

Gassho

To promote a greater understanding and appreciation of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism
and to continue to live the nembutsu as a warm and friendly temple



Sensei's Message

Having Wisdom isn't Real Wisdom

First, let me say Thank You to everyone for your hard work and support at this year's Obon. Life is made to be dynamic and we are all doing our best to have a temple and spread the Buddha's Teachings. Summer is Over and the 2018-19 school year has begun. Do you remember when you had to write about the essay, "What did you do last summer?" Well, the day after our Obon my family and I were able to take our vacation and travel to Hawaii to relax and visit family.

As we were in Hawaii, the weather was hot, the sun was beaming, and of course with these as factors we slathered on the sunblock to keep our bodies safe from sun burn and also the future risk of cancer. From a generation who grew up just playing in the sun, it seems like a strange concept to put on sunblock lotion as part of our normal everyday routine. The doctor says if you are going to be out more than 15 minutes in direct sunlight it is not just wise it has to be done. Now that I have children I am constantly putting it on them, and still feel like it is a hassle for myself. In Hawaii we made sure to use it and reapply after 80 minutes.

Sunblock is the wise thing to do for ourselves and our loved ones. I think many would agree to this. The dictionary says that wisdom is the quality of having experience, knowledge, and good judgment; the quality of being wise. So even by these standards this is wise advice and to act upon it is to use wisdom.

"The phrase "one-dharma" is the phrase "purity." The phrase "purity" is "true and real wisdom or uncreated dharma-body." Shinranworks.com Ch. 4.17

This passage is from the fourth chapter of the KyoGyoShinSho written by Shinran. It speaks about the definition of

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wisdom. It can be very different from our understanding. Buddhist Wisdom is the mind of purity. This purity is the ability to see true reality.

Even though we know the definition of wisdom even true reality takes more work than we are used to. It is not just seeing things how they are around us but also within. Let me continue the story of what I did on my summer vacation. So as I said, "We used a lot of sun block." As we were in Hawaii, we learned of Hawaii's efforts to ban certain sun blocks. This is basically two different ingredients and is roughly 3500 products. It is a serious deal. I will let you look up the two chemicals in question, but what they are doing is killing the world's coral reefs. This effect is called bleaching. It causes the coral to turn white affecting the way the ocean keeps the temperature needed for the delicate balance of life. Coral is home to thousands of living creatures. It grows very slowly at around 3/4 of an inch per year. So, put it into perspective, it takes 5,000-10,000 years for a reef to form. 70 percent of the world's coral is affected by this.

Using wisdom, it dictates that the right thing to do was not to use the 3500 products that contain these damaging ingredients. You might even try to compromise and say "I just won't use it in Hawaii or at the ocean." Even when you use them at home all water is connected, and by washing them down the drain they will eventually make it to the ocean as well.

This sounds easy right? After returning home, summer wasn't over. I eventually ran out of sunblock at home. I went to the store and looked at the shelf with all the different types and sizes of sun blocks they had at the store. I found myself debating what to do. It was not simply looking for products that were safe for the environment. I was wrestling internally with thinking about what was safest for my children as well. 2 lives in the balance of the world's ecosystem. What is more valuable? What is more precious? I kept saying I know what is right to do and still kept wondering. "Will it work as well as the products that were proven to work? I want the best for their long-term health and safety." What a selfish being I am, even though I have already decided of the truly wise option is clear.

In Jodo Shinshu, we talk about wisdom as being able to see the true inner self. Absence of this wisdom is ignorance. As an ignorant being, we think that our needs are most important. We calculate and balance it to make it seem wise, but in reality, selfish. Most people may say we understand your reasoning, but can we say it is Buddha like? No of course not. When living this life of Nembutsu see the truth about yourself in the various situations of your life. Realize the hard effort it takes and the honesty in your choices while doing your best in your daily work.

Namo Amida Bustu

-Rev. Kory Quon



Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple
12371 Braddock Drive, Los Angeles California 90230

President's Message

I hope everyone had a relaxing summer. I think we are busier than most temples during the summer because we not only have our own obon festival to run, we also take part in the Venice Japanese Community Center's summer festival. It's almost like working two obon festivals each year.

Those of you who were able to attend or work at our obon festival probably noticed quite a few changes from previous years. For example, we didn't offer wontons or udon as part of our menu choices. Also, instead of assigning individuals to certain shifts in a booth, we let volunteers sign up for whichever booth they would like to help, at whichever time best suited them. Even the seating in the social hall was rearranged slightly to allow more room to move around.

