

NICHIREN NEWS

JANUARY, 2022

5191 24TH STREET - SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA - 95822 - (916) 456-8371

~ Happy New Year ~

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January, 2022

2	---	no service
9	---	no service
16	----	no service
23	11:30am	Tsuito-e
30	11:30am	Kaji Kito
30	noon	Church meeting

February, 2022

6	---	no service
13	11:30am	Nichiren Shonin birthday service
20	----	no service
27	11:30am	Setsubun and Kaji Kito
27	noon	Church meeting

SETSUBUN

The Setsubun service will be held on **Sunday, February 27, 2022** at 11:30am. This is a special service for members who were born in the year of the tiger (12, 24, 36, 48, 60, 72, 84, 96 years old). As always, we will have a raffle after the service so please bring "paper products" for the raffle.

MOCHI TSUKI

Thanks to all the Church members, family & friends for their hard work during our annual mochi tsuki. We made and sold more mochi than in previous years! The mochi tsuki took place on Saturday, December 18, 2021.

CHURCH NEW YEAR PARTY

The annual Church New Year party for this year has been cancelled due to COVID.

CHURCH MEETING

HIGHLIGHTS 11/28/21

- ✓ Discussed the mochi tsuki; noted that we need more help.
- ✓ Discussed the New Year Party.

CHURCH MEETING

HIGHLIGHTS 12/19/21

- ✓ Agreed to cancel the New Year Party this year due to Covid

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We gratefully acknowledge the generous donations from the following:

Membership-\$240: Renee Dennis/\$40; Yoshiko Hitomi; Janet Kyotani; Kathy Mine; Takashi Mizuno; Deandra Murray; Betsi Ann Nagasawa/\$40; Fusako Okamoto

Memorial: Diane Hara/\$50 in memory of Kay Hara; Gary Okamoto/\$100 in memory of Masanao Okamoto; Lily Hitomi/\$300 in memory of George and Chieko Hitomi; Margie Namba/\$500, Mike Namba/\$100, Mike & Susan Tamai/\$30, Karen Cotton/\$20 & Kinjiro Nakatogawa/\$25 in memory of Jim Namba

Mochi Tsuki: .sweet rice donated by: Jane Hitomi, Lily Hitomi, Merry Hitomi, Yoshiko Hitomi, John Hughes and Kiyoko Kuwabara

Acknowledgment continued:

Special donations: Yoshiko Hitomi and Fusako Okamoto/flowers for Church services; Mike Okamoto and Takeaki Igarashi/clean up the parking lot; Peter Kato/\$25; John Hughes/\$100 for Pest Control; Kinjiro Nakatogawa/\$100 for refrigerator

CONDOLENCES

We offer our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Jim Namba who passed away on October 25, 2021 at the age of 98.



Isshōjyobutsushō

Nichiren Shonin said that if our heart is not pure, our environment will not be pure, and that if our hearts are pure, our environment will be pure as well. This means that the pure land and defiled world are not in different places. It is just a matter of whether or not our hearts are pure. For example, a foggy mirror will turn into a beautiful one which reflects everything clearly once polished. Our wandering hearts are like that of an unpolished mirror. Polishing our hearts will make them more beautiful. We can polish our hearts by chanting Namu Myō Hō Ren Ge Kyo each and every day.

In Japan in the month of December nearing the new year, it is common to thoroughly clean ones residence. Removing tatami mats and smaller cushions to get rid of the dust outside, repairing the paper on the sliding screen doors; the Sacramento Nichiren Buddhist Church was also cleaned with the help of seven people last December. Though it is the main temple and not much dust is expected to accumulate, once cleaning it became very clear how dirty the temple had gotten. If even the temple can get dirty without noticing, what about the human heart? Living our busy lives day-by-day, we can only imagine how our hearts can become without cleaning them. We may take baths and showers to make ourselves feel clean on the outside, but that does not equate to cleaning our heart. Then what are these impurities in our heart? They are the wrong teachings and actions we encounter and practice in our everyday lives. Nichiren Shonin teaches us that by cleaning our hearts in this current lifetime, we can attain enlightenment and become buddhas without being reincarnated over and over again into this world to train again. To reach enlightenment, he emphasizes the importance of encountering spring teachings.