

# BUDDHIST CHURCH OF FOWLER



## THE WHITE PATH

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MONTHLY BULLETIN VOL. 513

NOVEMBER 2021

### NOVEMBER

Due to the concerns of Covid-19, all **in-person** Sunday services, classes and activities will continue to be on hold until further notice.

The following are this months services:

**11/7** - CC Shotsuki Service from Kingsburg - on YOUTUBE  
- Fresno Dharma School Service - via ZOOM

**11/14** - CC Dharma Service from Visalia - on YOUTUBE  
- Fresno Dharma School Service - via ZOOM

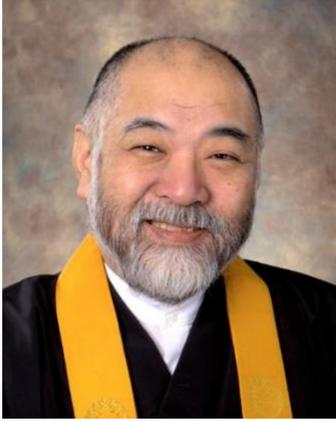
**11/21** - CC Eitaikyo Service from Fowler - on YOUTUBE  
|-Reedley (in-person) Eitaikyo, Shotsuki & Dharma Service - being recorded

**11/28** - Eitaikyo, Shotsuki and Dharma Service from Reedley - on YOUTUBE

We appreciate your patience and understanding.

We hope everyone remains safe and healthy.

Namo Amida Butsu



## **90<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary of the Buddhist Church of Parlier**

### **HYŌBYAKU The Pronouncement for the Service**

When I humbly reflect upon the past, I realize that Śākyamuni Buddha's Amitābha, to liberate all sentient beings from their ignorance and delusion, fulfilled the primal Vow and transferred great merit. Śākyamuni Buddha explained the Primal Vow caused by Buddha-nature to show us the purpose of the appearance in this world.

The Seven Masters of Jōdo-Shinshū, receiving the true spirit of Mahāyāna Buddhism correctly interpreted the Nenbutsu teachings during their lifetime.

Our founder, Shinran Shōnin, expressed the ultimate virtues of Mahāyāna Dharma in the Kyō-gyō-shin-shō.

Being taught and guided by Shinran Shōnin, I am able to hear the true and real Teaching and become a true human being empathized by the Great Compassion of Śākyamuni Buddha.

As I reflect with gratitude on the benevolence of the Buddha, the many teachers, and friends in Dharma who help to guide my way, a feeling of thankfulness grows.

I am certain of Birth in the state of perfect peace and utmost bliss through the Nenbutsu.

Today, on the occasion of 90th Year Anniversary the members and friends in Dharma of the Buddhist Church of Parlier have gathered here before this skillfully expressed image of Namu Amitābha to remind the Buddha's Teachings and to express their gratitude to the Immeasurable Wisdom and Compassion.

Thus, I reverently announce Gasshō.

Finding myself within the words of the True and real Dharma and being allowed to live within boundless Life which I have received, embraced by the Tathāgata's Great Compassion, I live peacefully each day.

Respectfully and with sincerity I express and celebrate my joy in the profound benefit of receiving the Noble Teachings.

With our hearts and minds bent in deep gratitude, we express our joy and simple thankfulness to Shinran Shōnin, our innumerable Nenbutsu teachers, and to all beings with which we are connected.

May we all truly reflect with gratitude and humility on that which we have been allowed to receive through the Teachings of the Buddha.

May we always endeavor to listen intently with our fellow beings to the Summoning Voice, and together as one family be born in the State of Enlightenment.

With a radiant Boundless Mind, may we each regard all living beings with loving kindness without limit.

