



THE WHITE PATH

MONTHLY BULLETIN VOL. 5401

February 2026

**Please note the corrected dates for the Discussion Group and
Spring Ohigan Service**

March Service and events:

- 03/07/2026 - **New Date** Discussion Group with Rev. Miyaji
4:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- 03/08/2026 – **New Date** - Spring Ohigan/March
Shotsuki/Dharma School 10:00 a.m. –
Rev. Nobuo Miyaji
- 03/29/2026 – Dharma Gathering – 10:00 a.m. –
Mr. Chris Tange

Future Services and events:

- 04/04/2026 - Decorate Hanamido – 4:30 p.m.
- 04/05/2026 - Hanamatsuri/April Shotsuki/Dharma School (no
dharma 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



What Is Ekō (Dedication of Merit)?

March is the season of *Ohigan*. Centered on the Spring Equinox, this is a special time when we listen to the Buddha's teaching, remember those who have passed away, and reflect upon our own lives. During *Ohigan* services, we chant the sutras together. At the conclusion of the chanting, a passage called the Eko-mon, or Dedication of Merit, is recited.

While wording differs slightly among Buddhist traditions, one well-known form expresses the wish: May the merit acquired here be shared with all beings, so that we and all beings together may attain Buddhahood.

This expresses the aspiration that the virtue cultivated through the service does not remain with oneself alone but extends to all beings everywhere.

The word *ekō* comes from the Sanskrit term *pariṇāma*, which means "transformation," "turning," or "redirection." In Buddhism, it refers to directing the merit arising from wholesome actions beyond oneself, toward others.

At first glance, this may seem to contradict the Buddhist principle of karma—that each person receives the results of their own actions. How, then, can merit be shared?

To understand this, we may consider the example of a tree. Each leaf produces nutrients through photosynthesis when it receives sunlight. Yet those nutrients do not remain in the leaf alone. They circulate throughout the entire tree, nourishing the trunk, branches, and roots. Even leaves that do not receive enough sunlight are sustained by the whole.

This is the meaning of the dedication of merit.

In the same way, our lives are deeply interconnected. None of us lives alone. We exist supported by one another.

During the season of *Ohigan*, as we listen to the words of dedication of merit, we are reminded that our lives are part of this greater whole. Eko gently teaches us that we live within a profound network of connections, supported by countless others.

Namo Amida Butsu

回向とは何か

三月はお彼岸の季節です。春分の日を中心としたこの期間は、私たちが仏さまの教えに耳を傾け、亡き方々を偲び、あらためて自らのいのちを見つめる大切なご縁の時です。お彼岸法要で、皆さんと一緒にお経を唱和しますが、そのお経の最後に、「回向文」が読まれます。

宗派によって表現は少し異なりますが、代表的な回向文の一つに、次のような言葉があります。

願以此功德 平等施一切 同発菩提心 往生安樂國

これは、「ここで得られた功德を、すべての存在に広く及ぼし、私たちもすべての人々も共に仏道を成就することができますように」と願う言葉です。さて、「回向」という言葉は、もともと古代のインドの言葉で、「変化」「転換」「回転」という意味があります。仏教においては、自らの善い行いによって生じた功德を、自分だけのものとせず、他へと振り向けることを意味する言葉として、「回向」と訳されました。しかし、ここで一つの疑問が生まれます。仏教の基本的な考え方は「自業自得」、つまり自分の行為の結果は自分自身に帰るというものです。もしそうであるなら、どうやって自分の功德を他へ振り向けることができるのでしょうか。

このことを理解するために、樹木を思い浮かべてみましょう。樹の葉は一枚一枚が光を受けて栄養を生み出します。しかし、その栄養は一枚の葉だけのものではなく、幹や枝、そして樹全体へと巡ります。その結果、樹全体が育ちます。中には光を十分に受けられない葉もありますが、それらは他の葉によって支えられています。回向とは、このような働きを表しています。

私たちの社会もまた、この樹のようなものです。私たちは一人で生きているのではなく、互いに支え合い、結びつきの中で生きています。お彼岸のご縁の中で回向文をお聞きするとき、私たちは自分一人のためではなく、全てのいのちと共に生かされていることに気づかされます。回向とは、その深いつながりの中に生きている私たちの姿を、静かに教えてくれる大切な教えなのです。

合掌

The Great Tree

Long ago, there stood a very great tree.
For many, many years, it remained in the same place.
Its thick trunk rose straight toward the sky, and its wide branches stretched out in every direction.
When spring came, many leaves appeared on its branches.
Some leaves were small, and some were large.
Some grew high up near the sky, and others grew lower down near the trunk.



