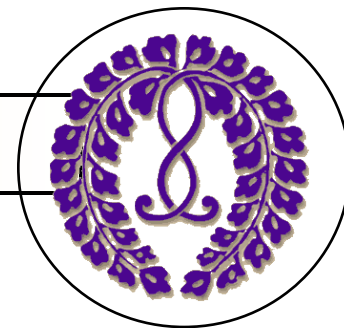


REEDLEY BUDDHIST CHURCH

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

PHONE & FAX (559) 638-2146

<http://reedleybc.org>



August Calendar



5	Parlier Obon Festival	8:00 pm
9	CCBWL Meeting on Zoom	7:00 pm
12	Toronagashi at Shinzen Friendship Garden - Fresno	6:00 pm
17	Reedley BC Board Meeting	7:00 pm
20	August Shotsuki & Family Dharma Service	10:00 am



AUGUST SHOTSUKI (Memorial) & FAMILY DHARMA SERVICE

Sunday, August 20, 2023

10:00 AM

Lunch following the service.



Thank You!

Thank you to all the members and friends who helped with the Obon preparations! The evening was hot, but it didn't stop people from coming out to eat and dance! Thank you to Karen Sakata & Lynn Kurumaji for organizing the dancers, Rev. Nakagawa for leading the service for the dancers, and Kliff Justesen, Ron Nishinaka, & Mike Naito for keeping the music going, and announcing for the evening. Thank you to our food vendors; Papa Murphy's Pizza, Yoshi's Japanese, Sergio's Tacos & Churros, Reedley BWA, Reedley Jr. YBA, Reedley Dharma School, and the RBC Shaved Ice crew for providing all the delicious foods. Thank you to Moe Donaldson for the use of his lift to put up the lights and lanterns, and to Bobby Ikemiya for the use of his trailer for the yagura. It is definitely a group effort to make it all happen!

AUGUST TOBAN:

Church Toban: M. Naito, N. Kimura, & Okamuras

BWA: Group 3: Diane Kubota & Joy Donaldson



Rev. Marvin Harada, Bishop of the Buddhist Churches of America was the guest minister at the Reedley Hatsubon/Obon Service on July 2nd. Shown with Freddie the Frog, who spoke to the children in attendance. See pictures of our Obon Odori & the Hatsubon Service on pages 3 & 4.

CAMP DHARMA AT CAMP KEOLA



The weather was perfect for a weekend in the Sierras! 74 campers attended Camp Dharma on July 7 - 9th. The kids, parents, & grandparents all agreed that it was an awesome weekend of rocket launches, hiking, swimming, boating, arts & crafts, scavenger hunt, campfire songs and S'mores! See the pictures on page 6 and mark your calendars for July 5 - 7, 2024 for next year!



Church Acknowledges Dana

Mrs. Sue Kawamoto <i>Special Donation</i>	\$300.00
The Hashimoto Family <i>Use of Hall</i>	250.00
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Chow <i>Use of Conference Room</i>	200.00
Mrs. Toshiko Kawagoe <i>Senior Meals Donation</i>	100.00
Mrs. Masako Kobayashi <i>Special Donation</i>	100.00
Mrs. Kiyoko Inn <i>Senior Meals Donation</i>	50.00
Mrs. Shiz Tsutsui <i>Special Donation</i>	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. James Miyakawa <i>Obon Festival Donation</i>	80.00
The Family of James & Carolyn Ikemiya <i>1 Year Memorial for Mrs. Carolyn Ikemiya & 30th Memorial for Dr. James Ikemiya</i>	250.00
Dr. & Mrs. Kenneth Ikemiya <i>1 Year Memorial for Mrs. Carolyn Ikemiya</i>	100.00
Mrs. Toshiko Kawagoe <i>1 Year Memorial for Mrs. Carolyn Ikemiya & 30th Memorial for Dr. James Ikemiya</i>	100.00
Mr. Mark Nakata <i>1 Year Memorial for Mrs. Carolyn Ikemiya</i>	100.00
Mr. & Mrs. Ty Tavlan & Family <i>1 Year Memorial for Mrs. Carolyn Ikemiya & 30th Memorial for Dr. James Ikemiya</i>	100.00
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Ikemiya <i>1 Year Memorial for Mrs. Carolyn Ikemiya & 30th Memorial for Dr. James Ikemiya</i>	50.00
Mrs. Kikuyo Ikemiya <i>1 Year Memorial for Mrs. Carolyn Ikemiya & 30th Memorial for Dr. James Ikemiya</i>	50.00
Kirk Kawagoe Family <i>1 Year Memorial for Mrs. Carolyn Ikemiya & 30th Memorial for Dr. James Ikemiya</i>	50.00
Drs. Kent & Diane Kawagoe <i>1 Year Memorial for Mrs. Carolyn Ikemiya & 30th Memorial for Dr. James Ikemiya</i>	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Tahara <i>1 Year Memorial for Mrs. Carolyn Ikemiya & 30th Memorial for Dr. James Ikemiya</i>	50.00

Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ikemiya <i>1 Year Memorial for Mrs. Carolyn Ikemiya & 30th Memorial for Dr. James Ikemiya</i>	\$ 40.00
Ms. Lily Ikemiya <i>1 Year Memorial for Mrs. Carolyn Ikemiya</i>	20.00

Hatsubon Service Donations

Mr. & Mrs. Sam Bungo <i>In Memory of Mr. Alan Norio Bungo</i>	200.00
The Hamada Family <i>In Memory of Mrs. Ayako Alma Sunamoto</i>	200.00
Mrs. Fumiko Betty Aoki <i>In Memory of Mr. Hitoshi Aoki</i>	100.00
Ms. Karen Herberts <i>In Memory of Mrs. Misa Hatakeda</i>	100.00
Dr. & Mrs. Kenneth Ikemiya <i>In Memory of Mrs. Carolyn Ikemiya</i>	100.00
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Lo <i>In Memory of Mrs. Misa Hatakeda</i>	100.00
Mr. & Mrs. Danny Nakamichi <i>In Memory of Mrs. Toshiye Nakamichi</i>	100.00
Mrs. Kagumi Persall <i>In Memory of Mrs. Nagiko Konishi</i>	100.00
Mr. Kenneth Sunamoto <i>In Memory of Mrs. Sandra Sunamoto</i>	60.00
Ms. Sharon Asakawa <i>In Memory of Mrs. Misa Hatakeda</i>	50.00
Mrs. Kikuyo Ikemiya <i>In Memory of Mrs. Carolyn Ikemiya</i>	50.00
The Family of Masato & Miyoko Kunishige <i>In Memory of Mr. Masato Kunishige</i>	50.00
Mrs. Grace Nakagawa <i>In Memory of Mr. Alan Bungo</i>	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. George Tsuji <i>In Memory of Mrs. Mitzi Osumi</i>	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Yamashiro <i>In Memory of Mr. Alan Bungo</i>	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. Gene Nakai <i>In Memory of Mr. Alan Bungo</i>	25.00
Mrs. Sue Kawamoto <i>In Memory of Mrs. Nagiko Konishi</i>	20.00
Mr. & Mrs. Chris Mukai <i>In Memory of Mr. Alan Bungo</i>	20.00
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Sakata <i>In Memory of Mr. Alan Bungo</i>	20.00

Obon Service Donations

Mr. & Mrs. Henry Nunez <i>In Memory of Hideo Shiine, Kimiko Shiine, & Sandra Sunamoto</i>	300.00
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Iwasaki	100.00
Mrs. Lynn Kurumaji	100.00
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Nishinaka	100.00
Mr. Kenneth Sunamoto	100.00
Mrs. Tamiko Tada	100.00

Continued on next page



Church Acknowledges Dana



Obon Service Donations continued:

The Masumoto Family <i>In Memory of Fred Minoru Masumoto & Faye Fumiko Masumoto</i>	\$ 50.00
Mrs. Kikuyo Ikemiya	50.00
Mrs. Chizuko Iwasaki	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. Ben Kubota	50.00
Ms. Amy Naito	50.00
Mr. Michael Naito	50.00
Mrs. Grace Nakagawa	50.00
Mr. Byron Taira	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ikemiya	40.00
Mr. & Mrs. Steven Chow	30.00
Mrs. Joanne Hansen	30.00
Mr. & Mrs. Kliff Justesen	30.00
Mr. & Mrs. Kliff Justesen	30.00
Mrs. Sue Kawamoto	30.00
Mr. Michio Miyamoto	30.00
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Sakata	30.00
Mr. & Mrs. Shuzo Toyota	30.00
Mrs. Ayako Yamada	30.00
Mrs. Ellen Yamada	30.00
Mr. & Mrs. James Hatakeda	25.00
Mrs. Kiyoko Inn	25.00
Mrs. Nancy Kimura	25.00
Mrs. Amy Naito	25.00
Mr. & Mrs. Ben Nobuhiro	25.00
Mr. & Mrs. Dale Okamura	25.00
Mrs. Cathy Tanizaki Zachry	25.00
Ms. Lois Yamakoshi	25.00
Anonymous	20.00
Mrs. Joy Donaldson	20.00
Ms. Lily Ikemiya	20.00
Ms. Priscilla Kehoe	20.00
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kobayashi	20.00
Ms. Dolly Lee	20.00
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Nishida	20.00
Ms. Shizuko Taguchi	20.00

July Memorial Service (Shotsuki)

Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Kaplan <i>In Memory of Sohichi Hosaka & Misao Hosaka</i>	200.00
Mr. Gerry Hada <i>In Memory of Shizuye Hada</i>	100.00
The Hamada Family <i>In Memory of Chiyono Ninomiya & Shizuye Susie Murakami</i>	100.00
Mr. & Mrs. Dale Okamura <i>In Memory of Taki Okamura</i>	100.00
Mr. & Mrs. Hideki Otani <i>In Memory of Edward Masao Otani & Mitsuyo Otani</i>	100.00

Continued in next column

July Memorial Service (Shotsuki) continued:

Mr. & Mrs. Hiroko Shimozono & Family <i>In Memory of Tsuru Shimozono & Kunikichi Shimozono</i>	\$ 100.00
Ms. Priscilla Kehoe <i>In Memory of Masao Otani & Mitsuyo Otani</i>	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Okamura <i>In Memory of Taki Okamura</i>	50.00
Mrs. Cathy Tanizaki Zachry <i>In Memory of Satoyo Tanizaki</i>	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. James Hatakeda <i>In Memory of Harold Arakawa & Satoru Goto</i>	40.00
Mrs. Alice Nakamura <i>In Memory of George Nishi</i>	40.00
Mrs. Kazuko Tatami <i>In Memory of Yoshihiko Tatami</i>	40.00
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Sakata <i>In Memory of Saye Sakata & Mitsuno Naito</i>	30.00
Mrs. Ellen Yamada <i>In Memory of George Kobayashi</i>	30.00
Mrs. Nancy Kimura <i>In Memory of Masujiro Nagai</i>	25.00
Mrs. Sue Kawamoto <i>In Memory of Yaeko Kawamoto</i>	20.00
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kobayashi <i>In Memory of Mitsuno Naito</i>	20.00
Mr. Alan Kubota <i>In Memory of Masayuki Kubo</i>	20.00
Mr. Ken Nakamura <i>In Memory of George Nishi</i>	20.00
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Nishida <i>In Memory of Mitsuno Naito</i>	20.00
Mrs. Nancy Sakata <i>In Memory of Saye Sakata</i>	20.00
Mrs. Kazuko Tatami <i>In Memory of Yoshihiko Tatami</i>	20.00
Anonymous <i>July Memorial Service</i>	10.00

**CCDC
NENBUTSU
GATHERING**

MUSIC!

