



MEGUMI

慈恩

GARDENA BUDDHIST CHURCH



CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
1926 - 2026



Gardena Buddhist Church

April 2026

1517 W. 166th Street, Gardena, CA 90247

Phone: 310-327-9400 E-Mail: info@gardenabuddhistchurch.org

Volume LIX No. 4

GBC Vision: Everyone Aware of Amida's Compassion

GBC Mission: Hands together, hearts together, for the benefit of all.



Rev. John Iwohara

"It's lonely at the top: GOAT vs. SHEEP"

I am someone who, for all intents and purposes, was born and raised in Los Angeles. As such, it was very easy for me to become a Los Angeles Dodgers, Kings, and Lakers fan. I have been a fan of these Los Angeles

teams for as long as I can remember. For some reason, when it came to NFL football, I became a Minnesota Vikings fan. As I look back, I'm wondering if the reason isn't because of the nickname the defensive line received, or "Purple People Eaters."

In talking about the Lakers, however, the first team that I became a fan of was the team that featured Wilt Chamberlain and Jerry West. Over the last several years, after the Showtime Lakers, instead of just talking about the team you are a fan of, it has suddenly become very important to decide who the GOAT is. Although this seems odd to me because basketball is a team sport, it does appear that part of being a Lakers fan now

includes having to constantly be exposed to discussions on who is the GOAT, or Greatest Of All Time.

Lakers fans get this exposure because in these discussions, two of the three or four most mentioned names includes the former and current Lakers players of Kobe Bryant and LeBron James. Part of what makes these conversations so intriguing is that, especially in the case of LeBron James, they are often filled with why a person should not be considered the GOAT.

Fans of LeBron James have a relatively easy time making their argument. The reason for this is because of the many accolades and records that have been achieved by LeBron James. For example, LeBron is one of the youngest players, at the age of 18, to play in the NBA (Kobe Bryant holds the record for being the youngest starter of an NBA game, also at the age of 18), and has also become the oldest player to play in the NBA (a record that is still being built upon). LeBron James is also the current all-time

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

leading scorer record holder, which includes the most playoff points scored, has the record of most playoff wins, most playoff games played, and most playoff steals to name a few. At 41 years of age, he has played an incredible 23 years in the NBA. For someone who has accomplished so much, it's interesting how often negative comments are made about him. The adage, "It's lonely at the top," really seems to apply here.

Having to worry about being or not being the GOAT is probably nothing I will ever need to worry about for myself. The reason for this is because, fortunately or unfortunately, I'm certain that my name will never come up in a discussion about being the GOAT of anything. In comparing myself to LeBron James, for example, about the only thing that I have in common with him is how close to retirement I am. Instead of having my name associated with conversations about the GOAT, I think my name would more appropriately be associated with an acronym like SHEEP.

As the creator of the acronym, and why I would want my name associated with it, and why I hope that you might want to consider it for yourself, is because SHEEP would stand for: Shinshu Honors and Embraces Every Person. This emphasis on the significance, beauty

and meaning of every life is one of the many reasons why I am a Jodo Shinshu Buddhist. In terms of "hierarchy" Amida Buddha sits at the pinnacle. However, Amida Buddha never has to worry about being lonely at the top because the pinnacle that Amida Buddha sits atop of is designed to not be limited to themselves or to a select few. The pinnacle of Jodo Shinshu is meant to embrace all, and forsake none. In fact, if the pinnacle of Jodo Shinshu is not able to embrace all and forsake none, then Amida Buddha has promised to get off that pinnacle. This is what is promised to each of us by the Buddha's Fundamental Vow. It is what is being expressed in each and every utterance of Namo Amida Butsu.



TUESDAY SOCIAL

Happy Birthday to our TS friends: Kazue, Junko, John, Jane, Kimiko, Kumi, Edie, and Tamiko.

Come to our gathering in the Meeting Room every Tuesday from 9:30 - 11:30am.

Light refreshments, coffee & tea, friendly people and lots of games & laughter. It's a great place to share stories, recipes, and meet new friends.

Come one Tuesday or every Tuesday. See you.



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.

Shimbashi, Kazuko	(98)	February 7, 2026
Ikegami, Taiko	(88)	March 5, 2026
Watanabe, Katsuko	(87)	March 6, 2026
Seino, Akiko	(82)	March 20, 2026



Order Your Graduation Leis Early! 2026

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 \$20.00 each for a double braid ribbon lei, shipping not included.

Lei Order Form

Name _____ Phone _____

Delivery Address _____

Email Address _____

No. of double leis at \$20 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 there are any questions, please contact Kiyoko Sasaki (1-310-326-8252)

YABA (Young Adult Buddhist Association)

We attended an LA Galaxy Match on March 14th. It was a very exciting match versus Sporting Kansas City. Unfortunately, YABA did not witness a Galaxy win (updated: YABA attendance record: 0-1-3). Regardless of the outcome, we had a great time. We had a mini tailgate where we enjoyed playing the game Left, Right, Center, and ate Hot Dogs and Spam Musubi.

We are looking forward to attending the LA Galaxy Match on Saturday, May 23rd, with some fellow sangha members to celebrate Japanese Heritage Night. The game will be at 7:30 pm. We will receive an exclusive Japanese Heritage knit scarf (while supplies last). Plus, it is Star Wars Night!

Meet the Cabinet Series.
This month, we'd like to introduce
Kylie Morioka, VP.
Please tune in next month
as we feature another cabinet member.

- Favorite thing about Obon: Taiko performances
- Sunday Social Donut Preference: Crumb or Glazed
- Pancakes or Waffles: Pancakes
- Who is going to win the 2026 World Cup?: USA!
- A fond Social Hall memory: There are too many. But, I will always remember Wednesday night taiko practices and the Halloween parties!

