



MEGUMI

慈恩



GARDENA BUDDHIST CHURCH
1517 W. 166th Street, Gardena, CA 90247
Phone: 310-327-9400 FAX: 310-327-4660
E-Mail: info@gardenabuddhistchurch.org
Rev. John Iwohara



Gardena Buddhist Church

April 2025

Volume LVIII No. 4



Rev. John Iwohara

“Hide and Seek”

I was recently introduced to the streamed series titled, “Squid Games.” Although I have yet to see a single episode, I was told that the premise of the show is how a group of people

are made to play childhood games, but with deadly consequences. This is a very interesting premise and may help to partially explain the reason for the program’s popularity. When we look back, the childhood games we played often bring back fond memories of when things were much simpler for us. During that time, we didn’t really have to worry about many of the struggles that accompany living life especially within a community setting. Instead of work, for instance, we were allowed to play. But, some of the games we played aren’t necessarily as innocent as we would like to remember.

For example, I remember playing hide and seek one day. On this particular day, for this particular game, I was confident I found a great hiding place. Nobody was going to find me. Unfortunately, we were playing near dinner time. Everyone’s parents called everyone for dinner. Given where I was hiding, however, I could not

hear being called for dinner. Because I didn’t hear being called for dinner, because I knew I had found a great hiding spot I continued to hide. I had no idea I was the only one still playing. Eventually, I got tired of hiding, especially because I was getting very hungry. I crawled out of my hiding spot and started walking home. Nobody else was outside. I knew I had been abandoned.

The game of “Hide and Seek” is only fun when you know that someone is looking for you. It is very lonely to think that nobody cares enough about you to even bother looking for you. It was a gut wrenching experience. When I finally returned home, after everyone else had already finished dinner, it is perhaps needless to say that I got scolded. But, the scolding paled in comparison to the feeling I had of being abandoned. In fact, the scolding was almost a relief because it showed me that my parents worried about me.

Unfortunately, in a real sense, we often play the “squid games” version of Hide and Seek in our daily lives. Individuals who belong to the LGBTQ+ community are often made to feel invisible. Many feel that they have to hide because of the consequences they fear they will have to face if they are discovered. Because

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of this fear, although they do not want to be discovered, at the same time it is very lonely to think that nobody is actually looking for you, that nobody really wants to see you for who you truly are. It is very sad to think that you have been abandoned.

Shinran Shonin begins their Kyogyoshinsho with their general preface that has within it the words:

Wholly sincere, indeed, are the words of truth that one is grasped, never to be abandoned, the right dharma all-surpassing and wondrous! Hear and reflect, and let there be no wavering or apprehension. (CWS, p. 4)

Furthermore, in recalling the lessons they heard from Shinran Shonin, Yuienbo in their opening chapter of the Tannisho shares how they were taught:

Know that the Primal Vow of Amida makes no distinction between people young and old, good and evil; only shinjin is essential. (CWS, p. 661)

These words found in the Tannisho help to clarify for us that the Vow of Amida Buddha was established to assure us that no one is abandoned. It is for this reason that in the general preface Shinran Shonin wrote, "wholly sincere." Whatever our circumstance may

be, the Vow of Amida Buddha, as expressed to us as Namo Amida Butsu, is constantly assuring us that we are always in the embrace of compassion, and that we will never be abandoned. Through the wisdom of the Buddha, as expressed through light, we are constantly being reassured that the Buddha sees us as we really are, and because we are "grasped, never to be abandoned" we are being reminded that we are who we are meant to be.



ICHI-MI CLUB

Ichi-Mi will hold its general meeting on Monday, April 7, at 6pm. An evening film showing and social will be held on Friday, August 8th, followed the next day by "Breaking The Silence," a seminar from 9-3pm on Saturday, August 9 at GBC. For more information, please contact Ichi Mi at ichimi.gbc@gmail.com

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.

Horii, Alice Yukiko
Miwa, Yoshiko
Nakaoka, Kimiko

(98)
(110)
(95)

February 3, 2025
February 13, 2025
March 6, 2025




Fujinkai / BWA Buddhist Women's Association

Happenings:

- ◇ GBC 100th anniversary gift to the temple – We are now considering carpeting the Hondo as our gift to the church. Estimates gathered by Kathy Hori put the ballpark figure at around \$25,000~\$30,000 for the whole Hondo. Carpet samples were passed around at our March BWA meeting and further discussions on this topic will continue.
- ◇ GBC BWA 100th anniversary committee. Our next fundraiser will be a curry rice event for June 8th. Laurie Sugita has kindly offered to head the planning of this bento lunch on behalf of the BWA.
- ◇ FBWA 2026 Conference. Southern District has the toban and the FBWA Conference will take place in October, 2026 in San Diego. In order to defray expenses, the SDBWA chapters are all selling panko, donated by UpperCrust Enterprise, Inc. Each bag is \$3. Several SDBWA chapters expressed their intent to sell the panko at their obons this year, so this fundraiser will be ongoing and continuing through the summer. Gardena BWA will be selling panko at the Sunday Coffee social after service. Phyllis Maruyama offered to sell the panko at Tuesday Social as well.
- ◇ 2024 Year-end Homebound Members visits. With apologies to those homebound members, Julie Miyata requested that we be allowed to forego the 2024 year-end homebound members visits, as scheduling between Julie and Kathy Hori have been difficult to match, and we are now well into 2025.
- ◇ Reminder: The Megumi will resume mailings in November by request only. The BWA will submit the names of our members that wish to receive the Megumi newsletter mailed to them.
- ◇ March 14th, Friday. Thank you to everyone who attended Mrs. Yoshiko Miwa's funeral and assisted the family during the service and otoki, despite the cold and the rain. The BWA sponsored this funeral, as Mrs. Miwa was a BWA Komon. Arrangements for the Ingo and flowers were made by the BWA.
- ◇ April 5th, Saturday. Chirashi-sushi preparation for Hanamatsuri. C gumi was in charge of buying the ingredients and the osonae. Ingredient preparation started at 9:00am.
- ◇ April 6th, Sunday. Thank you to everyone who came out to help prepare and pack the chirashi-sushi: 5:30am for rice making and peas; 6:00am for general assembly.
- ◇ May 3rd, Saturday. Fujimatsuri. Bento pick-up event. Need 5 volunteers to help. Assignments will be given that day, but may need additional people to help pack the bentos.
- ◇ 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 create the BWA's gift basket.
- ◇ Reminder that we need to clean the Social Hall kitchen before the renovation that will begin in September, 2025. We will need to decide where to temporarily store our items.

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Announcements:

- ◇ 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
- ◇ April 8th (Tuesday) – Fujimatsuri Meeting. Imogene/Kathy will attend.
- ◇ April 13th (Sunday) - April BWA Regular Monthly Meeting 11:15am in the Cooling Room. C/d Gumi
- ◇ April 27th (Sunday) – Coordinating Council Meeting
- ◇ May 4th (Sunday) - May BWA Regular Monthly Meeting 11:15am (hybrid). D/e Gumi
- ◇ May 4th (Sunday) - Shotsuki Hoyo – in person at 2 p.m.

ABA News

ABA members are going to be very busy in the next couple of months, but we started off with a bit of fun at the YABA Trivia Night Fundraiser. Everyone had a great time.

March 4, 2025, was the first gathering of the ABA sponsored Odori Exercise Class with 24 participants joining in on the first day. If you are interested, they meet every Tuesday at 1:00pm in the Social Hall. The cost is \$5/class. The class instructor is Ms. Diane Fukuwa.

On the weekend of April 25, 26, 27, Gardena Dharma School Teachers will be hosting the FDSTL Conference. ABA will help provide snacks & refreshments on Saturday and additionally, help provide transportation for guests from hotels to the church. Your help is appreciated.

On April 28, we will be going to the Japanese Heritage Night at Dodger Stadium, a night to celebrate Japanese heritage and culture and enjoy an exciting baseball game.

ABA members are busy preparing for the May 17 fundraiser Dinner/Dance to be held at Nishi Hongwanji Temple. Net proceeds will be donated to the GBC Forward campaign to renovate the Social Hall.



Other upcoming events that we are planning for are, Fujimatsuri Bento pick-up and Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast. More details to come.

ABA meetings are held on the third Sunday of each month. Come and join us.

Hanamatsuri Service

Date: Sunday, April 6

Time: 9:30AM

Place: Hondo & Zoom



Hui Aikanes

We would like to thank all of our guests for attending our second trip to Las Vegas! We hope each of you enjoyed the trip and camaraderie. Many thanks to the people who brought so many delicious snacks on our trip. And a huge congratulations to the winners of the Bingo game we played on the way to Las Vegas.

Thank you to the Sangha Teens for their delicious Spaghetti luncheon after the Ohigan service.

For those wishing to assist the Dharma School Teachers in decorating the Hanamido or with flower donations on April 5th, please bring your flowers to Church in the meeting room by noon. Your flower and time donations would be very welcomed and most appreciated.

On Saturday, April 26, 2025, some Hui Aikane members will be volunteering for the "Earth Day Clean Up" at the Willows Wetland Preserve from 10 am to 1 pm. Assist in debris removal, trail maintenance and help beautify the Gardena community. If any church members also wish to support the community, please register online at <https://www.cityofgardena.org/events>. Looking forward to seeing you there!

On Monday, April 28, 2025, Hui Aikane members are joining ABA for a fun evening at the Dodgers Japanese American Heritage Night. GO DODGERS!

