



# MEGUMI

慈恩

GARDENA BUDDHIST CHURCH  
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Rev. John Iwohara



## Gardena Buddhist Church

### March 2021

Volume LIV No. 3



**Rev. John Iwohara**

### “When the weather is perfect and why we still need to rely on the Buddha”

At a recent discussion session after our Sunday Morning Remote Service, the discussion turned towards the weather of Southern California. As part of the discussion it was pointed out that the

climate of Southern California is one of the mildest and temperate to be found anywhere in the world. Our lows in the winter here are often warmer than the highs of other areas. Our highs in the summer, although it can reach into the triple digits at times (on the Fahrenheit scale for those of you who might be reading this outside of the United States), is still generally pleasant. It is often just hot enough to make you want to go to the beach to feel the cool ocean breeze. In the summer evenings the temperatures can drop drastically, but typically it only gets cold enough to make a hot cup of coffee seem heavenly.

I am mentioning this because the month of March is when we observe the Spring Equinox. It is one of the two times of the year when everything is said to be in balance. The Japanese have a saying, “The heat and the cold exist only until higan (the equinox).”

Another way of expressing this might be, “Every hot season will have its higan. Every cold season will have its higan.” For Southern California, however, most every day is similar to those conditions that some places can only experience two days of the year.

The observance of Ohigan is uniquely Japanese. Because of the ideal weather conditions that are typical at these two times of the year, Buddhists in Japan saw the equinox also as an ideal time to try and practice the Six Paramita or the Mahayana Buddhist practice for achieving Enlightenment. These Six Paramita were intended as a reformulation of the eight practices found in the Eightfold Path. Because of the ideal weather conditions of Southern California, you might expect that Japanese Buddhists would flood here to practice the Six Paramita under the more ideal weather conditions that exist. Buddhists already in the area, one might imagine, should be far along the path or at the very least find it advantageous to progress along that path.

In English we have the expression, “Every cloud has a silver lining.” For Japanese Buddhists

(Continued on page 2)

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the heat of the summers and the cold of the winters could be seen as the cloud. Ohigan, then, would be the silver lining. It doesn't matter how hot the summer was, Ohigan will come. It doesn't matter how cold the winter was, Ohigan will come. Southern California weather, using this analogy, would have to be the silver lining. When we Southern Californian's complain about our weather it probably seems to others that despite having the silver lining, we go out of our way to look for the cloud.

In the Tannisho, a work written by Yuienbo or one of Shinran Shonin's students, Yuienbo would recall the following conversation that was held with Shinran Shonin:

*Although I say the nenbutsu, the feeling of dancing with joy is paltry and I do not have the heart that wants to rush and go to the Pure Land. When I asked how this should be, Shinran (stated) I also have this uncertainty, and Yuienbo you too have the same heart. In carefully considering (matters), that we do not rejoice when we should rejoice to the degree of wanting to dance in the heavens and dance on earth, is to think that our going to be born has all the more been established. That which suppresses the heart that should rejoice and*

*does not rejoice is due to (our) troublesome worries.*

There are so many things in our lives that we can rejoice, not the least of which includes having been able to meet with the Nenbutsu. Despite this, we take so much for granted. The weather in Southern California, for example, is typically *fantastic!* Unfortunately, despite this, it is very easy for us to ignore this and call our weather "typical."

Although it may be more difficult for us in Southern California to appreciate how balanced the weather is during the equinox because it seems more or less like any other day, perhaps we should still take the time to appreciate what it means to constantly have so much and how easy it is for us to not appreciate it. When we consider this, hopefully we also begin to recognize just how big a deal the Buddha's promise of, "If there are any I cannot save, then I promise to renounce Enlightenment" really is.



COMING

SOON!

## ONLINE SILENT AUCTION

*Join us online starting  
April 17, 2021 running through May 2, 2021*

Items includes various household things, as well as vintage and collectable plates, artwork, and dolls.

