



THE WHITE PATH

MONTHLY BULLETIN VOL. 5391

April 2025

April Service and events:

- 4/13/2025 – Decorate Hanamido – 5:00 p.m.
Flowers and volunteers needed
- 4/14/2025 – 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

May Service and events:

- 5/04/2025 - Gotane/ May Shotsuki Service & Dharma School – 10:00 a.m. – Rev. Majima
- 5/25/2025 – Fowler Ikebana Show – Fowler Buddhist Church, 12 – 4 p.m.
- 5/26/2025 - Cemetery Service – **Selma Cemetery** – 8:30 a.m. – Rev. Majima; **Fowler Cemetery** – 9:30 a.m. – Rev. Majima

June Service:

- 6/01/2025 – Rennyo Memorial/ June Shotsuki Service – 10:00 a.m. – Rev. Blake Honda – Conduct Service & Children's Dharma msg; Guest speaker – Gary Mukai

Mindfulness in a Busy World

Every year in April, we celebrate the birth of Siddhartha Gautama, who later became the Buddha. His teachings, spoken over 2,500 years ago, continue to offer profound wisdom for our modern world. In a time of rapid change, stress, and uncertainty, the Buddha's insights on mindfulness, compassion, and interconnectedness remain as relevant as ever.

Buddha taught that suffering arises from attachment and craving. Today, in our fast-paced society, many people find themselves constantly seeking more—more success, more possessions, more approval. Yet, this endless pursuit often leads to dissatisfaction. Mindfulness, or being fully present in the moment, is a practice that helps us step away from this cycle. Whether through meditation, conscious breathing, or simply paying attention to our surroundings, mindfulness allows us to appreciate life as it is, rather than always chasing something outside of ourselves.

Compassion as a Solution to Division

The world today is filled with conflict—between nations, communities, and individuals. The Buddha's message of compassion teaches us that understanding and kindness can heal divisions. Instead of seeing others as separate from ourselves, he encouraged us to recognize that all beings experience suffering and joy, just as we do. By practicing empathy and offering support where we can, we contribute to a more peaceful world.

Interconnectedness in a Global Society

Buddha emphasized the principle of interdependence—nothing exists in isolation. In our modern world, this truth is clearer than ever. Our actions, no matter how small, have ripple effects across communities and even the entire planet. From environmental responsibility to ethical consumerism, the choices we make today shape the world for future generations.

Applying Buddha's Teachings Today

Celebrating the birth of the Buddha reminds us that his wisdom is not just for monks or scholars but for everyone. In our daily lives, we can practice gratitude, reduce excessive desires, and show kindness to those around us. These small efforts accumulate and bring us closer to the world of peace and harmony that the Buddha envisioned.

The first step in practicing Buddha's teachings begins with reflection. Before directing our efforts outward, let us first turn them inward. How do our thoughts and actions connect with the world and influence it? Continuously asking ourselves this question is essential. In Jodo Shinshu, reciting the Nembutsu—"Namu Amida Butsu"—is a profound form of reflection. It is not merely a ritual but an opportunity to recognize the boundless compassion of Amida Buddha and to awaken to our own limitations and interconnectedness.

Through the Nembutsu, we are reminded that we are embraced by wisdom and compassion beyond our own efforts. Rather than striving for perfection, we acknowledge our imperfections and entrust ourselves to Amida's vow. This realization brings a sense of peace and humility, guiding our actions with gratitude and mindfulness.

This month, as we honor the Buddha's wisdom, let us engage in daily self-inquiry, deepen our awareness, and recite the Nembutsu—not as a duty, but as a natural expression of reflection and gratitude.

Gassho

Rev. Mieko Majima

お釈迦様しゃかさまの誕生日たんじょうびと花はなまつりの由来ゆらい

4月がつ8日にちは、お釈迦様しゃかさまのお誕生日たんじょうびです。この日ひを祝いわう行事ぎょうじとして、日本にほんでは「花はなまつり（灌仏会かんぶつえ）」が行おこなわれます。

お釈迦様しゃかさまの誕生たんじょう

お釈迦様しゃかさま（ゴゴータマたま・シッダしっだールタルた）は、約やく2500年前ねんまえのインドいんど・ルンビニるんぴに一園えんでお生うまれになりました。伝説でんせつによると、お母様かあさまのママーヤや夫人ふじんがルンビニるんぴに一園えんで休やすんでいたとき、右脇みぎわきからお釈迦様しゃかさまが誕生たんじょうされたといわれています。生うまれてすぐに七歩歩ななほあるかれ、その一歩いっぽごとに蓮はすの花はなが咲さき、「天上天下唯我独尊てんじょうてんげゆいがどくそん」とおっしゃったと伝つたえられています。

