

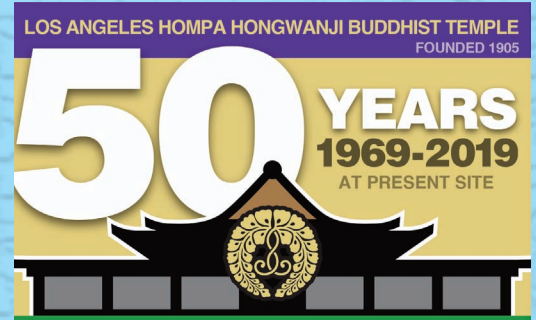
LOS ANGELES BETSUIN

No. 448

May-June 2018

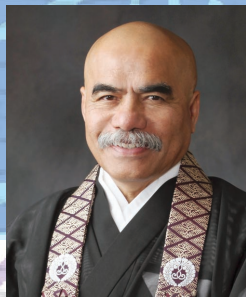
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WWW



RIMBAN'S MESSAGE

THOUGHTS ON DANA AND DONATIONS



**RIMBAN
WILLIAM BRIONES**

True Offering springs spontaneously from one's pure compassionate heart with no thought of any return, wishing only to enter into a life of Enlightenment together.

As a child, my mother would wake me up early every Sunday morning to attend the 6:30 morning Mass at St. Joseph's Catholic Church. Like any child, I hated getting up early just to spend what seemed like hours of sitting, kneeling, standing and genuflecting. Worst yet, was Father Doyle's sermon. To this day, I can't remember a single thing that Father Doyle attempted to impart to the congregation, save for asking for donations and talking about money. Okay ... maybe my father had an influence on my selective memory. My father would tell me that he didn't go to Mass because all the priest ever talked was about money.

Perhaps this is why I shy away from talking about matters concerning money in my dharma messages or talking about dues, donations, *orei*, fees for facility use, etc. to our members.

An offering is not a True Offering if after the act there are feelings of regret or of self-praise: a True offering is one that is given with pleasure, forgetting oneself as the giver, the one who receives it and the gift itself.

Unfortunately, my good looks don't pay the temple's utility bills (\$5K - \$8K/month), BCA Dues (\$10 K/month), trash (\$2K-4K/month), our staff salary and much, much more. To run such a large temple, not only do we ask for your generous donations, but we ask for your precious time. So I'm sure no wants to hear about raising Betsuin temple dues, fundraisers or more donations.

However, through generous donations, temple membership and fundraisers made possible by the dedication of hard working temple members and temple friends, our sangha is able to sustain our temple. The continued support by our members and community is the heart of our sangha. This is the very essence of dana, selfless giving that Shakyamuni Buddha spoke of ... when we have benefited from the teachings, we in turn naturally want to give back.

The verse I began with comes from the Dhammapada, words spoken by Shakaymuni Buddha over 2500 years ago. It is a reminder for us that a true gift is given from the heart. It's about dana, the first of the six Paramitas, the selfless giving without expecting anything in return or of recognition.

Dana a word from Sanskrit can be translated into donation, charity or sharing. It is an expression of love and compassion for all beings. Dana was one of the six kinds of practices by

(continued on page 7)

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SICK CHILD

by Rev. Koho Takata



REV. KOHO TAKATA

I am an identical twin. My older twin brother and I went to school together until we finished middle school. After middle school, my brother was sent to Kyoto as a successor of my family temple to attend the Heian High School which was the Hongwanji School located next to the Honzan, our mother temple. I attended the local high school in

Toyama.

While we lived together until high school, we always became sick at the same time. Whenever we were sick, my parents took the two of us together to the hospital. My thinking was that we were always sick at the same time because we were always together. However, surprisingly, after my older brother and I were living separately in Kyoto and in Toyama, we still caught a cold at the same time. When both of us caught cold, my parents worried about my older twin brother very much. I know my parents worried about both of us, but they especially worried about my brother because he was not living with them. As I reflect upon my parents' love and concern for me and my brother in my younger days, a very famous story Shinran Shonin quoted from Nirvana Sutra to his major writing *"The True Teaching, Practice, and Realization of the Pure Land Way"* came to my mind.

*Suppose there are parents with seven children.
When one of the seven children is sick, although the
father and mother are concerned equally with all of
them, nevertheless their hearts lean towards the sick
child. Great King, it is like this with the Tathagata. It is
not that there is no equality among all sentient beings,
but his heart leans wholly toward the person who has
committed evi.* (CWS P.133, #116)

Amida Buddha's Great Compassion is first directed to the very sick person who is a ignorant foolish being. In Jodo Shinshu, the person who is sick and an ignorant foolish one is called as an evil person and suffers with full self-centered desires and attachments like me. Although I don't cry if it doesn't go as I wish and I outwardly do not show my ego to others like babies, my mind is full of ego. Amida Buddha first showers his caring mind and heart and illuminates his Light of Wisdom and Boundless Compassion to me who is sick and suffer with my evil and foolish nature.

In Jodo Shinshu, I am seen as an evil person and not

someone else. When I encounter the teachings of the Buddha and realize Amida Buddha's Compassionate Activities, my blind passions caused by my self-centered nature are revealed. It is made clear by the mirror of the dharma that I am the person who is evil. I am reminded of my foolish nature by a saying by Honen Shonin.

"Persons of Pure Land tradition attain birth in the Pure Land by becoming their foolish selves."
(CWS P.531, Lamp for the Latter-Ages #6)

Realizing my true self by hearing the Primal Vow of Amida Buddha doesn't mean that I become wise, smart, and a good person. It means I lower my head and look down at my feet and realizing my own foolish nature—the person that I am.

Let us endeavor to rededicate ourselves to live our life to its fullest in the Light and Wisdom of the Nembutsu and fully live in the True Nembutsu Way as a Nembutsu follower.

*With minds full of malice and cunning,
like snakes or scorpions,
We cannot accomplish good acts through self-power,
And unless we entrust ourselves to
Amida's directing of virtue,
We will end without knowing shame or self-reproach.*
(CWS P.422, Hymns of the Dharma-Ages #99)

**LOS ANGELES BETSUIN
BUDDHIST WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION**

CENTENNIAL

100 YEARS

1918-2018

OCTOBER 20-21, 2018

ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY

by Rev. Kazuaki Nakata



REV. KAZ

If you assume that there is tomorrow, even the most beautiful cherry blossoms may be gone with a blast of storm during the night.

—Shinran Shonin

Jodo Shinshu founder, Shinran Shonin received his ordination (*tokudo*) when he was nine years old.

The day his ordination was planned,

his uncle Noritsuna took him to Shoren-in, a temple in Kyoto. When they arrived at the temple, it was dark. An officiant of the ordination, Master Jien hesitantly told Noritsuna and Shinran, “*Today is almost over. We shall hold Shinran’s ordination rite tomorrow.*” In response to Master Jien’s decision, Shinran Shonin went into deep thought and wrote a poem which begins this article. It captures one of the universal truths of the dharma, the truth of life’s impermanence. Tradition says that Master Jien was so impressed by Shinran Shonin’s poem and he officiated the ordination in the middle of night...

Recently, the Federation of Dharma School Teachers League (FDSTL) board meeting at the San Luis Obispo Buddhist Temple. The weather was awesome. After the opening service, I shared a short message with the board members.

“Happy New Year to Everyone... We have another new year for our dharma school activities. Some of you have taught dharma school for more than 10-20 years... However, each dharma school student has been in the grade level for only one year. The sixth graders will move up to the seventh grade, and they will not go back.”

About three years ago, when my eldest daughter, Kanon entered the first grade in dharma school, I started questioning what we are providing in terms of Buddhist education in the dharma school curriculum. For the last two years, I have worked on the Dharma School Text Book Digitization Project, under the guidance of the FDSTL. Now all dharma school text books are available to download for free at the BCA website. While working on the project, I comprehensively checked each grade text book, and had an idea to reorganize the dharma school curriculum from grade base to a content base curriculum. When someone wants to know about the life of Shinran Shonin (eg: finding his poem of “Cherry Blossoms”), he/she must look through all the grade text books to find materials relating to Shinran Shonin. But if we can have a text which contains the entire life story of Shinran Shonin, one can easily access the information.

Last year, the FDSTL sent a questionnaire about the dharma school texts to all BCA dharma school teachers. The question was simple, “*How do you utilize the current Dharma School text books?*” We presented the result of the questionnaire as a power point slideshow at the 2017 FDSTL Conference in Central California. Many answers were collected and many comments indicated that the much of the content was outdated. The result of the survey indicated that many teachers do use the text books. During the FDSTL meeting, a discussion of creating a new text book took place.