SAVE THE DATE

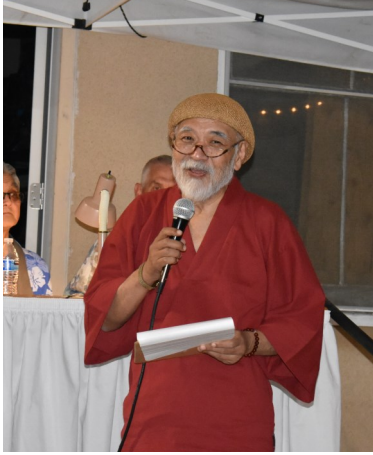
**BOUNCE
HOUSE!**

**CHILDREN'S
WORKSHOP!**

FOOD!

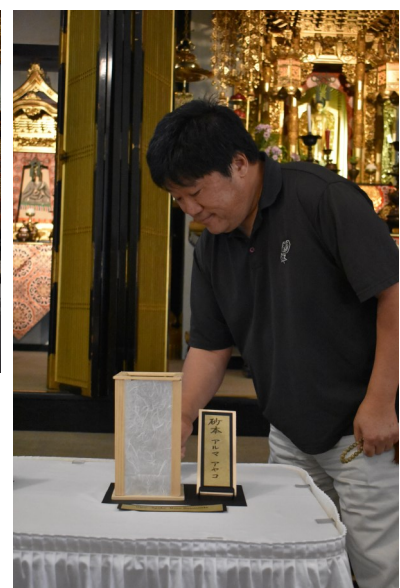
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

FRESNO BUDDHIST TEMPLE
10:00 AM - 1:00 PM



2023 Obon Festival





2023 Hatsu-bon



Camp Keola 2023





Message from Rev. Nakata

Steady Progress



Hello to all Central California Nishi Hongwanji Sangha friends! Are you enjoying the typical Central Cal hot weather this summer? In May, I was wondering when our region was going to be hot, but I did not need to worry about it. Please stay hydrated!

Finally, CC temple and churches have resumed their Obon activities like pre-pandemic. Visalia, Reedley, and Fresno have already finished their Obon and as of this writing, next in line are Fowler, Kingsburg, and Parlier. Kingsburg Buddhist Church started their inaugural Obon during the pandemic and this year will be their 3rd annual Obon service and Obon dance. I sincerely appreciate the leadership of all temples/churches, Obon committees and volunteers to make it happen. Arigato!

This August, I will reach my 20th year of ministry for the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) as I started in August of 2003. I have served three different temples in three different districts in the BCA before I was assigned to the Central California district. When I came to the U.S., I was only a 26-year-old young man! At that time, I did not know much of the English vocabulary which made it difficult for members to understand what I was talking about. Luckily, I found time to go various schools to improve not only my English but also, I was able to earn several degrees. I became an overseas minister not to improve my English or earning degrees, but the main purpose of my ministry was and still is, to spread Jodo Shinshu teachings. When I came to the U.S., I thought it is enough to spread the teachings by conducting Sunday services, helping Dharma School, and hosting study classes. But after two to three years as a BCA minister, I realized that these activities are not enough to accomplish my main purpose. To meet my expectation, I thought that I need to proactively share the teachings for training purposes with as many as members and friends and spend more time and energy for youth education.

You may wonder that what does “proactively share the teachings for a training purpose” mean? Simply put, it is our Central Cal Ministerial Assistant program (CCMAP). I am still 46, but “still” does not mean I can live another 100 years. So, in my third year of ministry, I started training several members to become assistants. One of my first assistants was Mr. Okamoto of the Lodi Buddhist Church. He was a super devout Jodo Shinshu member and had studied a lot, so I did not need to teach

so much to him. Instead, I learned from him many Jodo Shinshu expressions. Since then, I always encourage members and friends who enjoy learning from me to be ministerial assistants, to share what they have learned with more people. So, if you appreciate or enjoy learning the teachings from me, please do not hesitate to help me with spreading it to more people.

When I was in college, I studied population statistics for my leisure. After I moved to the U.S., I realized that the subject is particularly useful to understand and learn the population statistics of the temple members. Then I thought, when we have a 5-year-old child who enjoys coming to the temple, the temple is fine for the next 80-90 years. People move many times for school and job in the U.S. so if hundreds of children enjoy coming to the temple, a few dozen may stay near the temple, and they will continue maintaining it. In my 3rd year of ministry, I proposed my idea to have a preschool at the temple, then realized that it was very difficult to make it possible. At the second temple, I was able to start the “mama-san club (moms’ gathering with small children).” It was not a preschool, but local parents who had 1~4 years old children started coming to the temple and they became familiarized with Jodo Shinshu culture. I still have contact with some parents.

