

LOS ANGELES BETSUIN

jihō

WWW

No. 416 January - February 2013

NEW YEAR'S GREETING

Immeasurable Light and Life



GOMONSHU KOSHIN OHTANI

Reciting the Nembutsu, we welcome the new year. I express my warmest greetings to you. Following the East Japan Great Earthquake, one year and ten months has passed. More than a hundred thousand people continue to live in evacuation center housing, unable to return to their homes. Personally, I find the events of the Seven Hundred Fiftieth Memorial for Shinran Shonin and East Japan Great Earthquake to be inseparable.

I am sure that each person directly affected by the natural disaster has his or her own sufferings and is being faced with various problems and tasks. It goes without saying that support and recovery efforts are important. However, with

this as an opportune time, as a fellow earthly being, I would also like to reflect on the fundamental issues we all have in common. What we need to reconsider is how we have easily come to accept our common values and ways of perceiving things, regardless of whether we are conscious of it or not. For example, there is the notion that development in science technology and economic competition increases happiness. Although technological advancements and economic strength may be immediate solutions for simple issues at hand, stopping there can result in something else becoming overlooked. That is our infinite humanly cravings, our limited intelligence, and our lack of harmony with the greater nature. This is an issue that is deeply connected with Buddhism.

The beauty of Mt. Fuji and other mountains and valleys are all results of volcanic activity and earthquakes. Although nuclear energy may appear to be an efficient prescription for the immediate situation, not only does it become a problem when an accident occurs, but with our current technological skills, we are unable to safely dispose of radioactive wastes. We cannot simply pick and choose just what is convenient nor do we have the power to control nature. It is my hope that the measures we take will not simply end up as temporary solutions. But rather, they will help to make a positive change in our social values and reflect on our own standards and realize a sustainable society.

January 1, 2013

OHTANI Koshin
Monshu
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha

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

EMAIL: info@nishihongwanji-la.org

RIMBAN'S MESSAGE



**RIMBAN
HIROSHI ABIKO**

Happy New Year! May the Infinite Light of Life of Amida Buddha awaken in each of us a fresh sense of joy for being able to welcome into our lives a brand new year.

Thank you for the friendship, understanding and support so many of you have extended to me not only during past year but also throughout the past 4 years at Nishi Betsuin. My family and I look forward to new year(s) with diligence and open mindedness. To begin a New Year in a familiar way, I wish to *Gassho, Namoamidabutsu, then, Kanpaaaaai!*

New Year is an opportune time to recall time tested old stories. Buddhism has at least thousand of these stories and here is one of my favorite story related by Shakyamuni Buddha.

Once upon a time there was a wise and kind doctor with many sons. One day, after father leaving home on business, sons drank some poison that they found in the house. Returning home just in time, the father found his boys writhing on the floor, sick from the poison. Some almost fatal, some not yet seriously affected.

Seeing that the father had come back, boys were very happy and begged him to cure them of the poison. The doctor father, after diagnosing the situation, prepared an appropriate medicine and urged sons to take it. The boys who had been least affected by the poison immediately took the medicine and were cured, but others in worse shape, refused to take it.

The wise father, realizing what was happening, decided to think of a way to have the sicker boys take the medicine. He told boys that he was getting so old and would soon pass away and that he would be leaving home for good, leaving the prescribed medicine for the boys.

The father left, sending back a messenger with the news that the father had died. The sons, hearing that their father had passed away, felt sad, deserted and helpless, grieved "If our father were alive he would have been kind to us and helped us. But now he has abandoned us and made as orphans with no one to rely on." The grief made them long for their father,

TAKING DHARMA MEDICINE

and coming to their senses, took the medicine and were cured. Hearing that his sons had recovered, the father returned to his home.

The interpretation of the above story: The doctor father represents the Buddha, and his supposed passing away is likened to the Shakyamuni Buddha's entry into Nirvana, his human death. The historical Buddha's passing and entry into Nirvana is to get people's attention to be aware of the Universal or Infinite Buddha of Light and Life, so, in effect, people would take greater responsibility for their own lives and take needed Dharma medicines that is given at any time and place so long as the medicine is desired.

It also means that the Buddha medicine needs to be individualized with respect to individual differences, and effectiveness. The prescribed medicine is not a medicine until the ill one takes the medicine. The same is true of the Buddha-Dharma. It has to be taken, has to become real nourishment for spiritual growth, in order to be effective. The Dharma is not the Dharma until it is received and embraced wholeheartedly. That is why the Dharma is told in variety of ways, using thousands of ways and stories, again and again, until each illness is cured.

One may argue that no wise and kind father leaves poison in the house. The point is well taken, but the intent of the story is rather than creating such dangerous condition, the father has inherited such condition and responds immediately with more effort as a medicine provider.

The father returns home after the sons have recovered by taking medicine, the Dharma. It means that we are able to see the Buddha again and again because Buddha returns time and again in order to help. Or, to incorporate the Buddha-Dharma into one's life is to be able to see the Buddha of Infinite Light and Life. Buddha can be found whenever and wherever we look for him. Buddha's purpose is to guide the living to enter the unsurpassed way and quickly take on the body of a Buddha. Buddha is always seeking to make Buddha out of each of us.

To take Buddha's Dharma medicine or not is person's own decision. The medicine is available.

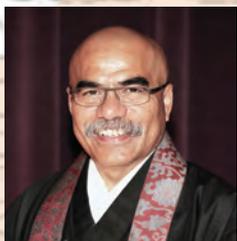
So, just answer Hotokesan with, "*Hai, Sumimasen, Nammandab!*"

"Akemashite Omedeto Gozaimasu."

