

# BUDDHIST CHURCH OF FOWLER



## THE WHITE PATH

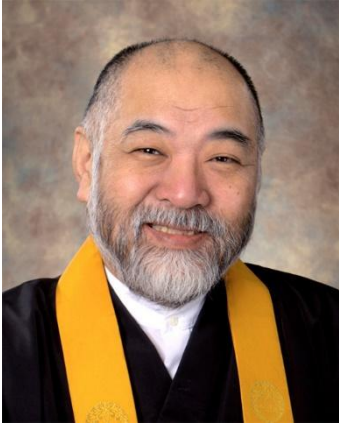
MONTHLY BULLETIN VOL. 486

AUGUST 2019

### AUGUST

6 (Tues)	7:00 p.m.	Golf Club Meeting
18 (Sun)	10:00 a.m.	Monthly Shotsuki Memorial Service
25 (Sun)	2:00 p.m.	BEC Lecture Series Japanese Tea Ceremony, Rev. Yufuko Kurioka @ Reedley Buddhist Church

## ‘Tōro Nagashi’ in Fresno



‘Tōro Nagashi’, Floating Lantern Ceremony began in Fresno in the year 1986, many decades after the end of WWII. This tradition had already become known to the Sansei or Third Generation, those who were unaware of the difficult times “Hai-seki” of WWII and thereafter. By this time, the hearts of the aged had finally settled from any tragedy that became of many young American-born family members during the war. Although they were American born citizens, many young lonely hearts died in Japan. They were our missing sons, daughters and siblings who just lived temporarily with their grandparents, in their parents’ hometown.

The Floating Lantern Ceremony originally was intended to end the Obon season. But this event started to take on a different meaning after the end of the WWII, after “That” day, under a blinding flash in Hiroshima on August 6, 1945. One year later, many people who lost family members, relatives and friends began to float a handmade lantern voluntarily here and there, along the riverside in Hiroshima City. These lanterns were in memory of the souls of the loved ones who evaporated in an instant or were burned to no recognition. From around the 3rd year, members of the temple of Jodo-Shinshu that was located near “Ground Zero” took the lead part of distributing the thousands of handmade lanterns to the bereaved families and these lanterns were placed into a river from a dry riverbed facing “Ground Zero”. More than 80% of this temple’s members was gone, and the rest of the members had victims in their family. On the lantern panels, those who gathered wrote the name of deceased (Buddhist name or secular name) and the name of donor. A prayer was also written. As well as a quote or appeasement of the lost souls, this ceremony began to send the important message. From the very first Toronagashi, written messages included “No nations, just people, Peace!”, ‘No more Hiroshimas/Nagasaki!’, ‘No more stupidity on this planet!’. When President Obama called on Hiroshima in 2016, a message of an apology was argued in the United States. But it was just an insignificant argument among the people in Hiroshima. The meaning of Hiroshima is exceeded way beyond the war between USA and Japan.

Quite a few deep-thinking people who had been living in the world recognized that day under a blinding flash, which surpassed the brightness of the sun, we human beings entered into A NEW ERA. We human beings, Homo-sapiens, through the ages have been living our short lives foreboding death as individuals up to 100 years. But since that day in Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, we gained a foreboding of the biological death of the entire species forever. Our real-self came into view for the first time, but at the present time we still recognize our folly, foolishness that may cause the total downfall of all species on the earth itself.

Please be reminded of the Buddha's universal prayer and the response by Rennyō Shōnin, the 8th master of Honganji;

“As long as space abides and as long as the world abides, so long may my prayer abide, destroying the sufferings of the world.” by the Buddha in 8th century B.C.  
“I shall promote a world of physical, mental, cultural and social non-violence, in order to establish a true Sangha, where no individual would ever be impaired from realizing their full potential.”

by Rennyō Shōnin in 15th century, Japan.

We must know that Buddha's wish truly makes the serious sense for the future of mankind now.

The historical Floating Lantern Ceremony will be held at the Woodward Park Shinzen Gardens from 6:30pm on Saturday, August 10. This event wishes true peace as well as to pay tribute to all those who have passed away. On Sunday, August 11 at FDC from 1:00pm, the GENBAKU Atomic Bomb Memorial Service will be held. This service is especially conducted for remembering forgotten victims of both young Japanese Americans and many American and British POW soldiers whom evaporated in Hiroshima on August 6th, 1945.

