



MEGUMI

慈恩

GARDENA BUDDHIST CHURCH
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Rev. John Iwohara

Gardena Buddhist Church



August 2024

Volume LVII No. 8



Rev. John Iwohara

“Why do we need religion?”

Data collected by organizations such as the Pew Research Center shows that fewer and fewer Americans attend religious services. Based on these findings, it's obvious that religion isn't as important as it

once was. This downward trend also suggests that “religion” isn't seen as a societal need, as perhaps it had been before. Starting from these assumptions, the next question is, “Why does religion still exist?” Another way of asking this is, “Why do we continue to discuss the importance of religion?”

In the past, religion tried to answer the big questions we used to ask about our lives. We would ask questions like, “What is the meaning of life?” and “What happens at death?” Many, it seems, are satisfied with answers such as, “There is no meaning. You are born, then you die. It's the nature of life. There is no meaning to it. That's just how it is.” When asked the question, “What happens at death?” the answer, “You die. That's all” is often given. This too is explained as, “That's the nature of life.” There is no “mystery.”[1] It's just how it is.

If you are satisfied with these kinds of answers,

then you probably don't need religion. Chances are, religion is not even a consideration. On the other hand, even if you are someone who can live without religion, don't you still feel sad when someone you know dies? Should this also be explained as a part of that's just how it is?

One of the themes that I have been emphasizing recently has been expressed as, “Your Life Matters.” But, even when you are feeling sad, it's not really necessary to go to a church or a temple just to hear, “Your Life Matters.” If all we need is to hear or be reminded of these words, we can just as easily write these words on a piece of paper, use a magnet, and post it on our refrigerator.

Words are powerful. Unfortunately, they can also be cheap or insincere. That's why a temple has to be safe. That's why bullying should be discouraged. That's why belittling others should be avoided. If it is not, then the words, your life matters is nothing more than another note to put on a refrigerator.

Another statement we can probably all agree on is, “Community is important.” A religious community, a temple, becomes important to demonstrate that words such as “your life matters” actually has meaning and is sincere.

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(Continued from page 1)

In other words, a religious community helps to assure that these words can be accepted and experienced as real. The different religious traditions, I think, are all probably trying to get at this truth that life matters. It is definitely true of Jodo Shinshu. For Jodo Shinshu, expressing the truth of “your life matters” is, I believe, the weight that is behind Namo Amida Butsu. For example, Shinran Shonin reveals that:

*Of those who encounter the power of the Primal Vow,
Not one passes by in vain;
They are filled with the treasure ocean of virtues,
The defiled waters of their blind passions not separated from it.*
(Collected Works of Shinran, p. 364)

Here, Shinran Shonin is informing us that Namo Amida Butsu is trying to help us to realize that no life is lived in vain. This is a much bigger statement than life is lived, because just living life is no guarantee that you will appreciate that life. The bold statement that Shinran Shonin makes, reveals that living life with faith is meaningful. In the poem, Shinran Shonin also expresses how we are accepted just as we are. The image that Shinran Shonin shares with us is that of the ocean that accepts all the water from all the different rivers that enter it even if the water is “defiled.” The ocean neither asks nor demands that the water become pure before entering it. Instead, the ocean works to transform all the water that enters into it the single flavor of the ocean. In terms of the poem, the water is turned into a treasure.

We live in a very complex world, filled with seeming contradictions. There is more wealth now than ever before, and yet homelessness is at crisis levels. We have made great strides in civil rights, and yet hate crimes are rising. We have raised life expectancy, but have fostering things like quarter life crises that are not satisfied with answers such as, “that’s just how it is.” Although still limited to the very rich, space is becoming a travel destination while we also worry about high school students plotting to shoot and kill their classmates. If these circumstances are viewed as rivers, then there

is plenty we can call “defiled.” Do we need to take the good with the bad, like with birth and death? Or, is there a way, as Shinran Shonin suggests in their poem, that can transform this current murky state into something mutually beneficial and beautiful like a treasure ocean of virtues for all?

