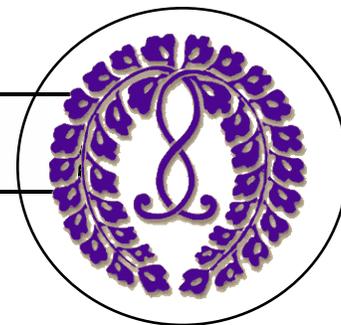


REEDLEY BUDDHIST CHURCH

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

PHONE & FAX (559) 638-2146

<http://reedleybc.org>



September Calendar

6	Monthly Memorial (Shotsuki) Service online	10:00 AM
13	Family Dharma Service (online)	10:00 AM
17	CCBWL Meeting (Zoom)	7:00 PM
20	Family Dharma Service (online)	10:00 AM
21	CCMAC Meeting (Zoom)	7:00 PM
24	RBC Board Meeting (Zoom)	7:00 PM
27	Fall Ohigan Service (online)	10:00 AM
29	CCDC Meeting (Zoom)	7:00 PM

SUNDAY SERVICE ONLINE LINK:

https://mobile.twitter.com/fresno_nishi

LOCATIONS OF VIRTUAL SERVICES

Sunday Family Dharma Services will be held virtually "live" each Sunday at 10:00 AM. Rev. Nakata and/or Rev. Nakagawa will conduct services from the following temples:



Sept. 6 - Parlier - Monthly Memorial Service (Shotsuki)

Sept. 13 - Visalia

Sept. 20 - Kingsburg

Sept. 27 - Fresno - Fall Ohigan

October 4 - Fowler

October 11 - Reedley - Monthly Memorial & Pet Memorial Service



Reedley Buddhist Church Services and Activities Canceled During SEPTEMBER

Due to the numbers of COVID-19 continuing to increase in Reedley and Fresno County, and the state mandate by Governor Newsom, all services and activities have been canceled during the month of September. 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.



Yakisoba Dinner

The Reedley Buddhist Church will be sponsoring a Yakisoba Take Out Dinner on Saturday, October 24, 2020, from 3:00 - 4:30 PM. This will be DRIVE THRU/PICK UP ONLY. Dinners will be PRE-SALE ONLY for \$12.00 per dinner. (see flyer on page 5)

We will have a drive thru tent in front of the church so you will not even have to get out of your car!

Our guest chef will be Rev. Kaz Nakata, and there will be additional side items included with the dinner made by church members.

Since we are unable to have our annual church food bazaar (while large gatherings are still discouraged), the board will be sponsoring a few fund raisers like this to offset our church expenses.

Approximately 200 dinners will be available, so please send in your orders as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please called Vickie Nishida at (559) 903-0317 or email her at: vlnishida1@gmail.com

CC Jr. YBA 2021 Co-Presidents

Congratulations to Rylee Kubo and Keiko Kajihara from the Reedley Jr. YBA, whom have been elected as the Central California Jr. YBA co-presidents for the upcoming year.



The CC Jr. YBA has been meeting virtually on Zoom.

Photo courtesy of Laura Tavlan

SEPTEMBER TOBAN:

Canceled for September





Message from Rev. Nakata

Anjin – securing your utmost calmness



Hello, all Central California Sangha friends! We have now been in the pandemic for half a year, but I am excited that we were finally able to conduct Hatsubon Service and enjoy the Virtual Obon Dance on August 15th, both streamed on Zoom and Twitter. Thank you to Mr. Greg Tsudama of Fresno for helping us connect on Zoom, so that the Sangha could see each other, dancing in our living rooms. Many from different parts of California, such as Los Angeles and Sacramento, joined our Zoom Obon. And hundreds of people joined the Hatsubon service and Obon Dance through Twitter streaming. We even noticed there were people from other countries that joined. Thank you to Mrs. Sharon Morikawa and her Obon Dance teachers for the great job they did to make our Obon Dance more enjoyable and memorable. I would like to thank all the helpers and I really appreciate those who supported our Obon Snack Bag fundraiser. I hope you won something from the Obon raffle! All the proceeds from the fundraiser were distributed to CC temple and churches. I plan to make a special Obon DVD for people who are periodically receiving our Sunday Service DVDs. If you do not have internet or have not been received the DVD, please ask your temple/church board members. I will make sure that you will get one!

