



Buddhist Church of Lodi

Newsletter

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<http://lodibuddhist.org/>

Stockton Buddhist Church Obon Bazaar

Saturday August 1st, 11:00 AM – 9:00 PM

Sunday, August 2nd, 11:00 AM – 6:00 PM

*Bon Odori (dance) start at 7:00 PM on Saturday

Saturday, August 1, 2015

9:30 AM Hiroshima/Nagasaki Atomic Bomb

Victims Memorial Service

Sunday, August 2, 2015

8:30 AM Propagation Committee meeting

9:30 AM Shotsuki Service

(Monthly Memorial Service)

Sunday, August 9, 2015

8:30 AM LBWA meeting

*No Sunday Service

Sunday, August 16, 2015

8:30 AM Chanting & Meditation

9:30 AM Family Sunday Service/DS Kick Off

10:00 AM Dharma School meeting

Sunday, August 23, 2015

8:30 AM Chanting & Meditation

9:30 AM Family Sunday Service/DS

10:30 AM Introductory class on Buddhism

Sunday, August 23, 2015

8:30 AM Chanting & Meditation

9:30 AM Family Sunday Service (DS/AD)

DS- Dharma School, AD – Adult Discussion

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 KATSU**[The 70th Anniversary of A-Bomb]**

“The basis for peace is for people to understand the pain of others.”

An atomic bomb victim, Mr. Katsuji Yoshida, left this passage for us. He was a member of my family temple, Kougenji. He passed away a few years ago. I think human beings have some weapons because of their/our weakness and fearfulness. We need to understand the pain of others and have harmony in our mind to create “peace”.

The month of August is very important month for me to think about “peace”. On August 6th 1945, and on August 9th 1945, the atomic bombs were dropped by the USA Army on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Tens of thousands of people were killed. My father who was born in Nagasaki, Japan in 1938 had personally experienced WW2 and he was exposed to radiation when the atomic bomb was dropped onto Nagasaki city.

I want to share with you a story, which my father wrote from his recollection of the summer of 1945.

[My father’s recollection]

I am now living in peace. Because of living in peace, I am forgetting how valuable “peace” is. I made my resolution to make an effort to create a world without war because I experienced the hell of war and the atomic bomb. But now, it seems that I am forgetting about my resolution. I really feel that I need to remember my experience and resolution, again.

I want to introduce to you to a passage from “NIDOTONAI JINSEI DAKARA (Because my life is unrepeatably)” written by a poet, Mr. Shinmin Sakamura.

“Because my life is unrepeatably, I want to devote my effort to create this world without war and write many poems to convey how valuable “peace” is. I want to write my poems to the younger generations to whom I bequeath this wish after I die.” This poem touched a chord deep within me. Therefore, I

started writing my unforgettable memories, which were deeply branded on my mind.

August 15th, my family temple was full. My family temple was the temporary Headquarters of the Nagasaki Newspaper. Everybody was listening to the news on a radio that Japan surrendered to the USA.

A rumor was circulating that the American soldiers were about to land in Nagasaki very soon. Therefore, people started moving away. I walked, walked, walked. I crossed over the HIMI pass. I am not sure how far I walked. My mother was pulling me along and was shouldering my younger brother so that she could run miles away from the American soldiers because they might kill us or capture us.

I recently contemplated that day. I wondered why my mother had so much power and energy because my mother was unhealthy and sickly.

“I must help my kids at all cost.” I think that was my mother’s thought. My mother’s wish is one of my big and important causes of my life, which is to be able to live now. I am here now because of my mother’s wish.

I think kids are living each single day because they are receiving their mother’s thoughts, father’s thoughts, and their family and friends’ thoughts. These thoughts become the kids’ power and energy to live their life as much as they can.

Our founder, Shinran Shonin, wrote in his writing, Wasan, Hymn.

**“When sentient beings think about Amida
Just as a child thinks of its mother
They indeed see the Tathagata – who is never
distant –
Both in the present and in the future.”
(CWS 357, NO.115)**

Now I am being moved deeply by Shinran Shonin’s reflection and appreciation of Amida Buddha through this Wasan hymn, Wasan and my life after the WW2.

<The 50th wedding anniversary>

I would like to sincerely congratulate Mr. & Mrs. Fred & Joyce Nagata on their 50th wedding anniversary. The surprise party for their anniversary was held on June 20th at the Buddhist Church of Lodi. They have had so many happy years together and they are a wonderful example for all of us. I wish them many more years of love, laughter and happiness.

A Buddhist Church is the place not only to have funerals and memorial services but also to celebrate some auspicious events in our life such as weddings, wedding anniversaries, birthdays, having a baby and more. It is nice to come to the church to celebrate our special occasions in front of Amida Buddha. These events are big turning points in our life and precious occasions to reflect upon our life. Please contact me when you celebrate your special events.

