



Buddhist Church of Lodi *Newsletter*

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Saturday, February 2, 2019
Lodi JACL Crab feed

Sunday, February 3, 2019
9:30 AM – Shotsuki/Nirvana Day

Friday, February 8, 2019
9:00 AM – LBWA Meeting

Sunday, February 10, 2019
**9:30 AM – Family Service/ Nehan-e
Shakyamuni Buddha Memorial Service**

Tuesday, February 12, 2019
11:30 AM – Ochnomi Hoza
Noon – Shinyukai
7:00 PM General Meeting

Saturday, February 16, 2019
11:30 Social, Noon Lunch
Welcome Party for Rev. and Mrs. Yamagishi

Sunday, February 17, 2019
**9:30 AM – Family Sunday Service/Dharma
School/Nursery Class**

Monday, February 18, 2019
President’s Day Holiday
Office closed

Sunday, February 24, 2019
**9:30 AM – Family Sunday Service/Dharma
School**

Welcome Yumi Yamagishi



Buddhist Church of Lodi welcomed Yumi Yamagishi at her first service on January 13th.

Please join us on February 16th for the Welcome Party held in the JACL Hall

Movie Day – February 21, 2019

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. MASANARI

My wife, Yumi arrived on January 10th from Japan. I appreciate the members of the church welcoming her warmly. We will be fine because of your support.

When Yumi and I were staying in an apartment in Japan, we had two small, cute hamsters, one had brown fur and the other had white fur. We called the brown one “Cha-chan”, the white one “Shiro-chan.” “Cha” means brown color in Japanese. “Shiro” means white color in Japanese. “Shiro-chan” is Albino. Albino hamsters are weaker than normal ones and the life span is shorter too. Hamster’s average life span is about two years. Our two hamsters have already been living for over two years. “Shiro-chan” was getting weaker little by little in those days. He didn’t eat the food so much, and his white fur fell out a lot. We thought Shiro-chan would pass away earlier than Cha-chan. We felt so sorry for Shiro-chan.

However, one day at the end of last year, Yumi woke up in the early morning. She realized something was unusual. She couldn’t hear the sound of the wheel spinning around from the hamster’s cage. She wondered if something happened. She checked whether or not the hamsters were still alive. She made sure Shiro-chan was alive. Unfortunately, she found Cha-chan lying down in his house. Yumi was very shocked and called me. We totally thought Shiro-chan wouldn’t live as long as Cha-chan. Cha-chan was certainly fine and going around a couple of days ago. We couldn’t believe this situation.

I heard the news of Cha-chan’s death from Yumi. I remember the letter of Rennyō Shōnin, “White Ashes.” There are a lot of unexpected events in this world. Especially, we can’t conceive about all sentient being’s life. We often call it “impermanence” in Buddhism. All lives of sentient beings are really impermanent. We often read aloud this “White Ashes” at several memorial services. Let me show you a part of this excellent sentences.

“Life swiftly passes, and who among men can maintain his form for even a hundred years? Whether I go before others, or others go before me; whether it be today, or whether it be

tomorrow; who is to know? Those who leave before us are as countless and as fragile as the drops dew. Though in the morning we may have radiant health, in the evening we may be white ashes.”

These sentences really express the meaning of impermanence in this world. It is difficult to expect what happens in our life regardless the young or the old, human beings or animals. It’s only a small pet for someone, but it’s still important for another. Our human beings are always connected and supported with many animals and their lives. We eat several meats of animals like beef, pork and chicken. We can’t live longer without the existence of several animals. We should feel thankfulness to all sentient beings around this world.

In the final paragraph of “White Ashes”, we are able to know what is the important things in our lives.

“The fragile nature of human existence underlies both the young and the old, and therefore, we must – one and all – turn to the Teaching of the Buddha and awaken to the ultimate source of life. By so understanding the meaning of death, we shall come to fully appreciate the meaning of this life which is unrepeatable and thus to be treasured above all else. By virtue of True Compassion, let us realize the unexcelled value of human existence; and let us live with the nembutsu, Namo Amida Butsu, in our hearts.”

