



Sensei's message

The Fall of Leaves!

Hello and Greetings Everyone! Living in Southern California you know that in the fall the leaves that are able to change are. Eventually they will fall to the ground. I often forget this simple lesson of Nature. Do You?

Give up anger, abandon conceit, and overcome all fetters. Ills of life (dukkha) do not befall one who does not cling to mind and body and is free from moral defilements. (Dhammapada Verse 221)

For the past two years you might have come to the temple and seen little Bodhi trees appearing in pots around the temple. I have the great wish to replace the one we received as a gift 6 years ago with one of the propagated clippings that have luckily taken to being potted.

The Bodhi tree was a gift from a Vista member. Being a descendent of the tree that the Buddha became Enlightened under, it was very stressful in the beginning. There were times when it was hard to find a tree sitter when I could not be at the temple to tend to it. "Who wants to be the one to have killed the young tree?" There were times when all the leaves change color and fell off. I would freak out and think I was doing something wrong. I would think "maybe it needs more water?" I would add more water, and even gave it plant food.

The first 2 years with that tree were hard. Eventually I found it was telling me to leave it alone. Let it sit in the sun. I learned to water once or twice a week depending on how damp the soil is and in a heat wave three times. Give it plant food periodically. Prune when needed.

There have been a few clippings that have gone out to our members and have grown. Sometimes they come up to me and say all the leaves fell off and I just say "it happens. They will be back."

I think about the saying above. Don't cling to negative feelings, let go of the self, and overcome all fetters or get through all the obstacles holding you back. These things are not meant to last. Just take care. As I look at the tree in front of our temple, it is a symbol of the Buddha and our goal of Enlightenment. It is a reminder that even though it is special, in the end it is still an impermanent object as well. The leaves will fall off. The tree may even die.

We can welcome the Fall leaves and appreciate the beauty of a constantly changing life. As we observe this may our hearts change to know its valuable teaching. Our human selves then give it more value. Our appreciation grows. While we are reminded in our daily lives of anger, ego, and attachments, let us put our hand together in Gassho and let them go. In the saying of Nembutsu together, I hope you can find Happiness and Joy!

**In Gratitude and Appreciation,
Rev. Kory Quon**





President's Message

We had some temple events like the Rummage Sale, Crafts Fair, and restaurant fundraisers. These were led by Barbara Wakasa, Tammy Ito, and Barbara Fukuji respectively. Having them, and many others, lead various efforts reminded me of a quote. I'm not big on quotes, but there is one that has stuck with me throughout my life.

It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat. (Theodore Roosevelt)

How I interpret this quote is that it's more important to step up rather than to be an armchair quarterback. Put aside apprehension and being afraid of failure or complexity, and put yourself out there. Give the effort as the rewards, to yourself and others, outweigh the tribulations.

So, I admire those who take on tasks without asking. Barbara Wakasa suggesting and spearheading the Rummage Sale, where she could have just made the suggestion in hopes someone would take on this endeavor. Tammy Ito for pitching the idea and then coordinating holding a craft fair and recruiting vendors to help raise funds. And Barbara Fukuji for actively looking for restaurants for fundraising efforts and help getting the word out. This is just to name a few as this really applies to many temple members.

Another quote that I found: It's easy to criticize from the stands. What's hard...is doing something.

To those who have taken on duties, chaired a committee, organized an event or any endeavor, volunteered your time and efforts, and stepped up in other areas, a big hat's off to you!!

In Gassho

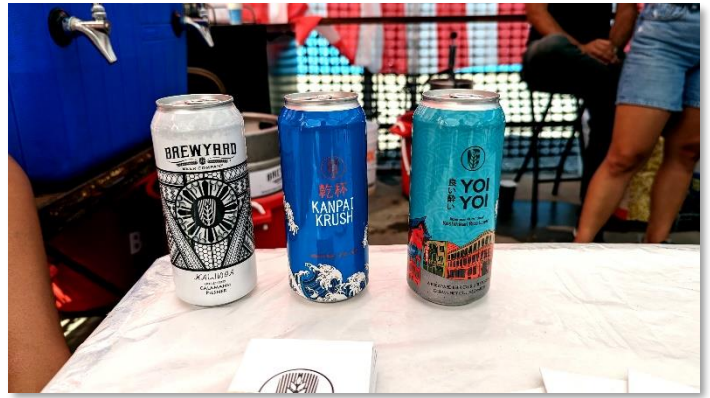
Tom Nakagiri



Obon Festival

We held our annual Obon Festival during the weekend of July 15-16. This year saw the return of udon, using the recipe perfected by Joe Belli. We also had new games (Plinko and Roll'Em) for the kids, and a beer garden for the first time for the adults.

