

NICHIREN NEWS

July, 2022

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

Please check the church website for possible scheduling updates.

<https://sacramentonichirechurch.org>

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July, 2022

3	11:30am	Sunday service
10	---	no service
17	---	no service
24	11:30am	Obon service
31	11:30am	Kaji Kito
31	noon	Church meeting

August, 2022

7	---	no service
14	11:30am	Matsubagayatsu Persecution service
21	---	no service
28	11:30am	Kaji Kito
28	noon	Church meeting

OBON SERVICE

Obon services will be held on **Sunday, July 24, 2022 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 - 5/29/2022

1. Discussed bazaar preparations.

CHURCH MEETING HIGHLIGHTS - 6/26/2022

1. Noted that there is some dry rot in the chicken shed. John is getting estimates for the repair.
2. Noted that the Church house needs to be painted.

FOOD & RUMMAGE SALE

Thank you to all the church members and friends who helped at the June Food & Rummage Sale.

Gross sales: \$13,063 (food)
 Donations: 375 (monetary)
 Plant sale: 167
 Rummage sale: 2,425
 Total: \$16,030
 Expenses: -2,808.24
 Net Total: \$13,221.76



ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We gratefully acknowledge the generous donations from those listed below:

Summer Food Sale (monetary donations): Toshiye Kawamura/\$5; Bob Kubo/\$100; Takashi Mizuno/\$75; Carolyn Murata/\$50; Deardra Murray/\$100; Fusako Okamoto/\$195 (narazuke pre-sale); Janet Sakata/\$10; Ruth Seo/\$16; Hiroshi Yamamoto/\$100

Summer Food Sale (food/supply donations): Lily Hitomi/groceries & cooking supplies; Yoshiko Hitomi/prepared the cabbage

Acknowledgement continued: tsukemono & donated plants & flowers; John & Mary Hughes/supplies for rummage sale; Kenjo Igarashi/charcoal; Cindy Kadokawa/plants; Kiyoko Kuwabara/groceries & cooking supplies; Fusako Okamoto/Jams, Tsukemono (fukujintsuke, uri/narazuke, takuan), flowers & plants

Eitaikyo: Linda Tomita/\$200; Brian Tsuda/\$40

Membership (\$240): Keiko Lucas
Special donations: Renee Dennis/\$40 & \$25; John Hughes/\$100 for pest control and paying the cost of the Pay Pal fee for Bazaar sales; Fusako Okamoto/flowers for Sunday services and making/donating a large variety of tsukemono and jams year-round.

Obon

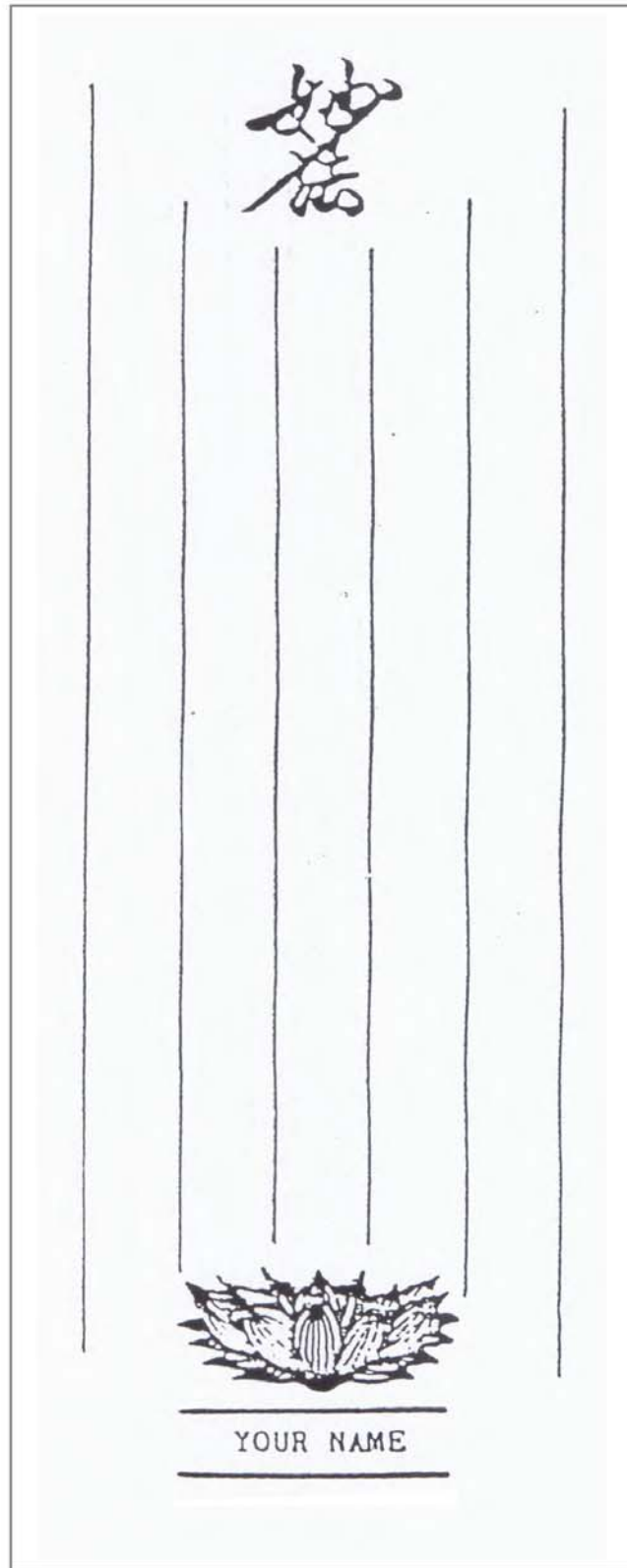
When we think of July, the first thing that comes to our mind is usually Obon. Because I know that everyone already knows a lot about Obon already, it probably isn't necessary for me to explain the meaning of Obon again. However, it is necessary to once again reflect and understand the true meaning of Obon. Obon is an abbreviation of Urabon-e, which is a transliteration of the Indian word "ullambana", a word that denotes the suffering that comes from being hung upside-down.

Among the Buddha's disciples, there was one named Maudgalyayana who possessed exceptional divine powers. In Japan he is known as Mokuren. By means of his divine powers he sought to see what was happening to his mother after her death, only to find she had fallen into and was suffering in the hell of hungry spirits. Whatever she tried to eat turned into fire and could not be eaten. Mokuren was shocked at seeing his mother suffering as much as if she had been hung upside down and he sought the counsel of the Buddha. The Buddha then taught his disciples to donate food and pray for their mothers' happiness on July 15, the day that their rainy season practices came to an end. From this event, "ullambana" which venerates one's ancestors came to be carried out on July 15. In Japan this merged with the folk custom of ancestor worship which had its origin in the most ancient times and became a unique custom. The first Obon was said to have been observed on July 15 in the year 606 during the time of the Empress Suiko. Probably because it suited the feelings of the Japanese people who had believed in and venerated the souls of their ancestors, urabon-e became established in this Japanese form.

When we reflect on this story, we must remember to think about why Mokuren's mother was in the hell of hungry spirits. His mother was in there because she didn't want her children to starve and to provide them enough of what they desired and so she had to be greedy. With that, she fell into the realm of hungry spirits. Is this not something that can be said about parents today as well? During obon, it is possible to open the gates of hell to release your ancestors and let them return to their family. This is why, we must pray for them in order to show your respect towards those that are not with you in this world anymore.

Your loved ones will return from the spiritual world to your house and so please show them your respect during those four days of Obon.

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.



Calligraphic symbol

YOUR NAME