



MEGUMI

慈恩

GARDENA BUDDHIST CHURCH
1517 W. 166th Street, Gardena, CA 90247
Phone: 310-327-9400 FAX: 310-327-4660
E-Mail: info@gardenabuddhistchurch.org
Rev. John Iwohara



Gardena Buddhist Church

February 2021

Volume LIV No.2



Rev. John Iwohara

“Valentine’s Day and It sure is early!”

Thank you to everyone for helping to bring in the New Year and for all of your participation in the various religious events we held during the month of January. Beginning with our New Year’s Day service, we held our

January Shotsuki service, our Hoonko Ojinjo Raihai or our 7:00 am early morning services held in the memory of Shinran Shonin, our Goshoki Hoonko service, or the most important observance in our religious calendar year held to remember the life of Shinran Shonin, and our monthly Ojinjo Raihai service the we hold at 7:00 am every month on the 16th, again to honor Shinran Shonin. Outside of our religious observances, the temple also produced a commemorative calendar for 2021 to help us remember the temple’s 95th Anniversary.

In the month of February we are also preparing for the Nirvana Day service or the service held to commemorate the physical lifetime of Sakyamuni Buddha who is said to have entered pari-nirvana on February 15 or the day after we celebrate Valentine’s Day in America.

Most of us are aware of what Valentine’s Day

“means.” Because of this we find ourselves often motivated to go out and buy flowers, chocolates, or send cards to name a few of the things that often occur during this time of the year. Most of us gladly participate because the day has become especially associated with our expressing our devotion to a significant other.

Here are some random “facts” about St. Valentine’s Day. St. Valentine’s Day is named after a Christian martyr although it is unclear which Valentine is the actual namesake. St. Valentine may refer to the Christian Cleric who, because he performed marriage ceremonies, was put to death by Claudius II who outlawed marriage for young men thinking that an unmarried man made a better soldier. Some believe that the St. Valentine’s observance traces itself back to the Roman holiday of Lupercalia and that St. Valentine’s day was meant to replace it. Lupercalia, observed on February 15, was a festival dedicated to Faunus, the Roman god of agriculture, and to the mythical Roman founders or the twin brothers of Romulus and Remus. The festival itself was carried out by an order of Roman priests known as the Luperci. These priests would gather at the cave where Romulus and Remus were believed to have been cared for by

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

a she-wolf or lupa. The priests would sacrifice a goat for fertility and a dog for purification. Strips of the goat hide were then dipped in sacrificial blood and were used to gently slap both women and crop fields. It was thought that being touched by these hides would make a woman more fertile in the coming year. In 492, however, Pope Gelasius declared February 14 as the day to remember St. Valentine. This date roughly coincides with the end of the observance of Lupercalia suggesting to some historians that Valentine's Day replaced Lupercalia. Other scholars believe that there is no connection between the two events and that the beginning of Valentine's Day and the end of Lupercalia is merely a coincidence. In Middle-Ages England and France, the beginning of the mating season for birds was widely accepted as starting on February 14. As is currently practiced, the exchange of gifts and notes on Valentine's Day became popular from about the 17th century. In 1840 Esther Howland, known as the "Mother of the Valentine," began selling the first mass-produced valentines in America.

What is the point of sharing this "trivia"? Whereas trivia is generally "fun," we see that in trying to trace back the history of Valentine's Day that depending on how it was viewed, February 14 has all sorts of different meanings to people. The people who participate in living any particular day are the one's who give meaning to that day. For example, we do not need to wait an entire year to express our devotion to someone we claim to be devoted to. We do not need to wait an entire year to wish people happiness. However, it is also true that we tend to be forgetful. For myself, personally, I see how true the tendency to be forgetful really is. In less than a year of living with the corona virus and being "safer at home," I have a difficult time remembering

what day of the week it is on any particular day. I have come to recognize that it is the rhythm of being with and interacting with people that made the days of the week notable. For example, it is the custom of associating meaning with "Sunday" and doing Sunday with everyone that make it Sunday for me. It is what gives Sunday meaning to me: it is a special day that is unique from the other days. Just as Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday are unique and special. Each day, we discover, is worth living and sharing because we can live and share in them.

