



THE WHITE PATH

MONTHLY BULLETIN VOL. 5397

OCTOBER 2025

October Service and events:

- 10/18/2025 – Dharma Discussion with Rev. Kenji Akahoshi
CANCELED
- 10/19/2025 – Eshin-ni/Kakushin-ni Memorial and October
Shotsuki Service (No Dharma School)
10:00 a.m. – Rev. Kenji Akahoshi

Board Meeting 12:00 noon

November Service:

- 11/23/2025 – Eitaikyo and November Shotsuki Service and
Dharma School 10:00 a.m. – Rev. Henry
Adams



Chrysanthemums and Impermanence

This October, Hongwanji in Kyoto will hold the annual Hongwanji Chrysanthemum Exhibition from Monday, October 14 through Saturday, November 23. Within the temple grounds, you will see magnificent chrysanthemums carefully cultivated by enthusiasts from all over Japan. The peak season is late October. If you have the chance to visit Kyoto around that time, I encourage you to see these flowers. Their beauty is truly moving. Chrysanthemums originated in ancient China, where they were cherished as the “flower of long life.” When they were introduced to Japan, they came to symbolize purity and nobility, and eventually were adopted as the crest of the Imperial Household.

This is the Chrysanthemum Crest. Even today, it is printed on Japanese passports, making the chrysanthemum a flower that represents the nation itself. The crest of Hongwanji, however, is the wisteria crest (sagefuchi). Yet in autumn, the temple is adorned with chrysanthemums, which are later offered at the National Memorial Service for All Members. They appear in white, yellow, and many other colors, and each flower carries feelings of gratitude to the Buddha, expressed through remembrance of those who have gone before us. Chrysanthemums have also spread to many parts of the world. In India, they are mainly grown in the northern regions as a winter flower, while marigolds—flowers that resemble chrysanthemums and thrive in heat and dry climates—are more often used for offerings. Bright garlands of marigolds are seen in temples, home altars, and also at funerals and memorials. In Europe, especially in Catholic countries, chrysanthemums are regarded as “flowers of remembrance” and are placed on graves during the days of prayer for the dead in November. In Latin cultures as well, during the Day of the Dead (Día de los Muertos), families and friends honor their loved ones with colorful flowers, including chrysanthemums. Just as chrysanthemums are offered in Japan and marigolds in India, both flowers are cherished as expressions of reverence for the sacred. Buddhism teaches us the truth of impermanence. Even the chrysanthemum, blooming in full splendor, is no exception. Yet the teaching of impermanence is not meant to leave us in sorrow. Rather, it shows us that because a flower’s life is limited, its fragrance and beauty stand out all the more, and we feel its preciousness deeply. In the same way, the lives of those who have passed away shine in our hearts precisely because they lived their limited lives fully. As we remember them, we also become aware that we ourselves are being sustained here and now, and we renew our gratitude. Amida Buddha embraces each fleeting life just as it is and leads us to

the Land of Bliss. As we gaze upon the chrysanthemums of autumn, may we reflect on impermanence and receive once again the boundless compassion of Amida Buddha.

Namo Amida Butsu.



菊と仏教

この10月、京都の本願寺では「本願寺献菊展」が開かれます。期間は10月14日(月・祝)から11月23日(土・祝)まで。お寺の境内には、全国の愛好家が丹精こめて育てた見事な菊が並びます。ちょうど見頃は10月下旬。もしその頃に京都を訪ねられがあれば、ぜひ本願寺の菊をご覧ください。その美しさにきっと心を打たれることでしょう。

もともと菊の原産国は古代中国で、「不老長寿の花」として尊ばれてきました。日本へ伝わってからは清らかさや高貴さの象徴となり、やがて皇室の紋章としても用いられるようになりました。これが「菊花紋章」です。今日では日本のパスポートにも描かれ、菊は日本という国を表す花でもあります。

本願寺の紋は「下り藤」ですが、秋には境内を菊で莊厳し、やがてそれら「全国門徒総追悼法要」に献花されます。白や黄色などさまざまな菊があり、亡き方々を偲ぶことを通して、その一輪一輪に仏さまへの感謝の思いが込められています。