Upcoming/Past Events

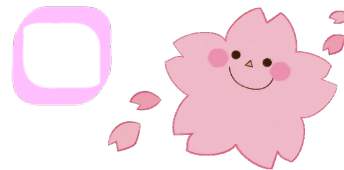
- March 14: LA Galaxy Match
- April 19: Spring Gathering
- May 23: LA Galaxy Match - Japanese Heritage Night

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

Follow us on Instagram:



@GARDENAYABA





Hui Aikanes

We would like to thank all of our guests for attending our third 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 hot dog luncheon after the Ohigan service.

For those wishing to assist the Dharma School Teacher in decorating the Hanamido or with flower donations on April 4th, 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 Monday, April 27, 2026, Hui Aikane members are joining ABA for a fun evening at the Dodgers Japanese American Heritage Night. GO DODGERS!

A kindly reminder, your 2026 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, June 27th at 2:00 pm in the Cooling Room.

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



Fujinkai / BWA Buddhist Women's Association

Happenings:

- ◇ Toban Groups D/a were in charge for the month of March. Thank you for the delicious snacks during our March monthly meeting on March 1st.
- ◇ The GBC BWA 100th Anniversary Committee meets every month after the regular BWA monthly meeting.
 - Our luncheon will take place at our newly constructed social hall and we're looking for some Bento options for our luncheon. The date of our event will be June 28, 2026 and Rev. Kodo Umezu will be our guest speaker.
- ◇ March 7th, Saturday – Spring Ohigan seminar with Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara (Berkeley Buddhist Temple). Thank you to everyone who attended the Japanese session at 9:30am and the English session from 1:30pm to listen to Rev. Kuwahara's interesting talk. Thank you also to D/a Gumi for providing the snacks for the morning session.
- ◇ After a discussion regarding the 2027 Japanese seminar, we voted on asking Rev. Himeji of LA Betsuin. Rev. Iwohara will reach out to Rev. Himeji to ask his availability.
- ◇ March 8th, Sunday – Spring Ohigan Service. Thank you to D/a gumi for taking charge of the osonae for the onaijin.
- ◇ April 5th, Sunday – Hanamatsuri Service. A gumi in charge of the osonae and otoki. Cupcakes were suggested for the otoki, as the Social Hall is still unavailable and it would be easier to purchase a ready-made item for the otoki.

Announcements:

- ◇ April 5th (Sunday) – Hanamatsuri Service
- ◇ April 5th, (Sunday) - Shotsuki Hoyo service 2pm (In-person only)
- ◇ April 6th, (Monday) - Obon Meeting via Zoom at 7:00pm. C & D gumi reps please attend.
- ◇ April 12th, (Sunday) – April BWA Regular Monthly Meeting 11:15am (hybrid) A/b gumi
- ◇ April 19th, (Sunday) – BWA in charge of Coffee Social and Greeters. (A/b gumi)
- ◇ April 26th (Sunday) - Coordinating Council Meeting. In person at 11:30am. A gumi rep please attend.
- ◇ May 3rd (Sunday) - May BWA Regular Monthly Meeting 11:15am (hybrid) B/c gumi



ABA News

With the calendar saying "April", that means ABA's Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast is just a month away! Who doesn't want some fluffy pancakes? Breakfast will be from 8am to 10am, with service beginning at 10am. Mark your calendars!

ABA has some fun activities in the near future.

We're looking at going to Tanaka Farms to pick some strawberries.

We'll be cheering the Boys in Blue on April 27 as the Dodgers have their annual Japanese Heritage Night. Are we looking at a 3peat?

Many of the ABA members will be sharing their talents with the students of Wisteria Chugakko. This is our summer school program for students going into the 7th, 8th, and 9th grades in the fall.

July 3 will find us at the Hollywood Bowl, grooving to the sounds of the Beach Boys.

ABA holds its meetings on the third Sunday of each month. Come join us at a meeting and join us for some fun!



Sangha Teens

Sangha Teens have had a busy start to 2026. We kicked off the year with our Sangha Teen installation event at Lucky Strike on January 19th. 15 kids were able to attend.

On January 25th, the Sangha Teens held a recycle day where we raised about \$450 dollars. Proceeds from the recycle day are going to the Gardena Buddhist Church 100th Anniversary.

Due to the construction of the social hall remodeling, Sangha Teens decided to do a grab and go hot dog luncheon for Spring Ohigan instead of the usual spaghetti luncheon.

In addition to monthly Parent Meetings, the Sangha Teens are planning to host a Southern District Sangha Teen mixer. All Churches will be invited to the mixer.

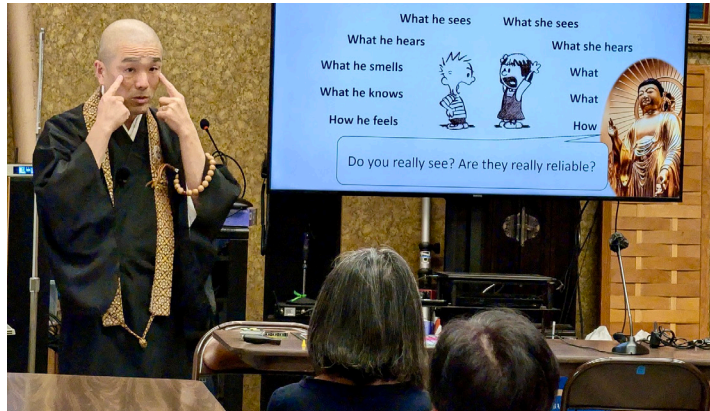


Megumi Deadline is Monday, April 20, 2026

Spring Ohigan Seminar

GBC hosted Spring Ohigan seminar on Saturday, March 7 with Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara as our guest speaker.

Everyone enjoyed a truly meaningful time. We sincerely thank him for his valuable contribution!



OBON 2026

Mark your Calendars and Save the Date!! Tell your Family and Friends! Obon 2026 is set for August 1 & 2 from 3:00 pm – 9:00 pm.

The Obon Committee has been meeting monthly to plan this marvelous event. This is what we know so far....

- Food & Drinks ✓
- Obon Dancing ✓
- Games ✓
- Bingo ✓
- Craft Boutique ✓



We are still working out the details for Obon 2026 and they will be provided on the GBC website as they are confirmed.

