

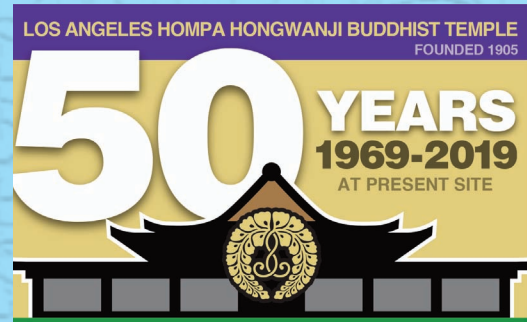
# LOS ANGELES BETSUIN

No. 454

May-June 2019

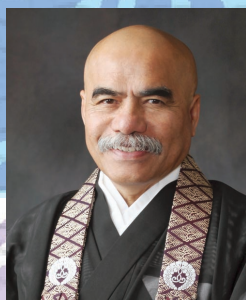
# jihō

WWW



## RIMBAN'S MESSAGE

### THOUGHTS ON NAMO AMIDA BUTSU AND AMIDA BUDDHA



**RIMBAN  
WILLIAM BRIONES**

*“... there is only the act of rejoicing in Amida’s compassion; there is solely the diamond-like shinjin whether walking, standing, sitting, or reclining without any thought of the propriety of time or place; There is only saying the name out of gratitude for the Buddha’s profound benevolence and for the joy imparted by the benevolence of the masters”*

—Lamp for the Latter Ages – Letter 14

I’m assuming that many of you grew up within a Jodo Shinshu household. Some of you even went to “Sunday School”. So I’m sure that as a child you heard and even recited, “*Namo Amida Butsu*”. Many of you might have naturally felt what the Nembutsu was ... without knowing what it really meant.

But there are many of us who did not grow up in a Buddhist or Japanese household. For myself, I never heard of Buddhism, let alone Jodo Shinshu, until my senior year of high school. So, when I visited the Mountain View Temple for the first time and heard people reciting “*Namo Amida Butsu*,” of course it looked and sounded like a prayer. You know that old adage, “If it quacks like a duck ...”

It took several years after that first experience, that I could actually put my hands together and try to say *Namo Amida Butsu*. Try ... because I was unable to mutter those few words. Try as I may, I could not pronounce those words. Worst yet, I still had questions on why one would say it in the first place.

The reading I began with is from the writings of Shinran Shonin’s, “*Lamp for the Latter Ages*”. A disciple of Shinran, Kyoshin, writes to Shinran to express his thoughts to him, “... *There is only saying the name out of gratitude for the Buddha’s profound benevolence and for the joy imparted by the benevolence of the masters*” For Kyoshin, the recitation of Nembutsu, *Namo Amida Butsu*, is the outward expression of thanksgiving and gratitude to Amida Buddha for giving him an opportunity to hear the great masters and Shinran’s Teachings.

*Namo* is originally a Sanskrit word meaning “to take refuge” and *Amida Butsu* means Amida Buddha. Together means, “I take refuge in Amida Buddha” – a calling out to Amida Buddha.

But who or what is Amida Buddha? And why do we call his name?

Within our tradition of Jodo Shinshu, the main object of reverence is Amida Buddha. Shakyamuni Buddha, whose life story is depicted on

*(continued on page 7)*

Los Angeles  
Homba Hongwanji  
Buddhist Temple  
815 East First Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

TEL: 213.680.9130  
FAX: 213.680.2210

WEB: [nishihongwanji-la.org](http://nishihongwanji-la.org)

EMAIL: [info@nishihongwanji-la.org](mailto:info@nishihongwanji-la.org)

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY AT THE CURRENT TEMPLE SITE

by Rev. Koho Takata



REV. KOHO TAKATA

Over five years ago, our temple made a resolution to commemorate the 50th Anniversary at the Current Temple Site in 2019 at the General Membership Meeting held on November 10, 2013. Soon after, the central committee for the anniversary was established and its first meeting was held on February 21, 2014.

In 1969, the Nishi Hongwanji Betsuin was relocated from the 1st Street and Central Avenue to the current site of 1st Street and Vignes where a new temple was built. Various announcements of 50th Anniversary Service and related events have been announced and preparations are being made to welcome Monshu Kojun Ohtani, the resident minister of Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha in Kyoto, Japan. His Eminence will be here to commemorate this milestone anniversary. The Monshu is a direct descendant of Shinran Shonin, founder of our Jodo Shinshu tradition, and has assumed the responsibilities of the 25th Monshu as the Spiritual Leader of the Jodo Shinshu Hon-gwanji-ha.

Fifty years ago, in 1969, the Dedication Ceremony for the installation of the altar and the completion of the construction of the temple building was officiated by former Monshu Kosho Ohtani, grandfather of the current Monshu. There were many dedicated members who made tremendous financial sacrifices to engage in their strong commitment to hand down the essential teaching of Nembutsu to the generations to come and spread the Buddha-Dharma to all by constructing the temple. Many of them have passed, but their founding spirit of the propagation of the Buddha-Dharma is still alive today within our Sangha and temple.

Shinran Shonin quoted the following passage into the postscript of his major work called "The True Teaching, Practice, and Realization of the Pure Land Way."

*"I have collected true words to aid others in their practice for attaining birth, in order that the process be made continuous, without end and without interruption, by which those who have been born first guide those who come later, and those who are born later join those who were born before. This is so that the boundless ocean of birth-and-death be exhausted."*

(CWS P.291)

While I was in Japan, I had often heard that the voices of our loved ones who recited the Nembutsu and lived in the Nembutsu with joy and happiness were absorbed into the

altar ornaments, ceiling, floor, and walls of the hondo and temple building. They continue to call us to listen to the calling voice of the Nembutsu. The dedicated members who have passed and have become Buddhas of Infinite Light and Life, Boundless Wisdom and Compassion are proactively guiding us to the temple hondo to listen to the Teaching of Primal Vow of Amida Buddha.

