



MEGUMI

慈恩

GARDENA BUDDHIST CHURCH
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Rev. John Iwohara



Gardena Buddhist Church

January 2025

Volume LVIII No. 1



**OHTANI, Kojun
Monshu**

Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

New Year's Greeting

Happy New Year! At the beginning of the New Year, I would like to extend my warm regards to you all.

As in previous years, many people throughout the world have been affected by natural disasters, including earthquakes, floods, and forest fires.

I would like to offer my deepest condolences to all who have perished in those calamities. I would also like to express my sympathies to those who are still coping with the dire situations. It is my sincere hope that all who have been affected will soon be able to return to normalcy.

In addition to the continuing Russian invasion of Ukraine that began in February 2022, armed conflict in the Middle East since October 2023 has intensified, putting a toll on civilians. As Buddhists, let us embrace the words of Sakyamuni Buddha that "Everyone fears violence and is scared of death. In consideration of all life, do not kill and do not make others kill."

We, as human beings who have received life in this world, shall have our human rights equally guaranteed regardless of reason, and must never have

our lives threatened. However in reality, conflicts and terrorist attacks have occurred everywhere in the world and for many people, their right to live and exist has been threatened. As Buddhists as well as Nembutsu followers who aspire to achieve peace, we must keep seriously in our hearts the words of Sakyamuni Buddha as well as Shinran Shonin who aspired for a peaceful world in pursuing our endeavor of contributing toward world peace and security.

Through the Jodo Shinshu teaching, we are guided to appreciate Amida Buddha's working that enables us to become aware of our true self. Being caught up in our self-centered thinking and desires, we are unable to accept the Universal Truth of dependent origination and impermanence, and that is why we constantly suffer from our human desires.

Unable to leave us in such a state, Amida Buddha continuously works to lead us to the Dharma. By regarding each individual as a fellow traveler following the same path being guided and embraced by Amida Buddha, we are enabled to respect and help each other while courageously coping with difficult social issues. Let us continue listening and appreciating Amida Buddha's working as Buddhist followers while cherishing each and every day.

January 1, 2025



Rev. John Iwohara

"I am a very powerful dreamer!"

David Chappell

The above words were stated by the comedian Dave Chappell in their comedy show titled, "The Dreamer" that toured and aired in 2023. At the beginning of the recorded version of the show is a

quote from Henry David Thoreau which read,

"If one advances confidently in the direction of his dreams, and endeavors to live the life which he has imagined, he will meet with a success unexpected in common hours."

The New Year typically begins with hopes and dreams. During this time, we give ourselves permission to see the potential for what the New Year can and might bring. The Fundamental Vow of Amida Buddha pushes us to see the potential that we have that we probably didn't even know existed. The Fundamental Vow of the Buddha reveals the following hope that is held for all of us.

If, when I attain Buddhahood, the sentient beings of the ten quarters, with sincere mind entrusting themselves, aspiring to be born in my land, and saying my Name perhaps even ten times, should not be born there, may I not attain the supreme enlightenment. Excluded are those who commit the five grave offenses and those who slander the right dharma.¹

The hope expressed in the Vow is one that tells us that all sentient beings, you and I, have the potential to become a Buddha. It is, however, more than a potential or a hope. It is what the Buddha Vowed. To fulfill this Vow, we are told how the Buddha spent countless eons perfecting all the practices to become a Buddha. Throughout that time we are told that the Buddha never had an impure thought, word, or act for even a single moment. All this activity was done so that we might realize our potential to become a Buddha, or to become a person

who not only overcomes their own suffering, but also has the ability to remove the suffering from others.

Our Jodo Shinshu temples are built around this foundation. It is a history of people hearing and receiving this Vow. From this hearing we learn that we have the potential to become a Buddha. We have been able to hear the Vow because of Shinran Shonin and all those who followed. All these people have helped us to receive the legacy that we know as the temple. The legacy of the temple has been bequeathed to us because all of our predecessors had the hope and dream to help us to overcome the suffering in our lives and to find meaning in them instead. They help us to do this by having gifted us the temple and the treasure of the Dharma that it holds inside. Just as we know that the hope we feel in bringing in the new year is real, let us once again rededicate ourselves to hearing the Vow of the Buddha, and receive something not just real, but something that is True and Real. May the New Year be filled with the Truth and Reality of Namo Amida Butsu. May we meet with success in the unexpected common hour we call the present, and may we all receive the heart of faith.



