



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



July 2025

Volume LVIII No. 7



Rev. John Iwohara

"The Ultimately Honored One"

The afflictions of the three evil courses are forever eliminated. And only spontaneous, delightful sounds are heard. For this reason the Buddha's land is called

"Happiness";

So take refuge in Amida, the ultimately honored one.

The passage that I quoted is a poem written by Shinran Shonin that is found in the collection titled, "Hymns of the Pure Land." The English translation that I quoted is from the Collected Works of Shinran (CWS, p. 336). The phrase "the three evil courses" that appears in the first line of the poem refers to the realms of hell, hungry ghost, and animal (beast).

In the work, "A Record in Lament of Divergences (Tannisho)" Shinran Shonin is quoted as having said the following:

I have no idea whether the nembutsu is truly the seed for my being born in the Pure Land or whether it is the karmic act for which I must fall into hell. Should I have been deceived by Master Honen and, saying the nembutsu, were to fall into hell, even then I

would have no regrets. The reason is, if I could attain Buddhahood by endeavoring in other practices, but said the nembutsu and so fell into hell, then I would feel regret at having been deceived. But I am incapable of any other practice, so hell is decidedly my abode whatever I do (CWS, p. 662).

In the quote, we discover Shinran Shonin saying that without the Nenbutsu, that they would surely end up in hell, or the lowest of the three evil courses.

The second of the three evil courses, or the realm of the hungry ghost appears prominently in the Obon story. It is the realm where those who lived their lives defined by greed are said to go. It is where the mother of one of Sakyamuni Buddha's chief disciples, or Mogallana, is found to reside. In the Kyogyoshinsho, in the Chapter on Faith, Shinran Shonin describes circumstances that may have been very similar to Mogallana's mother's.

I know truly how grievous it is that I, Gutoku Shinran, am sinking in an immense ocean of desires and attachments and am lost in vast mountains of fame and advantage, so that I rejoice not at all at entering the stage of the truly settled, and feel no happiness at coming nearer the realization of true enlightenment.

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How ugly it is! How wretched! (CWS, p. 125). Finally, again from the Kyogyoshinsho Chapter on Faith, Shinran Shonin talks about the third evil course or the animal realm in the following way.

There are two good means by which sentient beings can be saved: one is shame and the other is self-reproach. Shame means not committing further evil oneself; self-reproach means not leading others to commit evil. Shame is to be abased within oneself, self-reproach is to express this outwardly, toward others. Shame means to feel humility before others, self-reproach means to feel humility before heaven. This is shame and self-reproach. To be without shame and self-reproach is not to be human; it is to be a beast (CWS, p. 131).

Towards the end of their lives, Shinran Shonin also wrote 16 "Hymns of Lament and Reflection." Of these, one reads:

Although I am without shame and self-reproach

And lack a mind of truth and sincerity, Because the Name is directed by Amida, Its virtues fill the ten quarters (CWS, p. 421). In other words, Shinran Shonin has stated that they are more "animal" or "beast" than human.

Within their writings, Shinran Shonin has indirectly and directly stated that they should not be able to escape the three evil courses of hell, hungry ghost, or animal. On the other hand, Shinran Shonin also expresses how, because of the working of Amida Buddha's Fundamental Vow in their lives, they can live their lives without fear. They know that they will live in happiness. It is because of this assurance they found in their lives, that Shinran Shonin encourages all of us to "take refuge in Amida, the ultimately honored one" ourselves.





Wisteria Chugakko

Reverend John Iwohara, Headmaster Charlene Hirotsu, Principal

The Gardena Buddhist Church Wisteria Chugakko Summer Program will begin its 7th year on Monday, June 16, 2025.

We will have our capacity of 33 students going into the 7th, 8th, and 9th grades, with our accepted Wisteria Chugakko Leadership Students going into the 10th grade.

Our summer program will culminate on Wednesday, July 9, 2025, at our GBC Social Hall.



Our staff of 64 teachers have been planning and preparing since January of this year with monthly teacher workshops.

Thank you Wisteria Teachers for your dedication, willingness to share your talents and true compassion for our students.

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Domo Arigato Gozai masu. Charlene Hirotsu

FUTTINET / BWA Buddhist Women's Association

Happenings:

The GBC 100th Anniversary Committee meets every month after the regular BWA monthly meeting.

