

NICHIREN NEWS

MAY, 2022

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May, 2022

1	---	no service
8	11:30am	Izu persecution service
8	noon	Bazaar mtg
15	---	no service
22	11:30am	Kaji Kito
22	noon	Bazaar meeting
29	11:30	Eitaikyo service
29	noon	Bazaar meeting

June, 2022

5	----	no service
8	8:00am	Clean chicken shed (Wednesday)
9	8:00am	Bazaar cooking (Thursday)
10	8:00am	Bazaar cooking & clean chicken (Friday)
11	6:00am	Bazaar cooking
11	12:00pm - 2:00pm	Pick up food
11	10:00am - 3:00pm	Rummage sale
11	3:00pm	take down canopy
12	11:30am	Sunday service
19	---	no service
26	11:30am	Kaji Kito
26	noon	Church meeting

EITAIKYO

The Eitaikyo service will be held on **Sunday, May 29, 2022 at 11:30am**. The Eitaikyo service 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.

SUMMER FOOD SALE AND

RUMMAGE SALE

JUNE 11, 2022

All Church members, family & friends are asked to help at the upcoming food sale (**pre-order/pick up**) and rummage sale. Please see the calendar of events, the kitchen schedule, & chicken schedule for details.

Please bring your donations for the rummage sale by Saturday, June 4, 2022. As noted in the meeting highlights, items such as Japanese items, houseware, clothes, & tools typically sell well. Items which are clean and in good working order sell well, too.

Orders forms will be mailed and also available on the church website. Place orders by 6/4/22. Quantities are limited.

Age Sushi: \$8.00

Bento: \$20:00 (½ teriyaki chicken, vegetable, rice, pickled cabbage, tamagoyaki, macaroni salad)

Teriyaki Beef Sandwich: \$8.00

Teriyaki Chicken: \$10.00 (½ chicken)

Udon: \$10.00

CHURCH MEETING

HIGHLIGHTS 3/27/22

- ▶ Discussed summer bazaar and agreed to do a pre-order pick up sale.
- ▶ Will combine a rummage sale with the food sale. Noted that Japanese items, clothes, houseware and tools typically sell well.

CHURCH MEETING

HIGHLIGHTS 4/24/22

- ▶ Discussed preparations for food sale.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP DUES

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We gratefully acknowledge the generous donations from the following:

Memorial:

In memory of Ronald Hitomi (1st year): Toshiko Hamada/\$30; Kevin Hitomi/\$300; Myra and Dean Hitomi/\$100; Miwako Yamashiro/\$100

Membership (\$240):

Toshiko Akiyama; Dexter Dong; Lily Hitomi; Jon Kitamura; Brian Tsuda; Betsi Ann Nagasawa/\$20

Hanamatsuri:

Ruby & Gary Gotow/\$30; Lily Hitomi/\$50; Joe Hitomi/\$20; Keiko Lucas/\$100; Kathy Mine/\$40; Hideko Tsuetaki/\$50; Brian Tsuda/\$40

Ohigan:

Gary and Ruby Gotow/\$30; Lily Hitomi/\$50; Joe Hitomi/\$20; Yoshiko Hitomi/\$50; John Hughes/ \$150; Mary Hughes/ \$150; Peter Kato/50; Elizabeth Kono/\$100; Kiyoko Kuwabara/ \$40; Takami Lau/\$30; Keiko Lucas/\$100; Kathy Mine/\$40; Takashi Mizuno/\$75; Deardra Murray/\$40; Fusako Okamoto/ \$50; Yurimi Sawamura/\$50; Linda Tomita/\$100; Brian Tsuda/\$40; Hideko Tsuetaki/\$50;

Setsubun:

Jane Hitomi, Lily Hitomi, Merry Hitomi, Yoshiko Hitomi, John Hughes, Mihoko Igarashi, Kiyoko Kuwabara; Keiko & Kevin Lucas; Kathy Mine, Fusako Okamoto; Liz Nettle & Amber Webb; Keiko Tsuda

Special Donations:

Dexter Dong/\$260; John Hughes/\$100 (pest control); Takashi Mizuno/\$500; Fusako Okamoto/flowers; Yoshiko Hitomi/flowers

What We Can Learn From Nichiren Shonin's Exile to Izu

In Japan, many Nichiren temples are holding special services on May 12th of this year, which marks 761 years since Nichiren Shonin's infamous exile to Izu. In this issue, I would like to give a brief recap of the reason and the implications behind this event.

