



THE WHITE PATH

MONTHLY BULLETIN VOL. 529

MAY 2023

May Service and Events:

5/21 – Shotsuki Service & Dharma School
10:00 AM

5/28 – Fowler Dharma School Centennial Celebration
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

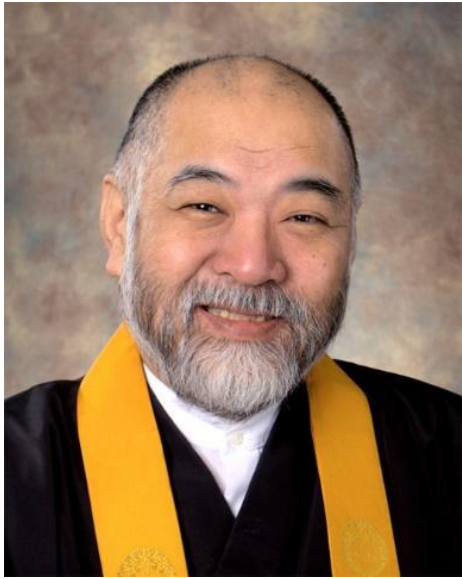
5/29 – Memorial Day – Cemetery Services
9:00 AM – Selma Cemetery
10:00 AM – Fowler Cemetery

There will not be a Memorial Day (5/29) church service.

June Service and Events:

6/04 – Shotsuki Service & Dharma School
Gary Mukai – Guest Speaker
10:00 AM

Rinban's Memo: Questions I Received Recently



Question #1

Some people say that when science is developed there will be no need for religion, but what do you think?

Answer: The idea that the development of science will make religion unnecessary is usually based on the following view of religion.

It is the view that religion is the result of man's attempt to compensate for his own lack of knowledge and power by relying on some power

greater than man.

It is the view that religion is an attempt to deal with or understand irrationally things that can be dealt with rationally or facts that can be judged rationally.

Looking at religion in this way, it is natural to think that as human knowledge advances and science develops, religion will gradually become less and less necessary.

Among the various religions, there are certainly some that should be dismissed as superstitions.

There is no doubt that the use of advanced medicine is more rational and effective than trying to cure illness with prayers and spells.

However, is true religion really such a thing?

True religion is not preached as a means to satisfy human desires.

Religion exists at the very edge of a human being's attempt to become a real human being.

In order for a person to become a real person, he must find his true self.

Science, by the way, is still trying to find out what man really is, and it has actually brought about a lot of understanding and knowledge about man, and there is still a doubt that if psychology and other sciences about man eventually develop, science

will be able to help man find out what he really is. However, scientific knowledge about human beings has not been developed yet.

However, scientific knowledge about human beings is not based on what we think we should be, but on what we objectively observe.

Therefore, becoming a real person, as in religion, and finding one's true self, are beyond the reach of science. For this reason, it would be a mistake to think that the development of science makes religion unnecessary.

Question #2

There are many religions, but in the end, aren't they all the same?

Answer:

There is an opinion that all religions have different teachings and objects of faith, but they all end up in the same place, just on different paths. This may sound plausible, but it is a way of thinking that comes from a lack of true understanding of religion.

First of all, I think there is a problem with thinking of teachings as a path to something. All religions have their own teachings, but the teachings themselves are where we end up, there is no other place to end up.

A religion is a destination, or goal, for us believers, not a path or a means to an end. All religions have different teachings, and directly related to those teachings are specific beliefs about how we should be, live, and act. And when we live out our lives in accordance with those teachings, then we can say that we are living in a religion.

In this sense, a certain religion relates to the entire existence of a person, and it is not a matter of using religion as a means to solve some problem at a certain time, choosing this religion for such and such a time and that religion for such and such a time.

Nevertheless, the reason why the idea that all religions end up in one place sounds meaningful is because the ultimate goal of all religions is the true happiness of human beings and true human beings.

That makes no sense at all. Because the question is, "What is true happiness, what kind of human being is a true human being?" You must know clearly that the abstract term "true happiness" itself is meaningless and empty for your real life.