A kindly reminder, your 2025 membership dues of \$15 are due. Please mail it to David Nakamoto or bring to the next meeting.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, March 22nd 2:00 pm in the Cooling Room.



INFANT PRESENTATION SERVICE – (HATSUMAIRI)

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

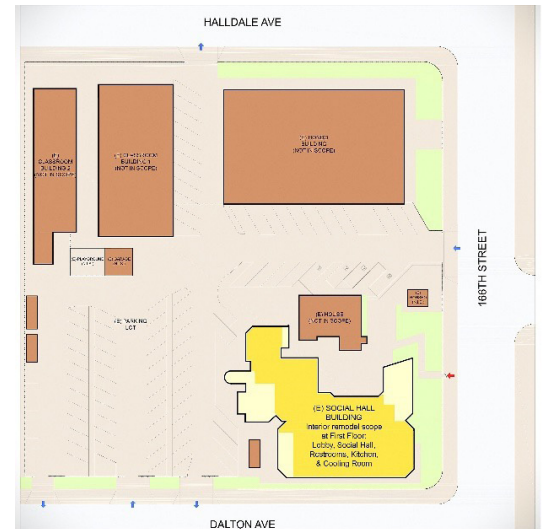
The annual Hatsumairi (Infant Presentation) Service will be included with the 9:30 am Hanamatsuri Service on **Sunday, April 6th**.

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.

GBC Forward! Past, Present and GBC Forward!

We are so fortunate that our past temple leaders had the foresight to build such wonderful facilities at Gardena Buddhist Church! Our magnificent Hondo, spacious classroom buildings, ample parking and multipurpose Social Hall, all gave and continue to give our Sangha many spaces to gather together to hear the Dharma and interact socially.

Today, we are also so fortunate to have an active and growing Sangha! We add new Sangha members and JLS \ NPS students every year. In the past few years, we were also able to celebrate the resurgence of YABA and Boy Scouting programs and new organizations like Ichimi.



While our Social Hall and parking lot have supported our activities for nearly 50 years, constant use and changing regulations have made major renovation a necessity. To ensure our continued success, we need:

- Remodeled and upgraded social hall kitchen - LA County health codes have changed significantly, so we must update our main kitchen with upgraded work areas, plumbing and ventilation.
- ADA compliant parking lot and social hall restrooms (i.e. Americans with Disabilities Act instituted in 1990).
- Safe and sustainability focused facilities – As all of our refrigerators are decades old, they should be replaced with energy efficient models. Water bottle filling stations with filtration and coffee/tea dispensers will also heighten safety.
- Integrated A/V system with a ceiling mounted projector – Our current rolling cart with cables trailing across the floor just isn't safe.

Our refreshed Social Hall will be a true example of our temple's renewed mission: Hands together, hearts together, for the benefit of all. It will perfectly illustrate what many hands and hearts working together can do: provide a pleasant and safe environment for our Sangha and strengthen our Dharma Sharing ability going forward.

In order to fund this renovation project, we established a \$2.0 million capital campaign called 'GBC Forward!'. This campaign began in March and will extend to the end of 2027.

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

Everyone should have received a mailing with an explanatory letter and brochure that highlights some of the upcoming remodeling changes.

If not, please click here or use this QR code.

If you have any questions, please contact the GBC Forward! Committee at the following email address: gbcforward@gardenabuddhistchurch.org



TUESDAY SOCIAL

On March 4, two Officers of the Gardena Police Department visited and talked about their duties and keeping our community safe. They welcomed questions from our TS friends. Always a pleasure to have the Officers visit.



Also in March, we started our Tuesday Social Chair Exercise class, with Cheryl Masukawa as our instructor. We need to stretch & move our bodies and muscles to stay active & healthy.

We meet every Tuesday at 9:30 - 11:30am. Please join us for coffee and light snacks. We have fun games & puzzles, good food, Bingo, and lots of friendly people. See you on Tuesday.

Sangha Teens

Sangha Teens had a very successful spaghetti luncheon on March 9th.

Thank you for attending and we hope you enjoyed your lunch! We are looking forward to feeding the sangha again next year!



Megumi Deadline is Monday, April 21, 2025



Ross Nishimura

From GBC Board Chairperson

“Spring at GBC: Embracing Impermanence and Exciting Upcoming Events”

Spring Ohigan reminds us of the beautiful and profound truth of impermanence, a core teaching of our Buddhist tradition. Much like the flowers blooming around our temple grounds, it provides us an opportunity to reflect on the transient nature of life and cherish the present moment with mindfulness and compassion.

Spring Ohigan also brings an increased level of activity to GBC.

