



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

August 2021

Volume LIV No. 8



Rev. John Iwohara

Not just meeting, but hearing as well

How joyous I am, Gutoku Shinran, disciple of Sakyamuni! Rare is it to come upon the sacred scriptures from the westward land of India and the commentaries of the masters of China and

Japan, but now I have been able to encounter them. Rare is it to hear them, but already I have been able to hear. Reverently entrusting myself to the teaching, practice, and realization that are the true essence of the Pure Land way, I am especially aware of the profundity of the Tathagata's benevolence. Here I rejoice in what I have heard and extol what I have attained.

The passage that I have quoted is the English Translation (found in the Collected Works of Shinran) of the concluding section of what is known as the General Preface to the Kyogyoshinsho. The Kyogyoshinsho is the "Primary Text" of our Jodo Shinshu tradition and was written by Shinran Shonin. In writing this passage, however, Shinran Shonin refers to themselves as Gutoku or "Pathetic" and "Stubbled." I take this to mean that Shinran Shonin saw themselves as a "poser" or as is

written in the Gutokusho:
Through hearing the shinjin of the wise, the heart of myself, Gutoku ("foolish/stubble-haired"), becomes manifest: The shinjin of the wise is such that they are inwardly wise, outwardly foolish. The heart of Gutoku is such that I am inwardly foolish, outwardly wise

In writing the name Gutoku Shaku Shinran, Shinran Shonin while emphasizing their pathetic or foolish nature also refers to themselves as a disciple of the Buddha. In this passage found in the General Preface we are told of the feeling of joy this stubble haired disciple of the Buddha named Shinran feels. In explaining why a pathetic stubble haired disciple would feel joy, we are told that it is because even this disciple of the Buddha was able to meet with the sacred scriptures, the sutra, and the commentaries on those sacred scriptures that were written in India, China and Japan. However, Shinran Shonin did not stop there. Shinran Shonin, redundantly it seems, also expresses, "Rare is it to hear them, but already I have been able to hear."

Unfortunately, the circumstances surrounding the Covid-19 virus, and now all of its variants,

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

still keeps us from opening up the temple. Although it is a huge burden, that is not to say that everything has been bad. Perhaps not the best example to give, but because of Covid-19 I have learned that I have not been a good hand-washer. It is only because of Covid-19 that I have learned that you should wash between your fingers both from the palms side and the top side of the hand. I have also learned to wash your thumbs separately and to wash around your wrists as well. I can probably now say that I am an excellent hand washer. It did, however, take a pandemic to teach me how.

As another example, because we are not able to go to the temple we as a temple community have learned how to conduct on-line, remote services. It is due to the fact that we can do this that people from great, beyond commutable distances are now able to join us at our Sunday gatherings. On the other hand, I'm sure that everyone who does live near the temple can't wait for us to be able to open our doors again. Due to this great desire to return to the temple and participate in an in-person service, I'm sure that we have all gained a greater appreciation for what it means when Shinran Shonin says, *"Rare is it to come upon the sacred scriptures from the westward land of India and the commentaries of the masters of China and Japan."*

Whereas we may have gained a greater appreciation for the rarity of meeting the teachings, even while we may no longer take going to the temple for granted this alone still does not answer the question of why does Shinran Shonin seem to repeat himself when he talks about how rare it is to hear? Before we were forced to close our temple doors due to the pandemic the Gardena Buddhist Church offered daily morning services at 9:00 am. For those services we chanted the Shoshin Nenbutsu-ge (Shoshinge). In the section prior to the Shoshinge Shinran Shonin gives a reason for having penned this verse. The Shonin writes: *Thus, taking refuge in the true words of the Great Sage and turning to the commentaries*

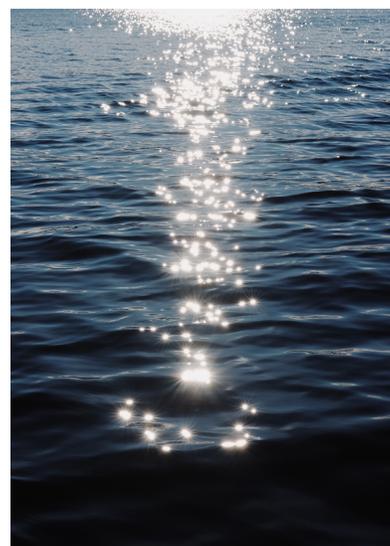
of the revered patriarchs, I realize the depth and vastness of the Buddha's benevolence and compose the following hymn

At the conclusion of the Shoshinge, Shinran Shonin also writes:

With the same mind, all people of the present, whether monk or lay, should rely wholly on the teachings of these venerable masters

Whenever I chant the final lines of the Shoshinge or "rely wholly on the teachings of these venerable masters" I feel that Shinran Shonin is not simply relating the fact of having met with these teachings, but also expresses their reliance and faith in those teachings.

