

Learning from the Past for Our Future: Our Temple's Journey from Gakuin to Today – Senshin History (Part 3)



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 occasions, this is a good opportunity 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.

In the last two issues of *Prajna*, I created a timeline covering the years 1928 to the early 1970s, based on the *BCA 75th Anniversary Book*, which was written by our *Issei* and *Nisei* members. In this issue, I prepared a timeline covering the 1970s to 2001, based on the history section of our *50th Anniversary Book*, written by Kiyome Hirayama-san and Donna Ebata-san.

According to the 50th Anniversary Book, the *Sento Shogon* (lighting of one thousand lights) began in 1977. It notes that Leo Sugano-san was inspired by the oil lamps used at Bodhgaya, India, and created the ceramic oil lamps later used in the *Obon* closing ceremony.

However, I had thought the *Obon* candle lighting began earlier, in the early 1970s. The *BCA 75th Anniversary Book* mentions that in the early 1970s:

“*Hatsu-Bon* service is held just prior to the *Odori* to which all attend as candles are lit in homage to those who have passed away during the past year. As the *Sangha* files out of the *Hondo*, they are greeted by rows of lit candles lining the patio and garden walks.”

Mas-sensei recalls that before the *Sento Shogon* began, candles decorated the patio and garden. In 1977, this evolved into the oil lamp lighting that continues today.

One question concerns the beginning of Saishin Dojo. According to the *50th Anniversary Book*, it began in 1986. However, there had been discussion for many years about the exact starting year. Last year, Mas-sensei and Bessie Tanaka-san concluded that it began in 1987, based on the age of Mas-sensei's daughter, Mayumi-san. They recalled that Saishin Dojo began when Mayumi-san was in elementary school. Because of this understanding, I created the Saishin Dojo email address saishindojo87@gmail.com,

using “87” to represent the year Saishin Dojo began. However, if the *50th Anniversary Book* is correct, I may have to change the address to saishindojo86, so I am hoping that 1987 is correct. In history, there are often multiple interpretations, so perhaps we can say that both are correct.

At the end of the historical section in the *50th Anniversary Book*, the authors described the demographics of the *Sangha* in 2001:

“Despite the passing of a generation and the changing community demographics, the *Sangha* has maintained a constant level. Two-thirds of the *Sangha* are *Nisei*, one-third *Sansei* and *Yonsei*, with a handful of *Issei*. The temple board has shifted in recent years to one-third *Nisei* and two-thirds *Sansei*, with more *Sansei* assuming leadership roles.”

Now, 25 years later, we can see a similar generational shift. About two-thirds of the *Sangha* are *Sansei*, and about one-third are *Yonsei*, younger generations, and members of diverse backgrounds, with only a few *Nisei* remaining. The temple board is still composed of two-thirds or more *Sansei*, who hope that more *Yonsei* and members of their generation will begin assuming leadership roles.

Looking ahead to our 100th anniversary in another 25 years, we can imagine this generational change continuing, with fewer *Sansei* and more *Yonsei* and *Gosei*, members from diverse backgrounds, and younger

members leading the *Sangha* into the future. Of course, I hope our *Sansei* members will live long and healthy lives—maybe even past 100—so they can celebrate the temple's 100th anniversary with us. Please don't misunderstand my comments about generational change! But for now, let us focus on our 75th Anniversary this coming May. I hope everyone will stay healthy and join the service and reception.

SENSHIN TEMPLE HISTORICAL TIMELINE (1970S–2001)

1976 (October 16–17)

- Senshin celebrated the 25th Anniversary as an independent temple.
- Guest speaker: Rinban Kyoshiro Tokunaga of San Jose Buddhist Church Betsuin.
- The commemorative project was the construction of the *Nokotsudo* (columbarium), the first official temple *Nokotsudo* after California rescinded the law prohibiting such facilities outside cemeteries.

1977

- Rev. Fujikado stepped down as Head Minister to encourage younger leadership.
- Rev. Mas Kodani became Head Minister, while Rev. Fujikado continued as Assistant Minister.
- The *Obon* closing ceremony with the *Sento Shogon*, lighting of 1,000 oil lamps, began and continues today, inspired by the oil lamps at Bodhgaya, India.

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過去に学び、未来へつなぐ — 洗心の歩み：学院から今日まで(第三回)

前回までの二号では、BCA75周年記念誌に書かれた洗心の歴史に基づき、1928年から1970年代初めまでの年表を作成しました。今回の号では、平山浄さんと江畑ドナさんが執筆された洗心寺50周年記念誌の歴史部分をもとに、1970年代から2001年までの年表を作成しました。この年表を作成するにあたり、いくつか不明な点が出てきました。

50周年記念誌によると、「千灯荘嚴」は1977年に始まったとされています。そこには、菅野レオさんがインドのブッダガヤで見た灯明に触発され、お盆の締めくくりの行事で使用される陶製の灯明を制作したと記されています。私は、千灯荘嚴は、1977年より前に行われていたと思っていました。BCA75周年記念誌には、1970年代初めについて次のような記述があります。

初盆法要は盆踊りの直前に行われ、参列者はその年に亡くなった方々を偲んでろうそくを灯す。本堂から外に出ると、パティオや庭の通路に並べられたろうそくの灯りが迎える。

マス先生によると、千灯荘嚴が始まる前は、庭やパティオにろうそくを並べて点灯していて、1977年から現在の陶製の灯明の形へと発展したそうです。

西心道場の開始年については、はっきりしていません。50周年記念誌によると、西心道場は1986年に始まったとされています。正確な開始年については長年議論があったのですが、昨年、小谷先生と田中ベッシーさんが、小谷先生の娘さんの真由美さんの年齢を手がかりに検討し、西心道場は1987年に始まった、という結論になりました。

