



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



December 2023

Volume LVI No. 12



Rev. John Iwohara

“What is Other-Power?”

Other-Power is a critical doctrinal term used by Jodo Shinshu. It is fair to say that without Other-Power, there is no Jodo Shinshu. Given how important Other-Power is to Jodo Shinshu, it becomes necessary

to understand what Other-Power actually is. Unfortunately, because of its significance, the idea of Other-Power has been misused to quell ideas that are not aligned with the perspectives of those who misuse the term. Responding to this particular misuse of the term “Other-Power,” critics often mention that this interpretation leads to “passivity.”

What is Other-Power? First, Other-Power is used to contrast with “Self-Power.” In a work titled “Notes on Once-Calling and Many-Calling,” Shinran Shonin describes Self-Power in the following way:

“‘Self-power’ characterizes those who have full confidence in themselves, trusting in their own hearts and minds, striving with their own powers, and relying on their own various roots of good.” (CWS, p. 484).

Whereas “Self-Power” may be seen as “self-

reliance,” it is important to keep in mind that Shinran Shonin is using the term Self-Power to help describe spiritual and religious truths. From this perspective, the self-reliance that Self-Power might suggest becomes the source for continued suffering and sorrow. The reason is because this “self” is seen as lacking in Truth: the self is “unreliable.” For example, again from the “Notes on Once-Calling and Many-Calling,” Shinran Shonin describes themselves and all suffering human beings, as “foolish beings”:

“Foolish beings: as expressed in the parable of the two rivers of water and fire, we are full of ignorance and blind passion. Our desires are countless, and anger, wrath, jealousy, and envy are overwhelming, arising without pause; to the very last moment of life they do not cease, or disappear, or exhaust themselves.” (CWS, p. 488).

Because the “Self” in “Self-Power” is unreliable, Shinran Shonin encouraged all to rely on that which is reliable. This, in other words, is the “Other” in “Other-Power.” For example, in the Chapter on Practice, Shinran Shonin describes Other-Power as:

“Even more decisively will the ocean of beings of the ten quarters be grasped and never

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

abandoned when they have taken refuge in this practice and shinjin (Faith) ¹. Therefore the Buddha is called 'Amida Buddha.' This is Other Power." (CWS, p. 54)

In this passage, Shinran Shonin equates Amida Buddha with Other-Power. In a separate passage, again from the Chapter on Practice, Shinran Shonin also says:

"Other Power is none other than the power of the Tathagata's Primal Vow." (CWS, p. 57)

Here, Shinran Shonin identifies Other-Power with the activity of Amida Buddha's Vow. It is what "works" on us. These definitions will eventually help frame the reason for Shinran Shonin's writing of the Shoshin Nenbutsuge that concludes the Chapter on Practice. In introducing the Shoshinge, Shinran Shonin also quotes the following words:

"The bodhisattva takes refuge in the Buddha, just as filial children obey their parents and loyal retainers follow their rulers, with their behavior not self-centered and their acts always according with reason." (CWS, p. 68)

The phrase "their behavior not self-centered" is pointing to Other-Power. This passage, far from suggesting that we do "nothing," as is often suggested in explaining Other-Power especially

1 The term "Faith" has been added to the original.

when it is used to quell ideas and actions, informs us that because of Other-Power we are allowed to become the best versions of ourselves. We are not just children, but become filial children. We are not just retainers, but become loyal retainers.

Whereas I maintain that you can't become a filial child or a loyal retainer by being passive, there are some who may argue that filiality or loyalty is a term applied by those in power to reward and maintain passive and conformist behavior. In the context of Faith, I disagree with this perspective because faith, especially if it is meant to be liberating, cannot be passive. Instead, Jodo Shinshu Faith is dynamic. It is, for example, what gives us the courage to look deeply at ourselves. As Jodo Shinshu Buddhists, Faith is what gives us the courage to see ourselves as "foolish beings." Faith is also what gives us the inspiration and impetus to behave kindly and be thoughtful towards others despite being a foolish being. It is, for instance, what allowed Shinran Shonin to do things like write the Shoshin Nenbutsuge and help countless others to discover Faith for themselves and motivate them to share this Faith with others.



