

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

As October ends and November begins we have watched a great World Series filled with much excitement and hope. Even though Los Angeles Dodger fans were disappointed and heart broken for the outcome. I reflect on all the memories shared and all the hopes for the future, which made our lives bright. I think about how the world seemed to be all about the "Blue Crew."

As the series ended and the results sank in I realized that I had forgotten about many of the current events that were currently happening. Did this happen for you as well? One thing that sank to the back of my mind was the Santa Rosa fire. I could not have imagined that it lasted 23 days and destroyed 5 % of the homes in that area. Did you forget about it too? I am not proud of this fact, but it forces me to realize how easily distracted we can be by our own interests blinding us of the suffering around us.

It is hard for us to stay focused and remember the valuable things in life. I am not saying the Dodgers or any other sports are not important, but they are merely for entertainment and not to be used as an illusory device to take us away from reality. Again, this is hard. This is our inner nature that prioritizes happiness and allows us to forget the happenings around us. As Buddhist we supposed to be constantly vigilante to this mentality of my happiness over all others, but as Nembutsu followers we understand it is a true part of our nature. This does not mean we just accept the fact of our deluded self, but to recognize the Buddha's Compassion to support us in these times.

This is what makes the Primal Vow of Amida so important. It is not concerned with those who can meditate and practice. It is for those that are find themselves limited by live situations or even natural ability. It is for those whom find themselves easily dissuaded by their own desires. It is for the person who finds themselves needing something and do not know what. It is for those times three words fill our hearts with peace, because it brings the Buddha's wish and virtues to the front of our minds giving us hope for our current and eventual future selves.



Amida Buddha's works is such that, "The great practice is to say the Name of the Tathagata of un-hindered light. This practice, embodying all good acts and possessing all roots of virtue, is perfect and most rapid in bringing about birth. It is the treasure ocean of virtues that is suchness or true reality. For this reason, it is called great practice." From this passage of it is the sending forth what is embodied in saying the Name of Amida, Namo Amida Butsu. Nembutsu is the embodiment of purity, truth, goodness, beauty, wisdom and peace. It is all the highest values and qualities both conceivable and inconceivable, which Amida was able to perfect in His infinitely long period of meditation and practice. Without thinking too much allow it to sit and linger in your mind. Namo Amida Butsu.

Please do not get the wrong idea from the beginning of this thought. We still say "Go Doyers!" We also say Namo Amida Butsu, because it showed us our true essence and how easy it is to forget happenings around us. How easy it was to put what was so devastating behind what made us feel good. As Halloween ended and the Nov. 1 game was tragically lost. "___... Congratulations to the Astros...___." The thought occurred that I should check in on Santa Rosa and see how the recovery effort was going. Thinking that like many other fires that usually burn out in a week, only to find out that the fire

lasted 23 days and was officially contained October 31, Halloween. After 4,658 homes lost and as many as 5,000 homeless, again I say Namo Amida Butsu and ask everyone to enjoy life, but try not to forget life..

In Gassho.

-Rev. Kory Quam

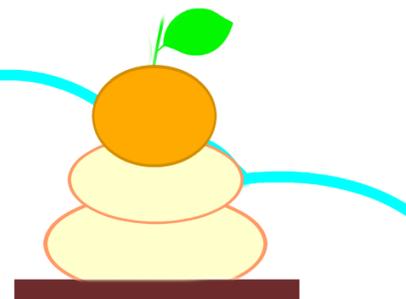
Still need to order Mochi?

Mochitsuki will be on December 2nd 2017

Follow the link to the Temple website for more information



[Click Here](#)



Winter 2017

Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

12371 Braddock Drive, Los Angeles California 90230

President's Message

Can You See the People?

This is the last issue of The Gassho for 2017, which means we are close to the end of the year. It seems like the first year of my VHBT presidency has flown by. Unfortunately, I didn't get to spend as much time on the golf course as our country's president, but hopefully I got a few more things done than he did.