If you have any questions, we can be reached at Obon@gardenabuddhistchurch.org

In Gassho,
 Nadine Kakimoto & Sharyl Yamada-Oda
 Obon Co-Chairs

Join us to decorate the Hanamido!
Saturday, April 4, 2026



Kathy Hori

From GBC Board Chairperson

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

Hello Gardena Sangha,

I was given the honor of attending Rev. George Shibata's funeral service at the Buddhist Church of Stockton on March 7. It was a wonderful service filled with many Sensei and Sangha members from all over who shared heartfelt chanting, Dharma messages and remembrances of Rev. George. I must express deep appreciation to Shibata Sensei for his many years of service to the BCA, GBC and for bringing together far-flung Dharma Friends one more time.

Unfortunately, that weekend Rev. John was very ill so he couldn't officiate at our Spring Ohigan Events. Fortunately for GBC, we have a very capable Ministerial Assistant in Allie Yasaki who stepped up to prepare for and lead our services. I was told by many that her chanting and Dharma message on Sunday was wonderful. Thank you very much Allie for being so fantastic and for helping Iwohara Sensei!

I'm sure everyone has heard by now, but our beloved Mitzi Shimizu has had a serious health issue. She is much improved and now enjoying visits from our Sangha members as she convalesces at Kei Ai in Gardena. Thank you Mitzi for your many years of being a GBC Sangha member and music/Obon dance leader! And thank you too for giving us all a reason to visit and reminisce with you as you heal.

In Gassho,
Kathy



GBC Forward!

Construction Update: Looking Great!!

Getting Close to Construction Completion...

As construction comes to a close, we are now receiving bills for the work completed. While we've thankfully received donations to cover half of the project, we've still a second half to collect. A continuing support reminder letter was sent to our Sangha during March. Please consider donating/pledging to keep us on track.

Please also remember to let us know at gbcforward@gardenabuddhistchurch.org if your company or community organization offers company match programs or grants.

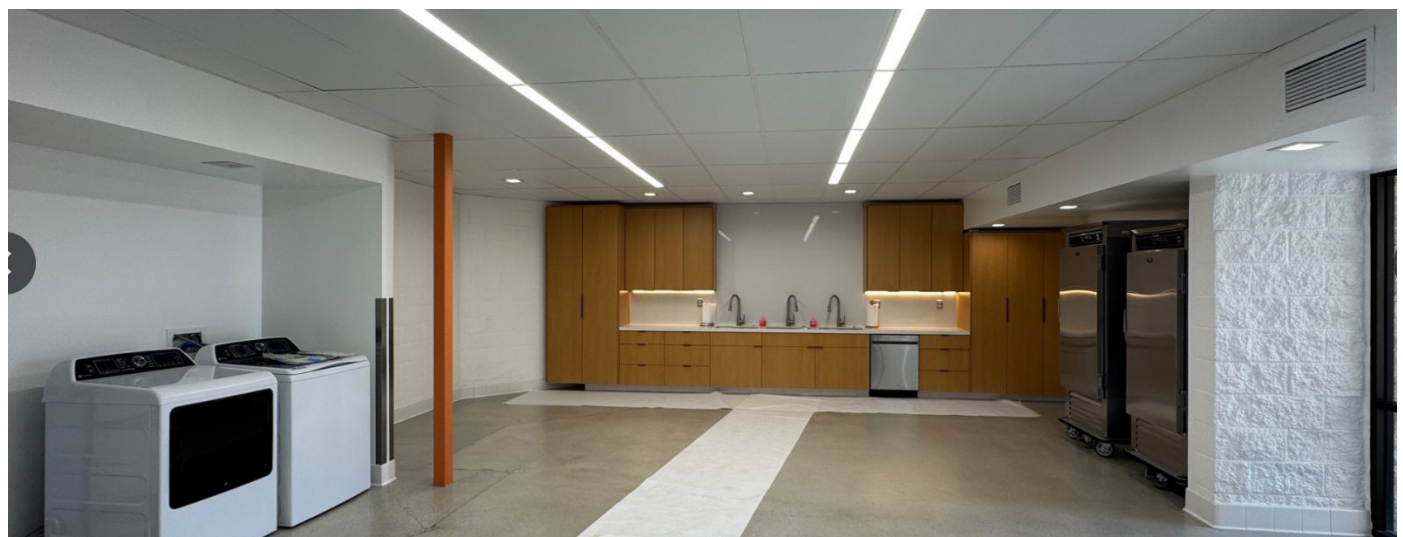
Here's this month's sneak peek behind the green curtain:



High Tech Beverage / Service Area



Almost complete: the new, very shiny main sink area



Look at this beautiful new Cooling Room!!

(Continued on page 11)

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We're on target for re-opening in late Spring! We're also on target with fundraising, but we can't let our foot off the gas! While we're so very thankful for our progress so far, we still have a distance to go before the finish line.

Our refreshed Social Hall will be a tangible 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 beautiful and safe environment for our Sangha and strengthen our Dharma Sharing ability going forward. To fund this renovation project, we established a \$2.0 million capital campaign called 'GBC Forward!'. The campaign began in March 2025 and will extend to the end of 2027. While we are very grateful for the funds already collected, we need more funds today to pay our vendors on time.



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

For further information, 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

Dharma School News

Thank you to Susan Mukai, Yasuko Takemoto Kara Miyashiro and James Nagatani for chairing our Pet Memorial service. They did a great job. Thank you to the Sangha Teens for the hot dog lunch otoki for our Spring Ohigan service. They were delicious.



Hanamatsuri service will be April 5th. Dharma school will be decorating the Hanamido on Saturday April 4th starting at 2 pm. We welcome our dharma students and adults to decorate with the teachers. We will be accepting monetary donation and flowers by Saturday starting at 10:00 am. We accept any kind of flowers but not ones with thorns.

We hope everyone received the letter about our Kieshiki Affirmation Ceremony on Sunday, June 14th at 2 p.m. The bishop of the BCA, Rev. Marvin Harada will be performing the ceremony. You can receive your Buddhist name (homyo). Students can also receive a homyo, the deadline is April 12, 2026.

