

A Winter Story *and the* Buddha's Heart

This month, we hear many familiar Christmas songs on the radio, in stores, and at schools. In several of these songs, the singers mention the word “mistletoe,” such as Brenda Lee’s *Rockin’ Around the Christmas Tree*, the Jackson Five’s *I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus*, and Mariah Carey’s *All I Want for Christmas Is You*.

*Rockin' around the Christmas tree
At the Christmas party hop
Mistletoe hung where you can see
Every couple tries to stop...*

ROCKIN' AROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE

*I saw Mommy kissing Santa Claus
Underneath the mistletoe last night...*

I SAW MOMMY KISSING SANTA CLAUS

*I'm just gonna keep on waiting
Underneath the mistletoe...*

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS IS YOU

For a long time, I did not know what a mistletoe was. I thought it was one of the Christmas tree ornaments. A few years ago, I discovered that it is actually a plant and in many Western countries, there is a custom that if a couple walks under a mistletoe, they stop and kiss.

Mistletoe is a curious plant. According to various sources:

- It is considered a symbol of life because, even when the host tree loses its leaves, mistletoe remains evergreen and bears fruit in winter.
- The word mistletoe may come from the Saxon *misl-tan*, meaning “different twig.”
- Tradition says that anyone standing under a sprig of mistletoe may be kissed.

But why does this custom exist? Some say its origin is found in Norse mythology. Like Shinto or ancient Greek religion, Norse tradition was polytheistic and closely connected with nature.

One Norse story tells of the goddess Frigg and her son Baldur, the god of light. Out of love for her son, Frigg asked every being in the universe to promise never to harm him. However, she overlooked the mistletoe, thinking it was only a part of the tree and not a separate plant. Later, another god used mistletoe to make an arrow and shot Baldur, causing his death.

When Frigg’s tears fell upon the mistletoe, they turned into white berries. She then declared that mistletoe should never harm again but instead become a symbol of love and peace. From that time on, anyone standing under mistletoe would receive a kiss of peace, and even enemies meeting beneath it would lay down their weapons for the day.

When I think of Frigg’s wish, I am reminded of Amida Buddha’s Primal Vow—the Eighteenth Vow, which aspires to bring peace and safety to all beings.

Primal Vow or *Hongwan* is the true hope for peace.

“If, when I attain Buddhahood, the sentient beings of the ten quarters who, with sincere and entrusting heart, aspire to be born in my land and say my Name even ten times, should not be born there, may I not attain perfect enlightenment...”

This vow expresses the Buddha’s wish that all beings equally be embraced in peace and compassion. Those who receive this working of the Vow and recite the Nembutsu become gentle, soft, and peaceful in heart, striving to live with gratitude and respect for others.

When you see mistletoe this season, please remember the wish for peace found in Norse mythology and the heart of the *Hongwan*, which aspires to peace and safety for all. Let us continue to honor one another with gratitude and kindness.



冬に出会う物語と仏さまのこころ

12月は、車のラジオやお店、学校などから、さまざまなクリスマスソングが聞こえてきます。その中には「ミスルトー (mistletoe)」という言葉が歌われている曲がいくつもあります。たとえば、ブレンダ・リーの「Rockin’ Around the Christmas Tree」、ジャクソン・ファイブの「I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus」、そしてマライア・キャリーの

「All I Want for Christmas Is You」などです。

実は私は長い間、ミスルトーが何であるのかわかりませんでした。クリスマスツリーの飾りの一つだと思っていたのですが、数年前にミスルトーの日本語訳はヤドリギで、植物の一種であることを知りました。

ヤドリギは興味深い植物です。宿主の木が葉を落としても緑を保ち、冬に実をつけるため、生命力の象徴とされてきました。また、「mistletoe」という言葉は、サクソン語の *misl-tan*（「異なる枝」）に由来するともいわれています。ヤドリギの下に立つ人はキスをしてよいというようになっていて、西洋では、クリスマスの飾りのミスルトーの下を通るカップルはキスをするようです。

