

BUDDHIST CHURCH OF FOWLER



THE WHITE PATH

MONTHLY BULLETIN VOL. 492

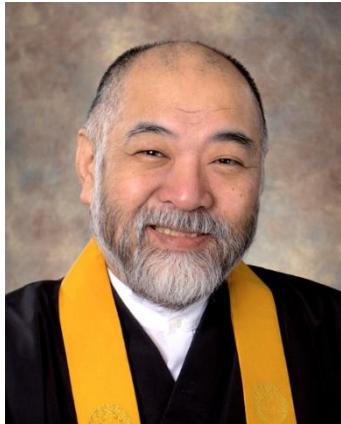
FEBRUARY 2020

FEBRUARY

2 (Sun)	10:00 a.m.	CCDC Super Bowl Combined Service @ Reedley BC
9 (Sun)	9:30a.m..	Family Service
10 (Mon)	10:00 p.m.	Ikebana Class
16 (Sun)		Fowler Food Bazaar (See attached schedule)
23 (Sun)	10:00 a.m.	Nirvana Day and Monthly Shotsuki Memorial Service
24 (Mon)	7:00 p.m.	Ikebana Class

MARCH

8 (Sun)	9:30 a.m.	Family Service
22 (Sun)	10:00 a.m.	Spring Ohigan & Monthly Shotsuki Monthly Service



“Strength in Sangha”

When the Fresno Betsuin Buddhist Temple’s new board chairman Gordon Ah-Tye presented his 2020 theme of “Strength in Sangha”, I was immediately reminded of one of the most popular poems in 20th century Japan written by the most famous Buddhist poet Kenji Miyazawa. A logo was created for the T-shirt, which is of geese flying in V-formation over the new Hondo and the sunrise in the background. This explains his wish for a bright future for our sangha and mutual support of all members. Surprisingly, in the Japanese Buddhist tradition, sunrise means the ideal of Buddhism and bird’s flying formation represent humans traveling in life.

Following is the poem by Kenji Miyazawa, translated by Roger Pulvers and edited by Rinban Nakagawa;

STRONG IN THE RAIN (1931)

Strong in the rain

Strong in the wind

Strong against the summer heat and winter cold

He is healthy and robust

Free from desire

He never loses his temper

Nor the quiet smile on his lips

He eats four cups of unpolished rice

Miso and a few vegetables a day

He does not consider himself

In whatever occurs...

His understanding

Comes from observation and experience

And he never loses sight of things

He lives in a little thatched-roof hut

In a field in the shadows of a pine tree grove

If there is a sick child in the east

He goes there to nurse the child

If there's a tired mother in the west

He goes to her and carries her sheaves

If someone is near death in the south

He goes and says, “Don’t be afraid”

If there's strife and lawsuits in the north

He demands that the people put an end to their pettiness

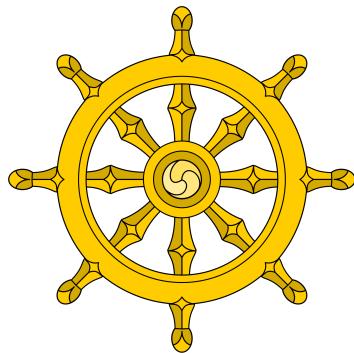
He sheds tears of sympathy for migrant workers far away from home

He plods about at a loss during the cold summer
Everyone calls him “Blockhead”
No one sings his praises
Or takes him to heart...

That is the sort of person
I want to be”

As Fresno’s 2020 theme suggests, my sincere wish is that ALL temples and ALL sangha work together. We can all benefit from “Strength in Sangha”.

