

BUDDHIST CHURCH OF FOWLER



THE WHITE PATH

MONTHLY BULLETIN VOL. 496

JUNE 2020

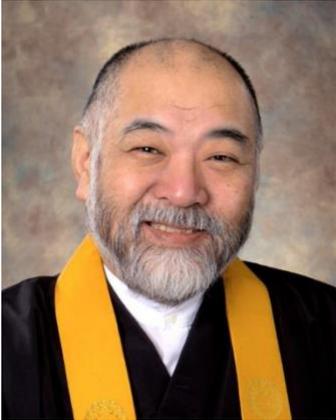
JUNE

Please be advised that although the restrictions for religious services have been lifted (limited to 100 attendees) due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Buddhist Church of Fowler has decided to cancel all June church activities.

We appreciate your patience and understanding.

We hope everyone remains safe and healthy.

Namo Amida Butsu



Family 'Hoji' Memorial Service becomes a foundation of our Dharma Living

The diversity of the American family of today is changing family and relatives are scattered in various places, and the period that the younger generation living alone is getting longer. In recent years, there have been fewer opportunities to realize that we are living with many “life” connections. In such an environment, it can be said that the significance of having the Yearly 'Hoji' Memorial Service, under “normal” circumstances, in which family and close relatives gather and remembering the beloved deceased, is great.

First, you can feel the deep connection of "life" that has been handed down and acknowledging the direct lineage.

Second, by gathering family & relatives, everyone will be embraced in a great "life" and live together. That is, the horizontal connection of "life".

Here we have the phrase, "To listen to the Buddha-dharma is to wash away the dirt in your mind."

Every year during this season, there is a ceremony for the Baby's first visit to the temple, and every year without exception, every baby has clear and pure eyes. The reason why baby's eyes are pure is that he/she has no malicious intent in his/her mind. As we approach adulthood, various malicious thoughts occur in our mind, and our eyes become dull or tainted. It is a sad reality, isn't it?

That is why we must always wash away the dirt in our mind. We wash our face and body every day but isn't it unexpectedly easy to forget about washing our heart/mind? Like our face and body, if we do not wash our mind every day, dirt will pile up quickly. Be sure to face the family 'O-Butsudan' shrine once a day and put both palms together in Gassho and say the Nenbutsu. This is an important way of life that will wash away that dirt. Then visit the temple occasionally and listen the Dharma, practice the Dharma.

This is where, from the Buddha, we receive treatment for the disease of the heart/mind. We all have symptomatic diseases in our heart/mind.

Symptoms of such various diseases:

If we like something, we endlessly indulge

If we do not like something, we easily anger

When listening to important information or stories, we doze off

Placing more importance on eating & drinking, comfort of the room temperature, fame & fortune, etc., yet not concerned about the most important things in life.

Speaking ill of others, yet hesitant to praise, etc.

There is no end...

The only heart/mind ('soul' in English and 'kokoro' in Japanese) that has no lie and no delusion is empathizing me, embracing me and fostering me. It is amitābhaḥ of the Śākyamuni Buddha. This true-and-real parental Love heals our diseases, washes away the dirt piled on our heart/mind, and no matter how long our life lasts, we will continuously be able to head toward the Buddha-realm. Only the Nenbutsu opens up the great path of unobstructed freedom without any lies.

No matter how I wash or how often I wash it, my heart will soon become dirty, so I have no choice but to live and practice Buddha-dharma for the rest of my life.

The Family Hoji Memorial Service is an important opportunity to convey the life as a true-and-real human being who follows the path to Buddhahood and imparts it to the next generation.

Please make your family reunion a reality through Family Hoji Memorial Service.

The appropriate intervals for Family Hoji Memorial Service is the 49th day, 100th day, 1st year, 3rd year, 7, 13, 17, 25, 33, 50, and every 50 years thereafter. These "Nenki Hoyo" (yearly services) are usually held privately by the family, relatives, and friends. Also there are O-Bon and O-Higan, which are the memorial for all of our ancestors.

We are considering sending reminders to all Central Cal Sangha families, of an upcoming Hoji Memorial service interval/anniversary. We ask that a date be chosen for the service, also a wonderful opportunity for a family reunion.