In *Gassho*, Rev. Hiroshi Abiko

NEW YEAR'S GREETINGS FOR 2013

by Rev. William Briones



**REV. WILLIAM
BRIONES**

Before retiring from my last career and going into the ministry, our family on every New Year morning, for as far back as I can remember would visit my aunt's house for *menudo* ... unfortunately I haven't been home to celebrate the New Year for the past 20 years. However, my children now look forward to partake in the New Year Day festivities of *menudo* and I'm sure my grandsons, Malik and Tyson will one day make this part of his New Years tradition.

I'm sure many of you have your own New Year traditions of visiting your grandparents or relatives house for *osechi*. As we revisit the activities and traditions of celebrations past, it is the family experiencing historical continuity that keeps us in touch with the present, past and future.

We also have a tradition at the Betsuin, after our New Year's Eve service and again after our New Year Day service our member's line up to ring the *bonsho*, the large bell in the front of the temple. Traditionally, the bell is struck 108 times. Thus symbolizing the 108 characteristics of our human nature also known as *bonno*. Contrary to holiday articles in newspapers, the striking of the bell does not rid ourselves of these 108 blind passions, rather it is a reminder of who we truly are.

Shinran taught us that as long as we are so preoccupied with our 108 passions, we will never understand the intention of the Primal Vow of Amida Buddha. Only when we come to our own realization on how truly limited we are as humans and come face to face to our true nature of ignorance, do we come to rely on Amida completely.

To truly see our ignorance, anger, and self-centeredness, to see our 108 passions, is actually liberating. This process is liberating because one can finally awaken to our true self.

In Jodo Shinshu, we are truly freed because we are foolish, not in spite of it. The realization of our foolish and human nature is a very important part of our awakening.

As the year 2012 comes to a close, Nobuko and I would like to wish you and your family a very meaningful and fulfilling 2013. I would also like to express my sincerest appreciation and gratitude to all of you for making this past year a most valuable and rewarding experience. To be able to share the Nembutsu Teaching with you has been a truly wonderful experience for me.

I would especially like to thank Rimban Hiroshi Abiko for his continued guidance and patience throughout the year, despite our busy schedule. I'd also like to express my heartfelt welcome to Rev. Kaz Nakata and his family. I truly appreciate Rev. Nakata's expertise and enthusiasm that he brings to the Betsuin as well as his lovely family, his wife, Michiko and two children, Kanon and Michilu. It's truly a joy to see his children enjoying their visits to the temple. Many thanks to our office staff, Toshiko Sugiyama and Rei Fujii for all their hard work to keep the temple running so smoothly. And to all our volunteers ... words cannot express my sincerest gratitude and appreciation to our temple volunteers for their personal time they have dedicated to Betsuin. Let us continue to work together in 2013 to make Betsuin a conducive environment to hear the Nembutsu Teachings.

May gratitude and appreciation enter your life as you awaken to the Nembutsu Teachings.

Namo Amida Butsu

BWA OBSERVES KISARAGI-KI

During the month of February, Buddhist Women's Association (BWA) groups throughout Japan and BCA observes the memorial of Lady Takeko Kujo (*Kisaragi-ki*). Lady Kujo was influential in the establishment of the the Fujinkai (BWA).

Lady Kujo, who was born as the second daughter of the 21st Monshu of Hongwanji, Myonyo Shonin, was a devout Nembutsu follower who took an active part in community service. She was the founder of the Kyoto Joshi Gakuen

(Kyoto Women's Schools) and known for her poetry. Lady Kujo passed away in 1928 at the age of 42.

Like Shinran Shonin, Lady Kujo had a broad spiritual outlook, viewing the wonder of the universe. At the same time, she was aware of the very evil that inhabits our own minds and gives Shin Buddhism its distinctive character. She was also an independent spirit and provides a modern example of a spiritually-grounded, independent woman.

HOW TO SPEND OUR TIME ON NEW YEAR'S EVE AND NEW YEAR'S MORNING

by Rev. Kazuaki Nakata



**REV. KAZUAKI
NAKATA**

A Happy New Year everyone!

Some of you may know that... in Japanese, people say, "Akemashite Omedeto Gozaimasu." In Chinese, people say, "Shing Nieng Kwai La." And in Spanish, people say, "¡Feliz año nuevo!"

I've been enjoying my ministry at Nishi Betsuin since July of 2012. I assume that you received this Jiho temple news letter before January. So I would like to write about New Year's Eve this time.

We normally have our Betsuin Sunday services at 10:00 AM. Once a year, I say "Good evening everyone" at the year-end service. In our Buddhist tradition, we call the service *Joya-e*. At our Nishi Betsuin, the service starts from 6:00 PM. But, originally *Joya* was a gathering from 12:00 midnight of January 1st to sunrise of January 1st.

So, other Mahayana Buddhists like... Koyasan esoteric Buddhists, Tien-tai Buddhists and Zen Buddhists officiate their *Joya-e* service at midnight, usually from 11:00 PM on December 31st.

But in our Jodo Shinshu, we do not have to have the *Joya-e* service at midnight, so we officiate our *Joya-e* service from 6:00 PM and our mother temple Hongwanji, Kyoto Japan officiate their *Joya-e* service from 3:00 PM.

