

# NICHIREN NEWS

November, 2021

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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS November 2021

7	—	no service
14	11:30am	Komatsuara persecution
21	—	no service
28	11:30am	Kaji Kito
28	noon	Church meeting

## December 2021

5	—	no service
12	—	no service
18	7:00am	Mochi Tsuki
19	11:30am	Bodhi Day
19	noon	Church meeting
26		End of year clean up
31	11:00pm	End of year service (Joya)

## January, 2022

1	12:00am	New Year service
2	—	no service
9	—	no service
30	11:00am	Tsuito-e
30	noon	New Year Party

## CHURCH MEMBERSHIP DUES

Please use the enclosed envelope to send in your Church membership dues. The dues are still only \$240 per year.

## FUJINKAI MEMBERSHIP DUES

Membership dues for the Fujinkai are \$10 per year. Please send your dues to the Church.

## FALL FOOD BAZAAR & RUMMAGE SALE

Thanks to all members, family & friends who helped to make the Fall Food Bazaar and Rummage Sale a great success. The net profit was \$13,414.90.

## CHURCH MEETING HIGHLIGHTS SEPTEMBER 5, 2021

- Discussed the Fall Food Bazaar & Rummage Sale preparations.

## CHURCH MEETING HIGHLIGHTS SEPTEMBER 29, 2021

- Discussed Fall Food Bazaar & Rummage sale preparations.

## CHURCH MEETING HIGHLIGHTS OCTOBER 31, 2021

- Discussed mochi tsuki & new year party.

## MOCHI TSUKI

The annual mochi tsuki will take place on **Saturday, December 18, 2021**. The cost is **\$8.00** per pound for regular mochi & kasane; **\$10.00** per pound for an-mochi. Pick up is between **11:00am and 1:00pm**. Please mail in the mochi order form or order with a credit card through the church website or call the Church by **December 9, 2021**. *All church members and friends are asked to help beginning at 7:00am on December 18, 2021.* [www.sacramentonichirenchurch.org](http://www.sacramentonichirenchurch.org)

## NEW YEAR PARTY

The New Year Party will be held on Sunday, January 30, 2022. The church service will be at 11:00am followed by the party. Please note that the cost of the luncheon will be \$25. Please contact the church if you would like to attend. The deadline is January 17, 2022.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We gratefully acknowledge the generous donations from the following:

**Ohigan:** Renee Dennis/\$20; Susumu Fujiwara/\$40; Ruby Gotow/\$30; Lily Hitomi/\$50; Joe Hitomi/\$20; Yoshiko Hitomi/\$50; John Hughes/\$150; Mary Hughes/\$150; Peter Kato/\$100; Liz Kono/\$100; Kiyoko Kuwabara/\$40; Takami Lau/\$30; Keiko Lucas/\$100; Kathy Mine/\$40; Takashi Mizuno/\$75; Deandra Murray/\$100; Liz Nettle/\$50; Fusako Okamoto/\$50; Yurimi Sawamura/\$50; Steve Saxton/\$50; Dave & Gail Tanaka/\$40; Linda Tomita/\$50;

## Acknowledgement continued:

Brian Tsuda/\$40; Keiko Tsuda/\$20; Hideko Tsuetaki/\$50; Chiharu Yamada/\$20;

**Oeshiki:** Lily Hitomi/\$50; Kiyoko Kuwabara/\$40; Kathy Mine/\$40

**Refrigerator:** Peter Kato/\$100; Liz Kono/\$100; Takashi Mizuno/\$100; Hideko Tsuetaki/\$100; Yoze Yamada/\$100; S. Fujiwara/\$100

**Memorial:** Kinjiro Nakatogawa/\$25 in memory of Ralph Nishimi; Toshiko Akiyama/\$20, Ruby Gotow/\$20 & Kathy Mine/\$20 in memory of Yukiko Hachiya

**Membership Dues:** Betsi Ann Nagasawa/\$20/\$20

**Bazaar Fund:** Yoshiko Hitomi; Fusako Okamoto/Tsukemono; Betsi Ann Nagasawa/\$36

**Special Donations:** Susumu Fujiwara/refridgerator; John Hughes/\$100 for Pest control; Vicki Matsuura/\$20; Nichiren Shu/\$362.65; Fusako Okamoto/flowers for the Temple; Mike Okamoto/\$20; Nobuo Yura/\$25; John Hughes, Takeaki Igarashi & Mike Okamoto/Chicken Shed Cover; John Hughes/Paint; Peitro Boerio/\$20

## 2022

### MEMORIAL SERVICES

1 <sup>st</sup> year	2021
3 <sup>rd</sup> year	2020
7 <sup>th</sup> year	2016
13 <sup>th</sup> year	2010
17 <sup>th</sup> year	2006
23 <sup>rd</sup> year	2000
27 <sup>th</sup> year	1996
33 <sup>rd</sup> year	1990
37 <sup>th</sup> year	1986
43 <sup>rd</sup> year	1980
50 <sup>th</sup> year	1973

## CONDOLENCES

We offer our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Mrs. Yukiko Hachiya who passed away on September 7, 2021 at the age of 90.



