



MEGUMI

慈恩

GARDENA BUDDHIST CHURCH
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Rev. John Iwohara



Gardena Buddhist Church

February 2025

Volume LVIII No. 2



Rev. John Iwohara

“The Great Benevolence”

The Gardena Buddhist Church (GBC) is quickly approaching its centennial year. There are many wonderful and inspirational stories that are a part of the temple’s legacy. Of course, that we

have wonderful stories probably goes without saying. Without these kinds of stories it is highly unlikely that the temple would have survived this long. Having said that, there are also stories that everyone knows—like the temple being burned to the ground and the support that followed—and there are stories that only one or two people know. I would like to share a story that is likely one that, until now, only I know. This is a story that occurred during GBC’s 95th Anniversary Service.

I was reminded of this story when putting up the uchishiki for our last Goshoki Hoonko Service. At the time of the occurrence, Rev. John Doami¹ was helping us set up for the 95th Year Anniversary Service. As part of the setup, we naturally had flowers prepared for our altar. The flower vases that we use have detachable ears

that Rev. Doami was unfamiliar with. Because of this, Sensei accidentally knocked off one of the ears. The ear fell off the vase and landed hard on one of the end piece of the maejoku (“front table.” This is the large table that sits closest to the gejin, or the area where everyone sits). Because of how hard and heavy the ear of the flower vase is, it left a deep mark on the end piece. At the time of the incident, Rev. Doami apologized profusely. We consoled Rev. Doami by informing him that we were probably going to repair all of our altar pieces soon, and that the mark left on the table is not really visible unless you walked right beside the table. I don’t know how convinced Rev. Doami was with this explanation, but we all put the incident aside in order to get ready for and successfully conduct the temple’s 95th Year Anniversary Service.

Now, as in the other day, I am reminded of Rev. Doami whenever I think of what happened that day. Although it is sad to think that Rev. Doami is no longer physically with us, on the other hand I am also filled with a sense of deep appreciation for having been able to spend time with Rev. Doami. Remembering Rev. Doami has also helped to remind me about how many other wonderful people and teachers have graced the Gardena Buddhist Church, as well

(Continued on page 2)

¹ Rev. John Doami served at the Gardena Buddhist Church from 1969-1970

(Continued from page 2)

as my own life. It also reminds me to look at the image of Amida Buddha, Shinran Shonin, Rennyo Shonin, Shotoku Taishi, and the Shichi Koso ("Seven Exalted Priests"). Seeing these images reminds me of how many causes and conditions, people and events have been a part of helping me to hear the Nenbutsu teaching today. Despite all the things that I have and can complain about, seeing the blemish on the table has, paradoxically, reminded me of all the things I can and need to be grateful for.

This transformative experience, of being able to feel gratitude even for something that may at first have seemed "negative," is, I think, best expressed in the following poems written by Shinran Shonin. The first is found in the collection titled the Kousou Wasan ("Hymns of the Pure Land Masters"), and the second from the collection titled the Shouzoumatsu Wasan ("Hymns of the Dharma Ages"). The second poem is probably the most widely known of all of Shinran Shonin's poems. Its popularity can be attested by the fact that it has been given its own title by Jodo Shinshu Buddhists. This poem has come to be known as the Ondokusan.²

² Although there is no translation for Ondokusan available in the Collected Works of Shinran (CWS), given how the CWS has translated other passages, Ondokusan might be translated as "Hymn on (the Great) Benevolence."

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.
(CWS, p. 364)

Such is the benevolence of Amida's great compassion,
That we must strive to return it, even to the breaking of our bodies;
Such is the benevolence of the masters and true teachers,
That we must endeavor to repay it, even to our bones becoming dust.
(CWS, p. 412)



ABA News

January saw the installation of the 2025 ABA Cabinet. Congratulations to all of the cabinet members! Thank you, in advance, for your hard work.

A number of ABA members performed at the annual Shinnen Kai (New Year Party) which was chaired by another ABA member, Elaine Nishimura. It was such a lovely event.

Terri Mitani chaired our efforts to support the Pasadena Buddhist Church and its Sangha negatively impacted by the horrendous fires. Thank you to everyone who generously donated to this cause.