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.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------|-------------------|
| Kakurai, Cheryl | (57) | July 5, 2023 |
| Isobe, Craig Tsukasa | (76) | October 10, 2023 |
| Fujii, Edwin Tsuruzo | (87) | October 17, 2023 |
| Sakuda, Shizuko | (94) | October 17, 2023 |
| Yoshida, Masae | (102) | November 5, 2023 |
| Kadosono, John Minoru | (96) | November 9, 2023 |
| Tamada, Aiko | (87) | November 12, 2023 |



Megumi Deadline is Monday, December 18, 2023

ABA News (Adult Buddhist Association)

How time flies! In another month, it will be 2024.

ABA is in the middle of elections, with the new cabinet to be announced at the December 17 meeting. Be sure to attend to find out who will lead us next year.

ABA is also working on putting together a performance for Oseibo Taikai on December 10. We're not going to give you a hint; you'll just need to attend and find out what we do!

Happy Holidays to One and All!



The Community Projects Group (CPG)

The CPG would like to thank all of you for the help and support you've given us during the past year. Your many donations of supplies and craft items, as well as your participation at our fundraisers, is much appreciated.

Our CPG is made up of volunteers who meet regularly at church, gathering to share ideas and work on projects to donate/sell to others. We welcome anyone interested in joining us. Please contact any of our members if you are interested.



A group photo of our CPG in October, 2023



Members at work making "Okoshi" November, 2023

ICHI-MI CLUB

"A Profound Silence" Film Screening

On October 8, Ichi-Mi's film "A Profound Silence" was shown at Senshin Buddhist Temple. About 35 people attended, and a question and answer session followed the film. We are grateful to have a showing of this important and highly educational film at Senshin. The film will also be shown at Orange County Buddhist Church, Social Hall, 1pm, December 3. To schedule a film showing for your affiliate organization, contact Ichi-Mi at ichimigbc@gmail.com.



Happenings:

- ◇ The BWA Japanese seminar sponsored by the GBC BEC has been scheduled to coincide with February 3-4, 2024's Kisaragi service, with Rev. Mayuki Nagamine from Higashi Hongwanji as our guest speaker. We are looking to book a speaker for 2025 now, as the ministers' schedules are pretty busy and should be reserved well in advance.
- ◇ GBC 100th anniversary gift to the temple: We've decided to purchase uchishiki cloths for the onai-jin. Discussion included purchasing a set of 5 cloths to have a matching set with a budget of \$20,000. We need to select a color scheme so Rev. John and Kathy can request estimates from Japan.
- ◇ GBC BWA 100th anniversary event planning (Feb, 2026). We're planning a special service, luncheon and a gift to our members. The planning committee consists of: Imogene Imada, Chizuko Morimoto, Julie Miyata, Amy Kato, Shawna Tanaka & Yuko Wakimoto. The first meeting will be in the new year. TBD.
- ◇ YABA – We will be scheduling a sushi class with the members next year.
- ◇ BWA sushi class was on October 28, 2023 at 10AM. Thank you to Kathy Hori, Phyllis Maruyama, Nancy Yoshiyama and Mitsuko Miyamoto for cutting and cooking the shiitake on Friday. Thank you to Kathy for washing and cooking the rice for our class. Thank you to Mrs. Miyamoto for guiding us in instructions to roll. We're thinking of having another class with more one-on-one training so we can master the technique of getting the ingredients more in the center of the roll.
- ◇ November 11th, Saturday – PIF Event: Udon Sale and Bingo. BWA was asked to prepare the dashi for the udon. Thank you everyone who helped make this event a success. The udon was delicious!
- ◇ November 18th, Saturday – Takikomi Gohan otoki prep. A/b gumi in charge of shopping for the ingredients. Prep on Saturday from 8:30am-12noon. Sunday (11/19) 5:30am start; general assembly: 6:30am to finish and package the takikomi Gohan otoki. Thank you, A/b gumi for the delicious snacks and thank you to everyone who came to help out on Saturday & Sunday. Thank you also to ABA for passing out the otoki to the attendees on Sunday after the Eitaikyo Service.
- ◇ November 25th, Saturday – Year-end Homebound Members' visits. This year's list includes: Mrs. Jackson, Mrs. Tamehiro, Mrs. Sueyoshi, Mrs. Mizukami and Mrs. Tada, and Mrs. Koda. Kathy Hori will purchase orchids for our gifts to these members when we visit them.
- ◇ December 3rd, Sunday – Bodhi Day. B gumi is in charge of the osonae.
- ◇ December 10th, Sunday – Oseibo Taikai. BWA will be on the program to sing. Children's folksongs or gathas?

