



Buddhist Church of Santa Barbara
 1015 E. MONTECITO STREET
 SANTA BARBARA, CALIF. 93103
 PHONE 962-3633



August 2025

In This Issue Calendar of services, Explanation of *Shotsuki Hoyo* and *Oshoko*, Treasurer's Report of Monetary Donations, Thank you! From Jodi Miles, Obon Committee Chair;

Calendar Services are held on the second Saturday of each month.

Sat. Aug. 9 10:00 am Memorial Service, Shotsuki Hoyo 祥月法要, Dharma Message: Rev JP deGuzman

Sat. Sept. 13 10:00 am Memorial and Autumn Equinox Ohigan Service 祥月法要、秋季お彼岸法要)

Memorial Service (祥月法要) will be held for:

MR. TAMATARO KUNIMASA	MRS. SHIGE HAYASHIDA
MR. TSUNEHACHI KAKIMOTO	MRS. MIYE YAMADA
MR. KAZUMA HAMANE	MRS. TAMAYE TSUNODA
MR. ASAJIRO NAKAJIMA	MR. DENZO SHIMODA
MR. LOUIS HIRATA	MR. KAYEMON OMURA
IKEDA FAMILY	MR. SUTEZO YAMADA
MR. KINZO FUKUSHIMA	MR. YENPACHI KOMOTO
MISS SUSAN TANAKA	MR. RYUICHI TOBO
MR. UMEICHI MUNENO	MR. HARRY HIDEO OKINO
MR. JUTARO AOYAGI	MRS. AYAKO OCHI
MR. MAKIO MIKE HIDE	MR. NOBUO TAMURA
MR. ICHITARO HAYASHIDA	MRS. MITSUKO MAYEDA



Shotsuki Hoyo and Oshoko - Jodo Shinshu tradition

Shotsuki Hoyo is the name of the monthly service in which we remember and honor those who had passed in that month to the Other Shore.

Oshoko (お焼香) In the Jodo Shinshu manner, we offer one pinch of incense in gratitude for the compassion of Amida Buddha. The fragrance of the incense reminds us of this precious moment and to prepare us to receive the Dharma message.

Treasurer's Report:

Setsuko Furuike

Total donations from July, 2025: \$4809.10

The temple gratefully acknowledges the following monetary donations:

<u>Memorial Service</u>	<u>Special</u>
Susie Okada Nakata (for Kay Okada)	Monday Qigong
Mary Hide (for Tadao Kanetomo)	Dennis Ito
M/M Jeffrey Tamura (for Nobu Tamura, Jack & Suzi Ochi)	Osaisen Bako お賽銭箱
Lonny Ishihara (for Joe Watanabe, Ted Kanetomo, Robt. Fujii, Tomoko Yamada)	
<u>Obon</u>	
M/M Dennis Furuike	Junko Torigoe
Susie Okada Nakata	Lonny Ishihara
M/M Ted Muneno	JJ Uyehara-Wilson
Bianca Ayers	Mary Saito
Fujii Family	Muneno Family

From Rev JP deGuzman



I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to all of the individuals whose loving labor made the BCSB Obon a huge success!

Many volunteers dedicated countless hours to planning and preparation, and the fruits of their care were

evident in the ebullient smiles and laughter that emanated from the social hall to the odori circle.

I was privileged to meet families whose ancestors literally built our temple as well as visitors from near and far

(including dharma friends from the Oxnard, West LA, Pasadena, and Senshin temples, among others).

Well-wishers - including those who had longed for an Obon in Santa Barbara for years and those who experienced our *Kangi-e*, or gathering of joy, for the first time – expressed their gratitude for the return of such an exuberant event.

Although Obon is a time to honor our deceased loved ones, experiencing that sunny day at BCSB on July 19 illuminated one of my favorite Japanese Buddhist phrases: *Okagesama*.

Dharma Message Okagesama

Rev JP deGuzman

Okagesama is a way of viewing the world and experiencing our various encounters in it. There are many related translations, but I gravitate towards “I am because of you” or, emphasizing gratitude and humility, “I am because of you.” In other words, my life is sustained by all life, an immeasurable web that includes all sentient beings.

Witnessing so many people dedicate energy, resources, and care, motivated by something deep within them that resulted in such a precious moment leaves me in awe.