We had about 475 dancers during odori each night, and the whole festival was a success due to the hard work of many volunteers.



Obon Festival continued ...





Although Dharma School did not have any classes in July, we were busy preparing for Obon. Thank you to Dharma School teacher Emily Kariya who coordinated the hot dog and chili rice booth and to all the families and friends that helped us by working a shift. Dharma School and the Temple are especially grateful for another donation of hot dogs and buns from Al and Pauline Morita. A big thanks to teachers Julia Ueda and Judy Hopfield who taught and led the Odori dances at the practices and on the Obon weekend as well as to Jon and Joan Ito, Barbara Fukuji and Quinn Okamoto for their donations towards popsicles during the dance practices.



Dharma School Booth at Obon

On August 6, Dharma School oversaw the preparation and assembling of the Senior Dana Delivery bags. Thanks to Barbara Fukuji and Tom Yamaguchi for organizing everything and to Tom

and Janet Davall who also helped us out that day. The seniors were treated to a Hawaiian Royale bento from Rutt's, Hawaiian potato chips, a Mandarin orange and a Obon wrist band.

The Dharma School teachers met on Aug. 13 to plan for the upcoming new school year. Our cabinet will be the same as last year: Superintendent – Janis Ozaki; Assistant Superintendent – Emily Kariya; Treasurer – Julia Ueda; Secretary – Tom Yamaguchi with Barbara Fukuji as back up; and Corresponding Secretary – Gail Yoneda. All grade levels will be meeting on the same day for most of the year, but with separate classes for preschool through 1st grade, 2nd through 5th grade and middle through high school. Our first class will be on Oct. 1 following the 9:30 am service.



Dharma School Staff Installation



Dharma School continued ...

Our annual Sundae Sunday was held on Sept. 10th. Thank you to Julia Ueda for organizing the event and providing the delicious ice cream and toppings for all to enjoy. As part of the beginning of the new school year, all Dharma School students also received a Back-to-School bag which included pens, pencils, notepads, Pocky and Goldfish crackers.



Sundae Sunday

Sunday, Oct. 1 was our first Dharma School Class for the new school year. Emily Kariya discussed the month's theme, "Dana," with the middle and high school students while the younger kids had class with Julia Ueda. They all learned about selfless giving with the younger kids crafting a sign saying, "Be kind, thoughtful and thankful."

Dharma School's next major happening will be our annual Halloween Party on Sun. Oct. 29 from 4 pm to 6:30 pm. All are welcome to join in on the fun. Next year we will also have 2 Kids Clubs, dates to be determined. Another major future event in the planning is a Dharma School family trip to Japan in the summer of 2025.



If anyone is interested in joining Dharma School or would like more information, please contact any of the Dharma School teachers or Rev. Kory.





Sangha Teens

By Chloe Yoshikawa

In August of 2023, the Sangha teens went to Disneyland and California Adventure for the end of the year. We pretty much visited everything at Disneyland and California Adventure. Yes, that also means Fantasyland and Toontown. Some of the attractions we went on were Matterhorn, Incred-a-coaster, Grizzly river run, and more. For lunch, we went to Hungry Bear Restaurant inside of Disneyland and in the Pacific Wharf area for dinner. All the heat was just a little bit of a problem but it was all worth the fun we had! So, Thank you to the Church, Kori, and Cindy for this experience!





Junior Young Buddhists Association

Jr. YBA Eagle Scouts

Trent Nishimura is Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple's Jr. YBA Co-President and earned his Eagle Scout rank on March 10, 2022. For his Eagle Project, he replaced 4 of the bi-folding doors located at the back of the Temple. Over the 2 day project, with the assistance of his fellow Troop 764 scouts, he removed the old doors, straightened the door frame, and painted and inserted the new doors with hinges and other attachments. Trent earned his Triple Palms and became Troop 764's 188th Eagle Scout.



