

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 | 7:00 pm | Tuesday Discussion |
| 6 | 10:00 am | Shotsuki Service |
| 13 | 10:00 am | Sunday Service
Discussion Group |
| 15 | 7:00 pm | Tuesday Discussion |
| 20 | 10:00 am | Obon Family Service/
Pet Memorial Service |
| 26 | 1-9 pm | OBON Festival |
| 27 | 11:00 am | Hatsubon Service |
| 27 | 1-9 pm | OBON Festival |

AUGUST

- | | | |
|----|----------|--------------------|
| 3 | 10:00 am | Shotsuki Service |
| 5 | 7:00 pm | Tuesday Discussion |
| 10 | | No Service |
| 17 | 8:00 am | Big Bargain Sale |
| 17 | | No Service |
| 19 | 7:00 pm | Tuesday Discussion |
| 24 | | No Service |
| 31 | | No Service |

SEPTEMBER

- | | | |
|---|----------|------------------------|
| 1 | | Labor Day (No Service) |
| 2 | 7:00 pm | Tuesday Discussion |
| 7 | 10:00 am | Shotsuki Service |

66TH ANNUAL HHBT OBON 2025

SAT, JULY 26 & SUN, JULY 27

1:00 PM – 9:00 PM

AT HIGASHI HONGANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

VISITING THE TEMPLE

The temple is currently open
for private services and visi-
tations 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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Volume 77 | Number 5 | July 2025

HIGASHI HONGANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE • LOS ANGELES BETSUIN

A Wonderful Fifty Years from 1975 to 2025

Rinban Noriaki Ito

Later this year, I will be retiring from active service as a *kaikyōshi*, an overseas minister at Higashi Honganji in Los Angeles. After studying at Occidental College in Los Angeles from 1967 and then going to Kyoto in 1971 for graduate school at Otani University for four years, I was installed as a minister in September 1975 the year before the temple moved from its location in Boyle Heights to Little Tokyo where we have been for the past 50 years. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for supporting me and all of our temples and ministers for so many years.

Lately, I have actually been thinking back even further. It was in 1953 that my father was sent from Japan to come to Los Angeles by himself to take over as Rinban, the head minister of our temple. His intent was to come and to stay only for a few years. He quickly realized, though, that he would have to stay longer, and so he had our family make the journey to California.

My mother, two older sisters, and I came on a ship in 1955. Our brother Shin was born in Los Angeles the year after we arrived. For at least a few years, we lived in the temple until the house next to the temple was purchased a few years later, and that became our home.

I enjoyed growing up in Boyle Heights and eventually finished junior high school at Hollenbeck and high school at Roosevelt. Back in those days, there were a lot of Issei and Nisei families there, and so it was a nice area to grow up. If we went back to Japan, I would have been groomed to take over the Ito temple in Tokyo, but my parents realized that we were quickly growing up as Americans, and it would be difficult to return. Since our temple here in Los Angeles wasn't a family temple, there was no obligation for a son to take over. So, although I did receive training in chanting the sutras, there was no pressure to go back to Japan to study for the ministry.

I entered Occidental College and met a wonderful professor who taught religion classes there. He became my advisor and encouraged me to study Buddhism. Just before I began my last year there, my advisor, Dr. Josselyn, encouraged me to think about moving to Kyoto to continue my study of Buddhism there. This was at a time when the Vietnam War was in full force, and many of my old friends were being drafted to serve as soldiers there. At the time, I didn't know whether I wanted to become a minister, but I looked forward to going to Japan to study there. After four years there, I learned enough of the

language and Buddhism and became ordained, and returned to Los Angeles. We were still at the old temple in Boyle Heights in 1975, and our leadership had decided to move to Little Tokyo. At the time, Rinban Horyu Ito, Rev. Tsuyoshi Hirosumi, and Rev. Koen Mishima were the active ministers. Probably the only reason I was hired was because I spoke fluently the language of the Nisei and Sansei members of the temple. So, this year, 2025, is my 50th year as a *kaikyōshi*, an overseas minister, and although I haven't been as effective as my predecessors, I have been able to help out for five decades. I was appointed as Rinban, the head minister of the Los Angeles Higashi Honganji Betsuin in 1993, and this year will be my 32nd year as Rinban. Rev. Junjo Izumida served from 1921 to 1935, Rev. Kankai Izuhara from 1936 to 1954, Rev. Horyu Ito from 1954 to 1984, and Rev. Gyoko Saito from 1984 to 1993. It has been a wonderful journey. I know I could have done a better job. I thank all of my predecessors who helped me to learn how to be an effective minister. And I thank all of you for your support and guidance over so many years. In my retirement, I hope to continue to help out as much as I can.



