

# DRAGON AND JODO SHINSHU

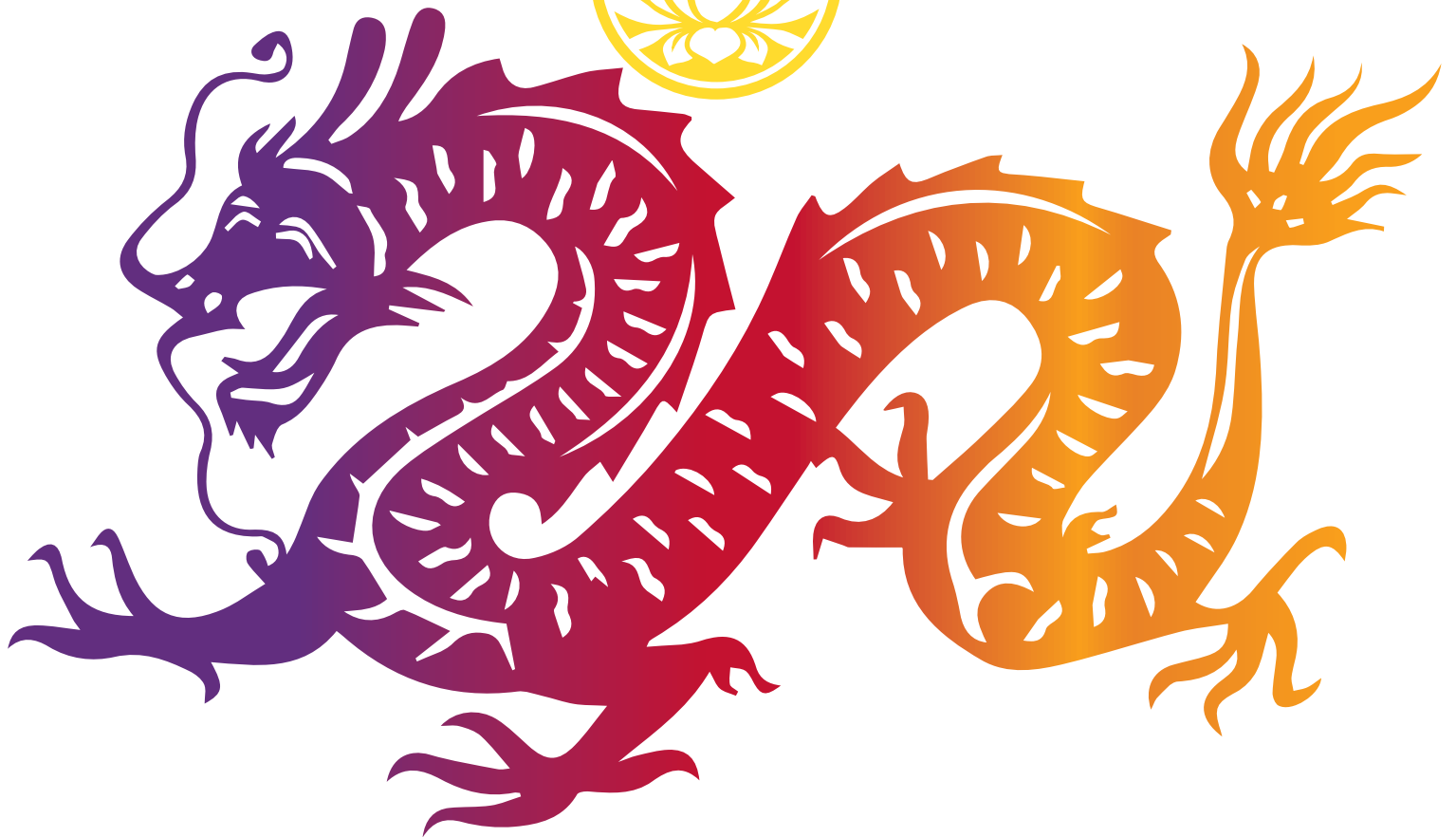
**Buddhist Era: 2567 (2568) 二五六七年(二五六八年)\***

**Common Era: 2024 二〇二四年**

**Japanese Era: Reiwa 6 令和六年**

**Year of the Dragon 辰年**

Happy New Year! I hope the New Year will be a joyful and meaningful year for all. This is the Year of the Dragon. In Japan, those who were born in the years of the Chinese zodiac animals are called the year of men (*Toshi Otoko*) and the year of women (*Toshi Onna*). So, in 2024, those who will turn 12, 24, 36, 48, 60, 72, 84, 96, and 108, are the men and women of the year.



Twelve years is thought to be a period of change in one's life cycle. Some say it will be a good luck year and some say it will be a bad luck year. However, in Jodo Shinshu, we do not rely on all sorts of fortune telling or superstition. We only entrust ourselves to Amida Buddha and we receive the Buddha's wisdom

power that encourages us to accept both good happenings and bad happenings.

For Jodo Shinshu Buddhists, every day is a good day and every year is a good year. Every day is a step toward the Pure Land and our life is a life of becoming a Buddha. Any happenings are meaningful happenings toward becoming a Buddha.

Jodo Shinshu followers do not pray to God or god(s)/goddess(es) for good luck, but Shinran Shonin did not deny gods or goddesses. Although he did not rely on them, he was respectful to them and thought they are protecting Nembutsu followers. Shinran Shonin stated in several *Wasan* (Hymns) on Benefits in the Present (CWS, p. 353-354), "the earth goddess" or "gods of the heavens and earth" protect people who recite the Nembutsu. Also, Shinran Shonin stated if you recite the Nembutsu, "Dragons protect us always, day and night." In Eastern Mythology, Dragons are regarded as gods of water and give benefit to human beings. In Buddhism, Dragons became the symbol of protecting and sharing Dharma and we can see artistic objects of Dragons in many Buddhist temples.

The pictures of Dragons are painted on the ceiling of some Zen temples. One reason for the painting is protection from fire. The painting of the Dragon on the ceiling reminds people of rain. Rain is associated with putting out fires. Because of the painting, the monks in the temples pay attention to put out the fire or turn off the gas to prevent it from starting a fire.

In Senshin, we have two Dragon statues that are perched on either side of the incense burner. We can think that these dragons are encouraging us

to know impermanence and to recite the nembutsu.

The Dragon on the left side (on your right) opens his mouth and the Dragon on the right (on your left) closes his mouth. The Dragon with the open mouth symbolizes the first cry of birth. That Dragon cries "ah." The Dragon with the closed mouth symbolizes the end of life. He says "Unn." Hence, the two dragons represent



Birth and Death. In Buddhism, the word, *Shoji* (Birth and Death), means delusion. We are often under the delusion that everything is permanent. Buddhism teaches us that we often cling to what is not permanent, then suffering arises.

