

# HIGASHI HONGANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE

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# The Way

Vol. 74 | No. 3  
April/May 2022

HIGASHI HONGANJI BUDDHIST TEMPLE | LOS ANGELES BETSUIN

## TEMPLE SCHEDULE

### *Please note:*

*In-person Sunday Services have been temporarily discontinued. We will update you as our plans evolve. Thank you for your patience.*

### MAY

- 1 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 8 10:00 am **Mother's Day Family Service**
- 15 10:00 am **Tanjo-e Service**
- 22 10:00 am Sunday Service  
Discussion Group
- 29 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 30 *Memorial Day*

### JUNE

- 5 10:00 am Shotsuki Service
- 12 10:00 am Sunday Service  
Discussion Group
- 19 10:00 am **Father's Day/  
Graduation Family Service**
- 26 10:00 am Sunday Service
- 26 1:00 pm **Lumbini Graduation**

## MOTHER'S DAY FAMILY SERVICE

SUNDAY, MAY 8

10:00 AM

*The service will be streamed on our Facebook page*

## TANJO-E SERVICE

SUNDAY, MAY 15

10:00 AM

*The service will be streamed on our Facebook page*

If you would like to schedule a private memorial service or visit the ashes of your loved one at the temple, please call us to schedule an appointment at 213-626-4200.

FOR UPDATES, PLEASE  
SUBSCRIBE TO OUR EMAIL LIST  
BY VISITING OUR  
WEBSITE AT

**HHBT-LA.ORG**

## STREAM OUR SUNDAY SERVICES LIVE ON FACEBOOK

[FACEBOOK.COM/HHBT.LA](https://www.facebook.com/HHBT.LA)

SUNDAYS | 10 AM



[facebook.com/hhbt.la](https://www.facebook.com/hhbt.la)



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



# The Way



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## HARMONY

Rinban Noriaki Ito

In early March, the major topic in the news has been about the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian army. It has been so sad to see the destruction of residential areas in many cities of the country and the endless stream of the elderly, women, and children fleeing to neighboring countries such as Poland.

What is so sad is that the Ukrainians did nothing to provoke the invasion by the Russian armed forces. Normally, when two countries are at war, both were at least somewhat responsible for the conflict. As our Chief Administrator, Bishop Wataru Kigoshi wrote recently in his statement regarding the invasion of Ukraine, *“our organization has a negative history of blindly following the policy of the Japanese government during World War II, voluntarily cooperating with the war by pushing many people to the battlefields.”* In 1995, a “No-more-war Resolution” was implemented. It is an encouragement *“to work together with all people to realize a happy and peaceful international community that no longer permits war, transcending all ethnic, linguistic, cultural, and religious differences.”*

Harmony is a word associated usually with music. It is when different instruments, different voices, evoke different tones and melodies that blend together perfectly. So, in everyday life, it refers to different people with different opinions blending together like beautiful music.

We have seen the divisions in our country over the past few years. Somehow, we seem more divided than in any period of our recent history that I can remember. But on a topic like the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian army, we are united in condemning what their President has done. I admire the thousands of Russian people who protest to the point of being arrested themselves against the aggression their country

has leveled on their neighbors. And, of course, I admire the courage and the resiliency of the Ukrainians.

We talk often of the teaching of interdependence, of how we are connected to each other even if we don't realize it. What happens on the other side of the world affects us. With the vast coverage in the news, we cry together with the people, the children who are the victims, the men who fight to resist the invasion, and the women who take their children and the elderly to the safe havens of neighboring countries. They are reminding us that we are dependent upon each other. And what they hope for is the restoring of the harmonious relationship that has existed between their two countries before now. That harmony between all people is what we who are members of Higashi Honganji are entrusted to work toward.

We can look to two lessons of wisdom...one the words of the Venerable Thich Nhat Hanh, the wonderful Buddhist teacher who shared the teaching with so many, and the other the wisdom of a contemporary American.

From his book, *Being Peace*, *“If we are peaceful, if we are happy, we can smile and blossom like a flower, and everyone in our family, our entire society, will benefit from our peace.”*

The other are the well-known words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.: *“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”*

They remind us that harmony starts with me and with you.



visit our website at  
[hhbt-la.org](http://hhbt-la.org)

## Statement of Opposition to the Russian Invasion of Ukraine

Bishop Wataru Kigoshi  
Chief Administrator, Shinshū Ōtani-ha  
March 1, 2022

We, the Shinshū Ōtani-ha, hereby express our opposition to any use of armed force, such as what we have seen in the military invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation. At the same time, we sincerely wish this conflict ends and that peace returns, especially for the innocent victims who have been plunged into the depths of fear and sorrow.