Back in February, while we were waiting for the start of a Southern District Council meeting, Dianne Belli, this year's Southern District President as well as a past President of the VHBT, asked if there was anything about the presidency that I didn't expect. I thought long and hard, but I didn't really have an answer at that point because I was still fairly new to the position. But now that I've had a chance to be more intimately involved with the day-to-day activities, I can say that the most surprising thing was finding out how much work goes on behind the scenes to make sure our temple continues to operate.

I am reminded of a Dharma school message that our resident minister, Rev. Kory Quon, gave a couple of years ago. He had a young student come up to the front of the room, and Rev. Kory used a white board to draw an ice cream cone in front of the student. Then Rev. Kory asked, "When you eat an ice cream cone, can you see the sky in that scoop of ice cream?"

The point of his question was that there were many things that went into the making of that ice cream, from the sky which drops the rain, which nourishes the grass, which feeds the cows, which are milked by the farmers, who transport the milk to the dairies, which makes the ice cream that gets sent to your favorite ice cream parlor. All those indispensable things went into making that ice cream possible for you to eat.

When you visit our temple, can you see the people who keep it going?

When you come to our temple, you may not notice all the hours people spend maintaining the landscaping, making repairs, and keeping the temple clean and organized. A simple mailing of our special services requires a group working together: someone to write the letter, another to translate to Japanese, someone to print off copies, and a team of people to stuff envelopes, and attach stamps & mailing labels. On special services where otoki is served, volunteers show up early to set up tables & chairs, prepare the food, and then stay afterwards to help clean up. This newsletter that you are now reading requires someone to spend hours doing editing and formatting. And even though most people only see Rev. Kory during Sunday services, he is busy on other days, holding weekday services, running around doing private services, attending ministers' meetings, and helping with conferences. Just a few examples of the many people that make the temple what it is today.

So I would like to close the year with a deep expression of gratitude and appreciation to all those who help keep the temple running smoothly. And I would like to invite everyone else to come and lend a hand. As the years go by, we are more dependent than ever on those who help make the temple a warm and family-friendly place to gather.

In Gassho

-Ron Gee

Winter 2017



On Sunday, September 24, 2017, the BEC took charge of our annual fall Ohigan service and otoki. Guest speaker for this service was Rev. Mutsumi Wondra from OCBC. Following the service, everyone enjoyed a delicious otoki, featuring temaki (hand rolls). Everyone made their own rolls using a beautiful array of fillings. In addition, we served several salads, desserts and beverages.

After otoki, a good showing of participants gathered for a book club meeting where we discussed the book, "Hands and Feet of the Heart" by Hisako Nakamura. Rev. Wondra facilitated the meeting and also shared her knowledge about the Buddha's teachings, wisdom and compassion, and she explained how they affected the lives of Hisako Nakamura and all of us.

On October 23, 2017, we began our educational series, "Introduction to Mahayana Buddhism," taught by our Minister's Assistant, Richard Modiano and Rev. Kory Quon. There was good attendance and interest at the classes.

In September and October, our BEC met to discuss our 2018 Southern District Temple/BWA Conference. One of the newest developments is that our Dharma School has taken on the hosting responsibilities for the 2018 Southern District Dharma School Teachers' League conference; it was decided join the two events to make a Southern District Temple/BWA/SDDSTL conference.

To date, we have three speakers engaged, and efforts are being made to reach out to additional speakers. We also have a general format worked out for the entire conference and a task list to handle the logistics. We will continue to meet as a committee at least monthly, and in a couple of months we hope to bring in helpers from our BWA, Dharma School and WLA (who is assisting us). Our next BEC meeting is set for Monday, November 20, 2017.



As the end of the year draws close, I reflect on the year past. 2017 was another busy year for us all. I hope that all is well with everyone, and as we look forward to 2018. It is the opportunity for us to join together, and enjoy each others interactions

For ABA, We have our Annual Steak feast and Bingo Night on **November 11th**, from 5:00 pm with bingo starting at 6:30 pm. You can go to VHBT for flyer and information on ordering your dinner. On **November 18th**, at 8:00am, we will need strong individuals to set up the mocha walls and move equipment into place. On **December 2nd**, we will have the annual MOCHITSUKI and Oseibo on **December 17th**.

