

# Gassho

To promote a greater understanding of Jodo Shinghu Buddhism and to continue to live the Nembutsu as a warm and friendly temple



## Sensei's message

### Hello Everyone!

Recently, we celebrated the seven newest additions to our Sangha. I want to thank all the families and extended relatives that participated and made our Hatsumairi possible. I also want to thank everyone that contributed in making the Hatsumairi and Hanamatsuri service as well as the Bento Otoki and Dana Deliveries on April 3 a success. I reflect back to the Dana Delivery message from New Year where I wrote about the traits that are related to the year of the tiger. Be Brave, Competitive, Confident, and Unpredictable. If we were to follow these traits, we would be able to look within ourselves to see our limitations and then go beyond them. I am not saying to make outlandish goals or have unreasonable expectations, but when we do our work with these traits to push forward and install the teachings or Dharma within we can do great



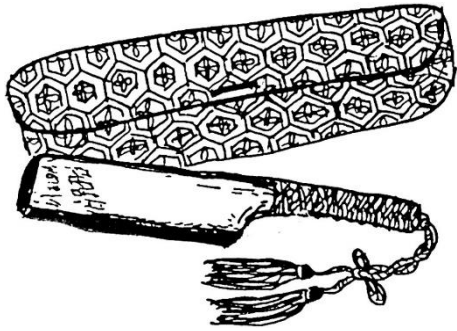
things. One way to do this is to learn the value behind the rituals. Let me show you.



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## Sensei's Message continued...



I hope someday to obtain something that looks like the item above. This is what is traditionally used for the Hatsumairi service and some other ceremonies. It represents the razor used for shaving of our heads during ordination and thereby the cutting away of our ego self. We dedicate our lives to not only follow the Buddha's Teachings, but to do our best to emulate the Buddha. When we bring our children or the next generation, we become motivated to not only live an awakened life for ourselves, but for them. Let us all as a Sangha adopt those that have come after by being their examples.

By leading the way of our community let us look at it as an organism. What kind of nutrients does it need? When we want to be our best we cannot just be fed with anything. We want optimal nutrition for optimal health and energy. We feed our minds the same way. The recipe for Good Food for our Hearts is as follows.

Let us throughout the day, live with clear eyes, warm hearts, and humble attitude.

Let us throughout the day, not become angry.

Let us throughout the day, not utter words of discontent, dissatisfaction, and untruth.

Let us throughout the day, do our daily work with all our power.

Let us throughout the day, rejoice in the Love and Compassion of the Buddha, who is constantly watching over us day and night.

Let us throughout the day, repeat the Name, NAMO AMIDA BUTSU.

Together we recite this every Sunday. By not just reading this passage but living by this we can feed everyone. This is how we observe Hanamatsuri as well. We pledge to follow the Buddha's teachings and also lead the way for others through being living examples.

We have been physically apart for a very long time. I know I am out of practice. How about you? When we come together, let us all work diligently with these directives at our core. If we forget them. Please remind and support each other through our suffering. Looking to the future, let us all eat well and be joyful together! I am excited to see you soon!

Namo Amida Butsu,  
Rev. Kory Quon



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# President's Message

## Happy New Year!

Now that we have held our annual Shinnenkai Celebration, it's time for us to move full steam ahead with our plans for a robust and prosperous 2022. SERVE OUR SANGHA- ensuring that the needs of all of us are addressed - this is our theme for 2022, but it is really a continuation of all the things we have done in recent months.

Our project to replace the Temple roof was completed in February. 2022 could be an amazing physical transformation for our Temple - a new roof, new Uchishiki and Mizuhikis for our Onaijin, and maybe even updated doors (don't forget the nice new rear doors we have thanks to Trent Nishimura).

