

BUDDHIST CHURCH OF FOWLER



THE WHITE PATH

MONTHLY BULLETIN VOL. 5388

OCTOBER 2026

October – December Service and Event Schedule:

- 10/11/2026 - Eshinni/Kakushinni, October Shotsuki, Dharma School – 10:00 a.m. – Rev. Nobuo Miyaji
- 10/25/2026 - Fowler Dharma Gathering and Dharma Classes – 10:00 a.m.
- 11/08/2026 – Eitaikyo, November Shotsuki, Dharma School – 10:00 a.m. – Rev. Majima
- 11/22/2026 - Bodhi Day, November & December Shotsuki and Dharma School – 10:00 a.m.
- 12/19/2026 – Mochitsuki – Flyer & order form attached

Other Temple Events:

- 10/03/2026 – Kansha Project – Fresno Betsuin – 2-4 p.m.
RSVP requested (*Flyer Attached*)
- 10/12/2026 - Tri-Temple Golf tournament – Crazy Horse Ranch Country Club; 4 person scramble;
Contact: REVHOSEI@gmail.com
- 10/25/2026 – Fresno Food Bazaar – 11 – 2:00 p.m. (*Flyer Attached*)
- 11/01/2026 – Reedley Food Bazaar – 3 – 6:00 p.m.; \$22 Pre-sale only (*Flyer Attached*)

Do I Already Know?

In *The Sutra of the Buddha of Immeasurable Life*, there is an important story about Bodhisattva Dharmakara, who would later become Amida Buddha.

Countless aeons ago, there was a king of extraordinary ability and wisdom. One day, he heard the teachings of Buddha Lokeśvararāja and was deeply moved. He awakened the aspiration to seek the highest enlightenment. He gave up his kingdom and his throne, became a monk, and took the name Dharmakara.

Dharmakara went before Buddha Lokeśvararāja, bowed respectfully, praised the Buddha, and expressed his aspiration. Then he asked how he should walk the path to Buddhahood.

But Buddha Lokeśvararāja did not give him an answer.

"You yourself must know."

What a strange answer.

Dharmakara had been a king. He had knowledge and experience, authority and status. He had led others and made important decisions. All of these had shaped the person he had become. Yet none of them could give him the answer he was seeking.

The path before him was the path to Buddhahood—a path he had never walked before. His experience as a king could not take him there. To see what lay before him, perhaps he first had to step away from everything through which he had understood himself and the world.

When I was studying this sutra, my teacher often warned us not to dismiss stories like this too quickly. To modern ears, they may sound like myths or ancient tales. But he would say:

"Do not let what you already know shape the way you read it. Open your eyes, open your mind, and look carefully. The heart of Buddhism can be found in stories like this."

He also taught me that we may read the same story again and again and yet see something different each time.

The story has not changed. We have changed.

Our experiences change. Our circumstances change. Our responsibilities change. And our way of seeing things changes. A passage we once read without giving it much thought may suddenly speak to us in an entirely different way.

That is why we should not be too quick to say, "I already know this story." We may know the words, but that does not mean we have seen everything within them.

Perhaps the same is true of our lives.

We value what we have acquired through the years—our education, knowledge, experience, accomplishments, positions, and titles. We take pride in what we have learned and what we have achieved. These things are important. They help us work, make decisions, support others, and fulfill our responsibilities.

But without realizing it, they can also become the lens through which we see everything.