In looking at the altar, one can see many ornaments which represent the working of Amida Buddha's resolution, Primal Vow in a tangible form. Amida Buddha is colorless and formless as well as the Pure Land like wireless internet. For those who cannot see the perfection of the true reality by our inner eyes which are always covered by our ego, attachment, and self-centred nature such as me, Amida Buddha manifests Universal Truth of Oneness in a form of body as the most compassionate, wise, and noble figure and also in a form of space and time which is our temple altar, as the world of Infinite Light and Life.

It is my wish that each and every one of us become mindful of the intentions and fulfillment of Amida Buddha's resolution, Hongan or Primal Vow and live a fulfilled life in the Nembutsu. I also hope that everyone will join in the Commemoration events for our 50th Anniversary at the Current Temple Site during the weekend of September 7th and 8th to realize and renew the true intent of establishment of our temple, LA Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, which is primarily a place for listening to the Primal Vow of Amida Buddha.

*"Those who have been born first guide those who come later, and those who are born later join those who were born before." Namu Amidabutsu*

### TRI-TEMPLE SEMINAR

## "LIFE OF AWAKENING: SHINJIN & NEMBUTSU"

Guest Speaker:

**Rev. Henry Adams**

San Mateo Buddhist Temple

**Saturday, May 18, 2019**

**@ LA Nishi Betsuin**

FREE

## ONCE IN A LIFETIME OPPORTUNITY

by Rev. Kazuaki Nakata



REV. KAZ

Last year, I had written an article, “What is Buddhism?” After the article was published, I received many responses. It tells me that our Jiho readers are curious to know more about basics of Buddhism. When I write about Buddhism, it is about the Buddha’s teachings. When I write about Jodo Shinshu, it is about how Jodo Shinshu teachings are presented by

the Buddha and developed by various masters. In this article, I would like to write about what is important about Jodo Shinshu.

We call our temple, Nishi. The official name, however, is the Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. Oftentimes, we abbreviate it to LAHHBT. Some refer to our temple as the Betsuin. Our temple is the main Jodo Shinshu branch temple in Southern California, so it is called the Betsuin. Jodo Shinshu officially has ten sects, and it is known as *Shinshu-Jupa* “Jodo Shinshu-Ju(ten) pa(sect).” *Homba* is *Hom* (main) and *pa* (sect). Therefore, our temple name can be understood as a Buddhist temple of a main sect of Hongwanji in Los Angeles.

Then the question arises — What is Hongwanji? The word “*Hongwan-ji*” is used as our official temple name, so it must be very important. When asked, “What is a meaning of your temple?”, we would be better to explain what it is. The second “H” letter of LAHHBT is important for Jodo Shinshu. A name of our mother temple in Kyoto is also Hongwanji. Hongwanji consists of three kanji characters. They are *Hon-gwan-ji*. *Ji* means “temple,” so it is a temple of *Hongwan*. *Hongwan* is a translation of *Purva Pranidhana* in Sanskrit. In the January Jiho, I briefly explained the historical background of *Purva Pranidhana* in India. The word, *Hongwan* or *Purva Pranidhana* is widely used in various Indian literatures. *Hongwan* is often translated as Primal Vow in English, but I do not think it is a proper translation when I compare it with the original Sanskrit meaning. *Purva* means “in the past” or “before” and *Pranidhana* means “promise”. So *Purva Pranidhana* means “promised something in the past”. In Jodo Shinshu, the Larger Sutra (Infinite Life Sutra) explains what *Hongwan* is. I briefly introduce a story which tells *Hongwan* in the sutra, and explains how the meaning of “promised something in the past” fits in the context.

...A long time ago, there was a King. He listened to dharma talks of Lokeshvararaja Buddha. The king enjoyed his talks so much that he wished to help people like the

Buddha and wanted to become a Buddha, himself. The king left from his palace and became a monk. He studied under the Buddha and he named himself Dharmakara as his dharma name. Dharma-kara wondered how other Buddhas established their teachings and questioned the Buddha. The Buddha introduced 210 million of other Buddhas’ teachings to him. Instead of following one of these teachings, Dharmakara decided to establish his own teaching and spent five kalpas (There is no exact concept of time in ancient India. One kalpa can be understood as millions of years. At this point, we know this is not a real human story) for his contemplation. Finally, he established his teachings with 48 Purva Pranidhana, and he was called Amida Buddha and his teaching was called Sukhavati (that is why the Sanskrit version of our Larger Sutra is named “Sukhavati-vyuha”)...

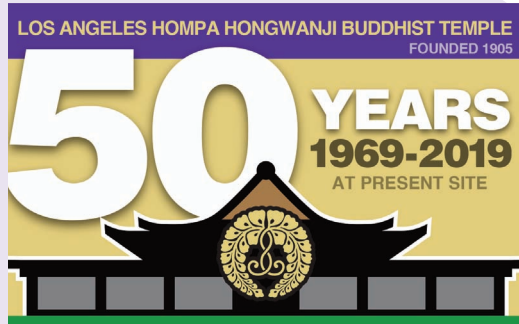
In Jodo Shinshu, Shinran Shonin firmly declared the 18th Purva Pranidhana is the most essential teaching. When referring to *Hongwan*, it indicates this 18th Purva Pranidhana. It simply tells that “I become a Buddha, if everyone who wishes to live a life of my Sukhavati and they can do so.” Typical ancient Chinese literature often use a double negative expression, so our Larger Sutra (in Chinese) states the 18th Purva Pranidhana like... “I will NOT become a Buddha, if people are NOT able to live a life of...” Based on this 18th Purva Pranidhana, we have no specific practice to accumulate virtue or merit to be enlightened or live a life of Sukhavati. The great promise was established million of billion of years ago, according to the Larger Sutra. That is why *Hongwan* or Purva Pranidhana means promised something in the past. The historical Buddha, Shakyamuni, wished for people to be free from a merit-based practice, by introducing us a story of Amida Buddha in the Larger Sutra. Our daily life is what we need to be mindful and having our daily life is what we should be grateful. I must say that it can be a wish of all sentient beings.

Our temple name, *Hongwan* has such background and is of essential importance for Jodo Shinshu. In our every day life, there are so many things try to distract our way of living. I hope everyone will enjoy the life of *Hongwan*, staying focus on your daily life.



## “50 YEARS” UPDATE REPORT

by Ernest Hida, 50th Anniversary Chairman



With the announcement of the Gomonsu's visit to the LA Betsuin, we anticipate a wonderful and honorable visit and participation at our events by the Gomonsu. It is a great honor to welcome the 25th Monshu, Kojun Ohtani, a direct descendent of Shinran Shonin.

The Gomonsu will be participating in the following 50th Anniversary celebration programs:

- **9/7 Saturday Officiating the Opening Ceremony of the Temple's Dharma Center and giving his Special Message. Commemoration Banquet at Quiet Cannon Restaurant.**
- **9/8 Sunday Group Photo Chigo Procession Officiating the 50th Anniversary Commemoration Service Officiating the Affirmation/Kikyoshiki Ceremony (See pages 14 and 15 for forms)**

Please mark your calendar for these dates and we look forward to your participation. It is a great honor for the temple and its members for the Gomonsu to be with all of you for this auspicious celebration. This is, indeed, a rare and excellent opportunity to see the Gomonsu, hear the dharma message from him, and to receive Affirmation from him.

During his visit to Los Angeles, the Gomonsu will also be visiting some of the other Southern District Temples, and their members are planning to attend the Celebration Programs.

For the 50th Anniversary Fundraising efforts, the Adult Buddhist Association (ABA) has donated \$450 from the proceeds from their bento sale at the 2019 Nishi's Kohaku Utagassen, in addition to their previous donations. The Hollywood Buddhist Temple donated \$6,000 from the proceeds of their fundraising event, Brew Ha Ha, to complete their pledge of \$50,000.00 for the 50th Anniversary. It is

wonderful that our Affiliation Organization and Branch Temple are making great efforts to help the temple raise funds for the 50th Anniversary. Thank you very much to the members of ABA and the Hollywood Buddhist Temple. In addition, we thank all of you for your generous donations to the 50th Anniversary and we look forward to your continued financial support.

We encourage our members to participate in this auspicious 50th Anniversary Celebration weekend programs with the Gomonsu.

Gassho,  
Ernest Hida 50th Anniversary Committee Chairman



## 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 19, 2019**.

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.

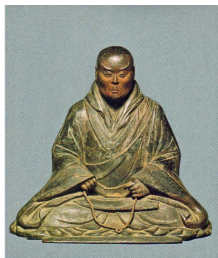
**(Registration form can be found on page 12)**



## 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 19, 2019**. The guest speaker for the service will be Rev. Henry Adams, resident minister of San Mateo Buddhist Church.



*Statue of Shinran preserved in Mie Prefecture. Kamakura period*

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 ninety 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.

## BOY SCOUT TROOP 738 50TH ANNIVERSARY

by Cindy Tomita

All current and former Nishi Boy Scouts and their families are invited to celebrate the 50th anniversary of troop 738 to be held on August 18 in the kaikan.

For further information please contact Nishi Boy Scouts at: [nishiscouts@gmail.com](mailto:nishiscouts@gmail.com)



## DID YOU KNOW?

by Eiko Masuyama



**EIKO  
MASUYAMA**

In the January-February 2019 issue of the Jiho, the incorrect photo was published with the identifying list of names. Below is the correct photo with the correct names.

"Thank you" to Hiroshi Sasaki of Long Beach and Fumiko Sasaki of Claremont for their donations of Buddhist history books, art books, and children's books.

Appreciation, also to Setsuko Takemura for donated Buddhist books.



### LA Betsuin BWA Centennial Commemoration October 20-21, 2018

Row 1: Rev Inouye, Rev Abiko, Rev Matsubayashi, Rev Fukuma, Bishop Umezu, Rimban Briones, Rev Takata, Rev Nobuko Miyoshi, Rev Yoshiko Miyaji, Rev Nobuo Miyaji Row 2: Pam Tabata, Mrs. Kay Matsubayashi, Misao Okino, Moruko Okita, Sally Yoshikawa, Mrs. Fukuma, Mrs. Umezu (partial), Jean Kondo June Kunimoto, Marilyn Okano, Hisako Mori Row 3: Mitsuyo Tanaka, Yoshie Ishigame (partial), Lucy Matsuura, Reiko Hamai, Mrs. Takata, Mrs. Inouye, Kayo Uno, Mitsi Komatsu, Gail Matsuura, Amy Miyakawa (partial), Hisako Mori (end) Row 4: Mrs. Nakata with Akika, Michi Matsunami, Linda Itagaki, Julie Miyata, Iris Gee, Imogene Imada, Toshiko Sugiyama, Nobuko Sayano, Miyoko Yonemitsu, Cynthia Kondo (behind), Connie Yahata, Teresa Hirahara, Fumiko Jinkawa, Beverly Yahata, Tsuruko Iwohara, Suzette Kawaguchi (behind), Aki Nishimura (behind), Alice Matoba, Joyce Hori Row 5: Carol Hida, Mrs. Abiko, Joy Tomita, Helen Takata, Mrs. Oda, June Kageyama, Janet Teramura (?), Kazuko Doizaki, Flora Teramura, Sandy Saeki, Dona Mitoma, Chieko Yamamoto, Judy Ida, Yuri Yamasaki (below) Row 6: Sumi Takeuchi, Lynne Ozawa, Annette Kakita, Susan Tanaka, Kuni Odama, Eiko Masuyama, Howard Takata, Emiko Ichikawa, Hiroko Mayeda, Mrs. Gibbs (partial), Joy Longworth (behind), Eiko Ishibashi, Kathy Ikari, Jean Kawakami, Rev Nakata, Ikuko Shimizu

## NISHI DHARMA CENTER SPRING 2019 (APRIL - JUNE) COURSES

*The Dharma Center of the Los Angeles Hampa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple will be offering the following classes in General Buddhism and Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. The classes will be introductory for those who are new to the Buddhist concepts and continuing education for those already learning the Truth of the Dharma to live each moment in the Teachings. Let us all enrich our lives by listening to the Teachings.*

### Reason to Live the Shin Buddhist Way

**Monday, 6:30-8:00 PM**

**Rev. Koho Takata**

**May 6, 13, 20, June 17, 24 (5 week class: \$50)**

There are many religions and Buddhist Schools in this world. What is a reason to live the Shin Buddhist way? This class will focus on how Shin Buddhist Teaching applies to our daily lives and how the teaching changes and enriches our lives by reading the words of Rennyo Shonin, the 8th Monshu, who teaches us how to live a life of Shinjin.

### The Basic Teaching of Jodo Shinshu

**Tuesday, 7:00-8:30 PM**

**Rev. Ryuta Furumoto**

**April 23, 30, May 14, 21, 28 (5 week class: \$50)**

The basic teaching of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism will be presented. Important terms such as *shinjin*, *tariki* (other power), and *oho* (birth in the Pure Land) will be presented. The class will also cover the life of Shinran Shonin, the history of Jodo Shinshu, and the introduction to the teaching of Seven Pure Land Masters.

### Contemporary Issues and Jodo Shinshu Perspective (Discussion)

**Wednesday, 7:00-8:30 PM**

**Rimban William Briones**

**April 3, 10, 17, 24, May 1 (5 week class: \$50)**

Issues like same sex marriage, immigration, global warming were not an issue during Shinran Shonin's life, on the other hand there was war, sexism, and poverty during his time. What is our understanding of these contemporary issues living a life of Nembutsu? These five lectures will discuss current events and issues that effect our way of life and how Jodo Shinshu Buddhism influences our view point.

### Buddhist History to Kamakura Period

**Thursday, 7:00-8:30 PM**

**Rev. Masao Kodani**

**April 18, 25, May 2, 16, 23 (5 week class: \$50)**

法座 『阿弥陀佛と御釈迦様、親鸞様と私たち』  
(Class taught in Japanese)

**Saturday, 10:00-11:30AM Rev.**

**Rev. Nobuo Miyaji**

**April 27, May 25, June 22 (3 week class: \$30)**

### The Unrecognized Depths of Shinran Shonin's Writings

**Saturday, 10:00-11:30AM**

**Rev. Tetsuo Unno**

**April 13, 20, 27, May 11, 25 (5 week class: \$50)**

The depths of Shinran Shonin's writings are not always easily recognizable. For example, the depth of such lines as, "The medicine of the Tathagata's Vow destroys the poisons for our wisdom and foolishness." The task of these lectures will be to bring out the incomparable depth of such lines. The lectures will be followed by Questions and Answers.

The course tuition is collected and no refund on missed classes. Please mail completed registration form with a check for the total payment (payable to: LAHHBT) or bring it to temple.

For more information: Phone: (213) 680-9130

Email: [nishidharmacenter@gmail.com](mailto:nishidharmacenter@gmail.com)

## BETSUIN MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES

**SUNDAY, MAY 26th @ 10 am**

## LOS ANGELES BUDDHIST TEMPLE FEDERATION SERVICES

**MONDAY, MAY 27th**

**EVERGREEN CEMETERY**

MUEN-TO 9:30 am

KUYO-TO (Hiroshima Kenjinkai) 10:00 am

NISEI VETERANS 11:00 am

**ROSE HILLS MEMORIAL PARK**

NISEI VETERANS 9:00 am

IREI-TO 10:00 am

*(Rimban - continued from page 1)*

the Betsuin's murals is the historical Buddha that lived over 2500 years ago. According to our founder Shinran Shonin, Shakyamuni Buddha appeared in the world to tell us about Amida Buddha.

Amida Buddha is the single Buddha found on the altar of a Jodoshinshu temple. Within our temples throughout the world, Amida Buddha comes in three forms. The statue of Amida in human form, the painting of Amida in human form, and the Name (*myogo*) the Chinese six characters *na mo a mida butsu*.

In Buddhism, it is said that Amida Buddha has no form, shape, color, odor, nor taste; but it can manifest itself into a lady bug on blade of grass to the 2011 Tohoku earthquake and tsunami that devastated and killed over 16,000 people ... Amida Buddha can manifest itself into any form, shape or thing to lead us to ultimate enlightenment. And whether we realize the reality of life and self, through other beings or events in our life, it is the workings of Amida Buddha in such manifestations to awaken man from his ignorance.