It goes without saying that it is impossible to have faith in a teaching if you don't first meet with those teachings. On the other hand, however, meeting a teaching also does not necessarily mean that you will have faith in those teachings. This, I believe, is why Shinran Shonin went to the trouble of first expressing how difficult it is to meet with the teachings and then followed by saying how difficult it is to hear the meaning of those teachings. Shinran Shonin did not want us to stop at simply being impressed by having come across something rare. Instead, Shinran Shonin wanted us to also experience the joy of what it means to receive something rare. In order to assure that we do not let the opportunity of receiving this extremely rare teaching that expresses the enormity and rarity, the wonder and beauty of each and every single life Shinran Shonin, I think, had to also express, *"Rare is it to hear, but already I have been able to hear."* Hopefully, we are also able to appreciate and express this sentiment for ourselves as well.



Fujinkai / BWA Buddhist Women's Association

Happenings:

- ◇ July 11th, Sunday – We held our regular monthly meeting via Zoom. We are making plans for our 95th BWA Anniversary. If you have any photos of BWA activities, please let us know or email them to Nancy Yoshiyama at bnlllyosh@aol.com.
- ◇ Starting in September, Japanese service will be starting and we will have in person BWA meetings. If anyone needs a ride, please call Kathy Hori to arrange. We can also offer a Zoom link for those who are unable to attend in person.
- ◇ August 15th, Sunday – Virtual Obon activities
- ◇ October 9th, Saturday – GBC is hosting the Southern District Buddhist Conference. It will be from 9am to 12 on Zoom. If you would like to attend, send an email to SDC2021@gardenabuddhistchurch.org.
- ◇ If anyone is interested in joining the BWA please contact Nancy Yoshiyama or Chizuko Morimoto

Announcements:

- ◇ August 8th, Sunday – Monthly BWA meeting at 11:30 am
- ◇ August 16th, Monday – Meinichiko Service
- ◇ September 5th, Sunday – no service due to Labor Day Holiday
- ◇ September 12th, Sunday – In person Japanese service at 10am
- ◇ September 12th, Sunday – In person BWA meeting at 11:30am



BWA Appreciation:

- * Special Donation Kazuko Maruyama



TUESDAY SOCIAL

August is OBON month. But unfortunately, this year again, there will be no Obon Dancing or carnival. There is a committee planning virtual events to celebrate in a different way. We hope next year things will be “back to normal” and we can enjoy all the usual festivities. Our Tuesday Social Friends will continue to meet via emails. Please take care, stay healthy and we shall gather in person, laugh, and have happy days again very soon.

The Community Projects Group

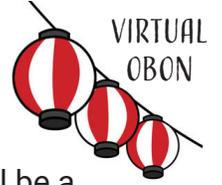
Although we haven't been able to meet in person, our group has been working diligently on individual projects at home. We have a most energetic group with many creative ideas!

Our face mask sale was a huge success, thanks to everyone. We are presently having a sale on the masks remaining in our inventory. Please look for the ad in our Church website – gardenabuddhistchurch.org.





Hui Aikanes



Hope everyone one is doing well.

Obon time is coming. Please come join us in celebrating Obon. There will be a drive-through canned food drive on Saturday. The Sunday program will be virtual with service, Obon dancing, Bingo, and raffle drawing! Please refer to Obon Information in this Newsletter.

Also this year Gardena is hosting the Southern District Conference. It also will be virtual on October 9th and sign ups will be until the end of August.

We are continuing to keep our zoom meetings at this time. Our next meetings will be August 1st, no meeting in September and October TBA.

We hope to see you then. Take care.

