



MEGUMI

慈恩

GARDENA BUDDHIST CHURCH



August 2025

1517 W. 166th Street, Gardena, CA 90247

Phone: 310-327-9400 E-Mail: info@gardenabuddhistchurch.org

Volume LVIII No. 8



Rev. John Iwohara

The assumption made in Buddhism regarding good-works is that the heart behind the good works has to be good. In other words, in order to do ethical behavior, one must first have an ethical heart. Fortunately,

Buddhism also suggests that doing good works can help develop the heart that can do good works. This, in turn, makes it possible to do more and superior good works. This definition creates both the mechanism for doing good works and a very high standard for it.

Based on a Self-Power or Jiriki practice mindset, the practice of good works is required to develop your heart in such a way that your good works becomes better over time. That is to say, good works become better over time because our hearts have become better. On the other hand, Shinran Shonin describes us as "foolish beings (bonbu)," and then defines foolish beings in the following way.

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;

"Good works"

to the very last moment of life they do not cease, or disappear, or exhaust themselves. (Collected Works of Shinran, p. 488)

From Shinran Shonin's understanding of what we are as foolish beings, and Buddhism's framing of what constitutes good works, good works (as a Practice) is unattainable for us. Our hearts (as our hearts) do not fundamentally change: overcoming the ignorance and blind passions that we have created is, in Shinran Shonin's understanding, insurmountable by us. This is Shinran Shonin's religious understanding of who and what we are. It is the reason why Shinran Shonin had to rely on the Other-Power of the working of Amida Buddha's Fundamental Vow.

That, however, is not to say that we should not do "good." For example, one of the 10 benefits in the present life associated with the heart of faith includes "the benefit of constantly practicing great compassion." In the case of Jodo Shinshu, the motivation found behind doing good works is not to perfect good works. As mentioned previously, this also assumes the necessity of perfecting the heart that allows us to do perfected good works. Our good works are limited by the quality of our hearts. In Jodo Shinshu, being able to do good or practicing

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

compassion becomes possible through the heart of faith that is received through the working of Other-Power. Because this heart is received from the Buddha, the compassion we are able to demonstrate becomes "great." On the other hand, because this heart is not something that we developed ourselves, all of our actions become expressions of gratitude. We do not do good works because our hearts are good. We do good works because we have received the working of the compassionate activity of Namo Amida Butsu, or the perfected heart of wisdom and compassion. In other words, we are the recipients of the Buddha's good works. For example, in a letter, Shinran Shonin has written

In people who have long heard the Buddha's Name and said the nembutsu, surely there are signs of rejecting the evil of this world and signs of their desire to cast off the evil in themselves. When people first begin to hear the Buddha's Vow, they wonder, having become thoroughly aware of the karmic evil in their hearts and minds, how they will ever attain birth as they are. To such people we teach that since we are possessed of blind passions, the Buddha receives us without judging whether our hearts are good or bad. (Collected Works of Shinran [CWS], p. 553)

Instead of becoming a reason that prevents us from doing good, knowing that we are incapable of good works because we are foolish beings is what prevents us from overestimating the value of our actions. We are saved from our own hubris.

This attitude can clearly be seen in Shinran Shonin's very clear statement to Yui-en-bo, or a person who clearly identified themselves as a student of Shinran Shonin, that Shinran Shonin did not have a single disciple. In the Tannisho, Yui-en-bo writes Shinran Shonin as having said to them:

For myself, I do not have even a single disciple. For if I brought people to say the nembutsu through my own efforts, then

they might be my disciples. But it is indeed preposterous to call persons "my disciples" when they say the nembutsu having received the working of Amida. (CWS, p. 664)

Furthermore, towards the end of their lives, Shinran Shonin writes the following poem:

*I am such that I do not know right and wrong
And cannot distinguish false and true;
I lack even small love and small compassion,
And yet, for fame and profit, enjoy teaching
others. (CWS, p. 429)*

As seen in the above poem, Shinran Shonin continued to lament their inability to free themselves of the pervasive need to affirm their ego. On the other hand, Shinran Shonin also did not succumb to the tendency to force that need onto others. For example, Shinran Shonin did not require the need to place themselves above others by either claiming themselves as superior or demeaning others to make them inferior. That we continue to celebrate and praise the life of Shinran Shonin these many centuries after their having entered the Pure Land is a testament to how they were able to express the benefit of constantly practicing great compassion through their sharing and living the Nenbutsu.