Why do we continue to discuss the importance of religion? Why do we have religions? If you can be satisfied with the answer, “You are born, then you die,” then religion is probably nothing more than a relic from the past for you. It is something that might be kept as nostalgic. As for our current circumstances, all we really need to do is endure or ignore it until we die. If, on the other hand, you sense that life is more than *you are born, then you die*, then to those without faith, life may appear to be a mystery. But to those with faith, life is not a mystery. It is an enormous gift. Being able to live life as a gift, knowing that it cannot be lived in vain, may not be able to solve things like homelessness, but it may help steer us away from the unnecessary destruction of life as well as shield us from things like quarter or mid-life crises. This may seem like wishful thinking, but if *you are born, then you die* can be described as the nature of life, then I see *life is a gift* as the nature of a religious life.

[1] Although I used the expression “mystery,” this is, I believe, a misnomer. I say this because I find that people of faith tend to accept, understand, and live their lives with less fear and anger. They also tend to live their lives with more confidence and generosity. That is not to say that people without faith can’t live this way, but the great majority of people who I have encountered that demonstrate these traits to me have, by and large, been people of faith. “Mystery” is a misnomer because people of faith have found their truth. There is no “mystery” or something that needs to be “solved” for them. Faith is the solution to the mystery. If anything, a person of faith lives in “awe,” and not, as the *idiom describes*, in “mystery.”



Hui Aikanes

“Take me out to the ball game, take me out to the crowd”. A few Hui Aikane members and their families attended the “Japan Heritage” baseball game at Dodgers Stadium. It was an awesome and exciting game. Shohei Ohtani’s home run ball landed in the seats close to us. In addition, we were happy to witness Mrs. Yoshiko Miwa, being honored for her 110th birthday and life achievements. Dodger pitcher Yoshinobu Yamamoto presented Mrs. Miwa with her own jersey number 110. We have a celebrity attending our temple!



Hui Aikane members will be helping with the various booths in our upcoming Obon festivals, August 3rd and 4th.

On September 21st, some Hui Aikane members will be volunteering for the City of Gardena’s “Keep Gardena Clean” event from 8 am to 12 pm. It is our way of thanking the Gardena community. If any church members also wish to support the community, please register online at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/keep-gardena-beautiful-day-community-cleanup-tickets-938999140707?aff=ebdshpsearchautocomplete>. Looking forward to seeing you there!

Our next meeting is scheduled sometime in September or October in the Cooling Room. We are planning to discuss future Hui Aikane activities and enjoy each other’s company. More information will follow. Please join us.

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

ABA News (Adult Buddhist Association)

The calendar says “August”, so it must be Obon season.

ABA members are quickly signing up to volunteer in the different booths at Obon to assure its success. The list of food offerings look yummy and everyone is looking forward to the dancing.

At the end of the month, ABA will be going on a harbor cruise. ABAsomics of Nishi will be providing entertainment.

Save the date! ABA will be holding its annual Bingo on Saturday, September 28. Stay tuned for more details.

The next ABA meeting is scheduled for Sunday, August 18, 2024 at 11:30am and will be a hybrid meeting.

See you at Obon!



BINGO
Sponsored by ABA
Saturday, September 28




Fujinkai / BWA Buddhist Women's Association
Happenings:

- ◇ June 29 (Saturday) – JCI carnival (1 day). All-temple event. JCI asked GBC to make chirashi and inari-sushi. Thank you to all BWA members who came out to help.
- ◇ July 7 (Sunday) Obon & Hatsubon Services. Thank you to D/e gumi for preparing the special osonae for the Onaijin and ordering of the anpan otoki.
- ◇ July 7 (Sunday) – Monthly BWA meeting. Thank you D/e gumi for providing the delicious refreshments at our meeting. The work schedule was reviewed for this year's sushi making and the revised work schedule was sent out to all members.
 - o Report from coordinating council meeting:
 - ▶ Sangha Teens will lead PIF 2024 with a restaurant fundraiser. More details to come.
 - ▶ Dana Group will sponsor an online auction from August 15-18.
 - ▶ BEC – Shotsuki Hoyo service will start in-person (only) services from November. Monthly Shotsuki Hoyo Service will be on the first Sunday of the month at 2:00pm.
- ◇ GBC BWA 100th anniversary committee updates: Changing our bento fundraiser date to Sunday, September 15th, with prep beginning on Saturday, September 14th. More details of the bento content to come at next meeting.
- ◇ Secured guest speaker for special luncheon: Rev. Yukari Torii from San Fernando Valley Buddhist Temple.
- ◇ Committee members: Imogene Imada, Julie Miyata, Chizuko Morimoto, Amy Kato, Shawna Tanaka, Kazuko Maruyama, Kimiko Tenpo, Phyllis Maruyama, Kathy Hori.
- ◇ July 13 (Saturday) – Thank you to all those BWA members who came out to make vinegar, in preparation of our obon sushi. We had plenty of help and finished quickly!
- ◇ August 3-4. Obon 2024 – We made chirashi, maki and inari sushi as usual, and at the same quantity level as pre-pandemic amounts. Thank you SO much to all members who came out to help, as well as all the volunteers. We couldn't have accomplished this without the support of our members and volunteers and appreciate you all! Thank you also to Toban E/a who took charge of the breakfast for the Rice Crew and leading the lunch provided to all workers on Saturday (August 3rd).
- ◇ September 29 (Sunday). BWA 80/88 Birthday Party. This year we'll be celebrating the birthdays of Emiko Sasaki and Tamiko Watanabe. Service followed by offsite lunch. Venue to be determined at the next meeting.
- ◇ October 4-6 (Fri-Sun) 2024 BCA FBWA Conference hosted by Coast District at the San Jose DoubleTree Hotel. Registration is \$300. Reverends Motoyoshi and Mukojima will be speaking at the Japanese sessions.
 - o Due to the FBWA Conference occurring on 10/4-10/6, our monthly October BWA meeting will be changed to October 13th. This is also the same day as our BWA Memorial Service. We will conduct an abbreviated monthly meeting during our traditional lunch, immediately following the BWA Memorial Service.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Announcements:

- ◇ August 3rd (Saturday) Shotsuki Hoyo – on GBC website
- ◇ August 11th (Sunday)- August Meeting 11:15am (hybrid). E/a Gumi
 - o GBC BWA 100th anniversary committee meeting – will be held immediately after the BWA monthly meeting.
- ◇ August 16th (Friday) – Meinichiko Service – via Zoom
- ◇ August 25th (Sunday)- Coordinating Council Meeting 11:30am. Imogene/Julie will attend
- ◇ September 8th (Sunday) - September Meeting 11:15am (hybrid). A/b Gumi



TUESDAY SOCIAL

Happy hot hot Summer!! We hope everyone is staying cool and healthy. Come to Tuesday Social on Tuesdays from 9:30 – 11:30 and enjoy friendly friends, refreshing refreshments, in our cool Social Hall.

On July 9, we enjoyed a wonderful tea ceremony performed by Wisteria Chugakko students, and delicious homemade ohagi served with the tea. Thank you, students and teachers, we look forward to your presentation each year.

Happy Birthday to our June Friends: Jeanne, Doris, Mildred, Toyoko, and Alice.

At our Aug 13 gathering, representatives from the Keiro organization will visit and do a short presentation on a Memory Care Survey. Please let me know if you are interested on attending on Tuesday 8/13th ckuyemura@hotmail.com (Cathy Uyemura) or call/text 310-666-5189 for further info, or directly to Keiro's website at www.keiro.org/survey. Another event sponsored by Keiro is "Keiro No Hi" festival, September 21, 2024 (10am – 3pm). If you are interested, visit www.keiro.org/knh.

Remember: No Tuesday Social on 9/3/2024. We will resume our normal monthly schedule on 9/10/2024.



The Community Projects Group (CPG)

The members of the Community Projects Group thanks everyone for their continued support during the year.... we really appreciate your helping the Group achieve our goal of supporting the Church.

After Obon, we are taking a week off – our next gathering will be on Monday, August 26, at 10 am at the Church.

Our September workshops will be on Mondays, September 9th and 23rd.