We see a situation through our past experience. We see another person through our own values. We decide what

私はもう知っている？

「仏説無量寿經」の中に、とても大切な物語があります。それは、のちに阿弥陀如来となられた法蔵菩薩のお話です。

昔、たいへん賢く、優れた一人の王さまがいました。お経には「人並み以上の才能と知恵を持った」王さまと記されています。ある日、その王さまは世自在王仏の説法を聞き、心から「自分もこの上ない悟りの道を求めたい」と願い、国も王位も捨てて出家し、「法蔵」と名乗りました。

法蔵菩薩は、さっそく世自在王仏のもとを訪ねました。合掌して礼拝し、仏さまを讃え、自分の決意を述べます。そして、仏となる道をどのように歩んだらよいのか、教えを請いました。

ところが、世自在王仏は、すぐに答えを教えるはくれませんでした。

「汝、自ら当に知るべし。」（それは、あなた自身が知るべきことです。）

ずいぶん冷たい答えのようにも聞こえます。法蔵菩薩は、もともと優れた王さまでした。多くのことを知り、さまざまな経験も積んでいたことでしょう。しかし、どれほど優れた王であっても、持っているのは、これまで生きてきた中で身につけた知識と経験です。これから法蔵菩薩が求めようとしているのは、今まで歩いたことのない道でした。知らない道を、知っていることだけを頼りにして歩くことはできません。

このお経の講義のとき、私の師匠は、よく言っていました。「この話を神話だ、昔話だと決めつけてはいけな。い。こういう話の中に真実がある。偏見を持たず、心を柔らかくして読みなさい。」

私たちは長く生きれば生きるほど、たくさんの経験を重ねます。「あの時はこうだった」「私はこうしてきた」「昔からこうするものだ」。その経験は、もちろん大切なものです。しかし、ときには、その経験が新しいものを見る目を曇らせることもあります。

法蔵菩薩は、自分の知識や経験だけでは答えを見つけることができませんでした。だからこそ、これまで自分が知っていたことにとらわれず、心を開いて、もう一度、新しい目で道を求めなければならませんでした。

「汝、自ら当に知るべし。」

この短い言葉は、法蔵菩薩だけに向けられた言葉ではないのかもしれませんが。いくつになっても、私たちの前には、まだ歩いたことのない道があります。

そんな時こそ、「私はもう知っている」と思わず、心を開いて、真摯に見つめてみる。そこか

The Two Caravans

Long ago, two caravans set out to cross a vast desert. They carried food, goods, and large jars of water. The journey was long, the sun was hot, and the water was heavy.

Day after day, they traveled across the hot sand. The people were tired, and so were the animals. Everyone wished the carts could be a little lighter.



Then they met travelers who told them, "Water ahead! There is plenty of water nearby." Everyone was excited. If there was water ahead, why carry those heavy jars?

The first caravan was happy to believe the news. It was exactly what they wanted to hear. They poured out their water, made

their carts lighter, and continued happily. "So easy!"



But the leader of the second caravan stopped.

"Are we sure?" He looked carefully around him. If water was nearby, where were the signs? There were no clouds, no green plants, and no birds flying toward water. The desert was still dry.

What they had heard sounded wonderful. But what they could actually see told a different story. So the leader said, "Keep the water." The water was heavy, but they carried it with them.

The first caravan soon discovered that there was no water ahead. They had believed the story because it was exactly what they **wanted** to hear. The second caravan kept its water and safely crossed the desert.

Both groups heard the same words. But they did not see the same thing. Sometimes we see what we **want** to see. Sometimes we hear what we **want** to hear.



Before we decide, perhaps we can stop for a moment, step away from what we already think we know, and look carefully at what is really there.

You may be surprised by what you see.

Namo Amida Butsu

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Great News! Mochitsuki is back! After a few years hiatus, Mochitsuki is returning as a traditional winter event this year. It was becoming more and more difficult with a diminishing work force to continue on this holiday tradition, but this year, with the help of chairpersons, Craif and Tayoko Honda, and Boy Scout Troop 399, the troop sponsored by the Fresno Buddhist Church and UJCC, we can hopefully make enough mochi to meet the demand. Events like this are not just fundraisers, but community events that bring church members, friends, and families together to work for a common cause. We will need your help. Craig and Tayoko will contact you for your work assignment. If you don't hear from them, come out anyway. The scouts and their families will be of help any where they are needed. Order forms for mochi are enclosed in this newsletter.