Dharma School News

Dharma School for 2021-2022 will begin September 12 with a Ice Cream Social on Zoom. Students will be dismissed after service to get their ice cream - Baskin Robbins gift certificates will be sent to current enrolled students in August. The students and their parents will rejoin the temple Zoom to share their ice cream and be given an introduction of Dharma School teachers. Many will have new teachers.

Dharma School will continue indefinitely online until the temple reopens fully. At the ice cream social, the families will know the schedule of the classes as most classes will be offered twice a month.



The Cabinet for 2021-2022 was elected at the Dharma School Teachers meeting on July 10.

- Superintendent: Arleen Miya**
- Assistant Superintendent: Imogene Imada**
- Treasurers: Elaine Nishimura, Donna Takao**
- Recording Secretary: Alan Kita**
- Religious Chairperson: Susan Mukai**
- Music Chairperson: Nadine Kakimoto**

The office of Public Relations and Publicity/Historian will be elected at a future meeting. Congratulations to all. Installation Service will be held on September 12 at the online service and a lunch may be scheduled for a later date due to COVID.

**Board Meeting: Saturday, August 21 at 2PM
Via Zoom**

ABA News

It's August and that means Obon! We hope everyone has purchased their Obon raffle tickets and have worked on their dance moves! ABA has donated an Amazon gift card as a raffle prize. When using the gift card, please use Amazon Smile so that part of the purchase comes back to the Church.



On August 20th, ABA members will be enjoying a performance of Nunsense the Mega-Musical by the Torrance Theater Company at the James Armstrong Theater. Thank you to Hui Aikane for the invitation!

With Obon activities occurring on the third Sunday, the August meeting for ABA will be on Sunday, August 29 at 11:30am via ZOOM.



Gardena Buddhist Church
Wisteria Chugakko
 1517 W. 166th St.
 Gardena, CA. 90247
 (310) 327-9400



wisteria.chugakko@gardenabuddhistchurch.org

Gardena Buddhist Church Wisteria Chugakko Summer Program

Reverend John Iwohara, Gardena Buddhist Church Resident Minister, Headmaster
 Charlene Hirotsu, Wisteria Chugakko Principal

Student Interest Form

June 20 – July 13, 2022

I am interested in registering for Wisteria Chugakko for the Summer of 2022.

I will be in the 7th or 8th grade in the Fall of 2022.

Student's Last Name	Student's First Name	Student's Gender Pronoun Preference
Student's Date of Birth	Student's Grade in Fall 2022	Student's School District
Father's Last Name	Father's First Name	Father's Cell Number
Mother's Last Name	Mother's First Name	Mother's Cell Number
Father's Email Address	Mother's Email Address	Buddhist Church Affiliation (Gardena, Senshin etc.)



Wisteria Chugakko

Reverend John Iwohara, Headmaster
Charlene Hirotsu, Principal

Wisteria Chugakko Summer (Middle School) at Gardena Buddhist Church

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.

Who: Wisteria Chugakko is a middle school summer school for students going into the 7th and 8th grade in the fall semester.

What: Wisteria Chugakko is a summer school program providing academic, religious and cultural education for its students.

Where: With the support of the Gardena Buddhist Church Board, Wisteria Chugakko holds its summer school program at the Gardena Buddhist Church.

When: Every summer since our Inaugural year 2018, Wisteria Chugakko has provided a middle school summer school program for 4 weeks from 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. After school supervision is also provided for the working parents until 6:00 p.m.

Due to the Covid Pandemic of 2020, the 2020 program was cancelled. In 2021, with the continuation of the pandemic, a remote “Wisteria Buds” program was created and a modified 16 day long summer program was created.

Why: The Vision and Mission of Wisteria Chugakko is to help in the development of our young adult students to become productive members of our society, community and families.

These are the classes offered virtually for our 2021 Wisteria Buds:

Basic Car Mechanics	Introduction to Jodo Shinshu	Kokeshi Doll Creations	Pivot Twist Pop-up Card Making
Cartooning	Itadakimasu	Learning our History	Protecting our Ocean
Digital Citizenship	Japanese Etiquette	Let’s Reach for the Stars!	Shakyo
Dyeing to know	Japanese Tea Ceremony	Morning Service	Taiko
Introduction to Buddhism	Jodo Shinshu Rituals	Photography	

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

We are accepting **Student Interest Forms for Summer 2022** for students going into the 7th and 8th grade in Fall of 2022.

