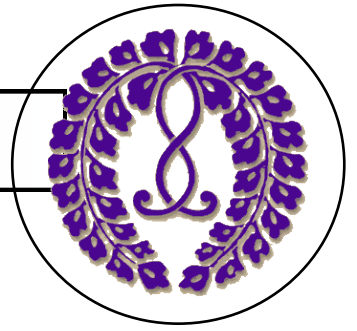


REEDLEY BUDDHIST CHURCH

P.O. BOX 24 ~ 2035 15TH STREET

REEDLEY, CALIFORNIA 93654

PHONE & FAX (559) 638-2146



Dear Members and Friends of the Reedley Buddhist Church,

The recent COVID-19 (Coronavirus) crisis is affecting all of us and I wanted to give you some updated information. There will be **no services or events at church for the month of April**. This includes the Hanamatsuri service, April monthly memorial service, and Rev. and Mrs. Shibata's Farewell Luncheon. We are saddened that we will not be able to see the Shibatas before their departure to Japan, but keeping them and everyone else safe and healthy is our first priority. With the recommendation that gatherings of more than 10 people are discouraged, we are trying to be compliant.

Additionally, we have received the following advisory from the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) titled "Careful Considerations for Ministers and Temples in Dealing with the Coronavirus". This advisory encourages all Temples to cancel all services and events until further notice. The advisory also suggests all memorial services and funerals (if not postponed) should be limited to small groups or immediate family.

Ministerial contacts will be limited to phone calls for the time being. Rev. Nakata and Rev. Nakagawa will be conducting Sunday services which can be viewed online at the website:

https://mobile.twitter.com/fresno_nishi

The link will also give you a schedule of upcoming services, as well as access to prior services. Please note, you do not need a Twitter account. You may visit our church website to access other temples' shared Dharma messages at: <https://www.reedleybc.org/>

Thank you for your understanding during this difficult time. If you need additional help or support, please contact me at (559) 903-0317.

In Gassho,

Vickie Nishida

President

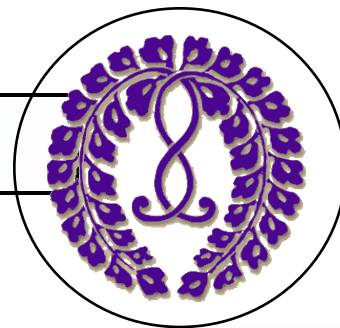
Reedley Buddhist Church

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<http://reedleybc.org>



April Calendar

All activities, services, and meetings have been cancelled or postponed during the month of April due to COVID-19.

The following is a website link to Rev. Nakata and Rev. Nakagawa's live stream on Sundays at 10:00 AM. A Twitter account is NOT needed.
https://mobile.twitter.com/fresno_nishi

A partial list of other churches and temples that are sharing Dharma Talks are also listed below.

Ekoji Buddhist Temple:

<https://vimeo.com/397709269/3801fa8fcc>

Fresno Betsuin Temple & Central Cal

https://mobile.twitter.com/fresno_nishi

Buddhist Church of Oakland

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgo9UpJkW7uQLCbU6fPMZ7Q>

Orange County Buddhist Church

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCbZRjesGUxitRfzu5FmCmWA>

Buddhist Church of Sacramento

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GCg_yRzBl-A&feature=youtu.be

San Jose Betsuin Buddhist Temple

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNzzDwOSv9YWh7nNfh1IjGw>

Buddhist Church of San Francisco

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCybBRtgwGmJeMdv3RpfD_A

Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple

<https://www.youtube.com/seattlebuddhisttemple>

A complete list can be found on the Reedley Buddhist Church website:
www.reedleybc.org



Message from Rev. Nakagawa



Now, We Are Reminded of "Right View"

Right View is the first lesson of the 'Eightfold Noble Path' and one of the essential foundations of Buddha-dharma. Major teachings such as Shin Buddhism, are contrary to blind faith. Right View is always accompanied by our critical attitude. In reading Buddhist literature, we are surprised at sentences referring to "doubt" as the mother of **"True and Real Awakening"**.

Famous Zen master Ikkyu, best friend of our Rennyo Shōnin, once said, "If a Bodsav (=Bodhisattv) is to have a fatal disease, it would be the absence of 'doubt'." The original Buddhist word "Vicikitsā" which corresponds to the English word "doubt" means "sincere wish to understand". From this critical standpoint, Śākyamuni Buddha advised his disciples to test everything by logic and not to accept anything out of regard for their authors or sacred books. He did not make an exception of himself either.