There are several reasons for the changes. First, health code regulations, fire regulations, and building and safety regulations have necessitated changes not only at our temple, but at other temples and churches. You may have read the recent article in the Rafu Shimpo about how Mountain View Buddhist Temple had to remove all rice-based items, like chirashi, spam musubi, and chili rice, from their obon menu this year, as well as restructure booths and redo electrical wiring. Fortunately, we weren't forced to go to that extreme, but making sure we are compliant with an increasing set of regulations from different government agencies has certainly been challenging.

Second, like many other religious organizations, we have been experiencing challenges with a declining amount of manpower. It takes a lot of people to run the festival. Not just during the festival weekend itself, but there's a lot of preparatory work being done days before and lots of clean-up afterwards. I've heard from some of our older members that in the past, volunteers would only have to sign up to work on one day, and they could relax and enjoy the festival on the other day. Nowadays, we have a lot of people working many hours on both days. And that's led to many of our temple volunteers feeling a bit burned out.

So our obon committee met quite regularly over the past year, talking about the problems and analyzing a lot of different solutions. We had a lot of input from the different temple organizations, and I was really pleased with how everyone came together with their ideas and helpful critiques. Our goals were to change the revenue focus from food booths, which require the most man-power, to non-food sources. To help deal with the issues of manpower and regulations, we would also reduce and/or simplify our food offerings while, at the same time, trying to maintain a balance and variety of foods.

We were a little apprehensive about making so many changes, especially since our obon festival is a major source of income for the temple. Our results this year, though, showed our changes were very successful. Our overall revenue was slightly up, but just as importantly, many of our volunteers felt like they could relax and enjoy the festival a little more.

Our obon committee is still hard at work, looking at what other changes we'll be making for next year. If you have any comments or suggestions, feel free to send them to me at crouchingbruin@gmail.com.

In Gassho,

-Ron Gee



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Help Support the Fun!
 The Kids' Corner is getting reorganized!
 We could use 1 [KALLAX Shelves](#) from IKEA.
 If you would like to sponsor this purchase speak to Jayme Heyl.
 jaymehey1@yahoo.com
 Ikea, Target & Michaels Gift Cards are always welcomed.





Troop 5325 High Schoolers at UCSB



It never ceases to amaze me how busy the first half of an ABA year can be. And in spite of the cancellation of the Aloha Breakfast during the Temple's closure, ABA support efforts and fundraisers have been rigorous and spirited. Thank you to all who have participated in ABA events and support tasks!

Wine-A-Palooza:

In May we held our 4th annual Wine A Palooza teamed with WLA Buddhist Temple who has been so gracious to host these lively events. This year's theme was "Wines of the World" featuring wines from Argentina, Chile, Austria, New Zealand, South Africa and Greece. 79 attendees sipped incredible selections and enjoyed yummy accompaniments created by Chef Ms. Kenya Bovey. Plan to join us next year for this fun event.

ABA Food:

This year's festivals represented transition for VHBT. ABA itself unveiled a new chicken teriyaki product this year at the JVCC Summer Festival which was sliced boneless thighs over rice/cabbage kamaboko salad/orange. The ABA food brain trust hit a homerun with this plentiful and delicious combo meal.....and the bones were not missed!

Obon:

Obon planning for this year meant several changes for our Temple this year, spreading manpower signups all across temple booths. Thank you to those who participated in Obon planning and to Tommy Yamaguchi for chairing the entire effort.

ABA also recrafted our Chicken Booth and work flows to accommodate ongoing Temple patio improvements to which everybody adjusted very well and 1400 dinners were served with a lot of positive comments on the new meal format. I also wanted to make note of the fact that we had several new, young participants as young as college age (Paige, Blake, Nicolo). It was truly refreshing to work with them and I hope we have started a wonderful new trend.

Join ABA:

Lastly, I have come upon conversations with younger adults who have regularly supported ABA events and we've discussed how they want to do more for the Temple and it is important to know that ABA membership is one of the most meaningful ways to support our Temple regardless of age. ABA delivers to the Temple in many ways all during the year. We say that ABA does the "heavy lifting" for the Temple but we do many things to setup for memorials and services, special facility projects, food prep for events and support to the other organizations. And with that said, ABA's average age is not getting younger, so we are looking to grow and get younger in the process. It is ok to be an (occasionally active) ABA member in spite of your age. ABA must grow into the future because everything is impermanent and this is no longer your parents' ABA organization. VHBT ABA membership is a VHBT badge of pride, come join us!

