



MEGUMI

慈恩

GARDENA BUDDHIST CHURCH
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Rev. John Iwohara

Gardena Buddhist Church



July 2023

Volume LVI No. 7



Rev. John Iwohara

“Who made Amida Buddha stand?”

The temple and the Temple’s Buddhist Women’s Association (BWA) have recently returned from the 850th Birthday Celebration for Shinran Shonin and the 800th Anniversary of the Founding of Jodo Shinshu Celebration.

In conjunction with these celebrations, the 17th World Buddhist Women’s Federation Conference was also held in Kyoto, Japan. Our BWA was also represented at this world event. The world conference was attended by members from throughout Japan, Hawaii, the Continental United States, Canada, Brazil, Argentina and Peru.

All these people from throughout the world were brought together because 800 years ago Shinran Shonin established the doctrinal foundation for Jodo Shinshu. This became possible because 50 years prior, Shinran Shonin was born. This gathering marking the establishment of Jodo Shinshu also coincides with the publication of the text that is often called the Kyogyoshinsho. The full title of the work, however, is Ken Jodo Shinjitsu Kyo Gyo Sho Monrui 顯淨土真實教行証文類.

The first Chinese character or kanji (顯) means “to show” or “to reveal.” The next two kanji (淨

土) has the meaning of “Pure Land” and refers to the land or country established by a Buddha. The following two kanji (真實) is often simply translated as “truth,” but I prefer to translate this compound term as “true and real.” 教 is the character for “teaching.” 行 is the character for “practice.” Finally, 証 is the character for “enlightenment.” The final two characters (文類) describes the style of the manuscript or one where passages have been collected and quoted.

The kanji that makes up the title is typically read in one of two ways. These readings depend on how you divide the kanji. One way to read this title is by dividing the title into the first three characters (顯淨土) followed by the next seven. The other way to read it is to divide it into the first five characters (顯淨土真實) and then into the next five (教行証文類).

The first way to divide the kanji would read the title as “Collection of Passages that reveal the Pure Land’s true and real teaching, practice and enlightenment.” The second way to divide the kanji would read the title as “Collection of Passages on Teaching, Practice and Enlightenment that Reveals the Truth and Reality of the Pure Land.” The first reading emphasizes the teaching, practice and enlightenment of the Pure Land path. The second emphasizes the truth and reality of

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

the Pure Land, itself. The first reading tends to suggest that this is the teaching, practice and enlightenment that we must follow in order for us to be born into the Pure Land. The second reading has the nuance of the teaching, practice and enlightenment that the Pure Land is revealing to us. In either reading, however, we are led to see the importance of the Pure Land.

In the title, Shinran Shonin uses the structure of Teaching, Practice and Enlightenment. However, in opening up the contents of this work and establishing the doctrinal foundation for Jodo Shinshu Buddhism, Shinran Shonin introduces Teaching, Practice, Faith, and Enlightenment or Kyogyoshinsho. In establishing this structure, with the full title of the work Shinran Shonin is already suggesting that it is not our faith that allows us to do practice but that it is the practice or work of the Buddha that establishes our faith and becomes the true cause of birth in the Pure Land that ultimately and instantly becomes our Enlightenment.

In the Chapter on Faith, Shinran Shonin writes the following:

I know truly how grievous it is that I, Gutoku Shinran, am sinking in an immense ocean of desires and attachments and am lost in vast mountains of fame and advantage, so that I rejoice not at all at entering the stage of the truly settled, and feel no happiness at coming nearer the realization of true enlightenment. How ugly it is! How wretched!

In writing this Shinran Shonin reveals to us the heart that they have, or the heart that is received by shinjin or faith. In recognizing their heart they express their shame (“how ugly”)

and their pain (“how wretched”). However, it is because Shinran Shonin has this kind of heart that they became aware that they cannot free themselves from desires and attachments, and from seeking fame and advantage. It is because of this that the Buddha has to come towards them. Shinran Shonin is not expected to be able to move towards the Buddha.

With this recognition and understanding of Shinran Shonin, Dharma messages are given where we are asked, “Who made the Buddha stand?” Shinran Shonin with shame and pain in their hearts had to raise their hand. At the same time, however, Shinran Shonin also raised their hand with great joy. They were able to do this because they also realized that despite who they were, and in fact it was because of who and what they were, that the Vow of Amida Buddha was established. Shinran Shonin recognized that the Buddha gladly stood by them and took them by the hand. Shinran Shonin’s Nenbutsu was uttered apologetically, but also with the deepest sense of appreciation and joy. It is this Nenbutsu that is being shared with us, or a Nenbutsu that has been shared for over 800 years.



