



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



October 2023

Volume LVI No. 10



Rev. John Iwohara

“Anger”

Anger is one of the three poisons of Buddhism. The other two are Greed and Stupidity. As with most lists in Buddhism, there is a specific order. The order of the three poisons is given as Greed, Anger, and Stupidity. For our age,

which seems to have a penchant for acronyms, this order is quite convenient. Having the three poisons ordered in this way allows for the creation of the acronym GAS¹. This acronym, by happenstance, is also both illustrative and instructive. It is illustrative because we understand what happens when we get gas. It is instructive because we understand that gas is not just a personal discomfort, but one that also eventually affects everyone around the person with gas as well.

However, with this article I would like to focus on the poison of anger. I wanted to focus on this because, it seems to me, that we are currently living in a time where there is just so much

¹ Although there is no literature to identify who came up with the acronym, I first heard it used by Rev. Kanya Okamoto who, at the time, was also explaining the circumstances that existed when they came up with the acronym.

anger surrounding us.

Anger is obvious in times of war, and we hear plenty of stories about war and the potential for even more. We also hear about people who have gotten so frustrated and angry that they lash out and commit heinous crimes. Then we begin to hear the fighting about how and why the person did what they did and why the “other side” is so wrong. We see anger demonstrated for us in our public “discourse.” It is found everywhere in our national, state and local politics. Everyone is so mad at everyone who isn’t part of their group, their side, or who shares similar if not identical ideas that it seems no one really talks to anyone any more.

Anger breeds anger. You can see it in how aggressive people drive on the roads, or how impatient we are with each other. It is no wonder why the Buddha called anger a poison. It is a poison so powerful that it can make a body as large as a community, a nation, or even the world sick. Unfortunately, poison works quicker on smaller bodies. If the poison of anger can make the world sick, then it obviously has the power to kill a person, a family, a temple, and even a community before anyone even has a chance to notice what is going on.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

How do we keep anger from overwhelming us? Shinran Shonin, in a letter, once answered:

There was a time for each of you when you knew nothing of Amida's Vow and did not say the Name of Amida Buddha, but now, guided by the compassionate means of Sakyamuni and Amida, you have begun to hear the Vow. Formerly you were drunk with the wine of ignorance and had a liking only for the three poisons of greed, anger, and folly², but since you have begun to hear the Buddha's Vow you have gradually awakened from the drunkenness of ignorance, gradually rejected the three poisons, and come to prefer at all times the medicine of Amida Buddha. [Collected Works of Shinran, p. 553]

Clearly, this is a religious answer. Part of the benefit of being associated with a religious tradition is that these kinds of answers can and do make sense. These words can help a person understand their situation more deeply and completely. Through that understanding, the motivation and momentum to make positive change is created. To use Shinran Shonin's analogy, because we have been made aware of the poison, we are motivated to and move towards stop drinking the poison.

Religious traditions also have the energy and the ability to create communities. The advantage of being associated with a religious community is that with a community you now have a whole body of people reminding you of and supporting you in your religious tradition. It is a community that can find strength in having a profound history of met and overcome human struggles. Unfortunately, there are times when even the entirety of a religious community can

2 Translated as "stupidity" above.

falter. If, on the other hand, the tradition is strong enough it will learn from its mistakes, and reconnect with its truth. Through this re-connection, a deeper understanding of the intent of the tradition, a recommitment to the tradition, and the strength to overcome even that struggle can be gained. In other words, positive change becomes possible.

From the Jodo Shinshu point of view, it begins with the acknowledgment that we knew nothing before, and because of that we were blindly drinking poison. However, because of the Enlightened activity of the Buddhas we have learned about the poison, refrain as best we can from taking more poison, and instead take to the medicine of Namo Amida Butsu provided us. Hopefully, in reminding ourselves about the poison of anger, we can pause from contributing more poison to the collective body. As Sakyamuni Buddha is quoted as once having said:

Hatred is never appeased by hatred in this world. By non-hatred alone is hatred appeased. This is a law eternal. [Dhammapada #5]



In Sympathy

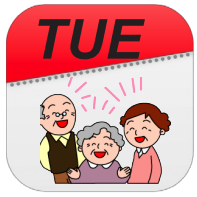
We extend our deepest sympathies to the families of the following who have left our world to be One with Amida Buddha. Namo Amida Butsu.