In Gassho,

May the regrettable violence which is happening all over the world become nothing cause a chain of hatred.

FOR OUR TOMORROWS WORLD

Namōmitābhaḥ

‘Kindness and Gratitude beyond human words’

Rev. Kakei Nakagawa, Rinban

## Do you know the meaning of Reverend?



Hello everyone!

My name is Kaz Nakata and I have been working in the BCA ministry for 16 years. On August 1 st , 2019, I will begin my assignment in Central California to assist Rinban Kakei Nakagawa in overseeing the Fresno Betsuin, Visalia Buddhist Temple, Hanford Buddhist Church, Buddhist Church of Fowler, Reedley Buddhist Church, Dinuba Buddhist Church, and Buddhist Church of Parlier and also to help develop various activities, and to train members through Buddhist education. These development and education programs will be provided to all CC temples. However, I would like to hear your voice first, so I wish to visit each temple and to hold "Temple Hall Meeting." After hearing your voice, I will customize these programs to fit the needs of each temple. Please wait to hear from me about this project. Previously I worked for Los Angeles Betsuin, served as a chairman of Southern California Ministers' Association and took care of the Las Vegas Sangha. At LA Betsuin, I mainly developed youth education and fun activities. I provided 2-4 classes a week for various grades of students and scouts. This past June, I took Scouts and their parents to visit Japan (a group of 28 people). I often hear from people that "a trip to Japan is expensive!" so I made my two week Japan trip for \$2,500. It includes Airfare, Lodging, Train Pass and basic meals!! My group of people could spend more money for things they are interested in. We had two meet and greet events with Japanese BS & GS Troops at Tokyo Tsukiji Hongwanji and Kyoto Nishi Hongwanji. I am sure that the LA Boys and Girls made their friends in Japan.

Do you know the meaning of Reverend in Jodo Shinshu? Well, some may wonder what Jodo Shinshu is so I will write about it in a later issue. Many people use the term Reverend and Sensei interchangeably. I personally regret people calling me "Sensei." You know why? Because in Jodo Shinshu, I am NOT Sensei. More precisely, there is no Sensei in humankind. Sensei is a Japanese term, and it indicates "teacher." For us, a teacher is the Buddha dharma, teachings of Shakyamuni (historical Buddha). When Shakyamuni was near death, he stated to his followers that they should maintain/follow the dharma as their guide. Our Jodo Shinshu founder, Shinran correctly understood the

intention of Shakyamuni, and he lived as a lifelong student for the Dharma. Our founder lived as a student, so then why should I be called teacher/sensei of Jodo Shinshu? Now, you know why I regret when you call me Sensei. On the other hand, I am happy to hear when people call me Reverend. Please call me Reverend Kaz!! There are various meanings for the term, Reverend. But I can say that the meaning of Reverend in Jodo Shinshu is... a person who humbly shows reverence for Buddhism. In other words, people who work hard to maintain Buddhist temples. To me, they are all reverends. In the past, I worked hard to promote Buddhism by fun activities and serious Buddhist education in LA. And from now, I will continue to show my reverence for Buddhism by propagating Buddhist teachings in Central California. I humbly ask for your support in maintaining and growing our temples and churches.

Sincerely, Gassho.

Rev. Kaz Nakata

BUDDHIST CHURCH OF FOWLER  
Monthly Board Meeting  
July 9, 2019

**Members Present:** Ron Yoshimoto, Kimihiro Sera, Sharon Asakawa, Barton Ashida, Chari Nakayama, Gary Mukai, Craig Honda, Irene Hara, Rick Miyasaki, Greg Mukai, Karen Mukai, Arlene Keithley, Maxine Yoshimoto, Janice Yoshimoto.

**I Welcome/Gassho:** Meeting was call to order by Pres. Barton Ashida 7:15 p.m. Gassho by Sensei Craig Honda.

**II Treasurer's Report:** Treasure's Report submitted by Ron Yoshimoto. Motion to Accept by Karen Mukai & second by Sharon Asakawa, motion passed.

**III Approval** of 06/11/2019 Minutes: correction was made, Motion to approve Minutes by Ron Yoshimoto & 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rick Miyasaki, motion passed. Thank Diane Eskelsen for taking minutes.

