



MEGUMI

慈恩

GARDENA BUDDHIST CHURCH
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Rev. John Iwohara

Gardena Buddhist Church



March 2024

Volume LVII No. 3



Rev. John Iwohara

自利利他 (jiri rita), “self benefit, benefiting others” (part 2 of 2)

As mentioned in the previous article, *Jiri-rita* (“self benefit, benefiting others”) is an important concept found in Mahayana Buddhism. The previous article focused on the term as a Mahayana Buddhist

expression, or one that Shinran Shonin also used. This article will focus on how the Shonin expanded the meaning of the term for use as a unique Jodo Shinshu expression.

Jiri-rita as a Jodo Shinshu specific Term

Jiri-rita as a general Mahayana Buddhist term was used to help describe the Bodhisattva Path. The Bodhisattva, a person who was willing to postpone their own Enlightenment in order to help others achieve Buddha-hood, was seen as the ideal practitioner by Mahayana Buddhism. In terms of *jiri-rita*, any self-benefit (*jiri*) was done for the purpose of benefiting others (*rita*). As a Mahayana Buddhist path, Pure Land Buddhism (not specifically Jodo Shinshu [1]), also incorporated *jiri-rita* as part of its doctrinal foundation.

As mentioned previously [2], in the “Treatise on the Pure Land” (浄土論, *jou do ron*), Vasubandhu

Bodhisattva clearly identifies the adornments of Amida Buddha’s Pure Land and that of the Buddha as organized around the principle of self-benefit and benefiting-others. Whereas Shinran Shonin uses the expression of *jiri-rita* in this manner as well, the Shonin also uses the term in a way that expresses the unique understanding of Jodo Shinshu.

In this unique Jodo Shinshu understanding of *jiri-rita*, Shinran Shonin defines *jiri* in terms of Self-Power (自力, *ji riki*) and *rita* in terms of Other-Power (他力, *ta riki*). For example, in the chapter where Shinran Shonin describes the expedient Buddha and Land, or the sixth and final chapter of the *Kyogyoshinsho*, we find:

Further, the three minds that beings awaken are all minds of self-benefit that are individually different and not the mind that is single, which arises from [Amida’s] benefiting of others. [3]

Here, Shinran Shonin speaks of the “three minds that beings awaken” or the heart of Self-Power as being “self-benefit,” and the “mind that is single, which arises from [Amida’s] benefiting of others.” Amida benefiting others (*rita*) is, in other words, the activity of Other-Power.

Furthermore, in the work titled “Gutoku’s Notes, [4]” Shinran Shonin writes:

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

What is true and real is of two types.

1. **Self-benefiting** with a true and real mind. The path of difficult practice. The Path of Sages. Transcending lengthwise. That this body is itself Buddha and that this body itself becomes Buddha are [teachings of] **self-power**. Departing lengthwise. The teaching of gradual attainment within self-power teachings. This is [the teaching of] performing practices for many kalpas.

2. **Benefiting others** with a true and real mind. The path of easy practice. The Pure Land Way. Transcending crosswise. This is the **Other Power** of the Tathagata's Vow.

Departing crosswise. This is self-power within [the teaching of] Other Power. It consists of all the meditative and nonmeditative practices. [5]

In describing the two types of "true and real (真実, shinjitsu)," Shinran Shonin begins with the description of self-benefit or jiri. Shinran Shonin identifies this with the "[teachings of] self-power." Next, is the description of benefiting others or rita. Although there are again two types, the emphasis is on taking the "Transcending crosswise" path of Other-Power.

In creating this distinction, Shinran Shonin is suggesting that when we endeavor with our self-power, our focus is entirely on self-benefit. Benefiting others takes on a secondary importance. In the case of the Other-Power of Amida Buddha's Vow, however, the Vow of Amida Buddha has promised to renounce Enlightenment unless all sentient beings can receive the benefit of birth in the Pure Land, and in the Pure Land become a Buddha.

Given that our nature's are geared towards self-benefit, or an orientation that makes it practically impossible to achieve Enlightenment (especially from the Mahayana perspective) through the activities of self-power, the Vow of Amida Buddha was established to benefit others, and in particular those who can only primarily think of benefiting themselves.

This Jodo Shinshu interpretation of *jiri-rita*,

self benefit and benefiting others, is meant to make clear the path towards Enlightenment especially for those, as described in the "Notes on Once-Calling and Many-Calling," who are:

Foolish beings: as expressed in the parable of the two rivers of water and fire, we are full of ignorance and blind passion. Our desires are countless, and anger, wrath, jealousy, and envy are overwhelming, arising without pause; to the very last moment of life they do not cease, or disappear, or exhaust themselves. [6]

[1] Jodo Shinshu is a school found within the Pure Land traditions of Buddhism. Other Pure Land schools include Jodo-shu, founded by Honen Shonin, and Ji-shu, founded by Ippen Shonin. Tendai, found on Mt. Hiei in Japan, also has a long history of studying Pure Land thought. The Pure Land path has a long history and can trace its roots back to India. However, it wasn't until the efforts of Honen Shonin that the Pure Land doctrine became an independent school or tradition of Buddhism.

