



MEGUMI

慈恩

GARDENA BUDDHIST CHURCH



CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION
1926 - 2026



October 2025

1517 W. 166th Street, Gardena, CA 90247

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

Volume LVIII No. 10



Rev. John Iwohara

The Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course (JSCC) is comprised of four subject areas. These four subjects are titled: General Buddhism, Jodo Shinshu 1, Jodo Shinshu 2, and History of Jodo Shinshu. Each subject is five months long and at the end of each month

students are required to submit a written report based on their class readings and independent research.

Minister's Assistant Allison Yasaki recently completed her JSCC course work, and has taken her next step towards the Jodo Shinshu ministry by enrolling at the Institute of Buddhist Studies. Allison is currently enrolled in the "Certificate in Shin Buddhist Studies" program as a part-time student.

Below is the essay that Allison Yasaki submitted as part of the requirements to fulfill the General Buddhism unit.

Mahayana and One's Own Spiritual Awakening By Allison Yasaki

Mahayana Buddhism emphasizes seeking spiritual awakening for oneself to help others be saved from suffering. In Mahayana Buddhism, this became the path of the bodhisattva. Although Theravada Buddhism also used the

term bodhisattva, Mahayana Buddhism changes the emphasis of the Bodhisattva as not just someone who is seeking enlightenment for themselves, but as someone who will not attain enlightenment until they can help all others attain enlightenment. This becomes the focus of attaining spiritual awakening for oneself in order to help benefit others so that every being may be saved.

The first of the Four Noble Truths introduces the difficult truth that life is filled with suffering. Seeking spiritual awakening for one's self leads to being saved from the suffering we experience in this world. Whereas it is very easy to see the Four Noble Truths as Sakyamuni Buddha telling us what we need to do to liberate ourselves from suffering, it is also possible to see the Four Noble Truths as the Buddha sharing or giving us the path out of suffering. For example, in the Larger Sutra, Sakyamuni Buddha taught us about Dharmakara Bodhisattva who made 48 Vows that they fulfilled to save all of us from suffering. After fulfilling these vows Dharmakara becomes Amida Buddha, who makes clear that a Buddha becomes enlightened to save all unenlightened beings. This can be seen as another example of Sakyamuni Buddha sharing their enlightenment with us even today. For example, while Sakyamuni Buddha is not here physically, we still have the Dharma of Amida

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(Continued from page 1)

Buddha that is being shared today.

The goal of Buddhism can be seen in the third of the Four Noble Truths or the cessation of suffering. For example, Sakyamuni Buddha states, "O Punyaraja, it is the same with buddha nature, because it, too, cannot be seen in any particular location but only through multiple causes and conditions. Since those who cut the roots of merit do not see this buddha nature, how could they cease their transgressions in the unhappy destinies? If, however, they begin to believe in buddha nature, they will not fall back to the previous unhappy destinies. Once this happens, they will no longer be characterized as bereft of good roots."¹ Those who reach this point of knowing will, as part of the bodhisattva path, also want to provide a way for ending suffering for others.

As another example, Sakyamuni Buddha states, "For the sake of attaining the great nirvana, a bodhisattva, embodying all these practices, accomplishes what is difficult to accomplish, endures what is difficult to endure, and gives what is difficult to give...he feels sympathy with people's sicknesses caused by their defilements; therefore he tries to teach the Dharma to them, so that they may eventually extinguish their defilements."² In other words, leaving others with their suffering contradicts what becoming a Buddha is about.

This emphasis on the activity of a Buddha to save all is especially revealed through Amida Buddha who made 48 vows to save every single one of us from suffering. If even one person is not saved, Amida Buddha has vowed to renounce enlightenment. In other words, these Vows include even those we may consider an "enemy." This becomes necessary because of the question, "If even one person continues to suffer, would the endless cycle of birth-and-death that brings about suffering cease?" Mahayana Buddhism, in particular, would answer, "no." If any one of us were not

able to escape from suffering, suffering would continue to exist which leads to an existence without peace.