Nakaoka, Setsumi

(94)

September 3, 2023





TUESDAY SOCIAL

After a few breaks in our schedule, we are now back to regular gatherings. Please continue to come on Tuesdays to socialize with fellow church members and friends. Every Tuesday 9:30 – 11:30am. We play games, puzzles, bingo, refreshments, and just enjoy each other’s company. Hope to see you on Tuesdays.

JR. YBA (Jr. Young Buddhist Association)

This month, we hosted our Southern District Conference “Clue: Dharma Edition”.

Our two day conference was held on September 2-3 and was hosted along with Nishi’s Jr. YBA. We had a successful turn out. We had 94 Jr. YBA attendees and 50 plus advisors and chaperons from 13 different temples from as far as San Diego and Arizona.

We lead 3 workshops discussing Buddhist concepts relating to social media and peer pressure. In each workshop, the Jr Y members enjoyed a fun activity followed by a discussion. At the end of the day, we had a dance and overnight hotel stay.

We’d like to make a special thanks to the GBC BWA for making our lunch! We appreciate everyone’s support at the GBC in helping us host a successful conference!




Fujinkai / BWA Buddhist Women's Association

Happenings:

- ◇ We welcomed two new members to the BWA: Amy Kato and Shawna Tanaka. We're excited to have you join us! They will report to Toban Group B.
- ◇ 2023 BWA Japanese seminar sponsored by the GBC BEC has been postponed until next year. More details to follow.
- ◇ GBC 100th anniversary gift to the temple: The stove in the social hall may be fixable, in which case we are considering to replace the onaijin uchishiki. Kathy Hori will confer with Rev. Iwohara to research this topic.
- ◇ GBC BWA 100th anniversary event planning (Feb, 2026). We've decided to have a special service, luncheon and a gift for our members. Forming a committee to start planning for the event: Imogene Imada, Kathy Hori, Chizuko Morimoto, Julie Miyata, Amy Kato, Shawna Tanaka. Any other interested member, please let us know!
- ◇ September 2nd – SD Jr. YBA Conference curry lunch. Thank you to all the members who came out to prep the ingredients on Friday, 9/1 in the morning, and for coming out on Saturday, 9/2 to cook and prepare the curry. We made enough to feed 150 people and heard positive feedback from the Jr YBL members.
- ◇ September 9th, Saturday – Tea Lunch for our members. We had a good gathering of 21 members (including Rev. John Iwohara, Rev. Nobuo Miyaji and Rev. Yoshiko Miyaji). We were so happy to see everyone turn out for this fun and social lunch event. We hope everyone had an enjoyable time at Chado Tea Room in old Torrance.
- ◇ September 16th, Saturday – Fall Ohigan Seminar with guest speaker Rinban Ito from Higashi. Thank you to D/e Gumi, who prepared refreshments for the Japanese morning session.
- ◇ September 17th, Sunday – Fall Ohigan Otoki. Ohagi prep: 5:00am rice start for D/e gumi, 6:00am. Thank you to all the members who came out to help.
- ◇ September 24th, Sunday – BWA Birthday Party. This year we're celebrating the birthdays of: Tamie Kikuno, Kazuko Maruyama, Yoko Okumoto, Saeko Oyama and Sae Takahashi. Service in the Hondo will be from 11:00am, then lunch from 12:30 at Ise-Shima at the Miyako Hybrid Hotel. Cost of the lunch will be \$12.00 for BWA members and \$20.00 for non-members. Birthday celebrants and invited guests are free.
- ◇ October 8th, Sunday – Lady Eshinni/Kakushinni Service. Chairperson: Kathy Hori. Osonae will be prepared by E gumi. Thank you to our members who volunteered to help collect the Special donation at this service: Charlene Sakatani, Naomi Mekar, Aya Motoyasu, Charlene Hirotsu.
- ◇ October 8th, Sunday- BWA Memorial Service – hybrid format from 11:30am. Decedents we are remembering: Eleanor Sumiko Uyehara, Peggy Tsuruta, Chieko Sonoyama, Teruko Hashima. Service will be followed by a lunch at Sea Empress Restaurant.
- ◇ Sushi-making class for BWA members. In order to practice rolling and hone our skills, we'll have our first class on Saturday, October 28th at 10:00AM.