[2] Please refer to the February "Megumi" article

[3] Collected Works of Shinran (CWS), p. 212

[4] Found in the CWS, Pp. 587-619

[5] CWS, Pp. 602-603, highlight added. Note that Shinran Shonin has distinguished between "Transcending crosswise" and "Departing crosswise." This distinction is between the faith founded on the 18th Vow (Transcending crosswise), and the 20th Vow (Departing crosswise). Shinran Shonin's emphasis is on the Transcendent crosswise or the path that relies entirely on Other-Power.

[6] CWS, p. 488





Hui Aikanes

“Rolling the dice and making memories in Las Vegas!”

On February 26th through the 28th, we sponsored a trip to Las Vegas. Our guests spent two fun filled days at casinos playing games and slot machines, and enjoying each others company. We would like to thank all of our guests for participating on our first trip! MAHALO to Jeanne Yamanaka and Jane Nakamoto for organizing the trip!



We are continuing to plan for the Hawaii Day event scheduled for the month in June. The day will include games and activities for all ages.

On April 6th the Dharma School teachers are decorating the Hanamido for Hamamatsuri. Your flower donations would be very welcomed and most appreciated.

If you have time, your assistance in helping to decorate the “Hanamido” is greatly appreciated.

Our next meeting will be on April 13th 2 pm in the Cooling Room.

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

Hatsumairi Application Form/初参り 申込書

The Gardena Buddhist Church invites all interested parents who have children one year old or under to consider participating in this memorable service.

昨年の花祭り以後に生まれた赤ちゃんの初参式を行います。この記念すべき初参式参加をご希望の方は、下記申し込み用紙に必要事項をご記入の上、3月31日までに仏教会宛にご送付下さい。



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INFANT PRESENTATION SERVICE – (HATSUMAIRI) Sunday, April 7, 2024– 9:30 a.m. (In person)

Child’s Name: _____ Birth Date: _____
 First Middle Last

Parent’s Name: _____
 Last Father Mother

Address: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

(*Please mail this portion to the church by Sunday, March 31)

Fujinkai / BWA Buddhist Women's Association

Happenings:

- ◇ February 4th, Sunday – monthly BWA meeting. Thank you to D & E gumi for the delicious snacks provided during our meeting.
- ◇ February 4th, Sunday – Lady Takeko Kujo Service. Thank you to the whole sangha who donated generously during our special osaisen collection. We collected \$443 and will be giving this to the Girl Scouts Daisy troop.
- ◇ February 11th, Sunday – Nirvana Day. Thank you to D gumi for providing the osonae for the onaijin.
- ◇ February 18th, Sunday – The BCA and the GBC temple acknowledged Mrs. Miwa's 110th birthday by giving her special certificates and celebration. The BWA was also proud to have Mrs. Miwa as our honored advisor and gifted her a small token of our appreciation with a gift card to Scardino's, as she enjoys Italian food. We also gave her a special lei, and thank Phyllis Maruyama for making the arrangements for the lei and the gift card.
- ◇ February 25th, Sunday – Thank you to everyone who attended the BCA's Eitaikyo Service via Zoom.
- ◇ March 16th, Saturday - Spring Ohigan seminar. Rev. Tadao Koyama is our guest speaker. Japanese session 9:30-11:30am. E gumi in charge of bringing snacks.
- ◇ March 17th, Sunday – Spring Ohigan Service. Thank you to E gumi for taking care of the osonae.
- ◇ Joint Sushi-making class with BWA & YABA. The date is revised to Saturday, April 27th. We will discuss further details at our April meeting.
- ◇ 2025 BWA Japanese Seminar – Rev. Umezu has accepted to be our guest speaker.
- ◇ Megumi Newsletter – Phyllis Maruyama prints out about 15 copies for our BWA ladies already. We ask Phyllis to submit an invoice for the paper she uses to reimburse her for materials used.

Announcements:

- ◇ March 3th, Sunday – March Regular Meeting will be held at 11:15am. Toban for the meeting will be E/a gumi.
- ◇ March 4th, Monday – Obon meeting via Zoom at 7pm. Julie/Imogene will attend. We also ask representatives from Toban E/a to attend.
- ◇ March 13th, Thursday – Fujimatsuri meeting via Zoom at 7pm. Julie/Imogene will attend. We also ask representatives from Toban B/c to attend.
- ◇ March 23rd, Saturday – SDBWA First Quarterly Meeting via Zoom at 10:00am. Julie/Imogene will attend.
- ◇ April 1st, Monday - Obon meeting via Zoom at 7pm. Julie/Imogene will attend. We also ask representatives from Toban E/a to attend.
- ◇ March 24th, Sunday - Coordinating Council meeting 11:30 am. Julie/Imogene will attend.
- ◇ April 7th, Sundy - April Regular Meeting will be held at 11:15am. Toban for the meeting will be A/b gumi.

YABA (Young Adult Buddhist Association)

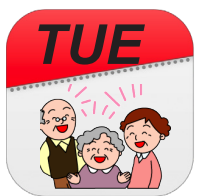
In February, we held a YABA Trivia Night as a variation on last year's game night. We had 32 attendees, including members, their friends and families. We ate a terrific Lomeli's dinner, had a lightly competitive 7 rounds of trivia and had crafts and games for the kids. Thank you to everyone that made the event such a success!

