



## Sensei's message

### Although I Say the Nembutsu

In the past few weeks, I have written and rewritten this article. I told my wife we watch crazy scenarios on television and in the movies when we see things like monsters that roam the earth, zombies, or even an apocalypse it is understandably fantasy. There was even the movie with Dustin Hoffman called *Outbreak* where a monkey carries a virus and infects an American town. "Who would have ever thought? Who would have ever thought Disneyland and other theme parks would close their gates? Who would have ever thought that people would fight over things that I have always taken for granted like water, paper towels, hand sanitizer, and toilet paper? Who would have ever thought that we are living it for real?"

It is my greatest wish that everyone continues to stay healthy as best as possible. If anyone needs help or assistance, please call the temple (310) 391-4351. We have a wealth of volunteers waiting to do what they can. When we pull together, we can weather this global event as one. Let us continue to do the best we can do for each other.

Buddhism teaches us to do the best we can in our mental and physical endeavors. Today it also reminds us that once we get ill, we have no control over our body and life seems to become more precious to us. In fact, life is precious no matter what state we are in. We should be appreciative to have been awakened to this. The human quality to cling to our past state of being is common. We are all dealing with the feeling of potential loss of life around us. This is why we are all staying home and protecting ourselves and others. So now, we have the Buddhist thought of clinging to life which causes us suffering and human quality of wanting to live. In the Tannisho which was a collection of interactions with Shinran Shonin, founder of our tradition a very close follower quotes him on this very subject.



*“Although I say the Nembutsu, the feeling of dancing with joy is faint with me, and I have no thought of wanting to go to the Pure Land quickly. How should it be [for a person of the nembutsu]?”*

*When I asked the master this, he answered, “I, too, have had this question, and the same thought occurs to you, Yuien-bo!”*

*Shinran: “When I reflect deeply on it, by the very fact that I do not rejoice at what should fill me with such joy that I dance in the air and dance on the earth, I realize all the more that my birth is completely settled. What suppresses the heart that should rejoice and keeps one from rejoicing is the action of blind passions. Nevertheless, the Buddha, knowing this beforehand, called us ‘foolish beings possessed of blind passions’; thus, becoming aware that the compassionate Vow of Other Power is indeed for the sake of ourselves, who are such beings, we find it all the more trustworthy.*

*Further, having no thought of wanting to go to the Pure Land quickly, we think forlornly that we may die even when we become slightly ill; this is the action of blind passions. It is hard for us to abandon this old home of pain, where we have been transmigrating for innumerable kalpas down to the present, and we feel no longing for the Pure Land of peace, where we have yet to be born. Truly, how powerful our blind passions are! But though we feel reluctant to part from this world, at the moment our karmic bonds to this saha world run out and helplessly we die, we shall go to that land. Amida pities especially the person who has no thought of wanting to go to the Pure Land quickly. Reflecting on this, we feel the great Vow of great compassion to be all the more trustworthy and realize that our birth is settled.*

*If we had the feeling of dancing with joy and wishing to go to the Pure Land quickly, we might wonder if we weren’t free of blind passions.”*

*Thus were his words. - Record in Lament of Divergences #9*

Here Yuien-bo contemplates Amida Buddha’s efforts to provide Enlightenment to everyone specifically himself. He expresses his yearning to continue his life as a human being rather than the life of a truly awakened one of light and life. Today many people are living in this way clinging to our lives full of creature comforts and material desires. We fear the loss of lives due to this new global illness. For many of us thoughts like this occurred daily before as a part of age and other factors. Shinran in this moment with Yuien-bo assures him that he is not the only one and expresses that because of this the Pure Land Path is right for them both. I myself have had these thoughts many times thinking that there is more that we can do and then look to this passage to remind myself of Amida’s Vow. The second half of the passage refers to how Buddhism teaches us that the body itself and the wanting for permanence is the root of our problems. Shinran recognizes this, but again reaffirms that Jodo Shinshu is for those entangled in the day to day life. It speaks to the true human self that thirsts for more. It is OK and because of this we say the Nembutsu or



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Namu Amida Butsu even more fervently. Let us think about this together and keep doing our best to stay alive. Appreciate the joy of being alive knowing we can look outside ourselves for the support and guidance we need in this life.

