

HIGASHI HONGANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

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The Way

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HIGASHI HONGANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE | LOS ANGELES BETSUIN

TEMPLE SCHEDULE

JULY

- 1 10:00am Shotsuki Service
- 8 10:00am Sunday Service
- 15 10:00am **Obon Family Service**
Pet Memorial Service
- 22 10:00am Sunday Service
(Discussion Group)
- 28 LABCC Camp (to 8/4)
- 28 1:00pm **OBON FESTIVAL**
- 29 11:00am **Obon/Hatsubon Service**
- 29 1:00pm **OBON FESTIVAL**

AUGUST

- 5 10:00am Shotsuki Service
- 12 10:00am Sunday Service
- 19 8:00am **Big Bargain Sale**
- 19 10:00am Sunday Service
- 26 10:00am Sunday Service
(Discussion Group)

SEPTEMBER

- 2 No Service (Labor Day)
- 8 6:00pm **HOONKO Gathering**
- 9 10:00am **HOONKO Service**
- 16 10:00am Shotsuki Service

HIGASHI HONGANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

OBON

SATURDAY & SUNDAY
JULY 28TH & 29TH, 2018



OBON HATSUBON SERVICE
SUNDAY | 11:00AM
MANTO-E SERVICES
SATURDAY & SUNDAY | 5:30PM
BON ODORI
SATURDAY & SUNDAY | 6:30PM



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The Deep Wish of Kakushin

Rev. Tomoyuki Hasegawa

From February to May this year, I was busy editing a textbook on the history of Honganji. Even though the book gives just an outline of the temple's history, I had an opportunity to reflect on the undercurrent of the deep wish flowing throughout the 750-year history of our sangha. The fate of the Honganji has been tossed back and forth by the waves of the times, but it has always been supported by the people's awakening to the fundamental wish to be born in the Pure Land, even during the most difficult times.

There are many traditions in the history of Jōdo Shinshū. Higashi Honganji and Nishi Honganji used to be one temple named Honganji, one of the Shinshū traditions. The origin of the Honganji can be traced back to a small memorial hall, which was built about 750 years ago. Shinran Shōnin spent his final years at a residence named Zenpōin in Kyoto and his youngest daughter Kakushin (also known as Kakushinni) was taking care of him. In 1263 (Kōchō 2), he passed away at the age of ninety and his ashes were buried in Higashiyama, an area located on the eastern part of the city. About ten years after his passing, Kakushin and her husband Ononomiya Zennen moved the Shōnin's grave to their privately-owned land in Higashiyama where they built a small memorial hall for the Shōnin with the help of followers in the Kantō region (the surrounding area of present-day Tokyo). They enshrined the Shōnin's lifelike wooden image, which was called *goei*, in the hall. It became a sacred place for the Shōnin's followers, who visited there from across the country. It was a place where they encountered the Shōnin again to express their gratitude toward him and to reflect on his teachings. A few years later, after Zennen passed away, Kakushin donated the memorial hall and

its land to the followers in Kantō. This memorial hall became the Honganji later.

The important thing here is that Kakushin entrusted the ownership and administration of the memorial hall to the followers in Kantō instead of retaining the property rights. She clearly stated in her letter addressed to the followers that the memorial hall should belong to all followers. She continued to live in the property to take care of the building on behalf of the followers in remote areas. Her position came to be called *rusushiki* (caretaker). Even though we do not know how deeply Kakushin understood Shinran Shōnin's teaching, as a *rusushiki*, Kakushin embodied the spirit of the Shōnin, who shared the teaching of the Buddha with anyone regardless of condition or background. She sincerely wished that the memorial hall would become the place where anyone could meet Shinran Shōnin.

