



# MEGUMI

慈恩

GARDENA BUDDHIST CHURCH  
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Rev. John Iwohara

## Gardena Buddhist Church



### August 2023

Volume LVI No. 8



**Rev. John Iwohara**

### “Committed to the present?”

Drat! Darn! Are two of the bubbles that I’m sure would have appeared in the old “Batman” television series if the dynamic duo had to fight the Covid-19 villain. Unfortunately, I fell to the villainy of this fiendish

foe and am needing to await the appearance of the caped crusaders to squash this abominable nemesis. Hopefully our masked marauders have been able to keep clear of this enemy until they are able to create a bat antidote that will allow them to fight the fiend, and free all of us in self-isolated captivity.

The above description is basically how I ended my month of July. Unfortunately, because of Covid, I am only able to work for stretches of about 30 minutes at a time because I get so tired if I try to go too much longer. July, however, was an extremely exciting and productive month for the temple. For example, we had a very meaningful Obon/Hatsubon Service. Several people came to comment on how nicely the service was done. Furthermore, Wisteria Chugakko was able to host Mr. George Takei, of Star Trek fame, to come and address our Wisteria Chugakko students

about their experiences during their forced incarceration, first at Jerome and then at Tule Lake. Our students had the opportunity to ask questions and received a direct response from Mr. Takei. One such interaction included the question, “What is your strongest or best memory of camp?” Mr. Takei quickly answered back, “Getting out.” Wisteria also had a very successful culmination program. It was very heartwarming to see the students able to share something they were quite proud of with their parents. This was especially true since most parents seemed genuinely surprised and impressed at how much their students were able to accomplish in such a short period of time.

Looking back is often a good exercise. However, we also don’t want to spend too much of our time in the past. We need to remain committed to the present, and always ready to move towards the future. This year’s Obon festival, for example, will continue to honor the ways of the past, but also has an eye towards the future. Change is not easy. It is for this reason that I would like to give our Obon committee a huge pat on the back for implementing a new payment system that is designed to make it easier for our patrons to make payment. This

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is the first time we are implementing such a system, so we will probably run into some difficulties here and there, but designing a flawless system was never the intent. Designing a cleaner (cashless), safe and secure transaction system was. I'm sure that everyone will recognize how much cleaner, safer, and secure the new system will be. Let's all keep an open heart and "give it a try."



## JR. YBA

This month we've been diligently planning our Southern District Conference "Clue: Dharma Edition" with Nishi's Jr. YBA. We met on July 9 to further plan out and practice our workshops. We also had a meeting with Nishi on July 16 to practice and perfect all of our workshops. We look forward to our conference which will be on September 2-3.



## ABA News

ABA members are getting ready for Obon. There is much to do but will be exciting to see everyone dancing and enjoying the food.

Following obon, we will be having our installation dinner at Red Car Brewery on Saturday, August 12 at 5pm. Following dinner, we'll be heading over to the Armstrong Theater to see a production of "Kinky Boots".

Our bingo will take place on Saturday, September 30. More details will be announced in the near future.

Our next meeting will be at 11am on Sunday, August 20. It will be hybrid.

Stay cool!



**Board Meeting: Wednesday, August 9 at 7PM  
Via Zoom**

# Sangha Teens



Dharma School has ended but Obon is approaching quickly. Sangha Teens is in charge of the whiffle ball booth this year. We are looking forward to working in the booth with friends and helping raise funds for GBC.

Thank you to our teachers and advisors for a great 2022-2023 school year! We look forward to seeing everyone in September!!

Upcoming events:  
Aug 5th & 6th- Obon



## TUESDAY SOCIAL

In July some of our Tuesday Social Friends attended the Grateful Crane Ensemble performance at the JCI. Beautiful songs that brought back memories of Camp and of childhood days. It was a wonderful performance.

I hope everyone is enjoying their summer. It's going to be a very hot summer, please stay hydrated. We will be on summer break, and will resume again on **August 15**. Stay active and healthy. Take care, see you in a couple weeks.