Kalama Sūtra says;

"This I have said to you, Kalama, but you may accept it, not because it is a report, not because it is a tradition, not because it is so said in the past, not because it is given from the scripture, not for the sake of discussion, not because it appears to be suitable but if you, yourselves understand that this is so meritorious and blameless, and when it is for benefit and happiness, then you may accept it."

Continued on page 3

HANAMATSURI DONATIONS

We are enclosing an envelope if you would still like to make a donation for Hanamatsuri. It can be mailed to the church. Thank you.

APRIL TOBAN:

CANCELLED FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL





Message from Rev. Nakata

Shinran's time and our time: we can learn from history



Hello, all Central California Sangha friends! How are you spending your time at home or somewhere else? I am writing this article after I watched our Governor's announcement on the statewide "stay at home" order. I am very sorry that I cannot physically reach out to you to encourage and cheer you up during this difficult time. When I moved to CC last summer, I started providing Sunday Service on the Internet which is called "live streaming." [https://twitter.com/fresno_nishi] Some of you may not know what live streaming is, so I'd like to explain what it is. When I conduct service at CC temple/church, I sometime record my chanting and Dharma talk. Providing it as a live show on the internet is called "live streaming". Nowadays, most TVs are internet capable, so you can watch my live streaming on your TV.

The third weekend of March, we were unable to hold our regular Sunday service due to the current emergency condition. We decided to hold the service without having any attendees. On March 15, Rinban Nakagawa, Rev. Midori, and I chanted Shoshinge and I shared my Dharma Talk for the service. It was provided as live streaming and saved online. We will provide this "Streaming-only Sunday service" until the current condition is over.

In the live streaming video of March 15, I talked about Ignorance - one of the three poisons. It is widely known as a Shinran Shonin's teaching, but we also can find it in an old Buddhist scripture, Nirvana sutra. Ignorance is one of the biggest factors to create a sense of fear. Ignorance does not mean "stupid." Ignorance should be understood as an "unknown condition". The sense of fear is a defensive / protective manner to deal with unknown conditions. It is a natural reaction of human beings. When we accelerate our sense of fear, we start panicking. Did you buy an extra toilet paper? If so, you should watch the streaming video.

To reduce our fear or prevent panic, what we should do? One of the solutions is to look back on our human history. Do you know what Malaria is? It is a mosquito-borne infectious disease. Less than 2,000 American people show symptoms of Malaria each year. Do you think it is a lot? According to the CDC, there were 228 million patients, and 405,000 lives lost in 2018 due to Malaria. It is a lot, isn't it? Why does Malaria not scare us or make us panic, although over 400,000 people die every year? Because there are preventive and curative medicines for the disease.

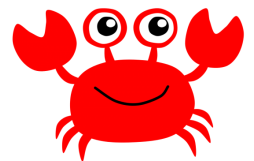
It is used to be known as one of the worst diseases in ancient Japan. The name "Malaria" first appeared in the Japanese Code of Taiho which was enacted in 701. It became a cause of epidemic, many times in Japan. Shinran Shonin was ordained and started his monastic life in 1181. A devastating famine and epidemic occurred in the same year. A record of Hojoki states 42,300 citizens of Kyoto lost their lives. We don't know how he directly responded to or experienced the devastating circumstances. He shared his poem, when he requested Master Jien to conduct his ordination. He wrote "When we see cherry blossoms, we expect them to continue blooming tomorrow, although a storm may blow them away tonight." In this poem, he expressed his thought as "I want to live my life diligently in this present moment, because there is no

Continued in next column

guarantee whether I have tomorrow". I am sure that he was seeing or hearing of people dying from Malaria. Master Jien's brother, Kanezane Kujo was a big supporter of Shinran Shonin and his teacher, Honen Shonin. Some historic documents indicate that Kanezane's daughter, Princess Tamahi married to Shinran Shonin. Historians argue that Kanezane died from Malaria. In the 12th and 13th Centuries, there was no medication to cure Malaria. People knew what the symptoms were, but they did not know what kind of virus it was. In ancient time, rich patients hired shamans and let them pray and chant to cure their diseases. Kanezane was a high ranking noble. He might have hired them for his own longevity.

