

# NICHIREN NEWS

May, 2016

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

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### May, 2016

1	---	no service
8	11:30am	Izu persecution service
8	noon	Bazaar mtg
15	---	no service
22	11:30am	Kaji Kito
29	11:30am	Eitaikyo service
29	noon	Bazaar meeting

### June, 2016

5	----	no service
6	8:00am	set up canopy
8	8:00am	Bazaar cooking (Wednesday); clean chicken shed
9	8:00am	Bazaar cooking (Thursday); set up counter
10	8:00am	Bazaar cooking (Friday)
10	11:00am	Clean chicken
11	7:00am	Decorating
11	11:00am 5:00pm	Bazaar (Saturday)
12	11:00am 5:00pm	Bazaar (Sunday)
19	----	no service
26	11:30am	Kaji Kito
26	noon	Church meeting

### EITAIKYO

The Eitaikyo service will be held on **Sunday, May 29, 2016 at 11:30am**. The Eitaikyo service is a perpetual service in which prayers are given for the deceased. This service is held annually (one-time subscription fee of \$100 per deceased person).

### SUMMER BAZAAR

#### JUNE 11 & 12, 2016

All Church members, family & friends are asked to help at the

bazaar. Please see the calendar of events, the kitchen schedule, & chicken schedule for details.

The craft & book/magazine booths need items to sell. Please bring your new or gently used donations to Church.

Please call the Church if you need more raffle tickets to sell or buy.

### CHURCH MEETING

#### HIGHLIGHTS 3/27/16

- ▶ Discussed money received from the Headquarters in Japan
- ▶ Noted that the Chicago Church donated \$150 for our roof repair.
- ▶ Discussed having a golf fund raising event as was originally suggested by Gail Tanaka. Brian will follow up on this.
- ▶ Discussed the neighbor's tree which could possibly fall into our back lot. The neighbor will need to contact SMUD.

### CHURCH MEETING

#### HIGHLIGHTS 4/24/16

- ▶ Discussed neighbor's tree. Noted that SMUD is scheduled to look at it in August.
- ▶ Discussed bazaar preparations. We will use a new vendor for chicken. Options for purchasing age were discussed due to the closing of the Sacramento Tofu Company. Reviewed the schedule for the Kitchen & Teriyaki Chicken
- ▶ Discussed asking for donations because of the increase in expenses.

### DONATION REQUEST

After reviewing the budget for the year, we are requesting cash donations. This would be used to help offset the recent/upcoming repair costs, the increase in the daily expenses for running the Church (utilities, insurance . . .) and supplies for the bazaar.

### CHURCH MEMBERSHIP DUES

If you have not already done so, please send your church membership dues to the Church. The dues are still **\$240** per year.

### FUJINKAI DUES

The Fujinkai dues are **\$10** a year. Please send your dues to the Church.

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We gratefully acknowledge the generous donations from the following:

**Memorial:** Shizuko Carr/\$50 (in memory of Kawakami Family & Bob Carr); Fred Tonai/\$100 (in memory of Mary Wakatani);

**Membership (\$240):** Dexter Dong; Gary Goto; Lily Hitomi; Yurimi Sawamura

**Ohigan:** Susumu Fujiwara/\$40; Keri Hayakawa/\$25; Joe Hitomi/\$20; Kanji Hitomi/\$30; Lily Hitomi/\$20; John Hughes/50; Kazuyo Johnson/\$100; Liz Kono & Kono Family/\$100; Kiyoko Kuwabara/\$50; Takami Lau/\$20; Keiko Lucas/\$50; Kathy Mine/\$10; Takashi Mizuno/\$50; Dag Nakatogawa/\$25; Toyoko Nakatogawa/\$10; Liz Nettle/\$30; Masanao Okamoto/\$20; Yurimi Sawamura/\$20; Arthur Sugiyama/\$20; Brian Tsuda/\$30; Hideko Tsuetaki/\$35; Chiharu Yamada/\$20

**Hanamatsuri:** Kiyoko Kuwabara/\$40; Keiko Lucas/\$30; Kathy Mine/\$25

**Special Donations:** Dexter Dong/\$10; Kanji Hitomi/Toyota mini van (\$1,500 value)/Front door (\$755)/Paint (\$44.19)/\$170 (Dust Pan sale); Kazuyo Johnson/\$50; Fusako Okamoto/flowers for the altar each week

**Roof Repair:** Wang Kuei-Chun/\$150; Nichiren Shu/\$514



Kenjo Igarashi

### **The Significance of the 49-Day Journey After Death**

Last November marked the 40-year anniversary since I first became an overseas minister. Since then, I have spent these past several months reflecting on my various experiences throughout my journey as a Buddhist priest in the United States. It led me to realize that while I have much more that I wish to tell to you about Buddhism, there are also many concepts that need further explanation. One example that comes to mind is the importance of the 49th day memorial service for the deceased, which is specific to Buddhist traditions. Its significance is often times downplayed or even forgotten, when compared to the notion of holding funeral services. I wish to elaborate on this topic by briefly taking you through the 49-day journey of the deceased.