Fujinkai / BWA Buddhist Women's Association

Happenings:

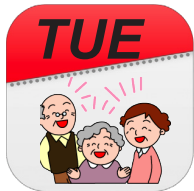
- ◇ The GBC 100th Anniversary Committee meets every month after the regular BWA monthly meeting.
 - Update: The BWA will be gifting the temple with new carpeting for the hondo as our gift for the GBC's 100th anniversary. We've also decided to move our luncheon to the social hall, as it will be newly constructed in early 2026. This will save on the hotel meals & fees expenses. We're looking into asking a restaurant to cater our luncheon. The change in venue means a change in the date of our event to June 28, 2026. We are continuing to secure a guest speaker for our luncheon.
- ◇ July 13th, Sunday – Hatsubon-Obon Service. Thank you to A/b Gumi for providing the osonae for the onajin, and the ampan otoki for this special service.
- ◇ July 13th, Sunday – We also thank Charlene Hirotsu, Kathy Hori, Imogene Imada, Amy Kato, Nancy Yoshiyama for representing the BWA as the morning greeters and the servers of the coffee social.
- ◇ July 19th, Saturday – Vinegar making (rescheduled from 7/5). Thank you to Fumie Fujimoto, Kathy Hori, Phyllis Maruyama, Charlene Sakatani & Toyoko Yuki for making the sushi vinegar in preparation for the Gardena obon.
- ◇ August 2nd & 3rd (Saturday & Sunday) – Gardena Obon. Deep gratitude and a big thank you to all the members and volunteers who came out to help us with the sushi-making. Preparation started on Thursday & Friday (7/30 & 7/31), and continued on the weekend of our obon. We really appreciate all the hard-work and support from everyone to make this event a success!
- ◇ August 9th, Saturday – Ichi-mi Conference. The BWA provided breakfast for Ichi-mi's "Breaking the Silence" seminar.
- ◇ 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.

Announcements:

- ◇ August 2nd & 3rd (Saturday & Sunday) – Gardena Obon festival
- ◇ August 10th (Sunday) - August BWA Regular Monthly Meeting 11:15am (hybrid). B/c Gumi
- ◇ August 10th (Sunday) Shotsuki Hoyo service (in person) 2pm
- ◇ August 16th (Saturday) – Meinichiko Service – 7am via Zoom
- ◇ September 7th (Sunday) - September BWA Regular Monthly Meeting 11:15am (hybrid). C/d Gumi
- ◇ September 7th (Sunday) Shotsuki Hoyo service (in person) 2pm

BWA Appreciation:

- | | |
|--|---|
| ◇ Fundraiser
Imada, Imogene
Morishige, Jim
Sanada, Donna
Anonymous | ◇ Oiwei -Law School Grad
Hori, Bryan & Kathryn
◇ Donation for Obon Snacks
Wakimoto, Yuko |
|--|---|



TUESDAY SOCIAL

Tuesday Social is continuing fine in the Meeting Room ... a bit of a squeeze but very "cozy and friendly".

We will be on a Summer break from July 29, 2025 - August 19, 2025.

We'll resume again on August 26, 2025.

Please join us at that time for coffee and light refreshments. We gather every Tuesday at 9:30 - 11:30am. See you then. Please stay hydrated & healthy and have a nice summer.



(Above) Having fun with friends while playing games and chatting.

(Left) Happy Birthday to all whose birthday is in July and August!

(Below) Beautiful birthday cake!



**Board Meeting: Wednesday, August 20 at 7PM
Via Zoom**



Wisteria Chugakko

Reverend John Iwohara, Headmaster
Charlene Hirotsu, Principal

Dear Gardena Buddhist Church Sangha:



As I shared at our July 13, 2025 Sunday Service, Reverend John and I are so proud to be the headmaster and principal of Wisteria Chugakko, respectively.

Our 2025 Summer Session was truly heartwarming, amazing and very successful.

Our 33 students, in the 7th, 8th, 9th grades, and the Wisteria Leadership Program Students in 10th grade, grew together academically, culturally, socially and religiously during our 3 ½ weeks together.

Our 64 volunteer teachers gave of themselves wholeheartedly each day of the 17 day session. They definitely have earned the congratulations for the success of our program at Gardena Buddhist Church. More importantly, they have earned the smiles and looks of gratitude from our students and families. They will rest, recover and regenerate themselves for our 2026 Wisteria Chugakko Summer Program where we will begin our monthly Wisteria Chugakko Teacher Workshops in January 2026. The 2026 Wisteria Chugakko will be from Monday, June 15, through Wednesday, July 8, 2026.

