

BUDDHIST CHURCH OF FOWLER



THE WHITE PATH

MONTHLY BULLETIN VOL. 495

MAY 2020

MAY

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT DUE TO
COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

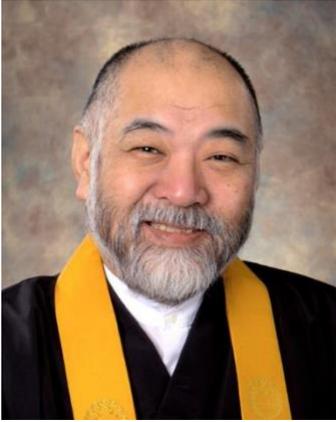
THE FOLLOWING MAY CHURCH ACTIVITIES FOR THE
FOWLER BUDDHIST CHURCH
HAVE BEEN **CANCELLED:**

- 3 Gotan-e Service
- 17 Family Service
- 24 Ikebana Show
- 25 Selma Cemetery Service
- Fowler Cemetery Service
- Fowler Memorial Service

WE APPRECIATE YOUR PATIENCE AND UNDERSTANDING.

WE HOPE EVERYONE REMAINS SAFE AND HEALTHY.

NAMO AMIDA BUTSU



The battle against the Covid-19 pandemic has now entered its second month. Each of us is now striving to protect each other's precious lives.

Perhaps, because of at this unusual time, I often wonder what I am here to do. Moreover, I walk into a room with something in mind to do but I cannot remember what it was.

We were born into this world as human beings but is it clear as to what we are here to do? The Buddha said, "Alive human beings are always longing for something. What they desire determines their value."

Certainly, humans must be living in hope of something thus, life is a place where that wish is fulfilled.

Well then, what is your desire? Is it to have a little money and live a comfortable life, to go on a trip and play at the casino as much as you wish, to eat delicious food, or to become completely healthy? Whatever our desires, if our wish is fulfilled, it will be a happy life, and if that wish is not fulfilled, it will be an unhappy life. Therefore, even in religion, the world is expected to play a role of 'happiness-machine' to fulfill such wishes. But would you truly be happy if you had money? How many people are unhappy because of money? I cannot help but think of this as I watch the daily news reports. When you eat and your stomach is full, you do not want to see the food, so you push it away. If you travel too much, you become homesick. An energetic and healthy person does not seem to know to be thankful for their health. In other words, if human happiness is solely centered around satisfying one's selfish desires, it seems to never be enough.

Shinran Shōnin's teaching is not for satisfying the fragile desires of limited human life. He taught that all human could hear the Buddha's awakening-words and encounter Śākyamuni Buddha's amitābha, which means immeasurable wisdom and compassion. Human life is a place to lose rather than to gain. Gaining is a fleeting event. Whether it be my property, my position, my immediate family... even I must eventually have an end. Even such an ephemeral being, I can live a boundless-life, which is assured by the Buddha through the working of the original Buddha-nature. What a wonderful moment!

I would like to share the following story of a man who met Buddha's teachings.

Śākyamuni Buddha once asked neighborhood Singāla who faithfully worshipping God in the ten directions was each morning, “What are you doing?”

Buddha started talking with Singāla and began to skillfully define the relevance of his routine conduct.

Buddha said, “If you worship every day, you should change a little, for your friends and family who worship with you.”

He continued, “Who are you friends? Is he a true friend?” Buddha’s questions made Singāla examine the outline of his everyday life, little by little.

Consequently, Singāla kept his habit of worshipping in the ten directions every day. However, his feelings changed to “just as if everything is uncovered now” and his daily life turned to be full of joy and love. You see, nothing is changed in Singāla’s outward appearance, but his everyday life changed drastically.

“Singālovāda Sūtra”

The end of this sūtra, Singāla became a disciple of the Buddha, but it seemed to me that was not the Buddha’s intention.

Buddha’s intention was simply to show Singāla the method for re-reading the frame of his ordinary life for just thinking on others as well.

Please take care, Stay Home, Save Lives.

Gassho,

Rev. Kakei Nakagawa, Rinban



Mind your footing! Are you walking on the middle path?

Rev. Kaz Nakata

Hello, Central California Sangha friends!

