

Sensei's message

What Are You Thinking?

"Wonderful, indeed, it is to subdue the mind, so difficult to subdue, ever swift, and seizing whatever it desires. A tamed mind brings happiness."

Hello, Everyone! I hope you are enjoying your summer! I imagine that without the summer festivals and Obons these are truly the hottest times of the year. There is nothing to distract the mind from wandering. Do you remember what made summer so Great in younger days? For most of us it was to get away from school or go away to some type of vacation.

When we look to the above phrase, can you imagine what you would have been like without any kind of discipline in your life? Parents are one major element in our development. Likewise, for family and even school if we were able to get it. Let us all imagine what life was like in the past. There have always some kind of structure, but even today the mind sometimes wants and focuses on things that may not be healthy. Buddhism teaches us that we have many distractions and these cause us to lose focus. What do we really need? When eliminating the excess, what do we do with the extra time and energy we may have?

As this thought lingered in my mind, I was reminded that summer also meant having the opportunity to work with our parents. For some it was on a family farm or helping with the family business. It was also

combining our efforts for the all the summer festivals we participated in. In the beginning, it may have been a little hard to learn the routines, but with time it became second nature. This makes me again think of the saying above.

Maybe some of you can relate. I hope you will be looking forward to and joining in digitally to our Obon practice, dancing, and other activities this week. The importance of the time of Obon (between June & August) is to reflect within ourselves. Remember who molded you to be the person you are today. Who helped you to tame your mind so that you can be part of a temple, a community, or even a greater family? Who gave you this gift of the importance to rely on each other so that the whole and future generations will benefit?

Through the Buddha's teaching, these base questions are already installed into your being and with this sense of received compassion let us all be inspired to share. Through this time of year, let us all look inside, give thanks, and celebrate with Joy. This is the True Essence of Obon and with the hope that you will continue to pass on these efforts with Nembutsu.

Namu Amida Butsu

Stay Safe and Stay Sangha Strong!
In Gratitude and Appreciation,
Rev. Kory Quon



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President's Message

What an exciting time this is! It's Summertime, many restrictions are being lifted, and we can start transitioning towards our normal lives once again. We have collectively worked hard to ensure that we could offer some services and comfort to each other during such a difficult time, and I think we succeeded. A big thank you to all of you who have helped us flourish, and I would like to ask for your support as we work to reopen- the best is yet to come!

A big shout out to those who made some of our key initiatives a success:

- Live Stream Services via Zoom has provided us all the ability to attend Services on Sunday and Tuesday mornings, wherever we were- we will continue to offer this service going forward; Special thanks to our AV Crew, including Ron Gee, Carey Tokirio, Tom Yamaguchi and Tommy Nakagiri for making this happen. Finally, a big thank you to Rev. Kory for leading us and making this possible, along with Judy Hopfield and Julia Ueda for coming to the Temple to play the organ each week;
- Virtual Sangha- those who participated helped us fill the Hondo and gave many comfort that they were there in cutout form while they could not be there in person. Our Virtual Sangha was featured in the Wheel of Dharma and the Hongwanji Shimpō- Nishi Hongwanji's (Kyoto)

newspaper that is distributed to over 10,000 Jodo Shinshu Temples worldwide.

- Senior Dana Deliveries celebrated our 1 year anniversary of providing goodies to our Keiro Members and Friends. Thanks to the great leadership of Aleyna Minamoto, we have expanded our routes to reach over 120 Members and Friends in the Westside. The Scouts (Cub Scout Pack 79, Girl Scout Troop 5325, and Boy Scout Troop 764), along with our Jr. YBA, Sangha Initiative, ABA, BWA, and Dharma School have made these deliveries happen;
- Kenny's I and Kenny's II- thanks to our Sangha Initiative, Chris Ono, and the Yamanaka Family, we held 2 very successful Royal fundraisers safely and efficiently. We also provided "Thank You" meals to Community first responders at the LAFD, LAPD and Centinela Hospital, along with the vaccination team at Dodger Stadium. This is a model we use for events going forward;
- Hearts For Love- Led by Girl Scout Troop 5325, the display of Origami Hearts- inspired the the Paper Tree in San Francisco- is designed to bring attention to AAPI hate and proudly hangs in the front of the Temple and on the Windows on the Centinela Ave side of the building. I hope you will have the opportunity to see these displays in person soon. These efforts will



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President's Message continued...

also be featured in the Wheel of Dharma and Hongwanji Shimpō;

This is just a small list of things we accomplished this past year, and we have so much to look forward to. One of the priorities I have asked our Board to work on is to increase our presence and reach in the Community. Starting with our Senior Dana Deliveries program, leading coordination of a joint Memorial Day Service at Woodlawn Cemetery and joining in the planning of a potential Community reopening event at the VJCC, we are well on our way.

OBON

Unfortunately, timing will not allow us to have our Obon Festival for the 2nd time, but again we have many virtual activities planned. I hope you will join us for some or all of these great programs: we have a Silent Auction, Opportunity Drawing, T-Shirt and Tote Bag sale, Scavenger Hunt, Dharma School led Obon Seminars on Lantern Making, Rice Krispy Sushi Making, Tenugui Designing, and I Got It. We will also have Virtual Bon Odori Practice and Dancing on our actual Obon date.

