



Buddhist Church of Lodi

Newsletter

23 North Stockton St., Lodi, CA 95240-2214

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<http://lodibuddhist.org/>

Friday, November 2, 2018
11:00 AM - Omigaki

Sunday, November 4, 2018
9:30 AM – Shotsuki Service

Friday, November 9, 2018
9:00 AM - LBWA Meeting

Saturday, November 10, 2018
Chicken Throwdown
Florin Buddhist Church

Sunday, November 11, 2018
9:30 AM – Ho onko Service

Tuesday, November 13, 2018
11:30 AM – Ochanomi Hoza
12:00 Noon – Shinyukai
7:00 PM – Church Board Meeting

Thursday, November 15, 2018
1:00 PM – Movie Day

Sunday, November 18, 2018
9:30 AM – Family Sunday Service

November 22, 23, 2018
Thanksgiving Holiday



Rev. Masa's first teriyaki chicken fundraiser. Not only did he help with the packaging, he ate the delicious chicken and also had a few donuts.

You are invited to attend our monthly movie day. Japanese movie with English subtitles. Please join us for the movie and also an assortment of snacks.

Movie is shown in the annex November 15th at 1PM.

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. MASA

Hello, everyone! How are you? It is becoming cold in the morning and the evening. I hope you are fine and take care of your health. We can see a lot of leaves falling on the ground and daytime becoming shorter little by little. I'm looking forward to the leaves changing to some beautiful colors soon. Fall is a harvest season that a lot of delicious foods are available. So, in Japan, people say "Fall fills up our bellies." I'm looking forward to eat fresh food too.

Anyway, at the last Eitaikyo memorial service, I talked about the importance of having the home altar "Obutsudan" in your home on my Dharma talk. Actually, you can read my interview article and Japanese Dharma talk in the October Newsletter "The Wheel of Dharma" published by Buddhist Churches of America. In my Japanese Dharma talk, I have written about the same topic of the home altar.

I have a suggestion for you.... I strongly suggest you should have the home altar in your home soon if you don't have one yet. Why should we have the home altar? The reason is just to recognize that Amida Buddha is there in your home and watches our daily life. Our daily life is always supported with Amida Buddha. We need a space and a custom in your home for being respectable and thankful for Amida Buddha. The space means the home altar, the custom means to say the Nembutsu "Namoamidabutsu." We certainly gain the rich life through the science and the technology; however, we probably lose the fulfillment and happiness of heart and mind. I wonder if this issue happens from having no interest in the home altar among the people.

When I was a young, my family and many members has respect and thankful mind to Amida Buddha in the home altar. For example, when my family wakes up in the early morning, first we chanted the sutra in front of the altar in the Hondo, and then started to prepare our breakfast and go to work. When we cooked rice, we always offered it to the altar before we ate it. When we get donations and gifts from our members, we offered them to the altar. The home altar is the sacred place and the first place we turn to in happiness.

Shinran Shonin tells us in his book, "Hymns of the Pure Land", the following,

"Seeing the sentient beings of the nembutsu

Throughout the worlds, countless as particles, in ten quarters,

The Buddha grasps and never abandons them,

And therefore, is named 'Amida'".

There are many people who are saying the Nembustu "Namoamidabutsu" in this world. Amida Buddha always watches us, and saves us with the immeasurable light and the immeasurable life of Amida Buddha. Amida Buddha never avoids or abandons the responsibility to save us. Amida Buddha is always with us in daily life.

The home altar is a symbol of the presence of Amida Buddha. We are spending our life with Amida Buddha, not only by ourselves. Amida Buddha exists in the center of our life at all times. The reason we have a home altar in your home is to recognize this truth. I hope everyone keeps the home altar with saying the Nembutsu "Namoamidabutsu" in our life.

In Gassho,

2018 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.

2018 is the memorial year for those who passed away in:

2017	1 year	2002	17 year
2016	3 year	1994	25 year
2012	7 year	1986	33 year
2006	13 year	1969	50 year

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE- Fred Nagata

Thank you to Ron Oye for chairing the annual church chicken teriyaki sales. Without having the final sales report, I believe that it was a huge success. It was wonderful to see so many people working together and seemingly having a good time. It was great to see so many new and young faces in the kitchen. Even our new minister, Reverend Yamagishi, was wearing a hairnet and helping! So, thank you to all of you for your help and support!

