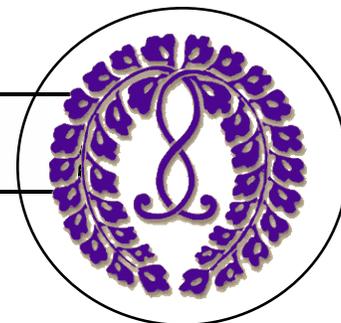


REEDLEY BUDDHIST CHURCH

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

PHONE & FAX (559) 638-2146

<http://reedleybc.org>



July Calendar

- | | | |
|----|--|----------|
| 4 | CC Dharma Service and Shotsuki on
Twitter/Twitch from Visalia (Virtual) | 10:00 am |
| 7 | Omigaki - Altar Cleaning | 6:00 pm |
| 10 | CC Hatsubon and Virtual Obon
Dancing from Fresno | 5:30 pm |
| 11 | CC Dharma Service on Twitter/Twitch
from Fresno (Virtual) | 10:00 am |
| 17 | Reedley Hatsubon/Obon Service
(in person) | 10:00 am |
| 18 | CC Dharma Service on Twitter/Twitch
from Reedley (Virtual) | 10:00 am |
| 21 | Reedley BC Board Meeting | 7:00 pm |
| 24 | Fresno Modified Obon Odori for CC
members ONLY (at Family Dharma
Center) | 6:30 pm |
| 25 | CC Dharma Service on Twitter/Twitch
from Fowler (Virtual) | 10:00 am |

SUNDAY SERVICE ONLINE LINK:

https://mobile.twitter.com/fresno_nishi

Or watch it LIVE on:

<https://m.twitch.tv/ccnishihongwanji/...>

In Sympathy



Our deepest sympathy to the family of **Mr. Bradley Hiya**, husband of Mrs. Denise Hiya and father of Guy, Ty, & Allyson, who passed away on May 29, 2021 at the age of 54.

Our deepest condolences to the family of **Mr. Kiyoshi Aoki**, brother of Mr. Hitoshi Aoki, who passed away on June 22, 2021 at the age of 93.

Our deepest sympathy to the family of **Mrs. Kimiye Tanizaki**, mother of Ms. Cathy Tanizaki Zachry, who passed away on June 25, 2021 at the age of 97.

Reedley Hatsubon/Obon Service

We will be conducting a Reedley Buddhist Church **in-person HATSUBON/OBON SERVICE** on Saturday, July 17, 2021 at 10:00 AM. Since we were unable to have our service last year, we will be observing Hatsubon for those who have passed away since our 2019 Obon. Family members are invited to attend the service and light a lantern in memory of their loved one.

2020 Hatsubon

Akio Tatami
Yukiko Ito
Mary Hirata
Tatsuko Hatanaka
Yukio Hamada
Helen Kimura

2021 Hatsubon

Kan Ibara
Steven Hirahara
Taro Asami
John Takasugi
Helen Hara
Hideo Shiine
Bradley Hiyama
Kiyoshi Aoki
Kimiye Tanizaki

If you would like to add any of your loved ones to our list who passed away from June, 2019 - July, 2021, please email us at: reedleybc@gmail.com or call/leave a message for Judy Kobayashi at: (559) 281-3954 by July 8th.

All family members and church members are invited to come and observe Hatsubon/Obon this year in person.



JULY TOBAN:

Church Toban: Nishida & Kurumaji
BWA: Group 3 - Diane Kubota





Church Acknowledges Dana

The Masumoto Family - 23rd Year Memorial for Mrs. Faye Fumiyo Masumoto	\$200.00
The Togioka Family - 3rd Year Memorial for Mr. Douglas Togioka	200.00
Mr. & Mrs. Harry Kim - 3rd Year Memorial for Mr. Douglas Togioka	20.00
Ms. Victoria Kim - 3rd Year Memorial for Mr. Douglas Togioka	20.00
Mr. & Mrs. Wesley Kubo - In Honor of Rylee's Graduation	50.00
Mrs. Bonnie Nii - Newsletter Donation	50.00

