



THE WHITE PATH

MONTHLY BULLETIN VOL. 5385

OCTOBER 2024

October Service:

- 10/27/2024 – Eshinni/Kakushinni Memorial/ October Shotsuki Service/Dharma School – 10 a.m. – Rev. Mieko Majima

Future Services and Events:

- 11/03/2024 – Eitaikyo/ November Shotsuki Service/ Dharma School 10 a.m. - Rev. Kodo Umezu
- 11/23/2024 – Tsukemono Festival
- 12/21/2024 – Mochitsuki
- 12/22/2024 – Bodhi Day/ December Shotsuki Service/ Dharma School 10 a.m. – Rev. Mieko Majima

FYI

Due to the lateness of our September service, the September and October donations will be listed in the November White Path.

Ānanda's Compassion and Wisdom: Paving the Way to Equality

This month, I would like to share a story about one of Shakyamuni Buddha's most trusted disciples, Ānanda. Ānanda is known as the disciple who heard the most teachings of the Buddha, earning him the title "Foremost in Hearing the Teachings." He was always by the Buddha's side, listening to his teachings and faithfully passing them on to future generations. But Ānanda was not only a vessel of knowledge. He was also known for his deep compassion and warm-hearted nature, showing kindness and understanding to everyone he encountered.

Ānanda's life truly embodies the spirit of Buddhism, where wisdom and compassion come together. Today, I would like to share one of the most touching episodes of his life, hoping it will allow us to feel the depth of Ānanda's wisdom and the compassion that guided his every action.

One of the most significant stories involving Ānanda highlights his role in allowing women to join the monastic community. This episode reveals his deep compassion, wisdom, and sense of justice, which shaped the course of Buddhist history.

During the Buddha's time, the monastic order consisted only of male monks. However, Mahāpajāpatī, the Buddha's aunt and foster mother, along with a group of women, expressed a strong desire to become fully ordained disciples. Mahāpajāpatī had cared for the Buddha since childhood, and now, inspired by his teachings, she sought to follow the path of liberation. She respectfully approached the Buddha several times, asking to be ordained as a female monk, but each time, the Buddha gently refused her request.

Despite the refusals, Mahāpajāpatī was determined and persisted. She shaved her head, donned simple robes, and, along with 500 other women from the Shakya clan, walked barefoot for numerous miles to where the Buddha was residing. When she arrived, exhausted yet undeterred, she again made her plea.

Ānanda, witnessing the dedication and determination of Mahāpajāpatī and the other women, felt moved by their sincerity. Understanding the importance of fairness and compassion, Ānanda approached the Buddha to speak on their behalf. With deep respect, Ānanda asked, "The exalted one, is it possible for women, just as men, to attain enlightenment if they follow the path of the Dhamma?"

The Buddha responded affirmatively, acknowledging that women, like men, are capable of realizing enlightenment and achieving liberation from suffering. Encouraged by this, Ānanda continued, “If this is true, should we not allow women who are devoted to the teachings, such as your aunt Mahāpajāpatī, to be ordained and join the monastic order?”

After reflecting on Ānanda’s words and the dedication of Mahāpajāpatī and the other women, the Buddha agreed. However, he established particular guidelines for the new community of female monks to maintain harmony within the monastic order. This marked the founding of the Bhikkhunī Sangha, the community of fully ordained female monastics, a groundbreaking development in the history of Buddhism.

This event is not only significant for its role in establishing the Bhikkhunī order, but also because it demonstrates Ānanda’s deep compassion and wisdom. By advocating for the inclusion of women in the monastic community, Ānanda helped create a more inclusive and equal Buddhist Sangha, where both men and women could dedicate their lives to the path of enlightenment.

Ānanda’s role in this story shows his understanding that genuine compassion extends to all beings, regardless of gender, and that wisdom must be accompanied by fairness. His efforts paved the way for generations of women to practice Buddhism fully, leaving an enduring legacy of equality and kindness in the Buddhist tradition.

With deep gratitude,
Rev. Mieko Majima
Namo Amida Butsu

ご縁をいただく毎日

私たちは日々の生活の中でよく「ご縁をいただく」という表現を使いますが、「ご縁」とは一体どのようなもののでしょうか。「ご縁」とは、お釈迦様が説かれた「縁起」の教えに基づくもので、とても大切な仏教の教えです。そのため、私たち仏教徒は「ご縁」を大切にしながら日々を過ごしています。

では、なぜ「ご縁」は私たちにとって重要なのでしょうか。それは、「ご縁」がさまざまな人々や環境との出会いを通じて、私たちが成長し、人生を豊かにするきっかけを与えてくれるからです。この世の中は、私たちの人生を大きく左右する驚くような出来事から、普段は気づかない小さな出来事まで、常に大小さまざまな「ご縁」に満ちています。そして私たちは、日々その「ご縁」によって変化し、支えられているのです。

つまり、私たちの身の回りにあるすべてが、今の私たちを支え、成り立たせてくれているということです。このことを、私たちのご先祖は「お陰様」と言って感謝の気持ちを表現してきました。「ご縁」は常に移り変わるもので、私たちの思い通りにならないこともあります。自分で選べる「ご縁」もあれば、選べない「ご縁」もあるのです。たとえば、私たちは親を選ぶことができず、親もまた子供を選ぶことはできません。しかし、家族は私たちにとってかけがえのない存在です。

自分の意見を押し通すのではなく、感謝の気持ちを持って毎日を過ごすことが、新たなかけがえのない「ご縁」を生み出していくのです。お釈迦様は、すべての存在が互いに関わり合い、支え合っていることを説かれました。その教えを受け、私たちが感謝と共に生きること、この世の中の調和とつながりを深めていくことこそ、仏の教えにかなった生き方であり、私たち

にとって真に素晴らしい道だといえるでしょう。

The Peacock King and the Hunter

Once upon a time, in a lush, green forest, there lived a magnificent Peacock King. His feathers were more beautiful than any other bird's, with colors that sparkled in the sunlight like a rainbow. But more than his beauty, the Peacock King was known for his kindness. He lived peacefully with all the animals in the forest, always helping others and never causing harm.

Far away, in a grand palace, there was a human king. One day, he heard stories about the Peacock King's incredible feathers, and he decided he must have them for himself. So, he called for a hunter and gave him a challenging task. "Go to the forest and bring me the Peacock King," the human king said. "If you succeed, I will reward you with gold and treasures. But if you fail, there will be consequences."

The hunter, worried but determined, went into the deep forest. He knew it wouldn't be easy to catch the wise Peacock King, so he set a clever trap. He placed delicious fruit on the ground, hoping to lure the peacock in. After some time, the Peacock King, curious about the sweet smell of the fruit, wandered toward the trap. Not knowing it was dangerous, he stepped onto the trap, and suddenly a net closed around him! The Peacock King was caught.

The hunter quickly came to see his prize. But when the Peacock King looked up at him, his eyes were calm and full of wisdom. He did not fight or cry for help. Instead, he spoke softly to the hunter. "I live in this forest peacefully with all the other animals. I have never hurt anyone. If you take me away, my friends will be very sad. Please, let me go," said the Peacock King.

The hunter felt a pang of guilt in his heart. But he was afraid. "The king's orders are very important to me," the hunter said, "How can I disobey the king and let you go?"

The Peacock King smiled gently and replied, "Even if you must break the king's orders, saving a life is always the right thing to do. If you choose what is right, it will bring you true happiness and guide you throughout your life. Gold and riches cannot bring you the joy that kindness will."

The hunter stood there, thinking about the Peacock King's wise words. His heart began to soften, and he knew what he had to do. "You are right," the hunter said. "I will follow my heart and do what is right." With that, the hunter carefully removed the net and set the Peacock King free.

The Peacock King stretched his beautiful wings and said, “Thank you for your kindness. Remember, the good you do today will always be with you. It will be a light that guides you through life.”

The hunter watched as the Peacock King flew gracefully into the trees, disappearing into the forest. The hunter returned to the human king and told him the truth about what had happened.

To his surprise, the human king was not angry. Instead, he praised the hunter for being honest and following his heart. “You have shown true wisdom,” the king said, “and that is more valuable than any treasure.”

And so, the hunter lived peacefully, knowing that he had done the right thing, and the Peacock King continued to live happily in the forest, his kindness remembered by all the animals.

In Gassho,
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

Board of Governors – October

District III

Rijis

Craig Honda
Sharon Asakawa

Toban

Sharon Asakawa
Tayoko Honda

The Shotsuki names for the month of October are:

Chiyoto Matsumoto
Shinayo Miyasaki
Ben Shimizu
Teruo Arasuna
Hachiroemon Nishina
Kaoru Kamikawa
Hiroso Yamamoto
Seki Masuoka
Ume Takimoto
Shinayo Tokubo
Kinjiro Kato

Sasayo Nakagawa
Shigeru Morita
Kumi Fujikawa
Geraldine Kawano
Peaches Sugimoto
Ayako Honda
Fred Kato
Nobuo Roy Yosako
Yoshiye Nakata
Deborah Asakawa Lee
Yoshio Floyd Honda
Johnson Shimizu
Deviroi Namito Gibson
Shizue Hirasuna
George Taniguchi
Shizuko Emma Kawano
Toshio Kawamoto
George Shoichi Miyasaki
Ayako Kondo
Toshiye Miyasaki
Nofuku Yokomi
Ross Seiji Sakaguchi
Russell Matsumoto
Henry Fujikawa
Shizue Sakoda

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.



FRESNO BUDDHIST TEMPLE

**"COME FOR LUNCH,
TAKE HOME FOR DINNER!"**

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2024

11:00AM TIL 2:00PM

2690 E. ALLUVIAL AVE., FRESNO

PRE-ORDERED BOX LUNCH

BONELESS TERIYAKI CHICKEN
CHOW MEIN
VEGETABLES
NAMASU
WHITE RICE
FRUIT

\$20.00

ORDER BY OCTOBER 14

A LA CARTE MENU

SUSHI
SPAM MUSUBI
CURRY RICE
BBQ RIBS
TRI-TIP SLIDERS
CHICKEN SALAD
KARAAGE CHICKEN
CROQUETTES
DESSERTS
BEVERAGES

RAFFLE

HOURLY DRAWING

ENTER TO WIN

1ST PRIZE — \$1,000

2ND PRIZE — \$500

3RD PRIZE — \$250

... PLUS OTHER PRIZES

\$2.00 PER TICKET



THE FRESNO BUDDHIST TEMPLE
559.442.4054



info@fresnobuddhisttemple.org

www.fresnobuddhisttemple.org

ORDER DEADLINE: OCTOBER 14th

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

TAKE OUT BOX _____ @ \$20.00 = \$ _____

RAFFLE TICKETS _____ @ \$2.00 = \$ _____

ADDITIONAL DONATION _____ = \$ _____

TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED \$ _____

THANK YOU!

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: "FRESNO BUDDHIST CHURCH"

RETURN ORDER FORM, CHECK AND ANY UNSOLD FOOD AND RAFFLE
TICKETS BY OCTOBER 14TH.

QUESTIONS?

EMAIL info@fresnobuddhisttemple.org or CALL (559) 442-4054

FOR OFFICE USE

SENT:

ADD'L:

RETURNED:



Reedley Buddhist Church

70th Food Bazaar

Boneless Chicken Teriyaki, Chow Mein, Teriyaki Beefstick, Namasu, Rice, & Almond Cookie



Sunday, November 3, 2024

Dine-In or Pick Up - 3:00 - 6:00 PM

\$20 each boxed dinner - Pre-sale ONLY

* A limited number of dinners available

Deadline: Saturday, October 19, 2024

Send to: Reedley Buddhist Church - P.O. Box 24 - Reedley, CA 93654

Also for Sale:
Inari &
Spam Sushi

Country Store
Home-made items

Desserts - So many
delicious goodies!

Cut and return the bottom portion

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

Email or cell phone text (for receipt confirmation): _____

Boxed Dinners: _____ x \$20.00 Total Enclosed _____

Deadline: Saturday, October 19, 2024

Make checks payable to: REEDLEY BUDDHIST CHURCH

Questions: Call Vickie Nishida at (559)903-0317 or email: vnishida1@gmail.com
or Karen Sakata at (559)284-9885 or email: kgsakata@verizon.net

For more information or to download a form go to: **www.reedleybc.org**





Save the Date

to celebrate the 75th anniversary of

THE INSTITUTE OF BUDDHIST STUDIES

Saturday, November 16th 2024
2-5:30pm

In person at the JSC
Join us for a multi-Buddhist
ritual, student panels,
reception and more.
Reservation details to follow