

BUDDHIST CHURCH OF FOWLER



THE WHITE PATH

MONTHLY BULLETIN VOL. 504

FEBRUARY 2021

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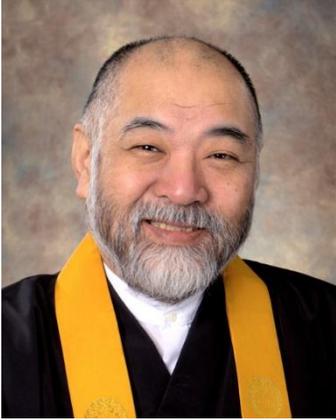
Please be advised that due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the following church activities for the Fowler Buddhist Church have been **cancelled**:

Feb 21 Fowler Food Bazaar

We appreciate your patience and understanding.

We hope everyone remains safe and healthy.

Namo Amida Butsu



Martin Luther King Jr. Day—a Federal Holiday
on 1-18-2021.

“We shall overcome. We shall overcome. We shall overcome,
some day.
Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe. We shall overcome, some
day.”
 (“We Shall Overcome”)

For people my age, it was the song we sang most often in our youth. It was a symbol of the civil rights movement.

We Buddhists have the deepest respect to the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. for his non-violent principle in leading the Civil Rights Movement and for the great work he accomplished.

Among the great leaders of the 20th century, there is another person who deserves special mention by Buddhists. Mahatma Gandhi, the leader of India's independence movement, also achieved independence of the Republic of India by retaining to the principle of non-violence.

What these two men have in common is that they both studied Ralph Emerson, the first American thinker, who is said to have been strongly influenced by Buddhism. With Emerson's Buddhist-derived philosophy of non-violence, they brought freedom and the right to live in peace to their people, but they both met an untimely end in assassination.

It would not be an exaggeration to say that this proves how threatening it is for those who want to keep their people in a state of slavery to have leaders like them who lead protests through non-violence. In Buddhist history, several of the Buddha's direct disciples were assassinated, including Mokuren, who is famous for the origin of Obon. In February, Buddhists celebrate the Nirvana Day, day of Buddha's passing.

It is a well-known fact that the most influential teachings of Gautama Siddhartha, aka Shakyamuni Buddha, who appeared in India 2,700 years ago and changed the history of mankind forever, have been the teachings of non-violence and equality of mankind. The first page of any real introductory books to Buddhism will always have these two words inscribed on it.

In today's world, the default concept of Buddhism is that it is a religion of peace, but don't forget that the 2,700-year history of Buddhism has been one that cannot be separated from hardship and tragedy. Our ancestors were convinced that the truth of

Dharma, free of illusion and lies, would bring peace to the lives of their descendants, and at times risked their lives to protect and pass on the teachings.

Buddhism, which does not use violence of any kind as a means to solve problems, has remained the weakest link among universal religions even in today's highly civilized society, but it is true that expectations for Buddhism continue to increase as time goes on.

In the United States, we have a great history of the Civil Rights Movement, led by the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. History has proven that any movement that aims to win social justice will always fail if it uses violence and will never come to fruition unless it is thoroughly non-violent.

If we can understand this alone, we can see that there is nothing but hope in our future.

“When I get older, I will be stronger
They’ll call me freedom, just like a wavin’ flag.”
 (“Wavin’” Flag)

For Buddhists, it is truly "Dharma Bless America."

Gassho,
Reverend Kakei Nakagawa, Rinban



New Learning opportunity of Jodo Shinshu in Central California

Hello, all Central California Sangha friends! I am so glad to hear that some of you have been receiving vaccinations. We encountered the pandemic last March and were told to stay at home on March 15. I am too young to be vaccinated now, and I can probably get it in the summer or fall. I hope essential workers, seniors, and people with health concerns can receive it as soon as possible. Until we are able to reopen our temple and churches, we will continue the CC combined streaming service every Sunday.

Although we are unable to hold in-person activities at temple and churches, we are developing a unique education program right now. In this article, I would like to share what program we are developing and how it will benefit you and the future of the Central California temple and churches. This article is so important for the entire CC Sangha that I ask that you please take a moment to read it.

In the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA), the Ministers' Assistant Program (MAP) was developed by a local church around 2004-05 as an extension to a Buddhist study class. Later, the Buddhist Education department of the BCA became involved with the MAP and developed the BCAMAP. In Berkeley, there is a Buddhist graduate school, and it is called the Institute of Buddhist Studies. If someone is interested in advanced Jodo Shinshu studies or wishes to become involved with the Jodo Shinshu ministry, this institute is the only school to attend in the U.S.

