

NICHIREN NEWS

MAY, 2017

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May, 2017

| | | |
|----|---------|-------------------------|
| 7 | — | no service |
| 14 | 11:30am | Izu persecution service |
| 14 | noon | Bazaar mtg |
| 21 | — | no service |
| 28 | 11:30am | Eitaikyo service |
| 28 | noon | Bazaar meeting |

June, 2017

| | | |
|----|-------------------|--|
| 4 | — | no service |
| 5 | 8:00am | set up canopy |
| 7 | 8:00am | Bazaar cooking (Wednesday); clean chicken shed |
| 8 | 8:00am | Bazaar cooking (Thursday); set up counter |
| 9 | 8:00am | Bazaar cooking (Friday) |
| 9 | 11:00am | Clean chicken |
| 10 | 7:00am | Decorating |
| 10 | 11:00am 5:00pm | Bazaar (Saturday) |
| 11 | 11:00am 5:00pm | Bazaar (Sunday) |
| 11 | 5:00pm | take down canopy |
| 18 | — | no service |
| 25 | — | no service |

EITAIKYO

The Eitaikyo service will be held on **Sunday, May 28, 2017 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 10 & 11, 2017

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 3/26/17

- ▶ Due to the Hitomi family's Fujinkai donation, the Fujinkai will increase the amount being contributed to the roof repair (up to \$10,000 as needed).
- ▶ Agreed to add John Hughes to the general fund account (replacing Kanji Hitomi).

CHURCH MEETING HIGHLIGHTS 4/24/16

- ▶ Discussed roof repairs.
- ▶ Discussed termite issues and some damage due to the classroom building settling.

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: Kanji & Yoshiko Hitomi/\$10,000 (in memory of Kanji Hitomi); John & Mary Hughes/\$340 (in memory of Michiko Wada); Sam Ito/\$20 (in memory of Janet Nagasawa); Akito Masaki/\$20 (in memory of Kanji Hitomi)

Eitaikyo: Yoshiko Hitomi/\$1,000 (for Kanji Hitomi)

Fujinkai: Kanji & Yoshiko Hitomi/\$2,000 (in memory of Kanji Hitomi)

Membership (\$240): Renee Dennis/\$20; BetsiAnn Nagasawa/\$40; Yurimi Sawamura/\$240

Ohigan: Shizuko Carr/\$20; Susumu Fujiwara/\$40; Joe Hitomi/\$20; Kanji & Yoshiko Hitomi/\$50; Lily Hitomi/\$30; John Hughes/\$175; Kazuyo Johnson/\$150; Liz Kono/\$100; Kiyoko Kuwabara/\$40; Takami Lau/\$20; Keiko & Kevin Lucas/\$50; Kathy Mine/\$20; Takashi Mizuno/\$50; Thomas Murray/\$100; Dag Nakatogawa/\$100; Masanao Okamoto/\$30; Don Palmieri/\$30; Yurimi Sawamura/\$25; Arthur Sugiyama/\$25; Gail & Dave Tanaka/\$30; Brian Tsuda/\$20; Hideko Tsuetaki/\$30; Chiharu Yamada/\$20

Bazaar Fund: Kanji Hitomi/\$2,500 (plant sale); John Hughes/\$130

Special Donations: Fusako Okamoto/flowers for the altar each week

Roof Repair: Peter Kato & Liz Kono/\$200; Kinjiro Nakatogawa/\$1,000; Thomas Murray/\$500
Masanao Okamoto/\$2,000



Remembering Mr. Kanji Hitomi

Kenjo Igarashi

For this newsletter, I am including my sermon from the memorial service held on March 25, 2017 for Mr. Kanji Hitomi, who suddenly passed away on March 6, 2017. Mr. Hitomi cared for the temple, as evidenced by his many efforts and contributions, which I reflect on in this article.

Since Mr. Kanji Hitomi's retirement 23 years ago, he has spent the majority of his time, helping the temple in countless ways. He helped with temple maintenance through his skills in carpentry, plumbing, and painting, among others. He also prepared for the annual bazaar throughout the year, including growing plants and making dustpans to sell at the bazaar. Some of you may not know that he also built the hexagonal reverse tapered stand for the lanterns in front of the altar in the temple. Those of you who have had the opportunity to see it up close can probably tell from the intricate details of the stand that it is very difficult to make. I was, as probably many of you, always amazed by the quality of his work. Everyday when I pray in front of the altar, I always see this stand and am reminded of Mr. Hitomi.

