



# THE WHITE PATH

MONTHLY BULLETIN VOL. 5396

SEPTEMBER 2025

## September Service and events:

- 9/14/2025 - Fall Ohigan/September Shotsuki/Dharma School
  - 10:00 a.m. – Rev. Patti Oshita
- 9/20/2025 – CC Nenbutsu Gathering, Fresno Betsuin
  - Saturday, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.; “How the Nenbutsu can Enrich Your Life” – Rev. Kodo Umezu (see flyer & registration sheet below)



## Guided by Amida's Vow

In September, we observe the autumn Ohigan. During this week, centered around the Autumn Equinox, the sun rises due east and sets due west. As the season shifts and the days grow shorter, many of us find ourselves putting our hands together in gassho, quietly remembering loved ones who have passed.

In Buddhism, life in this world is described as this shore (shigan)—a place filled with delusion and desires. The awakened realm of peace is called the Other Shore (higan). The path that connects these two worlds is explained in the Pure Land tradition as the “White Path.” This White Path is narrow, but steady—bright and firm underfoot, even as danger rages on both sides.

This White Path is illustrated in the Contemplation Sutra. It runs straight through a frightening and unstable landscape—flames of anger on one side, waves of greed on the other. But through the working of Amida, this single path stretches from the world of delusion to the realm of awakening. It is not a path we carve out through our own effort. It is already there, given to us by the Vow of Amida.

Still, we often try to forge our own way—trusting only our limited strength or cleverness. When our plans slip beyond our control, we lose our temper, fall into confusion, or swing to emotional extremes. That’s just how human beings are.

But there is a Buddha who calls out gently to us: “It’s all right. Just entrust yourself.” That Buddha is Amida.

And when we look back, Shakyamuni Buddha too is there—smiling, reassuring us from behind, gently nudging us forward on this path.

Amida does not abandon us in our weakness. Amida continues, without rest, to guide us so we do not stray or fall away from the Path.

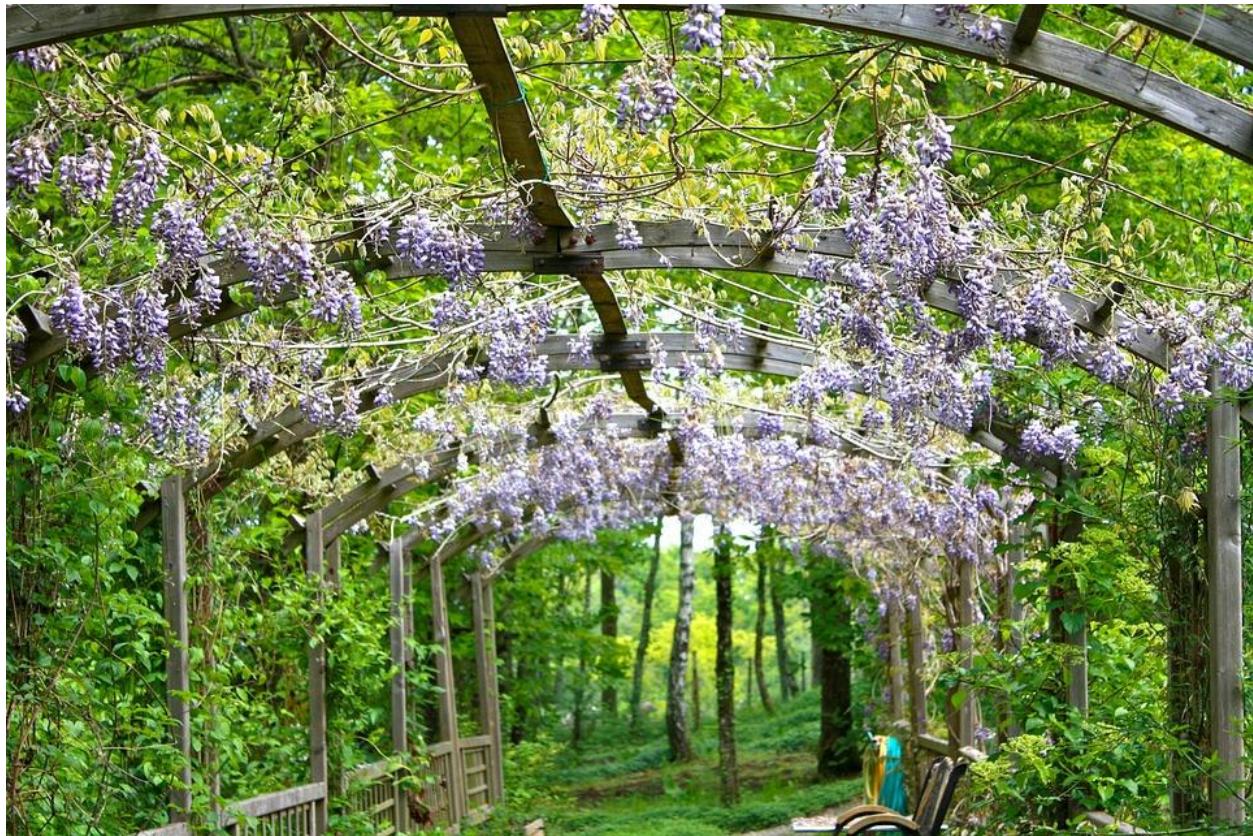
The White Path is not something we build through effort or discipline. It is the path we walk when we are guided by Amida’s Vow. And once we realize that truth, we can walk with a deep sense of assurance and peace.