Finally, as an example from a Mahayana text, the "Treatise on the Pure Land" written by Vasubandhu Bodhisattva, one of the great Mahayana Buddhists, states, "Know that the bodhisattvas fulfill the practice of self-benefit with the first four gates of entrance. Also know that they fulfill the practice of benefiting others with the fifth gate of emergence as the directing of virtue....By performing the practices of the five gates in this way, the bodhisattvas accomplish both self-benefit and benefiting others, and thus they swiftly attain the supreme, perfect enlightenment."³ By combining both seeking escape from suffering and helping others to seek or understand the dharma, we all can escape and be saved from suffering. Without the salvation of all sentient beings we cannot fully be freed from birth-and-death. This is why the Bodhisattva path becomes so important.

3 *The Pure Land Writings, Vol 1: The Indian Masters*, pg. 67

1 *Buddha-Dharma*, Book Eight, pg. 696

2 *Buddha-Dharma*, Book Eight, pg. 696





Hui Aikanes

Summer has come and gone. Happy Fall y'all.

We would like to thank everyone who helped volunteer for the City of Gardena's "Beautification Day". Your assistance with the cleanup was invaluable and allowed our church to show our appreciation and support for our community. Thank you, Ken Kawamura, for coordinating our temple's participation. Thank you everyone for helping Gardena Beautification to be such a success! We couldn't have done this without your support.

Thank you to the ABA for planning and organizing this year's Beach Bingo. Everyone had a fun time and enjoyed all the various toppings for our donburi. It was wonderful to see everyone that attended.

Thank you to our Hui Aikane members and friends who attended Nishi Hongwanji's Benefit Dance on September 27th. Your reciprocating participation and donation were greatly appreciated. Nishi was kind enough to support our Growing Forward Dance both monetarily and with their facilities. The Nishi Dance Benefit benefits their Capital Campaign for their 125th Anniversary. They are planning for an elevator for their senior adults, members with disabilities, and for parents or grandparents with baby strollers. They also plan to remodel the restrooms in the foyer for ADA compliance.



Our next meeting is schedule for Saturday, October 4th at 1 pm in the Meeting Room. New members are welcome to attend! Hawaiian ancestry is optional!

P.S. A kindly reminder, if you have received an invite to join the Hui Aikanes' Google group, please accept it as this will allow Charlene to put everyone's email address in a single group name. If you have already accepted the invitation. Thank you very much!

ABA News

With the calendar saying "October", the days are beginning to get shorter and shorter.

September was a busy month for ABA as we held our annual bingo. With the renovation of the Social Hall, we needed to be creative. Bingo was held in the space between the Temple and Building 1, and all in attendance had a great time. In addition to our "Anything Over Rice" bento, attendees were able to satisfy their sweet tooth with all of the baked goods. Congratulations to all of the cup raffle winners!

At our October meeting on October 19th, we will be holding nominations for the 2026 cabinet. Take care until we see each other again.



**Board Meeting: Wednesday, October 15 at 7PM
Via Zoom**

Fujinkai / BWA Buddhist Women's Association

Happenings:

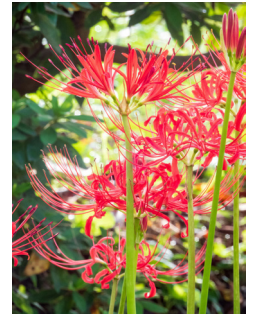
- ◇ The GBC BWA 100th Anniversary Committee meets every month after the regular BWA monthly meeting.
 - Update: The BWA will be gifting the temple with new carpeting for the hondo as our gift for the GBC's 100th anniversary. We've also decided to move our luncheon to the social hall, as it will be newly constructed in early 2026. This will save on the hotel meals, fees & other overhead 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 have invited Rev. Kodo Umezu as our guest speaker.
- ◇ September 7th (Sunday) – Monthly BWA meeting. Thank you to C/d gumi for providing the tasty snacks for our meeting.
- ◇ September 20th (Saturday) Fall Ohigan Seminar with guest speaker Rev. Cyndi Yasaki. Japanese session from 9:30am-11am; English session 1:30pm-3:00pm. Thank you to C/d gumi for arranging breakfast for the ministers and the snacks for the morning session. We very much enjoyed Rev. Yasaki's talk and were so happy to have her visit us at GBC!
- ◇ September 21st (Sunday) Ohigan Service. Thank you to C/d gumi for preparing the otoki and osonae for this service and for Imogene Imada for being the BWA representative for the daihyo o-shoko.
- ◇ September 28th (Sunday). BWA 80/88 Birthday Party. As we had no 80th or 88th birthday recipients this year, we decided to use that day to go out to a group lunch at Szechuan Restaurant in Torrance.
 - Also noted during this meeting that Mrs. Tomoko Mizukami will be 100 years old this year. We are arranging a special gift for her.
- ◇ October 12th (Sunday) – Lady Eshinni/Kakushinni Service & BWA Memorial Service. Thank you to Imogene Imada for chairing the Lady Eshinni / Kakushinni Service, and thank you to Chizuko Morimoto, Charlene Sakatani, Julie Miyata and Nancy Yoshiyama for helping out during the Fuse No Hi portion of the service.
- ◇ We are still refining the details of the BWA Memorial Service. We will be having a bento lunch after the BWA Memorial Service.
- ◇ February, 2026 – Japanese seminar. Reverend John has invited Rev. Yukari Torii of the San Fernando Valley Buddhist Temple to be the guest speaker.
- ◇ 2025 Southern District Buddhist Conference – October 25th, 2025, from 8:30 to 3:00 pm at San Fernando Valley Hongwanji Buddhist Church with the theme, "Cultural Connections: Exploring Jodo Shinshu Wisdom through Japanese Traditional Performing Arts." 6 BWA members attended and enjoyed Rev. Henry Adams' talk and the various interactive workshops that SFV offered.
- ◇ FBWA Representative Meeting Resolution from Northern California to officially include an English song to our Bylaws. Gardena will vote No on this resolution.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

Announcements:

- ◇ October 5th (Sunday) – October BWA Regular Monthly Meeting 11:15am (hybrid). D/e Gumi
- ◇ October 5th (Sunday) - October Shotsuki Hoyo - in person at 2pm
- ◇ October 16th (Thursday) - Meinichiko Service – via Zoom
- ◇ November 2nd (Sunday) - November BWA Regular Monthly Meeting 11:15am (hybrid). E/a Gumi
- ◇ November 2nd (Sunday) - November Shotsuki Hoyo - in person at 2pm



The Community Projects Group

The Community Project Group members, after a very successful sale at the Church Obon festival this year, have already started on projects for next year. We have spent hours organizing our supply room, preparing many donated items for storage, and planning our upcoming projects and meetings.

In October, we will be meeting and working on cellphone stands. If anyone is interested in coming and learning how to make them, please let us know. We are always open to having new people join us – our meetings are listed in the church newsletter and are held on Mondays at 10 am in the Meeting Room.



TUESDAY SOCIAL

Thank you for joining us on Tuesdays for our informal gathering of fun, food and friendship. We currently meet every Tuesday from 9:30 - 11:30am in the Hondo Meeting Room. See the smiling faces, hear the wonderful laughter, and smell the delicious food. We play card games, Uno, Rummikub, put puzzles together, play bingo, share stories, and talk, talk, talk. Come one Tuesday or every Tuesday, we'd love for you to join us.

Happy September & October Birthday to Renie, Nancy, Susan, Dianne, Gary, Tom, Fumie, Charlene, Aya, Mieko, Kenneth, Alan, Nancy, and Kris.



