



# MEGUMI

慈恩

GARDENA BUDDHIST CHURCH  
1517 W. 166th Street, Gardena, CA 90247  
Phone: 310-327-9400 FAX: 310-327-4660  
E-Mail: [info@gardenabuddhistchurch.org](mailto:info@gardenabuddhistchurch.org)  
Rev. John Iwohara



## October 2020

Volume LIII No.10



**Rev. John Iwohara**

I apologize for the less than uplifting title I have chosen for this article. However, it has been six months since we began to isolate ourselves. Although I appreciate the extra time I am spending with family, not having to commute, and a variety of other “benefits” from not having to go “out,” still staying at home and self-isolating is beginning to feel burdensome. As I mentioned earlier I do appreciate being able to spend time with the family. However, at the same time, not interacting with others outside of the family is making me feel “dull.” What topics of conversation can you introduce to people who have seen and experienced the exact same things you have? There is relatively nothing “new” to share. These circumstances do not help us to distract ourselves from the fear and danger we find ourselves trapped in our homes by.

Recently I find that it is harder to avoid the feeling of being trapped in the way I have tried to describe above. Fortunately, at the same time, I was reminded of the story of Queen

### “Self Isolation”

Vaidehi as told in the Contemplation Sutra. In the Contemplation Sutra, one of the three Pure Land Sutra, we are told how she was imprisoned in the palace by her son Ajatasatru who had just usurped the throne from his father, the King Bimbisara.

In this story found in the Contemplation Sutra we are told of how Sakyamuni Buddha enters the holding area of the Queen completely unnoticed and uninterrupted. Part of what makes this story interesting is the fact that it seems that if Sakyamuni Buddha wanted to the Buddha could have easily freed the Queen from her captivity. The fact that the Buddha does not free the Queen has been commented on from the past. We are told that the story is also being told to each and every one of us. We, too, are confined in our own ways. The covid-19 pandemic is a circumstance that shows us what is meant by the Sutra as experienced by all of us physically. On the other hand, even without the covid-19 pandemic we are all, in one way or another, confined by our fears and worries, our limitations and prejudices, and even by our concerns and responsibilities. For example, there are times when we feel “trapped”

(Continued on page 2)

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inside our own bodies or circumstances. That the Buddha did not free the Queen helps us to understand that we will never be able to escape ourselves.

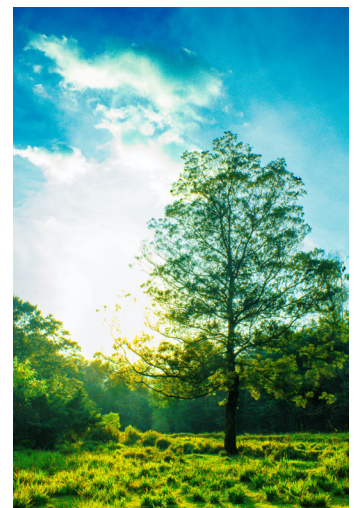
The story of the former Queen Vaidehi and her son, the present King Ajatasatru, is continued in the Nirvana Sutra. The Nirvana Sutra records the final lessons and the final moments of Sakyamuni Buddha's physical life. In the Nirvana Sutra Queen Vaidehi is still found inside the confines of her jail. She is, however, no longer "jailed." She has been free of her jailing from the time of the conclusion of the Contemplation Sutra. In the Contemplation Sutra we are told:

***Marveling at this unprecedented occurrence, Vaidehi as if clouds of doubt had cleared, attained the great enlightenment and acquired the insight into the non-origination of all existence.***<sup>1</sup>

1 Yamada, M., 1984. The Sutra Of Contemplation On The Buddha Of Immeasurable Life As Expounded By Sakyamuni Buddha. Kyoto, Japan: Ryukoku University. p. 111

In other words, Queen Vaidehi was able to overcome the circumstances of her jailing. Similarly, Buddhism cannot and will not tell us that we can avoid death. The first Noble Truth of "Life is Suffering" is not canceled by the third Noble Truth of "There is an End to Suffering." Instead, we are able to overcome the truth of suffering, just as Queen Vaidehi, while physically still being imprisoned, is actually free.

Although I will more than likely continue to complain about my circumstances, including the on-going covid-19 self-isolation, I also find myself grateful that I have been reminded of how big a gift Namo Amida Butsu really is.



## ABA News

We hope this finds everyone doing well.

It is so nice to "see" everyone during Sunday services and to enjoy Sunday Social following the sermons.

The Pass It Forward bento is a few days away. Thank you to the Dharma School Teachers and Sangha Teens for chairing this year's event. ABA members are always ready to participate when there are good eats involved.

