



# THE WHITE PATH

MONTHLY BULLETIN VOL. 5382

JULY 2024

**Final Obon Practice – 7/9/2024 – 7 p.m.**

**Future Schedule:**

- **7/20/2024 – Obon/Hatsubon – 5:30 p.m.**
- **7/21/2024 – Obon/Hatsubon/July Shotsuki Service – 10 a.m.**  
**Rev. Brian Nagata; Guest Speaker: Rev. Blake Honda**
- **8/11/2024 – August Shotsuki Service – 10 a.m.; Rev. Mieko Majima**
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- **9/29/2024 – 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., Rev. Mieko Majima**
- **11/03/2024 – Eitaikyo/November Shotsuki Service/Dharma School 10 a.m. Rev. Kodo Umezu**
- **12/08/2024 – Bodhi Day/December Shotsuki Service/Dharma School 1 p.m. – Rev. Mieko Majima**
- **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**

## **Embracing Compassion and Connection: Buddhist Reflections on “The Man Called Otto”**

Hello everyone, how are you? Obon has started, and I hope you're enjoying the festivities. This article is for those who enjoy stories about people and their lives today.

"The Man Called Otto," a touching novel by Fredrik Backman, has recently been adapted into an American film titled "The Man Called Otto." The story revolves around Otto, an elderly man who appears grumpy on the surface but harbors a kind heart underneath. Otto's life takes a profound turn after the death of his beloved wife, Sonya. Overcome with grief and feeling aimless without her, he contemplates ending his own life to be with her again.

Otto's daily routine involves patrolling his neighborhood meticulously, ensuring everything is in order—whether it's checking on trash sorting or monitoring parking, he strictly adheres to rules. His reluctance to engage with others often annoys his neighbors.

When a new family moved in nearby, it shattered his daily routines. At first, Otto resisted their presence, feeling deeply irritated by their intrusion into his life against his will. However, through interactions with their daughters, Otto gradually softened. Finding unexpected joy in helping the family, he came to realize that life still held meaning even after Sonya's death.

The movie explores important themes like loneliness, the power of community, and how unexpected friendships can transform us. It balances funny moments with deep reflections on human nature and the connections that make life meaningful. Tom Hanks, a well-known actor, portrays Otto in the film, capturing both his strict adherence to rules and his gradual opening up to others.

As Otto faces his own mortality and struggles with grief, he begins to hear Sonya's voice each time he attempts suicide, saying "That's enough now, darling." She is calling out to Otto, urging him to continue living. This, along with interactions with Sonya's former students and other neighbors, profoundly impacts Otto. Through these relationships, he learns valuable lessons about resilience, hope, and the enduring power of love.

"The Man Called Otto" teaches us that our actions and connections with others give life its true meaning, even during tough times. It reminds us that friendships and community support can help us find joy and purpose. This message resonates deeply

with the teachings of Shinran, a Buddhist teacher, who emphasized compassion, understanding, and the interconnectedness of all beings.

Let's celebrate Obon with gratitude, appreciating the connections that enrich our lives and believing in the transformative power of human relationships.

Namo Amida Butsu

Rev. Mieko Majima

## **The Story of the Banyan Deer**

Once upon a time, in a big forest, there was a wise and kind deer king named Banyan. Banyan was the leader of a large herd of deer. All the deer loved and respected him because he was very smart and always took care of them.

In the same forest, there was another herd of deer led by a proud and selfish king named Branch. Branch's herd did not listen to their elders and thought they knew everything.

One year, there was no rain, and the forest became very dry. There was no water or food, and all the animals were very thirsty and hungry. Banyan remembered a story his ancestors told him about a hidden waterhole that saved them during a drought long ago. He decided to find this waterhole to save his herd.

Banyan gathered all his deer and told them about the secret waterhole. He said, "Our ancestors told us about this place. It will be a hard journey, but we must try." The deer trusted Banyan and followed him through the forest.

After a long and difficult journey, they found the hidden waterhole. It was full of fresh water! The deer drank the water and were very happy. They survived because they listened to their ancestors' wisdom.

Branch and his herd, however, did not know about the secret waterhole because they didn't listen to their elders. They wandered around the forest, looking for water, and many of them did not survive. Finally, Branch realized his mistake and asked Banyan for help.

