

Gassho

To promote a greater understanding and appreciation of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism
and to continue to live the nembutsu as a warm and friendly temple



Sensei's Message

Cock-A-Doodle-Doo 2017

It is the dawn of a new year! 2017! Rooster is calling! Cock-A-Doodle-Doo! Are you ready? What are we being awakened to? As we look to the future, we should reflect on our pasts to know fully what we need in this moment. When I think of the past year, I am brought to think about the many lessons that I have learned from many of our members through the interactions that we have had. Have you taken a moment and reflected on this life? Then reflect on the teachings, and listen to the Buddhas that are calling. They are saying, "Wake Up! There is no time to waste."

***The light of wisdom exceeds all measure,
And every finite living being
Receives this illumination that is like the dawn,
So take Refuge in Amida, the true and real light.***

-Shinran (Hymn of the Pure Land)

Shinran wrote in the passage above, Amida Buddha's light of wisdom extends beyond all barriers reaching out, finding each one of us, and penetrating deep into our being. Why do we need Amida's wisdom? Amida's light? It is not wisdom of our own making or created from our own perceptive conclusions. Amida's wisdom is higher wisdom. It helps us to see the truth within. This truth is the realization and acceptance that we are still on the path to achieve the pure mind of a Buddha.

Like the dawning of day which is inevitable, the light inevitably finds us. This is the great compassion that is spread without discrimination. This compassion helps us to alleviate the tension and entanglements of this life by giving us settlement.

Cock-A-Doodle-Doo! Rooster is calling! Namo Amida Butsu. Namo Amida Butsu. Namo Amida Butsu. Now what is the most important thing in your life? What does the light illuminate?

It is 2017! Come back to Shakyamuni Buddha's original issue of time and impermanence. We as a sangha have had births, weddings, and the passing of loved ones. In the first year of my daughter's life, I have watched her grow, crawl, babble, and now she is beginning to walk. Soon she will be running. None of us can afford to be blinded by our own egocentricity. Sometimes we imagine the priorities of our everyday lives to be grounded in the material and the concrete, but these will only give us short term satisfaction not true joy. For myself, it is working together to deepen our bonds and experiences. These joint experiences are as deep and meaningful as my daughter's first step and our Sunday encounters. You may question how could seeing each other every Sunday be deep and meaningful. It is like Rennyō wrote in his letter, "When I deeply contemplate the transient nature of human existence, I realize that, from beginning to end, life is impermanent like an illusion." This makes each experience no matter how insignificant at the time valuable and precious. We should all be trying to remind ourselves that the greatest importance in this moment is to be settled. The inner peace that Amida gives us through the light helps us by illuminating our passions and ignorance. When we realize this, let us come together and continue the path of receiving and reciprocating Buddha's compassionate light and life through the Name, Namo Amida Butsu.

-Rev. Kery Quon

Winter 2016

Venice Honwanji Buddhist Temple

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President's Message

In Japanese, the end of the year is known as "Shiwasu no Kou," or "The time of *shiwasu*." *Shiwasu* is written with the kanji 師走. 師 is used to refer to Buddhist priests. 走 means "to run."

It is said that this expression came about because Buddhist priests were busy going from house to house giving family services at the end of year. In essence, the end of the year is a very busy time of year.

The same can be said for the Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. Not only is our priest busy, but we are all busy.

Our big events at the end of the year are Eitaikyo Service (11/13), Mochitsuki (12/3) and Oseibo Taikai (12/18), of course. There is also the End of the Year Service, known as Joya-e Service (12/30).

From the first of the year, we have Shu Sho-e New Year's Day Service. A couple weeks later, we are remembering the founder of our sect with ojinjo (early morning services) and Hoonko Service (1/15).

At the end of January, we will celebrate the new year with our annual Shinnen Enkai New Year's Party.

Needless to say, we will all be very busy in December and January, but I think we will all have a good time together at the temple (we always do) as we work to spread the teachings of the Nembutsu and make the Venice Hongwanji an even more friendly, family-centered Jodo Shinshu temple.

日本では、年末はよく「師走の候」と言います。「師」は「僧」のこと、「走」は「走る」。

昔、この時期に、お寺のお坊さんは家から家へ忙しく走り回って、お経を唱えてもらう風習があったからだとします。今も、お坊さんだけでなく、みんなにとって年末は忙しいですね。

ベニス本願寺もおかげさまで忙しいです。11月13日には永代経法要、12月3日には餅つき、12月18日にはお歳暮大会と行事があります。それから、12月30日には除夜会法要が行われます。

元旦の日は修正会法要があります。そして、1月中旬にはお晨朝と報恩講法要もあります。1月の終わりにお寺の新年宴会が行われます。

この通り、我々は忙しいです。しかし、どんなに忙しくても、みんなで仲良く、楽しく念仏のみ教を聞きながら、家族中心の浄土真宗のお寺を築くことができると思います。

-Emily Kariya

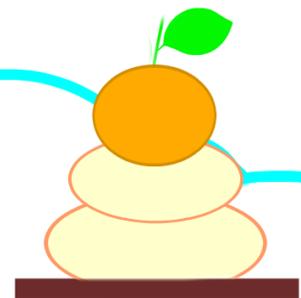
Still need to order Mochi?

Mochitsuki will be on December 3rd, 2016.

Follow the link to the Temple's website for more information.



[Mochitsuki Information](#)



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Fujinkai

By: Phyllis Hayashibara & Judy Hopfield

On August 28, 2016, we celebrated Reverend Kory Quon's First Anniversary at our temple with a luncheon party. Fujinkai members brought jello, salads, fruit, tsukemono, freshly-prepared wonton and desserts for the luncheon. The foods complemented the ABA teriyaki chicken, rice, and Sangha Teen cake.

On September 10, 2016, Phyllis Hayashibara and Aya Masada attended the Southern District Buddhist Women's Association meeting at Vista Temple as voting delegates. The SD BWA voted against all four proposals: to establish a chair for Jodo Shinshu Studies in memory of Eshin-ni Sama and Kakushin-ni Sama, to observe the second Sunday in February with a memorial service for Lady Takeko Kujo, to accept changes to the BCA FBWA Constitution and to accept proposed amendments to the World Federation Bylaws. Phyllis and Ayako will also attend the November 5, 2016 meeting at Vista Temple.

Five Fujinkai members and Reverend Kory Quon joined more than 300 attendees at the 44th Federation of Buddhist Women's Association conference in Bellevue, Washington, October 7 - 9, 2016. The conference theme was "Tsunagatte: Linked in the Nembutsu." Phyllis Hayashibara and Ayako Masada attended the FBWA Delegates' Meeting on Friday. Delegates voted in favor of resolutions to establish and fund an endowed chair at the Institute of Buddhist Studies in the name of Eshin-ni Sama and Kakushin-ni Sama, to recommend observing a memorial service in honor of Lady Takeko Kujo on the second Sunday in February and to approve amendments to the World FBWA bylaws for submission to the Japan, Hawaii, Canada, and Brazil districts at the 2019 World FBWA convention in San Francisco. Dianne Belli, June Fujioka, and Noriko Kurashige also attended the conference. All enjoyed the key note speakers, various workshops, the lunch and the dinner banquet on Saturday. Next FBWA conference will be in Fresno in October, 2018.



As the end of the year draws close, I reflect on the year past. 2016 was a busy year for us all. I hope that all is well with everyone, and as we look forward to 2017. It is the opportunity for use to join together, and enjoy each others interactions.

But there are a few events ahead in the closing months. For ABA, we have our Annual Steak feast and Bingo Night on November 12, from 5:30pm with bingo starting at 6:30pm. You can go the VHBT for flyer and information on ordering your dinner. On November 19th at 8:00 am, we will need strong individuals to set up the mocha walls and move equipment into place. On December 3, we will have the annual MOCHITSUKI. And Oseibo on December 18th.

ABA is open to any adult wishing to join. Please contact Tom Yamaguchi at tommyyami@gmail.com for information. Our regular meetings are the second Tuesday following the Board Meeting.



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Dharma School kicked off the new school year with Sundae Sunday on September 11th, 2016. This year we made our own ice cream by shaking all of the ingredients in a plastic bag. Everyone's hands were very cold and tired at the end, but the ice cream was delicious.

We would like to welcome the following new students for 2016-2017: Luke, Grace, Cody, Molly, Kaylee, Hikari and JJ.

This year's Dharma School Teachers are:
 Preschool (Ages 2-4 years)- Jayme Heyl (Kids Corner)
 TK/Kindergarten- Gail Yoneda (Social Hall)
 1st/2nd/3rd- Judy Hopfield, Julia Ueda & Toni Tokirio (Social Hall)
 4th/5th- Janis Ozaki (Back of the Hondo)
 Middle School- Karyn Heyl (Lobby)
 High School (Weekly)- Emily Kariya (Side Room)

Please contact Jayme Heyl if you are interested in joining Dharma School as a student, teacher, assistant teacher or support staff.

On October 2nd we had our annual Installation and Appreciation Luncheon. Thank you to everyone who helps Dharma School throughout the year. We look forward to another great school year.

Upcoming Events:



- Oseibo Taikai 12/18/16 @ 10:00am
 - Oshoko by: Middle School
 - Sign-up to bring Salads & Desserts
- Winter Break 12/24/16 & 12/31/16
- Holiday Caroling 12/27/16 (Tentative)
- Hoonko Service 1/15/16 @ 10:00am
 - Oshoko by: Preschool
- Scout Sunday 2/5/16 @ 9:30am
- Spring Ohigan
 - Oshoko by: High School



On Sunday, September 18, 2016, our BEC joined our Fujinkai and other temple members in preparing a special and delicious otoki lunch for our fall Ohigan service. Our special guest speaker for the service was Rev. George Matsubayashi, and many people came that morning to hear him speak. Thank you to our BEC and for all the people who contributed to our otoki that day.

On Saturday, October 1, 2016, our BEC hosted a tri-temple seminar about incense for the Gardena, West LA and Venice Chapters. Then seminar featured guest speaker Mr. Masashi Kanamori, Executive Vice President of Nippon Kodo, Inc, the largest incense company in Japan. He gave a most interesting presentation, and provided information on the various types of incense, how they are made, what materials are used to make incense and many other things. One of the most engaging and enlivening parts of his presentation involved seeing and handling the raw materials and samples of incense which he brought to show us. Some of the raw materials were quite expensive and rare. Mr. Kanamori also brought samples of incense for the participants to take home with them.

Our own Rev. Kory Quon then gave a presentation on how incense is used in our Jodo Shinshu Buddhist traditions, and the participants all learned new and interesting things from his presentation.

All in all, it was a most successful seminar, and we've received very positive comments from the participants. For those of you who were not able to be at the seminar, a recording of the presentations can be viewed at: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLkYf7vTkOIJd8grq2Irb3J4Xt-hHcoBB>

We are grateful for the time, effort and generosity of our two presenters in preparing for our seminar, and we thank our BEC for their help and assistance in making this event happen.

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Special Articles

Trip to the Getty

A small group from our temple embarked on a field trip to the Getty Center to view a once-in-a-lifetime exhibit entitled Cave Temples of Dunhuang: Buddhist Art on China's Silk Road on September 1st. We had 18 people in attendance, including members of Bukkyokai, Fujinkai, Dharma School and friends of sangha members.

The exhibit was the culmination of a 25-year plus cooperative effort by the Getty Conservation Institute and the Dunhuang Academy in China to replicate 3 of the nearly 500 remaining Mogao Dunhuang Buddhist cave temples in the Gobi Desert along the Silk Road.

From the 4th to the 14th century these earthen caves were excavated, painted with murals and adorned with sculptures with an emphasis on Buddhism. The artworks reflect the Buddhist influences of the many travelers along the Silk Road. The caves were used by merchants, monks and rulers families during the trading days, then abandoned and allowed to weather until rediscovered in the mid-1900s. The site was named a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1987 and has since been structurally reinforced and restored. Visitors have limited access to the actual caves due to the fragility of these treasures, so the cave replicas will become the primary avenue to experience them in the future.

Our group enjoyed a 3D film that presented an overview of the caves and their significance. We toured the replica caves, had a relaxing lunch in the Getty Center café, strolled the gardens and visited other museum exhibits. We were also able to join the Silk Road and the Buddhist artifacts discovered in the caves.

We enjoyed the local outing and appreciated Rev. Kory sacrificing his day off to accompany and be a chauffeur and enlighten our understanding of the Silk Route in the migration of Buddhism to Japan.

Did YOU Notice?

By Gail Sharp

In the Summer 2016 issue of the Gassho, there was an understated and easily missed article in a bottom corner on Page 5. It was titled, "Thank You," and was written by someone as dedicated to and connected with Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple as his beloved Mamechan.