Do you know why we gather at temple on New Year's Eve? Sure, we can say *Joya-e* as New Year's Eve service. But the term "*Joya-e*" reminds us one of very important Buddhist teachings and practices. So, I would like to

explain the meaning of the *Joya-e*.

"E" means "gathering". The word of *Joya* consists of two Japanese kanji characters. Jo = 除 and Ya = 夜. "Jo" means "reset", "wipe out" or "clean up". "Ya" means "night". So, *Joya* means "let us try to refresh our minds on New Year's Eve, and prepare to welcome the New Year with a fresh mind", or simply we can say *Joya-e* is a night gathering for reflection.

In everyday life, we often say, "Oh, I'm busy!" While we are busy, we really do not have time to look back at what we did in the past. So *Joya-e* was designed for each individual to reflect on the passing year.

I am sure that most of us had some complaints (*monku*), sadness, difficulties and worries in 2012. We should not bring them into the New Year. I am also sure that most of us had occasions of happiness and pleasure in 2012. We should not carry them into the New Year, as well.

As we teach in Buddhism, everyday is a new day, so every year is a new year. What happened in 2012 does not always reflect what is going to happen in 2013. Our life is not as simple as we think it is. So we observe *Joya-e* gatherings to reset and refresh our minds for welcoming the New Year. I hope you will join our very meaningful *Joya-e* service.

Lastly, I would like to thank you for your help and support for all of the Nishi Betsuin activities in 2012 and I would like to have your continuous support at the Nishi Betsuin in 2013.

Gassho



**42ND ANNUAL
KOHAKU UTAGASSEN
SUNDAY
JANUARY 6, 2013 @ 1:00 PM**

**NISHI HONGWANJI
BUDDHIST TEMPLE**

TICKETS: \$20

BETSUIN BOARD PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Lonny Quon



LONNY QUON

As we approach the end of 2012, I would like to express my deepest appreciation for your support to our Betsuin this past year. Moving forward to 2013, I sincerely ask for your continued help to build and strengthen our temple for the future.

I want to thank our ministerial staff, Rimban Hiroshi Abiko, Rev. William Briones, and Rev. Kazuaki Nakata for dedicating their time and devotion to our members and community. Under the guidance of Rimban Abiko, our ministerial staff had met the many demands of our temple's religious services, programs, events, activities and meetings of our organizations.

I also want to thank our *Komon*, members of the Board of Directors, and our Board of Trustees for their support and guidance. Special thanks to our office staff and the many volunteers for their assistance in meeting the daily administrative tasks and routines of our temple.

Finally, I want to thank our branch temples, affiliated organizations, maintenance and Kohaku committees for their support and help with temple programs, events, fundraisers and facility maintenance. This past year's Kohaku Utagassen, Surf & Turf, Temple Yard Sale, and Obon Festival were all very successful. Please continue to help us improve and expand these events.

As I complete my first year as board president, I am truly grateful to all the mentors I had helping me with the programs and events at the temple. I appreciate everyone's patience with my mistakes and lack of knowledge on many temple routines and religious traditions. I ask for your continued advice and guidance in 2013. The Betsuin will continue to be a special place for our members and the community. *Domo arigato.*

In *gassho*,

Lonny Quon, Board President

NISHI CENTER NEWS

by Elaine Fukumoto

With the beginning of the new school year in September, a new group of children started their lives at Nishi Center. Following some tears and adjustments, the new students have settled into the routine.

The first event for the Nishi Center students was the annual field trip to the KidSpace Children's Museum. There, students and staff enjoyed discovering, learning, and exploring the hands-on exhibits.

The next event, a very popular one, was Halloween. The Nishi Center students and staff (and some parents) dressed in a variety of costumes and trick-or-treated at the various doors at the temple. The students went home with huge grocery bags filled with treats (non-candy).

An annual event held in November is Stone Soup Day. The lesson in sharing with others starts with hearing stories of the well-known French folktale, "*Stone Soup*." The students, then each volunteered to bring a food item to put into their classroom's pot of soup with a stone in it. During lunch, the students and teachers in each of the three classrooms put their hands together in *gassho* and recited, "*itadakimasu*" and then partook in their bowls of soup. To note, each of the students made their own ceramic bowls in the Art Class taught by Setsuko Takemura.

In between the special events at Nishi Center are the Library Walks that each class participates in at least once a month. The Little Tokyo Branch Library is located on 2nd and Los Angeles Street and the students either walk or take the DASH bus. At the library, the children's librarian treats the children to special stories and activities and sometimes special programs, such as puppet shows and music programs.

(see photos on page 13)

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The Nishi Hongwanji Child Development Center is a NAEYC accredited school. There is currently a waiting list for enrollment into Nishi Center. For information, please call the director, Susan Mukai at 213.687.4585. School reviews can be found on <http://pk.greatschools.org/california/losangeles/preschools/Nishi-Hongwanji-Child-Development-Center/12973/>

DID YOU KNOW?...

by Eiko Masuyama



EIKO MASUYAMA

Betsuin JIHO, Jan. 1, 1960,

“KALMUK (Kalmuck) BUDDHISTS OF RUSSIA”

The Soviet Union celebrated last month the 350th anniversary of what is officially termed the “voluntary union of the Kalmuk people with Russia.”

The Kalmuks, who remain the only Buddhist race in Europe, are of Mongolian origin. Today there are some 140,000 of them, living in the plains north-west of the Caspian Sea.

Once known as the Oirat, they eked out a nomadic existence in northern China and, in the latter half of the 16th century, embarked on a mass trek westward.

