



# LONG BEACH BUDDHIST CHURCH

## SANGHA NEWSLETTER

### Spring 2023

#### Message from the Minister, Rev. Seigaku Amato

Spring is a time for renewal. Just as blossoms open in the sun, so too do we experience the draw of the warmer air and begin to enjoy longer days. We greet each spring as a new experience, not a continuation of the last spring. So too do we experience birth and death with each breath as we greet the reality of our lives. Living with gratitude for the teachings of Buddha, the gift of life from our ancestors, and the opportunity to pass on our experiences to the next generation. How do we repay the kindness of our ancestors and the compassion of the Buddha for sharing the dharma? A life that is lived for others, generating the will for our own awakening to the Buddha mind, and striving for the enlightenment of all beings is how we repay the blessings of the Buddhas and ancestors. Simply, "to live the teaching daily" as our sutra book says, is repaying the Buddhas and ancestors. Bringing our awareness to the reality of what is in front of us and acting without like or dislike is to move freely within the ocean of birth and death. Living this way we actualize the bodhisattva vow to benefit all beings and strive for their awakening. Spring is a time to recommit ourselves to the Buddha way and be of benefit to all beings.

Namu kie butsu  
Namu kie ho  
Namu kie so



#### Message from the Board President

Dear Members and Friends,

First of all, I would like to thank Seigaku Sensei and Tosei Sensei for their ongoing commitment to Long Beach Buddhist Church by making sure our weekly services are held without interruption. The Board is pleased they are working towards becoming certified.

The church would also like to thank David and Lisa Yamamoto for agreeing to become members of the Board. We look forward to their input as we move the church forward.

Shinnenkai, Installation of the 2023 Board members and Spring Ohigan have been celebrated. We are looking forward to re-establishing some of the activities that had to be cancelled during the Covid pandemic.

As always, we thank all of you for continued support of the church and its activities.



With Gassho,  
Susan Eastman, President

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### Hanamatsuri in April

Long Beach Buddhist Church will be celebrating Hanamatsuri (Buddha's birth) on Sunday, April 2. Los Angeles Buddhist Temple Federation will hold their Hanamatsuri service at Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, 815 E. 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Los Angeles on April 9. There will be no service at LBBC on April 9.

### Ofukuwake Project

We are pleased to announce that the project has received another Keiro grant allowing it to continue for its third year! Thank you to Keiro and our volunteers for enabling this activity!

### Upcoming Events

March 26	April Shotsuki service
April 2	Long Beach Buddhist Church Hanamatsuri
April 9	LABTF Hanamatsuri (No LBBC service)
April 30	May Shotsuki service
May 28	June Shotsuki service

All services will be held at 10:00 a.m. unless otherwise stated.