Ross Nishimura

From GBC Board Chairperson

With great gratitude and appreciation, on behalf of the Gardena Buddhist Church, I wish to thank all those who supported, volunteered, or participated in our Obon festival earlier this month. Obon is a time of rich traditions, culture, and personal reflection and we are honored and privileged to be able to organize this annual event which brings together friends and families across the Southern California area.

What brings us the greatest pride is seeing Obon evolve to meet the interests of individuals from diverse communities and across generations to become a celebration which welcomes all. At GBC, we are fortunate to have the influences and energy from an increasingly younger community; thanks to members of our Scouting programs, Young Adult Buddhist Association, and Ichi-Mi who help to push us forward. Embracing such innovative ideas and willingness to change will help us ensure Obon can continue to be engaging for all.

Looking ahead to September, be sure to check out the BCA 125th Anniversary Telethon, which will highlight innovation and changes across all BCA temples. For GBC, the fall schedule is already packed with fundraisers, special services, conferences, and fun events. Sign up for Weekly Updates on our website to stay informed.

Ross

A green-themed graphic with white wavy shapes and leaf illustrations. The text 'Save the Date' is in a cursive font, and 'Keep Gardena Beautiful Day' is in a bold, sans-serif font. A date box contains 'Saturday September 21, 2024'. There is a logo for the City of Gardena and an illustration of a hand holding a globe.

Save the Date

Keep Gardena Beautiful Day

◆ Saturday ◆
September 21, 2024





Wisteria Chugakko

Reverend John Iwohara, Headmaster
Charlene Hirotsu, Principal

Wisteria Chugakko 2024, our 6th session of middle school students, just ended with a wonderful Culmination Program on Wednesday, July 10, 2024, in our Gardena Buddhist Church Social Hall. Our 31 students held an Opening Service before their families followed by the students welcoming and introducing themselves to the audience in Japanese. The students then danced into the Social Hall to two Obon Dances, one using their handmade kachi kachis. An amazing taiko song, Ashura, was performed by the 7th, 8th, 9th and Leadership students. We watched 3 short films created and produced by the students, followed by a Tae Kwon Do demonstration.

Kisa Lai and Alyson Yick, our Wisteria Leadership Program students gave speeches sharing their experiences during the session. They both displayed superior understanding of the traits of a good leader and demonstrated this throughout the summer session. This was followed by our fabulous 2024 Wisteria Chugakko Culmination Video, produced by Alan Miwa, capturing photos and videos of our 3 1/2 weeks together.

Congratulations and thank you to our 61 Wisteria Chugakko teachers and staff for their months of planning and preparation for this year, and their ability to connect with our students throughout each day of the 16-day summer session. Our deepest appreciation to Rev. John Iwohara for his dedication and leadership.

With Gassho,
Charlene Hirotsu, Principal, Wisteria Chugakko



2024 Wisteria Chugakko Students and Teachers

OBON 2024

Wow, August is already here which means that Obon is just a few days away! All the months of planning and the many hours of meetings, will come to realization as our Obon Festival 2024 gets underway on August 3rd and 4th.

We are very happy that we are able to have numerous food booths, bringing back many of the favorite dishes that we've had in the past. We were able to add corn on the cob and Beef Teriyaki back on the menu this year, along with Chicken Teriyaki, Spam Musubi, Chili Rice with Hot Dog, Chirashi Sushi and Inari & Maki Sushi. After you finish dinner, don't forget to have some dessert! Our sweet treats include our famous Okinawan Dango, Snow Cone and Kintoki- something will certainly satisfy your sweet tooth!

Obon Dancing will start at 6:00 pm. Yes, we will be dancing in the street again! It's always a beautiful sight to see all the dancers in their colorful kimonos, yukatas and happi coats. There will be Taiko Performances and live musicians during some of the dances!

We will once again be accepting credit cards to purchase your food items at the Central Purchasing Booth. Yes, that includes Apple Pay and Google Pay. Of course, Cash will also be accepted, but \$20.00 will be the largest bill we can accept.

We look forward to seeing you at Obon.

In Gassho,
Nadine Kakimoto and Sharyl Yamada-Oda
Obon Chairpersons



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.

