

# LOS ANGELES BETSUIN

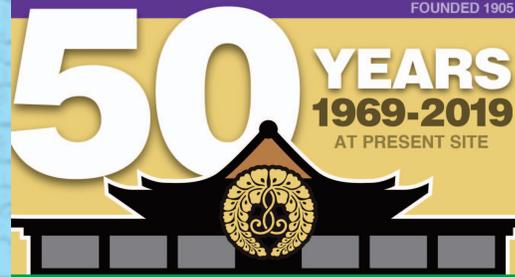
No. 433

November-December 2015

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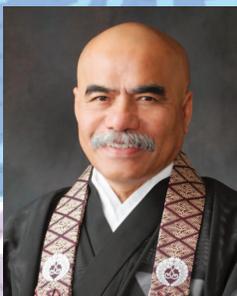
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LOS ANGELES HONPA HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE  
FOUNDED 1905



## RIMBAN'S MESSAGE

### THOUGHTS ON MY KARMIC EVIL



**RIMBAN  
WILLIAM BRIONES**

*It is natural to love good  
and hate evil.*

*But if evil is merely dis-  
liked and not reflected  
upon, it will never be-  
come enlightened as to  
what it is.*

*Good should be pro-  
moted, but we should not  
take pride in our good;  
rather, if we do not cry*

*over our own evil from having seen the evil in  
others, we will never become aware that we  
are keeping alive that same flame of evil in our  
hearts.*

*Those who do not reflect on their own evil na-  
ture are likely to exaggerate the little good that  
they do.*

*For the devout, both good people and bad are  
equally close "fellow travelers" along the way.  
Rather than affirmation of good, it is affirmation  
of evil that causes us to reflect on our true na-  
ture.*

*—"Muyuge – Flowers With Out Sorrow,"  
Lady Takeko Kujo*

If you've been keeping up with the Presidential campaigns, you've heard some rather diverse opinions and points of view on various issues and polices. You've probably observed the

distinct personalities of the each of the candi-  
dates. One candidate definitely stands out  
amongst the crowded field of Republican pres-  
idential hopefuls ... Mr. Donald Trump.

Personally, I find what he has been spewing  
out during his campaign are unintelligible ram-  
blings. They are vile, insulting, bigoted, chau-  
vinistic and at the very least, discriminatory.  
Yet, as he continues to speak at rallies and  
town hall meetings his support grows and they  
continue to applaud and cheer him on.

Listening to his bizarre ramblings and witness-  
ing his narcissistic behavior, I wonder how any-  
one could agree with him or even seriously  
consider him a viable candidate for the Presi-  
dent of the United States. Yet, as I reflect upon  
his repulsive diatribe against everything I hold  
near and dear, I sense that deep down inside,  
I am much like Donald Trump.

The opening reading is from "*Muyuge- Flowers  
With Out Sorrow*" written Lady Takeko Kujo  
(1887-1928), the daughter of the Koson Otani,  
the 21st Monshu. She writes,

As I reflect on Lady Kujo's words, I've come to  
realize that I, too, have the "same flame of evil"  
in my heart. It is the intractable nature of our  
karmic evil and attachment to ego that is our  
true nature. Mr. Trump and I share that same

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## ANNIVERSARIES

by Rev. Koho Takata



REV. KOHO TAKATA

Anniversary is a day that commemorates or celebrates a past event that took place on the same date of the year as the initial event. There are anniversaries of birth, wedding, death, natural disaster, war, founding institution, etc. They provide us with a great opportunity for us to reflect upon ourselves and meaning for our lives, especially anniversaries of

birth and death. *“Hard it is to be born into human life. Now we are living it. Difficult it is to hear the Teaching of the Buddha. Now we hear them. If we do not seek the Truth of the Buddha-Dharma in this present life, in what life shall we find it?”* (Three Treasures)

As Jodo Shinshu Buddhists, we have a unique tradition to come together on the death memorial to listen to the teachings by observing memorial services such as funeral, the seventh day, forty-ninth day, hundredth day, monthly memorial, yearly memorial, etc. Each memorial service will become the precious opportunity for us to listen and reflect on the True Teaching that can lead us to live the true Nembutsu life.

There will be a commemoration of two major anniversaries in this November. The Hollywood Buddhist Church will be commemorating its centennial celebration on Sunday, November 1. The Commemoration Service will be held at Hollywood Buddhist Church at 9:30am, officiated by **Bishop Kodo Umezu**, followed by the Commemoration Luncheon at LA Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple Kaikan at 1:00pm. The Hollywood members are working very hard to carry out their commemoration events to honor their founders by respectfully acknowledging their dedication and sacrifices and to renew their commitment to continue their journey of the Buddha-Dharma set forth by their founders.

At the very beginning of the centennial planning, we discussed what it means to preserve the legacy and Buddhist heritage handed down by our founders to create our mission statement for the centennial commemoration. It is solely to listen to the Buddha-Dharma that our founders truly enjoyed and valued as their spiritual foundation. They planted the seeds of Buddha-Dharma for us to live in the teachings and wished for us to fully blossom the flower of the Buddha-Dharma as we share the true and real mind of Amida Buddha with all beings around us. It is truly amazing that the numerous causes and conditions that brought us to encounter the True Teaching of Nembutsu our founders deeply entrusted and appreciated. I can

humbly witness their appreciation to the Nembutsu Teaching by learning of their hardships and sufferings they endured in order to survive in this country and establish a temple. I believe our founders truly applied the Buddha-Dharma into their daily lives. By living in the Nembutsu Teaching, I believe their strong spiritual foundation enriched their lives and they could endure any difficulties they faced.

Bishop Umezu will feature the *“Living in the Nembutsu: Hearing the origin and establishment of Primal Vow of Amida Tathagata (Hongwan) & its Temple (Hongwan-ji: Temple of Primal Vow)”* at the special commemoration seminar the day before the commemoration events, Saturday, October 31 at LA Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple at 9 am. Prior to the seminar, a memorial service will be held at Muryo Koju-do (a memorial chapel of Immeasurable Light and Life) officiated by Bishop Kodo Umezu. It is very important and significant gathering to reflect upon the meaning of our anniversary. It is open to public and everyone is welcomed. Please join us to listen to the spiritual foundation of our founders and the true intent and significance of founding the temple delivered by Bishop Kodo Umezu.

The other major anniversary is 110th Anniversary of LA Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple and 10th Anniversary of Muryo Koju-do & Wisteria Chapel. This observance will take place on Sunday, November 8th. Commemoration services will be held in Muryo Koju-do and Wisteria Chapel from 9:30 am. This will be followed by the main commemoration observance service in the hondo from 10:00 am. Following this service will be a short slide show presentation.

