

HIGASHI HONGANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

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HIGASHI HONGANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE | LOS ANGELES BETSUIN

TEMPLE SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY

- 18 10:00am Family Service
- 25 10:00am Sunday Service
Discussion Group

MARCH

- 4 10:00am Shotsuki Service
- 5 9:00am **Betsuin Golf
Tournament**
- 11 10:00am Sunday Service
- 18 10:00am **Spring Ohigan Service**
1:00pm **Spring Seminar**
- 25 10:00am Sunday Service
Discussion Group

APRIL

- 1 10:00am Shotsuski Service
- 8 10:00am Sunday Service
- 8 1:30pm **LABTF Hanamatsuri
@ Nishi Hongwanji**
- 14 NAD Local Retreat
- 15 10:00am **Hanamatsuri Family
Service**

**18TH ANNUAL
GOLF TOURNAMENT**
VIA VERDE COUNTRY CLUB
MONDAY, MARCH 5, 2018 • 9:00AM

SUNDAY, MARCH 18TH, 2018

*Spring
Ohigan
Service*
10:00AM

*Spring
Seminar*
1:00PM

**LABTF Hanamatsuri
Celebration**
SUNDAY, APRIL 8 • 1:30PM
NISHI HONGWANJI

*hanamatsuri
family service*
APRIL 15 • 10:00AM

*hanamatsuri
craft fair*
APRIL 29 • 10AM - 3PM
SOCIAL HALL



The Way



Volume 70 | Number 2 | February & March • 2018

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A Wonderful Life

Rinban Noriaki Ito

A few days before the end of 2017 and a week before her 88th birthday, Florence Shioko Yamada passed away. Four months before she passed, her only child, Ken Ogawa, my first childhood friend in America passed away.

Ken's grandparents on his mother's side were Kenichi and Isako Yamada who both were very active at the old temple around the time that my mother, sisters, and I arrived in Los Angeles in 1955. Mr. Yamada was an active member of the Board of Directors, and Mrs. Yamada was extremely active in our Fujinkai, the ladies group. So it came to be that I spent lots of time with Kenny and Florence at their home on Folsom St. and they often took me along on their summer vacations. Ken became my first friend, and his mom became my American mom.

In the personal history that was read at Florence's funeral, one of the first things mentioned was: *She was vibrant, bright, sassy and unlike any other Nisei/Kibei woman you had ever met.* Those of you who knew my mother would agree that my mom was nothing like that—she was a typical Japanese mother.

It was a lot later I found out that, although she was born in Los Angeles, she and her younger brother were sent to Japan to receive their early education and that she was in Hiroshima during World War II. This is what was written in her personal history: *Florence went to elementary school in East Los Angeles until age 11, when she and her younger brother, Joe, were sent to Japan to be educated. She lived in Hiroshima with their maternal grandparents and attended school there until August 6, 1945 when her life was changed forever. Florence was at school the day that the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. She was separated from her family and despite suffering from radiation poisoning, she bravely found her way from the evacu-*

ation center where the school children were taken, to another center in Fuchu which was where her family was to evacuate. There she looked for her grandparents and younger brother, but they were not to be found. She later found the bodies of her grandparents in the rubble that was left of their home which was about 500 yards from the epicenter of the blast. She came back the next day with a wheelbarrow, shovel, paper and wood. She dug their badly decomposed remains from the rubble and cremated them. She was never able to locate her younger brother.

Florence was able to come back to her home in the U.S. in 1947, got married and gave birth to Ken in 1950. She was able to get the education necessary to become a clinical dietitian and worked in that role at various hospitals. The years that we are indebted to her is during the time when she was working at St. Vincent Hospital. She took care of my father in 1985 during the last days of his life. In that same year, the hospital opened up the Japanese Community Hospital Pavilion. Florence would call us at the temple anytime a member was admitted so that we could go and visit.

Again from the personal history: *Florence was a key team member, working with the kitchen staff to provide Japanese food, with dietary restrictions, to patients on this unit. She sometimes cooked rice or other desired Japanese foods for these patients in her own kitchen (which was most likely against hospital rules).* Having received her B.S. degree from UCLA (a trendsetter for a Japanese American woman in the 1950s, one experience she treasured was being able to care for Nell Wooden, wife of the legendary coach, John Wooden. He gave her an autographed copy of his book, *Pyramid of Success*, in appreciation for Florence's good care of his wife.

For Florence, the horrors of what she experienced in Hiroshima when she was 15 years old was something

she could not talk about. But years later, she became active with the Los Angeles branch of the Committee for Atomic Bomb Survivors in the United States. Their mission was to make sure survivors received good medical care and to promote peace. In June 1980, she was chosen to appear before Senator Edward Kennedy and the Labor and Human Resources subcommittee of the U.S. Senate to share her story.

At a time when we once again face the danger of the use of nuclear arms, I think it is extremely important to share the stories of people like Florence Yamada. Buddhism teaches us of the impermanence of life. It teaches us that life is filled with challenges that can lead to suffering. I imagine that for a long time, Florence must have hated both countries for waging war against each other. She experienced tremendous suffering in her life. But the ways in which she was able to help so many people during her career in caregiving, seeing the doctors and nurses who sacrificed to help people who were suffering, made her awaken to the preciousness of life. She also did so much to spread awareness of the horrors of war. She also raised a wonderful son and loved her dogs. I thank Robyn, Ken's wife and Florence's daughter-in-law (and their only caregiver) for allowing me to share her life with you. Although she suffered from memory loss during the last decade of her life, upon reflection, I think she will agree with me that it was indeed a wonderful life.



