

HIGASHI HONGANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

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The Way

Vol. 78 | No. 3
April/May 2026

HIGASHI HONGANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE | LOS ANGELES BETSUIN

TEMPLE SCHEDULE

MAY

- 3 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 5 7:00 pm Tuesday Discussion
- 10 8:30 am **Mother's Day Breakfast**
- 10 10:00 am **Mother's Day Family Service**
- 17 10:00 am **Tanjo-e/Hatsumairi Service**
- 19 7:00 pm Tuesday Discussion
- 24 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 31 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 31 11:30 am **Funeral Pre-planning Workshop with Fukui**

JUNE

- 2 7:00 pm Tuesday Discussion
- 7 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 14 10:00 am **Father's Day/Grads Family Service**
- 16 7:00 pm Tuesday Discussion
- 21 No Service
(YABA Vegas trip)
- 28 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 28 1:00 pm **Lumbini Graduation**

Mother's Day Family Service

SUNDAY, MAY 10 • 10:00 AM
BREAKFAST • 8:30 - 9:45 AM

Father's Day/Graduation Family Service

SUNDAY, JUNE 14 • 10:00 AM
LUNCH TO FOLLOW SERVICE

VISITING THE TEMPLE

The temple is currently open for private services and visitations by appointment. Please call us to schedule an appointment. 213-626-4200

Though we are open for Sunday Services in person, we will continue to
STREAM LIVE ON FACEBOOK
[FACEBOOK.COM/HHBT.LA](https://www.facebook.com/HHBT.LA)
SUNDAYS | 10 AM

Tanjo-e Hatsumairi Service

SUNDAY, MAY 17
10:00AM



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This Beautiful, Uncertain Life

Rev. Mayuki Nagamine

Spring is such a beautiful season. Baseball season has begun, and the weather around this time of year is especially comfortable. I always enjoy it before the long summer arrives. It also happens to be a meaningful time in Buddhism, as both Shakyamuni Buddha and Shinran Shonin were born in April. We observe Hanamatsuri and Tanjo-e to commemorate their births.

Because of the services we often hold such as memorial services and funerals, people may have the impression that Buddhism is centered around death. However, I have come to feel quite the opposite. Through my experience, I have learned that Buddhism highlights the preciousness and beauty of each life.

Even so, it is not always easy to accept the challenges we face. Recently, the brother of my close friend passed away in an accident at the age of 29. It was very sudden, and the family, along with those around them, are still struggling to comprehend the loss and the depth of their grief.

When I first heard the news, I didn't even know what to say. One of the first thoughts that came to mind was how heartbreaking it is that they didn't have the chance to say a proper goodbye.

They likely never imagined that the last time they saw him would truly be the last, as he simply walked out the door. At the same time, I felt how easily I could be in his place, or in his family's place.

Each time I officiate a funeral service, I am reminded of Ren'nyo Shonin's "Letter on White Ashes" and how comforting it can be. It is customary to listen to this letter during funeral services here, but I don't expect those who are grieving to fully take in its meaning especially when the service is held so soon after the passing.

The message in the "Letter of White

Ashes" is to awaken to the truth of our lives, which is that we do not know how limited our time truly is. I think, in theory, everyone understands this.

However, it is not an awareness we carry closely as we go about our everyday lives.

When I learned the story of the Parinirvana; the passing of Shakyamuni Buddha, something he said has stayed with me ever since. After a lifetime of deep and challenging teachings, one of his last words is recorded in the Mahaparinirvana Sutra like this:

"Ananda, Vaishali is beautiful. The Capalashrine is delightful. The Gautama shrine is beautiful. The Sala tree shrine is beautiful... This world is beautiful. And human life is precious."

Oftentimes, the teachings of Shakyamuni can come across as challenging and difficult to understand, which is also why he initially hesitated to share his experience and insights with others after attaining enlightenment. However, as this passage is considered as his final message before his passing, it brings everything back to the reality of impermanence and how precious it is to receive life as a human.

This teaching has been on my mind especially because of my friend's brother. Life really does feel ordinary until it suddenly is not. He was just going about his day like any of us would, probably thinking that would not be the last time to see his family and friends. And then everything changed in a way no one could have expected.

