



THE WHITE PATH

MONTHLY BULLETIN VOL. 5384

September 2024

Future Schedule:

- **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.**

The Brave Sukara and the Enchanted Forest of Fruits

Once upon a time, in a vast and ancient forest, there lived a wise and strong wild boar named Sukara. Sukara was known as the most dependable creature in the forest, with the courage to face any danger that came his way. His friends, including a little rabbit, a squirrel, and a deer, always enjoyed playing with him.

One year, however, a terrible crisis struck the forest. The weather turned harsh, and no rain fell. The trees withered, the grass dried up, and it became nearly impossible for the animals to find food. Sukara's friend, the rabbit, tearfully said, "If this continues, we'll all starve..."

Seeing his friends' suffering, Sukara made a firm decision. "I will save everyone! I know of a secret place deep within the forest where magical fruits grow. We must find it!" With his heart full of determination, Sukara decided to embark on a dangerous journey to save his friends.

That night, Sukara gathered his friends and spoke softly but confidently, "Everyone, follow me. It's a long way, but if we reach the place I know, we'll surely find enough food for all of us." Though the animals felt a bit anxious, they trusted Sukara's determination and decided to follow him.

At dawn, Sukara and his friends began their trek through treacherous mountain paths. The forest grew darker, and the trees swayed ominously. Suddenly, a wolf's howl echoed through the air, and the squirrel, trembling with fear, asked, "Sukara, are you sure we'll be okay?"

"Don't worry. I'll protect you all," Sukara replied firmly. With Sukara leading the way, they continued deeper into the dark forest.

At last, they arrived at a river deep in the forest. There, they found the most beautiful fruit trees they had ever seen, their branches heavy with golden, glowing fruits. The fruits shimmered with a sweet fragrance that filled the air. "This is it! These are the magical fruits that will save us all!" Sukara exclaimed in delight.

The animals hurried to eat the fruits, and as soon as they did, something miraculous happened. With each bite, the animals regained their strength, and the entire forest began to come back to life. Grass sprouted, trees blossomed once more, and the river flowed with clear, sparkling water.

Thanks to Sukara's courage and determination, the forest was saved, and the animals could once again live in peace and abundance.

"Thank you, Sukara!" they all cried out. "You saved our forest!"

Sukara smiled and replied, "When we help each other, we can overcome any challenge." From that day on, Sukara was known as "The Guardian of the Forest," and he was respected and loved by all.

In our lives, we may not face wolves or magical fruits, but we do face challenges that can feel just as big. Like Sukara, we can choose to help others, and to work together to overcome whatever comes our way. When we care for one another, we are stronger, and the world becomes a better place for everyone.

Namo Amida Butsu

Rev. Mieko Majima



Embracing Ohigan in Modern Times

As we approach the Ohigan season, we are reminded of the timeless harmony that exists in the universe—a harmony that transcends human understanding. In today's world, filled with uncertainty, rapid change, and often discord among people, the principles of Ohigan offer us a moment to reflect on the deeper connections that unite all life.

Even amidst the disharmony and conflicts that arise between individuals and communities, the universe continues to maintain its balance. This profound harmony, which is beyond our comprehension, enfolds not only the beauty and order we see in nature but also the discord that occurs among us. It is a reminder that all of existence, in its many forms, is interconnected in ways that are far greater than we can fully grasp.

Every living being on this planet, regardless of form, is a beneficiary of the mysterious and wondrous gift of life. This shared existence binds us together, urging us to recognize that even in times of discord, we are all part of a greater whole. As we observe Ohigan, let us take this time to cultivate gratitude for the life we have been given and to seek harmony not only within ourselves but also with others, acknowledging the universal balance that sustains us all.

Amida Butsu, originally known as Amitabha or Amitayus, signifies "the working of immeasurable life and unhindered light." The word "Namo" means to take refuge, and Shakyamuni Buddha taught us to recite it. People in ancient times regarded this phrase as a sacred sound. As for me, I believe I will recite these words at the feet of Shakyamuni Buddha until my dying day.

The wisdom of Shakyamuni, who taught us these profound truths, is beyond our understanding, and we have nothing but deep gratitude for the many generations of people who have passed down Shakyamuni's teachings to us.

As we reflect on our own actions and thoughts during this Ohigan season, let us strive to maintain harmony by looking within ourselves. By recognizing our own shortcomings and cultivating inner peace, we contribute to the greater balance that holds us all together.

