



DELTA DHARMA

The Walnut Grove Buddhist Church Newsletter

December 2025

DECEMBER

| | | | |
|-----------|----|-------|---|
| Sunday | 7 | 1:30 | PM Shotsuki/Monthly Service |
| Saturday | 13 | 10:00 | AM Board Meeting General Board and Board Elections (In Person) |
| Sunday | 28 | 10:00 | AM Adult Study |
| Wednesday | 31 | 5:00 | PM Virtual Year End Service |
| January | 1 | | New Year's Day Service to be determined |

Need to contact us?

We are located at

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Our mailing address is

PO Box 336

Walnut Grove, CA 95690

Our email is

walnutgrovebuddhistchurch@gmail.com

Our phone number is

916 776 1312

A SUNDAY IN NOVEMBER

The third or fourth Sunday of the month at Walnut Grove Buddhist Church is traditionally when our Adult Dharma Study Service and Class is held. Last Sunday was an exception, with Adult Study in the morning and a special service, Ho-Onko, in the afternoon. It included additional rituals as well. This full day at the temple was extra special as guest minister Bishop Harada was present. What to call someone with such an important role in BCA? "Just call me Reverend Harada or Reverend Marv" he replied with a smile.

Adult study began with a brief silent meditation to encourage focus and calm our active minds. Rev. Harada used material from Rev. Kurose's "Everyday Suchness" to explore a life of "becoming". Our discussion centered around the gradual unfolding of the truth of life, where true happiness can only be found in the present. We are reminded that living mostly in the past can make a person stubborn and a strong focus on the future can cause illusions and disappointments. To help us live in the present we are encouraged to observe nature and its constant change. The theme of the talk provoked lots of discussion about what it means to accept change and see the beauty of everyday life.

The afternoon Ho-Onko memorial service was led by Rev. Shibata with Rev Harada giving the Dharma message. This service was unique as it included 2 additional ceremonies. The Minister's Assistant Certification was presented to Kay Freeman of the Stockton temple. The Kieshiki Affirmation Ceremony, when members receive their Buddhist names, included Tom Cappelletti, Carol Tang, Barry and Barbara Sakata. The hondo was nearly full with folks coming from Stockton, Sacramento and surrounding areas to support and congratulate the ceremony participants. A festive social tea was held following service. It was an enjoyable time as new and old friends visited while delicious snacks were shared. A big "Thank You" to all who helped create this special day. Namu Amida Butsu! In Gassho, Holly Pauls

ENDING THE YEAR WITH GRATITUDE

As I am writing this article, we are approaching the Thanksgiving holiday and when you receive this month's newsletter, it will be the month of December. It is hard to believe (as I say every year) that we are approaching the end of the year. The end of something sometimes evokes feelings of loss or a fear of change, which is understandable. However, if we approach the end of the year with gratitude, my wish is that the transition from one year to the next can be a season filled with reflection, hopefulness and excitement.

Rather than meeting the end of the year with regret or hesitation, we are invited to recognize how much we have been supported, guided, and embraced throughout the months that have passed. When we shift our focus toward gratitude, the transition from one year to the next becomes less about loss and more about reflection, hope, and renewal.

As I reflect on 2025, I realize that what I write here is as much a reminder to myself as it is a message to our Sangha. As we approach 2026, I gently remind myself not to be weighed down by things I wish had gone differently, or cling to ideals of what I "should" have accomplished. Instead, I am encouraged to carry gratitude for every encounter, every challenge, every joy, and every lesson that this past year has offered me.

Each recitation of the Nembutsu as, "Namu Amida Butsu" at the end of the year (and every day!) is a way saying thank you for the people who supported me, thank you for the challenges that helped me grow, thank you for the moments of joy, and thank you for guiding me even when I was unaware. Even as the year concludes, the working of Amida Buddha does not. Wisdom and Compassion continue without interruption, always calling, always embracing, always guiding us toward a life of deeper gratitude and awareness.

My wish for each of us is that the conclusion of 2025 becomes a moment of reflection. A chance to breathe, to appreciate, and to say the Nembutsu with a heart touched by gratitude. And as we enter 2026, may we do so with hopefulness, optimism, and the understanding that we do not walk this path alone.

