



Buddhist Church of Santa Barbara

1015 E. MONTECITO STREET
SANTA BARBARA, CALIF. 93103
PHONE 962-3633



December 2025

Calendar

Services held 2nd Saturday of the month

Sat. Dec. 13 10:00 am Service, Rev JP deGuzman

Bodhi (Enlightenment) Day 成道会

Monthly Memorial Service 祥月法要

Oseibo – Year-end Gift Giving

Sat. Dec 13 11:15 am, Lunch and Learn Buddhism and
Improv Comedy, Rev JP deGuzman

Sat. Jan 10 10:00 am Service *Hoonko Shinran*

Shonin Memorial Service 御正忌報恩講

Monthly Memorial Service 祥月法要



In this Issue

Memorial Service

Acknowledgement and Appreciation for November Contributions

Treasurers Report, Volunteer Contributions

Summary November Message, Revs. Riordan and deGuzman

Church News – Wheel of Dharma article, Members!, Board of Trustees

Memorial Service will be held for:

MISS MIYO ASAKURA	MR. SUYEKICHI TSURUDA
MRS. YUKIKO UNOKI	MRS. TAMA ASAKURA
MR. TAKIO KAKIMOTO	MR. KENNY AOI
MRS. MISAO KAKIMOTO	MR. TAKEICHI MORISHITA
MR. MASAJI OKUMURA	MRS. TAKIYO NISHIMURA
MR. MATAKICHI WATANABE	MRS. YOSHIMO HATTANDA
MR. MEGUMU HIROMATSU	MRS. TSUTAYE NAKAHIRA
MR. IHACHI NAKAMURA	MRS. HIROKO MORIHISA
MRS. FUJI FUKUSHIMA	MR. MANABU FUKUDA
MR. CHOCHIRO NAKAMURA	MR. CHU SATO
MR. TAMEJI KURODA	MR. GEORGE SAITO
MR. TOYOKICHI KAWANO	MRS. HELEN TAKEDA
MRS. YUKIJI BARBARA INO	MR. TAKISHI MAYEDA
MR. STEVE HIRATA	



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Acknowledgement and Appreciation

Treasurer's Report: Sets Furuike \$3,050

Thank you for the November Donations to BCSB from the following people:

Memorial Service

M/M Dennis Furuike (Tami Ishihara)
 Lonny Ishihara (Tami Ishihara)
 JJ Uyehara (Raymond Iwao Uyehara)
 Fumi Suzuki (Yoshito Inouye)
 Linda Sasaki (Shoken & Tomiko Sasaki)
 Melanie Fujii Family (Fujii & Nomura Families)

Special

Monday Qigong
 Dennis Ito
 Bianca Ayers

Eitakyo

M/M Dennis Furuike
 Junko Torigoe
 Mary Saito
 Hazel Ando
 Dave Tabata
 Tamako Nishimura

BCSB provided funds for these causes:

Institute of Buddhist Studies: \$100.00
 BCA Endowment Foundation (BCAEF) (Dana Program): \$100.00
 BCAEF (Dharma Forward): \$100.00
 BCAEF (Social Welfare Fund): \$100.00

Thanks! For the many in-kind contributions and time devoted to BCSB!

Nov Dharma (Service Message)	Facilitator – Sets Furuike, Service -Revs. Stacy Reardon and Rev. JP DeGuzman
Greeters	Dennis Furuike and Doug Wilson
Onaijin setup	Jodi Miles for floral arrangements, Osonae (fruit offering) by Sets and Dennis Furuike, Obuppan (white rice) JJ Uyehara and Doug Wilson
Social Media	Christophe Sautot for recording session; https://www.facebook.com/SBBuddhist/videos/1644371876727870 , Rev JP deGuzman for designing flyers, redoing webpages for additions of history, Buddhism meaning, and service outline. To



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	both, for posting flyers to Facebook and Instagram, The Independent
Nov Geppo Newsletter	JJ Uyehara, ed/writer., Rev JP deGuzman for Dharma Message, Junko Torigoe for 1966 dedication program photos; Hazel Ando and Harumi Nishimura for Oct. festival photos
Temple Cleaning & Maintenance	Dennis & Setsuko Furuike
Service Program	Rev JP deGuzman & Setsuko Furuike
Landscape	Dennis Ito, Greg Kitajima
Social Hall Setup, Maintenance, and Cleanup	Ted Muneno
Potluck (Yum!)	Sangha (Community)

November Dharma Message We were honored to have both Revs. Reardon and DeGuzman for the November service. Both of them chose Buddhism as adults. Rev.