Each month, we have a Shotsuki Service, usually on the first Sunday of the month. Also, 8 times during the year we have a major service. Please mark your calendars to start your Sunday morning by attending the services. We are attempting to increase our attendance. The services are only an hour so please make every effort to attend.

On November 10, 2018, the NCDC will be holding their annual "Chicken Throw Down". This year it will be held at the Florin Buddhist Church. Tickets are \$12.00 and you can sign up in the church office. Let's have Lodi well represented at this friendly completion where it seems that all that attend has a very enjoyable evening!

Our next Board meeting is November 13th at 7:00 PM in the church annex. I invite anyone that is interested to please attend. We always welcome and appreciate your input.

Gassho,
Fred Nagata

BUDDHIST CHURCH OF LODI ***General Meeting October 9th***

Members present: Pres. Fred Nagata, Reverend Yamagishi, Joyce Nagata, Judy Waters, Shirley Komatsu, Amy Morita, Hannah Egi, Steve Ogata and David Morimoto.

President Nagata opened the meeting with Gassho by Rev. Yamagishi.

Minutes –September 11, 2018.

The minutes of the September meeting were approved as published.

Treasurer's Reports

Special Treasurer – Steve Ogata

Steve reviewed his report for the Board, explaining the various account balances. He noted that the only unusual revenue was from donations for the newly constructed fencing around the Church. He stated that the Church was receiving donations from members to help pay for the cost of the new fencing. Some of the donations were coming to him and going into the Building Fund. Some of the donations were going to Bruce and being put into the General Fund. Steve said he would reconcile the

donation amounts so the Board could have a clear figure on the donation totals. The Board expressed their appreciation for the donations for the fence expenses.

General Treasurer – Bruce Sasaki

Bruce was not present but he did submit a report for the Board's review. There were no unusual income or expense items for the month of September. Following their review, the Board approved both reports as submitted.

Minister's Report – Rev. Yamagishi **Service report**

- 1 Funeral Service, 1 Memorial Service
- Shotsuki Memorial Service in Lodi and Walnut Grove, Fall Ohigan Service in Lodi and Walnut Grove, 2 Dharma / Family Service

Training report

- September 25th-27th Minister's Continuing Education (MiCE) in Berkeley

Other report

- My wife, Yumi, will come to the U.S. in early or middle January. Her father is the owner of a company where she works. A company bought his company because he wanted to retire and sell it in this year. Yumi will leave the company this fall. However, she has to hand over her duties and responsibility to a new owner and an employee. She has Employment Insurance until December.
- September 24th - Driving Test in Modesto, I passed!
- October 8th - Going to a class at Institute Buddhist Studies in Berkeley
- Minister's Conference in Sacramento
- October 16th - Mrs. Suzanne Seiler's 1st private English lesson
- Buying church amenities to restock our temple

Regarding the weekly day off for the Reverend, Fred suggested that the Reverend take Monday off to coincide with the day of the religious studies classes that the Reverend may take in Berkeley.

LBWA – Judy Waters

Fifty-four members of our community received the Age appreciation bento box lunch on Sept 15th.

The bento box lunches were personally delivered by our church and LBWA members. Thank you to all the ladies and gentlemen who help prepare, cook, and deliver the delicious Japanese foods.

October 20th is the NC Family conference in Stockton. Lodi and Walnut Grove will host the continental breakfast. Each temple is asked to bring 3 dozen desserts

The World BWA conference is coming up in 2019 in San Francisco. As part of their fundraising, they are asking for donation honoring our grandmothers, mothers, aunts and sisters. Please review the flyer in the newsletter.

Movie Day for October is the 18th.

Movie Day is scheduled for November 15th next month.

Next meeting is November 9, 2018 at 9am in the church office.

