

August 2026 Geppo Newsletter

Buddhist Church of Santa Barbara

1015 East Montecito St, Santa Barbara, CA 93103

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

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

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



August 2026 – Gratitude and Lessons from Obon From Rev. JP deGuzman

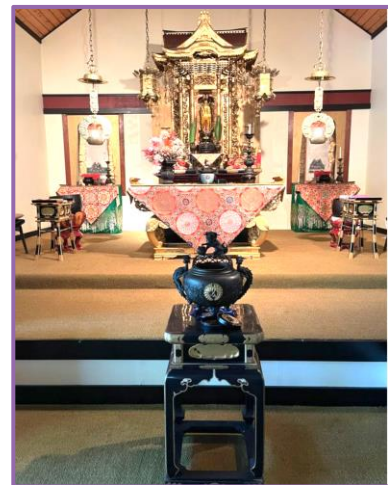
I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to everyone who made our 2026 Obon such a success! One estimate suggested that 200+ people attended and, I'm confident, lasting memories were made by all. As I reflect back, a few specific sights and sounds reveal the power of not only Obon, but the dharma teachings that flow through everything that we do.

Laughter – When darting to and from the church office, my pace was punctuated by the sound of delighted laughter emanating from the library. Ostensibly, the space was designated as a changing room for ladies to don their vibrant *yukata* or *kakan* and *dujin*, the attire for the exquisite dance from Okinawa in honor of Mrs. Emi Uyehara.

But that fleeting laughter stemmed from friends reuniting, nostalgia for *obon* back in the day, or the simple (but special) ritual of putting on treasured articles of clothing for the first time in one year. The laughter that flowed from that small room indicated the kind of connection that we feel fully awakening to and appreciating the happiness of oneness, but also the truth of impermanence.

Smiles – Though the smiles were abundant in every corner of the temple grounds, I remember a young man who beamed from ear-to-ear throughout the day. It seemed as if this might have been his first visit to an *obon* and his exuberance was infectious as he dove right into *bon odori*. To some, his steps may have been imperfect, but the alacrity with which he reached to the sky, scooped coal during *Tanko Bushi*, and mimicked the gentle waves of the Pacific in *Hawai'i Ondo*, embodied our ideal of shedding our ego to uncover moments of bliss. In that sense, he radiated perfection.

Clapping Along – As our friends from Togen Daiko shook the skies with their drumming, I was drawn to a temple elder who I hadn't seen in over a year. I recognized her from our last encounter, but also from seeing her in photos as an active sangha member going all the way back to the 1960s. Seated in her walker, it appeared that she had slowed down since our last meeting. But in that moment, taking in the taiko with so many of her senses, I could tell she was spellbound. She eagerly clapped along, keeping the same precise beat as the drummers. It seemed like that instance was perfect for her: all she needed to do was sit utterly transfixed by the reverberations of the drums. This mindfulness, feeling things as they arise, is something to which we can all aspire. I hope you look back at your Obon memories and feel joy within and feel inspired by the joy that was all around you!



The onaijin お内陣 is the innermost, most sacred altar area of the Main Hall (Hondo)

Upcoming Events

August 8

10:00 AM, Rev. Blake Honda

Memorial Service, *Shotsuki Hoyo*
祥月法要 & Lunch All welcome!

September 12

10:00 am, Rev. JP deGuzman

Memorial and Autumn Equinox
Ohigan Service 祥月法要、秋季
お彼岸法要

**Qi Gong Classes, Dennis
Furuike, PhD**

Every Monday at 9 and 10:30

Welcome! To our 27 new contacts who signed up to receive our news. We now have over 200 email addresses for this monthly newsletter. And, over 50 receive printed newsletters. Thank you!