Gassho.
Rinban Kakei Nakagawa



Beyond Living and Dying – how much makes you feel enough? Rev. Kaz Nakata



“Natural death is not in the least mysterious, but it is understandable as birth itself. Both occurrences are part of a biological process that provides for a perpetual fountain of youth. Remarkable as human bodies are, Nature eventually discards them for fresh ones; and it ought not to be surprising if, remarkable as human personalities are, Nature adopts the same policy towards them.” — Corliss Lamont *“The Illusion of Immortality”*, p73

In January, I conducted Ho-onko (Annual observance of Shinran Shonin’s memorial) at several temples/churches in Central California. He had 90 years of life in the 13th century. The average lifetime in the century was mid-30s to 40. In fact, a famous Japanese critic, Kenko Yoshida (c. 1283-1352) stated “To have longevity is a shame. We should die before turning 40” in his essay, *“Tsure-zure Gusa.”* Kenko’s essay suggests that Shinran Shonin was a very rare case to have such a long life.

A few years ago, I took a comparative religion class. It used Moreman’s *“Beyond the Threshold (2017)”* as the textbook where death and dying in Buddhism and other religions were presented. In the beginning of my article, I quoted Corliss Lamont’s passage which appears in the textbook. Interestingly, in the class, there were students who worked in the medical field as doctors and nurses. They had shared, in class, the medical aspects of death and dying. As a minister, I have had many experiences observing those who have died or were dying while conducting bedside services known as the makurakyo service. None of these experiences have been a “mysterious occurrence” even if lives were lost through accidents or unknown causes. Lamont’s book was published in 1935. According to the Social Security Administration, Life expectancy at birth in 1930 was only 58 for men and 62 for women, and the retirement age was 65!! Since then, many health and medical techniques and technology advancements have changed the world. These advancements have changed the definitions of death and dying substantially.

I would like to share an example.

One day I received a phone call from a woman. She requested a makurakyo service at the hospital for her husband. When I arrived at the hospital, his family members were gathered and were waiting for my arrival. He was about in his mid-40s and appeared to be sleeping. His children, I’m guessing, were teenagers. His wife mentioned that he had been in a deep coma for a few days. The doctor reported that though there was brain function, there was no response. This man was being kept alive by a life support system. In this state he could possibly live another 5 to 10 years.

The wife explained, “We were told that he was in no pain. Our family discussed over the course of the past several days about how we should take care of him and we decided to

let him go. So when you are finished with the chanting, the doctor will stop the system and we will end his life..."

Having experienced such situations on many occasions, I knew what I needed to do and what to expect. As I was chanting, in my mind I questioned whether there was any possibility for this man to regain consciousness. Before the existence of the life support system, those in critical condition simply ended their lives and their family had to accept the loss. The advancements in medicine now has made "something that could not be done" to "something that can be done."

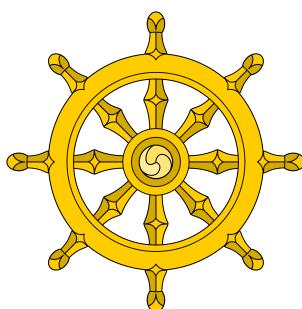
Rev. Sokusui Murakami, Kangaku (Jodo Shinshu scholar), argued that:

...however much we are convinced that one aspect of our life is fulfilled, it will become an empty delusion when we face our own death. Death is lying at the bottom of our life so that there is no fulfilled life as long as our life is threatened by death itself. Our life can be truly fulfilled only when we transcend the mystical delusion of fearful death. That is the reason why Buddhism encourages us to cope with the solution of death. *"Misunderstandings and understandings to Shinran's teachings."* Nowadays, it is very rare to see and encounter natural death as well as natural birth. We are surrounded by numerous options which make our life longer or shorter. The example of my makurakyo experience indicates that the length of our life can be practically managed by manmade solutions or man's will. It means we are dealing with and challenging the area of "threshold". Therefore, Buddhism, simply, may question us with, "So what?" These dealings and challenges do not settle the fundamental problem of how we can transcend the "mystical delusion of fearful death." One suggestion Buddhism offers in making such decisions when you or a loved one is facing death is to think about what is enough in living beyond a natural death. There is no right or wrong answer to that question in Buddhism. Buddhism is a teaching of awareness so that there is mindfulness of everyday life circumstances.

There is, then, a realization of what is important beyond living and dying. Once this realization takes place one can live a truly fulfilled moment of life.