Holding the monthly services on the 16th are like that. On the one hand, I don't need to wait one day of the month to express joy and gratitude at having met with the circumstances that lead me to hear Namo Amida Butsu. On the other hand, holding and participating in these services on the 16th reminds me just how special these circumstances that allowed me to meet with the Nenbutsu really are. To keep me from taking this from granted, someone made sure that I had a service on the 16th to attend. In attending these services, in being reminded of how special a day can really be, I am helped to constantly discover that Jodo Shinshu is not just a teaching. It is how I live my life. And in living my life in the light that Jodo Shinshu helps me to see, I am also helped to find meaning in my life. The services on the 16th are held early, but what a great way to start the day.



Board Meeting: Saturday, February 20 at 2PM
Via Zoom

Fujinkai / BWA Buddhist Women's Association

Happenings:

- ◇ January 1st, Friday – We welcomed 2021 at the New Year's Day Service!
- ◇ January 3rd, Sunday – We held our BWA Installation during family service. Congratulations to our Cabinet for 2021! We missed our traditional Oshiruko and snacks.
- ◇ BWA membership envelopes have been mailed out to our current members. Please send them in as soon as you can. If you'd like to join BWA, please reach out to Chizuko Morimoto or Nancy Yoshiyama.
- ◇ January 7th-9th – We enjoyed Raihai Services each morning on Zoom.
- ◇ January 10th, Sunday – Our members watched the recorded Ho-Onko Service. Then we had our January Regular Meeting. We were encouraged to see a few more members at our meeting on Zoom. We have missed them, and we hope to see more members at our next meeting.

Announcements:

- ◇ February 7th, Sunday – Lady Takeko Kujo Service chaired by BWA. Let's all plan on attending.
- ◇ February 14th, Sunday – Nehan-E Service (Nirvana Day). Let's all remember to attend this important service!
- ◇ February 14th, Sunday – February Regular Meeting will be held at 11:30am.
- ◇ February 20th, Saturday – SDBWA Meeting at 10:00am on Zoom. We will be using our GBC BWA link.



BWA Appreciation:

- * 5th-year Memorial for Late Tomiko Miyata Julie Miyata

Correction in January appreciation:

- * In Memory of Late Sumiko Nakamura James ~~Matsushima~~→James Matsushita
We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused.

ABA News

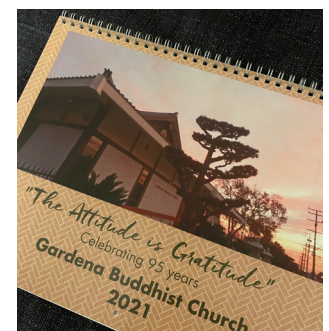
ABA held its first meeting of 2021 in January with newly elected president, Dawn Kita. During this meeting, it was decided that ABA would hold its monthly meetings on the third Sunday of the month at 11:30am.

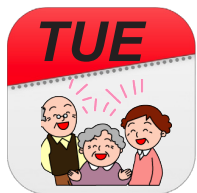
Welcome to the new members who were introduced during the New Members/Shinnenkai service! We look forward to seeing you at Sunday services.

The new GBC 2021 calendar is beautiful. Thank you to Rev. Iwihara, Dawn Kita and Alan Kita for spearheading this immense project. Thank you to all of the volunteers who helped to distribute the calendars.

The next ABA meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 21 at 11:30am via ZOOM.

Until we are able to meet again, stay safe.





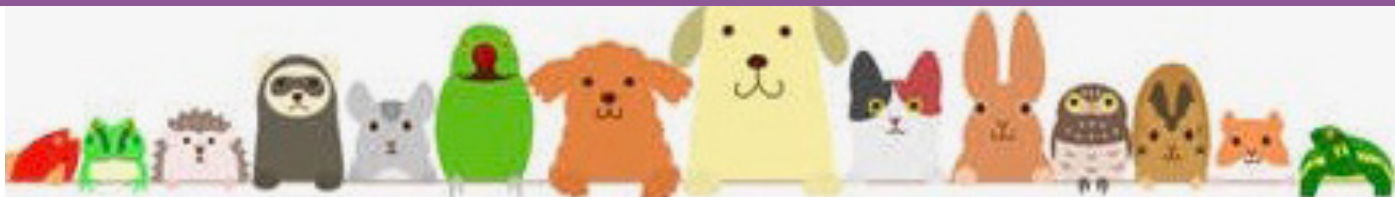
TUESDAY SOCIAL

Hope everyone is safe and healthy. Vaccines are now available for seniors 65+ years old. Many of our Tuesday Social Friends are in this category. Please check the county website for locations that are offering the vaccinations. It's somewhat of a frustrating process but necessary for us to be able to get our old lives back ... or at least modified lives. One day soon, we'll be able to gather in-person and eat, laugh, and play games together again. Everyone please take care: stay healthy, happy, and hopeful ... please reach out to someone if you need any help. Stay connected.

