



MEGUMI

慈恩



GARDENA BUDDHIST CHURCH
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Rev. John Iwohara



Gardena Buddhist Church

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Rev. John Iwohara

“You’re fat (phat)”

Throughout their human lifetime as a Buddha, Sakyamuni Buddha is said to have given 84,000 messages. The very first of these 84,000 lessons is called the “First Turning of the Wheel of Dharma.”

This is the lesson where

Sakyamuni Buddha taught the Four Noble Truths. As part of the Four Noble Truths, the Buddha initially laid out a path that comprised of eight elements. This became called the Eightfold Path. Recently more are emphasizing that the English translation should be Eightfold Path of the Noble.

These eight parts are to maintain and foster (1) correct views, (2) correct thoughts, (3) correct speech, (4) correct conduct, (5) correct livelihood, (6) correct effort, (7) correct mindfulness, and (8) correct meditation. Of these eight, perhaps the one that seems easiest to practice and apply to our daily lives is correct speech.

We might feel this way since even without Buddhism we understand the importance of communication and are constantly encouraged to speak truthfully. For example, we probably all have heard the saying, “honesty is the best

policy ¹.” Although most of us would probably not consider lying a virtuous act, and would assume that honesty is necessary for correct speech, honesty itself is not a sufficient condition to have correct speech. This is why correct speech is so difficult. For speech to be “correct” it also has to be compassionate or kind. It has to lead towards Enlightenment, which is the motive for practicing all eight aspects of the Path of the Noble.

To illustrate, I would like to reference a scene from the movie “Money Talks (1997)” starring Chris Tucker and Charlie Sheen. The scene begins with Charlie Sheen’s character leading Chris Tucker’s character into their home for introductions. Charlie Sheen says to Chris Tucker, “One more thing. Do not say a word about my fiancée’s weight. She’s very sensitive about that.”

Immediately upon meeting the fiancée (played by Heather Locklear), Chris Tucker’s character begins by saying, “You’re fat. Fat, fat, phat.

1 This statement is often attributed to Benjamin Franklin. However, some give credit to Sir Edwin Sandys, who helped found the Virginia Company. Thomas Jefferson is given credit for penning the phrase, “Honesty is the first chapter in the book of wisdom.”

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P.H.A.T.: Pretty Hot and Tempting.”

Whereas it might not necessarily be a lie to say that a person is overweight, saying that a person is “fat” probably does not qualify as correct speech. It can even be hurtful. Changing the spelling and meaning of the word to P.H.A.T. also probably doesn’t qualify as correct speech. The reason for this is because the intent of using a homonym for fat was to upset Charlie Sheen’s character.

In describing the totality of these 84,000 paths or lessons, and not just the First Turning of the Wheel of Dharma, Sakyamuni Buddha described the Dharma as being analogous to the vertical weave of a garment. The Buddha further explained that things like our relationships with others, and our status and material possessions are all akin to the horizontal weave. The Buddha then pointed out that it is the vertical weave that determines the strength of the garment. If the vertical weave breaks, then all the horizontal threads will fall off.

Like all the practices of the Eightfold Path, having correct speech is one of the vertical threads. This thread can help make the garment that is our lives incredibly strong and at the same time very warm as well. Unfortunately, even while we might agree with the previous statement and are extremely motivated to foster a life of strength and warmth, it is also true that it isn’t always easy for us to practice correct speech. For example, we have phrases

like “white lies” and expressions like, “honest to a fault²” to justify lying. Saying something untruthful because it might make the other person feel better is also not correct speech.

Ultimately, correct speech is the speech of a Buddha. If we were trying to become a Buddha, then over time our speech should approach that of a Buddha. How often do we feel that our speech is anything like a Buddha’s? If the answer is rarely or never, then the vertical thread of our tapestry is probably not very strong. If this describes who we are, and we are incapable of putting down a sturdy vertical thread, then are we relegated to having to wear fabrics that are always flimsy? Fortunately for us we have also been given a vertical weave that is guaranteed not to break. These are the 48 Vows of Amida Buddha. It is the vertical weave of Namo Amida Butsu. Because we have the assurance of knowing this weave will not break, we are given the luxury of being able to enjoy all the horizontal weaves of our lives.

2 This is sometimes called “pathological honesty” or “moral obsessive-compulsive disorder”



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.

| | |
|----------------------------|------|
| Miyaguchi, Janis Emi | (65) |
| Goto, Ben Tokiyuki | (93) |
| Matsumoto, Sally Shinobu | (89) |
| Nagai, Sae Claire | (1) |
| Tomiyasu, Shawn Katsuyoshi | (71) |
| Yamasaki, Gordon Kaoru | (73) |
| Hashimoto, Sadako | (95) |

| |
|----------------|
| March 2, 2025 |
| March 6, 2025 |
| March 14, 2025 |
| March 15, 2025 |
| April 9, 2025 |
| April 11, 2025 |
| April 21, 2025 |



Fujinkai / BWA Buddhist Women's Association

Happenings:

- ◇ Via Coordinating Council:
 - Ichi-mi Group will have a seminar with the theme, "Breaking the Silence" on August 9, 2025. BWA has been asked to provide breakfast for up to 70 people. B gumi will be the toban in August.
 - Dana Group – Garage Sale on June 21st to clean out the house. The temple wishes to remind everyone that we will not be accepting any more donations until after the renovations to the Social Hall are done.
 - JCI carnival will be on June 28th. GBC is asked to make chirashi and inari zushi. The BWA will oversee the sushi-making of this all-temple activity.
- ◇ The GBC 100th Anniversary Committee meets every month after the regular BWA monthly meeting.
 - The BWA is now considering new carpeting for the temple as our gift for the GBC's 100th anniversary. Estimated cost will be \$25,000 to \$30,000. It was suggested that we explore joining with another group to share the cost of the gift. We are also planning to have a luncheon for the BWA 100th anniversary event with an estimated cost of \$7,500 to \$10,000 for just the meals.
 - Mitsunaga Trust – Looking to make a specific donation. The Anniversary committee will discuss at their next meeting.
 - GBC BWA 100th anniversary committee. Our next fundraiser will be a curry rice event for June 8th. Laurie Sugita has kindly offered to head the planning of this bento lunch on behalf of the BWA. She also kindly gave us a preview of the delicious chicken curry rice by serving it at our April monthly meeting.
- ◇ FBWA 2026 Conference. Southern District has the toban and the FBWA Conference will take place in October, 2026 in San Diego. In order to defray expenses, the SDBWA chapters are all selling panko, donated by Uppercrust Enterprise, Inc. Each bag is \$3. Several SDBWA chapters expressed intent to sell the panko at their obons this year, so this fundraiser will be ongoing and continuing through the summer. Gardena BWA will be selling panko at the Sunday Coffee social after service. Phyllis Maruyama is selling the panko at Tuesday Social.
- ◇ May 3rd, Saturday. Fujimatsuri. Bento pick-up event. BWA members Kathy Hori, Julie Miyata, Charlene Saktani, Mitzi Shimizu and Nancy Yoshiyama volunteered to help at 10:00am.
- ◇ May 4th, Sunday. Gotan-e Service. Thank you to D-gumi for being in charge of the otoki and the osonae.
- ◇ Reminder that we need to clean the Social Hall kitchen before the renovation that will begin in September, 2025. We will need to decide where to temporarily store our items.
- ◇ July 12th, Saturday – Joint activity with YABA: udon dashi making. More details to follow.



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Announcements:

- ◇ May 4th (Sunday) - May BWA Regular Monthly Meeting 11:15am (hybrid). D/e-Gumi
- ◇ May 4th (Sunday) - Shotsuki Hoyo – in person at 2 p.m.
- ◇ May 11th (Sunday) – Mother’s Day pancake breakfast, courtesy of ABA.
- ◇ May 16th (Friday) – Meinichiko Service (via Zoom) 7:00 a.m.
- ◇ June 8th (Sunday) - June BWA Regular Monthly Meeting 11:15am (hybrid). E/a-Gumi
- ◇ June 8th (Sunday) - Shotsuki Hoyo – in person at 2 p.m.
- ◇ June 7th-8th (Sat-Sun) – BWA Curry Rice fundraiser (Saturday prep, Sunday distribution)

ABA News

May looks to be a busy month for ABA.

We ended April by cheering on the Dodgers at the Japanese Heritage Night. Everyone is really enjoying their Dodgers jerseys with the cute daruma. I think we all lost our voices that night, cheering so hard.



For Fujimatsuri, ABA is preparing its famous dango as part of the bento. The dangos are so mouth-watering, it’s hard to eat just one!

A week later, ABA will be hosting its annual Mother’s Day Pancake Breakfast. Breakfast will begin at 8am that day. So that everyone can enjoy the breakfast, service for that day is moved back to 10am.

If you forget to get a gift for your mom, Community Project Group will also be at the breakfast. The members of the Group are so talented, it’s hard to choose just one gift!

On May 17, members of ABA are spearheading the committee to put on the GBC Forward Dance Benefit for the Social Hall Renovation Project. The items for the opportunity draw that evening are so splendid. We’re getting our dance shoes ready to boogie the night away!

Upon the completion of the dance, many of the ABA members, under the leadership of the Wisteria Chugakko Principal, Charlene Hirotsu, will be putting together the final details of their summer school classes that they will be teaching. The students will have the opportunity to be exposed to so many different topics that they are not exposed to during the regular school year. We look forward to meeting this year’s students!

ABA meetings on the third Sunday of each month at 11:30am in the Meeting Room. Our meetings are hybrid so feel free to drop by any time! We’d love to meet you!

ICHI-MI CLUB

Ichi-Mi will hold its general meeting on Monday, May 5, at 6pm. An evening film showing and social will be held on Friday, August 8th, followed the next day by “Breaking The Silence,” a seminar from 9-3pm on Saturday, August 9 at GBC. For more information, please contact Ichi Mi at ichimi.gbc@gmail.com

Dharma School News



On March 16th we had our Pet Memorial Service. We would like to thank Justin and Sharon Kurashima, Dennis Miyadi, Elaine and Ross Nishimura, Judy Miyashita, Cathy Uyemura, Rev. Nobuo Miyaji and Rev. Yoshiko Miyaji, Imogene and Brian Imada. This special service is held every year to honor our pets. We also had a special donation from Alan Miwa in memory of Yoshiko Miwa.

Hanamatsuri was held on April 6th. In order to decorate the Hanamido, it takes a lot of people to prepare the Hanamido. Thank you to David Nakamoto and John Tsuruta for bringing out the Hanamido and Brian Imada and Matt Ohara for putting away the Hanamido. We would like to thank Zia Allen, Lily Nakatani, Lynn Isomoto, Linda Shimizu for their flower donations. A lot of flowers are used to make our Hanamido beautiful. We are thankful to have Wisteria donated by Mary Tamura, Julie Miyata and Phyllis Maruyama.

