

NICHIREN NEWS

MARCH, 2023

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 2023

5	—	no service
12	11:30am	Kaji Kito
19	—	no service
26	11:30am	Ohigan service
26	noon	Church meeting

April, 2023

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

OHIGAN

Ohigan services are held twice a year (during the Spring and Fall Equinox) and are memorial services for our ancestors. The Spring service will be held on Sunday, March 26, 2023 at 11:30am. Please write the names of your ancestors and your name on the enclosed form; return the completed form to the Church before the 11:30am service.

HANAMATSURI

Sakyamuni Buddha was born on April 8. Hanamatsuri is the celebration of his birth. The Hanamatsuri service will be held on Sunday, April 9, 2023 at 11:30am.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We gratefully acknowledge the generous donations from the following:

Building Fund:

Dexter Dong/\$260; Liz Nettle/\$300

Fujinkai Membership:

Keiko Lucas/\$10; Toshiko Yamada/\$10

Church Membership - \$240 per year:

Dexter Dong; Ruby & Gary Gotow; Kyomi Igarashi; Jon Kitamura; Kiyoko Kuwabara; Keiko Lucas; Elizabeth Nettle; Steven Saxton; Dave & Gail Tanaka; Yoza Yamada

Memorial:

In memory of Kanji Hitomi/Yoshiko Hitomi/\$300; Cindy Kadokawa/\$30; Mihoko Igarashi/\$700 in memory of Misao Serizawa; Liz Nettle/\$100 in memory of Don Webb & Yukio Aoki; Steve Saxton/\$110 in memory of Nate Saxton

Acknowledgment continued:

New Year Party:

Lily Hitomi/\$100; Joe Hitomi/\$20; Merry Hitomi/\$100; Yoshiko Hitomi/\$100; John Hughes/\$50; Mihoko Igarashi/\$50; Fusako Okamoto/\$25 (jam, tsukemono); Barbara Tanaka/\$25; Gail Tanaka/\$100; Yoza Yamada/\$50

Setsubun:

Yoshiko Hitomi (soy beans, candy); Paper Products: Ruby Gotow; Lily Hitomi; Yoshiko Hitomi; John Hughes; Kiyoko Kuwabara; Kathy Mine; Deardre Murray; Fusako Okamoto; Gail Tanaka

JAPAN TRIP--OCTOBER, 2023

A trip to Japan is planned for October 2023. This is in conjunction with the Chicago church. The dates are tentatively set for October 22-30, 2023.

The cost of the trip will be determined by the number of people participating. Please contact the church or check out the church website as more details become available.



The Propagation of Buddhism after the Death of Sakyamuni Buddha

One day a little boy was playing in the mud and saw the Sakyamuni Buddha walking by so he quickly prepared and offered him a mud pie. It is said that the little boy was reincarnated and became who is now known as Emperor Asoka.

