

# NICHIREN NEWS

July, 2017

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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### July, 2017

2	---	no service
9	---	no service
16	---	no service
23	11:30am	Obon service
23	noon	church meeting
31	---	no service

### August, 2017

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

## OBON SERVICE

Obon services will be held on **Sunday, July 23, 2017 at 11:30am**. The purpose of this service is to pray for the souls of our ancestors.

Please write the names of your deceased family members on the enclosed form, and return the completed form to the Church before the 11:30am service.

## SUMMER BAZAAR

**THANK YOU** to all Church members, friends & family who worked so hard preparing for the Summer bazaar. The bazaar was a success selling out on almost everything on both days.

## FALL FOOD BAZAAR

### OCTOBER 14, 2017

The annual Fall Food Bazaar will once again be a pre-sale event. As soon as the pre-sale forms are available, we ask that you distribute the forms and encourage your friends, family, co-workers & neighbors to place orders for food. We also plan to make extra food to sell at the event.

## CHURCH MEETING

### HIGHLIGHTS - 5/28/17

- ◆ Discussed summer bazaar preparations.
- ◆ Discussed roof repair which should happen at the end of June.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We gratefully acknowledge the generous donations from those listed below:

### Eitaikyo Service on 5/28/17:

Susumu Fujiwara/\$40; Joe Hitomi/\$20; Brian Tsuda/\$10

**Eitaikyo:** Kazuyo Johnson/\$100 for Carl Johnson; Thomas Murray/\$200 for William Murray, Sr. and Vanessa Murray

**Fujinkai:** Sandra Sugiyama/\$10 (Fujinkai membership);

**Hanamatsuri:** Susumu Fujiwara/\$20; Ruby Gotow/\$30; Lily Hitomi/\$20, Kazuyo Johnson/\$50; Kiyoko Kuwabara/\$40; Keiko Lucas/\$50; Kathy Mine/\$20; Thomas Murray/\$150; Dag Nakatogawa/\$25; Liz Nettle/\$30; Brian Tsuda/\$30