Sincerely, Gassho.

Reverend Kaz



NIRVANA DAY AND MONTHLY SHOTSUKI MEMORIAL SERVICE

Shakyamuni Buddha passed away approximately 2,500 years ago. Traditionally, Buddhists call this day Nirvana Day. Observance of Nirvana Day and the Shotsuki monthly Memorial Service will be on February 23rd at 10:00 am Reverend Kurt Rye will officiate the service.

The Shotsuki names in the month of February are:

Hatsuyo Kanenaga
Masao Kanenaga
Masao Nakamura
Matsutaro 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

FEBRUARY RIJI & TOBAN **District III**

Board of Governor's (Riji's):
Kimihiro Sera
Kevin Nagata

Toban:
Janie Yuen
Craig Sakaguchi

2020 FOOD BAZAAR

Our annual Buddhist Church of Fowler Food Bazaar will be held on February 16, 2020 from 12:00 pm to 3:00 pm. See attached for schedule.

WELCOME

Please welcome Valerie Araki, the newest member of our congregation. Valerie will be in District III.

SCHEDULING REMINDER

For scheduling of all church functions or services please contact Karen Mukai at 834-3113.

CREDIT CARD UPDATE

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

RUMMAGE SALE

I hope you are all cleaning out your closets to add to our Church Rummage Sale on Saturday, March 21, 2020, 7:30am - 12:30pm.

Please contact Karen Mukai at 834-1178 to arrange drop off or pick-up times.

JANUARY 2020 DONATIONS

Shotsuki

\$ 100.00	The Mayebo Families
\$ 50.00	Greg & Patti Miyake
\$ 50.00	Ken & Kim Miyake
\$ 30.00	Jim & Michiko Fujikawa
\$ 25.00	Janis & Wayne Sutow

Joya-E Service

\$ 20.00	Sharon Asakawa
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In Memory of Betty Mayebo, One Year Memorial

\$ 300.00	The Mayebo Families
\$ 40.00	Kerry & Jeri Nakagawa

Year End

\$ 500.00	Howard & Satomi Hiyama
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\$ 500.00	Kimihiro & Hitomi Sera
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\$ 100.00	Ron & Maxine Yoshimoto
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\$ 100.00	Joe & Irene Hara
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\$ 50.00	Rick & Marlene Miyasaki
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\$ 50.00	Ben & Jan Fujikawa
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\$ 50.00	Yaeko Iwai
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BCA Calendars

\$ 20.00	Jane Nagata
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Fowler Food Bazaar 2020

Chairperson: Ron Yoshimoto, Craig Honda

General Arrangements

Chairperson:: Greg Mukai

Committee: Ron Yoshimoto, Barton Ashida, Roger Takeda, Ken Ishimoto, Todd Yoshimoto, Scott Ishimoto

Friday Feb 14

7:30AM Roger –Pick up donuts (3 doz), Greg-Set up Coffee, Tea

7:30AM Barton, Greg-set-up tables, faucet for vegetable washing in sink area

8:00AM Greg, Barton– Pick up Refrigerated Truck

9:00 AM Greg, Barton, Ron-Plastic, meeting room. Tables for Japanese food comm. Run electrical

10:00 AM Greg. Barton, Ron-Tables (no risers) for beef teriyaki. Cover w/paper

11:30 AM Greg, Barton, Ron - vegetables to refrigerated truck after washing. Vegetables for Japanese Food Committee

3:00PM Greg, Ron-Beef Skewers to refrigerated truck

3:30PM Greg, Ron-Tables in Youth Bldg for vegetable chopping. Cover w/paper

4:00 PM Greg-Cooling rack & fan Meeting Rm. Electrical. Check tables for paper

4:30PM Greg-Outside faucet take down

Sat. Feb 15

7:00AM Roger–P/U donuts (7 doz), Barton -Set up Coffee, Tea

7:00AM Greg-Set up faucet

7:30 AM Ken, Todd–Cover tables for chicken cooling, Unload vegetables, Namasu,Chow mein