Thank you for another year of your care and support, encouraging words, lasting memories, shared joy, and shared community. May the warmth of Amida Buddha's Compassion continue to shine in your life and in the life of our Sangha. Wishing you all the best in 2026!

In Gassho,
Rev. Candice Shibata

N A M U A M I D A B U T S U

PRESIDENTS' MESSAGE

As I sit here writing the last Presidents' Message for the year, I'm reminded how much our church means to so many people. And though our membership numbers have dwindled, our events and special services have been very well attended. It's always nice to see familiar faces that are members, supporters and friends join us, whether it was at our Teriyaki Chicken Fundraiser, Obon Odori or at our Ho-Onko Service.

We have much to be grateful for. Rev. Candice, our supervising minister, has been steadfast with her uplifting and inspirational Dharma Talks. Her genuine compassion for all living things shines brightly as she frequently uses life experiences to explain Buddhism. She is always so supportive of our efforts and is always willing to lend a helping hand. And we always benefit from her technological knowledge. Thank you so very much Rev. Candice!

I'd like to thank all of our Board members who have worked tirelessly to make things happen. It was such an honor to serve with a group of people whose dedication and selflessness have kept the temple moving forward. In addition to our usual events and activities, 2025 saw some special highlights: 1) a Keirokai was held to honor members over the age of 80; 2) new By-Laws were written and passed; 3) new scrolls were placed in the Onaijin; 4) a new temple Web Site is being developed; 5) planning for the 100th Anniversary has started; and 6) a new computer and phone system were replaced. There are always plenty of things to do around the temple and residence, so if you find yourself with some extra time on your hands, please don't hesitate to contact any of our Board Members.

Lastly, it has been an honor to serve with Holly Pauls as Co-President. Holly is one of the most resilient people I know. Our partnership has been seamless, and she always approaches things with a proactive attitude and a willingness to get things done. She is smart and a great communicator and uses those skills to make things happen. A heartfelt thanks to all of you for making our job easier while moving the church forward. And to the Sangha, many thanks for your generous donations, hard work and continued support. Happy Holidays to all!

In Gassho,
Sharon Yokoi, Co-President

DECEMBER
 SHOTSUKI
 JOYOUS
 MONTHLY
 MEMORIAL

| | | | |
|-------------|------------|----------|---------------|
| Kurasuke | Higashi | Steve | Hori |
| Kumao | Miyakawa | Roy Aki | Miyagawa |
| Tatsu | Miyakawa | Roy Aki | Miyagawa |
| Ichiji | Iseri | Iseri | Family |
| Tetsuji | Hirakawa | | |
| Umetaro | Hamada | Hamada | Family |
| Tani | Hamada | Hamada | Family |
| Kane | Hamada | Hamada | Family |
| Misuyo | Oto | Clifford | Oto |
| Isao | Oto | Clifford | Oto |
| Tsuguo | Nakaoka | | |
| Niichi | Nakayama | Emiko | Ishimoto |
| Louise Tome | Sano | Kenneth | Sano |
| Mineyoshi | Okamoto | | |
| Ben | Kusaba | Dale | Kusaba |
| Yoshio | Kusaba | Dale | Kusaba |
| Kiichi | Matsumoto | John | Matsumoto Jr. |
| Moto | Shoji | | |
| Misao | Nakahara | Frances | Nakahara |
| Itsuji | Sakogawa | Ronald | Shigio |
| Fumio | Nakahara | Nancy | Nakahara |
| Tamotsu | Kawahara | Janice | Clintsman |
| Toshiye | Eastburn | Shizue | Nagoshi |
| Sharon | Carrington | Carol | Tang |
| Richard | Faulk | Leslie | Faulk |
| Kaz | Omoto | Omoto | Family |
| Mikio | Nagoshi | Shizue | Nagoshi |

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

SHOTSUKI

| | |
|--------------------------|--------|
| Ted/Mary Oda | 75.00 |
| Shoji Oda | 50.00 |
| Carol Tang | 50.00 |
| Linda Soliven | |
| IMO Yvonne Moulton | 50.00 |
| Dorothy Koga - Oct | 20.00 |
| Dorothy Koga - Nov | 20.00 |
| Dorothy Tokuyoshi | 50.00 |
| SPECIAL DONATIONS | |
| Tom Shinmoto | |
| IMO Momoyo Ishizuka | 50.00 |
| Nadine/Jerry Penick | |
| For Golf Game | 50.00 |
| Hamada Family | |
| Memorial Service | 300.00 |