Between the Dragons, there is a burner for the incense. Originally, incense burning or offering means to show our respect to Buddha. In addition to this meaning, we see the smoke of the incense as a symbol of impermanence. It teaches us that, from birth to death, everything is impermanent; like a form of the smoke of the incense, everything is changing and fragile. In the world of impermanence,

we need something we can rely on. For Jodo Shinshu followers, that is Amida Buddha or the nembutsu.

The dragons are also encouraging us to recite the nembutsu. We can think that when we listen/hear the teaching at the temple, the Dragons let rain fall. This rain is Dharma rain or wisdom rain. When we get wet from the Dharma rain, we catch a Dharma cold. When we catch a Dharma cold, we can say the nembutsu naturally as if we are coughing.

Let's catch a Dharma cold, say the nembutsu, and have a meaningful year.

\*Regarding the Buddhist era, abbreviated "B.E.", there are several ways of counting. A popular one is from the Theravada Buddhists. They count the beginning of the B.E from the year Shakyamuni Buddha entered perfect Nirvana (passed away); but depending on the countries, the interpretations of the first year is different. According to them, the Buddha passed away in B.C. 544. Thus by adding 544 to the Common Era, we will arrive at the Buddhist era (544 + 2024 = 2568.) This calculation is used by Sri Lanka or Myanmar. Other Theravada countries, such as Thai or Laos add 543 to the Common Era. They start counting B.E. 1 year, next year from Shakyamuni Buddha's passing. (543 + 2024=2567.) However, some traditions or scholars have their own interpretation and they say the Buddha passed away in the year B.C. 486 or 383, etc

*Namoamidabutsu*

REV. RYUTA FURUMOTO

## 龍と浄土真宗

古本竜太

仏暦、2567年（2568年）

西暦、2024年

令和六年

辰年

あけましておめでとうございます。

新しい年が皆様にとって楽しく、有意義な一年になるとよいですね。今年は辰年です。日本では、干支の年に生まれた人を年男（としおとこ）、年女（としおんな）と呼びます。2024年に12歳、24歳、36歳、48歳、60歳、72歳、84歳、96歳、108歳になる人が、その年の年男、年女ということになります。



12年というのは、人生のサイクルが変わる時期だと考えられていて、その年が縁起の良い年だという説もあります。けれども、浄土真宗では占いや迷信に頼らず、ただ阿弥陀如来におまかせして、仏様の智慧をいただき、良いことも悪いことも受け入れられるようになるという考えなので、毎日が良い日であり、毎年が良い年であるとします。

私たちの人生は、毎日が浄土への一歩であり、仏に成るための人生だとして、どんな出来事も仏になるために意味のある出来事だと味わうのです。

ですから、浄土真宗の念仏者は、神仏に幸運が恵まれるように祈ることはしないし、悪いことが起こらないようにと、心配しすぎなくてもいいようになっています。けれども、親鸞聖人は他の神さまや仏さまを否定することなく、むしろ神仏は念仏者を守ってくださっていると感謝しておられます。

親鸞聖人は、「現世利益和讃」の中で、天神地祇と呼ばれる天地の神々がお念仏をとなえる人々をお守りしてくださると述べられていますし、「南無阿弥陀仏をとなえれば、昼も夜も龍が守ってくださる」とも述べておられます。東洋では龍は水の神で、人間に恩恵を与えてくださる存在だとされ、仏教では龍は仏法の守護神となっています。

龍は寺院を守るシンボルとして崇められることがあるので、多くの仏教寺院で龍の絵や像などを見ることができます。

いくつかの禅寺の天井には龍の絵が描かれています。その理由のひとつは、火事を起こさないようにするためだそうです。天井の龍の絵は雨を連想させます。雨は火を消すので、龍の絵を見ると、僧侶は火やガスを消すことを思い出し、火事にならないように注

意を払うことになります。

洗心寺には、2匹の龍の像が香炉の両側に取り付けてあります。それは、世の無常を知ること、そして念仏をとなえることを勧めている、といたことが出来ます。

左側（向かって右側）の龍は口を開けていて、右側（向かって左側）の龍は口を閉じています。口を開けている龍は、誕生の最初の泣き声を象徴していて、口を閉じた龍は命の終わりを象徴しています。

この2匹の龍は生と死を表現していて、仏教では、生死（しょうじ）という言葉は迷いや妄想を意味します。私たちは、すべてが永久に続くものだと思いが生じる、と説かれています。

2匹の龍の間には香を燃やす炉があります。本来、お焼香は仏陀に敬意を示すことを意味しますが、この意味に加えて、お香の煙を無常の象徴と見ます。生まれてから死ぬまで、すべては無常であり、すべては変化していく、ということ表現しています。無常の世界を生きるためには、頼りになるものがなくて、私たちに、それは阿弥陀仏や念仏となります。

それで、香炉の龍は無常を知らせると同時に、念仏をとなえることを勧めています。私たちがお寺で教えを聞くとき、龍が雨を降らせていると考えることができます。この雨は法の雨、智慧の雨です。法雨に濡れると仏法の風邪をひく。仏法の風邪をひいたら、咳をするように自然にお念仏が出てくるようになるのです。