After spending 6 months under the pandemic, how do you feel about your life? Recently, the CDC announced that since the pandemic outbreak, more people are taking medication for anxiety. Medications help us, but our Buddhist teachings help us too! In this next part of my article, I would like to write about *Anjin*. Have you seen, or heard the word *Anjin*? *Anjin* is securing your utmost calmness. This word appears all over in Mahayana Buddhist tradition.

For example, Bodhi-Dharma, a famous founder of Zen Buddhism, once described in his dialogue (*Memoirs of Eminent Monks in Tang Dynasty*, chapter 16) that “while sitting in the Zazen (leg-crossed) posture, consider yourself becoming like a solid wall. Once you become comfortable to do so, you reach the mental state of no-self and no-others. After that, do not relocate yourself (your residence), nor follow other teachings. Follow the nature and live quietly. Do not conduct something special. By doing so, you will enter a state of *Anjin*.”

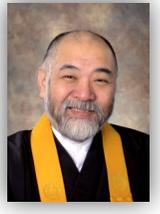
You might watch how to do Zazen meditation first. Zen monks usually do their Zazen sitting facing a wall. My devout Zen monk friends are sitting all day long, except while eating, sleeping, and getting phone calls. I consider myself as a devout Jodo Shinshu minister, but I do not think I can keep up practice like Zazen all day and every day. Then you may wonder that how Jodo Shinshu understand *Anjin*.

The word, *Anjin* appears in one of our Jodo Shinshu Seven Masters, Shandao’s publication (*Raisan*). It states that the action of entrusting one’s whole heart for wishing to live a life of *Sukhavati* (utmost calmness). When we encounter uncertainty, we feel anxiety because we cannot know what is going on. The historical Buddha clearly states that our life is uncertain,

Continued on page 4

Message from Rev. Nakagawa

Invocation for the 75th Anniversary of the Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki Tree Planting Ceremony at the Peace Garden California State University, Fresno August 6, 2020



O Serene, O free, Namu Amita Ābhah,

On that hot summer day, under a blinding flash, which surpassed the brightness of the sun, we human beings entered into a NEW ERA against our will.

We human beings, Homo sapiens, since the long ages, living our lives merely foreboding death as individuals. But since “that” day we must recognize a foreboding of the biological death of the entire race.

Our Truth-self came into view in a moment for the first time. But at the present time, we still do not recognize our deadly foolishness that may cause the total downfall of all species on the planet earth itself.

O Serene, O free,

It is 75 years after these double tragedies of Hiroshima, August 6, and Nagasaki, August 9, but people do not seem to realize the true impact of it yet.

Only the greed that is based on blind feelings due to fear of death has burst forth to become a gigantic monster as such. Currently the entire world is actually under the unbearable sufferings by the Mutated Virus Covid-19.

O Serene, O free,

In thine immeasurable mercy and goodness, wipe away all dark stains from the heart of this earth.

Today the seedings of the Camphor tree, which survived the hell under the Atomic bomb, sent from Hiroshima, will be planted here in the soil of Central California.

O Serene, O free,

The souls of our forgotten children of Central California, who had to die young in their loneliness 75 years ago in Hiroshima, have returned to their hometown as a symbol of world peace.

Touch them with thy right hand now, bring harmony into our life, and bring the rhythm of eternal hope by all means.

Namu Amita Ābhah,

Our actions are our only true belongings.
We cannot escape the consequences of our actions.
Our actions are the ground on which we stand.

<https://www.facebook.com/FresnoEthicsCenter/>



Church Acknowledges Dana

Ms. Lois Yamakoshi - Special Donation	\$1,000.00
The Family of Helen Kimura - In Memory of Mrs. Helen Kimura	200.00
Mrs. Joanne Hansen - Special Donation	100.00
Mrs. Toshiko Kawagoe - In Appreciation for Care Packages	100.00
Mrs. Chizuko Iwasaki - In Appreciation for Care Packages	100.00
Mr. Kiyoshi Aoki - In Appreciation for Care Packages	75.00
Mrs. Kiyoko Inn - In Appreciation for Care Packages	50.00
Mrs. Sue Kawamoto - In Appreciation for Care Packages	50.00
Mrs. Kikuyo Ikemiya - In Appreciation for Care Packages	50.00
Mrs. Kikuyo Ikemiya - Hatsubon for Mrs. Mary Hirata	20.00

