



ONENESS

Buddhist Church of Florin



April 2026

Volume 4

A Story of Sweet Rain and Flowers



In April, many Buddhist temples around the world celebrate Hanamatsuri. It is an important Buddhist event that celebrates the birth of Shakyamuni Buddha. In Japan, it is usually celebrated around April 8. Because it takes place during the season when many flowers bloom, it is called the Hana Matsuri, the Flower Festival.

During Hanamatsuri, temples prepare a small flower-decorated shrine called a Hanamido. Inside the shrine is a statue that represents the birth of the Buddha. Visitors gently pour sweet tea over the statue. This sweet tea represents a story that says sweet rain fell from the sky when the Buddha was born.

Shakyamuni Buddha was born more than 2,500 years ago in a place called Lumbini in India. Buddhist tradition says that when he was born, beautiful flowers bloomed and sweet rain fell from the sky. The whole world was filled with joy and blessing. This story is not only a historical description, it is also a symbolic way of expressing how important the Buddha's birth was for the world.

Of course, sweet rain did not literally fall from the sky. However, the expression carries an important meaning. The story tells us that the sky itself rejoiced at the Buddha's birth. "Sweet rain" was a way to express that joy. The Buddha was such an important person that the story says even the sky celebrated his birth. Later he would attain enlightenment, and his teachings would influence the world for more than 2,500 years. Not only the sky, but also the earth was said to rejoice. The earth expressed its joy by blooming many beautiful flowers. This is why the celebration is called the Flower Festival, or Hanamatsuri.

Another story says that the Buddha took seven steps immediately after he was born. Of course, this is not meant to be taken literally. It is a symbolic story meant to teach something important. Buddhism teaches that people live in different "worlds" depending on their state of mind. For example, there is the world of constant anger, the world of endless desire where we are never satisfied, the world of competition where we are always comparing ourselves with others, and the world where we simply drift through life without thinking deeply. In Buddhism, these different states are called the Six Realms. It means that our lives can move through many different states of mind. The Buddha's seven steps symbolize going beyond these six realms. They represent reaching a seventh level, the world of awakening, where one is no longer controlled by suffering. If we simply say, "A newborn baby cannot walk seven steps," the story might seem unrealistic. But when we look at the meaning behind the numbers and expressions, we begin to see the message the story is trying to share.

Many Buddhist stories use symbols and metaphors to express deeper truths. Hanamatsuri, the sweet tea, and the flower shrine all help remind us of those meanings. When we see children happily pouring sweet tea over

the statue, we may feel that Buddhism is not only a difficult teaching. It is also something that lives within simple and warm actions. I still remember pouring sweet tea at Hanamatsuri when I was a child. Using a small ladle to gently pour the tea may have seemed like a small moment at the time. But looking back now, it may have been one of my first meaningful connections with Buddhism.

Surrounded by the flowers of spring, we celebrate the birth of the Buddha and take a moment to reflect on our own lives. I hope we can share this warm and meaningful time together. Please join us for Hanamatsuri. Namo Amida Butsu

Last month's quiz answer

Why is the Pure Land described with many shining colors such as “blue shining blue light” and “red shining red light”?

- A. To show that it is made of expensive jewels
- B. To teach that each being shines in its own unique way
- C. To describe the weather in the Pure Land

Correct Answer: B. To teach that each being shines in its own unique way

The many colors in the Pure Land are not just decoration.
They express that each being has its own unique light and value.
Just as blue shines as blue and red shines as red,
each life shines in its own way without comparison.
This teaches respect for individuality and the beauty of diversity in Buddhism

Next Quiz

What do the Buddha's “seven steps” symbolize in the Hanamatsuri story?

- A. That the Buddha was a very strong baby
- B. Going beyond the Six Realms to reach awakening
- C. A journey across India

(Answer will be revealed next month!)

