



MEGUMI

慈恩

GARDENA BUDDHIST CHURCH
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Rev. John Iwohara

Gardena Buddhist Church



February 2024

Volume LVII No. 2



Rev. John Iwohara

自利利他 (ji ri ri ta) , “self benefit, benefiting others”

*Jiri-rita*¹ (“self benefit, benefiting others”) is an important concept found in Mahayana Buddhism of which Jodo Shinshu is a part. Whereas Shinran Shonin does use the term as a Mahayana Buddhist expression, the Shonin²

has also expanded the meaning of the term for use as a unique Jodo Shinshu expression. This article will be the first of two articles on the topic of *jiri-rita*. This first article will focus on how Mahayana Buddhism uses the term. The

1 自 (ji), “self”, 利 (ri), “benefit”, 他 (ta), “others”

2 The term “Shonin (聖人)” is a title. In the past, this term was translated as “Saint,” but may be better rendered as “quintessential person” or as “Holy person.” In Jodo Shinshu, this title is reserved for Shinran. When referring to Honen, Shinran Shonin’s teacher, the title “Shonin (上人)” is used by Jodo Shinshu. The first character 上, has the meaning of “up,” or “superior.” The second character 人, is the character for “person.” 上人, can be translated as “superior person.” This distinction is difficult to hear because the two titles are homonyms of each other. Usage is further complicated by the fact the whenever Shinran Shonin referred to Honen Shonin, the title 聖人 was always used.

second article will focus on the Jodo Shinshu specific use of the term.

As a Mahayana Buddhist Term

Jiri-rita is a term that was used by Mahayana (“Larger Vehicle”) Buddhism to distinguish itself from Theravada (“Doctrine of the Elders”) Buddhism. Mahayana became critical of Theravada, claiming that the latter over-emphasized Enlightenment as a “goal,” at the expense of focusing on the “process.” In trying to clarify this process, which became known as the “Bodhisattva Path,” Mahayana would coin phrases such as “Upwardly, seek Bodhi (Enlightenment); Downwardly, transition (teach) multitudinous beings” (上求菩提·下化衆生, *jou gu bo dai, ge ke shu jou*). In other words, one of the goals of the Mahayana movement was to avoid seeing Enlightenment as a “static” state, and emphasize Enlightenment as a dynamic “activity.” This emphasis by the Mahayana, is perhaps most clearly revealed by the expression *Jiri-rita*, “self-benefit, benefiting others.”

The first half of the expression, or *jiri*, corresponds with the phrase *jou gu bo dai*, “Upwardly seek Enlightenment” and the second half, *rita*, is associated with the phrase *ge ke shu jou* or “downwardly, transition

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued from page 1)

(teach) multitudinous beings.” In Pure Land Buddhism, *jiri-rita* can be seen in the writings of Vasubandhu Bodhisattva in their Pure Land Buddhist Text known as the Jodo Ron (浄土論, “Treatise on the Pure Land”). In this text, Vasubandhu Bodhisattva describes the adornments found in Amida Buddha’s Pure Land. In total, 29 adornments are listed: 17 adornments of the Land, 8 adornments of the Buddha, and 4 adornments of the Bodhisattva. In concluding their description of the 17 adornments of the land, Vasubandhu Bodhisattva writes:

So far I have briefly explained the fulfillment of the seventeen kinds of adornments of the Land of Amida Buddha which reveals the perfection of the virtuous power of the Tathagata’s³ benefiting himself and benefiting others⁴.

In this description, “exhibiting the fulfillment of the great achieved virtuous powers that benefits the Tathagata personally” is *jiri*, and “the fulfillment of the achieved virtues that benefit others” is *rita*. There is a similar passage in the section where Vasubandhu Bodhisattva describes the 8 adornments of the Buddha.

Shinran Shonin also uses the term *jiri-rita* in this way. In writing the verse found in their writings called *wasan*⁵, Shinran Shonin employs what has come to be called “left hand notes.” In these notes, Shinran Shonin includes how terms should be read and defined. For instance, in a verse found in the collection titled the Jodo

3 Tathagata is another title for a Buddha. In Chinese, the term Tathagata has been translated as 如来 (nyo rai).

4 “The Pure Land Writings, vol. 1: The Indian Masters,” Shin Buddhism Translation Series, 2012, p. 56.