The weather seems to be hot one day and cold on another, so everyone take care.

Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast

Date: Sunday, May 10, 2026
Time: 8AM - 10AM



(FORM 1)



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

wisteria.chugakko@gardenabuddhistchurch.org



Wisteria Chugakko 2026
Student Registration Form
Summer 2026
June 15-July 8, 2026

Student Last Name _____

Student First Name _____

Male Female Student Age _____ Birthdate _____

Please let us know what gender pronoun your child would like us to use:

He/him She/her They/them

Grade entering in Fall of 2026 _____ School District _____

Parent Name _____
(First name Last name)

Cell _____ Email _____

Parent Name _____
(First name Last name)

Cell _____ Email _____

Address _____

Buddhist Church Affiliation _____

Signature of Temple Authority _____

Registration: \$550 (\$500 for GBC members)

a. Registration includes the cost of one t-shirt for your child. If you wish to order additional t-shirts, please include \$10.00 for each t-shirt.

b. T-shirt size for Wisteria Chugakko student:

Youth Small Medium Large

Adult Small Medium Large XLarge

<p>Registration \$ _____ (\$550 or \$500)</p> <p>Additional T-shirts _____ (\$10/t-shirt)</p> <p>T-shirt sizes:</p> <p>Youth Small _____ Medium _____ Large _____</p> <p>Adult Small _____ Medium _____ Large _____ XLarge _____</p> <p>Total \$ _____</p> <p>Deposit: \$50.00 (must accompany this form)</p> <p>Balance Due _____</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Balance due at the Wisteria Chugakko Parent Student Orientation by</u> <u>Saturday, May 30, 2026, from 1:00-2:30 p.m. in the</u> <u>Gardena Buddhist Church Social Hall.</u></p>

Please make checks payable to “Gardena Buddhist Church” and in the memo section of your check write “Wisteria-Child’s Name”.

Please mail to: Gardena Buddhist Church
Attn: Wisteria Chugakko
1517 W. 166th Street
Gardena, CA 90247

Parent Signature _____ **Date** _____



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)

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 2026)

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



Monday, June 15 - Wednesday, July 8 2026

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

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:

Teachers and Staff



American Sign Language
Art of Narration
Calligraphy
Car Mechanics
Cardmaking
Cooking
Fabric Beads
Filmmaking
First Aid
Flower Arrangement
Glass Etching
Haiku Poetry
Incarcere Talk
Japanese

Japanese Bookbinding
Japanese Tea Ceremony
Jodo Shinshu Buddhism
Jodo Shinshu Rituals
Kachi Kachi Making
Kokedama
Learning Our History
Learning Spreadsheets
Lei Making
Line Dancing
Little Tokyo Field Trip
Loom Knitting
Mahjong
Morning Service
Obon Dancing
Paper Lanterns
Papermaking
Photography
Podcasting
Robotics
Sashiko
Sewing/Shibori
Shakyo
Shodo
Shuji
Taekwondo
Taiko
Undokai
Wood Tile Trivets
Yukata Dressing



Aponte, Kimberly
Fujii, Janet
Harada, Edie
Hiramoto, Debbie
Hirotsu, Charlene
Hirotsu, Jack
Hirotsu, Joanne
Hirotsu, Russell
Hirotsu, Stan
Hirotsu, Stephanie
Hori, Kathy
Ikeda, Bev
Imada, Brian
Imada, Imogene
Inose, Kay
Isomoto, Lynn
Iwamoto, Hope
Iwasaka, Irene
Iwohara, Rev. John
Kakazu, Kazuyo
Kakimoto, Nadine
Kaneshiro, Gail
Kawamura, Ken
Kishimoto, Eric
Kita, Alan
Kogure, Kinuko
Lai, Ming
Maruyama, Phyllis
Masukawa, Cheryl
Mayemura, Louise
Mayemura, Tom
Mitani, Dave
Mitani, Terri
Miwa, Alan
Miwa, Christine

Miya, Arleen
Miyaji, Rev. Nobuo
Miyaji, Rev. Yoshiro
Miyashiro, Marie
Motoyasu, Aya
Murata, Jan
Nakagawa, Mae
Nakahira, Ann
Nakakura, Doris
Nakamura, Debbie
Nakamura, Natsume
Nakatani, Lily
Nielsen, Arne
Nielsen, Dorine
Nishida, Cindie
Nishimura, Elaine
Nishimura, Patti
Nishimura, Ross
Purganan, Margie
Sasahara, Arleen
Sauer, Dick
Shimizu, Dick
Shimizu, Gary
Shimizu, Linda
Shimizu, Mitzi
Takao, Dianne
Tsurata, John
Uyemura, Ty
Wada, Aja
Yamanaka, Jeanne
Yasaki, Allie
Yasaki, Chris
Yasaki, Megan
Yokota, James



GARDENA BUDDHIST CHURCH FUJIMATSURI 2026

BEEF TERIYAKI BENTO SALE

Bento Pickup
MAY 30, 2026
MAY 31, 2026
Noon-3:00pm
@ CHERRYSTONES



PICK UP AT CHERRYSTONES
15501 S VERMONT AVE, GARDENA 90247

\$30 **BENTO INCLUDES:**
BEEF TERIYAKI, PINEAPPLE CHICKEN, CHOP CHAE,
MAC SALAD, GREEN BEANS, TAKUAN, RICE

***PRE-ORDERS NEEDED BY MAY 10, 2026 OR UNTIL SOLD OUT**

CLIP AND RETURN ORDER FORM BELOW IF ORDERING BY CHECK
OR USE THE QR CODE TO ORDER ONLINE AND PAY WITH CREDIT CARD



USE YOUR
PHONE'S CAMERA
TO ORDER ONLINE

FUJIMATSURI BENTO ORDER FORM

Name: _____
Phone#: _____
Email: _____

Qty. _____
MAY 30- BENTO _____
MAY 31- BENTO _____
x \$30 each \$ _____
Donation \$ _____

OFFICE USE ONLY
CHK# _____

**BENTO PICKUP IS AT
CHERRYSTONES
Pickup Time: Noon - 3pm**

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to Gardena Buddhist Church
Return this form along with check in the enclosed envelope via mail no later than **MAY 10, 2026**

➤ Mailing Address: Gardena Buddhist Church, 1517 W. 166th St., Gardena, CA 90247 ◀

Kieshiki Affirmation Ceremony

Sunday, June 14th at 2:00 PM



In honor of our 100th anniversary, we will be holding a Kieshiki Affirmation Ceremony which will be officiated by Rev. Marvin Harada, Bishop of the BCA.

