

BUDDHIST CHURCH OF FOWLER



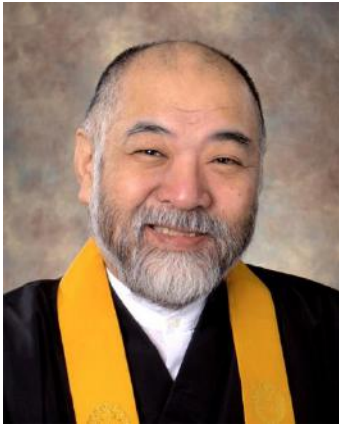
THE WHITE PATH

MONTHLY BULLETIN VOL. 487

SEPTEMBER 2019

SEPTEMBER

3 (Tues)	7:00 p.m.	Golf Club Meeting
9 (Mon)	7:00 p.m.	Ikebana Class
10 (Tues)	7:00 p.m.	Board Meeting
15 (Sun)	11:00 a.m.	Keiro Day
	2:00 p.m.	Ohigan & Monthly Shotsuki Memorial Service - Rev. Kuwahara, speaker
22 (Sun)	9:30 a.m.	Family Service
23 (Mon)	7:00 p.m.	Ikebana Class
29 (Sun)	10:00 a.m.	Nembutsu Seminar @ Fowler BC



Hello Hongan-ji Fresno Betsuin and C.C. Sangha

Reverend Kakei Nakagawa, Rinban

While writing this article, Midori and I are enjoying a short trip with no ‘SHINPAI’ (worries) because Reverend Kaz Nakata has already begun his mission in Central California. The Central California Sangha enters into the new era with putting our hopes in one of the most energetic young ministers in BCA. We are happy to welcome Rev. Kaz, his wife Michiko and daughters, Kanon, Michilu and Akiko to the Central

Valley!

During the last few weeks, we enjoyed and survived our districts’ wonderful O-Bon Festivals and the Floating Lantern Ceremony. These are the most friendly and peaceful events among all districts of BCA with thousands of people gathering and hundreds joining in on the dancing. We now look forward to the beginning of another term for C.C. Sangha activities: Dharma School, Jr. YBA, YBA, BWA, Dharma Study Classes, Meditation Classes, Howa-kai as well as Taiko and various cultural classes, etc. go forward in **FULL SWING!**

The C.C. ministers continuously promote Buddha, Dharma, Sangha as a team effort to build a contemporary C.C. Sangha as well as to maintain traditional Community Sangha of American Japanese Ancestry. Fortunately, C.C. has 1 Kyoshi MA, 4 Tokudo MAs, 8 Active MAs and 8 Youth MAs and they are all very supportive of C.C.’s Dharma activities, under supervision of two BCA Kaikyoshi full-time ministers. To all C.C. temples & members, do not doubt that we will restore our Dharma enthusiasm in C.C. District.

In September, each chapter has the Fall O-Higan service and some has Fall O-Higan seminar. I am always appreciated that our ancestors carried on this service and seminar to the present time.

We will have some outstanding guests in September, such as:

Rev. Kiyo Kuwahara for Fall Ohigan at 10 am, Parlier BT on Sunday, Sept. 15 followed by at 2 pm , Fowler BT

Rev. Brian Nagata (Honganji-ha minister) for Fall Ohigan at 10 am, Reedley BT on Sunday, Sept. 15. We cannot forget our Rev. Kaz Nakata’s O-Higan Lecture from 9:30 am to noon at FDC on Saturday, Sept 7 and on Sunday, Sept 8 (Fall O-Higan Service). I expect that he will share his hopeful vision for the future CC Sangha.



What is a significance of a Black Robe?

I have good news! Finally, our family has settled in our new residence. Deliveries of a refrigerator, washer and dryer made my wife very happy. My children started school and they've already found their friends. All our family members sincerely appreciate the Sangha members who helped with our move during the very hot weather.

Beginning August 1st, I started working at the Fresno Betsuin. I've already met Jr. YBA, CCYBA, Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Project Dana members and Board members at their gatherings. I look forward to meeting those who I haven't yet had a chance to meet. From this month, I will start visiting all CC temples for events and meetings. I am so excited to greet more people.