This is my second newsletter article written after the stay at home/shelter in place orders were enacted. As I mentioned in my previous article, we started streaming Sunday services for the Central Cal at the Fresno Betsuin Buddhist Temple. If you are having a difficult time with accessing the live stream, I have attached a square share icon at the end of my article. Please take

a picture of the icon with your smartphone, then your smartphone will automatically take you to the streaming site. Or please type [twitter.com/fresno_nishi] in your internet browser. You will see the site without having to log in or register your name or email address. If you still have difficulties in accessing the site, please contact me. I am happy to assist you. We have already streamed more than 7 services. Many CC Sangha friends may miss seeing their local temple/church altar, so we have decided to conduct streaming services at the various CC temples/Churches, starting with Reedley Buddhist Church. We hope everyone will enjoy seeing their temple altar!

Before the stay at home order was issued, I was last in my family to wake up in the morning. I am not making excuses for myself, but I usually write Dharma talks and articles late into the night, so I usually woke up around 7:30AM. Since the order came into effect, our family's "get up order" has completely changed. I am now the first to open the curtains and wake up my other family members!! You might be having the same experience. Perhaps your child(ren) or grandchild(ren) may be so excited to have an "extra" break and sleep, like my daughters.

Have you heard the term "the middle path" before? It is a Buddhist term. About 2500~2600 years ago in India, a man started contemplating his life and death. When he turned 29, he left his high living (lazy, to be more precise) life and started ascetic (painful) practices such as fasting. Ascetic practices were one of the traditional practices in India. By doing such practice, he experienced both extremes. The man, Gautama Siddhartha, finally realized that painful practices do not solve fundamental human questions. There were many practitioners that tried painful practices before Gautama's time, but no one acquired the answer, supporting what he realized. He decided to pursue a new method of a practice. It was Madhyamā-pratipad (Sanskrit), which is known as the middle path. Madhyamā basically means "middle", but also it means "being in the middle", or "standing between two persons or groups". These meanings indicate that middle is not a fixed location, point or spot. It is an adjustable and movable. Pratipad means path to be walked. The middle path can be adjusted accordingly by keeping distance from or avoiding both extremes. Gautama, as a Buddha, awakened one, introduced a new lifestyle to his five closest fellow practitioners. This lifestyle was "the middle path". The fellow practitioners did not understand Gautama's explanation, thus they abandoned him. Gautama completed his enlightenment by walking the middle

path. I believe that if did not become aware of the importance of the path, he might not have become a Buddha. Now you know that the middle path is a fundamentally particularly important practice (teaching) in Buddhism.

Does the stay at home/shelter in place order makes your life lean toward one of extremes? Our human nature causes us to sometimes (maybe often!) have difficult time maintaining balance in our everyday life. For the last several weeks, I have heard the term “the new normal”. But we do not need to set or accept our imbalance ways of living as the new normal. Unhealthy minds come from unhealthy lifestyles. It is no longer the middle path. Please compare your attitude about your life from before and after the order. The order was not intended to give us an extra break or more sleep. It is also not for gaining an extra pound (pounds?)! Please stay mentally and physically healthy. Watch your footing. Let us walk on the middle path.

Gassho.



How to use this square barcode icon:

1. Tap the Camera icon on your smartphone
2. Face the camera toward the icon and take a photo
3. When asked to allow the phone to open the site, **ALLOW**
4. You will see the Central California Nishi Hongwanji site

Thank you for “attending” service!

Unfortunately, all services, activities and meetings will continue to be cancelled due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Rinban Nakagawa, Rev Kaz and Rev Midori will stream live Twitter, Sunday services at 10:00 a.m. Please join in: http://mobile.twitter.com//fresno_nishi
It is not necessary to have a Twitter account to watch.

Your Rijiis will contact you with important updates. We will continue to follow the guidelines set forth by the federal, state and local officials. If you know of anyone who may need assistance during this time, please contact Barton Ashida at (559) 284-2955 or Karen Mukai at (559) 834-1178

The Shotsuki names for the month of April are:

Misa Ninomiya
Arthur Shigeo Ninomiya
Toyokichi Kuramoto
Naomi Kuramoto
Sentaro Toyama
Koichi Miyasaki
Sen Yamane

Shigetaro Hagihara
Kitaro Asakawa
Toyo Asakawa
Kiyoshi Hirasuna
Taka Hirasuna
Kakuji Tasaka
Rita Honda
Reiko Nishina
Eiichi Hiyama
Saji Wada
Ayako Mayebo
Masao Tsuboi
Kinyei Toyama
James Hashimoto
Meimi Hagihara
Morito Miyasaki
Asako Masui
Ted Hirasuna
Mary Nakahira
Yasuo Koyanagi
Frank Tsutomu Kawano
June Masaye Gibson
Haruko Tsuboi
Joe Masumoto
Hiroshi Hal Tsuboi
Toshiko Yamamoto Arasuna
Mae Umeyo Koyanagi
Fumiye Pauline Kikuta
Misao Edith Hiyama
Gary Iwai
Hisa Iwamoto
Shizue Nakamura