Announcements:

- o November 22nd (Wednesday) – Gardena Forward meeting 7:00pm via Zoom. Phyllis Maruyama will attend, representing BWA.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

- o November 26th (Sunday) – Coordinating Council Meeting 11:30. Julie/Imogene will attend
- o December 2nd (Saturday) – Shotsuki Hoyo – on our website
- o December 3rd (Sunday) – BWA Regular Monthly Meeting followed immediately by General Meeting (hybrid) B/c Gumi
- o December 7th (Thursday) – PIF Meeting 7:00pm via Zoom. Julie/Imogene will attend
- o January 7th (Sunday) – BWA Regular Monthly Meeting 11:15am (hybrid). C/d Gumi

BWA Appreciation:

- ◇ SD Jr. YBL Conference
GBC Jr. YBA
- ◇ Special Donation - Kansha
Rev. G. Matsubayashi
- ◇ 80/88th Birthday
Takahashi, Sae



Rev John Iwohara with Kathy Hori (left) and Charlene Hirotsu (right) after Kathy gave a \$2,500 Grant Award from the Southern District BWA to Wisteria Chugakko.

YABA (Young Adult Buddhist Association)

As we say goodbye to autumn, we welcome the inevitable change to winter.

Last month on the 4th we had a Game Night & Potluck. We played a range of different games like Bunco, Pokemon Battle Academy, Gin Rummy, and UNO No Mercy. On the 11th we helped and attended the PIF Udon/Musubi & Bingo event. Thank you to all who made it happen so all of us could enjoy it.

We are excited to install the 2024 YABA cabinet this month. On the 16th we are going to the LA Zoo Lights experience.

Enjoy the remainder of the year & see everyone in 2024!

Upcoming Events

- December 10: Cabinet Installation
- December 16: LA Zoo Lights





Hui Aikanes

The fall season has come and gone. Winter is upon us - a time for renewal and reflection.

We want to thank our Hui Aikane members for helping prepare the kamaboko, chashu, prepared eggs, spinach and spam musubi that contributed to a delicious evening and entertaining evening of BINGO. It was wonderful to see everyone that attended.

Our Installation Service for our officers will be held on January 21st. Installation luncheon and next meeting will be on January 20th.

Hui Aikane wishes our Sangha season's greetings and many cherished moments with family and friends.

Hau'oli Kalikimaka (Happy New Year)!

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

Dharma School News

Hope everyone is adjusting to the time change. We hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving Day.

This year Oseibo Taikai is on December 17, 2023. All the classes are preparing their entertainment. It will be a lot of fun, so please join us for some fun and raffle. Just a reminder that New Year's Eve service and New Year's Day service is extra credit.

Have a nice and safe holiday season.



Dharma School "2023 Perfect Attendance" awardees

**Board Meeting: Wednesday, December 13 at 7PM
Via Zoom**



Wisteria Chugakko

Reverend John Iwohara, Headmaster
Charlene Hirotsu, Principal



Please sign up and join us for the 2024 summer session.

