

HIGASHI HONGANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

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The Way

Vol. 75 | No. 8
December 2023

HIGASHI HONGANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE | LOS ANGELES BETSUIN

TEMPLE SCHEDULE

DECEMBER

- 3 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 10 10:00 am Bodhi Day/Year-end Family Service
- 17 9:00 am Temple Clean-up
- 24 No Service
- 29 9:00 am Mochitsuki (Friday)
- 31 4:00 pm Year-end Service (Joya-e)

JANUARY

- 1 10:00 am New Year's Day Service (Shusho-e)
- 7 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 14 10:00am Sunday Service Discussion Group
- 21 10:00 am Family Service
- 28 10:00 am Eitai-kyo Service 120th Anniversary Celebration/New Year Luncheon & General Meeting

JOYA-E | YEAR-END SERVICE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31 | 4:00PM

SHUSHO-E | NEW YEAR SERVICE

MONDAY, JANUARY 1 | 10:00AM

Please see details on page 2.

EITAIKYO SERVICE

120th Anniversary Celebration

New Year Luncheon & General Meeting

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28 | 10:00 am

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



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Karma We Should Receive and Karma We Should Distance Ourselves From

Rinban Noriaki Ito

This month, I decided to share an article written by my father, Rinban Horyu Ito. In 1982, a few years before he passed away in September 1985, some old friends pooled their funds to publish a small book containing articles he wrote to share in the old Radio Little Tokyo program produced by Mr. Matao Uwate that included our Dharma talks. This particular article dated was titled “*Karma that joins us and Karma that separates us*”

I’ve been thinking about translating those articles for our members to read. So, today’s article is one of those by written by Rinban Horyu Ito:

“In September, I shared an episode of one of our members who was receiving treatment in the hospital. *(Back in those days, we used to go to the Japanese Hospital weekly and check the current patients’ list to see if any members are receiving care.)* Mrs. S was one of the patients I visited that day. She had lost her

husband who was a Buddhist and was a member of our temple. Although she was not Buddhist, she honored her husband’s wish to have the funeral at our temple.

There was something she was worried about. She thought that since they belonged to different religions, when they pass away, they would not be able to meet again. So I reassured her that she does not have to change religions, to be able to meet again after she passes away. So I told her to continue to embrace her religion and not think about having to change.

Someone who listened to the broadcast said to me, “if you say that because of one’s karma that he or she does not have to become a Buddhist, then it’s not necessary for you ministers to be here in the United States to share Buddhism with the people.”

So although I can’t go into detail, I would like to share how Buddhism regards such discussions. In the old days when the Issei came to the United States as Buddhists. In many cases, where they

settled, there were no Buddhist temples. So many of their children were raised in other religions, primarily Christianity. It wasn’t only because there weren’t temples where they lived, many of the Issei parents felt that they should not force their religion on their children. They simply worked hard to create good neighborhoods for their families. From the Buddhist attitude, the Isseis felt that religion is not something that should be forced upon others.

In the Tannisho, there is a passage, “We come together when conditions bring us to meet, and part when conditions separate us.” It is good that we share our appreciation of Buddhism with others. Those of us who are ordained should work to bring people into our temples, our tradition. It is our wish that newcomers would join our Sangha. But we should remember that the spirit of Buddhism is not to coerce others to become Buddhists.

In Gratitude

2023 was a year that we transitioned back to in-person services and events. It is with great joy that we have been able to interact with our members and friends every week. We hope more of you will be able to join us in-person in 2024.

During this past year, we received generous special contributions from the Tom Yamamoto family and from the Ochi (Kawana & Kishimoto) families for the Betsuin’s altar improvements. We wish to thank the families for their very much appreciated donations. These precious altar gifts will serve our sangha for many years to come.

As is true every year, we had so many members who went out of their way to support the temple on a regular basis. Tad

Kawahira comes several times a week and Hirokichi Maehara also comes regularly to maintain our beautiful gardens.

We are also grateful to our volunteers who help keep our temple as beautiful as possible. They participate in “omigaki” (polishing of altar items) along with the ministers. Special thank you to these volunteers: Masako Sato, Tomoko Ito, Nancy Kurihara-Johnson, Yuko Gabe, Irene Ota, Kathy Ikeda, the three Elaines... Harada, Barbod, and Tanaka-Jackson who come out to help us on these occasions and also with mailouts throughout the year.