Thanks to those who participated in our mostly virtual Shinnenkai. We were treated to a delicious bento prepared by our very own acclaimed chef Chris Ono. Chicken Teriyaki (a taste of Obon) was accompanied by Kanpachi (Yellowtail) Sashimi w/Yuzu Kosho (chili sauce), accompanied by Celery Kimpira (a tip to our local celery farms of old), Hasu (lotus stems), and spinach. The children's meal had octopus shaped hot dogs in it (my idea 😊) & fresh fruit instead of the sashimi. The vegetarian option looked quite delicious too (no chicken, sashimi or hot dogs though). During the entertainment, we enjoyed the beautiful voice of Rev. Kory's



*Our Temple's New Roof*

brother Eric, Bon Odori by video - boy those dancers doing the Olympic dance were amazing 😊 - and door prizes led by Tommy Nakagiri and an online wheel with everyone's name on it. There was a Project Bonbu ticket for the adults and an Amazon Fire for the kids. The best part of the day was the video presentations- a replay of Ken Chen's "History of Obon at Venice Hongwanji", a salute to our Senior Dana Deliveries by Aleyna Minamoto, a Holiday video with presentations from all our youth organizations (this was also shared with Kei Ai residents), and a Temple Year in Review



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## *President's Message continued...*

slideshow by Ron Gee. Those who saw the videos said they were filled with pride and joy.

Time to start building our videos for 2022. In February, we will observe Scout Sunday and the Dharma School will hold our annual Pet Memorial. The BWA will have their BWA/Eshinni Sama/Kakushinni Sama/Lady Takeko Kujo Memorial service too. We will have another in our Dining Out Series with a fundraiser at Benny's Tacos and of course, our Girl Scout Troop 5325 will make us all gain weight with their cookie sale.

Our Caregiver Initiative will kickoff on February 28th- we will be providing our registrants with a Caregiver Survival Kit, and access to a forum to post questions and share comments (that's the plan anyway- we're not 100% tech savvy). This very special program, funded by a grant from the Keiro Grants Program, is meant for caregivers, and family members involved in providing care for a loved on (past or present). This is open to anyone (mostly in our Community), and is free to join. In addition, we will continue our Senior Dana Deliveries Program, Dharma School Classes, not to mention activities by Cub Scout Pack 79, Sangha Teens, and Jr. YBA. Whew! That's a lot of stuff!

Our newly forming Young Sangha Committee will incorporate our Sangha Initiative efforts and we will be working to find more ways to serve our younger adults and families. In addition to considering an update to our Obon booth offerings, we would like to see what other

programs we might consider. One project in the works is a Care Package mailing to our college students (still developing this idea, but we're good at bags) both local and away. We'd like to explore some social activities, but probably need to wait a bit for things to settle down.

This is the best way to make the most of a challenging situation- focus on things you can do not dwell on things you can't do. I am so impressed by how folks have stepped up, especially our youth organizations, to find ways to deal with our protocols and other roadblocks- holding meetings and classes outside the Temple, etc. Some folks have even started joining in person for our Sunday and Tuesday Services, and we encourage that as well. But don't worry, if you still aren't comfortable, our Virtual Sangha is there in your place. Remember- SERVE OUR SANGHA.

Spread the word and better yet, if you haven't yet joined us to help or attend one of our programs, consider doing so- active participation is so much more fun, and the more participation we get, the more we can continue to offer. So as you can see, 2022, the Year of the Tiger, is off to a roaring start- onegaishimasu.

In Gassho




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## Eagle Project

Last summer, Trent Nishimura, who has been attending the temple throughout his youth and is currently the Jr. YBA Co-President, completed his Eagle Scout project at the temple as a Life Rank Scout of Troop 764. He had noticed the bi-folding doors at the back of the temple, typically open during events like our obon festival and mochitsuki, were degrading, and decided they could be replaced with doors which were more secure and didn't have the gap at the bottom that would let in rodents and moisture.

During the weekend of August 28-29, 2021, Troop 764 Scouts sanded, painted, and drilled holes into the new doors. On August 29th, Scouts removed the old doors, straightened the door frame, and inserted the new doors with hinges and other attachments. Through a large amount of support from the temple and Troop 764, namely, Tom Yamaguchi, Rev. Kory Quon, Eric Monson (Troop 764), and Bill Conroy (Troop 764 Scoutmaster), Trent's Eagle Project was successfully completed. He is greatly appreciative to have had his Eagle Project at the Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. He is also appreciative of Troop 764 for their support. Trent is currently waiting for his Eagle Board of Review to achieve the Rank of Eagle Scout and hopes to continue to work together with the Temple in the future.