- O Update: The BWA will be gifting the temple with new carpeting for the hondo as our gift for the GBC's 100th anniversary. We've also decided to move our luncheon to the social hall, as it will be newly constructed in early 2026. This will save on the hotel meals & fees expenses. We're looking into asking a restaurant to cater our luncheon. The change in venue means a change in the date of our event to June 28, 2026. We are now looking for a guest speaker for our luncheon.
- o GBC BWA 100th anniversary committee Chicken Curry Fundraiser, 6/8. Thank you to everyone who supported our fundraiser by ordering the curry bentos, and thank you to all the BWA members and other volunteers who came out on 6/7 and 6/8 to prepare the ingredients and pack the curry lunches for pick-up.
- ◇ FBWA 2026 Conference. Southern District has the toban and the FBWA Conference will take place in October, 2026 in San Diego. In order to defray expenses, the SDBWA chapters are all selling panko, donated by Uppercrust Enterprise, Inc. Each bag is \$3. Several SDBWA chapters expressed intent to sell the panko at their obons this year, so this fundraiser will be ongoing and continuing through the summer. Gardena BWA will be selling panko at the Sunday Coffee social after service. Phyllis Maruyama is selling the panko at Tuesday Social.
- June 15th, Sunday Dads & Grads Service. Congratulations to the 2025 high school, college and post-college graduates! And thank you to the Jr. YBA for the delicious hot dog lunch, with salad, chips, jello and nachos!

- ◇ August 2nd & 3rd (Saturday & Sunday) Gardena Obon. BWA will be making chirashizushi, maki-zushi and inari-zushi for this two-day event. Ingredient preparation will be on Thursday & Friday (7/31 & 8/1) from 8:00am. Saturday & Sunday (8/2 & 8/3), BWA will start preparations from 4:30am.
- August 9th, Saturday Ichi-mi Conference. BWA has been asked to provide a simple breakfast for this event.
- Reminder that we need to clean the Social Hall kitchen before the renovation that will begin in September, 2025. We will need to decide where to temporarily store our items.

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(Continued from page 3)

Announcements:

- ♦ July 6th (Sunday) Shotsuki Hoyo in person at 2 p.m.
- ♦ July 7th (Monday) Obon meeting 7:30pm via Zoom. Members from A/b Gumi attended.

BWA Appreciation: Curry Fundraiser

Hirabayashi, Wayne Miyata, Julie Hirotsu, Stanford Morioka, Dennis Hori, Bryan Motovasu, Steve Ikeda, Tamotsu Nakakura, Ken Isomoto, Lynn Nakashima, Diana Iwamoto, Ruby Nielsen, Dorine Iwamoto, Diane Nishimura, Ross Maeda, Tom Ronne, Robert Maeda, Stacy Sasaki, Tom Maesaki, Kazue Sauer, Dick

Maruyama, Kazuko Shigemitsu, Thomas Maruyama, Phyllis Shimizu, Cindy

Maruyama, Phyllis Shimizu, Cindy Masai, Kay Shimizu, Linda Miwa, Alan Shimizu, Teri Miyaji, Yoshiko Shimokochi, Gail Miyamoto, Mitsuko Sugita, Laurie Tahara, Randi Takao, Donna Tamura, Mary Tanigawa, Linda Toyoaki, Sonoko Uyemura, Ty

Wilhelm, Sheri Munekata Yamane, Dick & Judy Yoshiyama, Nancy Yoshiyama, Rose Yuki, Toyoko



ABA News

July finds that Wisteria Chugakko is now halfway through. Under the leadership of ABA's 1st VP and Principal, Charlene Hirotsu, the students have been experiencing many new activities surrounding Jōdō Shinshū Buddhism and the Japanese culture.

Thank you to those who came out to assist with the Garage Sale on June 21, as well as those who participated in the Ripple Effect Suicide Prevention Walk.

Thank you to those who came out to assist with preparing the sushi for the JCI Matsuri. Thank you, too, to those who assisted with bingo.

Thursday, July 3 will find members of Gardena Buddhist Church and Nishi enjoying the sounds of Earth, Wind, and Fire under the stars at the Hollywood Bowl.

ABA meets on the 3rd Sunday of each month at 11:30am. If you would like to join us, please come to a meeting!

As the days get hotter, please stay cool.



TUESDAY SOCIAL

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to our Tuesday Social June birthday friends: Jeanne, Doris, Toyoko and Alice. Hope you had a happy celebration.