You may laugh at their reactions to Malaria or you may think they are stupid to hire shamans. If you were noble and lived in the 13th Century, you might also hire them. Who knows? While I am writing this article, thousands of researchers are working hard to find/create curative medicines to suppress the current pandemic situation. I have no knowledge or skill to create any medicines. I just sincerely thank all medical workers and researchers who tirelessly contribute their energy to save lives. Do you still feel fear or panic? Look at yourself. Your life is a gift from your ancestors who had survived through numbers of difficult situations such as war, pandemic, famine or disease, up until your generation. If Shinran Shonin would exist now, he would say "you are ok, do not worry", because he encountered famine and epidemic multiple times during 90 years of his life. Can you believe that the average age in the 13th Century in Japan was only in the 40s? Until his last breath, he did not lose his motivation for living. He focused on living his everyday life diligently. I am so fortunate to encounter Shinran Shonin and his teachings. He is a practical example on how to have a vital and positive living. Whenever you would like to chat with me, please call me. I am happy to talk to you. Please keep yourself, physically and mentally healthy. I hope to see you soon at Temple/Church or online! Gassho.

2020 Crab Feed & Silent Auction THANK YOU!



As most of you know, the Crab Feed was taken out only due to the COVID-19 regulations. We have been receiving feedback regarding the take out, and all have been very positive about it. Everyone was happy with the amount of crab that was given and everything tasted delicious. The bonus was the dessert bar where patrons were able to choose their favorite dessert to go along with their dinner.

As for the Silent Auction, we thank many of you for your donations. We plan to still hold the silent auction during the year when regulations have been lifted. This is such a unprecedented time and we will have to play it by ear. We'll let you know. THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



Church Acknowledges Dana

Mr. Ted Akahori & Ms. Julie Akahori -
Special Dana \$ 25.00

Mrs. Kazuko Tatami - Spring Ohigan
Service 20.00

March Memorial Service Donations

Mrs. Joy Donaldson	100.00
Mr. & Mrs. Dale Okamura	100.00
Mrs. Nancy Sakata	90.00
Ms. Shizuko Taguchi	60.00
Mr. Kiyoshi Aoki	50.00
Mr. Stanley Hirahara	50.00
Mrs. Lynn Kurumaji	50.00
Mrs. Yukiye Takayama	50.00
Mr. Johnnie Togioka	50.00
Ms. Lois Yamakoshi	50.00
Mrs. Sue Kawamoto	40.00
Ms. Priscilla Kehoe	40.00
Mr. & Mrs. Ben Kubota	40.00
Mr. & Mrs. Hitoshi Aoki	30.00
Mrs. Kiyoko Inn	30.00
Mrs. Nagiko Konishi	30.00
Mr. Michio Miyamoto	30.00
Mr. & Mrs. Chad Doi & Family	25.00
Ms. Alisha Hirahara & Family	25.00
Mrs. Chizuko Iwasaki	25.00
Ms. Priscilla Kehoe	25.00
The Masumoto Family	25.00
Mr. & Mrs. Ben Nobuhiro	25.00
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kobayashi	20.00
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Nishida	20.00
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Quiroz & Family	20.00
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Sakata	20.00
Mrs. Hiroko Shimozone & Family	20.00
Mrs. Ayako Yamada	20.00

February Memorial Service Donations

Mr. & Mrs. Chad Doi & Family	20.00
Mr. Alan Kubota	20.00
Mrs. Ayako Yamada	30.00

Rev. Nakagawa's Message continued from page 1:

Another Sūtra amplifies the above, saying, "As the wise test gold by burning, cutting and rubbing it (on a piece of touchstone), so are you to accept my words after examining them and not merely out of regard for me."

This Right Viewing with critical examination which is entirely alien to blind faith (that all other religion requires) has made Buddhism unique among all way-of-livings.

Now, I am concerned about the mass-hysteria of the Pandemic caused by COVID-19. Please refer to the following information from credible England newspaper. And, please try to think logically with me, as Buddhists.

#The Guardian's recent report on Wed. 18, Mar. 2020;
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/mar/18/japanese-flu-drug-clearly-effective-in-treating-coronavirus-says-china>

Gassho,

Reverend Kakei Nakagawa, Rinban
with special thanks to Dr. Hunter Arakawa for his compassion and courage

TO BWA MEMBERS

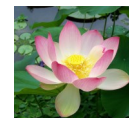
All BWA sponsored activities have been cancelled during the month of April which includes all services, meetings, luncheons, Bingo Day, visitations, and the yard sale. We will keep you updated on when these activities will resume. Thank you for your understanding.



"Sometimes you don't realize
your own strength until you
come face to face with your
greatest weakness."

—Susan Gale

In Sympathy



Our deepest condolences to the family of
Mrs. Tatsuko Hatanaka, who passed away on
March 15, 2020 at the age of 100.