マス先生たちは、真由美さんが小学生の頃に、夏の子供のプログラムをしてみよう、ということで西心道場が始まったと言われてました。それで、昨年、西心道場のメールアドレスを saishindojo87@gmail.com とし、「87」を西心道場の開始年として使いました。けれども、もし50周年記念誌の記述が正しいとすると、メールアドレスを saishindojo86 に変更しなければならぬので、できれば1987年であってほしいと思っています。歴史というものには、しばしば複数の解釈があるもので、どちらも正しい、としておきましょう。

50周年記念誌の歴史部分の最後には、2001年当時のメンバーの構成について次のように書かれています。世代の移り変わりや地域社会の変化にもかかわらず、門徒数は比較的安定している。門徒の三分の二は二世であり、三分の一は三世・四世である。一世はわずかである。寺院の理事会も近年変化し、三分の一が二世、三分の二が三世となり、三世がより多くのリーダーシップを担うようになっている。

それから25年経ち、現在も同じような世代交代が見られます。メンバーの約三分の二は三世であり、三分の一は四世やそれより若い世代、そしてさまざまな背景を持つメンバーで構成され、二世はわずかになりました。しかし理事会は依然として三世が三分の二以上を占めており、四世や同世代のメンバーが今後リーダーシップを担っていくことが期待されています。

さらに25年後、100周年を迎える頃には、この世代交代はさらに進み、三世が少なくなり、四世・五世、そして多様な背景を持つ若い世代が門徒を導いていくようになっているかもしれません。

もちろん、三世の皆さんにはできるだけ長く健康でいていただき、100歳を超えてでも100周年のお祝いと一緒に参加していただきたいと思っています。ですから、世代交代の話は誤解しないでください。

とはいえ、まずは今年5月の75周年記念に目を向けたいと思います。皆さまどうぞ健康に気をつけて、法要とレセプションにぜひご参加ください。

洗心寺年表 (1970年代～2001年)

1976年10月16–17日

洗心寺は独立寺院として25周年を迎えた。

講師：サンノゼ仏教会別院 徳永恭司 郎輪番。記念事業として納骨堂を建設。これはカリフォルニア州が墓地外での納骨施

設を禁止する法律を撤廃して以降、寺院として最初の正式な納骨堂であった。

1977年

藤門師が若い世代にリーダーシップを譲るため住職を退任。小谷師が住職となり、藤門師は副住職として引き続き寺院を支えた。ブッダガヤの灯明に着想を得た「千灯荘嚴」が始まる。

1970年代～1980年代

寺院の募金活動が広がり、以下のような活動が行われた。

- ・照り焼きチキンや寿司の販売(洗心寺、クレンショースクエア、二世ウイークなど)
- ・デパートでの棚卸し作業 (Bullocks Wilshire, Bullock's, May Company)
- ・最初の棚卸しには200名以上が参加
- ・ロサンゼルス・メモリアル・コロシウムでのUSCフットボール試合のゲート監視

1983年

洗心学院(日本語学校)が50年以上の歴史を経て閉校。

1985年

洗心寺ボーイスカウト隊が解散。40年の歴史の中で500人以上が所属し、100人以上のイーグルスカウトを輩出した。

1986年7月(1987年の説もある)

西心道場が、小学生を対象とした仏教サマースクールとして、洗心寺と西本願寺別院の共催で始まる。

1988年

藤門師が正式に引退。その後も日本語門徒の支援や寺院ニュースレター『Prajna』の編集に協力した。

1991年3月

藤門師逝去。小谷師は引退開教使の竹本アーサー師と毛利正寄師に支援を依頼し、日英両方の門徒を支え続けた。

Monthly Memorial APRIL 2026

Shotsuki Service April 5, 2026 at 10a

Seshu (Observant)