Also, we must thank our tech crew, Jason Wong and Gary Kanemoto who have been coming every Sunday to stream our services. They have consented to continue

to do the work to allow our members who may not be able to come to the temple in person to be able to participate from their own homes.

Although we were not able to have our normal Obon Festival again this year, we were able to go out to the Murata ranch out in Camarillo for another special “not at the temple” Obon celebration and bon odori. It has been decided to bring Obon back

(Please see *GRATITUDE*, page 2)

**PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING
TO HIGASHI HONGANJI
BUDDHIST TEMPLE AT
HHBT-LA.ORG**



Betsuin News



celebrating
120
Years in Los Angeles

The Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple is making plans to celebrate its 120th Anniversary in January 2024. How quickly 20 years have gone by since our Centennial Celebration in 2004.

As we look toward the future of our temple, we would like to continue the legacy of our ancestors and preserve the temple for future generations.

With each decade, we have taken the opportunity to make improvements for the betterment of our aging temple, which was built in 1976, nearly 50 years ago. For our 110th Anniversary in 2014, we were able to install new tile flooring on the 1st & 2nd floors, paint the social hall, all hallways, Lumbini classrooms and the temple office, install a new audio/video system, and do altar upgrades which included vases and candleholders.

Looking ahead to our 120th Anniversary, we hope to make much urgently needed repairs and improvements. Projects such as upgrading 20-year-old air conditioning, nearly 50-year-old plumbing and kitchen, repaving parking lot are among the many projects we are hoping to tackle.

So many things change in 10 years; we are thankful for the strength and dedication of our Sangha that have enabled us to continue to grow and to continue the legacy of our predecessors.

Please join us to celebrate 120 years. Your continued support will ensure that the temple will remain a vital gathering place for future generations.

Joya-e New Years Eve Service

Come celebrate the end of 2023 at our Year-end Service to be held on Sunday, December 31 st at 4:00pm. It is an opportunity to reflect on the past year and to prepare to welcome in the New Year, so please join us! The evening will also include the exciting Toshikoshi Soba-Eating Contest, so come hungry! If you are unable or choose not to join us in person, please join us for the live stream on Facebook.

(GRATITUDE, cont. from page 1)

to the temple and we look forward to the festivities with everyone in 2024.

We would like to thank Rev. Tomoyuki Hasegawa and Rev. Kensho Goto, who help out every Sunday, and also Revs. Miyoshi, Osa, Hata, Imahara, Brenion, Toyoshima, and Yamada for supporting us with their video or in person Dharma talks throughout the year.

This past year, the grand celebration of the 850th Birthday of our founder, Shinran Shōnin, and the 800th Anniversary of the founding of the Jōdo-Shinshū tradition took place in Kyoto in April 2023. A group of our members was able to join this celebration which is held only every 50 years. It was truly a once-in-a-lifetime celebration.

At the end of August, we were overjoyed to welcome a new assistant minister, Rev. Mayuki Nagamine. If you have not had the opportunity to meet her, come join us for service and introduce yourself to her. She has jumped into work upon arrival and has been a tremendous help to our Betsuin.

Best wishes for a wonderful 2024. We look forward to seeing all of you again soon.

Gassho,
Rinban Noriaki Ito

Shusho-e New Year 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 Year's Day. We welcome you to join us to greet the New Year on Monday, January 1, 2024 at 10:00am. Following service, stay for a sip of otoso (New Year's sake) to toast 2024 and enjoy ozoni (soup with fresh mochi from our temple mochitsuki) and exchange New Year's greetings. If you are unable or choose not to join us in person, please join us for the live stream on Facebook.

**MOCHITSUKI
IS BACK!**
COME JOIN THE FUN!

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 29
9:00am

Eitaikyo Service 120th Anniversary Celebration New Year Luncheon & General Meeting

The Eitaikyo Service will be held on Sunday, January 28th at 10:00am at the temple. 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. If you are unable or choose not to join us in person, please join us for the live stream on Facebook.

