

HIGASHI HONGANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

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The Way

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HIGASHI HONGANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE | LOS ANGELES BETSUIN

TEMPLE SCHEDULE

JUNE

- 1 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 3 7:00 pm Tuesday Discussion
- 7 10:00 am LCDC Open House
- 8 10:00 am Sunday Service
- Discussion Group
- 15 10:00 am Father's Day/
Graduation Family
Service & Luncheon
- 17 7:00 pm Tuesday Discussion
- 22 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 29 9:00 am Coffee & Dharma
- 29 10:00 am Sunday Service

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

COMING SOON!

HHBT OBON 2025

**SATURDAY & SUNDAY
JULY 26 & 27 | 1-9 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



The Way



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Memories of the Late Pope Francis

Rinban Noriaki Ito

As many of you know, I was honored to have the opportunity to meet the late Pope Francis in the summer of 2015. Meeting with other Buddhists and many Catholics, I realized how much we have in common.

As I reflect upon what Pope Francis was able to accomplish, I am so appreciative of the work he was able to do and the connections he was able to make with people of all backgrounds from around the world. We should all thank him for steering us in the right direction.

The Catholic Church is now led by Pope Leo XIV. He is the first American-born Pope in the history of Catholicism. His work in Peru in the past is extremely admirable. I am hopeful that he will also strive to make connections with Buddhists and others around the world. He seems to be a wonderful Catholic priest, and I am sure he will be a wonderful successor to Pope Francis.



An Encounter with Pope Francis and the Catholic Community

Rinban Noriaki Ito

This article was originally published after Rinban Ito's trip to the Vatican in the August 2015 issue of The Way.

For five days during the week of June 23, I had the extraordinary experience of participating in the Buddhist-Catholic Dialogue Conference at the Vatican, highlighted by an opportunity to meet Pope Francis. 25 Buddhist and 20 Catholic leaders from around the United States were chosen to participate in this historic event.

Of the 25 Buddhists, there were three others chosen from the Jodo Shinshu tradition, our own Rev. Patti Nakai of the Buddhist Temple of Chicago, as well as BCA ministers, Rev. Ron Kobata of San Francisco and Rev. Ron Miyamura of Chicago. The conference itself was held at a beautiful retreat facility called Mariapolis Center in the town of Castel Gandolfo, the site of the Pope's summer residence.

The theme of the conference was Suffering, Liberation, and Fraternity and the presentations made by nearly all of the participants reflected Buddhist and Catholic views on the three elements of the theme. Pope Francis has come to the understanding that the only way to ensure a brighter future for the world is that is for religions to come together to work for our common goals. He was,

therefore, extremely happy to know that Buddhists and Catholics from the U.S. had come together in Rome to discuss our concerns and to develop plans to work towards bringing about a more compassionate and harmonious world.

Although the Catholic Church has acknowledged the sacredness of non-Christian religions and begun the process of dialogue since end of the Second Vatican Council in 1965, those efforts seem to have been accelerated since the installation of Pope Francis. Regarding the idea that we must join together, he said, "*Fraternity is an essential human quality, for we are all relational beings. A lively awareness of our relatedness helps us to look upon and treat each person as a true sister or brother; without fraternity it is impossible to build a just society and a solid and lasting peace.*"

In a message to the Buddhist community he delivered in 2014, he said, "*You are also convinced that the root of all evil is the ignorance and delusion born of greed and hatred, which in turn destroy the bonds of fraternity...As Buddhists and Christians, we live in a world all too often torn apart by oppression, selfishness, tribalism, ethnic rivalry, violence, and religious fundamentalism, a world where the "other" is treated as an inferior, a non-person, or someone to be feared and eliminated if possible.*"

Here, Pope Francis seems to be using the language of Buddhism. He says, the root of all evil, of human suffering, is ignorance and delusion, brought about by greed and hatred. Buddhism identifies this as the Three Poisons – anger, greed, and ignorance.

