



Buddhist Church of Santa Barbara

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In this Issue: Calendar; Memorial Service; Treasurer's Report; Puzzle; Happy Birthday, BCA!; Church News with Bishop Harada Priorities, Website thanks to Christophe Sautot, and Volunteer Requests

Calendar Services are held on the second Saturday of each month.

September 13 10:00 am

Shotsuki Hoyo, Monthly Memorial Service Memorial 祥月法要、and

Autumn Equinox *Ohigan* Service 秋季お彼岸法要

Ohigan "The Other Shore of

Enlightenment" For the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist, this observance celebrates the equinox because of the perfect balance of night and day with the sun rising in the east and setting in the west, the direction of Amida Buddha's Pure Land.



A full disk view of the earth from GOES 16, GOES East on the vernal Equinox.
NOAA/NASA

Lunch and Learn 11:15 am Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

Come join us for lunch while Rev JP weaves Buddhism wisdom into pop culture

October 11 10:00 AM. Eshinni-ko/Kakushinni-ko Memorial Service and Shotsuki Hoyo, Monthly Memorial Service

September Memorial Service will be held for:

MR. SAIZO MORIKAWA	MRS. MIYO INOUE
MRS. TAMAKO AKAHOSHI	MRS. HARU KONO
MR. YAHEI TANAMACHI	MR. HIROSHI OKADA
MR. TATSUTADA IZAWA	MRS. AMY HIRATA
MISS MASAMI FUJII	MRS. AIKO FUKAMAKI
MR. IWATARO SHIOSAKI	MRS. AYAKO TANAKA
MR. TOKIJIRO YONEDA	MR. RICHARD TOKUMARU
MR. HIDEKICHI OKINO	MR. MASAHARU SHIMODA
MRS. SASANO KANETOMO	MRS. YAYOI EEJIMA
MRS. MATSUNO SUMIDA	MR. JACK OCHI
MR. KIYOSHI SUMIDA	MRS. EMI ASATO UYEHARA
MR. KYUHEI AOI	

We gratefully acknowledge and appreciate all contributions to the Temple during August, 2025

Treasurer’s Report:

Setsuko Furuike and Cabinet

Thank you!! For the year from Aug 2024 to July 2025, total donations were \$32,871.35, including Obon donations. BCA also supplied a one-time grant of \$6,000 for outreach and minister Orei. Our total incoming funds was **\$38,871**.

Our expenses including property tax, insurance, utilities, BCA supplement, Minister Orei, travel, supplies, and donations to other causes were about **\$41,504**.

Even with the generous grant from BCA, our expenditures were about \$2600 more than our incoming funds. Not to worry, BCSB also has reserves set aside, but it is a point for the 2026 Cabinet and Board of Trustees to discuss.

Total Donations for August, 2025: **\$1,865**
 For comparison, total donations for August, 2024: **\$1,665**

<u>Memorial Service</u>	<u>Special</u>	<u>Autumn Ohigan</u>
M/M Dennis Furuike (Hideo Okino) Mary Hide (Makio Hide) Lonny Ishihara (Mike Hide, Harry H. Okino)	Monday Qigong Dennis Ito Anonymous Jodi Miles Monica Zimmerman JJ Uyehara and Doug Wilson	Tamako Nishimura
	Osaisen Bako* Thank you to donors who used our wonderfully crafted Osaisen Bako. 	

Puzzle Question -- What is missing?

Below are pictures of our onaijin (altar) before a service and during our Shin Buddhist service. To prepare for service, what elements need to be added? Answers on p. 4.



September 2025 – Happy Birthday, BCA! Rev JP deGuzman

Our Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) is turning 126 years old this month! The BCA is comprised of around sixty temples and fellowships across the continental U.S. and assistance to Mexico City Hongwanji. Its origins lie in 1899 when our mother temple in Kyoto dispatched two priests to minister to devout Shin Buddhists who yearned to hear the dharma. Within years scores of temples had grown.

Because of those early laity and clergy, people of **all** backgrounds now have places to find community and awoken to spiritual peace, and the BCA has become one of the most respected Buddhist institutions in the English-speaking world.

