



THE WHITE PATH

MONTHLY BULLETIN VOL. 5390

March 2025

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**

April Service and events:

- 4/13/2025 – Hanamatsuri/ April Shotsuki Service & Dharma School – 10:00 a.m. – Rev. Bob Oshita
- 4/19/2025 - **Fowler Buddhist Church Friendship Golf Tournament**/ Ridge Creek Golf Course – 10:00 a.m.

The Parable of the White Path and the Teachings of Ohigan

During the Ohigan season, many Buddhist temples share the parable of the "Two Rivers and the White Path" (*Nigabyakudō*). This story, originally taught by the Chinese master Shandao during the Tang Dynasty, symbolizes the Calling voice of Amida Buddha and the path leading beyond the world of delusion to the Pure Land. Let's explore the meaning of this teaching in connection with the Ohigan observance.

The Parable of the Two Rivers and the White Path

A traveler walking through a vast wilderness suddenly finds himself pursued by robbers and wild beasts. Fleeing in fear, he comes across two great rivers that block his path. One is a river of raging fire (symbolizing the flames of worldly desires), and the other is a river of violent waves (representing greed and anger). Crossing either river seems impossible, and death appears inevitable.

Between these two perilous rivers, however, stretches a single narrow White Path. Although the fire and water threaten from both sides, the path offers a way to safety. Overwhelmed by fear, the traveler hesitates, unable to move forward.

At that moment, a voice calls from behind: "Do not hesitate—go forward!" This is the voice of Shakyamuni Buddha. At the same time, from the other side, a voice reassures him: "If you follow this path, you will surely find refuge." This is the compassionate call of Amida Buddha. Trusting in these words, the traveler gathers his courage, steps onto the White Path, and successfully reaches the Pure Land.

Ohigan and the White Path

Ohigan is a time to reflect on the journey from this shore of suffering and confusion (*shigan*) to the other shore of enlightenment (*higan*). In Jodo Shinshu, it is particularly regarded as a period to deeply appreciate the boundless compassion of Amida Buddha and the assurance of spiritual liberation.

The parable of the Two Rivers and the White Path perfectly illustrates the significance of Ohigan. In our daily lives, we are often swept away by worldly desires, anger, and confusion, much like the raging fire and water in the story. Obstacles and temptations abound, making it difficult to stay on the path to peace. Yet, even in the midst of such struggles, the great compassion and guidance of Amida Buddha provide a way forward—a path leading us to the Pure Land.

The Courage to Walk the White Path

The most crucial step taken by the traveler in the parable was to trust and move forward. By believing in the call of Amida Buddha, he was able to overcome his fears and reach the shore of awakening.

The Ohigan season is an opportunity for us to reflect on our own path in life and to listen closely to the teachings of the Buddha. No matter how many challenges we face, if we place our entrusting heart in the path to the Pure Land, we are always embraced by Amida Buddha's infinite compassion, leading us beyond the world of suffering.

This Ohigan, let us take the message of the White Path to heart and reflect on the direction of our journey. With the compassionate vow of Amida Buddha as our guide, may we walk the path with courage and trust.

In gratitude,
Mieko Majima

白い道のたとえとお彼岸の教え

お彼岸の時期になると、多くの仏教寺院で「二河白道」のたとえ話が語られます。このお話は、中国の唐の時代に善導大師によって説かれたもので、阿弥陀さまの呼びかけと、迷いの世界を超えて淨土へと向かう道を表しています。お彼岸の教えとともに、このたとえ話を訪れてみましょう。

二つの川と白い道

あるとき、旅人が荒野を歩いていました。すると、後ろから野獸や盜賊が迫ってきました。必死に逃げると、目の前に二つの大きな川が広がっています。

一つは燃えさかる火の川。「渡れば焼かれてしまう……。」

もう一つは荒れ狂う水の川。「流されてしまう……。」

進むことも戻ることもできず、旅人は立ち尽くしました。すると、火と水の間に一本の白い道が続いているのを見つけました。「この道を行けば助かるかも……？」でも、怖くて動けません。

そのとき、後ろから「恐れず進みなさい！」と励ます声が聞こえました。そして、前を見ると、向こう岸からも声がします。「この道を歩けば、大丈夫！」という安心させてくれる声でした。

旅人はついに勇気を出し、白い道を歩き始めました。不安でしたが、一歩ずつ進み、ついに向こう岸へたどり着きました。

お彼岸と白い道

この「二河白道」のたとえ話は、お彼岸の意味そのものです。私たちは日々、煩惱や怒り、迷いの中で生きています。まるで燃えさかる火の川や、荒れ狂う水の川のように、さまざまな苦しみが行く手をふさぎます。しかし、そんな私たちのために、阿弥陀さまが白い道を示し、「この道を歩めば、必ず淨土へ導く」と誓われているのです。

