

NICHIREN NEWS

MAY, 2021

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://sacramentonichirechurch.org>**

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May, 2020

2	----	no service
9	11:30am	Izu persecution
16	----	no service
23	11:30am	Kaji Kito
30	11:30am	Eitaikyo
30	noon	Church meeting

June, 2020

6	----	no service
10	8:00am	Bento cooking (Thursday)
11	8:00am	Bento cooking (Friday)
11	10:00am	Clean chicken
12	7:00am	Bento cooking
12	1:00pm 4:00pm	Bento sale
13	11:30am	Sunday service
20	----	no service
27	11:30am	Kaji Kito
27	noon	Church meeting

EITAIKYO

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).

FUJINKAI DUES

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

CHURCH MEETINGS

02/28/21

- Discussed having a "drive thru" one-day food sale (Bento) instead of the Summer Bazaar in June.
- Discussed having a rummage sale & food sale in October.

CHURCH MEETINGS

03/28/21

- Discussed details for the June Bento sale.
- Discussed selling raffle tickets for the October rummage/food sale.

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.

* BENTO SALE *

JUNE 12, 2021

All Church members, family and friends are asked to help at the Bento sale. Please see the Calendar of Events for the dates/times.

If you haven't already done so, please submit your order for a Bento as soon as possible. We have a limited number of Bentos that we are preparing. You can submit a hard copy order form or order online at:

<https://sacramentonichirechurch.org>

The Bentos are \$20 each and will include teriyaki chicken (½ of a chicken), rice, pickled cabbage, edamame, macaroni salad, & orange slices.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We gratefully acknowledge the generous donations from the following:

Membership (\$240):

Toshiko Akiyama; Yurimi Sawamura; Renee Dennis/\$40/\$20; Betsi Ann Nagasawa/\$20/\$20

Fujinkai Dues (\$10 per year):

Renee Dennis/\$20; Fusako Okamoto/\$20

Ohigan:

Renee Dennis/\$20; Susumu Fujiwara/\$50; Joe Hitomi/\$20; Lily Hitomi/\$50; Yoshiko Hitomi/\$50; John Hughes/\$150; Mary Hughes/\$150; Peter Kato/\$100; Kiyoko Kuwabara/\$40; Liz Kono/\$250; Takami Lau/\$30; Keiko Lucas/\$75; Kathy Mine/\$40; Takashi Mizuno/\$75; Deardra Murray/\$40; Kinjiro Nakatogawa/\$30; Fusako Okamoto/\$30; Yurimi Sawamura/\$30; Dave & Gail Tanaka/\$40; Linda Tomita/\$200; Brian Tsuda/\$40; Hideko Tsuetaki/\$100; Chiharu Yamada/\$20

Hanamatsuri:

Ruby Gotow/\$20; Joe Hitomi/\$20; Lily Hitomi/\$50; Kiyoko Kuwabara/\$40; Kevin Lucas/\$50; Kathy Mine/\$40; Brian Tsuda/\$40; Hideko Tsuetaki/\$50

Special Donations:

Ruby Gotow/\$30; Kenjo Igarashi/\$550; Kevin Lucas/\$200; Kathy Mine/\$40; Fusako Okamoto/flowers; Mike Tamai/face masks

Memorial:

In memory of Kenji Ronald Hitomi: Sharon Adams/\$100; Doris & Charles Kobayashi/\$50; Gail Tanaka/\$50; Hideko Tsuetaki/\$50

In memory of Michi Kimura: Ruby Gotow/\$30

In memory of Marcia Yamamoto: Liz Kono/\$250

Memorial Day

May is a month where we will have a Memorial Day where we will pray for our ancestors and our loved ones who are deceased.

This month, I would like to explain a little bit more about memorial services. There was a time when I wanted to go back to Japan. One of the members in Los Angeles was able to understand my true feelings of wanting to go back to Japan because I thought that I would be able to live a better life there. My master had told me to come back to Japan to help his temple. However, I denied my master's order. I had promised before that I would go back to Japan after having stayed in the United States for about three to four years. Because of this, my master no longer accepted me as his disciple and therefore the connection between the master and the disciple was broken. During that time, the temple that I was in charge of in San Francisco was forced to shut down because another temple was going to be built in the Bay Area and no other ministers would lend me a hand after the temple was closed. I could not leave the United States, however, because I had many members in Los Angeles and San Francisco who needed me. If I left, then they would no longer have a temple that they could go to. I was also forced to think about the reason why I became a minister, one of the reasons being that I wanted to know why human beings were born into this world.

After death, we lose everything along with our body including knowledge, inheritance, and pride. Thinking about going back to Japan, contradicted my general reason of why I wanted to become a minister. That moment, I decided that it was my duty to work together with the members to accomplish my goal. We were not born into this world just to have fun; however, the main reason why we were born into this world has to do with cultivating and purifying our spirit, using our body as a place where the spirit can reside. Buddhism is different from other religions in ways that we do not wait for a God to save us, yet we work hard to obtain Enlightenment. Even when we lose our body, our spirit continues to live on in the universe and nature.

Among many Americans, there are those that question the importance of chanting the sutra. As many of you may know, Buddhism is the teaching of the Buddha. Therefore, there are many words that cannot be translated into English. We humans have a body and we think with our brain and make decisions through remembering our previous actions or experiences that we have had in the past. It is impossible for us to understand things that we have not experienced. If we were only able to understand things with our head, then why do Buddhists chant the sutra during memorial services for deceased people? When we die, we lose all of that knowledge and experience that we have gained throughout our life. Therefore, we Buddhists believe in the spiritual world and the fact that our spirit lives on after death. We are taught that all sorts of life such as the ten realms as well as the universe exist in our mind especially through the Lotus Sutra. This means that all of our knowledge exists within our spirit as well. Even without our body, our spirit is able to understand the Lotus Sutra, the supreme teaching of Sakyamuni Buddha. The Lotus Sutra is not a teaching where one asks someone to save them; however, the Sakyamuni Buddha states, "The purpose of my teaching is to lead everyone to enlightenment."

SACRAMENTO NICHIREN CHURCH

BENTO SALE

JUNE 12

- 1/2 Teriyaki Chicken
- Pickled Cabbage
- Macaroni Salad
- Edamame
- Rice
- Orange slices



\$20

Order Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Mail to Sacramento Nichiren Church, 5191 24th St., Sacramento, CA 95822

Mail orders need to be postmarked by May 15

Number of Bento boxes _____ X \$20 = _____ sub total

Additional charitable contribution: _____

(Make checks payable to Sacramento Nichiren Buddhist Church)

Total

Pickup time (circle one): 1 1:30 2 2:30 3 3:30

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