June Memorial Service Donations

Mr. Harvey Nakamura	100.00
Mr. & Mrs. Dale Okamura	100.00
Mrs. Yukiye Takayama	60.00
Mr. & Mrs. Ben Kubota	50.00
Mrs. Lynn Kurumaji	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. John Nishio	50.00
Mrs. Nagiko Konishi	40.00
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Nishida	40.00
Mr. & Mrs. George Tsuji	40.00
Mr. & Mrs. Hitoshi Aoki	30.00
Mrs. Fumiko Ikemiya	30.00
The Masumoto Family	25.00
Ms. Amy Naito	25.00
Mr. & Mrs. Dean Nishijima	25.00
Ms. Marissa Okamura & Ms. Stephanie Okamura	25.00
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kobayashi	20.00
Mrs. Yukiye Takayama	20.00

May Memorial Service Donations

Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Nishinaka	100.00
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SNACK BAG ORDERS

If you ordered Obon snack bags, please pick them up on Saturday, July 10th between 9:00 - 11:00 AM at the location you designated. (If you ordered them to be delivered to Reedley, they can be picked up there.)

All proceeds go to the church you designated on your form. **THANK YOU!**

OMIGAKI - Altar Cleaning Wed., July 7, 2021 6:00 PM



Please come and help clean and shine the altar implements! A light dinner will be provided for all the helpers! We missed doing this last July and January, so it needs to be done!



Reedley Buddhist Church Dharma Scholarship Recipients Keiko Kajihara and Rylee Kubo seen with Church president, Judy Kobayashi and Rev. Kaz Nakata.

Virtual Obon Practices

There will be virtual Obon practices on Zoom on the following dates:

June 25, July 2, & July 9 at 7:00

PM, in preparation for the virtual Obon on July 10th. Fresno will also be having a modified Obon Odori on July 24th and all CC church members are invited, but it is not open to the general public. Please go to our website; www.reedleybc.org to find the link to the practices, which is the same link that the services are on: 

https://mobile.twitter.com/fresno_nishi or <https://m.twitch.tv/ccnishihongwanji/...>



Message from Rev. Nakata

The Eight Essentials of our Jodo Shinshu No. 4

People who realize they are ignorant must be enlightened. (Aku Nin Sho Ki)



Hello, all Central California Sangha friends! I hope everyone is enjoying the hot summer. This month, some Central California temples and Churches are planning to host in-person Hatsubon Service and, or Obon Dance activities. Please check your local temple's schedule.

As a CC combined event, we will host the virtual Hatsubon Service and Obon Dance on July 10th beginning at 5:30pm. For the two weeks prior to the event, we will have the Obon Dance practice on July 2nd and July 9th at 7pm. Practices will be held in-person at the Fresno Dharma Center but will also be streamed via Twitter/Twitch. I hope I will see many of you in-person. I miss you all!

In this article, I would like to share one of the eight essential teachings of Jodo Shinshu. This one is *AKU NIN SHO KI*. It is a Japanese idiom. "SHO" means you met a requirement or are eligible for this idiom. "KI" means enlightenment. If you are a frequent Sunday Service attendee, you might have heard the term "*AKU NIN*" several times, however you may misunderstand the meaning of this term. Generally, "*AKU NIN*" is translated as "Evil (Aku), Person (Nin)". I assume the translation was made without paying much attention to how general American people respond and react to the term "Evil".

The term "Evil" has a significant meaning and is a part of the unethical ideas in Christianity and *the Bible*. The idea of Evil is originally introduced in ancient Hebrew scriptures. As a substantiation of Evil, *Satan* (Fallen Angel) appears in their story and has a role as an opponent of God. One of the biggest tragedies caused by Satan, was the fall of humankind to the earth. One of the first humankind, *Eve* was allured by Satan to eat the fruit of Wisdom. It was a cause of the tragedy. You might have heard of this story before. For this reason, people who have faith in God generally consider Evil as an abominable idea and they are suggested to avoid it.