At this point in the world we have the opportunity to realize our suffering and attachments are not only our own but shared. We look inside ourselves and know the suffering of the world itself. With this gift of insight, we can act with a glimpse of Amida Buddha's action and wish for each and every one of us. Amida Buddha is the Buddha of Infinite Wisdom and Compassion. With Wisdom to see our true selves, we can understand the lives, fears, and hopes of every other being in this world. From here on let us look to see what we can do with Compassion for others. This is the True Essence of the Life of a Jodo Shinshu Follower. One of our temple members once said "It is only work when you see it as work." This means we get together and work together to share in each other's life while spreading the Buddha's life. By continuing the Buddha's Vow for world, we find true Joy and Happiness. This life is called the Nembutsu (Nen – to live with, Butsu – Buddha) Life.

If you hear of anyone who may need help or supplies, please call the temple. A Sangha or temple community comes together so that we can receive, give, and share. With Both Hands together, Namu Amida Butsu.

Live with Amida's Wisdom and Compassion for the World!

**Rev. Kory Quon**



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Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple  
12371 Braddock Drive, Culver City, CA 90230





# President's Message

## National Council Meeting

Last February, I, along with Rev. Kory Quon, Ayako Masada, Billy Saeki, and Sandy Saeki, attended the Buddhist Churches of America's National Council Meeting (NCM) in Seattle. For those of you who may be unfamiliar with the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA), it is the umbrella organization under which our temple, and close to 60 other temples across the continental United States, belongs. And NCM is the annual meeting where delegates from each temple gather to discuss and perhaps approve issues that pertain to all of us. Ayako has written a summary, which appears later in this newsletter, but I thought I would highlight a few things that are of particular interest to our temple.

First off, we will have a new Bishop later this year: Rev. Marvin Harada from Orange County Buddhist Church. Rev. Harada has done some great things at OCBC, as well as Vista Buddhist Temple, as far as getting their membership numbers up. Declining membership has been one of the biggest problems facing our temples, and I think Rev. Harada will be able to provide a blueprint that we can follow.

Speaking of Vista, Terri Omori, from Vista Buddhist Temple, was ratified as BCA President-elect, meaning that in two years, she will be the first female BCA President in its 102 year history. Terri is very deserving, having worked very hard for both the Southern District as well as BCA these past few years.

For the second year in a row, security and safety was one of the issues that was highlighted. There was a mandatory workshop where we were able to read

part of a vulnerability assessment that was done for the Buddhist Church of Florin by a California state agency, and it was very eye-opening. While we may think that Buddhist temples are at low risk for intrusion and/or attack compared to other religious institutions, it does happen and may happen more frequently in the future. Someone [shot into a Thai Buddhist temple and set it on fire](#) in Las Vegas this past December, while in Canada, a number of individuals from a nearby homeless encampment [broke into Vancouver Buddhist Temple](#) and carted off \$5,000 worth of items. I am currently working on getting an assessment done for our own temple to see where we can improve our own security.

Finally, a new budget for the BCA was approved, one in which the assessment for each temple has gone up from \$143 per member last year to \$157 per member this year, a 9.7% increase. For background, a large part of the BCA budget (about 70%) is funded by assessments made to individual temples, and each temple's portion is calculated based on a rolling average of the number of members.

Hopefully, you received our temple's membership application in the mail. For those of you who may face challenges with the suggested membership dues, we are very grateful for what you can afford. Your continued financial support of our temple is deeply appreciated, as it not only helps to insure that our temple continues to be a place where we can listen to and experience the Dharma, but to support the national organization as well.

**In gassho,  
Ron Gee**



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# Shinnen Kai

In January, our Sangha welcomed the Year of the Rat. Thank you to Dale Noriyuki and Phyllis Hayashibara for the pictures.



