



Buddhist Church of Lodi

Newsletter

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

(209) 368-5589 office@lodibuddhist.net

<http://lodibuddhist.org/>

Monday, June 1st, 12PM,
General Meeting and Bazaar Meeting

Thursday, June 4th, 12 PM,
Shinyukai Luncheon, Annex

Sunday, June 7th, 10 AM,
Shotsuki & Family Service

Saturday, June 13th, 7PM,
Obon Odori

Sunday, June 21st, 10 AM
Family Service

Saturday, June 27th, Noon-7 PM
Food Bazaar & Collectibles Sale

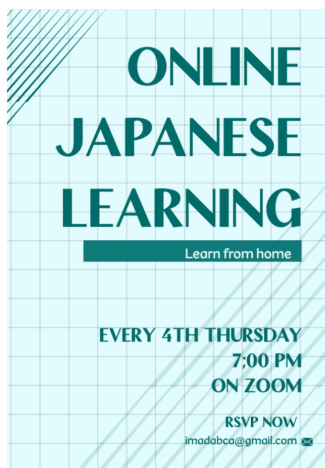
 **Next Quiz**

In the Amida Sutra, it says, “Blue flowers shine blue light, yellow flowers shine yellow light.”

What important message does this teaching share with us?

- A. It is important to become the same color
- B. The most noticeable flower is the most valuable
- C. Each flower shines beautifully in its own color
- D. Some flowers are better than others

(Answer will be revealed next month!)



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*Shining in Our Own Colors*

Hello, everyone. June is here. This month we have Father's Day. Last month was Mother's Day. Did you do anything special? I called my mother in Japan. I didn't send flowers, but I showed her around America through a video call. My mother had never been to the U.S., so everything was new to her. She always said, "I love looking around supermarkets in new towns." So, I went into a local supermarket and showed her all the items she had never seen before. Since it was Mother's Day, there were many flowers for sale. My mother knows a lot about flowers, so I was happy to show them to her. My father wasn't there at that time, so I'm thinking of doing something for him on Father's Day.

Looking at the flowers, I remembered a Buddhist teaching. In the Amida Sutra, there is a phrase: "Blue light from blue flowers, yellow light from yellow flowers, red light from red flowers, and white light from white flowers."

In the Pure Land, lotus flowers of different colors shine in their own way. They don't compare themselves to others. They are all beautiful and special just as they are.

A chrysanthemum seed cannot bloom into a rose. A chrysanthemum is a chrysanthemum, and a rose is a rose. Each flower lives its life to the fullest, and that is wonderful. The message is the same for us. Even if our looks, personalities, or talents are different, the most important thing is to bloom as ourselves and let our own lives shine.

Here is an old story from India: "The Cracked Water Jar."

A woman carried water every day in two large jars. One jar had a crack, so by the time she got home, it was only half full. The other jar was perfect and proud. But the cracked jar felt ashamed and useless. One day, the woman said gently to the cracked jar, "Did you notice the flowers blooming only on your side of the path? I planted those seeds. Thanks to the water you leaked, they grew. Every day, I pick those flowers and offer them to the Buddha."

The cracked jar was helping someone and making flowers bloom without even knowing it. The woman recognized the good in both jars. Everything has a meaning, and nothing is a waste.

During this season of Father's Day and Mother's Day, let's stop comparing ourselves to others. I want to do what I can do and keep blooming in my own color.

Last Month's Quiz Answer

This quiz is based on something mentioned in the article. What does the teacher's message, "You will become more foolish," really mean?

- A. Students will forget what they learned and become less intelligent
- B. Students will empty their minds so they can fill it with new knowledge
- C. Students will come to realize their limitations and understand themselves more deeply

Based on the context of the article, the correct answer is C.

The teacher's message, "You will become more foolish," is a paradoxical way of saying that as students grow and learn, they will gain the humility to realize how much they don't know. It suggests that true wisdom involves recognizing one's own limitations and understanding oneself more deeply, rather than simply accumulating facts or intelligence.

