



Sensei's message

Happy Summer to All!

Light Speed Ahead! Do you feel that now that we are doing more things in person that everything is going even more quickly than it did before? I do! It has been great to see so many of you in person. Then, I find that there is not enough time to actually catch up. Especially when trying to say hello to everyone. Do you feel the same way?

I forget that the greatest gift is the intertwining of our life's journey for even an instant, but always find myself in the trap of wanting more. Our tradition considers this as a type of Bonno or Blind Passions.

Bonno - A comprehensive term descriptive of all the forces, conscious and unconscious, that propel unenlightened persons to think, feel, act, and speak – whether in happiness or in sorrow – in such a way as to cause uneasiness, frustration, torment, pain, and sorrow

mentally, emotionally, spiritually, and even physically for themselves and others. While Buddhism makes a detailed and subtle analysis of blind passions, employing such terms as craving, anger, delusion, arrogance, doubt, and wrong views, fundamentally it is rooted in the fierce, stubborn clinging to the foolish and evil self that constitutes the basis of our existence. When we realize the full implications of this truth about ourselves, we see that the human condition is itself nothing but blind passions. Thus, just to live, or wanting to live, as an unenlightened being is to manifest blind passions at all times, regardless of what we may appear to be. One comes to know this, however, only through the illumination of great compassion. Hence, awakening to one's own nature is called the wisdom of shinjin, and the person who realizes it has already been grasped by Amida's Primal Vow.

(Collected Works v. 2 glossary Bonno)



SUMMER 2023

Sensei's Message continued...

Like in many of life's examples, the simple truth is that we have to think about what would really give our lives meaning. In the case of the beginning example, it is the question of quantity versus quality. "Do I speak to as many people as possible or do I spend all my time with a few?" There is no real right answer. Once coming to a determination for the situation, we just do our best.

Think about being Buddhist. Have you analyzed what path works best for you? In this Jodo Shinshu Tradition, we need to be mindful of who we are in this life, commit to a path, and receive the outcome as it is. By going back in my mind and analyzing how an event or conversation went, I am just causing myself suffering that cannot be changed or was never in my control in the first place. Also, sometimes while in the moment I find that I may not truly be committed to my efforts, because I want more. I might just be spreading my attentions too thin. Do you find yourself doing this too?

Namo Amida Butsu is our mind being in the present and recognizing that we are perfectly imperfect with the aspiration for something that has already been given to us. By knowing our limitations, we can commit fully to the process of Amida's Wisdom and Compassion. If we didn't, we might try to multitask or divide our attentions creating an

experience that might not be as fulfilling. If we are honest about our efforts in this life and understand the true depth of Amida's Vow for us all, we can see the impact of the Nembutsu on our lives. How would you create a true qualitative Nembutsu sharing moment with others? It is not just saying the words but would entail knowing the Buddha's constant support and wish for us all, and then enacting the pure act of putting all of our hands together and reciting *Namo Amida Butsu* as One Voice hearing the Buddha's Call.

Think of the Buddha's wish for all of us to attain Ultimate Bliss. This is Happiness and Joy that comes from deep within that is not attained through any type of emotional or material source. Just find the Joy of being alive in this instant. Share this Joy with others with the intent to turn them to a life of Nembutsu which will help them to navigate and manage each moment of their lives. As the final thought, it is important to take a breath, to reflect, and with the intent to change your life just try to share a moment with someone whether in person or in your heart by putting your hands together and saying the 7 syllables of *Na Mo A Mi Da Butsu*.

**Namo Amida Butsu,
Rev. Kory Quon**



SUMMER 2023



President's Message

I always look forward to Obon season, but now for different reasons.

As a kid, I looked forward to the games, snowcones, and dango. Does anyone remember grabbing a grab bag out of the clown's mouth or popping balloons with darts? Being so accident prone, it's a wonder I never got hurt.

As a teenager/young adult, I looked forward more toward bingo and dough ball and the food and hanging out. As a young adult, I looked forward more for the food and dancing.

As an older adult, it's the food and being with and seeing everyone from all over dancing, playing, and working in the booths.

The one constant that I look forward to is seeing people from our temple, other temples, and the general public. It's such a good feeling when you see everyone gathered and having fun.

