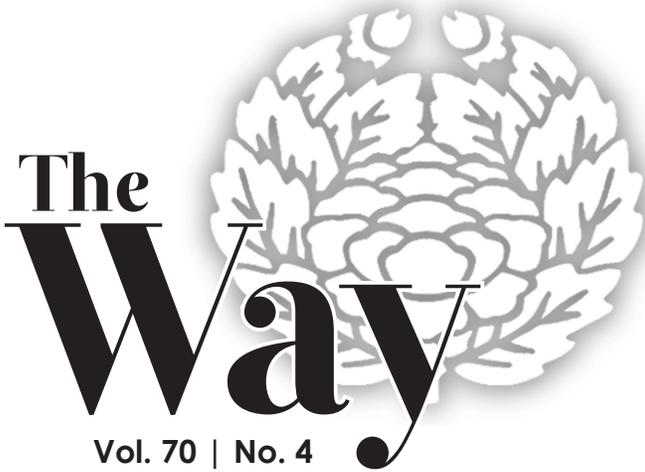


HIGASHI HONGANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

505 East Third Street
Los Angeles, CA 90013
(213) 626-4200 - FAX (213) 626-6850

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Vol. 70 | No. 4
June 2018

HIGASHI HONGANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE | LOS ANGELES BETSUIN

TEMPLE SCHEDULE

JUNE

- 3 10:00am Shotsuki Service
- 10 10:00am Sunday Service
- 17 10:00am **Father's Day/
Graduation Family
Service & Lunch**
- 24 10:00am Sunday Service
- 24 1:00pm **Lumbini Graduation**

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 Summer Camp
(to 8/4)
- 28 **OBON FESTIVAL**
- 29 11:00am **Obon/Hatsubon Service**
- 29 **OBON FESTIVAL**

COMING SOON!

OBON

2018

SATURDAY & SUNDAY
JULY 28TH & 29TH



The Way



Volume 70 | Number 4 | June 2018

HIGASHI HONGANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE • LOS ANGELES BETSUIN

The Red Service Book (The New Service Book)

Rev. Masashi Fujii

The service book that we use at our temple has been republished as of the Spring Ohigan Service. The new version was produced as a project of the Shinshu Center of America. It is larger than the previous white service book making it easier for many people to read. It seems that the North America District updates service books almost every ten years. In this version, for those who visit the temple for the first time, information such as proper etiquette at the temple and how to offer incense were added.

Also, for the first time ever, we worked together with the Hawaii ministers and others to make this service book, and we included the programs of both North America and Hawaii Sunday services. At our Sunday services at the Los Angeles Betsuin, we have had some opportunities to sing the English version of the gatha, *Ondokusan* (Gatha of Gratitude) that has already been used by the Hawaii temples. Since we belong to the same Higashi Honganji sangha, I felt that it is a great opportunity to collaborate with each other and continue to listen to the same teachings together.

The service books used in Japan are called *Akahon* (or "red book" in Japanese) and there is a *manga*-type character whose name is *Akahon-kun*. So, in accordance with Japanese tradition, we adopted the red cover for our service books this time.

I have been asked why the service books are red by some people. "Is there some meaning behind the color red?" There is one theory that its origin can be traced to the color of blood. There is a story that took place about five hundred years ago during the era of the 8th Abbot Rennyō Shōnin. In 1471, when Rennyō was 51 years old, *Yoshizaki Gobo* (Yoshizaki Hermitage) was built in Echizen

Yoshizaki (now Arawa City, Yoshizaki, Fukui Prefecture). It was there that he shared the teaching with the people in the area, and sent letters called *Ofumi* which were written in contemporary Japanese so that followers could easily understand. He also distributed inscriptions of the nenbutsu (Namu Amida Butsu) which was referred to as the "6-character name" (*rokuji myōgō*).

On the evening of April 28, 1474, a fire broke out at Yoshizaki Gobo. Rennyō Shōnin was able to escape, but he realized that Shinran Shōnin's handwritten scrolls of the *Kyōgyōshinshō* were still inside of the temple.

The *Kyōgyōshinshō* is one of the texts that we have long referred to as *o-shōgyō* (sacred text) and it includes *Shōshin-ge* (The Gatha of the Nenbutsu of True Awakening) which we usually recite at Sunday services.