2024 Wisteria Chugakko Summer Session
Student Interest Form for Grades 7, 8 and 9
Monday, June 17 through Wednesday, July 10, 2024
charlene.hirotsu@gbcwisteriachugakko.org



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 17 – July 10, 2024

I am interested in registering for Wisteria Chugakko for the Summer of 2024.

I will be in the 7th, 8th or 9th grade in the Fall of 2024.

Student's Last Name	Student's First Name	Student's Gender Pronoun Preference
Student's Date of Birth	Student's Grade in Fall 2024	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.)

Sangha Teens

The Pass it Forward Fundraiser was a great success, thank you to all the Sangha Teens parents and the BWA who came to help.

Our gratitude goes to all of the Sangha Teens cabinet members for 2022-2023 Alyson Yick, Ethan Tanaka, Leah Hernandez, Addie Miyamoto, Travis Higuchi, Karissa Sasaki, Jenna Mato, and Alena Yick. We also thank our Parent Advisors, Mrs. Tracy Higuchi and Mrs. Amy Yick, We would also like to thank our Advisors Mr. Alan Kita, Ms. Nadine Kakimoto and Ms. Mitzi Shimizu. Congratulations to the new cabinet for this year's 2023-2024 Sangha Teens, Aaliyah Lam, Alena Yick, Garrett Kato, Jenna Mato and Michelle Taketani. Our Parent Advisors this year are Mrs. Peggy Mato and Mrs. Amy Yick and our Advisors are Mr. Alan Kita, Ms. Nadine Kakimoto and Ms. Mitzi Shimizu.

Upcoming events:

- Dec 3rd- Installation service
- Dec 10th- Oseibo Taikai
- Dec 10th- Oseibo Taikai performance
- Dec 17th- Annual Hondo Clean-up
- Jan 7th- ST Meeting
- Jan 27th- Installation banquet
- Jan 28th- ST Sunday Social Donuts



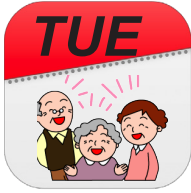
PIF (Pass It Forward)

Thank you to everyone who came and made this a successful fundraiser. The Udon and spam musubi was delicious. It was nice to eat udon using our bowls. We would like to thank David Nakamoto, Charlene Nation, and Mary Tamura for offering their guidance to us. The BWA made the dashi from scratch and it was delicious. We had a huge selection of baked goods provided by the scouts and Gary Shimizu our bingo caller entertained us during the games. Thank you to all the organization volunteers who came and worked their shifts. Without your support we couldn't have done the udon sale.

We thank you for your continued support.

Imogene Imada and Arleen Miya Co-Chairs





TUESDAY SOCIAL

On October 31, we had a great day with everyone wearing a fun hat in celebration of Halloween. We are back to having our first Tuesday of the month potlucks which is always a delicious feast and enjoyed by all. Please join us for fun and laughter every Tuesday from 9:30am – 11:30am for a cup of coffee & a sweet treat. Come one Tuesday or every Tuesday.

Here is our year end schedule: **NO Tuesday Social on December 26, 2023, and January 2, 2024.** We will resume on January 9, 2024 (No potluck on this day). We hope that everyone has a warm, safe and happy holiday season. Please take care.



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

The church acknowledges the following donations received from 10/16/23 - 11/20/2023 with gratitude and appreciation.

Funeral/Makurakyo/Burial/Memorial Services

Arimoto, Eric	Masuda, Richard	Taoyama, Kimiko
Fujii, Iris	Okamoto, Yauko	Uraguchi, Naomi
Isobe, Kelyn	Ronne, M/M Robert	Yamaoka, Hidekuni