Beyond Obon season, there are many events and fundraisers to look forward to and enjoy together. There are the various special services at the temple, events such as Mochituski and ABA yearly event (last year it was Udon, not sure what it's going to be this year), and this year bringing back our Rummage Sale and Craft Fair! And be on the lookout for other events such as a Chirashi sale and restaurant fundraisers.

I look forward to seeing and hanging out with everyone at these events and looking forward to seeing everyone at Obon. Let me know if you have any questions about any of the events or if you have any ideas for future events.

In Gassho

Tom Nakagiri



SUMMER 2023

Buddhist Women's Association

Temple members, Fujinkai members, and friends and family joined Rev. Kory Quon on the Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple Trip to Japan, May 6 – 20, 2023. Fujinkai co-President Vicki Tokirio worked closely with Kintetsu International agent Rika Sasaki in crafting an itinerary that included excursions in Kyoto, Kanazawa, Takayama, and Tokyo.

On Tuesday, May 10, Fujinkai members attended the joint celebration of the 800th anniversary of Shinran Shonin's birth, and the 850th anniversary of the founding of Jodo Shinshu at the Nishi Hongwanji Temple in Kyoto, with a special message from Gomonsu Otani Kojun, Shaku Sennyō Monshu of the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha.



On Thursday and Friday, May 11 and 12, the 17th World Buddhist Women's Convention welcomed 2,400 participants (2,000 from Japan and 400 from Brazil, the Buddhist

Churches of America, Canada, and Hawaii), at the Kyoto International Conference Center, a futuristic-looking hexagonal structure designed by Sachio Otani to create vast spaces with few vertical columns to obstruct interior views.



Thursday workshops included Dana practices, Buddhist stories for children, Ikebana, an illustrated biography of Shinran Shonin, lotus flower-making; and a two-person performance, "*Kanashimi wo Wasurenai*", or "We Will Not Forget this Sadness," a true story about survivors of the 3/11/2011 tsunami and the loved ones they lost.

Singer/songwriter/radio personality Chihiro entertained with her lively songs and lavish costumes, and gave every convention participant a copy of her CD, "*Yoki hana yo*," literally but not poetically translated as "Good flower." Representatives of Fujinkai from the five districts also performed songs or dances.



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12371 Braddock Drive, Culver City, CA 90230

BWA continued...

VHBT member Quinn Okamoto helped fill our “free days” not included in the Kintetsu package, with a train ride to picturesque Arashiyama and a fabulous kaiseki lunch on a tatami room overlooking a lush garden at Kyoto Ranzan.



Quinn guided us around the narrow streets at the foot of Kiyomizudera and arranged a kaiseki dinner at Hanasaki in the Gion District. On our final evening in Kyoto, Kintetsu coordinated our dinner at Ganko Restaurant with a performance and Q&A by a Geikosan (Kyoto dialect for Geisha), who said “Okini” which is Arigato in the Kansai dialect.



Quinn met us in Tokyo for shopping and eating excursions, and used his comprehensive knowledge of the Tokyo subway system to get us from Asakusa back to Keio Plaza Hotel on Wednesday, and from Keio Plaza Hotel to Tsukiji Hongwanji for 7 am service on Friday. We enjoyed a walking lunch around the stalls of Tsukiji Outer Market, full of fresh seafood, fruits, and vegetables, plus many foods on a stick, such as tamagoyaki, oysters, unagi, and mochi dango.

Between Kyoto and Tokyo, Fujinkai and friends from Venice, Pasadena, and Colorado travelled by bus through the “Japan Alps” including stops at Eiheiiji, Tonjibo, Kanazawa, Takayama, Kamikochi, and Matsumotojō, an authentic castle that had not been reconstructed after a fire or other destruction over the centuries.



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The theme for Dharma School in May was “Shinran/Jodo Shinshu.” Emily Kariya led the Middle/High school class on May 7 and Leslie Nakahara led the class for the younger students on May 21. On May 14th we celebrated all the moms in our lives at our Mother’s Day service and brunch. All the moms received roses and we enjoyed a delicious Rutt’s brunch of French toast, eggs, bacon and Royale. Dessert was a marbled cake with fresh strawberries.

