



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



**May 2025 Geppo**

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**CALENDAR**

**MAY SERVICE May 10, 2025, 10:00 AM**, Rev JP deGuzman  
*Shotsuki Hoyo Memorial Service*,  
 祥月法要 and

*Gotan-e Shinran Shonin Birthday Service* 宗祖親鸞聖人降誕会

No Lunch and Learn afterwards, but sangha gathering and snack. All are welcome.

**May Dharma Service & Founder's Day (Gotan-e)**

SATURDAY MAY 10, 2025 @ 10AM  
 All are welcome!

Join us for a moment of reflection, a dharma message, and the chanting of traditional Buddhist texts as we celebrate birth the founder of our school, Venerable Shinran.

**COMING: SAVE-The-Date June Service: June 14, 2025, 10:00 AM**

**SAVE-The-Date OBON on July 19** (Practices to be held in June and July on weekends, virtual and in-person)

**Shotsuki Hoyo May Memorial Service will be held for:**

|                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| MRS. AYAKO HAYASHIDA  | THE TAMURA FAMILY     |
| MR. CHIYOJI TAKEUCHI  | MR. SAKUHEI YOKOMATSU |
| MR. SHOGORO SHINOHARA | MR. KURAICHI TAMURA   |
| MRS. SHIZU UYESAKA    | MR. KISABURO YOSHIDA  |
| MRS SHIZUYE HIDE      | MRS. MISAO YOSHIDA    |
| MR. SHIGEKICHI ARIMA  | MR. KENJI MORIHISA    |
| MRS. ITOYO TAKEDA     | MR. HIROSE NAKASHIMO  |
| MRS. MIKAYE TOMITA    | MR. TOKIO YONEDA      |
| MRS SHIN OTSUKA       | MRS. YASUYE YAMADA    |
| MR. FUJISUKE HAMADA   | MRS. BEVERLY WATANABE |
| MRS. TOMIYE MUNENO    | MRS. MASUNO TAMURA    |
| MR. MOTONORI INO      |                       |



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

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

<https://www.facebook.com/SBBuddhist/>

### Treasurer's Report: Sets Furuike April Donations: \$2,675

The temple gratefully acknowledges the following donations (**Orei 御礼**)

| <b>Memorial Service</b>   | <b>Special</b>  | <b>Hanamatsuri</b>   |
|---|---|--|
| M/M Dennis Furuike (F. Tsunoda, M. Tabata))<br>Susie Okada Nakata (Y. Okada)<br>Susie Okada Nakata (A Okada)<br>Lonny Ishihara (Otsuka Family)<br>Fujii Family (Dorothy Fujii)<br>Dave Tabata (Miyo Tabata)<br>Junko Torigoe (Ichiro Torigoe) | Monday Qigong<br>Dennis Ito<br>Rev. Henry Adams<br>and family | M/M Dennis Furuike<br>JJ Uyehara, Doug Wilson<br>Junko Torigoe<br>Dave Tabata<br>M/M Ted Muneno<br>Fujii Family<br>Lonny Ishihara<br>Mary Saito<br>Tomoye Tokumaru |
| <b>Obon</b><br>Susie Okada Nakata   |   |  |

### April Service was Hanamatsuri, Flower Festival, celebrating the birth of the Buddha

Thanks! To all who made *Hanamatsuri* this past April a beautiful, shared technological advance!



Hanamatsuri is taken from the legend of the historical Buddha's birth when his mother, Queen Maya, stopped in Lumbini's Garden on the way back to her hometown to give birth. It is said that all the flowers bloomed, and it rained sweet tea from the sky. Thus, we decorate the



*hanamido*, or small altar with the statue of the baby Buddha with flowers and pour sweet tea over the statue during the service.

Junko Torigoe, Jodi Miles, and Miko Tollefson came on Friday to arrange the flowers in the **hanamido** (花御堂), or "flower hall".

Thanks! To TJs for the donation of multiple days' of flowers



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Thanks! To Christophe Sautot who set up the camera so that our service was streamed on Facebook. Thanks to the 25 people who shared in virtual attendance of our service.

