

THE DELTA DHARMA

WGBC MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2026

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Calendar of Services, Meetings and Events

Thursday	1	10:30 AM New Year's Day Service (In person)
Sunday	4	1:30 PM Shotsuki/Monthly Service
Tuesday	6	7:00 PM Board Meeting (Hybrid)
Sunday	25	10:00 AM Adult Study

President's Message

Happy New Year!

Because of the church board's infinite "wisdom", I am elected as the new, old president or old, new president. Both descriptions apply in this case. I'll be overseeing Walnut Grove Buddhist Church's activities in 2026. But, as always, there is a team of dedicated members (and volunteer non-members) who make sure things get done and remind me of my responsibilities. After having served as president in past years, I probably should know my responsibilities without being reminded!

I want to thank 2025 co-presidents, Holly Pauls and Sharon Yokoi, for keeping our temple moving forward post pandemic as adjustments still are being made to church activities. I will look for their guidance and input going into the new year. We want to continue to keep the temple on the map by encouraging all of you to participate in the religious and social events we plan throughout the year. Only with your attendance can we keep the temple relevant. Please don't hesitate to contact me or any board member if you have questions or suggestions.

Finally, given the often dour current news on natural disasters, foreign affairs, and domestic politics, it would be easy to become pessimistic for the coming year. But, when you toast in the New Year, look at each of your own champagne glasses as half full rather than half empty and you really will have a Happy New Year! Or, just keep refilling those champagne glasses!

In Gassho,

Craig Nakahara

Remembering Shinran Shōnin & Rennyo Shōnin & Honoring Our Living Tradition

Either in January or November, Jōdo Shinshū Buddhists gather to observe Hōonkō, the memorial service marking the passing of Shinran Shōnin, the founder of our tradition. Hōonkō is often described as the most important service of the Jōdo Shinshū year, not because it focuses on Shinran as an object of worship, but because it gives us an opportunity to pause and reflect on the immeasurable gratitude we feel for the teachings that continue to shape and sustain our lives.

The word *Hōonkō* means “a gathering to repay our debt of gratitude.” While we can never truly repay the compassion and wisdom that Shinran Shōnin shared through his life and teachings, we express our gratitude by listening deeply to the Dharma, reciting the Nembutsu, and reflecting on how these teachings continue to guide us just as we are.

Starting with the 2025 Obon service and the Hōonkō observance that is observed in November, these services were especially meaningful for the Walnut Grove Buddhist Church, with the addition of new altar scrolls depicting Shinran Shōnin and Rennyo Shōnin. Their presence on the altar is not merely decorative or historical. Rather, these portraits serve as gentle yet powerful reminders that the Dharma we encounter today was lived, struggled with, and shared by real human beings who sought to understand life in the midst of uncertainty, suffering, and impermanence.



Seeing Shinran Shōnin on the altar reminds us that the Jōdo Shinshū path emerged from deep self-reflection and humility. Shinran did not present himself as a perfected saint, but as an ordinary person who came to entrust himself fully to Amida Buddha’s compassion. In this way, his image invites us to see ourselves honestly, to acknowledge our limitations, our doubts, and our imperfections, while also recognizing that we are already embraced just as we are.

The addition of Rennyo Shōnin’s portrait further emphasizes that the Dharma is not static or distant. Rennyo helped make Shinran’s teachings accessible to everyday people, ensuring that the Nembutsu and the spirit of gratitude could be lived in households and communities. His presence on the altar reminds us that the teachings continue to be shared, clarified, and passed on through compassionate effort and deep listening.

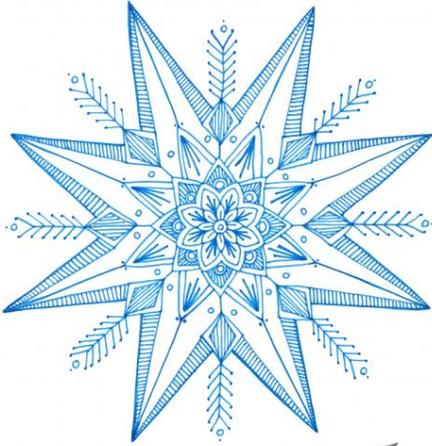
Together, these portraits connect past, present, and future. They remind us that we are part of a living tradition, one that has been carried forward through countless lives and continues to unfold through our own. When we see Shinran and Rennyo on the altar, we are reminded that we, too, are participants in this ongoing journey of listening to the Dharma and expressing gratitude through our lives.

As members of the Walnut Grove Buddhist Church and the Buddhist Church of Stockton, observing Hōonkō invites us to reflect not only on history, but on how the teachings continue to support us today—in moments of joy, loss, confusion, and hope. May this season of Hōonkō deepen our sense of gratitude and help us recognize that the wisdom and compassion shared by Shinran Shōnin continue to illuminate our lives, here and now.