June’s theme was “Interdependence” and ended classes for the school year. Emily again taught the older students and Janis led the class for the Preschool/Elementary school kids.

Our special service in June was our Dads and Grads service on June 11. All the dads and graduates received the traditional Mr. Goodbar and the graduates also were given a certificate from the BCA, a VHBT mug and pen and the book “Jewels.” Otoki after service included hot dogs, chili rice and salad with cake for dessert. We were fortunate that 3 of the high school graduates from Culver City High were able to attend the service. They were Trent Nishimura, Jameson Johnston and Coh Mihashi. The other graduates that couldn’t make it included Lynn Murakami and Girl Scouts Kimiko Yamaguchi, Ena Kawauchiya, Melia Fernandez, Julia Musumeci and Chiara Valencia. Dharma School would like to congratulate all the graduates and wish them well in the next chapter of their lives.



The VJCC Festival on June 24 concluded Dharma School’s activities for the month. We ran the Plinko game booth and ended up giving away almost all our prizes. Although business seemed slow in the beginning, there were many more players during the end of the afternoon and evening. Thanks to those that helped work a shift. It was nice seeing so much of the community enjoying themselves and catching up with friends they had not seen in a while.

In July, Dharma School will be coordinating the Hot Dog and Chili Rice booth for Obon. Any help that anyone has to offer would be greatly appreciated. Dharma School classes will resume in the Fall so hope to see everyone again in September for Sundae Sunday.



SUMMER 2023



Sangha Teens

By Audrey Nobuyuki

This year we were invited to OCBC's Sangha Teens Social on June 10th. We had a lot of fun playing games and meeting new people at their temple. We enjoyed tacos for dinner, chatting amongst each other at outdoor tables and participating in ice breakers while we ate.

Afterwards, we headed inside to start the activities planned for us. We played games in teams like Pictionary, Tic Tac Toe, and Relay race. We met a lot of other Sangha teens from other temples and got to know each other better throughout the night. I'm glad to have been invited to this event because of the great time I had there with old and new friends.



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Girl Scout Troop 5325

Court of Awards

On May 22, Troop 5325 held our Court of Awards ceremony. We recognized ten Juniors who earned the Bronze Award which is the highest award a Junior Girl Scout can earn. To earn the award, the girls did a project at Avenir Memory Care. They put on a show for the residents and started a newsletter for them. They also made presentations at their schools to educate others on how to support seniors. These same girls then bridged to the Cadette level of Girl Scouts.



Juniors Who Earned Their Bronze Award



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Girl Scouts continued...

We also had five Brownies bridge to Juniors, and we recognized Makaela Asher, Jennifer Yamashita and Julia Musumeci for earning the Gold Award.



*Jennifer Yamashita & Makaela Asher with
Gold Award Plaque*



Brownies Bridging to Junior



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Girl Scouts continued...

Lastly, we said goodbye to six scouts graduating from the troop (Lora Chang, Malia Fernandez, Ena Kawauchiya, Julia Musumeci, Chiara Valencia and Kimiko Yamaguchi) and their leader, Janet Yamaguchi. The adults in the troop created a human bridge for the girls to go through to bridge to adult. It was a great evening with refreshments and a yummy ice cream sundae bar at the end!



Graduating 12th Graders



Bridging to Adult



Troop Picture



SUMMER 2023



Cub Pack 79

For many scouts the Pinewood Derby is the highlight of the scouting year. Each year the cars get faster and the designs more creative. Thanks to the Temple and its club organizations for their donations which allowed us to provide awards at each level in our pack, design awards, and our overall pack winners.



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Cub Pack 79 continued...



This year our overall race winners were Brady Hoffman, Augie Okada, and Julian McGraw.



We also had our first ever club sponsored award. The Sangha Teens sponsored a Kawaii Award where the winner, Chloe Chang, got to name a shave ice flavor combo “Carrot Explosion” at this year’s VHBT Obon festival. Congratulations to all the winners at this year’s Pinewood Derby.



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Cub Pack 79 continued...