Congratulations to our Students and Teachers for the completion of our 2025 Wisteria Chugakko.

With Gassho,

Charlene Hirotsu
Principal, Wisteria Chugakko



ABA News

August was a busy month for ABA.

ABA members wore many hats during the Obon weekend. We assisted with prep, setting up and taking down the booths, chicken and beef teriyaki, spam musubi, and dango, to name a few. ABA members also led the Obon dancing. Looking at the crowd, everyone had a joyous time.

A week after Obon, ABA members enjoyed an afternoon at the Armstrong Theater, watching the production "Something Rotten". Thank you to Louise Mayemura for setting up this event.

The month of September will start off busy for ABA, as we have our annual Bingo event. By now, everyone should have received information regarding the bingo. We look forward to seeing everyone in support of ABA.

ABA holds its monthly meetings on the third Sunday of every month at 11:30am. Come join us and be part of the fun!





Hui Aikanes

"Shining Star", "That's the Way of the World", "September", "Got to Get You Into My Life" are just a few of the hit songs performed by the famous "Earth Wind and Fire" band. A few Hui Aikane members attended the Hollywood Bowl event with ABA on July 3rd. It was an awesome and exciting concert followed by a spectacular fireworks show. The electrifying and upbeat music brought back many wonderful memories of our youth.

On June 29th, one of our members, performed the hula at the Mira Costa High School in Manhattan Beach. It was the 55-year Commemoration of Kanani Kalama Hula Studio. The hula dancers were very graceful and brought the Hawaiian spirit to the audience.

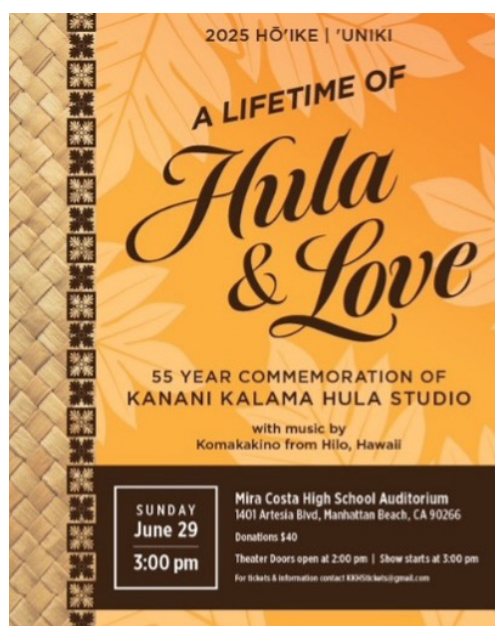
Some of our Hui Aikane members volunteered at the 3rd Shine Gardena Graffiti Cleanup Event on Saturday, July 19th. It was a rewarding experience for those of us who participated to help beautify our community. We split into 2 groups that covered Western Ave. from Redondo Beach Blvd. to Artesia Blvd. Thank you to our members and the Gardena Public Works Dept. for participating in this worthwhile event.

The Gardena Public Works Dept. will again host their Keep Gardena Beautiful Day – Community Cleanup on Saturday September 20th 2025 8am – 12pm. Everyone is welcomed to join in. Please register at [HTTPS://KGBD2025.Eventbrite.com](https://KGBD2025.Eventbrite.com). Lunch will be provided by the City of Gardena.

Hui Aikane members will be helping with the various booths in our upcoming Obon festivals, August 2nd and 3rd.

Our next meeting is scheduled on September 27th 2 pm in the Meeting Room. We are planning to discuss future Hui Aikane activities and enjoy each other's company. More information will follow. Please join us.

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



Megumi Deadline is Monday, August 18, 2025



Ross Nishimura

From GBC Board Chairperson

Obon Reflections

With Obon 2025 now behind us, I want to extend my deepest appreciation to everyone who contributed to its success. As with every year, Obon is a large-scale endeavor and truly a collaborative effort, from the detailed planning and preparation to the dedicated work during the festival itself. Each person's contribution ensured Obon at GBC was, once again, a truly memorable occasion.

A special note of gratitude goes to **Nadine Kakimoto** and **Sharyl Oda** for their exceptional leadership in co-chairing the Obon committee, and to all the committee members whose dedication made it all possible.