## **The Joys of Being Born a Human Being**

Right now, at this moment, we are living our life as human beings. However, there are those that are tired of living a life as a human being, which is a depressing prospect. Buddhists emphasize the teaching of "transmigration", which is the process of reincarnating through the many stages of the suffering world. We are not randomly born as humans, but are here right now due to the cause and effects created during the numerous past lives that we have lived. Through every reincarnation, we accumulate such actions, which lead us to this present moment. Living this life as a human being is important because the realm of humans is the only escape route from this suffering world. If we think of it this way, it would be unfortunate to waste our whole lifetime in this manner, when such an opportunity is a possibility.

Sakyamuni Buddha expresses the necessary graciousness involved in us being born as human beings in the following manner: "It is hard to be born as a human being. It is hard enough to provide life to those that have already lived in this suffering world—thus reincarnation. It is hard to meet the right teaching." This quote states how while being born as a human being should be considered a benefit, at the same time, it is hard to find the right teaching and follow the right teaching in the expected time period that every individual has in every life. To be able to accomplish this goal is difficult and thus to know that you may repeat this process of self-discovery and continued training in the next life is an interesting idea to consider.

In the Buddhist form of transmigration, it is stated that there are six realms of the suffering world. By ordering the levels of suffering from the least to the greatest, it would be the following. First and foremost, heaven consists of the least suffering. The second is the realm of men or rather us, human beings. Third is ashura, individuals who always desire to fight. Next is the realm of animals, followed by hungry spirits. Lastly, hell, is the realm with the most suffering. The last three realms obviously involve the most suffering and are thus known as the three evil paths. In order to avoid such realms it is stated that we must make benefits through good deeds. Once you fall into these three evil paths, it is said to be difficult to escape such realms and to be born in the realm of human beings is impossible. In the realm of hungry spirits and the realm of animals, it is quite hard to accumulate good deeds and make benefits in the way that human beings can. No matter how many times the individual goes through reincarnation and no matter how many lives they live, it is hard for them to be born a human being. However, it is possible for the individual to fall into the sub-realm of hell, abi, the lowest of hell where the sinners suffer interminable pain.

The idea that humans are the only individuals able to escape the suffering world was created from such reasoning. Thus, human beings are the only individuals with the possibility of obtaining emancipation from the six realms of the suffering world. Many of you may be wondering if being born as human beings is much more beneficial than being born into the realm of heavenly beings. The answer to that is yes, it is more beneficial to be born as human beings due to the following reasons. When we are born into the world of heavenly beings, we have the physical body that we use and that enables us to create benefits and move up the ladder to better realms. However, in the world of heavenly beings, without our body, we are unable to create the benefits that we created as human beings. It is true that the individuals born into heaven live a rather relaxed life; however, emancipation from the suffering world is not a possibility. Thus, as a result, we are able to live in heaven through using up our benefits. When we use up all of the good deeds that we have accumulated, we are forced to return to the different realms, including that of the realm of human beings and create benefits once again to move up that ladder, creating the possibility of obtaining enlightenment and escaping from the six suffering realms once and for all. As human beings we are underneath the realm of individuals in heaven, however, if we think of this idea of such ability and opportunity to practice through finding the right teachings, we are actually very lucky to be born into this realm. Such opportunity is only provided to human beings.

This is why as stated in "verses of opening the sutra" or kaikyoge that we chant during the service, we must understand the gratitude that we must have towards being born into this realm and meetings the teaching of Buddhism to provide us with the opportunity to escape the suffering world once and for all.



# ❖ Mochi Sale ❖

**Saturday, December 18, 2021**  
**11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

**Sacramento Nichiren Buddhist Church**  
**5191 24<sup>th</sup> Street - Sacramento, CA 95822**  
**(916) 456-8371**

**Keep this top portion for your records.**

<u>Item</u>	<u>Price</u> X <u>Quantity</u>	=	<u>Total Cost</u>
Mochi (1 pound)	\$ 8.00	_____	_____
An Mochi (1 pound)	\$ 10.00	_____	_____
Kasane	\$ 8.00	_____	_____
<b>TOTAL</b>			_____



To place an order, EITHER complete the section below & mail it along with your check made payable to "Sacramento Nichiren Buddhist Church" to the church by **Thursday, December 9, 2021**, OR visit our website at [www.sacramentonichirenchurch.org](http://www.sacramentonichirenchurch.org) to order & pay online.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

<u>Item</u>	<u>Price</u> X <u>Quantity</u>	=	<u>Total Cost</u>
Mochi (1 pound)	\$ 8.00	_____	_____
An Mochi (1 pound)	\$ 10.00	_____	_____
Kasane	\$ 8.00	_____	_____
<b>TOTAL</b>			_____