



# ONENESS

**Buddhist Church of Florin**



September 2024

Volume 9

## Ohigan



Hello everyone. Ohigan season has arrived. Ohigan means the opposite shore, or the land of Buddha. The land of Buddha is believed to be in the west and is also called the Pure Land of the West. Since ancient times, people have visualized the world of Buddha by watching the sun set in the west in spring and autumn.

There are theories that the direction of the Pure Land is in the west to make it easier for humans to visualize. And, that this is because Shakyamuni Buddha was facing west when he died. In this article, I would like to share the last words of Shakyamuni Buddha.

Siddhartha Gautama, who was known as Shakyamuni Buddha, was born 2,500 years ago in Lumbini, Nepal. At the age of 29, he escaped from the royal palace, became a monk, and at the age of 35, he attained enlightenment. After that, he went on a journey of sharing his teachings for 45 years. When Shakyamuni reached the age of 80, he continued his final journey of sharing his teachings with his disciple Ananda. He then shared his teachings with a man named Cunda who lived in a village. In gratitude, the Buddha was invited to Cunda's home and offered a meal.

One theory says that the meal was mushrooms, and another theory says that it was pork. At that time, monks could eat meat donated by laypeople under specific conditions. This was because the donation of food to monks was a great opportunity for laypeople to accumulate virtues, and it was thought that such a precious opportunity should not be taken away.

After the meal, Buddha was suddenly struck by severe diarrhea. However, to prevent Cunda from being blamed for this, he praised Cunda's offering as being particularly meritorious. Despite his suffering, he laid down between two side-by-side sala trees in the village of Kushinagar. At the time of Buddha entering nirvana, he lay with his head facing north and his face facing west.

When Ananda realized that Buddha would die soon, Buddha told him to remain calm because everyone will die one day. When other disciples came to hear his sermon, Buddha answered their questions and explained his teachings carefully.

At the end, Buddha said, "All things pass away, so rely on your own efforts and practice your own way," and he passed away at the age of 80.

The reason why the Buddha passed away is that this world is impermanent.

Time passes without stopping, and we can never go back to the past. We cannot guarantee our life tomorrow nor do we know what will happen tomorrow. Even though our life is finite, we live under the mistaken impression that it is permanent. We will surely die someday, but we do not know when that will be. Therefore, Buddha urged his disciples to continue and complete their practice in this life and attain enlightenment. Although his final words were short, they summarized how we should view the world.



### **Last month's quiz answers**

Gengō - Era names in Japan

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

1. 江戸 (Edo) 2. 明治 (Meiji) 3. 大正 (Taishō)
4. 昭和 (Shōwa) 5. 平成 (Heisei) 6. 令和 (Reiwa)

The current era is Reiwa!

### **The next quiz**

In Japanese, what do you say to someone who has just returned home? (Welcome back)

Itadakimasu 2. Ittekimasu 3. Tadaima 4. Okaeri

In Gassho,

Rev. Noritaka Imada

If you need to contact Rev. Imada, you can email him at: [imadabca@gmail.com](mailto:imadabca@gmail.com)

(916) 383-1831



## **BUDDHIST CHURCH OF FLORIN**

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

August 31, 2024

Dear Sangha,

I would like to bring you up to date on Reverend Imada's current status. A lot has happened in a very short while! As of Friday, August 30, 2024, the attorney working on the petition was able to gather the required documentation and submit Sensei's petition for an L-1 visa by the deadline of September 1, 2024. (An L-1 visa is a document used to enter the United States for the purpose of work). If the petition is approved, Sensei will be able to remain in the country. If denied he will have to return to Japan within 30 days after receiving notice of denial. The estimated timeline to hear back on this is about 3 weeks.

As you can tell, it was a tense week for Sensei, but fortunately the proper paper work was submitted. I will keep you informed as more information becomes available. In the meantime, we are happy Sensei will be with us for this additional time and we remain very hopeful that his L-1 visa will be approved.