As we experience the current pandemic, we started ZOOM Dharma Services at the CC temples. Families living distantly may watch & participate in services. Now, even US-wide family reunions are possible thru the internet.

For practicing Shin Dharma, the significance of having Hoji Yearly Memorial Service is not to appease or console the spirits of the deceased, but is, rather the opportunity to pay tribute to and to recall cherished memories of the departed while listening to the Dharma. And an important byproduct of this custom is the reinforcing of family ties with whole members beyond the immediate family and a continuity of Dharma-heritages from generation to generation.

Gassho,
Rev. Kakei Nakagawa, Rinban



Obon is a time to unite everyone for joy and gratitude

Rev. Kaz Nakata

Hello, all Central California Sangha friends! This is my third Newsletter article after the stay at home/shelter in place orders were enacted. I am so pleased that many friends watch our weekly Streaming service. I edited our streaming video to create a Streaming Sunday Service DVD for some of our friends who do not have internet or a device on which to watch our service. Some CC Temples/Churches offer meal delivery to their members, so I asked them to include delivery of the DVD. I distributed more than 200 DVDs to cover all CC friends. If you have not received the DVD, please notify me or your local temple/church contact. I would be happy to send a copy to you.

In the last three months, many activities at Temple/Church have been canceled. It is inevitable, but I feel so sorry that we cannot gather and mingle at Temple/Church. In June, we usually have meetings and gatherings for pre-Obon activities, such as food preparation, booth setting and Obon dance practice. There is no doubt that Obon is one of the biggest events for us. When we hear Tanko-Bushi song, our hands start digging coal. ♪“Tsuki ga, deta, Tsuki ga, deta”♪It may be a part of our DNA! However, you might already have heard that we regretfully had to cancel the 2020 Obon festivals in Central California. This summer, there will be no hanging lanterns, no Chicken Teriyaki booths.

When in the internment camps in the 1940s, Obon was held. I am not sure how Obon was held in 1918 during the Spanish Flu. This may be a first time canceling all Obon in our CC Buddhist history.

Soon after the cancellation was announced from CC temple/church presidents at a district meeting, Rinban Nakagawa, Rev. Midori, and I gathered to hold a minister's meeting and we discussed a possibility of hosting an alternative event. Since the stay at home/shelter in place order was enacted, we have conducted more than 12 streaming services on the internet. Although our temporary service is not fulfilling everyone's need, we try our best with what equipment we have, under the limited circumstances. We are sure that whether our service is conducted with congregants or online, our passion for conducting services has not changed.

Our Jodo Shinshu tradition started over 800 years ago in Japan, but its origin is in India. The teaching of Shakyamuni is reformed into three major traditions: Hina-yana, Maha-yana, and Vajra-yana. Hina-yana (three yanas). During the time of Shakyamuni, he trained people to become professional monks. He might have thought that if they became professionals, they would have the ability to guide the uneducated to reach enlightenment. However, these professional monks misunderstood his intention. They understood it to be that the teaching of Shakyamuni was shared only by professionals (monks). Only professionals kept rituals and precepts, and they discussed Buddhism in own language for reaching enlightenment. One of their main objectives was to “suppress their human desires.” They left ordinary life and had a chance to manage and eliminate their desires. To survive, ordinary people must have all kinds of desires. They started questioning... Shakyamuni is supposed to share his teaching, to guide everyone in attaining enlightenment. Why are we not included? A new Buddhist movement came out from their voices 500 years after of Shakyamuni’s death. The movement was called Maha-yana. Maya means vast, huge, or great and Yana means wagon. Therefore, Maya-yana is the teaching of a huge wagon. The wagon is big enough to drive all people to reach enlightenment, and so it is known as a “great vehicle”. “Without suppressing our desire, we reach enlightenment”, is a mainframe of the Maha-yana tradition. Our founder, Shinran Shonin described it as the teaching of attaining enlightenment while you live as you are. So, our Jodo Shinshu tradition is known as a mainstream of Maha-yana because it carries the original intention of

Shakyamuni. The teaching is for everyone.