Gassho,

Reverend Kakei Nakagawa, Rinban

パリア仏教会の法友へ、祝90周年。謙虚に過去を振り返ってみると、釈迦牟尼仏の智慧とおもいやり(=アミターバ)は、衆生を無知と迷いから解放するために、原初の誓いを果たし、大きな功德をもたらしたことがわかります。釈迦牟尼仏は、仏性による原初の誓願を説明して、この世に現れた目的を教えてくださいました。浄土真宗の七師は、大乘仏教の真の精神を受け継ぎ、生前に念仏の教えを正しく解釈しました。私たちの創始者である親鸞聖人は、『教行信証』の中で大乘仏教の究極の美德を表現されました。私は、親鸞聖人に教えられ、導かれて、真実の教えを聞き、釈迦の大慈悲に共感する真の人間になることができました。仏様の慈悲、多くの先生方、そして私を導いてくれる法の友に感謝しながら考えていくと、ありがたいの気持ちが自然に湧いてきます。私は念仏によって、必ず完全な平和と至福の状態で誕生することを確信しています。本日、創立90周年を迎えるにあたり、パリア一仏教教会の会員と法友は、この巧みに表現された六字の名号「南無阿弥陀仏」のイメージの前に集まり、仏の教えを思い起こし、無量の智慧と慈悲に感謝の意を表します。このようにして、私は敬虔に合掌を告げます。私は、真実の法の言葉の中に自分を見出し、如来の大なる慈悲に抱かれて受け取った無限の生命の中で生きることを許され、日々穏やかに暮らしています。敬意と誠意をもって、「高貴な教え」を受けたことによる深い恩恵の喜びを表現し、祝います。親鸞聖人をはじめとする無数の念仏の先生方、そして私たちがつながっているすべての存在に、深い感謝の気持ちを込めて、喜びと素朴な感謝の気持ちを表します。私たちが、お釈迦様の教えによって受け取らせていただいたものを、感謝と謙虚さをもって、心から反省することができますように。私たちは、常に仲間たちと一緒に召喚の声に耳を傾け、皆が家族として真実の悟りの地平に到達することができますように。そして、私たちの心が限りなく晴れやかになり、生きとし生けるものすべてにへだてない慈しみの心を持つことができますように。合掌、西本願寺フレスノ別院  
輪番 中川嘉慧



*Translation of article appearing in the October 2021 BCA Wheel of Dharma*

**What we can do now that we have encountered an unprecedented plague, and what we have learned from it?**

by Reverend Kazuaki Nakata, Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha,  
Central California District, Kyokuchō

Hello everyone, it has been less than two years since I last wrote the New Year's 2020, for the "Wheel of Dharma". It feels like a long time ago. Do you remember how you spent New Year's Day 2020? At the end of 2019, you may have gone to a temple to ring the New Year's bell and eat New Year's Eve soba noodle.

The Central District of California, where I now live, is about 170 miles long, sixty miles wide and 10,000 square miles or about the size of three Hiroshima prefectures. The Central district is served by two Reverends. It is not unusual for a service to be held at a home 60 or 100 miles away. In terms of distance, it is like driving from the center of City of Hiroshima to City of Fukuyama on the border of Okayama Prefecture.

Up until March 2020, I was traveling here and there daily to conduct services. But since April of this year when the vaccination process progressed, I was often asked to conduct memorial services remotely by Zoom. Not spending time driving anymore, I began to think I wanted to do something I was not able to do before. So, I considered conducting Buddhist memorial services at the sites of the Japanese American concentration camps built during World War II.

Upon my arrival to the US, I visited all ten concentration campsites scattered across North America. For my research, I interviewed local people who interacted and traded with the Japanese Americans living in the camps at that time and helped clean up the sites (some covered with weeds and graffiti). I conducted the service privately at the communal cemetery on the site, but it was not the official District service.

At a Ministers' meeting, when proposing the idea of conducting memorial services at former sites of the concentration camps, I received full support, so I then started planning.

Chosen first was the Manzanar concentration camp site. In September last year with special permission from the National Park Services, I conducted the Fall Ohigan Service in front of the Manzanar Memorial Monument. Following Manzanar, in March of this year, we held a Spring Ohigan Service at the former site of the Poston Concentration Camp in Arizona, a Special 'O-Bon' service at the former site of the Topaz Concentration Camp in Utah and at the former site of the Heart Mountain Concentration Camp in Wyoming. In September, we were able to officiate the Fall O-Higan service at the former site of the Tule Lake Concentration camp in the northernmost part of California.