今年もお念仏とともに有意義な一年を過ごしましょう。

南無阿弥陀仏



# Monthly Memorial January 2024

Shotsuki Service January 7 at 10a

Seshu (Observant)  
Deceased Relation To Obervant, Deceased

Aihara, Chris Father Iwanaga, James	Kunitake, Kimiyo Father-in-law Kunitake, Masamitsu	Oyama and Middo Families Mother Oyama, Mieko
Akahori, Ted Father Akahori, Mitsuo	Kunitake, Kimiyo Grandfather Wada, Zembei	Saiki, Yumi Father Yoshida, Kazuhiro
Akahori, Ted Sister-in-law Higashi, Kiyoko (Kiyo)	Lam, Derek Wife Lam, Andrea Yee	Saneto Family Grandfather Saneto, Kanaye
Fujimoto, Miki Father Fujimoto, Ted	Matsuda Family Grandfather Akamichi, Junichi	Shimabukuro-Leong, Marilyn Mother Shimabukuro, Fumie
Harada, James Mother Harada, Grace	Matsumura, Henry Grandfather Yamaguchi, Kenji	Shirasago Family Mother Shirasago, Sally
Hayamizu, Sumiko Mother Nakashima, Tsune	Minami, Jean Husband Minami, Tatsuo	Shirasago, Paula, Todd, Dale Husband/Father/Brother Shirasago, Gary
Hirayama, Kiyome Husband Hirayama, Art	Miyamoto, Dennis Father Miyamoto, Masaru	Sonday, Reiko Grandfather Fukumoto, Kazue
Hisamune, Catherine Father Fujita, Katsujiro	Murakami, Lena/Julia Husband/Father Murakami, Arthur	Sugano, Maya Husband Sugano, Norman
Ikari, Kathy Grandfather Kato, Genichi	Murakami, Eugene Grandmother Murakami, Rui	Sugano, Michiko Mother-in-law Sugano, Aiko
Ikari, Kathy Mother Tsuboi, Ruth	Nakashima, Alan Mother Nakashima, Hana	Takashima, Iris Aunt Nakashima, Hana
Isomoto, Glen Uncle Suehiro, Mitsuo	Nakawatase, Richard Grandfather Nakawatase, Nisoji	Takashima, Iris Grandfather Jinde, Eiji
Isomoto, Glen Aunt Suehiro, Kinuko	Nakawatase Family Father Nakawatase, Shigemi	Takashima, Wilbur Grandfather Taniguchi, Hisaichi
Iriye, Kenneth Sister Carlson, Diana Chizuko	Ogawa, Jerry Mother Ogawa, Kaoru	Takemoto, Jon/Takemoto Ron Grandfather Takemoto, Toyosuke
Kamikawa, Emi Father Kamikawa, Glenn	Ogawa, Jerry Grandfather Shimada, Kanetaro	Takemoto, Ron Father Takemoto, Arthur
Kitagawa, Linda Father Matsuura, Clifford	Ogawa, Jerry Grandmother Shimada, Satsu	Terrell, Jackie Father Howard, Jack
Kodani, Denise Father Goto, James M.	Ogawa, Jerry Grandmother Ogawa, Hisayo	Umemoto, Marty and Kathie Grandfather Akamichi, Junichi
Kojima, Chikako Grandfather Uneda, Izaemon	Ohata, Ron Mother Ohata, Fumiko	Ushirogata, Mutsuo Sister-in-law Ushirogata, Ineko
		Ushirogata, Yukie Brother Matsushita, Bunji
		Usui, Suzuko Mother Ariyoshi, Kiyo
		Watanabe, Marsha Brother Imai, Randy
		Yokota, Carole Father Yokota, Hiroshi

The monthly memorial service is usually held on the first Sunday of each month in memory of those who have passed away in that month. At the service, the list of names of the deceased, the person observing the memorial and the person's relation to the deceased is read. The Monthly Memorial List is also published in the Prajna newsletter. To have a name entered into the Monthly Memorial List, please call the office as names may not automatically be entered after a funeral.

# Shusho-ye/ Gantan-ye January 1, 2024, 10 a.m.

**Shusho-ye**, or **Gantan-ye**, simply means “**Service for the New Year.**” The literal translation of **Shusho-ye** is “a gathering for a revision, modification or correction.” New Year's Day is an opportunity for us to begin the new year with refreshing hearts and minds. **The service will begin at 10:00 a.m. on January 1.** This year, *ozoni* and sake will be served. We also will have Taiko and Shishimai performance.

**修正会(しゅしょうえ)**  
一月一日にお勤めする法要を元旦会または修正会といいます。新年の最初の日に心を正しい方向に修正するという意味があります。浄土真宗では、阿弥陀如来に「お金がもうかりますように」、「病気になりませんように」とか「いい大学にはいれますように」などのことを祈りません。そういう願いはたいがい自分のエゴを拡張することになるので、本当の安心をえることが難しくなるためです。修正会は、そういう自己中心の願いがある自分を反省し、その自分を受け入れてくださる阿弥陀如来に感謝し、一年を心安らかに生きていくきっかけとなる法要です。

# Hoonko

**Hoonko** is the most important service for Jodo Shinshu Buddhists. It is a memorial service for Shinran Shonin, the founder of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism. Shinran Shonin passed away on January 16, 1263 (November 28 in the lunar calendar) at the age of 90. Kakunyo Shonin, the great-grandson of Shinran Shonin started **Hoonko** when he observed Shinran Shonin's 33rd memorial service. “**Hoon**” means to pay the debt of gratitude, and “**ko**” means gathering. Hence, “**Hoonko**” denotes “the gathering to recompense Shinran Shonin for his teaching.” There are several ways to thank Shinran Shonin: By listening to the teaching, chanting *Shoshinge* (that was written by Shinran Shonin ) reciting the *Nembutsu*, etc. In some areas of Japan, the followers invite their minister to their homes to hold the **Hoonko** service and listen to the teaching of Shinran Shonin with their family members.

**Our Hoonko Service will take place on Sunday, January 21.** Prior to the **Hoonko Service**, we are going to have **Hoonko Study Classes**.

## Hoonko Week Schedule

This year, we will hold Hoonko study classes on **January 10, 11, and 12.**  
**January 10, 6:30pm to 7:15pm**  
Rev. Furumoto (Online, Senshin Bukkyo Gakuin, Jodo Shinshu 2 Class)  
**January 11, 6:00pm to 7:15pm**  
Rev. Mas Kodani (In-person, eat *Shojin* meal and sit and talk with Mas-sensei)  
**January 12, 6:30pm to 7:15pm**  
Rev. Yuki Sugahara (Online, *Shinjin*)

## Hoonko Seminar

On **Sund y, January 21th**, after the service, we will have a Hoonko Seminar. The speaker will be Rev. Yuki Sugahara (Rimban, Sacramento Betsuin). He will perform several songs with his bass guitar to share the Jodo Shinshu teaching.

## Hoonko Service

The Hoonko Service will be on **Sunday, January 21, at 10:00 am** with Rev. Rev. Yuki Sugahara (Rimban, Sacramento Betsuin).

**報恩講(ほうおんこう)**  
今年も報恩講の集いを開催しますのでぜひお参り下さい。報恩講は浄土真宗の開祖、親鸞聖人のご命日法要です。親鸞聖人は1263年、1月16日(旧暦11月28日)に往生されました。親鸞聖人のひ孫で三代目門主の覚如上人が親鸞聖人の33回忌をお勤めされたのが報恩講の始まりです。報恩とは、感謝することで、親鸞聖人が念仏の教えを伝えてくださったこと、また私たちをお浄土にうまれさせ仏にしてくださる阿弥陀如来さまへご恩をおもい、そのご恩に報いるようにお念仏をとえ、聞法させていただく、という意义があります。報恩講のサービスは1月21日(日)で、ご講師はサクラメント別院輪番の菅原祐軌開教使です。10日(水)から12日(金)まで毎日、報恩講の集いを行いますので、スケジュールをご確認ください。21日(日)はサービス後に菅原先生によるセミナーがございます。

## Senshin Bukkyo Gakuin Class (Online) Basic Teaching of Jodo Shinshu 2

Rev. Ryuta Furumoto

Wednesdays, 6:30 to 7:15pm  
January 10, 17 and 24

We will summarize the teaching of the seven Pure Land Masters and the basic doctrine of Jodo Shinshu. The classes are online and those who have not attended previous sessions are welcomed to join this session. If you have not signed up for this program before, please contact the temple. Those who have taken previous sessions will receive the link to join the classes.

## Winter Pacific Seminar

You can find the seminar information in the flyer, but please disregard the registration information in the flyer. If you wish to attend the seminar, please contact Mr. Neil Komai. We will register through Senshin Temple. Registration deadline is January 13th.

Kinnara, Inc.