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# Buddhist Women's Association

On Tuesday, January 11, 2022, Rev. Kory virtually installed the 2022 – 2023 cabinet of the Fujinkai, or Buddhist Women's Association, of the Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. Congratulations to Co-Presidents Vicki Tokirio and Linda Oshinomi; President-elect Kristina Fukuda, who still seeks a co-president elect; Recording Secretaries Barbara Fukuji and Phyllis Hayashibara; Corresponding Secretary Phyllis Hayashibara; Treasurers Iris Gee, Judy Nawa, and Gail Sharp; Membership co-chairs Elaine Koyama and Judy Yamaguchi. Still seeking an auditor.



*VHBT BWA Cabinet members being installed by Rev. Kory Quon via Zoom*

On Saturday, February 5, 2022, the BWA hosted its annual Fujinkai Memorial Service to remember all the Fujinkai members who have passed away. The annual VHBT BWA Memorial also commemorates Lady Takeko Kujo, the co-founder of the Buddhist Women's Association in 1904. Lady Kujo died at the age of forty-one or forty-two on February 7, 1928. We call her memorial day Kisaragi-ki.



*Lady Takeko Kujo*

The BWA Memorial Service also commemorates Eshinni-sama and Kakushinni-sama, the wife and daughter, respectively, of Jodo Shinshu founder Shinran Shonin. The discovery of Eshinni sama's written correspondence to her husband Shinran Shonin helped to authenticate the historical



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## *BWA continued...*

existence of Shinran Shonin. Their youngest daughter, Kakushinni sama, cared for her father until he passed into Nirvana on January 16, 1263 at the age of ninety.

We deeply appreciate Reverend Patti Oshita, who retired from the Sacramento Betsuin in 2016, for Zooming in as guest speaker for the BWA Memorial Service.



*Rev. Patti Oshita and Rimban Bob Oshita in 2016*

Thank you to all who supported the November 2021 Virtual Lumbini Boutique! We exceeded our goal of \$2,000, thanks to the generous support of buyers who added donations to their checks and cash. The BWA will hold one more Virtual Lumbini Boutique in October 2022, to deplete our inventory of Japanese-themed items in the shed. If you have any excellent items to donate to the Temple, please contact Phyllis Hayashibara at [phyllishayashibara@gmail.com](mailto:phyllishayashibara@gmail.com) or call her cell at 310-717-3393 or her home at 310-390-1576. We do not have unlimited space to store donated items, so Phyllis would like to make an

appointment to select the items most likely to sell at the October 2022 Virtual Lumbini Boutique.



*Large, decorative dolls did not sell*



*Platters, dishes, bowls, and tea cups sold well*



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Although we had anticipated offering hybrid Dharma School Classes in 2022, we reverted back to all virtual classes due to the Omicron surge for the first 3 months. Now that cases have been decreasing, we are anticipating providing hybrid classes starting in April.

The theme for the first month of 2022 was Shinran Shonin. The Middle School students learned about Shinran's life and his importance to Jodo Shinshu through Emily Kariya's slide show on Jan. 9. They then took different parts of his life to summarize with pictures and/or sentences. On Jan. 23, the Preschool/Elementary School students were presented a brief introduction to Shinran via slide show by Jan Ozaki. This was followed by a craft making a picture of Shinran.



February's Middle/high school class was again led by Emily Kariya on Feb. 6 with the theme of impermanence. Students discussed the poem Shinran wrote when he wanted to become a priest at age 9. Julia Ueda led the class for the Preschool/Elementary School students on Feb. 20.

The Zoom whiteboard was used to talk about and draw pictures of impermanence.