Deceased Relation To Observant, Deceased

Gleeson, David & Lynn <i>Daughter</i> Gleeson, Paige Kiyoko Kathleen	Nakashima, Jean <i>Father</i> Shigeyasu, George	Saneto Family <i>Father</i> Saneto, Tsukasa
Hashimoto Family <i>Grandmother</i> Hashimoto, Tatsuyo	Nakashita, Arthur <i>Mother</i> Nakashita, Yoshiko	Shimabukuro, Marilyn <i>Grandfather</i> Shimabukuro, Shikko
Imamura Family <i>Father</i> Imamura, Dick	Nakawatase, Richard <i>Uncle</i> Nakawatase, Hideo	Shimohara, Ellen <i>Mother</i> Shinoda, Kimi
Inatomi Family <i>Sister</i> Inatomi-Howard, Linda	Nishida Family <i>Grandfather</i> Nishida, Joe	Takahashi Family Nakamura, Komatsu
Kojima, Chikako <i>Brother-in-law</i> Kojima, Mike	Nishida Family, Yamaguchi, Toshiko <i>Grandmother/Mother-in-law</i> Yamaguchi, Misa	Takahashi Family Takahashi, Yoshiharu
Komai, JoAnn <i>Father</i> Yamada, Yoshito	Nishida, Lori <i>Father</i> Nishisaka, Harry	Takashima, Wilbur <i>Mother</i> Takashima, Yoshiko
Kuwata, Tom <i>Grandfather</i> Yamada, Takeo	Nishikawa, Kelvin <i>Father</i> Nishikawa, George	Takashima, Wilbur <i>Uncle</i> Taniguchi, Setsugo
Matsumura, Henry <i>Uncle</i> Tsubaki, Hideo	Nishikawa, Kelvin <i>Grandfather</i> Nishikawa, Wasaku	Unno Family Unno, Hanako
Minami, Jean <i>Father-in-law</i> Minami, Kichitaro	Ogawa, Jerry <i>Grandfather</i> Ogawa, Konai	Ushirogata, Yukie <i>Sister</i> Matsushita, Fumie
Miyamoto, Dennis <i>Grandfather</i> Kawai, Sosuke	Okazaki, James <i>Mother</i> Okazaki, Akiko	Wakinaka, Bernice <i>Son</i> Wakinaka, David
Motokane, Eddie <i>Father</i> Motokane, Keiso	Onishi, Randy & Susan <i>Mother</i> Onishi, Mitsume	Yoshimura, Evelyn & Brett <i>Mother/Grandmother</i> Yoshimura, Shizuko
Nagano, Lance <i>Mother</i> Nagano, Mary	Sakakura, Michiko <i>Mother</i> Sakakura, Chizu	

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-jii Hanamatsuri Service

Sunday April 12, at 10:00am

We will observe **Hanamatsuri**, the birthday of Siddhartha Gautama, an Indian prince who became Shakyamuni Buddha, the Awakened One. In the Japanese Buddhist tradition, this auspicious occasion is celebrated on April 8.

Hanamatsuri, meaning "Festival of Flowers," commemorates the moment of Prince Siddhartha's birth, when flowers were said to have bloomed everywhere and even fallen from the sky.

Our guest speaker for the service will be Rev. Mas Kodani. Following the service, **BWA will serve chirashi as Otoki.**

We invite you to join us for this special observance.

花祭りのおしらせ

4月12日(日)午前10時より、お釈迦様の誕生をお祝いする花祭りの法要をおつとめします。みなさまお誘い合わせの上、どうぞお参りください。

Senshin Bukkyo Gakuin (SBG) Study Classes Chanting, Ritual and Buddhist Etiquette in Jodo Shinshu Learning from Senshin Service Book
Wednesdays,
April 1, 8 & 15
6:30 - 7:15pm
(Zoom)

This is a wonderful opportunity to deepen your understanding of Jodo Shinshu. New participants are warmly welcome to join us.

Currently, we are learning how to chant the *Nembutsu* and *Wasan*, as well as studying the meaning of the *Wasan*.

Hatsumairi

Infant Presentation Ceremony

Sunday May 3, 2026

We will hold **Hatsumairi** (the Infant Presentation Ceremony) on Sunday May 3, 2026. If you would like your children or grandchildren to participate, please call or email the temple. We also welcome children and babies who were unable to participate in **Hatsumairi** last year or in previous years.

To ensure we have enough Senshin **Hatsumairi** Teddy Bears for the participants, please contact the temple if you plan to bring your children or grandchildren. (323) 731-4617 or senshintemple@gmail.com

初参りのおしらせ

2026年の初参りを5月3日(日)に行います。新しく生まれたお子さんやお孫さんが初参りに参加されるようでしたら、お寺に電話してください。

Butsuren Hanamatsuri Service

Sunday, April 5, 2026, at 1:00pm

Nishi Betsuin

The Los Angeles Buddhist Temple Federation (Butsuren) will hold its annual **Hanamatsuri** Service on Sunday, April 5, 2026, at 1:00pm at Nishi Betsuin.

This year's guest speaker will be Rev. Masao Kodani. His talk is titled: "*From Past to Future: The Evolving Role of Japanese American Temples in Los Angeles.*"

Butsuren is a federation of eight Buddhist temples dedicated to sharing the Buddha's timeless teachings. The member temples include: Higashi Honganji, Jodo Shu, Koyasan (Shingon), Nichiren Shu (Nichiren), Nishi Honganji, Senshin Buddhist Temple, Sozenji (Soto Zen), Zenshuji

We warmly invite you to join this special gathering as we celebrate the birth of the Buddha together.

1991年6月6日

洗心寺40周年記念法要。
「洗心の父」と呼ばれる桑月文方師夫妻や歴代僧侶が招かれた。
記念事業としてお寺の門が建立された。

1990年代初め

コートヤードでコンサートや文化イベントが開催され、募金活動としても活用された。

1992年

ダーナギルドが解散。料理本『Sharing Our Favorites』の出版など多くの活動を行った。

1996年

敬老会が再開され、80歳以上の門徒を顕彰。

1998年・2000年

敬老会が継続して開催。

1999年4月

リトル東京にBCA南部教区の書店「Hongwanji Place」が開設。

1999年

緊那羅太鼓会が30周年記念コンサートを開催。

2001年6月

洗心寺50周年記念法要。
歴代僧侶やそのご家族が招かれ、海野大徹師・海野徹雄師・海野マーク師、杉成師、桑月文方師のご子息である桑月真師などが講師やゲストとして参加。
記念事業として本堂の大規模改修を実施。

2001年9月1日

リトル東京のTeramachi Project(7階建て160戸のコンドミニアム)起工。

LEARNING...**CONT'D FROM PAGE 2****1970s-1980s**

- Temple fundraising activities expanded, including:
- Chicken Teriyaki and sushi sales at Senshin, Crenshaw Square, and Nisei Week carnivals.
- Department store inventory work (Bullocks Wilshire, Bullock's, May Co.)
- Over 200 members participated in the first inventory event.
- USC football game gate watch at the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, which became another important fundraising activity for many years.

