



Buddhist Church of Lodi

Newsletter

23 North Stockton St., Lodi, CA 95240-2214
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<http://lodibuddhist.org/>

Sunday, April 1, 2018

9:30 AM Shotsuki Memorial Service
Church Board & Obon Planning Meeting after service

Thursday, April 5, 2018

1:00 PM - English Dharma Class

Friday, April 6, 2018

9:00 AM – LBWA meeting in office
4:00 PM – Japanese Class

Saturday, April 7, 2018

9:00 AM - Hanamido Decorating

Sunday, April 8, 2018

10:00 AM - Hanamatsuri Service
 Luncheon following service

Tuesday, April 10, 2018

11:30 AM – Ochamomi Hoza
12:00 Noon – Shinyukai Luncheon

Sunday, April 15, 2018

9:30 AM – Family Sunday Service

April 27 – 29, 2018

Federation of Dharma School Teacher Conference

Hanamido Decorating – April 7, 2018

Flowers, Greenery, and Helpers needed! April 7, Saturday is our annual Hanamido decorating. Any flowers or other shrubbery from your yard are needed to beautify the structure in celebrating the birth of Siddhartha Gutama. Please drop off any plants by 9:00 AM, and if you have any time, please join in and help!

Hanamatsuri – April 8, 2018

Please come to our special service at 10:00 AM. After you use the ladle to bathe the statue of the baby Buddha, please join us for Loco Moco Lunch in the annex prepared by Chef Warren Ito. Side dishes and salads will be provided by families whose last names begin with A – H and L- Y. Families whose last names begin I- K will provide desserts for 6 to 8 people.

Construction of new fencing surrounding the church property will begin in a few weeks. Please use caution around the construction areas. Due to the homeless population, vandalism, trespassing, garbage/trash left on the property, it was resolved that the board take a proactive approach to protect the church.

[DS=Dharma School, AD=Adult Discussion)

The newsletter is a monthly publication of the **Buddhist Church of Lodi**, 23 N. Stockton Street, Lodi, CA 95240. There is no subscription charge for members and friends, but donations are welcome.

Cough of Nenbutsu

In Birth of Shakyamuni Buddha

Rev. Nobuo Miyaji, Lodi Buddhist Church

Happy Hana Matsuri !!!

In order to live in a happy life, we should solve the fundamental problem of our life. Look at Shakyamuni Buddha; he had lived to 80 years old. Shinran Shonin had 90 years life span. And Rennyō Shonin died at the age of 85 years. In those days, people died before 35 to 50 years old. Their long lives are amazing and almost miracles for us.

I believe strongly that they could live so long because of they solved their fundamental problem of being a human being. At the age of 35, Shakyamuni Buddha did, and Shinran Shonin at the age of 29. They solved the problem of their lives as human being, that is to say, the problem of “birth and death”.

After they solved that problem, they could live their lives with the most easiness. In other words, they can say that they could die anytime without any fear and also they could live until their last moment without any regret. It is of course that they did not hurry up to solve the problem of being a human being to only prolong their lives. It was not an important issue for them to prolong a life or have worldly happiness. They looked to a life to be able to live and die with the satisfaction that they could live without any kind of regret to their lives. For them, to find the sole purpose to live in this world as a human being is the most important thing.

At the age of 35, Shakyamuni Buddha had encountered the Amida Buddha's Great Compassion under the Bodhi tree and Shinran Shonin at the age of 29 was embraced by Amida Buddha's Compassion through the guidance of Honen Shonin. After their experience, they could say that they could die any time without fear and they could live until their last moment without regret. This is the world of Shinjin, which Jodo Shinshu Buddhist calls, and the spiritual world of absolute comfortable and free, ‘Enlightenment’.

Without any discrimination, this absolute comfortable and free spiritual world is open to everybody.

Shakya-muni taught us that everything in this world is just like a dream and illusion. That is why you don't need to worry about your evilness and foolishness. You are already embraced by Amida

Buddha's Compassion. In other words, there is a Buddha's nature within. So, don't ask others side help you, but look inside of yourself. Please try to hurry up to find your own seed of Shinjin in yourself as soon as possible.

Namo Amida Butsu.

2017 Memorial Service Schedule

2017 is the memorial year for those who passed away in:

2016	1 year	2001	17 year
2015	3 year	1993	25 year
2011	7 year	1985	33 year
2005	13 year	1968	50 year

BUDDHIST CHURCH OF LODI

General Meeting March 4th

Present: Judy Waters, Amy Morita, Steve Ogata, Shirley Komatsu, Gary Funamura, and Hannah Egi. Chair Judy Waters called the meeting to order with gassho at 10:33 AM.

