

Learning from the Past for Our Future: Our Temple's Journey from Gakuin to Today – Senshin History (Part 1)



This year marks the 75th anniversary of our temple as an independent temple. To celebrate, we will hold special services and events on May 24 and May 31.

May 24: All Past Members Memorial Service and entertainment

May 31: 75th Anniversary Service and reception

As we prepare for these important events, this is a good time to learn more about our temple's history.

We have several historical records. One is found in the BCA 75th Anniversary book published in 1974. Another is our 50th Anniversary book published in 2001. We also have a summarized historical timeline.

According to these records, our temple officially

became an independent temple in 1951, which is why we are celebrating our 75th anniversary this year. Before that, beginning in 1928, Senshin was a branch of the Los Angeles Hompa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple (now Nishi Betsuin). At that time, we began as a Japanese language school and Dharma School called

Senshin Gakuin. The word *Gakuin* means “school” or “institute.”

While reviewing our history, one question often comes up. On the metal plaque on the left side of the temple gate, it reads “Senshin Buddhist Church, 1937.” However, Senshin began in 1928. According to the BCA anniversary book, 1937 was the year our pioneer members decided to build the temple at its current location. The building itself was completed and opened in 1938.

At first, I thought it might have been clearer to engrave the year 1938, when the temple building was completed and opened. However, our pioneer members have already passed on, and rather than questioning their choice, we can be grateful. The plaque gives us an opportunity to reflect on the important decision made in 1937 and to remember the dedication of our temple building in 1938.

Senshin now has a 98-year history. In this month’s newsletter, I will share a chronological history of Senshin from 1928 through 1944, covering the early years and the World War II period.

CHRONOLOGICAL HISTORY: GAKUIN PERIOD & WAR YEARS

1928

Senshin Gakuin is founded at **1239 West 36th Place, Los Angeles**, by Rev. and Mrs. Jūnin Ōno of the Los Angeles Hompa Hongwanji Buddhist Temple.

Purpose: Japanese language education and Sunday School to teach Shinran Shonin’s teaching.

Late 1920s–Early 1930s

Seinan-ku (Southwest Los Angeles),

despite having several Christian churches, has no Buddhist temple. Distance from downtown allows Senshin Gakuin to grow.

Two additional teachers are added as enrollment increases.

Early 1930s

Due to obligations in Japan, Rev. Jūnin Ōno returns to his home temple after firmly establishing Senshin Gakuin.

June 1932

Rev. Hirofumi Kuwahara of the Los Angeles Betsuin becomes the second superintendent, reflecting the understanding that the Gakuin superintendent should be a Jodo Shinshu minister.

Early–Mid 1930s

Denver University graduates **Ryokichi and Kyoshiro Tokunaga** join the teaching staff.

After Ryokichi Tokunaga departs for Japan, **Rev. Bunpo Kuwatsuki** replaces him.

Summer 1937

Amid the Great Depression, growing enrollment leads to approval of a new classroom building at a General Meeting of the Gakuin Board.

1937

Iwao Wada (President) and **Kanaye Saneto** (Vice President) are appointed Chair and Vice Chair of the Building Committee.

Aa architect is commissioned to design the facility.

March 1938

Dedication of the new building at **1336 West 36th Place**, featuring classrooms, auditorium, kitchen, offices, and restrooms. Cost: **\$14,500**.

Shortly afterward, *Nyūbutsu-hoyo* (enshrinement of the altar) is held.

1938

Senshin Gakuin is formally incorporated as a **nonprofit corporation** in the State of California. Rev. Kuwahara steps down due to temple needs in Japan; **Rev. Bunpo Kuwatsuki** becomes superintendent.

Just prior to World War II

Rev. Kuwatsuki resigns to return to Japan. Rev. Jotetsu Ōno is appointed.

Rev. Kuwatsuki is later reassigned to the Arizona Buddhist Church due to the worsening international situation.

War Years

December 7, 1941

Bombing of Pearl Harbor. Emergency meetings are held; Japanese Language School and Sunday School are suspended indefinitely. Due to wartime restrictions on Issei leadership, the Issei Board was dissolved and administration transferred to the **Nisei Corporate Board**, with **Kanaye Saneto** serving as advisor.

Late 1941–Early 1942

Rev. Jotetsu Ōno, Kyoshiro Tokunaga, Kikuji Inouye, and several board members are detained by the FBI and held at the Civilian Conservation Corps Camp in **Tujunga, California**.

Some are later released and reunited with families at **Santa Anita Assembly Center**.

May 1, 1942

Senshin families are forcibly removed to **Santa Anita Assembly Center**, then transferred to **Amache (Granada Relocation Center), Colorado**.