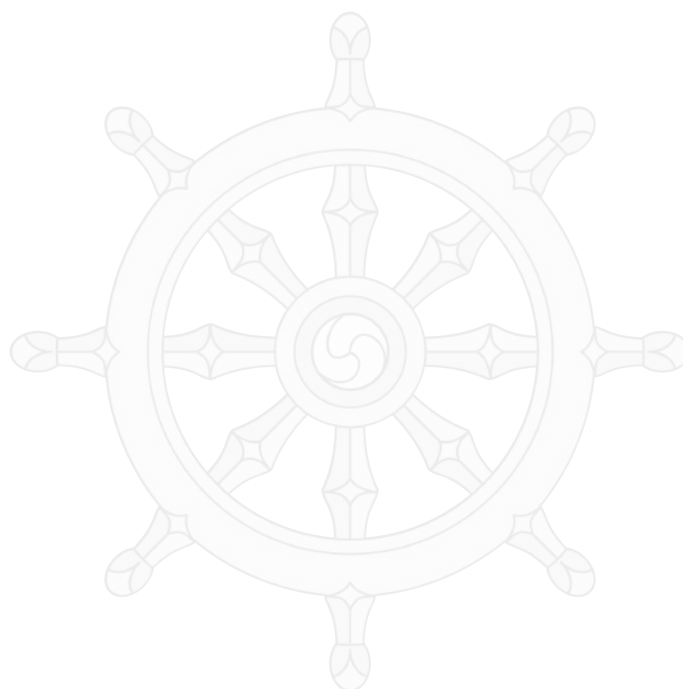
If you have time, please stop by the Fresno Betsuin for our Fall Ohigan Seminar on Sep 7 at 9:30am. The topic is "Strategy for Growth of Nembutsu followers - Organizational Restructuring and Changing Organizational Culture." It includes Q and A session. I am a speaker. This is not an ordinary Buddhist lecture for your knowledge. I plan to present a systematic outlook for your practical action to grow our Sangha. I only use "Plain English." I really want to grow our Sangha with YOU. If you need to know more detail to decide whether you attend, please contact me.

When I attended the gatherings at the Betsuin, there were luncheons. The Betsuin has a very nice and big kitchen and the Betsuin members always keep it clean and shiny. Usually there are two white tables to serve meal in front of the kitchen. When a luncheon started, a lady came to me and said, "Reverend, please go first (to take food)." I said "I will get later. Please let other people go first." Then she said "oh, don't En-Ryo. We always let Reverend get food first." En-Ryo is a Japanese term and it means hesitate. She wanted to say "don't hesitate to get food." I love eating and there is no reason to hesitate to eat food. I just hesitate to take food as a first person. You may wonder where such behavior comes from.

When I was a novice, I studied Jodo Shinshu Buddhism at Ryukoku University in Kyoto. One of my professors explained why priests wear a black robe. Have you seen the portraits of Shinran Shonin? He always wore a black robe. In the past, the priest rank is recognized by the colors of the robes. The black color was used for the lowest rank priest. Although he was assigned to a very high rank position while he was at Mt. Hiei, he always lived humbly. Later, he explains himself as he is like one of the gravel on a road (ref. Yui Shin Sho Mon-i). He does not think that he is superior than others. He shows his humbleness by keep wearing a black robe. In contrast, Japanese martial arts in US have unique understanding for their Black Belt. In US, when practitioners receive the black belt, normally they are recognized as a master. When I was child, I practiced Judo. When I was in 7th grade, one of my classmates received a black belt. He did not become a master. Instead, he committed to become a lifelong student of Judo by receiving his black belt. In Japan, the black belt is treated as a symbol of humbleness.

In Jodo Shinshu, wearing a black robe is to declare becoming a lifelong student for Buddhism and living humbly. Reverend is not a position above general Sangha members in our Jodo Shinshu. Reverend is a position to make sure everyone is ok. At a luncheon, I like to make sure that everyone gets food and see their smile on their face, then I get mine. It is my way of expressing humbleness as Reverend.

Sincerely, Gassho.



**OHIGAN AND SEPTEMBER
SHOTSUKI MEMORIAL SERVICE**

The Fall Ohigan and September Shotsuki Memorial Service will be held on Sunday, September 15th at 2:00 p.m. Reverend Kiyonobu Kuwahara will be our guest speaker. .

The Shotsuki names for the month of September are:

Shotaro Arasuna
Miyako Ezaki
Chisa Kikuta
Hideo Kikuta
Kaichi Matsuoka
Masao Nakamura
Teruko Nakamura
Iwazo Shimamoto
Hatsujiro Sugimoto
Fumi Takasaki
Misao Takemoto
Sawataro Teraoka
Toshi Uchiyama
Inema Wada
Sampachi Yokomi
Naohiko Yoshimura
Sumiye Shimoda
Alice Honda
Alta Matsuko Kikuta
Suno Onaka
Faye Fumiko Namba
Nakayo Nakamoto
Jane Tsuruko Hashimoto
Masao Fujikawa

Masako Higuchi
Takashi Ideta
Masako Tema Yosako
Masao Ishimoto
Sue Sumie Kageura
Ann Ayano Ideta
Betty Harumi Tokubo
Rev Shodo Toyoji Jim Yanagihara
Edward Toshio Hirasuna

The Buddhist Church of Fowler extends its deepest condolences to the Teraoka family on the passing of their loved one, Mrs. Mary Teraoka. May you always find comfort in the Nembutsu.