The Nakayoshi Preschool reopened on October 1. Thank you to all of the ABA members involved in helping the teachers and director get ready to welcome back the students.

We will be having our next ABA meeting on Sunday, October 11 at 3:00pm. Part of the agenda is to nominate candidates for the 2021 cabinet. Have you decided which office you want? Prior to the meeting, a ZOOM link will be sent out.



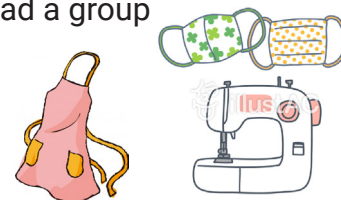
Stay safe, take care, stay healthy, wash your hands and wear a mask.



## The Community Projects Group

Even though we haven't been able to meet regularly at Church, our members have been keeping busy these past few months. Aside from sewing and crafting for family members and friends, some of the girls have been able to help the Church.

With the Japanese Language School Pre-School beginning this fall, we had a group sewing face masks for the teachers – Linda Shimizu, Lynn Isomoto and Chris Miwa. Sewing aprons for the teachers were Debbie Takashima, Doris Nakakura, Janice Ito, Kiyoko Sasaki, and Mitzi Shimizu. Thank you to all our seamstresses!



## Hui Aikanes

Hope everyone is doing well and keeping safe. It has been a very long time since we have seen each other or shared the dharma in person. Hope you all are watching services through the website.

Thank you everyone for purchasing dinners or donating to PIF. It was very successful.



## TUESDAY SOCIAL

Hi Tuesday Social Friends. Hope you are all doing well. I shared the following saying already, but I'm sharing it again because I thought it was pretty funny: "Until further notice, the days of the week are now called, thisday, thatday, otherday, someday, yesterday, today, & nextday." That's what days are like for some of us.

Every day feels the same. But "going to church" helps me know that it's Sunday, the start of a new week. Hope to see you on Sundays. Until we can gather in-person, please stay healthy and safe.

### October 2020

2	Dharma School Workshop via Zoom	7:00pm
3	SD & SDBWA Web Conf.	8:00am
	Shotsuki Hoyo via Zoom	10:00am
4	Sunday Service via Zoom	9:30am
	BWA Cabinet Meeting via Zoom	11:00am
	Ichi-mi Social Event via Zoom	2:00pm
11	Sunday Service via Zoom	9:30am
	Esshin-ni/Kakushin-ni Service	
	BWA Meeting via Zoom	11:00am
	Ichi-Mi Monthly meeting via Zoom	12:00pm
	ABA Meeting via Zoom	3:00pm
16	Meinichiko via Zoom	7:00am
17	GBC Board Meeting via Zoom	10:00am
	PIF Bento Pick Up for Pre-Orders	4:00pm-6:00pm
18	Sunday Service via Zoom	9:30am
	BWA Memorial Service via Zoom	11:30am
	PIF Bento Pick Up for Pre-Orders	4:00pm-6:00pm
25	Sunday Service via Zoom	9:30am
	Coordinating Council Meeting via Zoom	11:30am
26	Megumi article deadline (November issue)	

### November 2020

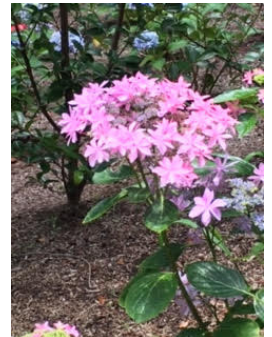
1	Daylight Savings Time (Fall back)	
	Sunday Service via Zoom	9:30am
4	Shotsuki Hoyo via Zoom	10:00am
8	Sunday Service via Zoom	9:30am
	BWA Meeting via Zoom	11:15am
	Ichi-Mi Monthly Zoom Meeting	12:00pm
15	Sunday Eitaikyo Service via Zoom	9:30am
16	Meinichiko via Zoom	7:00am
20	Young Adult Dharma Discussion via Zoom	6:30pm
21	Tri-Temple Seminar via Zoom	9:45am
	GBC Board Meeting via Zoom	2:00pm
22	Sunday Service via Zoom	9:30am
29	Megumi Deadline (December issue)	
	Sunday Service via Zoom	9:30am



## Fujinkai / BWA Buddhist Women's Association

### Happenings:

- September 13th, Sunday – We had our Regular BWA Meeting at 11:00am on Zoom. It was wonderful to see everyone and catch up with each other.
- October 3rd, we have 12 members signed up to attend the Southern District Conference from 9-12:30 on Zoom. Julie and Chizuko will attend the Southern District BWA meeting from 8-9am.
- On October 17th and 18th, BWA will help pick up bentos from Cherrystone and support our Pass It Forward 2020 event.
- On November 21st from 9:45-11:30, we hope members will attend the Tri Temple Seminar (Gardena, Venice, and WLA). Rev. John Iwohara and Rev. Miyaji will speak in English and Japanese.
- We will continue to send the printed Megumi and meeting minutes to members. Unfortunately, we are still unable to have services or meetings in person.