Obviously, Shinran Shonin did not consider Aku Nin as Evil Person in English or a Christian idea, or he did not mean people are a reincarnation of Satan. How can we translate this very essential teachings of Jodo Shinshu "Aku Nin" into English? When we better understand the antonym of Aku Nin, we would have a better understanding of what Aku Nin is. The antonym of Aku Nin, is Zen Nin. Zen Nin is commonly expressed as Good Person, just like opposite to Evil Person. This is a wrong translation. Meaning, the original translator did not consider its meaning in English.

Zen Nin in Buddhism is considered as people who keep and maintain their precepts and practices. So, Zen Nin can be identified as a monk or a Bodhisattva. On the other hand, people who are not able to keep up their precepts nor practices are called Aku Nin. I am Aku Nin, too! While Shinran Shonin had

received training in the Tendai monastery at Mt. Hiei, his pursuit was to attain Zen Nin status by his own practice. But at 29 years old, he realized that he was not able to become Zen Nin, but he was Aku Nin. This did not mean that he discounted himself. He conducted his own reflection on his monastic life, and he concluded his practice at Mt. Hiei and left from Tendai Monastery.

Before I encountered the Jodo Shinshu teaching, I thought I could practice the Buddhist precepts and rituals at any time I wanted to be enlightened. As a teenager, I had confidence that I could memorize as much as I wanted, and I could sit Sei-za (kneeling on a ground) for hours. I was thinking that I was Zen Nin. When I was in college, I studied Shinran Shonin's publications and realized how ignorant I was on Buddhism before learning about Shinran Shonin.

There are many Buddhist teachings or texts (for Zen Nin) that claim people can be enlightened just by practicing them. When a teaching asks or requires people to have practices or precepts, the teaching excludes particular people. If people must memorize something as part of the practices, and some have a memory problem, then these people are excluded. I am in the mid-40s, and my brain is no longer capable of memorizing things like teenagers do. If Jodo Shinshu Ministry requires me to memorize all Sutras, I am no longer eligible to serve as a minister.

Jodo Shinshu is the only teaching which claims any persons can be enlightened without practice but be mindful in their everyday life. That is a reason why Jodo Shinshu is known as the teaching of inclusiveness. While we can do everything by ourselves, we may think we are ok with Zen Nin teachings. But when we lose our functions, what happens? Jodo Shinshu teaching is taught by the historical Buddha, Shakyamuni especially for people who realize that they are not capable to be enlightened by their own practice. It does not mean if you commit a bad behavior or crime, you can be enlightened sooner than others in Jodo Shinshu. Shinran Shonin lamented to hear that there were people committing crimes for earlier enlightenment. Shinran Shonin translated Akunin as Ignorant. He often described himself as Ignorant. Why did he do so? There is saying in Buddhism: "When one who realizes his own ignorance, the one reaches enlightenment." In this sense, ignorant does not mean stupid or fool. Ignorant means people who commit themselves to be a lifelong student (learner) with a humble and sincere attitude, just as Shinran Shonin lived his life.

When I encountered such understanding of Buddhism, I was fascinated and happy to learn Jodo Shinshu so that I may share it with as many people as possible. So here I am as a minister. Although Aku Nin Sho Ki was not originated by Shinran Shonin, but his teacher, Honen Shonin, it became a popular and core idea in Jodo Shinshu. Without having Aku Nin Sho Ki, Jodo Shinshu does not exist. I hope now you recognize yourself as Aku Nin, and say "I am happy to be Aku Nin!" with a smiling face.

Have a happy Aku Nin Day!

Gassho





Message from Rev. Nakagawa

Our Bon Odori in America



The version of the Bon Odori, the dances during the Obon Festival in the temples of America, is a tradition of the Japanese-American, known as Nikkei, and is not a copy from the Japanese. And, you will be surprised to know that Bon Odori is generally not observed at most of the Shin Buddhist temples in Japan.

Bon Odori is not "Nihon Buyo" or classical Japanese dance—it is folk music and dance. That is why Bon Odori is not a performance-dance for others to see—it is for people to dance. Bon Odori is not meant to be watched, it is meant to be danced.

There is a history of our Bon Odori. There is a reason why ministers encourage the Hatsubon family who lost a beloved family member during the previous year, and that it is a must to participate in the Bon Odori.

That has a lot to do with the history of Nikkei.

