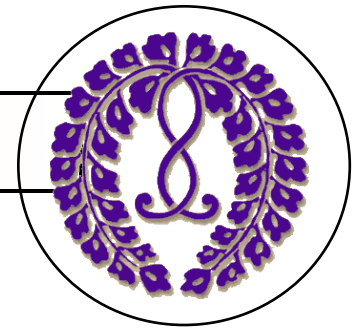


REEDLEY BUDDHIST CHURCH

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

PHONE & FAX (559) 638-2146

<http://reedleybc.org>



December Calendar



- 2 BCA National Board Meeting
- 3 Bodhi Day, December Shotsuki,
Family Dharma Service &
Grandparents' Tea 10:00 am
- 19 RBC Board Meeting 7:00 pm
- 31 Joya-E Service (Year End Service) 2:00 pm

January, 2024

- 1 Shusho-E (New Year's Day) Service 10:00 am

BODHI DAY, DECEMBER SHOTSUKI (Monthly Memorial Service) & FAMILY DHARMA SERVICE

**celebrating Grandparents at a
Grandparents' Tea**

Sunday, December 3, 2023

10:00 AM

Lunch following

JOYA-E SERVICE

(Year End Service)

Sunday, December 31, 2023

2:00 PM

**Toshikoshi Soba served
following the service.**

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Ben and Michi Nobuhiro!
They recently celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary! Very few are able to reach this amazing milestone! They were able to celebrate with their children, Randy and Phyllis, grandchildren, great grandchildren, and extended family.



DECEMBER TOBAN:

Church Toban: Nishida, Kehoe, Toyota
& Takanishi



BWA: Group 1: Karen Sakata



THANK YOU



We would like to thank all of the members and friends for coming out to help with the 69th Reedley Food Bazaar! We haven't skipped a beat... the food was delicious! So many people called or emailed and complimented Reedley for a job well done, and everyone agreed, they enjoyed coming back to see everyone in person!

Thank you for supporting the Dharma School Country Store, Jr. YBA's soda & water sales, and the BWA's pastries! All were a success!

Thank you to Vickie Nishida and Charlene Okamura for chairing the bazaar. Everything ran smoothly and was so organized! We'll see you all again next year!

In Sympathy



Our deepest sympathy to the family of **Mr. Johnnie Togioka**, father of Patti and Lisa Togioka, who passed away on November 23, 2023, at the age of 94.



Church Acknowledges Dana

Mr. & Mrs. Ben Nobuhiro 70th Wedding Anniversary	\$ 100.00
Ms. Carole Yamakoshi In Memory of Mr. Bobby Iwasaki	25.00
Ms. Amy Naito Senior Meals Donation	100.00
Mrs. Sue Kawamoto Senior Meals Donation	50.00
Mrs. Shiz Tsutsui Special Donation	50.00
Mrs. Shiz Tsutsui Special Donation	50.00

Eitaikyo Service Donations

Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Nishinaka	100.00
Mrs. Kikuyo Ikemiya	50.00
Mrs. Chizuko Iwasaki	50.00
Ms. Amy Naito	50.00
Mr. Michael Naito	50.00
Mr. Byron Taira	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. George Tsuji	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. Ben Kubota	40.00
Mr. & Mrs. James Hatakeda	30.00
Mr. & Mrs. Kliff Justesen	30.00
Mrs. Sue Kawamoto	30.00
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Sakata	30.00
Mr. & Mrs. Ty Tavlan & Family	30.00
Mrs. Ellen Yamada	30.00
Mrs. Nancy Kimura	25.00
Mrs. Amy Naito	25.00
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Nishida	25.00
Mr. & Mrs. Ben Nobuhiro	25.00
Mr. & Mrs. Dale Okamura	25.00
Ms. Shizuko Taguchi	25.00
Ms. Lois Yamakoshi	25.00
Mrs. Joy Donaldson	20.00
The Hamada Family	20.00
Ms. Lily Ikemiya	20.00
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kobayashi	20.00
Mr. & Mrs. Danny Nakamichi	20.00
Mr. & Mrs. Shuzo Toyota	20.00

November Memorial (Shotsuki) Service

Mrs. Toshiko Kawagoe In Memory of Shun Ikemiya	200.00
The Hamada Family In Memory of Kakuichi Sunamoto & Masano Sunamoto	100.00
Mr. & Mrs. Craig Ito In Memory of Yukiko Ito & George Tsunekawa	100.00
Mr. & Mrs. George Tsuji In Memory of Bill Tsuji & Tak Kimoto	80.00
Ms. Shizuko Taguchi In Memory of Tome Taguchi & Charles Taguchi	60.00

Continued in next column

November Memorial (Shotsuki) Service cont.

