Buddhist Church of Santa Barbara
1015 East Montecito Street
Santa Barbara, CA. 93103
(805)962-3633
Alternate email: newsbcsb@gmail.com



October 2026 *Geppo*

CALENDAR

October 10, 10:00 AM Dharma Service Rev. JP deGuzman

Shotsuki Hoyo Monthly Memorial Service, 祥月法要 and

Eshinni-ko/Kakushinni-ko Memorial Service

Celebrating two influential women of Shin Buddhism.

Followed by light refreshments, Sangha Discussion, and Origami Activity

October 18, Sunday. 11-3 pm

BCSB table at Asian American Neighborhood Festival at El Presidio. Contacts: JJ Uyehara, Perry Melton, and Doug Wilson

Qi Gong Classes, Dennis Furuike, PhD

Every Monday at 9 and 10:30





Figure 1 Rev JP and members hamming it up.

Facebook Post: There will always be a smiling face to welcome you to BCSB! Whether you're a longtime member, looking to reconnect to Buddhism, or have always wanted to visit a temple but never got around to it, we invite you to join us on 10/10 at 10! Our monthly dharma service includes moments to calm the mind and listen to the timeless wisdom of the Shin Buddhist teachings. A light lunch and dharma discussion follows.
Please feel free to bring origami donations, or join in activity for producing give-aways at the Asian American Neighborhood Festival on October 18. Origami and instructions provided for activity.

Buddhist Church of Santa Barbara
1015 East Montecito Street
Santa Barbara, CA. 93103
(805)962-3633
Alternate email: newsbcsb@gmail.com



Shotsuki Hoyo Monthly Memorial Service, 祥月法要, is expressing appreciation and gratitude for those who passed in October:

MR. ISABURO TOYAMA	MRS. YONE KUROZUMI
MR. MASATOSHI KUROKI	MR. YASUSHI ISHIHARA
MR. TOSHIHARU WADA	MR. KUMAJIRO NISHIMURA
MISS YACHIYO SAKAMOTO	MRS. MOTO HIRASHIMA
MR. JUKICHI SHIOSAWA	MR. ICHIJIRO OZORA
MR. ZENICHI YASUDA	MR. SHINI NAKAHIRA
MR. SAKAMOTO	MR. RINZABURO KUROZUMI
MRS. KIWA TAKEUCHI	MRS. TSUGI NAKAMURA
MRS HISA MUNENO	THE NOMURA FAMILY
MRS. HATSUYE TANAKA	MRS. SUYENO KOGA
THE TANAKA FAMILY	MRS. YOSHIKO NAKASHIMO
MR. GEORGE OCHI	MRS. MITSUKO BABA
MISS HARUKO KOZAKI	MR. GEORGE TAKEO OKAMOTO
MR. SHOKEN SASAKI	

Many thanks! for contributions to the September Service, especially to **Bobbie Okamoto-Subject** who stepped in to do the flowers in **Jodi Miles'** absence! Also, thanks to fruit contributions from **Dennis & Setsuko Furuike** and rice (*Obuppan*) from **JJ Uyehara and Doug Wilson**. Also, to **all** who helped set up and contributed to the delicious lunch.





Figure 2 Bobbie arranging flowers in the back room. New member and Rev JP before service with JP holding rice balls and fruit to go in onaijin (altar area).



Figure 3 Did you know Setsuko Furuike puts together the beautiful service programs?

TREASURER'S REPORT
Setsuko Furuike
We gratefully acknowledge all of the financial contributions from September
Total $2507
Shout-out to Dennis Furuike who donates all of the proceeds from Qi Gong classes to BCSB. And, to Brian Downie who donated all of his earnings from Obon.

Memorial Service

M/M Dennis Furuike (Hidekichi Okino)
Junko Torigoe ($50) (A. Ochi, M. Mayeda)
JJ Uyehara ($300) (Emi Asato Uyehara)
Judy Mayeda ($100) (Kazuya Mayeda)
Mary Hide ($200) (Sasano Kanetomo)

Membership

Welcome! to Perry Melton who has already volunteered to help at the festival! Thanks!

