



THE WHITE PATH

MONTHLY BULLETIN VOL. 532

AUGUST 2023

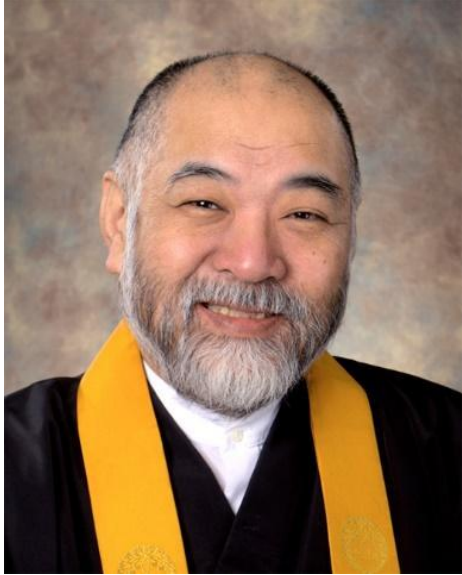
August Service and Events:

8/13 –Shotsuki Service - 10:00 AM

8/05 – Parlier Obon

8/12 - Toro Nagashi, Shinzen Gardens (visit the Shinzen Gardens website)





We celebrated O-bon Odori last month, and we have another O-bon service in August.

As you may know, it is the Floating Lantern Ceremony (a.k.a. Tōro Nagashi). Fresno's Tōro Nagashi is, so to speak, the other August Shotsuki Hoyo for us Americans of Japanese ancestry in Central California.

The Floating Lantern Ceremony was the traditional event which came at the end of Obon originally. But this event started to have a different meaning after “That” day, under a blinding flash in Hiroshima on August 6, 1945.

After the end of WWII, one year later in Hiroshima from that day on August 6, many people who lost their family members, relatives and friends began to float handmade lanterns voluntarily here and there in the riverside in Hiroshima city. For the repose of souls of the loved ones who evaporated in an instant or burned out with no trace, they had been living only in the memories of their loved ones.

From around the third year, members of one temple of Jodo-Shinshu, located in the center of downtown Hiroshima next to the “Ground Zero,” took the leading part for distributing the thousands of handmade lanterns to the bereaved families and thousands of lanterns were floated into the river. That temple was well-known because more than 85% of their lay members were completely extinct and the rest of the members had victims in their families also.

For the floating lanterns, people gathered and wrote the name of the person who passed away and the name of the donor on the lantern shade was general, but spontaneously, a prayer was written in from the first year of this event. As well as an "appeasement of the lost souls," it started to make important sense as a "peace message" to the Floating Lantern Ceremony. In many photographs of the time we read, “No Nations, Just People, Peace!” and “No More Hiroshima and Nagasaki!” and “Awaken from the Human Stupidities!” on the shade-paper of the floating lanterns.

The atomic bomb tragedy happened in Hiroshima on August 6th in 1945, but it was an event which affected people from a far-away distance in Central California. Nearly 70% of Japanese Americans in Central California have roots in the Hiroshima area.

“Tōro Nagashi,” the Floating Lantern Ceremony in Fresno began in 1986, decades after WWII. From the 1980s in America, the society of Americans of Japanese ancestry, the third generation of Japanese Americans (San-sei), don't know the hard times of "Hai-seki" during WWII and after. Today's elderly people who lived in that era have finally settled and calmed their hearts of the

feelings of unspeakable sadness to the tragedy that happened to their direct family members in their early teens during the war.

Although they were American-born citizens, more than 500 teenagers from the west coast of the United States had to die young on that day in Hiroshima in their loneliness. They were our missing sons, daughters, brothers, and sisters who were temporarily living with their grandparents in their parents' birthplace in Hiroshima as students in junior high school or high school. They were all your relatives. They were all your forgotten uncles or aunts.

In Fresno, the requiem for the family victims of the atomic bomb was finally made possible after 40 years.

The history of the Floating Lantern Ceremony in Fresno makes us think a lot. This year's Floating Lantern Ceremony at Shinzen Garden in Woodward Park will be held on Saturday, August 12. You may order lanterns online and may view the schedule of events for that day at: <https://www.shinzenjapanesegarden.org/toro-nagashi-2/>

Gassho,

Rinban Kakei Nakagawa



Steady Progress

Hello to all Central California Nishi Hongwanji Sangha friends! Are you enjoying the typical Central Cal hot weather this summer? In May, I was wondering when our region was going to be hot, but I did not need to worry about it. Please stay hydrated!

Finally, CC temple and churches have resumed their Obon activities like pre-pandemic. Visalia, Reedley, and Fresno have already finished their Obon and as of this writing, next in line are Fowler, Kingsburg, and Parlier. Kingsburg Buddhist Church started their inaugural Obon during the pandemic and this year will be their 3rd annual Obon service and Obon dance. I sincerely appreciate the leadership of all temples/churches, Obon committees and volunteers to make it happen. Arigato!

