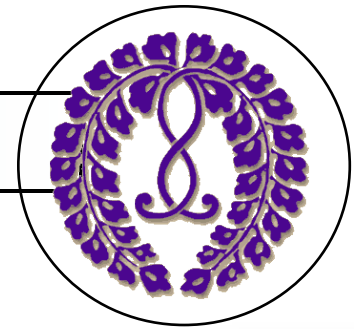


# REEDLEY BUDDHIST CHURCH

P.O. BOX 24 ~ 2035 15TH ST., REEDLEY, CALIFORNIA 93654

PHONE & FAX (559) 638-2146

<http://reedleybc.org>



## July Calendar

- 5 July Monthly Memorial ONLINE 10:00 am
- 11 Obon Pre-ordered snack bag pick at Reedley Buddhist Church 12:00 - 1:00 pm
- 11 Central California Hatsubon ONLINE Service 5:30 pm
- 12 Central California Obon ONLINE Service 10:00 am
- 23 Church Board Meeting (Zoom Meeting) 7:00 pm

### ONLINE LINK:

[https://mobile.twitter.com/fresno\\_nishi](https://mobile.twitter.com/fresno_nishi)

## Central California Hatsubon Service Online - Sat., July 11th 5:30 PM



The Central California Hatsubon/Obon Service will be held online on **Saturday, July 11, 2020, at 5:30 PM**. The Hatsubon names from each temple will be read and each will be represented with oshoko and candle lighting. All families observing are asked to watch and remember their loved ones.

A virtual Obon dance will be conducted following the service led by the Obon teachers.

Please go to:

[https://mobile.twitter.com/fresno\\_nishi](https://mobile.twitter.com/fresno_nishi)

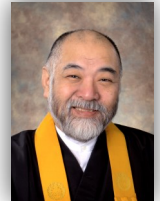


## Reedley Buddhist Church Services and Activities Cancelled During JULY

Due to the numbers of COVID-19 cases increasing in Reedley, all services and activities have been cancelled during the month of July. If for some reason this changes, we will notify members by mail.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact president, Vickie Nishida.

## Message from Rev. Nakagawa



### Black Lives Matter

On June 5<sup>th</sup>, I attended the joint vigil for Allies of the Black Lives Matter Movement, co-sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fresno and Fresno Betsuin Buddhist Temple. Some church members also attended that day and the following June 12<sup>th</sup> vigil.

It is a citizens' movement that seriously faces the unsolved problem of racism in American history, which originated from the cruel incident in Minneapolis, Minnesota. It is a positive movement for the Shin Buddhist Sangha in Central California, and we must be sure it never happens in others' affairs.

The slogan of "Black Lives Matter" reminds us about the history of American African ancestry, which has taken the full brunt of discrimination for 400 years in this country. We will notice that racial-discrimination is the biggest shackle for preventing the ideal of America.

As Buddhists, we can never be indifferent.

Shin Buddhism is a way of life that is always with the Buddha's wishes. Remember how Rennyo Shōnin taught a law of living as a Dharma-Practicer:

"I shall live my remaining life without prejudice or discrimination.

I shall discard false rituals and break the bonds of unproductive actions.

I shall long for and promote a world of non-violence whether physical, mental, cultural, or social.

I shall realize a true Sangha, where no individual would ever be impaired from realizing their full potential."

What a resemblance between the Buddha's wishes-for-the-world and America's ideals! As D. T. Suzuki, one of the most beautiful Buddhist minds of the 20th century, clarified, "It can be asserted that there is no other country than the United States of America where Buddha's wishes-for-the-world can be best fulfilled."

This is true especially for people of American Japanese ancestry who have experienced the horror of the moment of being one step before racial extinction, due to the discrimination policy of the Federal Government during WWII.

