

HIGASHI HONGANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

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HIGASHI HONGANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE | LOS ANGELES BETSUIN

TEMPLE SCHEDULE

MARCH

- 5 10:00am Shotsuki Service
- 6 9:00am Betsuin Golf
Tournament
- 12 10:00am Sunday Service
- 19 10:00am Spring Ohigan Service
- 19 1:00pm Spring Seminar
- 26 10:00am Sunday Service
Discussion Group

APRIL

- 2 10:00am Shotsuki Service
- 8 1:00pm LABTF Hanamatsuri
- 9 10:00am Sunday Service
- 15 NAD Local Retreat
- 16 10:00am Hanamatsuri Family
Service
- 23 10:00am Sunday Service
- 23 10:00am Hanamatsuri Craft Fair
- 30 10:00am Sunday Service
Discussion Group

17TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

VIA VERDE COUNTRY CLUB
MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2017 • 9:00AM

SUNDAY, MARCH 19TH, 2017

SPRING
OHIGAN
SERVICE
10:00AM

SPRING
SEMINAR
1:00PM

LABTF Hanamatsuri Celebration

SATURDAY, APRIL 8 • 1:00PM
NISHI HONGWANJI

HANAMATSURI FAMILY SERVICE

APRIL 16 • 10:00AM

Hanamatsuri Craft Fair

APRIL 23 • 10AM - 3PM •
SOCIAL HALL



The Way



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HIGASHI HONGANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE • LOS ANGELES BETSUIN

New Year Greetings

Chōyū Ōtani

Overseas District Abbot
Shinshū Ōtani-ha
(Higashi Honganji)



To all of our fellow followers in the overseas districts, I wish you a Happy New Year. It is with great pleasure that I can share the joy of welcoming the new year together with

you as a member of the sangha.

Last year, in comparison to past years, there were more opportunities to listen to the Dharma together with you in the overseas districts. There was the 12th World Dōbō Gathering held in the North America District in the summer, and the 750th Memorial for Shinran Shōnin held in the Hawaii District in conjunction with the Hawaii Betsuin Centennial in the fall, in addition to the Hōonkō Services in each district. I sincerely appreciated those precious opportunities. I especially enjoyed meeting with our fellow followers from all overseas districts at the Gathering in Los Angeles together with many participants from Japan. Those experiences have deepened my appreciation of how inconceivable the working of the Light of Amida is in uniting us beyond the boundaries of nationality and language.

I have come to feel that it is the responsibility of us Shinshū followers living in this modern society who have fortunately encountered this rare teaching to share the joy of the encounter with people around the world. I am convinced that only in the sharing of the teaching

Bishop Hiroshi Tajima

Chief Administrator
Shinshū Ōtani-ha
(Higashi Honganji)



I wish to extend my warmest New Year's greetings to all of you in the overseas districts.

My name is Hiroshi Tajima and I have been assigned as Chief Administrator of the Shinshū

Ōtani-ha as of the end of last year. Since we have finished the renovation project of the buildings at the Shinshū Honbyō by observing the Commemoration Service of the Completion of the Renovation in November last year, we must now move ahead towards the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shōnin's Birth which will be celebrated together with the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of Jōdo Shinshū in 2023. As the new Chief Administrator, I will carry on the wish of the former Bishop Kōi Sato'o, who strongly encouraged us to open up a new horizon for our entire denomination in preparation for those major events. I realize the huge responsibility I have just assumed. I wish to ask all of you in our overseas

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can we help to find rays of hope amidst the dark clouds of the world we live in.

Shandao, one of the Seven Patriarchs, expresses in one of his works as follows:

"We vow to give equally to all people around the world,

*This joy of encountering the teaching,
Together to realize our innermost aspira-*

tion to become a buddha,

districts for your continued support of our denomination.
On the occasion of the New Year, I asked myself, "What is the spirit of the Shinshū Ōtani-ha?" My response was that it is the aspiration to create a sangha based on the teaching of the nenbutsu, just as Shinran Shōnin expressed in the postscript of the *Kyōgyōshinshō*, "Those who are born earlier guide the succeeding generations and those who are born later learn from those who precede them."

Right at this moment, there are always intensifying conflicts in areas around the world. Those conflicts are caused by such attitudes as self-justification, and placing blame on others. As long as our minds are bound by differences in nationality, culture, and religion, those horrible incidents will never subside. Because we live in such a world, it is even more important for us to revive the spirit of the nenbutsu sangha where anyone can live together in mutual respect as fellow travelers beyond any boundaries.