JR. YBA

On January 23rd, 2021, six of our Jr. YBA members attended the virtual Southern District Seminar 1: "Virtue-al Reality" hosted by Senshin, Venice, and West LA. Over eighty participants including students, reverends, and advisors attended the event. We participated in two fun workshops.

In the first workshop, we debated over topics such as "is cereal soup?" The second workshop focused on identifying real vs. fake images and headlines. Both workshops taught us about how different perspectives can help us explore the truth and enhanced our understanding of Buddhism. Overall, we had a good time at Seminar 1 and are looking forward to the virtual Southern District Volleyball event on February 6th.



PET MEMORIAL

Our Annual Pet Memorial will be held on **March 7, 2021** during the service.

If you have lost a pet during 2020 or would like to have your pet included in our memorial service please complete the form.

Owner's Name: _____

Type of Pet: (dog, fish, lizard) _____

Pet's Name: _____

Date of Passing: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Phone No: _____

Please send your completed forms to: **info@gardenabuddhistchurch.org, March 3, 2021.**



Hui Aikanes

We hope everyone had a nice holiday season and we know everyone is looking forward to the day when we can return to "normal" soon. It would be really nice to see you all in person and catch up.

We will have our next zoom meeting on February 7th. Information will be emailed or communicated as soon as we can.

Please take care and be safe. We will see you at the meeting.

The Community Projects Group

Thank you to all who have been so supportive of our face mask fundraiser. During the month and a half since we began our sales, we have sold over 125 masks! Though the COVID-19 vaccines are slowly being distributed, it looks like we will need to continue to wear masks for a while longer.

We have also received many orders from outside our church community, and we are thankful for their support as well. Please consider ordering from us for your family members and friends.

GARDENA BUDDHIST CHURCH

Face Mask Fundraiser

Basic Adult Mask - \$7 donation

- Made with 2 layers of high quality, pre-washed cotton fabric
- Pleated mask style
- Adjustable elastic earloops
- Flexible nose wire



Child Mask - \$7 donation

- Suitable for ages 3 – 10 years old
- Made with 2 layers of high quality, pre-washed cotton fabric
- 3D mask style
- Adjustable elastic around head and neck
- Flexible nose wire

Deluxe Adult Mask - \$10 donation

- Made with 3 layers of high quality, pre-washed cotton fabric (washable filter material in between 2 layers of fabric)
- 3D mask style
- Adjustable elastic earloop lanyard
- Flexible nose wire



Email CPG@gardenabuddhistchurch.org to order masks

Face Mask Order Form

Name

Delivery address:

Phone number:

Basic Adult Mask – \$7 donation

Qty	Size (M or L)	Pattern (solid or print)	Color Preference *

TOTAL QTY ORDERED: _____ X \$ 7 = _____

Deluxe Adult Mask - \$10 donation

Qty	Size (M or L)	Pattern (solid or print)	Color Preference *

TOTAL QTY ORDERED: _____ X \$ 10 = _____

Child Mask - \$7 donation

Qty	Boy or Girl	Pattern (solid or print)	Color Preference *

TOTAL QTY ORDERED: _____ X \$ 7 = _____

Grand Total = \$_____

Additional Comments:

Email completed order form to: CPG@gardenabuddhistchurch.org

Send check payable to: Gardena Buddhist Church
 Attn: Face Mask
 1517 W. 166th St., Gardena, CA 90247

** Every effort will be made to match your color preferences but colors cannot be guaranteed due to availability*

Hungry for Something Different?



The GBC Board hopes everyone is healthy and in relatively good spirits during this prolonged quarantine period. We're really missing everyone... listening to the Dharma together... and all of the great food we share at the temple.

In your wildest imagination, could you ever imagine hearing the lament, "Homecooked, again!?!?" If you or your family has gotten a little tired of your own handiwork in the kitchen, have we got a great alternative for you!!