では、なぜヤドリギの下でキスをするのでしょうか。その由来を説明する説の一つとして、北欧神話の物語があります。キリスト教が伝わる以前、北欧では自然を尊ぶ多神教が広く信仰されていました。

ある伝承によれば、女神フリッグは光の神バルドルの母で、誰よりも息子を愛していました。彼を守るため、宇宙のあらゆる存在に「息子に危害を加えないように」と誓わせます。しかし、フリッグはヤドリギだけを見落としてしまいました。ヤドリギが木に寄生する植物であり、独立した存在として気づかなかったからです。ある時、バルドルが無敵であることを妬んだ神がヤドリギで矢をつくり、バルドルを射て殺してしまいます。フリッグは息子の死をかなしみ、その涙はヤドリギの上に落ちて白い実となりました。彼女は「これからはヤドリギを愛と平和の象徴とし、二度と害を及ぼさないものとする」と誓い、以来、ヤドリギの下では敵同士であっても武器を置き、平和のキ

スを交わすようになった、と伝えられます。

もちろん北欧神話と仏教はまったく異なる伝統ですが、このフリッグがヤドリギにかけた「害を止め、平和と和合をもたらす」という願いをい聞くと、私は阿弥陀さまの第十八願、本願を思い起こします。

「わたしが仏になるとき、すべての人々が心から信じて、わたしの国に生れたいと願い、わずかに十回でも念仏して、もし生れることができないようなら、わたしは決してさとりを開きません。ただし、五逆の罪を犯したり、仏の教えを謗るものだけは除かれます。（大無量寿経）」

阿弥陀さまの本願は、迷いや煩惱をかかえたままの私たちを、平和と慈悲のはたらきによって包み、導こうとする大いなる願いです。この願いに照らされるとき、私たちの心は、平和で穏やかになっていきます。

この季節、ミスルトーの飾りを見かけたら、北欧神話のヤドリギは平和の象徴となったということや、すべての人の平和と安全を願う阿弥陀さまの本願を思い出し、互いに敬い助け合い、感謝の心を持って過ごしましょう。

南無阿弥陀仏



Monthly Memorial DECEMBER 2025

Shotsuki Service DECEMBER 7 at 10a

Seshu (Observant)

Deceased Relation To Obervant, Deceased

Akahori, Julie <i>Aunt Uyetake, Yoshiko</i>	Minami, Jean <i>Brother-in-law</i> Minami, Yoshimi	Takashima, Iris <i>Grandfather</i> Yasuda, Hikokichi
Domoto Family <i>Grandmother</i> Domoto, Tsuchiyo	Mori, Johnny <i>Father</i> Mori, Yasuo	Tsuji, Hisako <i>Mother-in-law</i> Tsuji, Takiye
Fujimoto, Miki <i>Mother</i> Fujimoto, Mary	Mori, Wendy <i>Father</i> Sahara, Hiroshi	Ushirogata, Yukie <i>Sister-in-law</i> Hagiwara, Naruko
Hashimoto Family <i>Grandfather</i> Hashimoto, Thomas K.	Motokane, Eddie <i>Mother</i> Motokane, Helen	Usui, Nancy <i>Mother</i> Shimabukuro, Kiyoko
Herrera Murray, Ana Maria <i>Husband</i> Terakawa, Alan	Nagatani, Wendy <i>Mother</i> Yoshitomi, Hannah	Usui Family <i>Father</i> Usui, Frank
Hirayama Family <i>Brother</i> Hirayama, Glenn	Nishida, Russell <i>Father</i> Nishida, John	Umemoto, Marty <i>Father</i> Umemoto, Kazuo
Ikari, Kathy <i>Grandmother</i> Kato, Kikuyo	Nishida, Lori <i>Grandmother</i> Nishisaka, Ritsuko	Wakinaka, Vickie <i>Mother</i> Wakinaka, Esther
Iriye, Kenny <i>Father</i> Iriye, Kazunori Henry	Nishisaka, Merrie/Nishisaka, Scott <i>Grandmother</i> Nishisaka, Ritsuko	Wong, Craig <i>Wife</i> Wong, Gayle
Kamikawa, Emi <i>Mother</i> Kamikawa, Violet	Nishisaka, Merrie/Nishisaka, Scott <i>Grandmother</i> Sanada, Tsuta	Yoshimura, Brett and Susan/ Yoshimura, Evelyn <i>Father/Brother</i> Yoshimura, Victor
Kojima, Chikako <i>Father</i> Uneda, Harry Kazushi	Oda, Cindy <i>Grandfather</i> Nakamura, Masutaro	
Lew, Judy <i>Mother</i> Matsuda, Mickey	Oda, Cindy <i>Father</i> Tomita, John	
Matsubara, Tammy <i>Brother</i> Kiyohara, Keith	Ohata, Ron <i>Father</i> Ohata, Shigetoshi Michael	
Matsubayashi, Kazuo <i>Father</i> Matsubayashi, Moriichi	Sonday, Reiko <i>Grandmother</i> Fukumoto, Kinu	

