



# THE WHITE PATH

MONTHLY BULLETIN VOL. 5401

February 2026

## February Service and events:

- 02/13 – 02/15/2026 – National Council Meeting,
- 02/22/2026 – Nirvana Day  
10:00 a.m. – Rev. Mieko Majima
- 02/28/2026 - Discussion Group with Rev. Miyaji  
4:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

## Future events:

- 03/01/2026 – Spring Ohigan/March Shotsuki/Dharma School  
10:00 a.m. – Rev. Nobuo Miyaji
- 03/29/2026 – Dharma Gathering – 10:00 a.m.
- 04/04/2026 - Decorate Hanamido – 4:30 p.m.
- 04/05/2026 - Hanamatsuri/April Shotsuki/Dharma School (no class) 10:00 a.m. – Rev. Bob Oshita
- 04/25/2026 – Fowler Fellowship Golf Tournament – Ridge Creek Golf Course – Dinuba
- 04/26/2026 – Dharma Gathering/Dharma School (Pet Memorial) 10:00 a.m. – Dr. Don Yoshimura



## The Buddha's Measure

### ***— Hearing the Voice of the Buddha of Immeasurable Life***

As we go about our daily lives, we are constantly making choices—often without even realizing it. As children, we gradually learn wisdom and grow into adulthood. The knowledge we gain in school and the judgment we acquire through life are all meant to help us live better. Yet when we look closely at the wisdom we use in daily life, we begin to notice something important: much of it is wisdom based on gain and loss. We try not to lose, and if possible, we want to gain a little more. This way of thinking is not unusual or wrong—it is simply human.

This wisdom of gain and loss always requires a measuring stick. When we face two options, we compare them, measure them, and choose the one that seems more favorable to us. For that, we need a ruler with clear markings—plus and minus, better and worse. This kind of measuring stick is certainly necessary for living in this world. If we ignored the difference between ten thousand dollars and twenty thousand dollars, business would not function, and everyday life would quickly fall into confusion. Buddhism does not teach us to throw away this human measuring stick.

At the same time, Buddhism points out something else. Human desire has no end. No matter how much we gain or how much we achieve, another desire soon arises. The more we try to satisfy our desires, the more dissatisfaction grows. This is where human suffering lies. So what are we to do? Buddhism does not deny the human measuring stick. Instead, it shows us that there is another measuring stick—one more.

This is what we call the Buddha's measure. The human measuring stick has clear markings: plus and minus, good and bad, success and failure, health and illness, wealth and poverty. Everything is compared and evaluated. The Buddha's measure, however, has no markings at all. There are no scales, no numbers, no plus or minus. In fact, it is a ruler that cannot really be used to measure anything.

In English, this is expressed by the word Immeasurable. Immeasurable does not mean “very large.” It does not mean infinite, and it does not mean eternal. Immeasurable means that the very framework of measurement itself no longer applies. Amida Buddha is called Immeasurable Life. This does not mean a life that continues forever in time. It is not a matter of how long life lasts. Rather, it points to a life that lies beyond our attempts to measure life and death as success or failure, gain or loss.

Let us consider illness as an example. From the perspective of the human measuring stick, health is positive and illness is negative. Naturally, we would rather be healthy and

avoid illness if possible. But once illness arises, the situation does not immediately change. At that point, we often continue to measure our condition as negative, and we begin to see ourselves as sufferers.

The Buddha's measure sees illness simply as illness—without positive or negative, without good or bad. So how can we come to encounter the Buddha's measure? There is only one way: to hear the call of the Buddha.

This month we observe Nirvana Day. It marks the moment when all human measures—success and failure, gain and loss, life and death—quietly come to rest.

Nirvana Day is a day to offer our gratitude to the Buddha. It is a day to listen—to listen to the Dharma taught by Shakyamuni Buddha, and to hear the calling voice of Amida Buddha.

Namo Amida Butsu

## 仏様のものさし

私たちは日々の暮らしの中で、知らず知らずのうちに物事を比べ、測りながら生きています。どちらが得か、どちらが無難か。少しでも損をしないように考へることは、ごく自然な人間の姿でしょう。こうした判断の背景には、いつも「ものさし」があります。プラスかマイナスか、良いか悪いか。

この人間のものさしは、この世を生きていくためには欠かせません。仏教も、それを捨てなさいとは教えていません。けれども同時に、仏教はもう一本、別のものさしがあることを示しています。それが、仏様のものさしです。

人間のものさしには、はっきりとした自盛りや単位があります。一インチ、半マイル、百ポンド、半ドル。人間のものさしがなければ私たちの生活は成り立ちません。そして成功と失敗、健康と病気、豊かさと乏しさ。私たちはさまざまなことを測りながら暮らしています。

しかし、仏様のものさしには自盛りがありません。

測ること自体が成り立たない、測れないものさしです。阿弥陀仏は「無量寿仏」と呼ばれます。無量とは、いのちが永遠に続くという意味ではありません。生と死を、損得や成功・失敗で測ろうとする発想そのものが届かないところにある、いのちの在り方を示しています。