白い道を歩む勇気

旅人が最も大切な一歩を踏み出したのは、「信じる」ことでした。阿弥陀さまの呼びかけを信じ、恐れながらも歩みを進めたことで、ついに向こう岸へたどり着くことができました。

お彼岸の時期は、自分の歩む道を振り返り、仏の教えに耳を傾ける機会です。どんなに困難があろうとも、信じて進めば、必ず阿弥陀さまの大慈悲に包まれ、安心の世界へと導かれるのです。

このお彼岸、どうぞ「白い道」のお話を思い出してください。

阿弥陀さまの大きな願いに支えられ、私たちもまた、勇気をもって歩んでいきましょう。

南無阿弥陀仏

The Story of the Two Rivers and the White Path

A long time ago, a traveler was walking through a big grassy field. Suddenly, scary wolves and robbers started chasing him! "Oh no! What should I do?" he thought as he ran as fast as he

could. But then, he saw two big rivers in front of him.



One river was full of **burning fire**. "It's so hot! If I try to cross, I will get burned!"

The other river had **huge, rushing waves**. "If I fall in, I will be swept away!"

The traveler was too scared to move. But then, he noticed **a thin, white path** between the fire and water. "Maybe I can walk on this path and be safe...?" But the fire and water were so close, and he was afraid to take even one step.

Just then, he heard a kind voice from behind him.

"It's okay! Don't be afraid, just walk on this path."

It sounded just like a father saying, "**Trust me, you can do it!**"

Then, he heard another voice from the other side of the river.

"Come this way! You will be safe here."

It sounded just like a mother saying, "**I'm waiting for you, so don't worry!**"



The traveler thought, "**If my father and mother are watching over me, I will be okay!**"

So, he took a deep breath and stepped onto the white path. His heart was beating fast, but he walked carefully, one step at a time.

Finally, he made it to the other side! He smiled happily and said, "**I was scared, but I'm so glad I trusted and kept going!**"

Just like the traveler, you are never alone. Someone who loves you is always watching over you, so trust and keep going!

In gratitude,
Mieko Majima

March President's Message

We had a very well attended Nirvana Day Service and Shotsuki on February 2nd. Rev. Brian Nagata delivered an inspiring Dharma talk to both the Dharma school students and the adults. It's so exciting to see the youngsters totally engaged in the Dharma message.

There is no update to report on what the assessment will be for our 2025 ministerial service. A CCMAC meeting is scheduled for the end of February.

We will not be having a Fowler BC Food Bazaar at our traditional February time this year. We will evaluate the situation later in the year to make sure we have enough manpower (and womanpower) to put on a successful event.

The hondo roof has been repaired and has eliminated the necessity of having buckets spread throughout the building to catch the leaks. We have had a consultation from BMY Construction on how to proceed in getting our structurally compromised hondo building repaired. Retired civil engineer, Ron Yamabe has also volunteered to help us through the process. We will be meeting with our

insurance company soon to also evaluate the situation.

Don't forget that we have our annual Fowler Buddhist Church Fellowship Golf Tournament coming up on April 19th. It will be held at the Ridge Creek Golf Course in Dinuba. Since our food bazaar is in doubt this year, it would be good if everyone could consider supporting this event as our major fundraiser of the year by either signing up as a player, a tee sponsor, raffle prize donor, or golf course or banquet volunteer. Thanks in advance for your support.

It is with extreme gratitude that I announce the receipt of the most generous donation of a stock transfer that is equivalent to \$250,000+ to our endowment foundation from the Gordon Uchiyama family. The donation is honoring the Uchiyama Issei and Nisei pioneers of the Fowler Buddhist Church, the George Shunsuke Uchiyama family and the Shigeru Uchiyama family. The Gordon Uchiyama family currently resides in Long Beach.

Our March Ohigan and Shotsuki service will be held on March 2nd with Rev. Majima conducting the service and giving the Spring Ohigan dharma message and Rev. Karen giving the Dharma

school message. The 2025 Fowler Buddhist Church and Fowler BWA officers will be installed during the service.