Shotsuki Hoyo Donations

Arisumi, Glen	Maeda, Stacy	Osa, Susan	Taniguchi, Maile
Doami, Koko	Maruyama, Kazuko	Oshima, Glenn	Taoyama, Kimiko
Easton, Robert	Matsuda, Noreen	Ronne, M/M Robert	Tenpo, Helen
Ego, Kimiko	Matsumoto, Eiko	Ryukoku University	Uwahori, Sadae
Fujioki, Emma	Mitchell, Margaret	Alumni	Wakimoto, Yuko
Harada, Patricia	Nakakura, M/M Ken	Sasaki, M/M Tom	Walker, M/M Alan
Hashimoto, Keiko	Nakamoto, Elise	Sasaki, Tom & Kiyoko	Watanabe, Donald (2)
Hedani, Bruce	Nakamura, Christine (2)	Sera, Jean	Watanabe, Katsuko
Hedani, Daniel	Nakasuji, Rose	Shimizu, Mitzi	Yamaoka, Hidekuni
Iinuma, Doris	Nakata, M/M Bob	Shimono, Barbara	Yamashita, M/M Toru
Ikeda, Tsuemi	Nakata, Taeko	Sueishi, Hatsumi	Yokota, M/M James
Imamura, M/M James	Nomura, Chizuko	Suminaga, Kimiye	Yoshioka, Dr/M Wayne (2)
Iwamasa, Susumu	Ohara, M/M J.S.	Tamura, Lynne	Yusa, Akiye
Koda, Masako	Okamoto, Yauko	Tanaka, Kumi	
Kontos, Joanne	Okumoto, Yoko	Tanaka, Nancy	

Eitaikyo Service

Fujimoto, Fumie	Kawahara, Larry & Jane	Miyata, Julie	Takahashi, Sae
Hirayama, Joyce	Komatsu, Janett	Nakakura, M/M Ken	Tamura, Mary
Hirotsu, Stan & Charlene	Maeda, Tom	Nakamura, Christine	Tsukamoto, W.
Imada, M/M Brian	Maruyama, Kazuko	Nakawatase, Haruye	Uyeda, Midori
Imamoto, Eiko	Maruyama, Phyllis	Nishihira, M/M Joe	Uyemura, M/M David
Inose, Kay	Matsuda, Hiromi	Okada, Nobuko	Yoshiyama, M/M Bryan
Kakimoto, Nadine	Miwa, Alan & Christine	Okumoto, Yoko	Yuki, Toyoko
Kato, M/M Isao	Miwa, Yoshiko	Sasaki, M/M Tom	
	Miyamoto, Mitsuko	Shimono, Natsuye	

Oseibo Donation

Fujimoto, Fumie	Matano, Florence	Nakatani, M/M David	Wada, Mikie
Hori, Kathryn	Mayemura, Louise	Nishihira, M/M Joe	Yokota, M/M James
Ikeda, Tamotsu	Mayetani, Etsuko	Shimono, Natsuye	Yoshida, Suzanne
Imamura, M/M James	Motoyasu, Steve	Suminaga, Kimiye	Yuki, Toyoko
Inose, Kay	Nakakura, M/M Ken	Takao, Tamiko	
Maehara, Nolan	Nakamoto, M/M David	Tamura, Mary	
Maruyama, Kazuko	Nakano, Etsuko	Terao, D/M Ernie	

Special Donations

Brian Mitsunaga Trust (2) Doami, Koko Harada, Robert	Leung Charitable Fund Miyata, Julie Nakamura, Debbie	Ryukoku Univ. Alumni Sanada, Donna Terao, D/M Ernest	Uyeda, Midori Yada, Frank
--	--	--	------------------------------