Namo Amida Butsu



CHURCH TOBAN FOR SEPTEMBER

District I/II

Board of Governors

Rick Miyasaki

Ken Hashimoto

Toban

Marlene Miyasaki

Ken Hashimoto

Toban Chairperson's Duties

- Schedule one general clean-up for the month.
- Water landscape once per week.
- Refreshments for meetings.
Open Church early before a service or event. Turn on heat or air conditioning.
- Bring refreshments for monthly Shotsuki service.
- Bring two Obupan (rice) for monthly Shotsuki service.
- Furnish the fruit and cookies/manju for Osonae.
- Lock-up Church after service or event. Make sure heat/air conditioner is turned off.
- Co-chair funeral meetings during your month.

BOARD MEETING

September Board meeting will be Tuesday, September 10th at 7:00 p.m.

FAMILY SERVICE

The first Family Service for the Fall term will be on September 22nd at 9:30 a.m. We welcome everyone to join us.

KEIRO DAY

Keiro Day is Sunday, Sept 15th at the Fowler Buddhist Church. Come out to pay respect and visit with our Senior members. Lunch will be served at 11:00 with Shotsuki Memorial service following at 2:00. Rev Kuwahara is the guest speaker. All members and friends over 70 will be served a delicious lunch. Donations will be accepted for all others.

Your district Tobans will be in touch for a head count.

Thank you,
Keiro Day Committee

NEMBUTSU SEMINAR

The Central Cal District Council is sponsoring the annual Family Nembutsu Seminar on Sunday, 29th at the Fowler Buddhist Church. Mr. Sab and Mrs. Marion Masada will be the guest speakers.

Please see attached flyer for more information.

BWA NEWS

The 16th World Buddhist Women's Convention was held August 30 to September 1 at the Hotel Marriott Marquis in San Francisco. Dr Gary and Karen Mukai and Barton Ashida attended, along with Aiko Kamine, Irene Hara, Hitomi Sera, Yoko Miyoshi, Alice Fujikawa, Sharon Asakawa, Arlene Keithley and Maxine Yoshimoto.

1700 people attended the conference. Keynote speakers were Reverend Yukiko Motoyoshi of Stockton resident minister and Professor Keiko Toro who is an independent scholar from Japan.

We would like to acknowledge and thank Hitomi Sera for her donation of \$50.

Next meeting will be October 26 at 9:00 a.m. District V in charge.

AUGUST 2019 CHURCH DONATIONS

Obon

\$ 50.00	Jan Yoshinoto
\$ 35.00	Brian Nagata

Shotsuki

\$ 75.00	D/M Gary Mukai
\$ 75.00	Rodney Kikuta
\$ 50.00	Kimihiro & Hitomi Sera
\$ 50.00	Alex & Roberta Araki
\$ 40.00	M/M Greg Mukai
\$ 35.00	Brian Nagata
\$ 30.00	Tosh & Mitsuye Shinkawa
\$ 25.00	Howard & Satomi Hiyama
\$ 25.00	May Mukai
\$ 25.00	May Mukai
\$ 25.00	Ben & Noreen Yosako
\$ 20.00	Ms. Yoshiye Ii
\$ 20.00	Eiko Ii
\$ 20.00	M/M Jim Sakamoto

In Memory of Toshio (13) & Tomoko (3+) Kawamoto

\$ 100.00	T. Kawamoto Family
-----------	--------------------

**In Memory of Shizue Nakamura 1st
Year Memorial**

\$ 500.00 Nakamura & Okada Families
\$ 100.00 Sera Family
\$ 50.00 Barton, Sharon & Lani Ashida
\$ 40.00 May Mukai
\$ 40.00 The Nakamura's
\$ 30.00 Yuko & Frank Matoba
\$ 30.00 Rick & Marlene Miyasaki
\$ 25.00 Karen Kondo
\$ 25.00 The Clevenger Family
\$ 25.00 Maryann Miyasaki
\$ 25.00 Larry & Ellen Nomura
\$ 20.00 M/M Bill Namba
\$ 20.00 Michelle Namba &
Ashley Namba-Young
\$ 20.00 The Rose Family
\$ 20.00 Donald & Irene Miyasaki
\$ 20.00 Margie Miyasaki
\$ 20.00 Mike & Nancy Sharp
\$ 20.00 Dennis Mikuni Family
\$ 20.00 Ron & Cheryl Ashida

**In Memory of Patricia Chieko
Hiyama**

\$ 100.00 Howard & Satomi Hiyama
\$ 100.00 Tomi & Bernice Ito
\$ 100.00 Dean Hiyama

RUMMAGE SALE

Have you heard? You can start cleaning out your closets and garage... We are planning another rummage sale!