The evaluation of 2015's resolution

(E-excellent, G-good, S-so so, B-bad)

Lodi: Get 24 new members	B
WG: Get 8 new members	B
Give my dharma talk without paper	G
Practice playing "Ryuteki"	B
Practice playing golf	E

-The number of attendees – (Lodi)

Date	Attendees	Date	Attendees
July 5 th	35	July 19 th	83

2015 Memorial Service Schedule

2015 is the memorial year for those who passed away in:

2014	1 year	1999	17 year
2013	3 year	1991	25 year
2009	7 year	1983	33 year
2003	13 year	1966	50 year

In Gassho,

Rev. Katsu: reverend@lodibuddhist.net***PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – Gordon Nitta***

As President of the Buddhist Church of Lodi, I would to thank all the volunteers who helped in putting on another successful Obon Bazaar. Special thanks to Chair Corey Okazaki, Lodi Buddhist Church Women Association, and all the various Chairpersons.

With Gassho,
Gordon Nitta

MESSAGE FROM RON OYE

Since our bazaar, I feel much more relaxed and enjoying the summer. In fact, I attended a few other bazaars and enjoyed the moment without worrying about something. Thanks to all our generous members and non-members' donations, bingo was again able to contribute to the total net. This year especially people picked gift cards as prizes more than previous years. The basement was comfortable where people ate and enjoyed one another's company as well as play bingo. I hope everyone had a good time!

Save the evening of July 29, 2015 when the Stockton Ports play Modesto Nuts at the Japanese American Heritage Night. The game will be in honor of the Lodi Templars who played before the war and later teams, the Lodi Civics. More recently the baseball team is the Lodi JACL. This will be the last year the baseball team will play together. There will be displays of photos and mementos at this game, which might be of interest.

Reverend Kusunoki will be throwing out the first pitch of the night. This maybe your last chance to see him pitch; I hear he maybe getting into golf.

Tickets will be available at the Obon Service on July 19th and at the church office thereafter.

BUDDHIST CHURCH OF LODI

General Meeting – July 14th

Members Present: Rev. Kusunoki, Mrs. Ayano Kusunoki, Gordon Nitta, Sach Watanabe, Steve Ogata, Bruce Sasaki, David Morimoto, Tom Iwamiya, Annie Tanimoto, Judy Waters, Amy Morita, and Hannah Egi.

The meeting was called to order with gassho led by Rev. Kusunoki at 7:08 PM.

The minutes of the June meeting were approved as published.

Treasurers' Reports:

Bruce Sasaki: written report submitted, a check was needed to pay Food-4-Less for meats and poultry, (bazaar foods) unfortunately an itemized list was not given.

Steve Ogata: written reports given with complete breakdown. Next month report for the bazaar will have charges made and reimbursements checks paid. Judy Waters made a motion to accept both reports, Sach Watanabe seconded, and the group passed the motion.

Minister's Report:

June 10th through July 14th: Shinran's monthly service (OSAJI), Shotsuki service, Pet memorial service, and 2 Chanting and Meditation at BCL; conducted 1 funeral memorial service at Walnut Grove Buddhist Church; I participated in the Obon Bazaar, LBWA meeting, LBWA bus trip, the WGBC's Obon Bazaar, and the NCDSTL meeting. I was invited to the Kyoshi training, the Salinas Buddhist Temple and the Las Vegas Sangha as a guest speaker. Sensei Roy conducted a wedding counseling, Shotsuki service, Dharma School service, and a Makuragyo for the Walnut Grove Buddhist Church.

LBWA Report - Hannah Egi

Because of moderate weather, the group was able to sell a variety of foods at the bazaar with very little left over. Thanks to Warren Ito giving excellent advice, we were able to sell 7 orders of chow mien, with very little waste. The sushi rollers were not the same people, but with the help of experts, Mrs.

Mikami and Mrs. Kishi who did "repairing" on some of the maki rolls, more combo sushi were also sold. Curry rice group had extra help for cutting vegetables, meats, and poultry because many ladies were flexible and came to help when and wherever they were needed. Okusan and I are making maps and diagrams for how to set up tables, papering the walls and floors, and quality/quantity control of some foods. We will also have a schedule and timeline for next year and have it up for all to see. Thanks to many who came out to help Walnut Grove for their bazaar. Sensei Roy said all the ladies were very grateful. One of the coming events is the Age Appreciation Obento. Some of our elder church and community members will receive a quick survey call. A phone call will also be made to ask for help in cooking items for the bento. Our next meeting is August 9, 2015 at 8:30 AM.

Shinyukai Report - Mrs. Ayano Kusunoki

There was no luncheon for June. On July 28, somen, tempura, namasu, and kuri manju will be served.

