

LOS ANGELES BETSUIN

jihō

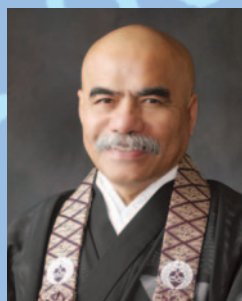
WWW

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November - December 2023

RIMBAN'S MESSAGE

EITAIKYO PERPETUAL MEMORIAL FUND AND INGO



**Rimban William
Briones**

In November, many of our BCA Jodo Shinshu temples observe their Annual Eitaikyo Memorial Service. Eitaikyo literally means the “perpetual chanting of sutras.” The word Eitaikyo is a contraction of the more formal term Ei-tai doku-kyo. Ei (永) means eternal. It is composed of the Chinese Characters for a river with many tributaries that flow on and on. TAI (代) means generations. KYO (経) means sutras or the words of the Buddha. DOKU (読) means to read or chant. So the meaning of Eitaikyo is to chant the sutras on behalf of our loved ones for generations and generations to come.

As of late, there have been some confusion, amongst our members as to who the Eitaikyo Memorial Services are held for. To begin, the Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, as with many BCA temples established a special Eitaikyo Perpetual Memorial Fund to ensure the continuation of the teachings of the Buddha-Dharma within their temples by providing their temple with financial security for the long term.

The Eitaikyo Perpetual Memorial Fund is a restricted endowment fund. The interest gained on the principle can only be used specifically for religious purposes such as purchasing candles, incense, religious articles and even ceremonial robes for our ministers. The principle can only be used in an emergency, however it must be repaid as soon as possible.

This fund was established and continues to be supported by the donations made in memory of deceased members of the family, relatives

or friends. When a family makes a donation to the Eitaikyo Perpetual Memorial Fund, your loved ones name is placed into one of two Eitaikyo books that are placed on the altar. The Eitaikyo book is much like a daily calendar with the names of the deceased, their homyo (Buddhist dharma name) and ingo (posthumous Buddhist title) recorded on the month and day of the day of their passing. Then every morning at nine o'clock, when we do service, we turn to the days date and chant a sutra for those names on that day. As long as the Los Angeles Betsuin is in existence, memorial services like this will continue. This ensures a perpetual service for the deceased even when there is no one left in the family to observe a Buddhist service.

To encourage and give families an opportunity to attend a Eitaikyo Memorial Service for their loved ones, the Betsuin in March of 2016, began conducting Eitaikyo Monthly Memorial Services. These services are held on the second Sunday of the month, at 1:00 PM for all those individuals listed in the Eitaikyo Memorial book on their memorial month. Letters are sent out a month in advance as a reminder to attend your loved ones Eitaikyo Monthly Memorial Service. We also list the names in the JIHO, in hopes that a relative or friend might attend, whom might not have otherwise known of the service. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we discontinued in-person services and became experts in “Zooming” services to your computer at home. As we return to some normalcy and return to temple we continue to do our best and bring the service in person or virtually. We hope you will take this opportunity to show your appreciation to your loved one and to listen to the Buddha-Dharma.

Another source of confusion about our Eitaikyo
(continued on page 9)

Los Angeles
Homba Hongwanji
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Los Angeles, CA 90012
TEL: 213.680.9130
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WEB: nishihongwanji-la.org
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IS AMIDA BUDDHA PERFECT?

by Rev. Hibiki Murakami



Rev. Hibiki
Murakami

A while ago, When I was still in Japan, I joined a study session. I threw a question out to my *sempai* (a senior to oneself).

"I learned a Buddha has a perfect existence because they are liberated from suffering and conditions. A Buddha should not have any concerns, right?"

My *sempai* answered,

"No, a Buddha is not perfect. You only

see the Buddha's wisdom side. For the Buddhas, we, the ordinary beings, are their headache because they're concerned about our nirvana from the Buddha's Compassion."

I was surprised when I heard this. Now, I can't help but think that Buddhas are always concerned with our well being even though they present a sense of serenity.

There is a parable of the "Burning House."