In Gassho,

Rev. Noritaka Imada

If you need to contact Rev. Imada, you can email him at: imadabca@gmail.com (916) 383-1831

April Monthly Memorial (Shotsuki Hoyō) Service

The monthly memorial service for those who passed away during the month of April will be held on **Sunday, April 12, 2026 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 April are listed below. If you have a homyo (Buddhist name) on a card, please bring it with you for placement on the onajin (altar) before the service. If the year 2026 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 to make special memorial arrangements. Please inform Lois Kashiwase of any corrections or additions to the list.

Collins, Donna	04-16-2015	Nakano, Tsuyuko	04-25-1930
Deguchi, Shoji	04-26-1933	Nakashima, Percy Shotetsu	04-25-2004
Fujii, Shigetaro	04-10-1935	Nakatani, Mamoru	04-06-1995
Fujikawa, Masami	04-27-1915	Ohta, Kotoshiro	04-20-1969
Fujiwara, Atsumu	04-26-1930	Okamoto, Tadanao	04-28-2006
Fujiwara, Kiyoshi	04-26-1930	Okasaki, George Kunito	04-07-2007
Fujiwara, Koki	04-26-1930	Okimura, Misaye Doris	04-25-2016
Fukushima, Hanako	04-10-1913	Oku, Tadao	04-22-1917
Furukawa, Cindy Miyeko	04-17-2023	Ouchida, Hiroharu	04-17-1986
Furukawa, George Shigeto	04-26-2010	Sakakihara, Mitsuzo	04-??-1942
Furukawa, Mary Matsuno	04-13-2010	Sasaki, Kikuo	04-10-1940
Hamataka, Kaoru	04-22-1913	Senda, Iwao	04-08-1926
Hamataka, Yuriko	04-03-1928	Shintaku, Sato	04-02-1938
Imahara, Chizuko	04-10-1932	Sumida, Shozo	04-01-1920
Imahara, Haruko	04-20-1927	Sumida, Yuki	04-14-1982
Imahara, Thomas	04-02-1979	Takata, Fusako	04-11-1923
Inouye, Tokuji	04-01-1963	Takeoka, Mitsue	04-25-1987
Irikawa, Tajiro	04-28-1962	Tanaka, Sekiyo	04-23-1919
Iwamura, Minoru	04-07-2006	Tanigawa, Jane Haruko	04-29-2009
Kadotani, Tsunekichi	04-09-1958	Taniguchi, Toshi	04-24-1957
Kajita, Mariko	04-20-2009	Tanihara, Kisaku	04-27-1928
Kakutani, Minoru	04-29-1999	Tanihara, Tamayo	04-09-1976
Kanenaga, Eddie Kanji	04-23-2020	Terminel, Margaret Ann	04-13-2005
Kanenaga, Kazuko	04-04-1980	Tominaga, Tamotsu	04-11-1919
Kato, Heizaburo	04-28-1959	Tsuda, Hachihei	04-18-1957
Kato, Hiroyuki	04-16-1942	Tsukamoto, Samuel Kaneichi	04-19-1985
Kato, Masaharu	04-09-1975	Tsukamoto, Arlene Michiye	04-28-2009
Kawamoto, Stacey Kiyoko	04-22-2016	Uno, Hiromu	04-23-2004
Kawanishi, Atsushi	04-04-1994	Urokogata, Yoshikazu	04-21-1935
Kozumi, Karoku	04-14-1966	Yamamura, Kaneto	04-04-1973
Kuroda, Tomeno	04-22-1973	Yamanaka, Yoshimitsu	04-25-1985
Maeda, Benkichi	04-21-1939	Yoshida, Suchiyo	04-05-1987
Matsui, Tsuta	04-24-1990	Yoshimi, Yajuro	04-24-1941
Matsui, Roy	04-11-2020	Yoshinaga, Kimiyo	04-17-1916
Minamide, Koharu	04-20-1975		
Miyao, George Hiromu	04-21-2001		
Miyata, Hikoichi	04-16-1922		
Mizusaka, Iwao	04-14-1926		
Morishige, Mitsuru	04-04-1916		
Morita, Goro	04-04-1937		
Nagai, Fumie	04-16-1919		
Nakagawa, Infant	04-25-1913		