We have received a precious opportunity to encounter the Buddha-Dharma from our parents, grandparents, and founders. Because of their tremendous support and selfless contributions, we now have a number of opportunities to listen to the Buddha-Dharma. It is now our turn to contribute our appreciation and gratitude to the Buddha-Dharma. Our legacy and Nembutsu teaching will be sustained by our children and grandchildren as we have received them from our parents, grandparents, and founders. Let us come together to commemorate these anniversaries, appreciate and honor our founders, realize the true intent of establishment of our temple, and renew our commitment to listen to the Buddha-Dharma in our daily lives.

*Such is the benevolence of*

*(continued on page 7)*

## BUDDHIST EDUCATION FOR YOUTH

### “IT’S NEVER TOO EARLY...”

by Rev. Kazuaki Nakata



REV. KAZ

*Tis vain to wait until tomorrow...  
Life is like the glorious  
cherry blossom...  
While ere morn might  
be all gone...  
Night storm as soon might  
blow them off...  
(Poem by Shinran Shonin)*

Following the death of Jodo Shinshu founder, Shinran Shonin’s parents, his uncle, Noritsuna Hino, took him to Shoren-in temple for ordination when Shinran Shonin was only nine years old. Ordination in the Buddhist context is when one enters the monastery or ministry. The resident minister of Shoren-in temple was the Tendai Buddhist School master Jien. The ordination process was to take place upon their arrival at the temple. However, the ordination approval by the Authority (Nakatsukasa-Sho: Ministry of Central Affairs [under the Ritsuryo system]) was delayed. When Jien did receive the approval letter from the Authority, Jien rescheduled the ordination for Shinran Shonin for the following day. Shinran Shonin did not wish to wait until the next day. He then wrote a poem which is at the beginning of this article.

It was Spring when Noritsuna and Shinran Shonin arrived at the Shoren-in Temple. Spring in Japan, the cherry blossoms can be seen everywhere. For Shinran Shonin, the falling of the cherry blossoms was depiction of life’s fragility and that there was no guarantee to tomorrow in Buddhist teachings. Jien recognized how serious Shinran Shonin, so he conducted the ordination for Shinran Shonin late that night.

I was born in Japan, and there were many Buddhist temples around where one could go to hear Buddhist teachings. But, not being a member of any temple, I did not know how to access these temples except for sightseeing purposes. I encountered Buddhism when I entered the college by taking Buddhist study courses. I soon realized that Buddhism was not a religion that controlled one’s fate by preaching, but that it was a means to maximize the quality of one’s life by individual choices and preferences.

I am currently studying advanced level Buddhism as a second year masters student. With this, I felt confident that my initial impressions as an undergraduate student in Japan was correct.

As a result of further studies this past Summer, however, I have discovered that my “first” impression may not be

totally true in that my thoughts of “Buddhism” may only be applicable to the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist teachings. In many of other Buddhist traditions, the teachers “preach” their dogma to lead their followers in a direction with their special practices, mores, and rituals. I believe that this religious means limits one’s ways of living or prevent one to maximize his quality of life which is the opposite concept of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist teaching. I always say that, “*It is never too late to encounter the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist teachings.*” To young people, I tell them that, “*It is never too early to encounter the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist teachings.*”

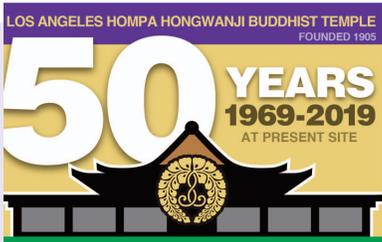
As mentioned earlier, the teachings is a means to maximize one’s quality of life by individual choice and preference. Shinran Shinran Shonin at first, may have believed that any form of “Buddhism” could be the path he was seeking. Years later, at the age of 29, left Mt. Hiei, the headquarters of the Tendai Buddhism and visited Honen Shonin of the Jodo Buddhism. By learning from and debating with Honen Shonin, he was convinced that the teaching of Jodo School was the path he was seeking. Shinran spent years promoting Honen’s teachings which gradually diverged such that Shinran’s descendants established the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist School with three main sutras, Shinran Shonin’s publications, and other masters’ teachings and publications.

When I came upon the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist teachings while in college, I was gratified, but at the same time, I regretted that I was not aware of it in my early life especially in my early teens. I believe that such knowledge could have supported me when faced with difficulties and conflicts. I am the father of two young daughters and we are expecting one more in January. As such, Jodo Shinshu education for youth here at the Betsuin has been foremost on my mind. This is especially significant as ministerial advisor for dharma school, Jr. YBA, Sangha Teens and the Scouts.

Last February, I began a class of the Applied Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Studies for Teens. It is based in conjunction with the Sangha and Padma Award classes of the Scouting program, but it is open to any teenager who wishes to learn how to deal with life. There are 14 students currently enrolled. In class, the students have been learning about the Buddhist teachings in Sanskrit, Chinese, Japanese and English, so that they can acquire a deeper meaning of the terminology so that they can apply it with a better

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## 50TH YEAR COMMEMORATION CHAIRMAN'S REPORT



The 50th Anniversary of the Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple at its current location is four years away. In no time, 2019 will be here and the 50th Anniversary

Committee is working diligently to prepare for this 50th Anniversary celebration. An invitation was sent to the *Gomonshu-sama* to participate with all of you to celebrate this auspicious occasion. Further announcements will be made later.

The Los Angeles Betsuin's growth from its beginning in 1905 at Yamato Hall on Jackson Street in Little Tokyo, has faced many obstacles and difficulties along with many positive and wonderful developments. Despite the difficulties of the Depression and WWII, the growth of the temple was extraordinary. The Betsuin was the religious and social center of Southern California. With the growth due to the dedicated members in various communities, branch temples were established to serve the religious needs of its members living in different areas of Southern California. These temples were – Gardena, West Los Angeles, Senshin, Orange County, Pasadena, San Fernando, Venice, Hollywood and Sun Valley. These temples eventually became independent (except Hollywood and Sun Valley) with the strong support and dedication of its members. We can be grateful to the members who contributed to the growth of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist community in Southern California.

Of the two remaining branch temples, Hollywood Buddhist Temple is celebrating their 100th Centennial Anniversary this year. The temple has come a long way from 1905 to the present.

This year, the LA Betsuin will be observing its 110th Anniversary and the current building site is approaching its 50th year in 2019. The Betsuin has had a very remarkable history that was started by the pioneering Issei and its succeeding generations to the present. Now, the temple members are enjoying the fruits of the efforts of all members of the past and we now have a responsibility to continue this legacy with all of your support and participation for the future generation of members.