Once upon a time, there was a wealthy man whose house caught on fire. The man was away from his home. However, when he came back, he realized that his children were busy playing in the burning house. They didn't notice the emergency situation. The man screamed, "Get out! Come out of the house now!" But the children did not listen. He needed to approach a different way and came up an idea. "Children, I have some toys here. Come out and play with them." This idea worked. Hearing about the toys, they ran out of the burning house.

This "burning house" is our world where there is ignorance and delusion. The children who play in the burning house is us. We are unaware that our house (this world) is on fire, threatens us as suffering because we're obsessed by the countless distractions. Knowing the danger of being burned, the Buddha devises ways of saving them in Compassion.

In the *Tannisho*, it states,

"...but with a foolish being full of blind passions, in this world that is a flaming house of impermanence, all matters without exception are lies and vanities, totally without truth and sincerity; the nembutsu alone is true and real."

Understanding the above, I recall what Rev. Rijin Yasuda, who is a Higashi priest and scholar, conveyed in his message.

"To become a Buddha is an event in the world of the Buddha, not in the world of human beings. It is impossible to be saved in a world where no one has been saved because one can be saved in the world where one has been

saved. Therefore, if one is found in the Pure Land, one can return to the human world with ease. That is the aspect of returning from the Pure Land."

When you jump on earth, gravity catches you and returns you to earth, so you cannot float into space. If we compare the earth to the world of the *Burning House* and space to Nirvana, we can go to space by some mysterious power. That is possible because of the Buddha's Wisdom and Compassion.

BETSUIN BOARD PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Pam Tabata

Greetings as we are coming to the end of 2023.

Part of my responsibility, as president, is to attend funerals. Because my family has deep roots at this temple, I know many of the families and the people that have passed. I feel this was the greatest opportunity of my job. It really helped me appreciate those that came before me

and to understand the teachings so much more. It is such an honor and so humbling to be able to attend and represent the temple. Everyone has a story and when the personal history is read, it is very special to hear. A funeral is important to those that remain, not the person that passed. A Buddhist funeral is sad because the passing away of anyone is sad. We're sad that they will no longer physically be in our lives, which is something we all take for granted.

Many funerals have *otoki* (light refreshment) after the service and that is when everyone comes to life. As I hear many conversations start with, "Hey I haven't seen you in years!" I always remember that because of this person that passed, everyone is here, no matter how big or small that funeral may be.

Thank you for tolerating me as your president. Most decisions we had to make were for the sake of the temple and our ministers. On behalf of the board of directors, we appreciate all the support that everyone has shown during these difficult times and we thank you for your continued support.

In *gassho*

DID YOU KNOW?

by Eiko Masuyama

LOS ANGELES HOMPA HONGWANJI Buddhist Temple Beginnings...

The merging of three active Jodo Shinshu Buddhist churches in the Little Tokyo area, ratified on September 30, 1917, gave rise to the Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. The three temples were: Rafu Bukkyokai (Los Angeles Buddhist Church) organized in 1904 at 229 East Fourth Street by Rev J. Izumida; Nanka Bukkyokai (Southern California Buddhist Church) established in 1905 on Jackson Street by Rev K. Uchida (Director of the Buddhist Mission of North America, which was to become the Buddhist Churches of America-BCA); and Chuo Bukkyokai (Central Buddhist Church) at 568 Fourth Street organized in 1917 by Rev T. Kawakami.

Inaugural Ceremonies were held on the weekend of December 8th and 9th with chigo parades and services at the newly renovated second floor of Yamato Hall on Jackson Street. It is said that about 1,500 persons filled the hondo for the Nyubutsu (new altar dedication) Services, donating a total of \$5,500. Otoki was served and entertainment staged on both nights. On January 20, 1918, a general meeting was held to elect new officers and draw up permanent rules and regulations. The financial report showed a balance in the black for one of the few times in our temple history.

The entire country was swept by the flu epidemic in 1918 and public assemblage was not permitted during the fall and winter of 1918, hence delaying the First Anniversary ceremonies until February 15-16, 1919.