花はなまつりの由来ゆらい

「花はなまつり」は、お釈迦様しゃかさまの誕生たんじょうを祝いわう日本独自にほんどくじの行事ぎょうじです。この時期じきは桜さくらをはじめ、さまざまな花はなが咲くことから「花はなまつり」と呼よばれるようになりました。

花はなまつりでは、お寺てらに「花御堂はなみどう」と呼よばれる小ちいさなお堂どうを設もうけ、その中なかに誕生仏たんじょうぼとけを安置あんちします。そして、誕生仏たんじょうほとけに甘茶あまちゃをかけるのが特徴的とくちょうてきな儀式ぎしきです。これは、お釈迦様しゃかさまが誕生たんじょうした際さいに、天てんから甘露かんろの雨あめが降ふり注そそいだという伝説でんせつに由来ゆらいしています。

また、甘茶あまちゃをいただく習慣しゅうかんもあります。甘茶あまちゃには邪気じゃきを払はらう力ちからがあるとされ、昔むかしから健康けんこうや長寿ちょうじゅを願ねがって飲のまれてきました。

花はなまつりの意味いみ

花はなまつりは、お釈迦様しゃかさまの誕生たんじょうを祝いわうだけでなく、私わたしたちが「いのちの尊とうとさ」や「感謝かんしゃの心ころ」を見みつめ直なおす機会きかいでもあります。お釈迦様しゃかさまが説とかれた「慈悲じひ（いつくしみ）」の心ころを大切にせつにしながら、私わたしたちも日々ひびの生活せいかつを振ふり返かえる機会きかいにしたいものです。

今年ことしの花はなまつりも、共ともにお祝いわいし、お釈迦様しゃかさまの教おしえを心ころに刻きざむひとときといたしましょう

The Happy Story of Little Buddha

A long time ago, in a beautiful garden called Lumbini, a special baby was born. His name was Siddhartha, but later, people called him Buddha. His mother, Queen Maya, was walking in the garden when suddenly, baby Buddha was born. And guess what? He took seven little steps right away! With each step, a beautiful lotus flower bloomed under his feet. Then, he looked up at the sky and smiled. The world was happy to welcome him!

On that special day, something magical happened. The sky opened up, and sweet rain gently fell to bathe the little baby. People say it was the heavens celebrating his birth. Today, during Hanamatsuri, or the Flower Festival, we pour sweet tea over Buddha's statue to remember this wonderful event.



Little Buddha grew up in a big palace with many toys, delicious food, and soft pillows. But one day, he became curious. He wanted to see what was outside the palace walls. So, he took a trip and saw many things he had never seen before—some people were happy, but others were sad or sick. This made him think deeply. He wanted to find a way to make the world a happier place for everyone.

Buddha's story teaches us to be kind and caring to all living beings. Just like he wanted to help others, we can also share kindness by smiling, helping friends, and saying nice words. So, on Buddha's birthday, let's celebrate by being good to each other and remembering that kindness makes the world shine!

President's Message

Happy Hanamatsuri season to all. We are looking forward to having Rev. Bob Oshita as our Hanamatsuri guest speaker at our service on April 13th. Reverends Bob and Patti Oshita were just in Fowler to manage the very successful Yoga Workshop held in Fowler on Saturday, March 8th. There were 31 participants that were taught about a healthier and less stressful life. We wish to thank Bob and Patti, yoga instructor, Mr. Bob Masueda, and master vegetarian chef, Mr. Alan Hirahara, for taking time out of their busy schedules for our benefit to help us live a more fulfilling life. We are very grateful to receive the entire proceeds of the workshop and donations back to the church. We received donations from Jan Yoshimoto, Brenda Koga, Hitomi Sera, Gerald and Cherie Nakayama, Gay Mukai, Margo Toyota, Linda Matsumoto, Lynn Arakaki, Leslie Ohashi, Rev. Bob and Patti, and an anonymous one.

At our last CCDC meeting, it was voted to assign Rev. Maeko Majima as the resident minister to the Reedley Buddhist Church and have the Fowler Buddhist Church supervised by Reedley. Reedley would assume all the costs of supporting a resident minister and

we would be contributing directly to the Reedley Church for our supervision. The Buddhist churches of Parlier, Hanford, and Visalia will also be supervised by Reedley. We want to

thank the Reedley Buddhist Church for accepting this responsibility and taking this action. This will become effective on July 1, 2025.

Our president, vice-president, and treasurer are working to get all our bank accounts, including the endowment fund, transferred for the new officers' signatures. Representatives of the church will be meeting with our insurance company soon to see what our coverage might be for repairing our church foundation.

