



# THE WHITE PATH

MONTHLY BULLETIN VOL. 5392

MAY 2025

## 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. – Guest speaker – Gary Mukai

## July Service:

- 7/19/2025 – Obon/Hatsubon – 4:30pm – 8pm
- 7/20/2025 – Obon/Hatsubon/July Shotsuki Service – 10am

## Quantum Logic and the Radical Clarity of Shinran

May is the month we celebrate the birth of Shinran Shonin—an occasion to reflect on his life and the clarity of his vision.

Today, I'd like to explore something unusual—something that connects quantum physics, ancient Buddhist cosmology, and the life of Shinran Shonin.

We humans tend to trust what we can see. If something is useful—something we can hold, use, or measure—it feels real to us. Though we speak of reason and rationality, we often judge the world by how it feels—by intuition, emotion, and experience.

In the world of computers, there is only yes or no. Binary logic: 1 or 0. On or off. It's a simplified model of choice. And to some degree, we live the same way. We choose one thing and let go of another. We can't attend two meetings at once, or live two lives at the same time. That's reality—right?

But in ancient India, more than 2000 years ago, there were other ways of seeing. — and perhaps even more expansive ways of thinking.

In Buddhist art, particularly in Indian and Tibetan traditions, we find murals that depict what is called *ekaspace-anekakala*—"a single space containing multiple moments in time" or in other words, a single space containing multiple moments in time. In a single painting or sculpture, multiple moments in time are depicted within a single, shared space. For example, we might see the Buddha being born, attaining enlightenment, and passing into Nirvana—all happening within the same frame. This is not a mistake or lack of realism. It is a visual language that suggests time is not strictly linear. It invites the viewer to step out of ordinary perception—to sense how time and space were once imagined not as fixed points, but as fluid dimensions shaped by awareness and insight.

Now think of Shinran Shonin.

Far from the cultural and religious center of Kyoto, exiled to the cold coast of Echigo, Shinran did something radical: He let go of the idea that we must earn enlightenment. He let go of spiritual climbing. He stopped trying to "choose the right path" and simply entrusted himself to the working of *Namo Amida Butsu*.

In a world of binary choices—good or bad, pure or impure, worthy or unworthy—Shinran chose neither.

**He chose truth. —beyond logic, beyond form, and beyond the narrowing limits of human reasoning.**

A truth that transcends measurement. A path that is available to everyone, regardless of status, intelligence, purity, or power. In this way, Shinran is not a figure of the past. He belongs to now.

If he were living today, he wouldn't be out of place in a world of quantum computing and multidimensional theory. He would still be teaching the Nembutsu—not as superstition, not as poetry, but as a radical, liberating insight into the nature of life itself.

Gassho,

Rev. Mieko Majima

ごうたんえ

## 降誕会によせて

親鸞聖人のご生涯をふりかえるとき、私たちは一人の人間として、深い苦悩と試練に満ちた道のりに心を打たれます。

幼くしてご両親を亡くし、おじに伴われて九歳で出家。その後も、仏道修行に励む日々を送られましたが、自らの力ではとうてい「さとり」に至ることはできない、という大きな壁にぶつかります。

しかし、そこからが親鸞聖人の本当の歩みの始まりだったのかもしれませんが。比叡山を下り、法然上人のもとでお念仏の教えに出会い、これこそが救いの道だと確信されたにもかかわらず、その教えのゆえに罪を問われ、越後へと流罪となりました。

当時の感覚では、越後は都から遠く離れた、寒く厳しい辺境の地でした。それは現代でたとえるならば、まるで極寒のシベリアに送られるような、厳しい追放刑でした。都の文化や人びととの関わりを断たれ、仏教者としての活動の場さえも奪われ、そのような境遇にあっても——親鸞聖人は歩みを止めませんでした。貴族的に仏教を語る時代にあって、「お念仏はすべての人びとの救いである」と、一般の人びとに向けて、生涯を通して説き続けました。

これは、言葉で言うほど簡単なことではありません。

仏教を“選ばれた人”のものではなく、“だれにでもひらかれた道”として再構築したという意味において、親鸞聖人は、宗教の歴史における革命家でもあったといえるでしょう。