The first wedding held: Saburoyemon Oda and Kikuyo Takeuchi on August 15, 1920 in the Hondo of Yamato Hall, officiated by Rev Itsuzo Kyogoku. Saburoyemon is the father of Miyoji (Mary Ishimine), Kazume Washizaki (Dick) and grandfather of Joyce and Allen, Lillian Oshiki (Yo), and Frank Teruhisa (Barbara) and the grandfather of Kenneth, Robert (Cathy Okano), and Steve (Sharyl Yamada) Oda.

Grandmother Kikuyo Oda's sister was Haruyo Hozaki, wife of Kyuji Hozaki (Betsuin president. 1965-1966). Their oldest son Teruo was killed in action (WWII) and middle son, Toshio, died in a military hospital (after the end of WWII). Both sons are on the memorial plaque in the temple lobby. The remaining youngest son, Hirokazu, is the father of David Hozaki.

Saburoyemon Oda had a brother, Umaichi (Shinayo Shirai) Oda and a sister, in Hawaii, Hatsumi (Shogoro) Shimizu. Umaichi Oda is the father of Shinobu (Yaeko Sakaniwa) Oda and the grandfather of Robert Hayato (Irene Hiraga), Kenji (Cindy Tomita), and Takeshi Arthur

(Julie Okamoto). Umaichi is also the father of Kaishi (Hisayo) and grandfather of Keiko Joyce. He is father to Kikumi Kay (Mitsuo Sakaniwa) and grandfather to Eiko Tsuno, Keith, Faith (Rallen Nakagawa), and Miyoshi (Greg Kimura). Umaichi is also the father of Takemi (Kazuo Shimizu) and grandfather to Janet (Hiroyuki Taga), Jean (Thomas O'Malley), Glendon (Kyoko Matsui), and Carol (David Tobler). The grandchildren have a common great grandfather, Hayataro (Kiku) Oda. Following are more than fifteen great grandchildren!

[Information and photo provided by Robert Oda (son of Frank Oda)/Joyce Washizaki, Kenji Oda, and Janet Shimizu Taga]

still



Wedding of Saburoyemon Oda and Kikuyo Takeuchi, August 15, 1920, Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, Yamato Hall, second floor (shared by Robert Oda/Joyce Washizaki)

Betsuin Jiho

Editor-in-Chief: Rimban William Briones

English Editor: Elaine Fukumoto

Photos: Koichi Sayano Glen Tao

JANM, LTHS UNVEIL PLAQUE IN HONOR OF HISTORIC BUILDING'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

The following was excerpted from the *Rafu Shimpō* 09152023 <https://rafu.com/2023/09/janm-lths-unveil-plaque-in-honor-of-historic-buildings-100th-anniversary/>

The Japanese American National Museum (JANM) and the Little Tokyo Historical Society (LTHS) unveiled a plaque and a new street sign in honor of the Historic Building's 100th anniversary.

The Historic Building was designed by local architect Edgar Cline and built in 1925 as the Homba Hongwanji



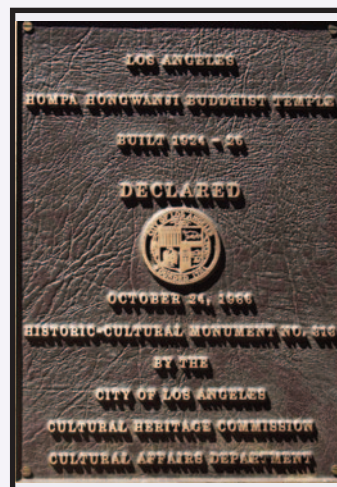
Previous Nishi Hongwanji Site Recognized As Historical Monument
L-R: Ken Bernstein (Los Angeles Office Of Historic Resources), Rev. George Matsubayashi, George Takei, Michael Okamura (president of LTHS), Rimban Briones, Kristen Hayashi (JANM director of Collections Management & Access and curator) & Ann Burroughs (JANM president and CEO)

Buddhist Temple.