We want to thank the dharma school children for their engagement in our services and breathing new life into the congregation. It has definitely heightened the energy in the Hondo.

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

Dues

In case it slipped your mind, this is just a friendly reminder that your church dues for 2025 are now being accepted. Dues have not increased and remain:

\$225.00 – individuals; \$450.00 couples/family.

Board of Governors - April

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

District 1/2

Riji

Ken Ishimoto

Rick Miyasaki

Toban

Marlene Miyasaki

Fowler Yoga Retreat

On Saturday, March 8th, 40 participants and volunteers gathered for the Fowler Yoga Retreat. Because Bob Matsueda, received a grant from the BCA Dharma Forward Fund to have Yoga Retreats at BCA Temples in various districts, we were able to have a program in Fowler. Recently, Bob has shared his Yoga with members at the Orange County Buddhist Church, Vista Temple, Ogden and Salt Lake City,

Utah. We are fortunate to be his 5th Retreat. And we hoped to share the deep connection between Yoga and Buddhism.

Bob will also help us understand that regardless of our age or physical limitations, Yoga is for everyone, at any age and in any physical condition. Bob was trained in India and learn from the Masters in Northern India (Rishikesh) and Nasik, Maharashtra. Two years ago, he was one of a dozen teachers, worldwide, to be invited to train again in India for advanced training. He passed the national Government of India, Ministry of AYUSH Yoga Certification Board exam and is now both a Yoga Teacher and Yoga Therapist.

We started the session with “warming up the body” by doing deep breathing and stretching our bodies from head to our toes. It was great to see everyone trying their best and many found their bodies to feel better after these stretches.

We then had a gourmet lunch prepared by Chef Alan Hirahara who drove down from Alameda. Alan often volunteers his time and donates all of the products for the meals. We were grateful to taste vegetarian food that were delicious!

We continued the day with Nidra yoga or relaxation yoga. We were able to lay on the floor or sat in the chair listening to beautiful Indian music.

Then Rev. Bob shared the connection of Yoga with Buddhism. The concept of AUM is so ancient and is often seen in many of our arts and even pieces of our onaijin The concept of AUM is the beginning and the end of all things. We saw them with many of the guardian figures of one having their mouth open for A and the other with their mouth closed with M. Rev. Bob tied how Yoga is seen in Buddhism and our Jodo Shinshu tradition.

We ended our day with a reflection circle sharing what we learned and had a gourmet dinner and socialized with friends.

It was a full day of learning, seeing old friends and meeting new friends in an environment that was comfortable.

I would like to thank Rev. Majima for her support with our Yoga retreat and the Fowler members of Barton, Gary & Karen, Gerald & Cherie and Craig & Tayoko who came out to help us set up. To our sous chefs Brian Nagata, Brenda Koga (Ogden, UT), Dyan Yee, Colleen Alvarez, Aiko Kamine and Satomi Hiyama.

A special thank you to the Buddhist Temple of Fowler for letting us have the yoga retreat, to Bob Matsueda, Chef Alan Hirahara and Rev. Bob.

Thank you so much for a wonderful day.

Rev. Patti Oshita



Bob Matsueda



Fowler Yoga Participants



Chef Alan Hirahara and volunteers



Yoga Retreat Participants

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

Future Services and Events:

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

05/26/2025 – Selma Cemetery Service – 8:30 am
- Fowler Cemetery Service – 9:30 am

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

The Shotsuki names for the month of April are:

Misa Ninomiya
Arthur Shigeo Ninomiya
Toyokichi Kuramoto
Naomi Kuramoto
Sentaro Toyama
Koichi Miyasaki
Sen Yamane
Shigetaro Hagihara

Kitaro Asakawa
Toyo Asakawa
Kiyoshi Hirasuna
Taka Hirasuna
Kakuji Tasaka
Rita Honda
Reiko Nishina
Eiichi Hiyama
Saji Wada
Ayako Mayebo
Masao Tsuboi
Kinyei Toyama
James Hashimoto
Meimi Hagihara
Morito Miyasaki
Asako Masui
Ted Hirasuna
Mary Nakahira
Yasuo Koyanagi
Frank Tsutomu Kawano
June Masaye Gibson
Haruko Tsuboi
Hiroshi Hal Tsuboi
Toshiko Yamamoto Arasuna
Mae Umeyo Koyanagi
Fumiye Pauline Kikuta
Misao Edith Hiyama
Gary Iwai
Hisa Iwamoto
Shizue Nakamura
Andrew Ii

Condolences

Since the beginning of the year, we have lost valuable friends from our church community, who have contributed many good things that have benefitted the church.

Mrs. Jane Nagata passed away on January 11, 2025. Her funeral was held on March 10th at the Fowler Buddhist Church attended by many.