## The Race for Free Spirit Project Exclusive Documentary Film Screening + Sangha Talk

When **Sunday, January 28th, 2024**

Time **11:30am-1:30pm** lunch included (free event)

Where **Senshin Social Hall**

Kinnara invites the Senshin Sangha to an exclusive screening of *Because of You, I Am*, an award-winning short documentary film (30 minutes) about PJ and Roy Hirabayashi's 50-year journey as taiko artists and community builders, followed by an engaging discussion exploring our relationships with Buddhist and Japanese American culture, traditions, values.

Roy and PJ are pioneers of taiko as an Asian American art form through their long-standing tenure with San Jose Taiko, and have dedicated their lives towards community building and equity in leadership. Did you know that San Jose Taiko started as a project of the San Jose Buddhist Church, when Reverend Hiroshi Abiko was inspired by Kinnara Taiko to form a taiko group for young people at his church? There is a deep history between Kinnara, Roy, and PJ through our connections to Japanese American culture, Jodo Shinshu values, and appreciation for Asian American arts and advocacy.

**Please join us on January 28th. RSVP to [kinnara.taiko@gmail.com](mailto:kinnara.taiko@gmail.com), so we can get a head count.**

Learn more about the film: <https://www.becauseofyouiamfilm.art/>  
About PJ & Roy Hirabayashi: <https://www.pjroytaiko.org/>



SOUTHERN DISTRICT/CBE/IBS/JSIO

## WINTER PACIFIC SEMINAR JANUARY 27, 2024

# BUDDHISM AND WAR

“May there be peace in the world.” - Shinran Shonin

**IN PERSON & VIRTUAL EVENT (9AM - 12PM)**

Keynote Speaker (In English and Japanese)



REV DR KEN TANAKA

### English Speakers

Rev Iwohara

Rev Turner

Rev Quon

### Japanese Speakers

Rev Wondra

Rev Furumoto

**GARDENA BUDDHIST CHURCH  
1517 WEST 166TH ST, GARDENA, CA 90247**

REGISTRATION INFO & IN-PERSON BENTO ORDER:

**<https://tinyurl.com/WINTERPACSEM>**



OCTOBER DONATIONS

James and Karen Harada  
*In memory of Auntie Laura*  
Merrie Nishisaka *Nokotsudo*  
Madalyne Adams *Nokotsudo*  
Garren and Stephanie Mizutani *Nokotsudo*  
Koichi and Linda Uyemura  
*17th Cycle memorial service for Tamio Uyemura*  
Sueko Kawamoto  
*In memory of Misao Tomita*  
Dennis and Celia Huey  
*Donation*  
John and Debbie Hiramoto  
*7th Cycle memorial service for Sumiko Hiramoto*  
Paul Hiramoto  
*7th Cycle memorial service for Sumiko Hiramoto*  
Erica Calzadias  
*7th Cycle memorial service for Sumiko Hiramoto*  
Jason, Jessica, Maya & Kalia Phan  
*7th Cycle memorial service for Sumiko Hiramoto*  
David & Judy Kanegawa  
*7th Cycle memorial service for Sumiko Hiramoto*  
Dennis & Celia Huey  
*7th Cycle memorial service for Sumiko Hiramoto*  
Glen and Joyce Isomoto  
*Wedding for Darren Isomoto & Jennifer Horito*  
Doug and Chris Aihara  
*Orei Hall use*  
Paul Hiramoto *Nokotsudo*  
Amy Yukawa  
*Funeral service for Joe Yukawa*  
Amy Yukawa  
*Use of Social Hall*  
Amy Yukawa *In memory of Joseph Yukawa*  
Masaki Ueki *In memory of Joseph Yukawa*  
Suzanne Toji *In memory of Joseph Yukawa*

Sue Omori *In memory of Joseph Yukawa*  
Kate Kowalski *In memory of Joseph Yukawa*  
Keith & Leah Kawahara & Family *In memory of Joseph Yukawa*  
Jean Minami *In memory of Joseph Yukawa*  
Debbie & John Hiramoto  
*Nokotsudo*  
Ronald & Bernardita Okita  
*Donation*  
Meri Fong  
*Rev. Furumoto's 10th Anniv & Weekly special classes*  
Sachie Oda *Nokotsudo*  
Roy & Rose Marubayashi  
*Memorial Service for Morihiro & Setsuko Marubayashi*  
Tim & Linda Yokota  
*In memory of Morihiro & Setsuko Marubayashi*  
Lori Nishida *Car Donation*  
Yonsei Basketball Association  
*Use of Social Hall*  
Wasabikai *Orei*  
John Mori *Donation*  
Karen Ishizuka *Eshinni*  
Rev. Chiemi Onikura Bly  
*Donation to BWA*  
Dale Shirasago *Dana*  
Mayumi Kodani *Donation*

OCTOBER FLOWER DONATION

Ted and Julie Akahori  
John and Debbie Hiramoto  
Mark and Reiko Soday  
Merrie Nishisaka  
Arlene Yokoyama  
Shelly Okamura  
Ruby Kiyohara  
Tammy and Dale Matsubara  
Paul Hiramoto  
Betty Yamashita

NOVEMBER DONATIONS

Richard Nakawatase  
*Memorial Service for Hideyoshi Nakawatase*  
Cathy Kajiyama  
*In memory of Morihiro & Setsuko Marubayashi*  
Janice Shigaki  
*In memory of Al and Doris Shigaki*  
Elaine Motokane & Joe Warhula  
*In memory of Ed Y. Motokane*  
Nick & Wendy Nagatani  
*Nokotsudo*  
Glenn & Kristine Kawaguchi  
*Nokotsudo*  
Carol Masada Dinkin  
*Nokotsudo*  
Dennis & Celia Huey  
*Donation*  
Toshiko Yamaguchi  
*Rev. Furumoto's 10th Anniversary*  
Tammy & Dale Matsubara  
*Nokotsudo*  
Ruby Kiyohara  
*Nokotsudo*  
Jon Takemoto *Dana - Nokotsudo & Special Donation*  
Ann and Dana Saneto  
*Nokotsudo*  
Jim Sugita  
Susan & Ed Young  
*In memory of Al Shigaki*  
Maya Takemoto  
*In memory of Akeo T. and Toyosuke T.*  
Madalyne Adams *Nokotsudo*  
Beverly & John Toyama  
*In memory of Toyama & Obayashi Families*  
Stephen Tomita *Donation*  
Ken & Leyna  
*In memory of Auntie Misao*  
Terry Yoneda *Donation*  
Kelvin Nishikawa  
*Use of copy machine*  
Dale Shirasago *Dana*  
Alice Yokota *Dana*  
Mayumi Kodani *Donation*  
Diane Trihey *Dana*

Michael Yanagita  
*Capital Campaign*  
Old Peoples Japan Tour  
*Dana Temple Okō (granule incense)*  
NOVEMBER FLOWER DONATION  
Merrie Nishisaka  
Mark and Reiko Soday  
Jean Minami  
Lilian Tanaka  
Arlene Yokoyama  
James Okazaki  
Chikako Kojima  
Toshiko Yamaguchi  
Glen and Joyce Isomoto  
Tammy and Dale Matsubara  
Ruby Kiyohara  
Ted and Julie Akahori  
Ellen Shimohara

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2023 SHOTSUKI HOYO

Observant  
*In Memory Of*  
Madalyne Adams  
Isao Yamada  
Ted & Julie Akahori  
*Brother & Friends*  
Bob Akahori, Ted & Ida Imai  
Dorothy Higa  
*Mother*  
Martha Kuwaki  
Duane & Joy Hirayama  
*Mother*  
Kikuye Imamura  
Duane & Joy Hirayama  
*Uncle*  
Tosh Yoshimura  
Imamura Family  
*Mother*  
Kay Imamura  
Glen & Joyce Isomoto  
*Mother*  
Satoko Isomoto  
Gerald & Jane Kitano  
Roy Otamura  
Ruby Kiyohara  
*Husband*  
Akira Kiyohara  
Chikako Kojima  
*Grandmother*  
Yoshiko Uneda  
Dale & Tammy Matsubara  
*Father*  
Akira Kiyohara  
Jean Minami  
*Mother & Brother*

Misako Yokomi, Ted Yokomi  
Eugene Murakami  
*Mother*  
Yomiko Murakami  
Richard Nakawatase  
*Mother & Father*  
Sachiko & Hideyoshi Nakawatase  
Merrie Nishisaka  
*Father*  
Art Nishisaka  
Katherine Otamura  
*Husband & Mother-in-Law*  
Roy Otamura & Yomiko Murakami  
Ellen Shimohara  
*Husband & Mother-in-Law*  
Jerry Shimohara & Chiyoko Shimohara  
Mark & Reiko Soday  
*Grandmother*  
Kinu Fukumoto  
Wilbur & Iris Takashima  
*Uncle*  
Shig Yasuda  
Lilian Tanaka  
*Mother*  
Ethel Shiosaki  
Mutsuo & Yukie Ushirogata  
*Father & Brother*  
Kiichi Ushirogata, Hiroshi Matsushita  
Toshiko Yamaguchi  
*Husband*  
Frank Yamaguchi  
Arlene Yokoyama  
*Father & Brother*  
Harold & Richard Yamada

OHIGAN, FALL 2023

Akahori, Julie  
Akahori, Ted  
Akamine, Don  
Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Asahi, Jane  
Camara, Stacey  
Checel, Thai  
Fukawa, Stan & Debbi  
Harada, James  
Hatai, Kenneth  
Hayamizu, Sumi  
Higa, Dorothy

Higa, Stephanie  
Hiramoto, John & Debbie  
Hiramoto, Paul  
Honkawa, Patricia  
Hori, Robert & Kok, Richard  
Ishitani, Denise  
Ishitani, Janis  
Iyemura, Cathy  
Kamikawa, Emi  
Kawaguchi, Glenn & Harumi  
Kojima, Chikako  
Masushige, Natsuko  
Matsubara, Dale & Tammy  
Matsubayashi, Kazuo & Ikuko  
Matsuda, Doug  
Matsuoka, Pamela  
Minami, Jean  
Miyamoto, Dennis & Marilyn  
Mizutani, Garren & Stephanie  
Mori, John & Wendy  
Murakami, Eugene  
Nishida, Russell & Lori  
Nishikawa, Kelvin & Yoko  
Nishisaka, Merrie  
Oda, Sachie  
Ohata, Ron & Fujie  
Okamura, Shelly  
Okuda, Michael & Carol  
Rogers, Beverly  
Sakakura, Michiko  
Shimabukuro, Marilyn  
Shimohara, Ellen  
Soday, Reiko & Mark  
Suzuki, Kiyoe  
Takashima, Wilbur & Iris  
Tanaka, Bessie  
Tanezaki, Barbara  
Umemoto, Marty & Kathie  
Uneda, Yoko  
Ushirogata, Mutsuo & Yukie  
Wakinaka, Vickie  
Yamaguchi, Toshiko  
Yamashita, Qris & Komai, Chris  
Yamashita, Richard & Joyce

Yamashita, Tak & Betty  
Yanagita, Michael  
Yee, Gregory  
Yokoyama, Arlene  
Yoneda, Kiyo  
Yukawa, Amy

BODHI DAY 2023

Akahori, Julie  
Akahori, Ted  
Anonymous  
Anonymous  
Harada, James & Karen  
Hatai, Kenneth  
Hayamizu, Sumiko  
Higa, Dorothy  
Higa, Stephanie  
Ishitani, Denise  
Ishitani, Janis  
Iyemura, Cathy  
Kamikawa, Emi  
Kojima, Chikako  
Kok, Richard  
Masushige, Natsuko  
Matsubara, Dale & Tammy  
Matsuda, Doug  
Minami, Jean  
Miyagishima, Yoshio & Lillie  
Miyamoto, Dennis & Marilyn  
Mizutani, Garren & Stephanie  
Mori, John & Wendy  
Murakami, Eugene  
Nishikawa, Kelvin & Yoko  
Okuda, Michael & Carol  
Soday, Mark & Reiko  
Takeyama, Steven  
Takeyama, Yo  
Tanezaki, Barbara  
Uneda, Yoko  
Wakinaka, Vickie  
Yamaguchi, Toshiko  
Yamashita, Betty & Tak  
Yoneda, Kiyoko  
Yukawa, Amy



**OSEIBO 2023**

Akahori, Julie  
 Akahori, Ted  
 Anonymous  
 Anonymous  
 Harada, James & Karen  
 Hatai, Kenneth  
 Hayamizu, Sumiko  
 Higa, Dorothy  
 Higa, Stephanie  
 Ishitani, Denise  
 Ishitani, Janis  
 Iyemura, Cathy  
 Kamikawa, Emi  
 Kok, Richard  
 Kondo, June  
 Masushige, Natsuko  
 Matsubara, Dale & Tammy  
 Matsubayashi,  
 Kazuo & Ikuko  
 Matsuda, Doug  
 Minami, Jean  
 Miyagishima,  
 Yoshio & Lillie  
 Murakami, Eugene  
 Nakatani, Judy  
 Nakawatase, Richard  
 Nishikawa, Kelvin & Yoko  
 Nishiyama, Dexter  
 Ogawa, Craig & Cindy  
 Okuda, Michael & Carol  
 Osako, Yasuhiro  
 Rogers, Beverly  
 Sakakura, Michiko  
 Senshin ABA  
 Sondag, Mark & Reiko  
 Takeyama, Yo  
 Tanezaki, Barbara  
 Unno, Rev. Tetsuo & Sumi  
 Ushirogata, Mutsuo  
 Usui, James & Nancy  
 Wakinaka, Vickie  
 Yamashita, Tak & Betty  
 Yoneda, Kiyo  
 Yukawa, Amy