In Gassho,

***Eric Fujii***, President  
Buddhist Church of Florin



## September Monthly Memorial (Shotsuki Hoyo) Service

The monthly memorial service for those who passed away during the month of September will be held on **Sunday, September 22, 2024 at 10:00 am**. The persons who are noted in the Buddhist Church of Florin's (BCF) memorial records as having passed away in the month of September are listed below. If you have a homyo (Buddhist name) on a card, please bring it with you for placement on the 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 at 916-383-1831 or email imadabca@gmail.com to make special memorial arrangements. Please inform Lois Kashiwase of any corrections or additions to the list.

Abe, Betty Sadako	09-07-2020	Nishi, Takei	09-29-1919
Aoki, Tokuhisa	09-28-1993	Nishida Sr., John Yoshio	09-04-2003
Asada, Fumio	09-11-1933	Nishimura, Haruto	09-25-1996
Baishiki, Eve Midori	09-02-2019	Oda, Tomitaro	09-21-1916
Fujii, Gladys	09-01-1990	Ohara, Misuye	09-13-1973
Fujii, Toku	09-01-1968	Otani, Edward	09-26-2019
Fujioka, Yoneko	09-01-2023	Saigo, Takeshi	09-21-1979
Furukawa, Eiji	09-05-1912	Sakai, Yasuke	09-23-1977
Furukawa, Yoshio	09-29-1917	Sasaki, Louis	09-18-2019
Furukawa, Yuki	09-28-1927	Seno, Baby	09-17-1923
Fuwa, Tane	09-04-2003	Shiizaki, Stillborn	09-05-1927
Hara, Tami	09-11-1917	Shimosaka, Chisako	09-18-1936
Ishigaki, Infant	09-09-1915	Tahara, Carol Naoko	09-27-2020
Ishigaki, Sadao	09-11-1989	Tahara, Mitsuo	09-01-1929
Ito, Eijiro	09-20-1933	Takahashi, Akio	09-29-1917
Kawashima, Matsutaro	09-07-1922	Takayama, Fumiko	09-28-1926
Kazuta, Umeno	09-10-1917	Takemori, Seiro	09-01-2002
Kitamura, Yoko	09-05-1999	Takeoka, Bobby	09-14-1925
Kumano, Jiro	09-29-1954	Takeoka, Jimmy	09-11-1921
Kurima, Koichi	09-24-1974	Takeoka, Tadashi	09-07-1999
Kurima, Tora	09-04-1974	Takeuchi, Tayeko	09-11-2014
Kushida, Kiyoshi	09-13-1914	Tanaka, Shizue	09-29-1969
Kushida, Takeji	09-04-1931	Taniguchi, Mitsuru	09-21-1924
Maruki, Makiko	09-08-1940	Terasaki, Kiyoshi	09-02-1923
Miyano, Jitsuo	09-26-1973	Tsukamoto, Karen Miyeko	09-14-2018
Nakajo, Masahiro	09-05-2020	Tsushima, Kazuo	09-27-1988
Nakao, Herbert	09-30-1995	Yabumoto, Jimma	09-20-1996
Nakao, Roger	09-29-2021	Yamamoto, Tamehachi	09-21-1962
Nakashima, Satsue	09-14-1932	Yamato, Isamu	09-29-1927
Nekoda, Masae	09-24-1919	Yoshinaga, Hanna Hanako	09-02-1997
Nishi, Hisashi	09-01-1974	Yoshinaga, Toki	09-29-1977
Nishi, Kinuye	09-23-1920	Yubuta, Shinichi	09-29-1962
Nishi, Shinae	09-20-1925		

### 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 <sup>st</sup> Year	2000	25 <sup>th</sup> Year
2022	3 <sup>rd</sup> Year	1992	33 <sup>rd</sup> Year
2018	7 <sup>th</sup> Year	1975	50 <sup>th</sup> Year
2012	13 <sup>th</sup> Year	1925	100 <sup>th</sup> Year
2008	17 <sup>th</sup> Year		

# *Join us for September Service*

## **Fall Ohigan/September Shotsuki Hoyo and Family Service**

*Installation and Dharma School Registration*

***Sunday, September 22, 2024 at 10 a.m.***

***Officiant: Rev. Noritaka Imada***

*We hope that you will be able to join us on September 22<sup>nd</sup> and for refreshments following the service. In order to prepare enough for everyone, we ask that you please rsvp to [florinbuddhist@gmail.com](mailto:florinbuddhist@gmail.com). Thank you!!*

***\*\*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.



# CELEBRATE WITH US 125th Anniversary of the Buddhist Churches of America

This year is the 125th anniversary of the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA).