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.

Senshin Bukkyo Gakuin (SBG) Chanting, Ritual and Buddhist Etiquette in Jodo Shinshu

Wednesdays,
December 3, 10 & 17
(Online, 6:30 - 7:15pm)

Curious about what we do during our Sunday services, funerals, and memorials? Join us for an online class where we'll explore the meaning behind our rituals—like oshōkō (incense offering), gasshō (putting hands together), and bowing—as well as the content of the sutras and gathas we chant.

This is a great opportunity to deepen your understanding of Jodo Shinshu practice. New participants are warmly welcome.

We will read and learn from our service book, including selections such as the Juseige, *Shōshinge*, *Kyōshō*, the Golden Chain, the Three Treasures, and more.

Bodhi Day Service December 7

In the Mahayana tradition, we celebrate December 8th as Bodhi Day, honoring Shakyamuni Buddha's enlightenment. Around 2,500 years ago, under a pipala tree in a forest in India, the human Gautama Siddhartha awakened to the truth of the universe and became the Buddha. This tree later became known as the "Bodhi tree," and the town where Gautama attained enlightenment is now called "Bodhgaya." The words *Bodhi* and *Bodh* mean awakening or enlightenment. To commemorate this special day for Buddhists, we will hold a Bodhi Day service on Sunday, December 7, with Rev. Mas as our guest speaker.

Oseibo

We will be holding our *Oseibo* presentation on Sunday, December 7, following the service. The word *Oseibo* in Japanese means "year-end gift." The characters break down as follows: "O" is an honorific prefix, *sei* means "year," and *bo* means "end." In our tradition, *Oseibo* gifts are presented to ministers and others who support the temple, as a gesture of gratitude for their guidance, kindness, and dedication throughout the year. Following the service, we'll have a year-end luncheon to celebrate together.

Ohsoji December 14

Our temple cleanup will take place on Sunday, December 14 at 9:00 am. *Ohsoji* is a major cleanup to beautify all sections of the temple. *Oh* means big or major and *soji* means clean up.

In Buddhism, cleaning is one of the important practices or daily deeds. Our surroundings are a reflection of our hearts and minds and vice versa. Cleaning outside means cleaning inside. When we clean up outside, we can also clean up in our hearts and minds. After

Mochitsuki, to welcome the new year with a refreshed mind, let's clean up our temple.

Ojo Raisange Practice December 28

On Sunday, December 28, 10 am, we will hold a practice session for the *Ojo Raisange* chant. There will be no Sunday service on this day.

