

September 2026 Geppo

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 Service == Thank you! to Rev. Blake Honda for a personal, funny story on the meaning of Nembutsu (see p. 3 for summary). And, to those who joined us for the first time – it takes courage to come to a new place, so thank you for joining us! And, thank you to all who got into the Fiesta spirit by bringing such delicious foods of Mexican, Japanese, and American tasty treats. It was a fun community gathering.

From Cabinet Members – Jodi Miles, Setsuko Furuike, Dennis Furuike, Bobbie Okamoto-Subject, Doug Wilson, JJ Uyehara

Photos: Rev. Blake Honda welcoming first-timers and explaining service, and chanting while sangha members offer incense.

More on chanting:

<https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/chanting>



What food and cheer at the Fiesta August service!



Upcoming Events

September 12

10:00 AM, Rev. JP deGuzman

Shotsuki Hoyo 祥月法要
(Monthly Memorial Service)
and Autumn Equinox Ohigan
Service、秋季お彼岸法要

Followed by light lunch and
lively discussion

October 10

10:00 am, Rev. JP deGuzman

Eshinni-ko/Kakushinni-ko
Memorial Service and
Shotsuki Hoyo 祥月法要,
(Monthly Memorial Service)

October 18, JJ Uyehara

11:00 – 3 pm, BCSB table at
Asian American
Neighborhood Festival at El
Presidio, Help requested.

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

Every Monday at 9 and 10:30

**NEW Thanks! to the
Santa Barbara County
Air Quality District, we
now are part of a
network of air quality
sensors!**

<https://map.purpleair.com>

Our sensor is **SBCAPCD-CAPCOA-51**



Buddhist Church of Santa Barbara

<https://www.buddhistchurchofsantabarbara.org>

Shotsuki Hoyo (祥月法要) is the remembrance and in gratitude to those who passed away in this month.

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	

In appreciation for the many August contributions

AUGUST Treasurer's Report of Financial Donations, Setsuko Furuike \$ 2,625.11

Memorial Service

Lonny Ishihara (Tomoko Yamada, Mrs.
T. Otsuka, Mr. K. Okada, Tad
Kanetomo, Harry Okino, Nobuo
Tamura)
M/M Dennis Furuike (Hideo Okino)
Mary Hide (Makio Hide)
Susie Okada Nakata (Hiroshi Okada,
Jutaro Aoyagi)

Special

Monday Qigong Classes
Dennis Ito
Anonymous in Donation Box (*Saisen bako*)
JJ Uyehara
M/M Ted Muneno
Junko Torigoe

Obon

Mary Saito
Harumi Nishimura
Brian Downie

**Welcome! to New Member
Brigitte Mathis**



More Obon photos from
Junko Torigoe; Doreen
Sasaki leading dance and
Hula Anyone having fun!



Buddhist Church of Santa Barbara
<https://www.buddhistchurchofsantabarbara.org>

August Service Contributions

Dharma Message/Service

Facilitator Setsuko Furuike

Greeter – Doug Wilson

Cleaning indoor and Setup Social Hall–
Setsuko and Dennis Furuike, Ted Muneno,
For *Onaijin* during Service –
Fruit (*osonai*) symbolizing gratitude and
interconnectedness of nature – **Setsuko
and Dennis Furuike**

Obuppan (rice) symbolizing respect and
sharing **JJ Uyehara and Doug Wilson**
Flowers and greenery symbolizing beauty
and impermanence– **Jodi Miles**



Fiesta Lunch contributors!

Festive
decorations
by Jodi
Miles, and
all that
delicious
food!

Attempted Break-in to BCSB. **Dennis Furuike** noted damage to our front doors after Obon and before the following Monday **Qi Gong** class. Someone tried to pry the front doors open but were unsuccessful due to the sturdy, overlapping construction. Thanks to **Dennis Furuike** for his observation; **Ted Muneno** who checked on the doors; and **Dennis Ito** who fixed the doors. Security will be upgraded.

August Dharma Message



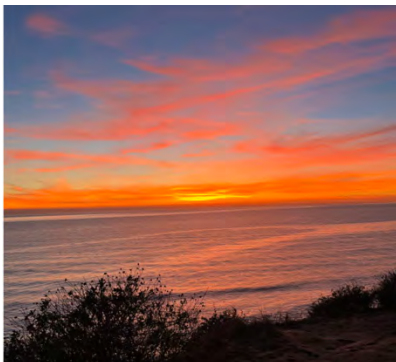
Rev. Blake Honda's message was the meaning of the Nembutsu, reciting "Namu Amida Butsu", what does it mean to have compassion and enlightenment

shining on us?