In August 2025, the Social Hall will be closed for renovations. We moved our gathering to the Hondo Meeting Room, which is a substantially smaller space. We tried it for 2 weeks and we succeeded! Until the start of the SH construction, we will move between the Social Hall and the Meeting Room to accommodate others using the Meeting Room. Thank you everyone for your patience. The Meeting Room may be smaller, but we are still able to have fun.

Enjoy a cup of coffee and light refreshments every Tuesday from 9:30am - 11:30am. There's something for everyone: games, puzzles, bingo, stretching exercise, and just chatting with great people. See you on Tuesday.









The Community Projects Group

A big "Thank You" from Community Projects Group to everyone for your continued support – for all your many donations of supplies, your orders of graduation leis, and your purchase of items at our Fujimatsuri and Mother's Day sales. These have enabled us to actively support the Church.

The coming summer months will also be a busy time for us. At the Obon dance practices which begin in July, we will be selling Obon-related items – fans, happi coats, yukatas, etc.. If you need any of these items, please stop by at the Tuesday/ Thursday practice sessions which begin on July 8.

Our members are also working on projects for Obon – if anyone is interested in learning how to make/sew items, please contact any of our members. We meet at Church on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Mondays at 10 am – new participants are always welcome!

ICHI-MI CLUB

Ichi-Mi will hold its general meetings on Monday, July 7 and August 4, at 6pm. An evening film showing and social will be held on Friday, August 8th, followed the next day by "Breaking The Silence," a seminar from 9-3pm on Saturday, August 9 at GBC. For more information, please contact Ichi Mi at ichimi.gbc@gmail.com



Hui Aikanes

Members of Hui Aikane would like to congratulate all of our graduates on your well-deserved success! All your hard work paid off.

The Hui Aikane members also would like to thank Jr YBA members and their parents for preparing and serving the Annual Father's Day Hot Dog Luncheon. The hot dogs and side dishes were a wonderful treat for our well-deserved GBC fathers. The opportunity to eat lunch with our family and socialize with our temple friends was most enjoyable.

We would like to thank the Hui Aikane and ABA members for participating in the Annual Tanaka Farm "Walk the Farm" Fundraiser. The purpose of this fundraiser is to offer a message of hope and spread awareness to farmers around the world devasted by natural disasters. Since 2011, thousands of people living in the Orange County community have annually raised funds for farmers to rebuild, for agricultural students to receive scholarships, and for new farmers to receive much needed assistance, both locally and abroad. The "Walk the Farm" activity



was a fun activity to meet various Japanese American organizations, and members of our greater community. The event provided an opportunity to renew friendships and make new friends while tasting farm-fresh produce and deliciously prepared treats. Thank you everyone for walking and volunteering at Tanaka Farm. Your participation made it a success!

Hui Aikane members will be volunteering in the various booths during our upcoming Obon festival on August 2nd – 3rd, so please commit early.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, September 27th at 2 pm in the Meeting Room. We are planning to discuss future Hui Aikane activities and enjoy each other's company. Please join us.

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

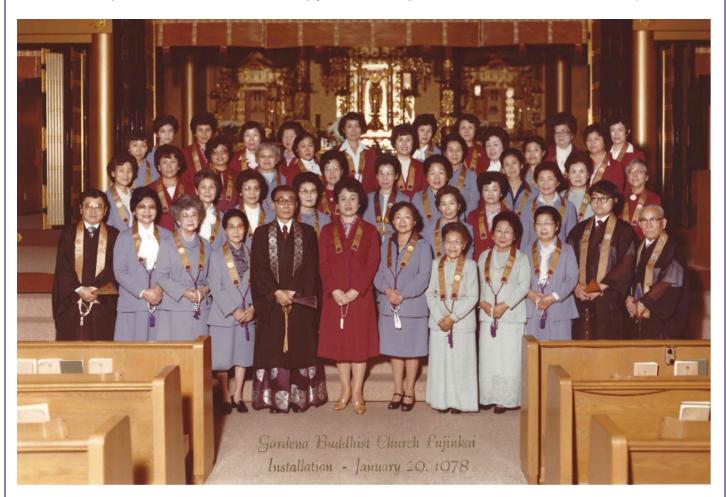




Megumi Deadline is Monday, July 21, 2025

GBC Forward! -Where Were You in 1978?-

1978??? Jake and Elwood were still a skit on SNL, the Rainbow Pride Flag premiered in SF, Annie Hall took best picture from Star Wars, Louise Brown was born, and the Camp David Peace Accords were signed. Check it out kids – use your phone – 1978 was a pretty cool year. Some of us in today's GBC Sangha had young children, some were children themselves, still others weren't even born yet. We have all gotten a bit older since 1978, so it's no wonder that our Social Hall that was dedicated in that year is a little worse for wear. Furthermore, new health code and ADA regulations have been implemented in the intervening years, making certification of our facilities impossible.