Mrs. Yaeko Otani passed away on February 26, 2025, while in her daughter's care in Orange County. There was a private funeral service held at the Orange County Buddhist Church and there will be a private burial service for her at the Mountain View Cemetery, Fresno, in April. Condolences can be sent to her daughter: Mrs. Jane Foster, 9078 Wagner River Circle, Fountain Valley, CA 92708

Mrs. Tina Kato Clarey passed away on February 24, 2025. No service has been planned.

Yuko Matoba's mother passed away in Japan in March, 2025.

Mr. Clifford Sera passed away on March 27, 2025.

May you always find comfort in the Nembutsu.

March 2025 Donations**Hanamatsuri**

\$ 100.00 Roberta Araki

Spring Ohigan & Shotsuki Service

\$ 20.00 Ms. Sharon Asakawa

Spring Ohigan

\$ 30.00 Craig & Tayoko Honda

\$ 30.00 Hitomi Sera

\$ 30.00 Art & Alice Fujikawa

\$ 30.00 Gary & Arlene Keithley

\$ 30.00 Jan Yoshimoto

\$ 30.00 Janie Yuen

\$ 25.00 Joe & Irene Hara

\$ 20.00 Takaaki & Yoko Miyoshi

Shotsuki

\$ 100.00 Kikuta Family

\$ 75.00 Greg & Patti Miyake

\$ 75.00 Ken & Kim Miyake

\$ 75.00 Mary Mukai & Family

\$ 50.00 Gale & Geno Nakai

\$ 50.00 Roberta Araki

\$ 30.00 Allan & Esther
Nakagawa

\$ 30.00 Greg & Gay Mukai

\$ 30.00 Howard & Satomi
Hiyama

\$ 30.00 Gary & Arlene Keithley

\$ 30.00 Ron & Maxine
Yoshimoto

\$ 30.00 Shig & Aiko Kamine

\$ 25.00 Gordon & Susan
Hayashi

\$ 25.00 Earl Honda

\$ 20.00 Gary & Karen Mukai

In Memory of Jane Nagata

\$ 100.00 Derek & Yim Honda

\$ 100.00 Donald & Katherine Endo

\$ 100.00 Sam Kiyoshi Umeda

\$ 50.00 Michael & Beverly
Maruyama

\$ 50.00 Lisle Funeral Home

\$ 50.00 Sally Yemoto

\$ 50.00 Ken Ishimoto

\$ 40.00 Kaz & Nancy Suko

\$ 30.00 Joyce Imai

\$ 25.00 Ada Yamamoto

In Memory of Tina Kato-Clairey

\$ 50.00 Roberta Araki

Special Donations

\$ 500.00 Nagata Family

In Memory of Jane Nagata

\$ 20.00 Mitch Kato

Yoga Retreat

\$ 775.00	25 Registrants
\$ 100.00	Revs. Bob & Patti Oshita
\$ 50.00	Hitomi Sera
\$ 50.00	Barton Ashida
\$ 30.00	Brenda Koga
\$ 25.00	Jan Yoshimoto
\$ 25.00	Gerald & Cherie Nakayama
\$ 25.00	Gay Mukai
\$ 25.00	Margo Toyota
\$ 25.00	Linda Matsumoto
\$ 25.00	Merv Maruyama
\$ 20.00	Lynn Arakaki
\$ 20.00	Leslie Ohashi
\$ 10.00	Anonymous



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



Registration Link:

<https://tinyurl.com/BDLEADERS>

**Registration ends
April 13th, 2025**

***The first 10 people to register
are entered into a drawing for an
AMAZON gift card!**

BAY DISTRICT JR. YBA LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE 2025



APRIL 26TH, 2025



10AM-4PM



**JODO SHINSHU
CENTER**

**2140 Durant Ave,
Berkeley, CA
94704**

MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTION

FROM A BUDDHIST PERSPECTIVE



Rev Dr Carmela Javellana



Rev Landon Yamaoka

APR 19.2025

10am - 4pm

In-Person at the Jodo Shinshu Center
or join us Virtually via Zoom

<https://tinyurl.com/BCAWellness>

BYR

Summer

Join us for the 8th annual BCA YOUTH RETREAT. This is a special program open to high school age students that spans over one week learning about Buddhism and creating memories and friends that will last a lifetime.



6.22.25 – 6.28.25



**Jodo Shinshu Center
2140 Durant Ave
Berkeley, CA 94704**

<https://TINYURL.com/BYRVIII>



CLICK THE REG LINK FOR MORE INFO. QUESTIONS EMAIL:

koichi Mizushima: bkmizushima@bcahq.org