### Announcements:

- October 3rd, Saturday – Southern District/BWA Conference will be held virtually. Rev. Yuika Hasebe from Homba Hongwanji Hawaii Betsuin will be the guest speaker.
- October 11th, Sunday – October Regular Meeting will be held at 11:15 am on Zoom.
- October 18th, Sunday – BWA Memorial Service at 11:30 am.
- November 8th, Sunday – November Regular Meeting will be held at 11:15 am on Zoom.

### Appreciation:

- Julie Miyata - In memory of the late Roy Miyata's 25th Memorial



## Amazon Shoppers, Donate to the Gardena Buddhist Church

The Gardena Buddhist Church is now a selectable organization on Amazon Smile. Not all purchases will qualify for donations, but for those that do, 0.5% of qualified purchases will be donated to the church.

Here's how to sign up for AmazonSmile

1. Visit [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com).
2. Sign in with your Amazon.com credentials.
3. Search the charitable organizations for the "Gardena Buddhist Church".
4. Select it as your charity.

Your donations don't cost you anything and generate funds for the church.

Thank you for donating.





## Wisteria Chugakko

Reverend John Iwohara, Headmaster  
Charlene Hirotsu, Principal

### Unexpectedly receiving so much in return

For 2021, despite the 2020 closure due to covid-19, Wisteria Chugakko is excited to announce its 3rd summer session. Wisteria Chugakko brings multi-generations together in an "old school" hands-on setting for four weeks of the summer. Our focus is on 7th and 8th grade students of the middle school level, but due to covid-19 we will be expanding our program to the 9th grade to "catch up." Our teaching staff is made up of dedicated teachers with an appreciation of Jodo Shinshu, a variety of cultural skills, and academic knowledge.

Through our annual evaluations, our teaching staff was amazed at the feedback from the students, parents and other teachers. Our students were excited and interested in their classes. Parents articulated their gratitude and also became involved in many of our activities. Finally, our teachers were amazed by their feelings of fulfillment and awe in the creativity and talents of our younger generation. As a staff OUR GOAL WAS TO GIVE TO THE STUDENTS, BUT UNEXPECTEDLY, WE RECEIVED SO MUCH IN RETURN.

Since our Inaugural Year in 2018, 40 of our church members committed to being a Wisteria Chugakko teacher. With apprehension, doubt, and definitely a desire to educate our students, we dove headfirst into this unknown venture. We were assured because we were doing this together. We would like to express our appreciation to all of our teachers. These are dedicated individuals who not only teach during Wisteria Chugakko but who have also attended monthly teacher workshops from January through June prior to each Wisteria Chugakko Summer Session. We plan and prepare together, brainstorm ideas together and gather our enthusiasm and energy to teach our students.

Remember, most of us are at least a generation apart from the students. Some of us more.

I would like to highlight three of our BWA members who wholeheartedly jumped into starting this adventure with us: Fumie Fujimoto, Emiko Sasaki and Kazue Maeda. We have since lost Kazue Maeda, and miss her dearly. The three ladies were part of our Cooking Staff. Without hesitation, they



met with us at our monthly Teacher Workshops, collaborated with the Cooking Team, shared and planned recipes for the students to cook, and became the heart of Wisteria Chugakko.



LITTLE DID WE KNOW THAT THEY WERE JUST THE SPARK THAT IGNITED THE SUCCESS OF WISTERIA CHUGAKKO. They challenged themselves, being out of their comfort zone, to teach young students. How wonderful is that!

Ms. Fujimoto's granddaughter, Keri, was in our first 8th grade class. We were able to pass on skills and recipes from one generation to the next. We will continue to do so. As a fourth BWA member to highlight, we would also like to thank Kathy Hori who did all of our printing for us allowing us to let everyone know about our program.

Furthermore, we would like to thank the GBC BWA organization for also helping to support Wisteria Chugakko financially. They have been earmarking one of their special fundraising activities just for Wisteria Chugakko. We would also like to thank all of our other individual donors and families who have helped us to have such a robust program that we are now also able to include field trips in our program. Finally although this list is by no means complete, we would also like to thank the GBC office for all of the tireless work and support that has been provided.

Domo Arigatou Gozaimasu.