# Dharma School News

Hope everyone is having a great summer. Dharma School will start on September 10, 2023 and we will have a welcome back ice cream social on that day. We will be emailing the registration forms for Dharma School soon, so please check your email. If you don't receive it, please contact Arleen Miya. If you have friends who are interested in attending Dharma School, please invite them.

Dharma School Teachers had their election luncheon on July 16, 2023.

### Cabinet for 2023 is as follows:

- Superintendent – Arleen Miya**
- Assistant Superintendent / Historian – Imogene Imada**
- Secretary – Alan Kita**
- Treasurers – Elaine Nishimura and Donna Takao**
- Religious Chair – Susan Mukai**
- Music Co-chairs – Nadine Kakimoto and Mitzi Shimizu**
- Congratulations to the new cabinet.**



If anyone is interested in becoming a Dharma school teacher, please contact Arleen Miya.

## *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.

- |                     |      |               |
|---------------------|------|---------------|
| Miyagishima, Shoji  | (87) | July 7, 2023  |
| Fujihara, Amy Emiko | (86) | July 9, 2023  |
| Sakaguchi, Shizuko  | (86) | July 18, 2023 |



## Fujinkai / BWA Buddhist Women's Association

### Happenings:

- ◇ Report from coordinating council meeting: All groups please clean out your space in the basement of any unnecessary items.
- ◇ SDBWA Q2 meeting: SD BWA Grant Program for 2023. There's still time to submit a grant application as the deadline has been extended to the end of August 2023.
- ◇ July 2nd – Monthly BWA meeting. Thank you B gumi for providing the refreshments at our meeting. We went over the work schedule for this year's sushi making and will be sending out the revised work schedule to all members by mail. Hoping everyone will come help – all volunteers welcomed!
  - ▶ Bento Sale of June 11th. Final tally: 496 bentos sold! Well over our initial projection of 400 bentos. We thank not only those people who came to help prepare, cook and assemble the bentos, but also to all the people who made donations to the BWA in addition to purchasing the bento. We can't list every individual name, but we thank each and every one of you for all your support!
- ◇ July 9th – Obon and Hatsubon Service – Thank you, B gumi, for preparing the anpan otoki for everyone and for arranging the osonae for this special service.
- ◇ 2023 BWA Japanese seminar sponsored by GBC BEC- August 26th. We are still searching for a guest speaker. More details to follow.
- ◇ Obon 2023- August 5th and 6th - We'll be making chirashi, maki and inari sushi as usual, but reducing the amounts from previous year. Planning on 17 kamas of rice for August 5th and 14 kamas of rice for August 6th.
- ◇ September 2, 2023 – SD Jr. YBL Conference – BWA has offered to prepare curry lunch.
- ◇ 2026 – GBC BWA 100th anniversary. We are slowly putting together the event, deciding on a special service and a luncheon. Do we want to make it very formal and invite other temples' BWAs? We're considering a new "look" to our BWA "uniform" at this anniversary and discussing several ideas.

### Announcements:

- August 13th (Sunday)- August Meeting 11:15am (hybrid). C/d Gumi
- August 27th (Sunday)- Coordinating Council Meeting 11:30am. Imogene/Julie will attend
- September 3rd (Sunday) - September Meeting 11:15am (hybrid). D/e Gumi
- September 7th (Thursday) – PIF Meeting 7:15pm (via zoom). Imogene/Julie will attend
- October 1st (Sunday) - October Meeting 11:15am (hybrid). E/a Gumi

### BWA Appreciation:

- ◇ Special Donation                      Kathy Hori                      Nadine Kakimoto

**Megumi Deadline is Monday, August 21, 2023**



# Hui Aikanes

We would like to thank Wisteria Chugakko for inviting the Sangha to hear George Takei speak to their students. Mr. Takei spoke about his experience as a youth when Executive Order 9066 was declared as well as life after his family was released from camp.

He emphasized the importance to make wise decisions when voting during elections to our youths. By being a registered voter, people with US citizenship can voice their opinions and prevent our past mistakes from ever happening again! Thank you Wisteria Chugakko for the informative gathering.



