



MEGUMI

慈恩

GARDENA BUDDHIST CHURCH
1517 W. 166th Street, Gardena, CA 90247
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Rev. John Iwohara

Gardena Buddhist Church



April 2024

Volume LVII No. 4



Rev. John Iwohara

“Taking faith for granted”

My voice has been very hoarse for a while now. Unfortunately, given my current circumstance it seems that I was exposed to mold again somewhere and because of that my body reacted with constant coughing.

Again, I found myself coughing so often and so vigorously that I lost my voice. For the most part the coughing has stopped. Unfortunately, it always takes my voice much longer to recover (as I’m sure everyone have noticed).

Every week, I have a service with my mother at her home. This last week was no different. This last time, however, I noticed a marked improvement in the quality and strength of my voice. I thought, “My voice is finally back! It shouldn’t be too much longer before I can talk and chant like ‘normal’ again.” When I thought the word “normal,” I also thought, “I shouldn’t take my voice for granted.” Then, I thought, “How many other things do I take for granted?”

Without my upbringing and background in Jodo Shinshu, I doubt I would think this way. Thinking this helped to put a smile on my face.

Part of the reason for this smile was because I was also reminded of a question that my late mentor, Reverend Professor Kyoshin Asano or as we called him Asano Sensei, asked a group of us many years ago.

As a little background, let me mention that in the Chapter on Faith in the Kyogyoshinsho, Shinran Shonin’s primary text, there is a list of 10 benefits in the present life. These ten benefits are:

1. The benefit of being protected and sustained by unseen powers.
2. The benefit of being possessed of supreme virtues.
3. The benefit of our karmic evil being transformed into good.
4. The benefit of being protected and cared for by all the Buddhas.
5. The benefit of being praised by all the Buddhas.
6. The benefit of being constantly protected by the light of the Buddha’s heart.
7. The benefit of having great joy in our hearts.
8. The benefit of being aware of Amida’s benevolence and of responding in

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

gratitude to his virtue.

9. The benefit of constantly practicing great compassion.
10. The benefit of entering the stage of the truly settled [Collected Works of Shinran, p. 112]

Within this list of 10 benefits include several that talk about “being protected,” or benefits #1, #4, and #6. The question that Asano Sensei asked us was, “What is being protected?” Although we all knew of the 10 benefits and that the tenth is the most important and all encompassing one, it was obvious that none of us had actually asked ourselves this question before. We stumbled for an answer. One answer was, “My life?” Asano Sensei then reminded us that we will all die. “How I live my life?” was another answer that was suggested. Asano Sensei then reminded us that the Vow does not choose between good or bad. After one or two more guesses, we became silent.

Asano Sensei then offered us a clue. The clue was, “What Chapter are these 10 benefits listed?” Everyone immediately answered the Chapter on Faith. This was followed again by silence. With this silence it seemed to me that Asano Sensei appeared saddened because nobody could answer his question even with the clue. Sensei then gave us the answer he was hoping we would come up with. He said, “Your shinjin (faith) is what is being protected. The true cause for your birth in the Pure Land is being protected. Your eventually becoming a Buddha is what is being protected.”

I think we all sensed his disappointment in us. It felt like we let him down. We all, however, quickly found ourselves bowing to Asano Sensei and thanking him, “Sensei, arigatou gozaimasu.”

Taking something as important as your voice for granted is no small feat. It requires a lot of practice to be able to ignore the usefulness

and importance of your voice. For example, while my voice was at its worst, it was very difficult to ask for even the simplest of things. Fortunately, my voice is almost back to normal now. Unfortunately, if I didn’t lose my voice I doubt I would ever have noticed how important my voice is to me.

The experience of having lost my voice was not easy, but it has also been an especially meaningful one for me. It became meaningful because it not only helped me to see how important my voice is, but also helped me to see how my faith—received from the Fundamental Vow of Amida Buddha—is constantly being protected. Fortunately, once received, shinjin (faith) is not something that can be lost.

Unfortunately, it does seem that it is something that I can take for granted. Fortunately, it is constantly being protected, and I am helped to have experiences like losing my voice, hearing Dharma messages, and being reminded of lessons from long ago. Because my faith is being protected, despite my ability to take it for granted I am kept from doing so for too long and am quickly reminded how I am always embraced and never forsaken.





Hui Aikanes



We would like to thank all of our guests for attending our first 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.

We are continuing to plan for the Hawaii Day event in June. The day will include games with activities for all ages.

For those wishing to assist the Dharma School Teachers in decorating the Hanamido or with flower donations on April 6th, please bring your flowers to Church in the meeting room by noon. Your flower and time donations would be very welcomed and most appreciated.

A kindly reminder, your 2024 membership dues of \$15 are due. Please mail it to David Nakamoto or bring to the next meeting on April 13th.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday April 13th 2:00 pm in the Cooling Room.

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

Dharma School News



It's Spring!! Hope everyone adjusted to the time change.

Hanamatsuri and Hatsumairi service will be on April 7th at 9:30 a.m. If you would like to donate flowers or make a donation for the Hanamido, please drop them them off to the Hondo kitchen by 9:00 a.m. on April 6th. We will be decorating the Hanamido on April 6th, Saturday starting at 2 p.m. We would like to invite the Dharma students to help us decorate the Hanamdo.

Thank you to the Sangha Teens and their parents for preparing the delicious spaghetti lunch after our Ohigan service. Thank you to Rev. Tadao Koyama for his Ohigan Dharma message and it was great to see Rev. Cyndi Yasaki.

This year Fujimatsuri will be on May 4th and May 5th. We will have a chicken dinner pickup on May 4th and Bingo on May 5th. Please come and join us for some fun. For more information, please check our website and order forms coming in the mail.

