



THE WHITE PATH

MONTHLY BULLETIN VOL. 537

JANUARY 2024

December/January Services and Events:

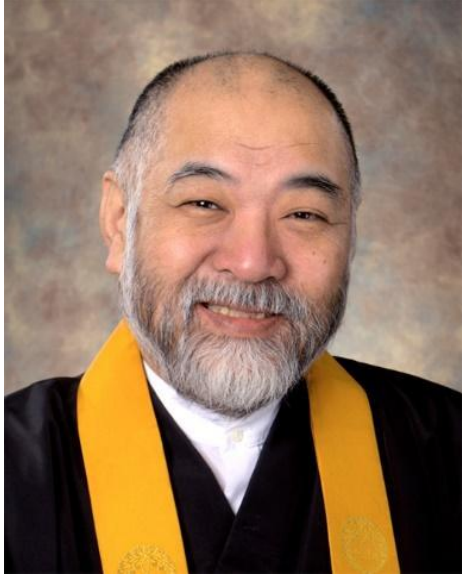
12/31 – New Year's Eve Service – 7:00 pm - Rev. Brian Nagata

Future Services:

1/01/2024 – New Year's Day Service – 9:00 am - Rev. Brian Nagata

1/21 – January Shotsuki/Ho-onko Service and Dharma School – 10:00 am
Rev. Brian Nagata

2/04/2024 – Nirvana Day/February Shotsuki Service and Dharma School –
10:00 am; Rev. Mieko Majima – Welcome lunch



**“With Best New Year Wishes for a Happy
New Year in 2024”
to You All Betsuin Sangha**

This is to let you know that officially I, Rinban Nakagawa, will retire in February, dear Dharma friends.

“Shin-nen Akeḥ-mashiteḥ Omehdeḥ-tow,” literally means “Congratulations that a Happy New Year has just ‘opened up’.”

On this happy day I say, “Goodbye.” New Year’s Day is a symbolic day of a fresh new life, so it is the best day to say, “Goodbye.”

We, the Dharma followers, are always reminded of the amazing advice of the Buddha the Sakyamuni: Sakyamuni Buddha saw the truth under the Bodhi tree, waking up all the human beings on this planet. We do not need to grasp the ego's idea of an eternal being outward and an unchanging soul inward, which really messes us up.

The world and life are continually changing, moment by moment, so instead of clinging to the past, we have to live a fresh new life each day.

Remember again, our true soul is growing untiringly day by day.

“Sa-yoh-na-ra” in English literally means, “Goodbye”; thus, Buddha-dharma teaching says so. As it is said, “Sayōnara”!

Thus, on the best day of the year, I, Rinban Nakagawa say,

“Goodbye means Sayōnara.

Cheers! Empty your glass, my Dharma friends.

We have to say ‘Sayōnara’ many thousands of times in life.

That's the way it is in Gratitude!”

We arrived ten billion years ago, yet life shines as bright as the sun.

We spend the last days saying Buddha’s praise to start a pure and perfect world.

Namōmitābhāḥ

Reverend Kakei Nakagawa, Rinban



2024 ~ Live your life with a positive attitude!

As we welcome in 2024, I wish to extend my Happy New Year wishes to all Central California Nishi Hongwanji Sangha friends! Again, I express my deepest appreciation to all of you for your support and guidance during 2023 and I hope that you will continue supporting the temple and churches of CC throughout the new year.

The historical Buddha, Shakyamuni delivered his Dharma message on the teaching of Amida and his messages on Amida were compiled into three Buddhist texts, known as Sutra.

Our Jodo Shinshu founder, Shinran Shonin shared the teaching of Amida by using these three Buddhist Sutras. They are known as *The Sutra on the Buddha of Immeasurable Life*, *The Sutra of Contemplation on the Buddha of Immeasurable Life*, and *The Sutra on Amida Buddha*. As I mentioned in the previous issue of my article, Jodo Shinshu simply refers to the teaching of becoming calm, or reaching the state of equanimity. “Jodo” is a Chinese translation of Sanskrit, an ancient Indian language, Sukhāvati. The meaning of Sukhāvati is “reaching the state of equanimity or tranquility.” It is the ultimate objective of our Jodo Shinshu Sangha.

