



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



July 2025 *Geppo*

Calendar - Services are held the second Saturday of the month at 10:00 am



Figure 1 June Moon

Sat. July 12 10:00 am, Rev JP deGuzman

Shotsuki Hoyo Memorial Service 祥月法要
 and

Hatsubon 初盆. First Obon following the death of a family member

Lunch and Learn, 11:15 am, Buddhism and the show, "Schitt's Creek"

Sat. July 19 12:00 – 4 pm

Obon お盆. Gathering of Joy Every summer, BCA temples celebrate a uniquely American version of the Japanese Obon Festival. ...with traditional folk dancing known as Bon Odori, ...All attendees are encouraged to "just dance" as we remember those who have passed on and enjoy the present moment together.

<https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/obon-gathering-of-joy>

Sat. Aug. 9 10:00 am, Rev JP deGuzman

Shotsuki Hoyo Memorial Service 祥月法要



Figure 2 Rev JP deGuzman

FROM JUNE Service

Have you ever recited the Loving-Kindness Meditation?

First and last stanza below:

Loving Kindness Meditation

May all beings be happy and well,
 May no harm or difficulties come to them,
 May they live in peace and harmony.

And, stanzas note subjects of "I, my family, my teachers, my friends, strangers, and enemies".



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July Shotsuki Hoyo Memorial Service will be held for:

MR. KATSUYUKI ASAKURA	MRS. TAJI OTSUKA
MR. SHIGEHARU KOJIMA	MRS. MIKAYE TOMITA
MR. KOKEI SUZUKI	MRS. SHIGEO INOUYE
MR. YASUTARO DOKYU	MRS. TAKEJU KURODA
MR. TOKUTARO FUKUARI	MISS MIKAO KURODA
MR. EISAKU OKUMURA	MISS SATSUKO KURODA
MR. TOKUSABURO YAMANAKA	MR. GLEN KAWAMOTO
MR. JUICHI KATAYAMA	MRS. YAI KOMOTO
MR. TAKEO NISHIHARA	MR. TATSUZO KOMATSU
MR. KICHIZO TABATA	MR. KUMAKICHI KAWASHIMA
MR. TOKUMA TABATA	MR. KAN OKADA
MR. HIROSHI SHIBAO	MRS. KITO KOMATSU
MR. MAGOICHI TAKEDA	MRS. MIEKO SATO
MRS. MATSUYE FUJITSUBO	MR. TADAO KANETOMO
MS. TOMOKO YAMADA	MRS. GRACE KANETOMO
MRS. MASUYE YAMADA	

Acknowledgement and Appreciation

Treasurer's Report of June Donations: **Sets Furuike \$1,965**

The temple gratefully acknowledges the following donors:

Memorial Service

M/M Dennis Furuike (Toshiyuki Baba)
M/M Ted (Akira Yamada, Joe Watanabe)
Dave Tabata (Kuma Tabata)
Dave Tabata (Joe Tabata)
Junko Torigoe (Mine Kurozumi)
Joyce Shelley (Kito & Tatsuzo Komatsu)
Fujii Family (Robert Fujii)
Wilson-Uyehara

Special

Monday Qigong class
(May)
Dennis Ito (June)
Rennyō Shonin
M/M Dennis Furuike
Marcia Warrecker
Gotan-e
Dave Tabata
Parents Day
Mary Saito



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Dharma Message

Going and Returning

Summertime brings moments of relaxation and festivity, particularly thanks to **Obon**. Also known as **Kangi-e**, or “gathering of joy,” Obon is a time in which we gratefully remember all of our ancestors. Clad in colorful **yukata** or **happi** coats, we join the **odori** circle, dancing with joy knowing that our ancestors have crossed to the Other Shore of enlightenment. I encourage all of you to come to our **Obon** celebration on **July 19** at the church to revive a treasured tradition that we have not had since before the Pandemic!

As we reflect upon our deceased loved ones, though, I am reminded of one of my favorite teachings in Jodo Shinshu: **Oso eko, genso eko**.