Ohigan

M/M Dennis Furuike

Special

Monday Qigong (August)
Dennis Ito (September)
Perry Melton
Donation Box

September Service with Rev JP deGuzman	
Rev JP was explaining the meaning of the chant, Ju Sei Ge. Rev. JP explained that the world of enlightenment, of the Buddha's wisdom, takes form in a variety of ways that gives us glimpses of spiritual peace. That compassion is always shining on us, and we share the light of the Buddha and live a life of gratitude and glimpse peace. He likened it to going to music festivals which his wife, Beatrice loves. He thought they were hot, with thousands of people jostling	each other. But one festival was in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, and 'their' song was playing. And, he got it. The ethereal, wondrous music playing, with everyone appreciating and swaying together. He thought of all the karmic circumstances that brought everyone there, to enjoy that day, that music. He felt all the negative sensations melt away, and he felt connected to everyone and a sense of joy.

Buddhist Churches of America Member Survey



Figure 4 https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9K7QRHV

We want to hear your thoughts!
We would like to invite you to participate in a brief survey to share your thoughts and perspectives regarding the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA). The purpose of this survey is to better understand awareness of BCA programs and services, along with your perception of the value BCA provides to local temples and sangha members, and opportunities to strengthen communication and engagement.
Your feedback is important and will help guide future efforts to support temples, ministers, and sangha members across our organization. We expect the survey will take approximately 5 minutes to complete.
Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts and help shape the future of our Buddhist community. Or, if you prefer hardcopies, please mail completed surveys to *Gayle Noguchi, Jodo Shinshu Center at 2140 Durant Ave. Berkeley, CA 94704.*

HISTORY OF THE BUDDHIST CHURCH OF SANTA BARBARA

1913. Buddhist Church of Santa Barbara was established on 126 E. Canon Perdido St, as the branch of the Church of Guadalupe Buddhist Church.

1922, it was decided that a Buddhist church of Santa Barbara should be built at a new location, 131 E. Canon Perdido St., and by **February 1923**, there was a dedication ceremony and service.



Figure 5 Buddhist church on Canon Perdido.



Figure 6 The hondo in the present Buddhist church.

1962, the purchase of the property on 1015 East Montecito Street occurred for the new Church.

1964, the Rev. Kazumata was transferred to Oxnard Buddhist Church with associated duties still in Santa Barbara.

June,1966, the ground breaking ceremony at 1015 E. Montecito Street occurred.

November, 1966 Moved from the old Church to the new premises.

May, 1967 Dedication Ceremony

October 2026 – Eshinni and Kakushinni's Legacies
By Rev. JP deGuzman

Before Sunday service began one morning several years ago, I chatted in the vestibule of my home temple with some other *sangha* friends. Two newcomers strolled in, a mother and her high-school-aged kid. The mother announced, a little unceremoniously, "We're here for a school project. Where's your monk? We'd like to talk to him."

One temple auntie, with a straight face, announced back, "We don't have a monk. We have a minister. Her name is Reverend Patti."

We were happy to chat with our visitors about Shin Buddhism which was different than their ideas of Buddhist temples and monasteries. With figures like the Dalai Lama or Thich Nhat Hanh towering in the collective imagination, it can take some unlearning to understand that not all Buddhists are male monastics. And, as we prepare to observe our annual memorial for *Eshinni-sama* and *Kakushinni-sama*, the wife and daughter, respectively, of Venerable Shinran, it is worth noting just how central women have been to the Buddhist *sangha* for over a millennia.