During this Ohigan season, as we move through ordinary days, may we take a quiet moment to put our hands together and reflect: “Ah... I am being illuminated and protected by the Buddha’s compassion.”

Perhaps that is where the true meaning of higan is found.

This autumn, may we entrust our hearts to Amida Buddha’s unwavering Vow—knowing that we are never alone on this path.

Namo Amida Butsu



阿弥陀さまの願いに導かれて

9月には秋のお彼岸を迎えます。秋分の日を中日とする一週間、太陽が真東から昇り真西に沈むこの時期に、私たちはふと手を合わせ、大切な方を思い出します。

佛教では、「此岸」迷いと煩惱に満ちたこの世から、「彼岸」さとりの世界へと至る道が説かれてきました。浄土の教えでは、そのふたつの世界を結ぶ道は「白道」と呼んでいます。この白道は観無量寿經をもとにあらわされました。火と水に囲まれた不安な現実の中を、阿弥陀さまのはたらきによってまっすぐに貫かれた、迷いの世界からさとりの世界へ続く、たった一つの道をあらわしています。

それは、私たちが修行によって切り開くものではなく、仏さまの願いによってすでに私たちに届いている道なのです。けれども私たちは、自分の力で道を作り歩もうとします。そして、つい怒ったり迷ったり、極端に走ったりしてしまうのが現実ではないでしょうか。

そんな私たちに「大丈夫。」と呼びかけてくださる仏さまがいます。それが、阿弥陀さまです。後ろを振り返れば、お釈迦さまも「大丈夫。」とやさしく私たちをそっと後から背中を押してください。阿弥陀さまは、迷い多く、弱く、とらわれてばかりの私たちが脱線しないように休みなく私たちを導いてくださいます。

白道とは、私たちが努力して切り開く道ではなく、阿弥陀さまの願いに導かれて歩む道であることがわかったらもう安心です。このお彼岸の時期、何気ない日常の中でふと手を合わせ、「ああ、私は仏さまに照らされて護られているのだな。」とありがたく頂く。そこにこそ、本当の意味でのお彼岸の意味があるのではないでしょうか。

この秋、阿弥陀さまの願いに静かに心を預けてまいりましょう。

合掌

南無阿弥陀仏

## The Shiny Jewels in the Cave

One day, the Buddha and his disciple Ananda were traveling. They spent a night resting in a quiet cave.



The next morning, as they were leaving the cave, Ananda said, "World-Honored One, I saw something deep inside the cave. It looked like beautiful jewels shining in the dark. Could those be treasures hidden by thieves?"

The Buddha replied gently, "No, Ananda. Those are not jewels. They are poisonous snakes." A man nearby happened to overhear this conversation. After the Buddha and Ananda walked away, he snuck into the cave. He looked around and—what did he see? Shiny, sparkling jewels everywhere!



"What? Snakes? What nonsense!" the man laughed. "The Buddha can't even tell the difference between a snake and a gemstone!"

The man took the jewels, sold them in the city, and started living a rich and fancy life. But soon, his neighbors became suspicious. "He must be a thief!" one neighbor said, and reported him to the king.

The guards came and arrested him. "I'm not a thief!" the man cried. "I found the treasure in a cave!" But no one had seen the jewels in the cave. He couldn't prove anything. And so, he was sentenced to death.

On the day he was to be punished, the man whispered, "Oh Buddha... now I understand. You were right. Those jewels were snakes. If only I had trusted your words... I wouldn't be here."



The king heard his words and was surprised. "What do you mean?" he asked. The man told him about the Buddha and Ananda, and

The king said, "So... now you understand why the Buddha called them snakes. Treasures may look beautiful, but if we keep craving more and more, they can become poison and bring us trouble. You want to learn from the Buddha now. Then I will let you go. Go, and listen to his teaching."

