



Buddhist Church of Lodi
Newsletter

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

Obon Bazaar June 25, 2017

Honoring our beloved who have passed away, we begin and end the dancing with Bon Odori.

Sunday, August 6, 2017
9:30 AM - Shostuki Service

Tuesday, August 8, 2017
10:30 AM – Ochanomi Hoza
12:00 Noon – Shinyukai

Sunday, August 13, 2017
9:30 AM – Family Sunday Service
Dharma School Kickoff

Wednesday, August 16, 2017
9:00 AM - Meinichiko
 (Shinran Shonin’s Monthly Memorial Service)

Sunday, August 20, 2017
9:30 AM – Family Sunday Service (DS)
Hiroshima/Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Victims
Memorial Service



We danced to live music.



Photos by Mark Shigenaga

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.

MESSAGE FROM REV NOBUO MIYAJI

Cough of Nenbutsu

“I am not a teacher. We are all disciple of Shakya-muni Buddha”

There are many people called ‘teacher’ around us. As for me, ‘teacher’ means that they must be a schoolteacher. Then, they are great people, so we should respect them. That is my understanding still now. In front of teacher, we should straighten our back and bow our heads to them. However, there are now many so called ‘teacher’ people. Why? I believe that many people would like to be called ‘teacher’ from other people. It means that there are many people in the present world to be respected by other people. I know we have a tendency to be respected by other people as our nature. Here is an example; we call somebody Mr. A or Teacher A. You can see the different response from him. It is of course that he does good response when he was called ‘Teacher A’. On the other hand, when we are not respected and are looked down by other people, we are so mad. All human beings do not like to get such a kind of treatment from other people.

Shinran, who is the founder of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, declared in the book of “*Tannisho*” that he was not a teacher. Actually he said that he did not have any disciple of him. I believe that we have to listen to his declaration. Especially now a day when we are living in the world there are many teachers. The reason he said so is that he was aware of his Shinjin, faith mind because of Amida Buddha’s Compassion. His power of self-effort did not work at all for his salvation. He could not depend on even 0.001 % of his effort to be enlightened himself. 100 % when he depended on His Compassion, he was enlightened and aware of Amida Buddha’s Compassion. That is why he could not say that he could teach the Buddha’s teaching to other people. He just could say he could share the teaching of Amida Buddha. As you understand, he was living the era when people believed that the relationship between master and disciple is much important than the relation between father and son. On the situation, he bravely declared that he was not a teacher. This is the revolution for all human being. But many people still misunderstand that Shinran said so because he was so humble to insist to say he was a teacher.

Actually he believed that he would like to teach his teaching. This is absolutely wrong. He never thinks so. From the bottom of his heart, he believed the Amida Buddha’s work on him. As for me, this is the reason I can respect him as the founder of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. Today many people would like to be called ‘Teacher’. So there are many teachers around us. They insist that they should be respected because his knowledge, skill or power or any other. I hope that those people should listen to Shinran’s saying and reflect themselves that they are worth to be called ‘Teacher’ really or not seriously.

Namo Amida Butsu

Rev. Nobuo Miyaji, Lodi Buddhist Church

-The number of attendees – (Lodi)

Date	Attendees	Date	Attendees
July 9th	34		

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

MESSAGE from Obon Bazaar Chairman

Dear Sangha:

Thank you for another successful Obon bazaar. Without your help, we could not have pulled off this event. I am sure that all of you are exhausted, so am I.

That being said, I will not be able to chair this event next year. It is my hope that someone steps up and chairs the bazaar for next year. We are open to having two or three co-chairs so that no one person carries all the responsibilities. Please consider being a chairperson.

It is getting harder to get the necessary help to preparing the food because of our aging membership. So in the future, we may have to consider changing the format of our bazaar.

I would like to extend a thank you to Plastaket Manufacturing for donating a juicer. It’s an

intricate process of making our famous teriyaki sauce.

With Gassho,
Bazaar chairperson
Gordon Nitta

BINGO 2017

Hope everyone is enjoying the summer since our bazaar is now over. We want to thank all of our members and friends who donated many gift cards and prizes. This really helped our bottom line since we unfortunately had equipment malfunction on Saturday, which reduced the number of games played. Fortunately, Gary Tsustumi and his crew kept the Bingo games going so we did well under the circumstance. We wish you a great rest of the summer and hopefully you will have time to visit some other bazaars.

Thank you everyone for supporting our Bingo!

Regards,
Michiko and Ron Oye

BUDDHIST CHURCH OF LODI General Meeting July 11th

Members present: Gordon Nitta, Judy Waters, Amy Morita, Harriet Matsumoto, Joyce Nagata, Shirley Komatsu, Fred Nagata, Bruce Sasaki, Ron Oye, Steve Ogata, and Hannah Egi.