I am in awe of the karmic circumstances that led our sangha to survive and blossom in the midst the vicissitudes of racist property laws, the wartime forced removal and mass incarceration, and the challenges of resettling in Santa Barbara in an era of development and displacement. I am in awe of the generations of soft hearts, thoughtful minds, and rugged

hands that kept the dharma alive in Santa Barbara for over a century. I am in awe of the conditions that brought so many people of diverse backgrounds to our picturesque temple and left them excited for Obon 2026. I am in awe that my life is made possible by each of those lives I just described and more.

Sometimes we can put words to a sense of awe, as I’ve tried to do above. But awe oftentimes has the capacity to leave one speechless. When that happens, there’s *Okagesama*.



THANK YOU! From *Jodi Miles*, Chair of Obon Committee
To All the Dancers, Volunteers. Teachers and families,
A huge thank you to all of you for making the return of Obon in Santa Barbara a joyful day. We made new friends, revived old friendships and renewed acquaintances. A perfect day, not too hot, not windy... We saw so many people - well over 150- enjoying themselves and dancing, smiling, munching. Families and friends stepped up and acted as vendors and muscle and decorators and sellers of everything. All the guests made clean up the fastest and most efficient ever. Which really helps wanting to do it all over again next year.

THANK you! To Jodi – Who had the drive and initiative to gather the elements together; and To Christophe – who kept the work flowing! From JJ, editor



CELEBRATION OF JOY!

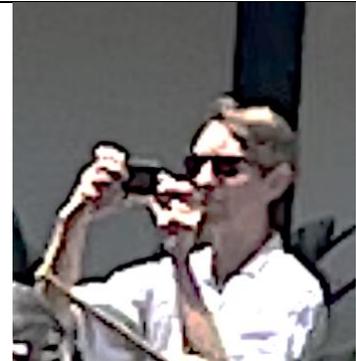


Many thanks to our Dance Instructors!! Roberta Cook (lead), Melanie Fujii, Sylvia Morikawa. And the extra instruction on the obon day itself --Doreen Sasaki, Morgan Cook; And, thankful to Togen Daiko for the extra instruction in dancing, more dancers, plus providing the centerpoint drumming during the dancing!



Communication Social Media Outreach ,
Christophe Sautot, Chair.
 Many thanks!! For multiple posts for publicity

Popup and Chair setup. -In the morning, Gerry Geare, Doug Wilson, Dennis Furuike, Dennis Ito, and others came early to set up. And then, when we needed more chairs due to higher than anticipated attendance, so many people helped bring out more chairs!!

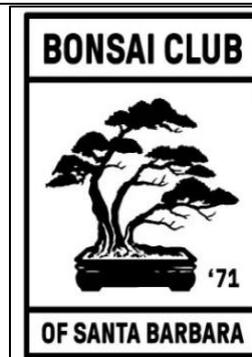


Emcee Rev JP deGuzman (and Dancer!) Positive messages on this Celebration of Joy



PA System Paul Cabral, Could not have done any dancing if not for Paul!

Demonstration
 Awesome bonsai shown on stage by the **Bonsai Club of Santa Barbara!**



Snacks -- Jodi Miles and Bobbi Okamoto-Subject (co-leads), Plus with the able support of Sadie and Joe Subject tending the snack bar and pitching in!

Ted Muneno – Thanks! For the donation of lots of ice water so we could give bottles to all the visitors! Much needed by the dancers ☺



Vendors

The Muneno Family sold their original, handmade designs! **Patsy Okamoto**, hair stylist from Gardena, travelled to show her wares. **Jeanne Gray**, retired teacher arts and crafts, showed her jewelry and clothing designs.