They eventually found a settlement on the banks of the Volga, and in August, 1909, entered into union with the Russians. The anniversary celebrations took place on August 22 and 23.

In 1943, when the USSR was being steadily over-run by the Nazi invaders, the entire Kalmuk population was deported forcefully and without prior notice, to Siberia on the orders of Stalin.

It was not until February, 1957, that a decree was passed permitting the return of the exiles to their homeland and it was in July last year that the Kalmuk Autonomous Republic was proclaimed.

* * * * *

Betsuin JIHO, March 10, 1964,

“Hai-Ku” (Poem by Bassho)

*Furu ike ya 古池や
Kawazu tobikomu 蛙とび混む
Mizu no oto. 水の音*

*Ah! The old pond--
And the sound of the water
As the frog plunges in!*

This celebrated poem evokes beautifully the garden of a Japanese monastery with its calm old pond, the silence of which is only broken, from time to time, by the plunging of a frog.

* * * * *

Betsuin JIHO, July 1, 1966,

“Youth in Society”

We have a number of youths who are active in matters outside the temple, and we would like to introduce some of them.

Akemi Florence Hara, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Akio Hara and a member of our Jr. YBA, will have participated in the 23rd Annual California Girls State, sponsored by the American Legion Auxiliary at the University of California at Davis. She will be representing Garfield High School.

Diane Tanaka, also a member of our Jr. YBA, will have represented her school also in Girls State.

Selection of a Girls State delegate is made by the faculty with final choice made by the principal. The qualities of leadership, character, scholarship, service and citizenship are considered.

Stanley Katase, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Katase, and Don Nakanishi, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dick T. Nakanishi, will have participated in the 1966 session of the California Boys State, also sponsored by the American Legion, at the California State Fair Grounds in Sacramento. They will be representing Wilson High and Roosevelt High, respectively. Both are members of our Jr. YBA.

Georgiana Yamaguchi and Karen Yokoyama are both running for Miss Nisei Week, Georgiana representing E.O.A. JACL and Karen, the S.W.JACL.

Charlene Shimazu, of our Hollywood branch, is running for Miss Teen of Crenshaw Square. She is being sponsored by the 442nd Veterans Association.

* * * * *

Betsuin JIHO, May 10, 1970,

“News, Wanji Holds Awards Pot-Luck Banquet”

A huge potluck dinner, attended by 250 players and parents, highlighted the season’s end gathering of Wanjis and Wanjettes on Saturday, April 25, at the Los Angeles Betsuin annex.

Under the direction of master of ceremonies, Kaz Shimizu, awards won by the Wanjettes were presented by Eijiu Sasajima, president of the Los Angeles Betsuin, and presentation of awards were made to CYC all stars.

Captain Irene Watanabe turned over trophies won by the championship of the Laker tournament, the championship of the Springtime in Sacramento, the championship of the

(continued on page 10)

A SOUTHERN DISTRICT GATHERING FOR HOONKO SERVICE

by Rev. William Briones

“On Sunday, January 20 the Los Angeles Betsuin will host a combined Southern District gathering to commemorate Shinran Shonin’s memorial, *Hoonko*. Sponsored by the Southern District Buddhist Education Committee and the Southern District Ministers Association, the gathering will include all 15 southern district temple sanghas.

The gathering will begin at 10:00 AM in the *hondo*, chanting the *Shoshinge*, and *wasan* (literally means ‘Japanese (*wa*) hymn or words of praise (*san*)’ in the formal style (*gyofu*). Although the chanting of *Shoshinge* and *Wasan* is the traditional service within both Nishi and Higashi, the morning service will introduce an innovative format that was inspired by Rev. Mas Kodani. After the service, the group will break into groups for Dharma messages. **Rev. Tetsuo Unno** will give a message in English, **Rev. George Matsubayashi** in Japan-ese and for the children, **Rev. Kazuaki Nakata**.

After the Dharma messages, we will break for lunch. Lunch will be on your own. Attendees are encouraged to support the Little Tokyo eateries. Little Tokyo is one of the three official Japan-towns in the United States and a National Historic Land-mark District. However, if you would rather not make the journey into Little Tokyo, mini *bento* can be pre-ordered through your affiliated organization or you may contact the office at (213) 680-9130

Following the lunch period, attendees will reassemble in the Betsuin Kaikan for the **Arpana-Kinnara Dance Concert**. The afternoon concert will mainly feature the Arpana Dance Company, a dance tradition from South India called Bhaarata Natyam

(continued on page 11)



Arpana Dance Dance
Company



Kinnara Gagaku

SHINRAN
SHONIN

HO
ON
KO



JANUARY 20, 2013

**SHINRAN SHONIN
MEMORIAL**

**SOUTHERN DISTRICT
JOINT SERVICE
10:00 am**

Speakers:

Eng: Rev. Tetsuo Unno

Jpn: Rev. George Matsubayashi

Children: Rev. Kazuaki Nakata

**ARPANA-KINNARA DANCE CONCERT
Betsuin Kaikan @ 1:30 pm**

NISHI HONGWANJI, KYOTO IN THE NEWS

Newly ordained priests from overseas take on new responsibility of spreading the Dharma

On September 15, fifteen Nembutsu followers from Buddhist Churches of America (BCA, North America), Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Temples of Canada, and affiliates in Germany and the U.K. of the Hongwanji European regional district took part in the Tokudo* ordination ceremony formally becoming ordained as Jodo Shinshu priests.