¹ Collected Works of Shinran, p. 80



Ross Nishimura

From GBC Board Chairperson

A New Year Message: Embracing Change and Renewal

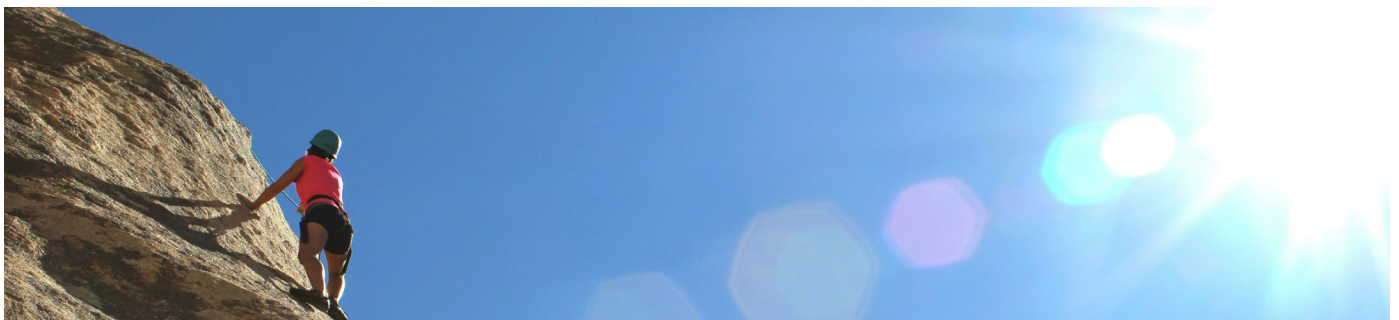
Welcome to 2025, the Year of the Snake, which symbolizes a time for change and renewal. Just as a snake sheds its old skin to emerge renewed, this year invites us to embrace change and cultivate personal growth. I hope you will have the opportunity to take some time for self-reflection, shed limiting habits, and create space for new beginnings. As Shinran Shonin taught us, clinging to the past or fearing the future breeds suffering. In the spirit of the snake shedding its skin, let us embrace change with courage and wisdom.

In the spirit of renewal, GBC will embark on exciting new ventures as we approach our 100th Anniversary in 2026. This year will be filled with events and introduction of projects which are targeted to ensure the perpetuity of our temple for future generations. Many church organizations are already planning fundraisers to support these celebratory endeavors.

Throughout this year, you will be hearing more about two important committees. The GBC 100th Planning Committee will be focused on the events and activities to commemorate the 100 years since the founding of Gardena Buddhist Church in 1926. While the GBC Forward committee is chartered to plan and raise funds towards the retrofit of facilities around our Temple.

In December, Sensei began to talk about breaking down barriers at GBC which may have naturally evolved by gender, age, or interests. To achieve the goals set forth by both the 100th Planning and GBC Forward, we should take inspiration from Sensei to think and operate as one, we'll need to be innovative, to listen, and depend upon one another to be successful.

While my message for this month is internally focused, as we start the new year I also need to acknowledge that there are members of our surrounding community and elsewhere in the world where simple necessities are not available or at risk. With great gratitude for each of you and to the Gardena Buddhist Church, I wish you all a very happy, healthy and prosperous new year.



New Year's Greeting

To everyone, Happy Year of the Snake! We wish everybody a healthy and happy 2025.

We would like to thank Rev. Iwohara, our cabinet, Toban Leaders, and all our members for your support, guidance and diligent work during the past year.

For 2025, we will be continuing our BWA planning for our 100th anniversary in February, 2026. We also look forward to sponsoring a Japanese seminar in February, 2025 with Rev. Kodo Umezu as our guest speaker, and we remind everyone that Southern District is busy planning the FBWA Conference, which will take place in San Diego in October, 2026.

Lastly, we express gratitude to have the Buddha, the Dharma and the Sangha in our every day lives.

Mina sama kotoshi mo yoroshiku onegai itashimasu!