Going back to the words of Shakyamuni Buddha, "This world is beautiful, and human life is precious," this does not cancel out the loss or the grief of someone's passing. Rather, the fact that we have all received human life and are

able to share this experience together is itself something truly miraculous, and something we should not take for granted.

When something like this happens so close to you, it really strikes you how uncertain life is. At the same time, it also makes you realize how much people care for and love each other. In the eulogy of my friend's brother, he was described as "someone who gave so much to his family and community." The grief is heavy, but it also shows just how deep those connections are. I can't even imagine the pain his parents are going through, but I can only hope that, in time, there will be moments where they can gently feel peace, and even glimpses of the beauty of life again.



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Betsuin News

**HHBT OBON
2026****SAT & SUN
JULY 25TH & 26TH****AT HIGASHI HONGANJI
BUDDHIST TEMPLE****WE HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US!**#BESTOBONEVER
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#BESTOBONEVER**Spring Ohigan Service
& Spring Seminar**

On bright, sunny Sunday, March 15th, Higashi Honganji Los Angeles Betsuin observed our Spring Ohigan service. We were happy to welcome the Rev. Dr. Nobuo Haneda as our guest speaker.

As always, Dr. Haneda delivered an engaging sermon, reminding us to see and live each day in this world with a clear and open perspective – free of fear and distortion.

Following a lovely lunch of tasty curry selections made by our members plus luscious strawberries and a variety of desserts, Dr. Haneda presented the first of a 6-part lecture series titled, “The Kyogyoshinsho, the Main Work of Shinran Shonin.”

Part One introduced “The Larger Sutra (the Sutra of Immeasurable Life) as the Basis of the Kyogyoshinsho” and “The Story of Bodhisattva Dharmakara.”

Dr. Haneda included many basic Buddhist concepts. The remaining five lectures are to be given via Zoom on each subsequent Wednesday, beginning March 18th.

Thank you to Dr. Haneda for his thoughtful presentations.

**Mother’s Day Family
Service & Breakfast**

Please join us on Sunday, May 10th for our Mother’s Day Family Service! A special message in honor of our mothers will be given by our guest speaker. We hope you will join us in celebrating our mothers. A special breakfast in honor of our mothers will be served in the social hall from 8:30 to 9:45 am before.

Tanjo-e/Hatsumairi

On Sunday, May 17th, we will hold our Tanjo-e Service. Tanjo-e is a special service that celebrates the birth of Shinran Shōnin, the founder of our Jodo Shinshu Buddhist tradition. Shinran was born around this time near Kyoto, Japan in the year 1173. Special sermons will be delivered by our ministers for this occasion.

At our Tanjo-e service, we will also observe Hatsumairi, which is held to welcome all new children into our Sangha. The Hatsumairi presentation is traditionally for newborns, but we welcome all children up to six years of age to participate. If you are interested in having your child participate, please contact the temple office to register. There is a nominal fee of \$50 for children of paid 2026 members or \$75 for children of non-members to participate.

Please join us at the temple for this special service.

**Father’s Day/Graduation
Family Service**

Please join us for our Father’s Day and Graduation Family Service on Sunday, June 14th at 10:00 am. This year, our Father’s Day and Graduation Family Service will be held one week before Father’s Day. We will have a special guest speaker. This service will celebrate and honor both our Dads and 2026 Graduates. We welcome all graduates to attend and families to bring their fathers for this special service! We hope that you and your family will be able to join us!

Our deepest condolences
to the family and relatives of ...

Dan Masaru Kishi (106)
January 18, 2026

Manuel Mora (82)
February 10, 2026

Kaoru Sugawara (78)
February 14, 2026

Sachiye Sato (77)
February 19, 2026

Masakazu Greg Kozai (62)
March 25, 2026

Tsuneaki Tanaka (90)
April 5, 2026

Namu Amida Butsu

Help The Way

The Way needs your help and welcomes your contributions. With the cost of printing and postage steadily increasing, we request your support in helping to make our newsletter available in the years to come. Please consider making a donation to *The Way* to offset some of the cost. Thank you for your continued support and readership.

