



MEGUMI

慈恩

GARDENA BUDDHIST CHURCH
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Rev. John Iwohara



Gardena Buddhist Church

May 2023

Volume LVI No. 5



Rev. John Iwohara

“It’s my party”

The song “It’s my party” is a song that talks about jilted love. The chorus of the song is:

*It’s my party, and I’ll cry if I want to
Cry if I want to
Cry if I want to
You would cry too, if it happened to you*

Because the theme of the song is a sad one, it goes without saying that the “tone” is somber even while the music itself is somewhat upbeat. I think that this juxtaposition is why I find myself never tiring of this song. Although the theme can also be described as not getting what you want (one of the eight sufferings listed by Buddhism), when I hear these lyrics being sung I always assume that the party being mentioned is a birthday party. This may or may not be a reasonable assumption to make, but I always assume this to be the case. Whenever I listen to this song, I find myself being placed in the middle of “celebration,” or birth, and “loss.” Because I hear this song in this way, I also cannot help but to think about birth-and-death, or how Buddhism describes the world of suffering to us. Perhaps I do not need to jump so far inasmuch that losing a lover is

hard enough, but losing a loved one to death is, unfortunately, a real part of life.

Our lives are truly remarkable. It is no wonder why our births are celebrated the ways that they are. Even on a planet that is teeming with life, there is still only one “me.” Not only is there only one me, but this me will never, ever be repeated again. This fact is not wasted on the Buddha. I’m sure that it is also largely due to this fact that the Buddha gave rise to a Vow that states that unless ALL beings are saved, that the Buddha will give up Enlightenment. Through this we are assured that not only is our existence rare and unique, it is also precious and meaningful.

Despite this, however, in our lives there are still many things that can and will make us cry. We experience loss in countless and myriads of ways. Sakyamuni Buddha, in trying to help us to understand this, taught that birth is suffering, old age (aging) is suffering, sickness is suffering, and death is suffering. These are the four sufferings. The Buddha expanded this list and also taught that being with those you do not like is suffering, being separated from those you love is suffering, not getting what you want is suffering, and the five aggregates are suffering. Adding these four to the previous list

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becomes known as the eight sufferings. The five aggregates, which can be considered the “organizing principle” of suffering, helped to explain how the base materials that comprise our perception of existence is all temporary and because of this helped to explain how becoming attached to the false perception of “existence” is, in itself, suffering. This description of suffering, led to the description of the cause of suffering. Understanding the cause of suffering meant that if we eliminate the cause of suffering there would be the end of suffering. If there is an end to suffering there is a path that will allow us to end that suffering. This description is the Four Noble Truths.

Unfortunately, we often don't take the steps that will allow us to overcome or transcend our suffering. Instead, as is suggested in the song, we remain satisfied in knowing that everyone else suffers or can suffer right along with us. In a sense, we downplay our uniqueness. We lose ourselves in the “mob.” Whereas part of what Buddhism teaches is the understanding that there is no “self,” what I called the loss of self to the mob does not lead to a sense of liberation. We become trapped, instead.

Fortunately, there is the upbeat music that

accompanies the lyric. There is the constant reminder that “It's my party.” Life is not always easy. On the other hand, if life was not worth living, not worth sharing, Sakyamuni Buddha would not have spent the majority of their lives teaching the Dharma. Sakyamuni Buddha would not, for example, have bothered to teach us about Amida Buddha. It is because our lives are worth living and worth sharing that Sakyamuni Buddha helped to reveal to us the Vow of Amida Buddha, and helped us to understand why Namo Amida Butsu (the working activity of Amida Buddha) works so hard to save each and every one of us.



Hui Aikanes

Time is sure flying by fast! On May 6th, Hui Aikane members helped with one of the temple's major fundraiser, Fujimatsuri! Thank you to all of our members who helped with the various food preparation and community project booths.

Hui Aikane members also learned how to make “Ramen Chow Mein” and “Joe Nishihira's famous tsukemono”. Mmm delicious! Thank you Joe for leading our organization to this very tasty event!