Lynn Murakami is a member of the Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple's Jr. YBA and earned his Eagle Scout rank on October 22, 2022. The Eagle Project had Troop 764 scouts and parents help refurbish a hill for planting at the Beverly Hills Greystone Mansion which allowed the city to plant flowers that attract native bees. Lynn earned his Triple Palms and became Troop 764's 200th Eagle Scout.

Coh Mihashi is a Jr. YBA member at Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. He earned his Eagle Scout rank on February 11, 2023. For his Eagle Project, he replaced a fence at the front of the temple and added a fence on the side of the temple for security purposes. His Eagle Scout project occurred over 2 days where he and fellow Troop 764 scouts cut and painted the wood to build the fence. Coh earned his Triple Palms and became Troop 764's 204th Eagle Scout.



Jameson Johnston is Venice Hongwanji's Buddhist Temple's Jr. YBA Co-President and earned his Eagle Scout rank on March 8th, 2023. For his Eagle Project, he organized, promoted, advertised and executed 2 blood donation drives which occurred on September 11, 2022 and September 18, 2022. He collected a total of 57 pints of blood which could potentially help save 170 lives. Jameson earned his Gold and Bronze palms and became Troop 764's 206th Eagle Scout.



Jr. YBA continued ...

Jr. YBA Dinner Celebration

For Jr. YBA's last activity, the boys and their families had dinner at Hayama in Sawtelle on Saturday, September 9th, 2023. In celebration of being a part of Jr. YBA they filled their stomachs with multiple kinds of delicious sushi.



Rummage Sale Setup

On Thursday and Friday night, September 14th to 15th, 2023, Jr. YBA assisted in setting up tables and snacks for the Rummage Sale.



Buddhist Women's Association

The Buddhist Women's Association (Fujinkai) coordinated the otoki lunch following the Obon/Hatsubon service on Sunday, July 2, 2023. El Pollo chicken, New Flavors pork or chicken chow mein, a variety of salads, fruits, and sides from Fujinkai members, plus a half-sheet cake from Westchester Bakery completed the menu.



For the VHBT Obon Festival, July 15 and 16, 2023, the Fujinkai coordinated the shopping and chopping, cooking gu and wonton sauce, and folding 7,337 wonton, which means 1,467 plates of five wonton plus wonton sauce. Taking into consideration probable loss of wonton due to tearing, burning, or dropping, the BWA estimated Saturday sales to be 790 plates, and Sunday sales to be 662 plates. Wonton sold out at 9:02 pm on Saturday, and the volunteers stopped cooking all the wonton for Sunday at 7:00 pm, and sold out soon after.



Phyllis Hayashibara serves Ayumi Sensei from Fuji Japanese School

This year, the Fujinkai continued the Sangha Initiative's model of cooking and freezing the wonton the weekend before the Obon Festival. Frozen wonton were dropped into the 350 degree vegetable oil and browned in about four minutes. Thanks to youthful ingenuity and generous sharing of equipment, the Fujinkai increased their frying capacity. On Saturday, Erik Matsubayashi offered the middle Dango (Andagi) fryer to cook up wonton in response to the long lines to pick up wonton orders. On Sunday, Greg Saeki created a make-shift fryer on top of one of Joe Belli's dashi



BWA continued...

burners, with a large rectangular pan that fried 60 wonton at one time.



Frying the dango (andagi)



Joyce Ino and Vicki Tokirio can fry 60 wonton at a time

The Fujinkai also deeply appreciates ABA's sharing the costs of an additional, new freezer. The old freezer decided to stop working, but Tom Yamaguchi arranged for an immediate repair.

Resourceful co-presidents of the Fujinkai, Vicki Tokirio and Linda Oshinomi, consolidated the number of trays of wonton by transferring two layers of wonton into other trays to make three layers of wonton in one tray, just in case the freezer didn't keep working through the weekend of the Festival.

