



# THE WHITE PATH

MONTHLY BULLETIN VOL. 5389

February 2025

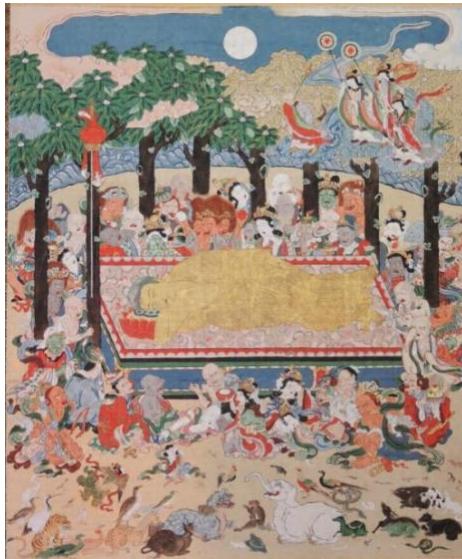
## February Service:

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

## March Service and events:

- 3/02/2025 – Spring Ohigan/ March Shotsuki Service & Dharma School– 10 a.m. – Rev. Mieko Majima
- 3/08/2025 – **Yoga Retreat** – Fowler Buddhist Church – 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.
- 3/22/2025 – **Cancelled – Fowler Food Bazaar**

## The Buddha's Final Teaching: Anuruddha's Insight and the Nirvana Scroll



February is the month of Nirvana Day, a time to commemorate the Buddha's passing into Nirvana. This sacred occasion invites us to reflect on the Buddha's final teachings and their enduring relevance. Depictions of the Buddha's final moments are beautifully portrayed in the Nirvana Scroll, which prominently features Anuruddha, one of the Buddha's closest disciples. His role in these scenes symbolizes mindfulness, insight, and the interconnectedness of all beings.

### Anuruddha in the Nirvana Scroll

The Nirvana Scroll often depicts the Buddha lying serenely on his deathbed, surrounded by his disciples, followers, and even animals, all mourning his imminent passing. Among them, Anuruddha stands out for his calm and composed demeanor. With his deep spiritual insight, Anuruddha perceives the Buddha's peaceful state of mind and helps guide the grieving disciples by reminding them of the Buddha's teachings.

Anuruddha's presence in the Nirvana Scroll serves not only as a testament to his devotion but also as a reminder of his pivotal role in transmitting the Dharma. His insight into the impermanence of life and his understanding of Nirvana as the continuity of the Dharma emphasize the timeless nature of the Buddha's teachings.

### Anuruddha's Exceptional Insight

Anuruddha was renowned for his extraordinary spiritual vision among the Buddha's disciples. As the Buddha approached his final moments, Anuruddha used his exceptional insight to discern the Buddha's serene state of mind. While others were overcome with grief, Anuruddha maintained his composure, providing strength to the sangha by explaining that the Buddha's passing was not an end but a transition, affirming the eternal nature of the Dharma.

### Lessons from the Buddha's Last Words

The Buddha's final words, as recorded in the Mahaparinirvana Sutra, offer profound guidance:

**“All things that arise will eventually pass away. Continue to persevere with unwavering effort..”**

This reminder urges us to accept the impermanence of all things and remain steadfast on the path of awakening. Anuruddha's mindfulness embodies this teaching, showing us how to face life's uncertainties with equanimity and wisdom.

### **Reflecting on Nirvana Day**

Nirvana Day is an opportunity to contemplate the impermanence of life and the interconnectedness of all beings. The figure of Anuruddha in the Nirvana Scroll inspires us to cultivate mindfulness and compassion, recognizing each moment as an opportunity to deepen our understanding and share the Dharma with others.

As we observe this sacred day, may the wisdom of the Buddha and the teachings of disciples like Anuruddha guide us in our daily lives. Let us honor their legacy by striving to embody these principles, embracing impermanence with grace and gratitude.

Namo Amida Butsu

Rev. Mieko Majima

## 涅槃会によせて

2月は涅槃会の月、お釈迦さまが入滅された日を偲ぶ大切な機会です。この日を迎えるにあたり、私たちはお釈迦さまが説かれた数々の教えの中で、阿弥陀さまの本願について改めて心に刻むひとときとしたいと思います。

阿弥陀さまの本願は、お釈迦さまが私たちに伝えてくださった大切な教えの一つです。『無量寿經』をはじめとする浄土三部經において、お釈迦さまは阿弥陀さまの本願がいかに私たちを掬い取るものであるかを明らかにされました。阿弥陀さまの本願は、煩惱に迷い苦しむ私たち一人ひとりを決して見捨てることなく、すべての人をそのままの姿で掬い取るという大いなる慈悲のはたらきです。