たとえば病気を考へてみると、人間のものさしでは、どうしてもマイナスに受け取られてしまいます。けれども仏様のものさしは、病気をどうこう「する」ものではありません。良くも悪くもせず、ただ病気を病気として見る。そこには、プラスもマイナスもありません。

生は死へと向かって流れていく自然なながれであり、病気もまた、誰もが経験する出来事です。もし生まれたときが百点で、あとは毎年点数が減っていくだけの人生だとしたら、私たちは生きていることが憂鬱になってしまいでしょう。「ああ、今年も一点減った」と。

仏様のものさしは、生と死を数字や評価から解き放ち、人間を自然な流れのなかで見つめる、まったく別の次元の見方を示しています。

今月は涅槃会を迎えます。お釈迦様を偲び、ときには人間のものさしに歩しおやすみをあげ、仏様のものさしの中に身を置いてみる。そんな日があつてもよいのではないでしょうか。

測ることに少し疲れた私たちは、測られなくてよい世界があることに、静かに耳を傾ける日なのです。

南無阿弥陀仏

## The Buddha's Measuring Stick

Every day, we compare many things.

Test scores, how fast we can run, how many points we get in a game. We often think, "That was good," or "That was bad," without even thinking.



That is because we use a **measuring stick**.

Our human measuring stick has marks on it.

Plus or minus. Win or lose. Right or wrong.

This measuring stick is important. We need it for school and for daily life, so it is not something we should throw away.



But the Buddha gave us that there is **another measuring stick**.

The Buddha's measuring stick has **no marks at all**.

Because it has no marks, it cannot measure. So, we cannot say "good" or "bad."



It simply sees things as they are.

For example, think about getting sick. With our human measuring stick, we think, "This is bad," or "This is a minus." But the Buddha's measuring stick simply shows, "You are sick." Not good. Not bad. Just what is happening. Life moves in a natural flow. We are born, we grow, we get older, and someday we die. Everyone experiences sickness, growing old, and changing.



If we were born with 100 life points, and every year we lost one point, then just living would feel sad and tiring, wouldn't it?

The Buddha's measuring stick does not see life with points or scores. It sees life as a **natural flow**, just as it is.



Soon we will observe **Nirvana Day**. Nirvana Day is a day to remember the Buddha. It is a day to let our human measuring sticks take a rest, and to gently see ourselves with the Buddha's measuring stick. "Today, I don't have to measure myself."

Having a day like that might be very nice.

Namo Amida Butsu

## President's Message

As I look out my window and see our Ume tree in full bloom, I feel that Spring is just around the corner, but we need to get the Super Bowl out of the way and brace for the start of baseball spring training. Thank you to all of you who attended the Hoonko Service and Family Dharma Service last month. We had a great attendance to both, so it is very exciting to see the participation of our membership and to have invited guests in the audience. Many thanks to the Golf Club for providing the chow mein luncheon and the Fowler BWA for treating us to delicious Daifuku mochi for Hoonko. It seems to be working well to have the opportunity for two sessions of Dharma School per month. In talking with other CC temples, we should be proud of the enthusiastic participation of our Dharma School students, as we seem to be the most active Dharma school around. It certainly adds energy and vitality to our services.

Due to conflicts in scheduling and concern for a shortage of volunteers, the Food Bazaar Committee has cancelled our Food Bazaar for April 11<sup>th</sup>. Because of a

concern for a diminishing work crew to put on a full-blown Food Bazaar, should we consider putting on 2 or 3 fundraising events offering a single item? Ideas that were discussed was a chow mein plate, a tonkatsu plate, a teriyaki chicken or beef bowl, fried rice bowl, or Oyaku Donburi. In the Spring, March 28<sup>th</sup> was a date with no other conflicts except for school Spring Break. Gary Mukai will organize a **drive-thru** event for that day featuring a Chow Mein plate and rice and condiment for 400 plates at \$20 a plate. Details to follow. Orders will be taken by phone, text, or email.

Please be aware of hosting duties for CCBWA Conference coming up on March 22<sup>nd</sup> and the Dharma School Teachers Conference on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Both events can use your help. If you can lend a hand, contact Sharon Asakawa for the BWA Conference or Clinton Mukai for the Dharma School Teachers' Conference. Please consider being a tee sponsor, raffle donor or golf participant in our upcoming Fowler Fellowship Golf Tournament on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

Our next church service will be Shotsuki, Dharma School, and

observance of Nirvana Day on February 22, at 10 am. 'Hope to see you all there.

