



Buddhist Church of Lodi
Newsletter

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

Friday, March 1st, Japanese Class, 1PM,
Annex

Sunday, March 3rd, 10 AM, Shotsuki
Service

Thursday, March 15th, 12 PM
Shinyukai Luncheon, Annex

Thursday, March 21st, 1 PM
Movie Day, Annex

Sunday, March 17th, 10 AM, Spring Ohigan
Service

Sunday, March 31st, 10 AM, Family Service



Here is a famous poem.

散る桜 残る桜も 散る桜

Chiru sakura, nokoru sakura mo, chiru
sakura.

The cherry blossoms fall. The cherry
blossoms that are still on the branches will
fall someday.

Just as there are no cherry blossoms in this
world that do not scatter, there is nothing
that does not change. That's why all of our
lives are precious.

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

Hello March! Spring is almost here.

Spring cannot be seen with our eyes, but we can feel it approaching from the fact that the temperature is getting warmer, spring flowers are blooming, and many other things.

In this world, there are things that can be seen and things that cannot be seen. For example, we can see buildings, cars, TV, and people, but we cannot see the air, the heart, love, trust, and warmth. The Nembutsu that comes out of our mouths is also invisible to the eyes. It is said that the Buddha appeared in the form of a voice.

In Gobunsho, Rennyō Shōnin mentions Nembutsu and Shinran Shōnin's teachings. It describes the importance of reciting the Nembutsu with a feeling of gratitude, realizing that instead of trying to reach enlightenment on your own, you can only reach it through the power of Amida Buddha.

March is a good opportunity to remember Rennyō Shōnin because his date of death is March 25, 1499. When I saw his picture, I remembered that there was something black on the side of his face. It seems to be an unshaven part of his beard, but it's an interesting story so I'd like to share it.

It is said that Rennyō Shōnin did not shave his beard himself every day, but had his disciples shave it for him. However, since Rennyō Shōnin was constantly reciting Nembutsu with his mouth, it seems that the disciples who shaved his beard were

very careful. There are no electric razors and no T-shaped razors like there are today. If the disciples make the slightest mistake, they will cut his face. His disciples seemed to be cautious, so one day he asked Rennyō Shōnin, "Would you please stop reciting the Nembutsu while I shave?" In response, Rennyō Shōnin seems to have replied, "This is not me reciting the Nembutsu, but my mouth is reciting it on its own due to Amida Buddha's work. Therefore, there is nothing I can do about it." It seems that there was nothing that could be done about it, so the disciple continued to shave Rennyō Shōnin's beard carefully every day.

In order to convey this story, the pictures of Rennyō Shōnin that we place on the altars depict an unshaven beard on his cheeks.



熊猫

The answer to last month's quiz was
"A panda."

When the kanji "熊", which means bear,
and "猫", which means cat combine,
it means a panda.

The next quiz

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



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 January

DHARMA SCHOOL UPDATE – Hannah Egi

After Ho-Onko service on Jan. 21st, the Dharma School students present colored the New Year's Day page of the Kagami Mochi and Mikan, and the page of Shinran Shonin. They also tasted a miso-based Ozoni Soup I made to include the Mochi that was displayed on the naijin for New Year's Day/Jan. Shotsuki Service. There was plenty so we shared it with others who stayed for the otoki.

In March, the students plan to make some crafts to go along with Spring O-Higan. Please join us as they perform to Haru Ga Kita on March 17th.

LBWA UPDATE – Judy Waters

The Lodi Buddhist Women's Assn. celebrated the New Year Luncheon with a delicious menu from the Yin Cheng Restaurant on Sat., February 17th.

Shinyukai Luncheon, March 14th noon in the annex
Movie Day, March 21st, 1pm in the annex

SHINYUKAI – Judy Waters

\$20 Birthday – Chieko Tashima (January), Jean Moriguchi, Kazuko Shimozaiki, and Susan Nitta

Donations: \$40

SCRIP UPDATE – Carrie Sterling

We really appreciate your participation in our monthly Scrip Program. Look over the enclosed form and order from your favorite merchants.

Please return/mail the form and your check to the Church office no later than **Sunday, March 17th**.

The office is open Monday, Thursday and Friday from 9:00 - noon.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (209) 747-5807.

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 January 29th

Total: \$5,225.

