



# MEGUMI

慈恩

GARDENA BUDDHIST CHURCH  
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Rev. John Iwohara

# Gardena Buddhist Church



## January 2024

Volume LVII No. 1



**Rev. John Iwohara**

## “Happy New Year”

2024 is the Year of the Dragon. 2024 will also be the first time we will be able to hold an in-person ojinjo service in preparation for our Goshoki Hoonko service since the temple closure due to the Covid pandemic. Fortunately, things are returning to “normal.” However, given that 2026 is the temple’s centennial, we are also given the opportunity to look back at the temple’s history, while looking forward towards possibilities. Because of these circumstances, we are also being given the opportunity to define what “normal” was, is and can be.

For better or worse, our current situation immediately makes us think of what was normal as how things were just prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, what is normal as learning when and how to apply our technology of providing in-person, remote, or hybrid services and events, and what can be normal as the possibility of applying even more technology to what we offer. For example, it isn’t too hard to imagine being able to simulcast in multiple languages with the advances being made in language translation software.

When talking about something like a centennial, it is natural for us to look back. We sometimes look back with nostalgia, while at other times we dismiss the past because it has passed. The past, however, is important because it informs and often colors our perception of the present and the future. For example, I have been very influenced by a scene in the 1962 Disney film, “Son of Flubber” when Professor Brainard (played by Fred MacMurray) states, “Anyone who falls flat on his face is at least moving in the right direction: forward.” I have also been greatly influenced by “Star Trek” and it’s themes of diversity and inclusion, and how sharing the abilities of everyone can help make possibilities turn into mutually beneficial realities. Unfortunately, both these examples only share how a past experience can help you have hope for the future.

As an example of how the past can help inform and color our perception of the present, I would like to share a story that was told by Reverend Shoki Mohri who was serving as the Rinban of the Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji while I was growing up there. What Mohri Sensei (Sensei is Japanese for “Teacher”) related was their experience as a soldier for the Japanese

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military during World War 2. Prior to their military service, Reverend Mohri told us how they grew up in a Jodo Shinshu temple family and how they were disinterested in studying a teaching that developed in 12th century Japan. Although the technological advances made war even deadlier than in the past, it also made the world seem as if it had graduated from the days when humanity still feared the night for lack of adequate light. We were told that, at that time, Mohri Sensei wondered what good continuing to read verses like the Shoshin Nenbutsuge could have in a world that Shinran Shonin probably couldn't even have imagined. Then, Mohri Sensei was conscripted to join the war. Over time, it became obvious that Japan would lose the war, and Sensei, together with their entire unit, evacuated and tried to flee back to Japan before they were killed. Unfortunately, many of Reverend Mohri's unit, also young men conscripted to serve, did not make it back. As you can imagine, the war seemed empty of all meaning to Sensei. Humanity, itself, was questioned.

It was, however, at the time when Mohri Sensei returned home to the temple, that they noticed people were still chanting the Shoshin Nenbutsuge. We were told that this experience helped Sensei to recover their sense of humanity. Through seeing this, Mohri Sensei became aware of a Universal Truth that neither can nor will change over time. Sensei discovered something reliable to return home to. Relying on human intellect, human innovation, human progress alone has its limitations and flaws because we as humans are limited and flawed. In Mohri Sensei's case, the War and all the technological advances that

were utilized in waging that war, made Sensei doubt the very meaning of their existence. During our hoonko season, we will once again be focused on chanting the Shoshin Nenbutsuge or a tradition that Jodo Shinshu Buddhists have maintained and shared for centuries. This is not done out of nostalgia or to maintain a centuries old tradition. As shared in Reverend Mohri's story, we continue to do this to allow ourselves, and others, the opportunity to see and experience for themselves the Truth that can always be relied upon.

This vision of the past, one where the Wisdom and Compassion of Amida Buddha was fulfilled in order to help us to understand that we are part of a Universal Truth that embraces all and forsakes none, is one we can use to inform and color our perception of the present. Hopefully, this vision of the present is one that will allow all of us to discover a future where we are all helping each other move in the right direction, and one where we can appreciate both diversity and inclusion.