## Acknowledgment continued

**Bazaar:** Mervin Tamai/\$200; Thomas Murray/\$125

**Special donations:** Fusako Okamoto/flowers for the temple

**Memorial:** Gary Gotow/\$100 in memory of Katsue Gotow

**Fence Painting:** John Hughes (all materials); Takeaki Igarashi, Dave Tanaka

**Chicken Shed Repair:** John Hughes (all materials); Joe Hitomi

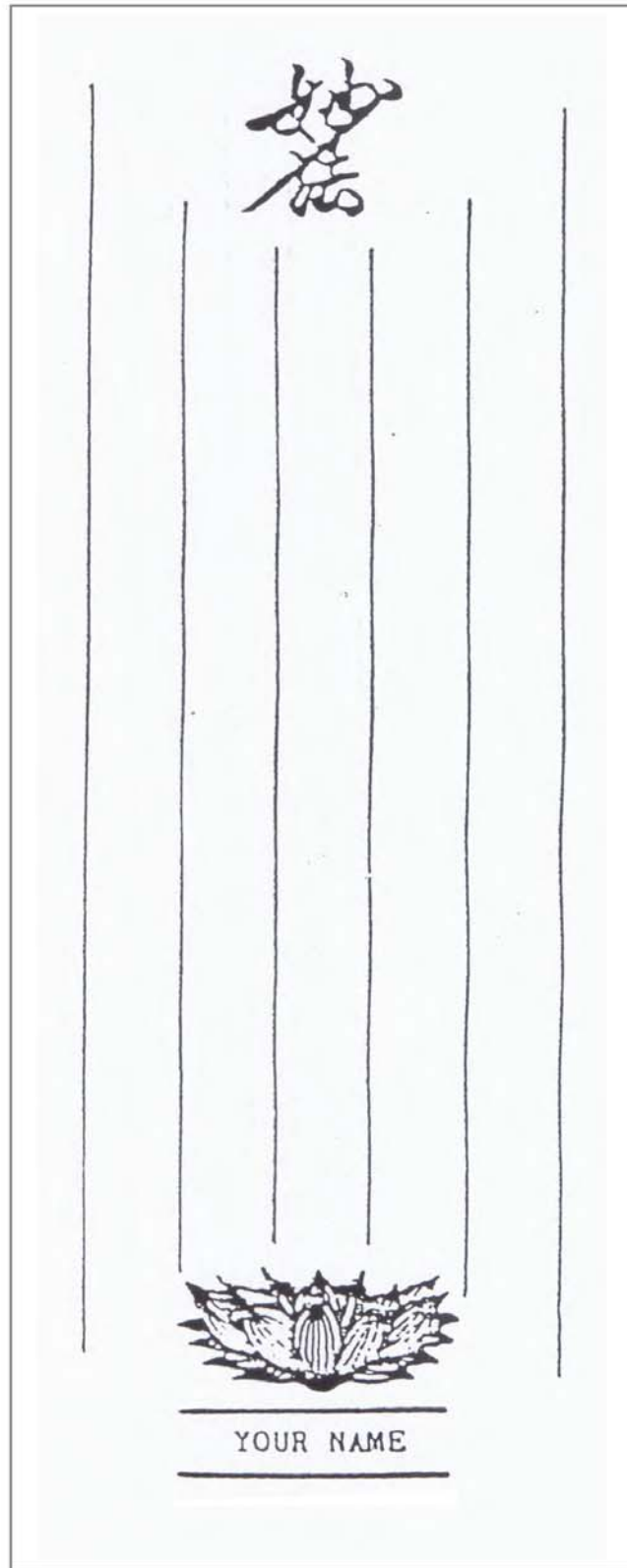
**Membership (\$240):** Renee Dennis/\$20; Joe Hitomi/\$240; Lily Hitomi/\$240; Betsi Anne Nagasawa/\$20 & \$20; Arthur Sugiyama/\$240

**Roof Repair:** Chicago Nichiren Buddhist Temple/\$10,000

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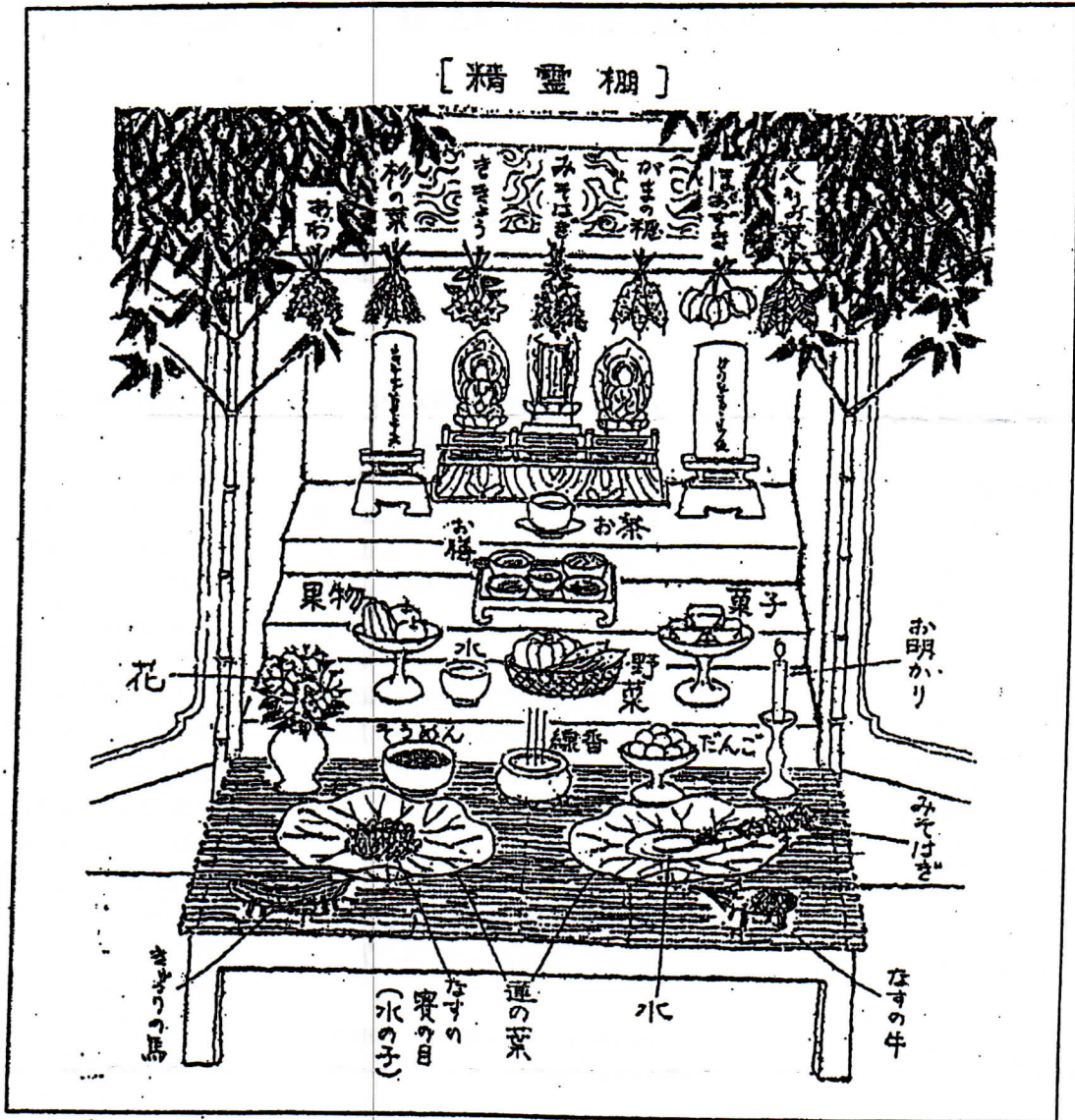
Write the names of your deceased family members on the form below, cut out the form and return it to the Church before the service.



