

LOS ANGELES BETSUIN

jihō

WWW

No. 464

January-February 2021

NEW YEAR'S GREETING



KOJUN OHTANI, MONSHU

Happy New Year, everyone! At the beginning of this New Year, I would like to extend my best regards to you all.

Throughout the last year, the world suffered from the pandemic of COVID-19, which brought tremendous hardship to many people, and we still are not able to see when normalcy would return to our world. On this occasion, I would like to offer my deepest condolences to those who fell victim to the disease and express my sympathies to those who are currently undergoing treatment.

Meanwhile in the US, the media has widely reported systematic discrimination against African-Americans, social unrest and divi-

sion among the general public brought on by the presidential election. It concerns me that many people have been left isolated in the midst of hardship.

Dependent origination' is a universal truth that Buddha Sakyamuni presented. This fundamental Buddhist principle expresses that every thing, matter, and phenomenon arises from various causes and conditions. None of us lives by ourselves. We are living while being interconnected and mutually supported by one another. Considering the reality of a divided society, it is important that everyone deeply reflects on the principle of Dependent Origination that represents the true state of the world.

Even though having been introduced to the truth by Buddha Sakyamuni, ordinary people like us are still not able to accept it as it is. Therefore, to guide us to cope with the suffering caused by our own ignorance, Shinran Shonin clarifies Amida Buddha's compassion that always embraces us all. When the world is facing this unimaginable crisis, it is crucial that each of us experiences Amida Buddha's great compassion ourselves, and live each day to the utmost, having that joy and sensation in our hearts as the basis of our life.

I have been told that in this difficult time and situation, many of your sangha have been adopting new measures for sharing the Jodo Shinshu teaching that had not been previously considered. I find such efforts truly reassuring. It is my hope that your temples will continue serving as your spiritual home, and

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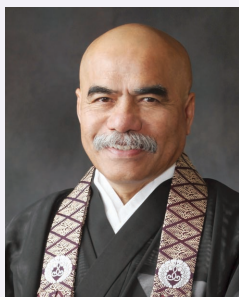
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RIMBAN'S MESSAGE

THOUGHTS ON THE OUTGOING YEAR



RIMBAN
WILLIAM BRIONES

♪ *Should old acquaintance
be forgot? ...*

dah dah dah dahdah dah ♪

If you're like me you probably don't know the rest of the song. And if you're like me, you probably haven't a clue what the song "Auld Lang Syne" means and why it is sung at midnight on December 31st. Is the song suggesting we forget old friends? Probably not, I think it's stating the obvious, that one should not forget one's old friends.

That being said, as much as we would like to forget 2020, the events and the impact it had worldwide will not be forgotten soon. And still, as of this writing, Donald Trump has still not conceded the presidency, the Los Angeles County Health Department is considering another stay-home order after yet another surge of COVID-19, and the US is in its worst economic downfall in the history of the industrial world. Please hurry 2021!

As much uncertainty, anxiety, and heartache that this past year brought, I hope it has given us pause to reflect on the many things that we have taken for granted. We have much for which we should be grateful. It's times like this to take measure of the sources of gratitude in our lives. There is a saying, "Most people are grateful because they are happy, wise people are happy because they are grateful"

As Buddhists I feel our understanding of gratitude is broader in scope. We go further and extend our gratitude and appreciation to every living and non living things and to the many causes and conditions that go into making life possible and not just on special occasions, but every day, every moment, especially during these trying times. We express gratitude and appreciation to all those factors supporting our lives. And when we act out of deep-felt gratitude, we become less self-centered. It's these moments of thankfulness that open our hearts to joy, fill us with peace, and connect us to those around us.

As I reflect on 2020, in spite of the chaos and hardship this year has brought, I am deeply touched and humbled by the support and encouragement from our members and friends as we struggled to keep the temple operational and functional. To those who made donations, and those who supported our Surf and Turf, Obon Drive-thru and Huli Huli Chicken fundraisers, many thanks. To many volunteers who helped with the drive-thru fundraisers as well as the

mailings, especially the JIHO, we all owe a debt of gratitude to you. Mind you, all volunteers (and staff) were required to attend an online power-point workshop by Setsuko Nakahara, sponsored by our own COVID-19 Advisory Committee (CAC), headed by Jean Kawakami. With the prospect of re-opening the committee created a comprehensive protocol for the safe return for our members and visitors when the temple re-opens. *Muchos Arigato.*

My heartfelt gratitude to our office staff, **Rie Fujii** and **Vance Ikkanda** and to our office volunteers, **Reiko Ikkanda**, **Bruce Shinohara**, **Bruce Hatakeyama**, and **Amy Miyakawa**, for keeping the office running efficiently, in spite of the Coronavirus restrictions. To our temple president, **Pam Tabata**, our *komon* and temple board of directors for their support and guidance, as some very difficult decision had to be made. With the departure of Rev. Koho Takata in July, **Rev. Hibiki Murakami's** presence has been invaluable and much appreciated — Thank you Sensei! A special thanks to **Bernard Wallace**, our temple custodian, who is always there to help out in any way possible.

As 2020 comes to a close Nobuko and I would like to wish you and your family a very meaningful and fulfilling 2021. To be sure, the new year will bring more challenges and changes, but with your continued support and the *Nembutsu* in our hearts, I'm confident we can continue to maintain our temple and most importantly to share the Buddha-Dharma.

Namo Amida Butsu



(Gomonshu - continued from page 1)

therefore, I sincerely ask for your understanding and cooperation to allow them to be so. With my heartfelt appreciation for each one of you, I would like to conclude my new year's greeting.

January 1, 2021

OHTANI Kojun

Monshu

Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

HAPPY NEW YEAR

by Rev. Hibiki Murakami



**REV. HIBIKI
MURAKAMI**

Goodbye 2020 and welcome 2021! Even though we are in a challenging situation caused by COVID-19, I think it's important to usher in the New Year by saying, "Happy New Year" on New Year's Day, remembering how difficult it was in 2020.

Since the worldwide COVID outbreak in March, the Nishi Betsuin could not shift into doing virtual services right away because of the insufficient knowledge of using Zoom. The Betsuin wasn't the only temple. Other BCA temples and other religious organizations had the same problem. Today, many organizations, religious and otherwise are conducting services and meetings online. This has become the new normal.