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.

- | | | |
|-----------------|-------|-------------------|
| Kubota, Noboru | (100) | February 21, 2024 |
| Hashiba, Nagiko | (104) | February 27, 2024 |
| Shimamura, Yoko | (89) | March 1, 2024 |
| Oshiro, Keishu | (71) | March 9, 2024 |



Fujinkai / BWA Buddhist Women's Association

Happenings:

- ◇ March 3rd, Sunday– monthly BWA meeting. Thank you to E/a gumi for the delicious snacks served at our meeting.
- ◇ March 16th, Saturday - Spring Ohigan seminar. Thank you to all members who came to listen to Rev. Tadao Koyama's interesting seminar on chanting. Thank you also to E gumi and Kathy Hori who not only provided snacks for the seminar, but also prepared a delicious Japanese breakfast for the morning session.
- ◇ March 17th, Sunday – Spring Ohigan Service. Thank you to E gumi for taking care of the osonae. We also thank the Sangha Teens for making the delicious spaghetti lunch for all our members.
- ◇ April 7th, Sunday – Hanamatsuri and Hatsumairi Service. A/b gumi in charge. BWA prepared chirashi otoki. Ingredient preparation Saturday, April 6th at 9:00am. Sunday, April 7th, Sunday- all members arrived at 6am to help assemble. Thank you to A/b gumi for taking care of the osonae for the Hanamatsuri Service.
- ◇ April 27th, Saturday. Joint Sushi-making class with BWA & YABA at 11am. BWA members reporting at 9am to prepare sushi stations.
- ◇ May 4-5, Saturday & Sunday – Fujimatsuri. On Saturday, Huli-Huli Chicken Lunch will be offered for pick up at the Social Hall. Community Projects will also have a sale in the Social Hall. Sunday (5/5), Fujimatsuri Bingo, Bake Sale and Onigiri Sale. BWA will be involved in making onigiri. More details to follow.
- ◇ GBC BWA 100th anniversary committee report – Still seeking a guest speaker for our luncheon. For the venue, places that we are considering aren't accepting reservations or have prices available until 2025/2026. We're still looking into gifts for our members and for invited guests to our special event.



Announcements:

- ◇ April 10th, Wednesday – Fujimatsuri Meeting 7:00pm via Zoom. B/c Gumi reps to attend.
- ◇ April 14th, Sunday – April Regular Meeting will be held at 11:15am. Toban for the meeting will be A/b gumi. Hybrid format.
- ◇ April 28th, Sunday – Coordinating Council meeting 11:30 am. Julie/Imogene will attend.
- ◇ May 5th, Sunday – May Regular Meeting will be held at 11:15am. Toban for the meeting will be B/c gumi. Hybrid format.
- ◇ May 6th, Monday – Obon Meeting 7:00pm via zoom. Toban E/a reps to attend.

BWA Appreciation:

- ◇ In memory of Masako Ota: Kathy Hori

ICHI-MI CLUB



It's been a busy time for Ichi-Mi!

Ichi-Mi joined a historic meeting with leaders of some sixteen API LGBTQ+ community organizations, churches and temples, to form the beginnings of a pan-Asian ethnic coalition which hopes to create a diverse support system for LGBTQ+ individuals and their families.

We're busy planning our next film, and for a retreat/seminar to reflect on the future vision for Ichi-Mi.

On March 24, four Ichi-Mi members will accompany the film showing of "A Profound Silence" at San Diego Buddhist Temple, and participate in their Q&A session.

The Community Projects Group (CPG)



The Community Projects Group has been busily planning for the following events –

- annual graduation ribbon lei fundraiser this spring;
- special lei sale following the Hanamatsuri Service on Sunday, April 7;
- boutique sale at Fujimatsuri fundraiser on Saturday, May 4; and
- the Church Obon activities.

Anyone interested in joining the group is welcome – we welcome new faces and new ideas!



TUESDAY SOCIAL

Recently we brought back Birthday celebrations to Tuesday Social. Happy February Birthday to Emi, Chris, Hito, Kazue, Kazuko, Lynn, Linda, and Yoshiko. We hope you enjoyed your special day.



Tuesday Social was organized several years ago as an informal gathering place for our temple Senior Citizens. A safe comfortable place to meet friends, to relax and enjoy a cup of coffee and socialize. A place to share recipes, share memories, and enjoy playing games & lots of laughter. Come and join us on Tuesdays 9:30 – 11:30am.

ABA News (Adult Buddhist Association)

ABA members are very busy preparing for the upcoming Fujimatsuri fundraiser (May 4 & 5) and our annual Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast (May 12).



As mentioned last month, we are planning many social activities for ABA members and a few activities for all church members. Please stay tuned for more information on these activities. ABA members are going to the Japanese Heritage Dodger game (July 2), the Hollywood Bowl (July 3), and a Harbor Cruise (August 25). A few other activities are in the planning stages.

ABA meetings are usually held on the 3rd Sunday of the month at 11:30am (Hybrid). Our next meeting is on April 21, 2024, at 11:30am. Please take care and enjoy the warm Spring weather.

Service Greeters



March 3rd scouts were our welcoming committee as the sangha entered the Hondo.



Ichimi welcomed our Sangha to service on March 10th. They also served doughnuts and coffee at Sunday Social. Missing Irene in photo.



March 17th Hui Aikane welcomed our Sangha and provided yummy coffee and doughnuts.

Order Your Graduation Leis Early! 2024



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 \$15.00 each for a double braid ribbon lei. All leis will be made with 1/4" ribbons, with a metallic edging.