Our next meeting is scheduled for June 11th 11:30-1:00 in the Cooling Room. In addition, BWA will have their fund raiser on June 11th. They will be distributing “Bachan's Bento Sale” on the same day as our meeting. Let's support our fellow organization by preordering “Bachan's Bento” for \$15. Due date for all orders is May 31st. More information for the BWA fundraiser will be provided soon!

New members are welcome to attend!



Sangha Teens

On April 9th, we celebrated Hanamatsuri by pouring tea over Shakyamuni Buddha. The hanamido was beautiful as always.

On May 13th, Sangha Teens will be racing go-karts on a night out at K-1 Speed. Then on June 10th we will be at OCBC for our first Sangha Teens social. We are very excited for it!

We will be hosting a spaghetti luncheon on May 21st, so come on out and enjoy a nice, warm lunch!

Future Dates:

- May 13th- K1 Speed
- May 14th- ST meeting
- May 21st- spaghetti luncheon
- June 10th- Social at OCBC
- June 11th- ST meeting



TUESDAY SOCIAL

Come and enjoy an informal social gathering ... coffee, tea, donuts and amazing friendships. We share recipes, happy stories, photos of children and grandchildren, and play games.

In March, we stuffed envelopes and helped prepare the monthly mailing ... stuffing, sealing, address labels, zip coding, chatting & laughing ... fun.

We are here on Tuesdays from 9:30 – 11:30am, come and go as time permits. We love to see you.

The Community Projects Group

The Community Projects Group members have been keeping busy, working on various hand-crafted items for our upcoming sales. We will be selling at the Fujimatsuri Huli-Huli Chicken Sale on Saturday, May 6, as well as at the ABA sponsored Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, May 14. And, our annual graduation ribbon lei sale is in progress now – information and order forms are available in the church lobby.

“Thank you” to everyone for their continued support throughout the year. We’d also like to thank those who continue to donate materials (fabric, craft and sewing supplies, etc.) to our group, as well as the talented members of our community who have donated completed items to us.....a true showing of Dana!

Our group will be meeting in May on Mondays, May 9th and 22nd, from 10 am in the Church Meeting Room. As always, we have an open invitation to anyone interested in joining us.



Fujinkai / BWA Buddhist Women's Association

Happenings:

- ◇ April 2nd, Sunday – BWA monthly meeting. Thank you to D gumi for providing the delicious refreshments. We welcomed Naomi Mekarua as our newest member! She will report to Toban Group D.
- ◇ April 9th, Sunday - Hanamatsuri. Thank you to everyone who came on Saturday (4/8) to prep the ingredients, and those who came early Sunday morning to make and assemble the chirashi zushi for the Hanamatsuri otoki.
- ◇ It was nice to have the Hatsumairi Service combined with the Hanamatsuri Service during family service. Thank you to D/e gumi for taking care of the osonae.
- ◇ April 15th, Saturday – Our Sushi-Making class was a success! We had 10 adults and 10 children who attended. Thank you to all the BWA members for coming out to help and support this activity. We hope this will spark interest in new volunteers to come out and help our sushi making prep during obon!
- ◇ May 6-7 (Sat/Sun). GBC Fujimatsuri. Saturday was a bento pick-up featuring huli-huli chicken. Thank you to everyone for supporting this fundraiser. May 7th was the Bingo and bake sale, along with a Silent Auction. We hope everyone enjoyed this new format and thank you all for your generosity and help.
- ◇ May 21st, Sunday – Gotan-e Service. Toban E/a will provide the osonae.
- ◇ June 6th, Tuesday – SD Ministers Association meeting at Gardena. A/b gumi is asked to provide light refreshments for about 25 attendees for this morning meeting (9am-12 noon).
- ◇ June 11th, Sunday - BWA Bento sale. Sat-6/10: bento prep; Sun-6/11: bento distribution after Sunday service. Mail orders only will be accepted. \$15 each and making a total of 400 bentos.
- ◇ June 24th, Saturday – JCI Carnival. GBC will make chirashi-zushi for this 1-day event. Prep will be on Friday, 6/23 from 1pm. All temple members are being asked to help.
- ◇ August 5-6 (Sat/Sun) GBC obon. BWA will make chirashi and a mix box of maki and inari-zushi on Saturday, and chirashi zushi on Sunday. Despite reducing the amount of sushi we'll make this year, we ask for all members to come and help out. And we always welcome volunteers, too, so please ask your family and friends!
- ◇ September 2nd (Saturday). BWA will provide lunch for the SD Jr. YBL Conference, taking place at GBC. More details to come.