- Celebrate the birth of Amida Buddha with our Hanamatsuri Service on April 6th.
- Enjoy a craft fair and Huli Huli Chicken Bento at our Fujimatsuri on May 3rd.
- Remember Shinran Shonin, the founder of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, at our Gotane Service on May 4th.
- We have opportunities to celebrate and honor important members of our lives with our Pet Memorial Service, Mother’s Day Service and Breakfast (hosted by ABA), and Father’s Day & Graduate Recognition Service and Lunch (hosted by Jr. YBA).

Phew... I’m aware that I’m missing several other activities and events that will occur at GBC this Spring. Even though I know this list is not complete, I decided to continue with publishing it as a reminder of how fortunate we are to be part of a very special community at GBC. We are all very fortunate to have a ministerial staff and sangha who commit so much to the Temple. Also, I have great appreciation and gratitude for everyone who is able to dedicate time to come and participate in these many services and events at the Gardena Buddhist Church.

For specific dates and times of the many events, please visit our website at www.gardenabuddhistchurch.org, refer to our weekly email updates, or send your questions to info@gardenabuddhistchurch.org.

And now, an update on GBC Forward:

We are excited to announce that the GBC Forward project has entered its fundraising phase! This is a chance for all of us to invest in the future of Gardena Buddhist Church. Over the next three years, we aim to raise \$2 million to support the construction of the new Social Hall and Kitchen, creating a vibrant space for our Sangha and the wider community. This project is our legacy, ensuring a place for future generations to gather and connect. Please consider making a pledge today to support the GBC Forward project and help us achieve this important goal.





Wisteria Chugakko

Reverend John Iwohara, Headmaster
Charlene Hirotsu, Principal

Wisteria Chugakko Summer (Middle) School 2025

June 16-July 9, 2025

Don't miss out!

Registration Deadline: Monday, April 21, 2025.

Our 3 ½ week summer session for those students going into 7th, 8th, and 9th grade in the Fall of 2025 will begin on Monday, June 16, and end on Wednesday, July 9, 2025 with our 2025 Wisteria Chugakko Culmination Bento and Program.

If you have any questions, please contact Charlene Hirotsu, Principal, at charlene.hirotsu@gbcwisteriachugakko.org.

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

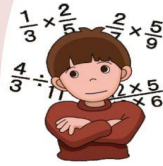
Student Interest Form

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.)



Gardena Buddhist Church
 ★ 1517 W. 166th Street
 Gardena, California 90247

From 91 or 110

- Exit West on Artesia
- Right at Normandie
- Left at 166th
- Church will be on the right
- Parking Lot on the Left **P**



From the 405

- Exit Northbound on Normandie
- Left at 166th
- Church will be on the right
- Parking Lot on the Left **P**

Especially created for
 incoming 7th, 8th, and 9th
 Grade Students
 (in Fall of 2025)

Please join
 the Gardena Buddhist Church
**Wisteria Chugakko
 Summer School**



**Monday, June 16 - Wednesday, July 9
 2025**

Reverend John Iwohara
 Gardena Buddhist Church Resident Minister
 Wisteria Chugakko Headmaster

Charlene Hirotsu
 Wisteria Chugakko Principal

Gardena Buddhist Church
 1517 W. 166th Street
 Gardena, California 90247
 1(310) 327-9400
 wisteria.chugakko@gardenabuddhistchurch.org

Mission Statement

The Wisteria Chugakko (Middle School) is established to enrich the academic experience, and the religious and cultural understanding of its students in order to develop academics and a greater appreciation for the potential and dignity of human and all life.



**\$550 tuition
 (\$500 for GBC Members)**

Wisteria Chugakko Daily Schedule

8:30-8:55	9:00-9:25	9:40-10:25	10:30-11:15	11:15-12:10	12:15-1:00	1:05-1:50	1:55-2:40	2:45-3:30	3:30-6:00
Morning Assembly Sign-in	Morning Service	Period 1 (45 mins)	Period 2 (45 mins)	Lunch	Period 3 (45 mins)	Period 4 (45 mins)	Period 5 (45 mins)	Period 6 (45 mins)	After School Supervision

Students will have multiple teachers in the following content areas:

- Calendaring
- Calligraphy
- Car Mechanics
- Cardmaking
- Cooking
- Crocheting
- Drawing
- Event Planning
- Excel
- Filmmaking
- Flower Arrangement
- Haiku Poetry
- Incarceration Talk
- Japanese
- Japanese Bookbinding
- Japanese Etiquette
- Japanese Tea Ceremony
- Jodo Shinshu Buddhism
- Jodo Shinshu Rituals
- Kachi Kachi Making
- Keyboarding
- Kokedama
- Learning Our History
- Learning Spreadsheets
- Lei Making
- Obon Dancing
- Origami
- Papermaking
- Photography
- Podcasting
- Robotics
- Sashiko
- Sewing/Shibori
- Shakyo
- Shuji
- Storyboarding
- Survival Bracelet
- Taekwondo
- Taiko
- Wood Tile Trivets
- Yukata Dressing

