



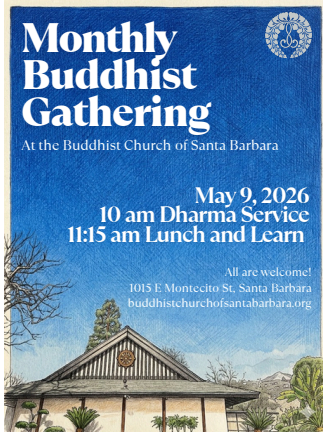
Buddhist Church of Santa Barbara
 1015 E. MONTECITO STREET
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May 2026 Geppo

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CALENDAR



May 9, 2026, Rev. JP deGuzman

10:00 AM Dharma Service

Shotsuki Hoyo Memorial Service, 祥月法要 and

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

Join us for a moment of reflection, a dharma message, and the chanting of traditional Buddhist texts. Our *Shotsuki-hoyo* is a service to honor all ancestors who have passed away in the month of May. We will also observe *Gotan-e*, the birth of Venerable Shinran, the founder of Shin Buddhism.

11:15 AM, Lunch and Learn, "Love is Blind", Join us to discover what the hit Netflix reality show tells us about the Buddhist concept of "*bonno*" (blind passions)

COMING: Save-The-Date June Dharma Service: **June 13, 2026, 10:00 AM**

***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 email: newsBCSB@gmail.com

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

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

Treasurer's Report: Sets Furuike April Donations: \$ 3,978

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

<u>Memorial Service</u>	<u>Hanamatsuri</u>
M/M Dennis Furuike (Dorothy Fujii, Miyo Tabata Florence Tsunoda) M/M Jeffrey Tamura (Grace Tamura) Fujii Family (Dorothy Fujii) Susie Okada Nakata (Ayako Okada, Yuku Okada) Lonny Ishihara (Otsuka Family, Miyo Tabata, Dorothy Fujii, Ichiro Torigoe)	M/M Dennis Furuike Hazel Ando Judy Mayeda M/M Ted Muneno Rev. JP deGuzman JJ Uyehara and Doug Wilson Susie Okada Nakata Tamako Nishimura Junko Torigoe Mary Saito
<u>Membership</u> Tomoye Tokumaru Ted & Naomi Muneno Patsy Okamoto Jeanne Gray Linda Sasaki	<u>Special</u> Monday Qigong Dennis Ito Nicole Anderson

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

Thanks! to the 'Hanamido Crew' led by **Jodi Miles** who decorated the Hanamido with flowers donated by **Trader Joes**. The Hanamido Crew was **Junko Torigoe, Nancy Husband, Mara Tucker, and JJ Uyehara**.





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Figure 1 Thanks to all who joined us for Hanamatsuri and April Shotsuki Hoyo. Great community (Sangha)

April Dharma Message – Rev. JP told the story of the Buddha born as Prince Siddhartha Gautama 2600 years ago in Nepal. The seer Asita foresaw a bright future for the coming Prince – as either the greatest warrior king OR the greatest spiritual leader. Thus, the prince was brought up with ease, given luxuries, but he felt that something was ‘off’. He snuck out of the palace and encountered old age, sick people and a funeral pyre. But, then he saw a wandering monk who was tranquil and in harmony. Reflecting on the suffering that he’d seen (under a Bodhi tree), he realized many truths and attained Enlightenment becoming Sakyamuni Buddha. The first truth was that life has suffering. Rev. JP explained suffering can just be ‘off-kilter’ or because humans just have a perspective of wanting something. Buddha said the cessation of suffering is by the Noble 8-fold Path. However, the founder of Jodo Shinshu, Shinran Shonin, noted that ordinary people can’t do the 8-fold path. And, Shinran’s enlightenment was to “open our eyes to infinite light” by stating the Nembutsu “*namo amida butsu* – “I trust myself to, or “I bow my head before wisdom and compassion that is shining on all”.

May 2026– Supper with Shinran

This month we observe *Gotan-e*, the birthday of Venerable Shinran (1173-1263), the father of our school of Buddhism. Since everyone deserves a nice meal on their birthday, I recently reflected on what I would serve Shinran if he were to magically appear.

*Shojin ryouri**, or exquisite Japanese Buddhist vegetarian cuisine? Perhaps a luxurious steak from Lucky’s in Montecito? Or my go-to comfort food, the Khao soi (egg noodle soup) from Empty Bowl in SB Public Market?

But then it hit me: I want to invite Shinran to one of our post-service potlucks at the temple! Of course, I want Shinran to sample the tenderly crafted meals that our *sangha* members provide, but more significantly, the multiethnic, multigenerational cuisines that represent our backgrounds show how the *Nembutsu* teachings that Shinran clarified transcend time and space. It’s no accident that at my first potluck as BCSB’s minister’s assistant I enjoyed inari zushi, enchiladas, macaroni salad, and more.