2026 Memorial Service Schedule

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

2026 is the memorial year for those who passed away in:

2025	1 year	2010	17 year
2024	3 year	2002	25 year
2020	7 year	1994	33 year
2014	13 year	1977	50 year

BUDDHIST CHURCH OF LODI***General Meeting – May 4th***

The General Meeting of the Buddhist Church of Lodi took place on May 4, 2026 and was called to order at 12:00 PM. Members in attendance were: Reverend Noritaka Imada, Judy Waters (LBWA), Hannah Egi (Dharma School), Steve Ogata (Special Treasurer), Robert Watanabe, Vicki Fujii, and Patti Kaida.

GENERAL TREASURER’S REPORT

The April 2026 report was emailed to board by General Treasurer Bruce Sasaki and were reviewed and approved by the Board.

SPECIAL TREASURER’S REPORT

Special Treasurer Steve Ogata reported on the special accounts and investments for the month of April 2026. The Special Treasurer’s Report was received, reviewed, and approved.

MINISTER’S REPORT

Reverend Imada reported on the upcoming May Sunday services and activities: meetings with BCA Ministers Meeting and National Council held in Feb, BEC, BWA, Dharma School and NC Ministers, Oasaji

OLD BUSINESS

Obon Odori is scheduled for June 13, 2026. The 2026 Food Bazaar on June 27, 2026 will be food and collectible sales only. We discussed the progress of the Food Bazaar, including job assignments and volunteers handling the various tasks and food items. Volunteers are needed to chair various parts of the

event. Please contact Judy Waters, 209-747-1704 to help with the annual fundraiser.

NEXT MEETING

June 1, 2026, noon, in the Annex.

*The treasurers reports are available for review by BCL members upon request.

Meeting was adjourned at 1 pm.

LBWA UPDATE – Judy Waters

Shinyukai – June 4th, annex, 12pm

Movie Day – No movie in June

SHINYUKAI – Judy Waters

\$20 Birthday – Mary Tsutaoka

Donations:

Frank Teranishi	Brownies
Barbara Daijogo	Cake
Phil Nagata	Ribs
Chieko Tashima	Tsukemono

Thank you Roy Nagata and Rod Kaida for barbequing the ribs for us. And thank you Rev. Nori for making the Japanese macaroni salad, it was delicious.

SCRIP UPDATE – Carrie Sterling

I hope you are having a great day and enjoying our beautiful Spring weather!

Another month has flown by, and your Scrip Order form is enclosed. Please fill it out and return it and your check to the Church office no later than Sunday, June 21st. Our orders are usually received the following week, and I will contact you when they come in.

If you have any questions, please give me a call at (209) 747-5807.

Thank you for your support!

Carrie Sterling

Donation Posting Schedule

We truly appreciate the generous donations made to support our temple and its activities. Please note that donations are recorded as of the previous month. Since our newsletter is prepared in advance, any contributions received after the end of the month will appear in a future issue. This means there is about a two-month delay between the time a donation is received and when it appears in print. Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

CHURCH DUES as of April 27th

Total: \$1,100.

CHURCH DONATIONS as of April 27th

Hanamatsuri Donations

Total: \$950.

Special Donations

Total: \$580.

Miscellaneous Donations

Total: \$77.

SHOTSUKI DONATIONS as of April 27th

Total: \$870.

LBWA DONATIONS as of April 30th

\$150.

MEMO FROM THE OFFICE – Hannah Egi

Templers Baseball Schedule 2026

June 5, at Kofu Park at 5 PM

June 20 at Zupo Field at 5 PM

July 25 at Kofu Park at 5 PM

August 22 at Zupo Field at 5 PM

These are the home games.

Come out and cheer them on!



Obon Odori

Practices: Mon. Wed. Fri.

June 1, 3, 5 and June 8, 10, 12

Saturday June 13th: 7 PM to 9 PM.

