

# BUDDHIST CHURCH OF FOWLER



## THE WHITE PATH

MONTHLY BULLETIN VOL. 499

SEPTEMBER 2020

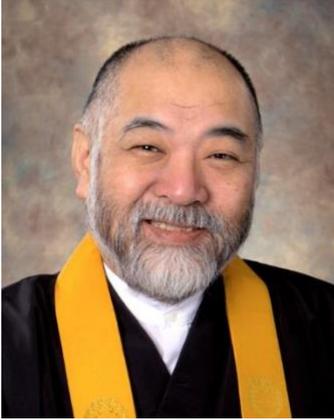
### SEPTEMBER

Please be advised that due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the following church activities for the Fowler Buddhist Church have been **cancelled**:

- Sept 13 Ohigan and Shotsuki Memorial Service
- Sept 20 Family Service and Dharma School
- Sept 27 CCDC Nembutsu Seminar

We appreciate your patience and understanding.  
We hope everyone remains safe and healthy.

Namo Amida Butsu



**Invocation for the  
75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki  
Tree Planting Ceremony at the Peace Garden  
California State University, Fresno  
August 6, 2020**

**O Serene, O free, Namu Amita Ābhah,**

On that hot summer day, under a blinding flash, which surpassed the brightness of the sun, we human beings entered into a NEW ERA against our will.

We human beings, Homo sapiens, since the long ages, living our lives merely foreboding death as individuals. But since "that" day we must recognize a foreboding of the biological death of the entire race.

Our Truth-self came into view in a moment for the first time. But at the present time, we still do not recognize our deadly foolishness that may cause the total downfall of all species on the planet earth itself.

**O Serene, O free,**

It is 75 years after these double tragedies of Hiroshima, August 6, and Nagasaki, August 9, but people do not seem to realize the true impact of it yet.

Only the greed that is based on blind feelings due to fear of death has burst forth to become a gigantic monster as such. Currently the entire world is actually under the unbearable sufferings by the Mutated Virus Covid-19.

**O Serene, O free,**

In thine immeasurable mercy and goodness, wipe away all dark stains from the heart of this earth.

Today the seedlings of the Camphor tree, which survived the hell under the Atomic bomb, sent from Hiroshima, will be planted here in the soil of Central California.

**O Serene, O free,**

The souls of our forgotten children of Central California, who had to die young in their loneliness 75 years ago in Hiroshima, have returned to their hometown as a symbol of world peace.

Touch them with thy right hand now, bring harmony into our life, and bring the rhythm of eternal hope by all means.

**Namu Amita Ābhaḥ,**

Our actions are our only true belongings.

We cannot escape the consequences of our actions.

Our actions are the ground on which we stand.

Gassho,

Rev. Kakei Nakagawa, Rinban



## Anjin – Securing Your Utmost Calmness

Rev. Kaz Nakata

Hello, all Central California Sangha friends! We have now been in the pandemic for half a year, but I am excited that we were finally able to conduct Hatsubon Service and enjoy the Virtual Obon Dance on August 15<sup>th</sup>, both streamed on Zoom and Twitter. Thank you to Mr. Greg Tsudama of Fresno for helping us connect on Zoom, so that the Sangha could see each other, dancing in our living rooms. Many from different parts of California, such as Los Angeles and Sacramento, joined our Zoom Obon. And hundreds of people joined the Hatsubon service and Obon Dance through Twitter streaming. We even noticed there were people from other countries that joined. Thank you to Mrs. Sharon Morikawa and her Obon Dance teachers for the great job they did to make our Obon Dance more enjoyable and memorable. I would like to thank all the helpers and I really appreciate those who supported our Obon Snack Bag fundraiser. I hope you won something from the Obon raffle! All the proceeds from the fundraiser were distributed to CC temple and churches. I plan to make a special Obon DVD for people who are periodically receiving our Sunday Service DVDs. If you do not have internet or have not been receiving the DVD, please ask your temple/church board members. I will make sure that you will get one!

After spending 6 months under the pandemic, how do you feel about your life? Recently, the CDC announced that since the pandemic outbreak, more people are taking medication for anxiety. Medications help us, but our Buddhist teachings help us too! In this next part of my article, I would like to write about *Anjin*. Have you seen, or heard the word *Anjin*? *Anjin* is securing your utmost calmness. This word appears all over in Mahayana Buddhist tradition.