Hui Aikane members will be helping with the various booths in our upcoming Obon festivals, August 5th and 6th.

Our next meeting and potluck luncheon is scheduled for October 14th 11:30 am-1:00 pm in the Social Hall. We are planning to discuss future Hui Aikane activities and enjoy each other's company. More information regarding our potluck luncheon meeting will follow. Please join us.

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



## YABA (Young Adult Buddhist Association)

Last month we attended a few Obons. We're grateful for the host temples' hospitality. We made everlasting memories as we danced the nights away. We can't wait to see new and old faces at our Obon this month.

Enjoy the last weeks of summer break. We'll see everyone back at Sunday services in September!

Feel free to reach out to us at [yaba@gardenabuddhistchurch.org](mailto:yaba@gardenabuddhistchurch.org)





## From GBC Board Chairperson

### “Discernment”

**Alan Miwa**

No too long ago as I was traveling in our neighborhood, I came across people going door to door. They approached me and asked me if I had time to talk to them. It was obvious to me that they were walking through the neighborhood going door to door seeking people who might be interested in joining them to learn about their religion. They could have been Mormon's, Jehovah's Witnesses, or some other religion, but I really wasn't interested in talking with them. I kindly replied that I didn't have time and walked away.

I read that Buddha openly disagreed with many of the teachings of other religious people of his day. Nevertheless, he taught his disciples to respect clergy and followers of other religions. Proselytism is the policy of attempting to convert people's religious or political beliefs. Carrying out attempts to instill beliefs can be called proselytization. Jodo Shinshu discourages proselytizing.

Buddhism is not about following the commandments or teachings of one or many deities but rather following the ethics and moral code outlined by Siddhartha in his teachings. We very much want to share the wisdom of the dharma with everyone. From the time of the Buddha, Buddhists have gone from place to place making the Buddha's teaching available to all who seek it. As practicing Buddhists, what we shouldn't do is attempt to convert people from other religions, and not “sell” Buddhism to people who are not otherwise interested.

So we have a dilemma. Our church Sangha are declining in numbers but yet we want our membership to increase. But we don't seek to convert. Rather, we want to want people to “see” the wisdom of the dharma. To do so, one must practice and experience discernment. Preaching the dharma is not just a matter of handing people a list of doctrines to believe. It is setting people on the path to realizing dharma for themselves. And walking that path takes commitment and determination. People won't do it unless they feel personally motivated, no matter how hard you “sell” it. It's better simply to make the teachings available to people who are interested.

As an editorial comment though, Rev John clarifies, “whereas it's true we don't proselytize, that's not to say we don't propagate. Before the cultural revolution in China, Buddhism had the most adherents of all the world's religions. Rennyō Shōnin propagated like crazy and made Jodo Shinshu the biggest religious group in Japan.”

## RUMMAGE SALE

**NEW DATE!**

**Saturday September 9, 2023**

**Time- 8am to 1pm**

**Place – church parking lot**

**if interested in helping,  
contact Louise Mayemura at  
l.mayemura@yahoo.com**





# Wisteria Chugakko

Reverend John Iwohara, Headmaster  
Charlene Hirotsu, Principal

## We show our gratitude to our 65 Wisteria Chugakko Staff members

We just completed the 2023 Wisteria Chugakko Summer Session, another successful year with our 5th group of students!



Each year we learn and try new things to nurture and inspire our students. Our teachers and staff members play a very important role in the success of our Wisteria Chugakko Summer Program giving their neverending hard work, time and energy. The following individuals have allowed us to provide a quality educational, religious and cultural program for our middle school students. We are deeply grateful for the family that has been created in Wisteria Chugakko. With Gassho.