When we started conducting the online services, we were not ready. Besides technical aspects we also had to deal with the ritual aspect — What is done online which may not be apropos to traditional rituals. Everyone is accustomed to coming to the temple, burning incense, and os-onae (offerings), listening to the minister's dharma talk after the chanting of a sutra in the hondo (the main hall where Amida Buddha is enshrined). This has been our customary practice until it wasn't. If there were no services, the Betsuin would crumble. With time, the COVID-19 situation was becoming increasingly worse. In some cities, the governors had decided to implement a lockdown. That meant we were not allowed to have any in-person activities at the Betsuin's site.

When the Betsuin was about to change to the COVID op-

eration, it was only my third month living in Los Angeles since I had started my ministry as a kaikyoshi minister. I didn't know what I should do and what I could do to make the situation better.

I recall our beginning thoughts of having an online Sunday services connecting from the hondo. Rimban Briones, Rev. Takata, and I were preparing for a service without inviting any members physically. During our preparations, Rimban and I were talking. What he said really inspired me. He said, "Nishi has to let everybody know that we are here." That simple statement by Rimban made me realize that we had to do something.

It may be a coincidence, but it is relevant today. The Buddhist Education Center of the Nishi Betsuin set the theme of 2020 about propagating, which is the Amida Buddha's 17th Vow. It is as follows:

Master Shinran called it the vow of all Buddhas saying the Name in his Kyogyoshinsho, chapter of practice. Regarding this chapter, it matters whose practice is mentioned. We may come up with Amida Buddha's practice working as Nembutsu at first. That's absolutely correct. We, however, need to stay focused on another point of the vow. That is, Amida let Shakyamuni Buddha praise the Name with the Larger Sutra along with the vow. It means if Amida didn't vow that Shakyamuni would not deliver the sutra, and if it were to be so, we would never meet the Name.

I believe there is something that I can do along with the vow. Whether virtual, writing, preaching, or otherwise, to deliver the Buddha Dharma would correspond to the Amida's wish. The Betsuin will continue to share the teaching of the Nembutsu under the guidance of the 17th Vow. This for 2021 as well.

BETSUIN PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



PAM TABATA

Happy 2021! I hope this message finds you and your family safe and well embraced in Amida's Light of Wisdom and Compassion. Ten months ago, I didn't think I would be writing this New Year's message about how we would continue to be limited in our visits and how we communicate with one another.

We have had to deal with many changes this year and it has been difficult. However, our

members stepped up and thought of the many ways that we could support the temple with the limitations that were presented to us. Having the drive-thru fundraisers, Zoom services, and forming a COVID Committee to make plans on how to safely open the temple when it becomes possible. As I write this, we can visit our loved ones in the Nokotsudo and have small funerals in the west parking lot.

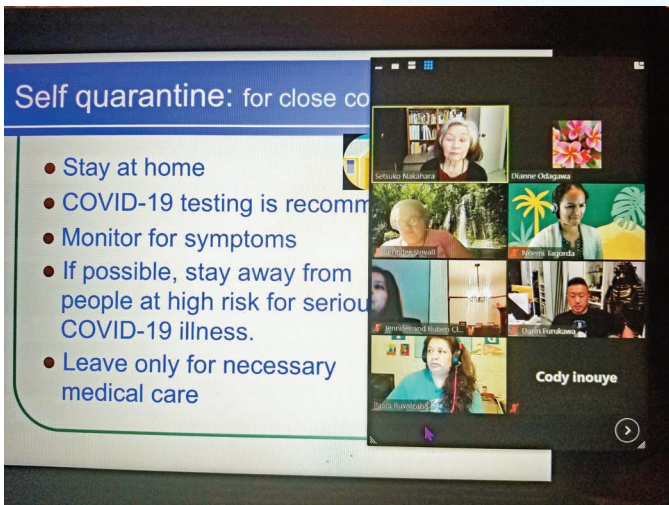
We have allowed the community to use our parking lot for their functions. Had it not been for the members that decided to purchase the Banning Street property that created

(continued on page 7)

BETSUIN... A SAFE PLACE TO BE

by Dianne Odagawa

The need to safely open the Betsuin resulted in the formation of the Betsuin's COVID-19 Safety Training Zoom sessions. The members of the COVID-19 Advisory Committee concluded that anyone coming to the Betsuin, whether gathering socially distanced outside or entering the Betsuin or kaikan, should be trained so that the protocols put forth are consistent for everyone. The ministers, the office staff, and volunteers who help with the mailings participated in the first session held in mid-July. The training has now grown to nine sessions, with many more anticipated to be scheduled in the future in an effort to keep all who come to the Betsuin safe during the COVID pandemic



COVID-19 TRAINING

Top left photo is Setsuko Nakahara, training presenter. Others are participants in the training session.

Although the Betsuin has not re-opened for regular in-person services, outdoor drive-thru events with minimal contact and social distancing are taking place for organizations that have a need to conduct business and therefore a lot of people need to be trained.

The Betsuin is fortunate to have **Setsuko Nakahara**, a temple member who is a retired nursing professional, as a member of the COVID-19 Advisory Committee. Setsuko created a COVID-19 PowerPoint Training presentation which is comprehensive, yet easy to understand. She has years of experience as an Infection Control Director for Kaiser Permanente and through her professional contacts,

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NISHI CENTER NEWS

Traditionally for Halloween, the Nishi Center children trick-or-treat throughout the temple and play in the kaikan while wearing their costumes. This year, the children had to confine their celebration to their own classroom with their own classmates with lots of treats contributed by the parents.

Another tradition just before Thanksgiving is the children learn about the story of Stone Soup and sharing. Each child would bring in an ingredient for the soup and participate in the making of the soup. Because of the pandemic restrictions, the children observed the soup being made. They were then able to partake in the soup for their lunch.



Halloween

The students posing proudly in their Halloween costumes.



Stone Soup Day

A student enjoying a hearty bowl of Stone Soup for lunch

DID YOU KNOW?...

by Eiko Masuyama

“Second Woman Minister”

The American Buddhist, p. 4, September, 1959

Rev. Grace Kakukawa of the Los Angeles Betsuin is the second woman minister to serve with the Buddhist Churches of America. Rev. Kakukawa, born in Oahu, Hawaii, is working with Rev. Kenryu Kumata in the English Department of the church. She is also adviser to the YBA, Junior YBA, Matrons, YABA, and Sunday Schools affiliated with the Nishi Hongwanji temple.

The first woman minister to serve with the BCA is Rev. Yurii Kyogoku, now assigned to the Fresno Betsuin.

Rev. Kakukawa received her bachelor of arts in philosophy from the University of Hawaii and master of arts at Ryukoku University in Kyoto. She was ordained a Buddhist priest in 1958, and came to the United States in July, 1959.

Rev. Kumata, formerly with the San Jose church, has been reassigned to head the English department at the Betsuin.

* * * * *

A little history — The journey of Amida, as a *myogo* (six kanji characters) on a scroll first enshrined in Yamato Hall on Jackson Street in 1919. It was then enshrined as a *mokuzo* (statue) in 1925 in the *hondo* at the 119 North Central Avenue temple. That statue was moved in 1969 to the current site and placed in the Lotus Chapel. During the refurbishment for the 100th celebration in 2005, it was placed in the *nokotsudo* (columbarium room), following and embracing the lives our *Nisei* members. *Okage-samade*

The *Issei* who immigrated to the United States, specifically to the Los Angeles area, at the turn of the 20th century, have left their silent voices and invisible footsteps behind for us to ponder and wonder in awe. With little money, minimum understanding of the language of the land, and an unfriendly, prejudiced mindset of many locals, they paved the way for following generations. It was their choice to leave their homeland and make a life in a new land, bringing their culture, religion, and energy. Their social life centered on their common religion, Buddhism, mainly Jodoshinshu Buddhism. They (Yoshitaro Hirai, Tsune Tokunaga, Otojiro Hatakeyama, M. Tanimoto, Y. Karaki, Roy N. Sato, to mention a few) met in private homes and rented spaces, saving and planning for a more appropriate setting...eventually, leasing the second floor



1919 Chigo Participants, Yamato Hall, delayed First Year Anniversary (due to flu epidemic in 1918) with myogo on scroll: “na-mu-a-mi-da-butsu”

of Yamato Hall. They started families and their children were the *Nisei* generation.

The last of the old time *Nisei* (and *Kibei Nisei*) are few, now. They would be in their 90s and 100s and their memories of their childhood and days of youth are dim. The surviving native *Nisei* Angelenos would be even fewer. They would remember Yamato Hall. They walked or ran up the stairs to the second floor where a remodeled *hondo* with a Buddhist altar and *myogo* of *Na-mu-A-mi-da-Butsu* was installed and dedicated with great ceremony in 1917. Jiggie Kaku, Shigemi Aratani, Eizo Masuyama, and many others would remember. They attended Sunday school there until 1925. Yamato Hall was a temporary leased location until the membership could save and find another location and build their first temple.

These *Nisei* became young men and women in the 1930s, becoming Sunday school teachers and active *Bussei* (Young Buddhist Men’s/Women’s Association members). Keiichiro Sayano, Isao Hatakeyama, Toshiye Nagata, Michi Konishi Takeuchi, Masaye Masuyama Shigemura, to mention a few, would remember the two day dedication celebration of the new temple on North Central Avenue in 1925. An Amida Buddha statue, *mokuzo*, was placed in the *hondo* and an *ezo*, picture of Amida radiating rays, was installed in the small chapel in the large basement

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(KNOW? continued from page 5)

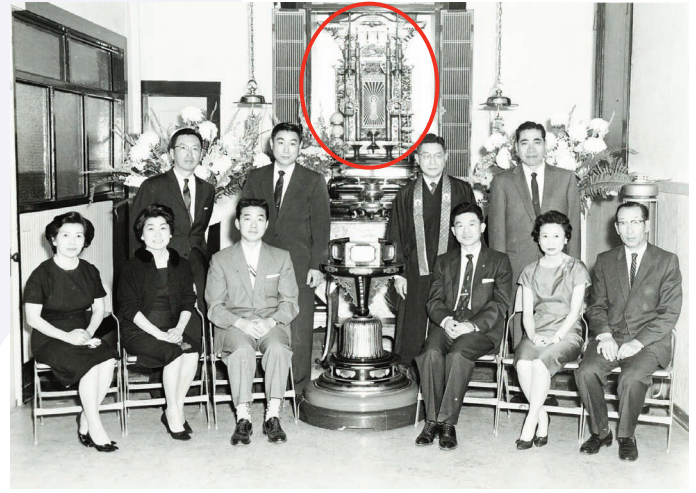
area of the new temple, next to the the kitchen, *nokotsudo*, and library. They played sports (the Wanji baseball and basketball teams, the Wanjette basketball team), and performed in drama productions. The membership grew, the Sunday school grew, and the YBA grew. Then December 7, 1941 happened.

The temple became the meeting point and departure location for incarceration. The temple became a storage place. The young men of the YBA and the RAMS (Royal American Men's Society, off-shoot of the YBA for younger guys like Art Takemoto, Tom Nakashima, Hikoji Takeuchi, Jiro Aratani, Hisao Masuyama, and others) assisted in the moving and storing of goods. The membership went to Heart Mountain (Yutaka Shinohara, Kaoru Inouye, and others), Manzanar (Berry Tamura, Jack Iwata, and others), and eight other locations west of the Mississippi River. Once there, Buddhist centers with Sunday schools and services were established in barracks under the leadership of ministers, originally Rev. R. Mohri at Heart Mt. (WY) and Rev. S. Nagatomi in Manzanar (CA). The majority of the ministers were Jodoshinshu, as were the membership. For almost four years, most of the Nisei and Kibei Nisei languished... in the prime of their lives. They established Sunday schools, continued YBA activities, volunteered at the temple, published service books/materials, and attended services... until release, at last, beginning in 1945.

The Nisei recovered and worked hard for their families. The temple opened for services in 1945, under the leadership of Rimban J. Kow. Many returned to the temple, but the numbers slowly grew less and less, as it became less and less the center of social and religious activities. New groups (with families from other areas), Matrons (Yoshiko Kishi, Alice Kudo, Yuri Honda, Cherry Okimoto, and others), BWA/Fujinkai (Emiko Sasaki, Amy Miyakawa, Helen Takata, Mickey Nagamoto, and many others), Adult Buddhist Association (George/Florence Yamaguchi, Yoshio/Shiz Shibata, Mits/Kay Sakaniwa, Kaz/Takemi Shimizu, and others) were established, as YBA membership dropped.

In 1969, a new temple was built at 815 East First Street, at the base of the First Street bridge. The Nisei have matured and are in leadership and/or advisory positions with board meetings transitioning to being conducted completely in English. The Amida statue from the old temple *hondo* was placed in the downstairs Lotus Chapel/Room and a scroll with picture of Amida, *ezo*, was placed in the new Wisteria Chapel.