Announcements:

- ◇ May 6-7, Sat-Sun – Fujimatsuri carnival
- ◇ May 14th, Sunday - May Regular Meeting 11:15am (hybrid). E/a Gumi
- ◇ May 14th, Sunday – Mother's Day service 10am; preceded by ABA pancake breakfast from 8am
- ◇ May 21st, Sunday – Gotan-e Service 9:30am, followed by Spaghetti Lunch sponsored by Sangha Teens and Hui Aikane.
- ◇ May 28th, Sunday – Memorial Day (No Sunday Service at Hondo) – Pacific Crest (9:00am)

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and Green Hills (11:00am) Memorial Day services will be conducted.

- ◇ May 28th, Sunday – Coordinating Council Meeting 11:30am via Zoom. Imogene/Julie will attend
- ◇ June 4th (Sunday) - Monthly Regular Meeting 11:15am (hybrid). A/b Gumi

BWA Appreciation:

- ◇ Special Donation Rev. Tetsunen Hirota Family
- ◇ Special Donation Harumi Uehara
- ◇ Special Donation Anonymous

JR. YBA

This month, we have continued our work with the Nishi Jr. YBA towards our joint 2023 Southern District Jr. YBL Conference. We've decided on a theme as well as the name of the conference which is "Clue: Dharma Edition". We also participated in an Undokai where we played a variety of different games such as four corner dodgeball, tug of war, regular dodgeball, and a free throw challenge. Finally, we look forward to attending the Southern District Seminar 3 co-hosted by San Fernando Valley and Sun Valley!



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.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|------|-------------------|
| Mita, Yaeko | (99) | February 20, 2023 |
| Eto, Keiji | (96) | March 25, 2023 |
| Sonoyama, Chieko | (95) | March 29, 2023 |
| Iwamoto, Brent Tetsuo | (44) | April 9, 2023 |
| Guasti, Louise Ayako | (67) | April 15, 2023 |
| Nishi, Kisako | (88) | April 23, 2023 |



YABA (Young Adult Buddhist Association)

May is filled with great celebrations. We are looking forward to participating and volunteering at events like Fujimatsuri and Mother’s Day. Hope to see you out there!
Meet the Cabinet Series.



Meet the Cabinet Series. Last but not least. This month we’d like to introduce Kimberley Aponte, President.

- Pronouns: She/Her/Hers
- Favorite Obon dance: One Plus One
- Color of my Onenju: Purple
- Board Games or Card Games?: Board Games
- A blurb about YABA: I’m so energized by the enthusiasm of the new YABA organization and the sangha that supports us. I look forward to getting to know new and current members and having a blast at events while sharing our connection to the dharma.

Upcoming Events

- June 11: YABA Lunch Meeting

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

ABA News

The calendar says “May” which means Fujimatsuri is here. As part of the Saturday bento, ABA will be preparing its well-known dango. We hope you’ll order a bento to once again enjoy our dango.

Following the Fujimatsuri festivities, after a few years of absence due to COVID, the annual Mother’s Day breakfast is back. The breakfast of delicious pancakes will be served on Sunday, May 14, beginning at 8:30am, in time for the 10am service. We look forward to serving all of the mothers, grandmothers, aunts and sisters at the breakfast, to thank them for all of the love they have shown us.



Many of the ABA members are preparing to teach at Wisteria Chugakko, which begins in June. The talent among the Sangha members is amazing. The students will have the opportunity to learn and experience things they don’t get to at school.



The May meeting will take place on Sunday, May 21 at 11:30am as a hybrid meeting.

Until then, stay safe.