Dharma School Report – Hannah Egi

Hannah Egi reported if Beth Oesterman had not contacted Lodi High Key Club, there would not be enough help for the game booths.

Propagation Committee

Rev. Kusunoki reminded us about the Fall Seminar with Rev. Kodani, September 19, 2015.

Building Maintenance –

Sach Watanabe reported the need to change the electrical switchbox inside the property so it can't be tampered.

Old Business:

- 1) Old photos, framed, and now need to be displayed
- 2) Obon Service, July 19, 2015 – Ron Oye will chair.
- 3) Obon Bazaar wrap up - President Gordon Nitta thanked LBWA and Corey Okazaki for job well done! Profits were up, more raffle tickets sold, and most foods sold out. Any problems on foods LBWA oversaw are being changed or improved.
- 4) WFWA (Western Farm Workers Association) the group won't come to speak to church, but

President Nitta asked if Dharma School will make a Donation Box.

New Business:

- 1) Funeral calling list, President Nitta will work on this list.
- 2) Office help, Mondays are going to need someone to help after the end of July.
- 3) Shirley Komatsu's name is on the signature card and would like it removed. The body passed the request after Sach Watanabe moved and Judy Waters seconded the motion.
- 4) The body discussed looking into hiring off-duty police to provide security as money is collected during the bazaar.
- 5) Steve Ogata would like to open a different account to better manage funds under Mach Yamashita account. Bruce Sasaki moved, Tom Iwamiya seconded and the motion was passed.

Upcoming events:

Obon service July 19, 2015

Need helpers to put up banners at 8:30 AM

Las Vegas sent raffle tickets to sell, 1st prize, 2 airline tickets to Las Vegas.

Peace Gathering in New York, Rev. Kusunoki will attend and be gone August 2nd to 7th.

Next meeting: Tuesday, September 8, 2015 at 7:00 PM

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with gassho led by Rev. Kusunoki.

Respectfully submitted,
Hannah Egi

LBWA UPDATE – Hannah Egi

My favorite pin to wear says: "Live with Humility and Gratitude". Before and after our Lodi bazaar, helping at Walnut Grove, dancing at Cortez's, Sacramento's, and San Jose's O-Bon odori; I am very humbled and filled with gratitude at all of the hard work of countless people who have worked to bring those events to fruition. To help and dance at other temples' celebration was much easier than one's own bazaar and odori. I was able to enjoy and appreciate the food, displays, entertainment, and participation with fellow Buddhists!

The group has gone through food items it sells and has decided, with Okusan's guidance, to have signs,

diagrams, timelines, etc. to help whoever is working in a food area with consistency of serving portions and set up. The group needs a chairperson/s to oversee each food. Sensei and Okusan need to be available to greet dignitaries and guests from other temples. We will continue with schedules, procedures, and containers that are helpful. We need to change or stop making food/s that are not profitable as the group's able-bodied numbers lessen.

Thank you to Joyce and Fred Nagata for researching and setting up two LBWA outings. I heard everyone who participated had a great time! Thank you also to Janet Morimoto for contacting members to bring snacks and other foods for after monthly Shotsuki services.

Coming up is Age Appreciation Obento. As stated at the board meeting, someone will contact family members to see if the honorees will be home and can eat the delicious food Toshi Yoshioka will oversee. Any responses need to in by September 1, 2015.

The next meeting is August 9, 2015 at 8:30 AM.

SCRIP UPDATE – Kelly Yamane

In addition to the gift cards, Raley's has a new electronic scrip program and you don't need a card to participate! It is called Extra Credit and is part of the Something Extra rewards program. **To enroll, please sign up for a Something Extra rewards account at www.somethingextra.com. After enrollment, you can visit Extra Credit and select the church (listed as Buddhist Church of Lodi) as a scrip beneficiary.**

Thank you to all who are using their SaveMart SHARES card. Every time you shop, your card is scanned and the church receives a 3% benefit. Please contact me if you would like a card – the SHARES cards are free! Like Raley's, SaveMart is not able to provide reports by individual contributions for their SHARES program. Year-to-Date March 2015, the church earned **\$305**, as a result of purchases with your SHARES card. If you purchase SaveMart gift cards (2% benefit), we can continue to track your individual contributions.

Thank you to all who are participating in the 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.

July Scrip Supporters

Chris Smith

Harriet Matsumoto

Joy Sasaki

Kelly Yamane

Liza Kanemura

Mieko Komatsu

Nagako Sumida

Nancy Burgess

Terry Oga

Calendar Dates:

Scrip orders due: 8/7 at 10 a.m. (Friday)

Scrip pick-up: 8/17 (Monday)

THANK YOU

Have you noticed before you enter the Hondo, there is a little alcove just right of the doors? Many times, there is a beautiful flower arrangements made by a member of the Sangha.

Thank you Mitsuko Kishi for the floral arrangement for our Obon service.