The Shotsuki names in the month of
May are:

Tatsuji Hirasuna
Hitoshi Nakatsukasa
Katsuo Yoshimoto
Kai Yoshimoto
Yuki Miyaki
Tokuchi Mukai
Daigoro Shinkawa
Natsuye Sakai
Shizuyo Masui
Kumaichi Nakamura
Tojiro Komoto
Eichiro Matsuoka
Sayo Oba
Ito Shimamoto
Koichi Kamikawa
Kitaro Ideta
Kaichi Sakoda
Yukiye Hashimoto
Yoshitaro Tanaka
Yoshikazu Kataoka
Ayako Okamura
Hitoshi Yoshida
Douglas Nakamura
Mary Taketa
Fumiye Asakawa
Joan Kimura
Mariko Tokubo
Douglas Jun Iwamoto
Lillian Yuriko Nakashige
Takashi Higuchi
Seiichi Kageura
Hatsuso Uyemura
Joyce Shimizu-Stone
Hiteyo Ii

Don Kubose
Hitoshi Pete Nakayama
Yoshiko Kataoka

CHURCH TOBAN FOR MAY

District I/II

Board of Governors:

Ken Hashimoto
Rick Miyasaki

Toban

Jim Fujikawa
Ken Ishimoto

REMINDER

Please address all mailings to:

Buddhist Church of Fowler

P.O. Box 335

Fowler, CA 93625

USPS is not delivering mail to the street address.

If you haven't paid your 2020 Church dues, please

Do so at your earliest convenience.

Thank you.

April 2020 Donations

Shotsuki

\$ 75.00 Rodney Kikuta

\$ 20.00 Eiko Ii

In Memory of Betty Nakayama

\$ 100.00 M/M Dale Okamura

\$ 20.00 Barton, Sharon & Lani Ashida

Special Donation

In Memory of Isamu Sadamitsu

\$ 300.00 Sadamitsu Family
Kikuko Sadamitsu
Gary & Karen Mukai & Family
Kevin & Karie Sadamitsu



CENTRAL CALIFORNIA YOUNG BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION
SCHOLARSHIP FOR GRADUATING JR YBA SENIORS



APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

1. Be a member of Jr. YBA
2. Graduating high school in 2020
3. Attending a college or university in 2020

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Full Name:	_____		
Address:	_____		

Contact #:	_____	Email:	_____

EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION

High School:	_____
College(s) attending or applied to:	_____

JR YBA INVOLVEMENT

Membership (circle one):	Fowler	Fresno	Parlier	Reedley	Visalia
Officer positions held:	_____				

CC Jr. YBA activities (i.e. committee chairs, officer positions):	_____				

2020 ESSAY TOPIC: 750 words or less

How did your involvement in Jr. YBA prepare you for college and the practice of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism?

The deadline to submit your completed application and essay is **May 30, 2020**.

Email submissions will also be accepted. For an electronic copy of this application, please email Jamie Hata at **jamielovestea23@yahoo.com** with **CCYBA Scholarship** in the subject line.

There will be two(2) scholarships awarded in the amount of \$250.00. The CCYBA scholarship committee will make the selection based on the written response to the essay topic.



CBE Seminars Online For All

BCA members and the public are invited to join us for a new series of online programs. All are welcome!

MAY SEMINARS

Saturday, May 9, 2020

11 am - 1 pm (Pacific Time)

“What is the Jodo Shinshu View on Death and the Pure Land?”



Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara
Berkeley Buddhist Temple

Saturday, May 23, 2020

11 am - 1 pm (Pacific Time)

“Fear and Anxiety in the Age of Mappo”



Rev. Dr. Carmela Javellana Hirano
Minister's Assistant, Salt Lake Buddhist Temple; Psychiatrist

Online Registration required to receive the Zoom seminar link. Limited spaces!

Registration is Free ~ Donations gratefully accepted ~

[Click to Donate](#) (Scroll campaigns to select CBE)

Contact CBE: email: cbe@bcahq.org or phone: 510.809.1460