The Dharma School staff were involved with a few other events during the first couple months of the year. On Jan. 29, several of the staff attended the SDDSTL virtual Mini Workshop hosted by Vista. The theme was "I+I+I=LOG: Impermanence + Interconnectedness + Interdependence = Life of Gratitude." Rev. John Turner was the speaker and provided an interesting talk on the topic. Our Pet Memorial service was on Feb. 20 with several participants offering touching remembrances of their beloved pets. Thank you to Judy Hopfield for coordinating and Ron Gee for putting together the slide show.

Dharma School's other main event in Feb. was organizing the Senior Dana Delivery for the 27th. Because Feb. was American Heart Month, we included heart healthy snacks, information on physical activity with a resistance band for exercise, a flyer with heart attack signs, a magnet photo frame that included a card with stroke recognition and heart US postal stamps. The Cub Scouts added a bag for their food drive also. Thanks to the VJCC for their donation of mini granola bars and a crossword puzzle to include in the bags, as well as to Rev. Kory for the heart stress balls and his monthly message. Lastly, thank you to Irene Matsumura who helped the Dharma School staff assemble the bags on the 26th.





# Sangha Teens

By Quinn Daimonji

On the 20th of March Sangha Teens held a mini mochitsuki at the temple. We made mochi, ate delicious hot dogs, wontons, and dango all made by the parents of the teens. We got to sample the mochi we made with different kinds of toppings. We also started our next project of making leis for graduates, which will help us go to Disneyland.



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# Girl Scout Troop 5325

## Horseback Riding

by Kamryn Nobuyuki

The Juniors of Girl scout troop 5325 went horseback riding in Pasadena. We learned about horse care, riding safety and the gear for the horses. We got to lead and meet the horses. The horses went at a walking pace and then started to trot. We all took turns riding the horse we wanted to, and we all got to lead one of the horses. I had a great time riding and leading the horses, my horse was named Diva and we got to give her peppermint and other treats. When we left the day would become a great memory. January 29, 2022, on Saturday was the girls horseback riding day. I think we all enjoyed leaning about our horses and grooming them! I hope we can do it again with our group.



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## Cranes for Ukraine

by Jennifer Yamashita

Our troop recently completed a project to show support for the Ukrainian community. We folded 1,000 blue and yellow origami cranes and strung them to resemble the Ukrainian flag. With some help, we were able to complete the cranes in just two weeks. A few of the girls took the cranes to the volunteer center of Post Angeles/Stand with Ukraine LA at St. Andrew's Ukrainian Church where volunteers are working tirelessly to sort, organize and ship humanitarian aid to Ukraine.

When we presented the cranes, we were surprised at the emotional reaction we received! A few of the volunteers cried and they cleared a space to hang the cranes right away. We explained to the volunteers the story of how origami cranes are a symbol of peace and how legend has it that if you fold 1,000 cranes you can have a wish granted. Our wish is for peace in Ukraine. The volunteers showed us great appreciation and shared Ukrainian cake and candy with us.

The Brownies got to participate too. They read the story of Sadako and I attended one of their meetings to teach them how to fold origami cranes.

We would like to thank Barbara Fukuji, Gayle Sharp, Michelle Orne, and others for helping to fold cranes.



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# Cub Pack 79

After a long winter break where our pack choose to take a little hibernation. We returned with an outdoor pack meeting with the focus on fun to wipe away those winter blues. At our pack meeting the scouts enjoyed some old fashion fun with games like potato sack races, wheel barrel races, and tug-o-war. If you were to ask the scouts what they liked best, hands down Parents vs Scouts tug-o-war was the winner. Spoiler alert the scouts won!!!

Our pack was able to join other scouting organizations in the Temple's Scout Sunday services. We had 10 scouts from our pack attend the service. They listened attentively to all the speakers and loved watching themselves during the video presentation highlighting all the temple's youth organizations.

Spring brings a lot of opportunities for our scouts to volunteer and give back. We decided it was a good time to start our Scouting for Food campaign where the pack collects canned and dry foods for the

Westside food bank. With the help from the Temple and the Senior Dana Deliveries program we were able to deliver 860 lbs of food donations, over 100 lbs more than last year's food drive. The Pack and the Westside food bank offer a big thank you for all the donations, it was greatly appreciated.