In 1969 the sangha of the temple moved to their new location on the corner of First St. and Vignes. In 1985, the newly incorporated JANM signed a 50-year lease with the City of Los Angeles to renovate the historic temple building and convert it into a museum.

Rev. William Briones of Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple discussed the important role the site played in the spiritual and social life of the community.

The speakers were then joined by actor and activist George Takei, longtime board member and board chair emeritus at JANM, to unveil the plaque now installed at the building's historic entrance, followed by a song performed by children from the Nishi daycare center.



The newly-installed plaque on the old Homba Hongwanji site reads:

LOS ANGELES
HOMPA HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE
BUILT 1924-25
DECLARED
OCTOBER 24, 1986
HISTORIC CULTURAL MONUMENT NO. 316
BY THE
CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION
CULTURAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT

NEW BOOK ARRIVALS

There are new books in the temple library available for reading/check-out

1. *THUS TAUGHT MASTER SHICHIRI, One Hundred Gems of Shin Buddhist Wisdom, Translated by Hisao Inagaki, 2015*

This book introduces to the English speaking people the illuminating thoughts of Rev Gojun Shichiri (1835 – 1900), a master of Jodo Shinshu. He lived when Japan was undergoing a rapid transition from a feudal country to a modernized nation in all aspects of life.

Master Shichiri was well-known for his insightful advice to various seekers. His words show that he was an independent thinker, not bound by conventional interpretations of what the tradition taught.

2. *RELIGION IN LOS ANGELES, Religious Activism, Innovations, and Diversity in the Global City, Edited by Richard Flory and Diane Winston*

This book contains a paper, “Japanese Americans and the Birth – and Rebirth – of Buddhism in the City of Angels,” by Jean-Paul R. Contreras de Guzman, 12 pages

LAHAINA MISSION HONGWANJI REV. AI HIRONAKA

Hompā Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii

Reverend Ai Hironaka, the resident minister of Lahaina Hongwanji Mission, shared the following message for the statewide vigil, "Kipuni Aloha no Maui-Embrace Beloved Maui" on September 1st in Ka'anapali, Maui.

"Kipuni Aloha no Maui"

Message for people of Lahaina

The fire destroyed the houses and took everything away.

Many people were killed and many are still missing.

I am at a loss for words when I think of the heartache of so many families.

I would like to express my deepest condolences to people who lost their loved ones.

People got hurt.

People are still crying.

When I'm alone, tears well up at random moments.

We have absolutely no control over when it comes.

When driving alone,

When I see the smiles of children,

I can't cry when I want to cry, and I feel like crying when I shouldn't.

I gave up on controlling it.

I never thought that a man could cry so much at the age of 46.

Now the same pained people are encouraging and comforting each other at Ross, Target, TJ Maxx, Costco, and more.

Heart-to-heart hugs of those who share the same heartache are stronger than before the fire.

People who know each other's faces in the town of Lahaina, but have never spoken to each other, now they are communicating with and healing each other.

After the fire, Lahaina's community ties are definitely stronger and thicker.

Now we need to see the future.



Rev. Ai Hironaka (left), pictured with his four children and his wife.

The white shirt, tie, pants, socks, and shoes I am wearing today are all brand new.

Except underwear...

All of this was purchased with donations from the Honpa Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii and many others.

All the clothes I wear every day dress me up with donations from everyone. Thank you very much.

Like me, the town of Lahaina will be dressed up with donations from all over the world.

This tie is not a fancy brand, but now I have a special tie that I don't want to burn for the rest of my life.

Because behind this simple necktie, the thoughts of many people, not just my wife, are packed.

All my photos from before the iPhone era have been burned.

Gone are photos of my children when they were babies, photos of when I was married, and photos of myself when I was a baby too.

Many of you must be as sad as I am.

But folks, the photos taken at your friend's house or shelter right now may be far more valuable than the lost ones.

Casually taken photos at shelter, showing strong ties among family and friends.

Those photos are embraced by the support and help of many people.

These are the most beautiful pictures of family and friends desperately helping each other.

Things that we really don't want to burn – they did not burn – life, human ties, human kindness, All that is still within us.