In the *Kyo Gyo Shin Sho*, Shinran's major works, he writes, "Amida Buddha will use many skillful means and devices to lead man to ultimate Enlightenment". It's the expediency of Amida Buddha to awaken us from our ignorance and delusions. It's a way of guiding us to the truth. It's only a symbol to help us try to comprehend the abstract.

Amida Buddha, the ultimate truth, is not a God, a creator of the universe, a being who stands outside of us and the

world or the power that judges the action of man. Rather Amida Buddha is the living compassion, free from all limitations.

Therefore, as Jodo Shinshu Buddhists, we do not consider the *Namu Amida Butsu* a mantra to be used to evoke awakening or to invoke Amida. It's not even a practice or good action that helps us reach enlightenment.

In the ordinary sense, when we put our palms together and recite Nembutsu, it would imply that the direction of the calling is from me to Amida, but when one experiences the world of ultimate reality, or what we call awakening to *shinjin*, there is a complete reversal. The direction is from Amida to me. My saying *Namu Amida Butsu* is not merely my saying it... as it is at the same time Amida calling to me. Therefore Amida Buddha is not the object I am calling, rather the subject who thinks and calls to me.

The wonderful thing about the nembutsu is that when we say *Namu Amida Butsu*, anywhere or anytime, it transforms the ordinary and mundane into the path of awakening. The nembutsu enriches our lives with deep spiritual connection and makes every moment special manifesting the Pure Land here and now.

It's been a long journey of over 50 years since I first heard the recitation of the nembutsu. And at times, the meaning eludes me but the sound of *Namu Amida Butsu* always sounds fresh and reminds me of the countless cause and conditions that has allowed me to be who and what I am.

*Namu Amida Butsu*

## L.A. BETSUIN BOOK CENTER

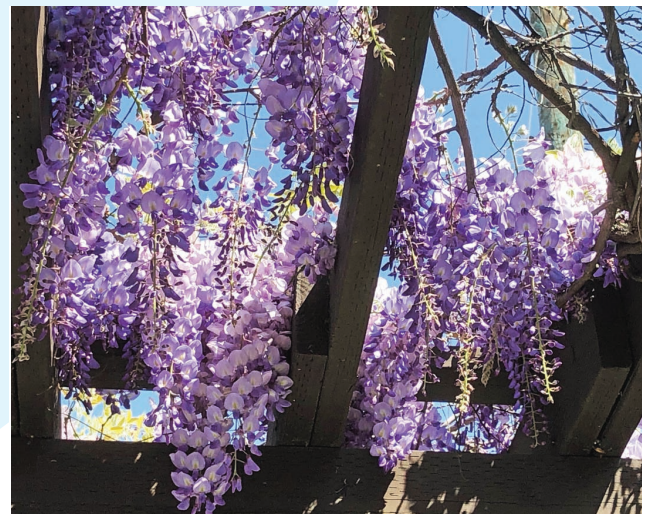


**NENJU**  
(aka: OJUJU)

**REPAIR  
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AVAILABLE**

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**WEEKDAYS - BETSUIN OFFICE PERSONNEL WILL  
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Email: [labetsuinbook@hotmail.com](mailto:labetsuinbook@hotmail.com)



***Betsuin Wisteria Garden***

*Wisteria flowers in bloom adjacent to the statue of Shinran Shonin.*

BETSUIN PIX



*LA Betsuin Buddhist Women's Association Cabinet 2019*



**Donations to the 50th Anniversary Fund**

*Left: Ernest Hida (50th Anniversary Committee Chairman) received a donation from a dharma school students who had collected cans and plastic bottles. Right: Roseanne Takahashi (Hollywood Buddhist Church president) presents a donation to Ernest Hida and Betsuin president, Bessie Tanaka.*



**BWA Kisaragiki Service Ministers**

*L-R front: Rev. George Matsubayashi, Rimban William Briones, Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara (guest speaker - Berkeley Buddhist Temple) Back: Rev. Kaz Nakata and Rev. Koho Takata*



**Spring Ohigan Guest Speakers**

*Left: Rev. Ryuta Furumoto (Senshin Buddhist Temple) and Rev. Kory Quon (Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple).*



**BETSUIN PIX**



**Betsuin Hanamatsuri**

*Betsuin ministers plus Rev. George Matsubayashi (minister emeritus) and Rev. Nobuo Miyaji (guest speaker / minister emeritus)*



**Nishi Center Hanamatsuri**

*Susan Mukai, director, assists student in pouring sweet tea over the statue of the baby Buddha. Rimban Briones can be seen in the background, chanting.*



**Butsuren Hanamatsuri**

*Butsuren Hanamatsuri Art Contest winners pose with Butsuren ministers. Nishi dharma school student winners included: Laurens Chao, Kenji Ross, Emi Ross, Dustin Shimizu, Emi Yumori (missing).*

*(Photo courtesy of Lina Okita Shimizu)*

**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, 2019**

- |                         |                      |
|-------------------------|----------------------|
| 16 Victor Eiji Kawasaki | 9 Daniel Kato        |
| 21 Shizuye Sosei        | Tasaka-Mejia         |
| Matsumoto               | 18 Mariko Godsil     |
| 21 Kiyoko Fujinami      | 25 Fumiyo Kazuyo Ogi |
| 21 Kunio Sam Nakaoka    | 25 Yaeko Michelle    |
| 23 Shoji Kodani         | Tsubaki              |
| 23 Fusako Ashida        | 26 Matsuko Araki     |
| Wadamoto                | Kushisaki            |
| 27 Beatrice Chiyoko     | 27 Thomas Seitoku    |
| Toguchi                 | Sunabe               |
| 29 Yoshiko Matsuda      |                      |