Lei Order Form

Name _____ Phone _____

Delivery Address _____

Email Address _____

No. of double leis at \$15 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 regarding delivery when your order is completed.

If any questions, please contact Kiyoko Sasaki (1-310-326-8252)



Wisteria Chugakko


Reverend John Iwohara, Headmaster
Charlene Hirotsu, Principal

Please sign up and join us for the 2024 summer session.

If you have family or friends that will be going into the 7th, 8th or 9th grade in the Fall of 2024, they are eligible to register for our 2024 Wisteria Chugakko Summer Program. Our crew of 60+ teachers work very hard to provide an exciting curriculum of cultural, religious and educational classes, passing on knowledge and skills that will help guide our students in their future.


Please read through our Wisteria Chugakko Brochure. The Tuition is \$550.00, or \$500 if you have a Gardena Buddhist Church affiliation.

With Gassho,
Rev. John Iwohara, Headmaster
Charlene Hirotsu, Principal




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.



Especially created for
incoming 7th, 8th, and 9th
Grade Students
(in Fall of 2024)

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



**Monday, June 17 - Wednesday, July 10
2024**

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

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)

**Board Meeting: Wednesday, April 17 at 7PM
via Zoom**

Students will have multiple teachers in the following content areas:

Teachers and Staff



- Calendaring
- Calligraphy
- Car Mechanics
- Cardmaking
- Cooking
- Crocheting
- Drawing
- Event Planning
- Excel
- Filmmaking
- Flower Arrangement
- Haiku Poetry
- Incarcere 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



- 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
- Mekaru, 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
- Sato, Doreen
- Sauer, Rev. Dick
- Sauer, Dick
- Shimizu, Gary
- Shimizu, Linda
- Shimizu, Mitzi
- Takao, Dianne
- Takashima, Debbie
- Tsurata, John
- Uehara, Harumi
- Umizu, Rev. Amy
- Uyemura, Ty
- Wong, Verna
- Yamanaka, Jeanne
- Yasaki, Allie
- Yasaki, Chris
- Yasaki, Megan
- Yoshiyama, Rose

Nakayoshi Preschool

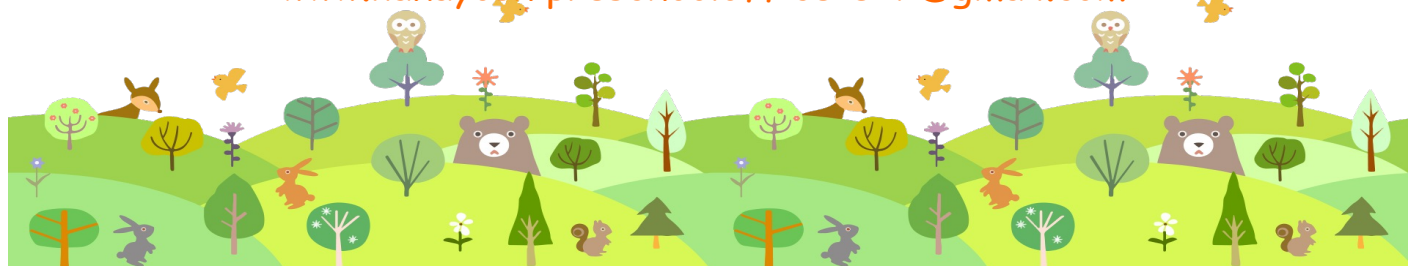


2歳・3歳児
募集中

ガーデナ仏教会附属
Gardena Buddhist Church
なかよし幼稚園
Nakayoshi Preschool

Open
Enrollment
2years old
3years old

1517 W.166th St., Gardena, CA 90247
310-327-4627
www.nakayoshipreschooloffice1517@gmail.com



GBC Vision

Chapter 2: Where are We Going?

Our temple's journey began 98 years ago. At that time, a small group of local farming families donated their hard-earned money and built a wooden temple with their bare hands. Their goal was immediate and simple: to provide a place to share the Dharma with their families and friends.

Times have certainly changed since our founding. Today, our Sanghas don't hand-build temples anymore. And besides, we already have a beautiful Hondo at Gardena. Our goals are certainly different from the days of our founding, but our vision has simply evolved.

What is a vision / vision statement? In the business / marketing world, a great vision statement is a high-level, concise, and inspirational statement of an idealistic future. In our GBC context, a vision statement provides directional focus to our processes and activities. Said differently, a vision statement explains:

- Where we're heading – Allows us to align all of our efforts in the same direction.
- Our Aspirations – Helps us to see an idealized future world.

With this in mind, the LRP Committee has selected this vision statement for GBC:

EVERYONE AWARE OF AMIDA'S COMPASSION



This famous statue of Amida Looking Back or Mikaeri Amida Sama in Japanese, is found in a Jodo Shu temple in Kyoto called Eikando Zenrinji. This wooden statue stands three and a half feet tall with its head turned to the left, looking back for stragglers. This figure symbolizes the compassion of Amida, who never abandons anyone and always shows concern for everyone, especially for the lost and the laggards.

Amida's Compassion, while always surrounding us, isn't universally known. Through our encounters with the Dharma at GBC, we are filled with joy and gratitude for Amida's Compassion and Wisdom. Wouldn't the world be a better place if we ALL shared that awareness? Our vision today is different only in scope from that of our temple founders: we wish to share the Dharma beyond our immediate families.

This is the second in a series of five articles. Please stay tuned for our next installment: Gardena Buddhist Church's Mission Statement.