8:00AM Greg-Move truck to unload chicken

8:00 AM Ken, Todd- Cover tables for chicken cooling, racks, fans, electrical

8:00AM Greg-Set up table outside kitchen door for cooling carrots,

9:00AM Ken, Todd-Set up tables for beef marinade& cover. Tables for Namasu

11:00AM Rice washing committee, benches, electrical, fans, tables

1:00PM Ken Todd-Youth Bldg, Re-cover paper. Cooling racks rice. Set up fans .& electrical
2:00PM Todd-Chicken to refrigerated truck. Veggies to refrigerated truck.
Take down faucet when done.
3:00 PM Greg-Take down faucet when done.

Sun. Feb 16

3:00AM Greg-coffee, tea.
3:30 AM Greg, Ken-Cooling racks for chow mein, fans & electrical. Move truck for unloading of vegetables. Set up faucet.
4:00 AM Ken, Scott, Greg-unload namasu and set on tables, unload chow mein
vegetables
4:00AM Roger-P/U donuts (5 dozen)
4:30AM Scott, Greg-clear stage area for packaged bentos. Set up raffle display benches.
6:30 AM Ken, Greg, Scott-unload chicken, transport chow mein & rice for packaging
7:00 AM Ken, Greg, Todd, Scott-set up packaging lines
8:00AM Ken, Greg, Todd, Scott-Set up second packaging line.
9:00AM Greg-Set up Public Address System
11:00AM Greg, Ken, Scott Todd-set up for bazaar
3:00 PM all clean up

Chow Mein

Chairpersons: Barton Ashida, Tina Kato-Clary

All committee members are requested to come on Friday, February 14 at 8:00 a.m. to cut vegetables. Please bring a cutting board and knife.
If available, come Saturday, February 15 at 8:00 a.m. to cut cucumbers for namasu

Satomi Hiyama	Yuko Matoba	Vicki Lian
Joyce Kubose	Varlene Kuramoto	Linda Matsumoto
Hitomi Sera	Nancy Tokubo	Diane Eskelsen
Ada Yamamoto	Karen Kondo	Kenny Hashimoto
Gail Nakamura	June Shimoda	Cindy Inouye

Cherie Nakayama

Maryann Miyasaki

Sally Yemoto

All ladies are requested to come on Sunday, Feb 16 beginning at 3:30 a.m. to help cool the chow mein. If you have any questions please call Barton Ashida (559) 284-2955 or Tina Kato-Clarey at (559) 356-1103.

Chow Mein Cooking

Sunday, Feb 16

4:00 am – 6:00 am

Shig Kamine Allen Nakagawa

Rick Miyasaki Clifford Sera Kimihiro Sera

6:00 am - until done

Craig Sakaguchi Gerald Nakayama

Richard Shimoda

Sansei Baseball

Japanese Food

Chairperson: Sharon Asakawa (834-4361)

Tayoko Honda (246-1585)

Friday, 2/14 – 1:00 p.m.

Vinegar Preparation: Eiko Matsumura, Yaeko Otani, Yoko Miyoshi, Mitsuye Shinkawa, Tayoko Honda

Prepare carrots (for barasushi) and parsley (garnish for sushi, bento, ala carte)

May Mukai, Alice Fujikawa, Sharon Asakawa, Eiko Ii, Janie Yuen, Yuko Matoba, Eiko Matsumura, Yaeko Otani, Yoko Miyoshi, Mitsuye Shinkawa, Tayoko Honda

Prepare vegetables for Futo Maki(carrots, string beans, shiitake, kampyo): Yuko Matoba, Tayoko Honda

Saturday, 2/15 – 8:00 a.m.