**February, 2019**

- |                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 3 Phyllis Masako    | 9 Stephanie Naomi Ige |
| Tokushige           | 12 Kenichi Ando       |
| 6 Sadako Kawaratani |                       |

**March, 2019**

- |                       |
|-----------------------|
| 6 Chizue Ouchi        |
| 7 Seiji Ishigame      |
| 9 Stephanie Naomi Ige |
| 12 Kenichi Ando       |

**NISHI BOY SCOUT TROOP 738**

**PANCAKE  
BREAKFAST**

**Sunday,  
May 12, 2019  
7 AM - 10 AM  
Donation: \$6  
Betsuin Kaikan**



**BETSUIN  
VEHICLE DONATION**



**HAROLD'S CAR DONATION SERVICE**

***Donate any vehicle:  
car, truck, motorcycle, or boat***

***The vehicle need not be operational.***

***Funds received will go to the Betsuin general fund and donors can get full amount credit towards income tax.***

**Contact the Betsuin office: 213-680-9130**

**WANJI/WANJETTES**



**REUNION 2020**

**PLAYERS, COACHES, REFS, & FAMILY...**

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**Saturday, January 18, 2020  
at Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple**

for more information contact: [reunion2020.wudios.com](http://reunion2020.wudios.com)

**Betsuin Jiho**

**Editor-in-Chief: Rimban William Briones**

**English Editor: Elaine Fukumoto**

**Photos: Koichi Sayano & Glen Tao**



**OBON MEMORIAL CHOCHIN**

Lanterns will be suspended above the dancers in the Obon dance area.

The tassel of each lantern is personalized with the name of the deceased loved one along with the given Buddhist name.

Orders can be made through the temple office @ 213-680-9130



**OBON DANCE PRACTICE DATES**



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

**June 18, 20, 25, 27**  
**July 2, 9, & 11** (@ Sakura Gardens Retirement Home from 6:00 pm)



**SO. DISTRICT OBON ODORI SCHEDULE**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>June 8</b><br>Arizona  | 6:45 (Saturday only)                                  |
| <b>June 22 &amp; 23</b><br>Sun Valley<br>West Covina                  | 7:00 / 6:30<br>6:30 - not BCA (Saturday only)         |
| <b>June 29 &amp; 30</b><br>San Fernando<br>Senshin                    | 7:00 / 6:30<br>7:00 (Saturday only)                   |
| <b>July 13 &amp; 14</b><br><b>L.A. BETSUIN</b>                        | <b>7:00 / 6:30</b>                                    |
| <b>July 13 &amp; 14</b><br>Oxnard                                     | 6:00 (Saturday only)                                  |
| <b>July 20 &amp; 21</b><br>Orange County<br>Pasadena<br>Santa Barbara | 7:00/7:00<br>6:30/6:30<br>1:30 & 4:00 (Saturday only) |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Venice   | 7:00/7:00   |
| <b>July 27 &amp; 28</b><br>Vista<br>WLA<br>Higashi<br>San Diego (@ temple) | 6:30/6:30<br>6:30/6:30<br>6:30/6:30 - not BCA<br>6:30 (Sunday only) |
| <b>August 3</b><br>Las Vegas<br>San Diego (@ Balboa Park)                  | 12:45 - not BCA (Saturday only)<br>6:30 (Saturday only)             |
| <b>August 11 &amp; 12</b><br>Gardena                                       | 6:00/6:00   |



# **HATSUMAIRI**

MAY 19, 2019

## **REGISTRATION FORM**

NAME OF CHILD: \_\_\_\_\_

BOY \_\_\_\_\_ GIRL \_\_\_\_\_ BIRTHDATE: \_\_\_\_\_

|                  |  |
|------------------|--|
| NAME IN<br>KANJI |  |
|------------------|--|

PARENTS' NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

TEL: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

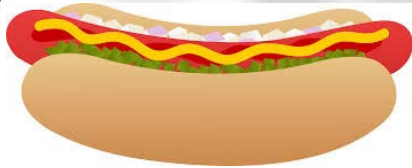
**PLEASE SUBMIT THIS FORM TO THE BETSUIN OFFICE BY:  
MAY 5, 2019**

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

**Email: [info@nishihongwanji-la.org](mailto:info@nishihongwanji-la.org)  
FAX: 213-680-2210**

**You're Invited to**

# **Family Fun Day**



**Sunday, June 23**

**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!**

PHONE  
(213)680-9130

FAX  
(213)680-2210

Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

本派本願寺羅府別院

815 EAST FIRST STREET, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-4303

**HOMYO -DHARMA NAME-**

**Rev. Koho Takata, Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple**

**What is a *Homyo*?**

The Japanese term, *Homyo* means a Dharma Name. A *Homyo* is conferred upon ministers by the Gomonsu who is the spiritual leader of Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha denomination on the occasion of their *Do-shiki* or initial ordination ceremony. For lay people, it is also given by the Gomonsu on the occasion of *Kikyo-shiki* or Confirmation Ceremony. The Dharma Name is personally selected by the Gomonsu from the Jodo Shinshu scriptures. In the Buddhist Churches of America, a *Homyo* is given by the Bishop on the occasion of *Kie-shiki* or Affirmation Ceremony. The Dharma Name given by the Bishop is often selected by a resident minister based on the favorite word or character from the Dharma chosen by recipient.

