



MEGUMI

慈恩

GARDENA BUDDHIST CHURCH
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Rev. John Iwohara



Gardena Buddhist Church

March 2025

Volume LVIII No. 3



Rev. John Iwohara

“Courage, bravery, thoughtfulness, and kindness”

During the previous month of February, we were terrified by the fires that devastated our neighborhoods. Many friends lost their homes or businesses to the fires. Many more were forced to

evacuate and relocate even while their homes remain intact. Needless to say it was a scary time.

Throughout it all, however, we were told of the courage and bravery of many, and the thoughtfulness and kindness of many more. Whereas what occurred was tragic, and this should never be underestimated, this was also a time when the kindness and beauty of the Sangha also revealed itself. Just like the pain and loss endured due to the fire should not be downplayed, the kindness and strength of our Sangha should also not be taken for granted. Although I personally couldn't do very much, I hope I am allowed to take this moment to thank everyone who did.

Especially for those families who lost their homes, and those who have had to return to communities that for all intents and purposes no longer exist, the time to recover and heal will

take a long time. The fires may be out now, but the losses that happened due to the fires will be long lasting and some will be permanent. Because of this, it continues to be important for us to share the Nenbutsu with each other, and to foster the kindness that grows because of this sharing.

Please allow me to share a part of our Hongwanji history that talks about the courage and bravery as well as the thoughtfulness and kindness of our Sangha. This episode occurred on March 28, 1474 at the Yoshizaki Hongwanji. On this day a huge fire broke out at the Yoshizaki temple. Rennyō Shōnin was able to escape together with the Kyōgyōshinshō or our tradition's main text. The Kyōgyōshinshō is comprised of 6 volumes. Unfortunately, Rennyō Shōnin discovered that they had inadvertently left behind one of the six volumes in their hurry to escape the burning building. The volume that was left behind was written in Shinran Shōnin's own hand. In that regard, it was an irreplaceable manuscript.

Upon discovering that one volume was left behind, Rennyō Shōnin lamented their carelessness. Hearing this, one of the priests that studied under Rennyō Shōnin said that they

(Continued on page 2)

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would go and get the manuscript. This priest's name is Honko-bo, Ryoken (本向坊了顯). Although people tried to stop Honko-bo from re-entering the burning building, they were able to get past everyone and went into the fire. Honko-bo did not return.

After the fire burned through the building, everyone went through the burnt remains of the structure. There they found Honko-bo's charred body. Honko-bo appeared as if they were protecting something in their mid-section, and because of this they examined Honko-bo's body more carefully. Upon a more careful examination they discovered that Honko-bo had cut open their stomach in the shape of a "+" sign, and placed Shinran Shonin's hand-written manuscript into their body cavity. The text was saved. Honko-bo was 39 years old.

Because the manuscript was placed inside their body, the cover of the text was stained in their blood. To remember the sacrifice made by Honko-bo, Rennyō Shōnin is said to have begun publishing service books with red covers. This tradition is still practiced today.



Welcome to Gardena Buddhist Church

GBC New Members enjoyed our New Year's Luncheon on Sunday, January 26th in the Social Hall




Fujinkai / BWA Buddhist Women's Association

Happenings:

- ◇ February 2nd, Sunday. Monthly BWA meeting. Thank you to A gumi for the delicious snacks.
- ◇ 2025 BWA Japanese seminar – [update] Saturday, February 1st, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm. Unfortunately, Rev. Umezu was unable to attend the seminar. Thank you to Rev. John Iwohara, Rev. Nobuo Miyaji and Rev Yoshiko Miyaji for being our speakers.
- ◇ Lady Takeko Kujo Memorial - Fuse-no Hi – 2/2/25. [update] Thank you to Phyllis Maruyama for chairing the service. Thank you to A gumi for preparing the osonae and thank you to Mitsuko Miyamoto, Julie Miyata, Aya Motoyasu and Toyoko Yuki for helping with the special o-saisen collection during service. The monies will be given to the Jr. YBA.
- ◇ February 9th – BWA in charge of Sunday Social and greeting. Thank you to Kathy Hori, Imogene Imada, Amy Kato, Julie Miyata, Aya Motoyasu & Charlene Sakatani for helping out on these duties.
- ◇ March 8th, Saturday – Ohigan seminar – Thank you to everyone who attended this seminar with guest speaker, Rev. Takashi Miyaji. And thank you to B gumi for providing the refreshments for the morning session.
- ◇ March 9th, Sunday – Ohigan Service. Thank you to B Gumi for taking care of the osonae.
- ◇ Thank you to the Sangha Teens for providing the delicious spaghetti lunch.
- ◇ Gardena Forward Dance Benefit – May 17, 2025 at Nishi Hongwanji Kaikan – The committee has asked each GBC group to donate a gift basket for the raffle. Amy Kato & Shawna Tanaka (Toban D) will lead this activity to assemble the BWA's gift basket.
- ◇ GBC BWA 100th anniversary committee. Our next fundraiser will be a curry rice event for June 8th.
- ◇ Social Hall renovation project for the GBC 100th anniversary. This will start in September, 2025. Prior to that, the BWA, along with the other groups, will need to clean out the social hall kitchen and determine where to temporarily store all the kitchen items while the social hall kitchen is being redone.
- ◇ 2026: Planning for Japanese seminar. Please think about who we'd like to ask as the guest speaker for 2026. We'll have further discussions at next month's meeting.