Fry eggs. Season & cut: *Tayoko Honda, *Sharon Asakawa, Yuko Matoba, Eiko Matsumura, Yaeko Otani, Aiko Kamine, Mitsuye Shinkawa, Diane Eskelsen, Fumiye Inouye, Marlene Miyasaki, Esther Nakagawa, Eiko li, Alice Fujikawa, Maryann Miyaski & volunteers

Fry eggs & Cutters – Bring Cutting Board and Knife

Mix eggs - Sharon Asakawa and Janie Yuen

Fry Eggs Marlene Miyasaki, Esther Nakagawa Eiko li, Alice Fujikawa, MaryAnn Miyasaki & Others

Sunday, 2/16

Futo maki & Inari

Meeting Room 4:30 a.m.

*Tayoko Honda

Alice Fujikawa

Yoko Miyoshi

Linda Masumoto

Marlene Miyasaki

Darlene Kawano

Eiko Matsumura

Fujiye Inouye

Yuko Matoba

Others (volunteers)

Bring Cutting Boards, Knife, and Onigiri press

NOTE: If any of these assignments are inconvenient, please notify any of the Chairpersons.

NOTE: Anyone not assigned to any work, please report to meeting room to assist with Japanese Food.

Beef Skewering

Chairperson: Aiko Kamine

Friday, February 14 12:00 p.m.

ALL available men and ladies are asked to come out to help.

Bring knife and cutting board

Cool Barazushi Rice

Youth Hall – 4:30 a.m.

*Sharon Asakawa

Aiko Kamine

Sharon Mikuni

Esther Nakagawa

Eiko li

Joyce Kubose

Darlene Kawano

Diane Eskelsen

Others (volunteers)

Rice Committee

Chairpersons: Ben Yosako, Ken Hashimoto, Lyndon Inouye

Committee:

Noreen Yosako	George Hashimoto	Karen Mukai
Pam Yoshikawa	Gay Mukai	Robert Kondo
Cindy Inouye	Craig Sakaguchi	Gary Mukai
Mitsuye Shinkawa	Stanley Mukai	Mike D'Alessio

Saturday, February 15

11:00 A.M. Wash rice – please bring buckets

Sunday, Feb 16

4:00 A.M. Men: Start cooking rice

4:30 A.M. Ladies: Prepare rice for sushi vinegar

BBQ Chicken Committee

Chairperson:: Gerald Nakayama, Mitch Kato

Chicken Prep - Thursday, Feb 13 Time: 9:00 am

Hiro Kamine	Doug Teraoka	Melvin Tsuboi
Roger Takeda	Barton Ashida	Kevin Nagata

Chicken Cleaning/Butchering/Marinating - Friday, Feb 14 9:30 am

Ron Yoshimoto	Gary Mukai	Rick Miyasaki
Barton Ashida	Roger Takeda	Gary Keithley
Doug Teaoka		

Chicken Cooling/Boxing - Saturday Feb 15

9:00 -11:00 am	11:00 am to Finish
Don Miyasaki	Rick Miyasaki
Roger Takeda	Gary Keithley

Chicken Cooking - Saturday Feb 15

7:00 - 10:30 am	10:30 am - Finish
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Craig Sakaguchi	Melvin Tsuboi	Clifford Sera	Dennis Mikuni
Barton Ashida	Mike D'Alessio	Dale Shinkawa	Roy Kikunaga
Sean Hardy	Doug Teraoka	Sansei Baseball	

Namasu

Chairperson: Arlene Keithley, Maxine Yoshimoto

Committee members:

Melissa Iwo	Joan Yamaguchi	Cherie Nakayama
Valerie Araki	Janice Yoshimoto	

Friday, February 14 9:30 a.m. Wash Vegetables
(Arlene, Maxine)

Saturday, February 15 8:00 a.m. Cut vegetables, Bring cutting board/knife

Sunday, February 16 5:00 am Season and pack vegetables

If we finish early, please remain to assist others until all the work is done.

If anyone is not able to participate in the above schedule, please contact Arlene Keithley at (707) 328-6963 or Maxine Yoshimoto at 251-5030.

Pastry Committee

Chairpersons: Marlene Miyasaki, Linda Matsumoto

Cream Puffs - Homemade (2 dozen)

June Shimoda

We will be purchasing pre-made shells as well as the filling this year.

