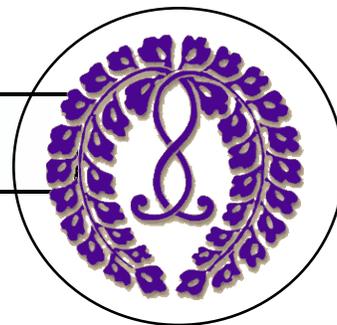


REEDLEY BUDDHIST CHURCH

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

PHONE & FAX (559) 638-2146

<http://reedleybc.org>



May Calendar

All on site activities, services, and meetings have been cancelled or postponed during the month of May due to COVID-19. If for some reason the "shelter in place" orders are lifted, we will inform you by mail if our schedule changes, otherwise, no activities during the month of May.

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

May 10 - HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

May 17 - Monthly Memorial Service
Names from the May Memorial List will be read (online service)

May 25 - Memorial Day

May 31 - Gotan-E Service - 10:00 AM (online service)

Care Packages for Seniors 79+



Our senior members, 79 years and older, received two care packages organized by the church's Community Outreach Committee. They wanted to check in on these seniors to make sure they were fine while sheltering in place due to COVID-19.

Due to lockdown orders, if members were living in retirement or assisted living facilities the committee was unable to deliver care packages to them. But, we also knew that they were safe and being taken care of. Some members were also living out of the area with family members, but again, we knew they were being well taken care of.

Be safe and we hope to get back to having our normal church functions very soon.

Message from Rev. Nakagawa



The battle against the Covid-19 pandemic has now entered its second month. Each of us is now striving to protect each other's precious lives.

Perhaps, because of at this unusual time, I often wonder what I am here to do. Moreover, I walk into a room with something in mind to do but I cannot remember what it was.

We were born into this world as human beings but is it clear as to what we are here to do? The Buddha said, "Alive human beings are always longing for something. What they desire determines their value." Certainly, humans must be living in hope of something thus, life is a place where that wish is fulfilled.

Well then, what is your desire? Is it to have a little money and live a comfortable life, to go on a trip and play at the casino as much as you wish, to eat delicious food, or to become completely healthy? Whatever our desires, if our wish is fulfilled, it will be a happy life, and if that wish is not fulfilled, it will be an unhappy life. Therefore, even in religion, the world is expected to play a role of 'happiness-machine' to fulfill such wishes. But would you truly be happy if you had money? How many people are unhappy because of money? I cannot help but think of this as I watch the daily news reports. When you eat and your stomach is full, you do not want to see the food, so you push it away. If you travel too much, you become homesick. An energetic and healthy person does not seem to know to be thankful for their health. In other words, if human happiness is solely centered around satisfying one's selfish desires, it seems to never be enough.

Shinran Shōnin's teaching is not for satisfying the fragile desires of limited human life. He taught that all human could hear the Buddha's awakening-words and encounter Śākyamuni Buddha's amitābha, which

Continued on page 3

MAY TOBAN:

Toban cancelled for May





Message from Rev. Nakata



Mind your footing! Are you walking on the middle path?

Hello, Central California Sangha friends!

This is my second newsletter article written after the stay at home/shelter in place orders were enacted. As I mentioned in my previous article, we started streaming Sunday services for the Central Cal at the Fresno Betsuin Buddhist Temple. If you are having a difficult time with accessing the live stream, I have attached a square share icon at the end of my article. Please take a picture of the icon with your smartphone, then your smartphone will automatically take you to the streaming site. Or please type [twitter.com/fresno_nishi] in your internet browser. You will see the site without having to log in or register your name or email address. If you still have difficulties in accessing the site, please contact me. I am happy to assist you. We have already streamed more than 7 services. Many CC Sangha friends may miss seeing their local temple/church altar, so we have decided to conduct streaming services at the various CC temples/Churches, starting with Reedley Buddhist Church. We hope everyone will enjoy seeing their temple altar!

Before the stay at home order was issued, I was last in my family to wake up in the morning. I am not making excuses for myself, but I usually write Dharma talks and articles late into the night, so I usually woke up around 7:30AM. Since the order came into effect, our family's "get up order" has completely changed. I am now the first to open the curtains and wake up my other family members!! You might be having the same experience. Perhaps your child(ren) or grandchild(ren) may be so excited to have an "extra" break and sleep, like my daughters.

Have you heard the term "the middle path" before? It is a Buddhist term. About 2500~2600 years ago in India, a man started contemplating his life and death. When he turned 29, he left his high living (lazy, to be more precise) life and started ascetic (painful) practices such as fasting. Ascetic practices were one of the traditional practices in India. By doing such practice, he experienced both extremes. The man, Gautama Siddhartha, finally realized that painful practices do not solve fundamental human questions. There were many practitioners that tried painful practices before Gautama's time, but no one acquired the answer, supporting what he realized. He decided to pursue a new method of a practice. It was [Madhyamā-pratipad](#) (Sanskrit), which is known as the middle path. Madhyamā basically means "middle", but also it means "being in the middle", or "standing between two persons or groups". These meanings indicate that middle is not a fixed location, point or spot. It is an adjustable and movable. Pratipad means path to be walked. The middle path can be adjusted accordingly by keeping distance from or avoiding both extremes. Gautama, as a Buddha, awakened one, introduced a new lifestyle to his five closest fellow practitioners. This lifestyle was "the middle path". The fellow practitioners did not understand Gautama's explanation, thus they abandoned him. Gautama

Continued in next column

completed his enlightenment by walking the middle path. I believe that if did not become aware of the importance of the path, he might not have become a Buddha. Now you know that the middle path is a fundamentally particularly important practice (teaching) in Buddhism.