If you need help with dressing in a yukata, please arrive at 5:30 PM. Those with happi coats you can join us in the hondo at 6:45 PM.

Collectibles Sale Returns June 27

Our successful Japanese Antique and Collectibles Sale is returning Saturday, June 27, 2026. We will be holding the sale in coordination with the Obon Food Bazaar.

If you have donations to contribute, please call Ginny Funamura (916) 524-7917 or Gary Funamura (916) 837-7606. The deadline for donations is June 5.

Thank you everyone who has donated in the past and has helped to make this annual event so successful.

If you donated in 2025 and need a receipt for your taxes, please contact Gary by email (gumph09@comcast.net) with your full contact information and he will send a receipt for donation.

**JOIN US
FOOD BAZAAR**

Saturday, June 27, 2026, 12-7pm

Buddhist Church of Lodi will have an in person Food Bazaar on Saturday, June 27, 2026 featuring many favorite food items. Tempura served from 2pm. We look forward to seeing many friends and family members.

The organizing committee is seeking volunteers. Toban ladies will receive calls to help on Friday, June 26th from 8am and Saturday, June 27th from 7am. Please ask your family and friends to help.

WE NEED YOUR HELP

The set up for the Bazaar will be on **Friday, June 26th at 6:00 p.m.** and tear down and clean-up will be on **Sunday morning, June 28th at 9:00 a.m.**

We appreciate your help.

The Buddhist Church of Lodi offers condolences to the family and friends of:

***Dickie Iwamiya
January 6, 1942 – April 4, 2026***

***Keiko Nishikawa
November 2, 1932 – May 8, 2026***



それぞれの色で輝くのち

皆さまこんにちは。6月になりました。今月は父の日があります。先月は母の日がありましたが、皆さまは何か特別なお祝いを
されましたでしょうか？

私は日本に住む母に電話をしました。贈り物はしませんでした。電話をつなぎながら、ビデオ通話でアメリカの街を少し案内してみました。アメリカに来たことがない母には、すべてが新鮮だったようです。母は昔から「知らない町のスーパーマーケットを見て回るのが好き」と言っていたのを思い出し、実際にスーパーに入って、見たこともない商品が並んでいる様子を見せてあげました。

母の日ということもあり、店内にはたくさんの花が売られていました。花に詳しい母にいろいろな花を見せてあげることができ、とても喜んでくれました。その時、父はあいにく席を外していましたが、父の日にはまた何か計画しようと考えています。

スーパーに並ぶ花々を見ていて、ふと思い出した仏教の教えがあります。

お浄土の様子を説いた『阿弥陀経』の中に、「青色青光（しょうしきしょうこう）、黄色黄光（おうしきおうこう）、赤色赤光（しゃくしきしゃくこう）、白色白光（びやくしきびやくこう）」という言葉があります。

お浄土に咲く蓮の花は、青い花は青く、黄色い花は黄色く、それぞれが違う色のまま、自分を誰かと比べることなく、自信を持って輝いている。そのどれもが等しく素晴らしい、という意味です。

菊の種からバラが咲くことはありません。菊は菊として、バラはバラとして、それぞれが与えられた「いのち」を精一杯に咲かせている姿こそが尊いのです。このお経のメッセージは、私たち人間も同じだと言っています。見た目や性格、才能が異なっても、それぞれが自分らしく花を咲かせ、いのちを輝かせて生きていくことが何より大切なのです。

