



THE WHITE PATH

MONTHLY BULLETIN VOL. 5388

January 2025

January Services:

- 01/01/2025 – New Year's Day Service – 9 a.m. – Rev. Mieko Majima
- 01/19/2025 – Hoonko/January Shotsuki Service & Dharma School
– 2 p.m. – Rev. Mieko Majima

February Services:

- 02/02/2025 – Hoonko/February Shotsuki Service & Dharma School – 10 a.m. - Rev. Brian Nagata



New Year's Reflection:

As we welcome the New Year, the image of a single candle glowing in the darkness comes to mind. Its gentle flame seems small and fragile, yet it holds a profound truth: even the smallest light can guide us when we are surrounded by uncertainty.

There is a story of a wise elder who once lit a candle during a gathering on a cold winter's night. The room was filled with people, each holding an unlit candle in their hands. The elder passed their flame to the nearest person, who then lit the next candle, and so on. In a matter of moments, the entire room was aglow, the warmth and light shared among everyone present.

Afterward, the elder said, "This light is like the compassion of Amida. It is infinite and never diminishes, no matter how many others it touches. When we receive this light, we are not meant to keep it for ourselves. By sharing it, we not only brighten our own lives but also the lives of others."

This simple act of passing the flame resonates deeply with the teachings of Shinran. Amida's compassion is not bound by limits or conditions. It reaches each of us, regardless of our struggles or imperfections, offering a guiding light in the midst of life's uncertainties. At the same time, it calls us to reflect on how we, too, can carry this light forward.

As we reflect on the past year, many of us may recall moments of doubt or difficulty—times when the path ahead seemed unclear. Yet, even in those moments, there were sources of light: the kindness of a friend, the encouragement of a loved one, or the quiet strength found in the Dharma. These lights, though sometimes subtle, remind us that we are never truly alone.

The New Year offers an opportunity to not only express gratitude for the light we have received but also to consider how we can become a source of light for others. Compassion does not always require grand gestures. A listening ear, a word of encouragement, or a simple act of generosity can illuminate someone else's path in ways we may never fully realize.

In this way, the candlelight becomes more than a symbol. It becomes a practice—a reminder of our interconnectedness and the profound impact we have on one another. Just as the elder's single flame transformed a dark room into a place of warmth and connection, our shared acts of kindness can create ripples of light that extend far beyond what we can see.

As we begin this New Year, may we carry the light of Amida's compassion in our hearts, embracing the moments of connection and gratitude that make life truly meaningful. May this year bring peace, clarity, and the quiet joy of knowing we are part of something greater than ourselves.

With deepest gratitude and warmest wishes,

Mieko Majima

皆みなさま、新年明しんねんあけましておめでとうございます。2025年ねんという新あたらしい年としを、皆みなさまとともに迎むかえられることを心こころより嬉うれしく思おもいます。

阿弥陀如来あみだによらいの本願ほんがんの光ひかりに照てらされる私わたしたちの人生じんせいは、つねに新あらたな気きづきと歩あゆみを与あたえられています。今年ことしもそのお働はたらきを深ふかく感かんじながら、共に歩んでまいりましょう。

浄土真宗じょうどしんしゅうでは、私わたしたちが阿弥陀如来あみだによらいの大おおいなる慈悲じひによって導みちびかれ、すべての瞬間しゅんかんがそのお力ちからの中なかにあることを学まなびます。新あたらしい年としを迎むかえる中なかで、日々ひびの生活せいかつの中なかに阿弥陀如来あみだによらいのお心こころをいただき、他者たしゃとつながり、支ささえ合あうことの大切たいせつさを思おもい起こしていきたいと思おもいます。

お寺てらは今年ことしも、皆みなさまの心こころの拠より所どころとして、共に学まなび、念仏ねんぶつを喜よろこび、分わかち合あう場ばであり続けるよう努力してまいります。どうぞお気軽にお立ち寄りいただき、阿弥陀如来あみだによらいのお心こころを共に味あじわいましょう。

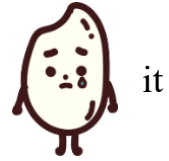
結むすびに、この一年ひとねんが皆みなさまにとって、阿弥陀如来あみだによらいのお慈悲じひを深ふかく味あじわう一年ひととせとなりますよう心こころよりお念ねんじ申もうし上あげます。

本年ほんねんもどうぞよろしく願ねがい申もうし上あげます。

合掌がっしょう 眞島ましま 美

A Tiny Grain of Rice

Once upon a time, there was a tiny grain of rice. It was so small that it thought,



"I'm just a tiny grain. I don't matter to anyone."