Announcements:

- ◇ March 2nd (Sunday) - Shotsuki Hoyo – in person at 2 p.m.
- ◇ March 9th (Sunday) - March BWA Regular Monthly Meeting 11:15am (hybrid). B/c Gumi
- ◇ April 6th (Sunday) - April BWA Regular Monthly Meeting 11:15am (hybrid). C/d Gumi
- ◇ April 6th (Sunday) - Shotsuki Hoyo – in person at 2 p.m.
- ◇ April 7th (Monday) - Obon meeting via Zoom at 7pm. Imogene/Kathy will attend. Representatives from Toban B/c please attend



Hui Aikanes

"Rolling the dice and making memories in Las Vegas!"

On February 24th through the 26th, we sponsored a trip to Las Vegas. Our guests spent two fun filled days at casinos playing games and slot machines, and enjoying each other's company. We would like to thank all of our guests for participating on our first trip! MAHALO to Jeanne Yamanaka and Jane Nakamoto for organizing the trip!

This year the City of Gardena will be hosting their annual "Earth Day Clean Up". The date is Saturday, April 26th. The location is at the Willows Wetland Preserve 1202 West 170th St. If you are able to help out on behalf of our temple, please contact www.CityofGardena.org/events. Please wear comfortable clothing, closed toe shoes, and a hat to keep the sun at bay. We will help with debris removal, trail maintenance and most importantly improve our ecology. Your participation will be greatly appreciated by the community of Gardena.



Save the Date: ABA is putting together a list of people that would like to attend Dodger Japanese Heritage Night on Monday, April 28th at 7pm (vs Marlins). If you are interested, please contact Dawn Kita as soon as possible. Tickets sell out fast!

Our next meeting will be on March 22nd at 2 pm in the Cooling Room.

New members are welcome to attend! Hawaiian ancestry is optional!

Dharma School News

On February 23rd we observed Scout Sunday. It was great to see all the Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts participating in the service.

BCA National Council Eitaikyo Service will be held on March 2nd so we will not have service in person. Please look on our website for more information.

Coordinating Council Meeting will be on Zoom after the BCA National Council Eitaikyo Service.

Our Spring Ohigan seminar is on March 8th and our guest speaker will be Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji. The Japanese seminar will start at 9:30 am to 11:00 am and English seminar will start 1 pm. Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji will also be our guest speaker at our Sunday service on March 9th at 9:30 am.

Pet Memorial will be held on March 16th. If you have lost a pet during 2024 or would like to have your pet included in our memorial service. Please complete the form. You can also submit a picture of your pet or bring it to the service in the morning.

April 6th is our Hanamatsuri service, we would appreciate flowers or monetary donations. We would like our Dharma students to come out to decorate the hanamido on April 5th, Saturday from 1 p.m. Please bring your flowers to the Hondo Kitchen between 9-12 pm.



Sangha Teens

Sangha Teens is planning a mixer with all the other temple’s Sangha Teens. We have been working hard on coming up with ideas for a night of fun to get to know one another and play games. We are hoping to have this mixer sometime in May.

We will also be hosting our annual spaghetti luncheon on March 9th. We hope to see everyone there!



TUESDAY SOCIAL

Please join us for coffee, tea, light snacks and socializing on Tuesdays, from 9:30am - 11:30am. We have something for everyone ... games, puzzles, chatting, Bingo, chair exercises and holiday crafts.

Please come whenever you have time. Please stay healthy and warm. See you on Tuesdays.



The Community Projects Group

The Community Projects Group members are busily working on projects for the Church Fujimatsuri fundraiser to be held in May. As in years past, members are also working on the ribbon leis for upcoming graduations. The leis will be \$18.00 each, made in the school colors requested. Please look in this edition of the Megumi for the order form. Forms will also be available at the Church.

This spring, we will be meeting three times a month – our upcoming schedule includes meetings on Mondays, March 10, March 17 and March 24; April 14, April 21 and April 28. We meet from 10 am in the Church meeting room – among items we plan on working on are aprons, cell phone carriers and happi coats. If interested, please join us.



YABA (Young Adult Buddhist Association)

Thank you to all that attended and supported our Trivia Night! We truly appreciate it!

Upcoming Events:

- March 16th: General Meeting 11:30AM
- March 29th: Galaxy Game
- April 20: General Meeting 11:30AM

Feel free to reach out to us at yaba@gardenabuddhistchurch.org



Megumi Deadline is Monday, March 17, 2025

Order Your Graduation Leis Early! 2025



Do you have a child, grandchild, friend or neighbor who is graduating this year?
Get a head start and order a graduation lei now. Be aware that graduations begin from the beginning of May!



The Community Projects Group is taking orders for ribbon leis, to be made in your graduate's school's colors. All monies from this fundraiser will go directly to the Gardena Buddhist Church.