GRADUATES

Congratulations to the many who have graduated this year. I wish you all the best as you move on- be it to High School, College or beyond. All the best, and we hope you will remain connected to the Temple.

MEMBERSHIP

We have already added many new and returning Members this year, and we hope to make this a

year where our Membership actually increases. One item of particular note is that adults under 30 can now join for just \$50! If you know a youngster that would be interested in becoming a member- let them know about this great opportunity. Contact Tommy Nakagiri, Membership Chairperson, at tomn123@aol.com for more information.

JOIN US

As we continue to increase the variety of programs and services we offer, we will need help (as little or as much as you are willing to share). You can join us as part of a committee, or to provide support for a one-time event. Please let someone know (i.e. me- GTIseda@gmail.com) if you can help us. Don't be afraid, everyone is nice and we truly have a great time doing whatever we do.

LOOKING AHEAD

Beyond Obon, we have so much we will be working towards: A Grand Reopening Celebration at the Temple, and likely a Community Reopening Celebration at the VJCC; continued Sangha Series events addressing issues like racism and coping with the stress of COVID-19; various fundraising activities; and more Buddhist Education classes and seminars. We are also going to forming a group to see how we can make 2021 Mochi Tsuki a reality. As a Sangha together, let's continue to be innovative and forward looking as we create activities for all of us while building for the future as well. #EveryoneTogether #MinnaNakayoshi.

In Gassho



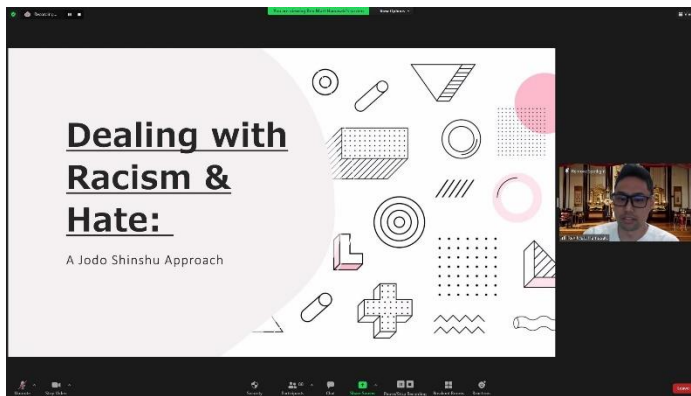

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Venice Hongwanji Hosts 'Dealing with Racism and Hate' Seminar

By Michelle Orne

The Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple Sangha Initiative hosted a special livestream event on April 29 entitled, "Dealing with Racism and Hate, a Jodo Shinshu Approach" that attracted a diverse group of more than 100 people from nearly 20 temples in the BCA and Canada.



This was the first topic of the initiative's Sangha Speaker Series, featuring Rev. Matt Hamasaki of the Sacramento Betsuin, and was intended to bring attention to a serious and timely issue while showing how Jodo Shinshu teachings can help guide us in coping with emotions such as anger and revenge.

Rev. Hamasaki began his presentation with the history of discrimination and racism in the United States and how the concept of a "white race" began during colonial times. He then showed how the methods used to divide whites against Blacks were then used to divide the Japanese American community against itself during the incarceration of World War II. Attendees later commented on how this history lesson better helped them understand how racism has been "woven into the fabric of the United States."

The second part of the seminar focused on the Buddhist teachings and how discrimination and hate can be a product of how our minds are shaped by the

systems in place that reinforce inequality. Rev. Hamasaki shared his opinion on how we can work to dismantle these systems.

The event was recorded and can be found on the Venice Hongwanji YouTube channel at <https://tinyurl.com/SanghaSeries1>.



The Sangha Series was made possible in part by a grant from the Southern District Buddhist Women's Association and is being produced by the Sangha Initiative, a group of younger adults (aged 20-45) at VHBT that develops and hosts events and programs for the entire Sangha while focusing on engaging our younger adults and families.

The Sangha Series was led by the efforts of Monica Belli Haley and Michelle Orne, with the guidance of VHBT Resident Minister Rev. Kory Quon.

The next event is expected to discuss how Jodo Shinshu teachings can help us cope with mental wellness and dealing with stress and anxiety as we return to a world out of quarantine.

The Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple is committed to helping to raise awareness of racism and hate issues through promoting a culture of diversity and inclusiveness. The temple has adopted the following hashtags that we will use as a constant reminder that everyone is welcome should be welcome at our temples and activities: #MinnaNakayoshi & #EveryoneTogether.



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After many meetings over the past couple of years, the Southern District Dharma School Teachers League finally hosted the Federation of Dharma School Teachers League Conference on April 24th. The theme of the conference was "Meeting the Challenges of Today's Dharma School" and was presented virtually. Our keynote speaker was Pieper Toyama, the founding headmaster of the Pacific Buddhist Academy in Honolulu, Hawaii. We enjoyed listening to his talk about Buddhist Katas and Nembutsu moments. There were also 2 workshops focusing on involving family and core values in Dharma School and sharing lesson plans. Thank you to Emily Kariya and Judy Hopfield for helping to facilitate the workshops and to Rev. Kory for his assistance and participation in the conference.