In gassho,
Imogene Imada & Julie Miyata



Happenings:

- ◇ December 15th, Sunday – Temple clean up. Thank you to everyone who came out to help clean the Hondo and thank you to the Board for providing the delicious Giuliano sandwich lunch for all of us.
- ◇ December 31st, Tuesday. Toshi-Koshi soba preparation. Thank you to Laurie Sugita who offered to make the dashi, and to ABA for preparing the noodles for the evening service.
 - ▶ Joya-e Service. Thank you, everyone, for attending the evening, in-person New Year's Eve service.
- ◇ January 1st, Wednesday, 8:00am. New Year's Day Service. Thank you to everyone who attended this in-person service.
- ◇ January 5th, Sunday – BWA Installation during family service. The 2025 cabinet:
 - ▶ Presidents: Imogene Imada & Julie Miyata
 - ▶ Religious Chair: Kathy Hori
 - ▶ Recording Secretaries: Phyllis Maruyama & Nancy Yoshiyama
 - ▶ Treasurers: Chizuko Morimoto & Charlene Sakatani
 - ▶ Auditors: Mitsuko Miyamoto, Toyoko Yuki
 - ▶ Toban Leaders: A- Kathy Hori; B-Nancy Yoshiyama; C-Aya Motoyasu; D-Amy Kato; E-Linda Shimizu
 - ▶ 2024 BWA Advisors:
 - o Komon: Yoshiko Miwa, Midori Yoshimura
 - o Soudanyaku: Kimiko Tenpo, Kazuko Maruyama, Etsuko Nakano, Emiko Sasaki
 - o Special Advisor: Rev. John Iwohara
- ◇ January 9-11, 7am: Raihai Service - hybrid.
- ◇ January 12th, Sunday – Ho-Onko Service and Seijinshiki Service

(Continued on page 5)

(Fujinkai/BWA: continued from page 4)

Announcements:

- ◇ January 5th (Sunday) – 2025 BWA Cabinet Installation during service and January BWA Regular Monthly Meeting 11:15am (hybrid). E/a Gumi
- ◇ January 12th (Saturday) – preparation for Ho-Onko otoki
- ◇ February 2nd (Sunday) - February BWA Regular Monthly Meeting 11:15am (hybrid). A/b Gumi

BWA Appreciation:

- ◇ 50th Memorial for the late Tsurumatsu Uyeno Tenpo, Helen

ABA News

Akemashite Omedetō Gozaimasu! Happy New Year!

ABA looks forward to a busy year with the installation of our 2025 cabinet happening on Sunday, January 19.

We are already planning to listen to Earth, Wind and Fire at the Hollywood Bowl on July 3, 2025. If you are interested in joining us for this outing, please contact Arleen Miya or Alan Kita by January 19, 2025.

ABA holds its meetings on the third Sunday of each month, so our next meeting will be Sunday, January 19 at 11:30am in the Meeting Room. This will be a hybrid meeting. Please join us and find out what we are planning to do in 2025.

Stay warm and stay safe!



Dana Group

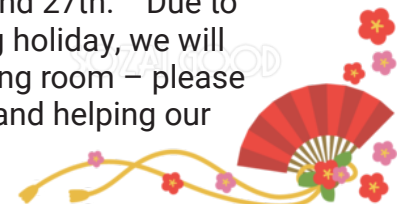
This is a reminder for all Dana Group members to join our 60th Anniversary Celebration on February 9th, 2025 in the GBC Meeting Room at 11:30 am. Look for the letter in the mail to RSVP.

Please note that the registration for the Hatsumairi ceremony will be in the February issue of Megumi.



The Community Projects Group

“Happy New Year” from all the members of the Community Projects Group to everyone! We are starting the year off with meetings on Mondays, January 13th and 27th. Due to the church being closed on Jan. 20 in observance of Martin Luther King holiday, we will not be meeting on that date. Our meetings begin at 10 am in the meeting room – please come join us if you are interested in socializing, learning new projects, and helping our church and community!





Hui Aikanes

“Oh, we’re going to the hukilau. A huki-huki-huki-huki-hukilau. Everybody loves the hukilau, where the lau-lau is the kaukau at the luau.”

We want to thank our Hui Aikane members for singing “The Hukilau Song” at our recent Oseibo Taikai. Thank you, Joe, for playing the ukulele and Ken for playing the guitar, and Jeanne, Nolan, Gary and Ty for bringing life to our ama ama fishes while we were singing. Also thank you to Dawn, Ken Nakakura, and Winston for holding our fish nets. It provided the right atmosphere to our performance.



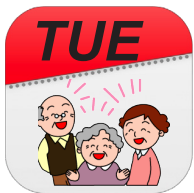
We would also like to thank our members and friends of Hui Aikane for participating in our “Huntington Harbor Holiday Cruise”. We began our cruise by enjoying a delicious Italian meal at the “Old Spaghetti Factory” restaurant. A 50-minute cruise ride through the Huntington Harbor followed a wonderful meal. The cruise offered participants a spectacular view of the many lights and displays on homes, docks, decks, and boats. What a beautiful view!