Reardon was raised in the Jewish tradition, and Rev. deGuzman was raised Roman Catholic, even going to a Catholic high school.

Rev deGuzman noted the literal translation of Eitaiyo (永代経) as the perpetual chanting of the sutra. The concept is to honor the deceased and continue the Dharma (teachings) to future generations.

Rev Reardon noted --In the Jodo Shinshu tradition, *shinjin* is the real cause of enlightenment. “We’re messy, but it’s going to be ok. Why? Because we have the light of compassion bathing us...from the Amida Buddha.”

Rev Reardon pointed out that the people who passed before us left us examples on “how to live, how to love, how to be. We’re all interconnected”. And, those who passed on come

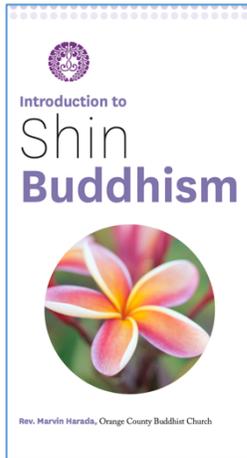
back to assist others; She related it back to her mother who was a lively lady. As a preteen, Rev. Reardon was embarrassed by her, but now, being the mother of a preteens, she honors and is grateful for her sense of fun and even the messy parts of her mother.





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Brochure: Introduction to Shin Buddhism



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While other schools of Buddhism seek to “attain”, or “realize” enlightenment, the Shin Buddhist path is one of simply listening and opening one’s heart to receiving it.

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Rather than pursuing enlightenment, we simply listen to the Dharma and receive it...

This is the Shin Buddhist path. Rather than pursuing enlightenment, we simply listen to the Dharma and receive it, and allow it to unfold into our hearts and minds. This does not require any particular lifestyle. You don't have to become a monk or sit for hours in meditation. You can listen to the Dharma in your everyday life, no matter what you do or where you are.

Listening to the Dharma can mean listening to sermons or lecture, but it can also mean listening or talking to anyone. You never know who might be your teacher of the Dharma, if you have the ears and heart to listen. A taxi driver could be a teacher, or a bartender, or your worst enemy.

December 2025 – Ondobo Ondogyo and Interdependence by Rev. DeGuzman

I hope you all read the wonderful article about our *sangha* that appeared in the November issue of Wheel of Dharma, the publication for our national organization, the Buddhist Churches of America¹. Dennis Akizuki’s inquisitive and caring coverage highlighted the sangha’s labors of love to ensure that BCSB will thrive.

I must confess, however, that I was quite embarrassed that my mug accompanied the article on the front page! After all, efforts to steward the dharma at BCSB began long before I arrived with my *fuho*, *wagesa*, and laptop². In Jodo Shinshu we believe that we are all *onodobo ondogyo*: fellow travelers on the same path.

According to Yuien-bo, even Shinran, the father of our tradition stated, “For myself, I do not have even a single disciple.”³ Rather, he was just like us, living an existence filled with the foibles of daily life, joys and tragedies, but also, with unlimited opportunities to awaken to the spiritual liberation made possible through the dynamic activity of boundless wisdom and compassion we call Amida. The light of the world of Nirvana shines on all of us equally, whether we come to temple

in our Sunday best, flip flops (it’s Santa Barbara after all), or *fuho*. Because of this, it likewise doesn’t matter if we are laity or ordained, newcomer or lifelong member, young or old, when it comes to how we naturally express our gratitude for the *Dharma*. Every action is significant and allows others to feel the warmth and clarity that flow from the *Dharma*.

Indeed, I feel humbled and grateful for the many individuals who have shared their respective gifts to foster a serene and welcoming refuge at the temple. Through their efforts, we experience the Buddha’s profound teaching of interdependence, the truth he awakened to beneath the Bodhi tree over 2000 years ago. Through many lifetimes, the *Dharma* has motivated folks to give so much to our community from those who initiated that first humble gathering back in the 1910s to those who currently serve on the church board, from those who bring a tasty treat for our potlucks to those who volunteered at Obon, from those who show up and offer a friendly smile to those who build our presence in the community, and the list goes on. Our spiritual wellbeing is made possible by all of those individuals and all life that have shaped them. That is interdependence and that helps us understand how we are all traversing that same path together as *onodobo ondogyo*.