By participating in the Affirmation Ceremony, one receives a Buddhist name (homyo). These names are in the form of Shaku and two Buddhist terms which follow. The word "Shaku" means "disciple of Sakyamuni" and signifies that the person has joined the followers of the teachings of Sakyamuni Buddha, a community that transcends race or nationality.

During this Shin Buddhist ceremony, participants will take the important step of affirming one's reverence for the Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha, and vowing to tread the path to Buddhahood before the altar of Amida Buddha and Shinran Shonin.

Participants can register online <https://www.gardenabuddhistchurch.org/kieshiki> or by filling out the top part of the application form below. Adults and children are welcome to participate. Each participant will need a separate form. Participants will also have the opportunity to select one of the kanji's that make up their Buddhist name. Please indicate your selection on the form. Kanji's can be viewed on the kieshiki webpage above. Participants will be contacted to schedule a consultation to discuss their Buddhist name. If registering online, please select a date.



Application deadline is April 12, 2026 and the fee is \$50.00. Please make checks payable to Gardena Buddhist Church or register online and pay by credit card.

We hope you will take advantage of this unique opportunity to receive your Buddhist name.

APPLICATION FOR KIESHIKI AFFIRMATION CEREMONY

Temple affiliation: _____ Ceremony date: _ June 14, 2026_

Name _____
Last Name First Name Middle Name

Address _____
Street City State

Age: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Telephone: _____

Name of parent or guardian _____ (if under 12)

Favorite word/kanji (or phrase) chosen by member for Homyo: _____
(Resident/Supervising Minister: please be sure to fill-in the favorite word/kanji character)

Signature of applicant

Save the Date



OBON 2026

AUGUST 1 & 2

DETAILS WILL BE UPDATED ON OUR WEBSITE
WWW.GARDENABUDDHISTCHURCH.ORG

Board Meeting (Zoom): Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 7PM

We truly appreciate your continued support!

The Church acknowledges the following donations received from 02/16/26 - 03/15/2026 with gratitude and appreciation.

Funeral/Makurakyo/Burial/Memorials Donations

Goto, Tomie
Miya, Nancy

Nagai, Kotaro
Nakamura, Michelle

Nakano, Tamie
Nakasako, Jill

Shimbashi, Gary
Yanai, Frank (2)

Shotsuki Hoyo Donations

Anonymous (2)
Archibique, June
Awane, Diane
Blair, Janyce
Dote, Ty
Ego/Tanaka Family
Fujimoto, Fumiko
Fujioki, Emma
Fujioki, Jean
Fujioki, Ruby (3)
Fujioki, Tsusako
Harada, Patricia
Hashimoto, Jane
Hefner, Scott
Hira, M/M John

Iwamoto, M/M Daniel
Jinkawa, Kimi & Janice
Kadoguchi, James
Kaiura, Earl
Kuwahara, Susan
Maeda, Stacy (2)
Matsuda, Hiromi
Matsuda, Stephan
Matsunaga, Katsuyo
Miwa, M/M Alan (2)
Miya, Nancy
Mizuno-Masunaga, Lynn
Mori, Eiko
Morishige, M/M Norman
Morita, Hiroko

Nakakura, Kenneth
Nakamura, Debbie
Nakata, M/M Bob (3)
Ohara, Emily
Ohara, M/M J. S.
Orita, Florence
Oyama, Saeko
Sakatani, M/M Richard (3)
Santohigashi, Koichi & Mariko
Shigemori, June
Shinmoto Bohannan, Kathy
Suya, Kikuo & Susan
Takao, Dianne

Takao, Donna
Takeda, Fusako
Tamanaha, Noreen
Tamura, Lynne
Tatsukawa, Hiroko
Tenpo, Helen
Uwahori, Sadae (2)
Uyemura, Chris
Uyemura, M/M David
Wakimoto, Yuko
Willoughby, Aileen
Yamada, Susan
Yokota, Dale
Yokota, M/M James

Spring Ohigan Hoyo Donations

Fujimoto, Fumie
Fujita, Teruko & Fumiko
Hori, Kathy
Iwamoto, Diane
Iwamoto, M/M Daniel
Kakimoto, Nadine
Kawamoto, Derrick
Maehara, Nolan
Maruyama, Kazuko
Maruyama, Phyllis

Matsuda, Hiromi
Mayemura, Louise
Mikami, Lynn
Miwa, M/M Alan
Miyamoto, Mitsuko
Miyata, Julie
Morimoto, Nobuharu
Morioka, M/M Dennis
Nakawatase, Haruye
Nishihira, M/M Joe

No name
Okamura, Rodney
Ouchi, Joyce
Sakatani, M/M Richard
Sasaki, M/M Tom
Shigemitsu, M/M Tom
Shimono, Natsuye
Takahashi, Sae
Terao, Carolyn
Uyemura, M/M David

Wakimoto, Yuko
Watanabe, Donald
Yamanaka, Jeanne
Yamane, M/M Dick
Yokota, M/M James
Yoshida, Suzanne
Yoshiyama, M/M Bryan
Yoshiyama, Rose
Yuki, Toyoko

