

# LOS ANGELES BETSUIN

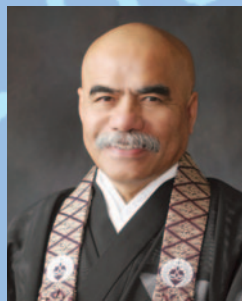
# jihō

WWW

No. 479

July - August 2023

## RIMBAN'S MESSAGE



**Rimban William  
Briones**

I grew up less than half a mile from Mountain View Buddhist Temple. At that time, what separated my house from the temple was a field of tomatoes. It was during the warm summer evenings, as we played in the fields that I was first exposed to the season of Obon. Unbeknownst to

me, the colorful display of lights and the strange music would be my first memories of Obon.

It wasn't until I started high school that I began hanging out at the Obon with some of my Japanese-American friends as well my other assorted ethnic friends. I remember we'd spend all our part-time job salary (\$1.25/hour) on *Chuck-a-luck* and *Nickel Pitch*, eat hamburgers, beef and chicken teriyaki. On Sunday evening, we watched the cute YBA girls dance in their colorful kimono. I had no idea why or what my Japanese-American friends and their families were celebrating.

When we think of Obon, we think of course of Bon odori, food, games, prizes, a nice cold beer and of course a time to be with our friends and family. This is all very nice, but I think at times the true meaning of Obon has become so intertwined with "all that is Japanese." In all the commotion of festivities, perhaps, we forget or neglect the religious significance of Obon. We seem to have forgotten that, unlike traditional Japanese matsuri celebrations, Bon odori is not an attempt to appease or petition the "gods." Obon is also not a time to welcome our ancestors back for a reunion with the living as so many newspapers, travel guilds, magazines and websites like to report during the season of Obon.

## THOUGHTS ON OBON

Simply put, Obon is a time for us to reflect upon all that continues to influence our lives and those benefits we have received from the lives of others. It is a time to express our gratitude for being given those conditions to live this life. It is an opportunity to truly reflect upon the truth of my existence. It is with this understanding that we visit the graves of our loved ones and attend memorial services. Our visitation to the cemetery and conducting memorial services is no more than an expression of the gratitude that arises when we embrace the truth of those causes and conditions of your life.

Obon is this feeling that flows through our hearts and minds. Therefore, in our Jodo Shinshu tradition, we call *Obon*, *Kangi-e* or "*Gathering of Joy*." For it is an act of joy to awaken to the truth of your life. It is this overwhelming sense of joy and gratitude that is the source for dancing during Obon. This is Obon and this is why we dance.

The fertile field of tomatoes are gone now and in its place are rows of condominiums and a shopping center. Nevertheless, on a warm summer Obon evening, one can still smell the chicken teriyaki being barbecued and hear the distinct sound of Japanese music crackling over the loud speakers from my mother's house. While I am unable to attend Mountain View's Obon this year, I can be sure that my family will be in attendance partaking in the festivities. If my grandchildren and great-granddaughter do attend, I hope, in time, they too will cultivate an awareness of gratitude and appreciation for family, friends, community, and ancestors that has made this life possible. For it is within this realization of the past with this life now, that we can pass this truth on to future generations.

*Namo Amida Butsu*

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## CULTIVATING TRUE FRIENDSHIP ON THE PATH OF BUDDHISM

by Rev. Hibiki Murakami



Rev. Hibiki  
Murakami

There is a proverb in Japan, which describes friendship taking a process to nourish. “Onaji kama no meshi wo kutta naka.” Literally, it means, “...eating rice from the same pot.” It implies those having a shared common experience. The saying is profound. Friendship is not a mere product of acquaintance, but rather it is a bond forged through shared joys and hardships. Friendship blossoms upon that firm soil,

and consequently, they find themselves calling each other “buddies.” True friendship emerges when we genuinely empathize with one another’s struggles. For example, you would say “You’ve been in a hard time. I wish I could help you.” When you find yourself in such relationships, you can respect and cherish each other, forging a bond that allows us to coexist harmoniously.

Shakyamuni Buddha said,

*The one who hears and never forgets the dharma,  
sees and reveres it and greatly rejoices in attaining it  
– that person is my true friend.*

– *Larger Sutra, The Three Pure Land Sutras. Vol. 2*

This statement shows us who the Buddha’s true friend is. According to the Buddha, a true friend is one who listens to the dharma, remembers it, respects it, and rejoices in the shared journey towards enlightenment. The dharma, the path to Buddhahood, holds immense significance to the Buddha. Therefore, he recognizes as true friends are those who attentively absorb these teachings, honor them, and strive together toward the same goal. This sentiment echoes the essence of friendship. The Buddha’s compassion can resonate with someone’s joy together. The Buddha is always willing to become our closest friend, understanding us fully and accompanying us on our spiritual quest.