ここで、インドの古いお話「ひび割れた水瓶」をご紹介します。

昔、インドにある女性がいました。彼女は毎日、天秤棒の両端に大きな水がめを吊るし、肩にかついで水を運んでいました。片方の水がめには「ひび」が入っていました。そのため、家に着く頃には水が半分に減ってしまいます。もう一方の完璧な水がめは、自分の働きを誇らしく思っていたが、ひび割れた水がめは「自分は壊れていて役に立たない」と、申し訳なさでいっぱいでした。ある日、女性はやさしく水がめに語りかけました。「道ばたの、あなたの側だけに花が咲いているのに気づいていますか？ 私はそこに種をまいたのです。あなたが毎日こぼしてくれた水のおかげで、あんなに綺麗な花が育ったのですよ。私はその花を摘んで、毎日仏さまにお供えしているのです」ひび割れた水がめも、自分では気づかないところで誰かを支え、花を咲かせていたのです。女性は、完璧な水がめも、ひび割れた水がめも、どちらの良さも認めていました。それぞれに意味があり、無駄なことなど何一つないのです。

父の日、母の日という季節。私たちもまた、自分を誰かと比べて落ち込んだり誇ったりするのではなく、「私は私にできることを精一杯していこう」と、自分の色で輝く一歩を踏み出していきたいものです。

June 2026

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6
				Shinyukai - noon Oasaji - 10am	Oasaji - 10am	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Shotsuki & Family Service 10am	Oasaji - 10am					Obon Odori
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
				Oasaji - 10am	Oasaji - 10am	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Family Service 10am	Oasaji - 10am			[Online] Japanese Language Class 7PM		Food Bazaar Collectibles Sale
28	29	30				
NOTES						

June Shotsuki List

updated 5/5/26

***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:**

Fusa	Hayashi	6/26/1968		
Yukio Milton	Oda	6/13/1969		
Kimiko	Wakai	6/18/1975		
Yukuno	Nishikawa	6/21/1975		
Renichi	Hirai	6/3/1977		
Rio George	Muramoto	6/25/1983		
Katsumi	Masui	6/22/1984		
Kiso	Otani	6/4/1988		
Roy Kaneichi	Koyama	6/11/1989		
Yasuo	Tanabe	6/24/1991		
Tom Tsuneto	Tsutsumi	6/3/1993		
Yukio	Honda	6/14/1997		
Tokio Andy	Kurokawa	6/12/1998		
Tadao Tom	Yamachika	6/17/1998		
Masae	Teranishi	6/5/2001		
Tsutomu	Kamita	6/18/2001		
Misao	Yamamoto	6/19/2002		
Jack Yoshio	Matsuda	6/8/2003		
Yukinao James	Otani	6/30/2003	Muraichi	Ichiba
Shozo	Iwamura	6/13/2005	Yoichi	Inoshita
Wesley Mitsutomo	Ouye	6/18/2008	Tasuke	Kihara
Emiko	Hatada	6/20/2008	Maki	Koyama
Keiji	Fujinaka	6/18/2009	Rai	Tahara
Tsukasa	Uyeno	6/4/2011	Shitsu	Tahara
Noreen Kaoru	Lee	6/19/2011	Shintaro	Yamashita
Robert Masayoshi	Ono	6/23/2011		
Nobuo	Morimoto	6/20/2012		
Kay Edwin	Iwamiya	6/30/2012		
Shigeo	Sakoda	6/30/2012		
Mamoru B.	Yamamoto	6/1/2014		
Brenda L.	Kosaka	6/17/2014		
Tomoyo	Kubota	6/28/2015		
Ben	Motoyama	6/27/2020		
Junji	Kishi	6/3/2022		
Ritsuye	Fukunaga	6/13/2022		

BUDDHIST CHURCH OF LODI SCRIP ORDER FORM

PLEASE RETURN TO THE CHURCH OFFICE NO LATER THAN JUNE 21, 2026

You will be contacted when your order arrives

NAME: _____

PHONE#: (____) _____

ENTERTAINMENT

APPAREL/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		
Cinemark	6.00%	\$25.00			Burlington	8.00%	\$25.00		
Disney GC	3.00%	\$25.00			Dillard's	9.00%	\$25.00		
					DSW	10.50%	\$25.00		
					Kohl's	7.00%	\$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		
Shell	1.50%	\$25.00			Macy's	10.00%	\$25.00		
Shell	1.50%	\$50.00			Macy's	10.00%	\$100.00		
Chevron	1.50%	\$50.00			Nordstrom	4.00%	\$25.00		
					Nordstrom	4.00%	\$100.00		
					Nordstrom Rack	4.00%	\$25.00		
					Old Navy	14.00%	\$25.00		