Special Donations

Bugarin, Dennis & Karen
Furukawa, M/M David

Gibbs, Rev. Gregory
Kobayashi, Izumi

Nakakura, M/M Ken
Okamoto, Yauko

Yuki, Wallace

100th Anniversary Donations

GBC Dana Group

2026 GBC Membership Dues (Received from 02/16/2026 - 03/15/2026)

Date, Christopher	Imamura, Nancy	Mekaru, Naomi	Nishimura, Shunji
Fujii, Lillian	Isobe, Daniel	Miyashiro, Marc-Mitchell	Ohara, Emily
Fujii, Raymond	Kajikawa, Gary	Morishige, Cindy	Okano, Joanne
Fujioki, Ruby	Kakimoto, Nadine	Morishige, Norman	Ouchi, Joyce
Furukawa, David	Kawano, Scot	Murakami, Linda	Oyama, Saeko
Furukawa, Nancy	Kikuno, Nariko	Muro, Allen	Ozawa, Michael
Hori, Kathy	Kishita, Ema	Muro, Marilyn	Takahashi, Sae
Hori, Patricia	Lam, Derek	Nagatani, Ronald	Yanagita, Chieko
Hull, Madoka	Lee, Martha	Nakamura, Alan	Yick, Amy
Ichiroku, Julie	Lee, Steven	Nakamura, Debbie	Yoshiyama, Bryan
Ichiroku, Kenneth	Maesaki, Kazue	Nakao, Harumi	Yoshiyama, Nancy
Ikemiya, Reiko	Maruyama, Phyllis	Nishimura, Minae	
Imamura, James	Masukawa, Yoko	Nishimura, Patti	

Hanamatsuri Donations

Kakimoto, Nadine	Nakamoto, M/M David	Yamanaka, Jeanne	Yoshiyama, M/M Bryan
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Kieshiki Donations

Nakakura, Ken & Doris Nielsen, Dorine

BCA Assessment

Morishige, Cindy	Morishige, Norman
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GBC Forward

Higuchi, Tracy	Maehara, Nolan	Morimoto, Chizuko	Motokane, Helen
Kakimoto, Nadine	Maesaki, Kazue	Morishige, James	

Nokotsudo Donations

Anonymous

Osaisen

Gross, Bernadette	Miralle, Dawn	Yamane, M/M Dick
Iwanaga, Tracy (5)	Nishimura, M/M Ross	

General Donation/Facility Use/ Miscellaneous

Kobayashi, Izumi	South Bay Lomita Lions Club
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GBC Forward Donations

LOOKING FORWARD
PREPARING FOR OUR FUTURE

GBC FORWARD!

2026 SOCIAL HALL
RENOVATION PROJECT



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.



Wisteria (\$100,000+)

- ☆ Masaji & Kiyoko Mitsunaga Memorial Trust
- ☆ In Memory of Ben and Suzuye Fukuzaki
- ☆ Victor Mitsunaga & Sherry Gandee in Honor of Brian T. Mitsunaga
- ☆ Ernie and Ellen Terao



Bamboo (\$50,000-\$99,999)

- ☆ In Honor of our parents: Noboru & Ayako Nakatani, Seijiro & Yoshiko Inose



Lotus (\$25,000-\$49,999)

- ☆ Shunji & Patti Nishimura



Chrysanthemum (\$10,000-\$24,999)

- ☆ In Memory of Henry and Yoshiko Miwa and Ronnie Takao
- ☆ In Memory of our parents, Frank & Chiyoko Yamane and Naoichi & Mikiyo Ikegami
- ☆ Nobuko Okada
- ☆ Anonymous
- ☆ Tom & Kiyoko Sasaki
- ☆ In Memory of Akiko, Kent, Umeno and Takaichi Maeda
- ☆ In Honor of George & Masako Ota
- ☆ In Memory of Kazuma & Kamenonaka and Masaaki & Fumiko Nakaoka
- ☆ Anonymous
- ☆ David & Cathy Uyemura
- ☆ In Memory of John & Peggy Tsuruta
- ☆ Masao & Janice Sasaki
- ☆ Dave & Terri Mitani
- ☆ In Memory of Edwin and Yuriko Goto
- ☆ Anonymous
- ☆ Anonymous
- ☆ Derrick & Dean Kawamoto - In Memory of Masao & Akiyo Kawamoto

(GBC Forward Donations continued on page 21)

(GBC Forward Donations continued from page 20)

**Cherry Blossom (\$5,000-\$9,999)**

- ☆ John & Kimberley Aponte
- ☆ Louise Mayemura
- ☆ Joe and Violet Nishihira Family
- ☆ Wallace T. Yuki
- ☆ In Memory of George & Harumi Morishige
- ☆ Anonymous
- ☆ Cheryl Masukawa
- ☆ Toru & Kazuyo Kakazu
- ☆ Helen Tenpo
- ☆ In Memory of Dick, Shizuye, and Rick Munekata
- ☆ In Memory of Kenneth Takahashi & Sherilyn Takahashi
- ☆ Autodesk

**Iris (\$1,000-\$4,999)**

- ☆ Kenneth & Doris Nakakura
- ☆ Raymond Fujii
- ☆ In Memory of Tad & Chiyoko Sugita
- ☆ In Memory of Fred and Lily Fukuwa
- ☆ In Memory of Sue Okada
- ☆ In Memory of Tom Okada
- ☆ Sadao, Michiko & Larry Mitsui
- ☆ Tom & Judy Shigemitsu
- ☆ Bob. S. Nakamura
- ☆ In Memory of Dad, Joyce, and Iris
- ☆ William and Shigeko Yamane
- ☆ Ken & Kay Inose Family
- ☆ Yuriko Suda
- ☆ The Craig and Cheryl Tateishi Family
- ☆ Robert & Gail Higashiyama
- ☆ Stan & Charlene Hirotsu Family
- ☆ Norman & Cindy Morishige
- ☆ Rafu Shimpo Foundation
- ☆ Joyce Ouchi & Craig Ouchi
- ☆ Marian Takamura
- ☆ Anonymous
- ☆ In Memory of Sam and Eileen Takemoto
- ☆ Gardena Buddhist Church Hui Aikane
- ☆ Susan Tenpo
- ☆ The Rikio Inn Family
- ☆ In Memory of Kaizo and Koko Nishi
- ☆ Anonymous
- ☆ Glenn & Donna Sanada
- ☆ In Memory of John and Kay Fujikawa
- ☆ In Memory of Noboru Maruyama