Continued on page 4

## JULY TOBAN:

Cancelled for July





## Message from Rev. Nakata

### Obon Lanterns...bringing back memories of our loved ones



Hello, all Central California Sangha friends! This is my fourth Newsletter article after the stay-at-home/shelter-in-place order was enacted. How you are adapting to your new normal life? I get up at 6:30 each morning to walk with my children. After a breakfast, I start my ministry activities such as writing emails and articles, reading books, making phone calls, attending virtual meetings, and preparing materials for Sunday Services. After the stay-at-home/shelter-in-place orders were lifted, I started accepting in-person meetings at the office. Since the orders were enacted, I conduct Sunday Service every weekend, and funeral/memorial Services upon request. Usually we suspend Sunday Services after Obon service and resume in September but for this year, Rinban and I decided to continue streaming Sunday Service throughout the summer. I do less driving to attend meetings or to conduct services, but I have more "deskwork" making posters and service programs. So, I keep myself active under the new normal life.

In my previous article, I wrote on the significance of Obon for the Jodo Shinshu Sangha. On July 11<sup>th</sup>, we will have a virtual Obon Dance. I am currently preparing the equipment needed and preparing procedures for the event. When someone asks you about Obon, what do you recall? Maybe you recall Kimono, Obon Songs, Taiko, or Chicken Teriyaki. These are all important components of Obon. I personally, recall the Obon lanterns. You may remember that many colorful lanterns are fastened on the lines above. [Once the sun sets, these lanterns are illuminated by lights or candles.](#) Although it is very hot, dancers enjoy Obon odori under these lanterns. Some of these lanterns display people's names on its surface. Many are of those loved ones who passed since the last Obon season. Traditionally, we call these the Hatsubon deceased. *Hatsu* means "first time" and *bon* means "Obon". So Hatsubon means that the family of the deceased is observing Obon for the first time, without their loved one. You may wonder why we use lanterns. There are many old traditions regarding the Obon lantern so I would like to introduce one of the Jodo Shinshu stories on the Obon lantern.

But before sharing this, we should know the history of a lantern in the Buddhist tradition. A lantern is known as *Toro*, in Japanese or Chinese. It literally means "a basket for a candle". According to the *Mahīśāsaka-vinaya* (ancient precepts for Buddhist monks), originally monks were using an open-flame light. They realized that this may cause a fire, so the vinaya text permitted monks to make a basket for the candle, made from copper, iron, clay brick, or wood. In the *Vinaya-kṣudraka-vastu* (another ancient precept for Buddhist monks), it says a monk was chanting a sutra one night. He was using an open flame for his source of light. A bug flew over his flame and was killed. He decided to make a basket with bamboo sticks for a covering to avoid such unnecessary killing. So originally a lantern was not a part of the Buddhist ornaments. Later in China, lanterns were used to light up a temple altar, and placed in front of a temple building as a stone structured lantern. Nowadays, you may see these stone lanterns as decoration in Japanese gardens, and you may also find it at a gardening supply store or nurseries.

A bamboo structured lantern was introduced to Japan from China in the early 14th Century. It was used amongst nobles and

Continued in next column

Rev. Nakata's Message continued:

warriors for daily use, and Buddhist priests for ornaments. In fact, a drawn picture in the 15th Century shows that people were hanging bamboo lanterns to lead a funeral procession to the gravesite. By the 15<sup>th</sup> Century, the Japanese invented a foldable lantern for portability and storability. It is now what we use for Obon.

The bamboo lantern was inexpensive to make but the candle itself was very expensive for people, in general. The lantern became popular amongst people in the beginning of the Edo period (1603-1868), when the mass-production of the candle began. One of the prototypes of the Bon odori dances is recorded in *Ippen Hijiri-e* which was written in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century. Ippen was one of the well-known Nenbutsu teachers. Shinran Shonin lived in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century too. They might have danced together...

In our Jodo Shinshu tradition, the usage of the lantern at Obon has no official starting date. Instead, there are stories of how local Jodo Shinshu Sangha started to use the lantern at Obon. One of the biggest Sangha groups in Japan was a group in the Hiroshima region. They were called "Aki-monto."

