



# ONENESS

**Buddhist Church of Florin**



January 2025

Volume 1



Happy New Year! 2025 is here. In 2024, we shared many events and made many memories together. I hope to make new memories together this year as well and share the teachings of Buddhism and Shinran Shonin.

This year's zodiac sign is the Snake. The Snake is the sixth of the twelve Chinese zodiac signs according to the calendar. The Snake is said to symbolize "revival and rebirth," "wisdom," and "change," and is also said to be a year of new beginnings and a year of "bearing fruit." A year is a long time, and it brings about big changes in our lives. I hope that it brings good changes to all of you. In the teachings of Jodo Shinshu, it is very important that change occurs within oneself. There is a passage by Shinran Shonin in Koso Wasan that says:

Even my eyes are being hindered by blind passions, and I cannot see the light that grasps me.  
Yet the great compassion of Amida Buddha illuminates me always without tiring.  
[Shinran Shonin / KOSO WASAN 95]

The message of these words is "Buddha is always concerned about me, whether I realize it or not." Buddha is worrying about us and trying to teach us that "your suffering is created in your mind." However, even when we hear this, it is sometimes difficult to control our own minds. And the Buddha says "It is okay. You are fine just the way you are. Live your life as you are, and after you die, I will let you be born in my land (Pure Land), so live your life to the fullest now."

When you hear this, thinking "Well, if I can be reborn in the Pure Land no matter what I do, then it's okay to do bad things" is the wrong way to change. It's like purposely catching a cold because you know there is medicine that can cure most diseases/illnesses.

Instead, we should be happy that we are being watched over by the Buddha who is always concerned about us, and think, "I will repay the Buddha's wish with my actions." This is the change that the Buddha wants us to see.

## Last month's quiz answer

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

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

The answers are "Neba Neba" It represents stickiness. The other options have the following meanings:

1. Shaba Shaba (It's runny. It has a bit too much water in it. Watery. If you add too much water to the curry sauce mix, you will end up with "Syaba Syaba curry.")
2. Beto Beto (It's like getting keyhole lubricant on your finger.)
3. Sara Sara (It expresses the smoothness of desert sand falling slowly in your hand.)

## The next quiz



How do you say "Ta-da!" in Japanese when showing someone a surprise gift?

1. Jaan! 2. Juun! 3. Joon! 4. Jeen!

**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



**HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR!!!**



Buddhist Church of Florin wants to wish everyone a Happy, prosperous, and safe 2025! May 2025 be your best year ever!

**Safety issue:**

Please be aware and alert as there are more and more people trying to scam innocent people. There have been many scam emails impersonating ministers throughout the BCA and Hawaii ministers, Rev. Imada included. The email received will ask to communicate through email.

**Please note, Rev. Imada's email: [imadabca@gmail.com](mailto:imadabca@gmail.com)**

Do NOT reply/respond to any other email. If you are unsure, you can call 916-383-1831.



December 26, 2024

Dear Sangha,

Happy Holidays to all of our BCF members and a warm welcome to those who joined our Sangha in 2024. I would like to take a moment to update you on the following items that are a priority for us in 2025:

- Reverend Imada Immigration Status: We are happy to announce that Reverend Imada has received confirmation that the visa petition has been approved and he will be remaining with us! This long-awaited news is an excellent outcome for our temple.
- Kitchen Remodel: Starting in early March, 2025 the main kitchen will be renovated. The Board approved the project as the main kitchen is used extensively for fundraisers, associate events, and social events was in need of major repairs.
- Board Positions:
  - Newsletter: We are weighing options for continuing to publish the BCF Newsletter, Oneness. Ginny Yamamoto Syphax has kindly donated her time to prepare the monthly newsletter for several years and would like to hand-off the responsibility. Possibilities range from limiting publication to every other month, to quarterly, or not at all. I'm asking all of you if you are a "closet journalist" with knowledge of publication software — or if you want to suggest alternatives, please let me or another Board member.
  - 2026 President and 2026 Treasurer: These are two essential positions that need to be filled. We still have time to mentor potential candidates before they assume responsibilities.

Lastly, I'd like acknowledge our BCF affiliate organizations for everything they do for our members, for the church, and the community. And to our BCF members, Thank You all for everything you are doing for our church. Whether you are working quietly in the background, donating your time and skills or providing financial support - you are appreciated.