Jyoya-ye (End of Year Service) Wednesday December 31, 5pm

We are going to hold a *Jyoya-ye* service on New Year's Eve. *Jyoya-ye* is a year-end service that literally means the gathering (*ye*) of *Jyoya* (eliminating the night). "Eliminating the night" implies "wishing to remove the dirt or filth collected during the year." In this case, the dirt or filth means our blind attachments, the memories of misconduct, and troubles that accumulated during the year. With the wish of dispelling these undesirable wants, thoughts, and memories, we hold the year-end service, welcoming the New Year with a refreshing mind. We will chant *Ojo Raisange*, *Shoya ge*. (The Gatha of the Early Evening of the Gatha of Praising the Birth in the Pure Land). You can learn how to chant *Ojo Raisange* by attending the chanting class on Sunday, December 28.

除夜会

除夜会とは年末の法要で、「夜を除く集まり」と書きますが「夜を除く」とは、その年に身に付いた埃や垢を取り除くという意味です。埃や垢とは、私たちの煩惱、またこの一年間に起きた間違いや悩みごとなどを指します。そういった煩惱や嫌な思い出を取り除くことを願ってお勤めするのが除夜会ですが、浄土真宗では、そういった煩惱や嫌な思い出を引き受けてくださる阿弥陀さまに感謝し、「煩惱を断ぜずし

JIYOYA-YE CONT'D

て涅槃をうる」とはどのようなことなのかを考えるご縁でもあります。12月31日の午後5時からはじまります。

Shusho-ye (Gantan-ye)/ New Year Day Service January 1, 2026, Thursday 10am

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 Day is an opportunity for us to refresh our hearts and minds by reflecting upon the past year’s mistakes so that we can correct them and begin the new year in the right direction. Our New Year Service will begin at 10:00 a.m. Following the service, there will be a taiko and Shishimai performance in the courtyard. We will have *ozoni* and *sake* in the Social Hall.

修正会(しゅしょうえ)、元旦会(がたんえ)

一月一日にお勤めする法要を修正会といいます。元旦にお勤めするので、元旦会ともいいます。正月に修する、ということで、修正会と言いますが、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もあります。

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り、本当の安心にいた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を持つ自分を反省し、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ご縁となる法要です。

Winter Youth Program December 29, 9am

This program is for Dharma School-age students, Sangha Teens, Jr. YBA, and Sr. YBA. One of its purposes is “Getting to Know Each Other.” Our youth gather to chant together, learn together, and play together.

This year, we will meet on Monday, December 29, starting at 9:00 a.m. Youth and children may come and go at any time. There will be a service and a program followed by lunch. For lunch, we will serve the best pizza in L.A.



OCTOBER DONATIONS

Chikako Kojima
49th Day Service for
Yoko Uneda

Cathy Iyemura
49th Day Service for
Yoko Uneda

Kamiyama's Dana

Sachie Oda
Nokotsudo for Akiko Oda

Janis Ishitani
25th cycle memorial
service for
Yoshimi Ishitani

Dana & Ann Saneto
Nokotsudo for
James Sugita

Shelly Okamura Nokotsudo
Yukie Ushirogata Nokotsudo

Madalynn Adams Nokotsudo

Kenneth Hatai Dana

Dennis & Celia Huey Dana

Yonsei Basketball
Use of facility

Bruce Hirayama
49th Day Service for
Kiyome Hirayama

Satomi Saneto
49th Day Service for
Kiyome Hirayama

Anonymous Donation

Karen Ishizuka
49th Day Service for
Bob Nakamura

Kinnara
Orei for Gagaku Retreat

Glenn & Harumi Kawaguchi
Nokotsudo for
James Sugita

Merri Nishisaka
7th cycle memorial service
for Mary Ann Nishisaka

Merri Nishisaka Orei
Nick & Wendy Nagatani
Nokotsudo

Edmond & Susan Young
7th cycle memorial
service for
Al & Doris Shigaki

Janice Shigaki
7th cycle memorial
service for
Al & Doris Shigaki

Listed are donations handled by the Regular Treasurer:
Special: donation received with no specific reason given
Orei: donation for use of temple facilities, equipment, etc.