Gardena Buddhist Church will be holding a takeout fundraiser at Rutt's during the week of March 7-13. If you call Rutt's and give them the promo code "GBCHURCH" with your order, then you don't have to cook, you get a 5% discount and GBC gets a donation... that's a TRIPLE WIN! All three Rutt's/Tut's locations - two on the Westside and one in Gardena - are participating. Menus are located at: <https://www.ruttscafe.com/>. See our website landing page flyer for additional details.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. And PLEASE download and forward our flyer to anyone who deserves a break from KP (like... to everyone you know!).

Kathy Hori
Kathrynhori@gmail.com

Megumi Deadline is Monday, February 22, 2021



Girl Scout Troop 4345

Please order your GIRL SCOUT COOKIES HERE – They will be delivered after FEBRUARY 21, 2021

Delivery of Girl Scout cookies was delayed one month and will now come in on February 20, 2021, ready for delivery the next day. Most likely cookies will not be sold outside the grocery stores due to COVID, so if you would like to buy cookies from our Church Sponsored Troop 4345, here is the Digital Cookie URL: <http://bit.ly/troop4345cookies> or the QR code:



We will have the same 8 flavors as last year. Our 9th cookie is a \$5 per box donation called Cookies 4 the Community, which will go to the military. Please order and pay on-line. When cookies come in, I will make arrangements to drop them on your front porch for a contactless delivery. THANK YOU for your support!!

Meet the Cookies



Do-si-dos®
Crunchy oatmeal sandwich cookie with creamy peanut butter filling.



Tagalongs®
Crispy cookies layered with peanut butter and covered with a chocolaty coating.



Girl Scout S'mores®
Crunchy graham sandwich cookies with creamy chocolate and marshmallowy filling.



Toffee-tastic®
Rich, buttery cookies packed with golden toffee bits bursting with flavor. Gluten free.



Lemon-Ups!®
Crispy lemon cookies baked with inspiring messages to lift your spirits.



Trefoils®
Delicate-tasting shortbread that is delightfully simple and satisfying.



Samoas®
Crisp cookies, coated in caramel, sprinkled with toasted coconut, and striped with dark chocolaty coating.



Thin Mints®
Crisp wafers covered in chocolaty coating. Made with natural oil of peppermint.

COMING

SOON!

Coming in April Gardena Buddhist Church will be hosting an online auction. We are working on the details and more specific

information will be in next month's Megumi.

All funds will be used to help the temple's operating expenses and future community programs.



From GBC Board Chairperson



Imogene Imada

To Our Sangha Members and Friends,

On January 24th we had our annual new member presentation, we had 13 new members for 2020.

Welcome to our Gardena Family. Please look out for our membership form this month. Your membership dues will help support the youth activities and religious programs, and the operating

costs such as ministerial, office staff, maintenance and supporting the BCA. We want to increase our Gardena family, so please join.



We hope everyone is safe and healthy and able to deal with the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic. This pandemic has shown us how important a role the temple plays in our lives and how much we treasure the time we spend with each other. I wish could I tell you that we will be able to gather again soon but the rise in new cases continues. The church board is monitoring the Covid-19 situation to see when it will be safe to reopen. While we are all anxious to return to temple for services and see each other again, we ask that everyone be patient. At this time, the temple closure has been extended until further notice.

To keep our Sangha connected with the Dharma, we hope you continue to join us on our live streaming Sunday services. We welcome any ideas/suggestions to help improve our virtual services. Please check our website for updates at www.gardenabuddhistchurch.org.

Please stay safe.

February 2021

6	Shotsuki Hoyo (Virtual)	10:00am
7	Sunday Service via Zoom	9:30am
	Kisaragiki Memorial service	
	Hui Aikane mtg via Zoom	11:30am
8	2021 Fundraising Planning mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
14	Sunday Service via Zoom	9:30am
	Nirvana Day Service	
	BWA meeting via Zoom	11:30am
16	Meinichiko via Zoom	7:00am
19	Ministers' Assoc. & Nat'l Council mtg (online)	
	Young Adult Social Distancing/	
	Dharma Discussionn	6:30pm
20	Ministers' Assoc. & Nat'l Council mtg (online)	
	SD BWA 1st Quarter mtg via Zoom	10:00am
	GBC Board mtg via Zoom	2:00pm
21	Sunday Service via Zoom	9:30am
	Wisteria Teacher Workshop via Zoom	1:30pm
22	Megumi deadline (March 2021 issue)	
	Fundraising Planning mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
25	Ichi-mi Networking mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
26-27	Ministers' Assoc. & Nat'l Council mtg (online)	
28	BCA NCM Eitaikyo Service via Zoom	10:00am