During the time when Kakunyo, the grandson of Kakushin, was the *rusushiki*, he started to call the memorial hall "Honganji," and later it was officially recognized as a Buddhist temple by the Imperial Court, though some followers did not welcome the organizational change. Moreover, he declared himself as the direct and legitimate successor of the dharma tradition passed down through Shinran and his grandson Nyoshin. The effects of those changes might not be entirely positive from the standpoint of Shinran's teaching, but Kakunyo at least tried to preserve the teaching tradition from heretic understandings by doing so. He and several generations of his descendants continued to travel to remote regions in order to propagate the teaching, and because of those efforts, the number of followers gradually increased. When Rennyo became the head of the Honganji, because of his vigorous propagation efforts, the

scale of the sangha was dramatically expanded even though the original place of the memorial hall was completely destroyed by the monks of Mount Hiei. Rennyo is well known as the reformer or the second founder of the Honganji, but one of his greatest achievements was reviving the spiritual core of Kakushin by making architectural changes to temple buildings and creating a service format of chanting Shōshinge and wasans so that anyone could gather at temples and have direct access to Shinran Shōnin's teaching. More than a century later, Kyōnyo carried on the spirit of Shinran Shōnin and established our Higashi Honganji as the place where anyone could meet the Shōnin and listen to his teaching, in spite of tremendous hardships in the turmoil of the warring state period. The tradition of the sangha has been passed down while experiencing some changes to meet the demands of the ages. However, Kakushin's spirit to build the memorial hall has been alive at the foundation of the history of the sangha.

Today, the small memorial hall once tucked away in the foothills of Higashiyama has become the huge Goeidō (Founder's Hall) as seen at the Higashi Honganji and Nishi Honganji. The Goeidō of the Higashi Honganji is known as one of the largest wooden structures in the world. It was destroyed by fire four times since it was first built in the early 17th century, but was rebuilt each time thanks to the tremendous efforts made by the followers. The present-

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www.hhbt-la.org

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



Betsuin News



Tanjo-e • Hatsumairi Service

Our Tanjo-e and Hatsumairi Service was held on Sunday, May 20th. Tanjo-e is a special service that celebrates the birth of Shinan Shōnin, the founder of our Jodo Shinshu Buddhist tradition. Shinran was born around this time near Kyoto, Japan in the year 1173.

At our Tanjo-e Service, we also observed Hatsumairi by welcoming Ena Reet Fallon, Kailani Isaacs, Yuna Joy and Eri Sky Kanamaru, and Hina Megan Zimmerman into our Sangha. Congratulations to Ena, Kailani, Yuna, Eri, Hina, and their families.

Toban 2 provided a delicious chira-shi lunch for all of the members to enjoy. Thank to you everyone who joined us for this special service.



There will be no
**DHARMA SCHOOL
+ SANGHA TEENS**
in August! We will resume
classes in September!

Hoonko Service
Sunday, September 9th
10:00am



Little Tokyo Sparkle Community Clean Up

On May 12, 2018 Higashi Sangha members, friends, and community volunteers joined members of local organizations, businesses, churches and temples to clean-up the sidewalks and windows of Little Tokyo. Event organizers Steve and Patty Nagano projected that nearly 250 volunteered to clean the streets of Little Tokyo.

Our Higashi group was assigned to clean Little Tokyo "BLOCK G" whose border was Second St. on the north, San Pedro on the west, Central on the east and Third St. on the south. Volunteers worked hard to clean the sidewalks, planters and spent a long time scraping years of "ground in" gum on the walkways. Poles and utility boxes required extra effort to scrape off layers of slap tags and stickers. Additionally, Team Higashi members were able to remove heavy black graffiti on the kiosks at Second St. and the JVP.

Our group remarked how great it was to meet and work alongside other community members. In preparation for this event our Sangha members attended organizing meetings and ordered supplies. In addition, we would like to send a big "Thank you" to Elaine Harada and Kathy Ikeda who solicited donations from merchants, picked up donations and help to coordinate the community lunch held at JACCC.

As has been reported before, the genesis for this 3rd annual Sparkle was to honor the community service legacy of the late Nancy Kikuchi who passed away in September 2014 and whose funeral service was held at our Higashi.

Nancy Kikuchi was the consummate community volunteer. She led by example. Nancy worked at the Community Redevelopment Agency and the JACCC. No job was too little or dirty for her. Wherever she worked, whatever position she took.... if there was a light out, something to be cleaned up, she was up the ladder or on the floor.

On May 31 we met with Committee

Congratulations Class of 2018!