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.

Osa, Sachiye	(98)	May 4, 2023
Hashima, Teruko	(95)	May 10, 2023
Suminaga, Roy Tadashi	(80)	May 27, 2023
Murakami, John Shigekiyo	(101)	May 28, 2023
Harada, Robert Susumu	(72)	June 17, 2023



Sangha Teens

On June 4th, Sangha Teens had a great trip to Disneyland! It wasn't too crowded and we got to ride on all the rides everyone wanted to go on. Thank you GBC for this sponsored trip and thank you to the teachers and parents that stayed with us for over 14 hours!!

On June 10th, OCBC hosted an all temple gathering with a taco truck and lots of fun activities. We made a lot of new friends and were able to see friends we haven't seen in awhile.

Obon is approaching quickly. We will have a zoom meeting on July 13th to talk about the wiffle ball booth. Let's work together to make this Obon fun and successful!

Upcoming events:

July 13th- ST meeting at 7:30pm re: obon (via zoom)

Aug 5 & 6- Obon



TUESDAY SOCIAL

There will be no Tuesday Social gathering on July 4th. We will only meet on July 11, 2023, which will be our last gathering before our summer break. Our break will be July 18 - August 8, 2023, NO TUESDAY SOCIAL. We will start again on August 15.

Everyone stay healthy and active. Enjoy the summer with fun activities. See you in August. Please take care and stay safe.

Our summer recess schedule this year will be as follows:

- July 4, 2023** **Holiday - No Tuesday Social**
- July 11, 2023** **Last gathering before Summer Recess**
- July 18 - Aug 8** **No Tuesday Social**
- Aug 15, 2023** **Start Tuesday Social – Welcome Back!**

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

Fujinkai / BWA Buddhist Women's Association



Happenings:

- ◇ June 4th, Sunday – BWA monthly meeting. Thank you to A/b gumi for providing the delicious refreshments. Welcome back to those members who came back safely from the WBW Convention in Japan and thank you for all the delicious omiyage that was served at our June meeting.
- ◇ June 6th, Tuesday – SD Minister Association Meeting at Gardena Buddhist Church in the Meeting room from 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. 15 attendees were present. Thank you to A gumi for providing the morning refreshments to all our guests. June 10th, Saturday – Thank you to Imogene Imada and Nancy Yoshiyama for representing GBC BWA at the Q1 SDBWA Zoom meeting, led by Pasadena Buddhist Temple.
- ◇ June 11th, Sunday – GBC BWA Bento sale. Thanks to everyone's support, we were well over our target goal of 400 bento orders and prepared for 500 bentos for this event. Preparation started on Saturday, (6/10) at 9:00am and finished up on Sunday (6/11), early in the morning. Bentos were passed out after service.
- ◇ June 18th, Sunday – Thank you to the Sangha Teens for preparing the delicious Father's Day hot dog lunch for everyone. It was wonderful!
- ◇ JCI Carnival -June 24th. GBC was in charge of chirashi-zushi for this event. June 23rd, Friday was prep for the chirashi at 1 p.m., and Saturday morning (6/24) assembly of the chirashi-zushi was done before JCI came to pick up all 200 pkgs. Thank you to all temple members who came to help.
- ◇ July 9th – Obon and Hatsubon Service – Anpan Otoki. B gumi is in charge of the osonae and manju.
- ◇ 2023 BWA Japanese seminar sponsored by GBC BEC- July 15, 2023 postponed to August 26th. Further details will be given at our next meeting.
- ◇ Obon 2023- August 5th and 6th. – We'll be preparing our usual sushi offerings but will decrease the amount compared to previous years. August 5th we will be making chirashi, maki and inari-zushi, and on August 6th -chirashi & inari-zushi only. Dancing will be held on both days.
- ◇ September 2, 2023 – SD Jr. YBL Conference – BWA has offered to prepare curry lunch.

Announcements:

- June 25th (Sunday)- Coordinating Council Meeting 11:30am. Imogene/Julie will attend
- July 2nd (Sunday) - July Regular Meeting 11:15am (hybrid). B/c Gumi
- July 10th (Monday)- Obon meeting via Zoom 7:00pm. Kathy, Nancy & Charlene will attend
- August 13th (Sunday)- August Regular Meeting 11:15am (hybrid). C/d Gumi

BWA Appreciation:

- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| ◇ Special Donation | | |
| Akahoshi, Masato | Kuwa, Kevin & Judy | Nishi, Takahisa |
| Kakimoto, Nadine | Miralle, Dawn | Takahashi, Sae |
| Kato, Dennis & Tish | Morimoto, Chizuko | Taketani, Mary |
| Kita, Alan & Dawn | Nagatani, Ronald | Tsuge, Marilyn & Mike |
| Kurashima, Sharon | Nishi, Shari | |

The Community Projects Group

The Community Project Group members would like to thank all of you for your support of our spring fundraisers as well as of our graduation lei sale. We were able to donate all our proceeds to the Church Youth Fund, which helps groups such as the Sangha Teens, Jr. YBA and Scout groups.

We will also be selling Obon-related items at our Obon Odori practices in July, as well as at the Obon festivities on August 5th and 6th. Many of our handmade items (aprons, happi coats, bags and purses, kitchen-related items, jewelry, etc.) will be featured at our Boutique booth at Obon. Please come by to shop!



Girl Scout Troop 4345

Bright and early at 7:30am, over 100 scouts from Girl Scout Troop 4345, Boy Scout Troops 683, 242, 719, 378 and Scouts BSA Troop 310G paid tribute to veterans from VFW Post 1961 at Green Hills Memorial Park.

The scouts broke into patrols, received their assignments, searched for the assigned gravesites, trimmed the grass, cleaned the marker and as they saluted, said the veteran's name, date of birth, date of death and in unison thanked them for their service.



Megumi Deadline is Monday, July 17, 2023

ABA News

With the weather warming up, we hope everyone is taking care of themselves.

June was a busy month. Many of the ABA members are teaching the students of Wisteria Chugakko. The students are enjoying the program, as they get to experience classes that they do not get to take during the regular school year.

Together with other Church members, ABA learned how to prepare chirashi. The chirashi was prepared to support the GVJCI Matsuri Fundraiser. We'll be ready for Obon! After preparing the chirashi, some members went to CSULB to participate in the Ripple Effect Walk.

We joined other ABAs for a night at the Hollywood Bowl, to listen to the music of the Beach Boys. So many memories!

July will be the time for ABA to prepare for Obon. Are you attending the dance practices?

We'll be having our annual Bingo on September 30. Stay tuned for further details.

The next meeting for ABA will be on Sunday, July 16th at 11:00am. Please note the time change. Stay hydrated!



CUB SCOUT PACK 1230

Police Officer Wes Ikeda arranged for the scouts to tour the West LA Police Station. The scouts learned so much from the different officers, including all the things inside a police vehicle and what they were used for.

The Webelos (4th/5th grade Cub Scouts) hiked the Ocean Trails Preserve in Rancho Palos Verdes. They used the walking sticks that they made last month that had a compass on the top of the stick.





Boy Scout Troop 242

Chase Wada's Eagle Project

Chase Wada from Boy Scout Troop 242 led fellow scouts through his multi-stage Eagle Project. The first part of his project was to coordinate a large team of people to surround the play structure and on command, LIFT it up and move it 25 feet off to the side in order to expose damaged playground rubber tiles. He then led a team to scrape, collect and transport the old damaged tiles on carts to the commercial trash bin on the other side of the parking lot. Two weeks later, in the dark (after a troop ceremony), he again had a large team of volunteers lift the play structure up and move it back to the newly tiled play area.

The second part of his project was to cut off layers of duct tape on the iron bars and cover each of the rod iron support bars with colorful foam padding, to make the pre-school play area safe for the kids.

The third part of his project was to install wish mesh on the rod iron bars to keep the balls and toys inside the play yard.

The fourth part of his project was to buy new terra cotta planters, fill them and all the old ones with new soil and brighten the area with new plants and vegetables.

The last part of his project was to refurbish three balance beams by sanding, painting them bright colors and putting safety foam on each of the edges so the children could now sit on the beams.

To earn funds for his Eagle Project, Chase held a very successful fundraiser at the Loft, recycled plastic bottles and cans and also recycled rubber soled sneakers.

Nakayoshi Preschool and the Gardena Buddhist Church are appreciative of your leadership in this Eagle Scout Project.





Hui Aikanes

We would like to thank the BWA members who cooked and served their delicious bento lunches. It was most enjoyable to meet with the new people who stopped by to visit our temple as well socializing with our temple friends. Thank you BWA members!

Condolences to the Iwamoto and Murakami families. John Murakami was our honorary member for several years. We will miss them dearly.

Hui Aikane members will be helping with the various booths in our upcoming Obon festivals.

Our next meeting and potluck luncheon is tentatively scheduled for October 14th 11:30 am-1:00 pm in the Cooling Room. We are planning to discuss future Hui Aikane activities and enjoy each other's company. Please join us.

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



2023 SD JR. YBL CONFERENCE **Clue** DHARMA EDITION

Hosted by Gardena & Nishi

Jr. YBAs

Registration: Sat. 9/2 at 9:30 A.M. Gardena Buddhist Church,
1517 166th St. Gardena, CA 90247

Banquet, Dance, and overnight accommodations at the
Holiday Inn Los Angeles Gateway-Torrance, 19800 S.
Vermont Ave, Torrance, CA 90502



Registration:
\$160 by June 19th.
\$185 by July 17th.
*Hotel Rooms sold separately

JR. YBA

The Jr. YBA continues to work toward the upcoming Southern District Jr. YBL Conference 2023 on Labor Day weekend co-hosted with the Nishi Jr. YBA.

The Jr YBA had two two planning meetings in June - one on June 11 at the GBC and the other on June 25th at Nishi - with the focus on understanding social media and peer pressure, using the theme of "Clue, Dharma Edition". The first deadline to register was June 19th with the late registration deadline on July 17th.

On June 18th, the Jr Y enjoyed hosting the Fathers Day Hot Dog Luncheon at the GBC.

Congrats to Jr YBA's Sierra Kushi, Class of 2023, who graduated from Torrance High!



The scholarship presentation to Sierra Kushi



Jr. YBA members working the hot dog luncheon



Everybody enjoyed the Father's Day Luncheon!

YABA (Young Adult Buddhist Association)

Last month we had a general meeting to discuss upcoming events. We had a great time welcoming new members, socializing, and eating pizza & bentos.

YABA members are planning on attending a few Obons this month. Also, Odori practices are in full effect. So, we hope to see you at practice & the various Obons showing off your dance skills! Once July wraps up, start the countdown to Gardena's Obon! You'll find YABA members volunteering in some booths and bingo.

Hope everyone is enjoying Summer. Have a Safe & Happy 4th.

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





Wisteria Chugakko

Reverend John Iwohara, Headmaster
Charlene Hirotsu, Principal

2023 Wisteria Chugakko Begins

On Monday, June 19, 2023, Wisteria Chugakko began with greeting our families and students with our Morning Assembly. We socialized before beginning our 5th Session in our 6th Year with our new and continuing students.

We have now had three days of 6 periods per day of cultural, educational, religious, and hands-on classes to enrich the lives of our middle school students. Our mission is to pass on the knowledge to our young, sharp and creative minds.

Here is a listing of the classes offered this summer at Wisteria Chugakko:

2023 Wisteria Chugakko Courses

Basic Car Mechanics#1,#2

Basic Filmmaking-Making YouTube Videos#1,#2

Basic Sewing and Shibori #1,#2,#3

Doggy Toys

Floral Design

Hawaiian Ribbon Lei Making #1,#2

Hooked on Crocheting

Incarceration Talk, Q & A,

Infinity Card

Introduction to Buddhism#1,#2,#3

Introduction to Jodo Shinshu I #1,#2,#3

Introduction to Jodo Shinshu II #1,#2,#3

Itadakimasu (Cooking) #1,#2,#3

JANM Field Trip

Japanese#1,#2,#3

Japanese Bookbinding

Japanese Etiquette

Japanese Tea Ceremony #1 #2

Jodo Shinshu Poets#1,#2

Jodo Shinshu Rituals#1,#2

Kokedama

Learning our History#1,#2,#3

Learning Spreadsheets #1.#2

Macrame for the Kokedama

Mah Jong #1,#2

Morning Service

Obon Dancing#1,#2

Origami Fabric Tsuru

Papermaking

Photography#1,#2

Podcasting#1,#2

Robotics/Engineering#1,#2

Sashiko #1, #2

Shakyo#1,#2,#3

Shuji

Storyboarding

Survival Bracelet

Tae Kwon Do#1,#2

Taiko (Drumming)#1,#2,#3

Ukulele for Beginners #1

Wood Tile Trivet

Yukata Dressing



If you will be going into the 7th or 8th grade in the Fall of 2024, we will accept Student Interest Forms at the close of our summer session.

If you have any questions, please contact charlene.hirotsu@gbcwisteriachugakko.org.

With Gassho,

Reverend John Iwohara, Headmaster
Charlene Hirotsu, Principal

2023 SUMMER SESSION AT WISTERIA CHUGAKKO



2023 Wisteria Chugakko Students



Card Making Class



Sewing Class - Apron



Kokedama Class



Wisteria Chugakko

GEORGE TAKEI coming
to Gardena Buddhist Church Wisteria Chugakko!

Monday, July 10th
Time: 12 noon~
at Gardena Buddhist Church

Please register at the Sunday
Service or email [charlene.hirotsu@
gbcwisteriachugakko.org](mailto:charlene.hirotsu@gbcwisteriachugakko.org).

*Registration is required.

George Takei is coming to Gardena
Buddhist Church Wisteria Chugakko to
speak to our students as an Incarceree
of World War II. As a GBC Sangha, you
are invited to be in the audience.

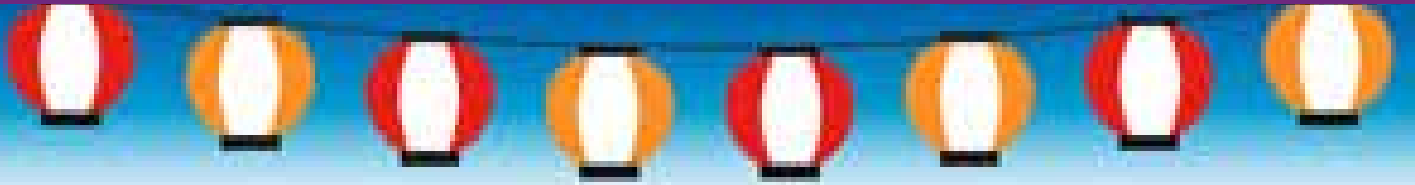


Photo Courtesy of George Takei

*George Takei: His fifth book, the Eisner Award
winning and New York Times bestselling graphic
memoir They Called Us Enemy, was released in July
2019*

GEORGE TAKEI is a civil rights activist, social media superstar, Grammy-nominated recording artist, New York Times bestselling author, and pioneering actor whose career has spanned six decades. He has appeared in more than 40 feature films and hundreds of television roles, most famously as Hikaru Sulu in Star Trek, and he has used his success as a platform to fight for social justice, LGBTQ+ rights, and marriage equality. His advocacy is personal: during World War II, Takei spent his childhood unjustly imprisoned in United States internment camps along with 125,000 other Japanese Americans.

He now serves as Chairman Emeritus and a member of the Japanese American National Museum's Board of Trustees. Takei served on the board of the Japan-United States Friendship Commission under President Bill Clinton, and, in 2004, was conferred with the Gold Rays with Rosette of the Order of the Rising Sun by the Emperor of Japan for his contribution to US-Japan relations.



Obon 2023

With Obon 2023, we will be modernizing how we will accept payment. We are planning on setting up systems to accept payment with Apple Pay, Google Pay and Credit Card, in addition to cash.

To help minimize our initial expenditure, we are seeking donations of iPads 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



Thank you very much for your consideration. We are excited about the possibility these changes will bring to GBC. We look forward to your participation at Obon 2023 on August 5 and August 6.

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

GBC

~~CANCELLED~~

RUMMAGE SALE

Saturday July 8 , 2023
Time- 8am to 1pm
Place – church parking lot

if interested in helping,
contact Louise Mayemura at
l.mayemura@yahoo.com



OBON 2023

It's Obon Season...the time of year when everyone thinks about their Obon hopping strategy for the summer weekends, trying to pack in as many Obons as possible. If you're lucky, you might get to 2 Obons in one night! Such fun! With the crazy last 3 years with no Obons or modified Obons, everyone is excited to get back to going to Obon festivals. Last year, we were able to bring back Obon Dance for 1 day, which we opened to the public. It was fantastic to see so many people. This year, we are back to a 2-day festival, where we will have Food Booths, Games, Bingo, Craft Boutique, and of course, the highlight of the Festival, Obon Dancing! Mark your calendars on August 5th and 6th for Gardena's Obon, 3:00 – 9:00 pm on both days. Dancing will start at 6:00 pm. Please check our website for the food schedule and other information relating to Obon.

Our committee has been working hard since the beginning of the year to get everything ready for Obon 2023. We are excited to bring back your favorite foods and games, and of course, Obon dancing in the streets. We also look forward to implementing a change in food purchasing...you asked, and we listened...for the first time we will be accepting credit card in addition to cash.

We hope to see everyone at our Obon Festival and Obon Dance practices in July. Yup, in person Obon dance practice is back! Please join us on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from July 11th to July 27th from 7:00 – 8:30 pm. Our Obon will be the last Obon of the Season... the Grand Finale in Southern California. We hope that you will join us as we say Sayonara to Obon Season 2023.

Nadine Kakimoto and Sharyl Yamada-Oda
Obon Co-Chairpersons



GARDENA BUDDHIST CHURCH OBON



A NEW BEGINNING

AUGUST 5TH and 6TH 2023
JOIN US IN PERSON!

SAT
3-9PM

SUN
3-9PM

SAT & SUN
6 PM

OBON DANCE



FOOD BOOTHS ARE BACK!
SUSHI, DANGO, CHICKEN TERIYAKI,
AND MORE!

PLUS BINGO, GAMES, AND
CRAFT SALE!



SCAN OUR QR CODE
FOR UP TO DATE OBON
DETAILS AND
INFORMATION ABOUT
CREDIT CARD USAGE



NEW FOR 2023-CREDIT CARD SALES

Gardena Buddhist Church, 1517 W. 166th St., Gardena, CA 90247
WWW.GARDENABUDDHISTCHURCH.ORG

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

**The church acknowledges the following donations received from 5/20/23 - 6/19/2023
with gratitude and appreciation.**

Funeral/Makurakyo/Burial/Memorial Services

Kakimoto, Nadine	Iwamoto, M/M Daniel	Nishi, Vincent	Tamura, Mary
Allen Kubo, Rikiko	Kita, Mitsuko	Otsu, Tom & Doreen	Tsudama, Bob
Eto, Donna	Lazar, Jariya	Sasuga, Pamela	Yoshimura, Yumiko &
Family of Roy Suminaga	Mizumoto, Karen	Shimohara, Evelyn	Yoshimura, Ted
Hirai, Brigitta	Munekata Wilhelm, Sheri	Taguchi, Harry & Harriet	

Shotsuki Hoyo Donations

Doi, Sanaye	Kuwahara, Suzuko	Mizukami, Tamoko	Sumi, Michiko
Fujimoto, Fumie	Lewis, Roxana	Mizumoto, Karen	Taketa, Susan
Fujioki, Emma	Maeda, Stacy	Moromisato, Shirley	Tamura, Mary
Inouye, Juliann	Maruyama, Kazuko	Okada, Nobuko	Tsukashima, Ross &
Kakimoto, Nadine	Matsuoka Families	Okamura, Shelly	Debra
Kato, Sharon	Miwa, Yoshiko	Onitsuka, Eunice	
Kikuno, Nariko	Miyata, Julie	Otani, Keiko	

Obon/Hatsubon Service

Family of Roy	Miwa, M/M Alan	Nakamoto, M/M David	Tamura, Mary
Suminaga (2)	Miwa, Yoshiko	Nakatani, M/M David	Toyoaski, Shiro
Ikeda, Tamotsu	Morioka, M/M Dennis	Nishihira, M/M Joe	Uwahori, Sadae
Inose, Ken	Motoyasu, Steve	Osa, Susan	Yamanaka, Jeanne
Maruyama, Kazuko	Nakakura, M/M Ken	Sumi, Hiroko	

Special Donations

Anonymous	Kubo, Leslie	Namba, Reiko	Tawa, Sachiko
Doami, Koko	Kunisaki, Suyeno	Quon, Rev. Kory	Yanai, Frank
Hiramoto, Deborah	Muraoka, Eiko	Shigemura, Fumiko	Yoshiyama, Rose
Katsumura, Kyoko	Nagatani, Gerald	Suda, Yuriko	