5 The term *wasan* is created by using the Chinese character 和 (wa, “harmony”), and 讚 (san, “praise”). Although 和 does have the meaning of “harmony,” this character is also used to refer to Japan. Because of this, I have been translating *wasan* as “praise in Japanese”

Wasan (浄土和讃, “Praise in Japanese of the Pure Land”) Shinran Shonin pens the following:

自利利他円満して (jiri rita enman shite)
 帰命方便巧莊嚴 (kimyou houben gyou shougon)
 ころもことばもたえたれば (kokoro mo kotoba mo taetareba)
 不思議尊を帰命せよ (fushigison wo kimyou seyo)

Amida’s self-benefit and benefit of others have been perfectly fulfilled as the Pure Land, The compassionate means skillfully adorned to lead us to take refuge.

It cannot be grasped by the mind or by words, So take refuge in the Honored-one beyond conceptual understanding⁶.

Shinran Shonin provides left hand notes for the phrase 自利利他円満して (jiri rita enman shite, “Amida self-benefit and benefit of others have been perfectly fulfilled”) by writing:

Self-benefit: Amida’s becoming a Buddha. Benefit of others: bringing sentient beings to birth in the Pure Land. Perfectly fulfilled: full of the working of turning good and evil, without discrimination, into good. For both oneself and sentient beings to attain Buddhahood is expressed “perfectly fulfilled.”⁷

Becoming a Buddha for one’s self is defined as *jiri* (self-benefit). Having sentient beings



6 Collected Works of Shinran, p. 334

7 ibid

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

go to be born into the Pure Land to become a Buddha is rita (benefiting-others).

In order to fully understand the expression *jiri-rita*, however, it is important to keep in mind why the term was created in the first place. As mentioned previously, Mahayana became critical of Theravada for what they claimed was an over-emphasis on achieving Enlightenment for one's self. Instead, Mahayana claimed that the ultimate goal is to help all sentient beings achieve Enlightenment. This shift can also be seen in how Mahayana Buddhism reformulated Buddhist practice to include the practice of Dana (布施, *fu se*) or "giving." Keeping this in

mind, *jiri-rita* can be interpreted in two distinct ways depending on where the emphasis is placed. The first is to emphasize self-benefit. This emphasis suggests that the reason why we benefit others is to benefit the self. The second interpretation places its emphasis on benefiting others. This interpretation suggests that the reason for benefiting the self is in order to benefit others. Based on the Mahayana criticism stated above, Mahayana clearly meant to express the latter interpretation. This emphasis on helping others to achieve Enlightenment becomes the defining trait of the Mahayana practitioner or the Bodhisattva.



Hui Aikanes

"Go confidently in the direction of your dreams!"

As we begin the new year Hui Aikane is beginning 2024 with a new cabinet. Our installation luncheon was held on Jan. 20th and our 2024 cabinet was installed during Family Service on Jan. 21st.

Thank you to our members for helping at the annual Shinnenkai party. The food was delicious and everyone enjoyed the entertainment! Our Sangha members and their families are looking forward to the upcoming trip to Las Vegas on February 26th to the 28th. It will be a relaxing trip as we enjoy each other's company on the bus as well as at the California Hotel. Much 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.

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

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



2024 Hui Aikane Cabinet with Rev. Iwohara

Sangha Teens

2024 Sangha Teens Cabinet with Rev. Iwohara



Fujinkai / BWA Buddhist Women's Association

Happenings:

- ◇ January 7th, Sunday. Thank you to "C" gumi for the delicious o-zoni & snacks at our first meeting of 2024.
- ◇ January 11-13, 7am: Thank you to everyone who attended Thursday & Friday's Raihai Service via Zoom and in-person on Saturday. Thank you to "C" gumi for preparing and serving zenzai on Saturday, 1/13, immediately after service. So good to have the warm, delicious zenzai on a cold morning!
- ◇ January 14th, Sunday. Thank you to everyone who attended the Ho-Onko service, the most important services of the year. Thank you also to Aya Motoyasu and "C" gumi for preparing the cream pan otoki for this service and the osonae. We also congratulate all the young adults who participated in the Seijinshiki Ceremony.
- ◇ January 27th, Saturday. Thank you to everyone who attended the 2024 Winter Pacific seminar held at GBC. The topic, "Buddhism and War" was very interesting and we also thank our guest speaker, Rev. Dr. Ken Tanaka, and the panel of ministers for the English and Japanese sessions.
- ◇ January 28th, Sunday. We hope everyone had an enjoyable time at the New Members' Welcome & New Year's Luncheon. The bento and other refreshments were delicious and we had fun participating in the raffle and were most entertained by our talented sangha.
- ◇ February 3rd, Saturday – Japanese Seminar at GBC. We hope everyone enjoyed Rev. Nagamine's discussion and thank all the people who came to attend.
- ◇ February 4th, Sunday – Lady Takeko Kujo Service. Thank you to Phyllis Maruyama for chairing this service on behalf of the BWA, and thank you to Charlene Sakatani, Chizuko Morimoto, Kathy Hori and Mitsue Miyamoto for assisting with the special osaisen collection.
- ◇ March 23rd, Saturday – BWA is reaching out to the YABA to participate in a joint Sushi Making Class for 3/23. More details will be forthcoming soon.