I sincerely wish that all of us will deepen our appreciation of each other as members of the sangha walking the broad path to Buddhahood together this year.

In closing, I wish to ask for your continued support and cooperation.

Thank you.

.....
tion to become a buddha,

And to awaken to the spirit of the Land of Peace and Happiness created by Amida Buddha.

I conclude my message by expressing my wish that each of us will be awakened to the vow of the Tathāgata.

Thank you.



Betsuin News



17TH ANNUAL BETSUIN GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 17th Annual Higashi Honganji Golf Tournament will be held on Monday, March 6th at the Via Verde Country Club.

The tournament will have a shotgun start at 9:00am and the fee for this year is \$145, which includes green fee, cart, range balls, prizes, and a Western BBQ buffet. The Callaway System will determine the tournament's order of finish. In addition to what the fee covers, there will be special prizes announced during lunch.

This year's proceeds will go toward our youth programs and temple maintenance. You and others you know can support us by being a tee sponsor for the tournament. Tee sponsorships are \$100 per hole; Tournament sponsorships are \$1,500 and include a foursome of golfers, Gold level sponsorships are \$500, and Silver level sponsorships are \$300. If you would like any further information about the golf tournament or being a tee sponsor, please contact the temple office.

Spring Ohigan

This year's Spring Ohigan Service will be held on Sunday, March 19th at 10:00am. The Spring Seminar will be held the same day as our Ohigan Service at 1:00pm. We welcome you to invite your friends and family to attend both of these important events!

Hanamatsuri Family Service

Our Hanamatsuri Family Service will take place on Sunday, April 16, 2017. Please join us as we celebrate the Buddha's birth with sweet tea offerings and reflections on the occasion of Hanamatsuri. We encourage you to join us for this festive occasion to celebrate the Buddha's birthday.

Eitaikyo Service & New Year Luncheon

Our 2017 Eitaikyo brought out many of our family and friends to join us in remembering our temple members who have passed away. At our Eitaikyo Service, Bishop Noriaki Ito gave a Dharma Talk in English and Rev. Ryoko Osa spoke in Japanese.

This year, we brought our 112th Annual New Year Luncheon and Annual General meeting back to our Higashi Honganji social hall. Round tables were brought in for the guests and the hall was decorated with draped fabric and string lights. The social hall was beautifully transformed for the event! The lunch was provided by a local caterer and attendees were served a variety of appetizers, a buffet lunch, and an assortment of beverages and desserts.

We opened the luncheon with greetings from our Board President, Mr. David Ikeda and Rinban Noriaki Ito. David Ikeda opened the general meeting. A betsuin report, temple financial report, and the election of 2017 Board of Directors were presented by Rev. Peter Hata, Craig Harada, and Ted Oyama, respectively. David Ikeda has stepped down from his position as Board President and Ron Sato will be the new Board President for 2017.

Presentations were made by Rinban Ito and David Ikeda to temple volunteers

to honor their hard work over the course of the past year. Special recognition was given to the staff and lunch volunteers of the Lumbini Child Development Center in commemoration of the center's 40th anniversary. Rinban Ito and Ron Sato presented David Ikeda with a plaque recognizing his 5 years as Board President and his years of service to the temple and Shin Ito prepared a media presentation honoring David Ikeda as well. After the presentations, there was a slideshow documenting the highlights of 2016.

We want to send a special thank you to Mr. Shin Ito for acting as Master of Ceremonies during the luncheon and ABA for hosting the luncheon. Thank you to Elaine Harada and Sharilynn Jung for donating the gifts for members over age 80 in addition to the beautiful floral centerpieces. Thank you to ABA, Fugetsu-Do, Janet Ito, Irene Ota, Becky Sato, Elaine Harada, Sharilynn Jung, Susan Kashiwabara, and Mika Ito for donating prizes for the raffle. Thank you to the Ikeda Family, Lumbini staff, and our many members and friends for volunteering to set up and clean up after the luncheon. Without the help of so many generous members and friends we could not have enjoyed such a delightful luncheon.





Betsuin News



Temple Clean Up

Temple clean up is one of the most important events of the year. Members worked hard to clean the kitchen, social hall, classrooms, hondo, foyer, and outside to prepare the temple to look its best for our 2016 year-end events. Several temple members and friends came to help out at our Temple Clean up on the morning of Sunday, December 18th. With the hard work of our many attentive and hard-working volunteers, we were able to brighten the temple and prepare it for the New Year. Thank you to everyone who helped out at our Temple Clean up!