Finally, thank you to our members for coming during their busy schedule to help with the end of the year church clean up. We washed the church windows and helped clean the Hondo.

Our Installation luncheon and next meeting will be on January 25th. Officer Installation Service will be held during the January 19th Sunday service.

Hau’oli Makahiki Hou (Happy New Year)! We wish everyone a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year!

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



TUESDAY SOCIAL

Happy New Year! We hope everyone is enjoying a nice winter holiday season. Hard to believe it’s 2025 already.

Thank you everyone for supporting our Tuesday Social. It’s wonderful to see all the smiling faces ... Playing games, puzzles, and just chatting and enjoying each others company.



Thank you to all that support Tuesday Social with your generous monetary donations, sharing home grown fruits and vegetables, delicious baked goods and of course our monthly potluck. Tuesday Social only exists because of the many kind and wonderful volunteers and participants. Please continue to join us from 9:30 - 11:30am every Tuesday. There is something for everyone. Please stay healthy and warm.

**Board Meeting: Wednesday, January 15 at 7PM
Via Zoom**

YABA (Young Adult Buddhist Association)

Happy New Year! We look forward to a new year of events, sharing in sangha and the Dharma. Please join us at our next meeting if you are interested!

In November we had our last meeting of 2024. We had a potluck and made holiday cards that were given to the local Kei-Ai to bring a little joy.

We also went to Pixar Putt, a pop up mini golf course in Long Beach. We had a great time playing and then ate at the San Pedro Fish Market while escaping the rain.

In December we went to see some holiday lights. Our plans ended up needing to be flexible but it was great to see the light display.

Upcoming Events:

January 19th: General Meeting 11:30AM

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



ICHI-MI CLUB

Ichi-Mi General Meeting: January 6, 2025 at Meeting Room

For further information about Ichi-Mi, please contact us at ichimigbc@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.

Shimotani, Fujiko Mary
Tanaka, Nancy Fusako

(90)
(92)

November 26, 2024
December 1, 2024



Megumi Deadline is Monday, January 20, 2025



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.)

Oseibo Taikai was held on Sunday, December 8th.
We sincerely thank you all for your service throughout the year.



*From left: Ross Nishimura (GBC Chair),
Rev. John Iwihara, Imogene Imada &
Julie Miyata (BWA Co-Chairs)*



With Rev. Nobuo Miyaji & Rev. Yoshiko Mlyaji



With Arleen Miya (Dharma School Superintendent)



With Mitzi Shimizu (Organist)

We truly appreciate your continued support!

The church acknowledges the following donations received from 11/18/24 - 12/15/2024 with gratitude and appreciation.

Funeral/Makurakyo/Burial/Memorials

Buck, Peggy
Giovinazzo, Akemi

Kouno, Elaine
Nishihira, Chieko

Omori, James
Tenpo, Helen

Uraguchi, Naomi
Watanabe, Dorothy

Shotsuki Hoyo Donations

Arisumi, Glenn
Dote, Ty
Fujii, M/M Rodney
Fujimoto, Fumie
Fujioki, Emma
Giovinazzo, A.J.
Hori, Bryan
Igawa, M/M Wayne
Imai, Lynn
Inouye, Tomoko (2)
Ishigo-Hoo, Stacy
Iwamoto, Diane
Iwamoto, M/M Daniel
Jinkawa, Kimi
Kamibayashi, Shigeru

& Marie
Koyanagi, Stan
Kubota, M/M Neil
Kuga, Annette
Lewis, Roxana
Louie, Sharon
Maeda, Tom
Maruyama, Kazuko
Matsumoto, Eiko
Mayeda, Grace
Micelli, Kathy
Motoyasu, Ayako
Nakamura, Christine
Nishi, Katsuya
Nishi, Patti

Nomura, Samuel
Ohara, Toshifumi (2)
Okada, George
Okada, Nobuko
Oshima, Glenn
Ouchi, Joyce
Saalfeld, Michelle (2)
Sakatani, Charlene
Sasaki, M/M Brent
Sasaki, M/M Tom (2)
Shibata, K.
Shimizu, Linda
Shimono, Barbara
Shirakawa, M/M John (3)
Sueishi, Hatsumi

Takayama, Joann
Tamanachi, Linda
Tanaka, Kumi
Tenpo, Helen
Uwahori, Sadae
Uyemura, Jean
Wada, Emi
Wakimoto, Yuko
Watanabe, Donald
Watanabe, Doreen
Yamane, Keiko
Yokota, M/M James