GROCERY

	%	AMOUNT OF GIFT CARD	QTY	TOTAL		%	AMOUNT OF GIFT CARD	QTY	TOTAL
Raley's	4.00%	\$25.00			Sephora	6.50%	\$25.00		
Raley's	4.00%	\$100.00			Walmart	2.50%	\$25.00		
Safeway/Albertsons	4.00%	\$25.00			Walmart	2.50%	\$50.00		
Safeway/Albertsons	4.00%	\$100.00							

DISCOUNT STORE

	%	AMOUNT OF GIFT CARD	QTY	TOTAL		%	AMOUNT OF GIFT CARD	QTY	TOTAL
SaveMart	2.00%	\$25.00			Five Below	2.50%	\$25.00		
SaveMart	2.00%	\$100.00			TJ Maxx/Marshall's	6.00%	\$25.00		
Smart & Final	3.00%	\$25.00			Ross Dress for Less	8.00%	\$25.00		
Smart & Final	3.00%	\$50.00			Target	2.50%	\$25.00		
Sprouts	5.00%	\$25.00			Target	2.50%	\$50.00		
Total Wine	7.00%	\$25.00							

HOME IMPROVEMENT

	%	AMOUNT OF GIFT CARD	QTY	TOTAL		%	AMOUNT OF GIFT CARD	QTY	TOTAL
ACE Hardware	4.00%	\$25.00			Southwest	4.00%	\$250.00		
Home Depot	4.00%	\$25.00			Apple Store	5.00%	\$25.00		
Home Depot	4.00%	\$100.00			Dave & Busters	13.00%	\$25.00		
Lowe's	4.00%	\$25.00			Game Stop	5.00%	\$25.00		
Lowe's	4.00%	\$100.00			Great Clips	8.00%	\$25.00		
					Omaha Steaks	11.00%	\$25.00		
					Shutterfly	9.00%	\$25.00		

OTHER

	%	AMOUNT OF GIFT CARD	QTY	TOTAL		%	AMOUNT OF GIFT CARD	QTY	TOTAL
									Over



Buddhist Church of Florin Annual Dharma School Camping Trip

Come join the Buddhist Church of Florin
at its annual camping trip!!!



When: July 23-26, 2026
Where: Donner Memorial State Camp grounds



Things to Do: Biking, fishing,
swimming, campfire with family style
meals prepared by our camp chefs
and most of all lots of fun, fun, and
more fun!



To reserve a spot, please call or text:
Kenny Teranishi @ 916-717-0297, Craig Shijo @ 916-206-8508,
Sharon Arase @ 916-549-40 by July 4, 2026.

Important: There are a limited number of camp sites;
therefore. please make your reservation(s) by the deadline

Hope to see you there!



NORTHERN CALIFORNIA DISTRICT FAMILY CONFERENCE



FUN: Friendship, Understanding, Nembutsu

OCT 10, 2026

Buddhist Church of Stockton
2820 Shimizu Dr
Stockton, CA 95203

**REGISTRATION &
INFORMATION**

9am - 3pm

Reg Link Coming Soon



JAPANESE FOOD BAZAAR & COLLECTIBLES SALE

Saturday, June 27, 2026

Food 12:00-7:00 or until sold out

Sushi, Tempura (after 2:00), Teriyaki Chicken, Curry Rice, Spam Musubi, Asian Chicken Salad, Shave Ice, and More!

Collectibles Sale 12:00-3:00

Wall Art, Display Dolls, Lacquerware, Antique Serving Plates, Kimono, Cookware and many One-of-a-kind items!

Lodi Buddhist Church
23 N. Stockton St., Lodi

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