

# NICHIREN NEWS

November, 2016

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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November, 2016

6	---	no service
13	---	no service
20	11:30am	Matsubagayatsu & Kaji Kito
20	noon	Church meeting
27	---	no service

December, 2016

4	---	no service
11	---	no service
17	7:00am	Mochi Tsuki
18	11:30am	Bodhi Day & Kaji Kito
18	noon	Church meeting
25		End of year clean up
31	11:00pm	End of year service (Joya)

January, 2017

1	12:00am	New Year service (Shinnen)
29	noon	New Year Party

## CHURCH MEMBERSHIP DUES

Please use the enclosed envelope to send in your Church membership dues. The dues are still only **\$240** per year.

## FUJINKAI MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership dues for the Fujinkai are **\$10** per year. Please send your dues to the Church.

## FALL FOOD BAZAAR

Thanks to all members, family & friends who helped to make the Fall Food Bazaar a great success.

## CHURCH MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

SEPTEMBER 25, 2016

- ▶ Discussed the Fall Food Bazaar preparations.
- ▶ John Hughes will get an estimate to paint the eaves.

## CHURCH MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

OCTOBER 16, 2016

- ▶ Discussed the December mochi-tsuki. Noted that the prices will remain the same and the pick up time will end earlier (1:00pm) as agreed at an earlier meeting. We will begin at 7:00am (earlier than previous years)
- ▶ John Hughes noted that due to the new tax id number, all church bank accounts will have new account numbers.
- ▶ The Church New Year Party will be on January 29, 2017.

## MOCHI TSUKI

The annual mochi tsuki will take place on **Saturday, December 17, 2016**. The cost is still **\$5.00** per pound for regular mochi & kasane; **\$6.00** per pound for an-mochi. Pick up is between 11:00am and 1:00pm. To purchase mochi, please either mail in the mochi sale form, order with a credit card through the church website: [www.sacramentonichirechurch.org](http://www.sacramentonichirechurch.org) or call the Church by **December 5, 2016**. *All church members & friends are asked to help beginning at 7:00am on December 17, 2016*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We gratefully acknowledge the generous donations from the following:

**Ohigan:** Lily Hitomi/\$20; Joe Hitomi/\$20; Kathy Mine/\$20; Yurimi Sawamura/\$20; Arthur Sugiyama/\$20; Gail & Dave Tanaka/\$20; Brian Tsuda/\$20; Chiharu Yamada/\$20; Dag Nakatogawa/\$25; Kanji Hitomi/\$30; Fusako Okamoto/\$30; Hiroko Sugitani/\$30; Hideko Tsuetaki/\$30;

## Acknowledgement continued

Susumu Fujiwara/\$40; Keri Hayakawa/\$40; Kiyoko Kuwabara/\$50; Keiko Lucas/\$50; Takashi Mizuno/\$50, Liz Nettle/\$50; Kazuyo Johnson/\$100; Thomas Murray/\$100; John Hughes/\$150

**Eitaikyo:** Dag Nakatogawa/\$100 (for Toyoko Nakatogawa)

**Memorial:** Gary Gotow/\$200 & \$200 (in memory of Katsuye Gotow/49th day & Kaoru Gotow/7<sup>th</sup> year); Liz Kono/\$100 (in memory of Alfred Kato); Dag Nakatogawa/\$100 (Toyoko Nakatogawa/49<sup>th</sup> day); James Chew/\$20, Jim Fujii/\$50, Dorothy Fong/\$10, & Brian Kanegawa/\$50 (in memory of Toyoko Nakatogawa); John Tsuchiyama/\$100 (in memory of Katsuko Tsuchiyama)

**Bazaar:** Chicago Nichiren Temple/\$500; Sacramento Fujinkai/\$500; Takashi Mizuno/\$50

**Special Donation:** Fudeko Bibbins/\$500; John Hughes, Joe Hitomi & Reverend Igarashi repaired & painted the chicken shed; John Hughes/paint for the chicken shed; Peter Kato/\$30; Fusako Okamoto/flowers for the Temple; David Osuga/\$25