## *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.

**Kawaguchi, Katsuji** (91)  
**Kitazawa, Lynn Ishida** (68)  
**Takagaki, Mine** (93)

**November 15, 2023**  
**December 7, 2023**  
**December 13, 2023**





# YABA (Young Adult Buddhist Association)

## New year, new look. Introducing the 2024 YABA Cabinet:

- President: Kimberley Aponte
- Vice President: Kylie Morioka
- Treasurer: Stephanie Hirotsu
- Secretaries: Tracy Iwanaga, Irene Iwasaka
- Historian: Hope Iwamoto
- Religious Chair: Bern Gross



We wrapped up 2023 with a bang. We attended and helped serve hot cocoa at GBC's Festival of Lights.

Our cabinet was installed on December 10th and later that day we got to enjoy the Oseibo program.

On the 16th, we checked out the LA Zoo Lights: Animals Aglow experience. We had a blast last year and we're looking forward to what 2024 has in store for us.

### Upcoming Events

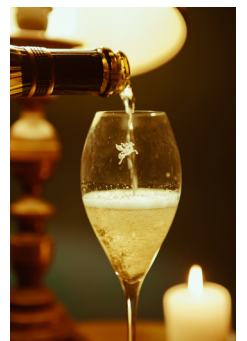
- February 10: YABA Trivia Night

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



## Hui Aikanes

"Tiny bubbles, in the wine, make me happy, make me feel fine." We want to thank our Hui Aikane members for singing "Tiny Bubbles" at our recent Oseibo Taikai. Thank you Joe for playing the ukulele. Linda and Lynn for spraying tiny bubbles while we were singing. It provided the right atmosphere to our performance.



We would also like to thank our members for coming during their busy schedule to help with the end of the year church clean up. We washed the church windows and then reorganized the Hui Aikane basement area.

Our Installation luncheon and next meeting will be on January 20th. Officer Installation Service will be held during the January 21st Sunday service.

Hau'oli Kalikimaka (Happy New Year)! May we wish everyone a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year!

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


**Fujinkai / BWA** Buddhist Women's Association

## Happenings:

Happy Year of the Dragon to everyone! We would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a healthy and happy 2024. We also take this time to give appreciation for being able to continue towards normalcy in our temple life, while incorporating the “new norms” of the post-pandemic world by continuing with our hybrid format so that everyone from near and far can come together to participate in our services and meetings.

We also wish to thank Rev. Iwohara, our cabinet, Toban Leaders, and all our members for everyone’s continued guidance, support and dedicated work.

For 2024, we’ll be convening our BWA committee to make plans for our 100th anniversary. We also will be scheduling Japanese seminars for the future and preparing for the Southern District’s Toban for the FBWA Conference in 2026. Busy times!

And all the while, let us always keep in mind the Dharma in our everyday actions and thoughts.

Mina sama kotoshi mo yoroshiku onegai itashimasu!

In gassho,

Imogene Imada & Julie Miyata

- ◇ December 10th, Sunday – Oseibo Taikai. The BWA had fun participating in the program and singing “Hana wa Saku” and “Yuyake Koyake”
- ◇ December 17th, Sunday – Temple clean up. Thank you to everyone who came out to help with this annual event. And thank you to ABA for providing the delicious and hearty lunch for everyone.
- ◇ December 31st, Sunday. Joya-e Service. Thank you to everyone for attending the New Year’s Eve service.
- ◇ January 1st, Monday, 8:00am. New Year’s Day Service. Let’s all plan to attend!
- ◇ January 7th, Sunday – BWA Installation during family service. The new 2024 cabinet will be:
  - o Presidents: Imogene Imada & Julie Miyata
  - o Religious Chair: Fumie Fujimoto
  - o Recording Secretaries: Nancy Yoshiyama & Phyllis Maruyama
  - o Treasurers: Chizuko Morimoto & Charlene Sakatani
  - o Auditors: Mitsuko Miyamoto, Toyoko Yuki
  - o Toban Leaders: A- Kathy Hori; B-Nancy Yoshiyama; C-Aya Motoyasu; D-Amy Kato; E-Linda Shimizu
  - o 2024 BWA Advisors:
    - ▶ Komon: Yoshiko Miwa, Midori Yoshimura
    - ▶ Soudanyaku: Kimiko Tenpo, Kazuko Maruyama, Etsuko Nakano, Emiko Sasaki
    - ▶ Special Advisor: Rev. John Iwohara
- ◇ January 11-13, 7am: Raihai Service via Zoom. BWA serving ozoni on Saturday, January 13 right after service.
- ◇ January 14th, Sunday – Ho-Onko Service and Seijinshiki Service
- ◇ January 28th, Sunday - GBC Shinnenkai. Let’s all attend this luncheon and entertainment event!