Teachers and Staff

- Aponte, Kimberly
- Baba, Miyako
- Fujii, Janet
- Fujikawa, Gary
- Fujimoto, Fumie
- Fukuji, Barbara
- Harada, Erie
- Hiramoto, Debbie
- Hirotsu, Charlene
- Hirotsu, Russell
- Hirotsu, Stephanie
- Hirotsu, Stan
- Hori, Kathy
- Ikeda, Bev
- Imada, Brian
- Imada, Imogene
- Inose, Kay
- Isomoto, Lynn
- Iwasaki, Irene
- Iwohara, Rev. John
- Kakazu, Kazuyo
- Kakimoto, Nadine
- Kawamura, Ken
- Kishimoto, Eric
- Komai, Joann
- Kondo, Kyoko
- Kita, Alan
- Lai, Ming
- Maruyama, Phyllis
- Mayemura, Louise
- Mayemura, Tommy
- Mekar, Naomi
- Miyamoto, Mike
- Miyashiro, Marie
- Miwa, Alan
- Miwa, Christine
- Miya, Arleen
- Miyaji, Rev. Nobuo
- Motoyasu, Aya
- Murata, Jan
- Nakagawa, Mae
- Nakahira, Ann
- Nakakura, Doris
- Nakamoto, David
- Nakamoto, Jane
- Nakatani, Lily
- Nishihira, Joe
- Nishihira, Violet
- Nishimura, Elaine
- Nishimura, Patti
- Quon, Rev. Kory
- Sasaki, Emiko
- Sato, Doreen
- Sauer, Dick
- Shimizu, Gary
- Shimizu, Linda
- Shimizu, Mitzi
- Takao, Dianne
- Takashima, Debbie
- Tsurata, John
- Uehara, Harumi
- Umez, Rev. Amy
- Uyemura, Ty
- Wong, Verna
- Yamanaka, Jeanne
- Yasaki, Allie
- Yasaki, Chris
- Yasaki, Megan
- Yoshiyama, Rose



We truly appreciate your continued support!

**The church acknowledges the following donations received from 2/10/25 - 3/16/2025
with gratitude and appreciation.**

Funeral/Makurakyo/Burial/Memorials

Ishii, Gary
Ishii, Reiko

Kakita, A.
Nakamoto, David

Toyozaki Maehira, Deborah

Shotsuki Hoyo Donations

Anonymous
Blair, Janyce
Dote, Ty
Fujimoto, Fumie
Fujioki, Emma
Fujioki, Ruby (3)
Fukuman, Thomas
Harada, Patricia
Hayakawa, George
Hira, John
Ishii, Gary

Ishii, Reiko
Isobe Nakaba, Linda
Kaiura, Earl
Kakita, A.
Kuwahara, Suzuko
Matsuda, Hiromi
Matsumoto, Eiko
Miwa, M/M Alan
Miyasato, Frances
Mizuno-Masunaga, Lynn
Mori, Eiko

Morita, Diane
Nakamoto, David
Nakamura, Debbie
Nakano, Janann
Nakata, M/M Bob (2)
Nakata, Taeko
Nguyen, Christopher
Ohara, Emily
Okada, Nobuko
Saiki, Akiko
Takao, Dianne

Takao, Donna
Takeda, Fusako
Tanaka, Faith
Tanaka, Kumi
Toyozaki Maehira,
Deborah
Uwahori, Sadae
Uyemura, Cathy
Wakimoto, Yuko
Yoshimura, Yomiko

Spring Ohigan Hoyo Donations

Anonymous (2)
Fujimoto, Fumie
Hashimoto, Jane
Hori, Kathy
Imada, Imogene
Inouye, Tomoko
Iwamoto, Diane
Iwamoto, M/M Daniel
Kita, M/M Alan
Maeda, Tom
Maesaki, Kazue
Maruyama, Kazuko

Maruyama, Phyllis
Matano, Flo
Matsunaga, Katsuyo
Mayemura, Louise
Miwa, M/M Alan
Miyamoto, Mitsuko
Miyata, Julie
Morimoto, Nobuharu
Morioka, M/M Dennis
Motoyasu, Steve
Nakakura, M/M Ken
Nakamura, Burt

Nakata, M/M Bob
Nakatani, M/M David
Nishihira, M/M Joe
Okada, Nobuko
Okamoto, Yauko
Okamura, Rodney
Sasaki, M/M Tom
Shigemitsu, M/M Tom
Shimizu, Mitzi
Shimono, Natsuye
Suminaga, Kimiye
Takao, Donna