The lei price is \$18.00 each for a double braid ribbon lei, shipping not included.

Lei Order Form

Name _____ Phone _____

Delivery Address _____

Email Address _____

No. of double leis at \$18 each _____

Lei #1 – Colors or school's name _____ Date needed _____

Lei #2 – Colors or school's name _____ Date needed _____

Lei #3 – Colors or school's name _____ Date needed _____

Others:

Total enclosed _____

Please make checks payable to **“Gardena Buddhist Church”**

Orders and monies should be mailed to:

Gardena Buddhist Church
1517 W. 166th Street
Gardena, CA 90247
OR

Email orders to: CPG@gardenabuddhistchurch.org

You will be contacted when your order is ready for pick up, at the Church office.
If any questions, please contact Kiyoko Sasaki (1-310-326-8252).



Ross Nishimura

From GBC Board Chairperson

“GBC Updates: Fires, GBC Forward! Project, and Our Shared Mission”

As we move forward into the new year, I wanted to share some exciting updates and express my gratitude for your continued support and dedication to the Gardena Buddhist Church.

First, I want to acknowledge the recent Eaton/Palisades fires. We are incredibly proud of the outpouring of compassion from our sangha members who have generously donated to support those affected. Your contributions, which were delivered to the Pasadena Buddhist Temple, will make a real difference in their recovery process. This is a long-term effort, and GBC remains committed to supporting those who have been affected by these fires. As I learn more, I will certainly share information either through the Weekly email updates or through the monthly Megumi.

On a more celebratory note, I’m thrilled to announce that the GBC Forward project has reached a significant milestone! After much planning and hard work, preliminary plans for the retrofit of the Social Hall and Kitchen are available for viewing in the hondo meeting room. This is a truly exciting opportunity to build a space that will not only support our sangha but also serve the greater community for generations to come. Fundraising for this important project is now underway, and we encourage everyone to consider how they can contribute to this vision. This new facility will be a testament to our commitment to growth and community building.

As we embark on these new ventures, I want to remind everyone of our mission statement, so eloquently rolled out by Kathy Hori last year (March to July 2024 issues) : “Hands Together, Hearts Together, for the Benefit of All.” These words resonate deeply with our ongoing efforts to foster a culture of inclusivity and collaboration at GBC. We are continually evolving to break down boundaries and create an environment where everyone can contribute, participate, and feel a true sense of belonging within the GBC family. If you haven’t yet had a chance to get involved and share your talents, ideas, or support, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me directly. I would gladly welcome your participation and connect you with opportunities to contribute to our shared mission. We need everyone’s “hands and hearts” to make GBC the best it can be.

Thank you for being such a vital part of the GBC community.

In Sympathy

We extend our deepest sympathies to the families of the following who have left our world to be One with Amida Buddha. Namo Amida Butsu.

Kuga, Patrick Kenkichi
Fukuwa, Nolan Hideki
Akimoto, Ayako

(92)
(73)
(70)

October 4, 2024
January 5, 2025
January 13, 2025



GBC Forward! Introduction



Think back to November 1978. Gardena Buddhist Church was bustling. We enjoyed four Sunday services that filled our parking lots each week. Our Dharma School (DS) and Japanese Language School (JLS) students numbered in the hundreds. We not only had a Daily and Saturday division of JLS, but we had weekly Calligraphy (Shodo), Tea Ceremony (Chado), Abacus (Soroban), Flower Arranging (Kado) and Judo classes. Our Social Hall was built to house the activities of that era.

Our Social Hall is still used constantly for a myriad of gatherings. While the Hall continues to serve us well, the nearly 50 years of wear and tear are quite noticeable: the building and parking lot could use a comprehensive spruce up. Obviously, the main hall needs a comprehensive lighting/wall/flooring remodel. In addition, many aspects of the facility are in serious need of modernization, to call out a few:

- ADA compliant parking lot and social hall restrooms (i.e. Americans with Disabilities Act instituted in 1990).
- LA County health codes have changed significantly, so we must update our main kitchen with upgraded work areas, plumbing and ventilation.
- Safe and Sustainability Focused – As all of our refrigerators are decades old, they should be replaced with energy efficient models. Water bottle filling stations with filtration and safer coffee/tea dispensers are also being planned.
- Integrated A/V system with a ceiling mounted projector.

These repairs are 'must do' and not just 'nice to have'.

Our goal is to complete an extensive remodel ahead of our 100th anniversary in October 2026. Further, our refreshed Social Hall will be a symbolic representation of our temple's renewed mission: "Hands together, hearts together, for the benefit of all." It will be a perfect illustration of what many hands and hearts working together can do to provide a pleasant and safe environment for our Sangha and strengthen our Dharma Sharing ability into the future.

In order to fund this renovation project, we established a \$2.0 million capital campaign called 'GBC Forward!'. This campaign begins this month and will extend to the end of 2027. In the next few weeks, you will be receiving a mailing with an explanatory letter and brochure that highlights some of the upcoming changes.

Won't you please consider a donation to this vitally needed project?