Continued on page 12

過去に学び、未来へつなぐ—

今年、洗心仏教会が独立寺院となってから75周年を迎える年です。これを記念して、5月24日と5月31日に記念法要および行事を予定しています。

5月24日には、先亡者追悼法要とエンターテインメント、5月31日には、75周年記念法要と祝賀会を行います。

これらの大切な行事を迎えるにあたり、あらためて洗心の歩みと歴史を振り返ってみたいと思います。

洗心の歴史については、1974年に発行されたBCA75周年の記念誌、2001年に発行された洗心50周年記念誌、そしてメンバーが作成した簡単な歴史年表など、いくつかの資料が残されています。

これらの記録によると、洗心仏教会は1928年にロサンゼルス本派本願寺仏教会（現在のロサンゼルス別院）のランチとして活動を始め、日本語学校と仏教の日曜学校である「洗心学院」としてスタートしました。1951年に別院から分かれて、一つの寺院となったので、今年が独立してから、75周年ということになります。

洗心は現在、98年の歴史があります。今回は、洗心が始まった1928年から、第二次世界大戦中の1944年までの歩みを、年代順にご紹介していきます。

年代別年表：学院期から戦時期

1928年

ロサンゼルス本派本願寺仏教会（現ロサンゼルス別院）の 大野柔忍師夫妻により、ロサンゼルス市ウエスト36番地1239番に洗心学院が設立される。

日本語教育および日曜学校を通して、親鸞聖人の教えを子どもたちに伝えることを目的とした。

1920年代後半～1930年代初頭

南西ロサンゼルス（西南地区）は日系人口が多いにもかかわらず仏教寺院がなく、洗心学院は着実に成長。入学者増加に伴い、教員が2名増員される。

1930年代初頭

大野師は日本の自坊の事情により帰国。しかし洗心の将来につながる確かな基礎を残した。

1932年6月

洗心学院の運営責任者（院長）は浄土真宗僧侶が務めるという了解のもと、ロサンゼルス別院の 桑原ヒロフミ師 が第2代院長として迎えられる。

1930年代前半～中頃

デューパー大学卒業生の 徳永良吉氏・徳永京四郎氏 が教職員として加わる。

良吉氏が日本に行くため、その後任として 桑月文方師 が着任。

1937年夏

世界恐慌のさなかであったが、児童・生徒数の増加により施設拡充の必要性が高まり、理事会総会にて新校舎建設計画が承認される。

1937年

和田イワオ氏、実藤協氏が建設委員長・副委員長に就任。

建築士 ハヤノ・ミエキ氏 により、講堂（舞台・楽屋付き）、教室、事務室、台所、化粧室を備えた設計が進められる。

1938年3月

ウエスト36番地1336番に新校舎が完成・落成。

建設費は14,500ドル。その後、講堂に仏具が整えられ、入佛法要が勤修される。

この建物は改修を経て、現在も寺院施設の一部として使用されている。

洗心学院は カリフォルニア州の非営利法人として正式に法人化される。

同年、桑原師が帰国のため退任し、桑月文方師が院長に就任。

太平洋戦争開戦直前

桑月師は帰国のため辞任し、後任として大野静哲師が着任。桑月師は情勢悪化により最終的にアリゾナ仏教会へ転任となる。

1941年12月7日

真珠湾攻撃により日米開戦。緊急会合が開かれ、洗心学院の継続について協議が行われる。戦時下の法的制限により、敵性外国人とされ

た一世は組織運営・財務管理に関わるのが困難となったため、一世理事会は解散され、二世による法人理事会に運営が委ねられた。実藤協氏は一世・二世間の顧問および連絡役を務める。

1941年末～1942年初頭

大野静哲師、徳永京四郎氏、井上キクジ氏、および理事数名が FBIにより拘束され、カリフォルニア州タハンガの民間人収容施設に送られる。一部は後に釈放され、サンタアナ仮収容所で家族と合流。

1942年5月1日

洗心関係者の多くがサンタアナ仮収容所に集合後、コロラド州アマチ（グラナダ移住センター）へ強制移送される。

1942年～1945年

出発に際し、YBA（青年仏教会が寺院内外を整理・封鎖。寺院の管理はロサンゼルス別院とともに、浄土真宗初の白人僧侶である ジュリアス・A・ゴールドウォーター師に託される。

戦前に寺院のローンが完済されていたことにより、会員は経済的な不安なく退去することができた。

1944年夏

ゴールドウォーター師より、再会した洗心関係者に向けて約2年半にわたる管理報告がなされ、洗心が戦時中も守られていたことが伝えられた。

南無阿弥陀仏

Monthly Memorial FEBRUARY 2026

Shotsuki Service February 1, 2026 at 10a

Seshu (Observant)