ABA is working on some fun activities for the summer, including the Japanese Heritage Night with the Dodgers and an evening of Earth, Wind and Fire at the Hollywood Bowl.

ABA holds its meetings on the third Sunday of each month, and we would LOVE for you to join us!



Fujinkai / BWA Buddhist Women's Association

Happenings:

- ◇ January 12th, Sunday. Thank you to E/a gumi for the osonae and the cream pan otoki for last month's Ho-Onko service.
- ◇ January 25th, Saturday. Thank you to the BWA members who attended the Winter Pacific Seminar hosted by Orange County Buddhist Temple. We hope everyone enjoyed the Japanese and English sessions with all four speakers.
- ◇ January 26th, Sunday - New Year's Luncheon. We hope everyone had a fun time at the annual New Members' / New Year's party. Thank you to all BWA members who joined in to sing "Seiya" during the entertainment program, and thank you also to those BWA members who helped with the drinks and cake serving.
- ◇ February 1st, Saturday. Thank you to A/b gumi for preparing the refreshments for our Japanese seminar.
- ◇ February 2nd, Sunday – Kisaragi-ki Memorial Service. Thank you, Phyllis Maruyama, for chairing this BWA sponsored service, and thank you to Mitsuko Miyamoto, Chizuko Morimoto, Aya Motoyasu and Charlene Sakatani for helping with the special o-saisen collection during service.

Announcements:

- ◇ February 2nd (Sunday) - February BWA Regular Monthly Meeting 11:15am (hybrid). A/b Gumi
- ◇ February 9th (Sunday) – Nirvana Day
- ◇ March 9th (Sunday) – March BWA Regular Monthly Meeting 11:15am (hybrid). B/c Gumi



Hui Aikanes

"Go confidently in the direction of your dreams!"

As we begin the new year, Hui Aikane is beginning 2025 with a new cabinet. Our installation luncheon was held on Jan. 25th and our 2025 cabinet was installed during Family Service on Jan. 19th.

Thank you to our members for helping at the annual Shinnenkai party. The food was delicious and everyone enjoyed the entertainment! Our Sangha members and their families are looking forward to the upcoming trip to Las Vegas on February 24th to the 26th. It will be a relaxing trip as we enjoy each other's company on the bus as well as at the California Hotel. Much MAHALO to Jeanne Yamanaka and Jane Nakamoto for organizing the trip!

Our next meeting will be determined at a later date.

New members are always welcome to attend! Hawaiian ancestry is



Megumi Deadline is Monday, February 10, 2025

Sangha Teens

Sangha Teens had their installation activity at Color Me Mine. We had fun spending time together and painting. Thank you Gardena Buddhist Church, advisors, and parents for making this activity possible!

Our next parent meeting will be on February 2nd. We hope to see everyone there!



TUESDAY SOCIAL

Please join us for coffee, tea, light snacks and socializing on Tuesdays from 9:30am - 11:30am. We have something for everyone ,, games, puzzles, chatting, dancing, Bingo, and soon a little exercise, hopefully.

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





Wisteria Chugakko

Reverend John Iwohara, Headmaster
Charlene Hirotsu, Principal

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

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

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

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

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

2025 Wisteria Chugakko Student Interest Form



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



wisteria.chugakko@gardenabuddhistchurch.org

Gardena Buddhist Church Wisteria Chugakko Summer Program

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

Student Interest Form

June 16 – July 9, 2025

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

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

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

We truly appreciate your continued support!

**The church acknowledges the following donations received from 12/16/24 - 1/19/2025
with gratitude and appreciation.**

Funeral/Makurakyo/Burial/Memorials

Hedani, Daniel Iris Fukai Family Jue, Gayle	Koyanagi, Hiromi Munekata Wilhelm, Sheri	Shimotani, Steven Takamura, M/M Walter	Takeda, Jeff (3)
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Shotsuki Hoyo Donations