A candidate from Canada together with candidates from Europe joined the Japanese Tokudo training session which began on September 6. Lectures on rituals and liturgy, and the history and teaching of Jodo Shinshu were among the topics of study.

Beginning last year, candidates from North America and Canada completed 3 requisite seminar sessions as part of an independent program conducted by the Jodo Shinshu Center (Berkeley, California, U.S.A) with seminar sessions focusing on the history and teaching of Jodo Shinshu. The candidates joined the training session at Nishiyama Betsuin (Kyoto, Japan) from the seventh day of the 11-day program and received intensive training on chanting (liturgy) and rituals. After successfully completing the training program, all fifteen candidates from overseas were among the ninety candidates who took part in the September Tokudo ordination ceremony which commenced at the Goiedo (Founder's Hall) at Hongwanji (Kyoto, Japan).

David Pating (53), a candidate from BCA, has been a member of the Buddhist Church of San Francisco for 25 years as a devout listener of the Dharma and currently serves as the temple president while also contributing to the temple as a minister's assistant.

"It was difficult in memorizing the Ryogemon [in Japanese], which is recited during the Tokudo ceremony. However, in reading the English translation, I realized just how deep and meaningful the words were. From now on, I hope to truly live the meaning of the Ryogemon," shared Pating.

From Germany, Ilona Evers (57) commented, "I am coming to Japan for the first time, to become ordained in the Jodo Shinshu tradition. It [the session] was a difficult yet invaluable experience and I also had the opportunity to encounter the warmth of the people of Japan."

For the past sixteen years, Evers has been opening up her Berlin home each week to conduct Dharma study gatherings to which 4 or 5 others have been attending regularly.

"I've studied various Buddhist sects, but there has not been a teaching that has touched me as much as the teaching of Shinran Shonin. It is like the feeling of comfort that one gets when returning home. I am glad to have encountered the Shinshu teaching," expresses Evers.

(Excerpt from *Hongwanji Journal*, October 10, 2012)

* **Tokudo**: is an initial ordination, the first formal step of training to become a Jodo Shinshu priest. It is a religious rite that consists of adorations, recitation of the Three Refuges, the Jodo Shinshu Creed, tonsure (shaving of the head), receiving of the *kesa*, and *homyo* (Buddhist name).



Pictured on the far left is the LA Betsuin former minister, **Rev. Kojo Kakihara**, currently the resident minister at the Tacoma Buddhist Temple. In the back row, second from the right, is **Kory Quon**, who grew up at the LA Betsuin. Kory is the eldest offspring of Lonny and Esther Quon, Betsuin president and "first lady." Kory is currently training at the Gardena Buddhist Church under former Betsuin minister, **Rev. Nobuo Miyaji**.

Rev. Kakihara's comment about his experience with the Tokudo candidates: *"I went to Japan to assist Tokudo Group from BCA. I never thought of coming back to Nishiyama training center again after Kyoshi. It was a hard schedule, but seeing them, it reminded me of my own Tokudo experience and was so moved at Ordination Ceremony. Congratulations for your Tokudo!"*

BOOK CENTER NEWS

Greetings from LA Betsuin Book Center

The Book Center carries a good selection of English and Japanese Buddhist Books, particularly of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. Also in stock are carry *obutsudan*, and ritual implements, ie: bells, *uchijiki*, offering stands, candles, *osenko* (incense), etc. There also is a variety of *onenju*, including specially made larger sizes and small children's sizes.

Cook books make wonderful gifts that can be useful and enjoyable.

- Nishi Betsuin Cook Book - Let's Eat \$10
- Senshin Cook Book \$25
- Gardena Cook Book \$25
- Venice Cook Book \$15
- OCBC Cook Book \$25

Inquire if you need any items for your home. We will ship items by USPS.

Book Center contact:
 Betsuin Office 213.680.9131
 Email labetsuinbook@hotmail.com

* * *

"Hot off the press, the "Little Tokyo 1930's Golden Years" 2013 calendar is now on sale for \$10! It's photographs and descriptive text will give you a visual picture of Little Tokyo's 'Golden Years' as it grew and prospered through the depression. For a little more history in depth, we also have available a new book documenting the rich history of Los Angeles's Little Tokyo for \$18.00. Get your book and calendar now for the new year before we run out! You may even see a picture of your relatives or friends as a part of history."



**"Little Tokyo:
The 1930's Golden Years"**
2013 calendar now on sale!

LITTLE TOKYO
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

\$10.00

Your purchase helps support LTHS' ongoing programs of researching and sharing the historical resources of Little Tokyo

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littletokyohs@gmail.com



LITTLE TOKYO
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEW BUDDHIST STUDY CLASS FOR 30 TO 40S

A new beginners Buddhist study class has been scheduled for every third Tuesday of the month from 7:00 pm led by Rev. William Briones. This particular class will be geared towards the 30 and 40 year olds with little or no knowledge of Jodo Shinshu/general Buddhism.

The class will begin on Tuesday, January 15, 2013 and will be held in the Board Room.

For questions or further information, please contact Rev. Briones at (213) 680-9130 or Email malik615@msn.com.

DARREN KAWASAKI SCOUT EAGLE PROJECT

Darren Kawasaki, son of Ken and Lisa Kawasaki completed his Scout Eagle Project which was to design, plan, organize the Scouts to build a pair of planter/bench pieces in the front of the north entrance of the Betsuin Muryokojudo annex to the temple's building.



Darren Kawasaki



(Did You Know? - continued from page 6)

trophies in the State YBL tournaments.