Deceased Relation To Obervant, Deceased

Aihara, Doug <i>Mother Aihara, Yae</i>	Kunitake, Kimiyo <i>Husband Kunitake, Saburo</i>	Takashima, Wilbur <i>Great Grandfather</i>
Akahori, Julie <i>Father Akahori, Ted</i>	Kunitake, Kimiyo <i>Uncle Wada, Fred</i>	Sato, Kaisouyemon
Akahori, Julie <i>Grandmother</i>	Matsuda Family <i>Mother Matsuda, Misao</i>	Takemoto, Jon <i>Grandfather Fujiura, Itashiro</i>
Uyetake, Kazuko	Matsumura, Henry <i>Father Matsumura, Isamu</i>	Terakawa Family <i>Father Terakawa, Hiroji</i>
Akahori, Julie <i>Aunt Akahori, Jean</i>	Meigneux, Kate/Teia and Emma <i>Mother/Grandmother</i>	Toji, Suzanne <i>Mother Totsubo, Kazue</i>
Akahori, Julie <i>Family Friend Murata, Sachiko</i>	Kerr, Gwendy	Toyama, Beverly <i>Grandfather Murata, Daisaku</i>
Checel, Thai	Mori, Wendy <i>Brother Sahara, Fred</i>	Ushirogata, Yukie <i>Mother-in-law Ushirogata, Mits</i>
Nakamura, Tadashi <i>Grandmother</i>	Nagano, Lance <i>Father Nagano, George</i>	Usui, Jim <i>Father Usui, Otojiro</i>
Nakamura, Kimiko	Nagatani, Wendy <i>Father Yoshitomi, Roy Rentaro</i>	Usui, Jim <i>Mother Usui, Kiyono</i>
Gleeson, David <i>Mother Gleeson, Mary Kathleen</i>	Nakashita, Arthur <i>Father Nakashita, Ben</i>	Usui, Suzuko <i>Father Ariyoshi, Matabei</i>
Hori, Robert <i>Mother Hori, Lilly</i>	Nishikawa, Kelvin <i>Mother Nishikawa, Edith</i>	Uyemura, Koichi <i>Grandfather</i>
Huey, Celia <i>Mother Kanagawa, Elso</i>	Nishisaka, Merrie, Nishisaka Scott <i>Mother Nishisaka, Yuri</i>	Wakamatsu, Shigemori
Inatomi Family <i>Father Inatomi, Kiyohiko</i>	Nishiyama, Dexter <i>Father-in-law Matayoshi, Takeo</i>	Uyeno Family <i>Father Uyeno, Masato</i>
Inatomi Family <i>Mother Inatomi, Lily</i>	Oda, Cindy <i>Grandmother Tomita, Natsu</i>	Uyeno Family <i>Grandmother Uyeno, Ren</i>
Isomoto, Glen <i>Father Isomoto, Sam</i>	Onishi, Randy & Susan <i>Father Onishi, Masato</i>	Uyeno Family <i>Aunt Nishida, Masako Marsha</i>
Kato, Douglas <i>Father Kato, Kay Sadao</i>	Saneto Family <i>Aunt Sugita, Marie</i>	Uyeno Family <i>Mother Uyeno, Matsuko</i>
Kiyohara, Ruby <i>Father-in-law</i>	Sawada, Harry <i>Wife Sawada, Nellie</i>	Wakinaka, Bernice <i>Mother Nagaoka, Chiyono</i>
Kiyohara, Sasaichi	Shimabukuro, Marilyn <i>Father Shimabukuro, Shigeichi</i>	Wakinaka, Bernice <i>Brother Nagaoka, Dick</i>
Kojima, Chikako <i>Grandmother Takaki, Miyo</i>	Takashima, Wilbur <i>Great Grandfather</i>	Wakinaka, Bernice <i>Husband Wakinaka, Asa</i>
	Takashima, Bunshiro	Wakinaka, Vickie <i>Father Wakinaka, Fred</i>
		Yokota, Carole <i>Mother Yokota, Sanaye</i>
		Yoneda, Kiyoko <i>Father-in-law Yoneda, Sanji</i>
		Yoshioka, Karen <i>Father Taniguchi, Mitsugi</i>
		Yoshioka, Karen <i>Mother Taniguchi, Yuriko</i>

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.

Nirvana Day Service

February 8, 11:30a

We will observe **Nirvana Day** on February 8 at 11:30am.

Nirvana Day commemorates the passing of Shakyamuni Buddha. In Buddhism, his passing is traditionally described as "Entering into Great Nirvana," meaning liberation beyond all limitations and the attainment of complete peace and freedom.

Our guest speaker for this service will be Rev. Dr. Ken Tanaka.

Please note that on this day, the service will begin at 11:30am, not at the usual 10am Sunday service time.

After the service, *zenzai* will be served in remembrance of this special day.



Senshin Bukkyo Gakuin (SBG) Chanting, Ritual and Buddhist Etiquette in Jodo Shinshu Learning from Senshin Service Book

Wednesdays,
February 4, 11 & 18
(Zoom, 6:30 - 7:15pm)

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

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.

