

NICHIREN NEWS

July, 2021

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

Please check the church website for possible scheduling updates.
<https://sacramentonichirenchurch.org>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July, 2021

4	11:30am	Sunday service
11	—	no service
18	—	no service
25	11:30am	Obon service
25	noon	Church meeting

August, 2021

1	—	no service
8	11:30am	Sunday service
15	—	no service
22	11:30am	Matsubagayatsu Persecution service
29	11:30am	Kaji Kito
29	noon	Church meeting

OBON SERVICE

Obon services will be held on **Sunday, July 25, 2021 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.

CHURCH MEETING HIGHLIGHTS - 5/30/2021

1. Discussed June bento sale.
2. At this time 452 bentos are pre-ordered. Will make extras.
3. Brian to order 470 chickens.

CHURCH MEETING HIGHLIGHTS - 6/27/2021

1. Discussed upcoming October Food Sale/Rummage Sale
2. Will decide the menu at an upcoming meeting with the possibility of less items.

BENTO SALE

Thank you to all the church members and friends who helped at the June 12 Bento Sale. Our first "Drive Thru" event was a success.

Total sales: \$10,218
 Donations: 1,216 (monetary)
 Expenses: 1,557

Profit: \$9,876

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We gratefully acknowledge the generous donations from those listed below:

Bento Sale (monetary donations): Eric Fujii/\$25; Lori Fujimoto/\$50; Susumu Fujiwara/\$10; Naomi Hamamoto/\$26; Lily Hitomi/\$100; John Hughes/\$150; Peter Kato/\$50; Mineko Kawamura/\$20; Julie Kimura/\$40; Liz Kono/\$10; Dennis Kubo/\$50; Janet Kyotani/\$100; K I Matsuda/\$60; Kathleen Menda/\$50; Kathy Mine/\$25; Carolyn Murata/\$25; Deardra Murray/\$60; Kinjiro Nakatogawa/\$25; Barbara Nakatomi/\$10; Mike Namba/\$20; Tak Nasu/\$100; Janet Sakata/\$30;

Acknowledgement (continued):

Dawn Sato/\$40; Diane Tanaka/\$50; Yozo Yamada/\$40; Audrey Yokoi/\$50

Bento Sale (food/supply donations): Ruby Gotow; Lily Hitomi; John Hughes; Kenjo Igarashi; Kiyoko Kuwabara; Kathy Mine, Fusako Okamoto; Mike Tamai

Eitaikyo: Kiyoko Kuwabara/\$40; Kathy Mine/\$40; Kathy Mine/\$400 (Kiyoko Mine, Mark Mizuno, Richard Mizuno, Tome Mizuno); Deardra Murray/\$100 (Thomas Murrery); Linda Tomita/\$200 (Mangoro Kodani, Shizue Kodani)

Hanamatsuri: Keiko Lucas/\$100

Memorial: Deardra Murray/\$100 (One year memorial for Thomas Murray);

Membership (\$240): Jon Kitamura; Chiharu Yamada; Betsi Anne Nagasawa/\$60

Special donations: Fusako Okamoto/flowers; John Hughes/\$100 for pest control; Kenjo Igarashi/\$250



Meaning of the memorial service

Each time that you have a memorial service for the deceased, you must be wondering why these services have to be performed and also how these services affect them.

Some people wonder if the minister can rescue those who have been sent to purgatory. This is not such a far-fetched idea because one of Buddhist teachings stresses the following point: "Whatever one does; one reaps." In other words, "whatever sin one commits, one must face the consequences." These memorial services are practiced periodically to do something good for the deceased. It is an aged-old custom that all Buddhist families have observed and practiced for many centuries.

The following story illustrates the significance of memorial services:

Lord Buddha spoke to the village people and asked, "If a rock is thrown to the bottom of the lake, can it be raised by prayer?"

The village people said, "That is impossible."

Whereupon, Buddha said, "If oil is dumped into a lake, would it sink to the bottom with your prayer?"

To which the village people responded, "Why speak of such nonsense!"