### STAFF:

Aponte, Kimberley  
Fujii, Janet  
Fujikawa, Gary  
Fujimoto, Fumie  
Fukuji, Barbara  
Harada, Edie  
Hiramoto, Debbie  
Hirotsu, Charlene  
Hirotsu, Russell  
Hirotsu, Stan  
Hirotsu, Stephanie  
Hori, Kathy  
Ikeda, Bev  
Imada, Brian  
Imada, Imogene  
Inose, Kay  
Isomoto, Lynn

Iwohara, Rev. John  
Kakazu, Kazuyo  
Kakimoto, Nadine  
Kawamura, Ken  
Kishimoto, Eric  
Kita, Alan  
Komai, JoAnn  
Kondo, Kyoko  
Lai, Ming  
Maruyama, Phyllis  
Mayemura, Louise  
Mayemura, Tommy  
Mekaru, Naomi  
Miwa, Alan  
Miwa, Christine  
Miya, Arleen  
Miyaji, Rev. Nobuo

Miyamoto, Mike  
Miyashiro, Marie  
Motoyasu, Aya  
Murata, Jan  
Nakagawa, Mae  
Nakamoto, David  
Nakamoto, Jane  
Nakatani, Lily  
Nishihira, Joe  
Nishihira, Violet  
Nishimura, Elaine  
Nishimura, Patti  
Pearson, Michi  
Sasaki, Emiko  
Sato, Doreen  
Sauer, Dick  
Shimizu, Gary

Shimizu, Linda  
Shimizu, Mitzi  
Takao, Dianne  
Takashima, Debbie  
Tsuruta, John  
Uehara, Harumi  
Umezumi, Rev. Amy  
Uyemura, Ty  
Wong, Verna  
Yamanaka, Jeanne  
Yasaki, Allie  
Yasaki, Chris  
Yasaki, Megan  
Yoshiyama, Rose

*Wisteria Chugakko welcomes 2 special guests, Kiyo Yoneda (100 years old) and George Takei, both who came to speak with our students for our Incarceree Talk with Questions and Answers. Wisteria Chugakko was very fortunate to be able to listen and learn from their personal stories.*





Gardena Buddhist Church  
**Wisteria Chugakko**  
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 Gardena, CA. 90247  
 (310) 327-9400



[wisteria.chugakko@gardenabuddhistchurch.org](mailto: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 or 8th 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.)



# OBON 2023

Obon is here already...The time has gone by so fast, the committee has been working hard, plans have been set in place, final details are being worked....all for the weekend we've been looking forward to! August 5th and 6th is just around the corner and we are excited to have you join us at Obon 2023.

Have you been attending the Obon Dance/Odori practices? It's been great to get out to practice, catch up with friends, and dance! Fun to hear the music and dance to the tunes that spark memories from past Obons. Even if you haven't been able to attend practice, hope that you can join us in the dance circle.

Obon 2023 is our inaugural back to normal event with food booths, games and dancing. Maybe we should say the "new normal" as there are some changes to the Obon Festival. Due to various hurdles, the biggest one being manpower, our food schedule is somewhat limited. Chicken Teriyaki and Shave Ice will only be available on Saturday, and Hot Dog/Chili Rice will only be sold on Sunday. Dango, Sushi, and Spam Musubi will be available both days. There are limited quantities on all items. You may also check our website for any updated information.

We will be implementing a central processing location for all food purchases. You will be able to pay (cash or credit card accepted) for all your food at a central location, and then you will go to each food booth to pick up your food items. The central processing location will be located in front of the garage, near the classroom buildings.

Obon 2023 is considered "A New Beginning", and we look forward to gather together and enjoy our Obon Festival.