Announcements:

- ◇ February 4th, Sunday – February Regular Meeting will be held at 11:15am (in-person & Zoom). Toban for the meeting will be D/e gumi.
- ◇ February 11th, Sunday – Nirvana Day (Nehan-e)
- ◇ February 25th, Sunday – Coordinating Council meeting 11:30. Julie/Imogene will attend.
- ◇ March 3th, Sunday – March Regular Meeting will be held at 11:15am. Toban for the meeting will be E/a gumi.

BWA Appreciation:

- ◇ Special Donation: Kathy Hori Yoko Okumoto

YABA (Young Adult Buddhist Association)

Our first event of the year was brunch and a movie. We had a tasty meal at Hof's Hut and then watched Wonka. It was a lovely time, even with all the rain.

We are in the process of updating our general meeting schedule. Dates will be announced soon.

Upcoming Events

February 10: YABA Trivia Night

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



ICHI-MI CLUB

2023 was a busy year for Ichi-mi! The highlight was the completion of our film "A Profound Silence," with over 100 people turning out for a premier showing at GBC. We are tremendously grateful for all the support of the GBC Sangha, from ABA's beautiful dessert and appetizer tables, staffing the reception, help with set up and clean up, and key leaders turning out in support of our work.



We ended the year with another 100 people at the OCBC film showing in December. Between these two bookend film showings, our film was also shown in Hawaii, Stockton, San Jose, Chicago, Senshin, Berkeley, and Watsonville, with potential showings at other temples. We're excited about all the interest the film has generated, and the thoughtful shared reflections on the LGBTQ community experience at BCA Temples

We'll soon regroup to plan for 2024, and look forward to future activities. For more information about Ichi-Mi or to schedule a film showing for your affiliate organization, please contact us at ichimigbc@gmail.com.

Dharma School News



Happy February.

We hope everyone enjoyed the New Members Confirmation Service and New Year's Party on January 28, 2024. The entertainment was great and so was the food. Thank you to all the Dharma teachers who helped serve tea and cakes.

This year we had five of our past dharma students participating in the Seijinshiki ceremony. They were Nathan Anzai, Jasmine Kono-Song, Katie Mitani, Erika Munekata, and Lani Nation. Congratulations to all of you. It was nice to see our past students come back to participate in this ceremony. They look great in their kimonos. Thank you to Zia for organizing this event. We hope in the future more of our dharma students will participate.

Kisaragiki Memorial Service (Takeko Kujo) will be held on February 4, 2024, our guest speaker will be Rev. Mayuki Nagamine from Higashi Honganji LA Betsuin.

Happy Valentines Day.

If you have any friends who would like to come and visit us, please invite them.

ABA News (Adult Buddhist Association)

Last month, we started the new year with some rain. Hopefully, in a month or so, this rain will have encouraged the plants and flowers to prepare for spring.

ABA enjoyed performing at the New Year Party. Thank you for everyone's participation!

We are planning some social activities such as a harbor cruise and/or a visit to Two Bit Circus in the Art District.

Our next meeting will be a hybrid meeting on Sunday, February 18, 2024 at 11:30am.

Stay safe!



2024 ABA Cabinet with Rev. Iwohara



TUESDAY SOCIAL

On our first gathering back after the holidays, we all enjoyed a delicious bowl of Ozoni. The mochi was donated by Rev. Kory Quon. Thank you. We shared our family recipes and combined them into one delicious soup. It was fun to learn how recipes differ by families, but the traditions are the same.

We are starting our Birthday celebrations again. Happy January Birthday: Doris, Sachiko, Flo, Akiko, Stan, and Gladys (not pictured: Linda, Joyce, and Margie). Some of our TS friends are learning Sashiko stitchery, taught by Charlene Hirotsu. The stitchery soon will become beautiful, finished table runners, pillows, wall hangings, etc.

Please join us on Tuesdays from 9:30 – 11:30 for an informal coffee, tea and donut gathering.





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.