Former Temple President Jerry Iseda suggested that the Fujinkai increase the cost of the wonton plate to \$7.00, considering all the time and effort put into wonton-making, and the cost increases in ingredients over the past ten years. Fortunately, the price increase did not hurt sales at all. Guests and Temple members randomly assured the BWA that the crispy wonton tasted great, and commented on liking the Food Cashier to pay for most of their food, and also liking the food coupons in a variety of colors.

5 WONTON \$7.00



Friday, August 18, all day, the BWA sponsored a fundraiser at Panda Express. Online orders could be placed at any local Panda Express at www.pandaexpress.com. With the code 914241, Panda Express donated 28% of sales to the VHBT BWA.





Buddhist Education Committee

Our BEC took charge of our 2023 Fall Ohigan service and otoki on September 17, 2023. There was a good turnout, and everyone enjoyed the service and Chinese food lunch afterward. A very special part of the service was a presentation of a congratulatory certificate from the BCA to Mr. Ishikawa, who turned 100 in August 2023. He and his wife, Mrs. Ishikawa, were also celebrating 70 years of marriage.



On Saturday, September 23, 2023, our BEC hosted an Ohigan seminar, with Rev. Blayne Higa from Kona Hongwanji Buddhist Temple as our guest speaker. Following a brief service, Rev. Higa presented a slideshow which talked about the importance of building community and how each of us has something of value to contribute to and be a part of that community.



After the presentation, the audience broke into groups and presented their thoughts on positive and negative ways our Sangha can interact and what kind of influences they have. We also shared ways in which our temples have worked to build and keep a strong sense of community support and cohesion.



Many thanks to our BEC for helping to organize and facilitate our two fall events and to everyone who participated.





Girl Scout Troop 5325

Gold Award Project

By Hanami Wexler

For my Gold Award project, which is the highest award in Girl Scouts, I chose to focus on period poverty and period stigma. Even though menstruation happens to fifty percent of the population and is a normal bodily function, I knew from personal experience, that there is a lot of stigma, embarrassment and discrimination about this topic.

I created a project that began with 3 workshops to discuss periods openly and share facts about period poverty, like how 1 out of 4 girls do not have the money to buy enough period products during their cycle and often skip school. Raising awareness about laws that support menstruators was also important, like having free period products in schools and the need to abolish the tampon tax in all 50 states.

I was then able to collect more than 265 boxes and packs of period products through two period product drives, which the Venice Hongwanji temple, Troop 5325 and my friends and family greatly supported. I sewed over 200 period packs and added the donated products, along with handwritten notes of encouragement and \$12,000 worth of menstrual underwear and cups donated from a company called Saalt, into the packs. In July, I was finally able to deliver all of these period packs and extra boxes of tampons and pads to the Children's Law Center of California for foster care youth and added a QR code in each pack for a short message and advice to the CLC menstruators. The agency began handing out the packs that day and the staff told me how important and needed these supplies were for the foster care youth.

I am especially grateful to the temple community for allowing me to have my period product drive at the temple. Thanks to this support, I had a physical location to hold my drive, a place to drop off donations and to learn about my project. It's my hope that through my Gold Award project, I could spread awareness about period poverty and stigma, and give hope and advice to girls to help them throughout the teenage years.



Girl Scouts continued ...

Gold Award Project

By Yoshiko Mendoza

Hello, I am Yoshiko Mendoza and I recently received my Gold Award! For my Gold Award, I created an Asian Culture Appreciation Club at my high school. In my club, I taught my peers about 10 Asian countries. Those countries being: Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Thailand, The Philippines, and Vietnam. Students learned about these countries and cultures through slideshows, crafts, games, food, and more!



Each country had 2 meetings dedicated to that country. One meeting would be about the country and provide information about their language, food, music, and more. Each country also had a highlight where I would highlight an Asian American and provide information on that person and their achievements. The second meeting would center around a holiday or festival that is celebrated in that country. Each meeting there would be an activity, like for example, learning how to write your name in Mandarin and a snack from that culture.

During May, which was AAPI month, the ACA club put up decorations such as posters about influential Asian Americans and many of the crafts we made such as Batik, paper lanterns, and more. We even put up a Spread the Love wall in which we spelled out AAPI with origami hearts and wrote "love" in different Asian languages.