And the man was pardoned.



Sometimes, we doubt the words of wise people—like our teachers, our parents, or the Buddha. We may think “If I don’t get more, how can I live a comfortable life?” But sometimes, our own thoughts can lead us into trouble.



## **President's Message**

It was certainly a nice experience with good attendance again for the August Shotsuki Service. Rev. Ko'e Umezu gave a very meaningful Dharma message. It was nice to see Rev. Amy, as most of us know her by, continue to carry on the legacy of her grandpa, George Teraoka, and her father the former Bishop, as a supreme Dharma propagator. Thank you to all in the kitchen, headed by Sharon Asakawa, that provided a delicious lunch after the service.

A board meeting was held immediately after the service. The main order of business was to approve the updated bylaws of the CCDC. The bylaws update was approved by the board with no significant surprises. The old bylaws required 4 representative from each temple and that requirement was reduced to two representatives. However at the next CCDC meeting, we will need 4 representatives from each temple to vote on approving the bylaws. The next CCDC meeting is on September 11th at the Fowler church.

### **Update of church structure:**

The City of Fowler is requiring the church to install a new back flow valve for our main water hookup. We have contracted Quality Plumbing to install the new unit. The settling of the

northeast corner of the Hondo will be investigated by a soil compaction study and then it will be decided on whether there is any fault from the City or whether it is feasible to make an insurance claim. We have contacted Krazan Engineering to evaluate the soil. The air conditioning unit for the office and the foyer quit working and a new fan motor in the unit had to be replaced.

### **Organizations:**

The golf club is planning its next tournament, the first half of the fall championship, at Tulare Golf Course on Sept. 7th. The Fowler BC Fellowship Tournament will be on April 25, 2026. We are encouraging golfers to participate in the Nikkei Foundation Tournament coming up on September 27th. The Fowler BWA chapter will be hosting the next CCBWA Conference which will be held in Parlier on March 22, 2026. The Fowler church will need to provide a rider on our insurance to protect our BWA from liability for holding the event on the Parlier premises.

There was a discussion of whether we should hold a food bazaar next year. We have tentatively set a date for the bazaar on February 21, 2026. We will start planning in November.

Just a reminder for church members that use the building for meetings or other events, to please notify President

Gary so that the event can be put on the calendar. Please be sure that the building is secured properly when you close the church.

‘Hope to see you all at the next service, which will be our Fall Ohigan on September 14th. You won’t want to miss it since our native-daughter, Rev. Patti Oshita, will be our speaker. I also encourage you to sign up for this year’s CC Nembutsu Family Gathering on September 20th. The flyer and registration form can be found in this newsletter.

Gassho,

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)

### **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 - September**

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

### **District 3**

#### **Riji**

Aiko Kamine  
Craig Sakaguchi

#### **Toban**

Aiko Kamine  
Irene Hara

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

Shotaro Arasuna  
Miyako Ezaki  
Chisa Kikuta  
Hideo Kikuta  
Kaichi Matsuoka  
Masao Nakamura  
Teruko Nakamura  
Iwazo Shimamoto  
Hatsujiro Sugimoto  
Fumi Takasaki  
Misao Takemoto  
Sawataro Teraoka  
Toshi Uchiyama  
Inema Wada  
Sampachi Yokomi  
Naohiko Yoshimura  
Sumiye Shimoda  
Alice Honda

Alta Matsuko Kikuta  
Suno Onaka  
Faye Fumiko Namba  
Nakayo Nakamoto  
Jane Tsuruko Hashimoto  
Masao Fujikawa  
Masako Higuchi  
Takashi Idera  
Masako Tema Yosako  
Masao Ishimoto  
Sue Sumie Kageura  
Ann Ayano Idera  
Betty Harumi Tokubo  
Rev Shodo Toyoji Jim Yanagihara  
Edward Toshio Hirasuna  
Kimihiro Sera

#### **CONDOLENCES**

The Buddhist Church of Fowler  
to the Hashimoto family on the  
passing of George Hashimoto.

May you always find comfort in the  
Nembutsu.