On Saturday, the service started with Rev JP ringing the bell in a pattern. And, as he stated, the *sangha* was to concentrate on this moment and calming the mind.

**Thanks to Rev JP for his *Dharma* message on how so many of our family ancestors brought us to this point with all of us (*sangha*) to be a community.**



Rev JP deGuzman showed the sangha how to bathe the statue of Buddha with the *ama-cha*.



The *Sangha* goes up to celebrate the Buddha's birthday. Emiliano is at the hanamido.



Jodi Miles and Junko Torigoe with hanamido



Doug Wilson, JJ Uyehara, Junko Torigoe, Sets Furuike (behind the incense burner), Rev JP, Jodi Miles, and Pablo Suarez-Serrato after the service.



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## DHARMA MESSAGE – Rev JP deGuzman

### May 2025 – “Can I Get a Wakeup Call?”

One late night a harried traveler asked the front desk attendant at her hotel, “Could I get a wakeup call?” Instead of asking “what time” or “what room are you in?” the attendant said: “My eyes being hindered by blind passions, I cannot perceive the light that grasps me; Yet the great compassion without tiring, Illumines me always”\*

“What does that mean?!” asked the confused traveler. The attendant said, “even though we are foolish beings, an infinite web of wisdom and compassion is always supporting everyone, tirelessly!”

“Wow! Now *that’s* a wakeup call!” The traveler looked at the staff member’s nametag and joyfully said, “Thank you, Shinran!”

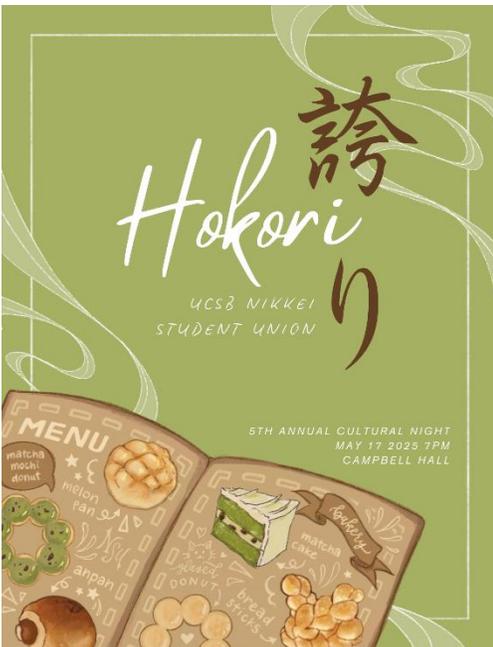
To the best of my knowledge, **Shinran Shonin**, the founder of our school of Buddhism, never actually worked in a hotel. But, I’d like to think the timeless wisdom he shared has been a wakeup call for me and countless others.

We live our lives thinking that we can do it on our own: from getting that promotion to chasing our own spiritual peace. But, in reality, that’s our deluded ego at work. Rather, limitless light and life is guiding us always! In uttering *Namo Amida Butsu*, we’re not saying “please give me X” but “thank you for all that I’ve received.” When we awaken to the work of infinite wisdom and compassion grasping us, we can begin to live a more meaningful life.

As we remember *Shinran* this month in one of the most sacred of Shin Buddhist holidays, his memorial, or *Gotan-e*, let’s reflect on the wakeup call he clarified for all of us.

\* “Hymns of the Pure Land Masters,” No. **95, *Collected Works of Shinran*, pg. 385**

## Church News



**Rev Henry Adams** and his family stopped by during the children’s spring break. All enjoyed the lunch and catching up. It was Rev Adams who restarted the obon festival when he was the minister for **Oxnard Buddhist Temple** and **Buddhist Church in Santa Barbara**.

The **UCSB Nikkei Student Union** is hosting a Japanese Cultural night, May 17, 7 PM at Campbell Hall, UCSB.

Thankfully, members of the Nikkei Student Union will also assist in planning our **Obon** on July 19.