On sunny days, the light of the sun shone upon the tree.
The leaves high above received much of the sunlight and sparkled brightly in the air.

The leaves lower down did not receive as much light.
They were shaded by branches and other leaves above them.

Still, when the wind blew, all the leaves moved together.

The high leaves and the low leaves swayed in the same wind.

When the rain fell, all the leaves received the same rain.

The tree stood quietly, and every leaf remained held by its branches.

One day, a leaf growing low on the tree began to notice something.



It was not there by itself.
It was connected to a branch.
It was connected to the trunk.
It was part of the great tree.



When the wind moved the leaves above, that movement traveled through the branches and the trunk, and the lower

leaves moved as well.

The tree was one.

Though there were many leaves,
they were not separate.

They were all living as part of the same tree.

As evening came, the great tree stood quietly beneath the sky.

And in this way, for hundreds of years,
the great tree continued to stand quietly beneath the open sky.



Namo Amida Butsu

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

On February 13th through the 15th Barton Ashida and I attended the BCA National Council Meeting in Seattle, Washington to be informed of all BCA activity and set policy for the organization. Here is a summary of the meeting:

1. Glenn Inanaga, from the Orange County Buddhist Temple and son-in-law of Rev. Nobuo Miyaji, was installed for a two-year term as BCA President. President-elect is Darlene Bagshaw from the Stockton Buddhist Church.
2. Bishop Marvin Harada will continue to serve as BCA Bishop for two more years. Bishop's main message throughout the meeting was to think about ways to increase membership. We must all try to increase awareness in our communities about the benefits of our religion. A recent success story about initiating Buddhist awareness was accomplished by the Buddhist monks that completed a Peace March from Texas to Washington DC.
3. BCA membership has declined to under 10,000 members for the first time.

Membership has been declining about 3% every year. There are 58 temples in the BCA. The temples over 500 members make up 60% of the membership, so the trend is that eventually there will be only a handful of large temples that will be ultimate survivors.

4. The BCA invited all BCA members (all Fowler members were sent an email invitation to participate) for all-day virtual workshops a week prior to the NBM on a variety of topics, most of which were on how to increase members. Unfortunately, very few BCA members from the Central Valley logged on to the workshops.
5. Since the council meeting was being held in Seattle, there was an emphasis on the historical significance of the contribution of Rennyō Shōnin to restore the Shin Buddhist religion from the jaws of oblivion in the 14th century. A Seattle Betsuin committee took it upon themselves to translate a large portion of Rennyō's letters (the *Gobunsho*) into English. It took several years, starting from 1948 to accomplish this tremendous commitment. The Seattle

translation of the *Gobunsho* was given as a gift to each BCA temple and is currently available in our library.

6. Shin Buddhist fundraising has reached a pinnacle when it was announced that the *BCA Dharma Forward Campaign* has reached its \$15 million goal by the end of 2025. The current amount raised is \$16.5 million that will go to various educational and propagational BCA projects.
7. There is good news about the slight easing of the BCA minister shortage with the announcement of 6 new ministers assigned to BCA temples, including our own favorite son, Rev. Blake Honda to Oxnard and the increase in Kyoshi candidates in the IBS. There was only one minister retirement this year, Rev. Gerald Sakamoto from San Jose.
8. The Ministers' Association is working on updating the BCA Guidebook. Due to the successful Dharma Forward Campaign, BCA Kaikyoshi ministers will be receiving a \$5,000 award from the BCA. A-I is being asked to accelerate the translation of many Buddhist works to

make them available in English.

9. A new ministers' salary schedule was approved by the National Council despite the objection from the Central California district to the Ministers' Affairs Committee who insist that all BCA temples comply with meeting or exceeding this schedule while continuing to ignore large disparity in the cost-of-living in areas throughout the US, e.g. San Jose vs Fresno. There was also a question as to the conflict-of-interest in allowing the ministers to vote for their own salary increase. These topics will be referred to the Bylaws Committee for consideration.
10. The BCA has created a Leadership Development Program to train prospective or new BCA leaders. BCA temples can identify and nominate potential new leaders within their Sangha to be accepted into this program, which is partially virtual and partially in-person at the Jodo Shinshu Center.
11. The EcoSangha Committee distributed a poster to be displayed in your temple kitchen that helps remind us of our role in protecting the environment. They specifically asked for a

representative from Central Cal to serve on the committee. If anyone is interested, please contact the committee.