Join us for Sunday Service

**HANAMATSURI and April Shotsuki Hoyo
and Family Service**

Sunday, April 12, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

***Hanamido Decorating on Saturday, April 11th at 6 pm.
Please donate flowers and come help decorate the Hanamido.
Light dinner will be provided. Thank you!***

Family Service

Sunday, April 26, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

Services Officiated by: Rev. Noritaka Imada

There will be a luncheon following the **Hanamatsuri** service on April 12, 2026 and so in order to prepare enough for everyone, we ask that you please rsvp to florinbuddhist@gmail.com. Thank you!

***** The front gates may be locked 15 minutes after the start of scheduled services and/or activities.***

In the event of a change, we will post the updates on our website at buddhistchurchofflorin.org; Facebook page and send out a message to our email list.

SAVE THE DATE!



2026 OBON FESTIVAL



Saturday, JULY 18, 2026



Mark your calendars and spread the word to your
Family and Friends to join us to experience:
Obon Odori Dancing; Japanese Culture Exhibits and
Demonstrations; Delicious Food and Shaved Ice!
Obon Odori Practice: July 7-9 and 14-16 at 7 pm



*Our first Florin Obon Planning Committee meeting will be
Monday, April 6, 2026 at 7:30 pm via zoom. If you are
interested in volunteering and helping with the festivities,
please contact Lois Kashiwase at loiskash2@comcast.net or
916-769-4855. Thank you!!*

"Obon, Obon, it's Festival Day!"



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 give 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.

The Nokotsudo Committee has approved a 2026 niche price reduction campaign running from April 1, 2026, through May 31, 2026. The Regular (Couple) niche will be reduced by \$1,500 and the Large (Extended Family) niche will be reduced by \$2,500. This special offer is only available to Buddhist Church of Florin members.

If you would like information about the Nokotsudo and/or the availability of niches, please contact Peggy Okabayashi at sachieokaba@gmail.com.

In Gassho.

The Nokotsudo Committee

2026 Membership Dues

Thank you to the following members for their 2026 membership dues received in February/March:

Tracy & Jason Adams
Juline Fujii & Dave Sisler
 Julia Mullican
 Norma Nakata
 Janice Shintaku

Tyson & Denise Fong
 Yuki Hoffman
 Alma Murata
 Erik & Katie Nishida
 Richard & Connie Yee

Kay Freeman
 George & Judie Miyao
 Andy Noguchi & Twila Tomita
 Bette Okamoto
 Burt & Carol Yoshioka (monthly)

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

Membership Dues can be paid online at buddhistchurchofflorin.org



2026 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>
2025	1 st Year	2002	25 th Year
2024	3 rd Year	1994	33 rd Year
2020	7 th Year	1977	50 th Year
2014	13 th Year	1927	100 th Year
2010	17 th Year		



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

2026 Membership Form

Telephone #	Last Name	First Name	Middle Initial	Date of Birth
	Home	Cell	Email	
Spouse	Last Name	First Name	Middle Initial	Date of Birth
	Home	Cell	Email	
Address	Street	City	State	Zip Code

Last Name	First Name	Middle Initial	Date of Birth		
				☐ Son	☐ Daughter
				☐ Son	☐ Daughter
				☐ Son	☐ Daughter
				☐ Son	☐ Daughter

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
Renewal Ages 25 - 30	\$100 per person per year
Renewal Ages 31 - 79	\$280 per person per year/\$560 couple/family
Renewal Ages 80 - 84	\$190 per person per year
Renewal Ages 85 or older	\$100 per person per year

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

MEMBER'S SIGNATURE: _____

Membership dues are payable/due in January 2026. If joining mid-year, yearly dues are pro-rated for 2026.