I thought I would give you some time, so mark your calendars for Saturday, March 21, 2020, 7:30am - 2:00pm.





Fall Ohigan Lecture

Sponsored by the Yamaguchi Family

Featuring:

REV. KAZUAKI NAKATA

*“Strategy for Growth of
Nembutsu followers –
Organizational Restructuring
and Changing Organizational
Culture”*

Saturday, Sept. 7, 2019

9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Family Dharma Center

**Please join us for an interesting
and very informative session!
Refreshments will be provided.
No charge!**

The Fowler Chamber of Commerce and The Fowler Pharaoh's Car Club Present

The Fowler

Harvest Car Show

September 7th, 2019 • 10am-3pm

St. Gregory Armenian Church



Sponsorships:

Business Name: _____

Contact Person: _____

Phone #/ Email: _____

Sponsorship Types:	<u>Level 1</u>	<u>Level 2</u>
	\$100	\$250
	Black & White	Full Color
	Text Listing	Logo Listing

**Please make check payable to Fowler Chamber of Commerce
Email this form and logo to jonathans@cdsimonian.com**

Thank you for your support!



**CENTRAL CALIFORNIA DISTRICT COUNCIL
2019
NEMBUTSU SEMINAR**

Sunday, September 29, 2019

10:00am -1:00pm (lunch included)

Buddhist Church of Fowler

Guests of Honor



Saburo and Marion Masada

Who will share their experience of
Incarceration during WWII and how they persevered.

(There will also be a question and answer period following their presentation)

Sab and Marion Masada were featured in the Valley PBS documentary

"Silent Sacrifice: Stories of Japanese American Incarceration."

which was honored with an Emmy Award for

'Outstanding Achievement for Documentary'

Children are Free. Donation suggested for adults, \$5

Reverend Saburo Masada is a retired Pastor. Although Mr. and Mrs. Masada are not of the Buddhist faith, they are graciously sharing their story with us here at the Nembutsu Seminar. We are so thankful to them because their story goes beyond any denominational faith. Their story touches on humankind and the ability to persevere. We hope you can join us on September 29th at the Buddhist Church of Fowler, 210 S. 9th Street, Fowler, CA.

In Gassho, CCDC Buddhist Education Committee Co-Chairs, Greg Mukai and Karen Sakata



Central California

Buddhist Education Program

Lectures, Classes, Discussions and Dharma Talks



2019 Schedule

Central California District Council Buddhist Education

Sunday, June 30

10:00-11:30AM

Movie Showing

'Let Me Eat Your Pancreas'

Lunch will be served after movie

Buddhist Church of Parlier

360 Newmark Ave. Parlier, CA 93648

Ph. (559) 618-1528

Sunday, August 25

2:00PM

Rev. Yufuko Kurioka

From Berkeley Buddhist Temple

The Art of the Japanese Tea Ceremony

Reedley Buddhist Church

2035 15th Street Reedley, CA 93654

Phone: (559) 638-2146

Sunday, September 29

10:00AM- 1:00 PM

Nembutsu Seminar

Guests of Honor

Saburo and Marion Masada

Who will share their experience of
Incarceration during WWII and its ramifications.

Buddhist Church of Fowler

210 S. 9th St.

Fowler, CA 93625

Ph. (559) 834-2077

Monday, October 21

7:00- 8:30PM

Greg Mukai, CCMA

Topic is

Temple Food

Short film and discussion on 'what is temple food?'

We will have a sampling of temple food
after the presentation.

Buddhist Church of Fowler

210 S. 9th St.

Fowler, CA 93625

Ph. (559) 834-2077

Ongoing Classes and Discussions

Meditation for Everyday Life

Sunday mornings

8:45 -9:30AM

Rev. Kakei Nakagawa, Rinban

Fresno Betsuin Dharma Center

2690 E. Alluvial Ave.

Fresno, CA 93720

Ph. (559) 442-4054

Buddhist Discussion

Second Wednesday of the month

7:00-8:30 PM

Led by Curtis Koga, MA

Buddhist Church of Parlier

360 Newmark Ave.

Parlier, CA 93648

Ph. (559) 618-1528

*Please visit fresnobuddhisttemple.org
regularly for changes to meditation class
schedule*