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**Announcements:**

- ◇ January 7th (Sunday) – 2024 BWA Cabinet Installation during service and January BWA Regular Monthly Meeting 11:15am (hybrid). C/d Gumi
- ◇ January 13th (Saturday) – preparation for Ho-Onko otoki
- ◇ January 28th (Sunday) – Coordinating Council Meeting will be attended by Imogene Imada / Julie Miyata
- ◇ February 4th (Sunday) - February BWA Regular Monthly Meeting 11:15am (hybrid). D/e Gumi

**BWA Appreciation:**

- ◇ In memory of Shizuko Sakuda: Naomi Uraguchi
- ◇ Special Donation: Rev. Yoshiko Miyaji, Julie Miyata
- ◇ BWA Memorial Lunch Donation: K. Maruyama S. Takahashi  
Y. Wakimoto C. Sakatani  
N. Shimono T. Yuki



M. Miyamoto  
T. Watanabe

**The Community Projects Group (CPG)**

“Happy New Year” wishes from all the members of the Community Projects Group!

Our group has so many things to be thankful for – our wonderful friends who continue to donate items for our group to use, all those who have donated their many talents by giving finished items to our group, and to all of you who have supported us through the years. We ask for your continued help in 2024!

In January, CPG will be meeting on Mondays, January 8th and 22nd, from 10 am in the Church Meeting Room. Anyone interested in joining us is welcome!



**ICHI-MI CLUB**

OCBC Holds Film Showing

On December 3, over 100 people attended a film showing of Ichi-Mi’s “A Profound Silence” at Orange County Buddhist Church (OCBC). A diverse range of ages and social groups participated. The screening was followed by a moderated panel of seven LGBTQ and ally speakers, who shared their own personal stories. An engaging 1½ hour discussion was held after the panel presentation. To schedule a film showing for your affiliate organization, contact Ichi-Mi at [ichimigbc@gmail.com](mailto:ichimigbc@gmail.com).





# ABA News (Adult Buddhist Association)

Happy New Year! Akemashite Omedetō Gozaimasu!

ABA ended 2023 with the announcement of our 2024 cabinet. The new officers are:



- ☆ **President: Dawn Kita**
- ☆ **First Vice President: Charlene Hirotsu**
- ☆ **Second Vice President: Gary Shimizu**
- ☆ **Third Vice President: Dick Sauer**
- ☆ **Recording Secretary: Aya Motoyasu**
- ☆ **Corresponding Secretary: Dianne Takao**
- ☆ **Religious Chairperson: Alan Kita**

Installation of the officers will take place during the Sunday, January 21, 2024 service.

We look forward to seeing everyone at the January 28th Shinnen Kai.

The next ABA meeting will be on Sunday, January 21, 2024 at 11:30 and will be hybrid. Come join us at our meeting and find out more about ABA. All meetings are held on the third Sunday of the month.

Have a fantastic start to 2024!

## Sangha Teens



The Sangha Teens performed, "The Golden Chain" at the Oseibo Taikai. We hope everyone enjoyed our performance. We also had fun watching the other performances as well as the refreshments and raffle. Thank you to all who participated!



**Congratulations to our new Sangha Teens Cabinet with Reverend John**

### Upcoming events:

- Jan 7th- Sangha Teen Meeting
- Jan 27th- Installation Party

**Board Meeting: Wednesday, January 17 at 7PM  
Via Zoom**



# 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.**

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

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



## 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)

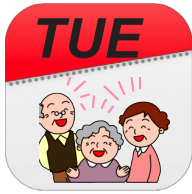


### From the 405

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







## TUESDAY SOCIAL

2023 December 19 was our last Tuesday Social gathering for 2023. We celebrated with a Hot Dog Brunch. Everyone had a great time. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped prepare this meal and for all your support throughout the year. Out with the old and In with the new.

2024 Happy New Year! After a short year-end break, we will resume our Tuesday Social gathering on January 9, 2024. Please join us on Tuesdays from 9:30am – 11:30am for refreshments, games, and laughter. May the new year bring you much happiness and good health. Please take care. See you on Tuesdays.