To our new members from June and July. We have over 30 members. Much appreciation to all the Sangha, our community. JJ Uyehara, Editor

Yukata 浴衣= summer kimono, *kakan* 袴; カカ
ン; a pleated skirt, *dujin* 胴衣; ドウジン= loose
top, *Tanko bushi* – Kyushu coal miners dance,
Ondo – folk song More info available at
<https://www.buddhistchurchofsantabarbara.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/Bon-odori-dance-tutorial.pdf> by Sylvia Morikawa

We have so much to be thankful for the past two months! With appreciation and gratitude!

JULY Treasurer's Report of Financial Donations Setsuko Furuike

\$ 2,960

Memorial Service

Lonny Ishihara (Tomiye Muneno, Joe Watanabe, Akira Yamada, Machie Morihisa, Shigeru Eejima, Toe Tabata, Robert Fujii, Fumiko Fukamaki)
Susie Okada Nakata (Kan Kay Okada)

Special

Monday Qigong Class
Dennis Ito
Anonymous in Donation Box (*Saisen bako*)

Obon

M/M Dennis Furuike
Lonny Ishihara
Susie Okada Nakata
Fujii Family
M/M Ted Muneno
Rev. JP deGuzman
Geanne Gray & Patsy Okamoto
Jodi Miles
JJ Uyehara

Rennyo Shonin/Parents Day

Mary Saito

Membership from June and July

Jeffrey & Laurie Tamura
Bianca Ayers
Nancy Husband
Dennis Ito
Lonny Ishihara (Honorary – 97 years old)
Hideko Malis (Honorary)

July 11 Service Contributions

Rev. Stacy Reardon Dharma

Message/Service

Hatsubon Rev. Stacy also honored those who passed in the previous year.



Facilitator Setsuko Furuike

Greeter – Doug Wilson

Cleaning indoor and Setup Social Hall– Setsuko and Dennis Furuike, Ted Muneno, Obon Odori Group

Cleaning outdoors – Dennis Ito

For *Onaijin* during July

Service:

Fruit (*osonai*) symbolizing gratitude and interconnectedness of nature and people – **Setsuko and Dennis Furuike**

Obuppan (rice) symbolizing respect and sharing **JJ Uyehara and Doug Wilson**

Flowers and greenery symbolizing beauty and impermanence– **Jodi Miles**

OBON Countless Donations and Volunteers!

Bulletin board and graphics provided by **Jodi Miles** of jodimilesart.com

Thanks! to our wonderful dance teachers – **Roberta Cook, Melanie Fujii, and Doreen Sasaki**, plus thanks to **Sylvia Morikawa** for *Odori* research and extra supplies.

Landscaping preparation – **Greg Kitajima**, Certified Aesthetic Pruner, shaped our front and Japanese garden. **Dennis Ito**, woodworker, finished the bamboo fence; **Jodi Miles, Nancy Husband, JJ Uyehara, and Mara Tucker** filled in landscaping rock; **Mara Tucker** donated bags of rock.

Setup – Thanks! to **Obon Odori practice dancers, Doug Wilson, Gerry Geare, Janine Wilson, Lane Fuller, Nancy Husband, and many more!**

Thank you! Free cold waters provided by **Ted Muneno**, much needed on such a hot day!

Refreshments managed by **Sadie Okamoto Subject**, supported by Bobbie. ありがとうございました to **Nikka Japanese Market** for donated snacks!

Origami Table – **Brian Downie, Ellen Clark, and Junko Torigoe** cheerfully guided groups.



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Treasure Table – **Jodi Miles** and **Sandra Moss**. We are fortunate that **Sandra** has much experience with international artifacts.

1000 Cranes In Japanese folklore, cranes (*Tsuru*) were a symbol of long life, a ‘1000 years’ of life. This plate was bought at our Treasure’s Table as a gift to wish for a friend’s recovery from cancer. The “thousand cranes” design is symbolic of hope and healing.

In modern times, the 1000 cranes have also become a symbol of peace. At certain Japanese temples, school groups of children fold and give a 1000 origami cranes (*senbazuru* 千羽鶴) as a wish for peace. The *senbazuru* is left to weather and disintegrate, releasing the wish for peace.