All star awards were made to: Ray Iwamoto, Lester Sasaki, Midget Bee; Steven Masuda, Kenneth Sakauye, Midget Ayes; Ron Yamamoto, Mark Oune, Junior Bees; David Nakamoto, Dean Shoji, Glen Tanaka, Junior Ayes; Andy Fujitsubo, Michael Yamada, Dennis Yokoyama, Vernon Lee and John Parks, Seniors.

Guests from the occasion were: Eijiu Sasajima; Tetsujiro Naka-mura, vice president of the Betsuin Board; Kyuji Hozaki; Mr. and Mrs. George Okada, instigators of the CYC program for the Wanjis; Mrs. Michie Nakamura, Fujinkai; Mrs. Lily Nakamura, president of Junior Matrons; Jack Iwata of ABA; and Nelson Itatani.

Head coach Fred Shingu thanked the rest of the coaching staff--Hiroaki Yamamoto, Richard Ohta, Keiichi Masada, Bruce Shinohara, Mike Maruyama and Tosh Kawasaki.

The Reverend Keizo Norimoto gave the invocation and Alvin Shingu thanked the parents for the dinner.

Summer, 2012, Nisei Week Baby Show, Romper Stomper Princess Audrey Nobuyuki, granddaughter of Joanne and Ron Nakamura, daughter of Tony and Kori Nobuyuki, grand-niece of Dianne and Richard Odagawa and Cindy and Makoto Nakamura. Nisei Week Baby Show, Tiny Tot

Princess Emi Yumori, daughter of Jasmine and Forrest Yumori, and Dharma School Nursery class student and Prince Rex Shimada, grandson of Yoshinori Akutagawa and son of Susan and William Shimada. Nisei Week Baby Show, Jet Setter Prince Ryan Shimada, brother of Rex Shimada. CONGRATULATIONS ALL!!!

Wanted: back issues of Jiho, before 1980; Kohaku Uta Gassen programs of past years, especially earlier editions.

Thank you to those who donate documents of past to Nishi archives.



Tiny Tots Prince Rex Shimada and Princess Emi Yumori



Romper Stomper Princess Audrey Nobuyuki

SURF AND TURF DINNER

6th ANNUAL



MARCH 9, 2013

\$15.00 per plate

Dinner 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM • Bingo 4:30 PM – 8:00 PM

PRESALE ONLY

MENU: TERIYAKI STEAK and SALMON • GREEN SALAD • GOMAE GREEN BEANS • RICE

Meals will be packed as "TAKE OUT"

DINE IN and enjoy your meals with family and friends along with a game of BINGO.

The number of meals to be sold will be limited.
Unclaimed dinners will be donated after 7:00 pm

NO MEALS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR

All proceeds will go to the Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple.



Hundreds came to enjoy their Surf & Turf dinner, play some rounds of BINGO, and get hold of some wonderful items through the Silent Auction a great evening out!



M-m-m-m....beef!

(additional photo on page 13)

BETSUIN CALENDAR

<u>JANUARY</u>			
1	NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE (<i>Shusho-e</i>) 10:00 AM	27	JOINT INSTALLATION @ 10:00 AM NEW MEMBER WELCOMING & NEW YEAR PARTY @ 11:30 AM
2	BETSUIN CLOSED	<u>FEBRUARY</u>	
3	BEGINNING BUDDHISM STUDY CLASS @ 6:00 PM	3	BON ODORI EXERCISE CLASS @ 8:30 PM
6	DHARMA SCHOOL FIRST SERVICE 42ND KOUHAKU UTAGASSEN @ 1:00 PM (SEE PAGE 4) BON ODORI EXERCISE CLASS @ 8:30 PM	7	BEGINNING BUDDHISM STUDY CLASS @ 6 PM
8	BON ODORI EXERCISE CLASS @ 6:30 PM	17	BON ODORI EXERCISE CLASS @ 6:30 PM
13	BEC BREAKFAST @ 9:00 AM	16	GO-MEINICHI-KO @ 1:30 PM
15	BEGINNING BUDDHISM FOR 30-40 @ 7:00 PM	17	NIRVANA DAY SERVICE @ 10:00 AM 3 BON ODORI EXERCISE CLASS @ 8:30 PM
16	GO-MEINICHI-KO MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR SHINRAN SHONIN HELD EVERY 16TH OF THE MONTH @ 1:30 PM	19	BEGINNING BUDDHISM FOR 30-40 @ 7 PM
17	BEGINNING BUDDHISM STUDY CLASS @ 6:00 PM	21	BEGINNING BUDDHISM STUDY CLASS @ 6 PM
20	SO. DISTRICT HO-ONKO SERVICE @ 10:00 AM (SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE 7)	23	IBS/CBE WINTER PACIFIC SEMINAR @ BETSUIN (SEE PAGE 16)
22	BON ODORI EXERCISE CLASS @ 6:30 PM	26	BON ODORI EXERCISE CLASS @ 6:30 PM
		<u>MARCH</u>	
		9	SURF AND TURF FUNDRAISER (SEE PAGE 10)

Ho-onko - continued from page 7)

and a collaborative piece with Kinnara Taiko. In December of 2011, the Kinnara Taiko and Gagaku group joined with the Arpana Dance Company to give three Tsunami Relief Benefit concerts in Hiroshima, Kure, and Nara, Japan. Sponsored by three Jodo Shinshu temples in Japan, the company was able to raise approximately \$20,000. Both Kinnara and Arpana are made up of second and third generation Japanese-Americans and Indian-Americans, who share a common interest in their own traditional culture.