In Gassho, Rev. Candice Shibata

January Shotsuki

Joyous Monthly Memorial



Deceased

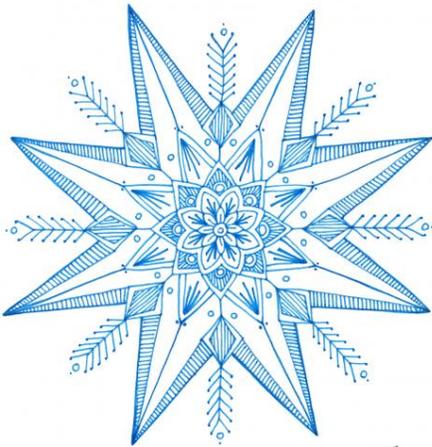
Jinpei
 Ukichi
 Tama
 Tsugio
 Fumiko
 Ayano
 Ayako
 Kano
 Sadano
 Isamu
 Hatsuko
 Chiyo
 Sadako
 Margaret
 Toshino
 Eiri
 Tetsuya
 George
 Misako
 Hinakichi
 Henry
 Eddie Sadao
 Elsie
 Lillie Yuriko
 Kuniko
 James
 Elleen
 Ruby

Sakogawa
 Kuwahara
 Shinmoto
 Shinmoto
 Nakaoka
 Higashi
 Higashi
 Hori
 Oto
 Oto
 Nagoshi
 Kondo
 Mizutani
 Ito
 Ogawa
 Teruko
 Otsuka
 Shoji
 Ikeuchi
 Ikeuchi
 Katsuki
 Nakahara
 Nakayama
 Omoto
 Nishi
 Hirakawa
 Okada
 Kawahara

Chief Mourner

Margaret
 Thomas
 Thomas
 Steve
 Steve
 Steve
 Sally Oto
 Sally Oto
 Shizue
 Lillian
 Lillian
 David
 Shigeiko
 Roy Aki
 Wayne
 Wayne
 Linda
 Frances
 Omoto
 Dennis
 Gary
 June
 Linda Matsuo

Shigio
 Shinmoto
 Shinmoto
 Hori
 Hori
 Hori
 Opgenorth
 Opgenorth
 Nagoshi
 Matsuoka
 Matsuoka
 Ito
 Ogawa
 Miyagawa
 Ikeuchi
 Ikeuchi
 Katsuki
 Nakahara
 Family
 Nishi
 Hirakawa
 Okada
 Kawahara



*The Walnut Grove Buddhist Church Gratefully Acknowledge
 The Following Donations.*

SHOTSUKI

Craig Nakahara
 IMO Misao Nakahara 50.00
 Frances Nakahara
 IMO Misao Nakahara 50.00
 Amy Yamamoto
 IMO Fumio Nakahara 25.00
 Stephen & Keiko Kashiwada
 IMO Niichi Nakayama 25.00
 Nancy Nakahara
 IMO Fumico Nakahara 30.00

Merrie Nishisaka
 IMO Tsuta Sanada &
 Ritsuko Hishisaka 100.00
 Sandra Kawamura
 IMO Niichi Nakayama 30.00
 Janet Omoto
 IMO Kazuo Omoto 50.00
 Janet Omoto
 IMO Lillie Yuriko Omoto 50.00
 Steve Hori 25.00
 Lola Bailey 40.00

SPECIAL DONATIONS

Tom Cappelletti
 For cookbook 20.00
 In Memory of Toshiko Hamada
 Steve Hori 25.00
 Alice Yakayama 50.00
 Daisy Mah 50.00

—thank you—

From Your Membership Chair-Sandi Kawamura

Happy 2026! Here's wishing you good fortune and health throughout the year. Besides beginning a new calendar year, January starts a new membership year. **Dues for 2026 are \$50 per person. Those 80 years old or older may elect to have their membership dues waived.** We ask that all of you (new, continuing, and returning members) fill out the membership form below and using the enclosed envelope, mail it back to us at your earliest convenience or bring it to the temple on your next visit. Thank you.

Name_____

Address_____

Phone_____

Email_____

Are you 80 years of age or older? yes ___ no ___

Check#_____Amount_____

I am interested in ...

participating in classes, seminars and workshops on these topics:

participating in other church activities, such as:

serving on the church board

helping with fundraising

helping with church improvements

contributing to the newsletter

helping with the website

RSVP ASAP PLEASE

**PLEASE JOIN THE WALNUT GROVE BUDDHIST CHURCH
2026 NEW YEAR PARTY - SUNDAY JANUARY 25TH AT NOON
AT THE GAKUEN HALL IN WALNUT GROVE**

Name/s_____

Yes! The number in my party is _____

Sorry, I can't make it

Let us know if you need transportation and we will try to assist you in finding a ride. Save an envelope, save a stamp, include these forms together if sending in both!