1983

- Senshin Gakuin (Japanese Language School) closed after more than 50 years of service to the community.

1985

- The Senshin Boy Scout Troop disbanded after a 40-year history with over 500 registered members and more than 100 Eagle Scouts.

1986 (July) (possibly 1987)

- Saishin Dojo began as a Buddhist summer school for elementary school children, jointly sponsored by Senshin and Nishi Betsuin.

1988

- Rev. Fujikado officially retired, though he continued supporting the Japanese-speaking *Sangha* and assisting with the temple newsletter *Prajna*.

1991 (June 6)

- Senshin celebrated its 40th Anniversary.
- The first resident minister and the man considered the "Father of Senshin," Rev. Bunpo and Mrs. Kuwatsuki were invited, as well as other past ministers.
- The commemorative project was the construction of the temple gate (mon) welcoming the *Sangha*.

Early 1990s

- Senshin hosted concerts and cultural events in the temple courtyard as fundraisers.

- Community arts groups used the temple for rehearsals and performances.

1992

- The Dana Guild disbanded after years of service, including fundraising and the publication of the cookbook *Sharing Our Favorites*.

1996

- Keiro-kai celebrations resumed, honoring members aged 80 and above for their contributions to the temple.

1998 & 2000

- Additional Keiro-kai celebrations were held and continued as a regular tradition.

1999 (April)

- Hongwanji Place opened in Little Tokyo as a Southern District drop-in center and bookstore, supported by Senshin members.

1999

- Kinnara Taiko celebrated its 30th Anniversary with a gala concert at the Japan America Theater.

2001 (June)

- Senshin celebrated its 50th Anniversary as an independent temple.
- Past ministers and their family members were invited as speakers and guests, including Revs. Taitetsu, Tetsuo and Mark Unno, Rev. Suginari, and Rev. Shin Kuwatsuki, son of Rev. Bunpo Kuwatsuki.
- The commemorative project included a major renovation of the Hondo, including:
 - » New Japanese tile roof
 - » New flooring and carpeting
 - » Improved *Naijin* and *Gejin* lighting
 - » Interior and exterior repainting
 - » Reconstruction and landscaping of the temple courtyard.

2001 (September 1)

- Groundbreaking for the Teramachi Project, a seven-story, 160-unit condominium in Little Tokyo supported by Senshin.



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.

JANUARY/FEBRUARY DONATIONS

Jean Minami
17th cycle memorial for Tatsu Minami

Jill & Fred Katsuda
17th cycle memorial for Tatsu Minami

Yukie Ushirogata
Nokotsudo

Tammy & Dale Matsubara
Special

Ann & Dana Saneto
Nokotsudo for Marie Sugita

Hideo Sugita
Dana

Douglas & Hiroko Kato
Nokotsudo for Kay Sadao Kato

Douglas & Hiroko Kato
Memorial Service for Kay Sadao Kato

Merrie Nishisaka
Orei

Merrie Nishisaka
7th cycle memorial service for Yuri Nishisaka

Julie Akahori
3rd year cycle memorial service for Ted Akahori

Eugene & Elaine Murakami
Dana

Yonsei Basketball Association
Use of facilities

Dennis & Celia Huey
Dana

Susan Kirkpatrick / Inatomi
Family Donation

Kelvin & Yoko Nishikawa
Use of copier

Janis Ishitani
In memory of Nell Sawada

Linda Lau & Larry Cole
In memory of Kiyome Hirayama

Craig and Kathy Bohannan
In memory of Yoko Shinmoto

Glenn and Harumi Kawaguchi
Nokotsudo for Marie Sugita

Hirayama Family
Nokotsudo

Hirayama Family
Dana

Kenneth Hatai
Dana

Dale Shirasago
Dana

Mark Miller
Thank you for your generosity

Mayumi Kodani
Dana

Vanessa Gomez Brake
2/5/26 USC Class visit with Rev. Furumoto & Rev. Kodani

Diane Trihey
Nokotsudo, Lily & Kiyohiko Inatomi

Ellen Shimohara
Bodhi Day

Julie Akahori
Shusho-E (New Year's Day)

Tammy & Dale Matsubara
Shusho-E

Joy Middo
Shusho-E

Jean Minami
Shusho-E

Shelly Okamura
Shusho-E

Iris & Wilbur Takashima
Shusho-E

Joyce Yamashita
Shusho-E

Janice & Victor Huey
Oseibo

Terry Nakawatase
Oseibo

Kiyoe Suzuki
Oseibo

Lisa Warshal
Oseibo

Denise & Richard Kodani
Nirvana Day

Shelly Okamura
Nirvana Day

JANUARY SHOTSUKI HOYO

Observant
In Memory of

Akahori, Julie
Mitsuo Akahori,
Kiyoo Higashi

Egner, May Sugano
Mother Aiko Sugano

Fujimoto, Miki
Mother Mary Fujimoto

Fujimoto, Miki
Rev. Art Takemoto

Harada, James & Karen
Mother Grace Harada

Harada, James & Karen
Grandfather Kenji Yamaguchi

Hiramoto, John & Debbie
Annie Yee

Hirayama, Bruce
Art Hirayama

Hirayama, Bruce
Kanaye Saneto

Hirayama, Duane & Joy
Art Hirayama

Hirayama, Duane & Joy
Kanaye Saneto

Ikari, Kathy
Ruth Tsuboi, Kenichi Kato

Kawaguchi, Glenn & Kristine
Art Hirayama,
Satoshi & Kanaye Saneto,
Ben Ushirogata