Looking back over the past year, I have visited half of all the concentration camps in North America. As I mentioned earlier, I could not have made these trips if I was driving back and forth in the district everyday which is the size of three Hiroshima-prefecture.

After the memorial service, I heard from many people: "I enjoyed the streaming of the memorial services on my computer. I had never been to these places before, I was so impressed." Also, I am grateful that the Sunday schools in the Central District used the service as educational material so the students can learn the hardship that Japanese American communities endured during WWII.

Those of you who are reading this article may be the new Issei generation who came to the U.S. after the war. Some of you, like me, have been in the U.S. for less than 20 years. Sometime ago I was asked by a Sansei, "You came from Japan (after the War), why are you studying about the concentration camps which happened long time ago?" I replied then, "most temples in the North American Districts were built by Issei's and Nisei's who lived by the nenbutsu and used their limited income to build the temples where they can practice and live the life in gratitude, in the country where majority are Christians.

The Japanese Americans were denied their human rights, as well as being deprived of their homes and lands. They were literally sent to concentration camps with just what they can carry. After the war, those who returned from each concentration camp started to invigorate temples. I was interested in what kind of life they spent in camps. I realized these temples had overcome a severe situation. I can't go back to that time, but I'm going to the camp site and look into the environment that Issei's and Nisei's saw in the camp 70 years ago, such as, what kind of weather, what kind of terrain, and what kind of buildings they survived in."

At some campsites, the huts (barracks) have not been torn down. On some huts, words such as, "please show me how to go home", were written. Thinking of that time, there are many words left behind that cannot be expressed in words of grief. Because the camps were designed as isolation facilities, at the start of World War II, people who tried to escape were shot by the guards. It was truly a life-threatening way to live. Even amid such an oppressive life, they built temples, reopened Sunday schools, printed on straw paper sutras and books on the Jodo Shinshu teachings. They carefully protected the six-syllable of Na-Mu-A-Mi-Da-Bu in order to pass it down to the next generation as 'O-Myogo'.

I have a copy of the service book that was actually used at the Amache concentration camp in Colorado. The camp was closed during the war after about three years. The middle pages of the service book, which were well-preserved and free of insect infestation are worn out from hand stains and turning marks, and some of the pages have finger holes. We could count the number of Sunday services that were held in the camp, but the service books in my possession have been read over many more times than the actual number of Sunday services.

In the "Heard and recorded during Rennyō Shōnin's lifetime", the eighth Master of Hōnganji, there is a famous saying, "Hang and re-hang the scroll containing the 'object of reverence (the skillfully expressed image of Namu Amitābha)' until it will be worn out. Read and re-read the

truth writings until the pages on which they are printed are tattered and their contents are part of you.” At that time, Dosai, who was studying the Nenbutsu teachings under Rennyō Shōnin, received a scroll from the Shōnin with his teachings written on it. Delighted, he decorated the book like a hanging scroll and put it away in a box to prevent it from being damaged. It is said that when Rennyō Shōnin heard about this, he wrote the words on the right side of the book and spoke them to Dosai. Is the door of your family O-Butsudan still closed or open, and is it covered with dust? Are your Personal Service Book lying on the back of the bookshelf with their covers carefully covered? Rennyō Shōnin admonished us not to keep the scrolls of the skillful image of Buddha or the sacred truth writings in a safe place, but to encounter the teachings repeatedly through the skillful image and the truth scriptures.

For me, every time I look back at the service book that has become soiled and pitted in the Amache camp, I think about how I am able to live a life where I can get anything I need with just a phone call or an order on the Internet without being forced to relocate. This, even now that I cannot easily go to temples or restaurants due to the City and State emergency status. When I look within myself, I realize what a lukewarm world I am living in and how I am acting like a big shot. This time, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to visit the ruins of a concentration camp again. No matter how many times I visit the camp sites, I always learn something from a different angle. Now that we have encountered an unprecedented plague, we must learn from the Nenbutsu followers who endured life in the concentration camps as if they were in a tunnel with no end in sight until the day the war ended.

Gassho.