In Jodo Shinshu tradition, there is no distinction between ministers and members. Everyone is a lifelong student. Everyone has the right to study everything about Jodo Shinshu. Traditionally, a local district or a group of a temple has been provided a place for study. It is called a Buddhist training school (Bukkyo Gakuin). The school offers students to receive advanced Jodo Shinshu studies or become involved with the Jodo Shinshu ministry at no charge of the tuition.

I have been studying in several U.S. colleges for 12 years. I know many college students, or their parents are concerned about the rising cost of tuition. I personally know of one case where a student had to give up their ministerial training, due to the financial concern. The idea of Bukkyo Gakuin would save such a student. How can I provide such education in Central California? During the last several months, I have been thinking about the structure of the educational system. Finally, last month, I launched a new education program called the Central California Nishi Hongwanji Ministerial Assistant Program. Under the program, our CC Sangha friends can take

various courses on Buddhism, participate in seminars, and a residency program in Hiroshima, Japan. You may wonder what a Ministerial Assistant is. The Ministerial Assistant is a renewal position to support ritual and ministerial tasks at her/his local temple/church. When I was in Japan, I volunteered as a Ministerial Assistant at a local temple before I was assigned as a full-fledged Kaikyoshi minister. My program provides all the necessary course work for someone who is willing to proceed to receiving an ordination in Jodo Shinshu order, and advanced Jodo Shinshu studies. However, it is not a requirement to be a Ministerial Assistant nor to receive ordination if you are just looking to continue education on Jodo Shinshu. You can receive education on Jodo Shinshu equivalent to a Kaikyoshi minister. Everyone has the right to study everything about Jodo Shinshu! Are you interested in staying in Hiroshima for a week or longer? I can fill your interest through the residency program. I made an agreement with local temples in Hiroshima for this program. You can learn how people are living in the life of Nenbutsu by staying in the temple. The program will be provided after the pandemic is over.

Under the program, Rinban Nakagawa, Rev. Midori, and I will provide various courses on Jodo Shinshu studies. I would like to make all CC Sangha friends “Professional Sangha”. It is important for propagation that everyone among the Sangha knows about Jodo Shinshu. I will always try my best, but my own power is so limited. I need everyone’s attention for the growth of our Sangha in Central California. I will turn 45 this year. This means that half of my lifetime has passed, or maybe I have one-third remaining. I enjoy so much about Jodo Shinshu, and it is my wish that people will continue this wonderful heritage in CC, even after my passing. What I can do is to provide to you, everything that I know. I hope you understand that what I am doing will benefit all CC Sangha and will bring about a bright future for our Jodo Shinshu society.

Gassho

Rev. Kaz Nakata

**VIRTUAL NIRVANA DAY AND
FEBRUARY MONTHLY
SHOTSUKI MEMORIAL SERVICE**

Feb 7 @ 10:00 a.m. CC Combined
Shotsuki Service from Reedley

Feb 14 @ 10:00 a.m. CC Combined
Nirvana Day Service from Parlier

Feb 21 @ 10:00 a.m. CC Combined
Dharma Service from Kingsburg

Feb 28 @ 10:00 a.m. CC Combined
Dharma Service from Visalia

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

**The Shotsuki names for the
month of February are:**

Hatsuyo Kanenaga
Masao Kanenaga
Masao Nakamura
Matsutarō Yamane
Reiko Nakagawa
John Nakagawa
Hiroshi Ii
Toyosuke Ii

George Shimizu
Kazuo Nishina
Teru Kimura
Riyo Miyasaki
Shizuko Otani
Yoshisaburo Okamura
Satoru Okumura
Kojiro Kawamoto
Ritsuyo Namba
Saichi Tsuboi
Hide Kawano
Hikoji Yoshimura
Makiko Honda
George Toyoda
Shizumi Yoshimura
Ritsu Tanaka
Kara Nakagawa
Masao Mukai
Evelyn Hirai
Genjiru Nakata
Max Sumida
Mitsui Wada
Sunayo Yokomi
James Wada
Kazuo Morita
Tomie Morishige
Tsuyoshi Tiyo Yamaguchi
Akimi Sakazaki
Kiyoshi Taniguchi
Fujio Shimada
George Koso Yamamoto
Rose Yoshiko Nakagawa
Shizuko Yoshimoto
Akira Tokubo
Betty Mayebo
Betty Nakayama

The Buddhist Church of Fowler extends its deepest condolences to the Nagata and Takeno Families on the passing of their loved ones, Mr. Kevin Nagata and Mrs. Dorothy Takeno.

May you always find comfort in the Nembutsu.

Namo Amida Butsu

FEBRUARY RIJI & TOBAN District IV

Board of Governor's (Riji's):

Craig Honda
Sharon Asakawa

Toban:

Maxine Yoshimoto
Sharon Asakawa

BWA NEWS

The yearly CCBWA Conference which is usually held in March has been cancelled due to the Covid19 pandemic. This year the host was scheduled to be the Fresno Buddhist Church.