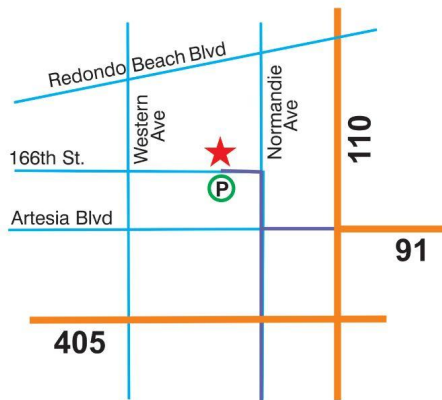


Gardena Buddhist Church

★ 1517 W. 166th Street
Gardena, California 90247

From 91 or 110

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



From the 405

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

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

**Board Meeting: Wednesday, February 21 at 7PM
Hybrid (In-person & 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



(The following is a reprint of an article published in the Rafu Shippo on December 27th.)

A Star's Trek Through History

George Takei shares his experience with hate and discrimination as he recounts his camp experiences with today's youth.

By PETER YOON
Rafu Digital Editor



American story."

Takei shared his origin story in Japanese and Spanish, recounting his birth in East L.A. and the taste of his mother's tacos and enchiladas. He spoke of the importance of language in shaping him and other Japanese Americans, but he also spoke of the tremendous impact that the incarceration had.

Takei recounted Pearl Harbor, describing the destruction and tragic loss of life to the students, some of whom had never heard of the event before. He described how that event led to the paranoia and war fervor that swept North America.

"I say North America because it affected Canadians as well ... Overnight Japanese Americans and Japanese Canadians were looked at with suspicion and fear and outright hatred simply because we happened to look like the people that bombed Pearl Harbor. On the sidewalks, we were yelled at, spat at, assaulted. Our homes, our businesses, our cars were graffitied and the government got swept up in the madness as well."

Mandatory curfews and frozen bank accounts were a preamble to what was to come. "It was devastating. Some families lost their entire life savings ... and then it really got intense." On Feb 19, 1942, President Franklin Roosevelt signed Executive Order 9066.

"I will never forget that terrifying early May morning," Takei recounted. At the tender age of 5, he and his 4-year-old brother watched frozen in terror as soldiers armed with rifles and bayonets entered their home and ordered his family to leave their home at gunpoint.

He and his brother carried boxes out of his home as they waited for their mother, who came out with a duffel bag over one shoulder and his infant sister on the other arm.

"Tears were streaming down her cheeks. I will never forget the terror. It's seared into my memory. It was the most horrible day of my life."

They were taken to the Santa Anita Racetrack where each family was assigned a

(Continued on page 10)



Photos by MICHAEL KOMAI / Rafu Shimpo

"My true audience is here," said George Takei, addressing the students of Wisteria Chugakko at Gardena Buddhist Church last July.

(Continued from page 9)

horse stall to sleep in as they waited to be sent off to the camps.

"It was still pungent with the stink of raw horse manure," Takei remembered. "There were insects creeping along the ground and flies in the air, and very quickly my baby sister got sick, and a few days later I got sick, too. It was only my mother's drive to survive that nursed us back to health."

They stayed in the stalls for 4-5 months, after which they were told they would be moving again.

"I asked my father, 'Daddy, where are we going?' He told us we were going on a long vacation to the country by train."

The young George was excited about the prospect of an extended vacation by train. He and his brother Henry had never ridden a train before. The young child had no clue why the women on the train were crying, nor why there were armed soldiers at each end of the train car.

The train ride took three days and the deserts of Texas gave way to forests growing out of pools of black water. Roar, roar, roar, Takei remembers the soldiers saying as they walked

up and down the aisles, thinking they were trying to intimidate him and the others. Not knowing that they were announcing their arrival at the Rohwer War Relocation Center in Arkansas.

The camp was built parallel to the railroad tracks and soon he saw the massive groups of Japanese Americans looking at the arriving train. Rows and rows of tarpaper barracks, with sentry towers scattered throughout, were to be their new home.

"The latrine had no partitions, just a row of toilet pots on the concrete floor. The absence of privacy was unbearable and that extended to the barracks as well."

He began school in those camps. He remembered being taught the Pledge of Allegiance and beginning each day of school with that pledge.

"'With liberty and justice for all.' Right outside my schoolhouse window, I could see the barbed-wire fence and guard towers. I was too young to understand the stinging irony of those words, 'liberty and justice for all.'"

After a year of imprisonment, America suffered a manpower shortage and looked to

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

the detained Japanese Americans, categorized as enemy aliens, to serve in the military. In order to justify the use of “enemy aliens” in the military, they issued the infamous loyalty questionnaire.

Question 27 asked if incarcerated would bear arms to defend the country that had imprisoned them. “My parents answered truthfully. They didn’t want to leave their children in imprisonment to bear arms for this country.”