Mochitsuki

Our annual Mochitsuki is known for its sticky fingers and abundant smiles and this year was no exception. On Monday, December 27th, temple members, family, and friends came out to enjoy steaming, pounding, shaping, and eating delicious mochi. We began by preparing Okasane for the temple altar and smaller ones to decorate our home obutsudans for New Years, then we made komochi for New Years Day ozoni and an-filled mochi. Some of our more adventurous mochi-makers and shapers (and tasters!) also enjoyed making mochi in bright colors and filling them with special surprises like chocolate and peanut butter! We also made mochi waffles again this year! We helped the Lumbini children make Okasane to take home. Thank you to our mochi-making temple members who helped prepare for the event and make it fun and successful for everyone. Special thanks to Grace Yamashiro for chairing the event and Fugetsu-do for their generous an donation! We hope to see all of you (and many more) back again next year!



Joya-e Year End Service

We ended 2016 with our annual Joya-e Service and Toshikoshi Soba. The ministers gave reflective messages about the past year and shared their challenges and accomplishments with the members in attendance. After service, everyone was invited downstairs for Toshikoshi Soba to tie us over to the New Year. We had a full house as we prepared ourselves to enjoy the delicious soba! After everyone had their share of noodles, they accompanied the ministers upstairs to take their turn at tolling the bell before midnight. Everyone who came that night enjoyed having a chance to share a fun evening on the last night of 2016.

Shusho-e New Year Service

The first morning of 2017, we gathered together for our Shusho-e New Year's Day Service. The ministers each shared special New Year messages to give the year a positive start. Afterward, we went downstairs to enjoy traditional Oshogatsu ozoni, otoso, and other delicious foods together after service. Everyone wore warm smiles as we greeted 2017 together.

Nembutsu Garden Path

Our Nembutsu Path is meticulously cared for, all-year round, by Mr. Kawahira and Mr. Maehara. (Along with everything else in our amazing Japanese gardens!)

Thank you to the late Mr. Goro Yamada & Mrs. Yoko Yamada, not only for the creation of the Nembutsu Path, but for funding its upkeep throughout the year!

So when you're stressed, come by and take a relaxing, meditative stroll through the Nembutsu Path and just listen and discover. Enjoy... and Happy 2017 to everyone!



The Way

LABTF Hanamatsuri Celebration

On April 8, 2,580 years ago, the Buddha was born in ancient India. In celebration of the Buddha's birthday, the annual Los Angeles Buddhist Temple Federation's Hanamatsuri will take place on Saturday, April 8, 2017, at 1:30 pm at the Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple (at 1st and Vignes streets).

This year's theme is, Buddhist Chanting: The Sound of Enlightenment, and will feature for the first time, a fusion of Buddhist music and Western music. The Buddhist music will be represented by chanting from the Jodoshu, Jodoshinshu, Shingon, Nichirenshu, and Soto Zen schools of Buddhism. The western music will be represented by the beautiful violin music of Mr. Ken Aiso, internationally recognized as one of today's most musical and versatile violinists and who is praised for his singularly beautiful tone.

The inspiration for this year's program comes from the awareness that music resonates with people beyond all borders and has the power to harmonize both our logical thought and emotional feelings. As this year's chairperson, Rev. Join Inoue of Nichirenshu says, "It is my sincere wish that you will enjoy the time of spiritual rest and peace at this year's Hanamatsuri ceremony through the harmony of the music rooted in both Buddhism and the Western culture, as an oasis for people in this contemporary world."

The program will also feature a Dharma talk by Rimban Bill Briones of Nishi Hongwanji LA Betsuin, and the popular Children's Art Contest awards.

For more information, please call the temple office (213) 626-4200 or the Nishi Betsuin which is hosting the program this year, at (213) 680-9130. We hope to see you all there.

Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple Hanamatsuri Craft Fair

Sunday, April 23, 2017

10:00am - 3:00pm

We're looking for vendors!

Please contact the temple office for an application!

info@hhbt-la.org • 213-626-4200

www.hhbt-la.org

Hanamatsuri Craft Fair

Calling all craft vendors! On Sunday, April 23rd 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 are available from the office.



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

Ms. Jean Reiko Tsurutome (65)
October 22, 2016

Mrs. Aiko Diane Hanami (92)
December 14, 2016

Mrs. Sumiko Lillian Kozawa (100)
December 23, 2016

Mrs. Mildred Yaeko Washizaki (88)
December 24, 2016

Mr. Shoichi Osajima (90)
January 10, 2017

Mrs. Rizeko Oyama (96)
January 29, 2017

Namu Amida Butsu

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