08-24-1956
Ishigaki, Hisako	08-02-1917	Sasaki, Fumiko	08-05-2016
Ishikawa, Infant	08-23-1912	Sekiguchi, Mitsue	08-09-1984
Kadoya, Kay Haruye	08-29-2023	Shijo, Susumu	08-03-2006
Kato, Kiyomi	08-13-2014	Sugimoto, Yei	08-04-1997
Kawanishi, Natsue	08-11-1930	Sumida, Katsumi	08-03-1918
Kimura, Fumiko	08-17-1920	Sumida, Roy Kazuo	08-08-2023
Kodama, Ritsu	08-09-1948	Tahara, Tome	08-17-1913
Kumamoto, Allen	08-07-1990	Takeoka, Kanao	08-31-2010
Maruki, Shozaburo	08-04-1930	Takeoka, Mikio	08-30-1999
Maruki, Tsuyuko	08-09-1930	Tanaka, Kay	08-08-2009
Mito, Isuyo	08-27-1918	Terada, Kansuke	08-21-1934
Mitsuyoshi, Misako	08-21-1926	Tsukamoto, James	08-19-2006
Mitsuyoshi, Toshiko	08-21-1926	Unno, Toshiuemon	08-04-1904
Miyata, Yoshinori	08-20-1912	Uno, Yoneko	08-07-1918
Mukai, Sannosuke	08-21-1951	Yabumoto, Miyeko	08-24-2008
Nakaguchi, Sana	08-18-1917	Yamamoto, Akio	08-15-1921
Nakahira, Kazutaro	08-04-1976	Yamamoto, Jayne Michiko	08-18-2023
Nakamura, Hisako Katherine	08-18-2008	Yamamoto, Minoru	08-16-1911
Nakashima, Aiko	08-04-1920	Yoshida, Heikichi	08-18-1934

2024 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>
2023	1 st Year	2000	25 th Year
2022	3 rd Year	1992	33 rd Year
2018	7 th Year	1975	50 th Year
2012	13 th Year	1925	100 th Year
2008	17 th Year		

Join us for August Services

August Shotsuki Hoyo and Family Service

Sunday, August 11, 2024 at 10 a.m.

**Please RSVP to florinbuddhist@gmail.com (for a headcount) ~
light refreshments will be served after service. Thank you!**

Ladies of Jodo Shinshu Memorial Service and Family Service

Sunday, August 25, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.

Officiant: Rev. Noritaka Imada

****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.



SANGHA INSIGHTS

By Elizabeth Fujii



Pictured Left to Right: Sharon Arase, Vicki Estrada, Louise Teranishi, Kenny Teranishi, Jan Takeuchi, Margie Sunahara

Since its invention in 1965, pickleball has become the fastest-growing sport with close to 5 million players. Several BCF members play regularly at SASF and, now, with the addition of 3 courts in the BCF gym, they are also enjoying pickleball matches at Florin.

I confess I'm a bit of a tennis snob. I follow the sport closely, have attended professional matches, and for many years I played socially and in a league. Pickleball has not had the same draw for me but, at the invitation of a couple of church members, I decided to head out to the BCF gym on a recent Sunday to see what the excitement is all about.

When I arrived, the matches were well underway. Twelve players on 3 courts, with myself and 8 others waiting to rotate into the games. Once I was on the court, my partners provided lots of guidance and encouragement. I had a great time and am looking forward to some much-needed practice and playing again soon.

Pickleball is easy to learn, it's a fun way to get some exercise and everyone can play—regardless of age and ability. During the Summer months when church services are suspended pickleball courts are open. If you are interested in being notified of days/times of play, send your name via text to Sharon Arase at (916) 549 0040. There is no charge for BCF members, and non-members are also welcome to play for a \$5 donation. Paddles, balls, and simple instruction are available.

2024 Membership Dues

Thank you to the following members for their 2024 membership dues received in :
May/June

Karyn Ariyasu-Ito	Glenn & Jennifer Fujii	Frank Mouton (monthly)
Eileen Nakahira & David Uyeno (monthly)		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 donation. 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 buddhistchurchofflorin.org for more information & the BCF membership form.