Hirokane, Kenso (94) April 26, 2024
Aoki, Hideko (85) July 10, 2024



August 2024

- Online Auction Fundraiser thru 8/27
- 3 Shotsuki Hoyo via Zoom 10:00am
- Gardena Obon Festival 3:00pm
- Obon Dance 6:00pm
- 4 No Sunday Service
- Gardena Obon Festival 3:00pm
- Obon Dance 6:00pm
- 6 No Tuesday Social
- GBC Forward! mtg via Zoom 7:00pm
- 7 DS Teacher's mtg via Zoom 7:00pm
- 10 FDSTL Conference Panning mtg 10:00am
- SD Jr. YBL Cabinet Transition mtg 11:00am
- 11 Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom) 9:30am
- BWA mtg (In-Person & Zoom) 11:15am
- 16 Meinichiko Service via Zoom 7:00am
- 17 GBC Board via Zoom 7:00pm
- 18 Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom) 9:30am
- ABA mtg (In-Person & Zoom) 11:30am
- Wisteria Chugakko Teacher Luncheon & Wrap Up 12:30pm
- 19 Megumi Deadline
- 21 GBC Board Mtg via Zoom 7:00pm
- 24-25 SD Jr. YBL Conference at San Diego
- 24 ABA: Play and Panel Discussion by 1000 Cranes 10:00am
- 25 Coordinating Council mtg 11:30am
- 28 GBC 100 General Operations Committee mtg via Zoom

September 2024

- 2 Temple Closed—Labor Day
- 4 DS Teacher's mtg via Zoom 7:00pm
- 7 Shotsuki Hoyo via Zoom 10:00am
- 8 Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom) 9:30am
- BWA mtg (In person & Zoom) 11:30am
- 10 GBC Forward! Zoom mtg 7:00pm
- 15 Jr. YBA mtg 8:45am
- Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom) 9:30am
- BWA Bento Fundraiser
- ABA mtg (In person & Zoom) 11:30am
- 16 Meinichiko Service via Zoom 7:00am
- Megumi Deadline
- 18 GBC Board mtg via Zoom 7:00pm
- 21 Fall Ohigan Seminar Japanese 9:30am
- English 1:30pm
- 22 Sunday Ohigan Service (In-Person & Zoom) 9:30am
- Coordinating Council mtg 11:15am
- 28 ABA Bingo & 50 cent dip 5:00pm
- 29 Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom) 9:30am
- BWA 80th/88th Birthday Celebration

*** No Tuesday Social on 9/3/2024

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

Megumi Deadline is Monday, August 19, 2024

GARDENA BUDDHIST CHURCH OBON 2024

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

SATURDAY AUGUST 3 3PM - 9PM

SUNDAY AUGUST 4 3PM - 9PM

OBON ODORI 6PM - 8PM

FOOD BOOTHS

CHICKEN & BEEF TERIYAKI
SPAM MUSUBI
SUSHI
DANGO
CHILI RICE
SHAVE ICE

FUN FOR EVERYONE

CARNIVAL GAMES
BINGO
BOUNCE HOUSE &
GIANT SLIDE

TAIKO PERFORMANCES

CRAFT BOUTIQUE



**BUDDHIST CHURCHES
OF AMERICA
125TH
ANNIVERSARY**



Gardena Buddhist Church, 1517 W. 166th St., Gardena, CA 90247

WWW.GARDENABUDDHISTCHURCH.ORG

A Storytelling Workshop on “Mental Health and Intergenerational Conflict”

Sponsored by Gardena Buddhist Church ABA

Gardena Buddhist Church & Storytelling Theater present...

RED DOORS

**A THEATRICAL
PERFORMANCE &
WORKSHOP ABOUT
MENTAL HEALTH &
INTERGENERATIONAL
CONFLICT***

Using live theater performance and storytelling to normalize mental health conversations!

Event Details:

- **Date:** Saturday, 8/24/24
- **Time:** 10 am to 11:30 am
- **Location:** Gardena Buddhist Church
1517 166th St, Gardena, CA 90247

**The workshop is FREE!
Refreshments will be provided.
We hope to see you there!**

***Trigger Warning:**

Red Doors is intended for a general audience, but it contains scenes depicting substance use, overdose, and teen suicide. Parental caution is advised for minors.