In addition to that, the Asian Culture Appreciation club also held a AAPI Fair for the WISH Middle school which lasted 2 days. Each day showcased 5 countries that I taught in my club. The middle schoolers were given passports in which they needed to get stamped. Students would receive a stamp if they answered a trivia question about that country. Each booth also had an activity and treat from that country.

I also created a website so everyone can view the slideshows I made as well as learn about the countries we learned in my club! Earning my gold award took hard work, and I learned and strengthened many skills, like creating lessons, organizing a fair and working with others. I hope those who attended my club and fair learned more about Asian culture.





Cub Pack 79

With the start of the scouting year, Pack 79 has welcomed over 15 new scouts across all dens. We welcomed the new scouts and many interested families at our welcome picnic at El Marino Park and the Bear Fair the following month.

Our Webelos 4th and 5th graders attend the 100th year celebration at Camp Cherry Valley, located on Catalina Island. This overnight camp is a highlight for the older scouts, as it starts with a boat ride to the island and a hike into camp under the stars. After a good night's sleep, the scouts partake in the day's activities like BB shooting, archery, swimming, snorkeling, kayaking, arts, and crafts. After a long day of activities, the night ends with a campfire and skits. This year, the scouts were privileged to be a part of a United States flag decommissioning.



Cub Pack 79 continued ...

Don't worry, our other scouts weren't left out. The following month we had our annual fall family camp at Irvine Ranch. The scouts and their families were also able to participate in numerous activities over the weekend like BB shooting, archery, swimming, ropes course and tent trick or treating.



We continue to welcome new families and scouts to Pack 79. We also welcome girls and kindergarteners as well, and are looking for interested families to embark on this new adventure with us! If you or family members/friends would like to learn more about Pack 79 please reach out to us via email or check us out on social media:

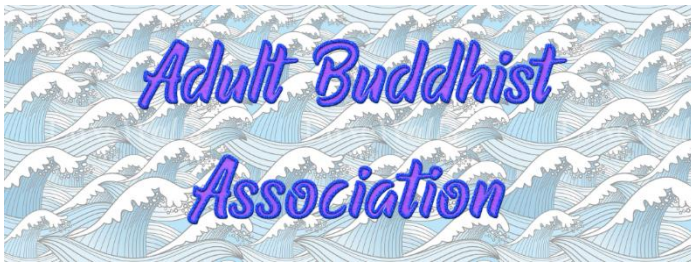


<https://www.facebook.com/culvercubpack79>

[Culver Cub Pack 79 - YouTube](#)

<https://www.culverpack79.com/cubpack79@vhbt.org>





It is that time of year again, where we all join together to make our famous mochi tsuki. We start with cleaning our sweet rice kernels, washing them, cooking / steaming the rice into large mochi balls, and then pound by hand shaping in our Uzu granite stone with special wooden mallets. After the pounding the rice into mochi, the mochi is taken to a team of mochi cutters, where the team shapes them in them into semi perfect mochi balls.

If you want to learn the process, first-hand, you are welcome to come over to the gathering, put on your apron. We start the cooking early on Saturday morning, and the first batch of molding the mashed rice into mochi balls at about 8:00 am. It continues till about 5 pm. We are in need of: rice cookers, registration help, molding mochi balls, pounding the rice kernels into meshed rice, shapers who roll the mochi balls into perfect shapes. The mochi balls are cooled and packed for delivery.

We welcome all members, families, and friends to come and experience mochi making the old way.

We are in need in these specialty areas: Usu rice turning, dusting of mochi, shaping of mochi balls, rice cooking. You can see the schedule on the open letter. If you have questions, please email me at tommyyami@gmail.com

Gassho,

Tom Yamaguchi, ABA President



If you are ever sitting at the signal on Lincoln and Manchester Blvd, check out the utility box painted by Girl Scout Troop 5325's current Cadette 1s! It is on the northwest corner.

VHBT Membership

Enjoy the many benefits of being a Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple member!

Why Membership?

- Attend religious services and educational programs
- Access to temple organizations
- Enjoy optional participation in fun group bonding activities, programs, and fundraising efforts

New Members receive:

- Welcome booklet and Temple Meet and Greet
- Subscription to the temple's Gassho newsletter
- First hand notifications of temple events and activities

And now, adults under 30 can now join for only \$50!

For more information, visit
www.vhbt.org/membership

You can even join online!