BCA Assessment

Enomoto, M/M Tom Haruma, Yaeko Hori, Kathryn Ikeda, Tamotsu Ikeda, Winston Imamoto, Eiko Inose, Kay Inouye, Ben Iwamoto, M/M Daniel Kakimoto, Nadine Kato, M/M Isao Kawahara, M/M Larry Kawamura, Kenneth Koyanagi, Stan Kurashima, Justin & Sharon	Kushi, M/M Devin Maeda, Tom Maesaki, Kazue Maruyama, Kazuko Matano, Florence Matsuda, Hiromi Mayemura, Louise Motoyasu, Steve Munekata, D/M Mark Nakakura, M/M Ken Nakamatsu, Aiko Nakamoto, M/M David Nakamura, Debbie Nakamura, Lilly Nakano, Etsuko	Nakano, Patsy Nakao, Harumi Nakatani, M/M David Nishihira, M/M Joe Ohara, Toshifumi Okada, George Okamura, Rodney Okumoto, Yoko Sasaki, M/M Tom Sato, Janice Shimizu, Mitzi Shimono, Natsuye Suda, Yuriko Suminaga, Kimiye Takao, Tamiko	Tamehiro, Yaeko Tamura, Mary Tanaka, George Tateishi, M/M Craig Terao, D/M Ernest Toma, Yuriko Toyoaki, M/M Shiro Uyeda, Pauline Wada, Mickie Yamane, M/M Dick Yamashiro, Joann Yokota, M/M James
---	--	--	--

2023 GBC Membership Dues (Received: 10/16/2023 – 11/20/2023)

Motoyasu, Aya Munekata, Kai	Munekata, Mark Munekata, Nancy	Okada, Yoshio
--------------------------------	-----------------------------------	---------------

Seijinshiki

Morioka, Kylie	Nation, Charlene
----------------	------------------

General Donation/Facility Use/ Miscellaneous

Arimoto, Eric Baba, Miyako	Fujii, Iris Kizuna	Kobayashi, Izumi (2) Nakamura, Debbie
-------------------------------	-----------------------	--



- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| * Bodhi Day Service | Sunday, December 3, 2023 |
| * Festival of Lights & Food Sale | Saturday, December 9, 2023 |
| * Oseibo Taikai | Sunday, December 10, 2023 |
| * Hondo Cleanup | Sunday, December 17, 2023 |
| * Year End Service | Sunday, December 31, 2023 |
| * New Year's Day Service | Sunday, January 1, 2024 |



From GBC Board Chairperson

“Thank you for your support and patience!”

Alan Miwa

This will be my last article as the Board Chairperson for the Gardena Buddhist Church. My two year term is ending on December 31, 2023.

I made it my personal goal to make a difference. I hope that I was able to do that. I'm happy to report that the following happened during my time in office:

- YABA formed in 2022.
- We became the charter organization for Boy Scout Troop 242.
- In 2023 church exited Covid protocols and the Sangha were able to return to in-person services.
- The Youth Room above the Social Hall Cooling Room was rebuilt.
- Wisteria Chugakko completed it's 4th year (2022) session, as-well-as a 5 year reunion (2018 – 2022 alumni), and the 5th year (2023) session
- The 2-day Obon returned and for the first time, credit card purchasing.
- A newly formed Long Range Planning committee established a GBC Vision and Mission Statement which will be shared in 2024.
- Two new committees were formed to prepare for our Centennial:
 - ▶ A Centennial Planning Committee
 - ▶ A Centennial Project Funding Committee
- Three Eagle Scout projects were completed:
 - ▶ May 2023 – Trash bin repair, tool shed makeover, and pre-school bookshelves (Ashton Liu)
 - ▶ June 2023 – East side playground remodel (Chase Wada).
 - ▶ Sep 2023 – Sunday Social area benches and basketball backboard replacement (Jordan Ho)
- A special event fund raiser for the Lahaina Hongwanji Mission. This event raised \$28,000.
- The new Board Chairperson for 2024 will be Ross Nishimura. I know that Ross will be an excellent replacement and I see a bright future for our temple. He has many ideas and I ask that you give him the same support that you gave me.

Thank you
Arigato Gozaimasu

Coming of Age Ceremony

成人式

Sunday, January 14, 2024
9:30am - 1:00pm

We would like to invite anyone who will be 19-24 years old in Spring 2024 to participate in this very meaningful ceremony and with a renewed spirit to continue to walk along life's path.