Jayme Heyl led the virtual Dharma School class on May 23rd. The topic involved Buddhist holidays, figures and other Japanese traditions. The students learned about each one as they created a BINGO card. Although we ran out of time to actually play BINGO, the card that was made will be a good tool for the students to learn and remember the various Buddhist holidays and important people. They can also use it to quiz their parents.



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Dharma School continued...

On June 20th, the Dharma School, along with the Temple, honored fathers and graduates at our annual Dads and Grads service. This year there were 6 individuals that graduated from high school and 3 that graduated from college. The 4 Girl Scouts graduating from high school included Riley Horita, Ashley Kaneshiro, Sayla Miyoshi and Nicole Parker. The other 2 high school graduates were Akari Johnston and Emily Kawano. Completing their college education were Nikki Nakamoto, Dustin Noriyuki and Toni Tokirio. Each student received a certificate from the BCA and the book "Jewels." We send congratulations to all and wish them much success as they begin a new chapter of their lives.



Our last Dharma School class for the school year was again led by Jayme Heyl. She read a book titled, "The Color Monster" which talked about colors representing different emotions. After, the kids drew pictures of the different emotions such as happy, sad, anger, fear and calm and wrote down what made them feel that way.



Dharma School will be sponsoring several virtual events during our Obon weekend of July 17 and 18. They are open to everyone and anyone and all ages are welcome. On Sat. July 17 there will be Vellum Paper lantern making at 10 am, Rice Krispies Sushi at 1 pm and Tenugui decorating at 4 pm. Julia Ueda and Judy Hopfield will be leading our virtual Obon Odori at 7 pm on the 17th and "I Got It" will be played on Sun. July 18th at 1 pm. Please see the flyers included in this Gassho. For more information or to sign up for any of the activities, please email obonworkshops@vhbt.org.



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Buddhist Women's Association

On Saturday, February 6, 2021, the Fujinkai hosted the first virtual Fujinkai Memorial in honor of the Fujinkai members who have passed away through 2020, and to commemorate the lives of Lady Takeko Kujo, co-founder of the Buddhist Women's Association in the early 1900s; and of Eshinni sama and Kakushinni sama, wife and daughter of Shinran Shonin who founded what would be known as the Jodo Shinshu sect of Buddhism.



Top left: Rev. Kory Quon with portraits of Kakushinni sama, Eshinni sama, and Lady Takeko Kujo

Fujinkai co-presidents Judy Hopfield and Vicki Tokiri read each of the 109 names on the list of departed. VHBT resident minister Rev. Kory Quon introduced guest speaker Rev. Sala Sekiya, resident minister of San Fernando Valley Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. Rev. Sekiya treated us to a slide presentation of her trip to the Eshinni Museum in Echigo, Japan. Eshinni sama would spend the last years of her life on her family property in Echigo, while her daughter, Kakushinni sama, took care of her father, Shinran,

until he passed away on January 16, 1263 at the age of ninety, in Kyoto.



Rev. Sala Sekiya of the San Fernando Valley Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

While in Echigo, Eshinni-sama wrote letters to her daughter in Kyoto, assuring her of Shiran's passing into Nirvana, even though no strange or miraculous event accompanied his passing, as once was believed to accompany passing into Nirvana.



Eshinni sama's letters to Kakushinni sama helped establish the authenticity of the historical Shinran Shonin



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BWA continued...

The Sangha sang "Sekiya," the lyrics written by Lady Takeko Kujo, a well-regarded poet of her time. She published books of her writings to help fund her charitable projects, including the Kyoto Women's College in 1920; the reconstruction of the Tsukiji Hongan-ji temple and the founding of the Asoka Hospital, one of Japan's first modern medical centers, after the Great Kanto Earthquake of September, 1923.



Fujinkai Officers and Cabinet Installation on Tuesday, February 9, 2021

The Fujinkai donated items for the Dana Deliveries in March, 2021, and included the following items for the 83 Keiro recipients: disposable gloves; Thin Mint Girl Scout cookies in the green box for St. Patrick's Day, March 17; fruit cups; senbei in kokeshi ningyo packaging for Girls' Day, March 3; a note from Reverend Kory Quon, and a card prepared by Fujinkai leaders, Barbara Fukuji and Vicki Tokirio. Much appreciation to the Tokirio family and to Aleya Minamoto of the Sangha Initiative for coordinating the packing and deliveries, respectively. Keiro recipients have been very appreciative.



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Girl Scout Troop 5325

Hearts for Love



Girl Scout Troop 5325 folded and collected over 2,500 origami hearts to create a display of love, inclusion and unity. Paper Trees, an origami store in San Francisco, started the "Hearts for Love" movement to combat the increase in AAPI (Asian American Pacific Islander) hate crimes since the start of the pandemic. The thought behind the movement is to conquer hate with love. We folded hearts and created a collection box at the Temple for others to join in the project.