Even though we may feel our strongest ties to BCSB, did you know how interconnected we are with the BCA? Through our membership dues we financially support to BCA which supports us in a variety of ways:

Clergy: The BCA assigns ministers to its temples, and the generous support of our members means that BCSB has been able to hold monthly services and experiment with educational programs such as our “Lunch and Learn.” If it weren’t for this symbiotic relationship, I wouldn’t have the great honor of being a part of BCSB! Moreover, our new supervising minister, Rev. Blake Honda will soon arrive at Oxnard Buddhist Temple, and his close proximity portends exciting opportunities for growth for BCSB. (If you’re curious, Honda Sensei was the team head for our BCA cohort when we went to Kyoto for ordination, and he led with great kindness and compassion!)

- **Education:** That generosity contributes to educating ministers at our Institute of Buddhist Studies. BCA oversees or partners with programs such as the Jodo Shinshu Correspondence Course, the Center for Buddhist Education, and minister’s assistant training, which are open to all who want to further their understanding of Buddhism.

- **The Jodo Shinshu Center (JSC):** The BCA manages the Berkeley JSC, home to activities for BCA members including leadership, yoga, and temple retreats, and the Red-Carpet Weekend.
- **Connection:** One of the most intangible but special benefits of the interdependence between BCA and individual temples are the wonderful connections that can be made through gatherings at the district level, for the Buddhist Women's Association (BWA), for Dharma School teachers, and more.

For these reasons I'm thankful to not only be a part of BCSB but also the BCA. When those original overseas ministers landed on the shores of San Francisco in 1899 little did they know just how much the dharma seeds would blossom, spreading the fragrance of limitless wisdom and compassion across time and space. *To learn more about these programs and for a brief history of the BCA, please visit www.buddhistchurchofsantabarbara.org to view the full version of this article.*

Church News

 Jon Kawamoto · Aug 17 · 2 min read

Bishop Is Focused on Reversing BCA's Membership Fall

Other Priorities Include Ongoing Shortage of Ministers, Reaching Dharma Forward's Goal

The BCA Office of the Bishop is prioritizing its membership decline and initiating several programs aimed at growing churches, temples and Sanghas "so that there is another 125 years of BCA history and Jodo Shinshu in this country."

In his Bishop's report at the National Board Meeting on June 7, Bishop Rev. Marvin Harada detailed the ways the office is taking the lead on efforts to increase membership.

"Effective websites, Buddhist education programs, marketing our BCA and local temples better and initiating meditation or other new programs are all ways to begin to grow our temples," he stated.

And Rev. Harada emphasized: "The main point is for each of our local churches and temples to begin to initiate something that might add to the growth of their membership."



BCA provides the leadership and vision for continuation of Shin Buddhism. See excerpt of Bishop Harada's message (left)– About effective websites --Thanks!

To Christophe Sautot for improving our website to include BCA and Shin Buddhism messages:

[\(https://www.buddhistchurchofsantabarbara.org/learn/\)](https://www.buddhistchurchofsantabarbara.org/learn/)

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

and for starting an Instagram account with 62 followers!

Christophe is aligned with BCA; He noted

in July after Obon – "...start to pass the batons as we recruit the younger generation to carry on the temple for the next 100 years, and to take a long-term vision to how this can be achieved."

VOLUNTEER Requests – If interested, please email at mail@buddhistchurchofsantabarbara.org

- **16th Annual Asian American Neighborhood Festival on Sunday, October 12, 2025, from 11 AM – 3 PM** at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park. JJ and Doug Wilson will be there, but requesting others to help with setup and trade off shifts.
- Interest in growing our social media presence? Please email at mail@buddhistchurchofsantabarbara.org with your ideas or interest!
- **JOIN our Board of Trustees!** According to BCSB By-Laws, members need to vote in November for a 20-member Board of Trustees for a one-year term. The principal role of the BOT is to vote in the Officers/Cabinet members to move us into the future. Especially important, longtime treasurer, Sets Furuike, wants to mentor the next Treasurer for BCSB.

Puzzle: Candles lit signifying light dispelling ignorance; flowers symbolizing compassion and representing impermanence; rice ball offering before Amida Buddha, Shinran Shonin, and Rennin Shonin; fruit offering; evergreen beside the Amida Buddha; and incense scent enveloping all.