Do you remember our Long Range Planning group's series of articles last year? To refresh, here is our Vision, Mission and Guiding Principles:

GBC Vision: Everyone Aware of Amida's Compassion

GBC Mission: Hands together, hearts together, for the benefit of all.

Dharma Sharing

Affirming 'Next'

Embracing All

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This Social Hall renovation project is only the first of many examples of how we plan to implement our new direction going forward. We are affirming 'what's next' by preparing our facilities for the future. We embrace all by providing a facility for coming together. And most importantly, the Social Hall has always been and will always continue to be a great venue for sharing the Dharma.

Our refreshed Social Hall will be a tangible example of our temple's renewed mission: Hands together, hearts together, for the benefit of all. The renewed Social Hall 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 and will extend to the end of 2027.

Please consider donating to this vital 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





Dharma School News



Congratulations to Tyler Higuchi, Brenden Kato and Tyler Tanaka. Brenden Kato and Tyler Tanaka received a scholarship from Gardena Buddhist Church.

Brenden Kato will be attending Hawaii Pacific University. Tyler Higuchi will be attending U.C.L.A. Tyler Tanaka will be attending Cal State Long Beach.

We would also like to congratulate Patricia Hori who graduated from Loyola Law School with a Doctor of Jurisprudence and Jasmine Kono Song who graduated from Cal State Long Beach with a Masters in Social Work. They were both former dharma school students.

On July 13th we will have our Obon and Hatsubon Hoyo Service starting at 9:30 a.m. We hope all the students will attend this special service. This will be the last day of Dharma School. Family service starts July 20, July 27, August 10, August 17th and August 24th.

Obon dance practice will start on 7/8 to 7/24 at 7 p.m. in the parking lot.

Obon will be August 2nd and August 3rd. We would love to have any of the dharma school parents or friends to help at the Obon, please notify Arleen. See you at Obon and have a great summer.

Board Meeting: Wednesday, July 16 at 7PM Via Zoom



From GBC Board Chairperson

Ross Nishimura

Obon Reflections and GBC Forward Momentum

As the summer months arrive, our thoughts at Gardena Buddhist Church naturally turn to Obon—a time for reflection and gratitude. It's an opportunity to remember those who have come before us and to appreciate the connections that bind our community. At GBC, we will be conducting two services in July to reflect on the life of those who have passed and acknowledge the continued influence on our lives today. Our Obon and Hatsubon Services will be conducted on **Sunday July 13th.** The Hatsubon portion of the Service will honor those whom have passed away during the preceding 12 months, marking their first remembrance during the Obon season.

Obon Festival and Bon Odori: Your Support Makes It Possible!

Planning for GBC's annual Obon Carnival and Bon Odori is well underway! Please mark your calendars for **Saturday**, **August 2nd**, **and Sunday**, **August 3rd**. We're working to make this year's event bigger and better than in years past. New food booths, improved processes to reduce lines and ease food pickup, and improved experience for Bon Odori participants and our neighbors. But we do need your help to ensure we can be successful.

Obon is truly a community effort, and volunteering during this time is a wonderful way to support GBC and our wider community. We need volunteers in all aspects of the festival, from helping with preparation, cooking & cleaning, to working in the game or food booths. We also need support with general office tasks, welcoming our guests, and even IT assistance. Setup and detailed preparations will begin on **Wednesday**, **July 30th**. If you have a special interest or skill and would like to lend a hand, please send an email to **info@gardenabuddhistchurch.org**. Your contribution, no matter how big or small, helps ensure we can deliver the type of event that has defined GBC's Obon.

GBC Forward: Building Our Future Together

I also want to provide an important update on our **GBC Forward** project. Both the fundraising campaign and the detailed planning for construction are progressing well. To everyone who has already contributed, whether through direct donations or by participating in our Fundraiser Dance back in May, **thank you.** Your generosity is deeply appreciated.