CHURCH DONATIONS as of January 29th**Ho-Onko Donations**

Total: \$1,106.

Special Donations

Total: \$10,895.

Miscellaneous Donations

Total: \$264.

SHOTSUKI DONATIONS as of January 29th

Total: \$2,045.53



3月のニュース記事

皆様こんにちは、三月になりました。春はもうすぐそこまで来ているようです。春は目には見えませんが、気温が暖かくなるのを感じたり、春の花が咲くを見て、春が近づいていることを感じる事ができます。

この世界には、目に見えるものと見えないものがあります。例えば、建物や車、テレビ、人などは見えますが、空気や心、信頼、温かさなどは見えません。私たちの口から出るお念仏も目には見えませんが、それは仏さまが声となって現れたものだといわれています。

蓮如上人は御文章の中でお念仏と親鸞聖人の教えについて言及されています。自分の力で悟りを目指すのではなく、阿弥陀仏の力によってのみ悟りに至ることができる悟り、感謝の気持ちと共にお念仏を唱えることの大切さを説いています。

蓮如上人の命日は1499年の3月25日なので、3月は蓮如上人を偲ぶ良い機会です。私は蓮如上人の絵像を見て、顔の横に黒いものがあつたことを思い出しました。それはヒゲの剃り残しのようですが、これが興味深い話なので共有したいと思います。

蓮如上人は毎日自分で髭を剃るのではなく、弟子たちに髭を剃ってもらったといわれています。しかし、蓮如上人は常に口で念仏を唱えていたため、ひげを剃る弟子たちは細心の注意を払っていたようです。今のような電気カミソリやT字カミソリはありません。弟子たちが少しでも間違えれば、彼の顔を切るでしょう。弟子たちも注意深くしていたようですが、ある日、蓮如上人に「髭を剃る間だけでも、お念仏を唱えるのをやめてもらえませんか？」と尋ねたところ、蓮如上人は「これは私が念仏を唱えているのではなく、阿弥陀仏の働きによって私の口が勝手に念仏を唱えているのです」と答えられたそうです。そう言われると弟子たちもどうすることもできないので、弟子たちは蓮如上人のひげを毎日慎重に剃り続けたそうです。この話を伝えるために、お内陣にある蓮如上人の絵には、頬に剃り残されたひげが描かれているといわれています。

March 2024

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
					1 Oasaji - 10am Japanese study class - 1pm	2 Oasaji - 10am
3 Shotsuki Service 10am	4 Oasaji - 10am	5	6	7	8	9
10 (No Service)	11	12	13	14 ShinyuKai - noon Oasaji - 10am	15 Oasaji - 10am	16 Oasaji - 10am
17 Spring Ohigan 10am	18 Oasaji - 10am	19	20	21 Movie Day - noon	22	23
24 (No Service)	25	26	27	28 Oasaji - 10am	29 Oasaji - 10am	30 Oasaji - 10am
31 Family Service 10am						