We should live with the nembutsu, Namo Amida Butsu, while feeling thankful for all sentient beings around the world. When we realize this truth, Amida Buddha certainly saves us all the time. Let’s say the Nembutsu in our lives.

In Gassho, Namoamidabutsu.

2019 Memorial Service Schedule

In the Jodo Shinshu tradition, family memorial services are held on anniversaries to express gratitude and bring to mind memories of our loved ones. If you have a family member who passed away in the following years, you are encouraged to conduct a family memorial service.

2019 is the memorial year for those who passed away in:

2018	1 year	2003	17 year
2017	3 year	1995	25 year
2013	7 year	1987	33 year
2007	13 year	1970	50 year

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is hard to believe that we are already entering the 2nd month of the New Year.

Please remember to RSVP and attend the Welcome Party for Reverend and Mrs. Yamagishi on February 16th. Let's give them a warm Lodi welcome!

On a serious note, I would like to express my concern for the future of our church. For the past several years I have asked many of you to attend the board meetings and offer your input for the running of the church. This includes addressing concerns such as the upkeep and maintenance of our aging and outdated facilities, the ongoing costs to meet mandatory insurance requirements, our aging membership and avenues to take to seek out new members. These are just a few of my concerns and the reason that I am again asking all members to take an active interest in the church by attending the board meetings and offering your insights. By attending the meetings, you are in no way committing yourself to hold an office on the board. But, more importantly, we need members to care about the church's future sustainability.

At this time, I would like to thank those members that regularly attend the Board meetings. Their participation and contributions are truly appreciated and important in the operation of the church.

Most of all, I believe we all owe Gary Funamura our debt of gratitude. Gary is our Building Maintenance person and since he **voluntarily** took on this position he has spent countless hours in helping to resolve our homeless problem. Gary has made many repairs himself and was instrumental in seeing the wrought iron fence come to fruition. Just when that major undertaking was completed he was thrown into the middle of an inspection by the company that insures our facilities. It appears that

we have many major problems that need to be resolved in order to maintain our insurance coverage. Gary again is having to spend countless hours meeting with the insurance agent, contractors, and others. Thank you, Gary!

It is now the time that members realize that in order to carry on the Buddhist Church of Lodi for not only themselves but also for future generations, each of us must become proactive. This church belongs to all its members and each of us has a responsibility to keep it operating.

The Board Meetings are held on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00 PM in the Annex. Hope to see you in attendance on February 12, 2019.

Lastly, I would like to touch upon the Obon Bazaar that will be held on June 29th and 30th. This is our one and only major fundraiser and the revenue we raise from this event helps to keep the church solvent.

We need lots of help to make the Bazaar a success. It truly takes a small army of volunteers to run the bazaar. So, when called upon to help out please do your part.

Looking forward to seeing you on February 16th for the Welcome Party!

In Gassho,
Fred Nagata

BUDDHIST CHURCH OF LODI

General Meeting – January 8th

President Fred Nagata called the meeting to order and Rev. Yamagishi led the group in gassho. Those present: Fred Nagata, Joyce Nagata, Judy Waters, Amy Morita, Rev. Yamagishi, Gary Funamura, Bruce Sasaki, Steve Ogata, and Hannah Egi.

The minutes of the December meeting were approve as printed in the January newsletter.

Treasurers' Reports: General Treasurer, Bruce Sasaki submitted December 2018 income and expenses; showing the church's account is doing okay.

Special Treasurer, Steve Ogata submitted reports of special accounts for Nov. and Dec. 2018. Both reports were approved.

Minister's Report: Rev. Masa gave a written report of services he conducted in Dec. and will do in January. He was surprised and happy to see members who have not attended. He wants to visit members in hospital or nursing homes. He will call first and some members will help him during visits at nursing homes.

LBWA, Judy Waters reported New Year's Luncheon on January 12.

Shinyukai, Judy Waters reported that 34 people attended Jan. Luncheon and had 4 take-outs.