For office use:	Date:	Amt Pd	Ck No.	Cash	Rec'd by:	Entered
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Buddhist Church of Florin Dharma School
News & Events- April 2026
“B.R.A.I.D.” – Building Respectful Awareness

Reawakening

Erupting from the
Life-blood of the earth itself
Green across the lands

-Skylar Lam

Upcoming Dharma Lesson/Activities

April 11, 2026
April 12, 2026
2026
2026

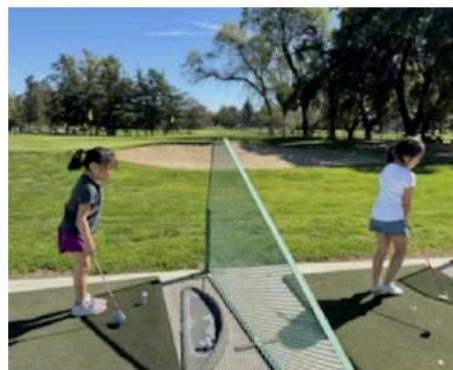
Hanamido decorating and dinner
Hanamatsuri
Game Day and mini Undokai TBA
Fieldtrip to Lodi Buddhist Church TBA



Dharma School Golf
by Elizabeth Fujii

On March 8, 2026 Dharma School held its first golf clinic for kids. Organized by BCF Sangha Member Mark Hayashida, seven adorable children launched their future golf careers with a warm-up session followed by range practice and putting. Although they are too young to participate in the BCF Golf Tournament this upcoming June, they are honing their skills so that they can join us on the course one day soon.

Currently, a second clinic is scheduled on March 22nd. For details or additional information, please contact Mark at (916) 275-1336.



April '26 BWA Dana Project



South Sacramento Interfaith Partnership

Non-perishable food items

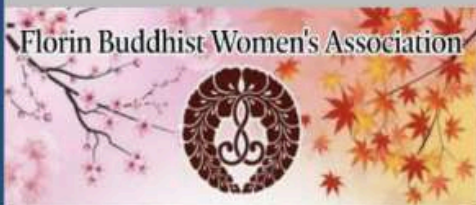
March '26 BWA Dana Project



Elk Grove

American Cancer Society Discovery Shop locations are in need of your gently used clothing, shoes, jewelry, housewares and furniture.

Upcoming 2026 Activities



ESCAPE ROOM/in DOCO

August or September



Sunday, May 3, 1 pm



JUXTAPOSITION

Instances of "juxtaposition" were evident this month on the church grounds with the winter-early spring blend of weather-related displays. Although difficult to view on the scaled-down images, the Shinran statue, Heisei Garden, & lion cub rocks display moss.

At the same time, spring is evident with the pine candles & cherry tree blossoms perflerating throughout the grounds. *Moss gardens in Buddhism, (Zen traditions) represent harmony, age, and the beauty of impermanence. Moss creates tranquil, mindful spaces that encourage meditation, reflection, and appreciation for nature's quiet, slow growth.*

[AI overview/YouTube videos]



Lion cub visits
Isle of Trees
area (front of
church)

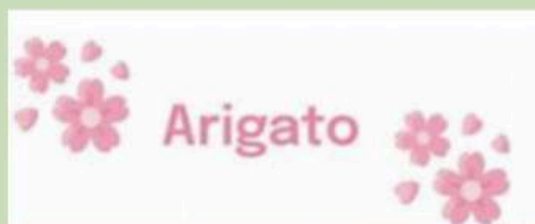


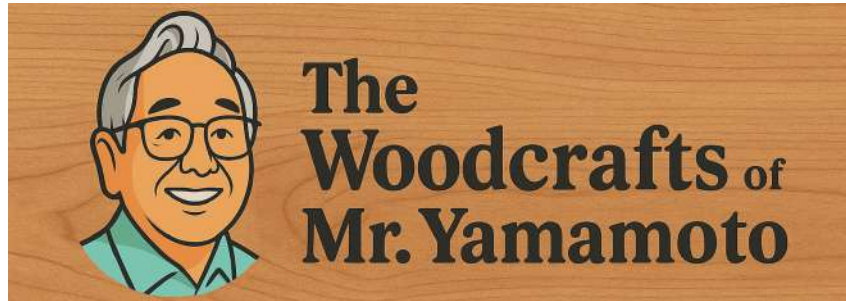
GARDEN PREP

Clearing garden area (Harvey); sowing uri seeds (Sharon O).



