



Buddhist Church of Santa Barbara

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



March 2025 *Geppo*

CALENDAR

March 8 Sat. 10:00 am Rev JP DeGuzman

Shotsuki Hoyo Memorial Service 祥月法要
Shunki higan-e (Spring Equinox Service) 春季彼岸会

Shunki means spring season; *higan* means ‘the other shore’; ‘e’ is a Japanese particle meaning

‘heading towards’ with the emphasis on the destination;

Discussion with lunch: “Perception and Perspective in Buddhism” Rev. JP deGuzman will show short clips from movies like Star Wars and Flashdance, and lead a discussion on Buddhist philosophy seen in the film clips! Interesting!

April Service Sat. 10:00 am April 12

Shotsuki Hoyo Memorial Service 祥月法要

Hanamatsuri 花祭、灌仏会, Celebration of Buddha’s Birth

Memorial Service will be held for:

MR. ASAZO HARASHIMA	MRS. KIKU SAKAMOTO
MR. KENOSUKE NAKANO	MRS. KOTOYE OMURA
MR. CHUZO SAITO	MR. KEITH KAZUO HARUTA
MR. HIDEO KOMATSU	MRS. CHIMI KIMURA
MR. YASUJI AOKI	MR. SUYEKI HATTANDA
MRS. YUI KITAHARA	MRS. MASAKO HISATOSHI
MRS. SHIMA FUKUMURA	MRS. SUYE ARAKI
MR. MINESABURO MORIHISA	MR. MASAO SANO
MR. YAICHIRO EMURA	MR. MASAO NAKAMURA
MRS. UME KAI	MRS. NAMI IKEURA
MRS. YUKU OKADA	MRS. YASU MORIHISA
MR. MAMORU HIDE	MRS. MARY KAZUE OKINO
MR. SAICHI MORI	MRS. MIYE NUMAZU
MR. KANEICHI OTSUKA	MR. KEN KUROZUMI
MR. SHOJI YAMADA	



Contact us: (805)962-3633 or Mail@buddhistchurchsantabarbara.org

Website: <https://www.buddhistchurchofsantabarbara.org/>

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Bishop Marvin Harada's message from February was heartwarming. He welcomed new attendees, noting that it takes courage to attend a service in a new place. And, as we went through the various parts of the service, he explained the meaning and noted it was easy to be distracted and hard to be mindful, listening and keeping mind and heart in the moment. He told funny stories about himself -- As he went through the training for becoming a minister, depending on whether there was anyone else in the minister classes, he was second out of two students, and valedictorian when he was the only student! And, he told stories from his life that illustrated "how to listen with the heart".

1. You should listen as if you are listening for the very first time.
2. You should listen as if the message is for you alone.
3. You should listen as if this is the last time you will ever do so in life.

Rev Harada emphasized treasuring moments with others and yourself, and reflecting on the messages, not just from service but from every encounter.



Figure 1 Doug Wilson, Dennis and Sets Furuike, and Bishop Marvin Harada

Treasurer's Report:

Sets Furuike

February Donations:

\$3240

The temple gratefully acknowledges the following donations (Orei 御礼)

Memorial Service	Special	Nirvana Day
M/M Dennis Furuike (Naoko Ishihara) Terri Yamada (H. Yamada, T. Numazu) Kathy Nishimoto (H. Yamada, T. Numazu) Joyce Shelley (Mitsuko Aoi) Lonny Ishihara (Naoko Ishihara)	Monday Qigong Dennis Ito Sheila Enelow	M/M Dennis Furuike JJ Uyehara, Doug Wilson Ellen Clark M/M Ted Muneno Mika Yamada



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M/M Tadashi Kamei (Masashi & Kazunobu Nakashimo, Masao Nakamura)		Mary Saito
Ho-Onko Tamako Nishimura (\$40)		

Many Thanks! Have you checked out our webpage lately? To **Christophe Sautot** for the reformatting of our webpage and new Facebook posts!

