



THE WHITE PATH

MONTHLY BULLETIN VOL. 5400

January 2026

January Service and events:

- 01/01/2026 – Shusho-E (New Years Day) Service
7:00 p.m.– Fowler Buddhist Church
- 01/19/2026 – First “Dharma Gathering”
10:00 a.m. – Guest Speaker –
Gary Mukai
- 01/25/2026 – Ho-Onko Service/January Shotsuki/Dharma
School – 10:00 a.m. – Rev. Mieko Majima

February Service and events:

- 02/13 – 02/15/2026 – National Council Meeting,
- 02/22/2026 – Nirvana Day
10:00 a.m. – Rev. Mieko Majima

Future events:

March Services:

- 03/01/2026 – Spring Ohigan/March Shotsuki/Dharma School
10:00 a.m. – Rev. Yuika Hasebe, HI (via Zoom)
- 03/29/2026 – Dharma Gathering – 10:00 a.m.

2026 New Year's Greetings From His Eminence Gomonsu Kojun Ohtani

As we welcome the arrival of the New Year, I extend my sincere greetings.

In recent years, natural disasters—including typhoons, torrential rains, earthquakes, and large-scale wildfires—have occurred with increasing frequency both in Japan and around the world, causing devastating damage and casualties. I offer my heartfelt condolences for those who lost their lives, and I express my deepest sympathy to all who have been affected. I fervently hope that you may all regain normalcy in your daily lives as soon as possible.

Last year marked a significant milestone, the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II. In July, I had the honor of attending memorial services in Okinawa, Hiroshima, and Nagasaki—places that suffered destruction beyond words—and had the precious opportunity to listen to the accounts of those who lived through the war. I once again engraved in my heart the words of Sokunyo Monshu who said at the 1995 “50th Anniversary of the End of World War II Memorial Service for All the War Dead”: *“We cannot help but feel deep remorse before the Buddhas and Spiritual Leaders for the fact that we were unfaithful to the teachings of our Founder and actively cooperated with the war in the name of Buddhism.”* With renewed recognition of our organization’s wartime responsibility, I reaffirmed my resolve as we continue forward on this path.

In the postwar years, our organization began its journey by refusing to avert its eyes from the fact of its active cooperation and involvement in the war, and by striving to build a peaceful society in which all people may live in spiritual fulfillment. We must continue to confront these truths with sincerity and ensure that such errors are never repeated. Even now, around the world, wars and conflicts persist, and countless precious lives remain at risk. In such times, let us hold close to our hearts Shinran Shonin’s aspiration—*“May there be peace in the world, and may the Buddha’s teaching spread!”*—and walk each day in harmony with this wish.

January 1, 2026

OHTANI Kojun
Monshu
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

This translation is prepared by the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii.

2026 年 年頭の辞

新しい年を迎えるにあたり、ご挨拶申し上げます。

まず、近年、日本をはじめ世界各地で台風や豪雨、地震などの自然災害や大規模な山火事などが頻繁に発生し、甚大な被害がもたらされています。犠牲となられた方々に謹んで哀悼の意を表しますとともに、被災された皆さまに心からお見舞い申し上げます。皆さまが一日も早く、平穏な日常を取り戻されますことを心から願っております。

さて、昨年は第二次世界大戦の終戦から 80 年という節目の年でした。私は 7 月に、この戦争で筆舌に尽くしがたい惨禍がもたらされた沖縄・広島・長崎の追悼法要のご縁をいただき、戦争体験者の方々のお話を聞かせていただく尊い機会を得ました。そして、平成 7 年・1995 年の「終戦 50 周年全戦没者追悼法要」における、「宗祖の教えに背き、仏法の名において戦争に積極的に協力していった過去の事実を、仏祖の御前に慚愧せずにはおれません」との教団の戦争責任にかかる即如門主のお言葉を改めて心に刻み、これからも歩んでいく決意を新たにいたしました。

戦後の教団の歩みは、戦争に積極的に協力・加担した事実から目をそらさず、その反省を踏まえ、誰もが心豊かに生きられる平和な社会の実現を目指すことから始まりました。私たちは、その事実と真摯に向き合い、決して同じ過ちを繰り返してはなりません。現在も世界各地で戦争や紛争は続いており、多くの尊い命が脅かされています。そのような中であって、宗祖親鸞聖人の「世のなか安穏なれ、仏法ひろまれ」との願いを常に心に留めて、日々の歩みを進めてまいりましょう。

2026 年 1 月 1 日

浄土真宗本願寺派

門主 大谷光淳

New Year's Dharma Message

Happy New Year to everyone.