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



Let's Learn Day:	Mondays 10:30 am to 11:30 am
Exercise Day:	Tuesdays– Chair Exercise (video) 10:30am to 11:15am
Game Day:	Fridays 10:30am to 11:30 am



Fujinkai



We'd like to begin with an addendum to our article in the last issue of the Gassho. In thanking our Obon festival leaders, we inadvertently omitted our appreciation to Judy Yamaguchi, who took charge of our some of our sushi arrangements and to Sandy Saeki, who not only provided valuable support and information from her previous Obon leadership but also set up a rest and relaxation station for Obon workers. We definitely appreciated this well-appointed station!

On October 14, 2017, Dianne Belli and Phyllis Hayashibara represented VHBT BWA as voting delegates at the FBWA Representatives' Meeting, held at the Fresno Family Dharma Center. A total of 57 FBWA voting delegates attended. The Delegates voted to form a committee to look into an interest-bearing investment account for FBWA funds; Dianne volunteered to be on the committee. In answer to Dianne's question about when the \$50,000 donated so far towards the Eshinni-sama and Kakushinni-sama chair at the IBS would be deposited in the Endowment Fund, it was stated that it would happen after receipt of the Memorandum of Understanding. The Delegates also voted to approve a design for the 2019 WBWC montoshikisho (which would be sold to interested delegates) and to fund \$13,000.00 in seed money towards the initial purchase of these montoshikisho. Save the dates: 2018 FBWA Conference: Sept 14 - 17, 2018 at Marriott Hotel/Visalia Convention Center. 2019 World Buddhist Women's Convention: Aug 30 - Sept 1, 2019 at Marriott Marquis Hotel in San Francisco.

In the waning days of 2017, our BWA has been trying to fill spots on both our 2018 chapter and Southern District cabinets (Venice has toban for the latter). We really need help, so please let Phyllis know if you can volunteer!

The Venice Dharma School teachers installed their new cabinet for 2017 - 2018 on Sunday, Oct. 22. Judy Hopfield and Janis Ozaki are the new co-superintendents. Barbara Fukuji will be the recording secretary, Karyn Heyl, historian and Julia Ueda and Gail Yoneda our treasurers. Our staff would like to thank Jayme Heyl, our outgoing superintendent, for her many years of service in leading our teachers. She will continue to teach the pre-K class as well as plan our Dharma School Kid's Club activities for the year.

Dharma School's annual Halloween Party was held on Sunday, Oct. 29. Dharma school kids, along with some of the cub and girl scouts, enjoyed playing games, eating a delicious potluck dinner and participating in the costume contest. Thanks to the Sangha Teens for helping us set up and run the games. Their assistance was greatly appreciated. Also, thanks to the Girl Scouts for the tunnel that the kids enjoyed crawling through upstairs and all of the families for contributing to the dinner spread. Everything was yummy as usual!

The first Kid's Club activity, Dharma School Pancakes and Pajama Party was held on Nov. 4. Everyone enjoyed pancakes for dinner and a showing of the "Trolls" movie. We look forward to other fun events in the upcoming months.

Lastly, Dharma School would like to thank the following for their donations:

Birthdays: Patti Heyl for Raiden; Cindy and Erik Matsubayashi for Kelly; The Cummings Family for Kenji; Ron and Shirley Inada for Chloe Yoshikawa; Chris and Suzanne Taylor for Grant; Tony Nobuyuki and Kori Hojo for Audrey and Kami; The Yamada and Asher Families for Makaela.

DS Installation: Barbara and Ron Fukuji, Carey and Vicki Tokirio and the Venice Hongwanji BWA.

Halloween Party: The Yamada and Asher Families





The new Cub Scout year got off to a nice start in August as we held our kick-off picnic at Culver City Park in August. At this event welcomed back our returning members from the summer and introduced the pack to a number of families interested in joining scouts.

