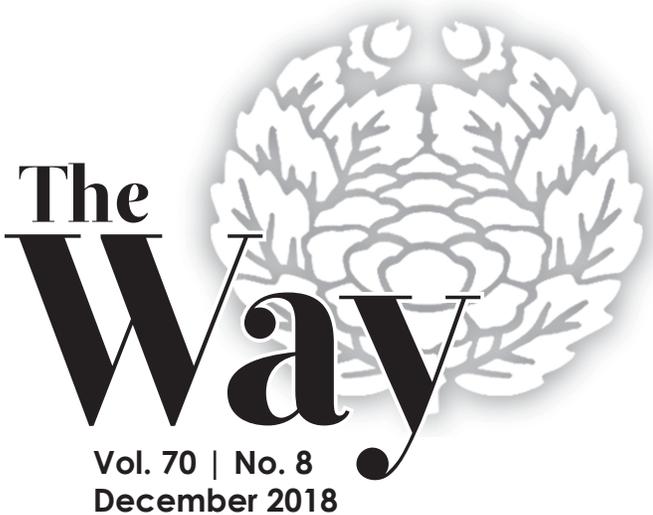


HIGASHI HONGANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

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HIGASHI HONGANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE | LOS ANGELES BETSUIN

TEMPLE SCHEDULE

DECEMBER

- 2 10:00am Shotsuki Service
- 9 10:00am Bodhi Day/Year-end Family Service
- 16 9:00am Temple Clean-up
- 28 9:00am Mochitsuki (Friday)
- 31 6:30pm Joya-e | New Years Eve Service & Toshikoshi Soba

JANUARY

- 1 10:00am Shusho-e | New Years Day Service
- 6 10:00am Shotsuki Service
- 13 10:00am Family Service
- 20 10:00am Sunday Service
- 27 10:00am Eitaikyo Service New Year Luncheon & General Meeting

FEBRUARY

- 3 10:00am Shotsuki Service
- 10 10:00am Sunday Service
- 17 10:00am Family Service

**JOYA-E
NEW YEARS EVE SERVICE**

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31 | 6:30PM

**SHUSHO-E
NEW YEARS DAY SERVICE**

TUESDAY, JANUARY 1 | 10:00AM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27, 2019
Eitaikyo Service

10:00AM

**New Year Luncheon
& General Meeting**

12:00PM | SOCIAL HALL

RSVP REQUIRED



The Way



Volume 70 | Number 8 | December 2018

HIGASHI HONGANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE • LOS ANGELES BETSUIN

EVERY DAY IS A GOOD DAY

Rinban Noriaki Ito

I find myself writing this article on November 6, the day of the nationwide midterm elections. It's still early, so I don't know how the election went. Like many people on either side, I feel a sense of anxiety wondering what the results will be. I suppose, like most Americans today, I have a clear definition of what a good result or a bad result will be.

Unlike in much of the recent past, we are definitely more polarized. Our leaders seem unable to work together to arrive at any consensus on virtually any issue...and that attitude has filtered down to the people. You're either on one side or the other. Tomorrow, depending on the results, will be a good day for roughly half of the population, and a bad day for the other half.

Back in the 9th century, there was a Zen priest by the name of Unmon who coined the phrase, "Every day is a good day" (*nichi nichi kore kōnichi*). It's a nice phrase to ponder. It would be great if that were true. However, we all experience bad days and complain. Today was a rainy day, it was windy, it was the day I got sick, it was the day I got into a car accident, it was the day I got into a big fight with my best friend, it was the day the candidate I hoped would win lost the election.

We could go on and on thinking about all of the bad days we've had. In fact, it seems the bad days may outnumber the good ones, and we seem to remember those days more than we remember the good ones.

However, as Buddhism always tries to remind us, our definition of good days and bad days is from our self-centered attitude. A day is good because it was good for me. A day was bad because I had to deal with so many problems. It is totally "I" centered. So, wanting a certain candidate to win is totally selfish. In our minds, one day could be good, but that day could be followed by a few consecutive bad days.

The past few years have brought severe and unpredictable weather everywhere. Japan was hit with typhoons and heavy rains which caused so much damage in various parts of the country. I heard the story of a priest who was talking to a successful businessman who owned a few companies. He said, "the rains we've had have produced so much damage and disruption in people's lives." The man sheepishly replied, "One of my companies produces umbrellas and other products for the rain. So I hesitate to say it, but the rains have been good to me. Profits have increased at record levels over the past couple of years." So here is a situation in which something that has been really problematic for most people has benefitted this one man and his business tremendously.

