

NICHIREN NEWS

MARCH, 2019

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 2019

3	---	no service
10	11:30am	Sunday service
17	---	no service
24	11:30am	Ohigan service
31	11:30am	Kaji Kito
31	noon	Church meeting

April, 2019

7	---	no service
14	11:30am	Hanamatsuri
21	---	no service
28	11:30am	Kaishu-e Kaji Kito
28	noon	Church meeting

OHIGAN

Ohigan services are held twice a year (during the Spring and Fall Equinox) and are memorial services for our ancestors. The Spring service will be held on **Sunday, March 24, 2019 at 11:30am**. Please write the names of your ancestors and your name on the enclosed form; return the completed form to the Church before the 11:30am service.

HANAMATSURI

Sakyamuni Buddha was born on April 8. Hanamatsuri is the celebration of his birth. The Hanamatsuri service will be held on **Sunday, April 14, 2019 at 11:30am**.

NEW YEAR PARTY

The Church New Year Party was held at the Church on Sunday, January 27, 2019. Many thanks to the Fujinkai, Church members & friends who prepared the delicious luncheon. Thanks also to all who donated raffle prizes.

CHURCH MEETING

HIGHLIGHTS - 1/6/19

Discussed upcoming New Year Party.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We gratefully acknowledge the generous donations from the following:

Fujinkai: Keiko Lucas/\$10 membership & \$10 donation

Eitaikyo: Fusako Okamoto/\$300 (for Masanao Okamoto)

Memorial: In memory of Nate Saxton--Steven Saxton/\$60; In memory of Aki Shimada--Ruby Gotow/\$30, Ralph Nishimi/\$50, Gail & Dave Tanaka/\$50; In memory of Noboru Tateishi--Paul Tateishi/\$25, Rodney Tateishi/\$250; In memory of Tom Koizumi--Ed Koizumi/\$500

New Year Party:

Toshiko Akiyama/\$60; Albert Chin/\$250; Rene Dennis/\$20; Susumu Fujiwara/\$40; Ruby Gotow/\$30; Jane Hitomi/\$50; Joe Hitomi/\$20; Lily Hitomi/\$50; Merry Hitomi/\$50; Yoshiko Hitomi/\$50; Reverend Igarashi/\$100; Cindy Kadokawa/\$20;

ACKNOWLEDGMENT (continued):

New Year Party:

Toshiye Kawamura/\$100; Kinjiro Nakatogawa/\$25; Fusako Okamoto/\$37; Steve Saxton/\$20; Hiroko Sugitani/\$20; Barbara Tanaka/\$30; Shige Tanaka/\$25; Gail & Dave Tanaka/\$20; Brian Tsuda/\$30; Yozo Yamada/\$50

Setsubun (raffle prizes):

Yoshiko Hitomi; Lily Hitomi; Reverend Igarashi, Kiyoko Kuwabara; Keiko & Kevin Lucas; Kathy Mine; Fusako Okamoto; Gail Tanaka

Special Donation:

Yoshiko Hitomi/soy beans for Setsubun service; Keiko Lucas/paper towels; Fusako Okamoto/flowers for Sunday services & candy for Setsubun service;

Membership - \$240:

Laurie Akiyama; Toshiko Akiyama; Renee Dennis/\$20; Gary Gotow; John Hughes; Kyomi Igarashi; Keiko Lucas; Thomas Murray; Betsi Ann Nagasawa/\$20 & \$20; Steven Saxton; Arthur Sugiyama; Dave & Gail Tanaka; Brian Tsuda; Yozo Yamada



The Circulation of Karmic Benefits (Part 2)

Kenjo Igarashi

Before continuing my story, I must first introduce Mr. Yoshiaki Nunome, without whom I probably would not have been able to continue my occupation as an overseas minister in the United States for all these years. Mr. Nunome had arrived in Los Angeles (L.A.) from Japan, only a year prior to me, to start a restaurant business in Little Tokyo. I first met him after a member of the L.A. Nichiren Buddhist Church invited me to eat dinner at his restaurant. I would subsequently dine at his restaurant on a few more occasions and had opportunities to talk with Mr. Nunome. I would learn that his father and brother were Nichiren Shu ministers. We even discussed how I had attended Minobusan University, only to realize that his brother had actually been one of my classmates there. After some time, I was informed that he was moving to San Francisco (S.F.) to open a new restaurant in Japantown. I was still living in L.A. at the time and thinking that I would never see him again, I bid him what I thought would be farewell. Soon after, I was surprised to be assigned the position of the head minister of the S.F. Church and would reunite with him several months later in Japantown. When I first moved to S.F., the S.F. church/apartment I stayed at was somewhat far from Japantown. Despite this, he would take the time to cook and bring me food a few times a month. I was saved on many occasions by his acts of kindness. Once the S.F. Church moved to the new apartment, I was living much closer to Japantown. Mr. Nunome was kind enough to tell me that if I was ever out of food or wanted to dine at his restaurant, I was always welcome to stop by.