Nadine Kakimoto and Sharyl Yamada-Oda  
Obon Co-Chairpersons



# GARDENA BUDDHIST CHURCH OBON



**2023**

A NEW BEGINNING

**AUGUST 5<sup>TH</sup> and 6<sup>TH</sup> 2023**

**JOIN US IN PERSON!**

**SAT**  
3-9PM

**SUN**  
3-9PM

**SAT & SUN**  
**6PM**

**OBON DANCE**



**FOOD BOOTHS ARE BACK!**  
**SUSHI, DANGO, CHICKEN TERIYAKI,**  
**AND MORE!**

**PLUS BINGO, GAMES, AND  
CRAFT SALE!**



SCAN OUR QR CODE  
FOR UP TO DATE OBON  
DETAILS AND  
INFORMATION ABOUT  
CREDIT CARD USAGE



**NEW FOR 2023-CREDIT CARD SALES**

**Gardena Buddhist Church, 1517 W. 166th St., Gardena, CA 90247**  
**WWW.GARDENABUDDHISTCHURCH.ORG**

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

**The church acknowledges the following donations received from 6/20/23 - 7/17/2023  
with gratitude and appreciation.**

## Funeral/Makurakyo/Burial/Memorial Services

Muneno, Hito Murakami, Ken	Shimohara, Evelyn Toyama, Jean & Yamane Family	Toyama, Jean & Yamane/ Muneno Families	Wheeler, Rujakorn
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## Shotsuki Hoyo Donations

Anonymous Chin, David & Cindy Ego, Kimiko Fujita, Teruko & Fumiko Guasti, Steve Imada, Brian Ito, Hedy Iwamoto, Diane Iwamoto, M/M Daniel	Kawamoto, Dean Kawamoto, M/M Derrick Kita, Yoshimi Komatsu, J A Mitsushima, Janice Miyashita, Judy Miyata, Julie Mori, Doris Muneno, Hito Nakashima, Diana	Nakayama, Tomoko Nimura, Keiko Okada, Nobuko Okamura, Lea Otani, Keiko Tatsukawa, Hiroko Togioka, Mark Toyama, Jean & Yamane/Muneno Families	Uyemura, Jean Wada, Emi Wakimoto, Yuko Watanabe, Makoto Yamada, M/M Edward Yasunaga, Edward Yasunaga, Roger
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## Obon Service

Akahoshi, Masato Anonymous Fujimoto, Fumie Fujita, Teruko & Fumiko Harada Hori, Kathy & Bryan Imada, Imogene Inouye, Tomoko Iwamoto, Diane Kakimoto, Nadine Kato, M/M Isao Kawamoto, M/M Derrick Kita, M/M Alan	Komatsu, J A Kurahashi, Gay Maeda, Stacy Maeda, Tom Maruyama, Phyllis Matsuda, Hiromi Mayemura, Louise Mekaru, Naomi Mitani, M/M David Miyata, Julie Nakamura, Burt Nakashima, M/M Harvey Nakata, M/M Bob	Nakawatase, Haruye Ohara, Emily Okada, Nobuko Okumoto, Yoko Otani, Keiko Ouchi, Joyce Sakatani, M/M Richard Sasaki, M/M Tom Shigemitsu, M/M Tom Shimizu, Mitzi Shimono, Natsuye Takahashi, Sae Takata, M/M Sam	Tsukamoto, W. Uyeda, Midori Wada, Emi Wakimoto, Yuko Watanabe, Donald Yamada, Faye Yamane, M/M Dick Yamasaki, Sheryl Yokota, M/M James Yoshida, Suzanne Yoshiyama, M/M Bryan Yuki, Toyoko Yuki, Wallace
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## Hatsubon Service

Hamamoto, Irene Iwamoto, M/M Daniel Iwasaki, Toshiko Kato, M/M Isao Kono, Cheryl	Mekaru, Naomi Mitani, M/M David Miyamoto, Satoshi Muramoto, Karen Murata, Jan	Ronne, M/M Robert Seino, Toshiyuki Terao, M/M Ernie Watanabe, Donald Yoshimura, Masaharu	Yoshimura, Ted Yuasa, Akiye Yuki, Wallace
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## Gotan-E

Hori, Kathy	Okamura, Rodney
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**2023 GBC Membership Dues (Received: 6/20/2023 – 7/17/2023)**

Hirohama, Nathlyn  
Imamura, George  
Imamura, Traci

Imamura, Nolan  
Imamura, Michelle  
Kita, Alan

Kita, Dawn  
Matsumoto, Sally  
Sasaki, Emiko

Sasaki, Masao  
Sasaki, Janice

**Special Donations**

Hori, Kathy  
Ikeda, Tsuemi

Ioki, M/M Bruce  
Jimenez, C.

