



# 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2月25年ねんという新あたらしい年としを、皆みなさまと共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く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、他者たしやとつながり、支ささえ合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、共ともに学まなび、念佛ねんぶつを喜よろこび、分わかつ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ともに味あじわいましょう。

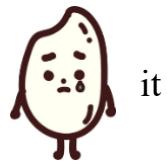
結むすびに、この一年ひとねんが皆みなさまにとって、阿弥陀如来あみだによらいのお慈悲じひを深ふかく味あじわう一年ひととせとなりますよう心こころよりお念ねんじ申もうし上あげます。

本年ほんねんもどうぞよろしくお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



"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 who I am."



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](http://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** – Rennyo 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, Hatusbon, Dharma School – 10 am

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

**12/31/2025 – New Year's Ever 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 Haghara  
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
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### **In Memory of Kenneth Hashimoto**

\$ 150.00	Marcus & Anchalee Marootian
\$ 100.00	Steven & Karen Nishimori
\$ 50.00	Alice Jen-Otani
\$ 50.00	Norman Otani
\$ 30.00	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 & Kenneth 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  
Nancy Fujikawa

\$ 100.00



# 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:mauram@vintagegardens.org)*