Megumi Deadline is Monday, May 22, 2023

ICHI-MI CLUB

Ichi-Mi would like to express our deepest appreciation for all of you who made our film 'A Profound Silence' and premiere possible. A special thank you to Rev. John for all your support throughout the years and on this video project! Thank you to ABA for the generous support for this video project, the beautiful cakes and all the hours you all volunteered to help make this premiere possible! Thank you to YABA and all the individuals who volunteered to help us make our premiere so special! We are so appreciative of everyone who attended and started conversations with us to keep creating safer sanghas. If you were unable to come to the premiere, please feel free to visit and share the link to watch the video. https://linktr.ee/gbc_ichimi



CUB SCOUT PACK 1230

Cub Scout Pack 1230 has been working on making their pinewood derby cars race ready for the 2023 Pinewood Derby. Cub Master Terry Higuchi brought in equipment to help with cutting the blocks of wood into the basic shape desired by each scout. The scouts have been sanding, painting and attaching the wheels. They are looking forward to race day!



Boy Scout Troop 242

The troop went camping up at Pyramid Lake on a very cold weekend. From the pictures, it looks like they had spam and eggs (yummy) for breakfast!



 **Girl Scout Troop 4345**

The Daisy 2 (1st grade) and Junior 1 (4th grade) girls completed an indoor camping skills evening, learning about knots, how to set up a tent, made an edible campfire, s'mores and had a lot of fun!



Isami Taiko

Isami Taiko has been practicing at 2 different sessions each week, preparing to perform at our Fujimatsuri Carnival on Sunday and at the Bingo event. We now all have matching T-shirts and with the help of Linda Shimizu and Chris Miwa, We will all soon have matching hachimakis!



Nakayoshi Preschool

The Nakayoshi Preschool held it Undokai at Mas Fukai Park on March 26th. Thank you to Brian Imada for portable audio cart and Ken Hernandez for lending a generator.

The school board and Preschool staff would like to thank Chase Wada on his Eagle Scout project on rehabitating the playground area. The primary colors on the protector wraps is a great hit. Also thank you to the Board for replacing the rubber tiles under the playground.

Registration for the new year is underway for the Preschool and Language School.

The school board is on the hunt for a dynamic and creative person to head the preschool in the fall. Inquiries can be made to alan.kita@gbcjls.org.





Alan Miwa



From GBC Board Chairperson

“Nostalgia – Part II”

In my first Megumi article back in January 2022, I mentioned that my family has been associated with the Gardena Buddhist Church since the 1950's. During my youth, I never thought about what this church would look like 60+ years into the future. We had a large membership then, perhaps 3-4 times more than today. We had a lot of Dharma School students. There were so many that it took two sessions to accommodate all of them. There was a 9:30 am service and a 10:10 am service. A typical class at that time was perhaps 10-20 students. And, if you ever wondered why the wall with the Small Chapel is designed to be opened, it was because there were times we needed it opened in order to handle the larger gatherings.



The church was really bustling in those days. We had picnics at Peck Park (San Pedro) and Huntington Beach. Japanese movies were shown at church. We had an active boy scout troop (1230) and girl scout troop (1356). We had a Sr YBA, YABA Free Spirit club, and Jr Matrons/Matrons club. We had many sports teams. In the 60's, I recall that we had four boy's basketball teams. There was actually a Buddhist Church basketball league. We played against WLA, Oxnard, Nishi, Venice, Senshin, etc. There was also church volleyball and baseball. We even had a few car rally's (do a Google search if you wonder what these are). The Jr YBA used to take trips to Hawaii. There were church bowling teams for the adults. We had both a children's and adult choir.



When it came to maintenance, we had a lot of volunteers taking care of repairs, gardening, and building things. Did you know that members designed and built the Yagura that we use today? If you have a chance, take a closer look at that Yagura. It took some skills to not only design but to manufacture it so that it could be assembled and disassembled for storing.

In 60+ years a lot has changed. The number of Dharma School students is less. While we have a



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cub scout pack and sponsor a huge girl scouts troop, it was just last year we welcomed back a boy scout troop. YABA Free Spirit evolved and merged with ABA. Jr Matrons/Matrons no longer exists. We lost our Sr YBA. There are no more church sports teams, bowling leagues, or choirs. Membership continues to decline. And the pandemic had been keeping us apart.