A Nisei member, age 101 years, recently died and the family had the funeral in the West Lot, outside the West entrance to the temple. Though the attendees could not enter the temple, they could see the Amida scroll that is en-



Chapel in basement of Central Avenue temple with Amida picture on scroll (1961)

shrined in the remodeled Wisteria Chapel through the two sets of open doors. At the close of service, Rimban took the ashes to the *nokotsudo*, where the Amida statue from the Central Avenue temple stands... familiar and comforting and welcoming. *Okagesamade.*

* * * * *



Wisteria Chapel altar with Amida picture scroll. (current)

If you have any memories or stories or photos of the altars in Yamato Hall (which went to the chapel in Central Avenue basement, then to Wisteria Chapel in present location), and/or Central Avenue *hondo* (which went to the Lotus Chapel, then to the present *nokotsudo*), with the scrolls and/or statue, please share. Please call the office (213 680 9130) and leave your name and contact information so that we can call you to record the information.

“President?” - continued from page 3)

the North Lot a few decades ago, we would not be able to function as we do today. It is those many causes and conditions that allows the our temple to be what it is today.

Thank you for all your support during 2020. However, it looks like we will continue to be calling on that support for 2021 in unconventional ways and we are just so grateful. My wish is that we will be able to be with each other in person some time soon during this year. But in the meantime, I look forward to seeing you at Sunday services via Zoom.

Once again, Happy New Year and I hope everyone continues to be well and safe.

In gassho,

Pam Tabata, Betsuin President



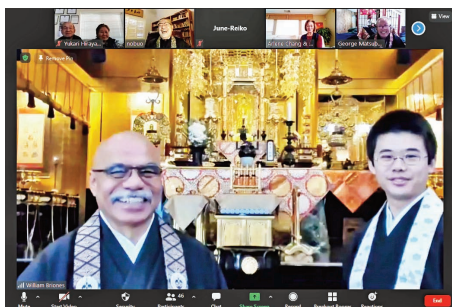
“Safe” - continued from page 4)

has taught infection control in many settings, including doctors and nurses in Japan. We are grateful to have Set-suko on our team.

It is so gratifying to know that so many people understand the importance of this training and are cooperating by communicating this to their organizations. To date, over 300 people have been trained and include not only the ministers, office staff and mailing volunteers, but others who worked the Obon Drive-Thru, Huli Huli Chicken, Scouting parents and scouts, Taiko Ichiza members, members of the Betsuin and the community who have used our facilities.

In an effort to keep you apprised of the Betsuin's efforts to keep the temple safe during COVID, the Safety Training Zoom sessions will continue through next year. If you are interested in participating in a Zoom session, please call the Betsuin office and leave your name, phone number and email and the message will be relayed to Dianne Odagawa.

BETSUIN PHOTOS



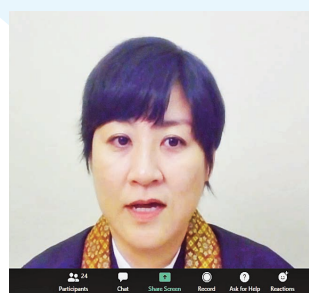
EITAIKYO SERVICE

Rimban Briones and Rev. Murakami conduct the annual Eitaikyo Service via Zoom.



EITAIKYO SERVICE

Minister emeritus Rev. Nobuo Miyaji served as the guest speaker.



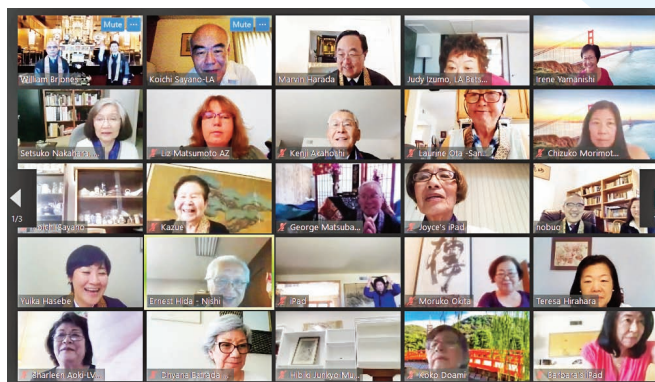
SO. DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Rev. Yuika Hasebe, from the Hawaii Betsuin, was the guest speaker for the conference and also for the Betsuin BWA's Eshinni-Kakushinni Service.



DHARMA CENTER STUDY CLASS

Participants in Rev. Nobuo Miyaji's study class.



SOUTHERN DISTRICT CONFERENCE

Participants in the conference, hosted by San Diego Buddhist Temple.

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*

September 2020	20 Koji Shinsako
19 Kazue Kay Matsuda	27 Gladys Haruno
22 Hiroshi Yamauchi	Toguchi
27 Kakuyei, Rev Tada	31 Shizuka Oki

October 2020	November 2020
2 Kyoko Kodani	5 Shigemi Naito
9 Linda Takae Ogawa	12 Kiyo Seki
17 Yutaka Peter Shimada	12 Kami, Edna Miyoko

MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR 2021

The following years are the dates of special services for the deceased. The temple will send out notices to the next of kin. In the event that a notice is not sent, please notify the *Betsuin* office for an appointment at 213-680-9130.

Memorial Observance	Year of Death
1st memorial	2020
3rd memorial	2019
7th memorial	2015
13th memorial	2009
17th memorial	2005
23rd memorial	1999
25th memorial	1997
33rd memorial	1989
50th memorial	1972

Betsuin Jiho

Editor-in-Chief: Rimban William Briones
 English Editor: Elaine Fukumoto
 Japanese Editor: Rev. Hibiki Murakami
 Photos: Koichi Sayano

2020 MEMBERSHIP

A "member" of the L.A. *Betsuin* is one who has donated to the annual membership.

The following is a list additional members who have submitted their membership during the **September 16** through **November 15, 2020**. Your continuing support of the temple is greatly appreciated.

Ilto, Ronald Yoshihiro	Shintani, Kazumi
Kawaoka, Robert Tohru	Tsugawa, Emi
Kushisaki, Lloyd	Tsugawa, Ted
Matsumura, William E.	Tsuyoshi/Amy
Nishi Wanjettes,	Tsugawa, Tenji
Okita, Seibi F./Moruko	
Okohira, Deana	

2021 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Valid from January 1 through December 31, 2021

\$250 FOR EACH ADULT FAMILY MEMBER

CHECKS ARE PAYABLE TO:

L.A. HOMPA HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

Payments may be made in full or by installments throughout the year of 2021

BETSUIN VEHICLE DONATION



HAROLD'S CAR DONATION SERVICE

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

The vehicle need not be operational.

