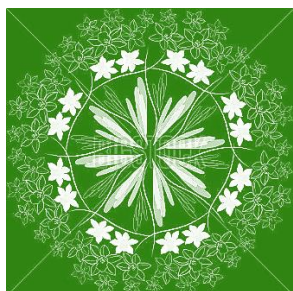


**WALNUT GROVE
BUDDHIST CHURCH**

**DELTA
DHARMA**

Monthly Newsletter

**March
2024**



14105 Pine Street

PO Box 336

Walnut Grove CA 95690

walnutgrovebuddhistchurch@gmail.com

916 776 1213

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

February 28, 2024

Fellow Members and Friends of Walnut Grove Buddhist Church,

I hope all of you are doing well as we settle into 2024.

This past weekend I attended the BCA National Council Meeting, hosted by the Northern California District Temples, and held at the Sacramento Betsuin. It was great to see everyone in person. A huge thank you to all the committee members and volunteers for making this event a success. A huge thank you is in-order for the members of the Sacramento Betsuin for hosting this multi day event. Hosting the National Council Meeting is a very big job and it was done extremely well.

There were 160+ delegates and ministers in attendance. The schedule allowed ample time for conducting business and for plenty of fellowship at the social events. It was great to reconnect with familiar faces and also to meet sangha members from other states and districts. We were treated to plenty of delicious food, beverages of all sorts, and great banquet entertainment.

March will bring in the start of Spring. According to Google, March 19th is the first day. The blooming trees and plants are a beautiful sight to see! For those of you that suffer from allergies, I'm sorry.

Have a great month everyone!

In Gassho

David Ito

Calendar of Services and Events

Sunday 3 1:30 PM Shotsuki Service

Tuesday 5 7:00 PM Board Meeting (Hybrid)

Saturday 23 8:00 AM Spring Clean-up and Omigaki

Saturday 23 10:00 AM Adult Study



Let's hope for good weather for a day of work at the church. Both grounds and inside the church and residence will offer plenty of items to be done. Surely there will be lots of weeds to hoe, branches to be trimmed, spider's webs to be swept, and debris to be piled.

Inside, the altar is to be cleaned and there are plenty of areas to organize, dust, and scrub.

Bringing your own tools and gloves is appreciated and please remember to label them so they don't get put away with church supplies.

Adult Study will meet the same day, so those attending will take a break in between. All are welcome to join.



Bloom Where You Are Planted

Although I do not have much of a green thumb, I have managed to keep a particular orchid plant alive since 2015. It was a beautiful gift that I received from a temple family while I was serving at the Berkeley Buddhist Temple, which was my first ministerial assignment. When I received this orchid plant it was in full bloom with delicate flowers, had hearty green leaves, and very healthy roots. I was very skeptical that I would be able to tend to it well and keep it alive, but since it meant a lot to me, I tried my best to care for it.

This orchid plant did well in my home in Berkeley and it was a beautiful reminder of how kind and caring this family always was to me and how supported I felt by the members in Berkeley. It went through its stages of losing its flowers and blooming again and I was relieved each time, acknowledging that it survived. When it was time for me to transfer to the Buddhist Church of Florin, I made sure that it came with me.

Just like my orchid, I made the transition to a new temple, a new place to live, and into a new community. At times I felt unsure and fragile, just like how I viewed my delicate orchid. It took me some time to fully




unpack and get settled, which made me initially feel flustered and unorganized. But I was surprised when new orchid blossoms returned during this transition, symbolically encouraging me to nurture my ministry and my members at my new temple, despite it being a hectic time of the year when I moved.

Our last move was in October 2020 when I was transferred to Stockton. It was definitely an uncertain transition, as it was six months into the pandemic, and I felt unsure of what my ministry would look like during this shelter in place. At this point, my orchid looked drained of nutrients, dull in color, and its roots were no longer healthy with moisture. Despite its condition, my orchid has continued to bloom each year and has even produced new stems for flowers to grow. As of today, I get to enjoy one new flower and I am awaiting the opening of others.

This orchid has reminded me of its resiliency through change and being able to truly “bloom where you are planted.” Despite its relocation and transitions, my orchid continues to bloom each year. And although there might have been uncertainty on my part on how these moves and changes would affect my orchid, it continues to thrive and grow. My orchid constantly reminds me of the changes and phases of life, the patience and endurance necessary for growth, and to acknowledge all of the conditions seen and unseen that support my existence to be able to bloom wherever I am planted.

