

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

We Have a New GoMonShu (Head Priest)!

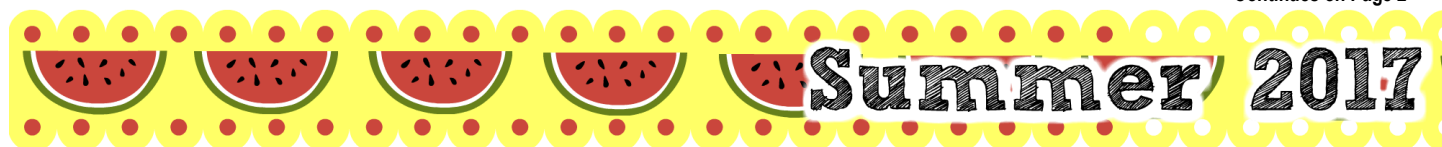


(Above Left: group photo with GoMonShu Sennyō Shonin in the front center.
Right: are pictures of our head priest Sennyō performing the ceremony.)

On March 31, 2017, a group from the Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple had the opportunity to attend the Dento Hokoku Hoyo Service held at Ryukoku-zan, the head temple for the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha school of Buddhism in Kyoto, Japan. The Dento Hokoku Hoyo or Head Priest Accession Service allowed us all as Jodo Shinshu followers to take part in commemorating the beginning leadership of Sennyō Shonin, 25th in the line. Our group made up of travelers from Gardena, Pasadena, New Jersey, San Diego, Venice, and West Los Angeles. It was a beautiful experience. By attending this event, we participated in the continuation of the Jodo Shinshu tradition which began with our founder Shinran Shonin 750 years ago.

After the conclusion of the ceremony, the group stayed in Kyoto to visit the Otani Hombyō or Otani Mausoleum and other sites in the area. We then moved on to Hiroshima for the Peace Memorial and Museum as well as Itsukushima Island or more commonly known as Miyajima. We then traveled South by train to Kagoshima.

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As we continued on our journey together, we were able to share the experience of migrating to Kyushu and to see the Kakure Nembutsu or Hidden Amida Buddha in the southern most areas of Japan. Some background: When Buddhism began Shakyamuni Buddha taught the teaching freely to all those that practiced rigorously for their liberation. In Japan 800 years ago the teachings were seemingly for priests and the nobles of the time, the Jodo Shinshu legacy of Shinran revolutionized the availability of the teachings and made it accessible for everyone. In the 16th century, the Nembutsu teaching grew in popularity and because of this gain much religious persecution. Those caught with Amida Buddha and practicing Jodo Shinshu rituals were subjected to torture and even death. This was a real example of how valuable and how much we take saying the Nembutsu, Namo Amida Butsu for granted. Jodo Shinshu followers then practiced in caves or hid their Amida statues and other items in places unseen like hollowed out support beams in the homes.

***“If I should not become a great provider
In lives to come for immeasurable kalpas
To save the poor and the afflicted everywhere
May I not attain perfect Enlightenment.”***

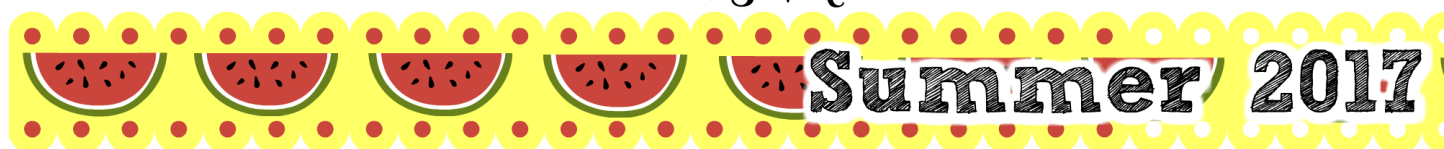
This excerpt is from the second verse of that which we commonly chant and call the Juseige. In this passage, Amida Buddha dedicates his Enlightenment to everyone that is afflicted with suffering and becomes the great provider of the Dharma. As Amida is already a Buddha, he will always be constantly be working for those now and future beings searching for Buddhahood.

Even today, we continue these virtues of the Buddha and work hard to help all those suffering to find true peace. We have to constantly remind our self and others of the Buddha's aspiration for all. Ask yourself and reflect on the Buddha's teachings. We all are in need, and Amida has already reached out and is connected to everyone. We are so fortunate to be able to hear and receive the teachings freely with a temple, home altar, and even a nenju or contemplation beads in our hands.

Kakure Nembutsu awakened an appreciation for the journey that the teachings took to get to each of us. We must also think about the influence that Amida has had our lives and the lives of those that had come before us. Who would you be without Namu Amida Butsu? How valuable is it? Is it enough to do whatever is necessary to guide others to Amida's light and life as we live every-day? These experiences of visiting religious sites transformed within each of us a link from the physical Jodo Shinshu upbringing of thought to a feeling and connectedness to Amida's aspiration and heart. Change the ideals of calculation and logic into a life connected to the Heart and Mind of the Buddha.



-Rev. Kory Quon



President's Message

“To promote a greater understanding and appreciation of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism and to continue to live the Nenbutsu as a warm and friendly, family-centered temple.”

In case you are not familiar with these words, they form the mission statement of the Venice Hongwanji Buddhist Temple. The mission statement was created out of much discussion and deliberation, during a long range planning project that was conducted seven years ago, at the time of the 50th anniversary of the temple.

When I first began coming to the VHBT, it was hard to get to know everyone, with so many new faces. I was fortunate, though, that I already knew a few of the temple members through my wife and her family, so it was relatively easy to become gradually acquainted with a growing number of people. Rev. George Matsubayashi, our resident minister back then, also made me feel very welcome, and over the years, the sangha became, in many ways, like a second family.

Our current resident minister, Rev. Kory Quon, exemplifies the mission statement of the VHBT. If you Google the word “friendly,” you’ll see a picture of Rev. Kory. Well, not quite, but his smiling face would fit in well with all of the other images of friendliness. I always see him talking to everyone: children, seniors, long time members as well as new guests, especially after the services when we have otoki; someone usually has to pack his lunch “to go” because he often foregoes eating in order to socialize with everyone.

For a long time, I was under the impression that most people shared the same warm experiences at the temple that I had, so I was taken aback when I recently learned otherwise. In the past couple of months, I’ve heard instances where individuals felt either unwelcome, unappreciated, or treated rudely. In one case, for example, a young family had come to visit a Dharma School service, but an interaction with one of our members compelled them to find another temple.

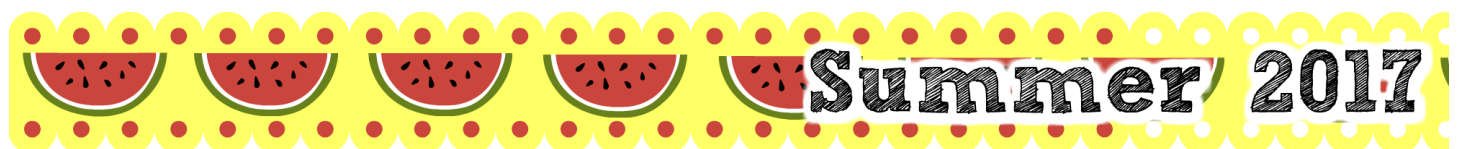
I’m not sure where the challenges originate from. I know we all have different personalities and opinions, and we may not get along with everyone, just like any other family. There may be some of us who feel that we should exclude certain types of individuals from our temple, and to favor others, but I have difficulty reconciling those thoughts with the teachings of Jodo Shinshu as well as with our mission statement.

Since I’ve become President, I’ve tried to make more of an effort to meet people and get to know them. It’s not a skill or trait that comes naturally to me, and I’m pushing to introduce myself to as many different people as possible, especially during those times when we have the opportunity to socialize, like an otoki. Looking back over the years, one of the saddest sights I can recall is seeing an individual or a family sitting by themselves.

I hope our sangha will make the extra effort to welcome everyone who comes to our temple, whether they come to learn the Buddha dharma or participate in one of our organizations. Whether they’re young or old, Japanese or non-Japanese, straight or gay, member or non-member, I hope everyone who comes through our doors feels like they can be part of our VHBT family.

In Gassho,

-Ron Gee





On four successive Mondays in April and May 2017, our BEC hosted a series of Introduction to Buddhism classes. The classes were taught by our own Rev. Kory Quon and one of our Minister's Assistants, Richard Modiano. The topics covered were: the Life of Shakyamuni Buddha, the Four Noble Truths, Buddhism After Shakyamuni and the Transmission of Buddhism Outside of India.

The classes were well attended, with over two dozen people from both our temple Sangha and from the local communities. Some of the new people we met at the classes said that they lived in the area and were curious to know about Buddhism and what we do at our temple. With the enthusiasm shown by the attendees of this class, there is talk of having additional classes in the future.

Thank you to Rev. Kory and Richard Modiano for their course instruction, Minister's Assistant Amy Umezu for compiling class notes and handouts for the students and to our BEC for their logistical help and refreshments.

Our BEC has also been working on plans for the 2018 Southern District Conference, which Venice will be hosting, along with assistance from West Los Angeles Buddhist Temple. We've had difficulty coming up with a conference theme, but now we think we've finally come up with something that we'll use. More information will be announced in the months to come.



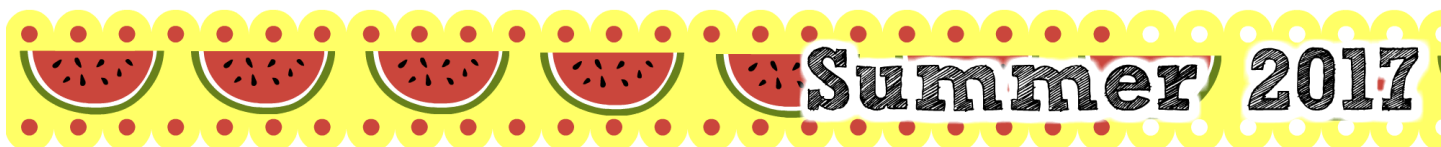
ABA had another successful delicious Aloha Breakfast. Thanks to all those who attended in support of the fund raiser. Up coming events Are: Wine-A- Palooza on May 20 th . From 7:00 to 9:00 pm Hosted by Venice and WLA ABA at the WLA Buddhist Temple. Information on the website. The wines to be tasted are Italian. Contact Connie Yahata at aznmom22@gmail.com. Then the annual VJCC Community Festival June 23, 24 and Annual Obon Festival July 15, 16. Come an enjoy time with the group.



Let's Learn Day: Mondays

Exercise Day: Tuesdays– Chair Exercise (video)

Game Day: Fridays





Cub Pack 79



Dharma School



Know any 1st-5th Graders?
Join our Cub Pack!
 Email cubpack79@vhbt.org
 For more information



Blaze Pizza Fundraiser
 May 29th, 2017
 see attached PDF flyer for
 more information



Rita's Fundraiser
 May 29th, 2017
 Get dessert after pizza!
 More information to come




Menchie's Fundraiser
 June 11th, 2017
 see attached PDF flyer for more
 information