Our second family camp at Camp Trask was tucked away in the Monrovia canyon. The camp's unique location presents a feeling that you have journeyed many miles to reach its wilderness setting. The scouts enjoyed its year-round stream where they crossed wood blank bridges, caught frogs and salamanders. Scouts and their families were also able to participate in numerous activities over the weekend like BB shooting, slingshots, archery, gold mining, leather craft, swimming, and campfire smores. The local staff at Trask also gave the scouts a tour of their visitor center and even brought out some friends to meet the kids.



The new scouting year starts soon so don't forget to visit our website for more information.

We continue to welcome new families and scouts in Pack 79. 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/>

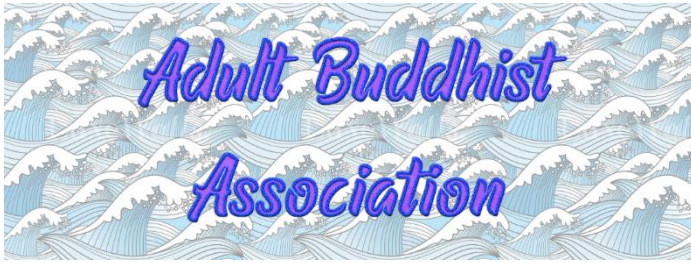
[Culver Pack 79 - YouTube](#)

<https://www.culverpack79.com/>

cubpack79@vhbt.org



SUMMER 2023



Plans for the second half of the year, will be busy.

September we will be having our annual ABA member memorial service. Special guest speaker to be determined.

October we will be participating in the Senior Dana Delivery, the weekend of Oct 14 & 15.

Also, we will be having a joint wine tasting with West Los Angeles ABA. It is planned for October 21, in the evening. More information to follow.

November 11, we will have our annual steak feast, but a little spin on it. It's theme will be "Let's Get Skewered"!! Stay tuned for more details.

And finally, December 2, we will have our annual mochi tsuki. Keep the date available. Your help and participation will be appreciated.

Tom Yamaguchi, ABA President

2023 Memorial Service Schedule by Years

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

2022: 1 year
2021: 3 year
2017: 7 year
2011: 13 year
2007: 17 year
1999: 25 year
1991: 33 year
1974: 50 year



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TEMPLE MEMBERSHIP

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



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

Membership Categories:

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



SUMMER 2023

Thank You for Your Donations

April 2023

Memorial: Joanne Shida-Tokeshi

Special Donation: Anonymous thru Tisbest Philanthropy, Craig Cummings, Sharon & Nelson Ishida, Amy Kadomatsu, Tom Kuwata, Jean Nakamoto, Clifford Tanigawa, Jean Tsunemoto (2), Masaki Ueki, Rob Yamamoto

May 2023

Funeral: Tanigawa Family

Obon Festival Donation: Kori Hojo, Gerald Iseda

Obon Festival Sponsorship: US Bank

Special Donation: Craig Cummings, Sachiko Hirota, Gerald Iseda, Sharon & Nelson Ishida, Amy Kadomatsu, Richard Nakashima, Fujiko Oriba, Mark & Sharlene Shinmoto, Masaki Ueki, Rob Yamamoto

June 2023

Eitaikyo: Milnes & Noriko Kurashige

Funeral: Frank Tamada

Memorial: Joseph & Dianne Belli, Sam Kita, Sanaye Kita, Norman Kumagai, Judy Nawa, Jocelyn Tahara, Karen Tokubo, Judy Yamaguchi, April Yamamoto

Obon Festival Donation: Joyce Enomoto, Glen Hamashita, Jill Ishida, Ayako Masada, Victoria Morimoto, Leah Oye, Gail Sharp

Obon Festival Sponsorship: Dianne Belli, Deborah Ching, Joyce Enomoto, Phyllis Hayashibara, Gerald Iseda, Patti Kirio, Norman Kumagai, Milnes & Noriko Kurashige, Charles Mayeda, Faye Ozaki, Gail Sharp, Mari Tamura, Yoshiko Uyeno, Jane Wong

Special Donation: Craig Cummings, Sharon & Nelson Ishida, Amy Kadomatsu, Sammy Kishimoto, Ayako Masada, Jean Tsunemoto, Rob Yamamoto

Thank you for your generosity



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