We continue to welcome new families and scouts in Pack 79. For the first time, Pack 79 now welcomes girls and kindergarteners 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 reach out to us via email or check us out on social media:

<https://www.facebook.com/culvercubpack79/>  
[Culver Pack 79 - YouTube](#)  
[https://www.culverpack79.com/](https://www.culverpack79.com/cubpack79@vhbt.org)  
[cubpack79@vhbt.org](mailto:cubpack79@vhbt.org)



## SPRING 2022

## 2022 OBON FESTIVAL

For the first time since 2019, the Temple Board has approved a return to an in-person Obon Festival the weekend of July 16 & 17. While some of our food and game offerings may change, we will be inviting the Obon community to join us for two days of fun, Bon Odori and reflection for those who have passed before us. We will also have our traditional Opportunity Drawing and Silent Auction (bidding both in-person and online). Our usual Obon Sponsorships will be available- look for more information as the date approaches. While we may need to adjust our plans if conditions change as we approach Obon Weekend, this is something we can all look forward to this summer.

It takes a village- we are out of practice and a bit older, so we will be asking everyone who is able to jump in and help us stage the weekend for all to enjoy. As the date approaches, we hope you will consider volunteering to help us in a variety of tasks including food preparation, booth staffing and setup, and most importantly, participation.

More details to come soon! So, save the date, tell your friends and family and let's all look forward to our Obon Weekend this July.

## 2022 Memorial Service Schedule by Years

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

2021: 1 year  
2020: 3 year  
2016: 7 year  
2010: 13 year  
2006: 17 year  
1998: 25 year  
1990: 33 year  
1973: 50 year





## TEMPLE MEMBERSHIP

*The Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple thanks the following members for their **2022 dues** received **through March 30, 2022**. The asterisks (\*) identify our Honorary (Keiro) members who made membership donations. As we continue our membership drive for 2022, we want to thank all of you for continuing to support the Temple through your membership dues.*

**\*Yuri Amamoto**, Joe & Dianne Belli, Ken Chen & Sheri Nagata, Martin & Robyn Cohen, Bryan & Aileen Cooke, Mark & Lisa Cummings, Tom & Janet DaVall, Wayne & Karen Eguchi, **\*June Fujioka**, Kei & Tomoko Fukuda, Kristina Fukuda, Ron & Barbara Fukuji, Chisako Fukumoto, Ron & Iris Gee, Glenn Hamashita, Janice Hankawa, Eugene & Phyllis Hayashibara, Jill Hopfield, Joe & Judy Hopfield, Mildred Ichinotsubo, Leonard & Gwen Imada, Shirley Inada, Stacy & Joyce Ino, Gerald Iseda, Nelson & Sharon Ishida, Osami Ishida, **\*Rikio & Fumiko Ishikawa**, **\*Dale Ito**, Jon & Joan Ito, Justin Ito, Sachiko Ito, George & Sachi Johnston, **\*Hiroshi Kadomatsu**, Emily Kariya, Yoshiko Kariya, **\*Sammy & Chieko Kishimoto**, Jimmy Kita & Gail Higa, **\*Sanaye Kita**, Sam & May Kiyohara, Matthew & Jennifer Kobata, Shinobu Koda, Frank & Elaine Koyama, Gary & Leticia Kurashige, **\*Milnes & Nori Kurashige**, Tom & Delcene Kuwata, Joseph & Lynne Lasecki, Orr & Kimberly Limpisvasti, Ayako Masada, Amanda Matsubara, Erik & Cindy Matsubayashi, Eric Matsumura, Evann Matsumura, Irene Matsumura, **\*Alan & Jane Matsuzaki**, Charles & Sue Mayeda, Mark Mayeda & Deborah Ching, **\*Victoria Morimoto**, Daniel Motobo, Jackie Motobo, Brian & Mariko Nakagiri, Cheryl Nakagiri, Dan Nakagiri, Tom Nakagiri, **\*Jean Nakamoto**, Edgar Nakamura, Hiroko Naruo, David Nishina, **\*Fusae Nishina**, **\*Yayeko Nishina**, Jeff & Sachie Nitta, Tony & Kori Nobuyuki, Dale & Gail Noriyuki, Dustin Noriyuki, **\*Kay & Kimi Obana**, Fusako Ogasawara, Jino Ok & Aleya Minamoto-Ok, Margarita Oku, **\*Tatsumi Omote**, **\*Fujiko Oriba**, Craig & Linda Oshinomi, **\*Mitsuko Ota**, Robert & Leah Oye, Ron & Janis Ozaki, John & Valda Palacios, Janet Petersen, Adan Pulido & Stephanie DaVall, Ken Rosengrant & Joyce Enomoto, Billy & Sandy Saeki, Ichiko Sakamoto, Merle & Gail Sharp, Mabel Shimasaki, Catherine Silman, Ken & Sue Sogabe, Kiyoe Suzuki, **\*Norm & Yoshie Tachiki**, Dave & Arlene Tadamaru, **\*Kagemi Takata**, Randy & Mari Tamura, Michael Tanaka & Jill Ishida, Etsuko Nancy Taylor, Carey & Vicki Tokirio, Karen Tokubo, **\*Grennie Uchida**, **\*Yasushi Udagawa**, Dean & Julia Ueda, Kayla Ueda, Kelsey Ueda, Don Uehara, Yoshiko Uyeno, Ron Wakabayashi & Jane Wong, **\*George & Sheryl Yamada**, Tom & Judy Yamaguchi, Gail Yoneda, **\*Sakaye Yoneda**, Kenzo & Annette Yonemitsu, Art & Roseann Yoshida, Spencer & Courtney Yoshikawa