March 2021

1	DS Teachers mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
6	Shotsuki Hoyo (Virtual)	10:00am
7	Sunday Service via Zoom	9:30am
	Pet Memorial Service	
8	2021 Fundraising Planning mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
14	Daylight Savings Time-Spring ahead	
	Sunday Service via Zoom	9:30am
	BWA meeting via Zoom	11:30am
16	Meinichiko Service via Zoom	7:00am
19	Young Adult Social Distancing	
	and Dharma Discussion	6:30pm
20	Spring Ohigan Seminar (TBD)	9:30am
	GBC Board mtg via Zoom	2:00pm
21	Spring Ohigan (Virtual)	9:30am
	ABA mtg via Zoom	11:30am
	Wisteria Teacher Workshop via Zoom	1:30pm
22	Megumi deadline (April 2021 issue)	
	Fundraising Planning mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
28	Sunday Service via Zoom	9:30am

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

The church acknowledges the following donations received from 12/24/20 - 01/22/2021 with gratitude and appreciation.

Funeral/Burial/Memorials

Kaida, Yasuko

Kajikawa, Gary/Ken

Kato, Amy

Special Donation

Fujimoto, Akemi
Fukuman, Thomas
Hashimoto, Sadako
Hori, Kathryn

Kakuta, M/M Richard
Koyanagi, Stan
Maesaki, Kazue
Matsunaga, Miyeko

Mayeda, Michael
Mitsunaga Memorial Fund (2)
Munekata Family
Muro, Marilyn

Nakata, M/M Bob
Nakayama, Edgar
Oyama, Janet
Suruki, Atsuko

Shotsuki Hoyo Donations

Akahoshi, Masato
Chiba, Kaoru
Fujita, Fumiko
Fukuman, Thomas
Fukunaga, Yuri
Harada, Maryann
Harada, Robert
Hayakawa Family Trust
Hayashi, Yoshiko
Hirayama, M/M Ted
Hori, Kathryn
Ida, Matsuo
Ito, Kenichi
Iwata, Amy
Jinkawa, Kimi
Kaida, Yasuko
Kajikawa, Gary

Kajikawa, Ken
Kajikawa, Norman
Kawamoto, Derrick
Kubo, Edward (3)
Masumoto, Chiyoko
Matsuno, M/M Craig
Matsushima, Diane
Matsushima, Julie
Mekaru, Naomi
Miyata, Julie
Mizuno, Grace
Mori, Eiko
Morishige, M/M Norman
Nakakura, M/M Ken
Nakata, M/M Bob
Nakazono, Hiroko
Narahara, Edwin

Ochiai, Joyce and Kallie
Tsuge, M/M Mike
Randolph, Otto
Saalfeld, Michelle
Saiki, Akiko
Sakuda, Shizuko
Santohigashi, K. & M.
Sasaki, Emiko
Sauer, Wayne
Shibata, Diane
Shimohara, Wayne
Shirakawa, M/M John
Suminaga, Roy
Takahashi, Pauline
Takao, Tamiko
Tamashiro, Janet
Tamura, Lynne
Tatsukawa, Hiroko
Tsutsui, Takashi
Uwahori, Sadae
Wada, Emi
Watanabe, Donald
Watanabe, Doreen
Watanabe, Katsuko
Yamada, Akimichi
Yamamoto, Clarence
Yamamoto, George
Yamane, M/M Dick
Yamashiro, Takako
Yoshiyama, Rose
Yuki, M/M Wallace
Yuki, Toyoko

BCA Assessment

Gould, Kathy
Kamikawa, Jo Ann

Koyanagi, Stan
Sasaki, Paul & Kathy

Walter, Alexandra

GBC 2021 Calendar donations

GBC Dharma School
Kubota Nikkei Mortuary

Nakatani, M/M David
Nishimura, M/M Ross

Sasaki, M/M Tom
Tsuge, Marilyn

Osaisen

Maeda, D/M Tom

Motoyasu, Ayako

Nakatani, M/M David

Oseibo

Ikeda Cambria, May
Iwamoto, Diane
Kamikawa, Jo Ann

Kita, Yoshimi
Moyer, M/M Stanford
Nishida, M/M Kenneth

Okamoto, Yauko
Tsuge, M/M Mick
Wada, M/M Howard (2)