Megumi Deadline is Monday, October 20, 2025

GBC Forward!

-The Journey Begins-

Ok... maybe not 'begins' but 'begins again'? We've had a social hall on the corner of Dalton and 166th Street for over 60 years. But every time we build/rebuild, it feels like a fresh beginning for our Sangha. It's exciting to think about the new stories and experiences that will be shared in our refreshed building.

Are you curious what's happening behind these fences?



Demo!! Big time demolition!

This was a bathroom:



This was the kitchen:



This still kinda looks like the stage:



(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

As you can see, everyone's donations have already started working hard to create our renewed Social Hall. The demolition alone shows how much we'll be updating and refurbishing. We can't wait to see what the new surfaces and equipment will look like! Please stay tuned to the Megumi for further progress reports.



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 2025 and will extend to the end of 2027. While we are very grateful for the funds already collected, we need more funds today as we start to pay vendors.

Won't you please consider donating 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

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.

Yoshimura, Midori
Uchio, Isamu

(99)
(97)

September 6, 2025
September 21, 2025





Wisteria Chugakko

Reverend John Iwohara, Headmaster
Charlene Hirotsu, Principal

Dear Sangha:

Rev. John and I have already begun planning for the 2026 Wisteria Chugakko Summer Program which will run from Monday, June 15, through Wednesday, July 8, 2026. 2026 will be our 8th summer session.

I have attached the following for your information so you may submit your Student Interest Form, as well as share this information with your friends and family:

- **2026 Student Interest Form**
- **2026 Wisteria Chugakko Summer Program Brochure**

Our enrollment is targeted for 10 students per grades 7th, 8th and 9th.

I have already received 7 Student Interest Forms for the 2026 Summer Session from our continuing students.

You may submit the Student Interest Forms through emailing the fillable form to me, or by hard copy to the Wisteria Chugakko mailbox.

In January 2026, Lynn Isomoto, our Student Registrar, and I will be sending out 2026 Student Registration Forms to those who have submitted Student Interest Forms.

If you have any questions, please email me at charlene.hirotsu@gbcwisteriachugakko.org.

With Gassho,

Charlene Hirotsu, Principal, Wisteria Chugakko



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 15 – July 8, 2026

I am interested in registering for Wisteria Chugakko for the Summer of 2026.

I will be in the 7th, 8th or 9th grade in the Fall of 2026.

Student's Last Name	Student's First Name	Student's Gender Pronoun Preference
Student's Date of Birth	Student's Grade in Fall 2026	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.)



Mission Statement

The Wisteria Chugakko (Middle School) is established to enrich the academic experience, and the religious and cultural understanding of its students in order to develop academics and a greater appreciation for the potential and dignity of human and all life.



\$550 tuition
(\$500 for GBC Members)

Gardena Buddhist Church

★ 1517 W. 166th Street
Gardena, California 90247

From 91 or 110

- Exit West on Artesia
- Right at Normandie
- Left at 166th
- Church will be on the right
- Parking Lot on the Left (P)



From the 405

- Exit Northbound on Normandie
- Left at 166th
- Church will be on the right
- Parking Lot on the Left (P)

Especially created for
incoming 7th, 8th, and 9th
Grade Students
(in Fall of 2026)

Please join
the Gardena Buddhist Church
**Wisteria Chugakko
Summer School**



**Monday, June 15 - Wednesday, July 8
2026**

Reverend John Iwihara
Gardena Buddhist Church Resident Minister
Wisteria Chugakko Headmaster

Charlene Hirotsu
Wisteria Chugakko Principal

Gardena Buddhist Church
1517 W. 166th Street
Gardena, California 90247
1(310) 327-9400
wisteria.chugakko@gardenabuddhistchurch.org

What's coming up in November...