# Wisteria Chugakko 2021

*We look forward to seeing you at Wisteria Chugakko 2021!*

Please email [wisteria.chugakko@gardenabuddhistchurch.org](mailto:wisteria.chugakko@gardenabuddhistchurch.org) for more details.

### Mission Statement

The Wisteria Chugakko (Middle School) is established to enrich the academic experience, and the religious and cultural understanding of its students in order to develop academics and a greater appreciation for the potential and dignity of human and all life.

### Gardena Buddhist Church

1517 W. 166th Street  
Gardena, California 90247

**From 91 or 110**

- Exit West on Artesia
- Right at Normandie
- Left at 166th
- Church will be on the right
- Parking Lot on the Left (P)

**From the 405**

- Exit Northbound on Normandie
- Left at 166th
- Church will be on the right
- Parking Lot on the Left (P)

**Especially created for 7th and 8th Grade Students (in the Fall of 2021)**

Please join the Gardena Buddhist Church **Wisteria Chugakko Summer School**

**Monday, June 21 – Wednesday, July 14 2021**

**Reverend John Iwohara**  
Gardena Buddhist Church Resident Minister  
Wisteria Chugakko Headmaster

**Charlene Hirotsu**  
Wisteria Chugakko Principal

**Alan Kita**  
Jodoshinshu Education and Culture Committee Chairperson

**Gardena Buddhist Church**  
1517 W. 166th Street  
Gardena, California 90247  
1-310-327-9400  
[wisteria.chugakko@gardenabuddhistchurch.org](mailto:wisteria.chugakko@gardenabuddhistchurch.org)

### Wisteria Chugakko Daily Schedule

8:30-8:55	9:00-9:25	9:30-10:30	10:35-11:20	11:25-12:10	12:15-1:00	1:05-1:50	1:55-2:40	2:45-3:30	3:30-6:00
Morning Assembly Sign-in	Morning Service	Period 1 (60 mins) first 10 minutes for morning	Period 2 (45 mins)	Period 3 (45 mins)	Lunch	Period 4 (45 mins)	Period 5 (45 mins)	Period 6 (45 mins)	After School Supervision

**Students will have multiple teachers in the following content areas:**

**Teachers and Staff**

Calendar  
Calligraphy  
Car Mechanics  
Cartooning  
Chanting  
Collage  
Cooking  
Creative Writing  
Event Planning  
Excel  
Haiku Poetry  
Ikebana  
Illustrations  
Japanese  
Taskwondo  
Kokeshi Dolls  
Lei Making  
Line Dancing  
Math  
Obon Dancing  
Physical Education  
Photography  
Preserving Stories  
Pulp to Paper  
Sewing  
Shakyo  
Buddhism  
Jodoshinshu  
Rituals and Etiquette  
Tako  
Digital Citizenship  
Origami Making  
Tea Ceremony  
Yukata Dressing

**Teachers and Staff**

Aponte, Kimberly  
Fuji, Janet  
Fujimoto, Fumie  
Harada, Edie  
Hirotsu, Charlene  
Hirotsu, Russell  
Hirotsu, Stephanie  
Ikeda, Bev  
Imada, Brian  
Imada, Imogene  
Inose, Kay  
Isomoto, Lynn  
Iwohara, Jean  
Iwohara, John  
Iwohara, Sean  
Kashimoto, Eric  
Kita, Alan  
Kushi, Devin  
Lai, Ming  
Maruyama, Phyllis  
Mayemura, Louise  
Mayemura, Tommy  
Mikami, Lynn  
Minamitani, Izumi  
Miwa, Alan  
Miwa, Christine  
Miya, Arleen  
Miyaji, Nobuo

Miyaji, Yoshiko  
Motoyasu, Aya  
Nakagawa, Mae  
Nakamoto, Christine  
Nakamoto, Jane  
Nishimura, Elaine  
Nishimura, Patti  
Sasaki, Emiko  
Sasaki, Kiyoko  
Sekiya, Sala  
Shibasaki, Chigusa  
Shimizu, Cary  
Shimizu, Linda  
Shimizu, Mitzi  
Takao, Dianne  
Takao, Donna  
Takashima, Debbie  
Tsuruta, John  
Ujiki, Reiko  
Uyemura, Cathy  
Viola, Eddy  
Yamanaka, Jeanne  
Yasaki, Ailie  
Yasaki, Chris  
Yokota, Gladys  
Yokota, James



Gardena Buddhist Church  
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## Gardena Buddhist Church Wisteria Chugakko Summer Program

Reverend John Iwohara, Gardena Buddhist Church Resident Minister, Headmaster

Charlene Hirotsu, Wisteria Chugakko Principal

### Student Interest Form

**June 21 – July 14, 2021**

I am interested in registering for Wisteria Chugakko for the Summer of 2021.