12. The BCA will be studying a proposal identified as *Project Catalyst*, which specifically asked temples to contemplate “who is a member”, beyond who pays church dues. Part of the proposal is to freeze temple assessments to the BCA for five years. Within that time, if your temple grows, then your assessment per member will decrease. This will be further discussed through 2026 at the committee level and the National Board Meetings. No action was taken on the proposal at this time. The BCA currently runs on about a \$3 million budget per year that has remained unchanged for many years and will continue unchanged for the entire 5 year period if the plan is approved. Dues assessments make up 63% of the budget income.

13. Next year’s National Council and Ministers’ Association meeting will be February 12-15, 2027, at the Orange County Buddhist Church. In 2028, Central Cal will be the host for the 2028 National Council and

Ministers’ Association Meeting. A tentative date for that meeting will be February 17-20, 2028. The meeting will most likely be an on-line hybrid. We will need everyone’s help on that project.

These are just the highlights of the meeting. There were many more reports given and action taken but this report considered those actions that would affect general temple membership. If there are any other questions about BCA business, please contact Barton or myself and we will try to research the answers for you.

This month our Spring Ohigan, Shotsuki and Dharma School service will be March 8th at 10 am. Rev. Nobuo Miyaji, former Rinban of Fresno Betsuin, will be our guest speaker. On Saturday, Mar 7th, there will be a Dharma discussion led by Rev. Miyaji in the meeting room at 4:00 pm. We will also be having a Dharma Gathering and Dharma School at the end of the month on March 29th at 10 am, with a special guest speaker, Mr. Chris Tange, from the Fresno Betsuin Dharma School.

The next Fowler Buddhist Church Board Meeting will be after the March 7th service around 12:45

pm. All church members are welcome to attend.

There will be a Chow Mein Box fundraiser for the Fowler Buddhist Church on Saturday, March 28th. A Chow Mein box will be \$20 per bento size box and will be a Drive-thru Pick-up from 12 – 2 pm (advance sales only). Please encourage your friends and family to purchase or reserve a Chow Mein Box. The flyer for this event is enclosed in this White Path.

With Gratitude,
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 – March District 5

Riji

Cheri Nakayama
Gary Mukai

Toban

Satomi Hiyama
Alice Fujikawa

The Shotsuki names for the month of March are:

Mitsujiro Yoshimoto
Wakichi Shimizu
Rose Nakamura
William Tadashi Kondo
Hana Yoshimoto
Shikuichi Ii
Masayoshi Teraoka
Toyomo Teraoka
Kazuo Namba
Seinosuke Nakamura
Kayo Kikuta
Toyoso Kuramoto
Ai Kataoka
Yoshiko Miyake
Kiyono Mukai
Moto Kamine
Ayano Hirabayashi
Shigeko Yoshida
Hiroshi Asakawa
Masako Yamane
Ann Kawaguchi
Miyeko Kamikawa
Florence Sadako Shimada
Yoshio Ideta
Ida Shimizu
Michael Asano Teraoka
Tadao Nakamura

February 2026 Donations

Nirvana Day

\$ 30.00 Gary & Arlene Keithley
\$ 30.00 Joe & Irene Hara
\$ 30.00 Howard & Satomi
Hiyama
\$ 30.00 Jan Yoshimoto
\$ 25.00 Hitomi Sera
\$ 20.00 Ms Sharon Asakawa

Shotsuki

\$ 100.00 Brian Nagata
\$ 100.00 Mrs. Susan Oiwake &
Family
\$ 90.00 Gary & Arlene Keithley
\$ 75.00 Alex & Roberta Araki
\$ 50.00 Jan Yoshimoto
\$ 50.00 Ron & Maxine
Yoshimoto
\$ 30.00 Arthur & Alice Fujikawa
\$ 25.00 Janis & Wayne Sutow
\$ 25.00 Rick & Marlene
Miyasaki
\$ 20.00 Gerald & Cherie
Nakayama
\$ 20.00 Linda Matsumoto

In Memory of Haruo Yoshimoto 33rd Year & Shizuko Yoshimoto 13th Year Memorial Service

\$ 500.00 Ken & Nattie Yoshimoto
& Family
Ron & Maxine
Yoshimoto & Family
Jan Yoshimoto
Gary & Arlene Keithley
\$ Family
Bryan & June
Yoshimoto & Family

In Memory of Jane Nagata 1st Year, Kevin Nagata 5th Year, Tom Nagata 13th Year & Miyo Honda 13th Year Combined Memorial Service