While we've made a strong start, we still have a significant way to go to achieve our \$2 million objective. We kindly ask you to consider donating or participating in future fundraising efforts as we work towards this vital goal for our temple's future.

The construction on our new Social Hall is scheduled to begin **August 18th**, with a target completion date during Q2 2026. Please be aware that the Social Hall will be closed for this extended period. We ask for everyone's cooperation in being mindful of the construction zones and prioritizing safety around the temple grounds. If you have any questions or concerns regarding the construction or need to report any safety issues, please send an email to **gbcforward@gardenabuddhistchurch.org.**

Thank you for your continued dedication and support as we collectively build and nurture the Gardena Buddhist Church for generations to come.

TCHI MI Seminar: Breaking the Silence



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

FRI, AUG 8 @ 7-9 PM

Video and Social

SAT, AUG 9, 2025 @ 10AM-4:30 PM Seminar

AT GARDENA
BUDDHIST CHURCH

KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

Rev. Jundo Gregory Gibbs, Pasadena Buddhist Temple

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

Please use the below QR code or link to reach our registration form.
Registration is open until July 31st, 2025.



https://tinyurl.com/ichimi25-seminar

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.

Morimoto, Seiji April 16, 2025 (93)May 18, 2025 Mayemura, Susumu (84)



July 2025

July 2023	
2 DS Teacher's mtg via Zoom4 Temple Closed	7:00pm
6 Jr. YBA Recycle Day	
Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
Sangha Teens mtg	10:30am
BWA mtg (In-Person & Zoom)	11:15am
Shotosuki Hoyo Service	2:00pm
7 Ichi-Mi Monthly mtg	6:00pm
Monthly Obon mtg via Zoom	7:30pm
8 Obon Dance Practice (1st Day)	7:00pm
GBC Forward mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
9 GBC 100 Operations Comm. mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
10 Obon Dance Practice	7:00pm
12 BWA/YABA Udon Making	10:00am
13 Jr. YBA Recycle Day	0.20
Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
Obon & Hatsubon Combined Service	12:20nm
WC 2025 Wrap Up and Appreciation	12:30pm
14 Kizuna Summer Program (7/14-25/2025) 15 Obon Dance Practice	7:00pm
16 Meinichiko Service via Zoom	7:00pm
GBC Board mtg via Zoom	7:00am 7:00pm
17 Obon Dance Practice	7:00pm
20 Jr. YBA mtg	8:45am
Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
ABA mtg	11:00am
DS Teacher Election/Potluck luncheon	11:30am
21 Megumi deadline	11.000
22 Obon Dance Practice	7:00pm
24 Obon Dance Practice (Last Day)	7:00pm
27 Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
DS Ice Cream Social	
Coordinating Council mtg	11:00am
30 Booth Construction	6:00pm

August 2025

2	Gardena Obon Festival	3pm-9pm
	Obon Dance	6pm-8pm
3	Gardena Obon Festival	3pm-9pm
	Obon Dance	6pm-8pm
4	Obon Carnival Clean up	
	Ichi Mi Monthly mtg	6:00pm
	Monthly Obon mtg via Zoom	7:30pm
6	DS Teacher's mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
8	Ichi-Mi Seminar (Pre-event)	7:00pm
9	Ichi-Mi Seminar	10:00am
	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
	BWA mtg (In-Person & Zoom)	11:15am
	BWA:Shadows for Peace-Hibakusha Do	cumentary
		1:00pm
	Shotsuki Hoyo Service	2:00pm
11	Social Hall Closure mtg via Zoom	4:00pm
	BEC Monthly mtg via Zoom	7:30pm
	Meinichiko Śervice via Zoom	7:00am
	Jr. YBA mtg	8:45am
	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
	ABA mtg	11:00am
18	Megumi deadline	
	GBC Board mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
	Coordinating Council mtg	11:30am
27	GBC 100 Golf Committee mtg via Zoom	
31	Sunday Service CANCELLED	
0 1	Jan. 10, John 100 Or 1110 LLLL	



<Regular Activities>

Tuesday:

Isami Taiko Practice @11:15am weekly Wednesday: Sunday: Monday:

Tuesday Social @9:30am Odori Exercise Class (\$5 donation) @1:00pm Friday:

Boy Scout Troop 242 mtg @7pm

Ikenobo/Ikebana Class @2pm 3/month 2nd & 4th Community Projects @9:30am Thursday (& or Saturday) Tea Ceremony Class @9:30am 2nd & 4th Cub Pack 1230 mtg @6pm Thursday 1st & 3rd Boy Scout Troop 242 mtg @7pm 1st BS Eagle Board @7pm

2nd & 4th Girl Scout Troop 4345 mtg @7pm

We truly appreciate your continued support!