Directory Corrections

Toni Kinney – change of address 15770 Forest Hill Dr Boulder Creek, CA 95006

Stephanie Kuroda - change of address 6352 Chapel View Ln, Citrus Heights, CA 95621

Tom Nakashima – change of phone number 916-236-3395

Ryan Shimozaki – add email rshimozaki@yahoo.com

Kenny Teranishi change of email – kennyteranishi@gmail.com

Buddhist Church of Florin
Governing Board Meeting Highlights

July 11, 2024

1. IT'S LIVE!! – The new temple website is live. Please check it out at buddhistchurchofflorin.org for information about our temple, organizations, events, and more are available. Soon the ability to participate/order/pay for fundraising events will be active. Visit the site regularly for updates!
2. Elections: The move to change the number of Sangha groups from 3 to 1 passed. The Board for 2024-26 will be announced in the next newsletter.
3. Sacramento Kendo's 57th Anniversary tournament was held in the gym on Sunday, June 23rd and was well attended with over 110 participants. Special attendance by the Sacramento Sheriff's Office deputies highlighted their cordial relationship with both the Sacramento Dojo and the Buddhist Church of Florin. A team manager for Team USA Kendo also attended. The event was a Channel 3 television news blurb (the video is posted on the temple website (BuddhistChurchOfFlorin.org)).
4. Contingency plans have been made in the event of excessive heat during the Obon celebration.
5. Three maintenance activities will be occurring in late July or August. The carpet in the hallway and library will be replaced, the carpet in the Hondo and foyer will be cleaned, and the tile floors on the south side of the building will be stripped and waxed. Prior to these activities we will be asking for help to move books and shelves from the library and the tables and chairs from the MPR. Please be generous with your time.
6. The Eagle Scout project to add a dry pond, path and lanterns that was schedule for late May will begin August 3.
7. In mid- to late August Rev. Imada will be hosting Rev. Hirooka from Japan who is conducting a joint research project with Tsutomu Tomotsune of Tokyo University. Rev. Hirooka would like to learn about the travel history of Fukui Prefecture immigrants from the Florin Buddhist Church, their experiences before and after the wartime internment, and their current situation. For more information contact Rev. Imada (imadabca@gmail.com).
8. Junior YBA will host a Panda Express fundraiser on August 16.



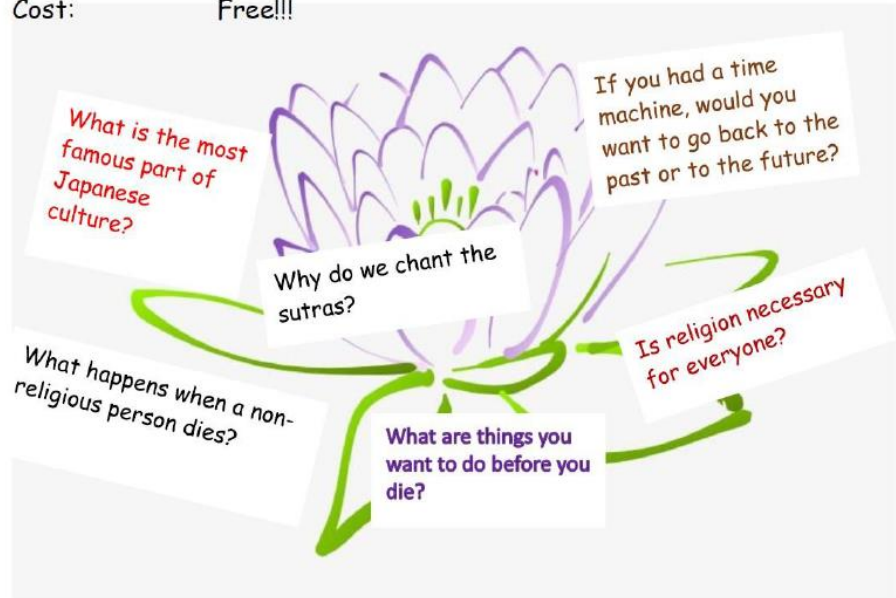
Buddhist Discussion Group

Rev. Imada will be discussing answers to questions you've always wondered about and different things to ponder!

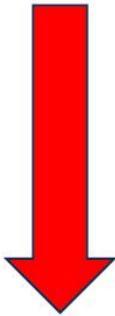
August 11, 2024!!!