Kodani, Richard & Denise
Dr. James Goto

Kojima, Chikako
Izaemon Uneda

Matsuda, Doug
Misao Matsuda

Middo, Joy
Mieko Oyama

Minami, Jean
Tatsuo Minami

Murakami, Eugene & Elaine
Rui Murakami

Murakami, Julia
Arthur Ichiro Murakami

Ogawa, Craig & Cindy
Kaoru Ogawa,
Satsu Shimada,
Kanetaro Shimada, &
Hisayo Ogawa

Ohata, Ronald & Fujie
Mother Fumiko Ohata

Saiki, Eric & Yumi
Kazuhiko Yoshida

Saneto, Dana & Ann
Kanaye Saneto

Saneto, Satomi
Art Hirayama

Saneto, Satomi
Kanaye Saneto

Saneto, Satomi
Satoshi Saneto

Shimabukuro, Keith
Fumie Shimabukuro

Shimabukuro, Marilyn &
Gilbert Leong
Fumie Shimabukuro

Shirasago, Paula
Gary Shirasago

Shirasago, Paula
Sally Shirasago

Sugano, Michiko
Aiko Sugano

Takashima, Wilbur & Iris
Hisaiichi Taniguchi, Eiji
Jinde, Hana Nakashima

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SENSHIN
BUDDHIST TEMPLE
1951 **75** 2026

Takemoto, Akira Ron & Mayako A.
Arthur Takemoto,
Toyosuke Takemoto
Takemoto, Akira & Mayako
Ron Takemoto
Umemoto, Kathy & Marty
Grandfather Junichi Akamichi
Ushirogata, Yukie
Mutsuo Ushirogata, Ineko
Matsushita, Bunji Ushirogata
Wakinaka, Vickie
Fred Wakinaka
Yokota, Carole
Hiroshi Yokota

FEBRUARY SHOTSUKI HOYO

Observant

In Memory of

Christine Aihara
James & Mary Iwanaga
Julie Akahori
Jean Akahori, Kazuko Uyetake
James & Karen Harada
Isamu Matsumura
Robert Hori
Mother Lily Hori
Susan Hori
Mother Lily Hori
Glen & Joyce Isomoto
Father Sam Isomoto
Douglas Kato & Family
Jessie Kato
Glenn & Kristine Kawaguchi
Ted Akahori, Marie Sugita
Ruby Kiyohara
Shunichi Kiyohara
Chikako Kojima
Miyo Takaki
Tammy & Dale Matsubara
Shunichi Kiyohara
Doug Matsuda
Mother Misao Matsuda
Nanette & Danny Nakamichi
Ted Akahori
Wendy & Nick Nagatani
Father Rentaro Yoshitomi
Kelvin & Yoko Nishikawa
Edith Nishikawa
Kelvin & Yoko Nishikawa
Sekiyu Nishikawa
Merrie Nishisaka
Yuri Nishisaka

Dexter Nishiyama
Takeo Matayoshi
Ann & Dana Saneto
Marie Sugita
Keith Shimabukuro
Shigeichi Shimabukuro
Marilyn Shimabukuro & Gilbert Leong
Father Shigeichi Shimabukuro
Michiko Sugano
Norman Sugano
Wilbur & Iris Takashima
Bunshiro Takashima,
Kaisouyemon Sato
Yukie Ushirogata
Mitsuo Ushirogata
Carole Yokota
Sanaye Yokota
Karen & Larry Yoshioka
Father Mitsuye &
Mother Yuriko Taniguchi

FEBRUARY FLOWER DONATION

Julie Akahori
Chikako Kojima
Doug Matsuda
Kelvin & Yoko Nishikawa
Merrie Nishisaka
Marilyn Shimabukuro
Carole Yokota
Glen & Joyce Isomoto
Toshiko Yamaguchi
Glenn & Harumi Kawaguchi
Dana & Ann Saneto
Shelly Okamura

JANUARY HOONKO DONATION

Anonymous
Anonymous
Akahori, Julie
Akamine, Don
Fukawa, Debra & Stan
Harada, James & Karen
Hiramoto, Paul
Hisamune, Catherine
Hirayama, Jane & Keith
Hirayama, Joy & Duane
Honkawa, Patti
Horiuchi, Edna
Ishitani, Denise

Isomoto, Glen & Joyce
Kamikawa, Emi
Kanagawa, David & Judy
Kodani, Richard & Denise
Kojima, Chikako
Kok, Richard
Matsubayashi, Ikuko & Kazuo
Middo, Joy
Minami, Jean
Miyagishima, Lillie
Miyamoto, Bob & Deb Nakatomi
Miyamoto, Marilyn & Dennis
Nakawatase, Richard & Helen
Nishida, Lori
Nishida, Russell & Lori
Nishikawa, Kelvin & Yoko
Nishisaka, Merrie
Ohata, Ron & Fujie
Okamura, Shelly
Okuda, Michael & Carol
Sakakura, Michiko & Richard
Shimabukuro, Marilyn &
Gilbert Leong
Shimohara, Ellen
Sunday, Mark & Reiko
Takashima, Wilbur & Iris
Toji, Suzanne
Toyoure, Mika
Umemoto, Marty/Kathie
Ushirogata, Yukie
Wakinaka, Bernice
Wakinaka, Vickie & Gary Asano