Dharma School – Hannah Egi

Hannah reported that there was no longer a regular Dharma School group due to the lack of students in this age group. She has started a pre-school group consisting of several infants and their parents that will meet once a month.

Building Report – Gary Funamura

Gary was not present but he did submit a report written by the inspector from GuideOne Insurance, the Church's insurance carrier. The inspector did a complete inspection of the occupied portions of the Church and Annex and produced a list of action items that the Church must complete in order to maintain their insurance coverage. Gary stated that he will begin tackling these items as soon as he returns from his trip.

Old Business

A. Church Membership List/Telephone List.

Fred sated that he and Joyce were still working on the list. One of the items for consideration is who we send the Newsletter to, just members, or to members and all interested parties, including other Buddhist Temples.

B. Chicken Teriyaki.

Although no numbers were available at this time, the general consensus was that the event was a success.

C. NCDC Chicken Throw-down.

The event is being hosted by the Florin Buddhist Church this year and will be held on November 10, 2028. Fred said that he is putting together a cooking crew. Tickets for the event will be available at the Church office.

D. Welcome Luncheon for Rev. Yamagishi and his wife.

The Board decided to have a welcome luncheon for the new Reverend and his wife sometime late in January. This will coincide with the arrival of Mrs. Yamagishi sometime early in January. More details regarding the event will be forthcoming next month.

E. JACL Parking Lot resurfacing.

The JACL parking lot resurfacing and restriping has been completed. The Church has agreed to pay half of the cost. No bill has been submitted as of this date.

F. Spaghetti Dinner – March 16, 2019.

The Church will be having a take-out only Spaghetti Dinner next year on March 16, 2019.

New Business

A. Minister's Health Insurance

Fred explained the difficulty of obtaining health insurance for Rev. Yamagishi due to timing issues. It was decided to obtain a temporary International Health Insurance for the month of November and December. In November the Church can apply for regular insurance through Covered California and hopefully the Rev. will have health insurance coverage for the 2019 year beginning in January.

B. Vacuum cleaner

The Board thanked Steve Ogata for donating a new Vacuum Cleaner for use by Rev. Yamagishi at the Minister's residence.

Upcoming Services.

A. October 14, 2018 – Eitaikyo and Past Bishops Memorial Service

B. October 21 and October 28, 2018 – Family Sunday Service

Next Meeting – November 13, 2018 at 7:00 pm.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,
David Morimoto

LBWA UPDATE – Judy Waters

Many recipients enjoyed the Age Appreciation Bento box lunch on September 15th. Thanks to all who helped prep, cook, and deliver the lunches.

Lodi and Walnut Grove will host the continental breakfast at the NC family conference at the Stockton Buddhist temple on October 20th.

Please consider donating to the 2019 World BWA conference held in San Francisco. You will find the flyer in the newsletter honoring our grandmothers, mothers, aunts and sisters.

Movie Day is Thursday, October 18th and Thursday, November 15th.

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

DHARMA SCHOOL – Hannah Egi

Dharma School has started its new Nursery Class. We have 2 boys under 2 years old and a new 3rd grader. Our October class had the preschool toddlers practicing their Trick or Treat skills, wearing their costumes. We will meet once a month for now. November 18, 2018 will be our next class.

SHINYUKAI – Judy Waters

\$20 Birthday

Miyuki Lancaster

Donations:

\$20.00

Frances Otani

Apple Pie

Janet Sakata

Brownies/Cake

Craig Kurahara

Tsukemono

Roy & Chieko

Tashima

We enjoyed umami, rice, miso soup, broccoli and cauliflower salad, and tsukemono for lunch.

Brownies, chocolate cake, and apple pie was served for dessert.

Thank you to Mitsuko Kishi who made the umami and soup. Thanks to kitchen helpers who helped prep, cut the vegetables, and serve. We had 32 people enjoy the luncheon and had 6 take out lunches.

Next month's menu will include: barbecue teriyaki chicken made by the Nagata family with their special sauce, chirashi, vegetable and osuimomo 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 arrange 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 (えんりょ), 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.