For example, Bodhi-Dharma, a famous founder of Zen Buddhism, once described in his dialogue (*Memoirs of Eminent Monks in Tang Dynasty*, chapter 16) that “while sitting in the Zazen (leg-crossed) posture, consider yourself becoming like a solid wall. Once you become comfortable to do so, you reach the mental state of no-self and no-others. After that, do not relocate yourself (your residence), nor follow other teachings. Follow nature and live quietly. Do not conduct something special. By doing so, you will enter a state of *Anjin*.”

You might watch how to do Zazen meditation first. Zen monks usually do their Zazen sitting facing a wall. My devout Zen monk friends are sitting all day long, except while eating, sleeping, and getting phone calls. I consider myself a devout Jodo Shinshu minister, but I do not think I can keep up practice like Zazen all day and every day. Then you may wonder how Jodo Shinshu understands *Anjin*.

The word, *Anjin* appears in one of our Jodo Shinshu Seven Masters, Shandao's publication (*Raisan*). It states that the action of entrusting one's whole heart for wishing to live a life of *Sukhavati* (utmost calmness). When we encounter uncertainty, we feel anxiety because we cannot know what is going on. The historical Buddha clearly states that our life is uncertain, more precisely our life is unpredictable. Once we fully understand and accept life's uncertainty and unpredictability as they are, we reach the mental state of *Sukhavati*. We, however, should not blindly believe his word. It does not mean he is wrong. We should make sure whether his word makes sense. After passing our test, his word becomes trustful for us. At that moment, we say we can entrust our whole heart to his word.

Commonly, conventional religion does not have this process. God's word is absolutely right and genuine, so people should not challenge or doubt it. I think it is one of the big differences between religion and Buddhism.

In the 8<sup>th</sup> century, at the age of 28 years and after spending 20 plus years in monastic life, Shandao encountered the teachings of *Sukhavati*. I am sure that he tested its validity because the encounter was a life changing moment. If I were him, I would not blindly believe it. How about you? Do you just simply accept and believe whatever other people say, if they're saying may change the course of your life? After Shandao tested the teaching, he entrusted his whole heart to the teaching, wishing to live a life of *Sukhavati*. He was a great poet and left many chanting texts for us. We can feel his passion for the teaching from his masterpieces such as *Junirai*.

Living a life of *Sukhavati* does not mean we are going to live elsewhere. The word, *Sukhavati* is an idiom, and it consists of two words. One is *sukha*, and the other is *avati*. *Sukha* means utmost calmness, and *avati* can be understood as leading something or someone to a certain mental state or place. Based on these translations, *sukha-avati* means the teaching leads us to the mental state of utmost calmness. Live a life of utmost calmness here and now, is an appropriate understanding.

Our Jodo Shinshu teaching encourages us to be aware of the life's interdependence. We are narrow minded, thinking that we make a living by ourselves, but our life is sustained by numerous others. When we were small, we were not able to do many things on our own. Many adults helped us grow until we gradually started doing things by ourselves. Do you remember all of your school teachers? Do you remember your classmates and playmates? All of them are a part of your life, and you are a part of their life. Some or many of these adults, teachers and friends had passed away and you might have attended their funerals.

Just recently, my grandmother-in law (my wife's grandmother) passed away and I talked about her during our Aug 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday streaming service. If she did not exist, my wife would not either. My wife

and I can enjoy our lives with three girls, because we had our grandmother. We really appreciated her generosity and support while we shared life and time with her. The loss of our loved ones made me become more deeply aware of my own life's interdependence, and it made me think about the natural cycle of life and death. Sooner or later, we must leave our loved ones. What can we do until the last day of our life? I just try to fully enjoy and mindfully live each day. Such way of living leads me to Sukhavati, utmost calmness. I assume Shandao encountered many life threatening events such as pandemics, epidemics, wars, and extreme weather. The vaccination technique was developed only some two hundred years ago. Many people died in the 8th century due to many unknown causes. Under such hardship of living human life, Shandao appreciated the teaching and expressed his utmost calmness and happiness in his chanting notes.

Although we are in the pandemic right now, I do not feel any anxiety. I feel I am alright no matter which direction my life goes. Our Jodo Shinshu teaching makes me think and live positively and optimistically, so that I can continue to enjoy a life of utmost calmness.