Our Obon is more than just a fundraiser for the Temple—it's also an event that brings people together across backgrounds and generations. One reason GBC's Obon continues to resonate so widely is our commitment to standing up and honoring tradition while also evolving to meet the needs of today's community. We should feel proud that our Obon serves as a welcoming space where families from all walks of life can share in good food, music, and dance—while also taking time to reflect on those who have passed before us and deepen our understanding of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism.

I would be remiss not to acknowledge the challenges facing immigrant communities in Los Angeles this summer, particularly the impact of ICE raids and the presence of the National Guard. For many individuals and families, the fear of deportation, arrest, or being denied re-entry into the United States is a very real and present concern. In this context, the ability to freely gather as an open multicultural community at GBC's Obon makes this year's event even more meaningful.

GBC Forward: Our Social Hall Renovation Begins

Soon, we will begin the exciting renovation project of our Social Hall, a vision made possible by the **GBC Forward** campaign. This construction period is anticipated to extend through April or May 2026. Please be aware that access to the Social Hall will not be allowed during this time. We ask for your patience and understanding as most events and activities traditionally held in the Social Hall will be relocated, modified, or, in some cases, temporarily paused during this period.

To all who have already contributed to GBC Forward—thank you. Your generosity has brought us this far, and continued support is essential. Additional funds and pledges are still needed to complete this large-scale project, which will serve and strengthen our Sangha for generations to come. Visit <https://www.gardenabuddhistchurch.org/gbcforward> for information.

Time to Recharge and Reconnect

Finally, especially after the effort of Obon, I encourage everyone to take some time to recharge. It's so important to step away from daily routines, engage in something mindless, enjoy a vacation, or simply do something fun, whether by yourself, with friends, or with family. Throughout

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this summer, Elaine and I spent time exploring various vineyards, learning more about different grape varietals, and tasting wines from other regions of the world. I hope that you all can find time to enjoy something that you find interesting and exciting as well.

Thank you for your continued dedication to the Gardena Buddhist Church

ICHI-MI CLUB

Ichi-Mi will hold its general meeting on Monday, August 4, 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. The seminar will be held in both English and Japanese. For more information, please contact Ichi-Mi at ichimi.gbc@gmail.com

OBON 2025

"With Gratitude for the Past, Present and Future"

It's Obon Festival time! Obon 2025 is about to begin and we are so excited to see everyone!

Reminder: Festival hours are from 3:00 pm – 9:00 pm on Saturday August 2 and Sunday August 3. Obon Dancing will take place on Halldale Ave from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm each night.

If there are any questions, please contact the church office at 310/327-9400 or email obon@gardenabuddhistchurch.org

We look forward to a fantastic Obon weekend!

In Gassho,

Nadine Kakimoto & Sharyl Yamada-Oda
Obon 2025 Co-chairs

TUESDAY SOCIAL Schedule

- August 5 Canceled
- August 12 Canceled
- August 19 Canceled

***Tuesday Social will resume on Tuesday, August 26.**



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.

Cambra, May (90)
Takahashi, Kenneth Y. (87)

February 3, 2025
June 9, 2025



August 2025

- | | | |
|----|---|---------|
| 2 | Gardena Obon Festival | 3pm-9pm |
| | Obon Dance | 6pm-8pm |
| 3 | Gardena Obon Festival | 3pm-9pm |
| | Obon Dance | 6pm-8pm |
| 4 | Obon Carnival Clean up | |
| | Ichi Mi Monthly mtg | 6:00pm |
| | Monthly Obon mtg via Zoom | 7:30pm |
| 6 | DS Teacher's mtg via Zoom | 7:00pm |
| 8 | Ichi-Mi Seminar (Pre-event) | 5:00pm |
| 9 | Ichi-Mi Seminar | 10:00am |
| 10 | Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom) | 9:30am |
| | BWA mtg (In-Person & Zoom) | 11:15am |
| | BWA:Shadows for Peace-Hibakusha Documentary | 1:00pm |
| | Shotsuki Hoyo Service | 2:00pm |
| 11 | Social Hall Closure mtg via Zoom | 4:00pm |
| 14 | BEC Monthly mtg via Zoom | 7:30pm |
| 16 | Meinichiko Service via Zoom | 7:00am |
| 17 | Jr. YBA mtg | 8:45am |
| | Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom) | 9:30am |
| | ABA mtg | 11:00am |
| 18 | Megumi deadline | |
| 20 | GBC Board mtg via Zoom | 7:00pm |
| 24 | Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom) | 9:30am |
| | Coordinating Council mtg | 11:30am |
| 27 | GBC 100 Golf Committee mtg via Zoom | 7:30pm |
| 31 | Sunday Service CANCELLED | |