A website and QR code for donations will be published in the Megumi during April. The website will include further details of the project and periodic updates. If you have any questions, please contact the GBC Forward! Committee at the following email address: gbcforward@gardenabuddhistchurch.org



Wisteria Chugakko

Reverend John Iwohara, Headmaster
Charlene Hirotsu, Principal

Wisteria Chugakko Summer (Middle) School 2025 June 16-July 9, 2025

On January 3, we will be sending out the 2025 Wisteria Chugakko Student Registration Forms to those who submitted Student Interest Forms.
Our plans are to accept the first 10 students in each of the 3 grade levels, 7th, 8th and 9th grades. Tuition is \$550 (\$500 for Gardena Buddhist Church Members).
Hope you will join us this coming summer for Wisteria Chugakko.

We are accepting Student Interest Forms for the Gardena Buddhist Church 2025 Wisteria Chugakko Summer Program for students going into the 7th, 8th or 9th grade in the Fall of 2025.

Please submit the 2025 Student Interest Form to charlene.hirotsu@gbcwisteriachugakko.org. You may also submit them to the Gardena Buddhist Church mailbox or mail to:

Gardena Buddhist Church (Wisteria Chugakko)
1517 W. 166th Street, Gardena, CA 90247

2025 Wisteria Chugakko Student Interest Form



Gardena Buddhist Church
Wisteria Chugakko
1517 W. 166th St.
Gardena, CA. 90247
(310) 327-9400

wisteria.chugakko@gardenabuddhistchurch.org



Gardena Buddhist Church Wisteria Chugakko Summer Program

Reverend John Iwohara, Gardena Buddhist Church Resident Minister, Headmaster
Charlene Hirotsu, Wisteria Chugakko Principal

Student Interest Form

June 16 – July 9, 2025

I am interested in registering for Wisteria Chugakko for the Summer of 2025.

I will be in the 7th, 8th or 9th grade in the Fall of 2025.

Student's Last Name	Student's First Name	Student's Gender Pronoun Preference
Student's Date of Birth	Student's Grade in Fall 2025	Student's School District
Father's Last Name	Father's First Name	Father's Cell Number
Mother's Last Name	Mother's First Name	Mother's Cell Number
Father's Email Address	Mother's Email Address	Buddhist Church Affiliation (Gardena, Senshin etc.)

We truly appreciate your continued support!

The church acknowledges the following donations received from 1/20/25 - 2/9/2025
with gratitude and appreciation.

Funeral/Makurakyo/Burial/Memorials

Akimoto Family

Nakano, Tamie

Nakao, Harumi

Shotsuki Hoyo Donations

Anonymous	Loo, Susan	Santohigashi, M/M	Uwahori, Sadae
Fukuman, Thomas	Maeda, Tom	Koichi	Uyematsu, Norio
Goto, Tomie	Masumoto, Chiyoko	Shinsato, Faith	Uyemura, M/M David
Harada, Patricia	Morishige, M/M Norman	Sumi, Michiko	Wada, Emi
Hori, Kathy (2)	Nakafuji, George	Tacadena, Betsy	Wakamoto, Grace
Imada, Brian	Nakakura, M/M Ken	Takahashi, Pauline	Watanabe, Katsuko
Imada, Imogene	Nakano, David & Lori	Takaki, Michael Kazuo	Yamada, Jo Ann
Iwamoto, M/M Daniel	Nakao, Harumi	Takao, Donna	Yamane, M/M Dick
Iwata, Amy	Ohara, M/M J.S.	Takao, Tamiko	Yamashiro Trust
Kaida, Yasuko	Ota, Mitsuko	Tanaka, Kimi	Yuki, Wallace
Kawamoto, Derrick	Rayon, John & Fumiko	Tamura, Lynne	
Kuga, Annette (2)	Sakatani, Charlene	Tatsukawa, Hiroko	

Hoonko Donations

Anonymous

Hori, Kathy

Nakashima, M/M Harvey

Special Donations

Akioka, M/M Sam	Fujita, Fumiko	Kubota Mortuary	Ryukoku University
Baba, Miyako	Fukui Mortuary	Masukawa, M/M Alan	Alumni Association
Brian Mitsunaga Trust (2)	Henstis, Mark	Matsumoto, Sally	Watanabe, Makoto
Enomoto, M/M Tom	Kaida, Yasuko	Matsuzaki, Judy	Yoshiyama, Rose

