

NICHIREN NEWS

July, 2019

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July, 2019

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

August, 2019

4	---	no service
11	11:30am	Matsubagayatsu Persecution service
18	---	no service
25	11:30am	Kaji Kito
25	noon	Church meeting

OBON SERVICE

Obon services will be held on **Sunday, July 28, 2019 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 winners of the top three raffle prizes are: July Bownlee/\$1,000, Deanna Otero/\$250 and Sonya Noda/\$100.

TERIYAKI CHICKEN SALE

We have extra delicious teriyaki chicken from the summer bazaar available for sale. The frozen cooked chicken is available for only \$4.00 a box. Please contact the Church if you would like to buy the chicken.

FALL FOOD BAZAAR OCTOBER 12, 2019

The annual Fall Food Bazaar will once again be a pre-sale event. Pre-sale forms will be available shortly; 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 - 4/18/19

- ◆ Discussed repair of the chicken shed.
- ◆ Discussed summer bazaar preparations. Noted that Brian set up entertainment; music for Saturday/dancing for Sunday. Hawaiian group requested 2 spaces for selling items. Will purchase chicken through Calvada (agreed to 1,000). Will contact helpers to double check that they will be available to help at the bazaar.

CHURCH MEETING HIGHLIGHTS - 5/12/19

- ◆ Discussed summer bazaar preparations. Noted that the price of the dumpster increased.
- ◆ Reverend Igarashi & John Hughes did additional repairs to the chicken shed.

CHURCH MEETING HIGHLIGHTS - 5/26/19

- ◆ Discussed summer bazaar and preparations. Confirmed manju making schedule, cleaning the back parking lot, and lunches for the pre-bazaar helpers.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We gratefully acknowledge the generous donations from those listed below:

Eitaikyo Service: Susumu Fujiwara/\$40; Joe Hitomi/\$20; Kiyoko Kuwabara/\$40; Thomas Murray/\$200; Brian Tsuda/\$40

Eitaikyo: Mary Hughes/\$100 (Toshimatsu Wada)

Fujinkai membership: Lily Hitomi/\$10; Fusako Okamoto/\$10
Bazaar: Susumu Fujiwara, Lily Hitomi/\$85.57, Peter Kato, Mike Tamai

Special donations: Fusako Okamoto/flowers for the temple; Amber Webb/\$30; Randy Lee/\$80
Memorial: Shari Stevens/\$30 (in memory of Micki Stevens)

Membership (\$240): Betsi Anne Nagasawa/\$20/\$20/\$20; Kinjiro Nakatogawa/\$240; Liz Nettle/\$240; Chiharu Yamada/\$240



Nichiren Shu Today

Recently many religious communities have been frequently using the term “interface” to describe the notion and possibilities of merging doctrines and teachings of different religions. Is the frequent use of this term suggesting to us that maybe many religions need to somehow change in order to better adapt to the rapidly changing and advancing world? Does this mean that many religions need to find a way to unify? With this, we must consider the purpose of religion and its importance in our daily lives.

Often through the news, we see instances of people forcing their own ideas upon others. Examples can be seen in politics in the form of capitalism and communism as well as in economics where different companies try to expand their business and fight over global power. In all instances, especially in the case of politics, we see that this can become a form of oppression. In such cases, people try to find a way out and understand what ultimately makes them happy. This is the same with religion. In the case of Buddhism, we are taught that all individuals are born into this suffering world; however, we are all trying to find some sort of happiness. However, how can people find happiness, while accepting the inevitable suffering (along with the Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path) in this world?

