



# THE WHITE PATH

MONTHLY BULLETIN VOL. 5403

APRIL 2026

***Please note the corrected dates for Hanamatsuri & Gotan-e Service***

## **March Service and events:**

- 04/18/2026 - Decorate Hanamido – 4:30 p.m.
- 04/19/2026 - Hanamatsuri/April Shotsuki/Dharma School (no dharma class) 10:00 a.m.  
– Rev. Candace Shibata
- 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

## **Future Services and events:**

- 05/25/2026 – Cemetery Services
  - Fowler Cemetery –
  - Selma Cemetery –
- 05/30/2026 - Discussion Group with Rev. J. Shinseki  
4:00 p.m.
- 05/31/2026 – Gotan-e, May Shotsuki Service and Dharma School – 10 a.m. – Rev. J. Shinseki



## Hanamatsuri: A Celebration of Birth and Awakening

Each spring, Buddhist temples throughout the world observe Hanamatsuri, the Flower Festival, commemorating the birth of Siddhartha Gautama, the historical Buddha. On April 8, altars are adorned with flowers, and a small statue of the infant Buddha is placed within a flower-decorated pavilion. Participants gently pour sweet tea over the statue, recalling the tradition that sweet rain fell from the heavens at the time of his birth.

According to Buddhist scriptures, when the Buddha was born, the Sorrowless Flower (*asoka*) bloomed all at once. The name itself - “Sorrowless Flower” - is deeply symbolic. It suggests that the Buddha’s birth was not merely the arrival of an extraordinary individual, but the opening of a path through which human suffering may be understood and ultimately transformed.

The scriptures also tell us that gentle rain fell from the heavens at that moment. In the *Jūseige*, we find poetic expressions describing wondrous flowers raining down from the sky, as if the whole world were celebrating the Buddha’s birth. These images convey the compassionate working that nurtures all beings. Just as rain nourishes the earth and allows flowers to bloom, the Buddha’s teaching reaches all people, supporting and sustaining life.

At first glance, Hanamatsuri may appear to be a simple birthday celebration. Yet, in the Buddhist tradition, it carries a deeper meaning. The birth of the Buddha is not only an event of the distant past; it is an invitation for us to reflect upon the meaning of our own birth.

In our daily lives, we are often preoccupied with responsibilities, expectations, and concerns. Rarely do we pause to ask a fundamental question: Why have we been given this life? Hanamatsuri offers us a moment to step back and reconsider the significance of our existence.

Each of us is born into this world supported by countless causes and conditions. Our lives do not exist independently and are sustained by an immeasurable network of connections - family, community, and the many unseen conditions that make our existence possible. In this way, Hanamatsuri reminds us that every life is precious, unique, and deeply interconnected.

The act of pouring sweet tea, then, becomes more than a ritual. It is a quiet expression

of gratitude—for life itself, for the people who support us, and for the teachings that guide us. We are reminded that awakening does not arise from our own efforts and unfolds through causes and conditions as the compassionate working of Amida becomes manifest in our lives. In encountering this teaching, we begin to see our lives not as isolated struggles, as part of a greater embrace.

The blooming of the Sorrowless Flower and the falling of sweet rain together express a profound message: that within this world of suffering, there is also the working that embraces and transforms it.

Hanamatsuri gently calls us to awaken—not in some distant future, but here, in the midst of our everyday lives. To recognize the gift of birth, to live with gratitude, and to share kindness with others: this is the true spirit of the Flower Festival.

Namo Amida Butsu.