\$ 400.00 Nagata Family
\$ 400.00 Mitch & Lynn
Nakashima
Jared Nakashima
& Family
Stacey Nakashima
\$ 200.00 Ryan & April Uyematsu
\$ 175.00 Tayoko & Craig Honda
\$ 150.00 David & Laureen
Uyematsu
\$ 100.00 Janie Yuen
\$ 100.00 Dyan Yee
\$ 100.00 Rick & Stacy Ideta
\$ 100.00 Russell & Judy Osato

Fowler Buddhist Church
CHOW MEIN DINNER

A DELICIOUS CHOW MEIN TAKE-OUT PLATE DINNER
WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR DRIVE-THROUGH PICK UP

SATURDAY, MARCH 28, 2026

12 NOON - 2:00pm

Pickup AT
FOWLER BUDDHIST CHURCH
210 S 9TH ST.
FOWLER, CA 93625

\$20.00



RESERVE YOUR ORDER by EMAILING
CHERIE NAKAYAMA AT:
CNKYM@AOL.COM
OR BY RETURNING THE ORDER FORM BELOW

Please
Reserve

Contact: _____

Contact Number: _____

Dinner(s)

Make checks payable to **Fowler Buddhist Church** or by Credit Card

CC#:

Exp Date: _____

Mail to: Cheri Nakayama
7258 E.Lincoln Ave.
Fowler, CA 93625

CVC: _____



Buddhist Church of Fowler

(559) 834-2077

210 South Ninth Street • P. O. Box 335 • Fowler • CA • 93625

Dear

I represent the Buddhist Church of Fowler. We are having the 30th Annual Fellowship Golf Tournament on Saturday, April 25, 2026, and are actively seeking donations in the form of raffle prizes and/or "Tee Sponsorships." Raffle donors will be listed in the tournament booklet and tee sponsorships will be prominently displayed by a sign on a tee box. The site will be the Ridge Creek Golf Course in Dinuba, CA. Anything you can donate would be greatly appreciated. Our tournament reaches people from throughout the state, and will directly benefit the Buddhist Church of Fowler. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at 559.284.2955 or b.ashida@sbcglobal.net

Thank you for your time and generosity,

Barton K. Ashida

Raffle Chairpersons, Fellowship Golf Tournament

Federal Tax Identification Number 94-1498382

Donor Information

Name: _____

Business

Name: _____

Mailing

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

The information above will help complete your tax receipt. If you would like us to pick up your donation, please contact me at 559.284.2955 or b.ashida@sbcglobal.net



Buddhist Church of Fowler

(559) 834-2077

210 South Ninth Street • P. O. Box 335 • Fowler • CA • 93625

Dear

On Saturday, April 25, 2026 the Buddhist Church of Fowler will be holding it's 30th Annual Fellowship Golf Tournament at Ridge Creek GC. Every year a full field of golfers, along with their friends and family, enjoy a fun day of golf and a delicious banquet. We are looking for "**Tee Sponsors**" to sponsor the tee boxes on the golf course.

PLATINUM LEVEL: \$1,000.00, Platinum Recognition on Tee Sponsor Sign & Booklet

GOLD LEVEL: \$500.00, Gold Recognition on Tee Sponsor Sign & Booklet

SILVER LEVEL: \$300.00, Silver Recognition on Tee Sponsor Sign & Booklet

BRONZE LEVEL: \$100.00, Bronze Level Recognition on Tee Sponsor Sign & Booklet

We do this so golf and banquet participants will recognize who helped make this special event possible! Thank you for your generous consideration! If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at: (559) 284-2955 or email: b.ashida@sbcglobal.net

Sincerely,

Barton K Ashida
Tee Sponsor Chairman

Buddhist Church of Fowler
Tax Identification Number 94-1498382

TEE SPONSOR

Please include this information with your donation payable to the:

Buddhist Church of Fowler E.G.T.

Name: _____

Company: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Phone Number: _____ **Email:** _____

Please enclose your check, and mail it to: Barton K Ashida, P.O. Box 25114, Fresno, CA 93729-5114



**30th ANNUAL
FOWLER BUDDHIST CHURCH
FELLOWSHIP GOLF TOURNAMENT**

**SATURDAY, April 25, 2026 - Join us for a day of "Fun, Food & Golf"
Ridge Creek Golf Club – 3018 Ridge Creek Drive – Dinuba, CA 93618
Shotgun Start at 11 AM - Check-in at 9:45 am**