Upcoming Events

March 7: Potluck, General Meeting, and Buddhist discussion (Hybrid)

March 9: Torrance Farmers Market Lunch

Feel free to reach out to us at yaba@gardenabuddhistchurch.org



TUESDAY SOCIAL

Due to potential rain and driving hazards, we cancelled our Tuesday Social gatherings 2 times in February. But we were able to enjoy a Valentine's Day delicious potluck with an amazing spread of delicious homemade dishes and treats.

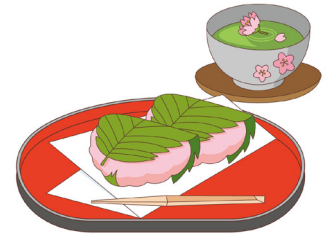
Also, we made Valentine cards created by Dianne Takao. The card making was so much fun.



On February 10, a few of us, including Rev John, attended a seminar presented by the Gardena Police Department. It was a very informative seminar, "Active Shooter / Stop the Bleed". Lots of important information was presented and each attendee received a tourniquet kit. We had a hands-on demonstration on the techniques of how and when to use the tourniquet. Please join us on Tuesdays for refreshments, fun & games from 9:30am – 11:30am.

ABA News (Adult Buddhist Association)

The calendar says "March" which means spring will soon be here. If we were in Japan, we would be preparing to see the cherry blossoms. We hope you were able to honor the girls in your life on March 3, Hinamatsuri (Girl's Day) with some Sakura mochi.



ABA's calendar is getting busy. We'll be working on our annual Mother's Day Breakfast as well as preparing for Fujimatsuri. Many of us are preparing our lessons for Wisteria Chugakko.

On the social side, we'll be going to the Japanese Heritage Dodgers game on July 2. We'll be joining Nishi at the Hollywood Bowl on July 3 to listen to Harry Connick, Jr. We're looking at going to additional Dodgers games as well as other performances at the Hollywood Bowl. We're also planning a harbor cruise with ABA Sonics of Nishi as our entertainment. We may also become "kids" during a trip to Two Bits Circus.

Our next hybrid meeting will be on Sunday, March 17 at 11:30am.

Take care and continue to be kind to others.

ICHI-MI CLUB

San Diego Film Showing

On Sunday, March 24, the San Diego Buddhist Temple (SDBT) will host a showing of the Ichi-Mi film "A Profound Silence." A Zoom discussion session will follow on Wednesday, March 27. For more information about this event, you can contact the SDBT at <http://btsd.net/>



If you would like more information on Ichi-Mi or to schedule a film showing, please contact us at ichimigbc@gmail.com

The Community Projects Group (CPG)

The Community Project Group members have been busily working on projects for the Fujimatsuri fundraiser in May. If any of you would be interested in joining us, you are welcome! We meet on the second and fourth Mondays of each month, from 10 am, in the Church Meeting Room.

We are now taking orders for our annual graduation ribbon lei project. Please look for the order form for the leis in this Megumi. Orders can be left with any of our members or in the Church office. We are starting early, as some of the university graduation ceremonies are held in early May.

The Group also has some special leis (one-of-a-kind and already made) that we will be selling in April. More information will be given in the future.



Order Your Graduation Leis Early! 2024



Do you have a child, grandchild, friend or neighbor who is graduating this year?
Get a head start and order a graduation lei now. Be aware that graduations begin from the beginning of May!



The Community Projects Group is taking orders for ribbon leis, to be made in your graduate's school's colors. All monies from this fundraiser will go directly to the Gardena Buddhist Church.

The lei price is \$15.00 each for a double braid ribbon lei. All leis will be made with 1/4" ribbons, with a metallic edging.

Lei Order Form

Name _____ Phone _____

Delivery Address _____

Email Address _____

No. of double leis at \$15 each _____

Lei #1 – Colors or school's name _____ Date needed _____

Lei #2 – Colors or school's name _____ Date needed _____

Lei #3 – Colors or school's name _____ Date needed _____

Others:

Total enclosed _____

Please make checks payable to "**Gardena Buddhist Church**"

Orders and monies should be mailed to:

Gardena Buddhist Church
1517 W. 166th Street
Gardena, CA 90247
OR

Email orders to: CPG@gardenabuddhistchurch.org

You will be contacted regarding delivery when your order is completed.

If any questions, please contact Kiyoko Sasaki (1-310-326-8252)



Wisteria Chugakko

Reverend John Iwohara, Headmaster
Charlene Hirotsu, Principal

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

If you have family or friends that will be going into the 7th, 8th or 9th grade in the Fall of 2024, they are eligible to register for our 2024 Wisteria Chugakko Summer Program. Our crew of 60+ teachers work very hard to provide an exciting curriculum of cultural, religious and educational classes, passing on knowledge and skills that will help guide our students in their future.

Please read through our Wisteria Chugakko Brochure. The Tuition is \$550.00, or \$500 if you have a Gardena Buddhist Church affiliation.

With Gassho,
Rev. John Iwohara, Headmaster
Charlene Hirotsu, Principal

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.