Sanghas across the United States celebrate the legacy of two ministers who came to the United States from Japan in 1899 to answer the call of Japanese immigrants wanting to hear the Dharma in their new home. Their dedication, along with the efforts of Issei and Nisei pioneers, has shaped BCA's history.

Affiliated BCA Temples and Organizations will be hosting special events to commemorate this significant milestone of the Buddhist Churches of America. **The Northern California Temples will be celebrating on Sunday, October 13, 2024, at the Buddhist Church of Stockton.**

## **Kieshiki Affirmation Ceremony & Joint Eitaikyo, Late Bishops' Memorial and BCA 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service:**

### **Sunday, October 13, 2024**

- Continental Breakfast at 8:30 am
- Bishop Marvin Harada, Kieshiki Affirmation Ceremony at 9:00 am  
*Registration forms and fee of \$35/person (Checks payable to the Buddhist Churches of America, with memo Kieshiki) must be received by the Office of the Bishop on **September 20th** and will be sent by **your temple's minister**.*
- Joint Eitaikyo, Late Bishops' Memorial & BCA 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service at 10:00 am
- Luncheon and entertainment to follow
- Location: Buddhist Church of Stockton, 2820 Shimizu Drive, Stockton, CA 95203
- Please contact Rev. Candice Shibata at (209) 810-5601 or [revshibata@gmail.com](mailto:revshibata@gmail.com) if you have any questions
- The Sacramento Choir will be performing during the Service and **Skylar Lam's song will be debuted.**

**To adequately prepare, please pre-register for this event.  
Registration details are on the next page.**



THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DISTRICT &  
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA MINISTERS' ASSOCIATION'S

*Kieshiki Affirmation Ceremony &  
Joint Eitaikyo, Late Bishops'  
Memorial & BCA 125th Anniversary  
Service*



**Sunday, October 13, 2024 @ 10:00 AM**  
**Buddhist Church of Stockton**  
**2820 Shimizu Drive, Stockton, CA 95203**

We warmly welcome all to participate in this special service to remember and honor the past 125 years and as we celebrate the future of the Buddhist Churches of America.



Streaming of the service available on the Buddhist Church of Stockton's YouTube page:  
<https://www.youtube.com/@buddhistchurchofstockton9015>

View the schedule of events and register through the QR code or at:  
<https://forms.gle/vzSLa32sEuY2TCGt9>

sign up here!

## SANGHA INSIGHTS

*By Elizabeth Fujii*



Gary Takeuchi became a BCF member a little over a year ago when he relocated from Arizona in February 2023. A graduate of Cal State Chico in 1977, he studied Industrial Engineering at Arizona State University in 1978 and worked in the field of technology for 40 years, retiring from Motorola and General Dynamics as an Embedded Systems Programmer.

In a “past life” Gary coached girls’ high school softball for 18 years in Phoenix, Arizona. He also coached competitive girls’ club softball and soccer teams. In fact, his soccer team won the Arizona State Cup 3 times! At the Western Regionals, his team went up against Brandi Chastain, a player on the winning Northern California team. Brandi, of course, went on to become a two-time FIFA Women’s World Cup champion and two-time Olympic gold-medalist.

Gary plays “a little golf” and he has traveled to Canada and twice to Japan with the BCF. Mostly, he says he likes to “tinker” in his spare time which, it turns out, is a bit of an understatement! He shared that when he came to Florin, he agreed to look into the BCF ‘website refresh’ at Peggy Okabayashi’s (his sister) request — even though he had never done any sort of webpage development. Gary described how “tinkering” evolved into a larger project which required a year of learning how to design and develop websites. His efforts, along with the assistance of Jan Takeuchi and input from other team members, lead to the creation of a new BCF Website that provides greater accessibility for all users.