**When do we receive a *Homyo*?**

Many people tend to think that a *Homyo* is only given to the person after one's life ends. This is a great misunderstanding. A *Homyo* is conferred on a person when one is still living and not on a person who has passed away. The reason is to give the living person the opportunity to become a disciple of Shakyamuni Buddha. That is, it is to encourage people to hear the Teachings of the Buddha while they are still able to do it. Therefore, one should receive a *Homyo* while still living. However, a *Homyo* can also be conferred after a person's death if one missed the opportunity earlier. This is to allow the surviving members of the family as well as the friends of the deceased to hear the Buddha's Teachings.

**What does it mean to receive a *Homyo*?**

In the time of Shakyamuni Buddha, one was allowed to join in the Sangha by taking refuge in the Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha for guidance. *Buddha* refers to Shakyamuni Buddha, *Dharma* to Shakyamuni Buddha's Teaching, and *Sangha* to the community of fellow followers who have entrusted themselves to Shakyamuni Buddha and his teaching.

To receive a *Homyo* means that one becomes a disciple of Shakyamuni Buddha. This is why a *Homyo* is preceded by the word *Shaku* followed by two Chinese characters which embody the essence of the Buddha's Teachings. *Shaku* means becoming a disciple of Shakyamuni Buddha. In other words, one joins in the *Shakya* family and commits oneself to live on the Buddha's Teachings.

**How the *Homyo* can guide and enrich your life**

In the case of our secular name (first name), there is a wish made by our parents but no commitment on our part since it was chosen before our birth. In the case of the Dharma Name, there is a strong commitment made by recipients to center the teachings in their lives.

There are so many conflicts and problems occurring in our daily lives. In Buddhism, we are the problem. We always carry attachments and a self-centered nature. Because of *I* myself, we have to suffer with problems. The Dharma is the answer to our lives. The Dharma is a mirror which reflects the reality of *who we are* and shows the cause of our problems.

**KIKYOSHIKI CONFIRMATION CEREMONY  
OFFICIATED BY GOMONSHU KOJUN OHTANI**

**APPLICATION FORM**

***\*Please print***

|   |   |              |               |
|---|---|--------------|---------------|
| <b>Temple:</b>  |   |              |               |
| <b>Name</b>   | <b>Last,</b>  | <b>First</b> | <b>Middle</b> |
| <b>Home Address:</b>                                  |   |              |               |
| <b>Date of Birth:</b>                                 |   |              | <b>Age:</b>   |
| <b>Gender:</b>  | <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female |              |               |
| <b>Phone Number:</b>                                  |   |              |               |
| <b>Email Address:</b>                                 |   |              |               |
| <b>Signature:</b>                                     |   |              | <b>Date:</b>  |
| <b>Name of parent or guardian (age 19 or younger)</b> |   |              |               |
| <b>Signature of parent or guardian</b>                |   |              |               |

**Confirmation Application Fee: \$100.00 for adult and \$50 for child (age 19 and younger)**

**(\*Age limit of the child is in accordance with Honzan's regulation)**

**Payable to "LAHHTB" with a memo "Confirmation Ceremony" (\*Non-refundable after May 31, 2019)**

- ❖ Please submit or mail this form and registration fee together to LAHHTB by May 31, 2019.  
Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple  
Attention: Confirmation Ceremony  
815 1st First Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
- ❖ Please note that your Buddhist Name will be conferred by Honzan. If you wish to make a personal request for a Buddhist Name, please consult with your temple minister. You will be asked to submit a separate registration form with an additional \$100.00 fee. Please contact Rev. Koho Takata for this request.
- ❖ All participants are requested to check-in by 1:00PM on Sunday, September 8, 2019

For more information, please contact Rev. Koho Takata at [NishiDharmaCenter@gmail.com](mailto:NishiDharmaCenter@gmail.com) or (213) 680-9130

**50TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
CURRENT TEMPLE SITE  
CHIGO PARADE**  
稚見行列 (おちごさん)



**September 8, 2019 @7:30AM**

**Application Fee: \$100.00**

(including kimono rental, purchasing zori, tabi, etc.)

**Deadline: May 31, 2019**

**Application Form is available at TEMPLE OFFICE**

**LA Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple**

PHONE  
(213)680-9130

FAX  
(213)680-2210

Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

本派本願寺羅府別院

815 EAST FIRST STREET, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012-4303

**CHIGO PARADE**

**APPLICATION FORM**

*\*Please print*

|                       |   |             |  |
|-----------------------|---|-------------|--|
| <b>Name</b>           |   |             |  |
| <b>Home Address:</b>  |   |             |  |
| <b>Date of Birth:</b> |   | <b>Age:</b> |  |
| <b>Gender:</b>        | <input type="checkbox"/> Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female |             |  |
| <b>Phone Number:</b>  |   |             |  |
| <b>Email Address:</b> |   |             |  |

*\*Please check one*

| <b>HEIGHT<br/>For<br/>KIMONO</b> | <b>XS (under<br/>35.41 inch)</b> | <b>S (under<br/>39.37 inches)</b> | <b>M (under<br/>47.24 inches)</b> | <b>L (under<br/>51.18 inches)</b> | <b>XL (under<br/>55.12 inches)</b> |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
|                                  |                                  |                                   |                                   |                                   |                                    |

| <b>TABI<br/>(socks)</b> | <b>5.12-6.30 inches</b> | <b>6.70-8.27 inches</b> | <b>8.86-9.25 inches</b> | <b>9.25-9.65 inches</b> |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
|                         |                         |                         |                         |                         |

| <b>ZORI<br/>(slipper)</b> | <b>5.12-5.51</b> | <b>5.9-6.3</b> | <b>6.7-7.09</b> | <b>7.48-7.87</b> | <b>8.27-8.66</b> | <b>9.06</b> | <b>9.45</b> |
|---------------------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|-------------|-------------|
|                           |                  |                |                 |                  |                  |             |             |

Chigo Parade Application Fee: \$100.00 (\*Non-refundable after May 31, 2019)

Payable to "LAHHBT" with a memo "Chigo Parade"

- ❖ Please submit this form and registration fee together to temple by May 31, 2019.  
Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple  
Attention: Chigo Parade  
815 East First Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012
- ❖ Please note that the application fee includes kimono rental, purchasing tabi and Zori, shipping fee for rental from/to Japan, etc.