Osaisen

Gross, Bernadette

Miralle, Dawn

Nakamura, Debbie

Sasaki, M/M Tom

Hondo Repair Donations

Higashiyama, Gail

Nokotsudo

Nakafuji, George

2025 GBC Membership Dues

Akahoshi, Masato	Iwamoto, Diane	Murata, Jan	Suda, Sadao
Akioka, Sam	Jinkawa, Kimi	Nakakura, Kenneth	Suminaga, Kimiye
Akioka, Aiko	Jinkawa, Janice	Nakakura, Doris	Takao, Donna
Amimoto, Ronald	Kaida, Yasuko	Nakamatsu, Aiko	Takao, Dianne
Amimoto, Myrna	Kajikawa, Gary	Nakamura, Edward	Takata, Isamu
Aponte, John	Kato, Isao	Nakamura, Burt	Takata, Yukiko
Aponte, Kim	Kato, Mary	Nakamura, Sadie	Tamehiro, Yaeko
Baba, Miyako	Kawamoto, Derrick	Nakamura, Lilly	Tanaka, George
Date, Chris	Kimura, Katsuhiko	Nakamura, Debbie	Tanaka, Keith
Enomoto, Tom	Kita, Mitsuko	Nakano, Patsy	Tani, Jeffrey
Enomoto, Eiko	Kita, Yoshimi	Nakano, George	Tani, Kari
Fujii, Lillian	Kono-Song, Cheryl	Nakano, Helen	Tateishi, Craig
Fujii, Roger	Koyanagi, Stan	Nakashima, Linda	Tateishi, Cheryl
Fujimoto, Fumie	Kuga, Annette	Nakatani, Dennis	Terao, Ernest
Fujinami, Paul	Kurahashi, Gay	Nakawatase, Haruye	Terao, Ellen
Fujioki, Ruby	Lee, Martha	Nielson, Dorine	Toma, Yuriko
Fujita, Teruko	Lee, Steven	Nishi, Takahisa	Uyemura, David
Furukawa, David	Lee, Kathy	Nishi, Patty	Uyemura, Cathy
Furukawa, Nancy	Maeda, Tad	Nishikawa, Joe	Wakimoto, Yuko
Guild, Anne	Maehara, Nolan	Nishimura, Ross	Watanabe, Donald
Harrington, James	Maruyama, Kazuko	Nishimura, Elaine	Watanabe, Tamiko
Higashiyama, Gail	Masukawa, Cheryl	Noguchi, Steve	Wilhelm, Sheri
Hirai, Carol	Masukawa, Alan	Noguchi, Rachel	Yamada, Susan
Hirayama, Joyce	Masukawa, Yoko	Ohara, Matthew	Yamada, Faye
Hirotsu, Charlene	Matsunaga, Loreen	Ohara, Claire	Yamada, Edward
Hirotsu, Stanford	Matsushita, James	Okamoto, Yauko	Yamada, JoAnn
Iinuma, Doris	Matsushita, Patsy	Okano, Joanne	Yamanaka, Jeanne
Ikeda, Tamotsu	Mayemura, Louise	Ouchi, Joyce	Yamane, Dick
Ikeda, Winston	Mekaru, Naomi	Ozawa, Michael	Yamane, Judy
Imada, Brian	Mikami, Lynn	Ronne, Robert	Yamano, Takao
Imada, Imogene	Mikami, Shirley	Sanada, Donna	Yanai, Frank
Imamoto, Eiko	Miyashiro, Marc-Mitchell	Sanada, Glenn	Yanai, Gail
Imamura, Nancy	Miyashiro, Marie	Sasaki, Kathy	Yoshimura, Midori
Imamura, James	Miyashiro, Vicky	Sasaki, Paul	Yoshiyama, Rose
Inose, Kay	Miyata, Julie	Sasaki, Tom	Yukawa, Jeff
Inouye, Tomoko	Morimoto, Nobuharu	Sasaki, Kiyoko	Yukawa, Jean
Ioki, Bruce	Morioka, Dennis	Sasaki, Emiko	Yuki, Wallace
Ioki, Cathy	Morishige, Cindy	Shimizu, Richard	Yuki, Toyoko
Iwamasa, Chikae	Morishige, Norman	Shimizu, Cindy	
Iwamoto, Daniel	Motoyasu, Steve	Shimizu, Gary	
Iwamoto, Ruby	Murakami, Linda Lee	Shimokochi, Gail	

BCA Assessment

Ichiroku, Kenneth

Gardening/Maintenance Donation

Akioka, Sam & Aiko	Kaida, Yasuko	Toma, Yuriko	Yoshiyama, Rose
Enomoto, Tom & Eiko	Masukawa, Cheryl & Alan	Watanabe, Donald	

General Donation/Facility Use/ Miscellaneous

Baba, Miyako	Kobayashi, Izumi
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Spring Ohigan Hoyo

Date: Sunday, March 9

Time: 9:30AM

Place: Hondo & Zoom

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji



Spring Ohigan Seminar

Date: Saturday, March 8

Time: 9:30AM (Japanese)

1:30PM (English)