In Gassho,

Rev. Candice Shibata



Meditation & Introduction to Buddhism Study Class

We invite you to attend this introductory class to explore the core teachings of Buddhism, which will begin with meditation to encourage us to settle our minds and bodies for this session.

WALNUT GROVE BUDDHIST CHURCH
14105 PINE STREET
WALNUT GROVE, CA 95690

APRIL 28, 2024 @ 10:00 AM

Questions or to RSVP
Please call (916) 776-1442 or email:
walnutgrovebuddhistchurch@gmail.com

This is a free event, but donations are gratefully accepted.

HATSUMAIRI
INFANT PRESENTATION CEREMONY
(OLDER CHILDREN WELCOME TOO!)
Sunday, April 28, 2024

We cordially invite families with newborns to participate in our *Hatsumairi* Ceremony, which will take place during our *Hanamatsuri* service on Sunday, April 28, 2024. We also invite parents to register their children above one year of age to have their children presented as followers of the Buddha if they did not have an opportunity to participate in a *Hatsumairi* ceremony when they were infants.

Hatsumairi literally means, "first Buddhist service." Often translated as "Infant Presentation Service," *Hatsumairi* represents the first opportunity for parents to bring their children who were born during the previous year to our temple. At the same time, it gives our temple the opportunity to give expression to the Primal Vow of Amida Buddha, which embraces people of all ages, genders and ethnicities.

If you wish to participate, please complete the form below and mail it to the Buddhist Church of Stockton by Saturday, April 1, 2024. Please call Rev. Shibata at: (209) 810-5601 if you have any questions regarding this ceremony. Thank you!

Please complete this form and mail it to the temple by **April 1, 2024.**

Attention: Rev. Candice Shibata
P.O. Box 8038, Stockton, CA 95208

Name of Child	Date of Birth	Age
Parent(s)' Names		
Address	City	Zip
Phone Number	Email Address	

March Shotsuki

Joyous Monthly Memorial



Deceased

Chinkichi	Ito
Toyoji	Goto
Hikotaro	Oda
Frank	Uda
Sadako	Uda
Teruo	Uda
Haru	Uda
Hatsutaro	Uda
Kanaichi	Kubota
Tsurukichi	Nagoshi
Jiro	Nagoshi
Yuichi	Ogawa
Isao	Hamada
Mary	Goto
Yoshio	Norikane
Joe	Norikane
Yoshihiro	Koga
Sugi	Koga
Kimiko	Yoshimi
Shigeru	Takaki
George	Hiromoto
Barbara	Miyano
Suwako Sue	Hori
Sumiko	Oda
Kazuo	Tokuyoshi
Hiroko	Sugimoto

Chief Mourner

Yasushi	Ito
Sakai	Family
Ted	Oda
Roy	Uda
Roy	Uda
Roy	Uda
Roy	Uda
Roy	Uda
Roy	Uda
Shizue	Nagoshi
Shizue	Nagoshi
Shigeko	Ogawa
Toshiko	Hamada
Mineko	Kawamura
Mitsuko	Norikane
Mitsuko	Norikane
Dorothy	Koga
Dorothy	Koga
Darrell	Yoshimi
Janet S.	Lopez
Stephen	Hiromoto
Sally	Opgenorth
Steve	Hori
Shoji	Oda
Dorothy	Tokuyoshi
Judy	Young

*The Walnut Grove Buddhist Church
Gratefully Acknowledges
The Following Donations*

SHOTSUKI

Linda Soliven	50.00
Lillian Matsuoka	25.00
Mitsuko Norikane	25.00
David & Christy Ishizuka	
IMO Kunisaburo Ishizuka	25.00
Carol Tang	100.00
Holly Pauls	
IMO Robert Pauls	100.00
Janet Omoto	
IMO Kaz & Lillie (Yuri) Omoto	100.00

SHOTSUKI cont.

June Okada	
IMO Kiyomi Okada	25.00
Naomi Sakai	60.00
Gary & Cheryl Tanaka	
IMO Henry & Gladys Katsuki	100.00
Dorothy Koga	25.00 & 10.00

SPECIAL DONATION

Shoji Oda	50.00
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THANK YOU