The response from the Temple community was overwhelming! Ladies from the Temple contributed over 800 hearts, Jr YBA folded 600 hearts. But the messages that were written on the hearts were even more impactful. "Compassion," "Love One Another," "Tolerance," "Stop Asian Hate" – these were messages the troop and the Temple community felt the need to share. The Senior 1 (9th grade) girls helped put together the display. The hearts adorn the Temple's lobby doors and windows in a colorful display calling for an end to hate and filled with wishes for peace and compassion. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this community project!

Silver Award Project: COVID-19 Prevention

By Madison Fujioka, Taylor Nagamine, and Yoshiko Mendoza

The COVID-19 pandemic has killed over 300,000 people in the United States alone. Through our workshops, we educated younger scouts in our troop on what they can do to prevent the spread of COVID-19. In our workshop we taught them about the three most important ways to prevent the spread of COVID-19; to wear a mask, wash their hands often, and social distance as much as possible.



Each of us made a slideshow on one of the three most important ways to prevent Covid 19. During our workshop, we would present an introduction slide going over what we were presenting and information about Covid 19. Then, we would take turns presenting our slideshow. All of us had at least one activity we would engage in with the girls. Taylor played a game where the girls had to guess how many of the item it would take for it to be six feet long. Madison read a book about masks as well as made masks using cloth and elastic. Yoshiko did a pepper and soap experiment. At the end, when all of us were done presenting, the girls played a Kahoot about our presentation.



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Girl Scouts continued ...



We chose this project hoping our direct Girl Scout community would help decrease the spread of COVID and help keep the numbers of cases in our LA County down too. Our project benefits everyone because every person doing their part to prevent the spread of COVID-19 affects the whole world.

Lunches with Love

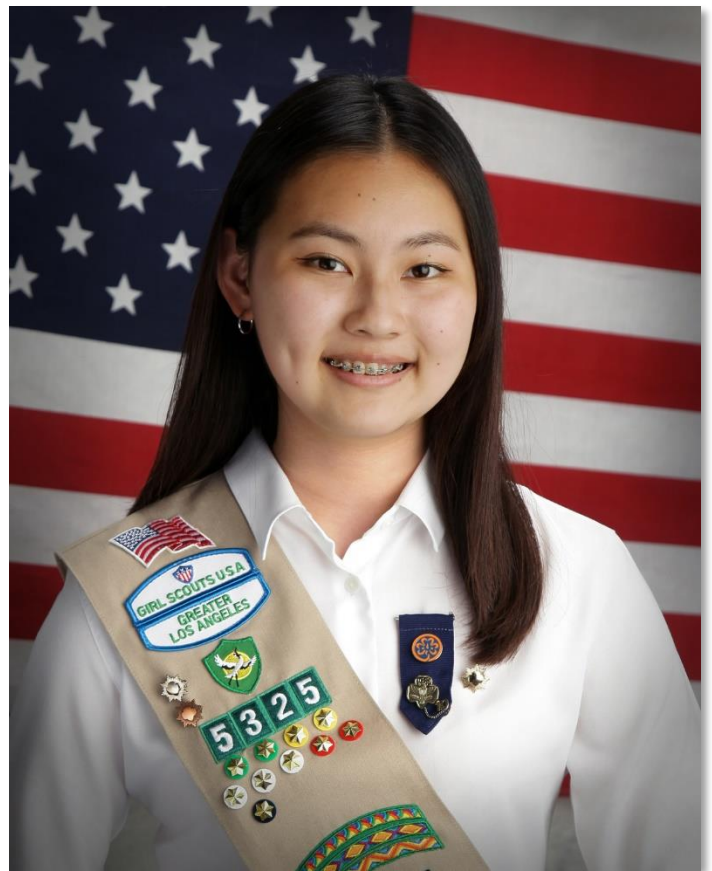
By Jennifer Yamashita

On May 7, 2021, Girl Scout Troop 5325 participated in a service project where we made lunches for those experiencing food insecurity. Twenty-two girls from our troop participated and we made a total of 220 lunches! Each lunch consisted of 2 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, a few snacks and a beverage. We also decorated the bags with uplifting messages. The lunches were taken to a shelter in Torrance and were distributed around the Los Angeles area. I was glad to participate in such a worthwhile project.

Gold Award Honorees

During a difficult year, three girls from Troop 5325, persevered to earn the Gold Award, the highest award in Girl Scouting. Ashley Kaneshiro, Sayla Miyoshi and Nicole Parker were honored for their achievements during the Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles Gold Award ceremony on June 13, 2021. The awardees each

completed a project of at least 80 hours that created a lasting change in their community.



Ashley Kaneshiro

For her project, Ashley Kaneshiro chose to educate youth on the history of the Japanese American basketball leagues and to promote sportsmanship amongst the players. Ashley worked with the West LA Youth Club and Allison Taka from the Nikkei Basketball Heritage Association to create a presentation and workbook to educate players. She also interviewed former players and knowledgeable community members such as Mickey Komai to gather their insights and remembrances. Ashley held virtual meetings with JAO teams to present the information. Her goal was to teach the youth players of today the values that the JA basketball leagues were founded on.