I will be in the 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade in the Fall of 2021.

Student's Last Name	Student's First Name	Student's Gender Pronoun Preference
Student's Date of Birth	Student's Grade in Fall 2021	Student's School District
Father's Last Name	Father's First Name	Father's Cell Number
Mother's Last Name	Mother's First Name	Mother's Cell Number
Father's Email Address	Mother's Email Address	Buddhist Church Affiliation (Gardena, Senshin etc.)

***In this time of hardship, we truly appreciate your continued support!***

The church acknowledges the following donations received from 8/30 - 9/30/2020  
with gratitude and appreciation.

## ***Funeral/Burial/Memorials***

Elaine Yokoyama  
Julie Miyata

Kumiko Mikami  
M/M Wayne Igawa & Family

Sadae Uwahori  
Steve Masuda

Tomita Family

## ***Shotsuki Hoyo Donations*** *(received from 8/30 - 9/30, 2020)*

Akahoshi, Masato  
Anonymous (3)  
Arisumi, Glen  
Cusumano, Yoshiko  
Doi, Sanaye  
Endo, Carole  
Endow, Kyung  
Fujimoto, Fumie  
Fujioki, Ruby  
Fukuhara, Kenneth  
Furukawa, M/M Dave  
Gaines Family  
Gillis Family  
Giovinazzo, F.W. & A.J.  
Hashimoto, Helen  
Hashimoto, Jane  
Honbo, Yoshiaki  
Hori, Kathy  
Hori, Nancy  
Ige, Margaret  
Ikeda, Tsuemi  
Imada, M/M Brian  
Imamoto, Eiko  
Inose, Kay  
Inouye, Ben  
Inouye, Juliann  
Iwamoto, M/M Daniel (2)  
Iwata, Amy  
Kajikawa, Carole

Kajikawa, Norman  
Kaneko, Darlene  
Kawahara, M/M Larry  
Kawase, Masako  
Kita, Yoshiko  
Komae, Kumiko  
Koyanagi, Joe  
Kubota, M/M Neil  
Kumano, Mitsuko  
Kuntz, Thomas  
Kuraoka, Sharon  
Kuwahara, Susie  
Maeda, Stacy  
Maesaki, Kazue  
Maruyama, Kazuko  
Masaki, Dennis  
Mashiko, Jane  
Masunaga, Lynn  
Matsuda, Mark  
Mekaru, Naomi  
Mikami, Shirley  
Mitchell, Christyan  
Mitsushima, Janice  
Miyadi, Dennis  
Miyazono, Harumi  
Mori, Doris  
Mori, Eiko  
Morimoto, Faye  
Morizumi, Tamie

Murase, Miwako  
Nakamura, Bob  
Nakamura, Debbie  
Nakawatase, Haruye  
Nimura, Keiko  
Nishi, Katsuya  
No Name  
Ogasawara, Paul  
Ogasawara, Sylvia  
Okihara, Craig  
Okumoto, Akiko  
Okumoto, Akiko &  
Mariko  
Omori, Julia  
Osa, Susan  
Ouchi, Joyce  
Ozaki, Mitzy  
Sakuda, Shizuko  
Sasaki, Sherry  
Shibata, Reiko  
Shimizu, Linda  
Shimizu, Mitzi  
Shimokochi, M/M  
Kenneth  
Shinmoto, Yoko  
Sueyoshi, M/M Robert  
Suminaga, Roy  
Tahara, Randi  
Takano, Ryoko

Taketomo, Rick  
Tanaka, Nancy  
Taniguchi, Kiyoko  
Taniguchi, Takao  
Tatsukawa, Hiroko  
Terada, Yukiye  
Terao, Carolyn  
Toma, Yuriko  
Tomiyasu, Barbara  
Toshima, Jeannie  
Uyehara, Michael  
Wada, Aiko  
Wada, Mickie  
Wakimoto, Yuko  
Watanabe, Makoto  
Yamane, M/M Dick  
Yamano, H.  
Yamano, Helen  
Yamashiro, Takako  
Yanagihara, Boku  
Yasuda, Kimiko  
Yokoyama, Elaine  
Yokoyama, George &  
Jinny  
Yoshizu, M/M M.  
Yuki, M/M Wallace  
Yuki, Toyoko

## ***Obon Service & Carnival***

Anonymous (2)  
Fukai, Iris (2)  
Fukunaga, Yuriko  
Imahori, Marie (2)  
Iwamoto, M/M Daniel

Kakuda, Craig  
Kamikawa, Jo Ann  
Kiyohara, Kimiko (2)  
Nakamura, Burt  
Nakamura, L.