In the middle of the Edo period, there was a couple who owned a wholesale paper store in the territory of the Hiroshima Castle town. Unfortunately, they lost their young daughter. They lamented the death of their beloved child, and wished to build a stone structured lantern, like the one which is situated in a temple. However, they were not able to afford the cost of the construction. They hand-crafted a lantern with bamboo and wrapped it with paper. Later, they placed the lantern in front of their daughter's grave. This is the origin of a lantern at Obon. In Hiroshima, these lanterns are known as "Bon Toro" or "Bon Doro." I have included a Bon Toro picture from the Mainichi Newspaper, so you can imagine how people place the lantern in front and around gravesites. Hatsubon families place a white lantern, while other families place a colorful lantern. This way, people will recognize which families have recently lost an immediate family member.

Do you remember when you were child, how your grandparents were enjoying Obon under the hanging lanterns? I remember that my grandfather took me to the Obon dance. He bought me snacks such as shaved ice and cotton candy and gave me money for the game booths. He passed away 11 years ago at the age of 94. He left me a lot of fun memories of Obon, which I still remember. The Obon lanterns brings back memories of my loved ones, grandfather, grandmother, and cousin. When you see the Obon lanterns, who do you recall? I am sure that they bring back many sweet memories for you.

Again, under the current situation, we can only have a virtual Obon dance and Hatsubon Service on July 11. I will try my best to maintain our annual events as much as possible, so please watch the Service through your monitor or screen. If you do not have access to the internet, please let me know. I will record the Obon event on DVD and am happy to give you one.

In Gassho.

## In Sympathy



We extend our deepest sympathy to the family of **Mr. Yukio Hamada**, father of Mr. Clifford Hamada and Ms. Donna Hamada, who passed away on May 24, 2020 at the age of 90.



## Church Acknowledges Dana

Mrs. Ayako Alma Sunamoto - In Memory of of Mr. Yuk Hamada	\$100.00
Mr. & Mrs. Hitoshi Aoki - In Appreciation for Care Packages	100.00
Mrs. Toshiko Kawagoe - In Appreciation for Care Packages	100.00
Ms. Amy Naito - In Appreciation for Care Packages	100.00
Mrs. Alice Nakamura - In Appreciation for Care Packages	100.00
Mr. & Mrs. Ben Nobuhiro - In Appreciation for Care Packages	100.00
Ms. Shizuko Taguchi - In Appreciation for Care Packages	100.00
Mrs. Mary Uyeda - In Appreciation for Care Packages	100.00
Mrs. Toshiko Kawagoe - In Appreciation for Care Packages	50.00
Mrs. Sue Kawamoto - In Appreciation for Care Packages	50.00
Mrs. Amy Naito - In Appreciation for Care Packages	50.00
Mrs. Kimiye Tanizaki - In Appreciation for Care Packages	50.00
Mrs. Ellen Yamada - In Appreciation for Care Packages	30.00

### Obon Service Donations

Mrs. Toshiko Kawagoe & Family	100.00
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Nishinaka	100.00
Mrs. Ayako Alma Sunamoto	100.00
Mrs. Fumiko Ikemiya	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Iwasaki	50.00
The Masumoto Family	50.00
Ms. Amy Naito	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. George Tsuji	50.00
Ms. Marcia Yamada	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Hamada	40.00
Mr. & Mrs. Hitoshi Aoki	30.00
Mrs. Kikuyo Ikemiya	30.00
Mr. & Mrs. Kliff Justesen	30.00
Mrs. Sue Kawamoto	30.00
Mrs. Grace Nakagawa	30.00
Mrs. Alice Nakamura	30.00
Mr. & Mrs. James Hatakeda	25.00
Mrs. Kiyoko Inn	25.00
Mrs. Chizuko Iwasaki	25.00
Mrs. Nancy Kimura	25.00
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kobayashi	25.00
Mrs. Amy Naito	25.00
Mr. Michael Naito	25.00
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Sakata	25.00
Mrs. Ayako Yamada	25.00

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### Obon Service Donations Continued:

Mrs. Ellen Yamada	\$ 25.00
Ms. Lois Yamakoshi	25.00
Mrs. Joy Donaldson	20.00
Mrs. Lynn Kurumaji	20.00
Mr. & Mrs. Danny Nakamichi	20.00
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Nishida	20.00
Ms. Shizuko Taguchi	20.00