The historical Buddha taught us that how to reach or practice the state of equanimity or tranquility in these Sutras. As we enter the year 2024, I would like to share one passage from *The Sutra on the Buddha of Immeasurable Life*.

佛所遊履 國邑丘聚 靡不蒙化 天下和順 靡不蒙化 日月清明 雨風以時 災厲不起

I know you may not be able to read Chinese characters, but I would like you to know that the passage has relieved millions of Jodo Shinshu followers by them reaching the state of equanimity. It states “Where Buddha has left his footprints on a country or a village, all sentient beings have learned his Dharma teachings. By learning his teachings, they are following the flow of their own positivity, appreciate routine brilliance of Sun and Moon, enjoy climate like rain and shine, and prepare for natural disaster and pandemic.”

The passage includes the Buddha’s wish for all sentient beings to reach the universal truth on life. It is about positiveness.

Last summer, I took a group of Girl Scouts for the two-week trip to Japan. We traveled to see major tourist sights and foodie sites, but also, we visited the Fukushima Earthquake Tsunami disaster area. We toured an elementary school ruined by fire caused by the earthquake and a high

school demolished by the Tsunami. At the entrance of the high school exhibition, letters, interviews, and diaries of the disaster victims are displayed. There is a remembrance, presented at a memorial service by a high school student. – “On March 11, 2011. It was a day of my middle school graduation day. After the ceremony was over, we went home. Soon after, the big earthquake suddenly shook our home like a shaker, and the huge tide washed our five family members away from our home.

After a while I found my mom, but she was covered by the debris of other damaged homes and mud. I tried my best to remove the debris from my mom, however my tiny muscle cannot move the tons of heavy and large debris. Although I wanted to rescue her, I realized that I would be washed away to the deep cold ocean by the second Tsunami tide. My mom implored my help and said, “don’t leave me behind.” I paused and quietly responded to her “Arigato, thank for everything you have done for me. I love you.” I swam over the sea water filled streets and debris to the evacuation facility where I stayed overnight.

There is no way to forget the hurt and sorrow caused by the disaster. One way to repay the debts of gratitude to the loved ones is to live my life with strong and positive attitude.”

I had not a single word when imagining her endurance of sorrow. The teaching of Amida embraces people in difficult situations, like her, and makes them aware of life's appreciation here and now with a positive attitude. We rarely encounter natural disasters like huge earthquakes or tornados in Central Cal, but we may encounter “natural disasters” once in a lifetime... it is our own death. The everyday movements of Sun and Moon are routine, but “our own disaster” makes us aware that the “routine” does not continue forever for us. While we “can” enjoy them, why do we not? The hot Central Cal summers allow us to enjoy sno-cones or sipping cold drinks “more,” just by understanding the climate with a positive attitude. To “Monku” (complain) will not solve the problem or obstacle which we encounter.

Ahead of our own natural disaster, it is not necessary to over-react to issues we face with the negative outlook or response in our daily life.

I have been serving in the BCA ministry for over 20 years, where my main ministerial role has been to assist the Rinban as an associate minister at Betsuin Temples and Churches in three districts of the BCA. With a positive attitude, I will continue to promote the teaching of Jodo Shinshu, teaching of becoming calm, and reaching the state of equanimity in Central Cal. I appreciate your continuous support to your local temple and churches.

Gassho.

Rev. Kaz Nakata

Temporary Status:

For the months of December 2023 and January 2024, the Buddhist Church of Fowler will be overseen by the Office of the Bishop.

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

-**Makurakyo** – to request a Makura-kyo service, please contact Lee Osaki during business hours at (559)442-4054. Please do not contact the ministers.

- **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.