April Monthly Memorial Service

The April Monthly Memorial Service will be combined with the May Monthly Memorial Service. **(unless activities are still cancelled)** Families and friends are asked to attend and offer incense. The deceased and seshu (observant) for April are as follows:

DECEASED:

George Kikuo Harada
Yietaro Antoku
Tomichi Kawakami
Kitaro Asakawa &
Mari Miyasaki
Isamu Hara
Yoneko Hatanaka
Bill Hirata & Richard
Yoshito Hirata
Roger Hiyama
George Masanori Hosaka
Akira Shimizu
Setsuko Kimura

Shigeo Naito, Mitsuharu
Naito & Mume Kawasaki
Shizuko Nakata
Fumiko Yamamoto
Charles Kiyoshi Iwasaki
Sadame Iwasaki
Kiyoshi Kawamoto
Yasuzo Sakai
Sakano Ito
Tadato Kubota
Elsie Morita
Michiko Miyamoto
Tomo Nakagawa
Jo Nishida

Kazume Hanemoto
Tokino Kubo
Kazuo Jim Omori
Tom Minoru Sakata

Douglas Sasaki
Joan Masae Sasaki
Kimiko Shiine
Kenneth Takeo Suemoto
MinoruYokota & Chiye
Yokota

SESHU: (OBSERVANT)

Nancy Abe
Kay Antoku
Betty Aoki

Misa Hatakeda
Helen Hara
Irene Hatanaka

Art Hirata
Bradley Hiyama
Todd Hosaka
Eloise Ibara
Karen Sakata & Kevin
Kimura

Amy Naito
Carolyn Ikemiya
Chizuko Iwasaki
Larry Iwasaki
Amy E. Naito
Sue Kawamoto
Satoko Kim
Helen Kimura
Ben Kubota
Lynn Kurumaji
Michio Miyamoto
Midori Iwasaki
Julia Ueda & Larry
Nishida
Ben Nobuhiro
Kathleen Omachi
Nancy Omori
Nancy Sakata & Gary
Sakata
Paul Sasaki
Lynette Sasaki
Hideo Shiine
Donna Suemoto

Linda Doi & Janet
Quiroz

Continued in next column

April Monthly Memorial Cont.

DECEASED:

Tomokichi Sunamoto

Kazuko Taguchi
Chisako Betty Matoba
Haruko Tsuboi
Suye Tsuji
Bruce Uyeda

Mary Wada
Ai Fujiwara & Koichi Wada

SESHU:(OBSERVANT)

Alma Sunamoto &
Kathy Hamada
Shizuko Taguchi
Yukiye Takayama
Margo Toyota
George Tsuji
Rachel Uyeda &
Mary Uyeda
Greg Wada
Ayako Yamada

All services, memorials, and funerals should be postponed due to the COVID-19 crisis. Please be sure to still contact the church if you have any questions regarding any procedures or for help.

Procedures for Requesting a Minister

Funerals:

The family will contact the Reedley Buddhist Church President, Mrs. Vickie Nishida (559) 903-0317 or Funeral Chairperson, Gary Sakata at (559) 250-9687.

Makuragyo Service:

During the week contact the Fresno Betsuin Office (442-4054) or Rev. Nakagawa on weekdays or weekends directly (970-7652).

Family Memorial Service:

For services at the Reedley Buddhist Church: Contact the RBC President to check the availability of the Reedley Church. Then contact **Lee Osaki** at the **Fresno Betsuin** (442-4054) to schedule the service. Fresno Betsuin office hours are 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday thru Friday. Return call to Church President to confirm date and time.

For services at family home: Family will contact Lee Osaki at the Fresno Betsuin office to arrange for a minister.

Contact Number for Church Business

Reedley Church Phone: (559) 638-2146

Church President: Mrs. Vickie Nishida

Phone: (559) 903-0317

Funeral Committee Chair; Mr. Gary Sakata at:

Cell Phone: (559) 250-9687

Fresno Betsuin Office - Lee Osaki: (559) 442-4054

(requesting minister or schedule family service in Reedley after contacting Reedley president for church availability)
Rev. Nakagawa: (urgent for Makuragyo) (559) 970-7652

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Reedley, CA 93654

Phone/FAX: (559) 638-2146

Website: <http://www.reedleybc.org>

Email Pres. Vickie Nishida: vnishida1@gmail.com

Email Newsletter/Webmaster: jk108@sbcglobal.net