(Continued on page 5)

Dana Group

The Country Store Yard Sale which was held on Saturday, September 9th was successful because of all the volunteers who worked so hard to sort and price the sale items for the past several months as well as the volunteers who showed up on Saturday to set up, sell and clean up.

There was so much going on and so many people to thank that we couldn't even begin to name them, but this is just the initial note of thanks to make the deadline for the October Megumi. Watch for part 2 of this article in the November Megumi.

FOR ALL YOUR HELP...

**YARD SALE
SUCCESS**

Thank you!



Maui Wildfire Disaster Relief

To our Sangha at the Gardena Buddhist Church. On August 10, 2023, a wildfire in Maui, Hawai'i destroyed the town of Lahaina, including the Lahaina Hongwanji Mission. By the time you read this, the fires on Maui will have been extinguished but the damage caused by them will remain for years to come.

People can go to the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii site for ways to give.
<https://hongwanjihawaii.com/>

Also, in response to the fire that has devastated Maui, the BCA has put in place the following disaster relief effort to help support our Dharma friends in Hawaii through our BCA Social Welfare Committee:

Here is how you can help:

1. Donations can be made on-line through: <https://bca.kindful.com/>
2. Donations can also be made by check. Please make check payable to: BCA Endowment Foundation (Please note on memo line: MAUI RELIEF)
3. Mail checks to: BCA Endowment Foundation - 2140 Durant Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94704

A donation link can also be found on our church website.

Finally, net proceeds from the September 30th ABA/YABA Bingo Fund Raiser will be donated to help the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii.

Your support of our Dharma friends in Hawaii is greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

The Gardena Buddhist Church Board



**Board Meeting: Wednesday, October 18 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.)

YABA (Young Adult Buddhist Association)



JOIN YABA

YOUNG ADULT BUDDHIST ASSOCIATION



Join the community of young adults (or the young at heart) with social, religious and community service activities!

For more info contact us at yaba@gardenabuddhistchurch.org

Join the Band Group
here for updates:



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

**The church acknowledges the following donations received from 8/17/23 - 9/11/2023
with gratitude and appreciation.**

Funeral/Makurakyo/Burial/Memorial Services

Fujihara Family
Morimoto, Seiji

Shimohara, Evelyn
Taguchi, Susan

Yamauchi, Masakazu

Shotsuki Hoyo Donations

Awane, Alan
Endo, Carole
Fujioki, Ruby
Giovinazzo, Akemi
Hackett, Janice
Inose, M/M Ken (2)
Inouye, Juliann
Iwata, Amy
Keherly, Michael

Komatsu, Janet
Landry, Sharon
Maeda, Stacy
Mashiko, Jane
Muraoka, Mutsuko
Nakamura, Debbie
Nakatani, Dennis
Nakatani, M/M David
Osa, Susan

Ronne, M/M Robert
Shimohara, Arthur
Taguchi, Susan (2)
Takeichi, Hisao
Tanaka, Orian
Tanamachi, Linda
Taniguchi, Maile
Teraji, Lori
Terao, Ellen

Toma, Y.
Uwahori, Sadae
Yamagishi, Joyce
Yamauchi, Masakazu
Yanagihara, Dale
Yokota, M/M James

Fall Ohigan Service

Fujita, Teruko & Fumiko
Hori, Kathy
Ikeda, Tamotsu
Inose, M/M Ken
Komatsu, J.A.
Maesaki, Kazue

Matano, Flo
Mayemura, Louise
Mitani, M/M David
Morioka, M/M Dennis (2)
Motoyasu, Steve
Nakakura, M/M Ken

Nakamoto, M/M David
Nakamura, Johnny
Nakatani, M/M David
Ouchi, Joyce
Shimizu, Mitzi
Takata, M/M Sam

Toyoaki, M/M Shiro
Tsukamoto, W.
Watanabe, Donald
Wilhelm, Sheri
Yamane, M/M Dick
Yuki, Wallace

Obon Service

Iwamoto, Dianne

Shigemitsu, M/M Tom

Tomiyoshi, Ruby

Special Donations

Brian Mitsunaga Trust (2)
Higuchi, Carolyn

Masuyama, Barbara
Toma, Y.