Ross Nishimura

From GBC Board Chairperson

Spring embodies change and impermanence as the days grow longer and we see signs of new growth around the temple grounds. If you have not already, come visit the cherry blossom tree in front of the cooling room before the blossoms wither and fall, a reminder of Rev. Iwohara's messages of the fleeting nature of life. With such a transitional season, we have an opportunity to embrace the transience of life, recognizing that just as spring brings change to the temple grounds, so too do our experiences evolve, transform, and change.

Change is also happening in the operations of GBC. The Board continues to look forward to ensure the Temple and the Sangha can adapt and thrive in the years to come. The Long Range Planning (LRP) committee has been formed and we are executing on a vision and goals targeted towards welcoming all, fostering new ideas, and sharing the dharma. Please check out the Megumi article series written by Kathy Hori to learn more about why we established the LRP and how we will be evolving. The Series began in March and will continue through the coming months.

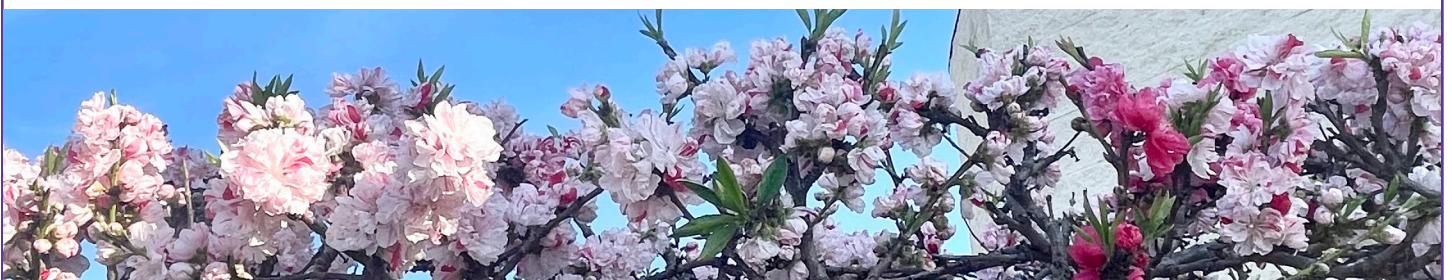
You may have already noticed some small changes occurring to support our new goals. For example, the Social Committee is sponsoring the expansion of the welcoming crew during Sunday Services. Rotating throughout all GBC organizations, you'll be able to meet and welcome new people each week. Larger scale projects are also underway which will have a much greater impact to GBC and our greater community.

As I participate in various organization meetings or conduct conversations at Sunday Social. I am hearing of some great ideas of how GBC can continue to improve and evolve; many ideas which we'll strive to implement this year. Please keep bringing new ideas to the forefront. While change can bring about additional effort, I am excited to see how change can bring about a positive impact on our future.

Interested in being a part of the changes, volunteer to work on a committee, sign up for a shift at Fujimatsuri (5/4 - 5/5), or join the Sunday Welcoming / Sunday Social crew? Drop me an email message at ross.nishimura@gardenabuddhistchurch.org or a text at 424-757-4545.

In gassho,

Ross





Membership letters and forms have been mailed to begin our 2024 Membership campaign.

Thank you to all who have supported the temple in so many different ways.



Please join us as members of the Gardena Buddhist Church and help to support the functions at the temple.

The membership form can also be found on the GBC website

Gardena Buddhist Church

Weekend Administrative Assistant Position

1517 W. 166th Street, Gardena, CA 90247
(310) 327-9400

Become a part of GBC's Operations

As the level of activity has increased and the pace has quickened at GBC, we are in need of extending our Staff to include a weekend administrator to manage the church office. We are looking for individuals who have good communication and organization skills and can thrive in a dynamic environment.

At GBC, you'll be responsible for all general office tasks, have direct interaction with the GBC staff, members & visitors, and become intimately involved in the church operations.

If you are someone who enjoys working with people, loves to problem solve, and needs some extra cash on the weekend, then you are the person we are looking for. Join the team at GBC and be a part of our growth going forward. Interested? Drop an email message to JoinTheTeam@gardenabuddhistchurch.org.



Do you have an iPad that you no longer use?

For Obon 2024, we will be increasing the number of Square systems for cash and credit card transactions. To minimize expenditures, we are looking for iPads (9th generation or older) which may no longer be in use and can be repurposed to support the Temple.

Specifically we are looking for these models

- iPad (9th generation 2021) - Model A2602 or A2604
- iPad (8th generation 2020) - Model A2270 or A2428-9
- iPad (7th generation 2019) - Model A2197-8 or A2200
- iPad Air (3rd generation 2019) - Model A2152 or A2153
- iPad Pro 10.5" - Model A1701 or A1709.



Question? Please text: 424-757-4545 or email: ross.nishimura@gardenabuddhistchurch.org

Identify your iPad Model on the back side on the bottom. See image for reference

Megumi Deadline is Monday, April 22, 2024

We truly appreciate your continued support!

**The church acknowledges the following donations received from 2/17/24 - 3/17/2024
with gratitude and appreciation.**

Funeral/Makurakyo/Burial/Memorial Services

Anonymous	Ota, Hiroshi	Otsuji, Dennis & Elaine (2)	Yuki, Wallace (2)
Cole, Lily	Ota, Kazuo	Raynon, Fumiko	
Imada, M/M Brian	Ota, Loren & Jacque	Takagi, Carol & Noboru	
Ota, Alan & Yoko	Ota, Neal	Yamane, M/M Dick (2)	