If you define all religions with such meaningless words and say that they are all the same, it will be completely meaningless

Gassho,

Rinban Kakei Nakagawa



Gassho and Namu Amida Butsu, in Everyday Life

“Gassho! Namu Amida Butsu, Itadaki masu! (Trans. Palms together! Saying of Namu Amida Butsu, I gratefully receive the meal in front of us which is prepared with the help and support of others, to nurture our body and mind.)”

Before every meal, our family members together say the words above with Gassho. My three girls leave for school at different times in the mornings, so they eat breakfast separately. (You know it is hard to wake them up early, because they like to sleep until the last minute.) We are able to have most dinners together, and I try to teach saying “Namu Amida Butsu” to make them aware of their custom as Jodo Shinshu Buddhists. When we eat out, we say “Gassho! Namu Amida Butsu, Itadaki masu!” Sometime other customers look us and wonder what we are saying.

Generally, the U.S. is known as a Christian country, but I rarely see people praying before their meal at restaurants (“Itadaki masu” is not a prayer). I often attend interfaith gatherings and eat together with Abrahamic religious pastors. I have not seen them pray before meals. Perhaps they are only required to pray before meal amongst their members.

I sometimes receive questions like “Do you say Namu Amida Butsu outside of the temples? You don’t do it, do you?”

My response is “I say Namu Amida Butsu with Gassho in everyday life, which is more than I say it at temples. But we do not compare or compete on how many times we say it with others. It is a reminder and awareness of appreciation to all sentient beings.

I moved to Central California in 2019, so this is my 4th year here. Whenever I have

a chance, I try to attend meals, after funerals and memorial services, with members to deepen our friendship and get to know each other, especially Otoki (meal after funerals and memorial services).

I've heard that "when Rev. Kaz attends Otoki, he always shouts aloud "Gassho, Namo Amida Butsu, Itadakimasu!" Those who know me will wait to eat until after my custom of expressing appreciation with a shout of "Namo Amidabutsu! Itadakimasu!". Then I say "Let's eat!" and people laugh.

Kudensho records our founder Shinran Shonin's words and deeds. One *Kudensho* story tells that when Shinran Shonin attended Otoki after a funeral, he served Japanese Sake to mourners and made them laugh with funny stories of the deceased. He must have been a unique man...

I am not a big-name minister, so I have no skill to make people laugh at funeral luncheons with Sake, however I always hope that expressing my appreciation before meals with fun & personality, will ease some of the sadness felt by the mourning family members.

Whether I eat alone or with others, I always say "Namo Amida Butsu", which gives me an opportunity to appreciate my presence as my life is maintained by all others. After I moved to Central Cal, I added a new reading to Sunday Services. It is "Our Understanding of Jodo Shinshu." I hope this helps you understand why we say "Namo Amida Butsu".

I am one with everyone, I am a part of the world. I always receive help and support from others, which is called "other power", to make my life enjoyable.

Although I cannot always be kind and gentle to others, others always help me to make my life enjoyable.

How grateful I am that other people's help and support appear here and there, to make my life enjoyable.

When I feel the kindness of others, saying Namo Amida Butsu becomes my expression of deep gratitude....

Reverence for Shinran Shonin

I hope many of you will deepen your appreciation for you life by saying “Namo Amida Butsu”.

Gassho

Rev. Kaz Nakata

In Case You Didn't Know . . .

Keep up to date on what's happening at the Buddhist Church of Fowler by looking at The White Path (Monthly newsletter) online. Visit: fowlerbc.org If you would like to see past editions of The White Path, hit Information, then Newsletter, and you can go back as far as 2018!

Board of Governors District V

Riji

Cherie Nakayama
Diane Eskelson

Toban

Satomi Hiyama
Alice Fujikawa

The Shotsuki names for the month of May are:

Tatsuji Hirasuna
Hitoshi Nakatsukasa
Katsuo Yoshimoto
Kai Yoshimoto
Yuki Miyake
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
Tooru Nakahira