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Girl Scouts continued ...



Sayla Miyoshi

Sayla Miyoshi, a four-year member of the Venice High School sports medicine team, chose to help high school athletes who may need athletic training resources during the pandemic. Sayla realized that with schools being closed, many athletes were left to train on their own without access to coaches or athletic trainers. Under the guidance of Kirsten Farrell, a Venice High School teacher and certified athletic trainer, Sayla held virtual workshops for student-athletes on injury prevention and basic first aid. She also used her curriculum to create a series of videos for student-athletes to refer to in the future. Through her efforts, Sayla was able to provide resources to over 100 student-athletes.



Nicole Parker

Nicole Parker used a trip to Fukushima as inspiration for her Gold Award project. As a high school delegate to Japan, Nicole saw firsthand the aftermath of the 2011 Fukushima earthquake and nuclear disaster. There she learned that the students in Fukushima had one wish: to spread the message that Fukushima and its residents aren't contaminated because of the radiation fallout. In response, Nicole created a workshop to educate U.S. middle schoolers at Culver City Middle School about the Fukushima disaster and about the resulting discrimination residents face. Nicole and her community partner, the Japan America Society of Southern California, hoped to promote the resilience of Japan and teach children to become active global citizens.

Congratulations to all three awardees!



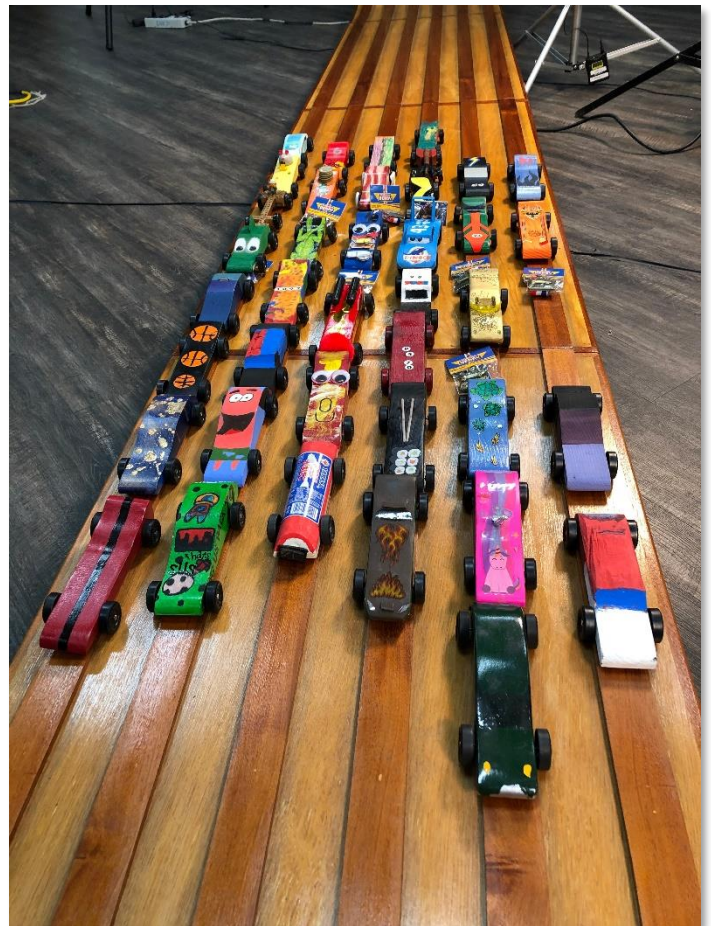
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Cub Pack 79

The Pinewood Derby has always been a highlight of the scouting year, but this year we had to adapt and modify the event to keep this longstanding tradition going. Thanks to the help of the VHBT and community the pack was able to put together our very first live streamed Pinewood Derby. Unable to cheer for their cars in person, the 36 hopeful entries all of whom looking to take home a ribbon cheered from the safety of their homes via zoom and YouTube.



The very competitive series of race heats ended with 5 cars within 3 points of our winner, Tatsu Arai and his car Black Thunder taking home first place as well as an amazing average speed equivalent to 228.37 mph. Watch the race replays at:

<https://youtu.be/1I-YYX2cMDU>.



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Cub Pack 79 continued ...

As restrictions in Los Angeles eased our May fishing trip was our first official pack outing in almost 10 months after the scouting year began. So maybe our socializing skills were a little rusty but luckily our fishing skills weren't as it was one of our most successful fishing trips with every scout and family being able to take home fish and most importantly having a great time.



Our normal graduation in the Hondo was replaced with a hybrid outdoor ceremony at the Temple made up of in person and virtual ceremony that was streamed online. Along with the graduating scouts we honored our outgoing pack leader Rich Yamashita. For his selfless work he was recognized at Council level and was presented with the Asian American Spirit in Scouting Award by his successor Charley Worley. Join us as we welcome Charley as our new pack leader and congratulate all the outgoing scouts on their achievements and wish them well on their future endeavors.



