



# THE WHITE PATH

MONTHLY BULLETIN VOL. 5383

August 2024

## Future Schedule:

- 8/11/2024 – August Shotsuki Service – 10 a.m.; Rev. Mieko Majima  
No Dharma School
- 9/29/2024 – Fall Ohigan/September Shotsuki Service/Dharma School –  
10 a.m., Rev. Mieko Majima
- 10/27/2024 – Eshinni/Kakushinni Memorial/October Shotsuki  
Service/Dharma School – 10 a.m., Rev. Mieko Majima
- 11/03/2024 – Eitaikyo/November Shotsuki Service/Dharma School  
10 a.m. Rev. Kodo Umezu
- 11/23/2024 - Tsukemono Festival -Revival
- 12/21/2024 - Mochitsuki
- 12/22/2024 – Bodhi Day/December Shotsuki Service/Dharma School  
10 a.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.

## War Memorial Day and Buddhist Teachings in Japan

In Japan, August 15th is War Memorial Day, a day to remember those who lost their lives in war and to reflect on the profound teachings of Buddhism that guide us toward a more peaceful world. This day allows us to honor the memory of the victims, consider the devastating impacts of war, and renew our commitment to peace and compassion.

In Buddhism, compassion (karuna), loving-kindness (metta), and the interconnectedness of all beings are central teachings that help us understand the nature of suffering and how to alleviate it. War, with its immense suffering and destruction, starkly contrasts with these teachings, highlighting the urgent need for a collective commitment to peace.

The Buddha taught, "Hatred does not cease by hatred, but only by love; this is the eternal rule." This profound wisdom encourages us to cultivate compassion and understanding, even in the face of conflict and adversity. By transforming our hearts and minds, we can break the cycle of hatred and violence, paving the way for reconciliation and harmony.

One example that embodies these teachings is the life and work of Rennyo Shonin, a respected monk in the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha tradition. Rennyo's letters, known as Gobunsho, are filled with guidance and teachings that remain relevant today, especially in times of conflict and strife.

Rennyo emphasized the importance of deeply entrusting our hearts to Amida's compassion

and releasing ourselves within Amida's embrace. In his letters, he often addressed the difficulties and sufferings of his time, offering words of solace and encouragement to his followers. Rennyo taught that in the face of suffering, we should turn to the boundless Amida's compassion, finding tranquility and strength in the Nembutsu.

Rennyo's teachings remind us that true peace begins within each individual's heart. By cultivating inner peace through the Nembutsu and reflecting on the impermanence of life, we can extend compassion and understanding to others. His letters often highlighted the interconnectedness of all beings, urging his followers to live in harmony and support one another.

As we commemorate War Memorial Day, let us draw inspiration from the teachings of Rennyo. Let us honor the memories of those who suffered and

sacrificed by committing ourselves to the path of peace and compassion. May we strive to embody the Buddha's teachings in our daily lives, transforming our hearts and minds and, in doing so, contributing to a more harmonious and just world.

Namo Amida Butsu.

Rev. Mieko Majima

## **Sadako**

A long time ago, in a city called Hiroshima in Japan, there was a little girl named Sadako. She was only two years old when a big bomb was dropped on her city. Miraculously, Sadako survived the explosion.

As Sadako grew up, she became a happy and active child who loved to run and play. She had many friends and enjoyed sports. But when she was twelve years old, Sadako became very sick. The doctors said she had leukemia, an illness caused by the radiation from the bomb.

While Sadako was in the hospital, her best friend told her about a special legend. The legend said that if a person folds one thousand paper cranes, their wish will come true. Sadako loved this idea and decided to start folding cranes. She wished to get better and hoped for the happiness for everyone.

Sadako used any paper she could find to fold her cranes. She even used the wrappers from medicine bottles and old pieces of paper. She worked very hard and folded crane after crane, hoping her wish would come true.

Even though Sadako was very brave and determined, her illness made her weaker every day. She managed to fold 644 cranes before she became too sick to continue. On October 25, 1955, Sadako passed away. Still, her friends and classmates were so inspired by her that they folded the remaining cranes in her honor.

Sadako's story spread around the world, and people were touched by her courage and hope. In Hiroshima, a statue of Sadako holding a golden crane was built. Every year, thousands of people visit her statue and fold paper cranes, carrying on her wish for peace.

The Buddha taught us being kind and helping others. Sadako showed kindness by folding cranes and wished for peace. We also learn that everything is connected, just like Sadako's cranes connect people's heart all around the world. Shinran also said, 'May the world be at peace.' What can we do to achieve peace in the world?