Onegai-shimasu!

LCDC NEWS

On Saturday, April 4, 2026, Lumbini Child Development Center held a Dance Benefit & Reunion Party celebrating their 50th Anniversary. The fundraiser was held in the Nishi Hongwanji Kai-kan. Music was provided by Kokoro and friends. Attendees were treated to a delicious dinner catered by Shaun Oshita of Maxwell Chicken Rice. The meal included char siu, chicken wings, steamed rice, tofu, japchae, as well as Chinese chicken salad from Rascals in Torrance. Sheet cake from Phoenix Bakery was served as the dancing portion of the night began. The bar was open all night serving beverages of choice. Miss Leslie Nicho gave remarks thanking everyone for their support and introducing former director, Jeanne Kawawata, and current Principal, Rinban Kenjun Kawawata. Special thanks to Carol Tanita and Wayne Nagao for coordinating the event and to the numerous donors and supporters of the event. We could not have put on such a successful event without the many volunteers, staff members, families, and friends of Lumbini, past and present, who helped put on the event.

Lumbini is now enrolling students from age 2 (lowered from 2½!) to 5 for preschool and transitional kindergarten. Potty training assistance is available, so please contact us for more information or to enroll your child today! Call Miss Leslie at 213-680-2976.



SUBMISSION DEADLINE!

Submissions for *The Way* are due the 10th of each month for the following month's issue. Articles and announcements for our July Issue are due June 10th. Submissions may be subject to printing restrictions and staff approval. Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you!



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LUMBINI
CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

**FOR CHILDREN AGES
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BECOME A 2026 HIGASHI MEMBER!

Membership dues are \$400 for dual/family (includes children of the primary member under age 22) and \$200 for individual members. Paid Temple Members may receive 10% off coupons from Fugetsu-Do and Toyo Miyatake Studio upon request from the office.

To pay online, visit the link or scan the QR code:
<https://hhbt-la.square.site/membership>



24th Annual Golf Tournament

Higashi Honganji volunteers arrived at the Candlewood Country Club in the early morning of March 2, 2026, for the 24th Annual Golf Tournament. Volunteers prepared for the arrival of about 135 golfers, the most we've ever had at our tournament! They unloaded trucks while the coffee brewed, and goodie bags, donuts, spam musubis, apples, oranges, and bananas crowded the check-in area. Our cheery volunteers registered golfers outside. The weather was nice for early March. It was warmer than usual, but still a beautiful day to be on the course. Tee signs were displayed on the course at all the holes. Sponsorships raised funds for our youth programs and temple maintenance. Thank you to all our generous tee sponsors! After 18 holes out in the sun, golfers were eager to sit down for a hot BBQ lunch. They made their way to the banquet room, where tables were overflowing with valuable prizes for our raffle and donations from generous members and merchants in the community. Everyone was treated to a well-deserved lunch. While stories of the course were shared amongst the golfers, Shin Ito announced the tournament and raffle winners.

Closest-to-the-pin winners were Ralph Misawa (hole 3) and Wayne Nagao (hole 10). Closest-to-the-line winner was Jun Osumi (hole 11). The Low Gross winner was Garrett Quon. Birdie skins were awarded to Danny Lee on hole 5, Colan Noji on hole 6, Roy Takemura on hole 8, Darin Maki on hole 12, Michael Yee on hole 13, and Scott Webb on hole 14. The Ladies 1st place winner was Noriko Jaramillo. The top three tournament winners were Kevin Yamaguchi in 3rd place, Koby Hayashi in 2nd place, and Tsuyoshi Kuramoto in 1st place. Congratulations to all our golfers! The Higashi Honganji Golf Tournament continues to grow thanks to all the volunteers who do so much behind-the-scenes work before and during the tournament, as well as our tee sponsors and donors. Thanks to the support of our golfers who continue to come out year after year, we were able to put on another fun and successful event.

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Thank you to Rev. Nori Ito for 50 Years
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Rudi Gomez
In Memory of Mas Kozai, Loving Father
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