



# THE WHITE PATH

MONTHLY BULLETIN VOL. 5380

MAY 2024

## April/May Services and Events:

- **5/05/2024 – Gotan-e/May Shotsuki Service/Dharma School – 10 a.m.**  
Rev. Michael Endo
- **5/27/2024 – Selma Cemetery Service – 9:00 a.m.**  
Fowler Cemetery Service – 9:45 a.m.

## Future Services:

- **6/09/2024 – Rennyo/Lady Kujo Memorial/June Shotsuki Service/Dharma School – 10 a.m.**  
Rev. Brian Nagata, Guest Speaker- Gary Mukai
- **7/20/2024 – Obon/Hatsubon – 5:30 p.m.**
- **7/21/2024 – Obon/Hatsubon/July Shotsuki Service – 10 a.m.**  
Rev. Blake Honda
- **8/11/2024 – August Shotsuki Service – 10 a.m.**
- **9/08/2024 – Fall Ohigan/September Shotsuki Service/Dharma School – 10 a.m., Rev. Mieko Majima**
- **10/06/2024 – Eshinni/Kakushinni Memorial/October Shotsuki Service/Dharma School – 1 p.m.**
- **11/03/2024 – Eitaikyo/November Shotsuki Service/Dharma School 10 a.m. Rev. Kodo Umezu**
- **12/08/2024 – Bohdi Day/December Shotsuki Service/Dharma School 1 p.m.**
- **12/31/2024 – New Year's Eve Service – 7 p.m.**  
Rev. Mieko Majima
- **1/01/2025 – New Year's Day Service – 9 a.m.**  
Rev. Mieko Majima

## Why We Celebrate Gotan-e

By Rev. Mieko Majima

In May, we celebrate the birth of Shinran Shonin (1173-1262), the founder of Shin Buddhism. Gotan-e is the formal commemoration of Shinran Shonin's birthday and it was instituted during the Meiji period.

Shinran Shonin was born on May 21, 1173, by the banks of Hokaiji Temple in the southeastern part of Kyoto, in a village called Hino. Hino Village belonged to the Hino family, and Hokaiji Temple was their family temple. His father, Hino Arinori, was a descendant of the prestigious Fujiwara clan, even among the aristocracy of his time. In the Edo period, a small temple called "Hino Tanjo-in" was built near Hokaiji Temple in commemoration of Shinran's birth.

Shinran was born into a time when the aristocratic era was fading, and the warrior class, particularly the powerful clans of the Taira and Minamoto, held sway. During his childhood, the Taira clan was dominant, which brought anxiety to his family since his mother was from the Minamoto lineage, creating a constant fear of reprisals as the Taira gained ascendancy.

The playground adjacent to Hokaiji Temple might have been a joyful space where young Shinran played with his friends. However, tragedy struck his life early on, as he lost his father at the age of four and his mother at eight, with all his siblings subsequently entering the monastic life. Perhaps Shinran found solace in visiting Hokaiji Temple. At the age of nine, he expressed his wish to be ordained and became a monk on Mount Hiei. His early experiences with death surely shaped his dedication to rigorous training even after becoming a monk on Mount Hiei.

Shinran's wife, Eshinni, recounted having a revelatory dream where her husband appeared before her as Avalokiteshvara, the Bodhisattva of Compassion. The biography of Shinran, "Tannisho," also records these dreams, hinting at Shinran's identity as an incarnation of Amida Buddha. However, from a modern perspective, Shinran is often seen as a seeker of truth, and his story resonates deeply with many as a profoundly human journey.

Shinran's teachings represent one of the most influential developments in Japanese Buddhism. According to D.T. Suzuki, a prominent figure in Japanese Zen Buddhism, Shinran articulated the ultimate form of Mahayana Buddhism.

Shinran himself stated, " Looking to and encountering the time when becomes settled Shinjin (entrusting heart,) which is diamondlike and firm: (at the moment)

the light of Amida's heart grasps and protects one, and one parts forever from birth-and death."

Shinran seemed to have grasped most accurately the essence of Pure Land teaching, transcending time and place.

Namo Amida Butsu



## The Tall Tower

By Rev. Mieko Majima

Once upon a time, in a land filled with treasures, there lived a very rich person. They had so much money, that it seemed to overflow from their pockets!

One sunny day, this rich person decided to go on a journey with their friends. As they traveled, they liked to show off their wealth a little bit. But what they didn't realize was that people weren't impressed by them, just by their money. They didn't know or maybe just forgot that.

During their journey, they got invited to visit a big house owned by another rich person. And guess what? They were taken to the third floor of the house! From up there, they could see so far. But here's the thing: they didn't even know what a "third floor" was! Where they came from, buildings were much shorter, with only one or two floors.

They were amazed by this discovery of a "third floor." When they got back home, they couldn't stop thinking about it. They wanted one for themselves!

So, they called a skilled builder and said, "I want a third floor in my house, please!"

The builder, though very good at their job, was a bit careful because they'd never built such a tall tower before. Day by day, they worked hard, following the plans step by step.