Johnson, Sayoko  
Sakuda, Shizuko

Yorita, Kenji

**Osaisen**

Nakakura, M/M Ken

Sakatani, Charlene

**General Donation/Facility Use/ Miscellaneous**

Aerospace Corporation

Baba, Miyako

Murakami, Ken

**August 2023**

2	Obon Booth Construction	4:00pm
3	Pass It Forward mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
5	Virtual Shotsuki Hoyo	10:00am
	Obon Festival	3:00pm
6	No Sunday Service	
	Obon Festival	3:00pm
7	Obon Tear Down	4:00pm
	Zoom Pass it Forward mtg	7:00pm
8	No Tuesday Social	
9	GBC Board mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
11	Sangha Teen 2023-2024 Planning mtg via Google Meet	12:00pm
13	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
	BWA mtg Hybrid	10:30am
14	2023 Obon mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
15	Tuesday Social resumes	9:30am
16	Meinichiko service via Zoom	7:00am
19	SD Jr. YBL Cabinet Meeting	10:00am
20	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
	ABA mtg Hybrid	11:30am
	Wisteria Chugakko Wrap Up Luncheon & mtg	12:30pm
21	Megumi Deadline for September	
23	Dharma School Teacher's mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
24	Centennial Gen Ops mtg via Zoom	7:30am
27	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
	Coordinating Council Hybrid mtg	11:30am

**September 2023**

2-3	SD Jr. YBL Conference hosted by Gardena & Nishi	8:00am
	Virtual Shotsuki Hoyo	10:00am
3	No Sunday Service	
	SD Jr. YBL Conference	
	BWA mtg Hybrid	11:15am
4	Temple closed: Labor Day	
6	Dharma School Teacher's mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
7	Zoom Pass It Forward mtg	7:00pm
9	Yard Sale (Country Store)	8:00am
10	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
	First day of Dharma School	
11	Megumi deadline for September	
	2023 Obon mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
15	Jodo Shinshu 101 for Young Adults w/Rev. Iwohara	7:00pm
16	Meinichiko service Zoom	7:00am
17	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
	Fall Ohigan Service	
	ABA mtg Hybrid	11:30am
20	GBC Board mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
24	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
	Coordinating Council Hybrid mtg	11:30am
	BWA 80 & 88 Birthday Service	11:30am
	BWA Birthday Luncheon	12:00pm
28	Centennial Gen Ops mtg via Zoom	7:30am
30	YABA & ABA Bingo & 50 cent Dip Dinner	5:00pm

**<Regular Activities>**

<b>Sunday:</b>	Isami Taiko Practice @11:15am weekly
<b>Monday:</b>	2nd & 4th Community Projects @9:30am 2nd & 4th Cub Pack 1230 mtg @6pm
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Tuesday Social @9:30am

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



宮地信雄師

## 「歳がいくつっていいことだな！」

美子がどこからか聞いてきた言葉があります。紹介しますと、それはこうです。

私たち年寄り、1日にしなくてはならないことがあると言うのです。なんだろう

うかそれはとっておりますと、「一万、千、百、十、」だそう。なんだそれはと聞きますと、一万は1日一万歩歩けということだそう。そして、千は1日千文字読みなさい、百は1日百字書けで、十は1日10人の人と話をしろということでした。聞いてみますとなんだそんなことかと思いましたが、よく考えてみますと案外こんなことができているということが思われます。

私は、毎日散歩をする方ですから、1日一万歩歩くというのは多分クリアしていると思います。また、本も割とよく読むので、1日千字以上は確実に読んでいます。次の百字書けというのもこのように『慈恩』の記事を書いたりいろいろしますのでこれもクリアしています。問題は1日10人の人と話をしろということ。果たして近頃毎日10人の人と会っているだろうかということです。会うだけではダメですね、話をしなくてはなりません。散歩に出ますと人には会うのですが、話をするとどうでしょうか。挨拶だけして後はスーと通り抜けていくだけです。十人はおろか一人とも喋らないことがあります。ま、よく喋って美子と何か連絡事項ぐらいボソボソと話しするくらいですね。これでは本当に話したことにはなりません。