その揺るがぬ思い。どれほど境遇が変わろうとも、変わらぬ願い。仏道に生き、語り、導いたその姿には、静かな洞察力と、燃えるような指導力がありました。

本願寺を受け継ぎ、組織として形づくったのは覚信尼公といわれますが、その礎には、親鸞聖人ご自身の「揺るがぬ根」があったのだと思います。私

私たちは、親鸞聖人のご誕生を祝いながら、その根本にある思いに、いま  
一度耳を傾けたいと思います。

合掌  
眞島 美枝子

## Children's Day and the Treasure of Life

May 5th is “Children’s Day” in Japan. On this day, colorful carp streamers (*koinobori*) swim through the sky, and families and schools often celebrate with special meals and fun activities. But Children’s Day is not just a day of fun and treats. It is a day filled with heartfelt wishes—wishes that children will grow up healthy, strong, and kind.



Have you ever heard the story behind the carp streamers? Carp are fish that swim upstream, against the current. No matter how strong the water flows, they keep going, using all their strength. Their brave spirit makes them a symbol of perseverance and courage.

But Children’s Day doesn’t mean we have to do everything alone. Just like the *koinobori* fly high in the sky thanks to the wind, the pole, the string, and the people who set them up— we, too, can move forward because of the support and love from those around us.

The hopes of our families, and the wishes of the Buddha, are the same: “**May you be well. May you grow up straight and true.**” The Buddha is always watching over you with kindness. Your life, right here and now, is a precious treasure nurtured by many unseen connections.

True strength doesn’t mean being the strongest in a fight or having the biggest muscles. True strength means being able to say “thank you” and “I’m sorry” with sincerity. A gentle and thoughtful heart is the strongest kind of heart.

Children’s Day is like a birthday—it’s a time to celebrate your life. The people around you, and the Buddha, are all saying, “You’re doing your best, and we see you.”

So let’s keep cherishing this precious life, and always carry the heart of gratitude as we move forward.



On Children’s Day in Japan, many families enjoy a traditional treat called *chimaki*. *Chimaki* is a rice dumpling wrapped in large bamboo or reed leaves. It is soft and sticky, and can be sweet or savory depending on the region.

A long time ago, people believed that *chimaki* could help protect against illness or bad luck, especially during the changing seasons. Eating *chimaki* was a way to wish for good health and safety.

You may not find *chimaki* easily in America, but Reedley temple makes something very similar—*manju*! The ingredients and recipe are almost the same, just without the leaves. And *manju* usually has sweet red bean paste inside!

How lucky we are to have *manju* always! Everyone at the temple is always wishing for your health and happiness.

Gassho

Rev. Mieko Majima

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

I hope everyone had a nice Hanamatsuri and Easter. Rev. Bob Oshita gave a great Hanamatsuri message and the Hanamido looked absolutely beautiful, as always. Thank you, BWA, for the wonderful snacks after the service. I hope everyone enjoyed their teriyaki bowls.

Congratulations to the Friendship Golf Tournament committee for putting on a very successful event. Everyone had a good time. The prizes and dinner were great. I had several golfers come up to me to say this is their favorite tournament to play in. Thank you to chairman, Ken Okajima, and the rest of the golf committee, Barton, Ashida, Gerald and Cherie Nakayama, and Jonathan Evans.

The yoga retreat and veggie meals were very well received by all the participants. Patti Oshita was asking if we would like to have another one. So, for those that would like to attend again or for those that missed the first one, and for all the friends and family you would like to invite, we will be setting up another similar event later this year. Watch for the announcement.

This month's service will be the first Sunday of the month, May 4<sup>th</sup>,

at 10 o'clock. We will be observing Gotan-e, Shinran Shonin's birth. Shinran is said to have been born May 21, 1173, 852 years ago. Rev. Mieko Majima will be delivering the Dharma message for that day. We hope to see you all at the church. There will also be Memorial Day Cemetery Services on Monday, May 26<sup>th</sup> at the Selma Cemetery at 8:30 am and at the Fowler Cemetery at 9:30 am. Don't forget to stop by the Ikebana Exhibit at the church, put on the Satomi Hiyama's Ikebana Class from 12 – 4 pm the Sunday before Memorial Day, May 25<sup>th</sup>.