## 花まつり

四月八日は、お釈迦さまのご誕生をお祝いする「花まつり」です。寺院では花御堂をしつらえ、誕生仏に甘茶をそそぎ、そのご誕生のよろこびを分かち合います。

お釈迦さまがお生まれになられたとき、天より甘露の雨が降り注いだと伝えられています。この故事にちなみ、私たちは誕生仏に甘茶をそそぎます。

しかしながら、この行事の意味は、単なるご誕生の記念にとどまりません。

お釈迦さまのご誕生に遇うということは、私たち一人ひとりもまた、この世にいのちをいただいて生まれてきた存在であるということに、あらためて気づかせていただくご縁です。

日々の生活の中で、私たちはさまざまな出来事に心を奪われ、自分が生かされているという事実を見失いがちです。しかし、いのちは決して自分ひとりの力によって成り立っているものではなく、数えきれないご縁に支えられて今ここにいます。

誕生仏が天と地を指し示すお姿は、そのいのちの尊さ、かけがえのなさを静かに語りかけています。

甘茶をそそぐそのひととき、どうかご自身のいのちをあらためて見つめ、また周囲の方々とのご縁のありがたさに思いを寄せていただければと思います。

花が咲き、やがて散っていくように、私たちの人生もまた移ろいゆくものです。そのはかなさの中にあって、命を大切に生きることの意味を、花まつりは静かに教えてくれます。

合掌

## The Day the Flowers Celebrated

A long time ago, in a beautiful garden in India, a baby was born. This baby would grow up to become the Buddha, a teacher who showed people how to live with kindness and wisdom.

It is said that when the baby was born, something very special happened. The sky became bright, flowers bloomed everywhere, and gentle sweet rain fell from above. It was as if the whole world was celebrating.



Today, we remember this day as Hanamatsuri, the Flower Festival.



At the temple, you may see a small statue of the baby Buddha standing in a little flower house. One hand points up to the sky, and the other points down to the earth. This shows that every life is special and important.

We pour sweet tea over the statue to remember the sweet rain that welcomed the Buddha into the world. But it is also a way to say “thank you” — for our own lives.

Think about it:

You were born into this world, just like the Buddha.

You are here because many people care for you — your family, your friends, and your teachers.

Hanamatsuri is a happy day, but it is also a day to remember something very important:

Each of us has a precious life.



So today, let’s celebrate by being kind, helping others, and saying “thank you.”

Just like the flowers blooming in spring, we can make the world a little brighter.

Namo Amida Butsu

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

### **APRIL PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

With all the Springtime flowers in bloom our thoughts turn to Hanamatsuri season. We had great Spring time weather for our weekend with Rev. Nobuo Miyaji. He conducted an interesting Dharma discussion on Saturday, March 7th and a meaningful Ohigan Dharma message on Sunday, the 8th. Thank you, Rev. Miyaji. It was nice to see you again.

Congratulations to the Fowler BWA for hosting a very successful CCBWA conference held in Parlier on March 22nd. It was very gracious of the Parlier church to allow the Fowler BWA to use their facility. Speakers were great (our favorite-son, Kerry Nakagawa was the keynote speaker) and the conference was well attended.

Thank you to Mr. Chris Tange of the Fresno Betsuin Dharma School for providing our lively Dharma message for our family service and Dharma school on March 29th. And thanks to all of you that came out to help for the Chow Mein Plate fundraiser on March 28th. Two hundred chow mein dinners were served.

FBC Dharma School  
Superintendents, Clinton and

Bethany Mukai, have been active in helping in the planning of the BCA Federation of Dharma School Teachers' League Conference to be held at the Fresno Betsuin on April 18th. Dharma school teachers from all across the BCA will be attending.

As you have heard, our Hanamatsuri / April Shotsuki / Dharma School service has been moved from April 5th to April 19th, with Rev. Candice Shibata, of the Stockton Buddhist Church, as our guest speaker. We will not have an opportunity to have a Dharma discussion on the Saturday before the service because Rev. Shibata will be attending the Dharma School Teachers' Conference that day.

We will be having a Family Service / Dharma School Service at the end of the month on April 26th at 10 am. (You are invited to bring a photo of your late pet.) Dr. Don Yoshimura will give the Dharma message that day, so you won't want to miss it.

On Saturday, April 25th, will be our Annual FBC Fellowship Golf Tournament at Ridge Creek, Dinuba. A steak dinner banquet will be held at the church immediately following golf. Thank you to all that have signed up for golf, donated a raffle prize or has become a tee

sponsor. This has always been a fun and successful event.