JoAnn Kusaka	Head food preparer
Sharon Okamoto	Weekly desserts
P/K Okabayashi	Mop system
Jan Takeuchi	Mop system
Tomio Ito	See's candy/new containers
Lloyd Okimura	Corn beef (St. Patrick's Day)
BWA (Sandy O./Activities)	Food sale proceeds





Sakura - Cherry Blossoms



With the arrival of spring, many flowers begin to bloom around us. April is also the season of Hanamatsuri, when we celebrate the birth of Shakyamuni Buddha.

The artwork we introduce this month is a wood carving inspired by cherry blossom petals. The gentle shape of each petal expresses the warmth of spring and the quiet joy of life.

Cherry blossoms bloom beautifully, and then they fall. Their beauty reminds us of our own lives and the importance of this present moment.

Shinran Shonin wrote:

"Like cherry blossoms, we may think tomorrow will come, but a storm may arise in the night."

Even the most beautiful flowers will fall someday. That is why we cherish what is in front of us now and enjoy this moment fully.

Our lives are the same. What we often take for granted is actually something very precious.

Together with the message of Hanamatsuri, that all life is blessed, we hope this artwork helps you feel the kindness of spring and the value of life.

Namo Amida Butsu

Noritaka Imada

ONLINE JAPANESE LEARNING

Learn from home

EVERY 4TH THURSDAY
7:00 PM
ON ZOOM

RSVP NOW

imadabca@gmail.com ✉

Cooking Class

APRIL 26TH, AT BCF
AFTER SUNDAY SERVICE

MISO BUTTER CORN RAMEN



REGISTER NOW

imadabca@gmail.com

To prepare enough ingredients, please RSVP.
Please bring your own apron, thank you!

This class is free of charge.
Donations are greatly appreciated

Sho San Shiki (Hatsu Mairi)

May 10 at 10am



Sho San Shiki (First Temple Visit) / Gotan-e / May Shotsuki / Mother's Day / Family Service will be held on May 10, 2026 at Buddhist Church of Florin.

Sho San Shiki literally means "the ceremony of a child's first visit to the temple." In this special service, children wear ceremonial robes for the first time, receive an Onenju, break a kusudama (Japanese Piñata), receive sweets, and take commemorative photos. It is a joyful celebration marking their first connection to the Dharma.

This ceremony is a way to report the birth of a child to the Buddha and to take the first step in raising them within the Buddhist tradition. It is also a meaningful moment for parents as they begin their journey of parenthood in the light of the Dharma, expressing gratitude for the preciousness of life.

Gotan-e celebrates the birthday of Shinran Shonin. Let us remember Shinran as a young child who took tonsure and became a Buddhist monk at age nine, and celebrate Mother's Day in appreciation of all parents and caregivers.

Children's robes will be available at the temple. Please RSVP for participating children in advance. florinbuddhist@gmail.com


FUNDRAISER

BUDDHIST CHURCH OF FLORIN GOLF TOURNAMENT

Includes 18 holes of GOLF, CART, RANGE BALLS, MULLIGANS,
MIRACLE PUTT, SNACK GOODIE BAG, SOMEN & SAKE!