Back in 1991, we had Rev. Michio Miyato come from Japan to serve as our speaker at the first retreat for representatives of all of our temples in California. Among the many memorable teachings he shared, I remember one about how he used to go once a month to teach Buddhism to a young group of nurses at a

hospital. One month, he was unable to go due to an important meeting and so the headquarters sent a replacement. The following month, he went and first apologized to the group for missing the last session. One of them said, "Oh no, it was fine. The minister who came was young and energetic, and he gave a very good presentation. We all enjoyed him." Rev. Miyato said he was glad it all worked out and that they enjoyed listening to him. But inside, he was livid. His response was simply a lie. He wasn't happy at all. He would have been happy if they would have said, "Oh, he wasn't a very good speaker. We missed you."

Rev. Miyato also shared the words of the eminent Shin Buddhist teacher, the Rev. Ryojin Soga who once said, "The most precious jewel the Japanese people received from Buddhism was the eye by which we see inside ourselves." It is this practice of self-examination through that "eye pointed inward," that we are able to realize how we tend to see things from only the self-centered position.

How does this election affect me, my family, my people? This is the attitude of some days are good, most days are bad...certainly not every day is a good day. So those eyes looking inward reveal to us the selfish, self-centered way in which we live. For me, it is to change the view of the Dodgers loss in

(Please see EVERY DAY, page 4)

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!

SUBMISSION DEADLINE!

Submissions for *The Way* are due the 10th of each month for the following month's issue. Articles and announcements for our February/March Issue are due January 10th, 2019. Submissions may be subject to printing restrictions and staff approval. Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you!



Betsuin News



In Gratitude

As we look forward to the end of 2018 and the beginning of a new year, we wish to take this opportunity to thank you for your generous support throughout the past year.

We wish to thank the ministers of the North America District, Revs. Akiko Okada, Tomoyuki Hasegawa, Masashi Fujii, to Revs. Paul Imahara and Fred Brenion, for their Dharma talks and participation in our Sunday services. We thank Mrs. Kazue Funai and the members of our Otani Gakuen Choir for the beautiful music they provide at many of our Sunday services as well.

Special thanks go to those of you who have sacrificed so much of your time to help with our temple responsibilities – to those on the property committee who spend much time and energy making repairs on a weekly basis, to those who come out regularly to maintain our beautiful garden, with special thanks to Mr. Tadahide Kawahira and Mr. Hirokichi Maehara, to those who come out to help with the polishing of our altar decorations before our special services, to those who help with our various mailings, to those who come to prepare our meals for special services and prepare refreshments for our Shotsuki and Family services, to others too numerous to mention, we extend our deepest gratitude. Without your support, the temple would not be able to serve our membership and our community in the way that we wish.

Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season. We hope that you will be able to join us for our Mochitsuki and other special Year-end and New Year activities and services. We ask for your continued support and guidance as we prepare for 2019.

Gassho,
Rinban Noriaki Ito
Ron Sato, President
Board of Directors

Eitaikyo Service New Year Luncheon & General Meeting

The Eitaikyo Service will be held on Sunday, January 27th at 10:00am. This service is held in memory of all temple members who have passed away. It is also held to remember those who have been placed into the Eitaikyo register.

Following the service, the 114th Annual General Meeting and New Year's Luncheon will be held in the temple social hall. Further information will be mailed to you in January.

Joya-e New Years Eve Service

Come celebrate the end of 2018 at our Year-end Service to be held on Sunday, December 31st at 6:30pm. It is an opportunity to reflect back on the past year and to prepare to welcome in the New Year. At the end of the evening, we will enjoy Toshikoshi soba together to tie us unto the new year.

Shusho-e New Years Day Service

Shusho-e is the first service of the New Year. It is a tradition in Japan to visit nearby temples and shrines on New Years Day. We welcome you to join us to greet the New Year on Monday, January 1, 2019 at 10:00am. Following service, stay for a sip of *otoso* (New Year's sake) to toast 2018 and enjoy *oshiruko* (sweet red bean soup with fresh mochi from our temple mochitsuki) and exchange New Year's greetings.

visit our website at
www.hhbt-la.org
and "like" us on facebook at
<http://www.facebook.com/hhbt.la>

TEMPLE FUN DAY A DAY AT THE RANCH!