Yet, can we say that we behave as the Buddha’s true friend? We frequently need to reflect upon our behavior regarding it. We easily forget the true words of the Buddha soon after hearing them. Our mind is occupied by our own concerns rather than contemplating the Buddha’s teachings. Actually, there are many who qualify as a true friend of the Buddha. As mentioned earlier, a genuine friend

strives to empathize, considering and respecting the perspective of others.

When we find joy in hearing the dharma and wholeheartedly embrace its guidance on the path to Buddhahood, we align with the Buddha’s will. I was taught by my sensei (mentor), it brings great joy to accept others as they are, allowing them to pursue their desires freely. Aligning ourselves with the dharma, which lets us rely on the working of the Name, offers the ultimate delight to Amida Buddha. Let us aim to be true friends of the Buddha, embarking on a journey to the Pure Land together. May our relationships flourish and our pursuit of friendship continues under the guidance of the Name, *namoamidabutsu*.



### BCA SOUTHERN DISTRICT OBON SCHEDULE

July 1 Senshin Saturday only

#### JULY 8 & 9 L.A. BETSUIN

July 15 & 16 OCBC  
Venice

July 22 & 23 Pasadena Sunday only  
Vista  
WLA

July 29 & 30 San Diego Saturday only  
Higashi Saturday/Camarillo

August 5 & 6 Gardena

## BETSUIN BOARD PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



**Pam Tabata**

It's Obon Season! Our Obon Festival is not the same as the pre-pandemic Obon. We may need to continue to rethink what it will be in the future. The Bon odori dancing, will always continue. I will apologize now if we run out of food, but I hope that you will go to Little Tokyo to patronize our small business friends. Just like in your everyday lives, we do not have the manpower we had pre-pandemic.

I took a look at my first Obon message in 2020. I realized, while writing this final Obon message as the temple president, I am in the same state of mind as in 2020. Of course, my memories have increased in numbers with more of you and your family members. There are just so many to list, but I continue to be very grateful to everyone. I am excerpting a portion of my 2020 Obon message because of my unchanged state of mind. You may be tired of seeing me thank all of you, but it comes from my heart. I am forever grateful and know that because of you, this temple continues.

*...Southern District temples, individually, decided that they will not be open for Obon festivities this year. I am sad because, for some, it is a once a year visit and this annual season is given to us by those that came before us. Shikataganai.*

*I am grateful every Obon season for your parents and relatives that taught me many things — the practical as well as compassion toward others. As an adult, going into the kitchen for the first time, is very intimidating. However, **Mr. Isao Hatakeyama** taught me how to make rice in our 30-cup rice cookers and **Mrs. Nobuko Sayano** has perfected it to a science for me. **Mr. Nagao** and **Mr. Hamada** showed me that working so hard at Obon can be fun. It is hard work, but there is so much laughter. **Ms. Joyce Koda** taught me how to cut the rice for sushi and chirashi. I couldn't wait to be older so that I could talk to people like she did, but that wasn't going to happen. **Mrs. Kay Maruyama**, who took care of the udon for Matrons, worked the long hours and I always wondered if she went home that weekend. **Mrs. Flo Waki** made crafts and gave some to me without making me ever feel like I ever owed her anything. She would have her dishcloths and just shove them into my pocket like we had a secret between us. **Mrs. Kay Izumo**, who taught me most of what I know about recipes to serve hundreds of people. **Mr. Seibi Okita** taught me how to make the sauces — tare and*

## BETSUIN CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### JULY

- 02 Family Service (10:00 am)
- 04 Independence Day (Temple closed)
- 08/09 Obon Festival (3:30 - 8:30)  
Bon Odori (6:30 - 8:30)
- 15 Hatsubon Service (10:00 am)
- 16 Obon Service (10:00 am)  
Eitaikyo Shotsuki Hoyo (1:00 pm)
- 23 Family Service (10:00 am)
- 30 Family Service (10:00 am)

### AUGUST

- 06 Hiroshima-Nagasaki  
Atomic Bomb Memorial Service (10:00 am)
- 13 Family Service (10:00 am)  
Eitaikyo Shotsuki Hoyo (1:00 pm)
- 20 Family Service (10:00 am)
- 27 Family Service (10:00 am)