**MARCH ANITYA/
75TH ANNIVERSARY DONATIONS**

Susan Asamura
Lisa Hashimoto-Elardo
Janis Ishitani
Garren & Stephanie Mizutani
Eugene & Elaine Murakami
Kelvin & Yoko Nishikawa
Wilbur & Iris Takashima
Suzanne Toji –
In memory of Hiroshi Ota
Marty & Kathie Umemoto

Updates

& ANNOUNCEMENTS!

Message from the Board

April has arrived, bringing with it the beauty of spring and the return of sakura season. Every year I'm amazed at how beautiful our *sakura* flowers look when they bloom. It always feels like such a special moment for the Temple grounds.

Spring at the Temple also means it's time once again for our Chicken Teriyaki event. This is one of the activities that brings our *Sangha* together, with everyone pitching in, whether it's preparing food, organizing, or helping on the day of the event. It's always a wonderful example of how our community works together with energy and good spirit.

If you're able, please come out and lend a hand. These gatherings are not only important for supporting the Temple, but they are also a great opportunity to spend time together, share some laughs, and strengthen the bonds within our *Sangha*.

As we enjoy the beauty of spring and the blooming sakura, may we also take a moment to appreciate the community around us and the many small moments that bring us together.

In Gassho,
STAN FUKAWA

ABA

For all our friends and supporters that are submitting orders for our Baked Char Siu Bao fundraiser, we would like to remind everyone to mark on your calendar to pick up your tasty Bao's on



Sunday April 12th after *Hanamatsuri* service between 11:30am and 12:30pm, in the social hall.

For our ABA New Year's/ Installation luncheon that was held on February 28th at the Gold Hibachi Buffet Restaurant, we would like to note that an extra door prize for our game's entertainment was donated by Suzanne Toji the day of. Thanks very much for the great prize Suzanne!!

And we are proud to announce that we are adding a new ABA member to our ranks: Yas Osako. Welcome aboard Yas!! You Rock!!

BWA

The BWA was delighted to help Dharma School's *Hinamatsuri* event, helping out with the ice cream/yogurt bar and doll display. It's always fun to see the kids enjoy the creative cultural crafts and the yummy treats. Thanks goes out to Kathie U. and Qris Y. for preparing tea and light refreshments after the *Ohigan* Seminar. The BWA also participated in the temple-wide *Osoji* and afterwards, BWA and ABA volunteers went to Kei Ai Nursing Home for an enjoyable afternoon of bingo with the residents. Thank you to Edna H. and the volunteers who came out.

This month the BWA will prepare

the always popular *chirashi* for *otoki* after the *Hanamatsuri* service, led by Fujie O., Linda U., Paula S., and Peggy O. We are preparing to make 175 servings of *chirashi* this year! The BWA will also support the temple's annual Chicken Teriyaki fundraiser by preparing the green beans coordinated by Suzanne T., Kathie U., and Qris Y.; conducting the White Elephant sale under Wendy M.'s lead; a craft sale led by Reiko S.; and a bake sale coordinated by Donna E., and many volunteers.

Thank you for the following donations:

- Debra Fukawa *Special*
- Linda Wong Uyemura *Special*
- Kelvin & Yoko Nishikawa *Kelly's wedding*
- Qris Yamashita *Special*
- Arlene Yokoyama *Jana's wedding*
- Miki Fujimoto *Recovery from surgery*

If you would like to join in on the fun, contact one of the ladies listed above or just come out to help.

Jr YBA

In the month of April the Juniors will help with Chicken Teriyaki by working the grills and boxing meals. Juniors also continue to prepare for the 75th Anniversary and will practice *Gagaku* at *Hanamatsuri*. Additionally, we are planning the Southern District Jr. YBA conference which Senshin is hosting with San Fernando Valley.

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



WasabiKai

In 2016 WasabiKai was given a permanent studio space which was formally the Boy Scout room and adjacent tool shed. Plumbing, heating, air, and pottery equipment were funded by donations and grants. Gradually the studio evolved over time into a small but wonderful studio space.

With the help of Mark and Reiko Sunday, Matsukawa-san and others, the tool shed was converted into a safe space which houses our electric kiln and supplies. It was during the early years that Ronnie Matsuda would stop by whenever he was at the temple to check the progress and assist in doing whatever needed to be done... it takes a village.

Our logo was designed by Qris Yamashita. It was made into a physical sign by Mike Yanagita and first installed in 2017.

Rev. Mas has been involved in every class, providing insights and often a Dharma message to introduce each class. We've been fortunate to have his support and guidance throughout the

years. I'm certain all who have taken our class would agree his "talks" are the best part of the classes.

Ikebana; History of Tea and Raku; Goinkyō; exploring art after retirement; Kurinuki-yaki; and Japanese Dinnerware and Plating have encouraged temple members to continue their exploration in clay by attending our open workshops Tuesdays and Thursdays. I'm pleased to say the regulars have become talented potters.

