

NICHIREN NEWS

May, 2015

Sacramento Nichiren Buddhist Church - 5191 24th Street, Sacramento, CA 95822 (916) 456-8371

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May, 2015

3	---	no service
10	11:30am	Izu persecution service
10	noon	Bazaar mtg
17	---	no service
24	11:30am	Eitaikyo service
31	11:30am	Kaji Kito
31	noon	Bazaar meeting

June, 2015

7	----	no service
8	8:00am	set up canopy
10	8:00am	Bazaar cooking (Wednesday); clean chicken shed
11	8:00am	Bazaar cooking (Thursday); set up counter
12	8:00am	Bazaar cooking (Friday)
12	11:00am	Clean chicken
13	7:00am	Decorating
13	11:00am 5:00pm	Bazaar (Saturday)
14	11:00am 5:00pm	Bazaar (Sunday)
14	----	no service
21	11:30am	Kaji Kito
21	noon	Church meeting
23	----	no service

July, 2015

5	11:30am	Sunday service
12	----	no service
19	----	no service
26	11:30am	Obon service

EITAIKYO

The Eitaikyo service will be held on **Sunday, May 24, 2015 at 11:30am.** The Eitaikyo service is a perpetual service in which prayers are given for the deceased. This service is held annually (one-time subscription fee of \$100 per deceased person).

SUMMER BAZAAR

JUNE 13 & 14, 2015

All Church members, family & friends are asked to help at the bazaar. Please see the calendar of events, the kitchen schedule, & chicken schedule for details.

The craft & book/magazine booths need items to sell. Please bring your new or gently used donations to Church.

Please call the Church if you need more raffle tickets to sell or buy.

CHURCH MEETING

HIGHLIGHTS 3/29/15

- ▶ Discussed bazaar preparations. New vendors for booths are needed.
- ▶ John Hughes is putting together a website for the church.

CHURCH MEETING

HIGHLIGHTS 4/26/15

- ▶ Discussed bazaar preparations. Will ask those on the work schedule to call to confirm that they are able to work at the scheduled times.
- ▶ Agreed to send koden for Roberto Shimada to Aki Shimada.
- ▶ John Hughes set up the website for the church and the link is: sacnichirenchurch.org
- ▶ The Fall bazaar will be on October 10, 2015. It will be a presale; deadline for orders is September 25, 2015.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP DUES

If you have not already done so, please send your church membership dues to the Church. The dues are still **\$240** per year.

FUJINKAI DUES

The Fujinkai dues are **\$10** a year. Please send your dues to the Church.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We gratefully acknowledge the generous donations from the following:

Memorial:

Estuko Nakatani/\$20 (in memory of Takeshi Kawawaki) Fred Tonai/\$20 (in memory of Mary Wakatani);

Membership (\$240): Lily Hitomi; Keiko Lucas

Ohigan: Hideko Tsuetaki/\$25; Takashi Mizuno/\$50; Lily Hitomi/\$20; Yurimi Sawamura/\$20; Liz Kono/\$100, Chiharu Yamada/\$20, Kazuyo Johnson/\$50; Arthur Sugiyama/\$20; Kanji Hitomi/\$30; Joe Hitomi/\$20; Toshiko Akiyama/\$15; Kathy Mine/\$20; Masanao Okamoto/\$20; Yukiko Hachiya/\$20; Susumu Fujiwara/\$50; John Hughes/\$100; Kinjiro Nakatogawa/\$100; Shizuko Carr/\$50; Kiyoko Kuwabara/\$100; Gail Tanaka/\$20; Hiroko Sugitani/\$30; Toyoko Nakatogawa/\$10; Keiko Lucas/\$50

Hanamatsuri: Susumu Fujiwara/\$20; Kanji Hitomi/\$20; Kiyoko Kuwabara/\$50; Keiko Lucas/\$30; Kathy Mine/\$10; Hideko Tsuetaki/\$30

Special Donations: Joe & Kanji Hitomi/fence repairs; Kanji Hitomi/\$500 (good health); Kanji Hitomi/new rice cooker-\$156.61; Betsi Ann Nagasawa/\$20/\$20; Fusako Okamoto/flowers for the altar each week

Roof Repair: Kanji Hitomi/\$1,000

Bazaar: Chicken sale/\$56; Takuwan sale/\$10



Putting Others Before Yourself

The view of Buddhism in the Nikkei community has gradually changed in the last several decades or so, sometimes even mirroring the views of the current generation in Japan. One main example includes how many associate Buddhism with solely memorial services and funerals. In essence, Buddhism has mainly become a necessity only for those who have passed away.

Many Buddhist traditions, including our own, have emphasized the importance of continuing to honor and remember the lives of those that have passed. Our founder, Nichiren Shonin, repeatedly claimed the importance of offering our prayers to the deceased. However, more important for him, was the use of prayer to benefit those currently living in this world of humanly desires, to ultimately create a peaceful society. His education would lead him to recognize the significance of the Lotus Sutra in accomplishing this goal.

Nichiren Shonin entered the monastery at age 12 and from ages 16 to 20, he studied Buddhism in Kamakura, the center of both Japanese politics and economics at the time. The knowledge he acquired there remained insufficient for him, and from ages 21 to 30, he educated himself further at Mount. Hiei. Among his new discoveries included both Tendai and Shingon esoteric Buddhism. He became convinced that he too should practice esoteric Buddhism to accomplish his goals of bringing peace to the world. Thus, both traditions created the base of Nichiren Shu esoteric Buddhism (currently recognized in the form of *kaji kito* (“ritual prayer”). It is important to note that Tendai and Shingon esoteric Buddhist practices differ from the current Nichiren Shu *kaji kito* practices in several ways. However, we see several aspects of Tendai and Shingon esoteric practices incorporated into the Nichiren Shu tradition that have evolved throughout the centuries since their initial incorporation.