Especially created for
incoming 7th, 8th, and 9th
Grade Students
(in Fall of 2024)

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

**Monday, June 17 - Wednesday, July 10
2024**

Reverend John Iwohara
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

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)

**Board Meeting: Wednesday, March 20 at 7PM
via Zoom**

Students will have multiple teachers in the following content areas:

Teachers and Staff



- Calendaring
- Calligraphy
- Car Mechanics
- Cardmaking
- Cooking
- Crocheting
- Drawing
- Event Planning
- Excel
- Filmmaking
- Flower Arrangement
- Haiku Poetry
- Incarcere Talk
- Japanese
- Japanese Bookbinding
- Japanese Etiquette
- Japanese Tea Ceremony
- Jodo Shinshu Buddhism
- Jodo Shinshu Rituals
- Kachi Kachi Making
- Keyboarding
- Kokedama
- Learning Our History
- Learning Spreadsheets
- Lei Making
- Obon Dancing
- Origami
- Papermaking
- Photography
- Podcasting
- Robotics
- Sashiko
- Sewing/Shibori
- Shakyo
- Shuji
- Storyboarding
- Survival Bracelet
- Taekwondo
- Taiko
- Wood Tile Trivets
- Yukata Dressing



- Aponte, Kimberly
- Baba, Miyako
- Fujii, Janet
- Fujikawa, Gary
- Fujimoto, Fumie
- Fukuji, Barbara
- Harada, Erie
- Hiramoto, Debbie
- Hirotsu, Charlene
- Hirotsu, Russell
- Hirotsu, Stephanie
- Hirotsu, Stan
- Hori, Kathy
- Ikeda, Bev
- Imada, Brian
- Imada, Imogene
- Inose, Kay
- Isomoto, Lynn
- Iwasaki, Irene
- Iwohara, Rev. John
- Kakazu, Kazuyo
- Kakimoto, Nadine
- Kawamura, Ken
- Kishimoto, Eric
- Komai, Joann
- Kondo, Kyoko
- Kita, Alan
- Lai, Ming
- Maruyama, Phyllis
- Mayemura, Louise
- Mayemura, Tommy
- Mekaru, Naomi
- Miyamoto, Mike
- Miyashiro, Marie
- Miwa, Alan
- Miwa, Christine
- Miya, Arleen
- Miyaji, Rev. Nobuo
- Motoyasu, Aya
- Murata, Jan
- Nakagawa, Mae
- Nakahira, Ann
- Nakakura, Doris
- Nakamoto, David
- Nakamoto, Jane
- Nakatani, Lily
- Nishihira, Joe
- Nishihira, Violet
- Nishimura, Elaine
- Nishimura, Patti
- Quon, Rev. Kory
- Sasaki, Emiko
- Sato, Doreen
- Sauer, Dick
- Shimizu, Gary
- Shimizu, Linda
- Shimizu, Mitzi
- Takao, Dianne
- Takashima, Debbie
- Tsurata, John
- Uehara, Harumi
- Umizu, Rev. Amy
- Uyemura, Ty
- Wong, Verna
- Yamanaka, Jeanne
- Yasaki, Allie
- Yasaki, Chris
- Yasaki, Megan
- Yoshiyama, Rose

Nakayoshi Preschool

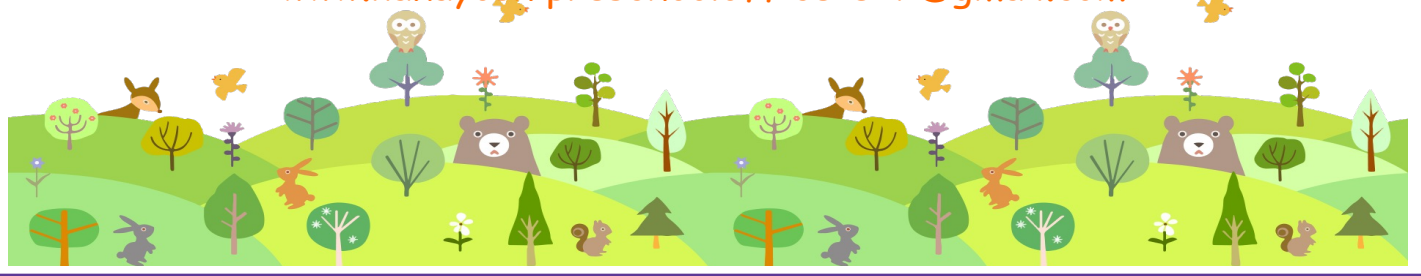


2歳・3歳児
募集中

ガーデナ仏教会附属
Gardena Buddhist Church
なかよし幼稚園
Nakayoshi Preschool

Open
Enrollment
2years old
3years old

1517 W.166th St., Gardena, CA 90247
310-327-4627
www.nakayoshipreschooloffice1517@gmail.com



GBC Vision

Chapter 1: What's an LRP and Why Now?

In 2022, Board Chair Alan Miwa commissioned a Long-Range Planning group. The LRP was tasked with giving directional focus to our current and future temple activities. But you are probably asking, 'Why and why now?'

For those of us who grew up in the 60's and 70's at GBC, we fondly remember the Hondo packed several times every Sunday. Hundreds of Sangha members came weekly to the temple to listen to the Dharma and to work to support our temple community.