Minutes: The minutes of February meeting were approved as corrected.

Treasurers' Reports: General Treasurer, Bruce Sasaki could not submit a report, it was too early in the month to access last month's activity.

Special Treasurer, Steve Ogata submitted a spreadsheet of the various bank accounts and their activity for the month of February. He gave us preliminary numbers for the Spaghetti Dinner, which proceeds go into the Building Fund. The costs of the cakes were donated by Rod and Patti Kaida, the Wagyu beef donated by Glen and Keiko Nakagawa, and tomato sauce by Cortipassi Brothers.

Minister's Report: Hannah Egi reported that she along with Gordon and Tatsuko Nitta attended the 2018 BCA Ministers' Association and National Council Meeting banquet on Feb. 24 at Doubletree Hotel where Rev. Nobuo Miyaji was honored for as retiring BCA minister. Steve Ogata took photos.

Correspondence: Thank you for Harriet Matsumoto for orei from church.

LBWA: Movie Day will be held on Thursday, March 8th. The movie is “The Tale of Zatoichi”, introduction of the legend of Zatoichi, the blind Samurai.

Thank you to Mitsuko Kishi, Miyo Kawamura, Pat Kishida, Kazuko Shimozaki, Amy Morita, Judy Waters and Rose Sasaki for making Sushi; David

Morimoto for cooking the rice; Judy Waters for making the mini brookies; Hannah Egi for making BBQ meatballs and fresh fruit for the 2018 BCA National Council Meeting.

Shinyukai: We enjoyed beef stew, salad, and rice.

Thank you to Mitsuko Kishi who cooked the beef stew. We had chocolate cake for dessert. Thanks to kitchen helpers who helped cook and serve.

Dharma School: Hannah Egi reported the students are continuing building the Lodi Temple using Minecraft and making decorations for Hanamatsuri Luncheon, which will be in the annex this year. At the last NCDSTL meeting, members commented that Minecraft project could qualify for the Federation Bishop Fund.

Propagation Committee: Still have funds, may be used when the new Rev. comes.

Building and Maintenance: Gary Funamura reported Custom Iron Works have begun construction on the fencing and gates. When installation begins, the property will need security for about 3 days.

Old Business:

a. Thank you to LBWA ladies who volunteered to make Inari sushi and Spam Musubi. I think everyone had a very good time visiting and enjoying the food.

b. Judy Waters updated the funeral book given to the families. Hannah Egi currently has it and will pass it onto Ron Oye and Fred Nagata.

c. Bruce Sasaki and his helpers will cook tri tip and salmon for Keiro Luncheon. LBWA is looking into a gift for Keiro- age church members. Sign ups letters will go out in the April and May newsletters.

New Business:

a. The Obon/Bazaar will be here soon. Gordon Nitta will chair the event. Do we want to keep the same menu? Containers /supplies should be ordered soon. Hannah Egi suggested that we order most supplies, locally, Smart and Final or Costco.

b. Fence construction should commence soon.

c. Fred Nagata will review the job description of the new minister.

d. Copier, Steve Ogata did a cost analysis of updating our current printer. The maintenance cost was too much for the amount of pages printed.

Amy Morita and Judy Waters volunteered to come in the office to make 100 copies to help the office workers if they were unable to get them printed.

e. Other: Hannah Egi resigned as LBWA Co-President due to health reasons, scheduling conflicts, and not enough help during my months of office.

Dates to remember:

April 8, 2018 Hanamatsuri Service 10:00 AM Loco Moco Luncheon in annex

May 20, 2018 Gotan-E Service, Keiro Luncheon at Community Hall

June 23-24, 2018 Obon Bazaar

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned with gassho at 11:30 AM.

Submitted by Hannah Egi

LBWA UPDATE – Judy Waters

Thank you to the ladies/gentleman who helped with making the inari and spam sushi for the BCA conference.

We all enjoyed the movie "The Tale of Zatoichi". Introduction of the legend of Zatroichi, the blind Samurai. Thank you Judy Waters for spam sushi (Hisa Nakamura donated \$20), popcorn from Rod and Patti Kaida, cookies and water from Ken Egi, and Pat Kishida for parfaits. NO MOVIE FOR APRIL.

Next meeting is April 1, 2018 at 9am in the office.