Rev. Kaz Nakata

## Nenbutsu

By: Izumi Ryan

During Covid-19, many people have lost things of great importance, where they be loved ones, jobs, and daily activities held for granted until the pandemic. Many people often say what they will do or what they look forward to once everything is back to “normal”, but we have to realize that there is a chance that wearing masks and social distancing will be the new normal moving forward.

Derived from the Sanskrit root anusimti, meaning mindfulness or recollection, Nenbutsu is being aware of past experiences to better understand how you want to live in the present moment.

This concept can also be applied to any situation, such as day-to-day interactions with other people. Although we should be aware of our past actions and how they impacted others, we should not dwell on what we could have done. Instead, we should try our best to keep moving forward while still being present for the things that we have and the goals we want to accomplish.

For example, after a long day find moments that you enjoyed and reflect on those you can learn from instead of solely focusing your attention on the negative parts. If you focus solely on the bad parts of your day, it will not turn out the way you may have hoped and you will think of it as a bad one just from one negative interaction. Even the worst of days can have the smallest highlights that you enjoy and turn your day around if you don't spend your time wondering what you could have done and focus on what you will do next.

## **Streaming Services**

Please view, join and participate in the November virtual services on Twitter or YOUTUBE as listed on our cover page.

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

## **The Shotsuki names for the month of November are:**

Hina Tsuboi  
Wasa Kuramoto  
Shizuno Matsuoka  
Mieko Honda  
Masajiro Miyake  
Tamayo Hirasuna  
Mikiye Mukai  
Haruso Kimura  
Yasuo Fujikawa  
Kenji Takimoto  
Masuno Nishina  
Nobu Shimoda  
Itsuyo Iwamoto  
Haruko Toyama  
Dennis Nakagawa  
Yoshimi Nakahira  
Matsuso Takeda  
Patsy Ashida  
Ben Nakamura

\*Taeko Yamashita  
Chizu Miyagawa  
Marjorie Yuriko Miyasaki  
Fred Masakiyo Sakazaki  
Masami Ray Nishina  
Kenji Takimoto  
Sachiko Onaka  
Shigeru Shig Uchiyama  
Kim Nishina  
Lily Yuriko Kato  
Russell Shimizu  
Toshiko Arasuna  
Mitsuro Tomoyasu  
Harry Honda  
Shirley Honda  
Howard Matsumura  
Tomoko Lily Kawamoto

## **CHURCH TOBAN FOR NOVEMBER**

### **District V**

**Riji:** Cheri Nakayama  
Diane Eskelsen

**Toban:** Yoko Miyoshi  
Alice Fujikawa

## **BWA NEWS**

The BWA officers for 2022 were Elected at the September meeting. All positions will be for two years, Except the position of President Which is for one year.

President: Karen Mukai (1 year)

Vice President: Irene Hara

Secretary: Alice Fujikawa

Treasurer: Janice Yoshimoto

Auditor: Hitomi Sera

Social Chairs: Arlene Keithley, Aiko Kamine, Yoko Miyoshi, and Janie Yuen

District I: Irene Hara & Hitomi Sera

District II: Arlene Keithley & Alice Fujikawa

The BWA members would like to encourage the Fowler church ladies to join and give our full support to President, Karen Mukai.

The Bonenkai service and luncheon have been cancelled this year.

The World Buddhist Women's Convention will be held in Kyoto, Japan, in May, 2023. If you are interested in attending, please contact Aiko Kamine or Alice Fujikawa. There are two tour companies offering tours which include the conference.

The CCBWA Conference is tentatively scheduled for either March 20 or March 27, 2022. The conference was cancelled twice due to the Covid Pandemic.

Congratulations to Mrs. Kay Takeda, who will be celebrating her 100th birthday in November. We wish her a Happy Birthday and extend our best wishes for her continued good health.