According to him, he says, "*We are called to cooperation with other pilgrims and with people of good will to respect and defend our shared humanity...drawing upon*

(Please see POPE, page 4)

Celebrating 50 Years of Service

RINBAN NORIAKI ITO

SUCCESSION SERVICE & RETIREMENT LUNCHEON

Sunday, September 28, 2025

More info to come



Betsuin News



Hanamatsuri Family Service

Hanamatsuri Family Service was held on Sunday, April 20th to celebrate the Buddha's Birthday. Representatives from each temple organization went up to offer sweet tea and flowers to the Baby Buddha in the hanamido. Dharma Talks were given by Rinban Noriaki Ito in English and Rev. Mayuki Nagamine in Japanese.

On Saturday before the service, under the floral expertise of Lisa Shimamoto, Bombu Taiko members decorated the temple's hanamido with an abundance of beautiful flowers. The temple is extremely grateful to Lisa and Bombu Taiko for the many hours of time and effort put into making our Hanamatsuri beautiful. The flowers were all donated by generous contributors. Special thanks to Endow Nursery, Yamaoka Flowers, O&J Growers, Bombu Taiko, and Lisa Shimamoto for the beautiful flowers.

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

Yoshie Sakamoto (92)
March 1, 2025

Shawn Thomas Sullivan (59)
March 15, 2025

Nana Tanahashi (85)
March 17, 2025

Namu Amida Butsu

member spotlight



BABY ANNOUNCEMENT

To Parents Gaku Ito & Aya Ino
Grandparents
Rinban Noriaki & Janet Ito
a New Baby Boy
Toa Kei Ito
Born on April 20, 2025

WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT

Sean Kitayama & Irene Kim
Son of Jon & Annette Kitayama
May 3, 2025

CONGRATULATIONS!



Mother's Day Family Service & Breakfast

We had a very festive Mother's Day Breakfast on Sunday, May 11th. Members provided a special breakfast for everyone beginning at 9:00 am. There was a delicious spread of fluffy pancakes (with maple syrup made by Sylvia Hohri & Ed Andrews and loads of butter), scrambled eggs, hash browns, fried rice, ham, Portuguese sausage, rolls, strawberries, grapes, watermelon, honeydew, and a yogurt bar with granola and berries. Coffee, tea, and orange juice were also served. It was great to see so many familiar faces at our Mother's Day breakfast.

During the service, Laura Yamashiro shared a very entertaining Mother's Day Dharma Talk with translation by Rev. Nagamine. Thank you for making us all smile and laugh!

Thank you to everyone who helped coordinate, cook, and serve breakfast and clean up afterward! It made all of the moms and ladies feel special on Mother's Day! Special thanks to Lisa Shimamoto for the beautiful roses for all of the moms! We appreciate everyone's support!



66TH ANNUAL

HHBT OBON 2025

SATURDAY, JULY 26 & SUNDAY, JULY 27

The Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple and the 2025 Obon Festival Committee would like to invite all members and friends of our Betsuin to join in the 66th Annual Obon Festival. This year's celebration will be held on Saturday and Sunday, July 26 and 27 from 1:00 to 9:00 pm.

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 27 at 11:00 am. The traditional Manto-e Services will be held outside at 5:30 pm on both Saturday and Sunday.

The festival will begin at 1:00 pm.

Come enjoy a variety of ethnic foods, including chicken and beef teriyaki, udon, chili rice, tamales, kurimanju, dango, 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 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, and much more.

In the evening, the festival grounds will be full of dancers to join in Bon Odori. Everyone is encouraged to join in

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

and dance whether you're experienced or not! Bon Odori will be both days from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

Wrapping up the event on Sunday at 8:30 pm will be the raffle drawing. There will be valuable and exciting prizes to win. Tickets will be mailed to our mailing list with additional available in the temple office before Obon or in the raffle booth during the festival.

We are all very excited about the 66th Annual Obon Festival and hope you will accept our invitation to join us for this very special celebration.