December 2023

2	Shotsuki Hoyo via Zoom	10:00am
3	Dharma School Teacher's mtg	8:15am
	Sunday Service Bodhi Day Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
	BWA Hybrid mtg	11:15am
6	DS Teacher's mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
7	Pass It Forward mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
9	PIF: Festival of Lights & Food Sale	5:00pm
10	Sunday Service Oseibo Taikai (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
13	GBC Board mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
15	Jodo Shinshu 101 for Young Adults	7:00pm
16	Meinichiko service Zoom	7:00am
17	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
	Hondo Clean Up	11:00am
	ABA mtg (In-Person & Zoom)	11:30am
18	Megumi Deadline	
24	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
	Coordinating Council mtg (In-person & Zoom)	11:30am
25	Temple Closed	
	Community Projects CANCELLED	
26	Tuesday Social CANCELLED	
	BS Troop 242 mtg CANCELLED	
31	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
	Year End Service	7:00pm

January 2024

1	New Years Day	8:00am
	Office closed	
2	Tuesday Social CANCELLED	
6	Shotsuki Hoyo via Zoom	10:00am
7	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
	Board of Directors/Officers & BWA Cabinet Installation	
	BWA Hybrid mtg	11:15am
11	Jinjo Raihai Service via Zoom	7:00am
12	Jinjo Raihai Service via Zoom	7:00am
13	Jinjo Raihai Service via Zoom	7:00am
14	Sunday Service Goshoki Hoonko (In-Person & Zoom) & Seijinshiki (Coming of Age) Ceremony	9:30am
15	Temple closed (MLK)	
16	Meinichiko service via Zoom	7:00am
20	Hui Aikane Installation Lunch	11:30am
21	Jr. YBA mtg	8:45am
	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
	Wilstera Chugakko Teacher's Workshop #1	1:30pm
22	Megumi Deadline	
27	BCA CBE Winter Pacific Seminar	
28	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
	New Members Confirmation Service	
	New Member's Welcome & New Year's Party	11:30am

<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 Weekly

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



宮地信雄師

「中道」の教え

仏教の大事な教えの中に「中道」という考えがあります。中道というのは、その読んで字の如く真ん中の道ということです。

しかし、この真ん中の道ということは、例えば十字路に突き当たって、さて、右へ行くか左へ行くか、それとも真ん中の道をいくかどれにしようかと迷っている時、その右でも左でもない真ん中の道を取るといような場合の真ん中という意味にとる人がたくさんいるのです。普通の場合にはそれでいいのですが、仏教でいう中道とは、こういう意味とは少し違う意味で中道というのです。

結論を先に言っておきます。仏教でいう中道とは、右や左ではなく真ん中の道をいくという真ん中ではなく、右でもなく左でもない道ということなのです。え、それじゃ、やっぱり真ん中の道ということじゃないかと思われる方がおられると思いますが、よく注意して聞いてみてください。今、私は右でもなく左でもない道と言ったのです。真ん中の道とは言っていない。え、それはどういうことですかということになりますよね。仏教でいう右でもなく左でもないということは、右と左を共に否定しているという意味なのです。だから、真ん中の道を取りなさいと言っているのではないのです。右でも左でもない道をとりにさいといっているのです。

それでは、どういうことをお釈迦さまは言おうとされたのかというと、その右とか左とかという考えを超えなさいと言われたのです。私たちは、物事を考えるのにすぐにそれが右か左か、つまり正しいか正しくないかと分けて、その正しいと思った道を取るのが普通ですが、その時正しいとか正しくないということにこだわってはいけないと言われるのです。正しいとか正しくないとかいうことは、そのときのTPO、つまり状況によって変わってくるものなのです。というのがお釈迦さまが言いたいことなのです。だから、人生の大きな問題にぶつかった場合、私たちは右か左か迷った時に、どちらへいけばいいかということを決める時、一度その右か左かを超えた視点からその場を考えなさいとおっしゃってくださっているのです。この右か左かを一度越えてみるということが「中道」を取れという教えなのです。

私たちはこの中道という考えを持たずに、自分たちの今までの生活経験によって全てを決めてしまうのです。この生活経験のことを仏教では「業」と呼んでいます。私たちは正しいとか正しくないとか、白か黒か、あるいは生か死か、を考える時全てこの「業」によって判断しているのです。しかし、それでは本当の判断は下せないというのが仏教という教えです。