Although not as robust today, we are surviving. In addition to perennial organizations like Dharma School, ABA and BWA, we are very fortunate to have new organizations to support young adults, the LGBTQ+ community and special cultural interests. However, in preparation for the 100th anniversary of Gardena Buddhist Church, we need to do more than just survive: the Sangha needs to thrive and grow. Long-Range Planning is intended to rebuild the momentum and the unity required to ensure future growth.

"You can't really know where you are going until you know where you have been."

— Maya Angelou

The LRP process began with a 360° exploration of the situation facing Gardena Buddhist Church. We spent months creating a SWOT analysis: we explored our internal Strengths and Weaknesses; we examined the external Opportunities and Threats. Here is a brief summary of our findings:

Internal Strengths

- We have a strong resource pool within our Sangha. Our community members have amazing capabilities and the drive to put them to use in support of our temple.
- Our founders and leaders have set us up with a sturdy foundation of facilities and funding that ensure our temple can be an ongoing concern.

Internal Weaknesses

- We are afraid to try new things. We tend to adhere to the past and not necessarily set ourselves up for future success.
- Although our people are friendly, we don't always open up our hearts and activities to newcomers.
- Our temple organizations (i.e. BWA, ABA, etc.) are strong, but we don't necessarily work well across organizations.

External Opportunities

- Due to the pandemic and increasing isolation, people are looking for more meaningful connections and communities. Particularly among young people, religious thought and compassion is increasingly important.
- Jodo Shinshu teachings are increasingly relevant as people are seeking diversity and inclusivity.
- GBC has a huge 'invisible supporting hand' – there are many people who may not be 'regulars' at services, but who regularly offer help during temple events.

External Threats

- 'Organized Religion' has generally lost popularity.
- Buddhism is not well known. In fact, many within the Japanese American community see Buddhism as 'only for funerals'.
- Many Japanese companies have closed their doors in the South Bay causing a cultural drain.

Given these starting conditions, where can GBC go from here?

This is the first of a series of five articles. Please stay tuned for our next installment: Gardena Buddhist Church's Vision.

Happy Birthday

The Gardena Buddhist Church helped to celebrate the 110th birthday of Mrs. Yoshiko Miwa. This milestone recognition was held as part of the Sunday service held on Sunday, February 18, 2024. At that time, a certificate from the Buddhist Churches of America, signed by Bishop Marvin Harada, was also presented. Mrs. Miwa enjoyed the service together with her family of four generations.





Membership letters and forms have been mailed to begin our 2024 Membership campaign.

Thank you to all who have supported the temple in so many different ways.



Please join us as members of the Gardena Buddhist Church and help to support the functions at the temple.

The membership form can also be found on the GBC website

Gardena Buddhist Church

Weekend Administrative Assistant Position

1517 W. 166th Street, Gardena, CA 90247
(310) 327-9400

Become a part of GBC's Operations

As the level of activity has increased and the pace has quickened at GBC, we are in need of extending our Staff to include a weekend administrator to manage the church office. We are looking for individuals who have good communication and organization skills and can thrive in a dynamic environment.

At GBC, you'll be responsible for all general office tasks, have direct interaction with the GBC staff, members & visitors, and become intimately involved in the church operations.

If you are someone who enjoys working with people, loves to problem solve, and needs some extra cash on the weekend, then you are the person we are looking for. Join the team at GBC and be a part of our growth going forward. Interested? Drop an email message to JoinTheTeam@gardenabuddhistchurch.org.



Do you have an iPad that you no longer use?

For Obon 2024, we will be increasing the number of Square systems for cash and credit card transactions. To minimize expenditures, we are looking for iPads (9th generation or older) which may no longer be in use and can be repurposed to support the Temple.

Specifically we are looking for these models

- iPad (9th generation 2021) - Model A2602 or A2604
- iPad (8th generation 2020) - Model A2270 or A2428-9
- iPad (7th generation 2019) - Model A2197-8 or A2200
- iPad Air (3rd generation 2019) - Model A2152 or A2153
- iPad Pro 10.5" - Model A1701 or A1709.



Question? Please text: 424-757-4545 or email: ross.nishimura@gardenabuddhistchurch.org
Identify your iPad Model on the back side on the bottom. See image for reference

Megumi Deadline is Monday, March 18, 2024



Ross Nishimura

From GBC Board Chairperson

Spring Ohigan is already upon us and I'm excited to see that the theme and speaker for our Ohigan Seminar aligns with GBC's vision and future direction. The theme "Higan for Jodo Shinshu Buddhists" will allow for topics of discussion which are relevant to how we can better understand and apply Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in our lives today. Rev Tadao Koyama (bio: <https://www.tacomabt.org/our-sensei/>), one of our younger and charismatic BCA ministers, will be our guest speaker. Rev Koyama has a pulse on the impacts of culture, society and religion in today's world, so this seminar should be very interesting. This is a great opportunity for us to learn how the Dharma is a part of our lives today. For information on the Spring Ohigan Seminar, please visit our website: <https://www.gardenabuddhistchurch.org/classes>

As noted in earlier messages, I am still learning and listening to appreciate the current state of GBC and to understand where we want and need to be in the future. One part of my listening journey is to participate in organization meetings and conversations around the temple to obtain ideas, understand challenges, and identify opportunities. Please feel free to pull me aside anytime. You can also email me at president@gardenabuddhistchurch.org or text me at 424-757-4545 with any comments, feedback and recommendations.