Namu Amida Butsu...

In Gassho,

Dale Noriyuki

President, VHBT Adult Buddhist Association

2017 Memorial Service Schedule by Year

Memorial Services for those who passed away in the following years:

2016- 1 year	2001- 17 year
2015- 3 year	1993- 25 year
2011- 7 year	1985- 33 year
2005- 13 year	1968- 50 year



Let's Learn Day:	Mondays 10:30 am to 11:30 am
Exercise Day:	Tuesdays— Chair Exercise (video) 10:30am to 11:15am
Game Day:	Fridays 10:30am to 11:30 am



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Summer is here! School is out and many of our families and scouts have embarked on adventures (near and far) with families and friends. From camping trips at Leo Carrillo and visits to Japan and China, to summer school and camps at school, Kizuna and Saishin Dojo we're looking forward to hearing about these new adventures! We also were proud to see some of our graduated Webelos scouts go with their new Boy Scout troops on hikes, Scout Summer Camp and even one scout who has been busy with a lead role in Mary Poppins at a local theater!

Summer also means summer festivals. While Pack 79 did not have a formal pack meeting after our graduation at the beginning of June, our scouts and families came out to help and have fun at the VJCC Summer Festival where we ran a game booth and helped clean tables. Our booth was across from VHBT's chicken teriyaki booth and we noticed that we got really busy when the chicken teriyaki line was really busy! In July at VHBT's Obon, we also enjoyed helping and had fun running our game booth and helped with some of the other temple booths. We also had some of our scouts and parents join in the Obon dancing each night!

Pack 79 is starting to plan for our new year and would like to spread the word that we are holding our annual welcome back and new member kick-off picnic on Saturday, August 19th from 11:30A to 2:00PM at Culver City Park! We'd like to invite the families of members and friends of the temple community with boys who will be entering 1st - 5th grade to come by to learn about Cub Scouts and Pack 79! Together with some Boy Scouts from Troop 764, we'll provide lunch and have some games and scout skills to share with prospective scouts. For more information, please email us at cubpack79@vhbt.org or check out our public Shutterfly site at: <https://marinacubpack79.shutterfly.com/>

Finally, as we look ahead to our new year, we cannot help but to pause and look back during this season of Obon to reflect upon our memories of those close to us and be thankful for the moments in time we were able to share.

Girl Scout Trip to Santa Barbara
By Hanami Wexler

In July, Girl Scout Troop 5325 went on a great field trip to Santa Barbara. The older girls visited UC Santa Barbara, while the younger girls went to the Santa Barbara Zoo. We saw many interesting animals, such as an adorable fennec fox, penguins, koalas, and so much more. We took a small train around the whole zoo and learned facts about the history of the zoo. I learned that the zoo started off with only a few animals like goats and dogs and grew to having more than 500 animals today! We all had a great time at the zoo.

Next, we went to the Santa Barbara Marine Center. We got to touch marine life like reef sharks, sea stars, sea cucumbers, sea slugs, anemones, and some manta rays. We also learned so much about the animals, like how anemones can sting fish, but don't hurt us because we are bigger than them.

After we toured inside the whole Center, we gathered outside and learned how to help sea creatures by keeping our environment clean and picking up trash. We learned about the endangered white abalone and how they need clean water to survive. That's why we need to always remember to pick up our trash. We got to take home a beautiful red abalone shell to remind us of the beautiful marine life and how we can help them with our actions.

After eating dinner, we went home in a big chartered bus. The trip to Santa Barbara was an amazing experience and something we will never forget.

Gold Award: The Atomettes
by Ally Yamashita

For my Girl Scout Gold Award, I wrote and illustrated a children's book about the Atomettes. The Atomettes were a group of middle-school-aged Japanese-American girls who formed a social club after they were released from internment camps at the end of World War II. I wanted to share their story because it not only touches on the racial discrimination they faced at that time but also the beauty of their everlasting friendship. Below are two links – one to an online version of the book and one to a video version. Please feel free to view this story and share it with family and friends!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FsqIknu8cYM> (video)
<https://read.bookcreator.com/LIPumOFaSTYzR100wzgrCBGru202/Dqw-JX9QSmCx937YoGrpQ> (online book - Google Chrome needed)



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Junior YBL Conference 2018

This year's Junior YBL conference was another success. Hosted by San Fernando, Oxnard, and Pasadena Buddhist Hongwanji, we learned how to make Buddhism our operating system. Opening service was conducted by Reverend Kory Quon who gave us a lesson about how to make Buddhism our main operating system. Using people as analogies for different functions of a phone, many of us were able to understand the message a little more before beginning the day. We started off the day with some fun ice breakers before getting into the main lesson of Conference 2018.