Takao, Tamiko
Tamura, Mary
Tsuge, M/M Mike
Uyeda, Midori
Wakimoto, Yuko
Watanabe, Donald
Wilhelm, Sheri
Yamane, M/M Dick
Yuki, Wallace

Hanamatsuri Donations

Inose, Kay
Mayemura, Louise
Morioka, M/M Dennis
Motoyasu, Steve

Nakakura, M/M Ken
Nakamoto, M/M David
Nakamura, Lilly
Nakatani, M/M David

Takao, Tamiko
Wakimoto, Yuko
Wilhelm, Sheri
Yamanaka, Jeanne

Yuki, Wallace

Hōonko Donations

Yoshiyama, M/M Bryan

2025 GBC Membership Dues (received from 2/10/25 - 3/16/2025)

Aponte, Kimberly	Kawahara, Jane	Nakao, Harumi	Shimono, Natsuye
Aponte, John	Kawasaki, Richard	Nakao, Wilfred	Takata, Haruto
Araki, Aileen	Kawasaki, Evelyn	Nakatani, David	Takeuchi, Sueyoshi
Fujii, Diane	Kikuno, Nariko	Nakatani, Lily	Tamura, Mary
Fujii, Rodney	Kiyohara, Kimiko	Nishihira, Joe	Toyoaki, Shiro
Goto, Dana	Kobashi, Jane	Nishihira, Violet	Tsuge, Michael
Gould, Kathy	Komatsu, Janett	Nishimura, Shunji	Tsuge, Marilyn
Hadeishi, Nobuyuki	Kono, Emiko	Nishimura, Patti	Tsukamoto, Faye
Hadeishi, Irene	Kozai, Brian	Oda, Steven	Tsukamoto, Wilfred
Hamamoto, Irene	Lammel, Midori	Ohara, Satomi	Uyeda, Pauline
Hori, Kathryn	Maeda, Tom	Okada, Nobuko	Yamada, Joyce
Hori, Patricia	Maesaki, Kazue	Okada, Yoshio	Yamada, Steven
Hull, Madoka	Matano, Flo	Okamura, Rodney	Yamada-Oda, Sharyl
Ikemiya, Reiko	Miwa, Alan	Okumoto, Yoko	Yamane, William
Inn, Rikio	Miwa, Christine	Ozawa, Mitchell	Yamane, Shigeko
Inn, Isabel	Miyashiro, Marie	Sato, Janice	Yanagita, Chieko
Isobe, Daniel	Motoyasu, Ayako	Sauer, Wayne	Yoshida, Suzanne
Iwata, Amy	Muro, Marilyn	Shigemitsu, Thomas	Yoshiyama, Bryan
Kato, Gerald	Nakamoto, David	Shigemitsu, Judith	Yoshiyama, Nancy
Kato, Amy	Nakamoto, Jane	Shimizu, Mitzi	
Kawahara, Larry	Nakano, Etsuko	Shimono, Shigeki	

Special Donations

Aerospace Corporation	Miyata, Julie	Toguchi, Janelle
Anonymous	Orita, Florence	Watanabe, Makoto

Osaisen

Gross, Bern	Mirelle, Dawn	Sakatani, M/M Richard (2)
Maruyama, Kazuko	Nagatani, Gerald	

Hondo Repair Donations

Inose, Kay	Uyeda, Midori
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BCA Assessment

Ikeda, Winston	Miwa, M/M Alan	Ozawa, Mitchell
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Ohigan Seminar

Inanaga, M/M Glenn

New Year's Eve Service

Miyashiro, Marc-Mitchell

Gardening/Maintenance Donation

Hori, Kathryn
Komatsu, Janett

Maeda, Tom
Muro, Marilyn

Nishihira, Joe
Okumoto, Yoko

Tsuge, Michael
Uyeda, Pauline

General Donation/Facility Use/ Miscellaneous

Hirotsu, Charlene

South Bay Lions Club

April 2025

2	DS Teacher's mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
5	BWA Chirashi Prep	9:00am
	Hanamatsuri Decoration	2:00pm
6	Chirashi Prep	5:30am
	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 of A Rebel's Outcry	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 via 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

May 2025

3	Fujimatsuri Bento Fundraiser	
4	Gotan-e Service	
	Sunday Service (In-Person/Zoom)	9:30am
	Sangha Teen mtg	10:30am
	Shotsuki Hoyo Service in person	2:00pm
5	Ichi Mi mtg	5:45pm
	Obon mtg via Zoom	7:30pm
7	DS Teacher's mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
9	GBC Centennial mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
8	BEC mtg via Zoom	7:30pm
11	Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast	10:00am
	Mother's Day Sunday Service (In-Person/Zoom)	
	BWA mtg (In-person/Zoom)	11:15am
13	GBC Forward mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
16	Meinichiko Service via Zoom	7:00am
17	GBC Forward Dinner/Dance at Nishi Hongwanji	6:30pm
18	Jr. YBA mtg	8:45am
	Sunday Service (In-Person/Zoom)	9:30am
	ABA mtg	11:00am
	WC: Teacher Workshop #5	1:00pm
19	Megumi deadline	
21	GBC Board Mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
25	No Service at GBC	
	Pacific Crest Service	9:00am
	Green Hills Service	11:00am
26	Nokotsudo open	9:00am-12 noon
31	Wisteria Chugakko Parent/Student Orientation	1:00pm