Please submit them to the Gardena Buddhist Church mailbox or mail to:

Gardena Buddhist Church (Wisteria Chugakko)
1517 W. 166th Street Gardena, CA 90247

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

The church acknowledges the following donations received from 06/20/21 - 07/26/2021 with gratitude and appreciation.

Funeral/Makurakyo/Burial/Memorials

Ego, Emiko & Tanaka,
Kumiko
Hirotsu, Stan &
Charlene (2)

Matsumoto, Laraine
Nakamura, Edward
Ota, Neal
Taniguchi, Satsuko

Usuda, Emi
Yamada, Ed & Jo Ann



Shotsuki Hoyo Donations

Chin, David & Cindy (2)
Doi, Sanaye
Ego Family
Enomoto, Tom
Fujimoto, Fumie (2)
Fujita, Jean & Teruko
(5)
Haruma, Yaeko
Hayashi, Yoshi
Ikeda, Tsuemi
Imamoto, Eiko
Iwamasa, Susumu
Iwamoto, Daniel
Iwamoto, Diane

Iwamoto, Raymond &
Carolyn
Kamikawa, Joann (2)
Kashiwagi, Amiko
Kawamoto, Dean
Kawamoto, M/M Derrick
Kawase, Masako
Kita, Yoshimi (2)
Kubo, Edward (2)
Masukawa, Yoko
Masumoto, Chiyoko
Miceli, Katherine
Mikasa, M/M Clifford
Mitsushima, Janice

Miyasato, Frances
Miyata, Julie
Mori, Doris
Morizumi, Tamie
Nakashima, M/M Harvey
Namba, Wataru & Reiko
Nimura, Keiko
Ochiai, Joyce & Kallie
Ohara, M/M J.S.
Osa, Toshiye
Otani, Keiko
Sasaki, Emiko
Sayegusa, Fumie
Shibata, Glen & Diane

Shimosaka, Dennis
Shinmoto, Yoko
Sueishi, Hatsumi
Sugawara, Marianne
Taketomo, Rick
Tatsukawa, Hiroko
Uyemura, Calvin & Jean
Wada, Emi
Wakimoto, Yuko
Watanabe, Makoto
Yamashita, M/M Rich

Special Donations

Aerospace Corporation
Dojiri, Julie
Endo, Carol
Friess, Mindy Hisatomi

Fukuman, Thomas
Hira, M/M John
Jimenez, C.
Kunisaki, Suyeno

Kuraoka, S.
Matsuda, Mark
Okamoto, Yoko
Wauke, Jeanne

Yorita, Kenji

GBC Membership Dues for 2021 (received from 6/28 - 7/19)

Amimoto, Myrna
Amimoto, Ronald

Imamura, James
Imamura, Nancy

Mikano, Edith
Ohara, Emily

Uyemura, Tyron
Yamasaki, Sheryl

Obon/Hatsubon Donations

Iwamoto, Diane
Kubota Mortuary

Tabata, Mary
Takamatsu, Sharlot

Tanaka, Kevin
Uyemura, Setsuko

Uyemura, Setsuko

Gotan-E Donations

Kamikawa, Joann

Nokotsudo Donations

Imamura, M/M James Lee, Ruth Toshiko

Osaisen

Iwanaga, Michael Nakakura, M/M Ken Sakuda, Shizuko

Miscellaneous

Marukai Corporation

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.

Takeuchi, Kathleen Hisae	(76)	September 7, 2020
Ishigo, Mieko	(86)	December 27, 2020
Usuda, Akio	(48)	July 6, 2021
Mizukami, Ted Iwao	(95)	July 10, 2021
Nakamura, Julia Sato	(91)	July 16, 2021
Oda, Davis Susumu	(91)	July 18, 2021



