

HIGASHI HONGANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

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The Way

Vol. 78 | No. 4
June 2026

HIGASHI HONGANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE | LOS ANGELES BETSUIN

TEMPLE SCHEDULE

JUNE

- 2 7:00 pm Tuesday Discussion
- 6 10:00 am LCDC Open House
- 7 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 14 10:00 am Father's Day/Grads Family Service
- 16 7:00 pm Tuesday Discussion
- 21 No Service
(YABA Vegas trip)
- 28 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 28 1:00 pm Lumbini Graduation

JULY

- 5 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 7 7:00 pm Tuesday Discussion
- 12 10:00 am Sunday Service/DG
- 19 10:00 am Obon Family Service
Pet Memorial Service
- 25 LABCC Camp (to 8/1)
- 25 1-9 pm OBON FESTIVAL
- 26 11:00 am Obon/Hatsubon Service
- 26 1-9 pm OBON FESTIVAL
- 30 No Service

HHBT OBON 2026

SATURDAY & SUNDAY

JULY 25 & 26 | 1:00 – 9:00 PM

AT HIGASHI HONGANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

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

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



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HIGASHI HONGANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE • LOS ANGELES BETSUIN

Meaningless Meaning, Purposeless Purpose

Rev. Frederick Brenion

I came across this amazing quote from Rev. Gyomay Kubose, founder of the Buddhist Temple of Chicago, that I want to share with you.

"A reporter from a local newspaper came to our house to interview my wife about the Japanese tea ceremony. This reporter continuously asked, 'What is the meaning? What for? Why do you do that? What is the purpose for that?' This kind of question was directed at everything in the making of tea – at every gesture, every implement. Without thinking or deliberating, my wife finally replied, 'No meaning. Meaningless meaning. It is purposeless. Purposeless purpose.'"

Isn't that something? Doing something for no particular reason or even without meaning? When I was young I would just go out to play. If asked 'Why are you playing?' I would have said, "To have fun." If then I was asked, "Why do you want to have fun? I could only answer, "Why not?" or perhaps, "For no reason." As a kid I would have looked strangely at an adult asking me such things. Why do you need a reason to play? You just played. To play is the simple naturalness of being a child. A child's sheer suchness.

Of course, purpose is a good thing. Doing things meaningfully is a good thing as well. But we don't always have a reason. Sometimes we're just natural,

perhaps 'in the moment.' Sometimes though we try to force being natural and it becomes very unnatural. Sometimes I think that the art of being a kid got lost somewhere along the way. The adult world is pretty hard and demanding. I confess that as a child I did mischievous things. When called to task I would be asked, "Why did you do that?" And I had no reason. But I had to produce a reason and that was a struggle. "Just because" was not an acceptable answer. I was questioned over and over until those above me were satisfied. I refer not just to parents, but teachers, and later bosses as well. I learned to think before doing, plan before acting. These are good skills to have in becoming an adult. But something is lost. Something that really should be held on to and valued in the adult world is being child-like as opposed to being child-ish. More often than not I see this in the province of the arts where spontaneity is key.

That's why doing things like a tea ceremony is a truly normal thing as Mrs. Kubose was trying to show. She said later about the reporter that, until then, she didn't realize that he and she were really living in different worlds. Some want worlds that require constant meaning and purpose for everything. Some of us live in a world where play and spontaneity can still have a part. Shinran, our great teacher, said something similar, that the real goal is to find our "Naturalness." To talk about it or think about it, is to spoil it. One is simply it, without a thought! That is truly something.

In sheer pleasure I discovered that D.T. Suzuki said something remarkably like Rev. Kubose. He wrote:

"Namu-Amida-Butsu" is "meaningless meaning," and if we try to give it some kind of meaning, or start to think that some significance should exist within it, then the six-syllable Name is no longer one's own, and floats away up to the highest clouds."

That is so right! We find that the heart of our Buddhism is the heart of real play. No meaning or purpose. Just being. It is enough for a child. It can still be enough for each of us. Find your inner child and let them out to play! To be ever embraced as a child is the heart of *Namu Amida Butsu*.



FOR UPDATES, PLEASE
SUBSCRIBE TO OUR EMAIL LIST
BY VISITING OUR WEBSITE AT
HHBT-LA.ORG

visit our website at
hhbt-la.org

 facebook.com/hhbt.la

 [@higashihonganjila](https://www.instagram.com/higashihonganjila)

PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING
TO HIGASHI HONGANJI
BUDDHIST TEMPLE AT
HHBT-LA.ORG



Betsuin News



Hanamatsuri Family Service

Hanamatsuri Family Service was held on Sunday, April 19th 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 Rev. Peter Hata in English and Rinban Kenjun Kawawata 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 Yamaoka Farms and Bombu Taiko for the flower donations and Lisa Shimamoto, Bombu Taiko friends, and Taiko Project Adult Intermediates for the hanamido and altar flower decorations.