Immigration from Japan began shortly after Japan stopped isolation and opened diplomatic relations with other countries in 1854. At the beginning, all immigrants landed in NYC, so it is an interesting history that many of the earliest Nikkei colonies formed on the east coast states, as well as Texas and Florida. Quite a few of them were illegal immigrants. After the first large group of legal immigrants landed on the mainland in 1869, immigrants from Japan continued to increase on the west coast constantly.

Now, please recognize the fact that we had to wait until 1899 for the first Buddhist temple to be built on the mainland. Amazingly, most of the Japanese immigrants remained Buddhists for more than 30 years in a traditional Christian U.S.A. Moreover, the people of the eastern states remained Buddhists for more than half a century until the first temple, Bukkyo-kai was built, without a temple or a priest.

There is an interesting fact: Without exception, the early immigrants immediately started following American customs and attended nearby Christian churches every Sunday. Originally, they were Shin Buddhists who had a tradition to visit their family temple often. What was common to them, even though they could not understand English at all, was the fact that most of the Japanese immigrants came from the region where the enthusiastic Jodo Shinshu Buddhism rooted. Since they were children, they used to go to Buddhist temples periodically and listen to the minister's dharma-talks, and they all shared the common wisdom of Rennyō Shonin's guidance that any kind of truthful words are rooted by Buddha-dharma (or related to Buddha-dharma).

Many Japanese began to sit in the front row at pew of the church every Sunday and listened keenly to the Christian sermon. But, in fact, no one understood a single English word. They just stared at the pastor's mouth and sometimes yelled, "Namu Amita," with emotion. Luckily by chance, the church pastor and the other American attendees heard the many Issei's 'Nenbutsu, (namu **Amita**)' as "**Amen!**" Soon after, many of the Isseis who attended the Catholic Church took up the role of deacons, and they were

sincere in their duties. Some even received special mention from the International Roman Catholic Church's organization.

I once met an old man who came to America via Mexico as a new Issei after WWII. Soon after he came to America, he immediately became a member of the 'Bukkyo-kai'. What surprised me then was that he had more than 25 years of experience as a deacon in Mexico. It was the first time I heard about the unique historical fact at that time. He said to me, "I have been living Shin Buddhist Dharma since I was a child. In fact, I was not able to understand even a single religious word in Spanish in Mexico. However, whenever I watched the pastor's lips moving, I had been very happy to know that the golden words of Buddha were echoing through them."

Even in 19th century America, where no single Buddhist church existed, Nikkei were typical Jodo Shinshu Buddhists without doubt as well. And for them, there was only the day during a year when the actual Dharma Sangha appeared. That is the day of Obon Odori.

Be sure to visit the gravesite at Obon, and remember that day is a special day for remembering beloved people, which is a Japanese tradition that has continued for over 1,500 years, and is not limited to Shin Buddhism. Bon Odori is a place where anyone living can experience the Buddhist teaching quite easily.

During the Obon season weekend, spontaneously, the neighboring Japanese immigrants clogged up in one place, making hundreds of Bon Odori circles throughout the United States. There, Bon Odori dancers had one condition: dance as the real figure you are, symbolized by wearing a yukata (literally - bathrobe) as opposed to a kimono.

Bon Odori is to reach a state of forgetting your ego, and thereby being able to remember and reconnect to those who have died. This is done by forgetting your ego; not indulging it. Whether you learned every dance or come to the dance partly for fun, your ego will initially flaunt or be embarrassed. But the real Bon Odori begins the moment when you forget such showing off and being embarrassed.

The spiritual meaning of Bon Odori is to release the ego's shackles through dance and to experience the first step towards a Buddhist life. You can forget yourself, even for a moment. The moment of "trust dance" is the Bon Odori, and at that time, it naturally remembers the deep relationship with the dead.

Early immigrants continued their Buddhist life in that way for decades despite the absence of a Bukkyo-kai, the Buddhist church. Hundreds of Bon dance circles of 'one day Buddhist sangha', appeared all over the United States once a year.