Does the stay at home/shelter in place order makes your life lean toward one of extremes? Our human nature causes us to sometimes (maybe often!) have difficult time maintaining balance in our everyday life. For the last several weeks, I have heard the term "the new normal". But we do not need to set or accept our imbalance ways of living as the new normal. Unhealthy minds come from unhealthy lifestyles. It is no longer the middle path. Please compare your attitude about your life from before and after the order. The order was not intended to give us an extra break or more sleep. It is also not for gaining an extra pound (pounds?)! Please stay mentally and physically healthy. Watch your footing. Let us walk on the middle path.

Gassho.

How to use this square barcode icon:



1. Tap the Camera icon on your smartphone
2. Face the camera toward the icon and take a photo
3. When asked to allow the phone to open the site, ALLOW
4. You will see the Central California Ni shi Hongwanji site

Thank you for "attending" service!

2020 Hanamatsuri Service Online



Thank you to Akika Nakata for representing the Reedley Buddhist Church at the Central California online Hanamatsuri service on April 5th.



Church Acknowledges Dana

The Family of Tatsuko Hatanaka - In Memory of Mrs. Tatsuko Hatanaka	\$ 200.00
Mrs. Fumiko Ikemiya - In Appreciation for the care package	20.00
Mrs. Chizuko Iwasaki - In Appreciation for the care package	20.00
Mrs. Kimiye Tanizaki - In Appreciation for the care package	50.00
Ms. Amy Naito - In Appreciation for the care package	100.00
Mrs. Shiz Tsutsui - Newsletter Donation	20.00

Hanamatsuri Donations

Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Nishinaka	100.00
Mrs. Kikuyo Ikemiya	50.00
Ms. Amy Naito	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. George Tsuji	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Iwasaki	40.00
Mrs. Sue Kawamoto	30.00
Mrs. Nagiko Konishi	30.00
Mr. & Mrs. Clifford Hamada	25.00
Mr. & Mrs. James Hatakeda	25.00
Mrs. Kiyoko Inn	25.00
Mrs. Chizuko Iwasaki	25.00
Mr. & Mrs. Kliff Justesen	25.00
Mrs. Nancy Kimura	25.00
Mrs. Amy Naito	25.00
Mr. Michael Naito	25.00
Mrs. Ayako Alma Sunamoto	25.00
Mrs. Kimiye Tanizaki	25.00
Mrs. Ayako Yamada	25.00
Mrs. Joy Donaldson	20.00
Mr. Gerry Hada	20.00
Mr. Stanley Hirahara	20.00
Mrs. Fumiko Ikemiya	20.00
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kobayashi	20.00
Mrs. Lynn Kurumaji	20.00
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Nishida	20.00

April Monthly Memorial Donations

Mr. & Mrs. Larry Iwasaki	100.00
Ms. Amy Naito	100.00
Mrs. Mary Uyeda	100.00
Mrs. Lynn Kurumaji	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. John Nishio	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Nishida	40.00
Mrs. Sue Kawamoto	30.00

March Monthly Memorial Donations

Mr. Alan Kubota	20.00
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Rev. Nakagawa's Message continued from page 1:

means immeasurable wisdom and compassion. Human life is a place to lose rather than to gain. Gaining is a fleeting event. Whether it be my property, my position, my immediate family... even I must eventually have an end. Even such an ephemeral being, I can live a boundless-life, which is assured by the Buddha through the working of the original Buddha-nature. What a wonderful moment!

I would like to share the following story of a man who met Buddha's teachings.

Śākyamuni Buddha once asked neighborhood Singāla who faithfully worshipping God in the ten directions was each morning, "What are you doing?" Buddha started talking with Singāla and began to skillfully define the relevance of his routine conduct. Buddha said, "If you worship every day, you should change a little, for your friends and family who worship with you." He continued, "Who are you friends? Is he a true friend?" Buddha's questions made Singāla examine the outline of his everyday life, little by little. Consequently, Singāla kept his habit of worshipping in the ten directions every day. However, his feelings changed to "just as if everything is uncovered now" and his daily life turned to be full of joy and love. You see, nothing is changed in Singāla's outward appearance, but his everyday life changed drastically.

"Singālovāda Sūtra"

The end of this sūtra, Singāla became a disciple of the Buddha, but it seemed to me that was not the Buddha's intention. Buddha's intention was simply to show Singāla the method for re-reading the frame of his ordinary life for just thinking on others as well.