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www.hhbt-la.org

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<http://www.facebook.com/hhbt.la>



Betsuin News



18TH ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT

The 18th Annual Higashi Honganji Golf Tournament will be held on Monday, March 5th 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 Service & Seminar

This year's Spring Ohigan Service will be held on Sunday, March 18th 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 15, 2018. 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.

CALL FOR VENDORS!

hanamatsuri craft fair

Calling all craft vendors! On Sunday, April 29th 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 and due March 30th.

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 2017 year-end events. Several temple members and friends came to help out at our Temple Clean up on the morning of Sunday, December 17th. 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!

Joya-e New Years Eve Service

We ended 2017 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 2017.

Mochitsuki

Our annual Mochitsuki is known for its sticky fingers and abundant smiles and this year was no exception. On Friday, December 28th, 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 tiny komochi for New Years Day oshiruko and also 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 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!

Shusho-e New Years Day Service

The first morning of 2018, 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 Oshogatsu oshiruko and otoso together after service. Everyone wore warm smiles as we greeted 2018 together.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE!

Submissions for *The Way* are due the 10th of each month for the following month's issue. Articles and announcements for our April/May Issue are due March 10th, 2018. Submissions may be subject to printing restrictions and staff approval. Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you!

Eitaikyo Service & New Year Luncheon

Our 2018 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, Rev. Peter Hata gave a Dharma Talk in English and Rev. Paul Imahara spoke in Japanese.

This year, we had our 113th Annual New Year Luncheon and Annual General meeting in the JACCC Garden Room. Two walls of the room were opened up to view the beautiful James Irvine Garden and provided a scenic and peaceful background for our luncheon. Attendees enjoyed a buffet of delicious Persian food, which included hummus, babaganoush, pita, and lavash for appetizers and rice, eggplant, lentils, green salad, potato salad, two kinds of beef, and two kinds of chicken for lunch. There were also an assortment of beverages including iced teas and fresh lemonade. Each attendee also received a cupcake for dessert.

We opened the luncheon with greetings from our Board President, Mr. Ron Sato and Rinban Noriaki Ito. Ron Sato opened the general meeting. A betsuin report, temple financial report, and the election of 2018 Board of Directors were presented by Rev. Peter Hata, Craig Harada, and Ted Oyama,

respectively. We welcome new Board members Elaine Barbod, Penny Murata, Gary Nishimura, and Kisa Ito. Wayne Itoga has been added as a Vice President and Irene Ota will serve as a Treasurer.

Presentations were made by Rinban Ito and Ron Sato to temple volunteers to honor their hard work over the course of the past year. After the presentations, there was a slideshow documenting the highlights of 2017.

We want to send a special thank you to Mr. Shin Ito for acting as Master of Ceremonies during the luncheon and YABA for hosting the luncheon. Thank you to Elaine Barbod for assisting with the caterer. 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 Janet Ito, Irene Ota, Becky Sato, Elaine Harada, Sharilynn Jung, Wayne Itoga, Catalina Kamimura, Susan Kashiwabara, and Mika Ito for donating prizes for the raffle. Thank you to Kisa Ito for assisting with the venue. Thank you to the 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.

LABTF Hanamatsuri Celebration

The 2018 Los Angeles Buddhist Temple Federation's Hanamatsuri will take place this year on the Buddha's actual birthday, which is Sunday, April 8. The program begins at 1:30 pm and will be held at the Nishi Hongwanji Buddhist Temple at 1st and Vignes streets.

This year's Hanamatsuri theme is, "I Alone am the Honored One...Means You and Me." This theme emphasizes that Buddhism embraces and honors all life equally. Rev. Mas Kodani will be the guest speaker and, following the service, Nobuko Miyamoto and her group will perform FandangObon.

Also included will be the popular Children's Art Contest awards.

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

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

*Ms. Florence Shioko Yamada (87)
December 27, 2017*

*Mr. Ronald Ken Washizaki (70)
December 28, 2017*

*Mr. Bill Shigeru Matsumura (98)
January 3, 2018*

*Mr. James Mikio Chikasawa (91)
January 4, 2018*

*Mrs. Asa Nomura Golden (93)
January 12, 2018*

Namu Amida Butsu



The Way



A Buddhist is who cares about other people in there life. Some of the people in the life is teachers, mom dad, sister, brother, friends). Also, Buddhist (peoples) that is a good person that is very kind.

Yuna
kanamaru

Age 7
Dharma School

Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple *hanamatsuri craft* *fair*

Sunday, April 29, 2018

10:00am - 3:00pm

Higashi Social Hall

Come SHOP with us!

Vendors! Please contact the temple office for an application!

Applications are due March 30th

info@hhbt-la.org • 213-626-4200

www.hhbt-la.org

LUMBINI CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

FOR CHILDREN AGES 2 1/2 TO 6 YEARS

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OPEN YEAR ROUND:

MONDAY through FRIDAY

7:30am to 6:00pm

closed national holidays

**APPLICATIONS
AVAILABLE!**

Call today to set up a
visit to the school!