September 2025

- | | | |
|----|---|---------|
| 1 | Temple Closed Labor Day Holiday | |
| 2 | Tuesday Social in Meeting Room | 9:30am |
| 3 | DS Teacher's meeting Zoom | 7:00pm |
| 7 | Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom) | 9:30am |
| | BWA mtg | 11:15am |
| | Shotsuki Hoyo Service | 2:00pm |
| 11 | BEC Monthly mtg via Zoom | 7:30pm |
| 14 | Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom) | 9:30am |
| 15 | Megumi deadline | |
| 16 | Meinichiko Service via Zoom | 7:00am |
| 17 | GBC Board meeting via Zoom | 7:00pm |
| 20 | Fall Ohigan Seminar w/Rev. Cyndi Yasaki | |
| | Jpn | 9:30am |
| | Eng | 1:30pm |
| 21 | Jr. YBA mtg | 8:45am |
| | Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom) | 9:30am |
| | Fall Ohigan Service w/Rev. Cyndi Yasaki | |
| | ABA Beach Party Bingo | 11:30am |
| | (Bingo starts at 1pm) | |
| | ABA mtg | 11:00am |
| 27 | Hui Aikane mtg | 1:00pm |
| 28 | Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom) | 9:30am |
| | Coordinating Council mtg | 11:30am |
| | BWA 80 & 88 Birthday Service | |

<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
 (Cancelled: 8/5, 8/12, 8/19)
 Odori Exercise Class (\$5 donation) @1:00pm

Tuesday: 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

We truly appreciate your continued support!

**The Church acknowledges the following donations received from 6/16/25 - 7/20/2025
with gratitude and appreciation.**

Funeral/Makurakyo/Burial/Memorials Donations

Dojiri, Julie	Mayemura, Amy	Reynolds, Mari Aoki	Woo, Nancy
Ecklund, Jacqueline	Morimoto, Ginko	Suda, Sadao	
Ito, Kenichi	Munekata Wilhelm, Sheri	Takahashi, Hideko (2)	
Mayeda, Mark & Ching, Deborah	Murase, Miwako	Toyoaki, Shiro	

Shotsuki Hoyo Donations

Dojiri, Julie	Kumeta, Yoko & Ruku	Nakashima, Diana	Tabata, Mary
Dojiri, Masahiro	Lewis, Roxana	Nakashima, M/M Harvey	Takeda, Thomas & Jeff
Fujioki, Emma	Maesaki, Kazue	Nakayama, Tomoko	Tanaka, Christina
Fujita, Teruko	Masukawa, Yoko	Nimura, Keiko	Tatsukawa, Hiroko
Hamaguchi, Osaji (2)	Mekata, Earl	Ohara, M/M J.S.	Toma, Yuriko
Hira, John & Fabi	Mitsushima, Janice	Omori, James	Tsuge, Marilyn
Imamoto, Eiko	Miyasato, Frances	Osa, Susan	Uyemura, Calvin & Jean (2)
Ito, Kenichi	Mori, Lillian	Sakatani, M/M Richard	Wada, Emi
Iwamoto, Diane	Munekata Wilhelm, Sheri	Sasaki, S.	
Iwamoto, M/M Daniel	Murase, Miwako	Shimokochi, Gail	
Kato, Sharon (2)	Nakamoto, Charlie	Suda, Sadao	
Kawamoto, Dean	Nakamura, Alan	Sueishi, Hatsumi	
Kita, Yoshimi	Nakamura, Kimi	Sunada, G.Y.	