**Donors can get full amount credit
towards income tax.**

Contact the Betsuin office: 213-680-9130

LOS ANGELES HONPA HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

DHARMA CENTER Presents ONLINE Dharma Gatherings

WINTER 2021 (January – March)

The Basic Teaching of Jodo Shinshu

Tuesday, 6:00-7:00 PM

Rev. Ryuta Furumoto

January 26th, February 2nd, 9th, 16th

This class is a good opportunity for people who want to learn the basic teaching of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. The attendees will learn about the important terms such as Shinjin, Tariki [Other Power], Ojo [Birth in the Pure Land], etc. 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

Wednesday, night

Rimban William Briones

Issues like same-sex marriage, immigration, global warming were not an issue during Shinran'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? The lecture will discuss current events and issues that affect our way of life and how Jodo Shinshu influences our viewpoint.

安心論題を学ぶ – 阿弥陀様から私へ その 2 –

木曜日、午前 10 時 – 11 時

村上 順響 開教使

2021年、1月28日、2月11日、25日、3月11日、25日

安心論題とは、浄土真宗西本願寺派における宗意安心にまつわるご論題のことで、阿弥陀様の他力のおはたらきを正しく理解するために用意された問答集になります。いずれのご論題も、主に江戸時代に宗祖親鸞聖人の説かれた教えと異なった理解（異安心）への応答が目的です。しかし、このクラスの主眼は安心・異安心を勉強することではなく、先哲の善知識方が生涯を掛けて取り組まれた安心論題を頼りに、共に阿弥のご本願の世界を味わっていくことにあります。

お手紙に見る親鸞聖人

土曜日、午前 10 時 – 11 時

宮地 信雄 名誉開教使

2021年、1月23日、2月13日、3月27日

聖人のお手紙は、主に関東の念仏者に向けられたものです。いろいろな質問に聖人が丁寧にお答えになっておられます。それらは、今日でも問題になるようなものばかりです。さらに、お手紙を通して、関東の御門徒様からのご援助をいただいていたことや、裁判のことまで書かれていたり、聖人の生活や当時の様子がよくわかります。念仏者親鸞聖人の素顔に迫りたいと思います。

HOW TO SEND CHECK: Normally the course tuition was \$50 (\$30 for Rev. Miyaji's class), but these fees are waived while the classes are restricted to online because of the COVID pandemic. Donations are encouraged. Please mail your check out to Los Angeles Honpa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple Dharma Center @ 815 East 1st St. LA, CA 90012. (Payable to LAHHBT, Memo: 2021 Dharma Center Winter Class)

HOW TO REGISTER: Please register at nishidharmacenter@gmail.com to obtain a zoom link for the class.

【ご登録について】 COVID-19 によりオンラインでの開講の為、登録費を設定していませんが、ご寄付をお願い致しております。（宮地先生のクラスは \$ 30、その他は \$ 50 を目安としております。）チェックの送付につきましては、「HOW TO SEND CHECK」の下線部をご覧ください。

【登録方法】法座のご登録は、nishidharmacenter@gmail.com にまでご連絡くださいませ。

BETSUIN 2021 CALENDAR

JANUARY

- 1 New Years' Service (Shūshō-e)
- 2 Betsuin Closed
- 3 No Service
- 9 Hoonko Seminar
- 10 Hoonko Service
Eitaikyo Monthly Memorial Service
- 17 Dharma School, First Service
- 24 Installation, New Members
Welcome & New Year Party

FEBRUARY

- 7 BWA Kisaragi-ki, Lady Kujo &
BWA Late Members Memorial
- 14 Nirvana Day Service (Nehan-e)
Eitaikyo Monthly Memorial Service
- 21 Boy Scout Sunday

MARCH

- 6 Surf/Turf Fundraiser
- 7 Girl Scout Sunday
- 13 Spring Ohigan Seminar
- 14 Spring Ohigan & Rinban-ki Services
Eitaikyo Monthly Memorial Service

APRIL

- 4 Betsuin Hanamatsuri
Butsuren Hanamatsuri
- 11 Eitaikyo Monthly Memorial Service

MAY

- 9 Mother's Day Service
Eitaikyo Monthly Memorial Service
- 16 Gotan-e & Infant Presentation Service (Hatsumairi)
- 30 Memorial Day Sunday Service
- 31 Memorial Day Hakamairi

JUNE

- 13 Eitaikyo Monthly Memorial Service
- 20 Father's Day Service
Graduation/Attendance Award Service
- 21 1st Day Saishin Dojo @ Senshin

JULY

- 4 Independence Day (Betsuin Closed)
- 10/11 Obon Carnival
- 17 Hatsubon Service
- 18 Betsuin Obon & Hakamairi Service
Eitaikyo Monthly Memorial Service

AUGUST

- 1 Atomic Bomb Memorial Service
- 8 Eitaikyo Monthly Memorial Service

SEPTEMBER

- 6 Labor Day (Betsuin Closed)
- 12 Dharma School Registration
Eitaikyo Monthly Memorial Service
- 18 Fall Ohigan Seminar
- 19 Fall Ohigan Service

OCTOBER

- 3 Eshinni/Kakushini Memorial Service
- 10 Eitaikyo Monthly Memorial Service

NOVEMBER

- 7 Betsuin General Sokai Meeting
- 14 Eitaikyo Monthly Memorial Service
- 20/21 Betsuin Eitaikyo Service
- 25/26 Thanksgiving (Betsuin Closed)

DECEMBER

- 5 General Temple Clean-up
- 12 Bodhi Day Service (Jōdō-e)
Eitaikyo Monthly Memorial Service
- 19 Oseibo Taikai Appreciation Service
- 24/25 Holiday (Betsuin Closed)
- 26 No Service
- 31 Year End Service (Joya-e)

Due to the uncertainties of the pandemic, services will continue virtually, via Zoom until further notice. Also, some scheduled events may be canceled also due to the pandemic. Please call the Betsuin office for any questions concerning this calendar.

Tel: 213-680-9130

門信徒の皆様へ 御門主様のご挨拶

新しい年のはじめにあたり、ご挨拶申し上げます。
昨年は新型コロナウイルス感染症(COVID-19)が世界的に大流行し、多くの方が犠牲となられました...



浄土真宗本願寺派 門主 大谷光淳

年頭の辞



L.A. Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple
815 E. First Street Los Angeles, CA 90012
Tel: (213)680-9130 Fax: (213)680-2210

的な原理を「縁起」として示されました。私たちは、自分一人で生きていくのではありません...