## **OCTOBER 2021 DONATIONS**

### **Shotsuki**

\$ 100.00 Ken Ishimoto  
\$ 50.00 Sharon & Clifford  
Fukushima  
\$ 50.00 Vickie, Tim & TJ Allison  
\$ 25.00 Janis & Wayne Sutow  
\$ 25.00 Carol Takahashi

### **In Memory of Toshio & Tomoko**

#### **Kawamoto**

\$ 300.00 Robert, Deanna &  
Emma Hanashiro  
*\*To Ministerial Fund*  
\$ 200.00 Nancy Kawamoto  
*\*To Ministerial Fund*

### **In Memory of Russell Matsumoto**

#### **6th Year Memorial**

\$ 100.00 Linda, Nicholas &  
Christopher Matsumoto  
\$ 100.00 Bey & Susan Driss  
& Family

### **In Memory of Flora Murashige**

\$ 100.00 Karen & Ron Ohira

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## 2021 CBE Seminars Online For All FALL: SEPTEMBER ~ NOVEMBER SATURDAYS, 11 AM - 1 PM (PACIFIC TIME)

Explore topics in Jodo Shinshu Buddhist doctrine, practice & culture

<p><b>SEPTEMBER 18 &amp; SEPTEMBER 25</b> REGISTER ONLINE <a href="https://forms.gle/zQVGSZEumMYCvw7">https://forms.gle/ zQVGSZEumMYCvw7</a></p>	<p><b>SHINJIN - Part 1 &amp; Part 2</b> <b>Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto</b> President, Institute of Buddhist Studies</p>	
<p><b>OCTOBER 16</b> REGISTER ONLINE <a href="https://forms.gle/RiXbVsVgawJcnpH8">https://forms.gle/ RiXbVsVgawJcnpH8</a></p>	<p><b>JODO SHINSHU MODERNITY</b> <b>Dr. Galen Amstutz</b> Adjunct Faculty, Institute of Buddhist Studies</p>	
<p><b>OCTOBER 23</b> REGISTER ONLINE <a href="https://forms.gle/V7MunamGzRtmscl7">https://forms.gle/ V7MunamGzRtmscl7</a></p>	<p><b>日本語セミナー</b> <b>本願のこころ</b> <b>ワンドラ 睦</b> オレンジ郡仏教会 開教使</p>	<p>Japanese Seminar: Hongan no Kokoro Rev. Dr. Mutsumi Wondra</p> 
<p><b>OCTOBER 30</b> REGISTER ONLINE <a href="https://forms.gle/6PxLrRudlnuQQghz6">https:// forms.gle/6PxLrRudlnuQQghz6</a></p>	<p><b>CBE Every Day Buddhism Committee presents</b> <b>THE THREE POISONS</b> <b>Rev. Marvin Harada</b> Bishop, Buddhist Churches of America (BCA)</p>	
<p><b>NOVEMBER 13</b> REGISTER ONLINE <a href="https://forms.gle/8XKx4kRcTaVnQh58A">https:// forms.gle/8XKx4kRcTaVnQh58A</a></p>	<p><b>日本語セミナー</b> <b>浄土真宗をたとえると？</b> <b>桑原 浄信</b> パークレー仏教会 開教使 * マリン仏教会 開教使</p>	<p>Japanese Seminar: Jodo Shinshu wo tatoeru to? Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara</p> 
<p><b>NOVEMBER 20</b> REGISTER ONLINE <a href="https://forms.gle/RFAsxfArT4Y2rAng">https://forms.gle/ RFAsxfArT4Y2rAng</a></p>	<p><b>KOICHI'S KITCHEN</b> <b>Koichi Mizushima</b> Guest Chef/ CBE Youth Program Coordinator</p>	

QUESTIONS? EMAIL: [CBE@BCAHQ.ORG](mailto:CBE@BCAHQ.ORG) PHONE: (510) 809-1460

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OR, DOWNLOAD THIS FLYER IN PDF FORMAT TO ACTIVATE REG LINKS

# BCA J.A.M.S.

Jodo Shinshu Artists & Musicians Showcase

-2ND ANNUAL  
BCA VIRTUAL CONCERT EVENT!

-Singers, Musicians, Comedians,  
Magicians, Etc...

-Submit your 3-5 min. video at the link  
below (due Dec 15th)

-It's all for **FUN**. So share your  
talent and help spread some joy!

-Questions? email "Koichi"  
bkmizushima@bcahq.org

**EVENT DATE:**  
**1:00PM PST**

**JAN.09**  
**2022**

VIDEO SUBMISSION: <https://tinyurl.com/34fmyrkx>