In August, the Hollywood Buddhist Temple had a very successful fundraising event for their 100th Centennial An-

## THE ULTIMATE SAKE PAIRING

by Jean Kawakami

*Kampai* and *otsukaresama*! A pair of words commonly shared by friends, families, and supporters, as over 100 participants gathered in the LAHHBT Kaikan on August 28th for the first inaugural sake tasting fundraiser.

The event was a spectacular pairing of sorts – the first being the idea brainstormed by Rev. Koho Takata and Judy Izumo. Their vision for a fundraiser celebrating the 100th anniversary of branch temple Hollywood Buddhist Church, paired with the 50th anniversary campaign of Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple in its current location, came to fruition due to the sake support by Mutual Trading Co., Inc.



Some of the sake varieties tried by the sake tasters.

The event filled the temple's kaikan with a variety of sights, smells, and tastes. A number of classic Japanese dishes were prepared, and then served with selectively paired sake, to enhance and complement one another. Unique appetizers included ume kyu, tako wasa, and kurobuta sausage, while some of the popular favorites included oden, karaage, takoyaki, cha soba, and sushi. The surprise of the evening consisted of a unique taste test allowing everyone to try the same sake, served cold and warm, side by side. The results were stunning and remarkable. In the end, a variety of nine pairings were enjoyed and even the designated drivers were treated to nine non-alcoholic tastings.

A very special thank you to Atsuko Kanai and Mutual Trading Co., Inc. for her expertise and enlightening presentation regarding the origins and the makings of sake and to Chef Akira from Maison Akira for his wonderful mango dessert and expertise in the kitchen. Thank you to the Sayano Family and Nanka Seimen for their delicious cha-soba, to Mr. Tak Hamano of Umeya Rice Cake Company for the fortune cookies, and to Judy



Food pairings... including dessert.

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## EITAIKYO SERVICE (SANGHA MEMORIAL)

The members of Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple and their families are invited to attend the annual **Eitaikyo Sangha Memorial Service**, which is one of the Six Major Services in the Jodo Shinshu tradition to be held on as follows:

Saturday, November 14 at 1:30pm

English Speaker: Rimban William Briones  
Japanese Speaker: Rev. Koho Takata

Sunday, November 15 at 10:00am

English Speaker: Rev. Hiroshi Abiko  
(former Rimban)  
Japanese Speaker: Rev. Hiroshi Abiko  
(former Rimban)

Sunday, November 15 at 1:30pm

English Speaker: Rimban William Briones  
Japanese Speaker: Rev. Kaz Nakata

The spiritual origin to this observance goes back to a few centuries after the historical Buddha entered Nirvana. At this time the lay followers practiced many types of offerings, including the building of stupa and offerings of services for the maintenance of temple and their compounds. The purpose was to accumulate religious virtues to be directed to the deceased or for themselves.

This spirit has been carried with the Buddhist tradition as Buddhism spread into China and Japan and this practice of making offerings in the form of sutra chanting and rituals has become a part of the life of the people.

Here in Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, the Eitaikyo or Sangha Memorial Service is observed, not as a means of accumulating virtues to be directed to others, but taken as a solemn occasion to express one's dedication to the sangha. Sutra chanting, rituals, and donations done by sangha in the service are symbolic expressions of their dedication and appreciation.

The term Eitaikyo, an abridgement of *eitai-dokkyo*, which means the perpetual chanting of the sutra in memory of the deceased, signifying that all those who have passed away lived in the Teachings of the Buddha. This signification gives each of us a chance to affirm our own understanding of Buddhism because of the guidance of the Buddha through our loved ones. Such affirmation gives us the precious opportunity to see how the dharma has helped us in our lives and to realize oneness of life. It means we are all connected. Acknowledging our dharma connection to those who have passed away empowers us to further pursue the path of the Buddha, Dharma, and

## BODHI DAY SERVICE (BUDDHA'S ENLIGHTENMENT)

The members of Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple and their families are invited to attend the annual Bodhi Day Service, which is the observance of Buddha's Enlightened Day to be held on Sunday, December 6, 2015.

The number "8" is very significant for Buddhists. On April 8th, we celebrate the birth of the historical Buddha. On December 8th, we celebrate the attainment of Enlightenment of Shakyamuni Buddha. And, Shakyamuni Buddha showed us the Eightfold (8) Path to end the life of sufferings.

We have four basic sufferings - birth, aging, illness, and dying. We also have four additional sufferings - separation from loved ones, having to live with someone or some situation one does not like, non-fulfillment of one's most cherished desires, and physical and mental limitations.

What is the cause of these sufferings? The cause of suffering is "I" (our ignorance). We, as humans, always carry the mind of greed, anger, and hatred. Although we do not want to have such minds, they come upon us one after another to distress us. However, Shakyamuni Buddha showed us how to end the suffering by practicing the Eightfold Path.

Our life can be filled with light in sharing life with others. It is a simple truth to learn, but a difficult practice to fully realize. We as Buddhists, have precious opportunities to share with our sangha the true meaning of life as experienced in the practice of the nembutsu teachings. If each of us realizes the true meaning of life taught by Shakyamuni Buddha, it certainly could be a cause that could change our self-centered society of disharmony to happy, harmonious, and peaceful world. Let us practice the teachings of the Buddha in our daily lives and realize our ignorance and oneness of all life.



*Bodhi Leaf*



Sangha, which have been our spiritual treasures. The great virtue that may be accumulated in Jodo Shinshu Buddhism is through the practice of the dharma in our daily lives.

## APPLIED JODO SHINSHU STUDIES

Rev. Kaz Nakata offers the course for teens as the 72 credit hour of the Applied Buddhist Studies. It is a combined with Sangha and Padma Awards of the Scouting program. This year he led seven students to San Francisco, Berkeley and San Jose for the nine hour credit Buddhist field study. In addition to the field study, the students volunteered with Ken Kawasaki to clean the inside meditative garden at Jodo Shinshu Center. Si parents from Scouts and Dharma School supported the trip. The following are articles from two of the students. The articles by the other students are posted on the bulletin board by the Dharma School Teachers' office.

### Padma Trip by Cara Tao

The trip to San Francisco was very fun this year. My Padma group and I visited many places such as Fisherman's Wharf, Muir Woods, the Buddhist Churches of America Headquarters, the Golden Gate Bridge and the Asian Art Museum. We stayed at the Jodo Shinshu Center which was a blast. On our trip we went shopping, eating, and learning.

When we visited the Buddhist Churches of America Headquarters, we learned about the history of the organization of the Buddhist Churches of America and how the program developed into what it is now. We are part of a big web of churches that stretch all across the country and are hoping to expand. Another place where I learned was the Asian Art Museum. We got to see the development of the symbolic Buddha as well as the differences between each country's perspectives on Buddhism.