Senshin Buddhist Temple 75th Anniversary Celebration

SAVE THE DATE SUNDAY, MAY 31, 2026

Senshin Buddhist Temple was established as an independent Temple in 1951. In five generations and more we have all been fortunate to encounter the Dharma through our experience in and around Senshin.

You are invited to celebrate our history as well as our future on **May 31, 2026**. Please Save the Date for a Special Service, Keiro Kai to honor our 80+ years members, and celebration luncheon. Please watch your *Prajna* and Sunday Service announcements for more information.



SENSHIN
BUDDHIST TEMPLE

1951 75 2026



DECEMBER DONATIONS

Kazuo Matsubayashi
Nokotsudo
Nick & Wendy Nagatani
3rd Cycle memorial service for Hannah Yoshitomi
Shelly Okamura
Nokotsudo
Suzanne Toji
Nokotsudo
Julie Akahori
Nokotsudo
Dale Matsubara
Dana
Duane & Joy Hirayama
Nokotsudo
Masao Kodani *Dana*
Edmond & Susan Young
Nokotsudo - Alfred Shigaki
Janice Shigaki
In memory of Al & Doris Shigaki
Kubota Nikkei Mortuary
2025 Year End Donation
Jon Takemoto
Nokotsudo & Dana
Bruce Hirayama *Dana*
Doug Matsuda
In memory of Junichi Akamichi
Glenn Hiraga
In memory of Ted & Sayko Nishisaka
Catherine Hisamune
50th year memorial for father, Katsujiro Fujita
Keith Sawada
In memory of Beverly Rogers
Dale Shirasago *Dana*
Craig Wong
In memory of Gayle Hane Wong
Karen & Ron Broberg
In memory of my father, Frank Usui
Reiko & Ken Koyanagi
In memory of father Frank Usui

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.

Susie Usui
In memory of husband Frank Usui
Robert & Deborah Oye
In memory of father Frank Usui
Susie Usui
Nokotsudo
Kenny & Teresa Wong
In memory of Frank Usui
Mayumi Kodani *Dana*
Kazuo Matsubayashi
Nokotsudo
Edward Motokane
Nokotsudo
Lori Kanda Kelly *Donation*
Wilbur & Iris Takashima
In memory of Beverly Rogers
Donna Ebata
In memory of Beverly Rogers
Lisa Ann Domoto
August Shotsuki Hoyo Eichi Domoto
Shelly Okamura
Joya-E (New Year's Eve)
Iris & Wilbur Takashima
Joya-E

DECEMBER FLOWER DONATION

Lori & Russell Nishida
Julie Akahori
Chikako Kojima
Marty & Kathie Umemoto
Anonymous
Kazuo Matsubayashi
Mark & Reiko Sunday
Toshiko Yamaguchi
Emi Kamikawa
Tammy & Dale Matsubara
Ruby Kiyohara
Merrie Nishisaka

DECEMBER SHOTSUKI HOYO

Observant
In Memory Of
Julie Akahori
Yoshiko Uyetake
Lisa Hashimoto-Elardo
Kanichi Hashimoto

Bruce Hirayama
Glenn Hirayama
Jane & Keith Hirayama
Glenn Hirayama
Joy & Duane Hirayama
Brother Glenn Hirayama
Emi Kamikawa
Violet Kamikawa
Glenn & Kristine Kawaguchi
Glenn Hirayama
Ruby Kiyohara
Keith Kiyohara
Nancy & Eileen Kodama
Malcolm Y. Kodama
Chikako Kojima
Harry Uneda
Lisa Ann Maeda
Tsuchiyo Domoto
Tammy & Dale Matsubara
1st Year Memorial Keith Kiyohara
Kazuo & Ikuko Matsubayashi
Moriichi Matsubayashi
Jean Minami
Yoshimi Minami
Edward K. & Helen A. Motokane
Helen T. Motokane
Lori Nishida
Ritsuko Nishisaka
Russell & Lori Nishida
John Nishida
Merrie Nishisaka
Ritsuko Nishisaka
Merrie Nishisaka
Tsuta Sanada
Ronald & Fujie Ohata
Father Shigetoshi Michael Ohata
Tom, Denise & Fujiyo Okabe
Tsuchiyo Domoto
Shelly Okamura
Keith Kiyohara
Satomi Saneto
Glenn Hirayama
Ellen Shimohara
Husband Jerry & Mother-in-law Chiyoko
Wilbur & Iris Takashima
Grandfather Hikokichi Yasuda

Masae Beverly Toyama
Yoneo Ohbayashi,
May Ohno Toyama
Marty & Kathie Umemoto
Father Kazuo Umemoto
Yukie Ushirogata
Naruko Hagiwara
Bernice Wakinaka
Father Tokuzo Nagaoka; Yorinosuke & Tane Wak-inaka
Bernice Wakinaka
Rich Nagaoka, *Son Lester Wakinaka*
Vickie Wakinaka
Mother Esther Wakinaka