Obon Hoyo Donations

Akahoshi, Masato	Kuraoka, S.	Nishihira, M/M Joe	Terao, Ernie & Ellen
Amimoto, Myrna	Kurashima, M/M Justin	Okada, Nobuko	Toyoda, M/M Shiro
Archibeque, Len & June	Maeda, Tom	Okamura, Rodney	Uyemura, M/M David
Ego/Tanaka Family	Maruyama, Phyllis	Okumoto, Yoko	Wakimoto, Yuko
Fujimoto, Fumie	Maruyama, Kazuko	Ouchi, Joyce	Watanabe, Donald
Fujita, Teruko & Fumiko	Mayemura, Louise	Sakatani, M/M Richard	Wilhelm, Sheri
Harada, Patricia	Mikami, Lynn	Sasaki, M/M Tom	Yamane, M/M Dick
Hashimoto, L.	Miwa, M/M Alan	Sasaki, Paul & Kathy	Yamasaki, Sheryl
Hori, M/M Bryan	Miyata, Julie	Shibata, Reiko	Yick, Amy
Inose, Kay	Morimoto, Nobuharu	Shigemitsu, M/M Tom	Yoshida, Suzanne
Iwamoto, Diane	Motoyasu, Steve	Shimizu, Mitzi	Yoshiyama, M/M Bryan
Iwamoto, M/M Daniel	Nakamura, Debbie	Suminaga, Kimi	Yoshiyama, Rose
Kang, Yoshie	Nakao, Harumi	Takao, Dianne	Yuki, Toyoko
Kashiwabara, Miyoko	Nakashima, M/M Harvey	Takao, Donna	Yuki, Wallace
Kato, M/M Isao	Nakata, M/M Bob	Takao, Tamiko	
Kita, M/M Alan	Nakawatase, Haruye	Tamura, Mary	

Hatsubon Hoyo Donations

Fukuwa, Dianne	Hamaguchi, Osaji	Shimotani, Steven
Fumiko Jackson Trust	Huling, Marion	

Special Donations

Anonymous
Hori, Kathy
Isozaki

Kato, Gerald
Mitsunaga Trust (2)
Miya, Arleen

Morimoto, Lily
Shibata, Reiko
Shimada, Shirley

Wisteria Chugakko
Yanai, M/M Frank

2025 GBC Membership Dues (Received from 6/16/25 - 7/20/25)

Kushi, Devin
Kushi, Jean
Kushi, Sierra

Mitani, David
Mitani, Terri
Nishimura, Minae

Sasaki, Brent
Sasaki, Noriko
Uyemura, Tyron

GBC Forward Donations

Morimoto, Chizuko

Rip, Rense

Williams, Cindy

Gotan-e Donations

Ouchi, Joyce

Nokotsudo

Nakano, Etsuko

Takahashi, Hideko

Osaisen

Gross, Bernadette

Miralle, Dawn

Nishihira, M/M Joe

General Donation/Facility Use/ Miscellaneous

Honda, Raymond
Kato, Gerald

Kikkawa, Steven (2)
Kizuna

Kobayashi, Izumi
Uyemura, Cathy



what's coming up in
SEPTEMBER

Fall Ohigan Hoyo

Date & Time: Sunday, September 21st
Time: 9:30 AM
Guest Speaker: Rev. Cyndi Yasaki

Fall Ohigan Seminar

Date: Saturday, September 20th
Time: 9:30 AM - Japanese
1:30 PM - English
Guest Speaker: Rev. Cyndi Yasaki

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.

SOCIAL HALL RENOVATION PROJECT

WE NEED YOUR HELP

3 YEAR GOAL
\$2 MILLION



Wisteria (\$100,000+)

- ☆ Masaji & Kiyoko Mitsunaga Memorial Trust
- ☆ In Memory of Ben and Suzuye Fukuzaki



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 Henry and Yoshiko Miwa and Ronnie Takao
- ☆ In Memory of our parents, Frank & Chiyoko Yamane and Naoichi & Mikiyo Ikegami
- ☆ Nobuko Okada
- ☆ Anonymous
- ☆ Tom & Kiyoko Sasaki
- ☆ In Memory of Akiko, Kent, Umeno and Takaichi Maeda
- ☆ In Honor of George & Masako Ota
- ☆ In Memory of Kazuma & Kameno Nakaoka and Masaaki & Fumiko Nakaoka

(Continued on page 13)

(GBC Forward Donations continued from page 12)



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

- ☆ In Memory of John & Peggy Tsuruta
- ☆ Dave & Terri Mitani
- ☆ David & Cathy Uyemura
- ☆ John & Kimberley Aponte
- ☆ Louise Mayemura
- ☆ Joe and Violet Nishihira Family
- ☆ Wallace T. Yuki