The fun things we did included visiting the Golden Gate Bridge, and walking around Fisherman's Wharf to shop and eat.

I would recommend this trip to other students because this trip was a wonderful experience. Not only was it both fun and educational, but many people on the trip told us how fortunate we were to take a trip to learn about the teachings with our Padma group. On our San Francisco trip I made many life time memories and hope to make more next year. This trip was highly educational

and enjoyable. I would suggest that my fellow Padma classmates would consider going on this trip next year.

### Record of the SF trip by Michelle Itomura

Wednesday, August 5th

Rev. Kaz, Sarah and I woke up very early to meet at Nishi to drive to San Francisco. It took us six hours to get to Pier 39. At noontime, we met with the Taos and the Tashiros to eat lunch. After we finished eating, we went to Marina Green Park to take a picture. We were able to see



The students and their parents, guided by Ken and Lisa Kawasaki, clean and replant the inner garden of the Jodo Shinshu Center in Berkeley, CA

the Golden Gate Bridge from there. We also saw the ocean, and I saw baby crabs. Then we visited the Golden Gate Bridge and took more pictures. Then we went to the Jodo Shinshu Center and met with five other people. The Jodo Shinshu Center is a very nice building; there are rooms you can stay in, a small garden, and a nice hondo. We found our room that five of us girls were going to stay in. After we unpacked, we went walking to a small little food court near Berkeley. After dinner, all of us headed back for service.

Cara Tao and I chanted Sambujo together. Then, we helped Mr. and Mrs. Kawasaki fix up the garden at the Jodo Shinshu Center. It was very fun and messy. Next, we went to the kitchen area and had some late night sweets.

Thursday, August 6th

The next day, everyone woke up early to go to service. We went to Muir Woods to do a meditation walk. It was very pretty and peaceful. Then, we went to go visit San Francisco Buddhist Temple and BCA Headquarters. It was a very nice building with a beautiful hondo. It was really interesting to learn about the history of the temple and getting to see Buddha's ashes in the stooa located on the top of the roof.

After we left, we went to eat at San Francisco's Japan Town. There were lots of stores and restaurants. We then went to the Asian Art Museum. It was vast and had many sections. I saw all different Buddhist statues from Japan, Korea, and China. Then we had pizza and desert and got ready to go to sleep.



Rev. Kaz poses with his students in front of the BCA Headquarters in San Francisco.

*(continued on page 13)*

*(Rimban - continued from page 1)*

karmic reality.

We all want to be a good person. I have no doubt Mr. Trump thinks he's a good person. Of course, I think I'm a better person. Yet, as we reflect deeply upon ourselves, it is all a delusion, twisted by our own ignorant minds, which are being created by our own self-centeredness, greed, anger, and ignorance.

This is our evil karmic nature; and as we reflect upon it, our awareness of its depth and strength becomes all the more evident. We realize that we have fooling ourselves all long, thinking that we were good, when in fact we are totally incapable of doing what is ethically "good."

In Jodo Shinshu the realization of our foolish and imperfect nature is an essential part of our awakening. Our evil karma itself becomes the stuff of wisdom and compassion, teaching and guiding us to the truth.

*Tannisho*, chapter III, captures the true essences of "good and evil" in Jodo Shinshu. Shinran Shonin words speak of the inconceivable working of the Primal Vow, which is Namoamidabutsu. And Shinran's words tell us that upon receiving the Nembutsu, we are able to become evil persons for the first time, and, in that moment, we are changed forever.

*When evil is not realized, the Buddha is not realized  
When evil is realized, the Buddha is realized.  
Evil and Buddha are one.*

*That is Namu-Amida-Butsu in six syllables.  
How wretched, how wretched!  
How grateful, how grateful!*

—Saichi

How grateful I am to Donald Trump!

*Namo Amida Butsu*

*Takata - continued from page 2)*

*Amida Buddha's Great Compassion,  
That we must strive to return it,  
even to the breaking of our bodies;  
Such is the benevolence of the masters  
and true teachers,  
That we must endeavour to repay it,  
even to our bones becoming dust.*

—(CWS P.412, #59, Hymns of the Dharma-Ages,  
Ondoku-san)

*50th Year- continued from page 4)*

niversary Celebration. Many attended and enjoyed Sake Tasting Fundraising event. (see adjacent article) The committee reported that a portion of the funds raised at this successful event would be donated to the Betsuin's 50th Anniversary Celebration. A big thank you to the members of the Hollywood Buddhist Temple.

For the 50th Anniversary Fundraising efforts, we have now raised \$863,674 as of the end of August 2015. Thank you very much to all of you who have donated. We are grateful for your sacrifices. We are still continuing with our fundraising campaign to reach the goal of \$2.5 million, which is needed to renovate the Onajin/Altar and the temple building itself as it is getting older, and like we humans, need fixing up. We are grateful and appreciate your donations and look forward to your continued generosity.

*Gassho,  
Ernest Hida  
50th Anniversary  
Committee Chairman*

*Nakata - continued from page 3)*

understanding in their day to day lives. We went on a Buddhist educational field trip as a part of the class to San Francisco and Berkeley. [see adjacent article]

Shinran Shonin started his journey from the scratch to understand life by spending some 20 years studying Buddhism. He left the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist teachings for us as his legacy after 90 years of life. Those of us who live in the 21st century can skip all of the efforts which Shinran Shonin contributed to the development of the Jodo Shinshu Buddhist teachings. We need only to absorb, test, and apply them to our daily lives.

*Gassho*

## Betsuin Jiho

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English Editor: Elaine Fukumoto

Photos: Koichi Sayano and Glen Tao

## DID YOU KNOW?

by Eiko Masuyama



**Amy Akizuki Miyakawa**, along with her family from San Jose, attended the San Francisco World Fair that was held on Treasure Island in 1939. This World Fair, in the Hall of Religion, Buddhist services were held along with choirs from various temples. As part of San Jose Buddhist Temple Choir along with her high school

friends, Amy was able to revisit the Word Fair.

Before World War II, Amy recalls saying farewell to Rev. Jokai Kow and his family in 1940. Helen Kow Nishimura, daughter of Rev. Kow, was and continues to be her friend here in Los Angeles. Kuniye Kow Odama was a toddler when Rev. Kow came to Los Angeles, to fill the position of Rimban.