Question 28 asked if Japanese Americans would swear their loyalty to the United States of America and forswear their loyalty to the emperor of Japan. “The word ‘forswear’ assumes that we had an existing, inborn, racial loyalty to the emperor. If you answered truthfully, ‘No, I don’t have a loyalty to the emperor,’ that would imply that you weren’t loyal to the United States. If you answered yes, that yes meant that you were confessing to a nonexistent loyalty to the emperor.

“It was a no-win question. You lost with a no, you lost with a yes. My parents answered truthfully, and because of those two nos, they were labeled as disloyal. No-nos.”

The “no-nos” were sent to Tule Lake in Northern California to be segregated. Takei recounted three layers of barbed-wire fences, sentry towers armed with machine guns, and half a dozen tanks placed to intimidate the incarcerated.

Those who chose to “swallow the ugly taste of compromise” and answered yes to the questions were placed into a segregated military unit, the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Used in the most harrowing battlefields, the 442nd proved their valor in battle after battle, becoming the most decorated of any military unit in U.S. history.

Post-war, the camps were thrown open and incarcerated were given a one-way ticket to anywhere in the U.S. along with \$25 to begin life anew. Discrimination and war fervor-induced hatred were still going strong.



Takei recounted his after-dinner conversations with his father, who was a staunch believer in American ideals. “Our democratic ideals are noble, but the people sometimes make mistakes,” he remembered his father saying. “We as citizens have a responsibility to vote, but it’s also a people’s democracy. It is a democracy that’s participatory. The people have to take on the responsibility and engage in the process of government.”

Takei took his father’s advice to heart and spent his teen years in student government and volunteering for various political campaigns.

By the ’70s, Japanese American political efforts bore fruit. Japanese Americans had representation in the House of Representatives and Senate. This coincided with a push for recompense or “redress” for the damage done by the U.S. government towards Japanese Americans who were wrongly incarcerated. Takei himself spoke before a federal commission, urging them to make amends for that terrible mistake.

In 1982, the commission released its report, attributing the cause of the wrongful incarceration to three factors: war hysteria, racial prejudice, and the failure of political leadership. In 1988, President Ronald Reagan apologized to Japanese Americans on behalf of the citizens of the U.S. and authorized monetary restitution to those alive when the Civil Liberties Act was signed.

“I was deeply moved by that event,” said Takei. “It took a lot of time, work, and dedication by Japanese Americans working together with others fighting for the fundamental ideals of our country. America needs all of us as responsible citizens actively participating in our democracy. We are the ones that make it strong, we are the ones that make it true, we are the ones that make it a shining system.”

Takei chats with Gardena Buddhist Church President Alan Miwa.





Boy Scout Troop 242

A few months ago, Jordan Ho worked on his Eagle Scout Project. He replaced the worn out benches in the Sunday Social area, a decades old basketball backboard, as well as the wrapped spongy protectors on the poles in front of the pre-school classroom building that had layers and layers of duct tape around them for protection.



Scouts working together as a team to take apart the old benches, prep, glue, stain and replace with new benches

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

OLD Basketball backboard (decades old)



NEW Basketball backboard



Scouts, Adults and Advisor working together as a team to replace the backboard



CUB SCOUT PACK 1230

Cub Scout Pack 1230 visited the Torrance Police Station. The scouts were given a tour and learned all that the police officers do for our community. They even got to take a picture with Santa on his sleigh!



The scouts made 109 holiday cards (Spanish, English and Japanese) for the residents of Kei -Ai South Bay Healthcare Center of Gardena to spread some joy at this special time of year.





Girl Scout Troop 4345

GIRL SCOUTS

The Girl Scout troop donated three new Polywood benches for the Sunday Social area to replace worn out benches.



Isami Taiko

Taiko currently has 24 adults and 10 kids.

They performed for Oseibo in December and will soon be wanting to buy happi coats for the whole group.

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, February 19, 2024

We truly appreciate your continued support!

The church acknowledges the following donations received from 12/19/23 - 1/18/2024 with gratitude and appreciation.