GRADUATE

HEATHER KITADA
Oregon State University
PhD in Statistics

COLLEGE

SEAN KITAYAMA
University of California, Berkeley

MARIEA SEKIJIMA
Fordham University

HIGH SCHOOL

WYLIE KASAI
Flintridge Preparatory School
will attend Dartmouth College

ANITA KOMATSU
North High School
will attend UC Irvine

AVERY TAMURA
El Camino Real Charter High School
will attend Pierce College

MIDDLE SCHOOL

RYLIE HARADA
Foothills Middle School

KATEY KAMIMURA
Macy Intermediate School

TOM KOMATSU
Casimir Middle School



Chairs Steve and Patty Nagano and the Sparkle Committee for a de-brief meeting at which time we provided them with your recommendations for the next clean-up.... Spring 2019?

On behalf of the committee, thank you all for your efforts!!!

In gassho,
Team Higashi

HIGASHI HONGANJI 59TH ANNUAL

O B O N FESTIVAL

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

JULY 28TH & 29TH

1:00PM-9:00PM

HHBT-LA.ORG



A MESSAGE FROM OUR OBON CHAIRS

WE'RE BAAAAACK!!

Higashi Obon, July 28 & 29th!

This yearly Buddhist tradition welcomes back the ever-present spirit of our ancestors and dearly departed loved ones. We celebrate with time-honored traditions, as well as, delightful entertainment, delicious food and desserts, along with the wonderful bargains at the produce and nursery areas!

The main event is our unforgettable OBON dance, where I look forward to dancing with my parents!

So come join us at our wondrous festival...and just maybe, you'll go home a millionaire!

Would you believe a raffle prize winner?

How about leaving with just a happy and peaceful heart!

See you then!

(WISH, con't. from page 1)

day building was rebuilt in 1895 by the hands of followers who gathered from all over Japan, when neither construction machinery nor advanced architectural technology was available. What made the construction of such a huge building possible was tens of thousands of followers' deep wish that the Honganji would continue to be the place where anyone can meet Shinran Shōnin. We can see that the Shōnin's youngest daughter Kakushin's wish is still alive in the building of Goeidō.

I think it is very important for us to look back on our sangha's history and to reflect on the spiritual core underlying the temple. And I believe that we can awaken to the true meaning of life through that reflection.



OBON RAFFLE

Please invite your family and friends to join us in participating in our Annual Obon Raffle drawing. We have many great prizes including our top five prizes and the Special Prize, which you need not be present to win. In addition to these great prizes, we have others donated by our members and friends in the community. We are requesting a donation of \$3.00 per raffle ticket or \$15.00 for a book of five tickets. Be sure to send in your raffle tickets so you can have a chance to win one of these great prizes. Extra raffle tickets are available in the temple office and throughout the weekend at the Obon Festival.



FIRST PRIZE

\$1,000 Cash

SECOND PRIZE

Disneyland Trip for 4

THIRD PRIZE

\$500 Cash



FOURTH PRIZE

Apple Watch



FIFTH PRIZE

Amazon Echo Show

SPECIAL PRIZE

\$500 Travel Certificate

(Courtesy of New Japan Travel Center)

AND MANY OTHER VALUABLE PRIZES!

LUMBINI CORNER

Be sure to come see us at Obon! We'll be performing on stage with the help of our friends from here and now and hope you'll come join in on the fun! We will be hosting the Bake Sale and some game booths, so come visit us there also and support Lumbini! See you at Obon!

MANTO-E LANTERNS

Orders are now being accepted for Manto-e Lanterns for our Annual Obon Festival. If you would like an order form, they are available in the temple office. Please call to reserve your lantern at your earliest convenience. The cost is \$25 per lantern. Please let us know if you would like to pick up your lantern after the Obon Festival so that we can be sure to set yours aside. We will hold all reserved lanterns until September 1st.

OBON GIFT CERTIFICATES

Obon gift certificates can be purchased for \$5.00 each. They are great to give to friends and family to use over the weekend. Gift certificates can be used toward the purchase of food at our Obon only and are available through the temple office. If you would like your gift certificates mailed to you, please be sure that we receive your payment by Friday, July 20th.



HELP AT OBON!

we're looking for volunteers to fill various roles at our Obon Festival! If you would like to help out, please contact the office!

213-626-4200

info@hhbt-la.org