Banyan, being kind and wise, welcomed Branch and his herd. He shared the waterhole with them and reminded them, "It is important to listen to the wisdom of our ancestors. They have many lessons to teach us."

Do you know what this story tries to tell us? It tells us that we should always respect and listen to our elders and ancestors. Why? Because their wisdom can help us when things are tough and guide us to make good choices. Isn't that amazing?

So, next time you hear a story from your grandparents or elders, listen carefully. You never know what important things you might learn! Now, let's celebrate this

wonderful wisdom with a dance of gratitude to our ancestors and the Buddha during Obon. Let's make it a joyful time!

Namo Amida Butsu

Rev. Mieko Majima

### **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)

### **Board of Governors – July**

#### **District IV**

#### **Rijis**

Craig Honda  
Sharon Asakawa

#### **Toban**

Sharon Asakawa  
Tayoko Honda

### **The Shotsuki names for the month of July are:**

Hiroshi T. Mayebo  
Torao Sera  
Noriyuki Arasuna  
Sumiko Doi  
Kama Toyama  
Futayo Okamura  
Kazuo Otani  
Kuma Kato  
Kichiro Takemoto  
Yakichi Honda  
Sadao Onaka  
Sato Kurata  
Shizuko Tokubo  
Masami Matsuoka

Dorothy Kanenaga  
Tom Mukai  
Setsuko Asakawa  
Masao Sakoda  
Kazu Wada  
Yumi Onaka  
Shizue Fujikawa  
Joe Yoshimura  
Mikiko Nakahira  
Kenneth Ken Yuen  
Kevin Nagata  
Toshiaki Shinkawa  
Flora Murashige  
Richard Shimoda

### **Hatsubon names for 2023/2024:**

Kimihiro Sera  
Robert Kondo  
George Teraoka  
Shizue May Mukai  
Tad Tadashi Nakamura

## **Fowler Obon**

The Fowler Obon odori is Saturday, July 20, 2024, Food will be available for purchase from 4:30 p.m. On the menus: bento, somen, spam musubi, street corn in a bowl, shave ice, beer, sake, soft drinks, and iced tea.

New this year: purchase a lantern in memory of a loved one. It will be hung during Bon Odori and then you can take it home. Cost: only \$20.

And, remember, Bon Odori is always indoors.

## **June 2024 Donations**

### **Shotsuki**

\$ 150.00	Ideta Family
\$ 75.00	Greg & Patti Miyake
\$ 75.00	Ken & Kim Miyake
\$ 50.00	Sally Yemoto
\$ 30.00	Howard & Satomi Hiyama
\$ 30.00	Gary & Arlene Keithley
\$ 30.00	Greg & Gay Mukai
\$ 25.00	Linda Matsumoto
\$ 25.00	Shig & Aiko Kamine
\$ 25.00	Gordon & Susan
\$ 20.00	George & Kim Hashimoto
\$ 20.00	M/M Gerald Nakayama

### **Memorial Day**

\$ 30.00	Jan Yoshimoto
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## **Fowler Buddhist Church Golf Club Breakfast**

\$ 50.00	Ron & Maxine Yoshimoto
\$ 40.00	Unknown
\$ 20.00	Joe & Irene Hara

## **Rennyō/Lady Kujo Memorial Service**

\$ 30.00	Gary & Karen Mukai
\$ 30.00	Janie Yuen
\$ 30.00	Jan Yoshimoto
\$ 20.00	Derek, Yim, Verona & Violet Honda

## **In Memory of Tad Tadashi Nakamura**

\$ 30.00	Kenji & Carol Takehara
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## **In Memory of Erina Miyoshi Sumida**

\$ 100.00	Takaaki & Yoko Miyoshi
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## **Special Donation**

\$ 100.00	Maryann Miyasaki
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*See you at Fowler's Obon*



# 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!

Vintage Gardens Assisted Living Community  
540 S. Peach Ave. Fresno, CA 93727

Please Contact Maura For More Information:  
559-252-4036, Ext. 251 or  
[mauram@vintagegardens.org](mailto:mauram@vintagegardens.org)





### 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