OSEIBO, DECEMBER 2025

Anonymous
Anonymous
ABA
Jr. YBA
Madalyne Adams
Don Akamine
Roy & Jane Asahi
Stacey Camara
James & Karen Harada
Sumiko Hayamizu
Dorothy Higa
Jane & Keith Hirayama
Duane & Joy Hirayama
Paul Hiramoto
Catherine Hisamune
Patti Honkawa
Edna Horiuchi
Kathy Ikari
Denise Ishitani
Janis Ishitani
Cathy Iyemura
Emi Kamikawa
David & Judy Kanagawa
Richard & Denise Kodani
Chikako Kojima
Richard Kok
Tammy & Dale Matsubara
Ikuko & Kazuo Matsubayashi
Doug Matsuda
Gail Nagatani Matsumura
Laraine Matsuyama

Paul & Joy Middo
Jean Minami
Lillie Miyagishima
Dennis & Marilyn Miyamoto
Stephanie Mizutani
Eugene & Elaine Murakami
Julia Murakami
Ana Maria Herrera Murray
Judy Nakatani
Robert Miyamoto & Deb Nakatomi
Richard & Helen Nakawatase
Deb & John Hiramoto
Russell & Lori Nishida
Kelvin & Yoko Nishikawa
Merrie Nishisaka
Sachie Oda
Ogawa Family
Ron & Fujie Ohata
Shelly Okamura
Michael & Carol Okuda
Sue Omori
Michiko & Richard Sakakura
Dana & Ann Saneto
Marilyn Shimabukuro & Gilbert Leong
Paula Shirasago
Mark & Reiko Sunday
Tamiko Tada
Wilbur & Iris Takashima
Yo Takeyama
Barbara Tanezaki
Suzanne Toji
Kathie & Marty Umemoto
Nancy & Jim Usui
Bernice Wakinaka
Vickie Wakinaka
Marsha Watanabe
Juriko & Yoshiyuki Yamada
Toshiko Yamaguchi
Betty Yamashita
Qris Yamashita & Chris Komai
Michael & Lily Yanagita
Greg Yee
Arlene Yokoyama
Kiyoko Yoneda
Amy Yukawa

BODHI DAY, DECEMBER 2025

Anonymous
Julie Akahori
Jane Asahi
Don Akamine
James & Karen Harada
Sumiko Hayamizu
Dorothy Higa
Paul Hiramoto
Jane & Keith Hirayama
Catherine Hisamune
Patti Honkawa
Robert Hori
Edna Horiuchi
Kathy Ikari
Denise Ishitani
Janis Ishitani
Cathy Iyemura
Emi Kamikawa
Kristine & Glenn Kawaguchi
Chikako Kojima
Doug Matsuda
Tammy & Dale Matsubara
Joy Middo
Jean Minami
Yoshio Miyagishima
Dennis & Marilyn Miyamoto
Deb Nakatomi & Bob Miyamoto
Kelvin & Yoko Nishikawa
Craig & Cindy Ogawa
Ron & Fujie Ohata
Shelly Okamura
Carol & Michael Okuda
Dana & Ann Saneto
Marilyn Shimabukuro & Gilbert Leong
Reiko & Mark Sunday
Wilbur & Iris Takashima
Steven & Shelley Takeyama
Yo Takeyama
Bessie Tanaka
Barbara Tanezaki
Mika Toyoura
Marty & Kathie Umemoto
Nancy & Jim Usui
Bernice Wakinaka

Vickie Wakinaka & Gary Asano
Toshiko Yamaguchi
Betty Yamashita
Qris Yamashita & Chris Komai
Arlene Yokoyama
Michael & Lily Yanagita
Amy Yukawa

**ANITYA DONORS
OCT 1, 2025 - JAN 17, 2026**

Julie Akahori
Don & Lynn Akamine
Susan Asamura
Donna Ebata
Miki Fujimoto
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Lisa Hashimoto-Elardo
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Cathy Iyemura
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Satoshi Miyata
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Lori Nishida
Kelvin & Yoko Nishikawa
Craig & Cindy Ogawa
Carol Okuda
Marilyn Shimabukuro & Gilbert Leong
Mark & Reiko Sunday
Wilbur & Iris Takashima
Mika Toyoura
Marty & Kathie Umemoto
Vickie Wakinaka
Toshiyuki & Juriko Yamada
Qris Yamashita
Mike & Lily Yanagita
Alice Yokota & Rodney Cooley
Carole Yokota
Amy Yukawa

Hondo Toban Volunteers

Senshin is seeking new volunteers to join the **Hondo Toban** group. This group is made up of 12 separate crews, each of which has four persons assigned to it. Due to various circumstances, the Hondo Toban group has lost several members over the past few years, leaving some of the crews with only two or three people, and reducing the total number of crews to 10. We prefer to have four-person crews since they provide a buffer in case one of the individuals in the crew cannot help on a particular date during that crew's assigned month.