For more information, please contact Rev. Koho Takata at [NishiDharmaCenter@gmail.com](mailto:NishiDharmaCenter@gmail.com) or (213) 680-9130

# MAY 2019

| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday  | Wednesday   | Thursday   | Friday | Saturday  |
|--|---|--|---|--|--------|---|
|  |   |  | 1<br><u>Contemporary Issues &amp; Jodo Shinshu Perspective Discussion</u><br>Rimban William Briones<br>7:00-8:30 pm | 2<br><u>Buddhist History to Kamakura Period</u><br>Rev. Masao Kodani<br>7:00-8:30 pm                                       | 3      | 4   |
| 5  | 6<br><u>Reason to Live the Shin Buddhist Way</u><br>Rev. Koho Takata<br>6:30-8:00 pm  | 7  | 8   | 9<br><b>Board Meeting 7:30 pm</b>  | 10     | 11<br><u>...Shinran Shonin's Writings</u><br>Rev. Tetsuo Unno<br>10:00-1130 am  |
| 12<br><b>Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast 7 - 10 am</b><br><br><b>Mothers' Day Service 10:00 am</b><br><b>Eitaikyo Monthly Memorial Service 1:00 pm</b> | 13<br><u>Reason to Live the Shin Buddhist Way</u><br>Rev. Koho Takata<br>6:30-8:00 pm | 14<br><u>The Basic Teaching of Jodo Shinshu</u><br>Rev. Ryuta Furumoto<br>7:00-8:30 pm | 15  | 16<br><b>Go-Meinichi-ko 1:30 pm</b><br><br><u>Buddhist History to Kamakura Period</u><br>Rev. Masao Kodani<br>7:00-8:30 pm | 17     | 18  |
| 19<br><b>Gotan-e &amp; Hatsumairi Service 10:00 am</b>   | 20<br><u>Reason to Live the Shin Buddhist Way</u><br>Rev. Koho Takata<br>6:30-8:00 pm | 21<br><u>The Basic Teaching of Jodo Shinshu</u><br>Rev. Ryuta Furumoto<br>7:00-8:30 pm | 22  | 23<br><u>Buddhist History to Kamakura Period</u><br>Rev. Masao Kodani<br>7:00-8:30 pm                                      | 24     | 25<br>法座 『阿弥陀佛と御釈迦、親鸞様と私たち』 (In Jpn)<br>Rev. Nobuo Miyaji<br>10:00-11:30 am<br><br><u>...Shinran Shonin's Writings</u><br>Rev. Tetsuo Unno<br>10:00-1130 am |
| 26<br><b>Memorial Day Service 10:00 am</b>   | 27<br><b>Memorial Day Services (see page 6)</b>                                       | 28<br><u>The Basic Teaching of Jodo Shinshu</u><br>Rev. Ryuta Furumoto<br>7:00-8:30 pm | 29  | 30   | 31     |   |



# JUNE 2019

| Sunday   | Monday  | Tuesday   | Wednesday | Thursday                                    | Friday | Saturday   |
|--|---|---|-----------|---|--------|--|
|  |   |   |           |   |        | 1  |
| 2  | 3   | 4   | 5         | 6   | 7      | 8<br><br><b>So. District<br/>Buddhist Conference<br/>@ Senshin Buddhist<br/>Temple</b> |
| 9<br><br><b>Regular Service<br/>10:00 am</b><br><br><b>Eitaikyo Monthly Memorial<br/>Service 1:00 pm</b> | 10  | 11  | 12        | 13<br><br><b>Board Meeting 7:30 pm</b>      | 14     | 15   |
| 16<br><br><b>Fathers' Day Service<br/>10 am</b><br><br><b>Go-Meinichi-ko 1:30 pm</b>                     | 17<br><br><u>Reason to Live the Shin<br/>Buddhist Way</u><br>Rev. Koho Takata<br>6:30-8:00 pm | 18<br><br>Bon Odori Practice<br>Begins<br>7 - 8:30 pm | 19        | 20<br><br>Bon Odori Practice<br>7 - 8:30 pm | 21     | 22<br><br>法座 『阿弥陀佛と御釈迦、<br>親鸞様と私たち』 (In Jpn)<br>Rev. Nobuo Miyaji<br>10:00-11:30 am    |
| 23<br><br><b>Family Service &amp;<br/>Family Fun Day!<br/>10 am<br/>(see page 13)</b>                    | 24<br><br><u>Reason to Live the<br/>Shin Buddhist Way</u><br>Rev. Koho Takata<br>6:30-8:00 pm | 25<br><br>Bon Odori Practice<br>7 - 8:30 pm           | 26        | 27<br><br>Bon Odori Practice<br>7 - 8:30 pm | 28     | 29   |
| 30<br><br><b>Graduation, Attendance<br/>Awards Service<br/>10:00 am</b>                                  |   |   |           |   |        |  |