親鸞聖人は、お釈迦様の説かれたこの世界の真理をそのままに受け入れることができずに悩み苦しむ私たちに、阿彌陀さまのおはたらきが届いていると明らかにされました...

このコロナ禍の中、今までは違った方法で浄土真宗のみ教を広く社会へ伝える試みもなされていると聞き、たいへん心強く思います...

二〇二二年一月一日



一言居士

一説によれば、十二月を意味する師走は四季が果てる「四極(しはつ)」が変化したものだといふ...

【新型コロナウイルス感染症に関する対応について】(一月七日現在)

羅府別院では新型コロナウイルス感染症拡大防止の為、各種対策を実施中です。別院の業務上必要最低限の関係者に限り出入りをしており...

日曜礼拝・特別法要・永代経祥月等につきましては、オンラインにて生配信をしております。お手数ですが、ご参拝をご希望される方は、NishiDharmaCenter@gmail.comまでご連絡ください...

合掌

【一月・二月及び年始のご法縁のご案内】
ウイルスにより、内容を中止・変更する場合がございます。

修正余(於 オンライン)
十月十日(日) 午前十時

日曜学校初礼拝(於 オンライン)
一月二〇日(日) 午前十時

永代経祥月法要(於 オンライン)
一月二〇日(日) 午後一時

報恩講セミナー(於 オンライン)
御講師 林ラジアン 師(ワシントン恵光寺)

御講師 原田マービン 師(米国仏教団 総長)

一月一七日(日) 午前十時 日英

一月二四日(日) 予定

一月二四日(日) 午後九時 日本語

御正忌報恩講法要(於 オンライン)
午前十時半 英語

御講師 原田マービン 師(米国仏教団 総長)

一月一七日(日) 午前十時 日英

別院役員就任式、新会員歓迎会、新年会(於 オンライン)

一月二四日(日) 予定

一月二四日(日) 午前十時

二月七日(日) 午前十時

淫樂会(於 オンライン)

二月一四日(日) 午前十時

永代経祥月法要(於 オンライン)

二月一四日(日) 午後一時

ボーイスカウト日曜礼拝(於 オンライン)

二月二二日(日) 午前十時

日曜礼拝(於 オンライン)

毎週日曜日 午前十時

別院お休み

十月十日

【最近の別院の写真】Huli-Huliチキン当日。
混乱なく穏やかなDrive-thruだった。(上写真) Boy Scoutのイーグルプロジェクトの作業風景。駐車場他、西センターなどでプロジェクトが行われた。(下写真)

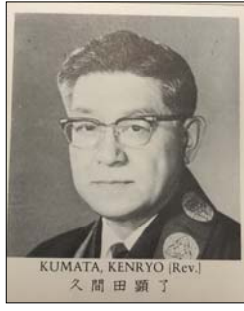


【この話ご存知でしたか】増山栄子

二人目の女性開教使

ロサンゼルス別院のグレースカクワカ開教使は、米...

カクワカ開教使はハワイ大学で哲学の文学士号、京...



久間田先生の写真 『本派本願寺羅府別院1905-1980』より

歴史を少し...

「阿弥陀仏」の道のり。一九一九年に六字の名号が書...

Okagesamade

.....二十世紀に変わる時期に米国ロスアンゼルス...

と、そびえたつ言語の壁、そして多くの地元の人々か...

存命の二世（及び婦米二世）の方はごく少数です。...



大和ホール1919年稚児行列参加者たち。一周年の記念行事は1918年の伝染病で延期。名号（南無阿弥陀仏）の巻物

一九三〇年代になると、青年となった二世は日曜学...

れた小本堂（厨房、納骨堂、図書室の側）には絵像が...



セントラル街のお寺の地下チャペル。巻物に阿弥陀仏の絵像 <1961年>

ところが、一九四一年十二月七日、お寺は抑留所に...

抑留所から帰ってきた二世たちは、家族のために懸...

に、宗教活動も下火になりました。他の地域から来た...

家族たちによる新しいグループや、Matrons（きしよ...

一九六九年、新しいお寺が東ファースト通り番地...

.....つい先日、ある二世の西のメンバーが百一歳で...

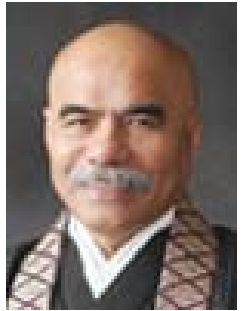


ウイステリアチャペル 阿弥陀仏の絵像 <2020年>

読者の中で、もし大和ホール（過去にセントラル街...

（翻訳 伊藤千鶴子）

本派本願寺羅府別院 輪番法話



輪番 ウィリアム プリオネス

「年頭の御挨拶」

謹んで新年のご挨拶を申し上げます。

日本では「蛍の光」としてよく知られている歌が実はスコットランド民謡で原題は「久しき昔」であることをご存知でしたか。歌は「旧友は忘れていくものなのだろうか」という歌詞で始まります。「蛍の光、窓の雪」とは全く違いますね。日本ではかつて卒業式でよく歌われたのですが、ここアメリカでは大晦日に歌われることが多いようです。なぜこの歌が年越しに歌われるようになったのかについてはよくわからない人が私も含めて大勢だろうと思います。けれどもこの歌詞が尋ねる「旧友は忘れていくものなのだろうか」という問いに対しては、ほぼ全ての人が「いや、決して忘れるべきではない」と明快に答えるのではないのでしょうか。

そうだとすれば、二〇二〇年を私たちが忘れていたと思っていたとしても、この年に起こった出来事や世界中に与えた衝撃はやはり簡単に忘れるべきことではないのかもしれない。この挨拶文を書いている現在、トランプ大統領はいまだに選挙での敗北を認めていません。ロサンゼルス郡の保健当局はコロナウイルス感染者の急増を受けて再び外出制限の指示を出しました。またアメリカ経済は史上最悪ともいわれるほど落ち込んでいます。そんな中一刻も早く新年を迎えたいと多くの人が思っていることでしょう。

先行きの不透明感、それに伴う不安や心痛、それらを私たちは一年を通して味わってきました。決して好き好んで受け入れる状況ではありません。

ん。けれども、今まで当たり前と思っていた多くのことに初めて私たちの目が向いたのは、そうした厳しい状況のおかげとも言えると思います。この一年を通して当たり前と想っていたことが有り難いことであつたと気づくことができたのではないのでしょうか。「ほとんどの人は幸せな時にありたいと感じる。賢者はありがたさを感じること、を幸せと思う」という言葉が教えてくれているように、私たちの生活はまさに感謝に満ちている、そのことを教えてくれたのが二〇二〇年という年ではなかったのでしょうか。