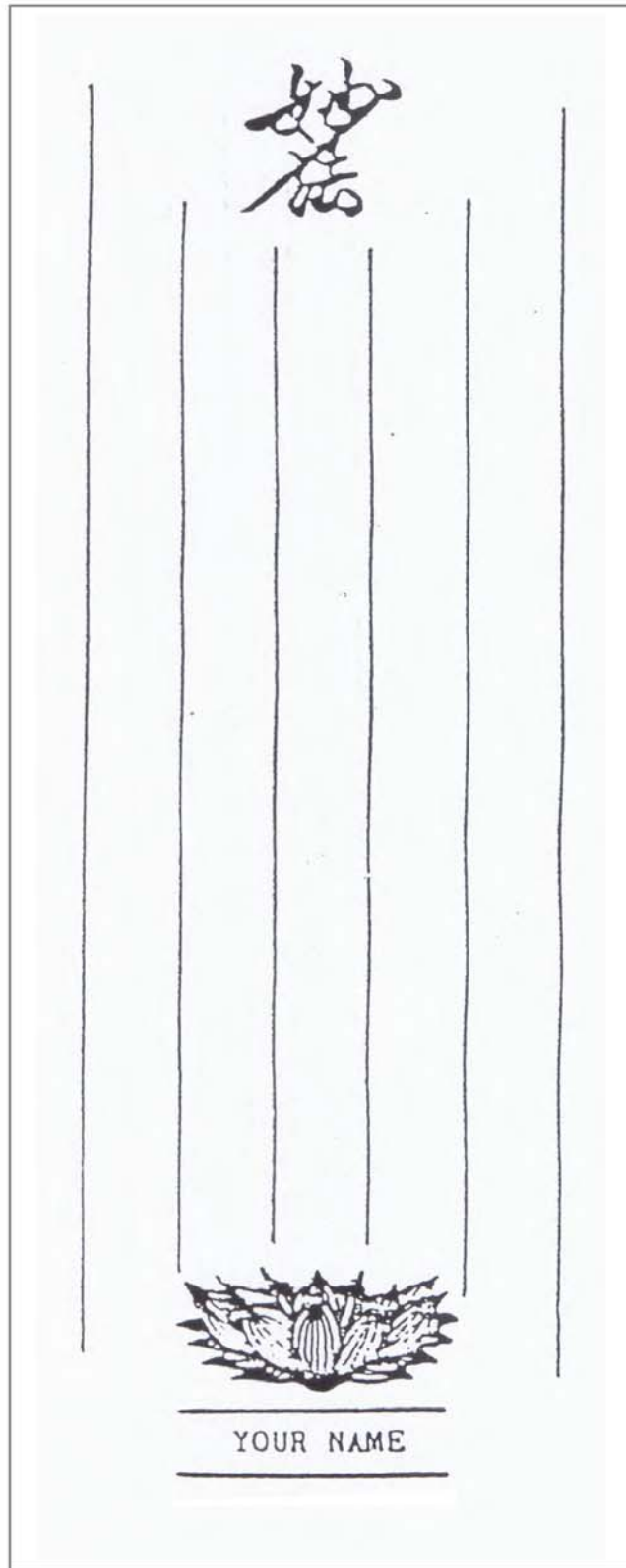
People cannot live life without concerns or problems. They want to live a healthy life, they need some money to survive, and they also want their family to live a life filled with happiness and joy. In such situations, they often rely on religion in the hopes of it helping them fulfill their wishes. Yet, it is also true that religious leaders of some established religions that have existed for several centuries or even thousands of years, believe that using religion for the sole purpose of attaining certain benefits is indecent. They believe it takes away from the fact that there is more to religion than just attaining benefits.

When I first came to the United States, there were only a few priests who had been properly trained to use *kito* (ritual prayer). This was because at the time, many priests believed that the only way of propagating Nichiren Shu was to focus on teaching the Nichiren Shu doctrine to both the members and the public. As a result, they believed that only the first 22 chapters of the Lotus Sutra (which consists of 28 chapters total) were most important teachings. Interestingly, the 23rd to 28th chapters focus on the benefits that could be obtained from accepting the Lotus Sutra as well as the *Shoten-zenjin* (protective deities). It is through *kito* that we learn of these chapters. Without learning or knowing about the existence of these chapters, would people continue to maintain faith in the Lotus Sutra?

Nichiren Shonin himself preached the importance of the Lotus Sutra during his time. However, he also used *kito* to pray for everyone’s happiness and well-being. Interestingly, the most prominent priests in the history of Nichiren Shu were all famous *kito* practitioners. In a way this could suggest to us the importance of once again focusing on *kito* as a way to aid in attaining happiness. It is also true that there are some Nichiren Shu priests who believe that *kito* is a shaman-like teaching that should not be propagated outside of Japan. It is such beliefs that have led to the misunderstandings behind the purpose of *kito* and its proper usage.

Many believe that the purpose behind religion is to pray for world peace and for your ancestors. Yet it is also important to focus on religion to help us find our own happiness in this present life. We cannot attain world peace without first obtaining individual happiness.

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.



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YOUR NAME