



THE
DELTA DHARMA
WGBC MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
MARCH 2026

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CALENDAR OF SERVICES, MEETINGS, AND EVENTS

Sunday	1	1:30 PM	Shotsuki/Monthly Service
Tuesday	3	7:00 PM	Board Meeting (Hybrid)
Saturday	21	3:00 PM	Special Service – Rev. Ai Hironaka

President's Message

Hello March!

We are in the midst of winter weather with cold, rainy, and foggy days. People tell me to travel to some tropical location during this time of year to get away from these inclement temperatures. Over the years, I have gone to locales with white beaches and lounged, holding a bright colored drink with a tiny umbrella and skewered fruit bobbing above the glass rim. It was a nice change of pace, but it wasn't home.

The Sacramento Delta is home. It's my comfort zone. I look forward to the four distinct seasons. Having lived here a lifetime, even driving the often-narrow levee roads on a very foggy night is no cause for alarm to me. It's where a simple driving error can send me into the deep, swift Sacramento River on one side, or into boggy mud, if I don't slam into a tree on the way down, on the land side. These are thoughts that no longer enter my mind. Familiarity will do that for you.

At almost any stop I make in the area, there is a likelihood I will be greeted by someone I know. That especially is true at the temple in Walnut Grove where I have been affiliated with over half of its 99 years in existence, starting as a youngster attending Sunday School. I know most of the members and they are good people. It's fair to say I know most of the temple's nooks and crannies. I've heard its creaks and seen its cracks, and I don't pay them any mind. Familiarity will do that for you.

For those new members, do attend the services and participate in the church events. Meet the other members. Become familiar with us. We want to make the church your comfort zone.

In Gassho, Craig Nakahara

TURNING BACK WHILE MOVING FORWARD

Recently, while returning home to Sacramento from Seattle after attending the Buddhist Churches of America's annual National Council Meeting, I experienced an unexpected reminder of the Dharma. About halfway through our flight, the pilot made an announcement that there was a malfunction in the de-icing mechanism in the right engine. Although it was sunny in Seattle, it was raining in Sacramento, and the de-icing system was necessary to ensure a safe landing. Because of this, we needed to turn around and return to Seattle. We were halfway home and suddenly going back.

When I heard the announcement, I felt panic rise within me. My thoughts began racing. I thought, *"How long will this take? What if something else goes wrong? I just want to be home."* Even though we were not in immediate danger, my attachment to the plan, which was arriving on time and having things go smoothly, caused anxiety.

In that moment, I had to consciously pause and breathe. I reminded myself that the plane was steady, the pilots were calm, and the decision to turn back was not a failure, but it was wisdom responding to changing conditions. We landed safely in Seattle and we were on another flight back to Sacramento in about an hour. What initially felt like a major anxiety provoking disruption became only a minor inconvenience.



This experience reminded me of one of the central teachings of Buddhism, impermanence. Conditions are always changing. We may have a clear destination and carefully arranged plans, but circumstances shift. Weather changes. Systems malfunction. Life does not always unfold according to our expectations. Often, the suffering we experience does not come from the situation itself, but from our resistance to it. My anxiety arose from clinging and from wanting events to proceed according to my timeline. When we loosen our grip, even slightly, we create space for calm and clarity. Turning back was not losing progress. It was ensuring a safe arrival.

Another powerful reminder from that day was how many unseen people were involved in ensuring our safety. This includes the flight crew, mechanics, ground staff, and weather monitoring systems who all played their part. Our safe return depended on countless causes and conditions working together and this is interdependence. In our lives, we are supported in ways we often do not see by family, friends, teachers, colleagues, and even strangers. Recognizing this interconnectedness can help ease our fear. We are not alone in navigating life's uncertainties.

What began as panic ended in gratitude. I was grateful for safety, for skilled professionals making wise decisions, and for the reminder that sometimes turning back is not regression, but compassion in action. The Buddha did not teach us how to control conditions. He taught us how to respond to them with awareness. When plans change, when we are asked to pivot, when life does not move in a straight line, we have an opportunity to practice patience, trust, and humility.

Sometimes the most skillful path forward begins with turning back.

In Gassho, Rev. Candice Shibata

March Shotsuki

Joyous Monthly Memorial

Deceased

Chief Mourner

Chinkichi	Ito	Yasushi	Ito
Toyoji	Goto	Sakai	Family
Hikotaro	Oda	Ted	Oda
Frank	Uda	Roy	Uda
Sadako	Uda	Roy	Uda
Teruo	Uda	Roy	Uda
Haru	Uda	Roy	Uda
Hatsutaro	Uda	Roy	Uda
Kanaichi	Kubota	Roy	Uda
Tsurukichi	Nagoshi	Shizue	Nagoshi
Jiro	Nagoshi	Shizue	Nagoshi
Yuichi	Ogawa	Shigeko	Ogawa
Isao	Hamada	Hamada	Family
Mary	Goto	Mineko	Kawamura
Yoshio	Norikane	Mitsuko	Norikane
Joe	Norikane	Mitsuko	Norikane
Yoshihiro	Koga	Dorothy	Koga
Sugi	Koga	Dorothy	Koga
Kimiko	Yoshimi	Darrell	Yoshimi
Shigeru	Takaki	Janet S.	Lopez
George	Hiramoto	Stephen	Hiramoto
Barbara	Miyano	Sally	Opgenorth
Suwako Sue	Hori	Steve	Hori
Sumiko	Oda	Shoji	Oda
Kazuo	Tokuyoshi	Dorothy	Tokuyoshi
Hiroko	Sugimoto	Judy	Young
Gale	Hamatani	Karen	Landeck



National Council Meeting

The BCS recently held their annual Council meeting in Renton, Washington. The theme this year was titled “Renewal: Jodo Shinsho for Today”. Walnut Grove delegates Virginia Uchida and Holly Pauls enjoyed the well-attended conference over 3 days. In addition to the standard procedural, business items there was a strong focus on “thinking outside the box”. Discussions occurred on growing the Sangha by developing lay leadership, reaching out to prior members and cultivating new members not familiar with Jodo Shinshu Buddhism.