The church acknowledges the following donations received from 5/19/25 - 6/15/2025 with gratitude and appreciation.

Funeral/Makurakyo/Burial/Memorials Donations

Kajikawa, Norman Murakami, Ken Tagawa, Don Tomiyasu, Sean

Shotsuki Hoyo Donations

Anonymous Aono, Jennifer Bell Electronics. Inc. Fujimoto, Fumie Fujioki, Ruby (2) Hayashi, Kayoko Inouye, Juliann

Ito, Kenichi Kawamoto, Derrick Kikuno, Tamie Maeda, Stacy Maruyama, Kazuko Murakami, Ken Nakajima, Tsuyoshi

Okamoto, Yauko Sako, Brian & Lee Anne Wada, Louise Sumi, Michiko Tacadena, Betsy Tagawa, Don Taguchi, Aileen Tatsukawa, Hiroko

Uwahori, Sadae Willoughby, Aileen Yamada, M/M Edward Yamane, M/M Dick

Obon Hoyo Donations

Morioka, M/M Dennis Nakamoto, M/M David Uyeda, Midori Nakatani, M/M David

Hatsubon Hoyo Donations

Kuga, Annette Nakakura, M/M Ken Nakamura, Lilly

Fujimatsuri Donation

Kurashima, M/M Justin

Gotan-e Donations

Maruyama, Phyllis Mayemura, Louise

2025 GBC Membership Dues (Received from 5/19/25 - 6/15/25)

Anonymous Horii, Dwayne

Special Donations

Anonymous Horii, Dwayne Izutsu, Brent Nagatani, Gerald Maple Village Wardorf School Watanabe, Bonnie Hira, M/M John Imamoto, Eiko

Osaisen

Anonymous Gross, Bernadette Mirealle, Dawn

Hondo Repair

Anonymous

General Donation/Facility Use/ Miscellaneous

Baba, Miyako

OBON 2025

"With Gratitude for the Past. Present and Future"

Just a month away we will be hosting one of the most important events we celebrate at Gardena Buddhist Church - Obon! We know so many people at our temple look forward to Obon and also many people in our local community and throughout the Southern California area come to Gardena's Obon. Whether you come for food, dancing, games or just socializing, we look forward to having you join us on August 2nd and 3rd.

Obon is a "Gathering of Joy" or "Kangi-E". It's a day to remember and honor our deceased loved ones. It's a day to express our gratitude for all that they have done for us and meant to us. It's a day to come to church and gather together with family and friends. The thumping of the taiko drums, the beautifully decorated yagura in the center of the dance circle, the colorful lanterns lining the street – we can already envision all the dancers moving along the dance circle. Obon Dance Practices are scheduled for Tuesdays and Thursdays, July 8 – July 24, 7:00 pm – 9:00 pm. Don't worry if you can't make it to dance practice, everyone is welcome to come out at Obon and just dance.

Coming out to Obon is a great way to support the church. We are excited that you will be joining us! If you would like to get involved even more, we can use volunteers to help with preparation or work in some of the booths during the festival. If you are interested in volunteering, please send an email to obon@gardenabuddhistchurch.org.

We are counting down the days when we can get together at our "Gathering of Joy".

In Gassho, Nadine Kakimoto & Sharyl Yamada-Oda Obon Co-chairs obon@gardenabuddhistchurch.org

GARDENA BUDDHIST CHURCH OBON 2025

WITH GRATITUDE FOR THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE





FOOD BOOTHS

CHICKEN & BEEF TERIYAKI SPAM MUSUBI SUSHI DANGO CHILI RICE SHAVE ICE TAMALES BAO



FUN FOR EVERYONE CARNIVAL GAMES

BINGO
BOUNCE HOUSE &
GIANT SLIDE
TAIKO PERFORMANCES



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



GARDENA BUDDHIST CHURCH, 1517 W. 166TH ST., GARDENA, CA 90247

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.