### SEPTEMBER

- 03 Family Service (10:00 am)
- 04 Labor Daoy (Temple closed)
- 10 Dharma School Registration  
Eiktaikyo Shotsuki Hoyo (1:00 pm)

In order to access any of these services via Zoom, contact the Betsuin for information:

**213-680-9130 or**

**[NishiDharmaCenter@gmail.com](mailto:NishiDharmaCenter@gmail.com)**

*soaking — for the chicken teriyaki. These are the few people that come to mind, at this moment. I know I am forgetting others. What I do at Obon is not me, but all of them working through me and I couldn't be more grateful. I appreciate how members, past and present, have touched my life. I am so lucky. For this Obon season, take time to visit your loved ones that have passed and especially the ones that are alive, as long as it is safe.*

*In gassho*

## TREASURES OF KYOTO

by Jean Kawakami



**850 Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth and 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Teaching  
Los Angeles Betsuin Entourage**

From May 9th through 20th, 14 members from our Betsuin Buddhist Women's Association (BWA), some spouses, and additional San Fernando members and friends, attended the auspicious **850th Commemoration Service of Shinran Shonin's birth and the 800th anniversary of the establishment of Jodo Shinshu teachings, at the Nishi Hongwanji** mother temple (*honzan*) in Kyoto, Japan. This unique temple, which was built in the late 1500s, is designated as an UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is just as much humble as it is grand. It is equally relevant today as it is historical. It will always reside in my heart and mind, though it is 5 thousand nautical miles away.

The spiritual awakening at the service, was inspiring, moving, and palpable as the entire sangha's chanting resonated in unison, creating "one voice", in one moment in

time. I felt an eruption of goosebumps and overwhelming gratitude. Later that day, we chanted Juseige in front of our Nishi members' niches at the **Otani Hombyo Mausoleum**. Several of our passed members have ashes there on the same sacred grounds as where Shinran Shonin's ashes are enshrined.

The day after service, women and friends from the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha temples from all over the world gathered in the beautiful Kyoto International Center for their **17th World BWA Convention**. It was an amazing opportunity to attend both events, coordinated on consecutive days, for the BWA and world-wide sangha.

With the tranquil mountains of Mt. Hiei as the backdrop,

(continued on page 5)

(TREASURES OF KYOTO - continued from page 4)

the WBWA convention featured various guest speakers who shared relevant dharma messages with us, including the honorary president of the World Federation of JSHBWA, **Lady Ohtani Ruzumi**, and the keynote speaker, **Rev. Shin'en Morita**, Professor at Kyoto Women's University. Closing the conference, a panel of five women, including **Karen Akahoshi** who represented our BCA, shared their personal stories regarding this year's theme, "The Life of Nembutsu enables us to appreciate Every Encounter." Being able to hear, and learn from

others, substantiates the value of international meetings for our growth and understanding as Jodo Shinshu Buddhists. It enables us to reflect on our daily lives, and interconnects our oneness.

This extraordinary trip to Japan gave us the ability to reunite with old acquaintances from past conventions, a chance to engage with new acquaintances, and appreciate walking the streets once walked upon by samurai, shoguns, and Shinran Shonin, as well as visit temples, castles, and traditional communities, built thousands of years ago.



*Ourakata-sama (wife of Gomonshu)  
Lady Ruzumi Ohtani*



**Otani Hombyo Mausoleum**

*Mari Kawasaki, Jean Kawakami, & Rimban Briones standing before the niches labeled "Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple"*

*(Additional photos of the BWA Japan Tour will be featured in the next issue of the Betsuin Jiho)*



**O BON**  
**BON ODORI & CARNIVAL**  
**JULY 8 & 9**

## DID YOU KNOW?

by Eiko Masuyama

(Continuation from the May-June 2023 issue of the Betsuin Jiho)

The Nishi Archives/Library Committee, comprised of members, **Bruce Hatakeyama, John DiGilio, Linda Inagaki, Mitsuyo Tanaka, Michi Matsunami, Cindy Oda, Eiko Masuyama**, and advisor, **Rimban William Briones** met on March 5, 2023, to discuss its goals and objectives, formulating the following:

### Mission Statement of Nishi Archives/Library

The mission statement of the Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple (LAHHBT) Archives and Library is to:

- acquire, identify, preserve, and make accessible the documented history of the temple for current and future generations;
- develop and maintain a collection of materials showcasing contemporary and historical topics relating to Buddhism generally, with a focus on Jodo Shinshu school of Pure Land Buddhism; and
- provide library circulation services to temple members.

The Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple (LAHHBT) is also known as the Los Angeles Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple and the Los Angeles Betsuin. The LAHHBT is a Jodoshinshu Buddhist temple under the umbrella of the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA).

The archives of the Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple was established under the leadership of the late **Dr. Ryo Munekata**, while preparing for the temple's 100th year celebration in 2005. One of the projects of the Centennial Celebration was the annexing of a columbarium to the building. This opened up a room in the main temple, which the then, **Rimban George Matsubayashi**, allowed to house the archives. With a little remodeling and a large monetary donation by **Gary Kawaguchi**, the archives had its beginning.

The Nishi archives houses mostly paper documents and booklets. The hard copies of the JIHO collection were digitized by Michi Matsunami and the late **Kayo Uno**. It also houses the Toyo Miyatake photo negatives, 1940 – 1980, donated by **Alan Miyatake**. With the expertise of Bruce Hatakeyama and the services of **Lindsey Miyatake** (Alan's daughter, who happened to be off for the summer before starting medical school in the Fall), the entire collection was digitized. There is also a collection of close to 1000 audio cassette tapes of radio program sermons, lectures, Sunday messages, etc. that were checked and entered into the computer by Michi Matsunami and **Rose**



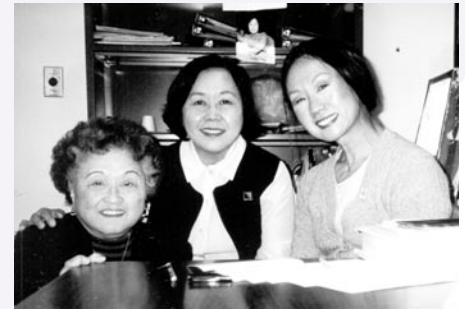
Michi Matsunami



Mitsuyo Tanaka



Kayo Uno



Grace Maruki Wertz, Eiko Masuyama, & Kiyoko Kami Luster

**Kitayama**, and later digitized by Linda Inagaki. There is a box of reel-to-reel tapes, Super 8 cassettes, and VHS videos that need to be processed. The late **Kaoru Inouye** had over fifty photo albums of photos, donated by son **Melvin Inouye**, that were processed and boxed by late **Grace Maruki Wertz** and **Kiyoko Kami Luster**. These were later identified and organized by Michi Matsunami, who continues to work on the photos to this day. There is also a collection of albums, photos of all sizes, and panoramas--a few flattened and many still rolled--dating from the early 1900s. Finally, there is a large collection of miscellaneous memorabilia banners, wooden markers, happis, statues, stamps, pins, and more, all donated by thoughtful members of the past and present.

The Japanese library section covers the entire north wall of the library, plus a bookcase and file cabinet drawers. **Mrs. Masayo Koizumi**, wife of Rev. Kenn Koizumi (2004 - 2008), undertook the huge task of entering the books (with ID numbers) into the computer, in both romaji and Japanese. They are further organized by categories, such as Jodo Shinshu, General Buddhism, and Others (cultural/historical) Books. Later, **Mrs. Michiko Nakata**, wife of Rev. Kazuaki Nakata (2012 - 2019), and Chieko Cyn-

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(KNOW? - continued from page 4)

this Kondo updated the list in the computer with additional donations of books. Recently, **Cynthia Kondo** and **Moruko Okita** have been coming in regularly to inventory and reorganize the Japanese collection.

Also, with the assistance of **Chihiro Okubo**, Nishi Girl Scout Troop 12135, working on her Girl Scout Silver Award (2021-2022), the Japanese collection was inventoried and updated. Chihiro, the daughter of Alfred and Emi Okubo, used her Japanese language skills to assist in the much needed organization of the Japanese library collection.

Donations continue to be added to the library. Recently, donations from the late **Rev. Keizo Norimoto** and late **Rev. John Doami** have been added.

The English library section consists of part of the south wall, plus two bookcases and file cabinet drawers. Linda Inagaki has been inventorying, re-organizing, and updating the computer list. She is also removing duplicates and books that do not fit in collection. These will be sold at a Used Books Sale table during Obon festivities. Space is at a premium as books continue to come in.

**Rev. Murakami** has been assisting in checking the Japanese collection and has also been weeding out books that do not fit the collection... also to be sold at the Used Books Sale table during Obon festivities in July.