**Vehicle Donation**

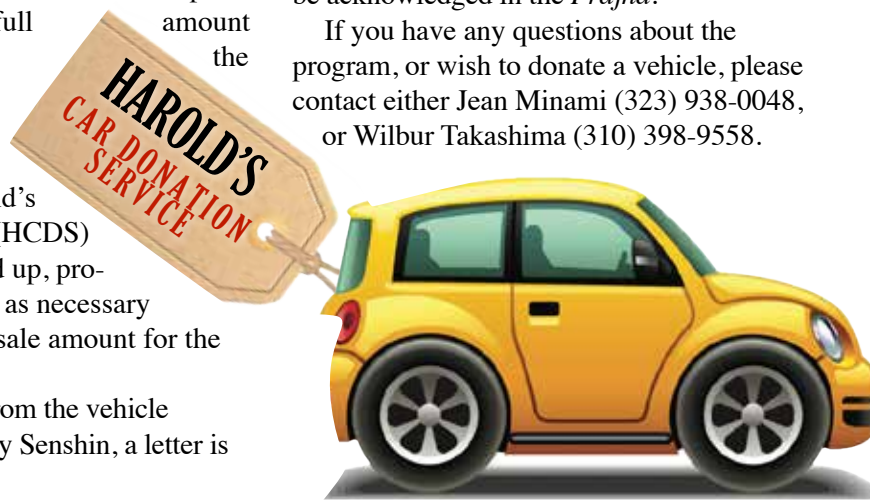
This is a reminder that Senshin will take any vehicle (car, pickup, truck, motorcycle, and even boat) as a donation to the temple. Donors can report the full amount the vehicle donation as a deduction on their tax returns.

We work with Harold's Car Donation Service (HCDS) to have vehicles picked up, processed and refurbished as necessary to bring in the highest sale amount for the donated vehicle.

Once the proceeds from the vehicle donation are received by Senshin, a letter is

sent to the donor to acknowledge the vehicle donation. The letter includes details of the donated vehicle and the amount for which the vehicle was sold or salvaged. All donors will be acknowledged in the *Prajna*.

If you have any questions about the program, or wish to donate a vehicle, please contact either Jean Minami (323) 938-0048, or Wilbur Takashima (310) 398-9558.

**Anitya Committee**

By the time we celebrate our 75th anniversary in 2026 we hope to have completed a thorough restoration of our buildings. The *Anitya* (Sanskrit for impermanence) committee has been formed and we have identified much work that needs to be done. The first project, already completed in December, was the restoration of the Mon (entry) and surrounding courtyard. Guided by the original plans drawn by Sam Mori in 1991, we repaired and replaced a lot of wood and everything was given a fresh coat of paint. It looks as good as new again!

Future phases of the restoration will be contracted as money becomes available.

They include refinishing the Hondo exterior, Social Hall exterior, breezeway canopy, and the teriyaki chicken BBQ area behind the rental house. Water-vulnerable woodwork on the Hondo will receive copper flashing and the surrounding garden beds will be regraded to keep water away. The windows on the south side of the Hondo will be replaced or re-finished so that they don't look foggy anymore. The Social Hall parking lot will be regraded to eliminate the deep rain puddles.

The estimated cost of the work the Anitya committee has identified is approximately \$300,000. Please consider donating to the 75th Anniversary Anitya Fund and help us restore Senshin back to its original beauty.



# Updates

## & ANNOUNCEMENTS!

**From the Board**

*Akemashite Omedetou* and Happy New Year Everyone! We all got through 2023 and it was nice to see many of you in person at Senshin over the past year.

With updated COVID booster vaccines and life seemingly returning to normal, I still recommend everyone to wear masks when indoors at stores, other venues and even inside the Hondo. Also, wash or sanitize your hands multiple times a day. I can't emphasize vaccines and hand hygiene enough during this time of the trifecta of infections (COVID, flu, and RSV).

Senshin is and remains a place for religious study and invigoration. But looking back over the past year, I recall 4 important moments at Senshin:

1. Our delicious teriyaki chicken get-together
2. Obon with lighting of the 1000 candles and Kinnara taiko
3. Rev Furumoto's 10 year anniversary
4. Mochitsuki that marks the year end

These events showcase the heart and soul of our Sangha. We work together and help each other. And through this process, we learn to respect others' opinions, take responsibility for our feelings, take time to celebrate the positives and pass on this knowledge to others along the way. This is a lifetime process. Thankfully, Furumoto-sensei reminds me

of this with his weekly sermons and classes.

*In Gassho,*  
 KOICHI UYEMURA

**BWA**

Happy New Year of the Dragon! December was a busy month for the BWA. It was our *toban* month, Sandra and Fujie attended the Southern District BWA fourth quarter meeting on zoom, and we participated in the year end events of *Mochitsuki* and *Osoji*. Thank you to all the BWA members who came out to help. Some BWA members also joined ABA this month at Kei Ai for a bingo visit. Join us for another fun bingo visit in March.

To end the 2023 year, the BWA Cabinet members enjoyed a luncheon at Sandra Aguilar's home. It was a nice and relaxed time to reflect on the past year, and look forward to the new year. Thank you to Sandra for hosting

the small group. And thanks also to Sandra for serving as co-president for the last 4 years. Her work and enthusiasm have been very much appreciated! JoAnn Komai will serve as co-president for the next term along with Fujie.

On January 21st, Senshin will observe our annual *Hoonko* Memorial Service. *Hoonko*, meaning a gathering to repay the debt of gratitude, is a service in remembrance of Shinran Shonin (1173-1263). The BWA will again prepare the vegetarian dish *nigome* for *Otoki* after the *Hoonko* Service. *Nigome* contains vegetables that represent Shinran Shonin's travels throughout Japan to spread the teachings of Amida Buddha. The basic vegetables are *gobo* (his walking stick), shiitake mushroom (his hat), *daikon* (his white leg-wear), and carrots (his *zori* slipper strap). We express our respect and appreciation to Shinran Shonin through cooking *nigome*.

Please join us for the BWA New Year's party, scheduled for February 4, 2024. RSVP deadline is January 21. Price is \$20 for bentos from Yama Seafood. Please rsvp to Kathie: Kathieumemoto@gmail.com, (818) 371-6372.