WasabiKai assists Saishin Dojo with their ceramic program, with hopes the exposure and our classes will nurture a greater appreciation of one of our cultural treasures...POTTERY.



TODDLER TAIKO AKA "BACHI BABIES"

We invite any children ages 1-6 years old with their parents/guardians to join us for a Toddler Taiko program ("Bachi Babies"). Classes will be held on 5/10, 7/26, 9/13, 10/11, 11/1 and 11/8, and begin immediately after service for approximately 30-45 minutes. No taiko experience is necessary. Please email Megan Ogawa (meganyogawa@gmail.com) and Derek Oye (oye.derek@gmail.com) to receive information. Thank you!



HINAMATSURI



SPRING OHIGAN



It Takes a Sangha to Make a Chicken Dinner

My very earliest involvement with chicken teriyaki was when I was in Sr. YBA in the 70's. The Temple needed help with chicken cutting and they asked the Sr. YBA for help. The chicken cutting was done at the 10th Street Market which was owned by Temple members, Mr. and Mrs. Kuwata. It would have been very difficult for the Temple to hold a chicken fund raiser for all those years without the support of the Kuwata family. They ordered the chickens, the chickens were cut in their facility and stored in their walk-in refrigerator.

It wasn't until the late 1980's that I started to help-out on the day of chicken teriyaki. My primary work responsibilities were outside in the BBQ area. In the past, chicken teriyaki was held twice a year. And way in the past, Senshin chicken was also sold at the Crenshaw Square Carnival and at the Nisei Week Carnival. Selling chickens was a major fund raiser for the Temple. Our Temple membership of course was a lot larger then. The Issei and Nisei members that started chicken teriyaki worked hard to raise funds for the Temple. Back then there was a mortgage to pay off for the Hondo and education building.

The old crew that took care of the outside BBQ area operation, when I first started coming out, made major improvements from the ways things were done originally. These improvements made the

cooking process easier and more efficient. Some of the key people I recall were Sam Sugano, Sam Takeuchi, Harry Sawada, Mr. Matsukawa, Mr. Fujimoto, and Asa Wakinaka. I think it was in the late 1980's that they started using large stacked steamers to steam the chickens and switched to propane gas burners. You could then cook about 40 chickens at each burner set-up. I think the most ingenious thing was making the clam shell grills to barbecue the chickens. Instead of flipping over each chicken individually on the grill, you could now turn over ten to eleven chickens at one time and slide them across the charcoal fire pit. They were always coming up with other ideas to improve the operation including building a new BBQ pit. About 10 years ago, with the help of Russell Nishida, who had a contact with someone who worked with stainless steel, the Temple had the old metal clam shell grills fabricated to stainless steel. That was a nice upgrade.

Chicken teriyaki is one event that brings out temple members, working together, socializing and interacting with each other. There are so many tasks involved with chicken teriyaki and it requires many people joining in to make it happen; making the marinades, securing supplies, setting up, managing orders, preparing the side dishes, and cleaning up. So many tasks

HISTORICAL MEMORIES

*For the 75th anniversary of
Senshin Buddhist Temple,
we are sharing
a series of stories covering a
bit of history of the temple.*

"HISTORICAL MEMORIES"
*are presented by longtime
members of Senshin.
We hope you enjoy them.*

and steps involved to get that chicken plate out the door!

Helping out at chicken teriyaki and seeing what is involved, you come to appreciate the work of everyone. It's always nice seeing the usual guys that come out to the BBQ area. We have built up a camaraderie barbecuing, working together. Recently I'm happy seeing the young people, the Jr. YBA, coming out to help. One thing I make an effort to do is, if I see someone new, I try to find an area where they can help or I recruit people to help an area where help is needed.

We could not have a chicken teriyaki fundraiser without everyone's help. From placing those raw chickens in the steamers to plating the BBQ chicken. As our Senseis are always saying, "We are all interconnected."

—Recollection from John Hiramoto

This article is the third installment of "Historical Memories," a series of articles in celebration of Senshin's 75th Anniversary.

We want to thank Wilbur Takashima for the February article and Jean Minami for the March article.



SENSHIN-JI 2026 APRIL 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	2	3	4
			10a-2p Hongwanji Place 6:30-7:15p Senshin Bukkyo Gakuin (SBG): Basic Buddhism class (zoom) Rev. Furumoto	10:30a-2p WasabiKai Open Studio 7-9p Kinnara Taiko		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
8:30a BWA Reikai 9:45a Japanese Howa 10a Monthly Memorial Service (Shotsuki Hōyō) & Sunday Service <i>Following service</i> Donuts 1p Butsuren Hanamatsuri, Nishi Betsuin		10:30a-2p WasabiKai Open Studio	10a-2p Hongwanji Place 6:30-7:15p Senshin Bukkyo Gakuin (SBG): Basic Buddhism class (zoom)	10:30a-2p WasabiKai Open Studio 7-9p Kinnara Taiko		Hanamido Set-up
12 Hanamatsuri	13	14	15	16	17	18
8:30a Temple Board Meeting 10a <i>Hanamatsuri</i> <i>Following service</i> Meetings: Jr. YBA, Sangha teens; Otoki by BWA – Chirashi; ABA Chashu Bao Sale; Jr. YBA Bake Sale	7:30p ABA Meeting (zoom)	10:30a-2p WasabiKai Open Studio	10a-2p Hongwanji Place 6:30-7:15p Senshin Bukkyo Gakuin (SBG): Basic Buddhism class (zoom)	10:30a-2p WasabiKai Open Studio 7-9p Kinnara Taiko		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
10a Family Service <i>Following service</i> Youth Kinnara Taiko		10:30a-2p WasabiKai Open Studio	10a-2p Hongwanji Place	10:30a-2p WasabiKai Open Studio 7-9p Kinnara Taiko		
26 Chicken Teriyaki	27	28	29	30		
7a Chicken Teriyaki Fundraiser, BWA White Elephant, Craft and Bake Sale 10a Family Service 11a-2p Chicken Teriyaki Pickup		10:30a-2p WasabiKai Open Studio	10a-2p Hongwanji Place	10:30a-2p WasabiKai Open Studio 7-9p Kinnara Taiko		