**FORMAT: 4-Person Team Handicapped Scramble.
Team Prizes, Best Golf Shots, and Raffle.**

**ENTRY FEE: \$165 includes-Green Fee, Cart, Range balls.
PAID Entry Fee required by Tuesday April 7, 2026
All Ladies Division, OPEN Division and SENIOR Division.
SENIOR Division 60 Years and Older.**

**75 Years and older = Forward Tee – Please note age on form.
Banquet following tournament at Fowler Buddhist Church.
Raffle and awards to be determined - \$25 Additional Dinner guest.**

**If you have any questions contact Ken Okajima at 559 480-6530.
kenokajima@hotmail.com**

**Send Entry Form c/o Ken Okajima 2839 E. Frederick Ave., Fresno, CA 93720
With check payable to: Buddhist Church of Fowler FGT**

Maximum individual handicap credited to your team will be 28 for men, 36 for women.

Important - Please include handicaps or average score. Note age as of 4/25/26

Player #1 _____ M / F Age _____ Hdcp _____ @ \$165 _____

Player #2 _____ M / F Age _____ Hdcp _____ @ \$165 _____

Player #3 _____ M / F Age _____ Hdcp _____ @ \$165 _____

Player #4 _____ M / F Age _____ Hdcp _____ @ \$165 _____

Dinner Guests _____ @ \$25 _____

Mulligans and Raffle Tickets sold at Registration TOTAL _____

Contact Person _____ Cell Phone # _____

Email _____ Division _____

*Come reconnect, reminisce, and celebrate at
our YBA Reunion!!!*

2026 WYBL Reunion

DATE: Saturday, March 14, 2026

**PLACE: Buddhist Church of Sacramento
2401 Riverside Blvd., Sacramento, CA 95818**

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

2:00pm: Opening Service

3:00pm: Reconnect Activities

4:30pm: Happy Hour

5:30pm: Dinner

7:00pm: Oldies Dance with Live Music by
East Wind Band

Register Here:



Link: <https://forms.gle/NTJ06Xck9aP6Sxg37>

Ticket cost:

\$100 per person (prior to March 1, 2026)

\$120 per person (after March 1, 2026)

*****Note: payment must be made at time of registration**

For more information, contact Robert Noguchi at ops@bcahq.org

Help Preserve Our Past:

**Bring YBA photos, program booklets, and other memorabilia to the reunion or scan and email to
archives@bcahq.org.**

Fresno Buddhist Church invites you to our Thirtieth Annual

Hawaiian Plate Dinner

Saturday, April 11, 2026

2 pm to 5 pm

Plate Dinner

**Chicken Katsu, Rice, Hawaiian Potato/Macaroni Salad,
Tsukemono Salad & Dessert**

Donaton: \$22.00

Fresno Betsuin Family Dharma Center - 2690 E. Alluvial, Fresno 93720

Glenn and Sherian Hamamoto have been absolutely instrumental in developing and perfecting the Hawaiian Plate Dinner into one of the top three Fresno Betsuin fundraising events. With their retirement, they have left us with a strong base of community leaders to continue producing this unique chicken katsu and Hawaiian potato/macaroni salad entree.

Proceeds from our fundraiser will continue to fund operations of the new temple and Family Dharma Center. Please continue to support this simple but delicious dinner.

Lee Osaki will be handling all ticket sales. Please direct any ticket related questions to Lee:
(559) 442-4054 or losaki@fresnobuddhisttemple.org

For general questions, please contact Gordon Misaki:
(559) 313-8833 or glmmisaki@comcast.net

Order Form

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ Zip _____ Phone _____

Dinner Tickets: \$22 x _____ = _____

Raffle Tickets: \$5 x _____ = _____

Donation: _____ = _____

Total Enclosed = _____

Please make check payable to Fresno Buddhist Church.

Return form & payment by **Friday, April 3**

2690 E. Alluvial Ave., Fresno CA 93720.

Your dinner tickets will be mailed to you.

For ticket info or questions, contact Lee at
(559) 442-4054 or losaki@fresnobuddhisttemple.org.



Fresno Betsuin
"Camping in the Sierras"

Steak Dinner

Saturday, May 9, 2026

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

Steak Dinner Order Form – Return with Check by 4/30/2026

Make Checks Payable to: Fresno Buddhist Church

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!

(Geppo)

FRESNO BUDDHIST TEMPLE GOLF TOURNAMENT



May 2, 2026

1:00pm

Shotgun Start

Madera Municipal

Golf Course

23200 Ave 17

Madera 93637

4-Player Scramble

\$170 per person

**Donation & Sponsorship Opportunities
Available**

**Information: Dean Nishijima
(559) 917-8573**

register here:

