

**Jikoen BWA NEWS**  
**for SPRING FEDERATION NEWSLETTER**  
**by Shiz Miyasato Feb. 5, 2011**

**New gatha booklet finished**

For the past year, JBWA members **Janet Sasaki** and **Chihoko Yosemori** have been hard at work collecting and putting together all the new gathas that have been composed or translated since the last book was revised in 1990. Some of these “new” gathas date back to the tenure of former Bishop **Chikai Yosemori** in the 1980’s. Some are traditional Japanese ones translated by the Kyodan’s Music Committee, while the newer ones are those introduced at our two statewide Choralfests or were composed for special occasions. All of these had been sent to each temple in piece-meal fashion through the years. All told, the number of these gathas has reached a grand total of 45 -- and counting. It was determined that Jikoen needed, at the barest minimum, 85 copies for the congregation.

Needless to say, since this project began, the main concern was to keep the costs down as much as possible. Luckily this was realized by the fortuitous intervention of **Claire Uehara** who offered to print and bind the entire booklet and also provide a colorful cover. The title she chose, “Gathas – Music for Mindful Living” is delightfully appropriate.

This project was first envisioned by **Lily Horio** and **Suzy Nishiyama** a few years back, but because of the many other time-consuming events that subsequently arose, had to be put on the back burner until Janet and Chihoko re-started the ball rolling.

Thanks to these dedicated women, Jikoen is now the proud home of a beautiful collection of gathas that are printed in uniform style and will be used to its fullest advantage in the years to come!