Nakashima, M/M Harvey  
Okamura, Rodney  
Sasaki, Alyson &  
Karissa  
Shibata, Glenn

Sumi, Michiko  
Toyoaki, Shiro  
Tsukimura, Masako  
Yasaki, M/M Chris  
Yokota, M/M James



## Ohigan & COVID-19

Akahoshi, Masato	Kita, Yoshimi	Nakakura, M/M Ken	Shimono, Natsuye (2)
Akioka, M/M Sam	Koyanagi, Joe	Nakamoto, David	Sumi, M/M Senichi
Amimoto, Myrna	Kubo, Edward	Nakao, Harumi	Tada, Tamiko
Anonymous (2)	Lopez, Amy	Nakashima, M/M Harvey	Taira, Kimi
Aponte, M/M John	Maeda, D/M Tom	Nakata, M/M Bob	Takahashi, Kent
Chiba, Kaoru	Maehara, Nolan	Nakatani, M/M David	Takahashi, William
Enomoto, Tom	Maesaki, Kazue	Nakawatase, Haruye	Takamatsu, Sharlot
Erickson, Toshiye	Maruyama, Kazuko (2)	Nishi, M/M Kats	Takamura, M/M Walter
Fujimoto, Fumie	Maruyama, Phyllis	Nishi, M/M Ken	Takao, Tamiko
Fujioki, Ruby	Masuyama, Ken	Nishihara, M/M Joe (2)	Takao, Dianne
Furukawa, M/M Dave	Matano, Florence	Ohara, Toshifumi & Yuko	Takata, M/M Sam
Guasti, Louise	Mayemura, Louise	Ohara, Yoshifumi	Takemoto Family
Haruma, Yaeko	Mekaru, Naomi	Okada, George	Tamura, Mary
Hirayama, M/M Ted	Mikami, Shirley	Okada, Joel	Tanaka, Masako
Hirotsu, M/M Stan	Mikasa, M/M Clifford	Okamoto, Yauko	Tateishi, M/M Craig
Hori, Kathy	Mitani, M/M David	Okumoto, Akiko	Terao, D/M Ernest
Ikeda Cambra, May	Miwa, M/M Alan	Okumoto, Yuko	Tomiyoshi, Ruby
Ikeda, M/M Tamotsu	Miwa, Yoshiko	Oshiro, Sam	Toyoaki, Shiro
Imada, M/M Brian	Miyamoto, Satoshi	Otani, Keiko	Tsukamoto, W.
Imai, Lynn	Miyata, Julie	Ouchi, Joyce	Uemura, M/M David
Inose, M/M Ken	Miyazono, Harumi	Sanada, Glenn	Uyehara, Eleanor
Inouye, Tomoko	Mizuno, M/M Joe	Sasaki, Alyson & Karissa	Wakimoto, Yuko (2)
Isomoto, L.	Mori, Hiroshi	Sasaki, M/M Brent	Watanabe, Donald
Iwamoto, Diane	Morimoto, Lily	Sasaki, M/M Tom	Yamane, M/M Dick
Iwamoto, M/M Daniel	Morimoto, Nobuharu	Seino, Toshiyuki (2)	Yamashiro, Kikuko
Iwata, Amy	Morishige, James	Shigemitsu, M/M Tom	Yanai, Frank
Jackson, Fumiko (2)	Motoyasu, Ayako (2)	Shimizu, Mitzi	Yasaki, M/M Chris
Kato, M/M Isao	Motoyasu, Steve	Shimokochi, M/M Kenneth	Yoshiyama, M/M Bryan
Kawahara, M/M Larry	Munekata Wilhelm, Sheri		Yoshiyama, Rose
Kawasaki, Richard	Nagatani, D/M Ronald		Yuki, M/M Wallace
Kita, Yoshiko			Yuki, Toyoko

## Hatsubon

Igawa, M/M Wayne	Kono Wells, Grace	Yamasaki, Mary	Yamashita/Komori Family
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## Special Donation & Misc.

Anonymous	Ken Nakagawa	Rick Taketomo
Fumie Fujimoto	Marukai Corporation	T. Fukuman

## Spring Ohigan Hanamatsuri

Anonymous	Anonymous
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## In Sympathy

We extend our deepest sympathies to the families of the following who have left our world to be One with Amida Buddha. Namo Amida Butsu.