仏教は実に多くのものから私たちが恩徳を受けている事実を教えてくれています。感謝の対象は生きとし生けるものから、生き物以外のものや事象、毎日、毎秒の今、果ては私が私として生きることを可能にしてくれているあらゆる縁にまで広がっていきます。そして現在のそのような試練の時もまた大切な人生の一部なのです。私たちが深い恩徳を感じ、その感謝の気持ちを表現する時、私たちの行動は自然と自己中心的な思いから解放されたものとなるのではないのでしょうか。感謝の気持ちには私たちの心を喜びへと開放し、安らぎの気持ちをもたらししてくれます。そして周りとの深い繋がりを感ぜさせてくれるのです。

二〇二〇年を振り返る時、混乱と困難の年であつたということは否めません。けれどもそのよくな厳しい年であつたからこそ、私自身多くのことに気づくことができました。別院を維持し運営していくことの困難さに直面した時にいただいたご門徒の皆さま、そして友人からの力強い励ましと支えは一生忘れることはないでしょう。ご懇志をしてくださつた皆さま、サーフ・アンド・ターフ、お盆ドライブスルー、フリフリキッズなどの基金集めのイベントにご尽力いただいた皆さまにこの場をお借りして心から感謝申し上げます。

今年行つた基金集めのイベントはドライブスルー形式でした。その度に多くの方がボランティアとしてお手伝いくださいました。また寺報の発送にも多くの方のお力をお借りしました。ボランティア参加者は事前にコロナ感染対策の研修を受講しました。中原節子さんと川上ジーンさんを委員長とするコロナ対策委員がその場を取り切つてくださいました。コロナ対策委員会は健康と安全を担保した寺院再開に向けて段階的に準備を進

めています。委員会の皆さまには大変感謝しております。最後に重ねて御礼申し上げます。

最後に重ねて御礼申し上げます。その他お世話になつた皆さまに重ねて御礼申し上げます。

寺務所スタッフの藤江理恵さんと壺貫田ヴァンズさんをはじめ、寺務所ボランティアの壺貫田玲子さん、篠原ブルースさん、畠山ブルースさん、宮川エイミーさんにも御礼申し上げます。おかげさまでコロナ禍の状況にも関わらず必要な業務を滞りなく進めることができました。また多くの困難な決定を行うにあたっては、田端パム理事長、顧問の役員、理事会の皆さまには多大なるご支援とご鞭撻を賜りました。

新しく赴任した村上響開教使にもこの場をお借りして深く御礼申し上げます。七月に高田興芳開教使が異動となつてからは、村上開教使には即戦力として法務に携わっていただきました。そして日々の清掃を担ってくださっているウォレス・ベルナルドさんにも御礼申し上げます。

二〇二一年が皆さまやご家族にとつて実りの多い年となりますよう心より祈念いたします。新年も多くの挑戦と変化に満ちた年となることでしょう。けれども皆さまと共に念仏の教えに立って一歩一歩確実に歩みを進めることができると確信しています。そしてその歩みが、仏法に出遇うご縁を多くの人に開く、聞法道場としての別院の歴史を繋いでいく歩みとなることを願っています。本年もよろしくお願い致します。

南無阿弥陀仏



「法味楽」味わう×楽しむ〓仏教



開教使 村上 響 羅府別院

「謹賀新年」

新年あけましておめでとうございます。世界では、まだコロナウイルスの余波が続いています。それでもこの一年間の混乱ぶりを思えば、私たちが新しい年を迎えられたことは十分に「おめでとう」と言うに値し得るかと思えます。

オンラインのお勤めと伝統

思い返せば、昨年の三月に緊急事態宣言を受けて、コロナウイルスへの対策が急務となつた時、オンラインの仏事への移行までには若干の間がありました。その当時、別院にいた誰もがオンラインについての知識を持ち合わせていた訳ではありません。それは私共に限らず、BCAの仏教会を含め、キリスト教の教会などでも同様の状態でした。しかし、驚くべきことに、今では大半の仏教会でオンラインの仏事や会議が当たり前になった光景となっています。ですが、そこにはオンラインならではの葛藤もありました。

正直な話、オンライン仏事は従来の伝統的な儀礼に対して革新的な手法であります。というのも仏事と耳にすれば誰もが、お寺に参拝して、お焼香をし、阿弥陀様にお供え物を供えて、本堂で読経の後にその場でお坊さんから仏教のお話を聞くと、うのを頭に思い浮かべることでしょう。コロナウイルスが蔓延する“ま”は、これが当たり前のことでした。(四面に続く)



(三面の続き)ですが、オンラインの仏事を行わないという選択は、別院の将来に大きく影響することです。現に三月以降は、Stay-homeの奨励や都市機能の制限など、状況は悪化の一途を辿っていました。勿論、お寺に人が集まって仏事を勤めることなど以外の外です。

悩みの果てに

昨年の三月と云えば、まだ私が開教使として別院駐在が始まって三ヶ月目の頃でした。パンデミック発生後の別院は建物が閉鎖されて、コロナウイルスへの対処を始めました。ただでさえ赴任したばかりの私には、この特殊な状況下で何をすべきか全く見当もつきませんでした。

それとほぼ同じ頃、現在のように別院の本堂から日曜礼拝をオンラインで行う、その初めての試みをしてきた時のことです。私たち開教使は、参拝者が誰も居ない中、サービスの準備をしていました。その準備にあたって私と輪番が会話をしていた時、輪番が私に発した一言は、それまでの仏事に対する私の考えに大きな一石を投じるものでした。(四面へ続く)

日曜礼拝をオンラインで勤めるに当たり、「西別院は『ここにいる』、ということをご皆さんにお知らせしなければいけない」と、当時輪番はこのように語っていました。

諸仏称名のメッセージ

今の私にこの願は特別な意味を帯びて響いています。単なる偶然であったのかもしれませんが、昨年、2020年のBuddhist Education Centerのテーマは、阿弥陀様の第十七願でした。この願の誓いは以下の通りであります。