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 and Shigeko Yamane
- ☆ Ken & Kay Inose Family
- ☆ Yuriko Suda
- ☆ The Craig and Cheryl Tateishi Family
- ☆ Derrick & Dean Kawamoto - In Memory of Masao & Akiyo Kawamoto
- ☆ Robert & Gail Higashiyama
- ☆ Stan & Charlene Hirotsu Family
- ☆ Norman & Cindy Morishige
- ☆ Rafu Shimpō Foundation
- ☆ Joyce Ouchi & Craig Ouchi
- ☆ Marian Takamura
- ☆ Anonymous
- ☆ In Memory of Sam and Eileen Takemoto
- ☆ Gardena Buddhist Church Hui Aikane
- ☆ Susan Tenpo
- ☆ Helen Tenpo
- ☆ The Rikio Inn Family
- ☆ In Memory of Kaizo and Koko Nishi
- ☆ Anonymous



Peony (\$500-\$999)

- ☆ Dennis & Jan Masaki
- ☆ Tadaaki Maeda
- ☆ Dennis Nakatani Family
- ☆ Anonymous
- ☆ Suzanne Yoshida
- ☆ Haru Watanabe
- ☆ Suzuko Kuwahara
- ☆ Patty Nishi
- ☆ Gay Kurahashi
- ☆ Gale Sasano
- ☆ Anonymous
- ☆ Anonymous
- ☆ In Memory of Rosie and Shinji Okubo
- ☆ In Memory of Shizumi Okada
- ☆ Wayne Nakatsu
- ☆ Emiko Sasaki
- ☆ In Honor of Michiko Higashida and Dr. Esther Nagao
- ☆ Susan Miya

LOOKING FORWARD
PREPARING FOR OUR FUTURE

GBC FORWARD!

**2026 SOCIAL HALL
RENOVATION PROJECT**



GBC FORWARD!



GARDENA BUDDHIST CHURCH
1517 166th St, Gardena, CA 90247
GBCForward@gardenabuddhistchurch.org 310-327-9400

GARDENA BUDDHIST CHURCH

GBC **ICHI | 味 MI Seminar:**
Breaking the Silence



Come join us in breaking the silence by exploring LGBTQ+ identities and experiences within the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist community.

FRI, AUG 8 @ 7-9 PM

Video and Social

SAT, AUG 9, 2025

@ 10AM-4:30 PM

Seminar

**AT GARDENA
BUDDHIST CHURCH**

**REGISTRATION
NOW OPEN!**

Please use the below QR code or link to reach our registration form.

Registration is open until July 31st, 2025.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Rev. Jundo Gregory Gibbs,
Pasadena Buddhist Temple



<https://tinyurl.com/ichimi25-seminar>

ISAMI TAIKO

Of Gardena Buddhist Church



PRACTICE TIMES

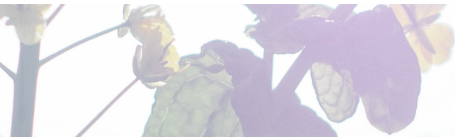
SUNDAYS: 12:00 - 2:00 PM

THURSDAYS: 7:00 - 8:30 PM

COME JOIN US!

For more info please contact:
gbc.isami.taiko@gmail.com

Location: Gardena Buddhist Church social hall,
1517 166th St, Gardena, CA, 90247, USA



『孤独を支える』

宮地美子師

私は、週に4回ほど1時間の散歩をします。日中は暑い今日この頃ですから日が落ちる寸前を見計らって歩き始めます。結構安全なエリアですので散歩している人も多く、すれ違うときは、『Hi!』と声を掛け合います。私たちのコミュニケーションは、まず言葉を交わすことによって始まります。言葉はしばしば人を傷つけ、自分も傷つく事がありますが、しかし、それでも他者とのつながりにおいて必要です。ある人の記事にこういうものがありました。

『私が関わっている自死(自殺)にまつわる苦悩を支える相談活動(認定NPO法人 京都自死・自殺相談センターSotto)でも、コミュニケーションの大事さを実感しています。どこにも依りどころがなく、寂しさに押しつぶされそうになっているとき、たった一本の電話の声が大切なつながりを生みます。ともに活動している精神科医の松本俊彦さんから印象的なエピソードを教えてもらったことがあります。

アメリカの西海岸には、太平洋とサンフランシスコ湾を結ぶ海峡にかかるゴールデンゲートブリッジという大きな橋があります。観光の名所として知られるその橋は、そこから身を投げて自死をされる方が多い橋としても有名です。そこで、橋のたもとに定点カメラを備え付け、危機の迫った方を発見するとレスキューにいく、という取り組みが行われているそうです。ところがその映像を分析すると、あることが