But the rich person was getting impatient. Every day, they went to check on the building site, asking, "Is it ready yet?" And every time, the builder said, "Not yet."

Finally, one day, the rich person got badly frustrated. "Why isn't it done yet?" they asked.

The builder explained calmly, "I'm still working on the second floor right now. Building the third floor will take more time."

But the rich person didn't want to wait. They insisted, "Build the third floor now! No need to build the second floor! I just want the third floor!" -The Sutra of One Hundred Parables by Saṅghasena -

The tale of the tall tower reminds us that good things take time and effort. Rushing without a solid foundation won't make them strong.

Namo Amida Butsu

## 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](http://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 Lee Osaki during business hours at (559)442-4054 to check minister schedules and Barton Ashida, President, at (559)284-2955 for Fowler Buddhist Church availability and to schedule a meeting for assistance with funeral arrangements.

## Annual 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.

## Board of Governors – May

### District 1/2

#### Rijis

Ken Hashimoto  
Rick Miyasaki

#### Toban

Marlene Miyasaki  
Ken Hashimoto

### The Shotsuki names for the month of May are:

Tatsuji Hirasuna  
Hitoshi Nakatsukasa  
Katsuo Yoshimoto  
Kai Yoshimoto  
Yuki Miyaki  
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  
Florence Nakayama  
Tooru Nakahira  
Ross Kondo

**28<sup>th</sup> Annual Fowler Buddhist Church Fellowship Golf Tournament**

It is with deep gratitude that the Fowler Buddhist Church and the Fowler Buddhist Church Golf Club, extends their heartfelt thank you to all of the donors, tee sponsors, volunteers and participants. It is because of your help and participation that we were able to

have another successful golf tournament.



**April 2024 Donations**

**Hanamatsuri & Shotsuki**

\$ 25.00 Sharon Asakawa

**Hanamatsuri**

\$ 100.00 Rev Bob & Patti Oshita

\$ 50.00 Rick & Marlene Miyasaki

\$ 50.00 Hitomi Sera & Family

\$ 50.00 Tayoko & Craig Honda

\$ 50.00 Maryann Miyasaki

\$ 50.00 Ron & Maxine Yoshimoto

\$ 40.00 Greg & Gay Mukai

\$ 40.00 Steve Teraoka

\$ 35.00 Jane Nagata

\$ 35.00 Brian Nagata

\$ 30.00 Howard & Satomi Hiyama

\$ 30.00 Jan Yoshimoto

\$ 30.00 Doren & Kathy Lee

\$ 30.00 M/M Gary Keithley

\$ 30.00 Art & Alice Fujikawa

\$ 30.00 Linda Matsumoto

\$ 30.00 Janie Yuen

\$ 25.00 Jade & Miki Yuen

\$ 25.00 Joe & Irene Hara

\$ 25.00 Bev Maruyama

\$ 20.00 Hiro & Harumi Komaki  
\$ 20.00 Derek, Yim, Verona &  
Violet Honda

**Shotsuki**

\$ 250.00 Tomm & Suzanne Ford  
\$ 100.00 Kikuta Family  
\$ 100.00 Rick & Marlene  
Miyasaki  
\$ 50.00 Hitomi Sera & Family  
\$ 30.00 Howard & Satomi  
Hiyama  
\$ 30.00 Shig & Aiko Kamine  
\$ 25.00 Maryann Miyasaki  
\$ 25.00 Maryann Miyasaki  
\$ 25.00 Ellen Nomura  
\$ 25.00 Earl Honda  
\$ 25.00 Earl Honda  
\$ 25.00 Gordon & Susan  
Hayashi

**In Memory of Tad Tadashi  
Nakamura**

\$ 200.00 Kenneth D Schmidt  
& Associates  
\$ 20.00 Harry & Shizuko  
Takeuchi Trust

**In Memory of Shizue May Mukai**

\$ 25.00 Arthur & Grace Sasaki

**Special Donation**

\$ 200.00 Rev & Patti Oshita

**Correction:**

In the previous issue of the newsletter, Rev. Majima was listed as an “Associate Minister” of the Fresno Betsuin. Please note that this was in error. Rev. Majima is the Resident Minister for Fowler, Hanford, Parlier, Reedley and Visalia. Rev. Kaz Nakata is the Interim Rinban for the Fresno Betsuin.

We apologize for any confusion or inconvenience caused by this error. Thank you.

From the Office of the Bishop

# 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](mailto: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](mailto:rev.kaznakata@gmail.com)

Alene Hayashi:  
[amhayashi@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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**



# iPhone H.E.L.P. Classes

## At The Nikkei Center

*We Are Offering 2 Classes*

**Beginners :** Calling, Texting, Facetime, Downloading Apps, Navigating The Internet, Social Media, Medical/Prescriptions, And More!

**The Next Step:** Messages (Stickers, Effects And Avatars), Utilizing Files, Creating Widgets, Modifying Photographs (Adjust, Filter, Crop), And More!

*Please Contact Maura For More Information:*

559-252-4036, Ext. 251 or

[mauram@vintagegardens.org](mailto:mauram@vintagegardens.org)

Vintage Gardens Assisted Living Community  
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