#### **IV Old Business**

- A) Obon "Yagura" set up July 20<sup>th</sup> 7:00 a.m. everyone to help. Sensei Karen Mukai will be Master of Ceremony. \$100. each to Leslie & Lindsay for teaching Obon Dance.
- B) General Church Clean Up July 14 7:00 a.m.
- C) Minister update; Rev Nakata assigned to Central CA churches as of August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019.
- D) BCA dues on hold till next CCDDC meeting.
- E) CCDSTL fund, Dr. Gary Mukai is checking on the distribution of the funds.
- F) "Hatsubon", will clarify on Names for Hatsubon.

#### **V New Business**

- A) CCMAC By Laws – Dr. Gordon Misaki working on clarification of By-Laws.
- B) FBCGC – Donation of double door refrigerator – Greg Mukai & Ken Hashimoto to look into installation and power outlets.
- C) FBCGC – Fresno Grizzlies game July 25, \$65 per person all you

- can eat & drink. Playing River Cats- call Barton or Cherie.
- D) Need help moving Rev. Nakata to Fresno July 26. Contact Gary Mukai- also need 3 drivers.
  - E) Social Hall Flooring: pending on appropriate time to repair.

## **VI Reports**

- A) Jr. YBA
- B) Dharma School
- c) BWA March: N/R.
- D) Fishing Club: N/R
- E) Golf Club: Ben Fujikawa made arrangement at Los Poso's Golf Greens
- F) CCDC – Need New Chairmen for CCMAC, Nembustu Seminar  
September 29th 10:00 a.m., Speakers; Sab and Marion Masada.
- G) CCMAC & V&P – N/R
- H) BCA – N/R
- I) MAP - Minister's Assistants are required to attend one training per year at the Jodo shinshu Center. This year the BWA World Conference attendance can be counted as a training.

## **VII Communications/Announcements**

Ben Yosako & Satomi Hiyama Tobans  
August 18<sup>th</sup> Shotsuki – Rinban Nakagawa  
September 15<sup>th</sup> – Keiro Day, Lunch 11:00  
- 2:00 Service, Speaker Rev. Kuwahara

## **VIII Next Meeting September 10, 2019**

**IX Acknowledgements/Gassho;** Thank you District 4: Refreshments;  
Janice Yoshimoto, Maxine Yoshimoto, Arlene Keithley, Sharon Asakawa.  
Gassho; Sensei Karen Mukai,  
Meeting closed 8:15

Submitted by Craig & Tayoko Honda

## **AUGUST SHOTSUKI MEMORIAL SERVICE**

The August Shotsuki Memorial Service will be held on Sunday, August 18th at 10:00 a.m.

The Shotsuki names for the month of August are:

Sho Tokubo  
Moriye Tokubo  
Tora Shinkawa  
Okazu Honda  
Tsuneichi Taniguchi  
Kikuyo Komoto  
Tosaku Komoto  
Yoshio Sakamoto  
Ysuto Hata  
Kats Matsumoto  
Takeichi Matsumoto  
Bessie Kondo  
Ryan Kondo  
Yoichi Otani  
Yoneko Yamamoto  
Torakichi Sera  
Toshiro Yamamoto  
Tadao Yamamoto  
Shizuno Okasaki  
Chitoshi Kuramoto  
Eki Ideta  
Katsumi Nakatsukasa  
Henry Oba  
Frank Kimura  
Buichi Sakai  
Peggy Reiko Yamaguchi  
Toyo Yamamoto  
Yuki Yamada

Daniel Masao Nishina  
Grace Fukiko Ishiguro  
Kazuo Hiyama  
Harley Mitsugi Nakamura  
Jitsuo Otani  
Michiye Shimoda  
Makoto Coke Mukai  
Kazuyo Uyemura  
Wichi Takeuchi  
Alyce Taniguchi  
Reverend Kyogo Miura  
Setsuo Kikuta  
Haruo Ii  
Fumie Miyo Honda  
Tom Tokiharu Nagata  
Alyce Tokiko Nakagawa  
Mitsuno Tomoyasu

## **CHURCH TOBAN FOR AUGUST**

### **District V**

Rijis  
Cherie Nakayama  
Diane Eskelsen

Toban  
Satomi Hiyama  
Ben Yosako

### **BOARD MEETING**

There will not be a board meeting in August. Next meeting will be Tuesday, September 10th at 7:00 p.m.