We can't forget the people who helped decorate the Hanamido, they are Charlene Nation, Mitzi Shimizu, Naomi Mekar, Zia Allen, Enzo Allen, Maya Allen, Kim Aponte, Reina Aponte, Irene Iwasaka, Linda Shimizu, Arleen Miya, Imogene Imada, Susan Mukai, Claire and Matt Ohara, Yasuko Takemoto and Nadine Kakimoto. Thank you to Yasuko Takemoto for picking up the delicious cupcakes for our dharma school students for their otoki.

Thank you to our sangha member for buying the Huli Huli chicken, we appreciate it.

May 11th is Mother's Day and ABA will be serving their annual pancake breakfast from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. Please attend the Mother's Day service at 10:00 a.m. Mother's will be receiving a bouquet and a card. The card was created by the 1st and 2nd graders,

May 25th no service at Gardena Buddhist Church but there will be service at Pacific Crest at 9:00 a.m. and Green Hills will be held at 11:00 a.m.

Father's Day and Graduation Service will be on June 15th.

ODORI EXERCISE CLASSES ARE BACK!!

- Where: Gardena Buddhist Church - Social Hall
- When: Every Tuesday starting March 4th
- Time: 1:00 to 2:00pm
- Instructor: Dianne Fukuwa
- Fee: \$5.00 per class
- What to bring (optional): Uchiwa, tenugui and kachi-kachi

For your first class, please come early to register.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Jeanne Yamanaka

jeanne.yamanaka@gmail.com or (310) 748-3894





Wisteria Chugakko

Reverend John Iwohara, Headmaster
Charlene Hirotsu, Principal

Dear Sangha:

The Registration Deadline for the 2025 Wisteria Chugakko Summer Program has passed as we are now submitting our T-shirt Order for printing.

We will proceed with the preparations for our program for our registered students.

Realizing that planning your family’s schedules for the summer is a difficult task plus knowing our constraints, if you still wish to enroll your 7th, 8th or 9th graders in Wisteria Chugakko, please email me at charlene.hirotsu@gbcwisteriachugakko.org, as soon as possible. I will look at each enrollment at the specific grade level on an individual basis.



We at Wisteria Chugakko appreciate your support.

With Gassho,
Charlene Hirotsu, Principal, Wisteria Chugakko

The Community Projects Group

The Community Projects Group has been busy this spring with many projects, including a couple of field trips to fabric stores to make purchases for our items. Graduation leis have been a good fund-raiser again, thanks to our many friends and members of the Church. Orders can still be placed – forms are at the Church. We will also be selling some of our handmade items at the Fujimatsuri obento sale on Saturday, May 3, by the Social Hall, from 11 am to 3 pm. Please stop by and see some of our work – book covers, purses and assorted bags, cell phone carriers, kitchen accessories, aprons, pillow cases, and many other items.



Our Group meets at the Church three times a month, on Mondays, from 10 am. Come join us and learn how to make all sorts of items! Anyone interested is welcome!! You can contact any of our members or leave your name at the office.

Mother’s Day Service

Date: Sunday, May 11

Time: 10:00 AM

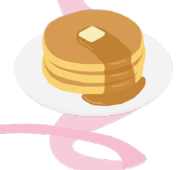
Place: Hondo & Zoom



Mother’s Day Pancake Breakfast

Date: Sunday, May 11

Time: 8:00 AM - 10:00AM





Hui Aikanes

Hui Aikane is thankful for many activities that occurred during the months of March, April and May.

On March 29th, some Hui Aikane members participated in the "Pilot Graffiti Removal Project". Thank you, Ken Kawamura, for organizing this event. Thank you also goes to Charlene Nation, Gary Fujikawa, and David Nakamoto. Your participation in this graffiti project will hopefully be the beginning of beautifying our community.

On April 26th, few of our members along with the Boys and Girls Scouts helped volunteer with the Earth Day at the Willows Wetland Preserve on 170th Street (east of Normandie). We helped with the debris removal, and trail maintenance. Thank you everyone who participated in the "Earth Day Clean-Up". Your time and support helped improve our community environment.

Thank you to ABA for inviting Hui Aikane to the Japanese Heritage night at Dodger Stadium on April 28th. It was an exciting evening seeing the Marlins vs Dodgers and spending some quality time with our GBC family. Go Dodgers!

Thank you to all of our members who helped during Fujimatsuri. Promoting the temple and supporting the Temple through food preparation/distribution, and community project booths demands many hands and many hours. Your hard work was much appreciated by everyone.

The Hui Aikane members also would like to thank ABA for the Annual Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast. Hui Aikane members were happy to assist in the preparation and clean up. The opportunity to eat breakfast with our family and socialize with our temple friends was most enjoyable.

On Saturday, May 17th, GBC sponsored a dance at Nishi Hongwanji to benefit the Social Hall renovation. The dance committee and chairs would like to thank everyone who volunteered in making the Opportunity Drawing Baskets, volunteering with the set up and clean up, selling drink and opportunity drawing tickets, decorating the tables, distributing dinner bentos, etc. Thank you also for the GBC members who donated and purchased our tables. We hope everyone had a good time. It was nice to see the whole GBC community come together and meet some new and friends from our past.

Happy Mother's Day everyone!

Our next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, June 7th 2 pm in the Cooling Room.

New members are welcomed to attend!