For the New Dharma School Text Project, I selected three objectives and presented them to the FDSTL board. They are: (1) Re-construct Buddhist Education to a content base curriculum. (2) Content must be adjusted to students in 21st century US English. (3) Students will be proficient in Jodo Shinshu and able to apply it in their daily lives. In reality, once students graduate from dharma school, they will have no opportunity for formal education in Jodo Shinshu Buddhism.

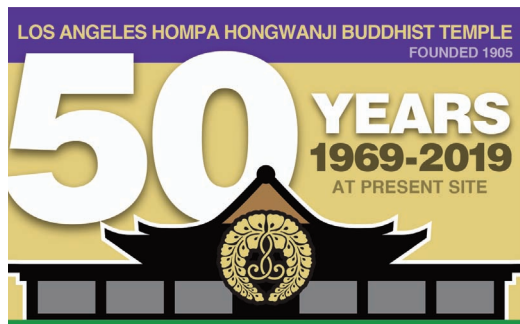
There is a ministerial training school of Jodo Shinshu in Kyoto, Japan, which is known as Chuo Bukkyo Gakuin. Upon graduation from the school, students will be eligible to receive their ordination (*tokudo*.) There are about 14 text books for the ministerial training program at the school. I selected 11 text books for our dharma school education. They are (1) History of Jodo Shinshu, (2) Buddhist History in India and China, (3) Buddhist History in Japan, (4) Essence of Three Pure Land Sutras, (5) Essence of Buddhist Denominations(I), (6) Essence of Buddhist Denominations (II), (7) Essence of Buddhism, (8) Essence of Seven Masters, (9) Essence of Religion, (10) Essence of Wasan, Hymn (I), and (11) Essence of Wasan, Hymn (II).

When the dharma school students study all these text books, they will acquire knowledge, almost equivalent to someone who is eligible to receive *tokudo* in Japan. Such text books will make a significant impact in our dharma school education program. I strongly believe that all dharma school students should have an opportunity to learn as much as possible about Jodo Shinshu before their graduation. I also believe that not only all our dharma school teachers should have the opportunity to learn as much as possible about Jodo Shinshu, but also our general members should have same learning opportunity on Jodo Shinshu.

(continued on page 4)

“50 YEARS” UPDATE REPORT

by Ernest Hida, 50th Anniversary Chairman



It is now about one year and four months to the 50th Anniversary of the Betsuin at its Current Location celebration in September 2019. The committee is actively preparing for this auspicious event.

In addition, the Projects Committee continues to repair, renovate and upgrade the temple building to maintain and preserve the legacy that was left for all of us by the previous generation. At the March board meeting, the board approved a budget of \$700,000 for the repair and upgrade of the air conditioning system of the temple building, heightening of the railing of the balcony in the hondo, and the installation of the reflective film on the temple windows on the east and west side to keep the interior cool from the hot sun, thus saving on the cooling cost. These needed repairs and upgrades will be completed by Obon in July 2019.

The Fundraising Committee continues its dedicated efforts to meet the goal of \$2.5 million with \$1.4 million already raised. We continue to ask for your support to meet our goal to maintain and preserve your beautiful temple to honor our Issei pioneers and the succeeding generations who established and built this temple for everyone to learn the nembutsu teachings.

For fundraising efforts, ABA has generously donated \$4259 from their BINGO chicken dinner and selling bento at 2018 Kohaku Utagassen, and branch temple, Hollywood Buddhist Church, also generously donated \$4000, for a total of \$44,000 to date, with their goal of a total of \$50,000 for the 50th Anniversary. We express our deep gratitude to these organizations for their efforts and gen

In addition, there have been other organizations who have made donations. The dharma school students has had their ongoing fundraising efforts by collecting recyclable plastic and donating the proceeds to the 50th Anniversary. Please send your recyclable plastic to the students to support their fundraising efforts. Last but not least, we sincerely thank all of you for your support and generosity these past years, and we, again, look forward to your con-

tinued generosity to push us towards the top of the fundraising goal.

The Nishi Dharma Center continues to provide excellent opportunities to learn and expand your understanding of the dharma with its interesting and meaningful classes. Please contact the temple office for more information on how you register for these classes.

Let us put our hearts and minds together and work together for a wonderful and meaningful 50th Anniversary celebration of your temple's current location in 2019 to honor our Issei pioneers and past members and ministers for the legacy they left for us.

Gassho,
Ernest Hida, 50th Anniversary Committee Chairman



(NAKATA- continued from page 3)

Former U.S. President Barack Obama and his administration took initiative for advancing equity in education, for the task work of the U.S. Department of Education. The department indicated its motivation to move this initiative forward because of the recognition of the power of education to transform lives. I totally agree with their initiative and understand its significance. If we as Jodo Shinshu followers, strongly wish to proliferate Jodo Shinshu in the United States of America, all of us should have equal accessibility and opportunity to learn about Jodo Shinshu, before all cherry blossoms have scattered away from this country.

At the FDSTL board meeting, I received approval to purchase, translate into English, and use these books in the dharma school program. I have received permission from the International Department of Hongwanji to translate these text books into English with necessary content modifications for American understanding. I requested a college professor of English to proof read the translations. This project may require 3-5 years, but for the future of our dharma school and general membership in the BCA, I have committed myself to the completion this project. I am honored to do so. I appreciate the generous support from the FDSTL and the Hongwanji.

Gassho

GOTAN-E DHARMA SERVICE THE BIRTH OF SHINRAN SHONIN

by Rev. Koho Takata

The members of Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple and their families are invited to attend the annual Gotan-e Service, which is one of the Six Major Services in the Hongwanji tradition to be held on **Sunday, May 20, 2018**. The guest speaker for the service will be **Rev. Masao Kodani** of the BCA Ministers Emeritus for English Service and **Rev. Tesshi Aoyama** of the BCA Minister Emeritus for Japanese Service.



Gotan-E celebrates the birth of our founder Shinran Shonin who was born on May 21, 1173. Reviewing Shinran Shonin's life, he did not live a fortunate life filled with happy environmental conditions. Both his parents were gone at an early age and he encountered many hardships throughout his life. But his spiritual experiences which evolved under many trying conditions and in many places, have given the many followers of the Buddha's teachings an answer to the purpose of life in this world.

Shinran Shonin spent his simple and modest life of 90 years with no thought of making himself spectacularly prominent and impressive among the people. But millions of nembutsu followers are rejoicing over his way of life through the guidance of Amida Buddha and his teachings. Let us see the true aspect of Shinran Shonin's shinjin and live the life of oneness with the strength and conviction through the teachings of the nembutsu.

INFANT PRESENTATION CEREMONY - HATSUMAIRI

by Rev. Koho Takata

The Infant Presentation Ceremony (*Hatsumairi*) will be held in conjunction with the Gotan-e (birth of Shinran Shonin) Service on **May 20, 2018**.

The term "Infant Presentation Ceremony" means parents formally present their child to the Buddha and the sangha for the first time on this occasion. It will be a precious opportunity for child, parents, and the sangha to rededicate themselves to walk together in the footsteps of our founder Shinran Shonin and become aware that we are always in oneness with Amida Buddha at all times and in all places in the infinite light and life.



We strongly encourage the observance of the "Infant Presentation Ceremony" in order to nurture individuals to rejoice in the nembutsu. Children are nurtured by parents and parents, in turn, are fostered by children, and by living in Amida Buddha's heart we are able to build a nembutsu life actualized by Shinran Shonin.

(Registration form can be found on page 12)



OBON DHARMA SERVICE

by Rev. Koho Takata

The annual *Hatsubon* (First Obon) Service for those who passed away from last Obon until today is scheduled for Saturday, June 30, 2018 at 10:00 am and 1:00 pm.

The annual Obon service is scheduled for Sunday, July 15, 2018, with guest speaker, the Rev. **George Matsubayashi** of Former Rimban of LA Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple for English and Japanese Service, guiding us through this reflective time.

We also schedule to observe Obon Service at Evergreen Cemetery at 9:00am and at temple columbarium (nokot-

sudo or Muryo Koju Do) at 11:30am on the same day with our annual Obon Service at temple, Sunday, July 15, 2018.

The term *bon* is an abbreviation of a Japanese Buddhist term "*urabon*," which is derived from the Sanskrit term "*ullumbana*." "*Ullumbana*" means to be liberated from a spiritual state of pain and hunger caused by greediness, one of three blind desires.

Even as we reflect on the sorrowful consequence of basic
(continued on page 7)

DID YOU KNOW?

by Eiko Masuyama



**EIKO
MASUYAMA**

The Los Angeles BWA, formerly Bukkyo Fujinkai, will be celebrating their 100th anniversary, October 20-21, 2018.

The Los Angeles Betsuin Dharma School, formerly Sunday School, will be celebrating their 100th anniversary, September 9, 2018.

"The Los Angeles Betsuin Sunday School," Hompa Hongwanji Los Angeles Betsuin 1905 - 1980.

Sunday services for children were held soon after the establishment of our Los Angeles Buddhist Temple. Eizo Masuyama recalls these services in Yamato Hall (c.1918) conducted by Reverend C. Ike with about 35 children of all ages. The sermons were delivered in Japanese, and candy was given to all who attended.

The number and diversity of the ages of the children increased to such an extent that in the early 1920s, under the leadership of Reverend K. Kurokawa, Sunday classes began to be held after the service.

By 1925, when the new temple on 119 North Central Avenue [presently the Historic Building of the Japanese American National Museum] was dedicated, Sunday School services and classes were established. Approximately 150 students, aged 3 to 14, attended regularly. There were six levels of classes: kindergarten (Rev. T. Ozu and Ms. Nishijima), Beginners (Mr. Masuyama and Ms. Yoshida), primary (Ms. Tamura and Ms. Yokota), junior girls (Ms. Doida and Ms. Konishi), junior boys (Mr. Naramura and Mr. Watanabe), intermediate girls (Mrs. J. Ono), intermediate boys (Mr. Kato), and the Cherry Club for youths 15 years of age and older. The music department was headed by Midori Nakamura and Kaoru Inouye.

The teaching materials were from Japan and written in Japanese. They consisted primarily of Buddhist stories for children. Together with Buddha-dharma, the teachers taught Japanese culture (dance, songs, etc.) and morality.

The ministers held classes regularly to train the Sunday School teachers. In addition, speakers from Japan often came to help and offer guidance.

Other activities engaged in by members of our Sunday School were the Sunday School Children's Choir (conducted by Eizo Masuyama), Harmonica Band (led by Masao Yamate), Wanji baseball, and annual Oseibo Taikai programs.

Yutaka Shinohara began assisting the Sunday School pro-



Sunday School, Yamato Hall, c. 1920

Maku (curtain): There are two women's names printed on each side of the maku. Left: Hirai, -sue and Iwamoto, Yoshino(ko). Right Tanimoto, Tsukiko and Tokunaga, Tsune(ko)

Some of the individuals identified — Row 1: Rev. C. Ike; Row 2: Rev. I. Kyogoku; Row 3: Masao Yamate (left end, dark shirt), Eizo Masuyama (right end, tweed top); Top Row: Rev. K. Kurokawa (left of center, tall, dark suit), Rev. J. Ono (right of center, dark suit, glasses, mustache)

gram in the summer of 1935. He started as an assistant to Mitsuko Tamari (Tao), then became a regular teacher replacing Noboru Masada. Some of the 12- to 13-year old boys that he recalls in his class were Yoshiaki Nakayama, Sadao Kaizoji, Masaharu Kuraoka, and Mitsutoshi Kohno.

The classes were not divided strictly by grade. They were called picturesque names such as *Hoshi* (star), *Ume* (plum), *Take* (bamboo), *Sakura* (cherry), *Matsu* (pine), and also more practical names such as Junior. and Senior. Some of the teachers Mr. Shinohara recalls from this time are Noboru Ishitani, Karl Sato, and Sanford Sato

*Mr./Mrs. Tokunaga founded Nanka Seimen Company; Mrs. Tokunaga was one of the original members of the Nishi Bukkyo Fujinkai, established in 1918.
... to be continued

* * * * *

Error in last issue: the office manager is Rie Fujie.

Special thanks for donations to the library and archives: Mrs. Tomiko Saita for many YBA panoramas from the 1940s and 1950s; JoAnn Hirose for 1950s photos of

(continued on page 7)

(Rimban - continued from page 1)

which were traditionally practiced by Buddhist monks and nuns that were truly living the Bodhisattva ideals. However as mere “mortals” living in the mundane, the Paramitas can serve as a guide, a reminder of our Buddhist path.

Yet, I believe this was the understanding of our Issei and Nisei pioneers. They built our temples in the worst of economic times. Through financial and personal hardship they endured, yet they generously gave back to the temple. Dana, was the foundation of their spiritual life.

As the Issei pioneers built the foundation of the Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple almost 113 years ago in downtown Little Tokyo, the Nisei in 1965 with foresight and a vision purchased one and one-half acre at 1st and Vignes to relocate the Betsuin from the Central/First Street site. With the generous support of the temple members they were able to raise \$1,025,000 to complete the construction of the new Betsuin in 1969.

