



Buddhist Church of Lodi
Newsletter

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<http://lodibuddhist.org/>

🌸 Hello April 🌸

Friday, April 5th, Japanese Study Class,
1PM, Annex

Sunday, April 7th, 10 AM, Shotsuki Service

Thursday, April 11th, 1 PM, Movie Day,
Annex

Thursday, April 18th, 12 PM, Shinyukai
Luncheon, Annex

Sunday, April 21st, 10 AM, Hanamatsuri
Service followed by hamburger luncheon in
the annex.

"Hanami - Cherry-blossom viewing"



Hanami is a spring event that Japanese people have enjoyed since ancient times.

Cherry blossoms have been a special flower for Japanese people.

Going out to the fields and mountains to see cherry blossoms and eating Bento under the trees is called "hanami."

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. NORITAKA IMADA**Hanamatsuri**

Hanamatsuri is a Buddhist event that celebrates the birth of Shakyamuni Buddha. His birthday is said to be April 8th. The reason why it is called Hanamatsuri which means “the flower festival” comes from the scene when Buddha was born.

About 2,600 years ago, Shakyamuni Buddha was born as a prince in Kapila Castle in northern India (present-day Nepal). His mother is called Maya. When Maya gave birth, she tried to go to Kurijo Castle, where she was born.

On her way from Kapila Castle to Kurijo Castle, she saw a flower garden called Lumbini Garden. Just as she arrived at the flower garden, Maya felt labor and there she gave birth to her son. On that day, April 8th, the flowers in Lumbini Garden were in full bloom, and the festival came to be called the “Flower Festival” because it was born among the many flowers. This is why the statue of the Baby Shakyamuni Buddha is surrounded by beautiful flowers.

In the Hanamatsuri, we celebrate by pouring sweet tea on the statue of Baby Shakyamuni Buddha. This tradition comes from the fact that when Buddha was born in Lumbini Garden, nectar rain fell from the sky.

If you look at a statue of Buddha, you will see that his right hand is pointing to the sky and his left hand is pointing to the earth. This means that when the Buddha was born, he immediately walked seven steps, stopped, pointed to the sky with his right hand and the earth with his left hand, and said, “TENJO TENGE YUIGA DOKUSON.” If you look at the kanji, that means Tenjo (sky) Tenge (ground) Yui (just) ga (I) Doku (only) son (respected),” it looks like "above the sky, on the ground, only, I, alone, precious," but he was not trying to say, "I am the only one who is precious!" Rather, it is a teaching that says, “If you see the sky or the ground,

There is only one individual existence like you, me and others. Every life is irreplaceable, so all lives are equally precious."

Last month's quiz answers

There are two choices: Oyasumi and Ohayou.
Which is the morning greeting?

The answer is Ohayou. It comes from the word Hayai, which means early.

Oyasumi is a greeting before going to bed. It comes from Yasumi, which means to rest.

The next quiz

What is the most common surname in Japan?

Tanaka, Suzuki, Sato, Toyota





On Sunday, March 17th, there were visitors from the Vietnamese Buddhist Temple, Chua An Lac, from San Jose.

Rev. Henry Nguyen led their sutra chanting, and members participated. Rev. Imada recited Jodo Shinshu-style sutras and explained the Buddhist altar, and Rev. Henry Nguyen translated.

They visited with four buses like last year. We would like to continue to keep in touch and maintain a good relationship based on mutual respect for each other's Sanghas.

2024 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.

2024 is the memorial year for those who passed away in:

2023	1 year	2008	17 year
2022	3 year	2000	25 year
2018	7 year	1992	33 year
2012	13 year	1975	50 year

BUDDHIST CHURCH OF LODI ***General Meeting – No meeting in March***

DHARMA SCHOOL UPDATE – Hannah Egi

The Dharma School students performed to “Haru Ga Kita” on March 17 at the Spring O-Higan service. I think many of the audience knew that song.

On April 21st, hopefully all four of our students will perform to “In Lumbini Garden”. We hope more people will come out to watch and encourage them! One never knows when these positive experiences at church will turn the young children into life-long future Buddhist. The 3 families are former Lodi Dharma School students!

LBWA UPDATE – Judy Waters

Movie Day – April 11th, 1pm, annex

Shinyukai Luncheon - April 18th, noon, annex.

Many thanks to the LBWA members who made or donated food items for the 2024 BCA National Council Meeting Hospitality Room on February 23rd and 24th. It was enjoyed by many of the delegates who attended at the Sacramento Buddhist Church.

SHINYUKAI – Judy Waters

\$20 Birthday Donation – Nancy Burgess

Donations:

IMO Roy Tashima
\$30

Narazuke Chieko Tashima
Chocolate Chip Cookies Grace Iwamiya

SCRIP UPDATE – Carrie Sterling

Can you believe it...April is right around the corner!

Thank you Linda Byrd, Hannah Egi, Mieko Komatsu, Harriet Matsumoto, Janet Morimoto, Nancy Morita, Judy Motoyama, Philip Nagata, Ron Oye, Joy Sasaki and Judy Waters for supporting our Scrip Program through Raise Right! With every

order a percentage goes to our church. The order form is enclosed and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (209) 747-5807.

Please return your order form and check to the Church office no later than Sunday, April 21st.

Carrie Sterling

LBWA DONATIONS as of February 29th

New Year Luncheon Donations:

Total: \$30.

Please join us for Hanamatsuri Hamburger Luncheon in the annex after the service on April 21, 2024. The hamburger and fix-ins will be provided by the church. If you can, please bring either a salad or dessert to complete our meal. Even if you are unable to bring anything, please attend the service and support our Dharma School performance and join us for lunch. There is always, plenty to eat!