## 2024 Membership Dues

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

Louis Hannigan	Myrna Hitomi	Frank Mouton (monthly)
Eileen Nakahira & David Uyeno (monthly)		Dean & Donna Shimosaki
Derek Shimosaki	Ryan & Julie Shimosaki-Lam	
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](mailto:s.takeda@comcast.net).

**If you know someone interested in joining us, please refer them to [florinbuddhist.org](http://florinbuddhist.org) for more information & the BCF membership form.**

***The Buddhist Church of Florin welcomes the following returning/new members:***

<b><i>Louis Hannigan</i></b>	<b><i>Julie Shimosaki-Lam</i></b>
<b><i>Alex Takeda</i></b>	

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

## Directory Corrections

New Member: Louis Hannigan  
7540 Rush River Dr  
Sacramento, CA 95831

louishannigan@gmail.com  
(713) 280-6171

Ryan Shimosaki – Update last name to Shimosaki-Lam and add wife Julie

Buddhist Church of Florin  
Board of Directors

Office	2024-26	2026-28
President	Eric Fujii	
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	Margie Sunahara	Ginny Syphax
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President	Lon Tsukamoto	Sharon Arase
Treasurer	Janice Shintaku-Enkoji	Janice Shintaku-Enkoji
Recording Secretary	Shirley Gee	Shirley Gee
Kumon	Dick Kadoya	Dick Kadoya
Immediate Past President	Lois Kashiwase	Eric Fujii
Sangha Representatives	Elizabeth Fujii/Kathy Menda	Elizabeth Fujii/Kathy Menda
Corresponding Secretary	Janice Takeuchi	Tyson Fong
Activities Chairs (2)	Sharon Okamoto/Sandy Okuno	Sharon O/Sandy O
BCA Liaisons	Eric/Lois K/Peggy O	Eric Fujii/Peggy Okabayashi
Buddhist Education (BEC)	Lois Kashiwase	Lois Kashiwase
Membership	Bob & Susan Takeda	Nadine Nouchi
Research	Glenn Fujii	Joy Okamoto
Public Relations/Facebook	Ginny Syphax	Jennifer Kubo
Historian	Vacant	Vacant
Youth Director	Vacant	Vacant
Maintenance	Lloyd Okimura/Mike Kakutani	Gary Okamoto/Kenny Teranishi
Health & Welfare	Ginny Syphax	Kris Takeda Miller
Bazaar	Jennifer Kubo	Jennifer Kubo
Publication	Ginny Syphax/Lois Kashiwase	_____/Lois (mailing)
Website Administrator	Gary Takeuchi	Ryan Shimosaki
Information Technology	Derek Shimosaki	Paul Kashiwase
Auditor	Dick Kadoya	Ryan Okimura

Buddhist Church of Florin  
**Governing Board Meeting Highlights**  
**August 8, 2024**