The Numano family moved from San Francisco to San Jose, right next door to the Akizuki family. Amy remembered Hiroko Numano, one of the children, and said goodbye to them all when they returned to Japan in 1939. Hiroko Numano returned to the U.S. and married Rev. Kazuo Nakagami in Oregon in 1967. Rev. Nakagami was assigned to the Betsuin from 1955 – 1962. Nakagami Sensei then transferred to Seattle Betsuin, to Portland, and then to San Francisco. The family then returned to Japan in 1980.

Sixty years later, Amy Miyakawa and Hiroko Nakagami met in Kyoto, Japan, at the World Fujinkai Conference in 1998. Bambutsu no tsunagari, the interconnectedness of everything!



**Amy Miyakawa**

\* \* \* \* \*

Many thanks for the donations made to the archives this past year: Donna Ikeguchi Mendivil of El Dorado Hills for a pair of Japanese dolls, given to membership, for a commemorative event in the 1930s. The dolls have “asahi” (rising sun) in kanji and display the *hinomaru*, rising sun symbol, which is very representative of the times in Japan at that time. If anyone remembers what special event took place, please let us know.

Thank you to the many who have contributed to the Betsuin Archives.

...Cindy Oda for several books: Japanese service books, Nishi Hongwanji Commemorative volumes, Inagaki's

ANJIN, ZUIKEN'S SAYINGS, “Kokoro no Kate”, vol 3 and 4, and Rev. Kodani's DHARMA CHATTER. The latter four will be placed in the library for interested readers.

...The family of late Mrs. Hiroko Mayeda for books, pamphlets, and okesas.

...Marvin Inouye for around 50 albums of photos taken by his father, the late Kaoru Inouye, recording the history of Nishi from the 1970s through the 1990s. Kaoru Inouye was an active member of the Betsuin, and board president in 1982-1983.

...The family of the late Yutaka and Takako Shinohara for photos and memorabilia delivered by Bruce Shinohara and Penny Nishimura.

...Kayo Uno for donation of a box of filing folders and storage boxes.

...Roy Tanaka for binders of various sizes, paper and folders of different styles and sizes, tabs, tablets, etc.

...Alice Matoba for folder containing meeting records of the Nishi Matrons.

...Grace Maruki Wertz and Rosie Maruki Kakuuchi for books, photos, and memories from the past.

...Ken Yokogawa for photo album of the funeral of late Soji Fukui, who passed away in 1940.

...Ellen Sano for copy of photo of Nishi Wanji's boys baseball team, taken in the 1920s, in front of the old Betsuin office. Yoshiro (Jiggie) and Richard Kaku were identified in the photo, among others. Ellen is related to the late Rev. Junjo Izumida, who served at Nishi in 1908.

Domo arigatou gozaimashita, thank you very, very much to all, named and unnamed, for your valuable gifts to the Nishi Archives.



*(Sake - continued from page 4)*

Izumo who helped close the evening with a generous, fulfilling bowl of shrimp tempura udon.

Lastly, if it were not for the energetic volunteer servers who were kept busy all night long, the event may have come up a few pairs short! Thank you to everyone for a very successful event.

—Sake Fundraising Committee

## ABA HOLLYWOOD BOWL

by Joanne Nakamura

"Hooray for the red, white and blue!"

Nishi ABA members with 90 friends and family attended their annual trip to the Hollywood Bowl on July 3rd. They enjoyed an evening celebration of our country's 239th birthday.



It was an exhilarating extravaganza. The musical heritage of the United States and a tribute to the men and women of the armed forces performed by the LA Philharmonic Orchestra was very moving.

Performing on stage was the legendary Smokey Robinson. He mesmerized the audience with his "Oooo Baby, Baby," "Tracks of My Tears," "Going to A Go Go", and a medley of his famous recordings, that spans over four decades.

Smokey Robinson is indeed an American icon. He is an acclaimed singer, song writer and talented entertainer. Baby boomers felt a sense of nostalgic reminiscence of their youth. Experiencing this artist's impressive performance was exciting. He concluded his set with the song "Crusin'." Encouraging audience participation, he "Really Had a Hold on Us."

The finale was a spectacular display of fireworks, enhanced by the music of the LA Philharmonic Orchestra. The pyrotechnics kept in sync with "The Stars and Strips Forever," "Semper Fidelis" and "The Washington Post." This venue resonated with "oos" and "wows."

It was an evening of jubilation! All of this was made possible by the diligent efforts of ABA member Lonny Quon. Thank you Lonny for a great time, again! Every year it seems to get better and better. Everyone is cordially invited to join us next year.

## NISHI BOY SCOUTS SKILLS PUT INTO ACTION

Marilyn Okano is a member of the BWA who was helping out at the lunch for the guests ministers following the Ohigan Service. She accidentally cut her hand and some of the Nishi Scout helped her out. Out of her appreciation and gratitude, she sent an email letter addressed to the Scout Master. Here is her letter:

Hello,

I'm emailing this to the general email address in hopes it can get forwarded to the Scout Master. I want him to know how proud he should be of his Scouts.

I was at the temple on Sunday to help with the luncheon. As I was washing a large platter, it broke in half and sliced my right hand below my thumb. It was a pretty deep cut that started to bleed. I had a band-aid and spotted a group of young men who I thought were Scouts. I asked one of them if he could put the band-aid on for me which he did immediately. I learned later it was Bradford Hirahara. The band-aid was completely soaked within seconds so that wasn't going to work.

Immediately some of the Scouts ran off to get the first aid kit (which was the biggest kit I've ever seen). They cut some gauze which Bradford put on the cut and applied pressure. They were talking among themselves like they knew what they were doing. When I asked, Bradford said that he'd gotten his merit badge in first aid and seemed very capable.

After a few minutes, the scouts cut strips of tape and applied them to the gauze. It was still bleeding but not as heavily.

A gentlemen came by and asked some questions about what the Scouts had done and helped with applying a butterfly bandage which worked great. I also just learned that it was Dr. Munekata so no wonder he was knowledgeable. Good timing!

I just wanted to be sure the Scout Master knew that his Scouts responded very quickly and ably, and represented themselves very well! I really appreciated their help.

I saw my doctor today because I thought I might need stitches. The doctor said it looked just fine which I attribute to the excellent care I got at the temple!

I hope you can pass this on to the appropriate people. I just wanted to thank everyone for their help. I'm afraid I don't know the names of the other Scouts who helped out but Bradford will know.

Thank you!

(continued on page 13)

## SAVE THE DATE

JANUARY 2016

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 | <b>SHUSHO-E</b><br>NEW YEAR'S DAY SERVICE<br>10:00 AM. |
| 3 | <b>45th KOHAKU UTAGASSEN</b>                           |

## WHAT I HAVE LEARNED AT THE TEMPLE

by Judy Izumo

*Last March, a funeral service was held for long-time Bet-suin member, Kimiye "Kay" Izumo. During the service, her daughter, Judy, expressed her appreciation for her mother and how the temple and the Buddha-Dharma has affected her life.*

There are only three things I wanted to share with you, to keep this short.