Funeral/Makurakyo/Burial/Memorial Services

Akahoshi, Masato (2)	Horii, Mary	Minami, Miyako & Jonathan	Terada Family
Horii, M/M Brian	Kamibayashi, Marie	Nomura, Chizuko	Uchio, Isamu
Horii, M/M Dwayne	Kitazawa, Stanley	Ogawa, Takako	Yamada, Shirley

Shotsuki Hoyo Donations

Ego, Kimiko	Inouye, Tomoko	Nomura, Chizuko	Tochihara, Grace
Akahoshi, Masato	Kakimoto, Nadine	Ogawa, Takako	Togioka, Mark
Doi, Sanaye	Kakuta, Richard	Ohara, Emily	Torichigai, Sandra
Dote, Ty	Kawahara, M/M Larry	Ohara, Yoshifumi	Tsuge, M/M Mike
Endo, Katherine	Kurahashi, Gay	Sakamoto, Ruth	Tsutsui, Takashi
Fuchino, Mae	Lewis, Roxana	Sanada, Elaine	Uyemura, Chris
Fujita, Teruko &	Masumoto, Chiyoko	Sasaki, M/M Brent	Yamada, Susan
Fumiko (2)	Miwa, Yoshiko	Sasaki, M/M Tom	Yamane, Keiko
Fukuman, Thomas	Miyata, Julie	Shirakawa, Linda	Yamane, M/M Dick
Giovinazzo, F.W & A.J.	Mori, Doris	Sumi, Michiko	Yokota, M/M James
Hiraga, Donna	Mori, Eiko	Takahashi, Yoshihiko	Yoshida, Suzanne
Hirayama, Ted	Muraoka, Mutsuko	Takayama, Joann	Yoshiyama, Rose
Ikemiya, Reiko	Nakashima, Diana	Tamura, Mary	Yuki, Toyoko
Imada Families	Nakata, M/M Bob	Terao, M/M Ernie	

Goshoki Hoonko Donations

Fujimoto, Fumie	Maruyama, Phyllis	Nakashima, M/M Harvey	Wakimoto, Yuko
Fujita, Teruko & Fumiko	Matsuda, Hiromi	Nakatani, M/M David	Watanabe, Donald
Haruma, Yaeko	Mayemura, Louise	Nakawatase, Haruye	Yamane, M/M Dick
Hirotsu, M/M Stan	Miwa, M/M Alan	Shimizu, Mitzi	Yamasaki, Sheryl
Hori, Kathy	Miwa, Yoshiko	Shimono, Natsuye	Yoshida, Suzanne
Imamoto, Eiko	Miyata, Julie	Takahashi, Sae	Yuki, Toyoko
Iwamoto, Diane	Morioka, M/M Dennis	Takao, Donna	Yuki, Wallace
Kato, M/M Isao	Nakakura, M/M Ken	Tamura, Mary	
Maeda, Tom	Nakamoto, M/M David	Uyeda, Midori	
Maruyama, Kazuko	Nakamura, Burt	Uyemura, M/M David	

Special Donations

1000 Cranes for Recovery	Imura, Danielle	Matsunaga, Katsuyo	Tan, Margaret
Anonymous (2)	Karen	Mizuno-Moyer, Harriet	Toguchi, Dr. Michell
Escalante, Andrea	Kubota Mortuary	Nakata, M/M Bob	Uyemura, Chris
Fujii, Raymond	Kunisaki, Suyeno	Okamoto, Yauko (2)	Yanai, Frank
Hira, M/M John	Kurashima, M/M Justin	Ota, Mika	Yasaki Family
Hori, Kathy	Maeda, Akiko	Raynon, Fumiko	Yoshida, Suzanne
Ikejiri, Ronald	Maruyama, Phyllis	Sasaki, Emiko	

Oseibo Donation

Akahoshi, Masato	Imada, Imogene	Nakata, M/M Bob	Tanaka, Nancy
Fujita, Teruko & Fumiko	Kawasaki, Richard	Okamura, Rodney	Toma, Yuriko
Hirayama, Joyce	Kono, Emi	Otani, Keiko	Tsuge, M/M Mike
Ikeda Cambra, May	Miyashiro, M/M Marc-Mitchell	Shibata, Reiko	

BCA Assessment

Ikejiri, Ronald	Miyashiro, M/M Marc-Mitchell	Nakata, M/M Bob	Sasaki, Paul & Kathy
Inouye, Tomoko	Miyata, Julie	Nishimura, M/M Shunji	Suya, M/M Chris
Kishimoto, Yasu	Motoyasu, Ayako	Nishimura, Minae	Takao, Dianne
Matsumoto, Sally	Murakami, Linda	Ohara, Yoshifumi	Tanaka, Nancy
Mekaru, Naomi	Nagatani, Ronald	Okamoto, Yauko	Tusge, M/M Mike
Miyamoto, M/M Satoshi	Nakaoka, Kimiko	Otani, Keiko	Yamada, M/M Edward

Seijinshiki

Fujimoto, Fumie	Nation, Charlene	Yuki, Toyoko
Mitani, Terri (2)	Nishimoto, Cynthia	

Osaisen

Ichinagi Family	Nakayama Lee, Kathy	Sasaki, M/M Tom
Maeda, Tom	Nishihira, M/M Joe	

Nokotsudo Donation

Ito, Bennett	Torichigai, Susan & Sandra
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Tri-Temple Seminar Donation

Nishimura, M/M Ross

General Donation/Facility Use/ Miscellaneous

Baba, Miyako	Kobayashi, Izumi	Yoshida, Judy
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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.