Guest Speaker: Rev. Dr. Takashi Miyaji

March 2025

2 NO GBC Sunday Service		
BCA National Council Eitaikyo Service	10:00am	
(In-Person & Zoom)		
Sangha Teen mtg	10:30am	
Coordinating Council mtg (In-Person & Zoom)	1:00pm	
Shotsuki Hoyo Service in person	2:00pm	
3 Ichi-Mi mtg	6:00pm	
Obon mtg via Zoom	7:30pm	
5 DS Teacher's mtg via Zoom	7:00pm	
8 Spring Ohigan Seminar w/Rev. Takashi Miyaji		
	Jpn	9:30am
	Eng	1:30pm
9 Daylight Saving Time starts		
Sunday Service (In-Person/Zoom)	9:30am	
Spring Ohigan service w/Rev. Takashi Miyaji		
BWA mtg (In-person/Zoom)	11:15am	
Sangha Teens Spaghetti Luncheon		
11 GBC Forward! mtg via Zoom	7:00pm	
13 Monthly BEC mtg via Zoom	7:30pm	
12 GBC Centennial Operations mtg via Zoom	7:00pm	
15 SD Jr. YBA Seminar 2 hosted by GBC	3:00pm	
16 Jr. YBA mtg	8:45am	
Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am	
Pet Memorial		
ABA mtg (In-Person & Zoom)	11:00am	
WC: Teacher Workshop #3	1:00pm	
FDSTL Conference Workshop	3:00pm	
17 Megumi deadline		
19 GBC Board mtg via Zoom	7:00pm	
22 Hui Aikane mtg	2:00pm	
23 Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am	
30 Sunday Service (In-Person/Zoom)	9:30am	
Coordinating Council mtg	11:30am	

April 2025

2 DS Teacher's mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
6 Sunday Service (In-Person/Zoom)	9:30am
Hanamatsuri Service	
Hatsumairi Service	
Sangha Teen mtg	10:30am
Shotsuki Hoyo Service in person	2:00pm
7 Ichi-Mi mtg	6:00pm
Obon mtg via Zoom	7:30pm
9 GBC Centennial mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
10 BEC mtg via Zoom	7:30pm
12 Jr. YBA movie screening	2:00pm
13 Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
BWA mtg (In-person/Zoom)	11:15am
15 GBC Forward mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
16 Meinichiko Service Zoom	7:00am
GBC Board mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
20 Jr. YBA mtg	8:45am
Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
ABA mtg (In-Person & Zoom)	11:00am
WC: Teacher Workshop #4	1:00pm
21 Megumi deadline	
25 2025 FDSTL Conf. Workshop	3:00pm
26-27 FDSTL Conference hosted by Gardena	
27 Sunday Service (In-person/Zoom)	9:30am
Coordinating Council mtg	11:30am

<Regular Activities>

Sunday:	Isami Taiko Practice @11:15am weekly
Monday:	2nd & 4th Community Projects @9:30am
	2nd & 4th Cub Pack 1230 mtg @6pm
Tuesday:	Tuesday Social @9:30am
	Odori Exercise Class (\$5 donation) @1:00pm
	Boy Scout Troop 242 mtg @7pm

Wednesday:	Ikenobo/Ikebana Class @2pm 3/month
Thursday (& or Saturday)	Tea Ceremony Class @9:30am
Thursday	1st & 3rd Boy Scout Troop 242 mtg @7pm
	1st BS Eagle Board @7pm
Friday:	2nd & 4th Girl Scout Troop 4345 mtg @7pm

HATSUMAIRI SERVICE

The annual Hatsumairi (Infant Presentation) Service will be included with the 9:30 am Hanamatsuri Service on **Sunday, April 6th**. This service commemorates the formal presentation of a newborn child before the Shrine of Amida Buddha and joyfully welcomes the infant and the wishes of their parents to have their child lead a life based on the teachings of the Buddha.

The Gardena Buddhist Church invites all interested parents who have children one year old or under to consider participating in this memorable service. This year we are also accommodating toddlers born during the pandemic.

If you are interested in participating in this service, please fill out the form below and mail it to the church by **Sunday March 30, 2025**.

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INFANT PRESENTATION SERVICE – (HATSUMAIRI) Sunday, April 6, 2025– 9:30 a.m. (In person)

(*Please mail this portion to the church by Sunday, March 30)

Child's Name: _____ Birth Date _____
 First Middle Last

Parent's Name: _____
 Last Father Mother

Address _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

PET MEMORIAL



Our Annual Pet Memorial will be held on March 16, 2025. This will be a hybrid service : in-person and on Zoom.

If you have lost a pet during 2024 or would like to have your pet included in our memorial service, please complete the form. You can also submit a picture of your pet or bring it to the service in the morning.

Owner's Name: _____

Type of Pet: (dog, fish, lizard) _____

Pet's Name: _____

Date of Passing: _____ Age _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Phone No: _____

Please send your completed forms to: info@gardenabuddhistchurch.org, by **March 9, 2025**.

Thank You For Your Donations! Pasadena Buddhist Temple Fire Victims Relief



The Pasadena Buddhist Temple was very appreciative for the very generous donations from the Gardena Buddhist Church sangha. Your donations will go directly to helping the 16 PBT families that have completely lost their homes, and the 20+ families that are unable to go back to their homes. We were assured that all of the donations are items that are badly needed and will be put to good use. The following items were delivered to PBT last week:

130 containers of disinfecting wipes	5 air purifiers
36 boxes of gloves	2 air purifier filters
12 bags of wipes	6 bags of toiletries
29 bottles of body wash	7 bottles of cleaning spray
23 bottles of shampoo	30 N95 masks
31 toothbrushes	\$2725 in Target gift cards
59 tubes of toothpaste	\$940 in checks and cash
25 bottles of detergent	

Thank you everyone for your generosity!

ABA News

With March, ABA is working on a number of activities.

Together with Nishi, YABA and ABA are planning an outing to the Japanese Heritage Night with the Dodgers vs the Marlins. It should be an exciting evening.