Akahoshi, Masato Doi, Sanaye Ego Family Endo, Katherine Enomoto, Don Friess, Mindy Fujita, Teruko & Fumiko Fukuman, Thomas Giovinazzo Hiraga, Donna Hirayama, Ted Honma, Hideo & June Ida, Matsuo Imata Blair, Janyce Ito, Kenichi Jinkawa, Kimi	Kakuta, M/M Richard Kawahara, M/M Larry Kawamoto, Derrick Lee, Huey-Ru Masumoto, Chiyoko Mekaru, Naomi Miwa, M/M Alan Miwa, Yoshiko Mizuno, Grace (2) Mori, D. Mori, Eiko Morishige, James Motoyasu, Aya Munekata Wilhelm, Sheri Muraoka, Mutsuko	Nakagawa, Dean Nakakura, M/M Ken Nakashima, Diana Nakata, M/M Bob Ohara, Emily Sakamoto, Kenneth Sanada, Elaine Sekimura, M/M Gerald Shimizu, M/M Gary Shimotani, Steven Sumi, Michiko Takamura, M/M Walter Takeda Family Tamura, Mary Torichigai Susan & Sandra	Tsuge, M/M Mike Tsutsui, Takashi Uchio, Isamu Uyeno, Chris Wada, Emi Watanabe, Bonnie Watanabe, Donald Yamada, Faye Yamane, M/M Dick Yamashiro, Tateshi Yoshida, Suzanne (2) Yoshiyama, Rose Yuki, Toyoko
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Hoonko Donations

Akahoshi, Masato Anonymous Fujimoto, Fumie Fujita, Teruko and Fumiko Iwamoto, Diane Iwamoto, M/M Daniel Kato, M/M Isao Kuraoka, S & R Maeda, Tom Maesaki, Kazue Maruyama, Kazuko Maruyama, Phyllis Matsuda, Hiromi	Mikami, Lynn Miwa, M/M Alan Miwa, Yoshiko Miyamoto, Mitsuko Miyata, Julie Morioka, M/M Dennis Motoyasu, Ayako Motoyasu, Steve Munekata Wilhelm, Sheri Nakakura, M/M Ken Nakamoto, M/M David Nakata, M/M Bob Nakatani, M/M David	Nakawatase, Haruye Nishihira, M/M Joe (2) Okamoto, Yauko Okamura, Rodney Okumoto, Yoko Ouchi, Joyce Sasaki, M/M Tom Shigemitsu, M/M Tom Shimizu, Mitzi Shimono, Natsuye Takahashi, Sae Takao, Dianne Takao, Donna Takao, Tamiko	Tamura, Mary Toyoaki, Shiro Tsuge, M/M Mike Uyemura, M/M David Wakimoto, Yuko Watanabe, Donald Yamane, M/M Dick Yamasaki, Sheryl Yoshida, Suzanne Yuki, Toyoko Yuki, Wallace
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Oseibo

Goto, Tomie Hirayama, M/M Ted	Kawamoto, Derrick Nakano, Gary	Ogawa, Amy Sakatani, M/M Richard	Sasaki, Emiiko
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New Year's Eve & New Year's Service

Anonymous Hirata, Jaren & Jan Sakatani, M/M Richard Yasaki, June

Year-End Donation

Kurashima, M/M Justin Nakatani, M/M David

Osaisen

Gross, Bernadette Maeda, Tom Nakatani, M/M David Nishihira, M/M Joe

Seijinshiki Donation

Konishi, Barbara Kushi, Devin

Eitaikyo Fund

Oyama, Saeko

BCA Assessment

Igawa, M/M Wayne	Morimoto, Lily	Okumoto, Yoko	Uyeda, Pauline
Imai, Lynn	Nakao, Harumi	Sakatani, Charlene	Wada, Emi
Kishimoto, Yasu	Nakata, M/M Bob	Takao, Dianne	Yamada, M/M Edward
Komatsu, J.	Nishimura, M/M Ross	Toma, Yuriko	
Koyanagi, Stan	Nishimura, M/M Shunji	Tsuge, M/M Mike	

Hondo Repair Donations

Iwamoto	Motoyasu, Ayako	Sasaki, Emiko	Wakimoto, Yuko
Kawamoto, Derrick	Nakata, Bob	Toma, Yuriko	Yuki, Toyoko
Mayemura, Louise	Okamoto, Yoko	Tsuge, M/M Mike	

Special Donations

Anonymous	Nakatani, David	Sanada, Donna	Tsuye, Yoko
Ioki, M/M Bruce	Nishikawa, Linda	Sekimura, M/M Gerald	
Kunisaki, Sue	Ogasawara, Paul	Tien, Eiko	
Nagatani, Gerald	Saiki, Reiko	Tiga Izawa Family	