Oseibo Taikai Donations

Akahoshi, Masato
Akioka, M/M Sam
Anonymous (3)
Enomoto, Thomas
Fujimoto, Fumie
Fujita, Teruko &
Fumiko
Harada, Edith
Hiramoto, Deborah
Hori, Kathy
Ikeda, Tamotsu
Ikeda, Winston
Imada, Imogene
Inose, Kay
Iwamoto, Diane
Iwamoto, M/M Daniel
Kato, M/M Isao
Kita, Dawn
Kono, Emi
Koyanagi, Stan

Kuwahara, Suzuko
Maeda, Tom
Maehara, Nolan
Maruyama, Phyllis
Matsuda, Hiromi
Mayemura, Louise
Mayetani, R.
Mitani, M/M David
Miwa, M/M Alan
Miwa, Yoshiko
Miyaji, R/R Nobuo
Miyamoto, Satoshi
Miyashita, Judy
Miyata, Julie
Morimoto, Nobuharu
Nakakura, M/M Ken
Nakamatsu, Aiko
Nakamura, Burt
Nakamura, Debbie
Nakamura, J.

Nakamura, Patricia
Nakao, Harumi
Nakata, M/M Bob
Nakatanai, David
Nakawatase, Haruye
Nishi, K & L
Nishi, Shari
Nishihira, M/M Joe
Ohara, Yoshifumi
Okada, George
Okamoto, Yauko
Okamura, Rodney
Okumoto, Yoko
Otani, Keiko
Ouchi, Joyce
Oyama, Saeko
Sasaki, M/M Tom
Shigemitsu, M/M Tom
Shimono, Natsuye
Sumi, Hiroko

Suminaga, Kimiye
Takahashi, Sae
Takao, Donna
Takao, Tamiko
Takata, M/M Sam
Terao, M/M Ernie
Uyeda, Midori
Uyemura, M/M David
Uyemura, Ty
Wakimoto, Yuko
Watanabe, Donald
Yamanaka, Jeanne
Yamane, M/M Dick
Yamasaki, Sheryl
Yick, Amy
Yoshida, Suzanne
Yoshiyama, M/M Bryan
Yuki, Toyoko
Yuki, Wallace

Eitaikyo Service

Akahoshi, Masato	Maruyama, Kazuko	Nakawatase, Haruye	Sasaki, M/M Tom
Hori, Kathy	Matsuda, Hiromi	Ohara, Emily	Shimono, Natsuye
Imada, Imogene	Miyamoto, Mitsuko	Okada, Nobuko	Takahashi, Sae
Kato, M/M Isao	Miyata, Julie	Okumoto, Yoko	Toyoaki, Shiro
Maeda, Tom	Nakamura, Christine	Otani, Keiko	Yuki, Toyoko

Eitaikyo Fund

Ego Family	Okamura, Lea	Suda, Stan
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BCA Assessment

Akioka, Sam	Kono, Emi	Nakamoto, M/M David	Shimokochi, Gail
Amimoto, Myrna	Kurahashi, Gay	Nakamura, Debbie	Shimono, Natsuye
Araki, Aileen	Maeda, Tad & Tomiye	Nakamura, Edward	Suminaga, Kimiye
Enomoto, Thomas	Maeda, Tom	Nakamura, J.	Takahashi, Sae
Fujii, Raymond	Maehara, Nolan	Nakamura, M/M Burt	Takao, Donna
Fujii, Roger	Maruyama, Kazuko	Nakamura, M/M Ken	Takao, Tamiko
Fukuman, Thomas	Maruyama, Phyllis	Nakatani, M/M David	Tamehiro, Yaeko
Furukawa, M/M David	Matano, Florence	Nakawatase, Haruye	Tamura, Mary
Harrington, James	Matsuda, Hiromi	Nishi, M/M Takahisa	Tanaka, George
Hori, Kathy & Patty	Mayemura, Louise	Nishihira, M/M Joe	Tateishi, M/M Craig
Iinuma, Doris	Mekaru, Naomi	Nishikawa, Joe	Terao, M/M Ernie
Ikeda, Tamotsu	Mikami, Lynn	Nishimura, Minae	Tsukamoto, M/M Wilfred
Imada, M/M Brian	Mitani, M/M David	Noguchi Familyy	Uyemura, M/M David
Inose, Kay	Miwa, M/M Alan	Okada, George	Watanabe, M/M Donald
Inouye, Tomoko	Miwa, Yoshiko	Okamura, Rodney	Wilhelm, Sheri
Iwamoto, Diane	Miyamoto, Satoshi	Okumoto, Yauko	Yamada, Akimichi
Iwamoto, M/M Daniel	Miyata, Julie	Otani, Keiko	Yamada, Faye
Jinkawa, Kimi & Janice	Morimoto, Nobuharu	Ouchi, Joyce	Yamada, Susan
Kaida, Yasuko	Morimoto, Seiji	Sanada, M/M Glenn	Yamanaka, Jeanne
Kajikawa, Gary	Morioka, Dennis	Sasaki, M/M Paul	Yamane, M/M Dick
Kato, M/M Isao	Motoyasu, Steve	Sasaki, M/M Tom	Yamasaki, Sheryl
Kawahara, M/M Larry	Munekata, D/M Mark & Kai	Sato, Janice	Yick, Amy
Kawahara, Suzuko	Murakami, Linda	Shigemitsu, M/M Tom	Yoshida, Suzanne
Kikuno, Nariko	Nagatani, Ronald	Shimizu, Mitzi	Yoshiyama, M/M Bryan
Kita, Mitsuko	Nakamatsu, Aiko	Shimohara, Evelyn	Yuki, Wallace