### June Monthly Memorial Service Donation

Mrs. Toshiko Kawagoe & Family	100.00
Mrs. Toshiko Kawagoe & Family	100.00
Mr. Harvey Nakamura	100.00
Mr. & Mrs. Dale Okamura	100.00
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Iwasaki	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. John Nishio	50.00
Mrs. Yukiye Takayama	40.00
Mr. & Mrs. George Tsuji	40.00
Mr. & Mrs. Hitoshi Aoki	30.00
Mrs. Fumiko Ikemiya	30.00
Mr. & Mrs. Kliff Justesen	30.00
Mr. Michio Miyamoto	30.00
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Nishida	30.00
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Sakata	30.00
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kobayashi	25.00
The Masumoto Family	25.00
Ms. Amy Naito	25.00
Mr. & Mrs. Danny Nakamichi	25.00
Ms. Marissa Okamura & Ms. Stephanie Okamura	25.00
Mrs. Teruko Shibata	25.00
Mr. Tom Shitanishi	25.00

### May Monthly Memorial Service Donations

Mr. & Mrs. James Hatakeda	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. Chad Doi & Family	25.00
Mrs. Yukiye Takayama	25.00
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Quiroz & Family	20.00

### February Monthly Memorial Service Donations

Mrs. Yukiye Takayama	25.00
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**The world has turned  
upside down. Old folks  
are sneaking out of the house,  
and their kids are  
yelling at them to  
stay indoors!**







### Rev. Nakagawa's message from page 1 continued:

We must not keep silent.

The following poem is written on the tombstone of one Polish man, Martin Niemoller, who died during World War II:

"First they came and knocked on the door for the socialists, and I did not speak out--

Because I was not a socialist.

Then they came and knocked on the door for the trade unionists, and I did not speak out--

Because I was not a trade unionist.

Then they came and knocked on the door for the Jews, and I did not speak out--

Because I was not a Jew.

Then they came and knocked on the door for me--

And there was no one left to speak for me."

Thankfully, when the *Issei* and *Nisei* were in the internment camps, there were quite a few in this country who spoke up for us and spoke for our human rights, even by risking their social status. They are the original Americans. We must never forget about these people.

And even now in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, they are knocking on our doors for people of American African ancestry, 150 years after the Emancipation Proclamation, basically because of the difference in skin color.....

May we speak strong for establishing the society where no individual would ever be impaired from realizing their full potential.

## HATSUBON SERVICE



Reedley will be observing Hatsubon on **Saturday**, July 11, 2020 at 5:30 PM online. All families observing Hatsubon will be asked to log in to the virtual live stream service at

[https://mobile.twitter.com/fresno\\_nishi](https://mobile.twitter.com/fresno_nishi)

The families of the following will also be observing Hatsubon for their loved ones at the **online** Obon service on Sunday, July 11, 2020 at 5:30 PM:

**Mr. Akio Tatami**

**Mrs. Yukiko Ito**

**Mrs. Mary Hirata**

**Mrs. Tatsuko Hatanaka**

**Mr. Yukio Hamada**

If your loved one is not listed above, and you would like his/her name included in the Hatsubon observance, please inform Mr. Gary Sakata at (559) 250-9687.

Reedley will be represented at the online service and names will be read.



## OBON SNACK BAGS

If you ordered a snack bag for the virtual Obon, they will be available curbside for pick up in Reedley in front of the church from 12:00 - 1:00 PM on July 11th. Remember, snack bags were pre-ordered and you had to designate Reedley as the pick up site.

## Changes Made to Restrooms



Changes have been made to the main restrooms for your health and safety! The doors handles have been changed so they will be easier to open, the faucets, soap dispensers, paper towel dispensers, and waste baskets are now all touchless! We're ready to return when we get the green light!

Thank you to Mike Naito for donating his time and effort to make it happen.

Also, thank you Maintenance Chairpersons, Don Takanishi and Kliff Justesen with the help of Gary Sakata, who oversaw the fixing and painting upkeep of the church fence and keeping the church grounds maintained while we are all sheltering at home. We're ready to welcome everyone back when it is safe!