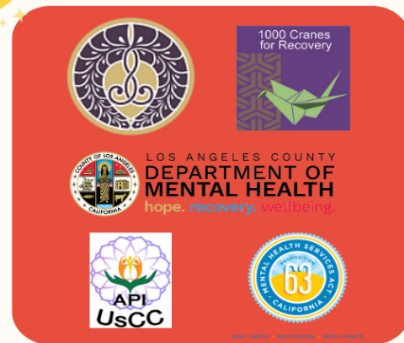
✉ **Questions? Contact Terri Mitani**
terrimitani@gmail.com

✉ **Questions? Contact JR Kuo**
jrkuo.1000cranesforrecovery@gmail.com

🌐 **More Information**
www.1000cranesforrecovery.com



Photo by Mitchell Lou



Special Thanks to Our Collaborators:

- Asian Youth Center
- Cambodia Town
- CultiAsian at UCLA
- Langley Center
- Pacific Clinics
- Taiwan Center
- Visual Communications



LEARN MORE

SCAN TO LEARN MORE ABOUT
THE UPCOMING EVENTS

Please join us for this special event. Please scan the QR code above to register or go to <http://www.1000cranesforrecovery.org>. The event is free and refreshments will be served.



Starts August 3, 2024 - 3pm
Ends, August 17, 2024 - 4pm

Scan QR Code
for direct link
to our site

www.32auctions.com/GardenaBuddhistChurch24



We truly appreciate your continued support!

The church acknowledges the following donations received from 6/17/24 - 7/21/2024 with gratitude and appreciation.

Funeral/Makurakyo/Burial/Memorial Services

Kakimoto, Nadine

Kawahara Families

Nimura, Keiko

Shotsuki Hoyo Donations

Doi, Sanaye
Ego, Kimiko
Fujioki, Ruby
Fujita, Teruko
Hayakawa, Franklin
Imamoto, Eiko
Kakimoto,, Nadine
Katayama, Takao
Kato, Sharon

Kawahara Families
Kita, Cindy
Kita, Yoshimi
Komatsu, J.
Mashiko, Jane
Masumoto, Chiyo
Mikami, Lynn
Mitsushima, Janice
Miyasato, Frances

Miyata, Julie
Mizukami Family Trust
Nakashima, Diana
Nakayama, Tomoko
Nishi, Kay
Ohara, M/M J.S.
Okada, Nobuko
Otani, Keiko
Ozawa, Michael

Sueishi, Hatsumi
Tatsukawa, Hiroko
Uyemura, M/M Calvin
Watanabe, Makoto
Yamachika, Kazuko
Yamada, Joann

Obon/Hatsubon Hoyo Donations

Obon/Hatsubon Service
Akahoshi, Masato
Akioka, M/M Sam
Fujimoto, Fumie
Fujita, Teruko & Fumiko
Harada, Patricia
Hirayama, Joyce
Hirotsu, M/M Stan
Hori, M/M Bryan
Ikeda, Taotsu & Winston
Imada, Imogene
Imamoto, Eiko
Inose, Kay
Kamibayashi, M/M Shig
Kato, M/M Isao
Katsuki, K.
Komatsu, Janett
Kurashima, M/M Justin
Maeda, Tom
Maesaki, Kazue
Maruyama, Kazuko
Maruyama, Phyllis

Matano, Flo
Matsuda, Hiromi
Matsumoto, Eiko
Mayemura, Louise
Mekaru, Naomi
Mikami, Lynn
Mikasa, M/M Clifford
Mitani, M/M David
Miwa, M/M Alan
Miwa, Yoshiko
Miyamoto, Mitsuko
Miyata, Julie
Morimoto, Nobuharu
Morioka, M/M Dennis
Motoyasu, Steve
Munekata-Wilhelm, Sheri
Nakakura, M/M Ken
Nakamoto, M/M David
Nakamura, Burt
Nakamura, Christine
Nakamura, Debbie