Hondo Repair Donations

Fujjioki, R	Leung Charitable Fund	Nakamura, Debbie	Takao, Donna
Furukawa, M/M David	Miyamoto, Satoshi	Nishimura, M/M Ross	
Harada	Miyata, Julie	Otani, Keiko	
Komatsu, J.A.	Nakamura, Alan	Takahashi, Sae	

Special Donations

Aerospace Corporation Donation	Imamoto, Eiko	Sunada, G.Y.
Fujii, Raymond	Isozaki	West Basin Municipal Water District
Fukuman, Thomas	Kubota Mortuary	Yanai, Gail
	No Name	

2024 GBC Membership Dues (received from 11/18 - 12/15/2024)

Higuchi, Terence
Higuchi, Tracy
Munekata, Erika

Munekata, Kai
Munekata, Mark
Munekata, Nancy

Ogawa, Helene
Ogawa, Helene &
Katsuaki

Ogawa, Katsuaki
Suda, Sadao

Fall Ohigan Hoyo Donations

Yokota, M/M James

Osaisen

Nakakura, M/M Ken

Sakatani, Charlene

Shiromoto, Daryl (2)

General Donation/Facility Use/ Miscellaneous

Kobayashi, Izumi (2)

SD Jr. YBL

January 2025

- 1 New Year's Service (In-Person ONLY) 8:00am
- 5 Sunday Service (In-Person/Zoom) 9:30am
- Board of Directors/Officers and BWA Cabinet Installation
- Sangha Teen mtg 10:30am
- BWA mtg (In-person/Zoom) 11:15am
- Shotsuki Hoyo Service in person 2:00pm
- 6 Ichi-Mi General mtg 6:00pm
- 9 Jinjo Raihai service (In-person/Zoom) 7:00am
- 10 Jinjo Raihai service (In-person/Zoom) 7:00am
- 11 Jinjo Raihai service (In-person/Zoom) 7:00am
- 12 Sunday Service (In-Person/Zoom) 9:30am
- Goshoki Hoonko service
- Coming of Age Ceremony (Seijinshiki)
- 14 GBC Forward mtg via Zoom 7:00pm
- 19 Jr. YBA mtg 8:45am
- Sunday Service (In-Person/Zoom) 9:30am
- ABA mtg (In-Person/Zoom) 11:30am
- WC: Teacher Workshop #1 1:00pm
- 20 Temple closed: MLK holiday
- Megumi deadline
- 25 Hui Aikane Installation Luncheon 12noon
- 26 Sunday Service (In-Person/Zoom) 9:30am
- New Members' Welcome/ New Year's Party 11:30am

February 2025

- 1 Kisaragi-ki Japanese Seminar w/Rev. Kodo Umezu 9:00am
- 2 Sunday Service (In-Person/Zoom) 9:30am
- Kisaragi-ki Memorial Service w/Rev. Kodo Umezu
- Sangha Teen mtg 10:30am
- BWA mtg (In-person/Zoom) 11:15am
- Shotsuki Hoyo Service in person 2:00pm
- 9 Sunday Service (In-Person/Zoom) 9:30am
- Nirvana Day (Nehan-E) service
- Dana Group 60th Anniversary Reunion 12:00pm
- 11 GBC Forward via Zoom 7:00pm
- 16 Jr. YBA mtg 8:45am
- Sunday Service (In-Person/Zoom) 9:30am
- ABA mtg (In-Person/Zoom) 11:30am
- WC: Teacher Workshop #2 1:00pm
- 17 Temple closed—President's Day
- Megumi deadline
- 22 YABA Trivia Night Fundraiser 5:00pm
- 23 Sunday Service (In-Person/Zoom) 9:30am