Our passion for conducting a mainstream Maha-yana services comes from such historical background. Obon includes an especially important service, which is Hatsu-bon. Hatsu-bon is a time to express our deepest condolences and gratitude to our loved ones who have passed since the last obon. Do you remember how they were enjoying the hot summer gathering of Obon? When was the last time they were in the dancing circle of Obon odori? What was their favorite Obon food? What conversation did you have with them on the way home from Obon? After they stopped coming to Obon, did they miss it? I am sure that when you close your eyes, you recall these memories. We show our appreciation to them by dancing Obon-odori, thanking them for their tireless help and support to our life.

We care of your health and appreciate governmental guidance. So, we will have a streaming Central California District combined Hatsubon Service and a virtual Obon

dance on July 11 beginning at 5:30pm. If you are unsure on how to view the service & odori, please ask your family members, local temple/church friends or me. In June, we will have several Obon odori practice sessions and how to wear Kimono sessions on-line. To view the scheduled sessions, visit your temple's website or Central Cal Twitter website beginning June 1st. So sorry for this short notice and inconvenience.

Under the current circumstance, regrettably we cannot enjoy our regular Obon food. But I decided to sell an "Obon Snack bag" as a Central Cal fundraiser. Each bag contains Japanese crackers, chocolates, candies and so on (my choice!), and includes a raffle ticket. Of course, we cannot conclude our Obon without a raffle! At the end of the virtual Obon dance, we will have the raffle drawing. All proceeds go to local CC temple/church, so to support your temple/church, please purchase as many snack bags as possible and share them with your family and friends.

Again, thank you all for your tremendous help and support to our CC temples/churches.

I try my best to serve everyone for their smile and happiness in return :-)

Sincerely, Gassho.

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 continue to stream live on Twitter, Sunday services at 10:00 a.m. from different CC temples.

http://mobile.twitter.com//fresno_nishi

It is not necessary to have a Twitter account to watch.

The Shotsuki names for the month of June are:

Kenso Okamura
Kakuichi Kawano
Otoichi Oba
Randy Iwamoto
Yutaka Nakamura
Tomoichi Yamamoto
Natsuyo Otani
Shime Nakayama
Asano Teraoka
Yasu Kawano
Masaichi Fujimoto
Mikayo Nakamura
Tsuneyo Fujimoto
Ushi Toyama
Akira Yokomi
James Masaru Otani
Tom Teramoto

Tsukiye Teramoto
Ted Tomohiko Kondo
Jean Sakaye Ideta
Laraine Miyake-Combs
Amy Emiko Taniguchi
Roy Takeshi Nakamura
Atsushi Roy Kato
Tadao Uyemura
James Yamamoto

CHURCH TOBAN FOR JUNE

District III

Board of Governors:

Kimihiro Sera
Kevin Nagata

Toban:

Irene Hara
Aiko Kamine

CC OBON UPDATE

Due to the continuing restrictions on large gatherings, temple obon festivals have been cancelled. Instead, the ministers will be streaming a Central California District combined Hatsubon Service and a virtual Obon dance on July 11th beginning at 5:30 p.m. During the service, Hatsubon names for each temple will be presented on-screen and each temple will be represented with oshoko and candle lighting. Service will also consist of chanting, Dharma talks, Gatha and Readings.

Following the service, a virtual Obon Dance will be lead by Odori teachers. In June, several Obon dance practice sessions and a session on how to wear a kimono will be held via Zoom. To view the scheduled sessions, visit Central California Nishi Hongwanji Twitter @fresno.nishi.

May 2020 Donations

Shotsuki

\$ 50.00 Alex & Roberta Araki
\$ 50.00 Chuck Ideta
\$ 50.00 Mrs Florence Nakayama
\$ 25.00 Earl Honda
\$ 20.00 Miss Yoshiye li
\$ 20.00 M/M Gerald Nakayama

In Memory of Michael Araki, 3rd Year Memorial

\$ 100.00 Valerie Araki
\$ 20.00 Terrie Araki
\$ 20.00 Ken & Linda Okajima
\$ 20.00 Gene & Sharon Nagata
\$ 20.00 Glenn & Iandora Araki
\$ 20.00 Bryan & Annette Araki

In Memory of Carole Masumoto

\$ 25.00 Earl Honda

Special Donation

\$ 500.00 C.D. Simonian
Insurance Agency, Inc
In Memory of David
Simonian

SPECIAL HATSUBON SERVICE & ODORI DANCING SATURDAY, JULY 11, 2020 @ 5:30PM

Dear C.C. Temple Members,

Because of the unlikelihood that we will be able to congregate in large numbers for temple service, Rinban Nakagawa and Rev. Kaz will be livestreaming a Central Cal HATSUBON Service, followed by a Virtual Obon Dance on Saturday, July 11, 2020 beginning at 5:30PM.