Shinran’s teachings have resonated with people from across the globe due to his radical humility. He wasn’t the kind of religious leader to exhort his followers to listen to him because he was the most rigorous scholar or had mastered some esoteric rituals.

Just the opposite: he actually descended from the literal heights of the Buddhist hierarchy atop Mount

Hiei near Kyoto to live among the people, realizing his self-power search for enlightenment was futile. He immersed himself in the teachings of the great Pure Land masters with his new teacher, Honen and ultimately he reflected upon himself as one of us: a foolish being (*bonbu*) governed by greed, anger, and delusion. Referring to himself as a stubble headed old man, he stated “The heart of *Gutoku* is such that I am inwardly foolish, outwardly wise.”

For Shinran, what was significant was not the number of rituals we perform or ways we try to master our minds, but to awaken to both our foolish nature **and** that we are embraced by unhindered light shining wisdom upon our path, and limitless compassion that connects us to infinite life. When our hearts are opened to this reality, we live life with a bit more awe and gratitude. For me, this is the heart of the *Nembutsu*, *Namo Amida Butsu*.

Even though it’s Shinran’s birthday, I’m so grateful for the gift of these teachings he gave me!

Shojin Ryōri (精進料理): Traditional vegetarian temple cuisine

Sangha. Modern Interpretation: In Western Buddhism, “*sangha*” is often used broadly to mean any community of people practicing meditation or Buddhism together, including lay practitioners.

CHURCH NEWS

Behind-the-scenes. Did you know that we have a license for our domain name, <https://www.buddhistchurchofsantabarbara.org/>? Thank you to **Christophe Sautot** who has donated for the license renewal in previous years, and to **Doug Wilson** who paid for the license this year. If you haven't looked at our webpage lately, Rev. JP has been doing an awesome job of making it easier to navigate.

Membership News Thank you! To the 24 Sangha who chose to become members. Much appreciated! If you would like to also join as a member, links to a downloadable form or Google form is on this page:

<https://www.buddhistchurchofsantabarbara.org/membership/> However, we do not have digital payment set up (yet), so please mail a check to our mailbox at 1015 E. Montecito St, Santa Barbara, CA 93103.

And, please do let us know how you would like to be listed in our membership directory, and how you would like to receive information from us and Buddhist Churches of America.

OBON. Save-the Date – July 18!! Thank you! Last month, I noted that **Roberta Cook** had met with the Southern District leaders to learn the Obon dances for this year. Her sisters, **Melanie Fujii** and **Doreen Sasaki**, also learned and practiced the dances. We will again have an excellent corps of instructors. ☺

Requests for OBON Jodi Miles is collecting donations for the Treasures' Table. Also, she is planning on an origami station at Obon with 15-minute sessions. If you'd like to help at either the Treasures' Table or could teach origami for a 15-minute session, please contact her at miles.jodi@gmail.com or (805)701-1602.

Grace Tamura Funeral Service The Tamura family held a funeral service for Grace Tamura on April 17 which was full of love and painted a picture of an energetic, loving matriarch of the family. **Thank you!** to Rev. Honda and **Sets Furuike** for the service and program, **Jodi Miles** for the floral arrangements, and **Ted Muneno, Furuikes**, and guests for setup and takedown.

Nenki - juusankaiki (十三回忌) 13th year memorial service for **Raymond and Emi Uyehara**. The family invites those who want to join us in this service on May 24 at 4:00 pm followed by a dinner. As **Rev. Iwohara** noted these memorial services are "a celebration of not just the lives of the past, but the lives of the present as well". It is a chance to connect and reflect on past, present, and future generations.



Buddhist Churches of America Highlights

Members Red Carpet Weekend in Berkeley, CA.

- A roundtable discussion led by Bishop Rev. Marvin Harada and an opportunity for all participants to describe their own journey and path.
- A visit to the Buddhist Church of San Francisco — the first temple in the BCA — and an opportunity to view the temple's stupa housing the holy relics of the Buddha, a gift to the BCA by the Emperor of Siam (Thailand) in 1935.
- Dancing at the Berkeley Buddhist Temple's Obon festival.
- A visit to the BCA Bookstore at the JSC.
- An opportunity for individuals to take part in a Kieshiki ceremony, which involves a person receiving a Buddhist name and affirming their commitment to the Buddhist path.

Registration begins June 1. And, if you are interested in going, funding may be available for travel from BCSB. The Lodging and Meals are free.



REQUEST from BCA EcoSangha Committee.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LdiGC1a63ii>

The committee is asking for participation from each District to provide guidelines for ecologically sustainable practices for each temple in the District. If you are interested in promoting sustainable practices in the SoCal temples and BCSB, in particular, please email newsBCSB@gmail.com with your interest to participate with the Southern District as well as any suggestions for BCSB practices.