Thank you to Fresno Betsuin member, Paula Kanagawa, for being our speaker at our September Dharma Gathering to inform us about Eco-Sangha. We all need to do our part in preserving our environment. Just like Shohei picking up trash on the baseball field and keeping the dugout clean.

We have services and Dharma school coming up in October and November. Eshinni/Kakushinni Memorial, October Shotsuki, and Dharma School Service will be October 11th. Rev. Nobuo Miyaji will be our guest speaker. Our next FBC Board meeting will be immediately after the service. Nominations for new officers for 2027 will take place, so you may want to attend or you may be surprised to be nominated for something. The October Dharma Gathering will be October 25th. We will have two major services in November. November 8th will be Eitaikyo and November Shotsuki service and November 22 will be our Bodhi Day and December Shotsuki service.

Best wishes to the Parlier Buddhist Church for celebrating their 90th year anniversary on October 18th and the Fresno Buddhist Church observing their 125th year anniversary on November 7th. Congratulations to FBC member, Ken Ishimoto, for receiving his certificate for completing his Yoga training. He will soon begin his training to become a certified Yoga instructor. Sensei Karen Mukai has begun her Kyoshi certification program this past month.

I encourage you to attend future church services. We have enjoyed good attendance and wonderful lunches after the service thanks to

our tobans and our BWA. I hope to see you all soon.

Gary Mukai, President

Board of Governors – District 5

Riji

Cherie Nakayama
Gary Mukai

Toban

Satomi Hiyama
Alice Fujikawa

MOCHITSUKI

The Council of Youths will have its annual Mochitsuki on Saturday December 19, 2026. An order form is enclosed. Please note that the ordering deadline is December 04th. We plan to make approximately 800 pounds of mochi.

Any order taken after December 04th will not be filled until all prior orders are filled and may not be available until after 3:00 PM on Dec. 19th. Please understand the problems late orders creates.

We need help from as many members, volunteers from affiliated organizations; BWA (Buddhist Women Association, Dharma School Parents, Golf Club and the community in general. This is a labor-intensive undertaking, as well as an important social event that has its roots in Japanese tradition. Please try to help and support the youth of our church and at the same time pass on the knowledge and experience of this important part of Japanese culture.

It is very important that you order all types of mochi; yomogi & white, an yomogi, an white, & O kagami set. Youth Department provided mochi so that we can plan how much material and how many batches are needed to cover everyone's needs.

We would like to thank, Yuko Matoba and Tayoko Honda. Without their hard work raising, harvesting, cleaning, and packaging, we would not be able to enjoy such high quality yomogi (mugwort) mochi.

(continued)

Mochitsuki Schedule:

Dec. 17 @ 10:00 AM – Rice washing. Bring equipment up from basement.

Dec. 18 @ TBA – Set up, test, clean equipment & disassemble.

Dec. 19 @ 4:00 AM – Set up & start burners.

Dec. 19 @ 6:00 AM – Men, start cooking rice.

Dec. 19 @ 7:00 AM – Everyone else, start making mochi.

Dec, 19 @ 8:00 AM Need 6 people forming a Azuki An-Balls.

Dec. 19 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM – Order pickup. Yomogi orders may not be available before 2:00 p.m.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Thank you,
Craig & Tayoko Honda
Satomi Hiyama &
Sharon Asakawa
(Order form below)

The Shotsuki names for the month of October are:

Chiyoto Matsumoto
Shinayo Miyasaki
Ben Shimizu
Teruo Arasuna
Hachiroemon Nishina

Kaoru Kamikawa
Hiroso 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 2026 Donations

Ohigan Service

\$ 30.00	Art & Alice Fujikawa
\$ 30.00	M/M Gary Keithley
\$ 30.00	Janie Yuen
\$ 30.00	Joe & Irene Hara
\$ 30.00	Hitomi Sera
\$ 20.00	Sharon Asakawa