### 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>\$50</b>	<b>Senior Membership*</b> (Keiro – age 80 yrs. before 2018) <b>Complimentary</b>



## *Thank You for Your Donations*

### **January 2022**

Eitaikyo: Milnes & Noriko Kurashige, Minako Iseda

Memorial: June Fujioka, Robert Ideishi, Rev. & Mrs. George Matsubayashi, Tom Nakagiri, Judy Nawa, Julia Ueda, William Yamane

Nokotsudo: Gary Uyeda

Special Donation: BCA Endowment Foundation for Aya Masada, Phyllis Hayashibara, Sharon Ishida, Sam Ishida, Amy Kadomatsu, Tetsuro Kawashiri, Frank & Elaine Koyama (2), Fusako Ogasawara, Fujiko Oriba, Billy & Sandy Saeki, Takashi Takeuchi, Roxanne Tanioka, Jean Tsunemoto (2), Yasushi Udagawa, Rob Yamamoto

### **February 2022**

Eitaikyo: Jackie Motobo

Funeral: Kurahashi Family

Memorial: Bimla Erlenkotter, Bruce Morimoto, Jocelyn Tahara

Obon Sponsorship: Jackie Motobo

Special Donation: Roger Brown, Ken Chen & Sheri Nagata, Rose Hernandez, Mildred Ichinotsubo, Sharon Ishida, Sam Ishida, Amy Kadomatsu, Thomas & Delcene Kuwata, Victoria Morimoto, Jacqueline Motobo, Richard & Kazuko Nakashima, Santa Monica Nikkei Hall Fund, Jean Tsunemoto, Venice ABA, Rob Yamamoto

### **March 2022**

Eitaikyo: Milnes & Noriko Kurashige

Grant: Keiro

Memorial: Martin Cohen & Robyn Shimizu, June Fujioka, Shinobu Koda, Kurahashi Family Hisako Matsumoto, Rumi Mayeda, Tom & Kimberlee Nishimura, Ueda Family, Thomas Yamaguchi, April Yamamoto

Special Donation: Phyllis Hayashibara, Sharon Ishida, Rikio Ishikawa, Henry Iwamoto, Amy Kadomatsu, Sammy Kishimoto, Jean Nakamoto, Ann Togioka, Jean Tsunemoto, Rob Yamamoto

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*Thank you for your generosity*

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# Sangha Teens Fundraiser

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