お釈迦さまは「諸行無常」を説かれ、すべてのものが移り変わり、変化することの中に真実を見つける道を示されました。しかし同時に、お釈迦さまが説かれた阿弥陀さまの教えは、この無常の中にあっても決して変わらない光として私たちに寄り添い、心にやすらぎを与えてくださいます。

涅槃図に描かれるお釈迦さまの最後のお姿は、多くの弟子や動物たちがその教えを受け止めようとする姿とともに表現されています。それは、お釈迦さまが説かれた阿弥陀さまの教えが、時代や人を越えて、すべての命を包み込むとともに、苦しみの中にある私たちを一人ひとり掬い取るはたらきを持っていることを象徴しているように思えます。

この涅槃会の季節に、お釈迦さまが阿弥陀さまの本願を私たちに説いてくださったことに感謝し、その教えを日々の生活の中で味わい直していただければ幸いです。阿弥陀さまの本願を心にいただきつつ、共に歩んでまいりましょう。

がっしょ  
合掌

## The Buddha and the Little Monk

Long, long ago in India, there was a wonderful teacher named the Buddha. He spent his life teaching people how to live happily and find peace. One day, the Buddha called his disciples together and said, "I will soon leave this world. But before I go, I want to share something very important with you." The disciples were heartbroken to hear this, but they listened carefully as the Buddha continued. "Everything in this world will change someday. Everything that is born will eventually come to an end. But instead of being sad about these changes, focus on doing your best with what you can do right now."



Among the Buddha's disciples was a young novice monk, a little boy who was just beginning his training. When he heard that the Buddha was going to leave, he started to cry. "Buddha," he said, "why do you have to go? There's still so much I want to learn from you!"

The Buddha smiled kindly at the boy and spoke gently. "Even when I am no longer here, my teachings will remain. If you hold these teachings dear and live by them, helping and supporting one another, it will be as if I am always with you."



Hearing these words, the little novice felt his sadness begin to ease. He wiped his tears and made a promise in his heart to never forget the Buddha's words. From that day on, he worked hard to study the teachings and became a wise monk who shared the Buddha's message with many people, helping them find happiness and peace just as the Buddha had taught.

Namo Amida Butsu



## **President's Message for February 2025**

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season. It seems that we have had some unexpected changes at the church recently. At our last general meeting on January 7<sup>th</sup> there was a discussion of proposed monthly assessments for supporting the sharing of Rev. Majima with the other South Valley temples in the CCDC. The amount proposed represented a greater than 70% increase in what we were paying in 2024. The question came up on whether we should consider continuing to pay BCA dues but drop out of the Central Cal District and be an independent temple or a BCA Sangha or investigate into joining another district (which the Bishop will not support). A vote was taken on whether we should stay in the CCDC (if we can negotiate a compromise in the assessment) or leave the CCDC. By a narrow margin, it was voted to stay in the CCDC if I can negotiate a compromise on the assessment. It was predetermined that Barton Ashida would leave his leadership position if we were to continue on with the district. Barton has since formerly submitted a letter of resignation, after many years at the helm of the temple. The Fowler Buddhist Church is truly grateful for the many years of leadership

Barton has given for the betterment of the church.

The CCDC was to meet on January 11<sup>th</sup> for their meeting and installation. In a surprise move, it was voted that the CCDC return to the HUB system that includes all the CC temples including the Fresno Betsuin in sharing the two ministers, therefore prompting the need to recalculate the assessments all over again. On January 19<sup>th</sup>, immediately after the Hoonko Service, a general meeting was held to elect a new slate of officers for 2025. Voted into office were: Gary Mukai, president, Sharon Asakawa and Tayoko Honda, co-vice-presidents, Gay Mukai and Karen Mukai, co-secretaries, Barton Ashida and Ron Yoshimoto, co-treasurers, Gary Keithley, custodian of investment accounts. Craig Honda and I will be representatives to the CCMAC.

A CCMAC meeting was held on January 19<sup>th</sup> and new assessments were discussed but no agreement was reached. It was argued by Fowler that assessments should reflect minister usage, since Fowler has agreed to use the minister less than the other temples. New assessment schedules will be recalculated and will be determined at the next CCMAC meeting in February. In the mean time,

assessment will remain at 2024 levels until the end of March. Since the chairmanship of the CCMAC is a rotation among the participating temples, it was Fowler's turn to chair the committee, and by default, I will be chairman for 2025. I have submitted my own proposal for assessments which takes into account minister usage. A final vote is forthcoming.

Bishop Harada has hinted to start a monthly Buddhist education program for the district that he will sponsor, similar to the one that the bishop conducted several years ago. Fowler agreed to participate in taking their turn hosting a session as the hosting of classes will rotate. Details are yet to be determined, so I will keep you up to date on the start of the program.