Gary Mukai, FBC President



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

Board of Governors - March

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

District 5

Riji

Cherie Nakayama

Diane Eskelson

Toban

Satomi Hiyama

Alice Fujikawa

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/Hatsubon – 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

The Shotsuki names for the month of March are:

Mitsuijiro Yoshimoto
Wakichi Shimizu
Rose Nakamura
William Tadashi Kondo
Hana Yoshimoto
Shikuichi Ii
Masayoshi Teraoka
Toyomo Teraoka
Kazuo Namba
Seinosuke Nakamura
Kayo Kikuta
Toyoso Kuramoto
Ai Kataoka
Yoshiko Miyake
Kiyono Mukai
Moto Kamine
Ayano Hirabayashi
Shigeko Yoshida
Hiroshi Asakawa
Ann Kawaguchi
Miyeko Kamikawa
Florence Sadako Shimada
Yoshio Idet
Ida Shimizu
Michael Asano Teraoka

February 2025 Donations

Hoonko

\$ 30.00 Janice Yoshimoto

Nirvana Day Service

\$ 30.00 Howard & Satomi Hiyama
\$ 25.00 Joe & Irene Hara
\$ 20.00 Sharon Asakawa

Year End

\$ 50.00 Janie Yuen

Shotsuki

\$ 100.00 Robert & Rose Mayebo
\$ 50.00 Kerry & Jeri Nakagawa
\$ 50.00 Janie Yuen
\$ 50.00 Janice Yoshimoto
\$ 50.00 Gary & Arlene Keithley
\$ 50.00 Ron & Maxine Yoshimoto
\$ 35.00 Brian Nagata
\$ 30.00 Tayoko & Craig Honda
\$ 25.00 Janie Sutow
\$ 25.00 Linda Matsumoto
\$ 20.00 Derek, Yim, Verona & Violet Honda
\$ 20.00 M/M Gerald Nakayama
\$ 10.00 Gail Nakamura

In Memory of Shizue May Mukai
1st Year Memorial

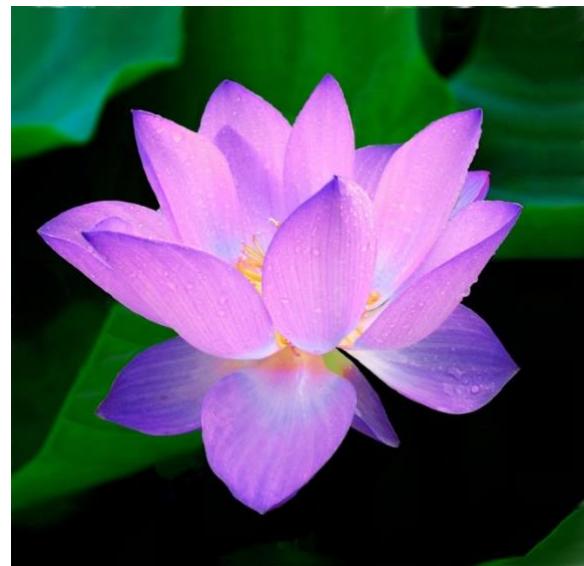
\$ 500.00 Gary & Karen Mukai & Family
Stan Mukai
Greg & Gay Mukai & Family
Terry & Barbara Mukai & Family
\$ 100.00 Mrs. Mary Masako Mukai
\$ 75.00 Roy & Susan Nakatsukasa
Grace Nakatsukasa
\$ 60.00 Kay, Carol & Doug Teraoka
\$ 30.00 Ben & Noreen Yosako
\$ 30.00 John & Connie Saldin
\$ 30.00 Mrs. Margie Mukai
\$ 30.00 M/M Gene & Gale Nakai
\$ 30.00 Gary, Laraine, Austin, & Alexa Goto
\$ 30.00 Doug & Linda Matsumoto
\$ 30.00 Ed & Patti Bungo
\$ 30.00 Sid & Karen Kato
\$ 20.00 Reed & Lindsey Doerfler
\$ 20.00 Spiro & Tamiko Atieh
\$ 20.00 Stacie Saldin

In Memory of George Teraoka & Kenneth Hashimoto

\$ 100.00 Ken Ishimoto

In Memory of Jane Nagata

\$ 50.00 Brian & Cheralynn Tsuchiya



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 or (559) 284-2955

Credit cards accepted

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**

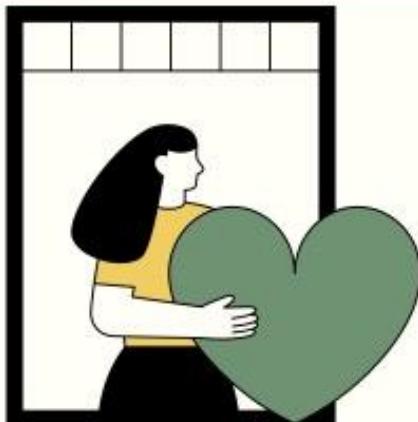
RSVP to pattioshita100@gmail.com for registration
or more information

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

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE RELIEF



BCA SOCIAL WELFARE COMMITTEE



Support those affected by the Wildfires to assist Southern District temple members and community support efforts!



HOW TO HELP!