The 119th Annual General Meeting and New Year Luncheon in conjunction with our 120th Anniversary Celebration is tentatively planned to be held after the service. Further information will be mailed to you in January.

We hope you will be able to join us for both events.

HŌONKŌ Observances

We had our annual Hoonko gathering and Hoonko service on November 4th and 5th. Hoonko is the memorial service of Shinran Shonin, the founder of Jodo Shinshu denomination and it is considered the most important service for us. This year, we had three guests including the Overseas District Abbot (ODA) Yul Otani, Bishop Shunjin Nasu and Rev. Yasuyoshi Nobesawa from Higashi Honganji Headquarter in Japan. And it was our first time having the ODA as the officiant for the service in four years.

On Saturday, November 4th, we had the Hoonko gathering service at noon and after that, we had lunch in the social hall. There, we had vegetarian pizza together and members were able to interact with and get to know the guests cheerfully. It was a nice informal gathering.

The next day, we had our Hoonko

service. This impressive service featured special chanting, reading of Ofumi (Rennyo Shonin's letter) and greetings from the guests. After the service, members and guests joined Otoki in the social hall. This year, the volunteers made delicious Oden and desserts. Everyone enjoyed eating together while chatting. Special thanks to those who volunteered to prepare our otoki and clean up afterwards.

In the afternoon a Kikyoshiki Confirmation Ceremony was held. This year, 5 members received their Buddhist names. The ceremony was conducted solemnly by ODA while their families and friends watched them receive their new names and start a new life as a Buddhist.

Congratulations to Susan Kiyoko Yamamoto, Seth Adkison, Gilbert A. Correa, Oscar Rodriguez and Wade Garcia !!

YOUTH GROUP 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 rice, spam musubi, salads, and lots of desserts, we played games! 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, setup, and cleanup!

In November, we are focused on being thankful for the people and things who make our lives meaningful. 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 select Sundays. For a complete Dharma School schedule, please email hbbtkids@gmail.com.

member spotlight

BABY ANNOUNCEMENT

To Parents Mika & Byron
Siblings Mie & Keizo
Grandparents Rinban Noriaki & Janet Ito
a New Baby Girl
Ami Kiku Yamada
Born on November 15, 2023

CONGRATULATIONS!



The Way

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!

In November, we are excited to announce the return of two programs. Welcome back Mr. John for weekly movement and kid friendly drama exercises! Also new this month, our very own Rev. Mayuki is introducing Japanese and Japanese culture to us! This week we

learned colors! We are having so much fun learning new things and looking forward to sharing so much more!

With December here already, Lumbini is taking time to reflect on the past year and think about goals for 2024. 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 15th. 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 29th 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 26th, January 1st and 2nd.

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.



REGISTER NOW!

LUMBINI

CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

PLEASE CALL US FOR AN APPOINTMENT!

WE'RE OPEN FOR ENROLLMENT FOR CHILDREN AGES 2 ½ - KINDERGARTEN!

Licensed to care for 2 ½ years through Kindergarten. Year-round program with individual classrooms unique to each age group. Established in 1977, our philosophy remains the same. To provide a nurturing learning/social environment where children can grow and develop each passing year. A morning and afternoon snack is provided daily.

Hours of Operation:
Monday - Friday | 7:30 AM - 6:00 PM

Contact: Ms. Leslie
213-680-2976 | lumbini.missleslie@gmail.com

Lumbini Child Development Center
505 E. 3rd Street, Los Angeles, CA 90013
lumbinidc.org
@lumbini_preschool @lumbinidc

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

*Mrs. Becky Sachiko Okamoto (82)
May 13, 2023*

*Mrs. Katsuko Kariya (77)
October 16, 2023*

*Mr. Ruben Marquez (66)
November 14, 2023*

Namu Amida Butsu



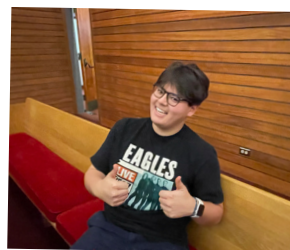
higashi honganji
GOLF
tournament

SAVE THE DATE

MARCH 4, 2024

VIA VERDE COUNTRY CLUB

The Way



phoebe katis & elizabeth woolf concert



so nice to
gather in person...

come join us!