For Workshop 1, we were divided into groups and had to assemble a picture on the wall using paper and tape. The catch was, only one person was able to look at the picture, so everyone had to trust that person. In the end, we learned that you can't judge what happens in people's lives based on picture because it doesn't tell the whole story. Everyone is a different and unique person, so everyone perceives things differently, so we mustn't jump to conclusions. This workshop was definitely an eye-opener.

For Workshop 2, we wrote an obituary and discussed how our minds are so full of how others view us. If Buddhism were operating inside of us, then we wouldn't be worrying about how others perceive us but rather just striving to be our best selves, using Buddha's teachings to help us through our everyday lives.

For Workshop 3, we had two tasks. The first task was to write a quick story using a list of emojis as your guidelines. Next, we watched a short video with different shapes moving amongst the screen. The lesson learned was that everyone has different opinions even though we were shown the same image. Humans perceive things differently based on their own experiences in life so many things have multiple meanings.

After a long day of great messages, Conference ended with a banquet and a dance to conclude the evening. The new Junior YBA cabinet was introduced, awards were given out, and a senior slideshow were presented at the banquet. Following the banquet was the dance where Seniors enjoyed their last moments as Junior YBA members before heading off to college and incoming sophomores got a first taste of Conference. After a late night, kids and parents all headed back to their rooms to be well rested for the next day. The following morning, Junior YBL conference concluded with a final message by Reverend Kory and everyone said their goodbyes. Junior YBL Conference 2019 will be held by our very own Venice Hongwanji next year so let's hope for another successful Conference!



FUJINKAI NEWS

By Judy Hopfield, Phyllis Hayashibara

VJCC Festival, June 23/24, 2018

VHBT BWA sold 1388 wonton plates. Thank you to co-chairs Phyllis Hayashibara and Judy Hopfield and all the ladies, family and friends who helped.

July 21/22, 2018, VHBT Obon

Thank you to Roseann Yoshida and Barbara Fukuji for co-chairing spam musubi, to Aya Masada, Emily Kariya and Quinn Okamoto for coordinating sushi from California Rice and salad from Feast From the East, to Debbie Ching and Carol Kusama for the attractive, lucrative Lumbini Boutique booth and to Sandy Saeki for arranging the much-needed Relaxation Lounge. Thank you Tom Yamaguchi and Debbie Ching for the new Obon sponsorship program that helped to raise more money in 2018!

2018 SDBWA Cabinet

We thank President Aya Masada, Vice-President Judy Hopfield, Secretary Dianne Kujubu Belli, Treasurer Iris Gee and Auditor Gail Sharp for serving on the 2018 SDBWA cabinet. Significant motions from their September 8 meeting: \$1000 donation for the Institute of Buddhist Studies' Esshini-sama/Kakushinni-sama chair, and a \$1000 ad in the 2019 World BWA Conference program. VHBT BWA made the same donations. Thank you Phyllis Hayashibara, Linda Oshinomi and Vicki Tokirio for the 2018 SDBWA meeting refreshments.

Sept 10, 2018 Farewell Dinner, Kifune Restaurant

Held in honor of Michael and Carol Kusama, who moved to Sacramento. Thirty-one people attended. Thank you Sharyn Yoshimi and Cal Ito for donating a cake for Carol's last Fujinkai meeting.

Sept 15-17, 2018 - FBWA Conference, Visalia

Thank you Aya Masada, Iris Gee and Julia Ueda for attending the conference. They said it was a good conference, with heartfelt presentations.

Oct 6, 2018 – SD/SDBWA/SDDSTL Conference, hosted by VHBT

The Venice BEC and our BWA, Dharma School and WLA representatives have been working hard on this conference. An SDBWA general meeting will be held at the conference.



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The hot dog/chili/curry booth at our 2018 Obon festival did very well, and the menu items were very good. The only suggestion for improvement that we received was to use bigger bowls for our curry.

The Dharma School staff had a meeting on August 26, 2018. The calendar, cabinet and activity chairs were set for the 2018-2019 school year. Our Dharma School staff also worked on our presentation (on bullying and peer pressure) for the 2018 Southern District conference.