April 2023 Donations

Hanamatsuri

\$ 50.00	May Mukai
\$ 50.00	Greg & Gay Mukai
\$ 50.00	Ron & Maxine Yoshimoto
\$ 50.00	Kimihiro & Hitomi Sera
\$ 50.00	Rick & Marlene Miyasaki
\$ 30.00	Gary & Karen Mukai
\$ 30.00	Shig & Aiko Kamine
\$ 30.00	Gary & Arlene Keithley
\$ 30.00	Howard & Satomi Hiyama
\$ 30.00	Jan Yoshimoto
\$ 30.00	Ms. Cindy Inouye
\$ 25.00	Maryann Miyasaki
\$ 25.00	Derek & Piraporn Honda
\$ 25.00	M/M Arthur Fujikawa
\$ 25.00	Linda Matsumoto Family
\$ 25.00	Janie Yuen & Family
\$ 25.00	Tak & Yoko Miyoshi
\$ 20.00	Kimiko Hashimoto

Hanamatsuri & Shotsuki

\$ 35.00	Sharon Asakawa
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Shotsuki

\$ 100.00	Eiko Ii Family
\$ 100.00	Yoshiye Ii
\$ 100.00	Tom & Suzanne Ford & Family
\$ 100.00	Rick & Marlene Miyasaki
\$ 50.00	Alex & Roberta Araki
\$ 50.00	Kimihiro & Hitomi Sera
\$ 30.00	Howard & Satomi Hiyama
\$ 25.00	Maryann Miyasaki
\$ 25.00	Maryann Miyasaki
\$ 20.00	Unknown

Special Donations

\$1,000.00	Mike & Bev Maruyama
\$ 400.00	Martin Kuwamoto, Gary Mukai, Russell Uchiyama & Dennis Ikuta
	Winnings from Fellowship Golf Tournament
\$ 100.00	Takeuchi Family Use of the Youth Building

In Memory of Betty Mayebo, 3rd

Year Memorial

\$ 300.00	Robert & Rose Mayebo
\$ 100.00	Jean Yamamoto/ Mark & Judy Jost
\$ 50.00	Donald & Irene Miyasaki
\$ 50.00	Rick & Marlene Miyasaki
\$ 50.00	Sally Yemoto
\$ 50.00	Ada Yamamoto
\$ 40.00	Joyce Kubose
\$ 35.00	Gary & Karen Mukai
\$ 30.00	Howard & Satomi Hiyama
\$ 25.00	Kimihiro & Hitomi Sera
\$ 25.00	Larry & Ellen Nomura
\$ 25.00	Nancy Tokubo
\$ 25.00	Maryann Miyasaki
\$ 25.00	Tayoko & Craig Honda
\$ 25.00	Linda Matsumoto Family
\$ 20.00	Joe & Irene Hara
\$ 20.00	Barton, Sharon & Lani Ashida

In Memory of Betty Mayebo & Vernon Mayebo

\$ 50.00	Les & Donna Ishii
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In Memory of Vernon Mayebo

\$ 50.00 Donald & Irene Miyasaki

Centennial Reunion

\$ 100.00 Brian Nagata

\$ 100.00 Patti Oshita

\$ 100.00 Barton Ashida

\$ 50.00 Cedric Yoshimoto

White Path

\$ 50.00 Sally Yemoto

**Fowler Dharma School
Centennial Celebration**

The Fowler Dharma School reunion and celebration is just around the corner. Please be sure to submit your registration and payment ASAP for this memorable 5/28/2023 event. A form follows the White Path.

If you have any questions, please contact Barton Ashida: (559) 284-2955 or at ashidabarton@gmail.com.

We hope to see you on May 28th!



Fowler DS Centennial

May 28, 2023 Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

Phone number _____ Email address _____

Schedule of the Day

10:00 am - Opening service (Fowler Hondo)

11:00 am - Social Time (Hall)

12:00 noon - Lunch (Hall)

2:00 pm - Clean up

Luncheon Cost (\$30 per person) Total Cost \$ _____

_____ Number of people attending (Please list names and include Maiden name)

Please forward registration form and check by **May 14th** to:

Barton Ashida
Buddhist Church of Fowler
P.O. Box 335, Fowler, CA 93625
b.ashida@sbcglobal.net

Credit cards will be accepted too.