Eshinni-sama was a steadfast supporter and fellow traveler for Shinran as he spread the *Nembutsu* teachings following his exile. *Kakushinni-sama* not only cared for Shinran towards the twilight of his life, but she also laid the foundation for the infrastructure of our denomination, *Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha*. By establishing a mausoleum for her father and then bequeathing her land to his followers, rather than her immediate family, she created a sacred space for all who wanted to listen to the *Dharma* and express their gratitude for the *Nembutsu*.

According to Rev. Carol Himaka, "The Nembutsu teaching was a revolutionary doctrine at that time. The Primal Vow of Amida Buddha embraced all. No one was excluded on the basis of class, gender, education, or other biases. Kakushinni may have made her decisions based on this understanding of equality that Shinran Shonin had taught."*

This radical egalitarianism which allowed Kakushinni-sama to transgress the norms of Medieval Japan, also shapes our Shin Buddhist sangha. Although the ministry is still predominantly male, women have been ordained in our tradition for generations and have served in the US for nearly 70 years. In fact, one of the first women resident ministers was Rev. Seiko Okahashi. Can you guess which temple she led in the late 1960s?

None other than the Buddhist Church of Santa Barbara! Let us all reflect with gratitude on Eshinni-sama and Kakushinni-sama and their legacies that are all around us.

* https://www.sfvhbt.org/eshinni-and-kakushinni/

sama – is an honorific suffix



Figure 7 Rev. Seiko Okahashi who was resident minister in the 1960's when BCSB moved from East Canon Perdido to East Montecito Street..

Sangha *is defined more broadly in Shin Buddhism than in other sects. ,In Shin Buddhism, there is an emphasis on the interdependence of the Amida Buddha, the Dharma (message), and the sangha (community). In Bishop Marvin Harada's article, "The Benefit of Being Part of a Sangha", he defines a Sangha as being connected with the Buddha and Buddha's message. "To be part of a Shin Buddhist Sangha is to be connected to all three of these treasures." …"We are all on the path together, no better or no worse than one another… and as being part of a Sangha, sharing in our lives and the teachings, and being enriched by each other."*

https://www.buddhistchurchesofamerica.org/post/the-benefit-of-being-part-of-a-sangha

Nembutsu – expression of thankfulness,, "namo amida butsu

Buddhist Church of Santa Barbara
1015 East Montecito Street
Santa Barbara, CA. 93103
(805)962-3633
Alternate email: newsbcsb@gmail.com



As we reflect on Eshinni-*sama* and Kakushinni-*sama*, let us recall the timeless Nembutsu wisdom that they handed down for us, as captured by Lady Takeko Kujo, who was instrumental in establishing the *fujinkai* (Buddhist Women's Association) movement:

Splendor of an evening sky,
Who can ever fathom its timeless mystery?
Million eyes, when sparkling bright
In the sable sky,
Touch my heart, my lonely heart with serenity.
More than all the countless sands
Ganges river holds
Are the infinite Buddhas who fill this universe,
Ever watchful over us,
Throughout day and night.
Hearing this, my lonely heart,
Fills with lasting peace.

To honor some of the women who did so much for the Buddhist Church. These women were part of the Fujinkai (Women's Association) in 1966 when BCSB moved to its present location.



Figure 8 Back row: Mrs. Okada, Mrs. Torigoe, Mrs. Shimoda, Mrs. Tabata, Mrs. Ito, Mrs. Tsunoda, Mrs. Koga, Mrs. Uyesaka, Mrs. Shibao. Front row: Mrs. Muneno, Mrs. Takeda, Mrs. Yamada, Rev. Seiko Okahashi, Mrs. Ishihara, Mrs. Kurozumi.

2027 BCA CALENDARS – Please let us know by October 18 if you would like a BCA calendar. They are monthly calendars with inspirational quotes and artwork. Contact by email (newsBCSB@gmail.com), phone message (805)96203633 or at the front table at service.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN LEARNING MORE ABOUT LEADERSHIP ROLES IN SHIN BUDDHIST TEMPLES? BCA has a series of classes. Please ask!