



LONG BEACH BUDDHIST CHURCH

SANGHA NEWSLETTER

Winter 2022

Message from the Minister, Seigaku Amato

November at Long Beach Buddhist Church marked 65 years of dedicated practice and offering of Buddha Dharma to Long Beach and surrounding areas. Due to the support and commitment of church members, guests, and donors, Long Beach Buddhist Church continues to grow and provide a space for the study of Buddhism, community gathering, and a place to share the joys and sorrows of everyday life with one another. This is taking refuge in the Buddha, dharma, and sangha.

In the Sangiti Sutta, an early Buddhist sutra, Shariputra states that the Buddha has proclaimed the Dharma and so to keep the teachings and this very life of the practice alive for future generations, we should recite it together without disagreement. We do this out of compassion for the world and all beings. This has been accomplished by the founding members of Long Beach Buddhist Church, the priests who've served the temple, donors, guests, friends, families, and the founding priest of the temple Kosai Eishin Dai Osho for 65 years.

I am honored and humbled to be the current minister at Long Beach Buddhist Church and I will strive to maintain the practice of Buddha Dharma that has been established by the church's long history. I vow to maintain the traditions and history of Long Beach Buddhist Church while working to ensure this tradition for future generations.

Gassho,
Seigaku Amato Osho



Message from the Board President

Dear Members and Friends,

First of all, I would like to thank you all for your whole-hearted support of our August Obon Festival.

Your valued participation in this event made the Rafu Shimpo newspaper. A good time was had by all and the Church appreciates your huge attendance in light of Covid. Thank you Robert and Yuri Yasumura for their leadership and his team in making this event such a huge success.

Second: We wish to announce that Seigaku Sensei has agreed to be our full-time minister until a permanent candidate is found by Soto Mission in Japan. This will be a long process as it is difficult to find a minister who would be willing to relocate to the United States on a long-time basis. In the interim, Seigaku Sensei who has had a long and valued history with Long Beach Buddhist Church will lead us in our practice and we are hopeful that he will be able to attain Zuisen or International Status to represent LBBC permanently.

The church would also like to thank David and Lisa Yamamoto for their generous donation of new curtains for the stage and new flags on the altar. They both worked all day (in the heat) to put them up for us. We certainly appreciate their generosity in making this donation to Long Beach Buddhist Church.



Our 65th Anniversary Celebration in November on November 13th was well attended. It was nice to see Rev. Yokoyama and Doshin-san as they assisted Seigaku Sensei with the service. We hope you will join us for future events and activities. As always, the Church thanks you for your continued support.

With Gassho,
Susan Eastman, President

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Special thanks to Robert Yasumura and family for a successful Obon!

Special thanks to David and Lisa Yamamoto for donating new flags and curtains for the altar and stage in addition to the new blinds on the windows.

Ofukuwake Project

The Ofukuwake Project has had another successful year of supporting seniors in the community through monthly communication and gifts of bento and goodies. We thank Keiro for enabling the project with their funding and hope we will receive another grant for 2023.

Church Clean Up on Sunday, December 18

Please spend some time with us on Sunday, December 18, and help us to tidy up and clean our church!

No service on Sunday, January 1



除夜の鐘
JOYA NO KANE

AT
LONG BEACH BUDDHIST CHURCH

Long Beach Buddhist Church will be holding its annual Joya no Kane New Year's Eve service on **Saturday December 31st** from **5pm to 7pm**. Joya no Kane is the time of year when we express our gratitude for another year of life and prepare for the coming year by chanting the sutras, ringing the Densho bell, and enjoying Toshikoshi soba noodles. Each person who comes strikes the Densho bell totaling 108 times, symbolizing the elimination of our attachments to worldly desires that cause suffering.

Following the joya no Kane service we will enjoy Toshikoshi soba. These New Years soba noodles symbolize our hope for a long life, as the buckwheat plant can survive severe weather during its growth period, so we hope to embody resilience and perseverance.

The Long Beach Zazenkai, a group of church members interested in zazen practice will be holding zazen from **4pm-5pm** before the Joya no Kane service.

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Upcoming Events

December 18	Church clean up
December 25	No service
December 31	Joya no Kane (New Years Eve Bell) at 5:00 p.m.
January 1	No service
January 29	Shinnenkai bento luncheon after service
February 5	Setsubun

All services are at 10:00 a.m. unless otherwise stated.