As quietly as he thought he could retire from the Gassho is the way Kho Iseda does all things at the Temple... quietly and diligently, with hopes that there will be NO fanfare. Imagine his surprise at the September VHBT board meeting when Dianne Belli interrupted business-as-usual armed with thank you card, carrot cake and words of appreciation for Kho's many years of selfless service as editor, writer, printer and umpteen other jobs that need doing to produce a newsletter. And, in that familiar loving and curmudgeonly fashion, his first words in reply were, "This is embarrassing."

Before computers and photocopiers, Kho taught a group of Jr. High Club girls- 1960s Sangha Teens- how to format articles and type mimeograph stencils for the Gassho. Today, he continues to work and bump heads with one of the "girls," but more importantly in his hard work, his discretion and his humility, he is still mentoring all of us in the ways of being a responsible contributor to the well-being of our Temple.

Thank YOU, Kho, for overseeing the Gassho for more years than you and Mamechan have fingers and toes. Mamechan is still expecting to see you around a lot!



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Notice of Bylaws Change (Membership Guidelines)

There will be an important vote at the temple's General Meeting in December 2016. As always, all members are invited to participate in this meeting.

2016年12月の総会で大事な投票が行います。いつも通り、仏教会のメンバー全員が投票に参加できます。The temple's Board of Directors is proposing an amendment to the Bylaws to eliminate the status of Honorary Member beginning January 1, 2018. Until now, a dues-paying member who reaches 80 years old became an Honorary Member, meaning that they did not have to pay temple membership yet continued having the rights and privileges of a Sustaining Member.

仏教会の理事会が名誉会員の枠を規則(内規)から変更しようと提案し、12月の総会にて投票で決めたいと思います。2018年1月1日から変更の実行を予定しています。以前、メンバーシップ費を支払っていたメンバーが80歳になると名誉会員になって、普通のメンバー同様に権利を持ち、メンバーシップ費は前から免除されていました。Instead of maintaining the Honorary Member status, we are proposing that seniors 80+ years old will be assessed a senior member rate. This will be \$125 beginning in 2018. Members 80 years and older before January 1, 2018 will remain Honorary Members.

可決すれば、2018年からは、名誉会員の代わりに、80歳以上のメンバーはシニアレートのメンバーシップ費に変わります。2018年にその費用は\$125になります。2018年1月1日以前に80歳になられたメンバーはそのままメンバーシップ費が無用です。

This Bylaws amendment is in reaction to our silvering population at the temple. It is a good thing that our members are living long and healthy lives, but, there is a disproportion in the temple membership.

この規則の変更はメンバーのシルバー社会現象から意見が出されました。すなわち、元気で長生きするお年寄りの数が多くなったからです。メンバーの平均年齢は65歳で、会員全体の30%が80歳以上になっています。

The following is the resolution and motions made at the May 2016 Board Meeting.

下記は5月の理事会で紹介した決議案と定義案であります。

VENICE HONGWANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE RESOLUTION TO MODIFY TEMPLE MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURE:

Whereas, the Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple is in our 56th year since the founding of our temple and our 40th year as the 61st independent temple of the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA). The longevity and growth we have experienced would not be possible without the support, cooperation, and selfless giving throughout the years by our members;

Whereas, the Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple (VHBT) is a gathering place to hear and understand the Buddha-Dharma according to Jodo Shinshu tradition. Membership is critical to the success of the temple and membership reflects on our decision to make the temple a part of our daily life. Together with our new members and those who will join us in the years to come, the future will remain bright;

Whereas, Sustaining Membership of this organization shall consist of those people who have paid their annual dues and adhere to the purposes for which this corporation is formed;

Whereas, a Sustaining Member who reaches 80 years of age, henceforth is an honorary member of this organization until death or resignation and shall have all rights and privileges of a Sustaining Member, and

Whereas, the average adult temple member age is now over 65 years with approximately 30% of the temple members 80 years and older.

Now, therefore be it resolved that the Membership Guideline Committee of the Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple recommends the following motions:

1. **Motion:** Eliminate the Honorary Member category (those members 80 years and older) as of January 1, 2018. Members 80 years and older prior to January 1, 2018 remain Honorary Members.
2. **Motion:** Starting in 2018 a Sustaining Member who reaches 80 years old will continue as a Sustaining Member paying senior member dues in an amount fixed by the Board of Directors subject to the approval of members of the corporation at a general meeting. The senior member dues shall be roughly equivalent to the BCA annual membership assessment. In 2018 senior member dues will be \$125 per annum.
3. **Motion:** The temple will forward BCA membership dues for every Sustaining and Honorary Member.
4. **Motion:** Bylaws change.