All the best to you and your families in 2025!

Eric Fujii, President  
Buddhist Church of Florin



## January Monthly Memorial (Shotsuki Hoyo) Service

The monthly memorial service for those who passed away during the month of January will be held on **Sunday, January 12, 2025 beginning at 10:00 am**. The persons who are noted in the Buddhist Church of Florin's (BCF) memorial records as having passed away in the month of January 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 2025 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.

Fuji, Chiyoko	01-29-1926	Nakamura, Hatsue	01-13-1938
Fujii, Minoru Richard	01-15-1998	Nakano, Seizo	01-22-1923
Fujiwara, Ichiro	01-19-1941	Nakashima, Chiyono	01-20-1929
Fukushima, Morio	01-08-1920	Negi, Eiju	01-23-1917
Furukawa, Hoichi	01-17-1968	Nishi, Beatrice Yaeka	01-21-2002
Hamataka, Toshio	01-22-2001	Nishi, Tamayo	01-29-1975
Hara, Yoshino	01-08-1919	Nishikawa, Phillip Takeshi	01-12-2016
Hirohata, Toku	01-30-1952	Oda, Toraichi	01-17-1957
Hiroshima, Infant	01-19-1915	Okamoto, Fumie	01-12-2010
Ikezaki, Suteichi	01-08-1955	Okimura, Kay Keiso	01-11-2012
Ishigaki, Hatsuo	01-22-1926	Okimura, Lucille Hironaka	01-10-1983
Iwamura, Hatsuye	01-20-2005	Okimura, Sadatoshi	01-18-1913
Kadokawa, Hide	01-17-1919	Okimura, Shigenobu	01-30-2019
Kadokawa, Kazo	01-07-1926	Onodera, Masami	01-03-1974
Kadokawa, Stillborn	01-15-1919	Otani, William Minoru	01-22-1987
Kadoya, Fusaye	01-14-2011	Sakamoto, Ayako Barbara	01-18-2014
Kanemoto, Dai	01-14-1986	Sakaoka, Hideo	01-18-1960
Kawamoto, Keichi	01-05-2009	Sako, Hisayo	01-04-1929
Kawamoto, Ted Yoshito	01-04-2014	Sasai, Masuzo	01-12-1942
Kawamoto, Yukio	01-20-1933	Sumida, Fujie	01-27-1919
Kawanishi, Karen	01-01-1970	Takehara, Hitoshi	01-18-1958
Kishaba, Kame	01-09-1981	Takehara, Kikumatsu	01-14-1948
Kodama, Masaichi	01-11-1957	Takeoka, Akemi	01-01-1976
Koyanagi, Yataro	01-02-1905	Takeoka, Hideyuki	01-01-1976
Kozumi, Alice Oda	01-06-1997	Takeoka, Kaoru	01-01-1976
Kozumi, Masahiro	01-07-2008	Tambara, Tomi	01-25-1919
Kumano, Ei	01-23-1963	Tanabe, Yoshio	01-17-1921
Kunugi, Teruichi	01-25-1911	Tanaka, George Tatsuto	01-12-2009
Kurima, Jitsuo	01-24-1920	Tanaka, Masaji (Baby)	01-13-1928
Kurima, Mikio	01-26-1920	Tanigawa, Sadaichi	01-06-1971
Kurima, Shizue	01-30-1910	Taniguchi, Koichi	01-01-1938
Kurima, Toshio	01-19-1911	Teranishi, Shigezo	01-18-1915
Maeda, Osamu	01-08-1932	Tokumura, Harry Hideo	01-05-2005
Maruki, Matsutaro	01-17-1917	Tokumura, Kurakichi	01-05-1958
Maruki, Yukiko	01-26-1941	Tomono, Isaburo	01-20-1959
Masuda, Zengo	01-08-1940	Toye, Misuno	01-14-1941
Matsui, Mitsue	01-08-1928	Toye, Uichi	01-12-1976
Menda, Arthur Shiro	01-27-2017	Tsukamoto, Hatsu	01-27-1970
Miyao, Jitsue	01-30-1911	Tsukamoto, Kanekichi	01-10-1955
Miyao, Masaye	01-11-2012	Wakabayashi, Tazuko	01-06-1975
Mukai, Infant	01-19-1916	Yamamoto, Hisano	01-28-1919
Muranaka, Sam	01-10-2007	Yamato, Tsutomu	01-05-1927
Nakagawa, Kaichi	01-31-1935	Yasukawa, Inosuke	01-27-1937
Nakagawa, Sumi	01-25-1973	Yasukawa, Tomo	01-07-1968
Nakahira, Tsutomu Ben	01-13-2002	Yumura, Stillborn	01-20-1920