At the top center of the form is a calligraphic symbol, possibly representing a character or a specific religious icon. Below this symbol are two vertical lines that form a narrow column, intended for writing the names of deceased family members. At the bottom center of the form is a decorative floral emblem. Below the emblem is a horizontal line with the text "YOUR NAME" centered between two more horizontal lines, indicating where to write the name of the person submitting the form.



## Meaning of Urabon Shouryoudana



Welcoming our ancestors through celebrating Urabon-e is a very important event that must be continued. During the three days of Obon, lasting from July 13<sup>th</sup> to the 16<sup>th</sup>, an altar other than the family altar is made out of small tables and called a "shouryoudana." This shouryoudana is used for calling the ancestors spirits and offering them food and certain delicacies. Bamboo is placed on each of the four corners of the shouryoudan with a rope made from wild rice straw, tied to each piece of the bamboo. On that rope, as seen in the pictures, we tie certain plants with specific meanings and let them drape down. On top of the table, a mat made from the wild rice straws is spread out and food such as fruits, cookies, and vegetables are placed. A lotus leaf is placed on both sides of the table, the one on the left containing diced eggplants and the one on the right filled with water. The eggplants on the left are meant to represent our 108 worldly passions, and the water on the right is meant to purify those worldly passions. A horse is also made out of a cucumber, and a cow out an eggplant. The horse represents our hopes of the ancestors to come quickly, riding the horse, and the cow represents our hopes for them to return to the spiritual world slowly, riding the cow, expressing our hopes to spend more time with our ancestors. It is important to welcome and treat our ancestors the same way as treating a guest from a distant location. The Obon in Tokyo and Yokohama is from July 13<sup>th</sup> to July 16<sup>th</sup>, however in the countryside, Obon is from August 13<sup>th</sup> to August 16<sup>th</sup>. Many people from the cities return to their hometowns, making Tokyo appear to be very empty during that time and shops left no other option but to close down for the time period. Like this, there are many people in Japan who care for their ancestors, so I would like you all, even if you don't make a shouryoudana, to care for your ancestors and continue to pray for them.