Yuki, Toyoko

Eitaikyo Service

Akahoshi, Masato
Amimoto, Ronald
Anonymous
Fujimoto, Fumie
Fukino, Hayami Helen
Goto, Tomie
Gould, Kathy
Guasti, Louise
Hirayama, M/M Ted
Hori, Kathryn
Inose, M/M Ken
Iwamoto, Diane
Iwamoto, M/M Daniel
Jackson, Fumiko
Kato, M/M Isao
Kishimoto, Yasu
Kita, Yoshimi
Komatsu, Janett
Koyanagi, Joe
Kubo, Edward
Kuwahara, Susie

Maeda, D/M Tom
Maruyama, Kazuko
Maruyama, Phyllis
Matano, Florence
Matsuda, Hiromi
Mayemura, Louise
Mekaru, Naomi
Miwa, M/M Alan
Miwa, Yoshiko
Miyamoto, M/M Satoshi
Miyata, Julie
Morishige, James
Motoyasu, Ayako
Munekata Wilhelm,
Sheri
Nagatani, D/M Ronald
Nakakura, M/M Ken
Nakamoto, M/M David
Nakamura, M/M Johnny
Nakamura, M/M Paul
Nakata, M/M Bob

Nakatani, M/M David
Nakawatase, Haruye
Nishihira, M/M Joe
Okada, M/M Tom
Okamoto, Yauko
Okamura, Rodney
Okumoto, Yoko
Otani, Keiko
Sakuda, Shizuko
Sanada, Donna
Sasaki, Emiko
Sasaki, Emiko
Sasaki, M/M Brent
Sasaki, M/M Tom
Sayegusa, Fumie
Seino, Toshiyuki
Shigemitsu, M/M Tom
Shimizu, Mitzi
Shimokochi, M/M
Kenneth
Tada, Tamiko

Takao, Tamiko
Takata, M/M Sam
Tamura, Mary
Tomiyoshi, Ruby
Toyoaki, Shiro
Tsuge, M/M Mike
Tsukamoto, Wilfred
Uyemura, M/M David
Uyemura, Setsuka
Wakimoto, Yuko
Walter, Alexandra
Watanabe, Donald
Yamanaka, Flora
Yamane, M/M Dick
Yokota, M/M James
Yoshida, Suzanne
Yoshiyama, M/M Bryan
Yuki, M/M Wallace
Yuki, Toyoko

Nokotsudo

Masaji & Kiyoko Mitsunaga Memorial Fund

New Year's Greetings & party

Maruyama, Phyllis

Sonoyama, Chieko

Fall Ohigan

Mayeda, Michael

Masks

Nishi, Shari

Shimizu, Linda

Yonemura, Lynne

Miscellaneous

Marukai Corporation



『生のみが 我にあらず 死もまた 我らなり』

宮地美子師

2021年という新しい年を迎えて早くも1ヶ月すぎました。今年はいつもと違ったお正月でした。家族で集まることもなくテレビばかり見ていました。しかしながら今年に限った事ではなく、年々季節や行事に対するワクワク感が減少している様に思います。皆さんはいかがですか？

子供の頃はあんなに待ち遠しかった、お正月や春の花見、夏祭り、秋の行楽そして冬のクリスマスも、盛り上がりというか気分の高揚をあまり感じなくなりました。ああまた一年が終わり正月が来るのかという横着な味わい方になってしまって、これを老化と称するのかわかりません。

年をとると暑さを感じなくなり、いつの間にか脱水症になってしまっているという話を聞くことがありますが、感情の方も心の皮が厚く硬くなり微妙な変化が伝わりにくくなっているのではないのでしょうか。あなたの若さの秘密は何ですか？と聞かれた時『何にでも興味を持つ事です』と答える方がおられますが、確かに興味を持ったり、疑問に思ったり、物事を追求して行こうとする態度は生き活きと血がみなぎっている感じがします。しかしそれがいつまでも持続するかというと、そう長くは続かないのではないのでしょうか。これはあくまでも個人の見解です。私の様に子供の頃から習い事が続かない性格ではそういう見方をしてしまうのかも知れません。