Wisteria (\$100,000+)

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



Bamboo (\$50,000-\$99,999)



Lotus (\$25,000-\$49,999)

☆ In Honor of our parents: Noboru & Ayako Nakatani, Seijiro & Yoshiko Inose



Chrysanthemum (\$10,000-\$24,999)

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



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

- ☆ In Memory of John & Peggy Tsuruta
- ☆ Dave & Terri Mitani
- ☆ David & Cathy Uyemura
- ☆ John & Kimberley Aponte
- ☆ Louise Mayemura



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

(Continued on page 16)

(GBC Forward Donations continued from page 15)



Iris (\$1,000-\$4,999)

- ☆ Ken & Kay Inose Family
- ☆ Yuriko Suda
- ☆ The Craig and Cheryl Tateishi Family
- ☆ Derrick & Dean Kawamoto In Memory of Masao & Akiyo Kawamoto
- ☆ Robert & Gail Higashiyama
- ☆ Stan & Charlene Hirotsu Family
- ☆ Norman & Cindy Morishige
- ☆ Rafu Shimpo Foundation
- ☆ Joyce Ouchi & Craig Ouchi
- ☆ Marian Takamura
- ☆ Anonymous



Peony (\$500-\$999)

- ☆ Dennis & Jan Masaki
- ☆ In Memory of Sam and Eileen Takemoto
- ☆ Tadaaki Maeda
- ☆ Dennis Nakatani Family
- ☆ Anonymous
- ☆ Suzanne Yoshida
- ☆ Haru Watanabe
- ☆ Suzuko Kuwahara
- ☆ Patty Nishi
- ☆ Gay Kurahashi
- ☆ Gale Sasano
- ☆ Anonymous
- ☆ Anonymous
- ☆ In Memory of Rosie and Sinji Okubo
- ☆ In Memory of Shizumi Okada
- ☆ Wayne Nakatsu
- ☆ Emiko Sasaki





宮地信雄師

一卒業式での素晴らしいひとコマー

さて、今日は最近の出来事 み上げられまし でずいぶん感心させられた た。その時周り ことについてお話しさせて の同級生の学 いただきます。先月の6月 生たち、それに はどこでも卒業式で忙しい この卒業式に参 時でしたね。私も何かのこ 加しているご両

かに6月という月はこちらでは若い学生が新しい人 に涙を溜めて拍手していました。 生に向かって羽ばたいていく時なのだなと思わされ たことでした。

そんな時に、私の家にも高校を卒業する孫がおりまめに命をかける決断をしてくれたのです。まだ18と した。私も最近は卒業式というのにすっかりご無沙 汰しておりまして、長い間出たことがなかったので すが、孫の卒業式ということで、一家あげて参加す ることになりました。私は日本から来たものですから 卒業式というのは、学校の体育館かどこかでするも のばかりと思っておりましたが、何と卒業式に行って みると、そこはある大学のテニスコートでするという のです。しかし、皆さんテニスコートと聞いて簡単に ああそうかと思われてはいけません。何とそのコート は何千人という人が入ることができる素晴らしい劇 場のようなところでした。とにかく私のような田舎者 にはびっくりすることばかりでした。

さて、式もいよいよたけなわという時になりまして、 卒業生の優秀な学生が表彰されるという時間が来 ました。さらに優秀な成績を上げた団体までの表彰 式が行われたのです。そして、その最後に私の目 を疑うような光景が演出されました。それは、この 高校から何人かの卒業生がアメリカの軍隊に入隊 するというアナウンスメントがあったのです。その子 どもたちの名前が声高々と進行する人によって読



とでご飯を食べようとレストランに入りましたら、何 親やお友達、皆んなが大きな拍手を送り、その学生 と40分待ちということです。どうしたのですかと尋 たちの決断を褒め称えたのです。学生たちはピンと ねますと、卒業パーティーの予約がたくさん入って 背中を伸ばし、胸を張ってその拍手に答えていまし いて、なかなか席が空きませんということでした。確 た。何と素晴らしい光景でしょうか。私は思わず目

> この子達は、卒業したら明日から訓練を受け、戦場 に出ていく可能性を持った子供達です。この国のた いう若い青年男女がそういう決断をした。そのことに 対して周りの人が感謝の念を込めて拍手を送って いる、何と素晴らしい光景ではありませんか。