Returning to the story, everyone was so shocked that all they could do was to watch the raging fire. But one disciple, Rev. Honkōbō Ryōken, upon hearing that the *Kyōgyōshinshō* was left inside, leaped into the fire, disregarding caution from Rennyō and the others. He managed to find the sacred book. But being surrounded by the fire, knew that he could not get back out. He cut his stomach open with a knife and placed all of the scrolls inside his body to keep them safe.

The *Kyōgyōshinshō* that was saved from the fire came to be known as the *Haragomori no Shōgyō* (the sacred text confined in the belly). So, one theory as to why the service books came to have red covers is because of the story of the courageous and quick-thinking Rev. Honkōbō who saved that most sacred scrolls penned by Shinran himself.

The story of the sacred text confined

in the belly" is a very shocking story. I doubt that any of us, minister or layperson, could do what Rev. Honkōbō did. I, myself, would categorize it as one of the greatest stories of a person who lived his life together with and for the teachings he received. However, I think that this story should not be remembered merely as a story of a great man who sacrificed his life to protect a sacred text a long time ago in history.

I think it may be important to ask ourselves these questions, "Why did Honkōbō risk his life to protect the sacred scrolls?" "What can we learn from the example of what he did?" "What is it that the Buddhas wish for us?"

Among the letters of Rennyō Shōnin, there is one called "On White Ashes" that many of you may be familiar with. One passage goes, "In the morning, I may have radiant health. In the evening, I may return to white ashes." This sentence expresses the transience or impermanence of human life. Death can come to us regardless of our age. In the morning, you may wake up with a cheerful face, but by evening, one's life may end. This is the truth that was taught by the Buddha. That is why I think that Buddhas are wishing that we live life to the fullest on an everyday basis so that there is no regret. We are encouraged to continue to listen to the Buddhadharma throughout the rest of our lives.

When Honkōbō woke up that morning, I am sure that he did not
(Please see RED, page 4)

visit our website at
www.hhbt-la.org

and "like" us on facebook at
<http://www.facebook.com/hhbt.la>



Betsuin News



Mother's Day Breakfast & Family Service

We had a very fun Mother's Day Breakfast on Sunday, May 13th. Many members came early in the morning to cook breakfast for all of the mothers and their families. We enjoyed a delicious selection of pastries, sausage, bacon, ham, scrambled eggs, fruit, yogurt, oatmeal, orange juice, and coffee. All the meals were served warm and fresh and the social hall was full of smiles and happy bellies.

During the service, Kelly Komatsu shared a very special Mother's Day message with reflections on growing up under the care of his grandmothers and mother. Thank you for your sharing your memories with us.

Thank you to everyone who helped cook and serve Mother's Day breakfast! We received support from several of our organizations, including ABA and YABA. Special thanks to Elaine Harada, David Ikeda, and Janet Ito for making sure everything was ready for Sunday! Thank you to the Murata Family for donating fresh berries and avocados. Thank you to the Matsumoto family for providing gifts for all of the mothers. We appreciate everyone's support!

hanamatsuri *craft fair*

The temple hosted the Hanamatsuri Craft Fair on Sunday April 29th and raised money for youth programs and temple maintenance. We are grateful to our many temple friends and volunteers who helped out at the event by setting up on Friday night, working our various tables on Sunday, and cleaning up after the event. Several of our members hosted vendor tables at the Craft Fair. Among them were Trish Nicholson with amigurumi creations and Shirley Onodera with handmade jewelry, Yuri Kanamaru with Joy & Sky handmade soaps and Higashi kumquat marmalade, Sue Oda Omori with Bizu handmade jewelry and pincushions, Jeff Lane
(Please see *CRAFT FAIR* page 5)

CHANGES TO THE NEWSLETTER AND MAILINGS

In recent months, we have begun to transition to a less frequent newsletter and mail out schedule. This is largely due to the rising costs of printing and postage. While there is no way to easily track readership of our mailings, we have decided to cut back on mailings to lessen waste and extra costs. We are now publishing our newsletter eight times per year instead of monthly. The temple's busiest months still have dedicated issues (for example, Obon and New Years). We have also cut back on newsletter mailing by sending those who request it an email version instead of a physical copy. Please let us know if you would like to receive the newsletter by email instead of mail. Each household that receives the newsletter electronically instead of by mail saves us several dollars per year.