I am sure that you have more time to read now. If you are looking for books to reduce or manage your anxiety, please read two books by our Nishi Hongwanji former Monshu Koshin Ohtani, *"The Buddha's Call to Awaken"* and *"The Buddha's Wish for the World."* The first chapter of *"The Buddha's Call is entitled "Living in an Age of Uncertainty"* in which he explains the Buddha's core teaching "life's uncertainty." I am sure that these books will help you to understand Jodo Shinshu teaching more clearly. Gassho

## **SEPTEMBER SHOTSUKI MEMORIAL SERVICE**

Please view, join and participate in the September virtual services on Twitter:

Sept 6 @ 10 AM

-CC Combined Shotsuki  
Service from Parlier

Sept 13 @ 10 AM

-CC Sunday Service from  
Visalia

Sept 20 @ 10 AM

-CC Sunday Service from  
Kingsburg

Sept 27 @ 10 AM

-CC Sunday Service from  
Fresno

If you have any questions or need assistance, please feel free to call the office Monday-Friday (559) 442-4054 or Reverend Kaz (424) 666-7101.

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  
Sunno 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  
Mary Teraoka

**Hatsubon**

|           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| \$ 100.00 | Mrs. Eiko li    |
|           | Ms. Yoshiye li  |
| \$ 30.00  | M/M Greg Mukai  |
| \$ 30.00  | Flora Murashige |

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

**Shotsuki**

Namo Amida Butsu

|           |                        |
|-----------|------------------------|
| \$ 100.00 | Kimihiro & Hitomi Sera |
| \$ 75.00  | Rodney Kikuta          |
| \$ 50.00  | Alex & Roberta Araki   |
| \$ 40.00  | Mrs. Eiko li           |
|           | Ms. Yoshiye li         |
| \$ 30.00  | M/M Greg Mukai         |
| \$ 30.00  | M/M Greg Mukai         |
| \$ 30.00  | M/M Greg Mukai         |

**CHURCH TOBAN FOR  
SEPTEMBER**

**District I/II**

**Board of Governors**

Rick Miyasaki  
Ken Hashimoto

**Toban:**

Marlene Miyasaki  
Joan Yamaguchi

**In Memory of Shinya Tokubo**

|           |  |
|-----------|--|
| \$ 200.00 | Sachi Tokubo                             |
| \$ 200.00 | Glenn & Cyndy Tokubo                     |
| \$ 100.00 | Ryan (nephew) & Eliza<br>Suzuki & Family |

**In Memory of Florence Nakayama**

|          |                     |
|----------|---------------------|
| \$ 30.00 | June Kamigawachi    |
| \$ 30.00 | Ben & Noreen Yosako |

**In Memory of Geroge Shimoda**

|          |  |
|----------|--|
| \$ 15.00 | Miss Yoshiye li  |
| \$ 10.00 | The Kawano Family<br>Inez, David, Marvin &<br>Darlene Kawano |

**August 2020 Donations**

**Obon**

\$ 100.00 Kimihiro & Hitomi Sera

**In Memory of Ida Shimizu**

\$ 10.00 The Kawano Family  
Inez, David, Marvin &  
Darlene Kawano

\$ 20.00 The Kawano Family  
Inez, David, Marvin &  
Darlene Kawano

**In Memory of Chuck Ideta**

\$ 250.00 Thomas, Ruby, Lauren &  
James Okamoto

\$ 100.00 National Raisin Company

\$ 100.00 Keith & Shirley Kato

\$ 50.00 Miwako Yamashiro

\$ 50.00 Mervin Maruyama

\$ 50.00 Hirakawa/Matsunami  
Family

\$ 50.00 The Sasaki Family

\$ 50.00 Myra & Dean Okasaki

\$ 50.00 Fowler Buddhist  
Women's Association

\$ 50.00 Sacramento Buddhist  
Women's Association

\$ 50.00 Sacramento Buddhist  
Church Adult Buddhist  
Association

\$ 40.00 Mrs. Eiko Ii  
Ms. Yoshiye Ii

\$ 30.00 Tina Kato-Clarey

\$ 30.00 Shig & Aiko Kamine

\$ 30.00 Art & Alice Fujikawa

\$ 25.00 Kimihiro & Hitomi Sera

\$ 25.00 M/M Jim Sakamoto

\$ 20.00 Gerald & Cherie  
Nakayama

\$ 20.00 Ken Hashimoto

\$ 20.00 Ron & Cheryl Ashida

\$ 20.00 Alex & Roberta Araki

**Special Donations**

\$ 1000.00 Rev. Bob & Patti Oshita  
Dennis & Dyan Yee &  
Family

Rick & Stacy Ideta &  
Family

In Memory of Chuck Ideta

\$ 500.00 Mitsuye Shinkawa  
In Memory of Toshiaki  
Shinkawa

\$ 250.00 Maryann Miyasaki  
Obon/Church/Shotsuki  
Services I missed!