Fukunaga, Yuriko	(84)	November 18, 2023
Uchio, Yasuko	(93)	November 21, 2023
Harada, Mary Ann	(98)	December 11, 2023
Matsumoto, Amy Emiko	(89)	December 22, 2023
Fukai, Iris Katsuko	(68)	December 26, 2023

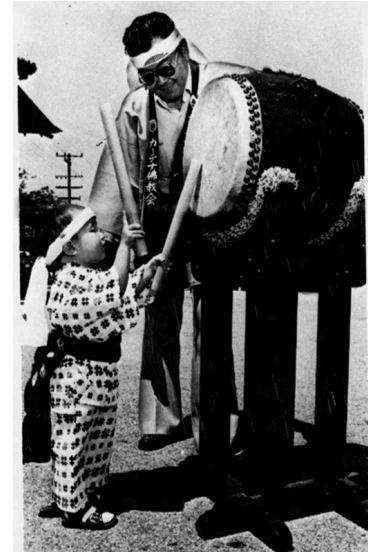


Seek for Information

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!



February 2024

3	Shotsuki Hoyo (Online Service)	10:00am
	Japanese Seminar	10:00am
	Jr. YBA So. District Activity & Dinner	4:00pm
4	Sunday Service Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
	Kisaragi Memorial Service	
	BWA Hybrid mtg	11:15am
6	DS teacher's mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
7	GBC Forward Committee mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
8	BEC/Religious Committee mtg via Zoom	7:30pm
10	YABA Dinner and Game Night	5:00pm
11	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
	Nirvana Day Service	
16	Meinichiko service via Zoom	7:00am
	Jodo Shinshu 101 for Young Adults w/Rev. Iwohara	7:00pm
18	Jr. YBA mtg	8:45am
	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
	ABA mtg (In-Person & Zoom)	11:30am
	WC Teacher Workshop #2	1:30pm
19	Megumi Deadline	
	Temple Closed—President's Day Holiday	
21	GBC Board mtg (In-Person & via Zoom)	7:00pm
25	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
	Coordinating Council mtg (In-Person & Zoom)	11:30am

March 2024

2	Shotsuki Hoyo via Zoom	10:00am
3	Sunday Service Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
	BWA Hybrid mtg	11:15am
6	DS Teacher's meeting via Zoom	7:00pm
9	SDDSTL Mini Workshop	9:00am
10	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
13	GBC Board mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
14	BEC/Religious Committee mtg via Zoom	7:30pm
15	Jodo Shinshu 101 for Young Adults w/Rev. Iwohara	7:00pm
16	Meinichiko service Zoom	7:00am
	Spring Ohigan Seminar	
	Japanese Speaker: Rev. Tadao Koyama	9:30am
	English Speaker: Rev. Tadao Koyama	1:30pm
17	Jr. YBA mtg	8:45am
	Sunday Spring Ohigan Service (In-Person & Zoom)	
	Rev. Tadao Koyama guest speaker	9:30am
	ABA mtg Hybrid	11:30am
18	Megumi Deadline	
24	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
	WC Teacher Workshop #3	1:30pm
	Coordinating Council mtg	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



宮地信雄師

「ある信仰者との歓談」

この前、ある念仏者のご夫婦に招かれて、夕食を共にすることになりました。先生の近くのパークレーの中華料理屋さんに呼ばれて行

きましたが、そのお店もなんとも言えない暖かい雰囲気、料理も美味しくみんなでわいわい言いながら2時間ばかりを共にさせていただいたのでした。普段は静かな先生ですが、その日はずいぶん流暢に談話され、話がいろいろな方面に飛んでとても楽しい時間を過ごすことができました。奥様も先生と一緒に先生の良い足りないところとか先生の話されたことを引き延ばしてご自分の解釈を入れて話してくださり笑い声が絶えませんでした。側にいた他のお客さんも一体四人の年寄りが何をそんなに楽しげに話しているのだろうときっと興味津々だったと思います。