Board of Governors - January

District IV

Riji

Craig Honda
Sharon Asakawa

Toban

Sharon Asakawa
Tayoko Honda

The Shotsuki names in the month of January are:

Shitsu Yamamoto
Shika Sera
Sakuhei Nakayama
Yaichi Kikuta
Sadakichi Shimoda
Motoshiro Kurata
Tame li
Mitsuyo Sakohira
Shunsuke Uchiyama
Rika Okudo
Shizuye Morishige
Tane Hiyama
Hikoichi Hiyama
Otomatsu Ninomiya
Harue Nishina
Hatsuno Nishina
Becky Honda
Taka Taniguchi
Tamayo Nakamura
Yoshio Tokubo
Hideichi Yamane
Takeo Fujikawa
Otona Hagihara
Toyoso Kuramoto
Toshio Nakagawa
Frank Namito Masui
Hatuye Natori
Dick Iwamoto
Fred Akira Honda
Hideichi Yamane
George Miyake
Vernon Mayebo
Ichio Takeno
Dorothy Morita
Teri Uchiyama
Ayako Shimizu
Mikio Uchiyama

Betty Mayebo
 Dorothy Takeno
 Kevin Nagata
 Shizuko Takeuchi
 Kay Takeda
 Eiko Matsumura

Condolences

The Buddhist Church of Fowler extends its heartfelt condolences to the Teraoka family on the passing of George Teraoka.



December 2024 Donations

Bodhi Day

\$ 50.00	Paula Kanagawa
\$ 30.00	Jan Yoshimoto
\$ 30.00	Gary & Arlene Keithley
\$ 25.00	Joe & Irene Hara

Shotsuki

\$ 100.00	Ron & Maxine Yoshimoto
\$ 50.00	Jan Yoshimoto
\$ 50.00	Gary & Arlene Keithley
\$ 30.00	Howard & Satomi Hiyama
\$ 30.00	May Mukai
\$ 30.00	Greg & Gay Mukai
\$ 30.00	Mrs. Mary Mukai & Family
\$ 30.00	Janie Yuen
\$ 30.00	Gary & Karen Mukai
\$ 25.00	Gordon & Susan Hayashi
\$ 25.00	Craig & Tayoko Honda
\$ 25.00	Ed & Patti Bungo
\$ 25.00	M/M Gene & Gale Nakai
\$ 25.00	June Shimoda
\$ 25.00	Shig & Aiko Kamine
\$ 20.00	Sharon Asakawa
\$ 20.00	Barton Ashida

In Memory of Robert Kondo

\$ 400.00	Kondo Family
\$ 200.00	Ann Kondo
\$ 100.00	Michael Maruyama Family
\$ 50.00	Lisle Funeral Home

Special Donations

\$ 250.00	Paula Kanagawa
\$ 50.00	Greg & Gay Mukai
	Dharma School
\$ 50.00	Wes Shiroyama

Year End

\$ 1,000.00	Ron & Maxine Yoshimoto
\$ 150.00	Art & Alice Fujikawa
\$ 100.00	Rev Bob & Patti Oshita
\$ 100.00	Jane Nagata
\$ 100.00	Brian Nagata
\$ 50.00	Gary & Arlene Keithley
\$ 25.00	Rodney Kikuta

In Memory of Shirley Honda,**7th Year Memorial**

\$ 100.00	Earl Honda
\$ 50.00	Mitch & Lynn Nakashima
\$ 50.00	Jane & Brian Nagata
\$ 40.00	Gary & Karen Mukai
\$ 25.00	Craig & Tayoko Honda
\$ 20.00	M/M Greg Mukai
\$ 20.00	M/M Gerald Nakayama
\$ 20.00	Barton Ashida

In Memory of Kimihiro Sera

\$ 2,000.00	Hitomi Sera, Clifford Sera, Emily, Andy & Oskar Rose, Yumi, Rob, Amelia & Bobby Clevenger
\$ 250.00	Marc Kerkochian & Jodi Fitzpatrick
\$ 100.00	Kenneth & Rhonda Gebhart
\$ 100.00	Hanako Lord
\$ 50.00	Richard & Rita Watkins
\$ 25.00	Yoshiki & June Kagawa
\$ 25.00	Kay Morshita

White Path

\$ 50.00	Marlene Okada
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2024 Dues

This is just a friendly reminder that your church dues for 2024 are now being accepted. Dues remain the same: \$225.00 – individuals; \$450.00 - couples/family.

