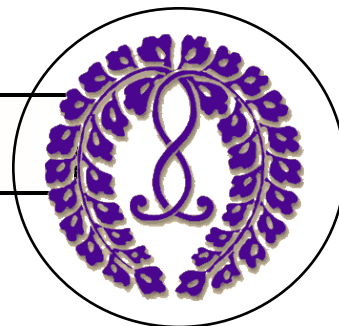


REEDLEY BUDDHIST CHURCH

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

PHONE & FAX (559) 638-2146

<http://reedleybc.org>



July Calendar



June	
30	Obon Festival Prep
July	
1	Obon Festival Prep & Set Up
1	Obon Festival Food Sales 5:00 PM
1	Bon Odori Dancing 8:00 PM
2	Hatsubon/Obon Service 10:00 AM
4	Independence Day - Happy 4th of July
7 - 9	Camp Dharma at Keola Huntington Lake
15	Fresno Obon Festival 7:30 PM
20	Reedley BC Board Meeting 7:00 PM
22	Fowler Obon Festival 6:30 PM
23	July Shotsuki & Dharma Service 10:00 AM
29	Kingsburg Obon Festival 6:30 PM



OBON FESTIVAL

Saturday, July 1, 2023

Food Sales - 5:00 PM

Dancing - 8:00 PM

HATSUBON/OBON SERVICE

Sunday, July 2, 2023 - 10:00 AM

Lunch following the service.

**JULY SHOTSUKI (Memorial)
& FAMILY DHARMA SERVICE**

Sunday, July 23, 2023

**Refreshments following the
service.**

Obon/Hatsubon Service

GUEST SPEAKER
Rev. Marvin Harada

Bishop BCA

Sunday, July 2, 2023

10:00 AM



Facebook.com



CC Obon Schedule

Visalia - Saturday, June 24, 2023
(past event)

Reedley - Saturday, July 1, 2023
5:00 PM food sales / 8:00 PM dancing

Fresno - Saturday, July 15, 2023
3:00 PM food sales / 7:30 PM dancing

Fowler - Saturday, July 22, 2023z
5:00 PM food sales / 6:30 PM dancing

Kingsburg - Saturday, July 29, 2023
4:00 - 6:00 PM food sales / 6:30 PM dancing

Parlier - Saturday, Aug. 5, 2023 -
4:30 PM food sales / 8:00 PM dancing

JULY TOBAN:

Church Toban: Kehoe, Kamada, &
Justesen

BWA: Group 2: Kathy Nishinaka





Reedley Obon Festival

Saturday, July 1, 2023

Food sales - 5:00 PM • Dancing - 8:00 PM

Reedley Buddhist Church - 2035 15th Street - Reedley, CA

Food Vendors: RBC Shave Ice, BWA Somen Noodles & Spam Sushi,
Yoshi's Japanese Plates, Papa Murphy's Pizza, Jr, YBA Drinks,
Dharma School Mochi Ice Cream, & Sergio's Tacos & Churros

Entertainment: Fresno Gumyo Taiko

Come and dance! No experience needed!



Hatsubon/Obon Service - Sunday, July 2, 2023 at 10 AM

Guest Speaker - Rev. Marvin Harada, Bishop - Buddhist Churches of America

Questions? - Email: reedleybc@gmail.com



Church Acknowledges Dana

Mr. & Mrs. Nori Hashimoto <i>Use of Hall</i>	\$300.00
Anonymous <i>Special Donation</i>	300.00
Mr. & Mrs. George Tsuji <i>Use of Conference Room</i>	300.00
Mrs. Toshiko Kawagoe <i>Senior Meals Donation</i>	200.00
Mrs. Toshiko Kawagoe <i>Senior Meals Donation</i>	100.00
Mrs. Sue Kawamoto <i>Senior Meals Donation</i>	50.00