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

Watch for the April Megumi as well as announcements on the church website for directions leading to the Auction site.



## Fujinkai / BWA Buddhist Women's Association

### Happenings:

- ◇ February 7th, Sunday – We held our Kisaragi Service in honor of Lady Takeko Kujo. Thank you to Kathy Hori for chairing this service.
- ◇ February 14th, Sunday – We had our monthly meeting. We missed the yummy snacks. We discussed the take-out fundraiser that the church will be having at Rutt's during the week of March 7-13. Our members were thankful for the church calendars that were delivered.
- ◇ If you'd like to join BWA, please reach out to Chizuko Morimoto or Nancy Yoshiyama.
- ◇ February 20th, Saturday– The SDBWA Quarterly Meeting was held. It is Gardena BWA's toban for 2021, so some of our members were installed on the SDBWA cabinet. Congratulations to the 2021 SDBWA Cabinet
  - o President – Julie Miyata
  - o Vice President – Phyllis Maruyama
  - o Treasurer – Iris Gee
  - o Assistant Treasurer – Kathy Hori
  - o Secretary – Chizuko Morimoto
  - o Auditor – Charlene Sakatani
- ◇ February 28th, Sunday – Our members watched the BCA Eitaikyo Service.
- ◇ We continue to enjoy seeing our members each Sunday during our church services on Zoom.



### Announcements:

- ◇ March 14th, Sunday - March Regular Meeting will be held at 11:30am on Zoom. We will be playing BINGO, please join us.
- ◇ March 16th, Tuesday – Meinichiko Service via Zoom – 7:00am
- ◇ March 21st, Sunday –Spring Ohigan Service will be a taped service. Rev. Watanabe will be speaking in Japanese and Rev. T. Miyaji will be speaking in English. Check the GBC website.

### BWA Appreciation:

- |                                 |                 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|
| * Special Donation              | Tomoko Mizukami |
| * Memorial for Late Masako Ota  | Kathy Hori      |
| * Memorial for Lady Takeko Kujo | Kazuko Maruyama |

## *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.**

Horii, Robert Sachio	(89)	January 25, 2021
Ohara, Yuko	(73)	January 28, 2021
Tsukayama, Ronald Kiyoshi	(82)	February 1, 2021



**Board Meeting: Saturday, March 20 at 2PM  
Via Zoom**

## ABA News

It is hard to believe that it has been a year since the doors to the Temple were closed to protect the Sangha from COVID-19. Fortunately, through ZOOM, we are still able to hear the Dharma through the messages delivered by Rev. Iwohara, Rev. Nobuo Miyaji and Rev. Yoshiko Miyaji.

Dues are now being collected for 2021. Linda Shimizu, Membership Chair, is sending out more information.

There will be no Fujimatsuri Bazaar this year. The Spring/Summer Campaign, headed by Alan Miwa, is planning a variety of fundraisers. The first one is happening this month through Rutt's Café. Many ABA members are working hard on the Campaign. Please support their efforts.

The next ABA meeting will be on Sunday, March 21, 2021 at 11:30am via ZOOM.

As Sangha members receive the vaccine, please continue to wear your masks and stay safe.



## TUESDAY SOCIAL

Well, we hit the one-year mark. Who would have thought that we'd still be in a "stay at home" situation. We really miss seeing all our Friends at Tuesday Social.

The temple is closed, and all the usual church activities have been cancelled. But things are getting a little better and some restrictions have been lifted. Continue to be careful and safe. Please stay healthy ... one day, we will be able to gather in person and have a big celebration. It will happen.

## JR. YBA

On February 6th, four of our Jr. YBA members attended the Southern District's virtual volleyball event! The games were set up very creatively as in order to "bump" the "volleyball" over the net, we had to answer trivia questions based on pop culture, sports, and Buddhism! Overall, it was so much fun and we all had a great time!

We are looking forward to the Religious Retreat on March 6th and Seminar 2 on March 13th!



## Hui Aikanes

Hoping you all are doing well.