Nakamura, M/M John
Nakata, M/M Bob
Nakatani, M/M David
Nakawatase, Haruye
Nishi, Patty
Nishihira, M/M Joe
Ohara, Emily
Ohara, Yoshifumi
Okada, George
Okada, Nobuko
Okamoto, Yauko
Okumoto, Yoko
Osa, Susan
Otani, Keiko
Ouchi, Joyce
Sakatani, M/M Richard
Sanada, M/M Glenn
Sasaki, M/M Paul
Sasaki, M/M Tom
Shibata, Reiko
Shigemitsu, M/M Tom
Shimizu, Mitzi

Shimono, Natsuye
Space, Ayumi
Suminaga, Kimi
Takahashi, Sae
Takao, Donna
Takao, Tamiko
Tanaka, Nancy
Terao, M/M Ernie
Tsuge, M/M Mike
Uwahori, Sadae
Uyeda, Midori
Uyemura, M/M David
Wakimoto, Yuko
Watanabe, Donald
Yamane, M/M Dick
Yamasaki, Sheryl
Yokota, M/M James
Yoshida, Suzanne
Yoshiyama, M/M Bryan
Yuki, Toyoko
Yuki, Wallace

2024 GBC Membership Dues

Jinkawa, Janice
Jinkawa, Kimi

Kanegawa, Eric
Sasaki, Brent

Sasaki, Noriko
Suda, Sadao

Special Donations

Aerospace Corporation	Hira, Jon
BCA Dana Share Program	Kitazawa, Stanley
Bern & Valentina	Kubota, Yoshiko
Fujihara Family	Kunisaki, Sue

Mitsunaga Trust (2)
Nagatani, Gerald
Seino, Toshiyuki
Shibata, Reiko

Sunada, Eugene
Yanai, Frank

Obon Festival Donations

Nishihira, M/M Joe

Osaisen

Gross, Bern	Nishihira, M/M Joe
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Gardening Donations

Kanegawa, Eric

General Donation/Facility Use/ Miscellaneous

Baba, Miyako	Kizuna	Kobayashi, Izumi
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Obon Odori (Dance)

- August 3rd: 6pm - 8pm
- August 4th: 6pm - 8pm



**Board Meeting: Wednesday, August 21 at 7PM
Zoom**



宮地信雄師

「神格化」の問題

神格化とは、特別な人間を神や仏とみなす考え方である。最近の出来事からそのことを見てみよう。

先月世界を震撼させた出来事、トランプ氏襲撃事件が起こった。この事件は様々な観点から、いろいろな重要な解説がなされている。政治的な見方から論じることは私には専門外なので、その人たちにまかすことにするが、宗教家として私が言えることを論じてみる。それは、トランプ氏が、幸にも一ミリの違いで命が助かったということから、これは神のご加護のおかげだとする点である。このことについてもいろいろな意見があると思われるが、もしもこれが神のお加護であるなら、この時流れ玉に当たって一人の尊い命が失われたことはどうなるのであろうかという疑問である。様々な意見の中に、トランプ氏は神であるという意見まで出てきた。ここまでくると誰でも神とは一体何なのかということを考えてしまうであろう。この欄はスペースが限られているので、細かいことは端折っていく。

ある特定の人間が特定の能力を持っていることで、その人を神格化しようとする傾向が人間にはあるように思う。霊能力を持っている人を特殊な人間として崇めてきたという歴史は方々に見られる。しかし、そういう人間の持つ安易さが、いろいろな不幸をよんできたということも

歴史は物語っている。

仏教では、この人間の神格化ということ嫌ってきたということができる。お釈迦さま自身も自分を神格化することを大変嫌っておられたという事実がある。また、親鸞聖人も、自分を仏として拝むようなことは絶対するなと言われていた。親鸞聖人の有名な言葉に、「外見だけでも、立派な悟りすました格好はするな！自分の心の中には嘘や出鱈目が渦巻いているではないか。」というのがある。これを聖人は自戒の言葉としておられるのである。人間が神になる時、そこには何かきっと非合理的なことが起こる。そのことを一番嫌われたのが親鸞聖人である。人間の幸福は、誰か一人を神や仏として拝む世界からは決して出てこない。人間全てのものが共に崇高な理想を持っているものとして、お互いに拝みあう心が出てくるところに必ず本当の幸福がもたらされてくるのである。合掌



