

NICHIREN NEWS

July, 2023

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, 2023

2	11:30am	Sunday service
2	noon	Church meeting
9	—	no service
16	11:30am	Kaji Kito
16	noon	Church meeting
23	—	no service
30	11:30am	Obon service
30	noon	Church meeting

August, 2023

6	—	no service
13	11:30am	Matsubagayatsu Persecution service
13	noon	Church meeting
20	—	no service
27	11:30am	Kaji Kito
27	noon	Church meeting

OBON SERVICE

Obon services will be held on **Sunday, July 30, 2023 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 - 6/25/23

1. Discussed having a golf fundraiser in August. Details are being worked on and final cost/location/date/time will be posted on the Church website. Noted that if the August date doesn't work, we will try for Spring 2024..

RUMMAGE & FOOD SALES

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

May Sale

Food sale: \$ 105.00
 Rummage sale: 1,657.00
 Total: \$ 1,762.00

June Sale

Food sale \$14,097.00
 Expenses 2,183.93
 Total \$11,913.07

Fujinkai \$ 857.00

Acknowledgment continued:

Fusako Okamoto/Tsakemono & Jams; Yoshiko Hitomi/Aprons; Sharon Okamoto/Plants; Cindy Kadokawa/Gloves & supplies; John & Mary Hughes/supplies for rummage sale; Takashi Mizuno/\$50

Memorial donations: Calvin K. Tanaka/\$200 in memory of NOboru Tateishi

Membership (\$240): Renee Dennis, Lily Hitomi, Chiharu Yamada

Special donations: John Hughes/\$100 for pest control and paying the cost of the Pay Pal fee for Bazaar sales; Fusako Okamoto/flowers for Church services



ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We gratefully acknowledge the generous donations from those listed below:

May Rummage Sale and May & June Food Sales (food, supply & monetary donations): Lily Hitomi/groceries & supplies; Kiyoko Kuwabara/groceries & supplies; Joe Hitomi/Charcoal;

The Physician and His Children

Sakyamuni Buddha, whose teachings of truth are spread throughout the world, was born as a son of King Suddhodana, a ruler of a kingdom in India. When he was a young man he renounced his life as a prince and became a monk. After much spiritual training and physical hardships he attained enlightenment and he died after preaching for fifty years. However, in reality, he was the Eternal Buddha of infinite life. He appeared in this world as a man, trained as a monk and became enlightened to show us that everyone is capable of attaining enlightenment.

In the 16th chapter of the Lotus Sutra, which is composed of 28 chapters, there is a parable of the great physician who was able to diagnose with skill and cure patients of all illnesses. So let us begin.