<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

GBC Forward Donations

The GBC Forward! project greatly appreciates the following donations towards remodeling the Social Hall. Your donation will help ensure the Social Hall will be updated for use for future temple and community events. Your support will enable us to continue efforts in spreading the Dharma and building strong ties with our community. Donation amounts below are cumulative from the start of the 2024 campaign.

<p>Wisteria (\$100,000+)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masaji & Kiyoko Mitsunaga Memorial Trust
<p>Bamboo (\$50,000-\$99,999)</p>	
<p>Lotus (\$25,000-\$49,999)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Honor of our parents: Noboru & Ayako Nakatani, Seijiro & Yoshiko Inose
<p>Chrysanthemum (\$10,000-\$24,999)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Memory of Mr Henry and Mrs Yoshiko Miwa and Mr Ronnie Takao • Dick & Judy Yamane • Nobuko Okada
<p>Cherry Blossom (\$5,000-\$9,999)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Memory of John & Peggy Tsuruta • Dave & Terri Mitani • David & Cathy Uyemura • John & Kimberley Aponte • Louise Mayemura
<p>Iris (\$1,000-\$4,999)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kenneth & Doris Nakakura
<p>Peony (\$500-\$999)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Norman & Cindy Morishige • Dennis & Jan Masaki



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).

Gardena Buddhist Church Growing Forward



Dance Benefit for the Social Hall Renovation Project

MUSIC BY:



Saturday, May 17, 2025

Dance Location - Nishi Hongwanji Kaiban

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: aymiwa@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

GARDENA BUDDHIST CHURCH

OBON 2025

AUGUST 2 & 3

OBON DANCE
FOOD BOOTHS
GAME BOOTHS
BINGO
BOUNCER/SLIDE
CRAFT BOUTIQUE

Check Back for
More Details

SAVE THE DATE

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, April 16 at 7PM
Via Zoom**

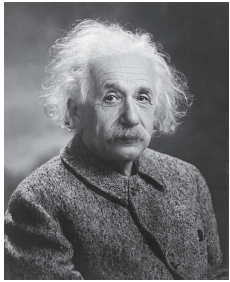
『危機管理』

宮地美子師

先日子供向けの番組で、単語“奇跡”を解説する中で以下の名言を知りました。

“人生には、二つの道しかない。一つは、奇跡などまったく存在しないかのように生きること。もう一つは、すべてが奇跡であるかのように生きることだ。”

誰の名言だと思いますか。これはかの有名なアインシュタインの名言の一つです。彼は1日の読書の中で、半分は専門分野の物理学に関する本、半分は宗教書を読んでいたそうです。ということは宗教に深い関わりを持っていた人とも言えます。またこういう言葉があります。



“宗教なき科学は不完全であり、科学なき宗教は盲目である。”

科学者たるもの宗教的感性を持つということと、科学も宗教抜きに論じては盲目であるということだと思います。

さてあなたは奇跡を全く信じませんか、それとも後者の全てが奇跡と思いますか。

この名言を聞いてあるストーリーを思い出します。それは雑阿含経にあります盲亀浮木（もうきふぼく）のたとえです。

ある時、お釈迦様がお弟子の阿難（あなん）に「そなたは人間に生まれたことをどのように思っているか」と尋ねられました。

「大変喜んでおります」と阿難が答えると、お釈迦さまは「果てしなく広がる海の底に、目の見えない亀がいる。その盲亀が、百年に一度、海面に顔を出すのだ。広い海には一本の丸太棒が浮いている。丸太棒の真ん中には小さな穴がある。その丸太棒は風のまにまに、西へ東へ、南へ北へと漂っているのだ。

阿難よ。百年に一度、浮かび上がるこの亀が、浮かび上がった拍子に、丸太棒の穴にひょいと頭を入れることがあると思うか」聞かれた阿難は驚いて、

「お釈迦さま、そんなことはとても考えられません」

と答えると、「絶対にないと言い切れるか」お釈迦さまが念を押されます。

「何億年か何兆年の間には、ひょっと頭を入れることがあるかもしれませんが、無いと言ってもよいくらい難しいことです」と阿難が答えると、

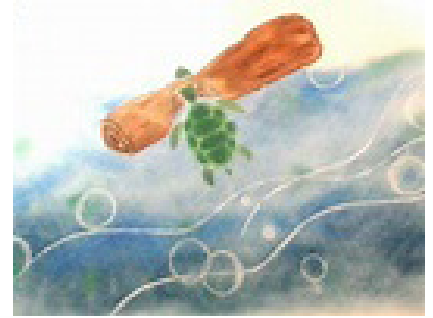
「ところが阿難よ、私たちが人間に生まれることは、この亀が、丸太棒の穴に首を入れることが有るよりも、難しいことなのだ。有り難いことなのだよ」