たとひわれ仏を得たらんに、十方世界の無量の諸仏、ことごとく咨嗟して、わが名を称せずは、正覺を取らじ。

法蔵菩薩、四十八願中第十七願、『大経』

主著である『教行信証』の「行巻」で、宗祖親鸞聖人はこちらの誓いを諸仏称名の願と呼ばれています。「行巻」を読むうえで気になるのが、この「行」が誰の修行のことを指しているのかということです。恐らく、多くの人は、この行はお念仏である阿弥陀様の他力のおはたらきを思い

浮かべるとか思います。勿論その通りではあるのですが、なぜ諸仏称名の願の名前がここに挙げられたのか、また第十七願が誰に向けられた願であるかということも併せてみるべきです。何故かと言いますと、その願は阿弥陀様がお釈迦様に向けた誓いであり、お釈迦様は阿弥陀様の願に依じて、『大経』の中でお念仏を褒め称えられているからです。つまりは、もし第十七願が起こされなければ、『大経』が説かれることはなく、私たちがお念仏に出会うこともできなかつたということになります。

今思いますのは、この願いに沿った形で私にもできることがあるのではないかとことです。たとえそれが画面越しのオンラインであっても、文章であるうと、御法話でも、お念仏のみ教えを伝え続けることが、そのまま阿弥陀様の願いに依ることではないかと思えます。

台掌

羅府別院HPに繋がる

QRコード



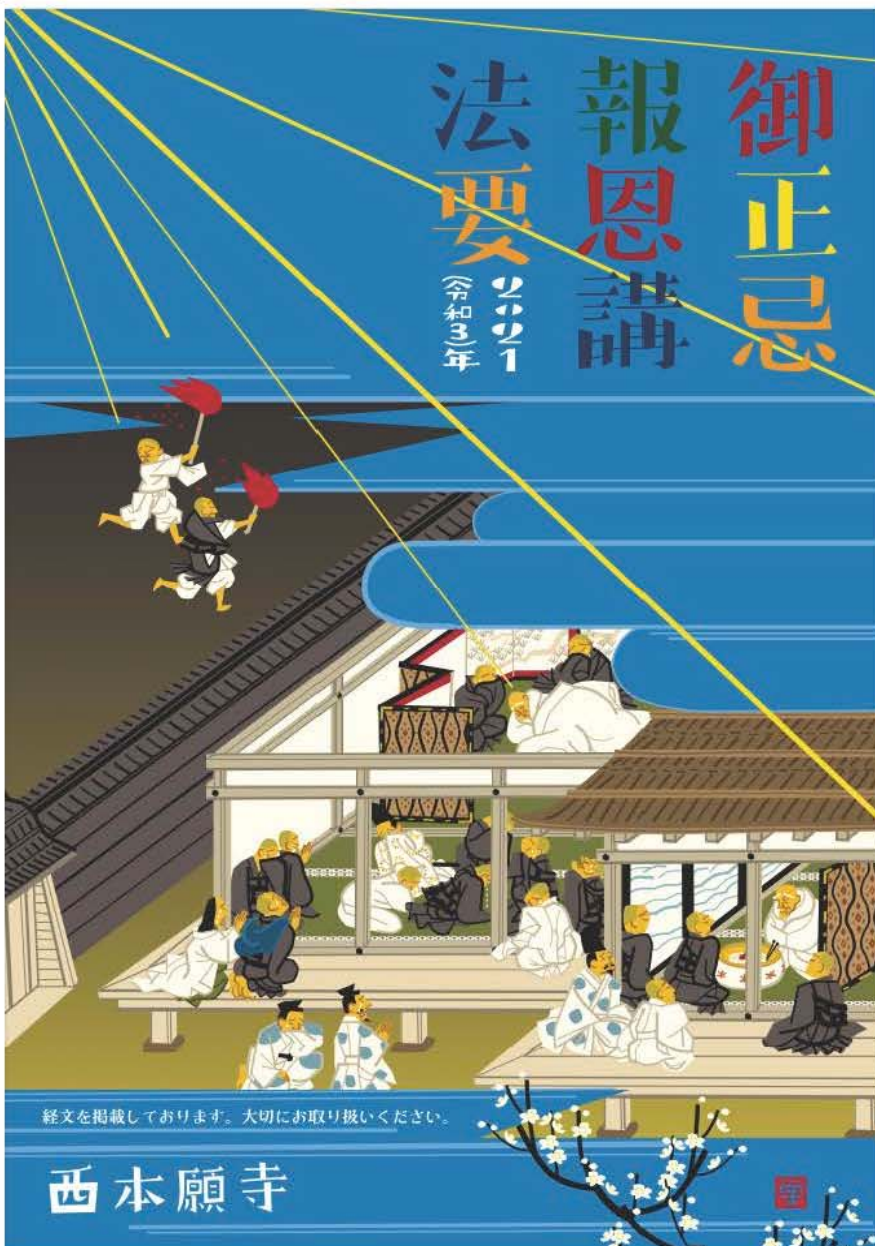
使い方：iPhoneなどのスマートホンのカメラで上のQRコードを読み取ります。別院のスケジュールやイベントが見れて便利です！

2021年度
年忌法要早見表

法要の日時が決まりましたら
お寺へご連絡下さい。

1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	2
9	9	9	9	0	0	0	0	0
7	8	9	9	0	0	1	1	2
2	9	7	9	5	9	5	9	0
年	年	年	年	年	年	年	年	年
	三	二	二	十	十	七	三	一
	十	十	十	七	三	七	三	周
回	回	回	回	回	回	回	回	回
忌	忌	忌	忌	忌	忌	忌	忌	忌

浄土真宗本願寺派「2021年 御正忌報恩講しおり」より一部抜粋。御本山の法要はインターネットからもご参拝頂けます。(https://www.hongwanji.or.jp)



2021(令和3)年
御正忌
報恩講
法要

報恩講は、親鸞聖人のご遺徳を偲び、そのご苦勞を通じて、阿弥陀如来のご本願によるお救いをあらためて心に深く味わわせていただく法要です。

親鸞聖人の三十三回忌の法要にあたり、本願寺第三代会覚上人がそのご遺徳を讃仰するため「報恩講私記」をご制作になられ、以来、聖人のご命日の法要は報恩講として、大切にお勤めされてきました。

本願寺第八代蓮如上人がお示しのとおり、正しくお念仏のいわれを聞かせていただき、身にいただくことが聖人の御恩に報いる道です。

報恩講は、一月九日から十六日までお勤めいたしております。お念仏の道をお示しいただいた親鸞聖人のご遺徳を偲ばせていただき、お念仏に遇えた喜びをこの身に受け、共々にお念仏申しませう。

西本願寺