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/marinacubpack79/>

[Marina Cub Pack 79 - YouTube](#)

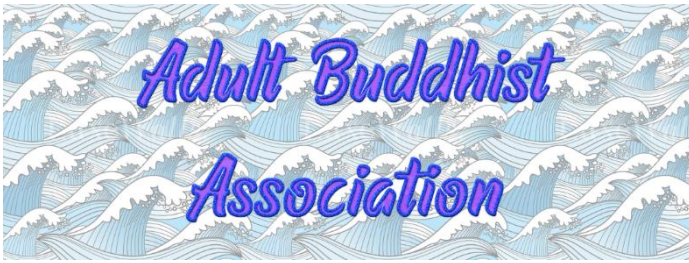
<https://marinacubpack79.shutterfly.com/>

cubpack79@vhbt.org



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2021 Memorial Service Schedule by Years

Are you ready? Are you excited? Are you adventurous? The time has come, to get back to action. We are looking forward to getting back to activities.

In the works, is September Sangha Delivery bags, and Memorial Service for ABA Members who have passed.

October, tentative plans is to have a Cha Shu Bao fund raiser. Details to come.

Then November, to replace our regular Steak Feast, we will have a Cherrystone Bento Fund Raiser.

To complete the year, we are discussing having our Famous Mochi Tsuki making weekend. Keep in touch for more details.

Thanks for all your support and look forward to seeing you back at the temple.

Gassho,
Tom Yamaguchi, ABA President

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

2020: 1 year

2019: 3 year

2015: 7 year

2009: 13 year

2005: 17 year

1997: 25 year

1989: 33 year

1972: 50 year



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TEMPLE MEMBERSHIP

*The Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple thanks the following members for their **2021 dues** received **through June 2021**. The asterisks (*) identify our Honorary (Keiro) members who made membership donations. As we continue our membership drive for 2021, we want to thank all of you for continuing to support the Temple through your membership dues.*

***June Akioka**, Joe & Dianne Belli, Ken Chen & Sheri Nagata, Martin & Robyn Cohen, Bryan & Aileen Cooke, Tom & Janet Davall, Wayne & Karen Eguchi, ***June Fujioka**, Kei & Tomoko Fukuda, Kristina Fukuda, Ron & Barbara Fukuji, Ron & Iris Gee, Glenn Hamashita, Eugene & Phyllis Hayashibara, Jill Hopfield, Joe & Judy Hopfield, Glenn & Debbie Hoshizaki, Nicolo Hoshizaki, Mildred Ichinotsubo, Leonard & Gwen Imada, Shirley Inada, Stacy & Joyce Ino, Gerald Iseda, ***Minako Iseda**, Nelson & Sharon Ishida, Calvin Ito & Sharyn Yoshimi, ***Dale Ito**, Jon & Joan Ito, Sachiko Ito, George & Sachi Johnston, ***Hiroshi Kadomatsu**, Emily Kariya, Yoshiko Kariya, Scot Kawano, ***Sammy & *Chieko Kishimoto**, Jimmy Kita & Gail Higa, ***Sanaye Kita**, Sam & May Kiyohara, Shinobu Koda, Frank & Elaine Koyama, Gary & Leticia Kurashige, ***Milnes & *Nori Kurashige**, Tom & Delcene Kuwata, Hidehisa & Yukari Marume, Ayako Masada, Amanda Matsubara, Erik & Cindy Matsubayashi, Irene Matsumura, ***Alan** & Jane Matsuzaki, Charles & Sue Mayeda, Mark Mayeda & Deborah Ching, Mark & Diane Morimoto, ***Victoria Morimoto**, Daniel Motobo, Jackie Motobo, Cheryl Nakagiri, Dan Nakagiri, Tom Nakagiri, Leslie Nakahara, ***Jean Nakamoto**, Edgar Nakamura, Hiroko Naruo, ***John** & Judy Nawa, 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, Quinn Okamoto, Margarita Oku, ***Tatsumi Omote**, ***Fujiko Oriba**, Craig & Linda Oshinomi, ***Mitsuko Ota**, Robert & Leah Oye, ***Kazuko Ozaki**, Ron & Janis Ozaki, John & Valda Palacios, Janet Petersen, Ted Reeve & Jim Matsuo, Ken Rosengrant & Joyce Enomoto, Billy & Sandy Saeki, Ichiko Sakamoto, Merle & Gail Sharp, Mabel Shimasaki, ***Hitoshi Shimizu**, Mark & Sharlene Shinmoto, 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, ***Yasushi Udagawa**, Dean & Julia Ueda, Kayla Ueda, Kelsey Ueda, Don Uehara, Yoshiko Uyeno, Ron Wakabayashi & Jane Wong, Lance & Barbara Wakasa, ***George** & Sheryl Yamada, Tom & Judy Yamaguchi, Robert & Peggy Yamamoto, Gail Yoneda, ***Sakaye Yoneda**, Kenzo & Annette Yonemitsu, 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 (Formerly \$125!)	Senior Membership* (Keiro – age 80 yrs. before 2018) Complimentary



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Thank You for Your Donations