と教えられています。

これを私たち仏教徒は“稀（まれ）なり、滅多（めった）に無い”と表現します。

三帰依文の冒頭にありますように、“人身受け難し、今すでに受く、仏法聞き難し、今すでに聞く“です。

私たちが今人間として生まれていることは実に奇跡が起こっているという意味です。自分がこの世に生まれてきた意味を深く味わっていかねばなりません。アインシュタインは、生まれたこと、いただいた人生そのものが奇跡であるとおっしゃるのです。





婦人会便り

婦人会の通常の活動（以下敬称略）

- ▽ GBC 100周年記念のお寺への贈呈品一現在、私たちは本堂のカーペットをギフトとして考えています。堀キャシーが調べた見積もりによると、本堂全体のカーペットの費用は約25,000～30,000ドルになる見込みです。カーペットのサンプルは3月のBWA会議で配布され、今後もこの件に関して話し合いが続けられる予定です。
- ▽ GBC BWA 100周年記念委員会一次回の募金活動は、6月8日に行われるカレーライスイベントです。杉田ローリーがBWAを代表してこの弁当ランチの担当となって計画を立てて下さることになりました。
- ▽ FBWA 2026年大会 一南部教区が当番を務め、FBWA大会は2026年10月にサンディエゴで開催されます。費用を賄うため、SDBWAの各支部は「Uppercrust Enterprise, Inc.」から寄付されたパン粉を販売しています。1袋3ドルです。いくつかのSDBWA支部は今年のお盆でパン粉を販売する予定ですので、この募金活動は夏を通じて続けられる予定です。ガーデナBWAは礼拝後のサンデーソーシャルでパン粉を販売します。丸山フィリスは、チューズデイソーシャルでもパン粉を販売する申し出をしてくださいました。
- ▽ 2024年末の病気お見舞い訪問について 一ホームバウンドメンバーの皆様には申し訳ありませんが、宮田ジュリーからの要請で、2024年末のホームバウンドメンバー訪問を中止させていただきます。ジュリーと堀キャシーさんのスケジュール調整が難航し、現在すでに2025年に入っているためです。
- ▽ ご案内：慈恩は、リクエストがあった場合のみ11月から郵送が再開されます。BWAは、慈恩のニュースレターを受け取りを希望する会員の名前を提出する予定です。
- ▽ 3月14日（金）一三輪好子さんの葬儀にご出席いただき、また葬儀及び御斎の際にご家族をお手伝いくださった皆様に感謝申し

上げます。寒さと雨にもかかわらず、参加していただきありがとうございました。三輪さんはBWAの顧問であったため、BWAが葬儀をサポートし、院号とお花の手配もBWAが行いました。

- ▽ 4月5日（土）一花祭りのちらし寿司準備。C組が材料の購入とお供えを担当しました。材料の準備は午前9時から開始されました。
- ▽ 4月6日（日）一ちらし寿司の準備を手伝って下さった皆様に感謝します。午前5時30分からはご飯と豆の準備、午前6時からはいつもの手順で準備が行われました。
- ▽ 5月3日（土）一藤まつり。お弁当の受け取り及びCPGによるクラフトセール。5名のボランティアが必要です。担当は当日決定しますが、お弁当を詰める作業を手伝っていただく追加の方が必要となるかもしれません。
- ▽ Gardena Forwardダンス募金イベントー 2025年5月17日 西本願寺会館で開催一委員会はGBCの各グループに、ラッフル用のギフトバスケットを寄付するよう依頼しています。加藤エイミーと田中ショウナ（当番D）が、この活動を担当し、BWAのギフトバスケットを作ります。
- ▽ ご案内：2025年9月に始まる改修工事前に、ソーシャルホールのキッチンを清掃する必要があります。私たちの物を一時的にどこに保管するかを決める必要があります。

アナウンスメント:

- ▽ 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。
- ▽ 4月8日（火）藤まつり会議 イモジーン&キャシーが出席予定。
- ▽ 4月13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27日（日）附属団体連絡協議会
- ▽ 5月4日（日）5月婦人会例会 午前11時15分（ハイブリッド）当番D/e組
- ▽ 5月4日（日）祥月法要 午後2時（対面）



GBC Scout Sunday on Sunday, February 23