Please take care, Stay Home, Save Lives.

Gassho,
Rev. Kakei Nakagawa, Rinban

**"For tomorrow belongs to
the people who prepare for
it today."**

~ African Proverb



The Shibata's Moving to Japan in May or June



We were very sad that we were unable to see Rev. & Mrs. Shibata before they move to Japan, since our farewell luncheon had to be cancelled due to the Coronavirus/Covid-19.

If you would like to send a card or letter to them in care of the Reedley Buddhist Church, we will make sure that it is delivered to them before they leave.

Please address it as follows:

**Rev. & Mrs. George Shibata
c/o Reedley Buddhist Church
P.O. Box 24
Reedley, CA 93654**

Also please be sure it reaches us no later than May 15th.

The last we heard, they were waiting to see what the travel restrictions to Japan were. We wish them the very best in their new adventure!

OBON FESTIVAL?



As we go to print, we are still waiting to see how it goes and if we will be able to have our Obon festival this year, which was scheduled for June 20th. We will let you know as soon as possible. It will depend on the state's "shelter in place" orders and restrictions on mass gatherings.

Many BCA churches have already canceled their festivities for the summer, including Obon. We will observe Hatsubon in one way or another as well.

Our schedules have been disrupted, but we hope that things will get back to normal soon.

HATSUBON OBON SERVICE



The families of the following will be observing Hatsubon for their loved ones at the Obon service on Sunday, June 21, 2020 at 10:00 AM:
(if permitted by the shelter in place orders)

Mr. Akio Tatami

Mrs. Yukiko Ito

Mrs. Mary Hirata

Mrs. Tatsuko Hatanaka

JAPANESE AMERICAN QUARANTINE SURVIVAL KIT



@HAPAFEST

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) 638 - 3747.

A family representative will be asked to light a lantern in memory of his/her loved one. If a family member is not available, a church representative will be available to light the lantern on behalf of the family.

Congratulations Graduates!



Congratulations to Claire Ikemiya, who will be graduating from Clovis West High School this month, and will be attending UCLA in the fall.

Congratulations to Lauren Tavlan who will be graduating from UC Santa Barbara in June.



May Monthly Memorial Service

The May Monthly Memorial Service will be conducted online on Sunday, May 17, 2020 at 10:00 AM. (see page 1 for website link) Families and friends are asked to attend online and gassho at home. The deceased and seshu (observant) for May are as follows:

DECEASED: SESHU: (OBSERVANT)

Katsuji Abe	Mitchell Abe
Dorothy Antoku	Kay Antoku
Haruichi Hanemoto	Harvey Hanemoto
Helen Matsuoka	Joanne Hansen
Junzo Hashimoto	Nori Hashimoto & Mary Hashimoto
Tsurutaro Arakawa, Shizuye Arakawa	Keiko Hatakeda
Fumiye Asakawa	Misa Hatakeda
George Masato Hatanaka	Joyce Hatanaka
Mariko Hiyama	Bradley Hiyama
Chiyo Hosaka	Todd Hosaka
Shinichi Ikeda	Kristen DelCont
Henry Hiroshi Iwanaga, Tsumoru Kai	Eva Iwanaga
Harry Hayao Iwasaki	Chizuko Iwasaki
Fumi Kawagoe	Roy Kawagoe
Umeyo Saunders, Waka Kawamoto, Setsuko Kawamoto, Ken Kawamoto	Sue Kawamoto
Gunzo Kubota	Ben Kubota
Clarence Yamada	Diane Kubota
Toshi Hashimoto	Shiz Kunishige
Tsuyako Sue Miyakawa	James Miyakawa
Ryo Miyamoto	Michio Miyamoto
Kenneth Nishida	Larry Nishida
Matsue Nancy Hirasuna	Kathy Nishinaka
Masao Okamura	Dennis Okamura
Jintaro Kubo,	
Kaizo Geo Kubo	Kathy Omachi & Patricia Omachi
Bobby Sakata	Nancy Sakata
Tadayoshi Yamamoto	Ruth Sasaki
Kaichiro Sasaki	Dennis Sasaki
Kinuko Kay Takanishi,	
Ayano Takanishi,	Don Takanishi
Takumi Joe Shinkawa	Linda Doi & Janet Quiroz
Keiko Sugai	
Satomi Takayama	
Ginpei Takayama, George Takasaki	Yukiye Takayama
Yukimi Noji	Kazuko Tatami

Continued in next column

May Monthly Memorial Cont.

DECEASED:	SESHU:(OBSERVANT)
Douglas Togioka	Sharon Morikawa
Tsuneko Ideuye, Masutaro Toyota, Katsutaro Toyota	Shuzo Toyota
Ralph Tatsumi Kimoto & Rose Komoto	Amy Tsuji
Naoemon Morikawa, Yasu Kurokawa, Izo Kurokawa, Imachi Yamada, Tomiko Yamada	Ayako Yamada
Bill Fumio Yamada, Robert Minoru Yamada	Ellen 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

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

Email Newsletter/Webmaster: jk108@sbcglobal.net