To Buddhists, the Buddha, Dharma & Sangha is known as the Three Treasures or San Kie Mon. But I will not recite these. Instead I will tell you how these relate to our every-day life, through the lessons I learned from my mom.

Many of you have asked if I am okay. I'm fine! My cancer, called "Natural Killer T-Cell lymphoma" and the passing of my Mom has helped me to become more grateful and appreciate every moment that much more. The day before my mom died, I finally felt well enough to go see her at the Keiro Nursing Home. I was so happy when Rev. Matsubayashi and Mrs. Kay walked in her room because they brought both peace and joy to both my mom and myself.

I wish all of you could have seen the look of peace and tranquility on my mom's face when she passed away. I was so grateful to all the Keiro nurses who helped her until I could see her again. What was supposed to be a six week treatment [for me] is now on six months and I am grateful my mom waited for me. I went back the next morning at 6:00 AM and she was eating breakfast so I told the nurses I will go back home since I was exhausted. She died that evening in her sleep, never in pain or discomfort. I arrived just eight minutes after she passed away and she was still warm. I placed her little Neko-chan she always held in her arms and her fingers wrapped around the legs and tail as she always held it. When my brother's family arrived, my nieces commented how good Grandma looked. I could not help but say, "Look at her, she is a Buddha in Nirvana with Grandpa, back home with her parents and family." The peace and tranquility showed on her face. Their picture here on the Najin says it all. They are together again. I don't know how I will fit, but my ashes will also be in that urn. I whispered to my mom "I will have to turn sideways to fit." She loved to yell, "Hey Fatso" when I would walk into Keiro!

For us, who are Jodo Shinshu Buddhists; Amida Buddha represents all Buddhas, including all our loved ones who

have passed away. They have no human form. Amida Buddha means infinite Wisdom and Compassion. Every-time we say the Nembutsu, "Namo Amida Butsu," it is not Jiriki, but Tariki the Amida Buddha, and all our loved ones, who are now Buddhas, who bring these words of gratitude and appreciation to our lips.

Second, Buddha-Dharma, are the teachings. When you see me, you will see my mom in me, especially here at the temple. When you see me downstairs cooking, or offering incense, it was my mom who taught me everything.

Also, know that when you listen to the dharma talks, the words the ministers are speaking are the words of the Buddha, and we can continue to hear our loved ones teaching us long after they have left this world, if only we open our ears and with sincere heart, simply listen.

The Buddha-Dharma teachings are basically ultimate reality or universal truths. What is true for us is true for everyone whether Christian, Catholic, Buddhist, Jewish, Muslim, American, African, Latino, Asian, Straight, Gay, Lesbian or whatever one is. We all experience birth, death, happiness, suffering, and sickness. And as Rev. Motoyoshi reminded us last week, men will never understand menopause. This is a universal truth.

It is a universal truth that no matter what we believe, we all strive to be nice. To say kind and gentle words, to think pure and beautiful thoughts and to do pure and beautiful deeds. Knowing that whatever I do now has an effect on everyone around me. A smile is one of the best gifts. After my mom passed away, it was the smiles of my Sensei and friends that made me realize how grateful I was to have such wonderful family and friends surrounding me, this horrible person, and they in turn caused me to keep smiling everyday. We should always strive to help others and be kind and keep smiling.

Another lesson learned was when Ojichan (my grandfather), would teach my mom when she was a child, "Take good care of the ministers." And Mom would always tell me what Ojichan taught her. I grew up watching ministers and their families always coming to our house for meals and playing. Especially Rev. Inouye, when we would play Twister and get all tangled up. And I remember Rev.

### Judy's Parents



**Kimiye "Kay" Izumo**



**Hideo Izumo**

*(continued on page 11)*

## “PEACE ON YOUR WINGS,” THE MUSICAL

by Elaine Fukumoto

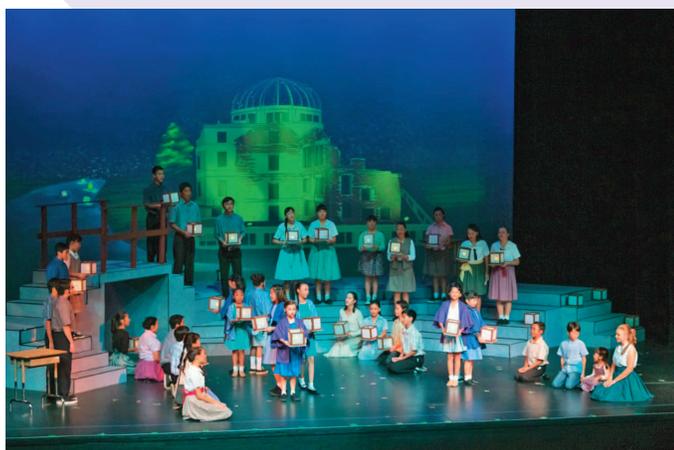
Recently the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, Ohana Arts (of Hawaii), in partnership with Helen Bing presented the North American premier of “*Peace on Your Wings*.” This musical was set in post-war Hiroshima based on the life of Sadako Sasaki who became an international symbol for peace through a campaign to fold 1,000 origami cranes.

The talented cast was comprised of 38 children aged 6-18 from school all over Oahu. The full scaled production included a 19 piece orchestra and costumes. A successful tour of the production took place throughout the state of Hawaii. Future performance plans include performances in the East Coast as well as Europe and Japan.

While in Los Angeles, the production spent days rehearsing at the Aratani Theater. A group of Betsuin members prepared a dinner of katsu curry for the cast members.

I had the opportunity to attend the Saturday matinee. There were many Betsuin members in attendance, including Hui Aikane members. There were also large groups from other Southern District temples, some of whom came by charter buses. The 880 seat theater was filled.

The performance showcased the many talented young cast members. The stage setting was simple and basic that served many scenes with added or subtracted stage props done by the cast members themselves. The heartfelt story of Sadako was interspersed with music and the beautiful voices were outstanding. The afternoon 2-1/2 hour musical ended with a standing ovation for the performers.



“*Peace on Your Wings*” stage scene

### *What I Have Learned... - continued from page 10)*

Doami and Koko's first son, when he was just a baby.

But it took me 62 years to realize the importance of Ojichan's message. The Issei came over with no money and little education, but they had the Buddha-Dharma, not in their head, but in their hearts. The Issei understood the Buddha-Dharma and asked the Honzan back in Japan to send ministers to America. Just look at the temples and legacy they left behind. We need to continue the legacy of the Issei and Nisei. We need to take care of our ministers, the temples, and all they represent. These are the lessons I learned from my Ojichan, Mom and Dad.

