



Buddhist Church of Lodi

Newsletter

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

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<http://lodibuddhist.org/>

Sunday, October 4, 2015

8:30 AM Chanting & Meditation

9:30 AM Shotsuki Service

(Monthly Memorial Service)

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

1:00 PM Dharma Discussion (Annex)

“Buddhism on Air”

Saturday, October 10, 2015

10:00 AM -1:00 PM Teriyaki Chicken Sale

½ Chicken in Box Lunch, \$10.00

Sunday, October 11, 2015

8:30 AM Chanting & Meditation

9:30 AM Eitaikyo (Perpetual Memorial Service) &

Past Bishops Memorial Service

Guest: Sacramento Choir

Speaker: Rev. Katsuya Kusunoki

*Osaisen Collection Bishop's Project

Sunday, October 18, 2015

8:30 AM Chanting & Meditation

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

Sunday, October 25, 2015

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

Saturday, October 31, 2015

10:30 AM Eshinni/Kakushinni/Takeko Kujo/Lady

Otani/LBWA past members memorial service

Guest Speaker: Rev. Tim Castle

(Sacramento Betsuin)

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 message for us before he passed away in 2010. He was a member of my family temple, Kougenji and also a good friend of my father. He was thirteen years old when the A-bomb was dropped on Nagasaki on August 9th, 1945. He was badly burned because he was close to ground zero. Later, he made a big effort to tell his experience to younger generations. He also came to the U.S.A. to convey his experience and wish for peace. I truly appreciate his words, which are related to the Buddha's great compassion. I would like to introduce his article written in 2005 and think about “Peace” with you.

<Two students died in front of me>

We went back to the commercial high school where we took refuge before. The pain that I suffered when the glaring sunlight hit my burned flesh was like hell on earth. After sunset, my pain became better. However, my face started swelling. One of my friends cried and said that he wanted to go home. I told him that it was better to wait for someone to come to rescue us. But, he didn't listen to me. He left there and crossed over a hill even though his right eye was blind. Luckily he got back to his home. He also visited my family and told them. “Yoshida got burnt but he is still alive. Please go to save him.”

Around that time, my friends and I met two students who were our schoolmates. One of them had injured his leg and another one's eyeballs hung down to his mouth. We could see his naked vein was beating. The guy whose eyes fell out carried the guy who injured his leg on his back. When they came to close to us, they said, “Ahhhh, I feel relieved!” and then died there. This picture is still imprinted on my memory even though sixty years have passed.

<I eventually became blind. I didn't drink water>

I couldn't see anything because my face was so swollen. I tried to open my eyelids but I couldn't do it. I turned my face to the direction where I could hear somebody's footsteps. I asked people if the Suwa shrine area where I lived was OK. I asked the same question over and over again, but all the

replies were same that Nagasaki city was totally destroyed. It became night and dark. We encouraged each other saying, “GANBARO, GANBARO (Keep going! Do not give up.)”

I felt cold and was shivering even though it was summer time. It might be because I didn't have skin on my body. I really wanted to drink water. My friend told me, “Yoshida, please give me some water. I won't regret drinking water even if I die.” We asked people who were walking nearby to give us some water but they just passed by us. Nobody stopped for us. If I were them, I would have done the same thing.

At school morning assembly, an officer had used to say, “When you get injured, you will want to drink water, but you must not drink water.” We heard that over and over again. In those days, we had to follow what they said without having any questions. I may have survived because I did what they had taught me.

It was a long night but finally morning dawned. A woman told us that a rescue team had come from Isahaya City. She took us to the commercial high school's grounds where the rescue team was. I was determined not to die until I got home. The rescue staff put me on a wooden door board and applied ointment using what little medicine they had.

It was very hot during the daytime. It felt like my burned body was on a hot plate. I thought that I would suffer forever and eventually die. My mother told me afterward that a thousand of people were laid down on the grounds and suffering from burns, groaning with pain, crying, and calling out for their mother, father and family.

My parents first went to epicenter of the explosion to look for me and then came to the school grounds. It was not easy to find me because the grounds were filled with injured people who were wrapped with bandages. They called “Katsuji, Katsuji” and looked at each one of the injured people. They finally found me but at first, they could not recognize me because my face and body looked totally different. My parents took me home. On the way home, it is said that my parents walked through the burned-out city and I deliriously kept asking my parents to give me some water. There were many burned people who were almost dead on the roadside. They could move their mouth but couldn't make any sound. They looked at me with a reproachful look. My parents saw them but just passed by these people.