Nokotsudo

Ito, Bennett Nakafuji, George

2024 GBC Membership Dues

Okada, Yoshio

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

2025 GBC Membership Dues

Kobashi, Jane
Maeda, Tom
Nakamoto, David
Nakamoto, Jane

Nakano, Etsuko
Nakatani, David
Nakatani, Lily
Nishihira, Joe

Nishihira, Violet
Okumoto, Yoko
Sauer, Wayne
Shimizu, Mitzi

Tamura, Mary
Tsuge, Marilyn
Tsuge, Michael

Gardening/Maintenance Donation

Maeda, Tom

Nishihira, M/M Joe

Okumoto, Yoko

Tsuge, M/M Michael

General Donation/Facility Use/ Miscellaneous

Baba, Miyako

Kobayashi, Izumi

February 2025

- 1 Kisaragi-ki Japanese Seminar 9:00am
- 2 Sunday Service (In-Person/Zoom) 9:30am
- Kisaragi-ki Memorial Service
- Sangha Teen mtg 10:30am
- BWA mtg (In-person/Zoom) 11:15am
- Shotsuki Hoyo Service in person 2:00pm
- Obon mtg via Zoom 7:30pm
- DS Teacher's mtg via Zoom 7:00pm
- 9 Sunday Service (In-Person/Zoom) 9:30am
- Nirvana Day (Nehan-E) service
- Dana Group 60th Anniversary Reunion 12:00pm
- 10 Megumi deadline
- 11 GBC Forward via Zoom 7:00pm
- 13 Monthly BEC mtg via Zoom 7:30pm
- 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
- 19 GBC Board mtg via Zoom 7:00pm
- 21-22 BCA Nat'l Council mtg
- 22 YABA Trivia Night Fundraiser 5:00pm
- 23 Sunday Service (In-Person/Zoom) 9:30am
- BCA Town Hall 10:30am

March 2025

- 2 NO GBC Sunday Service
- BCA National Council Eitai-kyo Service 10:00am
- (In-Person & Zoom)
- Sangha Teen mtg 10:30am
- Shotsuki Hoyo Service in person 2:00pm
- 3 Obon mtg via Zoom 7:30pm
- 4 Odori Exercise Class (\$5 donation) 1:00pm
- 5 DS Teacher's mtg via Zoom 7:00pm
- 8 Spring Ohigan Seminar w/Rev. Takashi Miyaji
- Jpn 9:30am
- Eng 1:30pm
- 9 Daylight Saving Time starts
- Sunday Service (In-Person/Zoom) 9:30am
- Spring Ohigan service w/Rev. Takashi Miyaji
- BWA mtg (In-person/Zoom) 11:15am
- 11 Odori Exercise Class (\$5 donation) 1:00pm
- GBC Forward Zoom mtg 7:00pm
- 13 Monthly BEC mtg via Zoom 7:30pm
- 15 SD Jr. YBA Seminar 2 hosted by GBC 3:00pm
- 16 Jr. YBA mtg 8:45am
- Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom) 9:30am
- Pet Memorial
- WC: Teacher Workshop #3 1:00pm
- 17 Megumi deadline
- 18 Odori Exercise Class (\$5 donation) 1:00pm
- 19 GBC Board mtg Zoom 7:00pm
- 23 Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom) 9:30am
- 25 Odori Exercise Class (\$5 donation) 1:00pm
- 30 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

HATSUMAIRI SERVICE

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

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

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

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INFANT PRESENTATION SERVICE – (HATSUMAIRI) Sunday, April 6, 2025– 9:30 a.m. (In person) (*Please mail this portion to the church by Sunday, March 30)

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

Parent’s Name: _____
 Last Father Mother

Address _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

PET MEMORIAL



Our Annual Pet Memorial will be held on March 16, 2025. This will be a hybrid service : in-person and on Zoom. If you have lost a pet during 2024 or would like to have your pet included in our memorial service, please complete the form. You can also submit a picture of your pet or bring it to the service in the morning.