OBON 2025

Wow...it's that time of the year again! The Obon Committee has been diligently planning our Obon Festival for 2025. We have been busy meeting to decide on the specifics for the Festival, but here's some information that we would like to share with you.

Obon Festival 2025 will be held **Saturday August 2 and Sunday August 3** from 3:00 pm – 9:00 pm, with Obon Dancing scheduled for 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm each night. We will have food booths, game booths and Bingo! Save the date! Join us!

As more details for the weekend get finalized, we will provide updates in the Megumi each month and on the GBC website. Be sure to check back for more information.

In Gassho,
Nadine Kakimoto & Sharyl Yamada-Oda
Obon Co-Chairs

Dana Group

Yard sale at GBC is set for Saturday, June 21st. 7 am to 11:30 am. Dana members and anyone who would like to volunteer to help please contact Louise Mayemura at Danagroup@GardenaBuddhistChurch.org

Sangha Teens

We can't believe the school year is almost over, but before it is, we are looking forward to OCBC's mixer on June 7th. It will be fun to hang out with the Sangha Teens from all the different temples.

We want to thank the Miwa family for their generous donation to Sangha Teens in remembrance of Yoshiko Miwa. We miss seeing her and will never forget her beautiful, kind smile.



TUESDAY SOCIAL

Happy April Birthday to our friends: Edie, Kumiko, Kimiko and Tamiko. We hope you had a great birthday celebration.

Tuesday Social Friends meet every Tuesday from 9:30 to 11:30am to play card games, puzzles, bingo, chair exercises, and just sit & chat. Please come and enjoy a cup of coffee and light refreshments. There's something for everyone to enjoy. See you on Tuesdays.





Ross Nishimura

From GBC Board Chairperson

“Appreciation and Updates from GBC”

I want to express my sincere appreciation to everyone who contributed to the success of our recent Fujimatsuri fundraiser. Thank you to those who planned and managed the Huli Huli Chicken Bento and those who created craft items over the past several months. The funds we raised directly support the programs and operations here at GBC.

The success of Fujimatsuri also highlights the strength and unity of our GBC community. Collaborating to support our events is a valued aspect of life here at GBC, one we should all be proud of and continue to foster, supportive of the spirit of our “Hands Together, Hearts Together” mission.

I have an update on the Hondo roof repair project. In April, we completed the final phase, which included the replacement of tiles, sealing gaps along the ridge line. Completed in an earlier phase of this project was the refinishing of the doors and railings on the ground floor. This \$97,000 project will help ensure the integrity of the roof and prevent damage from rainwater for many years to come. As the roof tiles are specifically designed and manufactured by only a few producers in Japan, we have also procured some additional tiles to be used as normal wear and tear occurs in the coming years.

I also have an update on the GBC Forward project. We are now preparing for the construction of our Social Hall, scheduled to begin in August after Obon. We will need everyone’s cooperation to clear the current Social Hall, including the kitchen, as items will need to be moved to temporary storage within other buildings. Your understanding and support during this process is appreciated.

If you have not already seen the plans, be sure to visit the GBC website to learn more about the project. As has been previously announced, the fundraising campaign for the GBC Forward project is underway. Donations or pledges can be made conveniently through the mail or online via the GBC website, where monthly or annual automatic credit card payments can be set up. For any questions or comments regarding the GBC Forward project, please contact gbcforward@gardenabuddhistchurch.org. Your input and support are valuable as we work together on this project for future generations.

Finally, as Mother’s Day is upon us, I want to express our sincere appreciation for all the mothers in our lives. We are grateful for their care, their guidance, and everything they do for us each and every day.

Thank you again for your continued dedication to the Gardena Buddhist Church.

**Board Meeting: Wednesday, May 21 at 7PM
Via Zoom**

GBC Forward! Ready, Set, Go GBC Forward!

GBC Forward!, our major Social Hall Renovation Fundraising campaign, just launched and we are already receiving donations! Arigato Gozaimasu!! While there is little doubt that the Social Hall needs updating, there have been quite a few questions regarding the fundraising campaign. Rather than answer them individually, here is a list of questions & answers that will clarify the campaign logistics.

GBC Forward FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions):

1. What is the difference between a donation and a pledge?

A donation is a singular amount of money given at a single point in time. Pledges are donors' promises to give donation(s) over time. One way to look at the difference: pledges are donations in installments – monthly, annually, etc.

2. Why ask for pledges and not simply donations?

Pledges help our committee to project future donations. With a goal of raising \$2 million over three years, aggregate pledge levels will allow us to anticipate how well fundraising will perform. It will also make clear how hard the committee will need to push to meet the goal. Please note: we will always accept single lump sum donations.

3. Will a pledge donor be reminded of when an installment is due?

Yes. If an annualized pledge amount is not fulfilled by September of each campaign year, a written reminder will be sent to the donor in October. Please note, we view pledges as intentions and not as obligations. We realize that family situations may change over time, so these are NOT formal dunning notices.

4. Why isn't my total pledge level (e.g. peony, iris, etc.) reported in the Megumi?

Because pledges are not considered obligatory, we acknowledge levels in the Megumi based on cumulative donations received. Pledge total reporting has the potential to be inaccurate. For example, the Suzuki family decides to donate a total of \$6,000 so they pledge \$6,000 in 3 installments of \$2,000 in each year of 2025-2027. With a pledge total acknowledgement in the Megumi, the Suzuki family would be listed at the 'Cherry Blossom' level. However, circumstances change and they find themselves unable to fulfill their pledge in 2026-2027. Having donated \$2,000 in 2025 but nothing in subsequent years, their donation no longer meets the 'Cherry Blossom' level criteria. We would not want to demote the donation level and potentially cause confusion or embarrassment.