Namo Amida Butsu

Rev. Mieko Majima

お彼岸

お彼岸の季節を迎えるにあたり、皆様にご挨拶を申し上げます。

お彼岸は、私たちが普段の生活の中で忘れがちな心の在り方を見つめ直す、大切な時期です。先入たちは、この時期を「此岸」と「彼岸」を結びつける機会として大切にしてきました。「此岸」は、私たちが日々の煩悩や苦しみの中で生きる世界であり、「彼岸」はその向こうにある安らぎの世界、お浄土です。

私たちはよく「幸運」という言葉を使いますが、お釈迦様は、それは実際には過去の業によるものであると説かれています。幸運とは、環境が整ったときに自分がたまたまそこに居合わせることから感じるものです。私たちは年に二回お彼岸をお祝いします。そして、そのお彼岸の時期に、自分が彼岸に至る道のりについて心を傾けることはとても大事な事なのです。特に、世の中の混乱や将来への不安を前にして、心を落ち着け、調和の取れた生き方を目指すことが求められます。

その中でも、「南無阿弥陀仏」という念佛の生活は、私たちの心に深い安らぎと感謝をもたらします。念佛は、単なる言葉の繰り返しではなく、阿弥陀仏の無限の慈悲と光に包まれる瞬間です。日々の生活の中で念佛を唱えることで、私たちは仏の教えに心を開き、真の意味で「彼岸」に向かって歩むことができます。

仏様の教えに従い、私たちは阿弥陀様のお慈悲に包まれて感謝の心を育み、日常生活での実践を心掛けてまいりましょう。念佛のある生活は、その実践の一環として、私たちに生きる力を与え、心の豊かさを育ててくれます。これが、真に「彼岸」に到達するための道であると信じています。

どうぞ皆様、健康に留意され、お彼岸の期間中、心静かにお過ごしください。

合掌

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

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

Board of Governors-September District 1-2

Rijis

Ken Hashimoto
Rick Miyasaki

Toban

Marlene Miyasaki
Ken Hashimoto

The Shoutsuki names for the month of September are:

Shotaro Arasuna
Miyako Ezaki
Chisa Kikuta
Hideo Kikuta
Kaichi Matsuoka
Masao Nakamura
Teruko Nakamura
Iwazo Shimamoto
Hatsujiro Sugimoto
Fumi Takasaki

Misao Takemoto
Sawataro Teraoka
Toshi Uchiyama
Inema Wada
Sampachi Yokomi
Naohiko Yoshimura
Sumiye Shimoda
Alice Honda
Alta Matsuko Kikuta
Suno Onaka
Faye Fumiko Namba
Nakayo Nakamoto
Jane Tsuruko Hashimoto
Masao Fujikawa
Masako Higuchi
Takashi Ideta
Masako Tema Yosako
Masao Ishimoto
Sue Sumie Kageura
Ann Ayano Ideta
Betty Harumi Tokubo
Rev Shodo Toyoji Jim Yanagihara
Edward Toshio Hirasuna



August 2024 Donations

Shotsuki

\$ 100.00 Janie Yuen
\$ 100.00 Ken Ishimoto
\$ 50.00 Sally Yemoto
\$ 50.00 R/M Kodo Umezu
\$ 50.00 Steven & Marsha Teraoka
\$ 50.00 Tayoko & Craig Honda
\$ 50.00 Jane Nagata
\$ 50.00 Brian Nagata
\$ 50.00 Lynn & Mitch Nakashima
\$ 50.00 Lynn & Mitch Nakashima
\$ 50.00 Mrs. Mary Mukai & Family
\$ 50.00 Mrs. Mary Mukai & Family
\$ 30.00 M/M Geno & Gale Nakai
\$ 30.00 M/M Geno & Gale Nakai
\$ 30.00 Terry Mukai
\$ 30.00 Terry Mukai
\$ 30.00 Gary & Karen Mukai
\$ 30.00 Greg & Gay Mukai
\$ 30.00 Greg & Gay Mukai
\$ 30.00 Doren & Kathy Lee
\$ 30.00 Howard & Satomi Hiyama
\$ 30.00 Art & Alice Fujikawa
\$ 25.00 M/M Geno & Gale Nakai & Family
\$ 25.00 Nakamura Family
\$ 25.00 Hitomi Sera
\$ 25.00 Earl Honda
\$ 20.00 Sharon Asakawa
\$ 20.00 M/M George Hashimoto
\$ 20.00 Takaaki & Yoko Miyoshi

Hatsubon

\$ 100.00 Nakamura Family

Obon

\$ 30.00 Rick & Marlene Miyasaki

Dharma School

\$ 30.00 M/M Gary Keithley

In Memory of Joyce Kubose

\$ 400.00 Kubose Family

\$ 50.00 Lisle Funeral Home



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*

Sangha Outings



BEGINNER FRIENDLY CANOE TRIP
Saturday, Sept 7. 8am-Noon
Palm & Nees Ave in Fresno

Closed toe shoes required.
Suitable for ages 5 and up.