A Day at the Ranch on Sunday September 30, 2018 was an exceptional and truly FUN day. The weather at the Murata Family Ranch in Camarillo was bright and beautiful. As Rinban Noriaki Ito and Rev. Peter Hata noted at the morning service held at the ranch, there were more than 100 people gathered for the event, making this the best attended service. After a group photo, everyone sang Happy 70th Birthday to Rinban Ito and received birthday cupcakes.

Steve Murata led a large group of us on a terrific tour of the ranch, kindly explaining some of the complexities involved in maintaining orchards of avocado and lemon trees. Plus, we saw where those delicious kabocha are grown.

Special highlights of the tour involved taking turns going up really high
(Please see RANCH, page 4)

CALL FOR VENDORS! *hanamatsuri* *craft fair*

Calling all craft vendors! On Sunday, April 28th from 10am to 3pm, we will have our Hanamatsuri Craft Fair at the Betsuin! We are looking for vendors who make and sell craft items and would like to be a part of our Craft Fair. For more information, please contact the temple office at 213-626-4200 or email info@hhbt-la.org. Vendor applications will be available early 2019 and due in March.

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

Mr. Hiram Hisakatsu Ohta (84)
July 25, 2018

Namu Amida Butsu

YOUTH HOSHIDAN TOUR

Lindsay Kashiwabara

This summer I was given the opportunity to learn more about Buddhism on the Youth Hoshidan Tour to Japan. I went with my sister, Wylie, and Reverend Okada. On the trip, we stayed at the Honzan in Kyoto for three days. When we arrived, we were met by three other youths from Hawaii participating in the Hoshidan Tour. In the lectures at the Honzan, I learned that the Nenbutsu is something that you can turn to when you are struggling in life. We also went over the meaning of Namu Amida Butsu which was a great lesson because it is something that we always say, but I never really knew the full meaning. Overall, the couple days at the Honzan were a great opportunity to go back over the core teachings of Buddhism. After our time at the Honzan, we toured Japan with the Hawaii group. We went to the Hiroshima Betsuin and met the ministers there. It was really interesting to see what other temples look like in comparison to our own. The Hiroshima Betsuin was much smaller than our temple back at home and the ministers there were very laid back. It surprised all of us to hear the ministers say to eat or drink whatever we wanted in their refrigerator, but it ended up making our short stay there very welcoming. We also went to Nara Park where we took hundreds of pictures with the deer because it was something that none of us had seen before. It was really fun feeding and petting the deer and even watching the

(Please see HOSHIDAN, page 4)

FLOOD UPDATE

On behalf of the Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple, we thank you for all of the support and generous donations you have given to us in response to our previous article about the flooding that we faced just after our Obon Festival in late July. The process of preparing for and repairing the burst pipe and alleyway concrete has taken months and we are grateful and relieved to say that it is finally completed. Recovery and replacement of items damaged by the flood water continues and will continue over the next several months as we purchase new toys and equipment for Lumbini and other items such as our Bingo cards for Obon. We are lucky to have insurance that will cover much of the costs, but there are many repairs that were not covered by our policy and will have to come out of temple funds. As of now, the repair costs that the temple is responsible for totals roughly \$30,000 with an additional \$20,000 that may also not be covered under our insurance policy. This means that we are facing costs of possibly \$50,000 that have hit us unexpectedly. We appreciate donations in any amount that will help us to offset the cost of the flood. Thank you for your support of the Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple.



DHARMA SCHOOL UPDATE

In October, we gathered together to celebrate Halloween with other temple members. We had fun sharing our costumes with our friends, making crafts, and playing fun games. Mr. Danny coordinated the craft area for us and helped us with all of our projects! After a lunch of hot dogs, chili, nachos, salads, and lots of desserts, we played games! Jr. YBA facilitated all of the games this year and did a great job! The first two games were simple pen and paper games that everyone played in their seats. First everyone had to write down as many words as they could with the letters in the words MONSTER MASH and then write down as many items as they could list that are the color PURPLE. After that, we played Halloween Bingo. The last game was a witch hat ring toss. Players had to toss inflated rings onto a witch's hat to win points for their team. For the kids version, the hat sat on the floor so that it was more easily accessible and for the adults, we made it more challenging by having team members wear the hat and attempt to catch the rings on their heads! It was entertaining and a lot of fun for everyone involved. After the games, the kids gathered to trick-or-treat and get lots of candy and treats. We had a great time at our party and thank everyone for coming! Special thanks to everyone who helped with the games and cleanup!