Obon Festival Committee

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

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.



TAIKO PROJECT 25th Anniversary Concert

JULY 19, 7 PM

THE MUSIC CENTER'S WALT DISNEY CONCERT HALL

WWW.TAIKOPROJECT.ORG/25TH

BIG BARGAIN SALE

DONATIONS NEEDED!

The BIG BARGAIN SALE will be held SUNDAY, AUGUST 17 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm in the Social Hall. We will close from 12-12:30, after which items will be 50% off. While you are doing your spring cleaning, please set aside items to donate.

The temple office will accept donations ONLY from: August 1 to August 11.

PLEASE, ONLY BRING CLEAN AND GENTLY USED ITEMS THAT ARE READY TO SELL!

WE WILL BE ACCEPTING:

Kitchen items: China, Glassware, Silver items (no tarnished items), clean small appliances, general house wares, NEW dishtowels, lacquer ware

Clothing: Kimono, yukata, obi, geta, zori, etc.

Jewelry, hair accessories.

New clothing with tags, aprons,

scarves, gloves, shoes and socks

Office and school supplies: file folders, new printer paper, desk accessories, etc.

Misc: Fabric, purses, wallets, luggage, homemade craft items

Complete games and puzzles (NO missing parts), stuffed animals

WE WILL NOT BE ACCEPTING:

Items that are torn, chipped, broken or faded

Cushions, pillows, linens

Cosmetics, personal hygiene items

CDs, DVDs, books, magazines, cassettes, VHS tapes

No personalized items - "Happy 25th Anniversary Susan and Tom," etc.

Food

Baby items (clothing, car seats, strollers, high chairs, mattresses, etc.)

Large items such as furniture -

chairs, tables, sofas, etc.

Large sport items - bicycles, skis, golf clubs, etc.

Electronic items - computers, printers, telephones, DVD players, etc.

Please wrap breakable items and pack sets of cups, glasses, mugs, and plates together. Please pack small items (necklaces, bracelets, earrings, keychains) in separate bags or envelopes to prevent tangling or loss. Please bring donations in a box with a lid and labeled with "BIG BARGAIN SALE" or "BBS".

If you have any questions, would like to volunteer for pricing or helping on the day of the sale, please feel free to email Ted Oyama (toyama@aepcgroup.com) or Jeanne Murata (jymurata@hotmail.com).

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

(POPE, cont. from page 1)

our different religious convictions...to be outspoken in denouncing all those social ills which damage fraternity, to be healers who enable others to grow in selfless generosity, and to be reconcilers who break down the walls of division and foster genuine brotherhood between individuals and groups in society...Our world today is witnessing a growing sense of our common humanity and a global quest for a more just, peaceful, and fraternal world...Indeed, each one of us is called to be an artisan of peace by uniting and not dividing, by extinguishing hatred and not holding on to it, by opening paths to dialogue and not by constructing new walls! Let us dialogue and meet each other in order to establish a culture of dialogue in the world, a culture of encounter!"

As a Shin Buddhist, I would have to say that those goals are too lofty for us to attain. But it is exactly the same teaching as what we call the interdependence of life, of dependent origination, that says that everything is related to everything else—what I think the message was in the Shinran Shōnin 750th Memorial theme, "Now, Life is living you." His use of the word fraternity translates very closely to our word, Dōbō, friends who are on

the path together.

And it's through that teaching, that realization, that we come to understand that in that interconnectedness, that we should bond with and harmonize with all living things, to share the suffering of those living in poverty, in oppression, in areas where war and strife continue—and also, that we do what we can to slow down the rapid destruction to mother earth - and work towards its recovery. This is the recent focus of Pope Francis. In his recent encyclical, he said, "we must make immediate changes in how we live to fight global warming and save the environment. — Tragically, people have grown increasingly self-obsessed, ever more distant from nature and alarmingly preoccupied with technological novelty." And again, "The earth, our home, is beginning to look more and more like an immense pile of filth."