Gordon Nitta led the group in gassho and called the meeting to order at 7:07 PM.

Correspondence: Received thank you from Kristen Fukunaga and Rev. Kusunoki Family. Marysville has a raffle fundraiser for new roof, anyone interested contact the office, each ticket request a donation of \$20, drawing is October 7.

Minutes – The minutes from the June 13th meeting were approved as printed in the July newsletter. M/S/P Fred Nagata/Steve Ogata

Treasurer's Reports:

General Treasurer, Bruce Sasaki submitted a written report showing expenses from the Farewell Luncheon, with all bills turned in.

Special Treasurer, Steve Ogata submitted written report, Rabobank accounts were closed and F & M opened for checking, savings, and Scholarship.

Large purchase of charcoal was made ½ for bazaar and the other ½ for Church Chicken Teriyaki Sale. Both reports were approved. M/S/P Judy Waters /Amy Morita.

Minister's Report: Rev. Miyaji's schedule depends on commitments he made before coming to Lodi. Fred Nagata met with Bishop Umezu. The church has a renewal of contract with Rev. Miyaji in October.

LBWA - Hannah Egi wanted to thank the many people who came out to help during the bazaar. Without Rev. and Ayano Kusunoki, we had to round up people to boil the udon noodles on Friday afternoon. Thanks to Janet and David Morimoto, Jeanette and Kenji Yoshimura, Sergio Torres, and Chris Morita, we were able to cook and form udon servings for both days. Our next meeting is September 7, Thursday at 9:00 AM, before we cook for Age Appreciation Bento on September 9, Saturday. We will prepare about 60 bento lunches. If you know someone who is Japanese and is not able to come out or is 88 years or older, in assisted living facility, please contact the church office so we can add that person to our list.

Shinyukai – Judy Waters

With the change of date from the last Tuesday of the month to the second Tuesday of the month, we welcome Revs. Noboru and Yoshiko Miyaji to our luncheon.

July luncheon menu: Potato korokke, cabbage tsukemono, and namasu with wakame. White Cake and brownies for dessert. Mrs. Mitsuko Kishi did the grocery shopping. Thank you to the ladies who helped cook, and thank you to the ladies and gentlemen who helped clean up. We had 33 people enjoying the luncheon.

August luncheon menu: Yakisoba, gomoku-gohan, and green beans. Mrs. Mitsuko Kishi is going to shop.

Next Shinyukai will be Tuesday, August 8th.

If you need a ride to attend Shinyukai, please feel free to ask us. We will make arrangements for your transportation. Also, if you cannot come to Shinyukai, your family or friends can pick up the

Bento or we can deliver the Bento for your dinner. Please leave a message at the office. No Enryo (えんりょ), please.

We requested board approval for the resignation of Wendy Nagao as an authorized signer for the Buddhist Church of Lodi Shinyukai Account and replacement for Flora Hirokane who recently passed away and Rev. Harry Bridge who has been assigned to the Buddhist Church of Oakland. We requested board approval for new designated signers, Amy Morita and Judy Waters. Motion was made by Shirley Komatsu and second by Steve Ogata.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Waters

Dharma School – Hannah Egi reported that Lodi Unified will start July 31 for the 2017-18 year. The Kick-off is August 13th.

Propagation Committee – No report

Building Maintenance Report – Gary Funamura
The air conditioning in the Issei Room is working, coils were cleaned, replaced the thermostat in the Hondo. The stove at the residence is not working properly, gave the OK to have appliance store called to check it. The chair lift for the basement is not working because of dead battery. The battery unit has to be left on, the key and the switch. Fred Nagata will get the batteries.

Old Business:

Obon/Bazaar wrap-up meeting is set for August 5th, Saturday at 10:00 AM in the annex.

Farewell Luncheon – 198 paid attendees. According to committee members, Dharma School was to help with the floral expenses. There was mention of Walnut Grove helping with the overage of expenses.

New Business:

Chicken Teriyaki, October 7, 2017. 1,200 chickens halves will be made. Bank of Agriculture & Commerce will print the tickets.

There was a bad check for raffle tickets for this year's bazaar. A check should be sent to the office. Florist, Sandy is retiring this month. Gordon Nitta

will contact Rev. Motoyoshi about getting altar flowers.

Having a Welcome Potluck for Rev. Miyaji, will announce at service.

Upcoming event: Obon Service, July 23rd at 10:00 AM, after 8:30 at Pine St. and 9:00 at Cherokee. Hannah Egi inquired about refreshments, no comments or discussion.