<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 (Irregular during holiday season)

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



Nakayoshi Preschool

The Nakayoshi Preschool held its end-of-the-semester Winter Performance “Oyūgi Kai” on Friday, December 20.

Dressed in adorable costumes, the students showcased the results of their hard work through singing, dancing, and acting, entertaining the audience.

We would like to thank the teachers and staff of Nakayoshi Preschool who patiently taught the children the songs and choreography, and spent a lot of time and energy preparing costumes and props for this day, as well as those who supported the presentation.



年頭の辞



浄土真宗本願寺派
門主 大谷光淳

新しい年のはじめにあたり、ご挨拶申し上げます。

昨年も世界各地で地震や洪水、山火事など様々な災害が起こり、多くの方が被災されました。災害によってお亡くなりになられたす

べての方々に謹んで哀悼の意を表しますとともに、被災された皆さまに心よりお見舞い申し上げます。皆さまが一日も早く、日常の生活を取り戻されますことを願っております。

また、2022年2月に始まったロシア連邦によるウクライナ侵攻はいまだに続いており、2023年10月以来の中東における武力衝突でも多くの犠牲者が出ています。私たちは仏教徒として、「すべての者は暴力におびえ、すべての者は死をおそれる。己が身にひきくらべて、殺してはならぬ。殺さしめてはならぬ。」(『ダンマパダ』第129偈)というお釈迦様のお言葉を大切にいたしましょう。

この世に生を受けた私たちは、いかなる理由があろうとも等しく人権が保障され、命が脅かされるようなことがあってはなりません。しかし、現実には世界各地で紛争やテロが勃発し、また貧困や政治的・宗教的な対立により、生存の権利が脅かされている人々が数多くおられます。平和主義を掲げる仏教徒であり念仏者である私たちは、お釈迦様のお言葉を深く心に刻み、世の安穏を願われた親鸞聖人の

お心を体して、国際社会の平和と安全に大きく貢献することが求められています。

浄土真宗のみ教えをいただく私たちは、阿弥陀さまのおはたらきによって、自分自身の真実の姿を知らされます。それは、自身の思いや欲望にとらわれ、お釈迦様が明らかにされた諸行無常や諸法無我といったこの世界の真実を、そのままに受け入れることができずに悩み苦しむ凡夫の姿です。

しかし、そのような私を救いの目当てとして阿弥陀様ははたらき続けて下さっています。私たちは等しく阿弥陀様から願われた者同士、互いに敬い合い助け合って、困難な社会の課題にも果敢に取り組んでいくことができます。本年も、阿弥陀さまのおはたらきを聞き、仏教徒として一日一日を大切に歩んでまいりましょう。

2025年1月1日

浄土真宗本願寺派
門主 大谷光淳





宮地信雄師

「新年のご挨拶」

明けましておめでとうございます。本年もよろしくお願い申し上げます。

今年も何か不安な一年の幕開きのような感じがいたしますが、皆様におかれま

してはいかがお過ごしでしょうか。韓国大統領の弾劾騒ぎ、シリアでの政情不安、長引いているウクライナ戦争など、不安材料に事欠かない一年になりそうです。この間、あの「神田川」を歌った南こうせつのインタビュー番組を見ておりましたら、彼もやはり同じような気持ちだと言っていました。そして、そんな時だからこそ歌の大切さがあると言っていました。その時に歌った歌は「上を向いて歩こう」でした。この歌がああ神戸の震災の時、家を失い、家族を失った人たちに大きな安らぎを与えたとも言っていました。人間は何か不安な時、そう言う何か私たちの計らいを超えた世界を無意識に求めるのかもしれない。詩歌にはそういう力があるのでしょうか。何かこの世を超えたものを求める時、ふと口をついて出てくるもの、それが詩(うた)なのでしょう。

人間の世界というのは、不思議なものであるということがよく言われます。検事総長を務めたような立派な人が、とんでもない行動に出て世の中を騒がしてしまう。世界のトップレベルの頭脳と言われるよ