And lastly, all of you are the Sangha.

My mom would tell my friends, "Thank you for being Judy's friend". Was I that horrible and so bad that my mom had to thank people for playing with me? Definitely, and I still am. But here I stand, repeating my mom's words. Thank you all for being my friend and friends of my mom and my family. As a child I thought Mom and Dad loved the temple more than me. I finally understand why Mom and Dad came here and the joy it brought to their lives. I have apologized to Matsubayashi Sensei that I never came to temple to be part of the sangha while he was Rimban, and it was with Rimban Briones that I finally found this to be my second home.

I am a really slow learner, but all of you have taught me so much and how lucky we are to have so many friends to be cherished and never forgotten.

Before and during my treatment, I had my key people that kept me happy and stress free from the moment I learned I had cancer. The rarest, most aggressive, fastest moving cancer in the world. I called them my “Smile Team.” Rev. Koho Takata, Jimmy Matsushita, Rosanne Takahashi, June Tani, and Glen Nakatani. I totaled up the number of years they have been my friends and it was 212 years. Sorry, but given the fact that Rev. Takata has only been here one year, it tells you how long our friendships run, not how old we are.

So, everyone, please remember, keep smiling! And you will understand why I am so happy today.

Oh yes. The protocol for my treatment was called the "Smile Protocol," never even seen before at the hospitals here. So you see there was a Smile Theme everywhere.

In closing, to everyone, I thank you for coming here today and being a part of our lives. We truly appreciate your kind words and thoughts.

In Gassho,

“*Biig Judy*”

**BETSUIN PHOTOS**



**FALL OHIGAN MINISTERS**

Front l-r: Rev. Ryuta Furumoto, Rimban Briones, Rev. Ron Kobata. Back l-r: Rev. Nakata, Rev. Takata, Rev. George Matsubayashi



Rev. Nakata's Applied Jodo Shinshu Studies course for teens students and their parents posed in front of the Buddhist Church of San Francisco stupa along with Bishop Kodo Umezu and resident minister Rev. Ron Kobata. (see article on page 6)



Attendees at the Betsuin's Sake Tasting sampling sake paired with food. (see article on page 4)



Betsuin members doing Obon dancing for the residents at the Keiro Nursing Home.



Nishi Center children go on a field trip to the Zimmer Children's Museum.



Three preschoolers show their sundae creations courtesy of the Dharma School Parents.

*Boy Scouts - continued from page 9)*

Marilyn Okano

I should also add that one of the Scouts helped me with my bags to my car which was very nice of him and much appreciated!

\* \* \* \* \*

*After having sent the email message, Marilyn was able to track down Bradford Hirahara to clarify what had happened to give credit to those Scouts who were involved in helping her. The following is Bradford's version of the incident.*

I could not have help Ms. Okano without the help of Ross Leong and Kai Munekata. They were the first to react when she injured her hand. I believe Ross had put the band aid on her hand first while Kai went to retrieve the troop first aid kit. Ross, in the meantime took some paper towels and started to apply pressure to the wound.

I happened to walk into the kitchen when Kai returned with the first aid kit. We started by putting a gauze pad on her hand and applied pressure. Ross and Kai assisted by pulling out any supplies such as medical tape and scissors. We taped her hand for about five minutes and I believe that is when Dr. Munekata came into the kitchen. By that time, most of the bleeding had stopped. Dr. Munekata proceeded to give us advice and we finished by applying a new gauze pad and a butterfly band aid.

Dr. Munekata played a large role as well by assuring Ms.

Okano that she would be fine without stitches. Afterwards, Ross helped Ms. Okano with her belongings to her car. Ross and Kai both demonstrated calm, calculated, confident, and quick actions and decision making. The knowledge they learned in scouting was put to great use in a real life situation and for that being probably the first time dealing with such a serious injury, they should be proud of how well they handled the situation. We all hope Ms. Okano makes a full recovery from her injury.

Bradford Hirahara

*Applied Jodo Shinshu - continued from page 6)*

Friday, August 7th

We woke up very early to check out of the Jodo Shinshu Center. After, we headed to San Jose Buddhist Temple. It has a very large hondo and they also, like Nishi Hongwanji, have a preschool for kids. Then we drove back home.

I do recommend this trip to other students because I learned a lot of interesting cool things that I may not have learned just at home. I learned a lot about the history of Jodo Shinshu Buddhists in California and about San Francisco and San Jose Buddhist Temple. I had so much fun going to San Francisco, and I hope I can go again.



**45<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL**

**KOHAKU UTAGASSEN**

The 44th Annual Kohaku Utagassen will be held on Sunday, January 3, 2016. Tickets are available at the temple for \$20 donation.



**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*

**July, 2015**

- 16 Teruko Konya
- 19 Tomiko Izumi
- 20 Ihoko Joy Tanaka
- 23 Ayako Wada
- 26 Glen Shizuo Mayekawa
- 28 Keiya Ikoma

**August, 2015**

- 15 Ikuko Horiuchi
- 22 Daniel Shohei Kawahara

**September, 2015**

- 1 Seiichi Toma
- 4 Takao Kow
- 7 George Masahiro Amemiya
- 7 Tetsujiro Nakamura

# 2016 WINTER DHARMA COURSES

## 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.

### **Shoshin Nembutsu-ge (Shoshinge) - Hymn of True Shinjin and the Nembutsu**

Monday, 6:30-8:00PM Rev. Koho Takata  
February 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 (5 week class: \$50)

“Shoshinge” is composed of 120 lines in 60 verses and is most widely chanted among Jodo Shinshu followers, was written by Shinran Shonin summarizing the Teachings of Jodo Shinshu. It is Shinran Shonin’s expression of joy and gratitude for encountering the Nembutsu teaching in being guided by the Sutra of the Buddha of Immeasurable Life and the seven masters from India, China, and Japan.

### **Tannisho - A Record in Lament of Divergences**

Tuesday, 7:00-8:30PM Rev. Ryuta Furumoto  
January 19, 26, February 2, 16, 23 (5 week class: \$50)

“Tannisho (A Record in Lament of Divergences)” is a Jodo Shinshu classic. This record of Shinran Shonin’s words and teachings is easy to read, and each chapter is not long, so it is often read as an introduction to Jodo Shinshu teaching. To deepen the understanding of Shinran Shonin’s thought, several translations and the texts will be used at the class, such as “Collected Works of Shinran,” Dr. Rev. Taitetsu Unno’s translation, and Japanese original text.