BUT...nothing is permanent. Change is inevitable. Today, we have boy scouts Troop 242. Have you seen the two Eagle projects they've just completed? They rebuilt the outdoor trash storage enclosure and the storage locker next to it. They also remodeled the play area East of the classroom buildings.

Ichi-mi club was established in 2019. Did you go to their movie premier in April? The Hui Aikane now has a social focus. ABA is reforming and will focus on being a service organization to our church. YABA has restarted. Once again we are able to return to conducting on property services, meetings, and activities.



Summer is coming. Move over COVID!



Gotan-E Hoyo

Date: Sunday, May 21

Time: 9:30AM

Place: Hondo & Zoom

Guest Speaker: Rev. Giei Sasaki



Wisteria Chugakko

Reverend John Iwohara, Headmaster
Charlene Hirotsu, Principal

Wisteria Chugakko celebrates their 5th year Anniversary

Everything was so perfect for the celebration of our 5th year Anniversary and Reunion which was held at church on Saturday, March 25, 2023, from 1:00-5:00 p.m. It was the first time that we have held an all day event in the north parking lot of GBC. The weather was beautiful...the students, families and staff were smiling all day. We enjoyed ourselves with all of the activities: socializing, eating the delicious food that our teachers prepared, playing games, watching our Culmination Videos from all of the years since 2018, answering the Toddler Quizzes (students and staff photos) and doing Student Interviews... Sensei even made Smores for everyone.



OUR WONDERFUL WISTERIA CHUGAKKO TEACHERS



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The success and sustainability of Wisteria Chugakko is due to all of our Wisteria Chugakko Teachers. They are willing to give to others...anytime...all of the time. We were setting up at 10:00 a.m. and stayed until 6:00 p.m. to clean up. What a wonderful group of 46 individuals passing on their knowledge and skills to the next generation. They are the greatest role models for our students.

WISTERIA CHUGAKKO STUDENTS ENJOYING THE DAY



Our 102 students since 2018 are growing into young adults with so much to share with all of us. We interviewed them during the celebration to hear what they have to say about their experiences with Wisteria Chugakko, and the impact their experiences have on their daily lives. It is truly amazing how our youth thinks with compassion and love in our world. We were truly impressed.

Thank you to Gardena Buddhist Church for their continued support of Wisteria Chugakko.

This is our 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.

With Gassho,
Reverend John Iwohara, Wisteria Chugakko Headmaster
Charlene Hirotsu, Wisteria Chugakko Principal

COOK BOOK SALE

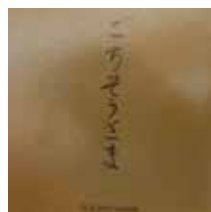
Itadakimasu

Gochisosama



Volume II

\$15.00



Volume I

\$10.00

Ikenobo Ikebana Class Japanese-style Flower Arrangement Class

Class: 3 classes per month
(Tuition plus material fee per class meeting)

Time: Wednesdays
2:00 – 4:00 pm

Instructor: Izumi Minamitani
(310) 292-0179

E-mail: izumi373@hotmail.co.jp



SAVE THE DATES!!
MARK YOUR CALENDARS!!

OBON 2023

*A New
Beginning*

SATURDAY
AUGUST 5

SUNDAY
AUGUST 6

FOOD DANCE GAMES

MORE DETAILS SOON

**Board Meeting: Wednesday, May 17 at 7PM
Via Zoom**

In this time of hardship, we truly appreciate your continued support!

**The church acknowledges the following donations received from 3/20/23 - 4/14/2023
with gratitude and appreciation.**

Funeral/Makurakyo/Burial/Memorials

Hirata, Keiko Nishimura, Shunji & Tsuruta Family
Maeda, Tomiye

Shotsuki Hoyo Donations

Awane, Alan Hashimoto, Helen Hirata, Keiko Ige, Margaret Ito, Kenichi	Iwamoto, Diane Iwamoto, M/M Daniel Jinkawa, Kimi Kushida, Arlene Matsuoka, Ruby	Miyasato, Frances Nakafuji, Kay Nishimura, Shunji & Maeda, Tomiye Okinaka, May	Sakatani, M/M Richard Suminaga, Roy Umeda, Alice Uyematsu, Norio
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Hanamatsuri Service

Akioka, M/M Sam Anonymous Ego, Kimiko Haruma, Yaeko Hirayama, M/M Ted Hirotzu, M/M Stan Imada, M/M Brian Inouye, Tomoko Iwamoto, Diane Iwamoto, M/M Daniel Kakimoto, Nadine Kato, M/M Isao	Kita, M/M Alan Maeda, Tom Maruyama, Kazuko Mitani, M/M David Miwa, M/M Alan Miwa, Yoshiko Miyamoto, Mitsuko Miyata, Julie Motoyasu, Ayako Nagatani, Gerald Okamoto, Yauko Okumoto, Yoko	Ouchi, Joyce Sakatani, M/M Richard Sasaki, M/M Tom Shibata, Renie Shigemitsu, M/M Tom Shimono, Natsuye Shindo Mieko Suda, Yuriko Suminaga, Roy Takao, Dianne Takao, Donna Takao, Tamiko	Tanaka, Kumi Terao, Carolyn Toyoaki, M/M Shiro Tsuge, M/M Mike Wakimoto, Yuko Watanabe, Donald Yamanaka, Jeanne Yamasaki, Cheryl Yoshiyama, M/M Bryan Yuki, Toyoko Yuki, Wallace
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Spring Ohigan Hoyo

Akahoshi, Masato Inouye, Tomoko	Matsuda, H. Okada, Nobuko	Okamura, Rod Tsuge, M/M Mike
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Hatsumairi Donations

Maeda, Tom	Toma, M/M Ron	Toma, M/M Ryan	Yamanaka, Jeanne
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Special Donations

French, Hideko Isozaki	Ito, Stan Sanada, Glenn	Shimono, Nasuye Tanaka, Kumi
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Osaisen

Sakatani, Charlene	Sasaki, M/M Tom
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2023 GBC Membership Dues (Received: 3/21/2023-4/16/2023)

Cambra, May
Hull, Madoka
Inn, Isabel
Inn, Rikio
Inouye, Ben
Ioki, Bruce

Ioki, Cathy
Isobe, Daniel
Iwata, Amy
Kono, Emiko
Matsuda, Hiromi
Morimoto, Lily

Morishige, James
Nakata, Bob
Nakata, Taeko
Oda, Steve
Okamoto, Rodney
Tanigawa, Cliff

Tanigawa, Linda
Tsuge, Marilyn
Tsuge, Michael
Wu, Stefanie
Yamada, Joyce
Yamada-Oda, Sharyl

General Donation/Facility Use/ Miscellaneous

Kobayshi, Izumi

May 2023

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|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | Obon mtg via Zoom | 7:00pm |
| 6-21 | World Buddhist Women's Convention/ in Japan
Shinran Shonin 850th birthday and 800th Anniversary
of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Tradition | |
| 6 | Shotsuki Hoyo Service via Zoom | 10:00am |
| | Fujimatsuri Spring Market & Bento Sale | 12:00pm |
| 7 | No Sunday Service
Fujimatsuri Bingo, Onigiri & Bake Sale, Raffle prizes | 11:00am |
| 8 | 2023 Obon mtg via Zoom | 7:00pm |
| 14 | ABA Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast
CPG Craft Sale for Fundraising
Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom) | 10:00am |
| | BWA mtg (In-Person & Zoom) | 11:15am |
| 17 | GBC Board mtg via Zoom | 7:00pm |
| 21 | Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)
Gotan-E Service
Sangha Teens Spaghetti Luncheon
ABA Hybrid mtg | 11:30am |
| | WC Teacher Workshop #5 | 1:30pm |
| 22 | Megumi Deadline for June 2023 | |
| 25 | Centennial Gen Ops mtg via Zoom | 7:30pm |
| 28 | No Sunday Service
Office Closed
Pacific Crest Service
Green Hills Service
Coordinating Council Hybrid mtg | 9:00am
11:00am
11:30am |
| 29 | Office closed—Memorial Day
Nokotsudo open | 9am-noon |