Hdez, June Kikuko

(83)

September 16, 2020







宮地 美子師

## 『外に見るか内に見るか』

仏教には『当今末法、現是五濁悪世』“今は末法、五つの濁りにおおわれた悪世の時代”というお言葉がありますが、それを実感させられる出来事で覆われて

います。

末法とは釈尊が入滅（亡くなられる）されて一定期間が過ぎた最終段階で、仏教の教えは存続しているものの修行する者も覚者もないという濁りきった世のことを言います。五濁とは、末法の世で避け難い五つの社会的・精神的・肉体的な汚のことです。

五濁（五つの汚れ）とは

1. 劫濁＝疫病・飢饉・動乱・戦争が続発する
2. 見濁＝邪悪で汚れた考え方や思想がはびこる
3. 煩惱濁＝欲望や憎しみなど煩惱によって起こされる悪徳が横行する
4. 衆生濁＝人々の資質が衰えた状態になる
5. 命濁＝自他の生命が軽んじられる、生きる意義が見失われる等です。

もう何十年も前の話ですが、私の知り合いのお寺で大きな法要の前夜に火事が起きました。消防が来て一旦その火は消えたかに思えたのですが、数時間経って屋根裏に潜んでいた火種がまた燃え上がり、その場に居合わせた者が火事の恐ろしさを語っていました。

大雨が続くと土に含まれた雨が飽和状態になり一気に土砂がくづれ家ごと巻き込まれたと言う土砂災害をよく見聞します。

また今期カリフォルニアの山火事は落雷によるものが多発し、空気は煙の匂いがし、空は不気味なオレンジ色に染まり森林の燃えた灰が私の

住む地域にもたくさん落ちて来ました。森林で暮らす多くの動物たちが逃げ惑う姿が目につく可哀想で可哀想で思わずお念仏を称えたものでした。

1週間ほど前、夜中に地震で目が覚め久しぶりの地震に不安を覚えました。そう言えばカリフォルニアでは、数十年の間に大きな地震がくると警告されています。今回の震源地はSo. San Gabriel で、そのエリアには西別院の開教使住宅があり以前私たちも住んでいたところでした。

近年の地震・台風・津波・山火事は想像を絶する大きな災害となり世界中自然災害による危機感は増していると思います。まさに劫濁の時代です。

最近ニュースを聞いたり見たり、YouTubeなどの発信を聞いていますと世の中すさんでいるなあとおれな事件で溢れています。

老人のささやかな年金をだまし取る。子供を虐待する。親が子を殺すまた子が親を殺す。カッとしたから人を殺したという犯罪者がいると思えば、殺す相手は誰でもよかった等という犯罪者さえいます。

これらの事件が日常茶飯事に起きていますと、相当凶悪な事件でないと、あ！またかと言ったくらいの反応になります。まさに衆生濁、人々の資質が衰えた状態になるという事なのでしょう。

人を傷つけたり傷つけられたりもうたくさんだ、政治や経済、思想でさえも右を向いても左を向いても、あの考えもこの考えも全く末通って一貫性の



(10ページに続く)

(9 ページからの続き)

あるものはなく、ある時はこう言いました別の時はああ言い時代や情勢、金品に押し流されてこれと言って定まった完全なものなんてありません。私たちはこの濁、汚いものに覆われた中をどう生きていけばいいのでしょうか。

とここまで私は五濁について皆さんに理解していただくとう具体的な例をあげて説明したつもりでしたが、待てよ!!この五濁というのは私の心のことを言い表したものでなかろうかと思いました。この現実が五濁に覆われているということもいえますが、何より私の心が末世に生きる人間として汚れに汚れ切っていて、少しも清らかさが残っているのではないかと、お釈迦様はそういう自分が何より一番汚れを垂れ流している事に気づけと言われていたような気がします。

大無量寿経の中にこういうお言葉があります。

『どうして人々は、世間の雑事をふりすてて、自分が健やかな間に、つとめて善を励み、ひとえに浄土に往生する事を願わないのであろうか。そうすれば、とこしえにつきないいのちが恵まれるであろうに。なぜ、道を求めないのだろうか。なにを期待して生きているのだろうか。いったいどういう楽しみを欲しているのであろうか。』

\* 善を励み=浄土真宗では、聞法を意味します。

このお釈迦様のお言葉が、私の頭から離れずいつも囁み続けています。

このお言葉の要点はこの世を厭世(えんせい=世の中をうとましく思い、生きているのを辛いと思う事)しているのではなく逆に行く末を早く見定めて生き生きと生きなさいと諭しておられるのです。自分の内なる五濁に悩むがゆえに、浄土に生まれることを願わずにはいられなくなるのではないのでしょうか。

