



Reno Howakai Newsletter

SCHEDULED SERVICES

June 24, Sunday, 2:00 PM

July 14, Saturday, Obon

Service, 1:00 PM

August 19, Sunday, 2:00 PM

September no service, Placer
Buddhist Church 54th

Annual Food Bazaar,
September 22-23

October 14, Sunday, 2:00 PM

All services will be held at Reno
Buddhist Center, 820 Plumas
Street, Reno

Know Yourself

Recently my sister and I were laughing at our own hypocrisy and how we sometimes behave in ways that would irk or offend us if we saw the same behavior in others. We grew up attending services at Mountain View Buddhist Temple and I remember many Dharma talks when Reverend Sasaki would tell us Sunday school kids, "Know yourself!" Sensei encouraged that before we criticize others, we should first look into ourselves to ensure that we are faultless. Of course we are not faultless so therefore we should really abstain from criticizing others.

I was also reminded of an old Japanese proverb, "Saru no shiri warai." I can't remember whether it was my mom or my dad who first explained this proverb to me but perhaps it was in response to some unwanted behavior of mine at the time - I don't recall. If you are not familiar with the proverb, an explanation appears in this newsletter.

I know that life is a never-ending learning process but sometimes I find I have to relearn lessons from the past!

- Kim Davis, Newsletter Editor

"The reality of nature, the reality of life is oneness. But we humans have such a strong egotistic nature. We are the ones who create dualism; we are the ones who talk about two sides: front and back, right and wrong, me and you. As soon as life is dichotomized, tension is created."

— Gyomay M. Kubose





Saru No Shiri Warai

“Saru no shiri warai” means a monkey laughing at another monkey’s bottom. A monkey might laugh at another monkey’s bottom because it is red, while forgetting that his own bottom is red. It refers to someone who criticizes someone else without realizing that he has the same fault. This is like, “the pot calling the kettle black” in English.

Moving Forward Just as You Are

Excerpts from the book by Monshu Kojun Ohtani

The weakness of our relationships with each other is the result of us thinking about ourselves more than others.

Today, through the internet we can see many things in the outside world while still remaining in the comfort of our homes. While it is true that we can see many more things than we were able to in the past, in looking at those images we are losing our ability to see what goes on behind them, or in other words, the things we cannot outright see.

For example, the younger generation tends to learn things visually by looking at images. In the past, people often used to say, “Read between the lines.” But today, when reading such things as short stories or novels, it seems that more and more people are only able to understand the surface details. If we can only see the surface of things, it becomes much harder to empathize with other people’s feelings. As a result, our relationships with other people weaken and we end up putting ourselves first over others. These things happen even between parents and children.

Whether we recognize this or not, humanity, nature, and all other things inherently exist by relying on each other. It is extremely unfortunate if we forget that we have this beautiful connection with one another. Precisely because we are living in these times, I hope we can recognize this connection that spreads throughout the world as well as its preciousness.

Listen to the Teaching

From The Jodoshinshu Book

A cow lives on a plain. It eats grass and drinks from a stream flowing nearby. The water that the cow drinks turns into nourishing milk and supports both her calf and the people who drink it.

In the same stream, where it flows by a thicket, lives a poisonous asp. It eats birds eggs and frogs, and when thirsty, it also drinks the stream water. But in the case of the asp, the water is turned into deadly poison and used to kill.

Although the water is the same, in one case it is the source of life; in the other, death.

We also drink water. Not just liquid water, but also the water of knowledge and skill in performing various activities. The knowledge and techniques we acquire or “drink” can be turned into milk to benefit, or turned into poison to harm.

How we use what we acquire depends on the attitude of our heart. Let us listen to the teaching that allows us to turn the water of knowledge to good uses, rather than bad.