Owner’s Name: _____

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

Pet’s Name: _____

Date of Passing: _____ Age _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Phone No: _____

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



『危機管理』

宮地美子師

もう会社を引退して10年ほど経ちますが、LA で20年ほどある航空会社の総務部、人事課に勤めておりました。引退する数年前からコンプライアンスという単語を頻繁に聞く様になり、社員へのセミナーを何度も行い、問題が大きくなる前に対処していく、並びに訴えのあった事に対してどんな些細なことでも対応していかなばならなくなりました。これらは企業の危機管理の一環です。事が大きくなると会社の存続に関わる大問題に発展していく可能性もあるからです。

昨今世間を賑わせているフジテレビの様な問題も起こりうるからです。

1月の大火事ではたくさんの方々が家族を亡くしたり、家を無くしたりと悲惨な災害が起きてしまいました。南部教区のメンバーの方々、元先生も被災された方がおられると聞きお気の毒で、心より、お悔やみ申し上げます。私たちは地球温暖化に対してなすすべもなく昔よりもっともっと大きな自然災害を目の当たりにして、どうすれば良いのか混迷しています。

右を見ても左を見ても不安要因ばかりです。逆に無事に生活させていただいている事が不思議なくらいです。

さて私たちはコンプライアンスの件や自然災害についての対策を少なからず考え、何とかしようとしています。自分の内なる“心の危機管理”ということについて、対応しているでしょうか、心に迫る危機に対しては案外放置していないでしょうか。身近な人が痴呆になって、自分の名前すら言えなくなったり、突如帰らぬ人になったりするともしかしたら自分にもこういうことが起きるかもしれないと危機感を抱きます。

いつ何時心の危機が立ちはだかるか分からないのです。そんな時ただただ狼狽（うろたえる）のでは今まで生きてきた甲斐がありません。私たちはいつも薄氷の上を歩いているようなものなのです。薄い氷を私は大丈夫と誤認しているのです。

阿弥陀様はそういう危機にすら気づかない私に対して、呼びかけてくださっています。

自分に何が起きても仏様は助けてはくれない、念仏は気休めよと思っておられる方もたくさんおられるでしょう。ただの気やすめかどうか本気になって、親鸞様のみ教えに耳を傾けてみてはどうでしょう。

そろそろ本気で“心の危機管理”を考えてみ手はいかががでしょうか。合掌



婦人会便り

婦人会の通常の活動

- ▽ 1月12日(日) 報恩講 御供えと御齋のクリームパンを用意して下さったE/a組の皆さん、ありがとうございます。
- ▽ 1月25日(土) オレンジ郡仏教会主催冬季パシフィックセミナーに参加されたBWAメンバーの皆様、ありがとうございました。4名のご講師による日本語と英語のセッションをお楽しみいただけたことと思います。
- ▽ 01月26日(日) 新年会昼食会 恒例の新入会員歓迎会・新年会、皆様楽しんでいただきましたでしょうか? 余興で「聖夜」を一

緒に歌ってくださったBWA会員の皆様、飲み物やケーキの配膳を手伝ってくださったBWA会員の皆様、ありがとうございました。

- ▽ 2月1日(土) 日本語セミナーの軽食を用意して下さったA/b組の皆さん、ありがとうございました。
- ▽ 2月22日(日) 如月忌 司会の丸山フィリス、法要で特別のお布施を集めて下さった宮本みつ子、森本千鶴子、本安綾、坂谷シャーリーン(敬称略)に感謝致します。

アナウンスメント:

- ▽ 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
- ▽ 02月9日(日) 涅槃会
- ▽ 03月09日(日) 3月婦人会例会 午前11時
15分(ハイブリッド) 当番B/c組

Board of Directors/Officers and BWA Cabinet Installation was held on Sunday, January 5th.



Gardena Buddhist Church Board of Directors
January 5, 2025



BWA Members with Rev. Iwihara



GBC Board Cabinet Installation



BWA Cabinet Installation



BWA Co-Chairperson
Imogene Imada & Julie Miyata

Seijinshiki (Coming of Age) Ceremony was held on Sunday, January 12th.



Congratulations to all those who are marking their transition into adulthood and being encouraged to take on adult responsibilities.



Welcome to GBC! New Members



ABA Cabinet Installation



Hui Aikane Cabinet Installation



YABA Cabinet Installation

Full of Fun!

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