If you prefer, email us at walnutgrovebuddhistchurch@gmail.com in lieu of returning this form

2026 WALNUT GROVE BUDDHIST CHURCH BOARD

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Co-Presidents-----Craig Nakahara
1st Vice President-----David Ito
2nd Vice President/Religious Liaison-----Sharon Yokoi
3rd Vice President-----Janet Sakata
Recording Secretary-----Christy Ishizuka
Treasurer -----Tom Shinmoto

ASSISTANT TO

Treasury-----Gerry Shelton
Recording Secretary-----Carol Tang

SECRETARIES

Corresponding Secretary-----Janet Sakata
Public Relations Secretary-----Holly Pauls

COMMITTEES

Membership Chair -----Sandra Kawamura
NC Council Representatives -----David Ito, Holly Pauls, Virginia Uchida, Sharon Yokoi
Fundraiser Committee -----Church Board
Planning Chair -----Tom Shinmoto
 Assistants-----Craig Nakahara, Ken Sano, Marvin Yokoi, Royce Yokoi, Wes Omoto, Ted Oda
Social Chair-----Virginia Uchida
 Assistants: Christy Ishizuka, Mary Oda, Holly Pauls, Carol Tang, Lorraine Mizuno
Buddhist Education Chair-----Sharon Yokoi
 Assistants: Christy Ishizuka, Holly Pauls, Linda Soliven
Membership Drive Chairs: Holly Pauls, Sharon Sano,
Historical Archives Chair-----Janet Sakata
 Assistants: Nancy Nakahara, Jean Yokotobi
Ministerial Affairs Chair-----Dave Ito _____ Assistant: Craig Nakahara
Calendar Chairs-----Holly Pauls
Librarian-----Linda Soliven _____ Assistant: Christy Ishizuka
Website Coordinator-----Tom Cappelletti
Newsletter
 Editor: Christy Ishizuka
 Proof Reader: Sandi Kawamura
 Crew: Holly Pauls, Tom Shinmoto
Board Advisors----- Dorothy Koga, Frances Nakahara, and Yuri Yokoi,
Financial Advisors-----David Ito, Wes Omoto, Ken Sano, Craig Nakahara

2026 WALNUT GROVE BUDDHIST CHURCH ANNUAL CALENDAR

JANUARY

- Thu 1 10:30 AM New Year's Day Service (In person)
- Sun 4 1:30 PM Shotsuki/Monthly Service
- Tue 6 7:00 PM Board Meeting (Hybrid)
- Sun 25 10:00 AM Adult Study (In person)
- Sun 25 12 Noon New Year's Luncheon

FEBRUARY

- Sun 1 1:30 PM Shotsuki/Monthly Service
- Sun 15 10:00 AM Eitaikyo Closing Service, BCA National Council Meeting
- Sun 22 10:00 AM Adult Study (In person)

MARCH

- Sun 1 1:30 PM Shotsuki/Monthly Service
- Tue 3 7:00 PM Board Meeting (Hybrid)
- Sat 21 2:00 PM Special Service – Rev. Ai Hironaka
- Sun 29 10:00 AM Adult Study and Omigaki (In person)

APRIL

- Sun 5 1:30 PM Shotsuki/Monthly Service
- Tu 7 7:00 PM Board Meeting (Hybrid)
- Sun 26 10:00 AM - Adult Study
- Sun 26 1:30 PM Hanamatsuri Service

MAY

- Sun 3 1:30 PM Shotsuki/Monthly Service
- Tue 5 7:00 PM Board Meeting (Hybrid)
- Sun 24 10:00 AM Keirokai Fellowship and Luncheon
- Mon 25 Memorial Day Cemetery visits (1:00 PM Nokotsudo and 2:00 PM Franklin)

JUNE

- Tue 2 7:00 PM Board Meeting (Hybrid)
- Sun 7 1:30 PM Shotsuki/Monthly Service
- Wed 24 9:00 AM Mini lower Kitchen Clean-up
- Thu 25 9:00 AM Kuri Manju Making for fundraiser
- Sun 28 10:00 AM Adult Study

JULY

Thu 2 9:00 AM Prep for Bento fund raiser
Sat 4 9:00 AM Prep for Bento fund raiser
Sun 5 Bento Fund Raiser
Tue 7 7:00 PM Board Meeting (Hybrid)
Sat 18 7:00 PM Obon Odori
Sun 19 1:30 PM Hatsubon/Obon/Shotsuki Service
Sun 26 10:00 AM Adult Study

AUGUST

Sun 2 1:30 PM Shotsuki/Monthly Service

SEPTEMBER

Tue 1 7:00 PM Board Meeting (Hybrid)
Sun 6 1:30 PM Shotsuki/Monthly Service
Sun 27 10:00 AM Adult Study

OCTOBER

Sun 4 1:30 PM Shotsuki/Monthly Service
Tue 6 7:00 PM Board Meeting (Hybrid)
Sun 25 10:00 AM Adult Study Class/Workshop – TBD

NOVEMBER

Sun 1 1:30 PM Shotsuki/Monthly Service
Tue 3 7:00 PM Board Meeting (Hybrid)
Sun 29 10:00 AM Adult Study
Sun 29 1:30 PM Hoonko Service

DECEMBER

Sun 6 1:30 PM Shotsuki/Monthly Service
Sat 12 10:00 AM Board Meeting, General Board and board elections (In person)
Sun 27 10:00 AM Adult Study
Thu 31 5:00 PM Virtual Year End Service

JANUARY 2026

Fri 1 10:30 AM New Year's Day Service (In person)

Please note that dates are subject to change, and you will be informed in a timely manner.