July Monthly Memorial Service

The July Monthly Memorial Service will be conducted online on **Sunday, July 4, 2021 at 10:00 AM** at: 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 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
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 Shimosono

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

SESHU:(OBSERVANT)

Helen Hamaoka
Kimiye Tanizaki
Kazuko Tatami
Shuzo Toyota
Mary Uyeda



Procedures for Requesting a Minister

Funerals:

The family will contact the Reedley Buddhist Church President, Mrs. Judy Kobayashi (559) 281-3954 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. Judy Kobayashi
Phone: (559) 281-3954

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. Judy Kobayashi: reedleybc@gmail.com

Email Newsletter/Webmaster: jk108@sbcglobal.net





watch from home!

Central California Virtual

July 10
5:30 start

Hatsubon Service and Obon Dance

Streamed on  [@Fresno_nishi](https://twitter.com/Fresno_nishi)



Reedley Buddhist Church



Hatsubon Service

Saturday, July 17, 2021 - 10:00 am

Lunch will be served following the service.

This is an indoor service and safety protocol will be observed as suggested by the CDC, Optional masks for vaccinated individuals, and masks for unvaccinated individuals.



Central California Nikkei Foundation

SWING FOR SENIORS

28th Annual Golf Tournament

Proceeds to benefit Vintage Gardens Assisted Living and the Nikkei Center

Belmont Country Club

Friday, September 3, 2021

\$150 per person

Open and Women 4-person scramble

1 PM Shotgun Start - 12 PM Check-in
Registrations due by **8/20/2021**

\$150 entry fee includes greens fee, golf cart, range balls, and banquet dinner. Additional dinners available for \$35 ea.

All guests are expected to comply with Belmont Country Club's Dress Code policy.

Please provide handicap (include gender and age for forward tee consideration).

Support CCNF with a Sponsorship!

- ◆
Major
\$5,000
- ◆
Ace
\$3,000
- ◆
Eagle
\$1,000
- ◆
Birdie
\$500
- ◆
Tee
\$150

Donation and Volunteer Opportunities also available!

For more information contact Dean Hiyama at: deanesq@hotmail.com

ENTRY FORM

1	CONTACT NAME:
	Email:
	Phone:
	Address:
	City/State/Zip:
	Handicap: Male / Female Age:
2	NAME:
	Email:
	Handicap: Male / Female Age:
3	NAME:
	Email:
	Handicap: Male / Female Age:
4	NAME:
	Email:
	Handicap: Male / Female Age:

Number of players x \$150 = \$

Additional Dinners x \$ 35 = \$

TOTAL = \$



Central California Nikkei Foundation
A Not for Profit Community Organization
540 S Peach Avenue
Fresno CA 93727

Please make checks payable to: **CCNF**
Payment due 8/20/21 **540 S Peach Ave**
Tax ID Number: 77-0257676 **Fresno CA 93727**

Entry fees are tax deductible to the extent of IRS guidelines.



CENTRAL CALIFORNIA NIKKEI FOUNDATION
SWING FOR SENIORS
 28th Annual Golf Tournament
BELMONT COUNTRY CLUB
 Friday, September 3, 2021

Proceeds to benefit Vintage Gardens Assisted Living and the Nikkei Center

Sponsorship and Donation Form

Please submit all donations and artwork by August 20, 2021

Sponsorship level: Major Ace Eagle Birdie Tee
 (if applicable) **\$5,000** **\$3,000** **\$1,000** **\$500** **\$150**

(Please provide PDF or camera-ready logo/artwork)

Tee Sign sponsorship for a loved one: (Please provide a photo)

In Honor of (Name): _____

In Memory of (Name): _____

Donor recognition name: _____

(18" x 12" Tee Sign to include a photo and donor recognition)

Other Monetary Donation \$ _____

Other (Goods or Services) \$ _____ (Estimated Retail Value)

Description: _____

Raffle & Swag
Items needed!

Please provide the name you would like to appear on your donation receipt

Business/Donor Name: _____

Contact Person: _____

Email: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____ street _____ city _____ state _____ zip

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
Questions?
gale@ccnf.org

Please make check payable to **CCNF** and send to:
Tax ID Number: 77-0257676

CCNF
540 S Peach Ave
Fresno CA 93727

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Central California Nikkei Foundation is a Not for Profit Community Organization