## **KEIRO DAY**

**Keiro no hi** "*Respect for the Aged Day*" is a Japanese holiday celebrated on the 3rd Monday of September to honor the elderly citizens of Japan. On this day, people express respect and gratitude for their contributions to society and celebrate their longevity.

The Buddhist Church of Fowler will be holding its "Keiro Day" to honor our senior members on Sunday September 15th at 11:00 a.m. before our Ohigan Service. Obento will be served to those over the age of 70. Entertainment and Bingo will follow the lunch.

Members will be contacted by Toban or Riji's for details, attendance and transportation needs.

## **BWA NEWS**

Thank you to all the ladies for helping prepare and sell the obento box and sushi plate at Fowler's Obon. Thanks to all the organizations, there was a very nice variety of food that everyone could enjoy.

Twelve people have signed up to attend the World Buddhist Women's Convention which will be held in San Francisco during the Labor Day weekend. The bus will make a stop in Fowler at 7:45 a.m. on Friday, August 30th to pick up passengers.

The World Conference is held every four years; the previous conference

was held in Calgary, Canada. Next one will be in Japan.

## **NEMBUTSU SEMINAR**

The annual Nembutsu Seminar will be September 29th at 9:30 a.m. at the Fowler Buddhist Temple. Guests of honor will be Saburo and Marion Masada. They will share their experience of incarceration during WWII and its ramifications. Their story was featured on a recent PBS special.

## **2019 OBON**

Thank you to all the people and organizations that participated and helped make our Obon a fun and successful event. Thank you to the members who came out to help with general clean up, set up of the yagura, lights, decorations, PA system, chairs and booths. Thank you to the many organizations who provided the variety of foods and games that everyone enjoyed.

## **WELCOME**

Mr. Tooru Nakahira from North Edwards, CA is our newest member of the Buddhist Church of Fowler. Please welcome him to our Sangha.

## **REMINDER**

Friendly reminder: if you haven't paid your 2019 dues please do so as soon as possible. Thank you.

## **July 2019 Donations**

### **Obon**

\$50.00 Kimihiro & Hitomi Sera  
\$30.00 Betty Nakayama  
\$30.00 Howard & Satomi Hiyama  
\$25.00 Rodney Kikuta  
\$25.00 Arthur & Alice Fujikawa  
\$25.00 Bey & Susan Driss  
\$25.00 Linda Matsumoto  
\$25.00 Ken & Janie Yuen  
\$20.00 Mitsuye Shinkawa  
\$20.00 Etsuko Uyemura  
\$20.00 Jan Yoshimoto  
\$20.00 Takaaki & Yoko Miyoshi  
\$20.00 Gary & Arlene Keithley

### **Shotsuki**

\$100.00 Joe & Irene Hara  
\$ 50.00 Greg & Gay Mukai  
\$ 50.00 Kimihiro & Hitomi Sera  
\$ 30.00 Arthur & Alice Fujikawa  
\$ 30.00 Jim & Michiko Fujikawa  
\$ 30.00 Eiko Matsumura  
\$ 25.00 Shizue Sakoda  
\$ 20.00 Cindy Inouye

### **Memorial Day Services**

\$ 50.00 Rick & Marlene Miyasaki  
\$ 20.00 Jan Yoshimoto  
\$ 20.00 Gary & Arlene Keithley

## **In Memory of Mikiko Nakahira 1st Year Memorial**

\$500.00 Tooru Nakahira


## **In Memory of Betty Mayebo**

\$100.00 Maebo Families  
\$ 50.00 Ada Yamamoto

## **Special Donations**

\$200.00 Central California Nikkei  
Foundation  
Use of Church, Father's  
Day Breakfast  
\$ 25.00 Yuko Matoba  
Ikebana Show





BEC Lecture Series

Rev. Yufuko Kurioka

presents the Art of the

Japanese Tea Ceremony

Sunday, August 25, 2019

2:00 PM

Reedley Buddhist Church

2035 15th Street

Reedley, CA 93654

For more information, please call Karen Sakata

(559)284-9885 or email

[kgsakata@verizon.net](mailto:kgsakata@verizon.net)