August Memorial Service Donations

Dr. & Mrs. Daniel Kaplan	300.00
Mrs. Toshiko Kawagoe	100.00
Mrs. Fumiko Ikemiya	50.00
Mrs. Kikuyo Ikemiya	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. Ben Kubota	50.00
Mr. Michio Miyamoto	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. Hideki Otani	50.00
Mr. Hideo Shiine	40.00
Mrs. Sue Kawamoto	30.00
Ms. Michiko Tanizaki	30.00
Mrs. Joanne Hansen	25.00
Mrs. Kiyoko Inn	25.00
Ms. Amy Naito	25.00
Mrs. Amy Naito	25.00
Mr. & Mrs. Ben Nobuhiro	25.00
Mrs. Mary Uyeda	25.00
Mr. & Mrs. Hitoshi Aoki	20.00
Dr. & Mrs. Glenn Hamaoka	20.00
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kobayashi	20.00
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Nishida	20.00
Mrs. Ayako Yamada	20.00



**LOSING WEIGHT DOESN'T
SEEM TO BE WORKING
FOR ME, SO FROM NOW ON
I'M GOING TO CONCENTRATE
ON GETTING TALLER.**

Care Packages for Seniors Continue



The Community Outreach Committee for the Reedley Buddhist Church continues to make contact with our seniors ages 79+ who are living at home. The monthly visit has been appreciated by our seniors and the committee has enjoyed dropping off the care packages to them.

As before, if members are in residential, assisted living, retirement villages, or living out of town with family members, we are unable to visit due to restrictions.

We hope that we will be able to get back to church activities soon.

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 to find the links. It is a perfect time to listen to Dharma talks from other ministers in the BCA.



Rev. Nakata's Message Continued :

more precisely our life is unpredictable. Once we fully understand and accept life's uncertainty and unpredictability as they are, we reach the mental state of Sukhavati. We, however, should not blindly believe his word. It does not mean he is wrong. We should make sure whether his word makes sense. After passing our test, his word becomes trustful for us. At that moment, we say we can entrust our whole heart to his word.

Commonly, conventional religion does not have this process. God's word is absolutely right and genuine, so people should not challenge or doubt it. I think it is one of the big differences between religion and Buddhism.

In the 8th century, at the age of 28 years and after spending 20 plus years in monastic life, Shandao encountered the teachings of Sukhavati. I am sure that he tested its validity because the encounter was a life changing moment. If I were him, I would not blindly believe it. How about you? Do you just simply accept and believe whatever other people say, if their saying may change the course of your life? After Shandao tested the teaching, he entrusted his whole heart to the teaching, wishing to live a life of Sukhavati. He was a great poet and left many chanting texts for us. We can feel his passion for the teaching from his masterpieces such as Junirai.

Living a life of Sukhavati does not mean we are going to live elsewhere. The word, Sukhavati is an idiom, and it consists of two words. One is sukha, and the other is avati. Sukha means utmost calmness, and avati can be understood as leading something or someone to a certain mental state or place. Based on these translations, sukha-avati means the teaching leads us to the mental state of utmost calmness. Live a life of utmost calmness here and now, is an appropriate understanding.

Our Jodo Shinshu teaching encourages us to be aware of the life's interdependence. We are narrow minded, thinking that we make a living by ourselves, but our life is sustained by numerous others. When we were small, we were not able to do many things on our own. Many adults helped us grow until we gradually started doing things by ourselves. Do you remember all of your school teachers? Do you remember your classmates and playmates? All of them are a part of your life, and you are a part of their life. Some or many of these adults, teachers and friends had been passed away and you might have attended their funerals.

Just recently, my grandmother-in law (my wife's grandmother) passed away and I talked about her during our Aug 16th Sunday streaming service. If she did not exist, my wife would not either. My wife and I can enjoy our lives with three girls, because we had our grandmother. We really appreciated her generosity and support while we shared life and time with her. The loss of our loved ones made me become more deeply aware of my own life's interdependence, and it made me think about the natural cycle of life and death. Sooner or later, we must leave our loved ones. What we can do until the last day of our life? I just try to fully enjoy and mindfully live each day. Such way of living leads me to Sukhavati, utmost calmness. I assume Shandao encountered many life threatening events such as pandemics, epidemics, wars, and extreme weather. The vaccination technique was developed only some two hundred years ago. Many people

Continued in next column

died in 8th century due to many unknown causes. Under such hardship of living human life, Shandao appreciated the teaching and expressed his utmost calmness and happiness in his chanting notes.