Dr. & Mrs. Kenneth Ikemiya In Memory of John Nakata & Shun Ikemiya	50.00
Mrs. Kikuyo Ikemiya In Memory of Shun Ikemiya	\$ 50.00
Mrs. Chizuko Iwasaki In Memory of Torao Yamamoto	50.00
Mrs. Nancy Kimura In Memory of Edna Fujiwara & Fumio Shiroyama	50.00
Mrs. Amy Naito In Memory of Takashi Naito & Ronald Nomi	50.00
Mr. Michael Naito In Memory of Takashi Naito	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Nishida In Memory of Takashi Naito, Fred Nishida, George Nishida, & Ronald Nomi	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Okamura In Memory of Toye Tashiro	50.00
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Kobayashi In Memory of Takashi Naito, Ronald Nomi, Shigetaro Kodama	30.00
Mrs. Grace Nakagawa In Memory of Doris Kawaguchi	30.00
Mr. & Mrs. Danny Nakamichi In Memory of Bob Akahori	30.00
Mr. & Mrs. Gary Sakata In Memory of Takashi Naito & Shigetaro Kodama	30.00
Mr. & Mrs. Ty Tavlan & Family In Memory of Shun Ikemiya	30.00
Mrs. Ellen Yamada In Memory of Bunkichi Yamada	30.00
Mrs. Ellen Yamada In Memory of Bunkichi Yamada	30.00
Mrs. Nancy Abe In Memory of Charles Abe	25.00
Ms. Amy Naito In Memory of Tak Naito	25.00
The Masumoto Family In Memory of Sawaichi Matoi	20.00
Ms. Lily Ikemiya In Memory of Shun Ikemiya	20.00
Mrs. Sue Kawamoto In Memory of Kazuye Inouye	20.00

December Memorial (Shotsuki) Service

Ms. Carole Yamakoshi In Memory of Frank Yamakoshi	75.00
Dr. & Mrs. Kenneth Ikemiya In Memory of Motonon Nakata	50.00

Other Monthly Memorial Services

Ms. Carole Yamakoshi (May) In Memory of Shirley Yamakoshi Baskin	75.00
Ms. Carole Yamakoshi (March) In Memory of Helen Yamakoshi	75.00
Mrs. Grace Nakagawa (October) In Memory of Jitsuji Bungo & Alan Bungo	50.00
Mrs. Yukiye Takayama In Memory of Takayama & Takasaki Family Members	28.00



Message from Rev. Nakata

What is Peace in the Buddhist teaching?



Hello to all Central California Nishi Hongwanji Sangha friends! This is the last month before welcoming 2024... how quickly time flies by. I sincerely appreciate your generous and tireless support of our Central Cal Temple and Churches. Arigato Gozaimasu.

I took a two-week vacation to visit my parents, grandma, and parents-in law. It was the first time to see my 5-month young niece and hold her while visiting the Japanese Castle Park near Kobe. My younger sister (who acts like my older brother) drove me wherever I wanted to go. I would like to share some of my memories of my visit in the next several issues of my article. I specifically want to share the topic of 'peace.'

While in Japan, many TV channels were talking about one topic, the Japanese baseball championship. Two teams, Hanshin Tigers from Osaka, and Orix from Kobe were battling in several rounds of championship games to become the national baseball champion. I was born near Kobe, so when I was riding a train or shopping near my hometown, (almost) everyone was talking about Orix and wishing them to be a champion with a happy face. When I was waiting for a train, I had time to search US news. As you are aware, nearly all major channels were talking about conflict, argument, offensive comments, etc. Japan and California are only 10 hours apart by plane, but I felt like things happens on different planets.

People often talk about peace. But do you know exactly what peace means? Especially, do you know what peace is in (Jodo Shinshu) Buddhist teaching or context?

Buddhism is originally designed to learn how to be peaceful or harmonious. Peaceful does not mean you force someone to be peaceful, or harmonious does not mean you demand someone to be harmonious. Buddhism encourages "You," yourself become peaceful or harmonious. It is considered as one of the paths to be enlightened. You may wonder, "what does peace mean in Buddhism?"

In Buddhism, peace is about your mental condition which is calm, equanimity, or tranquility. In other words, when you are calm, you are peaceful. That is the (Jodo Shinshu) Buddhist understanding of peace. BCA temples such as our CC Temples and Churches are a part of Jodo Shinshu Buddhist school. Do you know what Jodo Shinshu means? It simply means the

teaching of becoming calm or reaching the state of equanimity or tranquility without having any practices nor merit accumulations. (Jodo, it spells "Sukhavati" in ancient Indian language)

At what moment do you feel you are calm in your everyday life?