April 2021

Memorial: Barbara Fukuji, Kei & Tomoko Fukuda, April Yamamoto

Obon Donation: Angel Maid Bakery, MUFG Union Bank

Obon Sponsorship: Deborah Ching, Phyllis Hayashibara

Special Donation: Kazuko Endo, Jack & Grace Fujimoto, Bilal Husain, Sharon Ishida (2), Calvin Ito, Amy Kadomatsu, Michelle Matsubara, Katsuko Nakagawa, Gail Noriyuki, Jean Nakamoto, Richard Nakashima, Kimi Obana, Fujiko Oribe, Takako Sasaki, Jean Tsunemoto (2), Yasushi Udagawa, Yoshiko Uyeno, George Yamada

Special Event Donation: Dianne Belli, Deborah Ching, Janet Davall, Phyllis Hayashibara, Melvin Higashi, Debbie Hiramoto, Fumiko Ige, Calvin Ito, Gene Kanamori, Ayako Masada, Shari McCarthy, Leah Oye (2), Gail Sharp

May 2021

Eitaikyo: Milnes & Noriko Kurashige

Funeral: Family of Gary Nakano

Memorial: Joseph & Dianne Belli, Minako Iseda, Amy Kadomatsu, Arlene Suzuki, April Yamamoto

Obon Sponsorship: Joseph & Dianne Belli, Joyce Enomoto, Eugene Hayashibara DDS, Mae Kumagai, Sharon Kumagai, Milnes & Noriko Kurashige, Yoshie Tachiki (2)

Special Donation: Jack & Grace Fujimoto, Minako Iseda (2), Osami Ishida, Rikio Ishikawa, Amy Kadomatsu, Sammy Kishimoto, Shinobu Koda, Ayako Masada (2), Gail Noriyuki, Kiyoe Suzuki,

Sue Tanaka, Jean Tsunemoto, Yoshiko Uyeno, George Yamada

Special Event Donation: Raymond Bates, Amy Kadomatsu, June Kondo, Milnes & Noriko Kurashige, Richard Masuda, Kimberly Masumiya, James Matsushita, Masami Yamada

June 2021

Memorial: Kumiko Fujioka, Chisako Fukumoto, Kimiko & Larry Fukumoto, Michael Fukumoto, Shinichi Kodani, Jocelyn Tahara, Sue Uematsu Family

Obon Sponsorship: Marty & Robyn Cohen, Janet DaVall, Kei & Tomoko Fukuda, Fukuji & Kuwada Families, Ron Gee, Iseda Family, Jill Ishida, Sammy & Chiyeko Kishimoto, Frank & Elaine Koyama, Kubota Mortuary & Nina Suzuki, Marina Cub Pack 79, Ayako Masada, Irene Matsumura, Chuck & Sue Mayeda, Victoria Morimoto, Jackie Motobo, Daniel Nakagiri, Shig Nakagiri, David Nishina, Yayeko Nishina, Dale & Gail Noriyuki, Margarita Oku, Merle & Gail Sharp, Hitoshi Shimizu, Jamie Shiraki & Family, Ken & Sue Sogabe, Kiyoe Suzuki, Mari Tamura, Carey & Vicki Tokirio, Donald Uehara, Yoshiko Uyeno, Tom & Judy Yamaguchi, Roger & Victoria Yamashita, Michiko Yamashita, Roseann Yoshida

Special Donation: Phyllis Hayashibara, Amy Kadomatsu, Tom & Delcene Kuwata, Ayako Masada, Katsuko Nakagawa, Dale & Gail Noriyuki, Yasuko Tawa

Thank you for your generosity



SUMMER 2021

VENICE HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

OBON 2021



SILENT AUCTION- Many great items, gift baskets, gift cards, and more!

Bidding opens Saturday, June 19th at 9:00AM; Ends Sunday, July 18th at 11:00AM

WWW.32AUCTIONS.COM/2021VHBTObON

VIRTUAL BON ODORI – Dancing via Zoom

Saturday, July 17th at 7:00PM

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88952473222?pwd=N3QvcG9BQ3NZdGd4bEU2OS9uNGIEUT09>

Meeting ID: 889 5247 3222

Passcode: 232299

VIRTUAL BON ODORI PRACTICE- via Zoom

Mondays starting June 28th 7PM

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81278511781?pwd=VOJHekN4RII2T3pFT1lyek5lSmsvdz09>

Wednesdays starting June 30th 7PM

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83939998450?pwd=N1luUTJLQmVhWUhGNmICSEIRUotXdz09>

VHBT MARKETPLACE- T-Shirts, Tote Bags, & More!

Pickup orders only:

<https://givebutter.com/VHBTMarketplace>

OBON SPONSORSHIPS- Available from \$100

<https://givebutter.com/VHBTObonSponsor>

DHARMA SCHOOL SPONSORED OBON ACTIVITIES:



Vellum Paper Lantern Making

With Emily Kariya

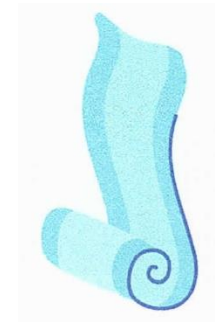
Sat., July 17th at 10 am



Rice Krispies Sushi Making

With Leslie Nakahara

Sat., July 17th at 1 pm



Tenugui (Japanese Towel) Decorating

With Janis Ozaki

Sat., July 17th at 4 pm

"I GOT IT" (BINGO) for prizes

Sun., July 18th at 1 pm

All events will be offered virtually via Zoom. If you would like to participate in any of the activities, please RSVP to ObonWorkshops@vhbt.org and a Zoom link will be sent as the date gets closer.