As we head into the winter holidays, may you and those you love be happy and well!



Shinran statue at Gochi Kokubunji temple, Niigata, Japan
 1 Sangha meaning the community learning about the Buddhist path; Dharma meaning teaching of the truth of the enlightened mind
<https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/wheel-of-dharma>, Vol 47, Issue 11 (November)
 2 BCA ministers most commonly wear a *fuho*, a basic black robe, and *wagesa*, a stole resembling the lay member’s *montoshikisho*.
 3 *Tannisho*, section VI.



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CHURCH NEWS

Did you see the article about BCSB journey in the last two years? It is in the November issue of the **Wheel of Dharma**? It goes over all the building steps and contributions which have led to the revitalization of BCSB. (Search “Buddhist Churches of America” Wheel of Dharma and select November)

It is our mission to provide a place for calm, teaching of the Dharma message welcoming all, and fostering a community. For more about us, <https://www.buddhistchurchofsantabarbara.org/information/> .

Thank you!

BCSB cannot serve as a temple gathering center without the active engagement of members. We now have nearly 50 members, up from 24 at the beginning of 2024!

NAME (Last, first)		
Clark, Ellen	Muneno, Donald	Shimoda, Danny
Downie, Brian	Muneno, Eric	Suarez Serrato, Pablo
Furuike, Dennis*	Muneno, Naomi	Subject, Joe
Furuike, Setsuko*	Muneno, Sharon	Tabata, David
Gallegos, Emiliano	Muneno, Ted*	Takeuchi, Reiko
Gray, Jeanne	Nakata, Susie	Tamura, Grace
Harada, Jaye	Nishimoto, Kaylie	Tokumaru, Tomoye
Hide, Mary	Nishimura, Harumi	Tollefson, Miko
Ishihara, Lonny	Nishimura, Tamako	Torigoe, Junko
Ino, Gloria	Okamoto-Subject, Barbara*	Uyehara, Julie (JJ)*
Ito, Dennis	Okamoto, Patsy	Warrecker, Marcia
Kitajima, Greg	Ravenscroft, Bruce	Wilson, Doug*
Matsumoto, Nick	Ravenscroft, Gayle	Wilson, Janine
Miles, Joanne (Jodi)*	Saito, Mary	Yamada, Mika
Miles, Jordan	Sautot, Christophe	Yamada, Terri
Miyazaki, Fukiko	Shibao, Yoko	Yoneda, Steve

Thank you! to all the members that continued contributing through the trials of 2024 and early 2025. **Welcome back!** to the members whose families are a part of BCSB history. **Welcome!** to the new members who came for the first time this year. Thank you for your energy and enthusiasm.

And, to all, members and nonmembers, thank you for your interest and engagement with BCSB so that we did not close. It’s all of you that are sustaining BCSB!!



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Membership Dues -- For 2025, the Cabinet agreed to suspend membership dues for the year. In 2026, 'we' will endeavor to calculate reasonable membership dues. According to our By-Laws, any dues or special assessments must be levied by consent of members.

Request for Board of Trustee Nominations. According to By-Laws, members are to vote for a Board of Trustees in December. We are behind schedule this year for enabling voting. With all of the newfound energy and enthusiasm, the Cabinet is requesting members to **self-nominate by Jan 16, 2026**. Please send your name to newsbcsb@gmail.com.

- Serving on the BoT is an additional way to deepen one's connection to the culture and community of the temple
- Serving is a way to have a voice in the direction and future of the temple
- Serving is a way to express gratitude to your ancestors, and to previous temple leaders, etc. who built the temple
- Serving is based on one's unique interests, gifts, qualities, expertise, etc. and that experience can and will be different for everyone.
- As a BOT, you can be fierce and spirited like the lion, or calmly eliciting other's senses of beauty and appreciation, or integrating elements to form an elegant whole.



Lion and bonsai from Jason Teraoka, @44tooth; flower arrangement photo from J.P. @shakushinkyō

*In appreciation and in gratitude,
Ted Muneno, Setsuko and Dennis Furuike, Doug Wilson, Bobbie Okamoto-Subject,
Jodi Miles, and JJ Uyehara*