SAVE THE DATE - SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2025

Celebrating 50 Years of Service

RINBAN NORIAKI ITO

Succession Service at Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple
followed by Retirement Luncheon at Quiet Cannon in Montebello





Betsuin News



August Services

After Obon, we will have Shotsuki Service the first week of August on the 3rd. There will be no service for the remainder of the month of August. Dharma School will take a break in August and resume in September.

Tanjo-e Service

Our Tanjo-e Service was held on Sunday, May 18th. 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.

Toban committee members provided a delicious lunch of assorted vegetarian dishes for all of the members to enjoy. Thank you to everyone who joined us for this special service.

Our deepest condolences

to the family and relatives of ...

*David Setsuo Ishibashi (69)
November 25, 2024*

Namu Amida Butsu

BIG BARGAIN SALE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Please indicate which day(s) and time(s) you would like to volunteer.

Send your name, phone number, and email address.

Aug. 6, 7, 8 (W/Th/F)
8:30 am – 12 pm
sorting and pricing

Aug. 14, 15, 16 (Th/F/Sa)
8:30 am – 12 pm
sorting and pricing

Aug 17 (Sunday)
8 am – 3 pm (lunch provided)
Big Bargain Sale

Jeanne: jymurata@hotmail.com
Nicole: nickel1889@hotmail.com
Ted: toyama@aepcgroup.com
Penny: prmurata@hotmail.com

Thank you so much for your help!
Team Oyama and Murata



CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2025!

MASTERS

KELLY YUKO TAMURA
Master of Science, Engineering in
Biomedical Engineering with Emphasis
in Translational Cell and Tissue
Engineering
Johns Hopkins University

BACHELORS

GALILEA MARQUEZ
Bachelor of Arts, Anthropology
University of Southern California

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

EMI LAWS
5th grade
Minnie Gant Elementary School
Attending: Stanford Middle School

PRESCHOOL

SUMIYE TOKUMITSU
Preschool
Montessori International Academy
Attending: Montessori International
Academy Elementary School

KEIZO YAMADA

Preschool
Lumbini Child Development Center
Attending: Canfield Elementary



66TH ANNUAL HHBT OBON 2025

SAT, JULY 26 & SUN, JULY 27
1:00 PM – 9:00 PM

IT'S OBON SEASON!

This year, the Higashi Obon Festival will be held at the temple on Saturday and Sunday, July 26 and 27, 2025.

Hatsubon Service will be performed by our wonderful ministerial staff for those who have passed away since our last Obon. Lanterns may be purchased in memory of your loved ones prior to the festival. The lanterns will hang overhead and honor their memory as we dance bon odori both evenings.

Enjoy our food booths, game booths, Farmer's Market, live entertainment, and much more!

We look forward to gathering with family and friends and making more memories again in 2025!

Please join us July 26 & 27 from 1 pm to 9 pm, as we welcome everyone back to celebrate Obon with us!

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.

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

2025 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 four prizes, 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 \$5.00 per raffle ticket or \$25.00 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

4 DODGERS TICKETS

THIRD PRIZE

\$500 CASH

FOURTH PRIZE

APPLE IPAD

OBON GIFT CERTIFICATES

Starting this year, Obon gift certificates can be purchased in increments of \$10. 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. Please be sure to preorder your gift certificates if possible! If you would like your gift certificates mailed to you, please be sure that we receive your payment by Friday, July 18th. You are also welcome to pick up at the office.



June is an exciting and sad month for us at Lumbini. We are very proud of our new graduates who have learned and accomplished so much during their time with us, but we are sad that they'll be moving on to new schools. We'll miss all our friends!

At the beginning of June, Lumbini held an Open House and welcomed prospective families, current students and their families, alumni, and friends to come see the school and meet the teachers. There were crafts and activities for the kids to enjoy and a chance for everyone to see what Lumbini has been up to through photo displays and artwork. Thank you to everyone who came by to visit and also all of our volunteers who helped!

Be sure to come see us at Obon! We'll be performing on stage with the help of Rev. Mayuki from our Japanese class and Mr. John from our Expression & Mobility class. We hope you'll come join in on the fun! We will also be hosting the Bake Sale! See you at Obon!

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.

CONGRATS LUMBINI CLASS OF 2025!

PRESCHOOL

James Aguila
Charles Mooney
Thomas Ono
Keizo Yamada