In November, we are focused on being thankful for the people and things who make our lives meaningful. We collaborated on a Canned Food Drive with Lumbini and collected a lot of cans and non-perishable foods to donate to the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank! Thank you to all of the members who donated food! We're glad that we are fortunate enough to be able to give back to our community. In December, we're looking forward to Mochitsuki and all of the other year-end activities! We hope that you will join us!

Please join us for Dharma School on Sundays. Dharma School talks will be given by our ministers on Shotsuki Service and Family Service Sundays.

THANK YOU for supporting the
LUMBINI & HIGASHI YOUTH GROUPS
CANNED FOOD DRIVE

TOGETHER we donated

873 LB. OF FOOD

which is roughly **1,032** food items and will provide **727** meals to children, families, seniors, and individuals in LA County through the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank!



LUMBINI CORNER

October was an exciting month for the Lumbini children because they got to celebrate one of their favorite holidays... HALLOWEEN! They dressed up as princesses, superheroes, their favorite cartoon characters, animals, and much more and had a chance to show off to all of their friends, teachers, and families on Halloween. After lots of class photos at school, they walked around Little Tokyo and trick-or-treated in the neighborhood. By the end of the afternoon, so much walking was definitely tiring for their little feet, so they were happy to return to school with their bags full and heavy with lots of sweets! Lumbini also had a visit from a local fire department who brought their big red truck and fire safety gear to share with the children.

In November, Lumbini is hosting a canned food drive with the Higashi temple youth groups. Each class is collecting lots of canned and other non-perishable food to donate to the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank before Thanksgiving.

With December here already, Lumbini is taking time to reflect on the past year and think about goals for 2019. Next year, we will continue to strive toward educating our children. Lumbini's goal

is to give each child an opportunity to expand and grow to his or her fullest potential. We are grateful to have such a dedicated staff as well as very supportive parents and families. We want to thank the temple for its dedication and support to help make Lumbini such an enjoyable and educational center.

Our Year-End Holiday Program will be held on Friday, December 14th. The children have been working hard on their songs to present to all of their family and friends. They're also looking forward to a special visit from Santa!

The end of the year also means that it is time for Mochitsuki! This year's Mochitsuki will be held on Friday, December 28th at 10:00am. Each of the children will get to make their own mochi to take home and eat for a snack! Parents and family are welcome to join in and help out with all of the fun.

Lumbini will be closed for the holidays on December 25th and January 1st and closing early on 24th and 31st. We wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season!

If you are interested in enrolling a child between the ages of 2½ to 5 years of age in Lumbini's program, please contact the Lumbini office at 213-680-2976.

(EVERY DAY, cont. from page 1)

the World Series as a bad day. Rather, it is to be happy for the Red Sox fans and to praise the Dodgers leadership for putting together another great team that went to the World Series. It is to praise the team for doing the best they could.

Buddhism gives us the tools to be able to genuinely say to ourselves, every day is a good day. Even though I hurt from a loss, be it an election or in sports, or having to face yet another surgery, I can grow from every experience. I can realize that the challenges make life that much more exciting and fulfilling.

I can become a person who can say, every day is a good day. I doubt that I'll ever be able to reach that plateau. But I think I can be grateful being able to share life with all of you everyday.



(RANCH, cont. from page 3)

in Steve's cherry picker and getting a bird's eye view of the ranch which was very large and being allowed to use a very long-handled tool to pick avocados!

Murata family and friends prepared wonderful bbq meats provided by Steve, and Jr.YBA and other members assembled all the tasty dishes brought by everyone. Sharing good food and happy conversations at the covered tables made for a really lovely afternoon. Watching dog members, Dashi, Kadee, and Boba happily running and playing together just made it more fun.

Abig THANKYOU to Steve Murata and his family for inviting us to the ranch for a great TEMPLE FUN DAY!

(HOSHIDAN, cont. from page 3)

deer attack Okada Sensei's bag. We also visited Osaka Castle on a very hot and humid day. Because it was so hot, Wylie and I decided we did not want to have to wait 30 minutes to take the elevator, so we walked up eight flights of stairs to an amazing view of Osaka. In Japan, we ended up walking around 15 miles a day in the humid weather, but I would still do it all over again because of the great people I met and the beautiful places I got to see. Overall, going to Japan on the youth tour was an amazing opportunity to learn more about Buddhism and my Japanese culture.





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FOR CHILDREN AGES 2 1/2 TO 5 YEARS

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