### 2025 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>
2024	1 <sup>st</sup> Year	2001	25 <sup>th</sup> Year
2023	3 <sup>rd</sup> Year	1993	33 <sup>rd</sup> Year
2019	7 <sup>th</sup> Year	1976	50 <sup>th</sup> Year
2013	13 <sup>th</sup> Year	1926	100 <sup>th</sup> Year
2009	17 <sup>th</sup> Year		

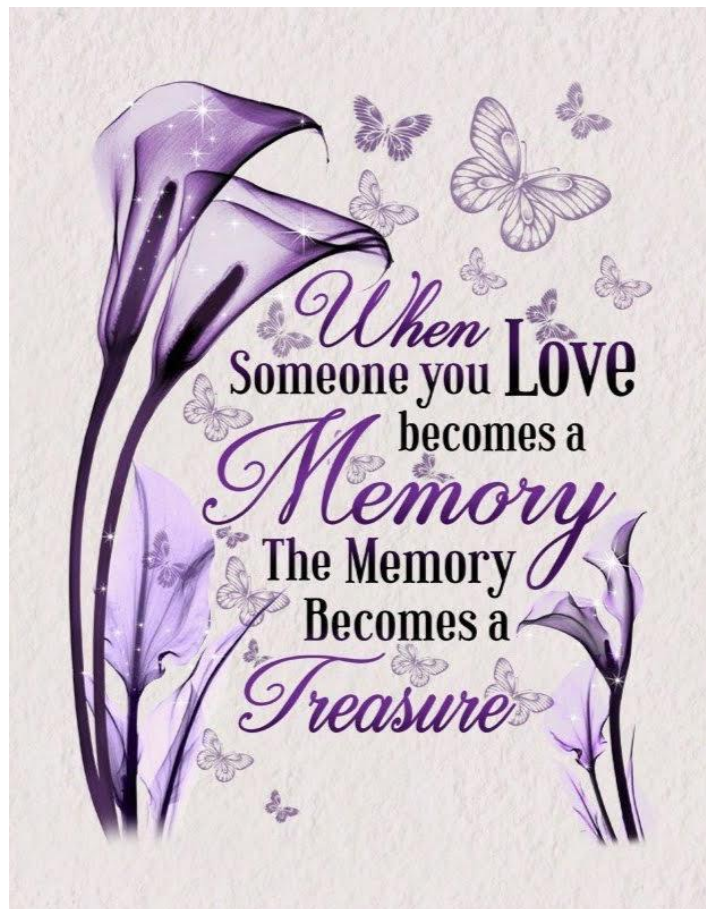
## CONDOLENCES

The Buddhist Church of Florin extends its deepest sympathies and condolences to the family members of the loved one that left our midst to be with Amida Buddha.

NAMO AMIDA BUTSU

FLORA NISHIDA

September 5, 1932 to December 21, 2024



# ***Happy New Year!!*** ***Join us for January Services***

## **New Year's Day Service**

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

***Following the service there will be a New Years's Joya-no-Kane done with arrows (ya) by the Kyudo Kai Florin Group.***

## **Ho-Onko Service, January Shotsuki Hoyo BCF General Meeting and New Year's Party**

***Sunday, January 12, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.***

***The New Year's Party will be a potluck luncheon.***

***Food assignment will be by last name: Desserts A thru G;***

***Salads H thru N; Main Dish O thru Z.***

***Please RSVP by January 8, 2025 to [florinbuddhist@gmail.com](mailto:florinbuddhist@gmail.com). Thank you!***

## **Nirvana Day and Family Service**

***Sunday, January 26, 2025 at 10:00 a.m.***

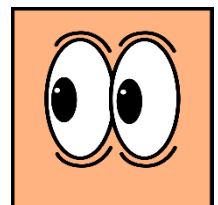
***Florin JACL Mochi Madness***

**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.

**See you  
on Sunday!!!**



## 2024 Membership Dues

Thank you to the following members for their 2024 membership dues received in November/December:

Frank Mouton (monthly)

Miki Askanas

John & Ailene Nishida

Burt & Carol Yoshioka (monthly)

## 2025 Membership Dues

Thank you to the following members for their 2025 membership dues received in December:

Sharon Arase

Harvey Kadoya

Ben & JoAnn Kusaka

Darrell Matsuda

Julia Mullican

Alice Okimura

Ryan & Sabrina Okimura

Margie Sunahara

***2025 membership dues are due January 31, 2025.***

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

***The Buddhist Church of Florin welcomes the following new member:***

***Darrell Matsuda***

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

***Thank You!***



# 2025 MEMBERSHIP FORM

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

	Last Name	First Name	Middle Initial	Birthdate
<b>Telephone #</b>	Home	Cell	<b>Email</b>	

**Spouse**

	Last Name	First Name	Middle Initial	Birthdate
<b>Telephone #</b>	Cell		<b>Email</b>	

**Address**

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 \_\_\_\_\_

Buddhist Church of Florin  
**Governing Board Meeting Highlights**  
December 11, 2024

1. Sensei Imada is planning a Japanese cooking class where he will lecture on how to make dishes such as Hiroshima-style okonomiyaki and butter and soy sauce flavored spaghetti. Watch for an announcement on the starting date. Also, Sensei holds a Buddhist Discussion group following the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday service and Japanese Study Class following the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday service. Everyone is welcome.
2. President Eric Fujii thanked Ann Tsukamoto for her tireless work with our scrip sales fundraiser. This year the program netted over \$2,400. Watch for details on how to purchase scrip in this newsletter, on our website (BuddhistChurchOfFlorin.org), and by email. The program is easy; you purchase scrip and the scrip company rebates a percentage of the sale to the church. Use the scrip for your everyday shopping or for gifts.
3. Kyudo-Kai (Japanese archery club) will begin a tradition on New Year's Day. Members will shoot 108 arrows, each carrying a small paper listing one of the 108 worldly sins, into a target, thus cleansing the world of that particular sin. This is a Zen tradition called Joya no Kane and signifies starting a new year fresh and is similar to the ringing of the Kansa Bell 108 times on New Year's Eve. Sangha are welcome to observe this new tradition following the New Year's Day Service.
4. Please remember to renew your membership. Membership forms can be found in this newsletter and on our website (BuddhistChurchOfFlorin.org).
5. The Hondo kitchen remodel project is planned to begin in mid-March. Since affiliates also use the kitchen, the Board is asking affiliates to contribute to the cost of the remodel.
6. Sacramento Kendo has a new Sensei, Shinobu Hashimoto with a 5<sup>th</sup> Dan ranking. Beginning in the New Year, the dojo will have classes on Tuesdays and Fridays for beginners (those without equipment) from 7:00 to 7:50 pm; Members with Kendo Bogu will practice from 8 to 9:30 pm.
7. 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.
8. There will be a road improvement project along Florin Road from Franklin Blvd. to Power Inn Road from November 2024 to September 2025. Please be mindful that you may need to consider alternate routes to temple at some times.





**Buddhist Church of Florin Dharma School**  
**News & Events- January 2025**  
**"B.R.A.I.D." – Building Respectful Awareness**

'Tis the holiday season, and queue the never-ending Christmas music on the radio! While I don't think I can stand to listen to "All I Want for Christmas is You" one more time, I do appreciate the holiday spirit that songs like that provide. Most importantly is the message of giving selflessly, which nowadays is hard to come by. It feels good to be recognized when you do something that is morally right, say, like donating to charity or lending your time to volunteer at a nonprofit. So, this is a shout out to everyone who donated to Troop 990's annual toy drive. At the time of reading, all of the toys should have been delivered to the children of UC Davis's Children's Hospital.

Thank you so much for your generous donations, arigato gozaimasu!

- Skylar Lam



---

### Upcoming Dharma Lesson/Activity

January 26, 2025	Participate in JACL Mochi Madness
February 23, 2025	Nirvana Day
March 9, 2025	Use Kind Words
March 23, 2025	Lumbini Garden
April 13, 2025	Hanamatsuri
April 27, 2025	Four Gates
May 11, 2025	Dharma School will present Mother's Day gifts
May 25, 2025	White Elephant
June 8, 2025	Graduation and Father's Day presentation

# January '25 BWA Dana Project



SACRAMENTO  
**LOAVES & FISHES**  
Established: Spiritual Services Since 1985



**Sister Nora's Place**

**WE ARE IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS TO PROVIDE  
NUTRITIOUS DINNERS FOR THE LADIES AT SISTER  
NORA'S PLACE!**

Florin BWA will be providing meals to residents of Sister Nora's Place this month.