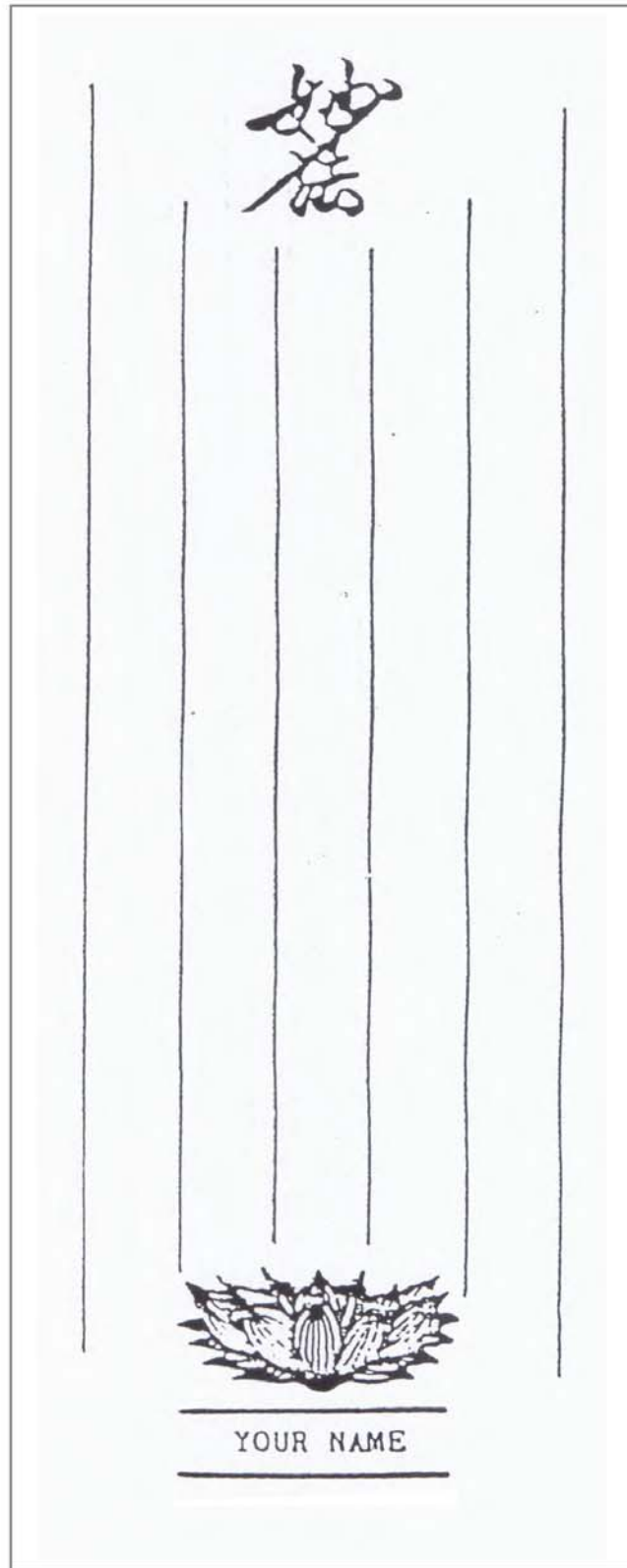
While Buddhism is practiced by a many in the West, many Westerners fail to know or recognize the importance of Emperor Asoka (269-232BCE), emperor of the Indian Mauryan Empire, known to have devoted his life and rule to the spread of Buddhism throughout his empire and eventually the world. Before Asoka's reign, the Mauryan Empire had expanded as a result of killings and brutal conquest. Asoka himself would kill his 99 siblings and continue this brutal conquest, until the siege at Kalinga, an empire in central-east India, which became his last place of conquest. From that moment, he is said to have converted to Buddhism and became a Buddhist king, promoting morality and the Dharma throughout his empire.

Asoka's dedication to the Dharma was significant in starting what would become the world's first large-scale missionary effort in the history of the world's religions. Asoka built stupas, locations with sacred relics of the Buddha himself, as well as pillars inscribed with edicts that became the official rule of the empire and would later become the symbol of early Buddhist teachings. Both the edicts and the stupas would become important pilgrimage sites for early Buddhist missionaries hoping for a better understanding of Buddhism. The edicts show Asoka's deep devotion, including his banning of hunting and proclaiming the acceptance of the Dharma within his empire. While this may suggest forced conversion, Asoka states that Dharma could be practiced simultaneously with other faiths or religions since the Dharma promoted ethics and individual moral development.

Asoka wished that others outside his empire would also accept the importance of the Dharma and sent ambassadors to various locations. This would in fact prompt the beginnings of the spread of the Sangha and most importantly Buddhist missionaries, who would influence others to spread the teachings of the Sakyamuni Buddha. This missionary work continues throughout the world even today.

Asoka's simple offering in his past life brought him back to live a luxurious life while also promoting a life that the Buddha would have wished others to live and maintain. Without Emperor Asoka's emphasis on the Dharma, Buddhism may not have spread to the extent that it has; however his significance is one that many, including Buddhists fail to recognize.

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.



Obituary form with a central column of writing lines. At the top center is a decorative floral emblem. Below the writing lines is another decorative floral emblem. Below the second emblem is the text "YOUR NAME" flanked by two horizontal lines.