This is a wonderful opportunity to see another Asian tradition significantly different from western traditions and how it adapts to western cultures. The concert is free to the *sangha* and is approximately 1 ½ hours.

WANTED

REEL TO REEL TAPE PLAYER

The Betsuin Archives is in possession of reel tapes that needs to accessed and archived. Archives would like to borrow or would appreciate a donation of such a player. Please ask relatives and friends. Please contact Rev. Briones if one is available.

LIBRARY BOOK ENDS

...for the Betsuin Library. May be dropped off with Rev. Briones or in the temple office "for Library." (donor name optional)

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*

October 2012	3 Emiko Kurokawa
6 Roy Atsuo	5 David Minoru Kiuchi
Matsumoto	5 Frank Kiyoshi Makuta
6 Hiromu Wada	6 Aiko Hiyama
17 Kiyoe Hatakeyama	7 Tadashi Fred Shingu
21 Takeshi Okumura	8 Midori Takeuchi
26 Yukiko Jane Shintani	11 Rose Ayako Gotanda
26 Takako Shinohara	11 George Ichiro Shimamoto
28 Moriho Takahashi	14 Rose Kaneko Matsumoto
31 Jeanette Akemi Hasegawa	19 June Atsuko Matsumoto
31 Koichi Maemura	22 Yoshiaki Hara
November 2012	
2 Setsuka Shimabukuro	

MEMORIAL SERVICES FOR 2013

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 during the business hours of 9 A.M. to 6 P.M.

Memorial Observance	Year of Death
1st memorial	2012
3rd memorial	2011
7th memorial	2007
13th memorial	2001
17th memorial	1997
23rd memorial	1991
25th memorial	1989
33rd memorial	1981
50th memorial	1964

Betsuin Jiho

Editor-in-Chief: Rimban Hiroshi Abiko
 English Editor: Elaine Fukumoto
 Photos: Koichi Sayano and Glen Tao

“WHITE ASHES”

HAKKOTSU NO GOBUNSHO

This letter by Rennyō Shōnin is usually read by the minister at Jōdo Shinshū funeral services.

When I deeply contemplate the transient nature of human life, I realize that, from beginning to end, life is impermanent like an illusion. We have not yet heard of anyone who lived ten thousand years. How fleeting is a lifetime!

Who in this world today can maintain a human form for even a hundred years? There is no knowing whether I will die first or others, whether death will occur today or tomorrow. We depart one after another more quickly than the dewdrops on the roots or the tips of the blades of grasses. So it is said. Hence, we may have radiant faces in the morning, but by evening we may turn into white ashes.

Once the winds of impermanence have blown, our eyes are instantly closed and our breath stops forever. Then, our radiant face changes its color, and the attractive countenance like peach and plum blossoms is lost. Family and relatives will gather and grieve, but all to no avail?

Since there is nothing else that can be done, they carry the deceased out to the fields, and then what is left after the body has been cremated and has turned into the midnight smoke is just white ashes. Words fail to describe the sadness of it all.

Thus the ephemeral nature of human existence is such that death comes to young and old alike without discrimination. So we should all quickly take to heart the matter of the greatest importance of the afterlife, entrust ourselves deeply to Amida Buddha, and recite the nembutsu. Humbly and respectfully.

– translated by Hisao Inagaki et al

DAIJO FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

daijofcu@hotmail.com

ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, January 15, 2013
 LA Betsuin

PHOTOS



The dharma school students (plus others) pose in their Halloween costumes.



Rev. Nakata (right) leading the Sun Valley Temple members in cleaning the altar items in the onaijin during the Temple Clean-Up



Rimban Abiko (left) and temple president, Lonny Quon, confer before the Annual General Meeting.



BWA president Setsuko Nakahara (left) and Carol Hida preparing the sushi-rice for the chirashizushi otoki for the Eitaikyō service.



Two three-year olds who have adjusted to Nishi Center-life having lunch.



Nishi Center kindergartners pose in their costumes.



Nishi Center students explore the Fan Mist in the Physics Forest at the Kidspace Children's Museum.



Surf and Turf veggies all packed and ready to go. (see page 10)

TAKAMARO SHIGARAKI

Dr. Shigaraki will be the keynote speaker at the IBS/CBE Winter Pacific Seminar to be held at the LA Betsuin on February 23rd. (See flyer on page 16)

Takamaro Shigaraki is a Buddhist priest and scholar, recognized as one of the leading Shin Buddhist thinkers in the world today. His innovative approach to traditional Shin Buddhist ideas via comparative religious scholarship and rational analysis has made him a cause celebre in the Shin Buddhist world. He has served as President of Ryukoku University, one of Japan's oldest and most prestigious universities, where he received his PhD in Literary Studies and is a Professor Emeritus of Shin Buddhist studies. Dr. Shigaraki has also served as Chairman of the Bukkyo Dendo Kyokai, the largest Shin Buddhist organization in the world.

Shigaraki is the author of "A Life of Awakening – The Heart of the Shin Buddhist Path," "The World of Buddhist Awakening," and "Heart of the Shin Buddhist Path: A Life of Awakening."

DONATION ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Los Angeles Betsuin does not issue donation receipts for amounts less than \$250. The IRS does, however, require providing receipts for those donations in excess of \$250. According to the IRS ruling, any donations less than \$250 does not require receipts for tax deductions. Of course, if the donor requests a receipt, the Betsuin will be happy to provide one.