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# National Council Meeting

President Ron Gee & I attended the 2020 Buddhist Churches of America (“BCA”) National Council Meeting (“NCM”) from February 20 thru 23, as delegates for VHBT, along with Rev. Kory Quon, at the Hyatt Regency Lake Washington. Also in attendance from VHBT were Iris Gee, Billy & Sandy Saeki, Jerry Iseda, Joan & John Ito (Jerry & Joan, along with other Hongwanji Place staff, were busy all weekend managing HP sales). Approximately 200 BCA ministers & delegates attended the NCM. BCA boosters, as well as representatives from the Hawaii & Canada kyodans were also in attendance. The following is a broad overview of the NCM; Ron Gee will go into greater detail in his report.

As one of the first activities of NCM, the Institute of Buddhist Studies (“IBS”) and the Center for Buddhist Education (“CBE”) presented a symposium, “Prayers for the World”, on Thursday afternoon, February 20, with speakers, Rev. Drs. David Matsumoto, Mutsumi Wondra & Takashi Miyaji.

The ministers and delegates attended their NCM on Friday, February 21 from 9:15am to 5:00pm, and then for a shorter session on Saturday, February 22. Among the items presented and actions taken during the NCM were BCA Reports, Administrative & Financial Reports, Treasurer’s Report on the 2020-2021 Budget, Business Reports of the various BCA offices, vote to ratify election of 2020-2021 Executive Committee Officers & election of Bishop-Elect, BCA Committee Reports, nomination & election of Directors-at-Large, Reports by Affiliate organizations, Reports by District Councils. Prior to the NCM, the BCA ministers held their Ministers Association Meetings on Tuesday & Wednesday, February 18 & 19.

As a part of the BCA Committee Reports, Sandy Saeki delivered a report from the Archives & Historical Preservation Committee, describing the excellence of the BCA Collection of the UCLA Library’s Buddhist Studies resources. There are ongoing efforts by this committee to encourage temples & districts to develop or expand their archival collections through a grant application process that the committee is currently developing.

The 73rd Annual Northwest District Convention, which was also held in conjunction with the NCM, began activities on Friday evening, February 21. NCM boosters were invited to participate in the activities of the NW District Convention. Saturday was topped off with the traditional conference banquet. Together with NCM and NW District Convention, there were approximately 600 in attendance at the banquet.

To conclude the conference, we observed the BCA National Eitaikyo Service on Sunday morning, February 23. This service included music provided by the Seattle Gagaku Group, as well as choral music provided by the Seattle Betsuin Bodhi Ensemble. A new & unique experience for me was chanting the *Amida Kyo* during the service. Will keep you guessing what a “new & unique” experience is....

As we left the weekend filled with activity, wealth of information, meeting new sangha friends & renewing old friendships, we are all back home at our respective temples. Home is where we take care of each other and continue to support & nurture each other for our spiritual growth.

Gassho, Ayako Masada  
Namo Amida Butsu



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Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple  
12371 Braddock Drive, Culver City, CA 90230



# Buddhist Women's Association

The ladies of the Fujinkai helped prepare the *toshi koshi* soba for after the Joya E Service on December 30, 2019. We rang out the old year with 108 strikes of the *kansho* to represent our delusions and passions: six senses (sight, touch, sound, taste, smell, consciousness) x three perceptions (good, bad, neutral) x two responses (attached or unattached to pleasure) x three tenses (past, present, future) = 108.



*Julia Ueda, Tomoko Fukuda, Irene Matsumura, Linda Oshinomi, and Vicki Tokirio prepped soba and ozoni dashi on Saturday morning, December 30, 2019.*



*Fujinkai also prepared vegetable ozoni, with sides of kamaboko, chashu, mizuna, kizami nori, and green onions for after the Shu Sho E service, to celebrate the new year on January 1, 2020.*

On January 7, 2020, Reverend Kory Quon installed the 2020 – 2021 Fujinkai Cabinet of Officers and Committee Chairs, including incoming Co-Presidents Vicki Tokirio and Judy Hopfield; Recording Secretaries Barbara Fukuji, Mari Tamura, Roseann Yoshida; Corresponding Secretaries Phyllis Hayashibara, Sharon Yoshimi; Co-Treasurers Iris Gee, Judy Nawa, Gail Sharp; and Membership co-chairs Elaine Koyama, Judy Yamaguchi.