A number of ABA members are working on the May 17 fundraiser dance at Nishi. Start dusting off your dance shoes and get ready to boogie the night away!

ABA meets on the third Sunday of the month at 11:30am in the Meeting Room. Come join us at a meeting and have some fun! See you soon!

Gardena Buddhist Church Growing Forward



Dance Benefit for the Social Hall Renovation Project

MUSIC BY:



Saturday, May 17, 2025

**Dance Location - Nishi Hongwanji Kaikan
815 E. First St. Los Angeles**

Doors open at 6pm - Dance from 7:30pm-11pm

For more information, please contact:

Lynn Isomoto: lisomoto@yahoo.com

Jane Nakamoto: jnakam01@gmail.com

Alan Miwa: ayumiwa@pacbell.net

Carol Tanita: cntanita57@gmail.com

Contact Name: _____ Required e-mail for Confirmation: _____

**Deadline: Please submit RSVP Form
with Payment by Friday, May 9, 2025**

- ___ Bodhi - \$1,500 Table(s) of 10 \$ _____
- ___ Wisteria - \$1,000 Table(s) of 10 \$ _____
- ___ Lotus - \$750 Table(s) of 10 \$ _____
- ___ Individual - \$75 Advance \$ _____
- ___ Cannot attend but glad to donate \$ _____

One Check Only, per Table

Make check payable to:
Gardena Buddhist Church
Add memo: GBC Dance

Send form and checks to:

Carol Tanita
426 Kingsford Street
Monterey Park, CA 91754



Table Guests:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____
- 6) _____
- 7) _____
- 8) _____
- 9) _____
- 10) _____

Number of Vegetarian meals: _____

Net proceeds to fund the GBC Forward Project

Gardena Buddhist Church is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization • Fed. ID # 95-2255400 • gardenabuddhistchurch.org

Reverend Ben Mayeda Family Home Lost in the Pacific Palisades Fire



If you would like to help.....

Many of you will remember our former minister, the late Reverend Ben Mayeda. His two daughters, Rumi and Akemi, lost the Mayeda family home in the horrific Pacific Palisades fire. If you would like to help the Mayeda sisters, here are two gofundme campaigns started by friends.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/palisades-fire-support-rumi-invaluable-aide-for-pali-elem>

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-akemis-family-after-fire-loss>

ODORI EXERCISE CLASSES ARE BACK!!

- Where: Gardena Buddhist Church - Social Hall
- When: Every Tuesday starting March 4th
- Time: 1:00 to 2:00pm
- Instructor: Dianne Fukuwa
- Fee: \$5.00 per class
- What to bring (optional): Uchiwa, tenugui and kachi-kachi

For your first class, please come early to register.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Jeanne Yamanaka

jeanne.yamanaka@gmail.com or (310) 748-3894



**Board Meeting: Wednesday, March 19 at 7PM
Via Zoom**



宮地信雄師

「凡夫」とはだれのこと？

浄土真宗でよくいう言葉に「凡夫」というのがあります。お念仏を喜んでいる人たちの口からも私は至って凡夫なものですから、ついこんなことをしましてす

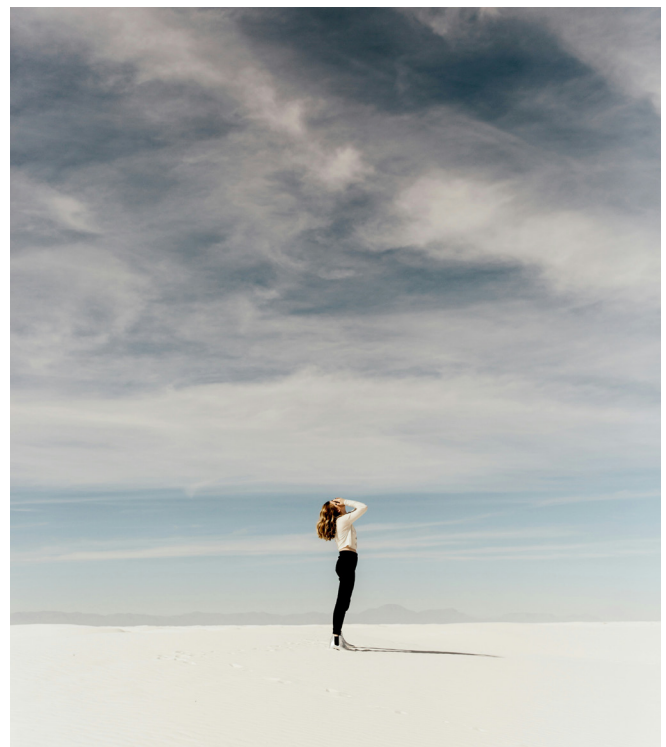
みませんというのをよく聞きます。しかし、よく聞いていますとこの凡夫という言葉のニュアンスが微妙に違っているのを感じるがよくありますので、少しその話をしてみたいと思います。