My youngest daughter Akika says, "when I play Nintendo Switch video game!" My middle daughter Michilu says, "when I make accessories." My oldest daughter Kanon says, "when I eat delicious Japanese food!" My wife Michiko says, "when I am taking a nap after waking up early in the morning to prepare box lunches for my daughters."

I like video games like Akika, but also, I fish. When I was in Japan last month, I went fishing on a riverbank with my father-in-law, sat for 2 hours and caught nothing! We enjoyed it a lot. We enjoyed the moments of doing nothing. It was a great moment of calmness. Everyone has their own way to achieve calmness.

If my wife forces Akika to nap or make a lunch box because she says it makes her calm, do you think Akika agree with her? Of course not! Or if Akika asks her mom to play Nintendo Switch to make her calm, she would respond, "Akika, you should play by yourself."

If someone forces or demands you to do something to become calm, you may become upset, and you cannot become calm.

This is the same thing for peace. The things that make you peaceful, and things make your family or friends peaceful are different, just like different hobbies. In everyday life, there are many individuals or groups that try to promote their own way of peace to you or others, which often creates another conflict or unpeaceful condition when you or others feel it is not your way.

I often encourage everyone to be "MYOB" or "MYOP."

"MYOB" means *Mind Your Own Business* and "MYOP" means *Mind Your Own Peace*.

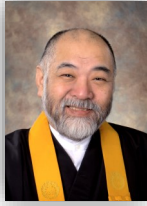
Jodo Shinshu is the teaching of "Live as You Are," so we welcome others by saying "come as you are" to our temple. Because our teaching encourages us to live as we are, everyone has their own way for calm, equanimity, and the same as peace. There is no peace out there for you, but your peace is in you.

While the holiday season is approaching, you should think about your own peace and stay calm during the wonderful season. Have a peaceful holiday with "MYOP." Gassho



Message from Rev. Nakagawa

Ho-on-ko Home Visitations



The other day I had an amazingly vivid dream of my first Ho-on-ko service visit 50 years ago when I was still in Japan. During this period, the temple minister would visit almost all of the members' homes and conduct the special Ho-on-ko service in front of their family O-Butsudan.

At the family temple where I grew up, my father, brother, and I would visit 40 to 45 homes on some days, almost every day during the month of November, to conduct the Ho-on-ko service for each family.

For me as a freshman priest, honestly speaking, those days were torturous. I had to sit on the tatami mats for more than 10 hours every day at old-style houses. This time, however, it was not the memory of my painful feet that gave me impressive dreams, but rather the visits to longtime temple members' homes which was a very memorable event for me.

When I arrived early in the morning in the town where most families were longtime members of my family temple, I was going to visit them that day. One guide, named 'Kuman-Jii' who went by 'Old Bear,' was waiting for me to lead the way to all the homes.

He was a big man, more than 6 feet and 220 pounds, and I couldn't see the front as I walked behind him. He was mumbling the O-Nenbutsu in his mouth the whole time. When I finished the first house and was about to move onto the second house, something unexpected happened. To my surprise, the entire family from the first home followed me to the next house to pay their respects at the Ho-on-ko service.

This meant that the Dharma talk I gave at the first house could not be done at the next house. If all the families were to continue to follow me, I would have to give more than 50 different Dharma talks. Since my father had not told me any information about it, I simply thought that I would only have to repeat about five Dharma talks.

I broke out in a cold sweat, but I quickly thought, "Yes, there are 120 lines of Shōshin-ge chanting, so I should just repeat them in order." The visit went smoothly, and after an hour with more than 20 people in tow, something unusual happened.

Suddenly, Kuman-jii turned around, his face bright red, and began to scold me loudly.

He said, "Hey you, young son of temple. I can read the O-Shōshin-ge myself, so there's no need for you to come all the way here. You're too cocky. It doesn't do you any

good to talk about something you learned from someone else. We would be better off listening to 'Rakugo comedy' and kill time."

I think my face turned blue with anger when he said this in front of everyone, but I could not say anything back because he was a former Imperial Navy officer. The service at the next house was a disaster.

During the chanting, many things came to mind, and I realized that I had nothing to say to Old Bear who knew exactly what I was up to.

I turned to everyone and tried to speak, but nothing came out. I just said greetings to them and ran out of the house.

I said, "Old Bear, I will study hard next year, so please be patient this year. I can't give Dharma talks anymore." He became angry again. "If you have so little mercy that you can talk to five or six houses and then run away, we won't listen to you so seriously. If you could talk for the rest of your life and never run out of things to say, that would be the mercy of the Buddha Sakyamuni. What nonsense are you talking about? If you have nothing to say, then tell the same story from now on. The Buddha's words always have a fresh impact on those who hear them, regardless of the time and place."