There will be a limited number of Lantern kits and tenugui that can be picked up from the Venice Buddhist Temple. Please let us know if you would like us to reserve one or both for you.

VENICE HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE MARKETPLACE ORDER FORM

For our 2021 Obon Festival, we are pleased to offer the following items for sale:

2021 OBON T-SHIRT



Childrens Sizes- Red



Adult Sizes- Teal

Our very special design, created by our own very talented Dustin Noriyuki, depicts a diverse crew of Bon Odori dancers in their Happi Coats and Yukata in front of a row of Chochin (Japanese lanterns) that are often used to remember our friends and loved ones who have passed away. The message below includes #minnakayoshi and #everyonetogogether to promote a stronger sense of diversity and inclusion. Available in Men's and Women's styles in teal for \$22, and Children's style in red for \$18.

2021 OBON TOTE BAG



Our soon to be classic Obon T-Shirt design is also available on a tote bag (red or purple). These cotton canvas tote bags measure 14 ½ x 15 1/2. \$12.

COVID-19 VACCINATION CARD HOLDER



Protect your vaccination card with this slim but sharp card holder. The plastic holder is red and is designed specifically to hold the standard vaccination card. The card holder (4 5/8" x 3 7/8") says "My Vaccination Card", along with Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple and #SanghaStrong and #EveryoneTogether, surrounding a white Sagarifuji (Wisteria) crest for easy locating. The flip side is a clear plastic window. Fits perfect in a purse or backpack, or even in your pocket. \$2.

“DANCER IN TRAINING” DRAWSTRING BACKPACKS

Made from our famous Dancer in Training T-Shirts, this black drawstring backpack was handmade and is designed for easy toting or wearing on your back. Will hold your personal items, or for carrying your Bon Odori gear as well. \$20.

“DANCER IN TRAINING” T-SHIRTS

Take this opportunity to get your VHBT “Obon Dancer in Training” T-Shirt.



This brilliant and whimsical Obon themed design appears on the back of the shirt while the front of the shirt has Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple over a pocket sized Sagarifuji (Wisteria). The shirts are made with high quality 100% cotton t-shirts, available in Men's and Ladies' (v-neck) styles. On sale now for \$10/shirt or 3/\$20.

- Men's, Ladies' & Children's styles available:
 - Men's (M, L, XL, and XXL- black)
 - Men's (M, L, XL, and XXL- red)
 - Ladies' (S, M, L, and XL- black)
 - Ladies' (S, M, L, XL, and XXL-red)

Completed & paid orders may be picked up at the Temple any day of the week except Wednesday & Thursday- inquire for shipping rates.

VENICE HONGWANJI HAPPI COATS

Get an official Venice Hongwanji Happi Coat- the one our members use at Obon Festival time. The Happi is white with red lettering and trim. The back design is the kanji “Hotoke” surrounded by Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. Available in M, L, and XL. \$75 (\$65 for Temple members).



**VENICE HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE
OBON MARKETPLACE ORDER FORM**

2021 Obon T-Shirts- Everyone Together

Size	Quantity	Price/Shirt	Total
TEAL			
Men's S		X \$22	
Men's M		X \$22	
Men's L		X \$22	
Men's XL		X \$22	
Men's XXL		X \$22	
TEAL			
Ladies S		X \$22	
Ladies M		X \$22	
Ladies L		X \$22	
Ladies XL		X \$22	
Ladies XXL		X \$22	
RED			
Children's S		X \$18	
Children's M		X \$18	
Children's L		X \$18	

2021 Obon Tote Bags

Color	Quantity	Price/Bag	Total
Purple		X \$12	
Red		X \$12	

Other Items

Color	Quantity	Price	Total
Vaccination Card Holder		X \$2	
"Dancer in Training" Drawstring Backpack		X \$20	

"Dancer in Training" T-Shirts

Size	Quantity		Price/Shirt	Total
	Red	Black		
Men's M			X \$10	
Men's L			X \$10	
Men's XL			X \$10	
Men's XXL			X \$10	
Ladies S			X \$10	
Ladies M			X \$10	
Ladies L			X \$10	
Ladies XL			X \$10	
Ladies XXL			X \$10	

Venice Hongwanji Happi Coats

Size	Quantity	Price	Total
M		X \$75, (\$65 members)	
L		X \$75 (\$65 members)	
XL		X \$75	
ORDER TOTAL:			

Name: _____
Address: _____
City, St., Zip: _____
Email/Cell Phone: _____

Return order form with your check payable to Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple, call Aya Masada at (310) 418-1453 or you may order online at www.givebutter.com/vhbtmarketplace. You may pay by credit or debit card through the GiveButter site.

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