

# Nichiren News

July, 2024

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

## Calendar of Events

### July, 2024

|    |         |                |
|----|---------|----------------|
| 7  | 11:30am | Sunday service |
| 14 | ---     | no service     |
| 21 | ---     | no service     |
| 28 | 11:30am | Obon service   |
| 28 | noon    | Church meeting |

### August, 2024

|    |         |                            |
|----|---------|----------------------------|
| 4  | ---     | no service                 |
| 11 | 11:30am | Kaji Kito                  |
| 18 | ---     | no service                 |
| 25 | 11:30am | Matsubagayatsu Persecution |
| 25 | noon    | Church meeting             |

## Obon Service

Obon services will be held on Sunday, July 28, 2024 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.

## Rummage Sale

The rummage sale on May 18 was a success with over \$1,950 sold. Just a reminder that we will have another rummage sale in a few months in case you have anything to donate or are looking for a special item.

## June Food Sale

The June Food sale was also successful. Profits for the food sale and the Fujinkai sale were \$11,186.46 and \$609.00 (total of \$11,795.46). **Many thanks** to all those who helped with the food preparation and sale.

## Church Repairs

Repairs to the Reverend's home (dry rot & painting), adding a concrete patio between the temple and classroom building, and re-roofing the garage were completed. The cost to fix the dry rot and paint the house was a total of \$3,800. Re-roofing the garage which was leaking cost \$1,900. The concrete patio was \$5,500. The materials to repair the chicken shed roof have been ordered (waiting for the materials to arrive before the work can be done) and the total cost for that project will be \$4,000.

## Church Meeting Highlights

### 5/26/24

~Agreed to clean the chicken inside the large classroom in order to meet health code regulations. Noted that there would be over 300 chickens to clean.

## Church Meeting Highlights

### 6/2/24

~Need to find a new insurance company for the church property as the previous agency is closing.  
~Will cancel the automatic police notification on the alarm for the church as the church will be charged for calls.

~Discussed preparations for food sale.

~Will have a new letterhead for church correspondence.

## Church Meeting Highlights

### 6/9/24

~Discussed church insurance policy. One policy suggested was double the cost.

## Acknowledgment

We gratefully acknowledge the generous donations from those listed below:

**Membership:** Renee

Dennis/\$20/\$100

**Special donation:** Fusako

Okamoto/Flowers; Sharon

Okamoto/Flowers; John

Hughes/\$100 for pest control;

Peter Kato/\$50

**June Food**

**Sale:** Ruby Gotow (\$55)/salad

containers, paper plates, bowls,

macaroni; Lily Hitomi

(\$139.89)/chicken containers,

sandwich rolls, green peas; Merry

Hitomi (\$32.56)/plastic bags;

Yoshiko Hitomi(\$165)/ (plants,

donuts, umeboshi; Kiyoko

Kuwabara (\$293.11)/ udon; udon

containers; groceries; Fusako

Okamoto/ jams & jelly (14 jars),

fukujintsuke & takuwan (16 jars),

Uri (15 bags); Sharon Okamoto/

Pepper plants

## Cemetery Plots for Sale

Please contact Irene Osuga if you are interested in purchasing cemetery plots at Sacramento Memorial Lawn. They are in Section C, Oleander which is the Nichiren section. Contact: dosuga@yahoo.com or (530) 756-1597.

## Obon

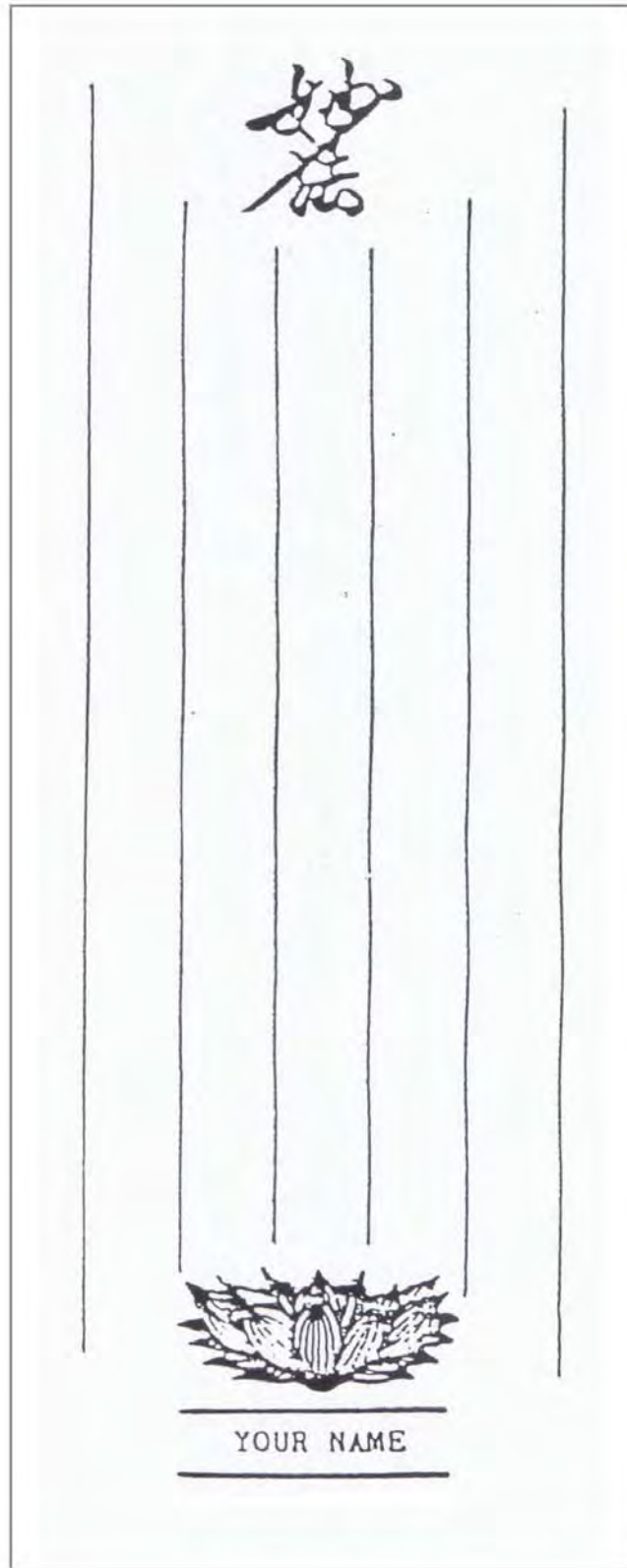
When we think of July, the first thing that comes to our mind is usually Obon. Because I know that everyone already knows a lot about Obon already, it probably isn't necessary for me to explain the meaning of Obon again. However, it is necessary to once again reflect and understand the true meaning of 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.



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YOUR NAME