## Nakayoshi Preschool



*Nakayoshi Preschool held Mochitsuki Taikai on Saturday, December 16th.*

*Students had a great time to experience one of the Japanese traditional events around this time of the year.*



## UPCOMING EVENTS



**Jinjo Raihai Service (Hybrid)**

Thursday, January 11 - Saturday, January 13, 2024 at 7AM



**Goshoki Hoonko & Seijinshiki**

Sunday, January 14, 2024 at 9:30AM



**BCA CBE Winter Pacific Seminar**

Saturday, January 27, 2024 at 9AM



**New Member's Welcome & New Year's Party**

Sunday, January 28, 2024 at 11:30AM



*We truly appreciate your continued support!*

**The church acknowledges the following donations received from 11/21/23 - 12/18/2023 with gratitude and appreciation.**

## Funeral/Makurakyo/Burial/Memorial Services

Fujioki, Emma Inose, Kay	Kuwahara, Emily (2) Maeda, Tom	Motoyasu, Ayako Shimizu, Mitzi
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## Shotsuki Hoyo Donations

Ego, Kimiko Fujii, M/M Rodney Fujioki, Emma (2) Giovinazzo, A.J. Iwamoto, Diane Iwamoto, M/M Daniel Jinkawa, Kimi &	Janice Kawamoto, M/M Derrick Kuga, Patrick Kuwahara, Emily Maeda, Tom (2) Matsumoto, Shunji Motoyasu, Ayako	Nishi, Kay Okada, Nobuko Ouchi, Joyce Oyama, Janet Sasaki, Emiko Shimada, Shirley Shimizu, Mitzi	Suzuki, Reiko Uyemura, Jean Wada, Emi Watanabe, Donald Wilhelm, Sheri
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## Oseibo Donation

Akioka, M/M Sam Ego Family Fujioki, Emma Guasti, Stephen Haruma, Yaeko Hiramoto, M/M John Iwamoto, Diane Iwamoto, M/M Daniel Kakimoto, Nadine Kato, M/M Isao Kawamoto, M/M Derrick Kita, M/M Alan Kita, Yoshiko Kiyohara, Kimiko Komatsu, Janett	Koyanagi, Stan Kubota Mortuary Kurashima, M/M Justin Kuwahara, Suzuko Maeda, Tom Maruyama, Phyllis Miwa, M/M Alan Miwa, Yoshiko Miyaji, R/R Nobuo Miyamoto, Mitsuko Miyashita, Judy Miyata, Julie Morioka, M/M Dennis Nakamura, Johnny Nakamura, Patricia	Nakao, Harumi Nishi, Kay Okumoto, Yoko Ouchi, Joyce Sakatani, Charlene Sasaki, M/M Tom Sauer, Wayne Sawaki Harada, Robert Shigemitsu, M/M Tom Shimizu, Mitzi Sugita, Chris Takahashi, Sae Takao, Dianne Takao, Donna Takata, M/M Sam	Toyoaki, Shiro Tsukamoto, Wilfred Uyeda, Midori Uyemura, M/M David Wakimoto, Yuko Watanabe, Donald Wilhelm, Sheri Yamane, M/M Dick Yamasaki, Sheryl Yoshida, Suzanne Yoshiyama, M/M Bryan Yuki, Wallace
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## Special Donations

Kubota Mortuary Nakatani, David	Nishimura, Ross Ogasawara, Paul	Sanada, Donna Shimono, Frances	Sunada, G.Y.
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## Goshoki Hoonko Donations

Ikeda, Tamotsu Motoyasu, Steve Nishihira, M/M Joe	Sakatani, Charlene Toyoaki, Shiro Tsuge, M/M Mike	Tsukamoto, Wilfred Wilhelm, Sheri Yokota, M/M James
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## BCA Assessment