## December BWA Dana Project

Holiday stockings were stuffed with scarves and hats made by members & toiletries, gloves, gift cards, etc. donated by various members. Nearly 60 stockings were "filled to the brim" then given to Loaves & Fishes.



## Luncheon at Osaka

Thanks, Sharon O for the lunch treat. Sharon shared her World Series winnings by treating members to an after-work luncheon.

Attendees included the Mendas who have returned to Hawaii and Ron Shimizu who has retired from LOTUS.



Linda and Danny. Thanks for all your help during the past few months. See you again in April.

**JoAnn Kusaka** Head meal coord.  
**Sharon Okamoto** Dessert  
**Tomio Ito** Morning treat

**Peggy Okabayashi** Japan treats  
**Walnuts**  
**Kenny Okabayashi** Kabucha from Takemori Farms  
**Jennifer Kubo** Dried persimmon



**Ginny Syphax** for delivering Satsuma mandarins for LOTUS members from Kenji Taguma of Taguma Orchards, West Sac.



**Buddhist Church of Florin  
Kikuyo and Kinjiro Nakatani Scholarship**

**Graduating High School Students  
And  
Students Attending a University, College or Vocational School**

You are encouraged to apply for the Buddhist Church of Florin's Kikuyo and Kinjiro Nakatani (Nakatani) Scholarships, if you meet the following criteria:

**\$5,000 Scholarship and \$3,000 Scholarship for Graduating High School Students**

- Must be graduating from high school this academic year;
- Plan to attend an accredited university, college or vocational school full time next year;
- Your parent is a member of the Buddhist Church of Florin (church membership dues are paid and current before the scholarship application deadline); and
- You have been a Florin Dharma School student prior to enrolling in a university, college, or vocational school.

Applicants will be judged on:

- Participation in the Florin Dharma School
- Participation in church program activities
- Participation in community programs
- Academic achievements
- Essay (approximately 300 words) on the topic of how Buddhism affects your life
- In-person interview

**\$5,000 Scholarship, \$3,000 Scholarship, \$2,500 Scholarship, \$1,500 Scholarship and \$1,000 Scholarship for Students Attending a University, College or Vocational School**

- Must be attending an accredited university, college or vocational school full time this academic year and plan to continue next year full time and for the full year;
- You or your parent is a member of the Buddhist Church of Florin (church membership dues are paid and current before the scholarship application deadline); and
- You have been a Florin Dharma School student prior to enrolling in a university, college, or vocational school.

Applicants will be judged on:

- Participation in a Jodo Shinshu Buddhist church and/or program activities
- Participation in community programs
- Academic achievements
- Essay (approximately 400 words) on the topic of how Buddhism affects your life
- In-person interview

Applications may be obtained from the Nakatani Scholarship Committee, Walter Menda, or Florin Dharma School Superintendent and YBA advisors in January 2025.

**Applications must be received by the Nakatani Scholarship Committee, Walter Menda, by midnight, April 1, 2025.**

Please be considerate and RSVP (email Sensei: [imadabca@gmail.com](mailto:imadabca@gmail.com)) if you plan on attending this cooking class. Sensei needs to shop for grocery/prepare for this class.

# Cooking Class

HIROSHIMA STYLE

OKONOMIYAKI

Sunday, Feb 23, 1PM @BCF



**REGISTER NOW**

[imadabca@gmail.com](mailto:imadabca@gmail.com)

To prepare enough ingredients, please RSVP.

**ATTENTION!!! CORRECTED ORDER FORM.** Please note the order form in last month's newsletter had the incorrect number of age sushi. If you haven't mailed in your order, please use this one. Thank you!

**Buddhist Church of Florin**

*buddhistchurchofflorin.org*

**Super Bowl Food Fundraiser**

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

**CORRECTED**

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> (6 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	

**Buddhist Church of Florin**

*buddhistchurchofflorin.org*

**Super Bowl Food Fundraiser**

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

**CORRECTED**

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> (6 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	