As always temple membership assessments were a hot topic. A new pilot program called “Catalyst” is being formulated. This would freeze temple membership dues for 5 years, allowing all temples to keep additional new dues. Temples could define different levels of membership such as young adult rates, senior rates, or paying monthly dues. Each temple could define what it means to be a member. At this time, it is just a concept and has not been implemented.

The BCA administrators are working hard to share the dharma by offering a variety of programs, activities and workshops. The website is updated frequently with offerings. To discover what BCA is doing for your sangha, check out: www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org

The Walnut Grove Buddhist Church Gratefully Acknowledges The Following Donations

SHOTSUKI – Jan. – Feb.

John Matsumoto	
IMO John Kiichi Matsumoto	100.00
June Okada	
IMO Eileen Okada	50.00
Linda Kawahara-Matsuo	
IMO Ruby Kawahara	50.00
Carol Tang	100.00
Sheila & Wayne Ogawa Family	
IMO Eddie Nakahara	300.00
Craig Nakahara	
IMO Eddie Nakahara	50.00
Frances Nakahara	
IMO Eddie Nakahara	50.00
Cheryl Tanaka	
IMO Henry & Gladys Katsuki	100.00
Oda Family	100.00
Steve Hori	30.00
Holly Pauls	
IMO Robert Pauls	50.00
Carol Tang	100.00
June Okada	
IMO Kiyomi Okada	25.00
June Matsubara	
17 year IMO Ray Matsubara	100.00
Naomi Sakai	50.00
Dorothy Koga	25.00

NEW YEAR

Reverends Bob & Patti Oshita	100.00
Janet Sakata	100.00
Steve & Donna Hiromoto	100.00
June Matsubara	100.00
Wendy Bartlett	50.00
Virgil Norman	100.00

IN MEMORY OF TOSHIKO HAMADA

Virgil Norman	50.00
Gerald Sakai	100.00

OTHER SPECIAL DONATIONS

Lester Kleinburg	100.00
Stephen Sakai	100.00
Virginia Uchida	25.00
Pearl Sugimoto	100.00
Tracy Nagao	50.00
Patricia Nishite	100.00

Michael Oda	
Shoji Oda Memorial	500.00

Anonymous	
Onenju	30.00



Buddhist Church of Stockton's Spring Seminar

RESPONDING WITH COMPASSION



An informative and interactive discussion about Jodo Shinshu Buddhism's view of inclusivity and how it encourages us to respond to the world and events around us with awareness and compassion.

Saturday, March 14, 2026

9:00 AM - 2:30 PM

Buddhist Church of Stockton
2820 Shimizu Drive, Stockton, CA 95203

REV. JOHN IWOHARA

GUEST SPEAKER FROM GARDENA BUDDHIST CHURCH

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/E5MJTNAUXRWMJ6P47](https://forms.gle/E5MJTNAUXRWMJ6P47)

OR CALL THE OFFICE AT: 209-466-6701

REGISTER BY: MARCH 6, 2026

SUGGESTED REGISTRATION FEE:

\$15 FOR ADULTS, \$10 FOR STUDENTS 24 YEARS OF AGE
AND UNDER



*Walnut Grove
Buddhist Church's*

March Adult Study Class

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2026

3:00 PM

FEATURING REV. AI HIRONAKA

Rev. Ai Hironaka was born in January 1977 in Hiroshima, Japan. He graduated from Sotoku High School and earned a B.A. in Shin Buddhist Studies from Ryukoku University.

Assigned to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii (an umbrella organization for Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in the islands) in 2002, he was appointed Resident Minister of Kahului Hongwanji Mission in November 2023 and also serves Lahaina Hongwanji Mission.

During this special adult study class, Rev. Yuki Sugahara from the Sacramento Buddhist Church will facilitate the discussion as Rev. Hironaka shares about his experience of the Lahaina wildfire and how the spirit of Aloha and the Buddha-Dharma has supported him, his family, and Sangha.

14105 Pine Street, Walnut Grove, CA 95690

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walnutgrovebc.org



SAVE THE DATE



WALNUT GROVE BUDDHIST CHURCH'S SUSHI & SANGHA GATHERING

Join us for our adult study class where we explore the symbolism between sushi & Buddhism followed by a sushi demonstration lunch by Koichi Mizushima, Minister's Assistant from the Sacramento Buddhist Church.

This will be followed by our Hanamatsuri Service to commemorate the birth of Siddhartha Gotama who would later become the enlightened Buddha.

APRIL 26, 2026

10:00 AM - ADULT STUDY CLASS & SUSHI DEMO LUNCH

1:30 PM - HANAMATSURI SERVICE

REGISTRATION INFORMATION TO FOLLOW