RSVP to Brandon at 614-1167 by
Sept 1. Text message ok.

AMERICAN BON ODORI: *Dancing in Joy and Remembrance*

A COMMEMORATIVE CULTURAL ARTS SERIES PRESENTED BY AMERICAN BON CONSORTIUM

ALL EVENTS FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

EXHIBIT July 1 – Sept. 30, 2024

NJAHS Japantown Peace Gallery

1684 Post Street, San Francisco

Noon – 5 pm • Monday to Friday;
Sun. 9/1 and Mon. 9/2 (Labor Day)

A multimedia exhibit on the history of Bon dancing in the continental United States from the 1930s to the present as the Buddhist Churches of America marks its 125th anniversary. Curated by Dr. Wynn Kiyama and Jane Suiel Naito.



SF Civic Center, 1974, BCA 75th Anniversary Book

SATURDAY WORKSHOPS

July 6, Aug. 3 & Sept. 7

1 – 2 pm at NJAHS Peace Gallery

Bon crafts for all ages, and on 9/7: "The Magic of Obon Dancing" with Nobuko Miyamoto.



For information on the exhibit and workshops, scan the QR code, call (415) 921-5007 or visit www.njahs.org/events

Presented in partnership with **National Japanese American Historical Society (NJAHS)**

AMERICAN BON DANCING

Sunday, September 8, 2024 • 1pm – 3 pm

Yerba Buena Gardens - Great Lawn

Mission Street between 3rd & 4th Streets, San Francisco



Photography: Mark Shigenaga

Join us to "just dance" as we remember those who have passed on, and enjoy the present moment together.

Learn new dances created in celebration of the 125th anniversary of the Buddhist Churches of America by

Nobuko Miyamoto and Bonbu Stories

Enjoy new and traditional works by **PJ Hirabayashi/TaikoPeace, San Jose Taiko and Ensohza Folk Music Ensemble**

Bon Dance Coordinator:
Reiko Iwanaga (Hanayagi Reimichi)

Presented in partnership with
Yerba Buena Gardens Festival

For dance details, scan the QR code,
call (415) 543-1718 or visit:

ybgfestival.org/event/american-bon-dancing-2024



Presented by the American Bon Consortium in partnership with Yerba Buena Gardens Festival, National Japanese American Historical Society, Buddhist Churches of America Music and Archive Committees, and Contemporary Asian Theater Scenes. Funding made possible by The Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Charitable Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) and San Francisco Japantown Foundation.



The Henri and Tomoye Takahashi Charitable Foundation



TECHNO HOYO

AN ILLUMINATED
MINDFUL
EXPERIENCE
*
US TOUR 2024



REV. GYOSSEN ASAKURA

FEATURING MADOKA KOHNO FROM cyberNamunamu

A FUSION OF BUDDHIST TEACHINGS & ELECTRONIC BEATS * * *

NEW YORK CITY, NY SEPT 8 / 9 / 10 / 11

LOS ANGELES, CA SEPT 14 / 15

SAN JOSE, CA SEPT 17 / 18

MORE INFO BUDDHISTCHURCHESOFAMERICA.ORG/TECHNOHOYO

→ [@TECHNOHOYO](https://www.instagram.com/@TECHNOHOYO) [f TECHNO HOYO US TOUR 2024](https://www.facebook.com/TECHNOHOYO)



USCDornsife
USC Shinso Ito Center for
Japanese Religions and Culture



MIDWEST BUDDHIST TEMPLE
THE REV. GYODO KONO FUND



PATHS IN JODO SHINSHU

Women have long played an important supportive and largely "behind the scenes" role in the expansion of the Dharma and at BCA. Today we have many opportunities to grow in leadership, engage in our Sanghas, and share the Dharma.

SEPT. 28, 2024, SAT

9:30AM-5:00PM

optional activity Friday & Saturday evenings

Keynote Speakers



REV. CANDICE SHIBATA & REV. MELISSA OPEL



Come be inspired to forge your own path!

Jodo Shinshu Center

2140 Durant Ave. Berkeley 94704 - and parts online -

Register by Sept. 15, 2024 @ <https://forms.gle/8m7BysFcYpZRZfwM9>

\$50 Registration & Meals, Register for online Free*

Some rooms available to stay overnight @ the JSC

*Supported by the Hemera Foundation and the Buddhist Churches of America's commitment to Women in Buddhism

TechnoBuddha Conference

RE:CONNECTION



Jodo Shinshu Center Oct 12, 2024
Berkeley, CA

The Technobuddha conference is back!

This year will be all about reconnecting with one another as well as inspiring the next generation of TechnoBuddha leaders.

For ages 21+

Register now!



<https://www.facebook.com/technobuddha.conference/>