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)

### **Board of Governors – February District 4**

#### **Riji**

Craig Honda  
Sharon Asakawa

#### **Toban**

Sharon Asakawa  
Tayoko Honda

### **Shotsuki Names for the month of February:**

Hatsuyo Kanenaga  
Masao Kanenage  
Masao Nakamura  
Matsutaro Yamane  
Reiko Nakagawa

John Nakagawa  
Hiroshi Ii  
Toyosuke Ii  
George Shimizu  
Kazuo Nishina  
Teru Kimura  
Riyo Miyasaki  
Shizuko Otani  
Yoshisaburo Okamura  
Satoru Okumura  
Kojiro Kawamoto  
Ritsuyo Namba  
Saichi Tsuboi  
Hide Kawano  
Hikoji Yoshimura  
Makiko Honda  
George Toyoda  
Shizumi Yoshimura  
Ritsu Tanaka  
Kara Nakagawa  
Masao Mukai  
Evelyn Hirai  
Genjiru Nakata  
Max Sumida  
Mitsui Wada  
Sunayo Yokomi  
James Wada  
Kazuo Morita  
Tomie Morishige  
Tsuyoshi Tiyo Yamaguchi  
Akimi Sakazaki  
Kiyoshi Taniguchi  
Fujio Shimada  
George Koso Yamamoto

Rose Yoshiko Nakagawa  
Shizuko Yoshimoto  
Akira Tokubo  
Betty Nakayama  
Kiyoko Sumida



#### **January 2026 Donations**

#### **New Years Eve Service**

\$ 50.00 Earl Honda

#### **New Years Day Service**

\$ 10.00 Lawrence & Aileen  
Parmeter

#### **New Years Service/Shotsuki**

\$ 50.00 Derek, Yim, Verona &  
Violet Honda

#### **Hoonko/Shotsuki Service**

\$ 40.00 Gary & Karen Mukai

#### **Hoonko Service**

\$ 30.00	Howard & Satomi Hiyama
\$ 30.00	Joe & Irene Hara
\$ 30.00	Arthur & Alice Fujikawa
\$ 30.00	Gary & Arlene Keithley
\$ 30.00	Jan Yoshimoto
\$ 30.00	Shig & Aiko Kamine
\$ 25.00	Hitomi Sera
\$ 20.00	Nakamura Family
\$ 20.00	Miss Yoshiye Ii
\$ 20.00	Ms. Sharon A Asakawa
\$ 5.00	Unknown

#### **Shotsuki**

\$ 100.00	Robert & Rose Mayebo
\$ 75.00	Greg & Patti Miyake
\$ 75.00	Ken & Kim Miyake
\$ 50.00	Tayoko & Craig Honda
\$ 50.00	Janie Yuen
\$ 50.00	The Nakagawa Family
\$ 50.00	Esther & Allan Nakagawa
\$ 30.00	Arthur & Alice Fujikawa
\$ 30.00	M/M Norman Takeuchi
\$ 30.00	Howard & Satomi Hiyama
\$ 25.00	Hitomi Sera

\$ 25.00	Gordon & Susan Hayashi	Karen Mukai Janice Yoshimoto Maxine Yoshimoto Satomi Hiyama
\$ 20.00	Gerald & Cherie Nakayama	
\$ 20.00	Linda Matsumoto	
\$ 20.00	Miss Yoshiye Ii	
<b>Year End</b>		<b>In Memory of Dean Shimizu</b>
\$1000.00	Esther & Allan Nakagawa	\$ 25.00 Ms. Ellen Okada
\$ 500.00	Ron & Maxine Yoshimoto	<b>In Memory of Shizue May Mukai, 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Memorial</b>
\$ 500.00	Howard & Satomi Hiyama	\$ 400.00 Gary & Karen Mukai and Family
\$ 200.00	Rick & Marlene Miyasaki	Stan Mukai Greg & Gay Mukai and Family
\$ 100.00	Frank & Linda Fujikawa	Terry & Barbara Mukai and Family
\$ 100.00	Shig & Aiko Kamine	\$ 50.00 Mrs. Mary Masako Mukai
		\$ 30.00 Ed & Patti Bungo
		\$ 30.00 Doug & Linda Matsumoto
		\$ 30.00 M/M Geno & Gale Nakai
		\$ 30.00 Ben & Noreen Yosako
		\$ 30.00 Gary, Laraine, Austin & Alexa Goto
<b>Dharma Talk</b>		
\$ 30.00	Gary & Arlene Keithley	\$ 30.00 M/M John & Connie Saldin & Family
\$ 20.00	Chris & Jill Tange	\$ 25.00 Mrs. Margie Mukai
\$ 20.00	Ms. Sharon A Asakawa	\$ 20.00 Chris & Melanie Mukai And Family
\$ 20.00	Jan Yoshimoto	\$ 20.00 Ms. Stephanie Nakai
<b>Ikebana Class</b>		
\$ 500.00	Roberta Araki	
	Maggie Courtis	
	Patricia Cruz	
	Arlene Keithley	
	Harumi Komaki	
	Yuko Matoba	
	Marlene Miyasaki	
	Gay Mukai	

**In Memory of George Teraoka,  
3<sup>rd</sup> Year Memorial**  
\$ 300.00      The George Teraoka  
Family

**Special Donations**  
\$1,000.00   Bev & Mike Maruyama  
\$ 100.00      Mr. Dean Shiroyama



# 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.