Last year when I started proposing the preschool project at several CC temples and churches, my project was backed by a very powerful supporter, Mrs. Alene Hayashi, and since then, the ideal project gradually switched to the possible project. This summer, my long-time dream for 20 years came true with a preschool age summer Japanese cultural program... The Kodomo (children) Center. When the project became a program, various members joined as volunteers and helpers. As one of the very important activities, children go to the Hondo, and learn Buddhist atmosphere (music activity with chanting, etc.) and culture to familiarize the teachings and the temple environment as a fun place to go. I hope this program will become one of the gateways for these families to join Dharma School activities with your generous support.

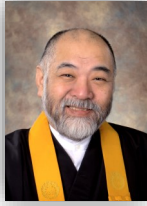
To come to this point, I have spent 20 years. Everything that I do in the ministry is slow but with steady progress. It was worth it. So many members and friends have been helping me to share the Jodo Shinshu teachings in many ways. Some of them are no longer with us, but I remember their generosity and support. I have confidence that what I provide will definitely help temple and churches in Central Cal.

Gassho



Message from Rev. Nakagawa

We celebrated O-bon Odori last month, and we have another O-bon service in August.



As you may know, it is the Floating Lantern Ceremony (a.k.a. Tōro Nagashi). Fresno's Tōro Nagashi is, so to speak, the other August Shōtsuki Hoyo for us Americans of Japanese ancestry in Central California.

The Floating Lantern Ceremony was the traditional event which came at the end of Obon originally. But this event started to have a different meaning after "That" day, under a blinding flash in Hiroshima on August 6, 1945.

After the end of WWII, one year later in Hiroshima from that day on August 6, many people who lost their family members, relatives and friends began to float handmade lanterns voluntarily here and there in the riverside in Hiroshima city. For the repose of souls of the loved ones who evaporated in an instant or burned out with no trace, they had been living only in the memories of their loved ones.

From around the third year, members of one temple of Jodo-Shinshu, located in the center of downtown Hiroshima next to the "Ground Zero," took the leading part for distributing the thousands of handmade lanterns to the bereaved families and thousands of lanterns were floated into the river. That temple was well-known because more than 85% of their lay members were completely extinct and the rest of the members had victims in their families also.

For the floating lanterns, people gathered and wrote the name of the person who passed away and the name of the donor on the lantern shade was general, but spontaneously, a prayer was written in from the first year of this event. As well as an "appeasement of the lost souls," it started to make important sense as a "peace message" to the Floating Lantern Ceremony. In many photographs of the time we read, "No Nations, Just People, Peace!" and "No More Hiroshima and Nagasaki!" and "Awaken from the Human Stupidities!" on the shade-paper of the floating lanterns.

The atomic bomb tragedy happened in Hiroshima on August 6th in 1945, but it was an event which affected people from a far-away distance in Central California. Nearly 70% of Japanese Americans in Central California have roots in the Hiroshima area.

"Tōro Nagashi," the Floating Lantern Ceremony in Fresno began in 1986, decades after WWII. From the 1980s in America, the society of Americans of Japanese ancestry, the third generation of Japanese Americans (San-sei), don't know the hard times of "Hai-seki" during WWII and after. Today's elderly people who lived in that era have finally settled and calmed their hearts of the feelings of unspeakable sadness to the tragedy that happened to their direct family members in their early teens during the war.

Although they were American-born citizens, more than 500 teenagers from the west coast of the United States had to die young on that day in Hiroshima in their loneliness. They were our missing sons, daughters, brothers, and sisters who were temporarily living with their grandparents in their parents' birthplace in Hiroshima as students in junior high school or high school. They were all your relatives. They were all your forgotten uncles or aunts.

In Fresno, the requiem for the family victims of the atomic bomb was finally made possible after 40 years.