Now almost 50 years later, the Sansei and temple friends have been asked to continue the legacy of our parents and grandparents. At the 2013 Annual Board of Directors meeting, we voted unanimously to begin a major fundraiser, \$2.5 million to refurbish the *naijin* and to repair or replace outdated or damaged areas within the temple grounds and facilities.

Since then we have accomplished much. Restoration of the *naijin*, including wood flooring, floral ceiling tiles and gold colored wall paper on the back and sides of the *naijin*. Also a newly installed air conditioning in the kaikan; the

main and north parking lots have been repaved and re-striped with an additional nine parking spaces in the north lot; the railing on the front porch have been repaired, repositioned and anchored more securely. In addition, all the rail, fence and gates around the perimeter have been painted. The deteriorating concrete about the front porch have been repaired and sealed with waterproof stain. And as write this article, work as begun to make the balcony in the hondo a safer place. A glass barrier is being installed at the front of the balcony. Other projects that have been approved; overhauling the existing air conditioning and heating system in the main building also removing the old window tint and replacing it with a more energy efficient tint on the east side (ministers windows) and west side (board room and “Monshu Room”) of the buildings.

All this comes at a cost. With over a year to go until our 50th Anniversary, we find ourselves a little over half our goal. With about 10% of our JIHO mailing list (3,000) contributing to our fundraiser, I’m hoping with our second mailing request we can reach out to those who have not yet made a donation. To those individuals and groups that have, my sincerest appreciation and gratitude to you. The Dana that you have expressed through your generous donations will not only maintain our temple facilities but most importantly, they will ensure that the Nembutsu Teachings are available to all those who want to hear and experience it.

Namo Amida Butsu

OBON SERVICE- continued from page 5)

human defilement, we, as Jodo Shinshu Buddhists, joyfully reflect on the Primal Vow Power of Amida Buddha which has been fulfilled, thus enabling us to live in gratitude. The bon service is called the “gathering of joy” in Jodo Shinshu tradition, instead of being merely called a “memorial service.”

The donation envelope for the obon service is enclosed with the Betsuin Jiho. The amount of donation is not set. It is your decision how much you wish to contribute toward receiving the dharma. Your sincere and mindful donation of any amount is truly appreciated to offset the expenses of the major service. This enables all of us, as a sangha, to listen to the dharma on this special occasion. We sincerely ask for your understanding and cooperation as we devote ourselves to listen to and share the teachings of the nembutsu through the embrace of Amida Buddha’s wisdom and compassion, never to be abandoned.

DID YOU KNOW?- continued from page 6)

Pasadena Sunday School and SD BWA Conferences; the late Junpei Kawasaki family for their donations to the library; the Onami family for their donations to the library; Rev. and Mrs. Harold Oda for the book, “*Biographical History of Hawaii Hongwanji Ministers;*” and to others who have donated without leaving their names, thank you all very much.

Betsuin Jiho

Editor-in-Chief: Rimban William Briones

English Editor: Elaine Fukumoto

Photos: Koichi Sayano

BETSUIN PIX



Boy Scout Eagles by Kotaro Chavez

Boy Scout Troop 738 at LA Homba Hongwangi Buddhist Temple recognized five young men who earned Scouting's highest rank, Eagle Scout. During the investiture ceremony, Eagle Scouts (pictured l-r): Kotaro Joshua Chavez, Ross Shoichi Leong, Aaron Kohei Alexander, Kai Akira Munekata and Cade Makoto Okohira took a solemn oath to responsibly represent the highest values and impeccable moral character expected of an Eagle Scout. The troop achieved a milestone of recognizing the 100th Eagle Scout in the troop's 49 year history when honoring Ross Shoichi Leong.



BCA Bodhi Award

Rev. Kaz Nakata and Gary Kawaguchi are recent recipients of the BCA Bodhi Award. This award recognizes adult leaders who have promoted Buddhism in their troops. The scouting program at the Betsuin has been in existence for 50 years and during those 50 years 12 individuals have been recipients of the Bodhi (formerly Wisteria) Award. Also pictured: Rimban Briones (left) and right — Richard Odagawa (BCA Committee on Scouting Chairperson).



National Council Meeting

Left: former Betsuin president, Kenji Hatakeyama, Rimban William Briones, and current president, Bessie Tanaka represent the Betsuin at the annual National Council Meeting. Right: Betsuin's Marley Uyemura was selected to speak at the Dharmathon. She also attended the Young Leaders of Tomorrow training workshop held in conjunction with the National Council Meeting.