APRIL TOBAN: DHARMA SCHOOL

Monthly Toban group responsible for:

- **Weekly** Chair Sunday Service
 - **April 5** Provide donuts/beverages following monthly memorial service
 - **April 12** Provide/serve snacks and beverage for Temple Board Meeting
- Hondo Toban** Koichi Uyemura, Dale Matsubara, Tammy Matsubara, Amy Yukawa

APRIL ONAIJIN Flower Arrangement

- April 4** Paige Morikawa
- April 11** Patti Honkawa — *Hanamatsuri*
- April 18** Chris Aihara/Sue Omori
- April 25** Robert Hori/Richard Kok
- May 2** Arlene Yokoyama

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

MAY Upcoming Events

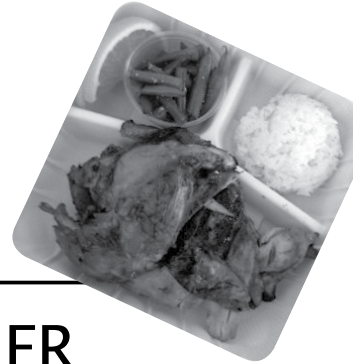
- May 3** *Gotanye* (Shinran Shonin's Birthday)
Hatsumairi Infant Presentation
Dharma School Children's Day *Kokomo-no-hi* event
- May 24** Memorial Service for past members
- May 31** 75th Anniversary Celebration & Keiro Kai



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Don't Procrastinate!**

SENSHIN CHICKEN TERIYAKI SINCE 1958

Order Deadline April 13



FAMOUS CHICKEN TERIYAKI DINNER

Includes: 1/2 chicken, rice, sesame green beans, cabbage tsukemono

SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2026 • \$30 PER DINNER

Pre-order only, by April 13. Pickup between 11a-2:00p

ALSO BWA WHITE ELEPHANT, CRAFT & BAKE SALE
Featuring Vintage Japanese items



SENSHIN
CHICKEN TERIYAKI
SINCE 1958

FAMOUS CHICKEN TERIYAKI DINNER

Includes: 1/2 chicken, rice, sesame green beans, cabbage tsukemono

SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2026 • \$30 PER DINNER

Pickup between 11a-2:00p; Pre-order only, by April 13

ALSO BWA WHITE ELEPHANT, CRAFT & BAKE SALE

ORDER FORM

Here is the order form for Chicken Teriyaki dinners.

No tickets will be printed or mailed.

This order form is also available on our website.

Chicken Teriyaki is a major fundraiser for Senshin.

Thank you for your continued generous support.

QUESTIONS?

Call Debbi Fukawa 626-487-7231 or email, debfukawa@gmail.com

Please make checks payable to **SENSHIN BUDDHIST TEMPLE**

Checks MUST be received by April 13, 2026

Mail this order form to:
Senshin Chicken Teriyaki
1311 W. 37th Street,
Los Angeles, CA 90007

OR drop off your order in the Teriyaki mail slot in the temple office.

First Name _____ Cell (Preferred) Home **REQUIRED**

Last Name _____

Email Address _____

Number of dinners at \$30 each = _____

Payment included (check/cash) \$ _____

Donations welcome if you do not want chicken. Gassho \$ _____



2026 Southern District Buddhist Conference

Saturday, June 13, 2026 8:30 A - 3:00 P

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



Keynote Speaker
Rev. Dr. Mark Unno
*Professor of Religious Studies,
University of Oregon*



Japanese Keynote Speaker
Rev. Yukari Torii
*San Fernando Valley Hongwanji
Buddhist Temple*
「阿弥陀さまのおこころに出会う」

Throughout our lives, we are taught to think in terms of problem-solving: Problem A requires Solution B. Buddhism begins when this kind of A-to-B thinking fails us. We get stuck when we lose our job, or we suffer loss in a relationship that is unrecoverable - due to divorce, death, or learning we have an incurable illness. Even when we have achieved our goals, our lives can feel empty because we feel emotionally unfulfilled even with a promotion at work or coming home to the same routine everyday. In Shin Buddhism, however, that is the moment of spiritual opportunity. When everything else fails, we are led to a place deeper than our conscious intention, where new possibility opens up beyond A-to-B thinking, and we feel the power of boundless compassion that returns us to our own true nature as foolish beings illuminated by the awakening of infinite light.
This is Namu Amida Butsu.

Registration fee: \$60 by May 23

Late Registration: \$85 per person by June 1

Payable to: Senshin Buddhist Temple

Questions: Contact JoAnn Komai jykomai55@gmail.com

Senshin Buddhist Temple

1311 West 37th Street, Los Angeles CA 90007

323-731-4617