Shotsuki Hoyo Donations

Anonymous	Kaiura, Earl	Nakata, M/M Bob (2)	Takao, Tamiko
Dote, Ty	Komatsu, Janett	Nakata, Taeko	Takeda, Fusako
Ego, Kimiko	Kunisaki, Suyeno	Ohara, Emily	Tanaka, Kumi
Fujimoto, Fumie	Matsuda, Hiromi	Ohara, Yoshifumi	Uwahori, Sadae
Fujimoto, Akemi	Matsumoto, Eiko	Okada, Nobuko	Uyematsu, Nori
Fujioki, Ruby	Mikami, Shirley	Santohigashi, Koichi	Uyemura, M/M David
Harrington, James	Miwa, M/M Alan	Schell, Janice	Wakimoto, Yuko
Hefner, Patty	Miyasato, Frances	Shigemori, June	Willoughby, Aileen
Honda, Avis	Mizuno, Lynn	Shimeno Nabeta Family	Yokota, Dale
Imada, Imogene	Nakakura, M/M Ken	Suminaga, Kimiye	Yokota, M/M James
Kadoguchi, James	Nakamura, Debbie	Tacadena, Betsy	

Spring Ohigan Hoyo

Amimoto, Myrna	Mayemura, Louise	Sakatani, M/M	Tsuge, M/M Mike
Fujita, Teruko & Fumiko	Mikami, Shirley	Richard	Tsukamoto, Faye
Inose, Kay	Miwa, M/M Alan	Sanada, Glenn	Uyeda, Midori
Iwamasa, Dale	Miwa, Yoshiko	Shigemitsu, M/M Tom	Uyemura, M/M David
Iwamoto, Diane	Motokane, Helen	Shimizu, Mitzi	Wakimoto, Yuko
Iwamoto, M/M Daniel	Motoyasu, Ayako	Suminaga, Kimiye	Watanabe, Donald
Kakimoto, Nadine	Nakakura, M/M Ken	Takao, Donna	Wilhelm, Sheri
Kato, M/M Isao	Nakamoto, M/M David	Takao, Tamiko	Yamasaki, Sheryl
Komatsu, Janett	Nakamura, M/M Burt	Takata, M/M Sam	Yokota, M/M James
Maruyama, Kazuko	Nakashima, M/M Harvey	Tamura, Mary	Yoshida, Suzanne
Matano, Florence	Ouchi, Joyce	Terao, Carolyn	Yuki, Wallace

Special Donations

Aerospace Corporation: Matching gift	Kaida, Yasuko	Nagatani, Gerald	Suminaga, Kimiye
Anonymous	Masaki, Dennis & Jane	Nakamura, Debbie	Tamura, Mary
Fujita, Fumiko Carole	Masukawa, Alan	Noguchi, Rachel	Tateishi, Cheryl
Furukawa, David	Masukawa, Cheryl	Noguchi, Steve	Tateishi, Craig
Furukawa, Nancy	Morioka, Dennis	Ohara, Yoshifumi	Toma, Ron & Yuriko
Ikedo, Tamotsu	Muro, Allen	Sakatani, Charlene	Toma, Yuriko
	Muro, Marilyn	Shimizu, Mitzi	Watanabe, Donald

Hanamatsuri Donations

Hori, Kathy
Inose, Kay
Matano, Florence
Morioka, M/M Dennis
Motoyasu, Steve

Nakakura, M/M Ken
Nakao, Harumi
Nakatani, M/M David
Nishihira, M/M Joe
Sakatani, M/M Richard

Shimizu, Mitzi
Suminaga, Kimiye
Takao, Tamiko
Tamura, Mary
Watanabe, Donald

Yoshida, Suzanne
Yuki, Wallace

BCA Assessment

Komatsu, Janett

Maehara, Nolan

Yick, Amy

Osaisen

Nakamura, Debra

Yamane, M/M Dick

General Donation/Facility Use/ Miscellaneous

Baba, Miyako

Gardening Donation

Akioka, Aiko
Akioka, Sam
Iwamoto, Daniel
Iwamoto, Ruby
Kakimoto, Nadine
Kawahara, Jane

Kawahara, Larry
Koyanagi, Stan
Maeda, Tom
Maesaki, Kazue
Maruyama, Kazuko
Matsui, Karen

Miyata, Julie
Nakamoto, David
Nakamoto, Jane
Nakatani, David
Nakatani, Lily
Nakawatase, Haruye

Okamoto, Yauko
Ouchi, Joyce
Sanada, Donna
Sanada, Glenn



“Fall Prevention and Exercises”

for seniors and elderly
Sunday, June 9, 2024
at 11:30 AM
in the Meeting Room
(Free of charge)

ABA will sponsor a date with PT Ruth
Kurihara of Atlantis Physical Therapy

RSVP by May 31: lily.nakatani@gmail.com
(light lunch provided)



Hanamatsuri

Date: April 7, 2024
Time: 9:30AM
Location: GBC Hondo
(included with Hatsumairi)