わかったというのです。橋から身を投げようとする方には、共通点がありました。その方たちはカバンを置き、ジャケットや靴まで脱いで、身につけているもの全てをはずして欄干につかまっている。しかし、全てを体からはずしたとしても最後まで手に持っているものがあるというのです。

「それは携帯電話です」と松本さんは話してくださいました。もう生きていけないと考え、命を絶とうとしている方が最後まで手に握っている携帯電話。誰か大切な人からかかってくるかもしれない。あるいは誰かの声を聞こうとしているのかもしれない。いずれにしても、人は最後の最後までつながりを求めている。そのように捉えることができるように思うのです。』という記事でした。今や携帯電話は実生活でも必要不可欠で、何はなくとも携帯電話。“NO 携帯電話 NO Life”とまで思われる昨今です。しかし、通話できない場所もあれば、バッテリーが補充できなければ一貫の終わりです。そこで思いました。携帯することも要らず、バッテリーも要らず、自分の能力で操作が出来なくなっても私たちには、確実に繋がりを持ち、励まし共に歩んでくださる阿弥陀様がおられる。そして共に歩もうと言ってくださいる親鸞様がおられます。

他人や身内とうまくコミュニケーションが取れなくなったとしても、合わす手の中、声にならない南無阿弥陀仏、念仏の中に、一人ではないと言ってくださいる慈悲と知恵の“光”である阿弥陀様がおられます。

携帯電話よりも性能がよく、何億年も前から慈悲と知恵を人々に与え続け、そしてこれからも与え続ける命の源です。

何はなくとも南無阿弥陀仏です。



婦人会便り

婦人会の通常の活動（以下敬称略）

- ▽ GBC 100周年記念委員会は、毎月のBWA定例会議の後に開催されています。
- 最新情報：BWAはGBCの100周年記念の贈り物として、本堂に新しいカーベットを寄贈することになりました。昼食会は2026年初めに改築完成予定のソーシャルホールに移すことに決定しました。これにより、ホテルでの食事や会場費を節約できます。現在、レストランにケータリングを依頼する方向で検討中です。会場の変更に伴い、イベントの日程も2026年6月28日に変更となります。現在、昼食会のゲストスピーカーの手配も進めています。
- ▽ 7月13日（日）初盆・お盆法要：A/b組の皆さまには、お内陣のお供えと、特別法要のあんぱんのお斎をご用意いただき、ありがとうございました。
- ▽ 7月13日（日）：広津シャーリーン、堀キャシー、今田イモジーン、加藤エイミー、吉山ナンシーさんらには婦人会を代表して朝の挨拶係及びコーヒーソーシャルのご奉仕をしていただき、ありがとうございました。
- ▽ 7月19日（土）寿司酢作り（7/5から変更）：藤本文恵、堀キャシー、丸山フィリス、坂谷シャーリーン、湯木都世子さんらにはガーデナ仏教会のお盆に向けた寿司酢の準備にご協力いただき、ありがとうございました。
- ▽ 8月2日・3日（土・日）ガーデナお盆祭り：お寿司づくりにご協力いただいたすべてのメンバーとボランティアの皆さまに、心より感謝申し上げます。準備は7月30日（木）と31日（金）から始まり、週末のお盆当日まで続けられました。イベント成功のために尽力してくださった皆さまのご協力に、深く感謝いたします！
- ▽ 8月9日（土）一味（いちみ）カンファレン

ス：婦人会は、「沈黙を破る（Breaking the Silence）」セミナーにて、朝食を提供しました。

- ▽ お知らせ：2025年9月から始まる改修工事に備えて、ソーシャルホールの台所を事前に清掃する必要があります。同時に、保管している物品の一時的な移動先も決めておく必要があります。

アナウンスメント:

- ▽ 8月2日&3日（土&日）ガーデナお盆祭り
- ▽ 8月10日（日）：8月のBWA定例会（ハイブリッド）午前11時15分 B/c組担当
- ▽ 8月10日（日）：月例祥月法要（対面）午後2時
- ▽ 8月16日（土）：命日講 午前7時（ズーム）
- ▽ 9月7日（日）：9月のBWA定例会（ハイブリッド）午前11時15分 C/d組担当
- ▽ 9月7日（日）：月例祥月法要（対面）午後2時

感謝録:

- ▽ ファンドレイザー 今田イモジーン
森重ジム
真田ダナ
匿名
- ▽ ロースクール卒業祝い 堀ブライアン&キャシー
- ▽ お盆スナック 脇元優子