March Shotsuki List

updated 02/5/24

***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:**

Moritaka	Kuwamoto	3/17/1959	Haruko Helen	Kishida	3/7/2015
Yone	Shimada	3/15/1968	Kenji	Morita	3/26/2015
Shigeru	Nakabayashi	3/17/1969	Nadine Hisae	Iwamiya	3/13/2016
Kumaichi	Watanabe	3/27/1969	Kikuo Kay	Okamoto	3/31/2016
Haruto	Komatsu	3/13/1970	Merry Mitsue	Sasaki	3/22/2017
Jyoji	Fukunaga	3/20/1970	Stanley Masayuki	Yamanaka	3/24/2017
Hiroshi	Hiura	3/21/1973	Shizue "Susie"	Nagata	3/28/2018
Teru	Tanaka	3/15/1974	Lillian Kazuko	Okuhara	3/30/2019
Umekichi	Horita	3/14/1980	Mitsuko	Yoshioka	3/14/2020
Joe Jiro	Kuwahara	3/12/1983	Esther Kikuye	Urakami	3/26/2020
Sumiko	Kiriu	3/1/1984	Asa Matsuichi	Koyama	3/24/2021
Haruyo	Tao	3/21/1984	Takeo	Hirokane	3/29/2021
Kameno	Kosaka	3/14/1986	Terry	Kiriu	3/5/2022
Kaichi	Sakoda	3/29/1986	Hiroshi "George"	Iwamiya	3/6/2023
Kiyo	Tamura	3/17/1987			
Kazushi	Fukumoto	3/7/1989			
Matsuo	Jyono	3/20/1989			
Waka	Nakamura	3/6/1990			
Kumakichi	Kagawa	3/10/1992	Kumejiro	Adachi	
George	Tanimoto	3/15/1992	Misao	Furutani	
Umeyo	Kuwamoto	3/16/1993	Yone	Imada	
Mitsuyo	Mikami	3/29/1994	Masaichi	Iwamura	
Shigeichi	Tanaka	3/7/1995	Hatsuyo	Ideguchi	
Masuo	Okuhara	3/18/1996	Misao	Kamei	
Hiroko	Fujimoto	3/13/1997	Masa	Kawamura	
Yukio	Kawamura	3/21/1998	Yuki	Kurihara	
Asako Grace	Sakoda	3/8/1999	Heliosa Elsie Corrales	Lovato	3/4/2009
Kiyono	Masui	3/27/2001	Koto	Nakabayashi	
Kazuto	Daijogo	3/28/2001	Masasuke	Hamada	
Jun	Kawamura	3/5/2002	Fuki	Ouye	
James Hajime	Kurata	3/16/2002	Sumiko	Ohata	
Jill	Nakawatase	3/8/2004	Sakiye	Sakoda	
Tom Mitsuo	Noma	3/6/2005	Fumiye	Sakoda	
Hiroshi	Ishida	3/22/2005	Tatsuo	Sasaki	
Michiye	Yenokida	3/3/2007	Tadaichi	Sasaki	
Kathi Lynn	Watanabe	3/4/2007	Maki	Tatsumura	
Kiyoshi	Ogata	3/19/2011	Kiichi	Tatsumura	
Harry Michiharu	Jyono	3/20/2011	Haru	Tsutaoka	
Mitsuo	Watanabe	3/31/2012	En	Yabuta	
Kinoe Shioya	Shimak	3/17/2013	Yutaka	Wada	3/30/2003
George Shinobu	Shingu	3/2/2014			
Teruye Mary	Shimozaki	3/10/2014			
Tadashi	Wada	3/13/2014			

BUDDHIST CHURCH OF LODI SCRIP ORDER FORM

Return to Church Office no later than MARCH 17, 2024

You will be contacted when your order arrives

NAME:

PHONE#: ()

ENTERTAINMENT

APPARREL/DEPARTMENT STORES

	%	AMOUNT OF GIFT CARD	QTY	TOTAL		%	AMOUNT OF GIFT CARD	QTY	TOTAL
Best Buy	4.00%	\$25.00			Banana Republic	14.00%	\$25.00		
Best Buy	4.00%	\$100.00			Burlington	8.00%	\$25.00		
CineMark Theater	4.00%	\$25.00			Dillards	9.00%	\$25.00		
Disney GC	3.00%	\$25.00			DSW	8.00%	\$25.00		

GAS

	%	AMOUNT OF GIFT CARD	QTY	TOTAL		%	AMOUNT OF GIFT CARD	QTY	TOTAL
Arco	2.50%	\$50.00			L.L. Bean	16.00%	\$25.00		
Chevron (CA only)	1.00%	\$50.00			Macy's	10.00%	\$25.00		
Shell	1.50%	\$25.00			Macy's	10.00%	\$100.00		
Shell	1.50%	\$50.00			Nordstrom	4.00%	\$25.00		
					Nordstrom	4.00%	\$100.00		
					Old Navy	14.00%	\$25.00		
					Sephora	5.00%	\$25.00		

GROCERY

	%	AMOUNT OF GIFT CARD	QTY	TOTAL		%	AMOUNT OF GIFT CARD	QTY	TOTAL
Raley's	4.00%	\$25.00			Walmart	2.50%	\$25.00		
Raley's	4.00%	\$100.00			Walmart	2.50%	\$50.00		
Safeway/Albertsons	4.00%	\$25.00							
Safeway/Albertsons	4.00%	\$50.00							
SaveMart	2.00%	\$25.00							
SaveMart	2.00%	\$100.00							
Smart & Final	3.00%	\$25.00			Five Below	2.50%	\$25.00		
Smart & Final	3.00%	\$50.00			TJ Maxx/Marshall's	7.00%	\$25.00		
Sprouts	5.00%	\$25.00			TJ Maxx/Marshall's	7.00%	\$100.00		
Total Wine	7.00%	\$25.00			Target	2.50%	\$25.00		