2024 GBC Membership Dues

Akioka, Aiko	Kawahara, Jane	Moyer, Stanford	Shimono, Natsuye
Akioka, Sam	Kawahara, Larry	Murakami, Linda	Shimono, Shigeki
Allen, Jason	Kawamoto, Derrick	Muramoto, Karen	Suda, Yuriko
Allen, Zia	Kawamura, Kenneth	Muro, Allen	Suminaga, Kimiye
Amimoto, Myrna	Kawasaki, Richard	Muro, Marilyn	Tacadena, Betsy
Amimoto, Ronald	Kawasaki, Evelyn	Nakakura, Doris	Takao, Dianne
Aponte, John	Kihara, Hisae	Nakakura, Kenneth	Takao, Donna
Aponte, Kim	Kikuno, Nariko	Nakamatsu, Aiko	Takao, Tamiko
Baba, Miyako	Kimura, Katsuhiko	Nakamoto, David	Takata, Haruto
Date, Christopher	Kishimoto, Eric Mirai	Nakamoto, Jane	Takata, Isamu
Enomoto, Eiko	Kishita, Ema	Nakamura, Ann	Takata, Yukiko
Enomoto, Tom	Kita, Alan	Nakamura, Burt	Taketani, Mary
Fujii, Lillian	Kita, Dawn	Nakamura, Debbie	Takeuchi, Sueyoshi
Fujii, Raymond	Kita, Mitsuko	Nakamura, Lilly	Tamehiro, Yaeko
Fujii, Roger	Kita, Yoshimi	Nakamura, Sadie	Tamura, Mary
Fujimoto, Fumie	Kiyohara, Kimiko	Nakano, Etsuko	Tanaka, George
Fujinami, Paul	Kono, Cheryl	Nakano, George	Tani, Jeffrey
Fujioki, Ruby	Koyanagi, Stan	Nakano, Helen	Tani, Kari
Fujita, Fumiko Carole	Kuga, Annette	Nakano, Patsy	Tateishi, Cheryl
Fujita, Teruko Jean	Kuga, Patrick	Nakao, Harumi	Tateishi, Craig
Furukawa, David	Kurahashi, Gay	Nakashima, Linda	Tenpo, Helen
Furukawa, Nancy	Kushi, Devin	Nakatani, David	Terao, Ellen
Guild, Anne	Kushi, Jean	Nakatani, Dennis	Terao, Ernest
Hamaguchi, Tamaka	Kushi, Sierra	Nakatani, Lily	Toma, Yuriko
Harrington, Jim	Maeda, Tad	Nakawatase, Haruye	Toyooki, Shiro
Hirai, Carol	Maeda, Tom	Nielsen, Arne	Toyooki, Sonoko
Hirayama, Joyce	Maehara, Nolan	Nielsen, Dorine	Tsuge, Marilyn
Hirotsu, Charlene	Maesaki, Kazue	Nishi, Patty	Tsuge, Michael
Hirotsu, Stanford	Maruyama, Kazuo	Nishi, Takahisa	Tsukamoto, Faye
Hori, Kathryn	Maruyama, Phyllis	Nishikawa, Joe	Tsukamoto, Wilfred
Hori, Patricia	Masukawa, Alan	Nishimura, Elaine	Uyemura, Cathy
Hull, Madoka	Masukawa, Cheryl	Nishimura, Minae	Uyemura, David
Iinuma, Doris	Masukawa, Yoko	Nishimura, Ross	Wada, Miyako
Ikeda, Tamotsu	Matano, Florence	Noguchi, Rachel	Wakimoto, Yuko
Ikeda, Winston	Matsui, Karen	Noguchi, Steve	Watanabe, Donald
Ikemiya, Reiko	Matsushita, James	Oda, Steve	Watanabe, Tamiko
Imada, Brian	Matsushita, Patsy	Oganeku, Kim	Welsh, Akemi
Imada, Imogene	Mayemura, Louise	Ohara, Yoshifumi	Wilhelm, Sheri
Imamoto, Eiko	Mekaru, Naomi	Okada, George	Yamada, Akimichi
Imamura, James	Mikami, Lynn	Okamoto, Yauko	Yamada, Edward
Imamura, Nancy	Mikami, Shirley	Okamura, Rodney	Yamada, Faye
Inn, Isabel	Mikamo, Edith	Okubo, Miyo	Yamada, JoAnn
Inn, Rikio	Miwa, Alan	Ouchi, Joyce	Yamada, Joyce
Inose, Kay	Miwa, Christine	Ronne, Robert	Yamada, Susan
Inouye, Tomoko	Miwa, Yoshiko	Sakatani, Charlene	Yamada-Oda, Sheryl
Isobe, Daniel	Miya, Arleen	Sanada, Donna	Yamanaka, Jeanne
Iwamoto, Daniel	Miyamoto, Mitsuko	Sanada, Glenn	Yamane, Dick
Iwamoto, Diane	Miyamoto, Satoshi	Sasaki, Kathy	Yamane, Judy
Iwamoto, Ruby	Miyashiro, Marie	Sasaki, Paul	Yamano, Takao
Iwanaga, Michael	Miyashita, Judy	Sato, Janice	Yamasaki, Sheryl
Iwanaga, Tracy	Miyata, Julie	Sauer, Wayne (Dick)	Yamashiro, Tateshi
Iwasaka, Irene	Mizuno-Moyer, Harriet	Seino, Toshiyuki	Yokota, Gladys
Kaida, Yasuko	Morimoto, Lily	Shigemitsu, Judith	Yokota, James
Kajikawa, Gary	Morimoto, Nobuharu	Shigemitsu, Thomas	Yoshida, Suzanne
Kakimoto, Nadine	Morimoto, Seiji	Shimizu, Gary	Yuki, Toyoko
Kato, Amy	Morioka, Dennis	Shimizu, Linda	Yuki, Wallace
Kato, Gerald	Morris, Shannon	Shimizu, Mitzi	
Kato, Isao	Motoyasu, Steve	Shimohara, Evelyn	
Kato, Mary	Motoyasu, Ayako	Shimokochi, Gail	

GARDENA BUDDHIST CHURCH FUJIMATSURI 2024

HULI-HULI CHICKEN DINNER SALE

Dinner Pickup
MAY 4, 2024
Noon-5:00pm

We will also
have Community
Projects selling
their crafts in
the Social Hall!