It seems like, those who are hurt become more sensitive to the pain of others.

They seem to be more considerate of others.

Lahaina, it will be a new town rebuilt by those who have been hurt.

Lahaina, a town of history, aloha, tradition, culture, and diversity, will become a great town that incorporates new values of humility, kindness, and compassion.

One day the respected elders will say, "If you want to know the spirit of Aloha, go to Lahaina!"

It may become a town where you can say that.

(continued on page 6)

NISHI ABA SAILING ON A SUNDAY

by Joanne Nakamura



ABASonics perform on the cruise for the ABA folks

It was a sunny and warm Sunday afternoon. There were 78 ABA friends and family who enjoyed a Long Beach Harbor Cruise outing.

Sea bound aboard "The Spirit," which was a 90-foot motor yacht, everyone enjoyed the 2½ hour cruise, riding along the Long Beach Harbor Bay.

This included a "Fiesta Buffet." Make your own tacos, tostadas and burrito bar. Shredded beef, chicken Aquino's, black beans, Spanish rice, chips and salsa, lettuce, tomatoes, onions, green chili, guacamole and sour cream with unlimited soft drinks, coffee, water and "margaritas" topped the menu. What a feast this was!

The highlight of this venture was the musical sounds of the ABA Sonic Band. They entertained the guests aboard ship with their talents and captivating rhythm, encompassing the entire ship with their music and songs.

A special and heart felt "arigato" to Edd Hayashibara (ABA Activities chair) for his tenacious efforts, dedication and hours of planning this successful ABA outing.

Nishi ABA is a service organization, dedicated to supporting our temple. New members are always welcomed. For information contact the temple office or any ABA member.

(Rev Hironaka LMH - continued from page 5)

A town full of compassion, it matches the local community that we at Lahaina Hongwanji Mission aim for.

We of Lahaina Hongwanji Mission will also do our best to rebuild this town of compassion.

Finally, I would like to praise the name of Amida Buddha, who works in our struggling hearts to relieve the suffering.

Amida Buddha is the Buddha of voice which delivered Amida's healing power to peoples' painful hearts. The meaning of reciting Namu Amida Butsu is,

"Strong one as strong, the weak one as weak, the crying people as crying, and I will embrace you just as you are now. You don't have to be strong, because you are not that strong. You are not alone, you are already embraced by me".

Amida's voice became my voice, and it reaches my ears. It is the Buddha, the voice of wisdom and compassion. Even if everything burns, the voice of Buddha never burned, but still shines and embraces us.
Namu Amida Butsu Namu Amida Butsu

May Peace prevail in Lahaina.
May Peace prevail in the world.

May this event will raise the eye level of Lahaina people even just a little bit.

Namu Amida Butsu
Namu Amida Butsu

Lahaina Strong

Namu Amida Butsu
Namu Amida Butsu

Imua Imua Imua
Let's go Lahaina

Nan Man dabu
Nan Man dabu

"There is a misconception that Buddhism is a religion and that you worship Buddha. Buddhism is a practice, like yoga. You can be a Christian and practice Buddhism. I met a Catholic priest who lives in a Buddhist monastery in France. He told me that Buddhism makes him a better Christian. I love that."

—Thich Nhat Hanh

BWA PRESIDENT MESSAGE

by Jean Kawakami

Dear Temple Members, Supporters, Family and Friends,

It is with deep gratitude that I thank all of you for giving me the opportunity and privilege to lead the Buddhist Women's Association as president for the past three years. I have learned so much. I've learned how we can lean on one another when times were tough, especially when COVID forced us to close. I've learned what we can accomplish when we, collectively, work as a group. Most importantly, I've learned that being able to adapt to changing times which requires the ability to let go of how we might have done things in the past.

Your willingness and desire to devote your time to help the Temple and BWA, supplemented by your very generous donations and contributions, have been truly inspirational. I thank all of you for sharing your time, energy, and enthusiasm with us. This is something that I do not take for granted.