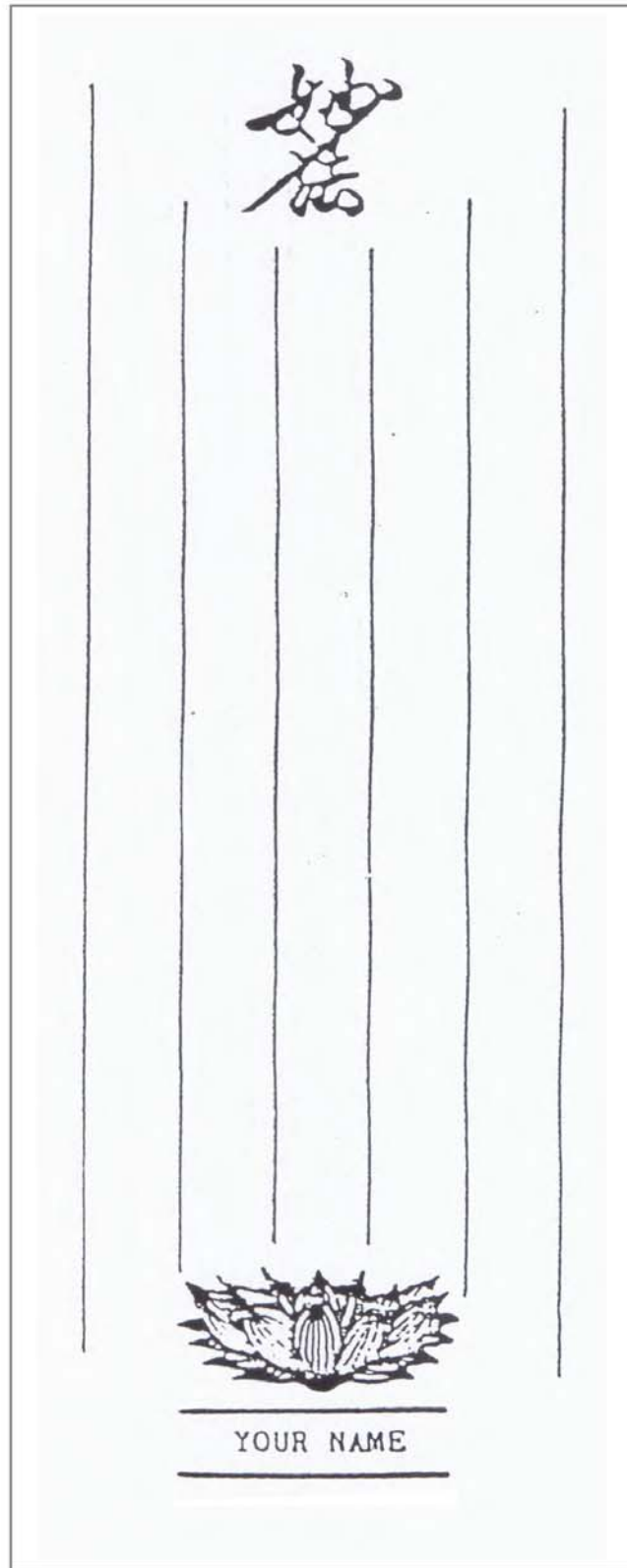
The Lord Buddha said, "If a person has committed one sin after another throughout his life, would he be able to gain rebirth in Heaven or Nirvana?"

On the other hand if a person has been good all his life, would that person be sent to purgatory by prayers?" questioned Buddha.

The villagers replied, "That's impossible!"

Lord Buddha advised, "Listen carefully. If we really prayed earnestly and performed a memorial service for the deceased, we can take all deceased persons to the other shore of enlightenment in a huge boat. This goal is achieved by means of memorial service. Conducting memorial service is a way to show your expression of sympathy toward the deceased."

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.



The form is a vertical rectangle with a light blue background. At the top center, there is a decorative flourish consisting of stylized, overlapping leaf-like shapes. Below this flourish, there are four vertical lines that create a central writing area. At the bottom of the form, there is another decorative flourish, similar to the one at the top. Below this second flourish, the text "YOUR NAME" is printed in a simple, sans-serif font, centered between two horizontal lines.