Shotsuki

\$ 250.00	Clevenger & Rose Families
\$ 100.00	Hitomi Sera & Sera Family
\$ 50.00	Steve & Marsha Teraoka
\$ 50.00	Kodo & Janet Umezu
\$ 50.00	Clifford & Sharon Fukushima
\$ 50.00	Tayoko & Craig Honda
\$ 30.00	Tayoko & Craig Honda
\$ 30.00	Carol Takahashi

In Memory of Ryoko Okazaki

\$ 200.00	David Okazaki & Linda Gong
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Special Donation

\$ 300.00	Fowler Judo Club
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The Incredible History of Nikkei Farmers in the San Joaquin Valley

The Fresno Betsuin is pleased to host a presentation by the Kansha History Project, a community history project that documents and celebrates the contributions and accomplishments of Nikkei farmers prior to World War II--a legacy which continues to this day.

Over 200 volunteers, mostly farmer descendants have transcribed over 6,000 records, making them searchable to other descendants. Please join us to search for your family record, learn about the scale of Nikkei farming, and appreciate the sacrifices and achievements of Nikkei farmers before World War II.

Speakers:

- **Amanda Mei Kim, Kansha History Project**
- **John Nishio, Chair and CEO Jerome Rohwer Pilgrimage**
- **Steve Fukugawa, Farmer, Kingsburg**
- **Larry Hirahara, Farmer/Seed Sales, Madera and Chair of Asian Cultural Experience of Salinas**



October 3, 2026, 2-4 pm
Fresno Betsuin Buddhist Temple

RSVP with the QR code or at
bit.ly/FresnoKansha



Sponsored by the Fresno Betsuin Buddhist Temple, the United Japanese Christian Church, Vintage Gardens, Walk the Farm and the Fresno JACL. This event is possible with funding from individual donors and the time and labor of 200+ volunteers.



FRESNO BUDDHIST TEMPLE

ANNUAL FOOD BAZAAR

“Come for Lunch, Take Home for Dinner!”

Sunday October 25, 2026

BOX LUNCH

- Boneless Chicken Teriyaki
- 2 Beef Teriyaki Sticks
- Gyoza
- Nemasu
- Edamame
- Rice
- Fruit

Tix must be purchased in advance, by Oct 16

\$25

ALA CARTE MENU

- Sushi
- Spam Musubi
- Shrimp/Vegetable Tempura
- Curry Rice Bowl
- BBQ Ribs
- Chicken Salad
- Desserts
- Beverages

PRICES VARY

CASH ONLY!

11:00am til 2:00pm

Boxes must be picked up by 1:00pm

Raffle Drawing

first \$1000 | second \$500 | third \$250



2690 East Alluvial Ave. Fresno CA 93720

Information: 559.442.4054
info@fresnobuddhisttemple.org
www.fresnobuddhisttemple.org

ORDER DEADLINE: OCTOBER 16th

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

TAKE OUT BOX _____ @ \$25.00 = \$ _____ TOTAL ENCLOSED

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: “FRESNO BUDDHIST TEMPLE”

Please mail order form and payment to : Fresno Buddhist Temple—2690 E Alluvial Ave., Fresno 93720

For more information:
info@fresnobuddhisttemple.org
 (559) 442-4054





Reedley Buddhist Church 72nd Annual Food Bazaar

Boneless chicken teriyaki, teriyaki beefstick, chow mein,
namasu, rice, & almond cookie

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2026
3:00 - 6:00 PM
DINE-IN OR TAKE OUT
\$22 PER DINNER - PRE-SALE ONLY
2035 15TH STREET, REEDLEY, CA 93654

*A limited number of dinners available

Also for sale: Inari Sushi, Spam Sushi, Desserts, Country Store

Cut here and return

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

Email or cell phone text (for receipt confirmation): _____

Boxed Dinners: _____ x \$22.00 Total Enclosed _____

Deadline: Monday, October 19, 2026

Make checks payable to: **REEDLEY BUDDHIST CHURCH**

Send to: Reedley Buddhist Church - P.O. Box 24, Reedley, CA 93654

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



Tisarana Yoga

*Yoga. Community.
Dharma. Connection.*

A NEW HYBRID YOGA CLASS AT THE
BUDDHIST CHURCH OF OGDEN



Join us starting Monday, **September 7th** at **7 PM MST!**

The Buddhist Church of Ogden is excited to offer a weekly **Yoga Class** for members and friends. This **hybrid** class welcomes both online and in-person participants.