But one day, the farmer picked up the grain and said,
"Every grain of rice is precious. You are part of something big!"

The grain felt curious. "Something big? How?"



The farmers smiled. "The sun warmed you. The rain watered you. The earth held you. And I worked hard to grow you. Together, we made you strong."

The tiny grain thought, "Wow! So many helped me become am."



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Later, the rice was cooked and placed in a beautiful New Year's meal called *osechi*. Families gathered around the table to enjoy the special food and celebrate the New Year. Before they began, they folded their hands and said,

"Thank you for the rice. Thank you, farmer. Thank you, sun, rain, and earth!"



The grain of rice felt warm inside. "I may be small, but I am part of something big. I bring happiness to everyone."

From that day on, the grain of rice knew that everything is connected, and every little thing matters.

The New Year is a very special time. Just like the tiny grain of rice, each one of you is very important. You are cared for and supported by so many people and things, even when you don't realize it.

Let's begin this new year by saying "Thank you" to everyone and everything around us. Remember, even small actions, like being kind or helping someone, can bring happiness to others—just like the tiny grain of rice.

I wish you a wonderful and joyful New Year!

In Case You Didn't Know . . .

- Keep up to date on what's happening at the Buddhist Church of Fowler by reading the White Path (monthly newsletter) online. Visit: fowlerbc.org

Future Services and Events:

03/02/2025 – Spring Ohigan, Shotsuki, Dharma School – 10 am

03/22/2025 – Fowler Food Bazaar

04/13/2025 – Hanamatsuri, Shotsuki, Dharma School – 10 am

05/04/2025 – Gotan-e, Shotsuki, Dharma School – 10 am

05/26/2025 – Selma Cemetery Service – 8:30 am

- Fowler Cemetery
Service – 10 am

06/01/2025 – Renryo Memorial, Shotsuki, Dharma School – 10 am

07/19/2025 – Obon

07/20/2025 – Obon/Hatsubon, Dharma School – 10 am

08/10/2025 – August Shotsuki Service – 10 am

09/14/2025 – Fall Ohigan, Shotsuki, Dharma School – 10 am

10/12/2025 – Eshinni/Kakushinni, Shotsuki, Dharma School – 10 am

11/23/2025 – Eitaikyo, Hatsubon, Dharma School – 10 am

12/07/2025 – Bodhi Day, Shotsuki, Dharma School – 10 am

12/31/2025 – New Year's Eve Service – 7 pm

Board of Governors – January

(A new District order starts at the beginning of each year.)

District 3

Riji

Hitomi Sera
Craig Sakaguchi

Toban

Aiko Kamine
Irene Hara

Shotsuki Names for the Month of January:

Shitsu Yamamoto
Shika Sera
Sakuhei Nakayama
Yaichi Kikuta
Sadakichi Shimoda
Motoshiro Kurata
Tame Ii
Mitsuyo Sakohira
Shunsuke Uchiyama
Rika Okudo
Shizuye Morishige
Tane Hiyama
Hikoichi Hiyama
Otomatsu Ninomiya
Harue Nishina
Hatsuno Nishina
Becky Honda
Taka Taniguchi
Tamayo Nakamura
Yoshio Tokubo
Hideichi Yamane
Takeo Fujikawa
Otona Hagihara
Toyoso Kuramoto
Toshio Nakagawa
Frank Namito Masui
Hatuye Natori
Dick Iwamoto
Fred Akira Honda
Hideichi Yamane
George Miyake
Vernon Mayebo
Ichio Takeno

Dorothy Morita
Teri Uchiyama
Ayako Shimizu
Mikio Uchiyama
Betty Mayebo
Dorothy Takeno
Kevin Nagata
Shizuko Takeuchi
Katsuko Kaye Takeda
Eiko Matsumura
Mitsue Nakamura
Shizue May Mukai



December 2024 Donations

Year End

\$ 500.00	Howard & Satomi Hiyama
\$ 150.00	Art & Alice Fujikawa
\$ 100.00	Revs. Bob & Patti Oshita
\$ 100.00	Ikebana Class
\$ 100.00	Tayoko & Craig Honda
\$ 25.00	Kikuta Family

Bodhi Day

\$ 30.00	Art & Alice Fujikawa
\$ 30.00	Jan Yoshimoto
\$ 30.00	Janie Yuen
\$ 30.00	Howard & Satomi Hiyama
\$ 30.00	Rick & Marlene Miyasaki
\$ 25.00	Joe & Irene Hara
\$ 20.00	Lee Family
\$ 20.00	Sharon Asakawa
\$ 20.00	Takaaki & Yoko Miyoshi
\$ 10.00	Blake Honda