Nokotsudo: donation by families who have family cremains in the *Nokotsudo* (columbarium)

The Regular Treasurer is required to send receipts for donations of \$250.00 and over. Receipts for all other donations will not be sent unless requested by the donor.

Keith Shimabukuro
7th cycle memorial
service for
Al & Doris Shigaki

Gilbert Leong &
Marilyn Shimabukuro
7th cycle memorial
service for
Al & Doris Shigaki

Harry & Elaine Higa
7th cycle memorial
service for
Al & Doris Shigaki

Shelly Okamura Nokotsudo

Dorothy Higa
In memory of mother
Martha Kuwaki

Karen Matsuyama
Donation (Danny Ogawa)

Laraine Matsuyama
& Family
In memory of
Uncle Danny Ogawa

Mary Wada Roath
In memory of mother
Masako Wada

Shelly Okamura
Eshinni, Kakushinni and
Lady Kujo

Derek Oye
Day of the Gaki

Peggy Okuda Dana

Dale Shirasago Dana

Mayumi Kodani Dana

OCTOBER FLOWER DONATION

Julie Akahori
John & Debbie Hiramoto
Glenn & Harumi Kawaguchi
Merrie Nishisaka
Shelly Okamura
James Okazaki
Paula Shirasago
Mark & Reiko Sunday
Dana & Ann Saneto
Arlene Yokoyama
Amy Yukawa
Paul Hiramoto
Dorothy Higa

OCTOBER SHOTSUKI HOYO

Observant
In Memory Of

Madalyne Adams
Lillian Kuwata

Julie Akahori
Mother Umeji Akahori

James & Karen Harada
Laura Matsumura

Lisa Hashimoto
Henry Hashimoto

Deb & John Hiramoto
Sumiko Hiramoto

Karen Ishizuka
George Ishizuka

Glenn & Kristine Kawaguchi
Jim Sugita

Merrie Nishisaka
Mary Ann Nishisaka

Merrie Nishisaka
Masami Sanada

Michiko & Richard Sakakura
Motoji & Joe Sakakura

Paula Shirasago
Stanley Shimada

Reiko & Mark Sunday
Kiyoko Nimi

Wilbur & Iris Takashima
Peggy Jinde
Katsue Takashima

Donation College Savings 529 Plan

Senshin has a College Savings 529 Plan to help with the costs of higher education for our minister’s family.

Contributing to this fund will provide tax-free income for the minister’s children when they are college age. In eight years at 7%, monies put in today could almost double by the time they are ready to go to college.

If you would like to contribute, you have two options:

1. Write a check out to Senshin Buddhist Temple along with a memo or note indicating you would like to contribute to the 529 account.
2. You can write a check out to MESP (Michigan Education Savings Program) and mail it directly to PO Box 55925, Boston, MA 02205-5925. Be sure to send a note indicating the contribution is to go to the Senshin Buddhist Temple, Account #9393725.

If you write a check to Senshin, there is no minimum. If you write a check to MESP, the check must be \$25 or more.

Owned by the temple, the intention of the fund is to provide additional support to its minister and family.

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 of funds received from 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 Wilbur Takashima (310) 398-9558 or Marilyn Shimabukuro (818) 681-3837.



