

NICHIREN NEWS

MAY, 2020

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

Please check the church website for scheduling updates.
All dates on the Calendar of Events are tentative.
<https://sacramentonichirenchurch.org>

SUMMER BAZAAR, 2020 - CANCELLED

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May, 2020

No services in May due to Covid-19

June, 2020

7	----	no service
14	11:30am	Ohigan service
14	noon	Church meeting
21	----	no service
28	11:30am	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, June 14, 2020 at 11:30am**. If you have not already done so, 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.

EITAIKYO

The Eitaikyo service which is normally held in May has been postponed. Eitaikyo 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).

HANAMATSURI

Sakyamuni Buddha was born on April 8. Hanamatsuri is the celebration of his birth. The Hanamatsuri service for this year was cancelled.

FUJINKAI DUES

Fujinkai dues are \$10 a year. Please send your dues to the Church.

2019 FALL BAZAAR UPDATE

The final totals for the Fall 2019 Bazaar are:

Sales & Donations:	\$ 8,750.00
Expenses:	1,760.41
Total Profit:	<u>\$ 6,989.59</u>

MOCHI TSUKI 2019 UPDATE

The final totals for the 2019 Mochi Tsuki are:

Sales:	\$1,197.00
Donations:	40.00
*Expenses:	0.00
Total Profit:	<u>\$1,237.00</u>

* as noted in the January 2020 newsletter, all supplies were donated.

CHURCH MEETINGS

No Church meetings were held in March, 2020 or April 2020.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP DUES

If you have not already done so, please remember to send in your Church membership dues. The dues are still \$240 per year.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We gratefully acknowledge the generous donations from the following:

Membership (\$240):

Lily Hitomi; Jon Kitamura; Yurimi Sawamura; Betsi Ann Nagasawa/\$40/\$20

Ohigan:

Peter Kato/\$50; Liz Kono/\$100; Takami Lau/\$30; Takashi Mizuno/\$50; Kinjiro Nakatogawa/\$40; Yurimi Sawamura/\$30; Linda Tomita/\$100; Hideko Tsuetaki/\$50; Chiraru Yamada/\$20

Hanamatsuri:

Hideko Tsuetaki/\$50

Special Donations:

John Hughes/\$600 (concrete); Kenjo Igarashi/\$1,000; Thomas Murray/\$200/\$200



Importance of Prayer During a Major Disaster

Kenjo Igarashi

I am hoping that everyone is staying healthy and safe despite this pandemic that has changed the lives of so many people. As the death tolls increase worldwide, we continue to worry about the second wave of COVID-19. Everyone is left in a state of confusion, not knowing how much longer we will have to stay within the confines of our home or practice social distancing.

No one can predict when a natural disaster or pandemic will occur. While very different from the current COVID-19 situation, I was recently reminded of a story of a person affected by Typhoon Vera (also known as Isewan Typhoon) that struck Japan in September 1959. This is known to be one of the deadliest typhoons to have hit Japan, causing 5,238 deaths. During the early years of my training as a minister, I visited various temples in the countryside with my master. During one of those visits in 1968, my master and I were talking with the head minister of the temple when we saw an individual approaching us, beating a Japanese hand drum and chanting the *odaimoku*. We could tell from afar that the individual was not a minister, though it was apparent that he was on a pilgrimage on foot (*angya*). We waited for him to finish chanting the *odaimoku* and the head minister offered him tea, as he joined us for a conversation. We asked him why he was on this pilgrimage, to which he replied that he had lost his whole family when Typhoon Vera struck Japan almost 10 years prior. At the time, he was lost in his ways and did not know what to do. That was when he received a Japanese hand drum from the head minister of his temple, who suggested that he go on this pilgrimage across Japan to pray for his family members that he lost.

Because of this individual, the spirits of his family members who passed away as a result of Typhoon Vera were properly prayed for and could peacefully leave this human realm. However, with Typhoon Vera, there were also situations where all the family members passed away with no individual remaining to pray and guide their spirits after death. We are unfortunately seeing the same situation with COVID-19. As we currently pray for the end of this pandemic and for all the individuals whose lives have been affected by this coronavirus, I am hoping that you will also take the time to pray for these spirits as well.

I hope that all of you will remain hopeful that this will one day all pass. I look forward to seeing you once this suspension of public gatherings ends and we can start our Sunday services again.