Article III MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Sustaining Membership of this organization shall consist of those people who have paid their annual dues and adhere to the purposes for which this corporation is formed.

Section 2. The full-time resident ministers of the corporation assigned by the Buddhist Churches of America shall be sustaining members of this organization.

Section 3. A Sustaining Member who reaches 80 years of age, henceforth is an honorary member of this organization until death or resignation and shall have all rights and privileges of a Sustaining Member.

Section 34. Supporting Membership of this organization shall consist of those people who adhere to the purposes for which this corporation is formed (Friends in Dharma).

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Thank you for your Donations!

May 2016

Memorial: Ms. Kelly Amamoto, Mrs. Chisako Fukumoto, Mr. Yakari Marume, Mr. Dan Nakagiri, Mr. George Yoneyama

Eitaikyo: Mrs. Sachi Ito

Special Donations: Ballroom Dance Class , BEC Film Festival, Mr. & Mrs. Roger Brown, Jr. YBA Seminar 2

June 2016

Memorial: Mrs. Yuriko Amamoto, Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Hayashibara, Mr. Scot Kawano, Mr. & Mrs. Kenji Koda, Mrs. Yayeko Nishina, Mrs. Tatsumi Omote, Ms. Karen Tokubo

Eitaikyo: Mrs. Sachi Ito

Special Donations: Mrs. Sanaye Kita, Mr. Kevin Kojima, Mr. James Tsuchimori, Gardena Buddhist Church

July 2016

Memorial: Ms. Rumi Mayeda, Mr. & Mrs. Albert Morita, Mr. & Mrs. Merle Sharp, Mr. & Mrs. T. Tanida

Funeral Orei: Ms. Shirley Yoshikawa

Obon Festival: Angel Maid Bakery, Kubota Nikkei Mortuary

Wedding Orei: Jeannette & Kristian Rome

Special Donations: Mrs. Joan Ito, Mr. & Mrs. Takafumi Sogabe, Mr. & Mrs. Carey Tokirio, Mrs. Jean Tsunemoto

August 2016

Memorial: Mr. & Mrs. Ron Fukuji, Mr & Mrs. Kenji Koda, Ms. Beverly Morita, Ms. Wendy Okafuji

Eitaikyo: Mr. & Mrs. Milnes Kurashige

Wedding Orei: Ms. Leslie Nakahara, Mr. & Mrs. Ron Fukuji

Special Donations: Mr. & Mrs. Ken Chen, Ms. June Tani

September 2016

Memorial: Ms. Judy Hopfield, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Mayeda, Ms. Jane Ogawa, Mr. & Mrs. Merle Sharp, Mr. & Mrs. Dean Ueda

Eitaikyo: Mr. & Mrs. Milnes Kurashige

Wedding Orei: Mr. & Mrs. Dan Matsumura

Special Donations: Ballroom Dance Class, Mrs. Jean Tsunemoto

WISH LIST

- Plastic Forks (Heavy Wt.)
- Postage Stamps
- Glue Sticks
- Medium & Large Size "Latex free" Gloves
- Paper Towels
- Napkins
- Bottled Water
- Disposable Sectional Dinner Plates
- Disposable Dessert Plates
- Disposable Bowls
- Paper Hot/Cold Cups
- Regular & Decaf Coffee
- Green Tea Bags
- Ziploc Bags
- 33 Gal Trash Bags
- Windex
- Dish Soap
- Liquid Hand Soap
- Dish Sponges
- Toilet Paper
- Toilet Seat Covers
- Bathroom Paper Towels
- Kleenex Tissue
- Mr. Clean Magic Erasers

For a complete list and more information of how to donate items/services follow the link below

[Temple Wish List](#)



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2017 Memorial Service Schedule by Year

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

2016- 1 year

2001- 17 year

2015- 3 year

1993- 25 year

2011- 7 year

1985- 33 year

2005- 13 year

1968- 50 year



Halau Hula 'O Nalikotauikawekulani

Mahalo for supporting our Halau! We have 1 more fundraiser for 2016. Please join us @ Souplantation on December 19th in support of Ka Hale a Ke Ola, Homeless Resource Center in Maui.



[Souplantation Flyer](#)



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