Rev. Blake likened the experience to when he was extremely lost after visiting San Francisco for the first time in his early 20's. When he was trying to return home, he didn't realize there were many bridges out of SF. He was completely lost. He called his dad, in a panic, frustrated, and angry.

His dad asked him which bridge was he on? "I don't know!" "Which signs did he see along the freeway?" After many questions, his dad was able to direct him to a place where Blake knew the way home to his small town in the Central Valley.

Later, his mom told him that his dad had known that he was going to San Francisco. So, his dad got out all the paper maps for the Bay Area so that when his son called, he was ready. The analogy is that with that knowledge provided by his dad looking at the maps, Blake was ready to hear and move out of his frustration. And that his dad knew to be ready. We are grateful for those that came before us who guided and taught us so that we could have the foundations to live.



Rhythms and Natural Cycles

Photo of sunset by Janine Wilson

Cropped photo of lunar eclipse by Doug Wilson



Buddhist Church of Santa Barbara

<https://www.buddhistchurchofsantabarbara.org>

September 2026 – Lessons from Sophea at Ohigan Rev. JP deGuzman.

In September we observe the Autumn Equinox in a service known as *Ohigan*. As the hours of day and night become equal, we reflect on balance in our lives and seek to recommit ourselves to a Buddhist life, looking to the Six Paramitas (or Perfections) for guidance. These include ethical conduct, patience, diligence, meditation, wisdom, and what is top of mind: selfless giving, or *dana* in Sanskrit.

If you're like me, a foolish *bonbu* unable to even fathom enlightenment through my own efforts, doing anything perfectly, let alone giving selflessly, seems pretty impossible!

Luckily, Jodo Shinshu reminds us that our spiritual liberation is assured through entrusting in the immeasurable wisdom and limitless compassion that we call Amida Buddha. Amida is **not** a god/deity who confers prizes on some and punishment for others. We can't curry favor through prayers, rituals, superstition, esoteric practice, or really any form of our own self-power because Amida is the truth of reality

itself. When we awaken to this, and that we are "grasped, never to be abandoned" by wisdom and compassion, we act with a buoyant new spirit having become "soft and gentle in body and mind" according to Amida's 33rd Vow.

I'm reminded of this when I think about a college friend who I'll call Sophea (which means wisdom in Khmer). Sophea's family were refugees from the Cambodian genocide, and she had roots in Cambodia Town, located in a largely underserved and disinvested part of Long Beach. Yet, she was a paragon of *dana*.

After much effort, she finally landed a job one summer at a tony law firm, which she sorely needed to pay tuition. Her professional attire was not as crisp and well-apportioned as is customary in a law firm, but she marched into that job on the first day with immense pride.

Afterward she came back to campus armed with a tray of delectable fried chicken and a bag of freshly baked baguettes for all of her friends to enjoy. We feasted like kings!

The pre-diabetic in me is now jealous of how we used to eat with reckless abandon, but

even in that moment I was struck by the level of generosity she wanted to shower on us even though she level of generosity she wanted to shower on us even though she hadn't been paid yet hadn't been paid yet!

Decades later, I reflect on how Sophea was one of my greatest teachers. From a Shinshu perspective, I'm left wondering if her kindness was *not* an expression of her own ego, but something greater. Growing up in onerous circumstances and inheriting a history unimaginable to most, had she been able to savor small expressions and moments that others would take for granted? Whether consciously or not, had she felt "grasped, never to be abandoned" by great compassion, which in turn called out to her to be a conduit of that compassion when she could? What in her karma allowed her to not be hardened by the weight of the past but, indeed, "soft and gentle in body and mind"?

The answers may never come to light, yet I am so grateful for the example that Sophea set! The answers may never come to light, yet I am so grateful for the example that Sophea set.

For your browsing pleasure

Buddhism In Your Life

Buddhism is about living with awareness and gratitude. Our everyday experiences, both joyful and difficult, are opportunities to reflect and grow.

<https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/learn>

Togen Daiko at BCSB. <https://www.facebook.com/TogenDaiko/videos/1741792403882471/>



Buddhist Church of Santa Barbara

<https://www.buddhistchurchofsantabarbara.org>