Kudos! To **Jodi Miles** for new rosemary plant to replace the dried out juniper near the walkway.

And, thanks for the new outreach items by **Rev. JP deGuzman** for posts in The Independent and a flyer for the March service.

Did you notice? Kiosk in front highlights our next service; Thanks to **Jodi Miles** and **Ted Muneno** for posting Rev. JP deGuzman’s flyer there!

Church News

The **Board of Trustees** are voting on a Cabinet of 7 Members, (instead of just 4 Officers). With 7 engaged leading members, BCSB could expand its activities and outreach in religious matters, education, and social help.

Hanamatsuri, April 12 Service – Jodi Miles and Junko Torigoe are promising a beautiful display of flowers for the service. If you’d like to help, please email the church inbox (in header). **ALSO, Christophe Sautot** has offered to stream the service!! Check our webpage and facebook in April for more information.

SAVE THE DATE! OBON is coming back to BCSB! The Acting Board have committed to an obon festival on **July 19**. It could be a very small-scale with just temple members dancing inside the social hall, or it could be a larger scale festival similar to the festivals hosted prior to the pandemic. It all depends on you, your ideas, your enthusiasm, and a little bit of elbow grease! Please contact Jodi Miles for volunteering, or email to the mail@buddhistchurchofsantabarbara.org or leave message on the Church phone.





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A Pandemic Turkey Sandwich

Rev. JP deGuzman

Can you believe that it's been five years since the global Coronavirus pandemic began? I can't! Since we observe *O-higan* – a time to reflect on the world of enlightenment – and it's been a half-of-a-decade since the world was turned upside down, I'd like to share some lessons from those uncertain days of March 2020.

On March 11, 2020, my school transitioned to online teaching and learning. Teachers had one day to overhaul our lesson, learn how to use a new-fangled platform called Zoom, and assuage the concerns of our students. Most of us continued to teach from our classrooms, but just a few days later the situation became even less tenable. The shelter in place order was coming. Our dining hall closed, and only essential staff were requested to stay on campus. On my last day at school, I started at around 6:30 AM rushing to record as many lectures online as I could since I had very bad Wi-Fi at home. It's a long and onerous process. I was doing this all while teaching my classes, worrying about the creeping panic buying, and attending Zoom faculty meetings.

Before I knew it the clock struck 3:00PM and I literally hadn't eaten a single bite of food all day.

To my pleasant surprise one of my colleagues who is also one of my closest friends swooped into my classroom and offered me half of a sandwich. Little did I know that she observed that I hadn't eaten anything and realized she had that half of

a sandwich left over from her previous day's lunch. In that fleeting moment I didn't have to worry about sheltering in place or long lines at the grocery store or how I would react to a global pandemic whose scale society hasn't witnessed in generations. I was so struck not only at the kind gesture, but truly at how all life had to come together to provide me nutritional and emotional sustenance.

Objectively what sat before me was a turkey sandwich on sourdough with one slice of tomato and a few leaves of spinach. But there was something about that moment where I could be in awe of every interwoven thread of life that brought that sandwich to me: whether it was the water and sunlight needed to nourish the vegetables or the farmworkers who harvested them, the turkey who gave their life, the people who prepared the sandwich, and my friend who, through infinite causes and conditions, was born in Colombia, raised in Philly, came to be my classmate in a doctoral program at UCLA, and eventually became my coworker.

We reside in a state of being known as *shigan* – one of blind passions where we are *bonbu* or foolish beings. Yet, *higan* is a realm of enlightenment, and that realm is calling out to us every moment of our lives. It called out to me, in the form of that day-old-sandwich and the realization that endless life had to come together to bring it to my lips. Though I know moments of anxiety or fear will continue to arise, I'll think about that turkey sandwich and find comfort reminding myself that moments to awaken to *higan* are all around me.