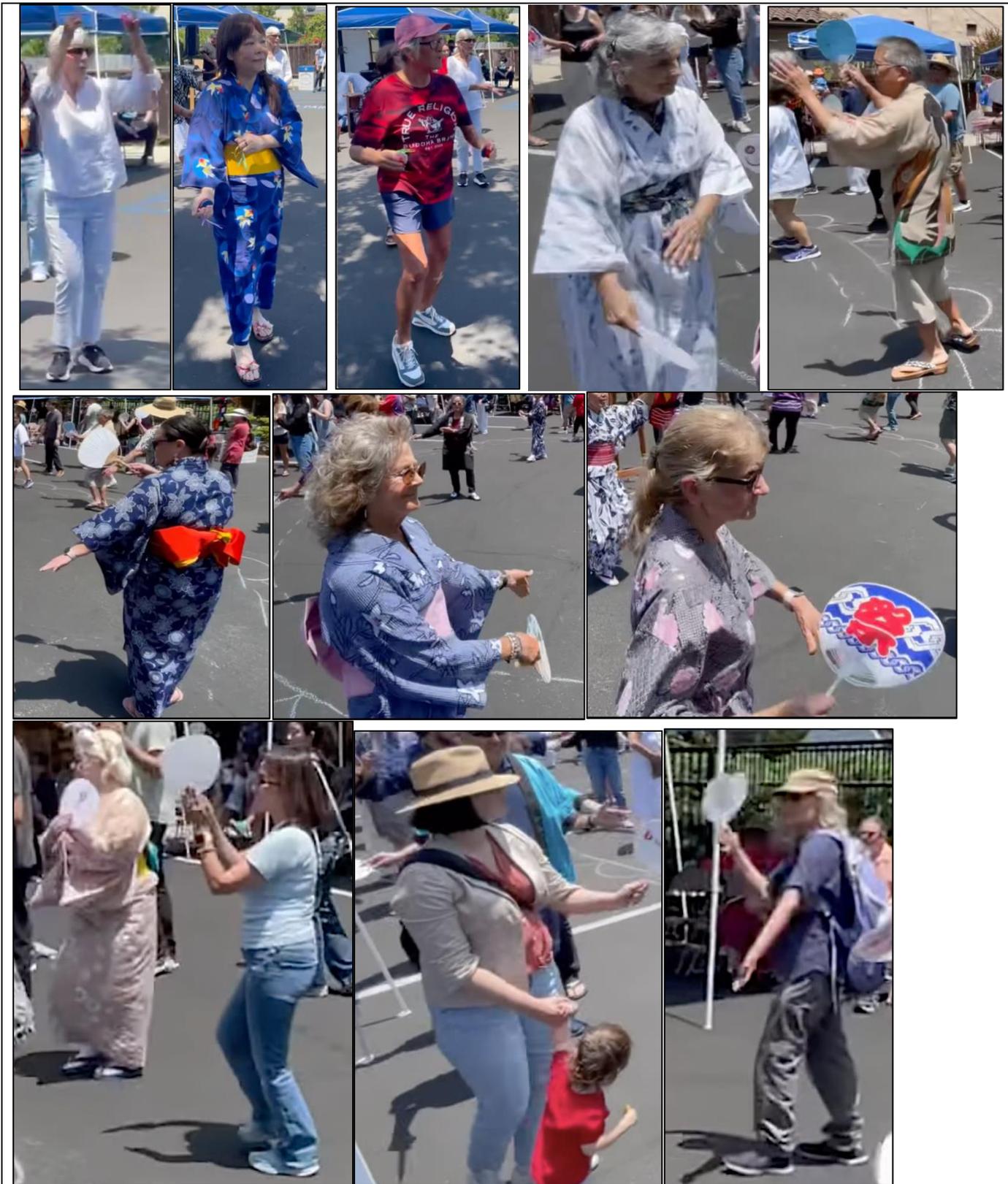
K-house sold Japanese-ware from cloth created by **Kiyomi, Natsuki Smith's** mother. Natsuki Smith is a Japanese language teacher at SB City College

Harumi Nishimura had unique ceramic wares. Harumi was born and raised in Yokohama, and moved to Santa Barbara in 1996.



Donation Committee Table JJ Uyehara and Junko Torigoe, (co-leads); Jodi Miles pulled all of the donations which had been stored in the cabinets. Many thanks for volunteer assistance from Adele Minatti, Barbara Warrecker, and Janine Wilson. There were beautiful donations from Junko Torigoe, Dennis Ito, and many generous donor families.