This August, I will reach my 20th year of ministry for the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) as I started in August of 2003. I have served three different temples in three different districts in the BCA before I was assigned to the Central California district. When I came to the U.S., I was only a 26-year-old young man! At that time, I did not know much of the English vocabulary which made it difficult for members to understand what I was talking about. Luckily, I found time to go various schools to improve not only my English but also, I was able to earn several degrees. I became an overseas minister not to improve my English or earning degrees, but the main purpose of my ministry was and still is, to spread Jodo Shinshu teachings. When I came to the U.S., I thought it is enough to spread the teachings by conducting Sunday services, helping Dharma School, and hosting study classes. But after two to three years as a BCA minister, I realized that these activities are not enough to accomplish my main purpose. To meet my expectation, I thought that I need to proactively share the teachings for training purposes with as many as members and friends and spend more time and energy for youth education.

You may wonder that what does “proactively share the teachings for a training purpose” mean? Simply put, it is our Central Cal Ministerial Assistant program (CCMAP). I am still 46, but “still” does not mean I can live another 100 years. So, in my third year of ministry, I started training several members to become assistants. One of my first assistants was Mr. Okamoto of the Lodi Buddhist Church. He was a super devout Jodo Shinshu member and had studied a lot, so I did not need to teach so much to him. Instead, I learned from him many Jodo Shinshu expressions. Since then, I always encourage members and friends who enjoy learning from me to be ministerial assistants, to share what they have learned with more people. So, if you appreciate or enjoy learning the teachings from me, please do not hesitate to help me with spreading it to more people.

When I was in college, I studied population statistics for my leisure. After I moved to the U.S., I realized that the subject is particularly useful to understand and learn the population statistics of the temple members. Then I thought, when we have a 5-year-old child who enjoys coming to the temple, the temple is fine for the next 80-90 years. People move many times for school and job in the U.S. so if hundreds of children enjoy coming to the temple, a few dozen may stay near the temple, and they will continue maintaining it. In my 3rd year of ministry, I proposed my idea to have a preschool at the temple, then realized that it was very difficult to make it possible. At the second temple, I was able to start the “mama-san club (moms’ gathering with small children).” It was not a preschool, but local parents who had 1~4 years old children started coming to the temple and they became familiarized with Jodo Shinshu culture. I still have contact with some parents.

Last year when I started proposing the preschool project at several CC temples and churches, my project was backed by a very powerful supporter, Mrs. Alene Hayashi, and since then, the ideal project gradually switched to the possible project. This summer, my long-time dream for 20 years came true with a preschool age summer Japanese cultural program... The Kodomo (children) Center. When the project became a program, various members joined as volunteers and helpers. As one of the very important activities, children go to the Hondo, and learn Buddhist atmosphere (music activity with chanting, etc.) and culture to familiarize the teachings and the temple environment as a fun place to go. I hope this program will become one of the gateways for these families to join Dharma School activities with your generous support.

To come to this point, I have spent 20 years. Everything that I do in the ministry is slow but with steady progress. It was worth it. So many members and friends have been helping me to share the Jodo Shinshu teachings in many ways. Some of them are no longer with us, but I remember their generosity and support. I have confidence that what I provide will definitely help temple and churches in Central Cal.

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!

- **Makuragyo** – to request a Makura-kyo service, please contact Lee Osaki during business hours at (559)442-4054. If it is after hours you may contact Rev. Nakata at (424)666-7101 or Rinban Nakagawa at (559)970-7652.

- **Funeral or Hoji** – Please contact Barton Ashida, President, at (559)284-2955 for Fowler Buddhist Church availability and to schedule a meeting for assistance with funeral arrangements. The family will also need to contact Lee Osaki at (559)442-4054 for minister preference and availability.

Board of Governors District 3

Riji

Kimihiro Sera
Raig Sakaguchi

Toban

Aiko Kamine
Irene Hara

The Shotsuki names for the month of August are:

Sho Tokubo
Moriye Tokubo
Tora Shinkawa
Okazu Honda
Tsuneichi Taniguchi
Kikuyo Komoto
Tosaku Komoto
Yoshio Sakamoto
Ysuto Hata
Bill Tatsuichi Hashimoto
Kats Matsumoto
Takeichi Matsumoto
Bessie Kondo
Ryan Kondo
Yoichi Otani
Yoneko Yamamoto
Torakichi Sera
Toshiro Yamamoto
Tadao Yamamoto
Shizuno Okasaki
Chitoshi Kuramoto
Eki Ideta

Katsumi Nakatsukasa	\$ 100.00	M/M Shig Kamine
Henry Oba	\$ 100.00	Yuko Matoba
Frank Kimura	\$ 100.00	Michael & Beverly
Buichi Sakai		Maruyama
Peggy Reiko Yamaguchi	\$ 100.00	Alan Uyemura
Toyo Yamamoto	\$ 50.00	M/M Gerald Nakayama
Yuki Yamada	\$ 10.00	Blake Honda