うな人が、誰にも受け入れられない残虐な政策をとる。普通考えられないようなことを、人間というものは、どうやらふとした時に犯してしまうらしいのです。どうしてあんな立派な人があんなことをするのかということが往往にして起こるのが人間世界というものです。それによって被害に遭う人が何人も出てくるのが現状です。たまたま被害に遭わなかった我々は何とラッキーなんでしょう。また、たまたまそんな不幸に巻き込まれた人はなんて不運なんでしょう。一体誰がこの運不運を決めているのでしょうか。それは誰にもわからない人間の不思議ではないでしょうか。

念頭に当たって不愉快なことばかり言うようですが、これが確かに今の世界です。この不思議な問題を解決するには、実は私たち人間の理性だけの働きでは解決できないのではないのでしょうか。解決できないと言って放っておくことのできないのが人生です。きっと解決の方法があるはず。今年はその解決を見つけるために、頑張ってみようではありませんか。 合掌



報恩講法要案内

ガーデナ仏教会の報恩講は1月12日(日)午前九時半より本堂での対面及びzoomにて厳修されます。この佳き日に当たっておめでたい成人式も併修されます。お誘い合わせの上多数御参り下さい。

報恩講をお勤めするにあたり、聖人の御苦勞を偲んで、1月9日(木)、10日(金)、11日(土)

の3日間、毎朝午前7時より対面及びZoomにて晨朝(じんじょう)勤行を行います。この早朝のお参りにも、どうか一人でも多くご参加下さいませ。様お願い致します。

* Zoomでの参加者は gardenabuddhistchurch.org にアクセスして登録手続きが必要です。





婦人会便り

皆さま、明けましておめでとうございます！
2025年が皆様にとって健康で幸せな一年となりますよう、お祈り申し上げます。

昨年一年間、庵原開教使をはじめ、役員、当番リーダー、そしてすべての会員の皆様にご支援、ご指導、そしてご尽力に心より感謝申し上げます。

2025年も引き続き、2026年2月に迎える創立百周年に向けたBWAの計画を進めてまいります。また、2025年2月には梅津広道師をお招きして日本語セミナーを開催する予定です。さらに、南部地区では、2026年10月にサンディエゴで開催されるFBWA会議の準備が進んでいることを皆様にお知らせいたします。

最後に、日々の生活の中で仏様、法、信徒の皆さまに出会えることに感謝の気持ちを表します。

今年もどうぞよろしくお願いたします。

合掌
今田イモジーン & 宮田ジュリー

婦人会の通常の活動

- ▽ 12月15日(日) 年末大掃除 本堂の掃除に参加して下さった皆様、ありがとうございました。また、昼食として美味しいジュリアーノサンドイッチを提供して下さった理事会の皆様にも感謝申し上げます。
- ▽ 12月31日(火) 年越し蕎麦の準備 出汁作りを申し出て下さった杉田ローリー、また、夜のサービスのためにそばを準備して下さったABAの皆様、ありがとうございました。
 - ▶ 除夜会 年越しの夜、対面で参加して下さった皆様、ありがとうございました。
- ▽ 01月01日(水) 午前8時 新年修正会 この対面礼拝に参加して下さった皆様、あり

がとうございました。

- ▽ 1月5日(日) 幹部就任式は 家族サービス中に行われます。2025年度新幹部:

会長	今田イモジーン、宮田ジュリー
宗教部長	堀キャシー
書記	丸山フィリス、吉山ナンシー
会計	森本千鶴子、坂谷シャリーン
会計監査	宮本みつ子、湯木都世子
当番長	A-堀キャシー B-吉山ナンシー C-本安綾 D-加藤エイミー E-清水リンダ

顧問・相談役

顧問	三輪好子、吉村緑
相談役	天保君子、丸山和子、 中野悦子、佐々木恵美子
名誉顧問	庵原先生

- ▽ 01月09-11日(木-土) 午前7時よりハイブリッド 報恩講晨朝勤行
- ▽ 01月12日(日) 報恩講法要並びに成人式
- ▽ 01月26日(日) 新年会昼食会

アナウンスメント:

- ▽ 01月05日(日) 幹部就任式と1月婦人会例会 午前11時15分(ハイブリッド) 当番E/a組
- ▽ 01月12日(土) 報恩講のお斎準備
- ▽ 02月02日(日) 2月婦人会例会 午前11時15分(ハイブリッド) 当番A/b組

感謝録:

- ▽ 故上野鶴松 五十回忌法要 天保君子

