



# ONENESS

**Buddhist Church of Florin**



December 2024

Volume 12



It's already December. Time flies and the year is almost over. In December there are events such as Bodhi Day and New Year's Eve Bell Ringing.

Bodhi Day is a memorial service held to commemorate the enlightenment of Shakyamuni. According to one theory, Shakyamuni attained enlightenment on December 8th, so Bodhi Day services are held in December.

Shakyamuni Buddha attained enlightenment under the Bodhi tree. Before that, he had been practicing very hard. He undertook harsh training such as restricting his breathing, being exposed to direct sunlight for long periods of time and fasting. No matter how hard he trained, he was unable to find a satisfactory answer. Despite this, Shakyamuni continued to practice withstanding hardships both physically and mentally, and instead of attaining enlightenment, his mind and body gradually weakened. After six long years of training, Shakyamuni was unable to reach any teachings, so he finally abandoned his training and purified himself in a nearby river. Shakyamuni was weak and on the verge of giving up, but he regained his strength when a passing village girl named Sujata gave him rice porridge with milk. When Shakyamuni heard Sujata's song, "If the strings of a harp are tightened too much, they will break, but if they are tightened too loosely, the sound will be poor. It is best to tighten the strings of a harp just right," he realized that his hard practices were wrong.

With Sujata's help, Shakyamuni recovered both body and mind, and with renewed resolve, he sat down under a Bodhi tree and meditated. Along the way, he was tempted by the desires in his mind, but with such determination, Shakyamuni did not let himself be led astray, and eventually reached a state of enlightenment. Shakyamuni was 35 years old.

### Last month's quiz answer

Which of the following words means "shining" in Japanese?

1. Boro Boro
2. Teka Teka
3. Tsuya Tsuya
4. Pika Pika

The answers are "Teka Teka", "Tsuya Tsuya" and "Pika Pika"

In fact, all three of these mean to shine.

Boro Boro describes something that has become old or worn out due to continued use.

### The next quiz



Which of the following onomatopoeia words expresses the stickiness of natto?

1. Shaba Shaba
2. Beto Beto
3. Neba Neba
4. Sara Sara

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



## December Monthly Memorial (Shotsuki Hoyō) Service

The monthly memorial service for those who passed away during the month of December will be held on **Sunday, December 8, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.** The persons who are noted in the Buddhist Church of Florin's (BCF) memorial records as having passed away in the month of December 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 loved one, please contact Reverend Noritaka Imada, Buddhist Church of Florin at 916-383-1831 or email [imadabca@gmail.com](mailto:imadabca@gmail.com) to make special memorial arrangements. Please inform Lois Kashiwase of any corrections or additions to the list.

Baishiki, Teruo	12-05-1995	Nishi, Shizuo	12-09-1963
Chono, Toshiharu	12-06-1931	Nishikawa, Agnes Yoshie	12-18-2016
Chono, Tsuya	12-04-1929	Nishikawa, George Tsutomu	12-21-2011
Fujii, Roy	12-06-1946	Noda, George	12-02-2001
Furukawa, Wakano	12-02-1981	Oda, Ritsu	12-20-1958
Fuwa, Riichi	12-19-2017	Ohta, Koume	12-23-1964
Hirohata, Kotaro	12-30-1952	Okigawa, Akizo	12-05-1919
Hiroshima, Ushi	12-12-1920	Sakaoka, Frank	12-17-1984
Inouye, Oscar Asao	12-07-1996	Sano, Masako	12-08-1956
Inouye, Shihei	12-16-1957	Sasada, Iwao Joe	12-09-1973
Ishikawa, Kantaro	12-20-1920	Sekiguchi, Fumio	12-28-1986
Ito, Eigoro	12-29-1957	Senda, Shigecko	12-23-1924
Ito, Kazuo	12-27-1995	Shiidani, Seijiro	12-25-1902
Iwata, Shozaburo	12-19-1920	Shimoda, Yoshio	12-22-1926
Kanemoto, Amy Emiko	12-10-2012	Sonoda, Thomas Tsugio	12-20-2016
Kanenaga, Tetsuo	12-13-1974	Sunahara, Kumeji	12-15-1960
Kato, Harumi	12-03-2000	Takeda, Jessie Sachiko	12-04-2018
Kodama, Isao	12-17-1928	Takeoka, Yoshi	12-08-1955
Kodama, Sumiye	12-20-1919	Taniguchi, Masao	12-28-1922
Kono, Allan	12-02-2005	Taniguchi, Takezo	12-16-1941
Kumamoto, Marcella	12-29-1989	Tokumura, Tomi	12-11-1968
Kurima, Tatsue	12-06-1924	Tomono, Akio	12-28-2001
Maruki, Satsu	12-12-1918	Tsukamoto, Bill Tadashi	12-07-2000
Maruki, Stillborn	12-11-1918	Tsukamoto, Masashi	12-29-1925
Matsui, Carole Teruko	12-10-2017	Tsukamoto, Yoshio	12-22-2010
Matsui, Jim	12-16-2012	Uno, Hiroko	12-25-1972
Miyao, George Yoshihiro, III	12-18-1969	Wakabayashi, Sumiko	12-31-1989
Miyoshi, Kikue	12-10-1919	Watanabe, Yuriko	12-24-2010
Murakami, Tatsuzo	12-08-1985	Yamamoto, Calvin Akio	12-28-2017
Nakao, Bob Goro	12-20-2005	Yamamura, Hyakutaro	12-24-1948
Nakao, Teruko Marion	12-09-2011	Yamanaka, Joe T	12-29-2000
Nakashima, Aileen Y.	12-25-2004	Yamaoka, Violet S	12-05-2003
Nakatani, Kikuyo	12-27-1990	Yasukawa, Mary	12-12-2009
Nakatani, Kinjiro	12-26-1957		