Gary Funamura explained Building and Maintenance report. After looking through actual wiring Gary thinks the assessment for changes are incorrect. A hood over the stand-alone stove is being pushed even though we don't fry anything on that stove. The other recommendations are waiting for bids.

Dharma School, Hannah Egi reported a couple of Dharma School students will start coming to services, as well as the new students. Nursery Class is January 20 and February 17, 2019. Any preschoolers and other primary children are welcome to join us on those days.

Old Business:

- a. RSVPs for Welcome Luncheon will be picked up by Fred Nagata. The event will be at the Community Hall, so we hope for at least 100 people will attend!

New Business:

- a. Obon/Bazaar, June 29 & 30, 2019. Still need General Chair for this event.
- b. 2019 National Council Conference is March 6-10 in Phoenix, Arizona. Only Rev. and Yumi are planning to attend. Rev. will vote proxies for Lodi and Walnut Grove.
- c. Keiro Party, May 19, 2019 was moved to church annex.

Upcoming Services:

January 13, 2019, Meet and Greet Yumi Yamagishi
Family Sunday Service and Nursery class
Correspondence, Hannah Egi thanked the church for the generous orei.

Next meeting is February 12, 2019 at 7:00 PM.
With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 PM with gassho led by Rev. Yamagishi.

Submitted by Hannah Egi

LBWA UPDATE – Judy Waters

RSVP's for the New Year luncheon on January 12, 2019 was received and we are looking forward to some fellowship and good food.

Movie is scheduled for Jan 24th and Feb. 21st.

Next meeting is Feb. 8, 2019 at 9am in the church office.

SHINYUKAI – Judy Waters

\$20 Birthday
Janet Sakata

Donations:

Mochi	Donna Blass
Brownies	Craig Kurahara
Cookies	Janet Sakata
Oranges	Nancy Burgess
\$20	Roy/Chieko Tashima
Tsukemono	Roy/Chieko Tashima
\$50	Nagako Sumida

January menu included kasujiru soup, chicken katsu, sekihan, salad and desserts. On a cold day, the soup just hit the spot. Thank you, Mitsuko Kishi, it was delicious!

February menu includes BBQ ribs, osuimono, salad, rice, and desserts.

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 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.

January Scrip Supporters

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

Calendar Dates:

Scrip orders due: 2/1 at 10 a.m. (Friday)

Scrip pick-up: 2/12 (**Tuesday**)

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.

FENCING UPDATE as of January 11th

The total funds donated for our new fence has reached \$8,960.00.

The fencing was a major improvement, is attractive and has added much to the safety and cleanliness to the premises. We owe our maintenance crew led by our hard-working “Chief” Gary Funamura who made additional changes to the problems that came up with much time and effort.

Donor list:

Tom & Gracie Iwamiya
Kenneth & Hannah Egi
Grace & Sachio Watanabe
Nancy & Jim Burgess
Brian & Cynthia Sasaki

Rose Sasaki
Mieko S. Komatsu
Mary Tsutaoka
Hisako Nakamura
Kazuko Shimozaki
Gary Funamura
Patricia, Melissa & Emily Angel
Nagata Family - IMO Masaaki/Shizue Nagata
Ron & Michiko Oye
Rieko Namba
Terry & Judy Klimko
Vi & Tad Inoshita
Bruce Nakamura
Reverend Katsu & Ayano Kusunoki
Steve & Barbie Fujinaka
David & Janet Morimoto
Miyoko Kawamura
Nagako Sumida
Mitsuko Yoshioka
June Shimozaki
Bruce & Joy Sasaki

If we have omitted any donations, please call and we will be happy to correct. Thank you.

CHURCH DUES as of January 11th**2019 Dues:**

Kelly Yamane
Kenneth & Hannah Egi
Shad & Lianne Egi-Reiser
Fred & Joyce Nagata
Terry & Haru Oga
Tom & Gracie Iwamiya
Frances K. Otani

Michiye Noda
June Oga
Terry & Haruko
Mutsuo Fukumoto