During the service, Hatsubon names for each temple will be presented on-screen and each temple will be represented with oshoko and candle lighting. Service will also consist of chanting, Dharma talks, Gatha and Readings.

Following the service, a virtual Obon Dance will be led by Odori teachers. In June, several Obon dance practice sessions and a session on how to wear Kimono will be held via Zoom. To view the scheduled sessions, visit your temple's website or Central California Nishi Hongwanji Twitter [@fresno_nishi](https://twitter.com/fresno_nishi).

"Obon Snack Bags" will be prepared and pre-sold as a fundraiser for the Central Cal temples. Each bag will contain Japanese snacks such as senbei, candy, chocolate, etc., and will be available to all CC temples' members for a \$10 donation. Each bag will also contain one raffle ticket for a chance to win a gift card and possible other prizes. ***By purchasing a snack bag, you are helping your home temple raise funds!***

The snack bags will be available at the Fresno Dharma Center that will serve as a drive-thru, non-contact pickup location. For those who may be interested in seeing the progress on the construction of the Fresno Betsuin Hondo, this would be an opportune time. Realizing that not all individuals are able to drive to the Dharma Center, snack bags may be picked up at your local temple, but you must select the pick-up location on the form below. Orders will be available for pick up 9:00AM -11:00AM on July 11th.

Please join others for this special Hatsubon service, enjoy participating in Obon Odori & enjoy your snack bag! If you do not have the ability to view these virtual sessions, please ask a family member or your temple for assistance. Thank you for your continued support of our Valley temples.

C.C. TEMPLES' FUNDRAISER "OBON SNACK BAG" Please order by June 25, 2020

	Qty	Total
SNACK BAG(S): \$10.00 each	_____	= \$ _____

Pick-up location (please, select one):

- _____ Fowler Buddhist Church
- _____ Fresno Family Dharma Center
- _____ Hanford Buddhist Church
- _____ Parlier Buddhist Church
- _____ Reedley Buddhist Church
- _____ Visalia Buddhist Church

Pick up for ALL locations is Sat., July 11th 9:00AM - 11:00AM

Questions? Call the Fresno Betsuin at (559) 442-4054 or
email: losaki@fresnobuddhisttemple.org

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

I am a member of the _____
Temple. (Please select from Fowler, Fresno,
Hanford, Parlier, Reedley, Visalia.)

Checks should be made payable and mailed
with order form to:

FRESNO BUDDHIST TEMPLE
2690 E. ALLUVIAL AVE.
FRESNO, CA 93720



CBE Seminars Online For All

BCA members and the public are invited to **FREE** online programs. All are welcome!

JUNE SEMINARS

Saturday, June 13, 2020 * 11 am - 1 pm (PDT)

“Seeing Shin Buddhism in Star Wars”

Other Power, Self Power, blind passions, and Bodhisattvas going and returning from the Pure Land — are concepts seen in the sci-fi universe of Star Wars.

Guest Speaker: **Rev. Landon Yamaoka**
M.A. Student, Institute of Buddhist Studies



Saturday, June 27, 2020 * 11 am - 1 pm (PDT)

“Man’s Search for Meaning”

What is the rationale and process of awakening today?
How modern transpersonal psychology clarifies Shinran Shonin’s 13th century Buddhist teachings.

Guest Speaker: **Rev. Dr. Kenji Akahoshi**
Resident Minister, Buddhist Temple of San Diego
M.A., Transpersonal Psychology Institute



Click to register or visit buddhistchurchesofamerica.org

Registration is Free ~ Donations gratefully accepted ~

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