HOONKO DONATIONS

| | |
|----------------------------|--------|
| Charlene Hamada/John Krug | 40.00 |
| Jean Yokotobi | 30.00 |
| Holly Pauls | 30.00 |
| Craig Nakahara | 50.00 |
| Mitsuko Norikane | 30.00 |
| Darrell Yoshimi | 50.00 |
| Priscilla Ito | 30.00 |
| Frances Nakahara | 50.00 |
| Steve/Donna Hiromoto | 25.00 |
| Ken/Sharon Sano | 50.00 |
| Patricia Nishite | 50.00 |
| Tom Shinmoto | 40.00 |
| Carol Tang | 100.00 |
| Myra/Dean Okasaki | 100.00 |
| David/Gigi Ito | 40.00 |
| John/Elaine Yoshikawa | 50.00 |
| Tom Cappelletti | 25.00 |
| Cathy Fujimori | 30.00 |
| Lorraine Mizuno | 100.00 |
| Sandi Kawamura | 30.00 |
| Naomi Sakai | 50.00 |
| Virginia Uchida | 30.00 |
| Janice/Lindley Toyama | 25.00 |
| Christy Ishizuka | 25.00 |
| Yuri Yokoi | 40.00 |
| Sharon Yokoi/Gerry Shelton | 50.00 |

IN MEMORY OF MRS. TOSHIKO HAMADA

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| Carol Tanaka | 100.00 |
| Christy/David Ishizuka | 100.00 |
| Shirley/Patsy Nakao | 100.00 |
| Aki/Emi Nakao | 100.00 |
| Kevin Hitomi/Julie Ryce | 200.00 |
| Lisa Tokunaga-Taira | 200.00 |
| Max/Sumiye Hamamoto | 50.00 |
| Lane/Elizabeth Uda | 75.00 |
| Linda Kawahara | 100.00 |
| Madison/Tracie/Devin Yoshikawa | 20.00 |
| Tom McAleer | 20.00 |
| Frances Nakahara | 100.00 |
| Shelia Ogawa | 25.00 |
| Lynn Matsumoto | 25.00 |
| Jon Yego/Nancy Yamabe | 100.00 |
| Lorraine Yoshikawa | 50.00 |
| Glenn/Sami Nakao | 25.00 |
| Steve/Vickie Ong | 25.00 |
| Grace Nakao | 30.00 |
| JoAnn Mow | 50.00 |
| Dave/Gigi Ito | 40.00 |
| Richard/Deanna Yoshikawa | 300.00 |
| Craig Nakahara | 50.00 |
| Burchill/Sakai Family | 200.00 |
| Joyce Sakai | 100.00 |
| David/Marie Tsuda | 100.00 |
| Ben/Miyeko/Mikki Yoshikawa | |
| Jeff/Julia Wong | 200.00 |
| Richard/Lila Grant | 100.00 |
| Nancy Nakahara | 40.00 |
| Keith/Stacy Okasaki | 50.00 |
| Bruce/Rene Yamashiro | 100.00 |
| Myra/Dean Okasaki | 100.00 |
| Allan/Virginia Yamashiro | 100.00 |
| Janice Morikawa | 30.00 |
| Mr/Mrs Donald Y | 80.00 |
| Sandra Kawamura | 40.00 |
| Bob/Sharon Burke | 200.00 |
| Mr/Mrs Craig Pietrow | 100.00 |
| Tom Shinmoto | 50.00 |
| Janet Sakata | 40.00 |
| Vivian Takeda | 20.00 |
| Mr/Mrs Russell... | 50.00 |
| Yvonne Yoshikawa | 50.00 |
| Ted/Mary Oda | 50.00 |
| Camille Pietrow | 100.00 |
| Keith/Karen Adachi | 50.00 |
| Virginia Uchida | 30.00 |
| Tom Cappelletti Family | 25.00 |
| Nicol Yoshikawa | 25.00 |
| Steve/Donna Hiromoto | 30.00 |