When: 2nd Sundays
Where: Multipurpose Room
What Time: 1:00 PM
Cost: Free!!!



August 25, 2024!!!



A Japanese study class by Rev. Imada is scheduled for the fourth Sunday of each month at noon.
If you bring something from your home with Japanese written on it, we can try to translate it. If there is anything else you would like to do in class, please contact Rev. Imada. We look forward to hearing your ideas!
クラスで会いましょう!



Jr. YBA Panda Express Fundraiser



When:

Friday, August 16, 2024

Place your order for pickup or delivery on Friday, August 16, 2024

Place your order online only at :

www.pandaexpress.com

Available at Panda Express locations nationwide

How:

Online orders only

Apply code **921789** in the Fundraiser Code box during online checkout at www.pandaexpress.com or via App

28% of sales will be donated to: Buddhist Church of Florin Jr. YBA

SHARE WITH YOUR FAMILY & FRIENDS IN THE USA!

Thank you for supporting our fundraiser!

Aug. BWA Dana Project



SACRAMENTO
LOAVES & FISHES



SPRING 2024 NEEDS LIST

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Family size shampoo/
Conditioner | Assorted beads
(bracelet making) |
| Ticonderoga #2 Pencils | Umbrellas |
| Paper plates & bowls | Kinetic Sand |
| Kids Shoes Boys & Girls 1-4 | |

An Emergency School, Mustard Seed provides a Montessori style quality education for children ages 3 to 15 in a safe, structured, and nurturing environment, while their families seek stable and permanent living situations. Students receive healthy weekday meals (breakfasts, snacks, and lunches), new backpacks filled with school supplies, clothes,

Florin
BWA
Summer
Camp

Date: August 13 (Tues)
Fee: \$15/Florin BWA members
\$25/Non members
Contact: Sandy Okuno



MAKE-YOUR-OWN
LUNCH



Onigirazu (sushi sandwich)



SACRAMENTO STATE



ASSOCIATED
STUDENTS, INC.
SACRAMENTO STATE



asi
foodpantry

July BWA
Dana Project

Requesting: Non-perishable food & toiletry donations or checks for ...



Hard Work Rewarded



On this day (in June) thanks to Lloyd and JoAnn, LOTUS members enjoyed BBQ salmon, 3 types of koko, & salads made with garden vegetables. Dessert included Sharon's apricot cobbler picked from the hybrid fruit tree.



Thanks, Lloyd, for treating group to lunch at Osaka's. [Super hot (113° that July day)]



The LOTUS garden managed by Sharon has a bountiful crop again this year. JoAnn has been busy making sunomono, kasu uri, broiled eggplants, and salads with various fresh fruits & vegetables.



*JoAnn Kusaka
Sharon Okamoto
Jan Takeuchi
Tomio Ito
Lloyd Okimura*

*Weekly lunch
Dessert
Dessert
Morning donuts
Koko*

ITAL									
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Buddhist Church of Florin



**Prime Rib, Gravy,
Rice, Veggies**

Pick up your order on Saturday Sep 28th
-between 3-5PM...
•Drive into church parking lot at 7235 Pritchard Road, Sacramento 95828
•Check-in at first station and your dinner will be delivered to your car.

**Saturday SEPTEMBER 28 2024
Pick-Up Your Order Between 3-5PM**

ORDER YOUR DINNER ONE OF TWO WAYS!

ONLINE:

- 1) **GO TO WEBSITE** buddhistchurchofflorin.org -or- scan this link:
- 2) **Complete order form and pay** with credit card



Scan me!

Or By Mail:

- 1) **Complete ORDER FORM** below
- 2) **Make out CHECK** to **Buddhist Church of Florin** (*Checks will be deposited *after* the event)
- 3) **Submit ORDER FORM & CHECK** (Mail or drop off **NO LATER THAN** September 14, 2024) to: E FUJII, 325 34TH STREET, SACRAMENTO, CA 95816 **do not mail payment to the church.*

YOUR NAME?		TOTAL DUE:
HOW MANY ORDERS?	_____ X \$40.00 EACH	
YOUR PHONE NUMBER, please?		
*We will make every effort to accommodate requests for 'end cuts'. Let us know how many of above orders are END CUTS : _____		
(*No other special requests).		