### 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 December Services*

**December Shotsuki Hoyo; Bodhi Day & Family Service**

*December 8, 2024 at 10:00 a.m.*

*RSVP by December 4, 2024*

**New Year's Eve Service**

*Tuesday, December 31, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.*

*RSVP by December 28, 2024*

**New Year's Day Service**

*Wednesday, January 1, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.*

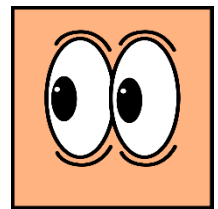
**Officiant: Rev. Noritaka Imada**

*There will be a light luncheon following the church service on **December 8th**, and Toshikoshi Soba will be served on **December 31th** and so **in order to prepare enough for everyone, we ask that you please rsvp to [florinbuddhist@gmail.com](mailto:florinbuddhist@gmail.com)**. Also, if you can stay after, we appreciate your assistance with cleanup. 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.

**See you  
on Sunday!!!**





## Attention to those of you who commute to BCF on Florin Road!!!

The Sacramento County Department of Transportation has announced the Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvement Project on Florin Road between Franklin Boulevard and Power Inn Road **beginning November 2024** with anticipated completed in **September 2025**. When coming to the church, you may want to consider an alternate route to avoid the construction on Florin Road. If you would like to learn more about this project, visit [sacdot.saccounty.gov](http://sacdot.saccounty.gov) and under the PROJECTS & PROGRAMS tab, follow the "Transportation Projects/Current Projects/Florin Road Bicycle and Pedestrian Improvement Project" link. Always be alert and mindful when passing through a road construction project to keep the workers safe. At the completion of this project, we will have wider roadways for bikes, bus stops, reconstructed sidewalks, landscaped medians, new street lights, resurfaced roadways and a safer environment.



Project Limits: Franklin Boulevard to just west of State Route 99  
and just east of State Route 99 to Power Inn Road



## SANGHA INSIGHTS

By Elizabeth Fujii



Sharon Okamoto has been a member the Buddhist Church of Florin all of her life. Her parents were BCF members and she was raised in the church. She and Gary, her husband of 44 years, have three sons: Ryan, Nick and Alex. All three played basketball at Florin and Ryan and Nick are regular volunteers at church fundraisers.

Sharon majored in Sociology at Sac State and worked at Raley's Supermarket for 42 years. In her job as a Buyer, she was afforded the opportunity to travel to cities in Canada and throughout the US where she attended food shows and enjoyed being treated to meals at top restaurants like Nobu. In August, she attended the Mariners v. Giants game in Seattle to watch Rev. Kusonoki throw out the first pitch.

Since her retirement in 2019, Sharon has dedicated much of her time to the BCF. She and Gary always help out at the annual Golf Tournament and both support many other church fundraisers. Both can be found at the BCF on Thursdays working alongside a group of volunteers that maintain our BCF facilities and grounds.