After that, Kuman-jii continued to mumble the O-Nenbutsu in his mouth, and at the end of each service, his criticism would still be something piercing and painful.

At the time, I was a graduate student and was about to gain confidence in my Buddhist studies, but in the end, I spent the rest of the day saying, "I am not qualified to convey compassion to all of you, but I am feeling compassion from all of you."

That night as we were parting, Kuman-jii tossed me a phrase that he had heard directly from one venerable *Kangaku* teacher when he was young:

"When you say the Nenbutsu with your mouth, it immediately turns into an incantation. If you say it with your mind, it remains the same, a blind faith. Therefore, we are solely praising Buddha's wisdom only when Buddha's wish comes really alive to me."

In a dream the other day, these words came to my ears in the voice of Old Bear that day. Today, I shared them with you all.

Namōmitābha,

Reverend Kakei Nakagawa, Rinban



December Monthly Memorial Shotsuki Service

The December Monthly Memorial Service will be conducted on **Sunday, December 3, 2023 at 10:00 AM**. Families and friends are asked to attend and gassho. The deceased and seshu (observant) for December are as follows:

DECEASED:	SESHU: (OBSERVANT)
Hitoshi Aoki & Yoshitaro Kawakami	Betty Aoki
Sei Asami & Taro Asami	Lillian Garrigus
Kazuko Matoi	Evelyn Asato
James Blake Conell Egoian	Jim & Carol Egoian
Preston Hamada	Clifford Hamada
Masutaro Hanemoto, Hisano Hanemoto & Tadaharu Hanemoto	Harvey Hanemoto
Tsuya Hashimoto	Mary Hashimoto
Tojiro Hatakeda, Misa Hatakeda	Lisa Hatakeda Lo
Reiko Hatanaka	Joyce Hatanaka
Mary Hirata, Yoichi Hirata	
Shizuye Kubo & Harry Teiichi Kubo	Art Hirata
Mits Ibara & Koichi Takahashi	Eloise Ibara
Motono Nakata	Kenneth Ikemiya
Ben Tsutomu Tsudama	Kiyoko Inn
Hozo Iwasaki & Fumiye Fukamoto	Chizuko Iwasaki
Shizuko Hirano, Tsuneno Fujii, Kunimitsu Iwo, & Edith Iwo	Lorraine Iwo
Suye Kawamoto, Moto Tanaka & Teiichi Yamasaki	Sue Kawamoto
Amie Kawasaki	Ellen Yamada
Frank Kimura & Mitsuko Ito	Sandra Shinkawa
Yoshiko Kubota	Alan Kubota
Masajiro Kubota, Kiku Kubota, Kimiko Nishimura, & Masami Yoneta	Ben Kubota
Sakuji Hashimoto, Makoto Hashimoto, Satoru Hashimoto, Hideo Hashimoto & Misako Hashimoto	Shiz Kunishige
Alice Mori	Cheryl Miyakawa & Nannette Mori
Koma Moto Murase	Emily Murase
Sammy Nakagawa	Grace Nakagawa & Midori Iwasaki
Mumeyo Bungo	Grace Nakagawa

December Monthly Memorial Cont.

DECEASED:	SESHU:(OBSERVANT)
John Yoshiharu Nishida	Larry Nishida & Julia Ueda
Mary Inouye	Larry Nishida
Sabuo Dan Nishinaka	Ronald Nishinaka
Shintaro Murakami & Yasu Murakami	Ben Nobuhiro
Takeo Ohashi	Henry Ohashi
Kyoichi Sakuragi & Shinji Okamura	Dale Okamura
Mosaku Mori & Shigeo Mori	Fujiye Okino
Jintaro Otani	Priscilla Kehoe & Hideki Otani
Jim Sasaki	Dennis Sasaki
Tomeye Shimizu, Mitsue Shimizu, & Waka Shimizu	Teruko Shibata
Orinosuke Shiine	Michiko Nobuhiro
Kenichi Sunamoto	Kathy Hamada, & Kenneth Sunamoto
Fujiye Shirakawa & Alma Sunamoto	Kathy Hamada
Fred Shigeshi Taguchi, Sumitaro Taguchi & Namijiuro Taguchi	Shizuko Taguchi
Hideo Taira	Byron Taira
Lillian Takayama	Helen Hamaoka
Gunjiro Takasaki	Yukiye Takayama
Issaku Tsuneta	Cathy Tanizaki Zachry
Rito Sakamoto	Arthur Tatami
Ken Togioka & Chizuyo Dobashi	Priscilla Kehoe
Torazo Tsuji	George Tsuji
Satoru Morikawa	Ayako Yamada
Frank Yamakoshi	Lois Yamakoshi & Carole Yamakoshi





Reedley Food Bazaar November 5, 2023



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



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.

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