Shotsuki

Grace Fukiko Ishiguro	\$ 100.00	Allan & Esther Nakagawa
Kazuo Hiyama	\$ 50.00	Joe & Irene Hara
Harley Mitsugi Nakamura	\$ 35.00	June Shimoda
Jitsuo Otani	\$ 30.00	M/M Art Fujikawa
Michiye Shimoda	\$ 30.00	M/M Greg Mukai
Makoto Coke Mukai	\$ 25.00	Michael & Beverly
Kazuyo Uyemura		Maruyama
Wichi Takeuchi	\$ 20.00	Brian & Annette Lowe
Alyce Taniguchi	\$ 20.00	Sharon Asakawa

In Memory of Michiko Suzuki

Setsuo Kikuta	\$ 200.00	Kawada Family
Haruo Ii	\$ 100.00	Shig & Judy Tokubo
Fumie Miyo Honda	\$ 100.00	Karen Tokubo
Tom Tokiharuru Nagata	\$ 100.00	Sat & Toshi Tokubo
Alyce Tokiko Nakagawa	\$ 100.00	Tak & Akemi Tokubo
Mitsuno Tomoyasu	\$ 100.00	Joyce Dessert & Family
Mary Teraoka	\$ 100.00	Steve & Barbara
Vickie Michiko Hashimoto		Takemoto
Etsuko Uyemura	\$ 100.00	Judy Takemoto

July 2023 Donations

Hatsubon

\$ 300.00	Haruyo Kamine Family	\$ 50.00	Nancy Takemoto Tokubo
	Yosh Kamine Family	\$ 50.00	Maryann Miyasaki
	Howard Hiyama Family	\$ 50.00	Donald & Irene Miyasaki
\$ 200.00	James Kamine	\$ 50.00	Edward & Janet Seidi & Family
	Diane Kamine	\$ 20.00	Fran Yamamoto
	Gail Kamine	\$ 20.00	Gary & Karen Mukai
	Grace Kamine	\$ 20.00	Larry & Ellen Nomura
		\$ 20.00	Lynn Kawate
		\$ 10.00	Kogetsu-Do Confectionery

Obon

\$ 50.00 Paula & Dallas Kanagawa
\$ 50.00 Howard & Satomi Hiyama
\$ 50.00 Earl Honda
\$ 50.00 Rick & Marlene Miyasaki
\$ 30.00 Gary & Arlene Keithley
\$ 30.00 M/M Art Fujikawa
\$ 30.00 Shinkawa Family
\$ 30.00 Yuko Matoba
\$ 25.00 Kikuta Family
\$ 5.00 Megan Mori

Obon/Shotsuki

\$ 100.00 Janie Yuen Family
\$ 50.00 Craig & Tayoko Honda

Obon/Hatsubon

\$ 30.00 Jan Yoshimoto

Special Donation

\$ 323.00 Devin Lowe
(50/50 Raffle Prize)

In Memory of Flora Murashige**3rd Year Mamorial**

\$ 200.00 Greg & Gay Mukai
\$ 50.00 Chris Mukai & Family
\$ 50.00 Mrs. Mary Mukai
\$ 50.00 May Mukai
\$ 40.00 Gary & Karen Mukai
\$ 40.00 Stan Mukai
\$ 40.00 Terry & Barbara Mukai &
Family
\$ 30.00 M/M Gene & Gale Nakai
\$ 30.00 M/M John & Connie Saldin
& Family
\$ 30.00 Ben & Noreen Yosako
\$ 30.00 Ed & Patti Bungo
\$ 30.00 Gary & Laraine Austin &
Alexa Goto
\$ 25.00 Mrs. Margie Mukai
\$ 25.00 Clinton & Bethany Mukai
& Family
\$ 20.00 Mason Mukai Family
\$ 20.00 Ms. Stephanie Nakai
\$ 20.00 Michael, Kelley, Grace &
Daniel Bungo
\$ 20.00 Grant Bungo



CBE/IBS/JSIO

SUMMER PACIFIC SEMINAR

WOMEN LIBERATING BUDDHISM

AUG 5, 2023

IN PERSON & VIRTUAL (9am - 3pm)

Jodo Shinshu Center, 2140 Durant Ave, Berkeley 94704



DR. PAULA ARAI

Paula Arai (Ph.D. in Buddhist Studies, Harvard University) authored *The Little Book of Zen Healing* (2023), *Painting Enlightenment* (2019), *Bringing Zen Home* (2011), and *Women Living Zen* (1999). She is the Eshinni & Kakushinni Professor of Women and Buddhist Studies at the Institute of Buddhist Studies.

REGISTRATION & INFO: <https://tinyurl.com/PacificSeminar>

DIVERSITY IN AMIDA'S VOW

Join us for a screening of
"A Profound Silence" a film produced by
Gardena Buddhist Church Ichi-Mi.

Followed by stories and conversations with
LGBTQ+ sangha friends to foster more
inclusivity in our temples

SUNDAY, AUGUST 20, 2023

9:30 - 4:30

WEST LOS ANGELES BUDDHIST TEMPLE
2003 CORINTH AVE, LA, CA 90025
(IN-PERSON ONLY)

tinyurl.com/CBEWESTLA



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