WHEN: **Thursday - June 4, 2026** **WHERE:** Teal Bend Golf Club

8:00AM Shotgun (Check-in starts at 7:00AM)

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT *must be received by MAY 28th, 2026*

A)	SAME LOW PRICE! TELL US WHO IS GOLFING:	
#1		\$95.00
#2		\$95.00
#3		\$95.00
#4		\$95.00
<i>OPTIONAL Donation:</i>		\$
		\$

B) PROVIDE YOUR GROUP'S CONTACT INFO (one email & phone number:

C) REGISTER AND PAY ONE OF THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

- 1) **ONLINE:** Use QR Code to register and make ONE total payment for your group.
- 2) **CHECK:** Made payable to Buddhist Church of Florin. Mail registration form and check(s) to E.Fujii 325 34th Street, Sacramento 95816 (mail or drop in door mail slot. **DO NOT** mail to the church)
- 3) **VENMO:** Complete and mail registration form to E.Fujii 325 34th Street, Sac, 95816; And Venmo total payment for your group to: @Elizabeth-Fujii-3.



D) OTHER STUFF:

- Format: Individual play 2-person Blind-Draw
- Single players & twosomes are welcome; will be matched with other players.
- Need more info? Contact Eric Fujii at efujii52@gmail.com or cell (916) 955 1954



Buddhist Church of Florin Annual Dharma School Camping Trip

Come join the Buddhist Church of Florin
at its annual camping trip!!!



When: July 23-26, 2026

Where: Donner Memorial State
Camp grounds

Things to Do:

Biking, fishing, swimming,
campfire with family style meals
prepared by our camp chefs and
most of all lots of fun, fun, and
more fun!



To reserve a spot, please call or text:

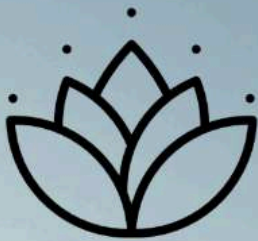
Kenny Teranishi @ 916-717-0297, Craig Shijo @ 916-206-
8508, Sharon Arase @ 916-549-40 by **July 4, 2026.**

Important: There are a limited number of camp sites;
therefore. please make your reservation(s) by the deadline



Hope to see you there!





NORTHERN CALIFORNIA
FAMILY CONFERENCE

F.U.N.

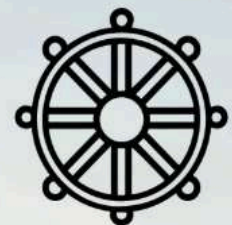
FRIENDSHIP - UNDERSTANDING - NEMBUTSU

*Join us for a day of sharing the
dharma, making new friends and
having fun. This is open to
everyone of all ages!*

BUDDHIST CHURCH OF STOCKTON

2820 Shimizu Dr. Stockton, CA 95203

2026.10.10
9 AM - 3 PM



SAVE THE DATE!!!

APRIL 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	1	2	3	4
5 No Service	6	7	8 BWA Crafts 10am	9 Lotus Club 8am Rev. Imada 9am-4pm BCF Board Mtg 7:30pm	10 Rev. Imada 9am-4pm	11 Hanamido decorating 6pm
12 Shotsuki & Hanamatsuri Service at 10	13 Rev. Imada 9am-4pm BWA Mtg 7:30pm	14	15 BWA Social 10am	16 Lotus Club 8am	17	18 Kimekomi Workshop 9am-4pm
19 No Service	20 BEC Mtg 7:30pm	21	22	23 Lotus Club 8am Rev. Imada 9am-4pm Japanese Class 7-8pm	24 Rev. Imada 9am-4pm	25
26 Family Service at 10 Cooking Class after the service	27 Rev. Imada 9am-4pm	28	29	30 Lotus Club 8am	1	2

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Phone: 916-383-1831
Website: www.buddhistchurchofflorin.org

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IN THIS ISSUE:

REV. IMADA'S MESSAGE	1-2
SHOTSUKI NAME	3
SERVICE/HOJI SCHEDULE	4-5
DONATION	6
NOKOTSUDO	7
MEMBERSHIP	8-9
DHARMA SCHOOL	10
BWA	11
LOTUS CLUB	12
THE WOODCRAFTS OF MR. YAMAMOTO	13
FLYERS	14-15
SHOSANSHIKI (HATSU MAIRI)	15
GOLF TOURNAMENT	16
CHURCH CAMPING	17
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA FAMILY CONFERENCE	18
APRIL/MAY CALENDARS	19-20