HOME IMPROVEMENT

	%	AMOUNT OF GIFT CARD	QTY	TOTAL		%	AMOUNT OF GIFT CARD	QTY	TOTAL
Home Depot	4.00%	\$25.00			Southwest	4.00%	\$250.00		
Home Depot	4.00%	\$100.00			Apple Store	5.00%	\$25.00		
Lowe's	4.00%	\$25.00			Omaha Steaks	11.00%	\$25.00		
Lowe's	4.00%	\$100.00			See's Candy	9.00%	\$25.00		

OTHER

	%	AMOUNT OF GIFT CARD	QTY	TOTAL		%	AMOUNT OF GIFT CARD	QTY	TOTAL
					Shutterfly	9.00%	\$25.00		

Over

DINING					SPECIALTY					
	%	AMOUNT OF GIFT CARD	QTY	TOTAL		%	AMOUNT OF GIFT CARD	QTY	TOTAL	
Applebees	8.00%	\$25.00			Ace Hardware	4.00%	\$25.00			
Applebees	8.00%	\$50.00			Amazon.Com	1.70%	\$25.00			
Burger King	6.00%	\$25.00			Amazon.Com	1.70%	\$50.00			
Buffalo Wild Wings	8.00%	\$25.00			Amazon.Com	1.70%	\$100.00			
Cheesecake Factory	5.00%	\$25.00			Bath & Body Works	12.00%	\$25.00			
Chili's Bar & Grill	11.00%	\$25.00			CVS	6.00%	\$25.00			
Chipotle	9.00%	\$25.00			Home Goods	7.00%	\$25.00			
Cold Stone	11.00%	\$10.00			Michael's	4.00%	\$25.00			
Denny's	7.00%	\$10.00			Petco	9.00%	\$25.00			
Dominos	8.00%	\$25.00			PetSmart	5.00%	\$25.00			
El Pollo Loco	7.00%	\$25.00			REI	8.00%	\$25.00			
Honey Baked Ham	6.00%	\$25.00			Rite Aid	4.00%	\$25.00			
IHOP	8.00%	\$25.00			Staples	5.00%	\$25.00			
Jack in the Box	4.00%	\$10.00			Ulta	7.00%	\$25.00			
Jamba Juice	6.00%	\$25.00			Walgreens	5.00%	\$25.00			
Komachi	15.00%	\$25.00			SPORTING GOODS					
Komachi	15.00%	\$100.00				%	AMOUNT OF GIFT CARD	QTY	TOTAL	
McDonald's	2.00%	\$25.00			Bass Pro Shops	10.00%	\$25.00			
Olive Garden	8.00%	\$25.00			Bass Pro Shops	10.00%	\$100.00			
Outback Steakhouse	10.00%	\$25.00			Big 5	8.00%	\$25.00			
Panera Bread	8.00%	\$25.00			Cabela's	10.00%	\$25.00			
Papa Murphy's Pizza	8.00%	\$10.00			Cabela's	10.00%	\$100.00			
Panda Express	8.00%	\$25.00			Dick's Sporting Goods	8.00%	\$25.00			
Rubios	10.00%	\$25.00			Dick's Sporting Goods	8.00%	\$100.00			
Starbucks	4.50%	\$10.00			Foot Locker	8.00%	\$25.00			
Starbucks	4.50%	\$25.00			VISA					
Subway	4.50%	\$10.00				%	AMOUNT OF GIFT CARD	QTY	TOTAL	
Subway	4.50%	\$50.00			VISA Gift Card	1.25%	\$50.00			
Taco Bell	5.00%	\$10.00			VISA Gift Card	1.25%	\$100.00			
Texas Roadhouse	8.00%	\$25.00								
THERE ARE MANY MORE RETAILERS NOT INCLUDED ON THIS ORDER FORM. PLEASE CONTACT CARRIE STERLING AT (209) 747-5807 IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS										
TOTAL DUE:					PICKED UP BY:					
Check #										
Cash										
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!										