August Memorial Service, *Shotsuki Hoyo*, will be held for:

MR. TAMATARO KUNIMASA	MRS. SHIGE HAYASHIDA
MR. TSUNEHACHI KAKIMOTO	MRS. MIYE YAMADA
MR. KAZUMA HAMANE	MRS. TAMAYE TSUNODA
MR. ASAJIRO NAKAJIMA	MR. DENZO SHIMODA
MR. LOUIS HIRATA	MR. KAYEMON OMURA
IKEDA FAMILY	MR. SUTEZO YAMADA
MR. KINZO FUKUSHIMA	MR. YENPACHI KOMOTO
MISS SUSAN TANAKA	MR. RYUICHI TOBO
MR. UMEICHI MUNENO	MR. HARRY HIDEO OKINO
MR. JUTARO AOYAGI	MRS. AYAKO OCHI
MR. MAKIO MIKE HIDE	MR. NOBUO TAMURA
MR. ICHITARO HAYASHIDA	MRS. MITSUKO MAYEDA

Shotsuki Hoyo (祥月法要) is a monthly memorial service to honor temple members and loved ones who passed away during the calendar month in any previous year.

- **Sho:** Joyous or auspicious
- **Tsuki:** Month
- **Hoyo:** Dharma gathering in which ‘dharma’ refers to the teaching of the Buddha





PERFORMANCES. **Togen Daiko** from Oxnard Buddhist Temple gave a dynamic performance, including a Lion dance and drumming for the Obon Odori!



In the Community Sangha

Obon Celebration of Joy

On July 18, we had many celebrants for Opening *Gassho* by Rev. JP deGuzman; Performances by Amatasi Polynesian Dance, Okinawan Dance, and Togen Daiko, sound provided by **Paul Cabral**, and of course, community dancing (*Bon odori*)



Amatasi Polynesian Dance did a Tahitian Welcoming dance first,

followed by two Hawaiian hulas celebrating the love of the ocean and

mountains of the islands. **Jodi Miles, Coni Edick, Cathy Romero and Ellen Clark** were the lovely hula dancers.



Uchinaa Uchinaa is a song about remembering Okinawa's natural beauty and community sung in the indigenous language of Okinawa, (translated by **Mr. Chogi Higa**). **Sensei** of the **Richiko Nakashima Ryukyu Dance School** taught **Harumi Nishimura** and **JJ Uyehara**. Thanks! to **Chihiro Machuca** who gave out handouts, and to audience members who joined in the chorus.



TOGEN DAIKO

<https://www.togendaiko.org/>

Bonsai display provided by **Bonsai Club of Santa Barbara**. (Ever notice that they have the same initials as us, Buddhist Church of Santa Barbara?)



**BONSAI CLUB
OF SANTA BARBARA**



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Harumi Nishimura, Hana Nishimura, and Chihiro Machuca drew a lot of interest with their handcrafted ceramics. Thank you for your generous donation to BCSB.

“Mr. Brian” Downie (@freespirt.artstudio), showed his artwork and ceramic planters. Thank you for donating profits to BCSB.



The Muneno sisters, Jeanne Gray and Patsy Okamoto, once again showed their original designs on their creative t-shirts and jewelry. Very bold graphics!

We thank you also for your generous donation to BCSB.



Jodi Miles, SBCC art instructor among many other roles, also displayed her artwork (jodimilesart.com) Thank you for your donation to BCSB.

What a fun experience we had with our dance leaders-Roberta Cook, Melanie Fujii, and Doreen Sasaki!



Photographers–Linda Sasaki, Beatrice Contreras, and JJ Uyehara.

Thank you to all who attended our Obon! From BCSB Cabinet: Sets and Dennis Furuike, Bobbie Okamoto-Subject, Jodi Miles, Doug Wilson, and JJ Uyehara!



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