I can tell you one thing I have learned over the past few months is that we are fortunate to have so many dedicated individuals who seek to learn, to support, and to lead. I want to encourage everyone to keep an open mind, to act on new ideas, and to continue to work on improving processes. An encouraging note is I have heard from individuals outside our temple who state that we are so fortunate to have innovative and progressive programs while also preserving the culture and history of our Temple.

The future of GBC will be dependent upon pushing deeper and broader with such innovative programs which share the Dharma, encourage a creative and open mindset and embrace all of our society today. These three themes will be the guiding principles as GBC looks forward. I encourage everyone to leverage one or all three principles as you plan future events, introduce new programs, and welcome new members to our GBC community.

In gassho,

Ross



We truly appreciate your continued support!

The church acknowledges the following donations received from 1/19/24 - 2/16/2024 with gratitude and appreciation.

Funeral/Makurakyo/Burial/Memorial Services

Family of Amy Matsumoto
Fukai, Stephanie &
Lauren

Fukunaga Family
Harada Family
Harada, Keith

Hori, Kathy & Bryan
Inose, Kay
Kajikawa, Carol

Nakano, Jon
Yorita, Nobuko
Yoshida, Judy

Shotsuki Hoyo Donations

Akasaka, Sharon
Easton, Robert
Fukuhara, Kenneth
Fukuman, Thomas
Harada Family
Hashimoto, Jane
Hayakawa, George
Hedani, Bruce
Hedani, Daniel
Hirasuna, Amy
Ida, Matsuo
Inose, Kay
Inouye, Juliann
Ito, Kenichi

Iwamoto, M/M Daniel (2)
Izawa, Kiyora
Jinkawa, Kimi
Kajikawa, Carol
Kawamoto, Derrick &
Mona
Kuga, Patrick
Loo, Susan
Maeda, Stacy
Maeda, Tom
Masumoto, Chiyoko
Miyadi, Dennis
Mizuno, Grace
Mori, Eiko

Nakakura, M/M Ken
Nakano, Lori
Nakao, Harumi
Nakata, M/M Bob
Nishikawa, Linda
Ohara, M/M J.S.
Okada, Ellen
Ota, Mitsuko
Saiki, Akiko
Sakamoto, Chieko
Shimizu, Gary
Sumi, Michiko
Suminaga, Kimiye
Takahashi, Pauline

Taketani, Linda
Tamura, Lynne
Tanaka, Nancy
Tatsukawa, Hiroko
Uwahori, Sadae
Uyematsu, Norio
Uyeno, Chris
Wada, Emi
Yamamoto, Clarence
Yamane, M/M Dick
Yuki, Wallace

Spring Ohigan Hoyo

Ikeda, Tamotsu
Ikeda, Winston
Kawamoto, Derrick
Maehara, Nolan

Morioka, M/M Dennis
Motoyasu, Steve
Nakatani, M/M David
Nishihira, M/M Joe

Okada, George
Sauer, Wayne
Toyoaki, M/M Shiro
Yamane, M/M Dick

Yoshiyama, M/M Bryan

2024 GBC Membership Dues

Higashiyama, Gail
Miyadi, Dennis

Nishihira, Joe
Nishihira, Violet

Tsuruta, John
Wu, Stefanie

Special Donations

BCA SD BEC
Brian Mitsunaga Trust (2)
Fukui Mortuary
GBC BWA

Hiji, Ken
Hori, Kathy
Kubota Mortuary
Lai, Ming

Leung Charitable Fund (2)
Maesaki, Kazue
Masada, Ayako
Nishimura, M/M Ross

Sasaki, Emiko
Tashima, Jean

Seijinshiki

Tamura. Mary

Goshoki Hoonko Donations

Akahoshi, Masato
Iwamoto, M/M Daniel

Nakata, M/M Bob
Okamura, Rodney

Ouchi, Joyce
Tanaka, Nancy

Tsuge, M/M Mike

Kisaragi Hoyo

Maruyama, Kazuko

BCA Assessment

Imamura, Jim & Nancy

Moyer, Stanford & Harriet

Nakamura, Michelle

Sasaki, Emiko

Shinnenkai Donation

Nishimura, M/M Ross

Osaisen

Anonymous

Nakatani, M/M David

Sueyoshi, M/M Robert

General Donation/Facility Use/ Miscellaneous

Baba, Miyako
Honda, Raymond

Kobayashi, Izumi
Masukawa, Cheryl

Miwa, Alan
Nakagaki, Kaoru

Tsuge, Mike
Yorita, Nobuko

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.