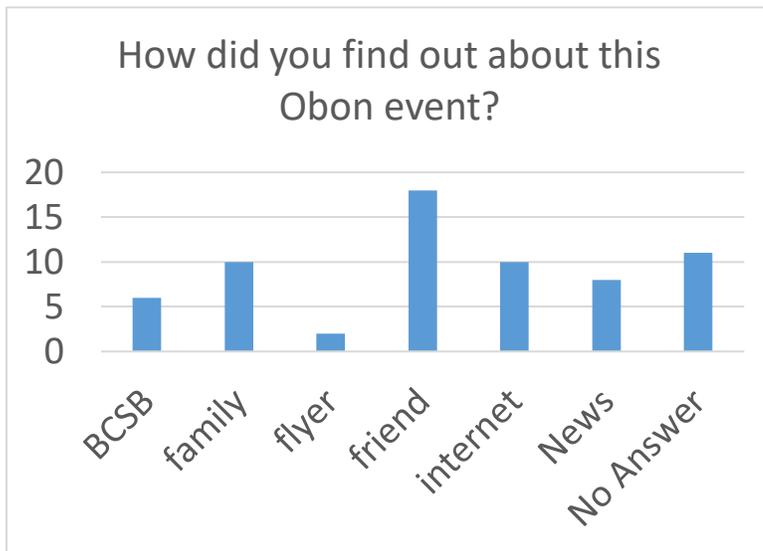




Take-down Thanks! To all for bringing in the chairs!

Walkway Survey

We were curious about our Obon visitors so we set up a sign-in survey sheet along the walkway. There were a total of 54 attendees that responded to the question above, about 1/3 of attendees.



The best communication mode was person-to-person communication, either through BCSB service/Qi Gong, family members, or a friend. However, the friend might have seen it on the internet or through a news feed, and then would get some others to come.

The News category could be hardcopy e.g., Independent, or online news feed, e.g., Rafu Shimpo, Japan City.

The Internet was composed of social media sites, e.g., Reddit, Facebook, and Instagram were mentioned, but others were not specific with responses, e.g., 'internet', online, digital. Interestingly, two people said they did not see the announcement in the Independent although they had looked at that paper that week, but then, a friend asked them to come.

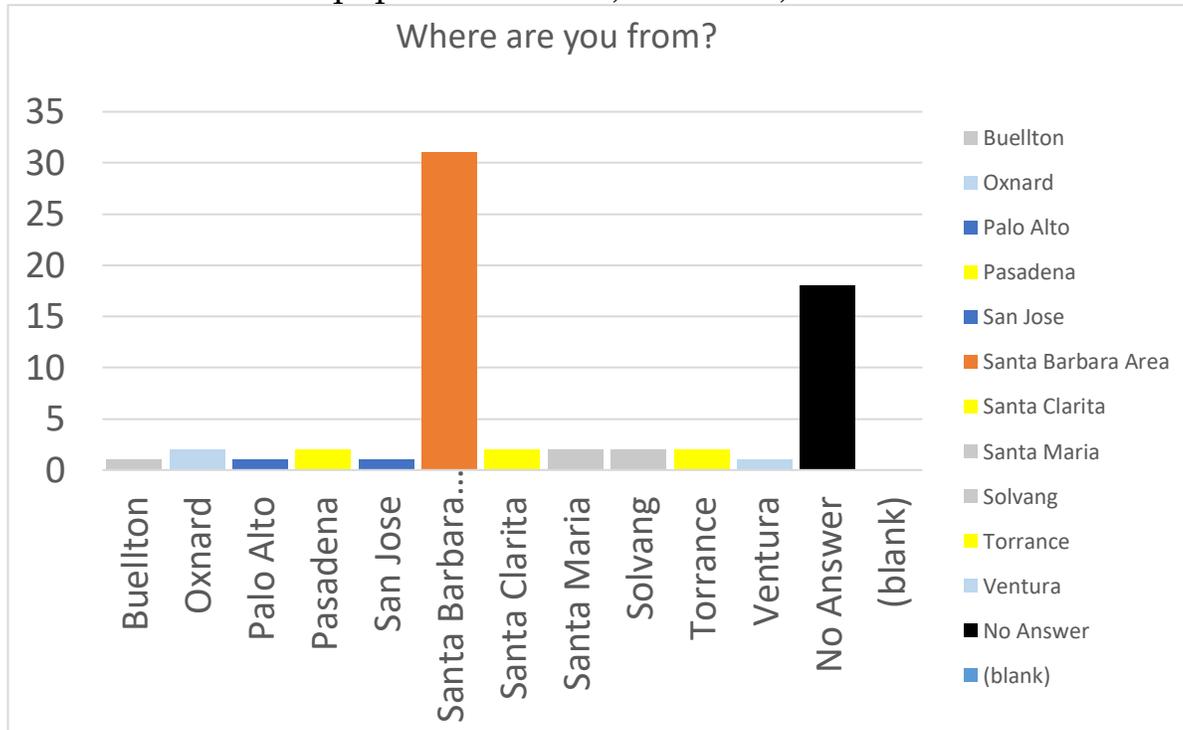


Figure 1 Of the 47 responses, 3/4 of them were from the local area