With the 12 crews, we can maintain a schedule that requires each crew to work only one month in every 13-month rotation. This is because we do not have services during the month of August. This also permits each crew to have a different month assigned to it during each 13-month rotation, which is preferred since some months have five weekends. No crew wishes to be assigned a 5-weekend month every year!

Each crew decides when it wants to meet at the temple. Most meet on a Saturday morning. Each crew has a lead person who contacts the others in the crew to set the day and time to meet when that crew's toban month comes around. The lead person also is responsible to secure the key to the Hondo, usually obtaining it from Rev. Furumoto. In some cases, a lead person already has a key to the Hondo so he/she will not need to secure the key from the office. In fact, if the toban crew meets on a Saturday morning after 9:00 AM, Rev. Furumoto usually will have opened the Hondo for the Flower Toban group that prepares the Naijin flowers on Saturday mornings. In those circumstances, the lead person does not have to worry about the key.



2026 Southern District Buddhist Conference

"Where Boundless Compassion Meets the Foolish Being: Intention without Attachment"

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Mark Unno

Professor of Religious Studies, University of Oregon

Guest Speaker (Japanese): Rev. Yukari Torii

San Fernando Valley Hongwanji Buddhist Temple

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, June 13, 2026

Senshin Buddhist Temple

1311 West 37th Street
Los Angeles CA 90007
323-731-4617

The responsibilities of each toban crew are as follows:

1. **Dry mop beneath the pews** to get the dirt/dust/debris out onto the aisles.
2. **Vacuum the carpet in the Gejin** (pew) area of the Hondo, including the steps and the elevated area in front of the *Naijin*.
3. **Vacuum the Naijin carpet, the** hallway floor behind the *Naijin* and the floor of the flower prep room.
4. **Vacuum the carpets in the crying rooms and** straighten/arrange the furniture and chairs in those rooms. (This is only needed for funeral services/special occasions, and not required every week.)
5. **Vacuum the tile area in the foyer and** dust the tabletops.
6. **Wipe/clean the wooden parts of the pews** with dust rags.
7. **Wipe/clean the wood sills below** the windows to the sand gardens on each side of the Hondo.

8. **Wipe/clean the organ.**

9. **Wipe/clean the three podiums** (two tall, one short).

10. **Arrange the service and funeral books** in the holders on the backs of the pews.

All of the above work can be completed in approximately 45 minutes when four people are working, and within an hour even if only three individuals are present.

If you would like to be a volunteer, please contact Wilbur Takashima at (310) 994-1627 or at his email, wk-takashi@aol.com. We would be most happy to assign you to a crew, and your help would be valued and appreciated! If you have a friend and/or spouse who wants to volunteer as well, that would be great.

Updates & ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Message from the Board

It looks like we are already off to a busy start to the new year with meetings and event planning well underway. With so many activities ahead, it's shaping up to be an exciting year for our Sangha.

I also wanted to share some good news regarding the Anitya Building Improvement Project. The Board has approved moving forward with replacing the doors on both the Social Hall and the Hondo. These upgrades will help improve safety and security while continuing our efforts to care for and maintain our Temple facilities for future generations. Thank you to everyone who supports these projects through your time, dedication, and generosity.

We also had a wonderful Board installation in January, and I would like to extend our sincere gratitude to all of our Board members and the members of our affiliated organizations. Your dedication and contributions to the Sangha are deeply appreciated.

Your commitment and service play an important role in keeping our Temple strong and thriving.

As we continue into the year, may we move forward together with gratitude, cooperation, and a shared sense of purpose.

In Gassho,

STAN FUKAWA

BWA

The new year started off with a nice mix of work and social events for the BWA. To honor Shinran Shonin and for the Sangha to enjoy, the BWA prepared and served the vegetarian meal *Nigome* after the *Hoonko* service. Eating *Nigome*, a simple vegetarian meal, is an act of humility that mirrors Shinran Shonin's simple life. *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 and eating *Nigome* together.

At the end of January, the BWA enjoyed a day in Little Tokyo consisting of a tour, lunch, and enjoying each other's company on this outing.

Fun, food, and bingo delighted all who attended the BWA New Year's party on February 1st. We also welcomed four new BWA members: Carrie Morita, Lilly Yanagita, Karen Kimura Joo and Mika Toyoura. Thank you to Fujie O. for making arrangements for the delicious lunch, to Marty and Kathie U. for the cake, to all who donated bingo prizes to Donna E. and Suzanne T. for organizing them, and to all who helped to make this event happen. A big shout out goes to Wilbur T., our esteemed bingo caller.