Eitaikyo Hoyo:

November 16 at 9:30AM

The Eitaikyo service in Jodo Shinshu Buddhism is held to acknowledge our gratitude and indebtedness to all the previous generations who have helped to assure that the temple will continue to exist for all future generations. "Eitai (永代)" literally means "(over) long generations" or "perpetual." "Kyo (経)" literally means "sutra" and is used to represent all of the "Buddha's teachings."

Associated with the Eitaikyo service is a fund that has been established through special donations (called Eitaikyo-konshi) made to the temple. This special fund is established to help ensure that the temple will be able to continue to share the teachings (the sutra) in perpetuity. The Eitaikyo service is the service held by the temple to remember all those who helped to ensure that the temple is able to share the Dharma in perpetuity by making donations to the Eitaikyo-konshi. These names are also recorded into the temple's Kakocho or "record (book) of the past."

In Jodo Shinshu, the Eitaikyo service is held as an expression of gratitude for being given the opportunity to meet with the Dharma—specifically, the Vow of Amida Buddha that leads all beings to awakening—by those who have supported the temple and have gone to the Pure Land before us.



Ross Nishimura

From GBC Board Chairperson

Finding Opportunities to Learn and Share the Dharma

One of the strengths of GBC is our Sangha—the community we can lean on as we work to support the temple and share the Dharma. We are all on a path to understand how we can learn, share, and truly embody the boundless compassion and gratitude of Amida Buddha. At the Board level, we are committed to supporting programs that provide everyone with opportunities to deepen their understanding of the Jodo Shinshu teachings.

Here at GBC, we're fortunate to have a dedicated **Buddhist Education Committee (BEC)** that works to bring these opportunities to our Sangha. Thanks to their efforts, in addition to planning the Sunday services, we are fortunate to have guest speakers and seminars. Of course, with our busy lives, it can be difficult to find the time or mental energy to listen and connect with these Dharma messages. We all juggle our professional lives, family responsibilities, and volunteer commitments, yet we all wish we could make it work.

That's why I'm excited to announce that the BEC has just signed up the Gardena Buddhist Church as an **Affiliate Temple with the Everyday Buddhist project**. Elaine and I have become subscribers, and we're big fans. Everyday Buddhist offers authentic and contemporary Shin Buddhist teachings relevant to our lives today, making the Dharma accessible and pertinent. Through short courses, video's, and blogs, the messages have been digestible and simple to comprehend. To explore for yourself, visit <https://www.everydaybuddhist.org/> and read through some of the content.



100th Anniversary: The One-Year Countdown Begins

This month also marks a special milestone for all of us. We are now one year away from the **100th anniversary of the Gardena Buddhist Church** in 2026. Mark your calendars for **October 18th, 2026** to gather at GBC for a Service and Banquet to celebrate the occasion. These next 12 months will provide us an opportunity to reflect on our rich history and to express our gratitude to the pioneers and generations who came before us and laid the foundation for our Sangha. Planning is already underway, so you can expect to hear updates and more detailed information over the coming months.

Mark your calendars!

OCTOBER 18, 2026

October 2025

1 DS Teacher's mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
4 Hui Aikane mtg	1:00pm
5 Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
Sangha Teen mtg	10:30am
BWA mtg	11:15am
Shotsuki Hoyo Service	2:00pm
6 Ichi-Mi mtg	6:00pm
8 GBC 100 Operations Comm. mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
9 BEC Monthly mtg via Zoom	7:30pm
12 Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
Eshin-ni/Kakushin-ni Memorial Service	
BWA Memorial Service	11:00am
13 Social Hall Closure mtg via Zoom	4:00pm
14 GBC Forward mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
15 GBC Board mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
16 Meinichiko Service via Zoom	7:00am
19 Jr. YBA mtg	8:45am
Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
ABA mtg (In-Person & Zoom)	11:30am
20 Megumi deadline	
22 GBC 100 Golf Comm. mtg via Zoom	7:30pm
25 2025 Southern District Conf. at San Fernando Valley	
Hongwanji Buddhist Temple	
26 Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
Coordinating Council mtg (In-Person & Zoom)	11:30am