In addition to changes in our newsletter schedule, we are cutting back on our announcement mailing. While we used to send service and program announcements to our entire mailing list, we have cut back to sending major service announcements only to members who have paid membership in recent years. With first class postage now costing \$.50 per letter and paper and printing costs rising as well, any mail out becomes quite expensive. You may have also noticed that we do our best to print double-sided when possible and combine mailings when appropriate. In addition to the cost, we are increasingly

aware of the impact that our paper usage has on the environment and hope to do our part to become a greener organization.

Other ways you can help us are by letting us know whether you would like to be removed from our mailing list and/or Shotsuki/Memorial Service list, receive the newsletter only by email, letting us know if family members who are deceased are still receiving mail from us, and donating to offset our printing and mailing costs. Unfortunately, we do not currently have the ability to send Shotsuki/Memorial service notices or receipts by email, so those will continue to be sent by mail.

We appreciate your patience as we navigate this transition in our newsletter and mailing practices and thank you for your continued support of the temple.

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

Mrs. Alice Takeko Iwamoto (94)
March 12, 2018

Mrs. Terrie Masako Sundarakumara (83)
March 15, 2018

Mr. Yasuyuki Fukumoto (85)
March 16, 2018

Mr. Satoru Toyoda (92)
April 22, 2018

Mrs. Hiroko Yamagata (84)
April 15, 2018

Mr. Junichi Jay Ikeda (70)
May 10, 2018

Namu Amida Butsu



59TH ANNUAL OBON FESTIVAL SATURDAY & SUNDAY | JULY 28TH & 29TH

The Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple and the 2018 Obon Festival Committee would like to invite all members and friends of our Betsuin to join in the 59th Annual Obon Festival. This year's celebration will be on Saturday and Sunday, July 28 and 29 from 1:00 to 9:00pm.

This Buddhist Celebration is a traditional religious observance that honors our ancestors. Our temple grounds will be decorated with hundreds of Manto-e lanterns for the two-day festivities.

The Obon Hatsubon (First Obon) Service will be held on Sunday, July 29 at 11:00am. The traditional Manto-e Services will be held outside at 5:30pm on both Saturday and Sunday.

The festival will begin at 1:00pm.

Come enjoy a variety of ethnic foods such as sushi, udon, chicken and beef teriyaki, chili rice, tamales, kurimanju, and shave ice, as well as hamburgers, hot dogs, corn, and baked desserts. There will be plenty of food for everyone to enjoy during all of the festivities.

Festival-goers of all ages can enjoy games, Bingo, and fresh fruits, vegetables, plants, and cut flowers at the Farmer's Market.

There will also be plenty of entertainment with cultural performances throughout the festival. The program will include taiko, musical performances, tea ceremony, and much more. Again this year, we welcome back HappyFunSmile to liven up our evening

festivities and provide some live music for our Bon Odori.

In the evening, the festival grounds will be full of people dancing Bon Odori. Everyone is encouraged to join in and dance whether you're experienced or not! Bon Odori will be both days from 6:30pm to 8:30pm.

Wrapping up the event on Sunday at 8:30pm will be the raffle drawing. There will be valuable and exciting prizes to win.

We are all very excited about the 59th Annual Obon Festival and hope you will accept our invitation to join us for this very special celebration.

Obon Festival Committee

BON ODORI

Please join us for our upcoming Bon Odori practices! Everyone is welcome, whether you want a bit of aerobic exercise or just want to dance!

At the end of June, we will begin evening practices in preparation for Obon. Practices will be held on the following days from 7:30 to 9:00pm.

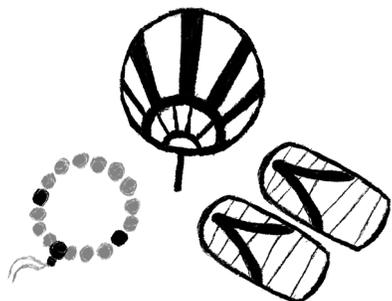
WEDNESDAYS

6/27 · 7/11 · 7/18

FRIDAYS

6/29 · 7/6 · 7/13 · 7/20

All lessons are taught in the social hall. Please bring your uchiwa and kachi-kachi to practice if you have them. If not, please come and we'll share!