As you probably have noticed, there are some structural repairs that are needed on the hondo building due to the church foundation settling on the northeast corner of the building causing multiple leaks and perceptible sloping of the floor. An assessment will soon be done and hopefully building repair work can get started. I will keep you posted on the progress of this project.

This month is our Nivana Day service with one of our favorite

guest speakers, Rev. Brian Nagata, so you won't want to miss it. I hope to see you all this Sunday, Feb 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Gratefully,  
Gary Mukai

### **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

**03/08/2025** – Yoga Retreat – 9 am – 8 pm (see flyer below)

**03/22/2025** – **Cancelled** - 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/Hatubon – 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, Hatubon, 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 - February**

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

#### **District 4**

##### **Riji**

Sharon Asakawa  
Craig Honda

##### **Toban**

Sharon Asakawa  
Tayoko Honda

### **The Shotsuki names for the month of February are:**

Hatsuyo Kanenaga  
Masao Kanenaga  
Masao Nakamura  
Matsutaro Yamane  
Reiko Nakagawa  
John Nakagawa  
Hiroshi Ii  
Toyosuke Ii  
George Shimizu  
Kazuo Nishina  
Teru Kimura  
Riyo Miyasaki  
Shizuko Otani  
Yoshisaburo Okamura  
Satoru Okumura  
Kojiro Kawamoto  
Ritsuyo Namba  
Saichi Tsuboi  
Hide Kawano  
Hikoji Yoshimura  
Makiko Honda  
George Toyoda  
Shizumi Yoshimura  
Ritsu Tanaka  
Kara Nakagawa  
Masao Mukai  
Evelyn Hirai  
Genjiru Nakata  
Max Sumida  
Mitsui Wada  
Sunayo Yokomi  
James Wada  
Kazuo Morita

Tomie Morishige		Hiyama
Tsuyoshi Tiyo Yamaguchi	\$ 30.00	Jan Yoshimoto
Akimi Sakazaki	\$ 25.00	Eiko li
Kiyoshi Taniguchi	\$ 20.00	Takaaki & Yoko Miyoshi
Fujio Shimada	\$ 20.00	Sharon Asakawa
George Koso Yamamoto	\$ 10.00	Blake Honda

Rose Yoshiko Nakagawa

Shizuko Yoshimoto

Akira Tokubo

Betty Nakayama

Kiyoko Sumida

### Shotsuki

\$ 75.00	Roberta Araki
\$ 75.00	Greg & Patti Miyake
\$ 75.00	Ken & Kim Miyake
\$ 50.00	Mitchell & Lynn Nakashima

### JANUARY 2025 DONATIONS

#### Year End

\$ 500.00	Ron & Maxine Yoshimoto	\$ 50.00	Jane & Brayden Nagata
\$ 100.00	Jane Nagata	\$ 50.00	Brian Nagata & Colleen Alvarez
\$ 100.00	Brian Nagata	\$ 50.00	Kerry & Jeri Nakagawa
\$ 100.00	Dale Yanagihara	\$ 30.00	Gary & Karen Mukai
\$ 100.00	Joe & Irene Hara	\$ 30.00	Janie Nakagawa Yuen
\$ 100.00	Rick & Marlene Miyasaki	\$ 30.00	M/M Norman Takeuchi
\$ 100.00	Hitomi Sera	\$ 30.00	Art & Alice Fujikawa
\$ 50.00	Gary & Arlene Keithley	\$ 30.00	Howard & Satomi Hiyama
\$ 20.00	Sharon Asakawa	\$ 25.00	Hitomi Sera
\$ 20.00	Earl Honda	\$ 25.00	Gordon & Susan Hayashi
		\$ 25.00	Steve & Joyce Hirata
		\$ 25.00	Earl Honda
		\$ 25.00	Tayoko & Craig Honda
		\$ 20.00	Mitch Kato & Tina Kato-Clarey
		\$ 10.00	Yoshiye li

#### Hoonko

\$ 60.00	Joe & Irene Hara
\$ 30.00	Art & Alice Fujikawa
\$ 30.00	Shig & Aiko Kamine
\$ 30.00	Gary & Arlene Keithley
\$ 30.00	Howard & Satomi