As we look back on the past year, we are reminded of how fragile and uncertain our world can be. Natural disasters such as earthquakes and typhoons occurred in many places, and ongoing social changes continued to affect people across the globe. Rising prices and economic pressures have also made daily life more difficult for many. Each of us has faced our own struggles, often in quiet and unseen ways.

We have also witnessed the great suffering caused by war. Countless lives have been lost, and we hold those who have passed away in our thoughts and prayers. At the same time, we are reminded of how precious peace truly is. Even now, conflicts continue in many parts of the world, and this reality brings deep sorrow to our hearts. It calls us to reflect on the importance of dialogue, understanding, and cooperation beyond differences.

This January marks nearly two years since I came to California. I feel deep gratitude that each month I am able to spend time with you at our temples, listening together to the words of Shakyamuni Buddha and Shinran Shonin. Wherever I go, I have been warmly welcomed, and I am sincerely thankful for the kindness and support I have received.

In our everyday lives, we are all carrying something—worries, responsibilities, or uncertainties. Yet, through the Nembutsu, we are reminded that we are not alone. As we move forward into this new year, I hope that we may continue to care for one another, support one another, and face difficulties together, guided by compassion and gratitude.

May this new year be one in which we, and people throughout the world, can walk forward with hope, entrusting ourselves to the boundless compassion of Amida Buddha.

Namo Amida Butsu

皆さま、新年あけましておめでとうございます。

昨年を振り返りますと、地震や台風などの自然災害が相次ぎ、また社会のさまざまな変化が、私たちの暮らしに大きな影響を与えた一年であったことを思われます。

物価の高騰などもあり、日々の生活の中で、それぞれにご苦労やご心配を抱えてこられたことと思います。また、現在もなお、世界各地で戦争や紛争が続き、多くの人々が苦しみの中にあります。その現実にく心を痛めながら、立場や考えの違いを超えて対話を重ね、互いに理解し合い、協力していくことの大切さを強く感じています。

この一月で、私がカリフォルニアに来てから、まもなく二年を迎えます。毎月、各寺院において皆さまとご一緒に、お釈迦さまや親鸞聖人のお言葉に耳を傾ける時間を過ごさせていただいていることを、心よりありがたく思っております。行く先々で温かく迎えていただいていることに、深い感謝の念を抱いております。

私たちは日々の生活の中で、それぞれに悩みや不安、思い通りにならないことを抱えながら生きています。しかし、お念仏申すところに、私たちは常に阿弥陀さまのはたらきの中に生かされていることを知らされます。これからも互いを思いやり、支え合いながら、さまざまな困難をともに乗り越え、お念仏のご縁を大切にしまいたいと願っております。

新しい年が、私たち一人ひとり、阿弥陀に身をゆだねつつ、希望をもって歩んでいくことのできる一年となりますように。

合掌

Thank You Journal

Happy New Year, everyone!

At the start of the New Year, let's choose one small thing we can do every day. It doesn't have to be hard, and you don't have to be perfect.

My recommendation is a **"Thank You Journal."** It's very easy. Open a notebook and write just one thing each day that makes you feel thankful.



For example, someone made a meal for you, a friend smiled at you, the sky looked beautiful, or you made it through the day. Even very small things are okay.

Write in your journal when you feel happy, when you feel angry, and when you feel sad. No matter how you feel, write one "thank you."

Some days, it might be hard to find something to be thankful for. On those days, you can write, "Thank you for getting through today."

When you keep writing "thank you," your heart slowly becomes warmer.

May this New Year be a year filled with many "thank you" and lots of smiles for all of you. Let's try it together!

President's Message

HAPPY NEW YEAR to everyone. I hope 2026 will be a year of happiness and prosperity. I am looking forward to new opportunities for hearing the Dharma this coming year. Thank you to Rev. Brian Nagata and Rev. Mieke Majima for helping ring in the New Year by conducting the Joy-e and Shusho-e (New Year's Eve and New Year's Day Services). Thank you to Aiko Kamine and crew for preparing and serving the soba to finish off 2025.