Our next meeting using zoom will be March 7 at 11:30 a.m. You should be getting information about our meetings, which we will be having monthly, through zoom, since we should not physically meet in person yet. If you have any questions, please contact us for any help you need to attend our meetings.

We are getting close to seeing everyone in person soon. Please wear a mask, wash your hands, social distance and get your vaccine shots.



## The Community Projects Group



**Order Your Graduation Leis Early!  
2021**



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 ¼" 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. 166<sup>th</sup> Street  
Gardena, CA 90247  
OR

Email orders to: [CPG@gardenabuddhistchurch.org](mailto: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)

## GBC Fundraiser Notice

Does the cook in your house look like  
this an hour before each meal?



The cooks in your household have been working overtime for the last year! Let's give them a break!!

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 meal order, then your household chefs 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 for breakfast, lunch and dinner fare are located at: <https://www.ruttscafe.com/>. See the "Rutts Café" information under the Fundraiser pull down menu on the GBC website 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!).

Save the Date Notice - May 15 & 16 Fundraiser

GBC is also planning a 'No Contact / Drive Thru Pick-up' plate lunch and panko sale in conjunction with Rice Things and The Loft! Please watch for an envelope from GBC in your mailbox during the month of March; it will include an order form and additional info. We thank Rice Things and The Loft for their cooperation and Upper Crust Enterprises for their generous donation!

Kathy Hori  
Kathrynhori@gmail.com

**Megumi Deadline is Monday, March 22, 2021**

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

The church acknowledges the following donations received from 01/23/21 - 02/23/2021 with gratitude and appreciation.

## ***Funeral/Makurakyo/Burial/Memorials***

Goto, Tomie  
Horii, Brian  
Horii, Dwayne

Horii, M/M Brian  
Horii, M/M Dwayne  
Horii, Mary

Nakao, Harumi  
Saber, Nancy Fumi  
Tanaka, Bessie

## ***Special Donation***

Brian Mitsunaga Trust  
Bugarin, M/M Dennis

Hayashi, Yoshiko  
Hirayama, M/M Ted

Murakami, Tadayuki

## ***Shotsuki Hoyo Donations***

Crane, Noreen  
Fujioki, Emma  
Fujioki, Ruby (2)  
Fukuhara, Kenneth  
Hackett, Janice  
Hashimoto, Jane  
Hayakawa, Franklin  
Hedani, Bruce  
Hedani, Daniel  
Hirotsu, M/M Stan  
Iizuka, Melvin  
Imada, Imogene

Iwamoto, Diane  
Iwamoto, M/M Daniel  
Jinkawa, Kimi  
Kamikawa, Jo Ann  
Kubo, Edward (2)  
Kunisaki, Suyeno  
Loo, Susan  
Maeda, D/M Tom  
Masaki Family  
Masumoto, Chiyo  
Matsuda, Stephan  
Matsumoto, Sally

Matsushima, Julie  
Miwa, M/M Alan  
Miwa, Yoshiko  
Mori, Eiko  
Motoyasu, Ayako  
Nakakura, M/M Ken  
Nakamura, M/M Johnny  
Nakano, M/M David  
Nakao, Harumi (2)  
Ota, Mitsuko  
Sumi, Michiko  
Tacadena, Betsy

Takao, Tamiko  
Tanaka, Nancy  
Tani Family  
Uchio, Isamu  
Uyeno, Chris  
Wada, Emi  
Watanabe, Katsuko  
Yamanaka, Flora  
Yamashiro, Takako