**Senshin Jr. YBA
Scrip Order Form**

Send to: Stephanie Higa 213/700-1042
1775 Santa Fe Avenue, Torrance, CA 90501
SenshinScripSale@gmail.com

Name	Order Date
Address	Phone Number.
	Email Address

How do you want your order delivered? (pls circle) Leave at Senshin USPS

Clothing & Accessories	QTY	Total
Bloomingdale's \$25 \$100		\$
Kohl's \$25 \$100		\$
Macy's \$25 \$100		\$
Nordstrom \$25 \$100		\$
Old Navy \$25		\$
TJMaxx/HomeGds/Marshalls \$25		\$
TJMaxx/HomeGds/Marshalls \$100		\$
Dining - Casual	QTY	Total
Applebee's \$25 \$50		\$
Baja Fresh \$25		\$
California Pizza Kitchen \$25		\$
Chipotle Mexican Grill \$10 \$25		\$
Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf \$25		\$
El Pollo Loco \$10		\$
Islands \$25		\$
Olive Garden \$25		\$
Panera Bread \$10 \$25		\$
Rubio's Restaurants \$25		\$
Starbucks \$5 \$10 \$25		\$
Subway Restaurants \$10		\$
Taco Bell \$5 \$10		\$
Discount Store & Outlets	QTY	Total
Sam's Club \$25 \$50 \$100		\$
Target \$10 \$25 \$100		\$
Walmart \$25 \$100		\$
Electronics & Office	QTY	Total
Best Buy \$25 \$100		\$
GameStop \$25		\$
Office Depot / Office Max \$25		\$
Staples \$25 \$100		\$
Entertainment	QTY	Total
AMC Theatres \$25		\$
Barnes & Noble \$10		\$
Fandango \$25		\$
Regal \$25		\$
Gas & Auto	QTY	Total
76 Gas \$25 \$100		\$
ARCO \$50 \$100		\$
Chevron CA Only \$50		\$
Exxon \$50		\$
Jiffy Lube \$30		\$
Mobil \$50		\$
Shell \$25 \$100		\$

Grocery	QTY	Total
Albertsons/Pavillions/Vons \$25		\$
Albertsons/Pavillions/Vons \$100		\$
Smart & Final \$25 \$100		\$
Sprouts Farmers Market \$25 \$50 \$100		\$
Health & Beauty	QTY	Total
Bath & Body Works \$10 \$25		\$
CVS Pharmacy \$25 \$100		\$
Sally Beauty \$25		\$
Rite Aid \$25		\$
Sephora \$25		\$
ULTA \$25		\$
Walgreens \$25 \$100		\$
Home Improvement	QTY	Total
Ace Hardware \$25 \$100		\$
Home Depot® \$25 \$100		\$
Lowe's \$25 \$100		\$
The Home Depot® \$25 \$100		\$
Online Shopping	QTY	Total
Amazon.com \$25 \$100		\$
Apple Store \$15 \$25		\$
Groupon.com \$25.00		\$
Zappos.com \$25 \$100		\$
Specialty Retailer	QTY	Total
Bed Bath & Beyond \$25		\$
Container Store \$25		\$
Disney \$25		\$
Jo-Ann Fabric \$25		\$
Michaels \$25		\$
PetSmart \$25		\$
See's Candies \$25		\$
Sporting Goods & Outdoors	QTY	Total
Bass Pro Shops \$25		\$
Dick's Sporting Goods \$25		\$
REI \$25		\$
Universal Prepaid Cards	QTY	Total
VisaGiftCd No Activation Fee \$50		\$
VisaGiftCd No Activation Fee \$100		\$

Please see www.RaiseRight.com for more any more businesses with available gift cards. Family Enrollment #C2861D4362L25



& ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Message from the Board

It's hard to believe we've already reached December, but even as the year winds down, our Temple calendar is still full of meaningful activities. This month gives us many opportunities to come together, express gratitude, and strengthen our Sangha spirit. First, we have our *Bonenkai / Oseibo Luncheon*, a time for all of us to gather and thank the many individuals who have supported the Temple throughout the year. We are truly fortunate to have so many dedicated members who care deeply about the well-being of our Sangha. Your energy, generosity, and commitment make all the difference.

Next up is *Mochitsuki* — always a favorite tradition. It's a day filled with fun, laughter, and just a little hard work as we pound *mochi*, share stories, and enjoy being together. It's something we all look forward to, and it's one of those events that reminds us how joyfully community and tradition can blend.