5. Are cash, check, and credit card donations tracked differently?

We are aggregating cumulative donations per donor, not how the donation was made. A separate pledge form is not needed for each donation or donation method as long as we can track back to the original pledge by donor name or other information.

6. When are pledge donations for a specific year due?

The donations may be made anytime during the calendar year of the pledge.

7. Are families able to group their donations together?

Yes. Donors can combine their donations by family, organization, etc. However please note, only one joint acknowledgement will be made for each group (i.e. in the Megumi). If individual donations are to be aggregated into a single group (e.g. The Suzuki Family in memory of our

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parents Jiro and Masako), it is important that all donors submit the same 'acknowledgement' for their aggregate donation level to be reported accurately.

8. Will GBC Forward! donations be accepted beyond the end of 2027?

The GBC Forward! fundraising campaign is scheduled to end in December 2027 and our final report in the Megumi is planned for February 2028. However, any donations made beyond the campaign dates will be gratefully accepted. Please remember to indicate that the donation is for 'GBC Forward!'. Acknowledgment reporting for these additional donations will be made in the regular donations section of the Megumi.

9. What happens if a donor's acknowledgement is different from what was submitted or if the donor wants to change it?

Please email your request to 'gbcforward@gardenabuddhistchurch.org'. While we check the mailbox regularly, please give us a few days to reply. If you don't have access to email, please



contact Alan Miwa or Kathy Hori directly.

Our refreshed Social Hall will be a tangible example of our temple's renewed mission: Hands together, hearts together, for the benefit of all. It will perfectly illustrate what many hands and hearts working together can do: provide a pleasant and safe environment for our Sangha and strengthen our Dharma Sharing ability going forward. In order to fund this renovation project, we established a \$2.0 million capital campaign called 'GBC Forward!'. This campaign began in March and will extend to the end of 2027.

Won't you please consider a donation to this vitally needed project?

For further information, please click [here](#) or use this QR code.



If you have any questions, please contact the GBC Forward! Committee at the following email address: gbcforward@gardenabuddhistchurch.org

Megumi Deadline is Monday, May 19, 2025

We truly appreciate your continued support!

**The church acknowledges the following donations received from 3/17/25 - 4/20/2025
with gratitude and appreciation.**

Funeral/Makurakyo/Burial/Memorials Donations

| | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Fukui, Kazuhide Heustis, Mark | Huling, Marion Nagai, Kotaro | Nakaoka, Grant Shimohara, Evelyn | Suzuki, Hisako Toyoaki-Maehira, Deobrah |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|

Shotsuki Hoyo Donations

| | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| Awane, M/M Alan Bohannan, M/M Craig Corbett, Judy Dennis Ego, Kimiko Fukui, Kazuhide Gaines, Alberta Giovinazzo, A.J. Iwamasa, Emiko | Iwamoto, M/M Daniel (2) Iwata, Amy Iwata, Harvey Jinkawa, Kimi Kaneko, Darlene Kibota, E. Komatsu Family (2) Maeda, Stacy/Dottore/ Tony | Maruyama, Kazuko Matsuda, Stephan Mekaru, Naomi Mizuno-Masunaga, Lynn Morishige, James Nakakura, M/M Ken (2) Sakatani, M/M Richard Sanada, Alan Santohigashi, M/M Koichi | Sasaki, Sherry Shigemori, June Shimohara, Evelyn Suminaga, Kimi Suzuki, Hisako Uwahori, Sadae Yamada, Faye Yamashita, Toru Yoshimura, Masaharu |
|--|---|--|--|

Spring Ohigan Hoyo Donations

| | | | |
|---|---|--|--------------|
| Akahoshi, Masato Fujita, Teruko & Fumiko Kakimoto, Nadine Kato, M/M Isao | Matsuda, Hiromi Motoyasu, Ayako Sakatani, M/M Richard Takahashi, Sae | Terao, Carolyn Yamasaki, Sheryl Yokota, M/M James Yoshiyama, Rose | Yuki, Toyoko |
|---|---|--|--------------|

Hanamatsuri Donations

| | | | |
|---|---|--|---|
| Akahoshi, Masato Anonymous Ego, Kimiko Fujimoto, Fumie Fujita, Teruko & Fumiko Hirayama, Joyce Hirotso, M/M Stan Hori, Kathy Imada, Imogene Isomoto, Lynn Iwamoto, Diane Iwamoto, M/M Daniel Kakimoto, Nadine Kato, M/M Isao | Kita, M/M Alan Komatsu, Janett Kurashima, M/M Justin Maeda, Tom Maesaki, Kazue Maruyama, Kazuko Maruyama, Phyllis Matsuda, Hiromi Miwa, M/M Alan Miyata, Julie Nakamura, Burt Nakao, Harumi Nakata, M/M Bob Nakawatase, Haruye | Nishihira, M/M Joe Okamoto, Yauko Okamura, Rodney Okumoto, Yoko Ouchi, Joyce Sakatani, M/M Richard Sanada, Donna Sasaki, M/M Tom Shimizu, Linda Shimizu, Mitzi Shimono, Natsuye Suminaga, Kimi Takahashi, Sae Takao, Dianne | Takao, Donna Tamura, Mary Toyoaki, Shiro Tsuge, M/M Mike Uyeda, Midori Uyemura, M/M David Uyemura, Ty Watanabe, Don Yamane, M/M Dick Yamasaki, Sheryl Yoshiyama, Rose Yuki, Toyoko |
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Hatsumairi Donations

| | |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Kawahara, M/M Larry | Mekaru, Naomi |
|---------------------|---------------|