こう考えてみると、私たちは1日やらねばならないことはなかなかできていないということになります。と、なると美子曰く、認知症や高齢化が加速していくそうなのです。ああ、えらいことになりましたね。

年は取りたくないけど、健康を保つためとはいえ、なかなかいろんなことができないのが私たちです。

仏様はそんな私たちを見ておってくださって、だから私がなんとかしようと言ってくださっているのです。何とかしようとは、病気や体が弱っていくことに歯止めをかけたり、若返らせてあげましょうとおっしゃっているのではないのでしょうか。歳いけばいくほど、人間はだんだん苦しくなっていきますが、それでもやはり歳いかなくはわからないことがだんだん見えてくるのですよと教えてくださっているのです。その見える方に焦点を合わせていくことが大事なのですと言われるのです。若い時にはできたことが今できなくなる、何と悲しいことでしょうか。それはそうですが、若い時には見えなかったことが今やっと見えるようになってきた、これもありがたいことではないですか。仏法を聞くということは実はこういうところにあるのです。

生老病死は人間の定めです。これに逆らうことはできません。その生老病死の問題を解決するのが仏法です。お釈迦様の教えはこれ以外にはありません。歳いけばいくほど、だんだんとそのことが味わえてくるのです。だから仏法は普遍の法だと言われるのです。お互い頑張りましょうよ。

南無阿弥陀仏





## 婦人会便り

### 婦人会の通常の活動（敬称略）

- ▽ 附属団体連絡協議会：地下室にあるそれぞれのグループのスペースに置いてある不要なものを整理して下さいとのこと。
- ▽ 南部教区婦人会第二四半期会議：2023年南部教区婦人会助成金プログラムは、申し込み締切日が八月末に延びたので、まだ少し時間があります。
- ▽ 7月2日（日）婦人会定例会議。茶菓を用意して下さったB組の皆様ありがとうございました。今年はお寿司作りのスケジュールを見直し、修正したものを後ほど全てのメンバーに郵送致します。皆様のご協力をお願い致します。
  - ▶ 6月11日（日）婦人会主催のお弁当セールでは当初の予想の400個を上回り、最終的に496個売り上げました。食材の準備や調理、詰め合わせなどをお手伝い下さった皆様はもちろんのこと、お弁当の購入に加えて寄付をして下さった方々にも感謝致します。お一人お一人のお名前をここに書くことはできませんが、この場をお借りして心よりお礼申し上げます。
- ▽ 7月9日（日）お盆&初盆法要 御齋のあんぱんとお供え、饅頭を用意して下さったB組の方々、ありがとうございます。
- ▽ 8月26日（土）2023年婦人会日本語セミナー（GBC BEC主催）のゲストスピーカーを選定中。詳細は後ほどお知らせします。
- ▽ 8月5-6日（土・日）お盆 婦人会はちらし寿司、巻き寿司、稲荷寿司を作ります。例年より数量を減らし、5日は17釜、6日は14釜のご飯を炊く予定。
- ▽ 9月2日（土）ガーデナ仏教会で開催される

南部教区Jr. YBL会議で、婦人会は昼食にカレーを提供します。

- ▽ 2026年 ガーデナ仏教会婦人会創設百周年記念。ゆっくりですが 特別サービスや昼食会についての計画を進めております。かしこまった形で他のお寺の婦人会をご招待するのか？この機会に新しいイメージの婦人会ユニフォームを新調するかなどいくつかのアイデアを検討しています。

### アナウンスメント:

- ▽ 8月13日（日）8月婦人会例会（ハイブリッド）午前11時15分 当番 C/d組
- ▽ 8月27日（日）附属団体連絡協議会（Zoom）午前11時30分 今田イモジーン&宮田ジュリー出席予定
- ▽ 9月3日（日）9月婦人会例会（ハイブリッド）午前11時15分 当番 D/e組
- ▽ 9月7日（月）お盆会議（Zoom）午後7時 堀キャシー、吉村ナンシー、坂谷シャリー出席予定
- ▽ 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

### 感謝録:

- ▽ 特別寄付 堀キャシー 柿本ネイディーン