November 2025

2 Daylight Saving Time Ends	
Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
Sangha Teen mtg	10:30am
BWA mtg	11:15am
Shotsuki Hoyo Service	2:00pm
3 Ichi-Mi mtg	6:00pm
5 DS Teacher's mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
8 CC Jr. YBA Conference	
9 Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
10 Social Hall Closure mtg via Zoom	4:00pm
11 Temple Closed—Veteran's Day	
12 GBC 100 Operations Comm. mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
13 General Membership Service/Mtg	7:00pm
16 Jr. YBA mtg	8:45am
Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
Eitaikyo Hoyo Service	
ABA mtg (In-Person & Zoom)	11:30am
17 Megumi deadline	
19 GBC Board mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
23 Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
Coordinating Council mtg	11:30am
26 GBC 100 Golf Comm. mtg via Zoom	7:30pm
27-28 Church Closed Thanksgiving Holiday	
30 Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am

<Regular Activities>

Sunday:	Isami Taiko Practice @12pm
Monday:	2nd, 3rd & 4th Community Projects @10:00am
	2nd & 4th Cub Pack 1230 mtg @6pm
Tuesday:	Tuesday Social @9:30am
	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	Isami Taiko Practice @7pm
	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 8/18/25 - 9/14/2025
with gratitude and appreciation.**

Funeral/Makurakyo/Burial/Memorials Donations

Anonymous
Bohannon, Kathy

Eto, Janis
Takahashi, Hideko

Wakimoto, Yuko
Watanabe, Dorothy

Shotsuki Hoyo Donations

Anonymous
Awane, Diane
Eto, Janis
Iwata, Amy
Komae, Kumiko
Komatsu, Janett
Matsumoto, Eiko

Matsumoto, Sadako
Nakatani, Dennis
Nakatani, M/M David
Nakaura, Debra
Oshiro, Carol & Faye
Shiroma, Ginger
Tabata, Mary

Takahashi, Hideko
Takeichi, Hisao
Taketomo, Rick
Tanaka/Ego Family
Torichigai, Sandra
Uwahori, Sadae
Watanabe, Dorothy

Yamagishi, Joyce
Yanagihara, Dale Boku
Yaris, Lisa
Yokoyama, Elaine

Ohigan Hoyo Donations

Fujita, Jean & Carole
Hori, M/M Bryan
Imamoto, Eiko
Inose, Kay
Inouye, Tomoko
Iwamoto, Diane
Iwamoto, M/M Daniel
Komatsu, Janett

Maesaki, Kazue
Maruyama, Phyllis
Mayemura, Louise
Morimoto, Nobuharu
Morioka, M/M Dennis
Motoyasu, Steve
Nakakura, M/M Ken
Nakamoto, M/M David

Nakamura, Burt
Nakatani, M/M David
Nishihara, M/M Joe
Okamura, Rodney
Ouchi, Joyce
Sanada, D.
Toyoaki, M/M Shiro
Uyeda, Midori

Uyemura, M/M David
Watanabe, D.
Wilhelm. Sheri
Yamane, M/M Dick
Yamasaki, Sheryl
Yoshida, Suzanne

Special Donations

Javdan, Mona
Kita, M/M Alan
Nagatani, Gerald

Sakurai, Rose
Takada, Fujio
Takahashi, Hideko (2)

Torichigai, Sandra
Wakimoto, Yuko
Zaw, Noriko

2025 GBC Membership Dues (Received from 8/18/25 - 9/14/25)

Higuchi, Terence
Higuchi, Tracy

Imamura, George
Imamura, Traci

Iwanaka, Traci
Takahashi, Hideko

Hondo Repair Donations

Imamura, Traci

Obon Donations

Imamoto, Eiko

Kita, M/M Alan

Osaisen

Anonymous

Gross, Bernadette

Iwanaga, Tracy (3)