June 2023

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|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 3 | Shotsuki Hoyo Service via Zoom | 10:00am |
| | Wisteria Chugakko Parent/Student Orientation | 1:00pm |
| 4 | Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)
BWA mtg (In-Person & Zoom) | 9:30am
11:15am |
| 5 | Cub Pack 1230 mtg
Fujimatsuri mtg via Zoom | 6:00pm
7:00pm |
| 11 | Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)
BWA Bento Fundraiser Pick up (after Sunday Service)
YABA mtg | 9:30am
11:30am |
| 12 | 2023 Obon mtg via Zoom | 7:00pm |
| 16 | Meinichiko Service via Zoom | 7:00am |
| 18 | Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)
Father's Day & Graduation Service
ABA Hybrid mtg | 9:30am
11:30am |
| | WC Teacher Workshop #5 | 1:30pm |
| 19 | Megumi Deadline for July 2023
2023 Wisteria Chugakko Summer Program begins | 6/19-7/12/2023 |
| 21 | GBC Board mtg via Zoom | 7:00pm |
| 25 | Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)
Coordinating Council Hybrid mtg | 9:30am
11:30am |

<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 @9:30am weekly |
| Wednesday: | Ikenobo/Ikebana Class @2pm 3/month |
| Thursday: | Tea Ceremony Class @9:30am weekly
1st & 3rd Boy Scout Troop 242 mtg @7pm |
| Friday: | 2nd & 4th Girl Scout Troop 4345 mtg @7pm |
| Saturday: | Tea Ceremony Class @9:30am weekly |

Order Your Graduation Leis Early! 2023



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)

『悲喜交々』

宮地美子師

最近体力の衰えを感じるようになりました。目をつむり、両手をひろげて片足立ちをして何秒その体勢を保つことができますか。もしそれが7、8秒ならあなたの脳の働きも体幹も大丈夫です。私は右足か左足どちらを軸にしているかでも違ってきますが、長くて5秒くらいです。

思わぬところでよろめいてハッとすることがありますし、つまづいてオットットとなることもあります。

10年くらい前までは一人でフレスノ仏教会まで4時間強ノンストップで運転しても疲れませんでしたし、さあ行こうという勇気が有りました。ところが今は、途中でタイヤがパンクしたらどうしよう。事故でも起こしたらどうしようと思う方が先になり一人の行動に危険を感じます。

以前はもっと行動力があったのと思うことしきりです。昔はできたが今はできない、できても時間がかかる、その様な事例が毎日のように起きてきます。年を取るということは寂しいことであり不安でもあります。逆に年をとると人に対して“解る解るあなたの気持ち”と寄り添いのところが持てるようになるのも事実です。

昔は自分の事で精一杯でしたが、周りを見る余裕ができてくるということでしょうか。

今私は3家族でハワイ諸島のマウイ島にきています。ホテルのベランダでプールに遊ぶ人々を見な



がら、心地よい風を肌を感じながら慈恩の記事を書いています。遠くには大海原が見え白い波が生まれては消えています。時には、くじらが跳ね上がる光景がみえます。なんとどこかで綺麗な場所でしょう。命の洗濯という言葉がありますが、まさに日々の暮らしを離れてくりかえされる命の回転をオフにさせてもらっています。



次回もまた同じメンバーで来られるかどうかわかりません。2023年の4月にマウイに皆で行ったわね。楽しかったねといつかきくと語る日が来るでしょう。オヤジジョークで笑わせてくれたわね。あの手料理おいしかったわと語り合ってもその場には当の本人はいない可能性もあります。そして私もそれを思い出して皆と語れない側かも知れません。一瞬先が見えないのが現実です。だからこそ大事な人生の一場面です。

孤独感ややるせなさ、終焉への不安感はちょっとした幸福感で一瞬消え去りますが、人間の根底にある苦悩からは、どこに居てもどこに行っても離れられるものではありません。

幸あせだなと思える時も、なにをやってもうまくいかないと思える時も、いつでもどこでも阿弥陀様は私のお念仏を待っておられます。

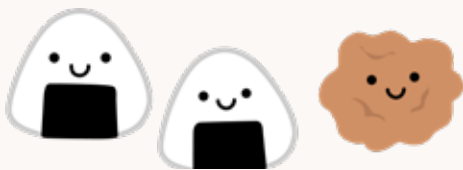
プールではしゃぐ子供たちを見ても南無阿弥陀仏、そよぐ潮風にも南無阿弥陀仏、踊る波にも南無阿弥陀仏です。喜びも悲しみも、幸せも不幸も超えて南無阿弥陀仏、訪れる老いの不安にも南無阿弥陀仏、人間の営みそのものも超えて“あみだ”と一如の世界に南無阿弥陀仏です。



婦人会便り

婦人会の通常の活動

- ▽ 4月2日(日) 月例会でリフレッシュメントを用意して下さったD組の皆さま、ありがとうございました。新メンバーとなった銘苺ナオミさん、ようこそ！当番D組に所属します。
- ▽ 4月9日(日) 花祭り法要 御斎のちらし寿司の具の下ごしらえや酢飯とちらしの仕上げにお手伝い下さった婦人会の皆さま、お疲れさまでした！初参りも同時に執り行えて良かったです。お供えの準備をして下さったD/e組の皆さん、ありがとうございます。
- ▽ 4月15日(土) お寿司クラスは大成功でした。大人10名、子供10名が参加。クラスの準備等、温かいサポートに感謝です。これをきっかけに、お盆のお寿司作りをお手伝い頂けることを期待しています。
- ▽ 5月6-7日(土・日) 藤まつり フリフリチキンのお弁当は土曜日にピックアップ、7日はビンゴ、バイクセール、サイレントオークションがあります。この新しい形の資金調達イベントへのご支援ご協力に感謝します。
- ▽ 5月21日(日) 降誕会法要 お供えの当番はE/a組です。
- ▽ 6月6日(火) 南部教区開教使会議於ガーデナ仏教会 婦人会は午前の部(9am-12noon) 約25人分の軽食を A/b組が担当。
- ▽ 6月11日(日) 婦人会主催お弁当セール。準備が6/10(土)で、お弁当の受け渡しは日曜礼拝後になります。注文はメールのみ受付ます。
1個15ドルで400個限定。



- ▽ 6月24日(土) JCIカーニバル ガーデナ仏教会はちらし寿司を作ります。準備は前日6/23(金)の午後1時からで、仏教会メンバー全員の協力が必要です。
- ▽ 8月5-6日(土・日) お盆 婦人会はちらし寿司(日)、太巻き&稲荷すしセット(土)を作ります。例年より数量を減らしましたものの、他のメンバーやご家族友人の協力が不可欠です。よろしく願いいたします。
- ▽ 9月2日(土) ガーデナ仏教会で開催される南部教区Jr. YBL会議で、昼食を提供します。詳細は後日お知らせします。

アナウンスメント:

- ▽ 5月6-7日(土-日) 藤まつり
- ▽ 5月14日(日) 5月婦人会例会(ハイブリッド) 午前11時15分 当番 E/a組
- ▽ 5月14日(日) 母の日法要 午前10時 法要前、8時からABA主催パンケーキ朝食あり
- ▽ 5月21日(日) 降誕会法要(ハイブリッド) 午前9時30分 法要後、サンガティーンズとファイカネによるスパゲティランチ提供
- ▽ 5月28日(日) メモリアルデー(仏教会での礼拝なし) 9時-Pacific Crest/11時-Green Hillsに於いてメモリアルデー法要あり
- ▽ 5月28日(日) 午前11時半(ズーム) 附属団体連絡協議会会議 今田イモジーン&宮田ジュリーが出席予定
- ▽ 6月4日(日) 6月婦人会例会(ハイブリッド) 午前11時15分 当番 A/b組

感謝録:

- ▽ 特別寄付 広田徹然法師ファミリー
- ▽ 特別寄付 上原治美
- ▽ 特別寄付 匿名