The main reason for Nichiren Shonin's exile was in response to the claims that he presented to the government in his "Rissho Ankokuron". Explaining the reasons behind all of the calamities that had been occurring in Japan at the time. When Nichiren Shonin was 21 years old, he entered the Buddhist school at Mt. Hieizan and it was there that he realized the significance of the Lotus Sutra. Nichiren Shonin claimed this Lotus Sutra as the most prevalent teaching of the Sakyamuni Buddha and thought that he could use it in order to bring peace into the world. History has it that in order to put his thoughts into action, he retired to the Kiyosumi temple in Chiba, where he began his propagation of the Lotus Sutra.

As the calamities in Japan continued to increase, Nichiren Shonin decided to restudy all of Sakyamuni Buddha's teachings and reassured himself that the Lotus Sutra was in fact the only way to save the world from further calamities. At the same time, he believed that the source of the calamities came partly from the teachings of the leaders of other sects. Nichiren Shonin thought that while many of the leaders knew that the Lotus Sutra was the most important teaching of the Buddha because many. If not all of them had studied at Mt. Hieizan along with Nichiren Shonin. Many of the leaders of other sects found the teachings of the Lotus Sutra to be very difficult and therefore hard to teach to the public. In Nichiren Shonin's views, they had taken the easy way out and decided to teach the "easier" teachings of the Buddha. As a result, Shotenzenjin (the good deity and protectorate of Japan) left Japan, which led to the calamities that Japan was experiencing. Nichiren Shonin compiled such ideas into the Rissho Ankokuron and boldly presented it to the government. Upon submitting his ideas, the members of the Buddhist Shinshu sect and the government collaborated together in order to "make it seem" as if Nichiren Shonin had in fact been exiled to Izu. However, truth was that Nichiren Shonin had instead been left stranded on a thin rock, far away from any island or land in general. Nichiren Shonin seemed to show no objection in dying as a martyr—he would be dying for the sake of spreading Sakyamuni Buddha's teachings. Therefore, Nichiren Shonin continued to chant the odaimoku while the rock continued to sink deeper and deeper into the ocean. However, history has it that a fisherman by the name of Funamori Yasaburo discovered Nichiren Shonin right before he started drowning. The fisherman put him on his boat and took him back to his home where his family hid and took care of Nichiren Shonin for some time being. In an eventual letter, Nichiren Shonin expresses his gratitude for the fisherman's actions and states that most likely, the fisherman was the transformation of the Buddha. In this context, we can also interpret this as representing as the Buddha understanding the need for Nichiren Shonin to continue his propagation of the Lotus Sutra in order to save Japan and also the rest of the world from further calamities.

We as human beings living in this suffering world and even as followers of the Lotus Sutra undergo many hardships. However we must learn to interpret such hardships as being a way for us to decrease our "bad karma" in order for us to eventually reach enlightenment. We must remember that one of the important reasons for being born into this world is to practice the Lotus Sutra, which will help us rid of our bad karma.

❖ Japanese Food Sale (pre-sale) ❖

Saturday, June 11, 2022
noon to 2:00 p.m.

Sacramento Nichiren Buddhist Church
5191 24th 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>
Agesushi	\$ 8.00		_____		_____
Bento (½ teriyaki chicken, vegetable, rice, pickled cabbage, tamagoyaki, macaroni salad)	\$ 20.00		_____		_____
Teriyaki Beef Sandwich	\$ 8.00		_____		_____
Teriyaki Chicken	\$ 10.00		_____		_____
Udon	\$ 10.00		_____		_____
TOTAL					_____



To place an order, please visit our website at www.sacramentonichirenchurch.org or complete the form below & mail it along with your check made payable to "**Sacramento Nichiren Buddhist Church**" to the church by **Saturday, June 4, 2022**.

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____
E-Mail _____

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