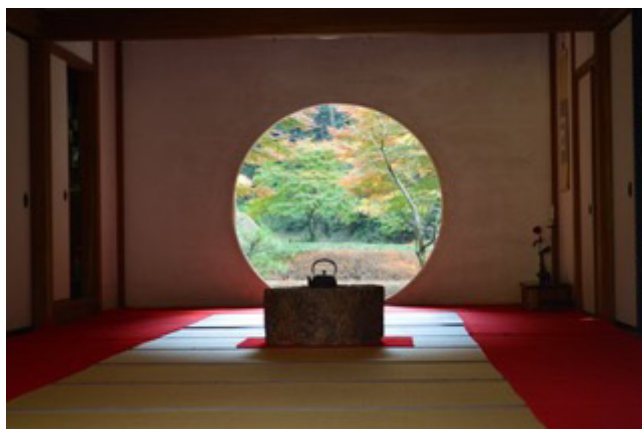
親鸞聖人の時代も大火・飢饉・震災など多くの災害に見舞われた時代でしたから、最晩年の時期に浄信房に宛てたお手紙の中に、『なによ

りも、去年今年老少男女多くの人々の死にあいて候らん事こそ、あわれに候へ。ただし生死無常のことわり、くわしく如来の説きおかせおはしまして候ふうへは、おどろきおぼしめすべからず候』とおっしゃっています。生死無常のことわりはすでに如来様がお説きくださっている、今更驚くことでもない、とおっしゃっています。

私のお友達が、『この10年で自分の回りがすっかり変わってしまった。』としみじみとおっしゃっていました。私も同感です。10年前の自分と今の自分、もちろん身体的にもそれなりに衰えてますが、住んでる家も違えば、子供の置かれている環境も、孫の数も、違います。確実に変化しています。そして何より違っているのは、身の回り的人、何人的人がなくなったでしょう。婦人会の90周年の記念写真を見てください。何人の会員の方々が浄土に還られたか。一緒に旅行した私の兄も病に伏していますし、去年の旅が最後の旅行になりました。

もう自分が誰だかわからない人もおられます。この変化は確実に自分の身に起きるのです。この前にせめて耳の聞こえる間に、見える間に、自分が自分であることが解っている間に。“今”聞かねばならない事を聞こうではありませんか。

**“聞思して遅慮することなかれ”**です。





## 婦人会便り

### ▽ 9月13日(日)

午前11時より婦人会例会がZOOMにて開かれました。皆さまの顔を拝見しながら互いの近況を報告できて良かったです。

### ▽ 10月3日(土)

南部教区会議が午前9時から開かれ、婦人会からは12名が参加しました。午前8時からの南部教区婦人会大会には宮田、森本会長が出席しました。

### ▽ 10月17(土) & 18日(日)

婦人会はPIF2020イベントのサポートのため、チェリーストーンズからのお弁当ピックアップを担当。

### ▽ 11月21日(土)

ガーデナ仏教会主催、三ヶ寺（ガーデナ、ベニス、ウェストLA）合同のTri-Templeセミナーが午前9時45分から開かれます。英語講師は庵原ジョン師、日本語は宮地信雄師が担当。ぜひ参加下さいますようお願いします。

▽ E-Mailアドレスをお持ちでない会員の方々に、引き続き、婦人会報告と慈恵便りを郵送しています。残念ながらまだお寺での会議や礼拝はできない状態です。

### アナウンスメント：

▽ 10月3日(土) 南部教区婦人会大会が西本願寺主催バーチャルスタイルで開催されます。ご講師はハワイ西本願寺別院より長谷部ユイカ師をお迎えしますので是非ご参加ください。

▽ 10月11日(日) 午前11時より婦人会例会がZOOMにて開かれます。

▽ 10月18日(日) 午前11時半、婦人会追悼法要がZoomにて勤められます。

▽ 11月8日(日) 午前11時より婦人会例会がZOOMにて開かれます。

### 感謝録：

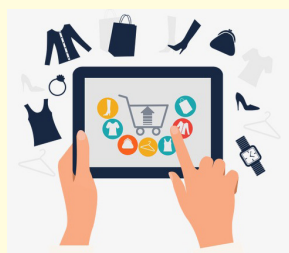
故 宮田ロイ二十五回忌追悼



## amazonで買い物しながらガーデナ仏教会に寄付できるプログラム開始！

ガーデナ仏教会はこの度、Amazon.comが提供する寄付プログラム“AmazonSmile”に登録致しました。購入総額の0.5%がガーデナ仏教会に寄付される仕組みとなっており、一部商品を除いてほとんどの商品が寄付対象となっております。しかも、皆様の購入金額はそのまま負担なしに寄付できます。

### <AmazonSmileのご利用方法>



1. [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)にアクセス
2. Amazon.comのご自分のアカウントにサインイン
3. 寄付したい団体名のところに“Gardena Buddhist Church”とタイプして“Search”をクリック
4. Gardena Buddhist Churchを確認後に“Select”をクリック

皆様のご協力に感謝致します！