June Memorial Service Donations

Mr. Harvey Nakamura <i>In Memory of Asako Nakamura</i>	100.00
Mr. & Mrs. Dale Okamura <i>In Memory of George Okamura & Sode Sakuragi</i>	100.00
Mrs. Cathy Tanizaki Zachry <i>In Memory of Kimiye Tanizaki</i>	100.00
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Iwasaki <i>In Memory of Ben Nakagawa</i>	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. Ben Kubota <i>In Memory of Yoshiye Kubota</i>	50.00
Mrs. Lynn Kurumaji <i>In Memory of John Morita</i>	50.00
Mrs. Alice Nakamura <i>In Memory of George Nishi & Takematsu Nishi</i>	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Nishida <i>In Memory of Midori Nishida, Michi Ikeda, & Kiyomi Takahashi</i>	50.00
Mr. Philip Nishida & Ms. Phylis Nishida <i>In Memory of Midori Nishida</i>	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. George Tsuji <i>In Memory of Shizuko Kimoto</i>	40.00
Mr. & Mrs. Kliff Justesen <i>In Memory of Emiko Matsuno</i>	30.00
Mr. & Mrs. Danny Nakamichi <i>In Memory of Tom Nakamichi</i>	30.00
The Masumoto Family <i>In Memory of Fred Minoru Masumoto</i>	25.00
Ms. Amy Naito <i>In Memory of Michi Ikeda</i>	25.00
Mr. & Mrs. Dean Nishijima <i>In Memory of Yasuki Kitaoka</i>	25.00
Mrs. Kagumi Persall <i>In Memory of Harukichi Konishi</i>	25.00

Continued in next column

June Memorial Service Cont.

Ms. Lily Ikemiya <i>In Memory of Hisao Tamaki</i>	\$ 20.00
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kobayashi <i>In Memory of Michi Ikeda & Kiyomi Takahashi</i>	20.00
Mr. Michio Miyamoto <i>In Memory of Sanatsu Miyamoto</i>	20.00
Mr. Ken Nakamura <i>In Memory of Takematsu Nishi</i>	20.00
Mrs. Fumiko Betty Aoki <i>In Memory of Kiyoshi Aoki & Kikuko Kawakami</i>	10.00

May Memorial Service Donation

Mr. Philip Nishida & Ms. Phylis Nishida <i>In Memory of Kenneth Nishida</i>	50.00
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Rev. Umezu Speaks at Service

Rev. Kodo Umezu, Buddhist Churches of America Bishop Emeritus and BCA Minister Emeritus was our guest speaker for the Renyo Shonin, June Shotsuki, & Dharma Service on June 11, 2023.

It was nice to hear the Dharma from Rev. Umezu on his visit to the Valley.

Obon & Hatsubon Service



Please come out and join us to observe Hatsubon and Obon on Saturday, July 2, 2023, at 10:00 AM.

Our guest speaker will be Rev. Marvin Harada, Bishop of the Buddhist Churches of America.

Families observing Hatsubon will be asked to light a lantern for their loved one at the service. Lunch will be provided for all in attendance following the service. Families of the following are observing Hatsubon:

Chiho Nishi	Carolyn Ikemiya
Masato Kunishige	Alan Bungo
Mitzi Osumi	Misa Hatakeda
Ayako Alma Sunamoto	Hitoshi Aoki
Toshiye Nakamichi	Nagiko Konishi
Sandra Sunamoto	



Message from Rev. Nakata

Connecting with our Sangha with the core teachings of Jodo Shinshu



Hello to all Central California Nishi Hongwanji Sangha friends! In my last article, I wrote “Summer has finally arrived to the Central Valley with 90 plus degree weather and it becomes warmer and warmer.” But I was not correct! How many of you were surprised to observe the cool/cold Memorial Day weekend? In normal years, the Memorial Day service attendees usually stand under trees to avoid the direct sun, and the excessive heat but this year, it was quite the opposite. At the Washington Colony Cemetery, some were wearing jackets! I should have taken photos of these rare opportunities. I heard some say that next summer will be cooler than the average years, so I hope we can observe 2024 Memorial Day Services with cool breeze.

In this article, I would like to write about our Central Cal Ministerial Assistant Program (aka CCMAP). After I moved to CC, I hosted the CC Buddhist Education orientation for Sangha members in Sep 2019 and CCMAP orientation in 2020 to standardize the program for active MAs and Prospective MA candidates. The CCMAP orientation was not an easy project because there was no documentation describing what CCMAP is. I spent several hours with Rinban Nakagawa to publish a standardized handout which included the requirements of and the mission of CCMAP. The handout was distributed at the 2020 orientation.