Shotsuki

\$ 100.00	Doren, Kathy, Nikki & Kyle Lee
\$ 100.00	T Kawamoto Family Ministerial Fund
\$ 100.00	Robert & Rose Mayebo
\$ 50.00	Ron & Maxine Yoshimoto
\$ 50.00	Jan Yoshimoto
\$ 50.00	Gary & Arlene Keithley
\$ 50.00	Susan Driss
\$ 30.00	Greg & Gay Mukai
\$ 30.00	Howard & Satomi Hiyama
\$ 30.00	Shig & Aiko Kamine
\$ 25.00	Linda Matsumoto
\$ 25.00	Gordon & Susan Hayashi
\$ 20.00	Gary & Karen Mukai
\$ 20.00	M/M Gerald Nakayama
\$	

\$ 20.00

Barton Ashida

In Memory of Kenneth Hashimoto

\$ 150.00	Marcus & Anchalee Marootian
\$ 100.00	Steven & Karen Nishimori
\$ 50.00	Alice Jen-Otani
	Norman Otani
\$ 50.00	Lisle Funeral Home
\$ 30.00	Norman & Nadine Takeuchi

In Memory of Ronald Mayebo

\$ 30.00	Howard & Satomi Hiyama
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In Memory of George Teraoka & Kennth Hashimoto

\$ 100.00	Sally Yemoto
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In Memory of George Teraoka One Year Memorial

\$ 50.00	Nancy Tokubo
\$ 50.00	Rick & Marlene Miyasaki
\$ 50.00	Howard & Satomi Hiyama
\$ 40.00	Gary & Karen Mukai
\$ 30.00	Art & Alice Fujikawa
\$ 30.00	Yuko Matoba
\$ 30.00	Tak & Yoko Miyoshi
\$ 25.00	Maryann Miyasaki
\$ 25.00	Donald Miyasaki
\$ 20.00	June Shimoda
\$ 20.00	Barton Ashida

In Memory of Russell Matsumoto

\$ 50.00	Russell Matsumoto
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Special Donations

\$1200.00	YBA/Blake Honda Tsukemoto Festival-Bento Sale Donations
\$ 500.00	Jordan Ishimoto Family Kay Marumoto Joe & Irene Hara Stan & Kathy Ishimoto Larry & Kathy Ishimoto Jack & Betty Mori Use of Church
\$ 100.00	Nancy Fujikawa



FOWLER ORIENTAL FOOD BAZAAR



March 22, 2025

Pre-order and Drive-thru only

\$22.00 each

Limited Number of Bento's, so order soon!

Teriyaki Chicken, Chow Mein, Barazushi, Namasu,
Tangerine, Almonds, Raisins

Drive-thru pick-up between 12noon – 2:30pm

Contact Barton Ashida to pre-order:

b.ashida@sbcglobal.net or (559) 284-2955

Credit cards accepted



Reedley Buddhist Church
17th Annual

Crab Feed

and Silent Auction



Saturday, March 15, 2025

\$100.00 per person

Includes:

**Sushi, Udon, Chinese Chicken Salad, Bread,
Dessert, and ALL YOU CAN EAT STEAMED CRAB**

Doors open at 5:00 PM

REEDLEY BUDDHIST CHURCH

2035 15th Street, Reedley

www.reedleybc.org



For tickets contact:

Joy Donaldson (559-859-7861) or Gary Sakata (559-250-9687)

Central California Nikkei Foundation

Shredding Community Service and Fundraiser



Saturday, April 5, 2025

9am to 12 noon

Securely dispose of personal documents, tax papers,
Books-hardback & paperback.

Limit: 20 Banker Sized Boxes per car

Cost: \$15 per Banker Sized Box

Cash or Check only

Please make check payable to CCNF

Event will be Drive-Thru

Boxes will be emptied from your trunk/tailgate and returned

Held at Vintage Gardens

540 S. Peach Ave., Fresno

Questions contact: Susan Hayashi – 325-1457 or text 906-8540

Seniors who cannot drive to the event, call Susan by **March 24**
and arrange for pick-up.

Beginning iPhone Classes For Seniors At The Nikkei Center

Learn More About:

- Messaging fun and safety
- Installing, using and deleting apps
- Navigating the internet
- Using your phone's camera, albums and sharing
- Medical apps and scheduling medications
- Volunteer instructors from Gakko Gives



Dates: January 5, 12, 19, 26 and February 2, 16

Time: 2:00-3:30 PM

*Please contact Maura Miller for more information 559-252-4036, Ext. 251 or
mauram@vintagegardens.org*