The history of the Floating Lantern Ceremony in Fresno makes us think a lot. This year's Floating Lantern Ceremony at Shinzen Garden in Woodward Park will be held on Saturday, August 12. You may order lanterns online and may view the schedule of events for that day at: <https://www.shinzenjapanese garden.org/toro-nagashi-2/>





August Monthly Memorial Shotsuki Service

The August Monthly Memorial Service will be conducted on **Sunday, August 20, 2023 at 10:00 AM.** Families and friends are asked to attend and gassho. The deceased and seshu (observant) for August are as follows:

DECEASED:

Shigeru Matsuoka
Lily Yuriko Araki &
George Hashimoto

Yoshizuchi Ikemoto,
Setsuko Ikemoto,
Ronald Ikemoto
Mae Hosaka

Gohei Shimizu
Jutaro Naito, Ayame
Kodama & Toru Ikeda

Totaro Tamaki
Carolyn Ikemiya
Chokichi Ikemiya
George Ikemiya

Yosuke Inn
George Inouye
Hajime Jim Ishida
Masumi Kawagoe &
Junjiro Kawagoe

Masato Kunishige
Chuzo Adachi
Tsunejiro Tanaka & Agnes
Tsutsumi

Joe Yoshiaki Kubota
Doris Yamada
Kan Clifford Maruyama
Norman Noboru Miyakawa
Takako Miyamoto
Tokiko Mori
Charles Murase
Yasuji Nomi

Harry Minoru Bungo &
Alice Nakai
Kiyoko Nakagawa
Tetsuo Nakamura
Yonesuke Nishinaka
Baby Keith Omachi, Baby
Keijo Omachi, & Shizuye
Sue Omachi
Mary Yamagiwa

SESHU: (OBSERVANT)

Joanne Hansen
Nori Hashimoto, Mary
Hashimoto

Kay Hayakawa
Gayle Kaplan & Art
Hirata
Eloise Ibara

Karen Sakata & Amy
Naito

Lily Ikemiya
Kenneth Ikemiya
Toshiko Kawagoe
Kikuyo Ikemiya &
Laura Tavlan

Nancy Sakata
Larry Nishida
Dale Ishida

Roy Kawagoe
Jill Kunishige
Betty Aoki

Sue Kawamoto
Ben Kubota
Diane Kubota
Michael Maruyama
Jim Miyakawa
Michio Miyamoto
Alan Mori
Emily Murase
Amy Naito

Grace Nakagawa
Midori Iwasaki
Teruko Nakamura
Ronald Nishinaka

Kathleen Omachi
Diane Otani

Continued in next column

August Monthly Memorial Shotsuki Cont.

DECEASED:

Kazuo Morihiro & Hideo
Sasaki
Umanosuke Shiine
Katsutarō Takasaki, Toshiyuki
Takasaki, & Tsunejiro
Tanaka

Kohina Inami, Tsutomu
Takayama, Fuyutaro
Takayama
Masao Tanizaki
Tamaichi Mimura & Misano
Mimura

Ben Yasutami Uyeda
Steven Oda

Umeichi Morikawa, Itaro
Kurokawa, Masako
Kurokawa, Itoku Kurokawa,
& Satomi Yamada

SESHU:(OBSERVANT)

Dennis Sasaki
Michiko Nobuhiro

Yukiye Takayama

Helen Hamaoka
Cathy Tanizaki Zachry

Arthur Tatami
Mary Uyeda
Karen Ward

Ayako Yamada

Procedures for Requesting a Minister

Funerals:

The family will contact the Funeral Chairperson Gary Sakata at (559) 250-9687

Makuragyo Service:

During the week contact the Fresno Betsuin Office at (559) 442-4054 or **Rev. Nakata on weekdays or weekends directly (424) 666-7101.**

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: Mr. Kliff Justesen
Phone: (559) 917-0643

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. Nakata: (urgent for Makuragyo) (424) 666-7101

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

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Website: <http://www.reedleybc.org>
Email Pres. Kliff Justesen: justkliff03@gmail.com
Email Newsletter/Webmaster: reedleybc@gmail.com