Our first activity was our annual Sundae Sunday service on Sept 9, 2018. Thank you to Emily Kariya for putting together all the yummy sundae treats and festive decorations.

The first Kids' Club event for the new school year was held on Friday night, September 21, 2018. Twenty-one kids, with as many parents(!), attended and enjoyed a screening of the movie "Coco." There were also lots of "Coco"-themed food, activities and decorations to enjoy; the event was a real success!

Other activities planned for the school year are a Dharma School parent meeting (date TBD), a combined-class Dharma School format and more Kids' Club activities.

Plans are already underway for preparing calendars for our annual Keiro visit. Girl Scout troop 5325 will be in charge of coloring and making the calendars, and Dharma School will help with the coloring if possible.

A committee has been formed with representatives from the Southern District Dharma School Teachers' League to begin planning for the 2020 Federation of Dharma School Teachers' League conference. SDDSTL is to host the event, which will be held on April 24-26, 2020 at OCBC. Two committee meetings have taken place so far, and our DS Co-superintendents Jan Ozaki and Judy Hopfield have been in attendance. Venice will be in charge of hospitality for the event.

On September 23, 2018, our BEC took charge of the service and otoki for our fall Ohigan service. Committee members and other helpers prepared delicious curry (both veggie and chicken) and sashimi for otoki. Salads, fruit, rice and cake for dessert rounded out the meal.

For the service, Rev. Kenji Akahoshi of the Buddhist Temple of San Diego was our guest speaker, and following the service and otoki, Akahoshi Sensei lead an interesting discussion about Buddhism for a group of our Sangha.

As of our newsletter deadline, our Southern District "The Social Face of Buddhism" conference was fast approaching. To date, we have over 200 people attending from eleven of our Southern District temples. Our committee is hard at work trying to take care of all the last-minute details. Following the October 6 th conference, a full report will appear in the next issue of the Gassho News.



TEMPLE MEMBERSHIP

The Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple thanks the following members for their 2018 dues received from January 2018 through September 2018. The asterisks (*) identify our Honorary (Keiro) members who made membership donations.

***Jim & *June Akioka**, Joe & Dianne Belli, Roger Brown, Ken & Sheri Nagata Chen, Marty & Robyn Cohen, Mark & Lisa Cummings, Tom & Janet Davall, Wayne & Karen Eguchi, ***June Fujioka**, Kei & Tomoko Fukuda, Kristina Fukuda, Ron & Barbara Fukuji, Ron & Iris Gee, Eugene & Phyllis Hayashibara, John & Patti Heyl, Joe & Judy Hopfield, Mildred Ichinotsubo, Leonard & Gwen Imada, Shirley Inada, Gerald Iseda, ***Minako Iseda**, Osami Ishida, Calvin & Sharyn Yoshimi Ito, ***Dale Ito**, Joan Ito, Sachiko Ito, ***Hiroshi & Kazuko Kadomatsu**, Emily Kariya, Yoshiko Kariya, ***Dennis Kato**, Scot Kawano, ***Sammy & *Chieko Kishimoto**, Jim & Gail Higa Kita, ***Sanaye Kita**, Sam & May Kiyohara, ***Kenji & Shinobu Koda**, Frank & Elaine Koyama, ***Setsuko Kuda**, ***Mae Kumagai**, Gary & Leticia Kurashige, ***Milnes & *Nori Kurashige**, Mike & Carol Kusama, Tom & Delcene Kuwata, Ayako Masada, Erik & Cindy Matsubayashi, Irene Matsumura, Charles & Sue Mayeda, Mark & Debbie Ching Mayeda, Jino & Aleyna Minamoto Ok, Mark & Diane Morimoto, ***Victoria Morimoto**, Hiroko Morita, Daniel Motobo, Jackie Motobo, Dan Nakagiri, Tom Nakagiri, ***Tyler & *Jean Nakamoto**, Edgar Nakamura, ***John & Judy Nawa**, David Nishina, ***Fusae Nishina**, ***Yayeko Nishina**, Anthony & Kori Nobuyuki, Dale & Gail Noriyuki, Darin Noriyuki, Dustin Noriyuki, ***Kay & *Kimi Obana**, Fusako Ogasawara, Quinn Okamoto, ***Ruby Okamoto**, Margarita Oku, ***Tatsumi Omote**, ***Fujiko Oriba**, Craig & Linda Oshinomi, Robert & Leah Oye, Ron & Janis Ozaki, John & Valda Palacios, Ken & Joyce Enomoto Rosengrant, Billy & Sandy Saeki, Ichiko Sakamoto, ***Hank Sakauye**, Merle & Gail Sharp, Mabel Shimasaki, ***Hitoshi Shimizu**, ***Sam & *Kuni Shimoguchi**, ***Mary Shimon**, ***Minoru & *Dorothy Shinmoto**, Mark & Sharlene Shinmoto, Ken & Sue Sogabe, Hirohisa & Kiyoe Suzuki, ***Norm & *Yoshie Tachiki**, Dave & Arlene Tadamaru, Kagemi Takata, Randy & Mari Tamura, Michael & Jill Ishida Tanaka, ***Sumiko Tochiara**, Carey & Vicki Tokirio, Dean & Julia Ueda, Don & Cyndy Uehara, Scott Uematsu, Casey Uematsu, ***Gary & Yoshiko Uyeno**, Ron & Jane Wong Wakabayashi, George & Sheryl Yamada, Tom & Judy Yamaguchi, Rob & Peggy Yamamoto, Gail Yoneda, ***Sakaye Yoneda**, Kenzo & Annette Yonemitsu, Art & Roseann Yoshida