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.

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 The Way

The Way needs your help and welcomes your contributions. With the cost of printing and postage steadily increasing, we request your support in helping to make our newsletter available in the years to come. Please consider making a donation to The Way to offset some of the cost. Thank you for your continued support and readership.

Onegai-shimasu!

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

BIG BARGAIN SALE DONATIONS NEEDED!

It's coming again!!! The **HIGASHI BIGGER BARGAIN SALE** will be held on **SUNDAY, AUGUST 19TH from 8am to 3pm** in the Social Hall. We will close for a half hour break from 12:30-1:00 to prepare for the 50% SALE from 1:00-3:00. This day coincides with the closing weekend of the Nisei Week festival. Bargain hunters are in for a treat as we have an exciting day planned. It will be better than last year!

Thank you to all temple members and friends for your generous donations in the past!

While you are doing your Spring-cleaning, please set aside your special items to donate for this event. A simple rule is to ask yourself if you would be happy to buy something you're thinking of donating.

As always, we appreciate your attention to the following guidelines. It truly makes our job of organizing your donations easier. The temple office will be accepting donations only during a 10-day period beginning **Thursday, August 2nd to Sunday, August 12th**.

This year, we will again be accepting 2 categories of clothing. One category is "**Brand New Clothing with Tags Attached**". Another category is "**New or Gently used Coats, Jackets, and Sweaters**." Please put them in different bags as they will be sold in different areas. **WE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTING ANY OTHER CLOTHING EXCEPT FOR KIMONOS.**

Besides clothing, we will also be selling some food items, and plants.

WE ARE HAPPY TO ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING ITEMS

ONLY CLEAN AND GENTLY USED ITEMS THAT ARE READY TO SELL

Chinaware, Glassware
Polished Silver items (no tarnished items)
Kitchen utensils and clean small appliances, general housewares
Decorative items
Vintage Japanese ceramic ware, lacquer ware, etc.
Kimono, yukata, obi, geta, zori, etc.
Jewelry, hair accessories
Office and school supplies-file folders, stationery, scissors, desk accessories
LP Records, DVDs, and CDs (only commercially made, no homemade items)
Fabric, aprons, scarves, gloves, new socks, towels, linens
Purses, wallets, luggage
Clean and complete games and puzzles (no missing parts)
Battery powered items-flashlights, toys etc-**PLEASE PROVIDE A NEW BATTERY**

WITH IT
ONLY CLEAN stuffed animals, dolls, and toys
Homemade craft items
WE HAVE DECIDED NOT TO ACCEPT THE FOLLOWING ITEMS
Torn, chipped, broken or faded items
No cushions, pillows
Cosmetics, shoes, hats, etc.
BOOKS
Cassettes and VHS tapes
Plastic ware - example: Tupperware that has turned yellow over time
Personalized items- "Happy 25th Anniversary Susan and Tom," etc.
Empty tin cans
All Food items
Baby items-clothing, car seats, strollers, high chairs, mattresses, comforters, carriers, etc.
Large items such as furniture - chairs, tables, large pictures or artwork etc.
Large sport items - bicycles, skis, golf clubs, tennis rackets, etc.
Electronic items-computers, printers, telephones, DVD players, etc.

Please wrap breakable items and pack sets of cups, glasses, mugs, plates in the same box

Please pack small items (necklaces, bracelets, earrings, keychains) in separate bags or envelopes to prevent tangling or loss

Please pack clothing separately from other items and by the 2 categories described above—

"BRAND NEW CLOTHING WITH TAGS ATTACHED" and "NEW OR GENTLY USED COATS, SWEATERS AND JACKETS."

The committee does not have the time nor the manpower to wash or clean items for sale, so please bring in "ready to sell" condition. We are looking for **QUALITY** items. (please no "junk")

Again, donations may be brought to the temple office during the 10 day period from Thursday, August 2nd to Sunday, August 12th. After August 12th, we cannot accept any more items. Now is the perfect time to look through your homes and start packing items to set aside to bring to the temple during this 12 day donation window.