私たちの話の内容はというとそれはやはり年寄り独特の話で、まず最初はお互いの身体の変化から始まりました。幸い先生方も私たちも今の所これといってなんの病気もなく一応健康に過ごしておりますという話でした。しかしよく話して見るとやはり私たちはどこかに何かを抱えているようで、おたがい「そうね、こまるよね」という相槌のうち合いです。話が盛り上がってきますとやはり今度は昔話です。あの元気な先生も亡くなりましたね。あの先生にはこんなことがありましたねとか、こんなこともありましたねと、亡くなった先生方を偲びながら思い出話に花が咲くのでした。そして最後には、今自分は裏庭で野菜を作っているんですよ。それがとても楽しくてね、毎日一生懸命野菜たちの面倒を見てい

るんですよということでした。そしてその野菜作りには一つ困ったことがあってね、それはタヌキが来て野菜をひっくり返していくのですよということでした。そのタヌキ退治をどうするかということで今あの手この手を考えているところなんですなんて話も出てきました。最後には、そんなタヌキを今度出てきたら狸汁にデモするぞと脅かしてやったらいいですね、とってまた大笑いです。そんなたわいもない話でしたが、この先生方とのお話は本当に楽しい心温まるものでした。帰り道美子と二人で、あの先生方とのお話は私たちにとっていい息抜きをさせてもらったねと感謝しながら帰ったのでした。

信仰者との話は、そこに何も駆け引き、あるいは忖度とっていいかもしれませんがそんなものが一つもないのです。一つのことを話しても、心の底から笑える話ばかりです。こんなことを言ったらどう思うだろうとか、あんなことを言ったら失礼だろうとかそんな心配をしなくてもいいのです。思ったことを思い切り言って思い切り笑い飛ばす、それが信仰者との会話でした。ありがたいなと思いました。

南無阿弥陀仏





婦人会便り

婦人会の通常の活動（敬称略）

- ▽ 1月7日（日）年初の会議でお雑煮やスナックを用意して下さったC組の皆さん、ありがとうございます。
- ▽ 1月11-13日 午前7時 御正忌晨朝礼拝（ハイブリッド）に参加して頂きありがとうございます。C組は1/13（土）の礼拝後、ぜんざいを用意して下さり、寒い朝に頂く温かいぜんざいは格別でした。
- ▽ 1月14日（日）御正忌報恩講及び成人式 1年のうちでも最も重要なお勤めの一つである報恩講にご参列頂き、ありがとうございます。お供えや御齋のクリームパンを用意して下さったC組&本安綾にお礼申し上げます。成人式に参加された若い成人の皆さん、おめでとうございます。
- ▽ 1月27日（土）ガーデナ仏教会で開催された2024冬季パシフィックセミナーに参加下さった皆さん、ありがとうございます。『Buddhism and War』と題したセミナーでは田中ケン師をゲストスピーカーにお迎えし、日英両語で開教使がパネラーとなって興味深いお話を聴かせて頂くことができました。

- ▽ 1月28日（日）新会員歓迎&新年昼餐会では美味しいお弁当やリフレッシュメント、ラッフルや各種エンターテイメントでお楽しみ頂けたことと思います。
- ▽ 2月3日（土）日本語セミナー 長嶺開教使とのディスカッションに皆様ぜひご参加下さい。
- ▽ 2月4日（日）如月忌 九條武子夫人追悼法要 婦人会代表として司会を担当する丸山フィリス及びお賽銭箱係の坂谷シャリーン、森本千鶴子、堀キャシー、宮本みつ子各夫人に感謝致します。
- ▽ 3月23日（土）婦人会は 3/23日の合同寿司クラス開催に向けてYABAに働きかけています。詳細は近日中にお知らせします。

アナウンスメント:

- ▽ 2月4日（日）2月婦人会例会（ハイブリッド）午前11時15分 当番D/e組
- ▽ 2月11日（日）涅槃会
- ▽ 2月25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
- ▽ 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

感謝録:

- ▽ 特別寄付：堀キャシー 奥本洋子

ガーデナ仏教会主催 日本語セミナー



2月3日(土)午前9時 ガーデナ仏教会本堂

- 9:00 参加者到着
 - 9:00 - 9:40 懇親会 軽食を提供
 - 9:40 - 10:00 開会式
 - 10:00 - 11:30 法話
 - 11:30 - 12:00 ディスカッション
 - 12:00 セミナー終了
- ご講師:長峯真如開教使
東本願寺ロサンゼルス別院



お問い合わせはkathrynhori@gmail.comまで

如月忌



2月4日(日)午前9時30分
ガーデナ仏教会本堂&Zoom

仏教婦人会の礎を築かれ、女子教育や社会事業などにご尽力された九條武子さまを偲ぶ法要が勤まります。

歌人、画家としても知られるほか、慈善活動や被災者支援などにご尽力なされました。

是非皆さまも一緒にお念仏申しましょう。