その点、親鸞聖人には心の若さを感じずには要られません。聖人のお書きになった顕浄土真実教行証文類という書物は、聖人75歳前後に完成されたものですし、ご和讃は80代

に書かれたものでいかに晩年に到るまで明晰な頭脳を持ち、また素晴らしいモチベーションを持って生きてこられたかが伺われます。

この原稿をしたためているのは1月下旬ですが、まだまだコロナ禍患者数は、うなぎのぼりですし、ワクチンが行き渡るには日を要するようです。今ご聖人が存命であったならこういう時期をどう過ごしておられたであろうかと想像して見ますに、いつもと変わらず朝夕の勤行を怠らず、経典や高僧方の書物を何度も読み返し、書きものをしておられる事でしょう。一時たりとも無駄に過ごしてはおられないのだろうかと拝察致します。私の出会った信仰者の方々も、若かりし頃は飛び廻るようにあちこちで法話をし、活動的に動いておられました。そしてだんだんと活動範囲が限られてくると経典や仏教書を読み、その味わいを書いておられました。幸いにも私はお念仏に救われた方の日常生活を見させていただきましたが、そういう信仰者に共通しているのが、絶やさぬお念仏と礼拝の生活であったと思います。足腰の自由を奪われてもお仏壇の前で三部経を称えたり、正信偈やご和讃をご唱和されたり、誰が見ていようと見ていなくても1日の始まりと終わりは礼拝合掌であり、人との出逢いや別れも合掌の姿でした。信心の人は、毎日の生活が阿弥陀様と共であり、切り離れた生活はありえないのです。

清沢満之師が明治時代に発刊された雑誌『精神界』の所収論文で、絶対他力の大道に、『生のみが 我らにあらず 死もまた 我らなり』と



清沢満之肖像画

(13ページに続く)

(12ページからの続き)

いうお言葉があります。仏教では生と死を一つの事として生死(しょうじ)といい 紙の裏表の様に切り離して考えることはできないと解きます。

我々は、いかに楽しく豊かな生活ができるかをプラス+と考えて、それを目標として生きて行きますが、死(—マイナス)はいつもその後についています。追い求めるプラスにはいつもマイナスがつきまとっている事を知っておきなさいと注意喚起しておられるのが、お釈迦さま始め親鸞聖人、念仏者の方々なのです。

親鸞聖人は高僧和讃に『**五濁悪世のわれらこそ 金剛の信心ばかりにて 自然の浄土にいたるなれ**』といわれます。訳しますと、五濁とは

5つの汚れた世界(劫濁、見濁、煩惱濁、衆生濁、命濁)の事で、その悪世に生きる私たちだからこそ、阿弥陀如来から回向される金剛の真実信心によって、永く生死という迷いの世界を離れて、悟りの世界である浄土に生まれることができると言われます。生死はどちらも迷いであり、その迷いの世界を超えさせていただける唯一のお手立てがお念仏なのです。

お念仏はこの世を上手に生きるおマジナイではありません。浄土へ行き先の定まった者の阿弥陀様へのお礼の言葉、そして返答なのです。



婦人会便り

- ▽ 01/01/21 (金) 2021年はズームによる新年修正会で良きスタートとなりました。
- ▽ 01/03/21 (日) 2021年度婦人会新幹部就任式がズームで行われました。役員になられた方々、おめでとうございます！恒例のお汁粉やお菓子での接待ができず、残念でした。
- ▽ 婦人会メンバーにはメンバーシップの封筒を送付致しましたので、出来るだけ早く返信をお願い致します。入会ご希望の方は森本千鶴子又は吉山ナンシーまでご連絡下さい。
- ▽ 01/07-09/21朝7時からの報恩講晨朝勤行法要にズームで参加し、楽しい時間を過ごしました。
- ▽ 01/10/21婦人会メンバーは事前録画された報恩講法要を視聴し、その後ズームで1月の例会を行いました。次回の会議ではもっと多くの方が参加して顔を拝見できればと願っております。

アナウンスメント:

- ▽ 02/07/21(日) BWA主催 九条武子夫人追悼会 皆さまの参加をお願いします。
- ▽ 02/14/21(日) 涅槃会
- ▽ 02/14/21(日) 午前11時半 婦人会例会 (BWAズーム)
- ▽ 02/20/21(土) 午前10時 南部教区婦人会会議 (BWAズーム)

感謝録:

故宮田トミ子五回忌 追悼 宮田ジュリー

*慈恩1月号感謝録欄にて下記誤りがありました。大変ご迷惑をおかけしましたこと、ここに深くお詫び申し上げます。

故中村澄子 追悼 松島ジェームズ (誤)
松下ジェームズ (正)