The BWA will provide service *Toban* for the month of February.

We thank the following for their generous donations:

- Madalyne Adams *Oseibo*
- Linda Wong Uyemura *Special*
- Lillie Miyagishima *Special*

ABA

Save the date for ABA's New Year's luncheon. Everyone is welcome to join us!

Saturday, February 28, 2026, 12-2 pm at Gold Hibachi Buffet, 2223 W Commonwealth Ave, Alhambra, CA 91803. Prices for adult (\$37) and Senior 65+ (\$34) include all you can eat buffet, drink, tax and tip. We will also have fun games and prizes!

Please sign up by Feb. 26. Make checks payable to Senshin ABA and leave in the ABA mailbox. Payment can also be made on the day of the event. If you have any questions, please call Greg: 626-277-6696.

Jr YBA

This month, Jrs had their meeting on January 11th. We are continuing to learn Bugaku/Gagaku in preparation for performances in April and May. On January 24th, many Jrs attended Seminar



Senshin Co-working space

1, "Evolve through the *Nembutsu*," hosted by San Diego and Vista.

If you have any questions or are interested in joining Jr YBA, please contact our parent advisor, Thai Chancel at: thaichecel@gmail.com.

Sangha Teens

Happy February from the Sangha Teens!

Now that we have officially stepped into 2026, the Sangha Teens are looking forward to a year of friendship and mindfulness. We currently don't have any updates from the group, but are excited about the possibilities the future holds and the chance to support the Temple and community in the months to come.

Thank you to everyone for always providing such a welcoming space for us. We hope your February is off to a wonderful start!



WasabiKai will begin our Japanese dinnerware and plating class Saturday the 21st. We haven't had this class for awhile and are pleased so many signed up. Due to all the activities and events at the Temple we will try to offer a class later in the year.

We have completed the components for our new sign and are waiting for the building refresh so we may install it. Our current sign is barely hanging in there as you can see.

As spring approaches we would like to start a drive for new plants to be placed around the west gate prior to the Bodhi tree. If you have plants, soil, large pots, etc. that you would like to donate please let us know.

Aruku Kai: Let's Walk Club

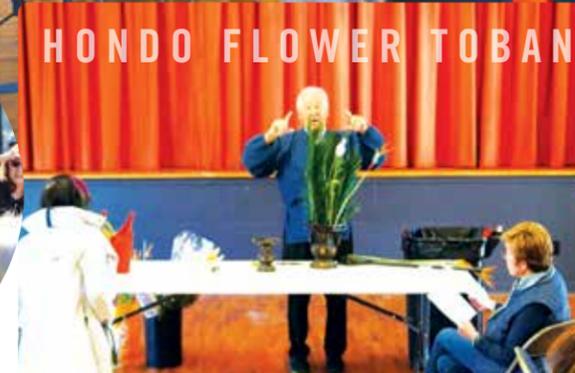
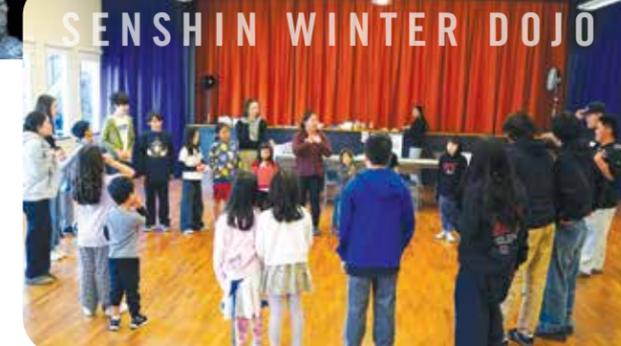
The first Aruku-Kai Walk for 2026 will be on Saturday, February 14. We will start this special day at 8:30 am sharp, walking along the Palos Verdes bluffs to the Point Vicente Interpretive Center. It will be approximately 4 miles round trip. When walking briskly it's about 1 hour each way.

Bring binoculars and hopefully see gray whales, dolphins, pelicans and

other birds. Afterwards there will be a light lunch. Senshin Sangha and friends (2- and 4-legs) are all welcome. Contact Deb Nishida for meeting point information and detail.

Senshin Karate Class

Friday evenings (tentative). Open to all ages and genders. For members, their families and friends. Contact us if you are interested: senshintemple@gmail.com



HONDO FLOWER TOBAN CLASS

HISTORICAL MEMORIES

For the 75th anniversary of Senshin Buddhist Temple, this is the first article of a series covering a bit of history of the temple.

“HISTORICAL MEMORIES”
are presented by longtime members of Senshin. We hope you enjoy them.

Senshin's Original Hondo and Education Building

After two large renovations of the Social Hall, did you know that the wood floors are still the original?