(GBC Forward Donations continued on page 22)

(GBC Forward Donations continued from page 21)



Iris (\$1,000-\$4,999) (Cont'd)

- ☆ Anonymous
- ☆ Mitsuko Miyamoto
- ☆ Chizuko Morimoto
- ☆ Dick and Cindy Shimizu
- ☆ Japanese Language School & Nakayoshi Preschool
- ☆ Debbi Nakamura
- ☆ Natsuye Shimono
- ☆ James & Gladys Yokota
- ☆ With Gratitude, Christine (Qris), George, and Richard Yamashita
- ☆ On behalf of Sam and Etsuko Yamashita
- ☆ Nadine Kakimoto
- ☆ The GBC Dana Group
- ☆ Rev. & Mrs. Nobuo Miyaji
- ☆ Mark & Linda Nakashima Family
- ☆ Candace Morita
- ☆ Tadaaki Maeda
- ☆ Patty Nishi
- ☆ Karen and Howard Nakagiri
- ☆ Julie Miyata
- ☆ Dennis & Jan Masaki
- ☆ Anonymous



Peony (\$500-\$999)

- ☆ Dennis Nakatani Family
- ☆ Anonymous
- ☆ Suzanne Yoshida
- ☆ Haru Watanabe
- ☆ Suzuko Kuwahara
- ☆ Gay Kurahashi
- ☆ Gale Sasano
- ☆ Anonymous
- ☆ In Memory of Rosie and Shinji Okubo
- ☆ In Memory of Shizumi Okada
- ☆ Wayne Nakatsu
- ☆ Emiko Sasaki
- ☆ In Honor of Michiko Higashida and Dr. Esther Nagao
- ☆ Susan Miya
- ☆ Haruye Nakawatase
- ☆ Anonymous
- ☆ Yoko Okumoto
- ☆ Brent and Noriko Sasaki
- ☆ In Memory of Ray Yoshiyama
- ☆ Mitzi Shimizu

(GBC Forward Donations continued on page 23)

(GBC Forward Donations continued from page 22)



Peony (\$500-\$999) (Cont'd)

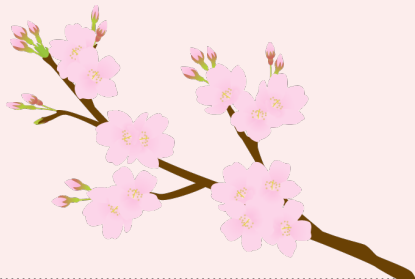
- ☆ Yuko Wakimoto
- ☆ Reiko Saiki
- ☆ Toyoko Yuki
- ☆ James Morishige
- ☆ Tracy Higuchi
- ☆ Japanese American Cultural & Community Center (JACCC)
- ☆ Nolan Maehara

April 2026

- | | | |
|----|---|---------|
| 1 | DS Teacher's mtg via Zoom | 7:00pm |
| 4 | Hanamido Decoration | 9:00am |
| 5 | Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom) | 9:30am |
| | Hanamatsuri & Hatsumairi Service | |
| | Sangha Teens mtg | 10:30am |
| | Shotsuki Hoyo Service | 2:00pm |
| 6 | Obon mtg via Zoom | 7:30pm |
| 8 | GBC 100 Operations Comitt. mtg via Zoom | 7:00pm |
| 12 | Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom) | 9:30am |
| | BWA mtg (In-Person & Zoom) | 11:15am |
| 13 | Social Hall Closure mtg via Zoom | 4:00pm |
| 15 | GBC Board mtg via Zoom | 7:00pm |
| 16 | Meinichiko Service via Zoom | 7:00am |
| 18 | FDSTL Conference | |
| 19 | Jr. YBA mtg | 8:45am |
| | Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom) | 9:30am |
| | YABA mtg | 11:30am |
| | ABA mtg (In-Person & Zoom) | 11:30am |
| | WC Teacher Workshop #3 | 1:00pm |
| 20 | Megumi deadline | |
| 21 | GBC Forward via Zoom | 7:00pm |
| 26 | Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom) | 9:30am |
| | Coordinating Council mtg | 11:00am |

May 2026

- | | | |
|-------|---|----------|
| 3 | Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom) | 9:30am |
| | GBC Forward mtg | 10:30am |
| | Sangha Teens mtg | 10:30am |
| | BWA mtg | 11:15am |
| | Shotsuki Hoyo Service | 2:00pm |
| 6 | DS Teacher's meeting via Zoom | 7:00pm |
| 10 | ABA/YABA Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast | 8:00am |
| | Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom) | 10:00am |
| | Mother's Day Service | |
| 11 | Social Hall Closure mtg via Zoom | 4:00pm |
| 12 | GBC Forward mtg via Zoom | 7:00pm |
| 13 | GBC 100 Operations Committee mtg via Zoom | 7:00pm |
| 16 | Meinichiko Service via Zoom | 7:00am |
| 17 | Jr. YBA mtg | 8:45am |
| | Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom) | 9:30am |
| | Gotan-E Service | |
| | YABA mtg | 11:00am |
| | ABA mtg (In-Person & Zoom) | 11:30am |
| | WC Teacher Workshop #4 | 1:00pm |
| 18 | Megumi deadline | |
| 19 | Boy Scout Troop 242 Court of Honor Ceremony | 6:30pm |
| 20 | GBC Board mtg Zoom | 7:00pm |
| 23 | YABA LA Galaxy Match | |
| 24 | Church office closed-Memorial Day | |
| | Nokotsudo Open | 9-12pm |
| | Pacific Crest Memorial Day Service | 9:00am |
| | Green Hills Memorial Day Service | 11:00am |
| 25 | Church office closed/Nokotsudo Open | 9-12pm |
| 29 | Girl Scout Troop 4345 Court of Honor Ceremony | 7:00pm |
| 30-31 | Fujimatsuri Fundraiser | |
| | Wisteria Chugakko Parent/Student Orientation | 1-2:30pm |