I also remember how Mr. Hitomi would stop by the temple whenever it was time to prune the matsu, or Japanese pine trees, around the temple. He would tell me that he was not afraid of heights and would swiftly climb up approximately 15 feet on the ladder to start the task. Nevertheless, I was always concerned for his safety and remember nervously holding the ladder while he started cutting the tree branches. Throughout the years, I have learned how to cut the branches of the matsu from Mr. Hitomi and have since taken the task upon myself. However, whenever I prune the trees, I feel as if they are asking me to be gentler with the task, like Mr. Hitomi. In fact, I was in the middle of pruning the matsu when I learned of his passing.

Whenever I think about how much Mr. Hitomi cared about the temple, I am reminded of another individual. This person is in fact, Uemura Naomi, a famous Japanese adventurer. When I was still living in Japan, I had heard from many people that he lived near the Ikebukuro district in Tokyo, which is where I grew up. He was a frequent customer of a small eatery known in the area for their yakitori, or Japanese skewers. I myself went there sometimes with my friend and saw him during one of our visits. He was known for his many achievements, including being the first person to climb Alaska's Mt. McKinley (now known as Mt. Denali) during wintertime, solo. Unfortunately, he never returned after his second trip to Mt. Denali. I have heard that adventurers feel the need to outcompete other explorers and those that have preceded them. Therefore, they take on dangerous tasks, leading them to face various life or death experiences. By refusing to attempt such risky journeys, they lose the opportunity to gain sponsorship for subsequent explorations. After hearing about his disappearance on the news, I, for some reason, appeared one night in my dream. I remember being so stunned, saying to him, "Everyone is worried about you. Please come back and put everyone's mind at ease." To my surprise, he told me, "I have become the mountain so I cannot return." After this, I quickly woke up from the dream. I think Uemura Naomi treasured the mountains, so much so that he wanted to become one with them.

In the same way, Mr. Hitomi never ceased to talk about the temple and ways to help preserve it for future generations. I would like to think that he has become a guardian of the temple, who will continue to look over it for generations to come.



Kitchen Schedule



2017 Summer Bazaar
Saturday, June 11, 2017 AND Sunday, June 12, 2017

1:00am to morning

Reverend Igarashi
Mrs. Igarashi
Kyomi Igarashi
Takeaki Igarashi
Meriko Murata
Fusako Okamoto
Toshiko Yamada

4:00am to 10:00am

Ruby Gotow
Yukiko Hachiya
Jane Hitomi
Lily Hitomi
Merry Hitomi
Yoshiko Hitomi
Kiyoko Kuwabara
Kathy Mine
Gail Tanaka

8:00am to 2:00pm continued

Mary Hughes
Meriko Murata
Candace Saxton
Nobu Yura

2:00am to 7:00am

Janet Kyotani
Keiko Lucas
Kevin Lucas

8:00am to 2:00pm

Ann Akiyama
Laurie Akiyama
Nancy Akiyama
Susan Akiyama-Tamai

1:00pm to 5:00pm

Yukiko Hachiya
Jane Hitomi
Lily Hitomi
Merry Hitomi
Yoshiko Hitomi

9:00am to closing

Kiyoko Kuwabara
Kathy Mine
Rhonda Nasu

* * * * *

Kitchen Helpers: June 7, 8, and 9, 2017 (Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday)

Teriyaki Sauce: June 9, 2017

Dag Nakatogawa, Dave Tanaka, Brian Tsuda, Yozo Yamada

Craft Booth: Fujinkai, Elizabeth Nettle, Shizuko Carr, Kazuyo Johnson & Mary Hughes

* * * * *

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.

➡ **Chicken Teriyaki Schedule** ⬅

2017 Summer Bazaar
Saturday, June 10, 2017 AND Sunday, June 11, 2017

6:00am to noon

Gary Gotow
Joe Hitomi
John Hughes

7:00am to 1:00pm

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

9:00am to 2:00pm

John Hughes
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 10, 2017 at 7:00am

Nob Tateishi Yozo Yamada



Raffle Ticket Table - June 10, 2017 AND June 11, 2017

Dag Nakatogawa Yozo Yamada