## ***GBC 2021 Calendar donations***

Iwohara, Rev. John  
Kawahara, M/M Larry  
Maeda, D/M Tom

Maesaki, Kazue  
Mitani, M/M David  
Miyashiro, Marc-Mitchell

Mori, Arlene  
Motoyasu, Ayako  
Nishihara, M/M Joe

Sauer, William  
Seino, Toshiyuki  
Yuki, M/M Wallace

## ***Osaisen***

Nakakura, M/M Ken  
Nishihira, M/M Joe

Sasaki, M/M Tom  
Uyemura, M/M David

Yamane, M/M Dick

## ***BCA Assessment***

Munekata, D/M Mark

## ***GBC Membership Dues for 2021***

Fuji, Roger	Matsushita, James	Nakakura, Doris	Terao, Ernest
Hadeishi, Nobuyuki	Matsushita, Patsy	Nakamura, Lilly	Terao, Ellen
Hadeishi, Irene	Mekaru, Naomi	Nakano, Etsuko	Tamura, Mary
Haruma, Yaeko	Miwa, Yoshiko	Nakao, Harumi	Takao, Tamiko
Hirai, Carol	Miwa, Alan	Nakatani, David	Uyemura, David
Ikeda, Tamotsu	Miwa, Christine	Nakatani, Lily	Uyemura, Cathy
Ikeda, June	Mizuno, Joe	Nishikawa, Joe	Wada, Emi
Imai, Lynn	Mizuno, Shizue	Okamoto, Yauko	Wada, April
Iwata, Amy	Morimoto, Lily	Oshima, Fujie	Wada, Miyako
Kita, Yoshiko	Morimoto, Seiji	Otani, Keiko	Wakamoto, Grace
Koyanagi, Joe	Motoyasu, Aya	Sasaki, Tamao	Watanabe, Donald
Lee, Kathy Nakayama	Motoyasu, Steve	Sasaki, Kiyoko	Yamada, Akimichi
Maeda, Tom	Mukai, Susan	Seino, Toshiyuki	Yamada, Shuji
Maeda, Akiko	Munekata, Mark	Shimohara, Wayne	Yamada, Lori
Maehara, Nolan	Munekata, Nancy	Shimohara, Evelyn	Yamanaka, Jeanne
Maruyama, Kazuko	Munekata, Kai	Shimono, Shigeki	Yamano, Takao
Maruyama, Phyllis	Nagamine, Nathan	Shimono, Natsuye	Yoshida, Joe
Masukawa, Yoko	Nakakura, Kenneth	Sonoyama, Chieko	

## ***Hoonko Service***

Uyeda, Midori

## ***Lady Kujo Donation***

Miyashiro, Marc-Mitchell    Motoyasu, Ayako

## ***Masks***

Ogata, Donna                      Shimizu, Linda

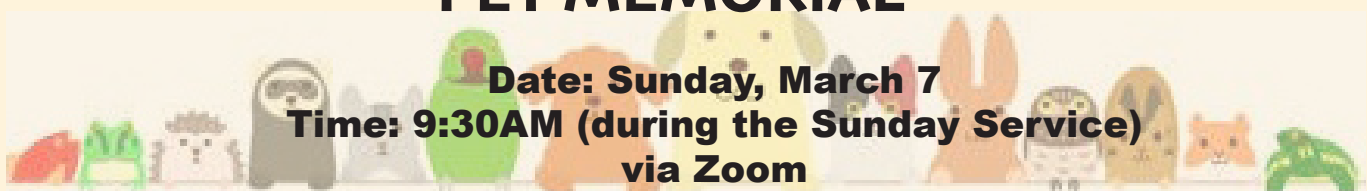
## ***Nirvana Day Service***

Motoyasu, Ayako

## ***Miscellaneous***

Marukai Corporation              Miyashiro, Marc-Mitchell

## **PET MEMORIAL**



**Date: Sunday, March 7**  
**Time: 9:30AM (during the Sunday Service)**  
**via Zoom**



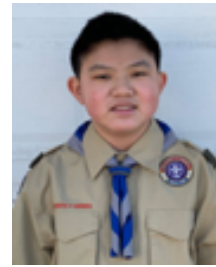
## Gardena Buddhist Church Cub Scout Pack 1230 congratulates 3 Metta Award Recipients



**Travis Higuchi**



**Tad Sasaki**



**Ethan Tanaka**

**All 3 have bridged to Boy Scout Troop 242**

### **The Metta Award Program**

The Metta Award Program is designed to help Cub Scouts of Buddhist faith to deepen their faith and to further their knowledge and practice of the Buddhist Teachings.