Following *Mochitsuki*, we'll come together again for our last *Osoji*, clean-up of the Temple and surrounding grounds. It's another meaningful chance to work side by side, refresh

our space, and close out the year with gratitude and intention.

These year-end gatherings are more than just events — they are moments that reconnect us with each other and with the heart of our Temple. They help us reflect on all we've shared and prepare to welcome the new year with renewed spirit. Wishing everyone a warm and joyful December.

In Gassho,
STAN FUKAWA

BWA

Approaching the end of the year and the weather getting cooler, can only mean *Mochitsuki* is here! BWA will be out in force to help the Juniors with the *mochi*-making, packaging, and making desserts for the lunch. Thank you to all of the volunteers who made delicious desserts and who came out to help.

BWA and ABA will assist at Kei-Ai Bingo on December 14th. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Fujie O. Also in December, the BWA will provide Service Toban and will help with *Osoji*.

The BWA welcomes new member, Lily Yanagita! If you are interested in

joining in on the fun and enjoying a wonderful sisterhood, contact Donna Ebata, Fujie Ohata, or any BWA member. Thank you for the following donations:

- Iris Takashima
in memory of past BWA members
- Amy Yukawa
in memory of Eshinni/Kakushinni/Lady Kujo
- Shelly Okamura *in memory of Eshinni Kakushinni/Lady Kujo*
- Ikuko Matsubayashi *in memory of Eshinni/Kakushinni/Lady Kujo*

ABA

Senshin ABA would like to thank you for your generous support of the first ever Lenicia B. Weemes Elementary School Bingo Fundraiser! It was a great time visiting with friends and enjoying bingo together while raising much needed funds for the school. In addition to bingo card proceeds, we received additional cash and prize donations, as well as donated snacks for the bingo players from these friends:

- Gary Asano & Vickie Wakinaka
- James & Karen Harada
- Debbie Hiramoto
- John Hiramoto
- Neal Hurley & Deb Nishida
- Reverend Mas Kodani
- Chikako Kojima
- Alice Ling
- Dennis & Marilyn Miyamoto
- Kelvin & Yoko Nishikawa
- Keith Sawada
- Senshin Jr YBA
- Paula Shirasago
- Mark & Reiko Sunday
- Suzanne Toji



Marty & Kathie Umemoto
Koichi & Linda Uyemura
John & Juriko Yamada
Carole Yokota

A special thank you to Debbie Hiramoto for her dedicated work and coordination for this fundraiser. With your continued help, Senshin will continue to help the precious neighborhood children of Weemes Elementary School.

Jr YBA

December brings Mochitsuki to Senshin. The Juniors will participate in washing and preparing rice. We will come the night before in order to set up inside and sleep over on the stage. We'll be working all day on the Saturday of Mochitsuki and will help clean up and distribute orders on Sunday. Contact the Jr. YBA advisor Thai Checél (thaichecel@me.com) for more information.

Sangha Teens

In November, we had an adventure with the Nishi Sangha Teens! First, we ate lunch at Nishi and played Two Truths and a Lie as an introductory activity. Next, we walked to JACCC and went to the calligraphy workshop. At the workshop, we practiced our calligraphy and finished with a final project. After that, we went to Somi Somi and some of us got ice cream. Lastly, we walked back to Nishi and helped clean up. It was an amazing day!



The Japanese Dinnerware and Plating class which was canceled last year is rescheduled for Saturdays February 21, 28, March 7, 21 and 28, 10am-1pm. Rev. Mas will share his thoughts on the unique aesthetics and cultural traditions which embrace Japanese food culture. The five sessions will consist of making, glazing, plating and of course eating a meal on the ware we create.

Those who have signed up previously will have priority. If openings become available I will post a sign up sheet on the bulletin board. We will hopefully have a Kurinuki class with master potter Kaz Ota at a date TBD.