My term ends this December and it is with great confidence that I turn over 2024 to our president-elect, Teresa Hirahara. An active member of the LA Betsuin and Hollywood Buddhist Church, she brings an enthusiasm, energy, and kindness, much needed in today's world. I encourage anyone interested in joining a world-wide women's organization, to attend our BWA functions, to meet Teresa and our members. I invite you to share the dharma and chatter with our diverse group of women, all while the comforting smells of shoyu, dashi, and mirin waft through our Temple's kitchens and hallways. BWA offers a nurturing fellowship that feeds the heart, the spirit, and last, but not least, our tummies!

In gassho

BWA HOLIDAY CRAFT & GIFT SALE

by Jean Kawakami

Shopping for a hostess gift? Not sure what to give as a year-end thank you? Look no further.

BWA members have been busy sewing, knitting, and crafting unique and unusual, in some cases, one of a kind items, just for you. We also have some beautiful tea cups to add to that very special bag of tea for your auntie, or beautiful bowls which you may want to gift to the hostess along with your potluck meal. What a very special hostess gift that would be!

SAVE the DATE:

November 12th, Sunday 11:00-3:00pm

@ Nishi Kaikan

SILENT AUCTION TO BENEFIT LAHAINA HONGWANJI MISSION

by Jean Kawakami

The Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple is hosting a special Silent Auction for our friends at the Lahaina Hongwanji Mission (LHM) whose main temple, minister's residence, and classrooms were completely destroyed. This goodwill Silent Auction is being hosted by the BWA starting from October 15th at 9am and closing on November 5th at 9pm with the Betsuin donating 100% of the proceeds of this Auction to the "Rebuilding of the Lahaina Hongwanji Mission Temple" - a building fund to help restore the place that has given solace to so many. While the firestorm seemed to randomly ravage blocks and blocks of homes, businesses, and buildings, it amazingly and literally leaped over the Hongwanji Mission's yagura, which had been set up in preparation for Obon, and totally avoided the nokotsudo, the sacred home of their ancestor's ashes. The Nokotsudo proved to be an untouchable safe haven, and reverently serves as a beacon of hope and a reminder as to why the temple was built there.

LHM is very personal to many of us. It was once home to Ernest Hida's father, Rev. Sensho Hida who was resident minister there from 1956-1965. And for those Betsuin members who attended the World Buddhist Women's Association Convention in Hawaii in 2006 with Rev. Matsubayashi, our sangha friends at LHM hosted a special dinner party for our Nishi members when they visited their temple, after the convention.

Therefore, by working together, with sincere gratitude to our strength, resilience, and support of our own sangha Communities, we ask for your generosity to help rebuild the Lahaina Hongwanji Mission. The link for the silent auction is:

<https://www.32auctions.com/LAHHBT4Lahaina>

If you miss the opportunity to donate during the silent auction and would like to make a donation to this special building fund, please email Pam Tabata with your offer at:

president@nishihongwanji-la.org

In gassho

Sunday Service ends at 10:45am, and Eitaikyo Shotsuki Hoyo begins at 1pm. So you'll be able to shop before, and after, and we'll even be selling snacks and treats for a First Class Shopping Experience! Please join us to peruse, touch, buy, and more! Thank you for your support!

NISHI GIRL SCOUTS TRAVEL TO JAPAN

by Eileen Nozaki and Susan Le

For 15 days in June 2023, Nishi's Girl Scout Troop 12135 toured Honshu and Hokkaido. The itinerary included Tokyo, Kyoto, Atami, Sapporo, Hakodate, Sendai, and three of Miyagi Prefecture's 2011 Tsunami memorials. We were a contingent of seven families, with a total of 21 travelers.

At various times our count increased, as we crossed paths with family living or coincidentally visiting Japan, with other Scouts including Kyoto Girl Scout Troop 37, and with friends including Reverend Kaz Nakata from Fresno Bet-suin. Keeping to a Scout-wise budget, we travelled mainly by foot, averaging 6.6 miles a day, used public transportation, and roughed it in economy lodgings.