\$ 180.00 Ikebana Class  
January, February, March

## CENTER FOR BUDDHIST EDUCATION (CBE) EVENTS

**NOTE:** Flyers for all the events below can also be found on the BCA Website

### BCA Center for Buddhist Education YouTube Channel

Videos of most CBE seminars that have taken place recently can be viewed at

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCnWr3XIAtiwwVIPWvTMqIPw>

- **Sat., Sept. 5, 11 am – 1 pm (PDT): "Finding the Spiritual Heart in Turbulent Times: Naikan Self-Reflection" - Guest speaker, Gregg Krech, ToDo Institute**

[https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/wp-content/uploads/2020\\_09\\_05\\_cbe\\_seminar\\_rev.pdf](https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/wp-content/uploads/2020_09_05_cbe_seminar_rev.pdf)  
[Registration link](#)

- **Sat./Sun: Oct. 3 & 4: Women in Buddhism Webinar - "Tools for Spiritual Wellness"**

Presented by Seattle Buddhist Temple, co-sponsored by CBE. Speakers: **Carmela Javellana Hirano, M.D.** ("Radical Humility - Jodo Shinshu Path to Joy"); **Bonnie Duran, Ph.D.** ("Dharma for Undoing Internalized Stereotypes"), **Sharon A. Suh, Ph.D.** (Meditation & Yoga for Healing Trauma"), **Sheri Mizumori, Ph.D.** ("Brain Health & Everyday Well-Being"); **Tara Tamaribuchi, B.F.A.** ("Art as Healing")

<https://seattlebetsuin.com/2020wib/>

- **Sat. Oct. 10, 10 am- 12 pm: Technobuddha Seminar - Good Trouble! " I don't think Slavery ended in 1865... I think it just evolved." ~ Bryan Stevenson . Guest speaker: Rick Stambul**

[https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/wp-content/uploads/2020\\_10\\_10\\_techbobbuddha\\_flyer\\_r1.pdf](https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/wp-content/uploads/2020_10_10_techbobbuddha_flyer_r1.pdf)

- **Sat. Oct. 24, 10 am - 12 pm: "Dharma in Your Life"- Guest speakers: Rev. Marvin Harada, Rev. Maribeth "Smitty" Smith, and Rev. Jon Turner.** Presented by the CBE Every Day Buddhism Committee. Flyer:

[https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/wp-content/uploads/2020\\_10\\_24\\_edb\\_seminar.pdf](https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/wp-content/uploads/2020_10_24_edb_seminar.pdf)

Registration link <https://forms.gle/KpuCDxWEG8devm2EA>

- **Sat. Oct. 31, 11 am – 1 pm PDT: "Shin Buddhism & the Supernatural"- Speaker: Rev. Jerry Hirano**

[Registration Link https://forms.gle/N5FPpnjggsCUjsD17](https://forms.gle/N5FPpnjggsCUjsD17)

(Previously Dr. John Paraskevolopoulos was scheduled to speak on Oct 31st but due to his work he had to cancel and a new date is TBD)

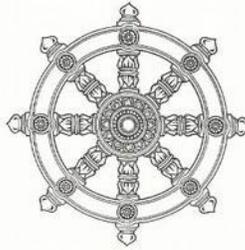
- **Sat., Nov. 7, 7-10 pm (PT): BYR and Friends Reunion - An online gathering for HS participants from the BCA Buddhist Youth Retreats (BYR) from all years, and all others interested.**

[https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/wp-content/uploads/2020\\_11\\_07\\_byr\\_reunion\\_flyer\\_rev1.pdf](https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/wp-content/uploads/2020_11_07_byr_reunion_flyer_rev1.pdf)

### Other events:

- **Sept 26, 1-3pm Ichi-Mi will be having a Gender Language Workshop**

[https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/wp-content/uploads/2020\\_09\\_26\\_gbc\\_ichimi\\_flyer\\_r1.pdf](https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/wp-content/uploads/2020_09_26_gbc_ichimi_flyer_r1.pdf)