DHARMA SCHOOL – Jill Walter

As spring approaches we look at all the foliage growing around us. Springtime signifies the birth of Lord Buddha, which we typically celebrate on April 8. Dharma School students help celebrate this special observance by decorating our churches Hanamido. We rely on the generous donations of foliage and flowers from our members to make this possible. We also celebrate Hanamatsuri by enjoying the luncheon. Following our special day of observance, Dharma School students will continue to work on our digital temple to ultimately share with our members.

SHINYUKAI – Judy Waters

\$20 Birthday Donation: Nancy Burgess

Jane Motoyama (\$25)
Donations:

\$25.
 Frances Nakahara
 20 lbs Sugar David/Janet
 Morimoto
 Tsukemono Roy and
 Chieko Tashima

We enjoyed meatball cabbage soup, asparagus miso-ae, kabocha, and rice.

Thank you to Mitsuko Kishi who cooked the delicious soup. Thanks to kitchen helpers who helped cook and serve. We had 34 people enjoy the luncheon and had 4 take out lunches.

Next month's menu will include: Umani, asparagus miso-ae, rice, and dessert.

If you need a ride to attend Shinyukai, please feel free to ask us. You can call the church office and leave a message. We will make arrangements for your transportation. Also, if you cannot come to Shinyukai, your family or friends can pick up the Bento. Please call the church office to make a reservation for your takeout bento. No Enryo (えんりよ), please.

SCRIP UPDATE – Kelly Yamane

Thank you for supporting our scrip program! Do you shop online at **Amazon?** If so, please try **AmazonSmile**. It is a simple and automatic way for you to shop, at no cost to you. To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device.

On your first visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), you need to select **Buddhist Church of Lodi** to receive donations from eligible purchases before you begin shopping. AmazonSmile will remember your selection, and then every eligible purchase you make at smile.amazon.com will result in a donation. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases.

Thank you to all who are participating in our scrip program! If you have any questions, please contact

Kelly Yamane at 365-7124 or any of the scrip supporters listed below.

Scrip orders will be due by 10 a.m. on the order date. Please note that scrip pick-up days are changing to Tuesdays.

March Scrip Supporters

Arleen Mataga
 Chris Smith
 Hannah Egi
 Harriet Matsumoto
 Haru Oga
 Janet Morimoto
 Joy Sasaki
 Kelly Yamane
 Kenneth Egi
 LBWA
 Liza Kanemura

Calendar Dates:

Scrip orders due: 4/6 at 10 a.m. (Friday)
 Scrip pick-up: 4/17 (**Tuesday**)

2018 WISH LIST – Donations may be made in any amount to be used towards purchasing your specified item:

Gift card (Scrip) from Staples

ORGANIST

Buddhist Church of Lodi is in search of an organist (or pianist) for Sunday Services. If you or you know of anyone with musical skills who would like to volunteer, please contact the church office. Thank you for your consideration.

THANK YOU:

Ken Heffel of Vienna Nursing and Rehabilitation Center for his donation of stainless steel prep table. We will put it to good use.

TAI CHI

We had a very nice turnout for the Tai-chi class on March 5th and 13th.

Bing Hui from Stockton has been teaching for 16 years. He is ranked as Gold Eagle; the highest rank

in Tai Chi. This low impact activity is suitable for people of all ages. It is a gentle, stress-reducing exercise, and with regular practice, will improve strength, flexibility and balance.

Everyone is welcome to attend. The fee is only \$10.00 month. If you are interested, please join us at the JACL Hall on Monday, at 11:00 A.M. Bing is very patient and we have a lot of fun. It's only for 1 hour and we all have to exercise!!!

CHURCH DUES received 2/20 to 3/16

2018 Dues

Judy/Terry Klimko
Mark/Gayle Shimosaki
Sachio/Grace Watanabe
Sumiko Mikami
Junji/Mitsuko Kishi
Akira Komatsu
Michael/Cham Fukunaga
Eugene/Shizue Morita
Yoshihisa/Irene Onoyama
Rieko Namba
Sheri Watanabe
Ron/Michiko Oye
Patricia Kishida
Akiko Ann Tanimoto
Teruko Tanimoto
Steve Ogata
Judy Waters
Frank Teranishi
Miyoko Kawamura
Gary Funamura/Ginny Goss
Ken/Eileen Nakawatase
Carol Okamoto
Shizuko Kamita
Julia Furuoka
Kenji/Jeanette Yoshimura
Michael/Marjorie Ikemoto
Patti/Rod Kaida
Florence Daijogo