After going on an outing, there's a Girl Scout tradition to share our reflections about the trip. We share a positives and less positives. Here are some of our collective reflections about our 2023 Girl Scout trip to Japan.

Scouts, current and graduated, young siblings, leaders and volunteers...

Positives:

- ...spending more time with everyone and especially my family.
- The itinerary was very well thought out and we ended up doing and seeing a lot with the time we had.
- I learned a lot of new things about the culture during our trip.
- Seeing and attending morning service at Nishi Honganji in Kyoto.
- Looking forward to telling everyone about and recommending the places we went, especially the less touristy areas like Atami.
- The amount of delicious food we had almost every day.
- Getting to know and bond with all my Girl Scout sisters since graduating as an Ambassador.
- Whether it is the next trip or one years down the line, I can't wait to see everyone again.
- Spending time with Reverend Kaz and learning about Japan.
- The day we spent in Sendai.
- Our trip to the Tsunami affected areas and seeing the three memorials was impactful and unforgettable.
- Hokkaido! I loved the trip up to Hokkaido and the beautiful city of Sapporo (and not just because of the delicious ice cream).



Nishi Girl Scouts pose in front of Nishi Hongwanji, Kyoto, the Amida-Do during their travels in Japan.

- (ah ha moment) - The service at Nishi Hongwanji in Kyoto is always a beautiful spiritual experience. I also realized on this that our family loves small towns!
- Lotsa good, inexpensive food. Seeing firsthand the power of mother nature at the memorial sites near Fukushima. Minimal first Aid: a few blisters. Buying a "suica card".
- Getting to know the Girl Scouts and their families. We really spent almost every day in sometimes cramped quarters navigating unknown roads and situations. As individuals and as families we had ups and downs. Getting to know their full personalities is a gift. They're so funny, caring and resourceful. I'm amazed at what great people they really are!
- The opportunity to get more acquainted with Japan's inspiring culture and beautiful landscapes. And to do so with helpful family, and with long-time and newer friends.
- The group sharing information with each other (continuously using What's App).
- Tsunami area tours and baseball game plus free time days and the group dinner (at an izakaya tatami restaurant).
- Yokohama neat to explore.
- Japan trip was all roses for me - A wonderful opportunity to step off the grid of my life on such a fun adventure with a beautiful group of people and my kids.
- The trip was so well planned and the group dynamic is so great!

Less than Positives:

- One of my thorns was the amount of walking we did.
- Sometimes we were very short on time and did not get

(continued on page 9)

(Rimban - continued from page 1)

Perpetual Memorial Fund is the relationship it has to the Ingo.

Historically in Japan the Ingo was conferred to members of the nobility as posthumous titles. During the Tokugawa Period (1605-1868), the Ingo was given to priests and lay supporters of a temple. Within Nishi Hongwanji, only the mother temple in Kyoto could issue Ingo to only those who dedicated themselves to temple service. In the case of the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA), the resident minister and/or the board of directors could petition the bishop of BCA, that their board president or deserving member receive Ingo. Only then, the bishop would petition Honzan (mother temple in Kyoto) and then Honzan would bestow Ingo to that person. That was the case for all Nishi Hongwanji temples in the US, including Los Angeles Betsuin.

However, during the Great Depression (1929-1939), our temple was in dire straits and in need of financial assistance. Our temple asked Honzan for help. Unfortunately, Japan was going through their own financial hardships and was unable to assist us financially. So instead, after receiving Betsuin status in 1931, Honzan gave Rimban the privilege to confer Ingo to members that made a substantial contribution to the Eitaikyo Perpetual Memorial Fund. Still, today, the Los Angeles Homba Hongwanji Buddhist Temple is the only temple, besides the mother temple in Japan that can issue Ingo. Since that time, Betsuin has been able to secure a strong financial foundation due to generous donations made to the Eitaikyo Perpetual Memorial Fund. As we conduct and participate in our annual and/or monthly Eitaikyo Perpetual Memorial service let us acknowledge the fact we are able to enjoy the benefits of the lives of those who have passed before us. For it is through their dedication that our temple continues. Most importantly, it is through their transmission of the teachings, that we are able to hear the Dharma today. To truly acknowledge this fact and express our gratitude is a true manifestation of the "perpetual chanting of Sutras"

Because, the purpose of the Eitaikyo Memorial Fund is to ensure that a memorial service be conducted perpetuity in memory of your loved one, a substantial donation is requested to have your loved one's name placed into the Eitaikyo Book. If you would like to make a donation to the Eitaikyo Fund in memory of your loved one or perhaps arrange Eitaikyo for yourself, or have any questions, please contact the office or please consult with Rimban Briones.