Our year got off to a fast start in September and October as we welcomed about 13 new scouts and families into Pack 79. Most of our new members were 1st Grade Tiger Scouts with a few 2nd and 4th grade scouts. One of our first pack activities in September was a service project where we participated in the California Coastal Clean Up on Ballona Creek at the Overland crossing in Culver City. By helping with the clean up of our local environment, our scouts were able to have fun outdoors while practicing the scouts' Leave No Trace principles and the Outdoor Code.

A highlight for our 4th and 5th grade scouts always occurs at this time of the year. In late September, 14 of our Webelos and 14 parents attended Camp Cherry Valley on Catalina Island. The scouts were able to earn many awards there as well as getting a chance to enjoy many of the activities that the camp had to offer. From snorkeling, kayaking and swimming to shooting BB guns and archery. One highlight for the Pack was being singled out by the Camp staff to be the color guards during flag raising on Sunday morning. A very proud moment for Pack 79!

Finally, in October many of our scouts were able to wear their costumes for some early Halloween Fun at the Dharma School's annual Halloween Party

Marina Cub Pack 79 has been a part of the temple community since 1970 and in several years we will be celebrating our 50 year anniversary. The Pack is comprised of between 35-50 scouts and is organized into smaller groups known as "dens" where the scouts are grouped by grade level. Our membership welcomes boys from the temple and surrounding communities in the 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th grades. More information on our pack and our activities can be found at <https://marinacubpack79.shutterfly.com/> or if you are interested in learning more, please send a note to cubpack79@vhbt.org

1000 Cranes Flag Ceremony By Ally Yamashita

On September 10, 2017, Senior Girl Scouts Amanda Matsubara, Lindsey Kojima, Jacklyn Oldoerp, Iris Hirata and myself performed the flag ceremony at the "1,000 Cranes: Solidarity, Vigilance & Peace" event at the Venice Japanese American Memorial Monument. This event brought together the Japanese American and Muslim communities in a show of solidarity against racial prejudice and injustices. We helped present 1,000 folded cranes to the King Fahad Mosque of Culver City. I felt that this event was important to remind people about the past internment of Japanese Americans so that something similar never happens to other racial groups.

Investiture/ Re-dedication Ceremony By Jennifer Yamashita

On 10/24/17 the Girl Scouts had an Investiture/Rededication ceremony. Ashley Kaneshiro, Nicole Parker, Riley Horita, and Sayla Miyoshi earned their Silver Award by helping No Limits for Deaf Children. They organized their new kitchen, created recipe and science books for the children. We invested seven new Girl Scouts, five Daisies and two Brownies. We now have 58 girls in our troop ranging from five years old to 17 years old. I also really enjoyed the refreshments after the ceremony with the birthday cake.

In July, we re-started the annual train trip to San Juan Capistrano. We had fun on the way there because we played games and talked to each other the whole way. First we went to Zoomars to feed the animals and cuddle with guinea pigs. Then we went to the mission, where we panned for gold, and made arrowhead necklaces and adobe bricks. The older girls took a cooking class and made a very fancy dinner. We were so tired by the end of the day that we almost took the wrong train! Luckily we made it home safely!

By Leah Matsubayashi



TEMPLE MEMBERSHIP

The Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple thanks the following members for their 2017 dues received from January 2017 through October 2017. The asterisks (*) identify our Honorary (Keiro) members who made membership donations.