Around three years ago Sharon decided to work on the BCF garden which runs alongside the south side of the church. The garden had gone unattended for some time so she started small, planting a few *uri* seeds. Her seasonal harvest has now grown to include tomatoes, chiles, eggplant and cucumbers - all of which are used when preparing lunches for the Thursday crew.

From working multiple fundraisers, to cooking meals at the BCF, to baking delicious desserts like "Auntie Kae's green pistachio cake" (a recipe from a past generation), Sharon is continuing a tradition of community at the Buddhist Church of Florin.

## 2024 Membership Dues

Thank you to the following members for their 2024 membership dues received in: September/October:

Frank Mouton (monthly)  
Eileen Nakahira & David Uyeno (monthly)

Masako Tomono  
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 [buddhistchurchofflorin.org](http://buddhistchurchofflorin.org) for more information & the BCF membership form.**

### Directory Corrections:

Paul Kashiwase email – paulkash1@comcast.net

Frank Yamanaka address change – 7707 Rush River Dr. #211 Sacramento, CA 95831

*Thank You!*



# 2025 MEMBERSHIP FORM

New Member     Name/Adress Change     Annual Renewal     Other \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name                      First Name                      Middle Initial                      Birthdate  
Telephone #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Home                                      Cell                                      Email  
Spouse

\_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name                      First Name                      Middle Initial                      Birthdate  
Telephone #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address                                      Cell                                      Email

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street                                      City                                      State                      Zip Code

Children at home under age 25: (List last name if different than above)

Last Name	First Name	Middle Initial	Birthdate		
_____	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Son	<input type="checkbox"/> Daughter
_____	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Son	<input type="checkbox"/> Daughter
_____	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Son	<input type="checkbox"/> Daughter
_____	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Son	<input type="checkbox"/> Daughter

**This information will be published in the church directory.**

### Membership Dues:

New Member (1st year)	\$150 per adult /\$300 couple/family
New Member Ages 80 - 84 (1st year)	\$100 per adult
New Member Ages 85 and over (1st year)	\$ 50 per adult
Ages 25 - 30	\$100 per person per year
Ages 31 - 79	\$280 per person per year/\$560 couple/family
Ages 80 - 84	\$190 per person per year
Ages 85 or older	\$100 per person per year

Check Payment Preference: \_\_\_ Annual    \_\_\_ Semi-Annual    \_\_\_ Quarterly    \_\_\_ Monthly (10 payments)

**Checks must be made out to BUDDHIST CHURCH OF FLORIN or the bank will return the check.**

Check if paying via PayPal: \_\_\_ (make sure you put in the PayPal notes, payment is for "membership dues")

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBER'S SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_

Membership dues are payable/due in January 2025. If joining mid-year, yearly dues are pro-rated for 2025.

For office use:	Date: _____	Amt Pd _____	Ck No. _____	Cash _____	Rec'd by: _____	Entered _____
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Buddhist Church of Florin  
**Governing Board Meeting Highlights**  
November 14, 2024

1. The Hondo kitchen remodel project has been updated to include stainless steel cabinetry. Appliances are ready for delivery. Once everything is prepared, the remodel itself is expected to take 4-6 weeks. It is anticipated to be complete in time for the Super Bowl food bazaar.
2. Sangha member Jennifer Kubo will receive a well-deserved award for Leadership from the Florin chapter of the JACL at their December Awards and Installation banquet. Congratulations Jennifer!
3. Two benches on the side of the hondo need replacement. There will be a campaign to collect funds in the new year selling bench plaques and bricks like the existing ones that can be seen on the grounds.
4. The security system has undergone an update, making the system easier to use and monitor.
5. There will be a road improvement project along Florin Rd from Franklin Blvd to Power Inn Rd from November 2024 to September 2025. Please be mindful that you may need to consider alternate routes to temple at some times.
6. Help! We need an historian. The position has been vacant for several years and our history needs an update. Any help is appreciated, and if you have ideas about how to manage digital information and photos, we'd love to hear it. Contact Eric Fujii ([efujii52@gmail.com](mailto:efujii52@gmail.com)).
7. If you have announcements or items you wish to have posted to our website, forward the information to Ginny Syphax ([gyamisyphax@gmail.com](mailto:gyamisyphax@gmail.com)) or Jan Takeuchi ([jtakeuchi51@att.net](mailto:jtakeuchi51@att.net)).