今年一年いろいろとお世話になりました。ありがとうございました。合掌





婦人会便り

婦人会の通常の活動（敬称略）

- ▽
- ▽ GBC BEC主催の2023年BWA日本語セミナーは来年2月3-4日の如月法要に合わせて開催し、東本願寺の長峯眞如先生をご講師にお迎えします。先生方は多忙なため、早めにスケジュールを押さえるために現在すでに2025年のご講師を探しているところです。
- ▽ ガーデナ仏教会創立百周年記念の贈答品：お内陣の打敷（1セット5枚の揃いの布）を贈ることに決定。予算は20,000ドル。色合いを決めるために庵原先生と堀キャシーが日本から見積もりをとっていただく必要があります。
- ▽ 2026年2月のガーデナ仏教会婦人会創立百周年記念として、特別法要、昼餐会、メンバーへの贈答品を組み込むことを決定。特別委員会のメンバーは今田イモジーン、森本千鶴子、宮田ジュリー、加藤エイミー、田中シャウナ、脇元優子です。第一回会議は来年を予定しております（日時未定）。
- ▽ YABAのメンバーと一緒に来年寿司クラスを開催予定。
- ▽ 10月28日（土）午前10時から寿司クラスを開催しました。お手伝い下さった下記方々にお礼申し上げます。お寿司の具材切り&椎茸の味付け：堀キャシー、丸山フィリス、吉山ナンシー、宮本みつ子、炊飯担当：堀キャシー、巻きの指導：宮本みつ子。もう一回クラスを開き、ひとつひとつの手順を訓練すれば、巻き寿司の中央に具がくるように巻けるようになるでしょう。
- ▽ 11月11日（土）PIFイベント：うどん販売&ビンゴ。婦人会はうどんの出汁作りを担当しました。皆様がお手伝い下さったお陰でイベントは大成功、うどんはもちろん美味しかったです。
- ▽ 11月18日（土）炊き込みご飯の準備。A/b組が材料の買い出し担当。土曜日は8:30am - 12noon、日曜日(11/19)は5:30amから準備を始め、6:30amに皆で仕上げた炊き込みご飯を容器に詰める作業をしました。美味しいスナックを用意して下さったA/b組の方々は

じめ、土日にお手伝いして下さった皆様、ありがとうございました。永代経の後に御齋を配って下さったABAのメンバーにもお礼申し上げます。

- ▽ 11月25日（土）年末病気お見舞い先：ジャクソン富美子、為広八重子、末吉メイ子、水上とも子、多田多美子、幸田正子。堀キャシーが婦人会からのギフトとして蘭の花を購入し、お見舞いに持参致します。
- ▽ 12月3日（日）成道会：お供えはB組担当
- ▽ 12月10日（日）お歳暮大会：婦人会は合唱（童謡か讃仏歌？）で出演します。

アナウンスメント:

- ▽ 11月22日（水）ガーデナフォワード会議（Zoom）午後7時丸山フィリスが婦人会代表として出席予定
- ▽ 11月26日（日）附属団体連絡協議会（Zoom）午前11時30分 宮田ジュリー&今田イモジーン出席予定
- ▽ 12月2日（土）祥月法要（ウェブサイト上）
- ▽ 12月3日（日）12月婦人会例会（ハイブリッド）午前11時15分 引き続き総会 当番B/c組
- ▽ 12月7日（木）PIF会議（Zoom）午後7時 宮田ジュリー&今田イモジーン出席予定
- ▽ 1月7日（日）1月婦人会例会（ハイブリッド）午前11時15分 引き続き総会 当番C/d組

感謝録:

- ▽ 80/88歳誕生日寄付：高橋小枝
- ▽ 特別寄付：松林ジョージ名誉開教使
- ▽ 南部教区Jr.YBL会議：ガーデナ Jr.YBA