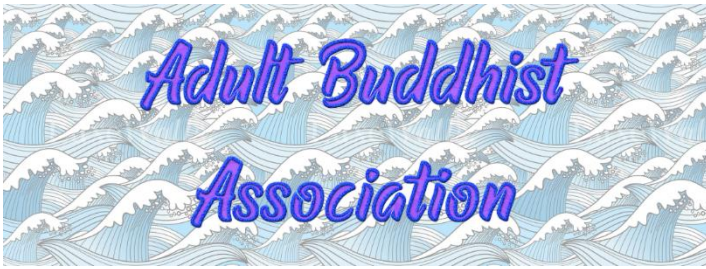


*Reverend Kory Quon installed members of the 2020 – 2021 BWA Cabinet on January 7, 2020: Joyce Enomoto, Debbie Ching, Gail Sharp, Roseann Yoshida, Vicki Tokirio, Judy Hopfield, Barbara Fukuji, Mari Tamura, Elaine Koyama, Phyllis Hayashibara*



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ABA!!!! Kampai!!!!

As we begin 2020, I begin my second go around as President of ABA.

A huge thank you goes to Dale Noriyuki for his guidance and hard work as our president for the past two years. We all appreciate the time and dedication to ABA and the temple.

For 2020, my vision for this year is “clear and in focus.”

I have great expectations for this year. Come join ABA and you also can have a great 2020.

Looking for something to fill your spare time? Maybe learning how to bar-b-que chicken, or how to cook fried rice? Maybe spending time with great people? Friendship. Companionship. Or whatever. The ABA family welcomes new members. Come join us. We have monthly meetings on the second Tuesday after the board meeting. Come see what we do.

On the schedule is the Aloha Breakfast fundraiser on April 12, 2020, from 7:00 to 10:00 am. Come join us and learn the secrets of our recipe.

Feel free to contact me at: [tommyyami@gmail.com](mailto:tommyyami@gmail.com)

In gassho,  
Tom Yamaguchi  
*President, VHBT Adult Buddhist Association*

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

2019: 1 year

2018: 3 year

2014: 7 year

2008: 13 year

2004: 17 year

1996: 25 year

1988: 33 year

1971: 50 year



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### **Holiday Service Project** **By Audrey Nobuyuki**

The annual Holiday Service Project took place on December 6, 2019. Along with many other troops, the girls from Troop 5325 helped make holiday ornaments to decorate trees at the Teague Foundation holiday party for foster children and families. We had a lot of fun making ornaments like reindeer ornaments, yarn hats, and cute green wreath ornaments. We also made and decorated holiday cards for the kids and their families. Everyone had a good time munching on pizza and hot chocolate while making cute ornaments.

My favorite part was the cookie exchange where every girl got to pick out a yummy cookie treat. I also enjoyed helping our younger Daisies with the making of the ornaments. It was a lot of fun! I loved how we all got together to help our community!

### **Holiday Party for Foster Children and Families** **By Haley Kaneshiro, Cadette 3**

On December 7, 2019, Troop 5325 Cadettes volunteered to decorate and help with crafts at The Annual Teague Foundation Holiday Party for foster children and families. The night before the party we went to The Torrance Salvation Army Hall to set up tables and chairs for the party.

The day of the party we decorated the tables with mini Christmas trees. We added the handmade ornaments crafted by all the troops from our Marina Unit. It made the room feel festive!

When the families arrived, they had a nice lunch. Santa came and handed presents to all the children. We helped with the crafts and the face painting.

The children had fun making crafts, having their face painted, receiving a present and a book, and having ice



cream. Everyone was put in the Christmas spirit! When they left the party, each family got to take home one of the mini Christmas trees! I always love seeing the happy children!