Namo Amida Butsu



#### **August 2025 Donations**

##### **Obon/Shotsuki**

\$ 100.00 Janie Yuen

##### **Shotsuki**

\$ 100.00	Janie Yuen & Family
\$ 50.00	Gary & Karen Mukai
\$ 50.00	Tayoko & Craig Honda
\$ 50.00	Kerry & Jeri Nakagawa & Family
\$ 40.00	Nakamura Family
\$ 35.00	Brian Nagata
\$ 30.00	Howard & Satomi Hiyama
\$ 30.00	Art & Alice Fujikawa
\$ 30.00	Gary & Arlene Keithley
\$ 30.00	Greg & Gay Mukai
\$ 25.00	Eiko Ii
\$ 25.00	Earl Honda
\$ 20.00	Yoshiye Ii

##### **In Memory of Mary Teraoka, 7<sup>th</sup> Year Memorial**

\$ 300.00 The Teraoka Family

##### **Youth Fund**

\$1000.00 M Tokubo Family

##### **Special Donations**

\$1000.00	CCYBA
	Hot Dog Sales
\$ 32.00	In Memory of Kenny Hashimoto & Kevin Nagata

FOWLER B.C., Dharma School,  
Buddhist Women Association, Fowler  
Golf Club

Thank you for the Past, Present and  
Future Support of Blake.

Blake is starting a New Chapter in life  
as Rev. Blake Honda, he is assigned to  
Oxnard and Santa Barbra Buddhist  
Church.

Blake, Craig and I appreciate the  
members' support, guidance, and  
donation toward Blake's Ministry  
journey.

Thank you also to the congregation for  
the future growth of our Sangha. Please  
come to our future gatherings and bring  
your friends.

Gassho,

Craig and Tayoko Honda

Rev. Blake Honda

Center of Buddhist Education | Living the Dharma Committee

# Finding My Path as a Young Adult With Cancer



Guest Speaker

**Paul Daisuke Goodman**

Creative Director,  
Eight East Productions

Paul Daisuke Goodman is the creative director at Eight East Productions and the writer and director of the award-winning film, *No No Girl*. He is also an editor at the popular online Buddhist school, *Everyday Buddhist* and has contributed to publications such as *Lion's Roar* and *Pacific Citizen*. Paul is a three time cancer survivor and began making feature films after his initial diagnosis in 2016.

---

**17 September 2025**

5:00 PM – 6:00 PM PT

**Virtual via Zoom**

Please register to receive the link →

---



Center for Buddhist Education  
Living the Dharma Committee

Register Today!



[bit.ly/ltd0917](https://bit.ly/ltd0917)

# Central California Nembutsu Family Gathering

(Fowler, Fresno, Hanford, Parlier, Reedley, Visalia)

**Saturday, September 20, 2025**

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

## Fresno Buddhist Temple

Please complete your registration by Friday, Sept. 12, 2025  
Register online by clicking or scanning the QR code



## Payment options for registration fees:

-by check payable to CCDC and mail to:

CCDC c/o 2690 E. Alluvial Ave., Fresno 93720 or

-by cash or check the day of the Nembutsu Family Gathering

## Schedule

9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	Registration
9:30 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.	Family Dharma Service in the Hondo
10:15 a.m. - 11:50 a.m.	Children's Dharma Talk--Guest speaker, Rev. Kodo Umezu
10:15 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	Children's Workshop and Bounce House
10:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Adults move to the Family Dharma Center (FDC)/Refreshments
12:00 p.m. - 12:05 p.m.	Adult Seminar: "How the Nembutsu Can Enrich Your Life" with Rev. Kodo Umezu
12:05 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	All attendees in the FDC: Closing remarks and Gassho
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Lunch: Hamburgers, hot dogs, and all the fixings
	Reedley's Papa Murphy's Pizza
	Shave Ice by the CCYBA (donation)
	Sangha Social for Everyone
	Bingo with cash prizes and fun prizes
	50/50 Raffle

## Registration

Name(s) # Adults @ \$5.00 =

Temple (if applicable) # Child/ren @ \$3.00 =

Phone #  Donation, optional

Email  Total

Lunch: Vegetarian      Please list dietary restrictions:

For more information, please contact: [fresnobuddhisttemple@gmail.com](mailto:fresnobuddhisttemple@gmail.com)

# YOGA AND BUDDHISM COMMUNITY GATHERING

*Workshops and discussions on Yoga and Buddhism*

**Friday, Sept. 26 - Sunday, Sept. 28, 2025**

**Hard Rock Hotel & Casino, Sacramento**

**Bob Matsueda**

Yoga and Wellness Instructor  
Yoga Therapist, Government of  
India, Ministry of AYUSH



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

BCA Ministers (Retired)  
Co-authors, *Dharma Is Everywhere*  
Yoga Teacher Candidates

**Everyone is invited -  
any age and physical condition.  
No experience or mats are necessary.**

**REGISTRATION IS VERY LIMITED**

**FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED**

Information and sign up, please email Rev. Patti Oshita  
[pattioshita100@gmail.com](mailto:pattioshita100@gmail.com)

**Sponsored by:** Buddhist Church of Florin • Buddhist Church of Marysville  
Placer Buddhist Church • Buddhist Church of Sacramento • Buddhist Church of Stockton  
Walnut Grove Buddhist Church • Buddhist Church of Lodi  
Buddhist Churches of America • Center for Buddhist Education  
BCA Endowment Foundation's Dharma Forward Program



\*\*\* We are not endorsing gambling, but we appreciate the  
venue for the accommodations for this event.