Miralles, Dawn

Nishimura, Ross

Nokotsudo

Takahashi, Hideko

Torichigai, Sandra

GBC Forward

Hirabayashi, Wayne

Morimoto, Chizuko

Morishige, James

Welsh, Akemi

General Donation/Facility Use/ Miscellaneous

Baba, Miyako

Kobayashi, Izumi

Odori Exercise Class

Buddhist Conference

Hosted by SFVHBT

**Theme: Cultural Connections: Exploring Jodo Shinshu
Wisdom through Japanese Traditional Performing Arts**

Date: **Saturday, October 25, 2025**

Time: **Registration begins at 8:30 am**

Conference time: 9:30 am - 3:00 pm

Location: San Fernando Valley Hongwanji Buddhist Temple
9450 Remick Ave, Pacoima, CA 91331



Guest Speaker:
Rev. Henry Adams

Registration information: * Space is limited - early registration is encouraged

- Fee = \$60 / person due by 10/5/2025 * Late registration = \$80/person due by 10/12/2025

- Fee includes Bento lunch

- **Make checks payable to: San Fernando Valley Hongwanji Buddhist Temple**

- Request one check per temple as well as one registration form

- Mail completed registration form & check to: SD Buddhist Conference

c/o SFVHBT

9450 Remick Ave, Pacoima, CA 91331

Contact info: sfvhbt@gmail.com

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
- ☆ Victor Mitsunaga & Sherry Gandee in Honor of Brian T. Mitsunaga



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 15)

(GBC Forward Donations continued from page 14)



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
- ☆ In Memory of George & Harumi Morishige



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
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- ☆ Joyce Ouchi & Craig Ouchi
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- ☆ 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
- ☆ Glenn & Donna Sanada
- ☆ In Memory of John and Kay Fujikawa
- ☆ In Memory of Noboru Maruyama

(Continued on page 16)

(GBC Forward Donations continued from page 15)



Peony (\$500-\$999)

- ☆ Dennis & Jan Masaki
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- ☆ Dennis Nakatani Family
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- ☆ Wayne Nakatsu
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- ☆ Susan Miya
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**2026 SOCIAL HALL
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GARDENA BUDDHIST CHURCH



“優しさ”

宮地美子師

優(ゆう)という字には、優良可という昔の成績表のように出来栄を表すものや、優勝というように優(すぐれ)ているトップの人というように人を評価する上で使われる字でもあります。また優(やさ)しいとも読み、人の細やかな感情を表現するのにも使われます。

優しいという字は、人偏に憂(うれ)で成り立っています。憂うとは人の寂しさ、侘しさ、悲しさに敏感なことで、他人や家族の状況を心配する事を優しさと言うのです。

優は

同病相憐(どうびょうあいあわれむ)と言われるように、同じ病気になるとその人の痛み苦しみが分かち合えます。また子供を亡くした者同士で、悲しみを分かち合えます。しかしながら、ある人の歌の歌詞に『人は、悲しが多いほど人に優しくなれる』と言ように同体験をしていなくても人の痛みがわかるのも優しさです。

例えば水害で家が流された人のニュースを見ると、大丈夫だろうか立ち直れるだろうか心配はしても所詮他人事で四六時中心配しているわけではありません。このように人間の優しさには、限界があるのです。

慈悲

でも阿弥陀様は四六時中休みなく私を憂いて、私を心配してくださっ

ているのです。優しさを言い換えた言葉が、仏語の“お慈悲”です。仏様は私をお慈悲で包み込んでおられます。特に自分が窮地に立った時、にっちもさっちも行かなくなった時に、心配するなそれが人間の常よと励ましてくださる一方、人間の苦悩を踏まえて、浄土に生まれる事への目覚めを促してください。

経文・和讃・高僧方が書かれたご文を拝読しながらそうだそうだ、こういう身勝手な私だからこそ南無阿弥陀仏の名号が仏のお慈悲となって、自分に届いているのだと思わせていただけます。

