

SACRAMENTO NICHIREN NEWS

Sacramento Nichiren Buddhist Church

May 2025

5191 24th Street, Sacramento, CA, 95822 | (916) 456-8371 | www.sacramentonichirenchurch.org

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MAY 2025

4	11:30am	Sunday Service
11	11:30am	Kaji Kito
		Izu Persecution Service
		Church Meeting
18	—	No Service
25	11:30am	Eitaikyo
		Church Meeting

JUNE 2025

1	11:30am	Sunday Service
		Church Meeting
8	11:30am	Sunday Service
		Church Meeting
11	8:00am	Wednesday Bazaar Cooking
12	8:00am	Thursday Bazaar Cooking
		Clean the Chicken Shed
13	8:00am	Friday Bazaar Cooking
	10:00am	Prep Chicken
14	5:00am	Bazaar Cooking
	12:00pm -2:00pm	Bazaar Food Order Pick Up
15	11:30am	Sunday Service
22	—	No Service
29	11:30am	Kaji Kito
		Church Meeting

CHURCH MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

APRIL 13, 2025

- Discussed summer food bazaar and rummage sale (Please see "Summer Food Bazaar" and "Rummage Sale" for details)

SUMMER FOOD BAZAAR

JUNE 14, 2025
(SATURDAY)

All Church members, family and friends are asked to help at the upcoming food sale (pre-order/pick up). Please see the "Calendar of Events" for details.

Orders can be placed online or using the attached form. The deadline to place orders is May 31st.

RUMMAGE SALE

JULY 19 - 20, 2025
(SATURDAY / SUNDAY)

We will have one large rummage sale this year. We welcome and appreciate donations. They will be accepted June 15th to July 12th. Please see the Church website or contact the Church for more details.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Please send your annual church membership dues (**\$240**) to the Church if you have not already done so.

MESSAGE REGARDING OHIGAN

We apologize that the March/April newsletter along with information regarding the Ohigan service (March 30th) was not sent out due to a mix-up.

We would like to acknowledge and thank those that were able to send in their information and donations. Please be assured that we have prayed for your ancestors and deceased loved ones during the Ohigan service.

We will make sure this does not happen for future newsletters. Thank you very much for your continued support of the Sacramento Nichiren Buddhist Church.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We gratefully acknowledge our generous donations.

MEMBERSHIP DUES (\$240)

Joe Hitomi; John Hughes; Richard Hughes and Alexis Wilson; Kyomi Igarashi; Renee Dennis /\$200; Wesley Washington/\$20; Steve Saxton; Takashi Mizuno; Laurie Akiyama; Janet Kyotani; Yoshiko Hitomi; Kathy Mine/\$480; Gail and Dave Tanaka; Elizabeth Nettle; Jon Kitamura; Deardra Murray; Keiko Lucas; Ruby Gotow; Lily Hitomi; Merry Hitomi.

SPECIAL DONATIONS

Peter Kato/\$39; Fusako Okamoto/flowers and tsukemono; Yoshiko Hitomi/soy beans and candy; Ruby Gotow/\$100; John Hughes/\$200, pest control; Kenjo Igarashi/\$1,000; Kiyoko Kuwabara/manju; Mary Hughes/chocolate; Joe Hitomi/\$1,280.

MEMORIAL

In memory of Yukio Aoki and Don Webb/\$200, Elizabeth Nettle; In memory of Nate Saxton/\$60, Steve Saxton; In memory of David Boots/\$50, Deardra Murray.

NEW YEARS

Brian Tsuda/\$40; John Hughes/\$20; Lily Hitomi/\$100; Kenjo Igarashi/\$100; Barbara Tanaka/ \$40; Gail and Dave Tanaka/\$100.

OHIGAN

Kathy Mine/\$40; Lily Hitomi/\$50; Brian Tsuda/\$40; Ruby Gotow/\$50; Yoshiko Hitomi/\$50; John Hughes/\$150; Alexis Wilson/\$50; Mary Hughes/\$150; Joe Hitomi/\$20; Kiyoko Kuwabara/\$40.

HANAMATSURI

Kathy Mine/\$40; Yoshiko Hitomi/ \$20; Brian Tsuda/\$20; Lily Hitomi/\$20; Ruby Gotow/\$20; Gail and Dave Tanaka/\$50; John Hughes/\$10.

The *Jikkai* (Ten Realms) of Our Mind

Every year we hear of the increasing number of natural disasters that occur in various parts of the world. Most recently, the destructive wildfires that swept across Los Angeles left many without homes. These disasters cause various types of damage, which take a very long time to recover from. For example, the residents living in the Noto Peninsula of Japan are still trying to rebuild their lives more than a year after the devastating earthquake that happened on New Year's Day last year. Every time I hear of these stories, I am reminded of the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami. In March of that year, we asked all of you for donations to help those affected by this natural disaster. We were able to raise a total of \$1,500, which we sent to the Nichiren Shu Headquarters in Japan. This in turn was donated to earthquake relief efforts. Out of the many donations we received, there was one that I remember to this day. Today, I would like to share this story with you.

Towards the end of March 2011, I was outside sweeping the entrance of the temple like any other day. One man wearing tattered clothes was riding a very old and rusty bike, passing by me very slowly. I did not think much of it and continued sweeping until I realized a few seconds later that he was standing in front of me. He asked me if this was a Japanese Buddhist Temple, continuing to tell me how he was very distraught about the Tohoku earthquake and tsunami. He then proceeded to open his torn-up wallet and took out a twenty-dollar bill folded into fourths. He handed it to me, telling me that this was all the money that he had, but wanted to find a way to send it to Japan. I graciously thanked him for his donation, promising him that it would be used to help those affected by the earthquake. He left without saying another word.

Seeing his kind actions made me think of *jikkai* (“ten realms”) *gogu*, which means that each of the ten realms contains within it, the same ten individual realms (listed in the chart below). One way to think of this is as follows. For example, we are living in this world as human beings and therefore, we are physically limited to this realm. However, in our mind, we can transcend the realm of Bodhisattvas or even Hell. Some may say that it is not the realm that we are physically living in right now, but where we are currently living in our mind that determines the next realm that we will physically be placed in our next life. Below, I have made a chart to aid in understanding this concept. We want to prevent ourselves from falling into the realms that are shaded. The circle represents that at minimum, in our mind, we want to be living in the realm of human beings. However, we always want to strive to live as Heavenly beings, or even better, as a Bodhisattva. We aim to “progress our mind”, so to speak, in the same direction that the arrow is pointing, so that we could be reborn into a better realm in our next life. The kind individual that I spoke of earlier, though physically restricted to the world of human beings, seems to be living in and displaying characteristics of those in a higher realm. Despite his circumstances, he strives to do what he can to care for others, even giving away all the money that he has. Therefore, I am hoping that we can take this time to rethink which realm we are truly living in right now, striving to go to these higher realms, at least in our mind.

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