VISIT [HTTP://BCA.KINDFUL.COM](http://BCA.KINDFUL.COM)
SELECT "SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
WILDFIRE RELIEF" OR

MAIL A CHECK MADE OUT TO BCAEF
2140 DURANT AVE
BERKELEY, CA 94704
NOTE: WILDFIRES



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:

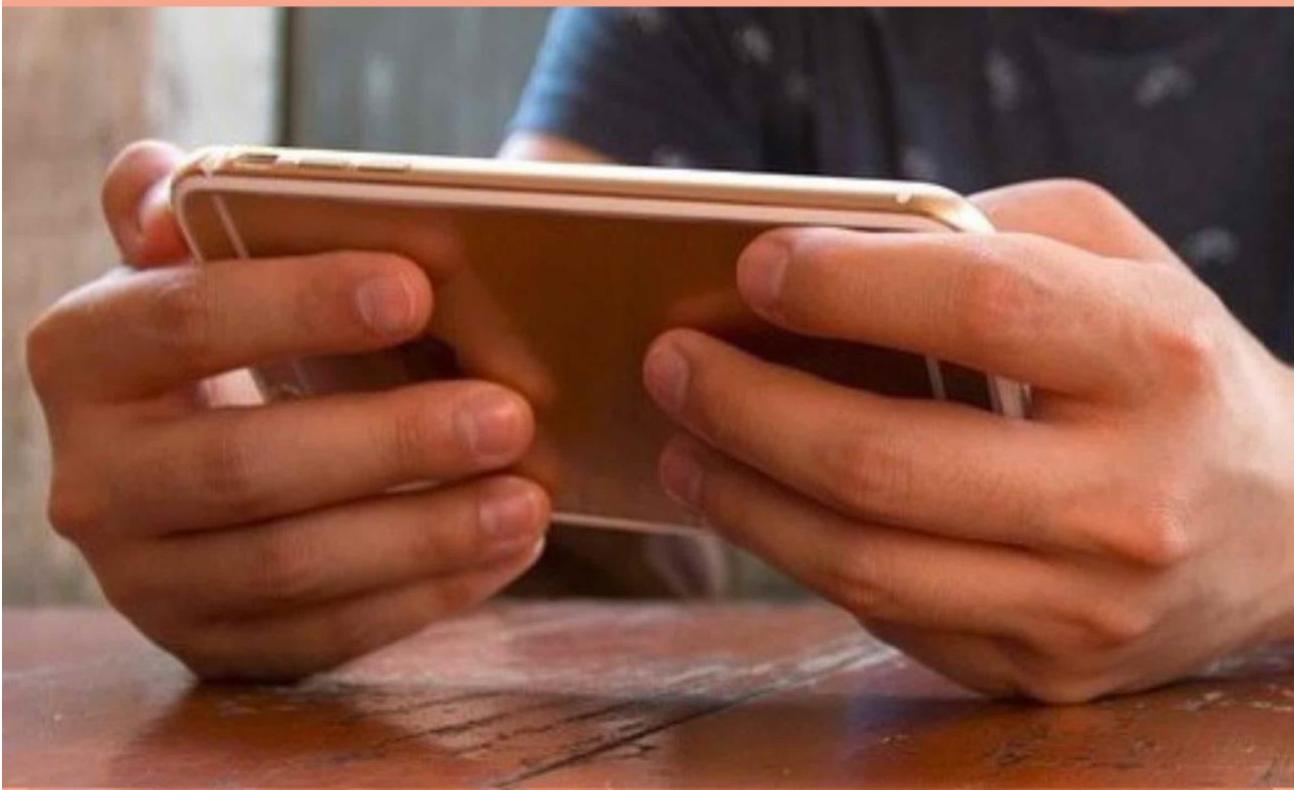
Joy Donaldson (559-859-7861) or Gary Sakata (559-250-9687)

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
- Volunteer instructors from Gakko Gives



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

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.**

The Buddhist Church of Parlier
PRESENTS

Practical Shin Buddhism in Everyday Life

Rev. Dr. Kenji Akahoshi

“Shifting from Please to Thank You”
A contemporary view of Shin reveals
Gratitude leads to a joyful guide to life

Saturday, April 12, 2025, 3:00 p.m.



Join us for a visit from Reverend Dr. Kenji Akahoshi as he delves into the journey everyone is seeking; “How to lead a joyful life through gratitude in our everyday life.” It is this unique perspective of Shin that guides us to recognize that our lives and our awakening are received from the efforts of others. Interdependence reveals we are truly supported by others and this realization results in a response of gratitude. Our gratitude offers a completely different reality, different from the context of prayer or petition for a personal desire. Gratitude becomes the open gate to a vast field of benefits.

BUDDHIST CHURCH OF PARLIER
360 S. NEWMARK
PARLIER, CA 93648