Yoshiba, Yoshie

2023 GBC Membership Dues (Received: 8/21/2023 – 9/11/2023)

Higuchi, Terence
Higuchi, Tracy

Iwanaka, Traci
Kishimoto, Eric

Nakayama, Wayne
Nakayama, Janice

Eitaikyo Fund

Nakata, Ray & Pat

Nokotsudo Donation

Anonymous

Torichigai, Sandra

General Donation/Facility Use/ Miscellaneous

Kobayashi, Izumi

★ **Eshin-ni/Kakushin-ni Memorial Service**

Sunday, October 8, 2023 at 9:30am

★ **Eitaikyo Perpetual Memorial Service**

Sunday, November 19, 2023 at 9:30am

Guest Speaker: Rev. Seigen Yamaoka

October 2023

1	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
	BWA mtg (In-Person & Zoom)	11:15am
4	Dharma School Teacher's mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
5	Pass It Forward mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
7	Shotsuki Hoyo via Zoom	10:00am
8	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
	Eshin-ni/Kakushin-ni Memorial Service	
	BWA Members Memorial Service	11:00am
	BWA Memorial Luncheon	12:30pm
9	2023 Obon mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
13	GS Troop 4345 mtg/overnight stay	
14	Hui Aikanes Potluck Lunch & Meeting	12:00pm
15	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
	ABA mtg (In-Person & Zoom)	11:30am
16	Meinichiko service via Zoom	7:00am
	Megumi Deadline	
18	GBC Board Mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
20	Jodo Shinshu 101 for Young Adults w/Rev. Iwohara	7:00pm
22	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
	Coordinating Council mtg (In-person & Zoom)	11:30am
23	Megumi Deadline for November	
20	GBC Board mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
26	Centennial Gen Ops mtg via Zoom	7:30pm
29	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am

November 2023

2	Pass It Forward mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
3	Jodo Shinshu 101 for Young Adults w/Rev. Iwohara	7:00pm
4	Shotsuki Hoyo via Zoom	10:00am
5	Daylight Saving Time ends	
	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
	BWA Hybrid mtg	11:15am
8	General Membership SVC and Mtg	
10	Temple Closed—Veteran's Day	
11	Temple Closed--Veteran's Day	
	PIF Udon Sale & Bingo	
12	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
15	GBC Board Mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
16	Meinichiko service via Zoom	7:00am
19	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
	Eitaikyo Hoyo Service	
	ABA mtg (In-Person & Zoom)	11:30am
	Hui Aikane Installation	11:30am
20	Megumi Deadline	
22	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
23-24	Temple Closed—Thanksgiving Holiday	
26	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	
	Coordinating Council mtg (In-person & Zoom)	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

「虫の生き方」



宮地信雄師

この前NHK 第2の「ヒューマニエンス」という番組を見ていますと、「虫の生き方」という特集を組んでいました。私はあまり虫には関心がありませんので、それほど興味がなかったのですが、観ていくうちにだんだん虫の凄さを思い知らされることになったのです。

虫の研究をしているある学者が言います。もしも、この地球を遠く離れたところに何か生き物がいて、この地球を観察しているとします。そしてこの生き物は地球で一番発達している生き物は何かかという、それは虫だと結論づけるだろうということです。私はこれを聞いて驚きました。皆さんも多分同じ反応を持ったことでしょう。誰が考えてもこの地球上で一番発達しているのは人間だというのが当たり前だと思っているからです。しかし、この虫の研究者は、なぜ虫が一番発達した生き物であるかを論理的に説明してくれたのです。

虫というのはすごい団体能力を持っているというのです。その能力は人間を遥かに超えているらしいのです。そしてその団体能力を活かしてお互いが連絡を取り合って自分たちに一番適当な行動をとっているようなのです。こう聞きますと、確かに人間はこの団体能力には欠けているところがあるかもしれません。その最たるものが、戦争でしょう。人間同士が殺し合いを続けるということは、まったく団体能力にかけられる最たるサンプル行動ではないかと思うからです。

人間は動物や植物やこの地球上のすべての王になろうと努力してきたし、今もしていると言っているでしょう。しかし、その努力は実は人間だけが生き延びればよいというわがままな欲求から来ているので

はないでしょうか。このわがままな欲求はさまざまな化学兵器を生み出し、森林を伐採し、海を荒らし、ひいては地球温暖化という、自分たちが住んでいる場所、つまり地球さえも崩壊して行こうとするバカな行動しか取れていないのです。