2023 Memorial Service Schedule by Years

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

2022: 1 year

2021: 3 year

2017: 7 year

2011: 13 year

2007: 17 year

1999: 25 year

1991: 33 year

1974: 50 year



TEMPLE MEMBERSHIP

*The Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple thanks the following members for their **2023 dues** received **through September 30, 2023**. The asterisks (*) identify our Honorary (Keiro) members who made membership donations. As we continue our membership drive for 2023, we want to thank all of you for continuing to support the Temple through your membership dues.*



Mike & Laurie Amano, Joe & Dianne Belli, Roger Brown, Ken Chen & Sheri Nagata, Martin & Robyn Cohen, Bryan & Aileen Cooke, Mark & Lisa Cummings, Davin Daimonji & Kristi Kaneshige, Tom & Janet DaVall, Wayne & Karen Eguchi, ***June Fujioka**, Kei & Tomoko Fukuda, Kristina Fukuda, Ron & Barbara Fukuji, Gail Fukushima, Sharon Futa, Ron & Iris Gee, Monica Haley, Glenn Hamashita, Janice Hankawa, Eugene & Phyllis Hayashibara, John & Patti Heyl, Jill Hopfield, Joe & Judy Hopfield, Mildred Ichinotsubo, Leonard & Gwen Imada, Shirley Inada, Stacy & Joyce Ino, Gerald Iseda, Nelson & Sharon Ishida, ***Rikio & *Fumiko Ishikawa**, Calvin Ito & Sharyn Yoshimi, ***Dale & *Rosan Ito**, Jon & Joan Ito, Justin Ito, Sachiko Ito, George & Sachi Johnston, ***Hiroshi Kadomatsu**, Emily Kariya, Yoshiko Kariya, Kevin & Patti Kirio, Jimmy Kita & Gail Higa, ***Sanaye Kita**, Sam & May Kiyohara, Matthew & Jennifer Kobata, Kevin Koda, Shinobu Koda, Frank & Elaine Koyama, Gary & Leticia Kurashige, ***Milnes & *Nori Kurashige**, ***Tom & Delcene Kuwata**, Orr & Kimberly Limpisvasti, Hide & Yukari Marume, ***Ayako Masada**, Amanda Matsubara, Erik & Cindy Matsubayashi, Erik Matsumura, Evann Matsumura, Irene Matsumura, ***Alan & Jane Matsuzaki**, Charles & Sue Mayeda, Mark Mayeda & Deborah Ching, Richard Modiano, Mark & Diane Morimoto, Daniel Motobo, Jackie Motobo, Cheryl Nakagiri, Dan Nakagiri, Tom Nakagiri, ***Jean Nakamoto**, Todd Nakamoto, Edgar Nakamura, Hiroko Naruo, ***John & *Judy Nawa**, Ted Nishimura & Eva Nakasone, David Nishina, ***Fusae Nishina**, ***Yayeko Nishina**, Jeff & Sachie Nitta, Tony & Kori Nobuyuki, Dale & Gail Noriyuki, Dustin Noriyuki, ***Kay & *Kimi Obana**, Fusako Ogasawara, Jino Ok & Aleyna Minamoto-Ok, Quinn Okamoto, Margarita Oku, ***Tatsumi Omote**, Mark & Michelle Orne, ***Fujiko Oriba**, Craig & Linda Oshinomi, ***Mitsuko Ota**, Robert & Leah Oye, Ron & Janis Ozaki, John & Valda Palacios, Janet Petersen, Adan Pulido & Stephanie DaVall, Ted Reeve & Jim Matsuo, Ken Rosengrant & Joyce Enomoto, Billy & Sandy Saeki, Ichiko Sakamoto, Merle & Gail Sharp, Mabel Shimasaki, Mark & Sharlene Shinmoto, Catherine Silman, Kiyoe Suzuki, ***Norm & *Yoshie Tachiki**, Dave & Arlene Tademaru, ***Kagemi Takata**, Randy & Mari Tamura, Michael Tanaka & Jill Ishida, Carey & Vicki Tokirio, ***Grennie Uchida**, ***Yasushi Udagawa**, Dean & Julia Ueda, Kayla Ueda, Kelsey Ueda, Don Uehara, ***Yoshiko Uyeno**, Ron Wakabayashi & Jane Wong, Lance & Barbara Wakasa, ***Mary Yasui Yamabe**, ***George & *Sheryl Yamada**, Thomas & Judy Yamaguchi, Robert & Peggy Yamamoto, Gail Yoneda, ***Sakaye Yoneda**, ***Art & Roseann Yoshida**, Spencer & Courtney Yoshikawa