In 2020, I knew that the California State Law AB506 was coming soon, so I added a “background check” as one of requirements because our MAs may be involved with youth activities. As you may know, many youth organizations such as Dharma School, scouts and summer camps require background checks to participate in these activities as adult volunteers.

CCMAP and CCBECC (CC Buddhist Education Committee) jointly has provided 5 Buddhist seminars every year since 2020. We have invited Rev. Dr. Mutsumi Wondra, a faculty member at IBS (Institute of Buddhist Studies) and serves Orange County Buddhist Temple to speak. She holds PH.D. in Jodo Shinshu so she is a most appropriate instructor. We have also invited Bishop Aoki of Canadian Jodo Shinshu, Bishop Matsumoto of Hawaiian Jodo Shinshu, and various other Rinban(s) over the last two years. We have two

more upcoming seminars this year. One of the seminars is hosted by Rev. Rajan Hayashi who is a Nisei (2nd gen) minister from the Mountain State. He was born in Hawaii and served a temple in Virginia. I hope you can attend the seminar.

Rinban Nakagawa, Rev. Midori and I all provide CCMAP classes for adults. I provide two different classes each semester. One class, “Buddhism 101 (Intro to Buddhism)” has over 40 students signed up to learn about Buddhism. I also provide classes for youth, 2nd grade to 12th grade. A youth Ministerial Assistant class runs every two years for 74-hour credit course. Four high school students completed the class and assist in conducting Sunday services by leading chanting, striking the Kansho or leading readings. This class made a significant impact on these students, so I hope more and more students will think about joining these classes.

I try to do my best for you to gain knowledge of and practice Jodo Shinshu teachings. Shinran Shonin handed down these teachings to our ancestors and our ancestors preserved and maintained them for us.

The core teachings of Jodo Shinshu are inclusiveness, harmony, respect, and humbleness.

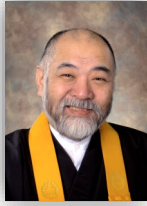
I work hard for Sangha because I sincerely hope that many people are touched by these wonderful teachings.

Gassho.





Message from Rev. Nakagawa



I, Shinran, have never even once uttered the Nembutsu for the sake of my father and mother. The reason is that all beings have been fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters, in the timeless process of birth-and-death since the birth of this universe. When I attain Buddhahood, each and every one will be saved without exception. If it could be accomplished by my own powers, then I could transfer the accumulated merits of my Nembutsu to save my father and mother. But since this is not the case, when we become free from self-power and quickly attain enlightenment, we will save those bound closest to us, no matter how deeply they are immersed in karmic suffering. (*TANNISHO, chapter 5*)

Obon is the most familiar of festivals celebrated by Buddhists. It is a dharma-gathering where we renew our thoughts about our ancestors by remembering our close relatives who have passed away.

Obon is properly called "Urabanna." Some of you probably know that the word "Ura" means "to be hanged upside down." Let's take a look at some of the causes which we have fallen into difficulties:

1. We neglect what is important and value what is not important.
2. We put off things that need to be done and hurry to do things that don't need to be done.
3. Forgetting things that need to be remembered and remembering things that should be forgotten.
4. Asking questions that don't need to be asked instead of asking questions that need to be asked.
5. I don't do what I have to do, but I try to do what I shouldn't do.

The list goes on and on. Even if you don't have a specific reason, I'm sure you can think of one.

Our suffering stems from the above-mentioned upside-down way of being. We think we are standing on our feet, but we are standing on our head in reality, so we can never get rid of our suffering.

If we just live a busy, busy life, we will never realize that we are standing on our head. Standing on one's head is unnatural, so it is several times more painful than standing correctly. As a result, we naturally complain more than those who are standing correctly.

Running around on your head during the hot summer will only make you more frustrated. Therefore, I suggest that

you slow down for a couple of days at Obon and check your way of being, which is the meaning of "Ura," or "I am standing on my head, aren't I?" So, how can we check ourselves if we don't even realize that we are standing on our head? The only way is to be exposed to the correct teachings by Buddha's wisdom. It is only when we are exposed to the right teachings that we realize how upside down we are.

"Bonn" is a vessel. It means a vessel to scoop up the suffering, which means salvation.