**Welcome Rev. Mieko Majima
New Central Cal Minister**

On Sunday, February 4th, Rev. Majima will be conducting our Nirvana and February Shotsuki Service. Following our service, we are having a luncheon to welcome Rev. Majima to the Central California. We hope all members of the Fowler Buddhist Church will be able to join in welcoming Rev. Majima.



**JAPANESE AMERICAN
CITIZENS LEAGUE**
CENTRAL CALIFORNIA DISTRICT COUNCIL

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2024

Social Time: 11:30 am

Program & Lunch: 12 noon-2 pm

The program will include the CCDC JACL Officer Installation

EVENT LOCATION: Fresno County Historical Museum,
Big Fresno Fairgrounds
1121 S. Chance Avenue (free parking @ Chance Ave lot)

2024 Distinguished American Award
Judge Johnny Gogo



Guest speaker
Kerry Yo Nakagawa



I would like to purchase: _____ luncheon ticket(s) at \$40 per person.
 Enclosed: \$ _____ Additional Donation: \$ _____
 Number of entrees with salad, rice and dessert: ____ How many vegetarian entrees: ____
 Attendee Name(s): _____
 Phone: _____ e-mail: _____
 RSVP: FEBRUARY 1ST CHECKS PAYABLE TO: CCDC JACL RESERVATIONS WILL BE CONFIRMED AT THE DOOR
 SEND COMPLETED FORM AND PAYMENT TO: TRAVIS NISHI, P.O. BOX 26925, FRESNO, CA 93729
 QUESTIONS OR ACCOMMODATION NEEDS: BRIANT@CSUFRESNO.EDU; TSNISHI@AOL.COM (559) 281-6497



HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

FOR GRADUATING SENIORS WHO WILL BE ATTENDING COLLEGE

APPLICANT OR PARENT MUST BE A MEMBER OF THE FRESNO BETSUIN OR A MEMBER OF ANY CHURCH WITHIN THE CENTRAL CALIFORNIA DISTRICT COUNCIL (CCDC)

MIYAMOTO COLLEGIATE SCHOLARSHIP

FOR ENTERING SECOND YEAR (SOPHOMORE) COLLEGE STUDENT

APPLICANT OR PARENT MUST BE A MEMBER OF THE FRESNO BETSUIN OR A MEMBER OF ANY CHURCH WITHIN THE CENTRAL CALIFORNIA DISTRICT COUNCIL (CCDC)

DENNIS YEE MEMORIAL COLLEGIATE SCHOLARSHIP

FOR SOPHOMORE, JUNIOR OR SENIOR COLLEGE STUDENT PURSUING A HEALTH CARE RELATED FIELD

APPLICANT OR PARENT MUST BE A MEMBER OF THE FRESNO BETSUIN OR A MEMBER OF ANY CHURCH WITHIN THE CENTRAL CALIFORNIA DISTRICT COUNCIL (CCDC)

ALVIN HAYASHI MEMORIAL COLLEGIATE SCHOLARSHIP

FOR GRADUATE STUDENT DENTAL, OTHER HEALTH CARE RELATED FIELD OR THE BUDDHIST MINISTRY

APPLICANT OR PARENT MUST BE A MEMBER OF THE FRESNO BETSUIN OR A MEMBER OF ANY CHURCH WITHIN THE CENTRAL CALIFORNIA DISTRICT COUNCIL (CCDC)

EIJI AND KEIKO MARUKO SCHOLARSHIP

FOR COLLEGE AND TRADE SCHOOL STUDENTS

APPLICANT OR PARENT MUST BE A MEMBER OF THE FRESNO BETSUIN OR A MEMBER OF ANY CHURCH WITHIN THE CENTRAL CALIFORNIA DISTRICT COUNCIL (CCDC)

YEHAN AND CHIEN NUMATA POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP

FOR STUDENT PURSUING AN ADVANCED DEGREE e.g., Ph.D., M.D., M.A., etc.