The evaluation of 2015's resolution
(E-excellent, G-good, S-so so, B-bad)

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

-The number of attendees – (Lodi)

Date	Attendees	Date	Attendees
Aug 23 rd	37	Sept 12 th	43
Aug 30 th	37	Sept 19 th	

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

BUDDHIST CHURCH OF LODI

General Meeting - September 8th

Members present: Rev. and Ayano Kusunoki, Gordon Nitta, Beth Oesterman. Bruce Sasaki, Tom Iwamiya, Ron Oye, and Hannah Egi.

The meeting was called to order by president Gordon Nitta at 7:02 PM. Rev. led Gassho.

President Nitta read a thank you letter from Walnut Grove Church for beverages donated by Lodi.

The minutes for July meeting were approved as printed in August newsletter.

General Treasurer:

Bruce Sasaki presented two months reports. There was a large increase in utility expenses; this was due to the bazaar. The body moved, seconded, and passed to accept both reports. Steve Ogata did not attend meeting and no report was given.

Minister's Report:

July 15th through Sept 8th: 1 pillow service, 2 funeral services, 1 burial service, 5 yearly memorial services, Obon cemetery service, Obon/Hatsubon service, Hiroshima/Nagasaki A-Bomb victims memorial service, Shinran's monthly memorial service (OASAJI), Shotsuki service, 3 family Sunday Services/Dharma School, 2 chanting and meditation services, 1 adult discussion, introductory class on Buddhism, 2 monthly clean ups, Ochanomi Hoza (Japanese Dharma Discussion), Ritual & Chanting class, Nihongo Gakko, monthly dharma discussion, propagation committee meeting, and office staff meeting at BCL; conducted Shotsuki service, Obon/Hatsubon service at the Walnut Grove Buddhist Church.

I participated in BCA Minister's seminar (Fuken), NCDSTL meeting, NCBWA meeting, Rev. Dr. Ken Tanaka's lecture, the Walnut Grove Buddhist Church Obon Odori, Sacramento Betsuin Golf tournament, LBWA meeting, Lodi DS meeting, Shinyukai, New York Inter-faith peace gathering, and Stockton Ports Japanese Heritage Night.

I was invited to the San Mateo Buddhist Temple, Rykoku University student's seminar at the JSC, and Stockton Buddhist Church Dharma School teachers' seminar as a guest speaker/lecturer. I also conducted a service at the ACC green heaven terrace.

July 19th Sensei Roy conducted Obon cemetery service at the Walnut Grove Buddhist Church. July 19th Dharma School and adult discussion group. July 28-29 attended ritual and chanting seminar at Lodi BC. August 2 WGBC Shotsuki Service. August 13-15 meeting at Jodo Shinshu Center, Berkeley. August 21 WGBC newsletter August 22, Lili Yuriko Iseri memorial service at Sacramento Memorial on Stockton Blvd. August 28, attended service at ACC Greenhaven.

LBWA Report: Hannah Egi

The group's next meeting is Oct. 3 at 8:30 am in the annex. We'd like to thank the many people who helped prep, cook, and deliver the delicious foods for the Age Appreciation Bento. Thank you for Judy Waters for updating the list and organizing the delivery service. Thanks also go to Toshi Yoshioka for purchasing the food and overseeing the cooking of the menu. Coming up is the church chicken teriyaki sale, please check for emails or phone calls to help with the cabbage salad and sushi rice on

Oct. 10. Also coming will be a letter inviting you to our annual Eshinni/Kakushinni/Past Members Memorial service, Saturday, October 31 with lunch at Yeng Ching.

Shinyukai:

Okusan Kusunoki reported that 45 people enjoyed a delicious meal of saba, rice, suri daikon, namasu, miso soup, tsukemono, ham, mizu-yokan (red bean jelly) with dango and whipped cream for dessert. Saba was donated by Mr. & Mrs. Fred Nagata, Mr. & Mrs. Roy Nagata, and Mr. & Mrs. Rod Kaida; tsukemono by Mr. Roy Tashima; whipping cream by Nancy Burgess; ham by Mrs. Toshioka; and yokan by Ayano Kusunoki.

Dharma School:

Beth Oesterman stated, in addition to the regular schedule of events, the group would like to have more fun activities. They will build a more permanent donation box. In November, the students will plant more bulbs. It was announced that Mr. & Mrs. Warren Ito and family, along with some other church members would not be able to be present for the church Spaghetti Dinner on November 7.

Propagation Committee:

Rev. reminded us about the fall seminar with Rev. Mas Kodani on September 19 from 9:00 am to noon in the Hondo, light refreshments in the annex before. The expenses for our speaker divided three ways: Lodi Buddhist Temple, Walnut Grove Church, and Propagation funds. SABA (Senior Adult Buddhist Association) will meet, eat, and drink after the seminar in the church annex.

Building Maintenance:

One of the doors is due to be repaired.

Old Business:

*Funeral calling list, Gordon Nitta is working on the 60 names do not have email.

*Office helpers - There are helpers for Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays. The office is closed on Wednesdays.

New Business:

*Teriyaki Church 10/10/15 - ordered 1,375 chicken quarters, injecting will be Thurs. before. Ticket

printing by Bank of Commerce, plan to drop off 4 comp tickets.

*Spaghetti Dinner 11/7/15 - some families won't be there, but will be asked to see what can be done ahead. Youth groups needing community service will be contacted.

***Social Welfare Committee:**

NC project look for funding \$15,000 for portable toilets for workers to areas of disaster. Nitta will vote yes.

***Fall Higan** service 9/20/15 will be chaired by David Morimoto.

***BCA calendars** will order 150 @\$5.

With no further business, Rev adjourned the meeting at 7:43 pm with gassho.

Respectfully submitted,

Hannah Egi

LBWA UPDATE

The Age Appreciation Bento box lunch was made and delivered to our seniors on Saturday, September 12th. They enjoyed a menu of delectable Japanese dishes prepared by our LBWA members. Thank you to the many ladies who made this a wonderful event. Thanks to the many drivers who delivered the bento to our city and country dwellers. Thank you Toban ladies for washing the many dishtowels.

Our next event is the Eshinni, Kakushinni, and Past Members Memorial Service Program on Saturday October 31st followed by lunch at Yen Ching Restaurant. You will receive a letter with more information shortly.

Our next meeting is Friday, October 3rd in the annex.

We are still searching for a third member to our Executive Board and an Activity Chair. The third Executive Board member will serve January - April 2016. Please consider this position, as the Lodi Buddhist Women's Association is an integral part of the Buddhist Church of Lodi.

DHARMA SCHOOL – Jill Walter

Dharma School students find themselves in the kitchen this fall. In celebration of fall Ohigon, Hannah will be teaching the students how to make delicious apple wonton turnovers. To help further

sharpen student's culinary skills they will be given a cooking lesson by Warren Ito. For the month of October, Dharma School will be actively volunteering at the church's annual Teriyaki Chicken Sale and working on a new donation box to help assist the Women's Center Youth and Family Services.

SHINYUKAI as of August 25th

Birthdays donations:

Chieko Watt	\$20.00
Nellie Kawamura	20.00

Special donations and contributions:

Saba (fish)
Fred and Joyce Nagata

Roy and Cheryl Nagata

Rod and Patti Kaida

Rev. Roy Mayhugh	\$10.00
Ayano Kusunoki	Yokan

Nancy Burgess
Whipping Cream

Roy Tashima	Delicious
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Tsukemono	
Toshi Yoshioka	Ham

Anonymous Donation IMO of her mother who enjoyed Shinyukai gatherings: \$1,000.00

To the Boys who cooked the Saba, it was delicious. We all enjoyed it. THANK YOU!!

SCRIP UPDATE

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 June 2015, the church earned **\$625**, 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.

September Scrip Supporters

Chris Smith
Hannah Egi
Harriet Matsumoto
Haru Onishi
Janet Morimoto
Joy Sasaki
Kelly Yamane
Liza Kanemura
Mataga Buick Cadillac GMC
Mieko Komatsu
Mitsuko Kishi
Nagako Sumida
Pam Kriter
Rev Katsu Kusunoki
Terry Oga

Calendar Dates:

Scrip orders due: 10/2 at 10 a.m. (Friday)

Scrip pick-up: 10/12 (Monday)

THANK YOU

To the Monthly Clean Up crew on September 4th: Rev. Kusunoki, Ayano Kusunoki, Ken Egi, Frank Teranishi, Nagako Sumida, Hannah Egi, and Harriet Matsumoto.