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

Wednesday, 7:00-8:30PM Rev. William Briones  
January 6, 13, 20, 27, February 3 (5 week class: \$50)  
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? These five lectures will discuss current events and issues that effect our way of life and how Jodo Shinshu Buddhism influences our view point.

### **Rituals**

Monday & Thursday, 7:00-8:30PM Rev. Masao Kodani  
January 4, 11, 18 (Mondays), January 28, February 4, 18 (Thursdays) (6 week class: \$60)

### **日本語浄土真宗講座 Jodo Shinshu Buddhism - Jpn**

January 8, 15, 22, 29, February 5, 12, 19, 26 (\$5 per class)  
Rev. Kazuaki Nakata

### **Seeking a Final Solution to (One’s) Life, Guided by Shinran Shonin and Helped by Insights from Zen and**

### **Western Thinkers**

Saturday, 10:00-11:30AM Rev. Tetsuo Unno  
January 9, 23, February 20, 27, March 5 (5 week class: \$50)

For Shinran Shonin, the “Final Solution to (One’s) Life,” in a word is “Shinjin” (Entrustment, Faith, etc.). But what is “Shinjin?” In an attempt to answer that question, these lectures will turn first to Shinran and secondly, to supportive insights of Zen and Western thinkers.

### **Introduction to Buddhism/Jodo Shinshu Buddhism**

Every Sunday, 11:00-11:30AM (free) Rev. William Briones  
This class will be held right after the Sunday service. It will help you to understand the basic teachings of Buddhism and Jodo Shinshu Buddhism.

### **Applied Jodo Shinshu Buddhist Studies for Teens (Age 11 and up)**

Sunday, 11:30-12:15AM (free) Rev. Kazuaki Nakata  
January 17, 24, February 7, 21, 28, March 13, 20

This course fully covers “Sangha Award” and “Padma Award for Cadettes and Senior” requisites. Main Purpose of this course is to cultivate the ability of the critical problem-solving, the sense of the mindfulness, the skill to reduce/manage one’s stress, the character of gentleness and the mind to make one’s life more appreciative through the teaching of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism.

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## **MAJOR SERVICES/SEMINARS FOR 2016 WINTER**

御正忌報恩講 Hoonko (Shinran Shonin’s Memorial)  
Seminar on 1/16 and Service on 1/17  
Rev. Masao Kodani (English), Rev. Nobuo Haneda (Japanese)

寺基移転五十周年特別セミナー Special Seminar for 50th Anniversary-Current Temple Site on 2/6  
Rev. George Matsubayashi (English & Japanese)

如月忌 Memorial Service for Lady Takeko Kujo on 2/7  
Rev. George Matsubayashi (English & Japanese)

涅槃会 Nirvana Day Memorial Service on 2/14  
Rev. William Briones (English), Rev. Koho Takata (Japanese)

春季彼岸会 Spring Higan Seminar on 3/19 and Service on 3/20  
Rev. Tetsuo Unno (English), Rev. Kiyonobu Kuwahara (Japanese)

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(Registration form for the Winter courses is on the next page)

## REGISTRATION FORM FOR WINTER 2016 COURSES

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the course you want to take:

- Shoshinge - Hymn of True Shinjin and the Nembutsu* - (Monday 6:30-8:00pm): \$50.00
- Tannisho - A Record in Lament of Divergences* - (Tuesday 7:00-8:30pm): \$50.00
- Contemporary Issues and Jodo Shinshu Perspective* (Wednesday 7:00-8:30pm): \$50.00
- Rituals* (Monday & Thursday 7:00-8:30pm): \$60.00
- 日本語浄土真宗講座 (Friday 10:00-11:00am): \$5.00 per class
- Seeking a Final Solution to (One's) Life, Guided by Shinran Shonin and Helped by Insights from Zen and Western Thinkers* (Saturday 10:00-11:30am): \$50.00

The course tuition is collected and no refund for missed classes.

Please mail completed registration form with a check for the total payment (payable to: LAHHBT) or may be dropped off at the temple.

For more information: Phone: (213) 680-9130/ Email: [nishidharmacenter@gmail.com](mailto:nishidharmacenter@gmail.com)

# NOVEMBER 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Bon Odori Exercise 8:30 am 1  Hollywood Buddhist Church Centennial Celebration  <b>Regular Service 10:00 am</b>	2	3	4	5	6  Jodo Shinshu Buddhism (Jpn) Rev. Nakata 10:00-11:00 am	7 Shin Buddhism on Dukkha Rev. Unno 10:00-11:30 am  Lady Eshinni (Jpn) Rev. Matsubayashi 10:00-11:30 am  ABA Fundraiser Dinner & BINGO
Muryokojudo & Wisteria Chapel 10th Anniversary 8  LA Betsuin 110th Anniversary Service  General Meeting 1:00 pm	9	10  Bon Odori Exercise 6:30 pm	11	12  Board Meeting 7:30 pm	13  Jodo Shinshu Buddhism (Jpn) Rev. Nakata 10:00-11:00 am	14  <b>Eitaikyo Service 1:30 pm</b>
Bon Odori Exercise 8:30 am 15  <b>Eitaikyo Service 10:00 am &amp; 1:30 pm</b>	16  Go-Meinichi-ko 1:30 pm	17	18	19	20  Jodo Shinshu Buddhism (Jpn) Rev. Nakata 10:00-11:00 am	21  Lady Eshinni (Jpn) Rev. Matsubayashi 10:00-11:30 am
BEC Breakfast 9:00 am hosted by ABA 22  <b>Regular Service 10:00 am</b>	23	24  Bon Odori Exercise 6:30 pm	25	26  Thanksgiving Holiday Betsuin Closed	27  Jodo Shinshu Buddhism (Jpn) Rev. Nakata 10:00-11:00 am	28
29  <b>Regular Service 10:00 am</b>	30					

# DECEMBER 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
Bon Odori Exercise 8:30 am 6  <b>Bodhi Day Service 10:00 am</b>	7	8  Bon Odori Exercise 6:30 pm	9	10  Board Meeting 7:30 pm	11	12
13  Temple Clean-Up 8:00 am	14	15	16  <b>Go-Meinichi-ko 1:30 pm</b>	17	18	19
Bon Odori Exercise 8:30 am 20  <b>Oseibo Kansha Service &amp; Program 10:00 am</b>	21	22  Bon Odori Exercise 6:30 pm	23	24	25  Christmas Holiday Betsuin Closed	26
27  <b>Regular Service 10:00 am</b>	28	29	30	31  <b>Joya-e New Year's Eve Service 6:00 pm</b>	1  Shusho-e New Year's Day Service 10:00 am	