— EACH SESSION WILL INCLUDE: —



A one-hour yoga practice
suitable for participants joining in person or via Zoom.



Recording of the yoga portion
for those unable to attend live.



A brief closing reading, poem, or reflection
inspired by Buddhist teachings.



Stay & Connect

After the Zoom session and recording
conclude, those attending in person
are invited to stay for an **informal
discussion**.

This will be an opportunity to share
thoughts, ask questions, and explore
the ideas presented in the reading
or reflection.



WAIVER AGREEMENT

All participants (in-person and online) must complete a "Waiver Agreement for Ogden Buddhist Church." Waivers will be emailed to past participants of Bob's Monday Yoga. New members will be sent the waiver upon request, and a paper form will be available at Ogden Buddhist Church every Monday.



Our vision is to create a welcoming environment where yoga supports physical well-being and serves as an invitation to explore the Dharma and connect more deeply with our sangha. By opening our doors to those interested in yoga, we may also open minds and hearts to Buddhist teachings.

We welcome your questions, suggestions, and support as we begin this new chapter.



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO ASK QUESTIONS,
please contact Annette Koga at annette.tisanayoga@gmail.com



Scan or click this QR Code to access the waiver agreement

Or click [here](#).



Tisarana Yoga

Breathe.
Move.
Be Well.

Tisarana Yoga

Sacramento

Cultivating relaxation and well-being
in body, mind, and spirit.

ONLINE YOGA
ALL LEVELS, ABILITIES & AGES WELCOME



DAY & TIME:

Wednesdays from 7 - 8 p.m.



START DATE:

September 16, 2026



LOCATION:

Online only via Zoom



COST:

No charge.
(Donations gladly accepted)



FOR EVERYONE:

All levels, abilities and ages.

YOUR INSTRUCTOR



Sandy Kataoka Fong

Certified by the Government of India
and registered with the Yoga
Alliance.

Sandy is an active member of the
Buddhist Church of Sacramento,
serving on the Executive Board as
chair of the Marketing and
Communications Committee and
Co-President Elect of the Board of
Trustees.

She is a graduate of the Tisarana Yoga teacher training
program offered by the Buddhist Churches of America.



REGISTER TODAY!

Scan the QR code to
complete the online
registration form or email
**sandy.tisaranayoga@
gmail.com**



Upon registration and
completion of the
Participation Agreement
you will receive the Zoom
link to participate.

For more info visit:
buddhistchurch.org/yoga

ABOUT TISARANA YOGA

Tisarana Yoga was established by the Buddhist
Churches of America and sponsored by the
Bishop's Expansion Fund. Instructors complete an
intensive six-month training program and final
exam to certify themselves as a Tisarana Yoga
Instructor.

Tisarana Yoga seeks to cultivate relaxation and
well-being in body, mind, and heart, safe for all
ages and abilities.



Sponsored by the Buddhist Church of Sacramento
HEALTH AND WELLNESS PROGRAM



BCA Member Survey

We want to hear your thoughts

We would like to invite you to participate in a brief survey to share your thoughts and perspectives regarding the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA). The purpose of this survey is to better understand awareness of BCA programs and services, along with your perception of the value BCA provides to local temples and sangha members, and opportunities to strengthen communication and engagement.

Your feedback is important and will help guide future efforts to support temples, ministers, and sangha members across our organization.

We invite you to complete this anonymous online survey using the link below. We expect the survey will take approximately 5 minutes to complete.

Scan the QR Code to Complete Survey



Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts and help shape the future of our Buddhist community.

In Gassho,

Gayle Noguchi
Executive Director
Buddhist Churches of America