About three years ago, I had an opportunity to visit Mount. Koya, the center of Shingon Buddhism, as well as Mount. Hiei to further delve into Nichiren Shonin’s emphasis of prayer and esoteric Buddhism. I remember that at Mount. Hiei I repeatedly saw the words “忘己利他” (*mou ko ri ta*) written all over the place, including banners and displays of children’s calligraphy. These words are those of Saicho, the founder of Tendai Buddhism, and the first person in Japan to accept the importance of the Lotus Sutra before Nichiren Shonin. Without knowing the meaning, one may incorrectly read this as “*mou korita*”, combining the last three characters as one word. Upon just hearing the term (and without seeing the characters) “*mou korita*”, many Japanese would incorrectly interpret this as a common Japanese expression, which literally translates to, “I have learned from my bad experience and I can’t take this anymore”. The correct reading of the characters leads to the correct translation, which is to put others before yourself in your attempts to provide them with happiness and benefits through your help. This remains above all, one of the core teachings in Buddhism and an important characteristic of Bodhisattvas, who return to the world of humanly desires to help others achieve a higher realm. It is not enough that you are happy—others must be happy as well.

Nichiren Shonin, the reincarnation of Jogyo Bodhisattva, propagated the Lotus Sutra despite the criticism he faced from both the public and Japanese government. His several visits to the government to promote the Lotus Sutra as well as his public denouncement of nonbelievers of the Lotus Sutra led him to face many persecutions and obstacles throughout his life. The government tried offering him a position as the head minister of a huge temple (considered a huge honor for a priest at the time) in exchange for his promise that he would stop his “public disturbance”. Yet, Nichiren Shonin refused all offers and remained adamant in his goal of helping others obtain happiness by preaching about the benefits acquired from Buddha’s teachings, more importantly, the Lotus Sutra.

This notion of putting others before oneself is something that we all admire and even see examples of in the news. However, more often than not, we also hear of the opposite situation as well. Two years ago, there were shipwrecks in both Korea and Italy around the same time. In both situations, the captain removed his captain uniform and abandoned both the crew and the ship to escape and save his own life. In Korea, 304 high school students died at sea. Unfortunately, it is unavoidable that in this age of *mappo*, there will be those who think only about themselves.

My hope is that during your Buddhist practice, you will recall the words “*mou ko ri ta*”. Nichiren Shonin tried to help others by offering the Lotus Sutra as a type of life saving rope that a person could hold onto from which the Buddha would pull them up from this world of *mappo*. So as believers of Nichiren Shu Buddhism, I want you to see the *odaimoku* also as a rope that you yourself could offer to others to save them from this world of humanly desires.

➡ Chicken Teriyaki Schedule ⬅

2015 Summer Bazaar
Saturday, June 13, 2015 AND Sunday, June 14, 2015

6:00am to noon

Gary Gotow
Joe Hitomi

8:00am to 1:00pm

Gene Chung
Al Chin
Herbert Chin
Susumu Fujiwara
Takeshi Nasu
Dave Tanaka
Brian Tsuda

9:00am to 2:00pm

John Hughes
Takeaki Igarashi
Mike Langton
Nob Tateishi

When those cooking the chicken are done with their shifts, please help in the kitchen. Thanks!



This schedule is for BOTH Saturday AND Sunday. All members, families and friends are asked to help both days of the Summer Bazaar. If you are unable to work at your scheduled time, please contact either Gary Gotow (392-4211) or Joe Hitomi (422-4344).



Saturday morning work crew - complete decorations - June 13, 2015 at 7:00am

Nob Tateishi Yozo Yamada



Raffle Ticket Table - June 13, 2015 AND June 14, 2015

Dag Nakatogawa Yozo Yamada



 **Kitchen Schedule** 

2015 Summer Bazaar
Saturday, June 13, 2015 AND Sunday, June 14, 2015

1:00am to morning

Reverend Igarashi
Mrs. Igarashi
Meriko Murata
Fusako Okamoto
Toshiko Yamada

2:00am to 7:00am

Kiyomi Ikemoto
Janet Kyotani
Keiko Lucas
Kevin Lucas

4:00am to 9:00am

Yoshie Fujiwara
Ruby Gotow
Yukiko Hachiya
Keri Hayakawa
Kanji Hitomi
Yoshiko Hitomi
Kiyoko Kuwabara

Kathy Mine
Gail Tanaka

9:00am to 2:00pm

Ann Akiyama
Nancy Akiyama
Susan Akiyama-Tamai
Mary Hughes

9:00am to 2:00pm continued

Meriko Murata
Candace Saxton
Nobu Yura

1:00pm to 5:00pm

Yukiko Hachiya
Jane Hitomi
Kanji Hitomi
Lily Hitomi
Merry Hitomi
Yoshiko Hitomi

9:00am to closing

Kiyoko Kuwabara
Kathy Mine
Toyoko Nakatogawa
Rhonda Nasu

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Kitchen Helpers: June 10, 11, and 12, 2015 (Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday)
Kanji Hitomi and Yozo Yamada

Craft Booth: Fujinkai, Elizabeth Nettle, Shizuko Carr and Kazuyo Johnson

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This schedule is for Saturday AND Sunday. All members, families and friends are asked to help. Please call to confirm that you are able to work your scheduled time, please call Fusako Okamoto at 421-1956.