Family Members	Individual Members	Senior Members
Family Membership (Includes children under age 22 years)	Individual Membership (Single Adult age 30 and older)	Senior Membership* (Keiro– age 80 years & older)
Young Family Membership (Family under age 35 years) \$350	Young Adult Individual Membership (Single adult under age 30 years) \$125	Senior Membership* (Keiro– age 80 yrs. Before 2018) Complimentary



WISH LIST

Special Items & Service Projects

- Electrical installation of Candles for the Onaijin
- Paint Temple interior & exterior
- Uchishiki-4 triangular matching brocade cloths for Onaijin—1 Mizuhiki (table skirt)), 1 Tocho (hanging brocade curtain surrounding Amida Buddha)- (approx. Cost for all pieces: \$45,000)
- Obuppan-ki (set of 2- approx. cost \$800)
- Kebyo set (2 matching altar water holders- repair leak or replace)
- New Steel Gate with lock by BBQ grilling area
- New Intercom (at side entrance); Install Smoke Detectors
- New Storage Shed at south side of garage
- Large sturdy Tables from Mity-Lite Tables, (12 needed—approx. \$275 ea)
- 2 stiff Corn Brooms for outside use

On- Going Needed Items:

- Forever Postage Stamps
- Elmer's Brand Glue Sticks
- 33 gal. Heavy Duty Trash Bags
- Tall Kitchen Trash Bags
- 10 1/4" Lg. Paper 3- sectional Dinner Plates
- Sm & Med size Nitrile or Latex free, Powder- free Gloves
- Paper Dessert Plates; Bowls
- Fork, Heavy Wt. Plastic; Hashi
- 7oz. Paper Cold Cups; 6-8 oz. Paper Hot Cups
- Paper Towels, Napkins, Toilet Tissue
- Coffee, Decaf ground
- Mr. Clean Magic Erasers; Scotch- Brite Sponges; Stainless Steel Mesh Scrubbers
- Dawn Dish Soap
- Water, 1 gal; Flats of 8 & 16 oz. Water bottles
- Hose

*The Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple will gratefully accept any donations or contributions towards the above needed items & services. Please contact Ron Gee, VHBT President @ (310) 266-7296 or via E-mail: crouchingbruin@gmail.com or Rev. Kory Quon @ (310) 391-4351 or via E-mail: Sensei@vhbt.org for more information.

May to August 2018

The Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple gratefully acknowledge & thank all donors for their generous "Temple Wish Board" donations.

Thank you for your Donations!