Gotan-e Donation

Morioka, M/M Dennis

Motoyasu, Steve

Nishihira, M/M Joe

2025 GBC Membership Dues (received from 3/17/25 - 4/20/2025)

Ichiroku, Julie
 Ichiroku, Kenneth
 Ikeda, Tamotsu
 Ikeda, Winston
 Kakimoto, Nadine
 Kakuda, Shannon
 Kishimoto, Eric

Maruyama, Phyllis
 Matsuda, Hiromi
 Miyamoto, Mitsuko
 Miyamoto, Satoshi
 Miyashita, Judy
 Morimoto, Lily
 Mukai, Susan

Nakata Taeko
 Nakata, Bob
 Nakatani, Gerald
 Nielsen, Arne
 Sakatani, Charlene
 Tanaka, Christopher
 Tanaka, Shawna

Tanigawa, Cliff
 Tanigawa, Linda
 Wakamoto, Grace
 Yamada, Akimichi
 Yamasaki, Sheryl

Special Donations

GBC Jr. YBA
 Miyata, Julie

Ohara, M/M Matthew
 Sakatani, Charlene

Tanaka, Kumi

Nokotsudo

Nakafuji, Mr.

Osaisen

Gross, Bern

Mirealle, Dawn

Hondo Repair Donations

Matsuda, Hiromi

BCA Assessment

Kishita, Ema

Spring Ohigan Seminar

Toyoaki, Shiro

Gardening/Maintenance Donation

Maruyama, Phyllis

General Donation/Facility Use/ Miscellaneous

Baba, Miyako

Heustis, Mark

Kobayashi, Izumi

Miwa, Alan

GBC Forward Donations

The GBC Forward! project greatly appreciates the following donations towards remodeling the Social Hall. Your donation will help ensure the Social Hall will be updated for use for future temple and community events. Your support will enable us to continue efforts in spreading the Dharma and building strong ties with our community. Donation amounts below are cumulative from the start of the 2024 campaign.



Wisteria (\$100,000+)

- ☆ Masaji & Kiyoko Mitsunaga Memorial Trust



Bamboo (\$50,000-\$99,999)



Lotus (\$25,000-\$49,999)

- ☆ In Honor of our parents: Noboru & Ayako Nakatani, Seijiro & Yoshiko Inose



Chrysanthemum (\$10,000-\$24,999)

- ☆ In Memory of Mr Henry and Mrs Yoshiko Miwa and Mr Ronnie Takao
- ☆ Dick & Judy Yamane
- ☆ Nobuko Okada
- ☆ Anonymous
- ☆ Tom & Kiyoko Sasaki
- ☆ In Memory of Akiko, Kent, Umeno and Takaichi Maeda



Cherry Blossom (\$5,000-\$9,999)

- ☆ In Memory of John & Peggy Tsuruta
- ☆ Dave & Terri Mitani
- ☆ David & Cathy Uyemura
- ☆ John & Kimberley Aponte
- ☆ Louise Mayemura



Iris (\$1,000-\$4,999)

- ☆ Kenneth & Doris Nakakura
- ☆ Raymond Fujii
- ☆ In Memory of Tad & Chiyoko Sugita
- ☆ In Memory of Fred and Lily Fukuwa
- ☆ In Memory of Sue Okada
- ☆ In Memory of Tom Okada
- ☆ Susann Takaki
- ☆ Tom & Judy Shigemitsu
- ☆ Bob. S. Nakamura
- ☆ In Memory of Dad, Joyce, and Iris
- ☆ William Yamane
- ☆ Ken & Kay Inose Family

(Continued on page 15)

(GBC Forward Donations continued from page 14)



Peony (\$500-\$999)

- ☆ Norman & Cindy Morishige
- ☆ Dennis & Jan Masaki
- ☆ In Memory of Sam and Eileen Takemoto
- ☆ Tadaaki Maeda
- ☆ Dennis Nakatani Family
- ☆ Anonymous
- ☆ Suzanne Yoshida
- ☆ Haru Watanabe
- ☆ Suzuko Kuwahara
- ☆ Patty Nishi



May 2025

| | | |
|----|--|----------------|
| 3 | Fujimatsuri Bento Fundraiser | Noon - 3pm |
| 4 | Sunday Service (In-Person/Zoom) | 9:30am |
| | Gotan-e Service | |
| | Sangha Teen mtg | 10:30am |
| | BWA mtg (In-person/Zoom) | 11:15am |
| | Shotsuki Hoyo Service in person | 2:00pm |
| 5 | Ichi Mi mtg | 5:45pm |
| | Obon mtg via Zoom | 7:30pm |
| 7 | DS Teacher's mtg via Zoom | 7:00pm |
| 8 | BEC mtg via Zoom | 7:30pm |
| 11 | ABA Mother's Day Pancake Breakfast | 8:00am |
| | Mother's Day Sunday Service (In-Person/Zoom) | 10:00am |
| 13 | GBC Forward mtg via Zoom | 7:00pm |
| 14 | GBC 100 Operations Committee mtg via Zoom | 7:00pm |
| 16 | Meinichiko Service via Zoom | 7:00am |
| 17 | GBC Forward Dinner/Dance at Nishi Hongwanji | 6:30pm |
| 18 | Jr. YBA mtg | 8:45am |
| | ABA mtg (In-person/Zoom) | 11:00am |
| | WC: Teacher Workshop #5 | 1:00pm |
| 19 | Megumi deadline | |
| 21 | GBC Board Mtg via Zoom | 7:00pm |
| 25 | No Service at GBC | |
| | Pacific Crest Service | 9:00am |
| | Green Hills Service | 11:00am |
| 26 | Nokotsudo open | 9:00am-12 noon |
| 31 | Wisteria Chugakko Parent/Student Orientation | 1:00pm |