- * NATIONAL CATEGORY - APPLICANT OR PARENT MUST BE A MEMBER OF THE BUDDHIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA (BCA)
 - * REGIONAL CATEGORY - APPLICANT OR PARENT MUST BE A MEMBER OF THE FRESNO BETSUIN OR A MEMBER OF ANY CHURCH WITHIN THE CENTRAL CALIFORNIA DISTRICT COUNCIL (CCDC)
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APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE AT: www.fresnobuddhisttemple.org
OR MAY BE REQUESTED BY EMAIL: info@fresnobuddhisttemple.org

TO BE CONSIDERED, APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED NO LATER THAN MARCH 31, 2024

AWARD RECIPIENTS WILL BE NOTIFIED IN MAY 2024

AWARDS PRESENTATION DATE: JUNE 9, 2024

Central California Nikkei Foundation

Shredding Community Service and Fundraiser



Saturday, April 20, 2024

9am to 12 noon

Securely dispose of personal documents, tax papers,
Books-hardback & paperback.

Limit: 20 Banker Sized Boxes per car

Cost: \$15 per Banker Sized Box

Cash or Check only

Please make check payable to CCNF

Event will be Drive-Thru

Boxes will be emptied from your trunk/tailgate and returned

Held at Vintage Gardens

540 S. Peach Ave., Fresno

Questions contact: Susan Hayashi – 325-1457 or text 906-8540

Seniors who cannot drive to the event, call Susan by **April 6**
and arrange for pick-up.

2024 HATSUMAIRI CEREMONY

Sunday, May 12, 2024 at 10 am

HATSUMAIRI

Hatsumairi is a special ceremony where grandparents or parents present their child(ren) to the Amida Buddha and the Sangha for the first time.

Children of all ages (newborn through high school) are welcome to participate in this ceremony. The ceremony is a first step taken by parents to raise their child according to a Dharma centered life and in establishing a world of stability and peace of mind for their children.

The Fresno Buddhist Temple's Hatsumairi will be held in conjunction with our annual Gotan-e service on May 12, 2024 at 10 am, which celebrates the birth of Shinran Shonin.

Application Deadline:
May 1, 2024



Applications may also be found online



Hatsumairi Application

Child's Last Name: _____

Child's First & Middle Name(s): _____

Child's Gender: Boy Girl

Child's Birthdate: _____

Child's Birthplace: _____

Mother's Name: _____

Father's Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Primary Cell# (text ok?) _____

Email: _____

Please return this form by **May 1, 2024** to the Fresno Buddhist Temple 2690 E. Alluvial Ave, Fresno, 93720 or email your pdf file to losaki@fresnobuddhisttemple.org

There are no application fees, but donations are gratefully accepted.



Welcome All 4-5 year olds!

A two week summer program introducing Japanese culture and way of life: group harmony, conservation of resources, respect for elders, and cooperative effort open to children of all ethnicities and religious denominations in a safe environment. This program will be led by Rev. Kaz Nakata, certified teachers, and volunteers.

July 8-19, 2024

Children will sing Japanese songs, play Japanese musical instruments, Obon dance, meditate, practice mindfulness, and show their gratitude and appreciation everyday.



The Fresno Kodomo Center

Fresno Children's Japanese Cultural Center

For more information:

Rev Kaz Nakata:
rev.kaznakata@gmail.com

Alene Hayashi:
amhayashi@sbcglobal.net
Text: (559) 269-2402



July 8-19, 2024

8:30 - 11:30 am

Fresno Buddhist Temple
2690 E Alluvial Ave, Fresno

Tuition: \$300
CCDC Members: \$250
Fresno Buddhist Temple Members: \$150



KanshaHistory.org

Every Record is a Precious Family Story

Volunteers needed!

Help us connect Japanese American families to their histories by transcribing farm transfer records from WWII.

All ages welcome. Youth say that this project helps them build skills, empathy, and a deeper understanding of our world and history.

If you have 10 hours, reliable internet, an email account, and basic data entry skills, join us!

<https://forms.gle/N9cEj4xpvT2J3frt5>

Crop	E.O.	S.O.	Crop	E.O.	S.O.
Garlic			Tomatoes		
Lettuce			Apples		
Melons			Apricots		
Onions			Figs		
Peas	300		Grapes		
Peppers			Grapefruit		
Rhubarb			Lemons		
Spinach			Oranges		
Strawberries			Pears		