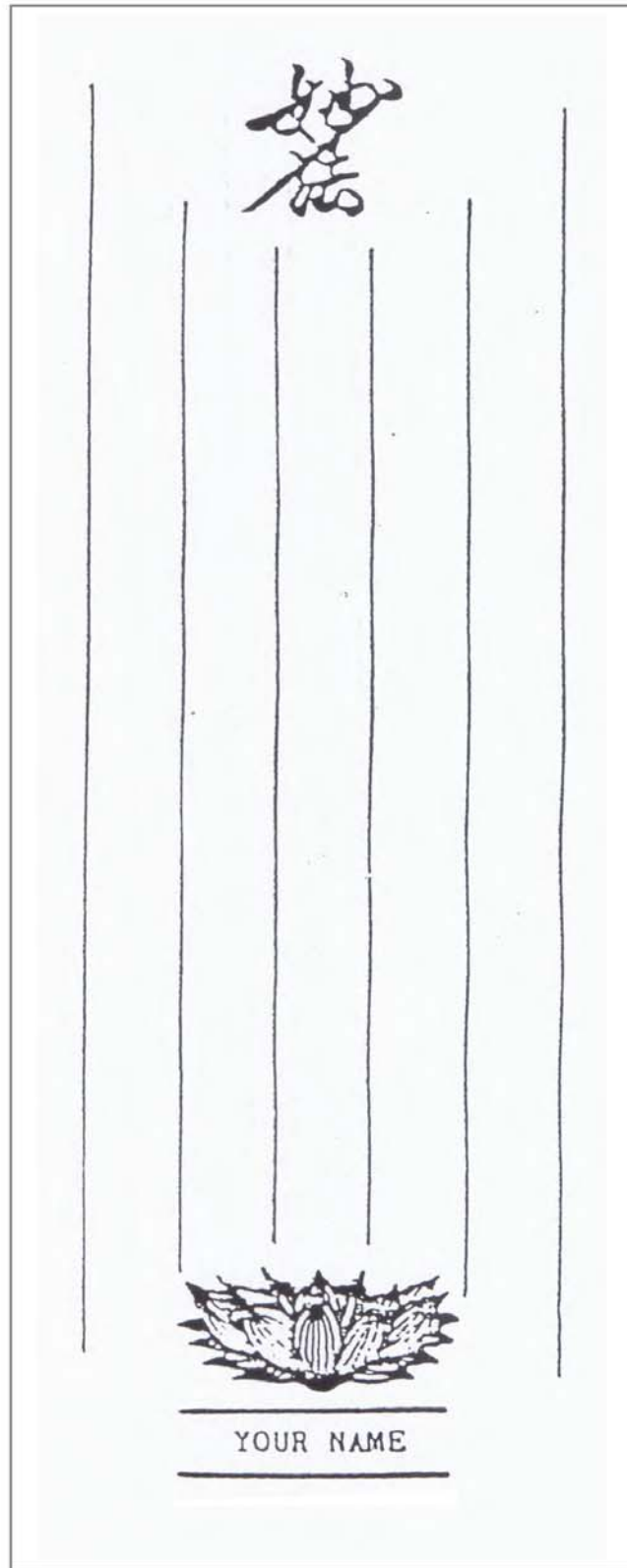
One day the physician came home from a trip and found his children suffering from the effects of the poison that they had taken while they were playing in the pharmacy during their father's absence. The father immediately prepared an antidote, saying to the children, "Here is a medicine with good color, fragrance, and taste. Take it and it will make you feel better." The children who believed in the father's words took the medicine and were freed from their suffering immediately. However, the poison had already affected some of the other children so badly that they were out of their minds. They could not believe that the medicine that their father had prepared would do any good and refused to take it.

The father thought that something had to be done to bring the children to their senses and thought of a plan. He told the children that he was going away on a trip again to a distant land. He said that he was getting old and may even die before he returned. He said that if this should happen he wanted his children to help each other and learn to get along without him and to remember what he had told them about taking his medicine. Sometime later the father sent a messenger home to tell the children that the father had died during his travel. The children were shocked and full of grief. They suddenly realized how much their father had meant to them and they could no longer depend on his loving guidance. The children who were grief-stricken finally came to their senses. They remembered what their father had told them and took the medicine and recovered from the poisoning.

When the father learned that all of his children had recovered completely, he was relieved and came home to reveal to the children that he had not died after all. The father and children had a joyous reunion.

The great physician is the Sakyamuni Buddha. The suffering children who could not believe in the father's words are the people of this world suffering from ignorance. The great medicine is the most valuable of the teaching of the Buddha, the Lotus Sutra. The great physician, through his assumed death taught the value of his medicine to his suffering children. The Buddha through the manifestation of his death impressed upon us the value of his teaching. With great compassion he showed us the value of his teaching. With great compassion he showed us the way to escape the sufferings of life caused by ignorance through accepting the teachings of the Lotus Sutra. Buddha is eternal. He is forever blessing us with his wisdom and compassion.

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.



At the top center of the form is a calligraphic symbol, likely representing the Japanese characters for 'Memorial Book' (追善帳). Below this symbol are two vertical lines that form a narrow column for writing names. At the bottom center of the form is a decorative floral emblem. Below the emblem is a horizontal line with the text 'YOUR NAME' centered between two more horizontal lines.