# SPRING 2020





## Cub Pack 79

As fall turned to winter, Pack 79 welcomed the change in season by settling into our regular den and pack activities where the scouts worked on scout skills and earning awards toward their rank advancement. Parents and families were also invited to participate in activities that included the Halloween party, taiko workshop with Kinnara Taiko and a couple of family fun activities. These activities included an afternoon of indoor rock climbing at Hangar 18 in November, and ice skating at the Toyota Sports Center to start the new year! In the month of December, our scouts also had fun helping at Mochitsuki and spreading some holiday cheer by singing carols with the Dharma School and Girl Scout Troop 5325 at the Kei Ai Nursing Home. In February, we started Founder's month with our Scouting for Food drive for the Westside Food Bank and our scouts collected over 1,100 pounds of food going door to door in their neighborhoods and through temple member support! We closed out the month with our annual Blue & Gold Dinner celebrating the 110th birthday of scouting in the U.S while also reflecting on Pack 79's history. [Click here for our event video](#). Pack 79 thanks the temple community for its continued support of Scouting!

We continue to welcome new families and scouts in Pack 79. For the first time, Pack 79 now welcomes girls to the pack 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 send a note to [cubpack79@vhbt.org](mailto:cubpack79@vhbt.org) or check out our public site at <https://marinacubpack79.shutterfly.com/>



# SPRING 2020



Our Buddhist Education Committee has some activities lined up for this spring. The first on the calendar is our annual Film Festival, to be held in March 2020. The dates and times are below; descriptions of the four films are included on the flyer found in this issue of the Gassho News.

Theme: What is Faith?  
 Dates: March 1, 8, 15, 22 (all Sundays)  
 The movies will screen at 11:30 am at the temple

Our BEC will also host our Spring Ohigan service, to be held on March 15, 2020. The committee will prepare the main dish (an ochazuke bar), and will gladly take donations of salads, jello and desserts to add to our otoki lunch.

By popular demand, our Buddhist Education series of classes will start up again this spring. The topic will be “Jodo Shinshu in America” and the classes will go from 7:30 – 8:30 pm at the temple on the following dates:

April 21, 28

May 19, 26

All classes will be conducted by our Minister’s Assistant, Richard Modiano; a suggested donation is \$5 per class.

In addition to the activities mentioned, our BEC is also looking into organizing a group excursion to a non-Jodo Shinshu Buddhist temple. We have two possibilities in mind, and we are trying to obtain more information about them. Details to follow.



Let’s Learn Day: Mondays, 10:30AM – 11:30AM  
 Chair Exercise (video): Tuesdays, 10:30AM – 11:15AM  
 Game Day: Fridays, 10:30AM – 11:30AM

Venice has been doing Senior Outreach for the past 10 years, during this time we have provided tai-chi, chair exercises, cooking classes, Texas hold em classes, and many educational classes.



These activities have been supported by Senior Outreach fundraisers. The main one being at Marie Callendar’s once or twice a year. Within the past 10 years our fundraising has made over \$6,000.00 to support these activities. The committee and seniors thank you for showing your support by supporting these fundraisers!

We hold activities after service on Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays. More recently we have been sharing our special lunches with the “Toddler” playdate children, their parents and grandparents! Our seniors look forward to the Toddlers “energy” and “hugs”. Everyone is welcome to join in these activities. Thank you again, for your generous support and compassion for our seniors! Itadakimasu!



# SPRING 2020



Weekly  
Dharma School  
Classes



January Kids  
Club:  
Frozen Fun



November Kids  
Club:  
Stone Soup



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## TEMPLE MEMBERSHIP

*The Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple thanks the following members for their 2019 dues received from January 2019 through December 2019. The asterisks (\*) identify our Honorary (Keiro) members who made membership donations. As we begin our membership drive for 2020, we want to thank all of you for continuing to support the Temple through your membership dues.*