Hannah Egi

You will notice a change in the dates for the Church Donations, Dues, etc. We will be posting the donations as of the end of the previous month.

CHURCH DUES as of February 29th

Total: \$18,700.

SHOTSUKI DONATIONS as of February 29th

Total: \$1,665.

CHURCH DONATIONS as of February 29th

Nirvana Day

Total: \$710.

Ho-Onko

Terry & Judy Klimko

Special Donations

Total: \$600.

Miscellaneous Donations

Total: \$109.



はなまつり



はなまつりとは、お釈迦様の誕生を祝う仏教行事です。お釈迦さまの誕生日は4月8日とされています。なぜ誕生日がお花の祭りなのかというと、お釈迦さまがお生まれになった時の様子が由来になっています。

今から約2600年前、北インド（現在のネパール）にて、カピラ城の王子として、誕生したのがお釈迦さまです。お釈迦さまのお母さんはマーヤー夫人といいます。マーヤー夫人は出産の際、自分が生まれた家がある拘利城（くりじょう）へ行こうとしました。カピラ城から拘利城（くりじょう）へ向かう途中、ルンビニー園という花園がありました。ちょうど花園に着いた時、マーヤー夫人は産気を感じて、そこでお釈迦様を出産されました。その日は4月8日、ルンビニー園の花は満開で、そのたくさんの花の中で誕生したことから「花まつり」といわれるようになりました。これが、子供の姿のお釈迦さまの像の周りを綺麗な花で飾る理由です。

花まつりでは、お釈迦さまの像に甘茶をかけてお祝いします。これは、お釈迦さまがルンビニー園で生まれた時、空から甘露の雨が降ったということに由来しています。

お釈迦さまの像を見ると右手で天を、左手で地を指差しています。これは、お釈迦さまが誕生した時に、すぐに7歩歩いて、立ち止まり、右手で天を、左手で地を指差し「天上天下 唯我独尊」と言われたことを表しています。この「天上天下 唯我独尊」ですが、漢字を見ると「天の上、天の下、唯、我、独り、尊い」という漢字ですが、お釈迦

様は「私だけが尊い！」と言ったのではなく「天の上にも地上にも、私という存在は、たった1人しかいない。みんなすべてかけがえのない命だから、命はみんな平等に尊いのだ」という教えです。

数ある種類の生命の中で、人間に生まれる事がまずとても稀で、その中でも仏教に出遇える人はもっと稀であると、お釈迦さまは説かれました。その喜びを感じながら、お釈迦様の誕生日をお祝いしましょう。

ああ、弘誓の強縁、多生にも値ひがたく、真実の浄信、億劫にも獲がたし。たまたま行
信を獲ば、遠く宿縁を慶べ。

April 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4 Oasaji - 10am	5 Oasaji - 10am Japanese study class - 1pm	6 Oasaji - 10am
7 Shotsuki Service 10am	8 Oasaji - 10am	9	10	11 Movie Day - noon	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 ShinyuKai - noon Oasaji - 10am	19 Oasaji - 10am	20 Oasaji - 10am
21 Hanamatsuri 10am	22 Oasaji - 10am	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

April Shotsuki List

updated 2/5/24

***We will continue your loved ones name through the 50th year. Should you wish to continue further than the 50th year, please let us know. Also, we would like to know if you should have the date of death of the following list:**

Moichi	Kuramoto	4/27/1941	Hiroshi	Fujikawa	4/13/2017
Matsuo	Tsusaki	4/13/1958	Wendy Fumiko	Nagao	4/17/2019
Haru	Cho	4/27/1971	Alyce Moeko	Nishima	4/27/2019
Masaichi	Tahara	4/24/1972	Kelly Teruko	Okazaki-Yamane	4/7/2021
Sam	Funamura	4/4/1977	Mitsuo "Mits"	Ogata	4/18/2021
Seiichi	Iwamiya	4/3/1978	Tomoko	Sasaki	4/7/2022
Hikohei	Kosaka	4/18/1978	Shizuno	Nitta	4/17/2022
Fumiko Helen	Funamura	4/25/1978			
Ruth	Okasaki	4/1/1981			
Kawaru	Fujita	4/2/1983			
Frank	Koyama	4/17/1983			
Kazuto	Watanabe	4/29/1983			
Matsuo	Okazaki	4/24/1985			
Kazuyoshi "Jerry"	Kato	4/27/1986			
Yukie	Matsuura	4/8/1989			
Tokuichi	Taniguchi	4/24/1991			
Atsumaru Otto	Okasaki	4/8/1994			
Kenneth Kazuo	Sakoda	4/8/1995			
Layso (Leo)	Kuwamoto	4/1/1996			
Harry Hitoshi	Tanaka	4/20/1998			
Eiji	Okuhara	4/25/2001	Tokutaro	Arata	
Fusaye Mary	Kishida	4/8/2002	Toshihisa	Fujinaka	
William Seiji	Furuoka	4/4/2004	Takako	Inoshita	
Hatsuko Sato	Robinson	4/15/2007	Katsutaro	Kamei	
Kiyoko	Nishimoto	4/10/2008	Goro	Morita	4/4/1937
Mitsuye Grace	Omaye	4/1/2009	Yoneichi	Okata	
Frank Kazuto	Matsuhira	4/5/2009	Sami	Omaye	
Satomi	Nakagawa	4/16/2010	Itoyo	Sakoda	
Tamiyo Marilyn	Kaida	4/6/2011	Koroku	Sakoda	
James Tadashi	Daijogo	4/21/2012	Tsuneo	Tsutsumi	
Tsuyuka Mary	Nakagawa	4/30/2012	Ryukichi	Yamashita	
Marie Yoshiko	Masuda	4/11/2013	Norma	Funamura	
Misao	Sakoda	4/8/2016			