October Scrip Supporters

Chris Smith
 Hannah Egi
 Harriet Matsumoto
 Haru Oga
 Janet Morimoto
 Kenneth Egi
 Mataga Cadillac Buick GMC

Calendar Dates:

Scrip orders due: 11/2 at 10 a.m. (Friday)

Scrip pick-up: 11/13 (**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.

CHICKEN TERIYAKI – Ron Oye

This was Rev. Yamagishi's first Chicken Teriyaki fundraiser experience. He was not a bystander overseeing but was involved in production line. We all appreciate his presence and enthusiasm. We donated box lunches to the police and fire department as well as Lodi House. They all expressed appreciation for our outreach!

We had help from people outside of the church community. They were our friends and the members of Tokay High School Japanese Club. They all contributed to our fundraising success. So once again, I would like to thank our members and our friends who made this year's Chicken Teriyaki fundraiser a success!

CHICKEN TERIYAKI – Hannah Egi

We are extremely grateful for the countless families and friends of church members as we close the notes on the 2018 Chicken Teriyaki Sale. Thank goodness there were so many men to prep and cook the chicken. Justin Sitkin, Japanese teacher at Tokay High, had been most helpful in organizing signups for Japanese Club members to come and help for Community Service Credit during their Fall Break. Arigato to Grace Watanabe and Shirley Komatsu and any of the BWA ladies who got the

word out for helpers on Friday and Saturday. Because of Yuki Fukunaga, Reiko Namba, and Pat Kishida, the workers had lunch, your flexibility was greatly appreciated. Thank you to Ken Egi for keeping accurate notes on the paper supplies and cabbage ordered. Dharma School families who came out to assist in curbside service, thanks for your enthusiasm

The numbers are not finalized, but we have to look at the bottom line and ask the question: Are we making enough of a profit to continue helping the church operate financially?

HAIKU

Soldier's Revere
 Patriot's role I humbly honor
 Meet the foe to maintain the peace
 Return home for beloved embrace

Death
 Dying, death, passage, no regrets
 When death appears seek embrace and farewell
 Greet ancestors among the throng.

Masa Kinoshita

2018 CHURCH DUES as of Oct. 16th

Tabo & Linda Ogata
 Beth Oesterman
 Derek Egi

FENCING UPDATE

As of October 16th, total donations of \$7,860.00

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

James Sakoda
 Gordon & Tatsuko Nitta
 Mary Tsutaoka
 Rose Sasaki
 Ken Mikawa
 Frank Teranishi
 Akiko Ann Tanimoto
 Teruko Tanimoto
 Judy Waters
 Kazuko Shimozaki
 Amy Morita
 Junji & Mitsuko Kishi
 Steve & Terry Ogata
 Julia Furuoka
 Donation plate

FALL OHIGAN SERVICE as of Oct. 16th

Total donations: \$329.00

Donors:

Julia Furuoka
 Fumiye Iwamura
 Harriet Matsumoto
 Shirley Komatsu
 Terry Kiri
 Vi & Tad Inoshita
 Sheri Watanabe (Obon, Gotane, Hanamatsuri)
 Donation plate

***EITAIKYO & BISHOPS MEMORIAL SERVICE
 as of Oct. 16th 10/2/18 TO 10/16/18***

Total donations: \$1,362.00

Donors:

Ron & Michiko Oye
 John Morita
 Shizuko Kamita
 Terry & Judy Klimko
 Haruko & Teruko Oga
 Michael & Marjorie Ikemoto
 Pat Kishida
 Tad & Viola Inoshita
 Barbara Daijogo
 Tom & Gracie Iwamiya
 Ritsuye Fukunaga
 June Oga
 Fred & Joyce Nagata
 Ken & Hannah Egi
 Joy & Bruce Sasaki
 Kelly Yamane
 Haruko Onishi
 Nagako Sumida
 Hisako Nakamura
 Yukiye Fukunaga
 Eugene & Shizue Morita
 Leland & Janet Noma
 Kenji & Jeanette Yoshimura
 David & Janet Morimoto
 June Shimozaki
 Rieko Namba
 Sheri Watanabe
 Asa & Shigeiko Koyama