When an individual passes away, it is said that 49 nails are hammered into their body and soul, restraining both the physical body and soul from moving. Every seven days, starting from the day of the individual's passing, until the 49th day, we hold memorial services for the individual. Seven nails will be removed every seventh day, until all 49 of these nails are removed, to ultimately free the deceased's soul. On the 49th day, there will be a trial or hearing held in front of the so-called "judge", who will be standing in front of six gates, bearing no signs. However, we all know that each of these gates leads the individual to six possible realms of existence. These include hell, those of hungry spirits, animals, ashura, humans, or the heavenly beings. Everyone wants to either return as a human being, or enter the realm of heavenly beings. This judge in front of the six gates, will not guide this individual to the proper gate, but only instruct them to choose one. The individual will choose the gate based on what they may think is only instinct, yet this decision will also be guided by the actions that the individual took during their time on this earth.

While it may seem as if we take little part in the deceased individual's 49-day journey, this is not the case. One way we can assist them, is by chanting "Namu myo ho renge kyo", which as you know, is the name of the Buddha nature that we all possess. We chant this odaimoku throughout the 49 days to call upon the deceased individual's Buddha nature. If you recall, the Buddha nature can be imagined as the inside of a seed, while the outer shell represents bad karma resulting primarily from previous actions. Whenever we chant the odaimoku, the Buddha nature slowly grows. While this is a slow process, the more we chant, the more the Buddha nature shows, until it finally appears by sprouting through the outer shell. If the Buddha nature does not appear at the end of the 49 days, the individual will not be able to reach Enlightenment.

While death signifies the end of an individual's time in this world, it does not mark the ultimate endpoint of their spirit. Please remember that your Buddhist practice can serve an important purpose in providing happiness for not only yourself, but also others, including the deceased.

# **Chicken Teriyaki Schedule**

**2016 Summer Bazaar**  
**Saturday, June 13, 2016 AND Sunday, June 14, 2016**

**6:00am to noon**

Gary Gotow  
 Joe Hitomi  
 John Hughes

**7 :00am to 1:00pm**

Gene Chung  
 Al Chin  
 Herbert Chin  
 Susumu Fujiwara  
 Takeshi Nasu  
 Dave Tanaka  
 Brian Tsuda

**9:00am to 2:00pm**

John Hughes  
 Takeaki Igarashi  
 Mike Langton  
 Nob Tateishi

**When those cooking the chicken are done with their shifts, please help in the kitchen. Thanks!**



This schedule is for BOTH Saturday AND Sunday. All members, families and friends are asked to help both days of the Summer Bazaar. If you are unable to work at your scheduled time, please contact either Gary Gotow (392-4211) or Joe Hitomi (422-4344).



**Saturday morning work crew - complete decorations - June 11, 2016 at 7:00am**

Nob Tateishi                      Yozo Yamada



**Raffle Ticket Table - June 11, 2016 AND June 12, 2016**

Dag Nakatogawa                      Yozo Yamada



 **Kitchen Schedule** 

**2016 Summer Bazaar**  
**Saturday, June 11, 2016 AND Sunday, June 12, 2016**

**1:00am to morning**

Reverend Igarashi  
Mrs. Igarashi  
Meriko Murata  
Fusako Okamoto  
Toshiko Yamada

**2:00am to 7:00am**

Kiyomi Ikemoto  
Janet Kyotani  
Keiko Lucas  
Kevin Lucas

**4:00am to 9:00am**

Ruby Gotow  
Yukiko Hachiya  
Keri Hayakawa  
Jane Hitomi  
Lily Hitomi  
Merry Hitomi  
Yoshiko Hitomi  
Kiyoko Kuwabara  
Kathy Mine  
Gail Tanaka

**8:00am to 2:00pm**

Ann Akiyama  
Laurie Akiyama  
Nancy Akiyama  
Susan Akiyama-Tamai

**8:00am to 2:00pm continued**

Mary Hughes  
Meriko Murata  
Candace Saxton  
Nobu Yura

**1:00pm to 5:00pm**

Yukiko Hachiya  
Jane Hitomi  
Lily Hitomi  
Merry Hitomi  
Yoshiko Hitomi

**9:00am to closing**

Kiyoko Kuwabara  
Kathy Mine  
Rhonda Nasu

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Kitchen Helpers: June 8, 9, and 10, 2016 (Wednesday, Thursday, & Friday)

Teriyaki Sauce: June 10, 2016

Dag Nakatogawa, Dave Tanaka, Brian Tsuda, Yozo Yamada

Craft Booth: Fujinkai, Elizabeth Nettle, Shizuko Carr, Kazuyo Johnson & Mary Hughes

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This schedule is for Saturday AND Sunday. All members, families and friends are asked to help. Please call to confirm that you are able to work your scheduled time, please call Fusako Okamoto at 421-1956.