An endorsement? "Even Buddhist priests visit McDonalds"

BETSUIN PIX



Buddhist Women's Association Beiju Recognition
Akiko Nishimura (second from left), Tsuruko Iwohara (center), and Kay Oda (second from right) are recognized for their 88th year at the Kisaragi-ki Service. Also pictured: Rimban Briones and Pam Tabata (BWA president).



Dharma Lessons For All
top: Dharma school kindergarten class, Rev. Nobuo Miyaji (center left), Rev. Ryuta Furumoto (center right), and Rev. Hoshun Matsubayashi (bottom).



Surf and Turf Fundraiser
Grilling Beef



BWA New Year Party Game Finale



Sangha Teens enjoy an afternoon of bowling in Little Tokyo.

IN MEMORIAM

The *Nishi Betsuin* extends its deepest condolences to the families of the following members who have recently passed away. May the family members find solace and comfort in the *Nembutsu*.

--*Namo Amida Butsu*

January, 2018

- 17 Mary Noriko Yoshihara
- 20 Audrey Castillo
- 21 Tokiko Matsumoto
- 23 Shigeo Naoe
- 26 Teruo Shimizu
- 27 Ryo Joe Nakai
- 29 Hiroye May Takata
- 30 Toshio Nakayama

- 12 Satoko Nakamura
- 13 Kirio William Ueki
- 15 Katsutoshi Sugita
- 16 Thomas Masao Takamiyashiro
- 16 Jitsuko Konishi
- 17 Danko Noguchi
- 22 Toki Kozaka
- 24 John Mitsuo Nomoto

February, 2018

- 4 Fusae Mayeda
- 6 Mildred Chiyoko Morimoto
- 9 Haru Yamasaki

March, 2018

- 4 Isamu Kinoshita
- 12 Clara Yoshiko Komoto
- 13 Tad Oshige

BETSUIN MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES

SUNDAY, MAY 27th

- BETSUIN 10:00 am
- BETSUIN NOKOTSU-DO 11:00 am

LOS ANGELES BUDDHIST TEMPLE FEDERATION SERVICES

SATURDAY, MAY 26th

- RIVERSIDE CEMETERY 10:00 am
- JACCC ALL WARS MEMORIAL MONUMENT 11:00 am

SUNDAY, MAY 28th

- PACIFIC CREST CEMETERY 9:00 am
- NEWPORT BEACH HIGASHI HONGANJI 9:00 am
- PACIFIC VIEW MEMORIAL PARK 10:00 am
- GREEN HILLS MEMORIAL PARK 11:00 am

MONDAY, MAY 28th

- EVERGREEN CEMETERY
- MUEN-TO 9:30 am
- KUYO-TO (Hiroshima Kenjinkai) 10:30 am
- NISEI VETS 11:00 am

ROSE HILLS MEMORIAL PARK

- NISEI VETS 9:00 am
- IREI-TO 10:00 am



L.A. BETSUIN BOOK CENTER



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(aka: OJUJU)

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WEEKDAYS - BETSUIN OFFICE PERSONNEL WILL ASSIST WITH PURCHASES

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NISHI BOY SCOUT TROOP 738

PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Sunday, May 11, 2018

7 AM - 10 AM

Donation: \$6

Betsuin Kaikan





OBON DANCE PRACTICE DATES



Where: West Parking Lot
Time: 7:00 - 8:30 pm
Days: Tuesdays & Thursdays

June 12, 14, 19, 21, 26 & 28
July 3, & 5 (@ Sakura Gardens Intermediate Care Facility from 6:00 pm)



SO. DISTRICT OBON ODORI SCHEDULE

June 10 Arizona	6:45 (Saturday only)	Santa Barbara	4:00 (Saturday only)
June 16 & 17 Sun Valley	7:00 / 6:30	Venice	7:00/7:00
June 23 & 24 San Fernando West Covina	7:00 / 6:30 7:00 - not BCA (Saturday only)	July 28 & 29 Vista WLA Higashi	6:30/6:30 6:30/6:30 6:30/6:30 - not BCA
June 30 Senshin	7:00 (Saturday only)	August 4 Las Vegas San Diego (Balboa Park)	12:45 - not BCA (Saturday only) 6:30 (Saturday only)
July 8 & 9 L.A. BETSUIN	7:00 / 6:30	August 11 & 12 Gardena	6:00/6:00
July 14 & 15 Orange County Oxnard	7:00/7:00 6:00 (Saturday only)		
July 21 & 22 Pasadena	6:30/6:30		