1. The new website, [BuddhistChurchOfFlorin.org](http://BuddhistChurchOfFlorin.org), is accepting online ordering. Links to make donations and sign up for email updates are available. Check it out to see upcoming services, events and fundraisers. Thanks again to the website refresh committee, Jan Takeuchi and Tyson Fong, but especially to Gary Takeuchi for the untold hours and tireless troubleshooting.
2. Obon Chair, Lois Kashiwase sent the following: Thank you to you, your families and friends for helping and supporting our Obon Festival! There are so many that helped make this year's Obon Festival possible by coming out and volunteering their time and energy in the extreme hot weather weeks before the big day. At this time, I would like to recognize and thank the sub-committee chairs for being very generous with their time and energy to make this year's Obon a great success: Kenny Teranishi, Sharon Okamoto, Sandy Okuno, Cheryl Miles, Kathy Menda, Jennifer Kubo, Lenny Mizusaka, Ginny Syphax, Kris Miller, Eric Fujii, Ann Tsukamoto, Walter Menda, Janice Shintaku-Enkoji, Craig Shijo and Scott Louie. Special thank you to Rev. Noritaka Imada and Walter Menda for conducting a beautiful Hatsubon Obon Service with Rev. Michael Endo as our guest speaker.
3. Plans are moving forward for the BCA Eitaikyo/125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration/Late Bishop's Memorial Service that will be held on October 13 at the Buddhist Church of Stockton. Watch for updates and registration for attendance. Early registration is necessary if you wish to obtain your Buddhist Name. The event is free and will include a continental breakfast and luncheon with entertainment provided by various temples.
4. If you have an act or an idea of an act for the entertainment at the event at the Stockton Buddhist Church, please contact Peggy Okabayashi ([sachieokab@gmail.com](mailto:sachieokab@gmail.com)). Here's your chance to show off that clever magic trick, dance move or voice – or maybe something else!!
5. The Eagle Scout project added a path and dry pond (on the Pritchard side of the multipurpose room), updated/painted the entrance sign and Heisei Garden sign, and painted the bridge. They will be adding three more lanterns early September. Thank you to Mits Yamamoto for providing the scouts the new letters for the signs. Please check it out! Thanks so much to Finley Morris and his crew for further beautifying our temple.
6. Stripping and waxing of MPR, office, hallways and flower room are complete and look beautiful. Thanks to the many volunteers who helped with this project. (Margie Sunahara, Sandy Okuno, Jan Takeuchi, Scott Louie, George & Meri Akiyama, Darrell Matsuda, Ginny Syphax, Gary Okamoto, Greg Crandall, Lon & Ann Tsukamoto, Sandy Tsunekawa and Eileen & Ben Uyeno. The next project is replacing the carpet in the library, reading room, minister's office and hallways. Thank you to Gary Okamoto, Scott Louie, Sandy Okuno and Bill Okuno, Sharon Arase, Louise Teranishi, Margie Sunahara and Darrell Matsuda for moving the furniture and cabinets.
7. Thank you all who participated in the voting process for the 2026-2028 BCF Board of Directors. The current Board has volunteered to continue to mentor the next Board. Welcome new Board members and thank you those who are continuing with another term. Look for the results of the election in this newsletter.





## “BACK TO DHARMA SCHOOL”

We hope everyone had a wonderful summer break! The 2024-2025 Dharma School year will start **Sunday, September 22, 2024**.

The Buddhist Church of Florin Dharma School students will learn the rituals and its meanings; Buddhist etiquette, such as proper way to enter and exit the temple; the onenju and how to oshoko; Buddhist holidays and celebrations; how to be a better person and making lifelong friends; and eligible to apply for the Dharma School and Nakatani Scholarships.

We welcome new students from Nursery/Kindergarten through 12<sup>th</sup> Grade.

We are very grateful for your support and considering the Buddhist Church of Florin Dharma School.

## JR. YBA



Jr. YBA would like to thank everyone who placed a Panda Express order via our online fundraiser on August 16, 2024. Just for placing online orders, we earned \$282.48! Also, thank you to those of you who sent in a donation instead...we appreciated all of you! Orders were placed from five states: California, Oregon, Washington, Arizona, and Hawaii!



# Buddhist Church of Florin Dharma School Enrollment Form 2024-2025

**Cost Per Child: \$20.00**

*Please complete for Dharma School Registration (Separate Form required for Athletic Program)*

Child's Name	Date of Birth	Grade 2024-2025
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Parent(s) Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Home Phone Number: (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_@\_\_\_\_\_

Please make check payable to: **Buddhist Church of Florin**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's/Guardian's Signature Date

**RETURN COMPLETED FORM WITH PAYMENT**

\*\*\*\*\*

Payment	Cash	Check	Check #

# Sept. BWA Dana Project



**SOCKS**  
For Veterans



*Florin  
BWA  
Summer  
Camp*

August 13  
(Tues)



Mustard Seed School



SACRAMENTO  
**LOAVES & FISHES**

**School  
Supplies**

**Aug.**  
BWA  
Dana  
Project



## FOR SALE

Proceeds Benefit LOTUS Club

Made by Fusako Okamoto  
Contact: Sharon Okamoto

**Kasa Uri**

**Fukujin-  
zuke**

**Straw-  
berry  
jam**



Ginny S. provided each LOTUS member an "arigato" wood carving on behalf of her father, Mits Yamamoto.