Obon season is just around the corner since Reedley and Fresno have significantly moved up their event in the calendar. Therefore, Obon practice has already started. Practice for Obon teachers were held on March 26th and April 1st at the Fowler Buddhist Church. The public was welcome to attend as well. There will be more practices that will be announced before the MAY 16TH Obon in Reedley, and the May 30th Obon in Fresno. Fowler's Obon will still be in its traditional time slot on July 11th.

It sure seems like everything gets busier in the Spring. 'Hope to see you at church.

### **Board of Governors – April District 1/2**

#### **Riji**

Ken Ishimoto  
Rick Miyasaki

#### **Toban**

Marlene Miyasaki  
Rick Miyasaki

### **Shotsuki Names for the Month of April:**

Misa Ninomiya  
Arthur Shigeo Ninomiya  
Toyokichi Kuramoto  
Naomi Kuramoto  
Sentaro Toyama  
Koichi Miyasaki  
Sen Yamane  
Shigetaro Hagihara  
Kitaro Asakawa  
Toyo Asakawa  
Kiyoshi Hirasuna  
Taka Hirasuna  
Kakuji Tasaka  
Rita Honda  
Reiko Nishina  
Eiichi Hiyama  
Saji Wada  
Ayako Mayebo  
Masao Tsuboi  
Kinyei Toyama  
James Hashimoto  
Meimi Hagihara  
Morito Miyasaki  
Asako Masui  
Ted Hirasuna  
Mary Nakahira  
Yasuo Koyanagi  
Frank Tsutomu Kawano  
June Masaye Gibson  
Haruko Tsuboi  
Joe Masumoto  
Hiroshi Hal Tsuboi

Toshiko Yamamoto Arasuna  
Mae Umeyo Koyanagi  
Fumiye Pauline Kikuta  
Misao Edith Hiyama  
Gary Iwai  
Hisa Iwamoto  
Shizue Nakamura

### **March 2026 Donations**

#### **Ohigan Service**

\$ 100.00 R/M Nobuo Miyaji  
\$ 30.00 Jan Yoshimoto  
\$ 30.00 Howard & Satomi Hiyama  
\$ 30.00 Art & Alice Fujikawa  
\$ 30.00 Gary & Arlene Keithley  
\$ 30.00 Joe & Irene Hara  
\$ 30.00 Janie Yuen  
\$ 25.00 Rick & Marlene  
Miyasaki  
\$ 20.00 Takaaki & Yoko Miyoshi

#### **Shotsuki**

\$ 100.00 Kikuta Family  
\$ 50.00 Jan Yoshimoto  
\$ 50.00 Karen Kondo  
\$ 50.00 Nakamura Family  
\$ 50.00 Hitomi Sera and Family  
\$ 40.00 Gary & Karen Mukai  
\$ 30.00 Howard & Satomi Hiyama  
\$ 30.00 Greg & Gay Mukai  
\$ 25.00 Ron & Maxine Yoshimoto  
\$ 25.00 Gordon & Susan Hayashi  
\$ 20.00 Yoshiye Ii  
\$ 20.00 Ms. Sharon Asakawa

#### **Dharma Talk**

\$ 20.00 Ms. Sharon Asakawa

#### **In Memory of Tina Kato-Clarey, Ross Kondo & Kenny Hashimoto**

\$ 810.00 Group Donation

#### **Special Donation**

\$ 500.00 Yoko Nishioka  
In Honor of Satomi Hiyama  
Helping Kiyoko Noskar

#### **Decorating the Hanamido**

We will be decorating the Hanamido on Saturday, April 18, at 4:30pm. Please bring flowers, 3" square cut pieces of foil and cotton balls. Also, please let me know how many Dharma School children will be attending so I can have bouquets for half of them, as they walk in pairs.



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](mailto: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

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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](mailto: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 30<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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:** \_\_\_\_\_

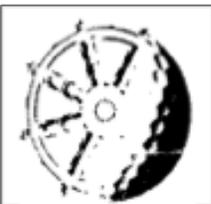
**Company:** \_\_\_\_\_

**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



**30<sup>th</sup> 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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 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 glmmmisaki@comcast.net

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### 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:

