



MEGUMI

慈恩

GARDENA BUDDHIST CHURCH
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Rev. John Iwohara

Gardena Buddhist Church



June 2023

Volume LVI No. 6

“On the 800th and 850th Special Service”



Rev. John Iwohara

Last month (May), the Gardena Buddhist Church (GBC) had a group of members represent the GBC to help celebrate the 850th birthday of Shinran Shonin and the 800th anniversary of the founding of Jodo

Shinshu as a Buddhist tradition that was held at the Hongwanji, or the mother temple for our tradition. As part of the trip the main body of the group also attended the 17th World Buddhist Women’s Conference. Both events were held in Kyoto, Japan. I would like to take this opportunity to thank both the Gardena Buddhist Women’s Association and the Gardena Buddhist Church for making my participation in this event possible.

I would like to share a reflection I had from my participation. The 850/800 celebration, by its nature, helps us to “look back.” Part of what makes these events meaningful is because they remind us of all the struggles and hardships that have been overcome for us to have the present that we have. Not only are we humbled, but we are also inspired to continue the work of sharing the teaching of Nenbutsu knowing that our religious faith has given our

past the strength and courage, the fortitude and determination to overcome obstacles and reach for a brighter future for all. We are reminded, through this look back, that wishing for a brighter future is not enough. Everything may have begun with a wish, but a lot of work and sacrifice was involved in order to begin to realize the dream behind establishing our 800 year old tradition.

For example, the current Goedo or Founder’s Hall was restored in 2009 after 10 years of painstaking work. The structure that was restored was originally constructed in 1636. This current structure was built to replace the previous hall that was being built and nearly completed after a fire in 1617 burned it down. The building that was nearly completed was being constructed to replace the previous hall that was destroyed in an earthquake in 1596. Although the restoration of the hall only took about half the time it took to rebuild the Founder’s Hall, it should be kept in mind that previous constructions were complete rebuilds and were done without the use of modern machinery. All this work and dedication, however, allowed us to help celebrate the 850th birthday and 800th anniversary of the founding of Jodo Shinshu with Nenbutsu Practitioners

(Continued on page 2)

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from throughout the world.

Although it's not necessary to know the following facts to have appreciated participating in the event, it can add to its appreciation so I will also mention that both the Amida Hall and the Founder's Hall are classified as National Treasures by Japan, and that the entire Hongwanji complex was designated a UNESCO World cultural Heritage Site in 1994.

As part of the 800 year history of our tradition, please also allow me to point out that our GBC is also a part of that history. The nearly 100-year history of the GBC also involves many struggles and hardships that were encountered and overcome. It is also a history that adds to the story of strength and courage, and of the fortitude and determination that are needed to overcome obstacles and reach for

a brighter future for all. It sometimes requires an anniversary event to take the time to reflect on our history because while we are living it, it rarely feels like history.



Sangha Teens

On May 13th, the Sangha Teens had a fun night out. Thanks to the generosity of the temple, we had a delicious meal at Rascals and then raced go-carts at K-1 Speed.

Sangha Teens hosted a spaghetti luncheon on the 21st. Spaghetti, garlic bread, salad, and jello were passed out to the Sangha. Thank you to the teachers, parents, Hui Aikane members, and Boy Scouts who helped make this luncheon a great success.

Future Dates:

- June 4th- Disneyland
- June 10th- OCBC social
- June 11th- ST meeting





TUESDAY SOCIAL

in the future.

On May 9, we had a special presentation by the Keiro Organization regarding "Emergency Preparedness". We learned the importance of preparing now, planning for a catastrophic event, starting conversations about emergency planning and received valuable safety resources. Hopefully we will have more sessions like this

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!**



Please join us on Tuesdays for coffee, laughter, and fun. We meet every Tuesday 9:30 – 11:30. Please come one Tuesday or all Tuesdays.



Hui Aikanes

We would like to thank the ABA members who cooked and served their delicious pancake breakfast for Mother's Day. The opportunity to eat breakfast with our family and socialize with our temple friends was most enjoyable. Thank you ABA members!



We also thank Larry Kawahara, his family and friends for their Spring Plant Sale. We are looking forward to a bumper crop of produce.

Hui Aikane members also helped Sangha Teens with the preparation of their Spaghetti Luncheon during the month of May. Mm delicious! Thank you Sangha Teens for the tasty lunch!

Summer is in the air! "Life is better in zori, and even better during summer vacation." Our next meeting is scheduled for June 11th 11:30 am-1:00 pm in the Cooling Room. We are planning to discuss future Hui Aikane activities for the remainder of the year. Please plan to attend.

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

YABA (Young Adult Buddhist Association)

Last month was a busy one. We enjoyed church events like Fujimatsuri, Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast, Gotan-e & the Spaghetti Lunch, and Larry's Plant Sale.

This month we're looking forward to more delicious food from the BWA's Bento Fundraiser. We're also celebrating the Graduates and Fathers. Congrats, Grads & Thank You, Dads!

Obon season is upon us. Dust off your kimonos and happi coats. We'll see you on the dance floor.

Upcoming Events

- June 11: YABA Lunch Meeting

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



Fujinkai / BWA Buddhist Women's Association

Happenings:

- ◇ May 14th (Sunday), BWA monthly meeting – Thank you to E gumi for the delicious refreshments.
- ◇ May 14th (Sunday) Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast – Thank you to ABA for the yummy pancake breakfast and Dharma School for the beautiful carnations.
- ◇ May 21st (Sunday) Gotan-e Service-Thank you to the Sangha Teens and parents for working so hard to make the spaghetti lunch, it was very good.
- ◇ June 11th (Sunday) – BWA Bento Sale – Thank you to everyone who came out to prep and make the bentos. We would like to thank the Sangha for your support, it was very successful. We hope everyone enjoyed the bento.
- ◇ June 24th (Saturday)- JCI Carnival. GBC will be making Chirashi-zushi. On June 23rd, Friday we will prep at 1 p.m. On June 24th we ask all temple members to help assemble the Chirashi-zushi.
- ◇ Aug. 5th-6th (Saturday/Sunday) GBC Obon. BWA will be making chirashi and mix box of maki and inari sushi on Saturday, and chirashi -zushi on Sunday. We will be reducing the amount of sushi, we ask all members to come and help out. We welcome volunteers to come out to help out. Let's have fun making sushi together.
- ◇ Sept. 2nd (Saturday) SD JR YBL conference – BWA will be providing lunch. More details to follow.

Announcements:

- ◇ July 2nd – Monthly Regular Meeting at 11:15 a.m. hybrid – B/c gumi
- ◇ July 9th (Sunday) – Obon Service

BWA Appreciation:

◇ Special Donation

Cambra, May
 Enomoto, Richard Y
 Fujimoto, Fumie
 Fujioka, Emma
 Fujioka, Ruby
 Fujita, Teruko J
 Furukawa, David
 Hayashida, Marion
 Ihuri, Kris
 Imada, Imogene
 Inose, Kay
 Iwamoto, Diane
 Jinkawa, Janice
 Kadoguchi, P
 Kashiwabara, Mary
 Kawahara, Jane
 Kishiyama, Susan
 Kita, Alan
 Komatsu, Janett
 Maeda, Tom T
 Maehara, Nolan
 Maruyama, Kazuko

Maruyama, Phyllis
 Masai, Kay
 Mato, Jake & Jenna
 Mayemura, Louise
 Mitani, Dave
 Miwa, Alan
 Miyaji, Yoshiko
 Miyamoto, Mitsuko
 Miyata, Julie
 Morioka, Dennis
 Morishige, James
 Motoyasu, Ayako
 Motoyasu, Steve
 Nakakura, Kenneth
 Nakao, Harumi
 Nakatani, David & Lily
 Nakatsu, Wayne & Karen
 Nation, Charlene
 Nishihira, Nancy
 Nishihira, Joe & Violet
 Nishimura, Elaine
 Nishimura, Patti

Okada, George
 Okamoto, Yauko
 Sasaki, Emiko
 Sasaki, Noriko
 Sayegusa, Fumie
 Shimizu, Linda
 Shimokochi, Gail
 Sumi, Hiroko
 Sumigawa, Roy
 Takao, Dianne
 Takao, Donna
 Tateishi, Craig
 Turelli, Kacy
 Uyemura, Cathy
 Wada, Louise
 Wilhelm, Sheri Munekata
 Yamada, JoAnn M
 Yamane, Dick & Judy
 Yoshida, Suzanne
 Yoshiyama, Brian

JR. YBA

This month, we continued working on our 2023 Southern District Jr. YBL Conference with Nishi Jr. YBA.

First, we'd like to thank everyone who supported the southern district Jr. YBL fundraiser by buying an obon T-shirt from us! We are really appreciative as the funds support Southern District Jr. Y events including our 2023 Southern District Conference, "Clue: Dharma Edition" which we continue to work hard on.

We met with Nishi on April 23, to further discuss our workshops and go through test runs. Then on April 29, seven of our members, Sierra, Brenden, Tyler H., Tyler T., Jake, Rhys, and AJ attended the Southern District Seminar 3 cohosted by San Fernando Valley and Sun Valley. The seminar was called "Buddhism At the Beach" and it highlighted independence and interconnectedness. For example, one of the workshops had us eliminate one of our five senses and work together to build something.



Also on May 18 along with Nishi, we had a zoom meeting with Rev. John Iwohara and Rev. Murakami discussing the Buddhist teachings we could explore in each of the discussions within our workshops.

So far, we've had a very productive month and we look forward to the our SD Conference as we continue to plan!



ABA News

After not being able to host for three years due to COVID, it was so good to see so many mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and sisters at the Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast. We enjoyed preparing the foods that day, and we hope everyone found the breakfast to be delicious.

Under the leadership of Principal Charlene Hirotsu, many ABA members will be teaching classes to the Wisteria Chugakko students. The talent among our membership is amazing. Wisteria Chugakko offers Rev. John Iwohara the opportunity to go into depth regarding Jōdō Shinshū, and for the students to take classes not often offered at their public schools. We, the teachers, enjoy watching the students grow during the four-week program.

The end of the month will find ABA participating in the Ripple Effect Walk at Cal State Long Beach, as well as preparing chirashi for JCI.

The next meeting will be hybrid on Sunday, June 18 at 11:30am.

Take care and stay safe.



CUB SCOUT PACK 1230

Cub Scout Pack 1230 had their annual Pinewood Derby in April. The scouts made their own cars to race out of wood blocks. They attached the wheels, sanded and painted them. They used their creativity to create cars that were race ready. Each scout spoke about the design of their car and had fun racing them.



Megumi Deadline is Monday, June 19, 2023



Boy Scout Troop 242

Congratulations to Justin Terao of Boy Scout Troop 242 (chartered by the Gardena Buddhist Church) for receiving the Kazuo Masuda VFW Post 3670 Scout of the Year Award.

Justin has been an active member of the Boy Scouts of America ever since his introduction to the scouting program as a member of Cub Scout Pack 862. As a Boy Scout, he served as a Den Chief for Pack 862, Patrol Leader, Senior Patrol Leader, and Junior Assistant Scoutmaster in Troop 242.

This year Justin received the very prestigious Kade Kurita Scout of the Year Award from Troop 242 for being the most outstanding scout. Justin has accumulated an impressive 247 hours of community service. Justin recently participated in a community service project called "Spit and Polish" where he and other scouts helped in the preservation of the Japanese American Veterans Memorial Court in Little Tokyo, Los Angeles.

Justin Terao is an Eagle Scout, an elite rank which only 5% of scouts achieve. It takes 21 Merit Badges to become an Eagle Scout. Justin earned 61 Merit Badges throughout his years in scouting.

For Justin's Eagle project, in light of the COVID pandemic, Justin created a large-scale, fully functional outdoor learning facility for 186th Street Elementary School in Gardena. Justin raised over \$4300 to fund the project.

In addition to Justin's scouting career, he is an outstanding student and athlete. He was on the North Torrance High School Honor Roll for all years in attendance. He was a member and captain of the Varsity Wrestling Team. Justin is also a current member of the National Honor Society and the California Scholarship Federation.

Justin will be graduating from North Torrance High School next month and continuing his studies at Cal Poly Pomona as an EE major.



Isami Taiko

Our Isami Taiko group meets every Sunday under the leadership of Kim Aponte for practice, and is 30 members strong. Here they are performing at our recent Fujimatsuri event!



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



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.

Shimohara, Wayne Katsufumi	(78)	May 3, 2023
Wheeler, Nagisa	(45)	May 6, 2023
Otsu, Minoru	(101)	May 8, 2023
Hirai, Isao	(89)	May 17, 2023
Uyetake, Kenji Frank	(78)	May 22, 2023





Alan Miwa



From GBC Board Chairperson

“Fujimatsuri 2023”

Fujimatsuri continued its path back to ‘normal’ in 2023. While it wasn’t yet the type of event we did prior to Covid, it was bigger than anything we did the last three years.

Planning for the event started back in January. The chopping and brining of the cabbage tsukemono started on Wednesday, May 3rd. On Friday May 5th, the dango mix and jello cups were prepared. On Saturday May 6th, canopies, tables, and chairs were set-up. Huli-Huli chicken was delivered from Pedro Arroyo who cooks in the Cherry Stones parking lot. Dango was fried. Rice was cooked. Oranges and Edamame were prepared. And all of these items were assembled into close to 700 bentos. Between the hours of noon and 5pm that day, people came and picked up their pre-purchased meals. The girl scouts also started their bake sale on Saturday, a day early, because of the large number of donated baked goods that were delivered. Community Projects sold hand crafted goods and the Dana Group sold dishes.

The event continued on Sunday, May 7th with a Bingo session from 11:00 am to 1:30 pm. Prior to the Bingo games, Isami Taiko performed in front of the Social Hall. During the Bingo event, a raffle auction was held with over 60 items being offered. Onigiri of various types were sold and the bake sale continued.



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The next weekend, on May 20th, vegetable plants for Larry's plant sale were delivered to the church and on May 21st, the plants were sold after the Gotan-e service.

This Fujimatsuri differed from prior ones because it was an all church event where activities and responsibilities were not assigned by organization. I would like to extend my congratulations to the co-chairs, Arleen Miya and Imogene Imada and appreciation to all of the representatives, helpers, and customers for making this event a success.



Our next major fund raiser and celebration will be Obon which will be held on two days, August 5th and 6th. Please mark your calendar.



Wisteria Chugakko

Reverend John Iwohara, Headmaster
Charlene Hirotsu, Principal



Congratulations to our 2018 Wisteria Chugakko Alumni. Our entire staff sent them a Congratulatory Note and Ribbon Lei

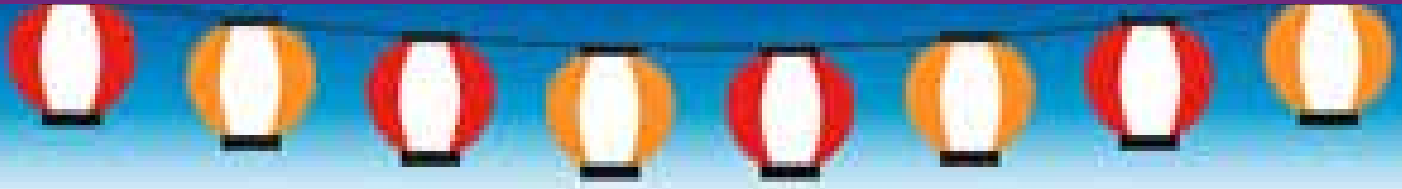


(made by Gardena Buddhist Church with
their high school colors.)



**Anne Asai
Sierra Kushi
Victoria Lee**

**Kendall Oda
Reann Rey
Sarah Sato
Mia Shiozaki
Keri Takeda**



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



GARDENA BUDDHIST CHURCH IS HAVING A 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



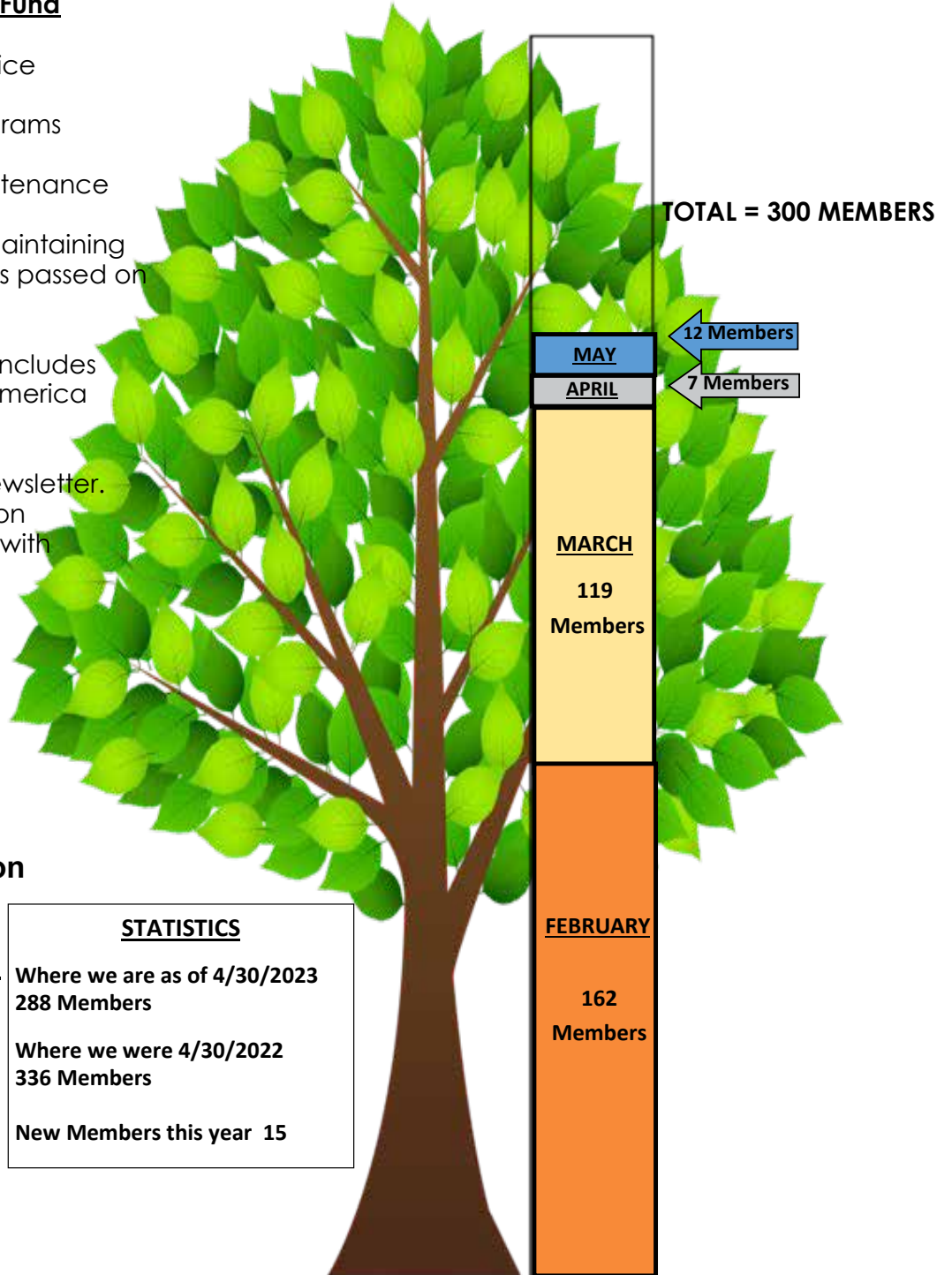
LET'S CONTINUE OUR GROWTH IN 2023 BECOME A MEMBER OF GARDENA BUDDHIST CHURCH

Membership Fees Help Fund

- Church Services
 - Weekly Sunday Service
 - Special services
- Organizations and Programs
- Activities and Events
- Church & Building Maintenance
- Staff Compensation
- "Passing it Forward" - Maintaining our church to ensure it is passed on to Future Generations.

GBC Membership also includes Buddhist Churches of America Membership. You will receive the "Wheel Of Dharma" Newsletter. Help support BCA's Vision Of sharing the Dharma with Others.

GOAL = 400 MEMBERS



Previous Information

YEAR	# of Members	STATISTICS
2002	854	Where we are as of 4/30/2023 288 Members
2005	769	Where we were 4/30/2022 336 Members
2008	715	New Members this year 15
2011	622	
2014	491	
2017	453	
2020	370	
2021	375	
2022	375	

CURRENT AS OF MAY 15, 2023

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, June 21 at 7PM
Via Zoom**

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

**The church acknowledges the following donations received from 4/15/23 - 5/19/2023
with gratitude and appreciation.**

Funeral/Makurakyo/Burial/Memorial Services

Family of Kisako Nishi Guasti, R. Stephen Kawamoto, Jeffrey Tankersley, Dawn

Shotsuki Hoyo Donations

Corbett, Judy	Kawamoto, Jeffrey	Ogasawara, Paul	Tatsukawa, Hiroko
Ego, Kimiko	Kawamoto, M/M Derrick	Ogawa, Amy	Terao, Carolyn
Friess, Mindy	Komatsu, Janett	Ohara, M/M J.S.	Terao, Ellen
Fujioki, R.	Maeda, Tom	Okamoto, Yauko	Tomiyasu, Barbara
Furukawa, M/M David	Matsuda, Stephan	Okihara, C.	Uwahori, Sadae
Hayashi, Kayoko	Mitsuhashi, Yoshiko	Okino, Sawae	Wada, Emi (2)
Hayashi, Yoshiko	Mizuno, Grace (2)	Oyama, Saeko	Wada, Louise
Hedani, Bruce	Morishige, Jim	Sasaki, M/M Brent	Wakamoto, Grace (2)
Hedani, Daniel	Morishige, M/M Norman	Seki, Jean	Yamada, Jo Ann
Hira, M/M John	Nakajima, M/M Tsuyoshi	Shibata, Reiko	Yamanaka, Jeanne
Ito, Kenichi	Nakamura, Alan	Sugino, Kazuko	Yamane, Judy
Iwamasa, Susumu	Nakamura, Edward	Sumi, Michiko	Yamane, M/M Dick
Izumoto, Melvin	Nakamura, Kimi	Tacadena, Betsy	Yamashiro, Takako
Kame, Don	Nakao, Harumi	Tamura, Mary	
Kaneko, Darlene	Nakatani, Dennis	Tanaka, Nancy	
Kawahara, M/M Larry	Nakatani, M/M David	Tanaka, Sumiko	

Gotan-E Service

Amimoto, Myrna	Miyata, Julie	Okada, George	Tsukamoto, W.
Fujimoto, Fumie	Morioka, M/M Dennis	Otani, Keiko	Uyeda, Midori
Fujita, Teruko & Fumiko	Morishige, Jim	Ouchi, Joyce	Wakimoto, Yuko
Hirayama, M/M Ted	Motoyasu, Steve	Sanada, Donna	Watanabe, Donald
Iwamoto, Diane	Munekata-Wilhelm,	Sasaki, Emiko	Yamane, M/M Dick
Iwamoto, M/M Daniel	Sheri	Shigemitsu, M/M Tom	Yamasaki, Sheryl
Kato, M/M Isao	Nakakura, M/M Ken	Shimizu, Mitzi	Yokota, M/M James
Komatsu, Janett	Nakamoto, M/M David	Takao, Donna	Yoshida, Suzanne
Mayemura, Louise	Nakashima, M/M Harvey	Takao, Tamiko	Yoshiyama, M/M
Miwa, M/M Alan	Nakata, M/M Bob (2)	Takata, M/M Sam	Bryan
Miwa, Yoshiko	Nakatani, M/M David	Tamura, Mary	Yuki, Wallace

Hanamatsuri Donations

Maruyama, Phyllis	Nakata, M/M Bob	Sakatani, M/M Richard	Tomiyoshi, Ruby
Matsuda, Hiromi	Nakawatase, Haruye	Tanaka, Nancy	

Fujimatsuri

Akahoshi, Masato	Haruma, Yaeko	Maruyama, Kazuko
Fujioki, Emma	Imamoto, Eiko	Toyooki, Shiro

2023 GBC Membership Dues (Received: 4/17/2023-5/22/2023)

Fujii, Raymond Igawa, Irene Igawa, Wayne Kobashi, Jane	Kono, Emiko Maruyama, Phyllis Nakamura, Ann Tashiro, Kensuke	Tashiro, Patricia Turelli, Jake Turelli, Kacy Wada, April	Wada, Emi Wada, Louise Yamashiro, Takako
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Special Donations

Anonymous Brian Mitsunaga Trust (2)	GBC Ichi-mi Hirota, Sachiko	Kawamura, Ken Masaki, Dennis & Jane	Nagatani, Gerald Shirota, Wallace
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Spring Ohigan Hoyo

Kurashima, M/M Justin

Osaisen

Nakakura, M/M Ken (2) Sakatani, Charlene Shibata, Renie

General Donation/Facility Use/ Miscellaneous

Baba, Miyako (2) Iwamoto, M/M Daniel	Kita, Mitsuko Minamitani, Izumi	The Benevity
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June 2023

3	Shotsuki Hoyo Service via Zoom	10:00am
	Wisteria Chugakko Parent/Student Orientation	1:00pm
4	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
	BWA mtg (In-Person & Zoom)	11:15am
5	Cub Pack 1230 mtg	6:00pm
	Fujimatsuri mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
11	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
	BWA Bento Fundraiser Pick up (after Sunday Service)	
	YABA mtg	11:30am
	Hui Aikane mtg	11:30am
12	2023 Obon mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
16	Meinichiko Service via Zoom	7:00am
18	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
	Father's Day & Graduation Service	
	ABA Hybrid mtg	11:30am
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)	9:30am
	Coordinating Council Hybrid mtg	11:30am

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
8	Yard Sale in GBC parking lot	8:00am
9	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
	Obon Hoyo Service	
	Hatsubon Hoyo Service	
10	2023 Obon mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
12	Wisteria Chugakko Culmination Program	4:30pm
16	Jr. YBA mtg	8:45am
	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
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
30	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am

<Regular Activities>

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

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)



宮地信雄師

「隠れ念仏の旅」

先月5月7日より20日まで、親鸞聖人ご生誕850年並びに立教開宗800年の法要に京都に旅行しました。ついでにガーデナ仏教会の人たちと共に九州旅行を楽しみました。とても楽しい思い出深い旅でした。今日はその中で鹿児島別院を訪問した時に出会った隠れ念仏のお話をしてみたいと思います。

隠れ念仏とは、今から約300年間鹿児島県、その当時の薩摩藩によって続けられた念仏者への弾圧のことを指しています。鹿児島別院に訪問した私たちはまず最初に、門の横に飾られていた通称「涙石」に遭遇しました。ずっしりと重そうな太鼓の大きさの石が置かれていました。その横にこの石のいわれが書かれていましたが、それによるとこの石は薩摩藩によって弾圧を受けた念仏者が拷問にあったときに使われたものだということが書かれていました。つまり、この石は念仏者が自分が念仏者であることを自白するまで膝の上に置かれていたものであったのです。こんな石を膝の上に置かれたら一分でもその痛みには耐えられないでしょう。それを何時間も置かれたのですからその苦しみのや想像を絶しています。立ち上がったときには両足が折れてしまっていて立ち上がれなかったといいます。それほどすごい拷問があったのです。この隠れ念仏者の様子はいろいろな人が調査をして多くのことがわかってきました。

念仏弾圧は、念仏者の間で信じられていた仏様の前ではみんな平等だという思想が当時の為政者に気に食わなかったのだといいます。当時は封建制度といって身分制がはっきりしていました。それに則って様々な法律が施行されていましたが、念仏者はもうすでに平等ということを歌っていましたから、為政

者からはとても危険な存在だと考えられたのです。日本がこの平等思想を受け入れるのは明治になってからです。しかし、その300年も前から真宗教団では平等思想が当たり前のことになっていたので、このことは念仏の教えがいかに人間中心であったことかということを示しているものとして、現代の私たちにもとても勇気を与えてくれるものです。この隠れ念仏者はその弾圧から逃れるため、山の中の洞窟を探し、そこで小さな灯りを灯し、ご本尊をかかげて聞法をつづけたといいます。そういった洞窟が鹿児島県に何万と見つかったといいますから、いかにお念仏の信仰が根強かったかということをお考えください。

もう一つ隠れ念仏のことで強調しておきたいことは、非暴力ということです。隠れ念仏者への為政者の弾圧は先ほどの涙石でもよくわかりますが、そのほかさまざまな方法で拷問が行われていたことが研究によって明らかになっています。それらを聞くにつけて念仏者がいかに強い意志でもってお念仏を信仰していたかということをしらされますが、驚いたことにこれらの血も涙もない拷問を受けながら隠れ念仏者は武器を取って薩摩藩に反抗しなかったと



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ということです。あれほどの弾圧を受けながら、一度も暴力によってそれに立ち向かうことをしなかったということです。これは念仏者が何も意気地がなかったということではありません。それどころか、それほどの暴力に非暴力で立ち向かうということは並大抵の意志ではないということを知られるのです。暴力に暴力で立ち向かうことは人類の歴史を見てもいかに安易な方法であるかということを知られるのです。しかし、薩摩念仏者はその方法を取らずにじっと我慢しつつ待ったのです。このことにも現代の私たちはただただ頭をさげるだけです。

この非暴力の教えはそのままお釈迦様の教えであることを思うとき、いかに念仏者がお釈迦様の教えを身をもって私たちに示しておてくださったことかとただただ身の引き締まる思いをするばかりです。

今回の旅がいかに有意義であったかということ隠れ念仏者の思いに触れただけでも凄かったとただただ感謝するばかりです。
合掌



婦人会便り

婦人会の通常の活動

- ▽ 5月14日（日）婦人会定例会議。美味しい茶菓を用意して下さったE組の皆様ありがとうございました。
- ▽ 5月14日（日）母の日パンケーキ朝食—美味しい朝食を用意して下さったABAの皆さんと美しいカーネーションを配って下さったダーマスクールの方々に感謝します。
- ▽ 5月21日（日）降誕会法要 サンガティーンズとご父兄がスパゲティランチを用意して下さいました。とても美味しかったです。
- ▽ 6月11日（日）婦人会主催お弁当セール。皆様のご支援、ご協力に心より感謝申し上げます。お弁当を楽しんで頂けますように。
- ▽ 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日は仕上

げのために仏教会メンバー皆さんの協力をお願い致します。

- ▽ 8月5-6日（土・日）お盆 婦人会は太巻き&稲荷すしセット（土）とちらし寿司（日）を作ります。例年より数量を減らしましたが、他のメンバーやご家族友人の協力が不可欠です。皆んなで一緒に楽しく作りましょう。
- ▽ 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:

- ▽ 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9日（日） お盆法要

感謝録:

- ▽ 特別寄付（*英語4ページをご覧ください）





親鸞聖人御誕生850年 立教開宗800年慶讚法要 参拝記念