We would like to thank the following people for their generous donations:

- Deb Hiramoto *Rev. Furumoto's 10th Anniversary, Eshinni Kakushinni Memorial*
- Fujie & Ron Ohata *Memory of Mis-*





洗心仏教会

2024年1月

10月感謝録:

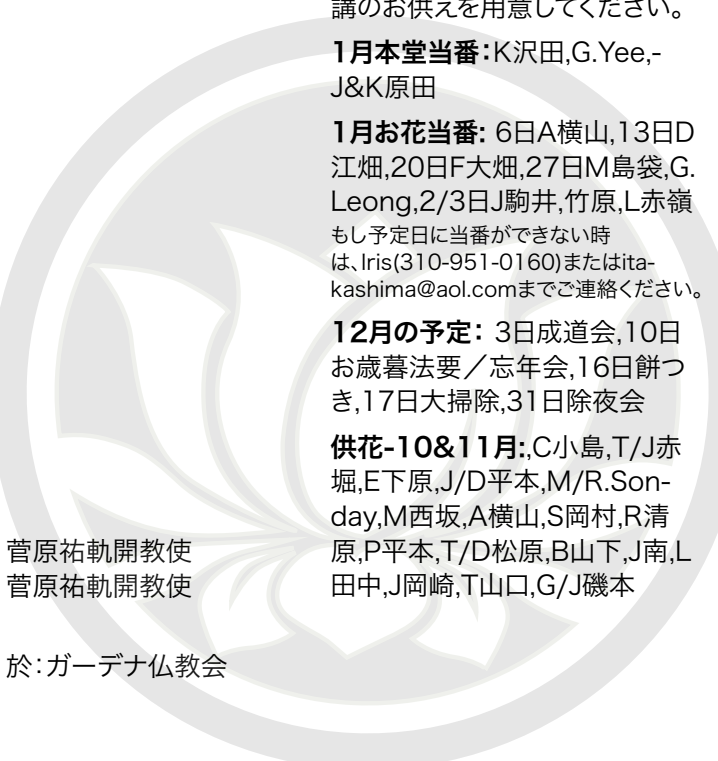
寄付:D白砂,D&Cella Huey,J森,R/B沖田 Mayumi小谷	故アンテイLaura追悼:J/K原田 故M富田追悼:S河本
恵信尼講:K石塚	故M&S丸林追悼:R&R丸林,T/L横田
お礼:ソシャルホール使用:4世バスケットボール D/C相原,A湯川,わさび会 お盆ラブル:M坂倉	故J湯川追悼:A湯川,M植木,S東司,S大森,K.Kowalski K/L河原一家,J南 故S平本7回忌:J&D平本,P平本,E.Calzadias, J,J,M.&K.Phan平本,D&J金川,D.&Cella Huey
古本先生10周年,勉強会:M.Fong	
納骨堂:M西坂,M.Adams,G/S水谷,P平本,D/J平本 S小田	故T植村17回忌:K&L植村 結婚式:D磯本&J.Horito:G&J磯本
車寄付:L西田	葬儀:故J湯川:A湯川
婦人会:C鬼倉先生	

11月感謝録:

寄付:D白砂,D.&Cella Huey,J竹本,S富田,T米田 Mayumi小谷,A横田,D.Trihey	故H中渡瀬追悼:R中渡瀬 故A&D紫垣追悼:S&E.Young
納骨堂:N/W永谷,G/K川口,C.M.Dinkin,T?D松原 R清原,A/D実藤,M.Adams,J竹本	故M富田追悼:S河本,Ken&Leyna 故M&S丸林追悼:C梶山
お礼:コピーマシン使用ーK西川	故富山&大林家族追悼:B/J富山
古本先生10周年:T山口	故T赤尾&T豊助追悼:M竹本

1月法要スケジュール:

12月31日(日)	5p	除夜会法要,ポットラック
1月1日(月)	10a 11a	修正会、新年法要 お雑煮 婦人会
5日(金)	午後	Jr.YBA集会
7日(日)	8:30a 9:45a 10a 11a	婦人会例会 日本語法話 祥月法要 各役員就任式 ドーナツ
10日(水)	6:30p	報恩講勉強会
12日(金)	6:30p	報恩講勉強会
13日(土)	12n	ABA新年会
14日(日)	9a 10a 11a	ABA会議 家族礼拝 Jr.YBA会議、理事会
21日(日)	9:45a 10a 11a 12n	日本語法話 報恩講(親鸞聖人メモリアル) 報恩講セミナー おとき、婦人会
27日(土)	9a-12	冬季パシフィックセミナー
28日(日)	10a 12:30	家族礼拝 緊那羅公演
2月3日(土)	9:30a	納骨堂掃除
毎水曜日	10a-2p	本願寺プレイス



1月法要当番:お寺

当番主任は、1/7祥月法要の後のドーナツと飲み物,1/14理事会のスナックとお茶,1/21の報恩講のお供えを用意してください。

1月本堂当番:K沢田,G.Yee,-J&K原田

1月お花当番: 6日A横山,13日D江畑,20日F大畑,27日M島袋,G.Leong,2/3日J駒井,竹原,L赤嶺  
もし予定日に当番ができない時は,Iris(310-951-0160)またはita-kashima@aol.comまでご連絡ください。

12月の予定: 3日成道会,10日お歳暮法要/忘年会,16日餅つき,17日大掃除,31日除夜会

供花-10&11月: C小島,T/J赤堀,E下原,J/D平本,M/R.Sonday,M西坂,A横山,S岡村,R清原,P平本,T/D松原,B山下,J南,L田中,J岡崎,T山口,G/J磯本

菅原祐軌開教使  
菅原祐軌開教使

於: ガーデナ仏教会

- ao Tomita, Annie Lam, Mat Uyeno
- Wilbur & Iris Takashima *BWA Memorial*
- Kathie & Marty Umemoto *Special Donation*
- Marilyn Shimabukuro *In memory of* F. Shimabukuro, D. Shigaki
- Wilbur Takashima *Special Donation*
- Madalyne Adams *In memory of* Tosao Yamada

ABA

Happy New Year! The ABA will be celebrating the New Year on January 13, 2024 at The Gold Hibachi Buffet in Alhambra. Everyone is welcome to join us... Just contact Greg Yee to sign up: (626) 277-6696.

Thank you to all the volunteers who came out to support the ABA/BWA Kei Ai Bingo visit. It was wonderful to be able to go back after the latest quarantine was lifted. We are especially excited to have so many first-time volunteers – Paul Hiramoto, Aaliyah Lam, Shelly Okamura, Jana Yokoyama and Arlene Yokoyama. Our next visit will be 3/31/24. Please come join the fun!!



Jr Y B A

The day before *Mochitsuki* we covered the social hall with protective plastic and set up for the mochi pounding the next day. The Jrs helped to prepare the mochi for pounding. In addition, a few of us Jrs attended the southern district seminar in Arizona from the 13th to the 14th. We took a bus to Phoenix and participated in various workshops during the event. The seminar provided learning opportunities through workshops and allowed us to build connections with the Arizona Jr. YBA.

For more information, please contact: Juriko Yamada, afstue@gmail.com, (310) 569-9052.

Sangha Teens

The Sangha Teens organization is excited to return! We are planning a fun and meaningful year in 2024 for our 6th, 7th, and 8th grade members! We will focus on religious learning, community services, and personal growth and fun. Beginning January 14, 2024 we will be attending family service as

a group on the second Sunday of the month. If you are interested in joining our newly formed organization, please contact Debbie Hiramoto (d.hiramoto@icloud.com).