HATSUMAIRI

MAY 20, 2018

REGISTRATION FORM

NAME OF CHILD: _____

BOY _____ GIRL _____ BIRTHDATE: _____

NAME IN KANJI	
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PARENTS' NAME: _____

EMAIL: _____

TEL: _____

ADDRESS: _____

_____ ZIP: _____

**PLEASE SUBMIT THIS FORM TO THE BETSUIN OFFICE BY:
MAY 6, 2018**

**LA Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple
815 E. 1st St.
Los Angeles, CA 90012
Tel: 213-680-9130**

**Email: info@nishihongwanji-la.org
FAX: 213-680-2210**

You're Invited to

Family Fun Day



Sunday, June 10, 2018

**Potluck Luncheon Immediately After Service
In the Kaikan**

**Hot dogs & hamburgers will be provided by
Dharma School Parents.**

**Bring a side dish of salad, rice or dessert according to your
last name.**

A-K (Desserts) L - P (Rice/Sides) Q - Z (Salads)

We look forward to seeing you there!

MAY 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
		<u>The Basic Teaching of Buddhism</u> Rev. Ryuta Furumoto 7:00-8:30 pm	<u>Contemporary Issues & Jodo Shinshu Perspective Discussion</u> Rimban William Briones 7:00-8:30 pm		Qigong/Tai Chi Classes 10-11 am	<u>...3 Great & Extraordinary Lay Shin Buddhists...</u> Rev. Tetsuo Unno 10:00-1130 am
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Regular Service 10:00 am				Board Meeting 7:30 pm	Qigong/Tai Chi Classes 10-11 am	<u>...3 Great & Extraordinary Lay Shin Buddhists...</u> Rev. Tetsuo Unno 10:00-1130 am
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast Mothers' Day Service 10 am Eitaikyo Shotsuki Hoyo 1 pm	<u>Reason to Live the Shin Buddhist Way</u> Rev. Koho Takata 6:30-8:00 pm	<u>The Basic Teaching of Buddhism</u> Rev. Ryuta Furumoto 7:00-8:30 pm	Go-Meinichi-ko 1:30 pm		Qigong/Tai Chi Classes 10-11 am	<u>...3 Great & Extraordinary Lay Shin Buddhists...</u> Rev. Tetsuo Unno 10:00-1130 am
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Gotan-ye/Hatsumairi Service 10 am	<u>Reason to Live the Shin Buddhist Way</u> Rev. Koho Takata 6:30-8:00 pm	<u>The Basic Teaching of Buddhism</u> Rev. Ryuta Furumoto 7:00-8:30 pm			Qigong/Tai Chi Classes 10-11 am	<u>Shinran Shonin's Hymns (in Japanese)</u> Rev. Yoshiko Miyaji 10:00-1130 am
27	28	29	30	31		
Memorial Day Service 10:00 am						

JUNE 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Qigong/Tai Chi Classes 10-11 am	2 <u>...3 Great & Extraordinary Lay Shin Buddhists...</u> Rev. Tetsuo Unno 10:00-1130 am
3 Regular Service 10:00 am	4	5	6	7	8 Qigong/Tai Chi Classes 10-11 am	9 <u>...3 Great & Extraordinary Lay Shin Buddhists...</u> Rev. Tetsuo Unno 10:00-1130 am
10 Regular Service 10:00 am Family Fun Day in Kaikan Eitai-kyo Shotsuki Hoyo 1 pm	11	12 Bon Odori practice 7-8:30 pm	13	14 Board Meeting 7:30 pm Bon Odori practice 7-8:30 pm	15 Qigong/Tai Chi Classes 10-11 am	16 Go-Meinichi-ko 1:30 pm
17 Fathers' Day Service 10:00 am	18	19 Bon Odori practice 7-8:30 pm	20	21 Bon Odori practice 7-8:30 pm	22 Qigong/Tai Chi Classes 10-11 am	23 <u>Shinran Shonin's Hymns (in Japanese)</u> Rev. Yoshiko Miyaji 10:00-1130 am
24 Graduation & Attendance Award Service 10:00 am	25	26 Bon Odori practice 7-8:30 pm	27	28 Bon Odori practice 7-8:30 pm	29 Qigong/Tai Chi Classes 10-11 am	30 Hatsubon Service