The Betsuin appreciates your understanding and your support.

L.A. BETSUIN BOOK CENTER



NENJU
(aka: OJUJU)

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AVAILABLE**

SUNDAY: 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM
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ASSIST WITH PURCHASES

Email: nishibookcenter@sbcglobal.net

**TUNE IN TO
KTYM AM 1460
Sunday 12:50 PM Dharma Message**

2013 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Valid from January 1 through December 31, 2013

**\$250 PER HEAD OF HOUSEHOLD
\$150 FOR ADDITIONAL FAMILY MEMBERS**
(SAME ADDRESS OVER 21 YEARS OLD)

CHECKS ARE PAYABLE TO:
L.A. HONPA HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

Payments may be made in full or by installments
throughout the year of 2013



BON ODORI EXERCISE CLASS BETSUIN

Lotus Room

**2nd & 4th Tuesdays of the month
6:30 - 8:00 PM
1st & 3rd Sundays of the month
8:30 - 10:00 AM**

For further information, leave a message for
Eiko Masuyama at the Betsuin office: 213-680-9130

BETSUIN 2013 CALENDAR

JANUARY

1	New Year's Day Service (<i>Shusho-e</i>)	8
2	<i>Betsuin Closed</i>	
6	Dharma School First Service	16
	42nd Annual <i>Kohaku Utagassen</i>	
20	So. Dist. Joint Ho-onko Service	30
		ice
27	Installation, New Member Welcoming & New Year's Party	

FEBRUARY

3	Boy Scout Sunday	20-21
10	BWA <i>Kisaragi-ki</i> , Lady Kujo's & Late Members' Memorial Service	
	Nirvana Day Service (<i>Nehan-e</i>)	
23	IBS/CBE Winter Pacific Seminar @ LA Betsuin	4 13-15
26-27	BCA Ministers' Meeting NorCal@ San Mateo	31-1

MARCH

1-3	BCA National Council Meeting NorCal@ San Mateo	2 8
9	Surf 'n Turf Fundraiser	21
16	Spring <i>Ohigan</i> Seminar	22
17	Spring <i>Ohigan</i> and <i>Rimban-ki</i> Memorial Service	

APRIL

7	Betsuin <i>Hanamatsuri</i> Butsuren <i>Hanamatsuri</i>	6 11-13
26-28	FDSTL Conference @ San Mateo	

MAY

12	Mother's Day Service	10
19	<i>Gotan-e</i> & Infant Presentation (<i>Hatsumairi</i>) Services	16-17 28
26	Memorial Day Sunday Service	
27	Memorial Day <i>Hakamairi</i> Services	

JUNE

So. Dist/BWA Buddhist Conference @ LA Betsuin	
Fathers' Day Service / Family Fun Day	
Graduation & Attendance Award Service	

JULY

Independence Day (<i>Betsuin closed</i>)	
<i>Betsuin Obon</i> & <i>Hakamairi</i> Services	
<i>Betsuin Hatsubon</i> Services & <i>Obon Carnival</i> & <i>Odori</i>	

AUGUST

Atomic Bomb Memorial Service	
BCA Ministers' Summer <i>Fuken</i> Seminar @ Chicago	
So. Dist. JR YBA Conference	

SEPTEMBER

Labor Day (<i>Betsuin closed</i>)	
<i>Dharma</i> School Registration	
Autumn <i>Ohigan</i> Seminar	
Autumn <i>Ohigan</i> Service	

OCTOBER

Eshin-ni/Kakushin-ni Memorial Service	
BCA FBWA Conference	

NOVEMBER

Betsuin General <i>Sokai</i> Meeting	
Betsuin <i>Eitaikyo</i> Services	
Thanksgiving Day (<i>Betsuin closed</i>)	

DECEMBER

General Temple Clean-up	
Bodhi Day Service (<i>Jodo-e</i>)	
<i>Oseibo Taikai Kansha</i> Appreciation Service	
Holiday (<i>Betsuin closed</i>)	
<i>Joya-e</i> , Year End Service	

Dates are subject to change



THE INSTITUTE OF BUDDHIST STUDIES &
 BUDDHIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA
 CENTER FOR BUDDHIST EDUCATION PRESENT



WINTER PACIFIC SEMINAR - 21ST CENTURY

“THE PATH OF THE NEMBUTSU”

Dr. Takamaro Shigaraki

Author of *A Life of Awakening - The Heart of the Shin Buddhist Path* (2005), *The World of Buddhist Awakening* (1983) & *Heart of the Shin Buddhist Path: A Life of Awakening* (2013)

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2013

8:30 am - 5:00 pm

Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

815 East First Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012

Keynote Presentation by Dr. Shigaraki (In Japanese)

English translation by Rev. Dr. David Matsumoto

Dialogue with Dr. Shigaraki & Panelists

Conducted in Japanese with English translation

- See schedule and program details online at website below -

Registration donation of \$30 includes lunch. Deadline: February 4, 2013

Southern District Temple members: Please register through your temple.

General Registration:

Please make check

Mail to 2140 Durant Ave. B

CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
 "SO. DIST. BEC"
 IN THE MEMO, WRITE:
 "WINTER PACIFIC SEMINAR"

DROP OFF OR SEND TO:
 LA BETSUIN
 815 E. 1ST ST.
 LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

Click on CBE

Memo: "CBE "

director@cbe-bca.org

Hosted by the BCA Southern District Ministers Association & Buddhist Education Committee