There is a finder's aid (list) of sorts to locate archives items. Mitsuyo Tanaka continues to interfile newly acquired items into the collection, as well as adding to the collection list and re-organizing as space is filled. **Kyle Oda** has been asked to update the newly acquired items into the computer. The goal of making the items in the archives accessible requires consolidating all the categories into a workable program. John DiGilio, Bruce Hatakeyama, Linda Inagaki, and Cindy Oda are looking into programs that will make this possible.

The cost of operating and updating the archives and library is an issue. The committee foresees, in the near future, expenses to expedite these projects including: new software, updated computers, equipment to digitize the audio and video tapes, and physical needs (shelving, cabinets, etc.). Monetary donations are always welcome.

*The Nishi Library, English and Japanese, are for our members. The door is usually open Sundays, before, during, and after service. You are welcome to come in to browse and sit and/or borrow books. There is a sign-out sheet on the cabinet to the left of the door. When you return the book, please write the date that you are returning on the sheet and leave the book(s) on the cabinet for us to*

*reshelve. We hope to see you there!*

If you borrowed a book in the past, please return and place on file cabinet to the left the door. Books from the library usually have Nishi Hongwanji stamp in the inside cover or on the title page. Thank you.

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## MATTHEW HAYASHI ATTAINS EAGLE SCOUT

Eighteen year-old Matthew Shigeru Hayashi is the son of Grant and Sheryl Hayashi. He has an older sister, Samantha, who earned her Gold Award as a part of Nishi's Girl Scout Troop 12135. He is currently a San Pedro High School senior, planning to major in materials engineering at UCLA. He started with the Troop as a Tiger Cub, meeting new friends and becoming closer



*Matthew Hayashi*

to old ones. He progressed with them through Cub Scouts and earned his Arrow of Light. He then bridged over to Nishi's Boy Scout Troop 738 with most of his fellow Webelos scouts. Through Scouting, he created lifelong memories with his fellow scouts. Whether it was camping with the troop, staying late for manju nights, helping out at Obon, or weekly meetings, every activity was fun and enjoyable. As a member of the troop, he held the positions of Senior Patrol Leader, Troop Guide, and Troop Scribe, just to name a few.

Apart from scouting, Matthew also plays basketball for the South Bay F.O.R. organization, plays the trumpet for his high school's marching band San Pedro Golden Pirate Regiment, and is the President of Nishi's Jr. Young Buddhist Association.

His favorite outdoor memory with the troop was attending his first summer camp at Camp Cherry Valley in Catalina Island. Because it was his first summer camp, he wasn't sure what to expect, but he quickly learned that summer camp was a place to have fun and meet other scouts. He enjoyed the hikes, aquatic activities, and merit badges. At

(continued on page 8)



**HATSUMAIRI 2023**

*left side: Tabata Family center: Rimban Briones right side: Chao-Falla Family*

(EAGLE SCOUT - continued from page 7)

summer camp, he also learned to be enthusiastic about scouting and that things are only as fun as you make them.

During the summer before his senior year, Matthew was fortunate to work with his high school's marching band director Marc Manriquez, the band's volunteer trailer driver Rudy Cruz, ASMs, and fellow scouts. His project was to create shelving to make transporting everyone's instruments from the Olguin campus to the Flagship campus, or vice versa, easier. This also made it easier for everyone to store their instruments instead of piling them up on the trailer floor. Doing this project allowed him to give back to the marching band that he was a part of since freshman year.



*BSA Eagle Scout Medal*

He is grateful for everyone who has helped him throughout this memorable journey. Thank you to Scoutmaster Chavez and the ASMs for giving up their Friday nights and weekends to supervise the troop, meet for Scout Master conferences, attend camping trips, and more. Thank you to the troop parents for being merit badge counselors and for helping the troop function. He would also like to thank all his fellow scouts for helping him with requirements for a certain rank, providing guidance, and being great role models. Last, but not least, he would like to thank his family for their constant support at each step of his journey. Without their selflessness, he wouldn't have made it to obtain the Eagle rank. He knows he doesn't say it nearly as much as he ought to, but he is deeply grateful for everyone's help, whether big or small, for these past 12 years.



## NISHI ABA SPRING OUTINGS

by Joanne Nakamura

### **SPRING BREAK AT TANAKA FARMS! VISIT, PICK, EAT AND SHOP!**

The Nishi ABA members enjoyed a Springtime visit to Tanaka Farms in Irvine. The ABA members participated in the "Farm-to-Table Cook-Out Tour." They picked Swiss chard, kale, and Japanese turnips providing a hands-on farming experience for these city folks.