Yorita, Kenji
Nakao, Masayuki

(88)
(97)

January 24, 2024
January 30, 2024



Gardena Buddhist Church

Spring Ohigan Hoyo

Date: Sunday, March 17

Time: 9:30am

Place: Hondo & Zoom

Guest Speaker: Rev. Tadao Koyama (J&E)

Spring Ohigan Seminar

Date: Saturday, March 16

Time: Japanese: 9:30am/English: 1:30pm

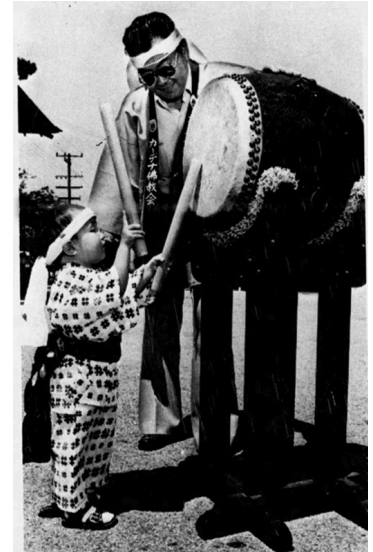
Guest Speaker: Rev. Tadao Koyama (J&E)

Seek for Information

It would be very much appreciated if you could be share the information with us.

Bon Daiko History

The BCA Music Committee is curious about the Bon Daiko (Obon drumming) history at the Gardena Buddhist Church! Does anyone remember if Reverend James Yanagihara, Irene Nakatsu, Phoebe Ogami, Angela Kawakami, or Amie Yamada played Bon Daiko at Gardena's Obon in the 1970s or 1980s? Were there other women who played Bon Daiko in the 1970s and 1980s? If you have any information or memories to share, please contact Wynn Kiyama at wynnkiyama@gmail.com or 917-562-7734. Thank you for your consideration!



March 2024

2	Shotsuki Hoyo via Zoom	10:00am
3	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom) Pet Memorial Service BWA mtg (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am 11:15am
6	DS Teacher's mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
9	SDDSTL Mini Workshop	9:00am
10	Daylight Saving Time Starts Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
11	GBC Forward! mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
13	Fujimatsuri mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
14	BEC/Religious Committee mtg via Zoom	7:30pm
15	Jodo Shinshu 101 for Young Adults w/Rev. Iwihara	7:00pm
16	Meinichiko service Zoom Spring Ohigan Seminar Japanese Speaker: Rev. Tadao Koyama English Speaker: Rev. Tadao Koyama	7:00am 9:30am 1:30pm
17	Jr. YBA mtg Sunday Spring Ohigan Service (In-Person & Zoom) Guest speaker: Rev. Tadao Koyama ABA mtg (In-Person & Zoom)	8:45am 9:30am 11:30am
18	Megumi Deadline	
20	GBC Board Meeting via Zoom	7:00pm
24	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom) Coordinating Council mtg WC Teacher Workshop #3	9:30am 11:30am 1:30pm
27	GBC 100 General Operations Comm. mtg via Zoom	7:30pm
31	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am

April 2024

3	DS Teacher's mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
6	Hanamido Decoration Shotsuki Hoyo via Zoom	9:00am 10:00am
7	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom) Hanamatsuri Service Hatsumairi Service Sangha Teen mtg	9:30am 10:30am
10	Fujimatsuri mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
13	Hui Aikane mtg	2:00pm
14	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom) BWA mtg (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am 11:15am
16	Meinichiko service via Zoom	7:00am
17	GBC Board mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
19	Jodo Shinshu 101 for Young Adults w/Rev. Iwihara	7:00pm
21	Jr. YBA mtg Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom) ABA mtg (In-Person & Zoom) WC Teacher Workshop #4	8:45am 9:30am 11:30am 1:30pm
22	Megumi Deadline	
24	GBC 100 General Operations Comm. mtg via Zoom	7:30pm
27	BWA/YABA Sushi Making Class	11:00am
27-28	BCA FDSTL Conference	
28	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom) Coordinating Council mtg	9:30am 11:30am
31	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am

<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

耳に胼胝（たこ）

宮地美子師

耳にタコができるという言葉が聞かれた事があるでしょう。その意味は、ご存知のように同じことを何度も聞かされて耳の皮膚が角質化し、もうこれ以上聞きたくないという拒否反応を表しています。

この話は姉のお寺で起きた事です。あるご家族にとっても熱心なお婆様が居られて朝夕正信偈をお参りされていました。お婆様の息子夫婦は共働きで一人息子(孫のA君)はほとんどお婆様に育てられたようなもので学校の宿題も昔学校の先生だったお婆様が見ておられました。A君は、朝夕の読経にお付き合ひし、お仏飯も毎朝お供えする役目もいただいていた。そのうちに正信偈や和讃もそらんじようになりました。しかし小学校の高学年にもなると夜更かしもするし朝は起きられない、友達と遊ぶ方が楽しいので夕方になってもなかなか帰らない、お婆様との読経の日課は途絶えてしまいました。A君の心の中には、お経なんて面倒臭いなんの意味もないし、耳に胼胝だ、もう嫌だ、年寄りの習慣なんかで自分の時間が無駄になるのはまっぴらだという気持ちになりました。彼は順調に中学・高校と進み、大学は実家から離れ、家にはたまにしか顔を見せなくなりました。