May 2018

Building Fund: Mr. & Mrs. Tom Davall, Mr. & Mrs. Ron Gee

Eitaikyo: Mr. & Mrs. Kenji Koda (2)

Funeral: Mr. & Mrs. Kei Fukuda, Mrs. Kiyo Yamaguchi

Memorial: Ms. Joyce Ito Ichimoto, Ms. Susan Ito, Ms. Miyako Kadogawa, Mr. & Mrs. Todd Katayama, Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth Kato, Mr. Don Kishimoto, Mr. Sammy Kishimoto, Ms. Dorothy Kono, Ms. Mitsue Naito, Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Tatsumi, Mr. & Mrs. Kinya Tatsumi, Ms. Kathleen Umemoto, Mr. & Mrs. Mamo Yamaoka, Mr. Masato Yamaoka, Mr. & Mrs. Tad Yamaoka, Mr. & Mrs. Gregg Yokoyama, Ms. Lisa Yumori, Mr. Randall Yumori

Obon Donation: Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Belli, Ms. Ayako Masada, Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Nobuyuki

Special Donation: Mr. Sam Shimoguchi

Wedding: Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Belli

June 2018

Building Fund: Mrs. Irene Matsumura

Eitaikyo: Ms. Yuriko Amamoto, Mr. & Mrs. Kei Fukuda, Mr. & Mrs. Kenji Koda (3), Mr. & Mrs. Milnes Kurashige, Ms. Karen Tokubo

Funeral: Mrs. Margarita Oku

Memorial: Mr. & Mrs. Kei Fukuda, Mr. & Mrs. Merle Sharp

Obon Donation: Mr. & Mrs. Kei Fukuda, Eugene Hayashibara DDS & Akemi Hayashibara DDS, Mrs. Minako Iseda & Mr. Gerald Iseda, Mr. & Mrs. Milnes Kurashige, Mr. Daniel Nakagiri, Mr. & Mrs. Dale Noriyuki, Mr. & Mrs. Billy Saeki, Mr. & Mrs. Merle Sharp, Mr. & Mrs. Norman Tachiki, Mr. & Mrs. Randall Tamura, Mr. & Mrs. Carey Tokirio, Mr. & Mrs. Ron Wakabayashi, Mr. & Mrs. George Yamada

Special Donations: Ms. Joyce Enomoto, Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Kojima, Mrs. Tomiye Nakagiri, Mr. & Mrs. Mark Oki, Mrs. Jean Tsunemoto, Mr. Masaki Ueki

2019 BCA NCM: Mr. & Mrs. Ron Gee, Mr. Dennis Kato, Ms. Ayako Masada, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Mayeda, Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Nobuyuki, Mr. & Mrs. Kay Obana, Mr. & Mrs. John Palacios, Mr. & Mrs. Norman Tachiki, Mr. & Mrs. Donald Uehara, Mr. & Mrs. Yoshiko Uyeda

July 2018

Building Fund: Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Hayashibara, Mr. Dennis Kato, Marina Cub Pack 79, Ms. Erina Murakami, Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Ruzzin, Mrs. Mabel Shimasaki, Mr. & Mrs. Sam Shimoguchi, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Yamashita

Funeral: Mrs. Setsuko Shinmoto, Mr. & Mrs. Norman Tachiki

Memorial: Mrs. Yuriko Amamoto, Ms. Jacquelyn Doi, Mr. & Mrs. Ron Inada, Mrs. Minako Iseda, Ms. Masako Kawase, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Koyama, Ms. Lynn Nakagiri, Mrs. Tomiye Nakagiri, Mr. & Mrs. Tyler Nakamoto, Mrs. Margarita Oku, Mrs. Tatsumi Omote, Mrs. Faye Ozaki, Mr. & Mrs. Billy Saeki, Mr. & Mrs. Jamie Shiraki, Mr. Tadayoshi Suzuki, Mrs. Jocelyn Tahara

Obon Donation: Anonymous (1), Ms. Jackie Motobo (Building), Nikkei Memorial Group Inc., Sakura Japanese Restaurant

Special Donation: Ms. Tereza Ouchida, Mr. & Mrs. Tom Yamaguchi

2019 BCA NCM: Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Hayashibara, Mr. & Mrs. Rikio Ishikawa, Mrs. Yoshiko Kariya, Mr. & Mrs. Milnes Kurashige

Thank you for your generosity



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Special Articles

2018 Obon Festival Redesigned! Mission Impossible?!?

Months before our 2018 Obon Festival, the Obon Committee worked hard to redesign the structure and offerings of the festival. **Why?**

Obon Committee's goals were to (1) reduce the demands on our aging, shrinking workforce, (2) meet the ever more stringent and complex health, building & safety and fire codes, and (3) generate the level of revenue needed for VHBT's budget.

As it happens, festival food offerings were the most labor-intensive activities, required greatest code compliance efforts, and raised the most revenue (about 60% of total). Yipes!

Re-imagining our traditional festival would be no easy task, but it needed to happen if we are to sustain the event. Difficult decisions had to be made. We embraced the impermanence of making our own fondly held traditional foods and created new activities that required less labor and could bring more revenue.