Folding cranes can be a special message or meditation, helping us to focus our minds and hearts on our wishes and hopes. By folding cranes and thinking about peace, we can help spread kindness and make the world a better place.

So, whenever you see a paper crane, remember Sadako and her wish for a peaceful world. Maybe you can fold some cranes too and make a wish for peace and happiness. Together, we can all help make Sadako's dream come true.

Namo Amida Butsu

Rev. Mieke 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)

Please be sure to check the calendar.  
Some service dates and/or times may have changed.

### **Board of Governors – August District V**

#### **Rijis**

Cherie Nakayama  
Diane Eskelson

#### **Toban**

Satomi Hiyama  
Alice Fujikawa

### **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  
Yosuto 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  
Henry Oba  
Frank Kimura  
Buichi Sakai  
Peggy Reiko Yamaguchi  
Toyo Yamamoto  
Yuki Yamada  
Aniel Masao Nishina  
Grace Fukiko Ishiguro  
Kazuo Hiyama  
Harley Mitsugi Nakamura  
Jitsuo Otani  
Michiye Shimoda  
Makoto Coke Mukai  
Kazuyo Uyemura  
Uichi Takeuchi  
Alyce Taniguchi  
Reverend Kyogo Miura  
Setsuo Kikuta  
Haruo Ii  
Fumiye Miyo Honda  
Tom Tokiharu Nagata  
Alyce Tokiko Nakagawa  
Mitsuno Tomoyasu  
Mary Teraoka  
Vickie Michiko Hashimoto  
Etsuko Uyemura

## July 2024 Donations

### Obon

\$ 100.00	Nagata Family
\$ 100.00	Travis Honda Family
\$ 50.00	Tayoko & Craig Honda
\$ 50.00	Gary & Arlene Keithley
\$ 50.00	Sally Yemoto
\$ 30.00	Shig & Aiko Kamine
\$ 30.00	Jan Yoshimoto
\$ 30.00	Joe & Irene Hara
\$ 30.00	Joe & Irene Hara
\$ 25.00	Norman & Nadine Takeuchi
\$ 25.00	Kikuta Family
\$ 25.00	Maryann Miyasaki
\$ 20.00	Eiko Ii
\$ 20.00	Yoshiye Ii
\$ 20.00	Geno & Gale Nakai

### Obon/Shotsuki

\$ 100.00	Ann Yoshimura
\$ 100.00	Don & Marsha Yoshimura
\$ 100.00	Kikuta Family
\$ 100.00	Robert & Rose Mayebo
\$ 50.00	Steve Teraoka
\$ 50.00	June Shimoda
\$ 30.00	Geno & Gale Nakai
\$ 30.00	Greg & Gay Mukai
\$ 30.00	Mitsuye Shinkawa
\$ 25.00	Mary Mukai
\$ 20.00	Chris Mukai Family

### Special Donation

\$ 100.00	Earl Honda
\$ 100.00	Terry Mukai Dharma School

## Hatsubon

\$ 300.00	Gary & Karen Mukai Stan Mukai Greg & Gay Mukai Terry & Barbara Mukai
\$ 200.00	Kimihiro Sera Family
\$ 100.00	Yumi, Rob, Amelia & Bobby Clevenger
\$ 100.00	Emily, Andy & Oskar Rose
\$ 100.00	Thomas & Jenny Teraoka
\$ 100.00	Steven Teraoka
\$ 100.00	R/M Kodo Umezu
\$ 100.00	Doren & Kathy Lee
\$ 100.00	Eric Kurimura
\$ 100.00	Ann & Michael Kondo
\$ 100.00	Howard & Satomi Hiyama
\$ 75.00	Mary Mukai
\$ 50.00	Geno & Gale Nakai

### Hatsubon/Shotsuki

\$ 20.00	Takashi & Yoko Miyoshi
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### In Memory of Tad Tadashi Nakamura

\$ 100.00	Anonymous
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### Fowler Obon Bento Sales

\$ 600.00
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### Lanterns For Loved Ones

\$ 100.00	Dan & Karen Nitta
\$ 60.00	Teraoka Family
\$ 60.00	June Shimoda
\$ 60.00	Gary & Karen Mukai
\$ 40.00	Sera Family
\$ 20.00	Blake Honda

## **Obon Thank you's**

We wish to thank everyone who helped at the Fowler Obon. Once again we had a festive event. Thank you to the Fowler BWA, Fowler Golf Club, Fowler Dharma School and the Honda family for preparing and selling such delicious food.