Akioka, Sam	Kono, Cheryl	Nakashima, Linda	Takao, Donna
Fujii, Roger	Kurahashi, Gay	Nakawatase, Haruye	Takata, M/M Sam
Gould, Kathy	Matsuda, Hiromi	Nielser, Dorine	Tamehiro, Yaeko
Harrington, James	Mikamo, Edith	Nishi, Patty	Tanaka, George
Hori, M/M Bryan	Mitani, M/M David	Nishihira, M/M Joe	Tsukamoto, M/M
Ikeda Cambra, May	Miwa, M/M Alan	Nishimura, M/M Ross	Wilfred
Imamoto, Eiko	Miwa, Yoshiko	Ohara, Toshifumi	Uyeda, Pauline
Imanaka, Traci	Mizukami, Tomoko	Okada, George	Uyemura, M/M David
Inose, Kay	Morimoto, Nobuharu	Okada, Nobuko	Wada, Emi
Inouye, Ben	Morioka, M/M Dennis	Ouchi, Joyce	Wada, Louise
Iwata, Amy	Morishige, James	Sakatani, Charlene	Yamada, Faye
Jinkawa, Kimi & Janice	Munekata Wilhelm,	Sauer, Wayne	Yamada, Susan
Kaida, Yasuko	Sheri	Seino, Toshiyuki	Yamane, M/M Dick
Kato, Sharon	Nakamatsu, Aiko	Shigemitsu, M/M Tom	Yamasaki, Sheryl
Kikuno, Nariko	Nakamura, Burt	Shimokochi, Gail	Yoshida, Suzanne
Kita, M/M Alan	Nakamura, Debbie	Shimono, Natsuye	Yoshiyama, M/M
Kita, Mitsuko	Nakano, Etsuko	Suminage, Kimiye	Bryan
Kita, Yoshiko	Nakano, Patsy	Takahashi, Sae	Yuki, Wallace

## 2023 GBC Membership Dues (Received: 11/21/2023 – 12/18/2023)

Noguchi, Rachel      Noguchi, Steve

## Eitaikyo Service

Ego, Kimiko      Nakata, M/M Bob      Ohara, E.

## Seijinshiki

Fujimoto, Fumie (3)      Inouye, Nachi      Munekata, Nancy      Yuki, Steve

## General Donation/Facility Use/ Miscellaneous

Baba, Miyako      Yamane Family  
Minamitani, Izumi

## Bodhi Day Donation

Kita, M/M Alan

## Osaisen

Sakatani, Charlene



Ross Nishimura

A red banner with the word 'NEW' in white, slanted upwards to the right.

## From GBC Board Chairperson

### *“Happy New Year and welcome to 2024 - Year of the Dragon”*

I hope everyone has been able to kick off this new year with some good food and lots of laughs. I've heard that many of our temple members have plans for celebrations, taking trips both near and far, or spending more time on hobbies and things they like to do. Regardless of your plans, I do wish everyone, your families and your friends a healthy and prosperous 2024.

While I am very thankful that I have the ability to wish everyone a happy new year, I can not help but reflect on the people around the world who are dealing with hardships. In 2023, we saw so many people who are working through disastrous events which can be attributed to natural disasters, climate change, or the effects of war. My wish for 2024 is for peace to return to all portions of the world.

For GBC, 2024 looks to be the year we will begin to accelerate our path towards our future. We will be introducing initiatives which will build upon our work as a religious, cultural and social center, providing a safe environment where all members of our sangha can learn and grow, and a place which enables everyone to participate and contribute. To realize these initiatives, we'll need to be innovative, to listen, and depend upon one another to be successful. We'll need the energy and momentum gained as we brought on new organizations, implemented new technologies and welcomed new members to our Sangha. We are fortunate that we have a growing list of volunteers who are working to evolve our temple. Each brings their talents, works tirelessly to support the temple, and brings fresh new ideas. As we have had in the past, we'll be seeking everyone's help and input as we move forward.

I would like to conclude my new years greeting by saying 'Thank You'. I am so fortunate to be a member of GBC. I learn so much from everyone each time I visit and would like to express my sincere gratitude to you all.

In gassho,

Ross





SOUTHERN DISTRICT/CBE/IBS/JSIO

# WINTER PACIFIC SEMINAR

JANUARY 27, 2024

# BUDDHISM AND WAR

“May there be peace in the world.” - Shinran Shonin

**IN PERSON & VIRTUAL EVENT (9AM - 12PM)**

Keynote Speaker (In English and Japanese)



REV DR KEN TANAKA

## English Speakers

Rev Iwohara

Rev Turner

Rev Quon

## Japanese Speakers

Rev Wondra

Rev Furumoto

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## GARDENA BUDDHIST CHURCH

1517 WEST 166TH ST, GARDENA, CA 90247

REGISTRATION INFO & IN-PERSON BENTO ORDER:

<https://tinyurl.com/WINTERPACSEM>

# Coming of Age Ceremony

## 成人式

Sunday, January 14, 2024  
9:30am - 1:00pm

*We would like to invite anyone who will be 19-24 years old in Spring 2024 to participate in this very meaningful ceremony and with a renewed spirit to continue to walk along life's path.*