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

Buddhist Church of Florin

Kikuyo and Kinjiro Nakatani Scholarship Recipients

The Buddhist Church of Florin is proud to announce the recipients of the 2024-25 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

Brayden Fong & Kai (Kianna) Nakaoka are recipients of the Senior High School Scholarships. Both recipients are awarded a \$5,000 scholarship.

Brayden graduated from Franklin High School, where he excelled as a scholar with a 4.2 grade point average, achieving numerous academic awards, volunteering at school, and playing on the Varsity soccer team. Brayden volunteers in the community and regularly participates at church activities and fundraisers including serving as Jr. YBA President. Brayden also was a recipient of the church's Kansha award for his dedication and service to the Temple.

Brayden will be attending the University of California, Irvine, majoring in Business.

Brayden's parents are church members, **Tyson and Denise Fong**.



Kai Nakaoka graduated from John F. Kennedy High School where she excelled as a scholar with a 4.6 grade point average, achieving numerous academic awards. Kai is active in the Scouting program, achieving the two highest Boys and Girls Scouts' honors; the Boys Scout's Eagle Scout rank and the Girl Scout's Gold Award. Kai participates in numerous sports and holds many World, National and State records in Powerlifting. Kai volunteered at school, in the community; and is a regular participant at church activities and fundraisers; including serving as a Jr. YBA Officer and being the past President. Kai also was a recipient of the church's Community Service award for her service in the community.

Kai will be attending the University of California, Berkeley, majoring in Chemistry.

Kai's parents are church members, **Keith and Irene Nakaoka**.



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, majoring in Political Economy, with a minor in History. Devon is an Executive Board member of the Nikkei Student Union, President and founding member of the Japanese American Youth Alliance; and actively participates in other advocacy organizations. Devon regularly attends Sunday services at the Berkeley Buddhist Temple, volunteering and recruiting other college students to attend Temple services and activities. Devon is a founding member of the Temple's College Student Advisory Committee, which advises the Berkeley Buddhist Temple's Board of Directors on ways to engage the college community to attend Temple services and activities. Devon also volunteers and participates in programs and activities at the Buddhist Churches of America's Jodo Shinshu Center.

Devon's parents are church members, **George and Merri Akiyama**.

Garrett Kishaba is the recipient of the \$3,000 scholarship

Garrett attends San Diego State University. He maintains a 3.8 grade point average with Dean List Honors, majoring in Business. Garrett is an Executive Board member of the Nikkei Student Union, organizing and directing programs. Garrett attends Sunday services and activities at the Buddhist Temple of San Diego, with college friends. This summer, Garrett is doing a global internship for a Korean start-up company in South Korea.

Garrett's parents are church members, **Kelvin and Kathie Kishaba**.

Baylee Fong is the recipient of the \$2,000 scholarship

Baylee attends California State University, Fullerton. She maintains a 3.4 grade point average, majoring in Business. Baylee is an Executive Board member of the Nikkei Student Union, organizing and directing programs for its members, volunteers at school; and in the Nikkei community at events such as the Los Angeles Little Tokyo Festival and Manzanar Pilgrimage.

Baylee's parents are church members, **Tyson and Denise Fong**.



*College recipients **Alyssa Okimura** and **Devon Akiyama** in attendance during the scholarship presentation in June.*

Alyssa Okimura is the recipient of the \$1,000 scholarship

Alyssa attends Clarke University in Dubuque, Iowa. She maintains a 3.3 grade point average, majoring in Nursing; and plays on Clarke University's collegiate women soccer team. In addition to nursing school and collegiate soccer, Alyssa is dedicated to helping others as a Certified Nursing Assistant at a nursing home in Dubuque.

Alyssa's parents are church members, **Ryan and Sabrina Okimura**.

Congratulations to all six of our 2024-25 Kikuyo and Kinjiro Nakatani scholarship recipients.

The Buddhist Church of Florin's 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 2024-25 Kikuyo and Kinjiro Nakatani Scholarship recipients:

Buddhist Church of Florin,

I would like to thank the Buddhist Church of Florin for the Kikuyo and Kinjiro Nakatani Scholarship and for the many opportunities they have provided me over the years. I plan on attending the University of California Irvine, majoring in business administration in the fall. I plan to spend the money on my tuition or on a well needed MacBook.