Membership Categories:

FAMILY MEMBERS	INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS	SENIOR MEMBERS
Family Membership (Includes children under age 22 yrs) \$500	Individual Membership (Single Adult age 30 and older) \$250	Senior Membership* (Keiro – age 80 yrs. during or after 2018) \$125
Young Family Membership (Family under age 35 yrs.) \$350	Young Adult Individual Membership (Single adult under age 30 yrs.) \$50	Senior Membership* (Keiro – age 80 yrs. before 2018) Complimentary



Thank You for Your Donations

July 2023

Eitaikyo: Milnes & Noriko Kurashige

Funeral: Darren Onaga

Obon Festival Donation: Anonymous, Feast from the East, Sanaye Kita, Ayako Masada, Richard Saiki, Judy Tokubo

Obon Festival Sponsorship: Anonymous, Roger Brown, Rip Rense & Annie Chuck, Robyn Shimizu & Martin Cohen, Janet DaVall, Kei & Tomoko Fukuda, Ronald Gee, Eugene Hayashibara DDS, Leonard Imada, Jimmy Kita (2), Sanaye Kita, Norman Kumagai, Jennifer Macfarlane, Ayako Masada, Victoria Morimoto, Tom Nakagiri, Daniel Nakagiri, David Nishina, Kay Obana, Ron & Janis Ozaki, Richard & Alice Saiki, Ichiko Sakamoto, Jamie Shiraki, Darrick Sogabe, Lawrence Takahashi, Carey & Vicki Tokirio, George Yamada, Judy Yamaguchi, Rich Yamashita

Special Donation: Dianne Belli, Craig Cummings, Bryce Fukuji, Sharon & Nelson Ishida, Rikio Ishikawa, Amy Kadomatsu, Frank & Elaine Koyama through BCA Endowment Foundation, Richard Nakashima, Tereza Ouchida, June Tani, George Yamada, Rob Yamamoto

August 2023

Funeral: Dan & Susan Fukushima (Fortune West Properties)

Memorial: Anonymous, Joseph & Dianne Belli, June Fujioka, Barbara Fukuji, Judy Hopfield, Gerald Iseda (3), Joan Ito, Patti Kirio, Shinobu Koda, Nobue Masuda, Rev. George Matsubayashi, Bruce Morimoto, Kay & Kimi Obana, Quinn Okamoto, Fujiko Oriba, Billy Saeki, Gail Sharp, June Tani

Special Donation: Craig Cummings, Janet DaVall, Tomoko Fukuda, Sharon & Nelson Ishida, Rikio Ishikawa, Amy Kadomatsu, Sammy Kishimoto, Katsuko Nakagawa, Richard Nakashima, Fujiko Oriba, Karen Tokubo, Jean Tsunemoto, George Yamada, Rob Yamamoto, Sally Yamashita

September 2023

Funeral: Chris Horii

Memorial: Anonymous, Patti Kirio (2), Candice Kubo, Judith Wong

Special Donation: Craig Cummings, June Fujioka, Gardena Buddhist Church, Sharon & Nelson Ishida, Amy Kadomatsu, Sammy Kishimoto (2), Ayako Masada, Leah Oye, Roxanne Tanioka, Jean Tsunemoto, Emiko Yamaguchi, Rob Yamamoto

Thank you for your generosity





Venice Hongwanji A.B.A.

12371 Braddock Drive, Culver City, CA 90230-5869 • Tel. (310) 391-4351

Website / Email: www.vhbt.org

2023

Mochi Order Form

Deadline for all orders is Sunday, November 26, 2023

Price: KOMOCHI: \$8.00 /Package (approximate wt.: 1 #)

OKASANE: \$12.00 /Package

Pick-Up: Saturday, Dec. 2nd (Mochitsuki)

(No pick up available before 2:00 p.m.)