Fresno Betsuin
“Camping in the Sierras”
Steak Dinner

Saturday – May 20, 2023
\$25.00 Eat-In or Take-Out
4:00 - 7:00 pm

Fresno Betsuin Family Dharma Center

Tickets can be purchased from:

Campers

Betsuin Office – 442-4054

Jenny Kubo – jkubo@comcast.net

Or Send in Order Form Below

Steak Dinner Order Form – Return with Check by 5/1/2023

Make Checks Payable to: Fresno Buddhist Temple

In memo line please note: Camping in the Sierras

Mail to Jenny Kubo: 10544 N Old Course Dr, Fresno, CA 93730

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Dinner Tickets _____ x \$25 = _____

Donation = _____

Total Enclosed = _____

Eat In Take Out



*Online Donations can be made using the following link: <https://gofund.me/1453e7a5>

FRESNO BETSUIN BUDDHIST TEMPLE

GOTAN-E

(observance of the birth of Shinran Shonin)

combined with observance of Shotsuki Hoyo for the month of May

SUNDAY, MAY 21, 2023

10:00am– Fresno Betsuin Hondo

**Special Guest Speaker:
BCA Minister Emeritus, Rev. Ken Fujimoto**

Rev. Ken Fujimoto was born in Tokyo, while his father was translating for the U.S. occupation forces and the family later returned to the US in 1953.

After high school, Rev. Ken attended UC Santa Cruz and graduated in 1971 with a degree in Economics.

In 1972, he began his studies at Ryukoku University and received his Masters in Shin Buddhist Studies in 1977.



Rev. Ken began his ministerial career at the Fresno Betsuin (1977-1981). His later assignments include Sacramento Betsuin (1981-1984), Lodi (1984-2005), and San Jose Betsuin (2006-2018) where he served and retired as Rinban.

During his ministerial career, Rev. Ken served in many positions including BCA Ministerial Affairs Chair, BCA Centennial Co-Chair, Lodi Hospital Chaplaincy Board, University of the Pacific Presidents Advisory Council on Religious Life and the Institute of Buddhist Studies Board of Trustees.

Rev. Ken and wife, Miyuki have two sons, Genta & Wesley and one daughter, Mina.

Let's attend this service and welcome Rev. Ken back to Fresno!



2690 E. Alluvial Ave., Fresno 93720

(559) 442-4054

www.fresnobuddhisttemple.org





BCA 125th Anniversary Gatha Lyric-writing Contest

You are invited to submit entry lyrics to a gatha contest that is being held in commemoration of the BCA 125th anniversary in 2024. The winning lyrics will be set to music by composers to be commissioned to produce gathas which will be featured during 2024 for various BCA 125th anniversary events planned across all BCA districts. To be considered for the contest, all entries must be received by **June 4, 2023**

The following guidelines will apply:

Lyrics will contain at least two and not more than four stanzas and may have a repeating section suitable for a chorus or refrain in between.

The theme of the lyrics may focus on the BCA National Council Meeting 2024 theme "Embracing the Dharma with Hope and Joy", the BCA "Life of Gratitude" theme, or on aspects of Shinran Shonin's life and legacy.

The submissions will be judged for two separate age-based categories:

Dharma School (DS) students and Post-High School/Adults.

The DS entry may be by an individual student or a collaborative group or class effort.

Cash prizes totaling \$ 500 for each category will be awarded to the lyric winners.

For the BCA Music Committee 125th Anniversary Gatha Contest, please use the appropriate category form provided to include the lyric submission.

Please e-mail entries for the **DS youth category to Darlene Bagshaw at dbagshaw@bcahq.org**. (Please note also the separate DS instructions for early entry to the FDSTL conference contest.)

Please send or e-mail entries for the **post-high school/adult category to Angela Bartolacci at abartolacci@bcahq.org**

Buddhist Churches of America
2140 Durant Street
Berkeley, CA 94704-1589

Gatha Lyric-writing Contest and Music Commission Task Group: Darlene Bagshaw, Kemi Nakabayashi, Donna Sasaki, Dennis Yamashita

For questions, please contact Kemi Nakabayashi, BCA Music Committee chairperson at nakabayashi.bcamusica@gmail.com

BCA Music Committee Gatha Lyric-writing Contest
Entry Form for post-high school Adult(s)
(please use FDSTL/BCA Contest entry form for Dharma School/youth entries)

Name(s): _____

Temple affiliation (if applicable) _____

Contact information:

Name of primary contact

E-mail address _____

Postal address _____

Phone number: _____

Gatha Lyric submission:

Title of gatha _____

Lyrics (may use separate sheet)