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 8:30 am. There was a delicious spread of fluffy pancakes and English muffins made from scratch, scrambled eggs, hash browns, fried rice, sekihan, ham, Portuguese sausage, strawberries, blueberries, raspberries, watermelon, honeydew, yogurt, and granola. Coffee, tea, and orange juice were also served. There was also manju from Fugetsu-Do for the mothers, Krispy Kreme donuts, and a chocolate cake from the Marquez/Vite family. It was great to see so many familiar faces at our Mother's Day breakfast.

During the service, Rev. Noriaki Ito gave a Dharma Talk, the Otani Gakuen sang beautifully, and Laura Yamashiro chaired the service.

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



Our deepest condolences

to the family and relatives of ...

Yoshimaro Ashikaga
3/4/2026 82yo

Namu Amida Butsu

DHARMA SCHOOL UPDATE

Dharma School has been meeting monthly on Shotsuki Sundays. We have storytime with one of our Dharma School helpers, and then we go downstairs for an activity. In April, we also celebrated Hanamatsuri, the Buddha's Birthday. We offered flowers and poured sweet tea over the Baby Buddha's statue. In May, we participated in the Chibi-K Fun Run put on by JACCC and Kizuna. We all did our best and had fun running through the streets of Little Tokyo with other friends from the community. This summer, we are looking forward to preparing for Obon. Please join us! We meet on Shotsuki Sundays except for August, when we take a break after Obon.



HHBT OBON 2026

SATURDAY & SUNDAY | JULY 25 & 26

67TH ANNUAL OBON FESTIVAL

The Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple and the 2026 Obon Festival Committee would like to invite all members and friends of our Betsuin to join in the 67th Annual Obon Festival. This year's celebration will be held on Saturday and Sunday, July 25 and 26, 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 26 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, somen, chili rice, tamales, kuri-manju, 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, veg-

etables, 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 and dance, whether you're experienced or not! Bon Odori will be held on 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. The schedule is tentative and may be subject to change.

We are all very excited about the 67th Annual Obon Festival and hope you will accept our invitation to join us for this very special celebration.

Obon Festival Committee

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

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 \$30 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 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 17th. You are also welcome to pick up at the office.



LCDC NEWS

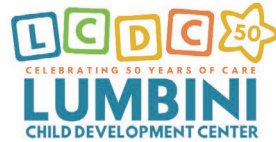
The school year is flying by! We are having a fun and eventful spring! In February, we celebrated Valentine's Day with our friends. In March, we learned about *Hinamatsuri*, or Girls' Day. We visited the temple upstairs to see the traditional Japanese *hina ningyo* dolls and made pink mochi. For Earth 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 spring parties with egg hunts! In May, we celebrated *Kodomo no Hi*, Children's Day, by making *koinobori* fish and *kabuto* helmets. 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 children ages 2 through 5 years. Potty training assistance is now available. 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



OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY, JUNE 6TH

10 AM - 12 PM

Meet the teachers
& tour the school!

Art activities for
kids & snacks!



SCAN QR CODE
TO SIGN UP!



FOR CHILDREN AGES
2 TO 5 YEARS

OPEN YEAR ROUND:

MONDAY through FRIDAY
7:30am to 6:00pm
closed national holidays



NOW ENROLLING
2 YEAR OLDS!
POTTY TRAINING
ASSISTANCE
AVAILABLE!

LUMBINI IS
NOW OFFERING

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

LUMBINICDC.ORG

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

@lumbini_preschool
facebook.com/lumbinidc

SPRING CLEANING TIME? BIG BARGAIN SALE IS COMING!

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Support Higashi Honganji Buddhist Temple - 505 E. 3rd Street, Los Angeles, CA 90013

The **BIG BARGAIN SALE** will be held **SUNDAY, AUGUST 16** from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm in the Social Hall.

CASH ONLY

DONATE/drop-off items July 27 (Obon Clean-up Day) to August 11

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

WE WILL ACCEPT:

- Kitchen items: China, Glassware, Silver items (if you polish them), clean and working small appliances, general house wares, NEW dish-towels, lacquer ware, boxed silverware
- Jewelry, new hair accessories.
- New with tags: clothing, 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; clean stuffed animals
- Books (no naughty books)

WE WILL **NOT** ACCEPT: Yucky junk!

- Items that are torn, chipped, broken or faded; fragile glassware
- Cushions, pillows, linens
- Used Cosmetics, open personal hygiene items
- Outdated media: CDs, DVDs, magazines, cassettes, VHS, audio, or 8-track tapes
- 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.

****DONATE money or items

***VOLUNTEER

***SHOP- Cash only

Please bring donations in a box with a lid and label with "BIG BARGAIN SALE" or "BBS."

If you have any questions, please email Ted Oyama (toyama@aepc-group.com),

Karyn Oyama (karynoyama@gmail.com), or Penny Murata (prmurata@hotmail.com)

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!

BECOME A 2026 HIGASHI MEMBER!

Membership dues are \$400 for dual/family (includes children of the primary member under age 22) and \$200 for individual members. Paid Temple Members may receive 10% off coupons from Fugetsu-Do and Toyo Miyatake Studio upon request from the office.

To pay online, visit the link or scan the QR code:
<https://hhbt-la.square.site/membership>