Aruku Kai  
Let's Walk Club

The first Aruku-Kai walk of 2024 will be held on Saturday, January 13, 2024, starting at 8 AM in Pasadena. This will be a 5 mile walk on the streets near the Rose Bowl and along the Arroyo Seco trail. After the walk, we will have coffee and pastries at the Rose Bowl park. Please join us as we exercise our minds and bodies! Senshin Sangha members and friends of all ages are welcome. Please contact Kelvin Nishikawa (kelvinnishikawa@gmail.com) to RSVP or if you have any questions. Let's *aruku* (walk).





## Hondo Toban Volunteers Needed

We are attempting to recruit a few new members to the Hondo Toban list of volunteers and appreciate any help that you might be able to offer. We currently have 10 groups of four individuals, with each group assigned to a certain month of the calendar year, on a rotating basis. Since the month of August is our “harvesting” month, no group is assigned to that month.

The tasks involved are as follows:

- Dry mop beneath the pews to get the dust, dirt and debris out onto the carpeted aisles.
- Vacuum the carpet in the Gejin including the steps and the elevated area in front of the Naijin.
- Vacuum the Naijin carpet, the hallway floor behind the Naijin and the floor of the flower prep room.
- Vacuum the carpets in the two “crying rooms,” and straighten/arrange the furniture and chairs.
- Vacuum the flooring area in the foyer, dust/clean the tabletops, and arrange items on the tables.
- Wipe/clean the wooden parts of the pews with dust cloths.
- Wipe/clean the handrails along the windows, and the wood sills below the windows.
- Wipe/clean the organ.
- Wipe/clean the three podiums (two tall, one short).
- Arrange the service books in the holders on the backside of the pews.
- Clean the minister’s restroom, including the toilet and hand sink.

Unless we hold a funeral that uses the “crying rooms,” task No. 4 may be skipped

With four members in each group, the above tasks usually take about 45 to 60 minutes to complete.

If you wish to join our group of volunteers, please contact Wilbur Takashima at [wktakashi@aol.com](mailto:wktakashi@aol.com) or by calling him at (310) 994-1627.

## SENSHIN MOCHITSUKI 2023





# SENSHIN-JI 2024 JANUARY 2567

1311 W. 37TH STREET, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90007 ☎ 323 731 4617 ✨ SENSHINTEMPLE@GMAIL.COM 🌀 SENSHINTEMPLE.ORG

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>Dec 31</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>5p</b> <i>Joya-e</i> , New Year Eve Service and potluck	<b>10a</b> <i>Shusho-e</i> , New Year Day Service <b>11:30a</b> <i>Ozoni</i> served by Sangha	<b>10:30a-2p</b> Wasabi Kai Open Studio	<b>10a-2p</b> Hongwanji Place	<b>10:30a-2p</b> Wasabi Kai Open Studio <b>7-9p</b> Kinnara Taiko		
<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>8:30a</b> BWA <i>Reikai</i> <b>9:40a</b> Japanese <i>Howa</i> <b>10a</b> Monthly Memorial Service ( <i>Shotsuki Hōyō</i> ) Installation of temple board and affiliated organizations <b>11a</b> Donuts		<b>10:30a-2p</b> Wasabi Kai Open Studio	<b>10a-2p</b> Hongwanji Place <b>6:30-7:15p</b> <i>Hoonko</i> Study Class online, Senshin Bukkyo Gakuin, Jodo Shinshu 2, Rev. Furumoto	<b>10:30a-2p</b> Wasabi Kai Open Studio <b>6-7:15p</b> <i>Hoonko</i> Study Class in person, eat <i>Shojin</i> meal, sit and talk with Rev. Kodani <b>7-9p</b> Kinnara Taiko	<b>6:30p</b> <i>Hoonko</i> Study Class online, Shinjin, Rev. Yuki Sugahara, Rinban, Sacramento Betsuin	<b>8a</b> Arukukai Walk <b>12noon</b> ABA Shinnenkai (New Year Party) Gold Hibachi Buffet, Alhambra
<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>9a</b> ABA meeting <b>10a</b> Family Service <b>11a</b> Jr YBA Meeting, Board Meeting		<b>10:30a-2p</b> Wasabi Kai Open Studio	<b>10a-2p</b> Hongwanji Place <b>6:30-7:15p</b> Senshin Bukkyo Gakuin, Jodo Shinshu 2, Rev. Furumoto	<b>10:30a-2p</b> Wasabi Kai Open Studio <b>7-9p</b> Kinnara Taiko		
<b>21</b> <i>Hoonko</i>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>9:40a</b> Japanese <i>Howa</i> <b>10a</b> <i>Hoonko</i> (Shinran Shonin Memorial) Rev. Yuki Sugahara (Sacramento Betsuin) <b>11:15a</b> <i>Hoonko</i> Seminar, Rev. Yuki Sugahara <b>12noon</b> <i>Otoki</i> by BWA		<b>10:30a-2p</b> Wasabi Kai Open Studio	<b>10a-2p</b> Hongwanji Place <b>6:30-7:15p</b> Senshin Bukkyo Gakuin, Jodo Shinshu 2, Rev. Furumoto	<b>10:30a-2p</b> Wasabi Kai Open Studio <b>7-9p</b> Kinnara Taiko		<b>9a-12n</b> Winter Pacific Seminar, Gardena Buddhist Church
<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Feb 1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>10a</b> Family Service <b>11:30a-1:30p</b> Kinnara presents Roy & PJ Hirabayashi: documentary film, short performance and Sangha talk.		<b>10:30a-2p</b> Wasabi Kai Open Studio	<b>10a-2p</b> Hongwanji Place	<b>10:30a-2p</b> Wasabi Kai Open Studio <b>7-9p</b> Kinnara Taiko		<b>9:30a</b> Nokotsudo clean-up

## JANUARY TOBAN: Temple

### Monthly Toban group responsible for:

- Weekly Chair January Sunday Services
- 1/7 Provide donuts and beverages after monthly memorial service
- 1/14 Provide and serve snack and tea for monthly board meeting
- 1/21 Provide *osonae* (altar offering) for *Hoonko* Service,

**Hondo Toban** Keith Sawada, Greg Yee, James Harada, Karen Haradai

**Re: Flower Toban:** If you are unable to fulfill the week you are scheduled, please contact Iris at (310) 951-0160 or itakashima@aol.com)

## JANUARY ONAIJIN Flower Arrangement

**Jan 6** Arlene Yokoyama  
**Jan 13** Donna Ebata  
**Jan 20** Fujie Ohata  
**Jan 27** Marilyn Shimbukuro/Gilbert Leong  
**Feb 3** JoAnn Komai/Lynn Akamine

## FEBRUARY Up Coming Events

**Feb 4** BWA *Shinnenkai* (New Year Party)  
**Feb 10/11** Retreat (Rev. Peter Hata)  
**Feb 11** *Nirvana Day* Service