人間は知的レベルにおいて動物やその他のものに遥かに勝ると、我々は信じてきましたが、果たしてそうでしょうか。虫に限らずほかの生き物は、お互いが永遠に生き延びていけるようにさまざまな工夫を重ねているのです。そのことに私たち人間は早く気が付かねばなりません。そうしなかったら地球の滅亡はおろか人類そのものもいつか絶滅危惧種に登録されねばならないかもしれません。人間の素晴らしさに気づくと同時にその危うさにもいち早く気が付かねばならない時が来ているのでしょうか。 合掌



恵信尼公・覚信尼公追悼法要

10月8日(日)午前9時30分
ガーデン仏教会本堂&Zoom



恵信尼公



覚信尼公



婦人会便り

婦人会の通常の活動（敬称略）

- ▽ 2名の新メンバーが婦人会に加入しました。加藤エイミー&田中シャウナは当番グループBに所属します。婦人会に入ってしまったことを嬉しく思います。
- ▽ GBC BEC主催の2023年BWA日本語セミナーは来年まで延期されました。詳細は後ほど発表されます。
- ▽ ガーデナ仏教会創立百周年記念の贈答品：社交ホールのストープは修理できそうなので、代わりにお内陣の打敷を検討中。堀キャシーが庵原開教使に相談する予定。
- ▽ 2026年 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。それに伴い特別委員会を結成。現メンバーは今田イモジーン、堀キャシー、森本千鶴子、宮田ジュリー、加藤エイミー、田中シャウナですが、ご興味のある方は連絡して下さい。
- ▽ 9月2日（土）南部教区ジュニアYBL会議：婦人会は昼食にカレーを提供しました。9/1日（金）朝から材料の準備に取り掛かり、9/2（土）に150人分余りのカレーを調理しました。お手伝いしに来て下さった皆様に感謝致します。Jr YBLのメンバーにもとても好評でした。
- ▽ 9月9日（土）婦人会メンバーのためのティーランチ：21名（庵原開教使、宮地開教使ご夫妻を含む）がトランスにあるChado Tea Roomでのソーシャルランチに参加し、皆で楽しい一時を過ごすことができました。
- ▽ 9月16日（土）秋季お彼岸セミナー：ご講師はロサンゼルス東本願寺別院 伊藤憲昭総長。午前中の日本語セッションの軽食の準備をして下さったD/e組の方々、ありがとうございました。
- ▽ 9月17日（日）秋季お彼岸法要：御斎のおはぎの準備一午前5時からの炊飯をD/e組が、午前6時からは皆さんがお手伝いして下さい、感謝致します。
- ▽ 9月24日（日）婦人会誕生日パーティー：今年お祝いするメンバーは、菊野民枝、丸山和子、奥本洋子、小山佐恵子、高橋小枝（敬称略）。午前11時の礼拝後、12:30PMから都ハイブリッドホテル内にある伊勢志摩レストランにて昼食会を催します。婦人会メンバーは12ドル、メンバー以外は20ドル、誕生日を迎えたメンバー及び来賓の方々は無料です。
- ▽ 10月8日（日）恵信尼公・覚信尼公追悼法要司会は堀キャシーが務め、お供えはE組が担当します。布施集めのお手伝いをして下さる、坂谷シャーリーン、銘苅ナオミ、本安綾、広津シャーリーンに感謝します。
- ▽ 10月8日（日）11:30am 婦人会追悼法要（対面&Zoom）先亡者：上原エレノア スミ子、鶴田ペギー、園山智恵子、羽島テル子。法要後の御斎ランチはSea Empress レストランで催します。
- ▽ 婦人会メンバー対象の寿司クラス 巻き寿司の技術を磨くために第一回目のクラスを10月28日（土）午前10時から始めます。
○ YABAを第二回目のクラス（2024）に招待しようと計画しています。

アナウンスメント:

- ▽ 9月24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
- ▽ 10月1日（日）10月婦人会例会（ハイブリッド）午前11時15分 当番 E/a組
- ▽ 10月5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
- ▽ 10月7日（土）祥月法要（仏教会のウェブサイト上）
- ▽ 10月16日（月）命日講（Zoom）
- ▽ 10月22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
- ▽ 11月5日（日）11月婦人会例会（ハイブリッド）午前11時15分 当番 A/b組

感謝録:

- ▽ 特別寄付 堀キャシー 丸山和子
森本千鶴子 坂谷シャーリーン
杉田ローリー