Oso eko refers to the aspect of going forth at death in this world to the Pure Land. This is not a Judeo-Christian heaven, but an expression of enlightened Buddhahood, of the absolute wisdom of reality untainted by individual blind passions and dualistic thinking, and of the vastness of all life as one.

However, as Rev. John Paraskevopoulos noted in *Muryoko: Journal of Shin Buddhism*, “Shinran does not view Nirvana as a blissfully self-absorbed state of repose where one remains oblivious to the harrowing plight of those left behind.”

Rather, “When one attains this enlightenment,” wrote Shinran in *Yuishin Sho Moni*, “one reaches the great compassion by returning to the ocean of *samsara* in order to save all sentient beings.” This return to the world of spiritual suffering also known as *samsara*, is what we call **genso eko**.

Does this mean our ancestors come back as ghosts? I hope not!

Rather, we can think about all of the ways in which the memories, legacies, experiences, and karmic energy of our deceased loved ones nourish us in this world, calling us – as a manifestation of Great Compassion – towards spiritual liberation from the blind passions of greed, anger, and delusion that shackle us.

If we think about it, this cycle of life is all around us. As Rev. Kenryu Tsuji, the former bishop of the Buddhist Churches of America reflected in *The Heart of the Buddha-Dharma*:

“The waters of the river all flow on to reach the wide expanse of the sea. In time the water evaporates and becomes clouds and when cumulus clouds are saturated with moisture it is released to return to the surface of the Earth as rain. The raindrops that fall from the skies sustain the life of all living things from the tallest redwoods to the tiniest insects that crawl on the ground.”

The dharma teaches us that existence is marked by, among others, the inevitability of change. So, although we may feel great sadness that our loved ones aren’t as accessible in the physical form to which we are most accustomed, I hope we can take comfort knowing that our relationships with them are *not* over but have just changed forms.

To return to Tsuji Sensei:

“Just as the waters of the river return from the depth of the ocean to quench the thirsty surface of our planet, so does human energy, now purified in Buddhahood, return to this world to continue its perpetual work of compassion.”



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Church News Obon Festival Restart! July 19, 2025, from 12 noon to 4 pm! <https://www.buddhistchurchofsantabarbara.org/obon/>



Figure 3 From BCSB photo archives as printed in Rafu Shimpo.

Last year, although other temples were starting obon festivals, we were struggling with the issue on whether we should close the church.

This year, with renewed energy from our longstanding and new members and volunteers, we are hosting an obon! Simpler and shorter, but a restarter obon!

blessed the date of July 19 for our first obon since 2019! **Jodi Miles** provided the initial drive and gathered the elements together, asking for volunteers; **Sets Furuike** provided the contacts, and Jodi asked **Roberta Cook** (and sisters) to come back and teach dancing! Hurray! To **Roberta Cook, Melanie Fujii, and Doreen Sasaki** for the dance practices! We will have vendors of Asian/Japanese craftware from the **Muneno** family, **Harumi Nishimura**, and **Natsuki Smith**. We also will have tables of items from BCSB and other donated items. The kitchen will be selling snacks and water (**Bobbi and Jodi organizers!**)

Buddhist Church of America

And, thanks to **Ted Muneno**, BCSB will also be giving out water for thirsty dancers and attendees. Check the weather forecast!

Togen Daiko from the Oxnard Buddhist Temple will be performing—Exciting, energetic performance!

MEMORY Board – Please feel free to bring photos to put up on our Memory board. The board is located in the hallway heading towards the conference room.

KIMONO/Happi On Loan – If you would like to wear traditional clothes or happi, Roberta and Melanie will assist in conference room, from noon – 12:30 pm.

DRAFT Schedule

12:00 Inside temple (**Hondo**) – Opening

Oshoko and offering incense to ancestors

12:45 Welcome from Rev JP deGuzman

1:00 - 1:30 Togen Daiko drum performance

1:30 - 2:15 Bon odori

2:30 - 3:00 Togen Daiko drum performance



Figure 4 Roberta Cook and Melanie Fujii (in back) at first dance practice.





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3:00 - 3:45 Bon odori

4:00 Ending gassho