Nikkei History: There are a couple of programs that feature the significant contributions of the Nikkei to the history of our nation and the valley. There was a program for the Nisei Solder Traveling Exhibit at the Clovis Veterans Memorial Hall on April 30<sup>th</sup>. I am sorry there was not enough advanced notice for that event, but on May 9<sup>th</sup> at the Reedley Buddhist Church and May 10<sup>th</sup> at Vintage Gardens, there will be a program presented by the Kansha History Project that will tell the story of the history of Nikkei Farmers in the Valley. Please register at <https://forms.gle/6Kc&tA9UASnuYxdaA> or contact Gale Nakai at [gale@ccnf.org](mailto:gale@ccnf.org). Seating is limited.



The Reedley Buddhist Church and the Fresno Betsuin have moved up the Obon Odori to May in hopes of better weather. The Reedley Obon will be on May 17<sup>th</sup> and the Fresno Obon will be on May 31<sup>st</sup>. We should try to support as many Obons in the Valley as possible which helps in their fundraising.

Our condolences go out to the Ashida/Nakamura families for the recent passing away of Ronald Ashida and to the Sera family for their loss of Clifford Sera. Services for Ron will be on May 17<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am at the church. Dress for the memorial will be casual Hawaiian. In lieu of flowers, you may make a donation to the Fowler Buddhist Church. Services for Clifford will be on June 7<sup>th</sup> at 10 am.

### **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)

### **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 - May**

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

#### **District 3**

##### **Riji**

**Aiko Kamine**

**Craig Sakaguchi**

##### **Toban**

**Irene Hara**

**Aiko Kamine**

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

Tatsuji Hirasuna  
Hitoshi Nakatsukasa  
Katsuo Yoshimoto  
Kai Yoshimoto  
Yoshitaro Tanaka  
Yoshikazu Kataoka  
Ayako Okamura  
Hitoshi Yoshida  
Douglas Nakamura  
Kaichi Sakoda  
Yukiye Hashimoto  
Mary Taketa  
Fumiye Asakawa  
Joan Kimura

Mariko Tokubo		
Ito Shimamoto	\$ 50.00	Brian Nagata
Koichi Kamikawa	\$ 50.00	Ron & Maxine
Kitaro Ideta		Yoshimoto
Douglas Jun Iwamoto	\$ 50.00	Howard & Satomi
Eichiro Matsuoka		Hiyama
Sayo Oba	\$ 50.00	Gary & Arlene Keithley
Lillian Yuriko Nakashige	\$ 40.00	Doren & Kathy Lee
Takashi Higuchi	\$ 30.00	Linda Matsumoto
Seiichi Kageura	\$ 30.00	Hitomi Sera
Shizuyo Masui	\$ 30.00	Joe & Irene Hara
Kumaichi Nakamura	\$ 30.00	Arthur & Alice
Tojiro Komoto		Fujikawa
Hatsuso Uyemura	\$ 30.00	Shig & Aiko Kamine
Daigoro Shinkawa	\$ 30.00	Mitsuye Shinkawa
Natsuye Sakai	\$ 30.00	Jan Yoshimoto
Joyce Shimizu-Stone	\$ 25.00	Gary & Karen Mukai
Hiteyo Ii	\$ 25.00	Janie Yuen
Yuki Miyaki	\$ 20.00	Maryann Miyasaki
Tokuchi Mukai	\$ 20.00	Mitch Kato
Don Kubose	\$ 10.00	Yoshiye Ii
Hitoshi Pete Nakayama		
Yoshiko Kataoka		
Florence Nakayama	\$ 1000.00	Allan & Esther
Tooru Nakahira		Nakagawa
Ross Kondo	\$ 200.00	Eiko & Bernard Ii
		Suzanne Ii Ford
	\$ 50.00	Maryann Miyasaki
	\$ 30.00	Maryann Miyasaki
	\$ 30.00	Jan Yoshimoto
	\$ 30.00	Howard & Satomi
		Hiyama
	\$ 30.00	Hitomi Sera & Family
	\$ 25.00	Earl Honda
<b>April 2025 Donations</b>		
<b><u>Hanamatsuri/Shotsuki</u></b>		
\$ 100.00 Rev. Bob & Patti Oshita		
\$ 30.00 Sharon Asakawa		