Therefore appreciate it if those who previously made pudding could please bring a homemade baked good if possible. If you are not able to do so and would rather pay an assessment, that is fine too.

Diane Eskelsen	Marlene Miyasaki	Arlene Keithley
Nancy Fujikawa	Gay Mukai	Joan Yamaguchi
Irene Hara	Karen Mukai	Varlene Kimura
Clarice Hardy	Esther Nakagawa	Noreen Yosako
Kim Hashimoto	Cherie Nakayama	Ann Kondo
Eiko Ii	Hitomi Sera	Janice Yoshimoto
Joyce Kubose	Maxine Yoshimoto	Keiko Kuramoto

Assessment \$10.00

Barton Ashida	Derek Honda
Jim Fujikawa	Stan Mukai
Earl Honda	Kevin Nagata
Ken Ishimoto	Ada Yamamoto
Mitchell Kato	Craig Sakaguchi
Eiko Matsumura	Ken Hashimoto

Tea Preparation

Serving will be done by Sansei Baseball Team

Pots and Pan Washing

Chairperson: Craig Honda

Sunday, Feb 16 8:00 am

Committee: Sansei Baseball Team

Cashiers

June Shimoda, Richard Shimoda, Sally Yemoto

Clean-Up

All Available Members
Sansei Baseball Team

Soda & Water

Dharma School Students

Purchasing

Chairperson: Howard Hiyama

Tickets

Chairperson: Gary Mukai

Raffle

Chairperson: Karen Mukai

Artwork

Clinton Mukai

Finance

Chairperson: Robert Nakamura

Signs, Program

Chairperson: Joan Yamaguchi

If the assigned time is inconvenient or you are unable to serve, please notify your committee chairperson immediately, so that other arrangements can be made. Anyone who is available please come out and help, it will be greatly appreciated

GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS
GRADUATE STUDENTS

COLLEGE STUDENTS ENTERING 2ND YEAR

DUE MARCH 15, 2020

Fresno Betsuin Buddhist Temple

2020 Scholarships

Applications available January 1, 2020

Visit www.fresnobuddhisttemple.org

or email request to:

losaki@fresnobuddhisttemple.org

Submission deadline:

March 15, 2020



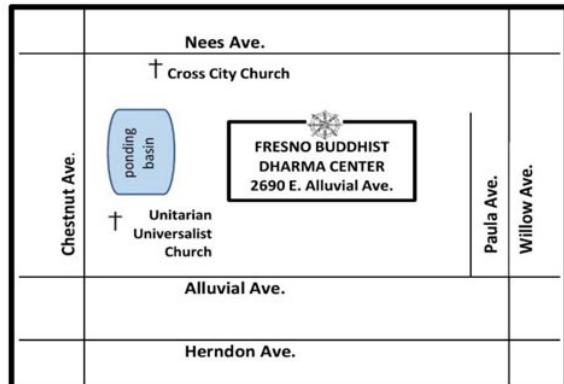
2020

Cherry Blossom Festival Food & Craft Fair



Saturday, March 14, 2020
10am to 3pm

New Vendors!
Handcrafted Items
Clothing, Jewelry, Giftware
Artwork & Raffle
Delicious Food



Fresno Buddhist Dharma Center
2690 E. Alluvial Ave.
Fresno CA 93720
(559) 442-4054

www.fresnobuddhisttemple.org
info@fresnobuddhisttemple.org

Proudly sponsored by the Fresno Buddhist Temple



Reedley Buddhist Church
16th Annual

Crab Feed and Silent Auction



Saturday, March 14, 2020

\$65.00 per person

Includes:

**Sushi, Udon, Chinese Chicken Salad, Bread,
Dessert, and ALL YOU CAN EAT STEAMED CRAB**

Doors open at 5:00 PM

REEDLEY BUDDHIST CHURCH

2035 15th Street, Reedley

(559) 638-2146 • www.reedleybc.org



For tickets contact:

**Joy Donaldson (859-7861) or Gary Sakata (250-9687)
or email reedleybc@gmail.com**