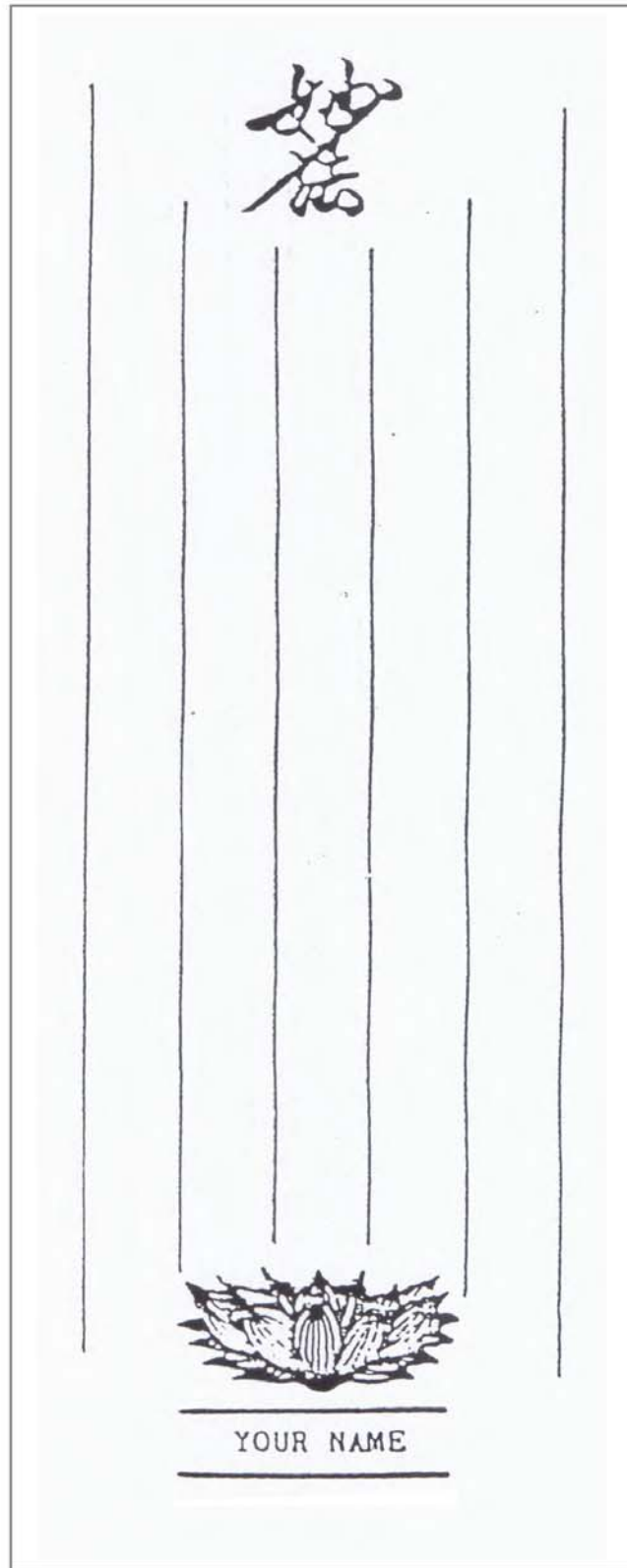
It was also around this time when what remains in my memory as the "infamous November S.F. Church meeting" occurred. Being informed that the S.F. Church was to be shut down in a month left not only myself, but also the elderly members, who were also hearing this news for the first time, in a state of absolute shock. Many thoughts started running through my head as I tried to process the fact that in that very moment, I had lost both my job and my home. To make matters worse, this was happening in a foreign country and an environment (language, people, etc.) that I was still in the process of adjusting to. It was also very clear that the Nichiren Shu Headquarters and the Nichiren Order of North America (NONA) had no intention of helping me get through this situation. No one was going to advise me on what I should do. I ultimately came to the conclusion that I realistically had two options: (1) return to Japan or (2) stay in S.F. and essentially become homeless. Returning to Japan would be the easy way out, though it would also mean that I would be abandoning the Shintokai members and also the remaining members of the S.F. Church. However, I knew that it would be impossible for me to find an apartment in S.F. given the little money I had at the time. In other words, this meant that I would most definitely end up having to live on the streets.

Days and weeks passed as I continued to think of more options. Next thing I knew, it was already well into December and I only had a few weeks left to make a decision. It was during that time that I received a phone call from Mr. Nunome. He had become concerned that I had not visited his restaurant recently and suggested that I stop by some time soon. Given my circumstance, I had not had the chance to visit Mr. Nunome since the November S.F. Church meeting. I also knew that December was a very busy time for his restaurant, and I had avoided visiting him so as not to bother him. I stopped by his restaurant a few days after his phone call and he cooked a full meal for me, as always. During our conversation, I ended up casually mentioning my situation to him, including how I had to leave my current apartment at the end of the month. Without any hesitation, he immediately said, "You can come live with me." He explained that he was living by himself in a two-bedroom apartment, but had been using only one of the rooms. He told me that I was welcome to use the other room if I wanted. I did not expect that a visit to Mr. Nunome's restaurant would lead me to a solution that would allow me to stay in S.F. and not become homeless. To this day, I am forever grateful for his many acts of kindness.

In the remaining days until December 31st, I cleaned the apartment to prepare for my move. I realized that aside from all the religious items, I had to give away or dispose of many large items (tables, etc.) that I could not take with me. Upon informing multiple S.F. Church members about this, many members that never attended the Church services showed up. It was clear that they had their eye on certain items, which they ultimately took with them. After several phone calls, I was able to give away any remaining items, including a couch, bed, and desk. Then on December 31st, I left the apartment, carrying all the religious items/objects and my few belongings. Starting January 1st, Mr. Nunome's apartment address would be registered with the Nichiren Shu Headquarters as the new address for the S.F. Church. As a result of Mr. Nunome's kindness and generosity, the S.F. Church was not going to be shut down any time soon.

(To be continued...)

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.



Calligraphic symbol

YOUR NAME