菊はまた、世界のさまざまな地域にも広がりました。インドでは、菊は主に北部で育てられていますが、暑さや乾燥に強く、土壤条件にも適応しやすい菊によく似たマリーゴールドがお寺への献花に用いられていると聞いています。そのほか、ヨーロッパでは、特にカトリックの国々で菊は「死者を偲ぶ花」とされ、日本では菊が、インドではマリーゴールドが供えられるというように、どちらの花も神聖な花として大切にされています。

仏教は「無常」を私たちに教えます。美しく咲き誇る菊でさえ、例外ではありません。しかし「無常」の教えは、けっして残念さにとどまるものではありません。花のいのちが限られているからこそ、その香りや美しさはいっそう際立ち、尊く感じられるのです。

同じように、亡き方々の歩みもまた、限りあるいはのちを生き抜かれたからこそ、私たちの心に深く刻まれています。先人を偲びながら、今こうして自分も生きかされていることに気づき、感謝の思いを新たにするのです。

阿弥陀如来は、その散りゆくいのちをそのまま抱きとり、永遠のいのちへと導いてくださいます。秋に咲き誇る菊を眺めながら、無常をかみしめつつ、阿弥陀さまの限りない大悲をありがたくいただいてお念佛いたしましょう。

南無阿弥陀仏。

The Rabbit in the Moon



When you look up at the night sky in October, the moon shines so bright and round. Have you ever looked carefully and thought, “What do I see in the moon?” Some people say they can see the shape of a rabbit.

A long time ago in India, people told a story about the rabbit in the moon. Later, the story traveled through China to Japan, and many children still hear it today.

One day, an old traveler came into the forest. He was very tired and hungry. Three animals lived in that forest—a monkey, a fox, and a rabbit. When they saw the traveler, they felt sorry for him and wanted to help.

The monkey ran to the trees and brought some sweet fruit. The fox searched and found some food to give him. But the rabbit could not find anything to share. He thought and thought, but there was no food anywhere.

Finally, the rabbit said, “I am sorry. I have nothing else to give. Please eat me.” The traveler was actually a god in disguise. He was so touched by the kindness of the animals—especially the rabbit—that he placed the rabbit’s image in the moon. From that time on, people everywhere could look up and remember the rabbit’s compassion.



So, the next time you see the bright autumn moon, try to find the rabbit. When you do, remember the monkey, the fox, and especially the rabbit. They remind us that kindness and compassion shine in many ways—just like the moon, and just like the boundless heart of Amida Buddha.

Namo Amida Butsu

President's Message

Thank you to those of you that attended the September Shotsuki / Dharma school and Fall Ohigan service to hear the important message presented by Rev. Patti Oshita. Do you remember some of her advice? "We must not be *Devas* and think we will live forever, but rather appreciate that every day is precious." Rev. Bob Oshita reminded the children about how we express our gratitude. Thank you to all the BWA members, headed by Aiko Kamine and Sharon Asakawa, for the very tasty chicken salad, musubis, and other snacks.

The CC Nembutsu Family Gathering was held on Saturday, September 20 at the Betsuin Dharma Center featuring a dharma message from former bishop, Rev. Kodo Umezu. There was a program for the kids with a bounce house for part of the activity. Rev. Umezu gave an important adult message about the Eighteenth Vow and "True Awakening" and performed a clever magic trick for the dharma students.

This month, on October 19, we will have the pleasure of hearing retired BCA minister, Rev. Kenji Akahoshi for our Eshinni / Kakushinni Memorial and Shotsuki service. Rev. Akahoshi has been

traveling throughout the BCA, advising how we can build our temple membership. It was previously mentioned that Rev. Akahoshi was going to lead a Dharma discussion on the Saturday afternoon before his Sunday talk, but that event has been cancelled due to another commitment he will be attending.

This Saturday, October 4th, we will be observing the funeral service for Mr. George Hashimoto. Mr. Hashimoto has been a long-time supporter of the Fowler Buddhist Church and will be greatly missed. The funeral will be here in Fowler and will start at 10 O'clock.