**JoAnn Kusaka** Weekly lunch  
**Sharon O/Jan T** Dessert  
**Peggy Okabayashi** Mustard nasubi  
 tsukemono  
**Tomio Ito** Morning donuts  
**Ginny Syphax** Stained glass jello,  
 & dessert(s)

**Ken Okabayashi** Blk. melon/corn  
**Craig Shijo** Fish patties  
**Dan Menda** Uri-chicken  
 noodle soup  
**BWA** Chinese takeout  
**Mits Yamamoto** Wooden sign

## **FLORIN'S NOKOTSUDO**



**Did you know that the Buddhist Church of Florin has a beautiful Nokotsudo (Columbarium) located near the Hondo? The cost is reasonable and there are no set visiting hours. You may visit when it's convenient for you and your family.**

**Selecting a final resting place is an important step in creating and honoring a family legacy. No matter what age or level of vitality, it is never too early to establish a place of remembrance for your family to pay tribute to a special life. This permanent memorial can serve as a touchstone to all who follow and gives one the peace of mind that these details have been decided.**

**With the Nokotsudo and Hondo in the same location, it allows your family to enjoy temple activities and to honor and cherish past loved ones. It is a meaningful reminder of all the precious moments we share with family and friends. It brings the past, present and future together.**

**We encourage all of our fellow Buddhist Church of Florin Sangha members and friends, past and present, to consider our Nokotsudo as their final resting place.**

**If you would like information about the Nokotsudo and/or the availability of niches, please contact Peggy Okabayashi at [sachieokaba@gmail.com](mailto:sachieokaba@gmail.com).**

**In Gassho.**

**The Nokotsudo Committee**



BCF camping at Donner State Park was held on July 25-28. About 100 people were able to enjoy camping or come up for a day trip ending in a delicious dinner. Everyone had a great time catching up with friends and family ... and getting away from the 100° weather!



# 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](http://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.*

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

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

## Sacramento Kendo

Sacramento Kendo Dojo hosted their 57th Anniversary Kendo Tournament on Sunday, June 23, 2024 at the Buddhist Church of Florin's kaikan. This is the first Kendo tournament held in Sacramento since 2019, before the COVID-19 lockdown. There were 110 athletes from Northern and Central California, and Nevada. The competitors included junior-ranking Kyu to higher-ranked Dan (black belt) level athletes, from ages 10 - 80 years old.

Opening ceremonies included an laido (Northern California laido Association) demonstration and a taiko performance by Placer Ume Taiko that started the tournament off with high energy and spirit.

Special guests included Sargent Amar Gandhi with Sacramento County Sheriff's Office, whose office has been a valued supporter of the Dojo and the Buddhist Church of Florin. The Dojo honored one of their Sensei, Ken Ching, who passed away in September of 2023 with a new perpetual trophy for the Senior Division. His wife, Anne Ching, attended the tournament. At the end of the event his extended family, including his grandchildren, touchingly presented the award winners of the Senior Division. A perpetual trophy was also produced in honor of Sacramento Dojo Sensei, Dennis Martinez for the Super Senior Division. Martinez Sensei was involved in an accident early this year but has recovered and attends practices on a limited basis. USA Kendo Team Manager, Yuji Onitsuka Sensei, also attended the tournament before his departure to the 19<sup>th</sup> World Kendo Championships that took place July 4 – 7 in Italy. Both the Women's and Men's teams placed third behind Japan's 1<sup>st</sup> place and Korea's 2<sup>nd</sup> place. Julian Williams from Fresno was awarded the Kantosho/Fighting Spirit award for Men's Individuals, which is a prestigious honor in Kendo.

The 57<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tournament was featured on KCRA with an interview with Sacramento Kendo Dojo's Shushin/Head Instructor, Glenn Harada. See organization page on the BCF website: <https://www.buddhistchurchofflorin.org/sacramento-kendo-club/>

The Dojo appreciates the continued support of the Buddhist Church of Florin and looks forward to their next tournament in 2026.





BUDDHIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA

**DIAL THE DHARMA**

(800) 817-7918

Press 1 – English

Press 2 – Japanese

Press 3 – Spanish

Weekly Dharma messages by Reverend Marvin Harada, Bishop

(These are short messages. Less than 5 minutes!)



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for Shin Buddhist books and goods!