The meeting was adjourned with gassho at 8:19 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Hannah Egi

LBWA UPDATE

Hannah Egi - The church has completed another O-Bon and Bazaar. This was not done without many people doing extra things to make it a success. We would like to thank Marty Sakata for making his delicious fried rice for the Sunday morning workers. Kudos also to Joyce Nagata for topping the fried rice with a fried egg!

We all missed Rev. Katsu and Ayano during the bazaar. I realized they had contacted people to boil noodles. I am thankful to the following who boiled and prepped upon this year: Janet and David Morimoto, Jeanette and Kenji Yoshimura, Sergio Torres, Chris Morita, and Gordon Nitta.

Over the years, Nancy Morita has brought a crew to work as cashiers. This year she had a young lady who could roll sushi! Nancy, Marj Ikemoto, and Candy Boothby made it possible to make the Spam Musubi with maki and inari sushi in the same room and at the same time enabling the kitchen to finish up earlier.

If I have failed to thank others, I apologize. Everyone who helped did an important job! This big event was not possible without so many people showing up for their shift and doing extra shifts. Arigato!

Judy Waters – As co-chair of the LBWA Executive Board, I would like to thank the many members and their families and friends who helped with our Obon Bazaar. The joint effort allowed us to continue our legacy to make and serve our Japanese foods for the community and families to enjoy. It is getting more difficult as our membership advances in age, but their spirit continues to thrive.

Thanks to Beth Oesterman for contacting the Key Club to coordinate volunteers. These young students helped with the packaging, order filling, and other areas that needed help.

We have dishtowels to embroider for our 2018 Obon Bazaar. Please call me at 334-3556 or email me at stitchbear@sbcglobal.net if you wish to embroider any dishtowels. They were big sellers in the Farmers Market.

DHARMA SCHOOL – Beth Oesterman

The prep work of Dharma School parents and students resulted in lots of smiles, prizes and of course gold fish in the hands of happy children! The cooler weather added to the fun atmosphere and student volunteers from the Key Club organization were a great help. We are looking forward to the upcoming Dharma School year and new members!

SHINYUKAI – Amy Morita

\$20 Birthday Donation:

Toshi Yoshioka

Roy Tashima

Nellie Kawamura

Frank Teranishi

Shizuno Nitta

Sach Watanabe

Donations:

Brownies

Craig Kurahara

Tsukemono

Roy and Chieko Tashima

Waribashi

Pat Kishida

Sheet Cake

LBC

If you need a ride to attend Shinyukai, please feel free to ask us. We will arrange your transportation as much as we can do. Also, if you cannot come to

Shinyukai, your family or friends can pick up the Bento, or we can deliver the Bento for your dinner. Please leave the message at the office. No Enryo

SCRIP UPDATE – Kelly Yamane

We recently learned that Raley's is changing its Extra Credit E-Scrip program and will no longer be making donations to churches. Many of you participated in this program over the years and we appreciate your contributions. Raley's gift cards continue to be available for purchase with a 4% benefit.

We have a new fundraising opportunity with **Amazon**. It's called **AmazonSmile**. It is a simple and automatic way for you to shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to the church.

To shop at AmazonSmile simply go to smile.amazon.com from the web browser on your computer or mobile device. You may also want to add a bookmark to smile.amazon.com to make it even easier to return and start your shopping at AmazonSmile. You use the same account on Amazon.com and AmazonSmile.

Tens of millions of products on AmazonSmile are eligible for donations. You will see eligible products marked "Eligible for AmazonSmile donation" on their product detail pages.

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.

July Scrip Supporters

Chris Smith
Christine Iwamiya
Hannah Egi
Haru Oga
Janet Morimoto
Joy Sasaki
Mieko Komatsu
Kenneth Egi
Tom Iwamiya

Calendar Dates:

Scrip orders due: 8/4 at 10 a.m. (**Friday**)

Scrip pick-up: 8/14 (Monday)

SHOTSUKI – Janet Morimoto

Thank you to all the following people who graciously brought refreshments to the fellowship after the July Shotsuki service on the 9th:

Toshi Yoshioka
Pat Kishida
Teruko Tanimoto
Michiko and Ron Oye
Amy Morita
Michiye Noda
Mary Tsutaoka
Irene Furuoka
Janet Morimoto

Those Shotsuki families honoring and remembering a loved one and wishing to bring food for the next service may call Janet Morimoto at (209) 368-7038. Thank you.

JAPAN EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Do you know if anyone from the church might be interested in allowing an English teacher from Japan room with them during a short exchange program? It lasts three weeks, from July 27-August 17th and the home would need to be cat free. The coordinator can pick him up and drop him off for their activities but he would need meals and a room provided. If you are interested or know

someone, please contact the church office and they will contact Beth Oesterman.

2016 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

Thank you July Monthly cleanup Ken Egi and Frank Teranishi.