August 2021

1 Sunday Service via Zoom	9:30am
Hui Aikane mtg via Zoom	11:30am
8 Sunday Service via Zoom	9:30am
BWA mtg via Zoom	11:30am
Monthly Ichi-mi mtg	12:30pm
14 Drive-thru Food Drive for City of Gardena	10am - 2pm
Shotsuki Hoyo Service via Zoom	10:00am
15 Virtual Obon/Hatsubon Service	9:30am
Obon Zoom Activities: Dance, Bingo, Raffle	10am-12pm
(*Please check our website for more details)	
16 Meinichiko Service via Zoom	7:00am
20 Young Adult Dharma Discussion	7:00pm
21 SD BWA additional mtg via Zoom	10:00am
GBC Board mtg via Zoom	2:00pm
22 Sunday Service via Zoom	9:30am
23 Megumi Deadline for September	
29 Sunday Service via Zoom	9:30am
ABA mtg	11:30am

September 2021

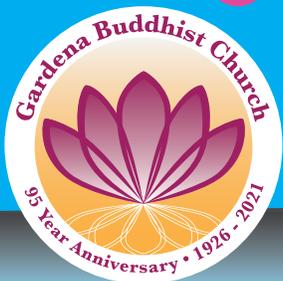
4 Shotsuki Hoyo Service via Zoom	10:00am
5 No Church Service (Labor Day)	
6 Church office closed	
12 Sunday Service via Zoom	9:30am
BWA mtg	11:30am
16 Meinichiko Service via Zoom	7:00am
17 Young Adult Dharma Discussion	7:00pm
18 GBC Board mtg via Zoom	2:00pm
19 Fall Ohigan Service via Zoom w/Rev. Murakami	9:30am
ABA mtg via Zoom	11:30am
20 Megumi Deadline for September	
26 Sunday Service via Zoom	9:30am



Megumi Deadline is Monday, August 23, 2021

GARDENA BUDDHIST CHURCH 2021 OBON

Celebrating 95 years of sharing the Nenbutsu



**August
14th
Saturday**

DRIVE-THRU FOOD DRIVE

**10am-2pm @ Gardena Buddhist Church
1517 West 166TH ST., GARDENA, CA 90247**

Please help us support the City of Gardena Food Pantry by dropping off your non-perishable & non-expired food or hygiene supplies to the temple and receive a thank you gift that can be used at our Virtual Obon event (Obon Dance & Bingo) the next day, you can also participate in our Virtual Obon 50/50 drawing fundraiser by making a cash donation (\$10 increments or more) during the Food Drive. Only those participating in the Food Drive will be able to take part in our Zoom Bingo & 50/50 drawing.

**August
15th
Sunday**

VIRTUAL OBON ON ZOOM 10am-12pm

Join us on Zoom for our Virtual Obon at 10:00 am starting with our Obon/Hatsubon Service followed by Obon Dance, Bingo, 50/50 Drawing & Opportunity Drawing. To participate in our Aug. 15th Zoom event, please sign up at:

www.GardenaBuddhistChurch.org/Obon2021

LOOKING FOR WAYS TO GIVEBACK TO THE COMMUNITY?



CITY OF GARDENA EMERGENCY SERVICE FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry extends a helping hand to individuals & families living in Gardena.

SUGGESTED ITEMS FOR DONATION INCLUDE:

NON-PERISHABLE PANTRY FOOD

Items are canned, bagged, or boxed:

- Soups
- Fruit & Vegetables
- Tomato Sauce
- Chili & Beans
- Tuna, Chicken, Spam, & etc.
- Pasta & Macaroni & Cheese
- Rice & Beans
- Cereals & Oatmeal
- Peanut Butter, Jelly, Jams
- Condiments
- Baking Goods

HYGIENE SUPPLIES:

- BATHROOM TOILETRIES
 - Shampoo & Conditioner
 - Soap & Body Wash
 - Toothbrushes & Toothpaste
 - Travel Laundry Detergent
 - Sun Screen
 - Body Wipes/Wash Cloths
 - Body Lotion
 - Hand Sanitizer
- BABY DIAPERS & WIPES
- BABY FOOD & FORMULA
- ADULT DIAPERS & BED PADS

DONATIONS CAN BE DROPPED OFF MONDAY-FRIDAY 8AM-4PM
1651 W. 162 STREET, GARDENA, CA 90247

For more information, please contact the Human Services Front Desk
(310) 217-9574 or email: FoodPantry@cityofgardena.org



www.cityofgardena.org



Gardena Events



@GardenaEvents

『老いる』

宮地美子師

『目も見えず候、何事もみな忘れて候に、人にあきらかに申すべき身にもあらず候。』

これは、親鸞様が83歳の時に書かれたお手紙の中の一文です。とはいえ親鸞様はこのお齢にはご和讃など書かれておられますから、普通の高齢の方とはまた少し違ったバイタリティをお持ちでした。また東井義雄先生は、以下の様な詩を書かれています。