We also wish to extend a special thank you to Lindsay Guerra and Lesley Guerra-Arzola for always having Obon dance practices in Fowler.

In the future, we hope you will consider purchasing a "Lantern for Loved Ones" during Fowler's 2025 Obon on July 19, 2025.

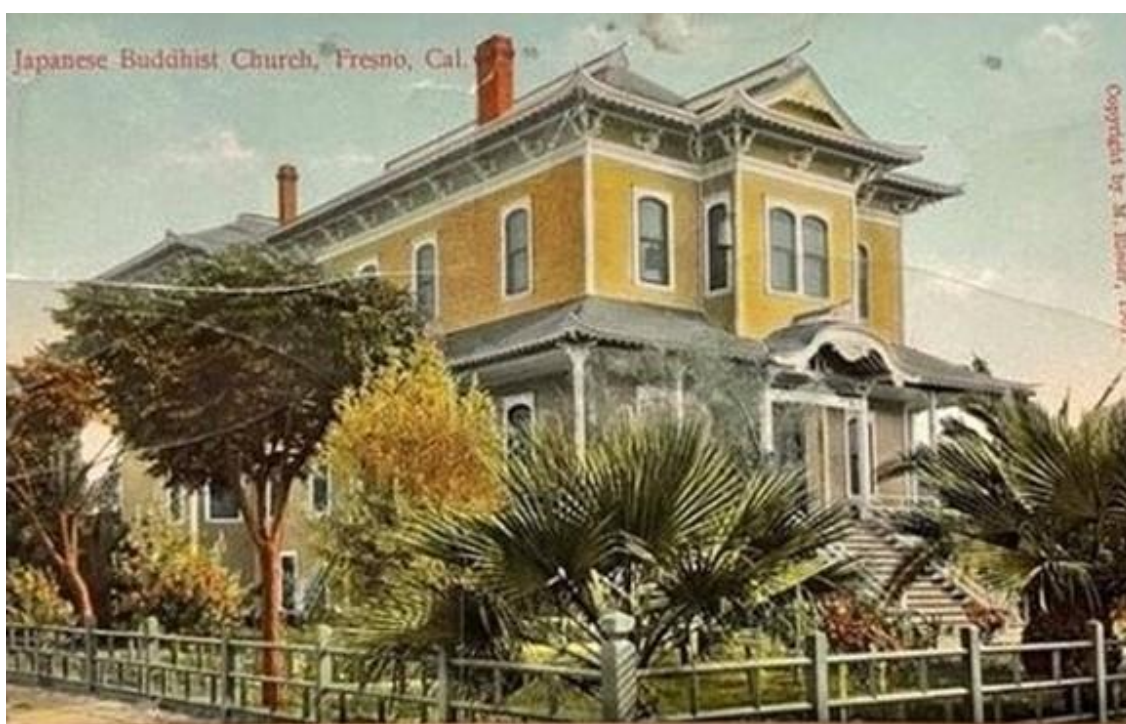
## **New Members**

Please join me in welcoming the following new members to the Fowler Buddhist Church:

Doren & Kathy Lee  
Eric Kurimura  
Lesley Guerra-Arzola  
Lindsay Guerra  
Michael Kondo







*The Nikkei Center*  
*At Vintage Gardens Presents:*  
A lecture and slideshow on the  
historic Fresno Buddhist Temple  
by Gordy Misaki

Date: 8-2-24

Time: 3:30-4:00

Location: Vintage Gardens Assisted Living

540 S. Peach Ave. Fresno, CA 93727 ~ 559-252-4036, Ext. 251

# **iPhone H.E.L.P. Classes**

## **Nikkei Center, Vintage Gardens**

Our next round of iPhone classes are starting this fall!

**Dates:** September 1, 8, 15, 22, 29  
and October 6

***We Are Offering 2 Classes***

**Beginners (2-3:30 PM) :** Calling, Texting, Facetime, Downloading Apps, Navigating The Internet, Social Media, Managing Medical/ Prescriptions and more!

**The Next Step (3:30-5 PM):** Stickers, Effects And Avatars for Texts, Utilizing Files, Creating Widgets, Adjust, Filter and Crop Photographs and more!

*Please Contact Maura to sign up or for more Information:  
559-252-4036, Ext. 251 or [mauram@vintagegardens.org](mailto:mauram@vintagegardens.org)*