Although we are in the pandemic right now, I do not feel any anxiety. I feel I am alright no matter which direction my life goes. Our Jodo Shinshu teaching makes me think and live positively and optimistically, so that I can continue to enjoy a life of utmost calmness.

I am sure that you have more time to read now. If you are looking for books to reduce or manage your anxiety, please read two books by our Nishi Hongwanji former Monshu Koshin Ohtani, "*The Buddha's Call to Awaken*" and "*The Buddha's Wish for the World*." The first chapter of "*The Buddha's Call*" is entitled "Living in an Age of Uncertainty" in which he explains the Buddha's core teaching "life's uncertainty." I am sure that these books will help you to understand Jodo Shinshu teaching more clearly. Gassho

Crabby Road

7-20-11

BREAKING NEWS!

*This heat wave is brutal!
Not only is it hot enough to fry
an egg on the sidewalk, but
you can use your mailbox
as a toaster oven.*



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Maxine.com



September Monthly Memorial Service

The September Monthly Memorial Service will be conducted online on Sunday, September 6, 2020 at 10:00 AM.

https://mobile.twitter.com/fresno_nishi

Families and friends are asked to attend virtually and gassho. The deceased and seshu (observant) for September are as follows:

DECEASED: **SESHU: (OBSERVANT)**

Tsune Kikumoto &

Alice Abe

Bernice Sumie Ochikubo

Fusako Kawakami

Gloria Lorraine Aoki

Hanna Asami

Kay Hada & Greg Hada

Satoko Harada

Midori Hashimoto

Shigetsugu Hashimoto

Tona Arakawa

Tadashi Nagai

Hideo Hotta

Magozo Ibara

Tsuru Naito

James Masaru Ikemiya

Tsuru Inn

Jack Haruo Tsudama

Iyo Iwasaki & George

Iwasaki

Isami Ann Iwasaki

Sadayo Hifumi

Sadatsuchi Yoneta

Ayako Maruyama

Isamu Miyamoto

Bill Suteo Mori

Fusa Nishi

Noburo Togioka

Noriaki Hirasuna

Kumazo Mizokami &

Shigeo Mizokami

Kakuro Nobuhiro & Hisao

Nobuhiro

Mitchell Abe

Kay Antoku

Betty Aoki

Kiyoshi Aoki

Taro Asami

Gerry Hada

Cheryl Miyakawa &

Nannette Mori

Gayle Larson

Nori Hashimoto &

Mary Hashimoto

Keiko Hatakeda

Joyce Hatanaka

Michi Hotta

Kan Ibara

Amy Naito & Karen

Sakata

Carolyn Ikemiya,

Toshi Kawagoe &

Kenneth Ikemiya

Nancy Sakata

Kiyoko Inn

Chizuko Iwasaki

Larry Iwasaki

Sandra Shinkawa

Ben Kubota

Michael Maruyama

Michio Miyamoto

Cheryl Miyakawa, &

Fujiye Okino

Alice Nakamura

Johnnie Togioka

Kathy Nishinaka

Ronald Nishinaka

Ben Nobuhiro

continued in next column

September Monthly Memorial Cont.

DECEASED:

SESHU:(OBSERVANT)

Hajime Jim Sakuragi

Melvin Seiichi Omori

Tatsuo Sakata

Sadako Sally Okino

Kimiko Shitanishi

Yutaka Takanishi

Masao Takasaki

Toshio William Nakagawa

Masaru Tanizaki

Michiye Ikuta

Junichi Noji

Yoshio Yamada

Shizu Yamada

Dale Okamura

Nancy Omori

Nancy Sakata

Dennis Sasaki

Tom Shitanishi

Don Takanishi

Yukiye Takayama

Karen Takasaki

Kimiye Tanizaki

Arthur Tatami

Kazuko Tatami

Ayako Yamada

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: vlnishida1@gmail.com

Email Newsletter/Webmaster: jk108@sbcglobal.net





Reedley Buddhist Church Yakisoba Dinner

Saturday, October 24, 2020

Drive Thru/Pick Up Only

3:00 - 4:30 PM

\$12 each

Pre-sale ONLY

Deadline: Monday, October 5, 2020

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



Cut and return the bottom portion

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Address: _____

Yakosoba Dinner: _____ x \$12.00 = Total Enclosed: _____

Deadline: Monday, October 5, 2020

Make checks payable to: REEDLEY BUDDHIST CHURCH

Questions: Call Vickie Nishida at (559)903-0317 or email: vnishida1@gmail.com