<Regular Activities>

- Sunday:** Isami Taiko Practice @12pm
Monday: 2nd, 3rd & 4th Community Projects @10:00am
 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: Isami Taiko Practice@7pm
 1st & 3rd Boy Scout Troop 242 mtg @7pm
 1st BS Eagle Board @7pm
Friday: 2nd & 4th Girl Scout Troop 4345 mtg @7pm
Saturday: Tea Ceremony Class @9am

“人間とは”

宮地美子師

4月8日、仏教徒にとって大切なお方が誕生されました。ガーデナ仏教会では、花御堂を飾りお釈迦様の誕生をお祝いする法要が4月5日、日曜日に勤修(ごんしゅう)されます。お釈迦様が仏説無量寿経(ぶっせつむりょうじゅきょう)にこういう言葉を残されています。

『田があれば田に悩み、家があれば家に悩む。牛馬などの家畜類や、金銭・財産・衣食・家財道具、さては使用人にいたるまで、あればあるにつけて憂(うれい)はつきない。また、田がなければ、田が欲しいと悩み、家がなければ家が欲しいと悩む。牛馬などの家畜類や、金銭・財産・衣食・家財道具、さては使用人にいたるまで、なければないにつけて、またそれらを欲しいと思ひ悩む。たまたま一つが得られると他の一つが欠け、これがあればあれないというありさまで、つまりは、すべてを取り揃えたいと思う。そうして、やっとこれらのものが、みなそろったと思っても、それはほんの束の間で。すぐにまた消え失せてしまう。』

上記の教えが、私たちに伝えているのは、人間のむさぼりの心だと思いますが、しかしあれが欲しいこれが欲しいとは、人生をより良く快適に過ごしたいという人間の欲望でもあります。この欲望の中には自己の努力も含まれています。仏教はそれも否定するのでしょうか、あれが欲しいこれが欲しい、いい暮らしがしたいという欲望がなければ生きている甲斐がありません。

そこで、私はこう思いました。この教えはお釈迦様の人間の本质を見抜いた注意勧告の言葉ではないかと。底知れない欲望にまみれた人間に『落とし穴があるぞ、注意して歩めよ』という勧告です。別の言葉で表すと『足るを知る。』とも言えると思います。いい暮らしがしたい、あの人より上にいたい、という果てしない欲求、どこまでもとめどない欲望に対して、はたと歩みを止め、このままでは自分を見失っ

てしまうかもしれないと、心にお釈迦様からの注意勧告の法水をいただくことではないかと思ひます。聴聞してお釈迦様から人間の闇深い本質を聞かせていただくことで、混迷していく人間の相を光に向かって生きていく自分に転換して行く事が望まれているのではないのでしょうか。仏様の言葉を聞かせていただくことは自分の姿を見せていただくことに他なりません。

お釈迦様がこの世に出現し阿弥陀仏の教えを口伝し、その後経典が出来ました。その経典を七高僧様方が読み解きに心血を注がれました。その経典を七高僧方の解説とともに何度も読誦された方が親鸞様です。そしてさらに親鸞様の深い理解を、蓮如様が広くその時代の人々にまた私たちにも理解可能な言語で伝えてくださいました。これらの流れがなければ、私に阿弥陀様の教えが届くことはありませんでした。

お釈迦様は、阿弥陀如来の慈悲と智慧をこの世で最初に説かれるためにお生まれになられた歴史上実在されたお方です。お釈迦さまがおられなかったら、私たちの本当の幸福はなかったといえるのです。お釈迦様の誕生を心からお祝いいたしましょう。 合掌





婦人会便り

婦人会の通常の活動（以下敬称略）

- ▽ 3月は当番グループ（D/a）が担当でした。3月1日の月例会でおいしいお菓子をご提供いただき、ありがとうございました。
- ▽ GBC BWA創立100周年記念委員会は、毎月のBWA定例会終了後に開催されています。
 - 記念昼食会は改築された社交ホールで開催される予定で、昼食のお弁当をオプションとして検討しています。開催日は2026年6月28日で、梅津広道師をゲストスピーカーとしてお迎えします。
- ▽ 3月7日（日）春季お彼岸セミナー（講師：桑原浄信師〈JSIO、パークレー仏教会〉）。午前9時30分からの日本語セッション、午後1時30分からの英語セッションにご参加いただき、桑原師の興味深いご法話をお聴きくださりありがとうございました。また、午前の部に軽朝食やスナックをご用意くださったD/a組の皆さまにも感謝いたします。
- ▽ 2027年の日本語セミナーについて話し合っ

た結果、ロサンゼルス西本願寺別院の姫路雄紀（ひめじゆうき）師に依頼することが決定されました。庵原開教使がご都合について問い合わせを行います。

- ▽ 3月8日（日）春季お彼岸法要。内陣のお供えを担当してくださったD/a組の皆さま、ありがとうございました。
- ▽ 4月5日（日）花まつり法要 A組がお供えとお齋を担当します。ソーシャルホールがまだ使用できないため、お齋には既製品を買った方が便利なので、カップケーキが提案されています。

アナウンスメント:

- ▽ 4月5日（日）：花まつり法要
- ▽ 4月5日（日）：月例祥月法要（対面）午後2時
- ▽ 4月6日（月）：お盆会議（Zoom）午後7時 C&D組代表が参加予定
- ▽ 4月12日（日）：4月のBWA定例会（ハイブリッド）午前11時15分 A/b組担当
- ▽ 4月19日（日）：婦人会はコーヒーソーシャルと受付係の担当（A/b組）
- ▽ 4月26日（日）：附属団体連絡協議会（対面）午前11時30分 A組代表が出席予定
- ▽ 5月3日（日）：5月のBWA定例会（ハイブリッド）午前11時15分 B/c組担当

『BWA創立100周年記念昼餐会開催のお知らせ』

日時：2026年6月28日（日）

場所：ソーシャルホール

ゲストスピーカー：梅津広道師

（名誉開教使/前BCA総長）

*詳細は、追ってご案内いたします