**Buddhist Church of Florin Dharma School**  
**News & Events- December 2024**  
**“B.R.A.I.D.” – Building Respectful Awareness**

Lately I've been thinking about a couple of book series that I enjoyed when I was younger. Wings of Fire, in particular, which is a series about tribes of dragons who are torn apart by a conflict on who the new queen of one of the tribes should be. While I have not revisited the series in quite a while, I still believe it had quite a hand in shaping the person I am today. I gained my love of writing through imagined tales of the untold background stories, and Wings of Fire was my go-to book series to read during the pandemic era. I, of course, have aged out of the targeted audience for the series, yet I still find myself looking back upon the times where reading Wings of Fire would be my muse for the original stories that swam through my mind. Though, I do feel somewhat guilty that I don't keep up with the author anymore, or her other works. However, life is like that, is it not? We go through phases, and just because you like something now doesn't mean that you'll still be as interested in it later. And just because you don't like it as much now, or don't feel as strongly about it now, doesn't take away anything from the past. Everything in life is always changing as Buddhism teaches. This is the concept of impermanence.

- Skylar Lam

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## Upcoming Dharma Activities



Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup> DS/JYBA Fundraiser Drive Thru (Steak Sandwiches and Udon)

Sunday, December 8<sup>th</sup> Bodhi Day, Luncheon  
**DS parents please help with setup, serve and clean up**



For this school year, Rev. Imada and Dharma School teachers will be focusing on the life of Shakamuni Buddha and the Buddhist Holidays.

Events in 2025 TBA



# Dec. BWA Dana Project



## Shriners Children's Northern California >

2425 Stockton Blvd.  
Sacramento, California 95817, United States

- Burn Care
- Orthopedics
- Pediatric Rehabilitation
- Pediatric Surgery



## Stuffed animals



## Run for a Safe Haven

Oct. 26  
2024



# Nov. 28 BWA Dana Project



The largest Thanksgiving Day fun run in the country.

Team: **BCF BWA**

Or can donate to individual registrants

East Sacramento on Thanksgiving Day or VIRTUALLY on your own.





kaki

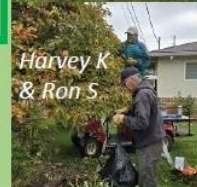
## Harvesting



Once again “all hands on deck” – this time picking, clearing away the debris from the loaded persimmon trees, or working in the surrounding area in late October until mid-November.



Dan M



Harvey K & Ron S



Tomio I



Mike K



George M

Gary Okamoto also picked the first batch of kaki just prior to

leaving for Japan with Sharon and the Kusakas.



Hama-rikyu Garden, Tokyo

**JoAnn Kusaka**

*Head meal coordinator*

**Sharon O/Jan T**

*Dessert*

**Jan Takeuchi**

*Chow mein*

**Linda Menda**

*Persimmon*

**Dan/Linda Menda**

*Tamale pie & fixin's*

*cupcakes*

**Eric Fujii**

*Lasagna*

**Tomio Ito**



*Morning treats*

Thanks to Dan/Linda Menda, Eric Fujii, & Jan for preparing meals for LOTUS during JoAnn's absence & to Ann Tsukamoto for also offering.



**Peggy Okabayashi**

*Anpan directly from Japan*

**Kenny Okabayashi**

*Olives for ea. member*





**Buddhist Church of Florin**  
*buddhistchurchofflorin.org*

**Super Bowl Food Fundraiser**

**Sunday, February 9, 2025 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM**

To Order:

1. Return your order form with payment
2. Orders **MUST** be postmarked by **January 17, 2025**
3. Make check payable to: **BUDDHIST CHURCH OF FLORIN**
4. Mail check and order form to:  
**Buddhist Church of Florin**  
**Super Bowl Food Fundraiser**  
**P. O. Box 292006**  
**Sacramento, CA 95829**
5. Email or phone orders will **not** be accepted

Pick up your order on February 9th, between 11:00 AM -1:00 PM  
 7235 Pritchard Road, Sacramento, 95828

Prepaid, contactless drive thru pick-up only

Any order not picked up by 2:30 will be considered a donation

ITEM	QTY	UNIT COST	TOTAL
<b>Chicken Plate</b> (½ teriyaki chicken, vegetable, rice, pickled vegetable, sliced oranges)		x \$20.00	
<b>Age Zushi</b> (8 pieces)		x \$10.00	
<b>Curry Rice</b>		x \$7.00	
<b>Udon</b> (Fresh udon; cooking instructions will be provided)		x \$7.00	
<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b>			

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

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