\$28

PICK UP AT GARDENA BUDDHIST CHURCH
DINNER INCLUDES:
HULI HULI CHICKEN(1/2), RICE, EDAMAME,
CABBAGE TSUKEMONO, DANGO, AND DESSERT

***PRE-ORDERS NEEDED BY APRIL 21, 2024 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 DINNER ORDER FORM

Pickup Time: Noon - 5pm

Name: _____
 Phone#: _____
 Email: _____

	Qty.
#of Dinners _____	
x \$28 each	\$ _____
Donation	\$ _____

OFFICE USE ONLY
CHK# _____

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 APRIL 21, 2024

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

GARDENA BUDDHIST CHURCH FUJIMATSURI 2024

LET'S PLAY BINGO

**SUNDAY
MAY 5, 2024
11 am - 1 pm**

**7 GAMES
FOR
\$25
PRE-ORDER
\$30 AT THE
DOOR**

**BAKE
SALE**

We will be
selling
ONIGIRI
\$3

There will be
**RAFFLE
PRIZES**

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 BINGO CARDS PRE- ORDER FORM

OFFICE USE ONLY
CHK# _____

Name: _____
 Phone#: _____
 Email: _____

of Bundles _____
 (7 games) x \$25 each

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Please make checks payable to Gardena Buddhist Church
Gardena Buddhist Church, 1517 W. 166th St., Gardena, CA 90247

GARDENA BUDDHIST CHURCH OBON 2024

**SAVE
THE
DATES!**

**August 3 - Saturday
August 4 - Sunday**



FOOD BOOTHS

Sushi, Dango, Spam Musubi, Chicken Teriyaki & More!



GAME BOOTHS

Bingo, Fishing, Whiffle Ball & More Fun for everyone



OBON ODORI

Join us as we Dance in the streets



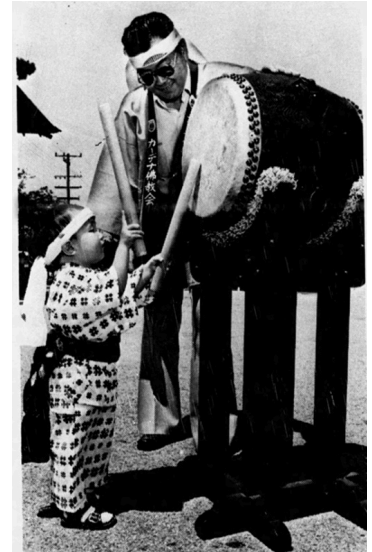
More Details will be coming later

Seek for Information

It would be very much appreciated if you could share the information with us.

Bon Daiko History

The BCA Music Committee is curious about the Bon Daiko (Obon drumming) history at the Gardena Buddhist Church! Does anyone remember if Reverend James Yanagihara, Irene Nakatsu, Phoebe Ogami, Angela Kawakami, or Amie Yamada played Bon Daiko at Gardena's Obon in the 1970s or 1980s? Were there other women who played Bon Daiko in the 1970s and 1980s? If you have any information or memories to share, please contact Wynn Kiyama at wynnkiyama@gmail.com or 917-562-7734. Thank you for your consideration!



April 2024

- 3 DS Teacher's mtg via Zoom 7:00pm
- 4 GBC Forward! Meeting via Zoom 7:00pm
- 6 Hanamido Prep flowers/Decoration 9:00am
- Shotsuki Hoyo via Zoom 10:00am
- 7 Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom) 9:30am
- Hanamatsuri Service
- Hatsumairi Service
- Sangha Teen mtg 10:30am
- 10 Fujimatsuri mtg via Zoom 7:00pm
- 13 Hui Aikane mtg 2:00pm
- 14 Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom) 9:30am
- BWA mtg (In-Person & Zoom) 11:15am
- 16 Meinichiko service via Zoom 7:00am
- 17 GBC Board mtg via Zoom 7:00pm
- 21 Jr. YBA mtg 8:45am
- Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom) 9:30am
- ABA mtg (In-Person & Zoom) 11:30am
- WC Teacher Workshop #4 1:30pm
- 22 Megumi Deadline
- 24 GBC 100 General Operations Comm. mtg via Zoom 7:30pm
- 27 BWA/YABA Sushi Making Class 11:00am
- 27-28 BCA FDSTL Conference
- 28 Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom) 9:30am
- Coordinating Council mtg 11:30am

May 2024

- 1 DS Teacher's meeting via Zoom 7:00pm
- 4 Shotsuki Hoyo via Zoom 10:00am
- Fujimatsuri:Huli Huli Chicken Dinner/Craft Sale 12noon
- 5 No Sunday Service
- Fujimatsuri: Bingo, Raffle, Bake & Onigiri Sale 11:00am
- 12 ABA Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast 8:00am
- Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom) 10:00am
- BWA mtg (In-Person & Zoom) 11:15am
- 15 GBC Board mtg via Zoom 7:00pm
- 16 Meinichiko service via Zoom 7:00am
- 19 Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom) 9:30am
- Gotan-E Service
- ABA mtg (In-Person & Zoom) 11:30am
- WC Teacher Workshop #5 1:30pm
- 20 Megumi Deadline
- 26 No Sunday Service
- Pacific Crest Memorial Day Service 9:00am
- Green Hills Memoria Day Service 11:00am
- Coordinating Council mtg 11:30am
- 27 Office Closed for Memorial Day
- Nokotsudo open 9am-12 noon

<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 Weekly
- Wednesday:** Ikenobo/Ikebana Class @2pm 3/month

- Thursday (or Saturday)** Tea Ceremony Class @9:30am
- Thursday** 1st & 3rd Boy Scout Troop 242 mtg @7pm
- Friday:** 2nd & 4th Girl Scout Troop 4345 mtg @7pm
- Saturday (or Thursday):** Tea Ceremony Class @9:30am