Name: _____ Phone: (H) _____ (C) _____

E-mail Address: _____

QUANTITY	KOMOCHI No. of Packages Pkgs.	OKASANE No. of Packages Pkgs.	TOTAL AMOUNT DUE
			\$
AMOUNT DUE	\$8.00 per pkg. \$	\$12 per pkg. \$	
SPECIAL INSTRUCTION S			

Dear Friends:

PLEASE MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO "VENICE HONGWANJI A.B.A."

*ALL orders must have a check or cash payment accompanying the order.

No Givebutter or COD orders will be accepted.

Mochi orders on a single form will be packed together for pickup. Orders will be accepted on a "First Come, First served" basis, as we will only have a limited amount of mochi available.

Order deadline is November 26, 2023. Once we have received orders for the total amount of mochi that we expect to produce, the remaining orders will be placed on the WAITING LIST.

ORDERS CAN BE PICKED UP AFTER 2 P.M. AND MUST BE PICKED UP BY 6:30 P.M. on Saturday, December 2, 2023.

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR ORDER AND WE WISH YOU A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

Additional order forms are available from tommyyami@gmail.com. Please contact Tom Yamaguchi at (310) 486-2524, or e-mail: tommyyami@gmail.com or contact Billy Saeki at (310) 625-2487 or e-mail: saeki@ca.rr.com should you have any questions regarding the 2023 Mochitsuki event.

Sincerely In Gassho,
Venice Hongwanji ABA

Payment Received by: _____ Amt. rec'd. _____ Ck. # _____ Cash _____



VENICE HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE PROJECT BONBU DRAW 2024

Project Bonbu (translation- “ordinary, foolish being”) is a special monthly drawing where **1 entry will be selected each month from January through November; and 2 entries will be chosen in December. The selections will be made during a designated Sunday Service each month. You do not need to be present for the selection.**

A donation of \$100 provides 1 entry into each monthly drawing and your entry can receive an award more than once during the year. You may enter more than once, however, there will be a maximum of 250 entries in Project Bonbu for 2024.

Awards:

January 2024- November 2024: 1 monthly \$500 award

December 2024: 2 \$1000 awards

To enter, visit www.givebutter.com/projectbonbu2024. Or fill out the form below and mail with your donation check to: Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, 12371 Braddock Drive, Culver City, CA 90230.

Proceeds from the 2024 Project Bonbu will benefit the operations or future capital improvements (such as a new elevator) for Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____

PHONE: _____

NUMBER OF ENTRIES: _____

Thank you for supporting Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple.



Girl Scout Troop 5325

Where Girls Grow Strong

HELP US MAKE HYGIENE KITS FOR THE HOMELESS!

The Girl Scouts of Troop 5325 will be assembling hygiene kits to be donated to PATH (People Assisting the Homeless). See below for the types of items we need. We will be collecting donations through **Sunday, November 19**. Donations can be brought to the Temple and put in the collection box downstairs. Socks are particularly desired by those in need.

FACT SHEET

Hygiene Kits



Help PATH provide personal toiletry items to individuals living on the streets!

Organize a "Hygiene Kit" drive to collect personal care items and assemble supplies into kits. The kits can be delivered to PATH where our street outreach team will distribute the needed supplies to homeless men and women living on the streets.

Individuals and groups who host hygiene kit drives gain tremendous satisfaction in knowing each kit will be delivered directly into the hands of those in need.

Elements of a Hygiene Kit

We rely heavily on the generosity of volunteers to meet this urgent and basic need. Here are the suggested items to gather (new travel size items only please!)



Popular Hygiene Kit Items

- Shampoo
- Conditioner
- Hair care products (gel, mouse, etc.)
- Soap
- Body Wash
- Lotion/Sunscreen
- Lip Balm with SPF 15
- Toothbrushes
- Toothpaste
- Dental Floss
- Deodorant
- Anti-bacterial wipes
- Hand Sanitizer
- Socks
- Hot Tea Bags

For Men

- Shaving cream
- Disposable razors
- Combs

For Women

- Feminine hygiene products
- Hair Ties
- Brushes

Bonus Items

- Nail Clippers
- Gum / Mints

💖 THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT! 💖