Our organization has a negative history of blindly following the policy of the Japanese government during World War II, voluntarily cooperating with the war by pushing many people to the battlefields. We, as Buddhists who have sincerely repented the mistakes we made in wartime, officially adopted in 1995 a “No-more-war Resolution.” Through this resolution, we made a pledge *“to disavow all acts of military aggression”* and *“to work together with all peoples toward realizing a happy and peaceful international community that no longer permits war, transcending all ethnic, linguistic, cultural, and religious differences.”*

In our world today, many people in different countries and regions also have suffered from military conflicts and oppression, such as the people in Myanmar. Now, we once again strongly state our opposition to all acts of military aggression and express our dearest hope we can achieve world peace as soon as possible.



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TO HIGASHI HONGANJI  
BUDDHIST TEMPLE AT  
[HHBT-LA.ORG](http://HHBT-LA.ORG)



# Betsuin News



## SAVE THE DATE! HIGASHI OBON AT THE RANCH!

Saturday, July 30th  
at the Murata Family Ranch  
in Camarillo

### RSVPS WILL BE REQUIRED!

Come join us for an afternoon of  
bon odori and a delicious meal!

### MORE INFO TO COME!

## HATSUBON SERVICE SUNDAY, JULY 24, 2022

## Our deepest condolences

to the family and relatives of ...

*Ms. Jean Kazuye Matsusaka (91)  
January 31, 2022*

*Ms. Setsuko Matsusaka (84)  
February 27, 2022*

*Mr. Kengo Yamamoto (87)  
March 5, 2022*

*Mr. Isamu Bob Yamashita (90)  
March 7, 2022*

*Mrs. Amelia Sakakibara (91)  
March 25, 2022*

*Namu Amida Butsu*

## Happy Birthday to Baby Buddha

LABTF HANAMATSURI AT HHBT

On a pleasant spring Sunday 04/10/2022, the LABTF Hanamatsuri celebration was hosted by and held at Higashi Honganji Los Angeles Betsuin. Although the number of attendees was restricted due to Covid precautions, those who attended in person or by Zoom were greeted by the beautifully decorated hanamido and a beautiful abundance of floral displays in the foyer and hondo.

Twelve ministers representing (alphabetically) Higashi Honganji, Jodo Shu, Koyasan, Nichiren Shu, Nishi Hongwanji, Senshin Buddhist Temple, and Zenshuji made an impressive processional entrance and then participated in the Hanamatsuri chanting on the altar. Floral and sweet tea offerings were made by representatives from Higashi Honganji, Koyasan, Nishi Hongwanji, and Senshin. Wearing masks, the Higashi Honganji Otani Gakuen choir sang *Inochi Mainichi Atarashii* (Life Renewed Everyday) accompanied by Mrs. Kazue Funai on piano.

Live via Zoom, the Rev. Dr. Mark Unno gave us a moving talk based on the theme "To Discover the Meaning of Our Birth and Find Joy in Living." He concluded by sharing a touching video of a young autistic child – Iris Grace – who shares and expresses herself through her visually eloquent paintings. Rev. Unno also presented an equally engaging message in Japanese.

Our sincere thank you to the Rev. Unno and the participating ministers and to our most generous floral donors who made this Hanamatsuri very special indeed. Lovely bouquets of flowers created by Lisa Shimamoto and Bombu Taiko were distributed to our departing guests.

*Namu Amida Butsu*

## Tanjo-e Service

On Sunday, May 15th, we will stream our Tanjo-e Service. Tanjo-e is a special service that celebrates the birth of Shinran Shōnin, the founder of our Jodo Shinshu Buddhist tradition. Shinran was born around this time near Kyoto, Japan in the year 1173. Special sermons will be delivered by our ministers for this occasion. Please join us virtually on our Facebook page.

## Spring Ohigan & Spring Seminar

The Spring Ohigan Service was held virtually on March 20th, with a Dharma Talk by Rev. Steven Toyoshima of Higashi Hongwanji Mission of Hawaii. In the afternoon, Rev. Toyoshima was the guest speaker for our Spring Seminar which was held on Zoom. He presented on the theme, "My Neighbor Amida: Finding Shin Buddhist History in Everyday Japan." Thank you to Rev. Toyoshima for sharing his insight and to everyone who attended virtually and participated.

## SUBMISSION DEADLINE!

Submissions for *The Way* are due the 10th of each month for the following month's issue. Articles and announcements for our July Issue are due June 10th. Submissions may be subject to printing restrictions and staff approval. Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you!

visit our website at  
[hhbt-la.org](http://hhbt-la.org)



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