宮地信雄師

「釈尊の出世本懐とは」

お釈迦さまの誕生は、私たちに一体何を教えているのでしょうか。それを見るのは、親鸞聖人のお釈迦さま誕生の意味を見るのがいちばんでしょう。親鸞

聖人がお釈迦様の誕生をどのように喜ばれたのかをもう一度見るのが大事になってきます。そこで親鸞聖人は、お釈迦様の出世は、阿弥陀様の本願海を説くことにあった、と慶ばれたのでした。

そのことがあの正信偈にこういわれています、「如来所以興出世 唯説弥陀本願海」と。つまり、お釈迦様の出世がなかったら、私たち人間の救いは永遠になかったということを楽しんでいるのです。それは、もしお釈迦さまのご出世がなかったら、私たちが人間に生まれてきた喜びを持つことがなかったということをおおとされているのです。お釈迦さまの教えは、私たち人間すべてが救われる教えを我々にお示し下さったのです。我々すべてが誰一人として漏れることなく救われるということが大事な点です。どんな人でも一人でも漏れることがあってはならないのです。ということは、我々がたとえどんな人間であっても必ず救われるという教えでなくてはなりません。そうでなくては、「普遍の教え」と言えないのです。修行したものだけが救われるとか、勉強したものだけが救われるとか、色々条件がついたらそれはもう普遍と言えないのです。誰でもが何の条件もなく救われる教えでなくては、私たちは救われないのです。それが、念仏の教えであるというのが親鸞聖人のご理解です。

そのことを示す一つの例が歎異抄に出されています。それは、親鸞聖人のご信心と、法然上人のご信心はひとつか否かという論

争です。親鸞聖人ははっきりと、法然上人の信心と自分の信心は一つだと言いつつ切られました。このことは、少し言葉を変えてみますと、お釈迦様のおさとりと親鸞聖人の信心とはひとつか否かということになると思えます。となりますと、親鸞聖人は、ご自身の信心は、釈尊のお悟りと同じものだと言いつつ切られたことになるのです。すごい自信ですね。しかし、それはそのはずです。親鸞聖人のご信心も阿弥陀様からいただかれたものであれば、釈尊のお悟りも阿弥陀様からいただかれたものであるからです。忘れてならないのは、お釈迦さまはいつも阿弥陀様の方を向いて座っておられるのです。なぜなら釈尊は阿弥陀様のご本願を説かれた方です。そのお悟りを善導大師を通し、法然上人に伝えられ、親鸞様まで届いたのでした。親鸞聖人はそのことを喜んでおってくださるのです。

お釈迦さまのご誕生日をお祝いする花まつり、そのことを忘れないでお祝いさせていただきます。南無阿弥陀仏



Photo: Rev. Iwohara



婦人会便り

婦人会の通常の活動（敬称略）

- ▽ 3月3日（日）婦人会例会 美味しい茶菓子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。
- ▽ 3月16日（土）春季彼岸セミナー 小山タダ才師による読経についての興味深いセミナーにご参加下さった皆様、ありがとうございます。E組及び堀キャシーがスナックや午前中のセミナー時、美味しい日本の朝食を用意して下さり感謝致します。
- ▽ 3月17日（日）春季彼岸法要 お供え担当のE組の皆さん、ありがとうございました。またメンバー全員に美味しいスパゲティランチを作って下さったサンガティーンズのメンバーに感謝します。
- ▽ 4月7日（日）花まつり&初参り法要 A/b組担当。婦人会はちらし寿司を作ります。4/6（土）午前9時から食材の準備、4/7（日）午前6時からメンバー全員が集まって仕上げに取り掛かります。花まつりのお供えたんおつのA/b組の皆様、ありがとうございます。
- ▽ 4月27日（土）午前11時 婦人会とYABAの合同寿司クラス。午前9時に婦人会メンバーが寿司作りの手順に合わせた各持ち場作りをします。
- ▽ 5月4&5日（土&日）藤まつり 5/4（土）前売りのふりふりチキンのランチ弁当を社

交ホールでピックアップできます。コミュニティプロジェクトによるクラフト販売も社交ホールで開催。5/5（日）ビンゴやベイク、おにぎり販売。婦人会はおにぎり作りをお手伝いします。詳細は後ほどお知らせします。

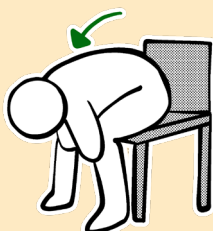
- ▽ ガーデナ仏教婦人会創立百周年記念委員会報告 昼食会でのゲストスピーカーを探しています。場所は目星をつけていたところは2025/2026年になるまで予約を受け付けない、もしくは料金もわからない状況です。メンバーやゲストへのギフトはまだ模索中です。

アナウンスメント:

- ▽ 4月10日（水）藤まつり会議（Zoom）B/c組の代表が出席予定
- ▽ 4月14日（日）4月婦人会例会（ハイブリッド）午前11時15分 当番A/b組
- ▽ 4月28日（日）附属団体連絡協議会 午前11時30分 宮田ジュリー&今田イモジーン出席予定
- ▽ 5月5日（日）5月婦人会例会（ハイブリッド）午前11時15分 当番B/c組
- ▽ 5月6日（月）お盆会議（Zoom）午後7時 当番E/a組の代表が出席予定

感謝録:

- ▽ 故大田正子追悼：堀キャシー



ガーデナ仏教会ABA主催

シニア向け転倒予防体操

- ◇ 6月9日(日)午前11時半
- ◇ ガーデナ仏教会会議室
- ◇ 参加費:無料 (軽食付き)
- ◇ 参加ご希望の方は3月31日(金)迄に下記までご連絡下さい。
- ◇ RSVP: lily.nakatani@gmail.com