The word "Metta" is a Buddhist term meaning loving kindness and goodwill. This word is selected as the name for the Cub Scout religious award with the hope of nurturing boys and girls who will relate to all animate and inanimate things with loving kindness and goodwill in their hearts.

This program will provide an opportunity for those participating in the program to relate closely with their parents and ministers on the subject of their faith.

The Boy Scouts of America has authorized the Metta Award to be worn on the official uniform centered above the flap of the left breast pocket.

### **The Metta Medal**

The Metta Medal consists of a pendant representing the Buddhist Wheel of Dharma attached to a bar with the word "Metta". The Wheel of Dharma is the accepted symbol of the Buddhist and Buddhism.

#### **March 2021**

1 DS Teachers mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
6 Shotsuki Hoyo (Virtual)	10:00am
Jr. YBA Religious Retreat	1:00pm
7 Sunday Service via Zoom	9:30am
Pet Memorial Service	
Hui Aikane mtg	11:30am
8 2021 Fundraising Planning mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
13 Jr. YBA Seminar 2	1:00pm
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 GBC Board mtg via Zoom	2:00pm
21 Spring Ohigan (Livestream)	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

#### **April 2021**

3 Shotsuki Hoyo via Zoom	10:00am
4 Hanamatsuri & Hatsumairi Service via Zoom	9:30am
Hui Aikane mtg via Zoom	11:30am
5 DS Teachers mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
11 Sunday Service via Zoom	9:30am
BWA meeting via Zoom	11:30am
12 2021 Fundraising Planning mtg	7:00pm
16 Meinichiko Service via Zoom	7:00am
Young Adult Social Distancing and	
Dharma Discussion	6:30pm
17 GBC Board mtg via Zoom	2:00pm
18 Sunday Service via Zoom	9:30am
ABA mtg via Zoom	11:30am
Wisteria Chugakko Teacher Workshop via Zoom	1:30pm
25 Sunday Service via Zoom	9:30am
26 Megumi Deadline (May 2021 issue)	
Fundraising Planning mtg via Zoom	7:00pm





宮地信雄師

## 『倒れたところがお浄土』

これは私の父がよく言っていた言葉です。若い頃の私は、この言葉を一人の念仏者の言葉として、ただ単に聞き流していました。「倒れた

ところがお浄土」というのは、本当に格好のいい言葉です。人間として、思い切りのいい、すばらしい覚悟であると受け取っていました。それは、自分の命が終わるまで、何かに没頭していて、そこに死というものが襲ってくる。死というものをそういう形で迎えることができるなんて、なんとすばらしいことであろうかと思っていました。

しかし、今は少しこの父の言葉への解釈が異なってきました。父は果たしてそんな格好のいい言葉を残すつもりで、この言葉を言っていたのであろうかと思う様になったからです。結論を急ぎますと、父の言いたかったのは、そんな格好をつけただけの言葉ではなく、もっともっと現実的な喜びの言葉だったのです。「倒れたところ」それは死に場所ということですね。その死に場所は、つまりお浄土なのだということを言いたかったのです。倒れたところというのは、命尽きたところですから死んだ時ということです。死んだ時、自分はどこにいるかというと、それはお浄土なのだと言いたかったのでしょう。死んだところがお浄土なのですから、それはすばらしいところです。なぜならお浄土とは仏さまの世界をさします。そしてそれは真実の世界です。宗教的にいえば絶対の世界です。その絶対真実の世界に死んだ時生まれるのだから、死ぬということが恐ろしくないのです。恐ろしくないどころかむしろ喜んで往(い)けるところです。そうなりますと、私の最