Sincerely,
Brayden Fong

Dear Buddhist Church of Florin,

Thank you for awarding me your scholarship. I am sincerely humbled by your recognition and generosity.

Because of the Nakatani Scholarship, my educational goals are much more feasible, and I can relieve some financial burden from my parents. I cannot thank the Buddhist Church of Florin Scholarship Committee enough and am honored to receive this scholarship. In the fall, I will be attending UC Berkeley, majoring in Chemistry. After college, I plan on pursuing a career in the surgical field. Once again, I am humbled by Florin Temple's generosity given to me and my family. My family and I are forever grateful.

Sincerely,

Kai Nakaoka

Buddhist Church of Florin,

Buddhism has always been an important aspect of my life, connecting me in large part to my ancestors and their fellowship at the Buddhist Church of Florin; and I am grateful for the opportunities to continue allying and working with the Buddhist community in my current activities. The combination of the Buddhist principles as well as the support of our Sangha has shaped the way I conduct myself, and I am thankful for the growth and nurturing that I continue to receive here at our church. I look forward to continuing my engagement with the Buddhist community guided by the examples established from my early activities in Dharma School and in the Junior YBA. In this way, Buddhism will always serve as a positive guide in my life; and I will strive to keep the Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha as my compass.

The Nakatani Scholarship will go towards supporting my senior year at the University of California at Berkeley. I am currently majoring in Political Economy (with a concentration in Finance) as well as minoring in Historical Studies. The scholarship will help minimize the cost of schooling and allow me to direct more time towards engaging at the Berkeley Buddhist Temple and the Political Economy Student Association. Lastly, I will continue working with the further unification of the Japanese American community via working with the Japanese American Youth Association and projects like the Manzanar Internment Camp Pilgrimage.

Sincerely,

Devon Akiyama

Dear Buddhist Church of Florin:

I am grateful and appreciative to the Buddhist Church of Florin for honoring me as a recipient of the 2024-2025 Kikuyo and Kinjiro Nakatani Scholarship. As a Business Administration-Accounting major at San Diego State University, I plan to use the generous scholarship funds to offset my tuition and living expenses. I also plan to use the scholarship to cover some of the expenses of my global internship this summer. I will work for a start-up company in Seoul, South Korea which will provide me a unique opportunity to learn valuable skills in research, communications, business development, and global marketing. I am also excited to learn about a different culture, and to visit Buddhist temples abroad. I am thankful to the Sangha who have provided my family and me with a welcoming community to learn the teachings of the Dharma and I will always treasure the support I have received from the Buddhist Church of Florin for the past several years. I am disappointed that I won't be able to accept the scholarship in person due to my internship obligations, but I look forward to seeing everyone at church later this summer before I head back to San Diego.

Thank you again for the special honor and recognition.

Sincerely,
Garrett Kishaba

Buddhist Church of Florin,

Hi! My name is Baylee Fong and I'm one of this year's Kikuyo and Kinjiro Nakatani Scholarship recipients. I would like to express my deepest gratitude towards the Nakatani Scholarship committee and the Florin Buddhist Church for awarding me the 2024-2025 Nakatani Scholarship. This Fall, I will be continuing my education as a third-year business major at California State University, Fullerton. Receiving this scholarship not only alleviates the financial burden of my education but also motivates me to strive for excellence in my academic and personal endeavors. I am truly grateful for this scholarship and the opportunities it presents, and I look forward to sharing my future accomplishments with you all.

Sincerely,
Baylee Fong

Buddhist Church of Florin,

I would like to thank the Buddhist Church of Florin and the Nakatani scholarship committee for choosing me as one of the recipients for this year's scholarship! I am currently attending Clarke University in Iowa, where I am part of the nursing program and an athlete on the women's soccer team. I will use this scholarship to help cover a portion of my tuition.

Thank you again,
Alyssa Okimura

Congratulations to our 2024 Dharma School Scholarship Recipients!
Brayden & Kianna!!!



Congratulations to our newest Eagle Scout, Ben Uyeno!



L-R: Dr. David Uyeno, Ben Uyeno, Eileen Nakahira Uyeno, Sensei Imada

(Ben's Eagle Scout Wood carving made by Mits Yamamoto)