This Spring Harvest Festival on the farm included games, food, arts, and crafts, as well as picture-taking with the Easter Bunny and an Easter Egg Hunt for the kids. A visit with the barnyard animals was also included.

Culminating the day of harvest, the group enjoyed a delicious lunch of grilled chicken, freshly picked purple cauliflower and zucchini and a scrumptious kale salad with strawberries, cranberries and a vinaigrette dressing. This meal tasted so good!

We give special "Arigato" to ABA's activity chair Glenn Saita for organizing this event.

Nishi ABA members were privileged to personally meet Glenn and Shirley Tanaka, owner and operators of Tanaka Farms. They welcomed and thanked ABA for their visit.

Twelve years ago, following the Great East Tohoku earthquake and tsunami in March of 2011, Tanaka Farms and Orange County Optimist Club (OCO) created the "Walk the Farm Foundation." Through fundraising events, they were able to aid 14 farmers in the devastated areas in Japan. "Harvesting hope for farmers suffering from devastation of natural disasters" is the purpose of this important foundation. Their work continues, ranging from providing revenue to small farms, providing mentorship and helping rebuild areas of destruction and pillage and so much more.

The dedication and continuous work of this foundation, supporting farms in need of survival assistance is praiseworthy. Supporting the farming legacy in hopes to inspire the future generations to continue and preserve this important industry. For more information go to:

<https://www.walkthefarm.org>

"Education, entertaining and feeding families all year round" is the motto of Tanaka Farms. For more information visit the Tanaka Farms website:

<https://www.tanakafarms.com>

Nishi ABA members were educated, entertained and fed at the Tanaka Farm. They also supported and embraced this foundation's cause. We encourage everyone to "Walk the Farm!"

### **OLDIES BUT GOODIES!**

The Nishi ABA (Adult Buddhist Association) members took a step back in time at the Cerritos Center for the Performing Arts and enjoyed some Rock and Roll/Doo Wop to the sounds of the 60's. Moving and grooving to the not-forgotten melodies transported the listeners back to a time of adolescence.

The Platters, The Coasters and The Drifters had the theater rocking and rolling to their popular songs of the 60s. All three vocal groups revived old lost memories taking us on a nostalgic time travel. Oh! What a night it was!

This wonderful evening was arranged by ABA activity chair Glenn Saita.

Everyone is welcomed to join ABA. This group provides temple service, religious support, and works well and plays well! Support the temple... join ABA .



### 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

**April 01 - May 15, 2023**

**April 2023**

- 03 Jane Sachiko Nakagawa
- 10 Tomomi Baba
- 13 Yoshikiyo Yamashiro
- 14 Joe Susumu Fukuhara
- 25 Virginia Riyoko Kato

**May 2023**

- 03 Yoko Moana Kaneshiro
- 03 Linda Yuko Yokoyama
- 04 Toshio Kondo
- 05 Teruzo Tanida
- 10 William Sakaye  
Yoshimura
- 13 Robert Ichikazu  
Yokoyama

### KAIKAN KITCHEN RENOVATED

*by Jean Kawakami*

With much appreciation, our LA Betsuin Buddhist Women's Association (BWA) thank all of our sponsors, donors, and participants for their support of our successful Silent Auction fundraisers, to assist us in providing adequate funds for our major kaikan kitchen renovation.

The BWA fundraisers enabled the temple to install recessed lighting, purchase stainless steel tables and shelves, replace the ailing stainless steel commercial refrigerator, replace the faucet, connect new plumbing to install a faucet above the stove, patch and repair the water damaged walls, repaint the entire room including cabinetry, and clean/calibrate the stove, fan, and stove light. Thank you to our members, friends, and community for everyone's team effort in restoring the LA Betsuin kaikan kitchen for another 30 years of use!

In *gassho*, with much gratitude,

*Arigatogozaimasu and Okagesamade!*



*BWA members pose in the newly-renovated kaikan kitchen.*

## FINAL TWO BON ODORI PRACTICE DATES



### JULY

**2nd (Sunday)**

**Kaikan**

(following 10 am service)

**5th (Wednesday)**

**West Parking Lot**

(7:00 - 8:30 pm)

### BETSUIN VEHICLE DONATION



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

### 2023 MEMBERSHIP

Valid from January 1 through December 31, 2023

**\$250 FOR EACH ADULT FAMILY MEMBER**

CHECKS ARE PAYABLE TO:

**L.A. HONPA HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE**

### Betsuin Jiho

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