## Live Stream & Videos Available on the BCA Website



The Buddhist Churches of America has listed a number of websites from various churches and temples with either live streaming of services or recorded videos during the pandemic. Please go to:

**[www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org](http://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org)** to find the links. It is a perfect time to listen to Dharma talks from other ministers in the BCA.

The newly elected BCA bishop, Rev. Marvin Harada also has a message that you can read or watch as well.



Live streaming from Reedley Buddhist Church.

watch from home!

# Central California Virtual

July 11  
5:30 start

## Hatsubon Service and Obon Dance

Streamed on

twitter   
@Fresno\_nishi



## July Monthly Memorial Service

The July Monthly Memorial Service will be conducted online on **Sunday, July 5, 2020 at 10:00 AM.** Go to: [https://mobile.twitter.com/fresno\\_nishi](https://mobile.twitter.com/fresno_nishi)  
Families and friends are asked to attend virtually and gassho. The deceased and seshu (observant) for July are as follows:

### DECEASED:

Kyujiro Kikimoto  
Yukino Hikiji  
Shizuye Hada  
Yoshino Hara  
Hattaro Haraguchi  
Seizo Suyemoto  
Satoru Goto & Harold Keio Arakawa  
Izumi Hirata &  
Jean Ayako Kubo  
Masu Hosaka, Sato Takata & Sohichi Hosaka  
Mine Ichihana  
Kuichi Nakata  
Itsuki Tsudama  
Kinuyo Morioka, Kazue Ishida, & Sumiye Sue Iwai  
Suzuno Tsunekawa &  
Seishiro Yamada  
Haruki Harry Kawagoe  
  
Yaeko Kawamoto  
Masujiro Nagai  
Ichizo Kanefuku & Tomi Shitanishi  
Masayuki Kubo  
Mitsuno Naito  
Takematsu Nishi &  
George Nishi  
Yaeno Kofu & Mitsuye Fujisawa  
Taki Okamura  
Tom Tadashi Mori  
Edward Masao Otani &  
Mitsuyo Otani  
Saye Sakata  
Kikutaro Shimizu  
Tsuru Shimozone &  
Kunikichi Shimozone  
Chyono Ninomiya &  
Shizuye Susie Murakami  
Nobuo Takasaki

### SESHU: (OBSERVANT)

Mitchell Abe  
Kay Antoku  
Gerry Hada  
Helen Hara  
Hatsuko Hanashiro  
Naomi Hashimoto  
  
Keiko Hatakeda  
  
Art Hirata  
  
Todd Hosaka  
Yoko Ichihana  
Carolyn Ikemiya  
Kiyoko Inn  
  
Dale Ishida  
  
Craig Ito  
Kent Kawagoe & Roy Kawagoe  
Sue Kawamoto  
Nancy Kimura  
  
Ben Kubota  
Alan Kubota  
Amy Naito  
  
Alice Nakamura  
  
Ronald Nishinaka  
Dale Okamura  
Fujiye Okino  
  
Hideki Otani  
Nancy Sakata  
Teruko Shibata  
  
Hiroko Shimozone  
  
Ayako Sunamoto  
Yukiye Takayama

continued next column

### July Monthly Memorial Cont.

#### DECEASED:

George Hiroshi Takayama  
& Wilma Takayama  
Satoyo Tanizaki  
Yoshihiko Tatami  
Koei Toyota  
Tamayo Uyeda  
George Iwao Kobayashi

#### SESHU:(OBSERVANT)

Helen Hamaoka  
Kimiye Tanizaki  
Kazuko Tatami  
Shuzo Toyota  
Mary Uyeda  
Ellen Yamada



### 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:

Phone: (559) 250-9687

**Fresno Betsuin Office** - Lee Osaki: (559) 442-4054 (call to request a minister or schedule a family service in Reedley after contacting Reedley president for church availability)

**Rev. Nakagawa:** (urgent for Makuragyo) (559) 970-7652

Reedley Buddhist Church  
2035 15th Street - P.O. Box 24  
Reedley, CA 93654

Phone/FAX: (559) 638-2146

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

Email Pres. Vickie Nishida: [vnishida1@gmail.com](mailto:vnishida1@gmail.com)

Email Newsletter/Webmaster: [jk108@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jk108@sbcglobal.net)