2017

## MEMORIAL SERVICES

1 <sup>st</sup> year	2016
3 <sup>rd</sup> year	2015
7 <sup>th</sup> year	2011
13 <sup>th</sup> year	2005
17 <sup>th</sup> year	2001
23 <sup>rd</sup> year	1995
27 <sup>th</sup> year	1991
33 <sup>rd</sup> year	1985
37 <sup>th</sup> year	1981
43 <sup>rd</sup> year	1975
50 <sup>th</sup> year	1968

## Focusing on *Rissho Anshin* Before *Rissho Ankoku*

Kenjo Igarashi

Deng Xiaoping (1904-1997), a former leader of China known for introducing economic reforms and opening the country to foreign investment, famously said, “Let some people get rich first.” While Deng’s policies led to China’s rapid economic growth, some suggest that his ideas increased the gap between the rich and poor. This contrasts with the egalitarianism so prominent during the rule of his predecessor, Mao Zedong (1893-1976). Deng seems to suggest that China’s economic growth needs to start from economic success of the individual, which would in turn help the society, and ultimately the country. I would like to use Deng’s idea as an analogy to introduce “*rissho anshin*” (立正安心), a new term that I have coined.

Throughout my years as a minister, I have seen and met many people who visit a Buddhist temple for the first time. Many of them want to explore their interests in Buddhism, yet there are those that have a problem in their life that they believe Buddhism could help them resolve. For the majority of these people, they are merely curious to “test out” Buddhism as a remedy for their problems. They are not as interested in the spiritual aspect of religion, but only see it from a philosophical perspective. However, the major difference between philosophy and religion is that the latter incorporates prayer.

Nichiren Shonin is known for his various forms of prayer for differing purposes, ranging from those specific for a lay follower to prayers he hoped would help save Japan from the destructive effects of “*mappo*” (末法) or “the period of degeneration of Buddhist teachings”. His *Rissho Ankoku Ron* (立正安国論), which literally translates to “establishing the right teaching for peace of the land”, addresses his concerns with the countless forms of suffering he saw in Japan. He believed that this could be fixed if more people followed the teachings of the *Lotus Sutra*. Nichiren Shonin prayed not only for a single person, but the whole country of Japan.

We may aspire to be like him and pray for something grand like world peace or the end of all suffering. However, I personally think that we must first attempt to practice what I like to call “*rissho anshin*” or “establishing one’s peace of mind”, before embarking on a path to help others. We cannot expect someone who is suffering or unhappy with his or her life to have the capacity to pray for world peace. However, we can use the teachings of the *Lotus Sutra*, or the “right teaching” as Nichiren Shonin called it, to work towards attaining happiness, after which we can pray for peace within one’s family, the country, and then the world. Thus, we can take small steps that would allow us to ultimately practice what Nichiren Shonin stated in his *Rissho Ankoku Ron*.

In referring back to Deng’s quote, we see that while not everyone can become wealthy simultaneously, it is possible for those that “get rich first” to help others using their newly acquired wealth. This leads to what can be seen as a domino effect, thus increasing the number of affluent people, and subsequently, economic growth of the country as a whole. In the same way, we see that not everyone can be at peace with himself or herself. However, it is possible for those that have already attained happiness to pray for suffering individuals, which would hopefully decrease suffering and ultimately lead to world peace.

I am hoping that you will, if not so already, become at peace with yourself, and reach a point where you will be encouraged to extend your happiness to others through prayer.

# ❖ Mochi Sale ❖

Saturday, December 17, 2016  
11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

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

Keep this top portion for your records.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Price X</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	=	<u>Total Cost</u>
Mochi (1 pound)	\$ 5.00	_____		_____
An Mochi (1 pound)	\$ 6.00	_____		_____
Kasane	\$ 5.00	_____		_____
TOTAL				_____



To place an order, EITHER complete the section below & mail it along with your check made payable to "Sacramento Nichiren Buddhist Church" to the church by Monday, December 5, 2016, OR visit our website at [www.sacramentonichirenchurch.org](http://www.sacramentonichirenchurch.org) to order & pay online.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Item</u>	<u>Price X</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	=	<u>Total Cost</u>
Mochi (1 pound)	\$ 5.00	_____		_____
An Mochi (1 pound)	\$ 6.00	_____		_____
Kasane	\$ 5.00	_____		_____
TOTAL				_____