



Buddhist Church of Santa Barbara

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



February 2025 *Geppo*

Services held 2nd Saturday of the month

INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER: Calendar, Memorial Service, Dharma Message, Treasurer's Report, Minister and Sangha donations, Church News – including Bishop Harada biography



Sat, 10:00 AM, February 8

Nehan-e 涅槃会 Nirvana Day

Shotsuki Hoyo Monthly Memorial Service

祥月法要

Sat, 10:30, Discussion on BCSB

Guest Speaker: Bishop Marvin Harada

On Nirvana Day, we commemorate the death of Shakyamuni, the historical Buddha, who attained final Nirvana more than 2,500 years ago. In his last sermon, the Buddha taught the impermanence of life and the eternity of the wisdom of enlightenment. He urged us to rely on our own efforts and the light revealed through his teachings. This day reminds us of his legacy and infinite compassion.

<https://jodoshinshu.org/holidays-in-jodo-shinshu>

Sat. 10:00 am March 8

Shotsuki Hoyo Memorial Service 祥月法要

Spring *O-higan* (Equinox) 春 お彼岸

Rev JP DeGuzman

Memorial Service will be held for:

MRS. TATSUO MIYATA	MR. KOZO TAKABATAKE
MRS. KONO KAMURI	MRS. KIMA WATANABE
MR. TSURUKICHI MATSUO	MR. TOTARO OHMURA
MR. KUMEJIRO OKUI	MR. MASASHI NAKASHIMO
MR. MATSUJU SHINOHARA	MR. THOMAS NUMAZU
MR. EIKICHI IWASAKI	MRS. HINA INOUE
MR. OTOKICHI KAWANO	MISS. KATSUYE YOKOMATSU
THE MATSUNAGA FAMILY	MRS. SACHIKO TAKEI
MRS. TSUYAKO MAYEDA	MRS. MITSUKO AOI
MRS. TANE KOMATSU	MR. KAZUNOBU NAKASHIMO
MRS. TOYO TORIGOE	MS. NAOKO ISHIHARA
MRS. SUZI OCHI	MR. TARO KAWAKAMI
MR. MITSUO SHIBAO	MS. SUZI OCHI



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DHARMA MESSAGE. What Jodo Shinshu Means to Me Rev JP deGuzman

Living a Jodo Shinshu life is paradoxical because it promises nothing and everything. Unlike other religions, Shinshu does not promote incantations to get what we want. So, as countless ministers have joked, reciting “Namo Amida Butsu!” before placing your bet in Las Vegas will not guarantee hefty winnings. Burning incense will not help you land promotions, and chanting will not ensure an A on that next exam. Approaching life through the lens of immediate gain, as in the examples above, is the ego in full force.

So how do Shin teachings promise everything? When we drop our ego, which may take a lifetime of practice, we bear witness to how the interconnections of all life *actively* support us. Moments of failure and crisis are endemic to the human condition—we cannot say “Namo Amida Butsu” to prevent them any more than we can recite the Nembutsu to win the lottery. But think about all of the figures along your challenging journeys who extended support, care, guidance, or affirmation. Perhaps it’s the nurse who provided succor for an ill loved one, the teacher who helped you master a concept, or a supervisor who uplifted your hard work. We stay afloat because of figures like them *and* all of the individuals who shaped them *and* all of the individuals who shaped them! Recognizing how a single gesture is the result of an infinite and often invisible web of life that supports me is a powerful experience and, in my understanding, the heart of Namo Amida Butsu.

Treasurer’s Report:

Sets Furuike

January Total Donations:

\$2532

The temple gratefully acknowledges the following donations (Orei 御礼)

<u>Memorial Service</u>	<u>Special</u>	<u>Ho-Onko</u>
Mary Saito (George Saito)	Monday Qigong	M/M Dennis
M/M Dennis Furuike (Y. Aoi, T. King, T. Tsunoda)	Dennis Ito	Furuike
M/M Ted Muneno (Daizo Muneno)	In Donation Box	M/M Ted Muneno
		Jodi Miles



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Tamako Nishimura (George Nishimura) M/M Donald Muneno (Daizo Muneno) Mary Hide (J. Kanetomo) Lonny Ishihara (T. Ishihara King, Y. Aoi)	<u>Bodhi Day</u> Mary Saito	Junko Torigoe David Tabata Mary Saito Mary Hide Tamako Nishimura
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Acknowledgement and Appreciation

For Jan Dharma (Service)	Rev JP DeGuzman
Greeters	Dennis Furuike and Doug Wilson
Flowers Symbol of Buddha's compassion, beauty, and impermanence	Jodi Miles
Osonae Fruit offering at the altar	Sets and Dennis Furuike
Obuppan White rice symbolizing interdependence	JJ Uyehara and Doug Wilson
Geppo and Program Newsletter-community	Jodi Miles, JJ Uyehara, Editors-in-chief: Sets Furuike, Dennis Furuike
Temple Grounds Maintenance	Dennis Ito, Dennis Furuike
Temple Cleaning & Maintenance	Dennis & Setsuko Furuike
Social Hall Setup, Maintenance, and Cleanup	Ted Muneno
Communication Social Media	Christophe Sautot
Potluck	Sangha (Community)

Church News

Thanks! To JP DeGuzman's first service! All present were impressed by his friendly warmth and energetic message. He mentioned his postdoc work with UC Santa Barbara, so he has ties with Santa Barbara as well as with Southern California in general. He also brought his mom to the service – hope we passed muster with her!



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Wildfires in SoCal – Rev De Guzman noted that during the Eaton Fire, neighbors jumped the fence and put out embers at the Pasadena Buddhist Church. Namō Amida Butsu!

New Guest Speaker BCSB is honored to have **Bishop Harada** giving our service on Feb 8. This shows major support from the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA), and Bishop Harada would also like to discuss paths forward for us with potentially attracting more members. Rev Harada has been bishop since April 2020. Previously, he served as minister at Orange County Buddhist Church.

BACKGROUND (from <https://www.lionsroar.com/meet-a-teacher-rev-marvin-harada/>). Marvin Harada grew up on a farm in eastern Oregon. The farm is where he had his worst job – weeding onions which is hard labor and time-consuming work! He did not seriously engage with Shin Buddhism until he went to college where he began to learn the concepts and meaning of Buddhism. And, he is very happy when he sees the dharma ‘resonate’ with others. His motto and way of life – “Ichigo-Ichie”, interpreted as “Live every day like it is the first and last day of your life”. (a literal translation **Ichigo ichie** (一期一会, which means “one time, one meeting”))

Beautiful and Meaningful on BCSB Grounds



A seedling growing out of rocks



Bell for Kansho - calling us in