A君が大学生の時にお婆様が亡くなりました。お葬式に参列した折に、久しぶりに正信偈を聴き、自分もまだ空で正信偈が唱和できたことにふと誇らしげな、そしてお婆様に再び会えたような気がしたのです。そして数年後、本人もいい人と巡り会えて家庭を持ち、一人娘にも恵まれました。その娘が幼稚園に行くようになった時、残酷にもその娘が不治の病であることが発覚しました。そんなはずはない、治るはずだ、この子がいなくなるなんて信じられないと自分の置かれた現状を遠く眺めるような気持ちでしたが、やはりそれは現実のこととなり迫ってきました。死の間際に娘はA君に聴きました。『お父さん、私は死ぬの？死んだらどこに行くの？もう会えないの？』と。A君はなんと答えようかと言葉を探しましたが、とっさに昔お婆様がA君に言っていた『人は死んだらお浄土に行ってまた会えるのよ』の声が“耳にタコ”の底から湧き上がり、その言葉を伝えた

後すぐに娘さんは亡くなられたのですが、それからA君の“耳に胼胝”の発掘が始まりました。

“僕はとっさに娘にそう言ってしまったけれど、本当のところは全くそうとは思っていない。お婆様はどうして確信したように僕にそう言ったのだろうか”と。“娘をだましたことになるかもしれない、本当のことを娘に伝えてやらなければお父さんは嘘つきと言われるし、実際のところ娘はどこに行って、俺は娘に再会できるのだろうか。”A君は、娘会いたさに、浄土とは、死とは、別れとは、とは、とは、疑問の解決に乗り出すのです。

さて、私たちも耳に胼胝の正信偈を、今一度、自分のこととして心で聴いていく必要があるのではないのでしょうか。私の父が法話の中でよく申しておりました。『演習と実地は違う!』と。崖っぷちに立った時に何が聞こえてくるのでしょうか。

最後に、親鸞聖人の書かれた正信偈はこういうお言葉から始まっています。

*帰命無量寿如来

*南無不可思議光

量り知れない寿命(慈悲)の仏、また思いはかることのできない光明(智慧)の仏であります阿弥陀如来に帰依したてまつる。

この意味が会得できるとA君はお嬢さんに出遇えるのですね。

合掌





婦人会便り

婦人会の通常の活動（敬称略）

- ▽ 2月4日（日）婦人会例会 美味しい茶菓子を用意して下さったD&E組の皆さん、ありがとうございます。
- ▽ 2月4日（日）如月忌 九條武子夫人追悼法要 お賽銭箱に集まった\$443はガールスカウトデイズ部隊に寄付します。皆様の多大なるご協力に感謝致します。
- ▽ 2月11日（日）涅槃会 お内陣のお供えを用意して下さったD組の皆さん、ありがとうございました。
- ▽ 2月18日（日）米国仏教団とガーデナ仏教会は三輪夫人の百十歳の誕生日をお祝いし、特別証書と記念品を贈呈しました。婦人会もまた私たちの名誉顧問としてお迎えしたことを誇りに思い、イタリア料理が好きな三輪夫人に、ささやかな感謝の印として Scardino's のギフトカード及び特別なレイを贈りました。レイとギフトカードを手配して下さった丸山フィリスに感謝します。
- ▽ 2月25日（日）米国仏教団の永代経法要に Zoomでご参加下さった皆様、ありがとうございました。
- ▽ 3月16日（土）春季彼岸セミナー 小山タダオ師をゲストスピーカーにお迎えし、日本語はセッションは午前9時半-午前11時半まで開催。E組がスナック担当です。
- ▽ 3月17日（日）春季彼岸法要 お供え担当のE組の皆さん、ありがとうございます。
- ▽ 婦人会とYABAの合同寿司クラス 日付は4月27日（土）に変更となります。詳細につい

ては4月の会議で話し合う予定です。

- ▽ 2025年BWA日本語セミナー 梅津先生がご講師を引き受けて下さいました。



- ▽ 慈恩ニュースレター 丸山フィリスが婦人会メンバーのために既に約15部印刷しております。それにかかった紙などの経費を払い戻しするために請求書を提出するようにお願いします。

アナウンスメント:

- ▽ 3月3日（日）3月婦人会例会（ハイブリッド）午前11時15分 当番E/a組
- ▽ 3月4日（月）お盆会議（Zoom）午後7時宮田ジュリー&今田イモジーン出席予定 当番E/a組の代表にも出席依頼
- ▽ 3月13日（木）藤まつり会議（Zoom）午後7時宮田ジュリー&今田イモジーン出席予定 当番B/c組の代表にも出席依頼
- ▽ 3月23日（土）南部教区婦人会第一四半期会議（Zoom）午前10時 宮田ジュリー&今田イモジーン出席予定
- ▽ 3月24日（日）附属団体連絡協議会 午前11時30分 宮田ジュリー&今田イモジーン出席予定
- ▽ 4月1日（月）お盆会議（Zoom）午後7時宮田ジュリー&今田イモジーン出席予定 当番E/a組の代表にも出席依頼
- ▽ 4月7日（日）4月婦人会例会（ハイブリッド）午前11時15分 当番A/b組

春季彼岸法要

3月17日（日）

午前9時30分

ガーデナ仏教会本堂&Zoom

ご講師：小山タダオ師（タコマ仏教会）

春季彼岸セミナー

3月16日（土）

午前9時30分 日本語

午後1時30分 英語

ご講師：小山タダオ師（日英両語）