January will be the start of having church services twice-a-month. We will be having our regular observance of monthly Shotsuki, Dharma School and Buddhist Holiday and in addition we will have a monthly Family Service/Dharma School on another Sunday. This month we will be having our Family Service/Dharma School on January 18th and we will have Dr. Don Yoshimura as our guest speaker and Rev. Karen conducting the service. We will be resuming our adult Dharma school class on the Family Service days. The following Sunday, the 25th, we will have our Shotsuki, Dharma School, and Hoonko service, with Rev. Majima conducting the service. Rev. Majima has scheduled the opportunity for Dharma School students to attend Dharma School four times a month if they choose to attend Dharma School at Reedley on the other Sundays of the month.

The observance of Hoonko is probably the most significant service of the year, as it is the memorial service for our founder of Shin Buddhism, Shinran Shonin. I hope you can make it to this important event.

We will be having an important FBC Food Bazaar meeting at 1:00 am at the church on Saturday, January 10th at 1:00. District 4 has been busy with planning Bazaar details. Thank you Tayoko and Craig Honda, and Sharon Asakawa for your leadership in being able to resume our Food Bazaar once again. We will need the help of the entire membership to make it a success. A BWA meeting will also be meeting on the 10th at 10:00 am, prior to the Food Bazaar meeting

Thank you to all the church officers for agreeing to serve another year on the church board. President Gary Mukai, Vice-President Gary Keithley, Second Vice-Presidents Tayoko Honda and Sharon Asakawa, Treasurer Ron Yoshimoto, Secretary Gay Mukai, Religious Chair Karen Mukai will continue on as board members for 2026.

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

Board of Governors - January

District 3

Riji

Aiko Kamine

Craig Sakaguchi

Toban

Aiko Kamine

Irene Hara

The Shotsuki names for the month of January are:

Shitsu Yamamoto

Shika Sera

Sakuhei Nakayama

Yaichi Kikuta

Sadakichi Shimoda

Motoshiro Kurata

Tame Ii

Mitsuyo Sakohira

Shunsuke Uchiyama

Rika Okudo

Shizuye Morishige

Tane Hiyama

Hikoichi Hiyama

Otomatsu Ninomiya

Harue Nishina

Hatsuno Nishina

Becky Honda

Taka Taniguchi

Tamayo Nakamura

Yoshio Tokubo

Hideichi Yamane

Takeo Fujikawa

Otona Hagihara

Toyoso Kuramoto

Toshio Nakagawa

Frank Namito Masui

Hatuye Natori

Dick Iwamoto

Fred Akira Honda

George Miyake

Vernon Mayebo

Ichio Takeno

Dorothy Morita

Teri Uchiyama

Ayako Shimizu

Mikio Uchiyama

Betty Mayebo

Dorothy Takeno

Kevin Nagata

Shizuko Takeuchi

Kay Takeda

Eiko Matsumura

Shizue May Mukai

Jane Nagata

December 2025 Donations

Year End

\$ 150.00 Arthur & Alice Fujikawa
\$ 100.00 Revs. Bob & Patti
Oshita
\$ 25.00 Rodney Kikuta

Bodhi Day & Shotsuki

\$ 50.00 Rick & Marlene

Bohdi Day

\$ 30.00 Arthur & Alice Fujikawa
\$ 30.00 Jan Yoshimoto
\$ 30.00 Janie Yuen
\$ 30.00 Joe & Irene Hara
\$ 25.00 Hitomi Sera
\$ 20.00 Sharon Asakawa

Shotsuki

\$ 100.00 The T. Kawamoto Family
\$ 100.00 Robert & Rose Mayebo
\$ 50.00 Gale & Geno Nakai
\$ 50.00 Mary Mukai
\$ 50.00 Ron & Maxine Yoshimoto
\$ 50.00 Gary & Arlene Keithley
\$ 50.00 Gary & Karen Mukai
\$ 30.00 Shig & Aiko Kamine
\$ 30.00 Howard & Satomi
Hiyama
\$ 25.00 Gordon & Susan Hayashi
\$ 20.00 Barton Ashida

Special Donations

\$ 200.00 Fowler Lone Star 4-H
Use of the Church
\$ 100.00 Central California
Buddhist Ministers Association
Lecture by Rev. Jay Shinseki
\$ 50.00 Tayoko & Craig Honda
Fowler Buddhist Church
Building Fund
Celebrating 2025 Bonenkai
\$ 20.00 Takaaki & Yoko Miyoshi
\$ 20.00 Howard & Satomi
Hiyam

Central California Nikkei Foundation

Shredding Community Service and Fundraiser



Saturday, April 4, 2026

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 23**
and arrange for pick-up.