Therefore, the "Urabanna" is a gathering where those who are standing on their heads and suffering can be saved through the correct teachings. It is exactly not an event for the dead but for the living who are suffering from standing on their heads.

During the Obon season, we visit graves and read sutras in front of the family tomb stone, so it is often perceived as a Buddhist event for the dead. However, both visiting graves and reading sutras are opportunities for us who are still alive to think about the way we are today, while paying respect to our ancestors.

Those who think that visiting graves and reciting sutras are only for the dead will be surprised when they encounter the words of Tannisho: "I, Shinran, have never even once uttered the Nembutsu for the sake of my father and mother." However, this is the original way of Buddhism.

There is no such thing in Buddhism as a way of thinking for the dead without considering one's own state as a living person.

When we say that we do not recite the Nembutsu or read the sutras for the dead, it may sound like we are mistreating our ancestors, but in reality, the act of reciting the Nembutsu or reading the sutras for the dead is mistreating our ancestors.

One should know the reason for this is that in the act of reciting sutras for the dead, there is an unconscious prayer that the dead will go to a better place. The reason we pray for them to go to a better place is because we believe that our ancestors did not go to a better place. The belief that our ancestors did not go to a better place is the reason why we pray for them in the form of Nembutsu and sutra reading.

We should remember our ancestors who headed towards the Pureland moment under the light of Buddha's wisdom who kept sending, "Namu Amitabha, we will celebrate the Urabanna." I would like to welcome the Obon Festival with great care this year as well.



July Monthly Memorial Service

The July Monthly Memorial Service will be conducted on **Sunday, July 23, 2023 at 10:00 AM.** Families and friends are asked to attend and gassho. The deceased and seshu (observant) for July are as follows:

DECEASED:

Kyujiro Kikumoto
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 Shimosono & Kunikichi Shimosono
Chyono Ninomiya & Shizuye Susie Murakami
Nobuo Takasaki

SESHU: (OBSERVANT)

Mitchell Abe
Kay Antoku
Gerry Hada
Wes Hara
Hatsuko Hanashiro
Naomi Hashimoto

Keiko Hatakeda

Art Hirata

Todd Hosaka
Yoko Ichihana
Kenneth 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 Shimosono

Kathy Hamada
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
Cathy Tanizaki Zachry
Kazuko Tatami
Shuzo Toyota
Mary Uyeda
Ellen 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

Phone/FAX: (559) 638-2146

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

Email Pres. Kliff Justesen: justkliff03@gmail.com

Email Newsletter/Webmaster: reedleybc@gmail.com





Fresno Buddhist Temple
 77th Annual
 "OBON: FESTIVAL OF LANTERNS"

OBON IS...

Honoring the past & appreciating the moment... Watching the lanterns sway in the breeze...
 The sight of young and old alike, in colorful yukatas & happi coats...
 Spending an evening with family & friends... A sense of being...

SATURDAY, JULY 15, 2023

🌸 A LA CARTE FOOD – AVAILABLE 3:00PM ... LIMITED AVAILABILITY, ARRIVE EARLY! 🌸
 – SUSHI – CHICKEN SALAD – CHICKEN KATSU – TERIYAKI CHICKEN – RIBS – TERIYAKI BEEF STICKS –
 – NIPPON DOGS – FURIKAKI/KIMCHEE FRIES – BEER/LIQUOR – BAKE WALK – SNO CONES – DESSERTS –

🌸 ORDER PERSONALIZED MEMORIAL LANTERNS 🌸

🌸 RAFFLE DRAWING – WIN \$2000, \$1000, \$500 🌸

🌸 GAME BOOTHS FOR THE KIDS! 🌸

🌸 OBON DANCE 7:30PM 🌸

🌸 VISIT THE TEMPLE! 🌸

www.fresnobuddhisttemple.org
 (559) 442-4054
info@fresnobuddhisttemple.org



Kingsburg Buddhist Temple

Obon Dancing Food Taiko

2023
OBON FESTIVAL
 JULY 29th
 4-9 pm
 4-6 pm Food (pre-order 269-4226) & F
 6 pm Obon/Hafsubon Service
 6:30 pm Obon Dancing

Kingsburg Buddhist Temple
 831 Orange St., Kingsburg, CA 93631