Please join us for our annual Eitaikyo Memorial Service, November 19 at 10:00 AM. Rev. Takashi Miyaji will be our guest speaker in both English and Japanese.

Namo Amida Butsu

(Girl Scouts- continued from page 8)

to finish everything we hoped to do in one region.

- The humid / rainy weather.
- The weather was so humid and made me feel really disgusting by the end of the day.
- The traveling between cities took a lot of energy, but it was nice to be able to walk everywhere.
- Not enough time in Japan.
- Jet lag after we got home.
- My recommendation from this experience is never spend less than 24 hours in one city... not enough time and rushed to the point of dissatisfaction.
- The humidity, but we cannot control this. Standing up on the shinkansen, for hours.
- Lack of sleep. With our packed schedule traversing almost 2/3 of Japan meant waking up EARLY!
- Learning the essential importance of hydrating continuously in humid weather. • Jet
- The heat/humidity weather combo is harsh.
- Growing older in the hostel, ready for smaller hotel.
- ...carrying and dragging very heavy luggage so far on the last day.

We look forward to our third trip in the not-too-distant future!



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 16 - September 15, 2023

July 2023

16 Keiko Hataoka
30 Hideo Wataguchi

22 Tatsuichi Higashi
25 Ronald Keith Miller
26 Harry Hiroshi Yoshikawa
30 Kenneth Toru Honda

August 2023

05 Arleen Mayemura
15 Paul Yoshio Sakamoto

September 2023

09 Asako Ishihama

BETSUIN PHOTOS



Rev. Junji Murakami (left), father of Rev. Hibiki Murakami, along with some of his temple members, were welcomed by some of the LA Betsuin members. The senior Rev. Murakami has a family temple, Jone-ji, in Kokura Kitakyushu.



(L-R): Rev. Junji Murakami; temple president, Shirou Okada; BWA, Tomie Endo & Taeko Minami were presented with gifts at a welcoming pot luck luncheon.



Rev. Henry Adams served as guest speaker for the Ohigan service.



Nishi Jr YBA earned the "Religious Award" during conference held at the Gardena Buddhist Church



Rev. Murakami (center) greets students and attendants from Otani University, Kyoto (Higashi Honganji).



Rimban Briones is pictured with his two daughters and family members.



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BETSUIN CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NOVEMBER

- 05 Regular Service (10:00 am)
- 12 Regular Service (10:00 am)
Eitaikyo Shotsuki Hoyo (1:00 pm)
- 19 Annual Eitaikyo Service (10:00 am)
- 23/24 Thanksgiving Holiday (Temple Closed)
- 26 Regular Service (10:00 am)

DECEMBER

- 03 General Temple Clean-Up (8:00 am)
- 10 Bodhi Day Service (10:00 am)
Eitaikyo Shotsuki Hoyo (1:00 pm)
- 17 Kansha/Appreciation Service (10:00 am)
Oseibo Taikai
- 24/25 Holiday (Temple Closed)
- 31 Joya-E/Year-End Service (6:00 pm)

JANUARY

- 01 Gantan-E/Shusho-E New Year's Service
(10:00 am)
- 02 Temple Closed
- 07 Regular Service (10:00 am)

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

213-680-9130 or

NishiDharmaCenter@gmail.com



ADOPT-AN-OBUTSUDAN

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A donation of \$100+ would be appreciated.

2024 MEMBERSHIP

Valid from January 1 through December 31, 2024

\$250 FOR EACH ADULT FAMILY MEMBER

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