**\*Yuri Amamoto, \*Toshi Ashikaga**, 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, Chisako Fukumoto, Ron & Iris Gee, **\*Arlene Hamashita**, Janice Hankawa, Eugene & Phyllis Hayashibara, John & Patti Heyl, Jill Hopfield, Joe & Judy Hopfield, Glenn & Debbie Hoshizaki, Mildred Ichinotsubo, Leonard & Gwen Imada, Shirley Inada, Gerald Iseda, **\*Minako Iseda**, Osami Ishida, **\*Dale Ito**, Joan Ito, Sachiko Ito, **\*Hiroshi** & Kazuko Kadomatsu, Emily Kariya, Yoshiko Kariya, 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**, Tom & Delcene Kuwata, Hide & Yukari Marume, Ayako Masada, David & Michelle Matsubara, Eric & Cindy Matsubayashi, Evann Matsumura, Irene Matsumura, Ted Reeve & Jim Matsuo, **\*Alan** & Jane Matsuzaki, Charles & Sue Mayeda, Mark & Debbie Ching Mayeda, **\*Victoria Morimoto**, Daniel Motobo, Jackie Motobo, Dan Nakagiri, Tom Nakagiri, **\*Jean Nakamoto**, Edgar Nakamura, Ted & Eva Nakasone Nishimura, **\*John** & Judy Nawa, David Nishina, **\*Fusae Nishina**, **\*Yayeko Nishina**, Tony & Kori Nobuyuki, Dale & Gail 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, Merle & Gail Sharp, Mabel Shimasaki, **\*Sam & \*Kuni Shimoguchi**, Mark & Sharlene Shinmoto, **\*Setsuko Shinmoto**, Kiyoe Suzuki, **\*Norm & \*Yoshie Tachiki**, Dave & Arlene Tademaru, Kagemi Takata, Randy & Mari Tamura, Michael & Jill Ishida Tanaka, **\*Sue Tanaka**, Etsuko Nancy Taylor, Carey & Vicki Tokirio, Dean & Julia Ueda, Don & Cyndy Uehara, **\*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

### Membership Categories:

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



# SPRING 2020



# Temple Wish List



## Needed Items and Facility Service Projects

- 60" Commercial gas BBQ grill
- Build new wooden box/stand (2) for kama/rice cooker
- Build new wooden stand (2) for usu (lg. granite bowls used for pounding rice at Mochitsuki)
- New Mochi grinder
- Gorilla racks (2)
- Replace 2 doors at east side of Temple
- Hose, 25' heavy duty (1); small head size rakes (2); push broom (1)
- Install new double pane windows downstairs in social hall
- Large sturdy tables from Mity-Lite Tables, 12 needed – (approx. \$275 ea.)
- New storage shed at south side of garage
- 32 gal. Commercial "Rubbermaid Brute" gray trash cans with lids (4) - (approx. \$30 ea.)
- Commercial Rubbermaid plastic trash can "Dolly" (4) - (approx. \$35 ea.)
- Install smoke detectors; install new intercom at side door
- 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 - holders for rice offering, set of 2 - (approx. cost: \$800)
- Kebyo set - matching altar water holders, etc. - (approx. cost: \$6000)

## Ongoing Needed Items

- Forever postage stamps
- Glue Sticks (Elmer's brand)
- Water, 1 gallon size
- Brita water filters
- 33 gal. heavy duty trash bags
- Paper towels, Ziploc bags (all sizes), napkins
- 6-8 oz. paper hot cups
- Pyrex glass food storage containers with lids
- Large (10 ¼") paper 3-sectional dinner plates
- Regular coffee (ground); Green tea bags
- Mr. Clean Magic Erasers; Bathroom liquid hand soap
- Ajax or Dawn Dish Soap, Bon Ami cleanser; sponges

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*December 2019 to February 2020*

*The Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple gratefully acknowledges & thanks all donors for their generous "Temple Wish Board" donations.*

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\*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](mailto:crouchingbruin@gmail.com) or Rev. Kory Quon @ (310) 391-4351 or via E-mail: [sensei@vhbt.org](mailto:sensei@vhbt.org) for more information.