*dharma school welcomes our
 2017 Hatsumairi families!*



VHBT OBON
 JULY 15TH & 16TH
 3:00 PM - 9:00 PM
 ODORI @ 7:00 PM



Summer 2017

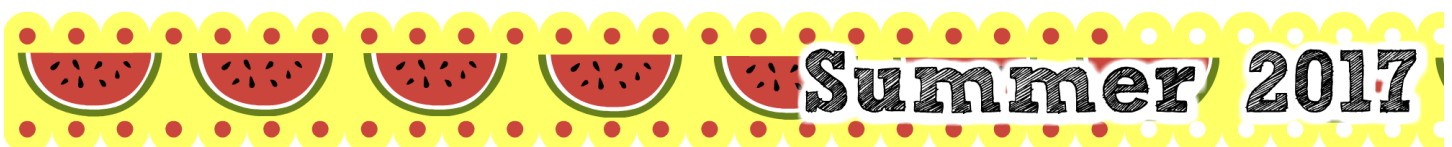
TEMPLE MEMBERSHIP

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

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, Kei & Tomoko Fukuda, Kristina Fukuda, Ron & Barbara Fukuji, Ron & Iris Gee, ***Arlene Hamashita**, Eugene & Phyllis Hayashibara, John & Patti Heyl, Joe & Judy Hopfield, Mildred Ichinotsubo, Leonard & Gwen Imada, Shirley Inada, Gerald Iseda, ***Minako Iseda**, Osami Ishida, Calvin & Sharyn Yoshimi Ito, ***Dale Ito**, Jimmy 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, 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, 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, Etsuko Nancy Taylor, Carey & Vicki Tokirio, 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)	Individual Membership (Single Adult age 30 and older)	Senior Membership* (Keiro- age 80 years & older)
Young Family Membership (Family under age 35 years) \$350	Young Adult Individual Membership (Single adult under age 30 years) \$125	



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
- Home Defibrillator (Costco on-line—approx. cost \$1200+)
- 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
- Forever Postage Stamps
- 10 1/4" Lg. Paper 3- sectional Dinner Plates
- Sm, Med, Lg size Nitrile or Latex free, Powder- free Gloves
- 33 Gal Trash Bags
- Paper Dessert Plates; Bowls
- Fork, Heavy Wt. Plastic; Hashi
- 7oz. Paper Cold Cups; 6-8 oz. Paper Hot Cups
- Paper Towels, Napkins
- Green Tea Bags; Nestea Iced Tea
- Coffee, Regular & Decaf ground
- Mr. Clean Magic Erasers; Scotch- Brite Sponges; Stainless Steel Mesh Scrubbers
- Elmer's Brand Glue Sticks
- Rice, Short Grain

*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.

March to May 2017

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

Thank you
for your
Donations!

February 2017

Eitaikyo: Mr. Gerald Iseda

Funeral: Mr. Gerald Iseda, Mr. Jimmy Kita, Mrs. Yuriko Miyamoto

Memorial: Ms. Sandra Bovey, Mrs. Kiyo Hojo. Mr. Gerald Iseda, Kinnami Inc., Mr. & Mrs. Frank Koyama, Mrs. Tsuyako Miyashiro

Nokotsudo: Mr. Stanley Noguchi

Special Donations: Mr. Randall Inouye, VHBT ABA Mochitsuki

March 2017

Eitaikyo: Mr. & Mrs. Milnes Kurashige

Funeral: Mr. & Mrs. Ross Yasuda

Memorial: Mr. Jimmy Kita, Mr. Sam Kita, Mrs. Sanaye Kita, Mr. Hidehisa Marume, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Miyamoto, Mrs. Fusae Nishina, GR & JR Tochioka, Mrs. Harue Ueki, Mr. Masaki Ueki, Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Watari, Family of Toshio Yahata, Mr. & Mrs. Tom Yamaguchi

Special Donations: Ms. Mildred Ichinotsubo, Mr. Jack Kurihara, Mr. Kagami Takata, Torrance Clinical Research Institute, Ms. Jean Tsunemoto

April 2017

Memorial: Mrs. Fumiko Ikkanda, Mr. & Mrs. Barry Morita, Mrs. Tomiye Nakagiri, Mr. & Mrs. Tsutomu Sera, Mrs. Masayo Uyeda

Wedding: Mr. & Mrs. Barry Morita

Special Donations: Torrance clinical Research Institute, Mrs. Harue Ueki

Gomonsu Inauguration: Mrs. Joyce Enomoto, Mr. Hiroshi Kadomatsu, Mr. Milnes Kurashige, Mr. Alan Matsuzake, Ms. Jennifer Miyoshi, Mrs. Fusae Nishina, Mr. Kay Obana, Ms. Gail Sharp, Mrs. Mabel Shimasaki

Thank you for your generosity

Summer 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

check out the attached flyers for
information on upcoming events

[Click here for OBON Flyer](#)

[Click here for BWA OBON T-shirt Flyer](#)

[Click here for BWA Lumbini Boutique Flyer](#)

[Click here for Cub Scout's Blaze Pizza Fundraiser Flyer](#)

[Click here for Cub Scout's Rita's Fundraiser Flyer](#)

[Click here for Cub Scout's Menchie's Fundraiser Flyer](#)