***Yuri Amamoto**, Auggie & Billie Arsendiga, Joe & Dianne Belli, Roger Brown, Ken & Sheri Nagata Chen, Marty & Robyn Cohen, Bryan & Aileen Cooke, Mark & Lisa Cummings, Tom & Janet Davall, Donald & Lynn Shinmoto Devirian, Wayne & Karen Eguchi, ***June Fujioka**, Kei and Tomoko Fukuda, Kristina Fukuda, Ron & Barbara Fukuji, Ron & Iris Gee, ***Arlene Hamashita**, Eugene & Phyllis Hayashibara, John & Patti Heyl, Jill Hopfield, Joe & Judy Hopfield, Mildred Ichinotsubo, Leonard & Gwen Imada, Shirley Inada, Gerald Iseda, ***Minako Iseda**, Osami Ishida, Calvin & Sharyn Yoshimi Ito, ***Dale Ito**, Jimmy Ito, Joan Ito, Sachiko Ito, ***Hiroshi** & Kazuko Kadomatsu, Emily Kariya, Yoshiko Kariya, Scot Kawano, ***Sammy & *Chieko Kishimoto**, Jim & Gail Higa Kita, ***Sanaye Kita**, Sam & May Kiyohara, ***Kenji** & Shinobu Koda, Frank & Elaine Koyama, ***Setsuko Kuda**, ***Mae Kumagai**, ***Milnes & *Nori Kurashige**, Michael & Carol Kusama, ***Lillian Kuwata**, Tom & Delcene Kuwata, Ayako Masada, Erik & Cindy Matsubayashi, Irene Matsumura, Alan & Jane Matsuzaki, Charles & Sue Mayeda, Mark & Debbie Ching Mayeda, Mark & Diane Morimoto, Ryan Morimoto, ***Victoria Morimoto**, Hiroko Morita, Daniel Motobo, Jackie Motobo, Dan Nakagiri, ***Mary Nakagiri**, Tom Nakagiri, ***Tyler & *Jean Nakamoto**, ***Setsue Nakamura**, ***Richard Nakashima**, John & Judy Nawa, David Nishina, ***Fusae Nishina**, ***Yayeko Nishina**, Jeff & Sachie Nitta, Anthony & Kori Nobuyuki, Dale & Gail Noriyuki, Darin Noriyuki, Dustin Noriyuki, ***Kay & *Kimi Obana**, Fusako Ogasawara, Quinn Okamoto, ***Ruby Okamoto Malkin**, George & Margarita Oku, ***Tatsumi Omote**, ***Fujiko Oriba**, Craig & Linda Oshinomi, Robert & Leah Oye, Kazuko Ozaki, Ron & Janis Ozaki, Valda & John Palacios, Ken & Joyce Enomoto Rosengrant, Billy & Sandy Saeki, Ichiko Sakamoto, ***Hank Sakauye**, Merle & Gail Sharp, Edward & Mabel Shimasaki, ***Hitoshi Shimizu**, ***Sam & *Kuni Shimoguchi**, ***Manabu & *Emma Shimoyama**, ***Betty Shinmoto**, ***Minoru & *Dorothy Shinmoto**, ***Harry Shinozaki**, Tisako Shoji, Hirohisa & Kiyoe Suzuki, Norm & Yoshie Tachiki, Dave & Arlene Tademaru, Kagemi Takata, Randy & Mari Tamura, Michael & Jill Ishida Tanaka, ***Sue Tanaka**, Etsuko Nancy Taylor, Carey & Vicki Tokirio, Karen Tokubo, Dean & Julia Ueda, Don & Cyndy Uehara, ***Harue Ueki**, Casey Uematsu, Scott Uematsu, Yoshiko Uyeno, Ron & Jane Wong Wakabayashi, Lauren Wolpert, George & Sheryl Yamada, Tom & Judy Yamaguchi, Robert & Peggy Yamamoto, ***Michiko Yamashita**, Gail Yoneda, Kenzo & Annette Yonemitsu, Art & Roseann Yoshida

Membership Categories

Family Members	Individual Members	Senior Members
Family Membership (Includes children under age 22 years) \$500	Individual Membership (Single Adult age 30 and older) \$250	Senior Membership* (Keiro- age 80 years & older) Complimentary
Young Family Membership (Family under age 35 years) \$350	Young Adult Individual Membership (Single adult under age 30 years) \$125	