### January 2024

1	New Years Day	8:00am
	Office closed	
2	Tuesday Social CANCELLED	
6	Shotsuki Hoyo (Online Service)	10:00am
	Boy Scouts: Eagle Court of Honor	5:00pm
7	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
	Board of Directors/Officers & BWA Cabinet Installation	
	BWA Hybrid mtg	11:15am
8	GBC Forward! Committee mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
11	Jinjo Raihai Service (In-Person & Zoom)	7:00am
12	Jinjo Raihai Service (In-Person & Zoom)	7:00am
13	Jinjo Raihai Service (In-Person & Zoom)	7:00am
14	Sunday Service Goshoki Hoonko (In-Person & Zoom)	
	& Seijinshiki (Coming of Age) Ceremony	9:30am
	Coordinating Council mtg via Zoom	11:30am
15	Temple closed (MLK Holiday)	
17	GBC Board mtg via Zoom	7:00pm
19	Jodo Shinshu 101 for Young Adults w/Rev. Iwohara	7:00pm
20	Hui Aikane Installation Lunch	11:30am
21	Jr. YBA mtg	8:45am
	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
	ABA mtg (In-Person & Zoom)	11:15am
	Wilstera Chugakko Teacher's Workshop #1	1:30pm
22	Megumi Deadline	
27	BCA CBE Winter Pacific Seminar: "Buddhism and War"	9:00am
28	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
	New Members Confirmation Service	
	New Member's Welcome & New Year's Party	11:30am

### February 2024

3	Shotsuki Hoyo (Online Service)	10:00am
	Jr. YBA So. District Activity & Dinner	1:00pm
4	Dharma School Teacher's mtg	8:15am
	Sunday Service Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
	Kisaragi Memorial Service	
	Sangha Teen mtg	10:30am
	BWA Hybrid mtg	11:15am
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 via Zoom	7:00pm
25	Sunday Service (In-Person & Zoom)	9:30am
	Coordinating Council mtg (In-Person & Zoom)	11:30am

### <Regular Activities>

<b>Sunday:</b>	Isami Taiko Practice @11:15am weekly
<b>Monday:</b>	2nd & 4th Community Projects @9:30am 2nd & 4th Cub Pack 1230 mtg @6pm
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Tuesday Social @9:30am Weekly
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Ikenobo/Ikebana Class @2pm 3/month
<b>Thursday (or Saturday)</b>	Tea Ceremony Class @9:30am 1st & 3rd Boy Scout Troop 242 mtg @7pm
<b>Friday:</b>	2nd & 4th Girl Scout Troop 4345 mtg @7pm
<b>Saturday (or Thursday):</b>	Tea Ceremony Class @9:30am

## 新年のお慶びを申し上げます。

宮地美子師

本年もお念仏を申す生活をさせていただきますましょう。

昨年末、4人の親しい方々がお浄土に還られました。BCA元総長山岡誓源師、プレスノ別院メンバー尾崎アーリーンさん、親戚にあたります稲永千加士氏、そしてLA別院で当時事務をお手伝いされていました中垣マサ師です。この4人の方々と自分との関わりを静かに思わせていただきますと、主人が米国仏教団の開教使になりアメリカに来なければ、お知り合いになれる方々ではありませんでした。遠く宿縁を慶ぶという言葉がございしますが、皆さんに影響を受けながら、お育てを被りながらの出会いであったと頭の下がる思いです。

今自分を取り巻く人間関係を考えると、あの人を憎い、あの人さえいなければとかあの人にこんな目に遭わされたという方が一人もいません。よくぞこんな私とお友達でいてくださる、ずっと法友であり続けたいと思う方々ばかりです。人に恵まれるということの喜びを感じております。その分お別れが寂しいのですが、私たちにはまた逢えるという喜びもあります。南無阿弥陀仏のお慈悲の中での出会いと別れであり、仏となってまた一如の世界で再会が約束されていることはありがたいことです。

さて仏教ではこの世を“濁世”(濁った世の中)と呼んでいます。戦争・環境問題・詐欺・政治不審・フェイクニュース・虐待。私たちは間違いなく濁世の中に生きています。生きていどころか私自身がそれにまみれ濁りを生み出しています。