In 1937, Senshin was established as a *Gakuin* (Japanese language school) and a Sunday school, overseen by ministers from Nishi Betsuin. A building was constructed to serve as a *Hondo* and as an educational building. In 1951, Senshin became an independent Buddhist temple.

In the mid 1960s, Senshin leaders began planning an expansion of the Senshin campus, and by February 1965, building permits for the construction were

approved. A ground-breaking ceremony was held on March 14, 1965 for the new Hondo and for a new education building. Included in the project was a new

parking lot at the corner of 37th Street and Raymond Avenue. Also included were plans to remodel the existing *Hondo*/Education Building, doubling the size of the kitchen.

This building is now our Social Hall.

Construction was expected to take one year. The Sangha was busy with fund-raising to secure an organ, to



acquire new desks and chairs and to provide pews for the Hondo. To prepare for the new corner parking lot, two houses that occupied that space were relocated; one became the minister's residence



(which is now the Senshin rental house).

On April 30, 1966, a “Transfer of the Buddha” service/ceremony was held to relocate the *Onajjin* from the old *Hondo*/Education Building to the new Hondo. The next day, on May 1st, a formal dedication ceremony was held to welcome the new Hondo and Education Building, as we know them today.



Continued from page 2
Learning from the Past...

1942–1945

The YBA, led by **Kentato Masada**, secures the temple building before evacuation.

Temple care is entrusted to **Rev. Julius A. Goldwater**, the first Caucasian Jodo Shinshu minister at the Los Angeles Betsuin.

The Sangha's foresight in clearing the mortgage prior to the war allows families to evacuate without financial burden.

Summer 1944

Rev. Goldwater presents a stewardship report to reunited Senshin families, marking continuity despite wartime disruption.

SENSHIN-JI 2026 FEBRUARY 2569

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

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:45a Japanese <i>Howa</i> 10a Monthly Memorial Service (<i>Shotsuki Hoyo</i>) and Sunday Service Following Service BWA New Year's Party: Social Hall	2	3 10:30-2p WasabiKai Open Studio	4 10a-2p Hongwanji Place 6:30-7:15p Senshin Bukkyo Gakuin (SBG): Chanting and Ritual in Jodo Shinshu (zoom) Rev. Furumoto	5 10:30a-2p WasabiKai Open Studio 7-9p Kinnara Taiko 7p BWA Reikai (Zoom only)	6	7 Nembutsu Retreat Palm Garden Hotel, Thousand Oaks Speaker: Rev. Dr. Ken Tanaka 9:30a <i>Nokotsudo</i> Clean Up
8 10:30a Jr. YBA Meeting 11a Sangha Teens Meeting 11:30a <i>Nehanye, Nirvana Day</i> Service, Rev. Dr. Ken Tanaka Following Service Serving of <i>zenzai</i>	9 7:30p ABA Meeting (Zoom only)	10 10:30-2p WasabiKai Open Studio	11 10a-2p Hongwanji Place 6:30-7:15p Senshin Bukkyo Gakuin (SBG): Chanting and Ritual in Jodo Shinshu (zoom) Rev. Furumoto	12 10:30a-2p WasabiKai Open Studio 7-9p Kinnara Taiko	13	14
15 10a Family Service Following Service Kinnara Kids Taiko	16	17 10:30-2p WasabiKai Open Studio	18 10a-2p Hongwanji Place 6:30-7:15p Senshin Bukkyo Gakuin (SBG): Chanting and Ritual in Jodo Shinshu (zoom) Rev. Furumoto	19 10:30a-2p WasabiKai Open Studio 7-9p Kinnara Taiko	20	21
22 10a Family Service Following Service Kinnara Kids Taiko	23	24 10:30-2p WasabiKai Open Studio	25 10a-2p Hongwanji Place	26 10:30a-2p WasabiKai Open Studio 7-9p Kinnara Taiko	27	28 ABA <i>Shinnenkai</i> , New Year Party

SAVE THE DATE!
**CHICKEN
TERIYAKI
SALE**
APRIL 26
SUNDAY
Details to follow!

FEBRUARY SERVICE Toban: B W A
Monthly Toban group responsible for:
- **Weekly** Chair Sunday Service
- **Feb 1** Provide donuts/beverages
following monthly memorial service

**FEBRUARY
Hondo Toban**
John Hiramoto
Deb Hiramoto
Paul Hiramoto

FEBRUARY ONAIJIN Flower Arrangement
Feb 7 Wendy/Johnny Mori
Feb 14 Deb/John Hiramoto
Feb 21 Denise Takehara
Feb 28 Marilyn Miyamoto
March 7 Yoko/Kelvin Nishikawa
(Note: If you are unable to fulfill the week you are
scheduled, please contact Iris at (310) 951-0160)

MARCH Upcoming Events
March 1
Dharma School *Hinamatsuri* Event
March 22
Higan Service
March 29
Osoji (Temple cleanup)