後の場所がどんなところであれ、そこまで私たちの最善を尽くして生きていくことができるのです。もう少しがった言い方をすれば、その最後を迎えるまで、私たちはその生を楽しんで迎えることができるのです。そういうことを父は言いたかったのでしょう。死は怖い恐ろしいものであるというのが普通の感覚です。それは、この「倒れたところがお浄土だ」という世界を知らないからです。倒れたところがお浄土だと分かれば死ぬことはむしろ楽しいことになるのです。これが宗教というものです。宗教というのは、この死の解決をつけることでした。仏教的にそれをいえば、生死(しょうじ)の解決をつけることです。なぜ生死ということかというと、生きるということと死ぬることとは共に生きるということなのです。死ぬことを生きるとはおかしい方ですが、私たちがいう死ぬということは、肉体的に死ぬということだけなのです。精神的にそれを見れば、それは生まれることなのです。生れるとはどこに生まれるのかということ、お浄土という世界に生まれるのです。

お浄土とは、先ほどもいいました様に真実の世界、絶対の世界です。だからそれを仏の世界と呼ぶのです。この世の中というものは、虚仮不実の世界といって、真実の世界つまり本



(11ページに続く)

(10ページからの続き)

当の世界ではないのです。それが証拠には、この世には苦しみがなくなりません。争い事が絶えないのです。人間はいつも安定した平和な世界を求めています、それがどこまでいっても実現しない世界なのです。いやいつかは平和が来るよといいますが、それが実現する時、この世はまだ本当に存在しているかどうかわかったものではありません。浄土真宗はそんな先の話をしているのではないのです。この私の命が終わった時どうなっているかという話なのです。お念仏の教えは、今あなたが称えているその時、念仏によって仏さまの世界、つまり真実の世界に生

まれさせていただくことができるという教えなのです。この念仏による大安心の世界がない限り、私たちは永遠に死を恐れ、生きていることに不安を抱きながら最後を迎えねばならないのです。死んだ時にその苦痛に顔を歪めて死んでいくのか、「倒れたところがお浄土だ」といって穏やかに死んでいくのか、今決めねばならないことなのでしょう。

合掌



## 婦人会便り

- ▽ 02/07/21 (日) 九条武子夫人のご遺徳を偲び、如月忌法要が営まれました。堀キャシー夫人が司会を勤めて下さり、ありがとうございました。
- ▽ 02/14/21 (日) 婦人会例会が行われました。美味しかったスナックが懐かしいです。3/7-3/17日の週にRutt'sでテイクアウトするとその料金の一部が仏教会支援金になります。このファンデレーシングについて話し合いました。仏教会がカレンダーを配達して下さい、心より感謝致します。
- ▽ 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。
- ▽ 02/20/21 (日) 南部教区婦人会会議がズームで開催されました。2021年はガーデナの婦人会が当番となっているため、下記の方々が役員に選出されました。南部教区婦人会役員就任、おめでとうございます！
  - ▶ 会長：宮田ジュリー
  - ▶ 副会長：丸山フィリス
  - ▶ 会計：ジー・アイリス
  - ▶ 会計補佐：堀キャシー
  - ▶ 書記：森本千鶴子
  - ▶ 監査役：坂谷シャーリーン

▽ 02/28/21 (日) 婦人会メンバーはBCAの永代経法要を視聴しました。

▽ 毎週ズームによる日曜礼拝でメンバーのお顔を拝見できることを楽しみにしています。

### アナウンスメント：

- ▽ 03/14/21(日) 午前11時半  
婦人会例会 (BWAズーム) & ビンゴゲーム
- ▽ 03/16/21(火) 午前7時  
命日講 (ズーム)
- ▽ 03/21/21(日) 春季彼岸法要 (事前録画) ご講師は渡邊正憲師 (日本語) & 宮地崇師 (英語)。詳しくは仏教会のホームページをご覧ください。

### 感謝録：

特別寄付	水上とも子
故大田正子追悼	堀キャシー
九条武子夫人追悼	丸山和子