Buddhist Church of Fowler

(559) 834-2077

210 South Ninth Street • P. O. Box 335 • Fowler • CA • 93625

Dear Prospective Donor,

I represent the Buddhist Church of Fowler. We are having the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Fellowship Golf Tournament on Saturday, October 10, 2020, and are actively seeking donations in the form of raffle prizes and/or \$100.00 "Tee Sponsorships." Raffle donors will be listed in the tournament booklet and tee sponsorships will be prominently displayed by a sign on a tee box. The site will be the Ridge Creek Golf Course in Dinuba, CA. Anything you can donate would be greatly appreciated. Our tournament reaches people from throughout the state, and will directly benefit the Buddhist Church of Fowler. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 559.284.2955 or [b.ashida@sbcglobal.net](mailto:b.ashida@sbcglobal.net)

Thank you for your time and generosity,

Barton K. Ashida & Roger Takeda

Raffle Chairpersons, Fellowship Golf Tournament

Federal Tax Identification Number 94-1498382

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Donor Information

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

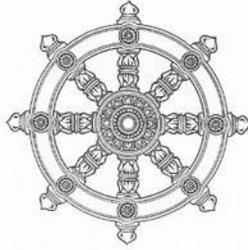
Business  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

The information above will help complete your tax receipt. If you would like us to pick up your donation, please contact me at 559.284.2955 or [b.ashida@sbcglobal.net](mailto:b.ashida@sbcglobal.net)



Buddhist Church of Fowler

(559) 834-2077

210 South Ninth Street • P. O. Box 335 • Fowler • CA • 93625

Dear Prospective Donor,

On Saturday, October 10, 2020, the Buddhist Church of Fowler will be holding it's 24th Annual Fellowship Golf Tournament. Every year a full field of golfers, along with their friends and family, enjoy a fun day of golf and a delicious banquet. We are looking for "Tee Sponsors" to sponsor the tee boxes on the golf course. For a \$100 donation your sponsor sign will be prominently posted at a tee box and you will be acknowledged in the tournament booklet as well as at the awards banquet. We do this so the golf and banquet participants will recognize who helped make this special event possible. Your support would be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your generous consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 559.284.2955 or email: b.ashida@sbcglobal.net

Sincerely,

Barton K. Ashida  
Tee Sponsor Chairman

Buddhist Church of Fowler  
Federal Tax Identification Number 94-1498382

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**TEE SPONSOR**

Please include this information with you donation payable to the:  
'Buddhist Church of Fowler F.G.T.'

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

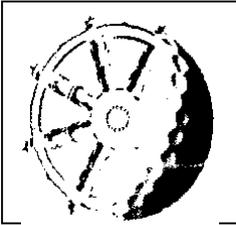
**Company:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose \$100 for each "Tee" you wish to sponsor. Please mail check/form to Barton K. Ashida, P.O. Box 25114, Fresno, CA 93729 or the Buddhist Church of Fowler, P.O. Box 335, Fowler, CA 93625.



**REVISED -- 24<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL  
FOWLER BUDDHIST CHURCH  
FELLOWSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**SATURDAY, OCT. 10, 2020 - Join us for a day of "Fun, Food & Golf"  
Ridge Creek Golf Club – 3018 Ridge Creek Drive – Dinuba, CA 93618  
Shotgun Start at 11 AM - Check-in at 10 am**

**FORMAT: 4-Person Team Handicapped Scramble  
Team Prizes, Best Golf Shots, and Raffle.**

**ENTRY FEE: \$125 includes-Green Fee, Cart, Range balls  
PAID Entry Fee required by Tuesday Sept. 29, 2020  
All Woman's Division and OPEN Division  
75 Years and older = Sand Tee – Please note on form  
No Banquet this year due to Pandemic**

**If you have any questions contact Ken Okajima at 559 480-6530  
kenokajima@hotmail.com**

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**Send Entry Form c/o Ken Okajima 2839 E. Frederick Ave., Fresno, CA 93720  
With check payable to: Buddhist Church of Fowler FGT**

Maximum individual handicap credited to your team will be 30 for men, 36 for women.

**Important - Please include handicaps or average score. NOTE if 75 years or older**

Player #1 \_\_\_\_\_ M / F Age \_\_\_\_\_ Hdcp \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$125 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Player #2 \_\_\_\_\_ M / F Age \_\_\_\_\_ Hdcp \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$125 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Player #3 \_\_\_\_\_ M / F Age \_\_\_\_\_ Hdcp \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$125 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Player #4 \_\_\_\_\_ M / F Age \_\_\_\_\_ Hdcp \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$125 \_\_\_\_\_

**Mulligans and Raffle Tickets sold at Registration** TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Person** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone #** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email** \_\_\_\_\_