Winter 2017

WISH LIST

Special Items & Service Projects

- Replace Storage Sheds & shelving in back parking lot
- Electrical installation of Candles for the Onaijin
- 2 New Vinyl Gates (by garage alley)
- Paint Temple interior & exterior
- Uchishiki-4 triangular matching brocade cloths for Onaijin—1 Mizuhiki (table skirt), 1 Tocho (hanging brocade curtain surrounding Amida Buddha)- (approx. Cost for all pieces: \$45,000)
- Obuppan-ki (set of 2- approx. cost \$800)
- Kebyo set (2 matching altar water holders- repair leak or replace)
- New Steel Gate with lock by BBQ grilling area
- New Intercom (at side entrance); Install Smoke Detectors
- New Storage Shed at south side of garage
- Large sturdy Tables from Mity-Lite Tables, (12 needed—approx. \$275 ea)

On- Going Needed Items:

- Water, 1 gallon size; Flats of 8 & 16oz. Water bottles
- Elmer's Brand Glue Sticks
- Mr. Clean Magic Erasers; Scotch- Brite Sponges; Ajax or Dawn Dish Soap
- Green Tea Bags; Nestea Iced Tea
- 7oz. Paper Cold Cups; 6-8 oz. Paper Hot Cups
- Disposable Chopsticks
- Forks, Heavy weight plastic
- Paper Dessert Plates & Bowls
- Paper Towels, Napkins, Toilet tissue, Liquid Hand Soap
- Sm, Med, Lg size Nitrile or Latex free, Powder- free Gloves
- 10 1/4" Lg. Paper 3- sectional Dinner Plates
- 32 Gal. Rubbermaid Commercial Brute Trash Cans; 33 Gal Trash Bags
- Forever Stamps
- Coffee, Regular & Decaf ground

*The Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple will gratefully accept any donations or contributions towards the above needed items & services. Please contact Ron Gee, VHBT President @ (310) 266-7296 or via E-mail: crouchingbruin@gmail.com or Rev. Kory Quon @ (310) 391-4351 or via E-mail: Sensei@vhbt.org for more information.

July to October 2017

The Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple gratefully acknowledge & thank all donors for their generous "Temple Wish Board" donations.

Thank you
for your
Donations!

August 2017

Eitaikyo: Mrs. Minako Iseda, Mr. Milnes Kurashige

Fueneral: Ms. Lou Ann Uyeda

Memorial: Mr. & Mrs. Kenji Koda, Ms. Irene Matsumura, Ms. Janis Ozaki, Mr. Billy Saeki

Special Donations: Angel Maid Bakery, Ms. Karen Tokubo, Torrance Clinical Research Institute, Mr. & Mrs. Kenzo Yonemitsu

Gomonshu Inauguration: June Akioka, Yuri Amamoto, Joe Belli, Ken Chen, Tom Davall, Wayne Eguchi, Kristina Fukuda, Kiyo Hojo, Judy Hopfield, Leonard Imada, Jill Ishida, Riko Ishikawa, Scot Kawano, Sanaye Kita, Kenji Koda, Mae Kumagai, Alan Matsuzaki, Mark Mayeda, Chuck Mayeda, Tyler Nakamoto, Judy Nawa, Sachie Nitta, Tony Nobuyuki, Tatsumi Omote, Janis Ozaki, Valda Palacios, Robyn Shimizu, Lynn Shinmoto, Setsuko Shinmoto, Tisako Shoji, Yoshie Tachiki, Carey Tokirio, Harue Ueki, Masayo Uyeda George Yamada, Robert Yamamoto

September 2017

Funeral: Mrs. Michiko Yamashita

Memorial: Ms. Lou Ann Uyeda Chalom, Mr. Jun Fukushima, Ms. Judy Hopfield, Mr. Calvin Ito, Ms. Colleen Kita, Mrs. Sanaye Kita, Mr. & Mrs. Kenji Koda, Mrs. Tatsumi Omote

Gomonshu Inauguration: Lisa Ino Cummings, June Fujioka, Ron Gee, Sachiko Ito, Sammy Kishimoto, Frank Koyama, Mary Nakagiri, Yashushi Udagawa, George Yoneyama

October 2017

Nokotsudo: Mr. Robert Fujimura

Special Donations: Mr. Art Harago, Torrance Clinical Research Institute

Thank you for your generosity

Winter 2017

Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

12371 Braddock Drive, Los Angeles California 90230



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

Winter 2017