親鸞聖人のお言葉が集められている歎異抄には『煩惱具足の凡夫、火宅無常の世界は、よろずのこと、みなもって、そらごと たわごと、まことあることなきに・・』とあります。我々が作り出す世界は偽り嘘言の世界である。つまり濁世であることは昔から変わってないのです。

ではこの濁った世をどう生き抜いていけば良いのでしょうか。親鸞聖人はその後に『ただ念仏のみぞまことにておわします』と断言されています。ただとは、ただこのこと一つという意味です。『ただ念仏』とは、この濁世を逃げ出す方法ではありません。濁世を打ち砕く精神でもありません。『ただ念仏』とは濁世に住む方法、生き方なのです。濁世この世は道場と言う意味です。私はこの濁世の道場に蓮の花(お念仏)をいただいて、お念仏の同朋(法友)と共に生き抜いていきたいと思っています。

本年もどうぞ宜しくお願いいたします。

合掌







## 婦人会便り

皆さん、辰年おめでとうございます！2024年が皆様にとって健康で幸多き年となりますようこの場をお借りして心よりお祈り申し上げます。また、パンデミック後の世界の「新たな規範」の元、ハイブリッド形式を取り入れて近隣からも遠方からも誰もが集まって法要や会議に参加できるようにするなど、平穩にお寺での活動が続けられたことに感謝致します。

加えて、庵原先生、役員の方々、当番長や会員の皆様の継続的なご指導やご支援、献身的な活動に感謝致します。

2024年はBWA委員会を召集し、創立百周年に向けた計画を立てる予定です。また、将来に備えて日本語セミナーの予定を立て、2026年の全米仏婦連盟会議に向けた南部教区の当番の準備も進めて行きます。忙しくなります！

そしてそのその間もずっと、日々の行動や思考の中で常に仏法を心に留めておきましょう。

皆様、今年もどうぞよろしくお祈り致します！

合掌

今田イモジーン&宮田ジュリー

### 婦人会の通常の活動（敬称略）

- ▽ 12月10日（日）お歳暮大会：婦人会もプログラムに参加し、「花は咲く」や「夕焼け小焼け」を歌って盛り上がりました。
- ▽ 12月17日（日）お寺の年末大掃除：この毎年恒例のイベントにご協力して下さった皆様にお礼申し上げます。そして皆に美味しく心のコもったランチを提供して下さったABAに感謝致します。
- ▽ 12月31日（日）除夜会法要：大晦日礼拝にご参加頂きました皆様、ありがとうございました。
- ▽ 1月1日（月）午前8時 元旦礼拝：皆様のご参加下さい。
- ▽ 1月7日（日）幹部就任式は家族サービス中に行われます。2024年度新幹部：

会長 今田イモジーン、宮田ジュリー  
 宗教部長 藤本文恵  
 書記 吉山ナンシー、丸山フィリス  
 会計 森本千鶴子、阪谷シャリーン

会計監査 宮本みつ子、湯木都世子  
 当番長 A-堀キャシー

B-吉山ナンシー

C-本安綾

D-加藤エイミー

E-清水リンダ

顧問 三輪好子、吉村緑

相談役 天保君子、丸山和子、中野悦子、

佐々木恵美子

名誉顧問 庵原先生

- ▽ 1月11-13日 午前7時 報恩講晨朝勤（ハイブリッド）婦人会は1/13（土）の礼拝後、お雑煮を提供します。
- ▽ 1月14日（日）御正忌報恩講及び成人式
- ▽ 1月28日（日）新年会：皆さんもぜひこの昼食会&エンターテイメントに参加しましょう！

### アナウンスメント:

- ▽ 1月7日（日）2024年度婦人会幹部就任式 午前9時30分 1月婦人会例会（ハイブリッド）午前11時15分 当番C/d組
- ▽ 1月13日（土）報恩講の御齋の準備
- ▽ 1月28日（日）附属団体連絡協議会（Zoom）午前11時30分 今田イモジーン&宮田ジュリー出席予定
- ▽ 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

### 感謝録:

- ▽ 咲田静子追悼：ウラグチ・ナオミ
- ▽ 特別寄付：宮地美子師、宮田ジュリー
- ▽ 婦人会追悼法要昼食会寄付：丸山和子、宮本みつ子、坂谷シャリーン、下野夏江、高橋小枝、脇元優子、渡辺民子、湯木都世子