## New Years Day Service

\$ 20.00 Sharon Asakawa

## **In Memory of George Teraoka**

## 1<sup>st</sup> Year Memorial

\$ 300.00 Teraoka Family  
\$ 30.00 Joe & Irene Hara

## In Memory of Jordan Ishimoto

\$ 30.00 Howard & Satomi  
Hiyama

# In Memory of Kenneth

# Hashimoto

\$ 50.00 Jun & Elaine Tamura

# In memory of Kenneth

## Hashimoto

## 49<sup>th</sup> Day Service

\$ 250.00 Hashimoto & Teraoka  
Family

\$ 100.00 Karen Nishikawa  
Brent Nishikawa

## Family

Family  
\$ 40.00 Ben & Noreen Yosako

\$ 30.00 Gary & Karen Mukai  
\$ 20.00 Barton Ashida

\$ 20.00 M/M Gerald Nakayama

## **In Memory of Hiroko & Gary M.**

Meyer

\$ 900.00 Allan Meyer

## Special Donations

\$ 400.00 Hashimoto & Teraoka  
Families

## In Memory of Kenneth Hashimoto

## Grandkids New Members of Dharma School

\$ 100.00 Nagata Family  
95<sup>th</sup> Birthday for Jane Nagata

\$ 100.00      Dean Shiroyama



# CANCELED

## 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

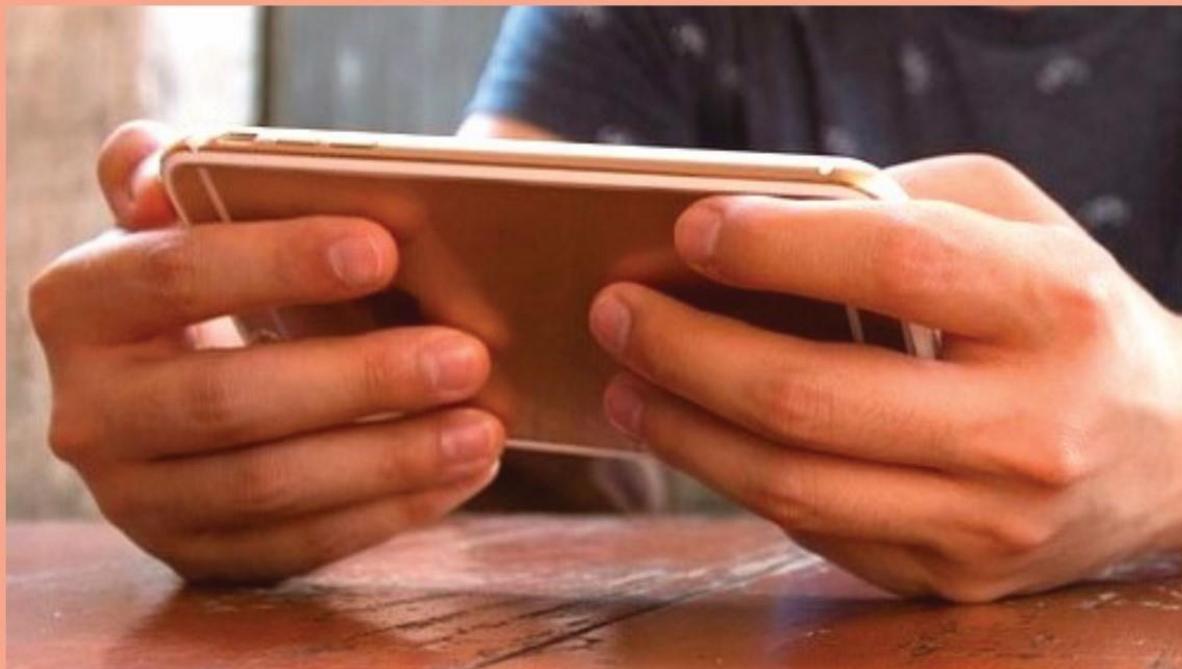
Credit cards accepted

# **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)*

# Yoga Retreat

Yoga for Everyone of  
Any Age and Physical Conditions

**Saturday, March 8, 2025**  
**Buddhist Church of Fowler**  
  
**210 S. 9th Street**  
**9:00 am to 8:00 pm**

**\$25 to include a gourmet lunch & dinner**

Health wellness and lifestyle discussions on nutrition, movement, sleep and relaxation. No experience or mats required. Guaranteed day of fun, learning, good food and socializing!



**Bob Matsueda**  
Yoga & Wellness Instructor,  
Yoga Therapist  
Certified by Ministry of AYUSH,  
Govt of India Yoga Certification Board

Guests staying  
overnight:  
  
La Quinta  
190 10th St  
Fowler, CA



**Rev. Bob &  
Rev. Patti Oshita**



**Chef Alan  
Hirahara**

RSVP to [pattioshita100@gmail.com](mailto:pattioshita100@gmail.com) for registration  
or more information

Sponsored by the Center of Buddhist Education (CBE Buddhist Churches of America & Dharma Forward: Endowment Foundation Grant)





Reedley Buddhist Church  
17th Annual

# Crab Feed and Silent Auction



**Saturday, March 15, 2025**

**\$100.00 per person**

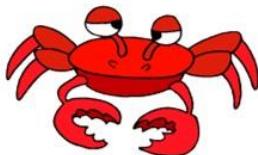
**Includes:**

**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.**