I am reminded of a poem I translated years ago written by the poet, Michio Mado called ITSUKARA—Since When...

Since when did we start hating the ground we walk on?

Not only do we wear shoes, but even socks,

And curse whenever even a smudge of dirt soils our feet

When did we start hating water?

We put on our raincoats and carry umbrellas, and even put on rubber galoshes
And shudder whenever even a drop of rain gets on our body

When did we start hating the sun and the air

Not only do we don underwear and pants,

And shirts to cover ourselves, and even a hat to protect our head

Heaven forbid if we should be exposed to the sun and the air

When did it happen?

That we got to despise the earth, the water, the sun and the air?

True happiness will never come to us so busy hiding from the nature that surrounds us.

It is in these and other ways, that we see the commonality in the teachings of the Catholic and Buddhist traditions. Of course, there are differences — but the goal of working towards peace and harmony are the same — of finding meaning and happiness in our lives and sharing that with other people, with all of the life that we share this world with.





OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY, JUNE 7TH

10 AM - 12 PM

Meet the teachers
& tour the school!
Art activity for
kids & snacks
provided!

LUMBINI IS NOW OFFERING

- * LUNCH PROGRAM
- * INTRO TO JAPANESE with Rev. Mayuki
- * EXPRESSION through MOBILITY with Mr. John

WE'RE OPEN FOR ENROLLMENT FOR CHILDREN AGES 2 ½ - 5 YEARS!

Hours of Operation:

Monday - Friday
7:30 AM - 6:00 PM

Contact:

Ms. Leslie
213-680-2976
lumbini.missleslie@gmail.com

Lumbini Child Development Center

505 E. 3rd Street
Los Angeles, CA 90013
lumbinidc.org
@lumbini_preschool
@lumbinidc

Licensed to care for 2 ½ to 5 years. Year-round program with individual classrooms unique to each age group. Established in 1977, our philosophy remains the same. To provide a nurturing learning/social environment where children can grow and develop each passing year. The center provides daily morning and afternoon snacks and a delicious and balanced hot lunch that is specially prepared three days each week. We also have Japanese Class and Expression & Mobility Class taught on a weekly basis.

Scan the QR code to sign up!



LCDC NEWS

The school year is flying by! We are having a fun and eventful spring! In February, we were invited to learn about *Setsubun* at the JACCC. We took a short walk over and threw beans at the *oni* to "chase away" bad spirits before the coming of Spring. In March, we learned about *Hinamatsuri*, or Girls' Day. We visited the temple upstairs to see the traditional Japanese *hina ningyo* dolls and made pink mochi. In April, we had a visit from Officer Cindy and Officer Chris from the LAPD. They brought their squad car and let us try the siren and speak on the intercom. Then they gave us otter pops! For Earth Day, we returned to the JACCC where Ms. Amy from Sustainable Little Tokyo taught us about recycling and composting. Afterward, we went to the Plaza and learned the *Mottainai* dance! We celebrated *Hanamatsuri*, Buddha's Birthday, at the temple. We offered sweet tea and flowers to the Baby Buddha's statue. The flowers and tea represent the garden and the rain that fell in the story of his birth. We also had picture day and spring parties with egg hunts! In May, we celebrated *Kodomo no Hi*, Children's

Day, by making *koinobori* fish, *kabuto* helmets, and Japanese pickles. We also all made special gifts for Mother's Day!

In June, some of our friends will be graduating before they move on to new schools in the fall. We have loved watching them grow and are so proud of everything they have learned.

Lumbini Child Development Center is OPEN for enrollment! We accept chil-

dren ages 2 ½ through 5 years. Please call us at 213-680-2976 or email Ms. Leslie at lumbini.missleslie@gmail.com

We are located in Little Tokyo, Los Angeles, and are open year-round Monday through Friday from 7:30 am to 6:00 pm, and closed on national holidays.

Find us on Facebook @lumbinidc and Instagram @lumbini_preschool