まず私は凡夫ですからと言う場合、おうおうにして、何か失敗したとか、悪いことをした場合に使う場合が多いように思います。凡夫がしたことだからすみません許してくださいという心がその背後にあるように思います。しかし、親鸞聖人が自分は凡夫だと言われる場合はそんな時だけではないのです。聖人が言われる凡夫とは、人間そのものに対して言われているのです。人間そのものということは、そんな悪いことをしたとか失敗した時だけの自分ではなく、人間として生きている自分の存在そのものももうすでに凡夫なのですという深い反省の言葉なのです。なぜそのように言えるのか、みていきましょう。

それは、人間というものは、この頭を使って生きています。そしてその頭の働きは、物事を分けるという働きを第一にしています。つまり、分析ですね。この分析する能力を仏教では分別心と呼んでいます。この分別心が実は凡夫の根源なのです。一つのことを二つに分析します。そこに知識が蓄えられます。そしてその知識がまた分析されて、四つになっていき、それが繰り返されて無限に広げられていくのです。これが、理性というものの働きです。人間は理性的な生き物ですね。だからこの働きから逃れることができないのです。

しかし、この二つに分けるということから実は私たちの苦しみが出てきているのです。分けるからそこにどちらが善いかという判断が出てくるのです。この判断するというところに人間は迷い苦しむのです。紙数の都合から結論に向かいますが、この分別する最大のものが生と死です。生きるか死ぬかというときに人間は一番悩み苦しむのです。この悩み苦しんでいるのが私そのものであるということが凡夫ということの定義なのです。この分析するという行為は人間である限り逃れることのできないものですから、人間である限りこの苦しみの生活を続けていくことになるのです。ここに人生は苦であるというお釈迦さまの第一テーゼが出されているのです。人間である限り悩み続けなければならない、つまり凡夫ということから抜け出せない私たちであるということ悲しまれたのが親鸞聖人であったということです。

南無阿弥陀仏





婦人会便り

婦人会の通常の活動（以下敬称略）

- ▽ 2月2日(日) 月例BWA会議。おいしいお菓子を準備してくださったA組の皆様、ありがとうございました。
- ▽ 2月1日(土) 2025年BWA日本語セミナー 午前9時-正午。残念ながら梅津師はセミナーに参加できませんでした。代わりに、庵原ジョン師、宮地信雄師、宮地美子師にご講演いただきました。ありがとうございました。
- ▽ 2月2日(日) 九条武子追悼法要・布施の日 [2/2/25更新] 司会してくださった丸山フィリス、お供えを準備してくださったA組の皆様、そして特別なお費銭集めにご協力いただいた宮本みつ子、宮田ジュリー、本安綾、湯木都世子に感謝します。この募金はジュニアYBAに寄付されます。
- ▽ 2月9日(日) サンデーソーシャル&お迎えの担当はBWAでした。これらの仕事を手伝ってくださった堀キャシー、今田イモジーン、加藤エイミー、宮田ジュリー、本安綾、坂谷シャーリーン、ありがとうございました。
- ▽ 3月8日(土) お彼岸セミナー。ゲストスピーカーは宮地崇師。ご参加いただいた皆様、ありがとうございます。また、午前のセッションのために軽食や飲み物を提供してくださったB組の皆様、ありがとうございました。
- ▽ 3月9日(日) お彼岸法要。お供物の準備をしてくださったB組の皆様、ありがとうございました。

いました。おいしいスパゲッティランチを提供してくれたSangha Teensにも感謝します。

- ▽ 5月17日(土) ガーデナ・フォワード・ダンス・ベネフィット 於西本願寺会館。委員会からは各GBCグループに対して、ラッフルのためのギフトバスケットを寄付するようお願いされています。加藤エイミーと田中シャウナ(当番D)がBWAのギフトバスケットを用意する活動をリードします。
- ▽ GBC BWA 100周年委員会。次回の募金イベントは6月8日にカレーライスイベントを予定しています。
- ▽ GBC100周年記念のためのソーシャルホール改装プロジェクト。この改装は2025年9月に開始予定です。その前にBWAは他のグループと共にソーシャルホールのキッチンを片付け、改装中にキッチン用品を一時的に保管する場所を決める必要があります。
- ▽ 2026年：日本語セミナーの計画。2026年のゲストスピーカーとして招待したい方について考えておいてください。来月の会議でさらに話し合います。

アナウンスメント:

- ▽ 3月2日(日) 祥月法要 午後2時(対面)
- ▽ 3月9日(日) 3月婦人会例会 午前11時15分 (ハイブリッド) 当番B/c組
- ▽ 4月6日(日) 4月婦人会例会 午前11時15分 (ハイブリッド) 当番C/d組
- ▽ 4月6日(日) 祥月法要 午後2時(対面)
- ▽ 4月7日(月) お盆会議 午前7時(ズーム) イモジーン&キャシーが出席予定。当番B/c組の代表も出席をお願いします。

踊りのエクササイズクラス再開!



- 日: 毎週火曜日
- 時: 午後1時-2時(チューズデイソーシャル後)
- 場所: ガーデナ仏教会 ソーシャルホール
- インストラクター: 福輪ダイアン先生
- 参加費: 5ドル/1回
- 持ち物(任意): うちわ、手ぬぐい、カチカチ