June 2025

| | | |
|----|---|---------------|
| 1 | Sunday Service (In-Person/Zoom) | 9:30am |
| | Sangha Teen mtg | 10:30am |
| | BWA mtg | 11:15am |
| | Shotsuki Hoyo Service in person | 2:00pm |
| 2 | Ichi Mi mtg | 5:45pm |
| | Obon mtg via Zoom | 7:30pm |
| 4 | DS Teacher's Zoom mtg | 7:00pm |
| 7 | BWA Bento Prep | 9am-1pm |
| | Hui Aikane mtg | 1:00pm |
| 8 | BWA Bento Fundraiser | |
| | Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom) | 9:30am |
| 10 | GBC Forward Zoom mtg | 7:00pm |
| 15 | Jr. YBA mtg | 8:30am |
| | Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom) | 9:30am |
| | Father's Day & Graduation Service | |
| | ABA mtg | 11:00am |
| 16 | Meinichiko Service Zoom | 7:00am |
| | Megumi deadline | |
| | Wisteria Chugakko Summer Program begins | (6/16-7/9/25) |
| 18 | GBC Board mtg via Zoom | 7:00pm |
| 21 | Dana Group Yard Sale (Main parking lot) | 7:00am |
| 22 | Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom) | 9:30am |
| | Coordinating Council mtg | 11:00am |
| 29 | Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom) | 9:30am |

<Regular Activities>

- Sunday:** Isami Taiko Practice @11:15am weekly
- Monday:** 2nd & 4th Community Projects @9:30am
2nd & 4th Cub Pack 1230 mtg @6pm
- Tuesday:** Tuesday Social @9:30am
Odori Exercise Class (\$5 donation) @1:00pm
Boy Scout Troop 242 mtg @7pm

- Wednesday:** Ikenobo/Ikebana Class @2pm 3/month
- Thursday (& or Saturday)** Tea Ceremony Class @9:30am
- Thursday** 1st & 3rd Boy Scout Troop 242 mtg @7pm
1st BS Eagle Board @7pm
- Friday:** 2nd & 4th Girl Scout Troop 4345 mtg @7pm

Order Your Graduation Leis Early! 2025



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 \$18.00 each for a double braid ribbon lei, shipping not included.

Lei Order Form

Name _____ Phone _____

Delivery Address _____

Email Address _____

No. of double leis at \$18 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 when your order is ready for pick up, at the Church office.
If any questions, please contact Kiyoko Sasaki (1-310-326-8252).



宮地信雄師

宗祖降誕会 —親鸞聖人に出会う—

池山榮吉先生の『仏と人』というご本の中に、「あなたは親鸞聖人にお会いされましたか?」という言葉がありました。何か突拍子もない質問でしたので、え!と驚かされました。2025年という年になって、何百年も前の親鸞聖人にお会いできるはずがないのですから。でも池山先生は、そのようにおっしゃるといことがとても気になり、どういう意味でおっしゃっているのかを思いを巡らせてみました。

親鸞聖人にお会いされましたかということは、親鸞聖人のお声を聞かれましたかということかもしれません。親鸞聖人は、何百年の後の私たちに今も語りかけておってくださるのではないのでしょうか、と思ったのです。親鸞聖人のお声を聞くということはどういうことでしょうか。それは、聖人が慶ばれたお念仏の声を聞くということになります。そのお念仏の声というのは、遠くお釈迦様を通して私たちに届いたものであり、さらにその声はお釈迦さまのずっと前から私たち人間に呼びかけられていた阿弥陀様のお呼び声であったのでしょうか。つまり、この先生がおっしゃりたかったことは、この阿弥陀様のお呼び声を親鸞聖人を通してお聞きになりましたかということであったのでしょうか。

久遠劫という昔から私たちに呼びづめに呼んでおられる阿弥陀様の、「オネガイダカラ スグキテオクレヨ」という呼び声は、私たちに毎日届いているはずなのです。しかし、私たちはその声に耳を貸さなかったのです。理由はいろいろあると思います。そんな非科学的なものに興味はないという人もおられるでしょう。この世だけが全てだと思っておられる人にはそんなおとぎ話みたいなことは信じられないと言われる方もおられるかもしれません。しかし、この世

の終わりが近づいた時、つまり私たちの命が終わりに近づいた時、本当に聞こえてくるのはこの阿弥陀様のお声なのです。このお声は聞こえたからいくらとか、聞こえたから健康になるとかそういうものではないのです。それは本当の親様のお声なのです。聞けばそれで安心できるだけのものです。なぜならそれは親の願いだからです。親の願いは子供が幸福になることだけです。自分の利益を考えては成り立たないものです。そんな親の声が私たちには届いているのです。それがお念仏です。この声を親鸞聖人が聞かれたのです。そして私たちにもその慶びを伝えてくださっているのです。その慶びの声を聞くことが親鸞聖人に出会うということでしょう。一刻も早く親鸞聖人に出会わなければなりません。