Gotan-E Service

Hirotsu, M/M Stan	Kurashima, M/M Justin	Matsuda, Hiromi	Tanaka, Nancy
Imada, M/M Brian	Maeda, Tom	Sakatani, M/M Richard	Tsuge, M/M Mike
Kita, M/M Alan	Maruyama, Phyllis	Shimono, Nancy	

Nokotsudo Donation

Inose, Don	Inose, M/M Ken	Tacadena, Betsy
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2023 GBC Membership Dues (Received: 5/23/2023-6/19/2023)

Anonymous Ikejiri, Ron Imahori, Marie Imai, Lynn	Lam, Derek Miyamoto, Kazuko Miyashiro, Marc-Mitchell Ogawa, Helene	Ogawa, Katsuaki Sasaki, Brent Sasaki, Noriko Shimizu, Gary	Takahashi, Sae Uyemura, Tyron Yoshimura, Midori
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Osaisen

Anonymous (2) Matsuda, Hiromi	Nakakura, M/M Ken Nishihira, Joe	Sakatani, Charlene Sakatani, M/M Richard
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General Donation/Facility Use/ Miscellaneous

Baba, Miyako	Hirata, Jan	Ishimaru, Stacey	Kobayashi, Izumi
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July 2023

1	Shotsuki Hoyo Service via Zoom	10:00am
2	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
	BWA mtg (In-Person & Zoom)	11:30am
4	Church closed	
5	DS Teacher's mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
6	Pass It Forward mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
8	Rammage Sale--CANCELLED	
9	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
	Obon Hoyo Service	
	Hatsubon Hoyo Service	
10	2023 Obon mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
11	Obon Dance Practice begins	7:00pm
12	Wisteria Chugakko Culmination Program	4:30pm
16	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
	ABA mtg (In-Person & Zoom)	11:00am
17	Megumi Deadline for August 2023	
19	GBC Board mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
22	Boy Scouts: Eagle Court of Honor	5:00pm
23	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
	Coordinating Council Hybrid mtg	11:30am
25	Obon Dance Practice	7:00pm
27	Obon Dance Practice (last day)	7:00pm
30	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am

August 2023

2	Obon Booth Construction	4:00pm
3	Pass It Forward mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
5	Virtual Shotsuki Hoyo	10:00am
	Obon Festival	3:00pm
6	No Sunday Service	
	Obon Festival	3:00pm
7	Obon Tear Down	4:00pm
	Zoom Pass it Forward mtg	7:00pm
9	Zoom GBC Board mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
13	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
	BWA mtg Hybrid	10:30am
14	2023 Obon mtg Zoom	7:00pm
16	Meinichiko service Zoom	7:00am
19	SD Jr. YBL Cabinet Meeting	10:00am
20	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
	ABA mtg Hybrid	11:30am
	Wisteria Chugakko Wrap Up Luncheon & mtg	12:30pm
21	Megumi Deadline for September	
27	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
	Coordinating Council Hybrid mtg	11:30am

<Regular Activities>

Sunday:	Isami Taiko Practice @11:15am weekly	Thursday:	Tea Ceremony Class @9:30am weekly
Monday:	2nd & 4th Community Projects @9:30am 2nd & 4th Cub Pack 1230 mtg @6pm		1st & 3rd Boy Scout Troop 242 mtg @7pm
Tuesday:	*check Tuesday Social article	Friday:	2nd & 4th Girl Scout Troop 4345 mtg @7pm
Wednesday:	Ikenobo/Ikebana Class @2pm 3/month	Saturday (or Thursday):	Tea Ceremony Class @9:30am

『お育て』

宮地美子師

『幾たびか お手間かかりし 菊の花』

この俳句は加賀の千代女という方がよまれたそうです。真宗のご門徒さんでしたら、何度となくお説教でお聞きになったことがあるかと思えます。菊を聴くと置き換えて味わってみますと、私が、阿弥陀様のお慈悲に気づくまでには、大輪の菊を育てるように手間がかかっているという意味であることがわかります。

聴聞させていただいたからこそ仏様のお慈悲に気づかせていただけたのだと、過去からのご因縁やお育てに深く感謝できるようになります。

親鸞聖人は教行信証 信巻に“現生十種の益”をあげ以下のように述べられています。

金剛(こんごう)の真心(しんしん)を
獲得(ぎやくとく)すれば
横(おう)に五趣八難(ごしゅはちなん)
の道を超え
必ず現生に十種の益(やく)を獲(う)

上記現代語訳は、
まことのご信心をいただければ
五趣(地獄・餓鬼・畜生・人間・天)八難(飢・渴・寒・暑・水・火・刀・兵)を越えて
必ず今この世で10種の利益をいただける
という意味です。

その10のBenefitを具体的に言いますと

1. 目に見えぬ方々から護られる
2. この上もなく尊い功德が身に備わる
3. 罪悪を転じて念仏の善と一味になる
4. 諸仏に護られる
5. 諸仏にほめたたえられる
6. 阿弥陀如来の光明につつまれて、
つねに護られる

7. 心が真のよろこびに満たされる
8. 如来のご恩を知らされ、報謝の生活をする
9. 如来の大悲を人に伝えることができる
10. やがて仏になると定まった正定聚の位に入る 等を挙げられています。

いずれも目に見えない遠いところにあるようなBenefitで、全く現実的でないと思われるのではないのでしょうか。例えば、家族が健康で人間関係がうまくゆき、欲しいものがなんでも手に入る、人に尊敬され、いい人と言ってもらえる。そういうBenefitsならばいつでも大歓迎です。

しかし親鸞聖人のおっしゃる十種の益とは現実とはかけ離れた異次元のことに感じられます。しかしながら冒頭にご紹介しました加賀の千代女さんは、聴聞を重ねながら阿弥陀仏また諸仏に護られている自分に気づき、そしてお浄土に参らせていただける事を確信されたのです。それはまさしく聴聞の利益または功德に他なりません。仏法を聴かせていただいたからこそ到達できる気づきです。

仏法は聴聞に尽きる、その通りです。仏様にお手間をかけている私がここにおります。

合掌





婦人会便り

婦人会の通常の活動（敬称略）

- ▽ 6月4日（日）婦人会定例会議。美味しい茶菓を用意して下さったA/b組の皆様ありがとうございました。日本で開催された世界仏教婦人会大会から無事戻られたメンバーの方々、おかえりなさい。美味しいお土産を会議でいただきさせて頂きありがとうございました。
- ▽ 6月6日（火）南部教区開教使会議がガーデナ仏教会会議室で午前9時から正午まで開かれ、15名が出席。朝の軽食を用意して下さったA組の方々ありがとうございます。
- ▽ 6月10日（日）今田イモジーン&吉山ナンシーが、パサディナ仏教会主催ガーデナ仏教婦人会の代表として南部教区婦人会四半期会議（Zoom）に出席。ご苦労さまでした。
- ▽ 6月11日（日）婦人会主催お弁当セール。皆様のご支援、ご協力により販売目標の400個以上の注文を受け、500個を用意しました。6/10（土）午前9時から準備を開始、6/11（日）早朝に仕上げ、礼拝の後配りました。皆様に心より感謝申し上げます。
- ▽ 6月18日（日）父の日のホットドックランチを用意して下さったサンガティーンズの皆様、ありがとうございました。とても美味しかったです。
- ▽ 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、24日はJCIがピックアップにくる前に200パックを仕上げました。お手伝いして下さった仏教会メンバーの皆さま、ありがとうございました。
- ▽ 7月9日（日）お盆&初盆法要 御齋にあんぱんを用意、お供えと饅頭はB組が担当。

- ▽ 2023年婦人会日本語セミナー（GBC BEC主催）は当初7/15日開催予定でしたが、8/26日に延期します。詳細は次回の会議でお知らせします。
- ▽ 8月5-6日（土・日）お盆 婦人会はお寿司を作ります。例年より数量を減らしましたが、5日にちらし寿司、太巻き&稲荷すしを作り、6日はちらし寿司と稲荷すしを作ります。盆踊りは両日開催されます。
- ▽ 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、婦人会は昼食にカレーを提供します。

アナウンスメント:

- ▽ 6月25日（日）附属団体連絡協議会（Zoom）午前11時30分 今田イモジーン&宮田ジュリー出席予定
- ▽ 7月2日（日）7月婦人会例会（ハイブリッド）午前11時15分 当番 B/c組
- ▽ 7月10日（月）お盆会議（Zoom）午後7時 堀キャシー、吉村ナンシー、坂谷シャーリーン出席予定
- ▽ 8月13日（日）8月婦人会例会（ハイブリッド）午前11時15分 当番 C/d組

感謝録:

- ▽ 特別寄付（*英語4ページをご覧ください）