Because of very limited storage space, we are requesting that all donations be brought in a box with a top so that it can be stacked. The clothing, however, may be brought in a bag label either "**NEW CLOTHING WITH TAGS**" or "**COATS, JACKETS, & SWEATERS**". In addition, please label "**BIG BARGAIN SALE**" or "**BBS**" on the front of all donations so we will find them when

TAIKO NEWS

Members of Bombu Taiko worked hard upstairs preparing for our Hanamatsuri Family Service. Under the floral expertise of Lisa Shimamoto, Bombu members decorated the temple's hanamido with an abundance of beautiful flowers. The temple is extremely grateful to Lisa and Bombu for their donation of many of the flowers along with the many hours of time and effort put into making our Hanamatsuri beautiful. Thank you, Lisa and Bombu Taiko!

.....
(RED, con't. from page 1)

think his life would come to an end that evening. However, the reason why he was able to act as quickly as he did was because he was listening to the Buddhist teachings from Rennyō Shōnin on an everyday basis. Because of that, he was always reflecting on his true self and worked hard to spend his time without regret every day.

Of course, the most important thing in life is the life we are living. The fundamental teaching of Buddhism is that every life is precious and no life is worthless. It is also true, however, that people teach of us that lesson through sacrifices made of their own lives. I will continue to listen to the Buddha's teaching so that I will not forget that each of us are living precious lives, and I can try to live each new day as if it were the last day of my life.



.....
we go to price and organize your donations. This will be from Wednesday, August 8th to Wednesday, August 15th. Besides helping us by donating items for sale, we welcome your help to assist us in organizing and pricing items for sale before the event, setting up the room the day before (Sat. Aug. 18th @ 8:00am) as well as helping us at the event on Sunday, August 19th!!!

If you have any questions, please call the temple office at (213) 626-4200 and leave a message for Emily. Your call will be returned. **WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT AS THIS IS ONE OF THE OLDEST, TRADITIONAL, MAJOR FUNDRAISERS FOR HIGASHI HONGANJI.**

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!!
Emily Matsumura
Higashi Big Bargain Sale Chair

(CRAFT FAIR, cont. from page 2)

with Shuho Knots various handmade knotted and knit items, Kisa & Janet Ito with Kisanoreen handmade jewelry, and Mika Ito with handmade sewn and paper products. We were happy to support our many creative members and appreciate them all coming out with their crafts and other items.

This year, the Jr. YBA hosted the concession stand to help raise money to attend Southern District Jr. YBL events. Lumbini sold baked goods, drinks, and various other food items.

Special thanks to Steve Murata for his donation of avocados and lemons and Glen Hasegawa for his donation of strawberries. Special thanks also to Trish Nicholson & Shirley Onodera, Heritage Source, Pattie Kasahara & Lorraine Shimizu, Bizu, Kisanoreen, Doctora Designs, Shuho Knots, Kaz Ota, Koya

Handcrafts, Joy & Sky, and Mika Ito for generously donating a portion of their proceeds to the temple.

Thank you to everyone who helped make the fair possible and came out and supported the event! We look forward to seeing you at our next temple fundraiser!



LUMBINI CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

FOR CHILDREN AGES 2 1/2 TO 6 YEARS

TEL: 213-680-2976

FAX: 213-626-6850

EMAIL: lumbini.missleslie@gmail.com

WEBPAGE: <http://LumbiniCDC.org>

[facebook.com/lumbinidc](https://www.facebook.com/lumbinidc)

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!



**GO
GREEN!**

Help us save paper and postage by requesting your newsletter delivery ONLINE! EMAIL US at info@hhbt-la.org and specify EMAIL ONLY for future issues of "The Way." Thank you!

MEMBERSHIP Update

Paid 2018 Temple Members will receive the following benefits *upon request* from the office

- 10% off coupons
- Fugetsu-Do - Toyo Miyatake

Membership dues for 2018 are \$300.00 for couple / family and \$150.00 for single members. **We no longer send out membership cards. Please keep your receipt as proof of membership.** Thank you for your continued support.

Help The Way

The Way needs your help and welcomes your contributions. With the cost of printing and postage steadily increasing, we request your support in helping to make our newsletter available in the years to come. Please consider making a donation to *The Way* to offset some of the cost. Thank you for your continued support and readership.

Onegai-shimasu!