\$	25.00	Gordon & Susan
\$	20.00	Yoshie Ii
\$	20.00	Kimiko & George Hashimoto

### **Gotan-e**

\$	50.00	Brian Nagata
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### **Yoga Retreat**

\$	50.00	Ken Ishimoto
\$	50.00	Karen Kondo

### **In Memory of Tina Kato-Clairey**

\$	50.00	Ken Ishimoto
\$	50.00	Fowler Buddhist Women's Association
\$	25.00	Takeuchi Trust

### **In Memory of Clifford Sera**

\$	100.00	David Okazaki & Linda Gong
\$	100.00	Ryoko Okazaki
\$	50.00	Ken Ishimoto

### **In Memory of Katsuko Kuboki**

(Yuko Matoba's mother)

\$	50.00	Ken Ishimoto
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### **In Memory of Yaeko Otani**

\$	500.00	Jane, Mark, Katherine & Brian Foster
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### **Uyemura Reunion**

\$	105.00	Takeuchi Trust
		Use of Hall
\$	20.00	M/M Lawson Renge

### **Fowler Buddhist Church Friendship Golf Tournament**

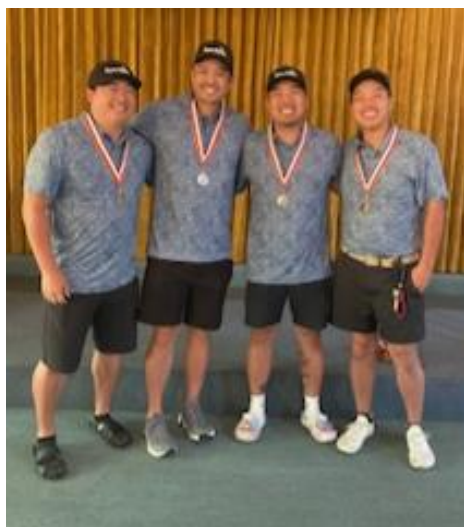
2025 brought another successful golf tournament. Here are pictures of some of the lucky golfers.



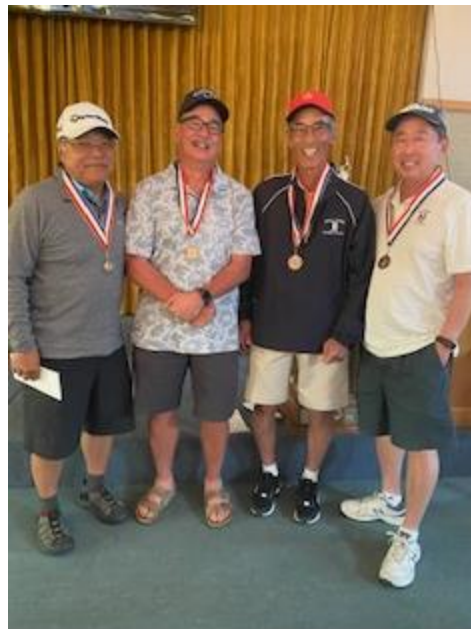
Representing the First Place Women's team: Cindy Inouye, (not pictured) Leslie Fukuda, Ann Takeda, Joyce Koyama



Representing, Fifth Place Senior Division team: Ron Yamabe, Gary Mukai, (not pictured) Ralph Handly, Wayne Nishio



Second Place Open Team Division: Mark Nakata, Matthew Tokeshi-Nitta, Keith Ikami, Ryan Ikami



Third Place Senior Division Team: Royce Kimura, Russell Osato, Gene Nagata, Glenn Yamamoto



Representing the Second Place Senior Division Team, all the way from Ventura; Kris Hatakeyama, Steve Murata, Ralph Misawa, (not pictured) Glenn Hasegawa



Representing the First Place Open Division Team: Reid Yoshimura, Don Yoshimura, (not pictured) Eddie Ramirez, Brent Jordan

**Thank you to all of our participants, donors and supporters!**

**Congratulations to all of the 2025 tournament winners!**



Fresno Betsuin

“Camping in the Sierras”

## Steak Dinner

Saturday, May 17, 2025

Dine-In or Take-Out 4:00pm - 7:00 pm

\$30.00

Fresno Betsuin Family Dharma Center

Tickets can be purchased from:

Campers

Fresno Betsuin Office – 559-442-4054

Email – CISsteakdinner@gmail.com

Or Send in Order Form Below

Donations can also be made online at <https://gofund.me/1453e7a5>

**Steak Dinner Order Form – Return with Check by 5/4/2025**

Make Checks Payable to: Fresno Buddhist Temple

In memo line please note: Camping in the Sierras

Mail to: Jenny Kubo

10544 N Old Course Dr

Fresno, CA 93730

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Dinner Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ x \$30 = \_\_\_\_\_

Donation = \_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed = \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Dine In \_\_\_\_\_ / Take Out \_\_\_\_\_



Thank you for your support of the campers!

(Email)



Reedley Buddhist Church



# OBON FESTIVAL



**Saturday, May 17, 2025**

**Food Sales - 5:00 PM**

**Dancing - 7:00 PM**

**Featuring Fresno  
Gumyo Taiko**

**Food Vendors:** Casa Oinari, Sergio's  
Tacos & Churros, RBC Shaved Ice,  
Papa Murphy's Pizza, BWA Somen,  
Jr. YBA & Dharma School drinks &  
mochi ice cream, and more!

Obon is a time of joyous celebration and gratitude to celebrate the generations who went before us and gave us the gift of life. We celebrate with colorful dancing which the community is invited to participate.

Reedley Buddhist Church - 2035 15th St. - Reedley

For info: [www.reedleybc.org](http://www.reedleybc.org)





# FRESNO BUDDHIST TEMPLE 79TH ANNUAL “OBON - FESTIVAL OF LANTERNS”

OBON IS... Honoring the past & appreciating the moment... Watching the lanterns sway in the breeze... The sight of young and old alike, in colorful yukatas & happi coats... Spending an evening with family & friends... A sense of being...

WHILE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF OBON DOES NOT CHANGE, WHAT HAS CHANGED IS THE DATE!

**SATURDAY, MAY 31, 2025**

We have moved Obon to May 31<sup>st</sup>, with hopes to improve the experience of Obon and to avoid the extreme heat of summer. We are hoping to have more activities outdoors, and most importantly, have our Bon Dancing during a time of the year where we can be more comfortable for our celebration. This is a whole new approach to Obon, and we hope to offer more food, more variety, and new offerings for you as attendees.



**A LA CARTE FOOD – BOOTHS OPEN AT 4:00PM ... LIMITED AVAILABILITY, ARRIVE EARLY!** 

SUSHI – SPAM MUSUBI – CHICKEN SALAD – CHICKEN KATSU – CHICKEN TERIYAKI – SOMEN NOODLES  
TAKOYAKI – NIPPON DOGS – SHAVE ICE – DESSERTS – BEER BOOTH – BEVERAGES & MORE...



**RAFFLE DRAWING – WIN \$2000, \$1000, \$500** 



**PERSONALIZED MEMORIAL LANTERNS** 



**GAME BOOTHS FOR THE KIDS!** 



**OBON DANCE 7:30PM** 



**VISIT THE TEMPLE!** 



FRESNO BUDDHIST TEMPLE  
2690 E. Alluvial Ave.  
Fresno, CA 93720



[www.fresnobuddhisttemple.org](http://www.fresnobuddhisttemple.org)  
(559) 442-4054  
[info@fresnobuddhisttemple.org](mailto:info@fresnobuddhisttemple.org)



# 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](mailto:bkmizushima@bcahq.org)





## **BCA MEMBERS RED CARPET WEEKEND**

*A VIP EXPERIENCE LIKE NO OTHER*

JOIN US FOR A SPECIAL EVENT EXCLUSIVELY FOR  
MEMBERS OF OUR BCA TEMPLES, CHURCHES, AND THE BCA  
INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

THIS **FREE** EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE

**JULY 11-13, 2025**  
AT THE

**JODO SHINSHU CENTER IN BERKELEY, CA**

TO LEARN MORE AND REGISTER GO TO:

**[HTTPS://WWW.BUDDHISTCHURCHESOFAMERICA.ORG/RED-CARPET-WEEKEND](https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/red-carpet-weekend)**

Password: bcarcw2025

***REGISTRATION BEGINS MAY 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2025***