In the previous issue of the Prajna Furumoto Sensei wrote about "the lotus" and its significance in Buddhism. It's part of both the Senshin and

WasabiKai logos. It is the piece Mike Yanagita thought our sign needed to be made of clay. Tammy Matsubara has spent a number of Tuesdays at the studio creating our Lotus mon. It recently emerged from the kiln as a finished piece. We plan to mount our completed sign once the renovations for the 75th anniversary are completed.

The WasabiKai studio is open Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10-2:30. Those who have taken a class before are welcome to use the studio facilities. Stop by and visit anytime the lights are on.

Questions: Bob Miyamoto 323 791.2719.

Senshin Karate Class

Friday evenings (tentative). Open to all ages and genders. For members, their families and friends.

Contact us if you are interested: oyamakaratela@gmail.com\



SENSHIN-JI 2025 DECEMBER 2568

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SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Nov 30	1	2	3	4	5	6
10a Family Service Following Service SBG study class		10:30-2p WasabiKai Open Studio	10a-2p Hongwanji Place 6:30-7:15p SBG: Chanting, Ritual and Buddhist Etiquette in Jodo Shinshu (zoom) Rev. Furumoto	10:30a-2p WasabiKai Open Studio 7-9p Kinnara Taiko		
7 Bodhi Day	8	9	10	11	12	13 Mochitsuki
8:30a BWA Reikai (in person and zoom) 9:30a Japanese Howa 10a Bodhi Day, Monthly Memorial Service (Shotsuki Hoyo) & Oseibo. Rev. Mas Kodani Guest speaker 12noon Bonnenkai: Oseibo Luncheon		10:30-2p WasabiKai Open Studio	10a-2p Hongwanji Place 7p Mochitsuki rice washing 6:30-7:15p SBG: Chanting, Ritual and Buddhist Etiquette in Jodo Shinshu (zoom) Rev. Furumoto	10:30a-2p WasabiKai Open Studio 7-9p Kinnara Taiko		7a Mochitsuki
14 Osoji	15	16	17	18	19	20
8:30a Temple Board Meeting 9a Osoji. No services 1:30p ABA/BWA KeiAi Bingo	7:30p ABA Meeting (Zoom)	10:30-2p WasabiKai Open Studio	10a-2p Hongwanji Place 6:30-7:15p SBG: Chanting, Ritual and Buddhist Etiquette in Jodo Shinshu (zoom) Rev. Furumoto	10:30a-2p WasabiKai Open Studio 7-9p Kinnara Taiko		
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
10a Family Service		10:30-2p WasabiKai Open Studio				
28	29	30	31	Jan 1	Jan 2	Jan 3
10a Ojo Raisange Practice. No Service	9a Winter Youth Program		5p Joya-e End of the year service and potluck	Jan 1 Oshogatsu 10a Shusho-e, New Year Day Service Following service Ozoni served in the Social Hall		

DECEMBER SERVICE TOBAN: B W A

Monthly Toban group responsible for:

- Weekly Chair December Sunday Service
- Dec 7 Provide donuts/beverages following monthly memorial service
- Dec 14 Provide/serve snacks and beverages for Temple Board Meeting

DECEMBER Hondo Toban

Kelvin Nishikawa
Yoko Nishikawa
Stan Fukawa
Debbi Fukawa

DECEMBER ONAIJIN Flower Arrangement

Dec 6 Sue Omori/Chris Aihara
Dec 13 Shari Lovall
Dec 20 Arlene Yokoyama
Dec 27 Rev. Furumoto

(Note: If you are unable to fulfill the week you are scheduled, please contact Iris at (310) 951-0160)

JANUARY Upcoming Events

Jan 1 Shusho-e - New Year Day Service
Jan 18 Hoonko Service
Jan 31 Winter Pacific Seminar,
Nishi Betsuin