老は、失われていく過程ではあるけれども
得させてもらう過程でもある
視力はだんだん失われていくが
花がだんだん美しく不思議に見させてもら
える様になる
聴力はだんだん失われていくが
物言わぬ花の声が聞こえる様になる
アリの声が聞こえるようになる
ミミズの声が聞こえるようになる
体力はどんどん失われていくが
あたりまえであることのただごとでなさが
体中にわからせてもらえるようになる
失われていくことは寂しいが
得させていただくことは喜び
老の喜びは 得させていただく喜び

私は、東井先生の詩、下線を引いた部分に共鳴いたします。また苧屋初音さんは、

人生の最後がどのようなであろうが
いつ死が訪れようが
『これがあるから 生きられる』
『これがあるから 死んでいける』という
最後のよりどころ 畢竟依なるものを
平生のうちにいただいておくことが
何より肝要である

とおっしゃっておられます。

*畢竟依(ひっきょうえ) = 最後の拠り所という意味

以上の様な文や詩に心惹かれるのは、自分が老いて来ているという何よりの証拠であろうと思いますが、その分ますますお釈迦様のお言葉や親鸞様のご和讃、蓮如様のご文章などに“なるほど、なるほど”と頭が下がる事にも喜びを感じます。私ども浄土真宗にお流れを汲む者には着地点が与えられています。先が暗闇で不安ばかりではなく行先に光を見ることが出来ますし、今現在の不安な足元に光を照らしていただいていることに気づかせていただいています。心によりどころを持たせていただいていることが、何よりもありがたいことです。

そして私たちは子や孫そして周りの若き人々に、蓮如上人の以下の様な人生の指針を伝えていくことが大事なのではないのでしょうか。

『仏法は、若いときに心がけて聞け』と、ある信心のあつい人がいわれた。年をとると歩行は不自由になるし、ねむたくもなる。だから、ぜひ若いうちに心がけて聞かねばならない。

蓮如上人御一代記聞書





婦人会便り

- ▽ 07/11/21 (日) 婦人会例会がズームで行われました。婦人会の創立九十五周年についての計画も進行中です。BWAの活動に関わる写真をお持ちの方は吉山ナンシー (bnllyosh@aol.com)までご連絡下さい。
- ▽ 9月よりお寺で日本語による礼拝がスタートします。例会もお寺で行いますが、車での送迎が必要な方は堀キャシーまでご連絡下さい。お寺に来られない方はズームでも参加できます。
- ▽ 08/15/21 (日) お盆イベント (バーチャル)
- ▽ 10/09/21 (土) ガーデナ仏教会は南部教区仏教徒大会を主催しています。時間は午前9時-12時で、参加ご希望の方はEメール (SDC2021@gardenabuddhistchurch.org)でお知らせ下さい。

▽ 婦人会に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。

アナウンスメント:

- ▽ 08/08/21 (日) 午前11時半 (BWAズーム) 婦人会例会
- ▽ 08/16/21 (月) 午前7時 (ズーム) 命日講
- ▽ 09/05/21 (日) レイバーデー休日
- ▽ 09/12/21 (日) 午前10時 (本堂) 日本語礼拝
午前11時半 (会議室&ズーム) 婦人会例会

感謝録:

特別寄付 丸山 和子



amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

amazonで買い物しながらガーデナ仏教会に寄付できるプログラム!

ガーデナ仏教会は、Amazon.comが提供する寄付プログラム“AmazonSmile”に登録しております。購入総額の0.5%がガーデナ仏教会に寄付される仕組みとなっており、一部商品を除いてほとんどの商品が寄付対象となっております。しかも、皆様の購入金額はそのままなので、負担なしに寄付できます。

<AmazonSmileのご利用方法>

1. smile.amazon.comにアクセス
2. Amazon.comのご自分のアカウントにサインイン
3. 寄付したい団体名のところに“Gardena Buddhist Church”とタイプして“Search”をクリック
4. Gardena Buddhist Churchを確認後に“Select”をクリック

皆様のご協力に感謝致します!