> もちろん私は宗教者として戦争には絶対反対です。 戦争がもたらす惨たらしい結果を私たちはいくつも みてきました。戦争は絶対にあってはならないこと です。

> しかし、今この光景は、そのこととは別の次元のこと です。私たちを守るために、死を覚悟した人間を、 心から感謝して送り出そうとする光景です。私はこ こに人間の美しさを感じます。人間はやはり本当に 素晴らしいものを持っているなと思わされるのです。 この心はどこからくるのでしょう。私は仏教徒です から、その心は仏様のお心に通じるものと思うので す。仏様は全ての生きとし生くるものの幸福を願わ れている方です。自分が犠牲になって戦場に向か う、その子供達の心の中に、そしてそれを感謝の念 を持って送り出す人たちの心の中に、仏様の心が 宿っていると私は深く信じるのです。

> > 南無阿弥陀仏



婦人会便り

婦人会の通常の活動 (以下敬称略)

- ▽ GBC 100周年記念委員会は、毎月のBWA定例 会議の後に毎月開催されています。。
 - O 最新情報:BWAはGBCの100周年記念の贈り物として、本堂に新しいカーペットを寄贈することになりました。また、ランチ会の会場を、2026年初頭に新しく建設される予定のソーシャルホールに変更することに決定しました。これによります。現在、レストランにケータリングを依頼する方向で検討しています。会場変更に伴い、イベントの日程も2026年6月28日に変更となりました。現在、ランチ会のゲストスピーカーを募集中です。
 - O GBC BWA 100周年委員会 チキンカレーファンドレイザー(6/8)カレー弁当をご注文いただき、このファンドレイザーを支援してくださった皆様、ありがとうございました。6月7日・8日に材料準備や弁当詰めのために参加してくださったBWAメンバーおよびボランティアの皆様にも感謝申し上げます。
- ▽ FBWA 2026年大会:南部教区が当番で、大会は2026年10月にサンディエゴで開催されます。大会費用補填のため、SDBWA各支部はUppercrust Enterprise社より寄贈されたパン粉を1袋3ドルで販売中です。いくつかの支部では今年の盆踊りでも販売する予定で、この募金活動は夏まで継続されます。ガーデナBWAは、日曜礼拝後のコーヒーソーシャルで販売します。チューズデイソーシャルでは丸山フィリスが販売担当します。
- ▽ 6月15日(日)父の日&卒業生お祝いサービス:2025年の高校・大学・大学院卒業生の皆さん、おめでとうございます! Jr. YBAによる美味しいホットドッグランチ(サラダ、チップス、ゼリー、ナチョス付き)に感謝します!
- ▽ 6月28日(土) JCIカーニバル: GBCではちら し寿司といなり寿司を作りました。お手伝

- いしてくださった全てのボランティアの皆 様に感謝します。
- ▽ 7月12日(土) YABAとのうどんだし作り:ご 参加いただいた皆さん、ありがとうござい ました! 楽しい共同イベントになったこと を願っています。
- ▽ 7月13日(日)初盆・お盆法要: A/b組の皆様、お内陣へのお供え、ありがとうございました。
- ▽ 8月2日・3日 (土・日) ガーデナお盆祭り: BWAでは、ちらし寿司・巻き寿司・いなり寿司をこの2日間のために作ります。材料の準備は7月31日 (木)と8月1日(金)朝8:00から。当日は早朝4:30から作業開始です。
- ▽ 8月9日(土) 一味(いちみ) カンファレン ス:BWAはこのイベントで簡単な朝食の提供 を依頼されています。
- ▽ お知らせ:ソーシャルホールのキッチン清掃についてー2025年9月からの改装工事に備え、事前にキッチンの掃除が必要です。道具や備品の一時保管場所を決める必要があります。

アナウンスメント:

- ▽ 7月6日(日):7月のBWA定例会 (ハイブリッド)午前11時15分 A/b組担当
- ▽ 7月6日(日):月例祥月法要(対面)午後 2時
- ▽ 7月7日(月):お盆会議(ズーム) A/b組の メンバー代表が参加
- ▽ 7月13日(日):お盆・初盆法要
- ▽ 7月27日(日): 附属団体連絡協議会 午前 11時30分
- ▽ 8月10日(日):8月のBWA定例会 午前11時 15分(ハイブリッド)B/c組担当

<u>感謝録:</u>

▽ 英語ページに記載されています。

