

# Nichiren News

January, 2025

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

## Calendar of Events

### January, 2025

5	11:30am	Kaji Kito
12	11:30am	Sunday service
12	noon	Church meeting
19	---	no service
26	11:30am	Tsuito-e
26	noon	New Year Party

### February, 2025

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

## September Rummage Sale

The rummage sale took place on September 21 and 22, 2024. Once again it was successful & return customers showed up for the great deals.

## December Mochi Sale

Thank you to all Church members, family & friends who helped at the annual mochi sale. The sale was a success and the mochi turned out great. All supplies were donated.

Item	# sold	Total
mochi	208	2080.00
an mochi	78	936.00
kasane	41	410.00
total		3426.00
Fujinkai		328.00
GRAND TOTAL		3754.00

## Setsubun

### February 9, 2025

The Setsubun service will be held on Sunday, February 9, 2025 at 11:30am. This is a special service for members who were born in the year of the Snake (12, 24, 36, 48, 60, 72, 84, 96 years old). As always we will have a raffle after the service so please bring "paper products" for the raffle.

## Acknowledgment

We gratefully acknowledge the generous donations from those listed below:

**Membership (\$240):** Brian Tsuda; Chiharu Yamada; Deardra Murray

## **Special donation (Sept/Oct)::**

Fusako Okamoto/Flowers/Tsukemono; John Hughes/\$200 for pest control; Brian Tsuda/\$100 (toilet replacement); Ruby Gotow/\$30 (October food sale); Renee Dennis/\$20; Ruby & Gary Gotow/\$100; Lily Hitomi/\$130

**Memorial:** In memory of Toshiko Akiyama--Dawn Satow/\$100; Kiyo's Floral/\$100

**October bazaar:** Joe Hitomi/charcoal; Takashi Mizuno/\$75; Jane Nakagawa/Jam; Fusako Okamoto./Tsukemono and Jams; Joe Hitomi/Charcoal; Ruby Gotow/Rice; Lily Hitomi/Rice; Merry Hitomi/Rice; Kiyoko Kuwabara/Rice

## Acknowledgment continued

**Ohigan:** Liz Nettle/\$100; Takashi Mizuno/\$75; Peter Kato/\$50; Yurimi Sawamura/\$50; Linda Tomita/\$100; Hideko Tsuetaki/\$50; Liz Kono/\$100; Takami Lau/\$30; Fusako Okamoto/\$50; Kathy Mine/\$30; Ruby Gotow/\$50; Yoshiko Hitomi/\$50; Kiyoko Kuwabara/\$50; Susumu Fujiwara/\$40; Brian Tsuda/\$40; Lily Hitomi/\$50; John Hughes/\$150; Mary Hughes/\$100; Deardra Muirray/\$40; Joe Hitomi/\$20; Keiko Lucas/\$250

**Special donation (Nov/Dec):** Fusako Okamoto/Flowers; John Hughes/\$100 pest control/car wiper blades; Yoshiko Hitomi/Flowers; Chiharu Yamada/\$100; Peter Kato/\$30; Brian Tsuda/table (\$200)

**Memorial:** In memory of Toshiko Akiyama--Akiyama Family/\$5,000

## **Mochi Tsuki Sale donations:**

**Fujinkai sales:** Fusako Okamoto/Takuan; Fukujintsuke, Narazuke; Yoshiko Hitomi/ Takuan  
**Sweet Rice (200lbs) / \$200 (\$33 ea):** Yoshiko Hitomi, Merry Hitomi, Jane Hitomi, Lily Hitomi, Gail Tanaka, Kiyoko Kuwabara  
**An (Home made):** Ruby Gotow  
**Styfoam trays:** Lily Hitomi  
**Mochiko, Plastic bags/ Ties:** Kiyoko Kuwabara  
**Plastic Table Cloths:** Kathy Mine  
**Donuts:** Yoshiko Hitomi  
**Mandarians:** Joe Hitomi  
**Lunch (Curry Rice):** Ruby Gotow and Kiyoko Kuwabara

## **In a nutshell, what is Buddhism?**

Buddhism is the teaching of the Buddha, just as Christianity is the teaching of Jesus Christ and Islam is the teachings of Mohammed.

Yet there is one major characteristic that is unique to Buddhism, and that is that those who embrace Buddhism can also become Buddhas. In Christianity, Judaism and Islam, believers are encouraged to learn the teachings of the founder and to devote themselves to a unique, absolute deity, but human beings cannot become a deity.

However, in Buddhism, by learning the teachings of the Buddha, and awakening to the truth concerning the universe and human beings, anyone is said to be able to become a Buddha. Hence it can be said that ultimately Buddhism is everyone's attempting to become such a Buddha.

## **What is Buddha?**

In an Indian language, the word for an "aspirant" is *buddha*. After practicing austerities for six years, the Buddha forsook these severe practices, began to meditate under a bo tree, and eventually discovered the truth. For that reason, people began to call him "Buddha" in the sense of "One who has awakened to the truth."

At some later time, as the teachings came to be received in the western regions of Asia and were received by China, the Chinese used two characters (*butsu* and *da*) for the word *buddha*. When this two-character name was transmitted into Japan, the first character was the only one used, and it came to be read as both *butsu* and *hotoke*.