The Fowler BWA would like to thank Ann Yoshimura for her \$50.00 year end donation.

January 2021 Donations

Happy New Year

\$ 100.00 Ron & Maxine Yoshimoto

Year End

\$ 100.00 Dean Shiroyama

\$ 100.00 Brian Nagata

\$ 100.00 Ikebana Class

Shotsuki

\$ 30.00 Greg & Gay Mukai

\$ 20.00 Frank Gibson

\$ 20.00 Miss Yoshiye li

\$ 20.00 Craig & Tayoko Honda
Family

In Memory of Hiroko Julie Meyer (li)

\$ 450.00 The Meyer Family

White Path

\$ 50.00 Sally Yemoto

Special Donations

\$ 30.00 Maxine Yoshimoto

\$ 25.00 Karen Kondo

CREDIT CARD REMINDER

Anyone who would like to pay their church membership dues or any monthly donations by credit card please contact Barton Ashida.



SAVE THESE DATES!
2021 CBE VIRTUAL PROGRAMS
JANUARY ~ APRIL All events listed in Pacific Time.

<p>SATURDAY JANUARY 9 11 am - 1 pm Register online</p>	<p>SHIN BUDDHISM AND SCIENCE FICTION Speakers: Rev. Harry Bridge Buddhist Church of Oakland Rev. Jon Turner Orange County Buddhist Church & Rev. Landon Yamaoka Palo Alto Buddhist Temple <i>Venture into dharma explorations inspired by science fiction films.</i></p>
<p>SUNDAY JANUARY 10 1 pm</p>	<p>BCA YOUTH CONCERT! JODO SHINSHU ARTISTS & MUSICIANS SHOWCASE (JAMS) <i>Enjoy a variety of performances by BCA youth.</i></p>
<p>SATURDAY JANUARY 30 5 pm - 6:30 pm Register online</p>	<p>RELEVANT AMERICAN BUDDHISTS (RAB) Speaker: Rev. Dr. Ken Tanaka Musashino University <i>Who and what were the RAB? Stories from BCA's 1970s program for young adults.</i></p>
<p>SATURDAY FEBRUARY 6 10 am - 11:30 am Register online</p>	<p>EVERY DAY BUDDHISM BOOK TALK "DISCOVERING BUDDHISM IN EVERYDAY LIFE" Speaker/author: Rev. Marvin Harada BCA Bishop <i>Listen to the stories behind this collection of heartwarming essays.</i></p>
<p>SATURDAY FEBRUARY 13 11 am - 1 pm Register online</p>	<p>"HONEN AS RELIGIOUS REVOLUTIONARY: THE PERSON WHO DEFINED THE BUDDHISM WE IDENTIFY AS JAPANESE TODAY." Speaker: Dr. Mark Blum University of California at Berkeley</p>
<p>SATURDAY MARCH 6 11 am - 1 pm Register online</p>	<p>ZEN & SHIN BUDDHISM - PART 1 "LETTING GO: A ZEN & SHIN APPROACH TO LIBERATION" Rev. Dr. Duncan Ryuken Williams Author, <i>AMERICAN SUTRA</i></p>
<p>SATURDAY MARCH 13 11 am - 1 pm Register online</p>	<p>ZEN & SHIN BUDDHISM -- PART 2 <i>(Please note change of date)</i> "ZEN PRACTICE" Speaker: Rev. Anton Tenkei Coppens Roshi Zen River Temple, Netherlands</p>
<p>SATURDAY APRIL 10 5 pm - 6:30 pm Register online</p>	<p>SOCIALLY ENGAGED BUDDHISM Speakers: Prof. Mitsuya Dake Ryukoku University Rev. Kiyo Kuwahara Berkeley Buddhist Temple</p>
<p>SATURDAY APRIL 17 11 am - 1 pm Register online</p>	<p>3 BISHOPS: "WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF BUDDHISM IN THE WEST?" Rev. Marvin Harada Bishop, Buddhist Churches of America Rev. Eric Matsumoto Bishop, Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii Rev. Tatsuya Aoki Bishop, Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada</p>

(v8)



Please... You can
save lives!

SPONSORED BY

The Fresno Buddhist Church

WHEN?

**SATURDAY, MARCH 20, 2021
9:00AM – NOON**

WHERE?

**Family Dharma Center
2690 E Alluvial Ave., Fresno 93720**

APPOINTMENTS ENCOURAGED!

To sign up, please contact:

Lee Osaki (559) 442-4054

losaki@fresnobuddhisttemple.org

or

Hunter Arakawa (559) 269-2925

hharla40@gmail.com

**CDC SAFETY MEASURES IN PLACE
FACE MASKS REQUIRED**