お念仏を称えることは、お念仏を聞くことでもあると教えていただいています。お念仏を聞くとは、阿弥陀さまの願いに遇わせていただき、阿弥陀さまのお慈悲のなかに私があることを知ることです。お念仏を称える人生とは、まさにしみじみとした喜びに貫かれた幸せな人生と言えるのではないのでしょうか。



踊りのエクササイズクラス

- 日： 毎週火曜日
- 時： 午後1時～2時(チューズデイソーシャル後)
- 場所： ガーデナ仏教会 会議室
- 参加費： 5ドル/1回
- 持ち物(任意)： うちわ、手ぬぐい、カチカチ





婦人会便り

婦人会の通常の活動（以下敬称略）

- ▽ GBC 百周年記念委員会は、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の百周年記念の贈り物として、本堂に新しいカーペットを奉納することにしました。また百周年記念昼食会はホテルではなく2026年初めに改築完成予定のソーシャルホールで行うことに決定しました。これにより、ホテルでの食事代や会場費などの諸経費を節約できます。現在、レストランにケータリングを依頼することを検討中です。この会場変更に伴い、イベントの日程も2026年6月28日（日）に変更となりました。ゲストスピーカーには梅津広道先生をお招きする予定です。
- ▽ 9月7日（日）BWA月例会。C/d組の皆さん おいしいお菓子のご提供、ありがとうございました。
- ▽ 9月20日（土）秋のお彼岸セミナー。ゲストスピーカーは矢崎シンディ先生（Rev. Cyndi Yasaki）。日本語セッション：午前9時～11時、英語セッション：午後1:30～3:00。C/d組の皆さん、先生方の朝食と午前のセッションのスナックをご用意いただき、感謝申し上げます。矢崎師のご法話は非常に感銘深く、多くの方が喜ばれました。
- ▽ 9月28日（日）BWA 80歳/88歳の誕生日会。今年は80歳および88歳の対象者がいなかったため、代わりに トーランスのSzechuan レストランでグループランチを実施しました。
 - 会議中に、水上とも子が今年100歳を迎えられることが共有され、特別な贈り物を準備中です。
- ▽ 10月12日（日）恵信尼公・覚信尼公法要&BWA追悼法要。恵信尼公・覚信尼公法要の司会を務めてくださった今田イモジーンに感謝いたします。「布施の日」では、

森本千鶴子、坂谷シャーリーン、宮田ジュリー、吉山ナンシーがご協力くださいました。BWA追悼法要については現在も詳細を調整中です。法要後にはお弁当を予定しています。

- ▽ 2026年2月 日本語セミナー。庵原ジョン先生がサンフェルナンドバレー仏教会の鳥居ゆかり師をゲストスピーカーとして招聘済みです。
- ▽ 2025年度 南部教区仏教大会。2025年10月25日（土）午前8時30分～午後3時於 サンフェルナンドバレー本願寺仏教会 テーマ：「文化的つながり：日本の伝統芸能を通して浄土真宗の智慧を探る」 GBC BWAから6名が参加し、ヘンリー・アダムス師の講演や、さまざまなインタラクティブ・ワークショップを楽しみました。
- ▽ FBWA（全米仏教婦人会）代表者会議の決議事項。北カリフォルニア地区より、定款に英語の歌を正式に加えるという提案がありました。ガーデナ仏教会ではこの提案に対し、反対票を投じる予定です。

アナウンスメント:

- ▽ 10月5日（日）：10月のBWA定例会（ハイブリッド）午前11時15分 D/e組担当
- ▽ 10月5日（日）：月例祥月法要（対面）午後2時
- ▽ 10月16日（木）：命日講 午前7時（ズーム）
- ▽ 11月2日（日）：11月のBWA定例会（ハイブリッド）午前11時15分 E/a組担当
- ▽ 11月2日（日）：月例祥月法要（対面）午後2時