秋季彼岸法要

9月22日(日)

午前9時30分

ガーデンナ仏教会本堂&Zoom

ご講師:向嶋裕史師(マウンテンビュー仏教会)

秋季彼岸セミナー

9月21日(土)

午前9時30分 日本語

午後1時30分 英語

ご講師:向嶋裕史師(日英両語)



婦人会便り

婦人会の通常の活動（敬称略）

- ▽ 6月29日（土）JCIカーニバル（1日）。全GBC参加のイベント。JCIからGBCに、ちらし寿司といなり寿司作りを依頼されました。お手伝いに来てくださった全てのBWAメンバーに感謝します。
- ▽ 7月7日（日）お盆&初盆法要。お内陣のために特別なお供物を準備や、御斎のあんぱんを注文してくれた D/e組に感謝します。
- ▽ 7月7日（日）婦人会例会。会議で美味しいお菓子を提供してくれたD/e組の皆さん、ありがとうございました。今年の寿司作りの作業スケジュールを確認し、改訂版のスケジュールが全メンバーに送付されました。
 - 附属団体連絡協議会からの報告：
 - ▶ サンガティーンズがPIF2024を主導し、レストランファンドレイザーを開催します。詳細は後日発表されます。
 - ▶ ダナグループが8月15日-18日までオンラインオークションを主催します。
 - ▶ BEC 祥月法要は11月から対面（のみ）のサービスを開始します。今後祥月法要は毎月第一日曜の午後2時にお勤めされます。
- ▽ ガーデナ仏教婦人会創立百周年記念委員会更新情報： お弁当募金を9月15日（日）に変更し、準備は9月14日（土）に開始します。お弁当の内容については次回の会議で詳細をお知らせします。特別ランチのゲストスピーカーとしてサンフェルナンドバレー本願寺の鳥居ゆかり先生をお迎えします。委員会メンバーは今田イモジーン、宮田ジュリー、森本千鶴子、加藤エイミー、田中シャウナ、丸山和子、天保君子、丸山フィリス、堀キャシーです。
- ▽ 7月13日（土）お盆用の寿司の準備のために酢を作りにきて下さった婦人会メンバーに感謝します。たくさんの人の助けのお陰で迅速に終了しました！
- ▽ 8月3-4日 お盆2024 例年通り、ちらし寿司、巻き寿司、いなり寿司を作り、パンデミック前と同じ量を準備しました。お手伝いに来てくれた全てのメンバーとボランテ

ィアの皆さんに心から感謝いたします。彼らのサポートなしではやり遂げられませんでした。また、炊飯係の朝食を担当し、8/3（土）に作業してくれた全ての人に昼食を提供するべく主導してくれたE/a組にもお礼申し上げます。

- ▽ 9月29日（日）BWA 80/88歳の誕生日パーティー。今年は佐々木恵美子さんと渡辺民子さんの誕生日をお祝いします。法要の後にオフサイトの昼食会があります。会場は次回のミーティングで決定します。
- ▽ 10月4-6日（金一日）2024全米仏婦連盟大会が 沿岸教区主催でサンノゼ・ダブルツリーホテルで開催されます。登録費は300ドル、日本語セッションは本吉先生と向島先生が講演されます。登録に必要な書類はメンバー宛にEメールで送ります。
 - 全米仏婦連盟大会が10/4-10/6に開催されるため、10月のBWA月例会は10月13日に変更となります。この日は BWA追悼法要も行われます。BWA追悼法要後すぐにランチを食べながら月例会を短縮して行います。

アナウンスメント:

- ▽ 8月3日（土）祥月法要（GBCウェブサイト上）
- ▽ 8月11日（日） 8月婦人会例会（ハイブリッド）午前11時15分 当番E/a組
例会直後、ガーデナ仏教婦人会創立百周年記念委員会会議
- ▽ 8月16日（火） 命日講（Zoom）午前7時
- ▽ 8月25日（日） 附属団体連絡協議会 午前11時30分 今田イモジーン&宮田ジュリー出席予定
- ▽ 9月8日（日） 9月婦人会例会（ハイブリッド）午前11時15分 当番A/b組