SACRAMENTO  
AT FIRE MOUNTAIN



## FALL OHIGAN SEMINAR

### “BUDDHISM TO JODO SHINSHU”

LEARN FROM BISHOP TATSUYA AOKI

JODO SHINSHU BUDDHIST TEMPLES OF CANADA

JODO SHINSHU MINISTER & ACTOR

(RECENTLY ON HULU/FX's HIT SHOW “SHŌGUN”)



**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2025  
9:30AM – NOON**

**FRESNO FAMILY DHARMA CENTER  
2690 E. ALLUVIAL AVE., FRESNO 93720**

**FREE! ALL ARE WELCOME!**

**SPONSORED BY THE FRESNO BUDDHIST TEMPLE EDUCATION &  
PROPAGATION COMMITTEE, THE TOSHIE YAMAGUCHI FAMILY  
AND THE CENTRAL CALIF. BUDDHIST MINISTERS ASSOCIATION**

**THE NEXT SCHEDULED JOINT SEMINAR WILL BE HELD ON  
OCTOBER 11, 2025 AT THE BUDDHIST CHURCH OF PARLIER**

**(559) 442-4054**

**INFO@FRESNOBUDDHISTTEMPLE.ORG**

**WWW.FRESNOBUDDHISTTEMPLE.ORG**



## THE FRESNO BUDDHIST TEMPLE

2690 e. alluvial ave. • fresno ca 93720

# GINZA FOOD BAZAAR

Sunday October 26, 2025

11:00am til 2:00pm  
Box lunch must be picked up by 1:00pm

### ALA CARTE

### MENU

- Sushi & Spam Musubi
- Shrimp/Vegetable Tempura
- Curry Rice Bowl
- BBQ Ribs
- Chicken Salad
- Karage Chicken
- Croquettes
- Beef Sliders
- Desserts
- Beverages

### BOX

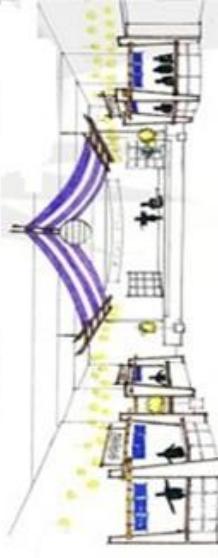
### LUNCH

- Boneless Chicken Teriyaki
- Chow Mein
- Gyoza
- Namazu
- Edamame
- Rice
- Fruit

Tix must be purchased in advance  
**\$22**

### Raffle Drawing

first \$1000 | second \$500 | third \$250



For information: 559.442.4054  
info@fresnobuddhisttemple.org  
www.fresnobuddhisttemple.org



# Reedley Buddhist Church

## 71st Annual Food Bazaar

Boneless Chicken Teriyaki, Chow Mein, Teriyaki Beefstick, Namasu, Rice, & Almond Cookie



Sunday, November 2, 2025

Dine-In or Pick Up - 3:00 - 6:00 PM

\$20 each boxed dinner - Pre-sale ONLY

\* A limited number of dinners available

Deadline: Monday, October 20, 2025

Send to: Reedley Buddhist Church - P.O. Box 24 - Reedley, CA 93654

Also for Sale:  
Inari &  
Spam Sushi

Country Store  
Home-made items

Desserts - So many  
delicious goodies!

Cut and return the bottom portion

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email or cell phone text (for receipt confirmation): \_\_\_\_\_

Boxed Dinners: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$20.00      Total Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

Deadline: Monday, October 20, 2025

Make checks payable to: REEDLEY BUDDHIST CHURCH

Questions: Call Vickie Nishida at (559)903-0317 or email: [vlnishida1@gmail.com](mailto:vlnishida1@gmail.com)  
or Karen Sakata at (559)284-9885 or email: [kgsakata@verizon.net](mailto:kgsakata@verizon.net)

For more information or to download a form go to: [www.reedleybc.org](http://www.reedleybc.org)