A soil analysis was taken last week by Krazan Engineering to determine the cause of the settling of the ground beneath the Northeast foundation of the church. We will be receiving a report soon that will determine our course of action to repair the church. I will report the findings of the report in our next month's White Path.

Coming events:

Oct. 4 George
Hashimoto Funeral

Oct. 11 Kingsburg
Buddhist Church Obon – 4-9 pm

Oct. 19	Eshinni / Kakushinni Memorial and Shotsuki Service – guest speaker Rev. Akahoshi
Oct. 19	Fowler Buddhist Church Board Meeting – after service
Nov. 2	Reedley Buddhist Church Food Bazaar
	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

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 4

Riji

Craig Honda
Sharon Asakawa

Toban

Sharon Asakawa
Tayoko Honda

The Shotsuki names for the month of October are:

Chiyoto Matsumoto
Shinayo Miyasaki
Ben Shimizu
Teruo Arasuna
Hachiroemon Nishina
Kaoru Kamikawa
Hirosu Yamamoto
Seki Masuoka
Ume Takimoto
Shinayo Tokubo
Kinjiro Kato
Sasayo Nakagawa
Shigeru Morita
Kumi Fujikawa
Geraldine Kawano
Peaches Sugimoto
Ayako Honda
Fred Kato

Nobuo Roy Yosako
Yoshiye Nakata
Deborah Asakawa Lee
Yoshio Floyd Honda
Johnson Shimizu
Deviroi Namito Gibson
Shizue Hirasuna
George Taniguchi
Shizuko Emma Kawano
Toshio Kawamoto
George Shoichi Miyasaki
Ayako Kondo
Toshiye Miyasaki
Nofuku Yokomi
Ross Seiji Sakaguchi
Russell Matsumoto
Henry Fujikawa
Shizue Sakoda



September 2025 Donations

Fall Ohigan

\$ 30.00	Mr. Hiro Komaki
\$ 30.00	Art & Alice Fujikawa
\$ 30.00	Janie Yuen
\$ 30.00	Tayoko & Craig Honda
\$ 30.00	Janice Yoshimoto
\$ 25.00	Linda Matsumoto
\$ 20.00	Derek & Yim Honda

Shotsuki

\$ 300.00	Clevenger, Rose & Sera Families
\$ 50.00	Sally Yemoto
\$ 25.00	Earl Honda
\$ 20.00	Ms. Sharon Asakawa
\$ 20.00	George & Kim Hashimoto

In Memory of Tina Kato-Clarey

\$ 50.00	Howard & Satomi Hiyama
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In Memory of George Hashimoto

\$ 50.00	Ken Ishimoto
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Special Donation

\$ 100.00	Michael & Beverly Maruyama
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BCA: Center for Buddhist Education Presents:

DEATH: JODO SHINSHU DOCTRINE & RITUALS

Jodo Shinshu Center 2140 Durant Ave, Berkeley 94704

OCTOBER
25, 2025



DR MARK BLUM

Professor of Buddhist Studies
and Shinjo Ito Distinguished
Chair in Japanese studies at
UC Berkeley.
"Never Die Alone"



**REV KIYONOBU
KUWAHARA**

Program Director at the Jodo
Shinshu International Office.
Supervising minister of Marin &
Berkeley Buddhist Temples.
"Jodo Shinshu Rituals"

\$50 IN-PERSON / \$30 ONLINE

REGISTRATION & INFO:

<https://tinyurl.com/JodoDeath>



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

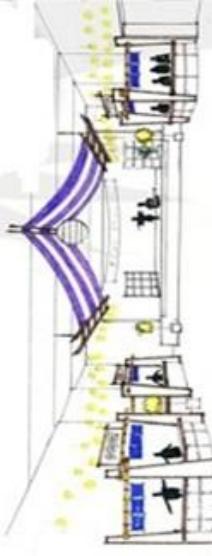
- Boneless Chicken Teriyaki
- Chow Mein
- Gyoza
- Namazu
- Edamame
- Rice
- Fruit

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
or Karen Sakata at (559)284-9885 or email: kgsakata@verizon.net

For more information or to download a form go to: **www.reedleybc.org**