On July 22-23, 2018, we tested our new design. **The result?**

Reducing the number of food items and including pre-packaged food reduced the workload for our Sangha and produced a schedule more relaxed. People commented they had time to enjoy the festival for the first time in years. Food sales did produce less revenue though—29% of total.

However, the ticket drawing and Lumbini's Boutique reached record-breaking revenue levels, and the new Obon Sponsorship program was well-supported. Along with silent auction, bookstore and flowers, the "non-food" activities raised 69% of the revenue for the weekend.

The result was the most relaxing AND financially successful Obon Festival VHBT has had in many, many years. Thanks to the dedication of the Obon Committee and deep generosity of the Sangha, **Mission Accomplished!**

Obon Committee has begun planning for the 2019 Obon Festival. We will build and improve on the new design. Please join us on the 4th Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM.

Thank you for your Donations!

August

Eitaikyo: Mr. & Mrs. Kenji Koda (3)

Memorial: Mrs. Yuriko Amamoto, Mr. & Mrs. Tom Davall,
Ms. Rumi Mayeda, Mrs. Fumiko Ozaki,
Fairmont Miramar Hotel Friends of Curtis Tachiki

Special Donation: Ms. Melody Horner,
The Tokirio Family Charitable Fund

2019 BCA NCM: Mr. & Mrs. Mark Mayeda

September 2018

Eitaikyo: Ms. & Mrs. Milnes Kurashige

Memorial: Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Hopfield,
Mr. & Mrs. Fujio Nakagawa, Mr. & Mrs. Richard Yamashita

Obon Donation: Union Bank

Special Donations: Ms. Nanette Ching Edelman,
Mrs. Tatsumi Omote

Thank you for your generosity



Notice of Bylaws Change

There will be an important vote at the temple's General Meeting in December 2018. As always, all members are invited to participate in this meeting.

2018年12月の総会で大事な投票が行います。いつも通り、仏教会のメンバー全員が投票に参加できます。

The temple's Board of Directors is proposing two changes to the bylaws. The first change is related to membership. Any Sustaining Member of the temple who reaches 80 years of age will thereafter be known as a Senior Member and will have all rights and privileges of a Sustaining Member. In addition, a new status called Honorary Member can be bestowed upon a former Sustaining Member with the approval of the Sustaining Membership at the general meeting.

今回の総会では内規の二つの変更を提案します。まずは、80歳以上の会員はこれからシニア

・メンバーとなり、一般の会員と同じ権利や特権を持つことを提案します。また、総会で一般会員が賛成したら、元一般会員を名誉会員として示めされることを提案します。

The second change to the bylaws involves the number of times that the Board of Directors must meet during the year. Currently the bylaws state that the Board of Directors must meet each month of the calendar year. A motion was approved that would require the Board of Directors to meet at least 10 months of the year. This is to allow for the instances where the temple is quiet (e.g., August), or if a meeting must be canceled for an unexpected reason.

二つ目の変更は理事会が行われる年間回数の件です。現在内規上、理事会は毎月会う義務があります。しかし、12ヶ月から最低10ヶ月会うように変更したいです。それは、八月のように寺は休んでいる時期や突然理事会をキャンセルしざるを得ない場合を考えられるからです。

The following are the changes approved at the March 2017 Board Meeting.

下記は2017年3月の理事会で紹介した決議案と定義案であります。

Article III MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Sustaining Membership of this organization shall consist of those people who have paid their annual dues and adhere to the purposes for which this corporation is formed.

Section 2. The full-time resident ministers of the corporation assigned by the Buddhist Churches of America shall be sustaining members of this organization.

Section 3. A Sustaining Member who reaches 80 years of age, henceforth is a Senior Member of this organization until death or resignation and shall have all rights and privileges of a Sustaining Member.

Section 4. A former Sustaining Member who demonstrated outstanding service to the temple and who adheres to the purposes for which this corporation is formed shall become an Honorary Member by the approval of the Sustaining Membership at the annual general meeting.

Section 3.5. Supporting Membership of this organization shall consist of those people who adhere to the purposes for which this corporation is formed (Friends in Dharma).

The following are the changes approved at the September 2018 Board Meeting.

下記は2018年9月の理事会で紹介した決議案と定義案であります。

Article X MEETINGS

Section 2. Board of Directors Meeting

(a) The regular meeting of the Board of Directors shall meet every month **at least 10 months** of the calendar year.