# SPRING 2020

# Thank You for Your Donations



## November 2019

Eitaikyo: Mr. & Mrs. Milnes Kurashige

Funeral: Mr. Gary Ino, Mr. Ben Kita

Ingo: Mr. Gary Ino

Memorial: Ms. Deborah Bross, Ms. Judy Hopfield, Ms. Kim Kawaratani, N. Kobayashi, Ms. Joyce Matsubara, Ms. Jackie Motobo, Mr. & Mrs. Kenjji Ogawa, Mrs. Tatsumi Omote

Special Donation: Mr. Ron Gee, Mr. & Mrs. Sammy Kishimoto, Mrs. Sanaye Kita

Tri-Temple Seminar: Mr. & Mrs. Joe Belli

## December 2019

Memorial: Mr. Gary Ino (2), Ms. Jackie Motobo, Mr. Jamie Shiraki, Mrs. Kiyoe Suzuki

Special Donation: Ms. Shirley Chami, Ms. Aileen Cooke, Mr. & Mrs. Tom Davall, FIA Insurance Services, Inc., Mr.

Greg Keith, Mr. Ben Kita, Mrs. Noriko Kurashige, Ms. Christina Lugarini, Ms. Jackie Motobo, Ms. Tereza Ouchida, Ms. Elaine Shimomaye, Ms. Catherine Sillman, Mr. & Mrs. Bob Sugino, Ms. Julia Ueda, Ms. Joyce Yamamoto, Ms. Emiko Yamada, Mr. Richard Yamashita

## January 2020

Eitaikyo: Mr. Donald Uehara

Funeral: Mr. Donald Uehara

Memorial: Mrs. Michiko Fujii, Ioki Family, Ms. Karen Morita, Ms. Linda Tanigawa, Ms. Choko Pearson

Special Donation: Mr. & Mrs. Joe Belli, Mrs. Kazuko Endo, Ms. Barbara Fukuji (2), Mr. & Mrs. Frank Koyama, Mr. Milnes Kurashige, Ms. June Kwon (Waves), Mr. Quinn Okamoto, Mrs. Jean Tsunemoto (2), Santa Monica Nikkei Hall Fund

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*Thank you for your generosity*

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## SPRING 2020



# Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

Buddhist Education Committee

## Film Festival 2020

12371 Braddock Drive Culver City, California 90230 (310) 391-4351

### Theme: What Is Faith?

Sunday March 1 at 11:30 A.M.

*I Confess* (1953, USA. 91 minutes)

Otto Keller and his wife Alma work as caretaker and housekeeper at a Catholic church in Québec City, Québec. While robbing a house where he sometimes works as a gardener, Otto is caught and kills the owner. Racked with guilt, he heads back to the church where Father Michael Logan is working late. Otto confesses his crime, but when the police begin to suspect Father Logan, he cannot reveal what he has been told in the confessional.

Sunday March 8 at 11:30 A.M.

*Pickpocket* (France, 1960. 75 minutes)

This incomparable story of crime and redemption from the French master Robert Bresson follows Michel, a young pickpocket who spends his days working the streets, subway cars, and train stations of Paris. As his compulsive pursuit of the thrill of stealing grows, however, so does his fear that his luck is about to run out.

Sunday March 15 at 11:30 A.M.

*A Man for All Seasons* (USA, 1966. 120 minutes)

When the highly respected British statesman Sir Thomas More refuses to pressure the Pope into annulling the marriage of King Henry VIII and his Spanish-born wife, More's clashes with the monarch increase in intensity. A devout Catholic, More stands by his religious principles.

Sunday March 22 at 11:30 A.M.

*War and Youth* 戦争と青春 (Japan, 1991. 112 minutes)

Yuta Hanabusa runs an auto repair shop in a section of Tokyo near the Sumida River. His daughter Yukari has an uncommon interest in what happened to her Aunt Sakiko during the fire-bombing of Tokyo during WWII; her father remains reticent. Finally, Yuta opens up, and his daughter is able to piece together her aunt's tragic story.

A discussion follows each film and refreshments will be available. **Free** but donations gratefully accepted.