南無阿弥陀仏





婦人会便り

婦人会の通常の活動（以下敬称略）

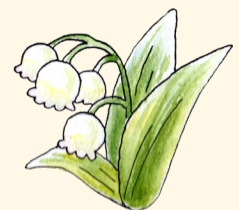
- ▽ 附属団体連絡協議会より
 - 一味グループは、2025年8月9日に「沈黙を破る」というテーマでセミナーを開催します。BWA（仏教婦人会）は最大70人分の朝食提供を依頼されています。8月の当番はB組です。
 - Danaグループ：6月21日にガレージセールを行い、家の片付けを行います。お寺からのお願いとして、ソーシャルホールの改修が終わるまでは、寄付品の受け入れを一時停止します。
 - JCI カーニバルは6月28日に開催されます。GBCはちらし寿司といなり寿司を作るよう依頼されています。BWAはこのお寺関連全般の活動における寿司作りを監督します。
- ▽ GBC創立100周年記念委員会は、毎月のBWA定例会の後に毎月会合を開いています。
 - BWAはGBC創立100周年の贈り物として、お寺の新しいカーペット設置を検討中です。費用は約2万5千ドルから3万ドルと見込まれています。別のグループと共同で費用を分担する案も出されています。また、BWA創立100周年イベントとして、昼食会の開催も計画されており、食事代だけで約7,500～10,000ドルの予算が見込まれています。
 - ミツナガ・トラストが特定の寄付を検討しています。記念委員会は次回の会合でこの件を話し合う予定です。
 - GBC BWA100周年委員会：次回の募金活動は、6月8日のカレーライスイベントです。杉田ローリーがこのBWA主催の弁当ランチの企画を担当してくださいませ。4月の定例会では、美味しいチキンカレーライスの試食を提供してくださいませ。
- ▽ FBWA 2026年大会：南部地区が当番で、大会は2026年10月にサンディエゴで開催されます。経費軽減のため、SDBWA各支部は

Uppercrust Enterprise社より寄贈されたパン粉を販売しています。1袋3ドル。今年各支部の盆踊りで販売を予定しており、この募金活動は夏まで継続されます。ガーデンBWAは、日曜礼拝後のコーヒーソーシャルで販売します。チューズデイソーシャルでは丸山フィリスが販売担当します。

- ▽ 5月3日（土）藤まつり：弁当ピックアップイベント。BWAメンバーの堀キャシー、宮田ジュリー、坂谷シャーリーン、清水ミツィ、吉山ナンシーが午前10時からボランティアで参加されます。
- ▽ 5月4日（日）降誕会法要：D組が御齋（おとし）とお供えを担当してくれました。感謝いたします。
- ▽ 2025年9月に始まるソーシャルホール改修の前に、キッチンの掃除が必要です。備品の一時保管場所について決める必要があります。
- ▽ 7月12日（土）YABAとの合同イベント：うどんの出汁作り。詳細は後日お知らせします。

アナウンスメント:

- ▽ 5月4日（日）：5月のBWA定例会（ハイブリッド）午前11時15分 D/e組担当
- ▽ 5月4日（日）：月例祥月法要（対面）午後2時
- ▽ 5月11日（日）：母の日パンケーキ朝食（ABA主催）
- ▽ 5月16日（金）：命日講法要（Zoom）午前7時
- ▽ 6月8日（日）：6月のBWA定例会 午前11時15分（ハイブリッド）E/a組担当
- ▽ 6月8日（日）：月例祥月法要（対面）午後2時
- ▽ 6月7日～8日（土・日）：BWAカレーライス募金イベント（土曜日に準備、日曜日に配布）



GARDENA BWA (ガーデナ仏教婦人会)

百周年記念 手作りカレー募金活動のお知らせ



1皿あたりの寄付金：\$25.00 (目安)
好きなカレーをお選びください：

- チキンカレー
 - 豆腐カレー (ベジタリアン対応)
- すべて手作りでです！

各プレート内容：

- ・ご飯
- ・福神漬
- ・そして、BWAキッチンのたっぷりの愛情！

△ カレーにはココナッツミルクが含まれています。
アレルギーのある方はご注意ください。

●日付：2025年6月8日

●ピックアップ時間：午前11時～午後1時30分

●ピックアップ場所：ガーデナ仏教会ソーシャルホール

注文の締め切り：5月18日(日) 必着

..... Detach here

NAME: _____ PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

| | # OF ORDERS | | | SUBTOTAL |
|-------------------------|--------------|----|-------|----------|
| CHICKEN CURRY | _____ X \$25 | \$ | _____ | _____ |
| VEGETARIAN CURRY (TOFU) | _____ X \$25 | \$ | _____ | _____ |
| DONATION | | \$ | _____ | _____ |
| GRAND TOTAL | | \$ | _____ | _____ |

- お支払い方法：
- ・現金または小切手のみ
 - ・小切手宛先：Gardena Buddhist Church
 - ・メモ欄に：BWA Curry Fundraiser と記入

- お申込み封筒について：
同封の返信用封筒をご利用いただくか、封筒の左下に**「BWA」**と明記してください。

ご支援いただき誠にありがとうございます！！
ご不明な点がございましたら今田イモジーン又は 宮田ジュリー(jemiyata@sbcglobal.net)までご連絡ください。

For office use only: Rec'd on _____ Check # _____ \$ _____
 Rec'd on _____ Cash \$ _____
 Rec'd by: _____